

85. Kinetic energy (we use the classical formula since v is much less than c) is converted into potential energy (see Eq. 25-43). From Appendix F or G, we find $Z = 3$ for Lithium and $Z = 90$ for Thorium; the charges on those nuclei are therefore $3e$ and $90e$, respectively. We manipulate the terms so that one of the factors of e cancels the “e” in the kinetic energy unit MeV, and the other factor of e is set equal to its SI value 1.6×10^{-19} C. We note that $k = 1/4\pi\epsilon_0$ can be written as 8.99×10^9 V·m/C. Thus, from energy conservation, we have

$$K = U \implies r = \frac{kq_1q_2}{K} = \frac{(8.99 \times 10^9 \frac{\text{V}\cdot\text{m}}{\text{C}}) (3 \times 1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C}) (90e)}{3.00 \times 10^6 \text{ eV}}$$

which yields $r = 1.3 \times 10^{-13}$ m (or about 130 fm).