





# NUCLEAR CHEMISTRY

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IN ONE HOUR!

# Outline

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## 1. Nuclear Periodic Table

- A. Predict decay modes
- B. Valley of Stability
- C. Binding Energy/A

## 2. Radioactivity

- A. Alpha decay
- B. Beta minus decay
- C. Beta plus decay
- D. Gamma decay
- E. Other decay modes
- F. Kinetics of radioactive decay

## 3. Nuclear Reactions

- A. Simple reactions
  - i. Why do we need accelerators?
- B. Fission
- C. Fusion

## 4. Your Choice

- A. Nuclear energy
- B. Nuclear weapons
- C. Nucleosynthesis
- D. History of nuclear science

# NUCLIDE CLASSIFICATIONS

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1. Stable nuclides -do not undergo radioactive decay
  - a. 264 known stable nuclides
  - b. examples:  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{208}\text{Pb}$ , etc.
2. Primary radionuclides -radioactive and have been here on Earth since it was formed
  - a. Have long half-lives,  $t_{1/2}$
  - b. 26 primary radionuclides are known
  - c. examples:  $^{238}\text{U}$ -  $t_{1/2} = 4.5 \times 10^9 \text{ yr}$ ,  $^{40}\text{K}$ -  $t_{1/2} = 1.3 \times 10^9 \text{ yr}$ ,  $^{87}\text{Rb}$   $t_{1/2} = 4.8 \times 10^{10} \text{ yr}$
3. Secondary natural radionuclides -radioactive nuclides formed from the decay of primary radionuclides
  - a.  $t_{1/2}$  too short for them to have been here since Earth formed
  - b. 38 secondary radionuclides are known
  - c. examples:  $^{226}\text{Ra}$   $t_{1/2} = 1600 \text{ yr}$ ,  $^{234}\text{Th}$   $t_{1/2} = 24.1 \text{ days}$ ,  $^{222}\text{Rn}$   $t_{1/2} = 8.0 \text{ days}$

# NUCLIDE CLASSIFICATIONS

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## 4. induced natural radionuclides -formed by cosmic rays

- a. induced radionuclides have a short  $t_{1/2}$  but are continuously formed by cosmic ray interactions with terrestrial nuclides
- b. 10 induced radionuclides are known
- c. examples:  $^3\text{H} - t_{1/2} = 12.3 \text{ yr}$  ,  $^{14}\text{C} - t_{1/2} = 5730 \text{ yr}$
- d.  $^3\text{H}$  and  $^{14}\text{C}$  formed from cosmic rays interacting with  $^{14}\text{N}$  in the stratosphere

## 5. artificial radionuclides –all are man made by nuclear reactions

- a. artificial radionuclides have a variety of  $t_{1/2}$ 's
- b. more than 2000 artificial radionuclides are known
- c. examples:  $^{60}\text{Co} - t_{1/2} = 5.27 \text{ yr}$ ,  $^{137}\text{Cs} - t_{1/2} = 30.1 \text{ yr}$ ,  $^{24}\text{Na} - t_{1/2} = 14.96 \text{ hr}$

# NUCLIDE CLASSIFICATIONS

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## 6. Mass classifications of nuclides

- a. Isotopes –nuclides that have equal numbers of protons



- b. Isotones - nuclides that have equal numbers of neutrons



- c. Isobars - nuclides that have equal mass numbers



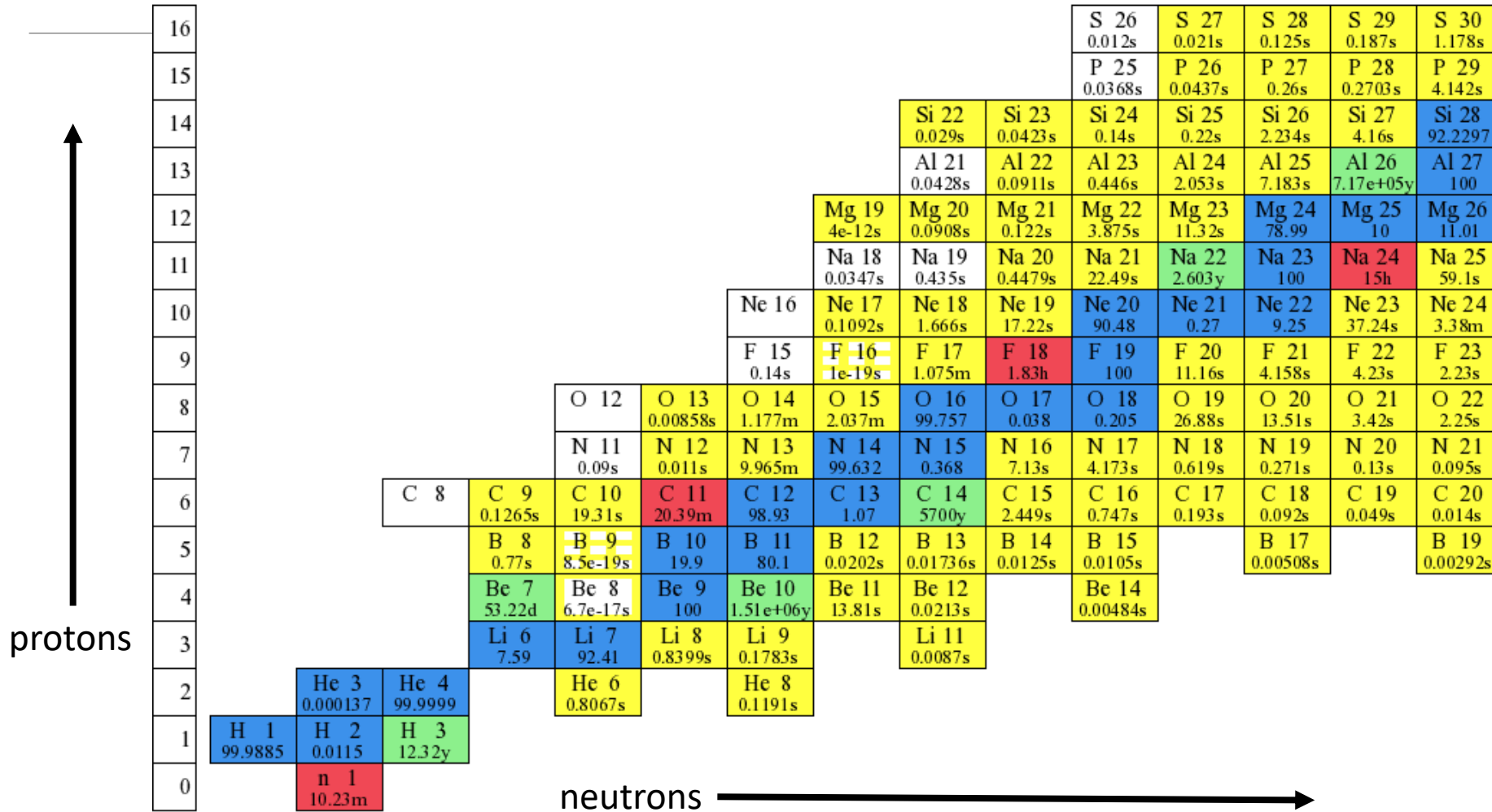
- d. Isomers – nuclides with the same Z, N, and A but different excitations  $^{99}\text{Tc}$  or  $^{99}\text{Tc}^*$  and  $^{99\text{-m}}\text{Tc}$

1) usually have a relatively long difference in  $t_{1/2}$

2)  $^{99\text{-m}}\text{Tc}$   $t_{1/2} = 6.02 \text{ hr}$

3)  $^{99}\text{Tc}$ -  $t_{1/2} = 2 \times 10^5 \text{ yr}$

# Nuclear Periodic Table



# Nuclear Periodic Table

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Isotopes – nuclei with constant Z

- ${}^9\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{10}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{11}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{12}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{13}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{14}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{15}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{16}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{17}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{18}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{19}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{20}\text{C}$

Isotones – nuclei with constant N

- ${}^{11}\text{Li}$ ,  ${}^{12}\text{Be}$ ,  ${}^{13}\text{B}$ ,  ${}^{14}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{15}\text{N}$ ,  ${}^{16}\text{O}$ ,  ${}^{17}\text{F}$ ,  ${}^{18}\text{Ne}$ ,  ${}^{19}\text{Na}$ ,  ${}^{20}\text{Mg}$ ,  ${}^{21}\text{Al}$ ,  ${}^{22}\text{Si}$

Isobars – nuclei with constant A

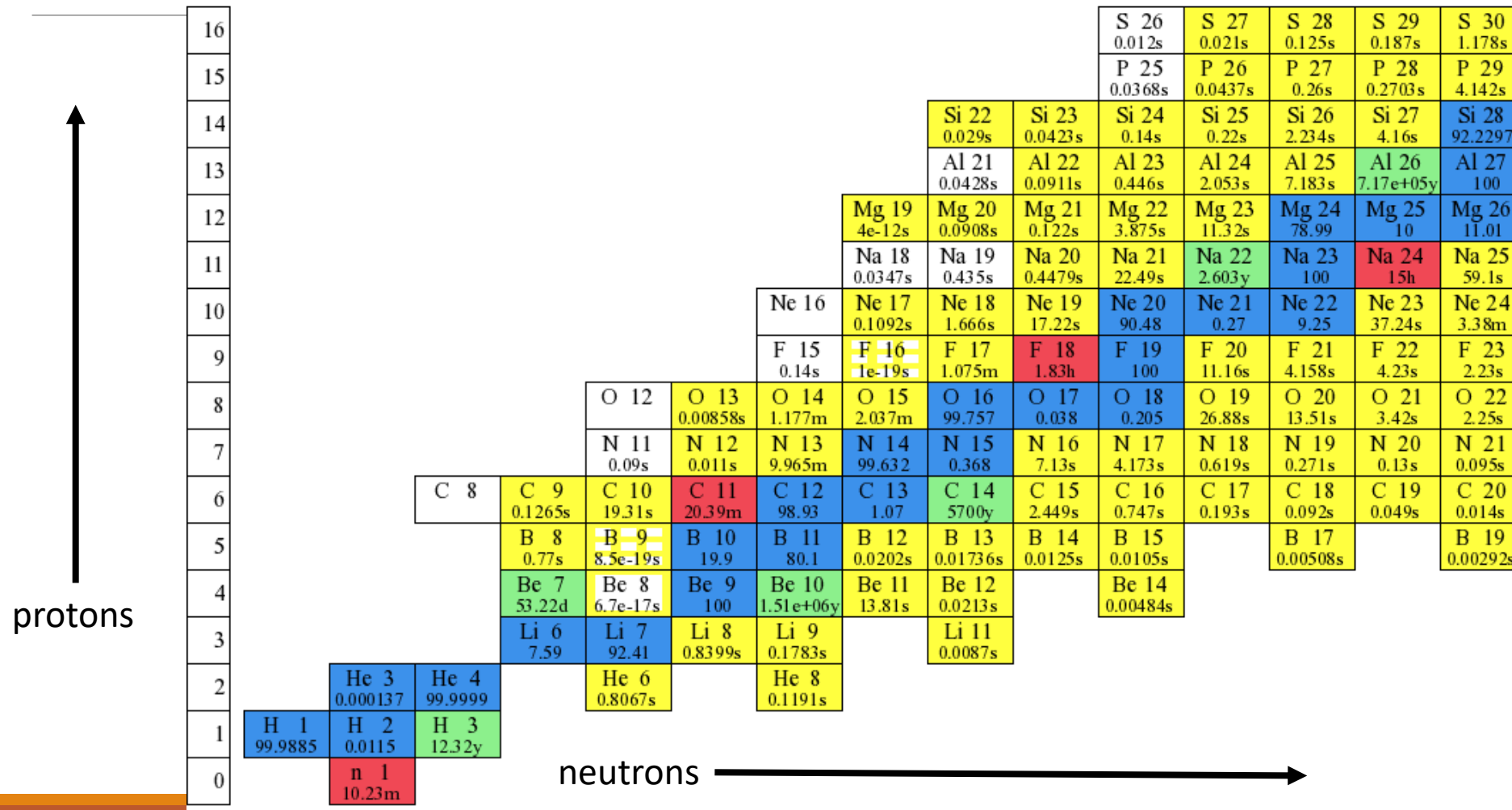
- ${}^{13}\text{O}$ ,  ${}^{13}\text{N}$ ,  ${}^{13}\text{C}$ ,  ${}^{13}\text{B}$

Find these various nuclide series on chart of nuclides

- Is there a pattern?



# Nuclear Periodic Table



# Nuclear Periodic Table

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<https://www-nds.iaea.org/relnsd/vcharthtml/VChartHTML.html>

# Binding Energy

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- *Q value* is the nuclear analog to  $\Delta H_{\text{rxn}}$  in Chemistry
- Sign of this number tells you whether reaction is endo- or exoergic
- *Binding energy* is the nuclear analog to  $\Delta H_f^0$  in Chemistry
- Binding energy indicates how well a given nucleus is held together (bound)
- For nuclei the binding energy is given by the *Q* value for the reaction that forms a nucleus from its component pieces
- Definition of *Q* value

$$Q = \left( \sum \text{masses}_{\text{reactants}} - \sum \text{masses}_{\text{products}} \right) 931.5 \text{ MeV / amu}$$

or

$$Q = \sum \Delta_{\text{mass reactants}} - \sum \Delta_{\text{mass products}}$$

# BINDING ENERGY

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- To calculate the binding energy of a nucleus use this basic equation

$$\mathbf{Z\,m_H + N\,m_n \rightarrow \text{an atom of } ^A\mathbf{E} + \text{energy}}$$

or

$$E_B = [(Z\,m_H + N\,m_n) - M_E] 931.5 \text{ MeV/amu}$$

or

$$E_B = (Z\,\Delta_{\text{mass}}\text{H} + N\,\Delta_{\text{mass}}\text{n}) - \Delta_{\text{mass product nuclide}}$$

# Binding Energy

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- Calculate the binding energy of  $^{19}\text{F}$

$$\begin{aligned} E_B &= [ 9 (7.289) + 10 (8.071) ] - (-1.4871) \text{ MeV} \\ &= [ 65.601 + 80.711 + 1.4871 ] \text{ MeV} \\ &= 146.311 + 1.4871 \text{ MeV} \\ &= 147.798 \text{ MeV} \end{aligned}$$



# Binding Energy

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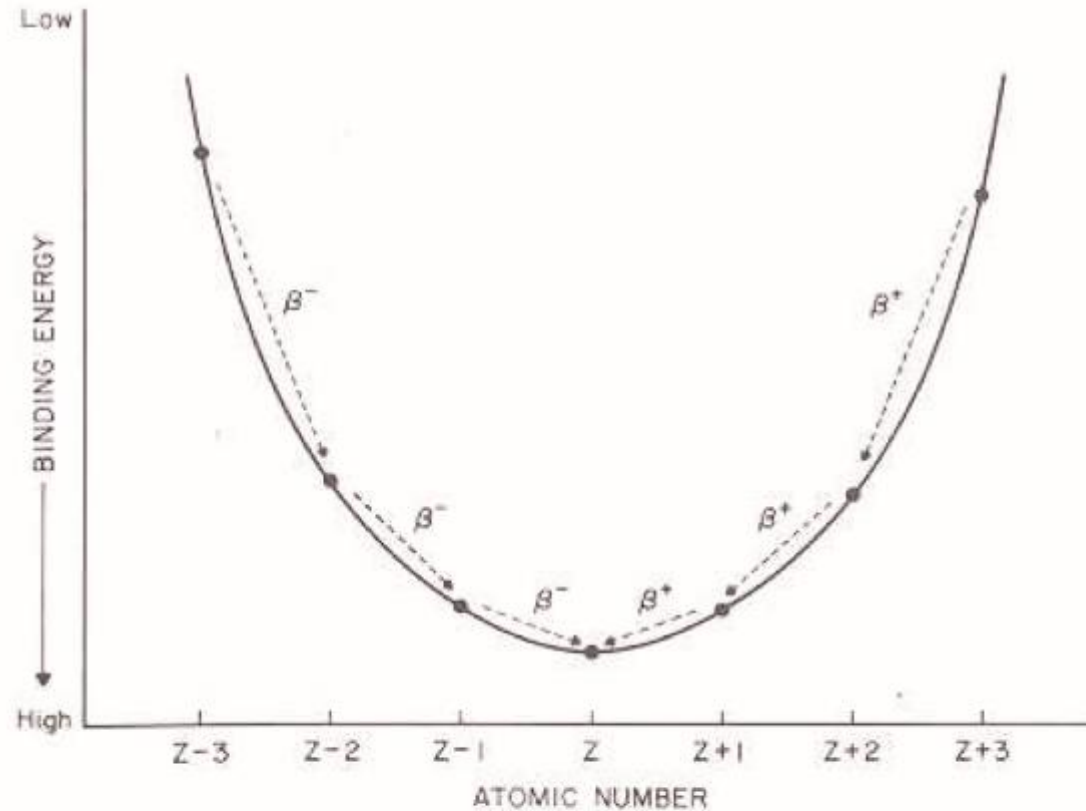
- **IMPORTANT NOTE**

- *The nuclear chemistry definition is the reverse of the P-chem and gen chem definition*
- *products – reactants*

- In the nuclear scheme:

- *$Q > 0$  means exoergic*
- *$Q < 0$  means endoergic*

# Valley of Stability



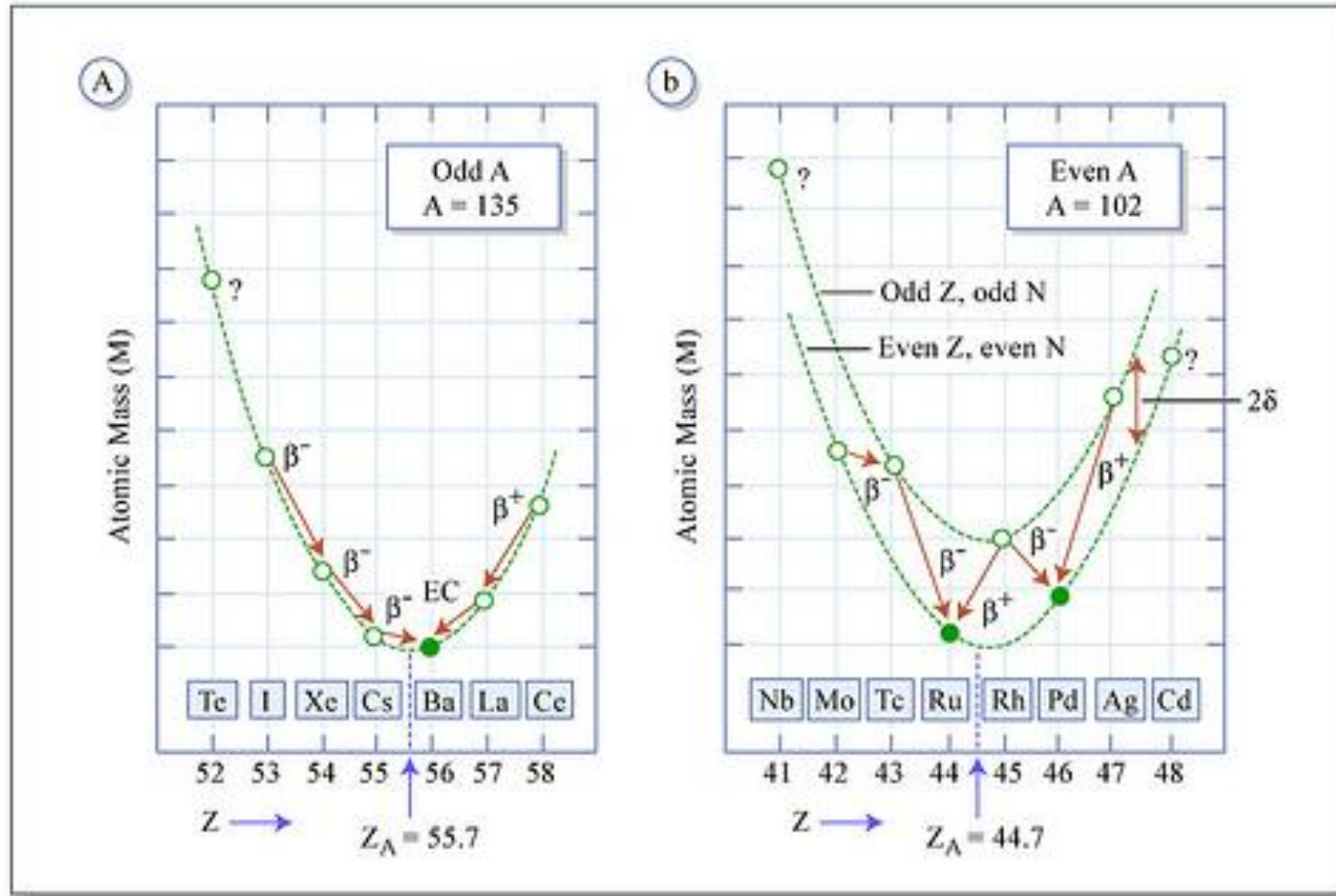
**Figure 3.9.** Binding energy parabola for a set of odd- $A$  isobars. Electron capture can be an alternative to positron emission on all binding energy parabolas.

