

# Centennial Celebration: QM, QFT & More

Colloquium @ Brookhaven Forum 2025  
Launching the Second Century of Quantum Physics  
October 22, 2025

Tao Han

Pitt PACC, University of Pittsburgh



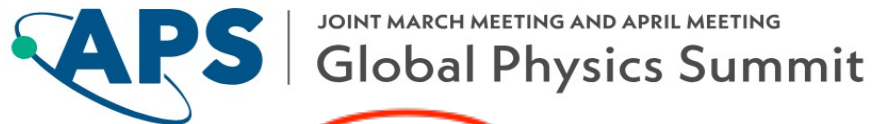




INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
Quantum Science  
and Technology

# QuantumFest

Celebrating the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology with events at the intersection of art, science, and fun.



March 16–21, 2025, Anaheim, CA and virtual

[Home](#) > [Schedule](#) > Quantum Jubilee

Family Friendly Intl. Year of Quantum Sci. & Tech.

## Quantum Jubilee

10:00 am – 7:00 pm, Saturday March 15





# Nobel Prize in Physics 2025

## Congratulations to three APS members



**John Clarke**

University of California, Berkeley, USA



**Michel H. Devoret**

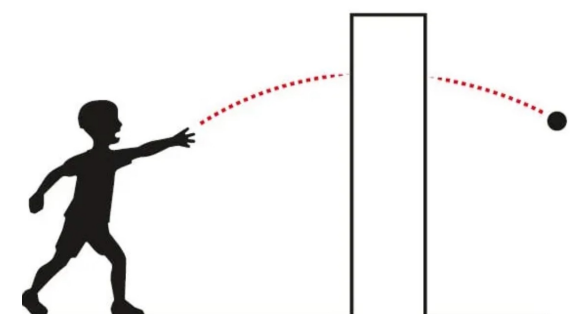
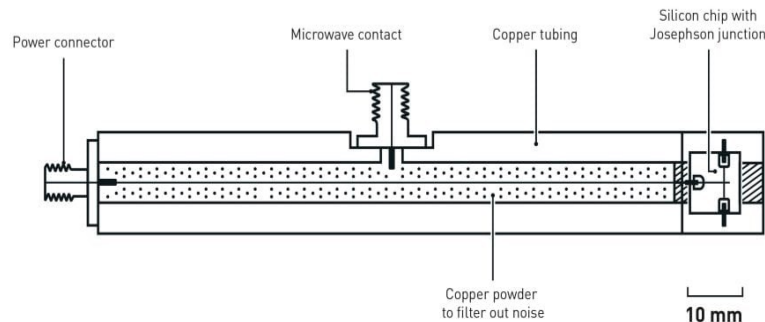
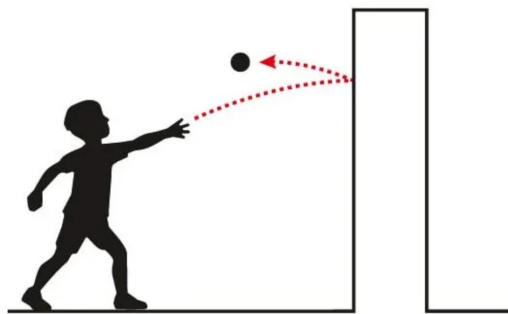
Yale University, New Haven, CT and  
University of California, Santa Barbara, USA



**John M. Martinis**

University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

*“for the discovery of macroscopic quantum mechanical tunnelling and energy quantisation in an electric circuit”*



**Quantum mechanics rules!**

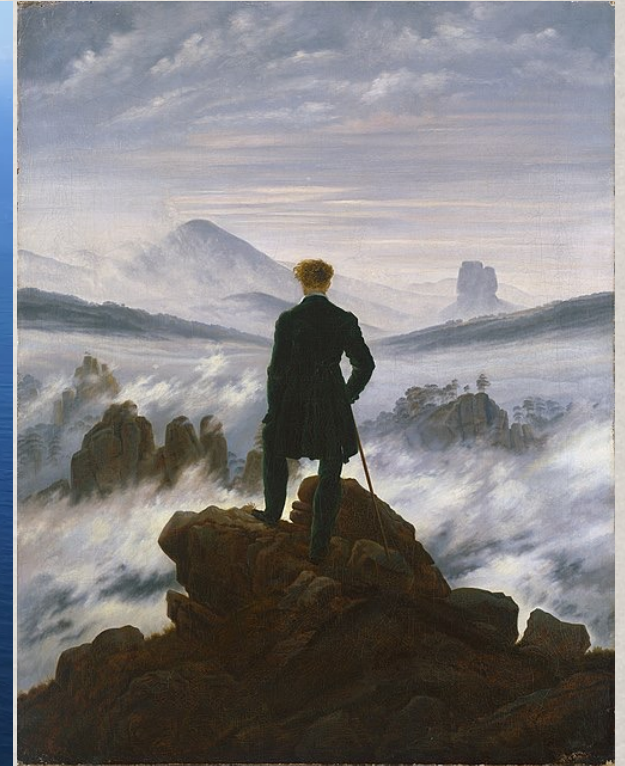


# Talk Contents

- The “absurd” quantum phenomena
- Our quantum world
- Pushing boundaries of human knowledge



# 100 years ago in this remote island Helgoland, North Sea



Werner Heisenberg, 23, in vacation to recover from his severe hay fever, proposed a radical formulation to calculate the atomic spectral lines, that revolutionized the understanding of the sub-atomic world.



# The “umdeutung paper” & the Matrix Mechanics

## Heisenberg 1925

- Give up the unobservable orbits (x) and momentum (p)
- Focus on observable spectral lines, intensities ...
- Follow the “correspondence principle”: classical – quantum correspondence in large quantum numbers
- Establish selection rules & time-evolution

## Heisenberg-Born-Jordan 1926

- Established non-commutative relations

$$[\hat{x}(t), \hat{p}(t)] = i\hbar$$

- The matrices as non-commuting observables

## Lessons learned:

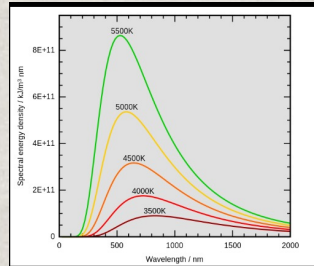
- Be creative and think outside of the box!
- Don't be shy to ask for vacation!



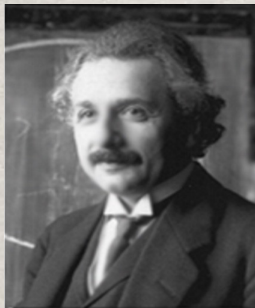
# Top 10 Early Contributors to QM



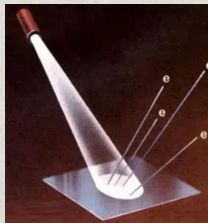
**Max Planck:** Planck constant: black-body radiation 1900 (1918)



$$I(\nu, T)d\nu = \left( \frac{2h\nu^3}{c^2} \right) \frac{1}{e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}} - 1} d\nu$$



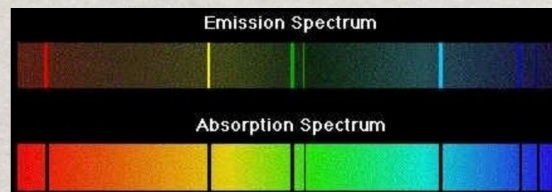
**Albert Einstein:** Photo-electric effect 1905



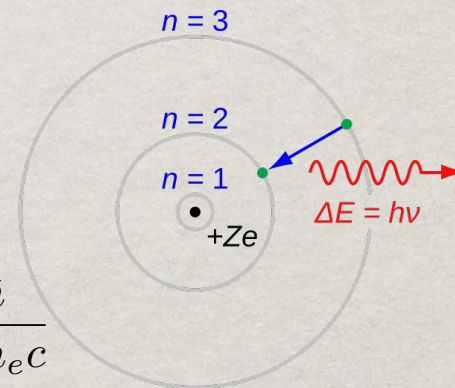
$$E_{\max} = h\nu - W_0$$



**Niels Bohr:** Atomic model 1913



$$a_0 = \frac{\hbar}{\alpha m_e c}$$



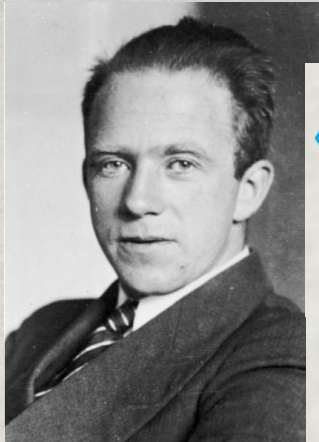
**Louis de Broglie:** Matter wave 1924



$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{mv}$$







**Werner Heisenberg:**

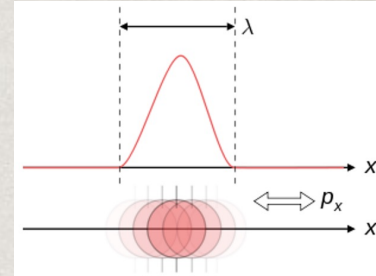
Matrix mechanics 1925  
(Born & Jordan, 1926)

Uncertainty principle 1927

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2 \quad \Delta E \Delta t \geq \hbar/2$$

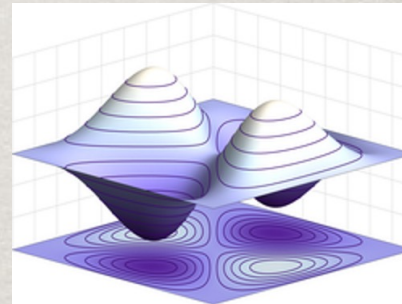
... ..

$$\mathbf{PQ} - \mathbf{QP} = \frac{\hbar}{i} \mathbf{I} \quad \frac{\partial \hat{O}(t)}{\partial t} = \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{O}(t), \hat{H}] \quad (1932)$$



**Erwin Schrödinger:** Schrödinger Equation 1926

$$i\hbar \frac{d}{dt} |\Psi(t)\rangle = \hat{H} |\Psi(t)\rangle$$



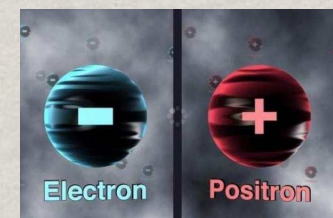
(1933)



**Paul Dirac:**  $\{F, G\} \Rightarrow \frac{1}{i\hbar} [\hat{F}, \hat{G}]$

Dirac relativistic Equation 1928

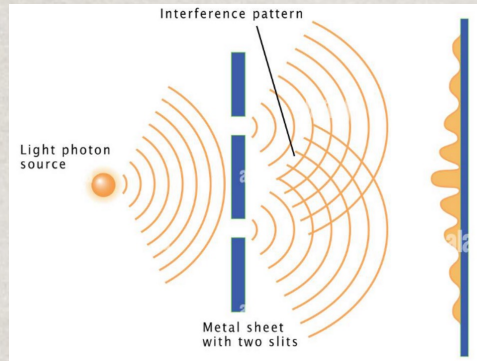
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial \psi(\mathbf{x}, t)}{\partial t} = \left( \frac{\hbar c}{i} \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} + \beta mc^2 \right) \psi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$







