

# Introduction *to radiation damage: concepts, quantities, environments*

Elementary  
overview

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# *pedestrian and spiral approach*

- *Introduction*
- *"exposure" to radiation concepts*
- *"exposure" to damage in electronics and environments*

**3-4 hour elementary course!**

**MANY more slides than time!**

In this 2 hour talk I will only emphasize **ionization concepts** (ionization dose, LET, range, SEE cross-section).

I have left all the slides for "completeness" (self-study).



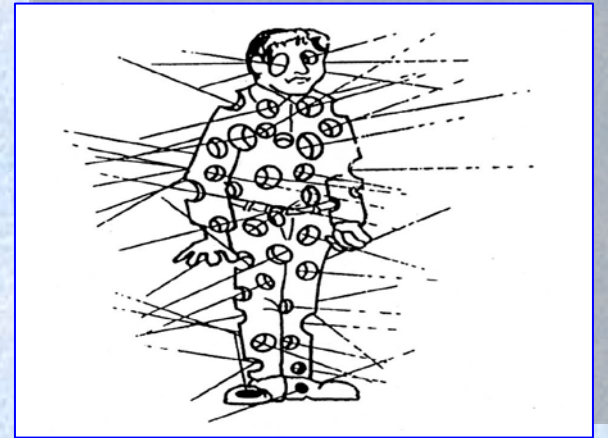
# **PART 1:**

## **Introductory overview**

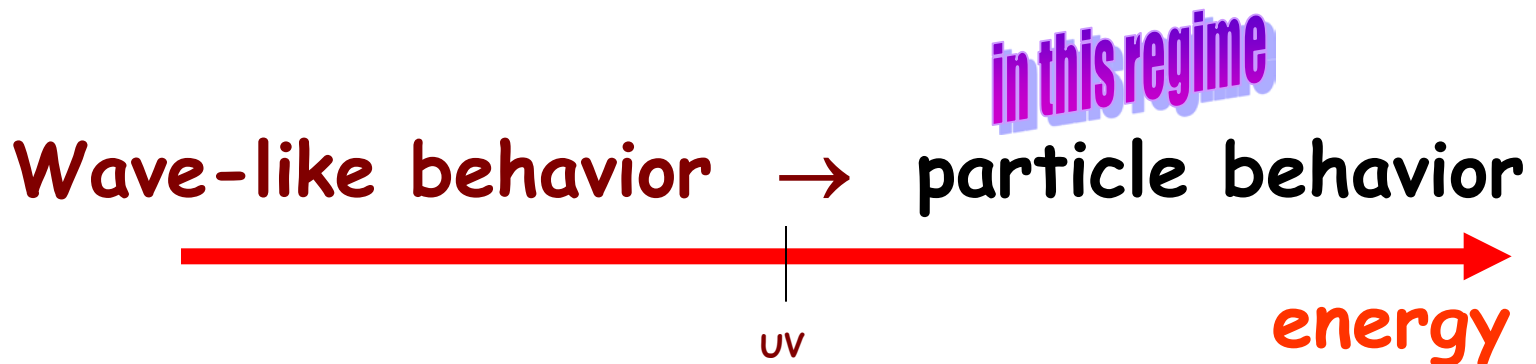
## Radiation:

In this context

**RADIATION** = "The transfer of energy and momentum by means of a quantum (particle or photon)."




Note: electromagnetic radiations with energy below the X-ray band are here not included. Excluded: **UV** (well..), visible, thermal, microwave and radio-wave radiations.





# RADIATION: ubiquitous hazard, problem, tool

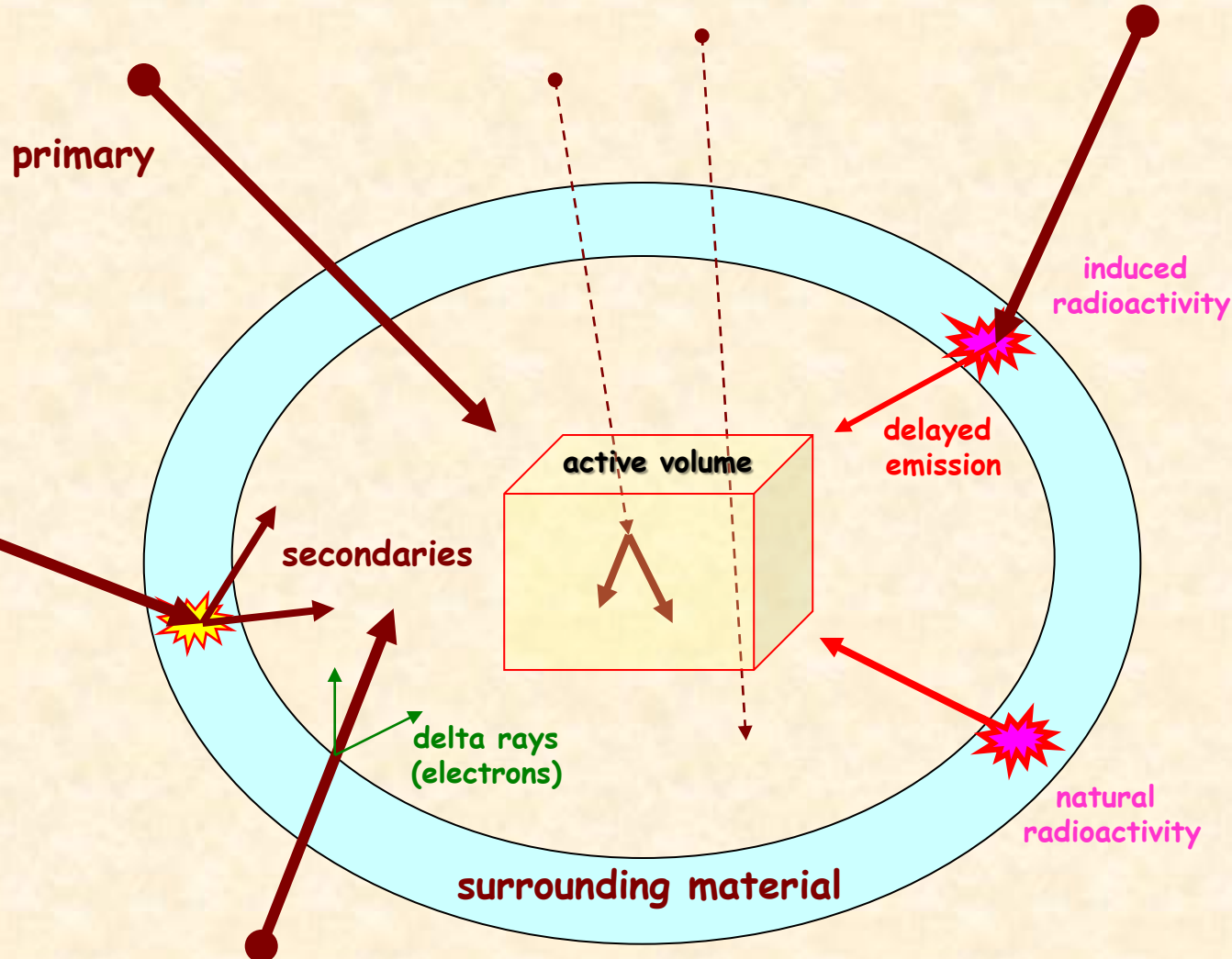
NATURAL human environment (all of us)	EXTENDED NATURAL environment	ARTIFICIAL environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high altitude cosmics</li> <li>• natural radioactivity of materials</li> <li>• sea level cosmics</li> </ul>  <p>Yikes! No escaping</p>	<p>← high altitude cosmics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• satellites (various orbits)</li> <li>• space station</li> <li>• moon missions</li> <li>• deep space missions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nuclear reactors</li> <li>• HEP experiments (collider halls)</li> <li>• radiation therapy facilities</li> <li>• industrial accelerators and sources</li> </ul>



accelerator environments		
SCIENCE	MEDICINE	INDUSTRIAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Energy Physics</li> <li>• structure of matter (synchrotron facilities)</li> <li>• materials science</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• diagnostics (X-rays, PET)</li> <li>• artificial isotopes</li> <li>• oncologic treatment</li> <li>• sterilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• plastics</li> <li>• composite materials</li> <li>• semiconductors</li> <li>• ecology</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>

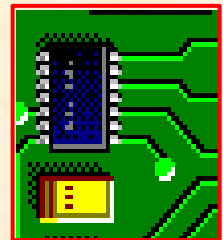
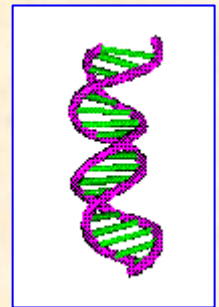
# Radiation deposits energy and momentum:

- **natural** (radioactivity of materials, geological and technological history)
- **prompt** (directly associated with accelerated beam or exposure; ON/OFF)
- **induced** (residual activation with beam off due to previous exposure; half-life)



*"The behavior of active volumes may be perturbed by radiation."*

biological



electronic

# effects of radiation in matter



Will discuss only standard electronic materials: silicon and its oxide.

Radiation effects can be divided into two parts:

1) **ionization effects**

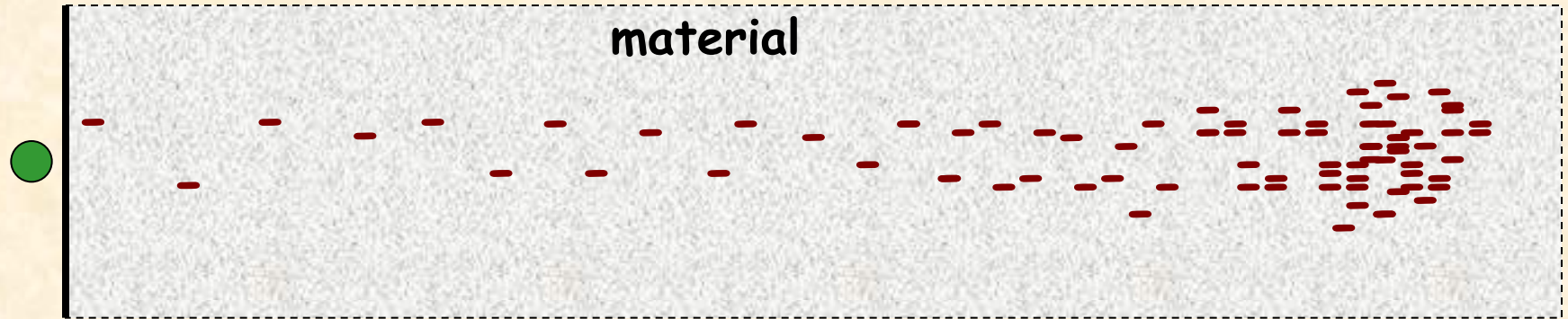
2) **atomic displacement effects**

**Electronics**, because of the thin (shallow) sensitive layer, tend to be most sensitive to ionization and the associated accumulation of charge in the material.

**Detectors and sensors** are sensitive to both effects, with the most important deterioration of characteristics often coming from damage to the bulk (lattice).

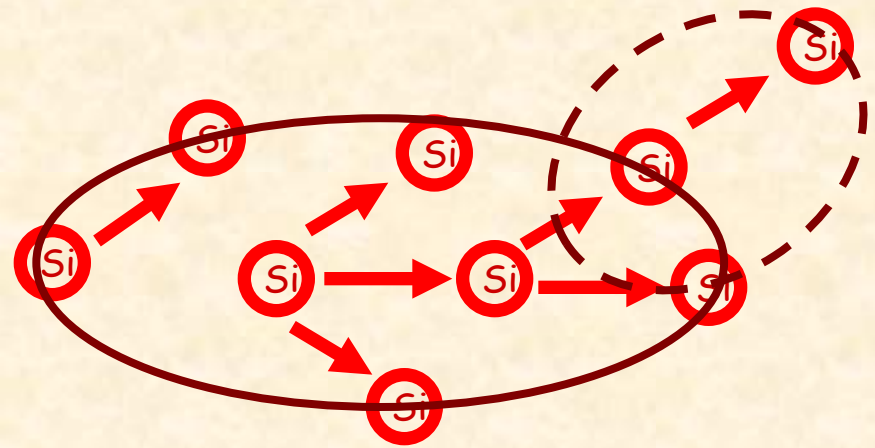
# Effects of radiation (microscopic view)

## IONIZATION



## ATOMIC DISPLACEMENT (bulk damage)

$n, p, \pi^+, \pi^- \dots$



Cascade of displacements → *clusters*



# Effects of radiation in ELECTRONICS

When a **quantum** strikes a device it can transfer energy to the medium both by atomic **displacement** and/or by **ionization**:

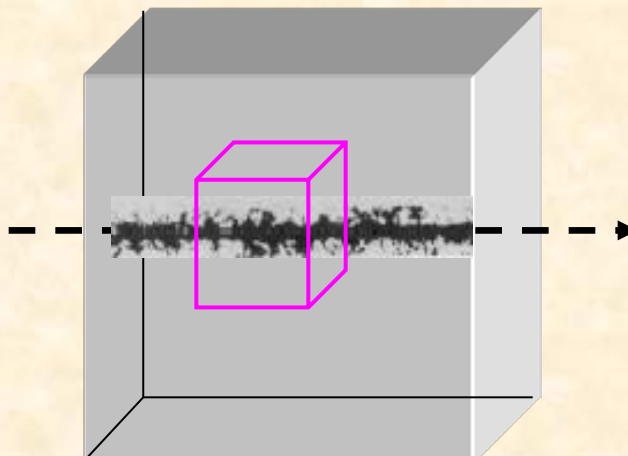
1 The particle ionizes the atoms of the medium. Noticeable effects in non-conductors after many particles: cumulative, Total Ionizing Dose effects (TID).

2 The particle transfers kinetic energy to the atoms and damages the structure of the medium (Non-Ionizing Energy Loss, NIEL). Displacement bulk damage presents noticeable effects after many particles: cumulative, Displace Damage Dose effects (DDD).

3 The particle releases enough ionization in a sensitive volume to induce a macroscopic device/system malfunction (single particle effect).

*Total  
Dose  
Effects*

*Single  
Event  
Effects*



# *Effects of radiation in ELECTRONICS*

## *(macroscopic view; the time domain)*

### ❑ **cumulative (total dose) effects:**

Effects that change with continuity (gradually) with increased exposure to radiation. Damage/deterioration can be monitored until it goes too far. **Predictable.**

• *tell tale concepts and words:*

- *small energy transfers,*
- *accumulation of effects,*
- *gradual parameter shifts (thresholds, leakage currents, type inversion,...)*
- *fluence*
- *Dose*
- *...*

### ❑ **Single Event Effects:**

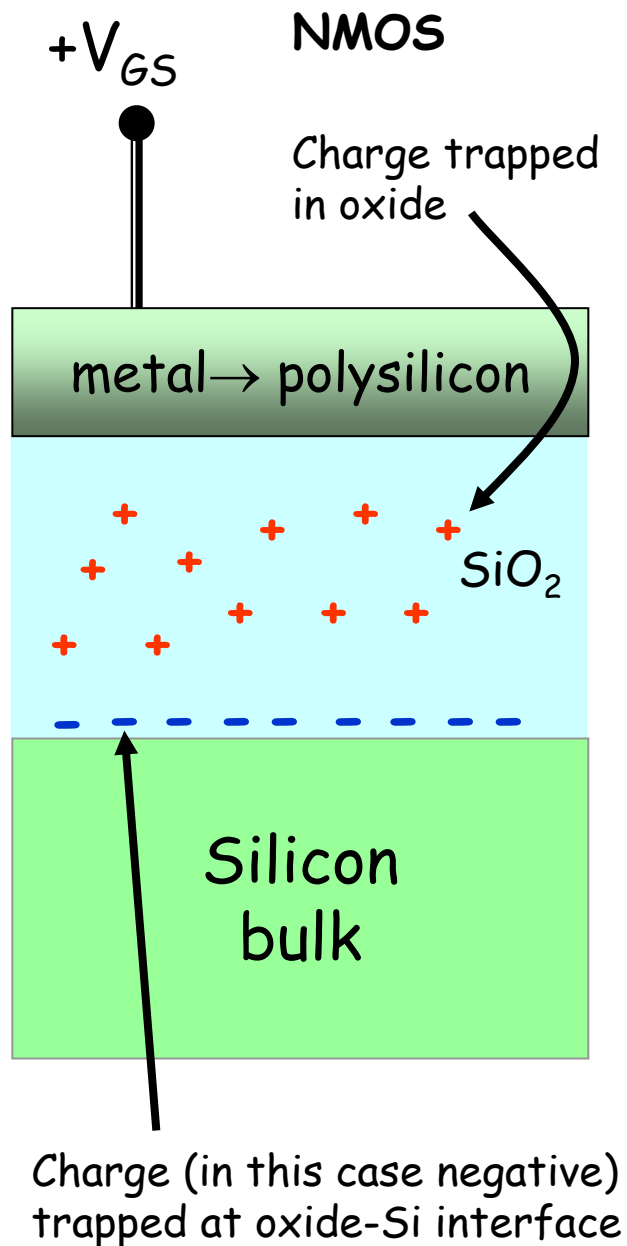
Effects that occur suddenly, not predictable on event to event basis (stochastic).

One speaks of PROBABILITIES

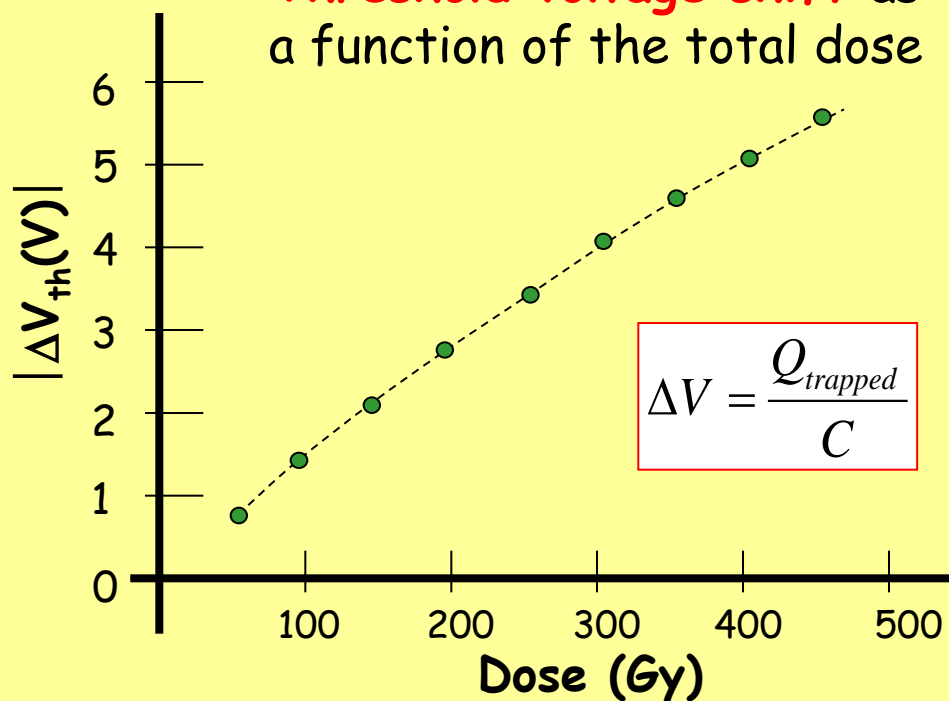
• *tell tale concepts and words:* sudden anomalous signal; catastrophic consequences of a rare event; sooner or later; a matter of time; **stochastic**; probabilities; **cross-sections**; flux (luminosity); evaluation of risk; redundancy (backup); should have known better; bad luck; voodoo...



