

CEM 485, Spring/2010

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Modern Nuclear Chemistry

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Course Information:

<http://www.chemistry.msu.edu/courses/CEM485/Index.html>

Week 1 – Introduction

Introduction

- Goals, roll back the fog
- Nomenclature
- General Properties of Nuclei
- Nuclear Processes, overview
- decay equations
- conservation laws
- Nuclear “Activity”

Mass and Energy

- Einstein’s cliché
- Binding Energy viz. Separation Energy

Robert W. Cameron,
Aerial photographer



Nomenclature - 1

Often misused: Nucleus vs. Nuclide; Atom vs. Ion

Atomic number = Proton number (Z)

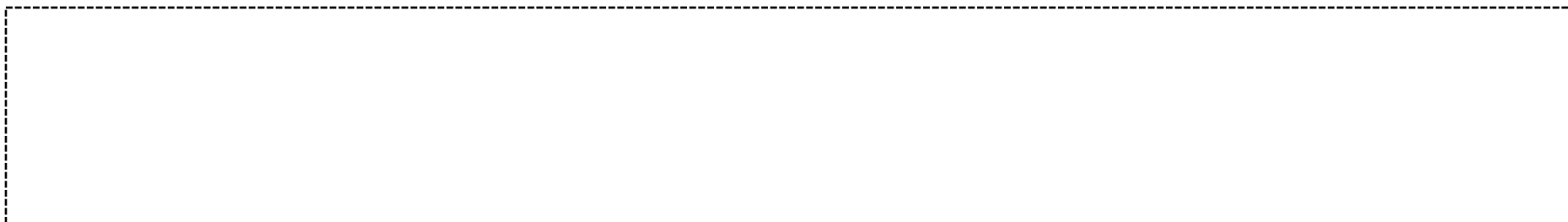
Neutron number (N)

Electron number is not Charge state (q)

Atomic mass (u) is not Mass number (A=Z+N)



For Example: ${}^{18}\text{O}$ has a mass of 17.99916 amu a.k.a. “u”
but the NSCL beam today: ${}^{18}\text{O}^{8+}$ has a lower mass



Nomenclature - 2

Isotopes ... constant Z ... the chemical elements

Isotones ... constant N

Isobars (have isotopic spin or isospin) ... constant A

What isotopes exist?

Z,N	E-E	O-O	E-O	O-E
Stable	140	5	53	48
Long-lived	16	4	2	4
Terrestrial	156	9	55	52
Grand Total		272		

What limits the existence of isotopes?

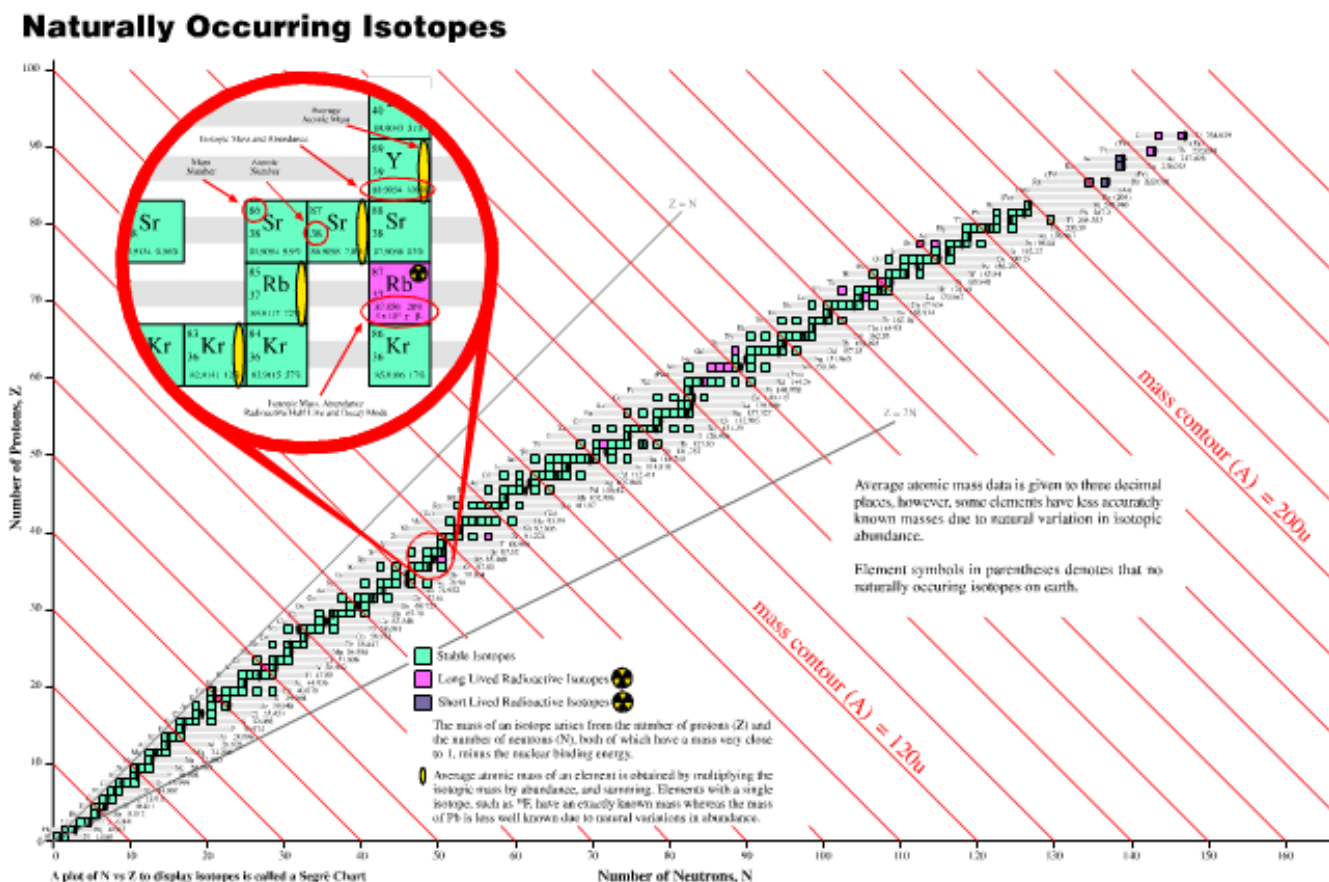
(Two important concepts ...)

