

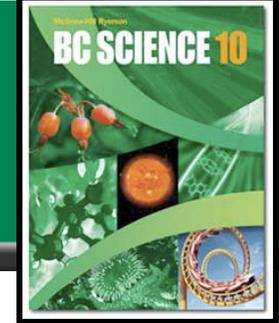
These notes are posted on my site for the following reasons:

- for students to copy in their own hand-writing
 - ◆ in order to complete their class notes
 - ◆ if student did not have enough time in class
 - ◆ if student was away and missed this section
- for assistants and tutors to follow progress of the concepts taught

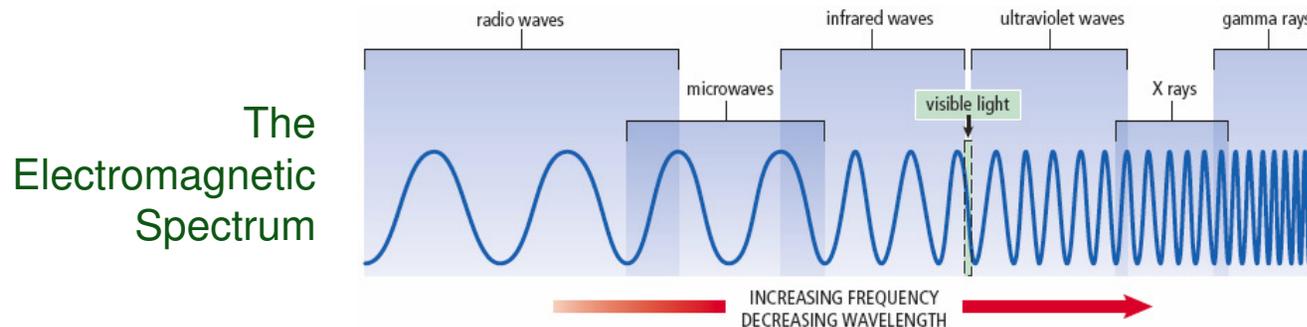
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7.1 Atomic Theory and Radioactive Decay



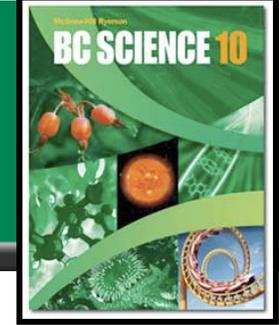
- **Natural background radiation exists all around us.**
 - ◆ This radiation consists of high energy particles or waves being emitted from a variety of materials.
- **Radioactivity is the release of high energy particles or waves.**
 - ◆ Being exposed to radioactive materials can be beneficial or harmful.
 - X-rays, radiation therapy and electricity generation are beneficial.
 - High energy particles and waves can do damage to DNA in our cells.
 - ◆ When atoms lose high energy particles and waves, ions or even new atoms can be formed.
 - ◆ High energy waves and particles are called radiation when they leave the atom.



See pages 286 - 287

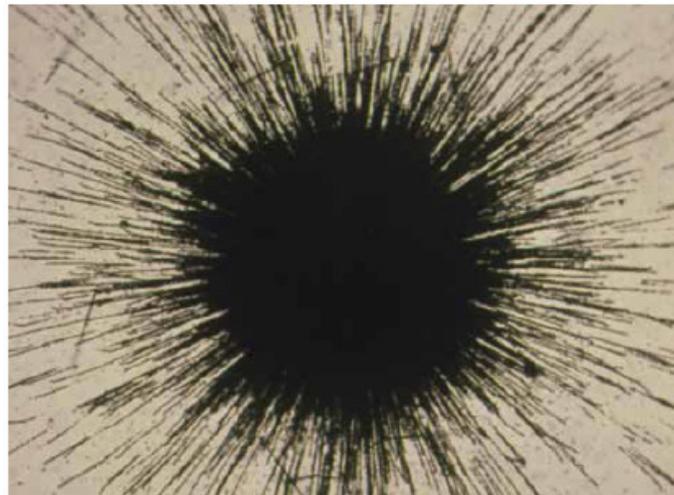
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Searching for Invisible Rays



- **Radiation is everywhere, but can be difficult to detect.**
 - ◆ **Roentgen named X-rays with an “X” 100 years ago because they were previously unknown.**
 - ◆ **Becquerel realized uranium emitted seemingly invisible energy as well.**
 - ◆ **Marie Curie and her husband Pierre named this energy radioactivity.**
 - **Early discoveries of radiation relied on photographic equipment**
 - ◆ **Later, more sophisticated devices such as the Geiger-Müller counter were developed to more precisely measure radioactivity.**

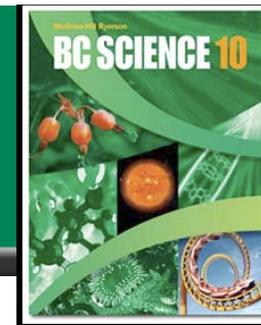
Radium salts, after being placed on a photographic plate, leave behind the dark traces of radiation.



