POWER FROM FUSION

THE ENERGY OF FUSION

The masses of subatomic particles are given in atomic mass units, amu's or u's where

1 u = 1.6605402 x 10 $^{-27}$ kg.

Do the following subtraction to find how much mass is "lost" when 4 hydrogen atoms fuse to one helium:[2]

m_H	=	1.007825 u	x 4	:	4.031300 u
m_{He}	=	4.002603 u	x 1	:	− 4.002603 u

mass "lost" in fusion = _____ u

fraction of H mass "lost" in fusion $\left(\frac{m_{\text{Lost}}}{m_H}\right)$ = _____ ←

"Bond. James Bond." Seems he knew something about fusion, eh?

Find the energy produced in each fusion reaction.

1.[2] **Convert** this "lost" mass **from u/fusion to kg/fusion** using 1 u = 1.66 x 10^{-27} kg (keep 3 decimal places)

Example: $\frac{0.0287\ \text{u}}{\text{fusion}}\left(\frac{1.66\times10^{-27}\ \text{kg}}{1\ \text{u}}\right) = \frac{4.76\times10^{-29}\ \text{kg}}{\text{fusion}}$ $\frac{\text{kg of H}}{\text{fusion}}$

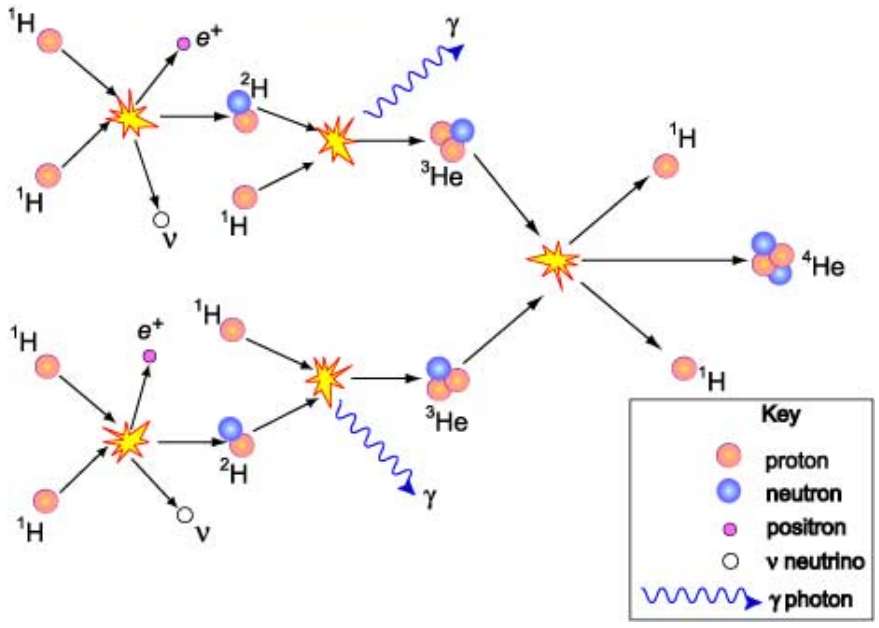
Use the conversion factor to multiply by one & get rid of unwanted units (u)!

2.[2] **Convert** from **mass/fusion** to **energy/fusion** (in Joules) using **E = mc^2** and c = 3.000 x 10^8 m/s

$\frac{\text{J}}{\text{fusion}}$

3.[2] **Convert** the **energy/fusion** from **Joules** to **kilowatt-hour using** 1 kWhr = 3.6 x 10^6 J.

$\frac{\text{kWhr}}{\text{fusion}}$



The energy released by a single fusion reaction of 4 hydrogen atoms to one helium atom is:

_____ $\frac{\text{kWhr}}{\text{fusion}}$

How many pounds of H would we have to fuse to provide energy used in New York State?

