

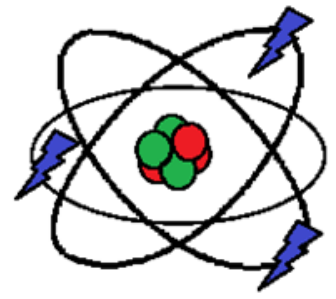
# Nuclear Medicine

Dr. Michael J. Shaw

The Science Circle

October 28, 2017

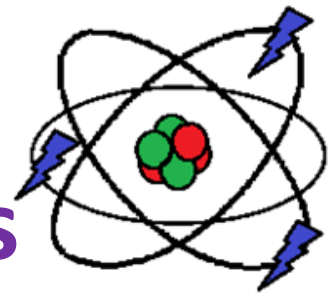
# An Abstract...



Since the discovery of radioactivity, our understanding has steadily increased about how nuclear materials can be used to improve health. Individuals who worked with radioactive substances in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were often exposed to dangerous amounts of radioactivity. Nuclear safety improved in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and the application of nuclear phenomena to medicine was developed in earnest. From improved scanning techniques to tissue-specific therapies, the current state-of-the-art includes an impressive set of technologies for the diagnosis and treatment of a number of diseases.

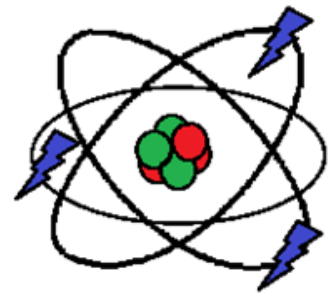


# Acknowledgement: Open Education Commons



- <https://www.oercommons.org/>
- “OER Commons is a dynamic digital library and network. Explore open education resources and join our network of educators dedicated to curriculum improvement.”
- I have identified the slides where I have used OER Commons content, including Wikibooks content.
- Good resource: <https://www.oercommons.org/courses/basic-physics-of-nuclear-medicine/view>

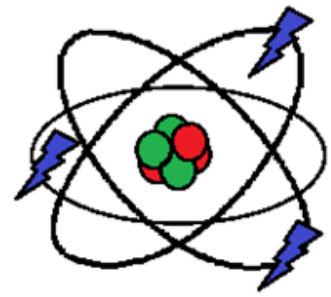
# Radioactive elements have been in the public eye since their discovery...



- Marie Curie – bio from Nobel site  
([https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/physics/laureates/1903/marie-curie-bio.html](https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1903/marie-curie-bio.html) )
- Mark Twain... “Sold to Satan”  
<http://www.revolutionsf.com/fiction/sold2satan/01.html> has a devil made of radium (way beyond critical mass) with a polonium skin...
- “The Radium Girls” by Kate Moor. Review at  
<http://www.npr.org/2017/04/27/525765323/the-radium-girls-is-haunted-by-glowing-ghosts>

# Early Days...

- Fiestaware! (Uranium Glaze)



<http://demoweb.physics.ucla.edu/content/60-radioactivity-and-counters>

- Shocking uses...
  - Quackery: The health benefits of Radium?
  - <https://www.ranker.com/list/quack-medical-devices-that-contained-radium/amandasedlakhevener>

# Uses in Medicine?

- **IMAGING**

- Positron Emission Tomography Scans
- Gamma ray emission (e.g) Tc-99m
- Nuclear Spin yields MRI
  - Can look at  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^{31}\text{P}$ , both of which are 100% abundant and which have the property of “spin”

- **THERAPY**

- Isotopes used for research need to be delivered within compounds
- Many Anticancer drugs:
  - Includes Boron neutron capture therapy

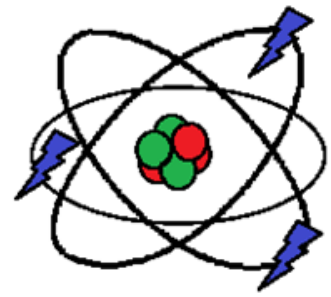
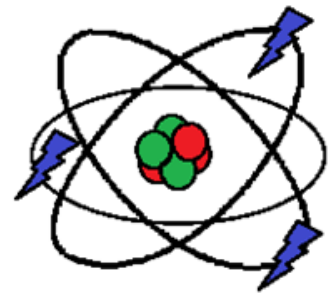


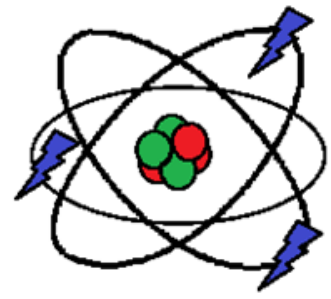
Image: Jan Ainali (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MRI-Philips.JPG>), “MRI-Philips”,  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/legalcode>



# What is Nuclear Chemistry?

- Start with atoms
- Atoms are made of protons and neutrons in a dense core, surrounded by electrons at relatively far distances
- What type of element an atom is depends on how many protons there are in the nucleus.
- Which isotope or nuclide of the element, depends on # of neutrons.





# Nucleus

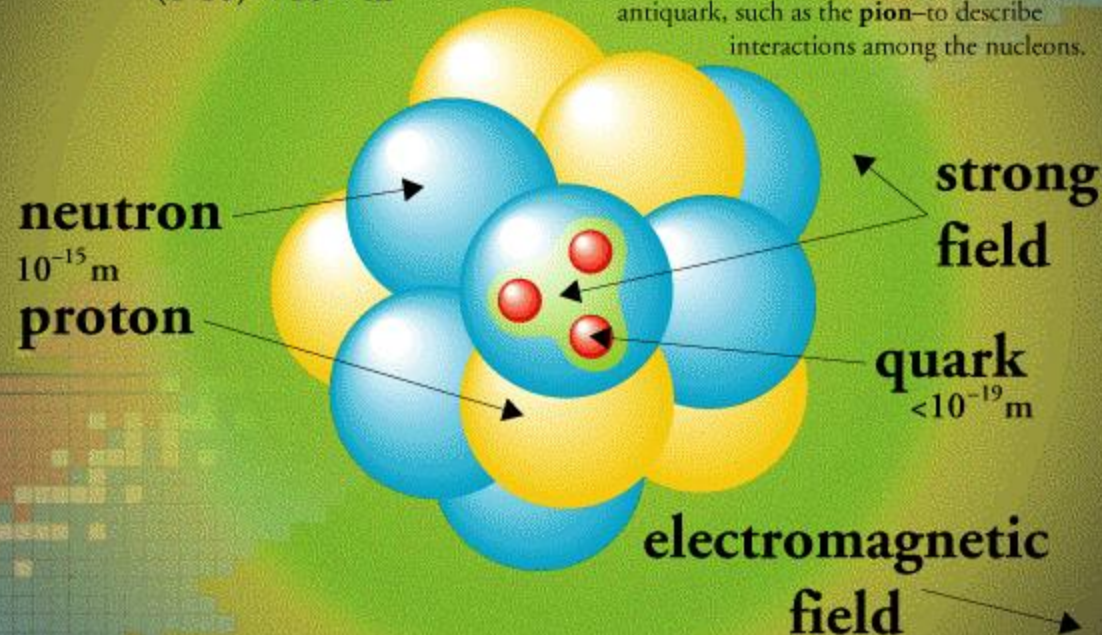
- See: <http://www.oercommons.org/courses/abcs-of-nuclear-science-and-technology/view>

for a course and this image

## The Nucleus

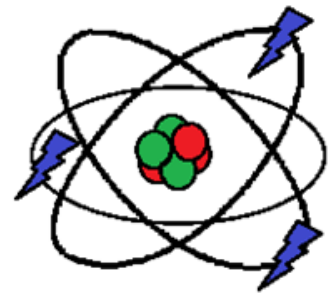
$(1-10) \times 10^{-15} \text{ m}$

At the center of the atom is a nucleus formed from **nucleons**—protons and neutrons. Each nucleon is made from three **quarks** held together by their strong interactions, which are mediated by gluons. In turn, the nucleus is held together by the **strong** interactions between the gluon and quark constituents of neighboring nucleons. Nuclear physicists often use the exchange of mesons—particles which consist of a quark and an antiquark, such as the **pion**—to describe interactions among the nucleons.



In an atom, **electrons** range around the nucleus at distances typically up to 10,000 times the nuclear diameter. If the electron cloud were shown to scale, this chart would cover a small town.





# Scale of Atoms:

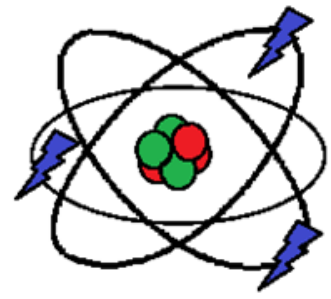
- **Electrons** on outside ( $10^{-10}$  m region)
- **Nucleus** on inside ( $10^{-14}$  m region)
  - **Protons** have + charge
    - # protons determine which element
  - **Neutrons** have no charge
    - # neutrons helps determine overall mass
  - Both called “**nucleons**”
- Electrons weigh about 1/1800 of a nucleon

Source: <http://www.sciencegeek.net/tables/tables.shtml>

\*update

10

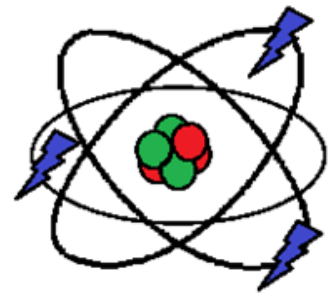
# Forces



- **Electromagnetic**
  - Protons push each other strongly
  - Long range effect
- **Strong Nuclear**
  - Nucleons attract each other VERY strongly, but only if touching
- **Weak Nuclear**
  - Nucleons have a weak repulsion
- **Gravity?**
  - Not a factor with such small masses.

**What you need to know:**

**Some atoms fall apart, giving off energy in the form of radiation**



# Isotopes / Nuclides

- All atoms are examples of an isotope.
- Some isotopes are stable... differ by # of neutrons



Regular hydrogen  
"protium"



Heavy hydrogen  
"deuterium"

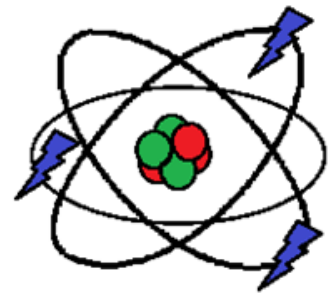


Radioactive hydrogen  
"tritium"

Total number of  
protons + neutrons  
"mass number"

Total number of protons  
"atomic number"





