

Week 2 Lecture 1 – 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)
- "Magic numbers" appear
- Mass model, Liquid Drop
- Mass surface

Nuclear Decay Equations

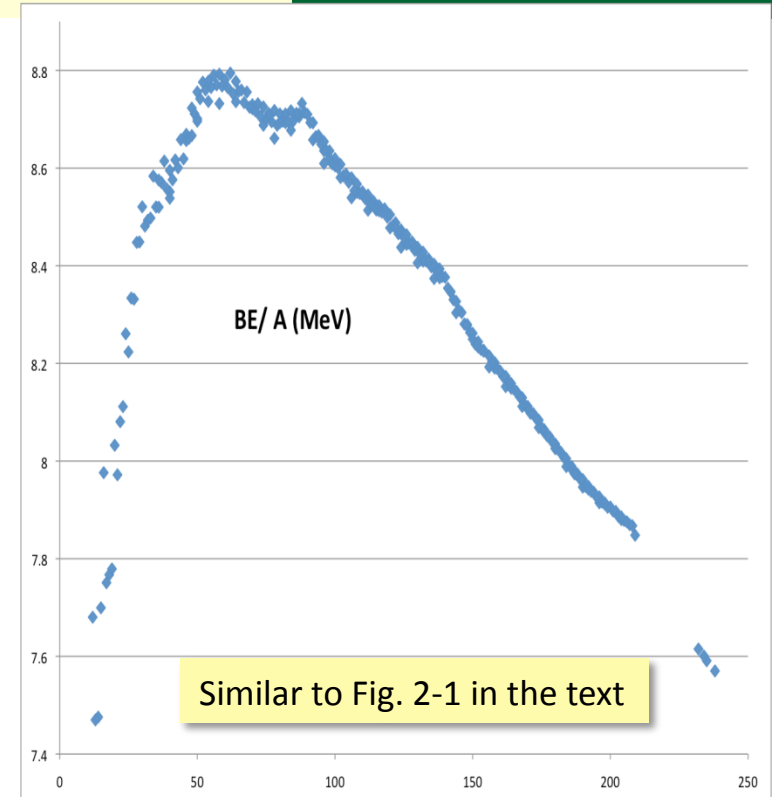
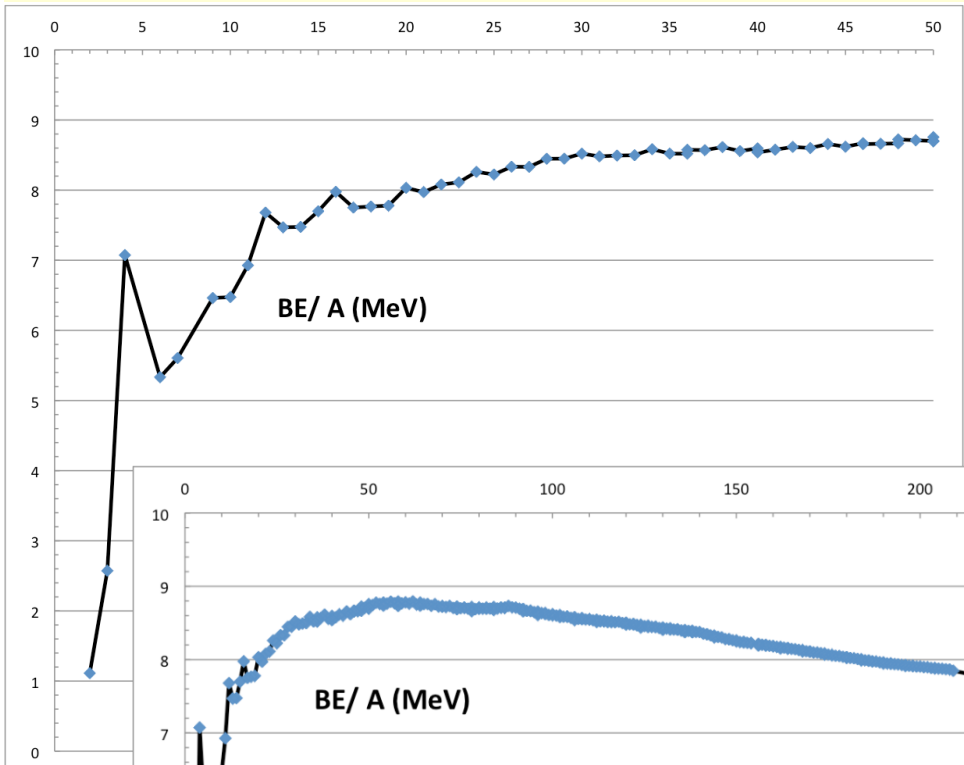
- Decay law
- examples, Kinetic equations

