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THE HUMAN FACTOR IN SCIENCE The Role of Human Drama in Developing Quantum Physics



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Abstract:

Scientific discovery is a product of human creativity. While the scientific enterprise strives mightily to exclude the human factor from its deliberations, it is always in play. Science *is* a human endeavor. Nowhere is the impact of the human factor on scientific discovery more clearly played out than in the development of quantum physics in the 1920s.

An examination of the human factors at play between the key figures demonstrates that the end result was very much influenced by the tensions between the people who created it. This raises an interesting question. Could the fundamental problems with quantum physics today be traced to the human dynamics of those early years?

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