

Since proton and  $\alpha$ -particle of energy 20 MeV are obviously non-relativistic we can use formula (6.3) for the stopping power

$$S(T) = \frac{4\pi Q^2 e^2 \rho A_0 Z}{m_e A \beta^2 c^2} \ln \frac{2m_e \beta^2 c^2}{\bar{I}}$$

where  $\bar{I} \simeq 10Z$  eV,  $A=27$  is atomic weight,  $Z=13$  atomic number,  $A_0 = 6.02 \times 10^{23}$  Avogadro number,  $\rho = 2.7 \frac{g}{cm^3}$  density of aluminum.

First, let us calculate  $\frac{4\pi Q^2 e^2 \rho A_0}{m_e c^2}$  for a proton. Since  $Q = e$  in this case we have (in CGS units)

$$\frac{4\pi Q^2 e^2 \rho A_0}{m_e c^2} = \frac{4\pi e^4 \rho A_0}{m_e c^2} = \frac{4\pi (4.8)^4 \times 10^{-40} \times 2.7 \times 6.02 \times 10^{23}}{9.11 \times 10^{-28} \times 9 \times 10^{20}} = 1.32 \times 10^{-6} \frac{erg}{cm} = 0.825 \frac{MeV}{cm}$$

for the proton (1 erg  $\simeq 6.24 \times 10^5$  MeV). Since for the 20 MeV proton  $\beta^2 = 0.043$  we get for the stopping power

$$S(T) = 0.825 \frac{MeV}{cm} \frac{Z}{A \beta^2} \ln \frac{2m_e \beta^2 c^2}{\bar{I}} = 0.825 \frac{MeV}{cm} \frac{13}{27 \times 0.043} \ln \frac{1.02 \times 10^6 \times 0.043}{130} = 53.7 \frac{MeV}{cm}$$

so the energy loss after  $\Delta x = 0.001$  cm of aluminum foil is

$$S(T)\Delta x = 53.7 \frac{MeV}{cm} \times 10^{-3cm} = 53.7 keV$$

Similarly, we get 160 keV for the  $\alpha$ -particle.

NB: SI system is not convenient here since Eq (6.3) appears to be different (by  $(4\pi\epsilon_0)^{-2}$ ?)