

# Nuclear Chemistry

*Chapter 23*

*Atomic number (Z)* = number of protons in nucleus

*Mass number (A)* = number of protons + number of neutrons  
= atomic number (Z) + number of neutrons

Mass Number → A  
Atomic Number → Z X ← Element Symbol

	proton	neutron	electron	positron	$\alpha$ particle
A	${}_1^1p$ or ${}_1^1H$	${}_0^1n$	${}_{-1}^0e$ or ${}_{-1}^0\beta$	${}_{+1}^0e$ or ${}_{+1}^0\beta$	${}_2^4He$ or ${}_2^4\alpha$
Z	1	1	0	0	4

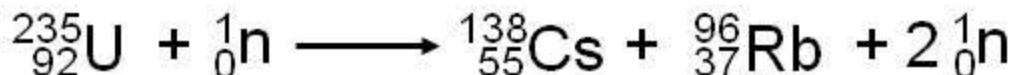
  

	proton	neutron	electron	positron	$\alpha$ particle
A	${}_1^1p$ or ${}_1^1H$	${}_0^1n$	${}_{-1}^0e$ or ${}_{-1}^0\beta$	${}_{+1}^0e$ or ${}_{+1}^0\beta$	${}_2^4He$ or ${}_2^4\alpha$
Z	1	1	0	0	4

# Balancing Nuclear Equations

## 1. Conserve mass number (A).

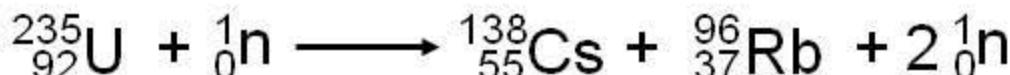
The sum of protons plus neutrons in the products must equal the sum of protons plus neutrons in the reactants.



$$235 + 1 = 138 + 96 + 2 \times 1$$

## 2. Conserve atomic number (Z) or nuclear charge.

The sum of nuclear charges in the products must equal the sum of nuclear charges in the reactants.



$$92 + 0 = 55 + 37 + 2 \times 0$$



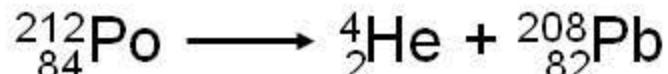
$^{212}\text{Po}$  decays by alpha emission. Write the balanced nuclear equation for the decay of  $^{212}\text{Po}$ .

alpha particle -  $_{2}^4\text{He}$  or  $_{2}^4\alpha$



$$212 = 4 + A \qquad \qquad A = 208$$

$$84 = 2 + Z \qquad \qquad Z = 82$$



**TABLE 23.1****Comparison of Chemical Reactions and Nuclear Reactions****Chemical Reactions**

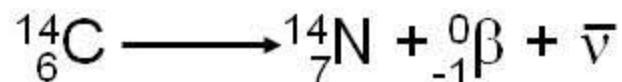
1. Atoms are rearranged by the breaking and forming of chemical bonds.
2. Only electrons in atomic or molecular orbitals are involved in the breaking and forming of bonds.
3. Reactions are accompanied by absorption or release of relatively small amounts of energy.
4. Rates of reaction are influenced by temperature, pressure, concentration, and catalysts.

**Nuclear Reactions**

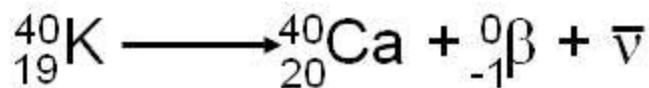
1. Elements (or isotopes of the same elements) are converted from one to another.
2. Protons, neutrons, electrons, and other elementary particles may be involved.
3. Reactions are accompanied by absorption or release of tremendous amounts of energy.
4. Rates of reaction normally are not affected by temperature, pressure, and catalysts.

