

Title: PSI 17/18 - Foundations of Quantum Mechanics - Lecture 5

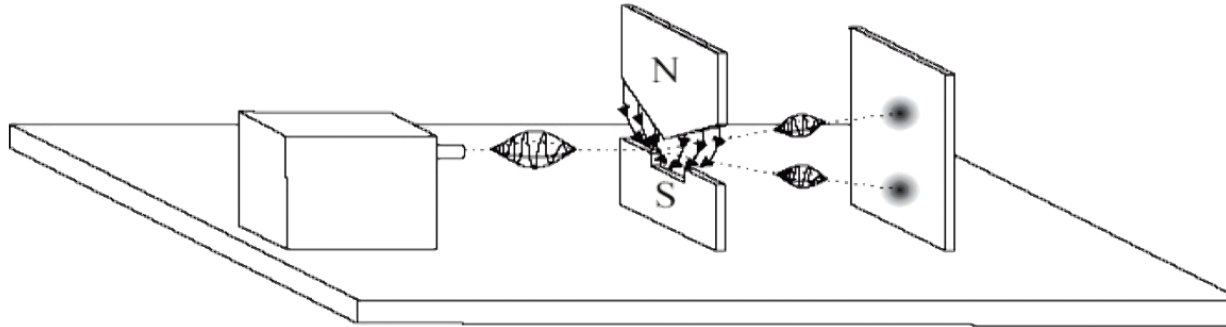
Date: Feb 02, 2018 10:15 AM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/18020064>

Abstract:

# Dynamical Collapse Theories

## The quantum measurement problem



$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle \\ \rightarrow a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle$$

## Inconsistencies of the orthodox interpretation

By the collapse postulate  
(applied to the system)

Indeterministic and  
discontinuous evolution

Determinate properties

By unitary evolution postulate  
(applied to isolated system that includes  
the apparatus)

Deterministic and  
continuous evolution

Indeterminate properties



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Deterministic and  
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Posit a new nonunitary dynamical evolution law  
(either **nonlinear** or **indeterministic** or both)

**Macroscopic systems** obey  
**collapse postulate dynamics** to  
good approximation

**Microscopic systems** obey **unitary  
dynamics** to good approximation

## Responses to the measurement problem

1. Deny realism
  - Purely operational account of quantum theory
2. Deny the universality of unitary dynamics
  - **Dynamical collapse theories**
3. Deny that  $\psi$  is a complete representation of reality
  - Hidden variable models
  - Models of reality beyond hidden variables?
4. Deny indeterminism and discontinuity, except as subjective illusions
  - Everett's relative state interpretation, or "many worlds"

## Linear indeterministic models

The goal:

$$\begin{aligned}(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{“ready”}\rangle &\rightarrow |\uparrow\rangle|\text{“up”}\rangle \text{ with probability } |a|^2 \\ &\rightarrow |\downarrow\rangle|\text{“down”}\rangle \text{ with probability } |b|^2\end{aligned}$$

The preferred decomposition issue

Into what states do collapses occur?

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### The preferred decomposition issue

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$$\begin{aligned}(a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)|O_0\rangle &\rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle \\ &= \left(\frac{a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \left(\frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{a|+\rangle - b|-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \left(\frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\end{aligned}$$

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A: Choose a collapse mechanism that tends to localize in space

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When and how do collapses occur?

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### The preferred decomposition issue

Into what states do collapses occur?

A: Choose a collapse mechanism that tends to localize in space

### The trigger issue

When and how do collapses occur?

A: Postulate collapse as a new primitive physical mechanism

## The Ghirardi-Rimini-Weber model

At most times:

$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} |\psi(t)\rangle = H |\psi(t)\rangle \quad \text{Schrödinger's equation}$$

Every  $\tau/N$  time interval on average

$$|\psi(t + dt)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{p(\mathbf{q}_k)}} \sqrt{E^{(k)}(\mathbf{q}_k)} |\psi(t)\rangle \quad \text{"Collapse"}$$

where

$$E^{(k)}(\mathbf{q}_k) = \int d\mathbf{r}_k K \exp\left(-\frac{(\mathbf{r}_k - \mathbf{q}_k)^2}{\sigma^2}\right) |\mathbf{r}_k\rangle \langle \mathbf{r}_k|$$

$$p(\mathbf{q}_k) = \langle \psi(t) | E^{(k)}(\mathbf{q}_k) | \psi(t) \rangle$$

$k$  is chosen uniformly at random

$\mathbf{q}_k$  is chosen by sampling from  $p(\mathbf{q}_k)$

Two new fundamental constants:

$\tau \approx 10^{15} \text{s} \approx 100 \text{ million years}$       mean time between collapses for one particle

$\sigma \approx 10^{-7} \text{m} \approx \text{size of large molecule}$       Localization width



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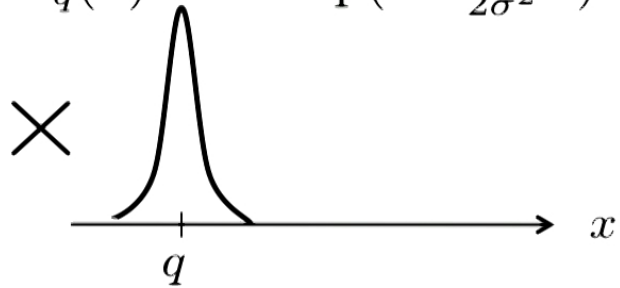
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## Single particle in 1D

$$\psi(x) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \phi_a(x) + \frac{1}{2} \phi_b(x)$$



$$G_q(x) = K \exp\left(-\frac{(x-q)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



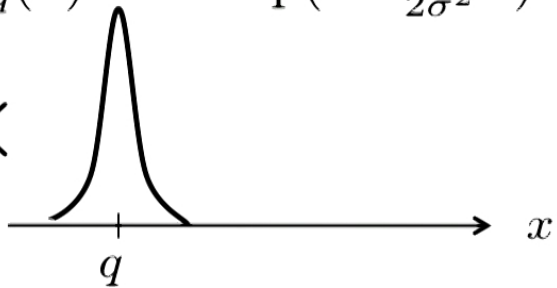
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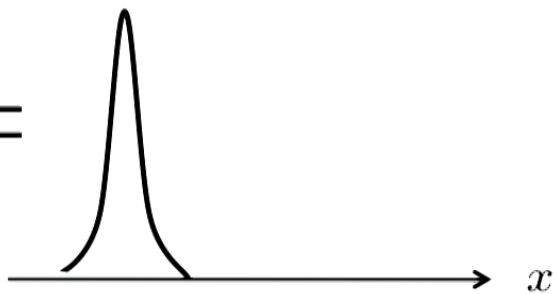


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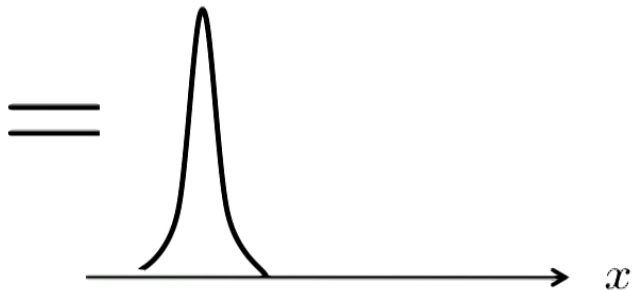
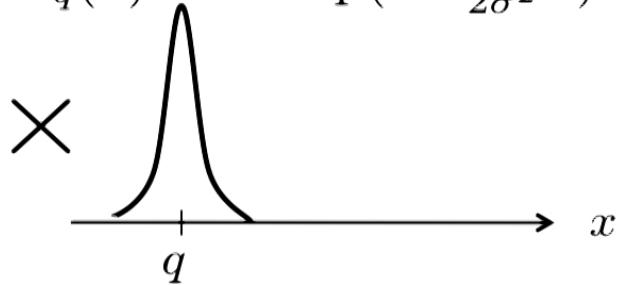


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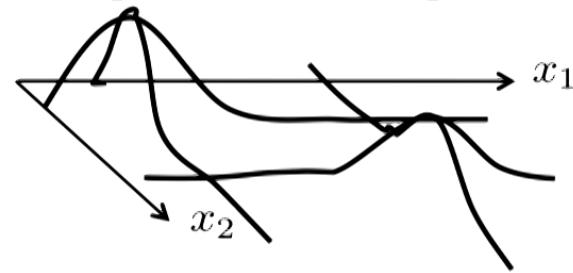


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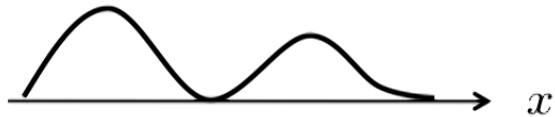
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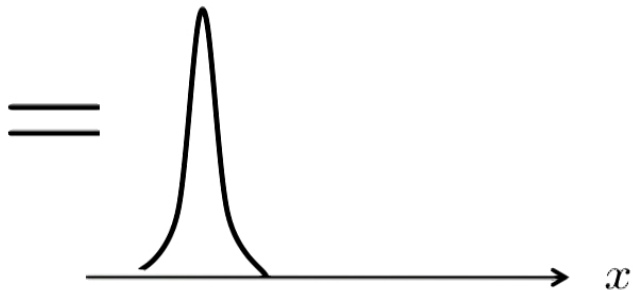
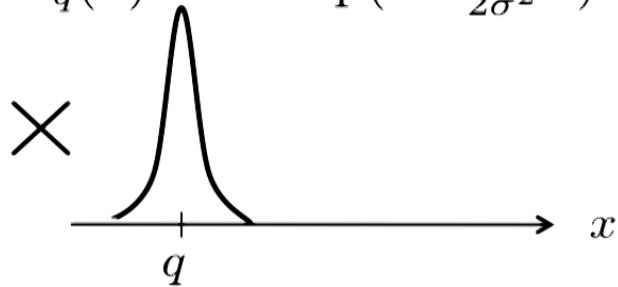


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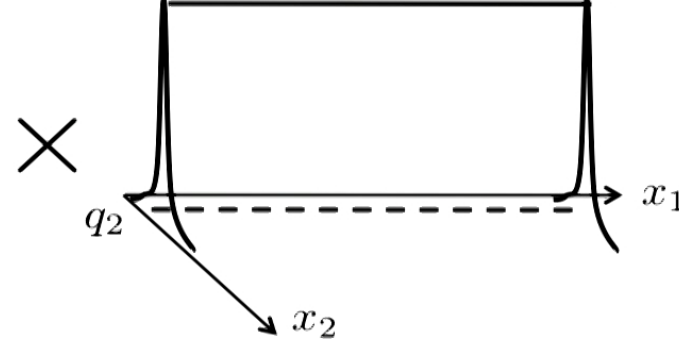
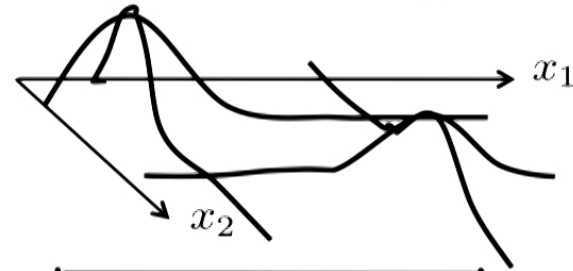


