

Deflecting radiation with magnetic fields

- Use a source-handling tool to mount a beta source 10 cm from a GM tube and then bring up a magnet as shown in Figure 23.5. Note the change in the count.
- Then move the GM tube into a position like that shown by the dotted lines to find the deflected particles.
- Repeat the experiment with alpha and gamma sources in turn.

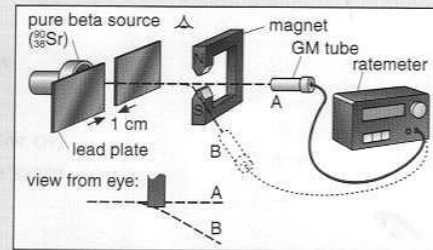


Figure 23.5 Deflecting beta radiation

Atomic Structure
Radioactive Decay
Nuclear Fusion
Summary

Radioactive Particles
Nuclear Fission
Energy Changes
Questions

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

The energy released when an atom is formed is:

$\Delta E = \Delta mc^2$

The energy needed to separate a nucleus into its constituent parts is called the binding energy. The binding energy of a nucleus is equal to the energy equivalent of the mass defect.

The higher the binding energy per nucleon, the more stable the nucleus is. As binding energy decreases the nuclei are more likely to split or fuse to achieve stability.

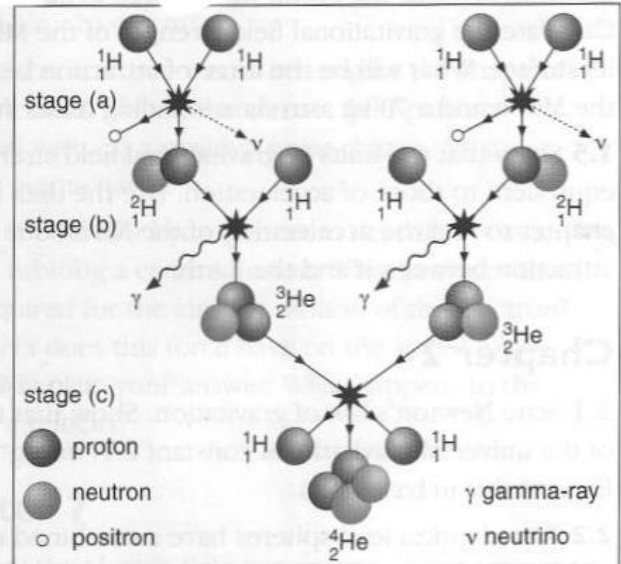
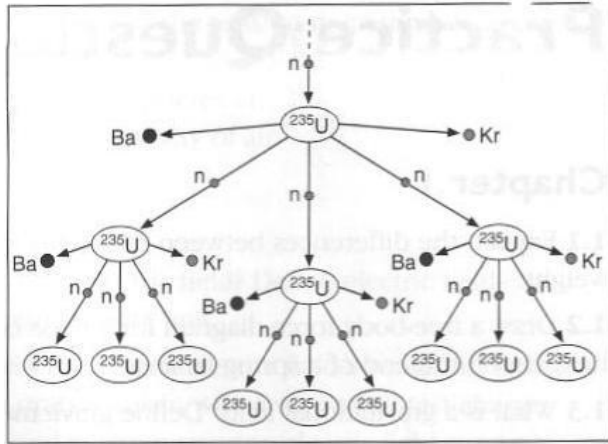
Binding energy is measured in joules or MeV (megaelectron-volts).

$1 \text{ MeV} = 1.6 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J}$

NUCLEAR PHYSICS

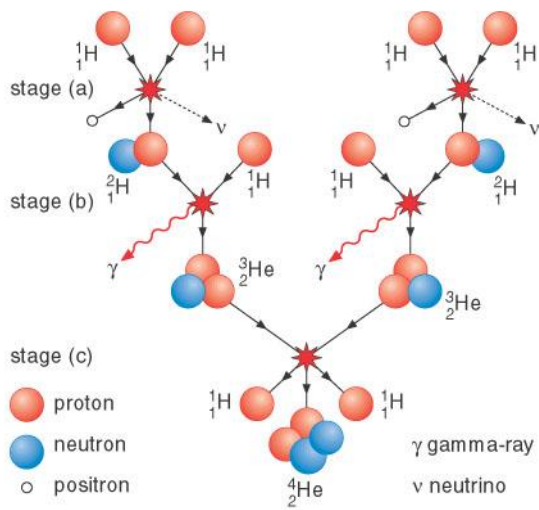
Energy Changes 4/13

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THE ATOM

L'ATOME • DAS ATOM • EL ATOMO

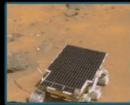


Applications



Radioactive Dating

Naturally occurring radioactive isotopes such as ^{14}C are used to date objects that were once living, such as wood. For example, from a study of artifacts found at the site, scientists determined that Stonehenge was built nearly 4,000 years ago.



Space Exploration

Sojourner used alpha particles to identify chemical elements present in Martian rocks. On Earth, nuclear reactions are used in many areas from criminal investigations to art authentication.



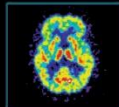
Nuclear Reactors

Nuclear reactors use the fission of ^{235}U or ^{239}Pu nuclei to produce electric power. Reactors and most other nuclear applications generate radioactive waste; disposal of this waste is a subject of current research.



