# Why nobody understands Quantum Mechanics 

Andrea Di Biagio



Yoga with Anysa Workshop


Erwin Schrödinger 1926


Albert Einstein 1926

## What's up with quantum theory?



## What's up with quantum theory?




Niels Bohr 1952


## What's up with quantum theory?



## What's up with quantum theory?

## Those who are not shocked

 when they first come across quantum theory cannot possibly

## Technological Applications

## What's up with quantum theory?

## Technological Applications



## What's up with quantum theory?

## Technological Applications



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## Technological Applications



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## Technological Applications



## What's up with quantum theory?



## What's up with quantum theory?



## What's up with quantum theory?



## quantum theory?



## quantum theory?



## quantum theory?





| 57 La | 58 Ce | 59 Pr | 60 Nd | 61 | 62 | 63 Eu | G4 | 65 Tb | 66 | 67 Ho | 68 Er | $\begin{aligned} & 69 \\ & \mathrm{Tm} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 70 \\ & \mathrm{Yb} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 71 \\ & \mathrm{Lu} \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 |
| Ac | Th | Pa | U | Np | Pu | Am | Cm | Bk | Cf | Es | Fm | Md | No | Lr |




David Mermin 2012


## What's up with quantum theory?



## What's up with quantum theory?



## What's up with quantum theory?

## A Fraction of the Quantum Foundations Meetings since 1972

| 1972 | The Development of the Physicist's Conception of Nature, Trieste, Italy |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1973 | Foundations of Quantum Mechanics and Ordered Linear Spaces, Marbourg, Germany |
| 1974 | Quantum Mechanics, a Half Century Later, Strasbourg, Germany |
| 1975 | Foundational Problems in the Special Sciences, London, Canada |
| 1976 | International Symposium on Fifty Years of the Schrödinger Equation, Vienna, Austria |
| 1977 | International School of Physics "Enrico Fermi", Course LXXII: Problems in the Foundations of Physics, Varenna, Italy |
| 1978 | Stanford Seminar on the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, Stanford, USA |
| 1979 | Interpretations and Foundations of Quantum Theory, Marburg, Germany |
| 1980 | Quantum Theory and the Structures of Time and Space, Tutzing, Germany |
| 1981 | NATO Advanced Study Institute on Quantum Optics, Experimental Gravitation, and Measurement Theory, Bad Windsheim, Germany |
| 1982 | The Wave-Particle Dualism: a Tribute to Louis de Broglie, Perugia, Italy |
| 1983 | Foundations of Quantum Mechanics in the Light of New Technology, Tokyo, Japan |
| 1984 | Fundamental Questions in Quantum Mechanics, Albany, New York |
| 1985 | Symposium on the Foundations of Modern Physics: 50 Years of the Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen Gedankenexperiment, Joensuu, Finland |
| 1986 | New Techniques and Ideas in Quantum Measurement Theory, New York, USA |
| 1987 | Symposium on the Foundations of Modern Physics 1987: The Copenhagen Interpretation 60 Years after the Como Lecture, Joensuu, Finland |
| 1988 | Bell's Theorem, Quantum Theory, and Conceptions of the Universe, Washington, DC, USA |
| 1989 | Sixty-two Years of Uncertainty: Historical, Philosophical and <br> Physical Inquiries into the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics, Erice, Italy |
| 1990 | Symposium on the Foundations of Modern Physics 1990: Quantum Theory of Measurement and Related Philosophical Problems, Joensuu, Finland |
| 1991 | Bell's Theorem and the Foundations of Modern Physics, Cesena, Italy |
| 1992 | Symposia on the Foundations of Modern Physics 1992: The Copenhagen Interpretation and Wolfgang Pauli, Helsinki, Finland |
| 1993 | International Symposium on Fundamental Problems in Quantum Physics, Oviedo, Spain |
| 1994 | Fundamental Problems in Quantum Theory, Baltimore, USA |
| 1995 | The Dilemma of Einstein, Podolsky and Rosen, 60 Years Later, Haifa, Israel |
| 1996 | 2nd International Symposium on Fundamental Problems in Quantum Physics, Oviedo, Spain |
| 1997 | Sixth UK Conference on Conceptual and Mathematical Foundations of Modern Physics, Hull, England |
| 1998 | Mysteries, Puzzles, and Paradoxes in Quantum Mechanics, Garda Lake, Italy |
| 1999 | 2nd Workshop on Fundamental Problems in Quantum Theory, Baltimore, USA |
| 2000 | NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Decoherence and its Implications in Quantum Computation and Information Transfer, Mykonos, Greece |
| 2001 | Quantum Theory: Reconsideration of Foundations, Växjö, Sweden |

