



Introduction

This is a learning as well as an exam preparation video.

At the end of the video are practice assignments for you to attempt.

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Chapter 13: Nuclei

Chapter 13: Nuclei

Nucleus:

The entire positive charge and nearly the entire mass of atom is concentrated in a very small space called the nucleus of an atom.

The nucleus consists of protons and neutrons. They are called nucleons

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Nucleus:

Atomic Number:

The number of protons in the nucleus is called the atomic number. It is denoted by Z .

Mass number:

The total number of protons and neutrons present in a nucleus is called the mass number of the element. It is denoted by A .

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Nucleus:

The unit in which atomic and nuclear masses are measured is called atomic mass unit (u),

defined as $\frac{1}{12}$ of the mass of an atom of ${}^{12}\text{C}$ isotope.

$$1\text{u} = \frac{1}{12} \times \frac{12}{6.02 \times 10^{23}}$$

$$1\text{u} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27}\text{kg}$$

$$1\text{amu} = 931\text{ MeV}$$

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Nucleus:

Nuclear Mass:

The total mass of the protons and neutrons present in a nucleus is called the nuclear mass.

Nuclide:

A nuclide is a specific nucleus of an atom characterized by its atomic number Z and mass number

A . It is represented as, ZXA

Where X = chemical symbol of the element, Z = atomic number and A = mass number

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Isotopes:

The atoms of an element which have the same atomic number, but different mass number are called isotopes.

Isotopes have similar chemical properties but different physical properties.

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Isobars:

The atoms having the same mass number, but different atomic number are called isobars.

Isotones:

The nuclides having the same number of neutrons are called isotones.

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Isomers:

These are nuclei with same atomic number and same mass number but in different energy states.

Electron Volt:

It is defined as the energy acquired by an electron when it is accelerated through a potential difference of 1 volt and is denoted by eV.

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Discovery of Neutron:

Neutron was discovered experimentally by Chadwick in the year 1932 and was awarded Nobel Prize in Physics in 1935 for their discovery. A neutron is a neutral particle carrying no charge and having mass roughly equal to the mass of a proton.

Now the mass of a neutron is known to a high degree of accuracy and is equal to $m_n = 1.67 \times 10^{-27}$ kg. A free neutron is unstable and has a mean life of 1000 second. Whereas a free proton is stable. Neutron is however stable inside the nucleus.

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Size of the Nucleus:

- It is found that a nucleus of mass number A has a radius.

$$R = R_0 A^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

where, $R_0 = 1.2 \times 10^{-15} \text{m}$

- This implies that the volume of the nucleus, which is proportional to R^3 is proportional A .

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Mass-Energy and Nuclear Binding Energy:

Mass-Energy:

Einstein gave the famous mass–energy equivalence $E = mc^2$, here the energy equivalent of mass m is related by the above equation and c is the velocity of light in vacuum and is approximately equal to 3×10^8 m/s. Einstein's mass-energy relation has been experimentally verified in the study of nuclear reactions amongst nucleons, nuclei, electrons and other more recently discovered particles.

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Mass-Energy and Nuclear Binding Energy:

Nuclear Binding Energy:

Nucleus is made up of neutrons and protons. Therefore, mass of the nucleus (M) should be equal to the total mass of its protons and neutrons. However, it is found to be always less than this. This difference in mass (ΔM) is called the mass defect and is given by.

$$\Delta M = [Zm_p + (A - Z)m_n] - m$$

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Mass-Energy and Nuclear Binding Energy:

It is mass defect which appears in the form of binding energy, responsible for binding the nucleons together in the nucleus.

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Nuclear Force:

The force acting inside the nucleus or acting between nucleons is called nuclear force.

- Nuclear forces are the strongest forces in nature.
- It is a very short-range attractive force.
- It is non-central. non-conservative force.
- It is neither gravitational nor electrostatic force.
- It is independent of charge.
- It is 100 times that of electrostatic force and 10^{38} times that of gravitational force.

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Nuclear Force:

According to the Yukawa, the nuclear force acts between the nucleon due to continuous exchange of meson particles.

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Radioactivity:

It is the phenomenon of spontaneous disintegration of the nucleus of an atom with emission of one or more radiations like α -particle, β -particle or γ -rays.

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Radioactivity:

Radioactive Decay:

It is a nuclear transformation process in which the radioactive rays are emitted from the nucleus of the atom. This process cannot be accelerated and slow down by any physical or chemical process.

