

Binding energy of helium $B = (\sum m_i - M) c^2$

Method 1 use atomic mass units of nuclei from CODATA

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2m_p & = & 2 \times 1.007276 \text{ u} \\ + m_n & + & 1.008664 \text{ u} \\ - m_{\text{He}} & - & \underline{3.014932 \text{ u}} \\ & & 0.008285 \text{ u} = 7.72 \text{ MeV} \end{array}$$

Method 2 use energy equivalent of nuclei from CODATA

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 2E_p & = & 2 \times 938.272 \text{ MeV} \\ + E_n & + & 939.565 \text{ MeV} \\ - E_{\text{He}} & - & \underline{2808.391 \text{ MeV}} \\ & & 7.718 \text{ MeV} \end{array}$$

Method 3 use atomic masses (not nuclear masses)

$$\begin{aligned} B &= \left(\begin{array}{c} 2m_p + m_n - m_{\text{He}} \\ + 2m_e - 2m_e \end{array} \right) c^2 \\ &= \left(2m(^1\text{H}) + m_n - m(^3\text{He}) \right) c^2 \quad \text{atomic masses!} \end{aligned}$$

Method 4 use atomic mass excesses $[\Delta = M_{\text{ZN}} - A \times (1\text{u})]$

show

$$B = [2\Delta(^1\text{H}) + \Delta(n) - \Delta(^3\text{He})] c^2$$

Can use Nubase ← atomic mass excesses