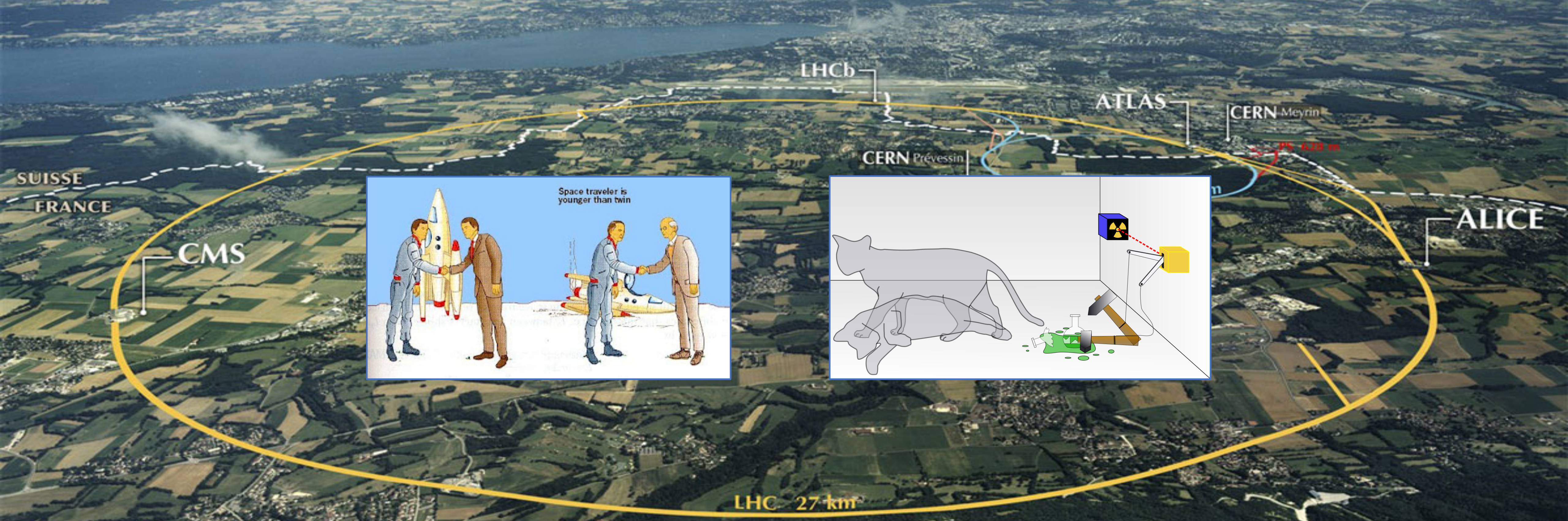
The Relativistic Quantum World

A lecture series on Relativity Theory and Quantum Mechanics

Marcel Merk



University of Maastricht, Sept 16 – Oct 14, 2020

The Relativistic Quantum World

Relativity

Sept. 16:
Lecture 1: The Principle of Relativity and the Speed of Light
Lecture 2: Time Dilation and Lorentz Contraction

Sept. 23:
Lecture 3: The Lorentz Transformation and Paradoxes
Lecture 4: General Relativity and Gravitational Waves

Quantum Mechanics

Sept. 30:
Lecture 5: The Early Quantum Theory
Lecture 6: Feynman's Double Slit Experiment

Oct. 7:
Lecture 7: Wheeler's Delayed Choice and Schrodinger's Cat
Lecture 8: Quantum Reality and the EPR Paradox

Standard Model

Oct. 14:
Lecture 9: The Standard Model and Antimatter
Lecture 10: The Large Hadron Collider

Lecture notes, written for this course, are available: www.nikhef.nl/~i93/Teaching/
Prerequisite for the course: High school level physics & mathematics.

Lecture 8

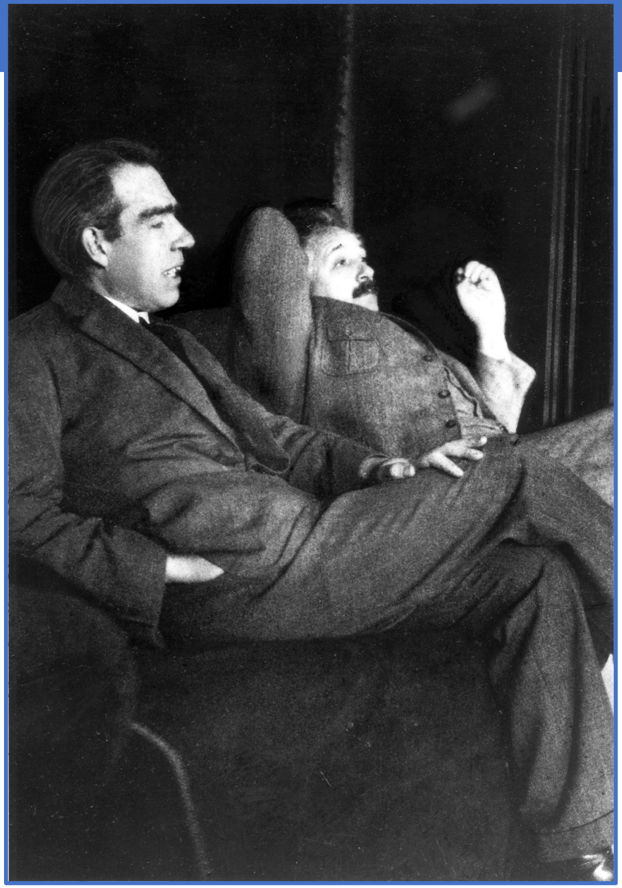
Quantum Reality and EPR Paradox

"Philosophy is too important to leave to the philosophers."
- John Archibald Wheeler

"When we measure something we are forcing an undetermined, undefined world to assume an experimental value. We are not measuring the world, we are creating it."
- Niels Bohr

"If all of this is true, it means the end of physics."
- Albert Einstein, in discussion with Niels Bohr

Einstein’s Final Objection



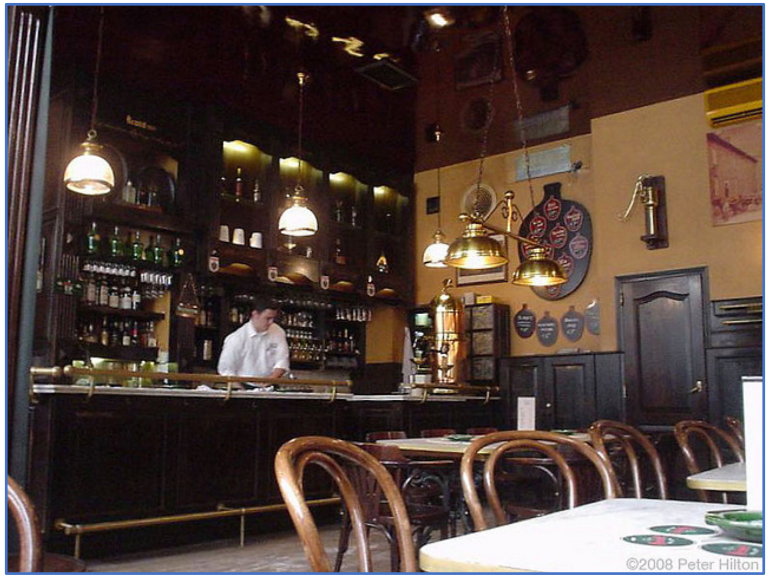
Principle of locality:

- An object is only directly influenced by its immediate surroundings.
- An action on a system at one point ***cannot*** have an ***instantaneous*** effect on another point.
- To have effect at a distance a field or particle (“signal”) must travel between the two points.
- Limit: the speed of light.
  - Otherwise trouble with causality (see relativity: “Bob dies before Alice actually shoots him?!”).

Einstein: Quantum mechanics is ***not a local*** theory, therefore: it is unreasonable!

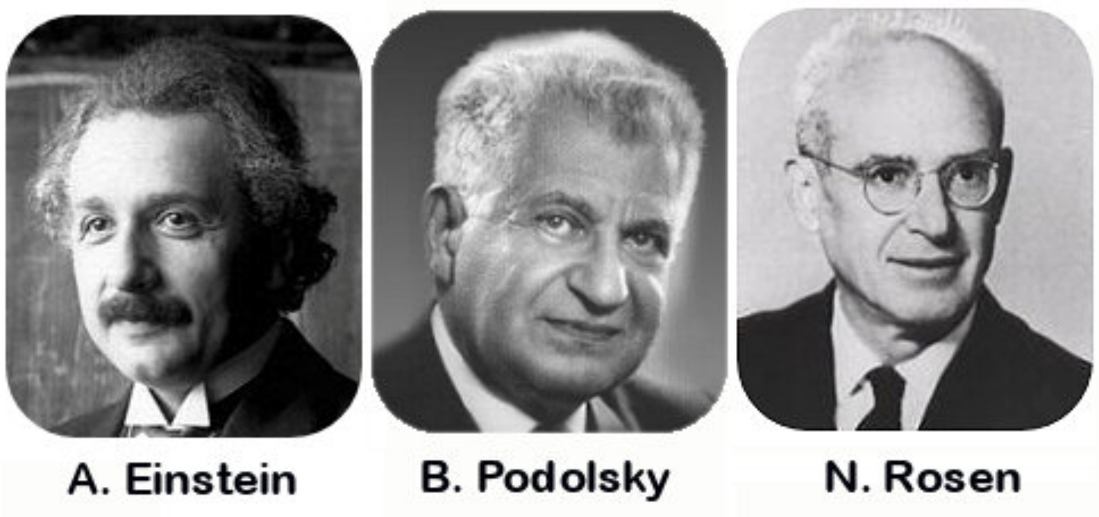
The EPR discussion is the last of the Bohr – Einstein discussions. After receiving Bohr’s reply Einstein commented that QM is too much in contradiction with his scientific instinct.

The EPR Paradox



The EPR Paradox (1935)

EPR = Albert Einstein,
Boris Podolsky,
Nathan Rosen



Bohr *et al.*: Quantum Mechanics:

The wave function can be precisely calculated, but a measurement of ***mutually exclusive quantities*** is driven by pure chance.

Einstein *et al.*: Local Reality:

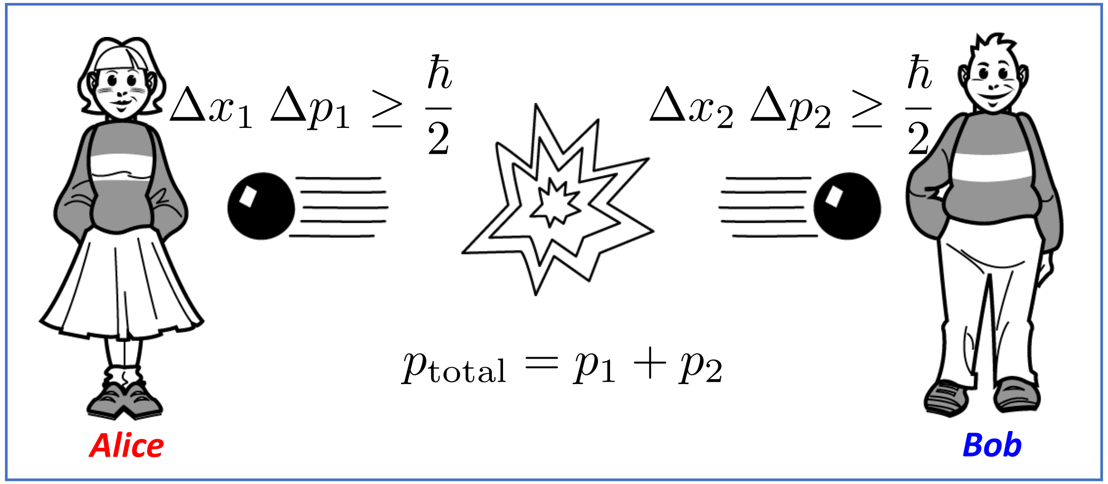
There must exist ***hidden variables*** (hidden to us) in which the outcome of the measurement is encoded such that effectively ***it only looks as*** if it is driven by chance.

Local Realism vs Quantum Entanglement:

EPR: What if the wave function is very large and a measurement at one end can influence the other end via some "***unreasonable spooky interaction***".
Propose a measurement to test ***quantum entanglement*** of particles.

The EPR Paradox

Two particles produced with known total momentum P_{total}, and fly far away.
Alice ***can not*** measure at the same time position (x_1) and momentum (p_1) of particle 1.
Bob ***can not*** measure at the same time position (x_2) and momentum (p_2) of particle 2.

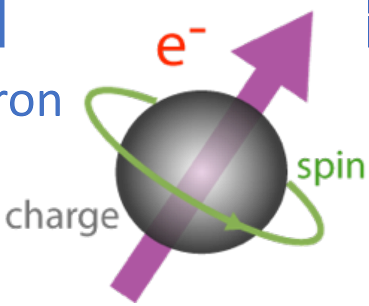


But:

If *Alice* measures p_1, then automatically p_2 is ***known***, since $p_1+p_2= p_{total}$
If *Alice* measures x_1, then p_1 is unknown and therefore also p_2 is ***unknown***.