**Max Born:** Wave function statistical interpretation 1926



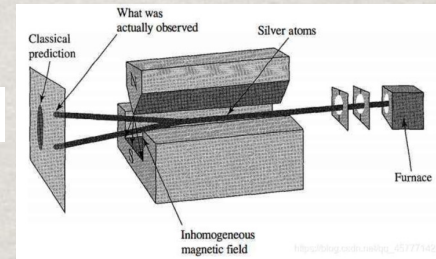
$$P = |\Psi|^2$$

(1954)



**Wolfgang Pauli:** Electron spin & exclusion principle 1925, (1945)  
Spin-statistics theorem 1940

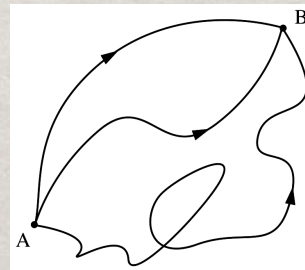
$$\psi(\mathbf{r}_a, \mathbf{r}_b) = [\psi_1(\mathbf{r}_a)\psi_2(\mathbf{r}_b) \pm \psi_1(\mathbf{r}_b)\psi_2(\mathbf{r}_a)]/\sqrt{2}$$



**Richard Feynman:** Path integral formulation 1948  
& QED renormalization

$$\langle F \rangle = \frac{\int \mathcal{D}\varphi F[\varphi] e^{iS[\varphi]}}{\int \mathcal{D}\varphi e^{iS[\varphi]}}$$

$$S(\phi) = \int d^4x \mathcal{L}(\phi, \dot{\phi})$$



(1965)





# Milestone Experiments Revealing Quantum Behavior

## 1. Blackbody Radiation (Planck, 1900)

- **Problem:** Classical physics couldn't explain why the radiation emitted by a blackbody diverged at short wavelengths (the "ultraviolet catastrophe").
- **Insight:** Max Planck proposed that energy is quantized and emitted in discrete packets (quanta) introducing the idea of **energy quanta**  $E = h\nu$ .

## 3. Franck–Hertz Experiment (1914)

- **Problem:** Needed to test the quantized nature of atomic energy levels.
- **Insight:** Electrons gained/expended energy in discrete amounts, providing direct evidence for **quantized energy levels in atoms** (especially mercury atoms).

## 5. Stern–Gerlach Experiment (1922)

- **Problem:** Classical physics predicted a continuous range of outcomes for magnetic moment directions.
- **Insight:** Only discrete values of angular momentum (spin) were observed, showing **quantum spin quantization**.

## 7. Double-Slit Experiment with Electrons (1927, further by Tonomura in 1980s)

- **Problem:** Could single particles interfere with themselves?
- **Insight:** Electrons sent one at a time through two slits still formed an interference pattern, showing **wave-particle duality** and **quantum superposition**.

## 9. Lamb Shift (1947)

- **Problem:** Slight differences in hydrogen energy levels were unexplained by Dirac's theory.
- **Insight:** Measured by Lamb and Retherford, this shift led to the development of **quantum electrodynamics (QED)** and revealed the role of the **quantum vacuum**.

## 2. Photoelectric Effect (Einstein, 1905)

- **Problem:** Classical wave theory couldn't explain why light below a certain frequency doesn't eject electrons from a metal surface.
- **Insight:** Albert Einstein proposed that light is made of **photons** with quantized energy, supporting the **particle nature of light** and confirming Planck's quantum hypothesis.

## 4. Compton Scattering (1923)

- **Problem:** Classical wave theory couldn't account for the scattering of X-rays by electrons.
- **Insight:** Arthur Compton demonstrated that photons carry momentum, confirming the **particle-like behavior of light** and supporting Einstein's photon model.

## 6. Davisson–Germer Experiment (1927)

- **Problem:** Could electrons exhibit wave-like behavior?
- **Insight:** Electrons diffracted off a crystal lattice just like waves, confirming **de Broglie's hypothesis** that particles have **wave-particle duality**.

## 8. Zeeman Effect (1896)

- **Problem:** Why do spectral lines split in a magnetic field?
- **Insight:** The splitting of spectral lines in a magnetic field hinted at **quantized angular momentum** and **magnetic properties of electrons**, helping develop quantum models of the atom.

## 10. Bell Test Experiments (1960s–1980s)

- **Problem:** Could hidden variables explain quantum entanglement?
- **Insight:** Experiments by Aspect and others confirmed that **quantum entanglement violates Bell's inequalities**, ruling out local hidden variables and confirming **nonlocality**.





*“Not only is the Universe stranger than we think, it is stranger than we can think.”*

-- Werner Heisenberg



*“Quantum mechanics describes nature as absurd from the point of view of common sense  
And yet it fully agrees with experiment. So I  
hope you can accept nature as She is - absurd.”*

-- Richard Feynman



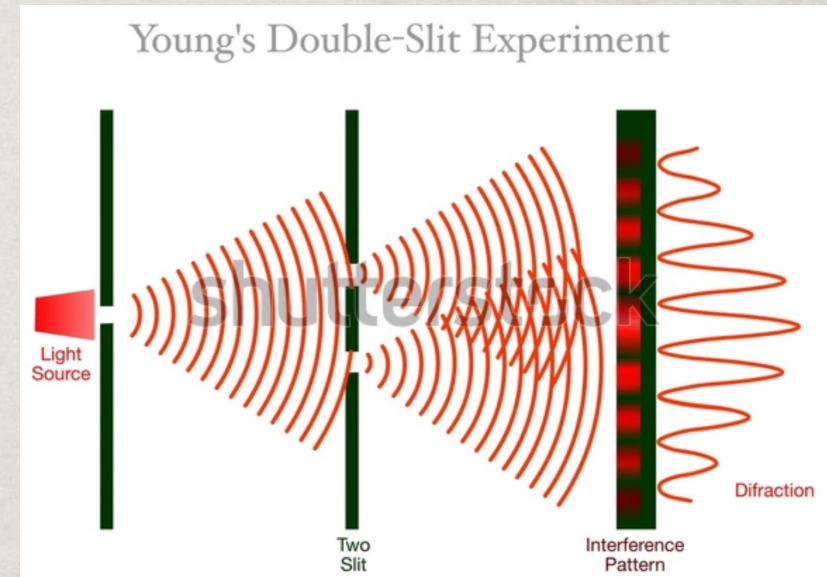
# Wave-Particle Duality

Light beams  $\lambda \ll D$



or a flashlight

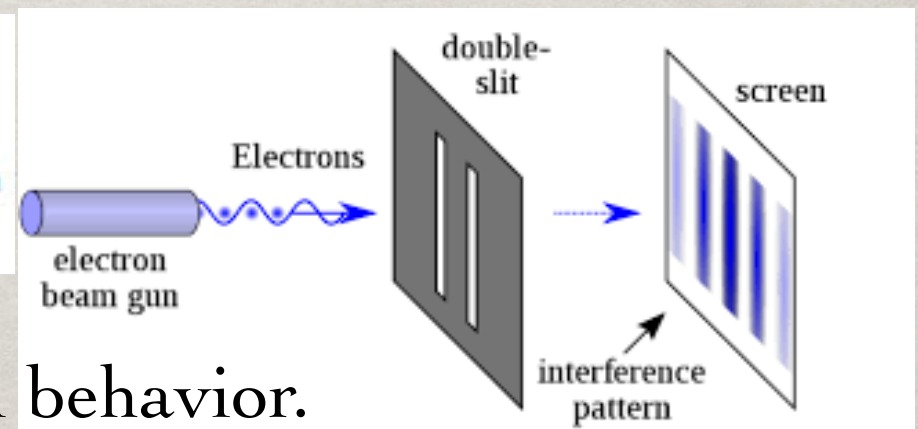
Light waves  $\lambda \sim d \sim 500 \text{ nm}$



Electron beam



De Broglie wave  $\lambda_D \sim d \sim 0.01 \text{ nm}$



This can be a normal behavior.



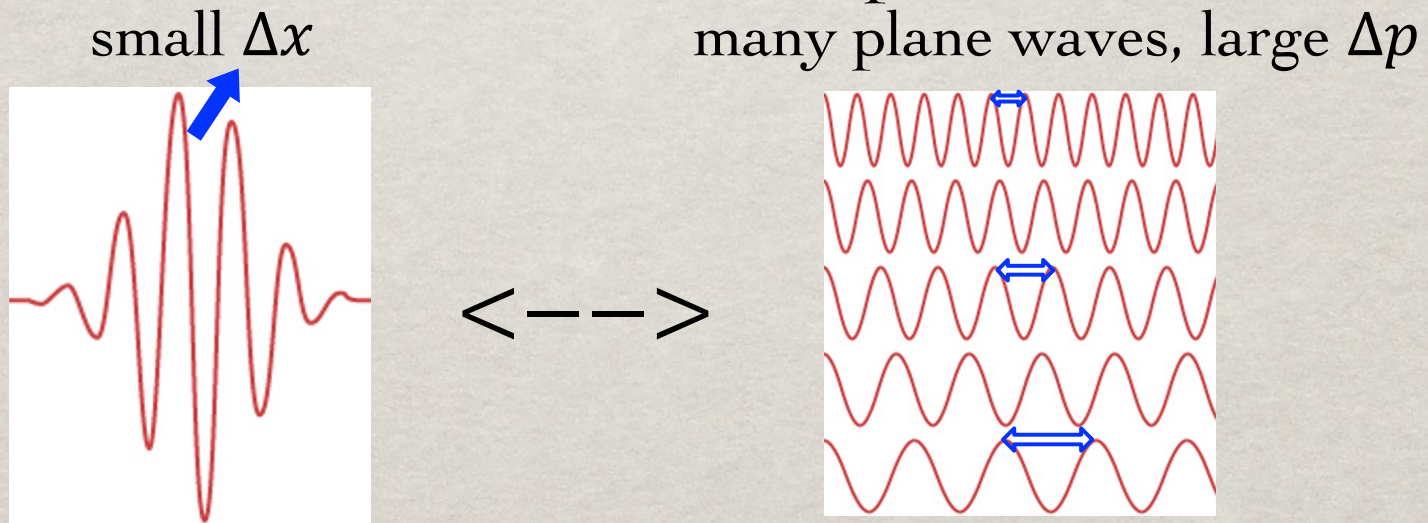
# Uncertainty Principle $\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$

*“Thus, the more precisely the position is determined, the less precisely the momentum is known, and vice versa.”*

