
6. Relativistic Electron in a Nucleus

Calculation Steps

1. **Estimate Minimum Momentum:** From Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, with $\Delta x \approx r = 6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$:

$$p \approx \Delta p \approx \frac{\hbar}{\Delta x} = \frac{1.054 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}}{6 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}} \approx 1.757 \times 10^{-20} \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}$$

2. **Calculate Energy Terms in MeV:**

- Rest Energy of Electron: $m_e c^2 = 0.511 \text{ MeV}$.
- Momentum Energy: $pc = (1.757 \times 10^{-20})(3.00 \times 10^8) = 5.271 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}$.

$$pc = \frac{5.271 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}}{1.602 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J/MeV}} \approx 32.9 \text{ MeV}$$

3. **Calculate Kinetic Energy:** Using the relativistic energy-momentum relation $E^2 = (pc)^2 + (m_e c^2)^2$:

$$E = \sqrt{(32.9 \text{ MeV})^2 + (0.511 \text{ MeV})^2} \approx 32.9 \text{ MeV}$$

The minimum kinetic energy is $K = E - m_e c^2$:

$$K = 32.9 \text{ MeV} - 0.511 \text{ MeV} \approx 32.4 \text{ MeV}$$

4. **Convert Back to Joules:**

$$K = (32.4 \text{ MeV})(1.602 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J/MeV}) \approx \mathbf{5.19 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}}$$