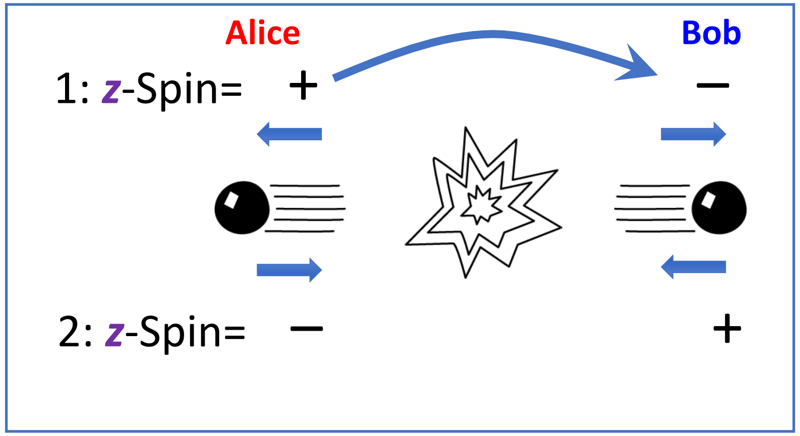
How can a decision of Alice to measure x_1 or p_1 affect the quantum state of Bob's particle (x_2 or p_2) at the same time over a long distance?
Communication with speed faster than the speed of light? Contradiction with causality?
Is there "local realism" or "spooky action at a distance"?

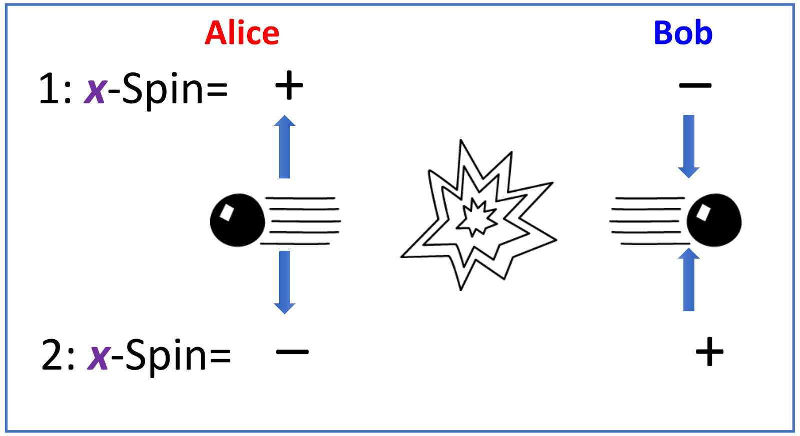
An EPR Experiment



Produce two particles with an opposite ***spin quantum state.*** Heisenberg uncertainty: an electron ***cannot*** have well defined ***spin*** at same time along two different directions, eg. **z** and **x**

Total spin=0





After first measuring ***z***, then the probability of ***+x*** vs **–x** = 50%-50%.
After subsequently measuring eg. **+x**, the probability of **+z** vs **–z** = 50%-50% etc.!

Quantum wave function: total spin = 0.
If Alice measures spin of her particle along the **z**-direction,
Then also Bob's particle's spin points (oppositely) along the **z**-direction!

An EPR Experiment

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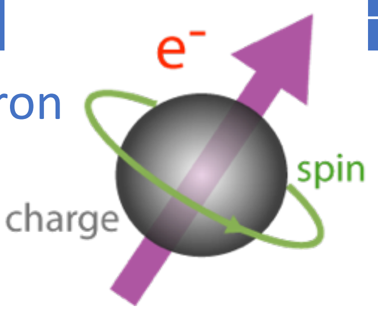
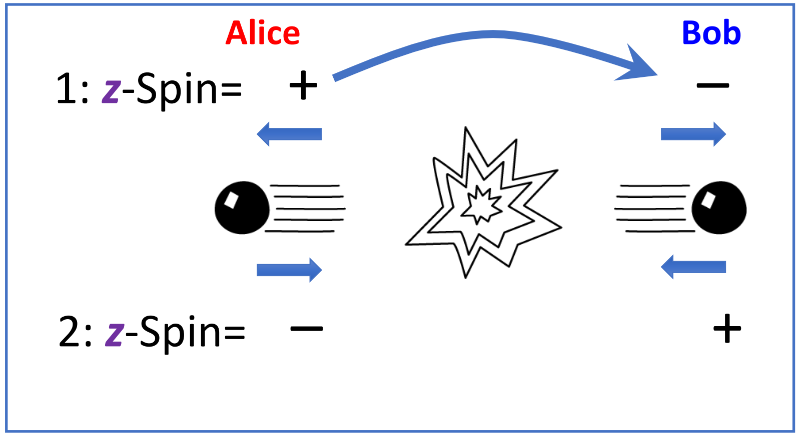
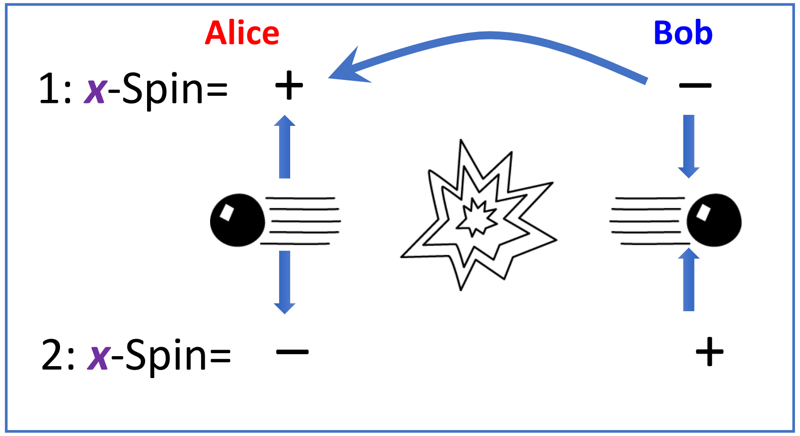


But how does Bob's particle know that Alice measures **x**-spin or **z**-spin?

Total spin=0





Trick: if A_z^+ implies B_z^- , then alternatively: B_x^- implies A_x^+

Does the measurement $A_z^+B_x^-$ means that we have determined ***both*** **x** and **z** spin according to $A_z^+A_x^+$?!

(Note that **A** and **B** could have lightyears distance!)

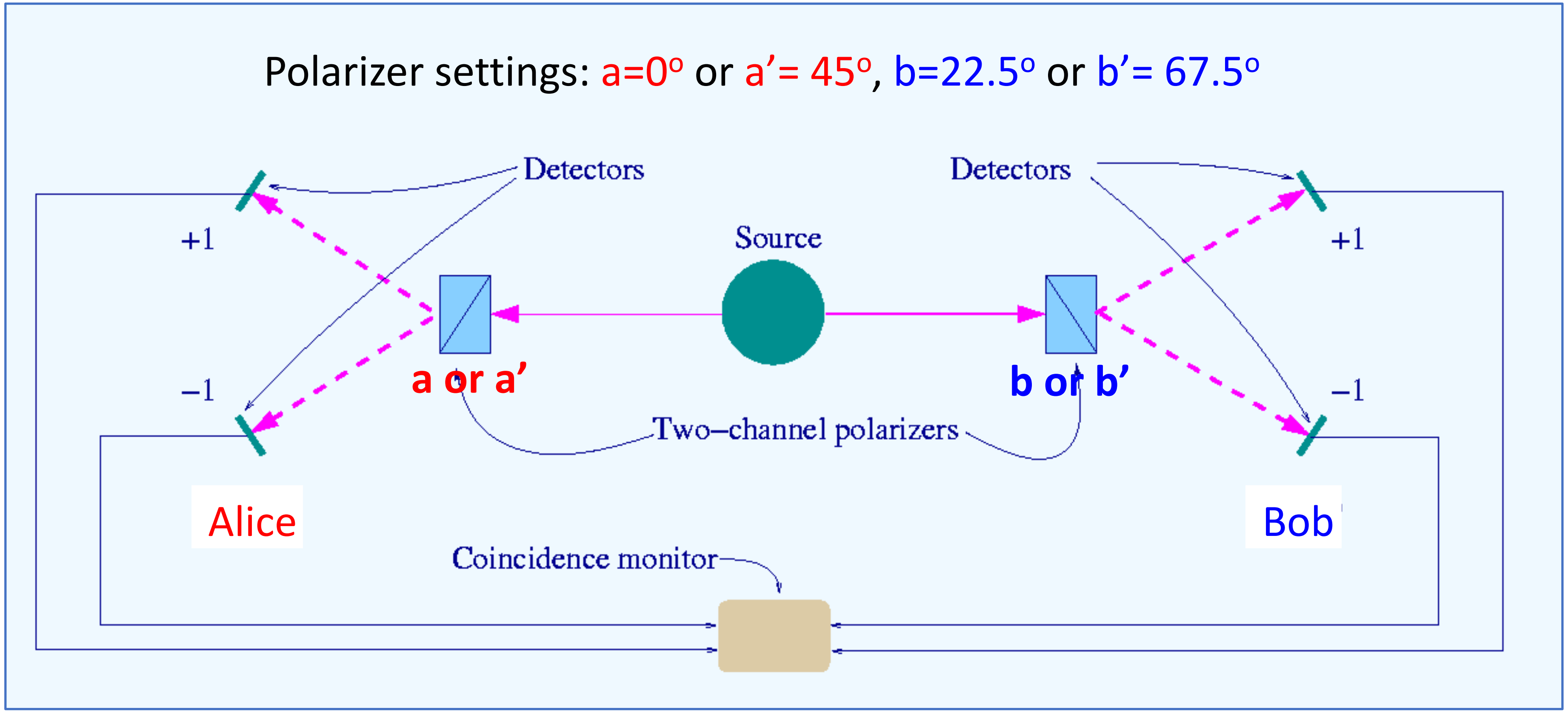
➔Local realism: ***yes!*** ➔QM: ***No!*** (The first measurement "collapses" the wave function: coherence is lost.)

Either the particles are linked because of some ***hidden variable*** (local reality) ***or*** they are QM ***"entangled"*** until a measurement "collapses" the wave function.

Alain Aspect 1982 – EPR with photons!

EPR experiment with photons. Testing the ***Bell inequality*** (1964).

Correlation test, count: $E(a,b) = \dfrac{N(+,+) + N(-,-) - N(+,-) - N(-,+)}{N(+,+) + N(-,-) + N(+,-) + N(-,+)}$



Determine: **S** = E(a,b) – E(a,b') + E(a',b) + E(a',b')

(quantum correlations)

- Local reality (hidden var's) : **S ≤ 2.0**
- Quantum Mechanics : **S = 2.7**

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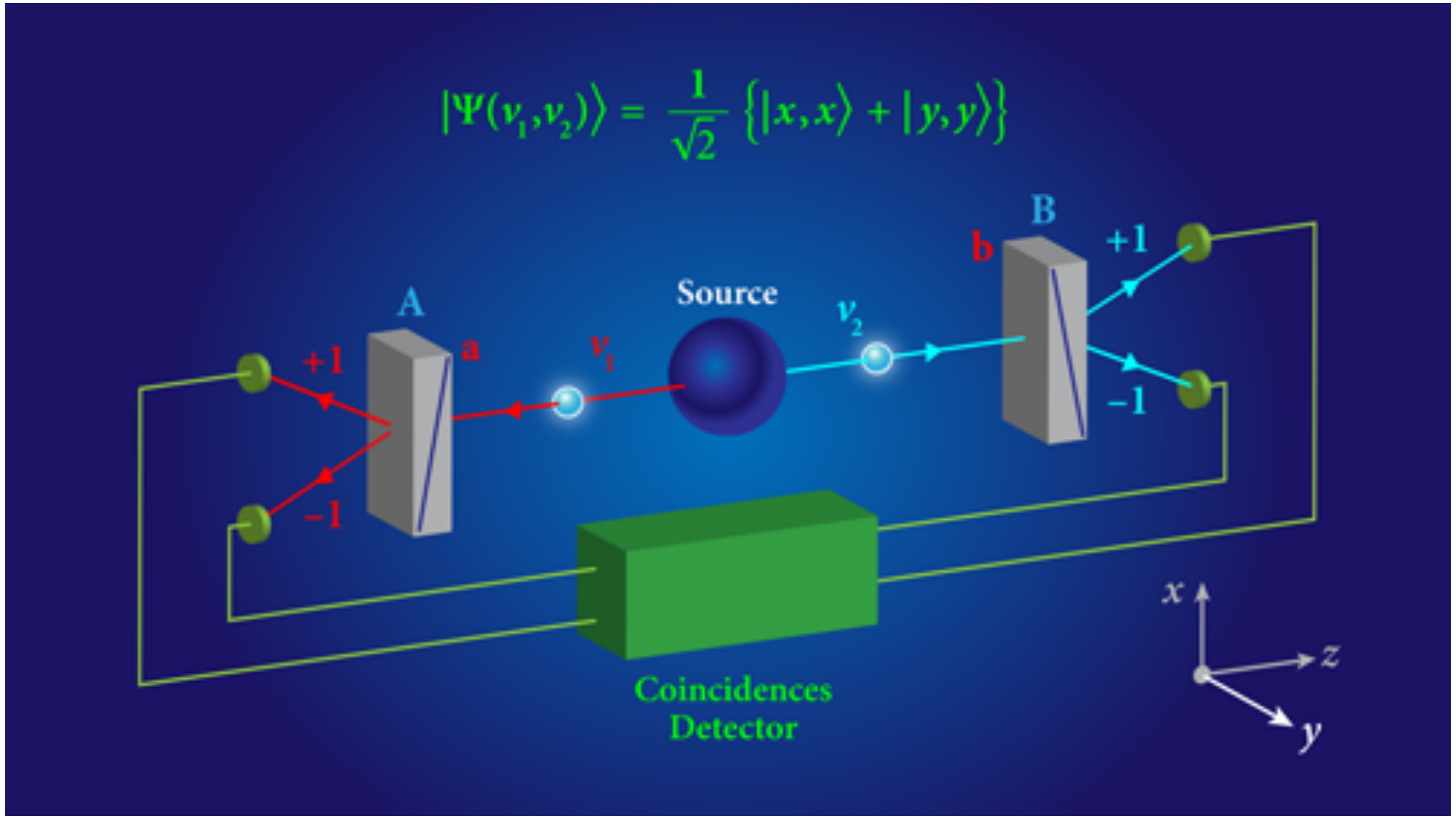