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Radioactivity Displacement Law:

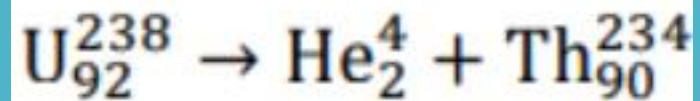
It states that:

- When a radioactive nucleus emits an α -particle, atomic number decreases by 2 and mass number decreases by 4.
- When a radioactive nucleus emits β -particle, its atomic number increases by 1 but mass number remains same.
- The emission of a γ -particle does not change the mass number or the atomic number of the radioactive nucleus. The γ -particle emission by a radioactive nucleus lowers its energy state.

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Alpha Decay:

In this process, parent nucleus disintegrates to give a daughter nucleus and helium nucleus or an alpha-particle. Mass number of the daughter nucleus decreases by four units and atomic number decreases by two units. A typical example of this decay mode is.

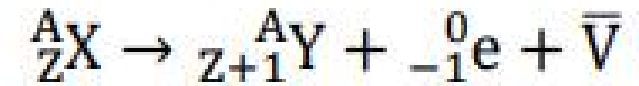


Thus, daughter nucleus is shifted in periodic table by 2 unit in backward direction.

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Beta Decay:

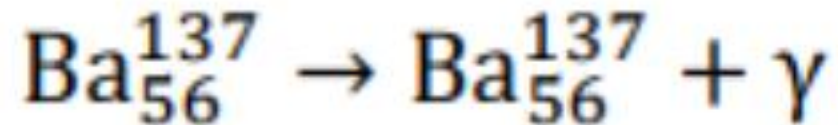
It is the process of emission of an electron from a radioactive nucleus. It may be represented as,



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Gamma Decay:

Alpha and beta decays of a radioactive nucleus leave the daughter nucleus in an excited state. If the excitation energy available with the daughter nucleus is not sufficient for further particle emission, it loses its energy by emitting electromagnetic radiations, also known as Gamma-rays. Mass and charge of the daughter nucleus remains the same as before the emission of Gammarays.



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Law of Radioactive Decay:

According to the law of radioactive disintegration the rate of spontaneous disintegration of a radioactive element is proportional to the number of nuclei present at that time.

Mathematically, it can be written as

$$\frac{dN}{dt} \propto N \dots (1)$$

Where, N is the number of atoms present at time t.

Removing Proportionality sign, we get

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = -\lambda N \dots (2)$$

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Law of Radioactive Decay:

Where, λ is a constant of proportionality and is known as decay constant of the element.

Negative sign indicates that as t increase N decreases.

$$\frac{dN}{N} = -\lambda dt \dots (3)$$

Integrating both sides, we have

$$\int \frac{dn}{N} = -\lambda \int dt$$
$$\log_e(N) = -\lambda t + C \dots (4)$$

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Law of Radioactive Decay:

where C is constant of integration and is evaluated by the fact that at $t = 0$, number of atoms of the radioactive element is N_0 . Using this condition, we get

