

## <sup>50</sup>V

The discovery of <sup>50</sup>V was reported in 1949 simultaneously by Hess and Inghram at Argonne National Laboratory in “On the Occurrence of Vanadium 50 in Nature” (1949He09) and by Leland at the University of Minnesota in “A Naturally Occurring Odd-Odd Isotope of Vanadium” (1949Le22). In each of the experiments single and doubly charged vanadium ions were analyzed in a mass spectrometer. Hess and Inghram stated “The isotopic composition of vanadium has been restudied and a new isotope found to be present at mass 50” while Leland wrote “As part of a program to investigate the isotope abundances of the heavier elements, an isotope of vanadium of mass 50 having an abundance of  $0.23 \pm 0.01$  was discovered.” <sup>50</sup>V is actually unstable with a half-life of  $1.4 \times 10^{17}$  y. The papers were published in the same issue of Physical Review and both were submitted on October 24, 1949 and apparently neither of the authors was aware of the other discovery. The primary credit for the discovery is given to Hess and Inghram because their article appears first in the journal.

Adapted from reference (2010Sh05)

- 1949He09 D. C. Hess Jr. and M. G. Inghram, Phys. Rev. **76**, 1717 (1949).  
1949Le22 W. T. Leland, Phys. Rev. **76**, 1722 (1949).  
2010Sh05 A. Shore, A. Fritsch, M. Heim, A. Schuh, and M. Thoennessen, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables **96**, 351 (2010).

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