# Nuclides or Isotopes

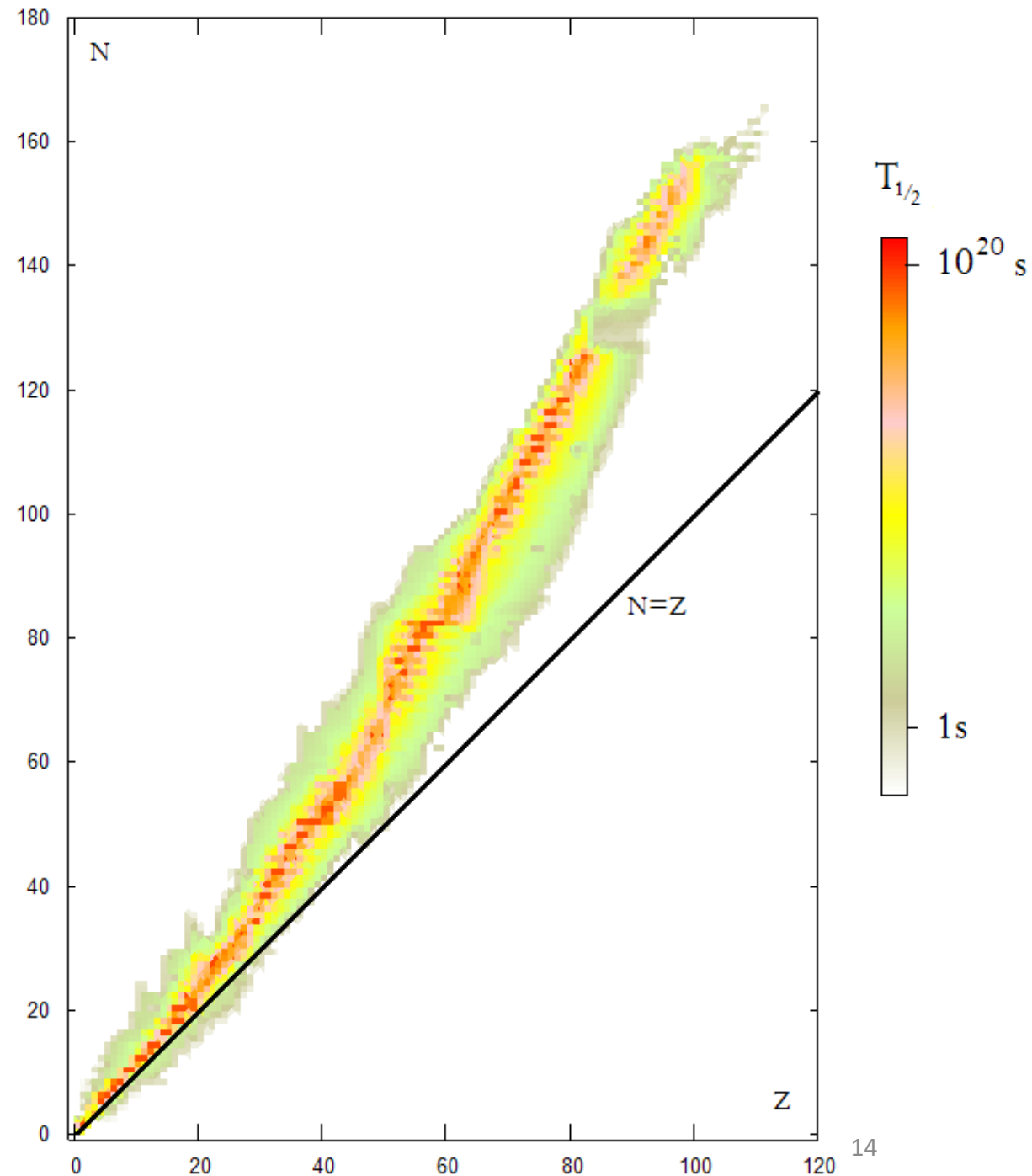
- Every element can have isotopes
- Some are stable, some aren't
- Lighter than Ca, most stability comes from having 1:1 ratio of protons and neutrons
- Heavier than Ca, need more neutrons to hold nuclei together

## Background

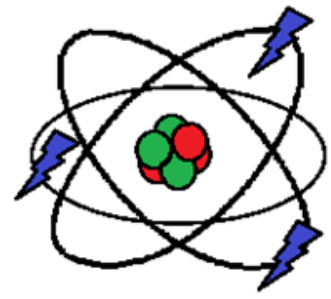
# Table of Nuclides

- Color describes half-life
  - red is most stable
- X-axis is number of protons
- Y-axis is number of neutrons

- <https://www.oercommons.org/courses/basic-physics-of-nuclear-medicine/view>



Background... math warning!



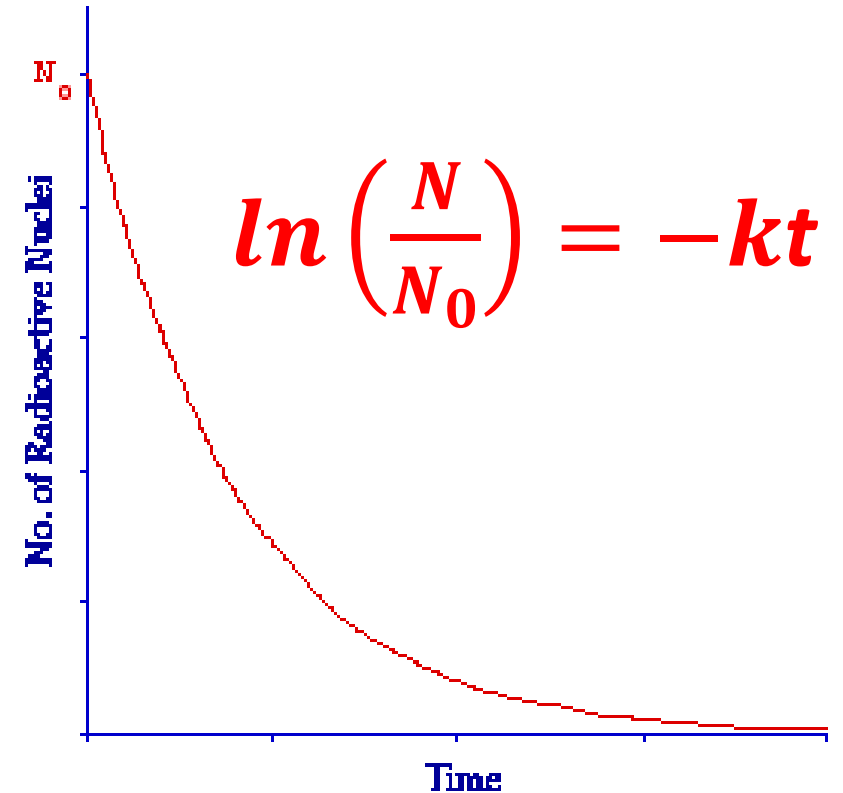
# Half-life: 1<sup>st</sup> order decay

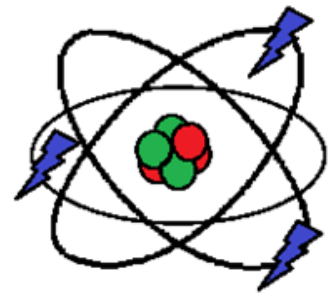
- When  $N = 0.5 \times N_0$ , then you're at the time it takes for half of what you started with to go away.

- “k” is a rate constant... units are  $s^{-1}$

$$\ln(0.5) = -kt_{1/2}$$

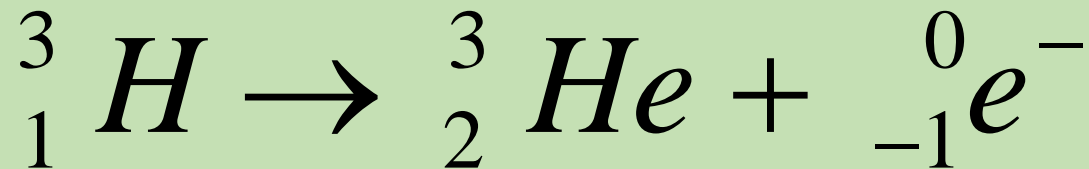
$$t_{1/2} = 0.692/k$$



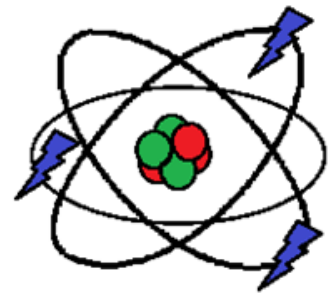


# Stability

- Stable nuclei are balanced between attractive forces and repulsive forces
- Too many neutrons?
  - Eject  $e^-$ , turn a neutron into a proton

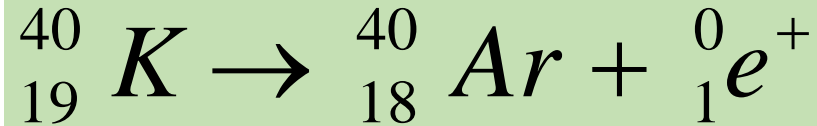
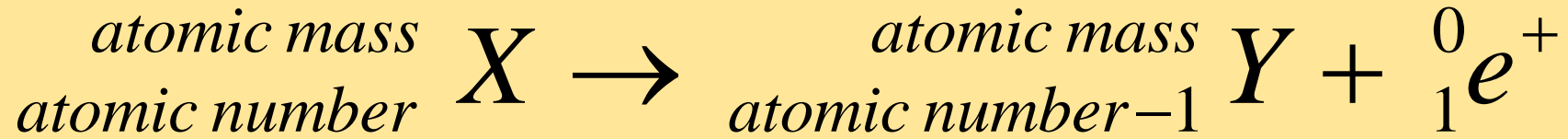




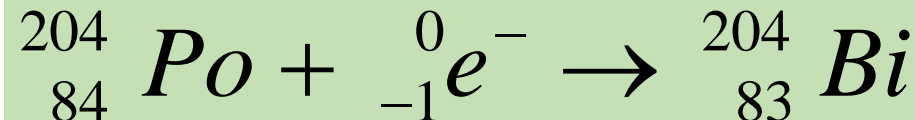
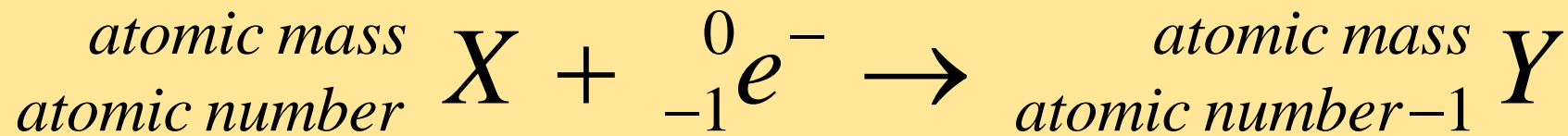


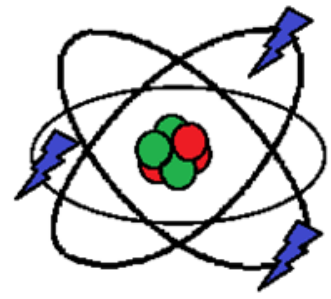
## A few too many protons?

- Eject  $e^+$ , turn proton into a neutron, or



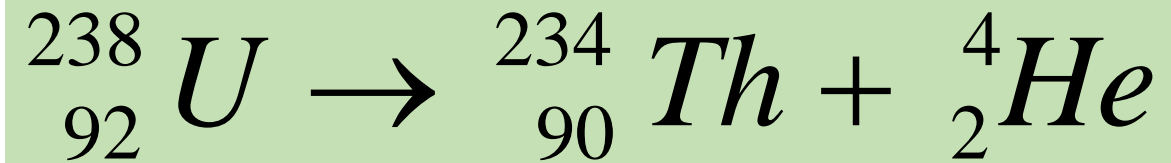
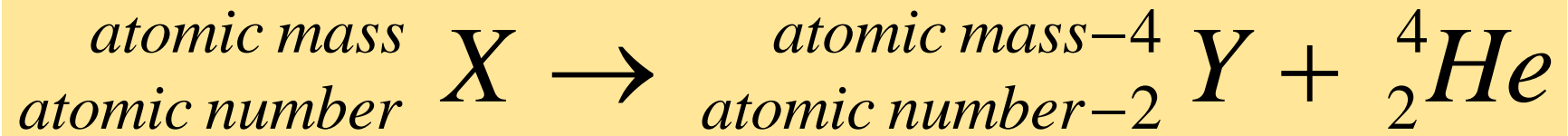
- Capture  $e^-$  from core electrons (not valence)... turn proton into neutron

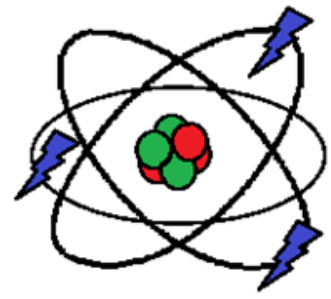




# Way too many protons?

- Eject an **alpha particle**



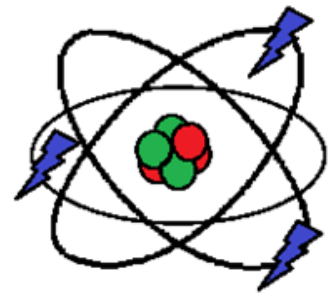


# Fission

- Neutrons can cause large nuclei to break apart



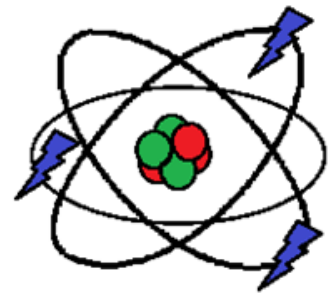
- The extra neutrons can break apart other U-235 nuclei
- **Chain reaction** **modulated** in nuclear reactors by boron rods... neutron capture (also carbon or water)
- Lots of energy released... not used medically, but reactors help generate starting materials!