C. Fuchs (2002) https:/ /arxiv.org/abs/quant-ph/0205039

## What's up with quantum theory?


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## What's up with quantum theory?



NATO Advanced Research Workshop on Decoherence and its Implications in Quantum Computation and Information Transfer, Mykonos, Greece
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interpretations_of_quantum_mechanics\#Comparisons Quantum Theory: Reconsideration of Foundations, Växjö, Sweden
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in Quantum Computation and Information Transfer, Mykonos, Greece
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Two missions of science

## Two missions of science

## Science offers two things:

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## Science offers two things:

1. Control

## Science offers two things:

1. Control
2. Understanding

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QM was a success on both counts, so what's all the fuss about?

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We'll take a fast-track route to the core of the problem.

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We'll take a fast-track route to the core of the problem.

## Plan

- What is quantum mechanics?
- The double slit experiment
- Electron Spin \& qubits
- Entanglement



## What is Quantum Mechanics?

## QM is our theory of matter...

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- Originally: the theory of the atom


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- Originally: the theory of the atom
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- Now, the properties of all matter


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- Predicts only probabilities of the result of interactions


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## What is Quantum Mechanics?

## QM is our theory of matter...

- Originally: the theory of the atom
- Then the nucleus, then chemistry
- Now, the properties of all matter
- Rigorous (and beautiful) mathematical structure ... with uncomfortable features:
- Predicts only probabilities of the result of interactions
- A split: system / observer
- No intuitive picture of what happens between interactions


## Electron



## Electron



## Electron



## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun


## Double Slit Experiment



## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun

panel with slits

## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun

panel with slits

## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun

panel with slits

## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun

panel with slits

## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun

panel with slits

## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun

panel with slits

## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun


## Double Slit Experiment



Electron Gun


## Double Slit Experiment

## Double Slit Experiment



## Double Slit Experiment



## Double Slit Experiment



A


## Double Slit Experiment



A


Ask different questions, get different answers.

## Double Slit Experiment



A


Ask different questions, get different answers.

Questions that aren't asked, don't have answers.

## Double Slit Experiment

## Double Slit Experiment

## Demonstration of single-electron buildup of an interference pattern

A. Tonomura, J. Endo, T. Matsuda, and T. Kawasaki

Advanced Research Laboratory, Hitachi, Ltd., Kokubunji, Tokyo 185, Japan
H. Ezawa

Department of Physics, Gakushuin University, Mejiro, Tokyo 171, Japan

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American Journal of Physics 57, 117 (1989); https://doi.org/10.1179/1.16104
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Single- and double-slit diffraction of neutrons
Anton Zeilinger, Roland Gähler, C. G. Shull, Wolfgang Treimer, and Walter Mampe Rev. Mod. Phys. 60, 1067 - Published 1 October 1988

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## Wave-particle duality of $\mathrm{C}_{\mathbf{6 0}}$ molecules

Markus Arndt, Olaf Nairz, Julian Vos-Andreae, Claudia Keller, Gerbrand van der Zouw \& Anton Zeilinger $\bullet$

Nature 401, 680-682(1999) | Cite this article


## Plan

- What is quantum mechanics?
- The double slit experiment
- Electron Spin \& Qubits
- Entanglement


Electron Spin


Electron Spin


Electron Spin



Electron Spin



## Electron Spin




## Electron Spin



## Electron Spin



## Electron Spin



## Electron Spin



Q: How much are you pointing this way?

