

# Nuclear Chemistry

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- ## Objectives
- Write equations for transmutation reactions
  - Understand 5 types of nuclear radiation
  - Perform half-life calculations

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- ## Transmutation Reactions
- Transmutation—converting one type of atom into another
    - Only nuclear reactions
    - Radioactive decay
    - Particle bombardment

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$${}^18_9F \rightarrow {}^{17}_8O + {}^1_1H$$

The superscripts have to add up

$$18 \rightarrow 17 + 1$$

The subscripts have to add up

$$9 \rightarrow 8 + 1$$

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$${}^{14}_7N + {}^4_2He \rightarrow {}^{18}_9F$$

$${}^9_4Be + {}^4_2He \rightarrow {}^{12}_6C + {}^1_0n$$

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**Band of Stability**

Chemistry Graphs: The Band of Stability

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<http://www.kentchemistry.com/links/Nuclear/BandStability.htm>

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## [ Types of Nuclear Decay ]

- Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) Radiation
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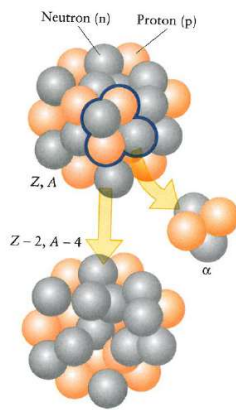
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## [ $\alpha$ ]



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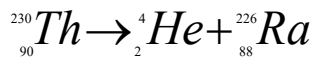
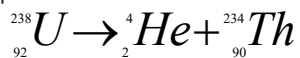
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## [ Alpha Decay ]

- Uranium-238 undergoes alpha decay. Write the equation.
- Thorium-230 emits an alpha particle. Write the equation.



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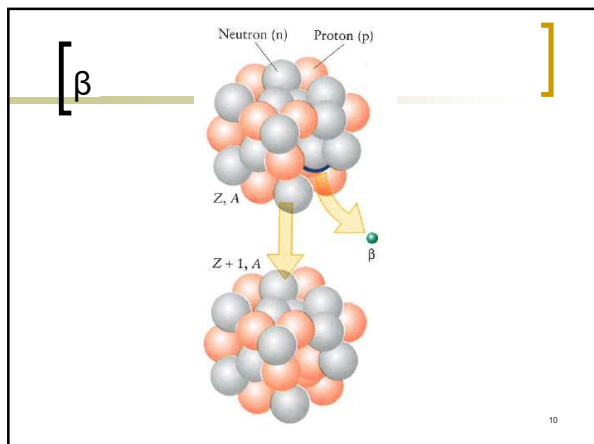
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[ Beta Decay ]

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$${}^14_6\text{C} \rightarrow {}^0_{-1}\text{e} + {}^{14}_7\text{N}$$

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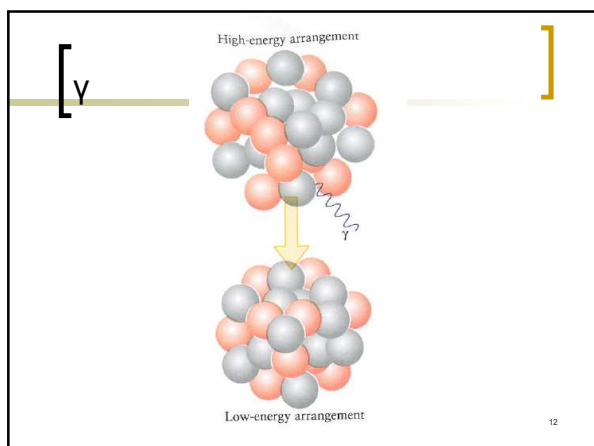
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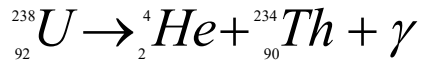
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## [ Gamma Decay ]

- Remember, no changes except energy!
- Often occurs with other types of radiation
- Uranium-238 undergoes alpha and gamma radiation. Write the equation



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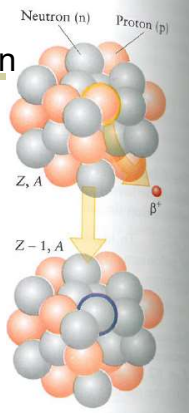
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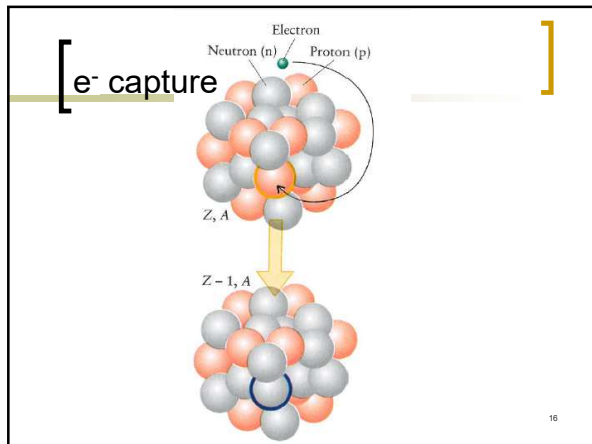
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**[ Nuclear Fission and Fusion ]**