# Other transformations

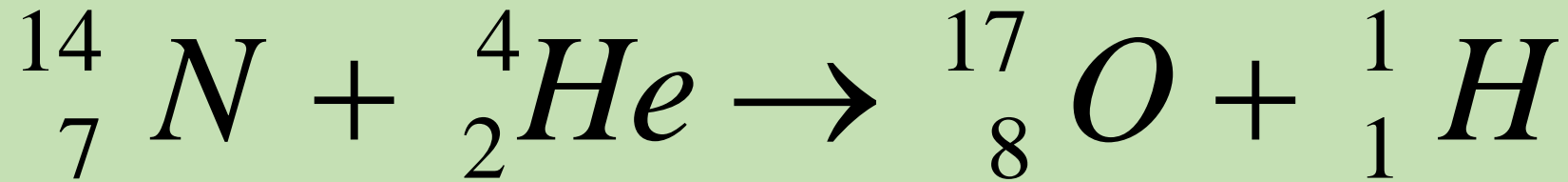
- **Positron emission and electron capture**
  - have the same effect on the nucleus... a proton is transformed to a neutron
  - Accompanied by gamma rays
- **Fission**
  - Heavy elements can spontaneously break up into smaller nuclei and neutrons
  - Can be induced by collisions with energetic particles
- **Fusion**
  - Not spontaneous, no current role in medicine.
  - Light element nuclei forced together to become a new nucleus.





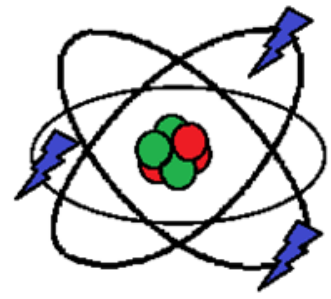
# Fusion

- Small nuclei come together to make bigger ones



- Fusion is what makes the sun shine...
- Needs lots of energy to happen, but releases even more

Background: Hey, this has relevance to medicine!

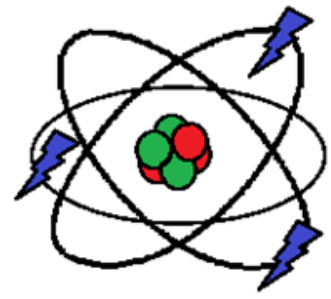


# Deliberate Reactions

- Neutron capture

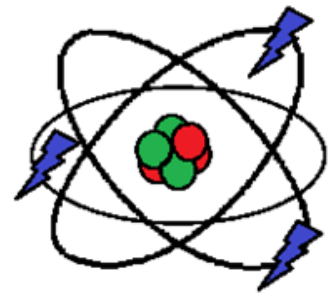


- B-10 turns into B-11, both are stable “boron neutron capture therapy”
- C-12 turns into C-13, both are stable
- Fe-58 can capture 1 neutron, undergo positron emission to become Co-59
- Co-59 captures 1 neutron to become Co-60 (dangerous)



# Summary: Types of radiation

- Alpha particle = helium nucleus
  - Naked positive charge can rip  $e^-$  away from any molecule... very ionizing. Dangerous internally. Not very penetrating. Can't get through paper or skin.
- Beta particle = electron
  - Not very penetrating, dangerous internally. Heavy clothing or wood blocks beta.
- Gamma ray = high energy photon
  - Penetrating, more so than X-rays. Ionizing. Very dangerous. Need thick lead to block.



# Imaging and treatment of Cancers

- DNA damage... can be caused by radiation in the first place!
- Next slide is an X-Ray structure of DNA polymerase wrapped around a DNA strand to which cis-platin has bound selectively btw 2 “rungs” of the DNA ladder.
- Specific binding of radioactive species allows for selective targeting.
- Goal is to damage cancer cells, leave healthy cells alone

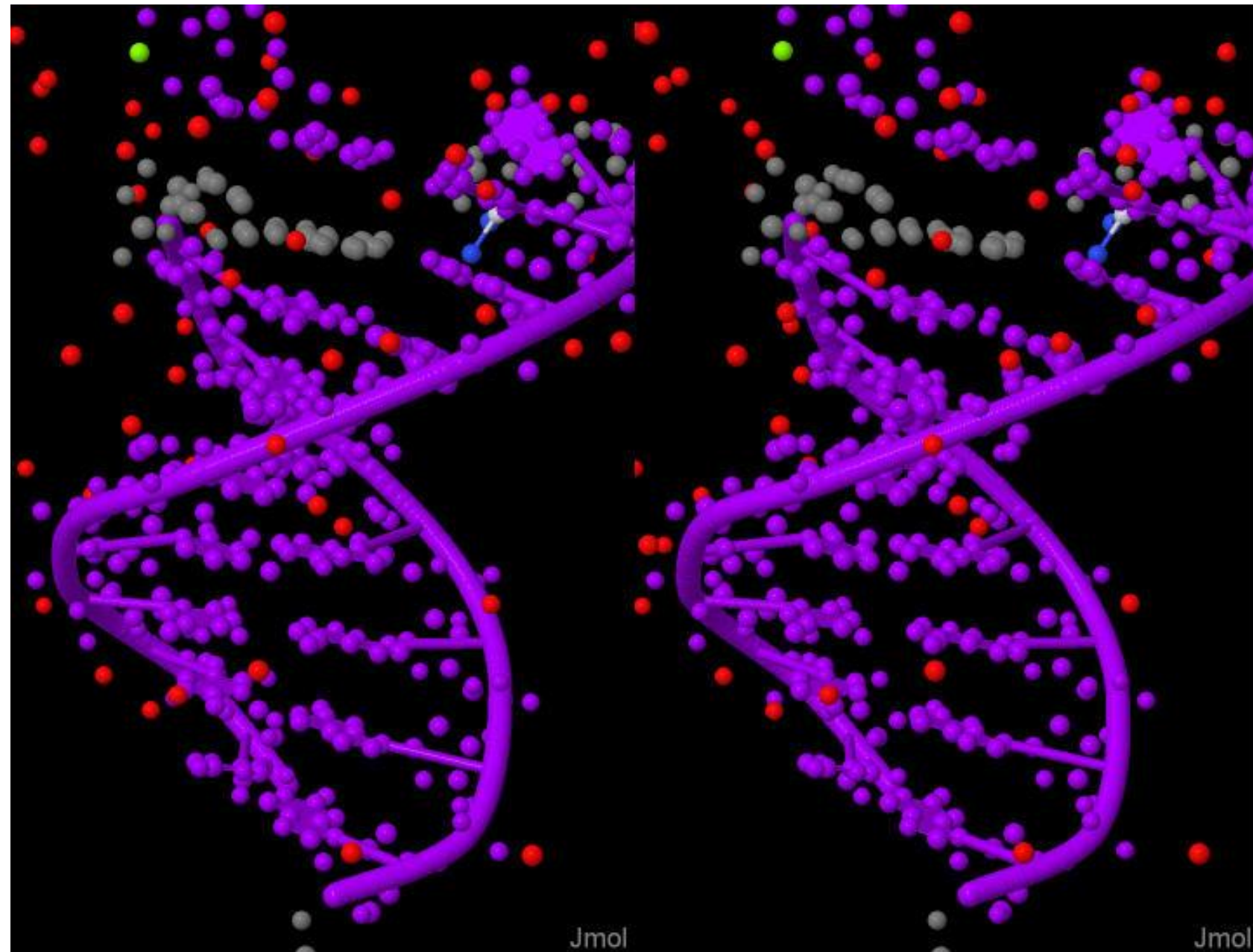
Ajay Ummat et al , *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* 19, 628–632 (2012), doi:10.1038/nsmb.2295.  
<http://www.nature.com/nsmb/journal/v19/n6/full/nsmb.2295.html>



## Cross-eyed stereogram of RSCB 4EEY... DNA only

The polymerase inserts  
“deoxycytidine  
triphosphate” (grey atoms)  
across from Pt site... allows  
for rest of strand to  
continue without  
mechanical strain.

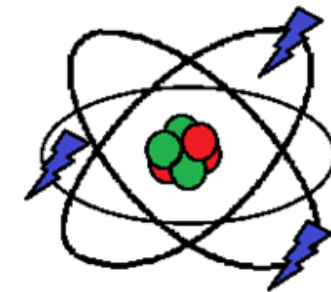
Results in tolerance for  
DNA damage caused by  
chemotherapy.



Ajay Ummat et al , *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology* 19, 628–632 (2012), doi:10.1038/nsmb.2295.

<http://www.nature.com/nsmb/journal/v19/n6/full/nsmb.2295.html>

# Animated GIFs show various parts of this structure....



- See nearby panels
- Turn media on to see animated gifs on panels.
- If too much for your viewer and internet speed, links will be in PDF version.

## Direct Links:

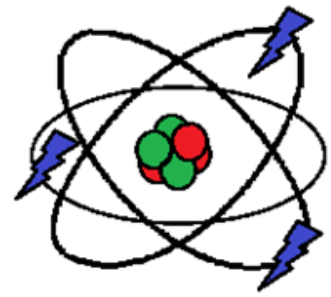
Complete Structure: [http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey\\_complete.gif](http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey_complete.gif)

DNA only: [http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey\\_dna.gif](http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey_dna.gif) and the PtCl<sub>2</sub> zoom: [http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey\\_PtCl2.gif](http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey_PtCl2.gif)

Protein only: [http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey\\_protein.gif](http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/4eey_protein.gif)

Also apk file to install hemoglobin-NO viewer on Android from last month: [http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/hemoglobin\\_NO.apk](http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/hemoglobin_NO.apk)

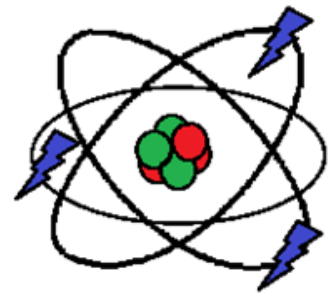
# Safety?