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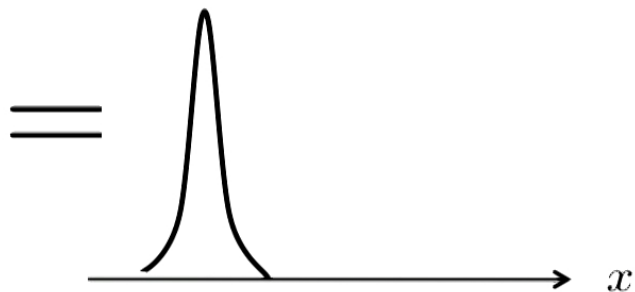
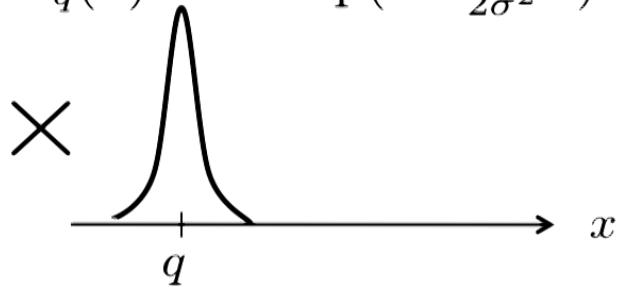


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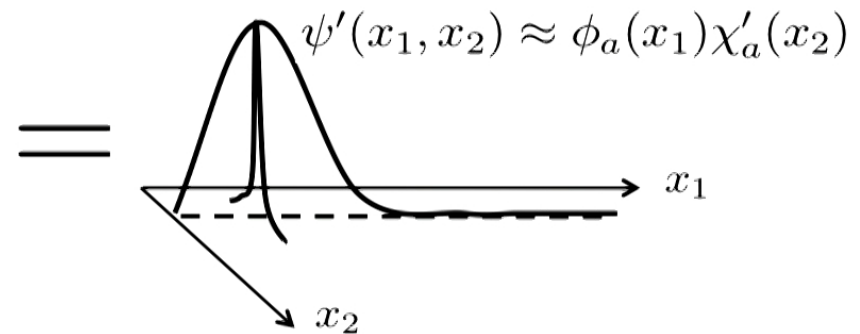
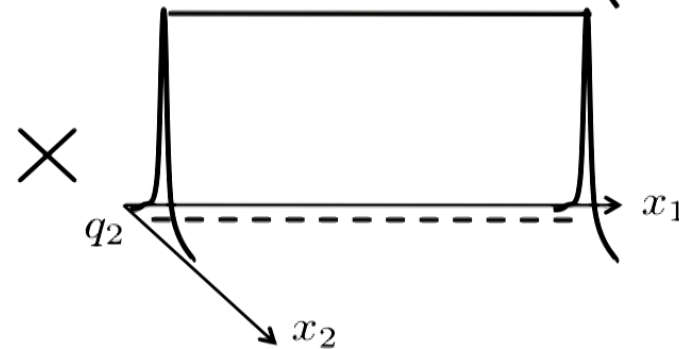
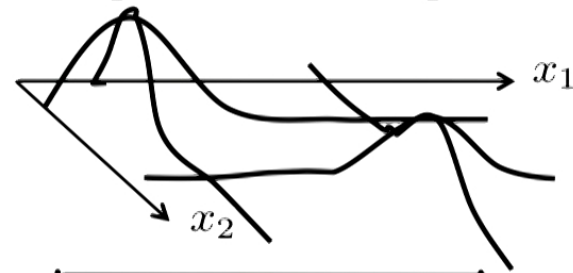


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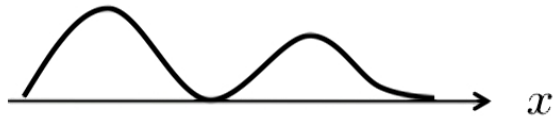
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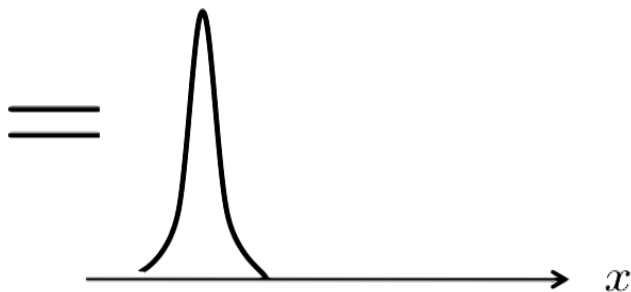
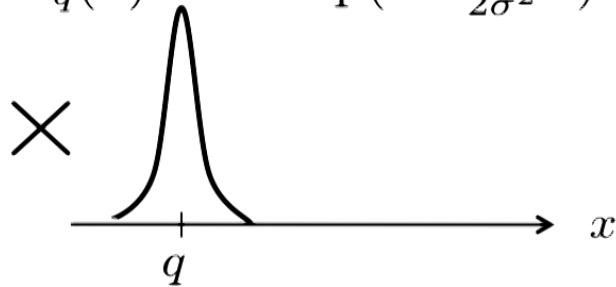


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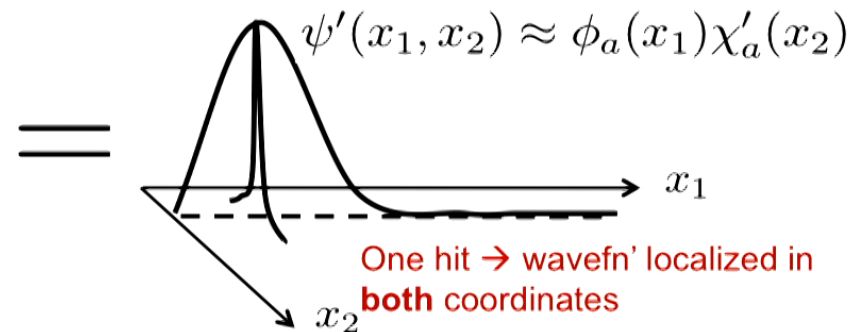
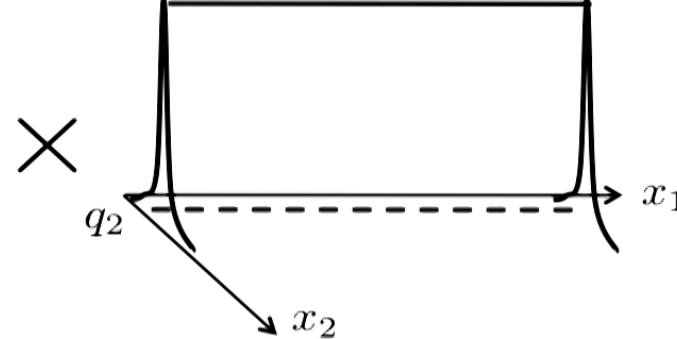
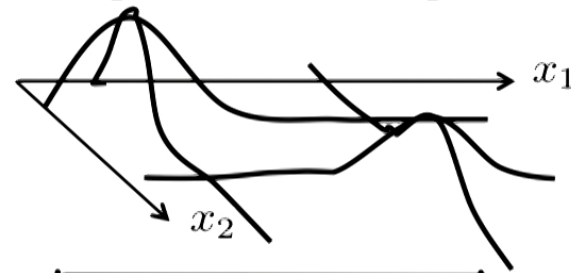


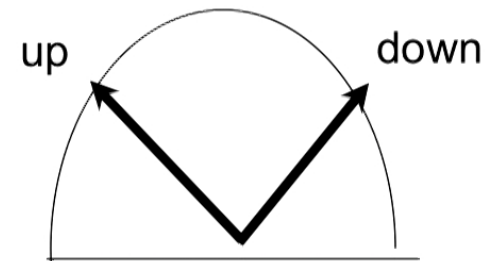
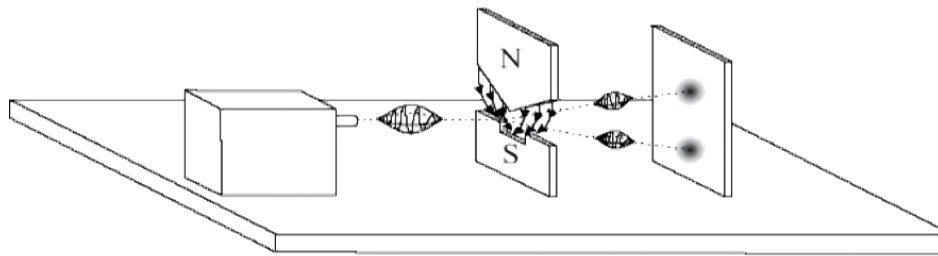
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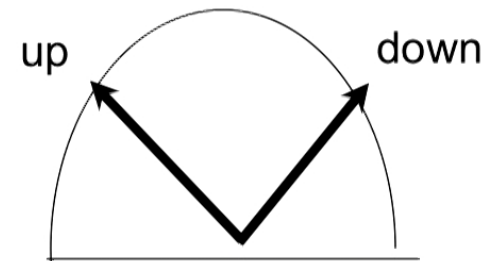
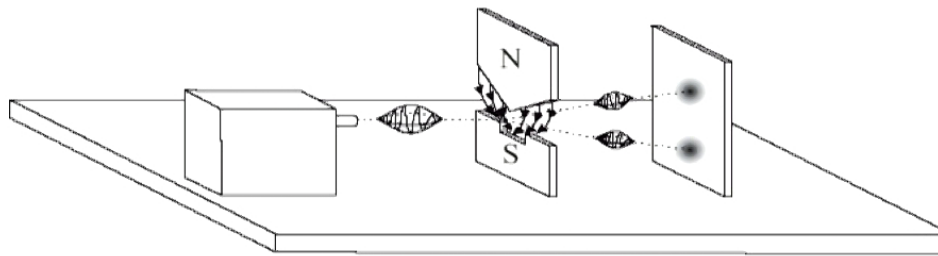
$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle \rightarrow a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle$$

$$|\psi\rangle = a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle$$

Suppose that for macroscopic # of components  $k$ ,  $|\langle O_+|\mathbf{r}_k\rangle|^2|\langle O_-|\mathbf{r}_k\rangle|^2 \approx 0$

