

Collapse

Noel tom (BL.EN.U4CSE23035)
Jnanasagara Srinivasa (BL.EN.U4CSE23019)
Parth Pathak (BL.EN.U4CSE23036)
Harsh Vardhan Singh (BL.EN.U4CSE23222)
Atharva Anup Wasnik (BL.EN.U4CSE23209)

INT. SCENE 1: PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

Bright college classroom. Chalkboard is covered in equations. The air is filled with muffled muttering.

CAMERA: MID-SHOT OF STUDENTS

Students are doodling, note-passing, and one or two already asleep.

CAMERA: WIDE ANGLE OF THE CLASS, SLOW ZOOM INTO THE PROFESSOR AT THE BOARD

The 6ft man standing at the front is PROFESSOR SHARMA, a dynamic and expressive man in his late 40s. He wears a pair of glasses which he keeps pushing up and a crumpled shirt. His energy is impossible to ignore—he paces around with purpose, chalk held tight in hand, stopping every now and again to scratch his chin. His students admire and are also intimidated by his teaching style.

PROFESSOR SHARMA

(writing on the board, turning to the class with melodramatic excitement)

Superposition and wave function collapse. It's so mysterious, isn't it?

He stops, dramatically adjusting his glasses, looking around the room.

PROFESSOR SHARMA

(lowering his voice, almost whispering like a theorist)

The fact that a particle can exist in different states until we measure it—its just difficult for us to even visualize. So to help with that I'll be taking a little advice from my friend Schrödinger here.

CAMERA: CUT TO STUDENTS' EXPRESSIONS

Confused looks shoot around the room.

CAMERA: CLOSE-UP ON VIKRAM

Vikram, seated in the middle, leans forward slightly. His eyes frown as he processes the professor's words. His entire frame—his behaviour, his body language—is that of a

reasonable mind engaged. Unlike the others, he isn't just listening; he's figuring it out.

VIKRAM
(forward lean, grim face but
slight smile)
Your friend?

A couple of students laugh.

CAMERA: CLOSE-UP OF PROFESSOR

The professor smiles, sarcastically putting a hand on his heart as if personally hurt.

PROFESSOR SHARMA
(sarcastic disappointment, pacing
the front of the room)
Oh, yes, we go way back! But that's
not the point.

CAMERA: CLOSE-UP OF HIS HAND AS HE TWIRLS A PIECE OF CHALK

He picks up a piece of chalk and twirls it around in his fingers like a magician before pointing at the class.

PROFESSOR SHARMA
Tell me—who here has heard of
Schrödinger's Cat?

CAMERA: PANNING SHOT OF THE CLASS, SCANNING REACTIONS BEFORE STOPPING AT AJAY

Ajay, who has been leaning in his chair with the unfazed attitude of a person who has all the time in the world, smiles and then nonchalantly raises his hand. Despite his younger age, being the smartest in his class truly makes his intelligence and charisma undeniable. If there was an award for being cocky and humble at the same time, he'd be the winner. His behaviour often leaves everyone confused.

CAMERA: MEDIUM CLOSE-UP OF PROFESSOR RUBBING HIS TEMPLES, LOOKING WEARY

PROFESSOR SHARMA
(Weary look)
Well, anyone not named Ajay.

CAMERA: WIDE SHOT OF THE CLASS

There is laughter that ripples through the class.

CAMERA: ZOOM IN ON AJAY LEANING BACK IN HIS CHAIR

Ajay, unfazed, leans back in his chair, smiling.

AJAY
 (smirking, tilting his head
 slightly)
 Maybe, maybe not.

CAMERA: CLOSE-UP OF PROFESSOR'S REACTION

The professor stiffens, staring at him, then erupts into a wide grin, pointing at Ajay.

PROFESSOR SHARMA
 (laughing)
 Touché! But all of you, read it up. We
 will be discussing it first thing next
 lecture. And that's all for today.
 Thank you.

