

⁴⁰K

Nier from the University of Minnesota discovered ⁴⁰K in the 1935 paper “Evidence for the existence of an isotope of potassium of mass 40” ([1935Ni01](#)). Potassium was introduced into a mass spectrograph. “[The figure] shows the interesting portion of one of many mass spectrographic analyses of the region around m/e=40. As may be seen there is a very definite peak due to an ion with an m/e value of 40. The rising portions on either side of this peak are the feet of the very much larger peaks due to K³⁹ and K⁴¹.”

Adapted from reference ([2012Th10](#))

[1935Ni01](#) A. O. Nier, Phys. Rev. **48**, 283 (1935).

[2012Th10](#) M. Thoennessen, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables **98**, 933 (2012).

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