Chart of Nuclides

Segre Diagram ... N by Z (cf. Fig. 2-3 in text)

More familiar chart ... Z by N

http://www.meta-synthesis.com/webbook/33_segre/segre2.png



See also "Nucleus" Program for windows:

http://amdc.in2p3.fr/web/nubdisp_en.html

<http://www.nndc.bnl.gov/chart/>

<http://atom.kaeri.re.kr/ton/nuc1.html>

Nuclear vs. Atomic

Atomic

Sizes ... atoms are spherical with radii in “angstroms”

Processes ... electron excitation & relaxation, chemical reactions & bonding

E.g, solid Silicon:

Nuclear

Sizes ... nuclear are spherical (or nearly so) with radii of “fermis”

in general, $r = r_0 A^{1/3}$.. Packing nucleons with uniform density ..

Processes ... proton & neutron excitation & relaxation

radioactive decay (often leads to nuclear and/or atomic excitation)

nuclear reactions (nuclear collisions, essentially all extraterrestrial)

Nuclear Processes - 1

Internal Processes ...

relaxation of excited states via photon emission:

e.g., proton, neutron excited states, nuclear vibration or rotation

E.g. $^{99m}\text{Tc} \rightarrow ^{99}\text{Tc} + \gamma$ (*gamma* is used to indicate that the photon is “nuclear”)

two-bodies in final state, $E_\gamma = 142.7 \text{ keV}$

1st order kinetics,

half-life is constant, $T_{1/2} = 6.015 \text{ hr}$,

or mean-live = $\tau = T_{1/2} / \ln 2$

or decay constant = $\lambda = 1/\tau = \ln 2/T_{1/2}$

This isomer is used extensively in nuclear medicine to highlight parts of the body that are biologically more active than surrounding tissue in a SPECT scan (single-photon emission computerized tomography).

[Mayo Clinic link on SPECT scan](#)

This material is in short supply at the moment due to a reactor problem in Canada.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/24/science/24isotope.html>

Nuclear Processes - 2

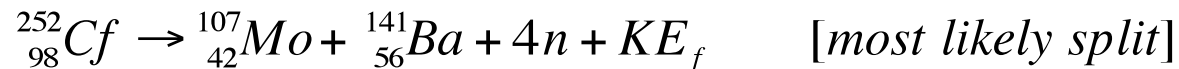
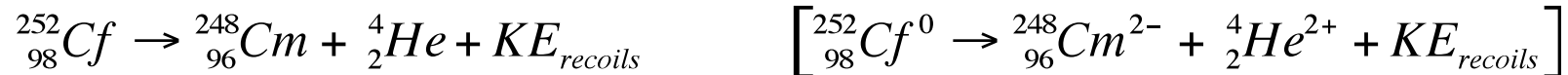
Internal Processes ...

relaxation of excited states via photon emission:

e.g., proton, neutron excited states, nuclear vibration or rotation

radioactive decay (often leads to nuclear and/or atomic excitation)

- 1) Nucleus has too much Coulomb energy
nuclear conversion/change through the “strong force” ... alpha decay, fission



- 2) Nucleus is unbalanced with respect to neutron/proton number
nuclear conversion/change through the “weak force” ... beta-decay

The Conservation Laws

(Natural) Law is a concise statement of observed facts in a natural process.

Quantities that are conserved in (all) nuclear reactions:

- 1) Total energy (including the mass ala Einstein, $E=mc^2$)

Total Energy = Kinetic Energy + Potential Energy + “Mass Energy”

- 2) Momentum, both linear and angular

Linear momentum, $\vec{p} = m\vec{v}$

Angular momentum = orbital motion ($\vec{p} = m\vec{v} \otimes \vec{r}$) + spin

- 3) Electrical charge (protons and electrons are charged, of course)

- 4) The total number of nucleons and separately the total number of leptons

Nucleons: proton, neutron

Leptons: electron, electron-neutrino [anti-electron, anti-electron-neutrino]

Aside: Activity

^{99m}Tc -- 800 MBq is typically administered during diagnostic procedures.

What does MBq refer to, how many atoms is this?

Radioactive sources are characterized in terms of the number of decays per unit time. This is thus called the ACTIVITY. The historical unit of activity is the “Curie” (Ci) that is defined as $3.700... \times 10^{10}$ decays/s (the approximate decay rate of 1 gram of ‘natural’ radium separated from uranium ore).

The modern (SI) unit of activity is the “Becquerel” (Bq) that is 1 decay/s or simply 1 s^{-1}

