

1. Write the number of protons and neutrons for each nuclide:

(a) ${}^4_2\text{He}$ 2 protons, 2 neutrons

(b) ${}^{20}_{10}\text{Ne}$ 10 protons, 10 neutrons

(c) ${}^{234}_{92}\text{U}$ 92 protons, 142 neutrons

(d) Cr-51 24 protons, 27 neutrons

(e) Pb-214 82 protons, 132 neutrons

(f) Po-210 84 protons, 126 neutrons

2. Write a nuclear equation for the indicated decay of each nuclide:

(a) U-234 (alpha) ${}^{234}_{92}\text{U} \longrightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + {}^{230}_{90}\text{Th}$

(b) Th-230 (alpha) ${}^{230}_{90}\text{Th} \longrightarrow {}^4_2\text{He} + {}^{226}_{88}\text{Ra}$

(c) Pb-214 (beta) ${}^{214}_{82}\text{Pb} \longrightarrow {}^0_{-1}\text{e} + {}^{214}_{83}\text{Bi}$

(d) N-13 (positron emission) ${}^{13}_7\text{N} \longrightarrow {}^0_{+1}\text{e} + {}^{13}_6\text{C}$

(e) Cr-51 (electron capture) ${}^{51}_{24}\text{Cr} + {}^0_{-1}\text{e} \longrightarrow {}^{51}_{23}\text{V}$

3. One of the nuclides in spent nuclear fuel is U-235, an alpha emitter with a half-life of 703 million years. How long will it take for the amount of U-235 to reach 10.0% of its initial amount?

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{0.693}{k} = 703 \times 10^6 \text{ yr} \Rightarrow k = 9.858 \times 10^{-10} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

$$\text{Then, } \ln\left(\frac{N_t}{N_0}\right) = -kt$$

$$t = \frac{-\ln(0.10)}{k} = 2.34 \times 10^9 \text{ yr}$$

4. A wooden boat discovered just south of the Great Pyramid in Egypt has a carbon-14/carbon-12 ratio that is 72.5% of that found in living organisms. How old is the boat?

$$t_{1/2} = 5730 \text{ yr} = \frac{0.693}{k} \Rightarrow k = 1.209 \times 10^{-4} \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{72.5}{100}\right) = -kt$$

$$t = 2659 \text{ yr}$$