

(8.7) Assume that 10^9 alcohol molecules are dissociated per discharge in a GM tube of 100 cm^3 filled with 90% Ar and 10% ethyl alcohol vapor at a pressure of 100 mmHg (25 °C). What is the lifetime of the tube in terms of total counts assuming that this coincides with the dissociation of 95% of the alcohol molecules?

Standard constants:

$$R_{\text{gas}} := 0.08206 \cdot \text{liter} \cdot \text{atm} \cdot \text{mole}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$$

$$N_A := 6.022 \cdot 10^{23} \cdot \text{mole}^{-1}$$

Given data:

$$V := 100 \cdot \text{mL}$$

$$p := \frac{100}{760} \cdot \text{atm}$$

$$T := (273.15 + 25) \cdot \text{K}$$

Calculations:

$$n_{\text{tot}} := \frac{p \cdot V}{R_{\text{gas}} \cdot T}$$

$$n_{\text{ethanol}} := \frac{10}{100} \cdot n_{\text{tot}}$$

$$n_{\text{destr}} := 10^9$$

$$N := \frac{n_{\text{ethanol}} N_A}{n_{\text{destr}}} \cdot 0.95$$

$$N = 3.1 \cdot 10^{10} \quad \text{counts}$$