

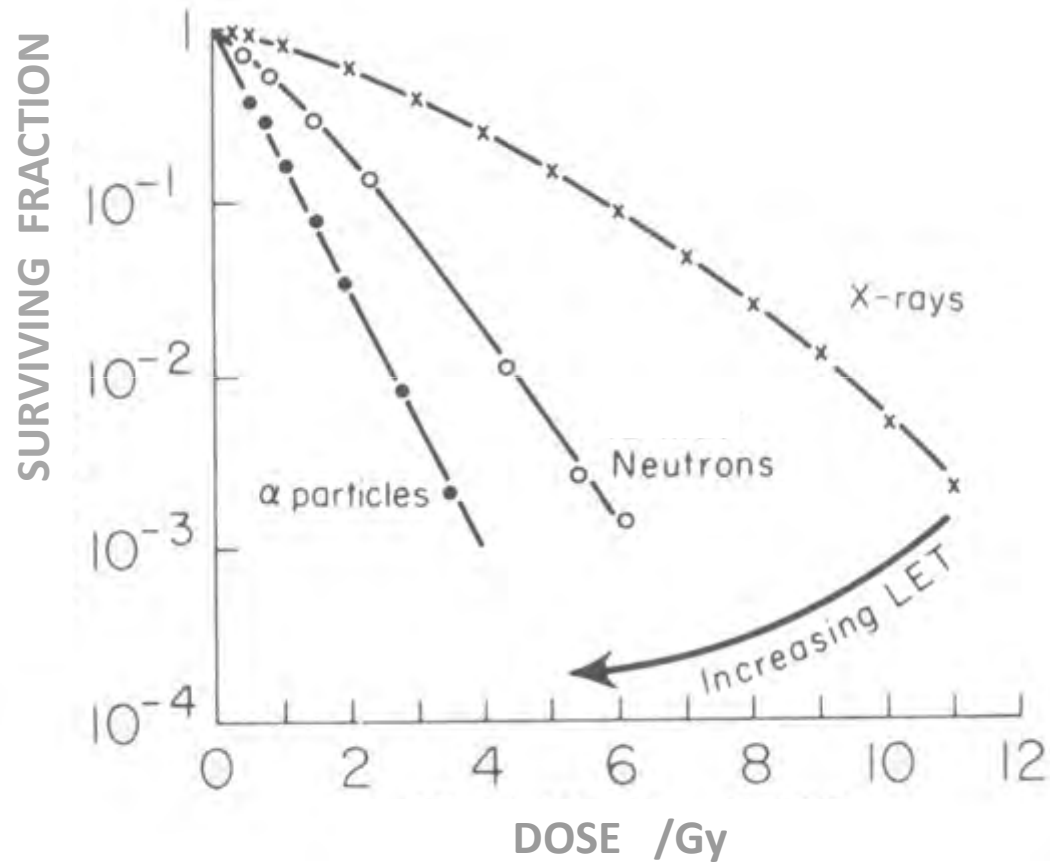
# Introduction to MIKROdosimetry

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# Biological effects of radiation

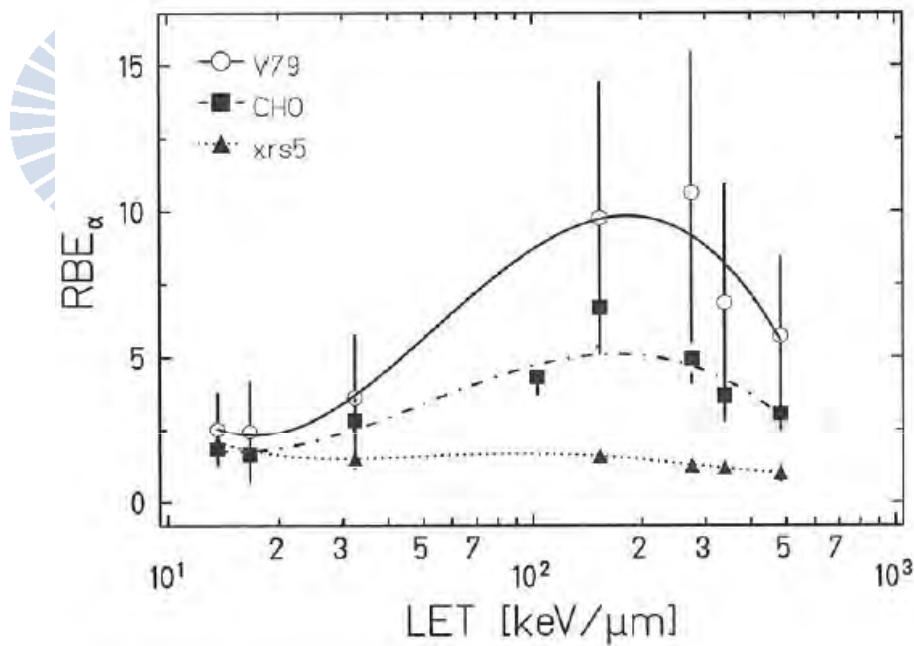


According to Hall 1988

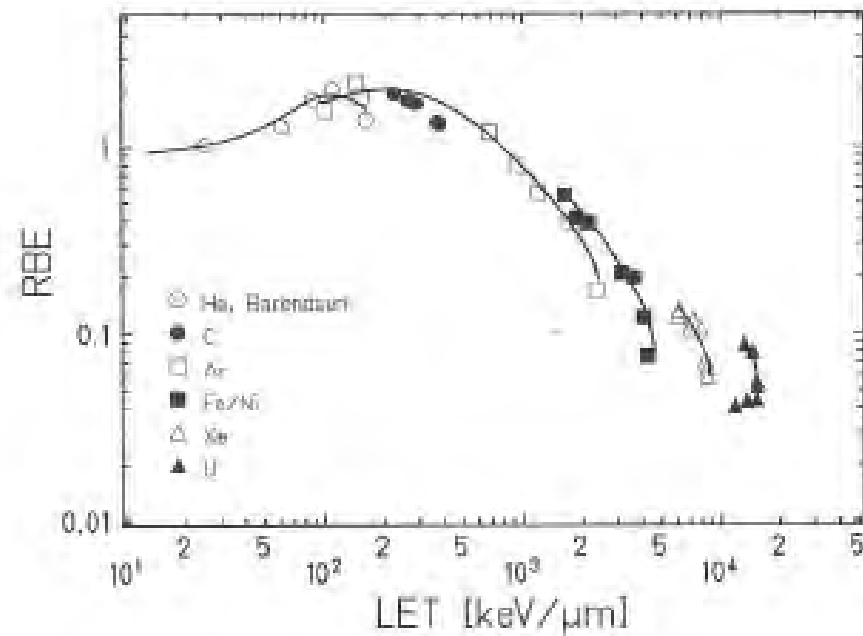
# Biological effects of radiation

Radiobiological efficiency

$$RBE = [D_{60Co} / D_{radiation}]_{\text{isoeffect}}$$



Weyrather W.K. et al, Int. J. Radiat. Biol. 75, 1357-1364, 1999:  
 All cells from Chinese hamster, V79 lung fibroblasts, CHO ovary cells, XRS genetic variant of CHO, but DSB repair deficient



Kraft G., Nucl. Sci. Appl. 3, 1-28, 1987

# Particle track

- indicates inchoate distribution of transfer points resulting from the passage of a single primary charged particle, the aggregate of electrons, ions, and excited atoms and molecules, etc. immediately after the ending of all secondary electron interactions, and to the related aggregate of energy deposits which is the energy expended at an individual transfer point (ICRU 36, 1983)

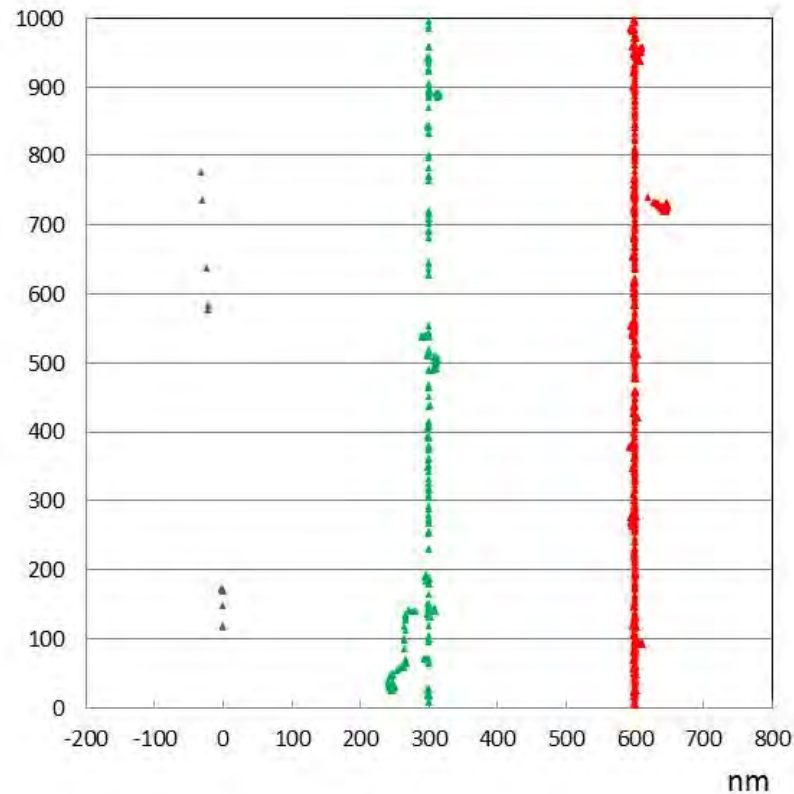
Electron 100keV ~1,5keV/ $\mu$ m  
Carbon 480MeV/u 14 keV/ $\mu$ m  
Proton 1MeV 24 keV/ $\mu$ m

Absorbed energy 100 keV

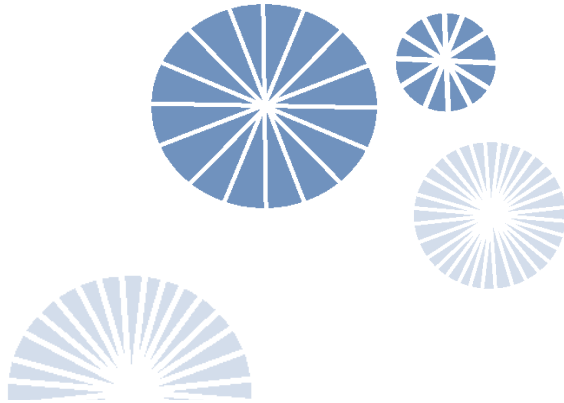
LET linear energy transfer,  $L_{\Delta} = (dE/dx)_{\Delta}$

$dx$  – length of particle trajectory

$dE$  – energy transferred to matter in quantities lower then  $\Delta$



# Particle track



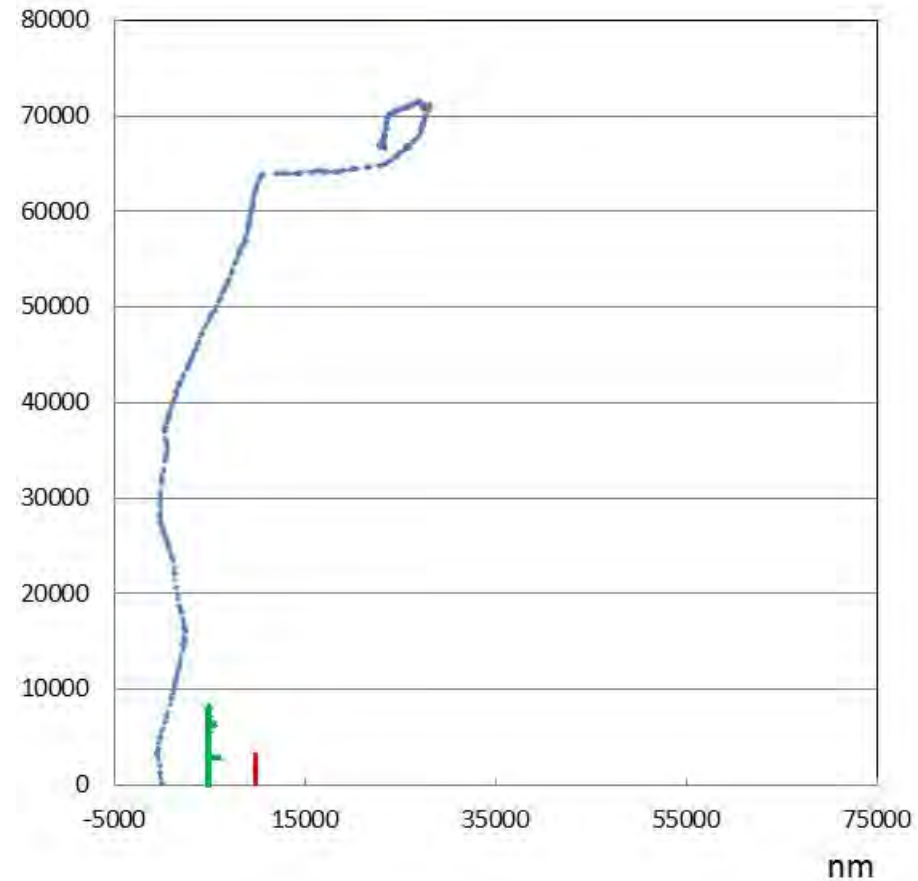
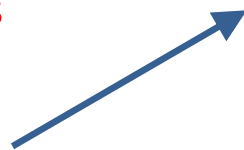
To deliver 1 Gy to cell nucleus  
(diameter 6  $\mu\text{m}$ ):

Electron 100keV  $\sim 1,5\text{keV}/\mu\text{m}$   
 $\sim 10^5$  particles

Carbon 480MeV/u 14 keV/ $\mu\text{m}$   
 $\sim 1.3 \times 10^4$  particles

Proton 1MeV 24 keV/ $\mu\text{m}$   
 $\sim 7.4 \times 10^3$  particles

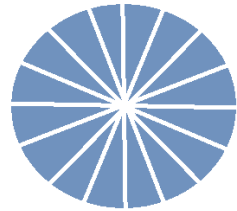
Absorbed energy 100 keV



LET linear energy transfer,  $L_{\Delta} = (dE/dx)_{\Delta}$

$dx$  – length of particle trajectory

$dE$  – energy transferred to matter in quantities lower than  $\Delta$



energy deposited in a single interaction

## Energy deposit $\epsilon_i$

ICRU Report 36 (1983)

$$\epsilon_i = T_{in} - T_{out} + Q_{\Delta m} \quad [\epsilon_i] = J$$

$T_{in}$  - energy of the incident ionizing particle (exclusive of rest mass energy)

$T_{out}$  - sum of energies of all ionizing particles emerging from the interaction (exclusive of rest mass energy)