See pages 288 - 289

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Isotopes and Mass Number



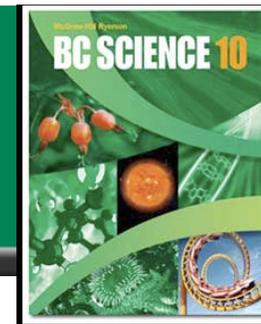
- **Isotopes are different atoms of the same element, with the difference between the two atoms being the number of neutrons in the nucleus.**
 - ◆ **Isotopes have the same number of protons - and therefore the same atomic number - as each other.**
 - ◆ **By having different numbers of neutrons, isotopes have different mass numbers.**
 - **Isotopes of an element have the same symbol and same atomic number**
 - **Mass number refers to the protons + neutrons in an isotope**
 - **Atomic mass = proportional average of the mass numbers for all isotopes of an element.**

5
B
Boron
10.8

- **19.9% of boron atoms have 5 neutrons, 80.1% have 6 neutrons**
- **19.9% have a mass number of 10, and 80.1% have a mass number of 11**
- **$(.199 * 10) + (.801 * 11) = 10.8 =$ atomic mass of boron**

See page 289 - 290

Representing Isotopes

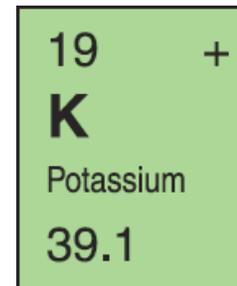


- **Isotopes are written using standard atomic notation.**
 - ◆ **Chemical symbol + atomic number + mass number.**
 - ◆ **Potassium has three isotopes, ${}_{19}^{39}\text{K}$, ${}_{19}^{40}\text{K}$, ${}_{19}^{41}\text{K}$**

Table 7.1 Isotopes of Potassium

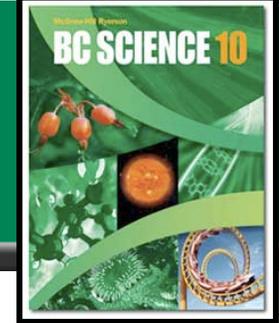
	Potassium-39	Potassium-40	Potassium-41
Protons (nucleus)	19	19	19
Neutrons (nucleus)	20	21	22
Electrons (in shells)	19	19	19

- ◆ **Potassium is found in nature in a certain ratio of isotopes**
 - **93.2% is potassium-39, 1.0% is potassium-40, and 6.7% is potassium-41**
 - **Atomic mass = $(.932 \times 39) + (.001 \times 40) + (.067 \times 41) = 39.1$**

