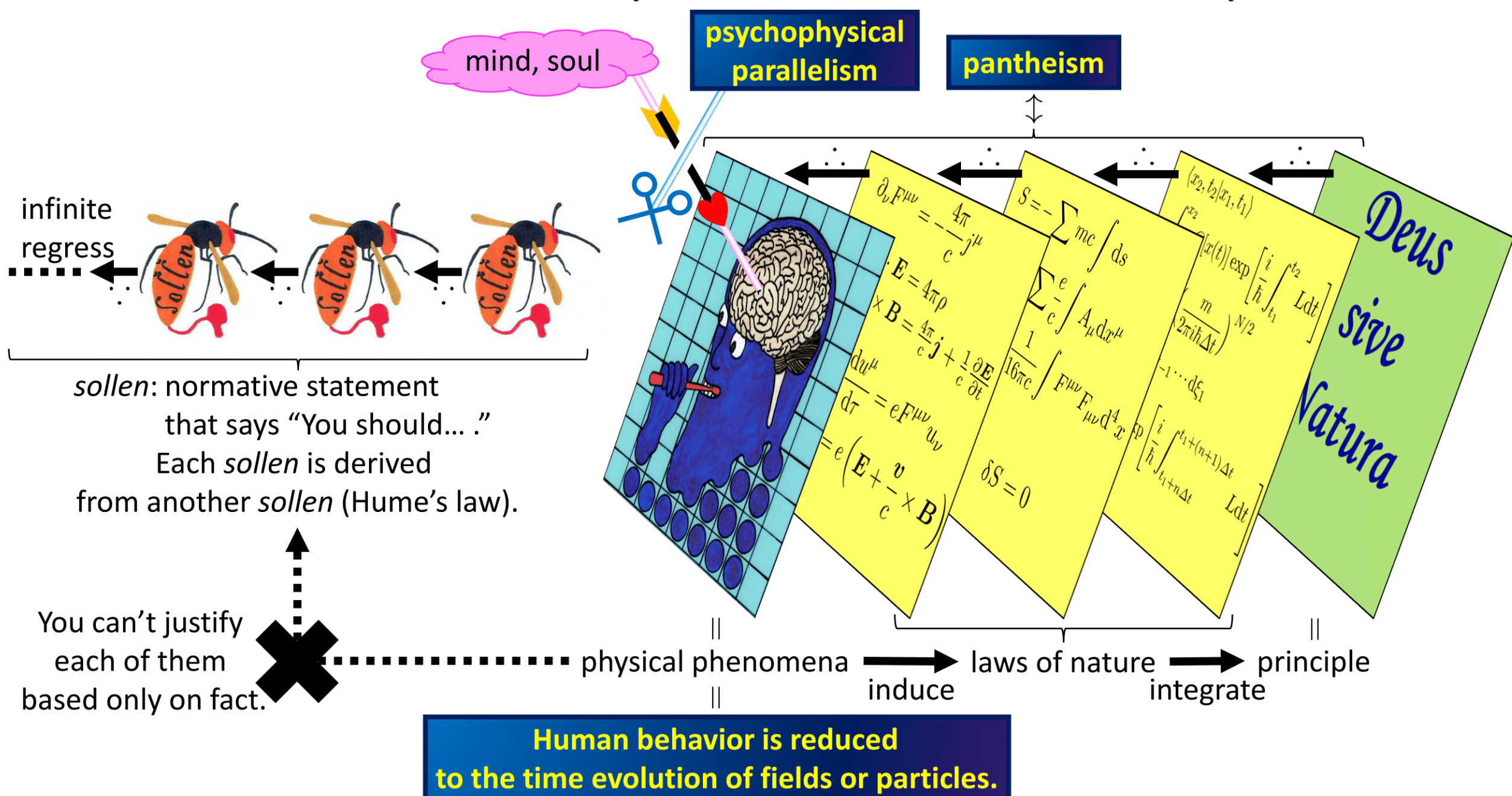


# Spinoza picture

## 【short version】

Free Will Is an Illusion & Any Normative Statement Is Only a Fiction





# Free will

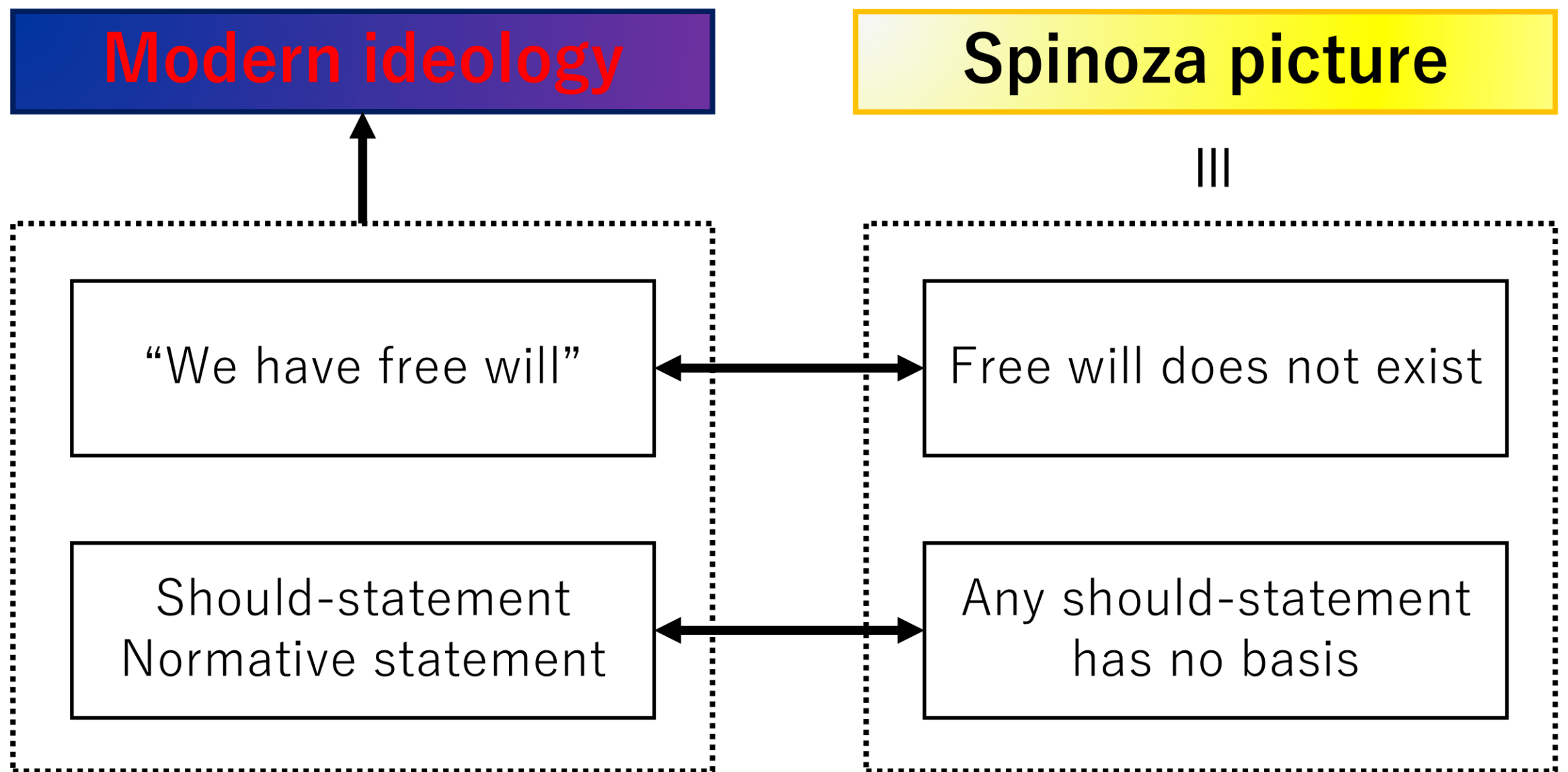
We might be just lucky  
not to be lazy

Can we accuse others of being lazy?

If we can, it is necessary they can motivate themselves freely.

In other words, we have to assume they can exercise **free will**.





The idea of free will is a dominant ideology today, though we are not aware of. In addition, we often hear normative statements like “you should...” these days. We introduce what I call Spinoza picture to counter those ideologies. **Spinoza picture** is a view of the world characterized by the two propositions.

