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Define the particle masses that we are interested in.

```
In[49]:= toMeV = UnitConvert[#, "Megaelectronvolts" / "SpeedOfLight"^2] &;
masses =
{mn -> Entity["Particle", "Neutron"] ["Mass"],
 mp -> Entity["Particle", "Proton"] ["Mass"],
 md -> toMeV[Entity["Particle", "Deuteron"] ["Mass"]],
 mh -> toMeV[Entity["Particle", "Helion"] ["Mass"]]
}
```

```
Out[50]= {mn -> 939.5654133 MeV/c2, mp -> 938.2720813 MeV/c2,
 md -> 1875.612928 MeV/c2, mh -> 2808.391586 MeV/c2}
```

Compute the kinetic energies of outgoing particles in  $d + d \rightarrow {}^3\text{He} + n$

Assume a head-on collision of the deuterons in the lab frame, each with kinetic energy  $E$ . The  ${}^3\text{He}$  nucleus is also called a helion, and we refer to it sometimes as h.

We will begin with a non-relativistic treatment, which is not completely correct, but should be approximately correct.

1) Conserve energy. Note that particle masses are part of the energy balance.

```
In[5]:= energy1 = 2 md c2 + 2 E == (mh + mn) c2 +  $\frac{1}{2}$  mh vh2 +  $\frac{1}{2}$  mn vn2
```

```
Out[5]= 2 E + 2 c2 md == c2 (mh + mn) +  $\frac{1}{2}$  mh vh2 +  $\frac{1}{2}$  mn vn2
```

2) Conserve momentum.

```
In[6]:= momentum1 = 0 == mh vh + mn vn
```

```
Out[6]= 0 == mh vh + mn vn
```

```
In[7]:= solution1 = Solve[{energy1, momentum1}, {vn, vh}]
```

```
Out[7]= {{vn -> - $\frac{i \sqrt{2} \sqrt{m_h} \sqrt{2 E + 2 c^2 m_d - c^2 m_h - c^2 m_n}}{\sqrt{-m_h m_n - m_n^2}}$ , vh ->  $\frac{i \sqrt{2} m_n \sqrt{2 E + 2 c^2 m_d - c^2 m_h - c^2 m_n}}{\sqrt{m_h} \sqrt{-m_n (m_h + m_n)}}$ },
 {vn ->  $\frac{i \sqrt{2} \sqrt{m_h} \sqrt{2 E + 2 c^2 m_d - c^2 m_h - c^2 m_n}}{\sqrt{-m_h m_n - m_n^2}}$ , vh -> - $\frac{i \sqrt{2} m_n \sqrt{2 E + 2 c^2 m_d - c^2 m_h - c^2 m_n}}{\sqrt{m_h} \sqrt{-m_n (m_h + m_n)}}$ }}
```

```
In[8]:= En = Simplify[1/2 mn vn2 /. solution1[[1]]]
```

```
Out[8]= - $\frac{m_h (-2 E - 2 c^2 m_d + c^2 m_h + c^2 m_n)}{m_h + m_n}$ 
```

```
In[9]:= E_h = Simplify[1/2 m_h v_h^2 /. solution1[[1]]]
```

```
Out[9]:= - (m_n (-2 E - 2 c^2 m_d + c^2 m_h + c^2 m_n)) / (m_h + m_n)
```

These solutions are not difficult to obtain yourself. The math trick is to change the momentum conservation equation into  $m_h^2 v_h^2 = m_n^2 v_n^2$  and then solve for  $v_h^2$  and  $v_n^2$ .

```
In[10]:= Simplify[E_h /. masses /. c -> Quantity["SpeedOfLight"]]
```

```
Out[10]:= 1.498625297 E + 2.449396 MeV
```

```
In[11]:= Simplify[E_h /. masses /. c -> Quantity["SpeedOfLight"]]
```

```
Out[11]:= 0.501374703 E + 0.819461 MeV
```

Suppose that our fusor is running at 30 KeV. Substitute this value for  $E$ .

```
In[12]:= E_h /. masses /. c -> Quantity["SpeedOfLight"] /. E -> Quantity[30, "keV"]
```

```
Out[12]:= 2494.354 keV
```

Now solve the problem in the fully relativistic way. The differences are:

1) The total energy of a massive particle is  $\gamma mc^2$ , where  $\gamma = \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$ . (That symbol is a gamma.)