of  $Z$

ISS

# Valley of Stability

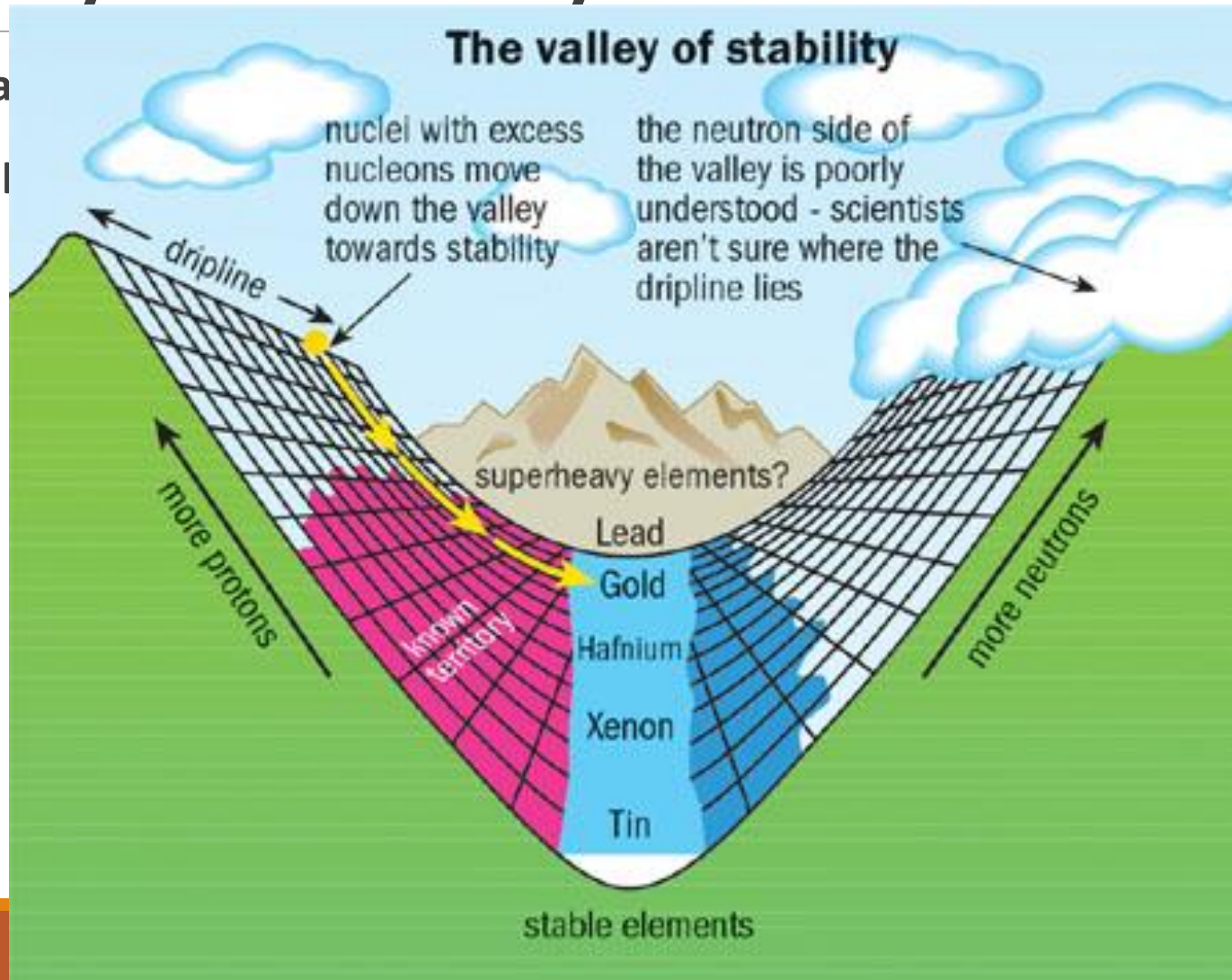
Two panels



# Valley of Stability

Plot ma

3-D gra



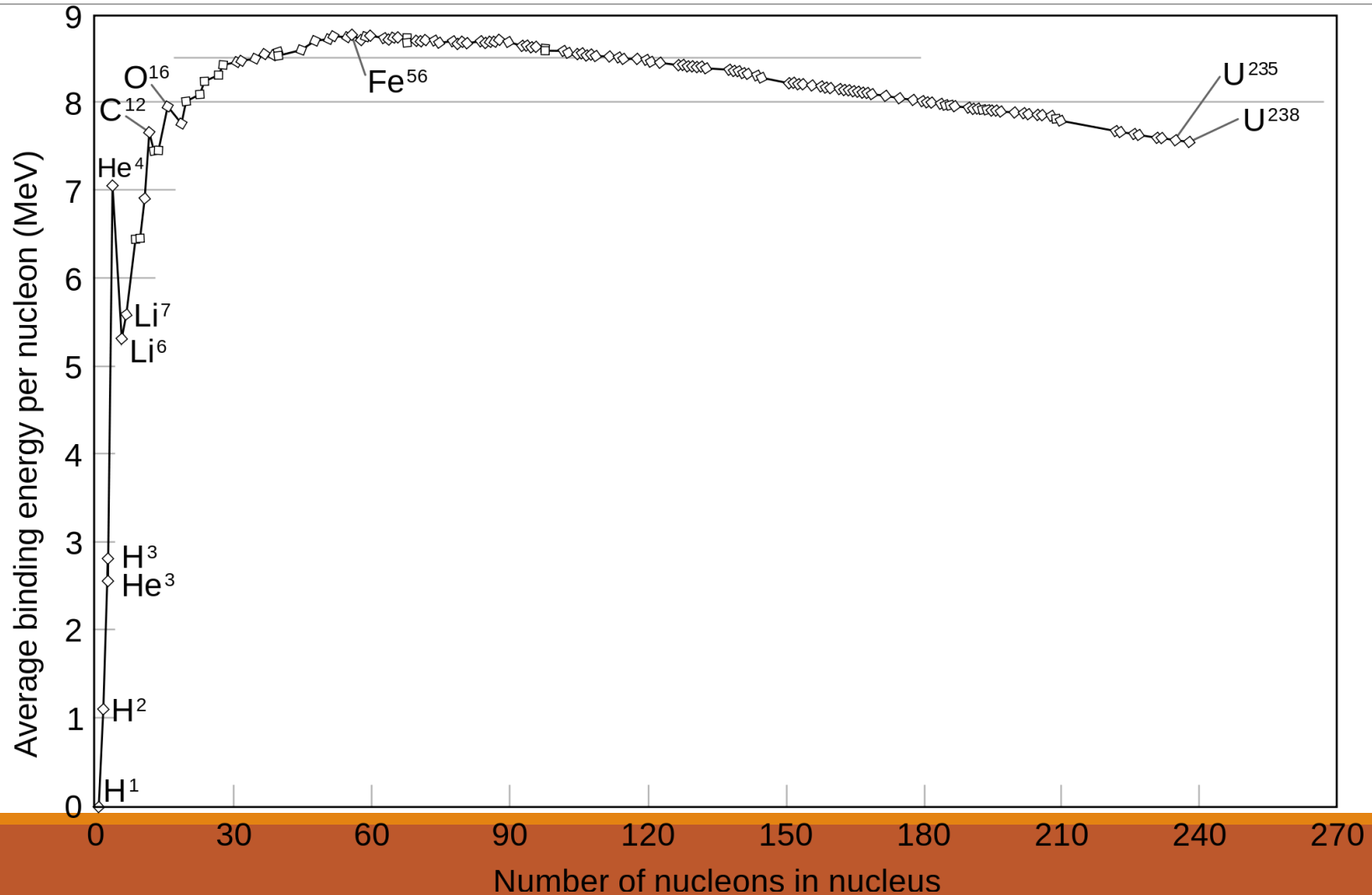
# Binding Energy per Nucleon or BE/A

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- Binding energy per nucleon or BE/A
- Relative indication of how well each nucleon is bound to the nucleus
- BE/A for  $^{19}\text{F}$  is given by
  - $147.798 \text{ MeV} \div 19 = 7.779 \text{ MeV}$
- The higher BE/A value the more stable the nucleus



# Binding Energy per Nucleon or BE/A



# Radioactivity

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## A. Alpha decay

- Nucleus spontaneously emits a  ${}^4\text{He}^{2+}$  particle
- For example:
- ${}^{210}\text{Po} \longrightarrow {}^{206}\text{Pb}^{2-} + {}^4\text{He}^{2+} \quad t_{1/2} = 138 \text{ days}$
- Alpha decay primarily occurs in heavy nuclei
  - All nuclides heavier than  ${}^{209}\text{Bi}$  can alpha decay (among other possibilities)

# Radioactivity

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## B. Beta minus decay

- Nucleus spontaneously emits a  $\beta^-$  (an electron)
  - Converts a neutron into a proton
- Neutron rich nuclides undergo  $\beta^-$  decay
  - Have too many neutrons relative to protons
- $^{90}\text{Sr} \longrightarrow ^{90}\text{Y} + \beta^- + \bar{\nu}$      $t_{1/2} = 29.1 \text{ y}$
- $^{32}\text{P} \longrightarrow ^{32}\text{S} + \beta^- + \bar{\nu}$      $t_{1/2} = 14.3 \text{ d}$

# Radioactivity

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## C. Beta plus decay

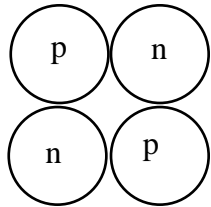
- Nucleus spontaneously emits a  $\beta^+$  (a positive electron or positron)
  - Converts a proton into a neutron
- Proton rich nuclides undergo  $\beta^+$  decay
  - Have too many protons relative to neutrons
- $^{22}\text{Na} \longrightarrow ^{22}\text{Ne} + \beta^+ + \nu$   $t_{1/2} = 2.60 \text{ y}$
- $^{11}\text{C} \longrightarrow ^{11}\text{B} + \beta^+ + \nu$   $t_{1/2} = 20.36 \text{ m}$

# Radioactivity

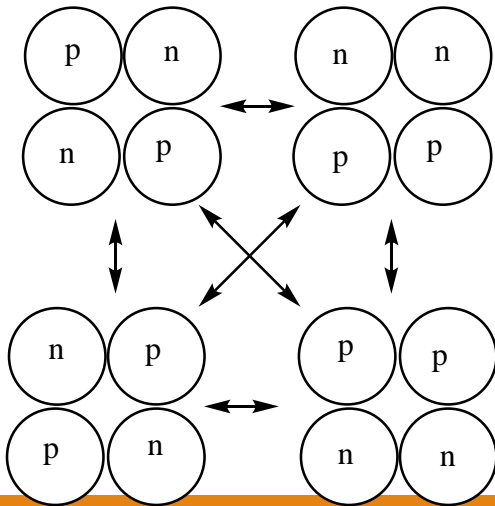
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How does a proton become a neutron and vice versa?

Is this how you envision a  ${}^4\text{He}$  nucleus?



Think about it more like this.





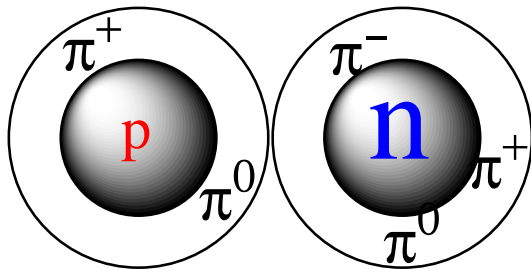
# Radioactivity

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How does nature pull off this trick?

- Pi-mesons (or pions) are the answer!
- There are three types of pions,  $\pi^+$   $\pi^-$   $\pi^0$
- All three have a rest mass of 0.149867 amu
  - Protons have a rest mass of 1.007276 amu
  - Neutrons have a rest mass of 1.008665 amu

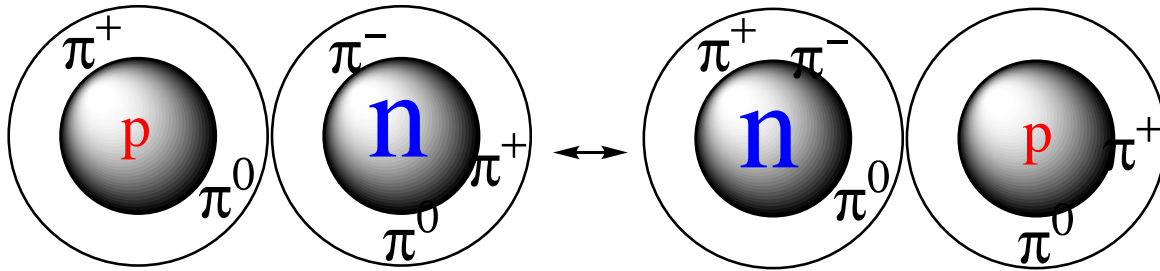
Pion number and charge determines what's a proton or neutron



# Radioactivity

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Pions are constantly moving (exchanging) from one particle to another.



Pion exchange force is what holds nuclei together.  
Called the **STRONG** force.

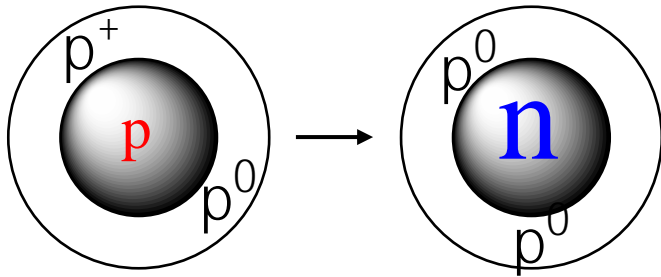
# Radioactivity

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In beta decay pions convert from  $\pi^+$  or  $\pi^-$  to  $\pi^0$

**Positron decay illustration**

$$\pi^+ \longrightarrow \pi^0 + \beta^+ + \nu$$

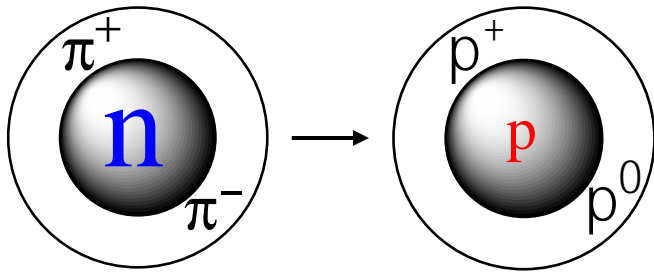


# Radioactivity

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## Negatron decay illustration

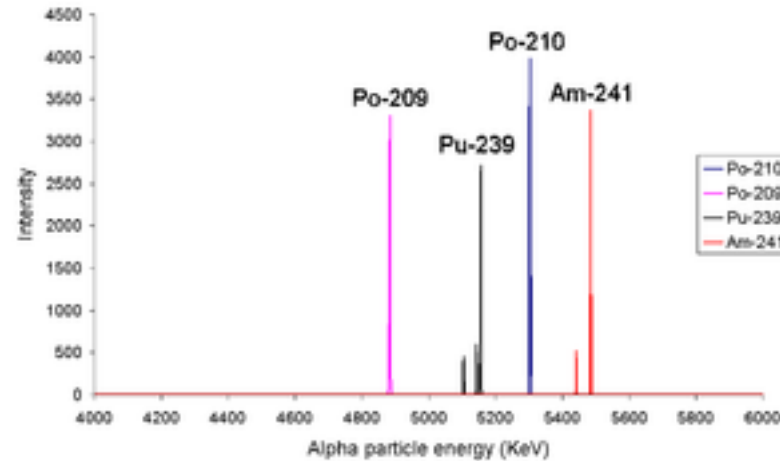
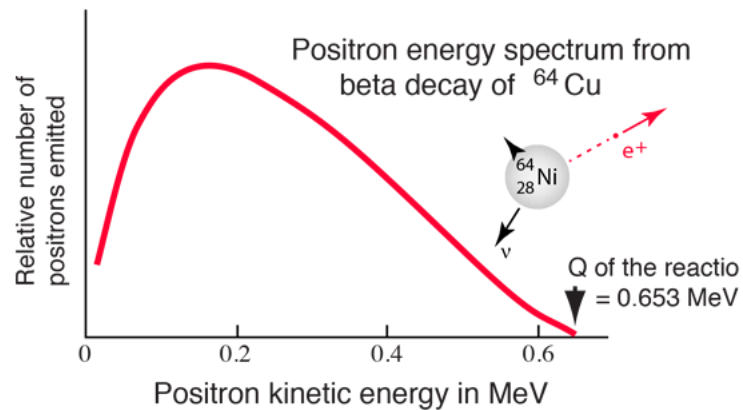
$$\pi^- \longrightarrow \pi^0 + \beta^- + \bar{\nu}$$



# Radioactivity

What is that  $\nu$  thing?

- It is the symbol for a neutrino
- Proposed in the 1920's by Wolfgang Pauli to explain why beta decay spectra are continuous, not discrete





# Radioactivity

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Enrico Fermi proposed the name neutrino, Italian for “little neutral one”

Definitively “discovered” by Fred Reines and Clyde Cowan in 1956

Neutrino properties

- Zero charge
- Mass of  $\sim 1.1$  eV or  $1.2 \times 10^{-9}$  amu

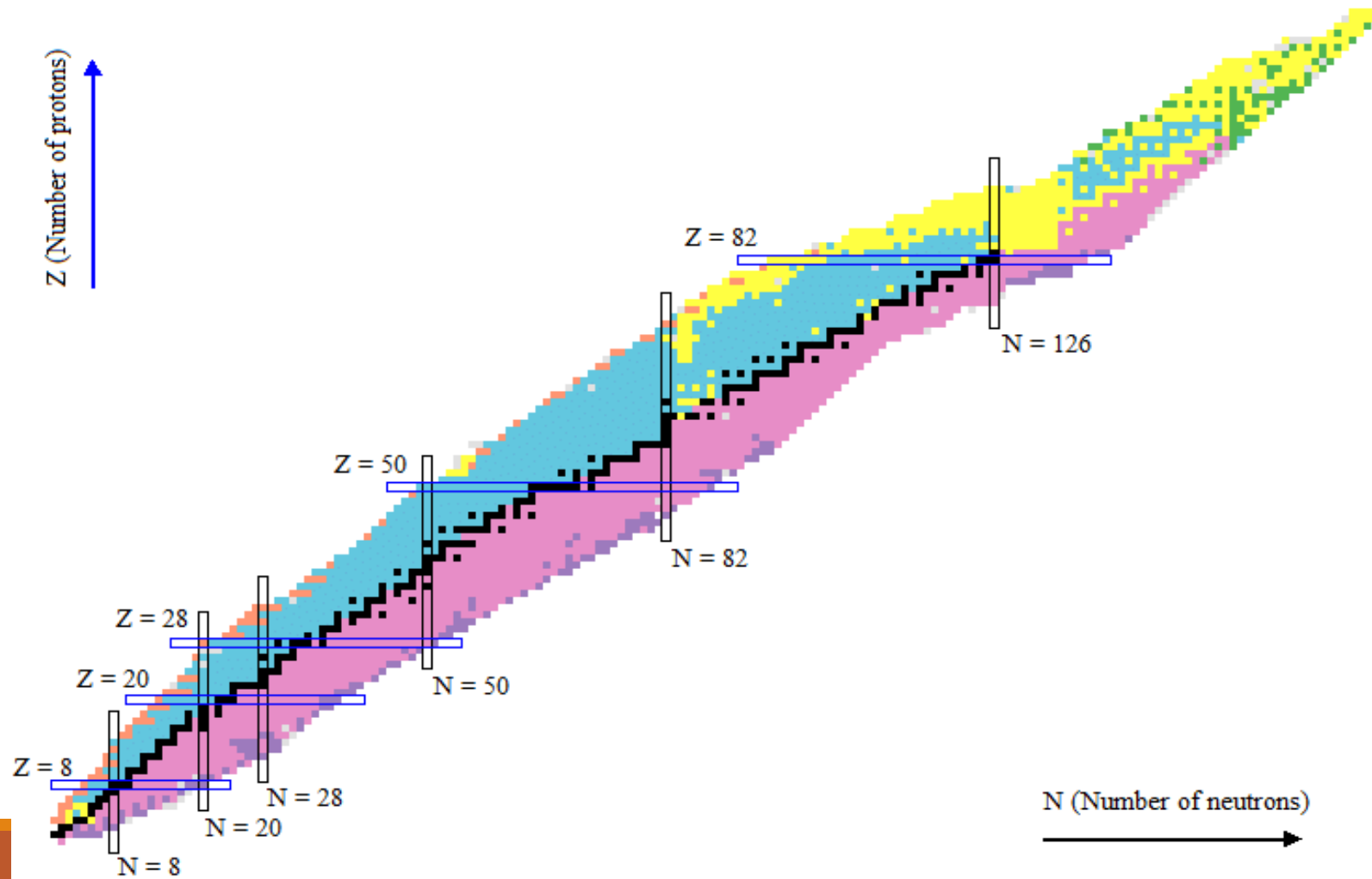
# Radioactivity

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## D. Gamma decay

- Nucleus spontaneously emits a highly energetic light photon (electromagnetic radiation)
  - Nuclear equivalent of atomic emission spectrum
- All nuclei can undergo gamma decay
  - Yes, even stable nuclides!
- $^{60}\text{Co}^* \longrightarrow ^{60}\text{Co} + h\nu$      $t_{1/2} = 0.30 \text{ ps}$   $E = 1.17 \text{ MeV}$  &  $t_{1/2} = 0.71 \text{ ps}$  with an  $E = 1.33 \text{ MeV}$
- $^{16}\text{O}^* \longrightarrow ^{16}\text{O} + h\nu$      $t_{1/2} = 6.7 \text{ }\mu\text{s}$  with  $E = 6.05 \text{ MeV}$
- By comparison, the violet colored light in the H emission spectrum has an  $E = 3.03 \text{ eV}$

# Radioactivity



# Radioactivity

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## E. Other forms of Radioactive Decay

- Spontaneous fission (nucleus splits into two pieces) VERY heavy nuclei like  $^{252}\text{Cf}$  do this
- Proton emission – VERY rare but has been seen in  $^{53\text{m}}\text{Co}$  and a few other nuclides
- Neutron emission – also rare but seen in very neutron rich fission products
- Heavy particle emission –  $^{12}\text{C}$  and  $^{16}\text{O}$  emission seen in a few heavy alpha emitting nuclides

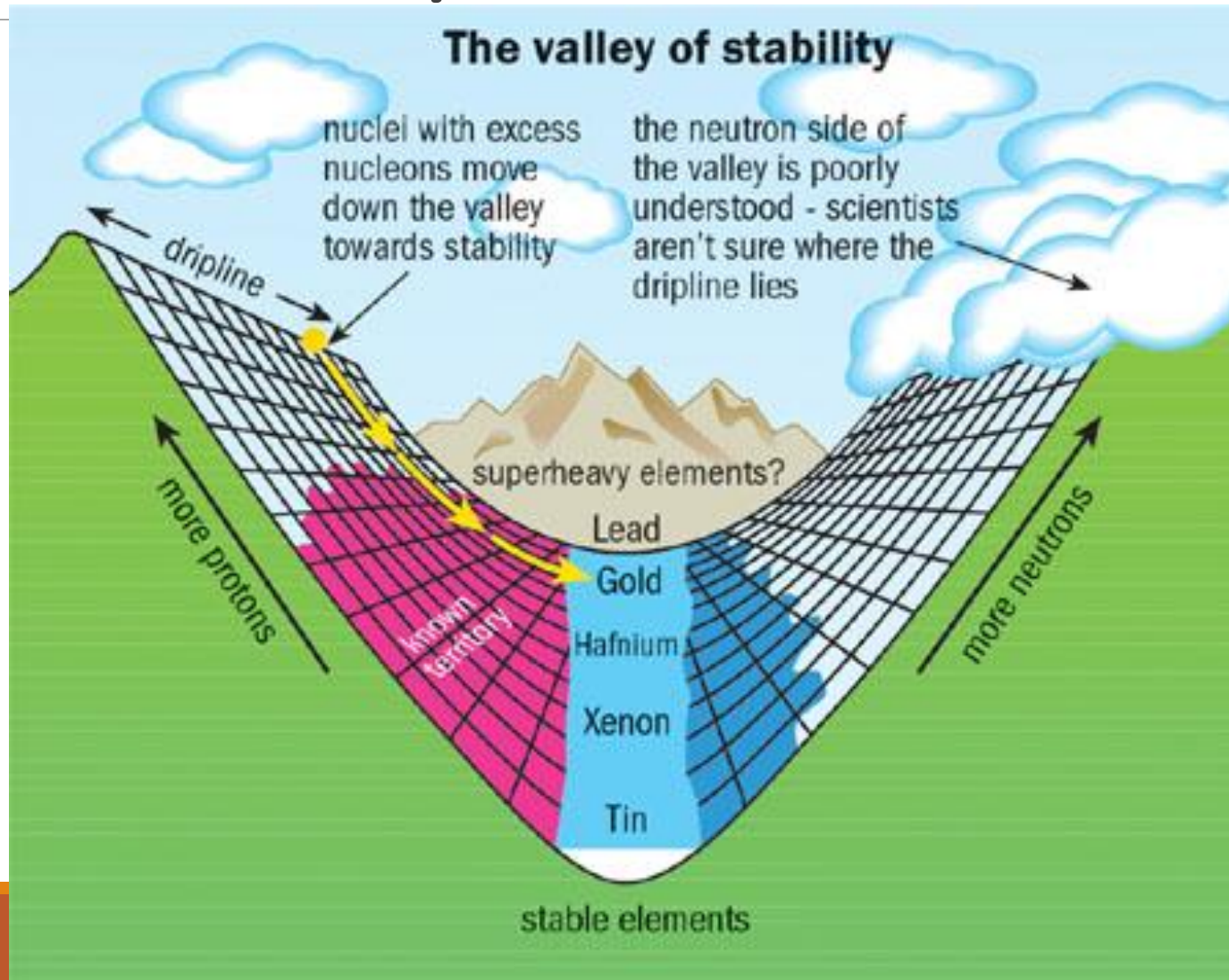
# Radioactivity

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## F. Kinetics of Radioactive Decay

