30. COMMONLY USED RADIOACTIVE SOURCES

Table 30.1. Revised November 1993 by E. Browne (LBNL).

			Particle		Photon	
Nuclide	Half-life	Type of decay	Energy (MeV)	Emission prob.	Energy (MeV)	Emission prob.
$^{22}_{11}$Na	2.603 y	β^+, EC	0.545	90%	0.511	Annih.
					1.275	100%
$^{54}_{25}$Mn	0.855 y	EC			0.835	100%
					Cr K x rays	26%
$^{55}_{26}$Fe	2.73 y	EC			Mn K x rays:	
					0.00590	24.4%
					0.00649	2.86%
$^{57}_{27}$Co	0.744 y	EC			0.014	9%
					0.122	86%
					0.136	11%
					Fe K x rays	58%
$^{60}_{27}$Co	5.271 y	β^-	0.316	100%	1.173	100%
					1.333	100%
$^{68}_{32}$Ge	0.742 y	EC			Ga K x rays	44%
$\rightarrow$ $^{68}_{31}$Ga		β^+, EC	1.899	90%	0.511	Annih.
					1.077	3%
$^{90}_{38}$Sr	28.5 y	β^-	0.546	100%		
$\rightarrow$ $^{90}_{39}$Y		β^-	2.283	100%		
$^{106}_{44}$Ru	1.020 y	β^-	0.039	100%		
$\rightarrow$ $^{106}_{45}$Rh		β^-	3.541	79%	0.512	21%
					0.622	10%
$^{109}_{48}$Cd	1.267 y	EC	0.063 e^-	41%	0.088	3.6%
			0.084 e^-	45%	Ag K x rays	100%
			0.087 e^-	9%		
$^{113}_{50}$Sn	0.315 y	EC	0.364 e^-	29%	0.392	65%
			0.388 e^-	6%	In K x rays	97%
$^{137}_{55}$Cs	30.2 y	β^-	0.514 e^-	94%	0.662	85%
			1.176 e^-	6%		
$^{133}_{56}$Ba	10.54 y	EC	0.045 e^-	50%	0.081	34%
			0.075 e^-	6%	0.356	62%
					Cs K x rays	121%
$^{207}_{83}$Bi	31.8 y	EC	0.481 e^-	2%	0.569	98%
			0.975 e^-	7%	1.063	75%
			1.047 e^-	2%	1.770	7%
					Pb K x rays	78%
$^{228}_{90}$Th	1.912 y	6α:	5.341 to 8.785		0.239	44%
		$3\beta^-$:	0.334 to 2.246		0.583	31%
					2.614	36%
($\rightarrow^{224}_{88}$Ra $\rightarrow$ $^{220}_{86}$Rn $\rightarrow$ $^{216}_{84}$Po $\rightarrow$ $^{212}_{82}$Pb $\rightarrow$ $^{212}_{83}$Bi $\rightarrow$ $^{212}_{84}$Po)						
$^{241}_{95}$Am	432.7 y	α	5.443	13%	0.060	36%
			5.486	85%	Np L x rays	38%
$^{241}_{95}$Am/Be	432.2 y	6×10^{-5} neutrons (4–8 MeV) and				
		4×10^{-5} γ's (4.43 MeV) per Am decay				
$^{244}_{96}$Cm	18.11 y	α	5.763	24%	Pu L x rays	$\sim$ 9%
			5.805	76%		
$^{252}_{98}$Cf	2.645 y	α (97%)	6.076	15%		
			6.118	82%		
		Fission (3.1%)				
		$\approx$ 20 γ's/fission; 80% $<$ 1 MeV				
		$\approx$ 4 neutrons/fission; $\langle E_n \rangle = 2.14$ MeV				

"Emission probability" is the probability per decay of a given emission; because of cascades these may total more than 100%. Only principal emissions are listed. EC means electron capture, and e^- means monoenergetic internal conversion (Auger) electron. The intensity of 0.511 MeV e^+e^- annihilation photons depends upon the number of stopped positrons. Endpoint $\beta^{\pm}$ energies are listed. In some cases when energies are closely spaced, the γ-ray values are approximate weighted averages. Radiation from short-lived daughter isotopes is included where relevant.

Half-lives, energies, and intensities are from E. Browne and R.B. Firestone, *Table of Radioactive Isotopes* (John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1986), recent *Nuclear Data Sheets*, and *X-ray and Gamma-ray Standards for Detector Calibration*, IAEA-TECDOC-619 (1991).

Neutron data are from *Neutron Sources for Basic Physics and Applications* (Pergamon Press, 1983).