One particle is hit  $\rightarrow$  wavefn' is localized in all coordinates





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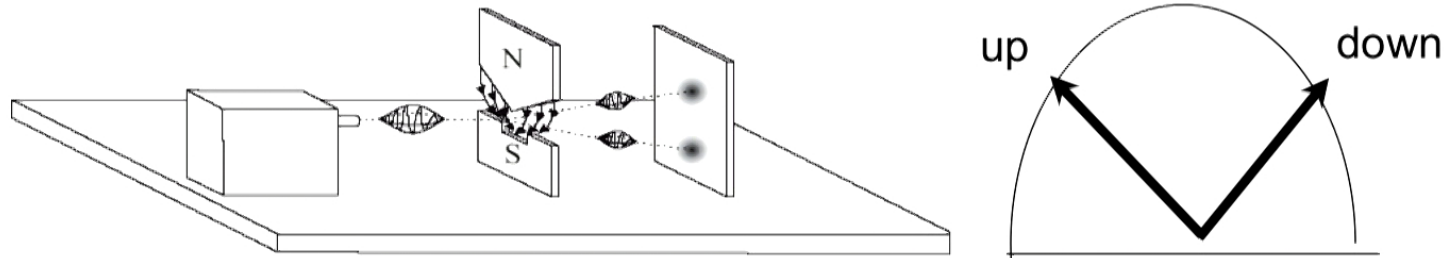
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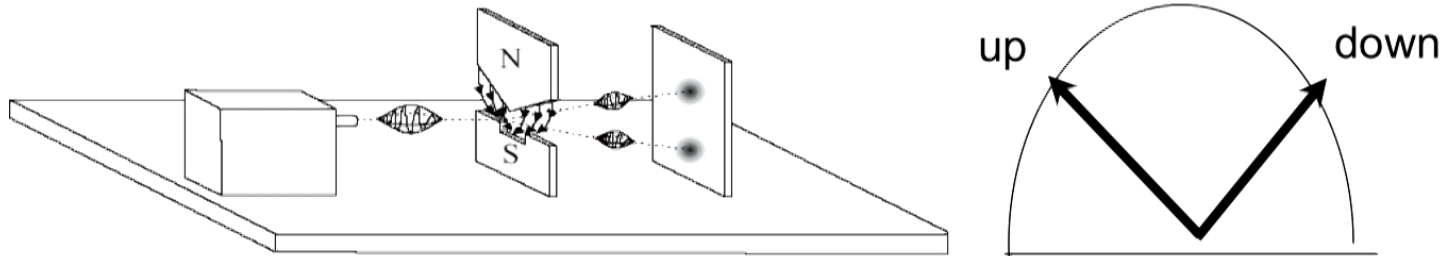
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If apparatus contains  $\approx 10^{20}$  particles

This happens every  $\frac{10^{15}\text{S}}{10^{20}} \approx 10^{-5}\text{S}$



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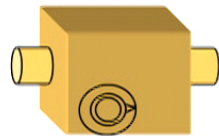
$$\text{This happens every} \quad \frac{10^{15}\text{S}}{10^{20}} \approx 10^{-5}\text{S}$$

The apparatus gets determinate properties  
And we recover the collapse postulate

## Criticisms

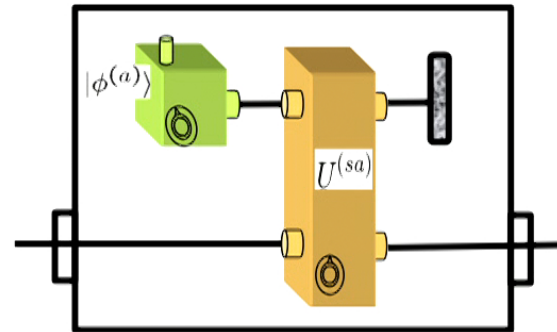
Any anomalous decoherence is also consistent with unitary coupling to novel degrees of freedom

$$\rho \rightarrow \sum_k \int dq_k \sqrt{E^{(k)}(\mathbf{q}_k)} \rho \sqrt{E^{(k)}(\mathbf{q}_k)}$$



Trace-preserving  
completely positive  
linear map (CP map)

$\mathcal{T}$



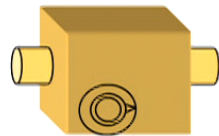
Stinespring dilation

$|\phi^{(a)}\rangle, U^{(sa)}$

## Criticisms

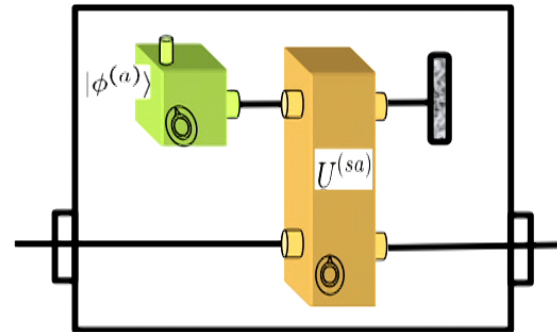
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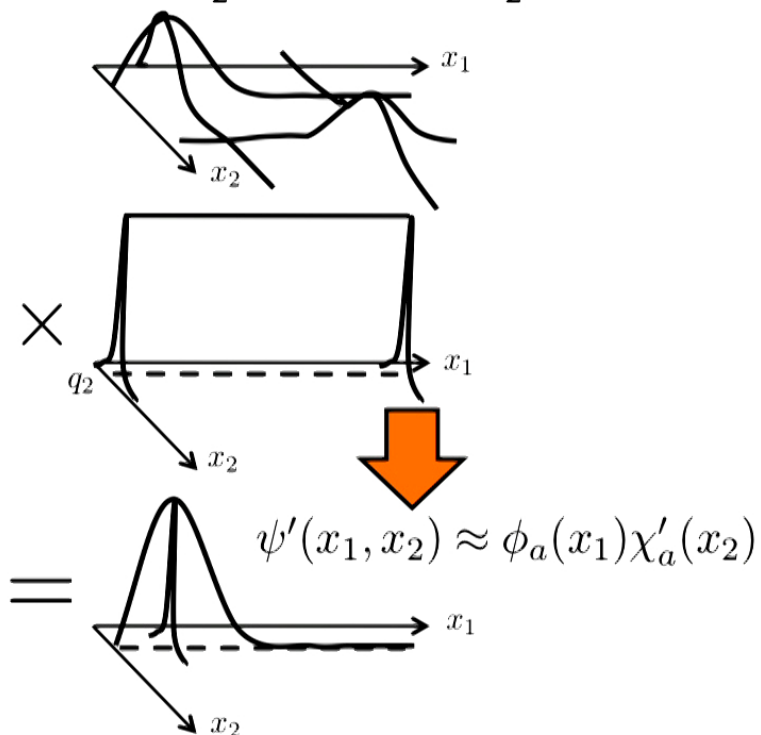
$|\phi^{(a)}\rangle, U^{(sa)}$

The “smoking gun” experimental signature of dynamical collapse does not rule decisively in its favour

## Criticisms

How localized is localized enough? The “tails” problem.

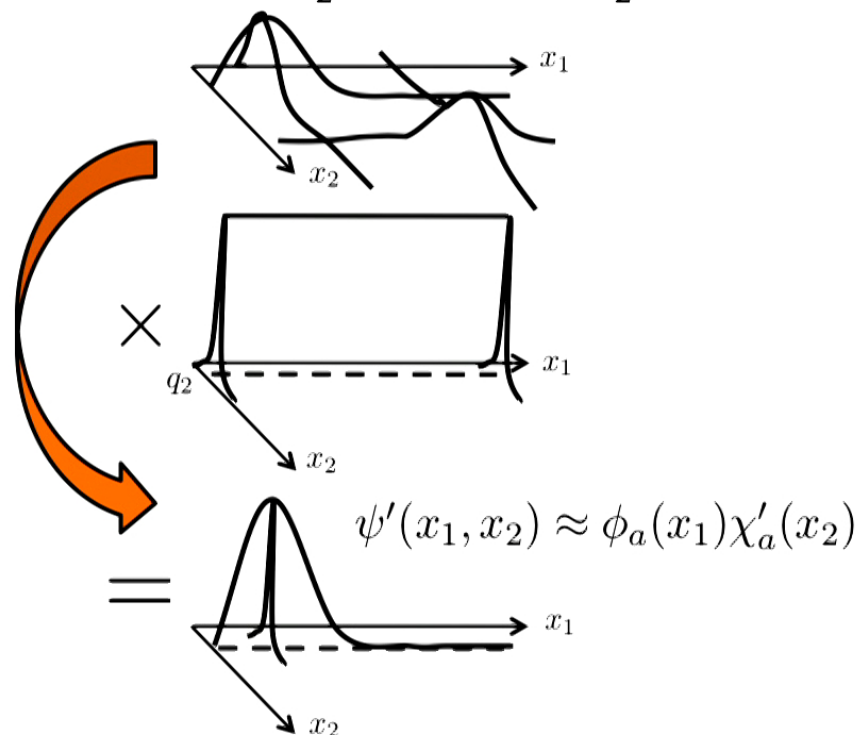
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## Criticisms

Failure of energy conservation

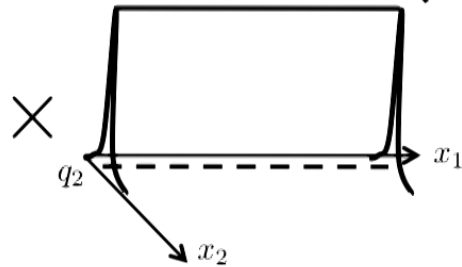
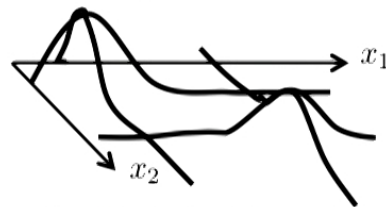
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## Criticisms

The fact that a hit on one system leads to an approximate localization of a distant system is a failure of local causality and of Lorentz invariance

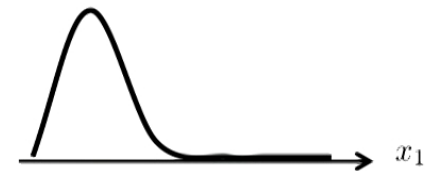
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$$\psi'(x_1, x_2) \approx \phi_a(x_1) \chi'_a(x_2)$$



Physical  
collapse of  
particle 2



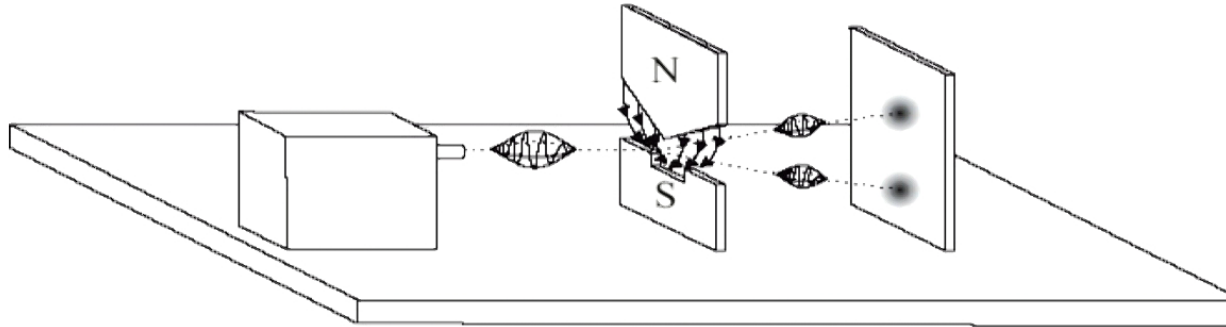


# *The Everett interpretation “Many Worlds”*



Hugh Everett, III  
(1930-1982)