- All radioactive decay obeys first order kinetics
- $A = A_0 e^{-kt}$  or  $\ln(A/A_0) = -kt$ 
  - $A$  = remaining amount of nuclide
  - $A_0$  = initial amount of nuclide
  - $k$  = radioactive decay constant
  - $t$  = time since decay started
- Decay constant and half life are related
  - $t_{1/2} = 0.693/k$

# Radioactivity



# Nuclear Reactions

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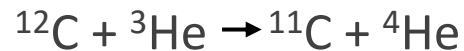
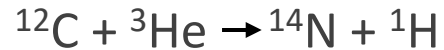
Somewhat like chemical reactions in that the reacting species:

1. Must collide with one another
2. Have enough kinetic energy for the reaction to occur
  - (Unlike chemical reactions orientation is not a significant factor.)
  - Nuclear reactions are balanced by ensuring that protons and mass are conserved
  - Neutron induced reactions do not require that the neutron be accelerated
  - $^{235}\text{U} + \text{n} \rightarrow ^{145}\text{Ba} + ^{88}\text{Kr} + 3\text{n}$
  - 92 p                      56 p    36 p
  - $235 + 1 = 145 + 88 + 3$

# Nuclear Reactions

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Charged particle reactions using p,  $^3\text{H}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ , etc. require acceleration so that the positively charged nuclei will come into contact and exchange pieces



Two important nuclear reactions are fission and fusion

- Fission – one big nucleus splits into two smaller nuclei
- $^{235}\text{U} + \text{n} \rightarrow ^{145}\text{Ba} + ^{88}\text{Kr} + 3\text{n}$
- Fusion – two smaller nuclei merge into one larger nucleus
- $^{20}\text{Ne} + ^{20}\text{Ne} \rightarrow ^{40}\text{Ca}$



# Your Choice

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- A. Nuclear energy
- B. Nuclear weapons
- C. Nucleosynthesis
- D. History of nuclear science

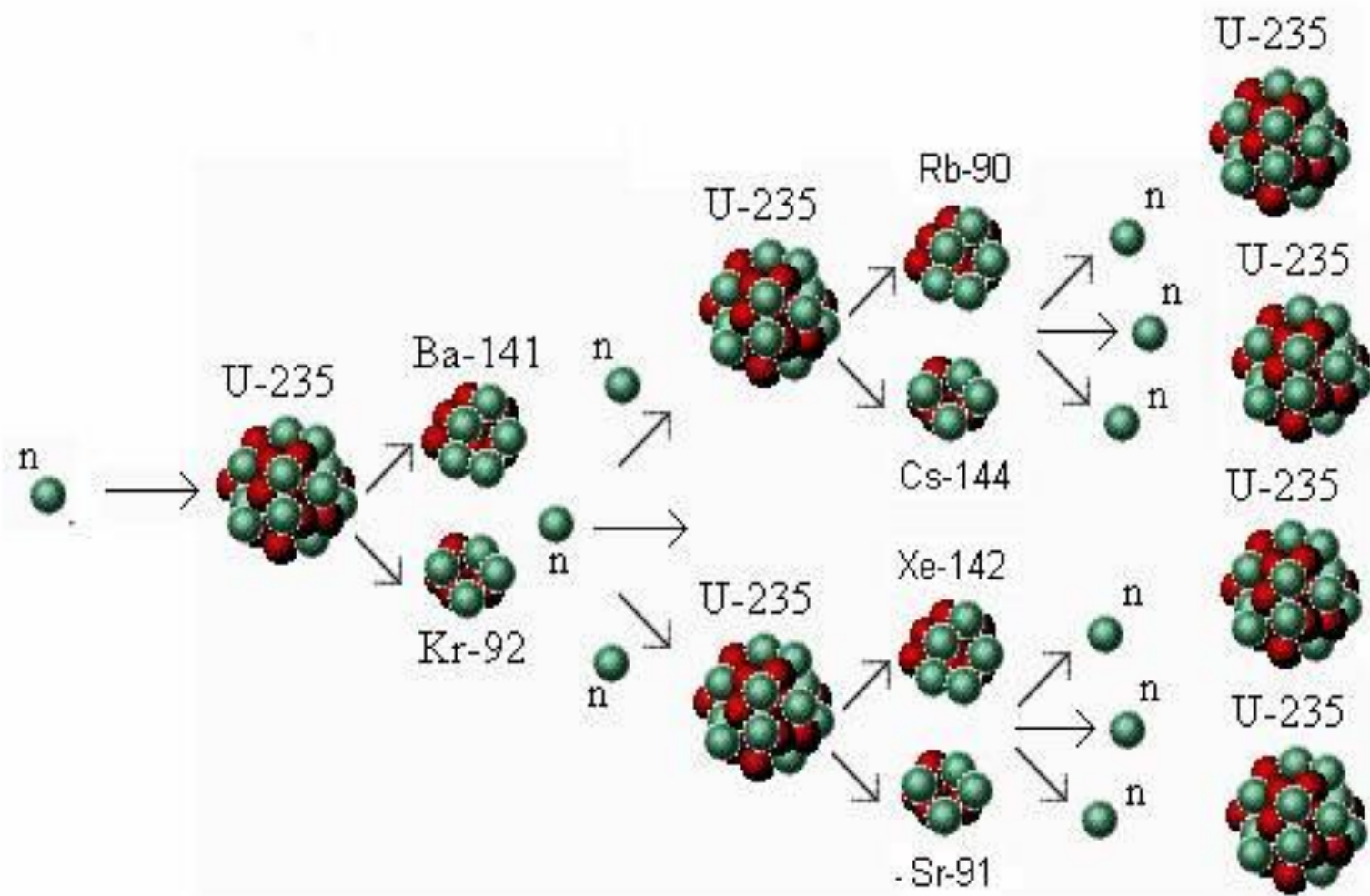
# A. Nuclear Energy

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# Nuclear Reactors

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1. Military weapons reactors are designed to produce fissile isotopes for use in nuclear weapons.
  1. Hanford, WA
  2. Savannah River Site, SC
2. Nuclear power reactors are designed to generate heat which is used to generate electricity
  1. Military versions used in aircraft carriers and submarines
  2. Civilian versions used around the country (and world) to generate electricity
  3. In US ~ 15% of electricity is reactor generated
  4. In France ~ 70% of electricity is reactor generated



# Nuclear Reactors

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6. We can express the chain reaction characteristics using the multiplication factor,  $k$

$$k = \frac{\text{Number of neutrons in the } n+1 \text{ generation}}{\text{Number of neutrons in the } n \text{ generation}}$$

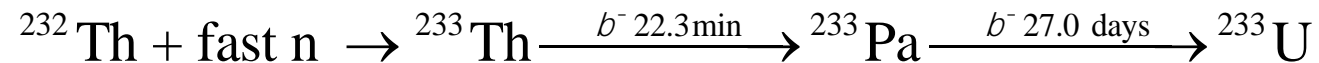
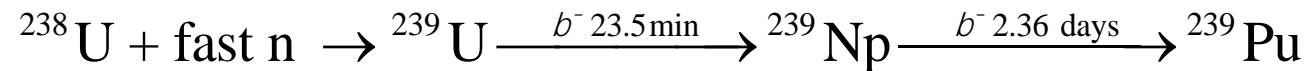
7. If  $k < 1$ , chain reaction is subcritical and not self sustaining
- A. Reaction will fizzle
8. If  $k = 1$ , chain reaction is critical and self sustaining
- A. Ideal for reactors
9. If  $k > 1$ , chain reaction is supercritical and will run out of control
- A. Great for weapons but very bad for reactors!

# Reactor Components

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## Nuclear Fuel

- $^{232}\text{Th}$ ,  $^{233}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$ ,  $^{238}\text{U}$ , and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  can be used
  - $^{233}\text{U}$ ,  $^{235}\text{U}$ , and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  have large thermal neutron capture cross sections
  - $^{232}\text{Th}$  and  $^{238}\text{U}$  have large fast neutron capture cross sections
- $^{235}\text{U}$  is the most commonly used fuel
  - Physical forms – U metal,  $\text{UO}_2$ , or UC
  - $\text{UO}_2$  is used most commonly
- $^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{232}\text{Th}$  can be used to make other fuels



- Basis for breeder reactors

# Fuel Cladding

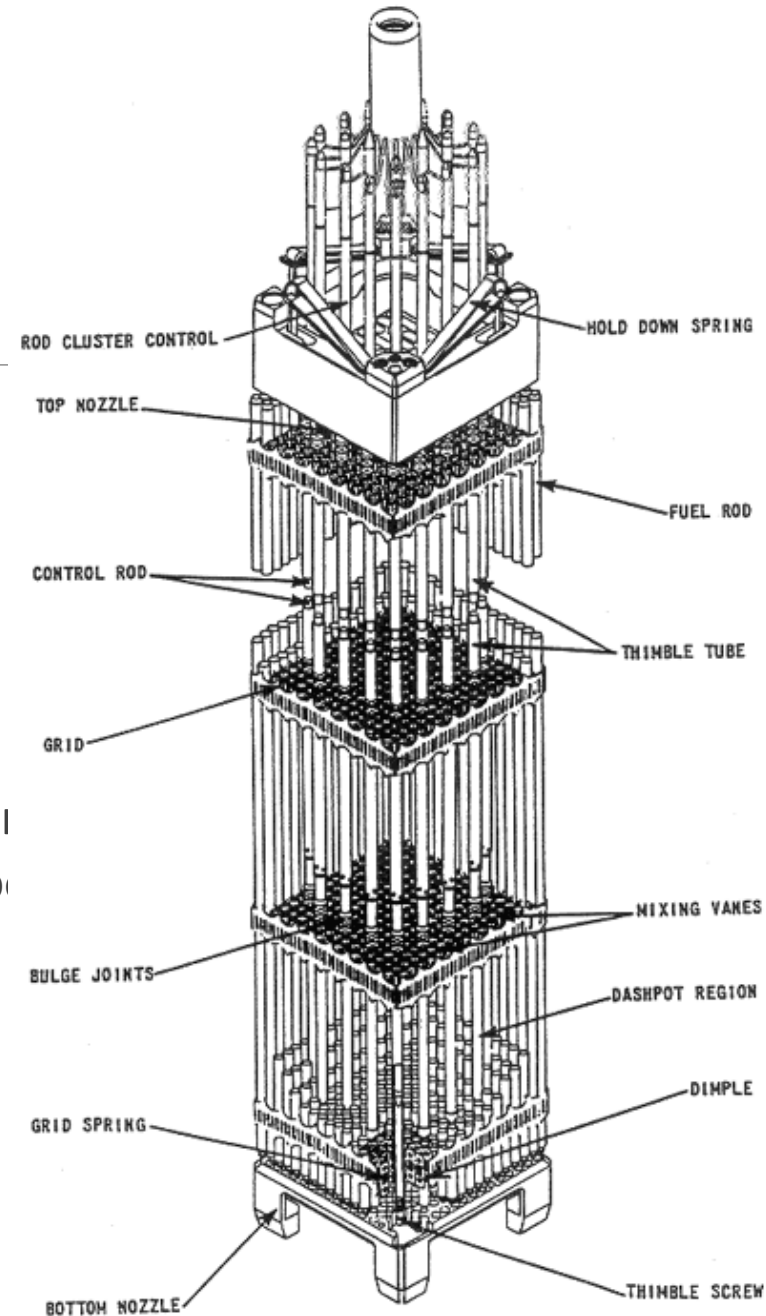
## Fuel Rods

- Assemblies of  $\text{UO}_2(\text{s})$  inside metal tubes
- Tubes are from  $\sim 1$  yd to 10 or 15 yd in length
- Couple of inches in diameter

Packed into bundles containing several rods

Tubes are made of Zr alloyed with Ni, Cr, Fe, and Si

- At high T these tubes are catalysts for water decomposition



**Reactor Fuel Assembly**

# Moderators

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Required to slow neutrons to thermal velocities

- Typically contain lots of protons which neutrons scatter from to slow down

Commonly used moderators

- $^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and C (graphite)

$^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is cheap, plentiful, and easy to purify

- Has relatively high neutron capture cross section
- Requires enriched U fuel

$^2\text{H}_2\text{O}$  is expensive to separate from regular water

- Much lower neutron capture cross section (0.16% that of  $^1\text{H}_2\text{O}$ )
- Can use natural fuel

Graphite is cheap, plentiful, and easy to purify

- Much poorer moderator
- First few reactors used it
- Last one in US (Hanford, WA) shut down in the 1980's



# Coolants

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Removes heat from fission reactions

- Heat transfer to power generator

Common coolants include CO<sub>2</sub>, He, H<sub>2</sub>O (both heavy and light), and alkali metals like Na(l)

In the US regular water is most commonly used for both moderator and coolant

# Reactor Types

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## Fast Breeder Reactors

- Fast refers to the neutrons
- Generate fuel as they operate

Use conventional U fuel either enriched or natural

After reactor has been in operation for a few months

- $^{235}\text{U}$  is depleted,  $^{238}\text{U}$  is still present and some  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  has been made

Fuel rods are removed and chemically processed to obtain  $^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{239}\text{Pu}$

New fuel rods are prepared with  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  surrounded by  $^{238}\text{U}$

- Neutrons from  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  fission initiate this reaction sequence
- $^{238}\text{U} + n \rightarrow ^{239}\text{U} \rightarrow ^{239}\text{Np} + \beta^- \rightarrow ^{239}\text{Pu} + \beta^-$

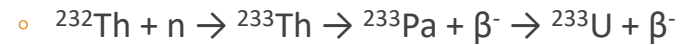
# Reactor Types

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Thermal Breeder Reactors

Core is  $^{233}\text{U}$  surrounded by  $^{232}\text{Th}$

Fission neutrons from  $^{233}\text{U}$  captured by  $^{232}\text{Th}$  to initiate this reaction sequence



# Reactor Types

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## Power Reactors

- Light water reactors
  - Most common type
- Pressurized water reactors
  - Capped to increase pressure, raise water temperature, and increase thermal efficiency
- Boiling water reactors
  - Operate with water at 100°C

**Diagram of a Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) System**

The diagram illustrates the complex piping and components of a PWR, showing the flow of primary and secondary loops, steam generation, and cooling systems.

**Key Components and Labels:**

- (1) CONTROL RODS**
- (2) REACTOR VESSEL (TOP IS REMOVABLE FOR REFUELING)**
- (3) THERMAL SHIELD**
- (4) BIOLOGICAL SHIELD**
- (5) CORE OF SOLID FUEL ELEMENTS**
- (6) WATER USED AS COOLANT AND NEUTRON MODERATOR**

**Other Labels:**

- Reactor Containment
- Control Rods
- Reactor Vessel
- Core
- Steam Generator
- Reactor Coolant Pump (Internal)
- Reactor Coolant Pump (External)
- Main Steam Isolation Valve
- Steam
- Steam Turbine
- Generator
- Condenser
- Reheat Steam
- Steam Generator Feed Pump
- Main Feedwater Isolation Valve
- Feedwater Heater
- Valve
- Cooling Water Return
- Cooling Tower
- Cooling Water Pump
- COOLANT OUT
- COOLANT IN

## Iron capture cross

(2) REACTOR VESSEL  
(TOP IS REMOVABLE  
FOR REFUELING)