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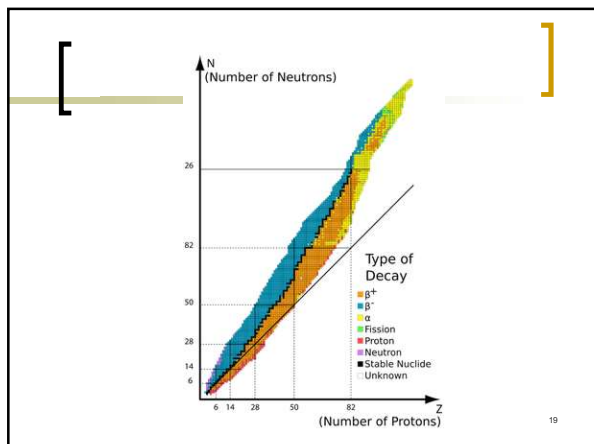
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### Half-lives

- Half-life measures the rate of decay
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  - After each half-life, half of the radioactive atoms have decayed into atoms of a new element

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$${}_{90}^{234}\text{Th} \rightarrow {}_{-1}^0\text{e} + {}_{91}^{234}\text{Pa} + \gamma$$

- The half-life of thorium-234 is 24.1 days.
- If you have 100 g of thorium-234, after 24.1 days, only 50 g would be left. The other 50 g would be proactinium.
- After another 24.1 days, only 25 g would be thorium and the rest would be proactinium

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### Half-life problem #1

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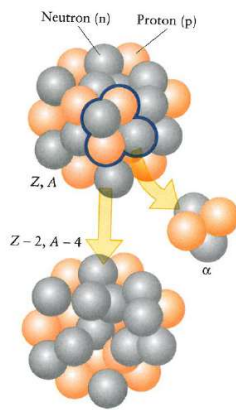
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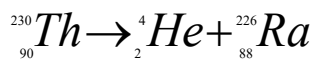
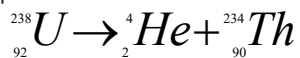
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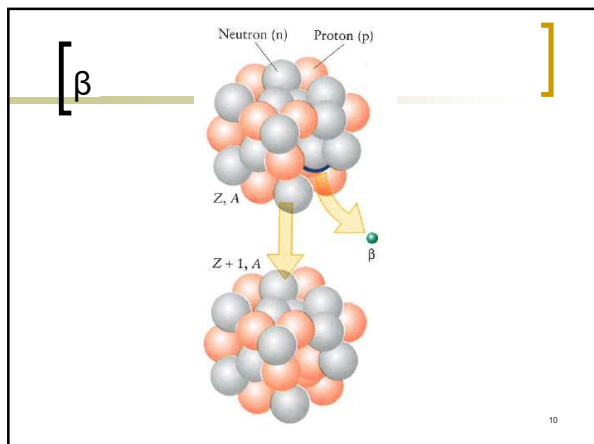
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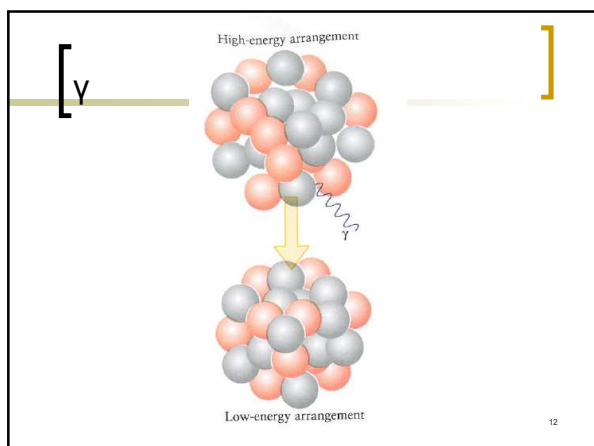
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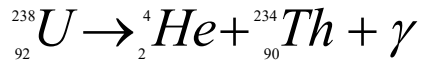
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## [ Gamma Decay ]