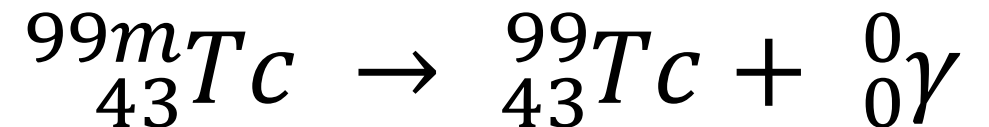
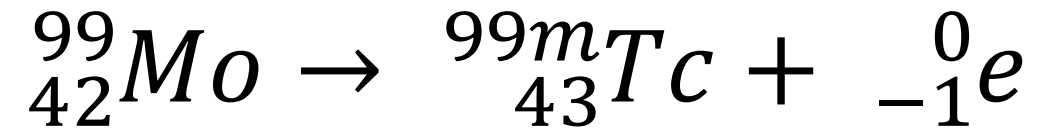
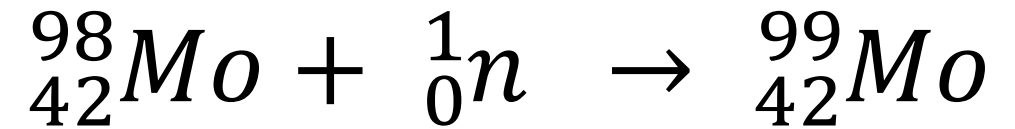
- Lesson from  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ :
  - produced by fallout from nuclear explosions, and reactor incidents (e.g. Chernobyl)
  - Chemistry almost identical to calcium... can be incorporated into growing bones.
  - Sources include milk from cows allowed to eat contaminated grass.
  - Half life is 28.8 years. Active enough to affect a human for an entire lifetime!
- Beta –decay inside the body can damage DNA, lead to bone cancer and related illnesses. Also have to be careful of kidney function during treatment.

**Need to use isotopes that decay quickly to avoid prolonged exposure.  
Hours or less for scanning, days or less for treatment**

# Technetium



- Element # 43. No isotopes have a half-life more than 211,000 years.
- Made by neutron bombardment of Mo targets, or separated from U-235 fission products

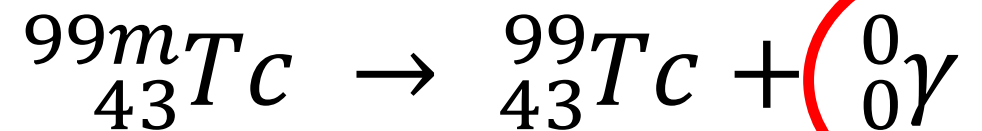
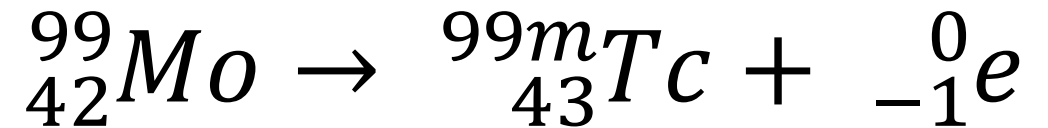
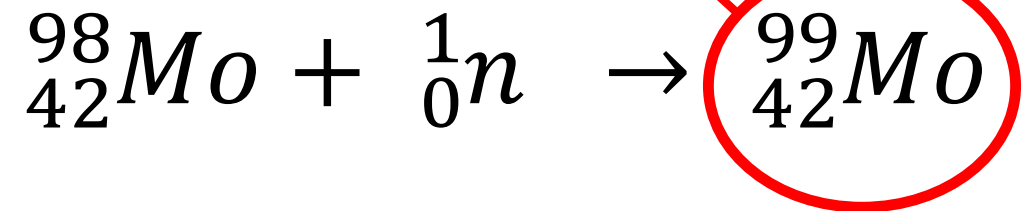
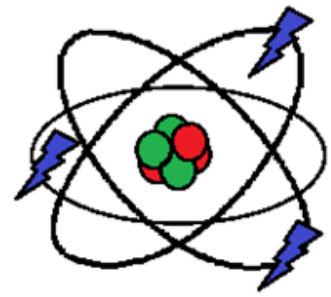


Tc containing drugs can often be adapted to  ${}^{188}\text{Re}$

# Technetium

- Element # 43. No isotopes have a half-life more than 211,000 years.
- Made by neutron bombardment of Mo targets, or separated from U-235 fission products

Isolated, placed in a multiuse “generator”



Used for imaging!

# Generators

- Chromatographic separation
  - Responsible for huge success of  $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ !
  - Generator can be used every few days for 6 months to make a dose of  $^{99\text{m}}\text{TcO}_4^-$
- Have to work fast to make drugs out of  $^{99\text{m}}\text{TcO}_4^-$ ... short half-life.
- Radiation is hard on the alumina, need very pure  $^{99}\text{Mo}$
- Most common theme for generators.

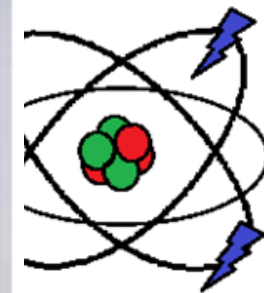
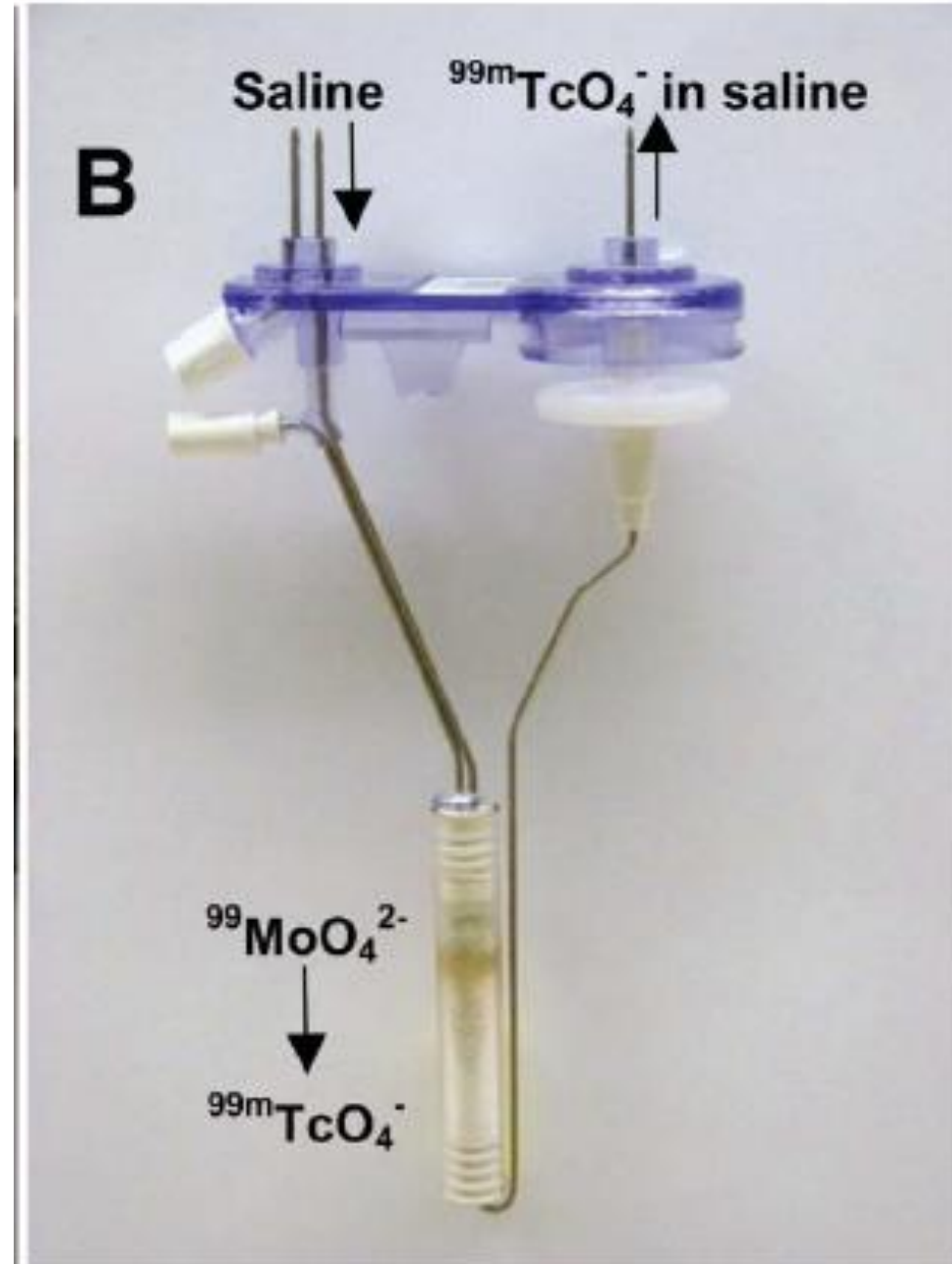
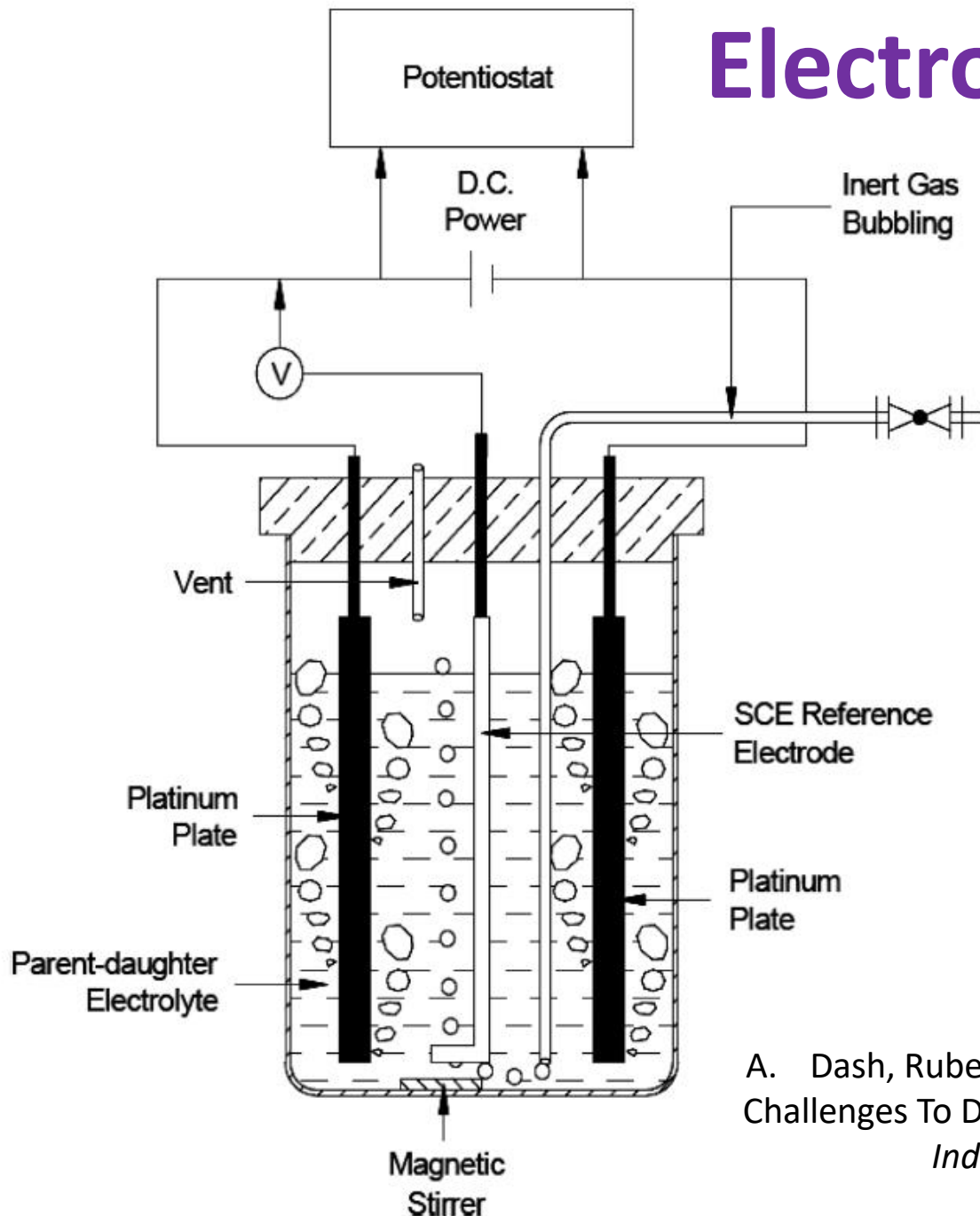
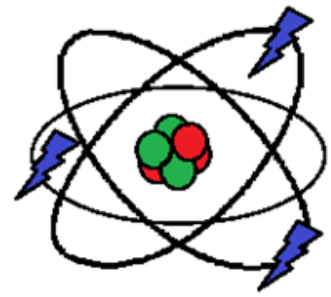


Image from S. Liu, S. Chakraborty, " $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$ -centered one-pot synthesis for preparation of  $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$  radiotracers," *Dalton Trans.*, **2011**, **40**, 6077



# Electrochemical Separation



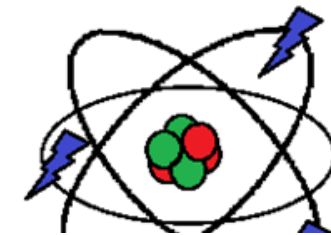
- Rely on different  $E^\circ$  properties of parent and daughter nuclides
- Can “electroplate” and redissolve a couple of times quickly to get pure sample.
- Setup more robust to radiation
- Can use lower quality parent sources, makes medicine more available

A. Dash, Rubel Chakravarty “Electrochemical Separation: Promises, Opportunities, and Challenges To Develop Next-Generation Radionuclide Generators To Meet Clinical Demands,” *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research* **2014**, 53, 3766-3777.