### (3) THERMAL SHIELD

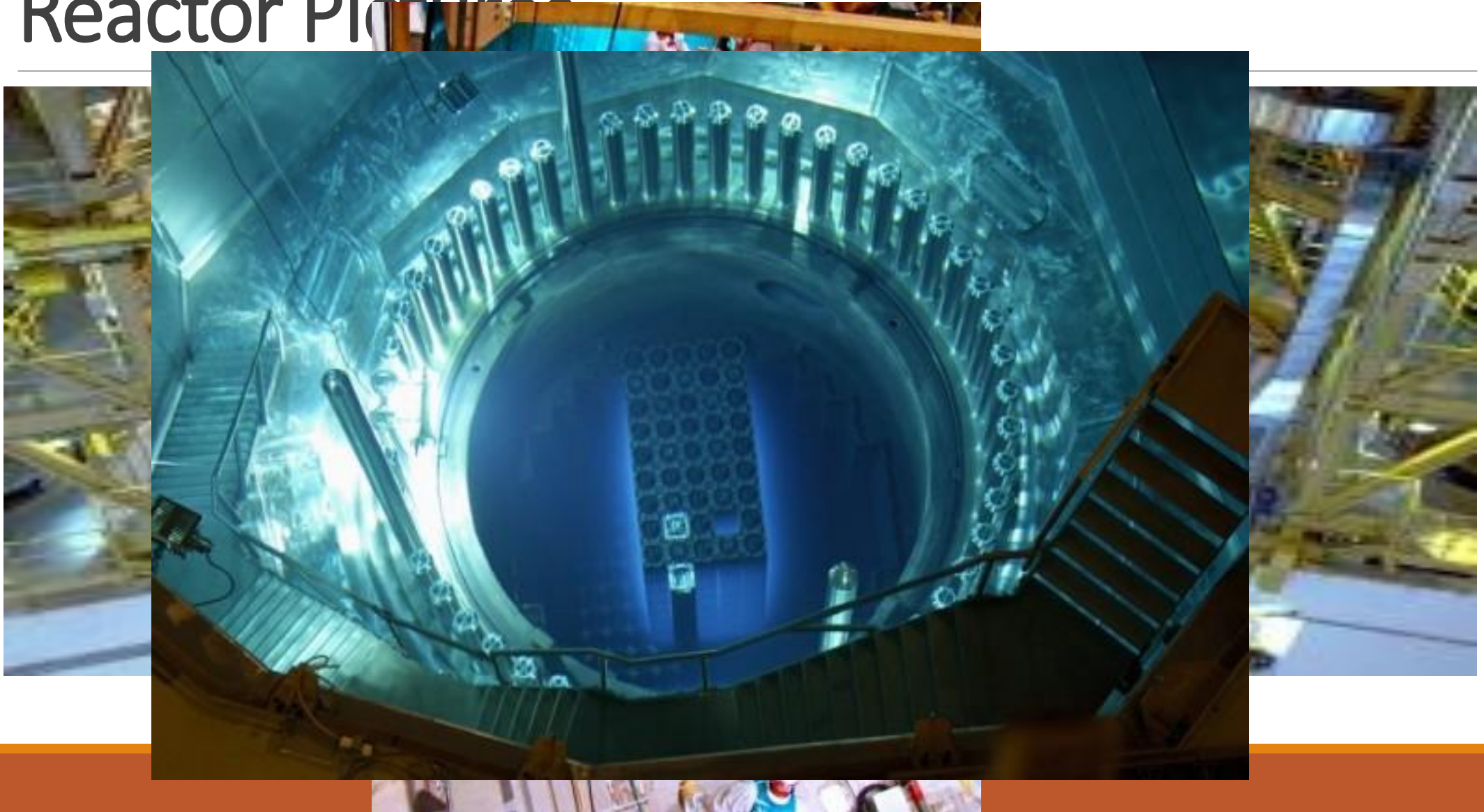
#### (4) BIOLOGICAL SHIELD

(5) CORE OF SOLID FUEL ELEMENTS

(6) WATER USED AS COOLANT AND NEUTRON MODERATOR

— COOLANT IN

# Reactor Pictures



# Reactor Pitfalls

Theoret

- Even  
radio
- Core

Chernol

ssion product

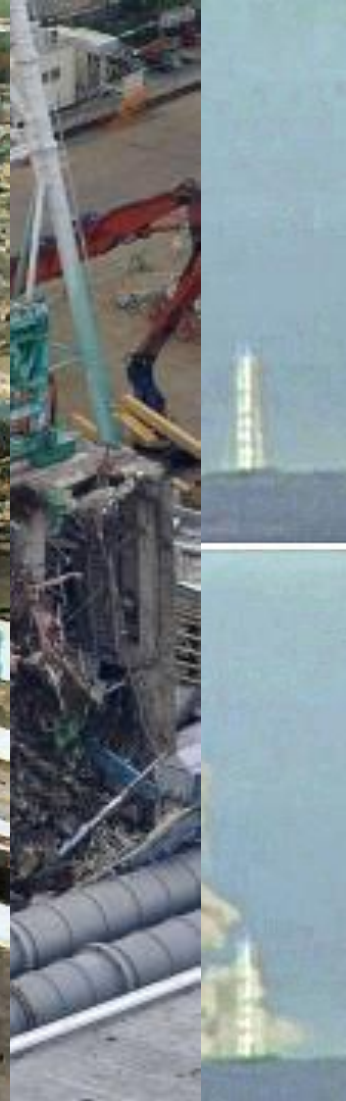




# Reactors

They can

- Not a
- Cataly
- $2\text{H}_2 +$

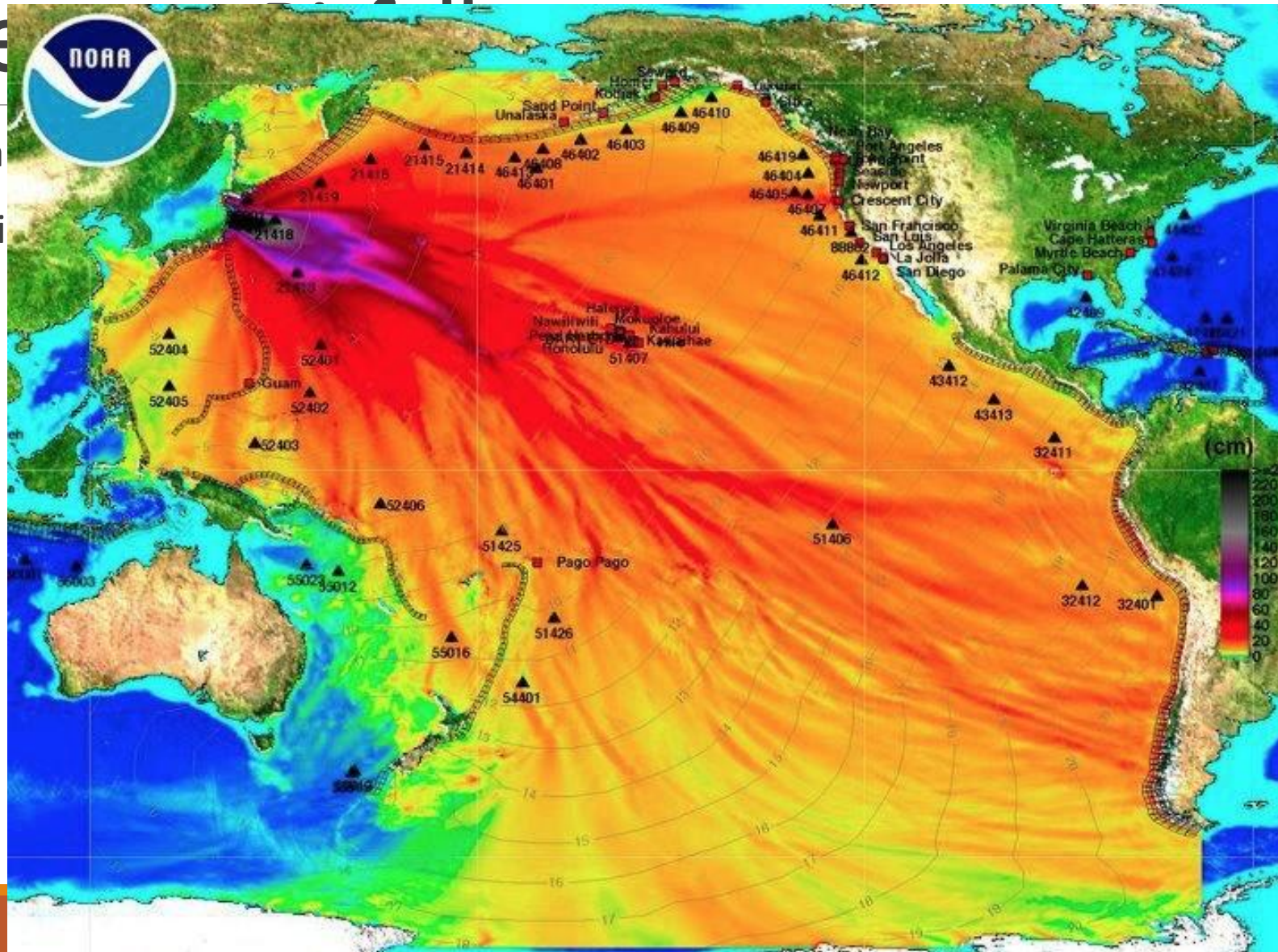




Re

Clea

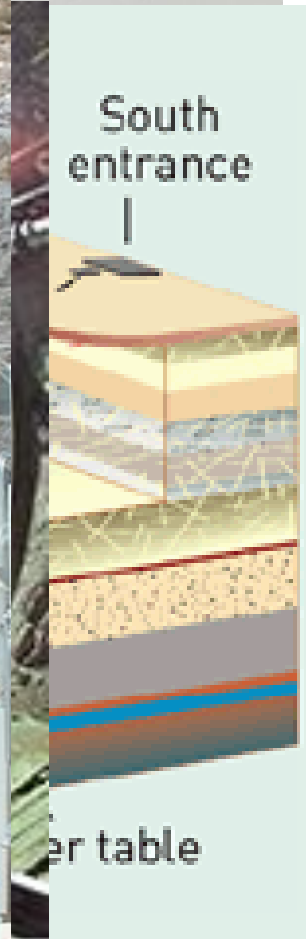
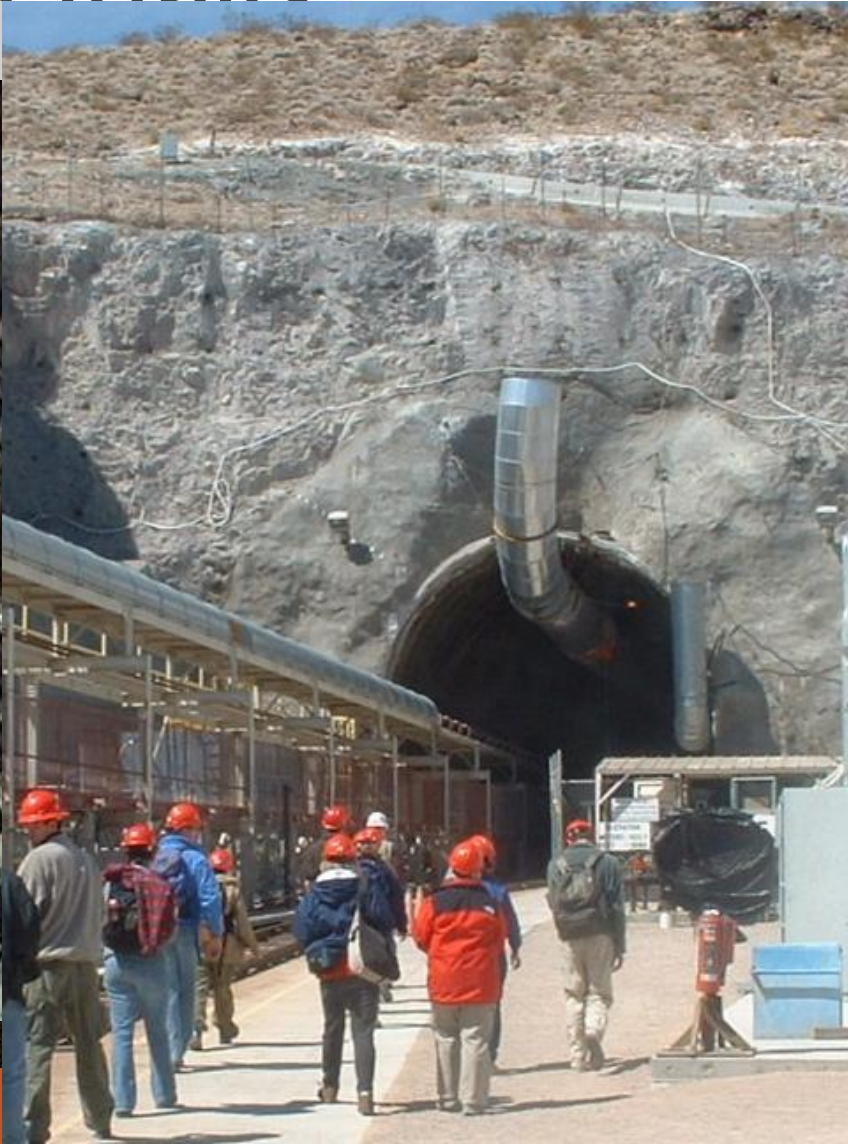
Radi





# Reactor Pitfalls

Waste d



# Nuclear Reactor Pluses

---

Power generated from nuclear fission does not add to global warming

- No CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Compared to coal-fired plants nuclear energy is very clean

Much longer term energy source than fossil fuels

It is possible to engineer nuclear power plants that are fail-safe





## B. Nuclear Weapons

---



# Nuclear Fission Weapons

---

Nuclear reactors are designed so that they cannot undergo a nuclear explosion

- Fissile material is too far apart
- Cannot sustain a chain reaction

Nuclear fission weapons require a critical mass of 90% pure  $^{235}\text{U}$  or  $^{239}\text{Pu}$

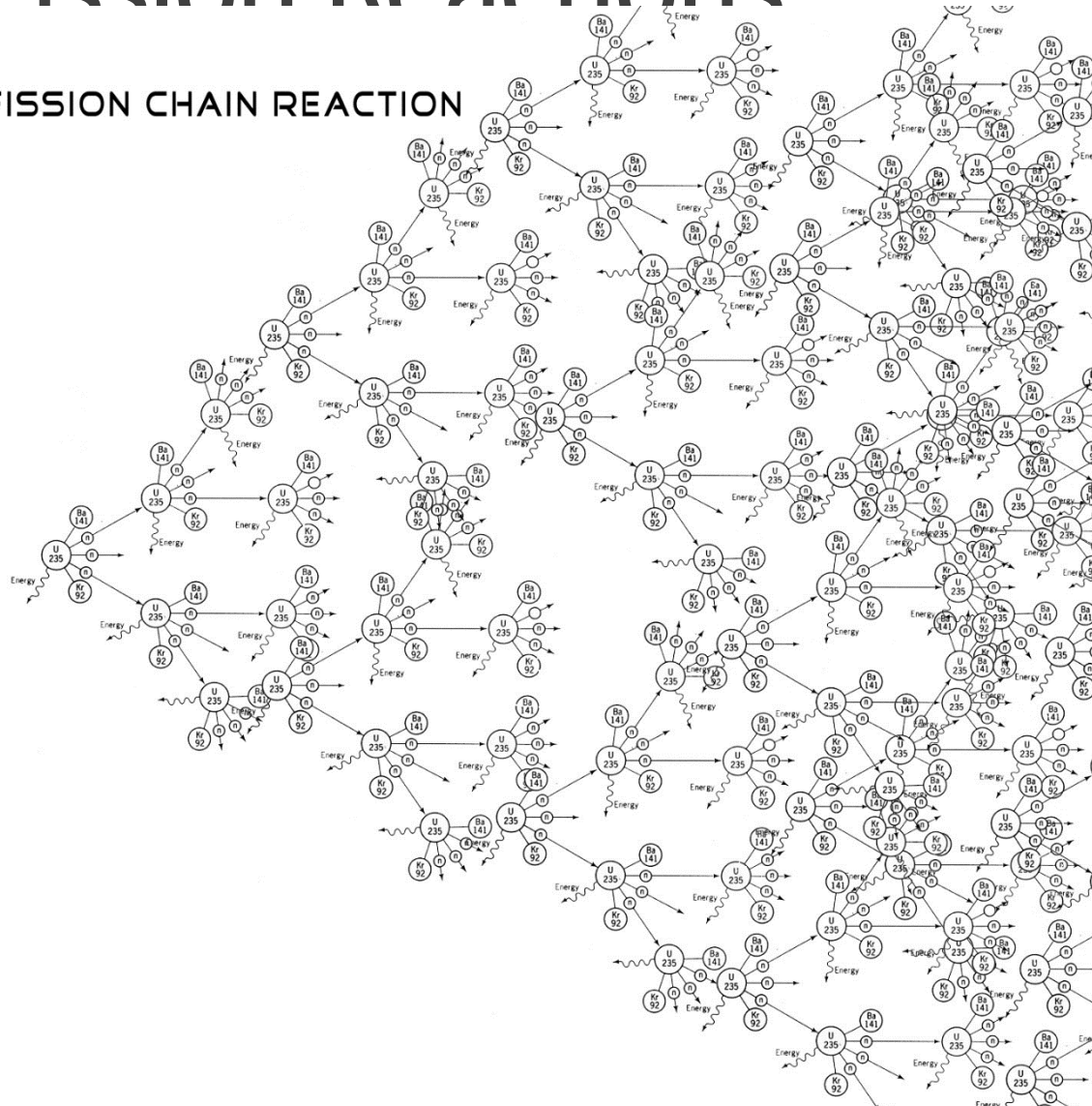
Critical mass – sufficient quantity of material that fission neutrons cannot escape without initiating another fission reaction

# Nuclear Fission Reactions

Chain reaction –

FISSION CHAIN REACTION

2 or 3 more, etc.





# Nuclear Fission Weapons

---

U consists of the following isotopes all of which are radioactive

Isotope	% Abundance	$t_{1/2}$
$^{238}\text{U}$	99.275%	$4.5 \times 10^9 \text{ yr}$
$^{235}\text{U}$	0.720%	$7.04 \times 10^8 \text{ yr}$
$^{234}\text{U}$	0.0054%	$2.45 \times 10^5 \text{ yr}$

$^{233}\text{U}$  also exists in very small amounts with a  $t_{1/2}$  of  $1.59 \times 10^5 \text{ yr}$

To make a weapon the U must be enriched from 0.720%  $^{235}\text{U}$  to 90%  $^{235}\text{U}$

# Nuclear Fission Weapons



# Nuclear Fission Weapons

In July 194

, NM



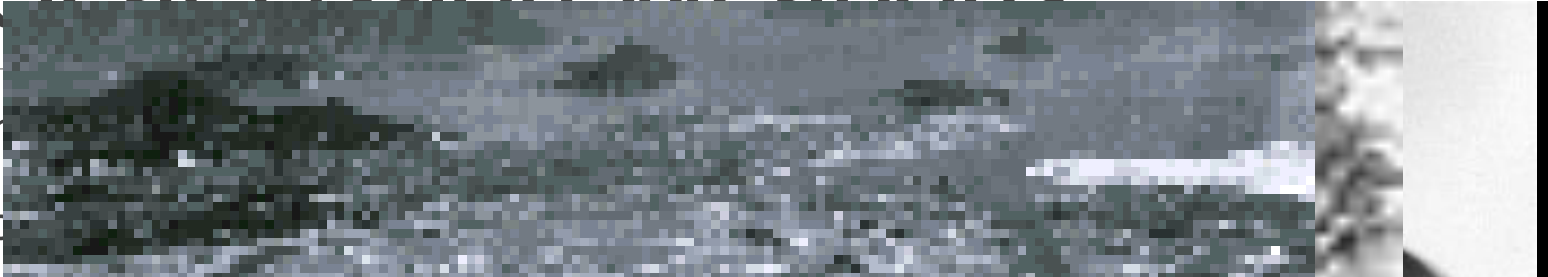
# Nuclear Fission Weapons

Hiroshima

Little Boy

Cast

- 6
- 6





# Nuclear Fission Weapons

Nagasaki

Fat Man

Casualties

- 39,000
- 25,000



# Nuclear Fission Weapons

---

USSR builds a nuclear weapon in 1949

- Starts the Cold War

Countries that possess nuclear weapons

- USA
- Russia
- Britain
- France
- Israel
- China
- India
- Pakistan
- North Korea
- (South Africa)

# Nuclear Fusion Weapons

First ther

- Cranks



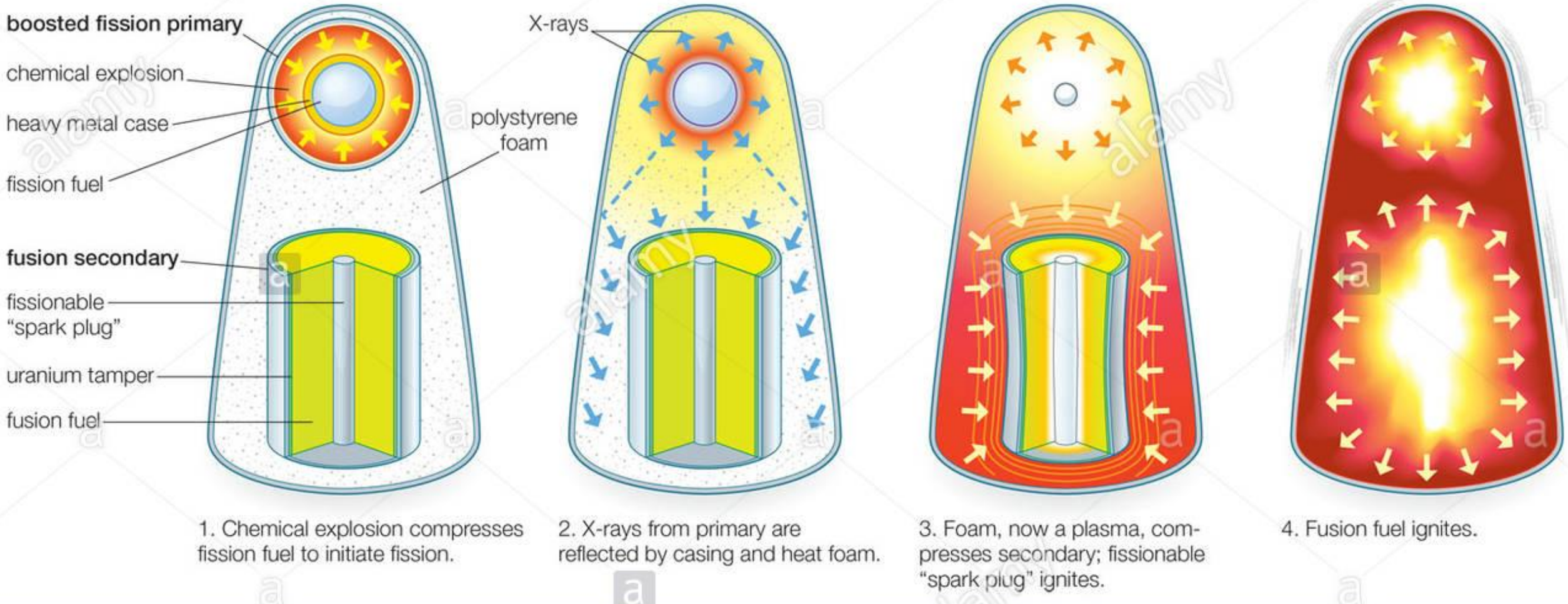




Peacekeeper MX



# Teller-Ulam two-stage thermonuclear bomb design



# C. Nucleosynthesis

---

# Primordial Nucleosynthesis

## Big Bang Theory

- A. Seminal paper by Alpher, Bethe, and Gamow in 1948
- B. Further work by numerous others

### The Origin of Chemical Elements

R. A. ALPHER\*

*Applied Physics Laboratory, The Johns Hopkins University,  
Silver Spring, Maryland*

AND

H. BETHE

*Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

AND

G. GAMOW

*The George Washington University, Washington, D. C.*

February 18, 1948

AS pointed out by one of us,<sup>1</sup> various nuclear species must have originated not as the result of an equilibrium corresponding to a certain temperature and density, but rather as a consequence of a continuous building-up process arrested by a rapid expansion and cooling of the primordial matter. According to this picture, we must imagine the early stage of matter as a highly compressed neutron gas (overheated neutral nuclear fluid) which started decaying into protons and electrons when the gas



# Primordial Nucleosynthesis

---

Universe started ~ 13 to 15 billion years ago

1. All matter, energy, space and time were contained in a single immensely dense and extremely small point
2. At  $\sim 10^{-43}$  s after the explosion (singularity) occurs, all matter was compressed into a sphere the size of the point of a needle with a density of  $\sim 10^{90}$  kg/cm<sup>3</sup>
3. Universal T was  $\sim 10^{32}$  K
4. All 4 physical forces are united in a single force
5. As the explosion proceeds, the universe expands and cools
  - a. 4 forces begin to separate themselves over the next  $\sim 10^{-8}$  s
  - b. some particles have been generated including leptons, quarks, leptoquarks, and gravitons
  - c. Universe inflates tremendously over the time frame  $10^{-35}$  to  $10^{-33}$  s and the strong force separates from the electroweak force – gluon appears
  - d. From  $10^{-33}$  to  $10^{-6}$  s all four forces finally separate and electrons, positrons, neutrinos, and antineutrinos begin their existence
    - ① Matter dominates over antimatter
    - ② Protons and neutrons are formed

# Primordial Nucleosynthesis

---

## D. Nucleosynthesis era 1 to 5 min after the explosion

- 1) universe has cooled to  $10^9$  K and nuclei can begin to form (thermal  $E <$  strong force)
- 2) universe consists of a very hot plasma containing electrons, positrons, neutrinos, antineutrinos, neutrons, and protons

## E. Nuclear reactions begin making some new nuclei and elements

- 1)  $p + n \rightarrow d + \gamma$
- 2)  $d + n \rightarrow t + \gamma$  (tritium rapidly decays away)

## F. He formation begins

- 1)  $p + d \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + \gamma$
- 2)  ${}^3\text{He} + {}^3\text{He} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + 2p$

## G. Elements with $A = 5$ or $8$ are all very unstable with short half lives, this blocks the direct synthetic route for heavier elements

- 1)  ${}^8\text{Be}$   $t_{1/2} \sim 7 \times 10^{-17}$  s
- 2)  ${}^5\text{Li}$   $t_{1/2} \sim 3 \times 10^{-22}$  s
- 3)  ${}^5\text{He}$   $t_{1/2} \sim 7.6 \times 10^{-22}$  s

# Primordial Nucleosynthesis

---

**D.** Only  ${}^7\text{Li}$  is stable enough to withstand these conditions

1)  ${}^4\text{He} + {}^3\text{H} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li}$  or

2)  ${}^4\text{He} + {}^3\text{He} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Be}$

3)  ${}^7\text{Be} + e^- \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li} + \nu$

**E.** Within 5 minutes after the Big Bang, the Universe has cooled to the point that further nuclear reactions are impossible and only these elements have been formed

1)  ${}^1\text{H} \sim 76\%$  of the early universe

2)  ${}^4\text{He} \sim 24\%$  of the early universe

3) Trace amounts of  ${}^3\text{He}$ ,  ${}^2\text{H}$ , and  ${}^7\text{Li}$

4) This explains the early portion of the cosmic abundance curve but where did the rest of the stuff come from?