$Q$  - changes of rest mass energy of the atom and all particles involved in the interaction ( $Q > 0$  decrease of rest mass,  $Q < 0$  increase of rest mass)

- a)  $\epsilon_i$  is a stochastic quantity
- b)  $\epsilon_i$  is the energy deposited at the point of interaction  $\Rightarrow$  "transfer point"

**Energy imparted** in a volume

$$\epsilon = \sum_i \epsilon_i \quad [\epsilon] = J$$

- a)  $\epsilon$  is a stochastic quantity
- b) summation independent of the origin

# Proximity function

Energy imparted related to integral proximity functions  $T(x)$ ;

for j-track  $T_j(x) = \frac{\sum_i \sum_k \epsilon_i \cdot \epsilon_k}{\sum_i \epsilon_i}$

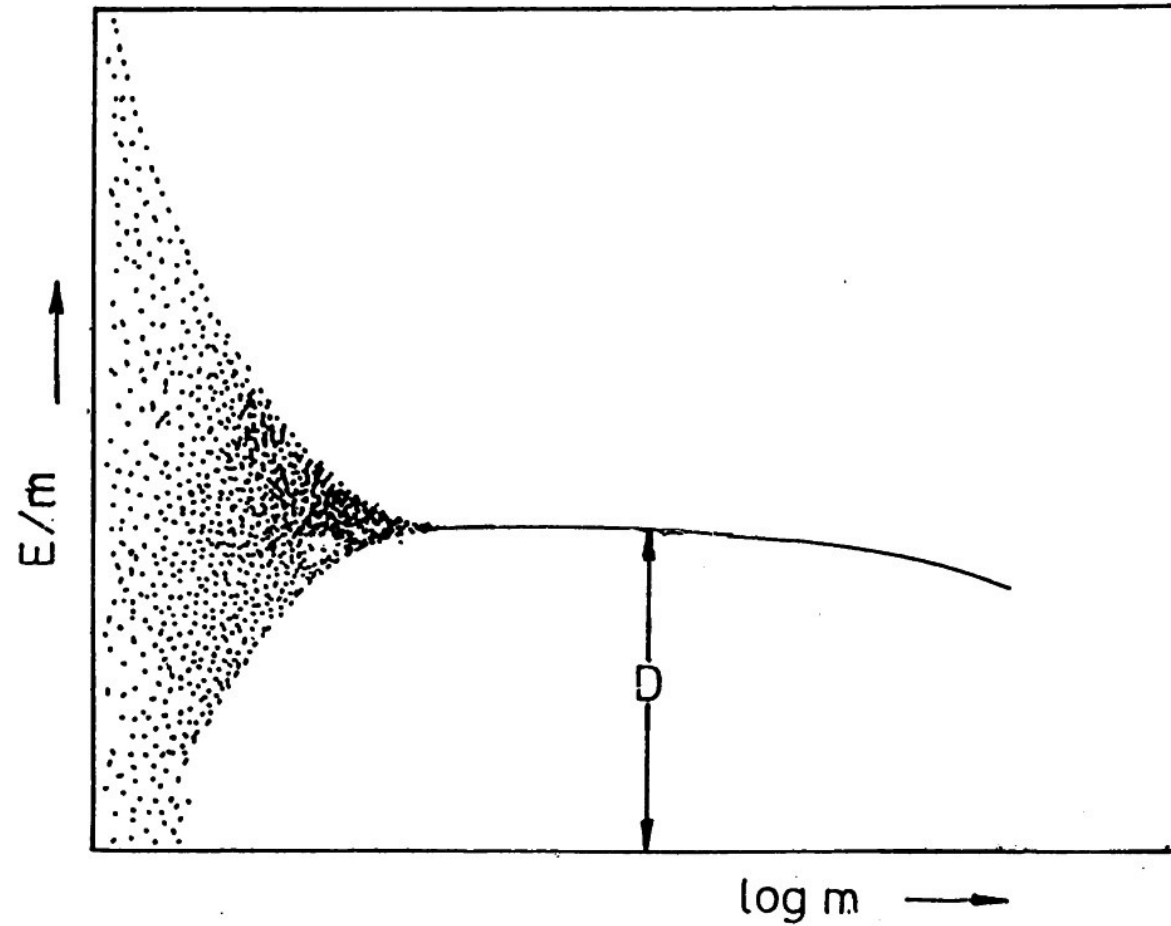
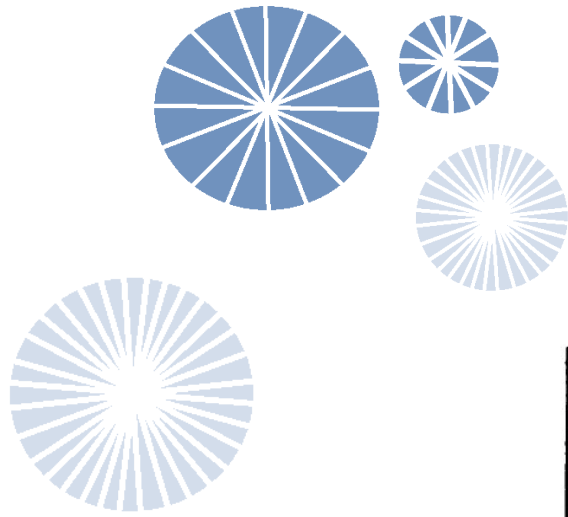
$$T(x) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \tilde{T}_j(x)$$

$T(x)$  weighted mean energy imparted to a spherical volume of radius  $x$ , centred at an arbitrary transfer point of an arbitrary track

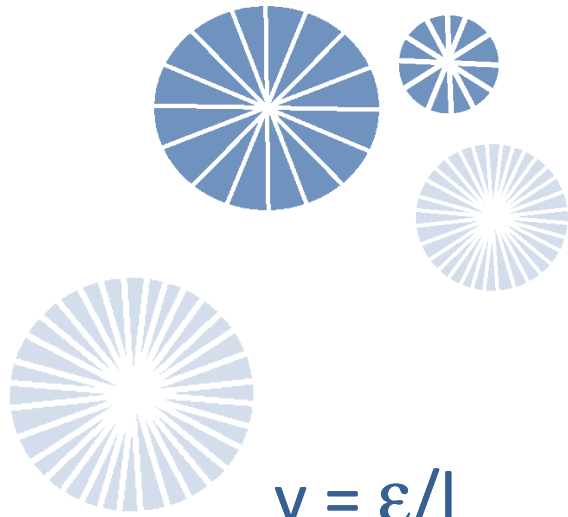
- The integral energy proximity function is an average over a large number of tracks

Differential proximity function  $t(x) = dT(x)/dx$

# Hypothetical measurements of $E/m$



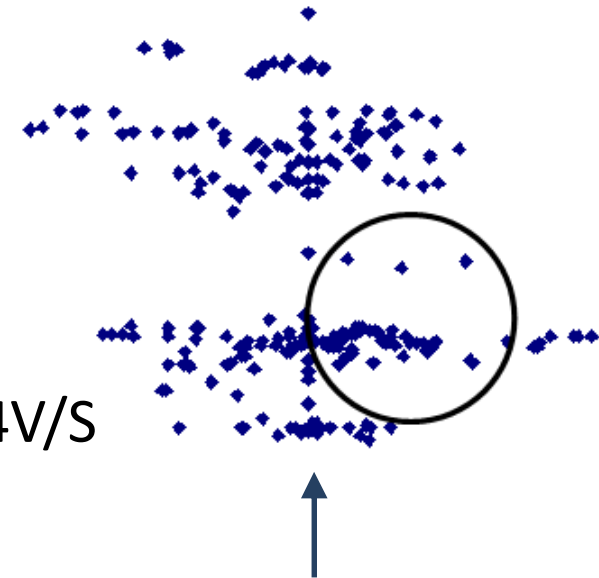




$$\gamma = \varepsilon/l \quad [\gamma] = \text{J/m}; \text{ often keV}/\mu\text{m}$$

Mean chord length -  $l$ ; for convex body  $l = 4V/S$   
e.g. sphere  $l = 4/3 r$

Lineal energy,  $\gamma$



- stochastic quantity

Distribution functions:

Integral:  $F(\gamma)$  – probability that linear energy is less than  $\gamma$

Differential:  $f(\gamma)$  - probability density  $f(\gamma) = dF(\gamma)/d\gamma$

# Lineal energy - remarks

- $f(y)$  frequency distribution of lineal energy

$$Y_F = \int y \cdot f(y) \cdot dy \quad \text{frequency-mean lineal energy}$$

- $d(y)$  dose distribution of lineal energy

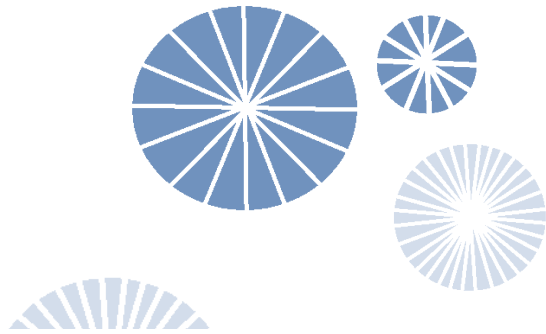
$$d(y) = dD(y)/dy$$

$$Y_D = \int y D(y) dy \quad \text{dose-mean lineal energy}$$

$Y_F$  and  $Y_D$  are nonstochastic quantities

$$Y_D = 1/Y_F \int Y^2 f(y) dy$$

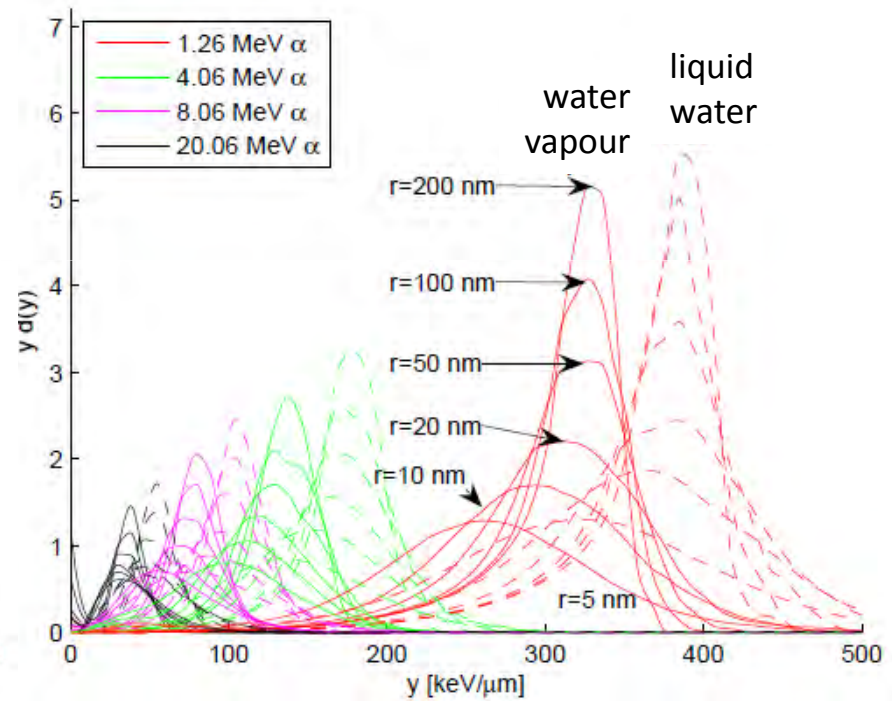
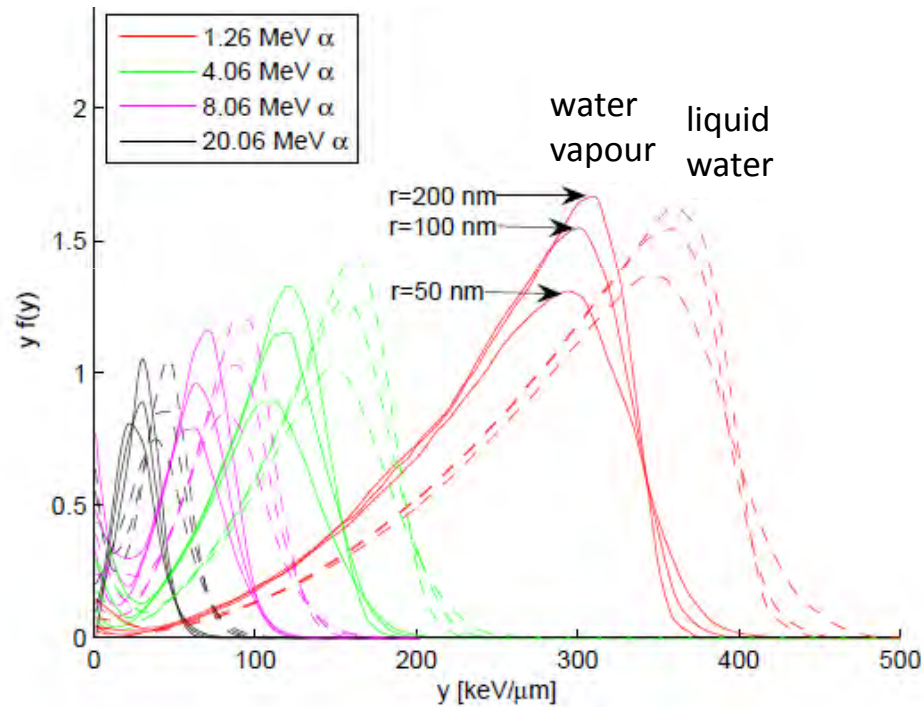
# Lineal energy distributions



