

Heisenberg Uncertainty Inequality

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- In 1927, W. Heisenberg (Zeit. Physik 43 (1927) , 172 - ; Univ. Chicago Press, 1930 ; and Dover edit. , New York, 1949) demonstrated the impossibility to specify simultaneously the position and the momentum of an electron within an atom. The following result named , Heisenberg uncertainty inequality, is not actually due to Heisenberg. In 1928, according to H. Weyl (S. Hirzel , Leipzig, 1928 ; and Dover edit. , New York , 1950) this result is due to W. Pauli .

Heisenberg Uncertainty Inequality: If $f: R \rightarrow C$ is a complex valued function of a random real variable x such that $f \in L^2(R)$, then the product of the second moment

of the random real x for $|f|^2$ and the second moment of the random real ζ for $|\hat{f}|^2$

is at least $\int_R |f(x)|^2 dx / 4\pi$, where \hat{f} is the Fourier transform of f , such that

$$\hat{f}(\xi) = \int_R e^{-2i\pi\xi x} f(x) dx \text{ and } f(x) = \int_R e^{2i\pi\xi x} \hat{f}(\xi) d\xi \text{ with } i = \sqrt{-1} .$$

According to N. Wiener (“the Fourier integral and certain of its applications” , Cambridge , 1933) a pair of transforms cannot both be very small . This inequality plays an important role in different aspects of Fourier and Time – Frequency Analysis . A huge number of well-written books and overview-papers deals with uncertainty relations .