– W. Heisenberg

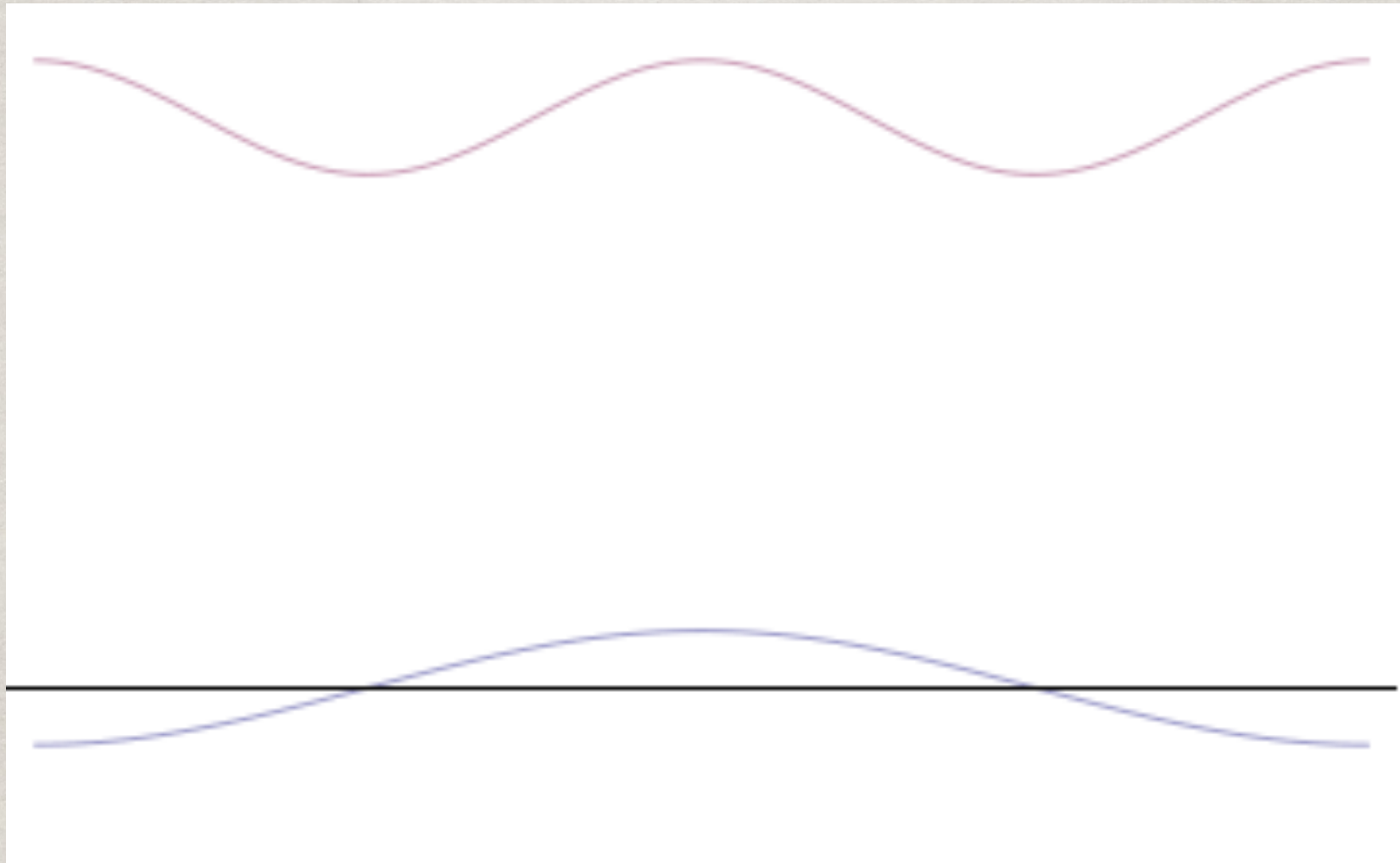
**Based on the wave-particle duality:**

- A plane wave have fixed  $\lambda$ , thus definite  $p = \frac{h}{\lambda}$ , but undetermined location  $x$
- A narrow wave packet has a small  $\Delta x$ , but with unconstrained all momenta  $p$





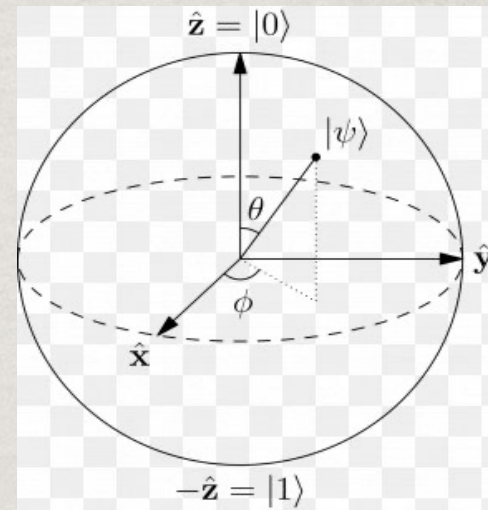
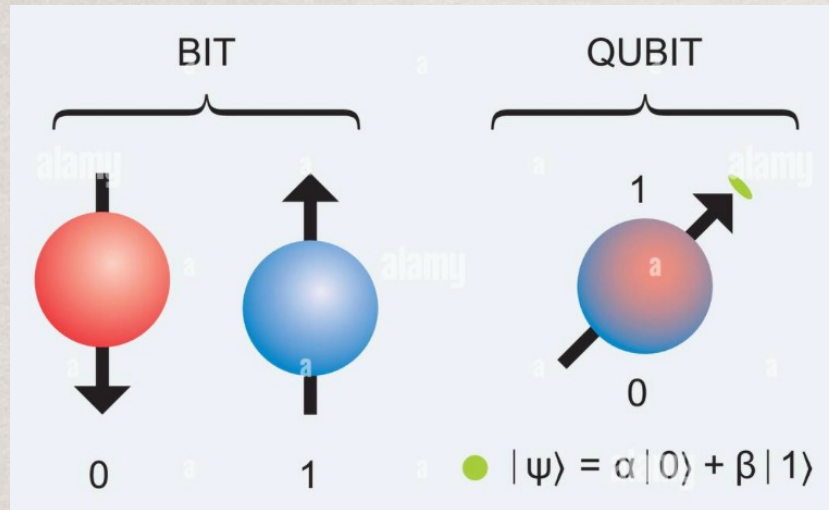
$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2$$



$$\delta(x - \alpha) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ip(x-\alpha)} dp$$



# Superposition of Quantum States



Classically: either or  
Quantum: **AND**

Bloch sphere

Bloch sphere solution:  $\alpha = \cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \quad \beta = e^{i\phi} \sin \frac{\theta}{2}$

Oscillatory solution:  $|\psi\rangle = \cos \theta e^{iE_0} |0\rangle + \sin \theta e^{iE_1} |1\rangle$

**Qubits  $\rightarrow$  larger amount of information,  
foundation for quantum information / computation!**



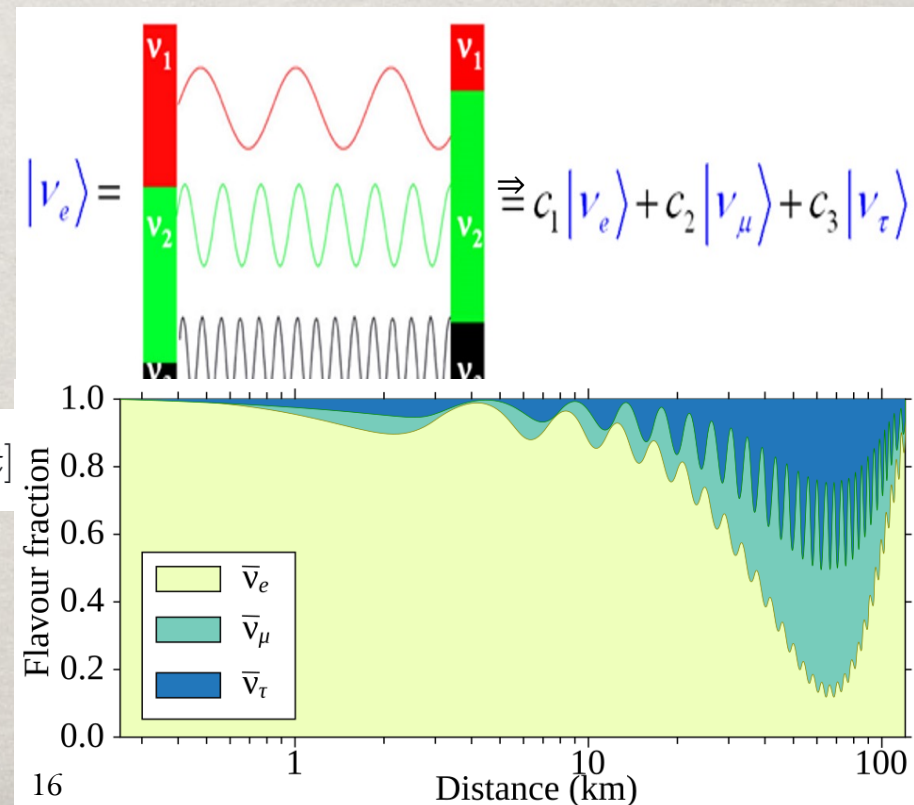
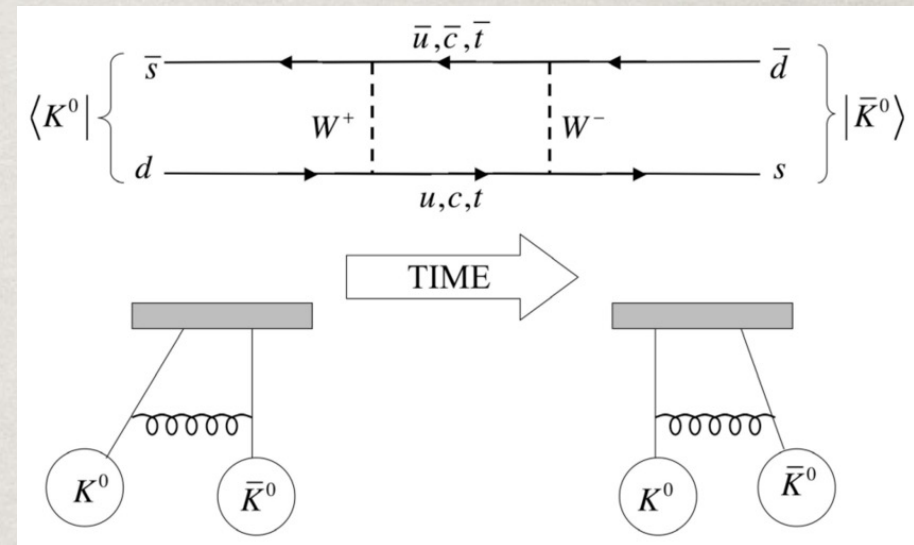
# Superposition & Oscillation of States

- **Neutral meson system**  
**“Flavor” physics:**  
 quark flavor mixing; heavy  
 quark masses; CP violation

...

