

- 7 A stationary nucleus P of mass 243 u decays by emitting an α -particle of mass 4 u to form a different nucleus Q, as illustrated in Fig. 7.1.

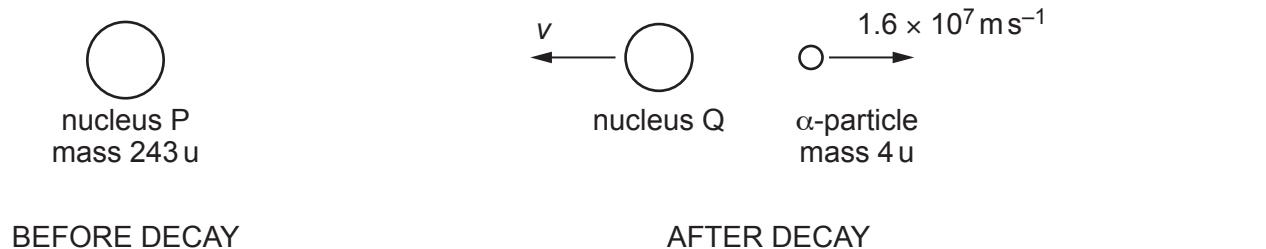


Fig. 7.1

The initial speed of the α -particle is $1.6 \times 10^7 \text{ m s}^{-1}$.

- (a) Use the principle of conservation of momentum to explain why the initial velocities of nucleus Q and the α -particle must be in opposite directions.

.....
.....
.....
..... [2]

- (b) Determine the initial speed v of nucleus Q.

$$v = \dots \text{ ms}^{-1} \quad [2]$$

- (c) Calculate the initial kinetic energy, in MeV, of the α -particle.

$$\text{kinetic energy} = \dots \text{ MeV} \quad [3]$$

- (d) A graph of number of neutrons N against proton number Z is shown in Fig. 7.2.

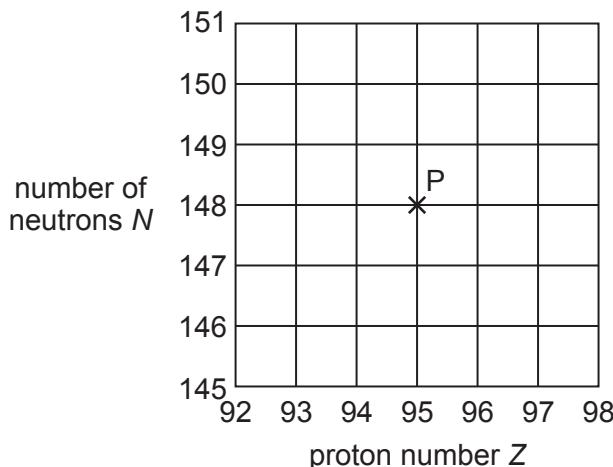


Fig. 7.2

The graph shows a cross that represents nucleus P.

A nucleus R has a nucleon number of 242 and is an isotope of nucleus P.

Nucleus R decays by emitting a β^- particle to form a different nucleus S.

- (i) On Fig. 7.2, draw a cross to represent:

1. nucleus R (label this cross R)
2. nucleus S (label this cross S).

[2]

- (ii) State the name of the other lepton, in addition to the β^- particle, that is emitted during the decay of nucleus R.

[1]