

- 13 (a) Explain what is meant by *gamma radiation* (γ -radiation).

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- (b) A source of gamma radiation is placed a fixed distance away from a detector and counter, as illustrated in Fig. 13.1.

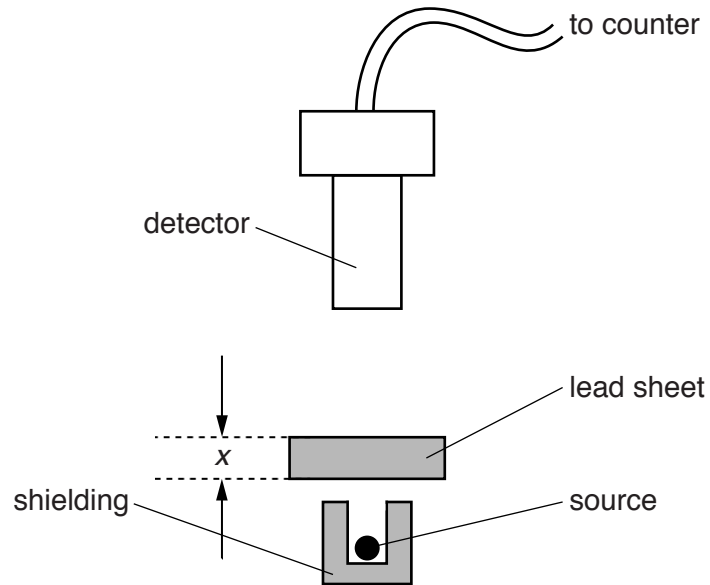
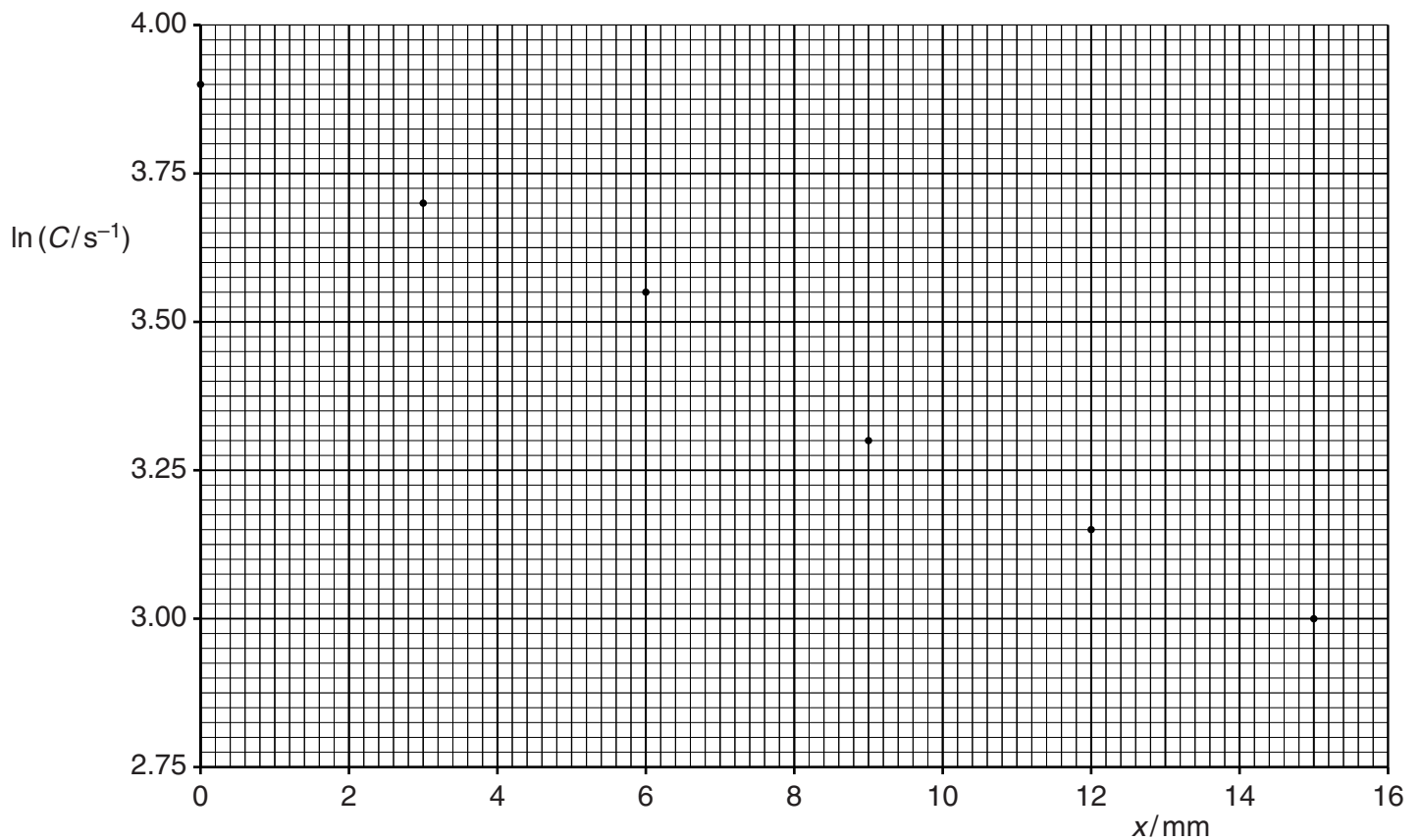


Fig. 13.1

A sheet of lead of thickness x is placed between the source and the detector. The average count rate C , corrected for background, is recorded. This is repeated for different values of x . The variation with thickness x of $\ln C$ is shown in Fig. 13.2.

**Fig. 13.2**

The absorption of gamma radiation in lead may be represented by the equation

$$C = C_0 e^{-\mu x}$$

where C_0 is the count rate for $x = 0$ and μ is the linear attenuation (absorption) coefficient.

Use Fig. 13.2 to determine the linear attenuation coefficient μ for this gamma radiation in lead.

$$\mu = \dots\dots\dots \text{mm}^{-1} \quad [4]$$

Question 13 continues on the next page.

- (c) The value of μ calculated in (b) is for gamma radiation in lead.

Suggest and explain whether the value of μ for aluminium would be the same, greater or smaller.

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..... [2]

[Total: 8]

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