4. **Convert this** (1.190 x 10^{-18} kWhr/fusion) to **fusions/NY resident** using 15,651 kWhr per capita which the US Energy Information Administration gives as the 2021 New York Sate Usage. (keep 4 sig figs)

$$\underbrace{\frac{15651\ \text{kWhr}}{\text{NY resident}}}_{\text{Use the conversion factor to multiply by one \& get rid of unwanted units (kWhr)!}}\underbrace{\left(\frac{\text{fusion}}{1.190 \times 10^{-18}\ \text{kWhr}}\right)}_{\text{Flip this factor to get fusions on top, then get rid of kWhr with the conversion factor}} = \frac{1.315 \times 10^{22}\ \text{fusions}}{\text{NY Resident}} \qquad \frac{\text{fusions}}{\text{NY resident}}$$

It should seem like a HUGE number!! BUT … how much hydrogen is this?

5.[2] Each fusion reaction uses 6.694 x 10^{-27} kg of H (that becomes He and energy). Find the total H that would have to be fused to supply an average households energy using your result in #4

$$\frac{\text{kg of H}}{\text{NY resident}}$$

6.[2] **To supply 19,840,000 NY residents**, how many **kg of hydrogen** would need to undergo fusion ?

$$\frac{\text{kg of H}}{\text{NY State}}$$

7.[2] How many **pounds of hydrogen** is this if 1 kg = 2.2 lb? What do you think of this number?

$$\frac{\text{lb of H}}{\text{NY State}}$$

What do you think of this number?[2]



The Energy of Sol … How much H does Sol fuse each second?

Sol's luminosity is 3.827×10^{26} Watts provided by the fusion of hydrogen into helium.

$L_{Sol} = 3.827 \times 10^{26} \frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{second}}$ due to fusions reactions that each produce $E_{fusion} = 4.283 \times 10^{-12} \frac{\text{Joules}}{\text{fusion}}$

1.[2] Find the number of hydrogen **fusions per second** that provide Sol's **3.827×10^{26} J/sec** (4 sig figs).

$\frac{\text{fusions}}{\text{second}}$

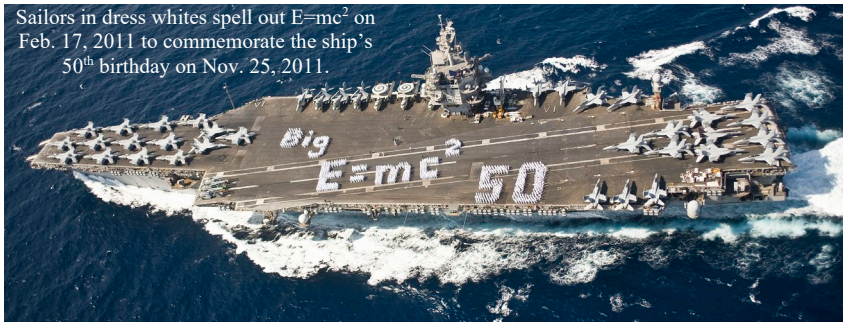
The total mass of H used in each fusion (to become He and energy) is

$$m_{fusion} = 6.694 \times 10^{-27} \frac{\text{kg of H}}{\text{fusion}}$$

2.[2] **Convert** your result from #1 (8.935×10^{37} fusions/sec) from **fusions/sec** to **kg/sec** using this.

$\frac{\text{kg of H}}{\text{second}}$

An aircraft carrier such as the USS Eneterprise (CVN-65) shown, weighs 94,781 metric tons (1 metric ton = 1 tonne = 1000 kg). How many of these ships would have to be fused each second to supply Sol's energy (IF they were pure hydrogen?



Sailors in dress whites spell out $E=mc^2$ on Feb. 17, 2011 to commemorate the ship's 50th birthday on Nov. 25, 2011.

1.[2] Find the mass of the USS Enterprise in kg (keep 4 sig figs)

$\frac{\text{kg}}{\text{USS Enterprise}}$

2.[2] **Convert** the amount the Sunfuses **from kg/sec** to **aircraft carriers/second** (USS Enterprise/sec)

$\frac{\text{USS Enterprises}}{\text{second}}$

3.[2] Compare this to the amount needed to supply New York State

4. Since 0.7% of the mass of the original hydrogen turns into energy, how many aircraft carriers per second are turned into energy by the Sun (just multiply the number from 3 by 0.007)?

5.[2] What do you think of this much matter being converted entirely to energy EVERY SECOND??