## Charge trapping in oxide layer affects device operation



Threshold voltage shift as a function of the total dose



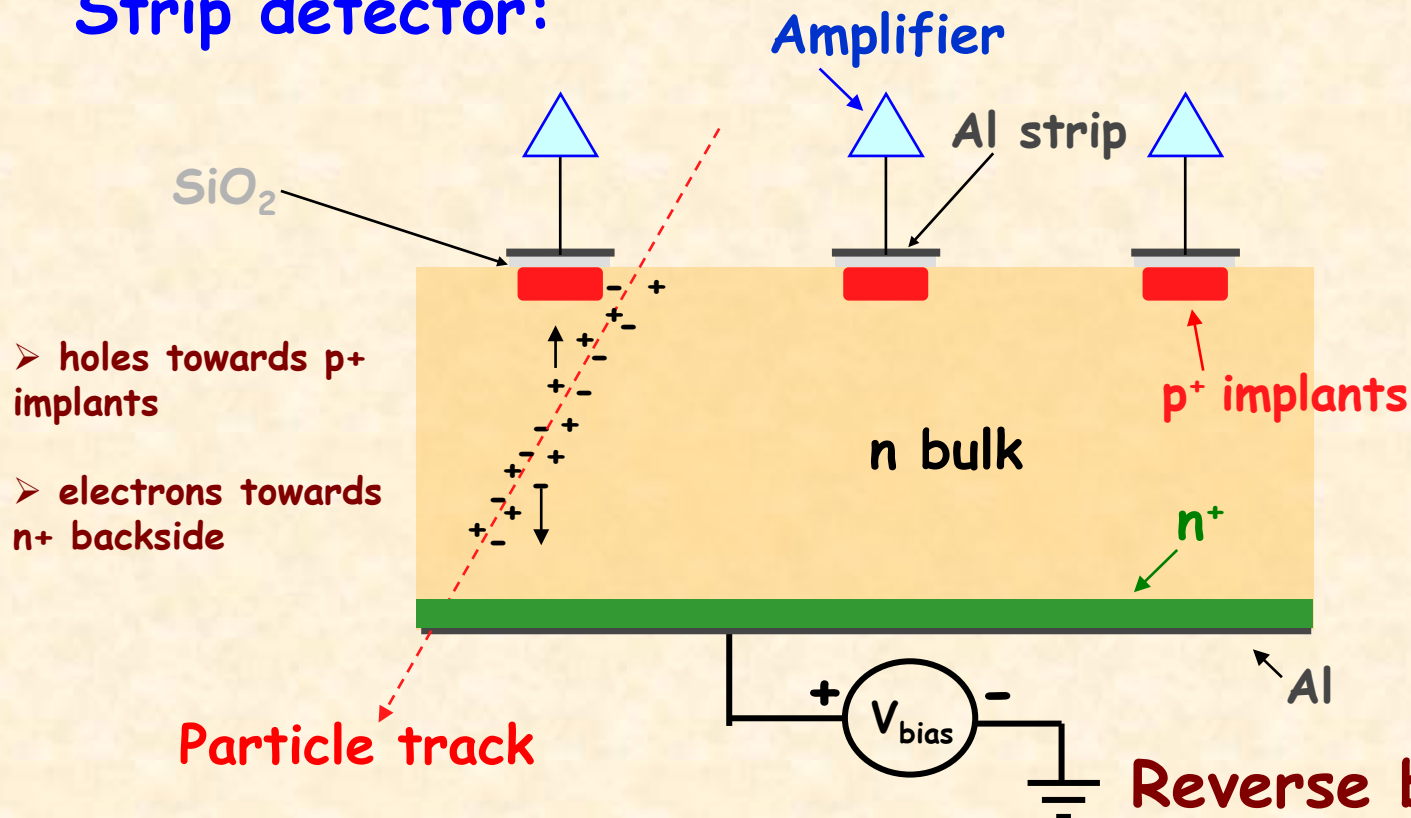
**Silicon detectors** are used in practically all HEP experiments to provide precise coordinates for tracking information.

**Displacement damage to the lattice** will interfere with the motion of the charge carriers and the detector will deteriorate!

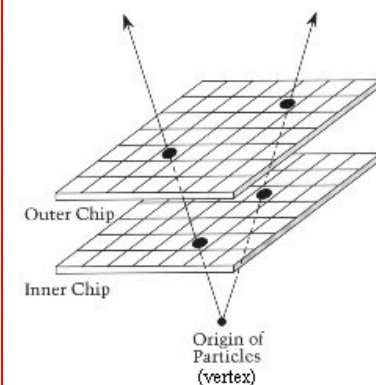
DDD



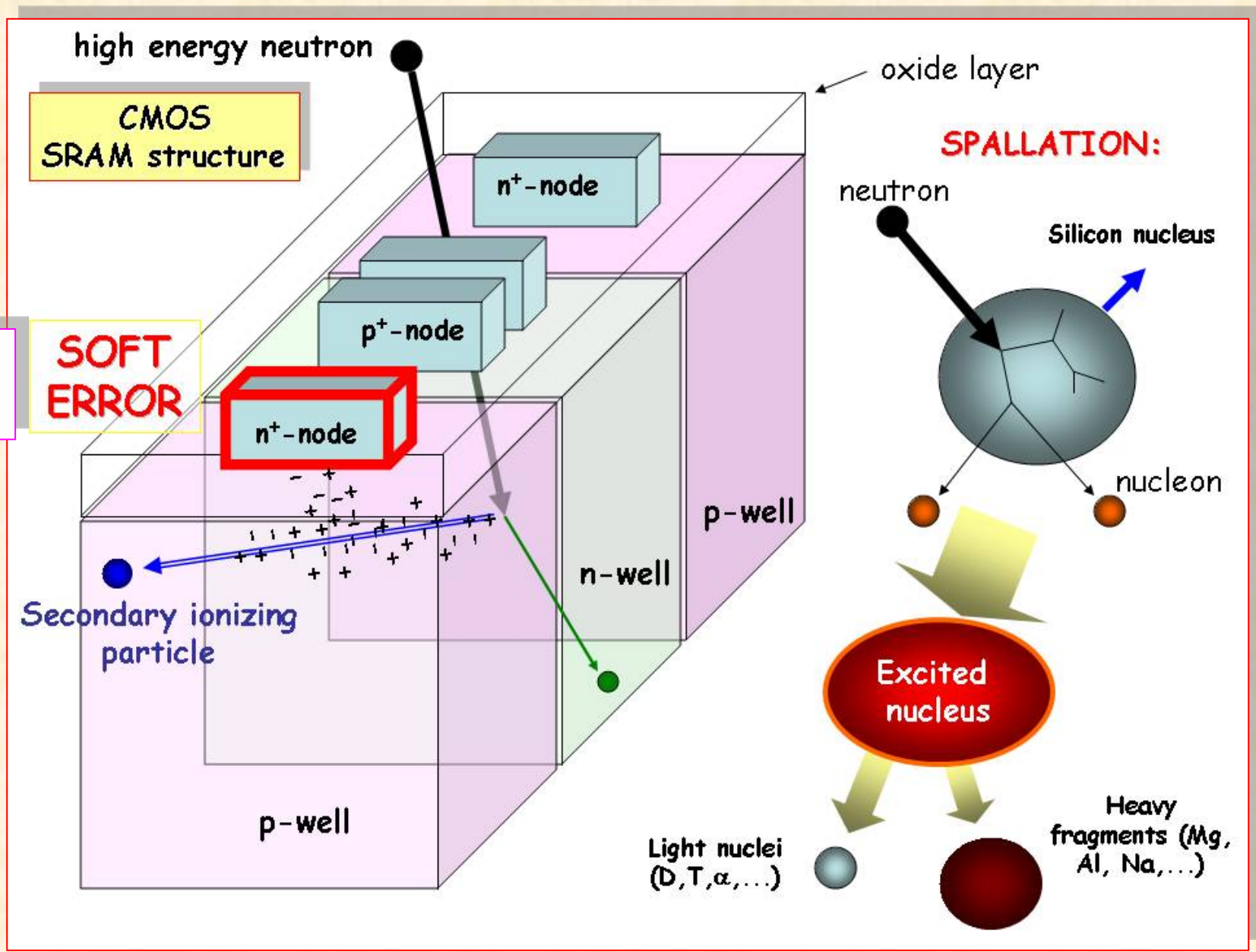
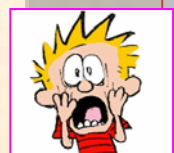
## Strip detector:



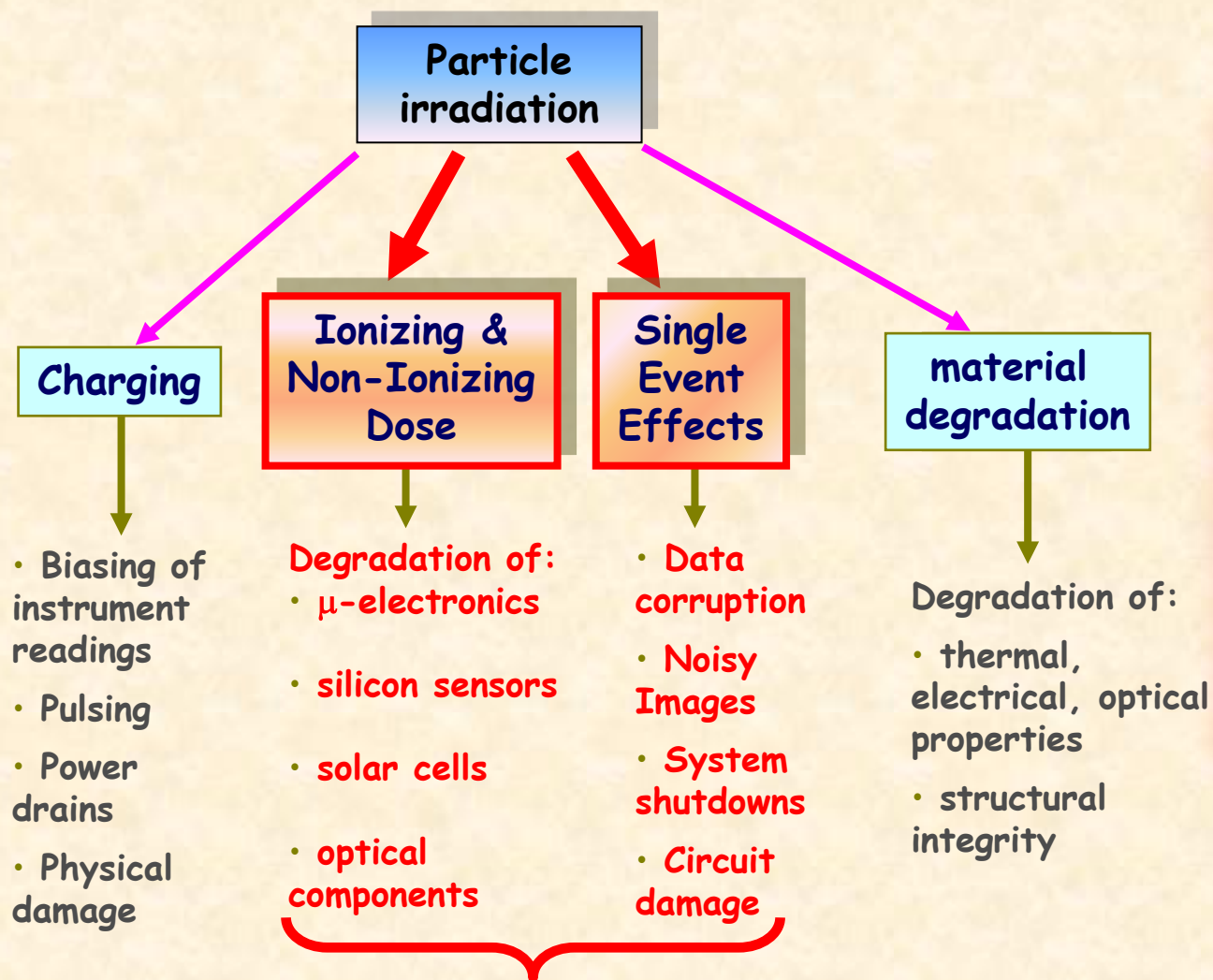
## pixel detector



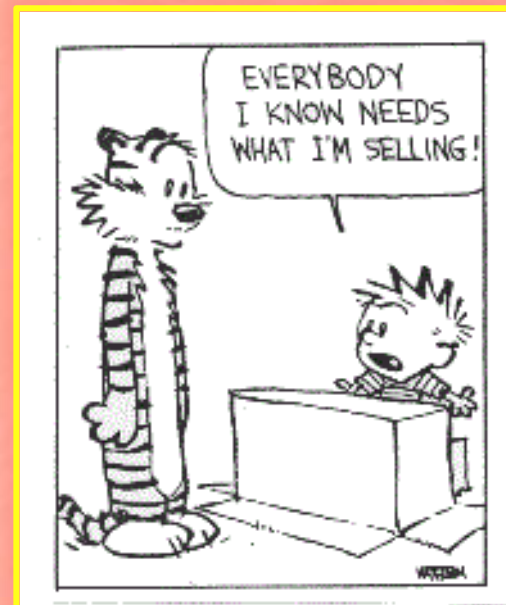




# *Effects of radiation in SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT*



*direct effects in electronics*

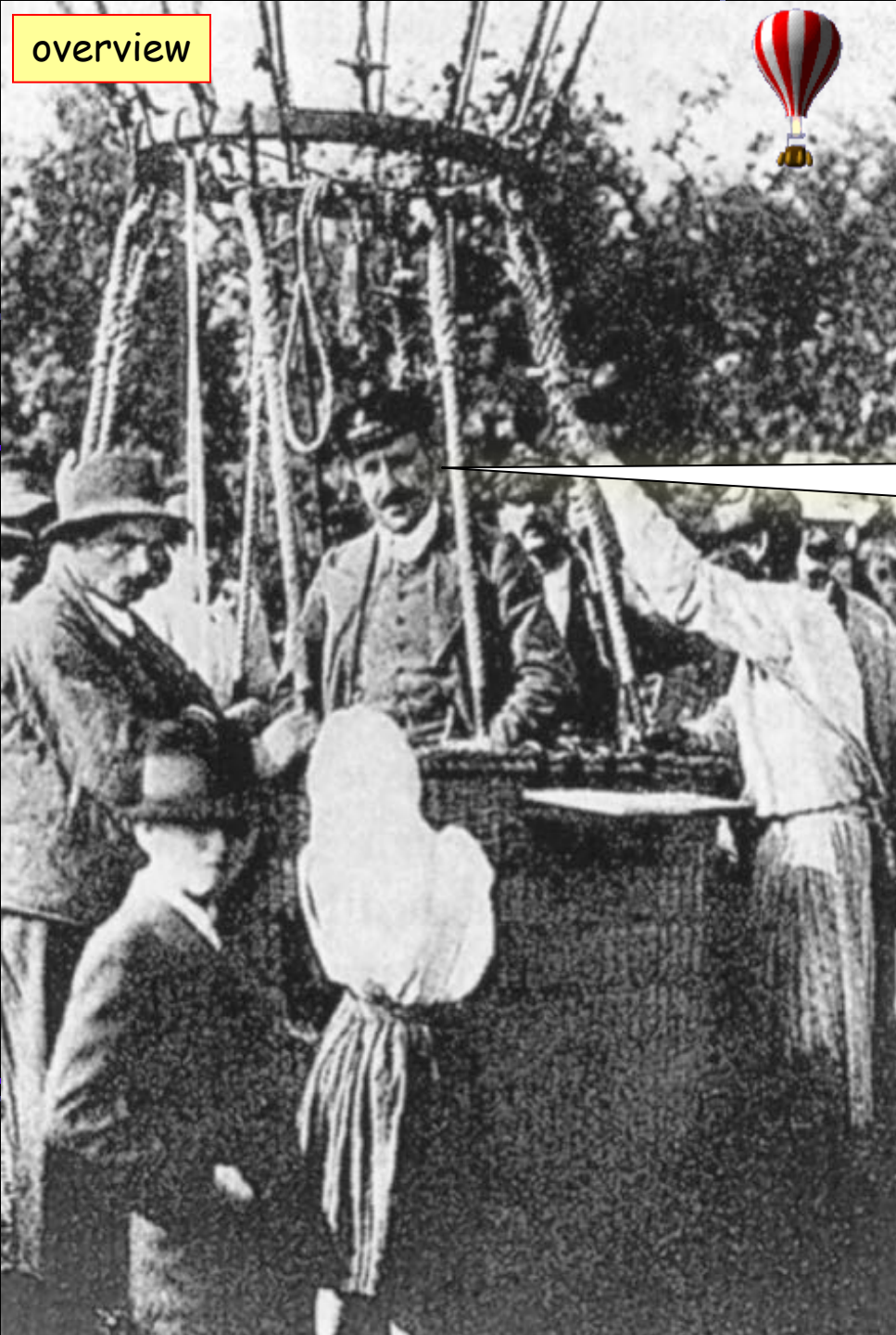


# Radiation environments

## (cultural overview)

- cosmic rays at flight altitudes and sea level
- accelerator-based experiments
- cosmic rays in outer-space
- **full circle...** cosmic rays at flight altitudes and sea level





Victor Hess discovered  
“cosmic rays” in 1912  
in balloon excursions using  
Wulf electrosopes

*A dangerous discipline!  
but full of treasures.*

cosmic ray research  
played driving role in  
history  
“particle physics”

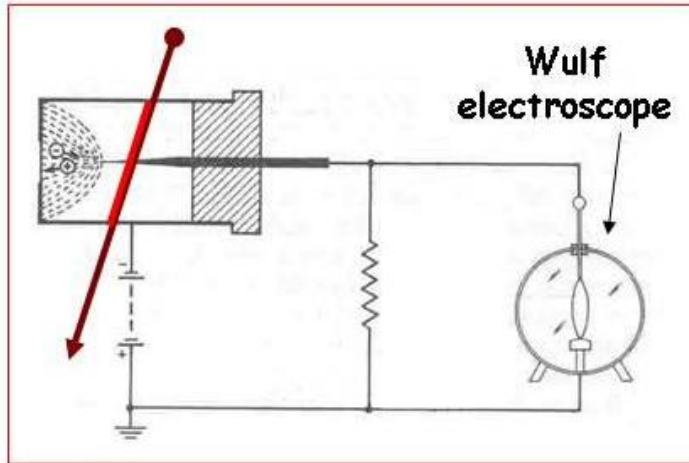
- *discoveries*
- *techniques*
- *theory*



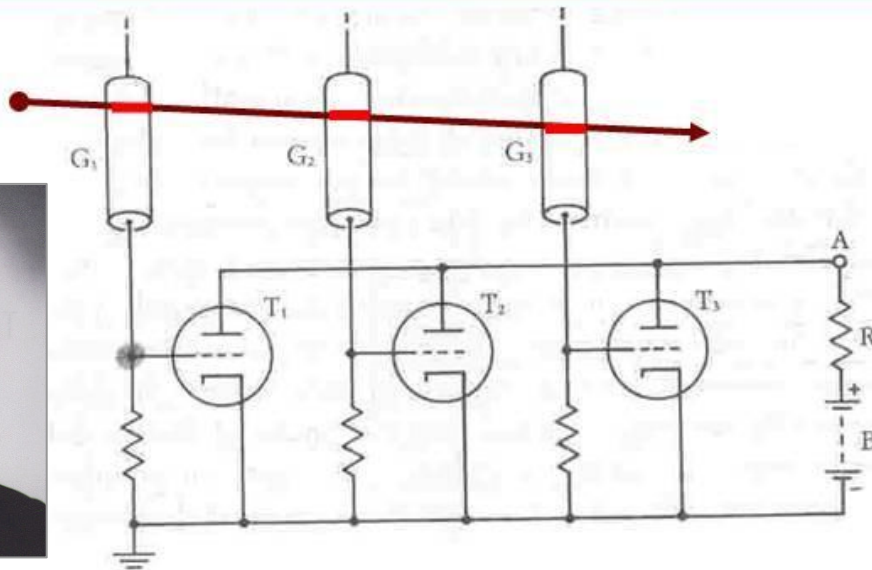
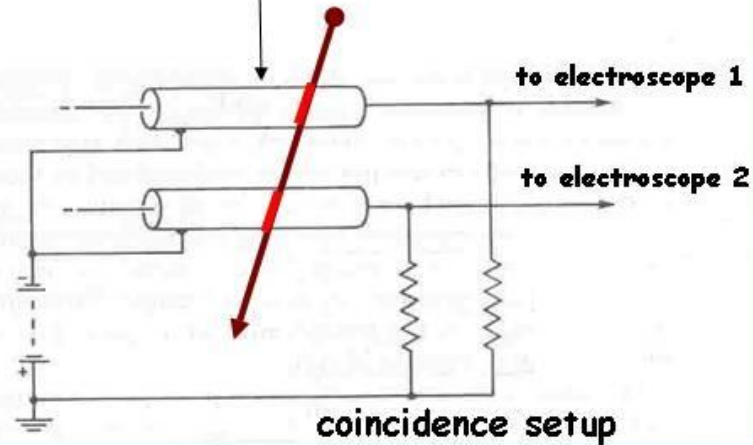
# fundamental role of cosmic ray research

Cosmic rays

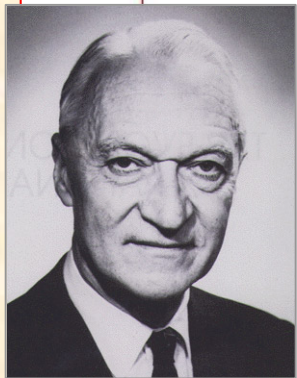
in history of techniques: counting experiments and *electronic triggers*



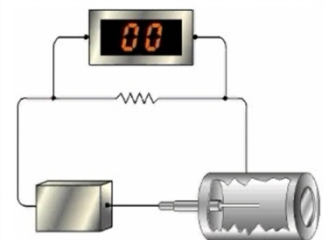
hodoscope of gieger counters



true modern  
electronic  
coincidence  
circuit  
(Bruno Rossi)



1,2,3,...



# Cosmic ray research techniques, discoveries, ...

e.g. cloud chambers triggered by geiger counters and Rossi electronics!



