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Frank Asaro and I. Perlman

July, 1957

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TABLE OF ALPHA-DISINTEGRATION ENERGIES OF THE HEAVY ELEMENTS

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University of California, Berkeley, California

July, 1957

This compilation is a revision of the "Table of Alpha-Dissintegration Energies of the Heavy Elements" published in this journal in 1954.¹ Included are new alpha emitters and revisions concerning those previously listed. The basis for inclusion in Table II of a previously listed alpha emitter is the availability of additional data which would change the alpha disintegration energy by more than 1 kev from that listed in Table I.¹ Polonium-211 (0.52 sec) is included but not the 25-sec isomer because it is now certain that the alpha group belonging to the 0.52-sec nuclide represents the transition between ground states.

The only references given will be those relevant to the energy determinations. The decay energies are the Q-values for the alpha transitions and can be transformed into mass differences by including the atomic mass of He⁴.

COLUMN 1

This column indicates the alpha emitter and its product as well as the half-life which is given solely for purposes of further identification. These are the measured half-lives and not the partial alpha-decay half-lives for those cases in which there is more than one mode of decay. Since this table is not a compilation of general decay properties, no references are given for the half-lives cited.

COLUMNS 2 AND 3

In a large fraction of the cases the "highest-energy group" of column 3 is either known to be that of the ground-state transition or is assumed to be so in the absence of information regarding a complex spectrum for the purpose of calculating the disintegration energy of column 2. The Q values, unless otherwise stated under "comments," were calculated by adding to the energy of column 2 the recoil energy, $AE/(A-4)$, where E is the alpha-particle energy and A is the mass number of the emitter. The Q values were rounded off to values consistent with the precision of the energy measurements.

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COLUMN 4

The absence of a notation under "intensity" means that no high-resolution instrument has been used to obtain evidence on complex structure. Otherwise the entry indicates the intensity of the group believed to represent the ground-state transition. The designation "~100" means that careful search has been made for other groups and either none has been found or that the intensities of lower-energy groups are low.

COLUMN 5

This column refers to the method of energy determination.

- ion ch: ionization chamber coupled with some form of pulse-height analyzer.
range air: range determination in air.
range emuls: range of alpha tracks in a photographic emulsion.
spect: magnetic spectrograph.

COLUMN 6

References are given for the energy measurements selected.

COLUMN 7

These letter ratings give the estimated degree of certainty of the isotopic assignments according to the following code:

- A Element and mass number certain;
- B Element certain and mass number probable;
- C Element probable and mass number certain or probable;
- D Element certain and mass number not well established.

COLUMN 8

The comments in this column for the most part reinforce the decision on the decay energy.

- ins evid: Insufficient evidence to know whether or not the alpha energy measured is that of the ground-state transition.
e-e: No direct evidence, but since the nucleus is of the even-even type it can be assumed that the measured energy is that of the ground-state transition.

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α - γ coinc This designation indicates that coincidences have been observed between alpha particles and gamma rays (or conversion electrons), which show some doubt that the highest-energy alpha group is the ground-state transition. Where the evidence is not sufficiently definite to deduce a decay energy based on anything other than the highest-energy alpha group, this is reflected by the values in columns 2 and 3 differing only by the recoil energy. Where the evidence is sufficiently definite to deduce the decay energy, it will be found that columns 2 and 3 differ by more than the recoil energy.

Table II.