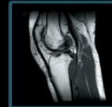
Smoke Detectors

Many smoke detectors use a small amount of the alpha emitter ^{241}Am to ionize the air. Smoke entering the detector reduces the current and sets off the alarm.



Nuclear Medicine

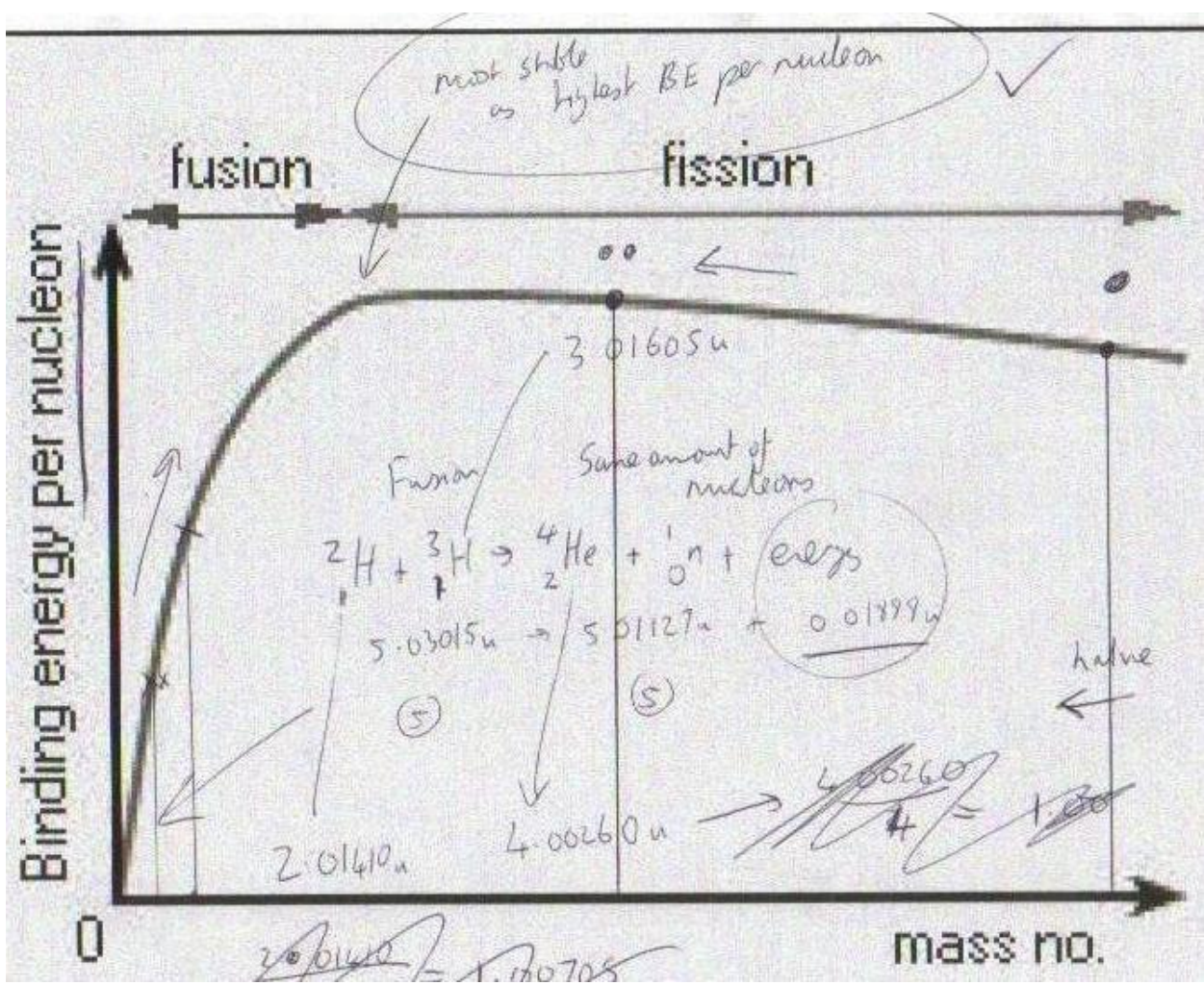
Radioactive isotopes, such as $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$, ^{60}Co and ^{131}I , are commonly used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Positron emitters such as ^{18}F are used in Positron Emission Tomography (PET) to generate images of brain activity.



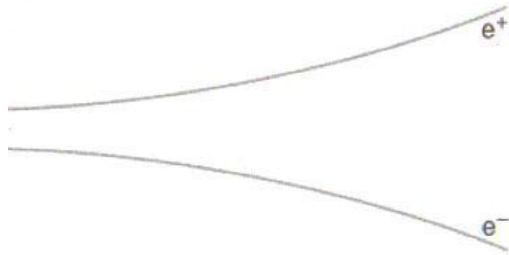
Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) makes use of atomic transitions involving the magnetic field of a nucleus to study the local chemical environment. This technique accurately maps the density of hydrogen to produce three-dimensional images of the human body.

Astrophysical pictures courtesy NASA/JPL/Caltech and AURA/STScI.