[dx.doi.org/10.1021/ie404369y](https://doi.org/10.1021/ie404369y)



# Electrochemical Separation



- Makes  $^{90}\text{Y}$  from  $^{90}\text{Sr}$ , purifies so only ppm of Sr left, well within safety standards
- $^{90}\text{Sr}$  available b/c it is a fission product in reactors
- Makes  $^{90}\text{Y}$  therapies available at sites which do not have reactors.

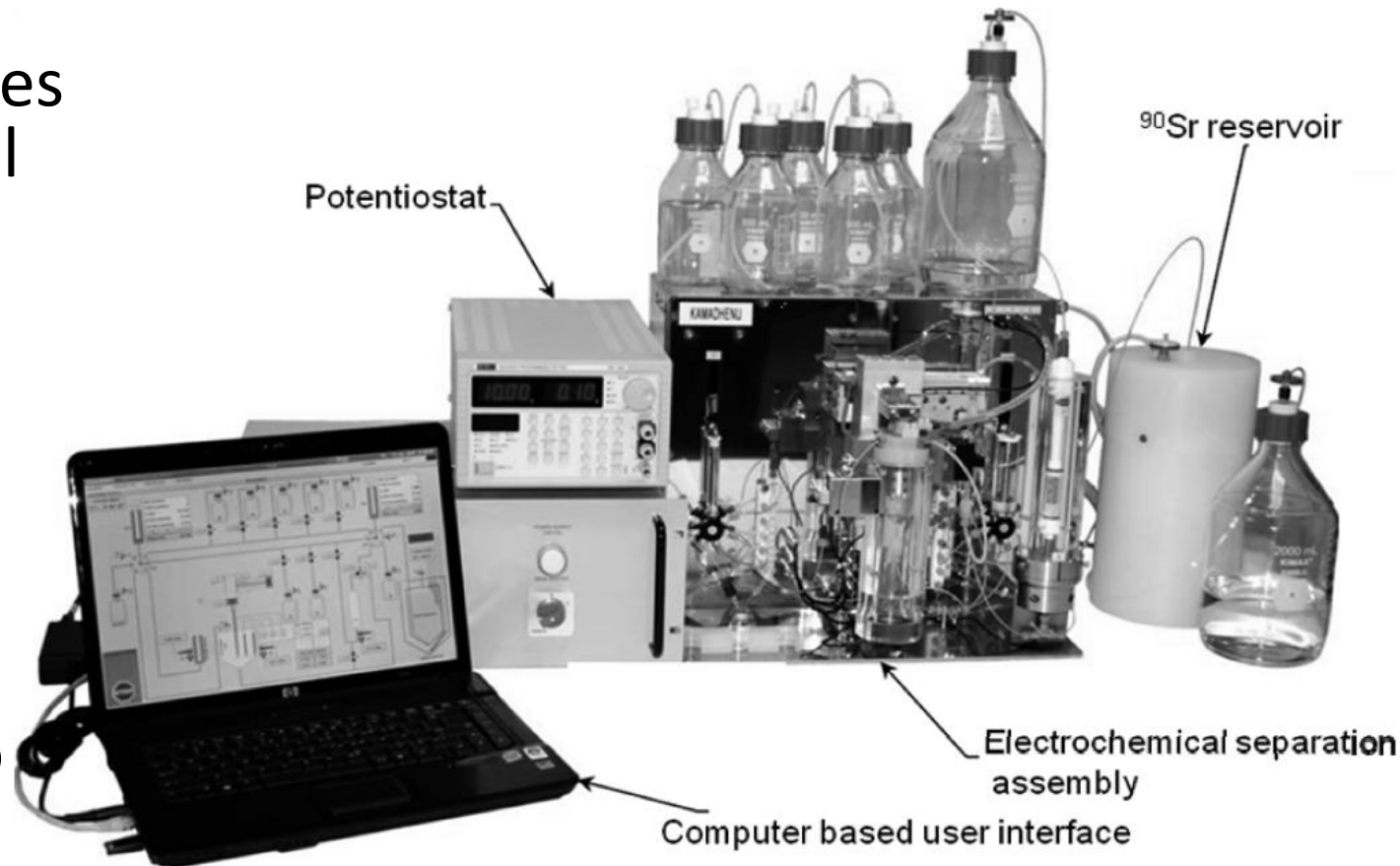
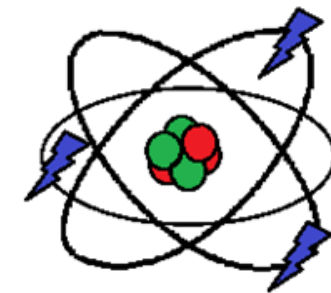


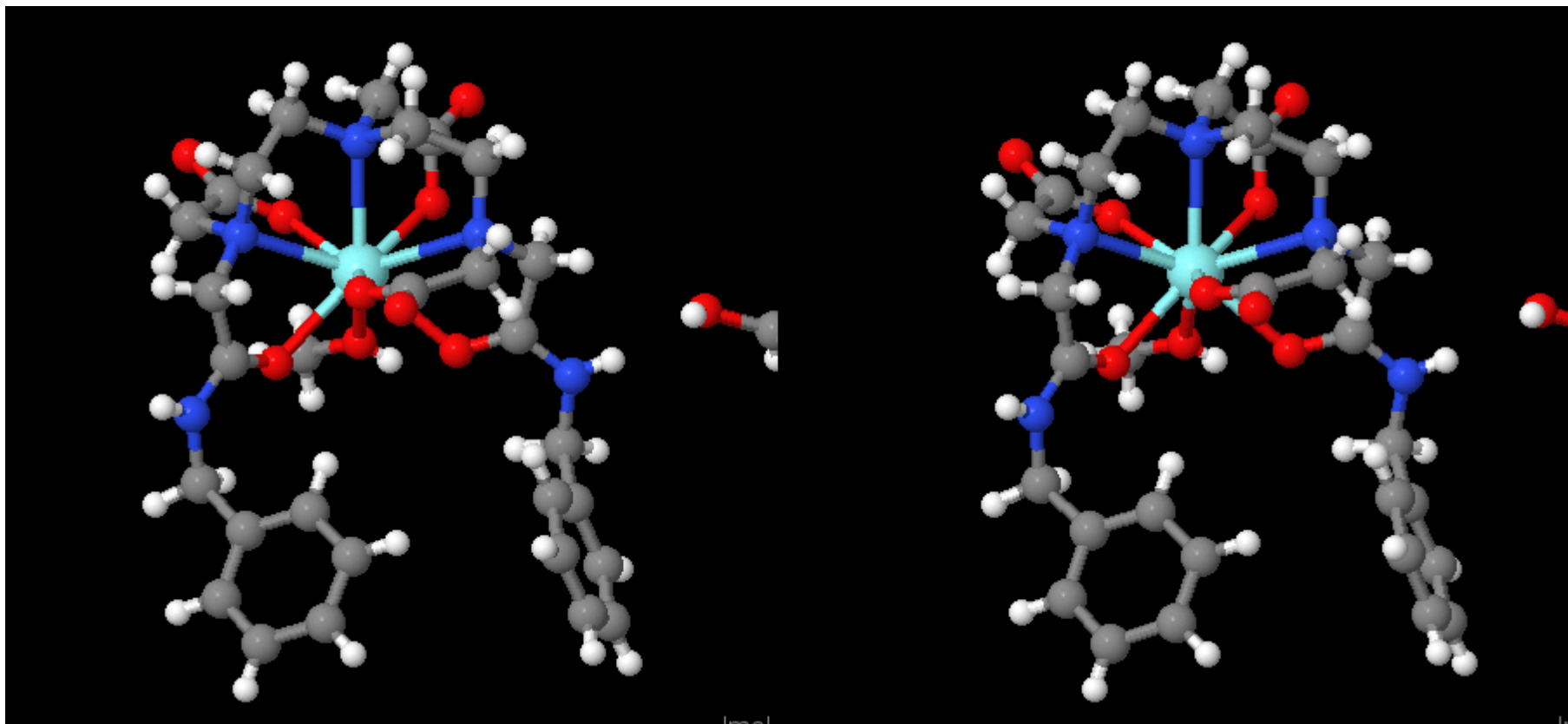
Figure 2. Fully automated  $^{90}\text{Sr}/^{90}\text{Y}$  generator (Kamadhenu) commercially available from Isotope Technologies Dresden (Germany). Adapted from ref 11.

A. Dash, Rubel Chakravarty “Electrochemical Separation: Promises, Opportunities, and Challenges To Develop Next-Generation Radionuclide Generators To Meet Clinical Demands,” *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research* **2014**, 53, 3766-3777.

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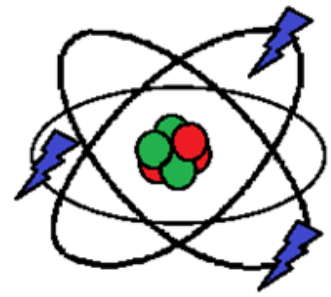


## Example $^{90}\text{Y}$ complex...



Wen-Yuan Hsieh; Shuang Liu " Synthesis, Characterization, and Structures of Indium In(DTPA-BA2) and Yttrium Y(DTPA-BA2)(CH<sub>3</sub>OH) Complexes (BA = Benzylamine): Models for  $^{111}\text{In}$ - and  $^{90}\text{Y}$ -Labeled DTPA-Biomolecule Conjugates" Inorg. Chem. 2004, 43, 6006-6014.