## Electron Spin



Q: How much are you pointing this way?

## Electron Spin



Q: How much are you pointing this way?

## Electron Spin



Q: How much are you pointing this way?

## Electron Spin



Q: How much are you pointing this way?

## Electron Spin



Q: How much are you pointing this way?
Only two possible answers!

## Electron Spin




Q: How much are you pointing this way?
Only two possible answers!





















## Electron Spin



## Electron Spin



## Electron Spin




Only one answer at a time!

## Qubits

- Only 2 answers to any question


## Qubits

- Only 2 answers to any question
- Only 1 bit of information


## Qubits

- Only 2 answers to any question
- Only 1 bit of information


## Quantum Computers



## Qubits

- Only 2 answers to any question
- Only 1 bit of information


## Quantum <br> Computers



## Plan

- What is quantum mechanics?
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Source


Alice
Source
Bob


Source


Bob


Bob

## Entanglement



Alice
Source


Bob

## Entanglement

1101010001001101001001001...
1101010001001101001001001...


Alice
Source


Bob

## Entanglement


1101010001001101001001001...
1101010001001101001001001...


Alice
Source


Bob

## Entanglement


1101010001001101001001001...
1101010001001101001001001...


Alice
Source


Bob

## Entanglement


1101010001001101001001001...
1101010001001101001001001...


Alice
Source


Bob

## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |

1101010001001101001001001...
1101010001001101001001001...


Alice
Source


Bob

| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |






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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



Alice
Source
Bob

| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



Entanglement

| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
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Entanglement

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| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



Entanglement

| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



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| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |



| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{Z}$ | $\mathbf{x}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ | $=$ | $\mathbf{R}$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $\mathbf{R}$ | $=$ |







## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{B}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{Z}$ |  |  |
| $\mathbf{x}$ |  |  |



## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{B}$ | $z^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ |  |
| x |  |  |



## Entanglement

| $\mathrm{A}^{\mathrm{B}}$ | $\mathrm{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathrm{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| z | $=$ |  |
| x |  | $\neq$ |



## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $=$ | $\neq$ |



## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $=$ | $\neq$ |



## Entanglement



## Entanglement



## Entanglement



## Entanglement



## Entanglement



Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $=$ | $\neq$ |



## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $=$ | $\neq$ |


x

| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $=$ | $\neq$ |



| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
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| $\mathbf{A}^{\mathbf{B}}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
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## Entanglement

| $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{z}^{\prime}$ | $\mathbf{x}^{\prime}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{z}$ | $=$ | $=$ |
| $\mathbf{x}$ | $=$ | $\neq$ |



3

Can answer correctly only $75 \%$ of the time!


## Entanglement



## Entanglement

## Experimental Realization of Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen-Bohm

 Gedankenexperiment: A New Violation of Bell's InequalitiesAlain Aspect, Philippe Grangier, and Gérard Roger
Phys. Rev. Lett. 49, 91 - Published 12 July 1982


## Entanglement

Experimental Realization of Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen-Bohm Gedankenexperiment: A New Violation of Bell's Inequalities

# Loophole-free Bell inequality violation using electron spins separated by 1.3 kilometres 

B. Hensen, H. Bernien, A. E. Dréau, A. Reiserer, N. Kalb, M. S. Blok, J. Ruitenberg, R. F. L. Vermeulen, R. N. Schouten, C. Abellán, W. Amaya, V. Pruneri, M. W. Mitchell, M. Markham, D. J. Twitchen, D. Elkouss, S. Wehner, T. H. Taminiau \& R. Hanson $\square$


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Nature 526, 682-686(2015) | Cite this article

## Strong Loophole-Free Test of Local Realism

Lynden K. Shalm et al.
Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 250402 - Published 16 December 2015


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 Gedankenexperiment: A New Violation of Bell's Inequalities
## Nature answers correctly $82 \%$ of the time!