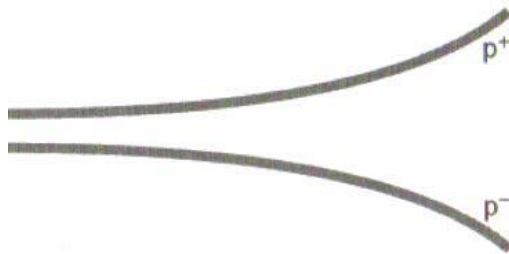
a) Fast particles make a thin curved track



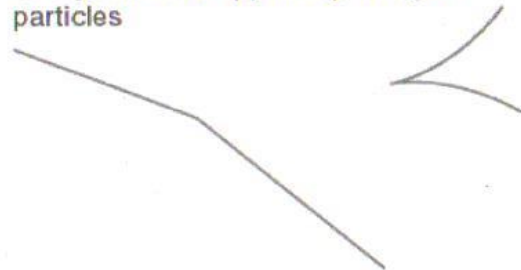
(c) Particles lose kinetic energy through ionising collisions, so track gets more curved and thicker



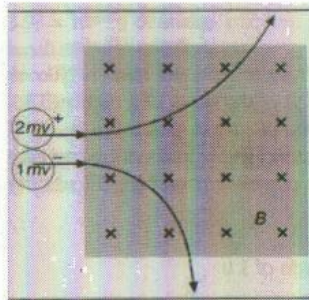
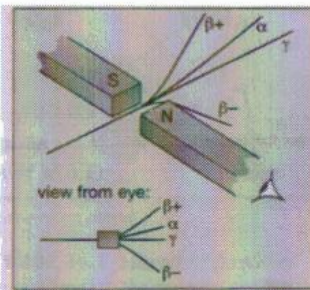
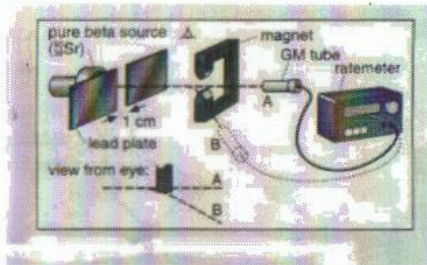
(b) Slow particles or massive particles cause more ionisation in a shorter distance and hence thicker tracks



(d) A decay into a charged particle and a massive neutral particle, which itself decays into two oppositely charged particles



magnetic deflection.JPG



(a) Fast particles make a thin curved track



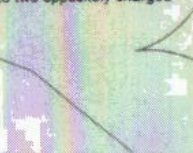
(c) Particles lose kinetic energy through ionising collisions, so track gets more curved and thicker

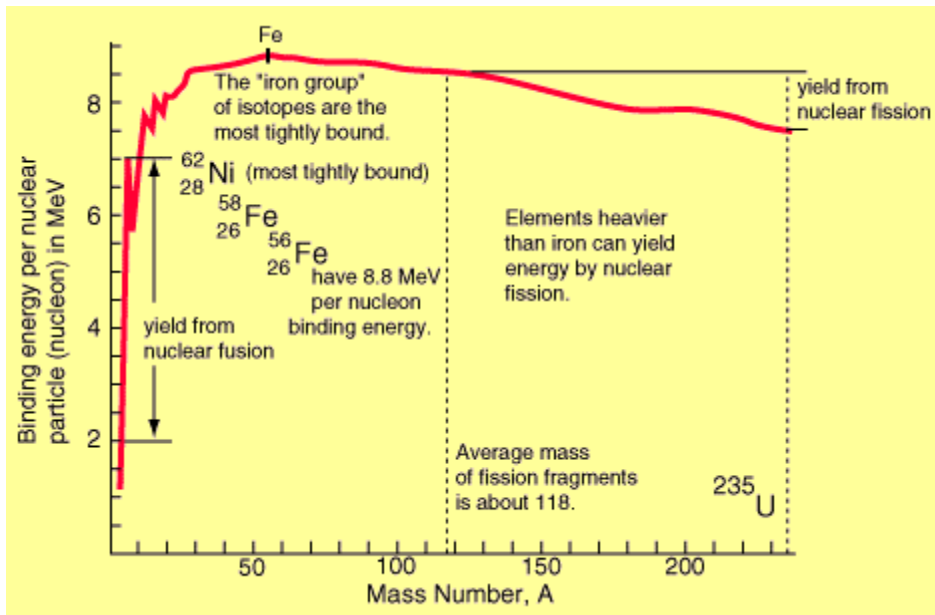
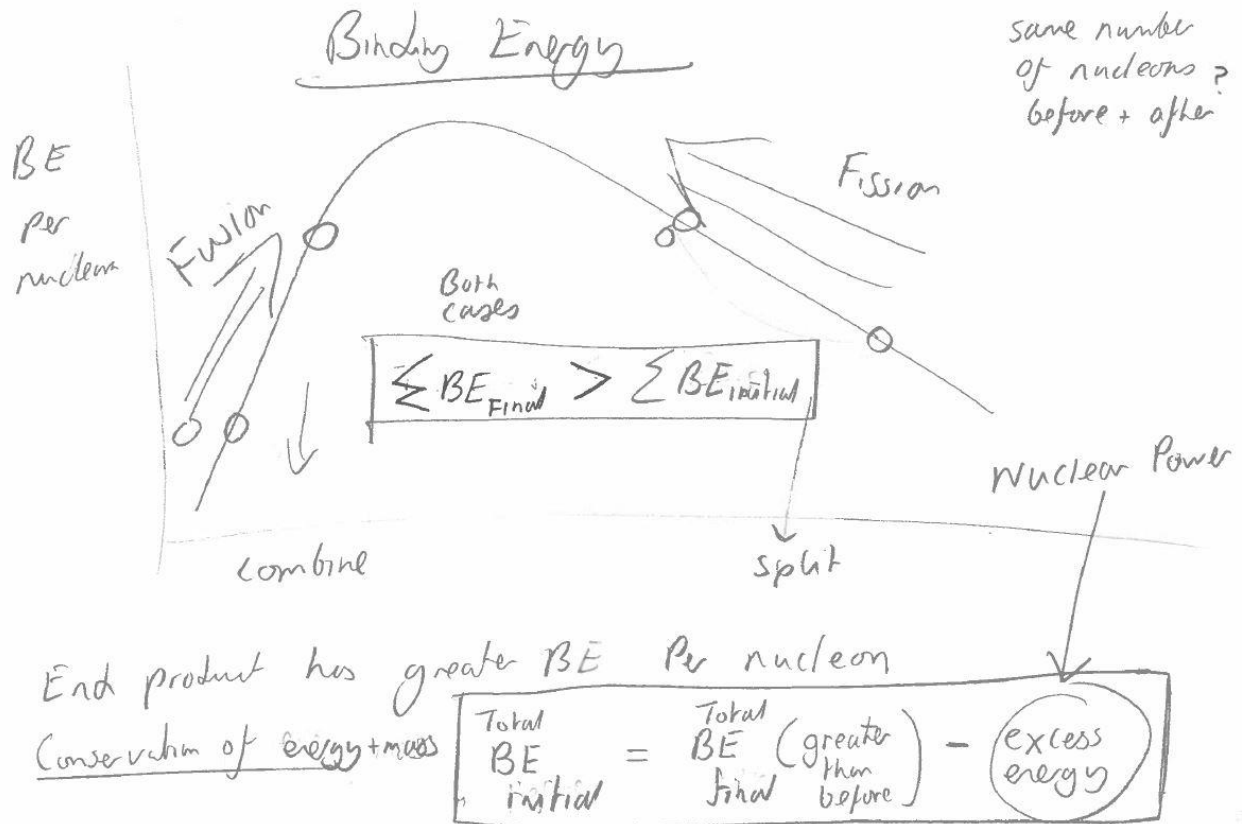