- Free will does not exist.
- Any normative statement has no basis.

They might say, “You can’t say such a thing that spoils everything.” You can reply, “But I can. That’s the very thing I wanted to do. Why not?”

# Free will does not exist

## reductionism

Human behavior is reduced to the time evolution of fields or particles

## psychophysical parallelism

Mind and body don't interact

## laws of nature

Everything arises from the principle of physics

Let us begin with the free will problem.

Free will is defined as a mental ability that causes an active behavior independent of causality or laws of nature.

Free will is a pure origin of your behavior.

Free will makes impossible possible.

This definition almost reveals that free will does not exist.

- Actually, human behavior is reduced to the time evolution of fields or particles though people often seem to be active agents.
- Mind and body don't interact with each other.  
This is called psychophysical parallelism.
- Moreover, everything arises from the principle of physics.

Therefore, free will does not exist.


I'm sure these arguments remain the bounds of metaphysics.

However, this allows us to believe these arguments to be correct.

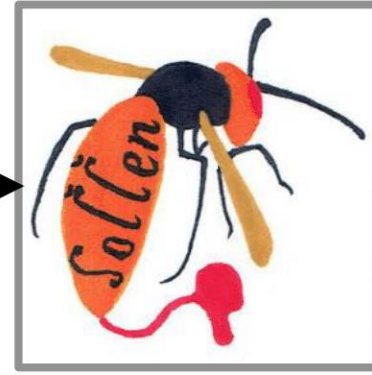
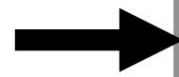
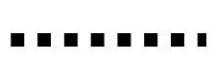
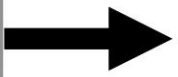
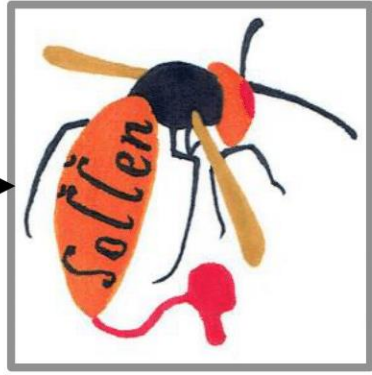
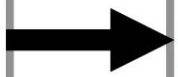
In fact, they are convincing enough.

# Any should-statement has no basis

Hume's "law"


"A is ..."  "A should ..."

premise



conclusion

  
Have to accept without question

 : should-statement

Let's move on to another topic.

Any should-statement or normative statement has no basis.

Obviously, no argument can justify a normative statement no matter how logical it is.

In order to derive a given normative statement without falling into circular reasoning or an infinite regress, you have to accept some premise with which you begin the reasoning.

By the way, obviously you can't derive a normative statement only from facts,

so the premise also contains another normative statement.