The diagram illustrates the equation $E = mc^2$ and its application in nuclear fission. The equation is shown with 'Energy' under 'E', 'mass' under 'm', and 'the speed of light... squared' under 'c^2'. A red circle highlights the c^2 term, with an arrow pointing to a text box that reads: "Because c^2 is a fantastically large number (34,701,000,000 mi./sec.²), a small amount of mass can be converted into an enormous amount of energy. When an atom of uranium-235 is split, it loses about 0.1 percent of its mass; that tiny amount is enough to produce the vast energy of an atomic bomb."

Below the text, a nuclear fission reaction is depicted. A neutron (represented by a small blue dot) strikes a uranium-235 nucleus (a circle with 143 protons and 92 neutrons). This results in a uranium-236 nucleus (144 protons and 92 neutrons), which then splits into barium-141 (85 protons and 56 neutrons) and krypton-92 (36 protons and 56 neutrons), along with several free neutrons and a large release of energy represented by a starburst.

$$15 \text{ kTons} = 63 \text{ TJ} = 4.2 \times 10^{32} \text{ u} = 701 \text{ kg mass change}$$

Curve of the Binding Energy (stable isotopes)



Binding energy per nucleon for the stable isotopes:

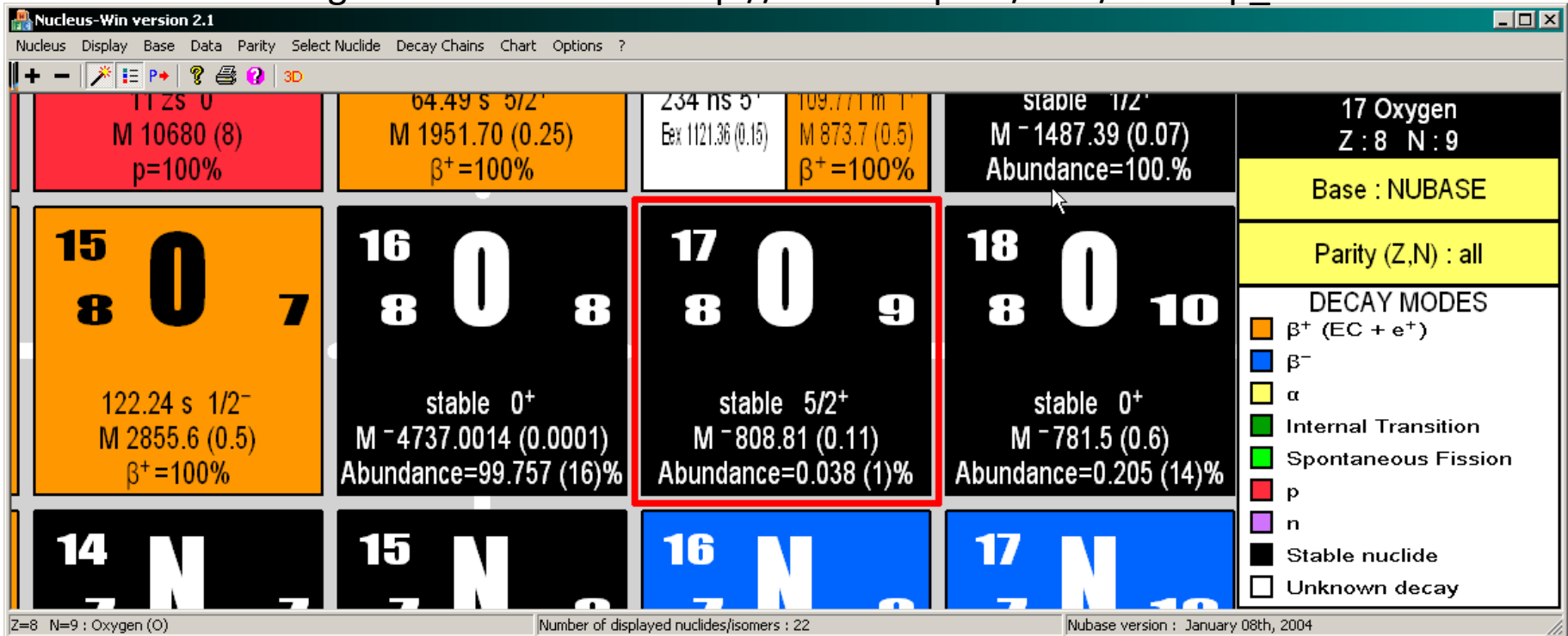
- grows rapidly with mass up to ~ 56 , then slowly declines
- approximately smooth function on large scale
- definitely not smooth on fine scale

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).