# Nuclear Stability and Radioactive Decay

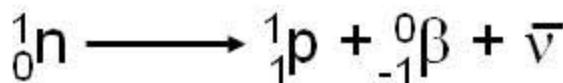
## Beta decay



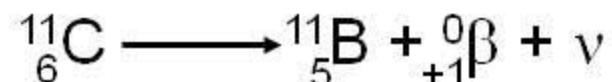
Decrease # of neutrons by 1



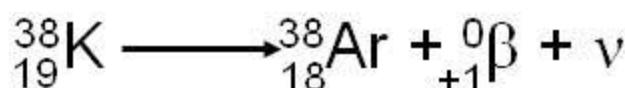
Increase # of protons by 1



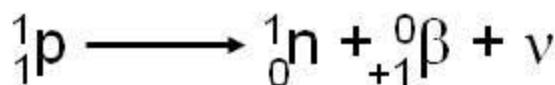
## Positron decay



Increase # of neutrons by 1



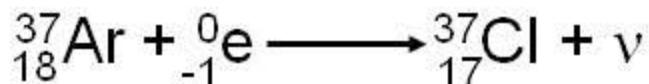
Decrease # of protons by 1



$\nu$  and  $\bar{\nu}$  have  $A = 0$  and  $Z = 0$

# Nuclear Stability and Radioactive Decay

## Electron capture decay



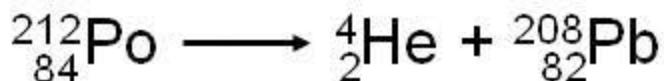
Increase # of neutrons by 1



Decrease # of protons by 1



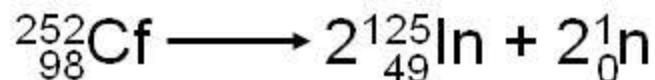
## Alpha decay

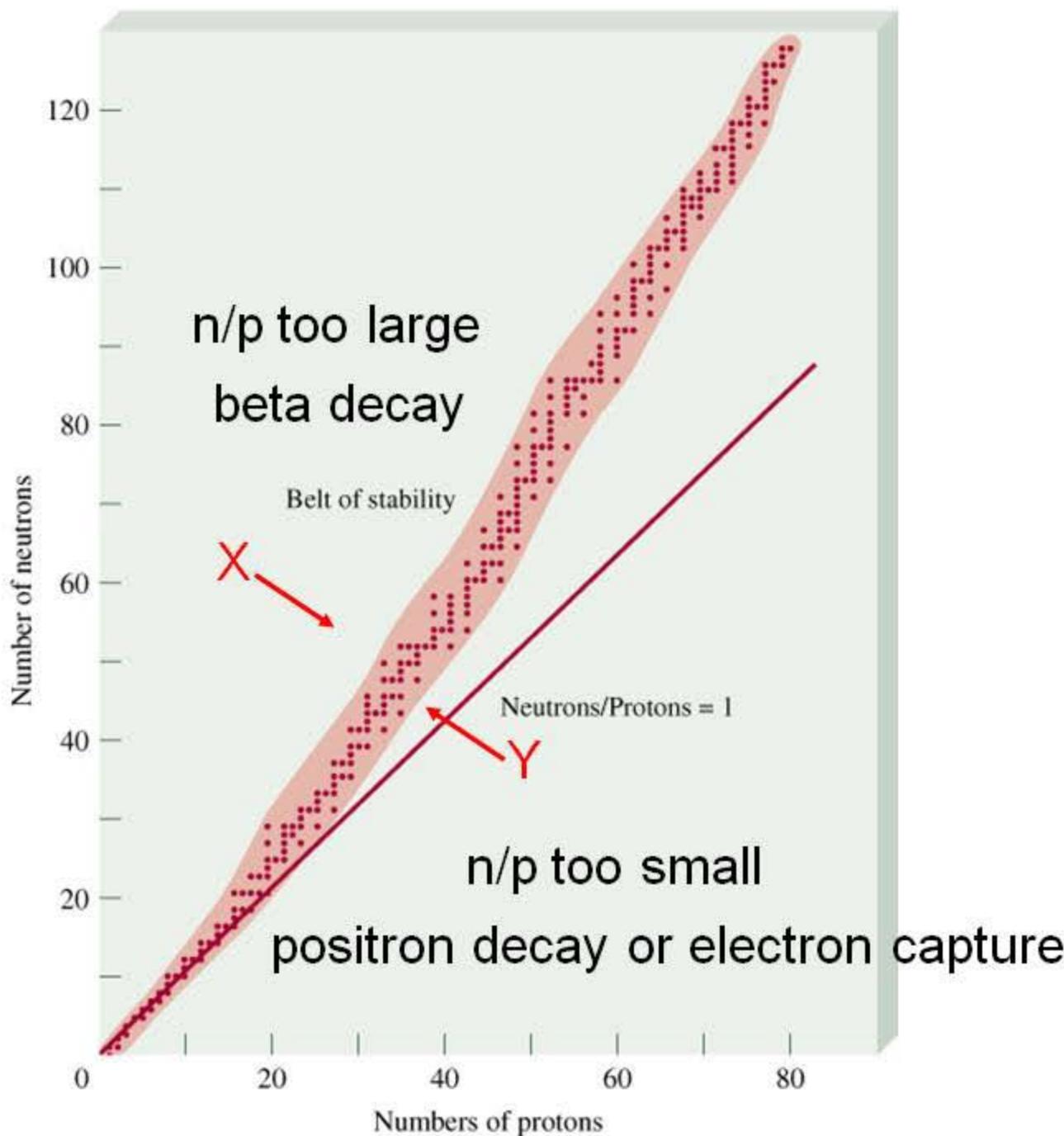


Decrease # of neutrons by 2

Decrease # of protons by 2

## Spontaneous fission





# Nuclear Stability

- Certain numbers of neutrons and protons are *extra* stable
  - $n$  or  $p = 2, 8, 20, 50, 82$  and  $126$
  - Like extra stable numbers of electrons in noble gases ( $e^- = 2, 10, 18, 36, 54$  and  $86$ )
- Nuclei with even numbers of both protons and neutrons are more stable than those with odd numbers of neutron and protons
- All isotopes of the elements with atomic numbers higher than  $83$  are radioactive
- All isotopes of Tc and Pm are radioactive

**TABLE 23.2**

Number of Stable Isotopes with Even and Odd Numbers of Protons and Neutrons

Protons	Neutrons	Number of Stable Isotopes
Odd	Odd	4
Odd	Even	50
Even	Odd	53
Even	Even	164

*Nuclear binding energy (BE)* is the energy required to break up a nucleus into its component protons and neutrons.



$$E = mc^2$$

$$BE = 9 \times (\text{p mass}) + 10 \times (\text{n mass}) - {}_{9}^{19}F \text{ mass}$$

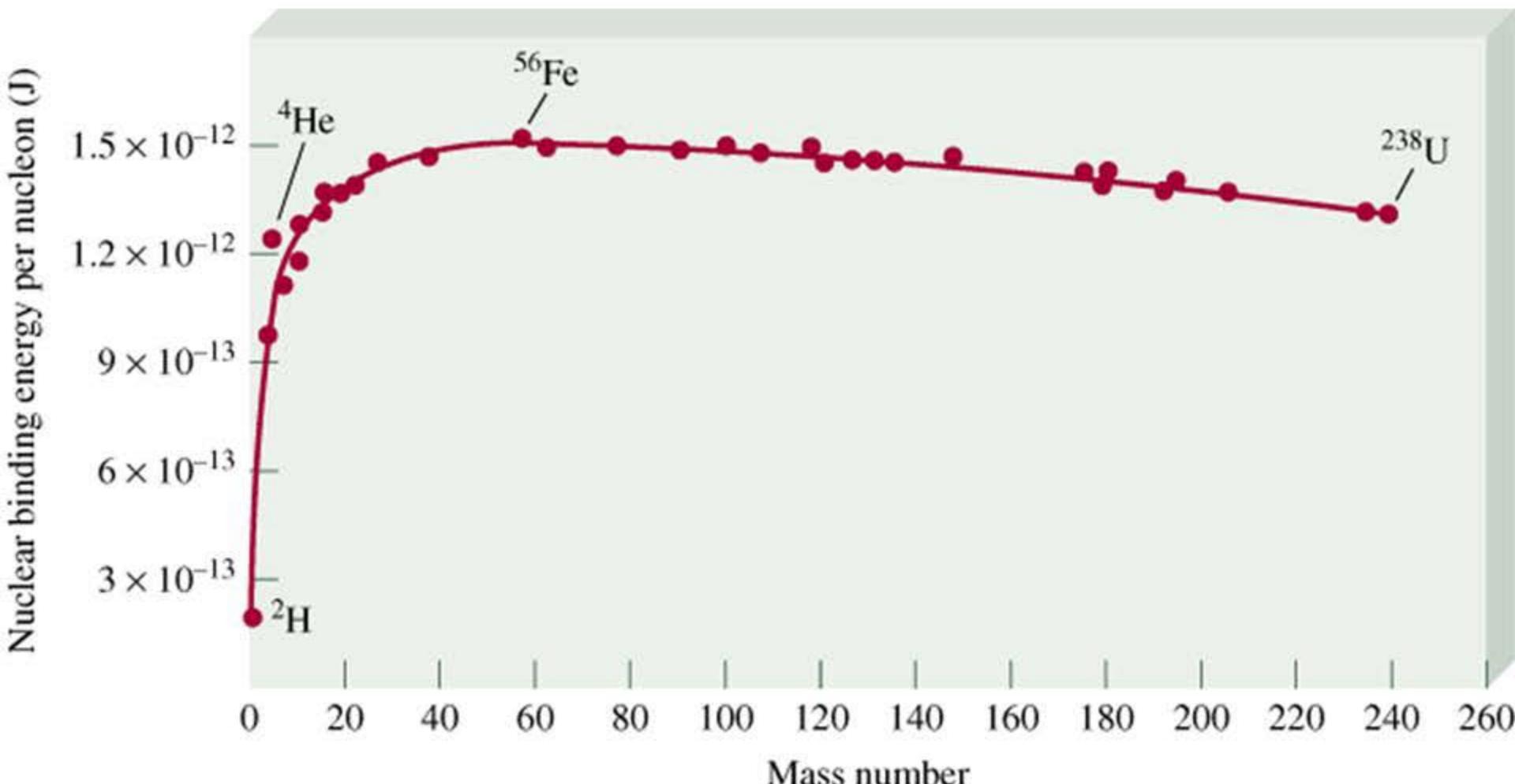
$$BE \text{ (amu)} = 9 \times 1.007825 + 10 \times 1.008665 - 18.9984$$

$$BE = 0.1587 \text{ amu} \quad 1 \text{ amu} = 1.49 \times 10^{-10} \text{ J}$$

$$BE = 2.37 \times 10^{-11} \text{ J}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{binding energy per nucleon} &= \frac{\text{binding energy}}{\text{number of nucleons}} \\ &= \frac{2.37 \times 10^{-11} \text{ J}}{19 \text{ nucleons}} = 1.25 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}\end{aligned}$$

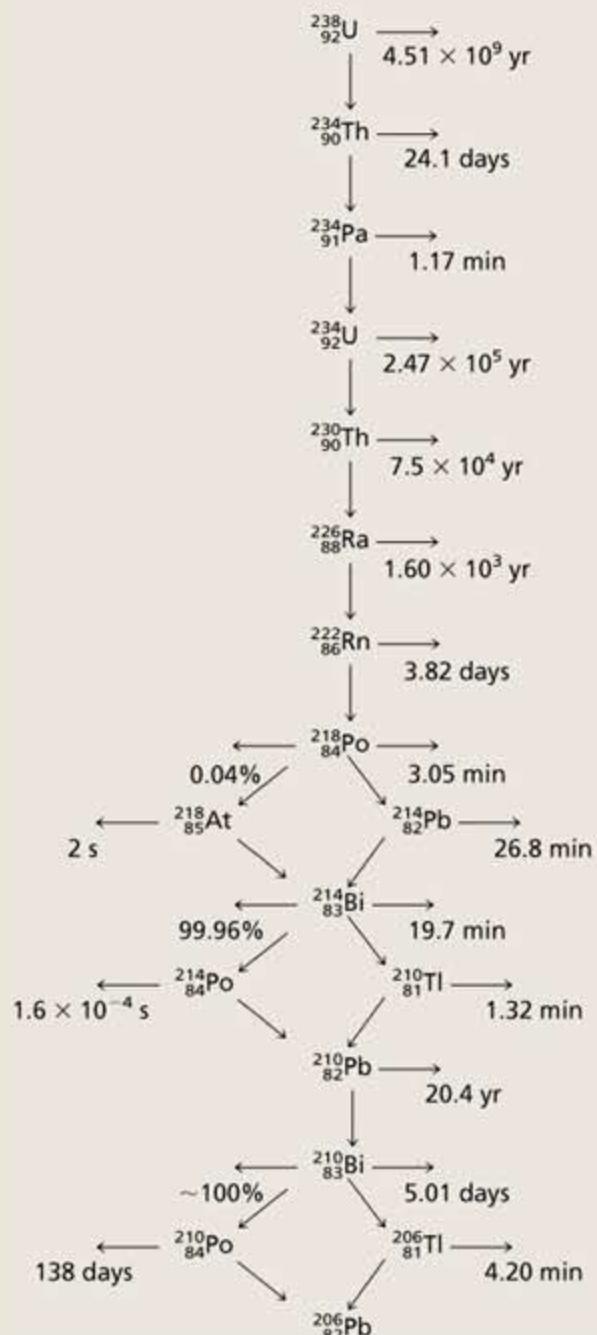
# Nuclear binding energy per nucleon vs Mass number



