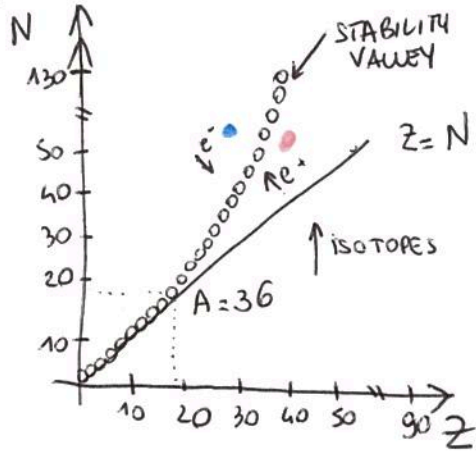


Obviously if the correction is taken into account the radius can be extrapolated. Other methods to measure the nuclear radius (obviously) exist and involves the measurement of radius using  $\alpha$  decay or the measurement of  $\pi$ -mesic X rays, but this methods are not described here.

## NUCLEAR BINDING ENERGY

PAGE 11 NOT INCLUDED

If we look at the stable nuclei table what we can observe is



- Too many protons
  - Too many neutrons
  - $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$
  - $p \rightarrow n + e^+ + \nu_e$
- }  $\beta$  decays

MAX ~~PROTONS~~  $N \approx 130$   
 $Z \approx 80$

For nuclei which are not stable (i.e. lifetime  $<$  of universe lifetime)

The so called lifetime gives us the "degree of instability". Long life time nuclei is more stable or better less unstable than nuclei with shorter lifetime.

If we have a nucleus,  ${}^A_Z X_N$ , its total ~~mass~~ energy is given by:

$$m({}^A_Z X_N) c^2 = Z \cdot m_p c^2 + N m_n c^2 - \text{Binding energy (B.E.)}$$

B.E. is the energy needed to "hold together" the nucleus. In atomic physics

the easiest example is Hydrogen atom. In H, the atomic BE = 13.6 eV

let's see how large is <sup>atomic</sup> B.E. in H.



~~$$m({}^1_1 H_1) c^2 = Z m_p c^2 - BE^{\text{atomic}} + Z m_e c^2 \quad Z=1 \quad N=1 \quad \text{NOT needed}$$~~

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} BE^{\text{atomic}} = 13.6 \text{ eV} \\ m_n^{\text{atomic}} = 938 \text{ MeV} + 0.511 \text{ MeV} \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{BE}{m} \approx \frac{13.6 \text{ eV}}{10^9 \text{ eV}} = \frac{10}{10^9} \approx 10^{-8}$$

it is rather "small"

In  ${}^4\text{He}$ , on the other hand, the NUCLEAR binding energy  $BE \approx 28 \text{ MeV}$

$$BE = 20 \text{ MeV}$$

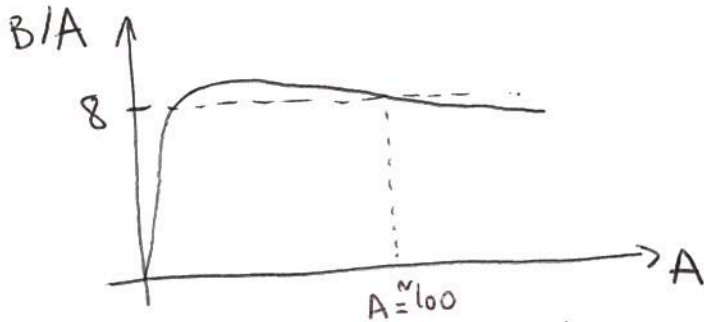
$$m({}^4\text{He}) \approx 4 \cdot 1 \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow \frac{BE}{m} = \frac{20 \text{ MeV}}{4 \cdot 10^3 \text{ MeV}} \approx 10^{-2}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Nuclear binding energy is 6 orders of magnitude larger than atomic binding energy.

So, how could be "imagined" the B.E.?