Thus: 800 MBq (mega-Becquerel) = 800×10^6 decays/s = 8.00×10^8 /s

The activity: $A = \lambda N$

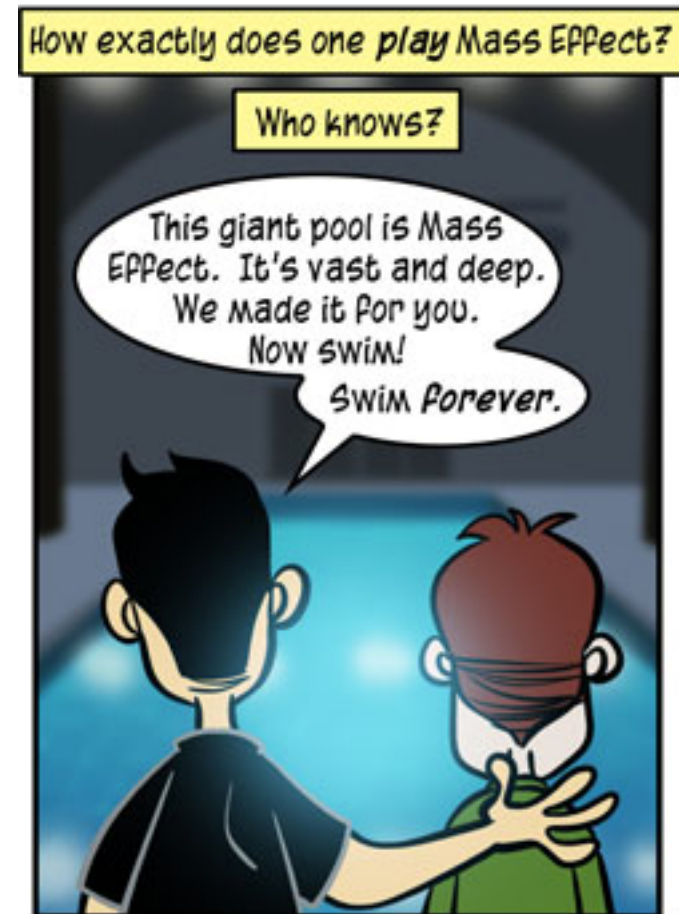
Week 2 – Masses & Binding

Mass and Energy

- Einstein's cliché
- Q values
- Binding energy viz. Separation Energy
- "Curve of the Binding Energy"
- Mass systematics (E-E, E-O, O-E, O-O)
- Isobaric masses (for beta decay)
- Mass parameterizations
- Mass surface
- "Magic numbers" appear

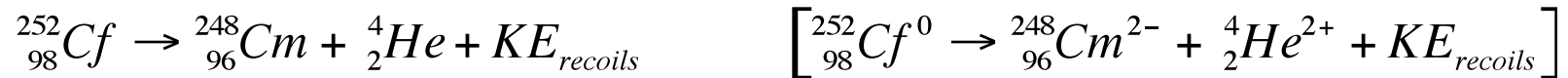
Nuclear Sizes & Shapes

- General behavior
- Unusual behavior



Einstein's Mass

More than a hundred years ago Einstein suggested a fundamental connection between the “energy” that we observe and the thing we call “mass”: $E=mc^2$. The equation plays essentially no role in chemical reactions yet is central to nuclear reactions.



So the total “energy” on the LHS must equal the total “energy” on the RHS.

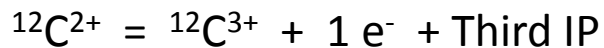
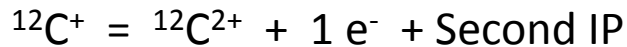
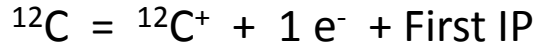
$$\text{LHS} = (m_{\text{nucleus}} + 98 m_{\text{electron}})c^2 + B_e(Z=98)$$



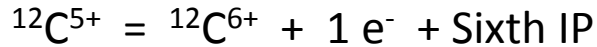
Nuclear Binding & Separation Energies

^{12}C 6 neutrons, 6 protons, 6 electrons

Chemistry:



...

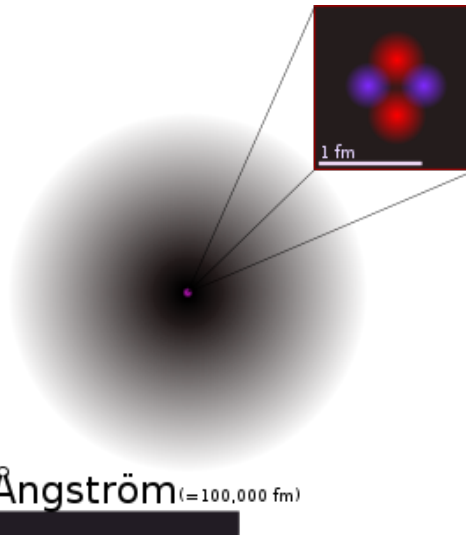


Total electron binding energy:

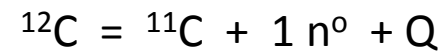
$$B_e(Z) = \sum_{i=1,6} IP_i$$

Approximate expression in text:

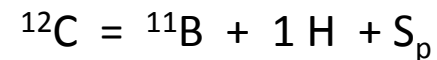
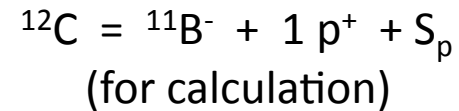
$$B_e(Z) \approx 15.73 Z^{7/3} eV$$



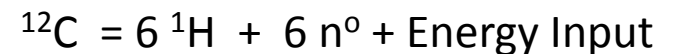
Nuclear Chemistry:



This Q value is called “ S_n ”

