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Boiling Water

Of course, if water boils in a pot, steam comes out of the pot, and also a picture of steam comes out of a picture of the pot. But what if one insisted on saying that there must also be something boiling in the picture of the pot?¹

Though usually the question presents itself the other way around: you find something boiling in the picture of the pot, and infer that (even though you haven't looked inside it) water must be boiling in the real pot as well. — Which is even more absurd, but it is the method of mathematical physics. And it works like a charm.

¹ *Philosophical Investigations* I, #297. (Transl. G.E.M. Anscombe, P.M.S. Hacker, and Joachim Schulte.) — “Freilich, wenn das Wasser im Topf kocht, so steigt der Dampf aus dem Topf und auch das Bild des Dampfes aus dem Bild des Topfes. Aber wie, wenn man sagen wollte, im Bild des Topfes müsse auch etwas kochen?”