

(4.1) ^{239}Pu emits alpha particles of maximum 5.152 MeV. What is the recoil energy of the product nucleus?

Given are: $E_{\alpha} := 5.152 \text{ MeV}$ $A := 239$

$A_d := A - 4$ Because the mass number A is unchanged in low energy reactions, eqn. (4.7).

$Q_{\alpha} := E_{\alpha} \cdot \frac{A}{A_d}$ From eqn. (4.16) $Q_{\alpha} = 5.240 \text{ MeV}$

$E_d := Q_{\alpha} \cdot \frac{4}{A}$ From eqn. (4.15) $E_d = 0.088 \text{ MeV}$ (^{235}U)