In a nucleus there are  $\frac{A(A-1)}{2}$  pairs of  $N-N$  (pp, np or nn). If we imagine that each pair contributes to BE, then it should scale like  $A^2$  ( $BE \propto A^2$ ) and so that  $\frac{BE}{A} \propto A$ .

What has been measured is (How? By precision spectroscopy measurement)



$$\Rightarrow B/A \neq A!$$

$\Rightarrow$  So all pairs do not contribute to BE.

The behaviour of  $BE(A)$  can be "inferred" taking into account several "ingredients" (5 in total: 3 related to "classical physics" and 2 related to Quantum mechanics)

$$BE = \underbrace{Q_v A}_{\text{VOLUME TERM}} - \underbrace{a_s A^{2/3}}_{\text{SURFACE TERM}} - \underbrace{Q_c \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{1/3}}}_{\text{COULOMB TERM}} + \text{2 Q.M. terms}$$

VOLUME TERM: this term only overestimates the BE; in fact at the surface there are less nucleons that can interact  $\Rightarrow$  We have to subtract a contribution

SURFACE TERM: This is  $\propto A^{2/3}$  because  $R = R_0 A^{1/3}$ . Surface goes with  $R^2 \Rightarrow \propto A^{2/3}$ . BUT inside nuclei protons can repel each other via Coulomb...

COULOMB TERM:  $\propto$  number of protons. If we have  $Z$  protons  $\frac{Z(Z-1)}{2}$  pairs can be formed + Coulomb is  $\propto \frac{1}{r} \Rightarrow \propto \frac{1}{A^{1/3}}$



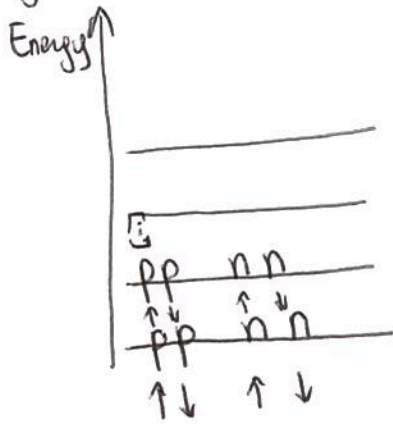
# QUANTUM MECHANICS TERMS:

## ① ASYMMETRY

For light nuclei, stability is reached when  $Z = \frac{A}{2}$ . Heavier nuclei do not show this feature since, when the coulomb term decreases then the symmetry tends to be less "needed".

Why this happens? LIGHT NUCLEI: strong force 'prefers'  $Z=N \rightarrow$  smaller nuclei  $\rightarrow$  strong  $>$  coulomb  
HEAVY NUCLEI: larger  $\rightarrow$  strong "less effective".

Let's introduce the idea of "shell model" which will be described with more details in the following lessons. Similarly to "atomic physics" we can assume that protons in the nuclei lies on  $\neq$  energy levels regulated by Pauli <sup>exclusion</sup> principle. protons are fermions  $S = \pm \frac{1}{2}$

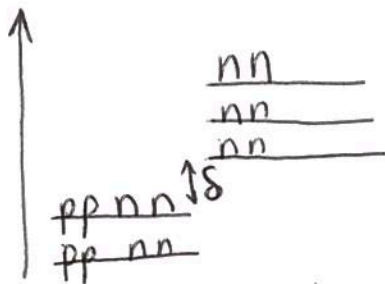


On each energy level we can have 2p and 2n, not more

$$A = Z + N \rightarrow Z = N \Rightarrow N = Z = \frac{A}{2}$$

Nuclei with  $N = Z = \frac{A}{2}$  will occupy all the

energy levels in parallel for p and n. What happens for heavier nuclei where  $N \neq Z$  ( $N > Z$ ) \*



Let's Assume that the Energy gap is the same for each "jump" and let's call it  $\delta$ . The BE. will be maximum if  $Z = N = \frac{A}{2}$

If  $Z \neq N$   $\nu$  = difference between <sup>the number of</sup> p and n  $\Rightarrow$  the BE will decrease. How much?

