

5. The resolution σ is the standard deviation of the data set with larger values representing a large spread in data, and small values representing a narrow spread. $\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (x_i - \mu)^2}$, $\mu = \text{mean}$.

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

$$\frac{1}{2} f(x_{\max}) = a \exp \left[-\frac{(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} \right]$$

x_{\max} at $x_{\max} = \mu$.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2} f(\mu) = a e^{-(x - \mu)^2 / 2\sigma^2} = \frac{1}{2}$$

Scaling factor can be ignored.

$$e^{-(x - \mu)^2 / 2\sigma^2} = 2^{-1}$$

$$\frac{-(x - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2} = -\ln 2$$

$$(x - \mu)^2 = 2\sigma^2 \ln 2$$

$$x = \pm \sigma \sqrt{2 \ln 2} + \mu$$

$$\text{FWHM} \equiv x_+ - x_- = 2\sigma \sqrt{2 \ln 2} \approx 2.35\sigma$$

The FWHM is used to describe a measurement of the width of a peak that does not have sharp edges.

The FWHM measures the width of the peak at $\frac{1}{2}$ of its maximum height.