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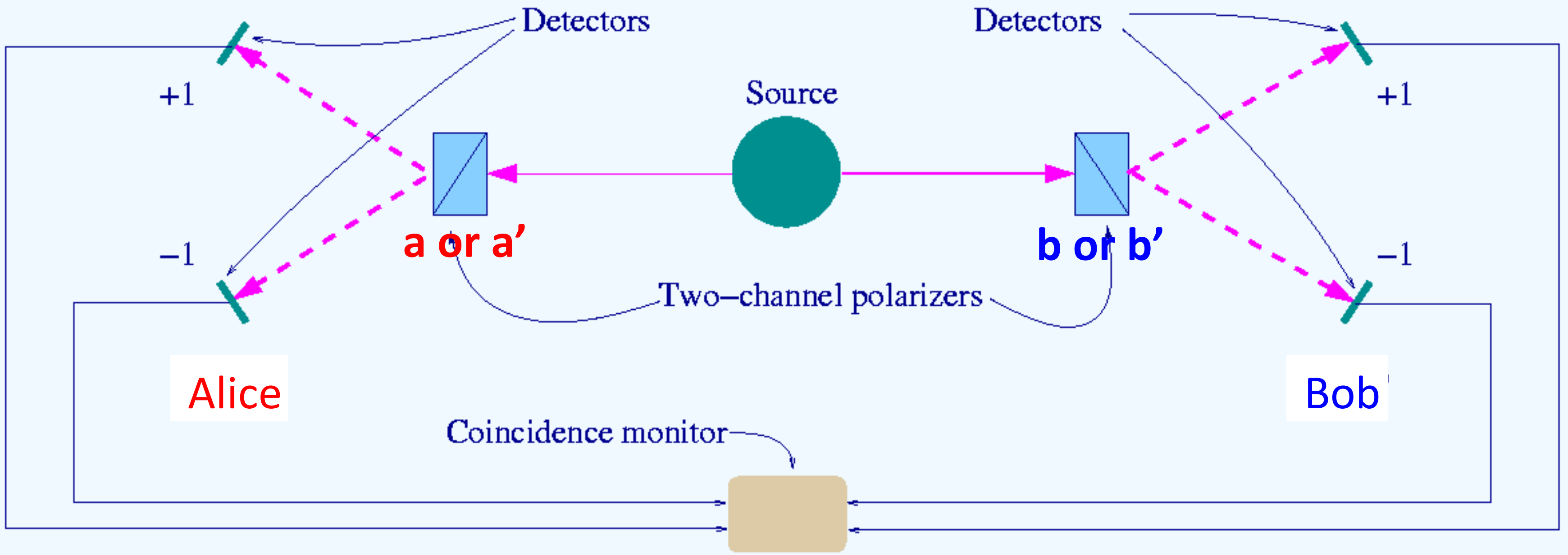
Polarizer settings: $a=0^o$ or $a'= 45^o$, $b=22.5^o$ or $b'= 67.5^o$



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$$E(a,b) = \int \underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\rho(\lambda)d\lambda$$

where $\underline{A}$ and $\underline{B}$ are the average values of the outcomes. Since the possible values of A and B are −1, 0 and +1, it follows that:

$$|\underline{A}| \leq 1 \quad |\underline{B}| \leq 1$$

Then, if a, a', b and b' are alternative settings for the detectors,

$$E(a,b) - E(a,b') = \int \left[\underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda) - \underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda$$
$$= \int \underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda - \int \underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda$$

Taking absolute values of both sides, and applying the triangle inequality to the right-hand side, we obtain

$$|E(a,b) - E(a,b')| \leq \left|\int \underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda\right| + \left|\int \underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda\right|$$

We use the fact that $\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)$ and $\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)$ are both non-negative to rewrite the right-hand side of this as

$$\int |\underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)|\,|\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda| + \int |\underline{A}(a,\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)|\,|\left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda|$$

By (4), this must be less than or equal to

$$\int \left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda + \int \left[1 \pm \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\right]\rho(\lambda)d\lambda$$

which, using the fact that the integral of ρ(λ) is 1, is equal to

$$2 \pm \left[\int \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b',\lambda)\rho(\lambda)d\lambda + \int \underline{A}(a',\lambda)\underline{B}(b,\lambda)\rho(\lambda)d\lambda\right]$$

which is equal to $2 \pm [E(a',b') + E(a',b)]$.

Putting this together with the left-hand side, we have:

$$|E(a,b) - E(a,b')| \leq 2 \pm [E(a',b') + E(a',b)]$$

which means that the left-hand side is less than or equal to both $2 + [E(a',b') + E(a',b)]$ and $2 - [E(a',b') + E(a',b)]$. That is:

$$|E(a,b) - E(a,b')| \leq 2 - |E(a',b') + E(a',b)|$$

from which we obtain

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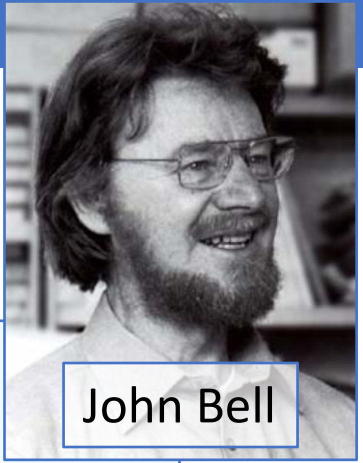
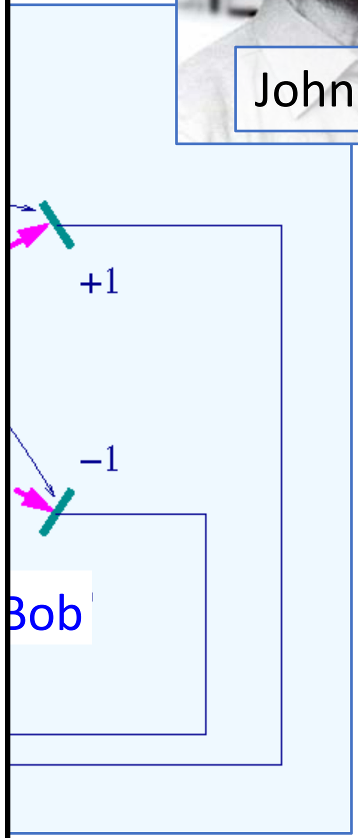
(by the triangle inequality again), which is the CHSH inequality.

4).



1964



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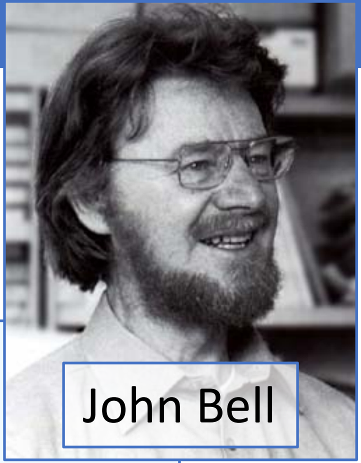

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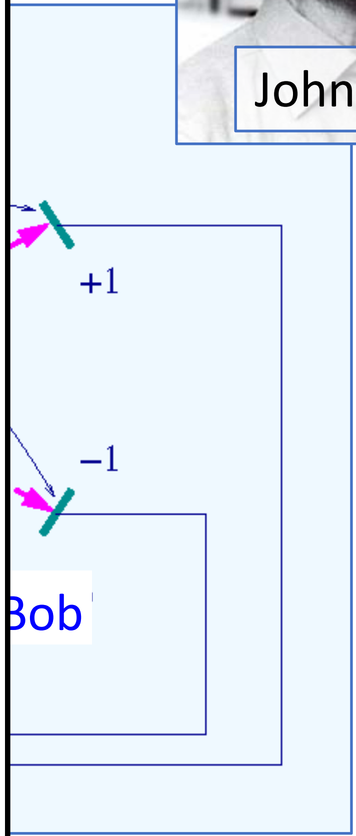

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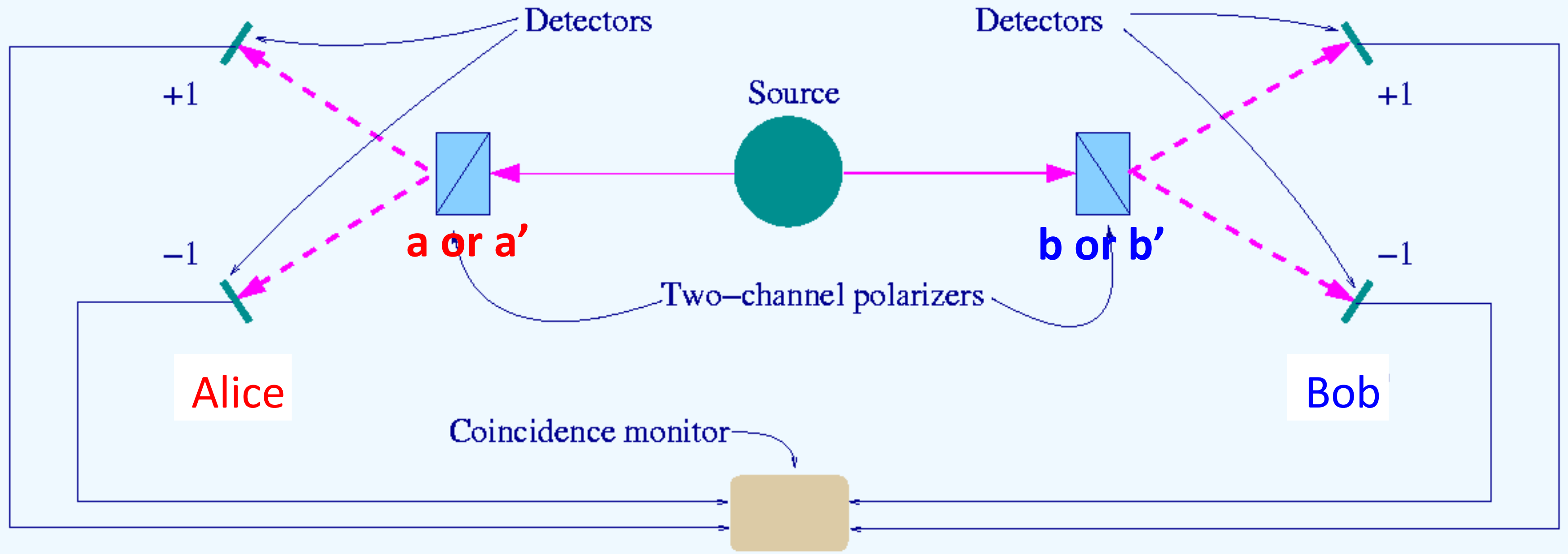
Observations agree with quantum mechanics and not with local reality!



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Observations agree with quantum mechanics and not with local reality!

There were two "loopholes" (comments of critics):

1. Locality loophole:
   The particles and detectors were so close to each other that *in principle* they could have communicated with each other during the Bell test.

2. "Detection loophole":
   The detectors only measured *some* of the entangled particles, and they could be a *non-representative* selection of all.