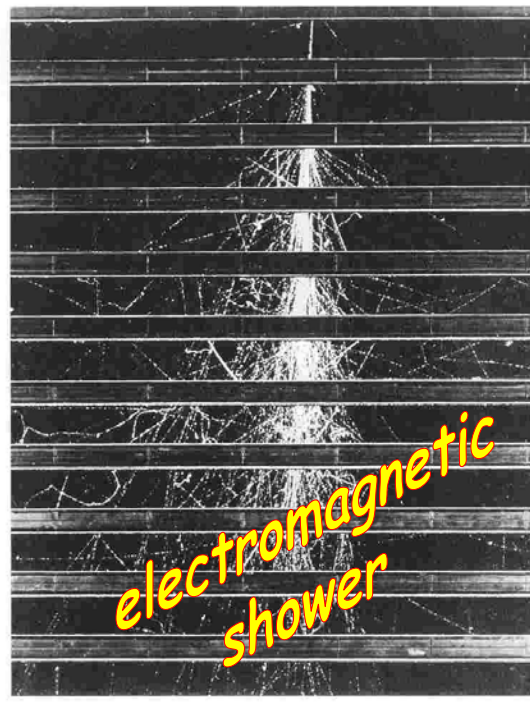
positron

A circular cloud chamber photograph showing a single, slightly curved track of a positron. The track is bright and distinct against the dark background. A small arrow points to the track near the bottom left.



muon

A circular cloud chamber photograph showing a track of a muon. The track is bright and slightly curved, with a grid pattern visible in the background.



hadronic shower

A cloud chamber photograph showing a dense, branching shower of particles, identified as a hadronic shower. The tracks are numerous and fan out from a central point, with some tracks appearing more prominent than others.

## Particle identification



(Powell  
1959)

Incoming  
Cosmic sulfur ion



microscopic tracking

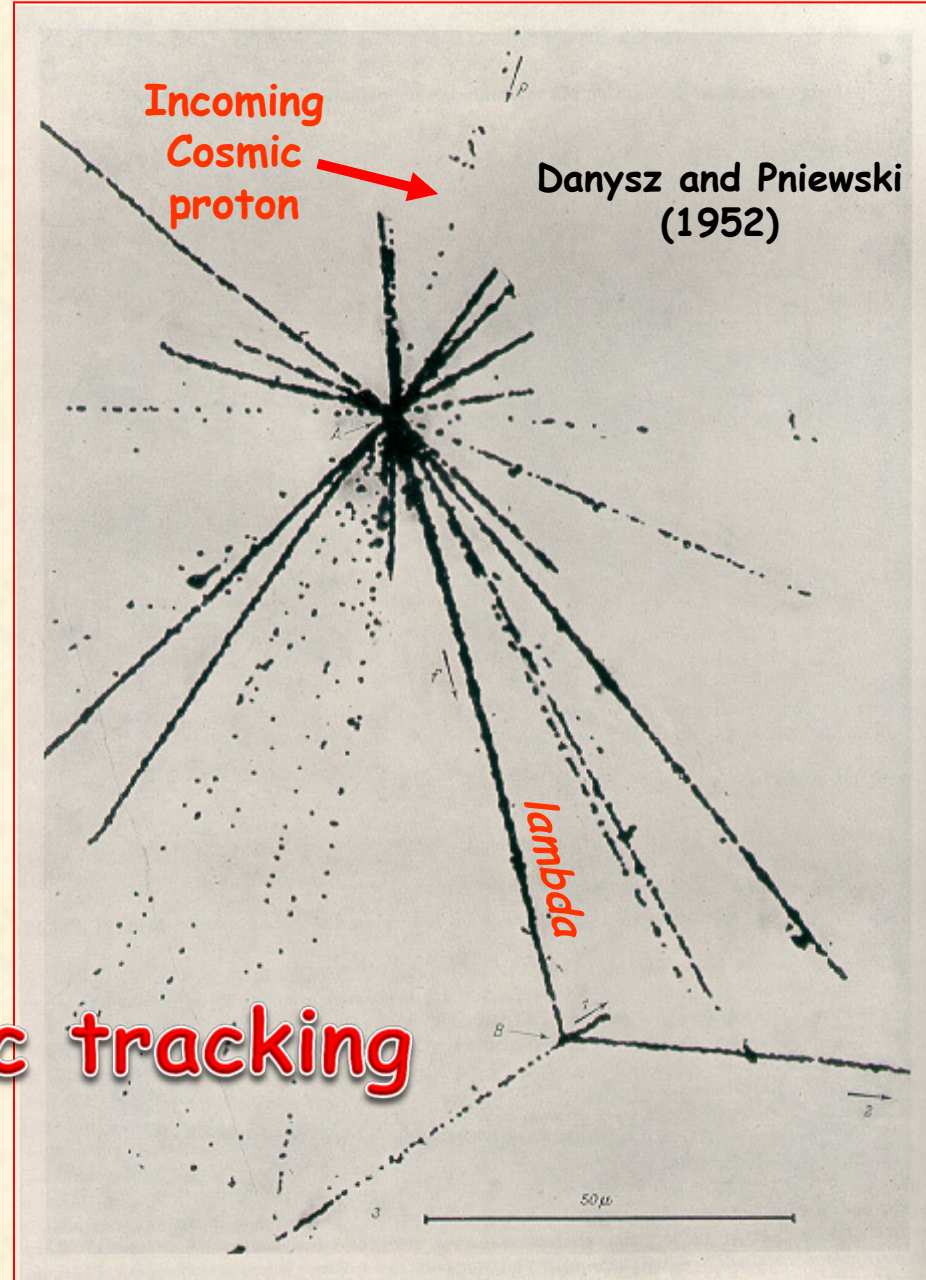
# Nuclear emulsion

Cosmic rays

silver salt, usually bromide, embedded in gelatine

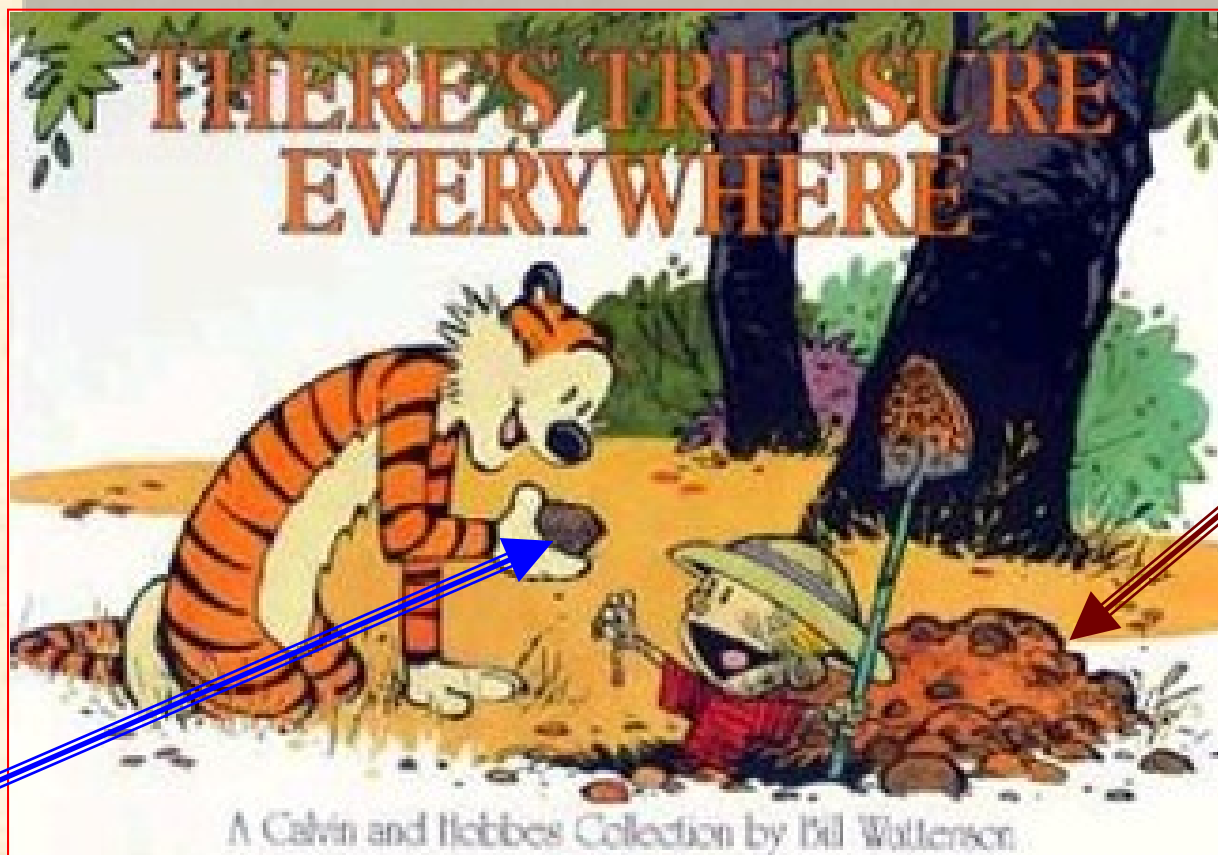
Incoming  
Cosmic  
proton

Danysz and Pniewski  
(1952)



accelerators

High Energy Physicists at accelerators are after RARE hard-to-find events/particles.  
They worry about radiation effects.

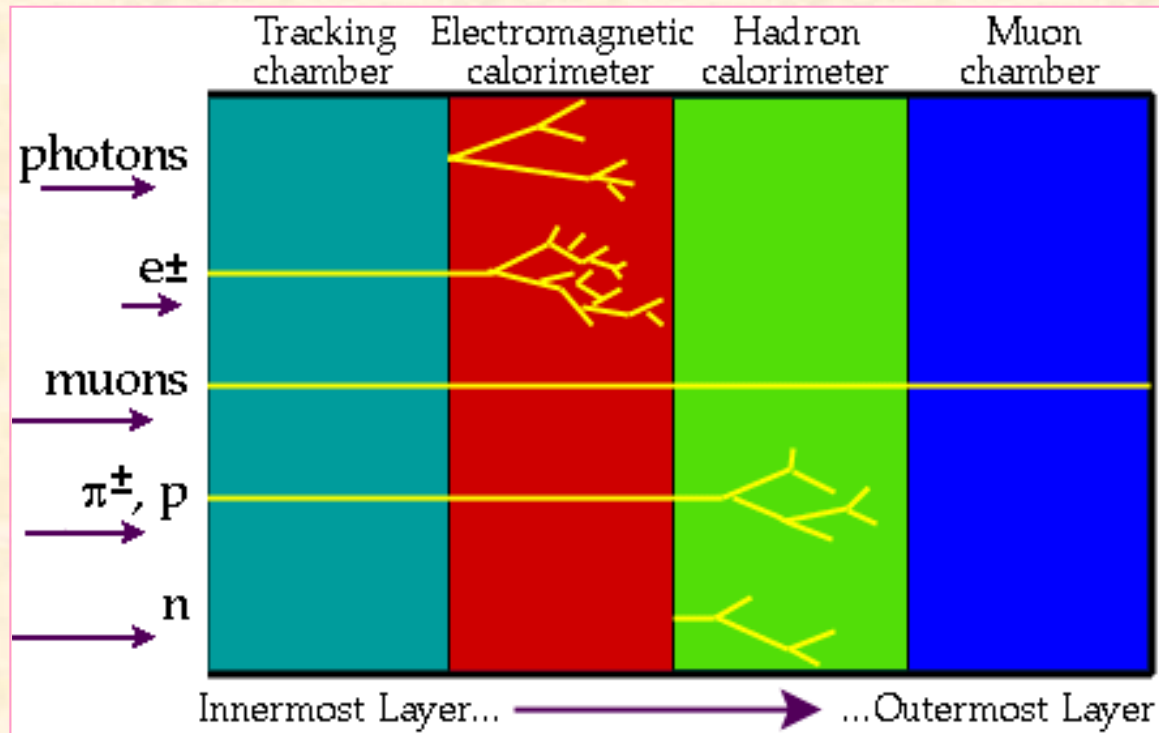


A lot of  
background  
radiation!!!

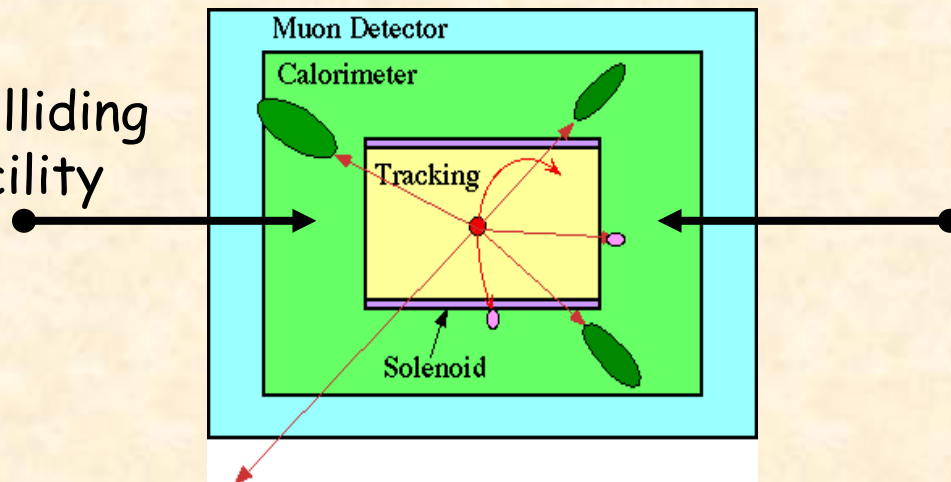
Signal?



# Typical modern detector system: composed of dedicated (specialized) detectors and elements



e.g. at a colliding  
beam facility

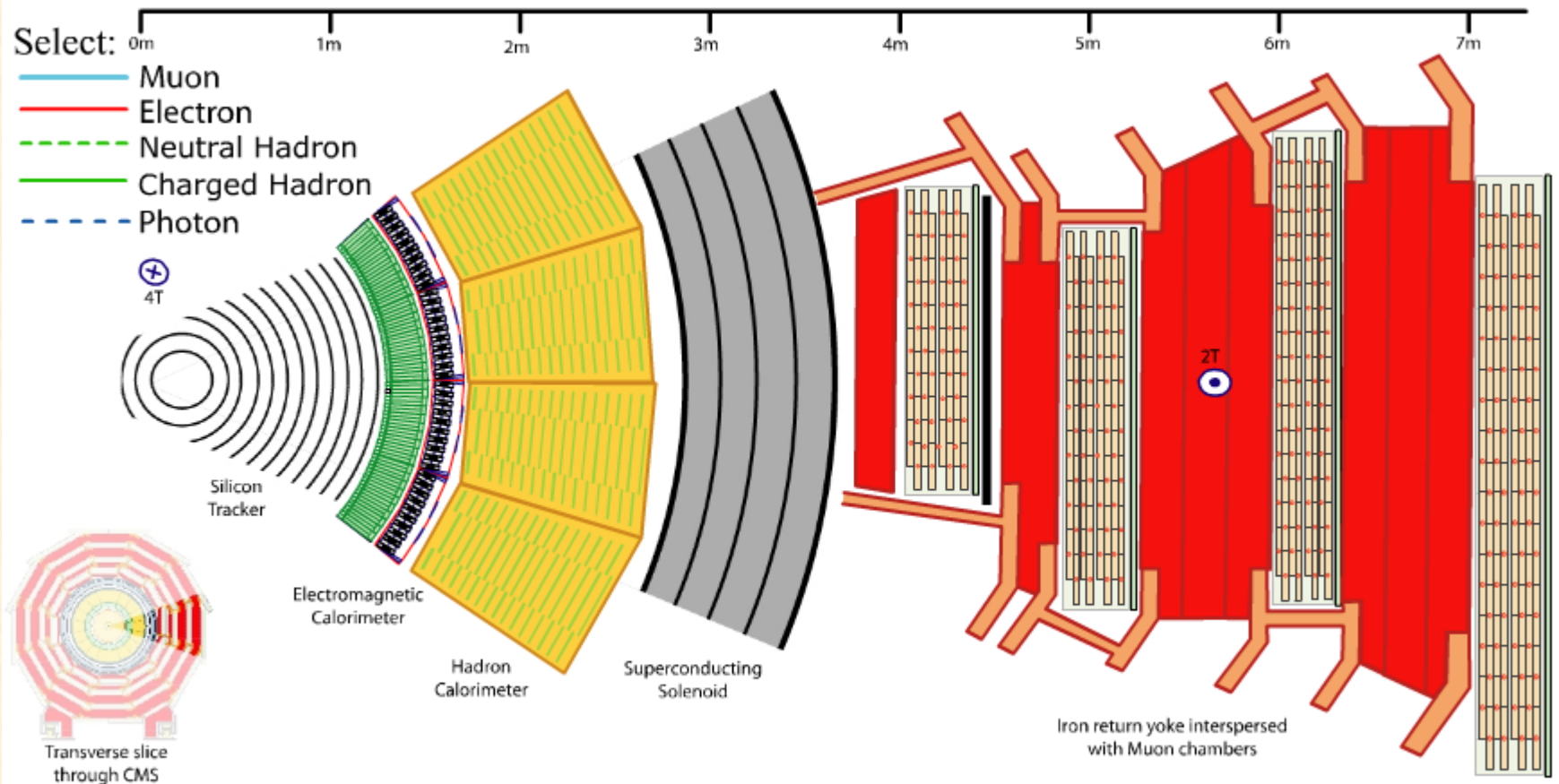


# Inheritance, expansion skip

Transverse slice through CMS detector

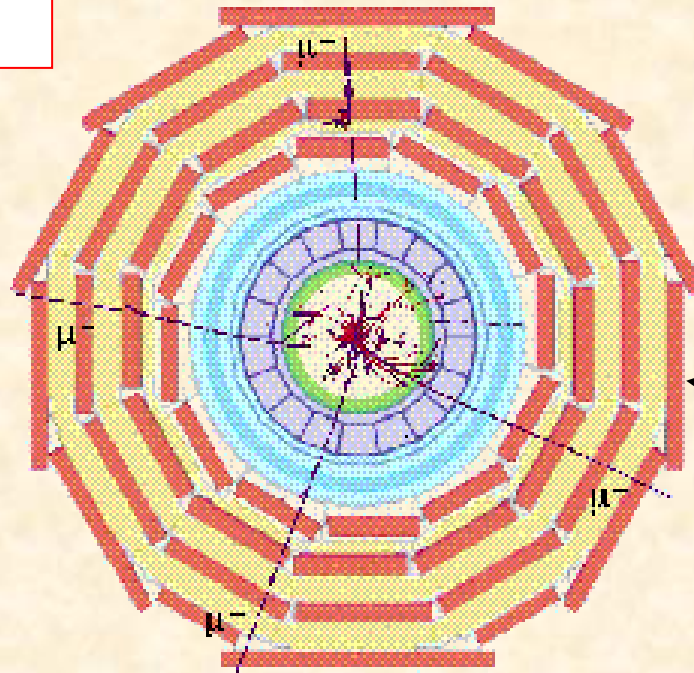
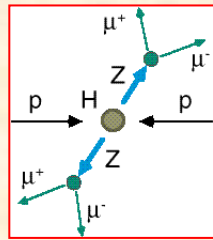
Click on a particle type to visualise the particle as it interacts in CMS.

Press "escape" to exit



# RARE hard-to-find events/particles

ONE beam crossing "event" at CMS = a lot of soft physics stuff plus **very rare hard stuff** (the rare event; in this case 4 stiff muons).

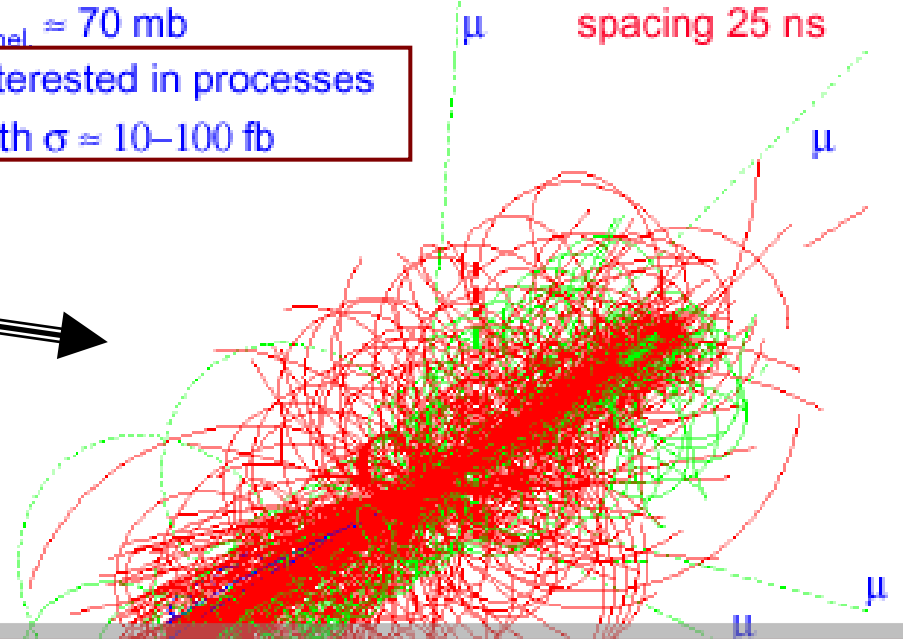


pp collision at  $\sqrt{s} = 14$  TeV

$\sigma_{\text{inel}} \approx 70$  mb

Interested in processes  
with  $\sigma \approx 10\text{--}100$  fb

$L = 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , bunch  
spacing 25 ns



After 10 years of operation will have produced just a few thousand of these rare hard events at the very high price of producing  $\sim 10^{16}$  busy "events".

**$\Rightarrow$  VERY RADIATION HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT!**

Any scientist/engineer,  
in his/her right mind  
that sends instrumentation  
to Outer Space, worries...

about radiation effects too!



