

34. From Eq. 38-49,  $\gamma = (K/mc^2) + 1$ , and from Eq. 38-8, the speed parameter is  $\beta = \sqrt{1 - (1/\gamma)^2}$ .

(a) Table 38-3 gives  $m_e c^2 = 511 \text{ keV} = 0.511 \text{ MeV}$ , so the Lorentz factor is

$$\gamma = \frac{10.0 \text{ MeV}}{0.511 \text{ MeV}} + 1 = 20.57 ,$$

and the speed parameter is

$$\beta = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{(20.57)^2}} = 0.9988 .$$

(b) Table 38-3 gives  $m_p c^2 = 938 \text{ MeV}$ , so the Lorentz factor is  $\gamma = 1 + 10.0 \text{ MeV}/938 \text{ MeV} = 1.01$ , and the speed parameter is

$$\beta = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{1.01^2}} = 0.145 .$$

(c) If we refer to the data shown in problem 36, we find  $m_\alpha = 4.0026 \text{ u}$ , which (using Eq. 38-43) implies  $m_\alpha c^2 = 3728 \text{ MeV}$ . This leads to  $\gamma = 10/3728 + 1 = 1.0027$ . And, being careful not to do any unnecessary rounding off in the intermediate steps, we find  $\beta = 0.073$ . We remark that the mass value used in our solution is not exactly the alpha particle mass (it's the helium-4 atomic mass), but this slight difference does not introduce significant error in this computation.