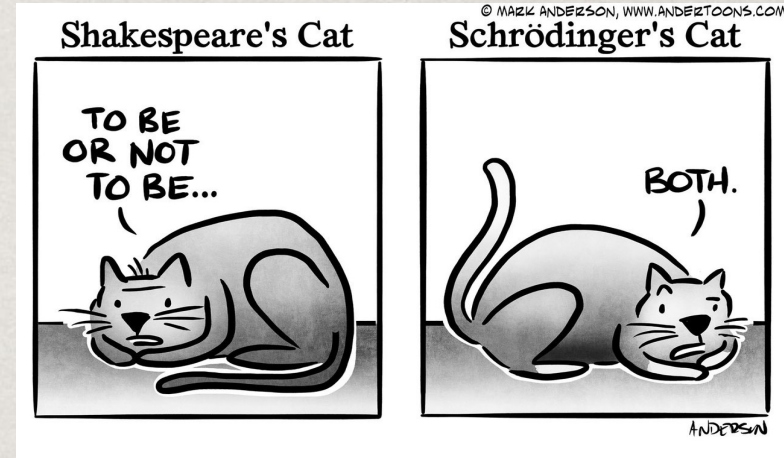
- **Neutrino mixing:**  
 lepton flavor mixing;  
 neutrino masses;  
 CP violation ...

$$P_{\nu_e \rightarrow \nu_\mu}(t) = |\langle \nu_\mu | \nu_e(t) \rangle|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sin^2 2\theta \cdot [1 - \cos(E_1 - E_2)t]$$





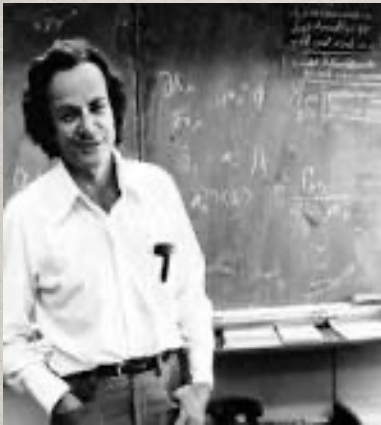
# Schrödinger's cat: Life & Death Superposition



**Copenhagen interpretation:**

Schrödinger equation  $\Rightarrow$  wave function evolves (✓)

Observation  $\Rightarrow$  wave function collapses by measurements (!?)



*"If you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don't understand quantum mechanics."*

*"... It is my task to convince you not to turn away because you don't understand it. You see my physics students don't understand it, that is because I don't understand it. Nobody does."*



# Quantum Entanglement

Classical correlation

Bertlmann's socks:

pink or non-pink

Quantum correlation/  
Entanglement

A spin-1/2 state:  $\pm\frac{1}{2}$

Not determined in 2 directions!

For a bipartite system, *i.e.*,  $\frac{1}{2} \otimes \frac{1}{2} = 1 \oplus 0$  :

Singlet:  $|0,0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\uparrow\downarrow - \downarrow\uparrow)$

Triplet:

$ 1,1\rangle$	$= \uparrow\uparrow$
$ 1,0\rangle$	$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\uparrow\downarrow + \downarrow\uparrow)$
$ 1,-1\rangle$	$= \downarrow\downarrow$

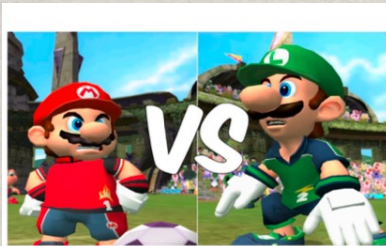
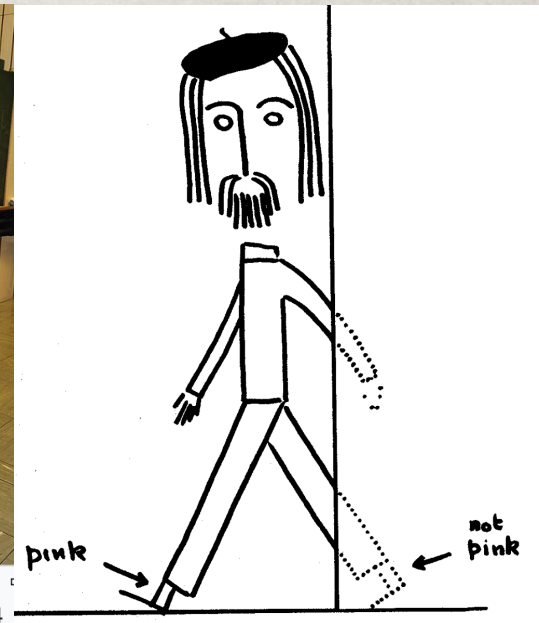
Entangled

Quantum entanglement  
→ sub-systems inseparable:

Measurement 1 selects 2 !



David Mermin und Reinhold Bertlmann zeigen ihre Socken, 2014



Separable



Non-Separable



# Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen Paradox (Phys. Rev. 1935)

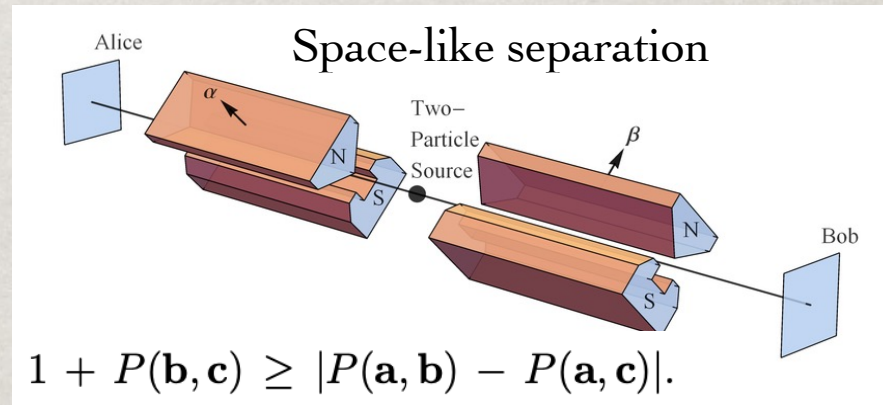
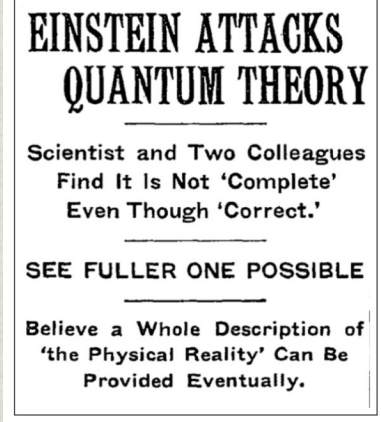
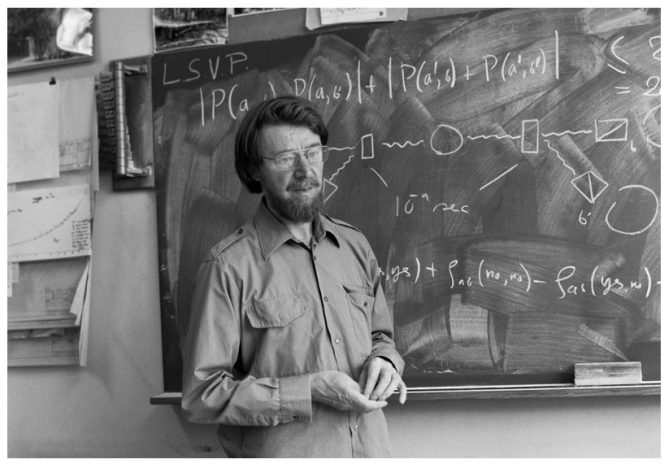
“Can quantum-mechanical description of physical reality be considered complete?”

*“God doesn’t play dice with the universe”* – A. Einstein

→ **Local Hidden Variable Theory (LHVT)**

## John S. Bell’s Inequality

“On the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen paradox” (1964)



**QM Non-Commutativity** is the key:  
EPR's LHVT must satisfy Bell's Inequality,  
but CAN BE violated by QM measurements.

→ **“Quantum Information”**





## NOBELPRISET I FYSIK 2022 THE NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2022



KUNGL.  
VETENSKAPS-  
AKADEMIEN

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



Photo: Royal Society

**Alain Aspect**

Université Paris-Saclay &  
École Polytechnique, France

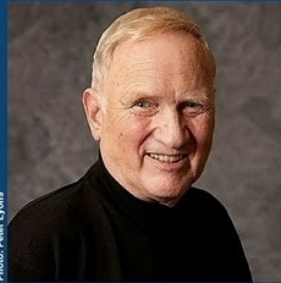


Photo: Peter Lyons

**John F. Clauser**

J.F. Clauser & Assoc.,  
USA

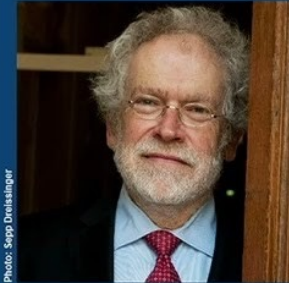


Photo: Sepp Dreissinger

**Anton Zeilinger**

University of Vienna,  
Austria

*"för experiment med sammanflätade fotoner som påvisat brott mot Bell-olikheter och banat väg för kvantinformationsvetenskap"*

*"for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science"*

#nobelprize

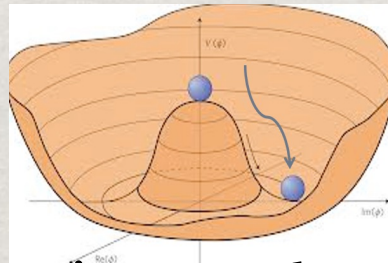
THE  
NOBEL  
PRIZE

**The 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Alain Aspect, John Clauser, and Anton Zeilinger for their groundbreaking experiments in quantum mechanics, specifically for their work with entangled quantum states. These experiments established the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneered quantum information science.**



# Macroscopic Quantum Phenomena

- Superconductivity:
- Cooper pairs formation ( $e^-e^-$ ) and condense to a new ground state



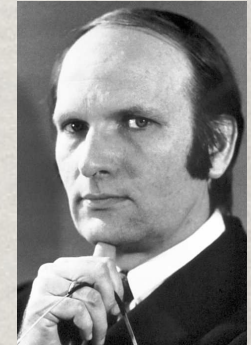
(1972)



John Bardeen

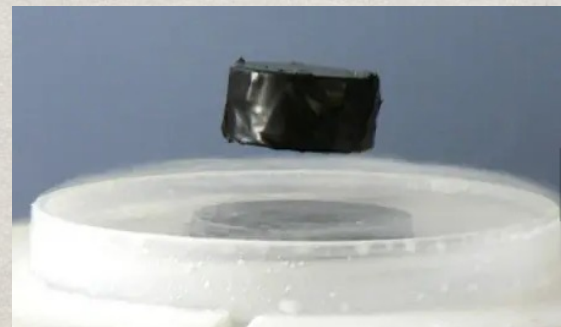
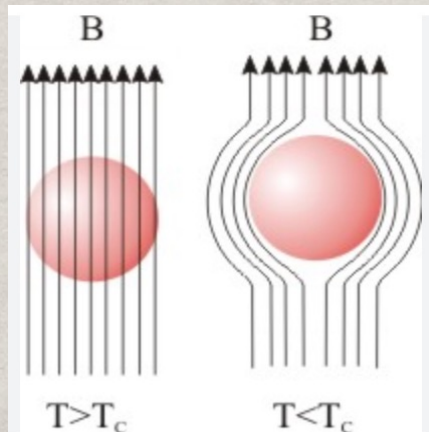


Leon Cooper

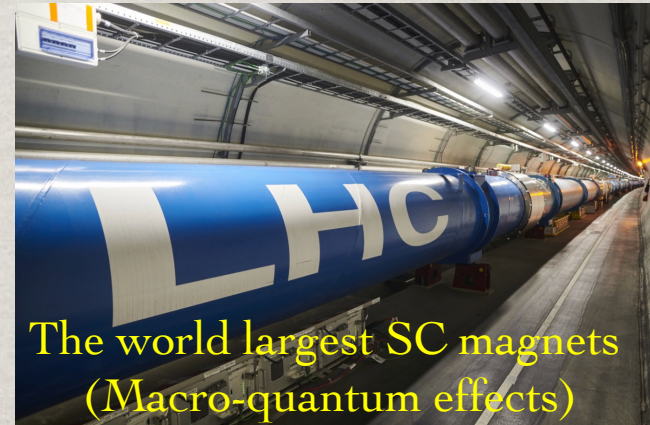


Robert Schrieffer

- Zero electric resistance!
- Photons acquire a mass via the Higgs mechanism and stop propagating in a super conductor.