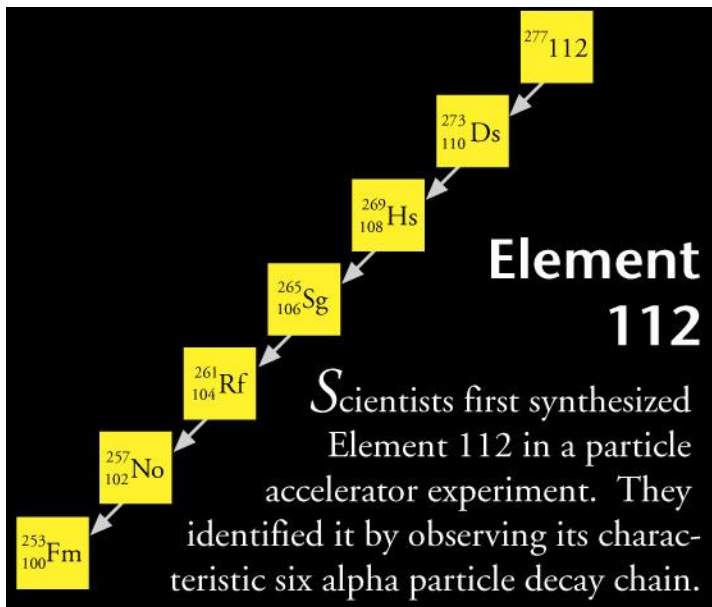
(b) Slow particles or massive particles cause more ionisation in a shorter distance and hence thicker tracks



(d) A decay into a charged particle and a massive neutral particle, which itself decays into two oppositely charged particles







Investigating beta-minus (β^-) and gamma (γ) radiations

Investigating beta-minus radiation

- Strontium-90 is a beta-minus emitter. Use a source-handling tool to mount a strontium-90 source near the GM tube and measure the count rate.
- For a range of distances from the tube, measure the count rate. Plot a graph of count rate against distance.
- Fix the beta-minus source 3 cm from the GM tube and measure the count rate (Figure 35.2).
- Insert a piece of paper between the source and the tube, and measure the new rate.
- Then insert a series of thin pieces of aluminium between the source and the tube. Plot a graph of count rate against number of pieces of aluminium.