nuclear binding energy  
nucleon

nuclear stability

23.2

**Table 22.3** The Uranium Decay Series

## Kinetics of Radioactive Decay

$N \longrightarrow \text{daughter}$

$$\text{rate} = -\frac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} \quad \text{rate} = \lambda N$$

$$-\frac{\Delta N}{\Delta t} = \lambda N$$

$$N = N_0 \exp(-\lambda t) \quad \ln N = \ln N_0 - \lambda t$$

$N$  = the number of atoms at time  $t$

$N_0$  = the number of atoms at time  $t = 0$

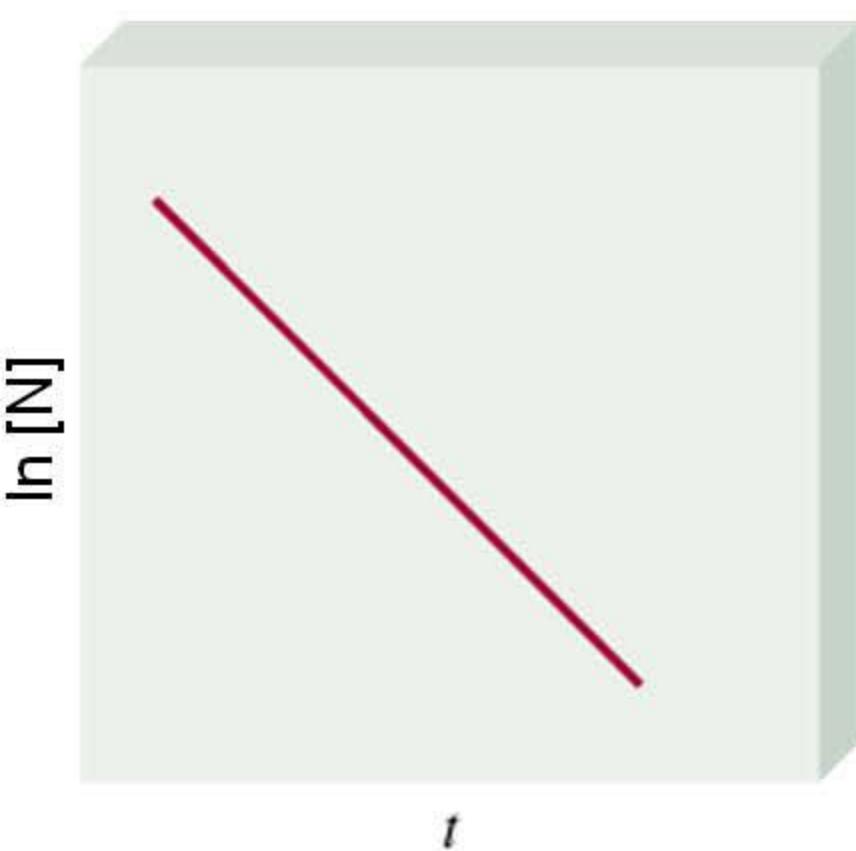
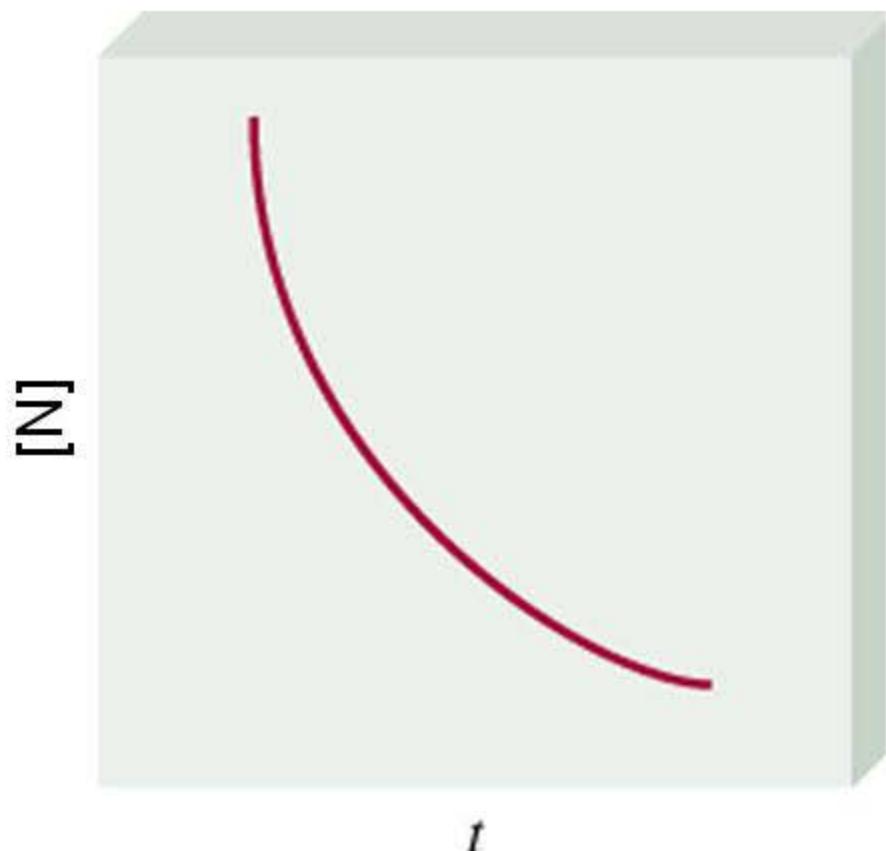
$\lambda$  is the decay constant

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

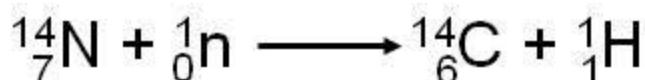
## Kinetics of Radioactive Decay

$$[N] = [N]_0 \exp(-\lambda t)$$

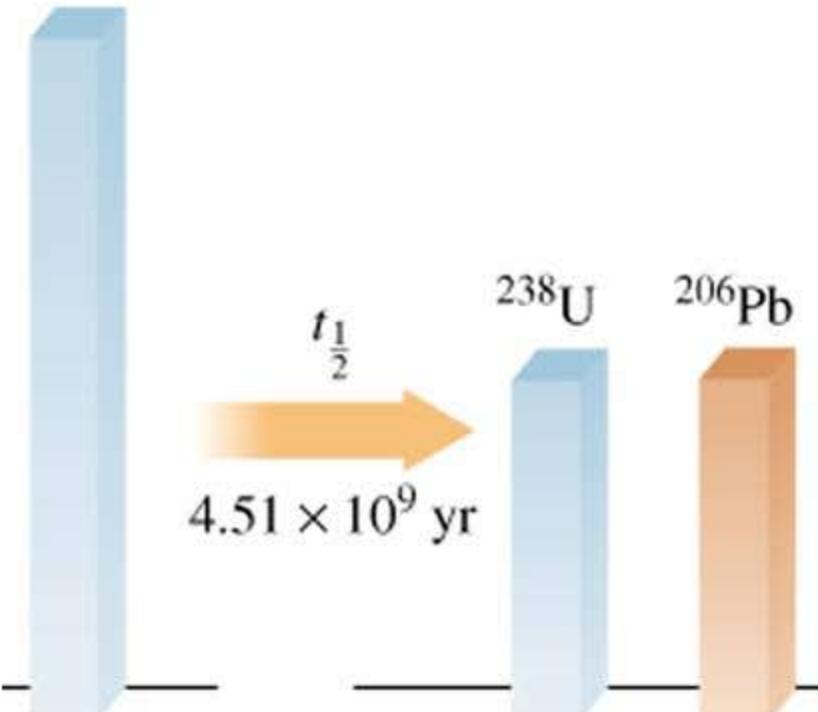
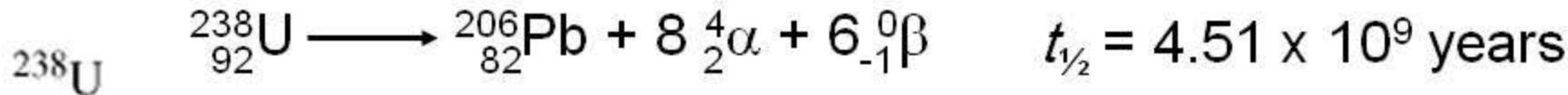
$$\ln[N] = \ln[N]_0 - \lambda t$$



