

Origin of probabilities and their application to the multiverse

Andreas Albrecht
UC Davis

2015: THE SPACETIME ODYSSEY CONTINUES
Stockholm
June 4, 2015

AA & D. Phillips (PRD Dec 2014) <http://arxiv.org/abs/1212.0953>

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Thank you Katie!!!



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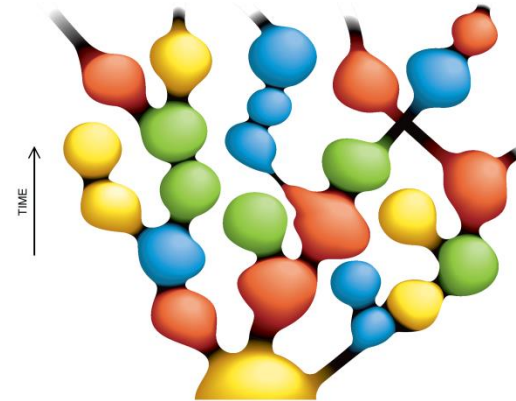
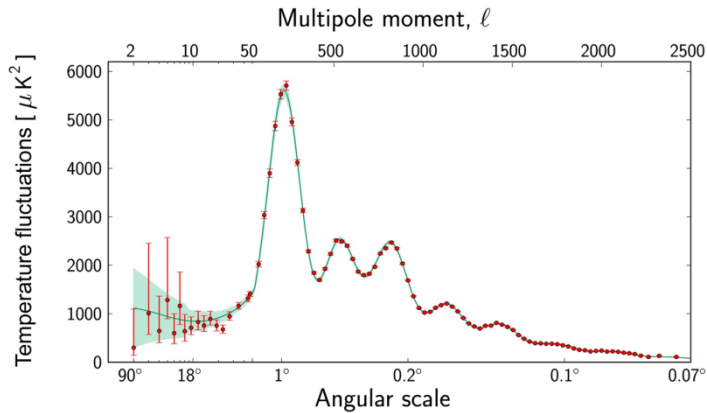
AA & D. Phillips (PRD Dec 2014)

Cosmic Inflation:

Consumers

&

Producers



The multiverse of eternal inflation with multiple classical rolling directions

Self-reproduction regime

Classically Rolling A

Classically Rolling B

Classically Rolling C

Classically Rolling D

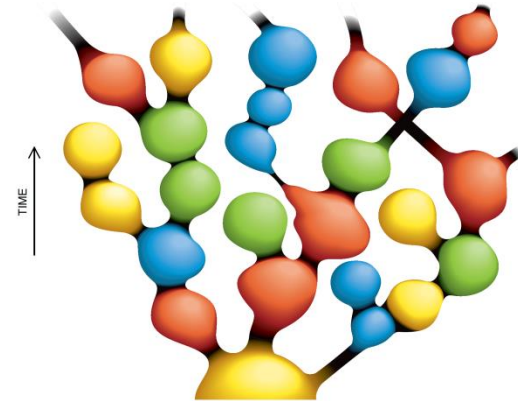
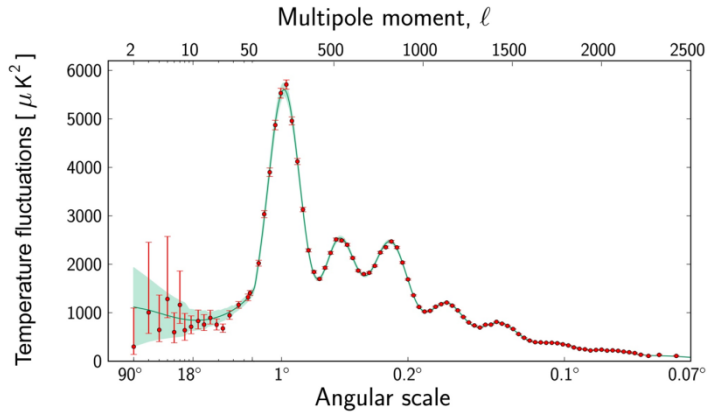
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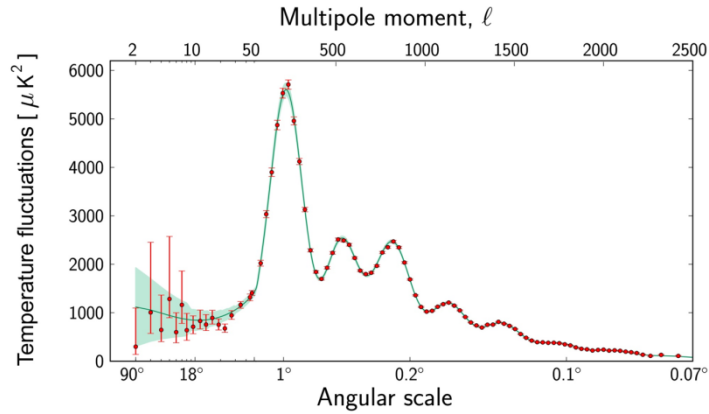
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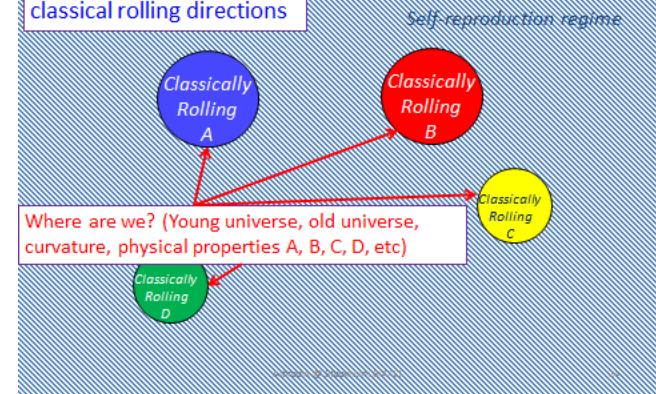
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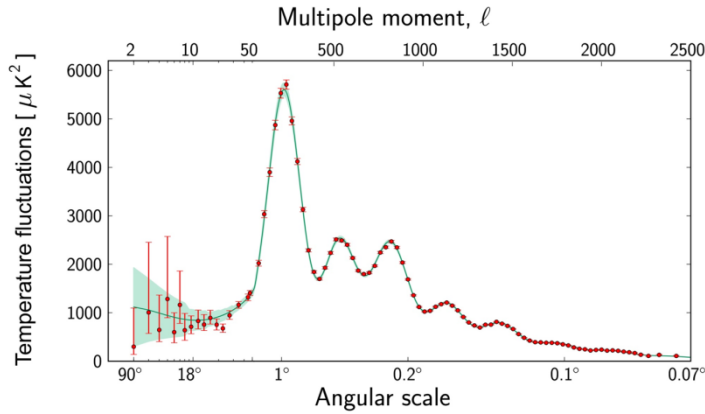


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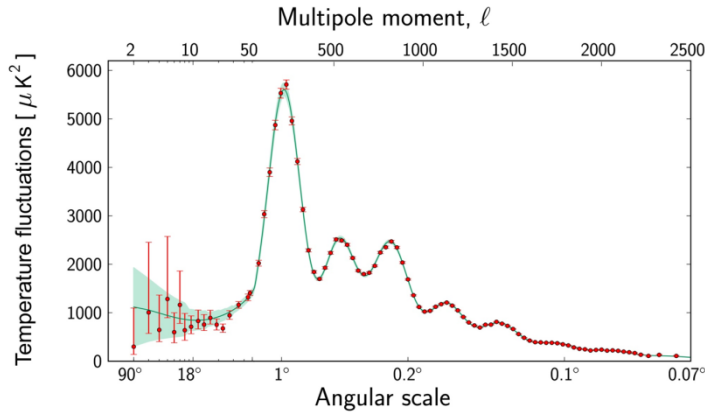
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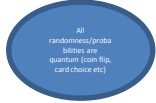
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My history with this topic

AA: All
randomness/
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quantum (coin
flip, card choice
etc)

My history with this topic



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Hartle, Srednicki, Aguirre, Tegmark, ...

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A potential multiverse issue even for finite models

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AA: Write paper explaining this with Phillips

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AA: This is fundamentally about giving permission to dismiss certain probability questions (the non quantum ones) as “ill posed”.

AA: Write paper outlining this
Phillips

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Perhaps this type of discipline can help resolve the measure problems of the multiverse/eternal inflation

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Apparently this type of discipline can ~~help~~ resolve the measure problems of the multiverse/eternal inflation

Outline

- 1) Quantum vs non-quantum probabilities (toy model/multiverse)
- 2) Everyday probabilities
- 3) Be careful about counting!
- 4) Implications for multiverse/eternal inflation

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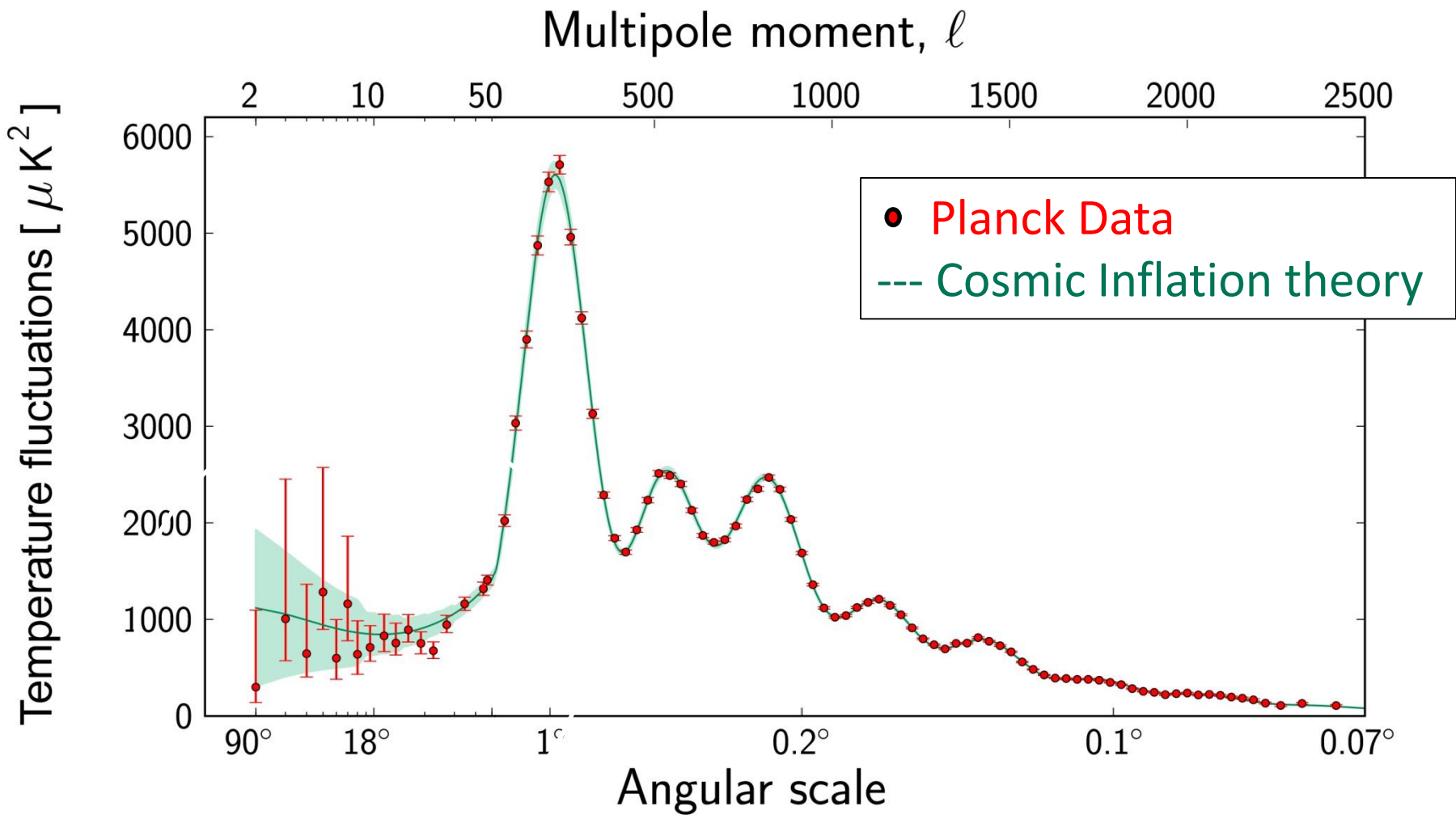
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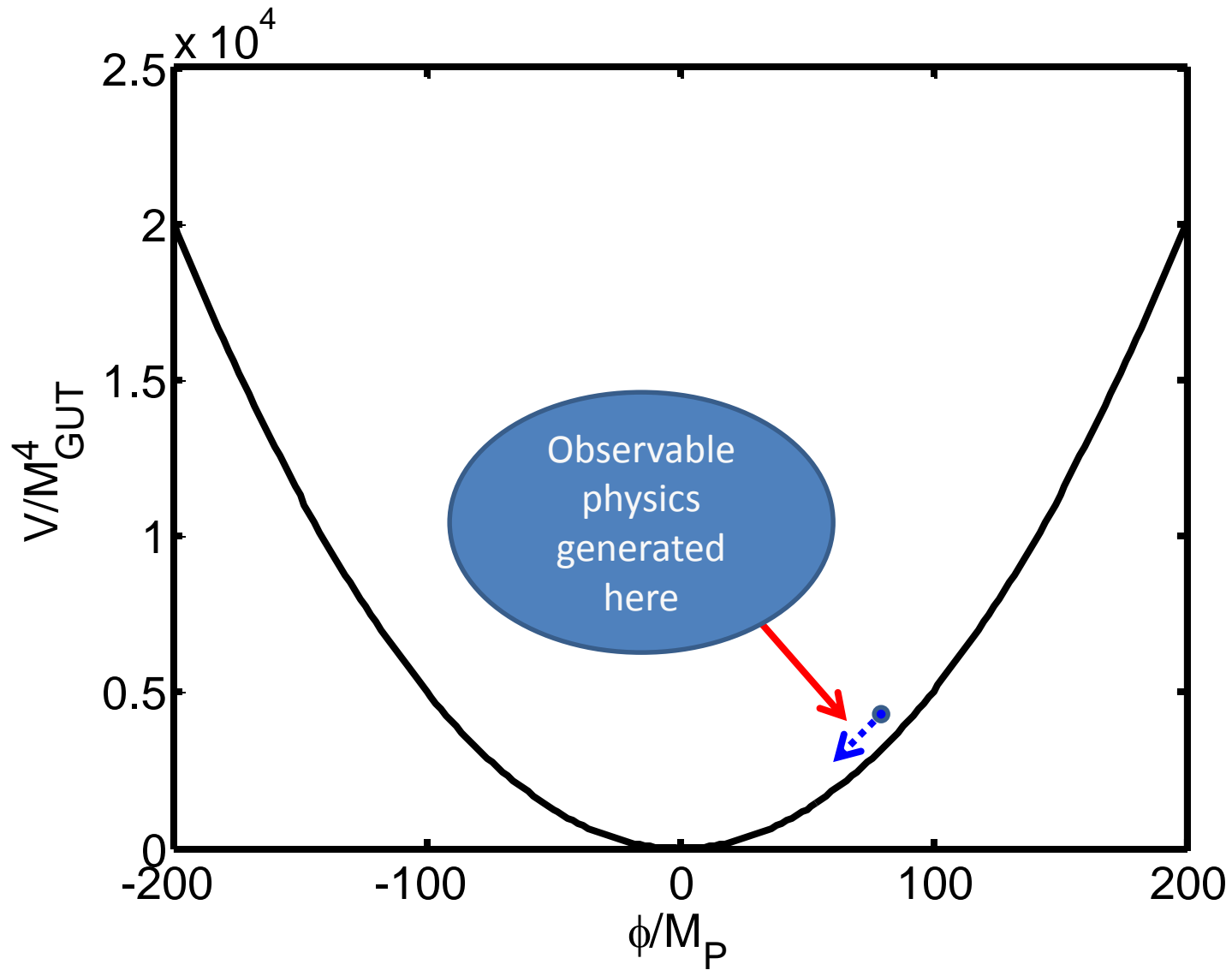
NB: Very different subject from “make probabilities precise” in “Stanford sense”.

Outline

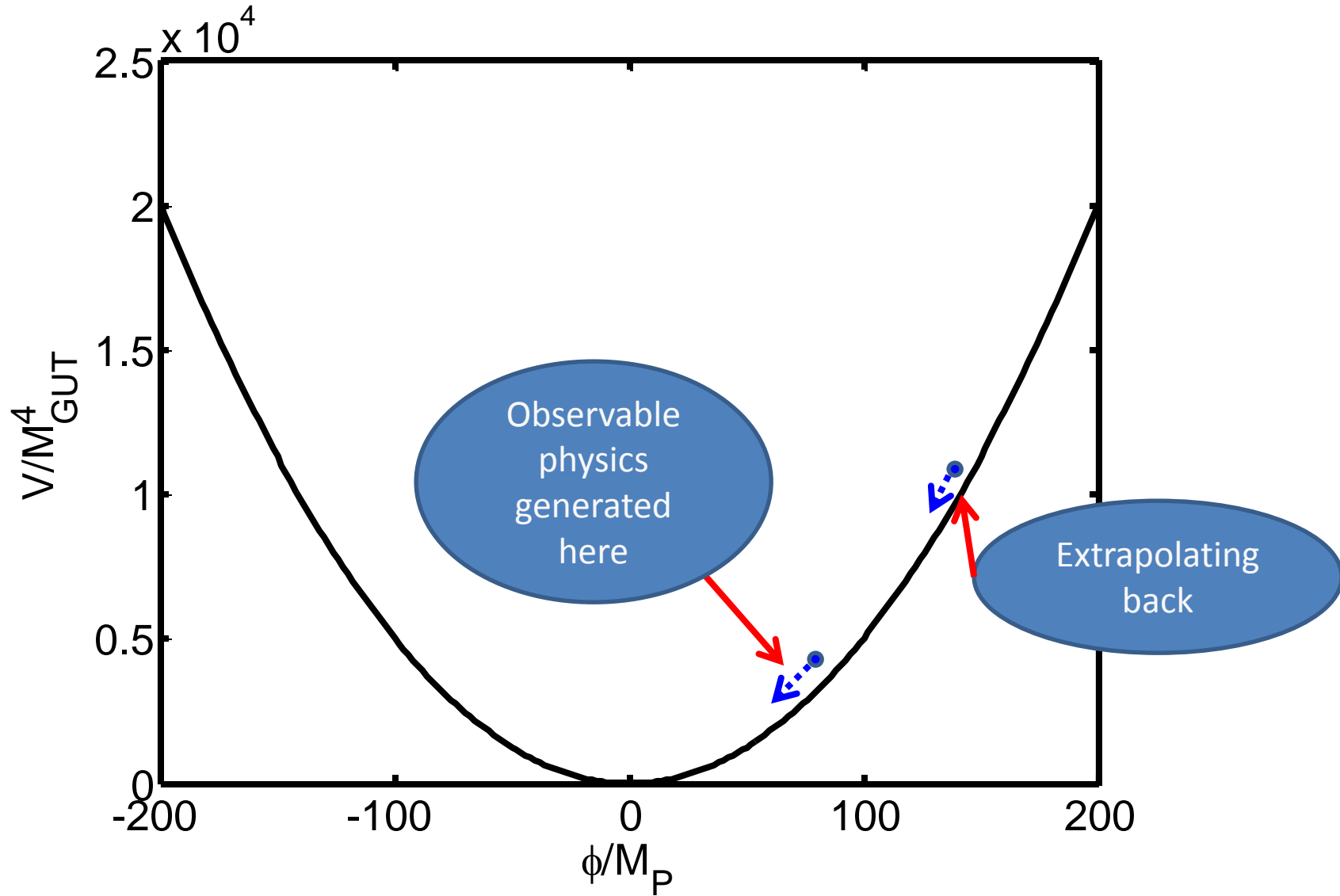
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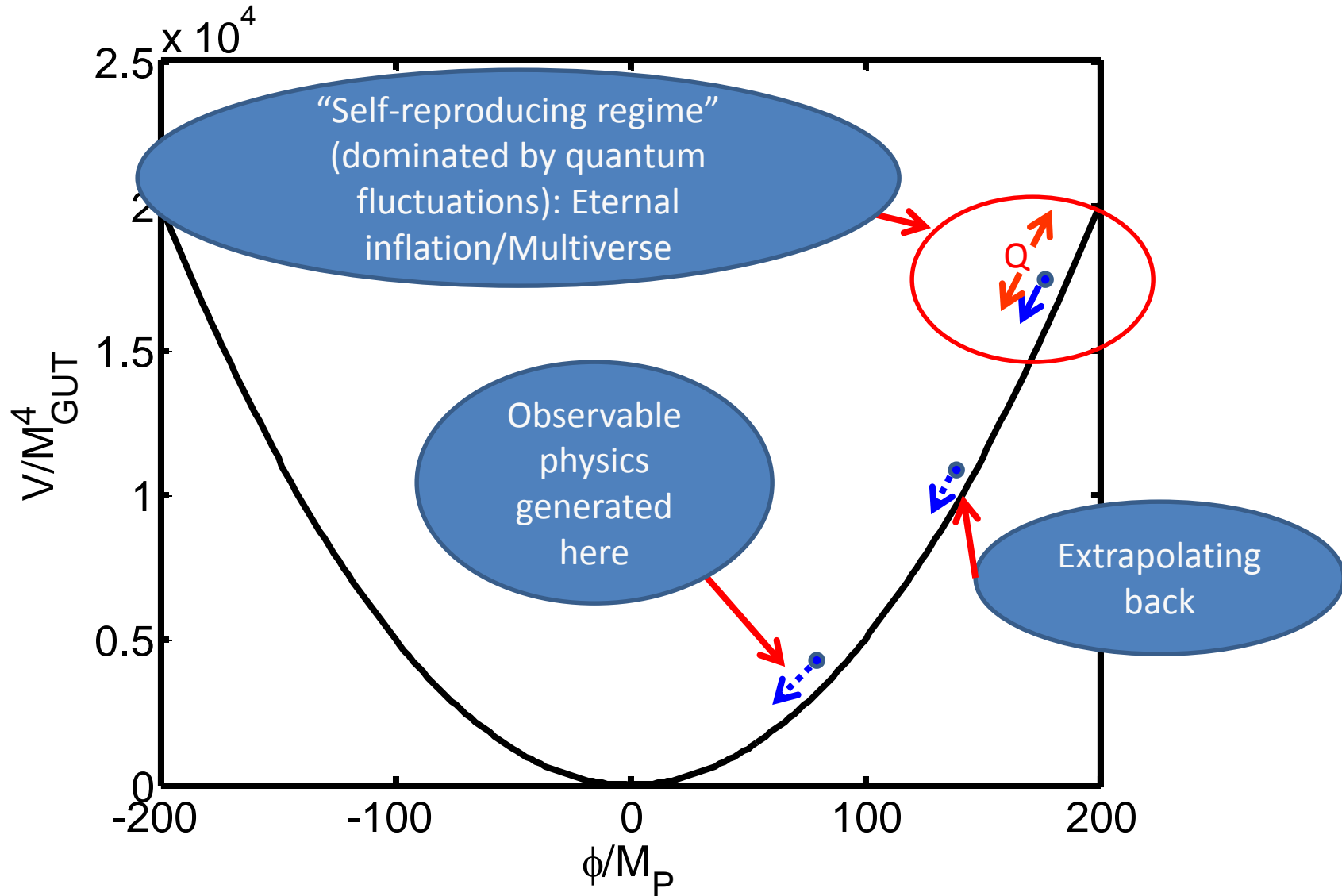
Slow rolling of inflaton



