

6. Since the density of water is $\rho = 1000 \text{ kg/m}^3 = 1 \text{ kg/L}$, then the total mass of the pool is $\rho\mathcal{V} = 4.32 \times 10^5 \text{ kg}$, where \mathcal{V} is the given volume. Now, the fraction of that mass made up by the protons is $10/18$ (by counting the protons versus total nucleons in a water molecule). Consequently, if we ignore the effects of neutron decay (neutrons can beta decay into protons) in the interest of making an order-of-magnitude calculation, then the number of particles susceptible to decay via this $T_{1/2} = 10^{32} \text{ y}$ half-life is

$$N = \frac{\frac{10}{18} M_{\text{pool}}}{m_p} = \frac{\frac{10}{18} (4.32 \times 10^5 \text{ kg})}{1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}} = 1.44 \times 10^{32} .$$

Using Eq. 43-19, we obtain

$$R = \frac{N \ln 2}{T_{1/2}} = \frac{(1.44 \times 10^{32}) \ln 2}{10^{32} \text{ y}} \approx 1 \text{ decay/y} .$$