The kinetic energy part of this is  $(\gamma - 1) mc^2$ , so the total energy of the incoming deuteron is still  $E + m_d c^2$ .

2) The momentum of a massive particle is  $\gamma mv$ . This has two variables,  $\gamma$  and  $v$ , that determine velocity, so we will use a convenient identity:  $\gamma v = c(\gamma^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

```
In[13]:= energy2 = 2 m_d c^2 + 2 E == (\gamma_h m_h + \gamma_n m_n) c^2
```

```
Out[13]= 2 E + 2 c^2 m_d == c^2 (m_h \gamma_h + m_n \gamma_n)
```

```
In[14]:= momentum2 = m_h (\gamma_h^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} c == m_n (\gamma_n^2 - 1)^{\frac{1}{2}} c
```

```
Out[14]= c m_h \sqrt{-1 + \gamma_h^2} == c m_n \sqrt{-1 + \gamma_n^2}
```

```
In[15]:= solution2 = Solve[{energy2, momentum2}, {\gamma_n, \gamma_h}]
```

```
Out[15]= {{\gamma_n \to \frac{4 E^2 + 8 c^2 E m_d + 4 c^4 m_d^2 - c^4 m_h^2 + c^4 m_n^2}{4 c^2 (E + c^2 m_d) m_n}, \gamma_h \to \frac{4 E^2 + 8 c^2 E m_d + 4 c^4 m_d^2 + c^4 m_h^2 - c^4 m_n^2}{4 c^2 (E + c^2 m_d) m_h}}}
```

```
In[16]:= E_nrel = Simplify[m_n (\gamma_n - 1) c^2 /. solution2[[1]]]
```

```
Out[16]= \frac{4 c^4 m_d^2 - c^4 m_h^2 + (-2 E + c^2 m_n)^2 + m_d (8 c^2 E - 4 c^4 m_n)}{4 (E + c^2 m_d)}
```

```
In[17]:= E_hrel = Simplify[m_h (\gamma_h - 1) c^2 /. solution2[[1]]]
```

```
Out[17]= -c^2 m_h + \frac{4 E^2 + 8 c^2 E m_d + 4 c^4 m_d^2 + c^4 m_h^2 - c^4 m_n^2}{4 E + 4 c^2 m_d}
```

```
In[18]:= E_nrel /. masses /. c \to Quantity["SpeedOfLight"] /. E \to Quantity[0, "keV"]
```

```
Out[18]= 2448.686 keV
```

```
In[48]:= Framed[
```

```
Row[{"E_n=", E_nrel /. masses /. c \to Quantity["SpeedOfLight"] /. E \to Quantity[30, "keV"],  
", for a grid voltage of 30 KeV"}]]
```

```
Out[48]= E_n= 2493.618 keV , for a grid voltage of 30 KeV
```

Now look at  $p+n \rightarrow d+\gamma$ . This is what happens when the neutron is finally slow enough to be captured by a proton. An energetic gamma is emitted.

A captured neutron is usually “thermalized”, meaning it has a kinetic energy less than 0.1 eV. This is so small that the calculation assumes both the neutron and proton are at rest.

```
In[30]:= energy3 = Eγ + γd md c2 == mp c2 + mn c2
```

```
Out[30]:= c2 md γd + Eγ == c2 mn + c2 mp
```

```
In[31]:= momentum3 = Eγ == √(γd2 - 1) md c2
```

```
Out[31]:= Eγ == c2 md √(-1 + γd2)
```

```
In[33]:= sol3 = Solve[{energy3, momentum3}, {Eγ, γd}]
```

```
Out[33]:= { {Eγ →  $\frac{c^2 (-m_d^2 + m_n^2 + 2 m_n m_p + m_p^2)}{2 (m_n + m_p)}$ , γd →  $\frac{m_d^2 + m_n^2 + 2 m_n m_p + m_p^2}{2 m_d (m_n + m_p)}$  } }
```

```
In[47]:= Framed[Row[{"Eγ=", Eγ /. sol3[[1]] /. masses /. c → Quantity["SpeedOfLight"]}]]
```

```
Out[47]:= Eγ = 2.223249 MeV
```