Meissner effect



The world largest SC magnets  
(Macro-quantum effects)

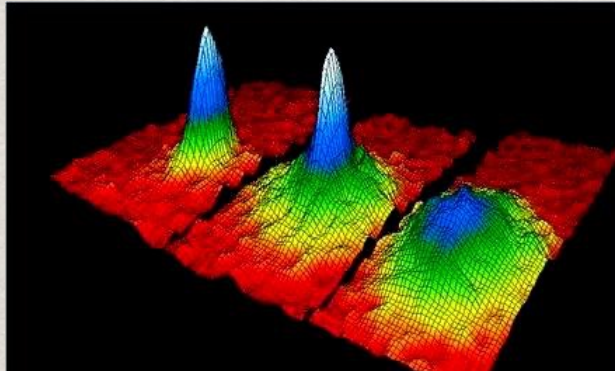


# Macroscopic Quantum Phenomena

- Bose-Einstein condensation
- All bosons occupy in a new state below  $T_c$



(2001)



Velocity distribution



Eric Cornell



Carl Wieman



Wolfgang  
Ketterle

- Superfluidity & Superconductivity

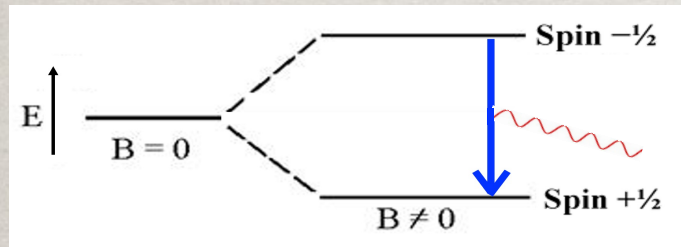
Bosons condensate

- high density within its de Broglie wavelength:  
Collective wave behavior of “particles”
- e.g. axion-like wave-like cold dark matter!



# Quantum Technology in the Real World

Spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  system in magnetic field:



$$\Delta E = \gamma \hbar B$$

gyromagnetic ratio

$$h\nu = \Delta E$$



The task is not to see what has never been seen before, but to think what has never been thought before about what you see everyday.

— Erwin Schrodinger —

AZ QUOTES

## Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI):

Applying position dependent  $B(x)$

⇒ location of hydrogen atoms



MRI scan of brain

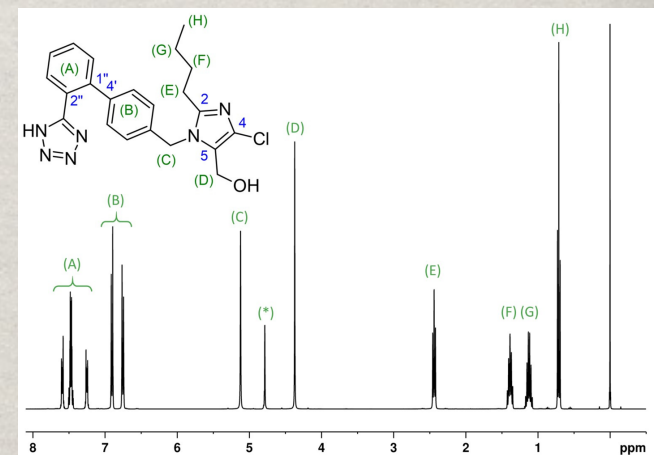


MRI scan of knee

## Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR):

Measuring the frequency of radiation

⇒ characteristic types of atoms

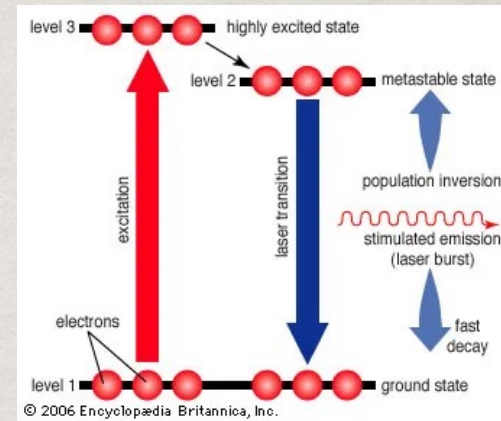
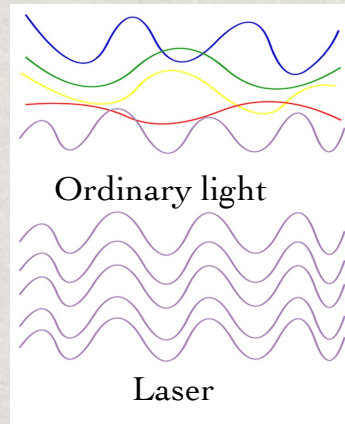




# Quantum Technology in the Real World

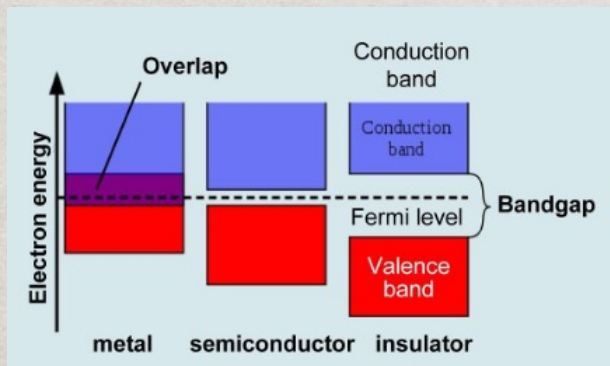
## Laser:

Monochromatic  
Coherence  
Directionality



$$h\nu = E_2 - E_1$$

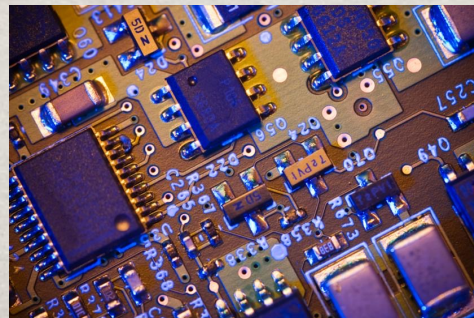
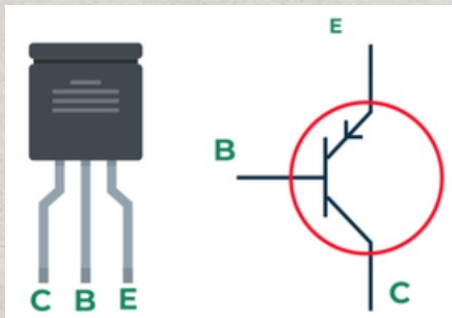
## Semiconductor / Transistor:



intermediate energy band:

- switch between conductor and insulator
- ideal for controlling current!

## QM EVERYWHERE!



Smartphones and Laptops  
Power Control, Displays  
Wireless Communication  
(5G, Wi-Fi)





“Nature isn’t classical, dammit, and if you want to make a simulation of nature, you’d better make it quantum mechanical.”

-- Richard Feynman

## The Second Quantum Revolution: Quantum Information Science

- New quantum technologies
- Quantum sensors
- Quantum computing
- Quantum communication



# Quantum State & Quantum Tomography

For a state vector  $|\phi_i\rangle$

Density matrix

a state

an observable

$$\rho = \sum_i n_i |\phi_i\rangle \langle \phi_i| \quad \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \text{Tr}(\mathcal{O}\rho)$$

For a **pure state**:  $n_i = 1$ ; for a **mixed state**:  $\sum_i n_i = 1$ .

For a **single qubit** (*i.e.*, a doublet of spin, iso-spin etc.):

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \left( \mathbb{I}_2 + \sum_i B_i \sigma_i \right)$$

For a **bipartite system** (*i.e.*,  $1/2 \otimes 1/2$ )

$$\rho = \frac{1}{4} \left( \mathbb{I}_4 + \sum_i (B_i^A (\sigma_i \otimes \mathbb{I}_2) + B_i^B (\mathbb{I}_2 \otimes \sigma_i)) + \sum_{i,j} C_{ij} (\sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j) \right)$$

$B_i^{A,B}$  the polarizations,  $C_{ij}$  the spin-correlation matrix.

