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## Balancing Nuclear Reaction Equations

### Why?

Nuclear reactions are going on all around us. Using correctly balanced equations is important when trying to understand nuclear reactions. All equations need to be balanced to conform to two conservation laws: the mass number is conserved, and the electrical charge is conserved.

### Success Criteria

- Use the conservation laws to find an unknown in a nuclear reaction equation.
- Write a balanced nuclear equation for a natural transmutation.

### Prerequisites

- atomic symbols including mass number, atomic number, and charge

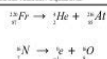
### Information

${}^4_2\text{He}$  = a helium nucleus, also known as an alpha particle.

${}^0_{-1}\text{e}$  = an electron, also known as a beta particle when emitted by a nucleus.

### Model

The following are two nuclear reaction equations.



### Key Questions

- What are the products of francium-238 decay? Write the names of the products.
- What are the products of nitrogen-14 decay? Write the names of the products.

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