Reaction	Adopted (MeV)	Highest-energy group measured (MeV)	Intensity (%)	Method	Energy ref.	Ident- ification	Comments
$\text{Bi}^{210} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{206}$ $2.6 \times 10^6 \text{ y}$	5.03	4.935 4.97		ion ch ion ch	2 2a	A	
$\text{Bi}^{211} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{207}$ 2.16 m	6.745	6.617 6.620	82.6	spect spect	2b 3	A	
$\text{Po}^{197} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{198}$ $\sim 4 \text{ m}$	6.165	6.040		spect	4	D	ins evid
$\text{Po}^{198} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{194}$ $\sim 6 \text{ m}$	6.057	5.935		spect	4	D	e-e
$\text{Po}^{199} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{195}$ 11 m	5.966	5.846 5.84		spect ion ch	4 4a	B	ins evid
$\text{Po}^{200} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{196}$ $\sim 8 \text{ m}$	5.888	5.770		spect	4	B	e-e
$\text{Po}^{201} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{197}$ 18 m	5.786	5.671 5.70		spect ion ch	4 4b	B	ins evid
$\text{Po}^{202} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{198}$ 51 min	5.689	5.575 5.60 5.61 5.59		spect ion ch ion ch ion ch	4 5 6 7	B	e-e
$\text{Po}^{204} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{200}$ 3.8 h	5.477	5.370 5.37		spect ion ch	4 7	B	e-e
$\text{Po}^{211} \rightarrow \text{Pb}^{207}$ 0.52 s	7.58	7.442 7.434	(99)	spect range air	8 9	A	
$\text{Po}^{213} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{209}$ $4.2 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}$	8.51	8.35 8.336	~100	spect ion ch	11 13	A	ins evid
$\text{Po}^{215} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{211}$ $1.83 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}$	7.50	7.360 7.365 7.383	~100	spect range air spect	2b 9 13a	A	
$\text{At}^{202} \rightarrow \text{Bi}^{205}$ 5.5 h	5.752	5.642 5.65	~100	spect ion ch	14,15 17	B	ins evid
$\text{At}^{217} \rightarrow \text{Bi}^{213}$ 0.016 s	7.18	7.05 7.02 7.00	~100	spect ion ch ion ch	18 13 19	A	
$\text{Er}^{204} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{200}$ 3 m	6.41	6.28		ion ch	5	D	e-e
$\text{Er}^{206} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{202}$ 6.2 m	6.37	6.25 6.25		ion ch ion ch	5 6	B	e-e
$\text{Er}^{207} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{203}$ 11 m	6.24	6.12 6.09		ion ch ion ch	5 6	B	ins evid

Reaction	Adopted Q. (MeV)	Highest-energy group measured (MeV)	Intensity (%)	Method	Energy ref.	Ident-ification	Comments
$\text{En}^{208} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{204}$	6.261	6.141	~100	spect	20	B	e-e
23 m							
$\text{En}^{209} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{205}$	6.155	6.037		spect	20	B	ins evid
30 m							
$\text{Em}^{210} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{206}$	6.155	6.037		spect	20	A	
2.7 h							
$\text{Em}^{212} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{208}$	6.384	6.264	~100	spect	20	A	
23 m							
$\text{En}^{221} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{217}$	6.1	6.0		ion ch	21	A	ins evid
25 m							
$\text{Em}^{219} \rightarrow \text{Po}^{215}$	6.940	6.813 6.807	83	spect spect	2b 21b	A	
3.92 s							
$\text{Pr}^{212} \rightarrow \text{At}^{208}$	6.534	6.411	37	spect	20	A	ins evid
19.3 m							
$\text{Pr}^{221} \rightarrow \text{At}^{217}$	6.449	6.332 6.30	84	spect ion ch	18 13, 21a	A	
4.8 m							
$\text{Pr}^{223} \rightarrow \text{At}^{219}$	5.44	5.34		range emuls	22	A	ins evid
21 m							
$\text{Ra}^{223} \rightarrow \text{Em}^{219}$	5.974	5.867 5.860	0.9	spect spect	2b 22a	A	
11.2 d							
$\text{Ra}^{222} \rightarrow \text{Em}^{218}$	6.671	6.551	96	spect	23	A	
38 s							
$\text{Ac}^{225} \rightarrow \text{Fr}^{221}$	5.923	5.818 5.80	56	spect ion ch	24 21a, 13	A	
10.0 d							
$\text{Th}^{226} \rightarrow \text{Ra}^{222}$	6.444	6.330	79	spect	23	A	
30.9 m							
$\text{Th}^{227} \rightarrow \text{Ra}^{223}$	6.144	6.036 6.030	23	spect spect	2b 22a	A	
18.6 d							
$\text{Th}^{232} \rightarrow \text{Ra}^{228}$	4.077	4.007 4.006		ion ch range emuls	25 26	A	
1.1x10 ⁻¹⁰ y							
$\text{Pa}^{231} \rightarrow \text{Ac}^{227}$	5.138	5.049 5.046 5.042	8.7	spect spect spect	27 28 29	A	
3.43x10 ⁻⁷ y							
$\text{U}^{230} \rightarrow \text{Th}^{226}$	5.988	5.884	67.2	spect	23	A	
20.8 d							
$\text{U}^{233} \rightarrow \text{Th}^{229}$	4.900	4.816 4.823	83.5	spect ion ch	30 13	A	
1.62x10 ⁻⁵ y							
$\text{U}^{234} \rightarrow \text{Th}^{230}$	4.851	4.768 4.768 4.763	72	spect ion ch ion ch	27 25 31	A	
2.18x10 ⁻⁵ y							
$\text{U}^{235} \rightarrow \text{Th}^{231}$	4.63	4.552 4.58	7	spect ion ch	2b 31a	A	
4.51x10 ⁻⁵ y							
$\text{U}^{238} \rightarrow \text{Th}^{234}$	4.267	4.195	77	ion ch	25	A ¹¹	

