Physicists May Have Solved Proton Size Mystery

Description

Subsequent measurements conducted by different research teams yielded inconclusive results regarding the size of the proton. Notably, in 2013, an international team revisited their 2010 findings through muon-based experiments, reaffirming their previous value of 0.84 femtometers for the proton’s radius, albeit with a discrepancy of 7 sigma. In 2016, another experiment replaced the electron with a muon in a deuterium atom, which contains both a proton and a neutron. This approach aimed to assess how the presence of a neutron might influence the perception of the proton’s charge. The findings again aligned with the earlier 2010 measurement.

Contrastingly, two experiments that utilised regular hydrogen to ascertain the proton’s radius presented mixed outcomes. A 2017 study reinforced the 2010 results, while a 2018 measurement suggested a larger value predating the 2010 findings. In an effort to reconcile these conflicting results, scientists from York University conducted an electron-based measurement in 2019, resulting in a value of 0.833 femtometers, consistent with the smaller figure noted in the 2010 study.

This brings us to the most recent research, encompassing two papers that involved experiments with hydrogen atoms housed in a vacuum chamber. By employing lasers to manipulate electrons and measuring energy transitions, researchers inferred the precise dimensions of the proton's charge radius. The combined results indicated that the proton has a radius of approximately 0.84 femtometers, reaffirming the 2010 measurement that instigated this inquiry.

Juan Rojo, a physicist at Vrije University Amsterdam, noted the significance of these findings, stating that the proton radius should yield a consistent result across different methods. He highlighted how these two papers offered unique perspectives that converged on the same numerical value.

Vocabulary List:

1. **subsequent** //ˈsʌbsɪkwənt// (adjective): happening after something else in time
2. **inconclusive** //ˌɪnkənˈklusɪv// (adjective): not giving a clear result or answer
3. **discrepancy** //dɪˈskrepənsi// (noun): a difference between two things that should agree
4. **deuterium** //duːˈtɪriəm// (noun): a form of hydrogen with one extra neutron
5. **ascertain** //ˌæsərˈteɪn// (verb): find out something to be true
6. **inferred** //ɪnˈfɜːd// (verb): concluded something from evidence or facts

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What was the value for the proton’s radius reaffirmed by the international team in 2013?

   Option: 0.84 femtometers
   Option: 0.833 femtometers
   Option: 0.85 femtometers
   Option: 0.80 femtometers

2. In which year did a new experiment replace the electron with a muon in a deuterium atom?

   Option: 2010
   Option: 2013
   Option: 2016
   Option: 2019

3. What did the 2017 study determine about the proton's radius?

   Option: It suggested a smaller size
   Option: It reinforced the 2010 results
   Option: It was inconclusive
   Option: It suggested a larger size

4. What experimental method did the scientists from York University use in 2019?

   Option: Muon-based measurement
   Option: Electron-based measurement
   Option: Laser manipulation
   Option: Deuterium atom measurement

5. What was the approximate proton radius confirmed by the latest research involving hydrogen atoms?

   Option: 0.80 femtometers
   Option: 0.83 femtometers
   Option: 0.84 femtometers
   Option: 0.85 femtometers

6. Who noted the significance of the findings regarding the proton radius?

   Option: Ratan Naval Tata
   Option: Juan Rojo
   Option: Albert Einstein
   Option: Niels Bohr

