Science as Exploration of Maya (ChatGPT)

Question:
Is not all science, including quantum mechanics, the exploration of Maya?

Response:
That's a very rich question. Let's unfold it from a few angles:

In Vedantic thought, Maya refers to the veil of appearances—the ever-changing, phenomenal world that conceals the unchanging reality (Brahman). Science, from this perspective, is entirely concerned with mapping and modeling this realm of appearances. Physics, chemistry, biology—even quantum mechanics—seek to describe patterns within the play (lila) of Maya, not the substratum itself.

So in one sense: yes, all science is an exploration of Maya, because it deals with phenomena, not noumenon.

<u>Quantum Mechanics and Maya</u>

Quantum mechanics adds a peculiar twist. It tells us that the "solid" world is not solid at all—that observation, probability, and measurement play central roles. It reveals that what we perceive as independent objects are really interwoven probabilities and relational events.

For Vedanta or Mahayana Buddhists, this resonates deeply with the idea that the world is a web of dependent origination, or that forms are empty of fixed essence (śūnyatā). Quantum mechanics doesn't pierce Maya to reach Brahman, but it does shake our confidence in naive realism. It shows Maya to be more subtle and elusive than classical science assumed.

Where Science Stops, Philosophy/Spirituality Begins

Science explores Maya systematically; it can refine our understanding of appearances, but it does not claim access to ultimate reality. In Advaita Vedanta, only direct realization—jnana or gnosis—dissolves the veil. Quantum mechanics may hint at the veil's shimmering quality, but it cannot dissolve it.

This is why thinkers like Fritjof Capra (The Tao of Physics) or Federico Faggin (quantum information panpsychism) see parallels but still distinguish scientific models from experiential insight.

✅ So in short: Yes, science—including quantum mechanics—is an exploration of Maya, the patterned illusion of appearances. But it is not the same as piercing Maya. It refines the map of the illusion rather than revealing the ground of Being itself.

Swami Sarvapriyananda Q&A regarding the worship of God: listen here