

Wolfgang Ernst Pauli

(25 April 1900 – 15 December 1958)



Wolfgang Ernst Pauli was born in Vienna and his father Wolfgang Joseph Pauli was a chemist. Pauli's middle name was given in honor of his godfather, physicist Ernst Mach. Pauli graduating with distinction in 1918. After two months of graduation, he published his first paper, on Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity. He attended the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich, working under Arnold Sommerfeld. He received his Ph.D. in the year 1921 for his thesis on the “quantum theory of ionized diatomic hydrogen”.

Pauli spent a year at the University of Göttingen as the assistant to Max Born. During next five years, while working as a lecturer at the University of Hamburg, Pauli developed the modern theory of quantum mechanics. In particular, he formulated the *exclusion principle* and the theory of non-relativistic spin. In 1928, he was appointed Professor of Theoretical Physics at ETH Zurich in Switzerland. He was awarded the Lorentz Medal in 1931. Pauli introduced the 2×2 Pauli matrices as a basis of spin operators, thus solving the non-relativistic theory of spin.

Teachers may suggest students to make a collage of photographs of scientists in physics depicting the advancements in the subject.