True-False

7. The 2018 measurement suggested a smaller value for the proton's radius than the 2010 findings.

8. The findings of the recent research indicated that the proton radius has stayed consistent across different methods.

9. The 2013 findings were the first to propose a value for the proton's radius.

10. The experiments with hydrogen atoms used lasers to measure energy transitions.

11. All measurement methods agree on the proton's radius value.

12. The discrepancy reported in the 2013 findings was 7 sigma.

Gap-Fill

13. The proton's radius was reaffirmed at _____ femtometers in 2013.

14. In 2016, a new experiment was conducted that replaced the electron with a _____ in a deuterium atom.

15. The 2019 measurement conducted by scientists from York University yielded a value of _____ femtometers.

16. The latest research indicated that the proton has a radius of approximately _____ femtometers.

17. Juan Rojo is associated with _____ University Amsterdam.

18. Mixed outcomes regarding the proton's radius were found in experiments using regular hydrogen in _____ and 2018.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 0.84 femtometers 2. 2016 3. It reinforced the 2010 results 4. Electron-based measurement 6. Juan Rojo
True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. True 11. False 12. True
Gap-Fill: 13. 0.84 14. muon 15. 0.833 17. Vrije 18. 2017

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What term refers to a lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts?

   Option: Concurrence
   Option: Discrepancy
   Option: Similarity
   Option: Uniformity

2. Which of the following best defines the term 'viability'?

   Option: Possibility of success
   Option: Impossibility of failure
   Option: Likelihood of loss
   Option: Uncertainty in action

3. Which word best describes a situation that has never occurred before?

   Option: Usual
   Option: Common
   Option: Unprecedented
   Option: Routine

4. In research, what does the term 'methodology' refer to?

   Option: Branch of science
   Option: Systematic approach to research
   Option: Type of experiment
   Option: Research outcome

5. Which term describes the imitation of a real-world process or system?

Option: Emulation
Option: Simulation
Option: Realization
Option: Actualization

6. What is the term for digital representations of users in virtual environments?

Option: Icons
Option: Avatars
Option: Figures
Option: Representations

7. Which word refers to a piece of software designed to update or fix issues in a program?

Option: Patch
Option: Update
Option: Install
Option: Version

8. What is the process by which energy travels through space called?

Option: Conduction
Option: Convection
Option: Radiation
Option: Transmission

9. Which term describes something custom-made to suit a specific need?

Option: Standard
Option: Generic
Option: Tailored
Option: Uniform

10. What does it mean to determine the accuracy of something?

Option: Speculate
Option: Ascertain
Option: Assume
Option: Guess

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. Deuterium is an isotope of hydrogen that contains one proton and one _____.

12. The research team conducted a _____ study to assess the potential impacts before

the main experiment.

13. The technician needed to _____ the results to verify their accuracy.

14. The project was completed ahead of the _____ deadline.

15. The _____ of technology has significantly improved communication methods.

16. From the data collected, the researcher _____ the existence of a new trend.

17. The filmmaker received multiple _____ for her outstanding work in the industry.

18. The athlete proved to be a strong _____ for the championship title.

19. The article discussed _____ aspects of storytelling rather than just the plot.

20. The changes made to the policy will be _____ and effective immediately.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The scientist provided unequivocal evidence to support the new theory.
22. The findings necessitate a reevaluation of the existing model.
23. The subsequent findings confirmed the initial hypotheses.
24. The samples were incubated at controlled temperatures to promote growth.
25. The documentary presented a compelling narrative of the historical events.
26. Effective communication is integral to successful collaboration among teams.
27. The research garnered significant attention from the academic community.
28. The training involved a simulation to enhance decision-making skills.
29. The critique focused on the meta aspects of the artwork, analyzing its themes and context.
30. There was a noticeable discrepancy between the reported results and the actual data.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Discrepancy 2. Possibility of success 3. Unprecedented 4. Systematic approach to research 5. Simulation 6. Avatars 7. Patch 8. Radiation 9. Tailored 10. Ascertain
Gap-Fill: 11. neutron 12. preliminary 13. duplicate 14. anticipated 15. progression 16. inferred 17. accolades 18. contender 19. meta 20. permanent
Matching sentence: 1. unequivocal 2. necessitate 3. subsequent 4. incubated 5. narrative 6. integral 7. garnered 8. simulation 9. meta 10. discrepancy

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL6

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3. Level 6
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Date Created
2026/04/15
Author
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