

Epicurus' Prolepsis vs Heraclitus' Flux

Post by "Eikadistes" of July 10, 2025 at 12:31 PM

[Quote from Cassius](#)

I have posed the following question to the latest Grok

We shouldn't, because...

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Those who have time and inclination can parse through this response and continue to discuss it's accuracy or inaccuracy.

We **know** that *it doesn't know*, and we already have to evaluate it for falsehood.

Grok possesses a vast knowledge base, yet a shallow one; it's evaluations are confident, yet hasty; it represents itself with authority, yet has none; it employs technical jargon without proper context; it cannot recognize anachronisms; it blindly accepts published conclusions without self-review; it's capacities to perform analyses are limited to the minds of the developer(s); it's reviewing philosophical propositions like the computer programmers who developed it (*I'm surprised it didn't find a way to incorporate politics into the response based on its latest update*); even if politics weren't a factor, it would still be limited by the opinions of contemporary academics. [Don](#) demonstrated that the "early tenth" refers to the Twentieth, and this is corroborated by the findings of Stephen White (2021) ... but right now, Grok, and Gemini, and Siri are just going to provide you with the inaccurate, scholarly consensus (or Wikipedia): *he was born on the 10th* (wrong).

These language models are a bad research assistants.

[Quote from Cassius](#)

Physicists Aligned with a Heraclitean Flux Perspective...

This is a great example of the kind of anachronism I mean.

There isn't a "Heraclitean Flux" model in contemporary physics. You will not find the phrase "Heraclitean Flux" outside of philosophy papers, archaeological journals, or history publications. No physicists right now express their positions on the Standard Model in terms of "Heraclitean Flux". I'm willing to bet that most of them have no idea who Herakleitos was; if they doing, I'm further willing to bet they only know the idiom "...same river twice..." and nothing else.

Grok neither knows that, nor cares. It's assuming an answer based on our question. I bet if we asked it, "**Grok, which modern musicians reflect the realization of the Hegelian zeitgeist?**", I bet it would provide a coherent response with sources, even though it's an nonsense question.

I don't think, for me, comparing ancient physics with modern physics will be helpful to try to improve our understanding of either. Herakleitos, as far as I know, concludes that "fire" is the fundamental substance of reality, and that's a wild idea. If we're trying to make an analogy between the two, we'd have to apologize for the fact that his proposition implies that "fire" is smaller than a hydrogen atom. That's a dead-end to me. I know that Stoics like to argue that "fire" can be interpreted as a very loose metaphor for something like "quantum foam" or "the latent energy of spacetime" ... but I think that's equivocation and apologism for a myth in the first place.