

Re: electron emitter details for double slit experiment

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 - *Date:* Thu, 17 Apr 2008 09:12:01 +0100
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John Larkin <jjlarkin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

On Thu, 17 Apr 2008 01:52:27 GMT, Jamie Morken <jmorken@xxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi,

Do you have a link to the experiment setup that you were describing with the photon detectors? I would like to take a look at it closer but didnt see the exact setup.

No specific reference. You'll have to hunt. The page you just cited says pretty much the same thing.

Regarding entanglement where the two measured particles have opposite spins, I would think that when the two particles are created they get their opposite spins at that point.

What's amazing is that they got opposite spins at creation, but the spin axis is totally undefined. The spin of particle X is undefined and the spin of particle Y is undefined, but they are strictly opposite. So, after they are a light-year apart, if someone measures the up-down spin of X and discovers that X is up, then the spin of Y is down. But if you consider spin to be a left-right thing and measure one as left, then instantly the other becomes right. The particles have no idea of your definition of spin until the instant you do the test, except that they know that spin is quantized, +1 or -1 along *any* axis you pick, and they know that their spin is the opposite of their mate's.

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I know people, some who have posted here, that think that consciousness does not exist. They say that the brain is just a mechanism that follows physical laws, just a state machine. The fact that randomness is involved just makes it a flakey state machine. If you cling to classical physics, then that's a perfectly reasonable viewpoint. We're just a bag of chemicals.

But in fact the brain is a quantum–mechanical computer, and quantum mechanics is mystical. Things happen in concert, light–years apart. A photon is indivisible, but knows that there is a slit far away, and acts accordingly. A photon can interfere with itself over a path that's miles long, a path that it provably does not take. Matter is solid and is a wave; it's mostly here but a little bit everywhere. To cling to classical physics is to deny magic and, I think, to deny spirituality and consciousness itself.

How's that on the rant–o–meter?

Not bad.

I don't think there is much actual evidence that the brain relies on quantum effects though. (I mean the "spooky" ones of which you speak – obviously quantum mechanics is the mechanism underlying e.g. chemistry).

And the "We're just a bag of chemicals" theory does seem to dispose of a lot of the "problems" in philosophy and religion.

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John Devereux

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