- Remember, no changes except energy!
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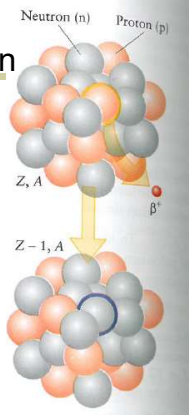
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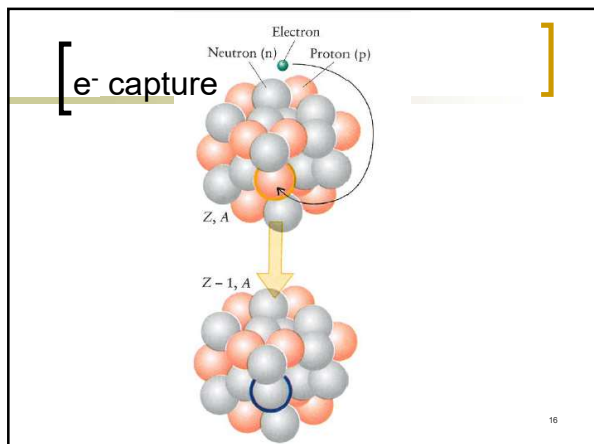
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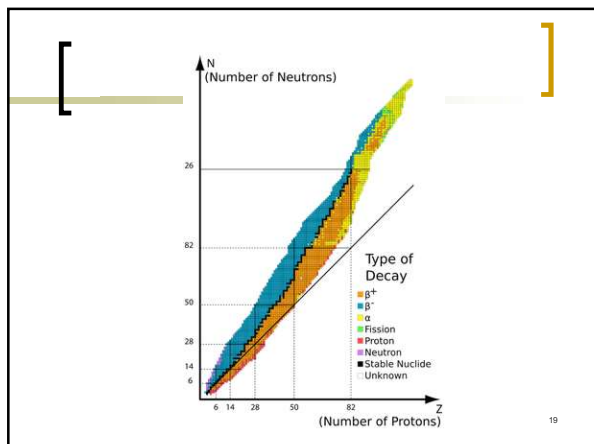
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The superscripts have to add up

$$18 \rightarrow 17 + 1$$

The subscripts have to add up

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**Band of Stability**

Chemistry Graphs: The Band of Stability

$$(A - Z)/Z = 1$$

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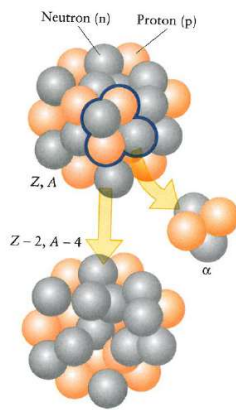
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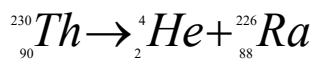
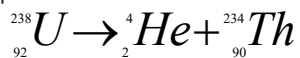
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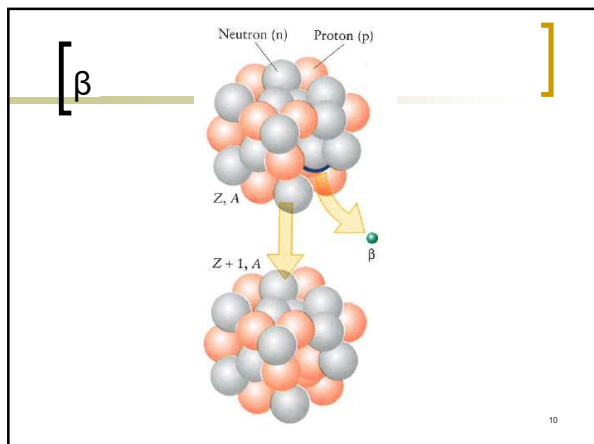
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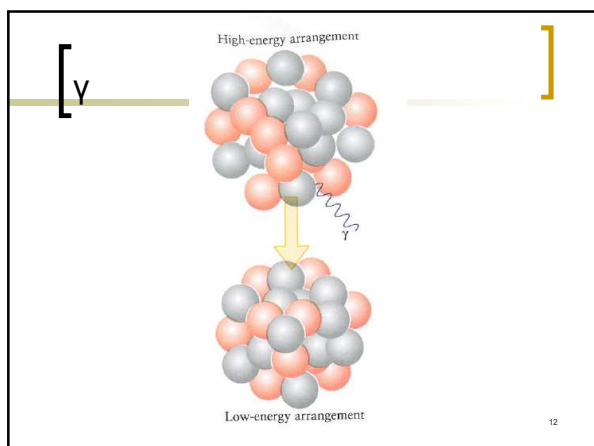
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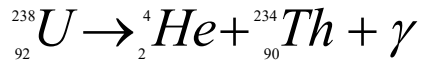
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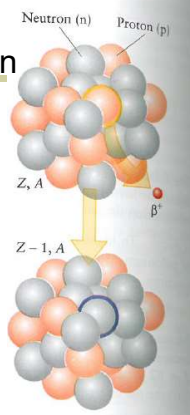
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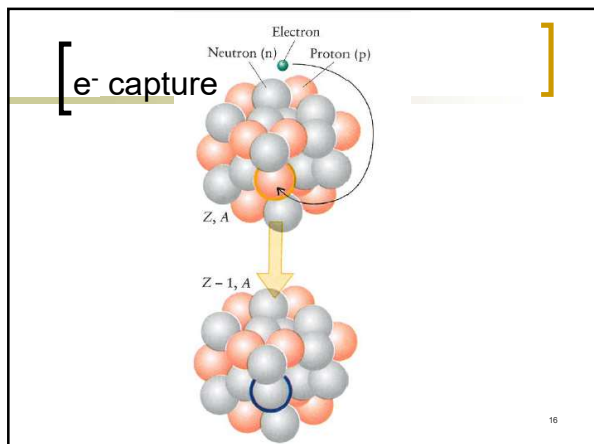
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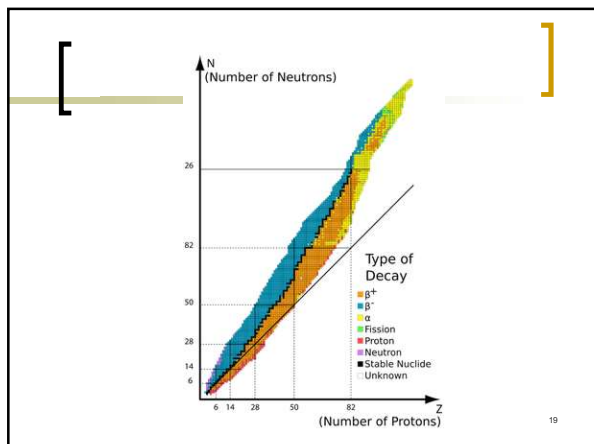
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Number of neutrons, A-Z

