

## Empirical neutron-proton pairing

Various mass relations describing neutron-proton pairing in nuclei are discussed. Groups of mass relations based on np-pair separation energy differences and description of mass surfaces, are compared in their behavior along chains of nuclei  $N=Z+\text{const}$ , as well as chains of isotopes and isotones. Coinciding estimates for self-conjugate nuclei and differing results for nuclei along the lines  $N=Z+\text{const}$  (with the constant not equal to zero) for different mass relations are analyzed.

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