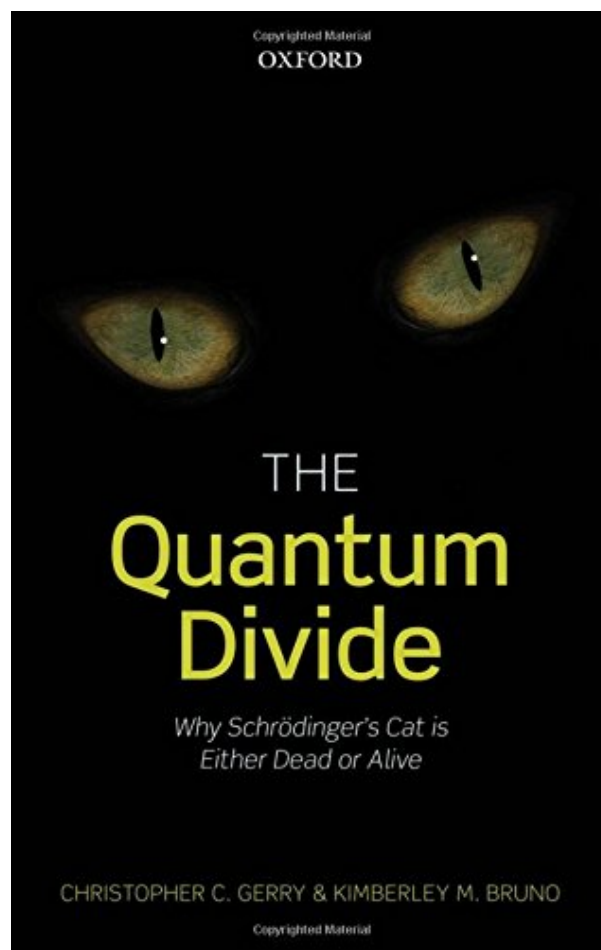


**THE QUANTUM DIVIDE: WHY
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THE
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*Why Schrödinger's Cat is
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Review

"The burgeoning fields of quantum computing, information processing and simulation develop rapidly as a consequence of theoretical insight and technological developments. The latter have enabled us to take single atoms or ions and count single photons, and many of the thought experiments discussed in earlier treatments of quantum physics have now been conducted in laboratories. This lucid account by Gerry and Bruno presents a mature discussion of the link between the microscopic quantum and the macroscopic classical worlds and will be useful for professional physicists, students and the educated layman." -- Ifan Hughes, Department of Physics, Durham University

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Using a selection of key experiments performed over the past 30 years or so, we present a discussion of the strikingly counter-intuitive phenomena of the quantum world that defy explanation in terms of everyday "common sense" reasoning, and we provide the corresponding quantum mechanical explanations with a very elementary use of associated formalism. Most, but certainly not all, of the experiments we describe are optical experiments involving a very small number of photons (particles of light). We begin with experiments on the wave-particle duality of electrons, proceed to experiments on the particle nature of light and single photon interference, delayed choice experiments and interaction-free detection, then go on to experiments involving the interference of two photons, quantum entanglement and Bell's Theorem, quantum teleportation, large-scale quantum effects and the divide between the classical and quantum worlds, addressing the question as to whether or not there is such a divide.

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5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Slightly technical but revealing

By dkrockville

One of the best explanations of how recent experiments validate quantum physics. If you are patient absorbing the equations and understanding the gist of the experiments, you get a clear understanding of complementarity, uncertainty, the wave equation and most importantly the Copenhagen interpretation and why other interpretations have not been favored.

Highly recommended for those who have taken college physics.

6 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Best explanation of the still inexplicable - Clear, concise, understandable!

By N. Weisman

This is the best work I've found, explaining the relationship of the "quantum world" with all its' weirdness to the "classical world" with our sense of logical and causation. There are equations - they are mathematical statements, clearly described. An informed layman, with high school math and physics, could make sense of the equations and the conclusion drawn - there is no divide. Well worth the effort!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Hard book (for me at least) but very insightful

By rickzz

This ranks as one of the most difficult of the dozen or so QM popularizations I've read. However, it's also one of the best because it provides genuine insight into QM concepts like superposition+entanglement. Unlike most popularizations, there's relatively little about the history and personalities involved- instead the focus is on explaining QM concepts through modern QM experiments.

"Difficult" is a relative word because there's none of the high-level math found in real textbooks. So for the laymen, this book may be the closest thing to obtaining real understanding without getting mired in solving the Schrodinger equation. Having said that, I'll definitely have to re-read this book (esp. the chapter on entanglement).

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