Slow rolling of inflaton

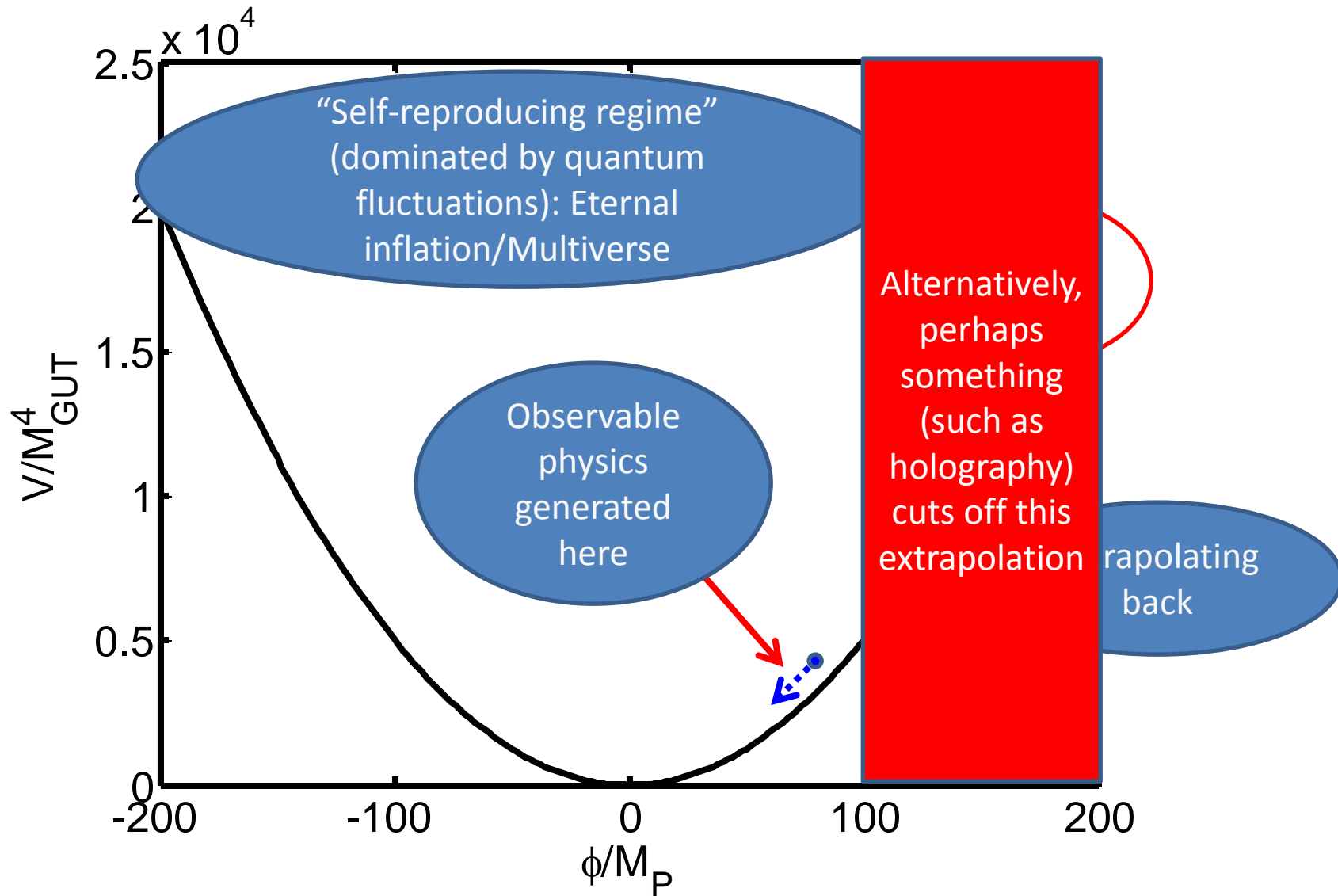


Slow rolling of inflaton



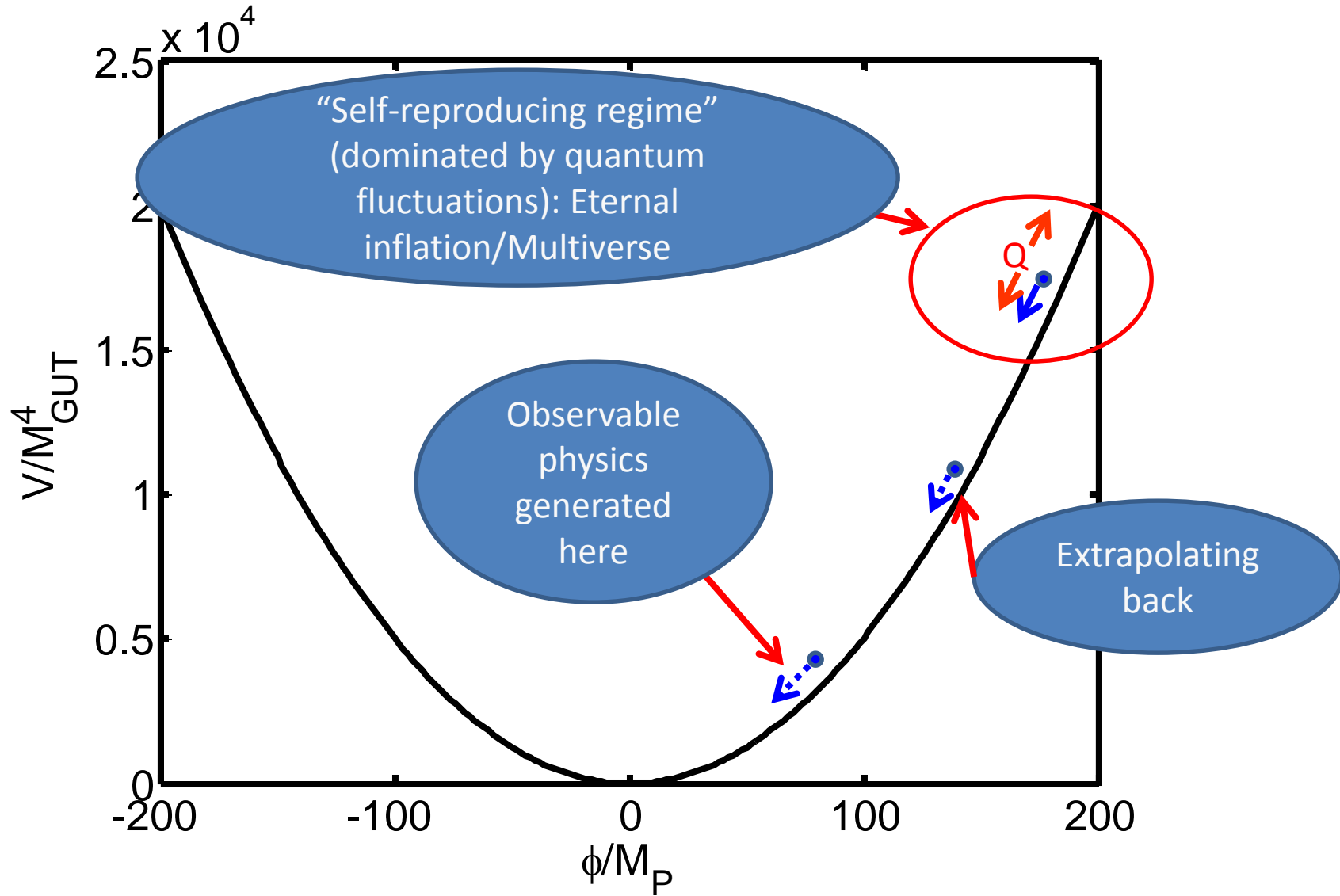
Steinhardt 1982, Linde 1982, Vilenkin 1983, and (then) many others

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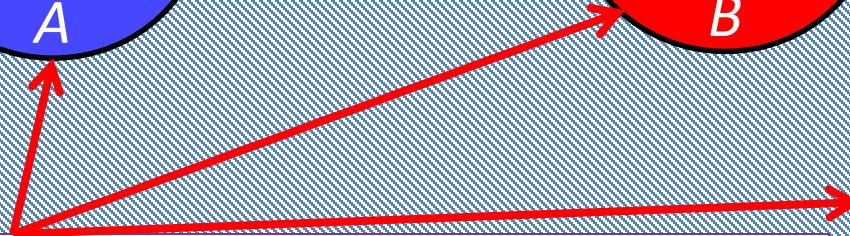
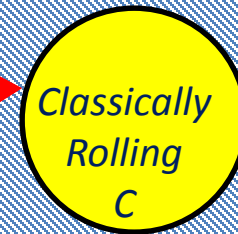
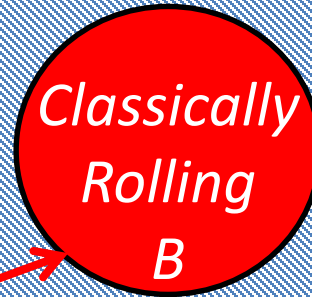
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The multiverse of eternal inflation with multiple classical rolling directions

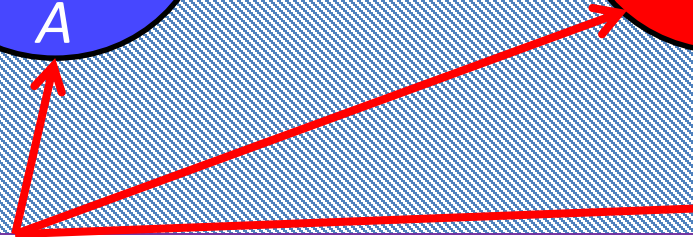
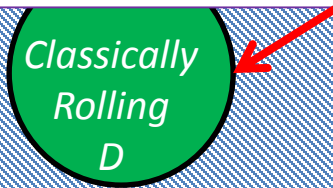
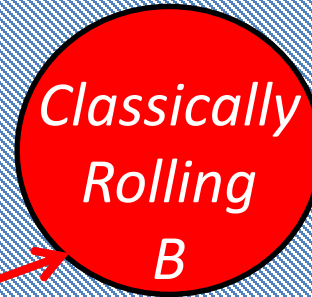
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Self-reproduction regime

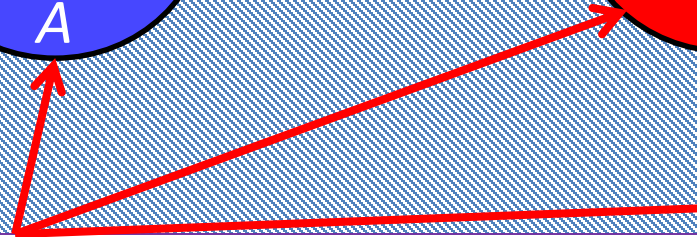
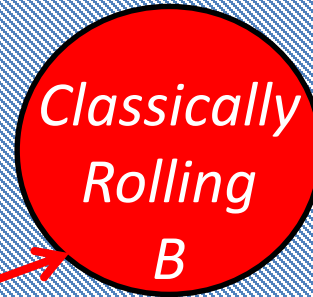


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“Where are we?” →
Expect the theory to give you a probability distribution in this space... hopefully with some sharp predictions

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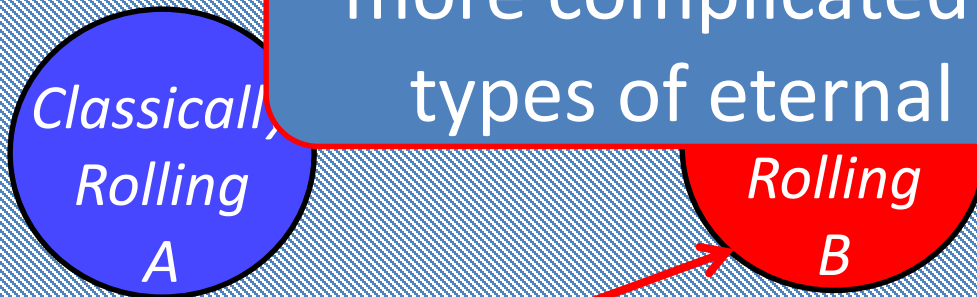


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“Anything that can happen will happen infinitely many times” (A. Guth)

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String theory landscape even more complicated (e.g. many types of eternal inflation)



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Rolling
B

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Classically
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Quantum vs Non-Quantum probabilities

Non-Quantum probabilities in a toy model:

$$U = A \otimes B \quad A: \{|1\rangle^A, |2\rangle^A\} \quad B: \{|1\rangle^B, |2\rangle^B\}$$

$$U: \{|11\rangle, |12\rangle, |21\rangle, |22\rangle\} \quad |ij\rangle \equiv |i\rangle^A |j\rangle^B$$

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Possible Measurements \leftrightarrow Projection operators:

Measure A only: $\hat{P}_i^A = (|i\rangle^A \langle i|) \otimes \mathbf{1}^B = [|i1\rangle \langle i1| + |i2\rangle \langle i2|]$

Measure B only: $\hat{P}_i^B = (|i\rangle^B \langle i|) \otimes \mathbf{1}^A = [|1i\rangle \langle 1i| + |2i\rangle \langle 2i|]$

Measure entire U : $\hat{P}_{ij} \equiv |ij\rangle \langle ij|$

Quantum

BUT: It is impossible to construct a projection operator for the case where you do not know whether it is A or B that is being measured.

Non-Quantum

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Classical Probabilities to measure A, B

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Does not represent a quantum measurement

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elements \leftrightarrow p

Page: The multiverse requires this (are you in pocket universe A or B?)

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Measure entire U:

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Measurements \leftrightarrow Probabilities

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Our *only* experiences with successful practical applications of probabilities are with quantum probabilities

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- One should not use ideas from everyday probabilities to justify probabilities that have been proven to have no quantum origin

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A problem for
many
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AA & D. Phillips 2014

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A problem for
many
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AA & D. Phillips 2014

Quantum

Non-Quantum

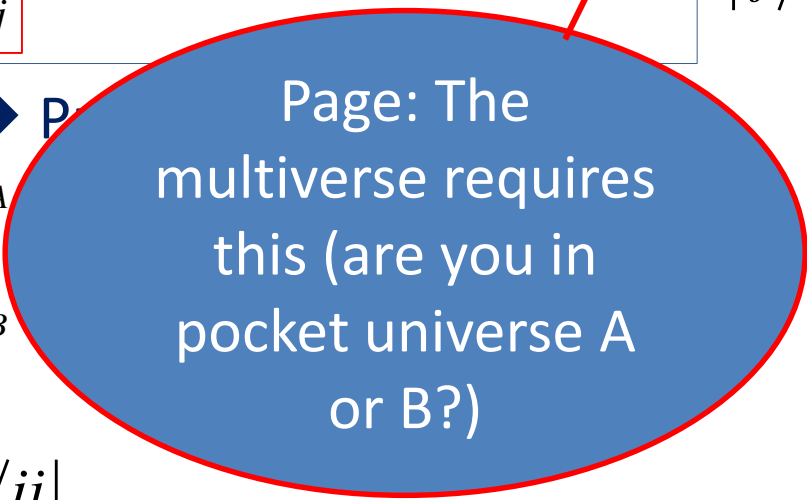
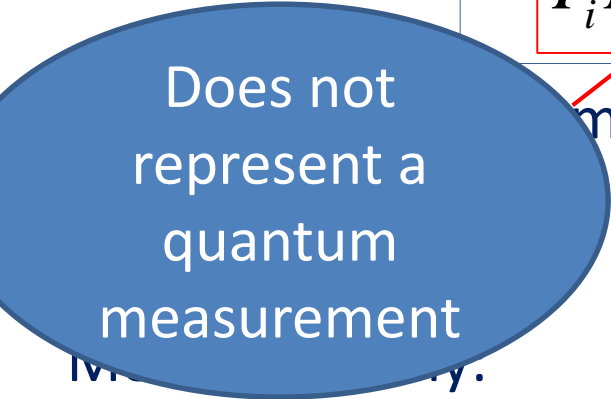
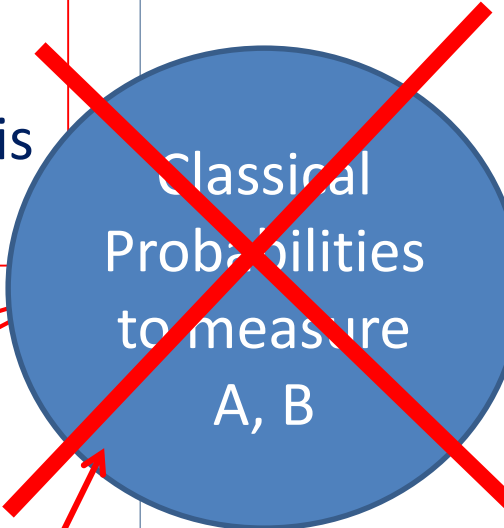
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elements \leftrightarrow p

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Classical Probabilities to measure A, B

Where do these come from anyway?

Does not represent a quantum measurement

elements \leftrightarrow p

Page: The multiverse requires this (are you in pocket universe A or B?)

