

Pleasure And Pain Modeled With Math

Post by “waterholic” of December 5, 2023 at 7:42 AM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

How do we sufficiently explain the limits of such a model while also getting the benefits that should come in visualizing the practical choices we have to make in life?

I would approach this from two perspectives:

1. Math is a more precise language. Anyone versed in rudimentary math can fully understand the 2-3 formulae i have used to express a "model" of the pleasure - pain dynamic. There are no ambiguities. In this sense, it is useful as a very precise communication language, provided we are explicit about the limitations of the model. A BIG limitation is the measurement units of pleasure and pain: there are no established units and there probably won't ever be. The second limitation is the fact that the pleasure/pain response from any experience can vary from minute to minute.

These limitations render the model completely useless in practice, except:

2. I believe there could still be practical benefit from going through one's choices regularly and questioning from this perspective whether the trade-off holds. Applying some sort of rule-based standard will create a structure and force the person to face the truth. This is still work in progress for me.