**F.** Elemental synthesis stops for  $\sim 10^6$  years and the universe cools off some more

1) matter dominates radiation

2) electrons and nuclei can finally combine to form atoms

**G.** Universe continues its expansion and cooling to the point that we have a nearly constant 3K microwave radiation cosmic background

# Stellar Evolution

---

1. Big Bang explosion spews matter and energy over Universe then gravity begins to contract clumps
  - 1) Big Bang was not symmetric otherwise there would be no coagulation into galaxies and stars, etc.
2. Protostars are made as H and He gases condense into a sphere raising temperature and density high enough to initiate fusion reactions
3. Three different star populations
  - 1) Population III stars
    - a. First generation stars
    - b. Have no starting material except H, He and some Li
    - c. Extremely massive with very short lives of a few thousand to few million years
    - d. Nuclear reactions inside them made some heavier elements which were then ejected into the interstellar medium and used in subsequent stars
    - e. No population III stars exist today
  - 2) Population II stars
    - a. Second generation stars
    - b. These stars contained ~ 1% heavier elements than H and He (from the pop III stars) when they are formed
    - c. This changes some of the synthetic pathways that are available to them
    - d. A few of these stars are still with us but mostly as remnants
  - 3) Population I stars
    - a. Third generation stars
    - b. Begin life with 2-5% heavier elements than H and He
    - c. Sun is a population I star
      - a. Most abundant stars in the sky

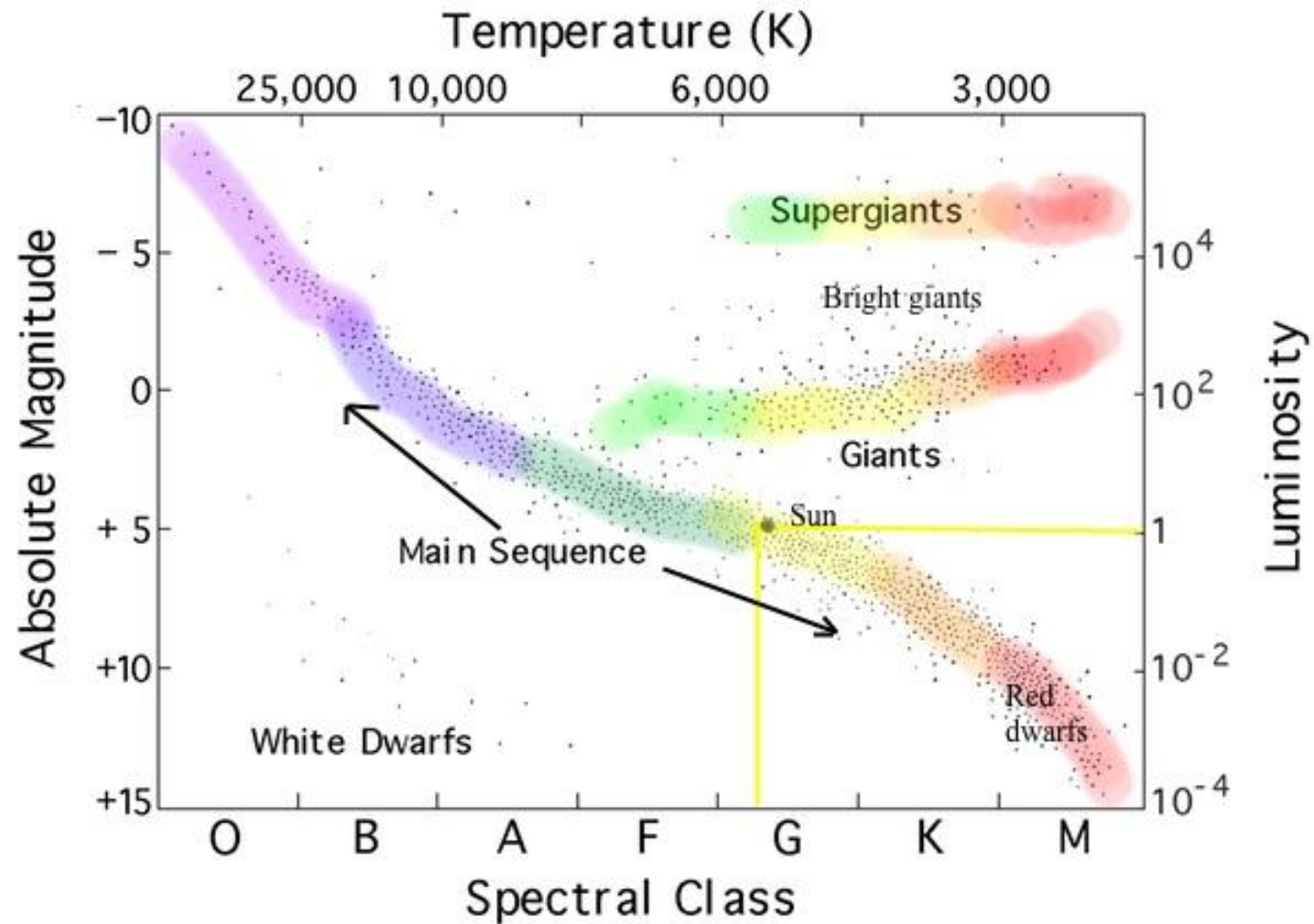


# Stellar Evolution

## 4. Evolution

- A. Evo
- B. mas
- C. sma
- D. Her

- 1) |
- 2) |
- 3) |
- 4) |
- 5) |
- 6) |





# Stellar Evolution

---

## Main Sequence Stars

- Most stars are found in a diagonal band on the H-R diagram called the main sequence
- Stars spend the majority of their lives on the main sequence

## Blue supergiants

- Massive stars that are exceedingly hot
- Producing majority of their light in the UV

## Red Supergiants and Red Giants

- Massive, large diameter stars that are cooler
- Emit a lot of their light in the red-IR region

## White dwarfs

- Very small stars that are relatively hot

As a star reaches the end of its lifetime it moves from the main sequence into the red supergiant or red giant region

- Once it passes through the red giant or supergiant phase, it has two options available to it
  - If the mass is  $< 1.4$  solar masses it becomes a white dwarf
  - If it is truly a massive star  $> 3$  solar masses, then it will become a nova or supernova
    - If the core that remains after the explosion has a mass of  $1.4\text{--}3$  solar masses, it becomes a neutron star
    - If the core has a mass  $> 3$  solar masses it will form a black hole

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

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1. Main sequence hydrogen fusion reactions
2. Once star has reached an internal T of  $\sim 10^8$  K
3. ppI sequence
  - a)  $p + p \rightarrow d + \beta^- + \nu$
  - b)  $p + p + e^- \rightarrow d + \nu$
  - c)  $p + d \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + \gamma$
  - d)  ${}^3\text{He} + {}^3\text{He} \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + 2p$
4. Net result  $4 p \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + \text{energy}$

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

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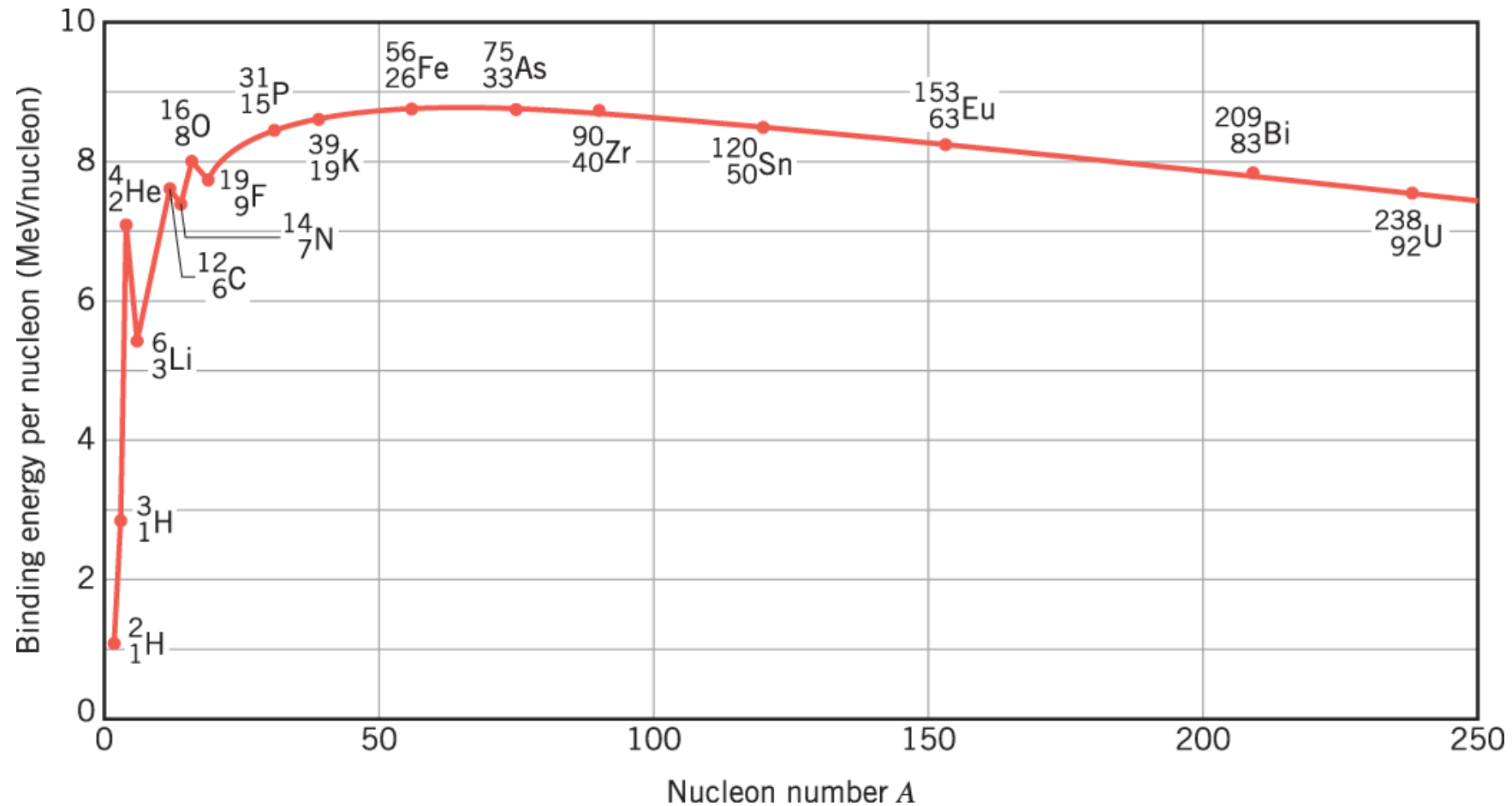
5. If the star has sufficient He and high T ppII sequence is possible

- a)  $^3\text{He} + ^4\text{He} \rightarrow ^7\text{Be} + \gamma$
- b)  $^7\text{Be} + e^- \rightarrow ^7\text{Li} + \nu$
- c)  $^7\text{Li} + p \rightarrow ^8\text{Be} + \gamma \rightarrow ^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He}$

6. One last pp possibility is the ppIII chain

- a)  $^7\text{Be} + p \rightarrow ^8\text{B} + \gamma$
- b)  $^8\text{B} \rightarrow ^8\text{Be} + \beta^+ + \nu$
- c)  $^8\text{Be} \rightarrow ^4\text{He} + ^4\text{He}$

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis



# Wien's Law

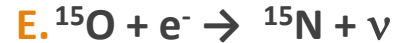
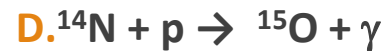
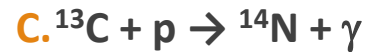
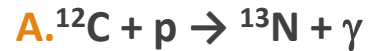
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$$\lambda_{\text{peak}} T = 2.898 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mK}$$

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

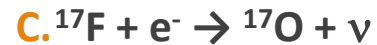
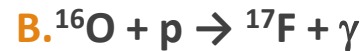
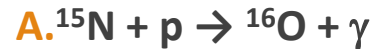
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## 7. CNO Bi-cycle first recognized by Hans Bethe



1) C and N isotopes catalyze the formation of  $^4\text{He}$  from 4 p's

## 8. Another possible CNO cycle is

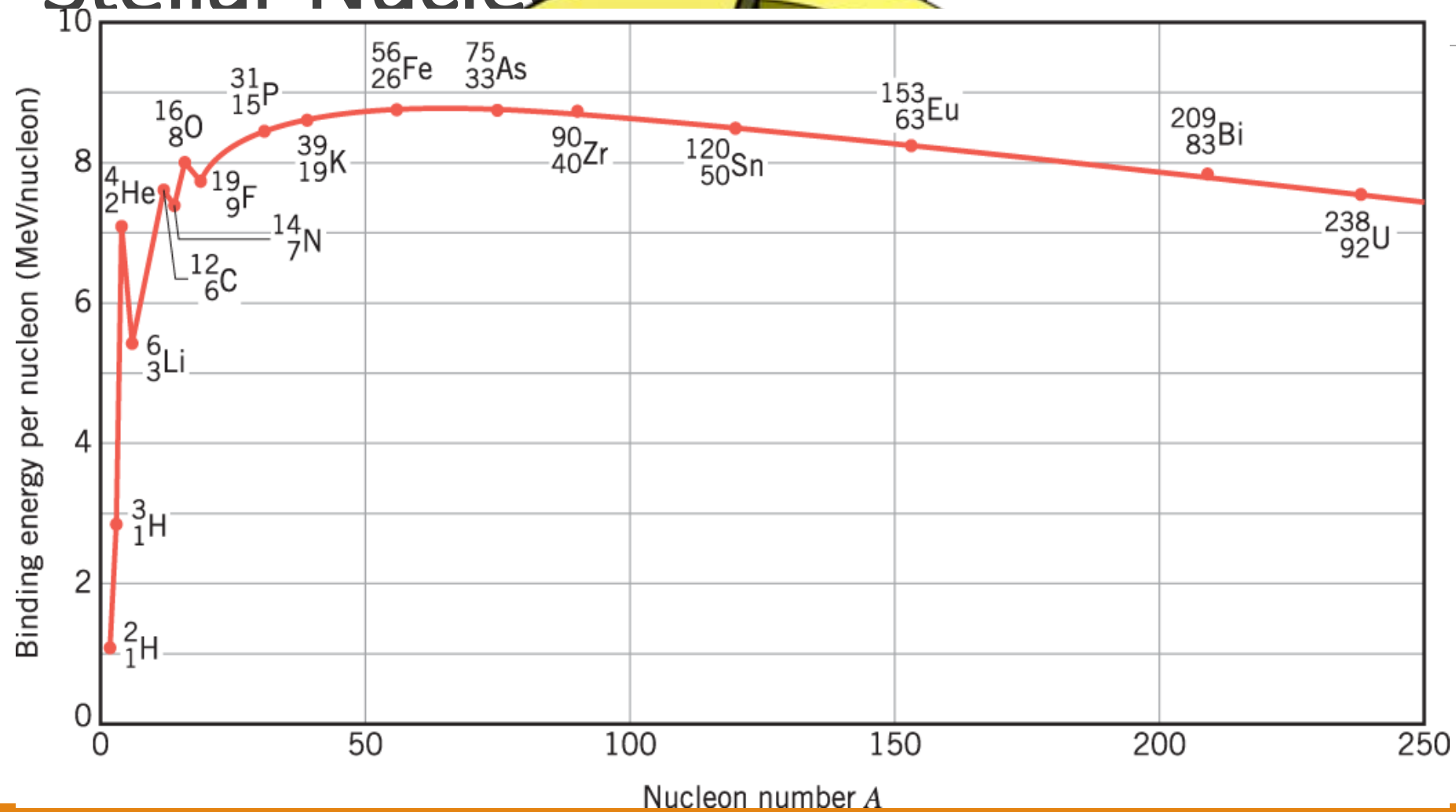


# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

## He burning

- A. Over time the core becomes He rich - p to p interactions become too diffuse to sustain fusion
- B. Core contracts and heats initiating new more exoergic fusion reactions than H fusion
  - 1) Even though the core contracts, the star expands to accommodate the increased energy flow from He fusion reactions
  - 2) Star evolves from main sequence to red giant or red supergiant phase
- C. Triple alpha process
  - 1)  ${}^8\text{Be}$  has a short half-life ( $\sim 10^{-17}$  s) not much is around at any one point in time
  - 2) In a red giant star enough  ${}^8\text{Be}$  present to form an equilibrium concentration of  ${}^8\text{Be}$  leading to these He burning reactions
    - a.  ${}^4\text{He} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^8\text{Be}$
    - b.  ${}^8\text{Be} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^{12}\text{C} + \gamma$
- D. Carbon fusion reaction
  - 1)  ${}^{12}\text{C} + {}^4\text{He} \rightarrow {}^{16}\text{O}$
- E. C fusion is the end of the line for He burning
  - 1) He burning leaves the star's core relatively rich in C and O
  - 2) He burning is much shorter than the main sequence lasting perhaps for only a few thousand to million years
  - 3) Eventually the core becomes saturated in C and O shutting off the He burning sequence
- F. Core contracts and heats
- G. Star's exterior contracts to initiate the next batch of reactions

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

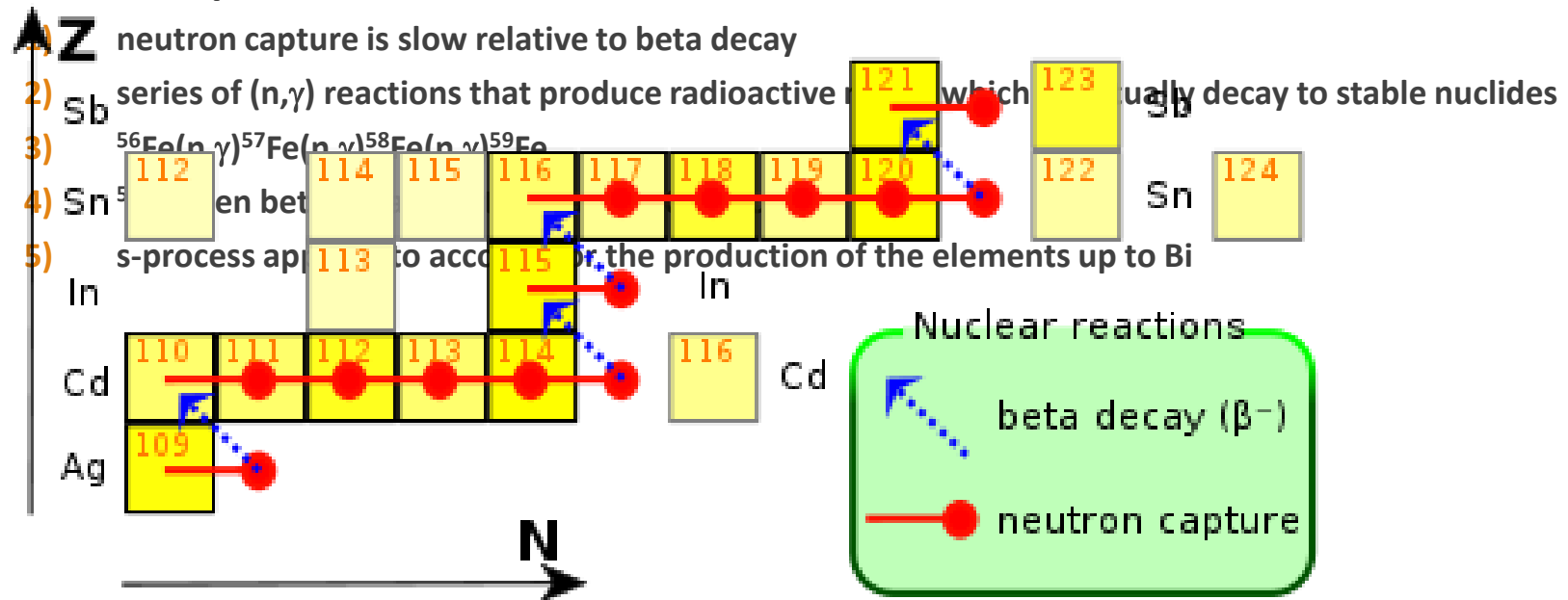




# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

## 11. Elements heavier than Fe and Ni are made via the r- and s-neutron capture processes

### A. slow or s-process



# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

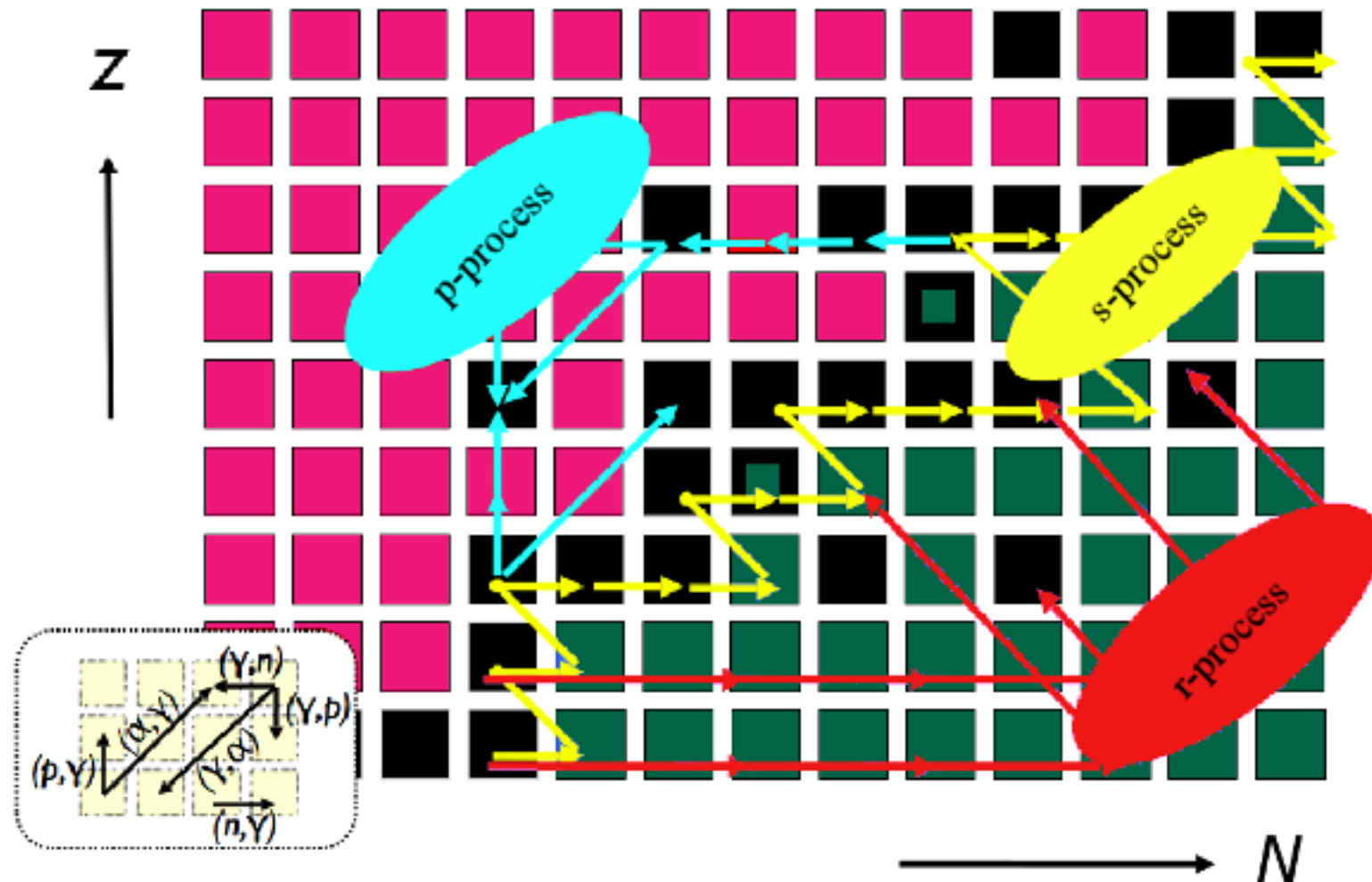
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## B.rapid or r-process