①  $N = \frac{A}{2} + \nu$   
 $Z = \frac{A}{2} - \nu$

②  $N = \frac{A}{2} + \nu$   
 $Z = \frac{A}{2}$

$\nu = \frac{A}{2} - Z$

$N = \frac{A}{2} + \nu$   
 $Z = \frac{A}{2}$

$\nu = 3$   
 $A = 10$   
 $N = 8$   
 $Z = 2$

$(\frac{A}{2} - \nu) p$   
 $(\frac{A}{2} + \nu) n$   
 $N - Z = \frac{\nu}{2}$

If we have  $N = Z$  then the Energy can be written as:

$E_1 = 4\delta + 4 \cdot 2\delta + 4 \cdot 3\delta + \dots + 4 \cdot \frac{\nu}{2}\delta$  Terms =  $4\delta \frac{\nu(\nu+1)}{2}$   
N° of nucleons in each energy level

$E_2 = 2\delta + 2 \cdot 2\delta + \dots + \nu$  terms =  $2\delta \frac{\nu(\nu+1)}{2}$   
 $\delta'$  is for "extra neutrons"

The "pairing" term is related to the fact that nuclei prefer to be formed into pairs in order to ~~lower~~ the energy (This is related to the angular momentum; in fact if we have 2 p they should have angular momentum  $J$ ,  $J_1$  and  $J_2$  which will have to sum up and ~~goes~~ to  $J=0$ )

It is possible to define (and measure) a Neutron/proton separation energy ( $S_n, S_p$ ).  $S_n, p$  is defined as the energy needed to take a particle out of the nucleus, and so the separation energy becomes equal to the energy with which a particular particle is bound in the nucleus

The B.E. can be expressed as:

$$BE(A, Z) = Z m_p \cdot c^2 + N m_n \cdot c^2 - M'(A, Z) c^2$$

The B.E. with which a cluster  ${}_{Z'}^{A'} X_{N'}$  is bound in the nucleus  ${}_{Z}^{A} X_N$  in general with  $A' \ll A, Z' \ll Z, N' \ll N$  becomes ( $A'' = A - A'; Z'' = Z - Z', N'' = N - N'$ )

$$S_Y = M'({}_{Z'}^{A'} X_{N'}) c^2 + M'({}_{Z''}^{A''} X_{N''}) c^2 - M'({}_{Z}^{A} X_N) c^2$$

USING THE B.E. of X, Y, U nuclei

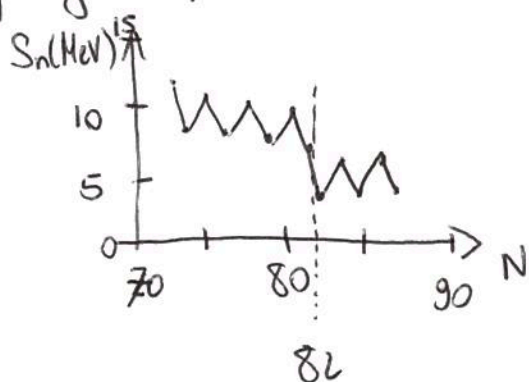
$$S_Y = BE(A, Z) - [BE(A', Z') + B.E.(A'', Z'')]$$

For a proton and neutron this become

$$S_p = BE(A, Z) - BE(A-1, Z-1)$$

$$S_n = BE(A, Z) - BE(A-1, Z)$$

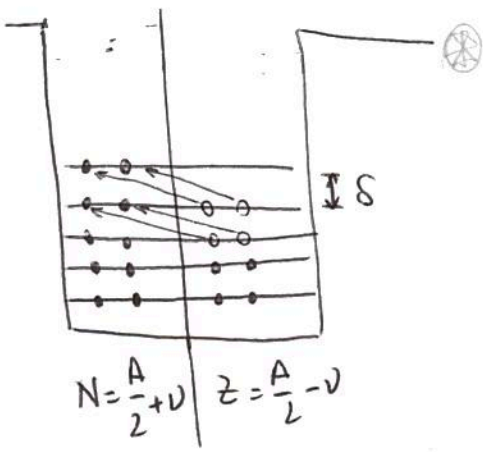
Mapping  $S_p$  and  $S_n$  a saw-tooth figure results:



→ Separation energy (Single neutron)  $S_n$  for even-even and even-odd Ce ( $Z=58$ ). Apart from the ~~Saunders~~ lowering at  $N=82$  a odd-even staggering is ~~not~~ experimentally observed. I.e. e.e. one more "band" than e.o.

