

The probability of scattering  $p = \sigma/a_{\text{int}}$ , where  $\sigma$  is the scattering cross section and  $a_{\text{int}}$  is the “area of interaction” (which will cancel in the end). The number of scattering events  $N = pN_bN_t$  where  $N_b$  is the number of beam particles on target and  $N_t$  is the number of target particles in the area of interaction. So

$$N = \frac{\sigma N_b N_t}{a_{\text{int}}}$$

$N_t = V\rho_n$  where  $V$  is the volume of the target and  $\rho_n$  is the number density of target particles.  $V = a_{\text{int}}l$  where  $l$  is the length of the target. So  $N_t = a_{\text{int}}l\rho_n$ .  $\rho_n = \rho/m_t$  where  $\rho$  is the mass density of the target and  $m_t$  is the mass of a single target particle. So  $N_t = a_{\text{int}}l\rho/m_t$ . If the target is a nucleus,  $m_t = A/N_A$  where  $A$  is the atomic weight (in grams per mole usually) of the target particle and  $N_A$  is Avogadro’s number. So  $N_t = a_{\text{int}}l\rho N_A/A$  and

$$N = \frac{\sigma N_b l \rho N_A}{A}$$

$$N_b = Rt$$

where  $R$  is the beam photon time rate and  $t$  is the time of running.