

²⁰Na

²⁰Na was discovered by Alvarez in the 1950 paper “Three new delayed alpha-emitters of low mass” ([1950A157](#)). A 32 MeV proton beam from the Berkeley linear accelerator bombarded a proportional counter filled with neon and delayed heavy particles were observed in the counter. “Two new positron active isotopes, B⁸ and Na²⁰, have been found to decay to excited states of Be⁸ and Ne²⁰, which in turn decay “instantaneously” by alpha-emission. Their half-lives are 0.65 ± 0.1 sec. and 1/4 sec., respectively.”

Adapted from reference ([2012Th10](#))

[1950A157](#) L. W. Alvarez, Phys. Rev. **80**, 519 (1950).

[2012Th10](#) M. Thoennessen, At. Data Nucl. Data Tables **98**, 933 (2012).

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