## The quantum measurement problem



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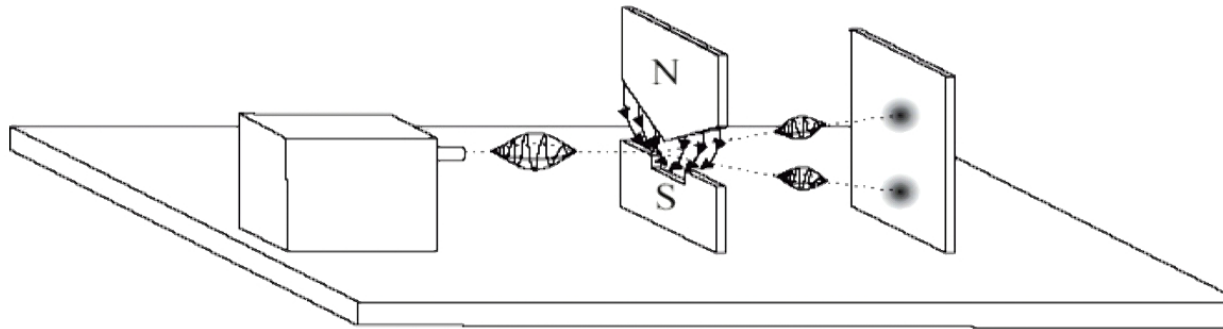


Subjective illusion

## Responses to the measurement problem

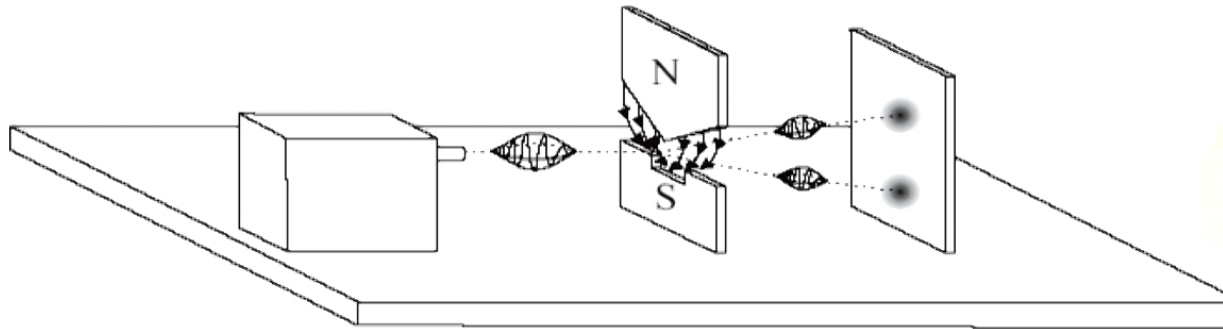
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## Quantum measurement



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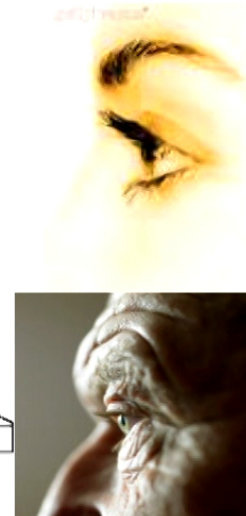
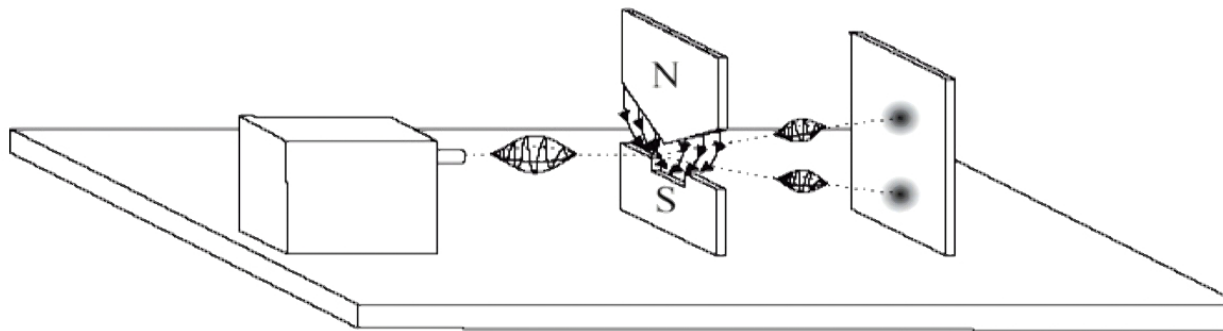
## Quantum measurement with observer



$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

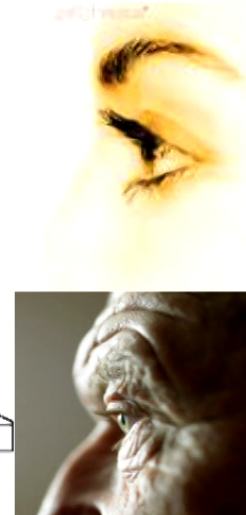
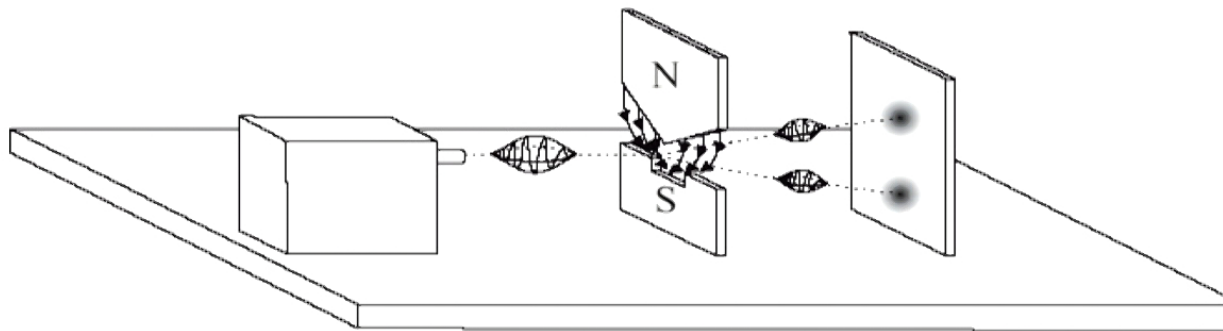
$$\rightarrow a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle$$

## Quantum measurement with many observers



$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

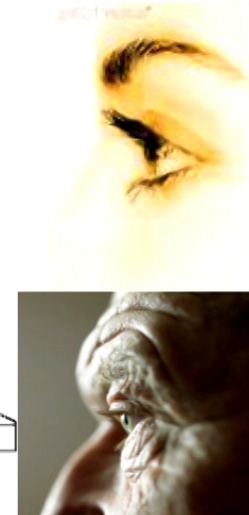
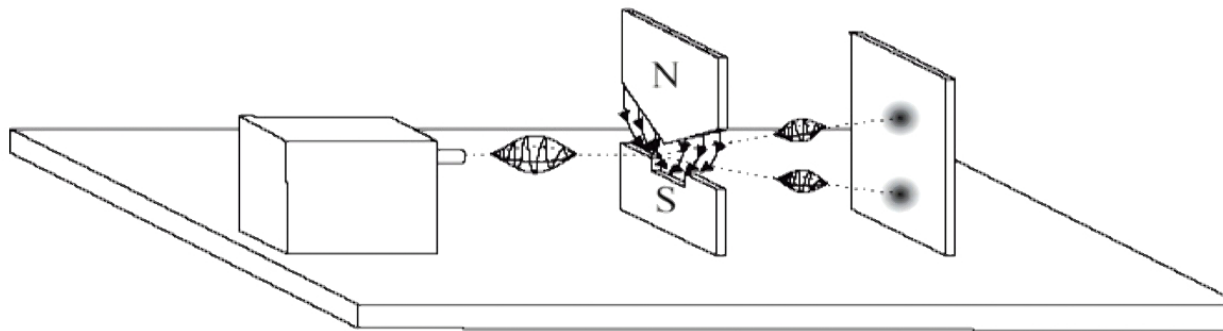
## Quantum measurement with many observers



$$\begin{aligned}
 & (a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle \\
 & \rightarrow (a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + a|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle) \\
 & \quad \otimes |\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle
 \end{aligned}$$



## Quantum measurement with many observers

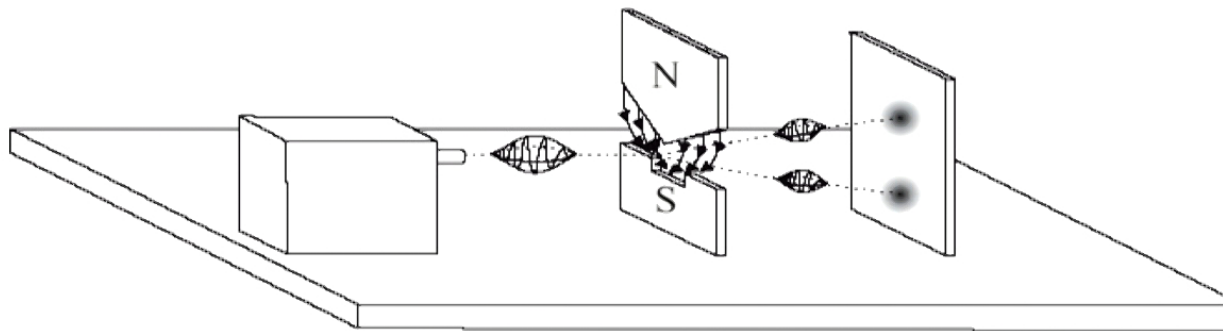


$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

$$\rightarrow (a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + a|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle) \otimes |\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

$$\rightarrow a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle$$

# Quantum measurement with many observers



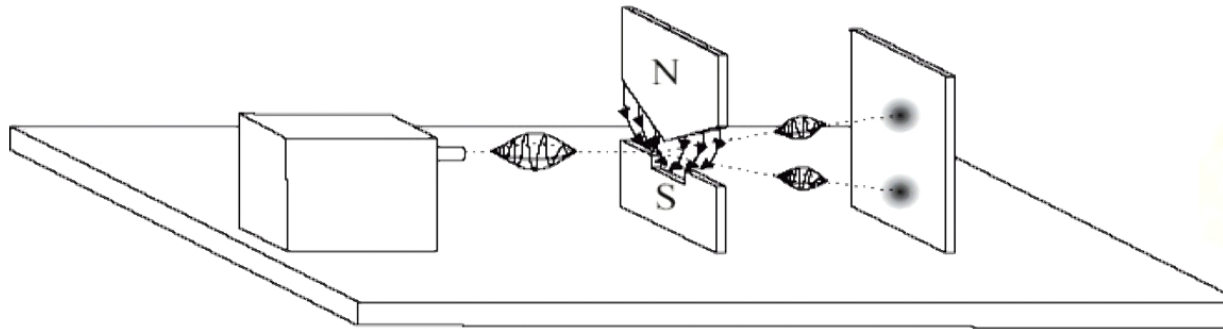
$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

$$\rightarrow (a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + a|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle) \otimes |\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

$$\rightarrow a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle$$

There is intersubjective agreement about the outcome

## Quantum measurement with observer



$$(a|\uparrow\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle)|\text{"ready"}\rangle|\text{"ready to observe"}\rangle$$

$$\rightarrow a|\uparrow\rangle|\text{"up"}\rangle|\text{"observe up"}\rangle + b|\downarrow\rangle|\text{"down"}\rangle|\text{"observe down"}\rangle$$

again rewrite as

$$(a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)|O_0\rangle \rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle$$