$y.f(y)$  frequency distribution

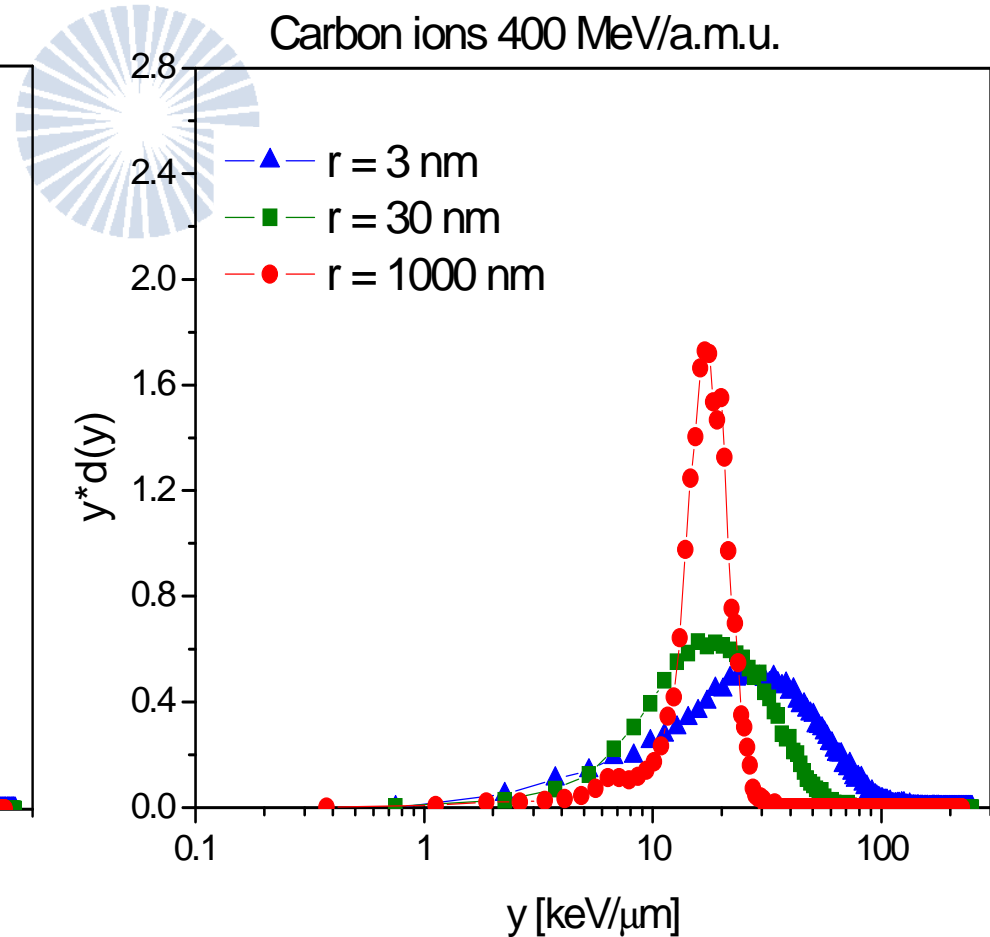
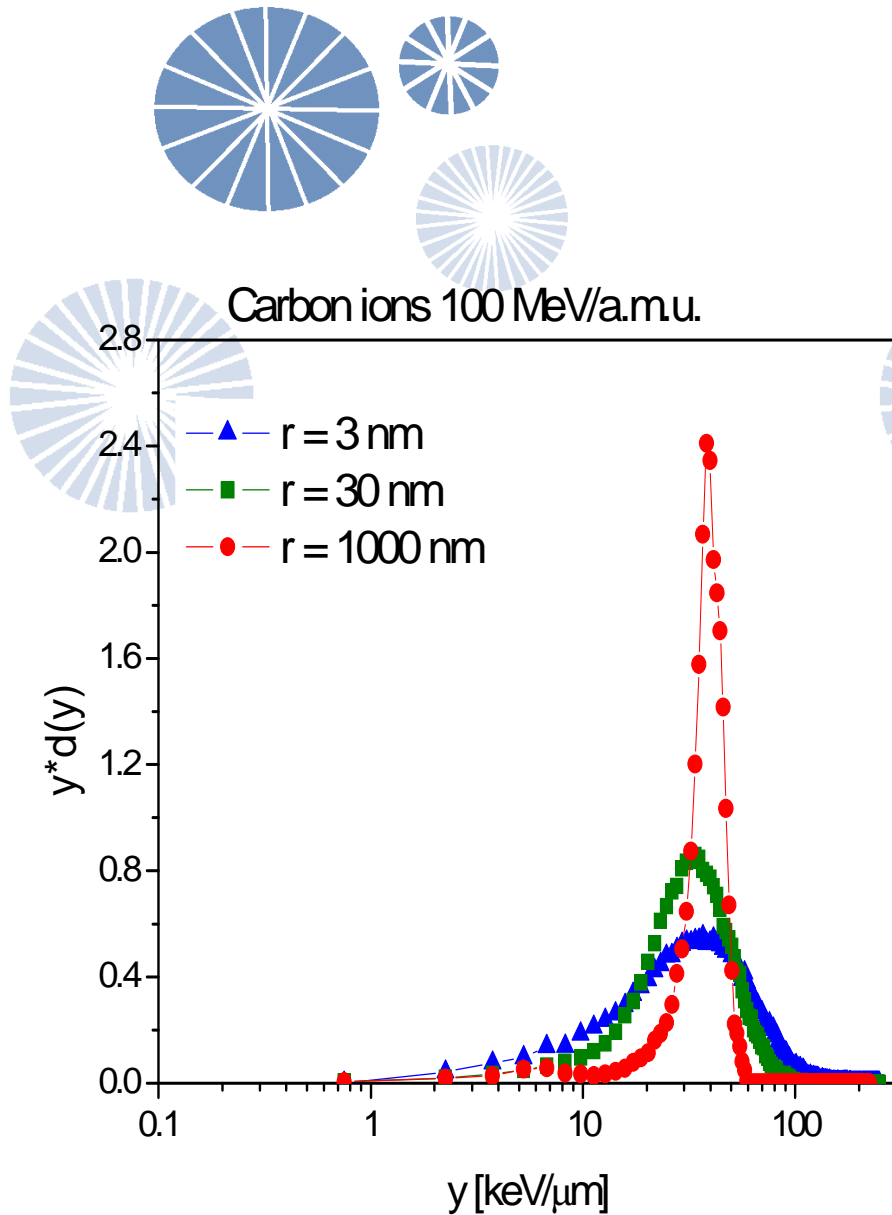


$y.d(y)$  dose distribution



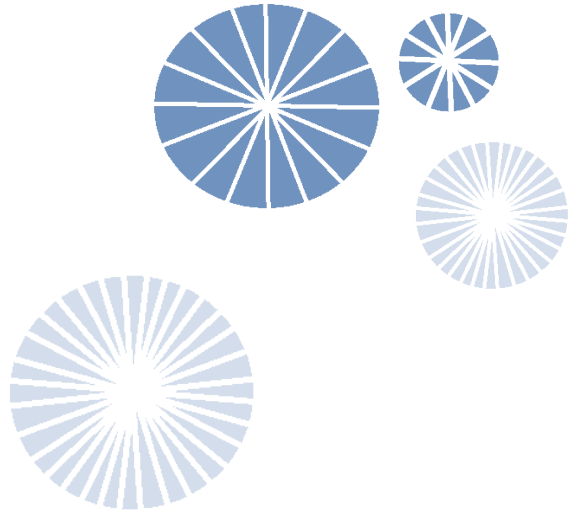
TRIOL and TRION track structure codes

# Lineal energy distributions



TRIOL code

# Lineal energy – remarks



## Relation $y$ x LET:

- LET – nonstochastic, energetically restricted, used only for  $dx < \text{range}$
- $y$  – stochastic, geometrically restricted, single event; valid also for  $l > \text{range}$

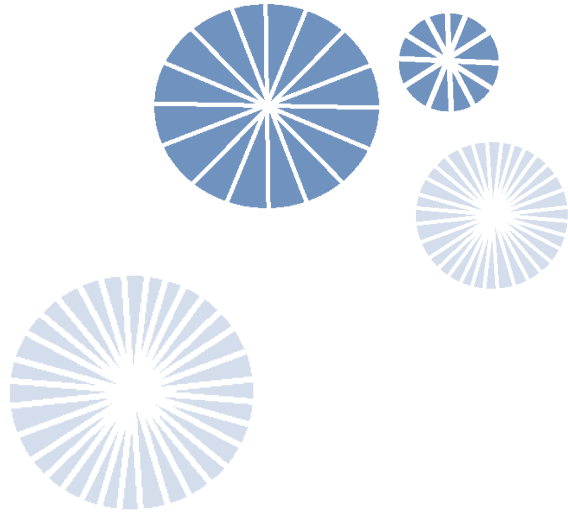
## Specific (imparted) energy, $z$

Specific energy

$$z = \varepsilon/m \quad [z] = \text{Gy}$$

Notes:

- stochastic quantity
- $F(z)$  – integral distribution function – probability that specific energy is equal or less than  $z$
- $f(z) = dF(z)/dz$  differential distribution function (probability density)
- Mean specific energy  $\bar{z} = \int z \cdot f(z) dz \approx D$  is nonstochastic quantity



## DISTRIBUTIONS $f(z;D)$



Analogy:

$$F(z;D) = \int f(z'; D) dz'$$

$$D(z;D) = \int z' \cdot f(z'; D) dz'$$

- i.e. probability that, at the dose  $D$ , specific energy is not higher than  $z$  (or the contribution of dose below  $z$ )
- $f(z;D)$ : at low doses – similar to  $f_1(z)$
- for large sensitive volumes –  $f(z;D)$  approaches to normal distribution with average value  $\sim D$ ; its width diminishes



## Dosimetry versus microdosimetry

There are fundamental differences in the character of quantities:

1. **Dosimetry** – nonstochastic; their values:

- anticipated;
- continuous in the space and time

2. **Microdosimetry** – stochastic; their values:

- non-anticipated
- not continuous in the space and time



# Dosimetry versus microdosimetry



LET

- transition between dosimetry and microdosimetry
- nonstochastic but locally imparted

Of course – even for monoenergetic charged particle – whole spectrum of LET

Two possibilities how to express their average values:

Spectrum of track lengths at which there is  $L - T(L)$ :  $L_T = \int T(L) L dL$   
“track averaged LET”

Spectrum of absorbed doses at given  $L$ - values –  $D(L)$ :  $L_D = \int D(L) L dL$   
“dose averaged LET”

$$L_T < L_D$$

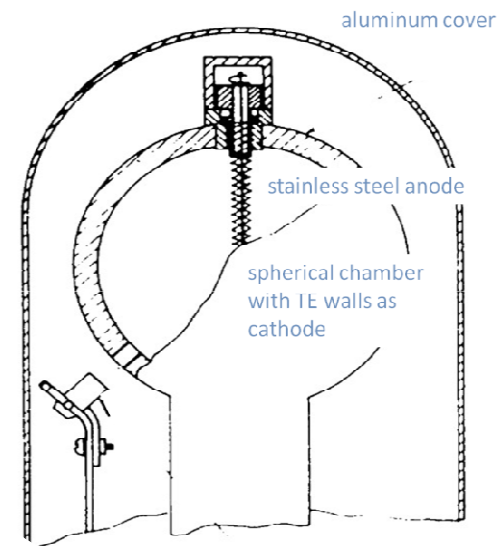
Generally – when  $L$  smaller – range large

# Experimental MIKROdosimetry

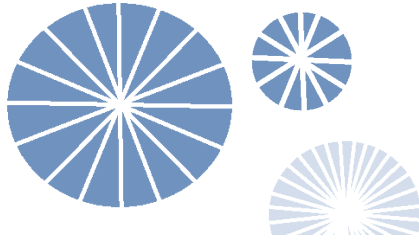
## TEPC – Tissue Equivalent Proportional Counter



Harald H. Rossi (1917-2000)  
Columbia University, NY, USA  
Center for Radiological Research



Principle (about 1955):  
Height of an impulsion (IH)– proportional  
to energy absorbed in the sensitive  
volume:  $f(IH) \approx f(z)$



# TISSUE EQUIVALENCY

(ICRU 36, 1983)

TABLE C.1—Elemental composition of muscle-equivalent compounds and mixtures in percentage by weight

No.	Name	H	C	N	O	F	Na	Mg	Si	P	S	K	Ca
1	ICRU tissue, muscle (ICRU, 1964)	10.2	12.3	3.5	72.9	—	0.08	0.02	—	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.007
2	Muscle-equivalent plastic A 150 (Smathers et al., 1977)	10.1	77.6	3.5	5.2	1.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.8
3	Muscle-equivalent gas, with methane (Rossi and Failla, 1956)	10.2	45.6	3.5	40.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Muscle-equivalent gas, with propane (Srdoc, 1970)	10.3	56.9	3.5	29.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	Air-equivalent plastic C-552 (Spokas, 1975)	2.5	50.2	—	0.4	46.5	—	—	0.4	—	—	—	—

- TE gas fill: 64.4% methane, 32.4% carbon dioxide and 3.2% nitrogen
- not TE gas fill: noble gases, hydrocarbon gases (methane, propane, ethylene), or a mixture of noble and hydrocarbon gases, helium-3 or BF<sub>3</sub> for neutron detection, air for alphas

Typical characteristics:

Diameter: 2.5 – 10 cm, pressure: ~ mm Hg

For diameter ~ 10 cm, and 10 mm Hg (13 kPa) – simulated volume with d~ 1.5 μm

Limitations:

gas pressure sufficient to assure constant magnification factor (proportionality)

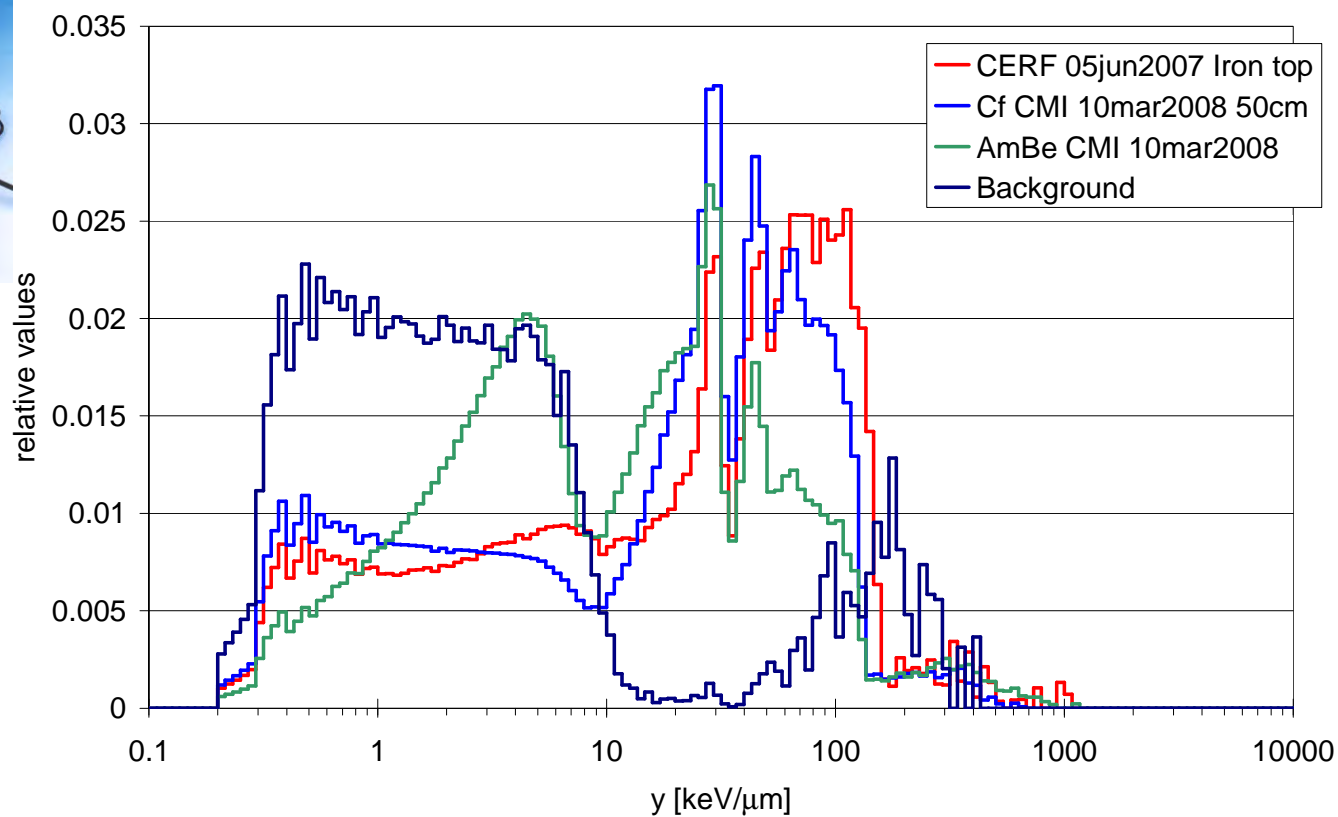
at least one ionization had to take place → d<sub>min</sub> about 50 nm

