

IONIZING RADIATION

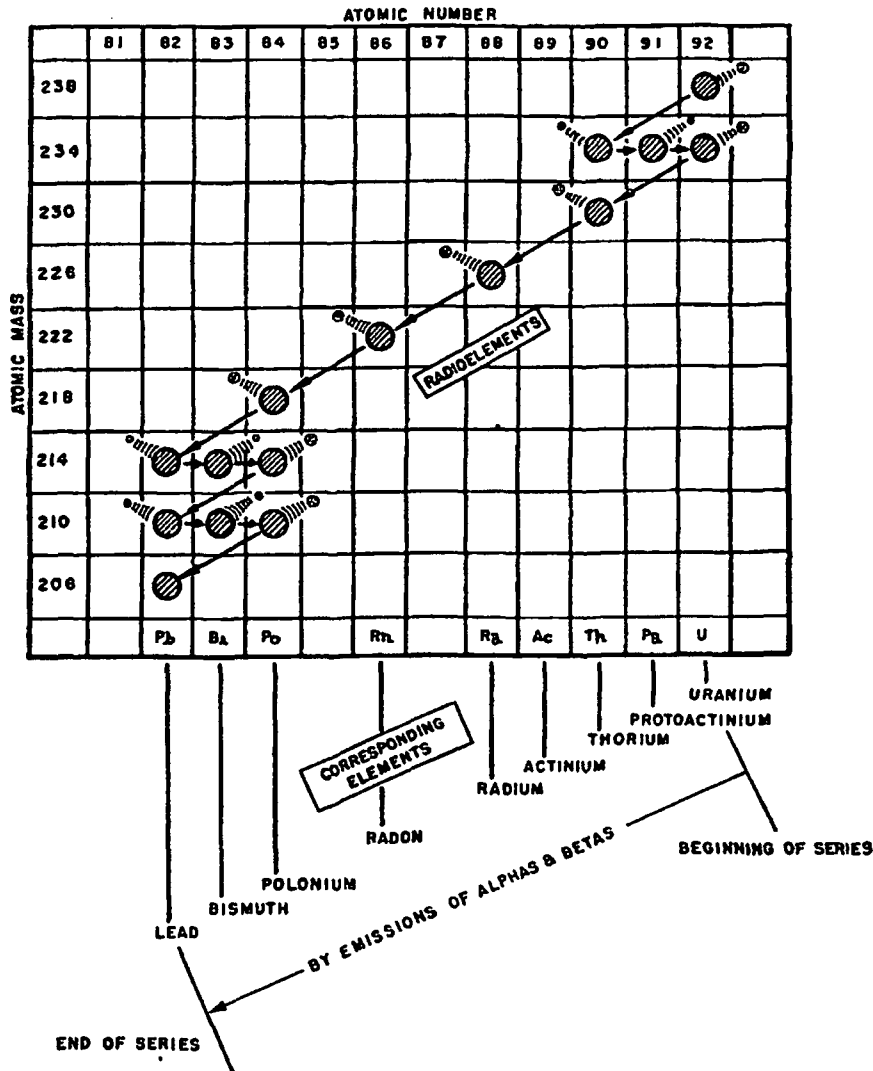


Fig 42-2 The radio active disintegration scheme of uranium-238, by loss of α particles and gamma radiation.

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because the radiation-producing effect is interrupted. Radioactive materials, on the other hand, have the property of spontaneously emitting radiation (such as alpha, beta, or gamma radiation) continually at a

rate which is characteristic of the radionuclides which make up the radioactive component of the material. Such materials may, of course, be pure radionuclides.

A radionuclide is chemically identical