Reaction	Adopted E (Mev)	Highest-energy group measured (Mev)	Intensity (%)	Method	Energy ref.	Ident- ification	Comments
$\text{Np}_{110}^{235} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{110}^{231}$	5.23	5.06		ion ch	32	A	$\alpha-\gamma(33)$
$\text{Np}_{2.2 \times 10^6}^{237} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pa}_{2.2 \times 10^6}^{233}$	4.950	4.866	3	spect	34	A	
		4.872		ion ch	35		
$\text{Pu}_{20m}^{233} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{U}_{20m}^{229}$	6.41	6.30		ion ch	36	B	ins evid
$\text{Pu}_{2.7}^{236} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{U}_{2.7}^{232}$	5.862	5.763	68.9	spect	37	A	
$\text{Pu}_{14d}^{237} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{U}_{14d}^{233}$	5.75	5.65	21	ion ch	36	A	ins evid
$\text{Pu}_{39.6}^{238} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{U}_{39.6}^{234}$	5.589	5.495	72	spect	38	A	
		5.491		spect	27		
$\text{Pu}_{24,360}^{239} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{U}_{24,360}^{235}$	5.235	5.147	72.5	spect	27	A	isomeric state
		5.147		spect	39	less than 1 kev	
		5.150		spect	40	38a,b	
$\text{Pu}_{6580}^{240} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{U}_{6580}^{236}$	5.246	5.159	75.5	spect	30	A	
		5.162		spect	40		
$\text{Am}_{12h}^{239} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Np}_{12h}^{235}$	5.90	5.75		ion ch	41	A	$\alpha-\gamma(42)$
$\text{Am}_{161}^{241} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Np}_{161}^{237}$	5.628	5.535	0.42	spect	43	A	
		5.541		spect	27		
$\text{Am}_{7.9 \times 10^3}^{243} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Np}_{7.9 \times 10^3}^{239}$	5.428	5.339	0.17	spect	44	A	ins evid
$\text{Cm}_{2.4h}^{238} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{2.4h}^{234}$	6.63	6.52		ion ch	41	B	e-e
		6.50		ion ch	45		
$\text{Cm}_{20.8d}^{240} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{20.8d}^{236}$	6.38	6.27		ion ch	46	A	e-e
		6.25		ion ch	47		
$\text{Cm}_{35d}^{241} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{35d}^{237}$	6.20	5.95		ion ch	46	A	$\alpha-\gamma(47a)$
$\text{Cm}_{35y}^{243} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{35y}^{239}$	6.159	6.003	1	spect	48	A	
		5.777	78	spect	48		(49)
$\text{Cm}_{1.1 \times 10^4y}^{245} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{1.1 \times 10^4y}^{241}$	5.62	5.45	~10	ion ch	50	A	
		5.36	~82	ion ch	51		$\alpha-\gamma(48)$
		5.4		ion ch	52		
$\text{Cm}_{5 \times 10^3y}^{246} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{5 \times 10^3y}^{242}$	5.46	5.373		ion ch	53	A	e-e
		5.37		ion ch	50		
		5.39		ion ch	54		
		5.4		ion ch	52		
$\text{Cm}_{4.7 \times 10^5y}^{248} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Pu}_{4.7 \times 10^5y}^{244}$	5.14	5.05%		ion ch	53	A	e-e
$\text{Bk}_{4.35h}^{244} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Am}_{4.35h}^{240}$	6.78	6.67		ion ch	55	B	ins evid
$\text{Bk}_{4.95d}^{245} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Am}_{4.95d}^{241}$	6.48	6.37	33	ion ch	56	A	ins evid
		6.35		ion ch	55		
		6.33		ion ch	57		
$\text{Bk}_{\sim 10y}^{247} \xrightarrow{\gamma} \text{Am}_{\sim 10y}^{243}$	5.85	5.67	~40	ion ch	55	B	$\alpha-\gamma(58)$