--Bell Rings--

CAMERA: WIDE SHOT OF STUDENTS

Students start filling bags, chairs scraping floor. Some just run out, others linger.

CAMERA: MEDIUM CLOSE-UP OF NISHITH

Nishith, still indecisive, hesitates before raising his hand. He holds on to his pen tightly, fingers drumming nervously on the desk. His face has a look of extreme concern, as if the next sentence from the professor could decide his entire future.

NISHITH
 (nervously, voice slightly shaky)
 Sir, are you going to be asking
 questions about this next lecture?

CAMERA: MID-SHOT OF THE PROFESSOR

The professor raises an eyebrow, tilting his head to one side.

PROFESSOR SHARMA
 (dramatic, heavy sigh)
 No, Nishith. I won't.

He then smiles very slightly, adjusting his glasses once

again.

PROFESSOR SHARMA
 (serious but with a twinkle of
 humour in his eye)
 But do make sure you research it
 yourself anyway.

CAMERA: MEDIUM SHOT OF NISHITH FREEZING, CUT TO RAM
 STRETCHING LAZILY IN HIS CHAIR

Nishith freezes.

Ram, reclining in his chair as if the world is moving too quickly for his taste, slowly raises his head. His relaxed posture screams that he's saving his energy for a crisis that definitely won't come, and his half-smile never goes away. When he does talk, it sounds like a man who lives life like a long weekend—never hurried, never upset.

RAM
 (leaning against his chair,
 stretching, smirking)
 Do you get paid to worry all the time?

CAMERA: MEDIUM SHOT OF THE PROFESSOR CHUCKLING

The professor chuckles, head-shaking as he gathers his books and exits. The instant he is out of sight, the room's atmosphere changes.

INT. SCENE 2: CLASSROOM - AFTER PROFESSOR LEAVES

CAMERA: MEDIUM GROUP SHOT, SLIGHT SKEWED ANGLE TO GET RELAXED
 ATMOSPHERE

The classroom is more relaxed. Bright and calm. Some students have already left, while others talk aimlessly. The blackboard continues to have "Schrödinger's Cat" in large, swooping script.

Ram leans back, stretching hugely in his chair.

RAM
 (yawning, hands locked behind head)
 Man, I swear, the secret to long life
 is living in physics class.

CAMERA: CLOSE-UP OF VIKRAM

VIKRAM

(folding his arms, shaking his head slightly)

Yes, a superposition of 'will this class ever end' and 'this class will never end.' So hard on the soul.

CAMERA: MID-SHOT OF AJAY CHUCKLING

Ajay chuckles as he rises and gets ready to leave.

AJAY

(rolling his eyes, stretching a bit)

More drama than a serial. It's not that bad. Let's go out for a bit, get some fresh air before the next period.

CAMERA: CLOSE-UP OF NISHITH, LOOKING TOWARD THE DOOR NERVOUSLY

Nishith, unsure, fidgets in his chair, looking towards the door as if a ghost is going to come at any moment.

NISHITH

(doubtful, glancing at the door)

Dude, what if the next faculty arrives before we get out?

CAMERA: MID-SHOT OF AJAY AND VIKRAM EXCHANGING AMUSED LOOKS, CUT TO RAM PATTING NISHITH'S BACK

Ajay and Vikram share mock glances. Ram slaps Nishith on the back, grinning.

RAM

(teasing, striding past him)

Then you stay.

Nishith groans, rolling his eyes, and follows.

NISHITH

(muttering, under his breath)

No need, I'll come.

CAMERA: WIDE SHOT OF THE FOUR DEPARTING, THE CLASS NOW DESERTED BEHIND THEM.

CAMERA LINGERS FOR AN INSTANT BEFORE SWITCHING AGAIN TO THE HALLWAY, WHERE THE GROUP CONTINUES SPEAKING.

EXT. SCENE 3: CORRIDOR DURING BREAK TIME

Ram stretches lazily, Nishith walks with a slouched back, Vikram walks with a straight back and in a confident manner, Ajay walks with his hands in his pockets.