# Examples of TEPC measured spectra

Relative  $y \cdot d(y)$  distributions (own NPI results – O. Ploc)



TEPC HAWK in the flight case



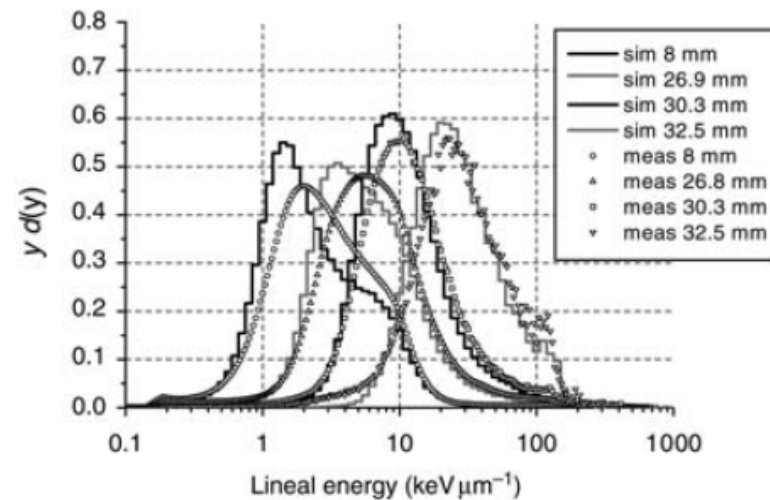
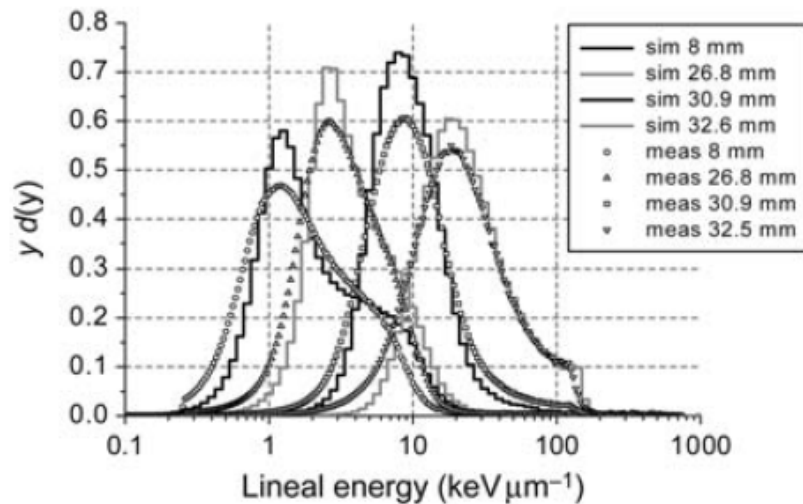


# MINITEPC in RADIOTHERAPY

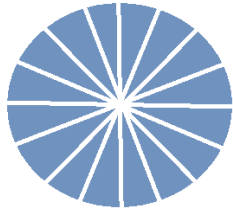
Rollet et al. 2011, Radiation Protection Dosimetry 143, 445



MINITEPC measurements  
FLUKA calculations



Irradiation by nonmodulated beam and SOBP of 62 MeV protons (therapeutic proton beam at the Centre Antoine Lacassagne in Nice, France



# MICRO DOSIMETRY in RADIOTHERAPY

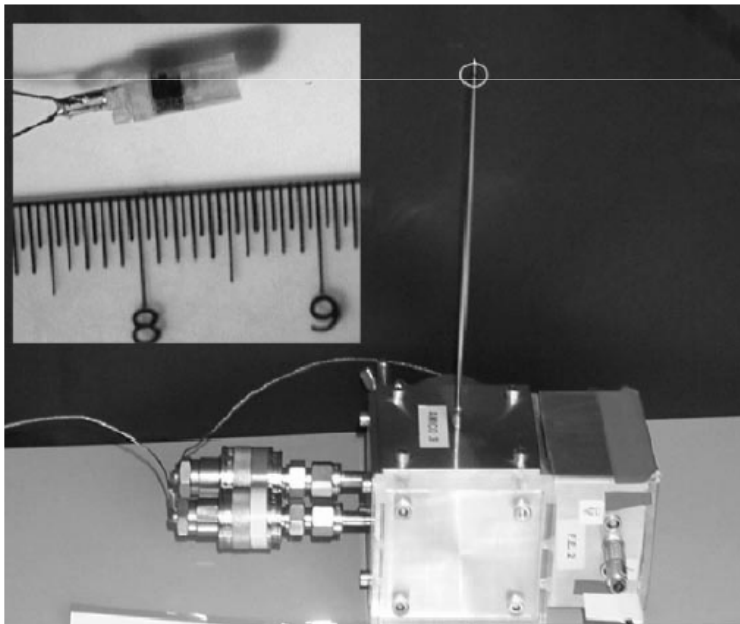
De Nardo et al. 2004, Radiation Protection Dosimetry 110, 681



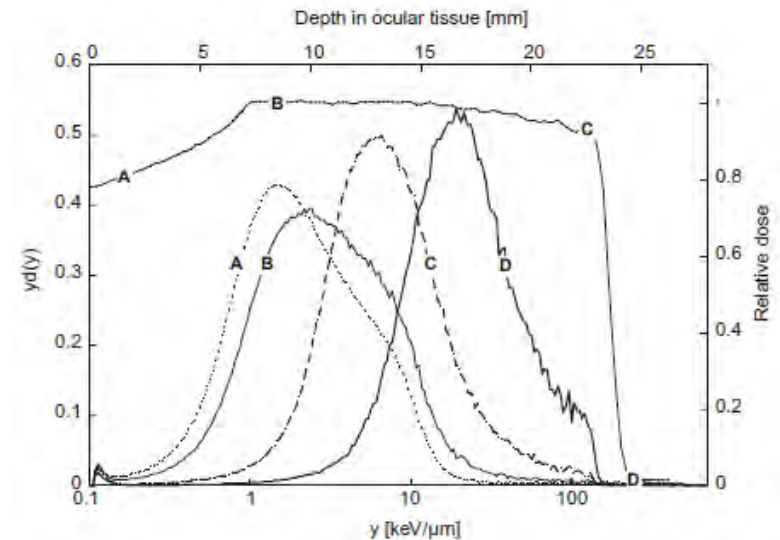
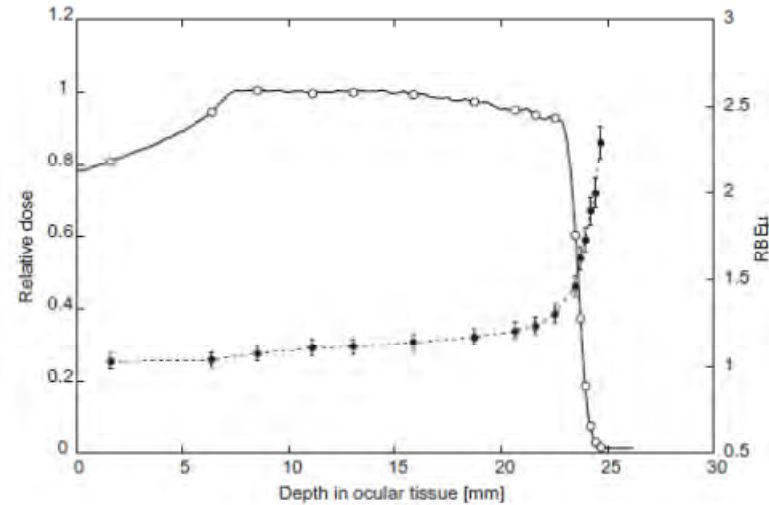
$$RBE_d = \int r(y) d(y) dy$$

Loncol et al., Rad.Prot.Dosim. 52, 1994

## MINI TEPC measurements



CATANA facility, proton SOB



# SILICON DETECTORS

- Alternative to TEPC for applications in medical physics and radiation protection
  - silicon detectors: W-value about 3 eV (for TEPC it is about 10 times higher)
  - measuring of lineal energy
    - very low voltage to simulate small volume
    - plastic convertor for tissue equivalency
  - measuring of LET with semiconductors (differential methods):
    - Liulin
    - Medipix

# Silicon detectors in radiotherapy

Rosenfeld et al. 2000, IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science 47, 1386

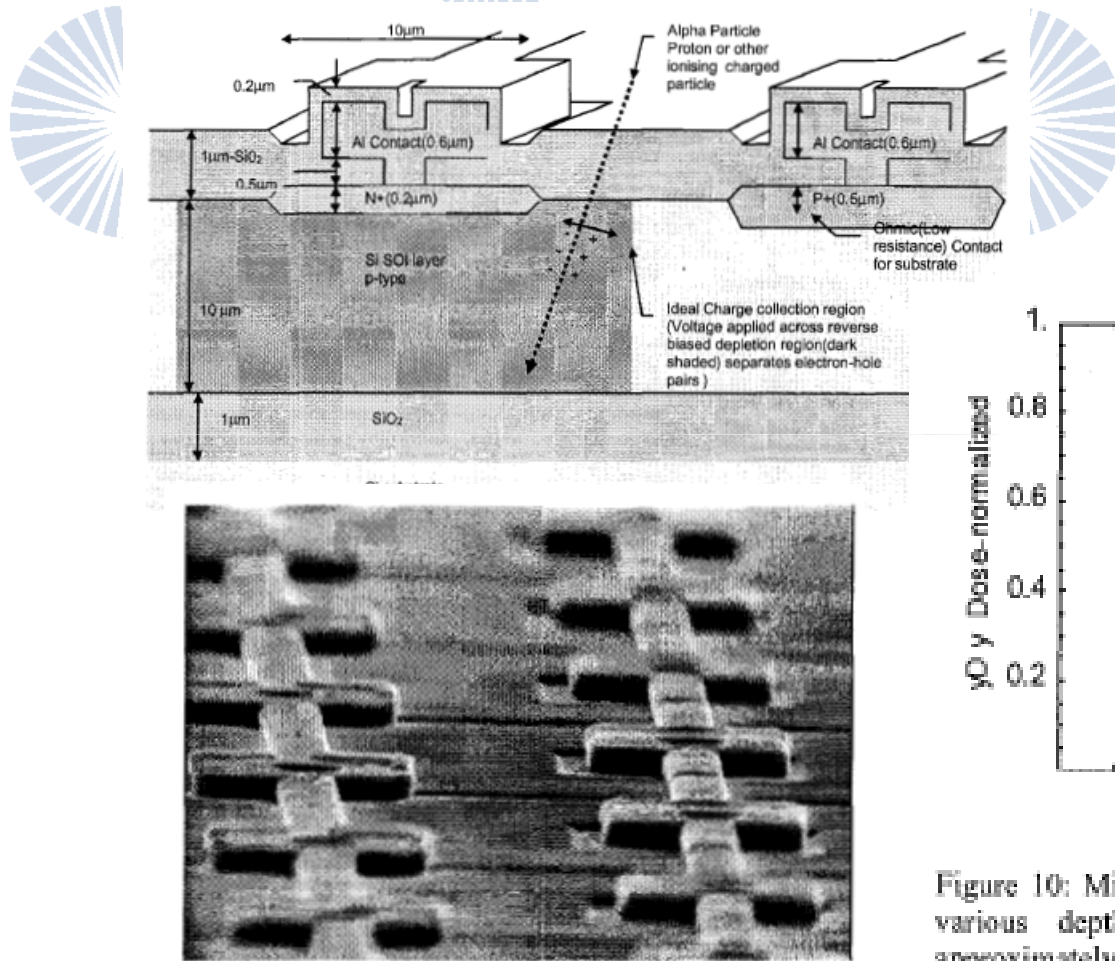
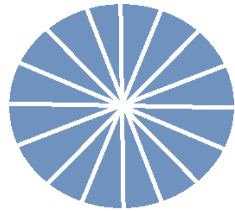


Figure 10: Microdosimetric spectra of 191.5 MeV proton beam at various depths in a water phantom. Range of proton is approximately 23.7 cm.