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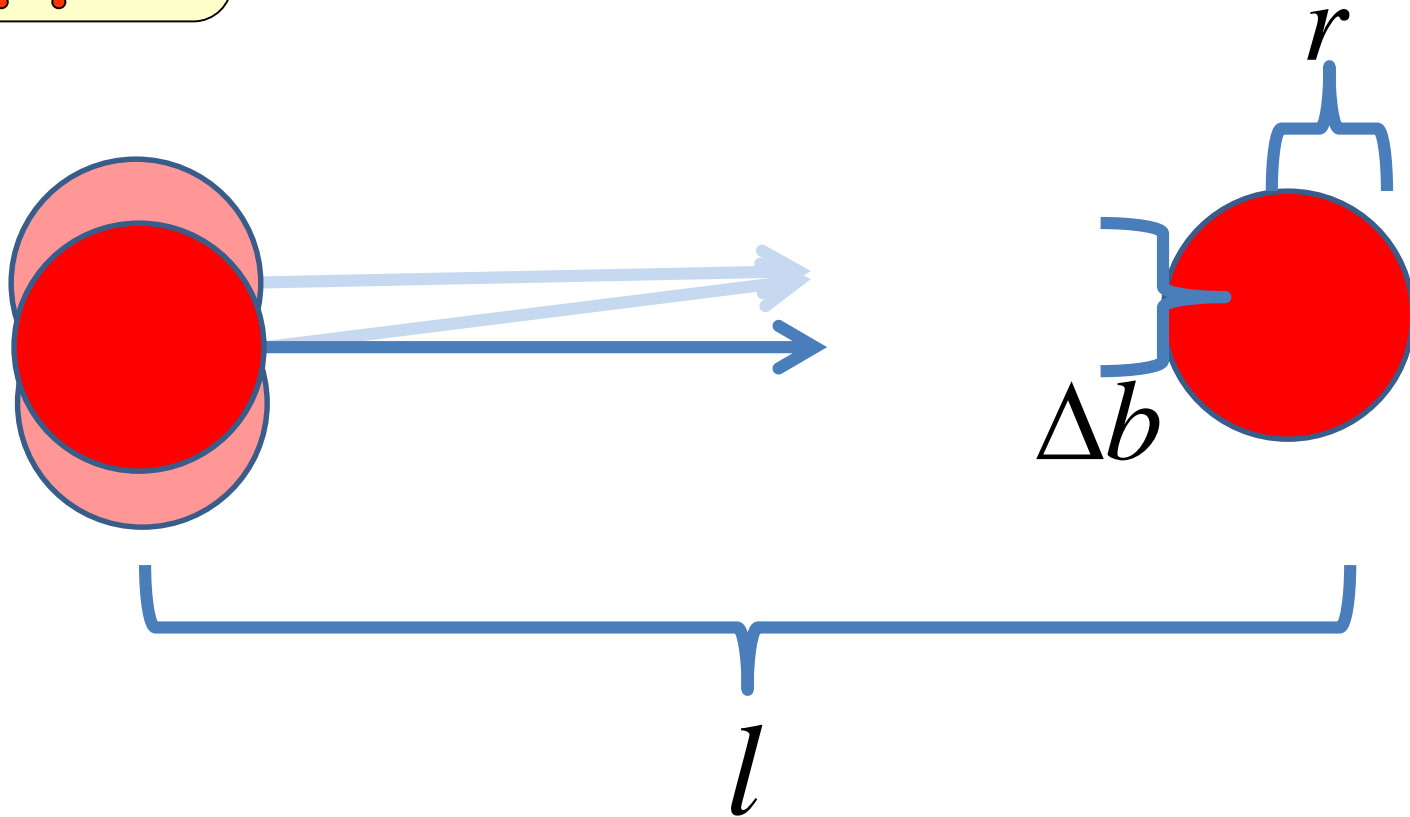
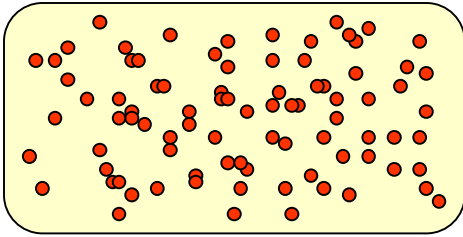
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- 3) Be careful about counting!
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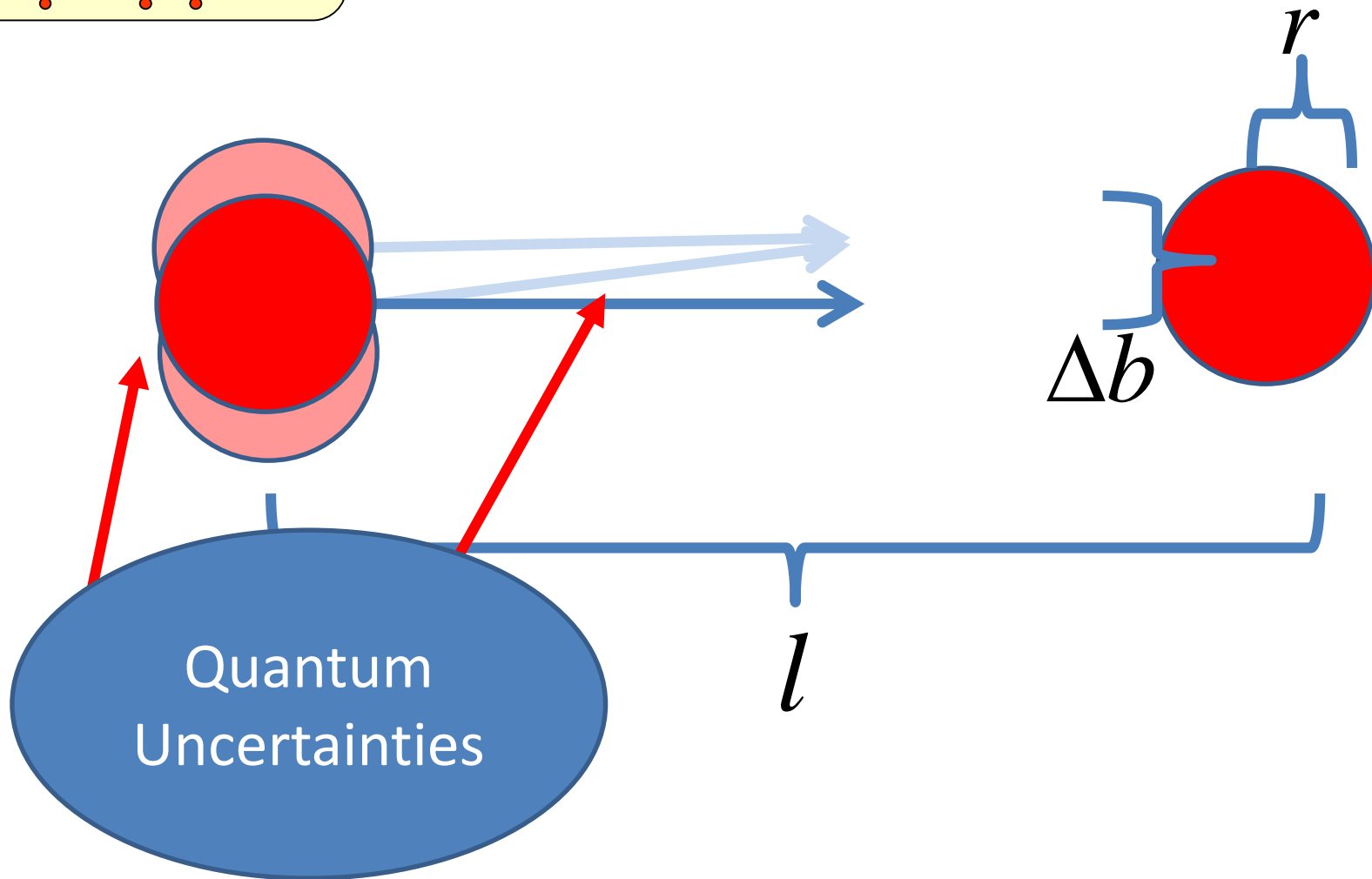
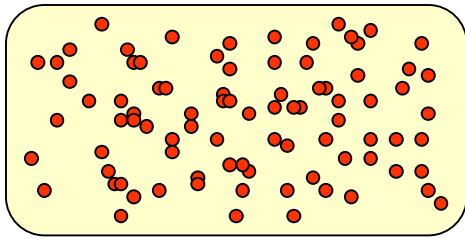
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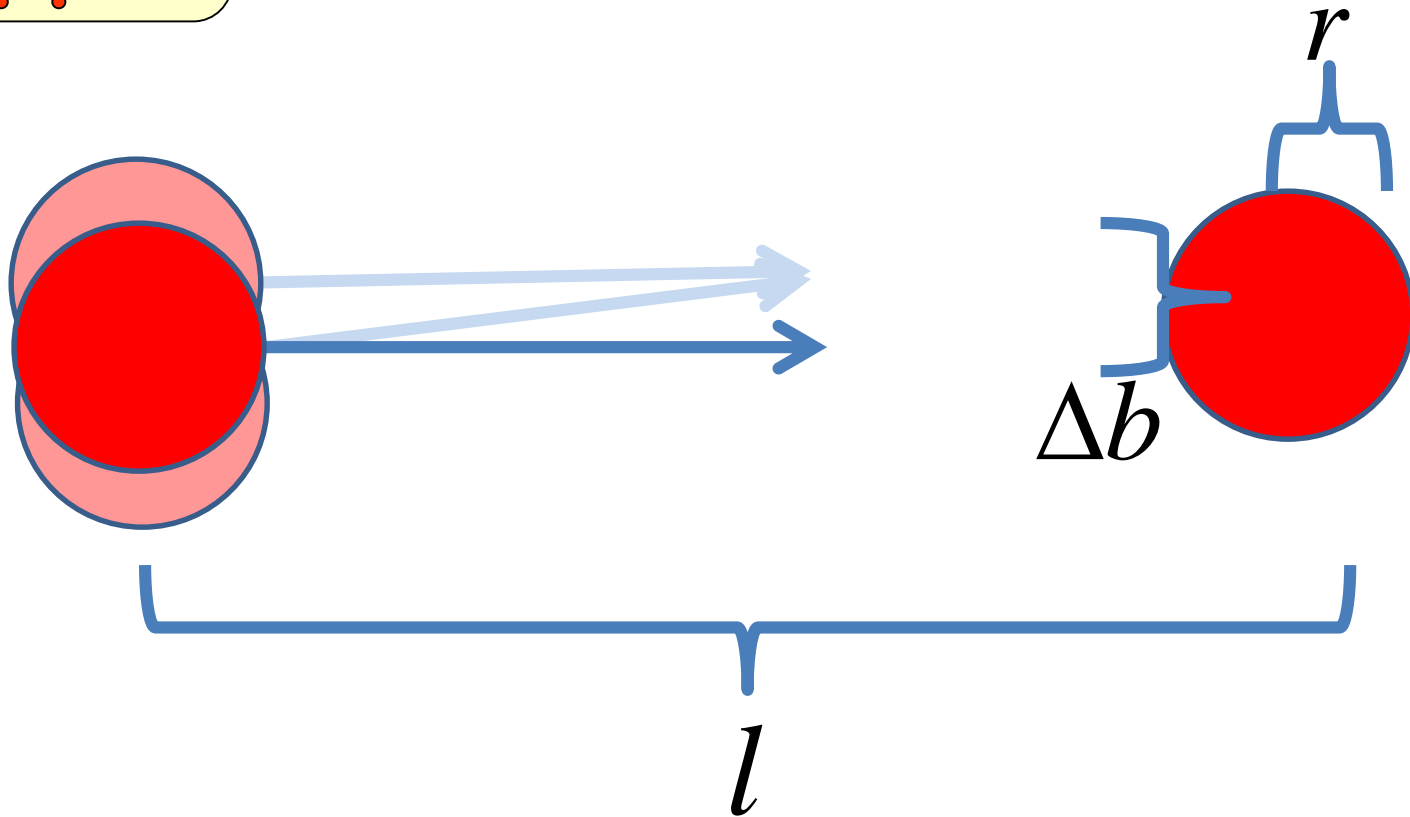
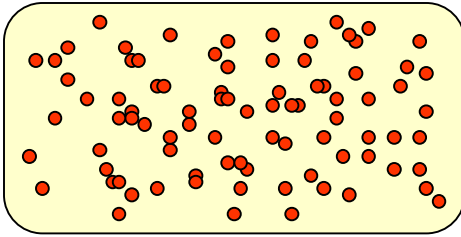
Quantum effects in a billiard gas



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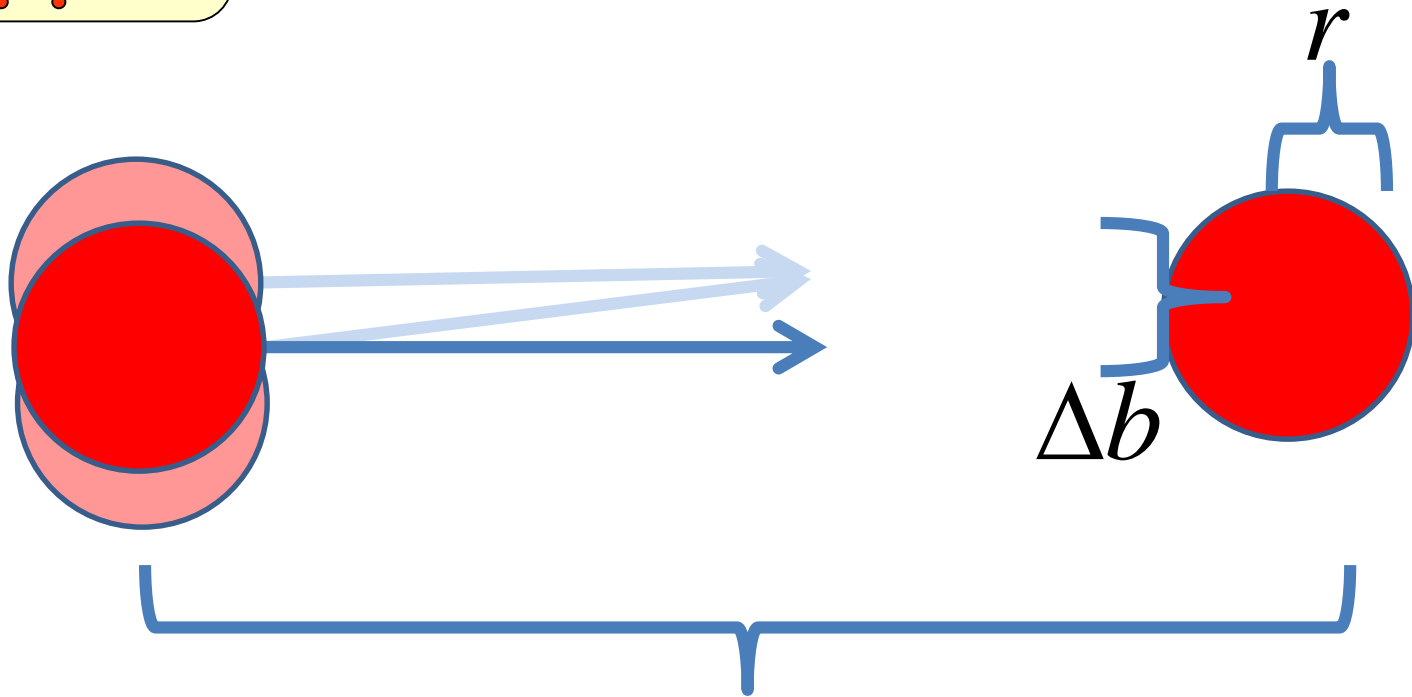
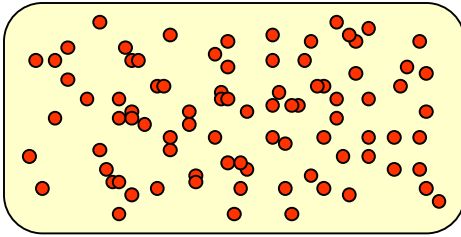


Quantum effects in a billiard gas



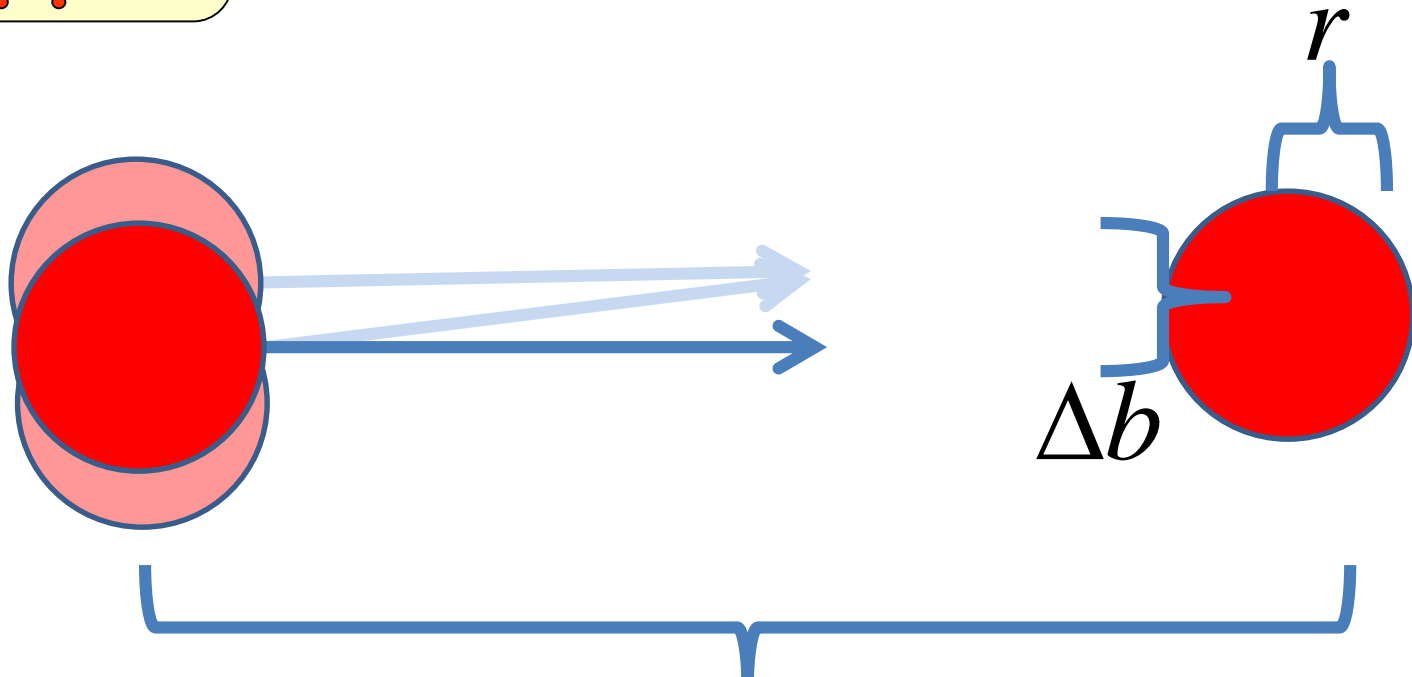
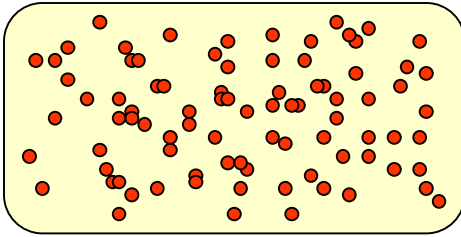
$$\Delta b = \delta x_{\perp} + \frac{\delta p_{\perp}}{m} \Delta t$$

Quantum effects in a billiard gas



$$\Delta b = \delta x_{\perp} + \frac{\delta p_{\perp}}{m} \Delta t = \sqrt{2} \left(a + \frac{\hbar}{2a} \frac{l}{m \bar{v}} \right) \psi \propto \exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{2a^2}\right)$$

Quantum effects in a billiard gas

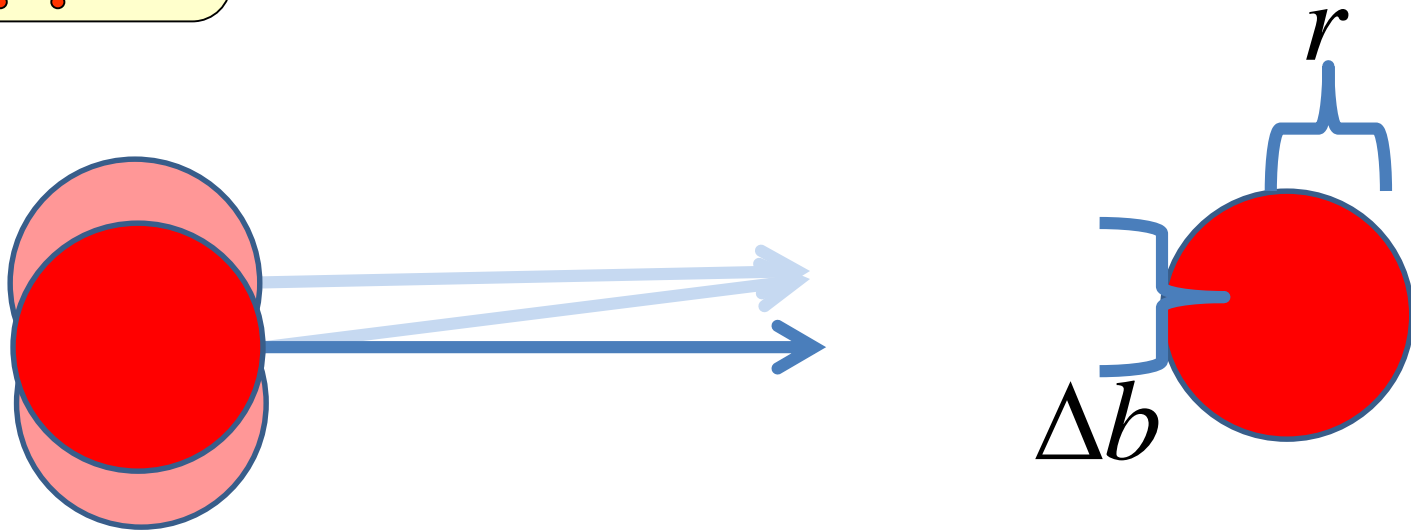
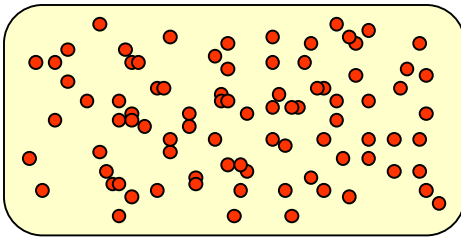


$$\Delta b = \delta x_{\perp} + \frac{\delta p_{\perp}}{m} \Delta t = \sqrt{2} \left(a + \frac{\hbar}{2a} \frac{l}{m\bar{v}} \right)$$

$$\psi \propto \exp\left(\frac{-x^2}{2a^2}\right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{min}} 2^{3/2} \left(\frac{\hbar l}{2m\bar{v}} \right) \equiv \sqrt{l \lambda_{dB}} / 2$$

Quantum effects in a billiard gas



Minimizing \rightarrow conservative estimates for my purposes (also motivated by decoherence in some cases)

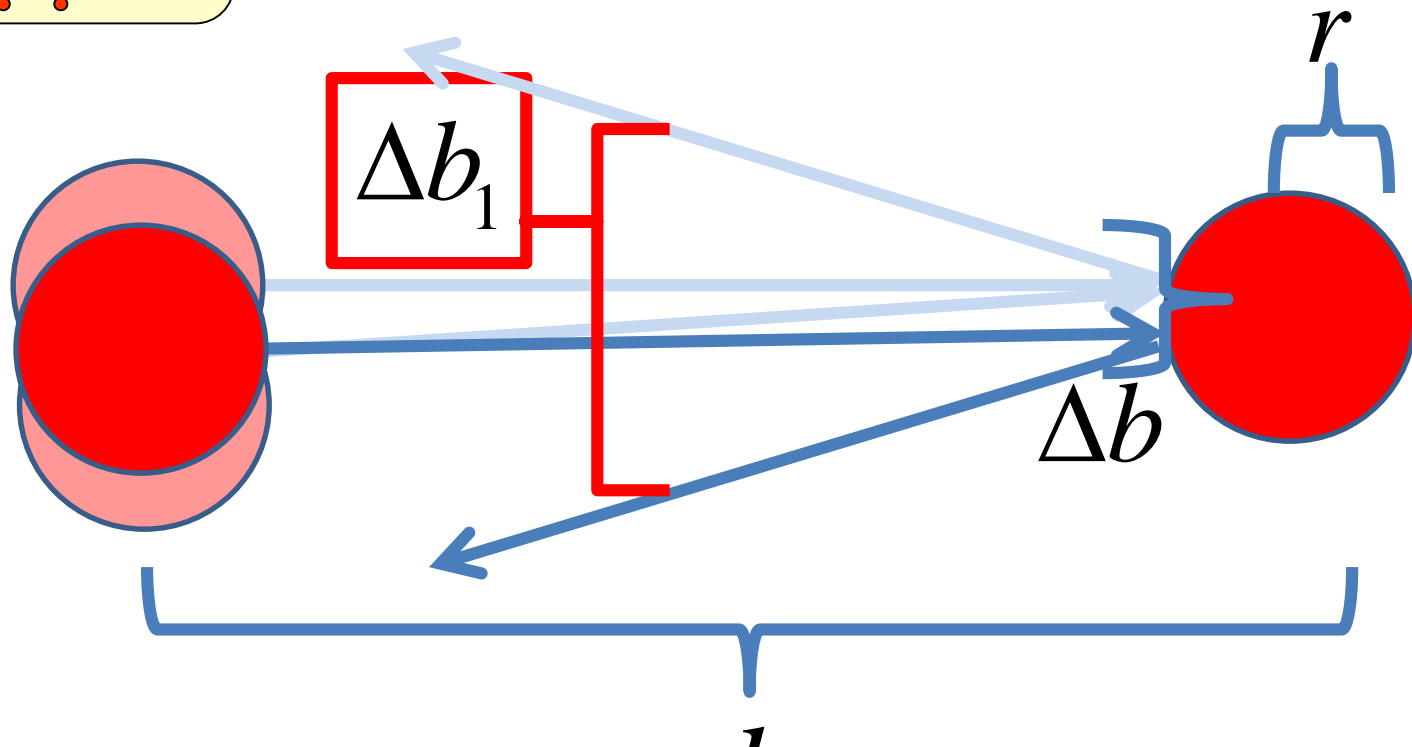
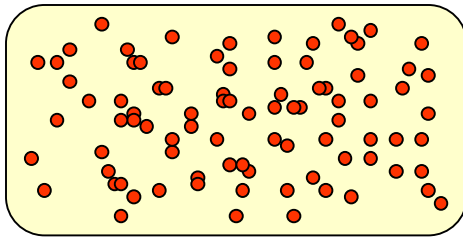
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Albrecht @ Stockholm 6/4/15