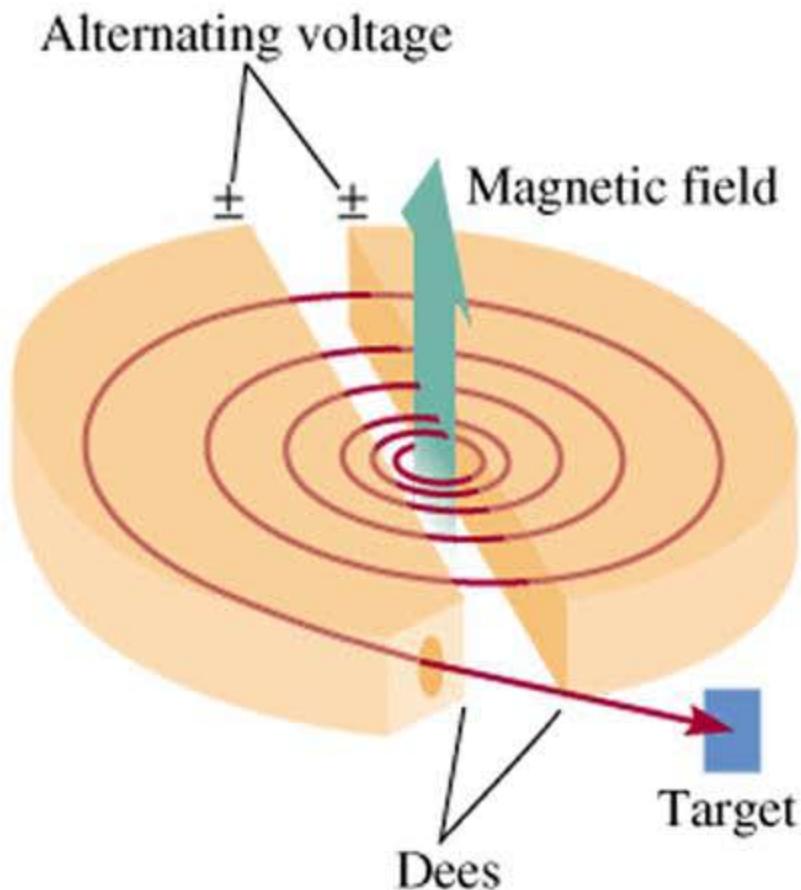
## Radiocarbon Dating



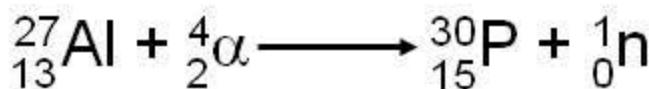
## Uranium-238 Dating



# Nuclear Transmutation



Cyclotron Particle Accelerator



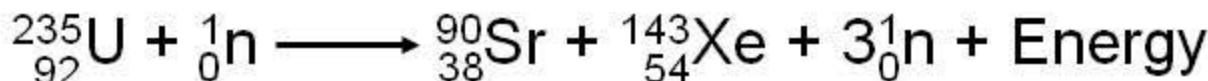
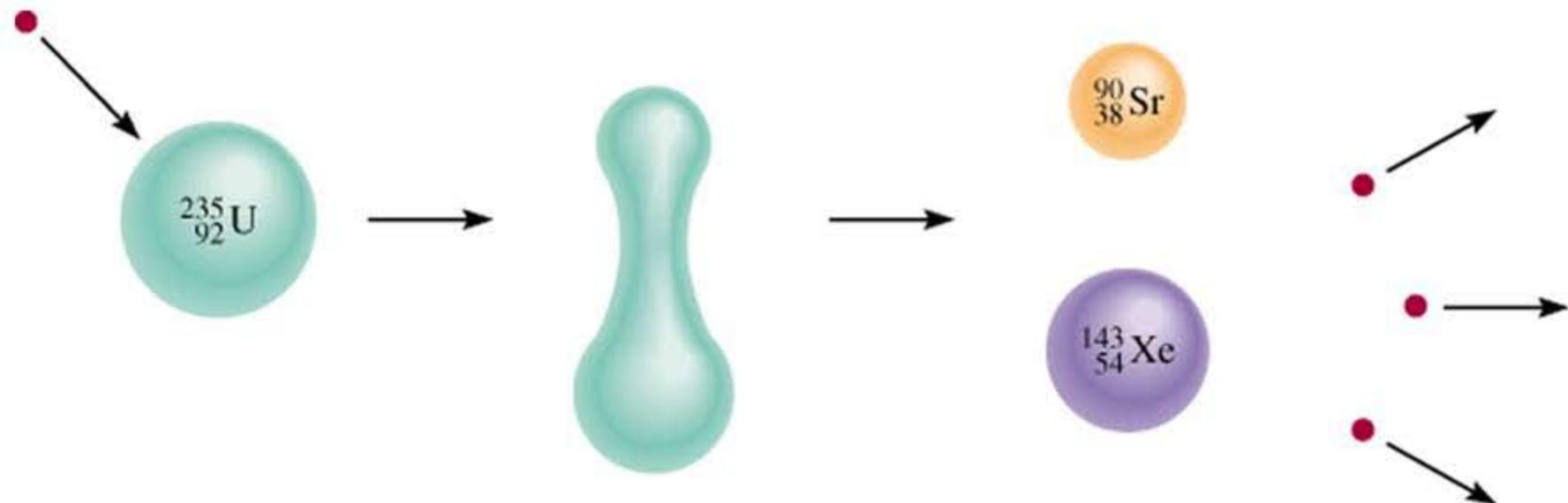
# Nuclear Transmutation

**TABLE 23.4**

## The Transuranium Elements

Atomic Number	Name	Symbol	Preparation
93	Neptunium	Np	$^{238}_{92}\text{U} + ^1_0\text{n} \longrightarrow ^{239}_{93}\text{Np} + ^0_{-1}\beta$
94	Plutonium	Pu	$^{239}_{93}\text{Np} \longrightarrow ^{239}_{94}\text{Pu} + ^0_{-1}\beta$
95	Americium	Am	$^{239}_{94}\text{Pu} + ^1_0\text{n} \longrightarrow ^{240}_{95}\text{Am} + ^0_{-1}\beta$
96	Curium	Cm	$^{239}_{94}\text{Pu} + ^4_2\alpha \longrightarrow ^{242}_{96}\text{Cm} + ^1_0\text{n}$
97	Berkelium	Bk	$^{241}_{95}\text{Am} + ^4_2\alpha \longrightarrow ^{243}_{97}\text{Bk} + 2^1_0\text{n}$
98	Californium	Cf	$^{242}_{96}\text{Cm} + ^4_2\alpha \longrightarrow ^{245}_{98}\text{Cf} + ^1_0\text{n}$
99	Einsteinium	Es	$^{238}_{92}\text{U} + 15^1_0\text{n} \longrightarrow ^{253}_{99}\text{Es} + 7^0_{-1}\beta$
100	Fermium	Fm	$^{238}_{92}\text{U} + 17^1_0\text{n} \longrightarrow ^{255}_{100}\text{Fm} + 8^0_{-1}\beta$
101	Mendelevium	Md	$^{253}_{99}\text{Es} + ^4_2\alpha \longrightarrow ^{256}_{101}\text{Md} + ^1_0\text{n}$
102	Nobelium	No	$^{246}_{96}\text{Cm} + ^{12}_6\text{C} \longrightarrow ^{254}_{102}\text{No} + 4^1_0\text{n}$
103	Lawrencium	Lr	$^{252}_{98}\text{Cf} + ^{10}_5\text{B} \longrightarrow ^{257}_{103}\text{Lr} + 5^1_0\text{n}$
104	Rutherfordium	Rf	$^{249}_{98}\text{Cf} + ^{12}_6\text{C} \longrightarrow ^{257}_{104}\text{Rf} + 4^1_0\text{n}$
105	Dubnium	Db	$^{249}_{98}\text{Cf} + ^{15}_7\text{N} \longrightarrow ^{260}_{105}\text{Db} + 4^1_0\text{n}$
106	Seaborgium	Sg	$^{249}_{98}\text{Cf} + ^{18}_8\text{O} \longrightarrow ^{263}_{106}\text{Sg} + 4^1_0\text{n}$
107	Bohrium	Bh	$^{209}_{83}\text{Bi} + ^{54}_{24}\text{Cr} \longrightarrow ^{262}_{107}\text{Bh} + ^1_0\text{n}$
108	Hassium	Hs	$^{208}_{82}\text{Pb} + ^{58}_{26}\text{Fe} \longrightarrow ^{265}_{108}\text{Hs} + ^1_0\text{n}$
109	Meitnerium	Mt	$^{209}_{83}\text{Bi} + ^{58}_{26}\text{Fe} \longrightarrow ^{266}_{109}\text{Mt} + ^1_0\text{n}$