Atomic Number, Z

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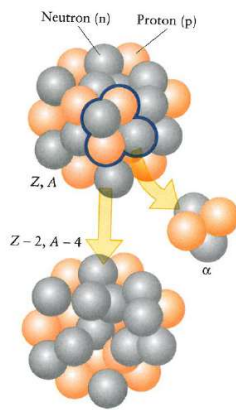
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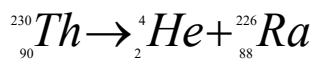
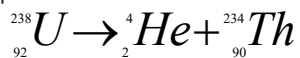
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## [ Alpha Decay ]

- Uranium-238 undergoes alpha decay. Write the equation.
- Thorium-230 emits an alpha particle. Write the equation.



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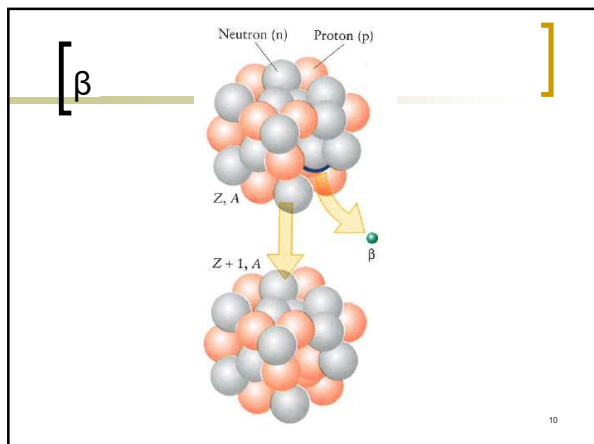
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[ Beta Decay ]

- Carbon-14 emits a beta particle. Write the equation.
- Copper-66 undergoes beta emission. Write the equation.

$${}^14_6\text{C} \rightarrow {}^0_{-1}\text{e} + {}^{14}_7\text{N}$$

$${}^{66}_{29}\text{Cu} \rightarrow {}^0_{-1}\text{e} + {}^{66}_{30}\text{Zn}$$

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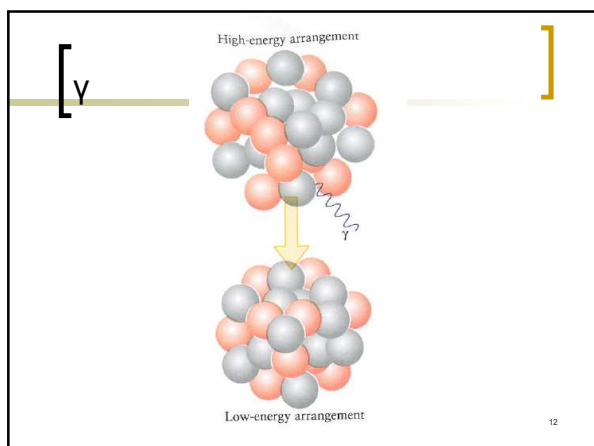
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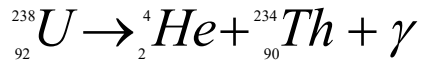
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## [ Gamma Decay ]