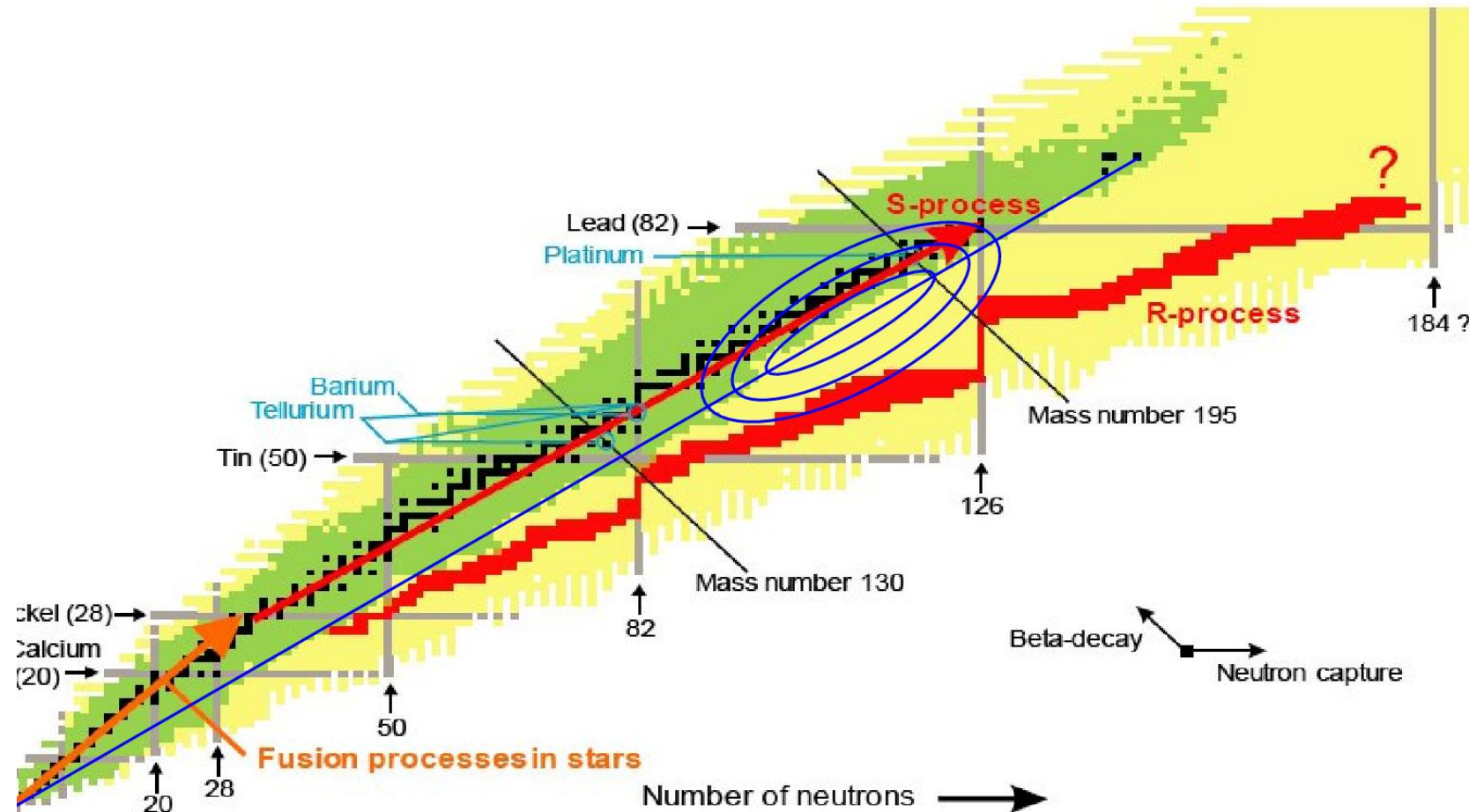
- 1) Rapid capture of as many as 20 to 50 neutrons before the nucleus beta decays
  - a. Yields nuclei that are excessively neutron rich
- 2) Such high neutron fluxes can only occur during a supernova explosion
- 3) Synthesizes the heaviest elements like U and Th as well as some nuclei that the s-process cannot generate such as  $^{116}\text{Cd}$
- 4) Peaks in the cosmic abundance curve at  $N = 50$  and  $126$  are double humped due to the r- and s-processes making slightly different  $A$  value nuclides

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

C.



# Stellar Nucleosynthesis



# Super

Hist

105

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o



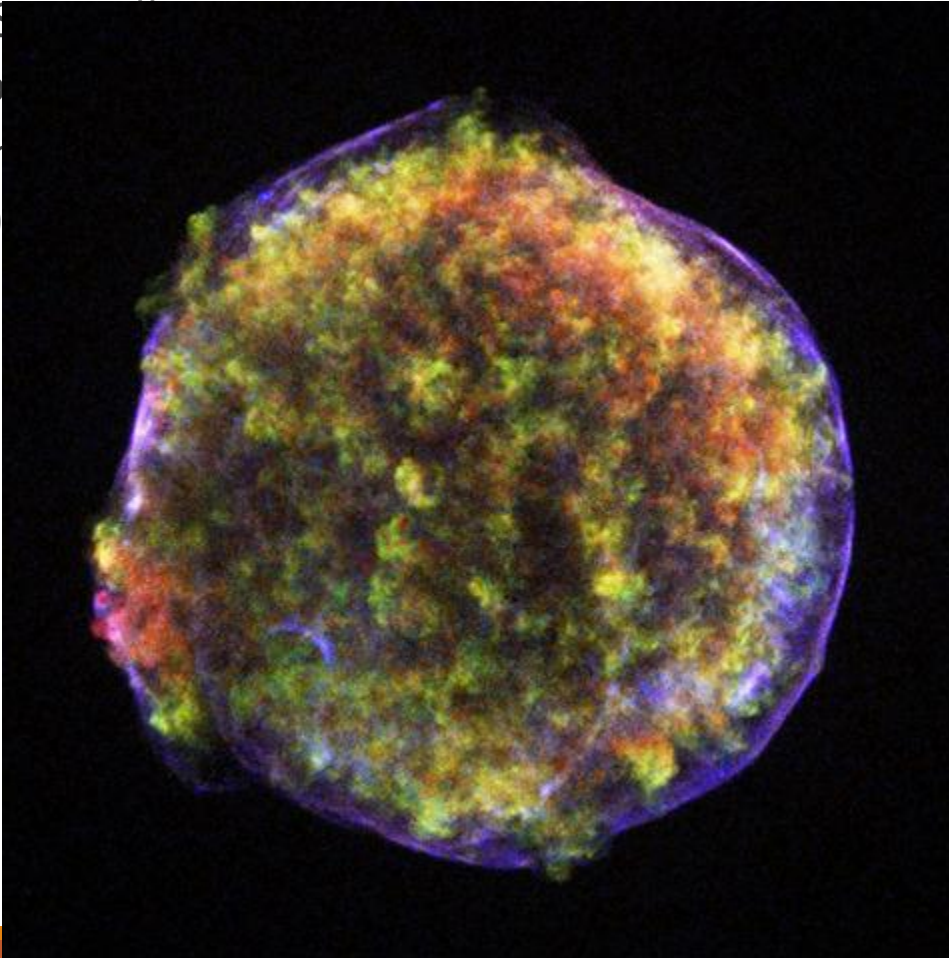


# Supernovae

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1572 – S

- Tycho
- Occur
- 10,00

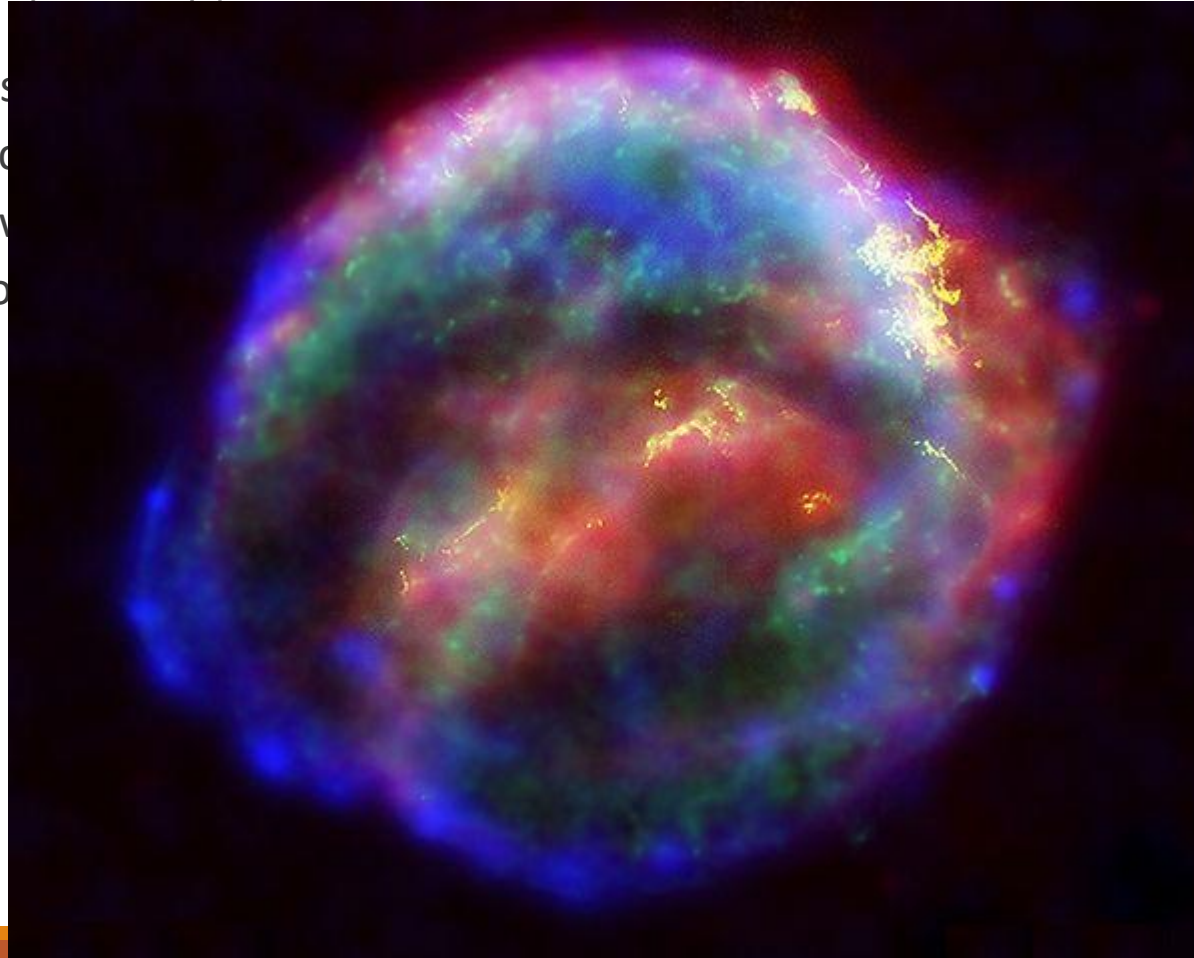


# Supernovae

---

1604 – Seen Around

- Johannes Kepler des
- Occurred in Ophiucc
- 20,000 light years av
- Visible in daylight fo





# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

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## Supernovae

### A. Type I Supernovae

- 1) occur as one star steals mass from another nearby star until it reaches a critical mass and the star undergoes a supernovae explosion

### B. Type II supernovae are the final step in the evolution of massive stars (> 10 solar masses)

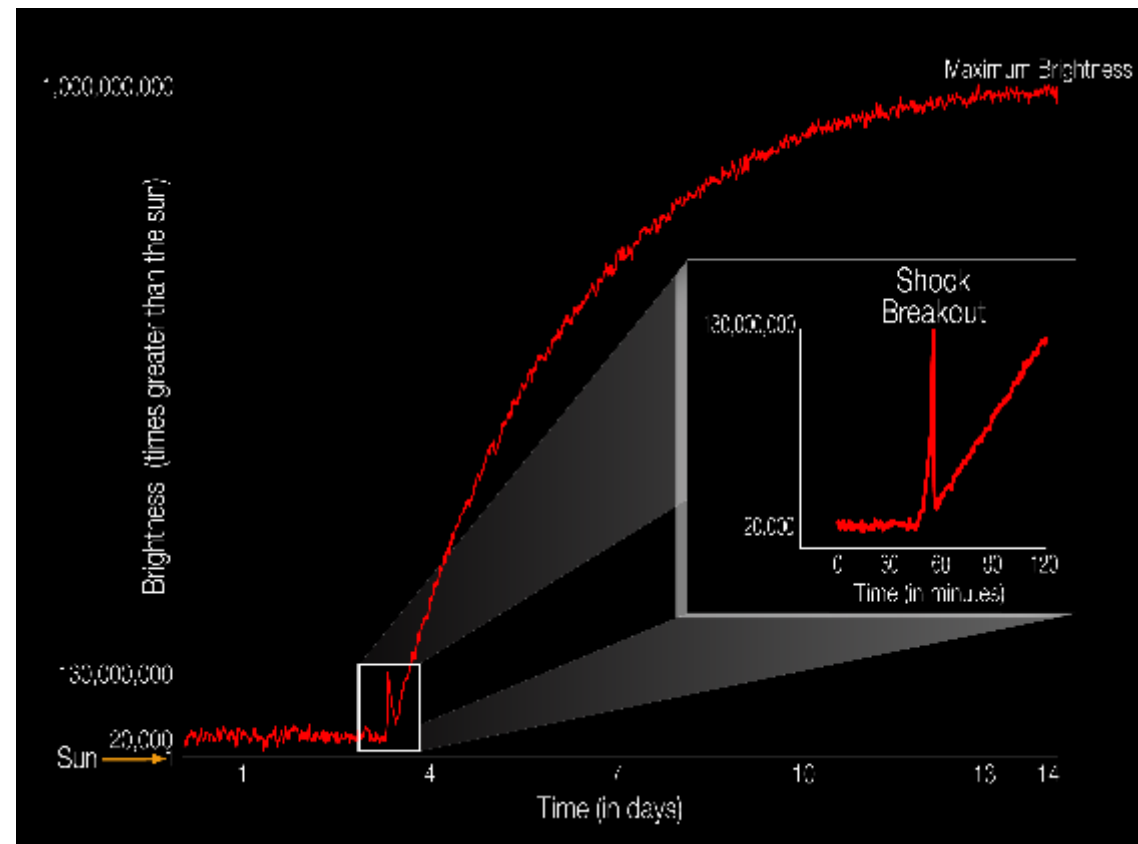
- 1) Fe-Ni core reaches 1.4 solar masses or more that cannot support itself
- 2) Rapidly collapses from a radius  $\frac{1}{2}$  that of Earth to 100 km
- 3) Core density reaches nuclear density,  $\sim 10^{14} \text{ g/cm}^3$
- 4) Nuclear strong force ceases to be attractive becoming repulsive

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

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- 1) Core collapse takes a few  $10^{\text{th}}$ 's of a second
  - a. Outer core edges traveling  $\sim 70,000$  km/s (0.25 c)
- 2) Photodisintegration reactions occur converting protons to neutrons
  - a. Generates an enormous neutrino flux of  $\sim 16.8 \times 10^{57}$  neutrinos
  - b. Energy released in the neutrino flux is  $\sim 6.7 \times 10^{46}$  J
- 3) Core rebounds through a hydrodynamic bounce
  - a.  $\sim 0.7$  solar masses of  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  are made inside the core
  - b. Takes about 20 ms for the shock wave to exit the core but  $\sim 2$  hours for it to get out of the star
  - c. Neutron star, pulsar, or a black hole remains from the core
- 4) Neutron star formation releases an amount of energy equal to 100 times that of the sun's entire lifetime E output or  $\sim$  same amount of energy emitted in the visible universe in 1 sec

# March 2016, Kepler Telescope



# March 2016, Kepler Telescope

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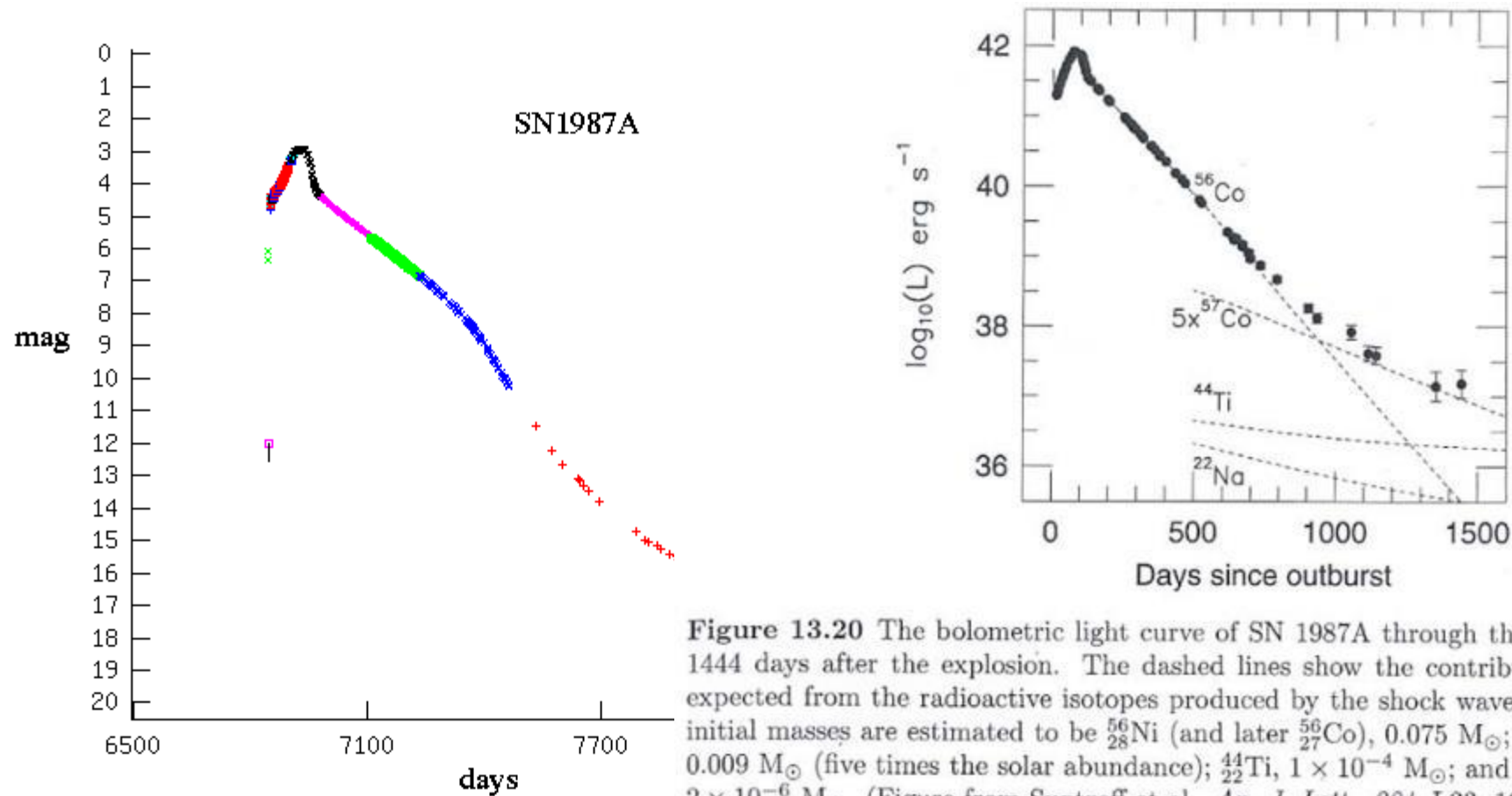
[Supernova Shock Breakout Simulation](#)

# Stellar Nucleosynthesis



# SN 1987A

## Bolometric Decay Curve



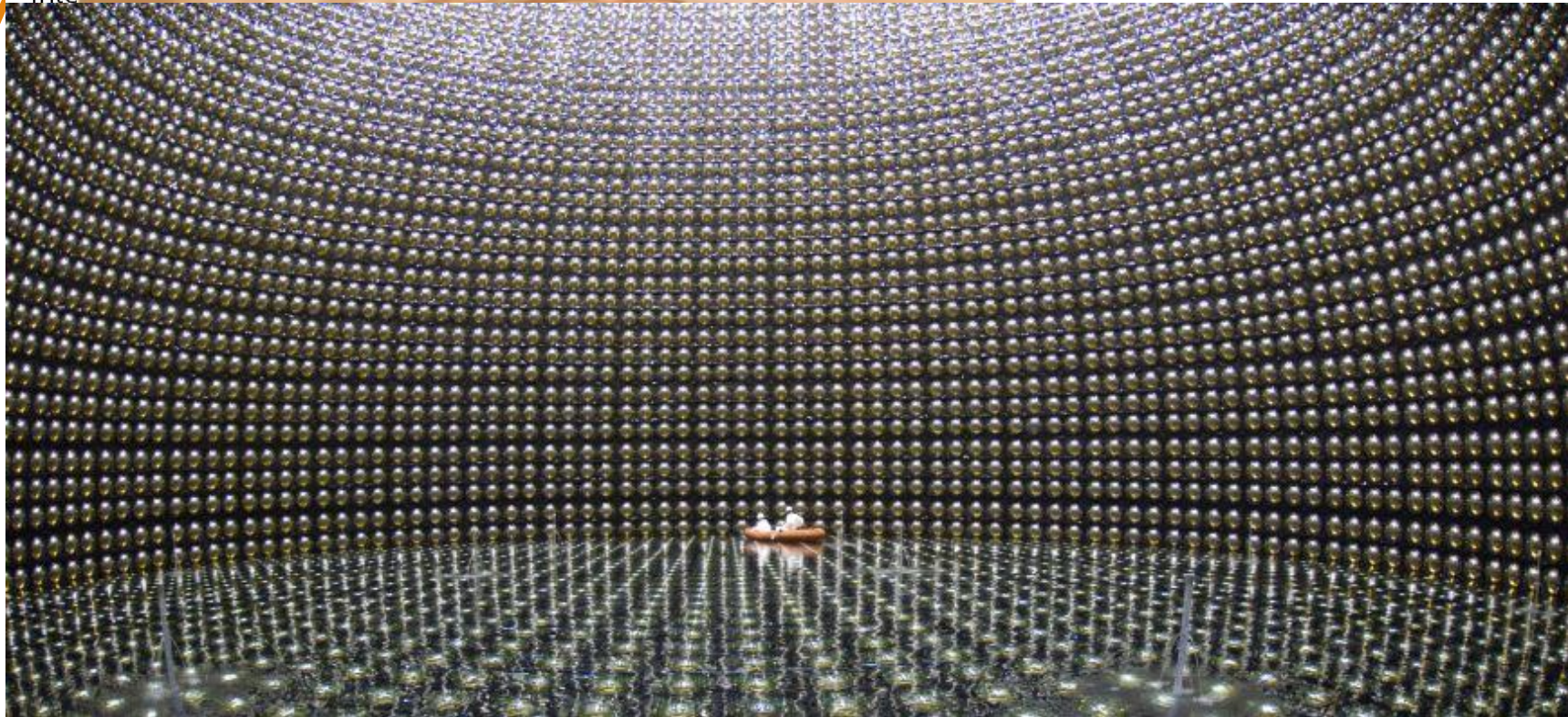
**Figure 13.20** The bolometric light curve of SN 1987A through the first 1444 days after the explosion. The dashed lines show the contributions expected from the radioactive isotopes produced by the shock wave. The initial masses are estimated to be  $^{56}\text{Ni}$  (and later  $^{56}\text{Co}$ ),  $0.075 M_{\odot}$ ;  $^{57}\text{Co}$ ,  $0.009 M_{\odot}$  (five times the solar abundance);  $^{44}\text{Ti}$ ,  $1 \times 10^{-4} M_{\odot}$ ; and  $^{22}\text{Na}$ ,  $2 \times 10^{-6} M_{\odot}$ . (Figure from Suntzeff et al., *Ap. J. Lett.*, 384, L33, 1992.)



