



## Quantum physics

# Einstein was wrong

Viennese quantum physicists prove with ancient light that quantum entanglement exists.

Vienna. (Est) Only when you look, they both stand still: particles, which obey the laws of quantum mechanics, behave quite sneaky, because behind the backs of the researchers they do nobody knows what. Only when scientists measure the state of two entangled particles do they instantaneously assume the identical state, and the question is whether the measurement influences or creates the state, or whether it is not.



Not so spooky:

The problem of quantum entanglement, which Albert Einstein denounced as a "spooky distance", could be summarized in this way. Only the measurement on one of two entangled particles automatically determines the undefined state of the other to this point. This happens even over long distances - for example, if one particle is in Vienna and the other is in space, they can not exchange information at all, as one would expect. Einstein assumed that the setting of the measuring instruments could influence the particle states and a linkage could be simulated. Quite physically, quantum physicists are convinced that the physics of the smallest particles simply follow more crazy rules than those of the visible matter.

In fact, particles that remain undefined without an observer are difficult to reconcile with our world view. In order to prove the entanglement, physicists must therefore be innovative. They let measurement settings of random generators or over thousands of arbitrary decisions of humans determine. A team led by Anton Zeilinger from the Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (IQOQI) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW) has taken a step further: it left the choice to the stars.

The Viennese physicists first produced cross-linked pairs of photons in the laboratory and sent them from the Hedy-Lamarr telescope on the roof of their institute in the ninth district of Vienna to separate measuring stations near the Austrian National Bank and the University of Natural History. There are astronomical telescopes that capture the light of two stars from opposite directions of the Milky Way. The incident photons controlled the settings for measuring the entangled particles.

Einstein wanted to explain quantum confusion with the physics of Newton, in which he sought hidden variables. Such variables are now excluded by the Viennese researchers. Your Conclusio: Einstein was wrong. Since the photons are taken from stars, the light years are both from each other as well as from the earth, the choice of the measurement setting should have been 600 years ago.

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## "Loophole of free choice"

"The likelihood that there are hidden variables that could lead to the entanglement is now even lower than before, because an influence on the measuring result would have had to take place well before Gutenberg's invention of book printing", explains Zeilinger to the journal Physical Review Letters "published experiment."

As early as 1964, the Northern physicist John Stewart Bell had formulated a proposal on how the quantum-physical entanglement can be tested experimentally. Since then, numerous "Bell tests" have been carried out to prove the "spooky remote effect". However, the experiments contained loopholes, so that skeletal skepticism could not be completely disproved. "One is the" loophole of free choice, "says first author Johannes Handsteiner. This means that the particles and the measuring device could theoretically have been causally influenced before the experiment.

"In order to exclude an 'agreement' between the particle and the measuring device, the exact setting of the latter must be chosen freely and independently of the particles," explains Steiner. Each stellar light particle determines the setting of the measurement on the earth by its color, which was fixed at the time of its creation at the star. "We were able to close the 'loophole of free choice' by 16 orders of magnitude," Zeilinger said. The researchers are now planning to go back in time, if possible until shortly after the Big Bang.

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