

10. First, we figure out the mass of U-235 in the sample (assuming “3.0%” refers to the proportion by weight as opposed to proportion by number of atoms):

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\text{U-235}} &= (3.0\%)M_{\text{sam}} \left( \frac{(97\%)m_{238} + (3.0\%)m_{235}}{(97\%)m_{238} + (3.0\%)m_{235} + 2m_{16}} \right) \\ &= (0.030)(1000 \text{ g}) \left( \frac{0.97(238) + 0.030(235)}{0.97(238) + 0.030(235) + 2(16.0)} \right) = 26.4 \text{ g} . \end{aligned}$$

Next, this uses some of the ideas illustrated in Sample Problem 43-5; our notation is similar to that used in that example. The number of  $^{235}\text{U}$  nuclei is

$$N_{235} = \frac{(26.4 \text{ g})(6.02 \times 10^{23} / \text{mol})}{235 \text{ g/mol}} = 6.77 \times 10^{22} .$$

If all the U-235 nuclei fission, the energy release (using the result of Eq. 44-6) is

$$N_{235}Q_{\text{fission}} = (6.77 \times 10^{22}) (200 \text{ MeV}) = 1.35 \times 10^{25} \text{ MeV} = 2.17 \times 10^{12} \text{ J} .$$

Keeping in mind that a Watt is a Joule per second, the time that this much energy can keep a 100-W lamp burning is found to be

$$t = \frac{2.17 \times 10^{12} \text{ J}}{100 \text{ W}} = 2.17 \times 10^{10} \text{ s} \approx 690 \text{ y} .$$

If we had instead used the  $Q = 208 \text{ MeV}$  value from Sample Problem 44-1, then our result would have been 715 y, which perhaps suggests that our result is meaningful to just one significant figure (“roughly 700 years”).