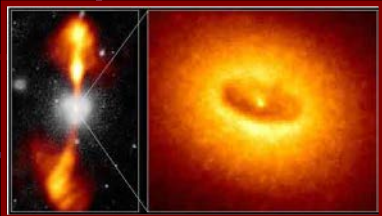


# Energetic Space Radiation

Heavy IONS

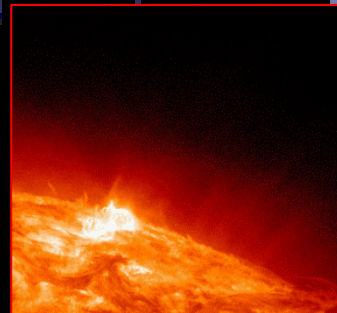


Galactic sources (1987a)

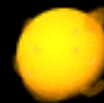


EXTRA-Galactic  
sources  
(NGC-4261)

protons

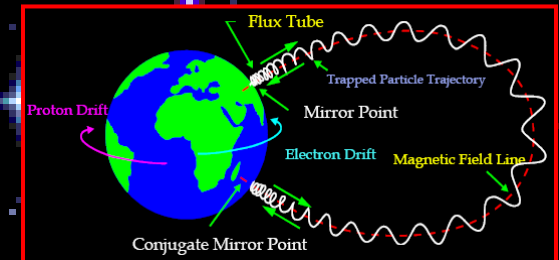


Solar flares

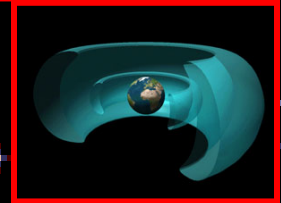


protons

electrons



radiation  
belts

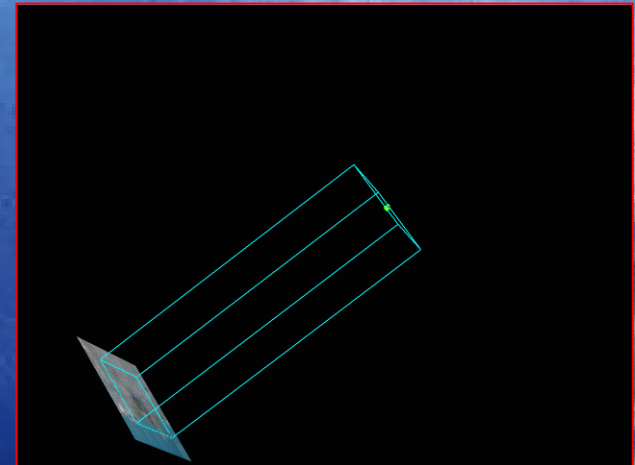


# Cosmic ray air showers are with us all the time

Atmosphere "thickness"  $1 \text{ kg/cm}^2$

Collisions are random. **On average:**

- protons collide after  $1/14^{\text{th}} \approx 70 \text{ g/cm}^2$
- alphas collide after  $1/40^{\text{th}} \approx 25 \text{ g/cm}^2$
- heavy ions collide in even less



# Neutrons are widening problem for Industry

Air showers



Aviation

*Yikes! Even normal human activities are not completely "safe"!*



**"Radiation induced single events could be happening on everyone's PC, but instead everybody curses Microsoft."**

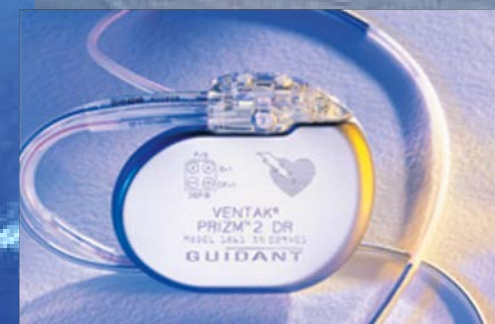
Paul Dodd, Sandia National Laboratories



Automotive



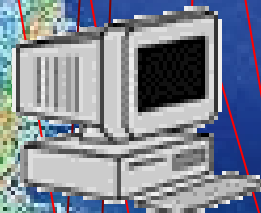
Trains



Medical

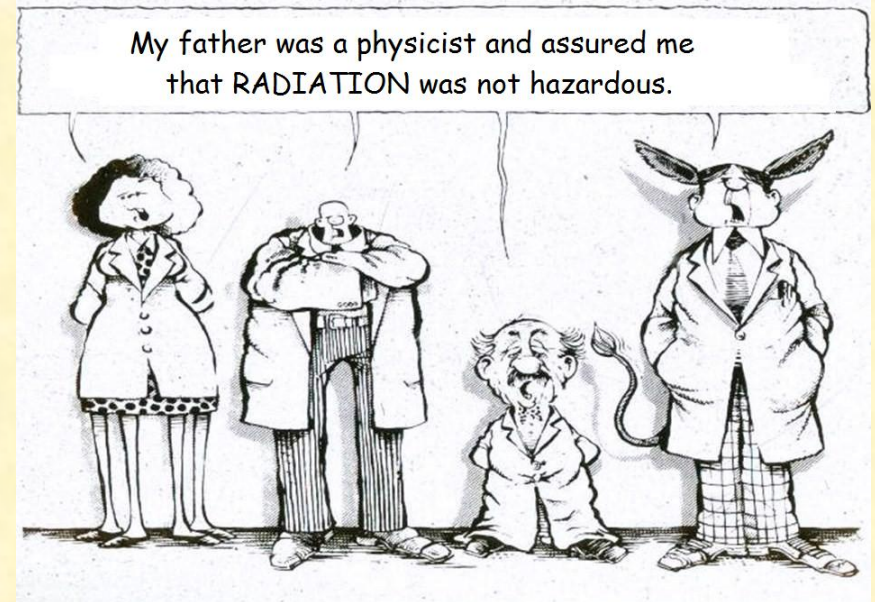


Infrastructure



# Now what?

## What do you do?



- radiation Physics
- device Physics
- hazards
- assurance



## *When designing systems for radiation environments; e.g.*

- *Accelerator based facilities* (HEP experiments, Radiation Therapy, in some cases even in Industry);
  - *Space missions* (Astrophysics experiments, solar system exploration, Telecommunications satellites);
  - *Nuclear Plants*
  - *High Altitude Flight* (avionics)
  - *Ground level critical/vital electronics* (e.g. computers, servers, pace-makers, electronic voting machines, power electronics,...)
- } "normal" activities

... **MUST** consider all elements (more or less vital)  
that may  
suffer from radiation effects (to high/lesser degree)

- detectors (gas, silicon,...)
- semiconductor sensors (Si, GaAs, solar cells, ...)
- front-end electronics, CMOS, bipolar circuits,  $\mu$ -processors
- Infrared, X- and gamma-ray detectors
- LEDs, laser diodes
- Optocouplers, fibre-optic data links
- Insulators, cabling
- Optical materials
- Cryogenics
- ...
- **human beings** (Radio-Biology: astronauts, airplane crew, passengers, patients, personnel, scientists, .....*students*)



dealing with

# *Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS)* approach to deal with radiation effects

knowledge and understand effects

define, identify, test

knowledge of environment

understand microscopic  
effects

understand system  
effects  
(simulations)

define requirements for parts/components

identify candidate parts

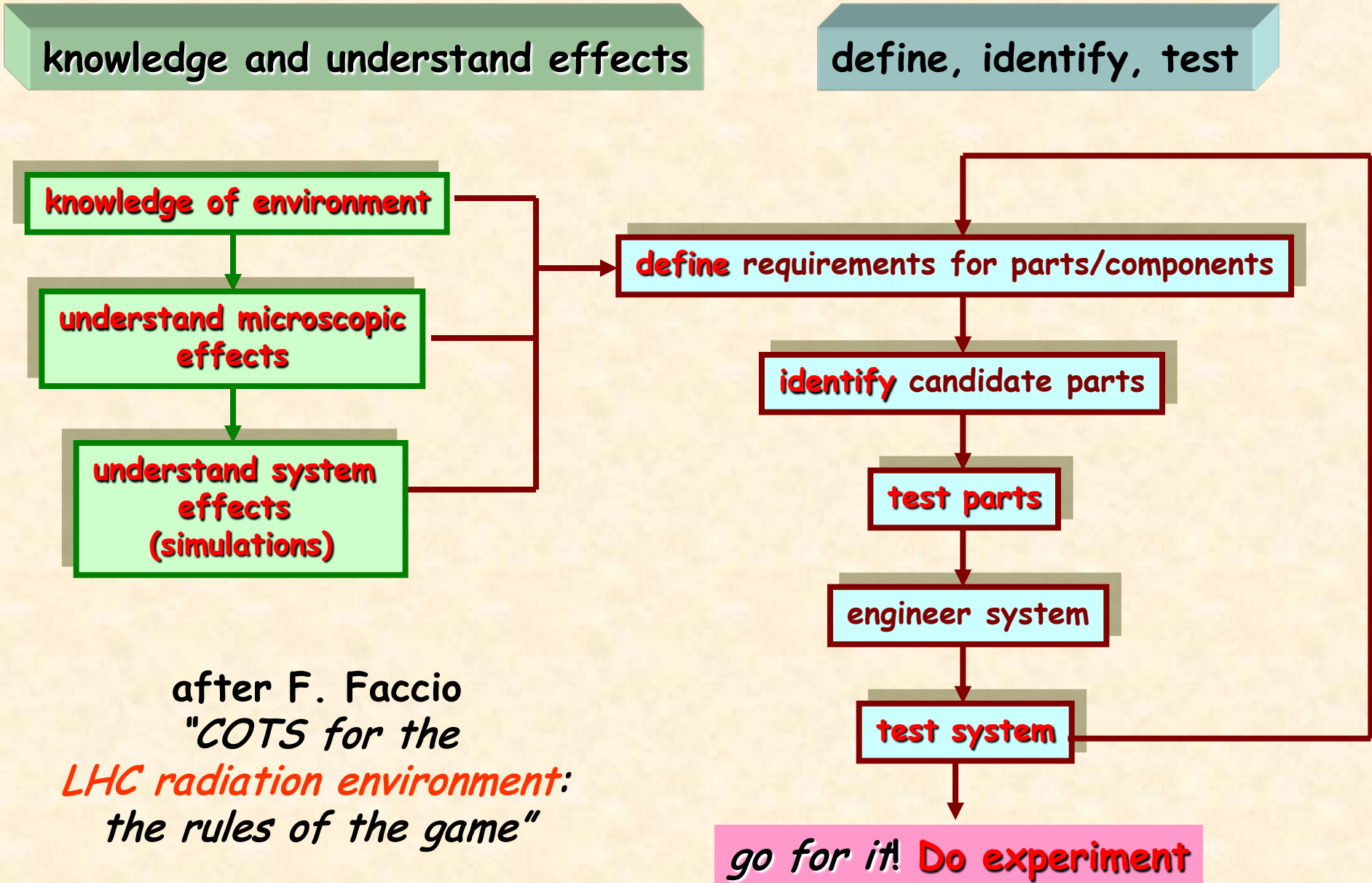
test parts

engineer system

test system

go for it! Do experiment

after F. Faccio  
*"COTS for the  
LHC radiation environment:  
the rules of the game"*



## Evaluation of risks of effects in radiation environments

- to evaluate the risk of failure due to radiation in a given device or system (e.g. a HEP detector, SPACE detector, whatever ...) need

### description of the radiation environment:

- **Make models** based on **experimental data** and tuned **Monte Carlo simulations** to calculate expected doses, particle types and fluences
- **Take results of experiments and simulations into account** when designing radiation tolerant/hard elements and systems for detectors
- **Allow for worse case scenarios** to account for unpredictable events (worst known solar storms and hope for less severe ones,...)
- ***Allow for safety margins!***



# NEED TO understand/define

## *quality and quantity of radiation*

- types of particles (p, e,  $\gamma$ , n,  $\pi$ , K, ions, ...)
- energy of particles
- how many particles (flux/fluence)
- chances of certain effects occurring (cross-sections; thresholds)
- effects predictable (total dose) or stochastic (bad luck)
- sources predictable or stochastic

## *properties of target*

- material (silicon, plastic, water...)
- active devices (memories, diodes, ..., *living cells*)
- active volumes (different sensitivities, how many, where, ...)

## physical qualities and quantities

## NEED TO understand /define

### • quality of radiation

- particle type (p, e,  $\gamma$ , n,  $\pi$ , K, ions,...)
- energy
- flux/fluence (how many!); i.e. cross-sections
- source predictable or stochastic

### • properties of target

- material (silicon, plastic, water...)
- active devices (memories, diodes,..., *living cells*)
- active volumes (different sensitivities, how many, where, ...)

### • Questions that need answers:

- are the effects *predictable* or *stochastic* ?

- what is correct variable? How does effect scale?

(dose, fluence, 1-MeV equivalent neutron fluence for NIEL;  
LET and fluence hadrons  $E > 20$  MeV for SEE)

- any normalisation factors?

(scaling, NIEL-hypothesis, quality factors, *radiobiological equivalents*)

- any role of microenvironment?

(parasite structures such as latch-up in CMOS; *bystander effect*)



- any relaxation effects?  
(annealing, *adaptive response*)

- are there dose rate/flux effects?

- are there low dose effects?

*after*  
*H. Sadrozinsky,*  
*Santa Cruz*

# PART 2:

## radiation concepts



Radiation hazard symbol

**source**

- what kind is it (natural, reactor, accelerator)
- Space (Sun, Van Allen belts, galactic sources)
- **activity**
- **Luminosity** of accelerator

**Radiation  
field**

- where are you respect to source (and what surrounds you)
- exposure: what are you exposed to (types of particles at your location)
- **Flux**  $\phi$ (particles/(cm<sup>2</sup>-s))
- **Fluence**  $\Phi$ (particles/cm<sup>2</sup>)

**Exposed  
material**

- what are you made of (silicon, electronics)
- **Dose**, dose rate
- **stopping power** of particles (LET, NIEL)
- various effects (cumulative or sudden)



Radiation effect	Quantity, parameter
Electronic component degradation	Total ionization energy loss dose (TID)
Material degradation	Total ionization energy loss dose (TID)
Detector, sensor, CCD, degradation	Non-ionizing energy loss dose (NIEL) and equivalent fluence
Solar cell degradation	Non-ionizing energy loss dose (NIEL) and equivalent fluence
Single Event Effects (SEE): Upsets, Latchups, Burnout, Whatever...	SEE cross-section. Ion LET spectra. SEE rates

# Words that need to be understood

- flux, fluence
- activity, luminosity
- cross-section (Single Event Effects)
- dose
- stopping power
- LET
- NIEL, equivalent fluence

# basic radiation damage measurement quantities

□ **Flux** ( $\phi$ ) is no. of particles per unit area and per unit time:

Formula

$$\phi = \text{Particles} / (\text{Area} \times \text{Time})$$

Measurement Unit

$$\text{Particles} / (\text{cm}^2 \times \text{s})$$

□ **Fluence** ( $\Phi$ ) is no. of particles per unit area (time integral of the flux):

Formula

$$\Phi = \int \phi \, dt = \text{Particles} / \text{Area}$$

Measurement Unit

$$\text{Particles} / \text{cm}^2$$

□ **Dose** ( $D$ ) is energy deposited by radiation per unit mass:

Formula

$$D = E / M$$

Measurement Unit

$$\text{J} / \text{kg}$$

# Flux:

The amount of radiation crossing a surface per unit of time.

"integral" flux: particles per unit area per unit time (e.g. particles  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ) above a certain threshold energy.

"differential" flux: is differential with respect to energy (e.g. particles  $\text{MeV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ ).

"directional" flux: is differential flux with respect to solid angle (e.g. particles  $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{steradian}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$ )

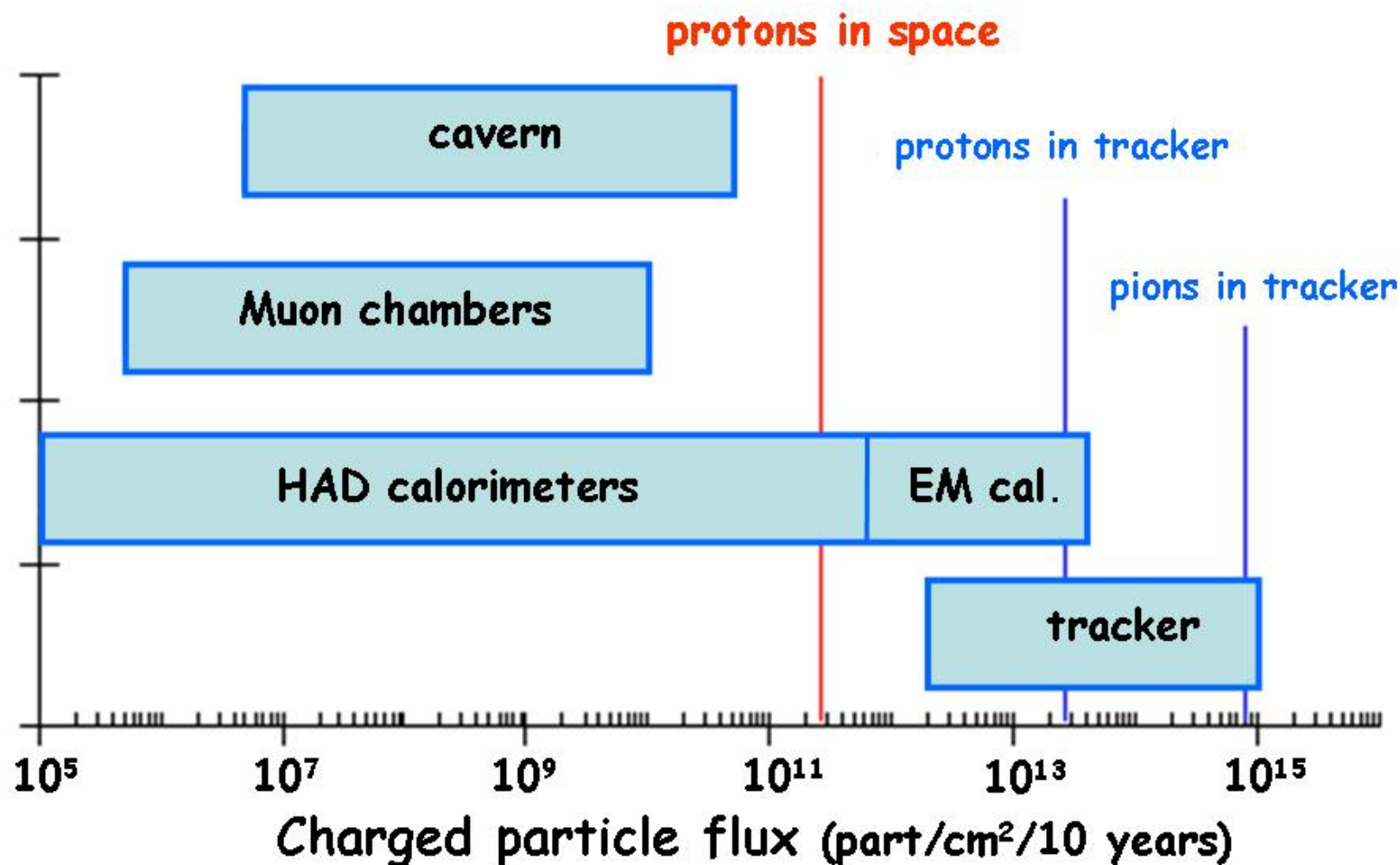
In some cases fluxes are reported with respect to Linear Energy Transfer (LET).