Irradiation by nonmodulated beam and NPTC Boston





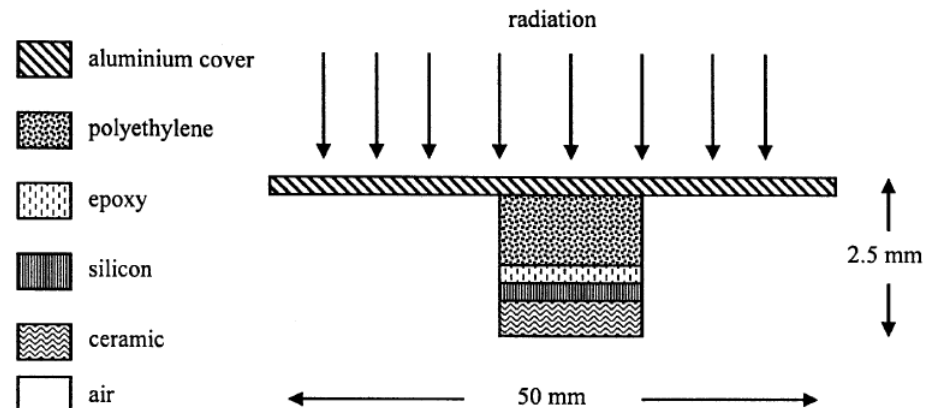
# LIULIN energy deposition spectrometer

- energy deposition in silicon
- active volume: small silicon diode  $10 \times 20 \times 0.3 \text{ mm}^3$
- battery charged
- for perpendicular particles detector range in terms of LET in water up to  $33 \text{ keV} \cdot \mu\text{m}^{-1}$
- different designs



## Specifications:

- Dose range:  $0.093 - 1.56 \text{ mGy}$ ;
- Flux range:  $0.01 - 1250 \text{ part/cm}^2\text{s}$ ;
- LET (Si) range:  $0.27 - 69.4 \text{ keV}/\mu\text{m}$ ;
- Temperature range:  $0^\circ\text{C} - 40^\circ\text{C}$ ;
- Operation time: 110 days

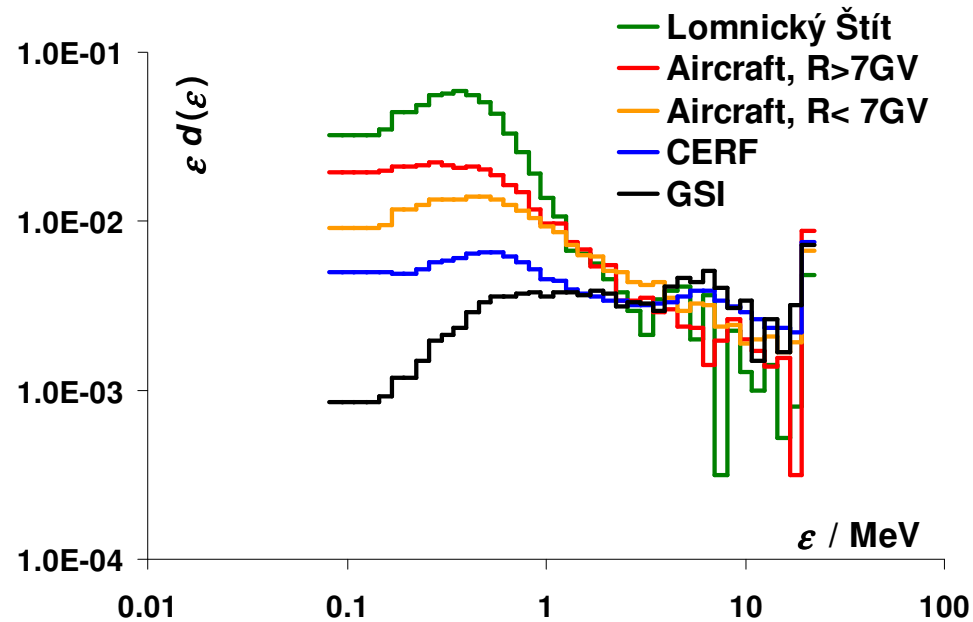


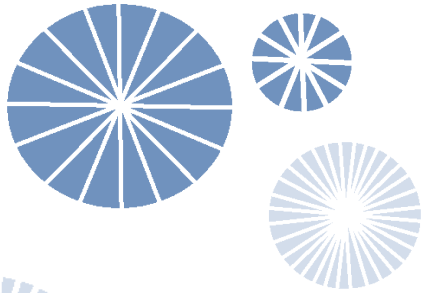
- dose calculation

$$D(Si) = \frac{1}{m} \sum_i \epsilon_i N_i$$

$m$  is detector mass,  $E_i$  is energy loss for  $i$  channel,  $N_i$  is number of events in  $i$  channel

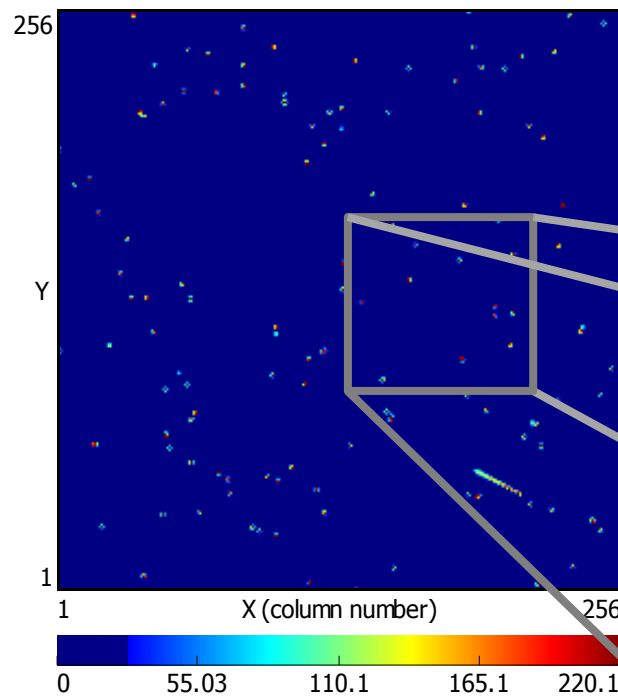
- dose equivalent calculation  $H = Q(LET)D$



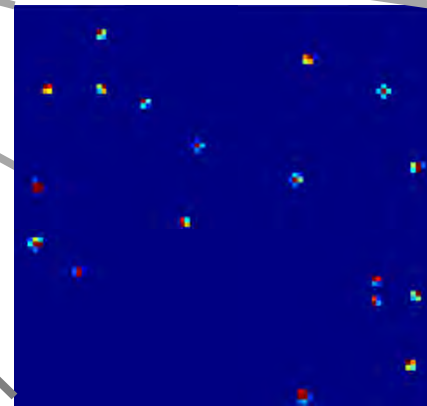


# MEDIPIX

- silicon hybrid pixel detector
- works as active nuclear emulsion
- the group of pixels corresponding to one particle's hit is called cluster

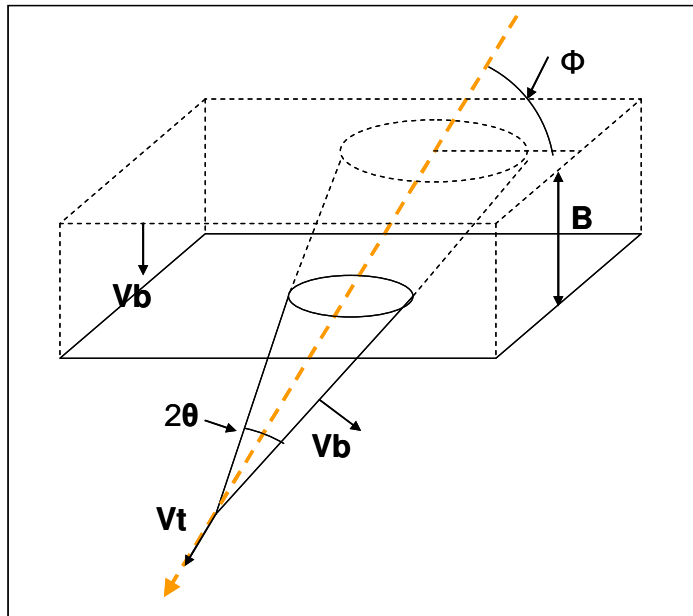


The clusters of 150 MeV protons taken within one frame in 5 ms



# Track Etched Detectors (TED)

- etching out of sites damaged in plastic material by charged particle creates “track” visible by a microscope (SEIKO HSP-1000)
- relative track size =  $f(\text{LET}) \rightarrow$  LET spectra

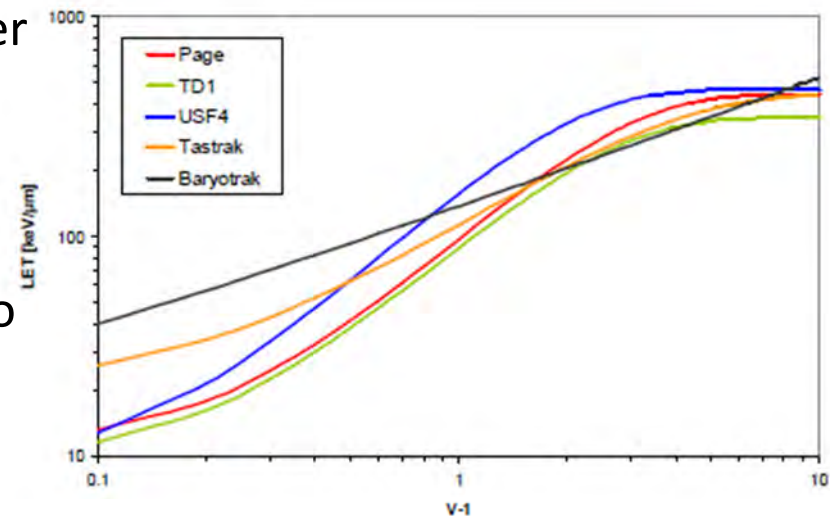


- material damaged along the charged particle track is etched out faster than surrounding material:  $V_t > V_b$ ,  $V = V_t/V_b$ ...“relative track size”

$V_t = f(\text{absolute track size})$ ,  $V_b = f(\text{material etching velocity})$

# Track Etched Detectors

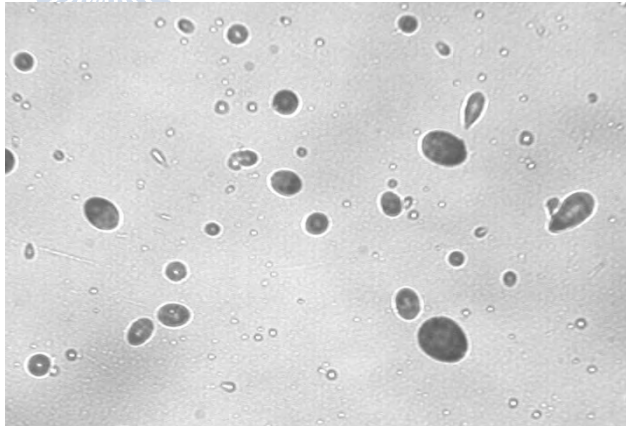
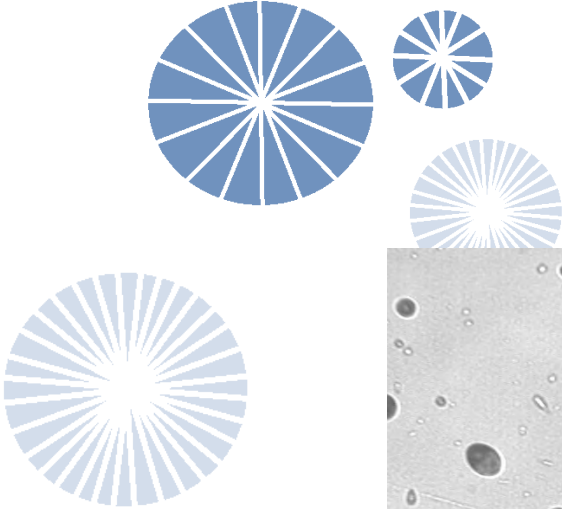
- thin plastic plates (possible cut to whatever sizes – circle, strip, ...)
- “passive detectors” – integral information over time
- light, no built-in electronics, cheap, easy to evaluate



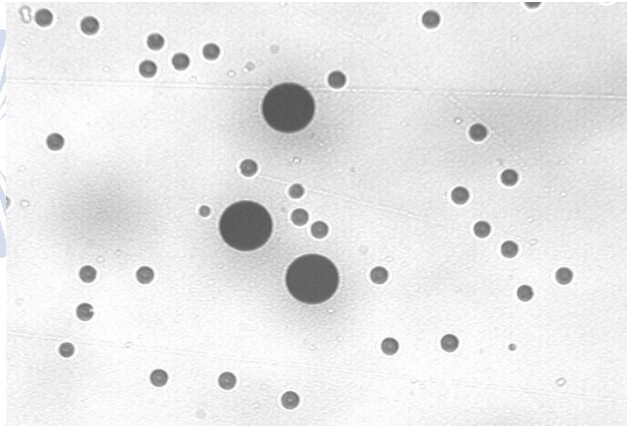
- applied as LET spectrometers:
  - on board spacecraft and aircraft
  - radon monitoring
  - personal neutron dosimetry
  - nuclear fragmentation studies in radiation therapy
  - detection of particles with very short ranges



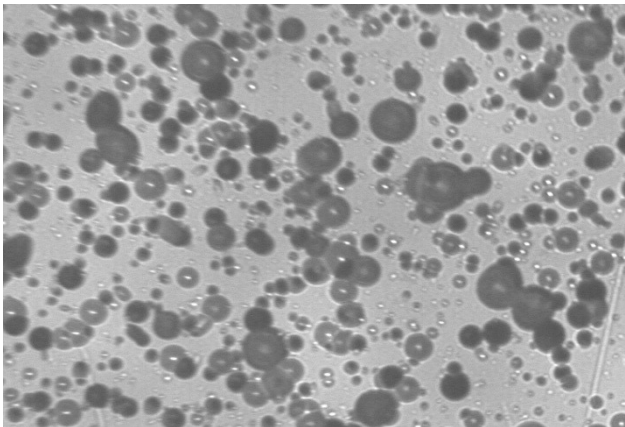
# Examples of etched tracks



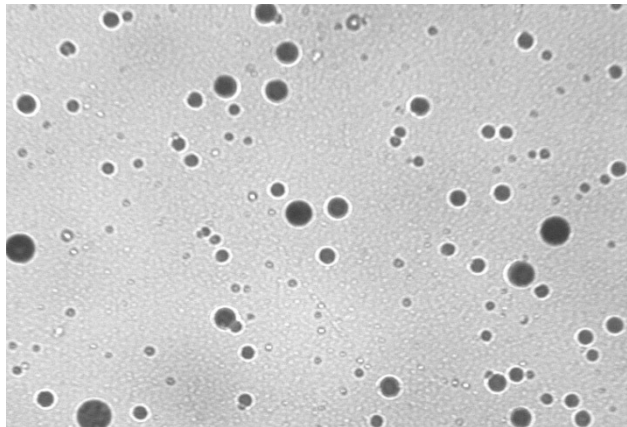
Matryoshka – 9 months on ISS



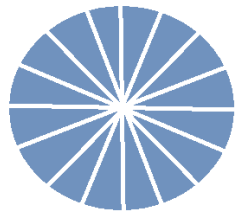
$^{16}\text{O}$  (20) and  $^{56}\text{Fe}$  (402 keV/mm)