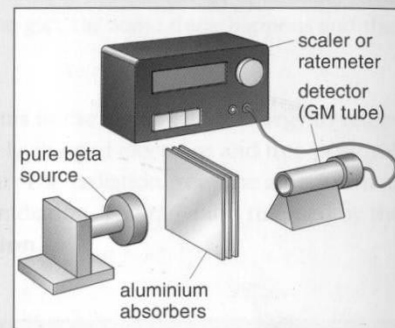


Figure 35.2 Investigating beta radiation

Investigating gamma radiation

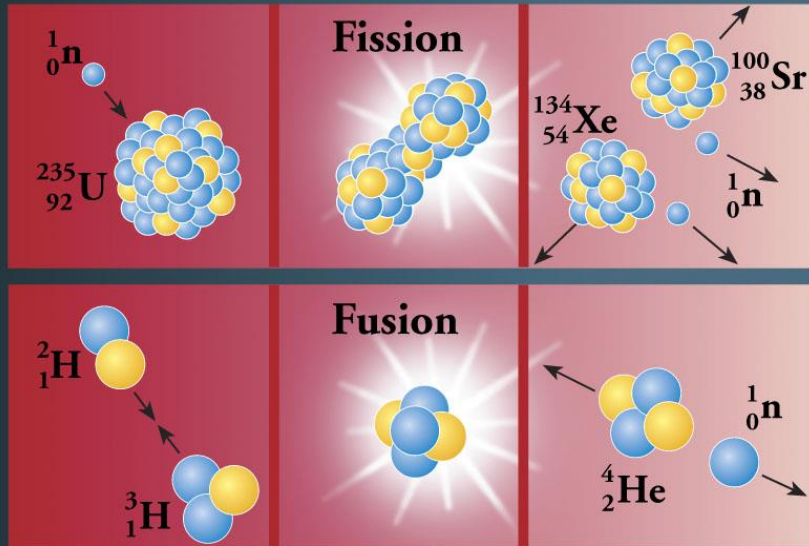
- Use the arrangement in Figure 35.2 to measure the count rate at different distances from a cobalt-60 gamma source.
- Then use a source-handling tool to mount the source 8 cm from the tube and measure the count rate for a range of thicknesses of lead absorbers between the source and the tube.

Nuclear Science is the study of the structure, properties, and interactions of the atomic nuclei. Nuclear scientists calculate and measure the masses, shapes, sizes, and decays of nuclei at rest and in collisions. They ask questions, such as: Why do nucleons stay in the nucleus? What combinations of protons and neutrons are possible? What happens when nuclei are compressed or rapidly rotated? What is the origin of the nuclei found on Earth?

Legend	● electron (e^-)	● quark	A mass number Z atomic number C
● proton	● positron (e^+)	● gluon field	
● neutron	● neutrino (ν)	● gluon	N neutron number = $A - Z$
	● antineutrino ($\bar{\nu}$)	● photon (γ)	

Nuclear Energy

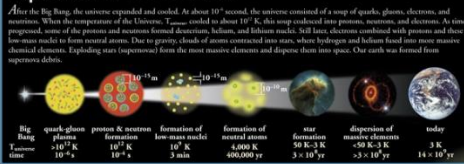
Nuclear reactions release energy when the total mass of the products is less than the sum of the masses of the initial nuclei. The “lost mass” appears as kinetic energy of the products ($E = mc^2$). In fission, a massive nucleus splits into two major fragments that usually eject one or more neutrons. In fusion, low mass nuclei combine to form a more massive nucleus plus one or more ejected particles—neutrons, protons, photons, or alpha particles.



In the early stages of stellar evolution of our sun and other stars, hydrogen fuses to form helium, releasing energy in the form of photons (light) and neutrinos. During the later stages of stellar evolution, more massive nuclei up to and beyond uranium are synthesized by fusion. By measuring the number of neutrinos that come from the Sun, scientists recently have demonstrated that neutrinos must have a mass greater than zero.

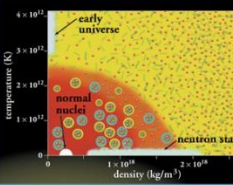
Nuclear Science

Expansion of the Universe



Nuclear Science is the study of the structure, properties, and interactions of the atomic nuclei. Nuclear scientists calculate and measure the masses, shapes, sizes, and decays of nuclei in rest and in collisions. They ask questions, such as: Why do nucleons stay in the nucleus? What combinations of protons and neutrons are possible? What happens when nuclei are compressed or rapidly rotated? What is the origin of the nuclei found on Earth?

Legend
 - electron (e^-) - quark $A = 14$
 - proton (e^+) - gluon field $Z = 6$
 - neutron (n) - photon (γ) $N = 8$
 - antineutrino ($\bar{\nu}$) - neutrino (ν) $Nucleus = A - Z$



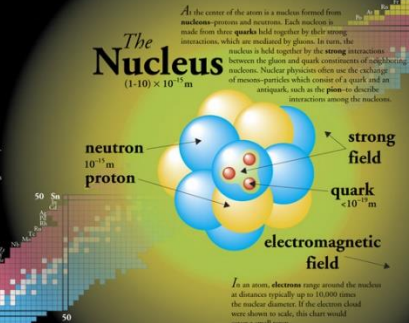
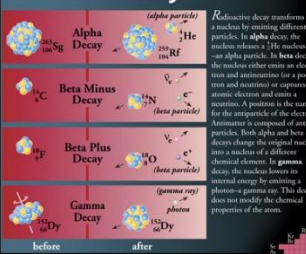
Phases of Nuclear Matter

Unstable Nuclei

Stable nuclei form a narrow white band on the Chart of the Nuclides. Scientists produce unstable nuclei far from this band and study their decays, thereby learning about the extremes of nuclear conditions. In its present form, this chart contains about 2500 different nuclei. Nuclear decay predicts that there are at least 4000 more to be discovered with $Z \leq 113$.

Scientists first synthesized Element 112 in a particle accelerator experiment. They identified it by observing its characteristic alpha particle decay chain.

