

432018 PHILOSOPHY OF PHYSICS (Spring 2002)

Instructions for the seminar in Week 4

Reading: For the seminar, as well as the preliminary reading for the lecture, please read the following:

Quantum Mechanics and Experience by D. Z. Albert (Harvard University Press, 1994), Chapters 4, 5 and 6.

Note that the book by Albert will be very useful as another source of readings for the first part of the course. As such, you would be well advised to get hold of a copy.

Instructions: In the seminar, I would like to concentrate on the physical and philosophical implications of the interpretations discussed in the readings. Indeed, bearing in mind these implications, we can assess the adequacy of these interpretations by seeing how successfully they solve the measurement problem.

As such, I would like you to prepare a few questions for the class to discuss. Note that these questions may serve different purposes, and in particular, questions which:

- raise objections to, or can be asked in defence of, a given interpretation, or
- illustrate philosophical concerns that we may have about some of these interpretations, or
- examine how well a given interpretation solves the measurement problem,

are welcomed. In the seminar these questions will be discussed and so you should, if possible, prepare answers to your own questions or questions which other people may raise. In particular, those people who agree with a given interpretation should be prepared to defend it.