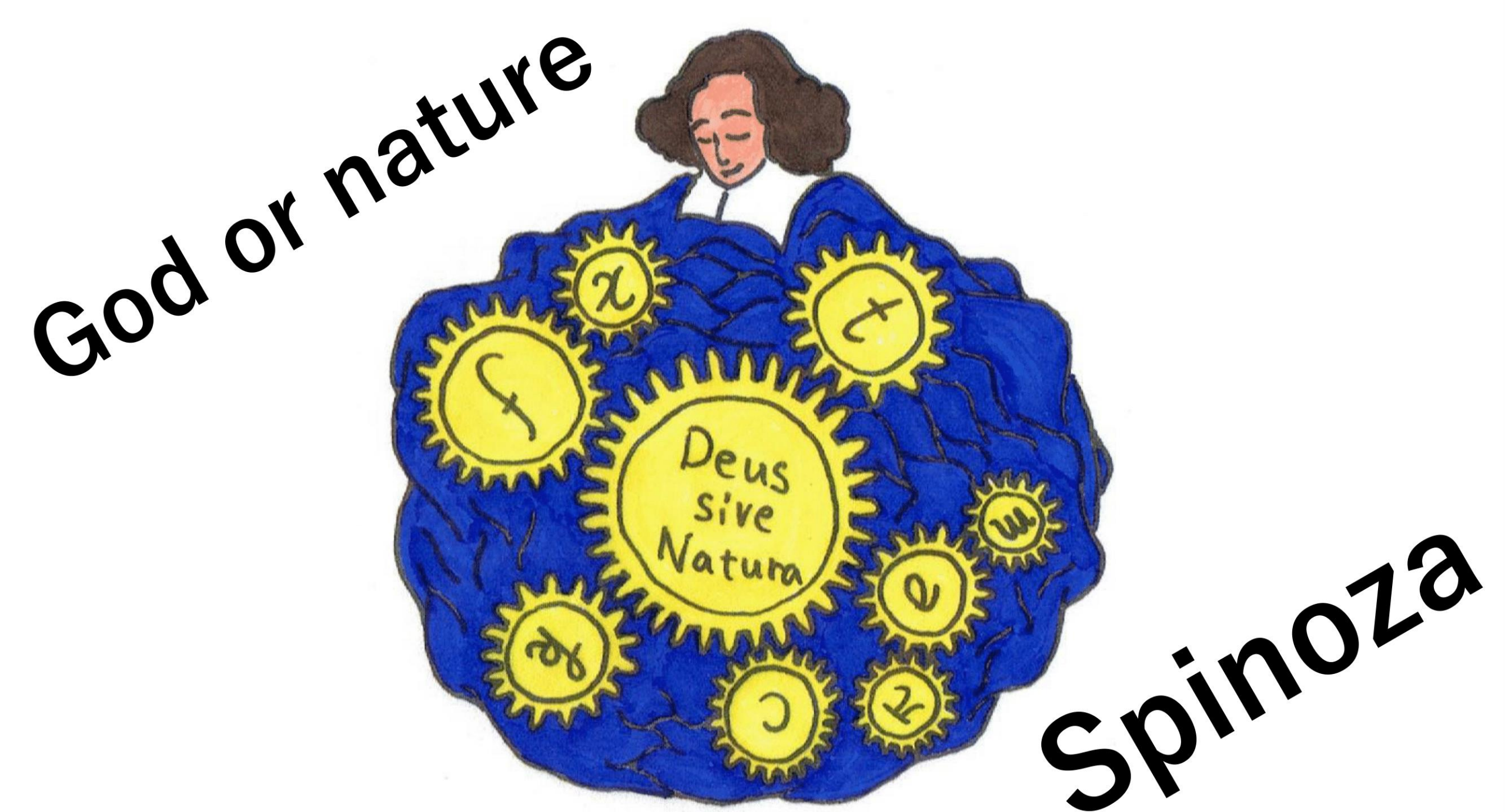
This is called **Hume's law**.

Thus, you have no choice

but to accept some normative statement without question

This means you have failed to justify the given normative statement.





The ideas we have seen are somehow similar to Spinoza's philosophy.

According to Spinoza,

God is this world itself and therefore is called God or Nature.

Whatever happened had arisen inevitably from the God.

This is called **pantheism**.

Spinoza also advocate **psychophysical parallelism**,  
according to which mind and body cannot interact.

However mental states and physical states they are correspondent with each other  
because they express the same God.

Furthermore, Spinoza deny the assumption  
that there exist an absolute good or evil.