# Charged hadron flux

## Space vs CMS

after J. Gasiot



# Radiation field

- **integral** flux of particles  $\phi$ (particles/cm<sup>2</sup>-s)  
with minimum energy

protons in space, Van Allen belts ( $E > 10$ MeV)	$10^5 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
electrons in space, belts ( $E > 1$ MeV)	$10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
energetic heavy "energetic" in space (Geostationary orbit, 10 years)	$10^6 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$
Air shower neutrons at ground level $E > 2$ MeV	$18 \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ hr}^{-1}$

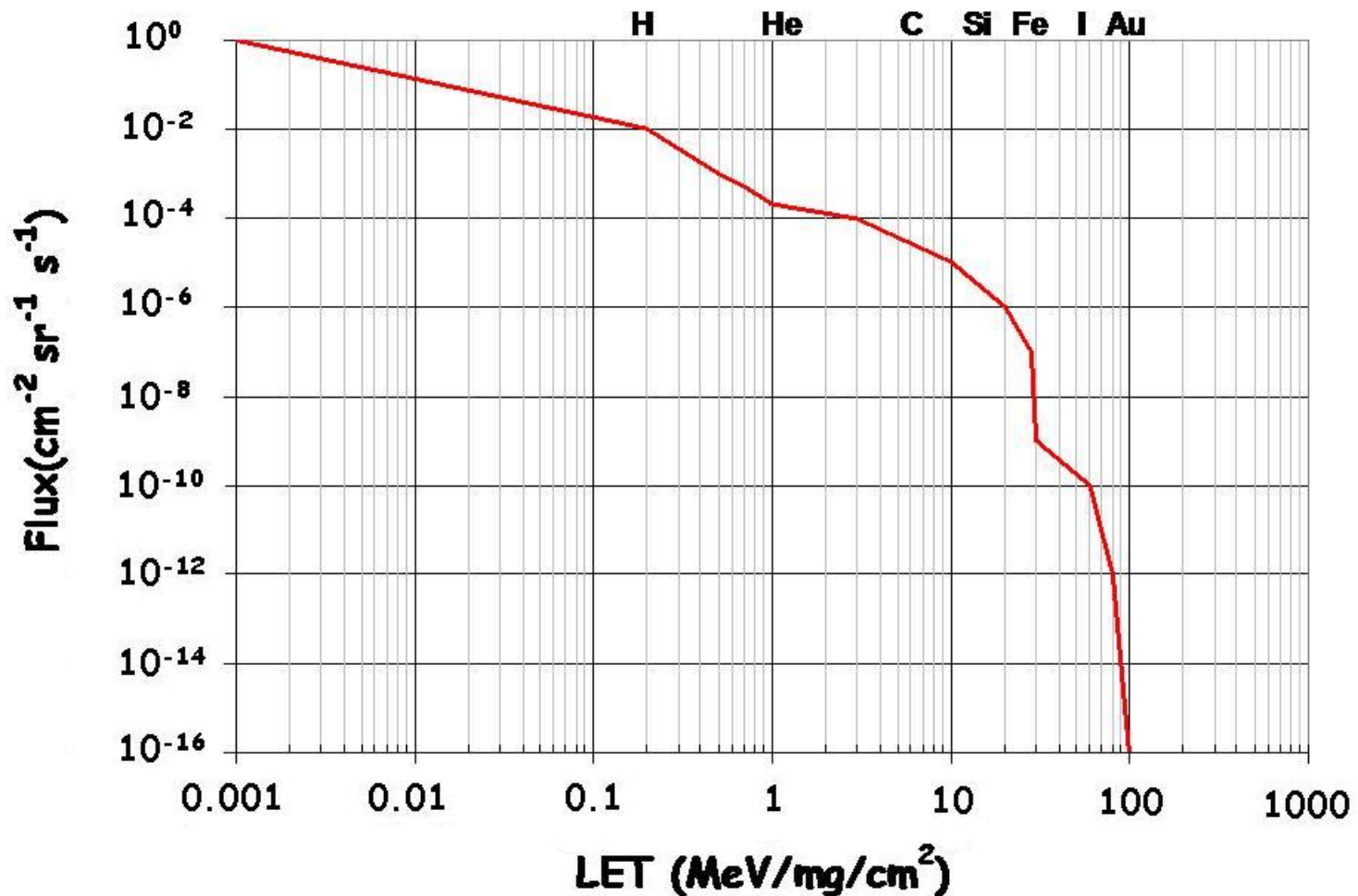
# Energetic particle (space):

In the context of radiation effects in SPACE systems, "energetic particles" are those which can penetrate outer surfaces of a spacecraft.

For electrons, this is typically above 100 keV, while for protons this is above 1 MeV. Neutrons, gamma-rays and X-rays are also considered energetic particles. Heavy ions need greater energy to penetrate.

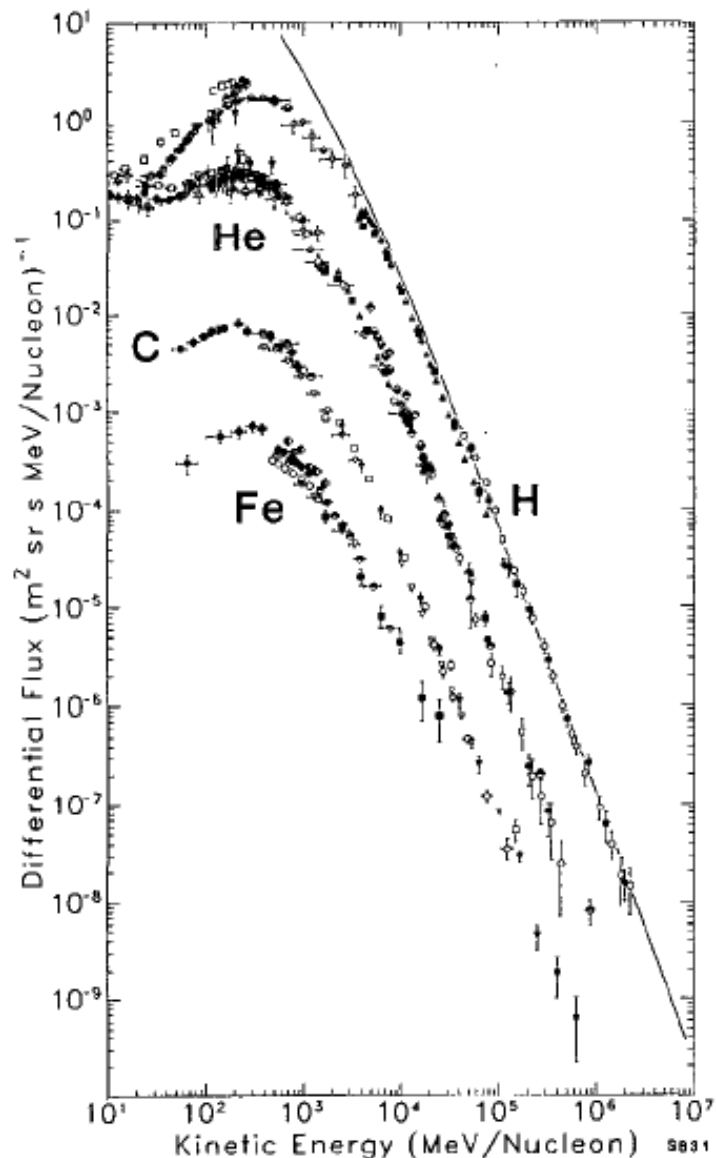
# Cosmic ion flux in Space directional integral spectrum vs LET

Directional flux of ions with  $LET > LET_0$

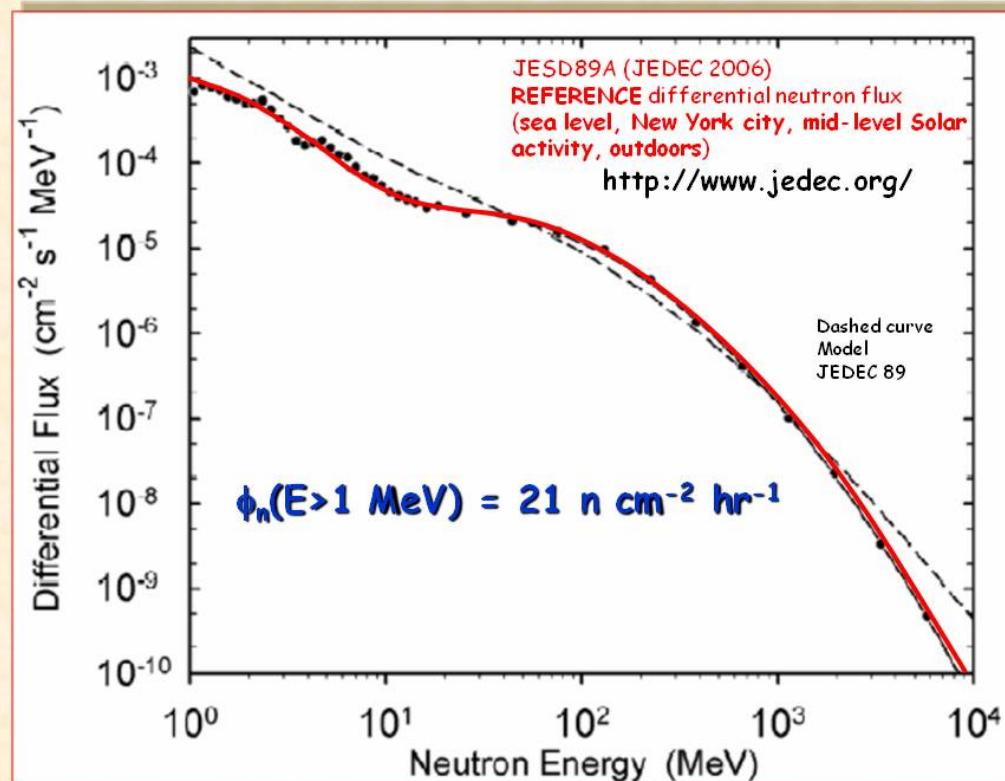




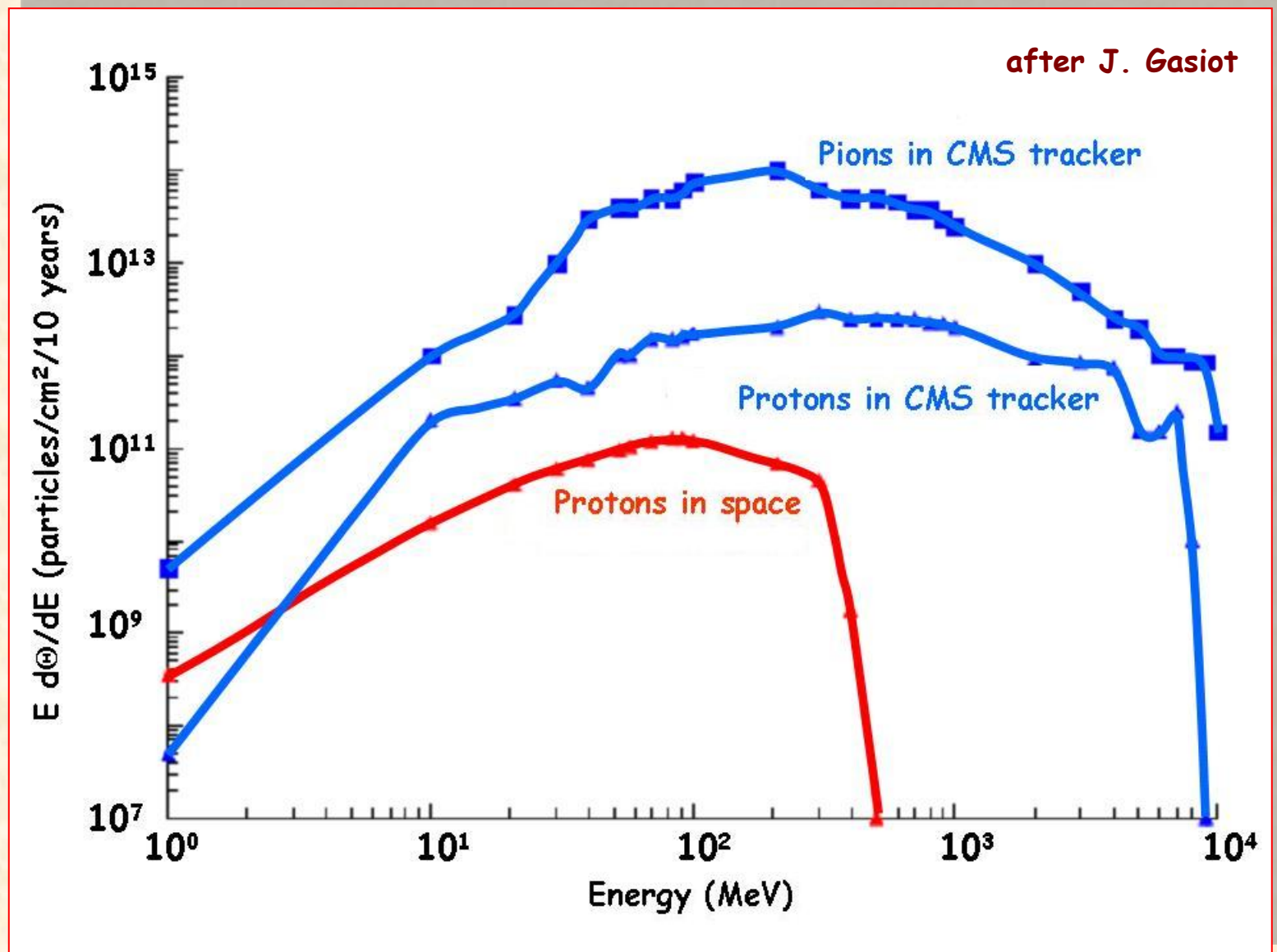
## Differential Energy spectra of primary cosmic rays (galactic sources)



## Differential Energy spectra of air-shower neutrons at sea level

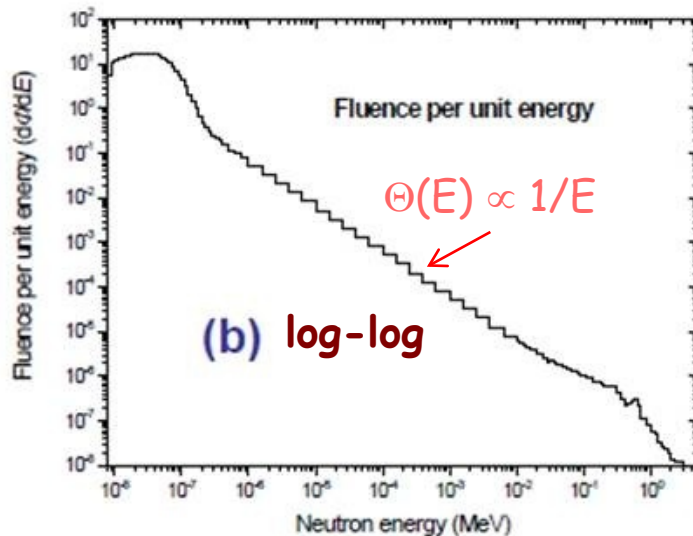
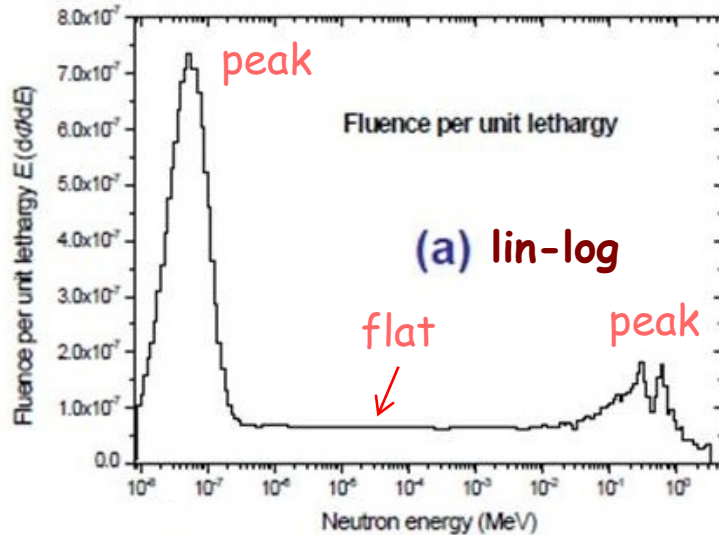


# Differential flux: $E d\Theta/dE$ (lethargy representation)

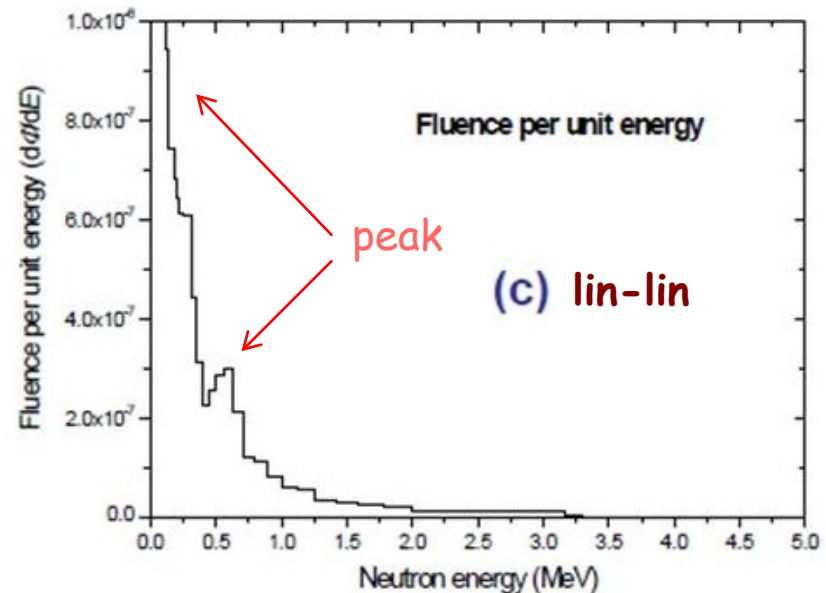


# LETHARGY

## The appearance of a neutron spectrum



"In the lethargy representation, equal areas under the energy spectrum in different energy regions represent equal energy-integrated fluxes."



## □ activity

Unit: 1 bequerel (Bq) = 1 disintegration/s

1 curie (Ci) =  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  Bq

typical activity of  $\text{Co}^{60}$  source for radiotherapy  $\sim 1$  kCi

geological sample activity  $\sim 0.1$  Bq/s

## □ Luminosity $\equiv$ flux

$N_1, N_2$  number of particles

$A$  interaction area (size of beam)

$\nu$  collision frequency

$$L = \frac{N_1 N_2}{A} \times \nu$$

$$R = \sum_i R_i = L \cdot \sum_i \sigma_i = L \cdot \sigma_{tot}$$

$R$  total particle production rate  $\equiv$  activity

$\sigma_i$  cross-section of  $i^{\text{th}}$  channel



# GLOSSARY

parameter	radioactivity	Absorbed dose (D)	Dose equivalent (DE = D × <i>Quality</i> )  Q=1 for photons; Q=20 for alpha	Exposure [in air] (for X-rays and gamma only)	energy
Definition	Rate of radiation emission (transformation or disintegration)	Energy delivered by radiation per unit mass of irradiated material	Dose in terms of biological effect	Expresses ability to <u>ionize air</u> and create charges that can be collected and measured	"Capacity to do work"
Common units symbol	curie (Ci)  1Ci = 37 GBq (a large amount)	Rad  1 rad = 100 erg/g 1 rad = 0.01 Gy	rem	roentgen (R)	joule (J)
International units (SI), symbol	becquerel (Bq)  1 Bq = 1 event of disintegration per second (a very small amount)	gray (Gy)  1 Gy = 100 rad 1 Gy = 1 J/kg	sievert (Sv)  1 Sv = 100 rem (a large dose)  1 Gy air dose equivalent = 0.7 Sv 1R ≅ 10 mSv of tissue dose	coulomb/kg  1 R = 2.58×10 <sup>-4</sup> C/kg	electronvolts (eV)  1 eV = 1.6×10 <sup>-19</sup> J 1 keV 1 MeV 1 GeV 1 TeV

# Effects of typical **Ionising Radiation Doses**

$$\text{ionising dose} = \frac{\text{energy imparted by ionising radiation}}{\text{mass of target}}$$

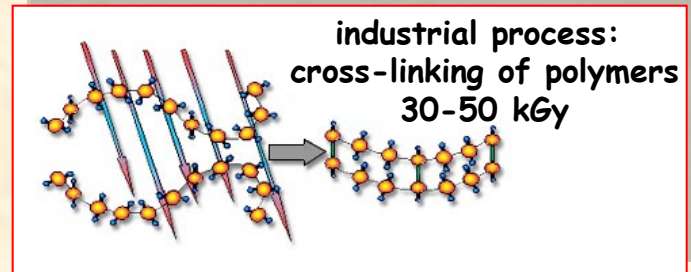
$$1 \text{ J/kg} = 1 \text{ Gray (Gy)} = 100 \text{ rad}$$

- **radiobiological doses**

- < 5 mGy: typical annual dose of human in *civilized* culture
- 50 mGy: allowable annual dose for *radiation worker*
- 1 Gy: common dose of X-ray treatment
- 2.5 Gy: total-body lethal dose for humans and many mammals
- 60 Gy: localized dose for full cancer therapy

- **technological/industrial doses**

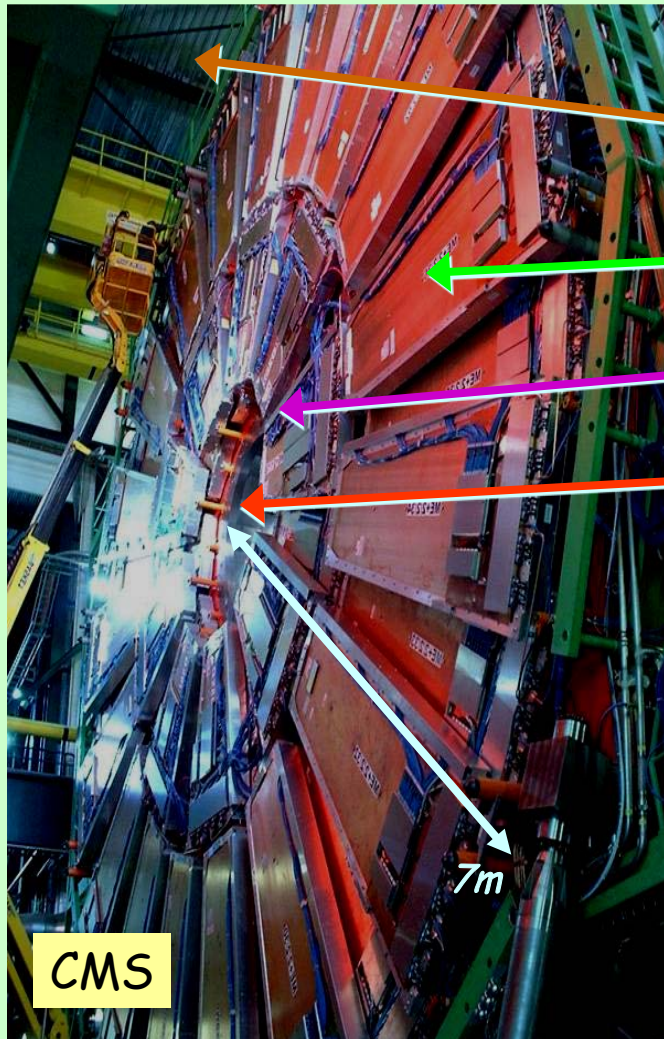
- < 1 kGy: Teflon structurally unstable
- 15-35 kGy: sterilization
- 20 kGy (2 Mrad): curing of polyester resins
- 100-200 kGy (10-20 Mrad): curing of epoxy resins
- 200 kGy: natural rubber unusable
- 1000 kGy (100 Mrad): polyvinylchloride (PVC) unusable
- 50-100 MGy: polyimide degraded significantly



dose	Typical exposure	Number of electron-hole pairs and typical effect
1 mGy	Dose of 1 chest X-ray or 1 year of natural background	$10^{12}$ e-h pairs/cm <sup>3</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• effects in insulators (charge trapping),</li> <li>• minor risks in biological cells,</li> </ul>
4 Gy		$4 \times 10^{15}$ e-h pairs/cm <sup>3</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• transitory effects in semi-conductors,</li> <li>• 50% chance death after 1 month</li> </ul>
10-20 Gy	delivered to tumor in radiotherapy	
10-100 Gy	Annual dose received by a satellite	
100 Gy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voltage shift induced in threshold of power MOSFET.</li> <li>• The current gain of a BJT may be cut down by a factor 10.</li> </ul>	
1 MGy	Dose in sub-detectors of HEP experiments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanical properties of some materials are altered.</li> </ul>

