

• Beta emission	${}^A_Z X \rightarrow {}^A_{Z+1} Y + {}^0_{-1} e^-$	+1	unchanged
• Positron emission	${}^A_Z X \rightarrow {}^A_{Z-1} Y + {}^0_{+1} e^+$	-1	unchanged
• Electron capture	${}^A_Z X + {}^0_{-1} e^- \rightarrow {}^A_{Z-1} Y$	-1	unchanged

April 26, 2019 : Nuclear Chemistry

- Any atom with more than one proton has repulsions between the protons in the nucleus
- Strong nuclear force helps keep the nucleus together
- Neutrons play a key role stabilizing the nucleus - ratio of neutrons to protons is an important factor

Nuclear Stability

- valence electrons (8 is ideal), not
- small elements (protons ≤ 20): stable nuclei have a neutron/proton ratio of 1:1
- Larger elements require more neutrons to stabilize nucleus
- All nuclides with more than 83 protons are unstable
- Nuclei above belt of stability have too many neutrons $\rightarrow$ decay by emitting beta particles
- Nuclei below the belt have too many protons $\rightarrow$ become more stable by positron emission or electron capture

Magic Numbers

- even # proton/neutron = more stable
- 2, 8, 20, 28, 50, or 82 protons
- 2, 8, 20, 28, 50, 82 or 126 neutrons $\rightarrow$ more stable nuclides

Radioactive Decay

- not hard and fast rule, but generally
- Geiger counter: measures amount of radioactive decay
- Radiation ionizes gas molecules inside the instrument, which then measures the resulting electric current
- Inside Geiger: Gas

Kinetics of Radioactive Decay: 1st order process

$$\ln \frac{N_t}{N_0} = -kt \quad \text{half life of radioisotope: } \frac{0.693}{k} = t_{1/2}$$

Radiometric Dating: + Medical Applications: Diagnosis

- Carbon dating: uses a nuclear clock to determine age
- Radioisotopes can be administered to a patient as diagnostic "tracers" because of where they accumulate in the body
- PET scan: positron emission tomography - imaging test
- Uses compounds labeled with a positron emitter
- Blood flow, oxygen use, and glucose metabolism can be measured

