

Solution

The position of an electron in the lowest-energy state of a hydrogen atom; is known to an accuracy of about $\Delta x = 0.05$ nm (the radius of the atom). What is the minimum range of momentum measurements? Velocity?

$$\Delta x \Delta p \geq \hbar$$

Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle

$$\Delta p \geq \hbar / \Delta x$$

$$\hbar = h / 2\pi$$

$$= 2.1 \times 10^{-24} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s/m}$$

$$= 2.1 \times 10^{-24} \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m/s}$$

$$\Delta v = \Delta p / m_e$$

$$m_e = 9.1 \times 10^{-31} \text{ kg}$$

$$= 2.3 \times 10^6 \text{ m/s}$$