# Stellar Neutrino Detection

17

Inter



400

1987-2-23 7:35:35 a.m. (world standard time)



# Stellar Nucleosynthesis

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## **18.** Synthesis of Be, B, and Li

**A.** These elements cannot be synthesized in either stellar nucleosynthesis or by supernovae explosion

**B.** Several theories as to their production have been made

- 1)** Spallation reactions in the interstellar medium
- 2)** Neutron flux from SN explosion impinging upon a H shell
- 3)** Cosmic ray reactions in the interstellar medium

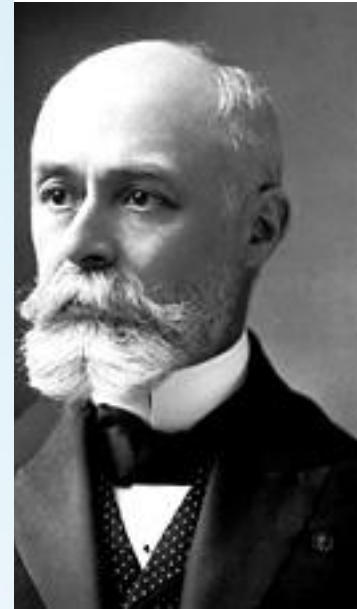
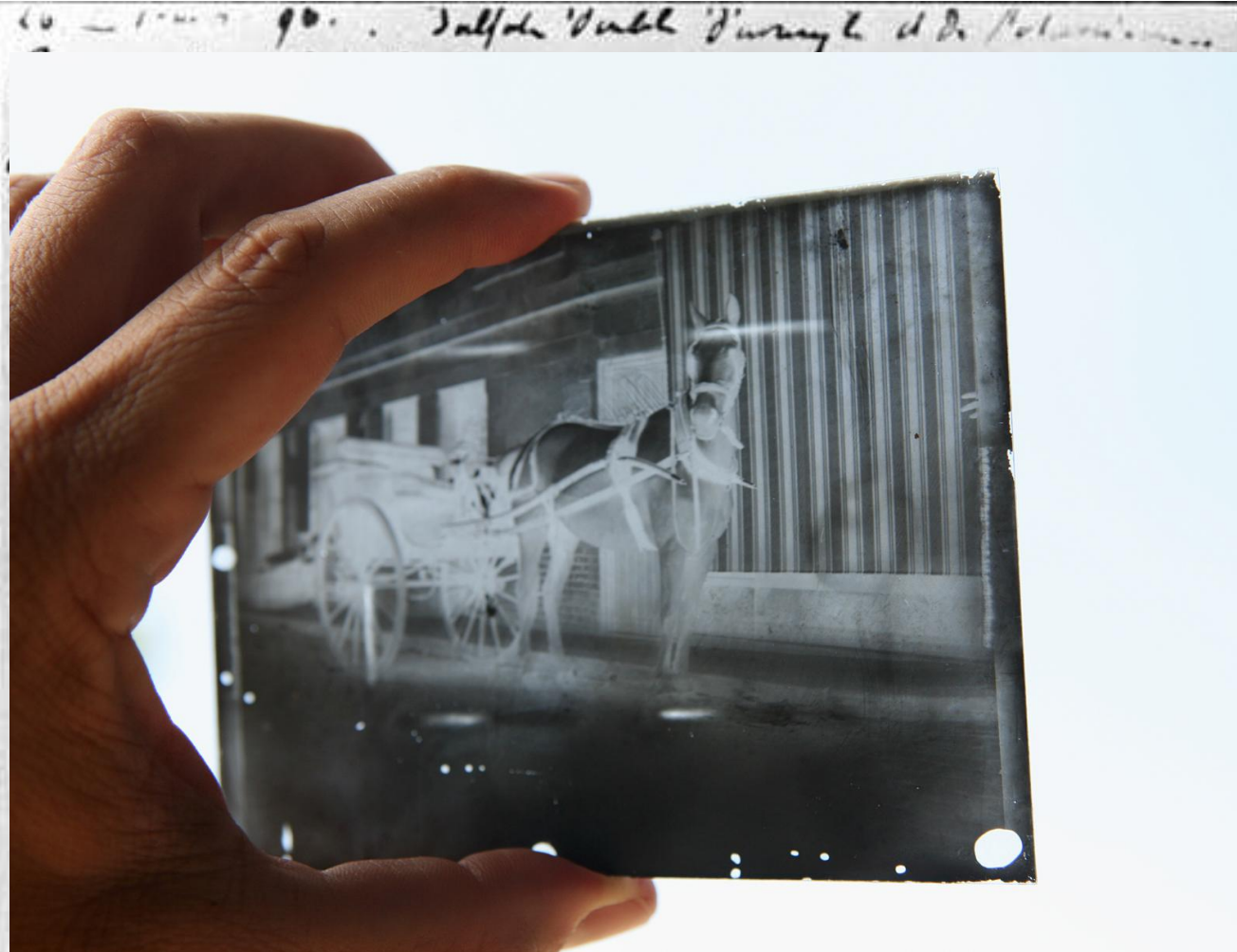
## D. History of Nuclear Science

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# Some Seminal Historic Events

Antoine L.

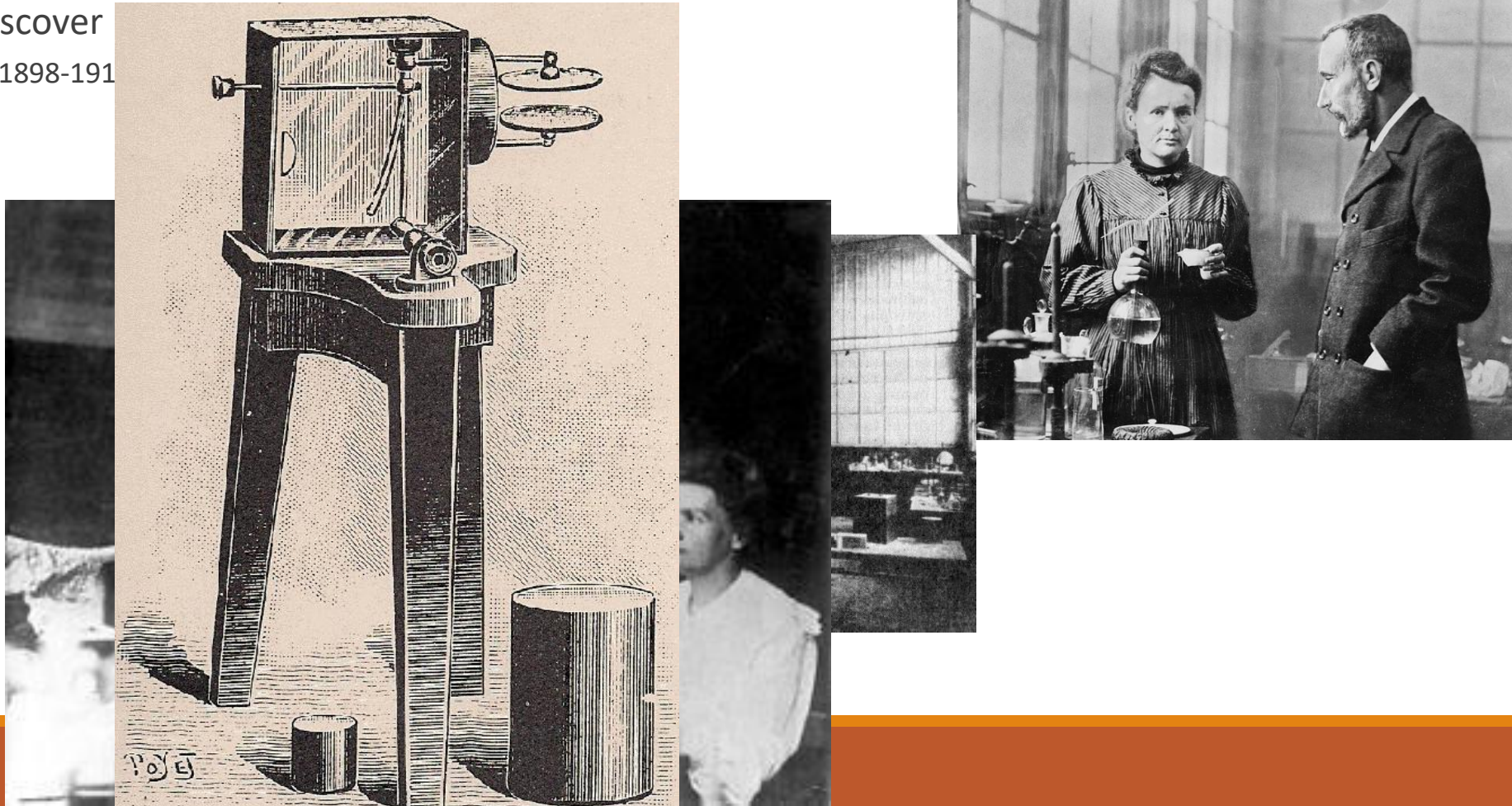
- Accider



# Some Seminal Historic Events

## Pierre and Marie Curie

- Discover
- 1898-191



# Some Se

Ernest D...

Discov

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Deteri

Decipl

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Source

Gold foil

4+

# c Events

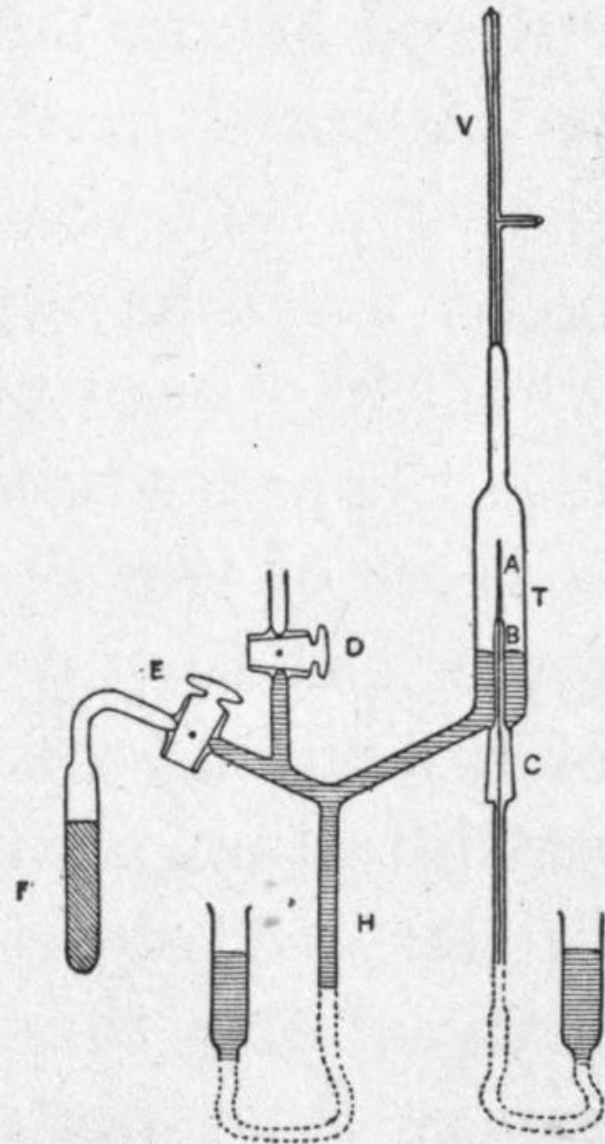
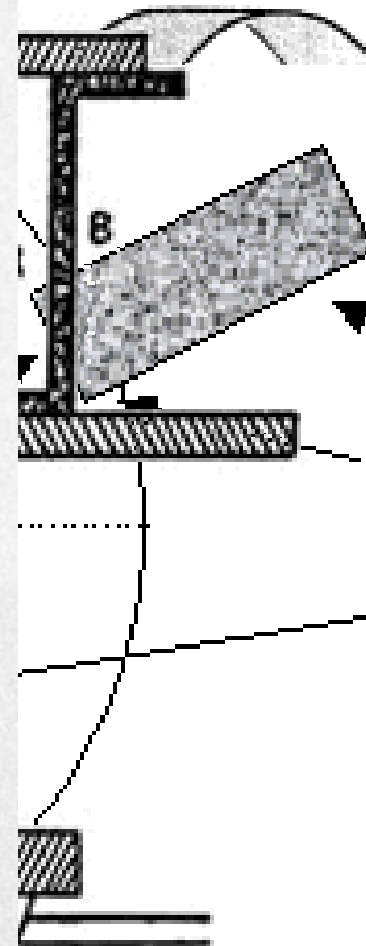


FIG. 7. — APPARATUS  
USED IN EXPERIMENT  
BY RUTHERFORD AND  
ROYDS.



Microscope

Zinc sulphide  
screen

Vacuum



irce



# Elementary Particles

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1. Protons and Neutrons are not elementary particles
  - They are composed of other smaller particles
  - Can “see” these elementary particles in high energy nuclear reactions
2. Electron is an elementary particle

# Four Fundamental Forces of Nature

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1. Gravity
2. Weak force
3. Electromagnetic force
4. Strong force

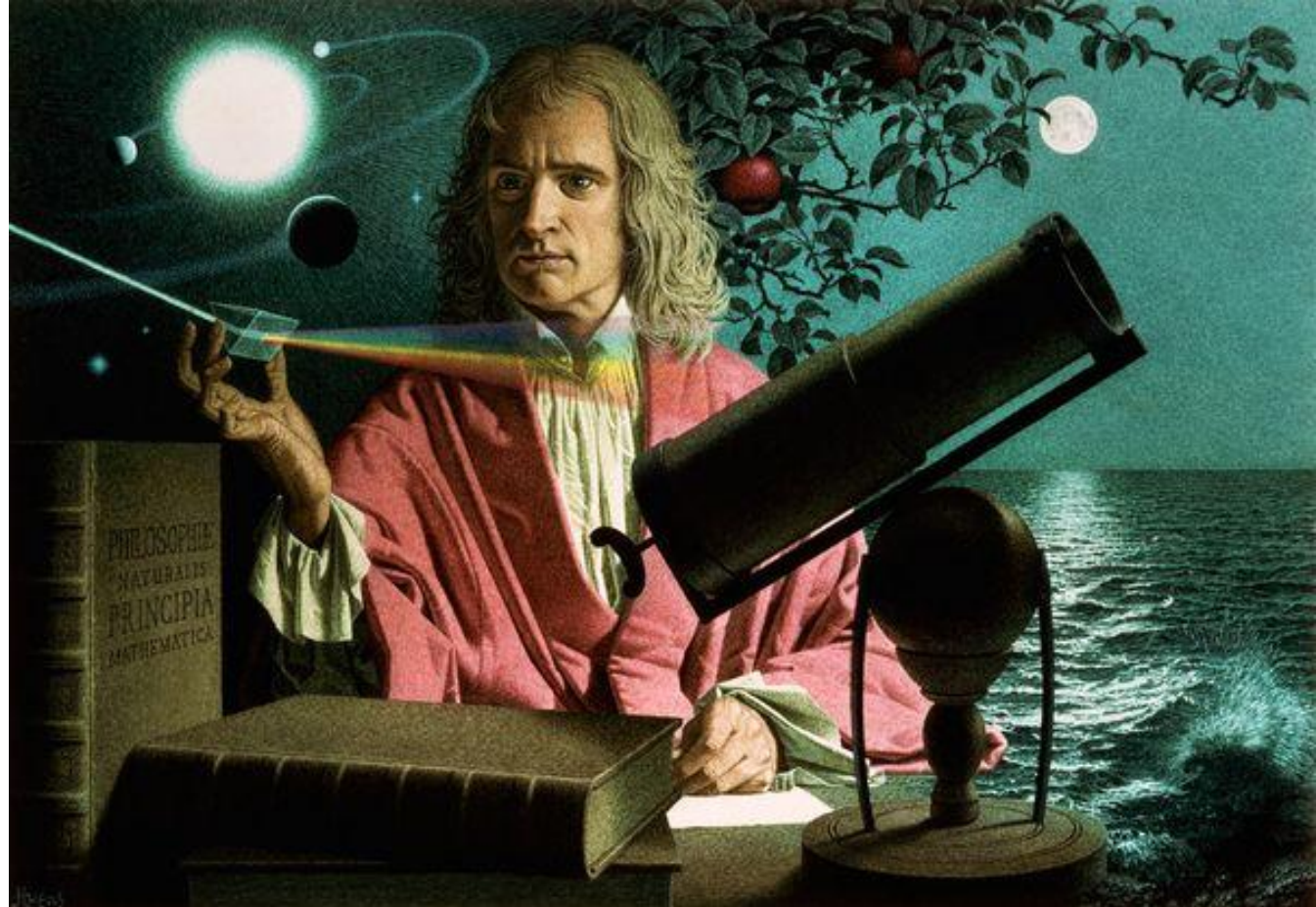
Force	Relative Strength	Range	Exchange Particle	Spin	Rest Mass
Gravity	1	Very long ( $\sim \infty$ )	Graviton	2	0
Weak	$10^{25}$	Very short	$W^+$ , $W^-$ , $Z^0$	1	80 – 90 GeV
Electromagnetic	$10^{36}$	long	Photon	1	0
Strong (nuclear)	$10^{38}$	$10^{-14}$	Gluon	1	0



# Gravity

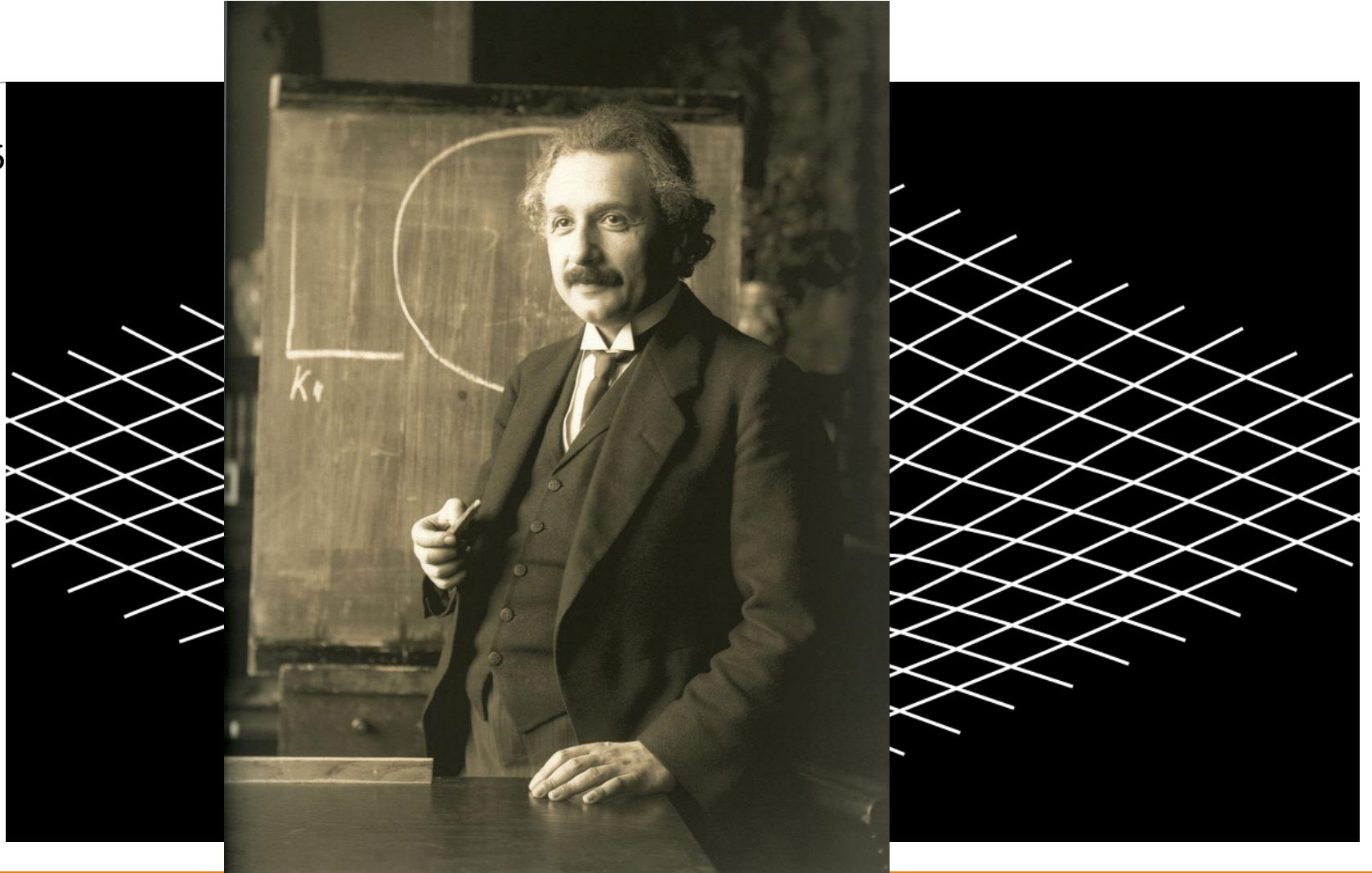
1. First calculated by Isaac Newton -1600's