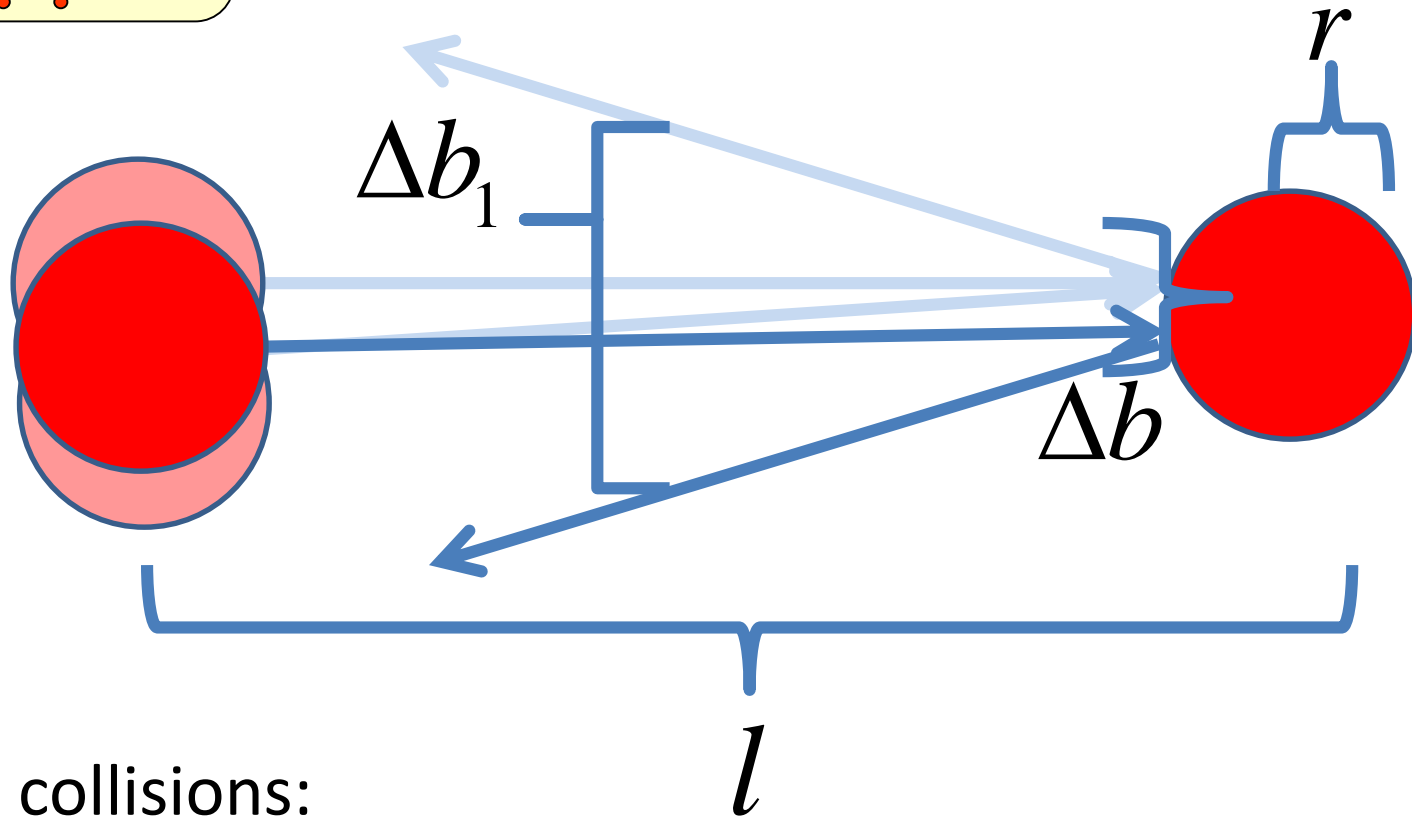
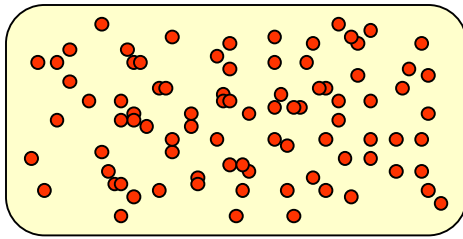
$$\left(\frac{-x^2}{2a^2} \right)$$

Quantum effects in a billiard gas



Subsequent collisions amplify the initial uncertainty
(treat later collisions classically → additional
conservatism)

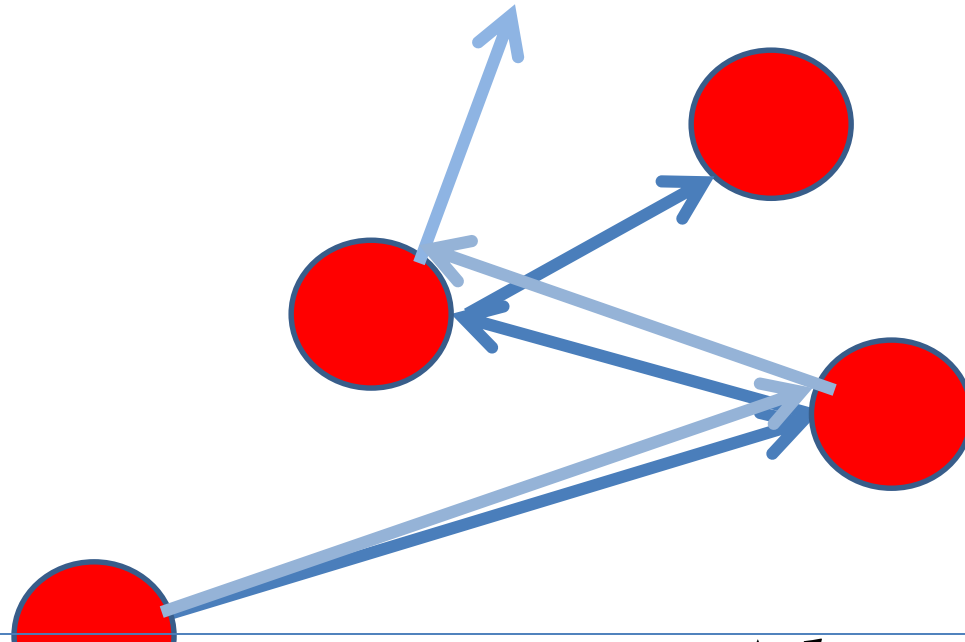
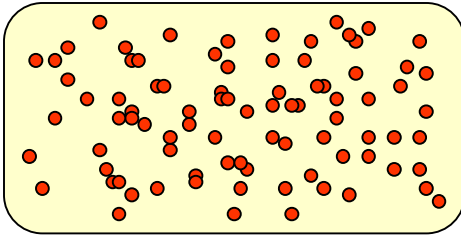
Quantum effects in a billiard gas



After n collisions:

$$\Delta b_n = \Delta b \left(1 + 2l / r\right)^n$$

Quantum effects in a billiard gas



n_Q is the number of collisions so that $\Delta b_{n_Q} = r$

(full quantum uncertainty as to which is the next collision)

$$n_Q = - \frac{\log\left(\frac{\Delta b}{r}\right)}{\log\left(1 + \frac{2l}{r}\right)}$$

n_Q for a number of physical systems

(all units MKS)

| | r | l | m | \bar{v} | λ_{dB} | Δb | n_Q |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|----------------|------------|-------|
| Air | | | | | | | |
| Water | | | | | | | |
| Billiards | | | | | | | |
| Bumper Car | | | | | | | |

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| Bumper Car | 1 | 2 | 150 | 0.5 | 1.4×10^{-36} | 3.4×10^{-18} | 25 |



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Quantum at every collision



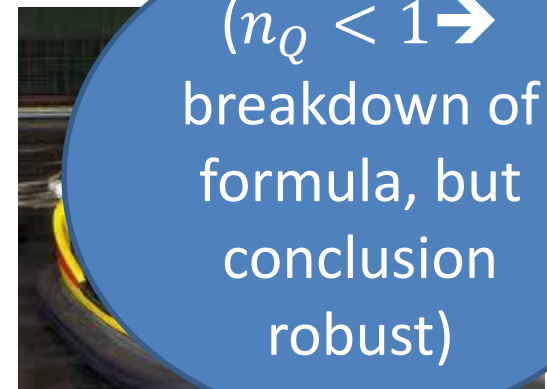
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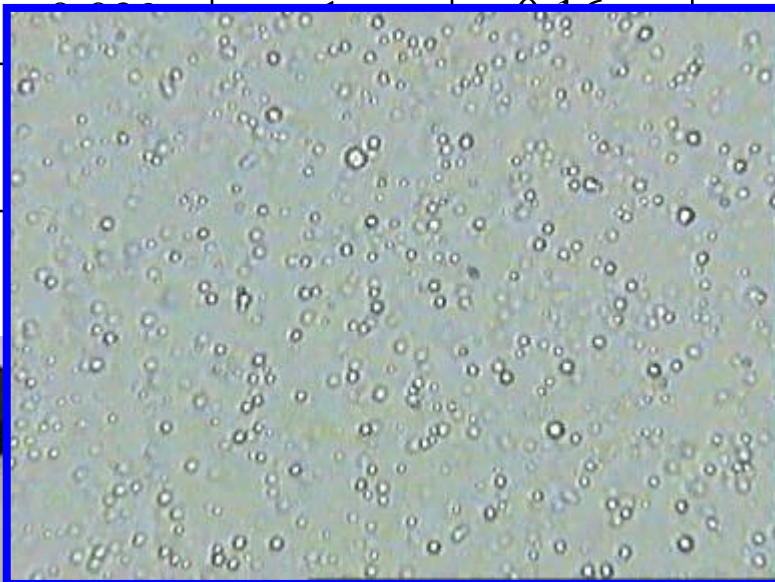
$(n_Q < 1 \rightarrow$
breakdown of
formula, but
conclusion
robust)



n_Q for a number of physical systems

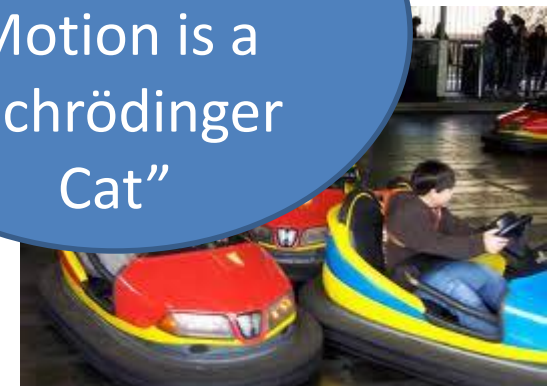
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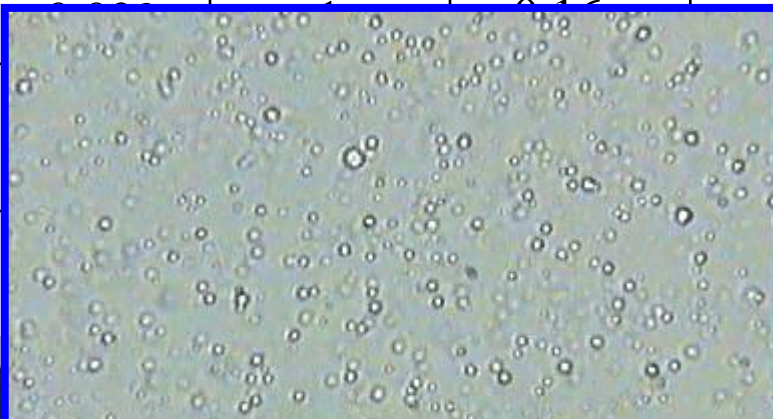
Every Brownian Motion is a "Schrödinger Cat"



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Quantum at every collision

Every Brownian Motion is a "Schrödinger"

(independent of "interpretation")



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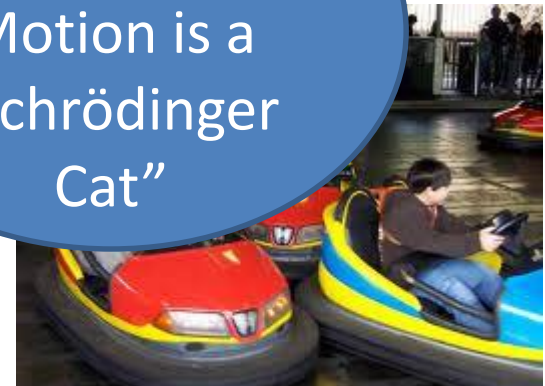
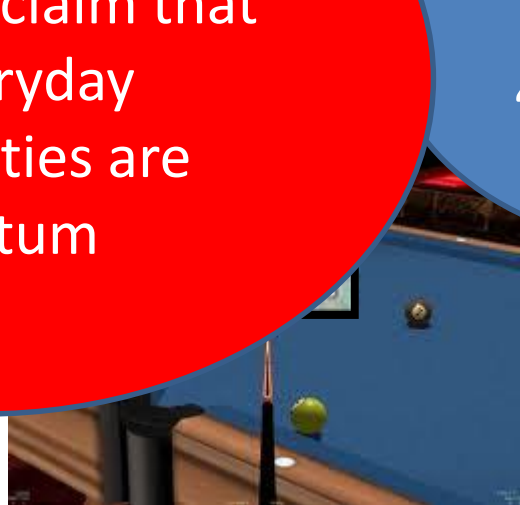
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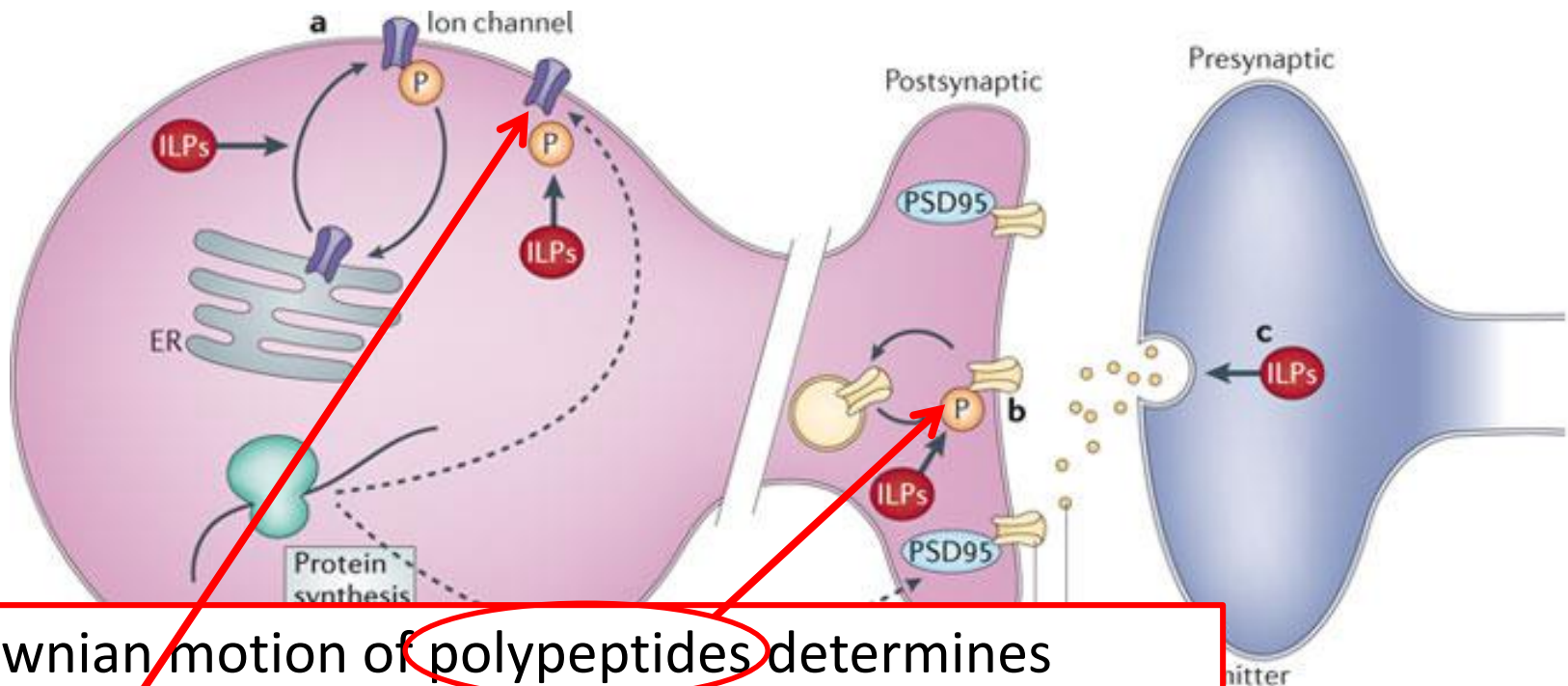
This result is at the root of our claim that all everyday probabilities are quantum

Every Brownian Motion is a "Schrödinger Cat"

Quantum at every collision



An important role for Brownian motion: Uncertainty in neuron transmission times



Brownian motion of polypeptides determines exactly how many of them are blocking ion channels in neurons at any given time. This is believed to be the dominant source of neuron transmission time uncertainties $\delta t_n \approx 1ms$

Analysis of coin flip

$$\delta t_f = \delta t_n \times \left(\frac{v_h}{v_h + v_f} \right)$$

$$\delta t_t = \sqrt{2} \delta t_f$$

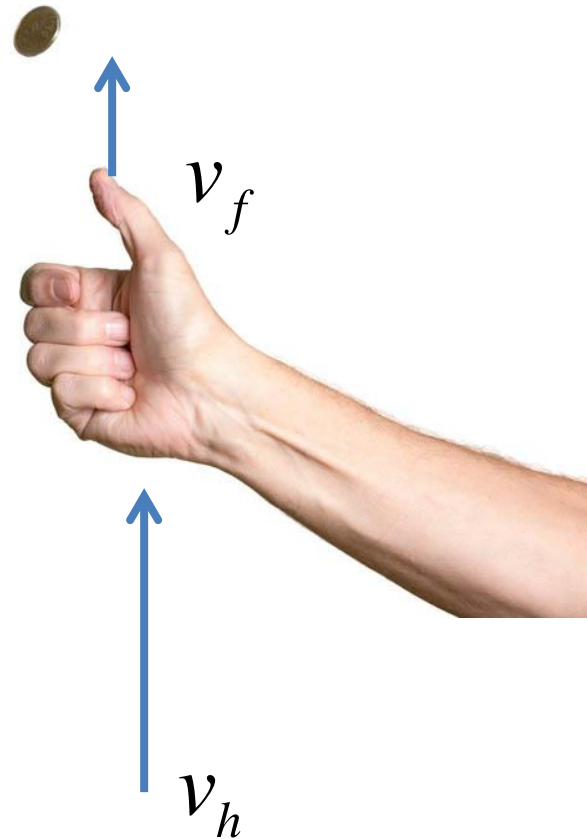
$$f = \frac{4v_f}{\pi d}$$

$$\delta N = f \delta t_t = 0.5$$

Using:

$$\delta t_n \approx 1 \text{ms} \quad v_h = v_f = 5 \text{m/s}$$

$$d = 0.01 \text{m}$$



Coin diameter = d

Analysis of coin flip

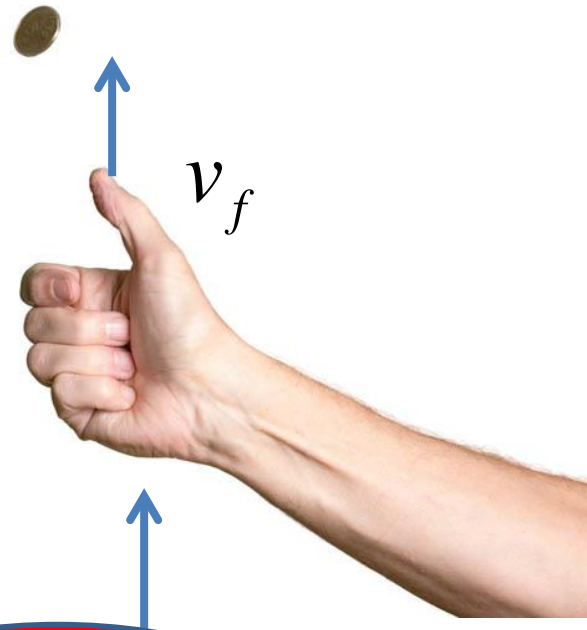
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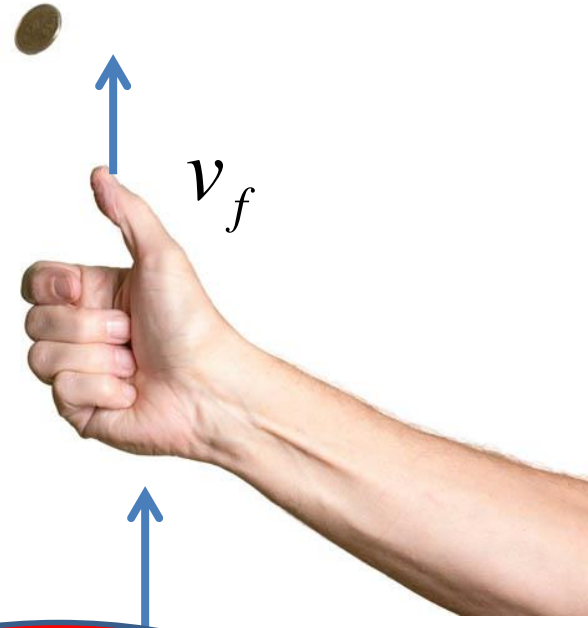
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50-50 coin flip probabilities are a derivable quantum result

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Using Without reference
to “principle of
indifference” etc.
etc.

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NB: Coin flip is “at the margin” of deterministic vs random: Increasing d or decreasing v_h can reduce δN substantially

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Still, this is a good illustration of how quantum uncertainties can filter up into the macroscopic world, for systems that *are* random.

