

Additional explanations for Week 1 exercise:

Problem 6. For A+2 peak to be the most abundant, the following conditions must hold:

$$(1) \quad A+2 > A$$

$$(2) \quad A+2 > A+1$$

For condition (1), the inequality is:

$$\frac{n(n-1)}{2} \cdot \alpha^{(n-2)} \cdot (1-\alpha)^2 > \alpha^n$$

$$n^2 - n - \frac{2\alpha^2}{(1-\alpha)^2} > 0$$

Substitute $\alpha = 0.9889$ and solve,

$$n_{\min} = 127$$

For condition (2), the inequality is:

$$\frac{n(n-1)}{2} \cdot \alpha^{n-2} \cdot (1-\alpha)^2 > n \cdot \alpha^{n-1} \cdot (1-\alpha)$$

$$\text{Solving, } n_{\min} = 180$$

We take the larger $n_{\min}$ value $\Rightarrow n_{\min} = 180$.

Problem 7. The condition $A+2 > A$ is considered because it automatically satisfies $A+2 > A+1$ due to isotope abundances of sulfur.

^{32}S 95.0%

^{33}S 0.76%

^{34}S 4.22%

Abundance of ^{34}S is much greater than that of ^{33}S , hence by statistics

$$A+2 > A+1 \text{ if } A+2 > A.$$

Thus only $A+2 > A$ is considered.