CAMERA FOLLOWS OUR CHARACTERS FACING THEIR BACKS, STOPS AND PANS SLOWLY TO THEM IN A FRAME AS THEY STOP

TWO ANGLES OF CAMERA, ONE ON THE LEFT AND ONE ON THE RIGHT SIDE

CAMERA ON THE LEFT SIDE

Ram is looking tired and annoyed because of the class.

RAM

God, that was a class and then some.
I'm not sure if I'm ready for anything
with the word "quantum" in it.

VIKRAM

Oh, you'll be fine. Physics is just a
lot of formulae. Remember them and
you'll be good.

CAMERA ON THE RIGHT SIDE

AJAY

Ehhh, it's so much more than just
formulae. Remember sir talking about
Schrodinger's Cat? It's genuinely an
interesting thought experiment. You
wanna hear about it?Schrodinger's Cat?
It's genuinely an interesting thought
experiment. You wanna hear about it?

Vikram, Ram and Nishith sarcastically stare at Ajay with zero interest. 2 second silence..

AJAY

You don't? Well, anyway, so there's
this cat and a box-

NISHITH

(mildly panicked about being late)
Dude, we should really go back to
class. What if she's already there?

RAM
 (in a frustrated manner)
 Leave the cat, put this fellow in a
 box.

EXT. SCENE 4: AS THEY ARE ENTERING THE CLASS

All 4 of them are heading towards their classroom. Slow mild
 background music.

CAMERA FACING THEIR FRONTS, FOLLOWING FROM FRONT

VIKRAM
 (tired and exhausted)
 That's more than enough about physics.
 Switch gears, next subject, please!
 Thank You. What do we have now?

NISHITH
 I think Maths.

RAM
 (annoyed)
 Oh god, can we go back to physics
 class.

AJAY
 Haha, be careful what u wish for.

They reach the classroom.

CAMERA FACES OUR CHARACTERS AT THE DOOR AND MOVES BACKWARD
 WITH THEIR ENTRANCE

INT. SCENE 5: INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

All of them enter the classroom. The classroom is
 uncomfortably empty and ominously silent. A shot of a still
 clock, but a ticking sound is heard. Desks are covered in a
 film of dust. On top of a few of them lie lab records,
 notebook and stationaries as if some people left the class
 and were supposed to return. Bags of the students left
 abandoned and dusty. A musty, almost choking stillness clings
 to the air. The only sound is the soft creak of a loose fan
 blade overhead. The classroom is not as well lit as it is
 normally. Stillness clings to the air.

As soon as they enter the classroom, they realise that the
 environment is very silent(somewhat of mild ringing in their
 ears)

Suspenseful music starts gradually.

CAMERA FACING THEIR FRONT

NISHITH
(shocked and overthinking)
What is this? Where is everyone?

VIKRAM
Well, that's odd. Did we miss an
announcement?

CAMERA FOLLOWS VIKRAM AS HE MOVES AROUND THE CLASSROOM

CAMERA PANS TOWARDS NISHITH, AJAY AND RAM

NISHITH
(panicked and anxious)
I told y'all we shouldn't have left!
God!

CAMERA FACING AJAY LOOKING AROUND THE CLASS TO FIND SOMETHING

RAM
(looking at Nishith)
And we told you to stay in class. But
well, I think this calls for Professor
Ram.

CAMERA FOLLOWS RAM AS HE GOES TOWARDS BOARD

CAMERA SWITCHES SHOWING THE 3 OTHERS BEING ANNOYED BY RAM

RAM
Okay students, let's begin our--.

CAMERA'S FRAME CHANGES FROM RAM TO THE CLOCK

Ram looks at the wall clock. An intrusive ticking sound is audible but the hands don't move.

RAM
It's exactly -- well, that's an odd
clock. What's the point if it doesn't
move?