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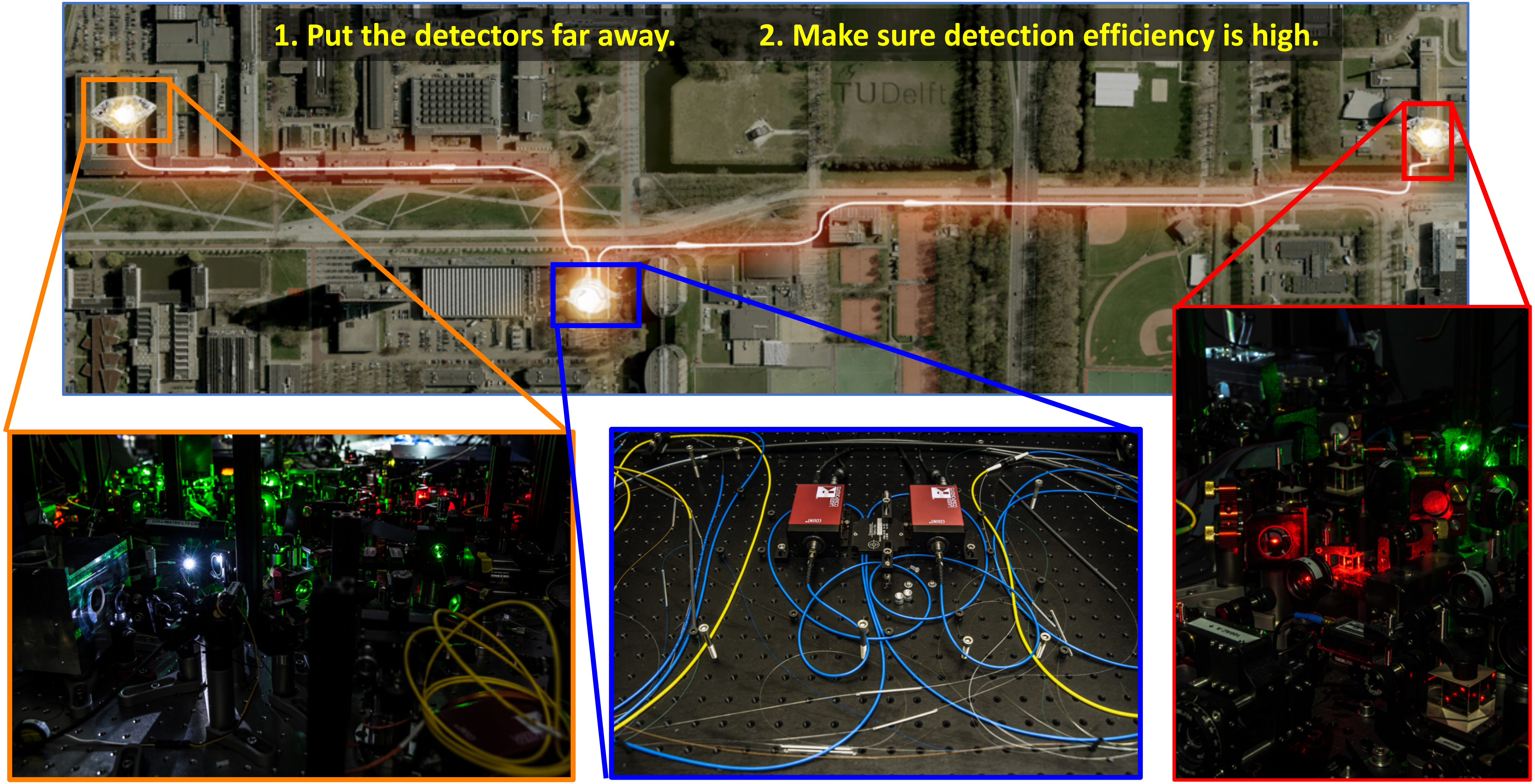
Closing the loopholes: Delft 2015



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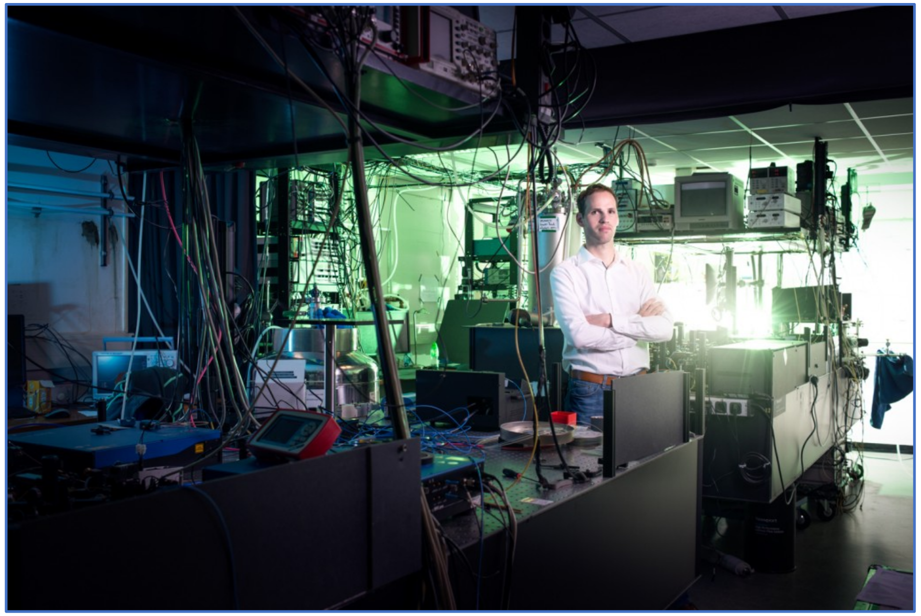
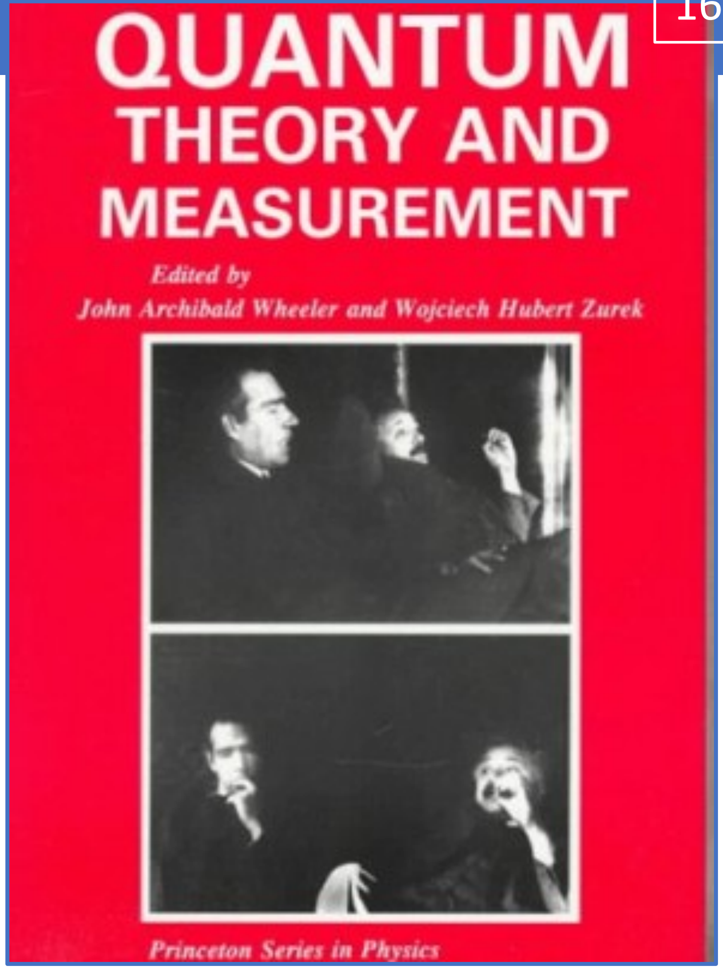


- Ronald Hanson and his group performed the first EPR experiment without loopholes.
- Measurement of photons that are entangled with electron spins.
- **Quantum entanglement again passes the test.**
- ➔ ***No hidden variables!***

Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics



The Wave function.

- ***ψ(x,t)*** contains all information of a system (eg. electron).
- Wave function includes the fundamental laws of physics and describes all types of matter particles and their interactions

Copenhagen Interpretation.

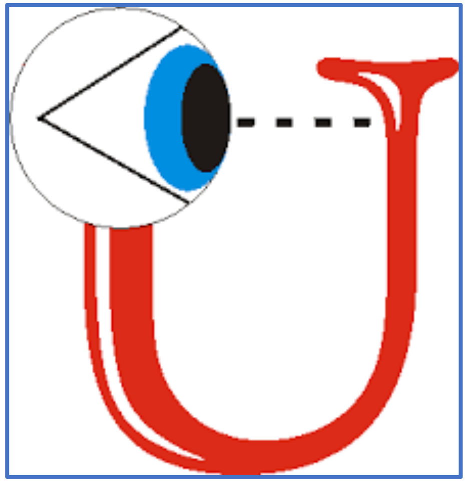
- There is ***no physical interpretation*** for the wave function.
- As long as ***no measurement*** is done the ***wave-function includes all possible outcomes***. **"Nature tries everything".**
- When a measurement is done, nature realizes one of the possibilities by the ***collapse of the wavefunction*** (particle or wave, $\boldsymbol{x}$ or $\boldsymbol{p}$, $\boldsymbol{\sigma_x}$ or $\boldsymbol{\sigma_z}$) according to probabilistic laws. **"Nothing exists until it is measured".**

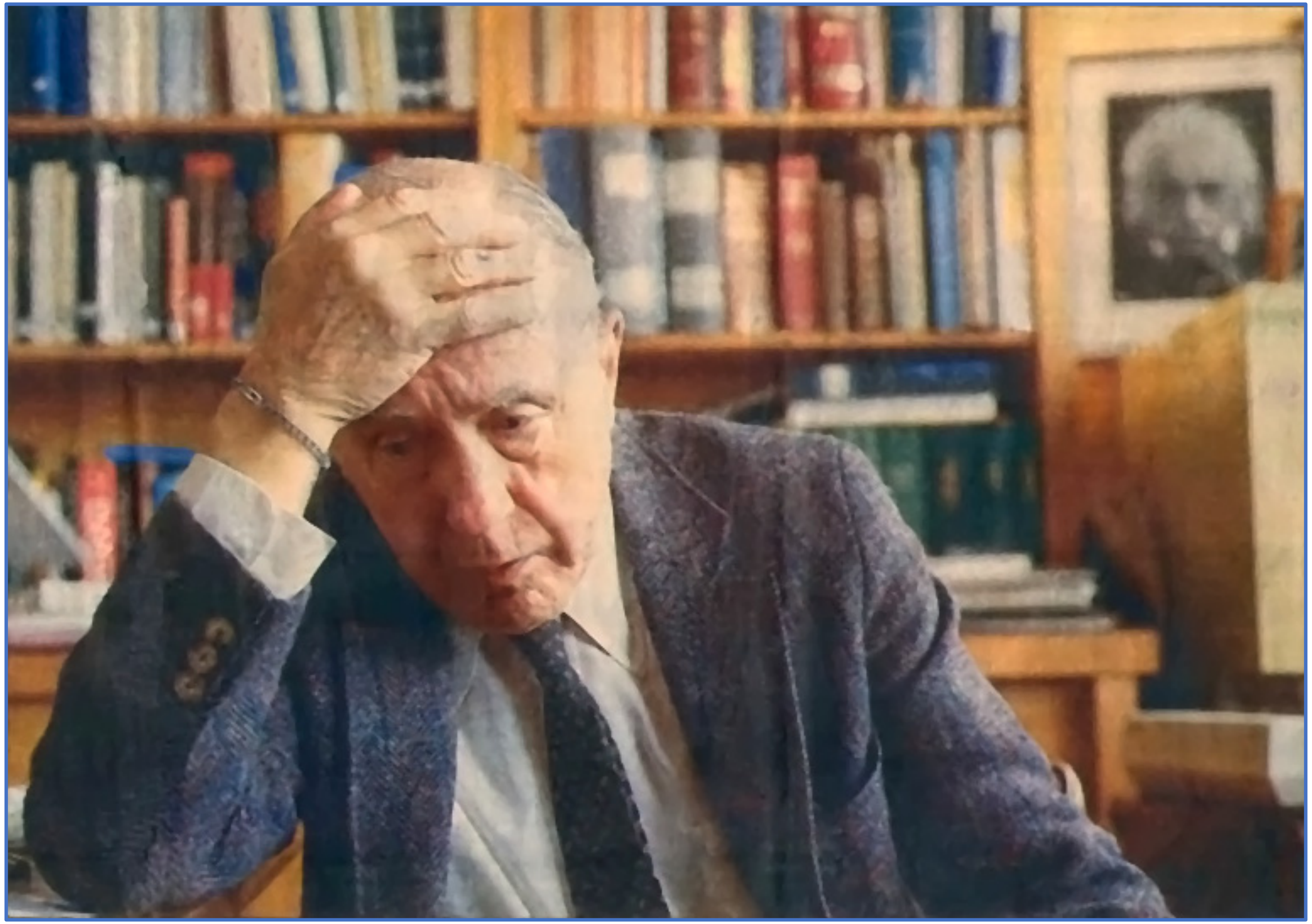
The Measurement Problem.