An extra  $\delta$  term has to be added to the BE formula





Due to Pauli exclusion principle, if we start from

$N = \left(\frac{A}{2}\right) + v$  and  $Z = \left(\frac{A}{2}\right) - v$  we have to occupy only free "orbitals". If the averaged energy between orbitals is  $\delta$  then replacing  $p$  with  $n$  will have a cost.

The "cost" is  $\Delta E_{\text{BINDING}} = v \left( \delta \cdot \frac{v}{2} \right)$

ASymmetry in #      GAP      only 2 n orbitals

If  $v = (N-Z)$        $\Delta E = \frac{N-Z}{2} \left( \delta \cdot \frac{N-Z}{4} \right) = \frac{1}{8} \delta (N-Z)^2$

The potential depth which describe nuclear well do not change much going from  ${}^1_0\text{O}$  up to  ${}^{208}_{82}\text{Pb}$  ( $\approx 10\%$ ) so the  $\delta$  has to vary  $\propto A$   
 $\delta \propto A^{-1}$

So, the binding energy become

$$BE = a_{\text{clonic}} - \underbrace{a_{\text{asym}} \frac{(N-Z)^2}{A}}_{\text{Related to}}$$

- Pauli Principle
- Discrete energy level



PAIRING ENERGY TERM

$S$  is the pairing energy term and is related to the pairing of  $p$  and  $n$ .

$$S = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{odd-A nuclei} \\ + \frac{a_p}{A^{3/4}} & \text{even-even nuclei} \\ - \frac{a_p}{A^{3/4}} & \text{odd-odd nuclei} \end{cases}$$

EASY EXP.

$0 \rightarrow 0$  have  $BE > 0$   
 $p \ p$   
 $(e.e)$       E.O

$0 \ 0$  have  $BE < 0$  BECAUSE they are both  $n$  or  $p$

E.O  $\Rightarrow$  No contribution

$$\Delta E_{\text{pair}} = \begin{array}{lll} +0 & \text{even-even} & \uparrow \text{increase the B.E.} \\ 0 & \text{even-odd} & \\ -S & \text{odd-odd} & \downarrow \text{decrease the B.E.} \end{array} \quad (11)$$

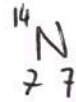
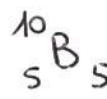
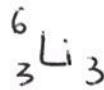
How many nuclei are even-even, even-odd or odd-odd?

(Z = even, odd; N = even, odd)

$$e.e \approx 165$$

$$e.o \approx 105$$

$$o.o = 4$$



(Nitrogen/Azoto)

$$\text{B.E.} = a_v \cdot A - a_s A^{1/3} - a_c \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{1/3}} - a_{\text{asym}} \frac{(N-Z)^2}{A} + S$$

$$S = \begin{cases} +\frac{a_p}{A^{3/4}} \\ 0 \\ -\frac{a_p}{A^{3/4}} \end{cases}$$

If we measure BE,  $a_v$ ,  $a_s$ ,  $a_c$ ,  $a_{\text{asym}}$  and S are FIXED from experim (via precise mass measurements)

$$\begin{aligned} a_v &= 15.8 \text{ MeV} \\ a_s &= 17.3 \text{ MeV} \\ a_c &= 0.714 \text{ MeV} \\ a_{\text{asym}} &= 23.3 \text{ MeV} \\ S &= 33.5 \text{ MeV} \end{aligned}$$

EXAMPLE:

Determine the B.E. of  ${}^4_2\text{He}_2$  starting from the following data:

$$m({}^1_1\text{H}) = 1.007825 \mu$$

$$m_n = 1.008665 \mu$$

$$m({}^4_2\text{He}) = 4.00260 \mu$$

$$\mu = \text{atomic mass} \quad 1\mu = \frac{m({}^{12}_6\text{C})}{12}$$

$$1\mu = 1.6605402 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ Kg}$$

$$1\mu (c^2) = \text{kg} \cdot \frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{s}^2} = \text{J/or eV} = 931.478 \text{ MeV}$$

$$1\mu = 931.478 \text{ MeV}/c^2$$

$$\text{B.E.} = [Z \cdot m({}^1_1\text{H}) + N \cdot m_n] c^2 - m({}^4_2\text{He}_2) c^2$$

$$= 2 \cdot 1.007825 \cdot \mu \cdot c^2 + 2 \cdot 1.008665 \mu \cdot c^2 - 4.00260 \mu c^2$$

$$= \mu \cdot c^2 (0.03038) = 931.478 \text{ MeV} \cdot 0.03038 = 28.3 \text{ MeV}$$

NUCLEAR STABILITY: Why are there only "few" stable nuclei? Because  $E_{MIN}$  is down  $\uparrow$  raised!  
 From the Semi-empirical mass formula it is possible to obtain a "mass equation" that will be useful to understand nuclear stability.  
 For doing so we start from mass equation:

$$m({}_Z^A X_N) c^2 = [Z \cdot m({}_1^1 H) + N \cdot m_n] c^2 - B.E. = (N-Z)^2$$

$$= [Z \cdot m({}_1^1 H) + N m_n] c^2 - a_v \cdot A + a_s A^{2/3} + a_c \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{1/3}} + a_{sym} \frac{(A-2Z)^2}{A} - \delta$$

For a given  $[A]$  which is the lowest mass (i.e. largest B.E)?  
 We have to differentiate vs  $Z$  and origin 0 to the derivative:

$$\frac{d(mc^2)}{dZ} = 0$$

**A IS FIXED** i.e. constant

$$\frac{d(mc^2)}{dZ} = m({}_1^1 H) c^2 - m_n c^2 + \frac{a_c}{A^{1/3}} (2Z-1) + \frac{a_{sym}}{A} 2(A-2Z)(-2) = 0$$

$$m({}_1^1 H) c^2 - m_n c^2 + \frac{2a_c Z}{A^{1/3}} - \frac{a_c}{A^{1/3}} - a_{sym} \cdot 4 + \frac{8a_{sym} Z}{A} = 0$$

$$Z \left[ \frac{2a_c}{A^{1/3}} + \frac{8a_{sym}}{A} \right] = m_n c^2 - m({}_1^1 H) c^2 + \frac{a_c}{A^{1/3}} + 4a_{sym}$$

$$Z = \frac{[m_n - m({}_1^1 H)] c^2 + \frac{a_c}{A^{1/3}} + 4a_{sym}}{\frac{2a_c}{A^{1/3}} + \frac{8a_{sym}}{A}}$$

$0.72 < 0.72 \text{ MeV}$

$$\frac{2a_c}{A^{1/3}} + \frac{8a_{sym}}{A} \rightarrow \frac{823 \text{ MeV}}{100} \text{ If } A=100 \rightarrow 0.23 \text{ MeV}$$

Knowing that:

- $a_v = 15.5 \text{ MeV}$
- $a_s = 16.8 \text{ MeV}$
- $a_c = 0.72 \text{ MeV}$
- $a_{sym} = 23 \text{ MeV}$
- $a_p = 34 \text{ MeV}$

$$Z \approx \frac{4a_{sym}}{\frac{2a_c}{A^{1/3}} + \frac{8a_{sym}}{A}} = \frac{4 \cdot A \cdot a_{sym}}{2a_c A^{2/3} + 8a_{sym}} = \frac{4A}{\frac{2a_c A^{2/3}}{a_{sym}} + 8}$$