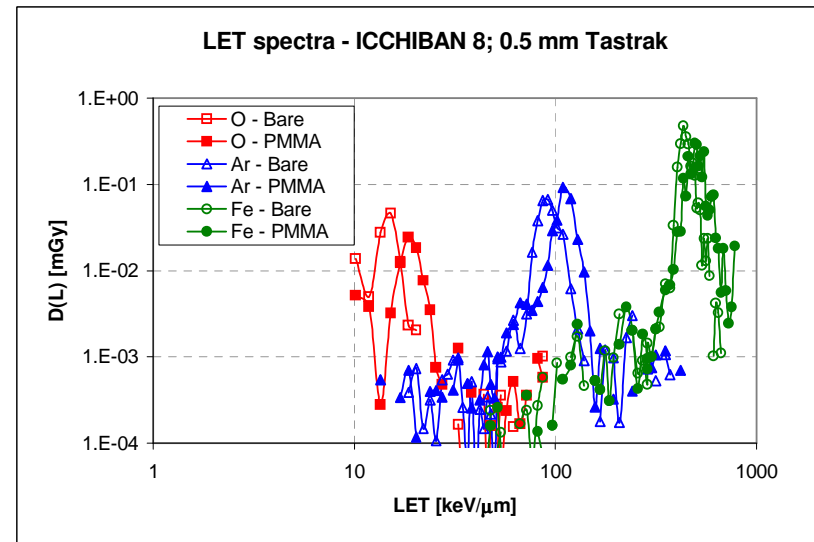
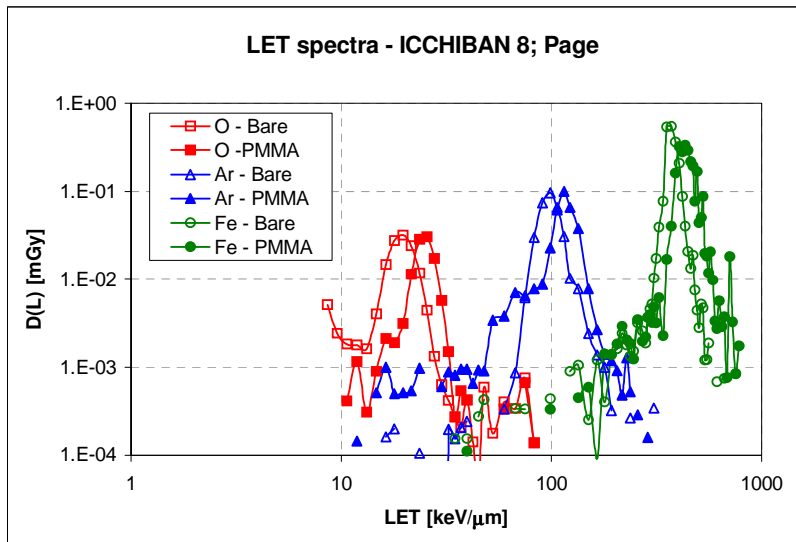
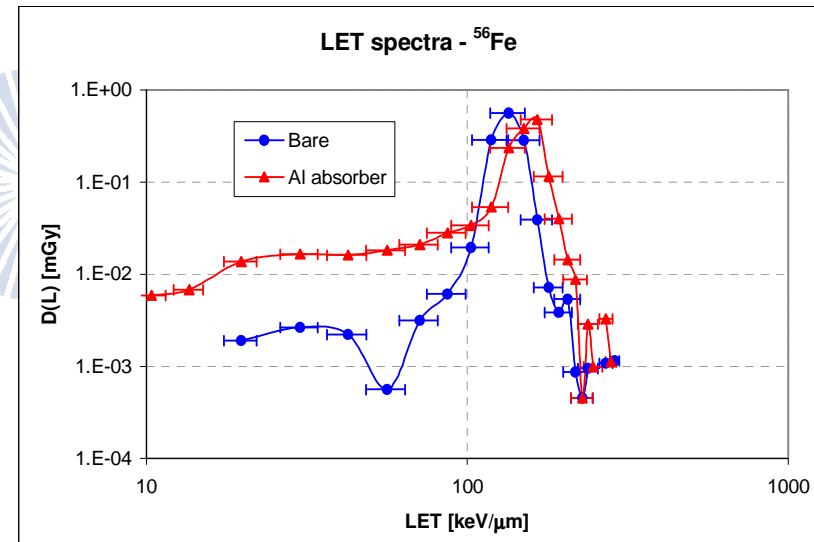
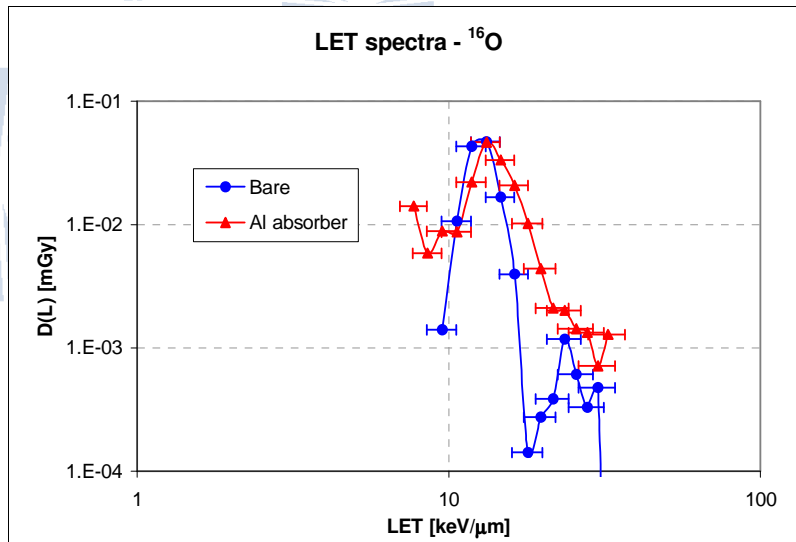
Blind exposure No.3 ICCHIBAN 8



protons – Bragg peak



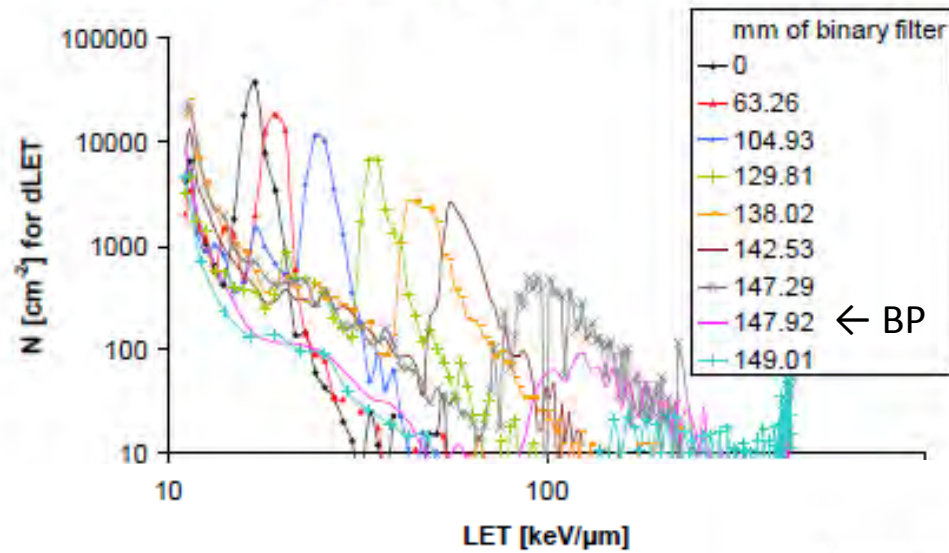
# LET spectra for different ions: ICCHIBAN program at Brookhaven and/or Chiba



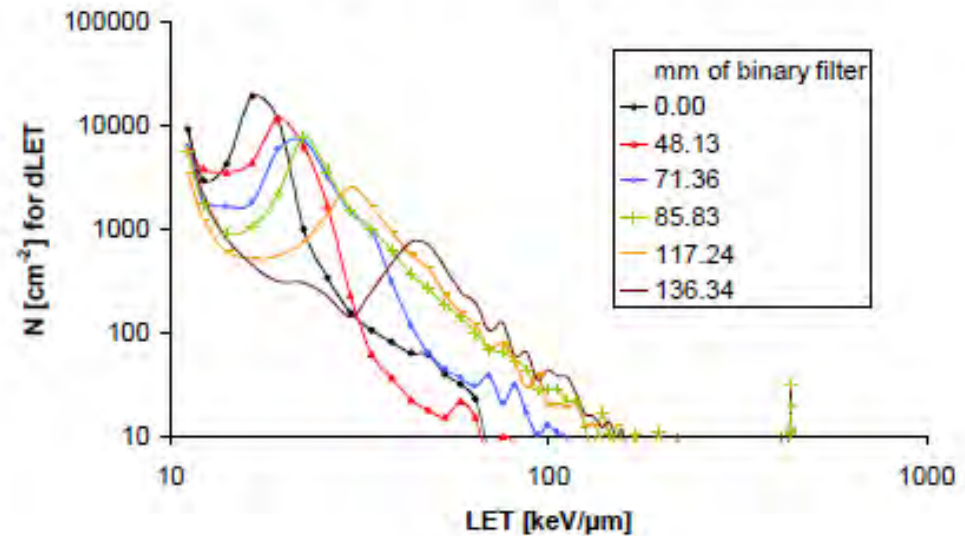
# LET spectra for different positions in carbon beam at HIMAC, Chiba



C 290 MeV/amu: MONO



C 290 MeV/amu: SOBP







# Theoretical MIKROdosimetry

Standard method: generating particle tracks by Monte Carlo sampling using interaction cross sections

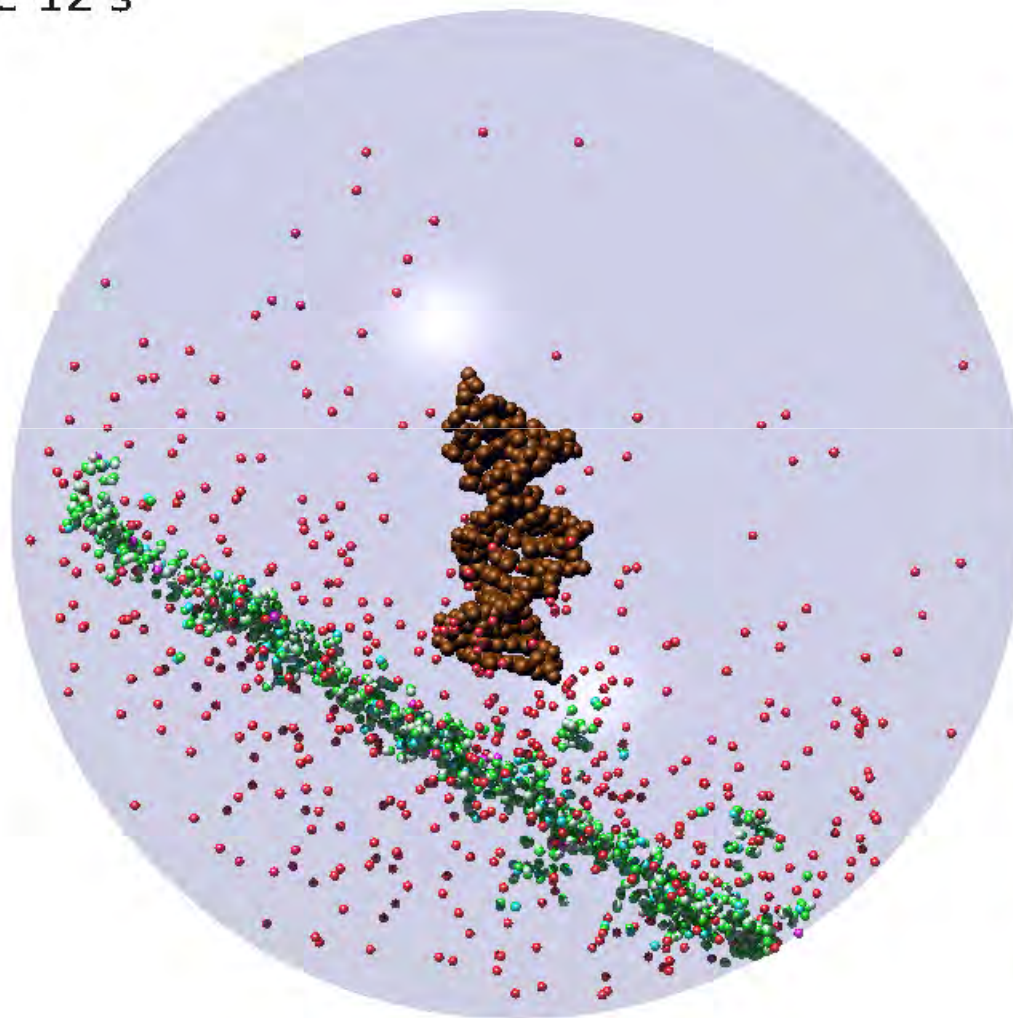


Code	Particles	Energy range	Medium	Last use
CPA 100	e-		l. w.	1990
DELTA	e-	e-: 0.3–1.5 MeV	g.w.	1983
PROTON	p	p: 0.3–1 MeV	g.w.	1983
ETRACK	e-, p, ?		g. w.	1985
Geant4	e-, p, ?	e-: 0.025 eV+	l. w.	2012
KURBUC	e-	10 eV–10 MeV	g. w.	1993
LEEPS	e-, e+	0.1–100 keV	m. m.	1996
LEPHIST	protons	1 keV–1 MeV	g. w.	2001
Liamsuwan et al.	protons	1 keV–300 MeV	water	2012
LEAHIST	?	1 keV/u–2 MeV/u	g. w.	2002
MC4	e-, p, ?	e-: ? 10–10 <sup>4</sup> eV ions: ? 0.3–10 MeV/u	l.+g. w.	2010
Notre Dame	e-, ions		l.+g. w.	
OREC, NOREC	e-, ions		l.+g. w.	
PARTRAC	?, e-, ions	e-: 10 eV–10 MeV p/?: 1 keV–1 GeV ions: 1–103 MeV/u	l. w.	2012
PITS04	e-, ions		l. w.	2004
PITS99	e-, ions		g. w./others	2012
Sherbrooke	e-, ions		l.+g. w.	2004
STBRGEN	e-, ions		l.+g. w.	
TILDA	ions, e-		g. w.	2005
TRION	e-, ions		g. w.	1993
TRIOL	e-, ions		l. w.	2012
TRACEL	e-, ions		l.+g. w.	
Gervais/Beuve	ions	C: 1–65 MeV/u	l.w.	2009

Adapted and extended according to Nikjoo et al. Radiation Measurements 41, 1052, 2006