## Preferred basis problem

$$\begin{aligned} (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)|O_0\rangle &\rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle \\ &= \left(\frac{a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \left(\frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{a|+\rangle - b|-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \left(\frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Adrian Kent: Everett needs a **basis selection rule**

## Preferred basis problem

$$(a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)|E_0\rangle \rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle|E_-\rangle$$

## Preferred basis problem

$$\begin{aligned} (a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)|E_0\rangle &\rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle|E_-\rangle \\ &= \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle - b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

## Preferred basis problem

$$\begin{aligned} (a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)|E_0\rangle &\rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle|E_-\rangle \\ &= \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\ &\quad + \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle - b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$|O_+\rangle|E_0^{(2)}\rangle \rightarrow |O_+\rangle|E_+^{(2)}\rangle$$

## Preferred basis problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)|E_0\rangle &\rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle|E_-\rangle \\
 &= \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle - b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$|O_+\rangle|E_0^{(2)}\rangle \rightarrow |O_+\rangle|E_+^{(2)}\rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) |E_0^{(2)}\rangle &\rightarrow \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle|E_+^{(2)}\rangle + |O_-\rangle|E_-^{(2)}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|E_+^{(2)}\rangle + |E_-^{(2)}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|E_+^{(2)}\rangle - |E_-^{(2)}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$



## Preferred basis problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)|E_0\rangle &\rightarrow a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle|E_-\rangle \\
 &= \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \left( \frac{a|+\rangle|E_+\rangle - b|-\rangle|E_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$|O_+\rangle|E_0^{(2)}\rangle \rightarrow |O_+\rangle|E_+^{(2)}\rangle \quad \text{Evolution in this basis is \textcolor{blue}{predictable}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) |E_0^{(2)}\rangle &\rightarrow \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle|E_+^{(2)}\rangle + |O_-\rangle|E_-^{(2)}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle + |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|E_+^{(2)}\rangle + |E_-^{(2)}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \frac{|O_+\rangle - |O_-\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \left( \frac{|E_+^{(2)}\rangle - |E_-^{(2)}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Evolution in this basis is \textcolor{blue}{unpredictable}

## Response (drawn primarily from the work of David Wallace)

No axiom is needed for basis selection because real things (macroscopic objects and worlds) are **emergent patterns**.



real, but not  
directly  
represented in the  
axioms

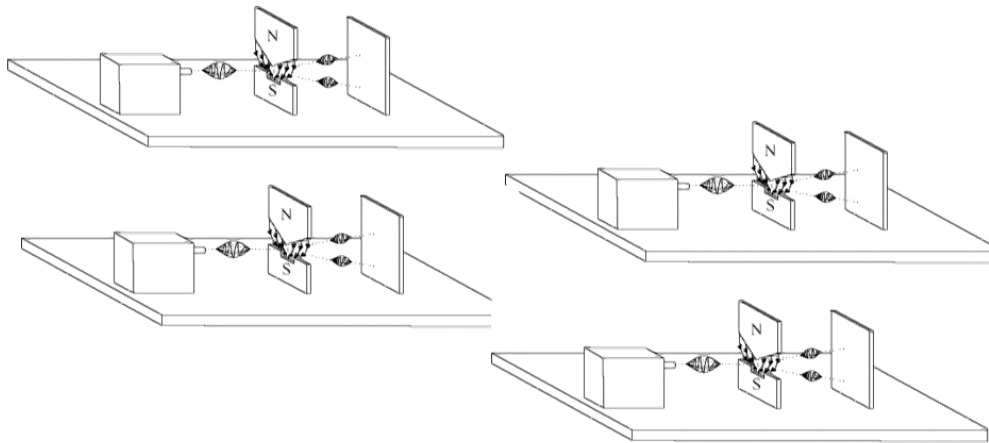
The basis picked out by decoherence admits of patterns that have explanatory and predictive power, such as tigers. Such patterns define the ontology.

Patterns are not precisely defined, but this need not detract from their reality (consider a mountain, or a species)

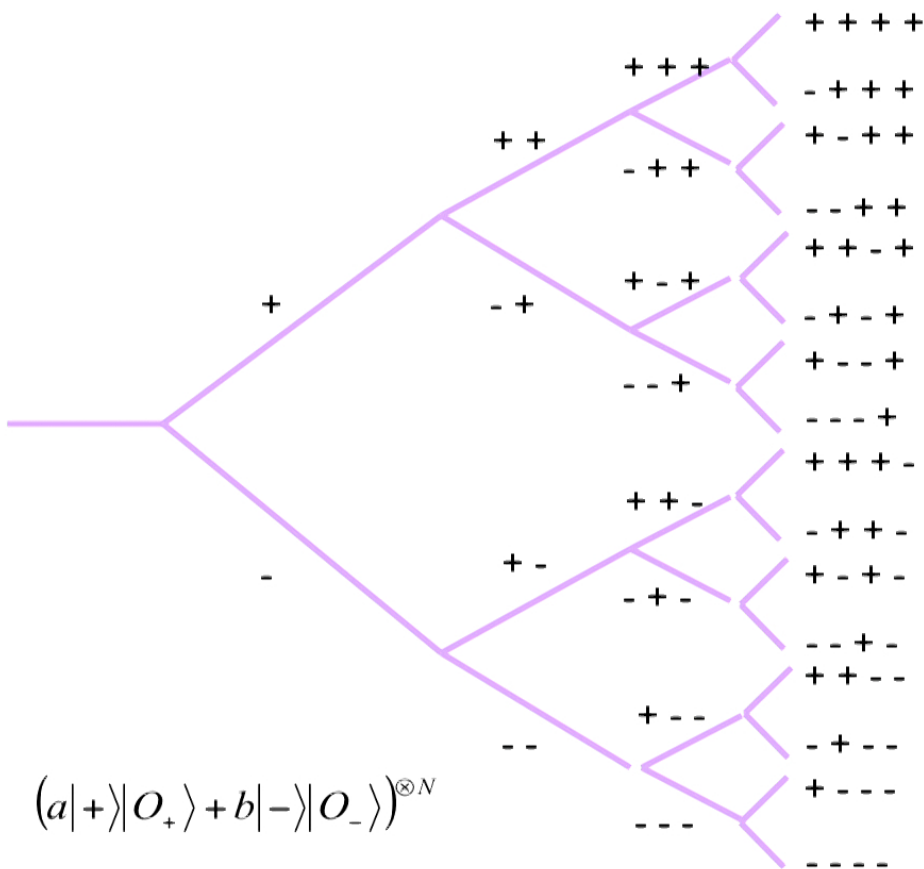
## The problem with probabilities

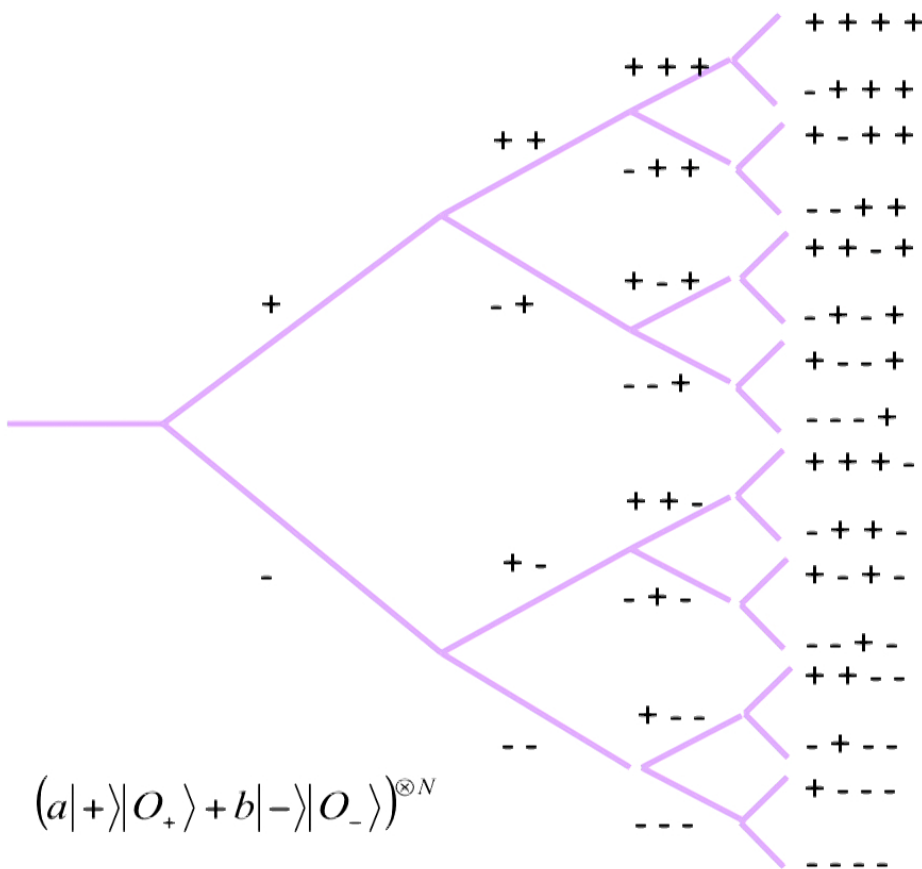
How can anything “be probability” in a deterministic theory where all possible outcomes occur? There are no propensities and there is nothing to be ignorant about.