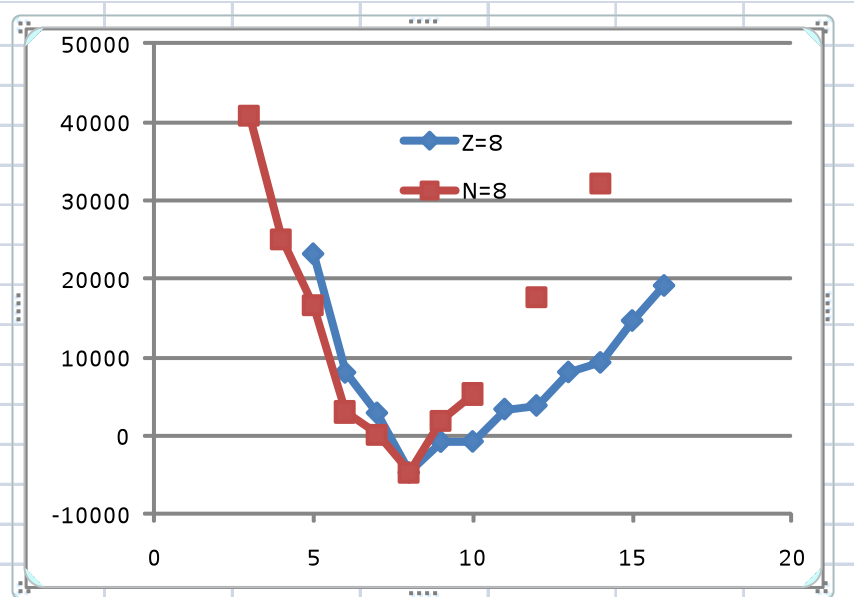
$$\Delta = (m - A) c^2 \quad {}^{18}\text{O} : (17.999160 - 18) u c^2 * 931.494 \text{ MeV}/u c^2 = -0.7825 \text{ MeV}$$

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: $^{11}\text{Li} - ^{18}\text{Ne}, ^{20}\text{Mg}, ^{22}\text{Si}$

