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Schrodinger's Kittens and the Search for Reality: Solving the Quantum Mysteries

By John Gribbin



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In this eagerly anticipated sequel to the classic bestseller *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat*, John Gribbin digs even deeper into the mysterious and confounding world of quantum mechanics. Gribbin takes infinitely complex, mind-bending experiments, brings them to life, and makes them accessible to the lay reader. Under his deft guidance, we can begin to grasp the fundamental riddle of today's quantum mechanics: how a single photon can be seen going in two directions at once. Along the way, Gribbin reveals some fascinating discoveries: how quantum particles could one day be used in a Star Trek-type teleportation system, and how quantum cryptographers have developed ways of making unbreakable codes using quantum effects. *Schrodinger's Kittens and the Search for Reality* illuminates the world's most intriguing and enigmatic scientific phenomenon - and shows how the "impossible dreams" of such legendary scientists as Bohr, Feynman, and Einstein may soon become reality.



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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Astrophysicist John Gribbin first introduced the general public to the world of quantum physics in 1984 with his book *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat*. A dizzying, counterintuitive domain, the quantum world is so strange that Richard Feynman, the greatest physicist of his time, admitted, "nobody understands quantum physics."

Science has not stood still in the years since *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat* was written, and in this new book, Gribbin brings us up to speed on the latest developments. New interpretive models have been put forth about the nature of particles and light; experimental evidence has turned over many of the basic precepts of the Copenhagen interpretation, which says that until it is observed, the subatomic world exists only as a probability wave, lacking any objective reality independent of observation. The new models offer not only a paradigm independent of an observer, but also begin to unite quantum phenomena with relativity and Newtonian mechanics. This is *not* to say that the quantum realm has become more comprehensible. With particles existing simultaneously as particles and waves, feedback loops, and waves that move forward and backward in time, the quantum world is still a strange, strange place; it's just a little less solipsistic.

As in his previous books, Gribbin deftly translates the abstruse mathematics of these new theories into a highly readable narrative that informs as it entertains. *Schrödinger's Kittens and the Search for Reality* is a book that can be enjoyed by expert and layman alike.

From Publishers Weekly

In a sequel to *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat*, Gribbin offers further explorations into the often mind-bending theoretical world of contemporary quantum physics.

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From Library Journal

In *In Search of Schrodinger's Cat* (LJ 7/84), veteran science writer Gribbin considered a famous paradox in quantum mechanics: that subatomic particles are not really particles until someone observes them. His new book explains recent experimental and theoretical findings about the strange nature of the submicroscopic world of the atom. The "Copenhagen interpretation" of quantum mechanics offered by Niels Bohr and his colleagues has prevailed for almost 70 years, but there is now a plethora of competing interpretations.

Gribbin reviews this active and controversial field and cautiously indicates his personal preference for one of the new theoretical models. It is fascinating to see how a problem long regarded as "settled" has acquired new layers of mystery. For larger science collections? Jack W. Weigel, Univ. of Michigan Lib., Ann Arbor
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