Sequence of measurements:



$$\begin{aligned}
 & (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^{IV} (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^{III} (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^{II} (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^I \quad |O_0\rangle^I |O_0\rangle^{II} |O_0\rangle^{III} |O_0\rangle^{IV} \rightarrow \\
 & (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^{IV} (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^{III} (a|+\rangle + b|-\rangle)^{II} (a|+\rangle^I |O_+\rangle^I + b|-\rangle^I |O_-\rangle^I) \quad |O_0\rangle^{II} |O_0\rangle^{III} |O_0\rangle^{IV} \rightarrow \\
 & \dots \quad (a|+\rangle |O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle |O_-\rangle)^{\otimes 4}
 \end{aligned}$$



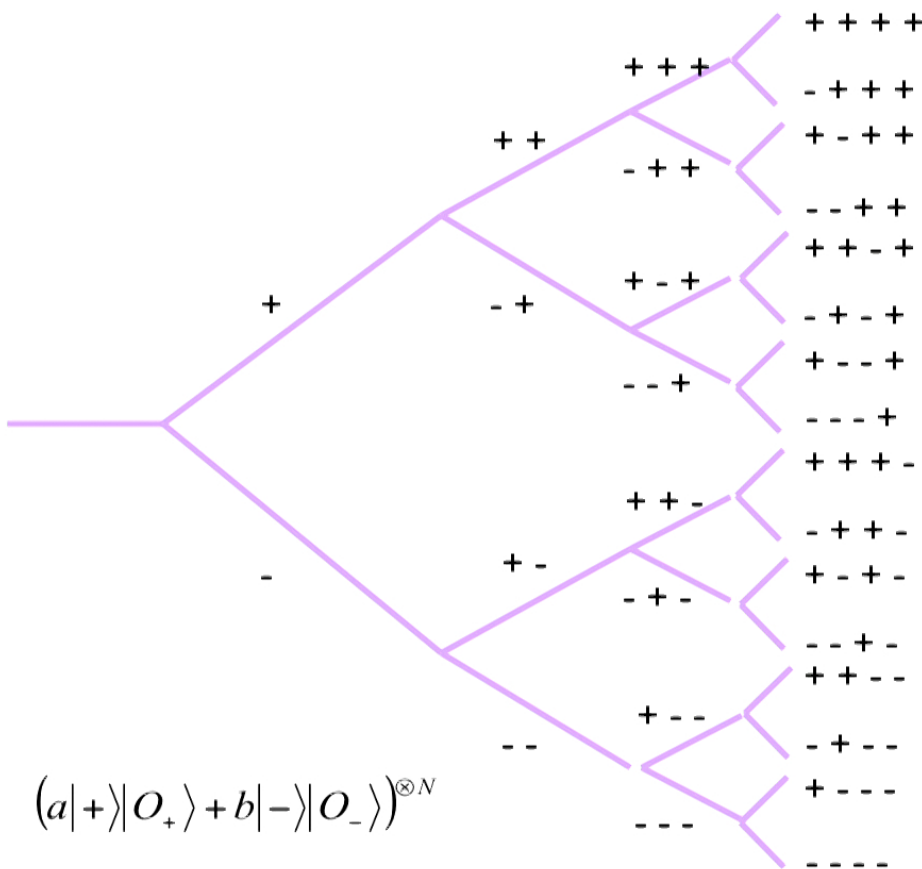


$$(a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)^{\otimes N}$$

Different branches  
correspond to different  
subjective experiences

All branches are actual →  
all experiences occur

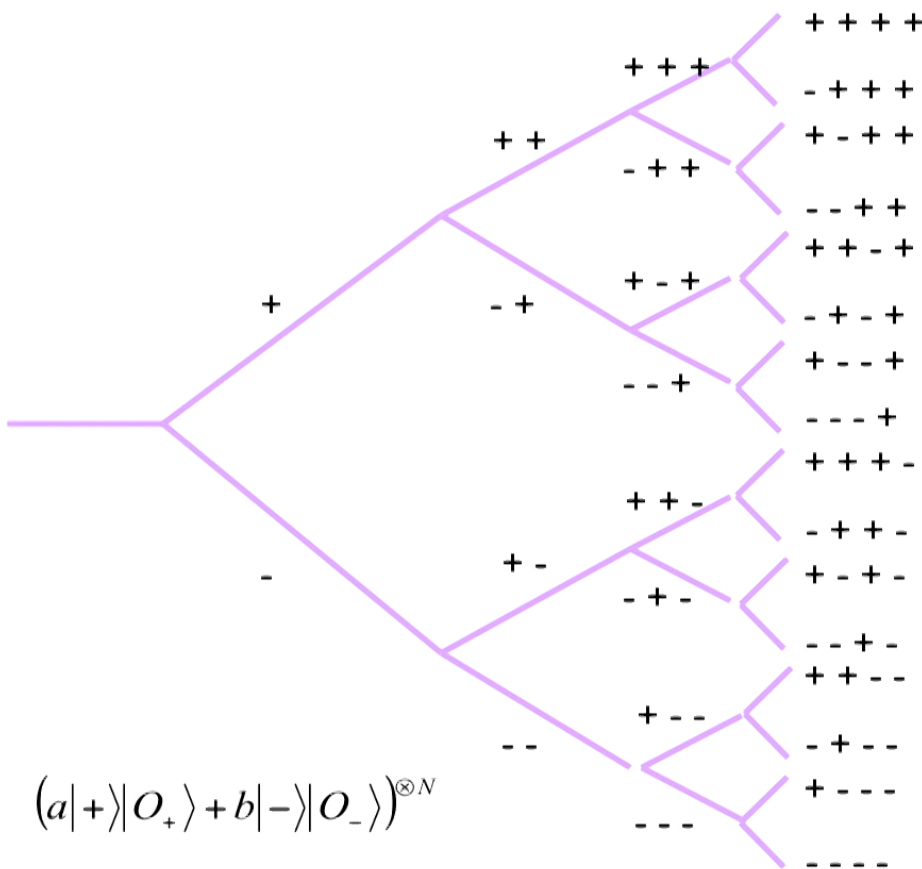
Therefore, cannot understand  
probability in terms of where the  
“real” me ends up



$$(a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)^{\otimes N}$$

In the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , in all branches except a set of measure zero, the frequency of  $+$  results is the same.

What is this “typical” frequency?

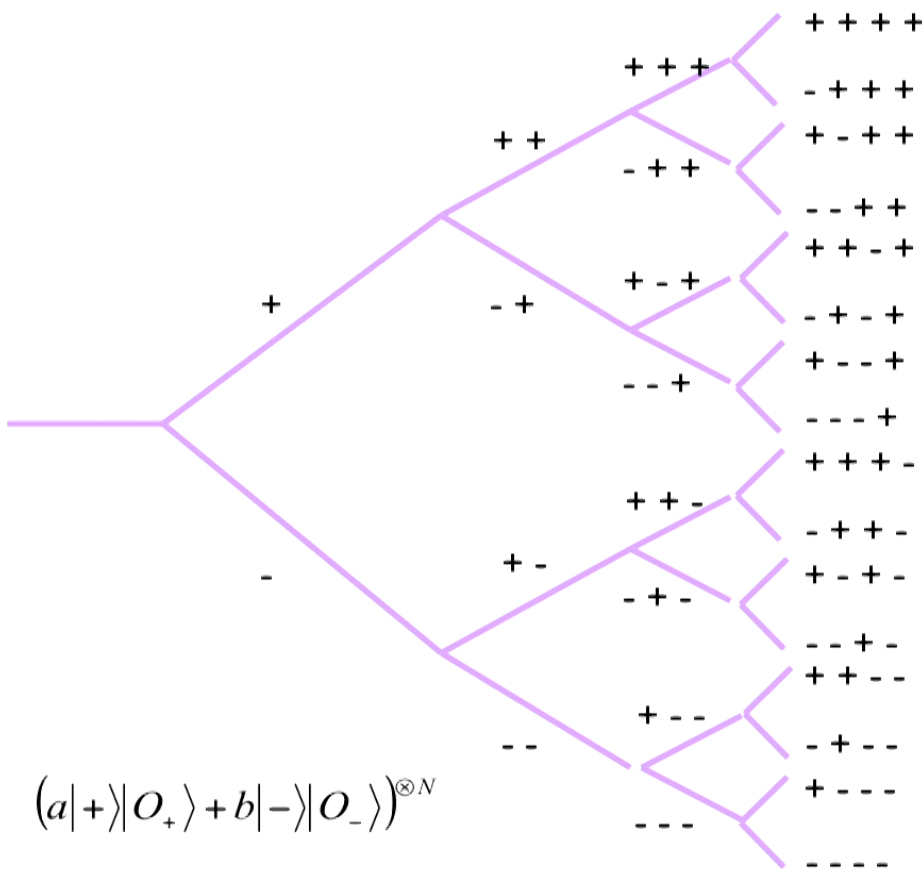


In the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , in all branches except a set of measure zero, the frequency of + results is the same.

What is this “typical” frequency?

For a counting measure over branches  $\frac{1}{2}$





$$(a|+\rangle|O_+\rangle + b|-\rangle|O_-\rangle)^{\otimes N}$$

In the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , in all branches except a set of measure zero, the frequency of + results is the same.

What is this “typical” frequency?

For a counting measure over branches  $\frac{1}{2}$

For the Born measure over branches  $|a|^2$

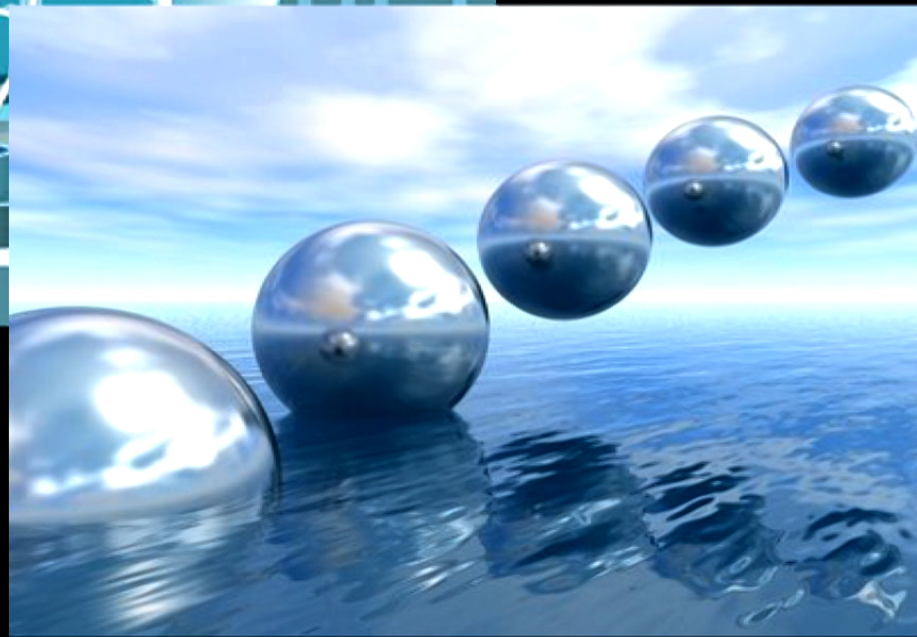
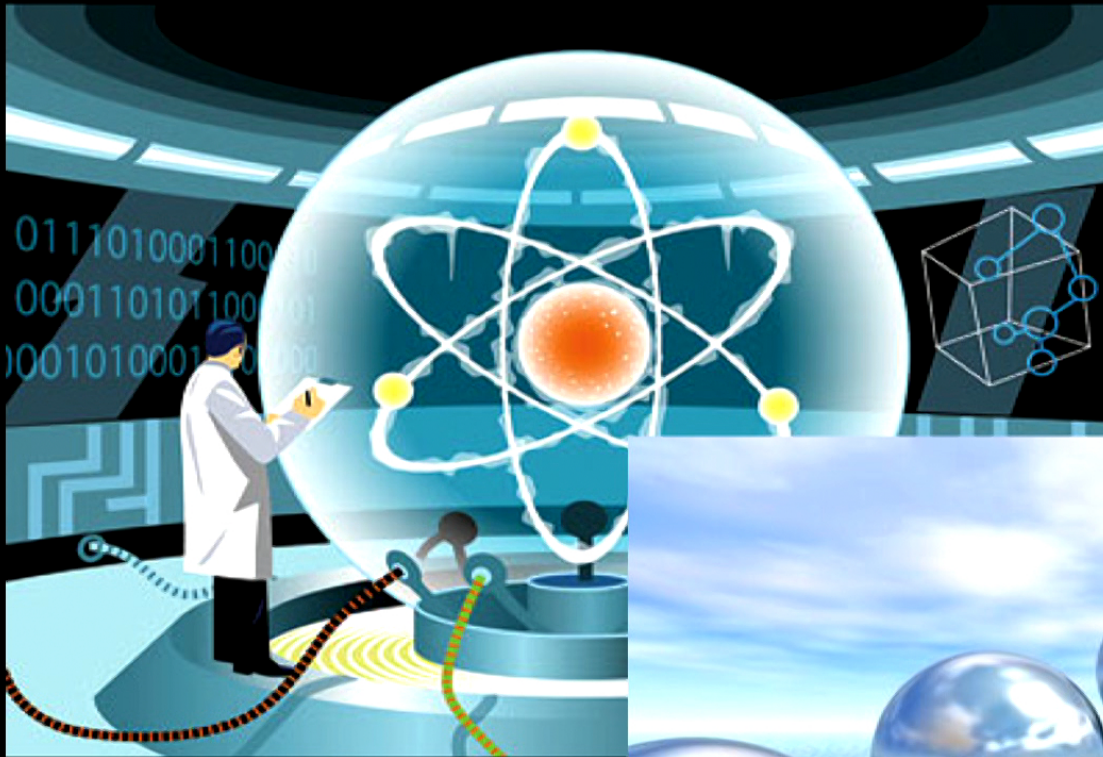
**Deutsch's decision-theoretic strategy:** Probability gets its meaning through the rational preferences of agents who consider the utility of all future versions of themselves.

