

Isotopes of Fermium

Isotope	Atomic Mass	Half-life	Mode of Decay	Nuclear Spin	Nuclear Magnetic Moment
Fm-251	251.08157	5.30 hours	EC to Es-251; α to Cf-247	9/2	No data available
Fm-252	252.08246	1.058 days	α to Cf-248; SF	0	No data available
Fm-253	253.08517	3.00 days	EC to Es-253; α to Cf-249	1/2	No data available
Fm-254	254.08685	3.24 hours	α to Cf-250; SF	0	No data available
Fm-255	255.08995	20.10 hours	α to Cf-251; SF	7/2	No data available
Fm-256	256.09177	2.63 hours	α to Cf-252; SF	0	No data available
Fm-257	257.095099	100.50 days	α to Cf-253; SF	9/2	No data available



Fermium is a radioactive rare earth metal, discovered in 1952 by workers at Argonne and Los Alamos National Laboratories and by Albert Ghiorso and colleagues at the University of California - Berkeley, USA. It was identified in the radioactive debris from a thermonuclear explosion in the Pacific. The longest living isotope is Fermium-257, with a half-life of 80 days. Fermium takes its name from that of Enrico Fermi, a pioneer in nuclear physics.

Because of the small amounts of produced fermium, as well as the relatively short half-lives of its isotopes, there are no current uses for fermium outside of basic scientific research.

Properties of Fermium

Name	Fermium
Symbol	Fm
Atomic number	100
Atomic weight	[257]
Standard state	Presumably a solid at 298 °K
CAS Registry ID	7440-72-4

Properties of Fermium (continued)

Group in periodic table	N/A
Group name	Actinoid
Period in periodic table	7 (Actinoid)
Block in periodic table	f-block
Color	Unknown, but probably metallic and silvery white or grey in appearance
Classification	Metallic
Melting point	About 1800 °K [or 1527 °C or 2781 °F]
Boiling point	No data available
Electronegativity	1.3
Electron configuration	[Rn]5f ¹² 7s ²