

# Albert & Loewer on Quantum Chances

This exercise is *optional* but highly recommended if you've missed an exercise or Blackboard discussion in previous weeks. Hand in your answers anonymously on Blackboard by **Monday the 27th at 8pm**.

1. Explain the following terms in your own words (no need to go into any mathematical detail).

Use examples where helpful:

- a. **Wave Function** ( $\psi_s$ )
  - b. **Schrödinger Equation** ( $\psi_s(t) \mapsto \psi_s(t+x)$ )
  - c. **Eigenstates** ( $O_1, O_2 \dots$ )
  - d. **Superposition** ( $c_1 \cdot O_1 + c_2 \cdot O_2$ )
  - e. **Entanglement** ( $c_1 \cdot O_1 \otimes Q_1 + c_2 \cdot O_2 \otimes Q_2$ )
  - f. **Wave Collapse** ( $c_1 \cdot O_1 + c_2 \cdot O_2 \mapsto O_2$ )
  - g. **The Born Rule**
2. Suppose you use the “Universe Splitter” app discussed in the third part of the lecture to decide your major. You fill in “take a philosophy major” in one field and “take a physics major” in the other, resolving to do whatever the app tells you to. To determine a choice, the app sends a signal to a lab in Switzerland where a 50/50 quantum experiment is performed — say a fair quantum coin is flipped. Depending on the outcome of the experiment, the app recommends one course of action or the other.
    - a. Assuming Albert and Loewer’s Many Minds version of quantum mechanics is true, describe what will happen to your phone, and to your body, if you do this.
    - b. What will happen to your mind?
    - c. Explain why this story requires that you have more than one mind.
    - d. Explain why it requires that everyone else in the world has multiple minds as well.
    - e. Do you think Albert and Loewer are right that positing a separate layer of minds is required to make sense on the many worlds interpretation? Give a reason.