<http://www.crystallography.net/cod/4311636.html>



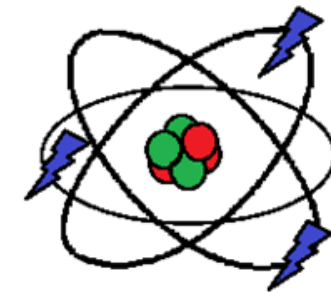
# Therapeutic agents

- $^{201}\text{Tl}$  as chloride for myocardial imaging
- $^{33}\text{Xe}$  xenon gas for pulmonary ventilation studies,
- $^{131}\text{I}$  sodium iodide (thyroid uptake, imaging and therapy)
- $^{89}\text{Sr}$  or  $^{153}\text{Sm}$  (metastatic bone palliative therapy),
- $^{67}\text{Ga}$  gallium citrate (tumor imaging, abscess and infection),
- $^{32}\text{P}$  (therapy),
- $^{99\text{m}}\text{Tc}$  has dozens of uses... has been “go-to” substance for a long time
- <https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info.cfm?pg=gennuclear>

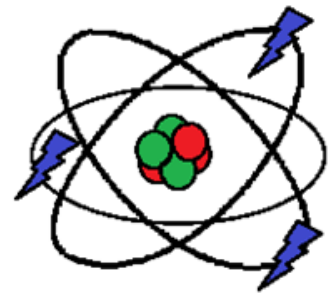
Information from B.S. Sekhon “Inorganics/bioinorganics: Biological, medicinal and pharmaceutical uses,”

*J. Pharm. Educ. Res.* **2011**, 2, 1-20

## More....



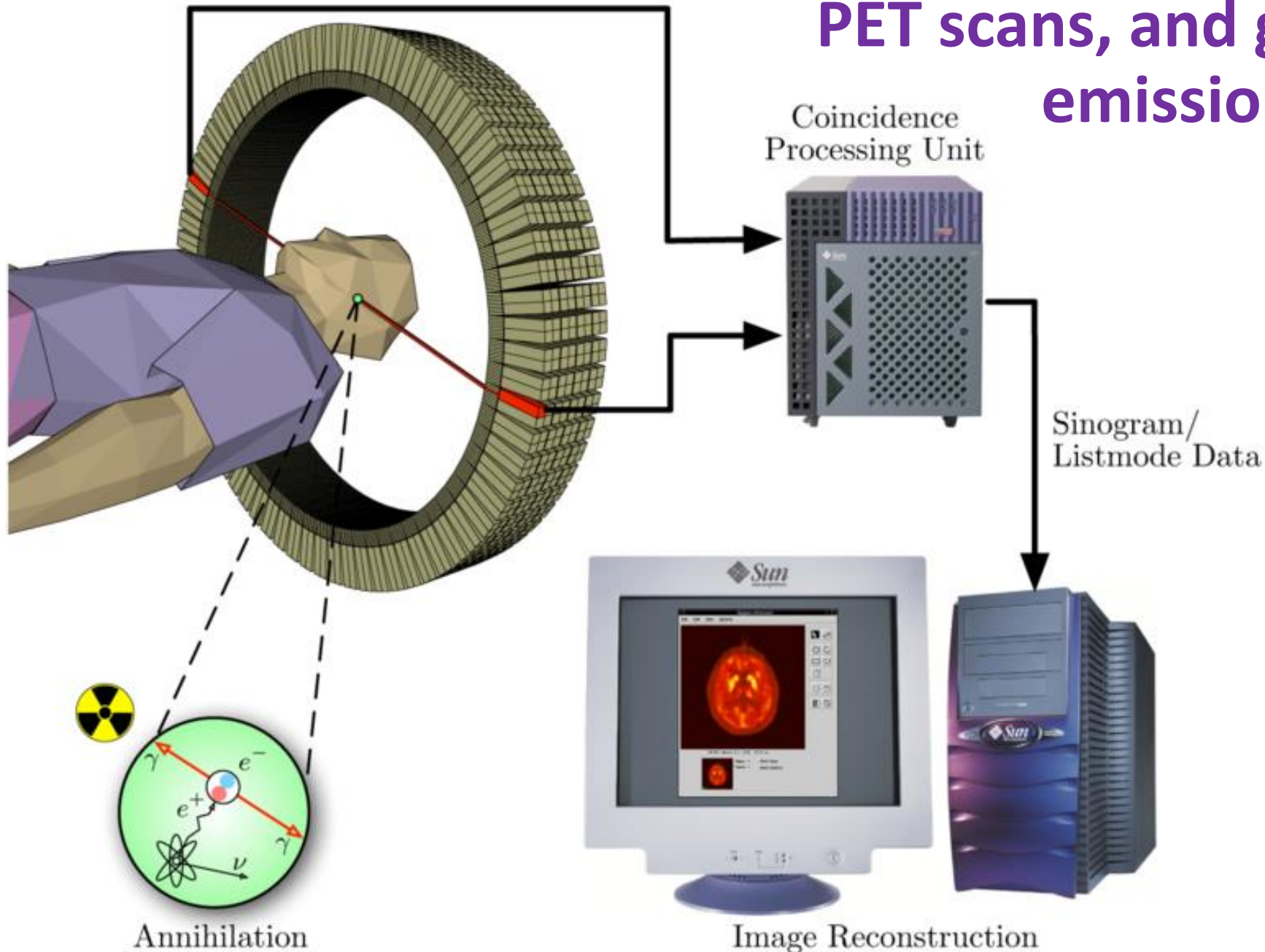
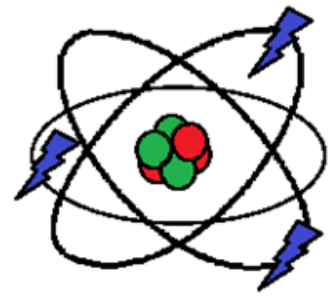
- $^{18}\text{F}$  in bone scanning studies as Fluorodeoxyglucose
- $^{82}\text{Rb}$  is a rapid cardiac blood flow tracer
- “Yttrium-90-labeled anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody is used to treat patients with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma”
- Others include  $^{11}\text{C}$ ,  $^{64}\text{Cu}$ ,  $^{68}\text{Ga}$ ,  $^{72}\text{As}$ ,  $^{77}\text{As}$ ,  $^{177}\text{Lu}$ ,  $^{186}\text{Re}$ ,  $^{188}\text{Re}$ ,  $^{198}\text{Au}$ ,



# Imaging

- A couple of main types based on gamma rays, or radio waves
- **PET:** a gamma technique.
- **MRI:** radio wave technique
- Talked about the nuclear magnetic resonance phenomenon last time... can be used for “magnetic resonance imaging” (MRI).
- MRI has nothing to do with radioactivity. Note how the word “nuclear” has been dropped to avoid confusion.

# PET scans, and gamma ray emission...



- $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  and others...
- Processing of data allows technique to work.
- Need to decide which gamma rays correlate with each other.



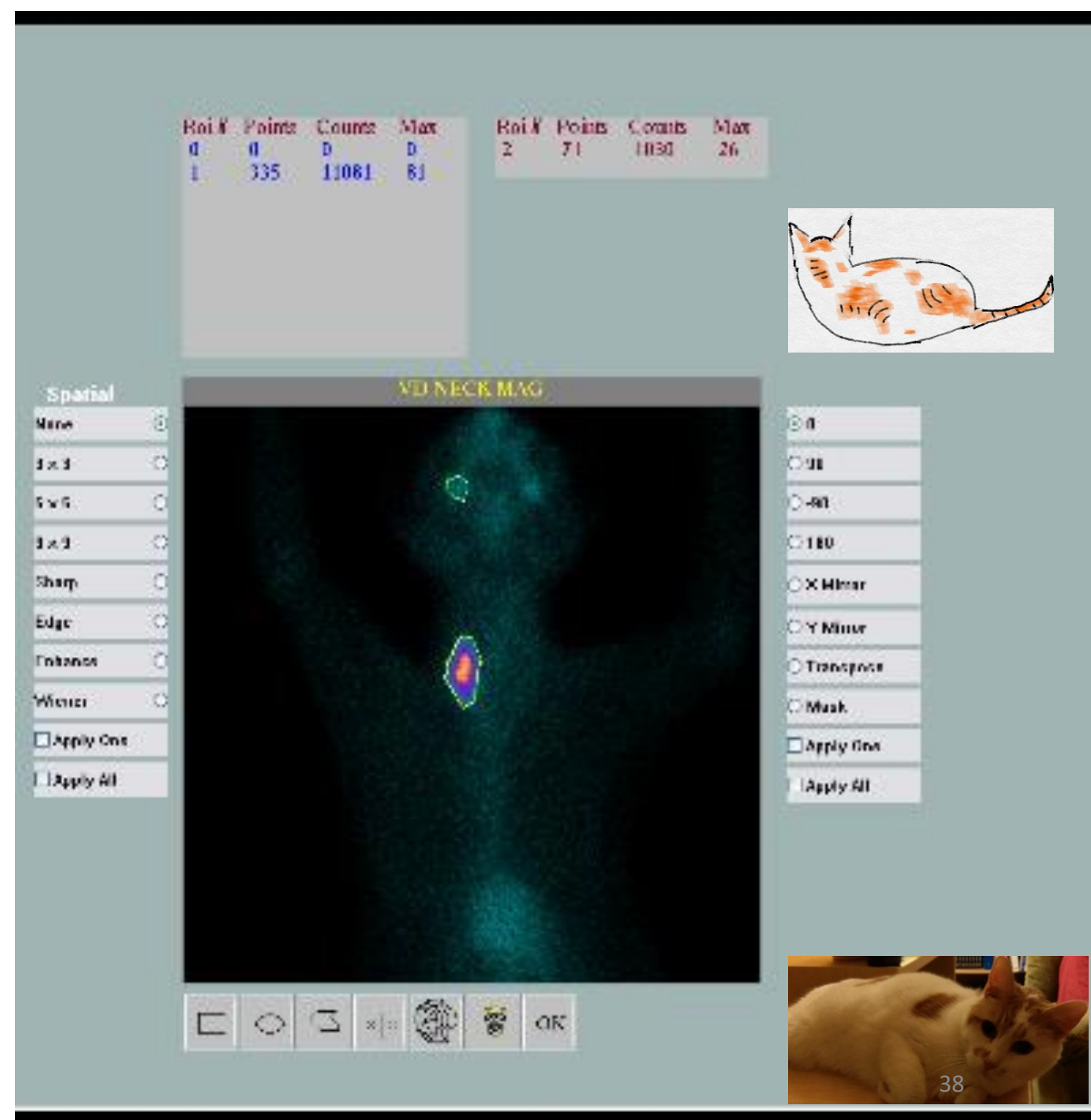
# $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ scan of Tory

Two targets of  $[\text{}^{99m}\text{TcO}_4]^-$

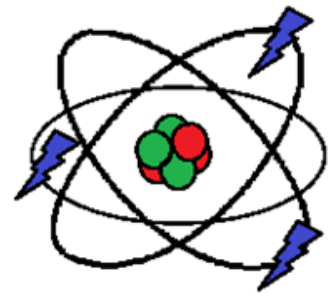
- Thyroid and Heart
- <eventually bladder shows up>
- $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  activity allows for  $^{131}\text{I}$  dose to be calibrated
- Represents a cure for hyperthyroidism