$$C = \log_e(N_0) \dots (5)$$

Substituting this value of C in Eq. (5), we get

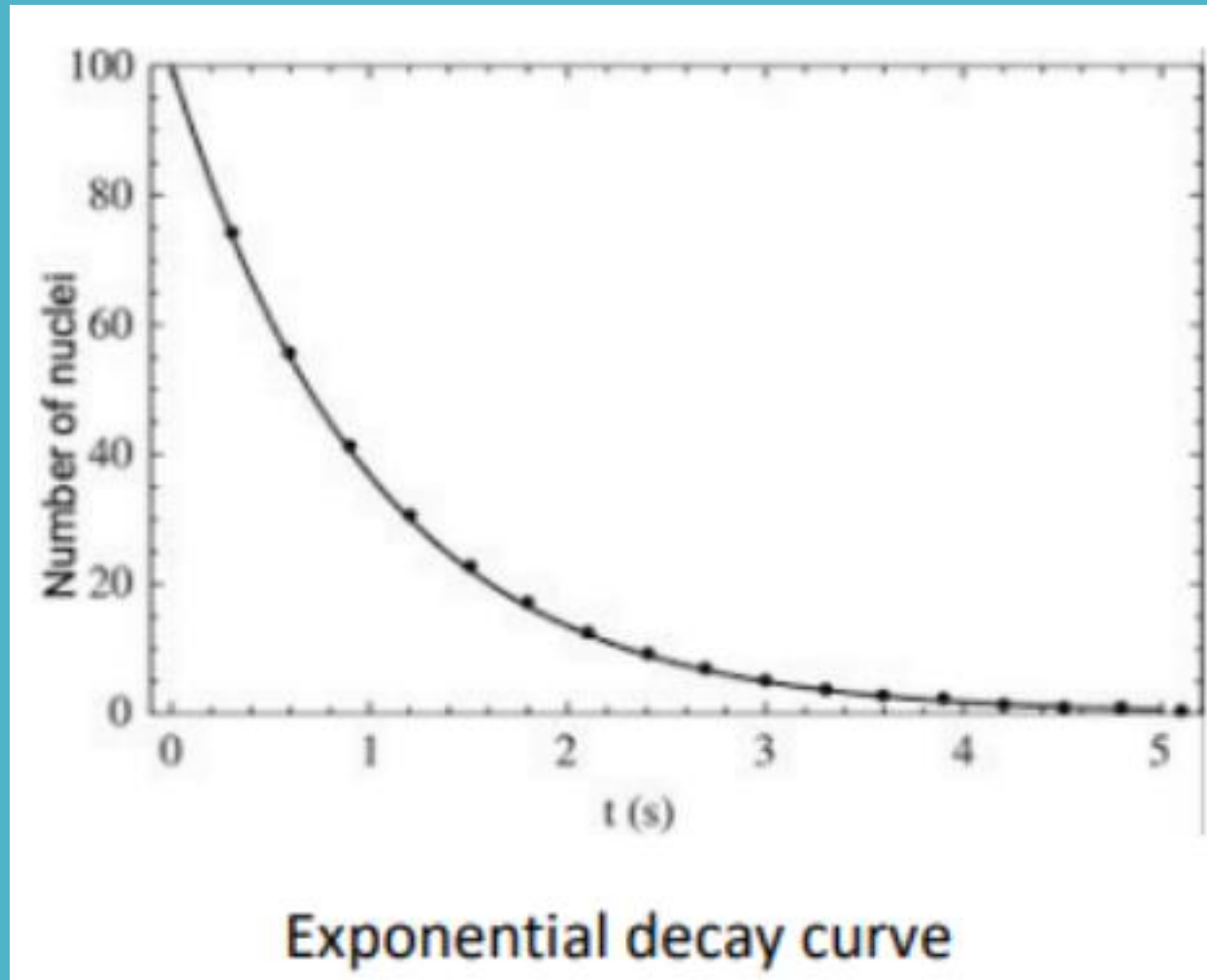
$$\log_e(N) = -\lambda t + \log_e(N_0)$$

$$\log_e(N) - \log_e(N_0) = -\lambda t$$

$$\text{Thus, } N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t} \dots (6)$$

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Law of Radioactive Decay:



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Decay or disintegration Constant:

It may be defined as the reciprocal or the time interval in which the number of active nuclei in a given radioactive sample reduces to 36.8% of its initial value.

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Decay or disintegration Constant:

Half-life:

The half-life of a radioactive substance is the time in which one-half of its nuclei will disintegrate.

It is inversely proportional to the decay constant of the radioactive substance.

$$T_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{0.693}{\lambda}$$

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Decay or disintegration Constant:

Mean Life:

The mean-life of a radioactive sample is defined as the ratio of the combined age of all the atoms

and the total number of atoms in the given sample. It is given by,

$$\tau = \frac{T_{\frac{1}{2}}}{0.693} = 1.44T_{\frac{1}{2}}$$

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Decay or disintegration Constant:

Curie:

It is the SI unit of decay.

One curie is the decay rate of 3.7×10^{10} disintegrations per second.

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Decay or disintegration Constant:

Rutherford:

One Rutherford is the decay rate of 10^6 disintegrations per second.

Natural Radioactivity:

It is the phenomenon of the spontaneous emission of, α and γ radiations from the nuclei of naturally occurring isotopes.

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Decay or disintegration Constant:

Artificial or Induced Radioactivity:

It is the phenomenon of inducing radioactivity in certain stable nuclei by bombarding them by suitable high energy subatomic particles.

Nuclear Reaction:

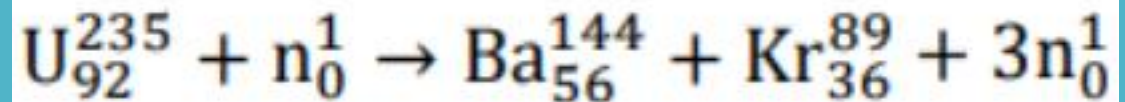
It is a reaction which involves the change of stable nuclei of one element into the nucleus of another element.

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Nuclear Energy:

Nuclear Fission:

The process of the splitting of a heavy nucleus into two or more lighter nuclei is called nuclear fission. When a slow-moving neutron strikes with a uranium nucleus (${}_{92}\text{U}^{235}$), it splits into ${}_{56}\text{Ba}^{144}$ and ${}_{36}\text{Kr}^{89}$ along with three neutrons and a lot of energy.

