

# A Lexicon of Philosophy of Physics

**brown (adj.)**

of a deeply saturated rufous color, sometimes overwhelming the senses with its vivacity

**bluffink (vb.; abbrev. uffink)**

to master and explicate a subject so thoroughly as to bluff everyone else into thinking there is nothing left to say

**butterfield (n.)**

an expanse of beautiful flora extending as far as the eye can see, in which all genera and species of flowers are elegantly juxtaposed, the complexity of the detail becoming ever more confusing the more closely one looks

**curiel (adj.)**

unusual, esoteric, unexpected (esp. of spacetime theories), as in: “It is a curiel feature of General Relativity that it permits no satisfactory definition of gravitational energy”. (Also as in L. Carroll, “‘Curieler and curieler!’, cried Alice.”); hence (n.): curious anomaly, the exception to the rule; hence (vb.): to curiel

**ear (vb.)**

to listen without responding, because it wouldn’t have done any good; hence **earman** (n.): one who ears

**hart (vb.)**

to use Bayesian methods to decide to commit with heartfelt sincerity to more than one human can accomplish; hence **hartmann** (n.): one who harts

**lehmkuhl (n.)**

a rich, fertile loam particularly suited for the growing of obscure, historical strains of vegetation [for non-German speakers: the pun is on ‘lehm’, which means ‘loam’]

**manchack (n.)**

(I) the minimal length possible for a philosophical argument, often used as a unit of measure as in: “I’ve gotten my paper down to 2 manchaks, but I can’t cut it any more.”; (II) the minimal content possible for a slide used in a public talk

**manchack (vb.)**

to shackle with a set of inescapable manacles forged from mathematical theorems

**maudlin (adj.)**

rumbustious, ready with high spirits to take on all comers

**nor-ton (vb.)**

a unit of measure suited to large reams of paper, generally filled with disjunctive negations of every possible position on a given issue

**pitts (adj.)**

of or pertaining to deep mines where the fabled massless, spin-2 particle is said to reside

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**pooley (adj.)**

capable of staying afloat and even making headway in deep pools of murky water

**roberts (adj.)**

characterized by a state of high-spirited, collegial vigor in which every possible aspect of an issue or question is examined too quickly for any listener to follow

**stein (n.)**

a slowly, inexorably rolling stone, crushing all in its path, magically leaving in its wake a verdant, fruitful yet nearly impassable forest, by an action almost invisible to the non-specialist's eye

**valente (vb.)**

to act at a distance

**wall-ace (n.)**

an ace at winning arguments by doggedly driving one's opponent up against the wall

**weatherall (vb.)**

to provide shelter in every possible meteorological condition for those few who understand how to take it