The 15 coefficients for the bipartite  $\rightarrow$

**Quantum Tomography, which encodes the full QI.**



# Quantum Computing with Qubits

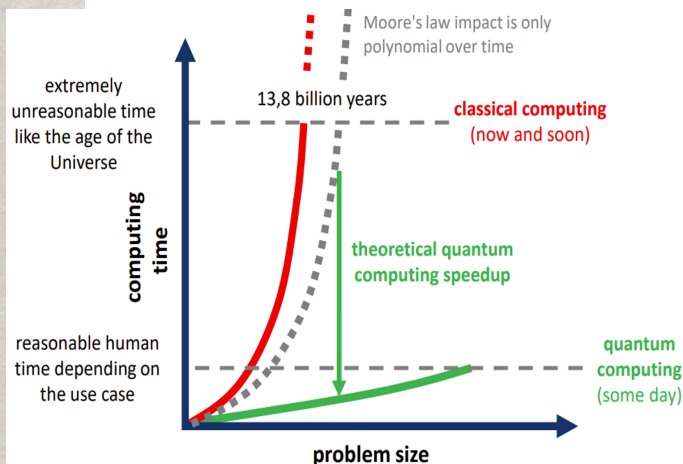
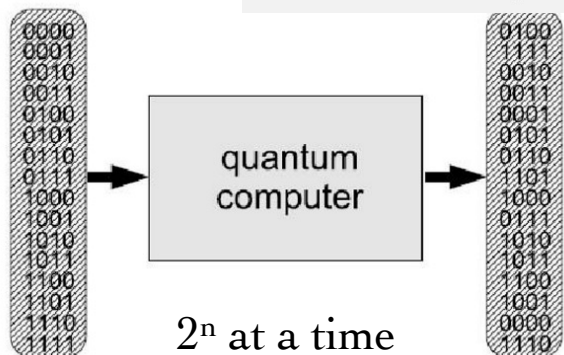
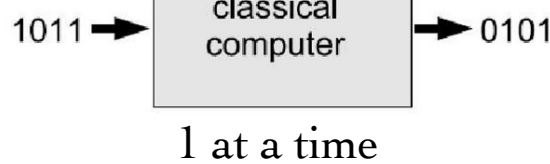
## BIT

Classical Computing

0   
1 

## QUBIT

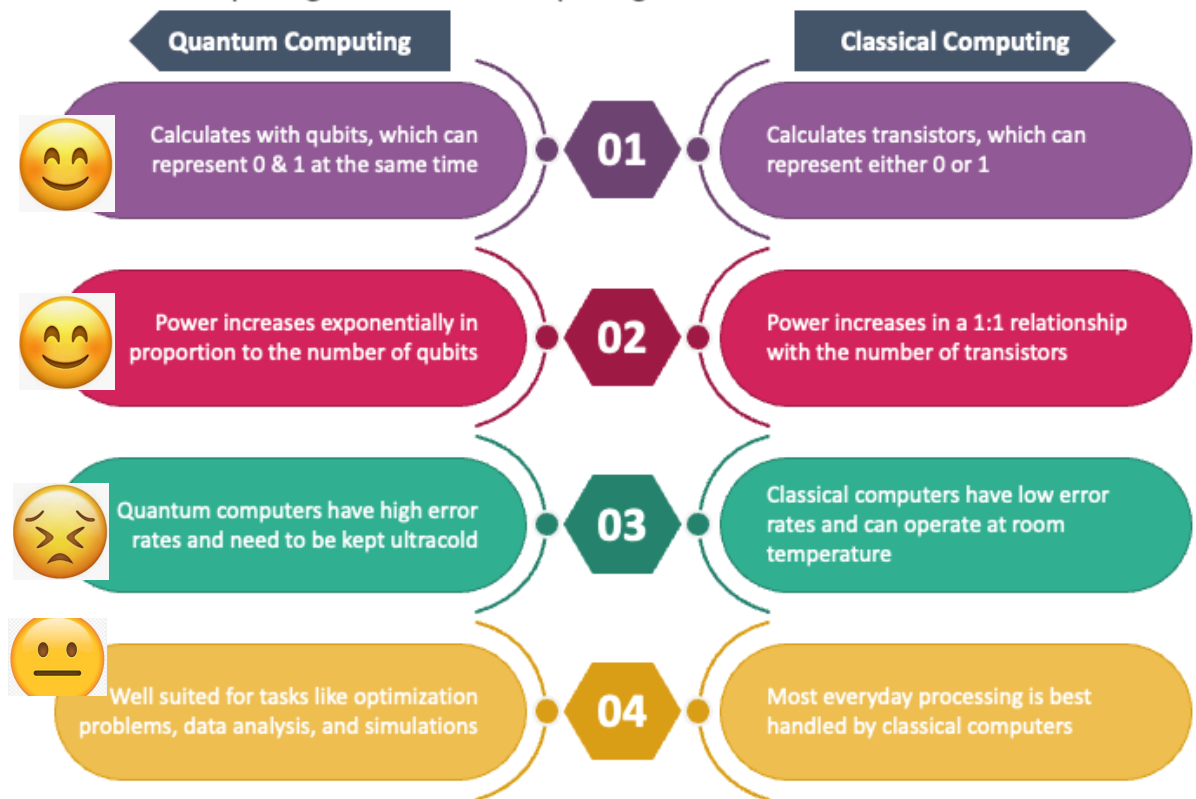
Quantum Computing



## QUANTUM COMPUTING

### Quantum Computing vs Classical Computing

Source: CBInsights



The second quantum revolution is happening ...



# World at High Energies: Relativistic Quantum Mechanics

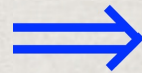
## Special Relativity:

① Lorentz transformation:

$$\begin{aligned}x' &= \frac{x - vt}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} & t' &= \frac{t - \frac{vx}{c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \\ y' &= y \\ z' &= z\end{aligned}$$

② Mass–energy equivalence:

$$E = mc^2$$



## Quantum Mechanics:

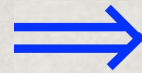
Lorentz invariant equation:

**Spin-0:** Klein–Gordon equation

$$\left( -\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + \nabla^2 \right) \phi = \frac{m^2 c^2}{\hbar^2} \phi$$

**Spin-1/2:** Dirac equation

$$(i\hbar\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - mc)\psi = 0$$



Particle creation and annihilation

## The second quantization:

Creation & annihilation operators  $\boxed{a_{\mathbf{p}}}e^{-i\omega_{\mathbf{p}}t+i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} + \boxed{a_{\mathbf{p}}^*}e^{i\omega_{\mathbf{p}}t-i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$

Bosons:  $[a_\alpha, a_\beta^\dagger] = \delta_{\alpha,\beta}$ ,  $[a_\alpha, a_\beta] = [a_\alpha^\dagger, a_\beta^\dagger] = 0$

Fermions:  $\{c_\alpha, c_\beta^\dagger\} = \delta_{\alpha,\beta}$ ,  $\{c_\alpha, c_\beta\} = \{c_\alpha^\dagger, c_\beta^\dagger\} = 0$

Particle number & energy operators

$$\hat{N}_p = a_p^\dagger a_p \quad \hat{H} = \left( \hat{N}_p + \frac{1}{2} \right) \hbar\omega$$

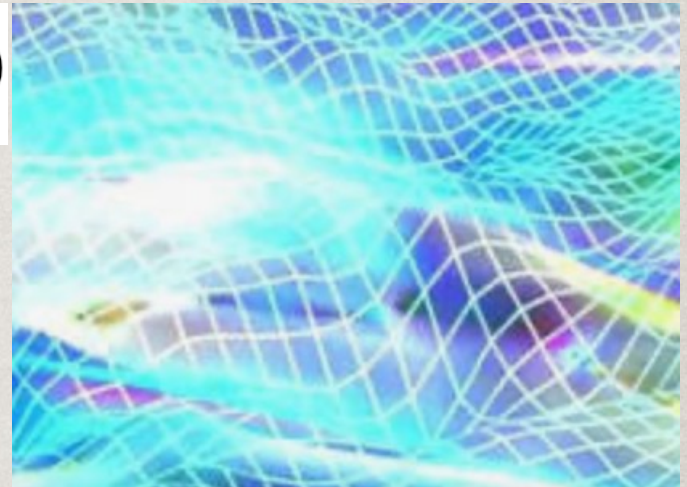
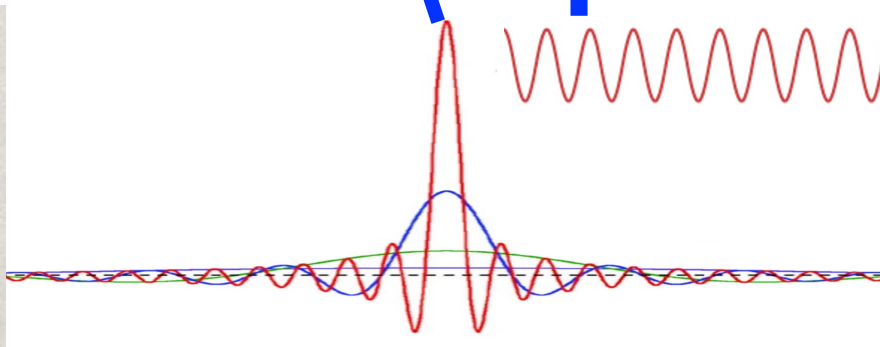
The state is  
a quantum field



# Quantum Fields

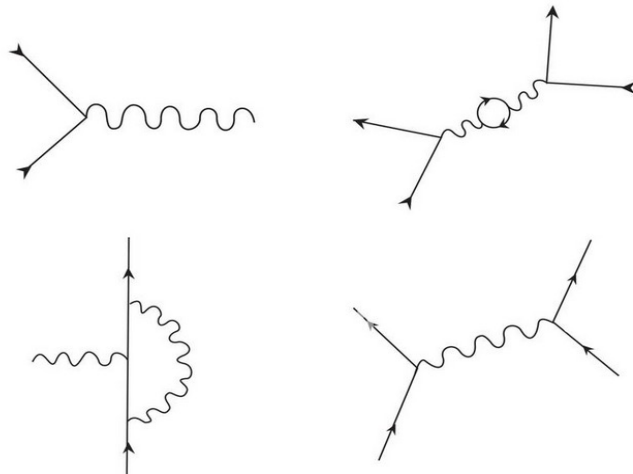
Field operators and the Lagrangian of fields:

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_{\mathbf{p}}}} (a_{\mathbf{p}} e^{-i\omega_{\mathbf{p}} t + i\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x}} + a_{\mathbf{p}}^* e^{i\omega_{\mathbf{p}} t - i\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x}})$$

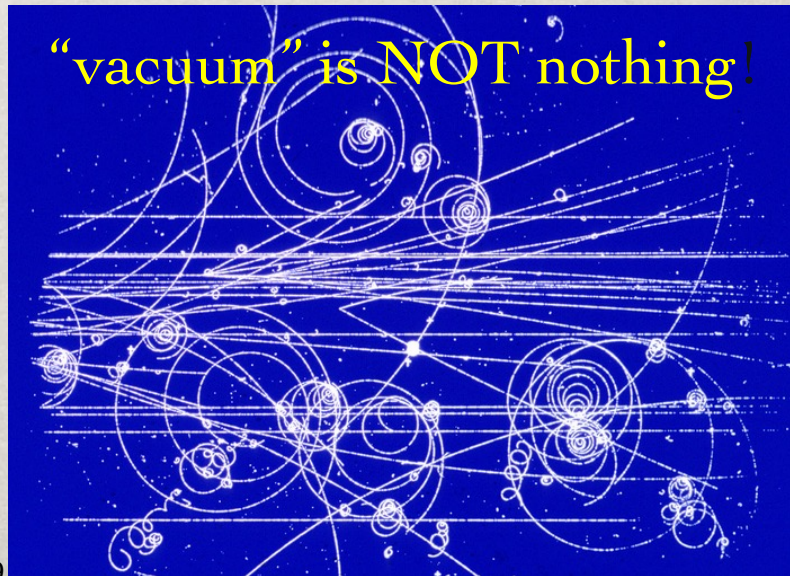


$$\langle x_f, t_f | x_i, t_i \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}x(t) e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^4 x \mathcal{L}(\phi, \dot{\phi})}, \quad \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4 \dots$$