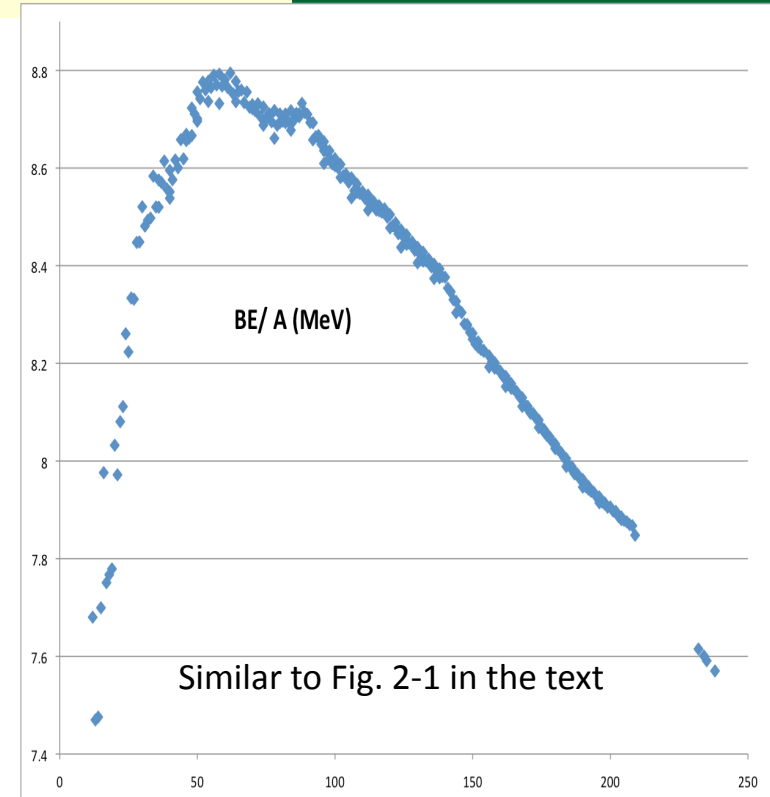
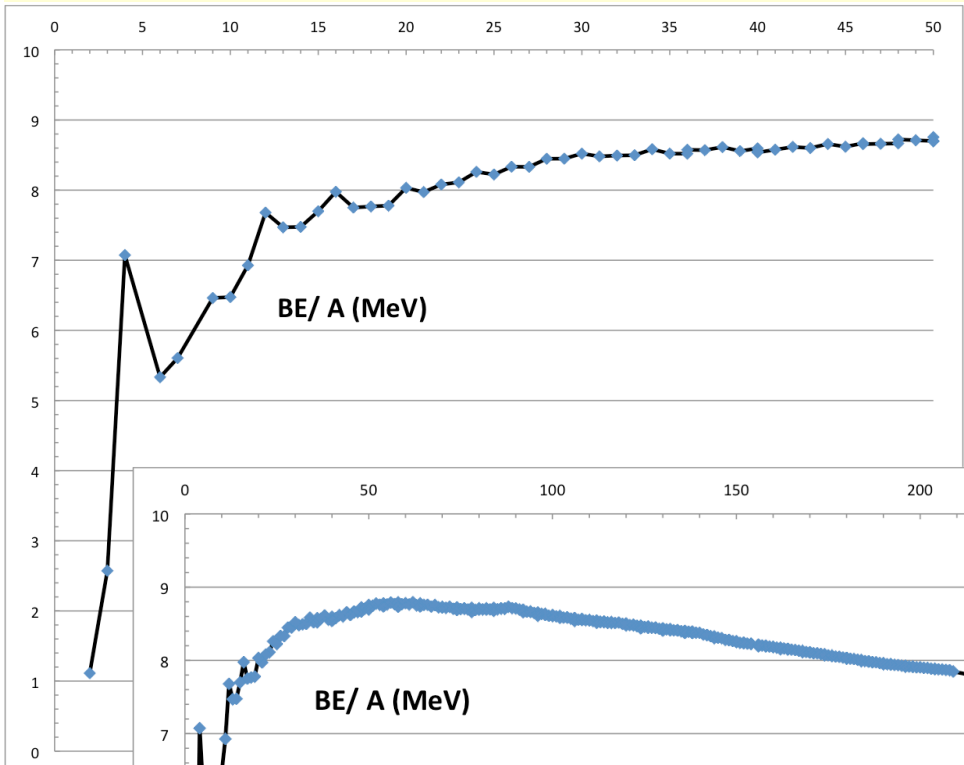


Total “unbinding” ...



Total nuclear binding energy: $6 \text{}^1\text{H} + 6 n^0 = ^{12}\text{C} + \text{BE}$

Curve of the Binding Energy (stable isotopes)



Binding energy per nucleon for the stable isotopes:

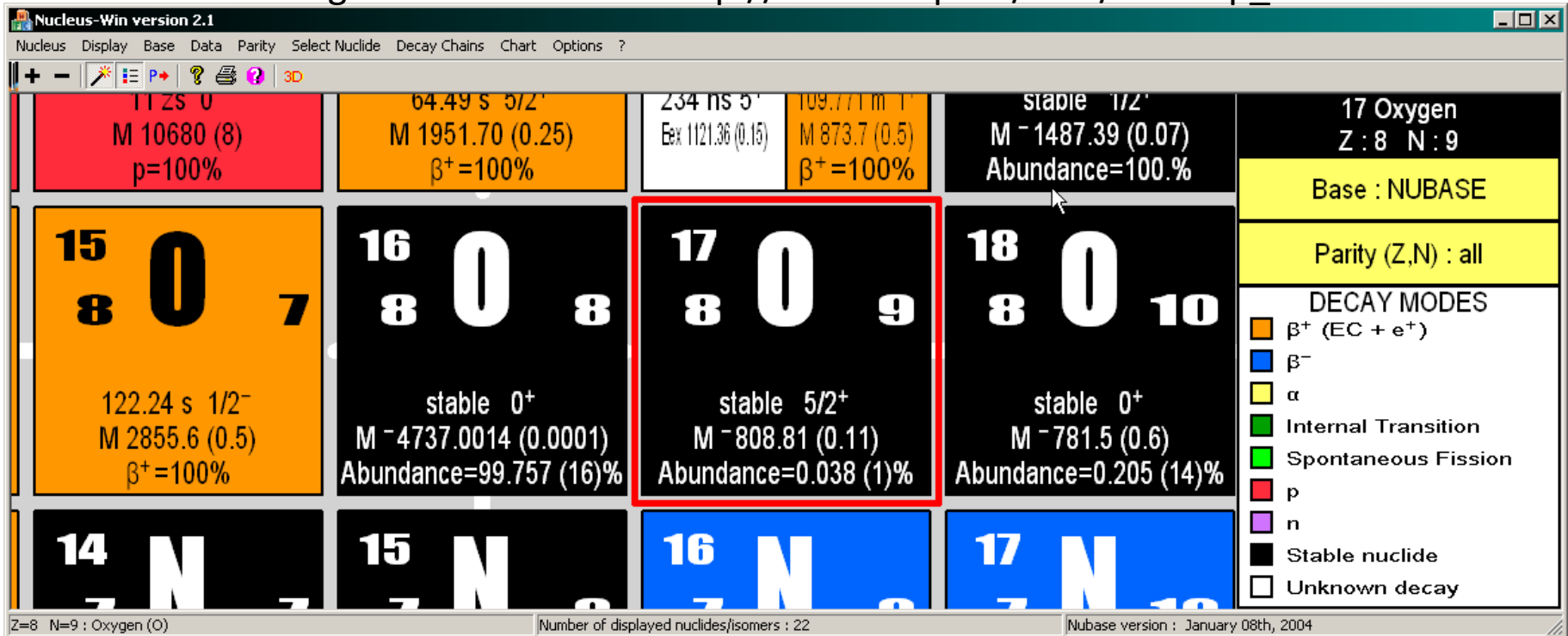
- grows rapidly with mass up to ~ 56 , then slowly declines
- approximately smooth function on large scale
- definitely not smooth on fine scale

N.B. energy will be released when:

- lightest nuclei fuse
- heaviest nuclei split

Atomic Masses and Mass Defect (Δ)

From "Nucleus" Program for windoze: http://amdc.in2p3.fr/web/nubdisp_en.html



Fact: the mass value (u) is always close to the integer mass number.

