

An electron exists within a region of 10^{-10} m, find its momentum uncertainty and approximate K.E.??

Uncertainty principle:

$$\Delta p \Delta x \geq \frac{h}{2\pi}$$

Δp and Δx - momentum uncertainty and position uncertainty

h - Planck constant

Therefore:

$$\Delta p \approx \frac{h}{2\pi \Delta x} = 6.63 \frac{10^{-34} \text{ J s}}{2\pi \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m}} = 1,1 \cdot 10^{-24} \text{ kg} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

approximate K.E. equals:

$$T = \frac{\Delta p^2}{2m_e} = \frac{(1,1 \cdot 10^{-24} \text{ kg} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}})^2}{2 \cdot 9,1 \cdot 10^{-31} \text{ kg}} = 6,1 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

m_e – electron mass

Answer: momentum uncertainty = $1,1 \cdot 10^{-24} \text{ kg} \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$, kinetic energy = $6,1 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ J}$