^{60}Fe

The discovery of ^{60}Fe was described by Roy and Kohman in the 1957 paper "Iron 60" (1957Ro54). A copper target was bombarded with 400 MeV protons from the Carnegie synchocyclotron in Pittsburgh and ^{60}Fe was produced in a spallation reaction. The mass assignment was made through the observation of the decay to the ^{60m}Co daughter following chemical separation. "From this, the activity ratio of Fe^{60} and Fe^{59}, 45 days, the half-life of Fe^{60} can be derived. The result is $\sim 3 \cdot 10^5$ years, uncertain by a factor of 3 because of the approximate nature of the measurements and calculations."

Adapted from reference (2010Sc18)

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Please cite this abstract as: "FRIB Nuclear Data Group, *Discovery of Nuclides Project*, Isotope Database, doi:10.11578/frib/2279152"