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## Interpretations

| Interpretation * | Year <br> pub- <br> lished | Author(s) $\uparrow$ | Deterministic? | Ontic wavefunction? | Unique history? | Hidden variables? | Collapsing wavefunctions? | Observer role? | Local dynamics? | Counterfactually * definite? | Extant universal wavefunction? |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ensemble interpretation | 1926 | Max Born | Agnostic | No | Yes | Agnostic | No | No | No | No | No |
| Copenhagen interpretation | 1927 | Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg | No | $\mathrm{No}{ }^{[a]}$ | Yes | No | Yes ${ }^{[b]}$ | Causal | Yes | No | No |
| de BroglieBohm theory | $\begin{gathered} 1927- \\ 1952 \end{gathered}$ | Louis de Broglie, David Bohm | Yes | Yes ${ }^{[c]}$ | Yes ${ }^{[d]}$ | Yes | Phenomenological | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| Quantum logic | 1936 | Garrett Birkhoff | Agnostic | Agnostic | Yes ${ }^{[\mathrm{e}]}$ | No | No | Interpretational ${ }^{[f]}$ | Agnostic | No | No |
| Timesymmetric theories | 1955 | Satosi Watanabe | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | $\mathrm{No}{ }^{[55]}$ | No | Yes |
| Many-worlds interpretation | 1957 | Hugh Everett | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | No | Yes | III-posed | Yes |
| Consciousness causes collapse | $\begin{gathered} 1961- \\ 1993 \end{gathered}$ | John von Neumann, Eugene Wigner, Henry Stapp | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Causal | No | No | Yes |
| Stochastic interpretation | 1966 | Edward Nelson | No | No | Yes | Yes ${ }^{[9]}$ | No | No | No | Yes ${ }^{[9]}$ | No |
| Many-minds interpretation | 1970 | H. Dieter Zeh | Yes | Yes | No | No | No | Interpre- <br> tational ${ }^{[h]}$ | Yes | III-posed | Yes |
| Consistent histories | 1984 | Robert B. Griffiths | No | No | No | No | $\mathrm{No}{ }^{[1]}$ | No | Yes | No | Yes |
| Transactional interpretation | 1986 | John G. Cramer | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes ${ }^{[i]}$ | No | $\mathrm{No}{ }^{[k]}$ | Yes | No |
| Objective collapse theories | $\begin{gathered} 1986- \\ 1989 \end{gathered}$ | Ghirardi-Rimini-Weber, Penrose interpretation | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | No | No |
| Relational interpretation | 1994 | Carlo Rovelli | $\mathrm{No}{ }^{[56]}$ | No | Agnostic [l] | No | Yes ${ }^{[m]}$ | Intrinsic ${ }^{\text {[ }}$ ] | Yes ${ }^{[57]}$ | No | No |
| QBism | 2010 | Christopher Fuchs, Ruediger Schack | No | $\mathrm{No}{ }^{[0]}$ | Agnostic ${ }^{[p]}$ | No | Yes ${ }^{[q]}$ | Intrinsic ${ }^{[r]}$ | Yes | No | No |

## Entanglement

What could be an explanation for entanglement?

## Entanglement

What could be an explanation for entanglement?

- Alice and Bob somehow rarely ask the "wrong" question


## Entanglement

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- Faster-than-light signalling (= signalling back in time)


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- ???
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- ???
- Parallel worlds
- Reality is relational


## Entanglement

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- Alice and Bob somehow rarely ask the "wrong" question
- Faster-than-light signalling (= signalling back in time)
- ???
- Parallel worlds
- Reality is relational
- Need a new concept of "explanation"


## Thank You!

Hope you are confused

## Read




## THETTAO OF PHYSICS



## FRITJOF CAPRA

THIRD EDITION

## Watch



## CLOSER TO TRUTH

Understanding Puantum Mechanics \#B


Understanding Quantum
Mechanics \#6: It's not just a...

Sabine Hossenfelder
130K subscribers


The Character of Physical Law Richard Feynman (1964)


Feynman 'Fun to Imagine'

