

Chapter 15

Radioactive Decay

Egon von Schweidler, a colleague of Exner at the University of Vienna, interpreted Rutherford's (1902) decay law as merely probabilistically – thereby allowing deviations for small sample sizes [459]. Exner, a staunch indeterminist [209], might have convinced both Schweidler and Schrödinger that single decay processes occur irreducibly random, and that they had to give up determinism in the world of atoms (cf. Sect. 9.2, p. 40) [82, 217, 262, 490, 491]. For a review an early attempts to “explain” radioactivity, see Refs. [318, 319]

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