Radioactivity



Nuclear Energy

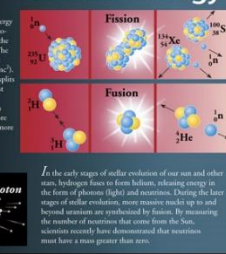
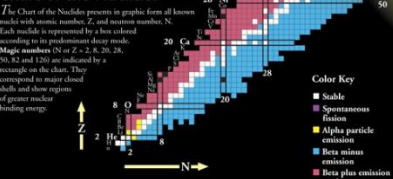


Chart of the Nuclides



Applications

Radioactive Dating

Natural occurring radioactive isotopes such as ^{14}C are used by geologists to date rocks, fossils, and artifacts. For example, from a sample of carbon found in the cave paintings, the knowledge we have today is that the paintings are only about 4,000 years old.

Space Exploration

Neutrons and alpha particles are detected and measured by instruments on Mars rovers. On Earth, nuclear reactions are used to generate power and to produce isotopes for medical and industrial applications.

Nuclear Reactors

Nuclear reactors are the source of ^{235}U and ^{239}Pu nuclear fuel. They produce power and heat, and are used to produce isotopes for medical and industrial applications.

Smoke Detectors

Many smoke detectors use a small amount of the alpha source ^{241}Am to ionize the air. Smoke entering the detector reduces the current and sets off the alarm.

Nuclear Medicine

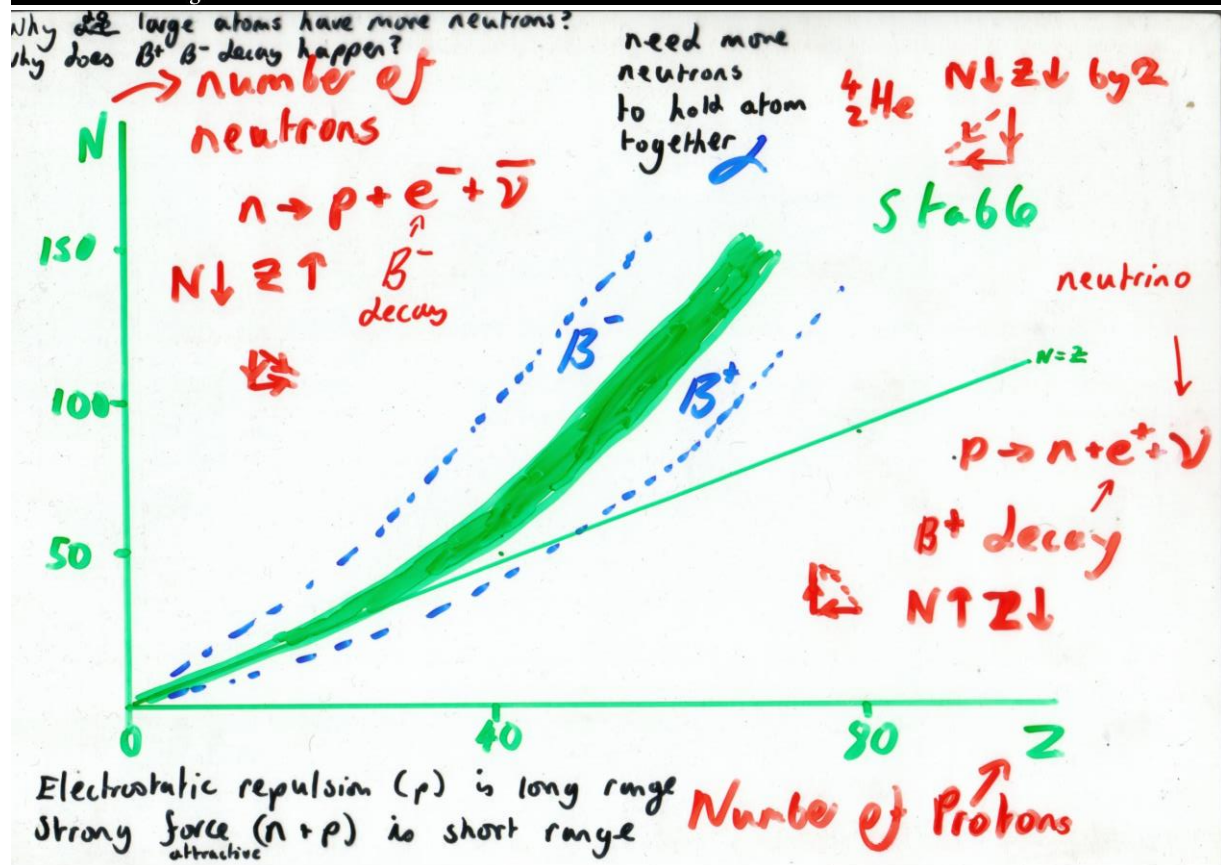
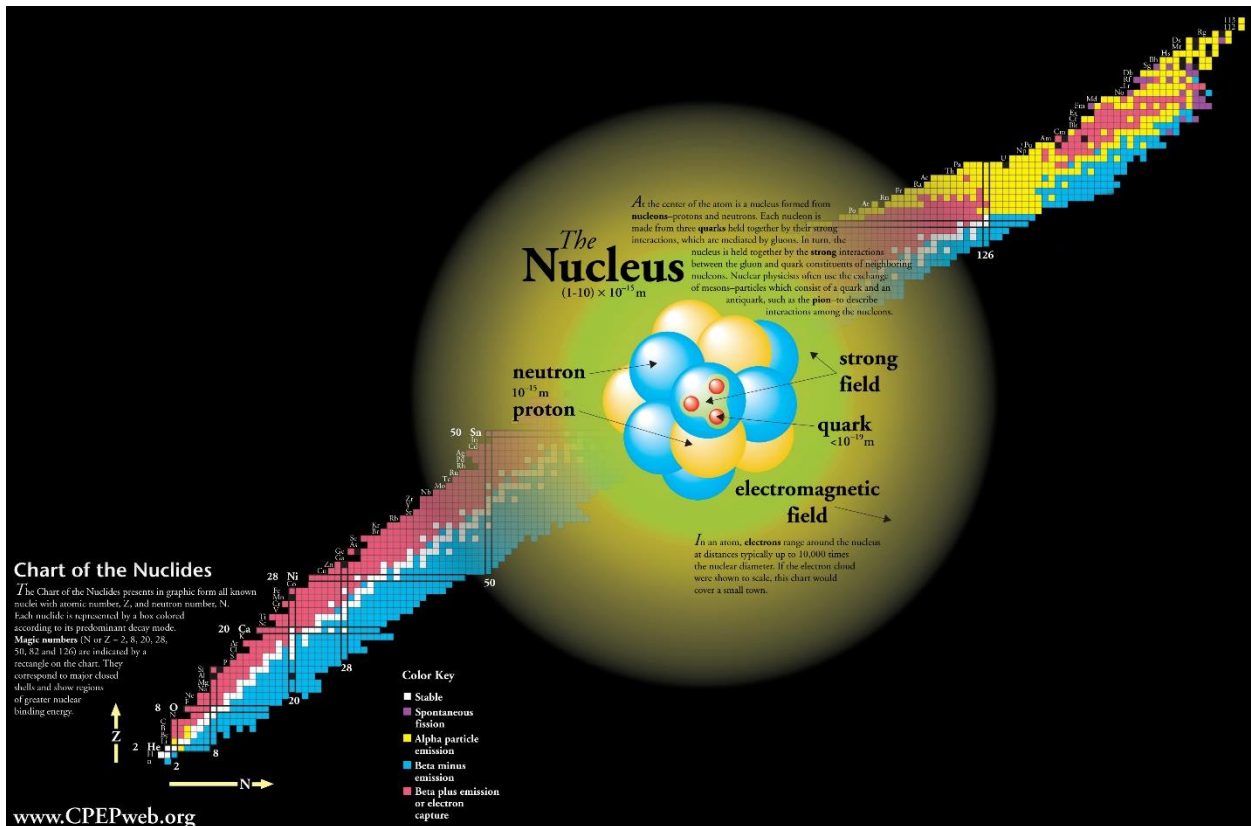
Radioactive isotopes, such as $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ and ^{125}I , are commonly used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Neutrons such as ^{252}Cf are used in neutron capture therapy (NCT) to treat cancer of the brain and other tissues.

