

Beyond Likelihood: Improbability as a Quantifiable Field in Quantum Epistemology

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April 2025

Abstract

This paper introduces a conceptual and mathematical framework for treating improbability as a structured and measurable field within quantum epistemology. Building on the idea that standard probabilistic models fail to capture events that are singular, horizon-constrained, or structurally undecidable, we propose a dual-field approach: the total epistemic structure is composed of both classical probability $\mathcal{P}(x, t)$ and an improbabilistic coherence field $\mathcal{I}(x, t)$. We provide formal axioms, phase-coupled dynamics, and examples from quantum systems, cognition, and cosmology. This theory reframes improbability as latent coherence and opens a path toward epistemic completeness.

1. Introduction

Probability theory has long been the primary language for reasoning under uncertainty. However, the classical approach presumes the availability of large ensembles and repetitive trials. In this paper, we argue that *improbability* is not merely the complement of probability, but a distinct ontological and epistemological entity. We introduce the improbabilistic field $\mathcal{I}(x, t)$ as a quantifiable measure of latent coherence in settings where probability fails to stabilize. Building on the epistemic structure $T_{\text{quantum}} = \mathcal{P} + \mathcal{I}$, we present a framework in which improbability has formal, dynamic, and cognitive significance.

2. The Historical Primacy of Probability and the Neglect of Improbability

The dominance of probabilistic reasoning in science relies on convergence theorems and the logic of frequency. Yet rare, singular, or structurally inaccessible events defy this logic. They may be improbable in terms of repetition, but coherent in structure. We trace this imbalance to the historical commitment to stabilizing measures and argue for a reconceptualization in which improbability gains formal standing.

3. Toward a Formal Definition of the Improbabilistic Field

We define the total epistemic field:

$$T_{\text{quantum}}(x, t) = \mathcal{P}(x, t) + \mathcal{I}(x, t) \quad (1)$$

where \mathcal{P} represents classical likelihood and \mathcal{I} denotes phase-aligned coherence in low-trial or untrialed regimes. The field \mathcal{I} is not derivable from \mathcal{P} , but interacts with it through coherence constraints.

4. Axiomatic Structure of Probability–Improbability Duality

1. **Field Duality:** $T_{\text{quantum}} = \mathcal{P} + \mathcal{I}$
2. **Coherence Bound:** $\|\mathcal{I}(x, t)\| \leq \|\rho_O - \rho_H\|_{\text{HS}}^2$
3. **Irreducibility:** $\mathcal{I} \notin \mathcal{F}[\mathcal{P}]$
4. **Phase Sensitivity:** $\theta(\Delta\varphi)$ regulates local activation
5. **Time Symmetry:** $\mathcal{I}(x, -t) \approx \mathcal{I}(x, t)$

5. Applications and Illustrative Contexts

5.1 Rare Event Observation in Quantum Systems

Non-Markovian coherence revivals modeled by $\mathcal{I}(x, t)$.

5.2 Single-Trial Cognition and Decision Latency

Mental events modeled via phase thresholds and latent coherence.

5.3 Horizon-Induced Epistemic Shadowing

Event horizon regions modeled by non-zero \mathcal{I} despite inaccessible observation.

6. Conclusion and Future Directions

We have introduced the improbabilistic field as a quantifiable expression of latent coherence. This structure complements classical probability and extends the range of epistemic modeling to include rare, singular, and structurally undecidable events. Future work may include simulations, empirical exploration, and formal extension into generalized inference theory. Recognizing improbability as a structured field may mark a shift toward epistemic completeness in quantum theory.

References

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