

## **average life**

*in nuclear chemistry*

Defined for an atom or nuclear system in a specified state. For an exponentially decaying system, it is the average time for the number of atoms or nuclei in a specified state to decrease by a factor  $e$ . Synonymous with mean life.

**Source:**

PAC, 1982, 54, 1533 (*Glossary of terms used in nuclear analytical chemistry (Provisional)*) on page 1536