

# Determinate Values for Quantum Observables

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## Abstract

This is a comment on J. A. Barrett's article "The Preferred-Basis Problem and the Quantum Mechanics of Everything" in *Brit. J. Phil. Sci.* 56 (2005), which concerns theories postulating that certain quantum observables have determinate values, corresponding to additional (often called "hidden") variables. I point out that it is far from clear, for most observables, what such a postulate is supposed to mean, unless the postulated additional variable is related to a clear ontology in space-time, such as particle world lines, string world sheets, or fields.

**Keywords:** Bohmian mechanics, beables, observables, quantum theory without observers, hidden variables

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