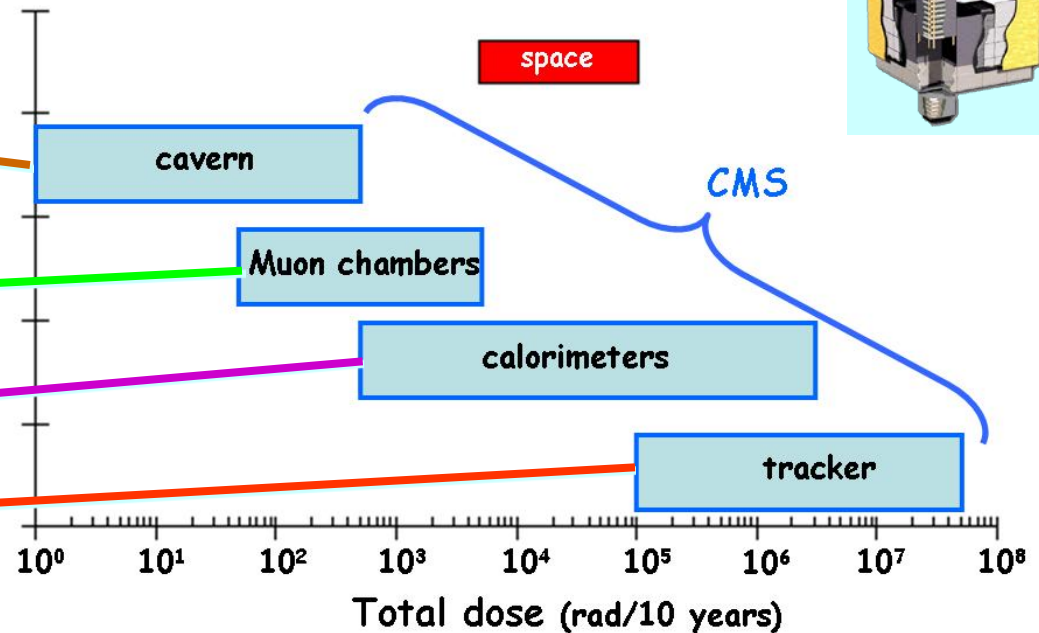
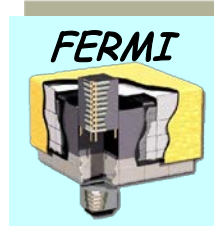
# High Energy Physics environment

Radiation environments of HEP experiments at accelerators are very hostile!



## Total Ionization Dose Space vs CMS

after J. Gasiot



**Very large number of particles are generated at every beam interaction.** Charged particles ionize contribute TID. Hadrons (protons, pions and especially neutrons) contribute to DDD and may also indirectly cause SEE by creating heavily ionizing secondaries.



crew 200 mrem/year



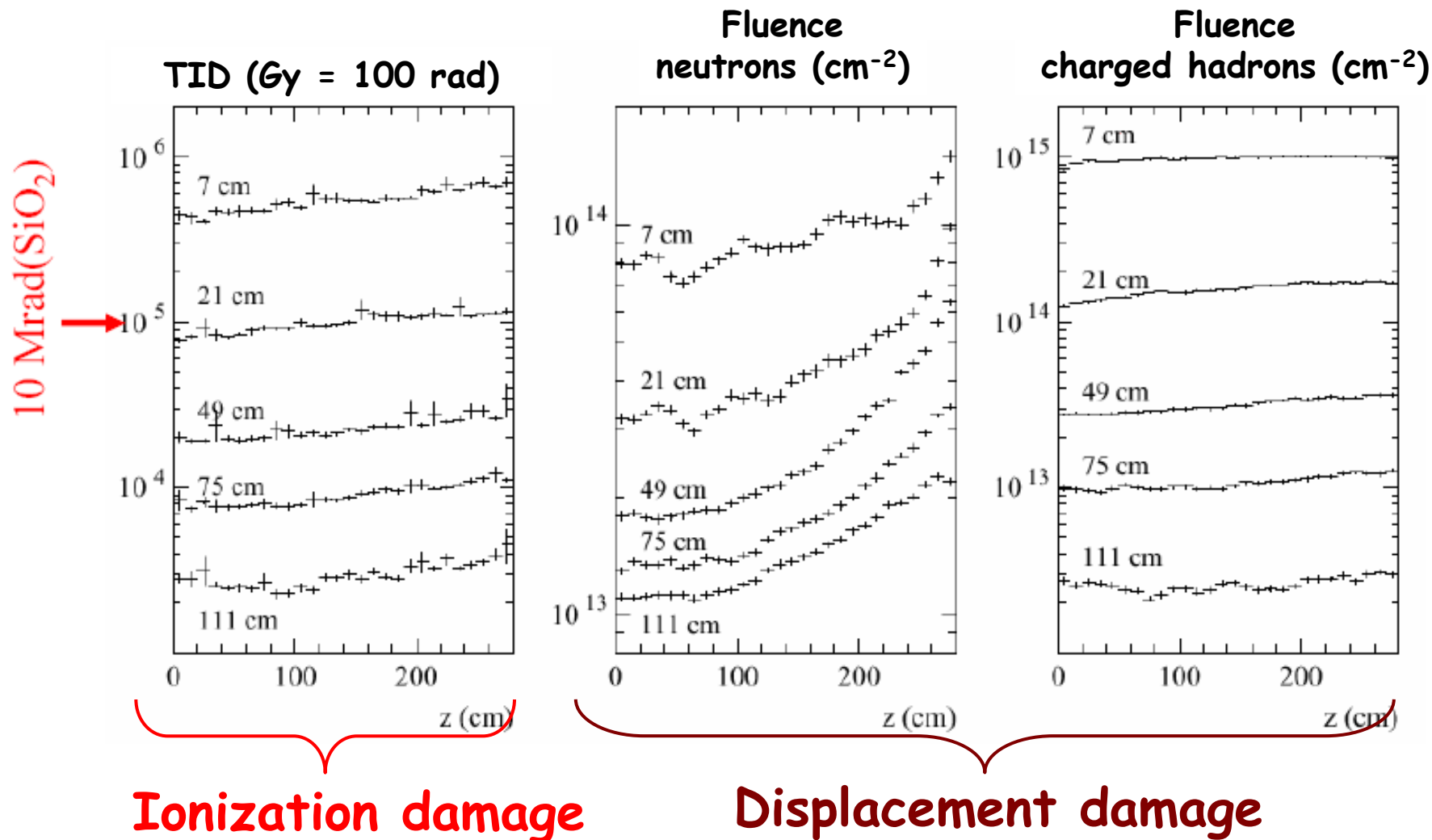
# Radiation Levels in ATLAS

During the experiment lifetime (10 years)

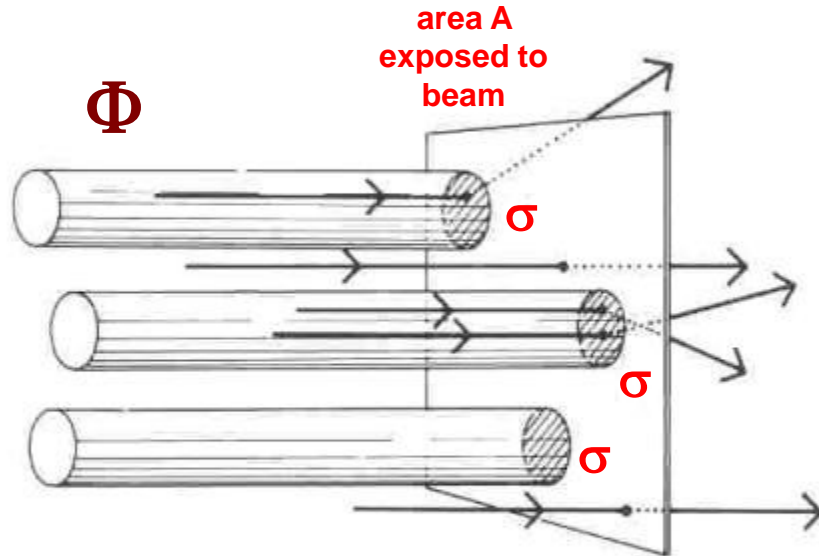
Detector zone	Total dose [rd]	Neutrons (1 MeV eq.) [n/cm <sup>2</sup> ]	Charged hadrons (> 21 MeV) [n/cm <sup>2</sup> ]
Pixels	112 M	$1.47 \cdot 10^{15}$	$2 \cdot 10^{15}$
SCT Barrel	7.9 M	$1.4 \cdot 10^{13}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{14}$
ECAL (barrel)	5.1 k	$1.7 \cdot 10^{12}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{11}$
HCAL	458	$2.5 \cdot 10^{11}$	$5.6 \cdot 10^{10}$
Muon det.	24.3 k	$3.8 \cdot 10^{12}$	$8.7 \cdot 10^{11}$

- TID = energy deposited via ionization per unit mass SI unit = Gy = 100 rd
- Neutron and Ch. Hadrons “intensities” are expressed in fluence = integral of flux over time (10 years in this case)
- Hadrons are particles subject to the strong interaction, mainly p and n (and pions) in our context

Microstrip detectors and APV25 chips:  
 $25 \text{ cm} < R < 110 \text{ cm} \Rightarrow 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} < \Phi < 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}$



# **cross section:** a simple way to put it



$N_s$  = number of scatterers in exposed area A

Rationale:

- incident fluence  $\Phi_{inc} = N_{inc}/A$
- Interaction occurs if an incident particle strikes a scattering center
- area of **each** scattering center =  $\sigma$
- total scattering area =  $N_s \times \sigma$

fraction of incident particles that INTERACT  $n/N_{inc}$

is equal to the

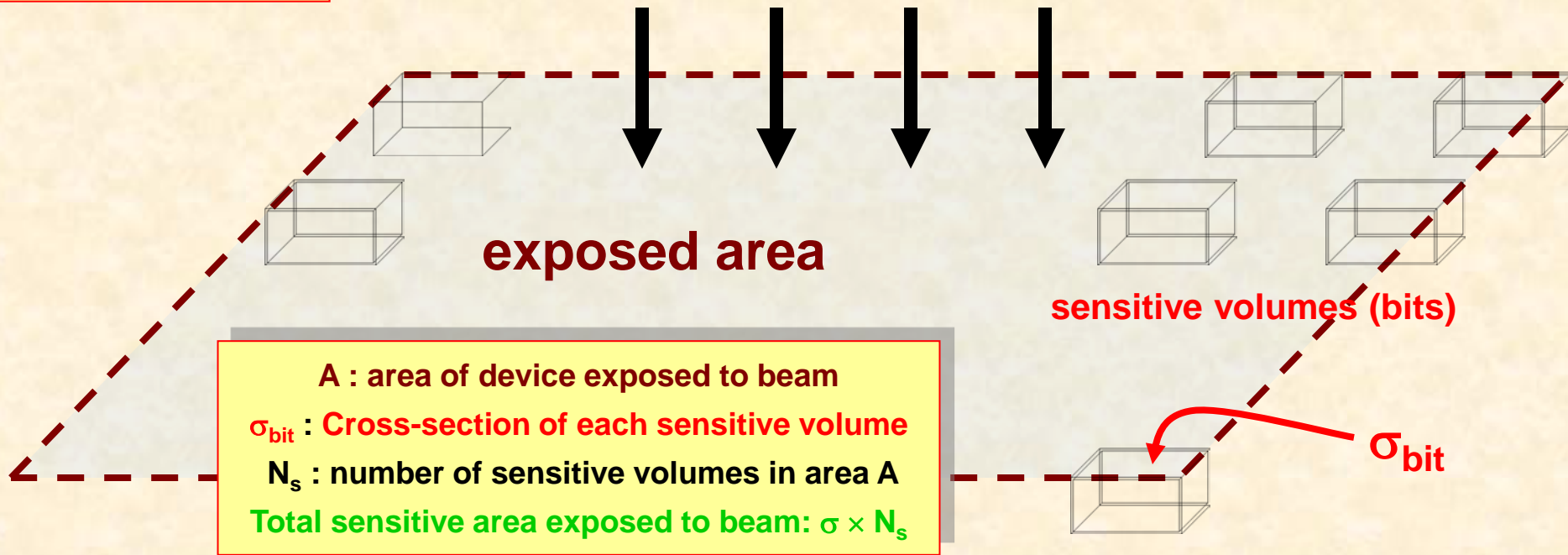
fraction of exposed area that gives origin to SCATTERING

$$\frac{n}{N_{inc}} = \frac{N_s \cdot \sigma}{A} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{number of "events"} \quad n = N_s \frac{N_{inc}}{A} \sigma = N_s \cdot \sigma \cdot \Phi_{inc}$$

**Experimentally:**  $\sigma = \frac{n}{N_s \cdot \Phi_{INC}}$

cross-section: SEE

SEE experimental cross-section



fraction of incident particles that cause SEE  $N_{SEE}/N_{inc}$   
is equal to the

fraction of exposed area that is sensitive

$$\frac{N_{SEE}}{N_{inc}} = \frac{N_s \cdot \sigma_{bit}}{A} \Rightarrow \text{number of events } N_{SEE} = N_s \frac{N_{inc}}{A} \sigma_{bit} = N_s \cdot \sigma_{bit} \cdot \Phi_{inc}$$

**Experimentally:**  $\sigma_{bit} = \frac{N_{SEE}}{N_s \cdot \Phi_{INC}}$   $\sigma_{device} = N_s \cdot \sigma_{bit} = \frac{N_{SEE}}{\Phi_{INC}}$



# PART 3:

## Particle interactions

1) Ionizing energy loss

2) Non-ionizing energy loss

Ionizing radiation, such as x-rays, gammas, and all charged particles create free charge in materials, which affects properties and performance.

Particles (neutrons, pions, protons, ions, even electrons) can displace atoms from their usual lattice sites and produce “bulk” damage effects.

# basic particle interactions with matter

## Charged particles (protons, ions, electrons, muons, charged pions, kaons,...):

- COULOMB INTERACTIONS with electrons (ionization), and nuclei (atomic displacement)
- NUCLEAR INTERACTIONS (mainly for energetic hadrons: protons, pions, kaons).
- DECELERATION of CHARGED PARTICLE causes photon emission (Bremsstrahlung) with continuous spectra (mainly for electrons)

## Neutrons:

- Neutron capture/spallation/inelastic scattering: formation of excited composite nucleus followed by de-excitation and emission of  $\gamma$ -rays, particles ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta^{+/-}$ , n, p) and nuclear fragments
- Elastic scattering with nuclei (atomic displacement)
- ionization can be induced by secondary charged particles.

## Photons:

- photoelectric effect
  - Compton effect
  - pair production (see picture)
- } → produce secondary electrons/positrons
- produces secondary electrons and positrons

# *Change of focus*

## - **electrons, photons (X-rays, gamma).**

- **Ionization** (interaction with electrons of material). For photons it is described by dose, for electrons by ionizing stopping power.
- Note: high energy electrons also cause atomic displacement.
- gammas too... (1 MeV gammas create point-defects)

## - **n, p, $\pi^\pm$ , K, $\alpha$ , heavy ions**

- **Ionization**, when primary is charged. It is described by the ionizing stopping power. Ionization also occurs when charged secondaries are produced by hard coulomb or nuclear interactions with nucleus.
- **atomic displacement** due to (coulombic, nuclear interactions) with atomic nuclei of material. Described **Non-Ionizing Energy Loss (NIEL)**
- **nuclear reactions**: nucleus breaks up into various fragments; point defects in silicon lattice by neutrons  $n + {}^{30}\text{Si} \rightarrow {}^{31}\text{P} + e^- + \underline{\nu}$
- **Pattern of atomic displacement damage** depends on particle type and energy. Significant differences between ions, neutrons, protons and pions.

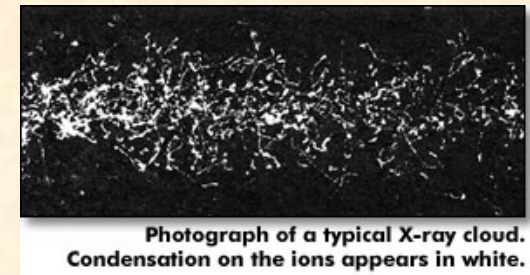
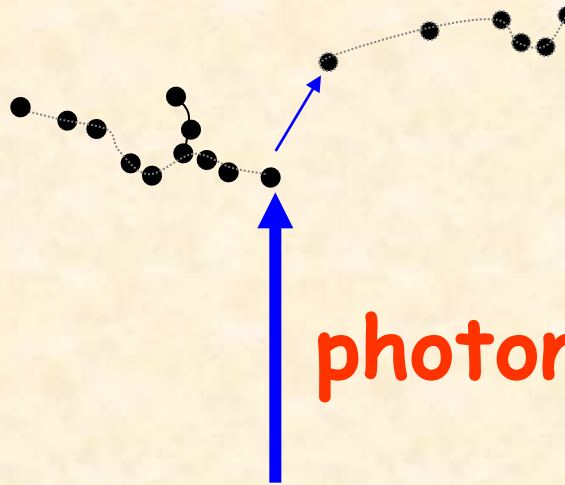
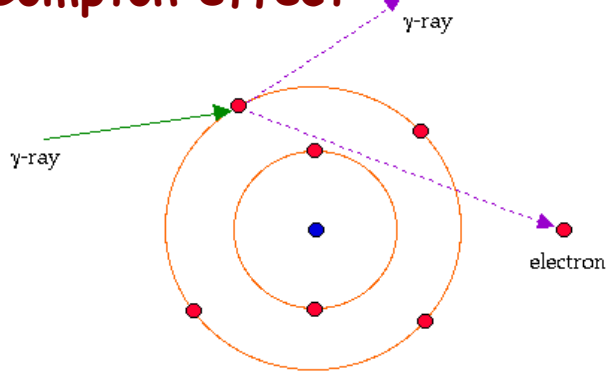
# Ionization



**Ionizing Radiation hazard sign**

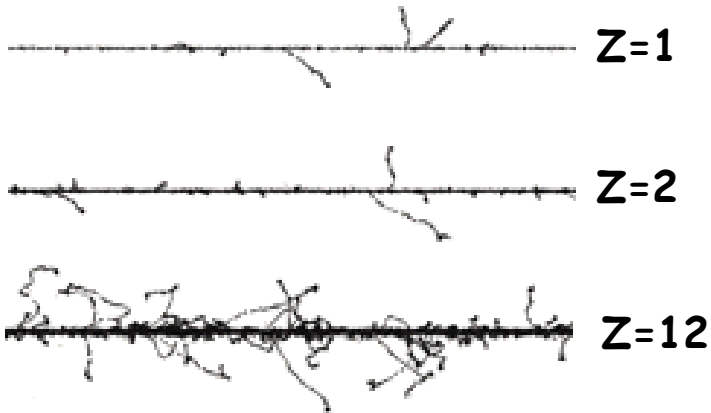


## Compton effect

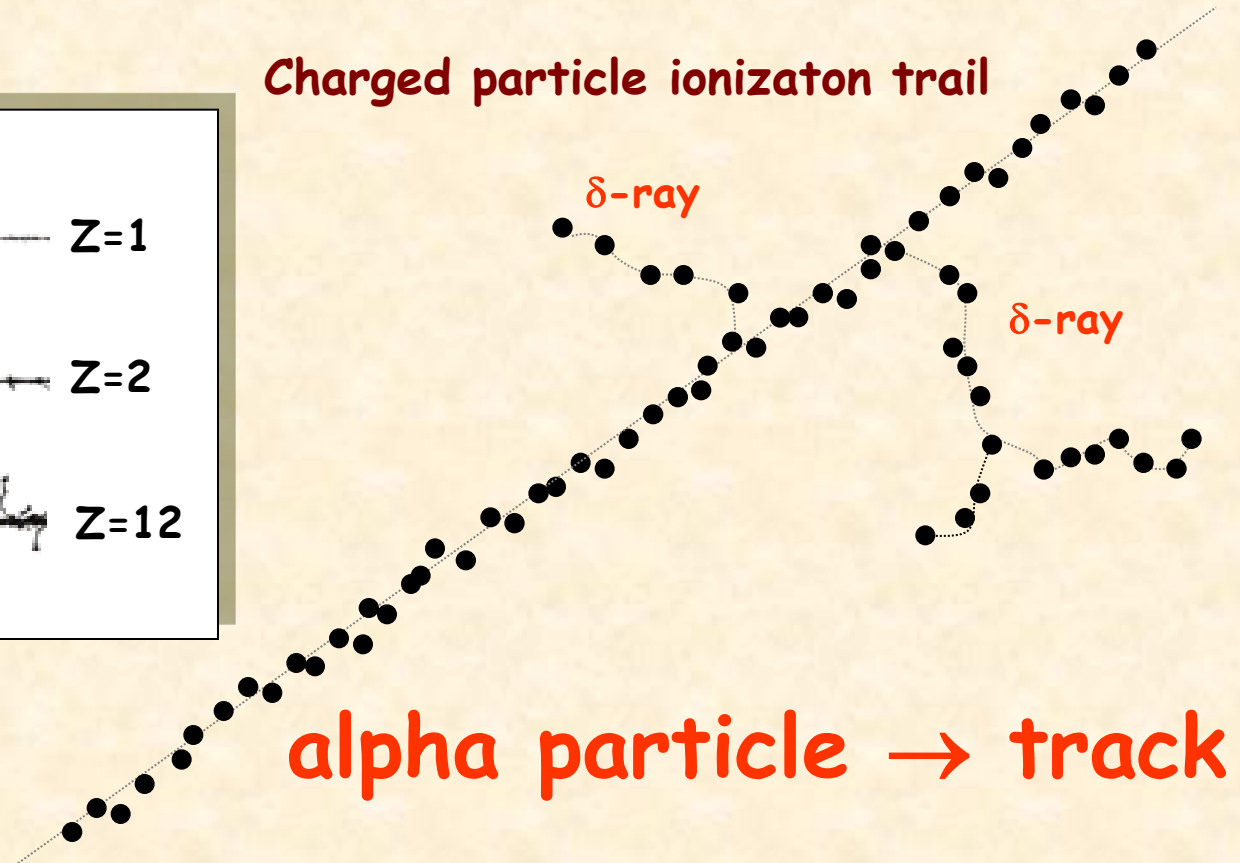


photon → no track

## Ions tracks



## Charged particle ionization trail



alpha particle → track

# Ionization ...

... is ultimately associated with transfer of kinetic energy from incident particle to the bound electrons of the material substance.