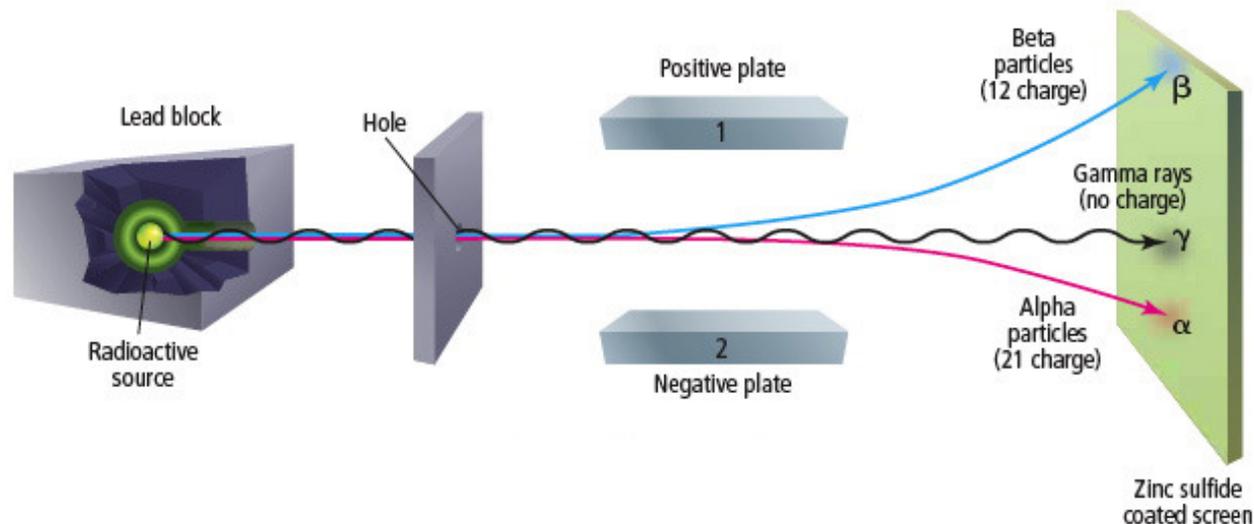


See page 290

Three Types of Radiation



- Rutherford identified three types of radiation using an electric field.
 - ◆ Positive alpha particles were attracted to the negative plate.
 - ◆ Negative beta particles were attracted to the positive plate.
 - ◆ Neutral gamma particles did not move towards any plate.

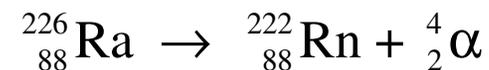
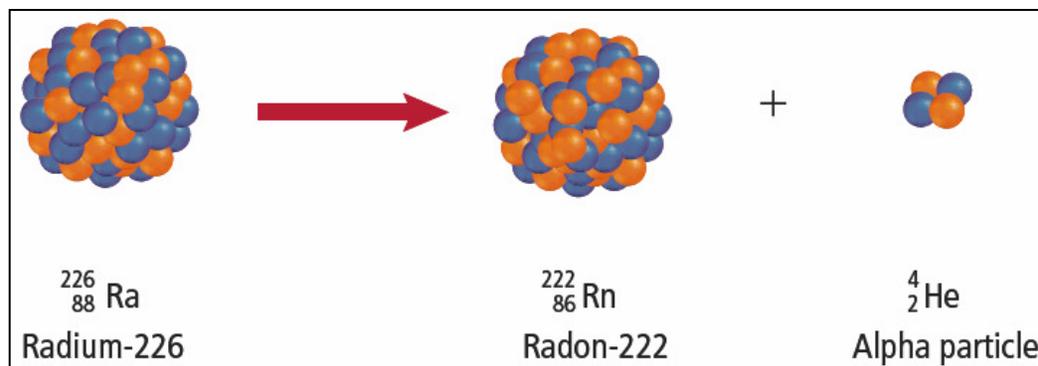


See page 294

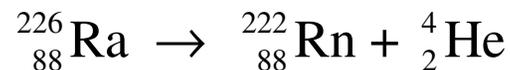
Three Types of Radiation (continued) : Alpha Radiation



- **Alpha radiation is a stream of alpha particles, α .**
 - ◆ **Positively charged, and are the most massive of the radiation types.**
 - ◆ **Alpha particles are essentially the same as a helium atom.**
 - ◆ **Alpha particles are represented by the symbols ${}^4_2\alpha$ or ${}^4_2\text{He}$.**
 - **Because it has two protons, it has a charge of 2+.**
 - **The release of alpha particles is called alpha decay.**
 - ◆ **Alpha particles are slow and penetrate materials much less than the other forms of radiation. A sheet of paper will stop an alpha particle.**



or

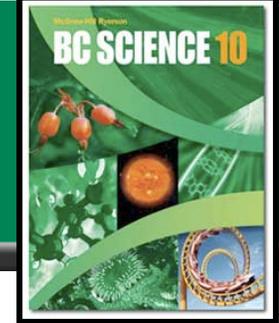


Radium-226 releases an alpha particle and becomes Radon-222. Radon has two less protons than radium.

