

11. (a) For ^{239}Pu , $Q = 94e$ and $R = 6.64\text{ fm}$. Including a conversion factor for $\text{J} \rightarrow \text{eV}$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} U &= \frac{3Q^2}{20\pi\epsilon_0 r} = \frac{3[94(1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})]^2(8.99 \times 10^9 \text{ N}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{C}^2)}{5(6.64 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m})} \left(\frac{1 \text{ eV}}{1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}} \right) \\ &= 1.15 \times 10^9 \text{ eV} = 1.15 \text{ GeV} . \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Since $Z = 94$ and $A = 239$, the electrostatic potential per nucleon is $1.15 \text{ GeV}/239 = 4.81 \text{ MeV/nucleon}$, and per proton is $1.15 \text{ GeV}/94 = 12.2 \text{ MeV/proton}$. These are of the same order of magnitude as the binding energy per nucleon.
- (c) The binding energy is significantly reduced by the electrostatic repulsion among the protons.