

Rubidium as THE Radioactive Minimal Standard

sgm, 2018/AUG/14

with Monitor 4 Geiger counter, $92/82=1.1219512195$ CMP
just measured now 2018/AUG/0.33

A few days ago, God inspired this brief article, but she wants *me* to take credit because of her core attribute, humility. I had two genuine candidates on my somewhat lengthy list: ^{87}Rb and ^{115}In . The latter is 96% unstable with half-life approximately 10^{14} . I purchased some, very inexpensive, and attempted to accurately measure its activity. "Impossible." The reason is the *fact* its activity level is *below* that of cosmic rays, 82 CPM. You'd have to be in a lead-walled room with walls *several meters thick* of lead – to minimize cosmic rays – to the point they'd become negligible. I should have said several *hundred* meters thick. 0.0 Which is why I used the word "impossible" above.

Now, ^{87}Rb is down to 28% unstable BUT half-life is ONLY 10^{10} . 0.0 which means it's actually *measurable!* The activity level is 92 CPM stated at the beginning of the article; the title is *longer* in characters than lines-of-text within. Now I know FOR SURE she doesn't waste ANYthing.

"one two, tickle my shoe..
three four, close the door..
what are we waiting for?!"