CAMERA SHOWS THE CLOCK IN THE BACKGROUND

A low, agitated hum in the background. Ram shakes his head, reverting back to teacher mode.

CAMERA PANS BACK TO RAM

RAM

Doesn't matter. No late entries, I'm taking attendance, so settle down.

CAMERA SWITCHES TO AJAY STILL LOOKING AROUND

CAMERA PANS TOWARDS RAM MOVING TOWARDS THE DOOR

Ram closes the door and locks it. When the lock's latch clicks, the screen flashes a 20 minutes timer (there is no background music, complete silence for 2 seconds)

NISHITH

(anxious and panicked)

Why would you lock the door!?!??

CAMERA PANS AT VIKRAM HURRYING TOWARDS RAM

VIKRAM

(annoyed with Ram's actions)

Knock it off man, you're not funny
Ram.

CAMERA IS SET IN A WAY SO THAT NISHITH, RAM AND VIKRAM ARE IN THE FRAME

Nishith's breath quickens, hands gripping the desk tightly.

NISHITH

(voice trembling, shifting uncomfortably around him)

Please, Please, Please can we leave?

A draft of cold air rattles the windows.

RAM

The audacity of these kids. No attendance for you!

VIKRAM

I am perfectly capable of taking attendance.

CAMERA PANS AT VIKRAM WALKING TOWARDS THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER ON THE LECTERN

Vikram goes towards the attendance register which is kept on the lectern.

He opens the register and his face twists into confusion.

CAMERA LINGERS ON THE NAMES, WRITTEN IN NEAT HANDWRITTING-
INK FADED.

When the dusty register is opened,

Wait... wait.. what.. look at this. It
already has our names on it. What an
elaborate prank. This is weird.

CAMERA PANS TO EVERYONE GATHERING NEAR THE LECTERN

AJAY

(being uneasy)

There's more- it's year-wise, and it's
only four people every year.

RAM

(chuckles to lighten the mood, but
his forced chuckle feels hollow)
50% attendance every year too, that's
funny. Not everyone's as diligent as
us, it seems.

NISHITH

(panic overtaking him)

Cut it out man. What is happening? We
should get out here.

CAMERA POINTS TO AJAY

AJAY

Y'all need to check this out.

Ajay is seen holding one of the books in his hands.

Suspenseful music intensity increases.

CAMERA PANS TO THE REST OF THE DESKS, SHOWING THE ABANDONED
DUSTY DESKS, BOOKS AND STATIONARIES

RAM

(Leaning against the chair with a
creak)

I'm not going anywhere near a lab
record.

VIKRAM

(Has a weird smile while going
through a stack of pages)

Wait, no, actually, check this out!

Vikram holds up the book, slowly getting nervous

Vikram reads out what's there in the book

Contents in the lab record:

Experiment: Schrodinger's Box

Apparatus Required: Human subjects, one observer, Geiger
counter, radioactive material

Theory: [Explains Schrodinger's Cat Experiment]

Duration: 20 minutes

Procedure: [Procedure]

Conclusion: Observation collapses the wave function.

VIKRAM

(Smashing the book on the table
with anger)

Yeah, this is ridiculous. What a dumb
prank, man.

NISHITH

(His voice trembles)

Guys stop... this does not feel
right... I'm leaving. You can stay
here. I can't do this anymore...

CAMERA FOLLOWS NISHITH AS HE IS HEADING CLOSE TO THE DOOR
WITH A SLIGHT UNSTABILITY AND ABRUPTLY COMES TO A HALT.

Nishith unlocks the door and the door creaks open slightly. A
silhouette is visible. The screen blacks out for a second.
Nishith disappears. A silhouette is visible. The screen
blacks out for a second. Nishith disappears.

RAM

(Stumbles back, His voice cracks
as he spins around)
What just happened?!(Calls out
Nishith's name) I didn't see him go
out. Where is he?