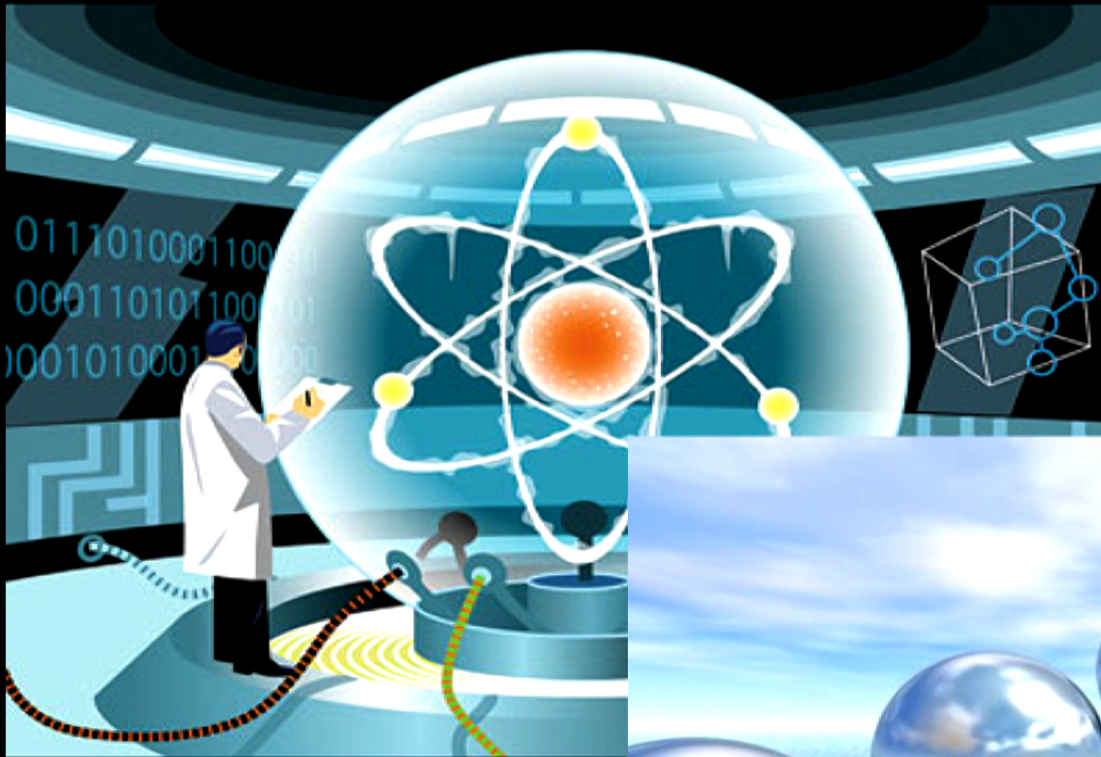
Purports to show that a rational agent who knows that the Born-rule weight of an outcome is  $p$  is rationally compelled to act as if that outcome had probability  $p$ .

**Deutsch's decision-theoretic strategy:** Probability gets its meaning through the rational preferences of agents who consider the utility of all future versions of themselves.

Purports to show that a rational agent who knows that the Born-rule weight of an outcome is  $p$  is rationally compelled to act as if that outcome had probability  $p$ .

**Barnum et al.:** Deutsch's proof has a hidden assumption which is akin to applying Laplace's Principle of Insufficient Reason to a set of equal-amplitude alternatives, an application that requires assuming, rather than deriving, how amplitudes are related to probabilities.

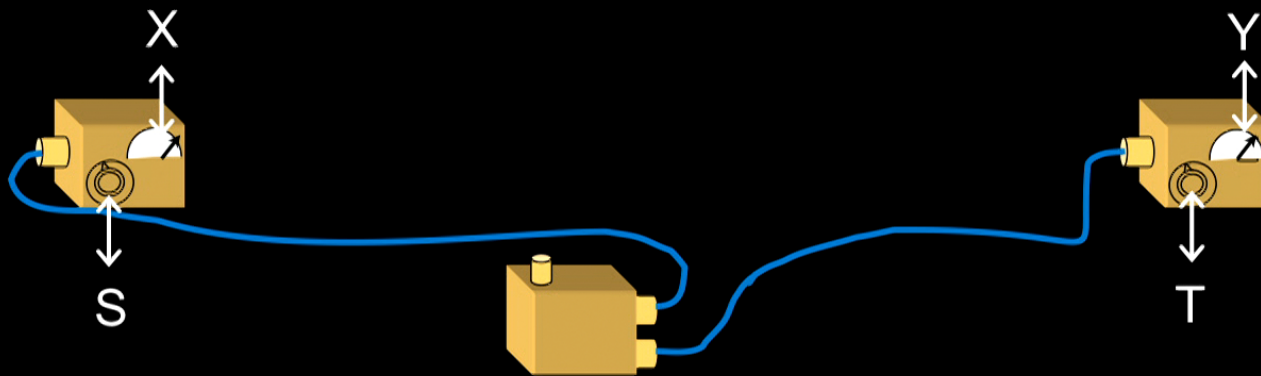




The intuition about computation in parallel worlds does not explain the precise computational power of quantum computers

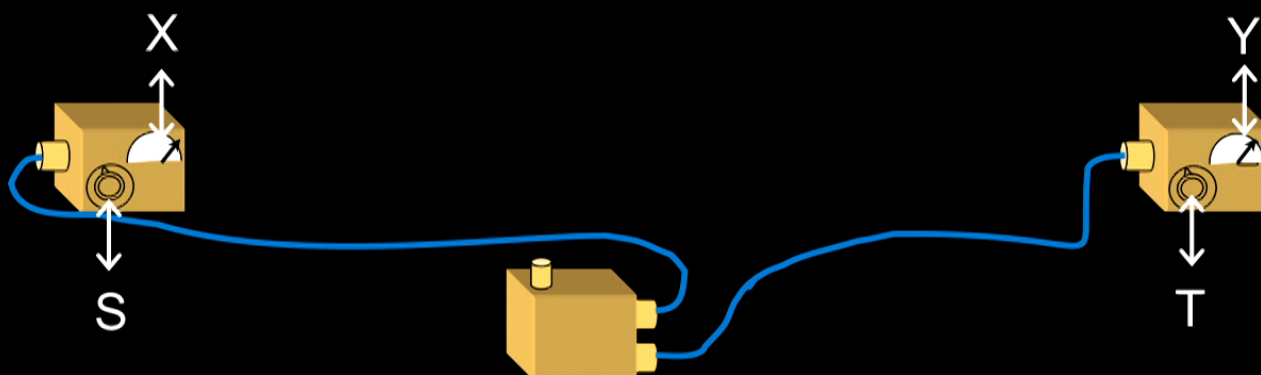






	X=0, Y=0	X=0, Y=1	X=1, Y=0	X=1, Y=1
S=0, T=0	0.427	0.073	0.073	0.427
S=0, T=1	0.427	0.073	0.073	0.427
S=1, T=0	0.427	0.073	0.073	0.427
S=1, T=1	0.073	0.427	0.427	0.073