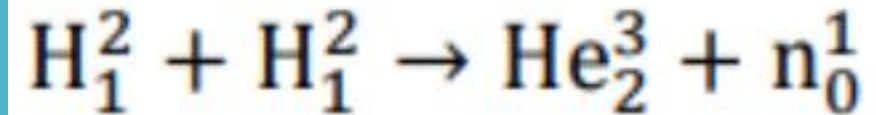


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Nuclear Energy:

Nuclear fusion:

The process of combining of two lighter nuclei to form one heavy nucleus, is called nuclear fusion.



In this process, a large amount of energy is released. Hydrogen bomb is based on nuclear fusion. The source of Sun's energy is the nuclear fusion taking place at sun.

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Nuclear Energy:

Critical size and Critical Mass:

- The size of the fissionable material for which reproduction factor is unity is called critical size and its mass is called critical mass of the material.
- The chain reaction in this case remains steady or sustained.

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Nuclear Energy:

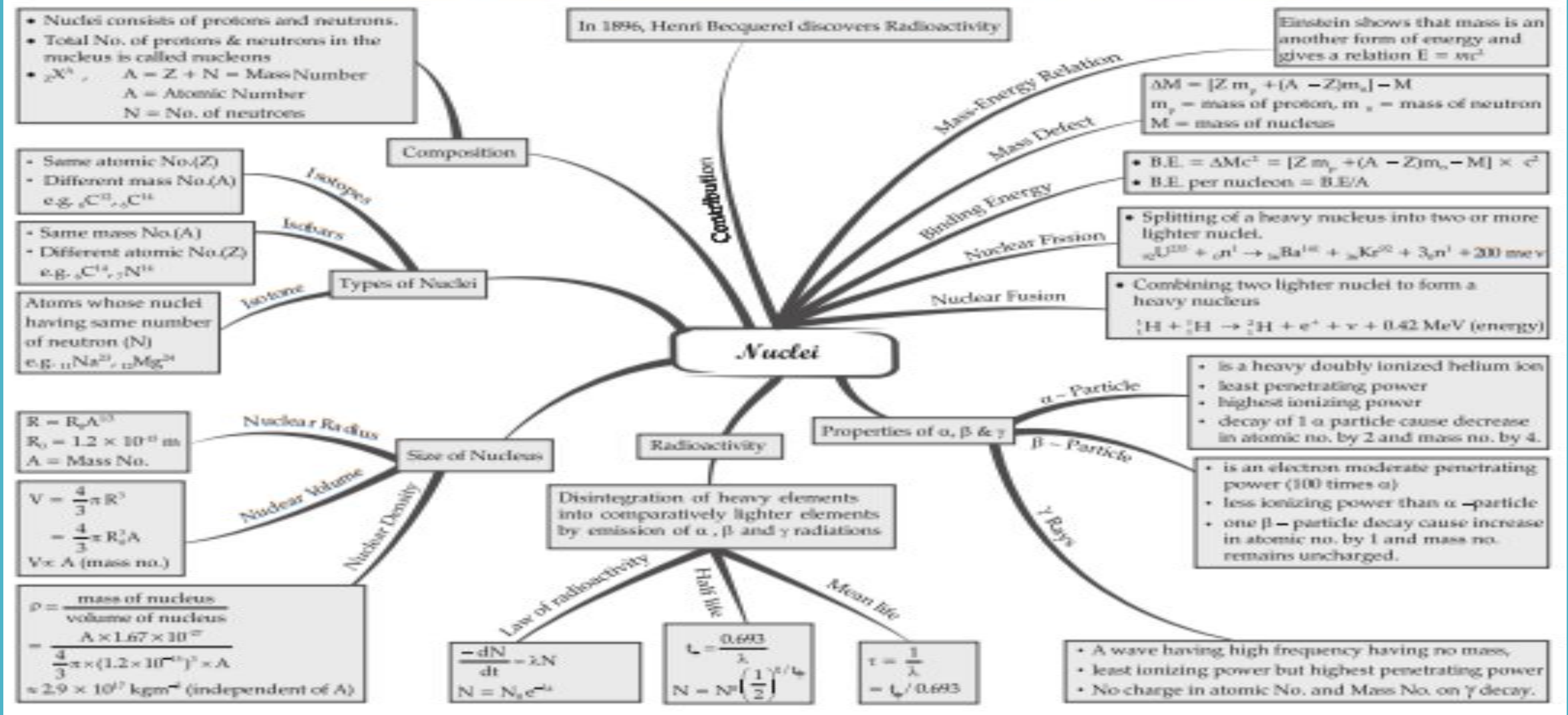
Moderator:

Any substance which is used to slow down fast-moving neutrons to thermal energies is called a moderator.

The commonly used moderators are water, heavy water (D₂O) and graphite.

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MIND MAP : LEARNING MADE SIMPLE CHAPTER - 13



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