We can create two distinguishable particles an EPR (Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen) pair in a quantum mechanical superposition state of the form of one of the Bell states For example, for two photons 1 and 2 going in different directions a state like $\left|\Phi^{+}\right\rangle_{12}=\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\left|H\right\rangle_{1}\left|H\right\rangle_{2}+\left|V\right\rangle_{1}\left|V\right\rangle_{2}\right)$

EPR Pairs

Such a state
$$|\Phi^{+}\rangle_{12} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle_{1}|H\rangle_{2} + |V\rangle_{1}|V\rangle_{2}$$
 is a linear superposition of

the state where the two photons are both horizontally polarized and the state where the two photons are both vertically polarized

In this state
$$|\Phi^{+}\rangle_{12} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|H\rangle_{1} |H\rangle_{2} + |V\rangle_{1} |V\rangle_{2}$$
 similarly, measuring the result $|V\rangle$ for one photon will lead

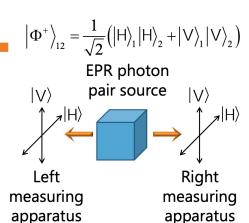
according to quantum mechanics to the inescapable conclusion that the other photon will also be in the state $|V\rangle$

EPR experiment

An "EPR" pair of photons in a $|\Phi^+\rangle_{12}$ Bell state travel to two different measuring apparatuses with their axes aligned

Quantum mechanics predicts if we measure one photon to be horizontal

then we will find the other photon is also horizontal



EPR experiment

Similarly if we measure one photon to be vertical

the other photon will also be measured to be vertical

This is the behavior we find also in experiments
With aligned axes

both apparatuses measure the same polarization

for these Bell-state photons

$$\left|\Phi^{+}\right\rangle_{12} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(\left|H\right\rangle_{1} \left|H\right\rangle_{2} + \left|V\right\rangle_{1} \left|V\right\rangle_{2}\right)$$

$$EPR \ photon$$

$$pair \ source \ \left|V\right\rangle$$

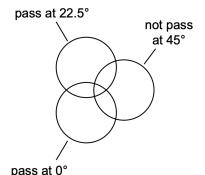
$$\downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow \downarrow$$

$$Left \ Right$$

$$measuring$$

$$apparatus$$

$$apparatus$$



Local variable theory

possible angles for a polarizer

0°, 22.5°, or 45°

and three specific possible results for any one experiment

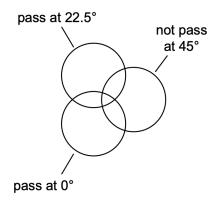
We will be interested in three

pass at 22.5° pass at 0° not pass at 45°

VENN Diagram for proof

All of these three regions can overlap and still be agreement on what happens with photons and polarizers. We can only perform one test on a given photon with a polarizer set at 0,22.5,45 degrees.

Local variable theory



With our EPR photon pair source, we have two photons to use in two different experiments one on the left, and one on the right and we already know that photons prepared this way

photons prepared this way always behave identically for identically set polarizers

pass at 22.5° and not pass at 45° not pass at 45° at 45° pass at 0° and not pass at 0° and not pass at 45°

A Bell's inequality

The probability that one photon will pass at 0° while the other will not pass at 45°

- ≤ the probability that one photon will pass at 0° and the other will not pass at 22.5°
- the probability that one photon will pass at 22.5° and the other will not pass at 45°

Bell's inequalities and experiment

If we find an experiment that violates this inequality then we have to throw out deterministic local hidden variable theories

e.g., the idea that the photon has a variable that it carries with it that determines the result of the polarization measurement

Experiments do violate this inequality

Therefore deterministic local hidden variable theories cannot explain reality

This conclusion is independent of the correctness of quantum mechanics