Part I

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

KRAKA TOOM

MASS DEFECT

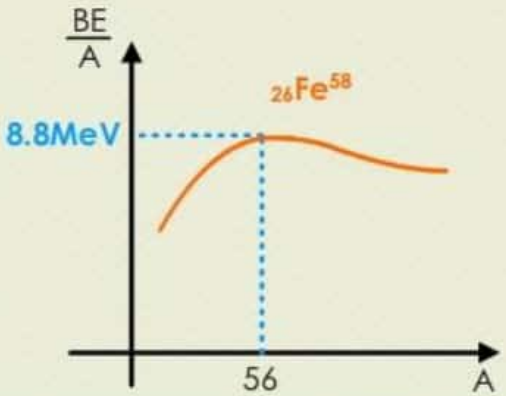
Mass Defect = $M_{expected} - M_{observed}$

$\Delta m = [Zm_p + (A - Z)m_n - [M_{atom} - Zm_e]$

BINDING ENERGY

It is the minimum energy required to break the nucleus into its constituent particles.

Binding Energy (B.E.) = Δmc^2 = $\Delta m \times 931$ MeV



- Binding energy per nucleon is more for medium nuclei than for heavy nuclei. Hence, medium nuclei are highly stable.
- ***The heavier nuclei*** being unstable have tendency to split into medium nuclei. This process is called **Fission**.
- ***The Lighter nuclei*** being unstable have tendency to fuse into a medium nucleus. This process is called **Fusion**.

RADIOACTIVITY

- It was discovered by **Henry Becquerel**.
- Spontaneous emission of radiations (α, β, γ) from unstable nucleus is called **radioactivity**. Substances which show radioactivity are known as **radioactive substance**.
- ***In radioactive decay,*** an unstable nucleus emits α particle or β particle. After emission of α or β particle the remaining nucleus may emit γ- particle, and convert into a more stable nucleus.

α- particle

It is a doubly charged helium nucleus. It contains two protons and two neutrons.

Mass of α - particle = Mass of $_2H$ e^4 atom $- 2m_e = 4\ m_p$

Charge of α - particle = + 2e

β- particle

β^- (electron)

Mass = m_e : Charge = – e

β^+ (positron)

Mass = m_e : Charge = + e

positron is an antiparticle of electron.

γ- particle

They are energetic photons of energy of the order of **MeV** and having zero rest mass.

RADIOACTIVE DECAY (DISPLACEMENT LAW)

1 α - DECAY

$$_zX^A \rightarrow {}_{z-2}Y^{A-4} + {}_2He^4 + Q$$

Q value is definied as energy released during the decay process.

Q value = rest mass energy of reactants – rest mass energy of products

Let, M_x = mass of atom $_zX^A$, M_y = mass of atom $_{z-2}Y^{A-4}$, M_{He} = mass of atom $_2He^4$

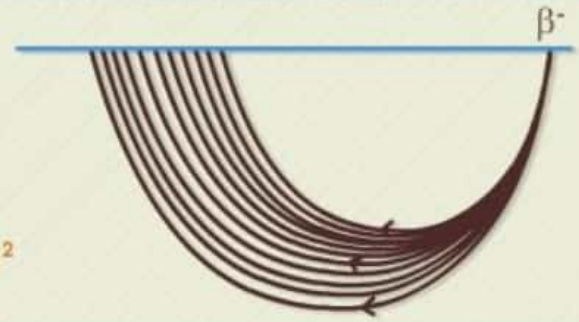
$$\text{Q value} = [M_x - M_y - M_{He}]c^2$$

2 β^- - DECAY

$$_zX^A \rightarrow {}_{z+1}Y^A + {}_{-1}e^0 + Q$$

$$T_e = \frac{m_y}{m_e + m_y} Q, \quad T_y = \frac{m_e}{m_e + m_y} Q,$$

$$\text{Q value} = [M_x - \{(M_Y - m_e) + m_e\}]\, c^2 = [M_x - M_y]c^2$$



3 β^+ - DECAY

$$_zX^A \rightarrow {}_{z-1}Y^A + {}_{+1}e^0 + \nu + Q$$

$$\text{Q value} = [M_x - \{(M_Y + m_e) + m_e\}]\, c^2 = [M_x - M_y - 2M_e]c^2$$

RADIOACTIVE DECAY : STATISTICAL LAW

- Rate of radioactive decay is directly proportional to N
- where N = number of active nuclei.
- Rate of radioactive decay of $A = \frac{-dN}{dt} = \lambda N$
- where λ = decay constant of the radioactive substance.
- Number of nuclei decayed (i.e., the number of nuclei of B formed)

$$N = N_0(1 - e^{-\lambda t})$$

1 HALF LIFE ($T_{1/2}$)

$$t_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\ln 2}{\lambda} = \frac{0.693}{\lambda}$$

2 ACTIVITY

Activity is defined as the rate of radioactive decay of nuclei

$$A = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

3 AVERAGE LIFE

$$T_{avg} = \frac{\text{sum of ages of all the nuclei}}{N_0} = \frac{\int_0^\infty \lambda N_0 e^{-\lambda t} dt \,.t}{N_0} = \frac{1}{\lambda}$$