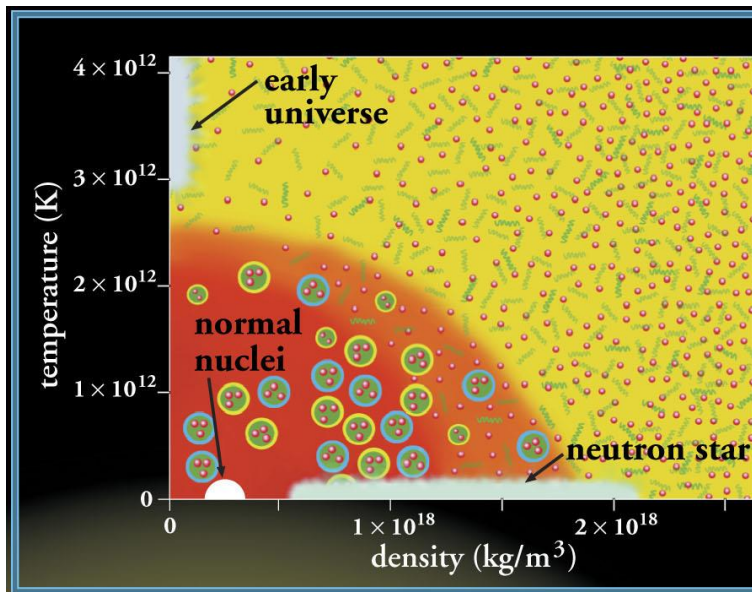
Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) uses a set of atoms containing unpaired electrons to produce a magnetic field of a nucleus to study the local chemical environment. This technique is used to map the density of hydrogen to produce three-dimensional images of the human body.