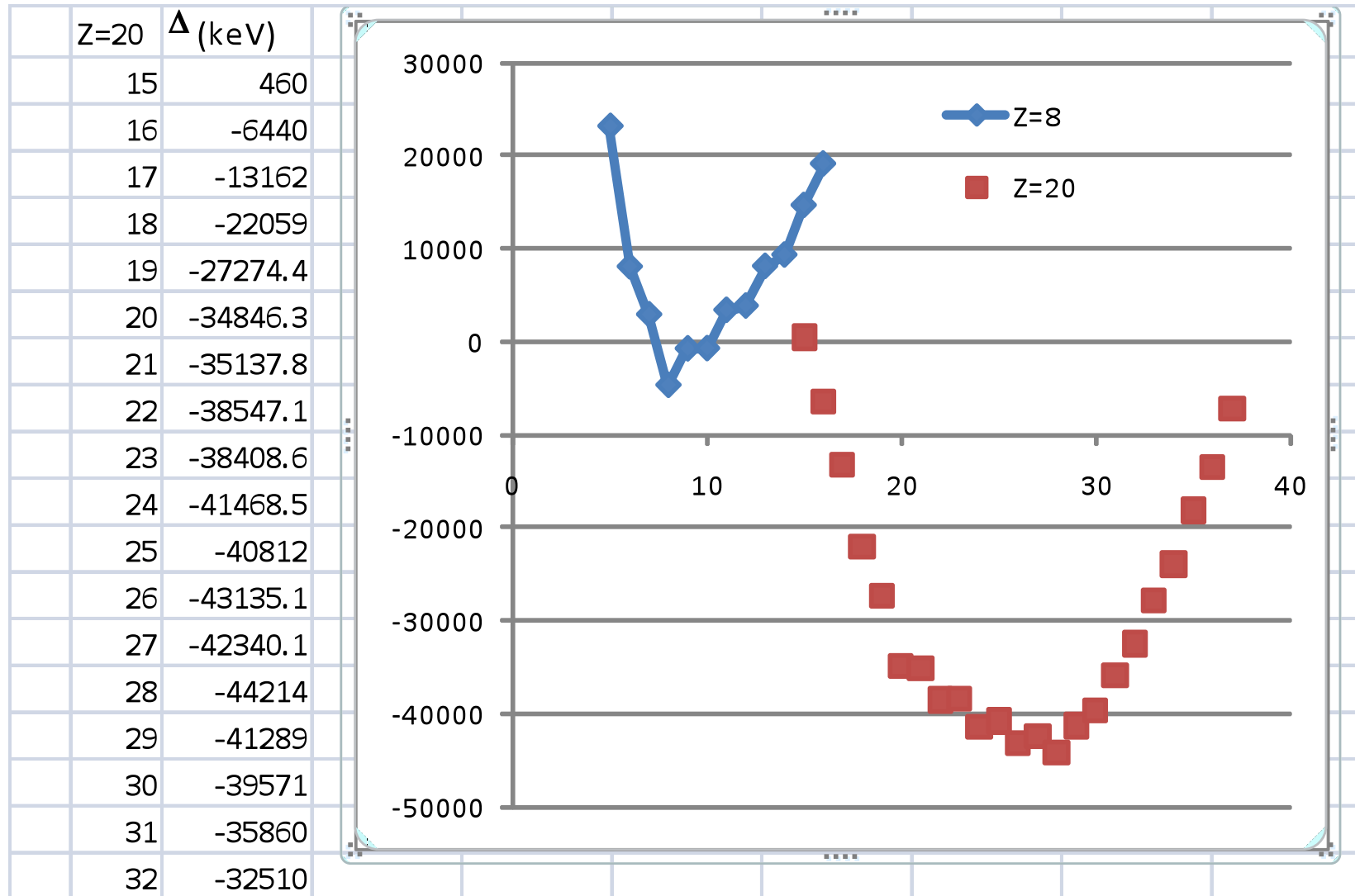
Z=8	Δ (keV)	N=8	Δ (keV)
5	23112	11-Li	3 40797
6	8007.36	12-Be	4 25077
7	2855.6	13-B	5 16562.2
8	-4737	14-C	6 3019.893
9	-808.81	15-N	7 101.438
10	-781.5	16-O	8 -4737
11	3334.9	17-F	9 1951.7
12	3797.5	18-Ne	10 5317.17
13	8063		11
14	9280	20-Mg	12 17570
15	14610		13
16	19070	22-Si	14 32160



Data from NUCLEUS-WIN (AME 2004)

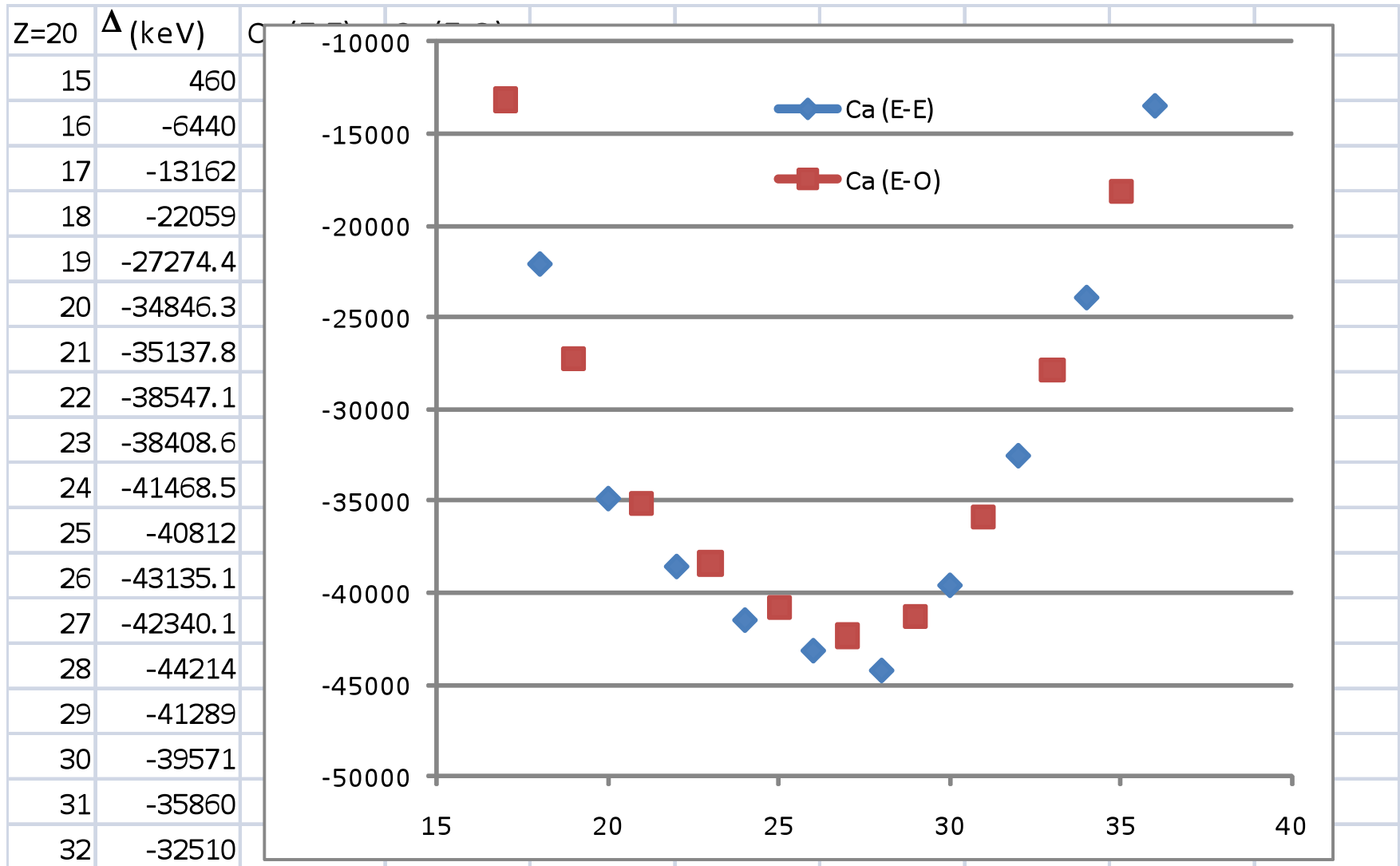
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 2a