# Nuclear Fission



$$\text{Energy} = [\text{mass } {}^{235}\text{U} + \text{mass n} - (\text{mass } {}^{90}\text{Sr} + \text{mass } {}^{143}\text{Xe} + 3 \times \text{mass n})] \times c^2$$

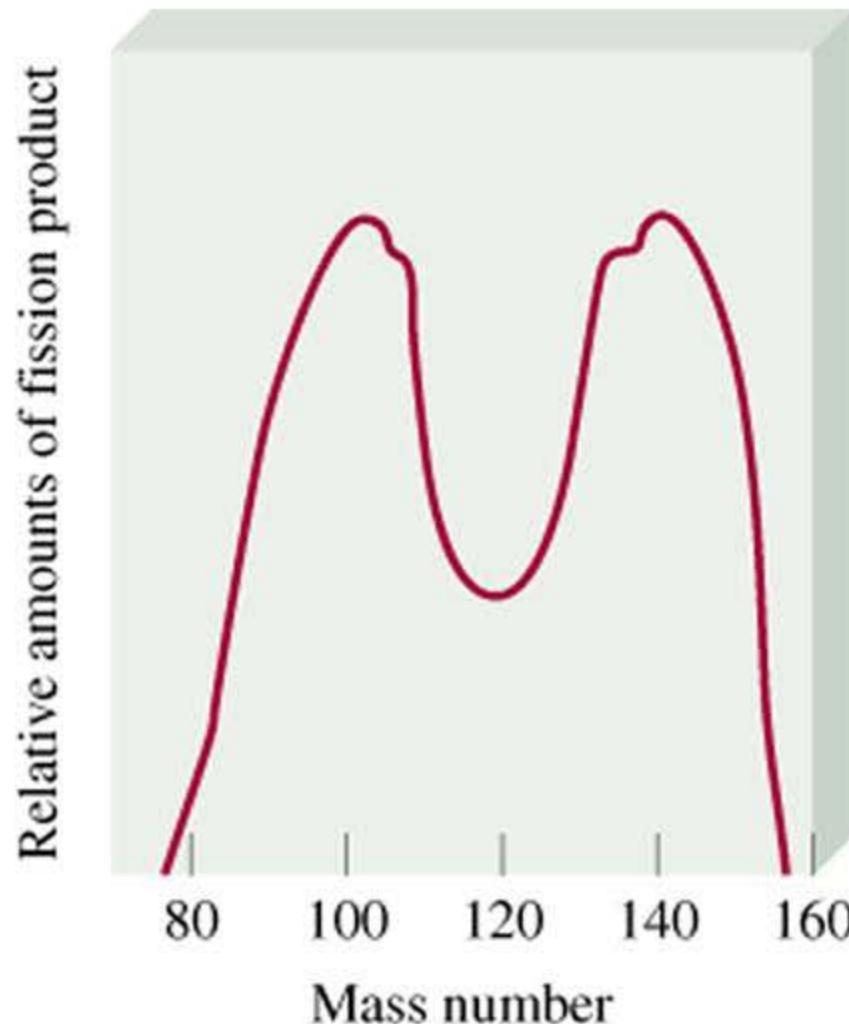
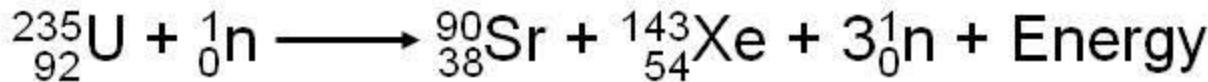
$$\text{Energy} = 3.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ J per } {}^{235}\text{U}$$