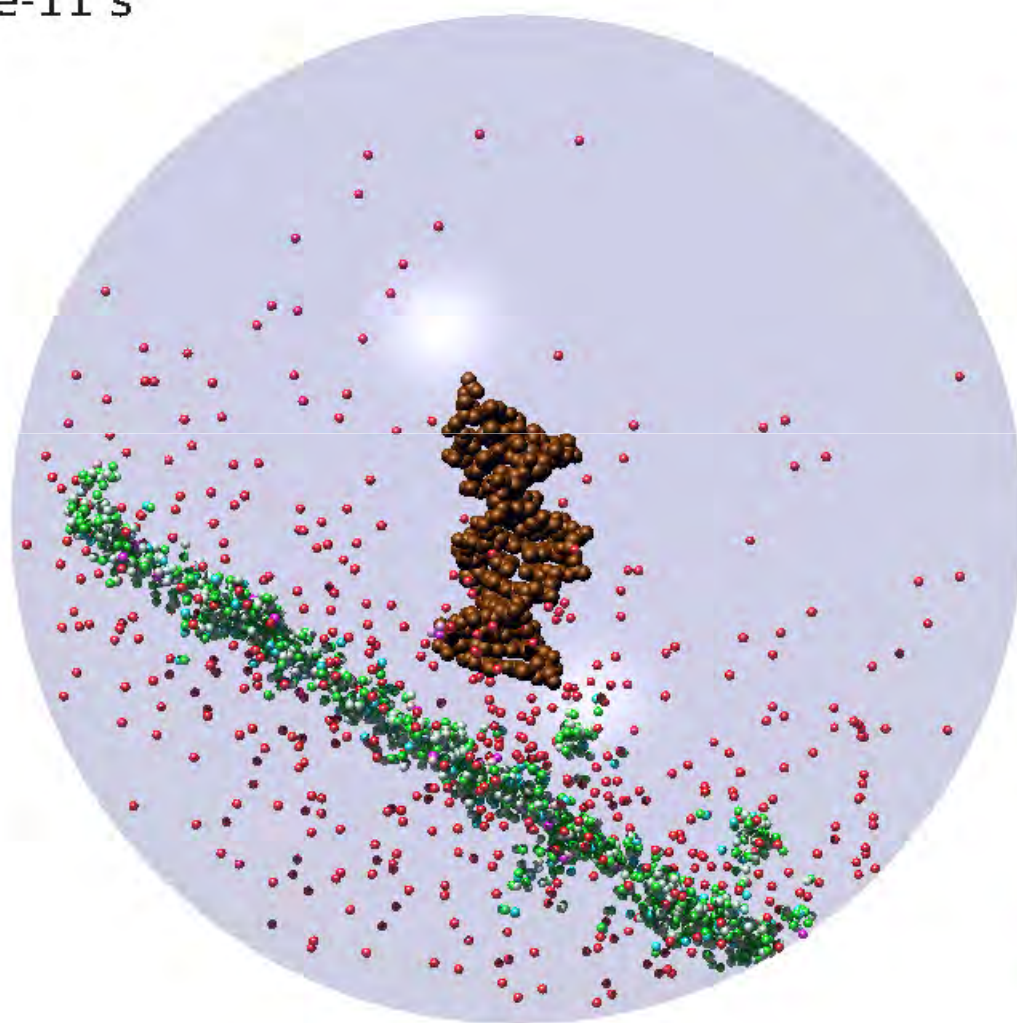
# Radiation damage to DNA




1e-12 s



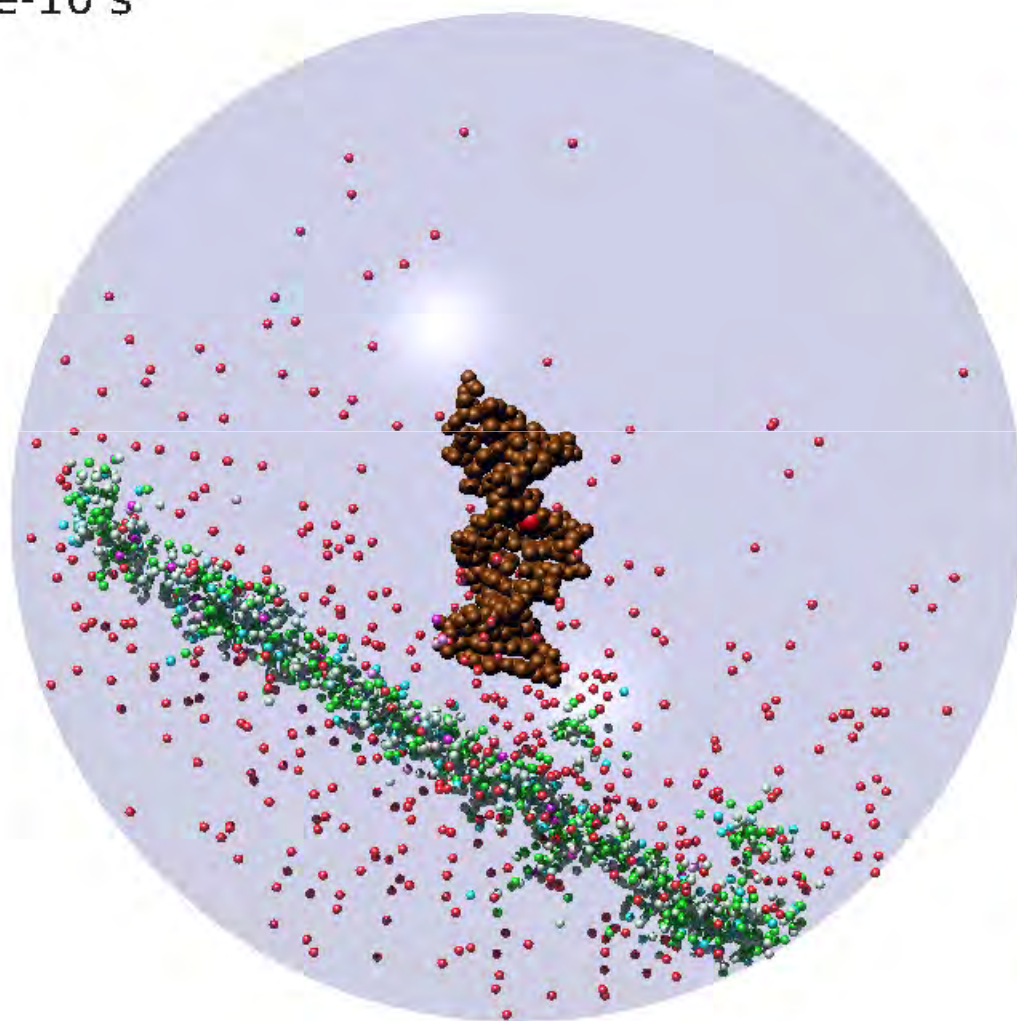
- eaq.
- OH
- H
- H<sub>2</sub>
- O
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup>
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- OH<sup>-</sup>
- O<sup>-</sup>
- O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>
- HO<sub>2</sub>
- HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>

1e-11 s



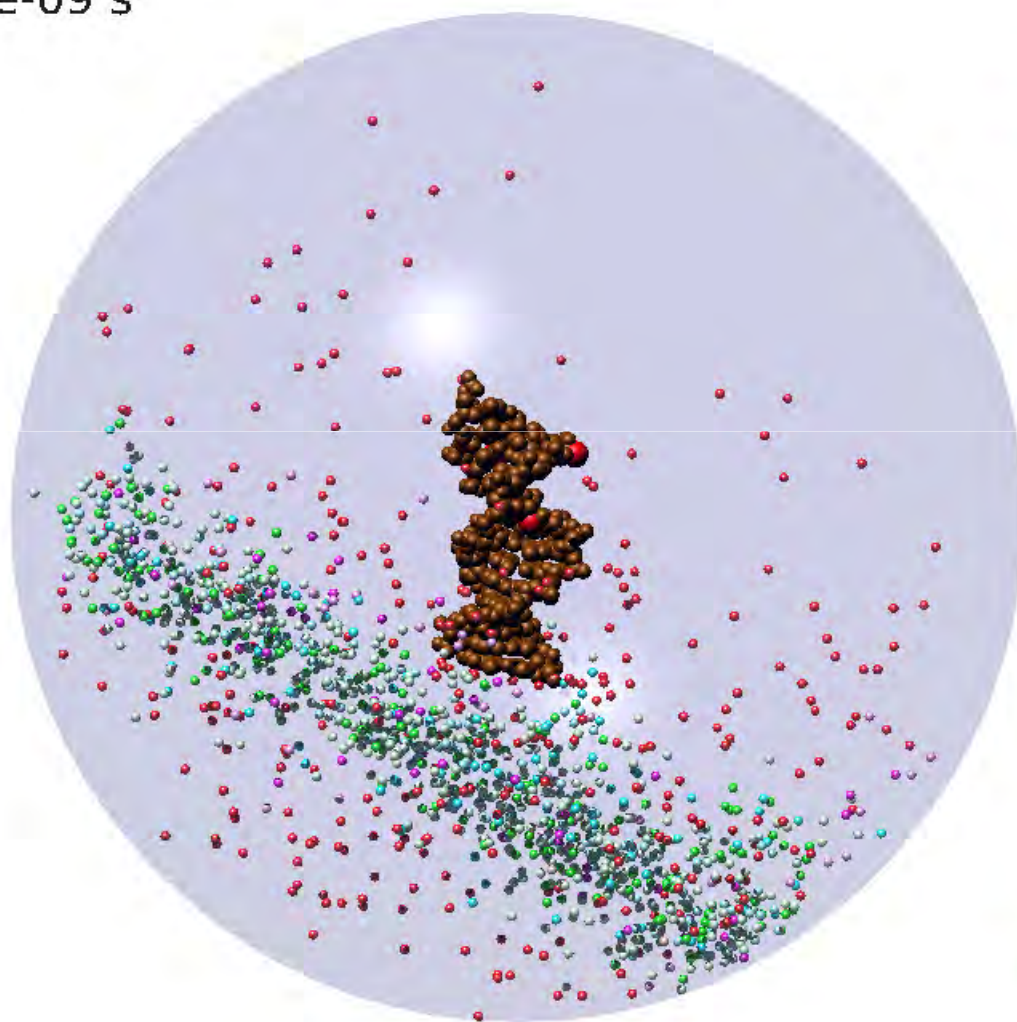
-  eaq.
-  OH
-  H
-  H2
-  O
-  H2O+
-  H2O2
-  OH-
-  O-
-  O2-
-  HO2
-  HO2-

1e-10 s



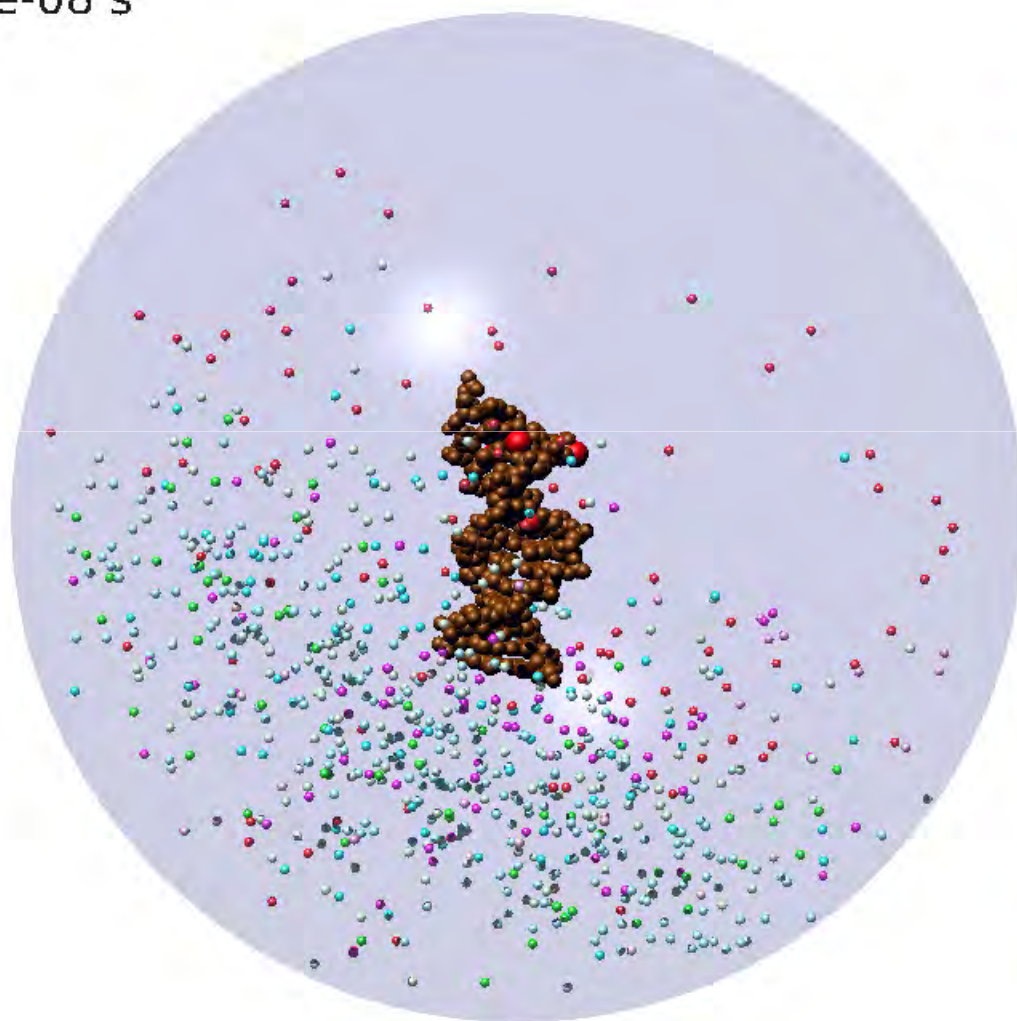
- eaq.
- OH
- H
- H<sub>2</sub>
- O
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup>
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- OH<sup>-</sup>
- O<sup>-</sup>
- O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>
- HO<sub>2</sub>
- HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>