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



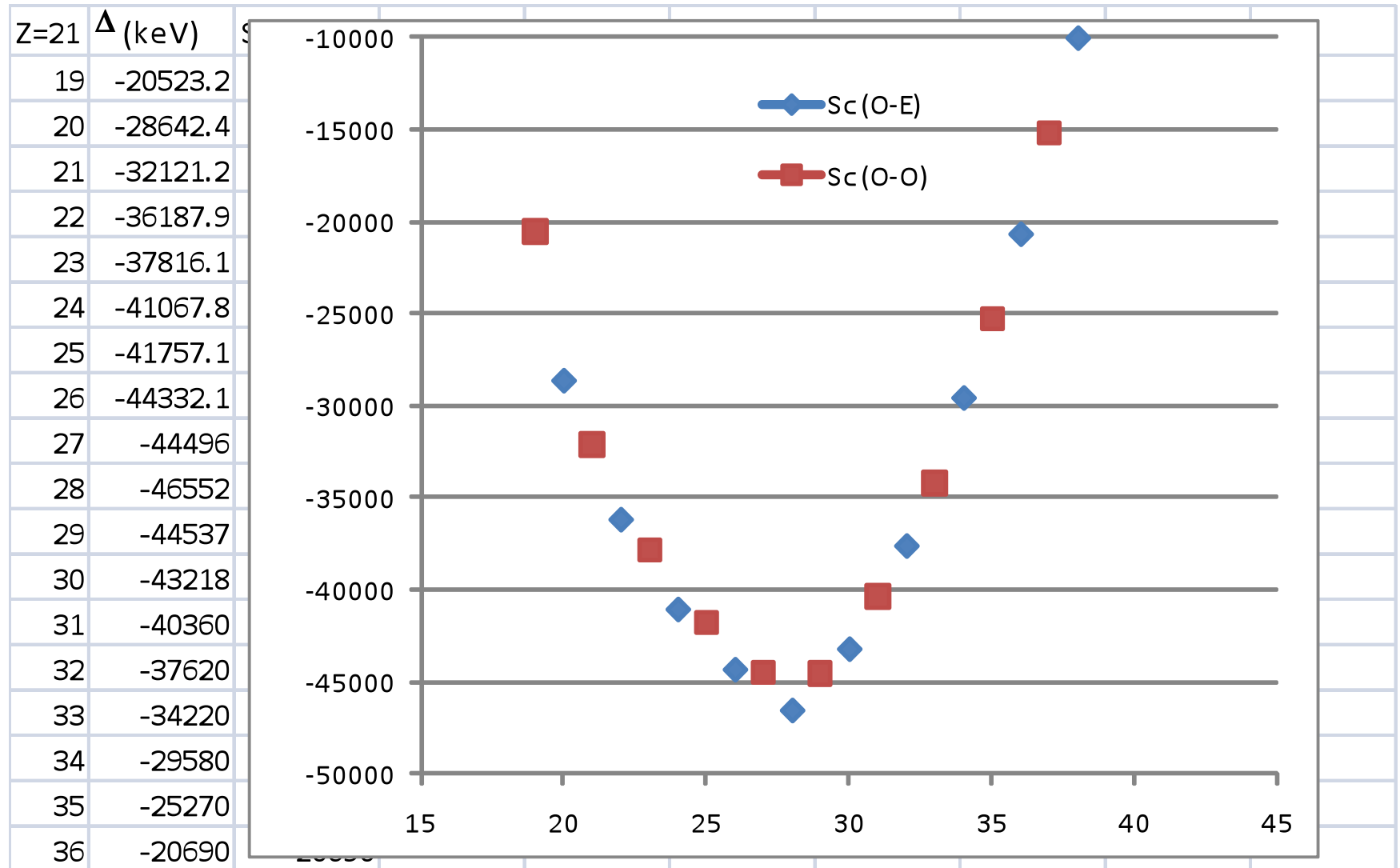
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 2b