Reaction	Adopted Q (Mev)	Highest-energy group measured (Mev)	Intensity (%)	Method	Energy ref.	Ident- ification	Comment
$Bk^{249} \xrightarrow{280 \text{ d}} Am^{245}$	5.53	5.40 5.4 5.4	~94	ion ch ion ch ion ch	55 59 60	A	a-e(58)
$Cf^{244} \xrightarrow{\sim 25 \text{ m}} Cm^{240}$	7.29	7.17		ion ch	61	A	e-e
$Cf^{245} \xrightarrow{44 \text{ m}} Cm^{241}$	7.23	7.11 7.15		ion ch ion ch	61 62	A	
$Cf^{249} \xrightarrow{5 \times 10^2 \text{ y}} Cm^{245}$	6.29	6.19 6.19	~3	ion ch ion ch	63 64	A	
$Cf^{250} \xrightarrow{10 \text{ y}} Cm^{246}$	6.122	6.024 6.025 6.033 6.05 6.03	83	spect ion ch ion ch ion ch ion ch	66 66a 65 67 59	A	
$Cf^{252} \xrightarrow{2.2 \text{ y}} Cm^{248}$	6.211	6.112 6.119 6.117 6.15 6.12	84.5	spect ion ch ion ch ion ch ion ch	66 66a 65 67 59	A	
$E^{246} \xrightarrow{7.3 \text{ m}} Bk^{242}$	7.4	7.3		ion ch	68	B	ins evid
$E^{248} \xrightarrow{25 \text{ m}} Bk^{244}$	6.98	6.87		ion ch	72	B	ins evid
$E^{249} \xrightarrow{2 \text{ h}} Bk^{245}$	6.87	6.76		ion ch	73	B	ins evid
$E^{251} \xrightarrow{1.5 \text{ d}} Bk^{247}$	6.58	6.43		ion ch	73	B	ins evid
$E^{252} \xrightarrow{\sim 140 \text{ d}} Bk^{248}$	6.75	6.64		ion ch	73	B	ins evid
$E^{253} \xrightarrow{20.03 \text{ d}} Bk^{249}$	6.740	6.633 6.636 6.63 6.61	90.2	spect ion ch ion ch ion ch	74 75 67 76	A	
$E^{254} \xrightarrow{\sim 300 \text{ d}} Bk^{250}$	6.52	6.42 6.44		ion ch ion ch	75 77	A	ins evid
$Fm^{250} \xrightarrow{30 \text{ m}} Cf^{246}$	7.55	7.43 7.7		ion ch ion ch	78 79	B	e-e
$Fm^{251} \xrightarrow{7 \text{ h}} Cf^{247}$	7.00	6.89		ion ch	76	B	ins evid
$Fm^{252} \xrightarrow{23 \text{ h}} Cf^{248}$	7.16	7.05 7.04		ion ch ion ch	78 80	B	e-e
$Fm^{253} \xrightarrow{4.5 \text{ d}} Cf^{249}$	7.05	6.94 6.85		ion ch ion ch	81 80	B	ins evid

Reaction	Adopted E (Mev)	Highest-energy group measured (Mev)	Intensity (%)	Method	Energy ref.	Ident- ification	Comments
$\text{Pm}^{254} \rightarrow \text{Cr}^{250}$ 3.24 h	7.32	7.20		ion ch	75	A	
		7.22		ion ch	82		
		7.17		ion ch	76		
$\text{Pm}^{255} \rightarrow \text{Cr}^{251}$ 21.5 h	7.2	7.08		ion ch	75	B	ins evid
		7.1		ion ch	82		

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