# ADHIKAANSH ACADEMY (IITJEE NEET IX X XI XII)

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## PHYSICS NOTES (CLASS 12<sup>TH</sup>)



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#### CBSE Class-12 Physics Quick Revision Notes Chapter-13: Nuclei

#### • 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.

#### • No. of Protons, Electrons, nucleons and Neutrons in an Atom:

- a) Number of protons in an atom = Z
- b) Number of electrons in an atom = Z
- c) Number of nucleons in an atom = A
- d) Number of neutrons in an atom = N = A Z.

#### • 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,  $_{z}X^{A}$ 

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

- Isotopes:
  - a) The atoms of an element which have the same atomic number but different mass number are called isotopes.
  - b) Isotopes have similar chemical properties but different physical properties.
- 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.

• 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.

- Atomic Mass Unit:
  - a) It is  $\frac{1}{12}$  th of the actual mass of a carbon atom of isotope  ${}_{6}C^{12}$ . It is denoted by amu

or just by u.

- b) 1 amu = 1.660565 X 10-27 kg
- c) The energy equivalence of 1 amu is 1 amu = 931 MeV
- Discovery of Neutrons:

- a) Neutrons were discovered by Chadwick in 1932.
- b) When beryllium nuclei are bombarded by alpha-particles, highly penetrating radiations are emitted, which consists of neutral particles, each having mass nearly that of a proton. These particles were called neutrons.

 ${}^{4}_{2}He + {}^{9}_{4}Be \rightarrow {}^{1}_{0}n + {}^{12}_{1}C$ 

c) A free neutron decays spontaneously, with a half- life of about 900 s, into a proton, electron and an antineutrino.

 ${}^{1}_{0}n \rightarrow {}^{1}_{1}H + {}^{0}_{-1}e + v$ 

#### • Size of the Nucleus:

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

a. 
$$R = R_0 A^{1/2}$$
  
Where  $R_0 = 1.2 \ge 10^{-15} m$ 

• Density of the Nucleus:

Density of nucleus is constant; independent of A, for all nuclei and density of nuclear matter is approximately 2.3 x  $10^{17}kg$  m<sup>-3</sup> which is very large as compared to ordinary matter, say water which is  $10^3$  kg m<sup>-3</sup>.

#### • Mass-Energy equivalence:

Einstein proved that it is necessary to treat mass as another form of energy. He gave the mass-energy equivalence relation as,

$$E = mc^2$$

Where m is the mass and c is the velocity of light in vacuum.

#### • Mass Defect:

The difference between the rest mass of a nucleus and the sum of the rest masses of its constituent nucleons is called its mass defect. It is given by,

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

#### • Binding Energy:

- a) It may be defined as the energy required to break a nucleus into its constituent protons and neutrons and to separate them to such a large distance that they may not interact with each other.
- b) It may also be defined as the surplus energy which the nucleus gives up by virtue of their attractions which they become bound together to form a nucleus.
- c) The binding energy of a nucleus  $_{Z}X^{A}$  is,

$$B.E. = [Zm_p + (A-Z)m_n - m]c^2$$

#### • Binding Energy per Nucleon:

It is average energy required to extract one nucleon from the nucleus. It is obtained by dividing the binding energy of a nucleus by its mass number.

$$\bar{B} = \frac{B.E}{A} = \frac{[Zm_p + (A-Z)m_n - m]c^2}{A}$$

#### • Nuclear Forces:

- a) These are the strong in attractive forces which hold protons and neutrons together in a tiny nucleus.
- b) These are short range forces which operate over very short distance of about 2 3 fm of separation between any two nucleons.
- c) The nuclear force does not depend on the charge of the nucleon.

#### • Nuclear Density:

The density of a nucleus is independent of the size of the nucleus and is given by,

$$\rho_{\nu} = \frac{\text{Nuclear mass}}{\text{Nuclear volume}}$$
$$= \frac{m_{\nu}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R^2} = 2.9 \text{ x } 10^{17} \text{ kg m}^{-3}$$

- Radioactivity:
  - a) It is the phenomenon of spontaneous disintegration of the nucleus of an atom with the emission of one or more radiations like  $\alpha$  -particles,  $\beta$  -particles or  $\gamma$ -rays.
  - b) The substances which spontaneously emit penetrating radiation are called radioactive substances.

#### • Radioactivity Displacement Law:

It states that,

- a) When a radioactive nucleus emits an  $\alpha$  -particle, atomic number decreases by 2 and mass number decreases by 4.
- b) When a radioactive nucleus emits  $\beta$ -particle, its atomic number increases by 1 but mass number remains same.
- c) The emission of a  $\gamma$ -particle does not change the mass number or the atomic number of the radioactive nucleus. The  $\gamma$ -particle emission by a radioactive nucleus lowers its energy state.

#### • Alpha Decay:

It is the process of emission of an  $\alpha$  -particle from a radioactive nucleus. It may be represented as,

$${}^{A}_{Z}X \rightarrow {}^{A-4}_{Z-2}Y + {}^{4}_{2}He + Q$$

• Beta Decay:

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

$${}^{A}_{Z}X \rightarrow {}^{A}_{Z+1}Y + {}^{0}_{-1}e + v$$

• Gamma Decay:

It is the process of emission of a  $\gamma$ -ray photon during the radioactive disintegration of a nucleus. It can be represented as,

$${}^{A}_{Z}X \longrightarrow {}^{A}_{Z}X + \gamma$$
  
(Excited State) (Ground State)

#### • Radioactive Decay Law:

It states that the number of nuclei disintegrated of undecayed radioactive nuclei present at that instant. It may be written as,

$$N(t) = N(0)e^{-\lambda t}$$

Where N(0) is the number of nuclei at t = 0 and  $\lambda$  is disintegration constant.

#### • 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.

#### • 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.

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

#### • 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,

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

#### • Rate of Decay or Activity of a Radioactive Sample:

It is defined as the number of radioactive disintegrations taking place per second in a given sample. It is expressed as,

$$R(t) = \left[\frac{dN}{dt}\right] = \lambda N(t) = \lambda N(0)e^{-\lambda}$$

• Curie:

- a) It is the SI unit of decay.
- b) One curie is the decay rate of 3.7 X 10<sup>10</sup> disintegrations per second.
- Rutherford:

One Rutherford is the decay rate of 10<sup>6</sup> disintegrations per second.

• Natural Radioactivity:

It is the phenomenon of the spontaneous emission of- $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  radiations from the nuclei of naturally occurring isotopes.

- Artificial or Induced Radioactivity: It is the phenomenon of inducing radioactivity in certain stable nuclei by bombarding them by suitable high energy sub atomic particles.
- Nuclear Reaction:

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

• Nuclear Fission:

It is the process in which a heavy nucleus when excited gets split into two smaller nuclei of nearly comparable masses. For example,

 ${}^{235}_{92}U + {}^{1}_{0}n \rightarrow {}^{141}_{56}Ba + {}^{92}_{36}Kr + 3{}^{1}_{0}n + Q$ 

• Nuclear Reactor:

It is a device in which a nuclear chain reaction is initiated, maintained and controlled.

• Nuclear Fusion:

It is the process of fusion of two smaller nuclei into a heavier nucleus with the liberation of large amount of energy.

#### • Critical size and Critical Mass:

- a) 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.
- b) The chain reaction in this case remains steady or sustained.
- Moderator:
  - a) Any substance which is used to slow down fast moving neutrons to thermal energies is called a moderator.
  - b) The commonly used moderators are water, heavy water (D<sub>2</sub>O) and graphite.

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