Homework #4

This homework assumes and extends the definitions made in the previous quiz on doing basic nuclear physics with Python, so make sure you have a working implementation of that code first. As before, everything you need to know about the subject is described in this document.

Put all code in a single module named react (i.e., a file named react.py). It should include a self-test that demonstrates the basic features of the module.

If you attempt any designated extra credit, note that you are doing so in a README.txt file included in the tarball.

Remember a guiding principle of software development: "DRY" (Don't Repeat Yourself). Redundant code will lose points.

1. [40 points] Create a class called Reaction. This class is created with a left-hand side and a right-hand side, both specified by tuples containing one or more Particles (including Nucleuses). The reaction taking place transforms the particles on the left-hand side to the particles on the right hand side.

Include two exceptions, UnbalancedCharge and UnbalancedNumber to be invoked as follows. When a reaction is created, your system checks two conservation rules, one for charge and one for mass number:

- The sums of the charges on the left and right hand sides must be equal. If the charge sums are not equal, your code should "raise UnbalancedCharge(diff)," where diff is the (int) difference in charges.
- The sums of the mass numbers on the left and right hand sides must be equal. If the mass number sums are not equal, your code should "raise UnbalancedNumber(diff)," where diff is the (int) difference in mass numbers.

These exceptions should incorporate the *diffs* into their error message *which the exceptions do not print*! Do nothing to handle these exceptions! (Except in your tests.)

When a reaction is printed, all of the left hand side reactants appear, separated by " + ", followed by " -> ", followed by all of the right hand side reactants, separated by " + ".

Using the particles defined in the quiz:

print(Reaction((li6, d), (he4, he4)))

should produce

(6)Li + (2)H -> (4)He + (4)He

Due: 10/29

2. [10 points] Extend the Particle class to have the "+" operator acting on two Particles result in a tuple containing them, so that

print(Reaction(li6 + d, he4 + he4))

is completely equivalent to

print(Reaction((li6, d), (he4, he4)))

(5 pts. extra credit) Make your code work for more than two Particles being "added", (e.g. "li6 + d + he4") and allow particles in Reaction arguments to be replicated by replication disguised as positive integer multiplication with the integer on the left (e.g. "4 * p" should be treated as "p + p + p + p").

3. [50 points] Reactions may be grouped in sets called "chains". Create a ChainReaction class that has a name and can contain zero or more Reactions. Do this in two parts:

Create a ChainReaction class as specified above. Include a member function addReaction() to add a Reaction to the chain.

A chain reaction is then specified as follows:

Also, define how a ChainReaction is printed. Its format includes its name, each of the constituent reactions, and the "net reaction", so that in the above, "print(chnPP)" produces

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proton-proton (branch I) chain:
p + p -> (2)H + e+ + nu_e
p + p -> (2)H + e+ + nu_e
(2)H + p -> (3)He + gamma
(2)H + p -> (3)He + gamma
(3)He + (3)He -> (4)He + p + p
net:
p + p + p + p -> e+ + nu_e + e+ + nu_e + gamma + gamma + (4)He
```

The net reaction is constructed by the following pseudocode:

 $lhsNet \leftarrow$ merge of the left-hand sides of all reactions in the chain $rhsNet \leftarrow$ merge of the right-hand sides of all reactions in the chain for each particle p in lhsNet,

if p occurs in rhsNet, remove p from both lhsNet and rhsNetcreate the net reaction $lhsNet \rightarrow rhsNet$

(5 pts. extra credit) Enhance how Reactions and ChainReactions are printed to replace duplicate entries on left- and right-hand sides with counts, so that the above result for the net reaction would be, for instance:

4 p -> 2 e+ + 2 nu_e + 2 gamma + (4)He

(The order on each side doesn't matter.)