❑ In the case of charged particles (electrons, protons, alfa, ions, muons, pions, ...), ionization is caused **DIRECTLY** through the coulombic interaction with the electrons of the substance.

❑ In the case of neutral particles (photons, neutrons,...), ionization is mainly **INDIRECT** by the release of an energetic charged particle within the substance.

❑ photons: **ionization** is mainly the result of the transfer of photon energy to a bound electron providing sufficient kinetic energy to detach the electron from the atom. If the electron is energetic enough, it too can further ionize.

❑ neutrons: **ionization** is through a nuclear interaction event in which a recoiling nucleus of energetic charged particle nuclear reaction products are agents of ionization.

# Dose = energy/mass

## Ionization dose

international units

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ Gy} &= 1 \text{ J/kg} = 100 \text{ rad} \\ &= 6.25 \times 10^{18} \text{ eV/kg} \end{aligned}$$

international units

$$1 \text{ Gy} = 1 \text{ J/kg} = 6.25 \times 10^{18} \text{ eV/kg}$$

How many electron-hole pairs are produced?

In **Silicon** ( $\rho=2.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , band gap = 1.125 eV) the average energy leading to creation of electron-hole pair 3.6 eV.

A dose of 1 Gy generates in **silicon**  
 $6.25 \times 10^{18} / 3.6 = 1.7 \times 10^{18} \text{ e-h pairs/kg}$   
that is  $4 \times 10^{15} \text{ e-h pairs/cm}^3$

In **SiO<sub>2</sub>** ( $\rho=2.19 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , band gap = 9 eV) the average energy leading to creation of electron-hole pair 17 eV.

A dose of 1 Gy generates in **SiO<sub>2</sub>**  
 $6.25 \times 10^{18} / 18 = 3.5 \times 10^{17} \text{ e-h pairs/kg}$   
that is  $8 \times 10^{14} \text{ e-h pairs/cm}^3$



international units

$$1 \text{ Gy} = 1 \text{ J/kg} = 6.25 \times 10^{18} \text{ eV/kg}$$

skip

$$\frac{\# \text{ pairs}}{\text{Gy} - \text{cm}^3} = \left( \frac{\# \text{ pairs}}{\text{eV}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ eV}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}} \right) \left( \frac{1 \text{ J}}{\text{Gy} - \text{kg}} \right) \left( \rho (\text{g} / \text{cm}^3) \times \frac{1 \text{ kg}}{10^3 \text{ g}} \right)$$

Silicon:

$$\frac{1}{3.6} \times \frac{1}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} \times \frac{2.33}{1000} = 4 \times 10^{15} \frac{\text{pairs}}{\text{cm}^3 - \text{Gy}}$$

SiO<sub>2</sub>:

$$\frac{1}{17} \times \frac{1}{1.6 \times 10^{-19}} \times \frac{2.19}{1000} = 8 \times 10^{14} \frac{\text{pairs}}{\text{cm}^3 - \text{Gy}}$$

# ***Dose for particles (not photons)***

ways a particle can transfer (deposit) energy to medium:

1. **ionising** energy loss → **total ionising dose (TID)**
2. **non-ionising** energy loss (NIEL) → **displacement damage dose (DDD)**

*Dose concept = energy deposited into a block of matter of a certain mass*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bullet \text{ generic DOSE} = \frac{\text{energy imparted by radiation}}{\text{mass of target}} \\ \bullet \text{ dose scales with fluence } \phi \end{array} \right.$$

dose (energy/mass)  $\propto$  fluence(length<sup>-2</sup>)

dose (energy/mass) = **proportionality factor (energy-length<sup>2</sup>/mass)** × fluence(length<sup>-2</sup>)

# ***DOSES for particles (not photons)***

TID, DDD  $\Rightarrow$  factors: **LET**, **NIEL**

$$\text{dose (energy/mass)} = \text{factor(energy-length}^2\text{/mass)} \times \text{fluence(length}^{-2}\text{)}$$

$$\text{Total Ionising DOSE (TID)} = \frac{\text{energy to ionisation}}{\text{mass}} = \text{LET} \times \phi$$

$$\text{Displacement Damage DOSE (DDD)} = \frac{\text{energy to displacements}}{\text{mass}} = \text{NIEL} \times \phi$$

Energy deposited into a block of matter of a certain mass:

$$\text{energy to ionization} = \text{LET}(\text{energy-length}^2/\text{mass}) \times \text{fluence}(\text{length}^{-2}) \times \text{mass}$$

$$\text{energy to displacements} = \text{NIEL}(\text{energy-length}^2/\text{mass}) \times \text{fluence}(\text{length}^{-2}) \times \text{mass}$$

N.B. Typically  
LET and NIEL expressed in  $\text{MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg}$



Energy in MeV deposited into a block of matter of a certain mass in grams:

$$\text{energy to ionisation (MeV)} = \text{LET}(\text{MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg}) \times \phi(\text{cm}^{-2}) \times \text{mass(g)} \times 10^3$$

$$\text{energy to displacements (MeV)} = \text{NIEL}(\text{MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg}) \times \phi(\text{cm}^{-2}) \times \text{mass(g)} \times 10^3$$



## GLOSSARY

### Dose, absorbed dose, NIEL, dose equivalent:

Dose is a quantity of radiation delivered locally; i.e. at a given position. It usually refers to the energy absorbed locally per unit mass as a result of exposure to radiation.

The fraction of the total energy absorption that results in ionization and excitation is referred to as *absorbed (ionization) dose*.

The fraction of the total energy absorption that results in damage to the lattice structure of solids through displacement of atoms is referred to as *Non-Ionizing Energy Loss*.

*Dose equivalent* refers to a quantity applied to biological effects. It includes scaling factors to account for the more severe effects of certain kinds of radiation.

# International Commission on Radiation Units and Measurements (ICRU)

For a charged particle (make tracks), the “**average energy loss**” is characterized by:

□ **stopping power**  $S = dE/dx$  (keV/ $\mu\text{m}$ ): the average energy loss per unit path length of particle in traversing a material

Results from coulomb interactions (\*):

1. with electrons  $S_{\text{ele}} = (dE/dx)_{\text{ele}}$
2. with atomic nuclei  $S_{\text{nuc}} = (dE/dx)_{\text{nuc}}$

Warning! Electrons  
also radiate photons!

□ **mass stopping power**

$$(1/\rho)S = \text{LET} + \text{NIEL}_{\text{coulomb}}(*) \text{ (MeV-cm}^2\text{/mg)}$$

↑  
density

(\*) Note: rare nuclear (non-coulombic) interactions are not considered.

# Linear Energy Transfer (LET):

The rate of energy deposit from a slowing energetic particle with distance travelled in matter, the energy being imparted to the material.

Normally used to describe the ionization track caused by passage of an ion. LET is material-dependent and is also a function of particle energy.

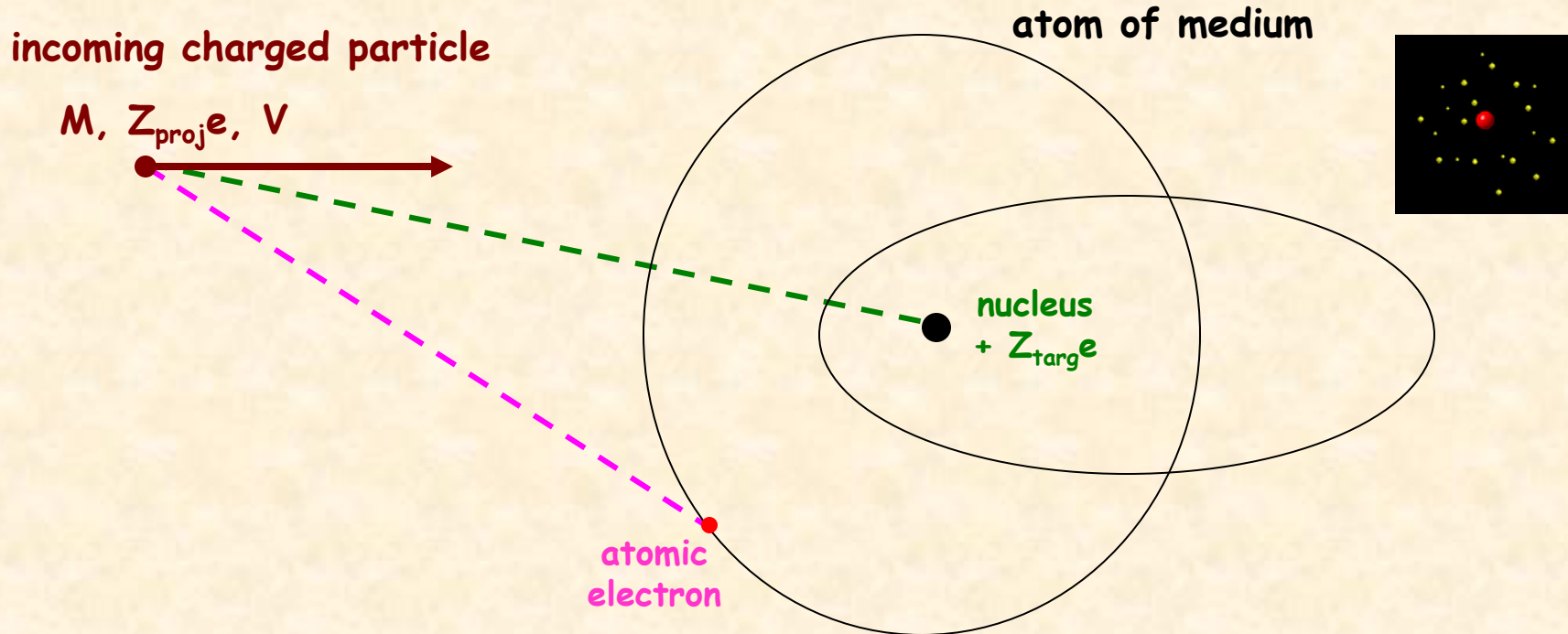
For ions of concern in space radiation effects, it increases with decreasing energy (it also increases at high energies, beyond the *minimum ionizing energy*).

LET allows different ions to be considered together by simply representing the ion environment as the summation of the fluxes of all ions as functions of their LETs. This simplifies Single Event Effects calculations.

The total rate of energy loss of a particle, which also includes non-ionizing energy loss and emitted secondary radiation, is the *stopping power*.

# A charged particle travelling thru a medium

Coulomb interaction with **atomic electrons** or with the **nucleus**:



Ratio of effective areas  
(cross-sections)  
gives relative probability  
of interactions to occur.

the radius of nucleus  $R_{\text{nucleus}} \sim 10^{-14} \text{ m}$

the radius of atom  $R_{\text{atom}} \sim 10^{-10} \text{ m}$

$$\frac{\text{number of interactions with electrons}}{\text{number of interactions with nuclei}} = \frac{R_{\text{atom}}^2}{R_{\text{nucleus}}^2} \approx 10^8$$

Conclusion: regards **energy transfers**, coulomb collisions with electrons are much more important than with nuclei (except when very SLOW at end of range!)



## ionisation

# Action of coulomb force, over a period of time (transit time)

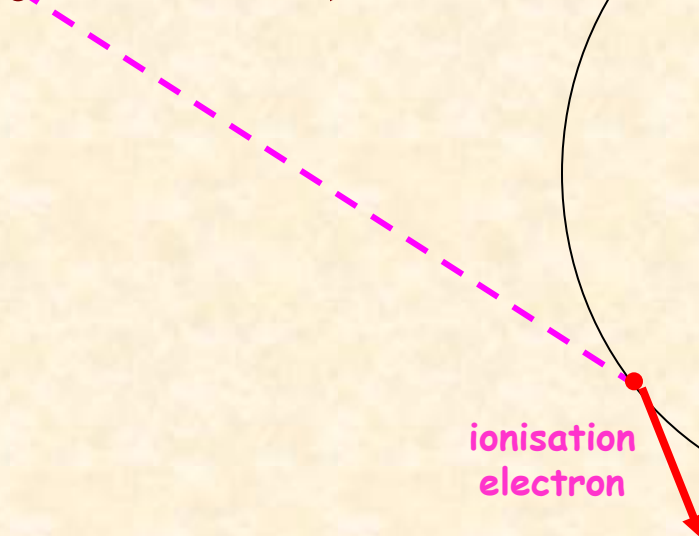
transfer of momentum and energy to the bound electron  
might result in ionisation or excitation (inelastic collisions).  
(in elastic collisions particle loses energy to conserve momentum and KE)

**IONISATION:**  $KE_{\text{electron}} = \text{energy given by particle} - \text{ionisation potential}$   
The freed electron will also interact; i.e. it will ionise and excite, lose KE and stop.  
Fast secondary electrons are called *delta-rays*.

**EXCITATION:** ... X-rays by de-excitation,...

incoming charged particle

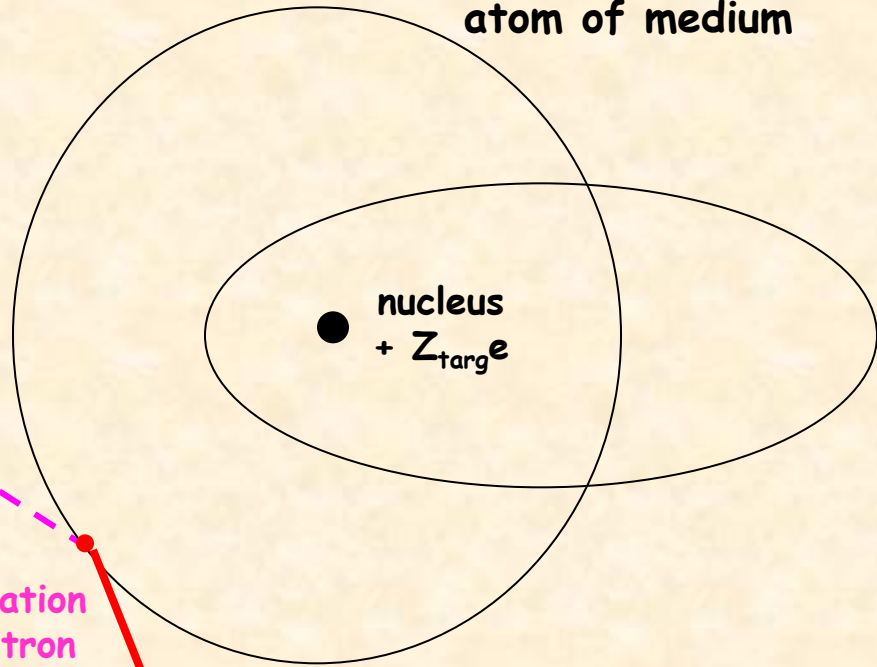
$M, Z_{\text{proj}}e, V$



ionisation  
electron

atom of medium

nucleus  
+  $Z_{\text{targ}}e$

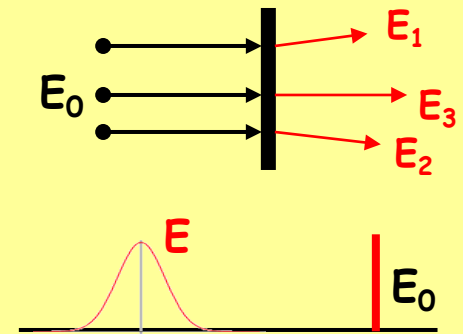


**HEAVY** charged particles (muon, p,  $\alpha$ , ions,...)

Moving thru medium they exert **coulomb forces** on **many atoms simultaneously**

- **each atom of medium has many electrons;**
- **the atomic electrons have different depths inside atom hence different excitation and ionisation potentials;**
- **each interaction and associated energy transfer has own probability of occurrence**

mean free path  $\lambda \sim 1 \text{ \AA} \Rightarrow$  NO particle get thru a macroscopic slab without interacting and losing some energy!



**Note:** it is senseless/impossible to calculate energy loss by studying individual interactions

$\Rightarrow$  **Must calculate mean residual energy of incident particle per unit distance travelled.**

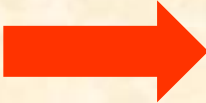
$$E = E_0 - \sum_i \Delta E_i = E_0 - \sum_i \left( \frac{\Delta E}{\Delta x} \right)_i \Delta x_i = E_0 - \int \left( \frac{dE}{dx} \right) dx$$

**HEAVY** charged particles (muon, p,  $\alpha$ , ions,...)

Will lose small amounts of energy per coulomb collision:

- are hardly deflected by atomic electrons
- do get slightly deflected by interactions with nuclei (multiple scattering)
- important deflections are very rare rutherford-like hard interactions

 the overall trajectory is almost a straight line!!!