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Physical probabilities vs “probabilities of belief”

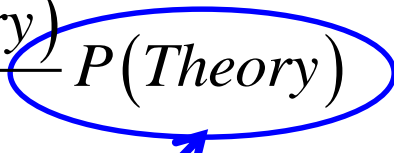
Physical probability: To do with physical properties of detector etc

Bayes:

$$P(\textit{Theory} | \textit{Data}) = \frac{P(\textit{Data} | \textit{Theory})}{P(\textit{Data})} P(\textit{Theory})$$


Physical probabilities vs “probabilities of belief”

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Probabilities of belief:

- Which data you trust most
- Which theory you like best

Physical probabilities vs “probabilities of belief”

This talk is about physical probability only

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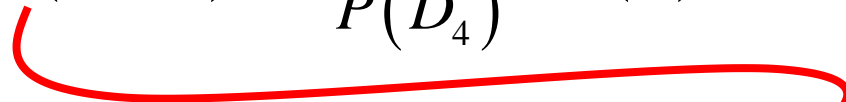
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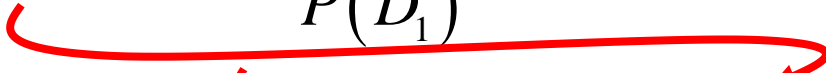
Adding new data (theory priors can include earlier data sets):

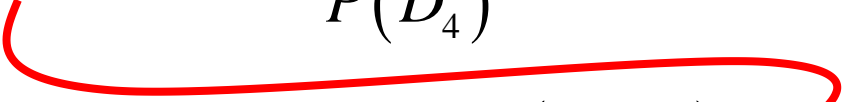


$$P_4(T | D_4) = \frac{P(D_4 | T)}{P(D_4)} P_3(T)$$

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Physical probabilities vs “probabilities of belief”

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Some further thoughts:

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- Special relationship to cosmic structure from inflation: “probability censorship”
- A counterexample: Betting on the digits of Pi (Not!)
- Compare with classical computer
- Compare with color:



Outline

- 1) Quantum vs non-quantum probabilities (toy model/multiverse)
- 2) Everyday probabilities
- 3) Be careful about counting!
- 4) Implications for multiverse/eternal inflation

Outline

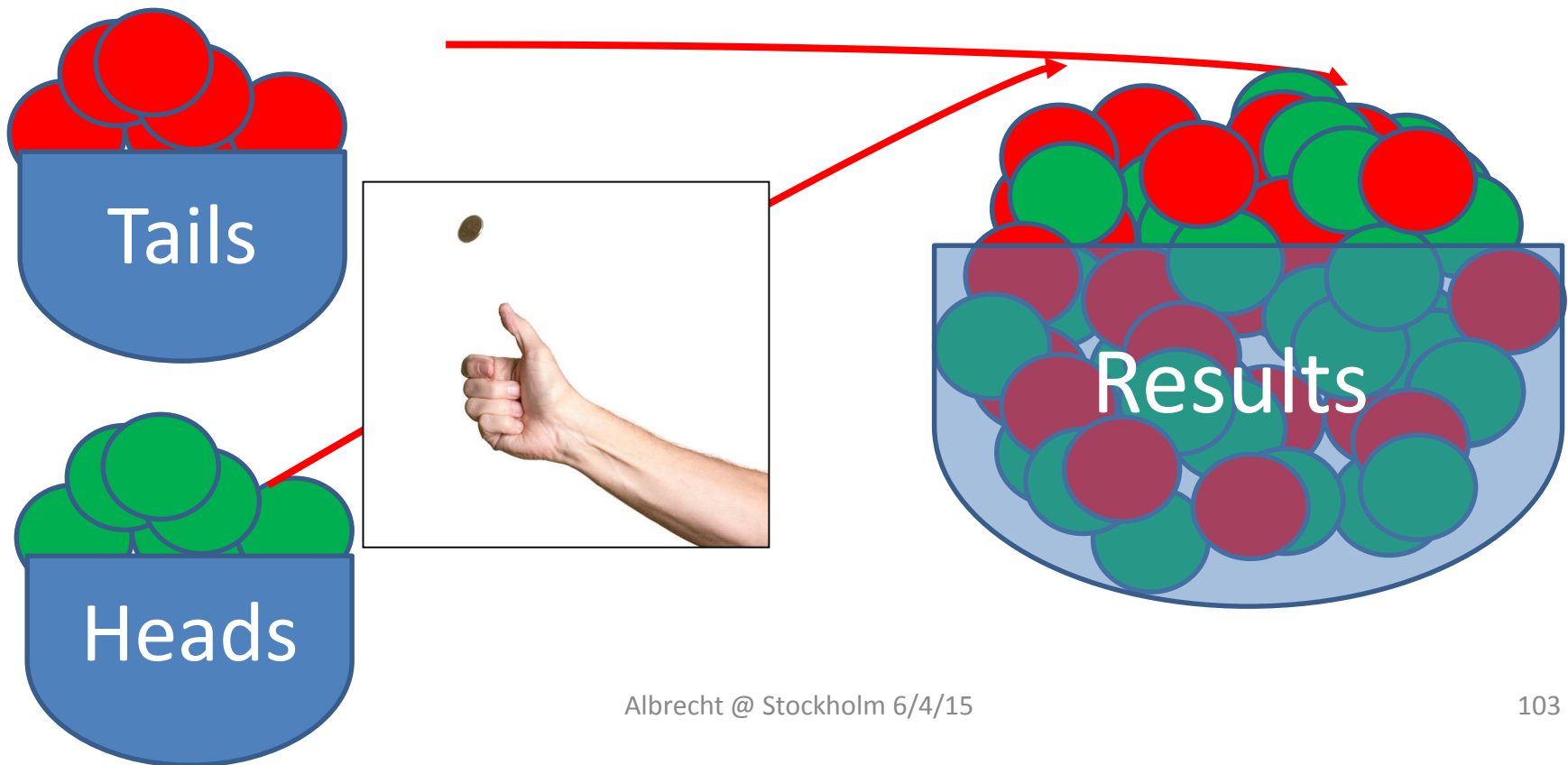
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Central message:

- “Randomness is (quantum) physics”
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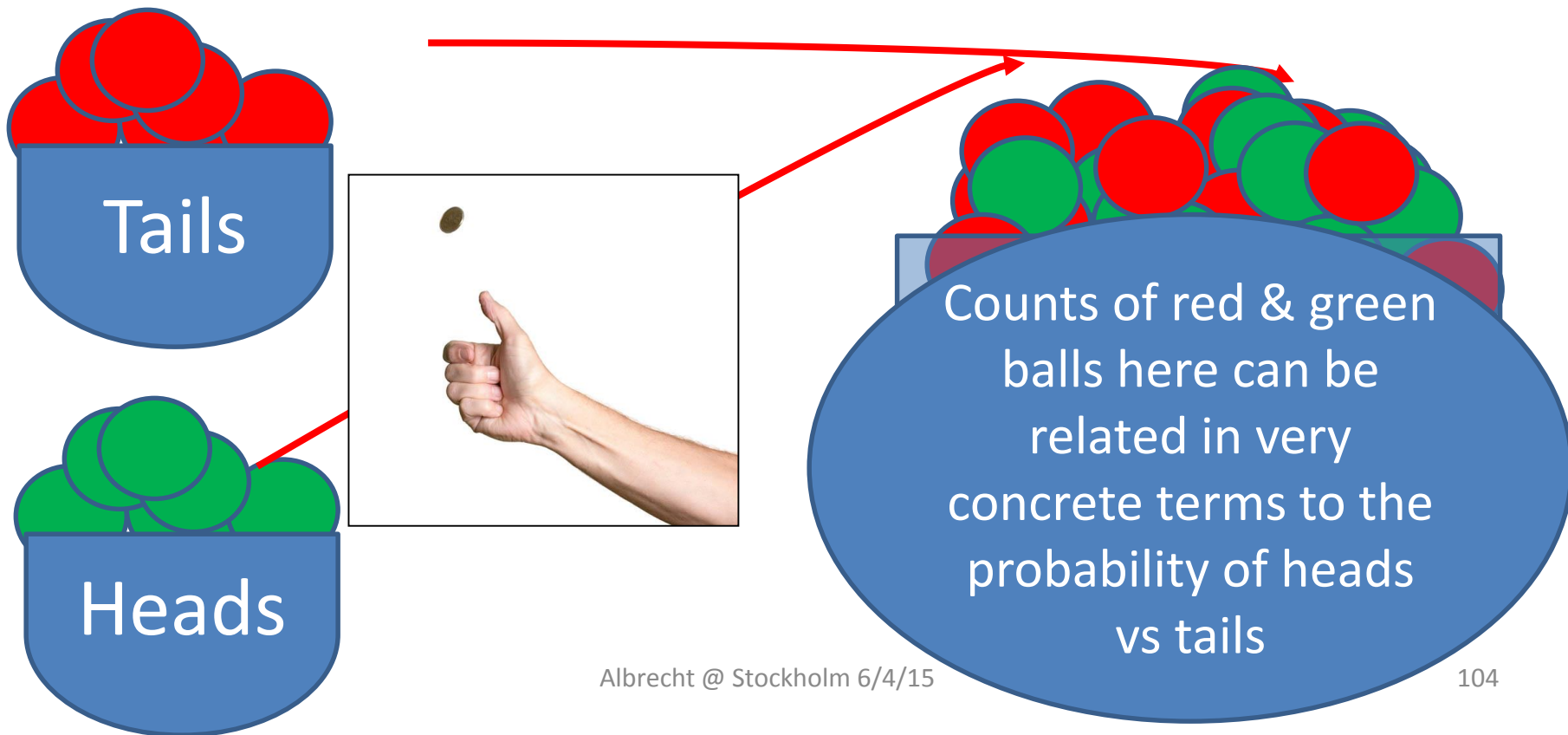
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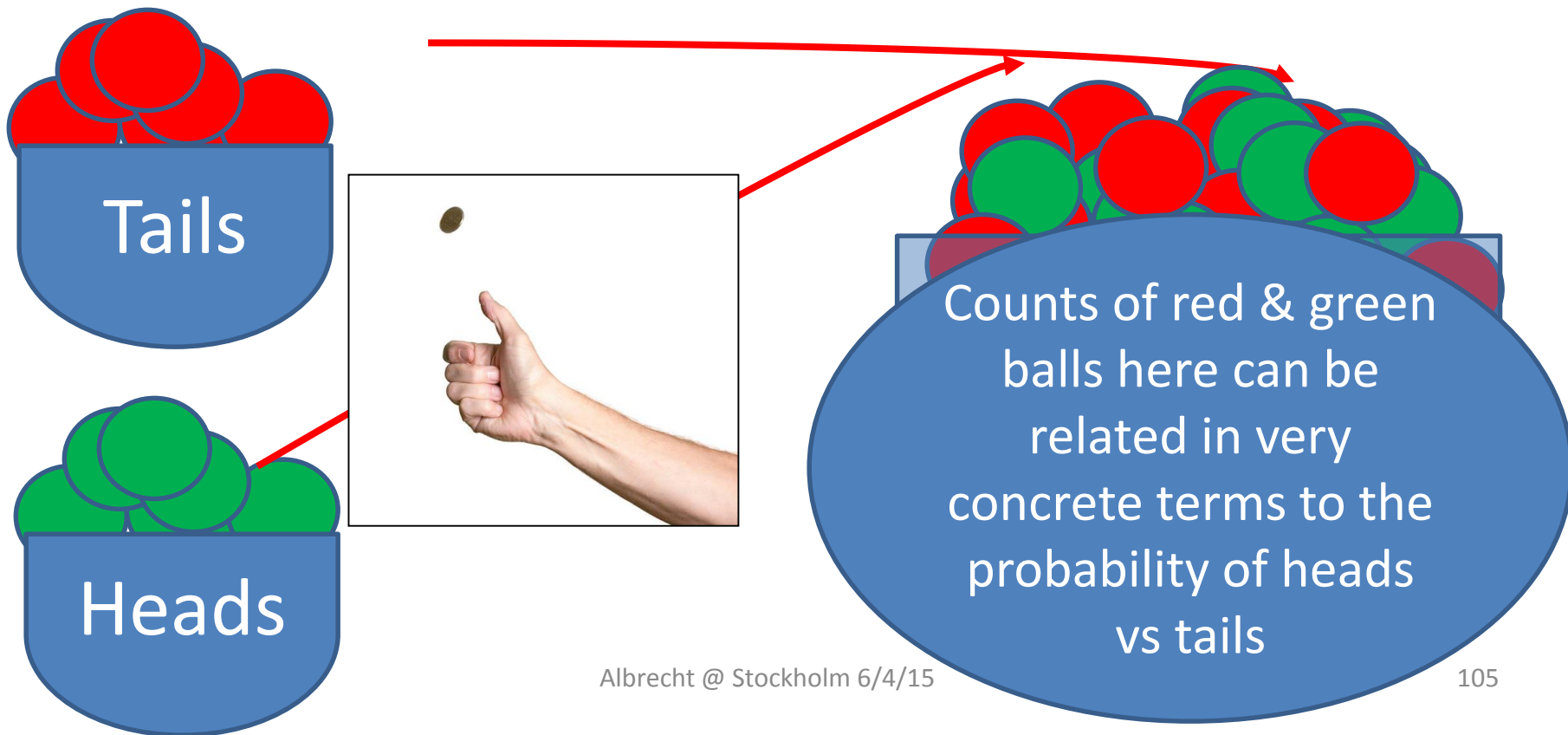
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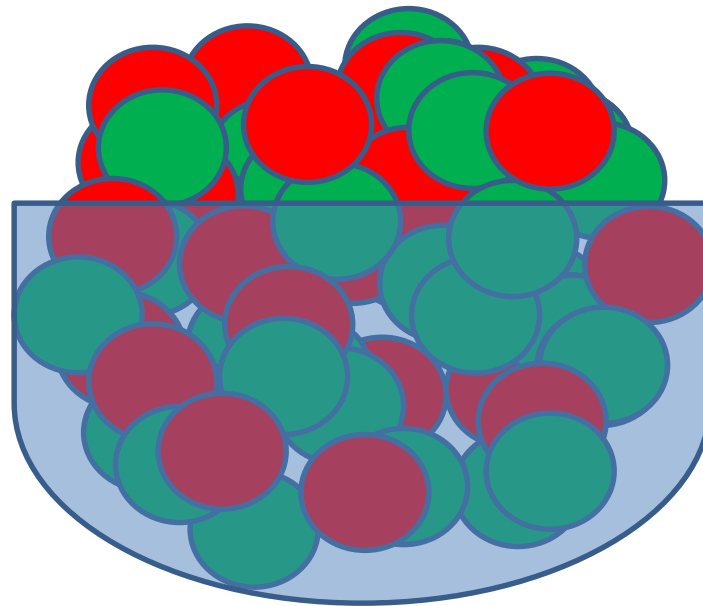


Central message:

- “Randomness is (quantum) physics”
- Counting may or MAY NOT have a role in inferring or representing physical randomness
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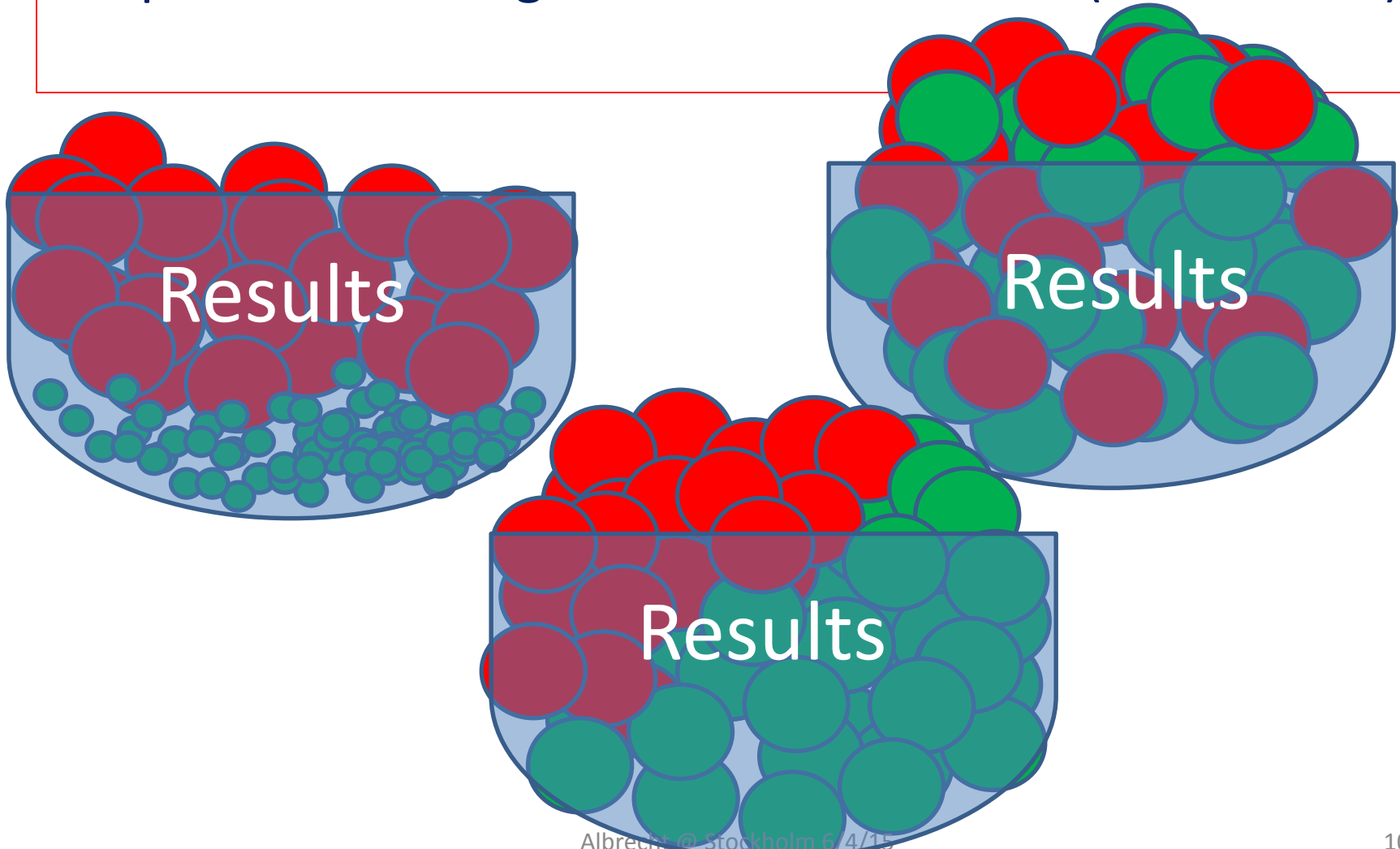


Now ask: What is the probability that a ball drawn from the “Results” bowl is red?



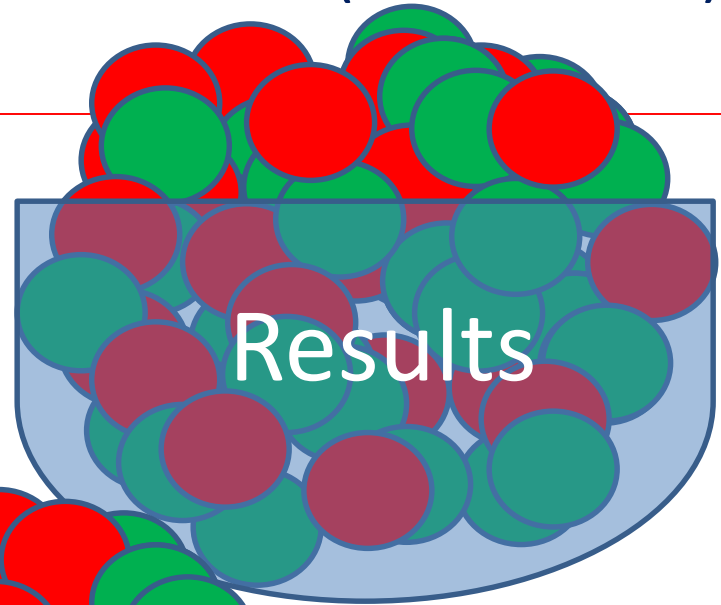
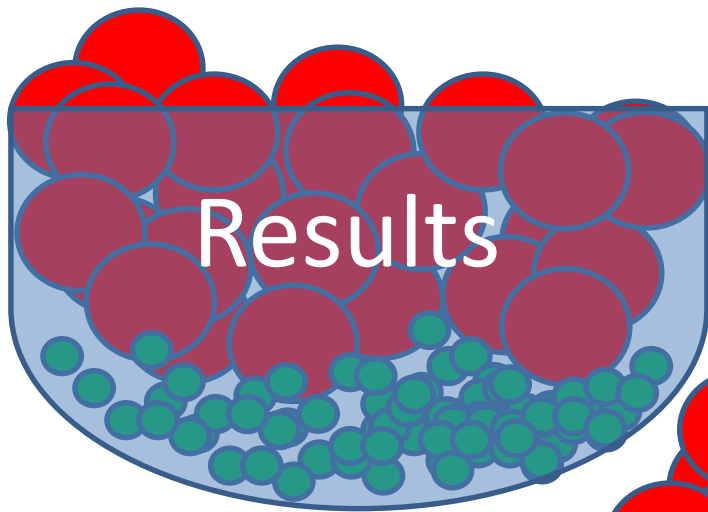
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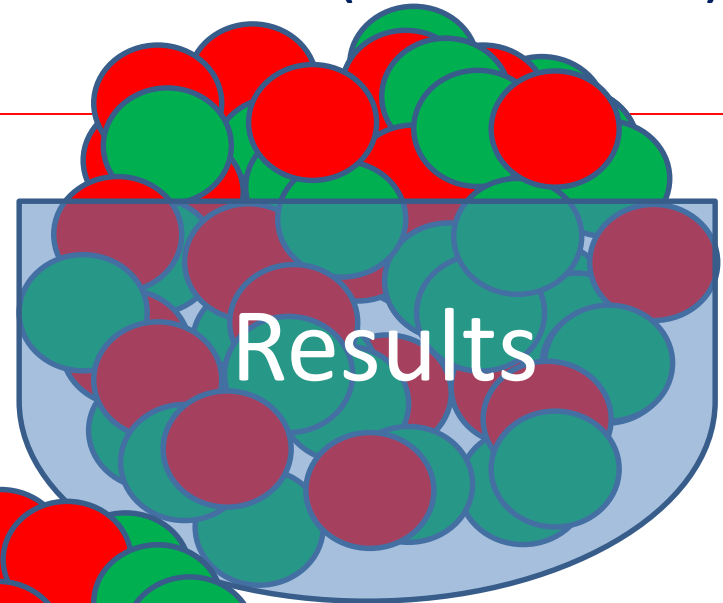
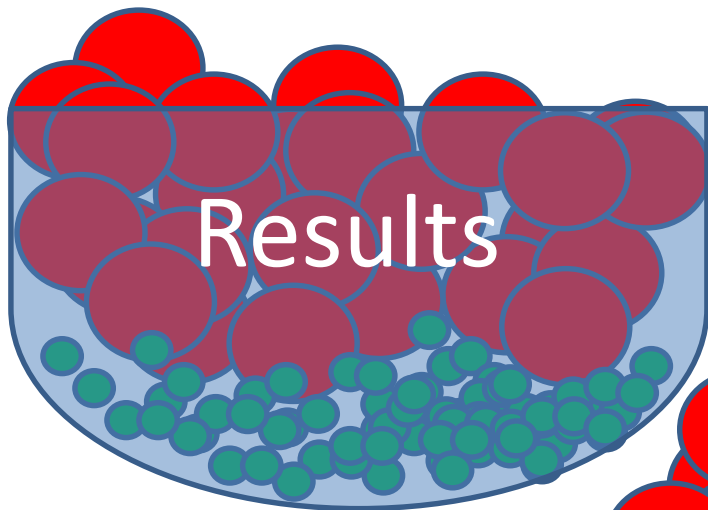
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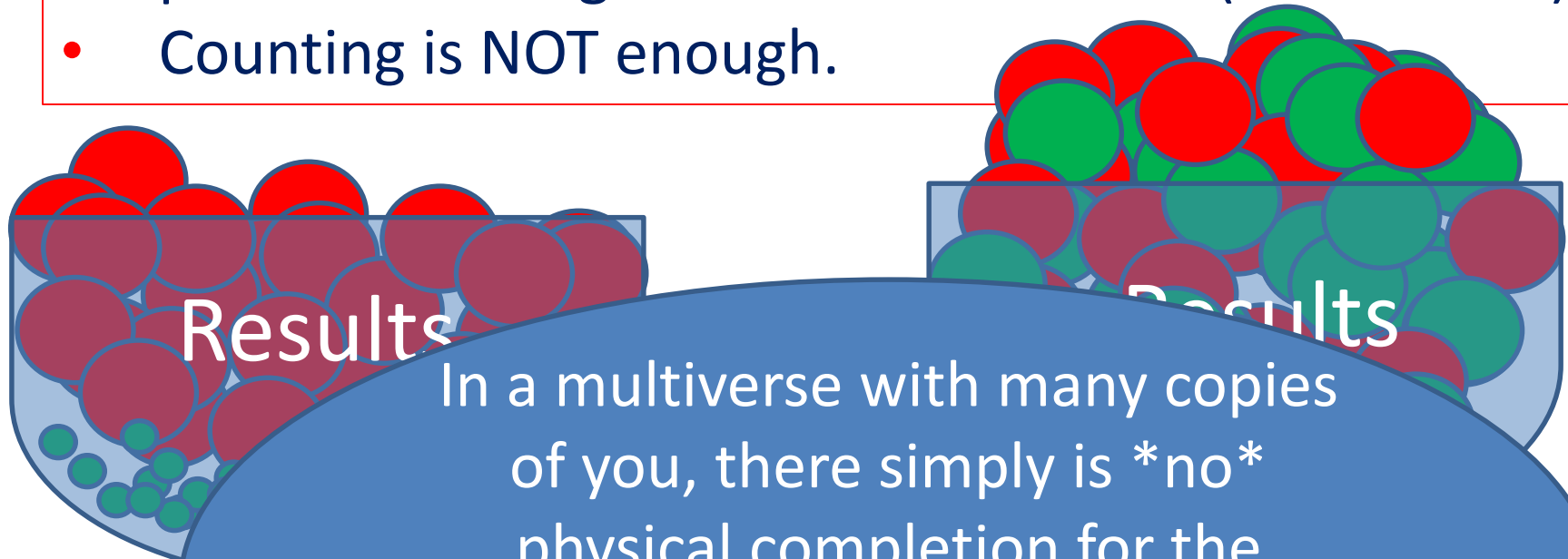
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NB: “Sleeping Beauty problem”

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In a multiverse with many copies of you, there simply is *no* physical completion for the question “which observer am I?”. Future data may address this, but not in time to make predictions.

