

36. Our calculation is very similar to that in Sample Problem 44-4 except that we are now using  $R$  appropriate to two Lithium-7 nuclei coming into “contact,” as opposed to the  $R = 1.0$  fm value used in the Sample Problem. If we use

$$R = r = r_0 A^{1/3} = (1.2 \text{ fm}) \sqrt[3]{7} = 2.3 \text{ fm}$$

and  $q = Ze = 3e$ , then our  $K$  is given by (see Sample Problem 44-4)

$$K = \frac{Z^2 e^2}{16\pi\epsilon_0 r} = \frac{3^2 (1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ C})^2}{16\pi (8.85 \times 10^{-12} \text{ F/m}) (2.3 \times 10^{-15} \text{ m})}$$

which yields  $2.3 \times 10^{-13} \text{ J} = 1.4 \text{ MeV}$ . We interpret this as the answer to the problem, though the term “Coulomb barrier height” as used here may be open to other interpretations.