- ***But what is a measurement?*** Is it an irreversible process? Does it require consciousness?
- There are many interpretations apart from the Copenhagen Interpretation.
  - Objective collapse theory, consciousness causes collapse, pilot-wave, many worlds, many minds, participatory anthropic principle, quantum information ("it from bit"), …

John Archibald Wheeler: 1911 – 2008

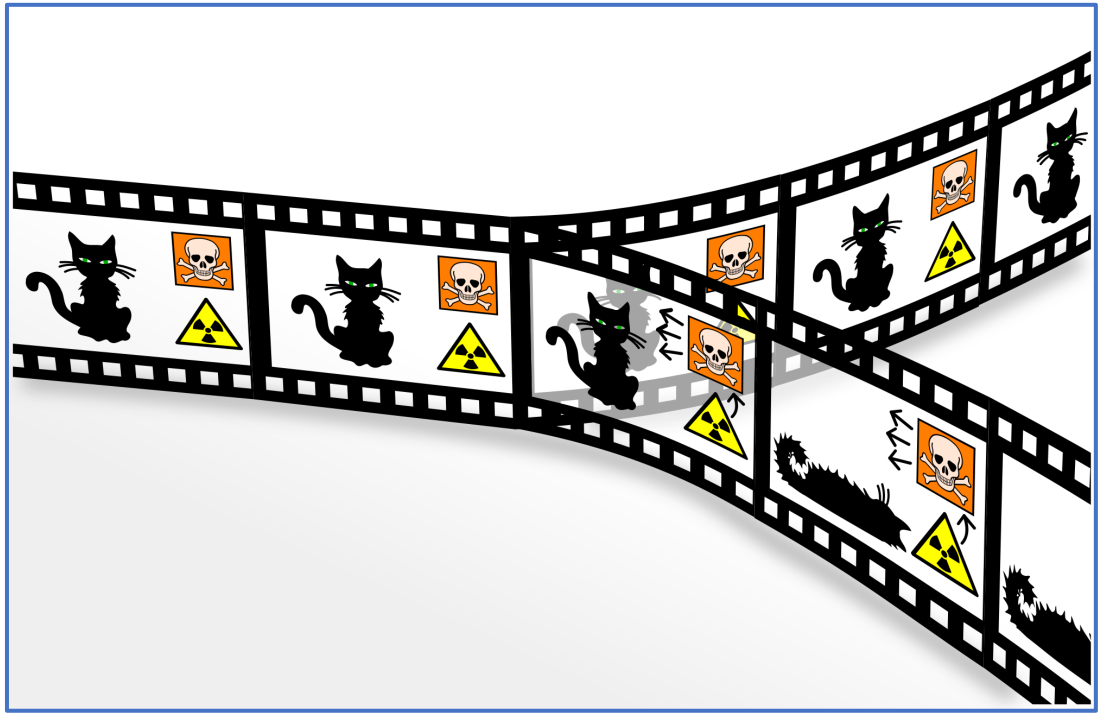
- Inventor of terms:
  - “black hole”, “worm hole”, “It from bit”
- Famous book on gravitation
- Proposed a one-electron universe
- Worked with Niels Bohr
- PhD supervisor
  - Richard Feynman
  - Hugh Everett III
- Participatory universe



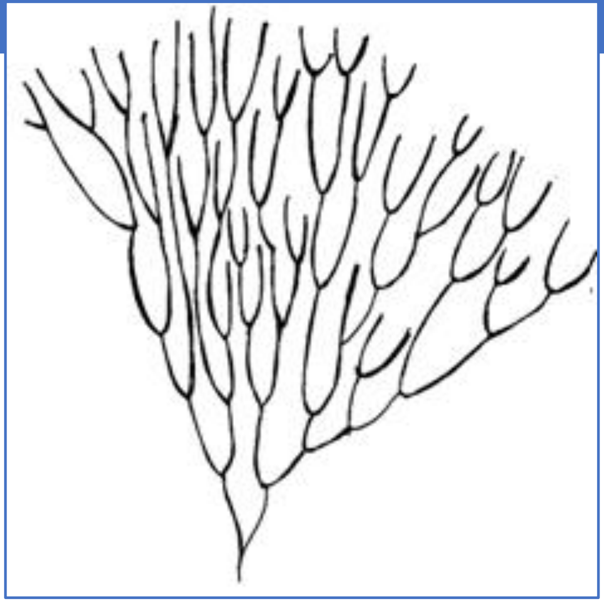


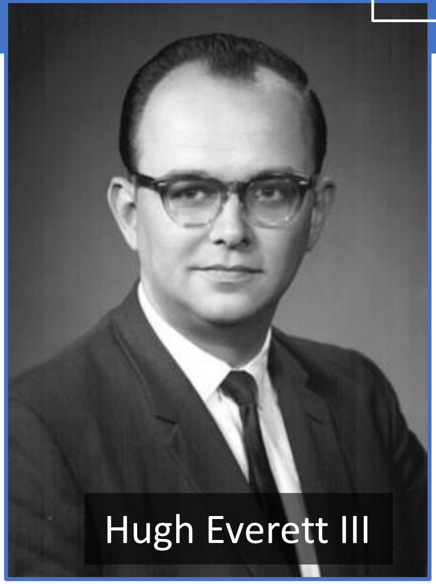
Many Worlds Interpretation

Hugh Everett III (PhD Student of John Wheeler) formulated the Many Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics in 1957



The wave function does ***not*** collapse, but at each quantum measurement ***both states continue to exist in a decoupled world***.





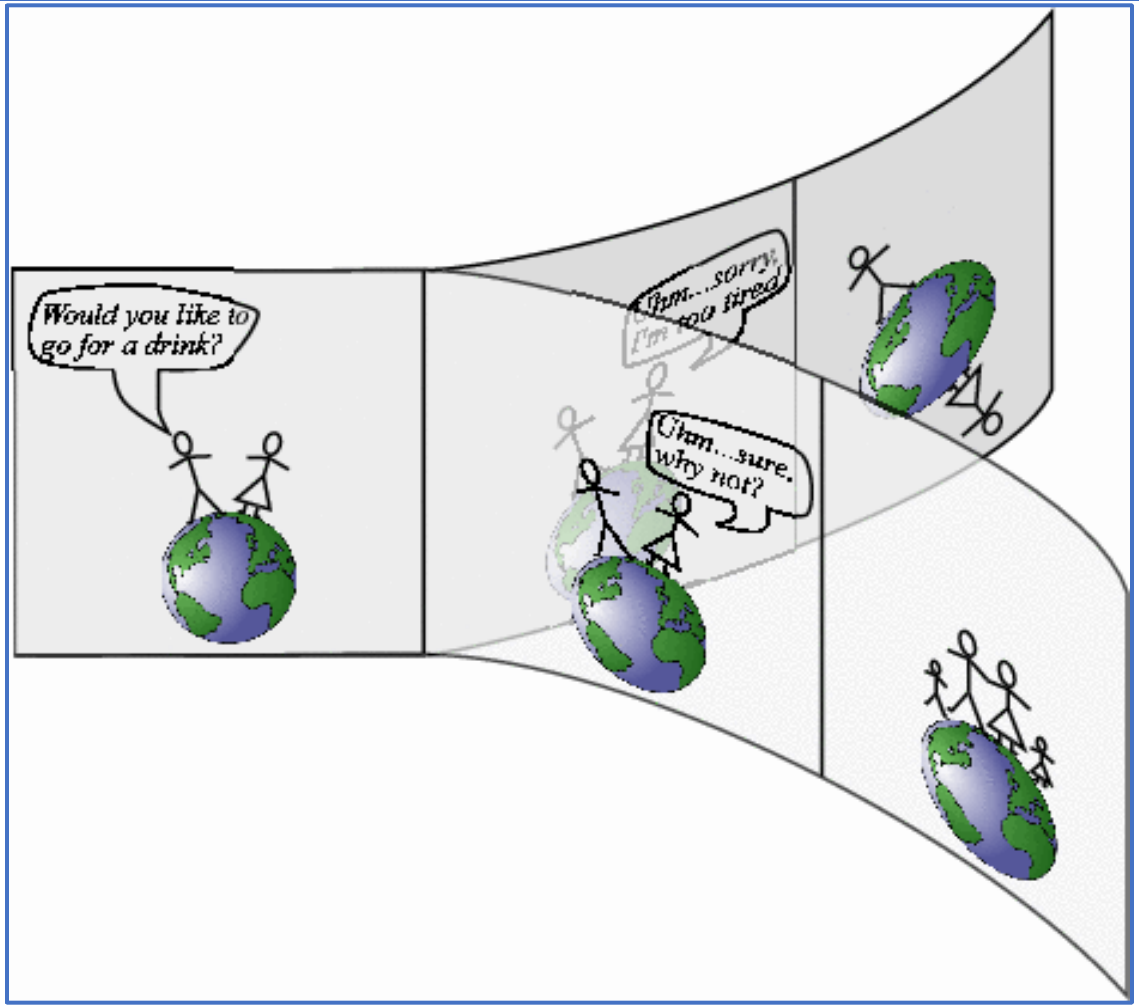
Multiverse:

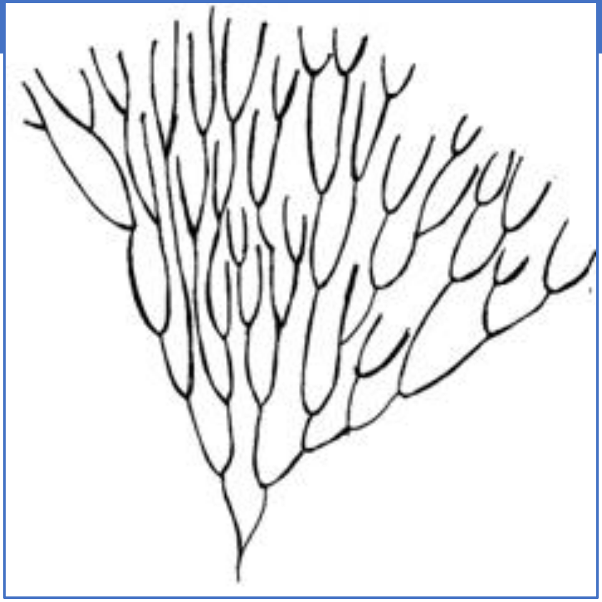
Very large tree of quantum worlds for each quantum decision.

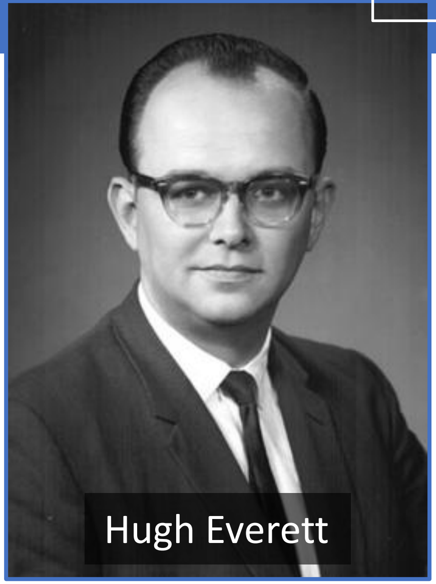
The total wave function of complete multiverse is deterministic

Triggered science fiction stories with “parallel universes”.

Many Worlds Interpretation







The wave function does ***not*** collapse, but at each quantum measurement ***both states continue to exist in a decoupled world***.

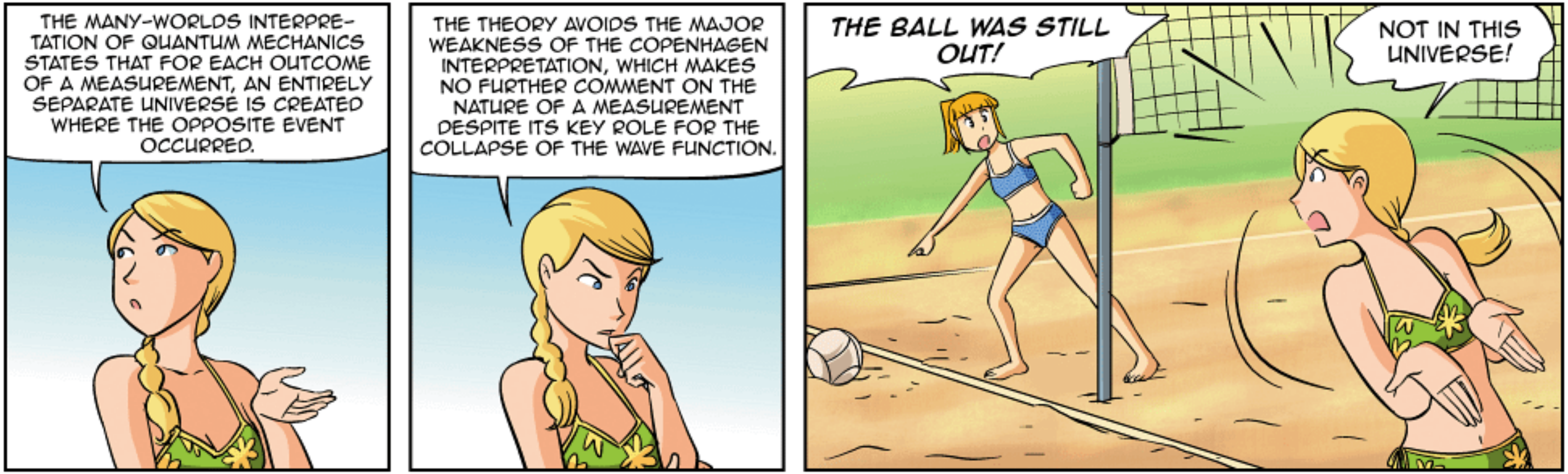
Multiverse:

Very large tree of quantum worlds for each quantum decision.

The total wave function of complete multiverse is deterministic

Triggered science fiction stories with “parallel universes”.

