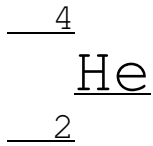


Radioactive Decay Processes

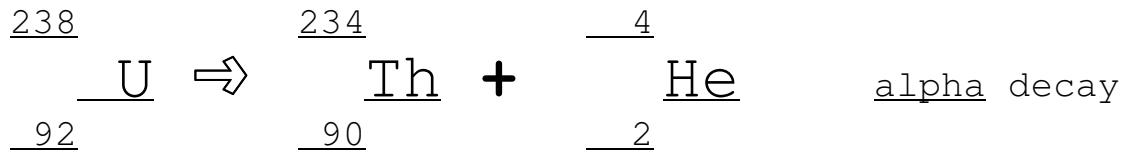
Radioactivity is a natural aspect of matter, present in low levels almost everywhere. It is dangerous in high levels. Radiation is form of high energy particle that cause ionization of molecules it comes in contact with (ionizing radiation).

Alpha Decay: produces a helium nucleus

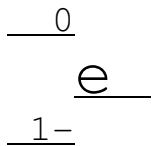


The nucleus is high energy and travels at about 1% the speed of light.

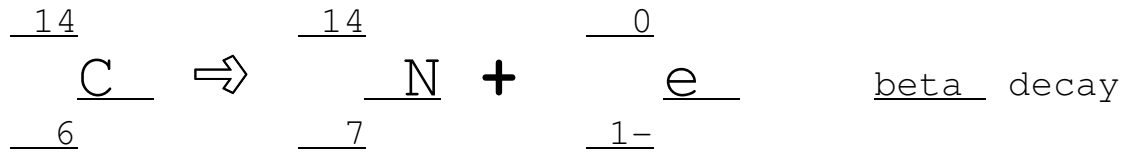
Has a penetrating ability of about one piece of paper



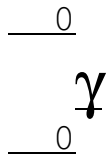
Beta Particle Decay: high energy electon, travel at about 10% the speed of light



Has a penetrating ability of about 1 cm of water.



Gamma Decay: high energy and dangerous form of light, travels at the speed of light. Frequently accompanies another radioactive process.



Penetrating ability is about 1 cm of lead or 1 foot of good concrete.

