^{26}Al

The first observation of ^{26}Al was reported by Frisch from Birkbeck College in London in "Induced radioactivity of sodium and phosphorus" in 1934 (1934Fr01). A 1 mCi thorium B + C α source was used to irradiate sodium targets and the subsequent activity was measured with a Geiger-Müller counter. "Three different sodium compounds (NaCI, NaF, $Na_2C_2O_4$) have been investigated; they all showed a fairly strong activity, dying off very quickly. The half value period has been determined by recording the impulses on a rotating drum, the whole decay curve being recorded 21 times. The half value period was found to be 7$\pm$1 seconds... So for sodium and phosphorus the reactions would be $_{11}Na^{23}$ + α = $_{13}Al^{26}$ + neutron and $_{15}P^{31}$ + α = $_{17}Cl^{34}$ + neutron, respectively." This state corresponds to an isomer and the half-life of the ground state ($\sim 10^6$y) was measured twenty years later (1954Si19).

Adapted from reference (2012Th10)

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