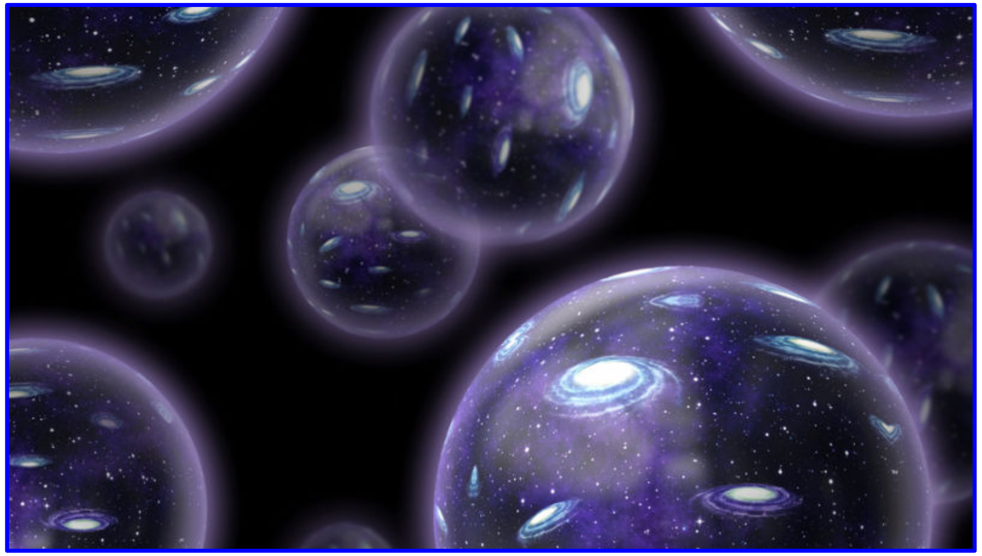
Many Worlds Interpretation



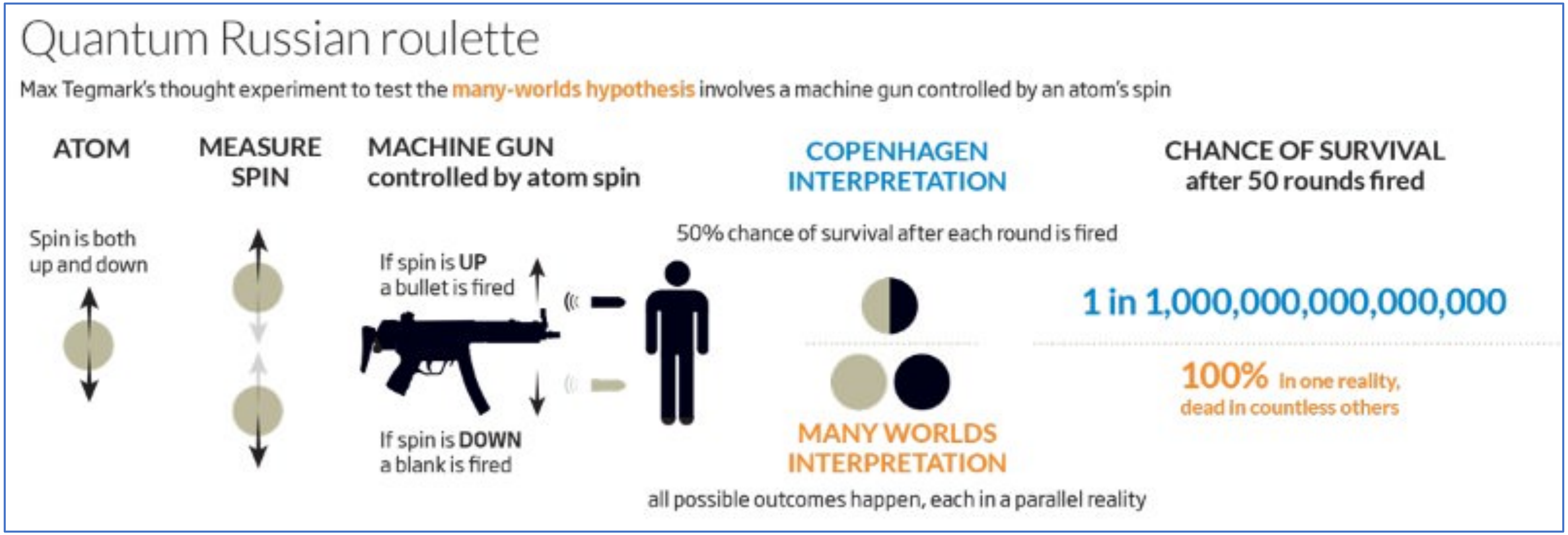
Sandra and Woo by Oliver Knörzer (writer), Powree (artist) and Lisa Moore (colorist) - www.sandraandwoo.com

Many Worlds test

Thought Experiment!!!



- Incredibly many alternative versions of us exist in the multiverse.
- To prove validity of the multiverse:
  - Shoot yourself with 50%-50% quantum probability in russian roulette.
  - Repeat it 50 times.
  - In many worlds survival will ***always*** happen.
  - You will never have the luck to survive in single universe



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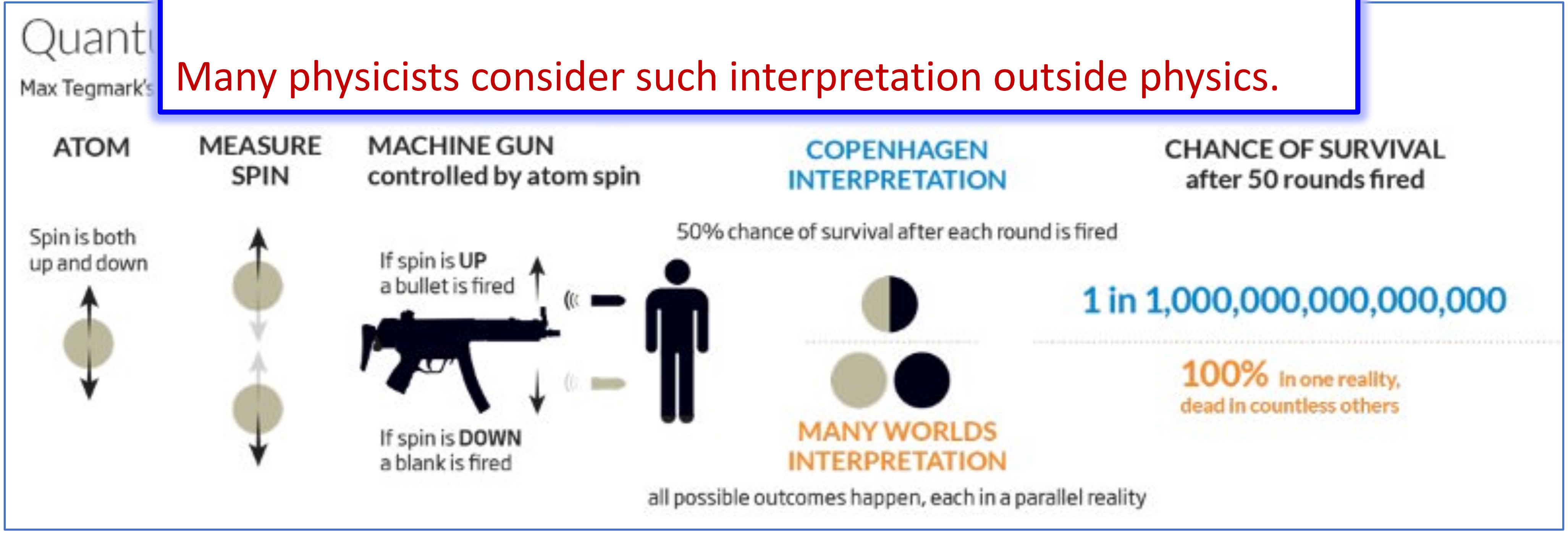
ppen.

in single universe

For me the Many World Interpretation is a far-fetched view of our existence. But it is very difficult to prove it wrong!

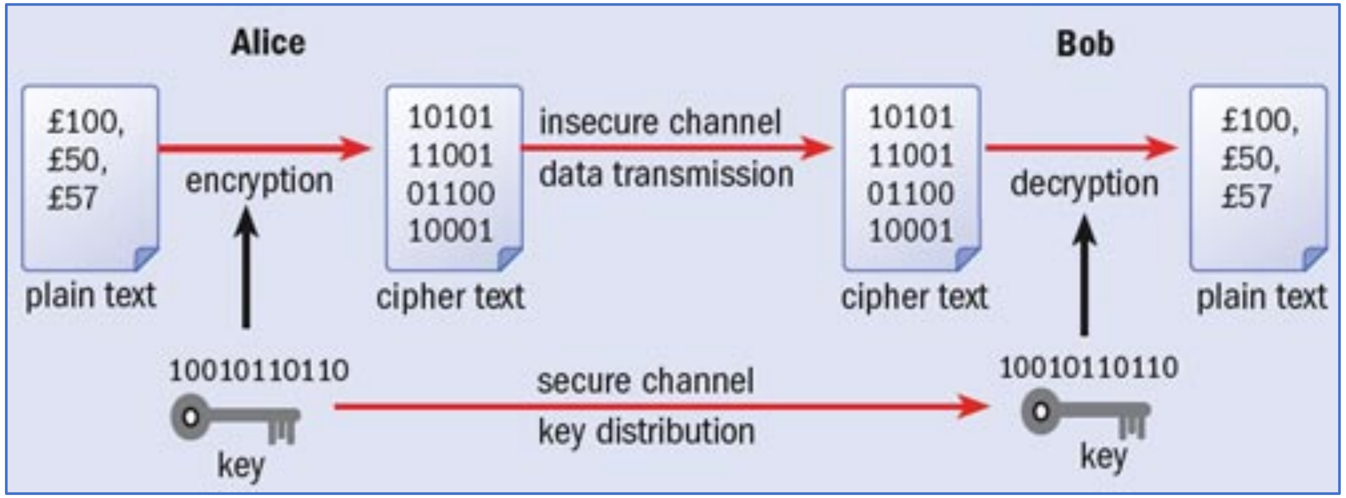
Many physicists consider such interpretation outside physics.

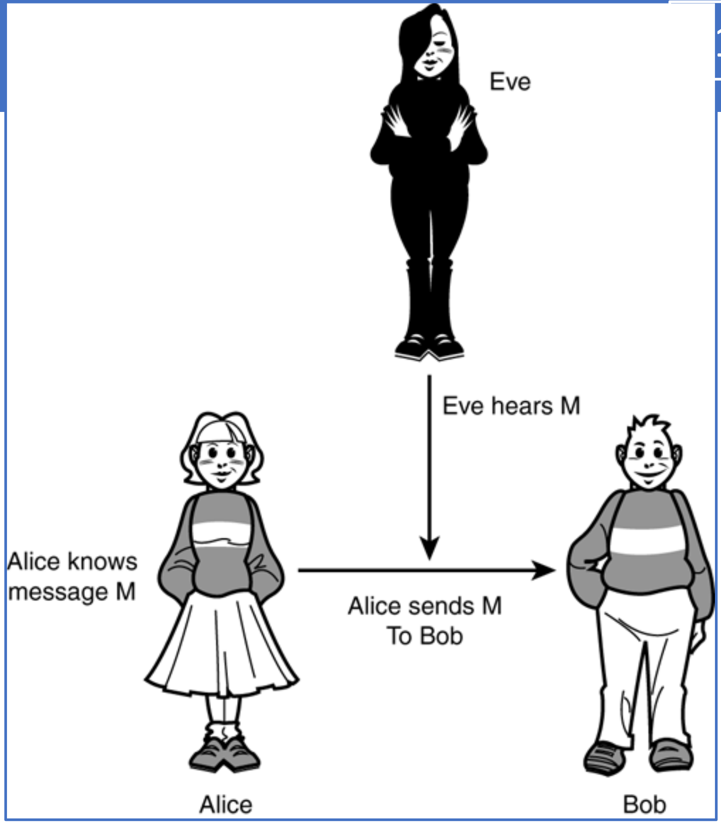


Application 1: Quantum Cryptography

Alice sends a secret message to Bob and prevents Eve to eavesdrop.

First idea by Stephen Wiesner (1970s), worked out by Bennet (IBM) and Brassard (1980s)
→ BB84 protocol





Quantum Key Distribution (QKD):

1. Public Channel (Internet, email):
   send an encrypted message.
2. Quantum Channel (Laser + fiber optics)
   send key to decode the public message
3. Eve cannot secretly eavesdrop. She destroys quantum information and is detected.

Physicsworld.com Sept 2, 2013 "Quantum cryptography coming to mobile phones".