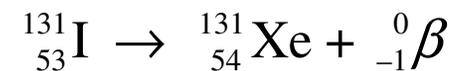
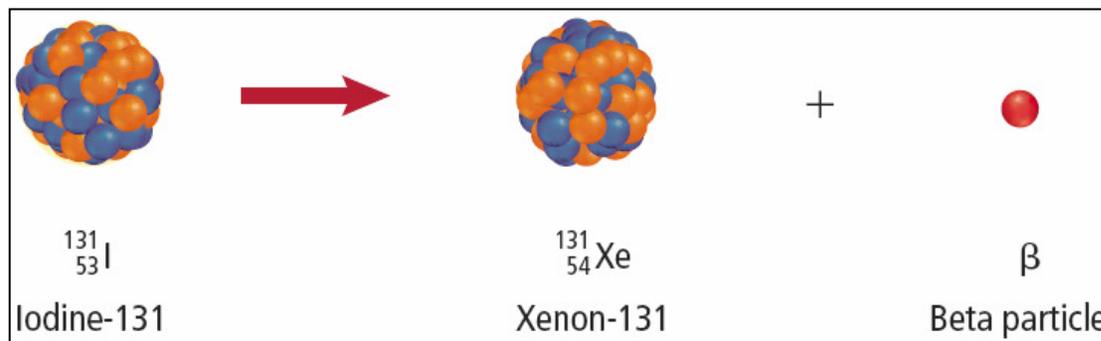
See page 294 - 295

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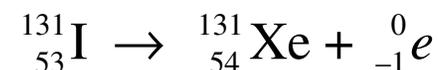
Three Types of Radiation (continued) : Beta Radiation



- **Beta radiation, β , is an electron.**
 - ♦ **Positively charged, and are the most massive of the radiation types.**
 - ♦ **Beta particles are represented by the symbols ${}^0_{-1}\beta$ or ${}^0_{-1}e$.**
 - **Electrons are very tiny, so beta particles are assigned a mass of 0.**
 - **Since there is only an electron, a beta particle has a charge of 1–.**
 - ♦ **Beta decay occurs when a neutron changes into a proton + an electron.**
 - **The proton stays in the nucleus, and the electron is released.**
 - **It takes a thin sheet of aluminum foil to stop a beta particle.**



or



Iodine-131 releases a beta particle and becomes Xenon-131.
A neutron has turned into a proton + the released electron.

See page 296

Three Types of Radiation (continued) :

Gamma Radiation



- **Gamma radiation, γ , is a ray of high energy, short-wavelength radiation.**
 - ♦ **Gamma radiation has no charge and no mass, ${}^0_0\gamma$.**
 - ♦ **Gamma radiation is the highest energy form of electromagnetic radiation.**
 - **It takes thick blocks of lead or concrete to stop gamma rays.**
 - ♦ **Gamma decay results from energy being released from a high-energy nucleus.**
 - ${}^{60}_{28}\text{Ni}^* \rightarrow {}^{60}_{28}\text{Ni} + {}^0_0\gamma$
 - ♦ **Often, other kinds of radioactive decay will also release gamma radiation.**
 - ${}^{238}_{92}\text{U} \rightarrow {}^{234}_{90}\text{Th} + {}^4_2\text{He} + 2\gamma$
 - **Uranium-238 decays into an alpha particle and also releases gamma rays.**

See page 297

Radiation and Radioactive Decay Summaries, and Nuclear equations for radioactive decay

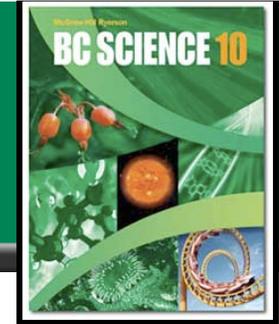


Table 7.3 Properties of Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Radiation

Property	Alpha Radiation	Beta Radiation	Gamma Radiation
Symbol	${}^4_2\alpha$	${}_{-1}^0\beta$	${}^0_0\gamma$
Composition	alpha particles	beta particles	high-energy electromagnetic radiation
Description of radiation	helium nuclei, ${}^4_2\text{He}$	electrons	photons
Charge	2+	1-	0
Relative penetrating power	blocked by paper	blocked by metal foil or concrete	partially or completely blocked by lead

Nuclear equations are written like chemical equations, but represent changes in the nucleus of atoms.

◆ Chemical equations represent changes in the position of atoms, not changes to the atoms themselves.

Table 7.4 Summary of Radioactive Decay Process

	Alpha Decay	Beta Decay	Gamma Decay
Particle emitted	${}^4_2\alpha$ or ${}^4_2\text{He}$	${}_{-1}^0\beta$ or ${}_{-1}^0e^-$	${}^0_0\gamma$
Change in mass number of starting nucleus	decreases by 4	no change	no change
Change in atomic number of starting nucleus	decreases by 2	increases by 1	no change

- 1. The sum of the mass numbers should equal.**
- 2. The sum of the charges should equal.**

See pages 298 - 299

[Take the Section 7.1 Quiz](#)

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