Reason: the binding energy is small compared to the (Einstein) rest-energy of a nucleon.
(Note that this is also true for electrons.)

Practical use: Define the mass defect (Δ) as the difference from the integer mass number but use energy units (MeV or keV) instead of the traditional mass (u) or the SI unit (kg).

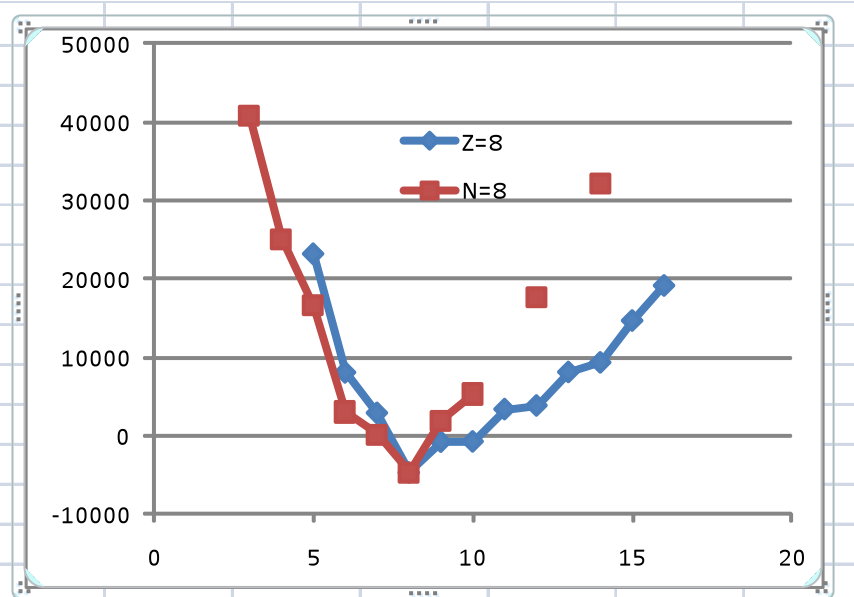
$$\Delta = (m - A) c^2 \quad {}^{18}\text{O} : (17.999160 - 18) u c^2 * 931.494 \text{ MeV}/u c^2 = -0.7825 \text{ MeV}$$

Systematics of Atomic Masses - 1

The set of all oxygen isotopes (Z=8): $^{13}\text{O} - ^{24}\text{O}$

The set of all N=8 isotones: $^{11}\text{Li} - ^{18}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{Mg}, ^{22}\text{Si}$

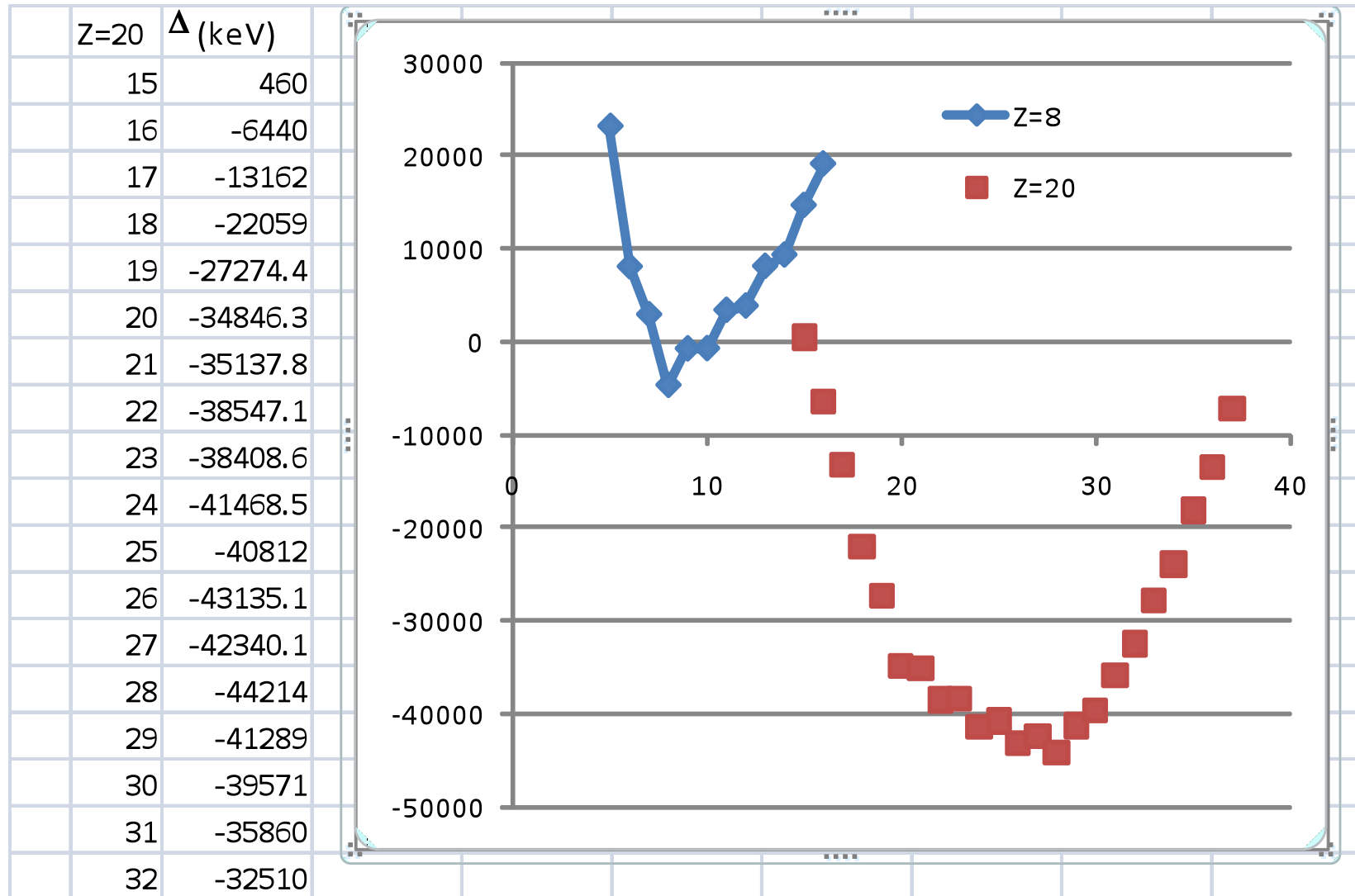
Z=8	Δ (keV)	N=8	Δ (keV)
5	23112	11-Li	3 40797
6	8007.36	12-Be	4 25077
7	2855.6	13-B	5 16562.2
8	-4737	14-C	6 3019.893
9	-808.81	15-N	7 101.438
10	-781.5	16-O	8 -4737
11	3334.9	17-F	9 1951.7
12	3797.5	18-Ne	10 5317.17
13	8063		11
14	9280	20-Mg	12 17570
15	14610		13
16	19070	22-Si	14 32160