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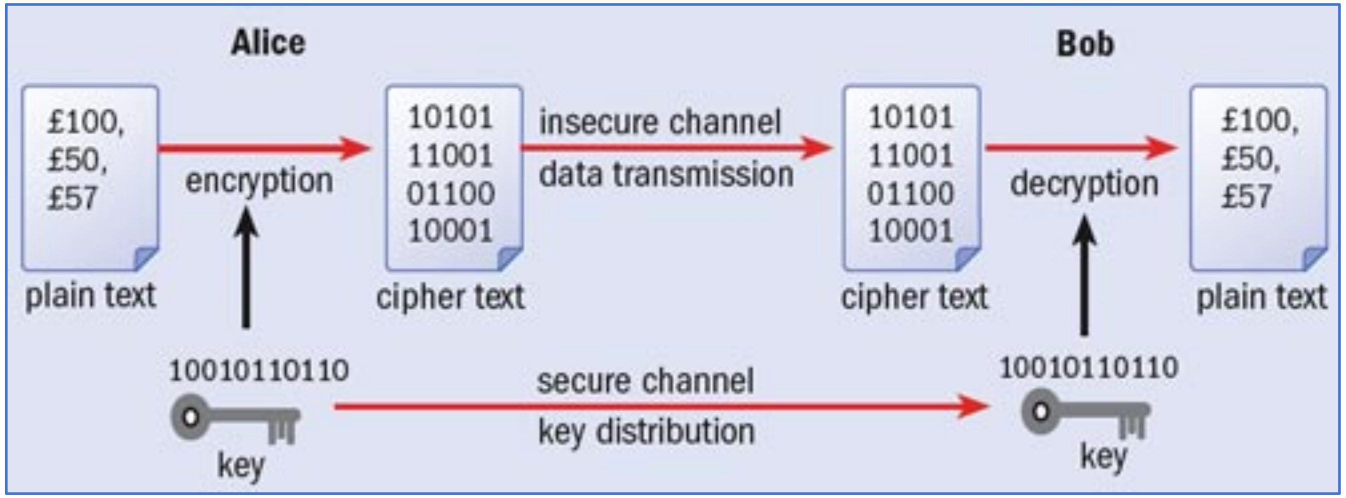

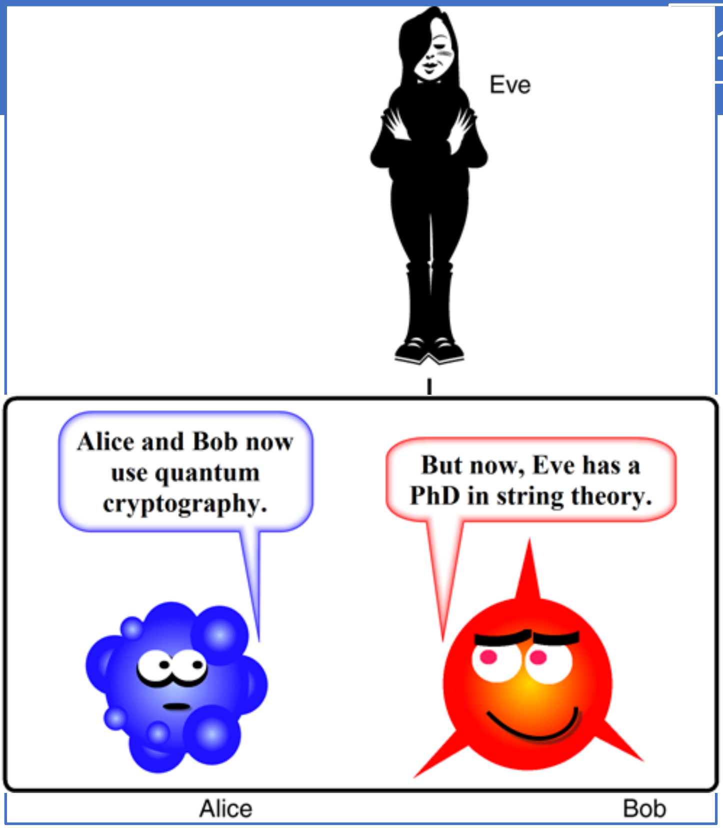

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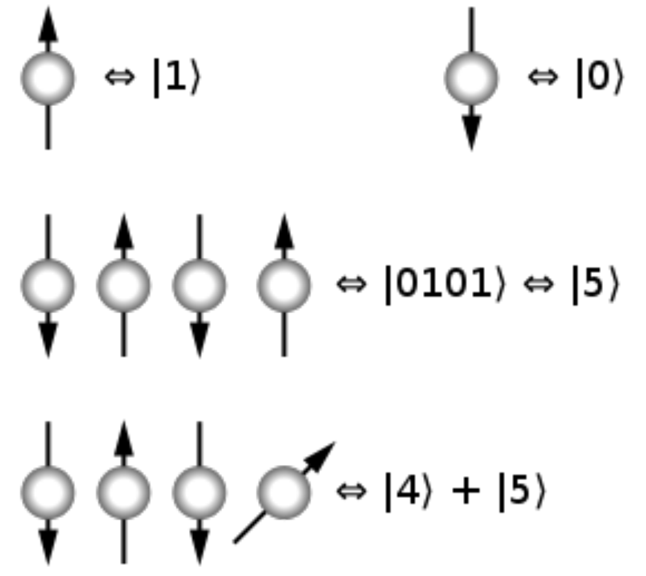
Application 2: Quantum Computer

Idea: Yuri Manin and Richard Feynman: use superposition and entanglement of quantum states to make a super-fast computer.

Normal computer : bits are either 0 or 1
Quantum computer: qubits are coherent super-positions of states 0 and 1 at the same time.
(Eg. Electron spin up and spin down)



qubits can be in a superposition of all the clasically allowed states

Compute with quantum logic.
With 2 bits it can do 4 calculations simultaneously.
With 3 bits 8 calculations, with n bits 2^n !

Qubit Technologies:
Electron spin, Photon polarization,
Nuclear spin, quantum dots, …

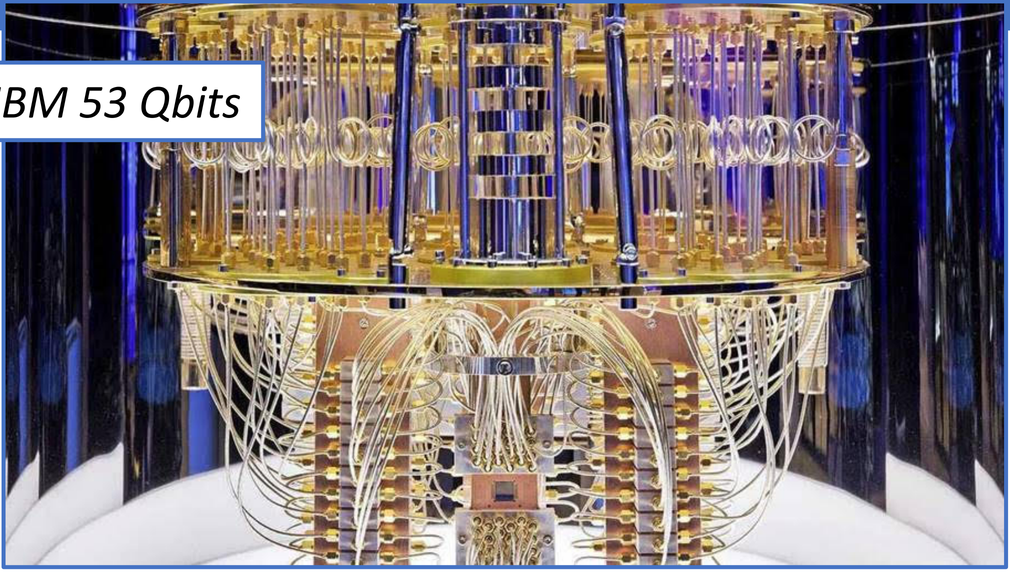
Difficulty: prevent "decoherence".

Application 2: Quantum Computer

"Hardware" technological difficulty:

- Prevent "decoherence"
- 2011: "D-wave systems" claim quantum computer of 128 qubits, 2020: 5000 qubits. (Not generally accepted that is a real QC.)
- 2019: IBM launches 56 qubit quantum cloud-computer Google: 72-qubit device, not public accessible

IBM 53 Qbits

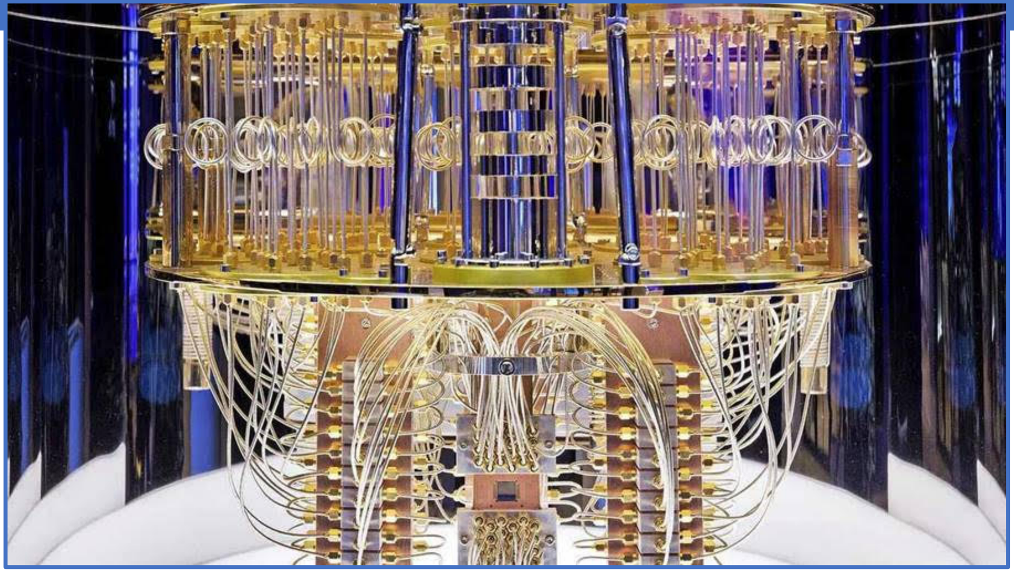


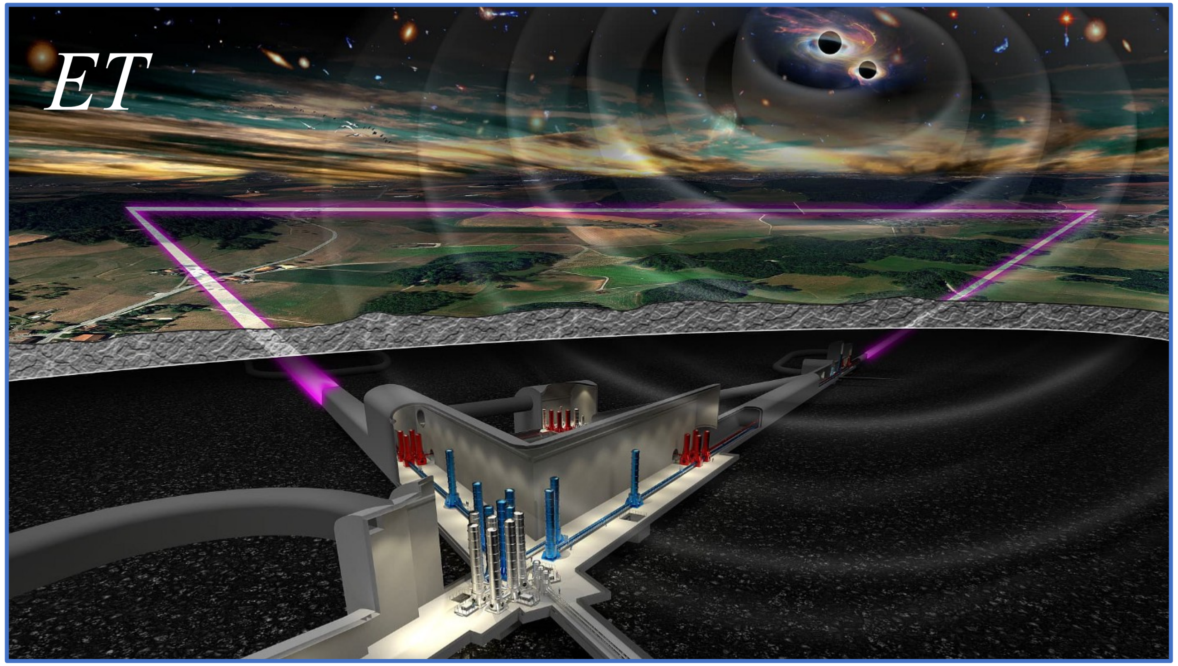
Software technological difficulty:

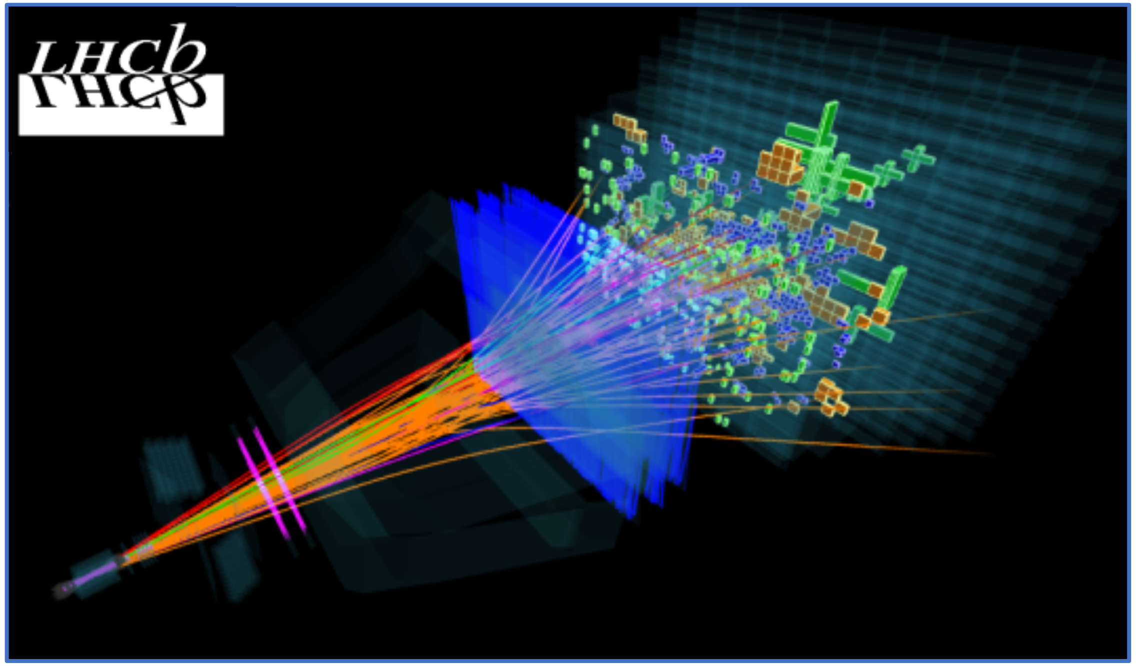
- Prepare system in known state
- Let it evolve according to the algorithm into large simultaneous state.
- Correct solution results from constructive interference of states (→ think double slit)
- Only few algorithms exist:
  - Shor factorization
  - Grover's search algorithm
- A science in itself!

