

The Uncertainty Principle

Example 1

- A proton is confined in a Uranium nucleus (diameter: $d=16\text{fm}$). Determine the minimum kinetic energy [non-relativistic] of the proton confined within the diameter of the uranium nucleus.

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Example 2

- It is possible for some fundamental particles to “violate” conservation of energy by creating and quickly reabsorbing another particle. For example, a proton can emit a π^+ according to $p \rightarrow n + \pi^+$ when the n represents the neutron. The π^+ has a mass of $140 \text{ MeV}/c^2$. The reabsorption must occur within a time Δt consistent with the uncertainty principle.
 - Considering that example, by how much ΔE is energy conservation violated? [Ignore kinetic energy]
 - For how long Δt can the π^+ exist?
 - Assuming that the π^+ is moving at nearly the speed of light, how far from the nucleus could it get in the time Δt ?