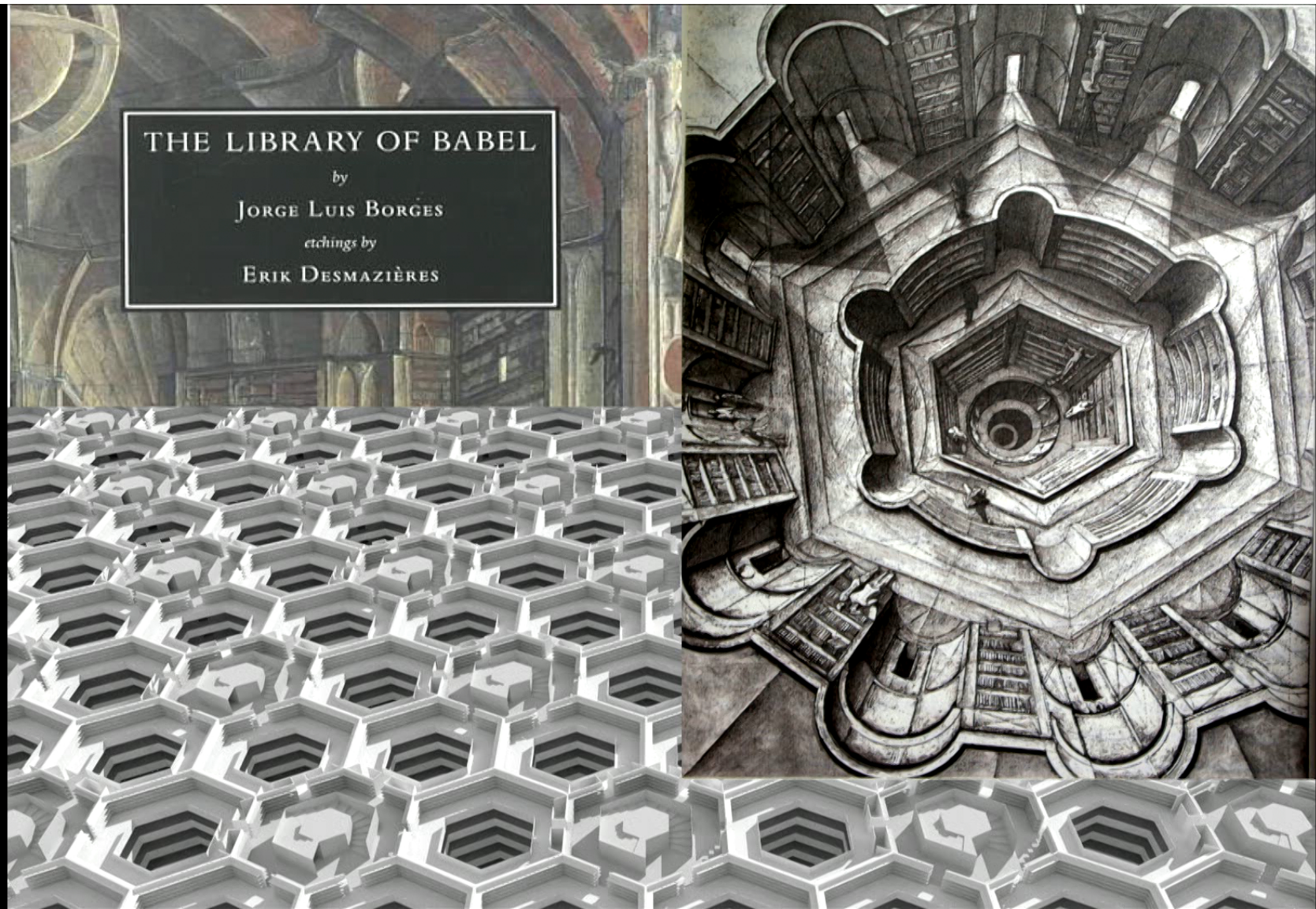
	X=0, Y=0	X=0, Y=1	X=1, Y=0	X=1, Y=1
S=0, T=0	1/2	0	0	1/2
S=0, T=1	1/2	0	0	1/2
S=1, T=0	1/2	0	0	1/2
S=1, T=1	0	1/2	1/2	0



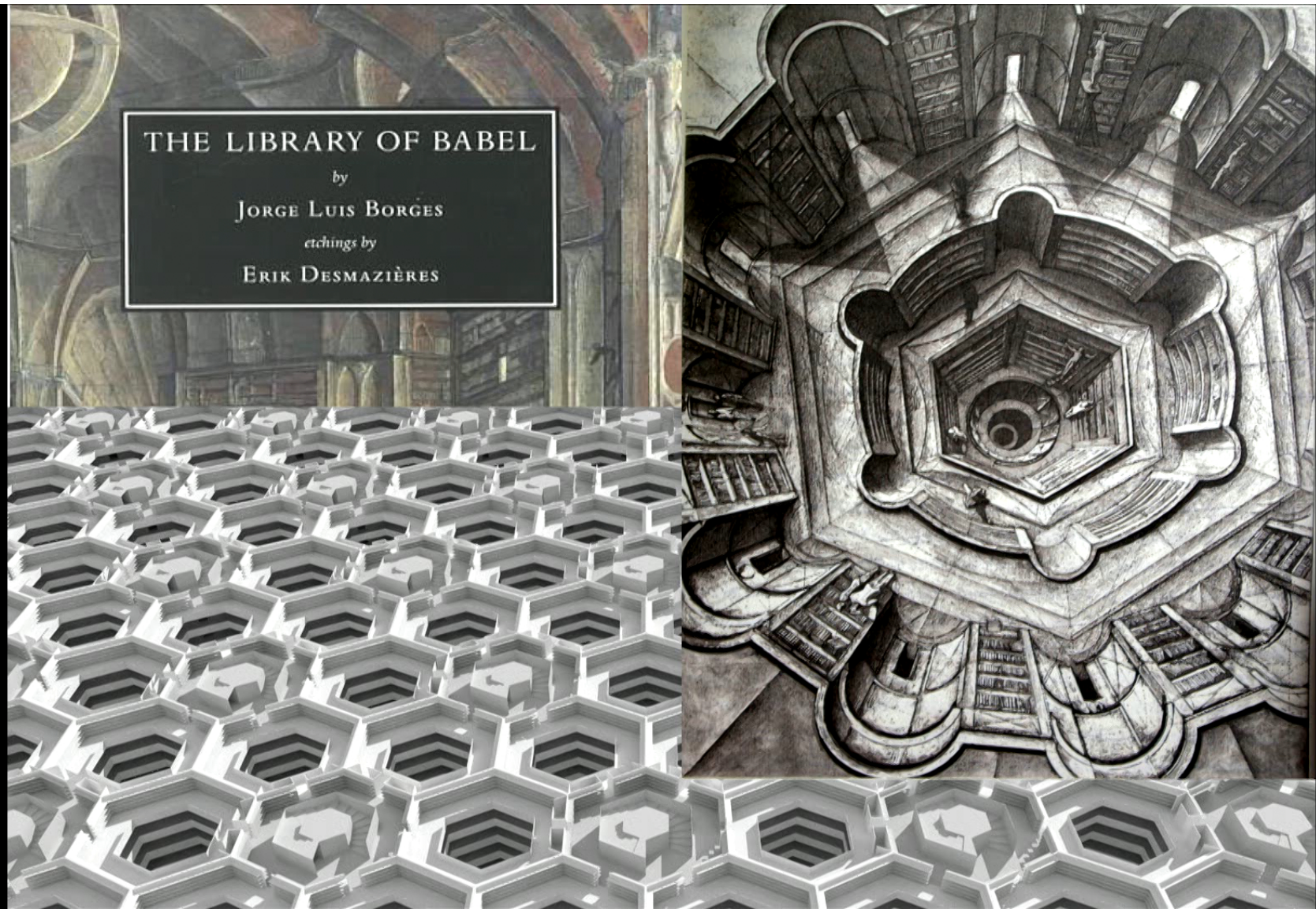
	X=0, Y=0	X=0, Y=1	X=1, Y=0	X=1, Y=1
S=0, T=0	0.427	0.073	0.073	0.427
S=0, T=1	0.427	0.073	0.073	0.427
S=1, T=0	0.427	0.073	0.073	0.427
S=1, T=1	0.073	0.427	0.427	0.073

	X=0, Y=0	X=0, Y=1	X=1, Y=0	X=1, Y=1
S=0, T=0	1/2	0	0	1/2
S=0, T=1	1/2	0	0	1/2
S=1, T=0	1/2	0	0	1/2
S=1, T=1	0	1/2	1/2	0

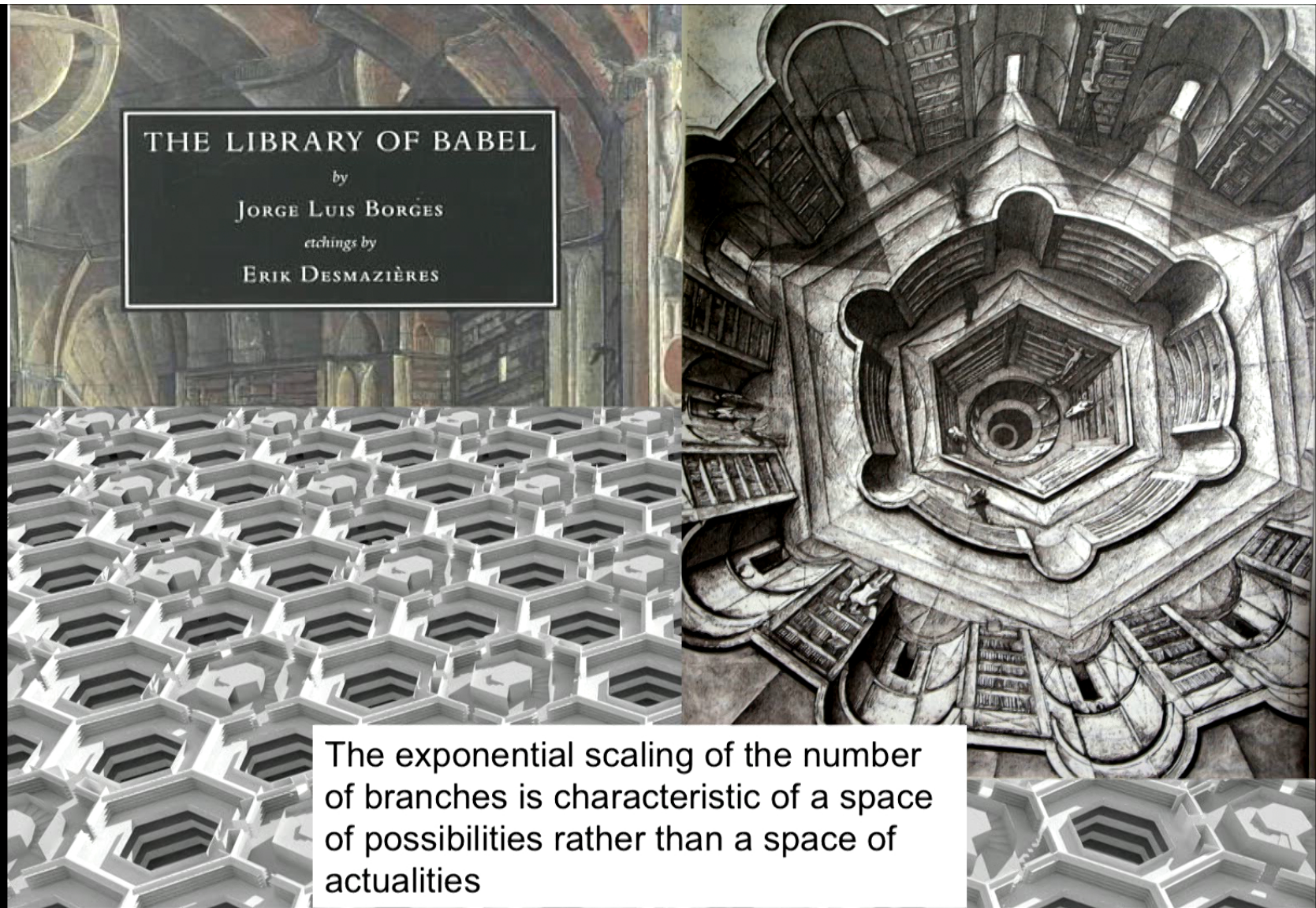
Any generalized probabilistic theory can be given a many worlds interpretation. The interpretation does not explain the precise degree of violation of Bell inequalities seen in quantum theory











The exponential scaling of the number of branches is characteristic of a space of possibilities rather than a space of actualities