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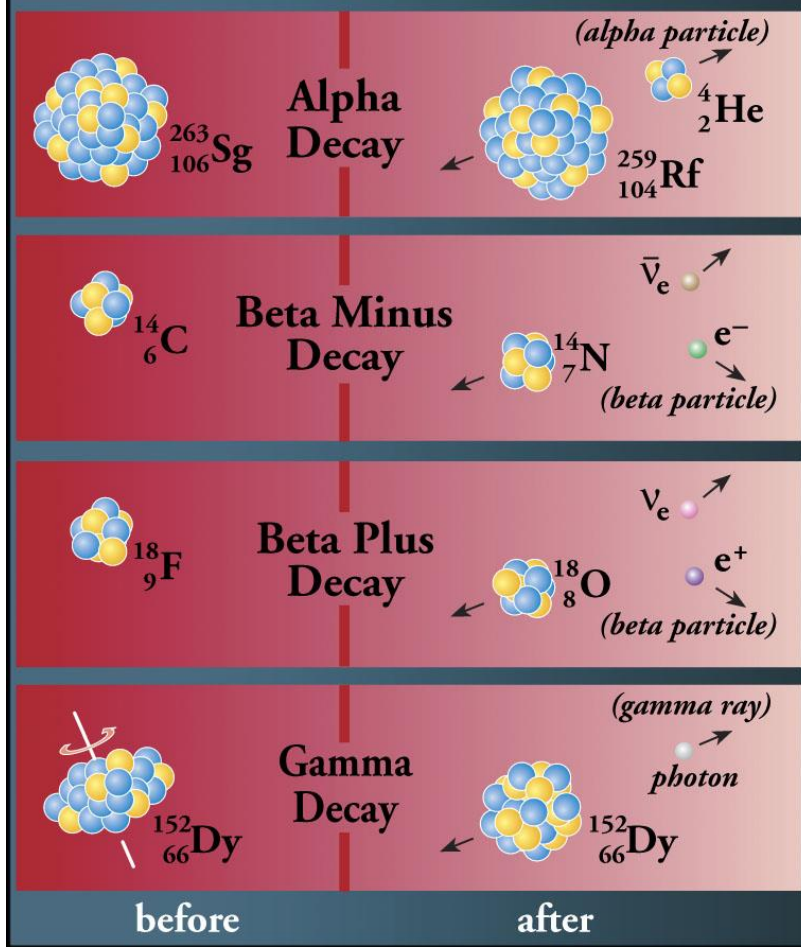




Phases of Nuclear Matter

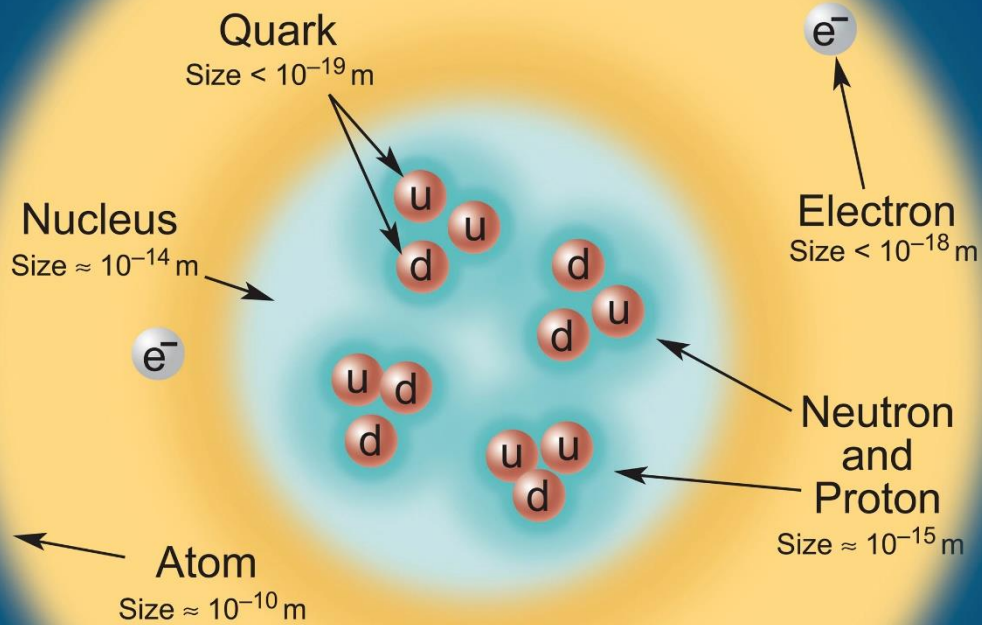
Nuclear matter can exist in several phases. When collisions excite nuclei, individual protons and neutrons may evaporate from the nuclear fluid. At sufficiently high temperature or density, a gas of nucleons (red background) forms. At even more extreme conditions, individual nucleons may cease to have meaningful identities, merging into the quark-gluon plasma (yellow background). Current data provide hints that physicists have glimpsed the quark-gluon plasma.

Radioactivity



Radioactive decay transforms a nucleus by emitting different particles. In **alpha** decay, the nucleus releases a ${}^4_2\text{He}$ nucleus—an alpha particle. In **beta** decay, the nucleus either emits an electron and antineutrino (or a positron and neutrino) or captures an atomic electron and emits a neutrino. A positron is the name for the antiparticle of the electron. Antimatter is composed of anti-particles. Both alpha and beta decays change the original nucleus into a nucleus of a different chemical element. In **gamma** decay, the nucleus lowers its internal energy by emitting a photon—a gamma ray. This decay does not modify the chemical properties of the atom.

Structure within the Atom



If the proton and neutrons in this picture were 10 cm across, then the quarks and electrons would be less than 0.1 mm in size and the entire atom would be about 10 km across.

Unstable Nuclei

Stable nuclides form a narrow white band on the Chart of the Nuclides. Scientists produce unstable nuclides far from this band and study their decays, thereby learning about the extremes of nuclear conditions. In its present form, this chart contains about 2500 different nuclides. Nuclear theory predicts that there are at least 4000 more to be discovered with $Z \leq 113$.