## Feynman Diagrams

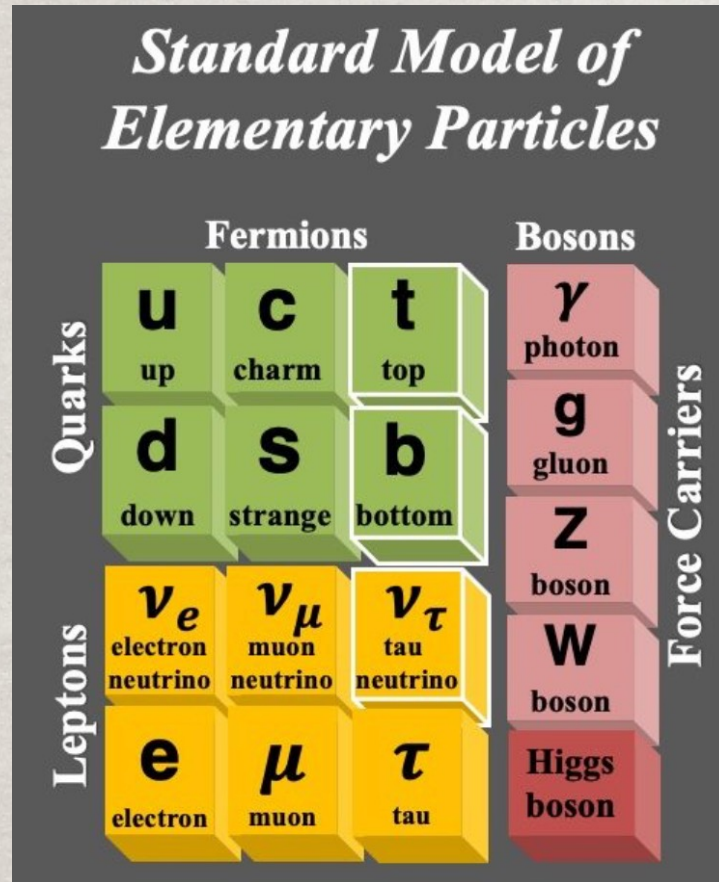


“vacuum” is NOT nothing!





# Elementary Particles as Fundamental Quanta:





Classified by spin and mass,  
plus internal (gauge) charges, flavor, CP ...



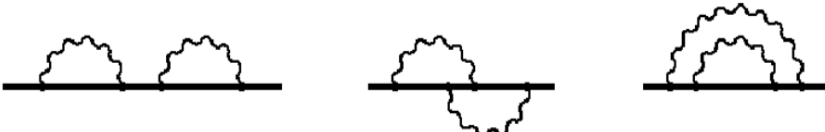
# Quantum Probe to Shorter Distances

In interacting fields, quantum fluctuations:

$$|n(\lambda)\rangle = |n^{(0)}\rangle + \lambda \sum_{k \neq n} |k^{(0)}\rangle \frac{\langle k^{(0)} | V | n^{(0)} \rangle}{E_n^{(0)} - E_k^{(0)}} + \lambda^2 \sum_{k \neq n} \sum_{\ell \neq n} |k^{(0)}\rangle \frac{\langle k^{(0)} | V | \ell^{(0)} \rangle \langle \ell^{(0)} | V | n^{(0)} \rangle}{(E_n^{(0)} - E_k^{(0)}) (E_n^{(0)} - E_\ell^{(0)})}$$

(a)  (b) 

$$\int^\Lambda d^4 p \frac{M_{ij}(p)}{D(p)}$$



$$\int^\Lambda \int^\Lambda d^4 p_1 d^4 p_2 \frac{M_{ij}(p_1, p_2)}{D(p_1, p_2)}$$





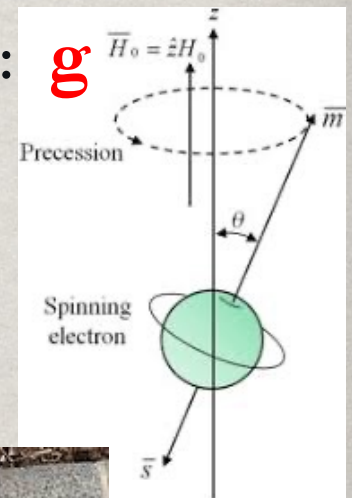
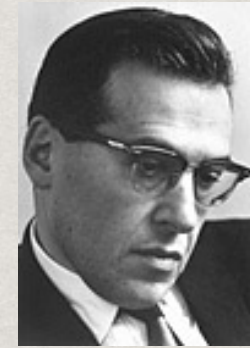
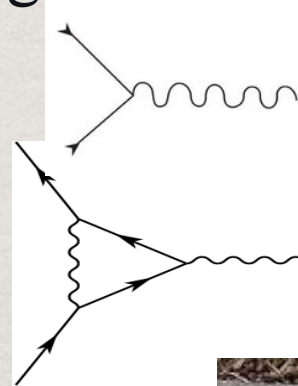
# Quantum Electro-Dynamics on Trial

Dirac's relativistic quantum mechanics → QED  
 Feynman/Schwinger/Tomonaga → Renormalization

Best example: Anomalous magnetic dipole moment:

Dirac equation 1928:  $g = 2$

Schwinger's quantum correction  
 in QED in 1948:



$$(g-2)/2 = a_e(\text{Schwinger}) \approx \frac{\alpha}{2\pi} \approx 0.0011614$$

$$a_e^{theo} = 0.001159652181643(763)$$

$$a_e^{exp} = 0.00115965218073(28)$$

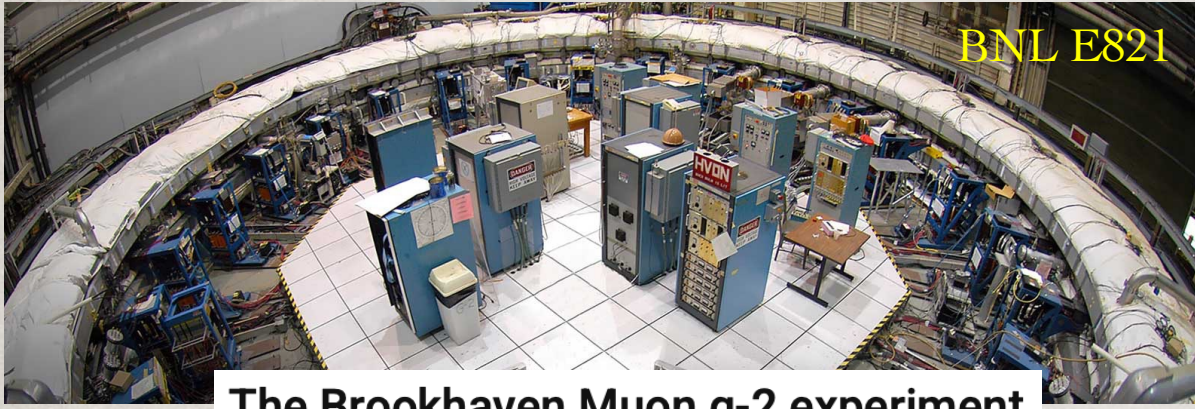


Up to ~ 6-loops in QED →  $10^{-10}$

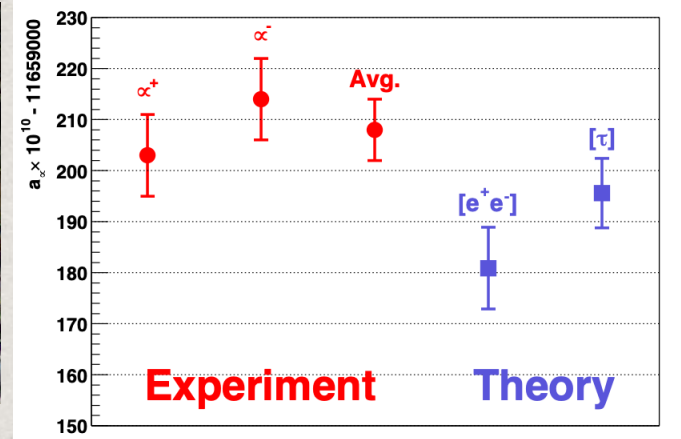
THE most accurate quantum theory in science!



# The Standard Model on Trial



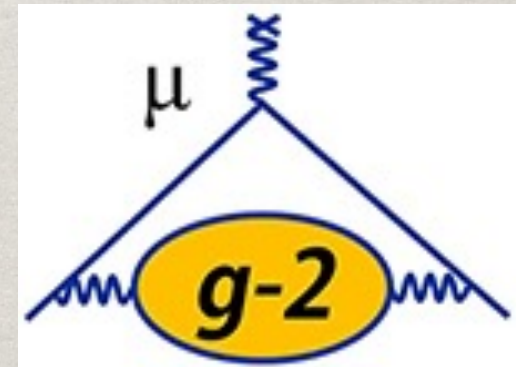
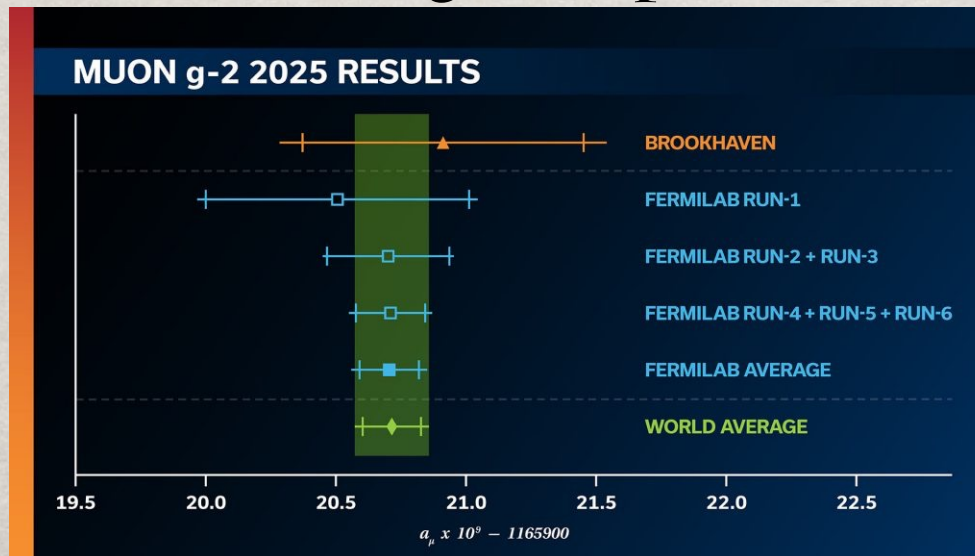
The Brookhaven Muon g-2 experiment



$\sim 0.54 \times 10^{-6}$ ! Potentially sensitive to BSM new physics!