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



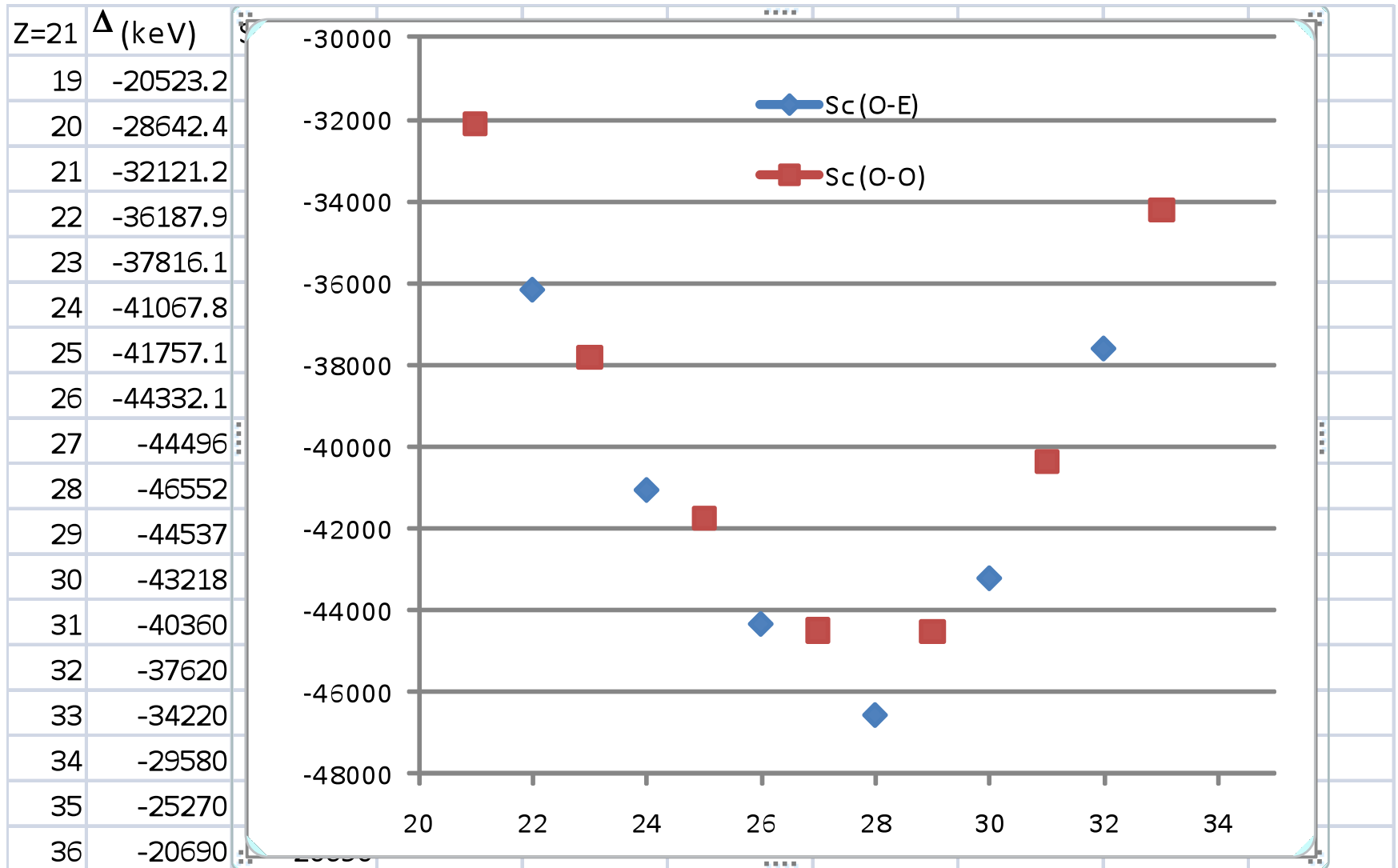
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 3a

