

Heisenberg's uncertainty principle

$$\Delta y = \sqrt{\langle y^2 \rangle - \langle y \rangle^2} \quad \text{usually } \langle y \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta y = \sqrt{\langle y^2 \rangle}$$

\downarrow
 real measurable quantity

\nearrow expectation value

eg) e^- moving in a box
 $\langle v \rangle = 0$

- Q1 = 1. Estimate the uncertainty in the position of (a) a neutron moving at $5 \times 10^6 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ and (b) a 50 kg person moving at 2 m s^{-1} .

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}, \quad \frac{h}{p} = \lambda, \quad \Delta x = 6 \cdot \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

2. A lead nucleus has a radius $7 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$. Consider a proton bound within nucleus. Using the uncertainty relation $\Delta p \cdot \Delta r \geq \hbar/2$, estimate the root mean square speed of the proton, assuming it to be non-relativistic. (You can assume that the average value of p^2 is square of the uncertainty in momentum.)

Q2 = proton is bound in nucleus of rad $\Rightarrow 7 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$
 $\therefore \Delta x = r$

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar/2 \quad \text{and we have to find } \sqrt{\langle v^2 \rangle}$$

\hookrightarrow RMS vel

imp Since proton is effectively bound in a sphere
 $\langle p \rangle = 0$ due to velocities randomly in all directions

$$\Delta p^2 = \langle p^2 \rangle - \langle p \rangle^2$$

$$\Delta p = \sqrt{\langle p^2 \rangle} = \frac{\hbar}{2\Delta x} = 7.5416 \times 10^{-21}$$

For rms vel, divide by mp

$$\sqrt{\langle v^2 \rangle} = \frac{7.5416 \times 10^{-21}}{1.67 \times 10^{-27}} = 4.5159 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}$$

3. * A π^0 meson is an unstable particle produced in highenergy particle collisions. It has a mass-energy equivalent of about 135 MeV, and it exists for an average lifetime of only $8.7 \times 10^{-17} \text{ s}$ before decaying into two γ rays. Using the uncertainty principle, estimate the fractional uncertainty $\Delta m/m$ in its mass determination.

Q3 = $m_0 c^2 = 135 \text{ MeV}$, $\Delta t = 8.7 \times 10^{-17}$

By uncertainty principle: $\Delta E \Delta t \geq \frac{h}{4\pi}$

$$\Delta E = \frac{h}{4\pi \Delta t}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\Delta m}{m} = \frac{\Delta m c^2}{m c^2} = \frac{\Delta E}{E} = \frac{3.79 \times 10^{-6}}{135} = 2.8 \times 10^{-8}$$

4. * For a non-relativistic electron, using the uncertainty relation $\Delta x \Delta p_x = \hbar/2$
- Derive the expression for the minimum kinetic energy of the electron localized in a region of size 'a'.
 - If the uncertainty in the location of a particle is equal to its de Broglie wavelength, show that the uncertainty in the measurement of its velocity is same as the particle velocity. (upto a constant factor)
 - Using the expression in (b), calculate the uncertainty in the velocity of an electron having energy 0.2 keV
 - An electron of energy 0.2 keV is passed through a circular hole of radius 10^{-6} m . What is the uncertainty introduced in the angle of emergence in radians? (Given $\tan \theta \cong \theta$)

Q4 Non relativistic e^-

a) For localisation in a. $\Delta x = a/2$ (can also take a)

$$KE = \frac{\Delta p^2}{2m} = \frac{\langle p^2 \rangle}{2m}, \quad KE_{\min} = \frac{\hbar^2}{2ma^2}$$

$$\Delta x m \Delta v = \frac{\hbar}{2} \Rightarrow \Delta v = \frac{\hbar}{am}$$

$$\text{If } \Delta x = a, \quad KE_{\min} = \frac{\hbar^2}{8ma^2}$$

b) If $\Delta x = \lambda$, then $\Delta v = v$

$$\lambda \Delta p = \frac{\hbar}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta p = \frac{h}{\lambda \times 4\pi}$$

$$\Delta v \approx v, \quad \text{order analysis}$$

$\Delta v \approx \frac{v}{4\pi}$ const factor

c) Energy = 0.2 keV

$$\Delta v \approx \frac{v}{4\pi}, \quad \Delta v = \sqrt{\frac{2E}{m}} \cdot \frac{1}{4\pi} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sqrt{\frac{2 \times 0.2 \text{ keV}}{511 \text{ keV}}} = 6.7 \times 10^5 \text{ m/s}$$

e^-

d) $\tan \theta \approx \theta$ [small angle approximation]

rad = 10^{-6} m , uncertainty in angle of emergence

$$\tan \theta = \frac{v_y}{v_x} = \theta, \quad \text{given } \Delta y = 2 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m (hole dia)}$$

$$= \frac{\Delta p_y}{\Delta p_x} \quad \Delta y \Delta p_y = \hbar/2$$

$$\theta = \frac{(\hbar/2\Delta y)}{\sqrt{2Em}} = 9.3 \times 10^{-5} \text{ rad}$$

uncertainty due to slit diffraction

5. An atom in an excited state 1.8 eV above the ground state remains in that excited state $2.0 \mu\text{s}$ before moving to the ground state. Find (a) the frequency of the emitted photon, (b) its wavelength, and (c) its approximate uncertainty in energy.

Q5 $\Delta E \Delta t \geq \hbar/4\pi$

Just tell verbally

6. * An electron microscope is designed to resolve objects as small as 0.14 nm . What energy electrons must be used in this instrument?

Q6 To resolve objects smaller than 0.14 nm .
 $\lambda < 0.14$ for e^- microscope.

Note: e^- microscopes are relativistic

$$\therefore \lambda = 0.14 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow \frac{h}{\lambda} = p \Rightarrow \frac{6.634 \times 10^{-34}}{0.14 \times 10^{-9}} = p$$

$$\text{Energy req by } e^- = \sqrt{p^2 c^2 + m_0^2 c^4} - m_0 c^2 \hookrightarrow 0.511 \text{ MeV}$$

$$= (8.8 \times 10^{-3} + 0.26)^{1/2} = 0.511$$

7. * Show that the uncertainty principle can be expressed in the form $\Delta L \Delta \theta \geq \hbar/2$, where θ is the angle and L the angular momentum. For what uncertainty in L will the angular position of a particle be completely undetermined?

Q7 Proving only for a circular case

Assumptⁿ \Rightarrow rad of circular path is precisely known

$$L = r p \Rightarrow \Delta L = r \Delta p, \quad \alpha = r\theta, \quad \Delta \alpha = r \Delta \theta$$

$$\therefore \Delta p \Delta x = \frac{\Delta L}{r} \times r \Delta \theta \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

For completely undetermined posn, when uncertainty is total path $\Rightarrow \therefore \Delta \theta = 2\pi$

$$\therefore \Delta L = \frac{\hbar}{4\pi}$$