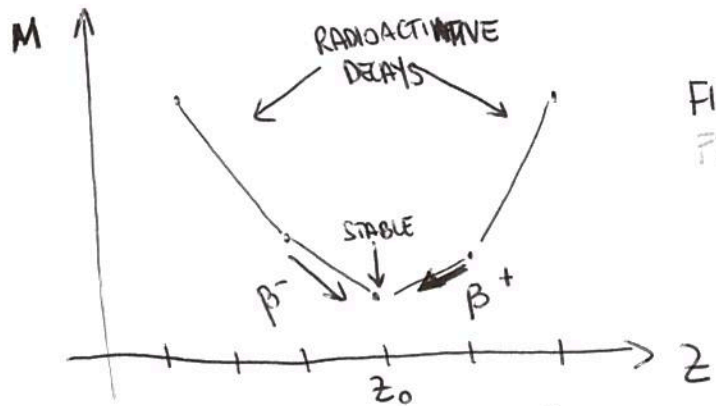
$$z_0 = \frac{A}{2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{a_c}{a_{sym}} A^{2/3}} \right) = \frac{A}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{4} \frac{0.72}{4 \cdot 23} A^{2/3}} \right] = \frac{A}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{1 + 0.0078 A^{2/3}} \right]$$

Now since the mass can be expressed as  $m(A, Z) c^2 = [Z(m(^1_1H)) + N m_n] c^2 - a_v A + a_s A^{2/3} + a_c \frac{Z(Z-1)}{A^{1/3}} + a_{sym} \frac{(A-2Z)^2}{A} + \delta$

$m(A, Z) = a + bZ + cZ^2$

$\frac{dM}{dZ} = 0 \quad b + 2cZ = 0$

$z_0 = -\frac{b}{2c} = \frac{A/2}{1 + 0.0078 A^{2/3}}$



FIXED A: ISOBAR  
FIXED Z: ISOTOPES

This is valid for even-odd nuclei.

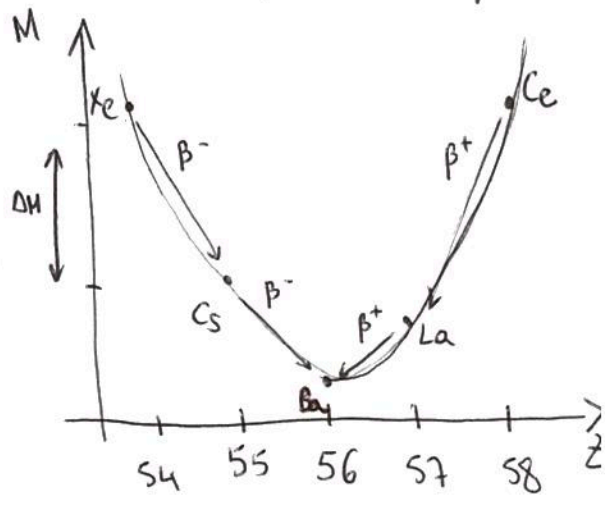
$p \rightarrow n + e^+ + \nu_e$  ( $\beta^+$ )  $m_n > m_p \rightarrow$  Impossible in "free space" but allowed in the nucleus since we have to look at the total mass

$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$  ( $\beta^-$ )

But also,  $p + e^- \rightarrow n + \bar{\nu}_e$  process (Electron capture) is possible

Example:  $A = 137$

	<sup>137</sup> Xe	<sup>137</sup> Cs	<sup>137</sup> Ba	<sup>137</sup> La	<sup>137</sup> Ce
Z	54	55	56	57	58
				dactinium (57→71)	Cerio
				(Kaufmann series)	
Lifetime	3,82m	30y	STABLE	60ky	9,8h
			less unstable		
			More unstable		



Lifetime is inversely proportional to  $\Delta M$ .

1) Electron capture  $n + e^- \rightarrow p + \bar{\nu}_e$  is more likely to happen in  $[1S]$  because s-electrons are inside the nucleus for most part of the time!