Data from NUCLEUS-WIN (AME 2004)

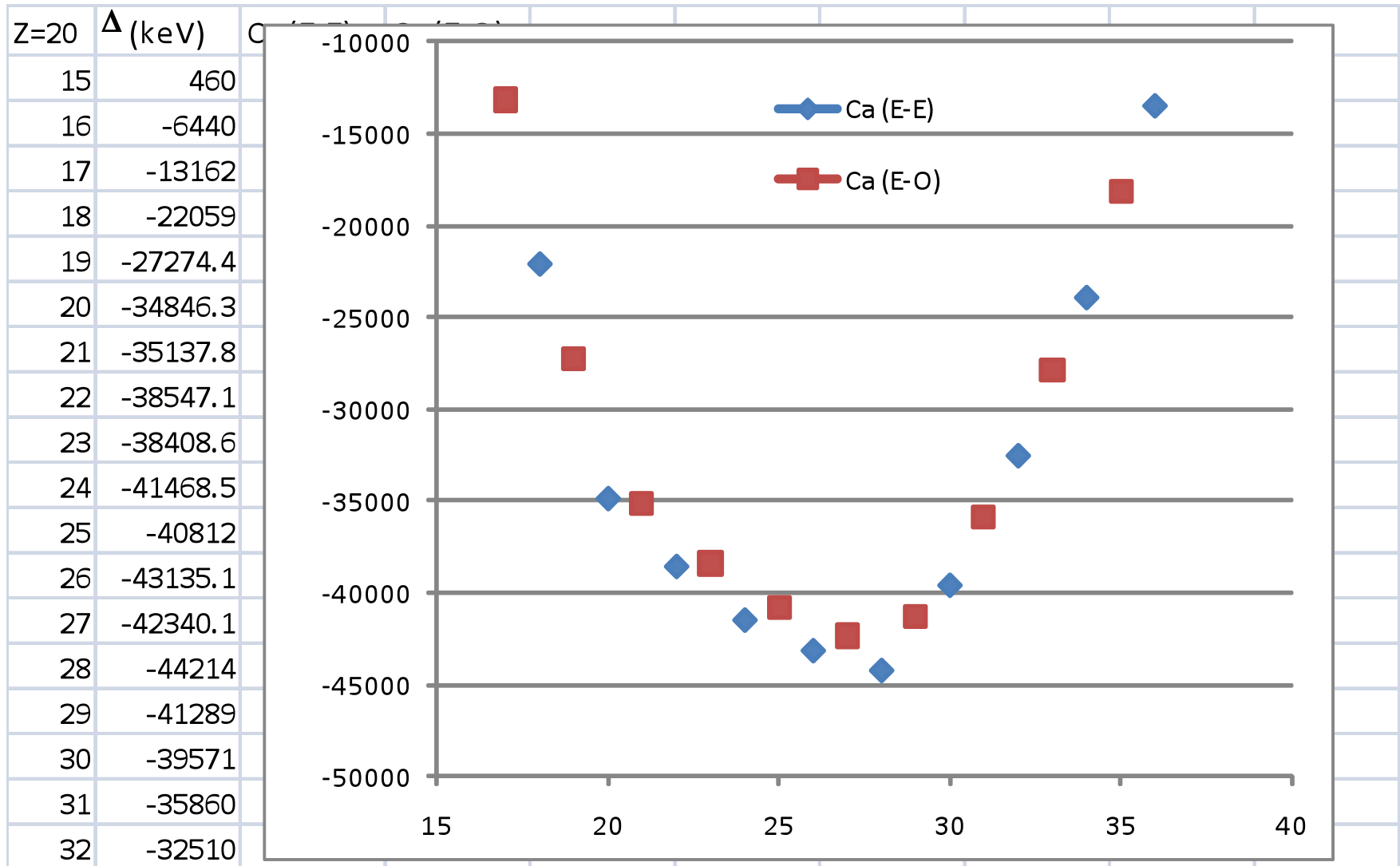
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 2a