Joint research IBM and UM

- Hot from the press (Oct 5, 2020): IBM and UM start project on quantum computing (“QC@UM”)
  - Departments of Gravitational Wave and Fundamental Physics (GWFP) and Data science and Knowledge Engineering (DKE)
- Two projects to be ready at ~ 2035:
  - Quantum computing for the Einstein Telescope
  - Quantum computing for the High-Luminosity Large Hadron Collider at CERN (HL-LHC)

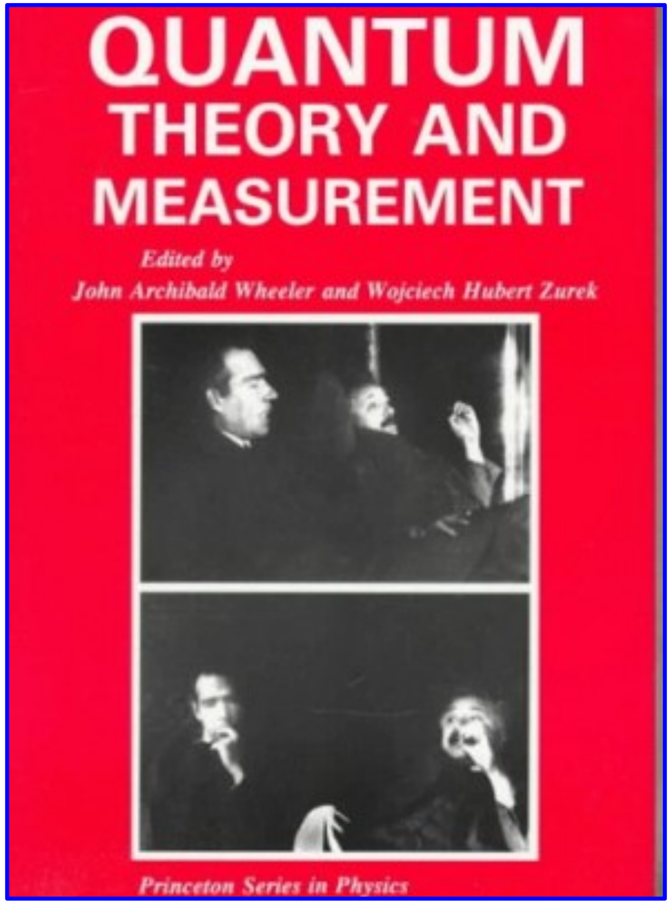






Quantum Reality and the Measurement Problem

- Quantum reality differs from the classical world.
- Einstein brought a revolutionary way of thinking with relativity theory, but could not accept the revolution of quantum mechanics.
- Bohr never managed to convince Einstein.
- Einsteins objections have been disproven in many tests while the quantum view is always confirmed.
- The Copenhagen interpretation does not provide a meaning for what the wave function is and what the role of the observer (i.e. a measurement) is.



Philosophical:
Would the universe exist if there would be no "observers" to see it?
Is the universe perhaps created by acts of observation?

Further food for thought

Relativity theory:

The finite speed of light means that there is no sharp separation between space and time. (Think of different observers)

Universal constant: c = 300 000 km/s

Quantum Mechanics:

The finite value of the quantum of action means that there is no sharp separation between a system and an observer

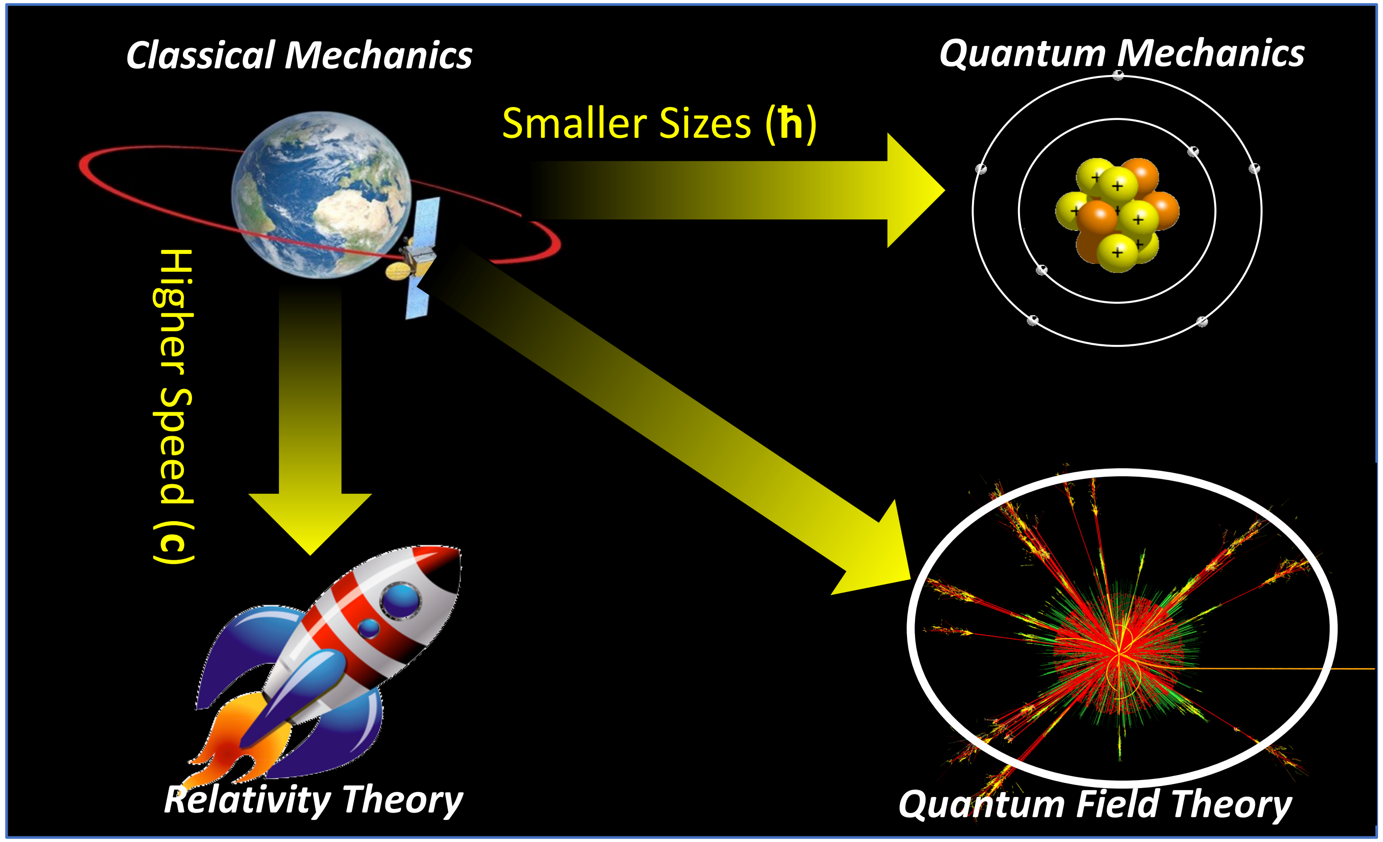
Universal constant: $\hbar = 6.6262 \times 10^{-34}$ Js

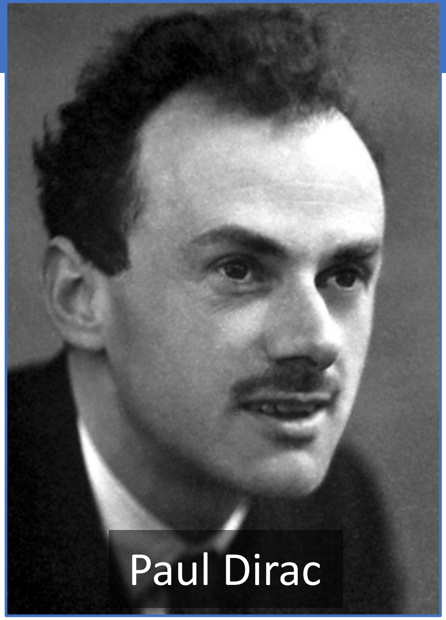
John Wheeler:

"Bohr's principle of complementarity is the most revolutionary scientific concept of the century."

Next Week

<u>Next week:</u>
- Quantum Field Theory and Antimatter
- The Standard Model
- The Large Hadron Collider
- The Origin of Mass: Higgs

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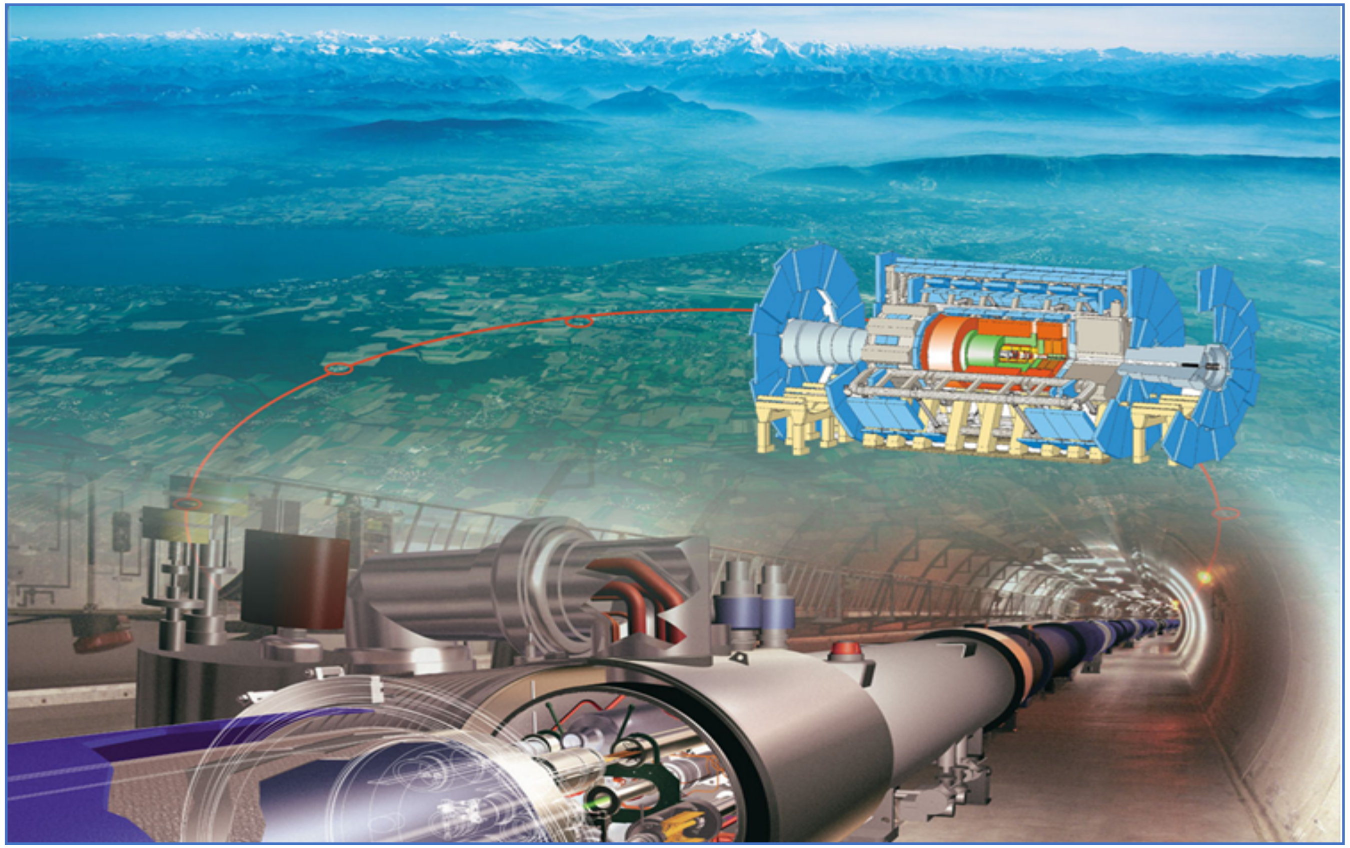

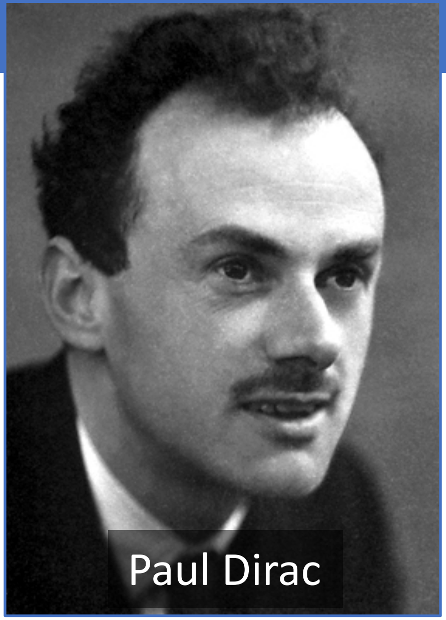
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Nobel Prize in Physics 2013

"for the theoretical discovery of a mechanism that contributes to our understanding of the origin of mass of subatomic particles, and which was recently confirmed through the discovery of the predicted fundamental particle, by the Atlas and CMS experiments at CERN's Large Hadron Collider."

Perhaps time for…