$$= 2.0 \times 10^{13} \text{ J per mole } {}^{235}\text{U}$$

$$\text{Combustion of 1 ton of coal} = 5 \times 10^7 \text{ J}$$

# Nuclear Fission

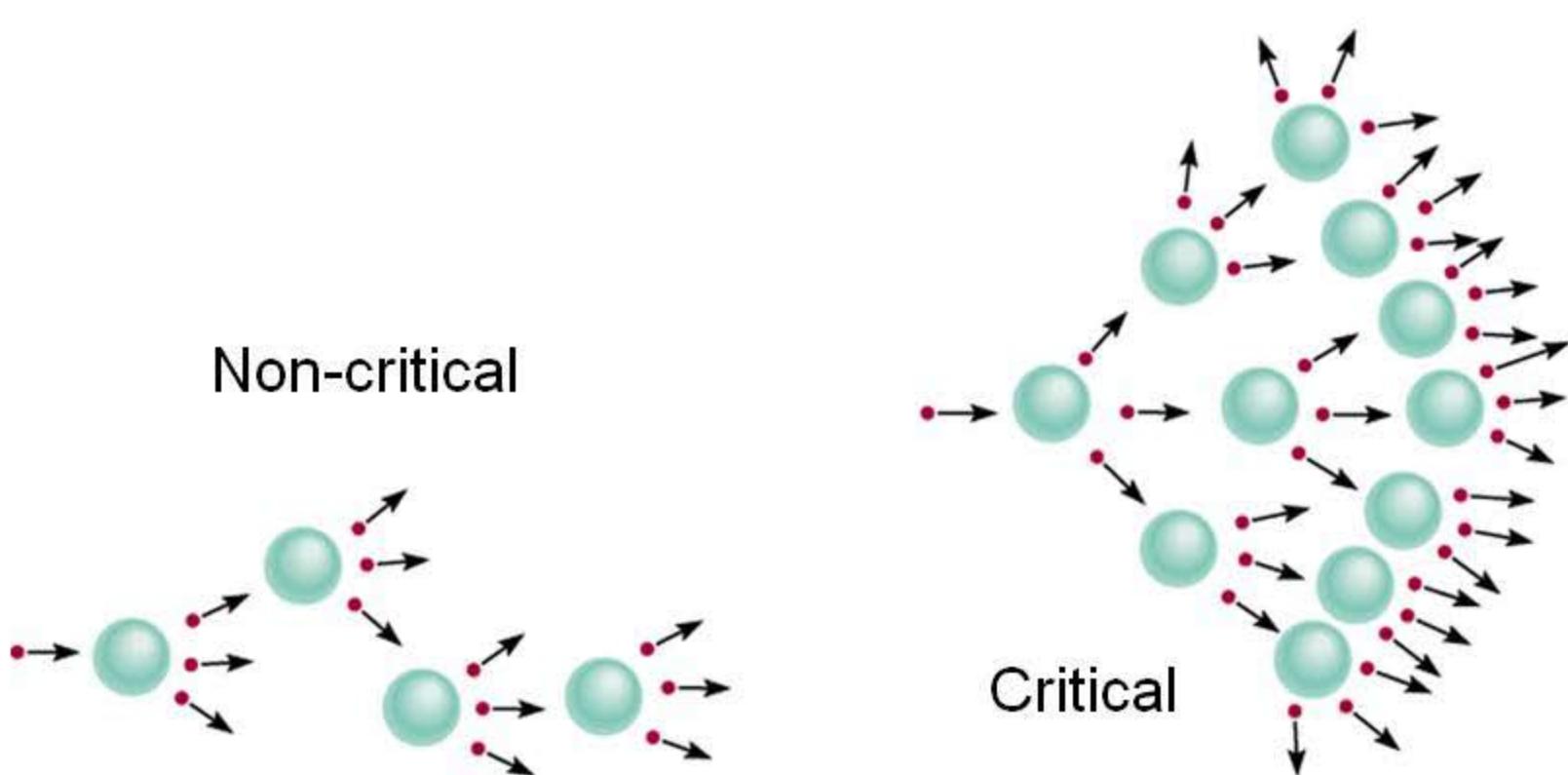
## Representative fission reaction



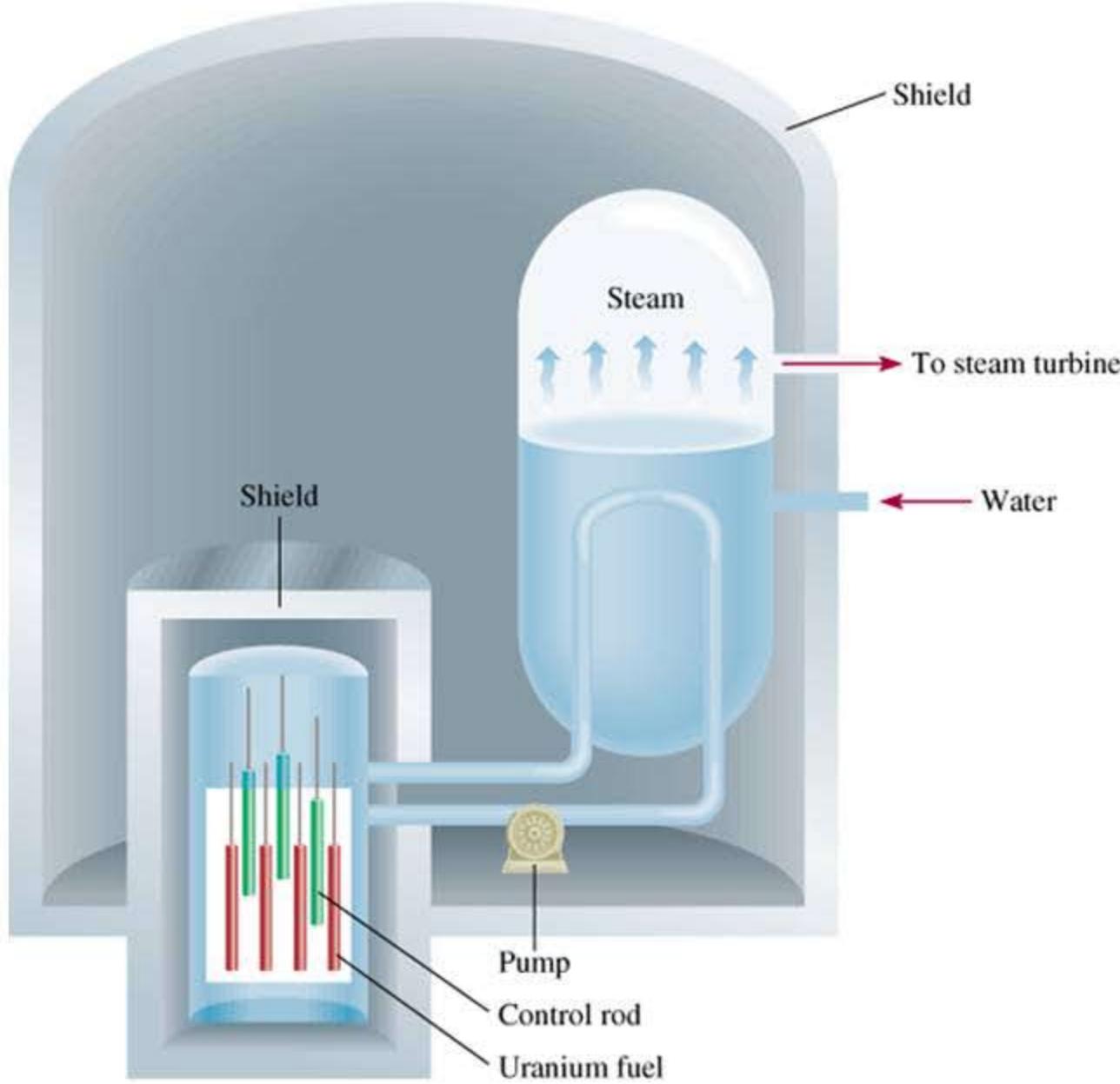
# Nuclear Fission

*Nuclear chain reaction* is a self-sustaining sequence of nuclear fission reactions.

The minimum mass of fissionable material required to generate a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction is the *critical mass*.



# Nuclear Fission



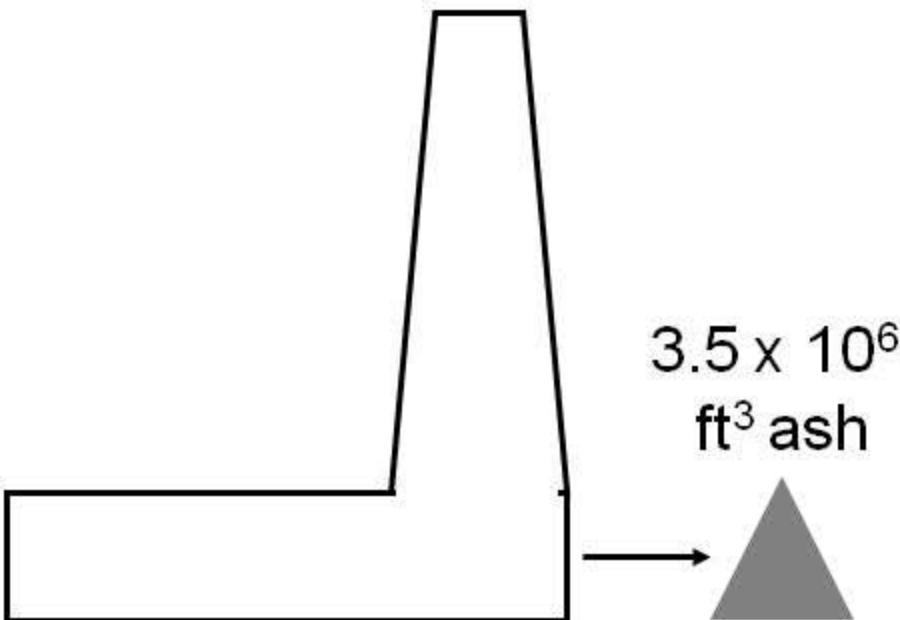
Schematic  
diagram of a  
nuclear  
fission reactor