The set of all **calcium isotopes** ($Z=20$): $^{35}\text{Ca} - ^{57}\text{Ca}$



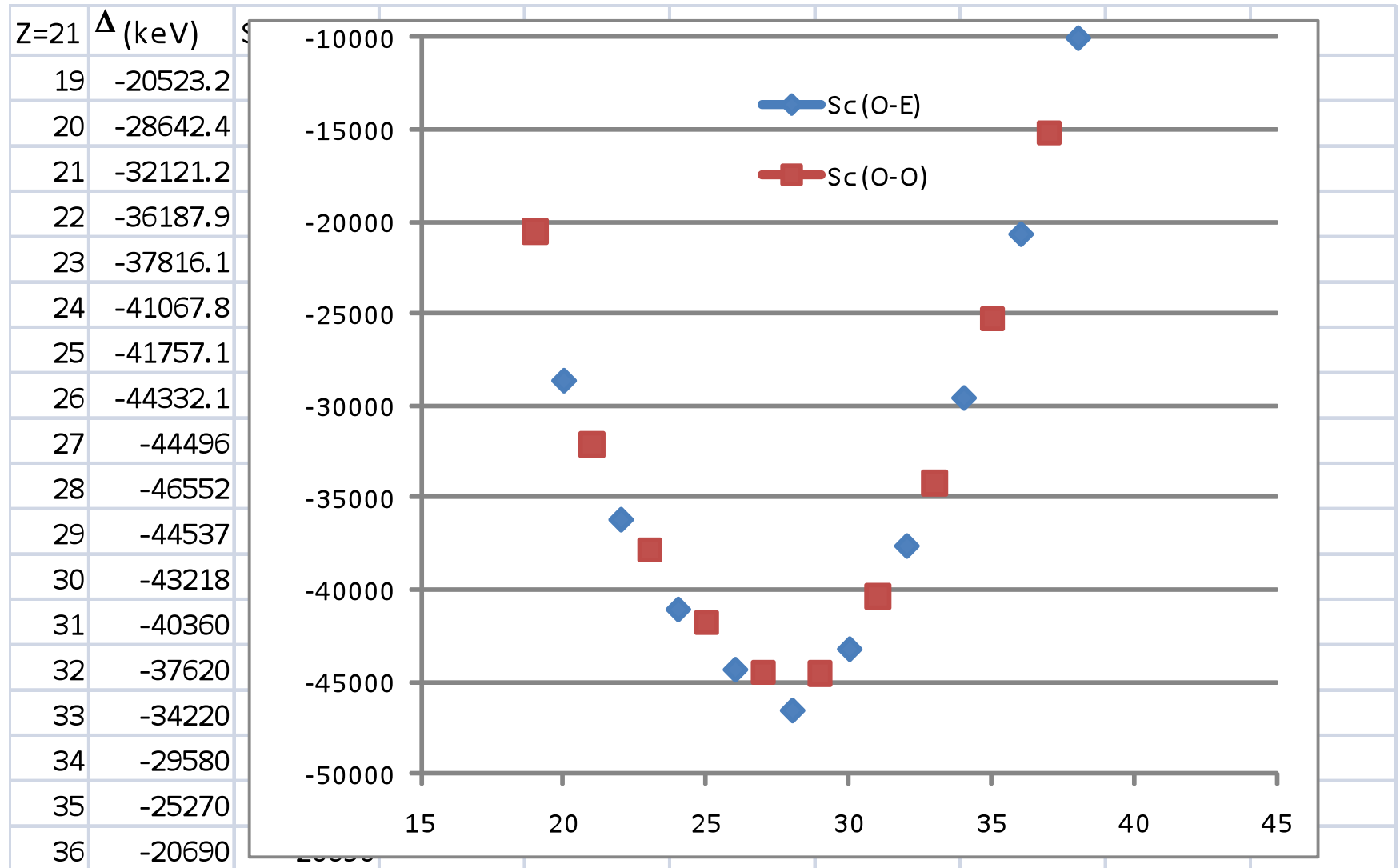
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 2b

The set of all **calcium isotopes** ($Z=20$): $^{35}\text{Ca} - ^{57}\text{Ca}$; Separate by “type”



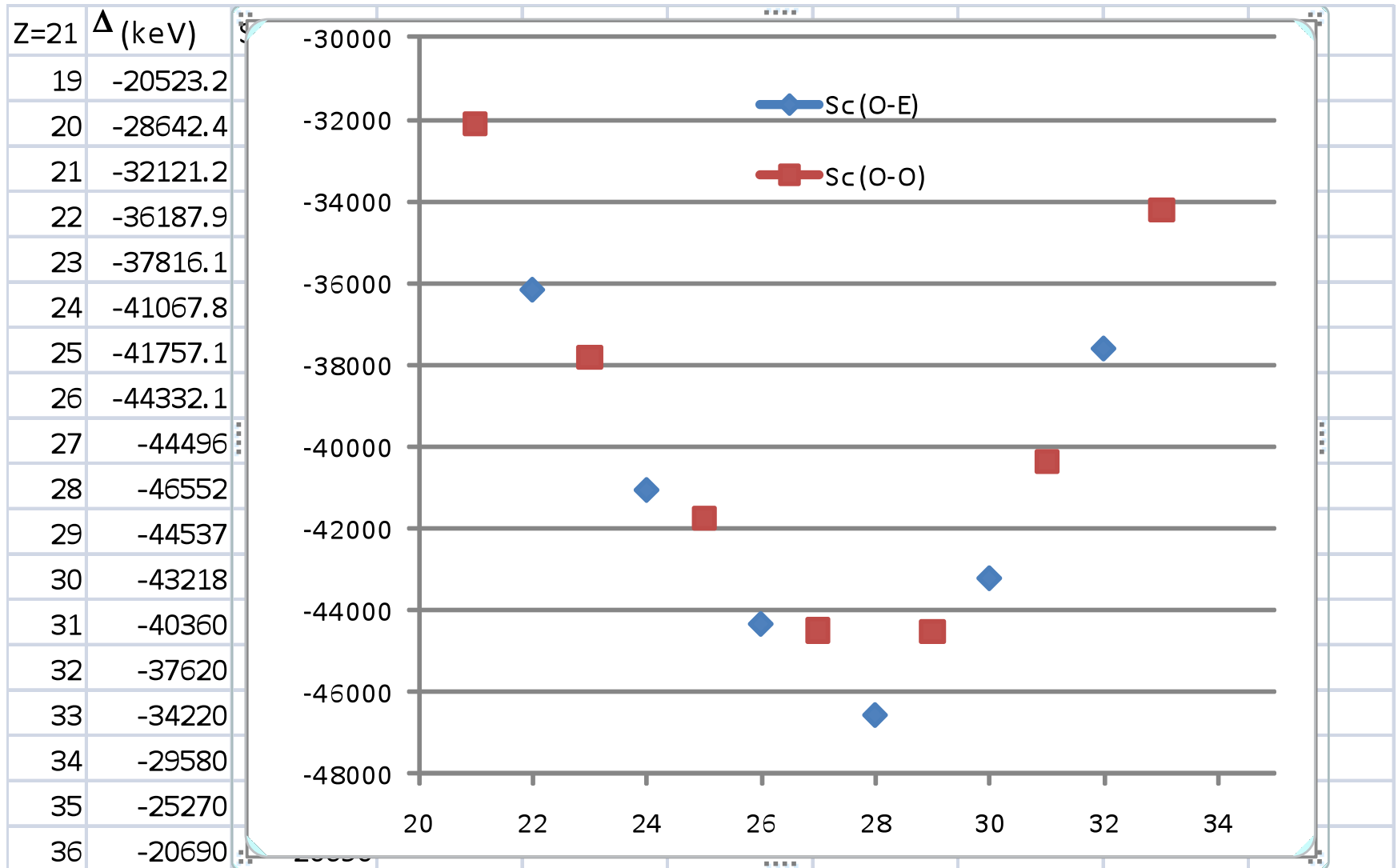
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 3a