1e-09 s



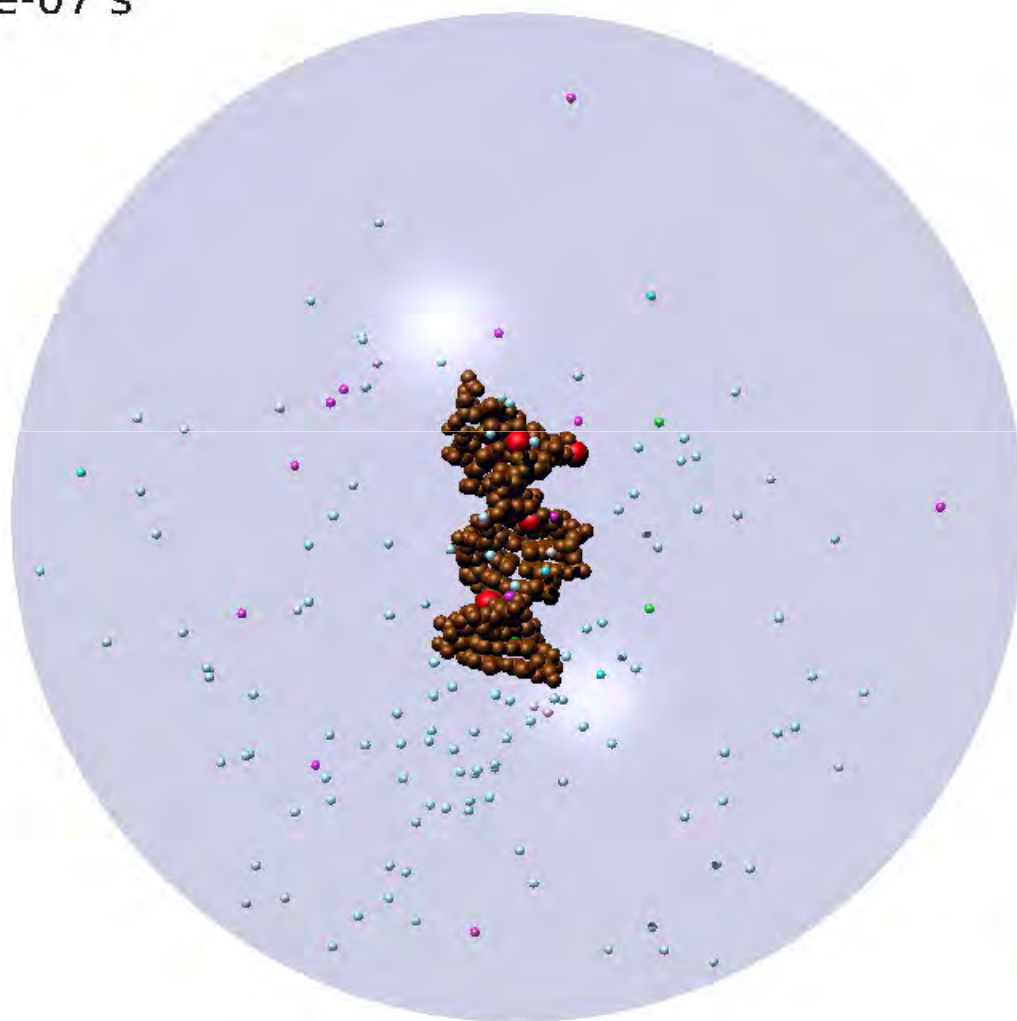
- eaq.
- OH
- H
- H2
- O
- H2O+
- H2O2
- OH-
- O-
- O2-
- HO2
- HO2-

1e-08 s



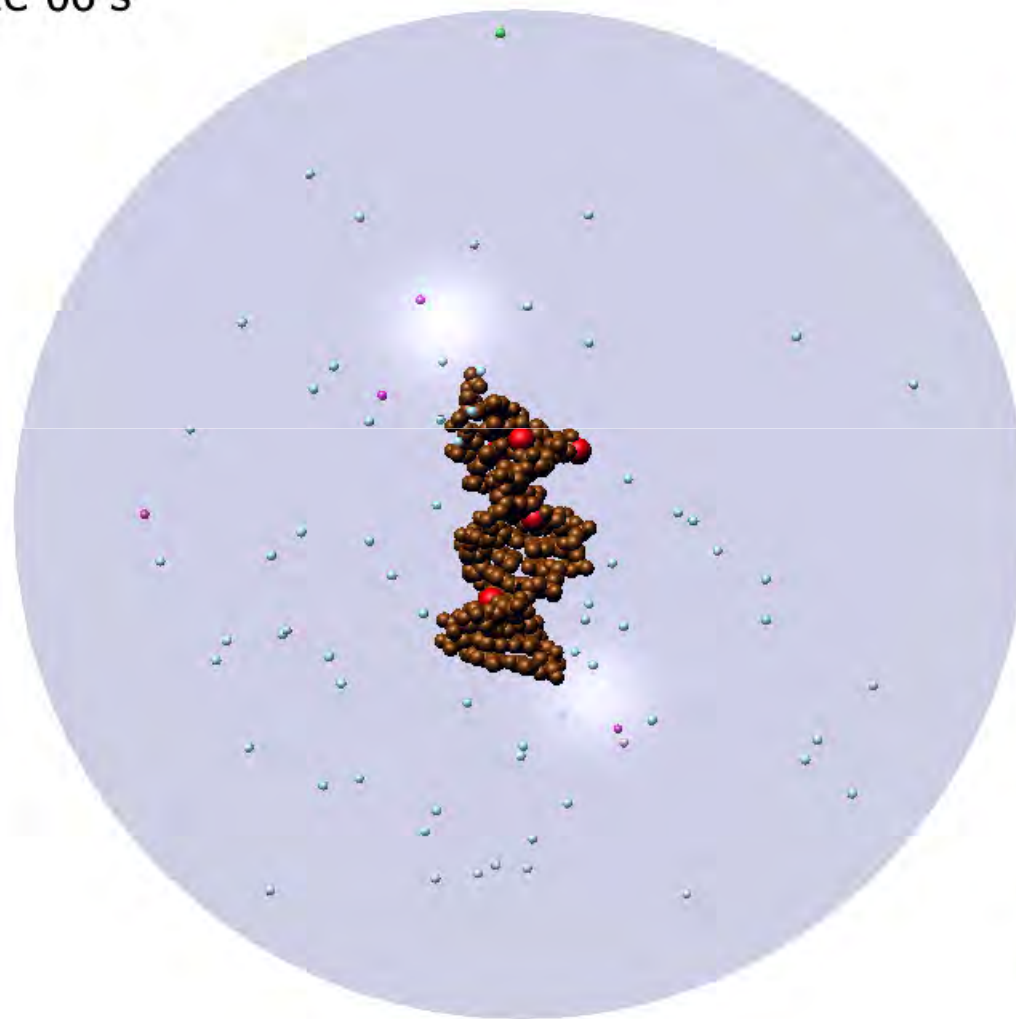
- eaq.
- OH
- H
- H<sub>2</sub>
- O
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup>
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- OH<sup>-</sup>
- O<sup>-</sup>
- O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>
- HO<sub>2</sub>
- HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>

1e-07 s



- eaq.
- OH
- H
- H2
- O
- H2O+
- H2O2
- OH-
- O-
- O2-
- HO2
- HO2-

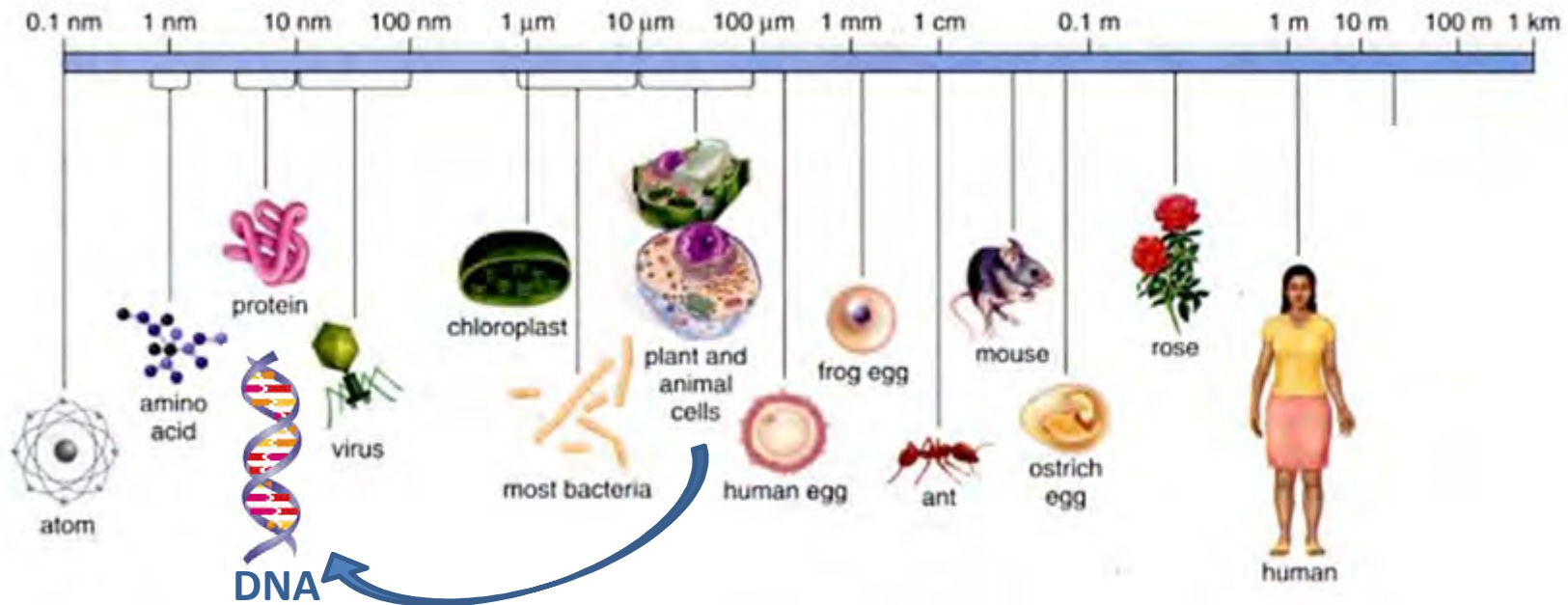
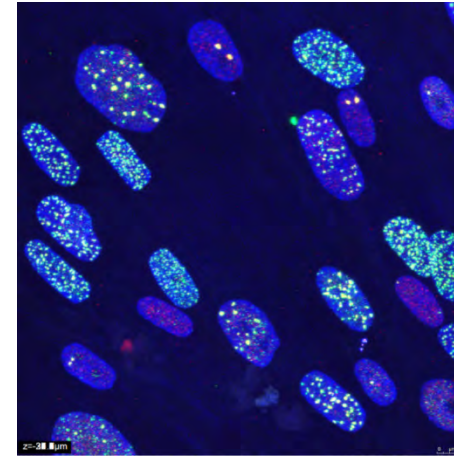
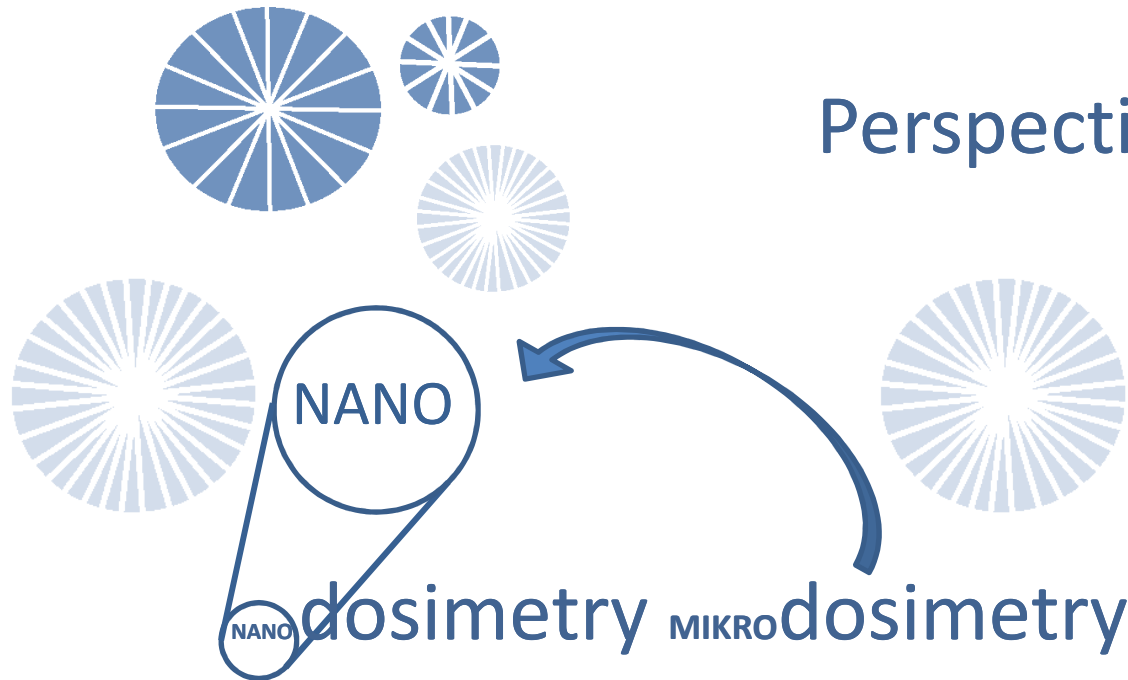
1e-06 s



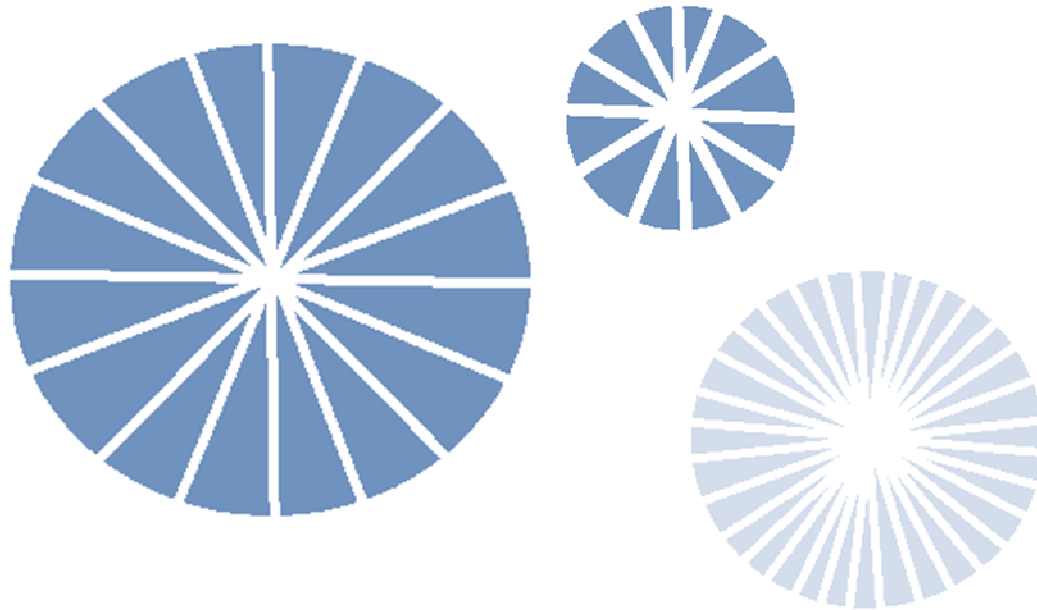
- eaq.
- OH
- H
- H<sub>2</sub>
- O
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>+</sup>
- H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- OH<sup>-</sup>
- O<sup>-</sup>
- O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>
- HO<sub>2</sub>
- HO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>



# Perspectives in MIKROdosimetry



# CONCLUSIONS



- **MICRODOSIMETRY** provides distributions of **lineal energy,  $y$** , and **specific energy,  $z$** , and thus detailed assessing of complex radiation environment such as:
  - Therapeutic ion beams
  - Radiation fields in accelerator proximity
  - Radiation fields on board aircraft and spacecraft
- Focusing to nanometer region promise further applications of microdosimetry concepts → **NANODOSIMETRY**



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