

Abstract Submitted
for the MAR07 Meeting of
The American Physical Society

Decoherence and the Uncertainty Principle: Theory DAVID CRAIG, ADAM LEMKE, Le Moyne College — We investigate the relation between decoherence and the uncertainty principle, both analytically and numerically, in some simple models of quantum measurement. In consistent histories formulations of quantum theory, probabilities may be consistently assigned only in sets of histories which decohere, i.e. in sets in which the interference among the various branches vanishes. Measurements may thus in part be construed as local processes which serve to destroy interference. We study the extent to which the uncertainty principle may be interpreted as the failure of measurements of non-commuting observables to lead to decohering branches in some simple quantum measurement models in the context of a general framework for consistent histories quantum theories due to Hartle known as generalized quantum theory.

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Date submitted: 19 Nov 2006

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