Used in people for the same purpose

Image courtesy University of Missouri Small Animal Hospital, Columbia, MO USA

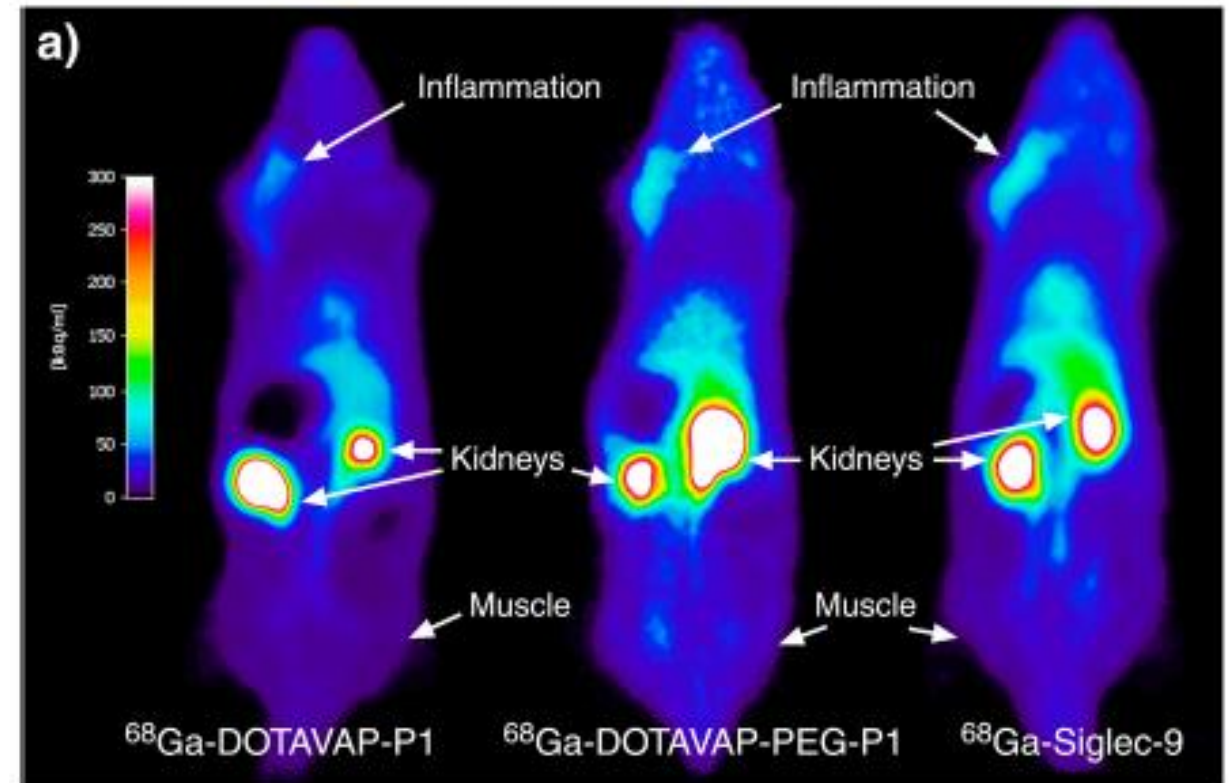






# Imaging examples... Inflammation

- Ongoing research:
- $^{68}\text{Ga}$ -labelled drug which selectively binds to a protein associated with inflammation.
- “vascular adhesion protein-1”

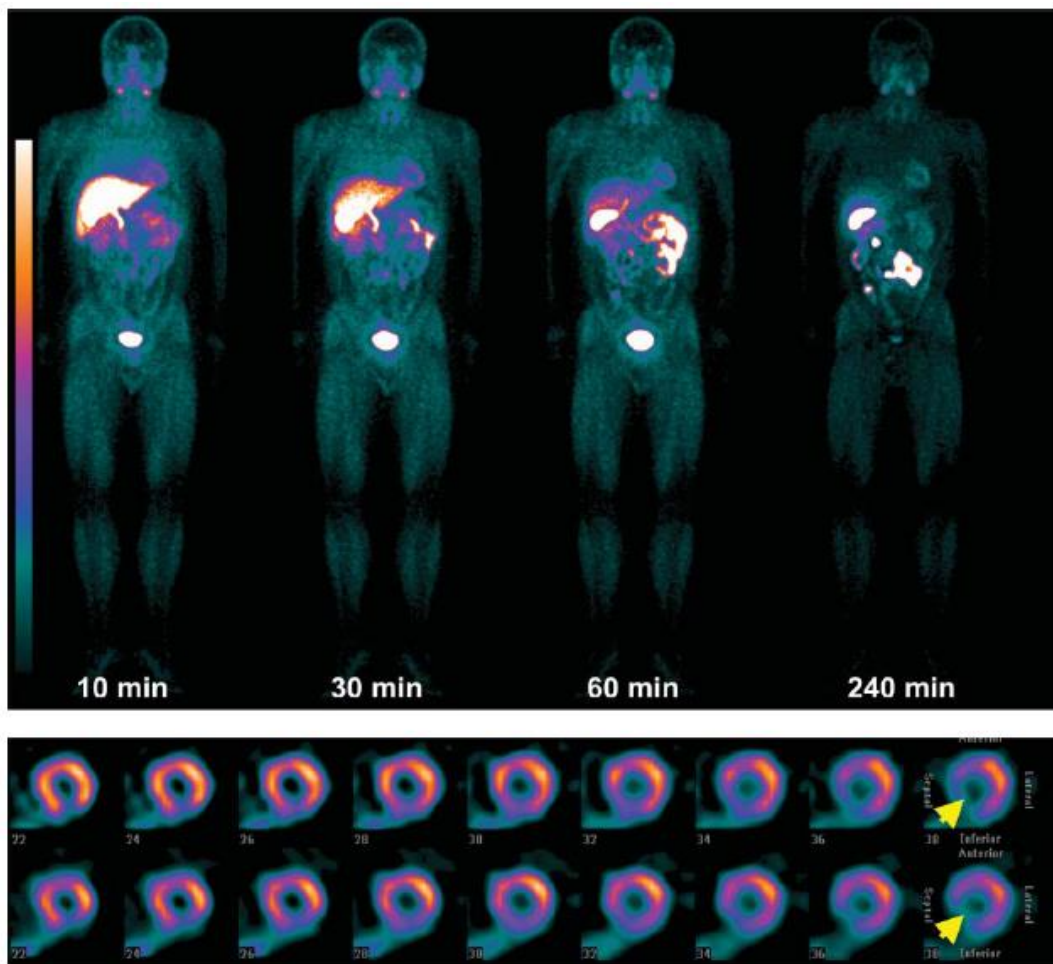
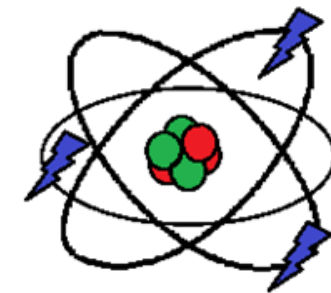


Inflammation in rats imaged with 3 different drugs.

Image from A. Autio, Sirpa Jalkanen, A. Roivainen, "Nuclear imaging of inflammation: homing associated molecules as targets" *EJNMMI Research* **2013**, 3:1.

<http://www.ejnmires.com/content/3/1/1> (Open Source Article, Creative Commons Attribution license) 39

# Imaging examples $^{99m}\text{Tc}$

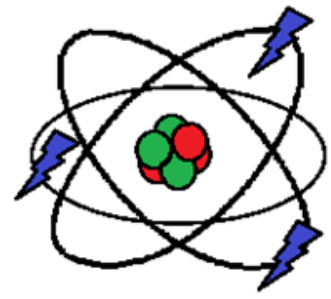


- Generator cartridges can be adapted to do derivatization “on the fly.”
- This example images the heart quickly.

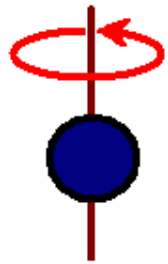
**Fig. 3** Top: the whole-body images of a healthy volunteer administered with  $^{99m}\text{TcN-MPO}$  (~25 mCi) at 10, 30, 60 and 240 min after injection. Bottom: The short axis view of 60-min SPECT images of the heart in a patient with myocardial infarction administered with ~25 mCi of  $^{99m}\text{TcN-MPO}$  (lower panel) and  $^{99m}\text{Tc-Sestamibi}$  (upper panel). Arrows indicate the areas of perfusion defects.

Image from S. Liu, S. Chakraborty, “ $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -centered one-pot synthesis for preparation of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  radiotracers,” *Dalton Trans.*, **2011**, **40**, 6077

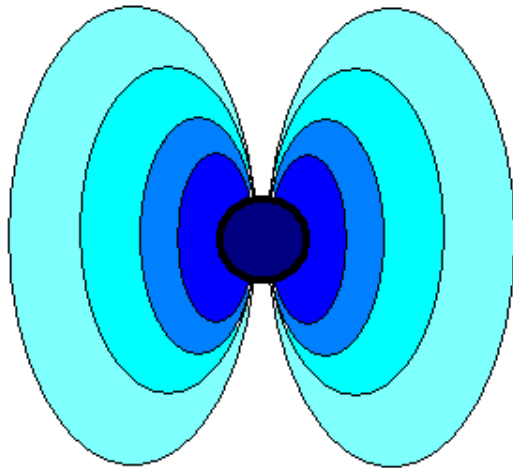
# MRI Imaging: Nuclei as magnets



Tiny magnets tend to line up with an external field.  
Takes a precise frequency of radio waves to “flip” the spin by  $180^\circ$



**spinning  
charged  
particle**

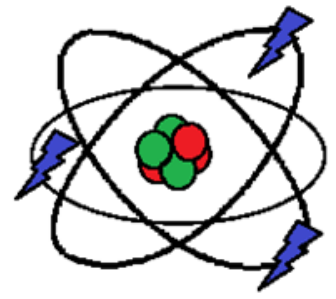


**moving  
charge  
creates  
magnetism**

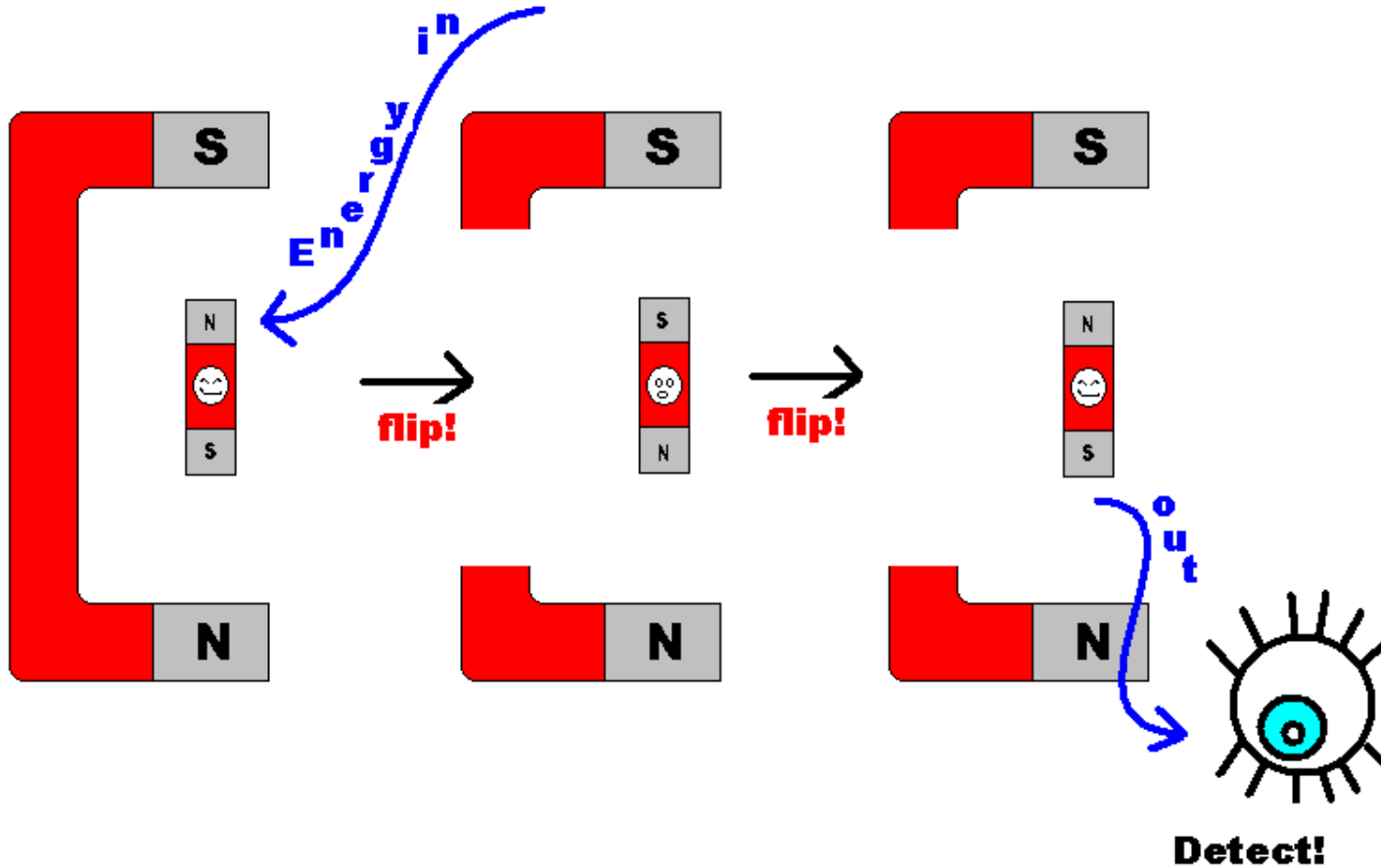


**For H-atoms, the  
frequency depends on  
the EXACT magnetic  
field, and the identity  
of the rest of the  
molecule**