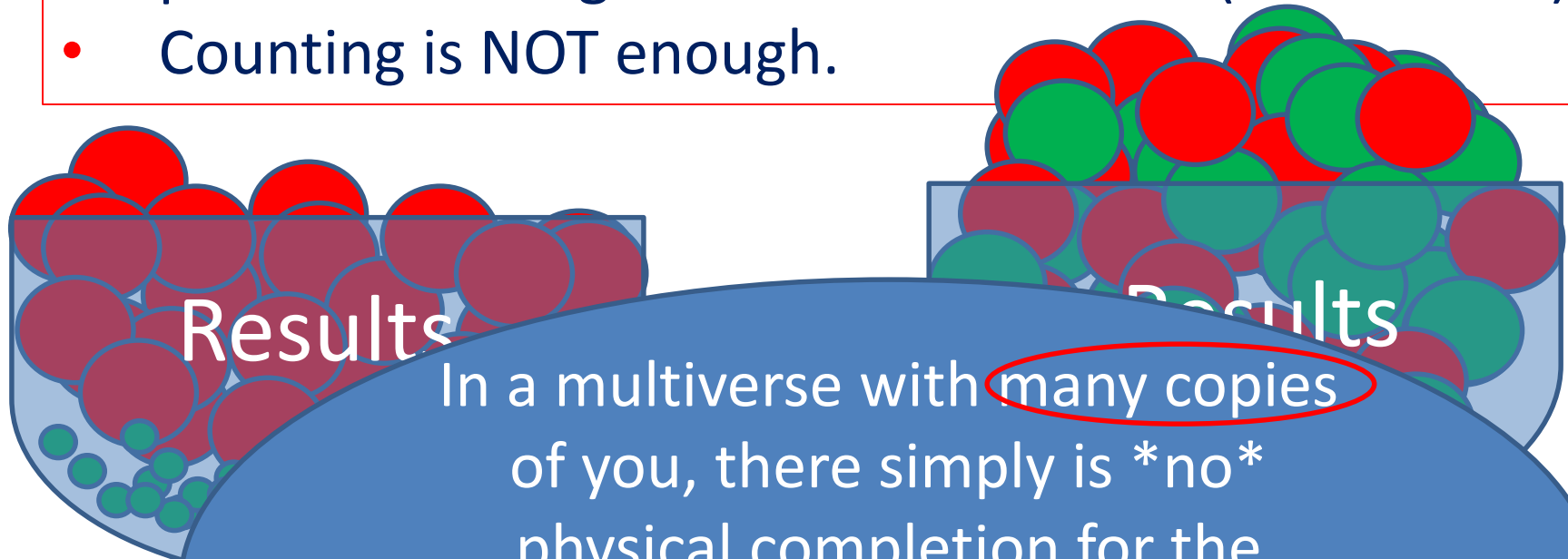
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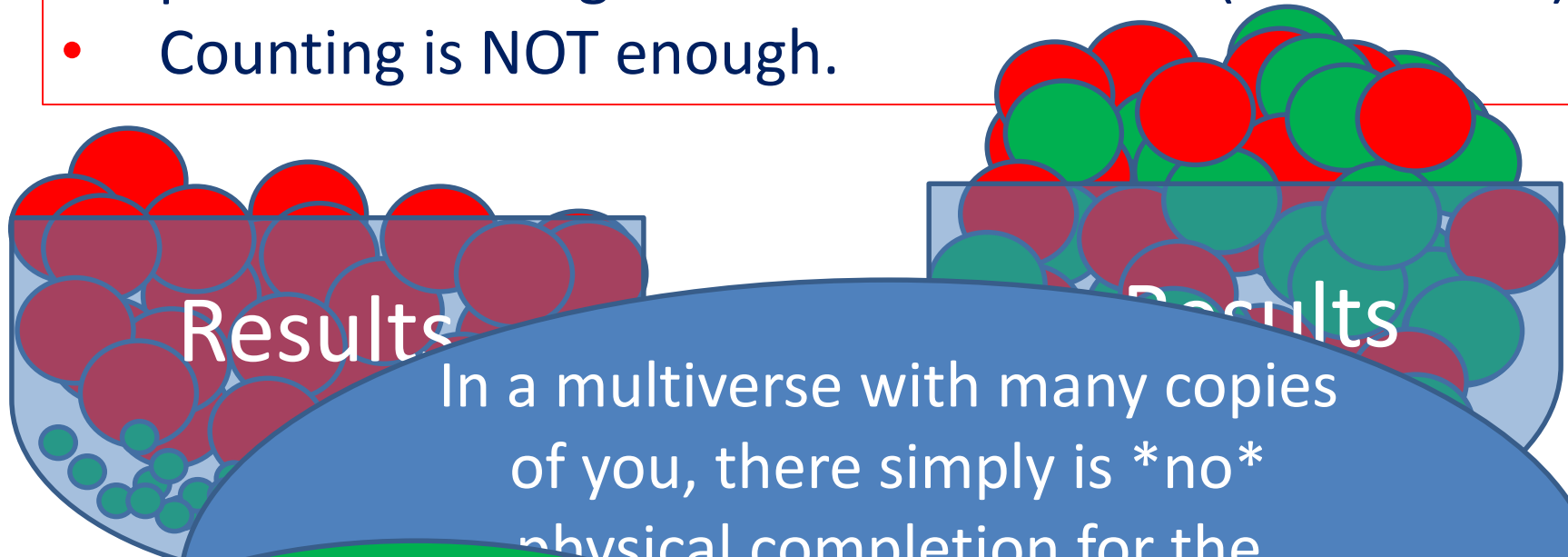
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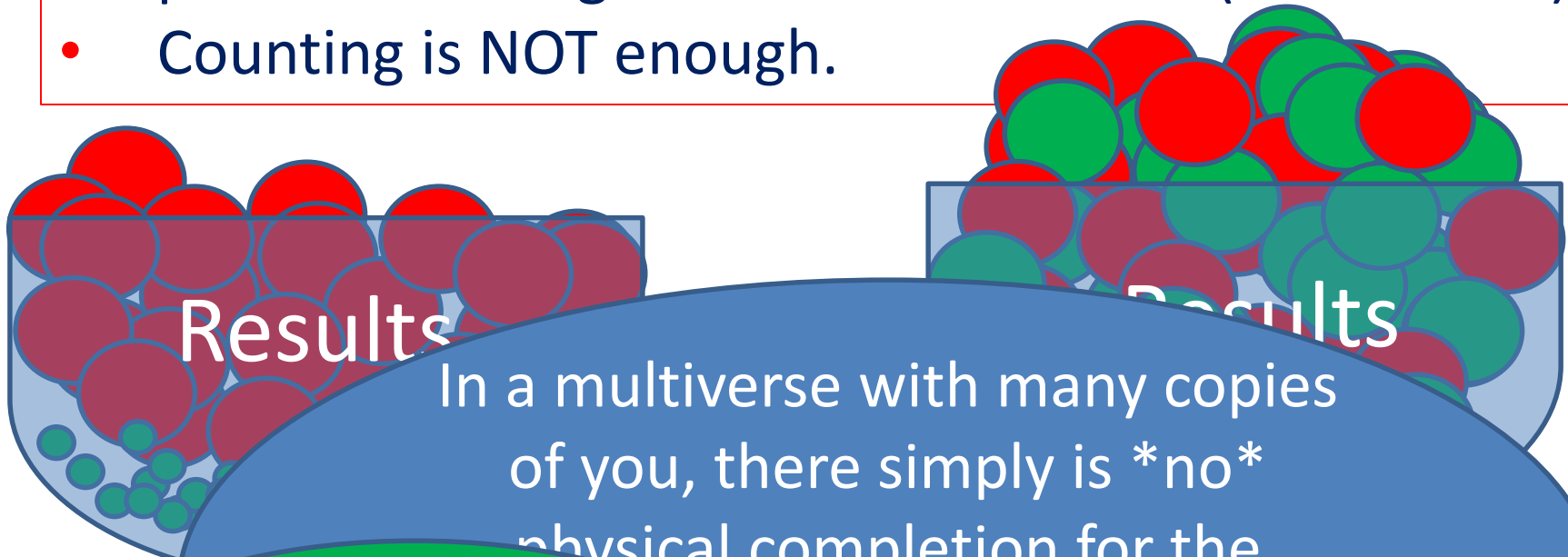
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This is where things go wrong in the standard treatment of the multiverse

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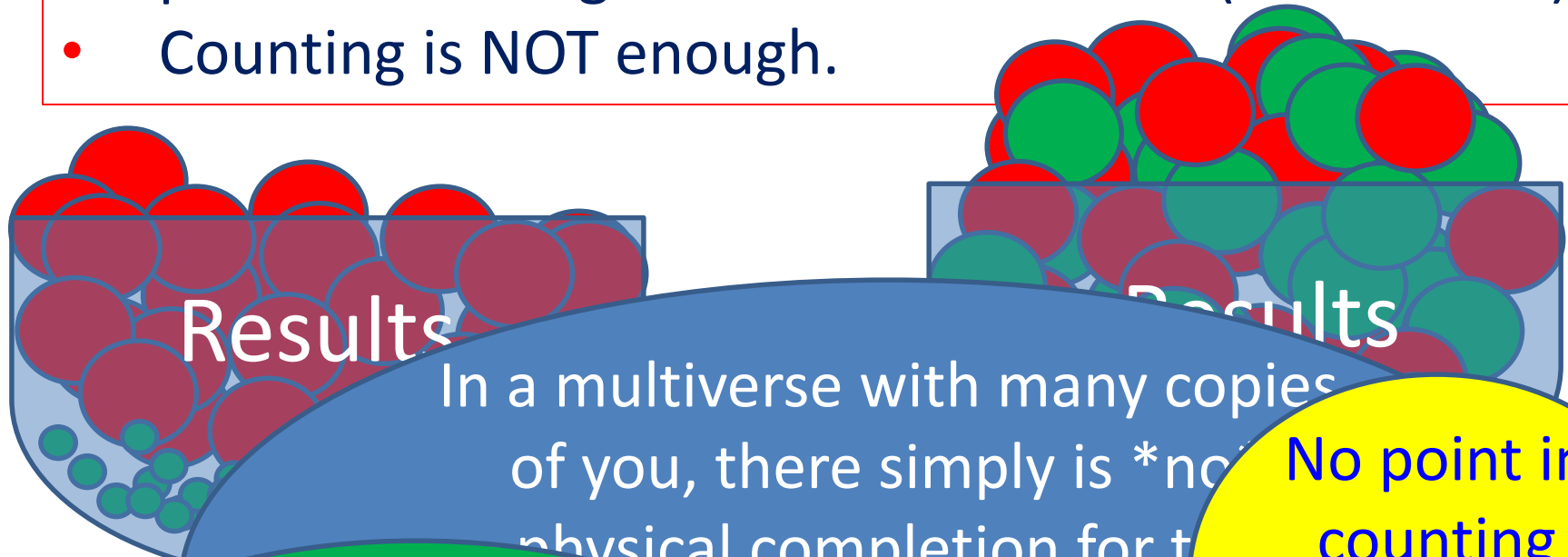
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This is where things go wrong in the standard treatment of the multiverse

In many cases counting on has no predictive value

No point in counting for these cases

Outline

- 1) Quantum vs non-quantum probabilities (toy model/multiverse)
- 2) Everyday probabilities
- 3) Be careful about counting!
- 4) Implications for multiverse/eternal inflation

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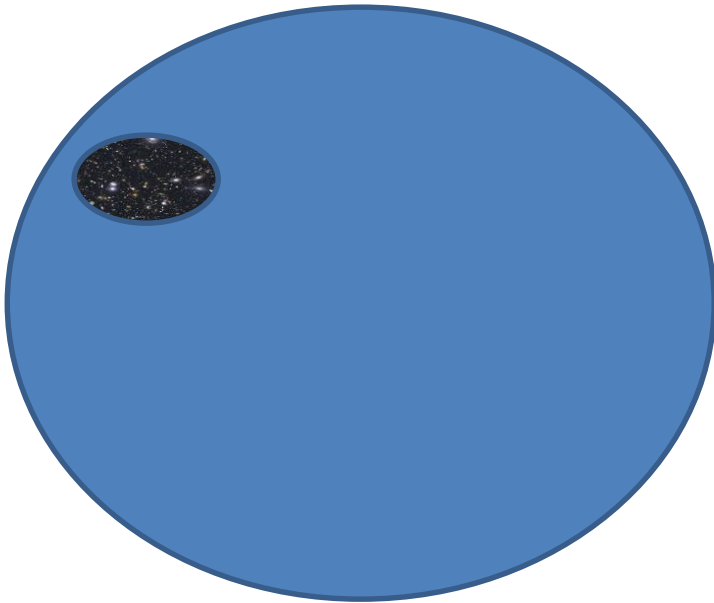
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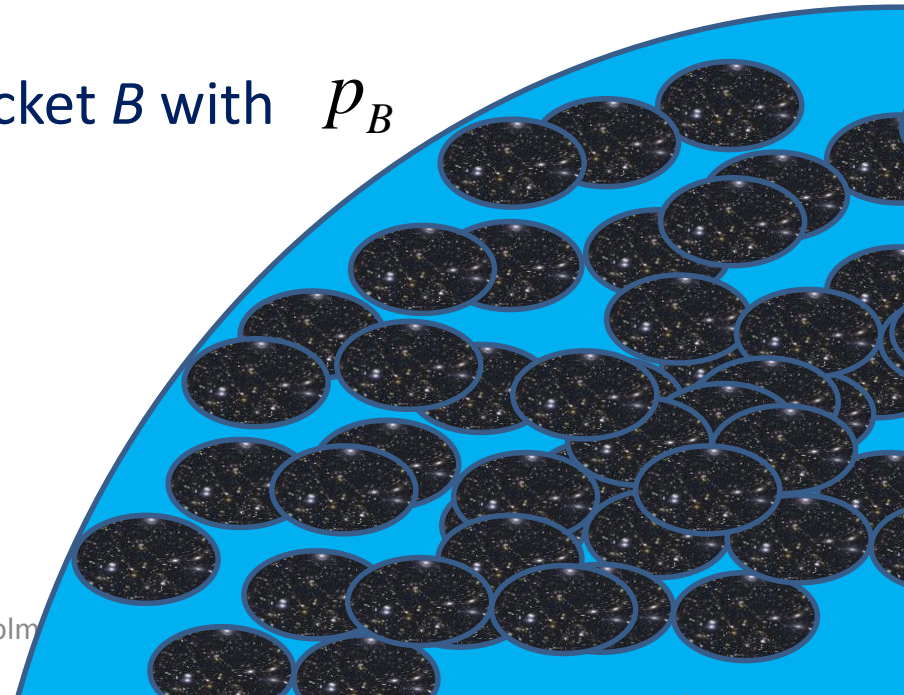
Implications for eternal inflation

- 1) No “volume factors”
- 2) Boltzmann Brain problem reduced
- 3) No “youngness/end of time” problem

Pocket A with P_A

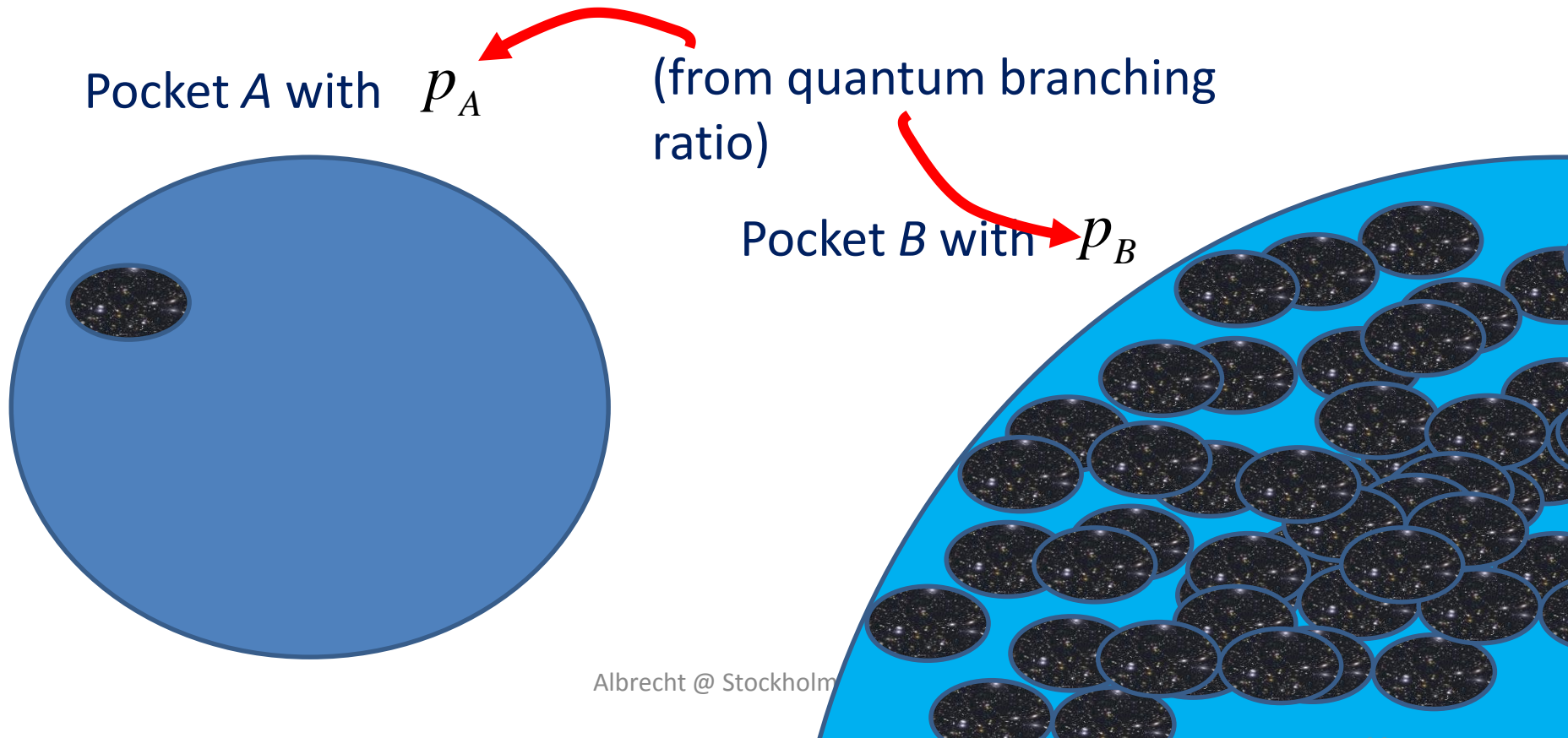


Pocket B with P_B



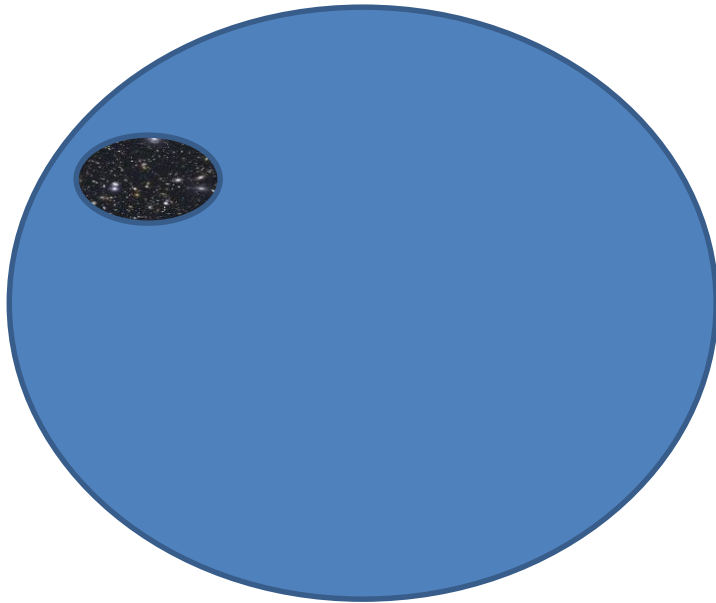
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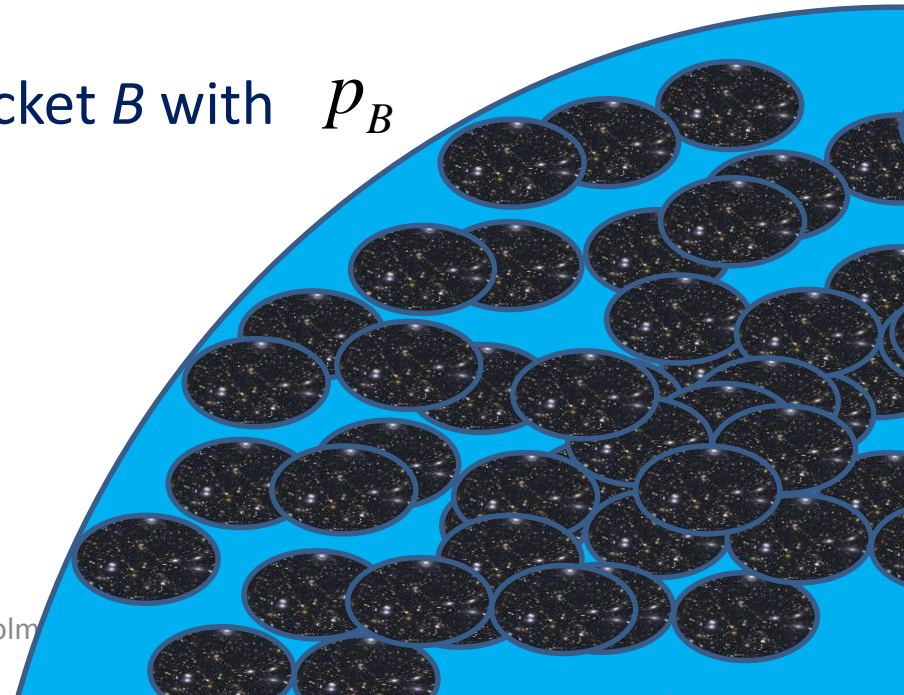