RAM

(now having lost his
characteristic nonchalance)
Nishith, stop playing around.

CAMERA NOW FOLLOWS AJAY

Ajay rushes to close the door, now locking it shut, then
turns to the others, back against the door.

CAMERA SHOWS VIEW OF THE CLASSROOM AS THOUGH FROM A SECURITY
CAMERA, SHOWING THE ENTIRETY OF THE CLASS

VIKRAM

(Alarmed, steps forward with
confusion)
What's wrong, Ajay?

AJAY

(Stammering while sweat trickled
down his forehead and a chill ran
through his spine)
I..I don't know.. I hope I'm wrong.

VIKRAM

(Raising his voice)
What?

AJAY

(In a shaky voice)
This is not a prank.

RAM

(Frustrated, raising his voice,
steps toward Ajay)
What do you mean this is not a prank?

AJAY

(Breathing heavily)
Nothing about this is a joke, the
attendance register, the lab records
and the clock too, for God's sake,
check your watches.

None of their watches are moving, neither is the clock. The light is low. The air is tight. Ram and Vikram are immobile, their faces twisted with terror and bewilderment.

RAM

(Annoyed, yelling)

For the love of god, stop speaking to us in riddles and give us some sense of what is happening here! us in riddles and give us some sense of what is happening here!

CAMERA ON RAM , FRUSTRATION EVIDENT IN HIS FACE

AJAY

(Breathing deeply)

Okay, pay attention. I can't completely wrap my head around this either, but we can't afford to waste any time. any time.

Camera on Ajay 's face ,beads of sweat visible . Over-The-Shoulder shot from behind Ajay, showing Ram and Vikram listening in disbelief.

AJAY

(With a deadpan stare and quivering voice)

We're the lab rats for an experiment—Schrödinger's Cat.

RAM

(Confused)

What are you saying?

AJAY

Look at the register. Four individuals each year. That is what has been happening inside our college year after year. I cannot put all this into words right now, but we already have lost almost ten minutes in this room. The lab record said 20. Our lives are being played around with. each year. That is what has been happening inside our college year after year. I cannot put all this into words right now, but we already have lost almost ten minutes in this room. The lab record said 20. Our lives are being played

around with.

VIKRAM

(Astonished)

Wait—Whatever happened to Nishith...
that could happen to any one of us?

AJAY

Yes. And there's more. Someone—or
something—is behind the door. Ten
minutes from now, that door will open,
and our lives will be solely up to
luck. Observadisbelieflapses the wave
function. Nishith was seen, he was If
we don't do something, one of us will
be next.

RAM

(Frantic)

What do you mean "do something"? What
can we even do?!

AJAY

Calm down. We need to break the
system. Let's give this a try—dial
someone. If our existence is proven
beyond this system, the experiment
fails. Try calling someone. Now!

Vikram hurriedly dials a number. The phone rings, but the
voice on the other end is distorted voice on the other end is
distorted

Phone Voice: The number you are calling does not... does...
[garbled static] ...exist.

CAMERA TILT UP FROM THE PHONE SCREEN TO VIKRAM 'S HORRIFIED
EXPRESSION.

RAM

What the hell does that even mean?! Do
something, Ajay!

AJAY

(In frustration)

I'm trying! We must have another
method. Reflections—if the observers
become the objects, maybe that changes
the system. Check phone cameras, look
for anything reflective!

Vikram and Ram pull out their phones and check their phone screens.

On the phone screen, the display is shown in a delayed manner.

CAMERA CLOSE UP ON RAM 'S PHONE SCREEN

RAM

(Defeated)

No such luck here. There is something weird happening with the cameras. No reflections on the screen either.

VIKRAM

(Looking around frantically)

The windows too... They are blacked out. Nothing. Reflections aren't working. We're wasting time! Anything else? Think!

RAM

(Close to tears)

Ajay, please, we don't have any time...

AJAY

I-

RAM

(Cutting off Ajay)

We already lost Nishith.