$$F_g = \frac{G \times m_1 \times m_2}{r^2}$$



# Gravity

Explained by Einstein 1915



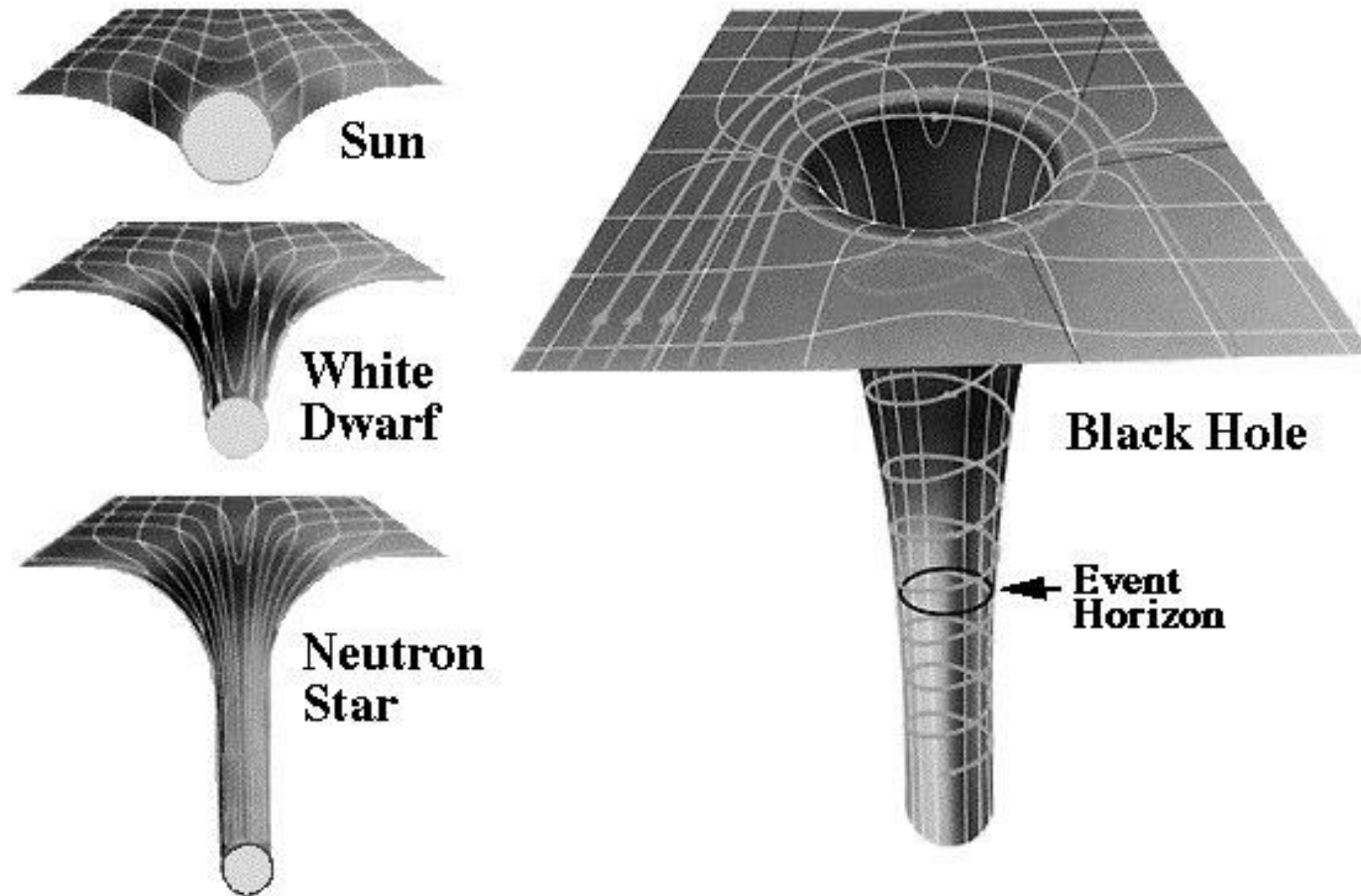
# Gravity

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LoaOHvy5AcA>

# Gravity

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# Gravity

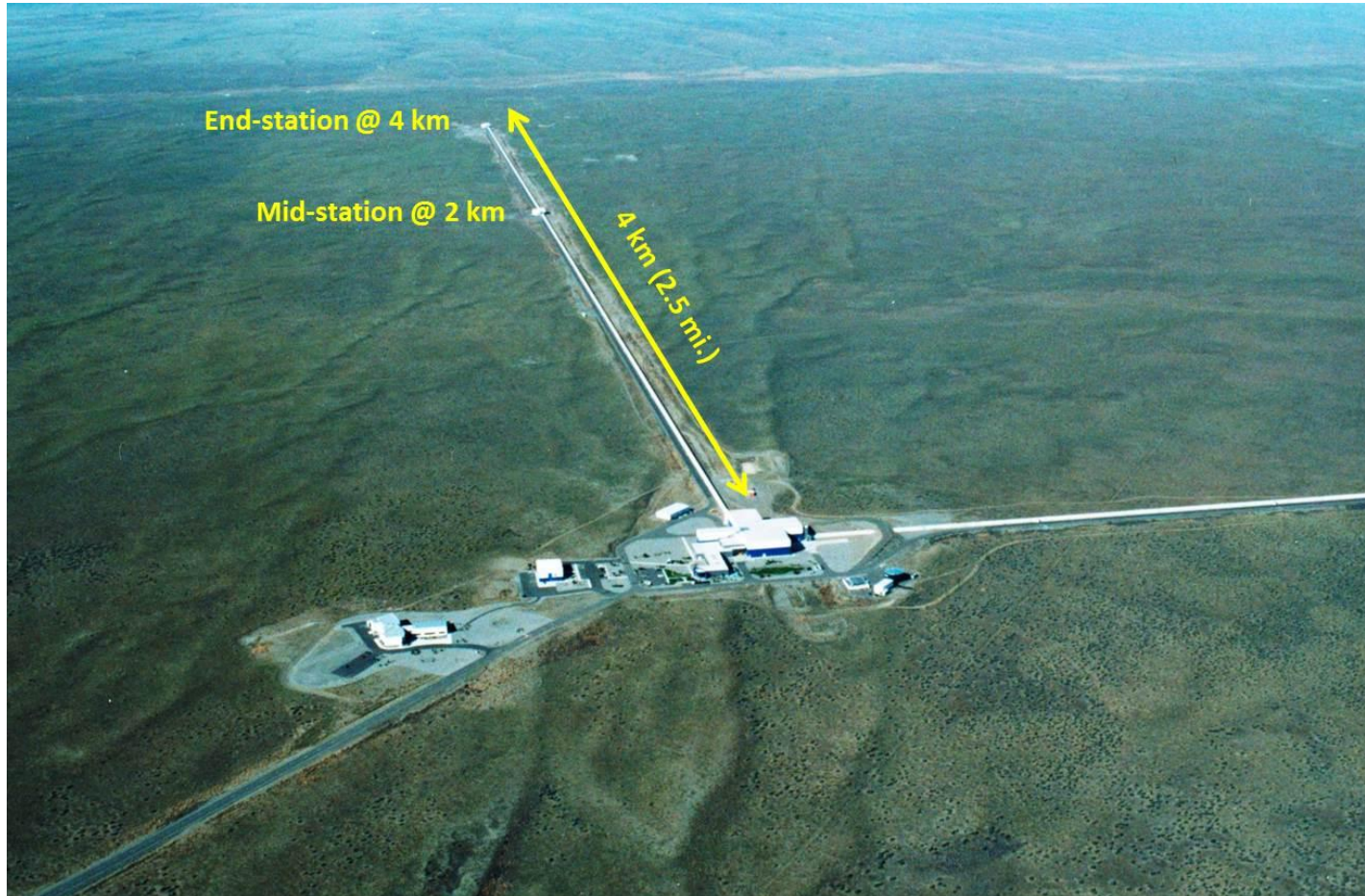
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1. Table 2.1 has this interesting tidbit
  - graviton<sup>†</sup> <sup>†</sup>Not yet detected.
2. How would you design and build an experiment to detect gravitons (warping of space-time)?



# LIGO – Laser Interferometer Gravity Wave Observatory

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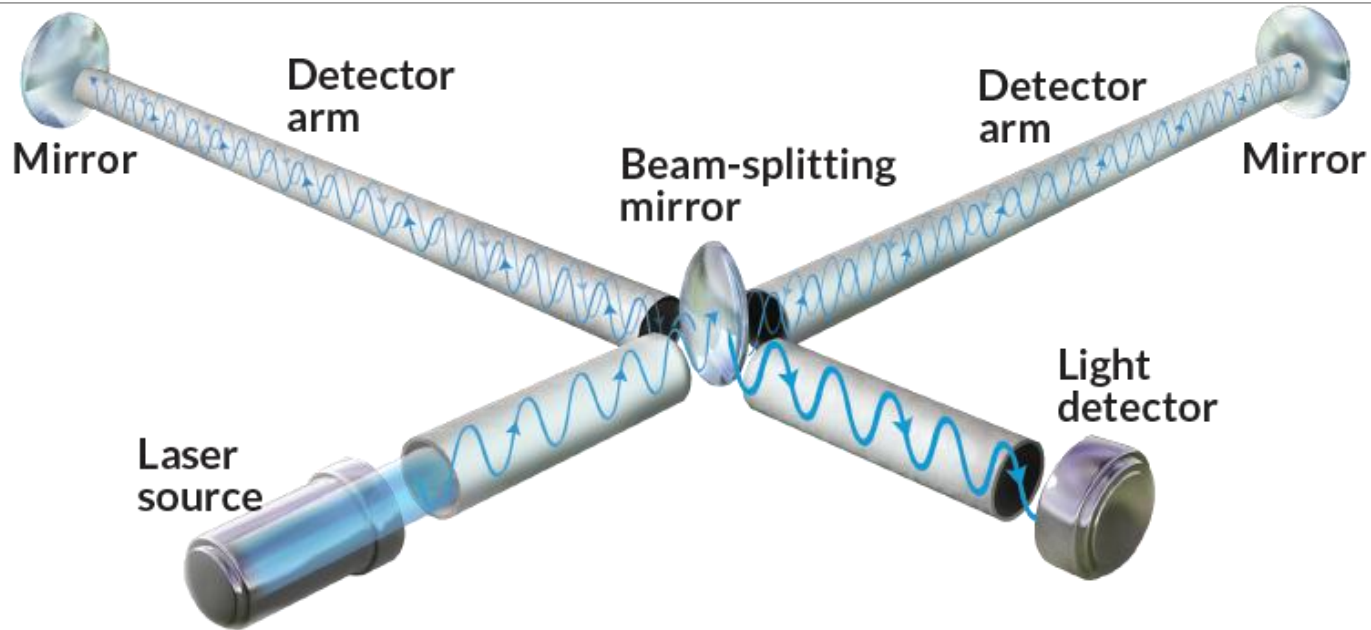
# LIGO – Laser Interferometer Gravity Wave Observatory

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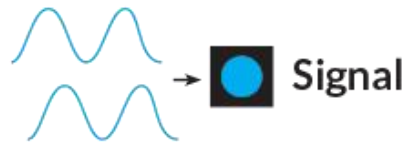
# LIGO – Laser Interferometer Gravity Wave Observatory



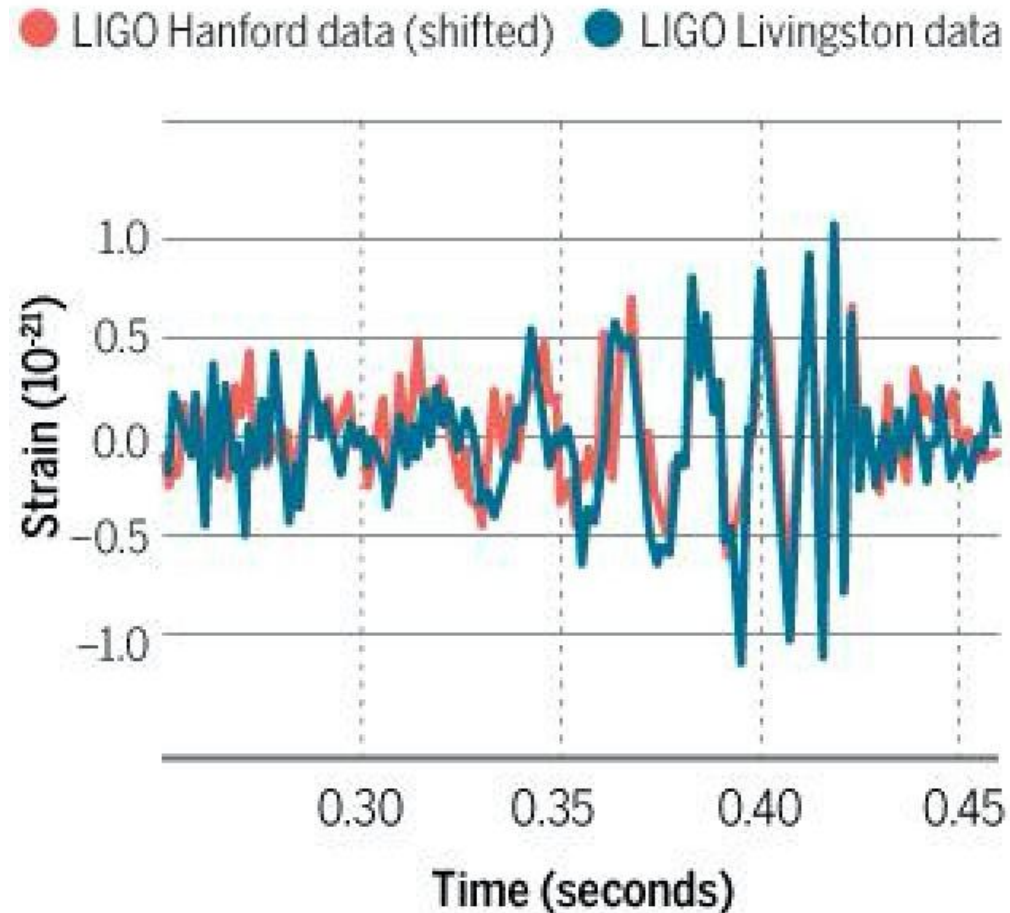
Normal situation



Gravitational wave detection



# LIGO – Laser Interferometer Gravity Wave Observatory

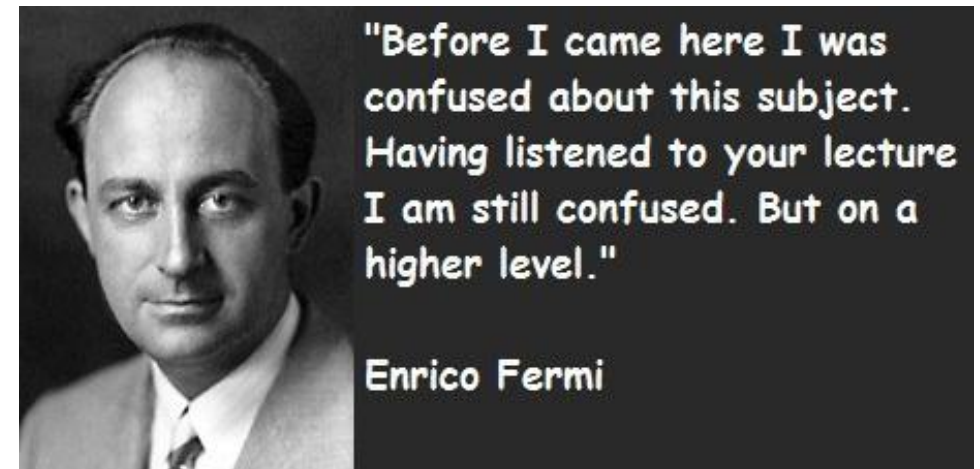


14 September 2015, at  
9:50:45 universal time—  
4:50 a.m. in Louisiana and  
2:50 a.m. in Washington

# Weak Force

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1. Shortest ranged force - fm or less ( $1 \text{ fm} = 10^{-15} \text{ m}$ )
2. Weaker than strong and electromagnetic force but stronger than gravity
3. Cause of  $\beta$  radioactive decay
4. Lepton interactions
  - Electrons, muons, and neutrinos
5. Proposed by Enrico Fermi -1930's
  - Still being studied



# Electricity and Magnetism

1. Long ranged force
2. Second strongest force
3. Holds atoms and molecules together
4. Explained by James Clerk Maxwell -1830's
  - Recognized that electricity and magnetism are manifestations of the same force
5. Described by Coulomb's Law

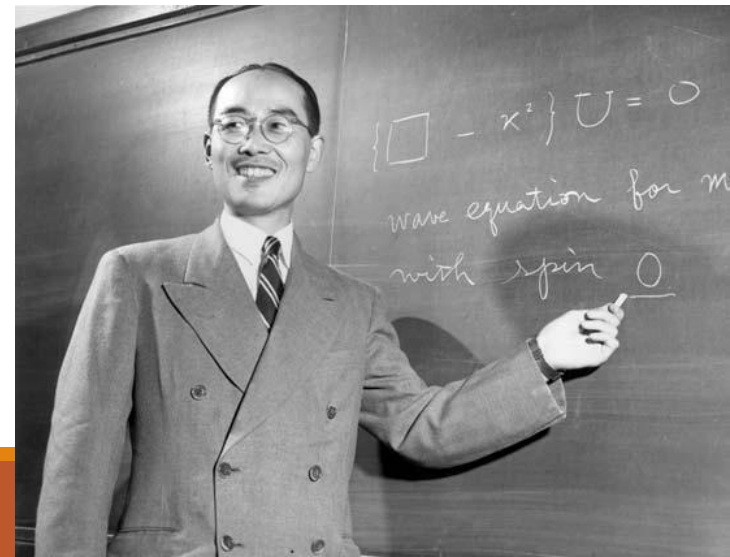
$$F_e = \frac{-k_e \times z_1 \times z_2}{r^2}$$



# Strong Force

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1. Very short ranged force -1 fm  $\sim 10^{-15}$  m
2. Strongest force in nature  $\sim 10^{38}$  x stronger than gravity
3. Holds nuclei together
4. Proposed by Yukawa – 1930's
  - Still being studied
5. Has the shortest interaction time  $\sim 10^{-23}$  s



# The Neutrino

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- Predicted by Pauli – 1927
- Named by Fermi – 1928
- Confirmed by Reines and Cowan – 1956
- We will frequently use the electron neutrino both the matter and antimatter version
  - $\beta^-$  decay emits  $\bar{\nu}$
  - $\beta^+$  decay emits  $\nu$
- All neutrinos have spin, no charge
- Neutrinos oscillate between each flavor  $\nu_e \rightleftharpoons \nu_\mu \rightleftharpoons \nu_\tau$
- Neutrino flux at Earth's surface is  $6.5 \times 10^{10} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2}$
- It does not appear that the neutrino rest mass is sufficient to close the Universe

# HOW DO THESE FORCES INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER?

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## 1. Glashow, Weinberg, and Salam

electroweak interactions -1960's

## 2. Murray Gell-Mann

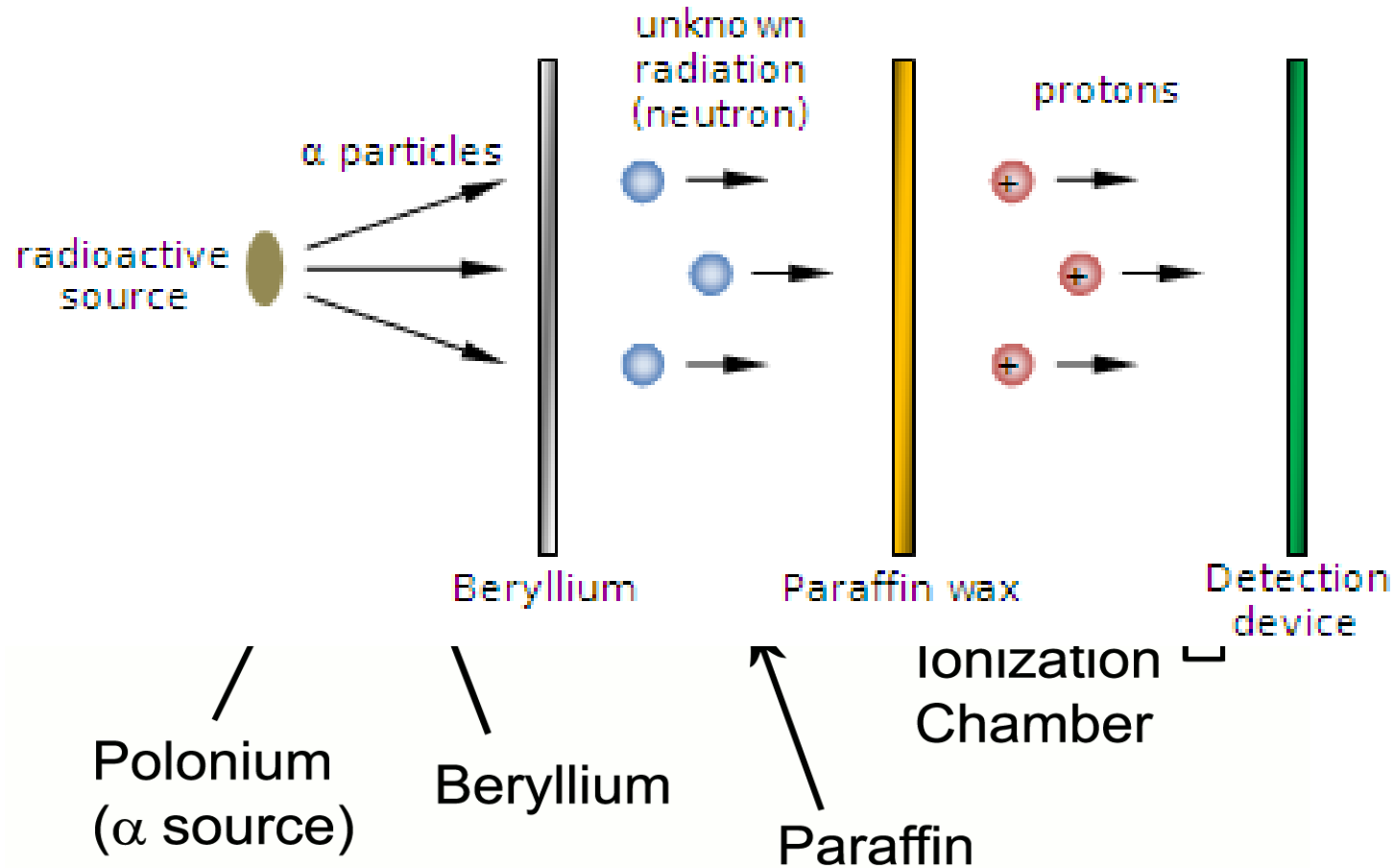
description of strong force -QCD -1970's

## 3. Today we are looking for a Grand Unified Theory (GUTs)





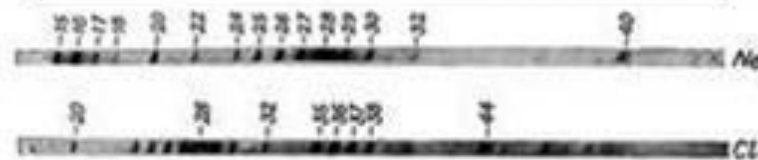
# History of Nuclear Chemistry and Physics



# Summary of Electron, Proton, and Neutron Properties

Particle	Charge/mass (C/g)	Charge (C)	Mass (kg)	Mass (amu)	Mass (MeV)
Electron	$-1.759 \times 10^8$	$-1.602 \times 10^{-19}$	$9.109 \times 10^{-31}$	0.00055	0.511
Proton	$+9.58 \times 10^4$	$+1.602 \times 10^{-19}$	$1.673 \times 10^{-27}$	1.00728	938.272
Neutron	0.00	0.00	$1.675 \times 10^{-27}$	1.00867	939.566
1 amu = 931.5 MeV					

## Aston's 3rd Mass Spectrograph



Mass spectrum of neon and chlorine isotopes