One semiclassical universe having many more possible observers in it than another (often counted by volume), does **not** give that universe greater statistical weight. Quantum branching ratio into one vs the other (P_A / P_B) does count

Pocket A with P_A



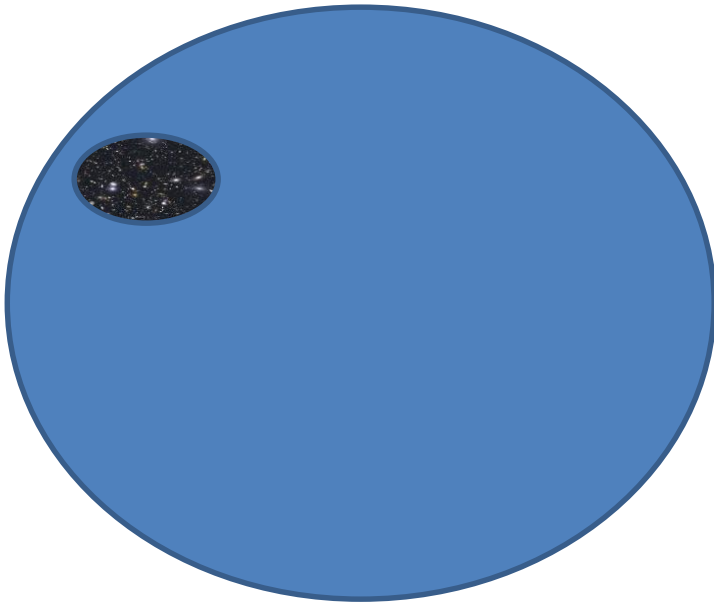
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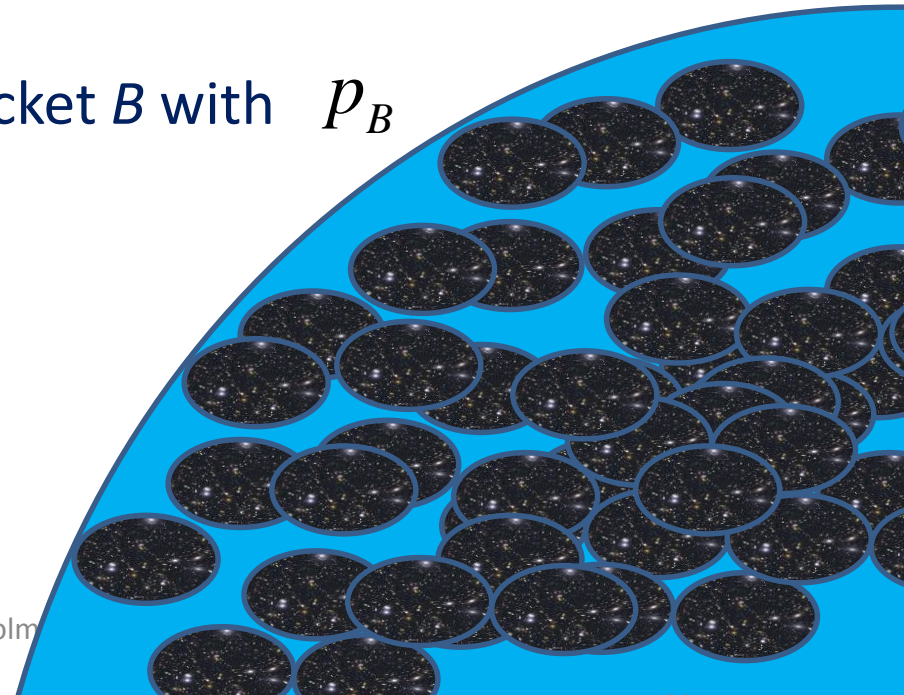
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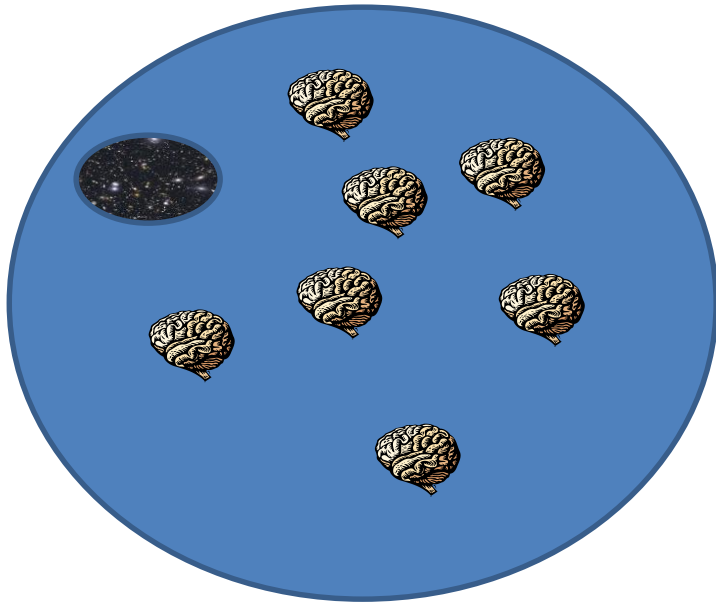
Pocket B with P_B



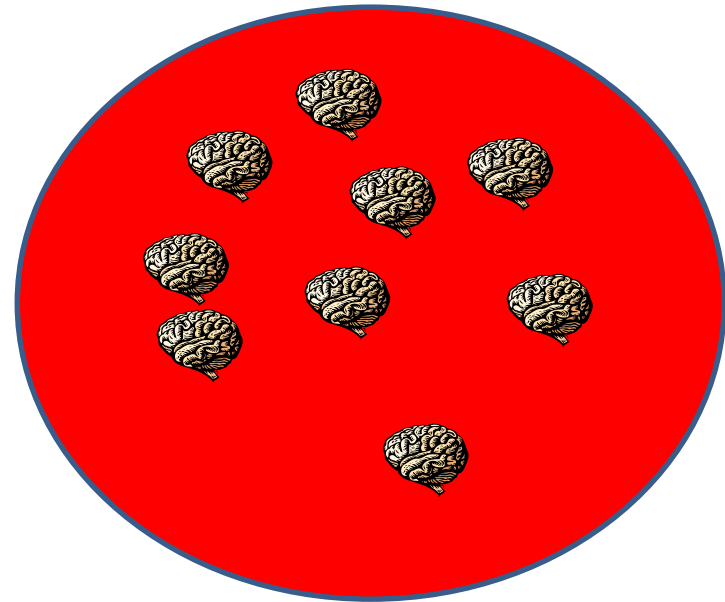
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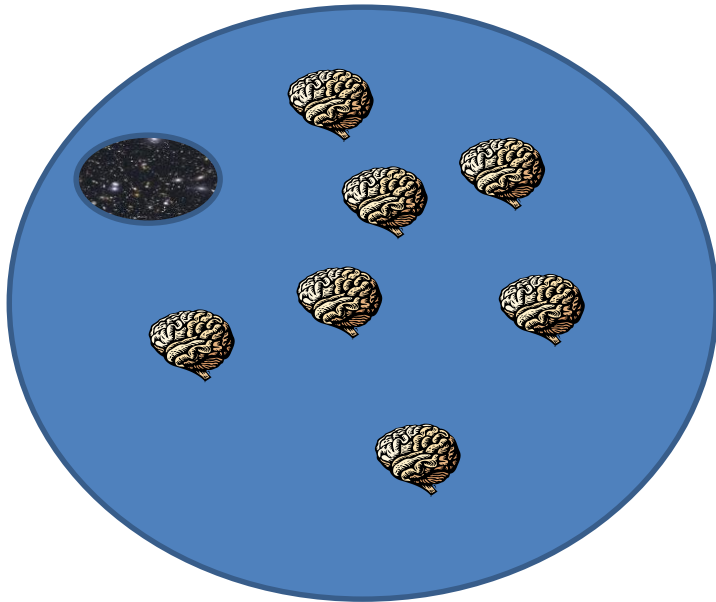
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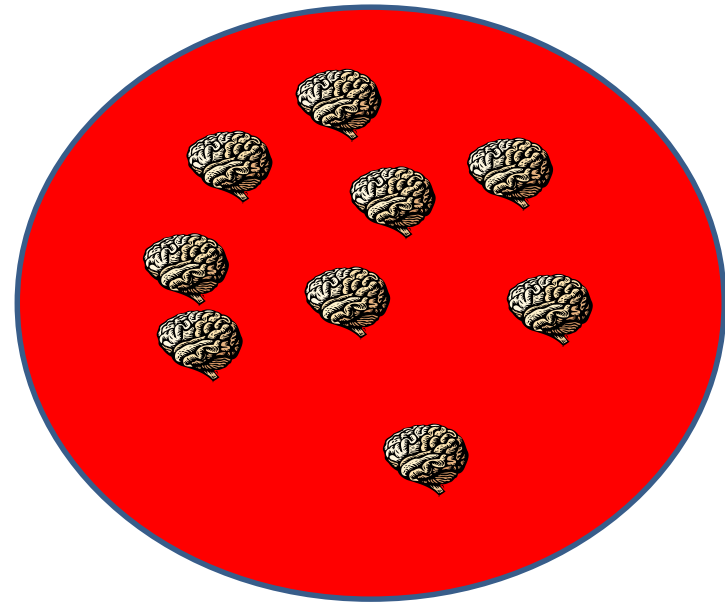
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This model has no “Boltzmann Brain” problem as long as p_A / p_B is not too small

Pocket A with p_A



Pocket B with p_B



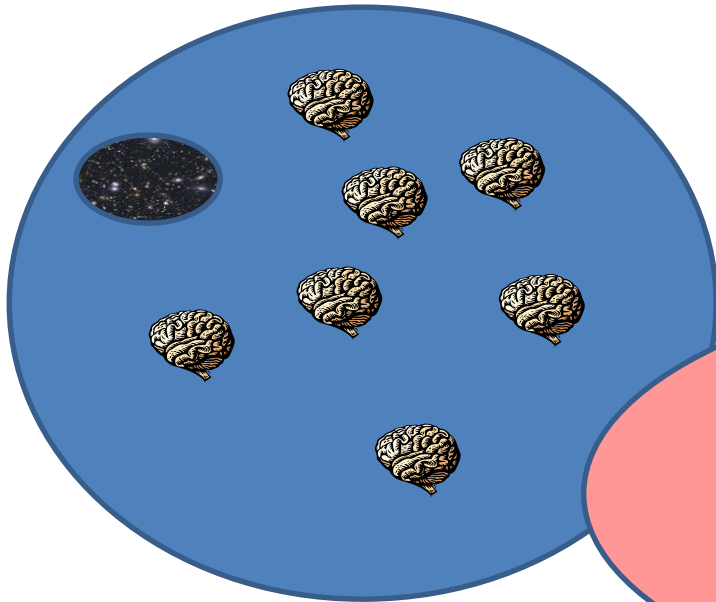
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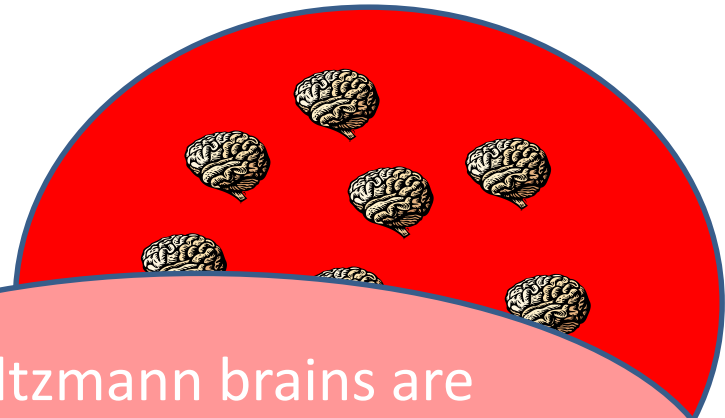
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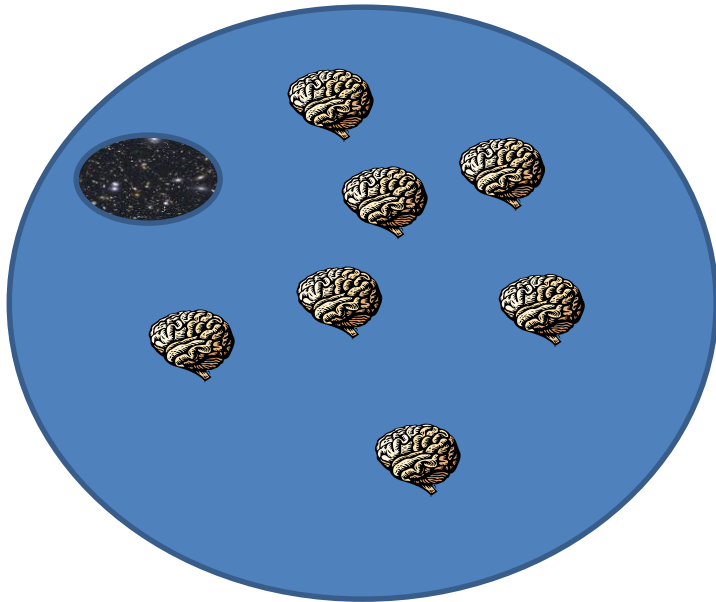


Boltzmann brains are observers which look good vs current data but which quickly go bad

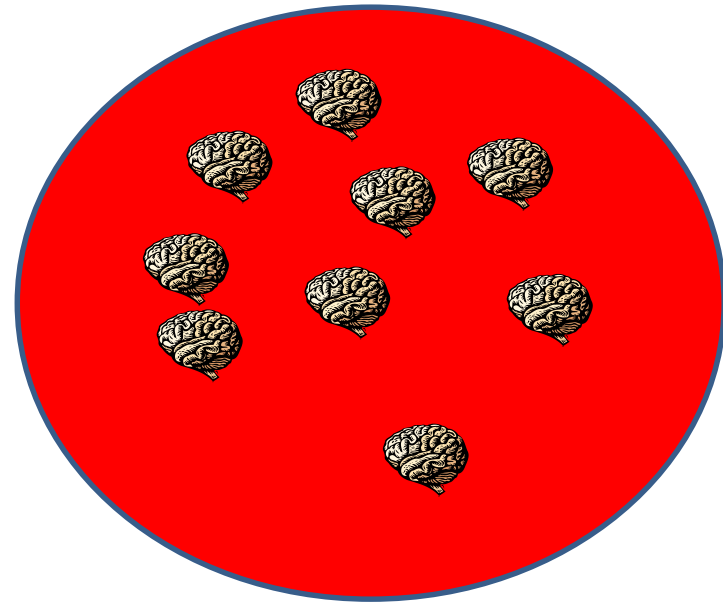
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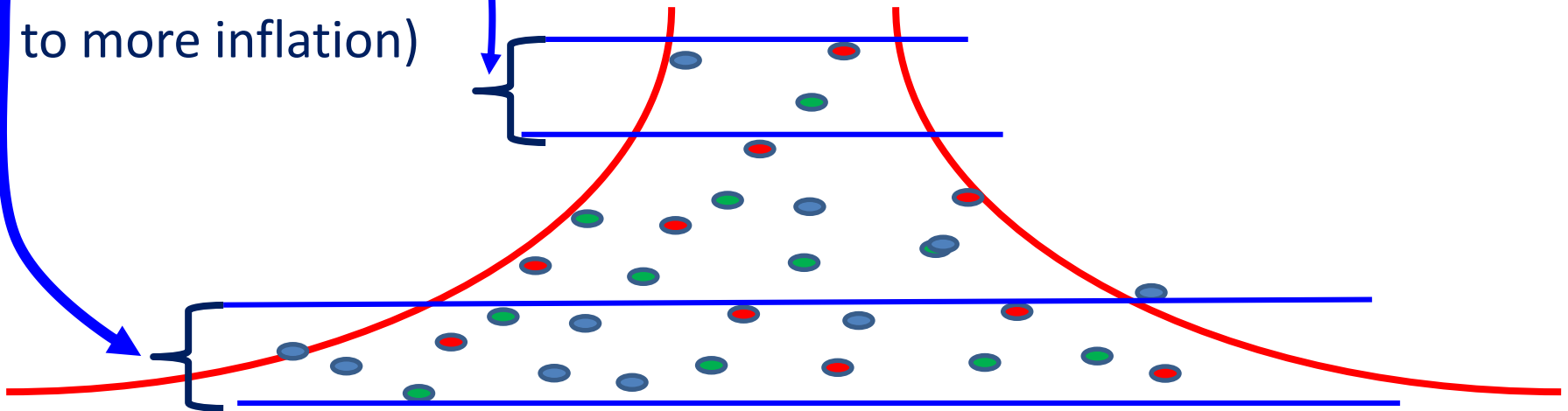
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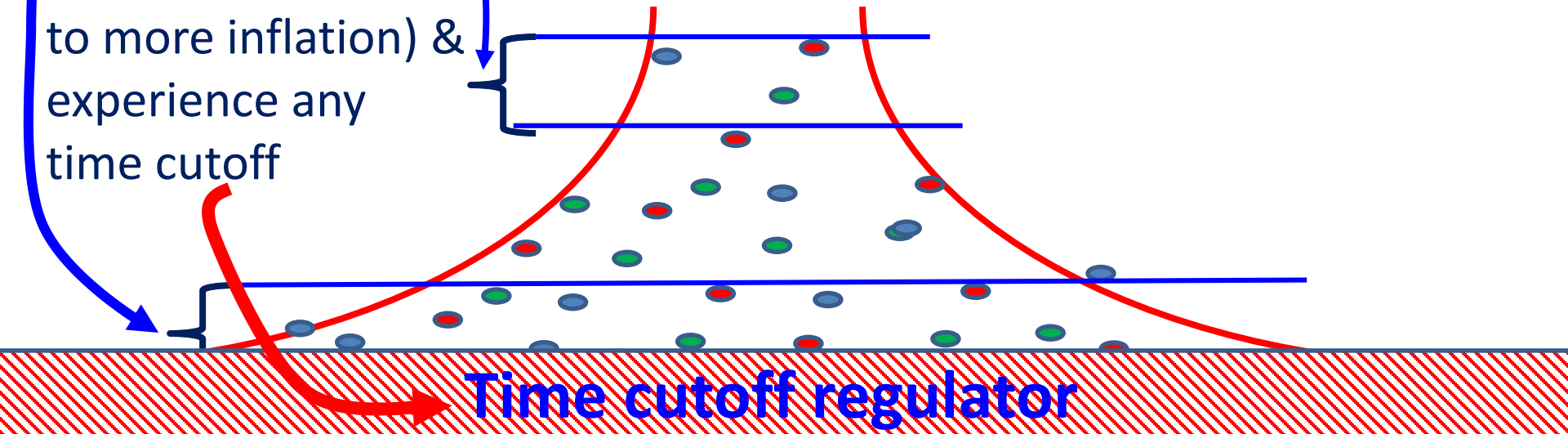
More pocket universes produced later vs earlier (due to more inflation)



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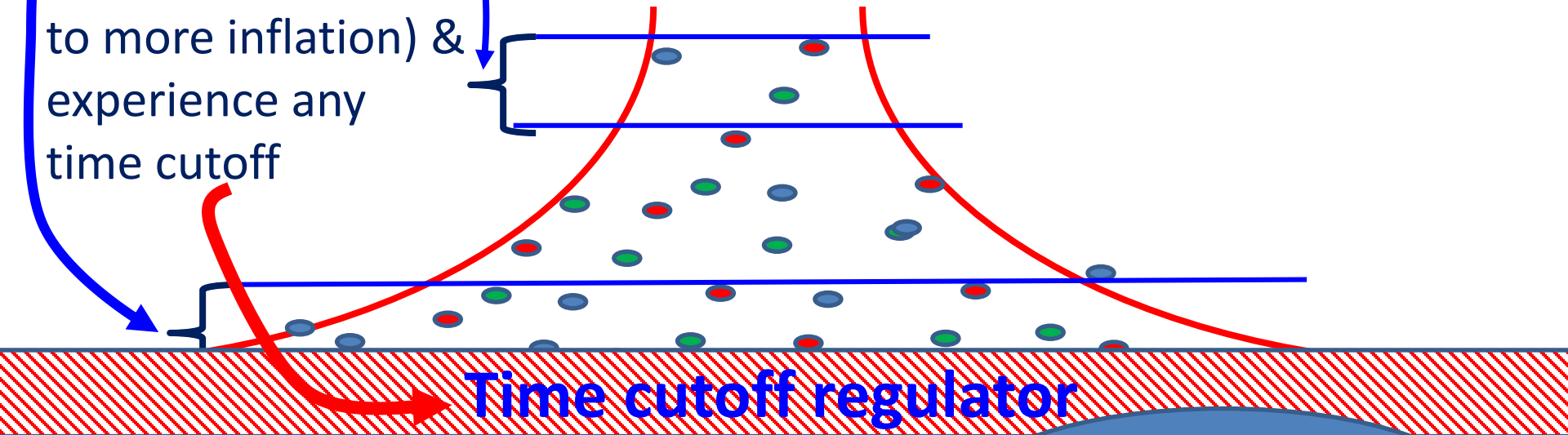
Time cutoff regulator

The diagram illustrates a cross-section of an inflationary landscape. A red hatched region at the bottom represents the 'Time cutoff regulator'. Above it, a blue horizontal line indicates the level of the inflaton field. Two red curves represent the potential energy landscape, which has a local minimum. Small colored dots (blue, green, red) represent pocket universes. A blue bracket on the left indicates the time interval during which the inflaton field is near the minimum. A red arrow points from the 'Time cutoff regulator' to the blue line, indicating its role in regulating the time cutoff.

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Time cutoff

A diagram illustrating eternal inflation. A red hatched horizontal band at the bottom represents a 'Time cutoff'. Above it, a blue horizontal band represents a 'pocket universe'. A red curve starts from the left, rises, and then falls back down to the time cutoff. A blue arrow points from the text 'More pocket universes produced later vs earlier...' to the right side of the diagram, indicating that as time progresses, more pocket universes are produced. A red arrow points from the text 'experience any time cutoff' to the red hatched band. The text 'Time cutoff' is written in blue at the bottom of the diagram.

Albrecht @ S

- Wavefunction cannot give probabilities for which pocket you are in.
- Time cutoff only there as (wrong) attempt to determine which pocket
- The youngness/end of time problem is asking a question the theory cannot answer

Conclusions

- 1) All practically applicable probabilities are of physics (quantum) origin.
- 2) Counting of objects may or MAY NOT be a way of accessing legitimate quantum probabilities
- 3) Standard discussions of probabilities in cosmology often make errors re 2)
- 4) 1) and care about 2) allow us to introduce better discipline into cosmological discussions (just say “no”).
Implications so far:
 - a) No (counting based) volume factors
 - b) Reduced Boltzmann Brain problem
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 - d) Measure problems apparently resolved?
- 5) More rigorous treatment of eternal inflation (etc) needed to determine full implications.