Quantum probe:  $\Delta p > 100 \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow \Delta x < 10^{-18} \text{ m}$

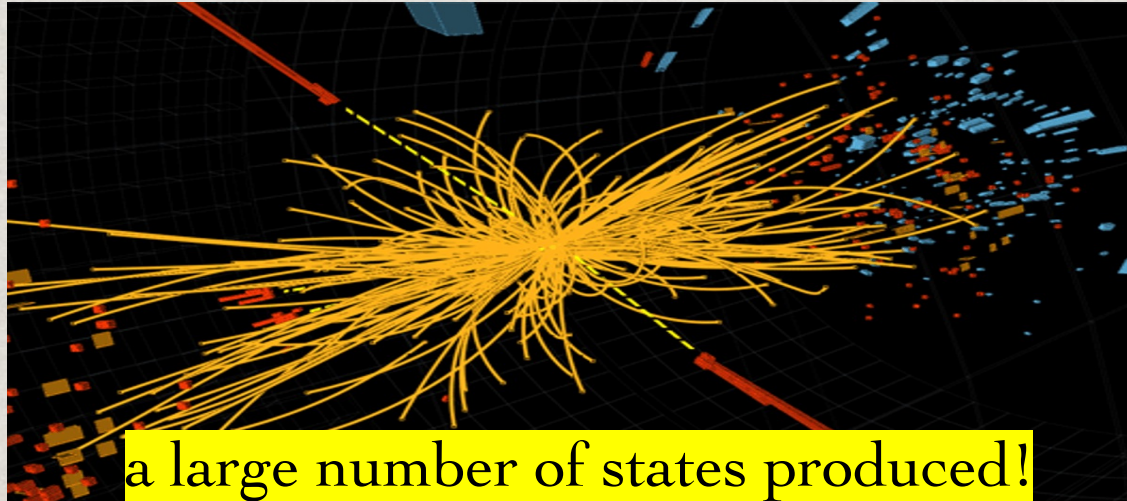
Fermilab Muon g-2 Experiment: E989



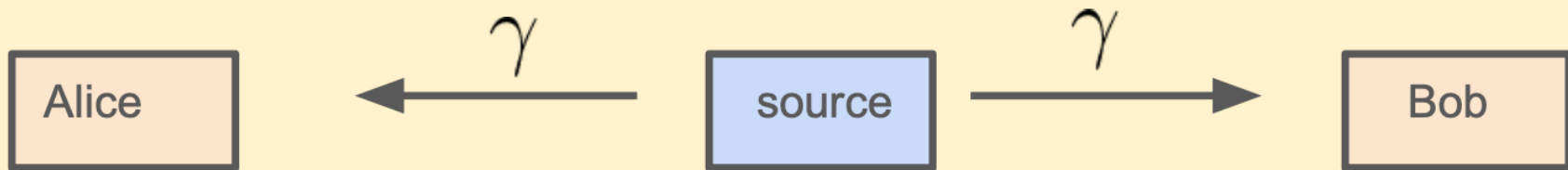
error @ 122 ppb  
Truly triumphant!



# Quantum Tomography @ Colliders



- Low energy photon experiment



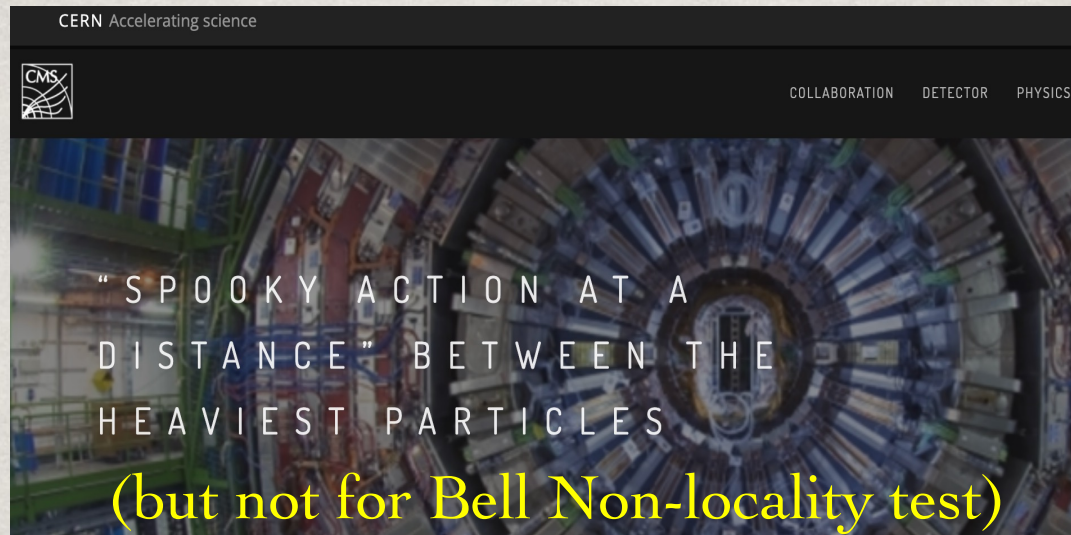
- At LHC, treat the spin of each particle as a qubit



Potentially rich quantum information!



# CERN press release on Sept. 19, 2024



**nature**

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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 18 September 2024

## Observation of quantum entanglement with top quarks at the ATLAS detector

[The ATLAS Collaboration](#)

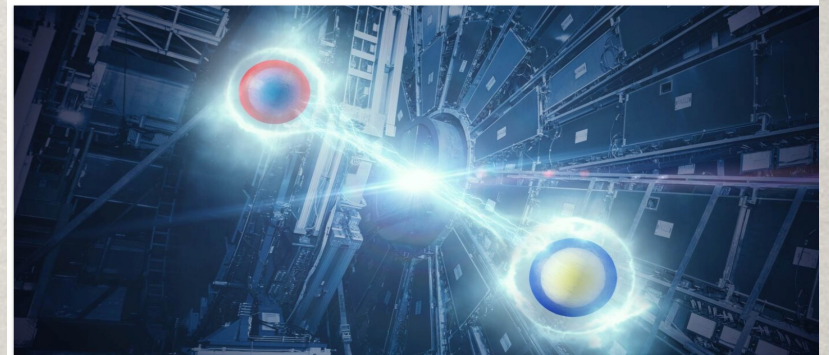
[Nature](#) **633**, 542–547 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)

**75k** Accesses | **11** Citations | **485** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

## LHC experiments at CERN observe quantum entanglement at the highest energy yet

The results open up a new perspective on the complex world of quantum physics

18 SEPTEMBER, 2024



Artist's impression of a quantum-entangled pair of top quarks. (Image: CERN)

# Open an avenue for Quantum Information in HEP!

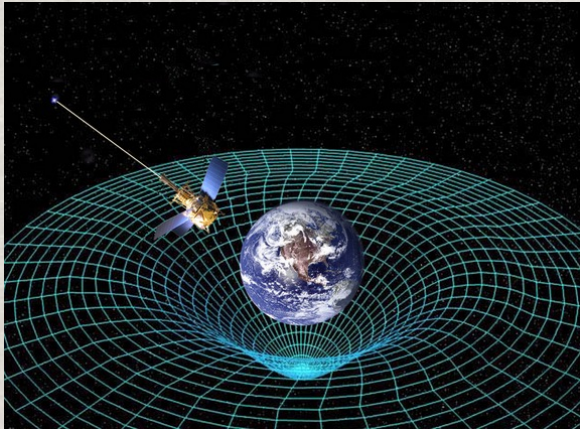


# When QM Meets GR

General Relativity: Dynamic space-time

Einstein equation (1915)

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$



*“Spacetime tells matter how to move; matter tells spacetime how to curve.”*

-- John Wheeler

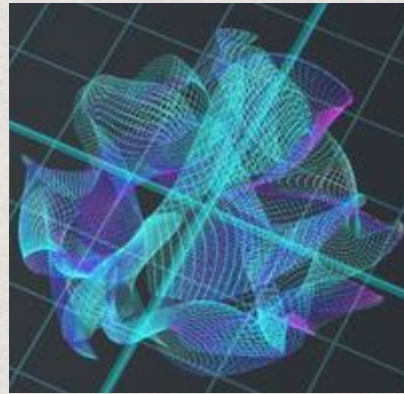
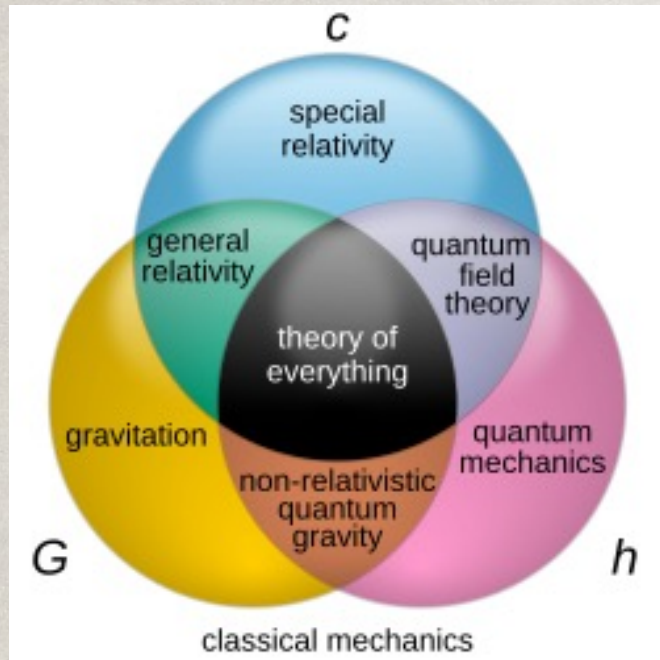
Near the Planck scale:  $l_P = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^3}} = 1.6 \times 10^{-35} \text{m}$   
GR + QM  $\rightarrow$  Quantized spacetime



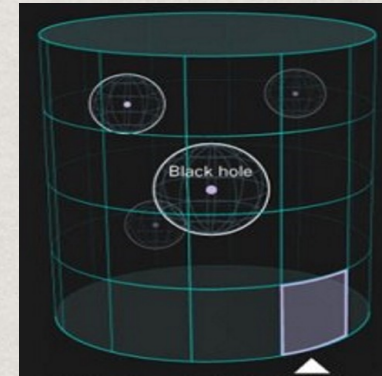
- Un-controlled quantum fluctuation; singularities ...
- When Schwarzschild radius = Planck length  
 $\rightarrow$  Black hole formation: end of short-distance physics!



# Quantum Gravity ?



String theory



Holography/AdS-CFT

Nature of BHs: Singularity? Information paradox?  
QG: Most challenging endeavor in theoretical physics.

**Mysteries remain ...**

*“The best that most of us can hope to achieve in physics is simply to misunderstand at a deeper level.”*

-- Wolfgang Pauli



# Concluding Remarks at the Centennial Celebration

- Quantum mechanics has revolutionized our understanding of Nature.
- It becomes the standard language of modern physics, science and technology.
- Transformative technologies powering the modern world and our lives.
- Key concepts and philosophical questions in QM & QFT remain to be challenging.
- Ongoing research continues to push the boundaries of human knowledge!



**Exciting journey  
in the Second Century of QM!**