# Simple Diagram for “Spin-Flip”



MRI looks at H in H<sub>2</sub>O



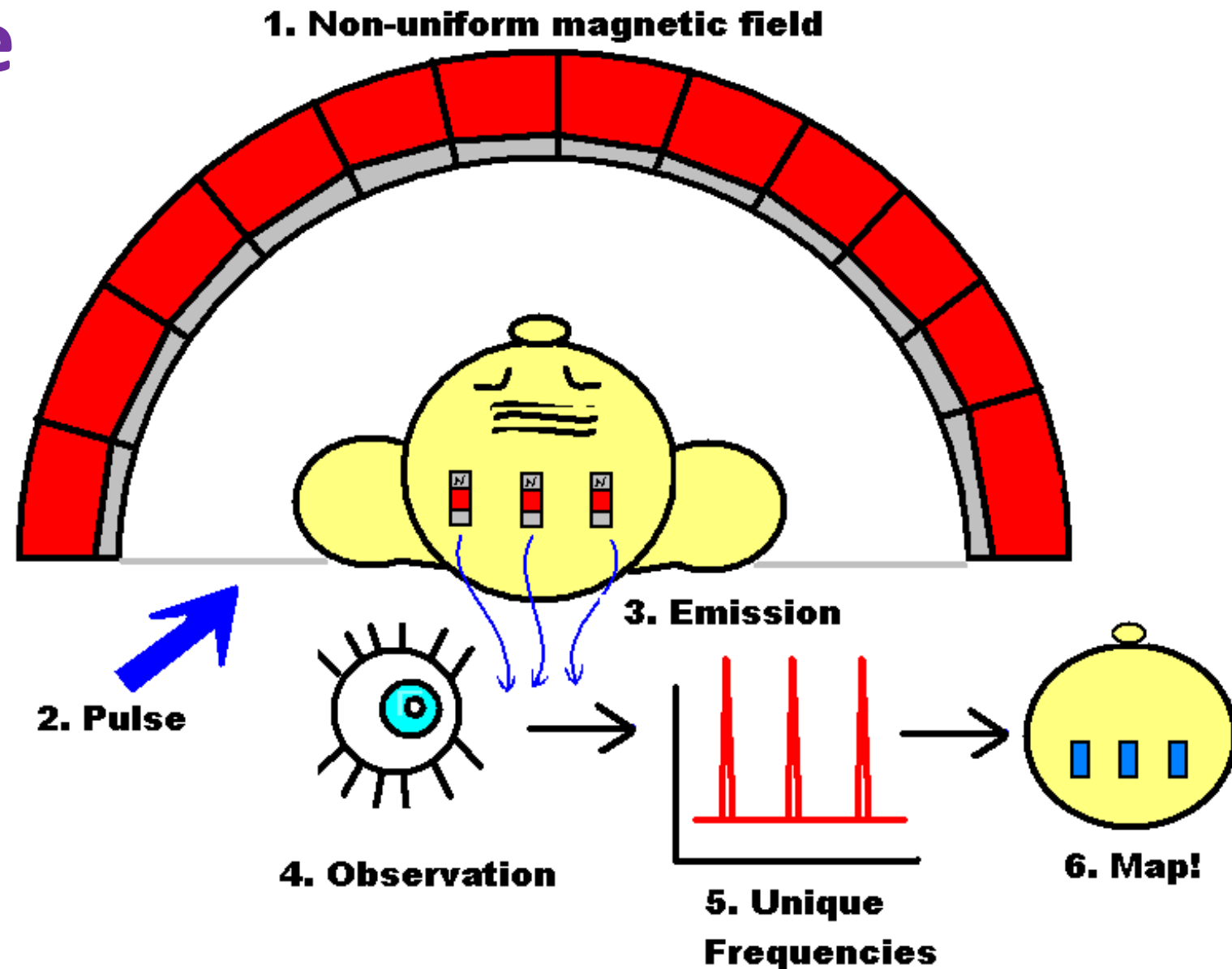
All H<sub>2</sub>O's are identical... the only thing that can affect the frequency the H's emit is the magnetic field.

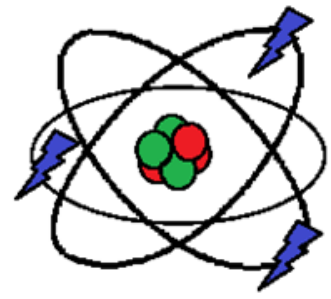
In a non-uniform magnetic field, frequency and phase info can be de-convoluted into position and intensity... i.e. a map of a slice of the “sample” (maybe a human brain!)

# MRI basic technique

In a non-uniform magnetic field, frequency and phase info can be de-convoluted into position and intensity...

Get a map of the water distribution in a slice of the "sample"...



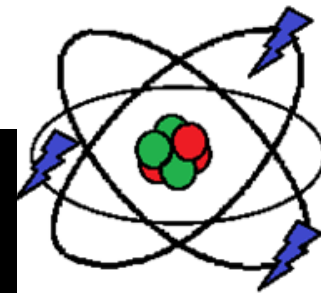


# Contrast agents

- Make some  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ 's give up their energy faster, or by non-radiative pathways... often a lanthanide is involved, lotsa unpaired electrons
- Regions without this agent show up brighter in scans.
- Can target different tissues with different contrast agents
  - Where the contrast agent builds up, the signals in the MRI scan get weaker



# Research in contrast agents... Not Radioactive!



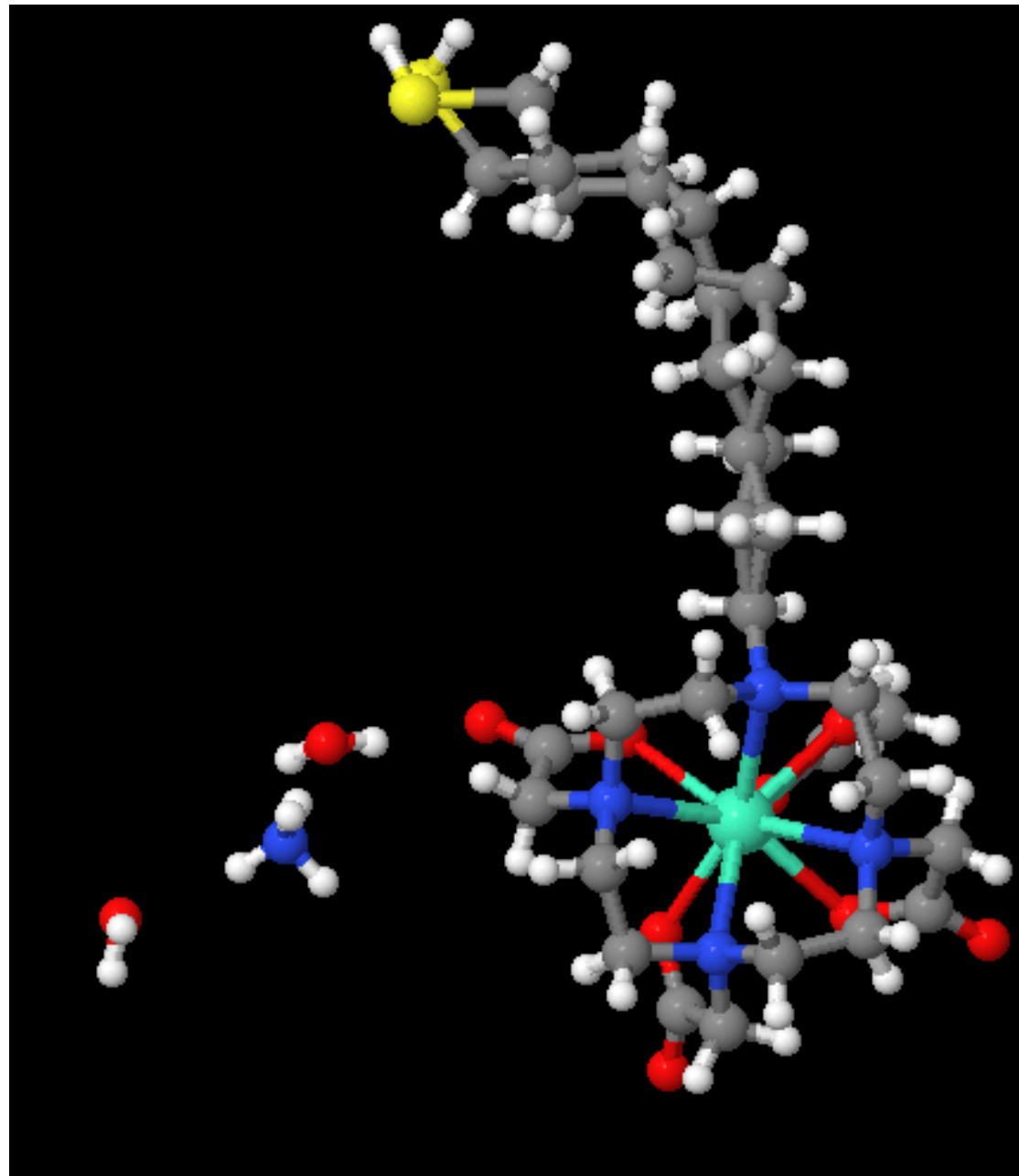
Rotating cross-eye stereogram at:  
<http://dpa-llc.com/chemjs/1502664.gif>

This structure is like a detergent in some ways

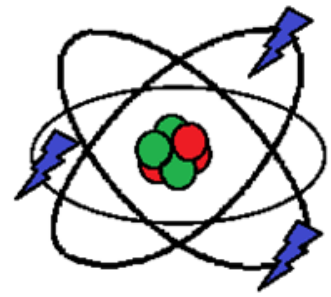
Note disorder in tail

<http://www.crystallography.net/cod/1502664.html>

N. Raghunand et al "Design, synthesis, and evaluation of 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7-triacetic acid derived, redox-sensitive contrast agents for magnetic resonance imaging," *Journal of medicinal chemistry*, **2010**, 53, 6747-6757



# Conclusions?



- Nuclear medicine is a huge field.
- Most applications seem to be in imaging, followed by strategies for cancer treatment.
- Various Generators have brought the ability to do nuclear medicine to a more broad array of venues, since an on-site reactor is not necessary
- Safety and waste management is still a big issue!



# Thanks!

- Members and Students of the Science Circle!
- Students and Faculty of Dept. of Chem., SIUE.
- Generous support of National Science Foundation for our work on heme-nitrosyl complexes, NSF-CHE 1566509
- DPA-LLC for hosting animated gifs and other files on their website
- My cats for their patience...