→ I still have other concerns about eternal inflation that makes me prefer finite theories,
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Landscape OK too

4) ... discipline into cosmology ... (just say “no”).

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→ Perhaps related to work by Nomura and Garriga & Vilenkin and collaborators

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Clashes with my work on the “clock ambiguity”

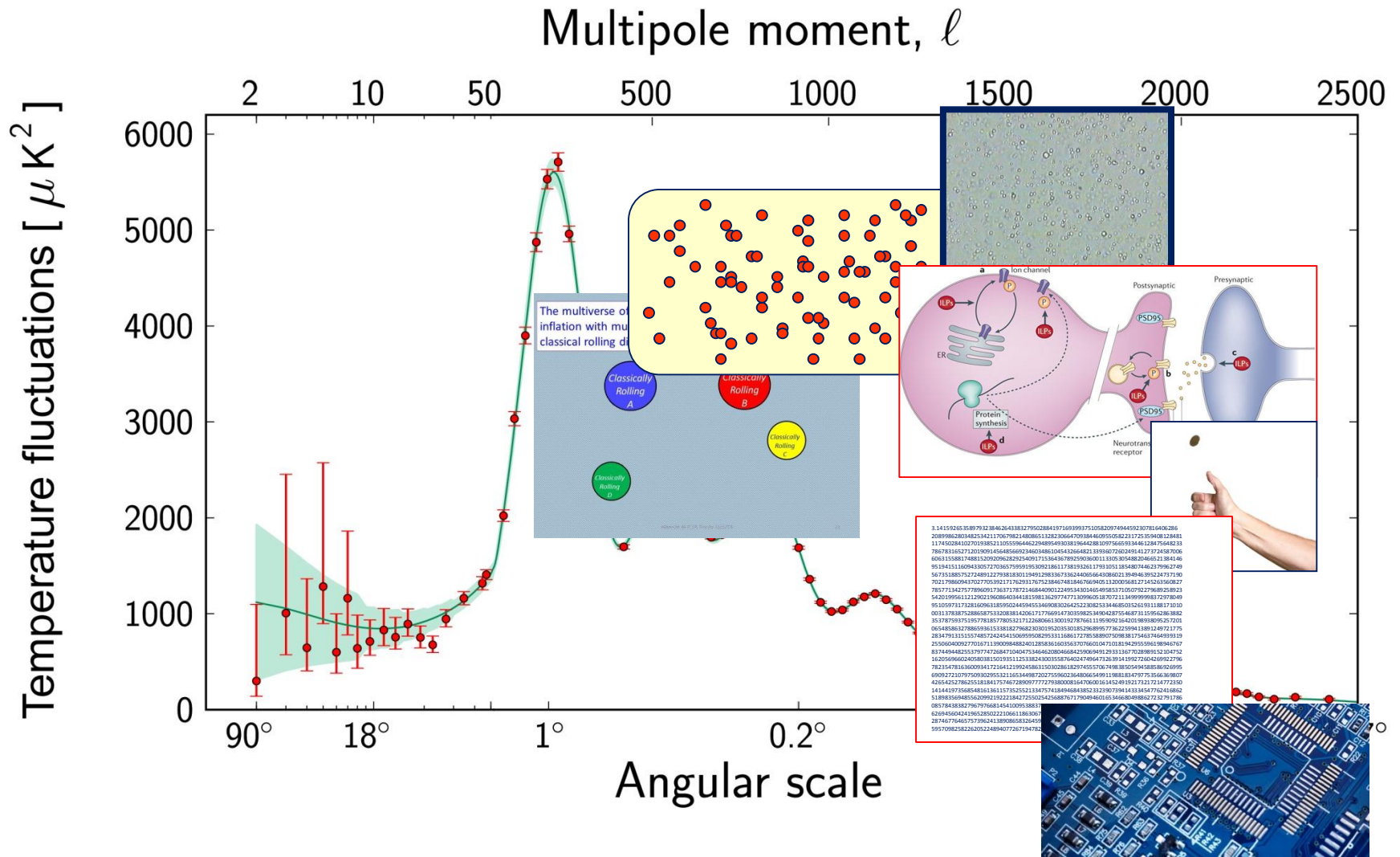
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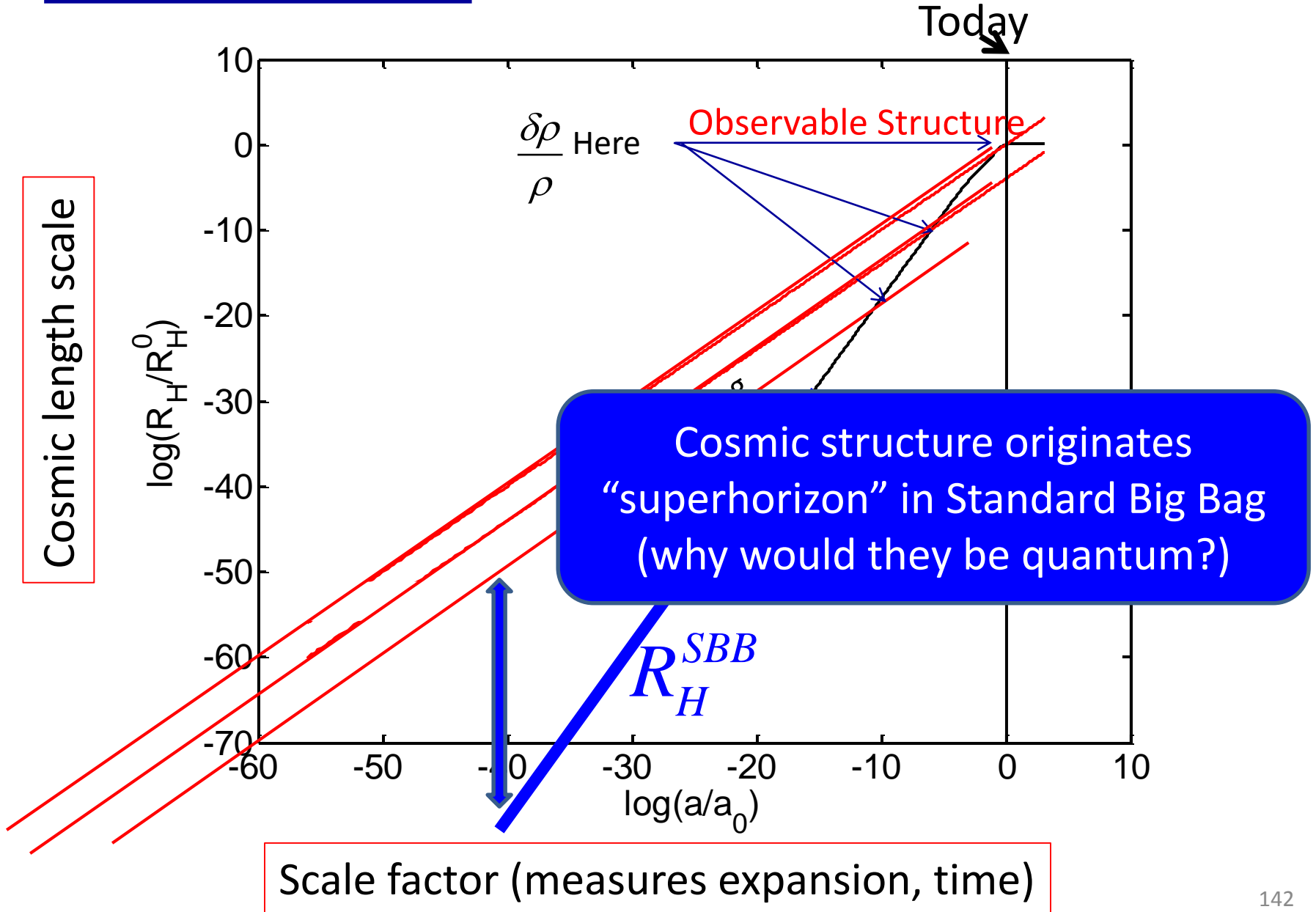
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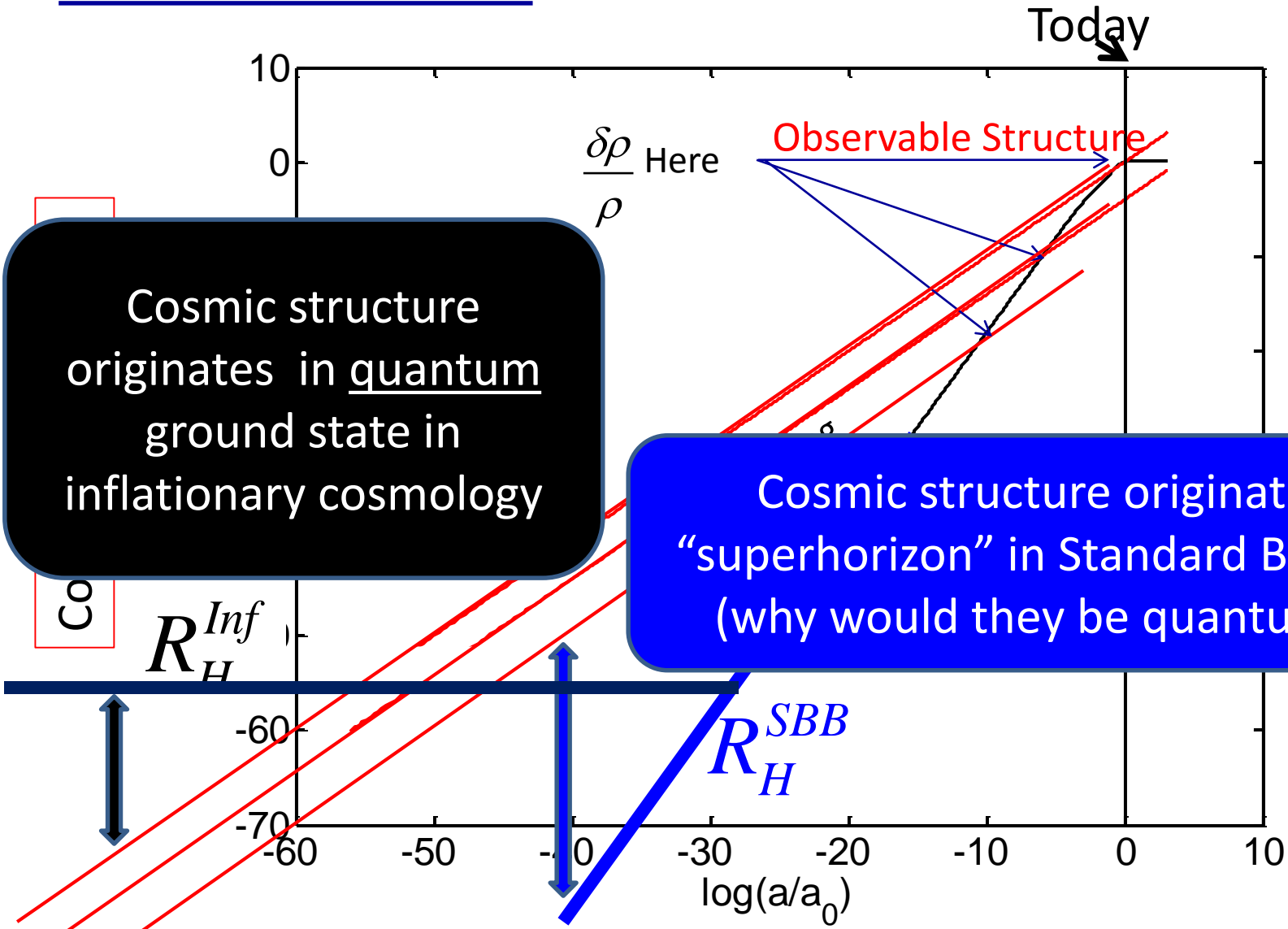


Additional Slides

Cosmic structure



Cosmic structure



Cosmic structure originates in quantum ground state in inflationary cosmology

Cosmic structure originates "superhorizon" in Standard Big Bag (why would they be quantum?)

Scale factor (measures expansion, time)

All everyday probabilities are quantum probabilities

- Proof by exhaustion not realistic
- One counterexample (practical utility of non-quantum probabilities) will undermine our entire argument
- Can still invent classical probabilities just to do multiverse cosmology
- Not a problem for many finite theories (AA, Banks & Fischler)
- ... actually do require classical probabilities
- ... rously (symmetry?... simplicity? See

Compare with
identical
particle
statistics

Further discussion

Bet on the millionth digit of π

3.1415926535 8979323846 2643383279 50288419 7169399674 10488262 98149572 0437861 8374945
208998628034825342117067982148086513282306647093844609550582231725359408128481
117450284102701938521105559644622948954930381964428810975665933446128475648233
786783165271201909145648566923460348610454326648213393607260249141273724587006
606315588174881520920962829254091715364367892590360011330530548820466521384146
951941511609433057270365759591953092186117381932611793105118548074462379962749
567351885752724891227938183011949129833673362440656643086021394946395224737190
702179860943702770539217176293176752384674818467669405132000568127145263560827
785771342757789609173637178721468440901224953430146549585371050792279689258923
542019956112129021960864034418159813629774771309960518707211349999998372978049
951059731732816096318595024459455346908302642522308253344685035261931188171010
003137838752886587533208381420617177669147303598253490428755468731159562863882
353787593751957781857780532171226806613001927876611195909216420198938095257201
065485863278865936153381827968230301952035301852968995773622599413891249721775
283479131515574857242454150695950829533116861727855889075098381754637464939319
255060400927701671139009848824012858361603563707660104710181942955596198946767
837449448255379774726847104047534646208046684259069491293313677028989152104752
162056966024058038150193511253382430035587640247496473263914199272604269922796
782354781636009341721641219924586315030286182974555706749838505494588586926995
690927210797509302955321165344987202755960236480665499119881834797753566369807
426542527862551818417574672890977772793800081647060016145249192173217214772350
141441973568548161361157352552133475741849468438523323907394143334547762416862
518983569485562099219222184272550254256887671790494601653466804988627232791786
085784383827967976681454100953883786360950680064225125205117392984896084128488
626945604241965285022210661186306744278622039194945047123713786960956364371917
287467764657573962413890865832645995813390478027590099465764078951269468398352
595709825822620522489407726719478268482601476990902640136394437455305068203496

Further discussion

Bet on the millionth digit of π

3.1415926535
20899862803
11745028410

- The **only** thing random is the choice of digit to bet on

786783165271201909145648566923460348610454326648213393607260249141273724587006
606315588174881520920962829254091715364367892590360011330530548820466521384146
951941511609433057270365759591953092186117381932611793105118548074462379962749
567351885752724891227938183011949129833673362440656643086021394946395224737190
702179860943702770539217176293176752384674818467669405132000568127145263560827
785771342757789609173637178721468440901224953430146549585371050792279689258923
542019956112129021960864034418159813629774771309960518707211349999998372978049
951059731732816096318595024459455346908302642522308253344685035261931188171010
003137838752886587533208381420617177669147303598253490428755468731159562863882
353787593751957781857780532171226806613001927876611195909216420198938095257201
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283479131515574857242454150695950829533116861727855889075098381754637464939319
255060400927701671139009848824012858361603563707660104710181942955596198946767
837449448255379774726847104047534646208046684259069491293313677028989152104752
162056966024058038150193511253382430035587640247496473263914199272604269922796
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690927210797509302955321165344987202755960236480665499119881834797753566369807
426542527862551818417574672890977772793800081647060016145249192173217214772350
141441973568548161361157352552133475741849468438523323907394143334547762416862
518983569485562099219222184272550254256887671790494601653466804988627232791786
085784383827967976681454100953883786360950680064225125205117392984896084128488
626945604241965285022210661186306744278622039194945047123713786960956364371917
287467764657573962413890865832645995813390478027590099465764078951269468398352
595709825822620522489407726719478268482601476990902640136394437455305068203496

Further discussion

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- The **only** thing random is the choice of digit to bet on
- Fairness is about lack of correlation between digit choice and digit value

3.1415926535
20899862803
11745028410
78678316527
60631558817
95194151160
56735188575
702179860943702770539217176293176752384674818467669405132000568127145263560827
785771342757789609173637178721468440901224953430146549585371050792279689258923
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951059731732816096318595024459455346908302642522308253344685035261931188171010
003137838752886587533208381420617177669147303598253490428755468731159562863882
353787593751957781857780532171226806613001927876611195909216420198938095257201
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837449448255379774726847104047534646208046684259069491293313677028989152104752
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426542527862551818417574672890977772793800081647060016145249192173217214772350
141441973568548161361157352552133475741849468438523323907394143334547762416862
518983569485562099219222184272550254256887671790494601653466804988627232791786
085784383827967976681454100953883786360950680064225125205117392984896084128488
626945604241965285022210661186306744278622039194945047123713786960956364371917
287467764657573962413890865832645995813390478027590099465764078951269468398352
595709825822620522489407726719478268482601476990902640136394437455305068203496

Further discussion

Bet on the millionth digit of π

3.1415926535
20899862803
11745028410
78678316527
60631558817
95194151160
56735188575
70217986094
78577134275
54201995611
95105973173
00313783875
35378759375
06548586327
28347913151
25506040092
83744944825
16205696602

- The **only** thing random is the choice of digit to bet on
- Fairness is about lack of correlation between digit choice and digit value
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 - Brain (neurons with quantum uncertainties)
 - Random number generator → seed → time stamp (when you press ENTER) → brain
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782354781636009341721641219924586315030286182974555706749838505494588586926995
690927210797509302955321165344987202755960236480665499119881834797753566369807
42654252786255181841757467289097772793800081647060016145249192173217214772350
141441973568548161361157352552133475741849468438523323907394143334547762416862
518983569485562099219222184272550254256887671790494601653466804988627232791786
085784383827967976681454100953883786360950680064225125205117392984896084128488
626945604241965285022210661186306744278622039194945047123713786960956364371917
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42654252786
141441973568548161361157
518983569485562099219222
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Payout:

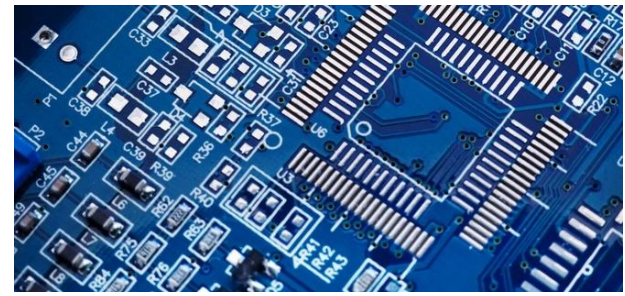
$$P_{\pi} = \lim_{N_{tot} \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N_{tot}} \sum_{\{i\}} (N_{\pi}^i - 4.5) = 0$$

Further discussion

Classical Computer: The “computational degrees of freedom” of a classical computer are very classical: Engineered to be well isolated from the quantum fluctuations that are everywhere



- Computations are deterministic
- “Random” is artificial
- Model a classical billiard gas on a computer:
 - All “random” fluctuations are determined by (or “readings of”) the initial state.



10001000111101010

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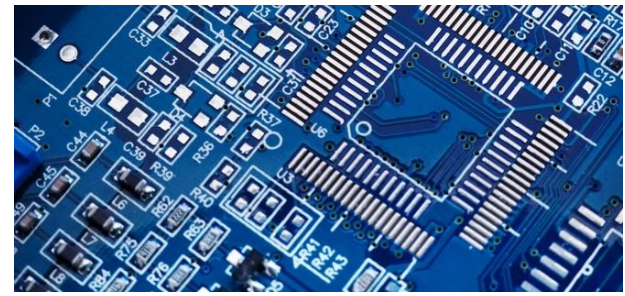
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Std. thinking about classical probabilities

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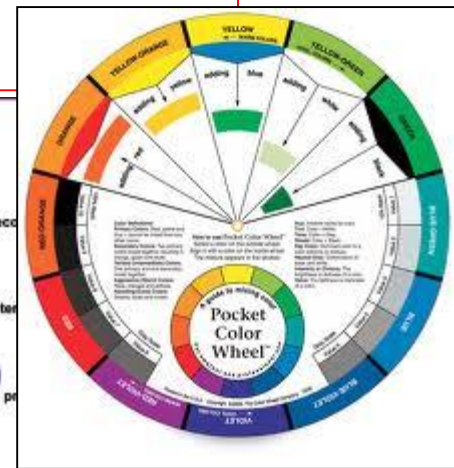
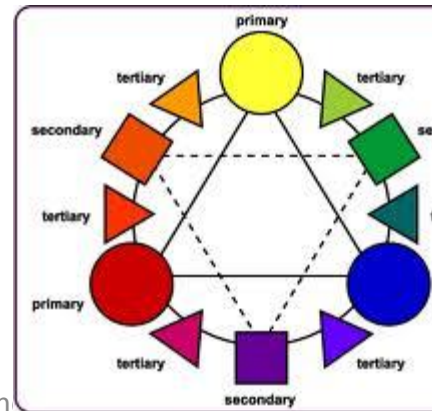
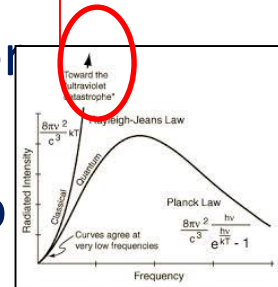
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Further discussion

Our ideas about probability are like our ideas about color:

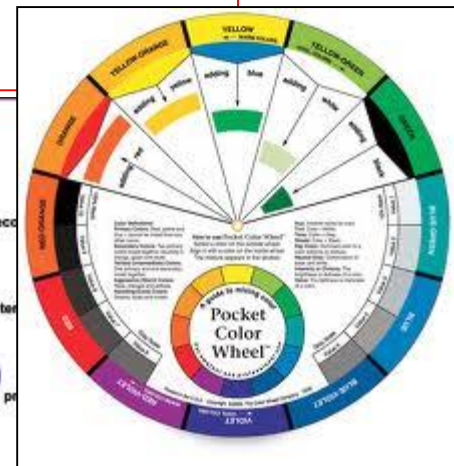
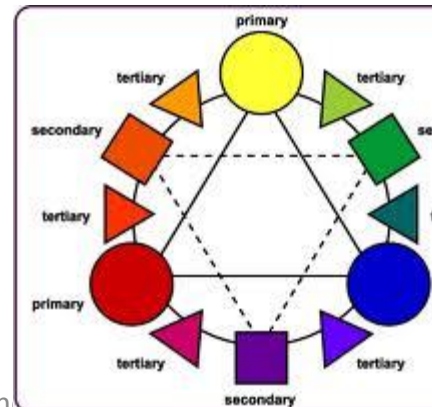
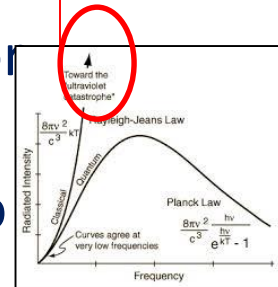
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- Our “classical” intuition predates our knowledge of QM by a long long time, and works just fine for most things
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