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



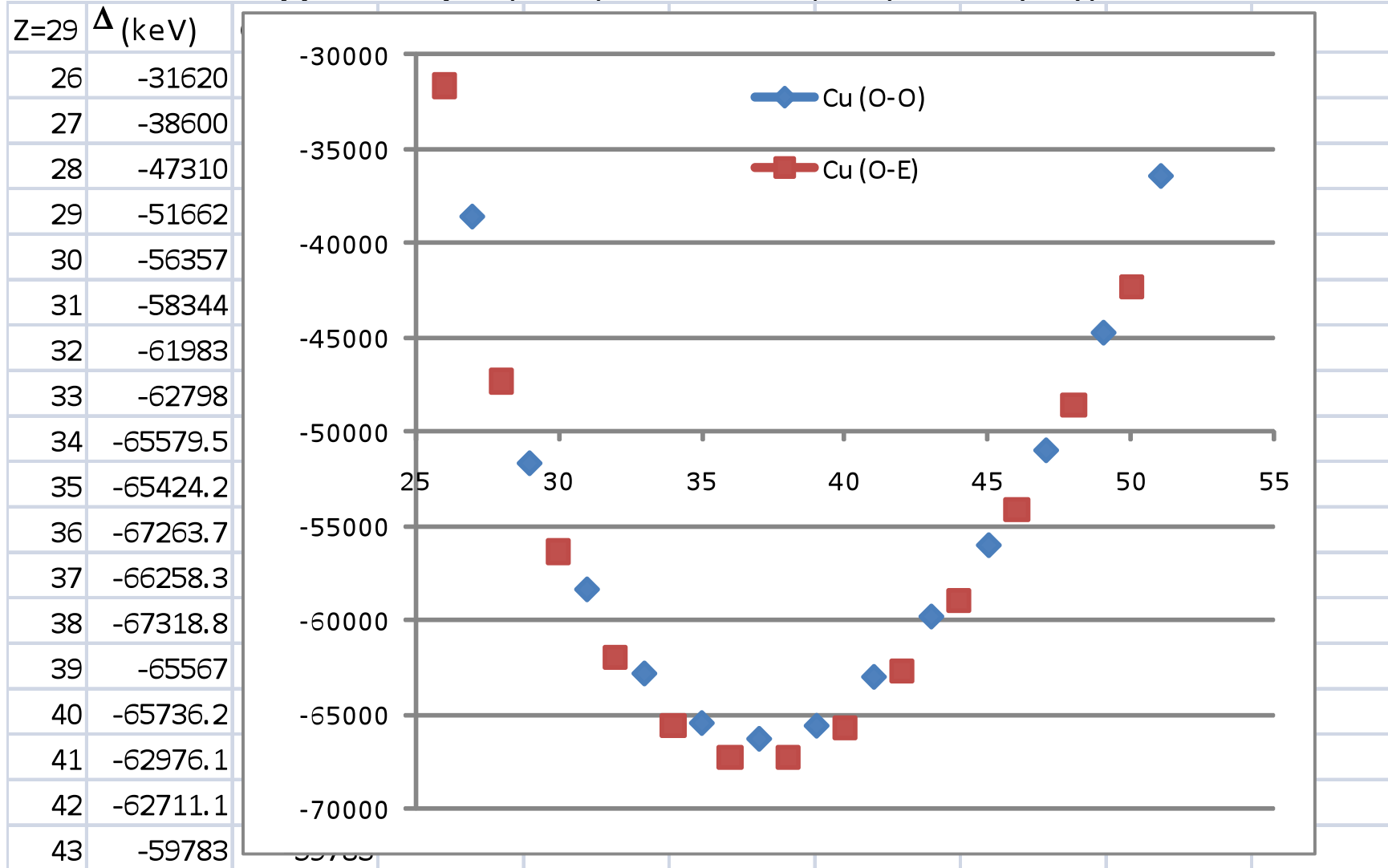
Systematics of Atomic Masses – 3b

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”



