

²⁵⁰Cf

In 1954, Ghiorso et al. from Berkeley reported the discovery of ²⁵⁰Cf in the article “New isotopes of americium, berkelium and californium” ([1954Gh24](#)). ²⁴⁹Bk was produced by neutron irradiation of ²³⁹Pu in the Materials Testing Reactor. ²⁵⁰Cf was formed in decay of ²⁵⁰Bk which was produced by further neutron irradiation of ²⁴⁹Bk. The resulting activities were measured following chemical separation. “From the alpha disintegration rate and the beta disintegration rate of the Bk²⁵⁰ parent, the alpha half-life of Cf²⁵⁰ was found to be about 12 years.” Less than a week later Diamond et al. independently reported a half-life of 9.4(32) y for ²⁵⁰Cf ([1954Di11](#)).

Adapted from reference ([2013Fr02](#))

- [1954Di11](#) H. Diamond, L. B. Magnusson, J. F. Mech, C. M. Stevens *et al.*, Phys. Rev. **94**, 1083 (1954).
[1954Gh24](#) A. Ghiorso, S. G. Thompson, G. R. Choppin, and B. G. Harvey, Phys. Rev. **94**, 1081 (1954).
[2013Fr02](#) C. Fry and M. Thoennessen, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables **99**, 96 (2013).

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