The set of all **scandium isotopes** (Z=21): $^{40}\text{Sc} - ^{60}\text{Sc}$; Separate by “type”



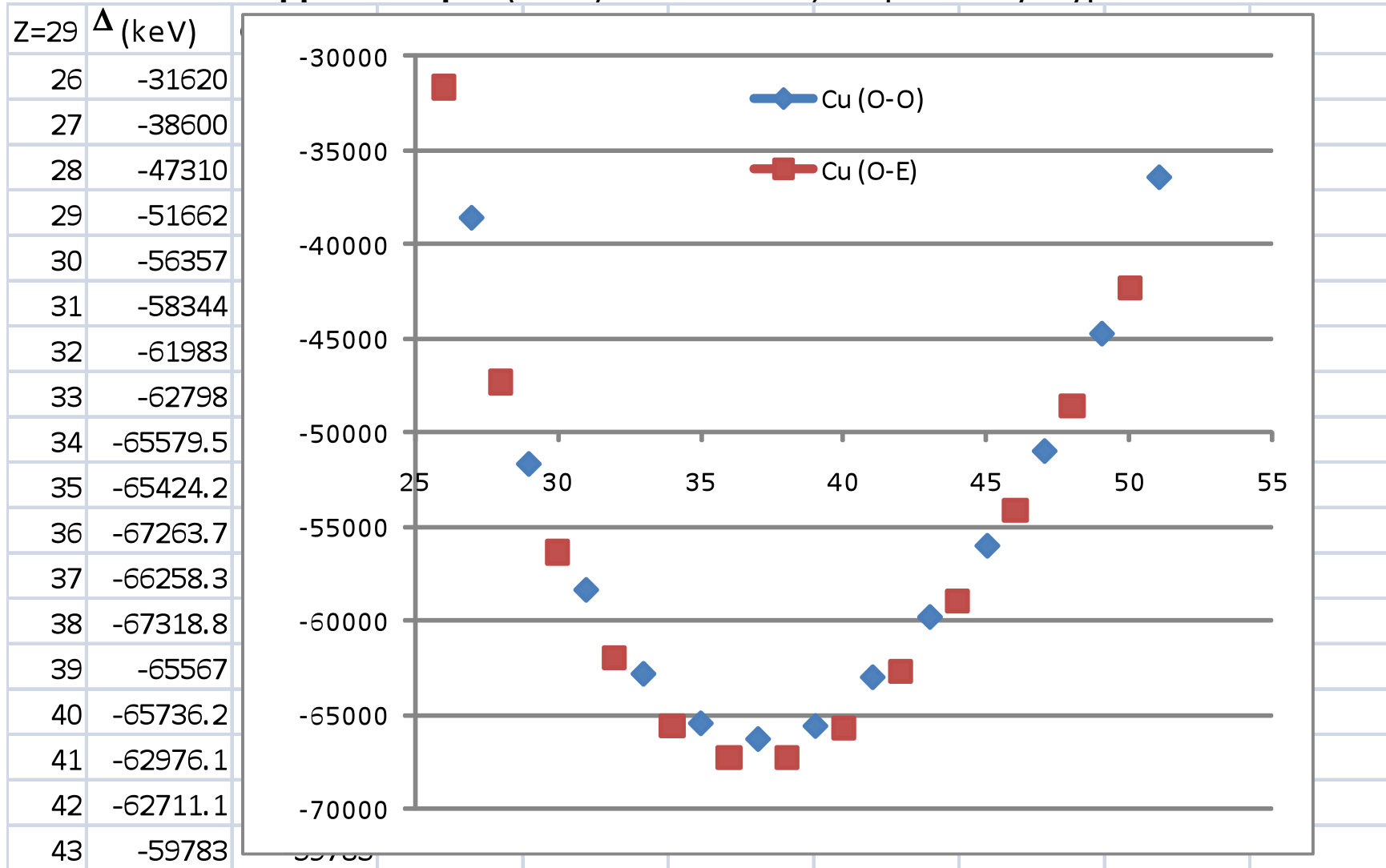
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 3b

The set of all **scandium isotopes** (Z=21): $^{40}\text{Sc} - ^{60}\text{Sc}$; Separate by “type”



Systematics of Atomic Masses – 4

The set of all **copper isotopes** ($Z=29$): $^{55}\text{Cu} - ^{80}\text{Cu}$; Separate by “type”



Week 3 – Radioactive Decay

Nuclear Decay

- Decay Law
- Simplest form of kinetics
- Sequential Decay (three classes)
- Radioactive dating, Ages & Activities

Basics of Nuclear Structure

- Nuclear potential well
- Schematic shell model of nuclei

