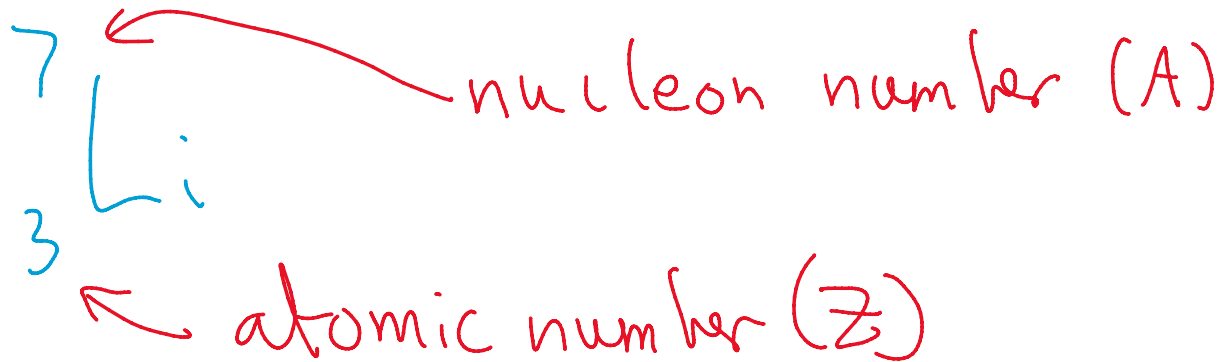
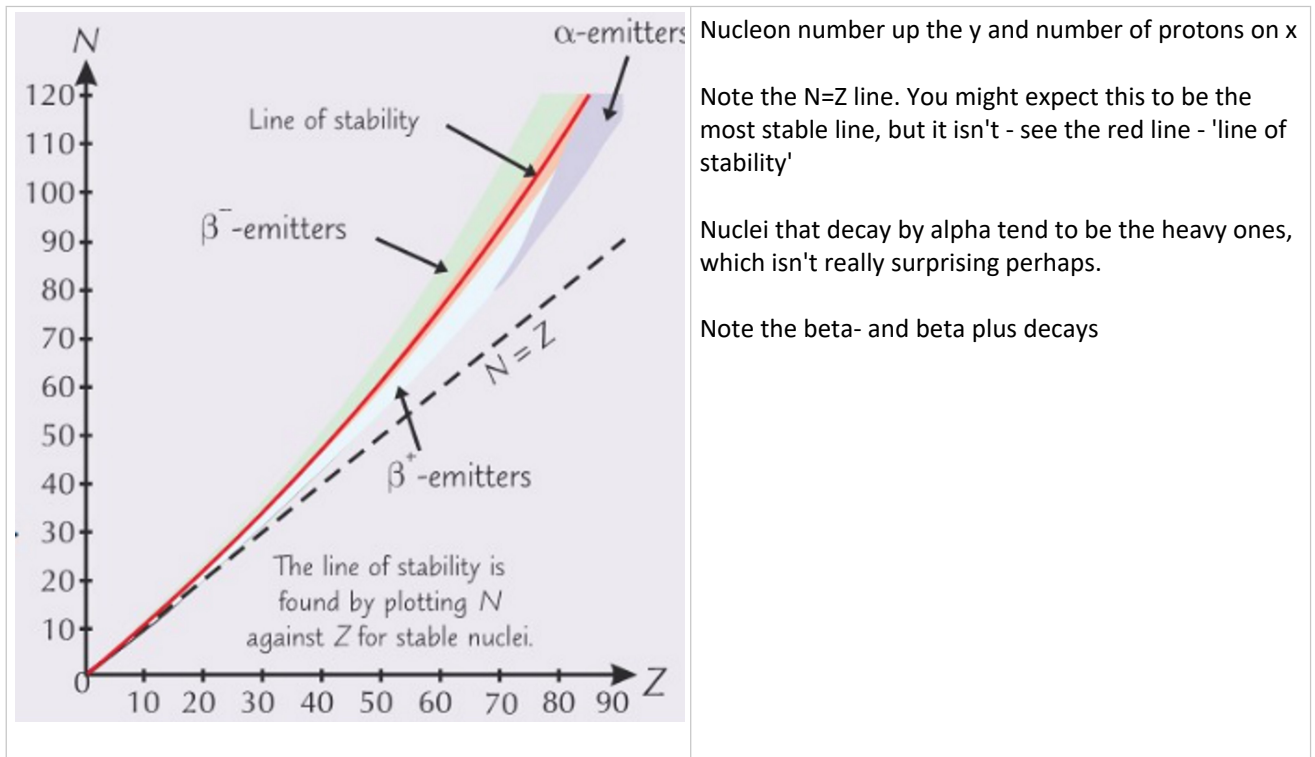


Radioactivity 004 - Nuclear Decay

25 February 2020 10:13



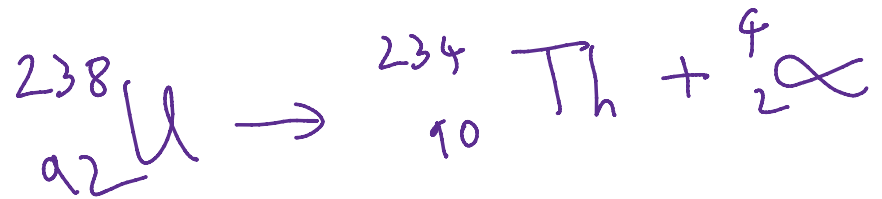
Remember the strong force - nuclei are held together by this strong, short ranged force. It's quite a balancing act, and plays into nuclear instability. Some nuclei are more stable than others. As in most of physics, there is a graph.



Decay Formula

Alpha	Heavy nuclei needing to throw off mass to become more stable
Beta -	Often just called beta decay, we have too many neutrons (called 'neutron rich'), so one turns into a proton emitting an electron and an anti-electron-neutrino
Gamma	After and α or β decay the resultant nucleus has too much energy so it releases a γ ray photon. Often therefore gamma decay occurs along with one of the others

Alpha:



Beta - :