# Nuclear Fission

35,000 tons SO<sub>2</sub>

$4.5 \times 10^6$  tons CO<sub>2</sub>

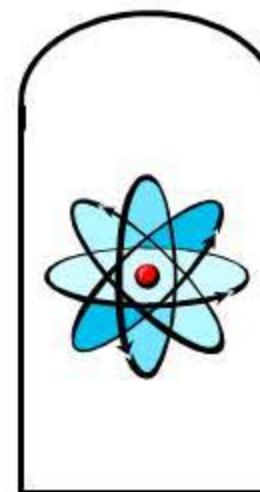
## Annual Waste Production



1,000 MW coal-fired  
power plant

$3.5 \times 10^6$   
ft<sup>3</sup> ash

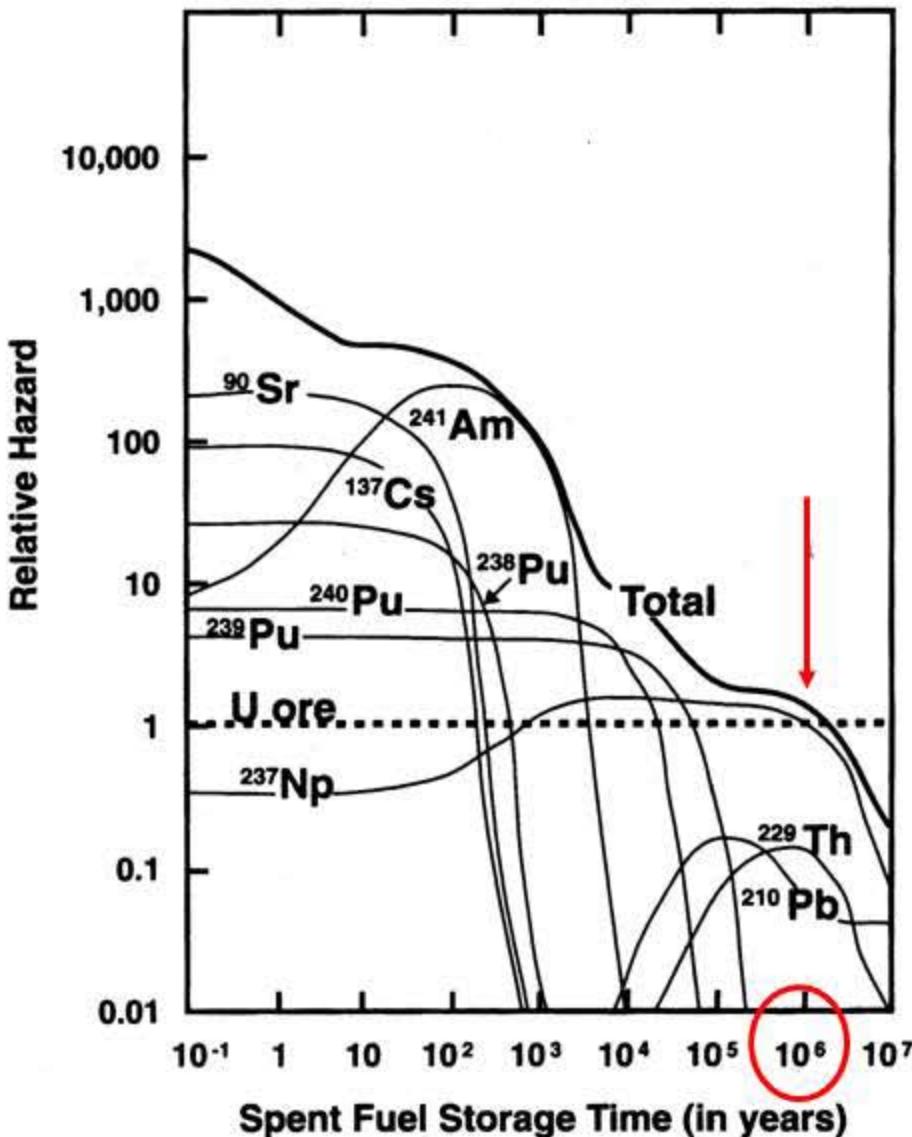
1,000 MW nuclear  
power plant



70 ft<sup>3</sup>  
vitrified  
waste

# Nuclear Fission

Hazards of the  
radioactivities in spent  
fuel compared to  
uranium ore



# Chemistry In Action: Nature's Own Fission Reactor



Natural Uranium

0.7202 % U-235 99.2798% U-238

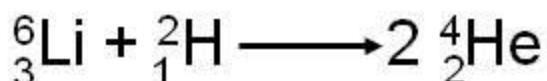
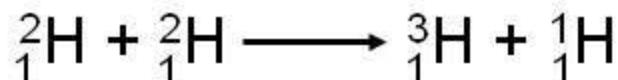
Measured at Oklo

0.7171 % U-235



# Nuclear Fusion

## Fusion Reaction

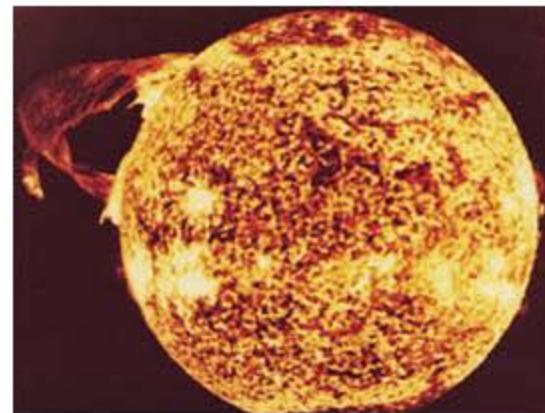


## Energy Released

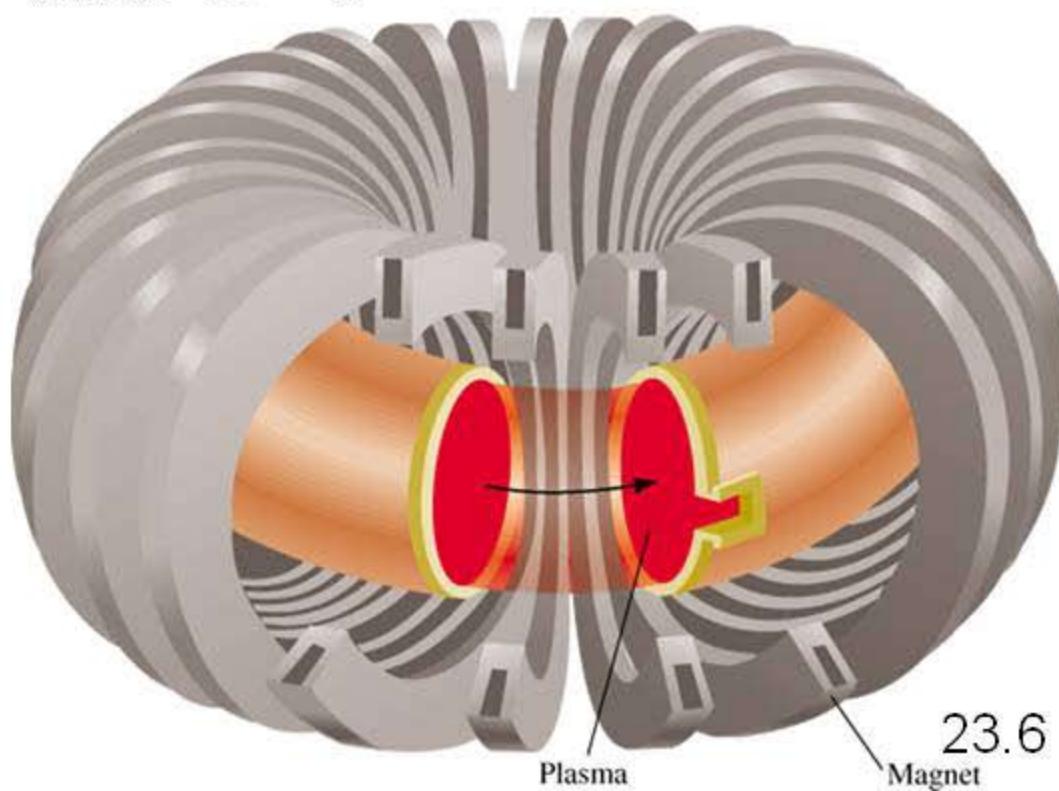
$$6.3 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}$$