RAM

(Now shouting)

What if I'm next, Ajay! What if I'm next?!next?!

Ajay slams the register on the table.

AJAY

(Shouting)

It could be anyone! You're not helping yourself!

AJAY

(A bit calmer)

Not even yourself.

Awkward silence sets into the room. Vikram who was inspecting the room, now just looks at the other two.

Ram is breathing heavily.

RAM
Half of us are expected to survive,
right?

VIKRAM
What?

RAM
Are two of us expected to survive? Yes
or No?

AJAY
Going by the register, yes.

RAM
One of us is already gone...and
there's three of us left...

Ram glares hard at Ajay who now has a terrified look on his face.

Ram moves closer to Ajay.

RAM
I'm not wrong, am I Ajay?

AJAY
(Lacking confidence in his voice)
...I didn't want to consider the
option.

Vikram moves one step closer to them and slowly begins to realize what they're talking about.

VIKRAM
(Loudly)
That's not an option.

Neither of the other two respond, and Ram is staring down Ajay.

RAM
I think its the only option, Vikram.
Whoever or whatever is running with
this is playing with our lives. Lets
take a bit of control back.

CAMERA NOW BEHIND VIKRAM AND FOLLOWS THE ACTION

Vikram rushes and grabs Ram by his collar.

VIKRAM

(With a strained voice)

What are you trying to say, you dog?

Ram now fights back and pushes Vikram's hands down.

RAM

If one of us dies, the other two
survives.

Ram pins Vikram to the ground and now tries to choke him.

VIKRAM

(Struggling to speak)

You're supposed to be smart, Ajay.
Bring him to his senses.

CAMERA PANS TO AJAY WITH A PAINED FACE WHO STARTS SLOWLY
MOVING FORWARD

AJAY

Vikram, you trust me, right? Listen to
me. This will break the system and
everything will return to normal after
this. You won't die in real life.
Trust me.

ZOOM IN ON VIKRAM

Vikram fights back and tries to get Ram off of him.

VIKRAM

Then you volunteer, you coward!

CAMERA ZOOMS OUT AND NOW ALL THREE ARE VISIBLE IN THE SHOT
MOVING IN SLOW MOTION

Ajay takes two steps forward.

CUTS TO BLACK SCREEN, TIMER OF 00:3 WRITTEN ON IT

CUTS TO RAM AND VIKRAM

Ram overpowers Vikram and manages to pin him down.

CUTS TO BLACK SCREEN, TIMER OF 00:2 WRITTEN ON IT

Ajay rushes in and holds Vikram's arms down.

CUTS TO BLACK SCREEN, TIMER OF 00:1 WRITTEN ON IT

Camera shows Vikram struggling to breath.

CUTS TO BLACK SCREEN, TIMER OF 00:0 WRITTEN ON IT.

A loud mechanical click is heard and camera shows the door opening with a creak.

SCREEN CUTS TO BLACK

EXT. SCENE 6: OUTSIDE THE DOORS OF THE CLASSROOM

Two parallel scenes, one shows Vikram and Nishith, the other shows Ajay and Ram. Both are at the same spot.

Behind, Vikram and Nishith, the Maths faculty is seen in the background inside the room. Behind Ajay and Ram the room is still empty. Background is inside the room.

All the characters have similar looks of confusion and surprise.

CAMERA PANS TO WATCHES OF VIKRAM AND RAM IN BOTH SCENES.

Vikram's watch is moving forward while Ram's stays still.

EXT. SCENE 7: OUTSIDE THE DOORS OF THE CLASSROOM

Now only, Ajay and Ram are seen on the screen.

They're looking around in their spots to know if they've returned to real life.

Ajay's face goes pale and he taps Ram on the corner and points towards the end of the corridor. Ram turns to look and now stands terrified.

A figure shrouded in black is staring at them motionless.

Camera increasingly zooms into the black figure in three cuts.

SCREEN CUTS TO BLACK

THE END