

13. The binding energy is given by  $\Delta E_{\text{be}} = [Zm_H + (A - Z)m_n - M_{\text{Pu}}] c^2$ , where  $Z$  is the atomic number (number of protons),  $A$  is the mass number (number of nucleons),  $m_H$  is the mass of a hydrogen atom,  $m_n$  is the mass of a neutron, and  $M_{\text{Pu}}$  is the mass of a  $^{239}_{94}\text{Pu}$  atom. In principle, nuclear masses should be used, but the mass of the  $Z$  electrons included in  $ZM_H$  is canceled by the mass of the  $Z$  electrons included in  $M_{\text{Pu}}$ , so the result is the same. First, we calculate the mass difference in atomic mass units:  $\Delta m = (94)(1.00783 \text{ u}) + (239 - 94)(1.00867 \text{ u}) - (239.05216 \text{ u}) = 1.94101 \text{ u}$ . Since 1 u is equivalent to 931.5 MeV,  $\Delta E_{\text{be}} = (1.94101 \text{ u})(931.5 \text{ MeV/u}) = 1808 \text{ MeV}$ . Since there are 239 nucleons, the binding energy per nucleon is  $\Delta E_{\text{ben}} = E/A = (1808 \text{ MeV})/239 = 7.56 \text{ MeV}$ .