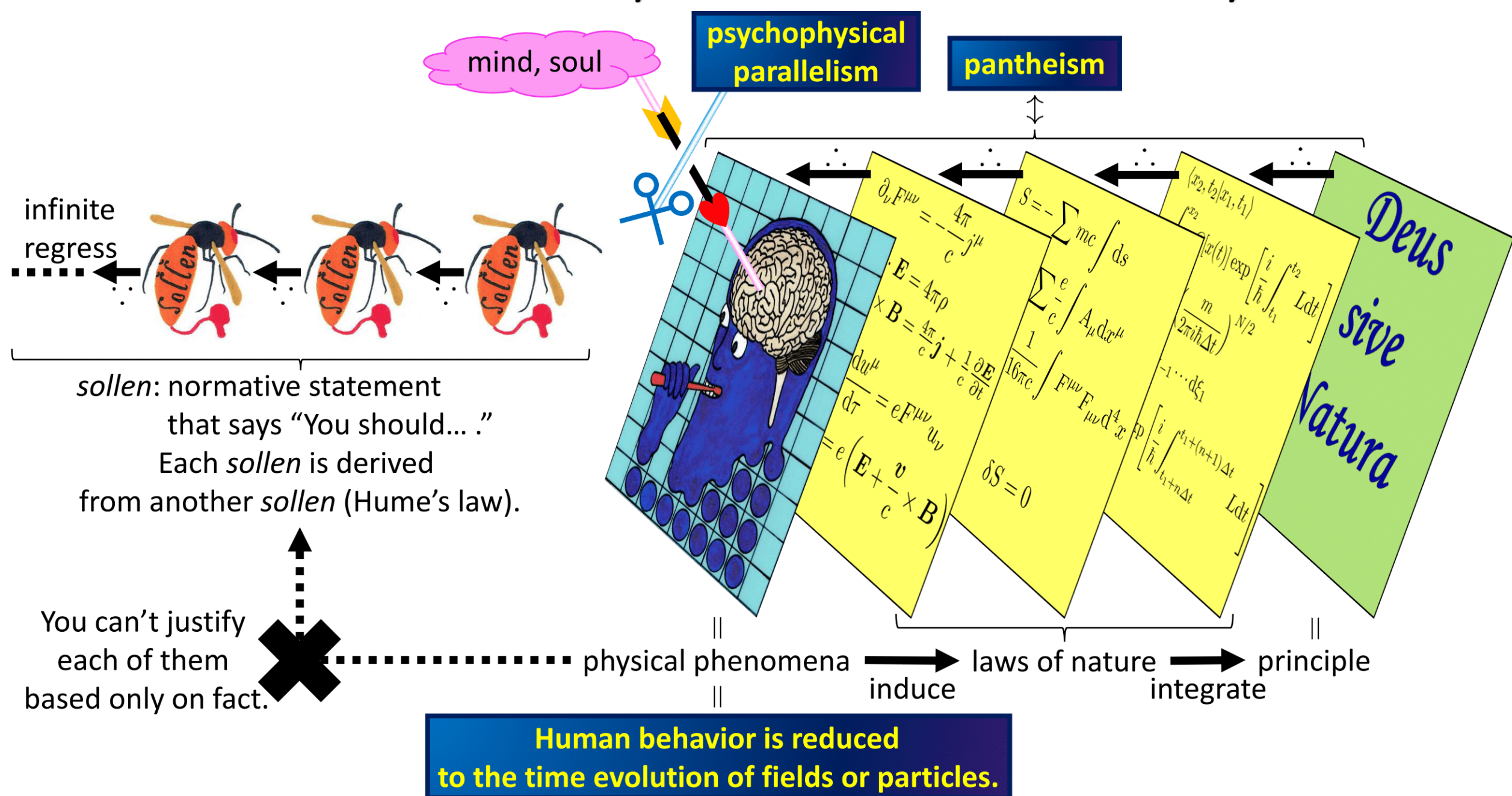
This corresponds to the proposition that any normative statement is groundless.

Note that Spinoza picture accept indeterminism described by quantum mechanics,  
though Spinoza's philosophy seems deterministic.

Indeterminism cannot help free will and can coexist with pantheism.



# Free Will Is an Illusion & Any Normative Statement Is Only a Fiction



Now we can illustrate Spinoza picture with a figure.

The right half of this figure visualize three arguments that deny free will.

There are several cards in a line.

The leftmost card represents the events in the physical world.

This shows human behavior is reduced to the time evolution of fields or particles.

The cards with numerical expressions represent pantheism.

Everything arises inevitably from the God inside the nature.

The term "Deus sive Natura" written in the rightmost card means God or Nature.

