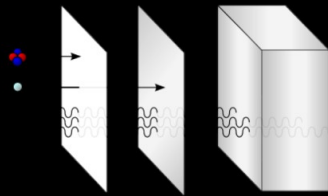


	Alpha Particles (α Particles)	Beta Minus Particles (β^- Particles)	Gamma Rays (γ Rays)
	${}^4_2\text{He}$ Helium nuclei	${}^0_{-1}e$ Electrons	γ Electromagnetic radiation
Charge	+2e	-e	no charge
Ionising power	High	Low	Lowest
Penetrating power	Low (A few cm in air)	High (A few mm in Aluminium)	Highest (A few cm in lead)
Velocities	0.06 c	0.98 c	1 c
In B & E field	Deflected	Deflected	No deflection

most significant! (difference)

γ -rays:
 α particles:

β particles:



random spontaneous

average time taken
for unstable nuclei
present to disintegrate
activity

how much nuclei will
remain