Semi empirical (Liquid Drop) Mass Equation

The total binding energy for a nucleus (and therefore the mass) can be approximated by a constant with corrections:

$$BE(Z,A) = a_v A - a_s A^{2/3} - a_c \frac{Z^2}{A^{1/3}} - a_a \frac{(A - 2Z)^2}{A} \pm \delta$$

Sec. 2-7 in the text

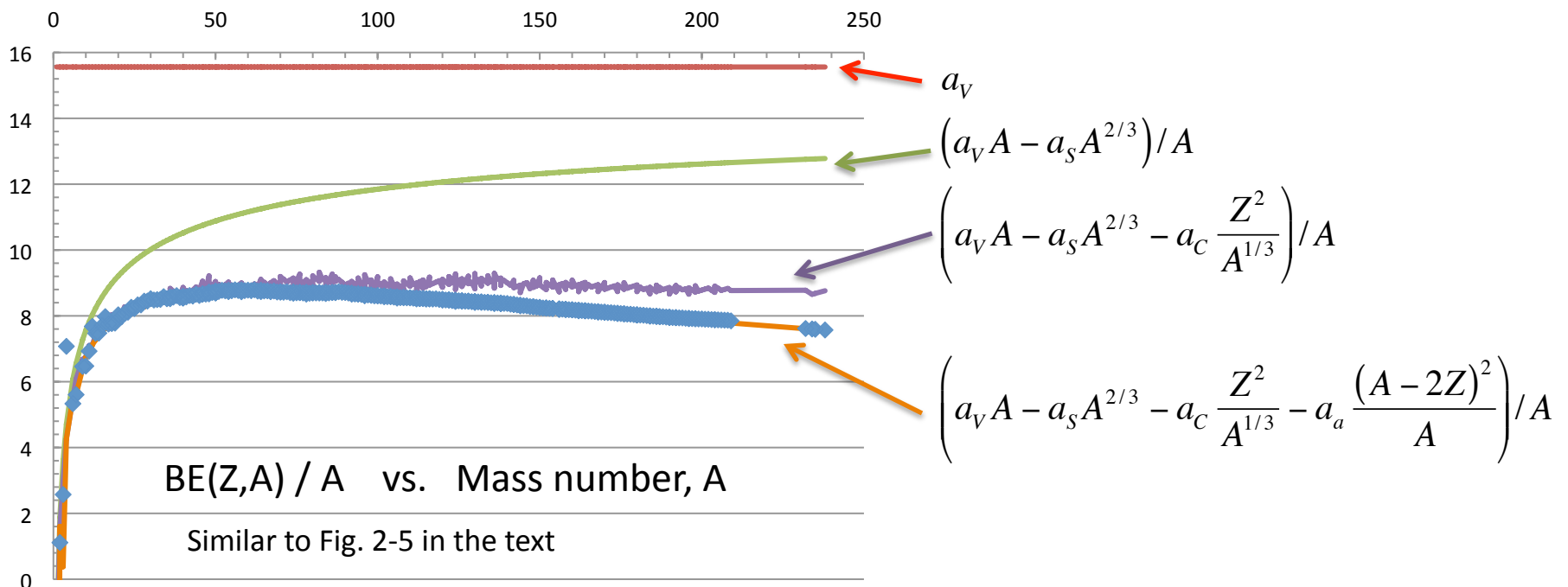
Volume term: $a_v A$ binding energy is the same for each nucleon

Surface term: $-a_s A^{2/3}$ binding energy is less for a nucleon on the surface

Coulomb term: $-a_c Z^2 / A^{2/3}$ coulomb force tends to destabilize nucleus

Asymmetry term: $-a_a (A-2Z)^2 / A$ imbalance between neutrons and protons is bad

Pairing term: $\pm \delta$ unpaired nucleons destabilize nucleus



“Best” value of Z for given A

$$M(Z,A)c^2 = Zm_Hc^2 + (A - Z)m_nc^2 - BE(Z,A)$$

$$M(Z,A)c^2 = Zm_Hc^2 + (A - Z)m_nc^2 - \left[a_V A - a_S A^{2/3} - a_C \frac{Z^2}{A^{1/3}} - a_A \frac{(A - 2Z)^2}{A} \pm \delta \right]$$

Eq. 2-3&4 in the text

$$\Delta(Z,A) = Z\Delta_H + (A - Z)\Delta_n - a_V A + a_S A^{2/3} + a_C \frac{Z^2}{A^{1/3}} + a_A \frac{(A - 2Z)^2}{A} \mp \delta$$