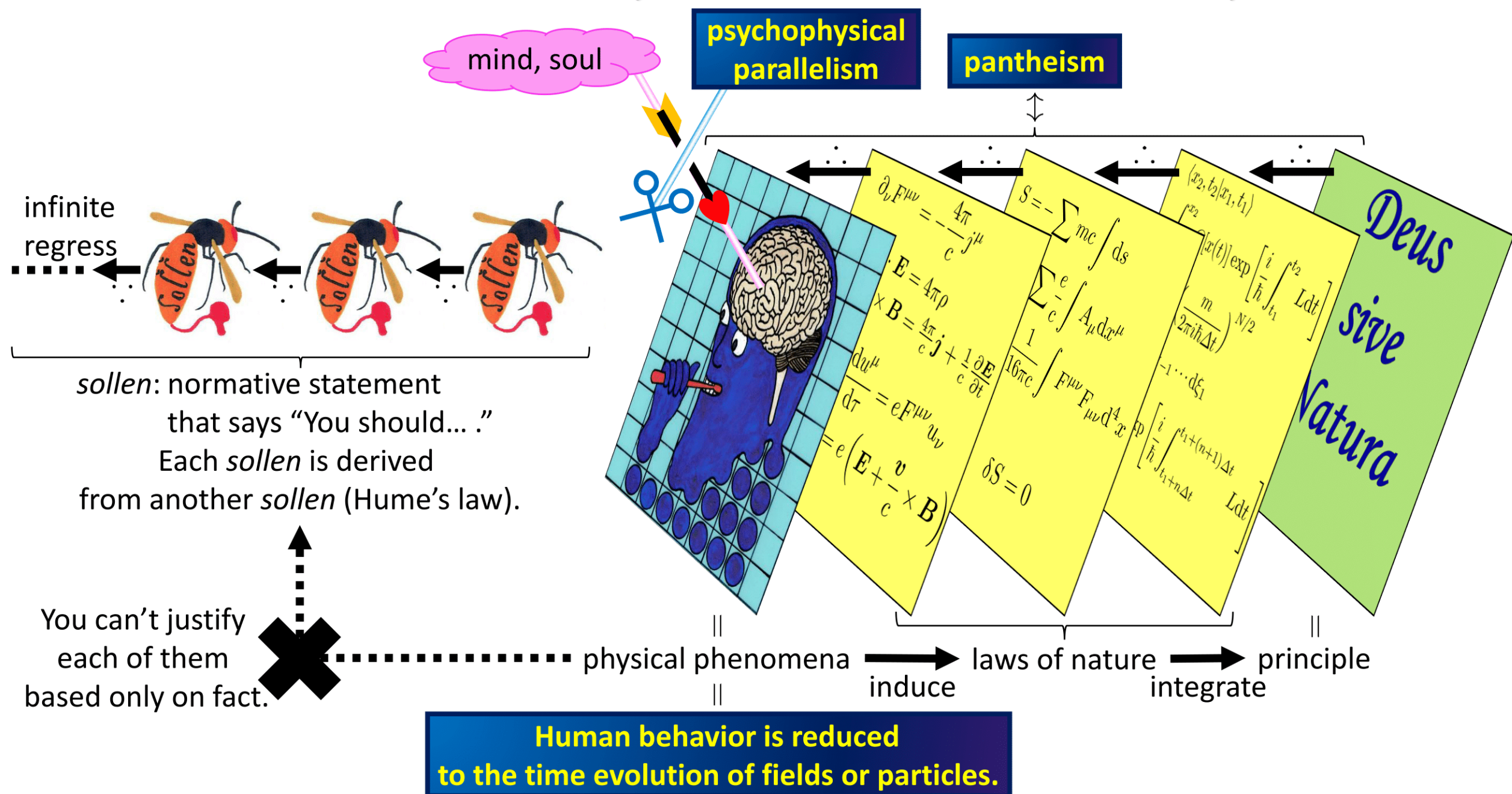
You can identify it with the ultimate principle that governs the universe.

Over the leftmost card, an arrow symbolizing the effect of mind on body is cut off.

This expresses psychophysical parallelism.

Mind and body don't interact with each other.

# Free Will Is an Illusion & Any Normative Statement Is Only a Fiction



In the left half of this figure, hornets are aligned straight with stings shaped in thumbs-down sign that symbolizes the criticism. The term "sollen" on their body is a normative statement that says "You should...". Any normative statement is only a fiction and is out of touch with reality.

I name the philosophy shown in this figure not Spinoza's philosophy but Spinoza picture. This is because Spinoza picture might be different from Spinoza's own philosophy.





## Conflict between God or nature and normative statement

This figure also describes Spinoza picture roughly.

This figure is much more simplified

but still retain the tone of Spinoza picture.

A person is drawn as a part of the water surface  
representing the entire world

and its movement is determined by God or Nature.

Hornets above him symbolize the normative statements.”

This figure explicitly shows that

positive statements and normative statements never communicate  
with each other.