$$2.8 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}$$

$$3.6 \times 10^{-12} \text{ J}$$



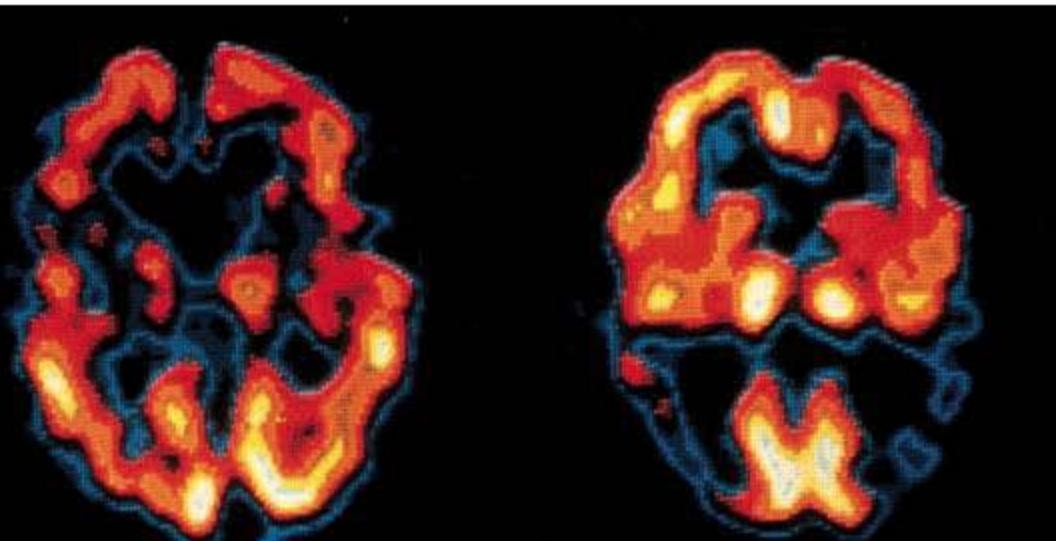
Tokamak magnetic  
plasma  
confinement



23.6  
Magnet

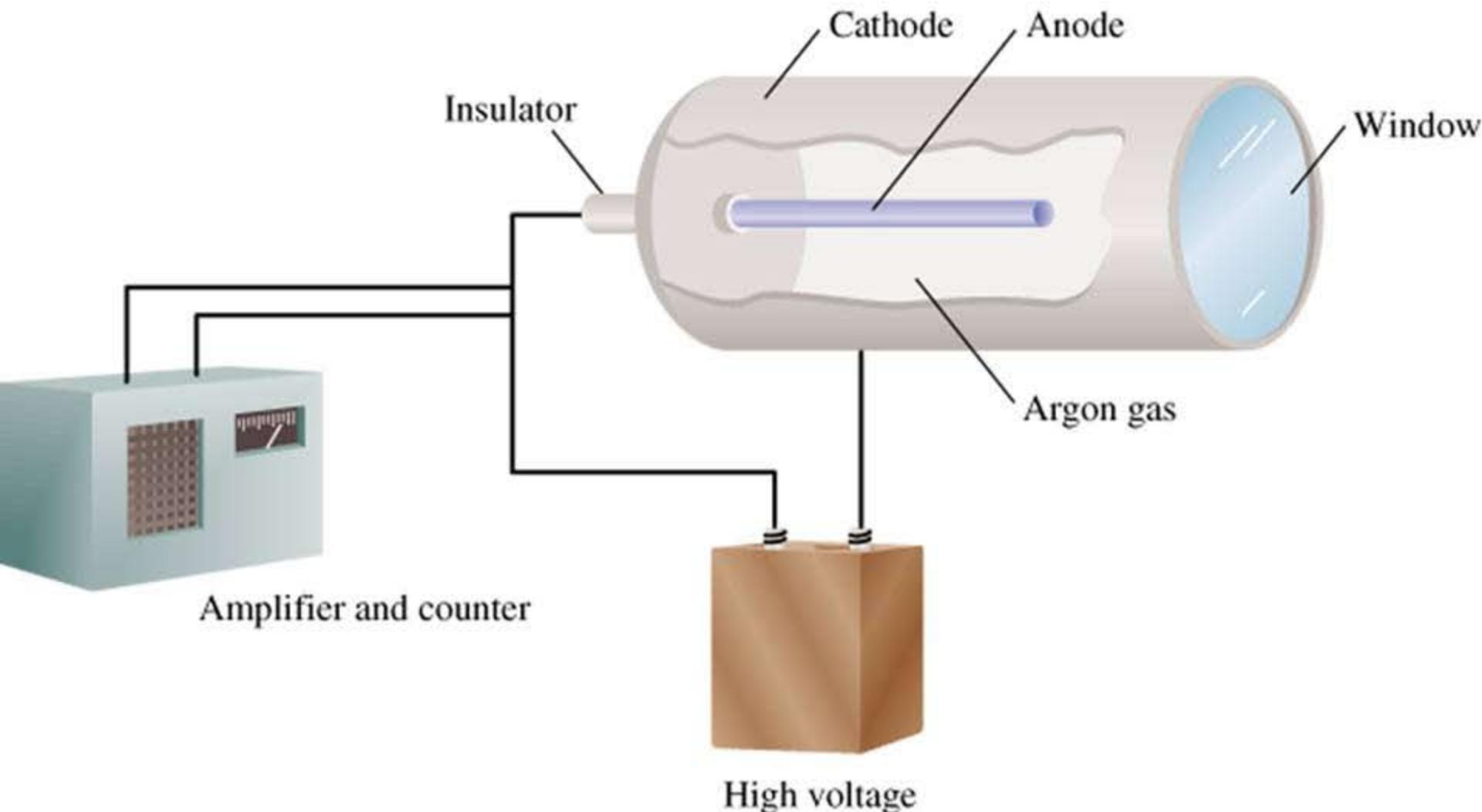
# Radioisotopes in Medicine

- 1 out of every 3 hospital patients will undergo a nuclear medicine procedure
- $^{24}\text{Na}$ ,  $t_{1/2} = 14.8$  hr,  $\beta$  emitter, blood-flow tracer
- $^{131}\text{I}$ ,  $t_{1/2} = 14.8$  hr,  $\beta$  emitter, thyroid gland activity
- $^{123}\text{I}$ ,  $t_{1/2} = 13.3$  hr,  $\gamma$ -ray emitter, brain imaging
- $^{18}\text{F}$ ,  $t_{1/2} = 1.8$  hr,  $\beta^+$  emitter, positron emission tomography
- $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ ,  $t_{1/2} = 6$  hr,  $\gamma$ -ray emitter, imaging agent



Brain images  
with  $^{123}\text{I}$ -labeled  
compound

# Geiger-Müller Counter



# Biological Effects of Radiation

Radiation absorbed dose (*rad*)

$$1 \text{ rad} = 1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ J/g of material}$$

Roentgen equivalent for man (*rem*)

$$1 \text{ rem} = 1 \text{ rad} \times Q \quad \underline{\text{Quality Factor}}$$

$$\gamma\text{-ray} = 1$$

$$\beta = 1$$

$$\alpha = 20$$

TABLE 23.6

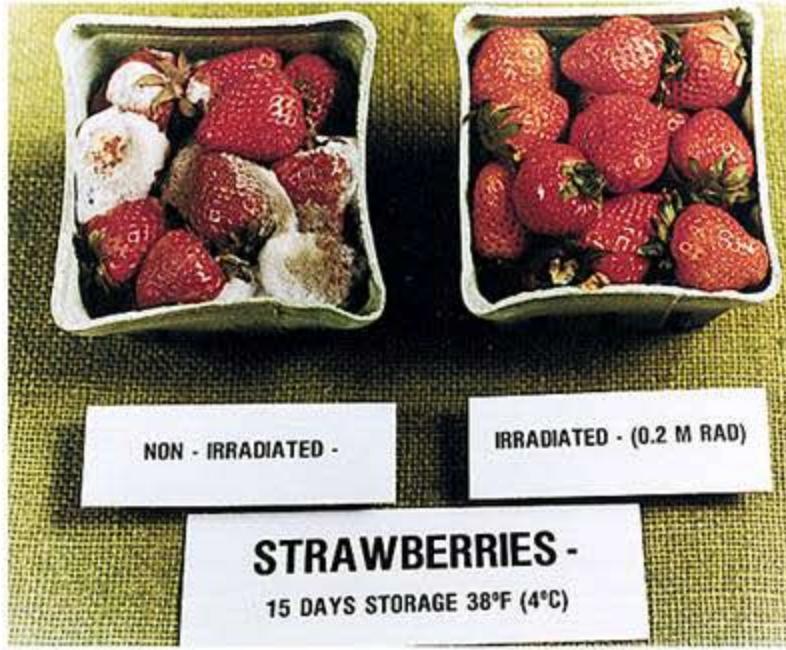
## Average Yearly Radiation Doses for Americans

Source	Dose (mrem/yr)*
Cosmic rays	20–50
Ground and surroundings	25
Human body <sup>†</sup>	26
Medical and dental X rays	50–75
Air travel	5
Fallout from weapons tests	5
Nuclear waste	2
Total	133–188

\*1 mrem = 1 millirem =  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  rem.

<sup>†</sup>The radioactivity in the body comes from food and air.

## Chemistry In Action: Food Irradiation



Dosage	Effect
Up to 100 kilorad	Inhibits sprouting of potatoes, onions, garlics. Inactivates trichinae in pork. Kills or prevents insects from reproducing in grains, fruits, and vegetables.
100 – 1000 kilorads	Delays spoilage of meat poultry and fish. Reduces salmonella. Extends shelf life of some fruit.
1000 to 10,000 kilorads	Sterilizes meat, poultry and fish. Kills insects and microorganisms in spices and seasoning.