- Remember, no changes except energy!
- Often occurs with other types of radiation
- Uranium-238 undergoes alpha and gamma radiation. Write the equation



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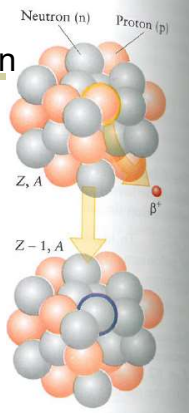
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## [ Positron ]



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## [ Positron Emission ]

- Just like beta decay, except electron is *positive*  ${}_{+1}^0e$
- Carbon-11 emits a positron. Write the equation

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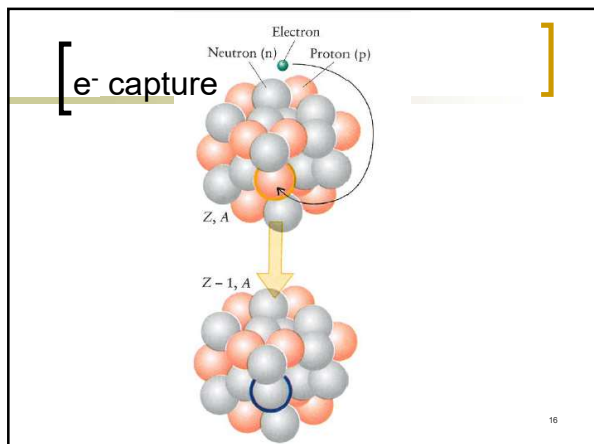
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**[ Electron Capture ]**

- Nucleus captures an electron
- Electron on LEFT side of arrow
- Rubidium-81 captures an electron. Write the equation.

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**[ Nuclear Fission and Fusion ]**

- Fission—the nucleus splits into smaller pieces
  - Nuclear reactors
  - Nuclear weapons
- Fusion—small nuclei combine (fuse)
  - Sun
  - Very high temperatures (40 000 000°C)

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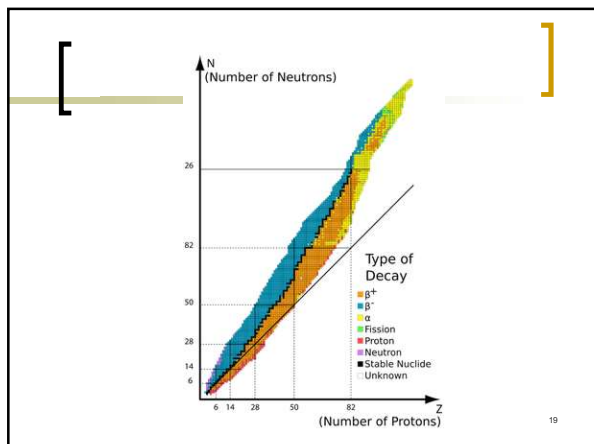
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### Half-lives

- Half-life measures the rate of decay
  - How long it takes for ½ the sample to decay into something else.
  - After each half-life, half of the radioactive atoms have decayed into atoms of a new element

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$${}_{90}^{234}\text{Th} \rightarrow {}_{-1}^0\text{e} + {}_{91}^{234}\text{Pa} + \gamma$$

- The half-life of thorium-234 is 24.1 days.
- If you have 100 g of thorium-234, after 24.1 days, only 50 g would be left. The other 50 g would be proactinium.
- After another 24.1 days, only 25 g would be thorium and the rest would be proactinium

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### [ Half-life problem #1 ]

- The half-life of radon-222 is 3.8 days. If you start with 300 g of radon, how much will be left after 11.4 days?

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### [ Half-life problem #2 ]

- Carbon-14 emits beta radiation and has a half-life of 5730 years. You are left with 25.0 g of carbon-14 after 22920 years. What was the original mass of carbon-14?

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### [ Half-life problem #3 ]

- Karen the scientist has a 0.800 g sample of cobalt-60. After 10.5 years, only 0.200 g of the sample is cobalt-60. What is the half-life of cobalt-60?

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