  $range = \int \left[ \frac{dE}{dx} \right]_{total}^{-1} dE$

thickness of medium  
for which kinetic energy of  
incident particle is spent  
**WELL DEFINED**

TOTAL stopping power  $dE/dx$

$$dE/dx = dE/dx_{ionization} + dE/dx_{nuclear\ coulomb}$$

NOTE: both change along track as particle slows down till the ion is so slow as to be "harmless"

ionisation

MeV protons in air

1 cm





## WARNING

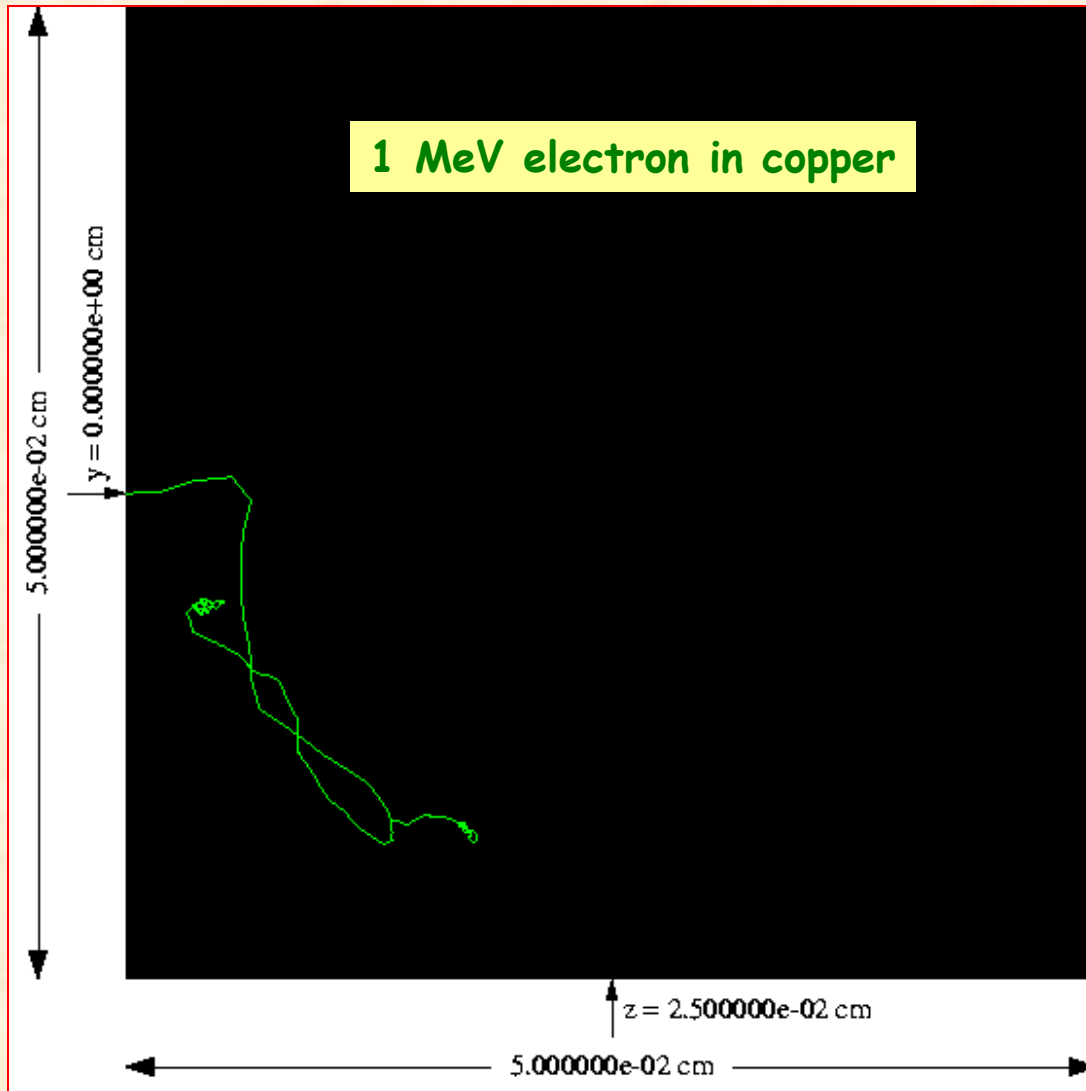
an electron (positron) projectile will behave  
quite differently:

- an incident electron may collide with an atomic electron and lose ALL its energy in a single collision (billiard ball effect)!
- IN GENERAL: incident electrons and positrons may lose a large fraction of their kinetic energy in any one collision
- are easily scattered to large angles hence their trajectories are VERY ZIG-ZAG

electron

# EGS to order

<http://www.slac.stanford.edu/~rfc/egs/basicsimtool.html>

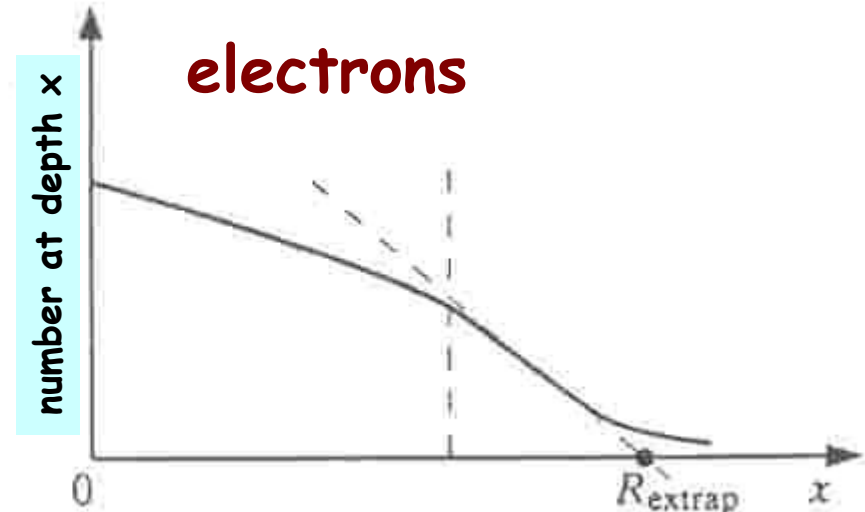
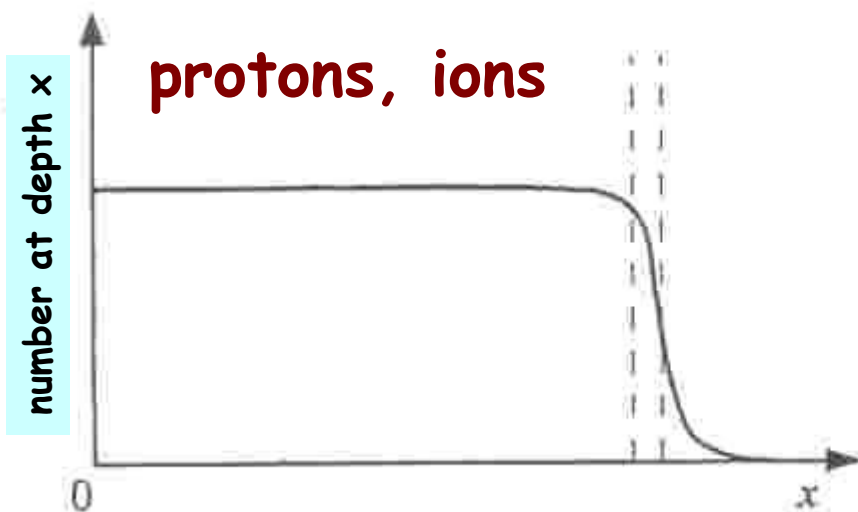
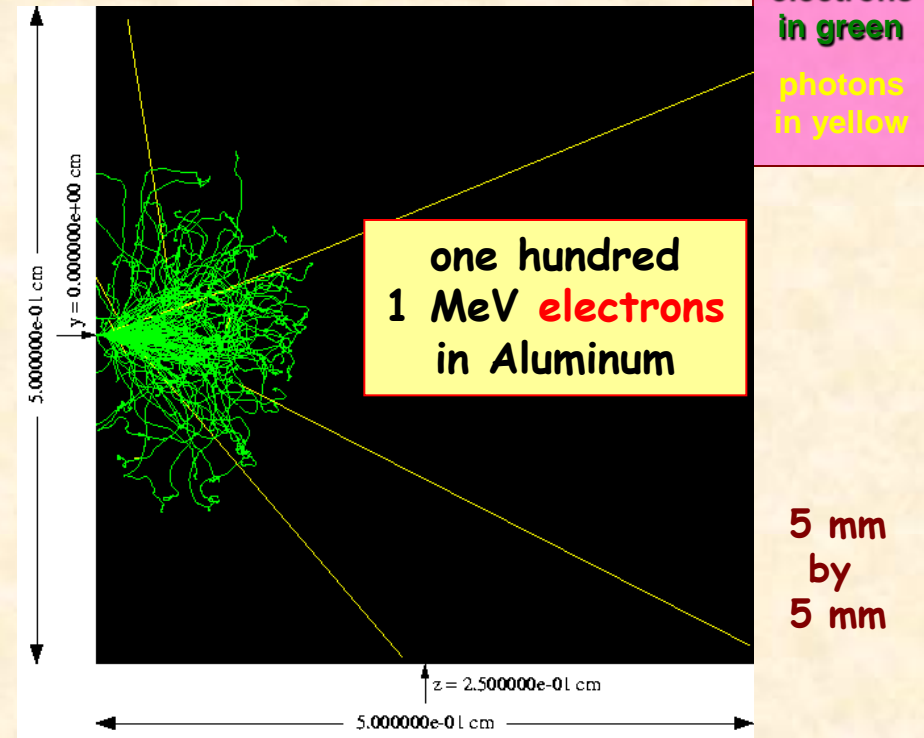
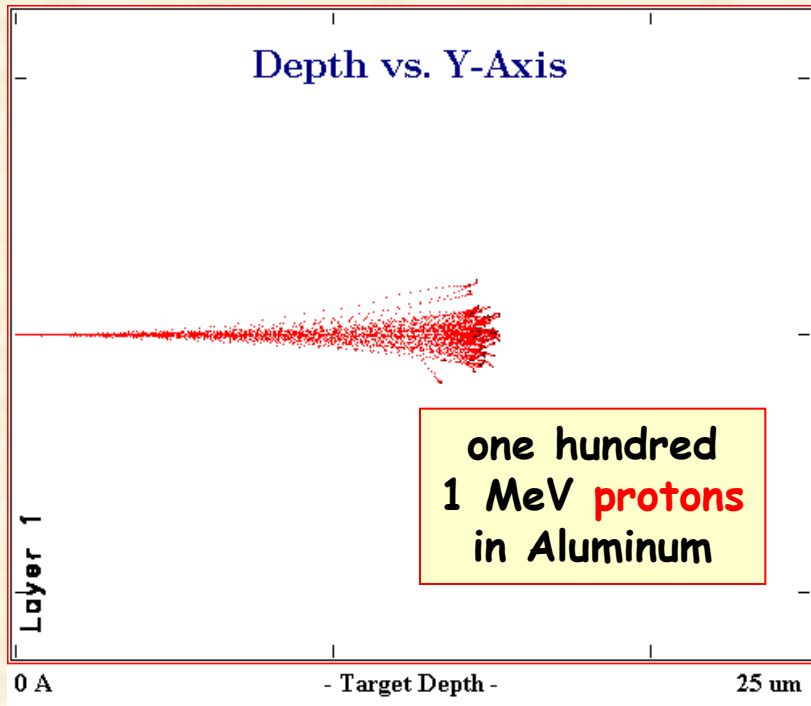


*path very  
zig-zag!*

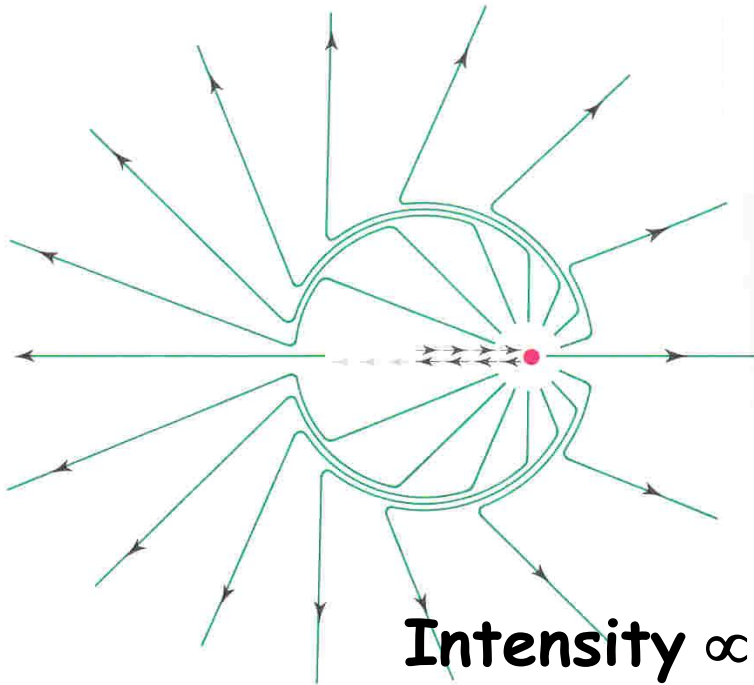
0.5 mm  
by  
0.5 mm

Range

# range not well defined for electrons



# An accelerated charge will radiate!



**Intensity**  $\propto a^2$

classical EM theory

Intensity  $\propto a^2$

Newton  $\Rightarrow a = F/m$

$$\text{Intensity} \propto a^2 \sim \left\{ \frac{Z_{\text{proj}} Z_{\text{targ}} e^2}{M_{\text{proj}}} \right\}^2 \sim \frac{Z_{\text{proj}}^2 Z_{\text{targ}}^2}{M_{\text{proj}}^2}$$

Non-relativistic

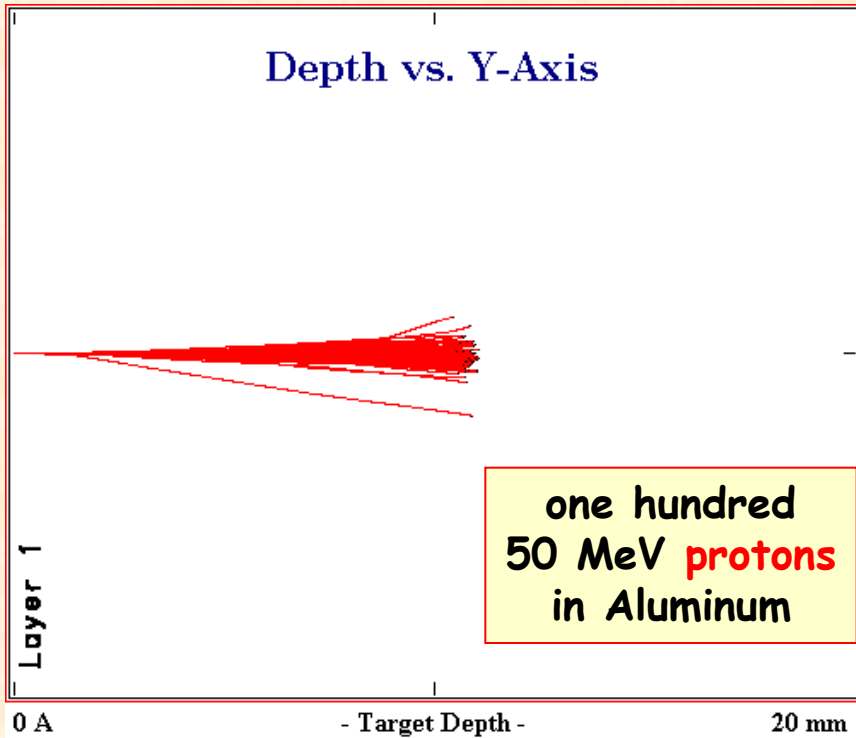
# especially electrons!

irradiation

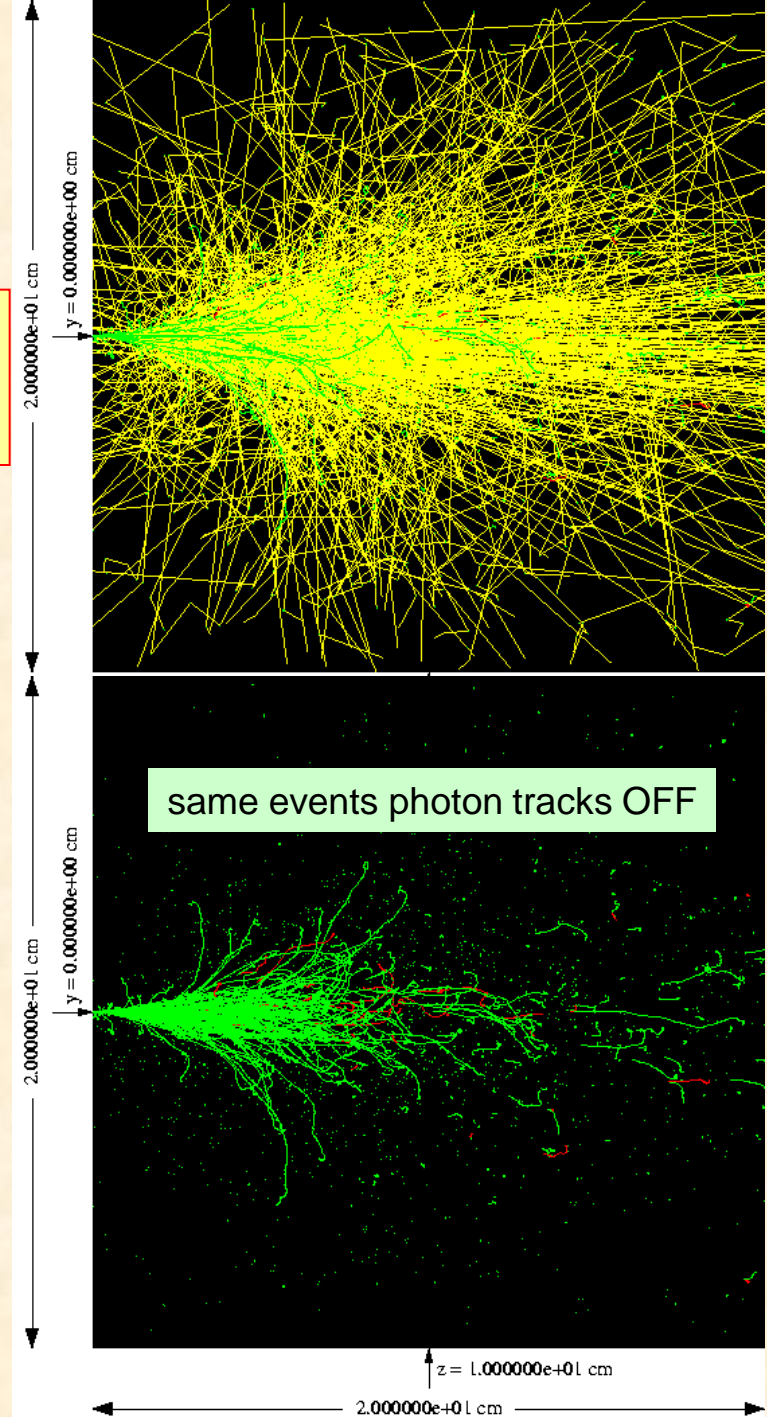
**Energetic electrons  
lose energy  
also by emitting photons**

one hundred  
50 MeV **electrons**  
in Aluminum

Depth vs. Y-Axis



one hundred  
50 MeV **protons**  
in Aluminum





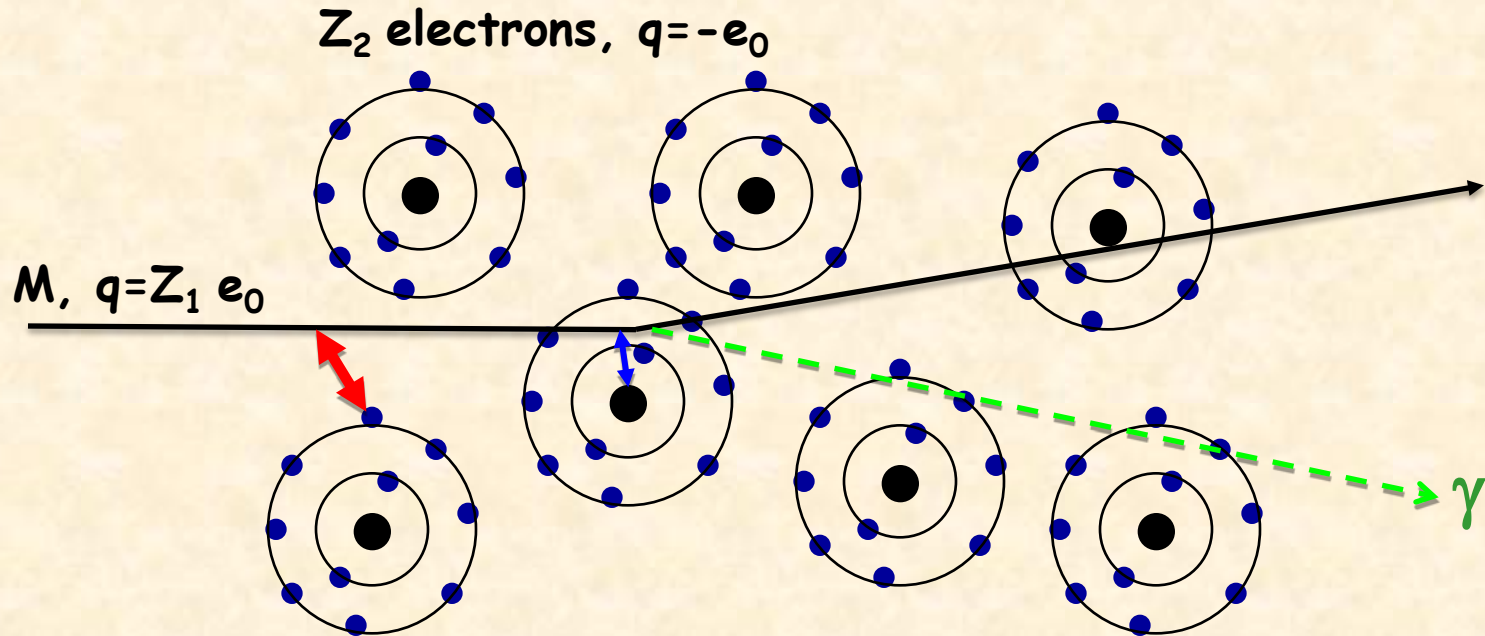
# Bremsstrahlung:

High-energy electromagnetic radiation in the X and *gamma* energy range that is emitted by charged particles as they slow down when they scatter off atomic nuclei.

Although the primary particle might ultimately be absorbed, the *bremsstrahlung* radiation can be highly penetrating.

The most common source of bremsstrahlung is electron scattering.

# Electromagnetic Interaction (coulombic) of Particles with Matter



**Heavy** charged particle:  
 Many interactions with the atomic electrons. The incoming "continuously" particle loses energy and the atoms are excited or ionized.

Interaction with the atomic nucleus. The particle is significantly deflected by numerous soft scatterings (multiple scattering) or and occasional rare single hard Rutherford scatterings.

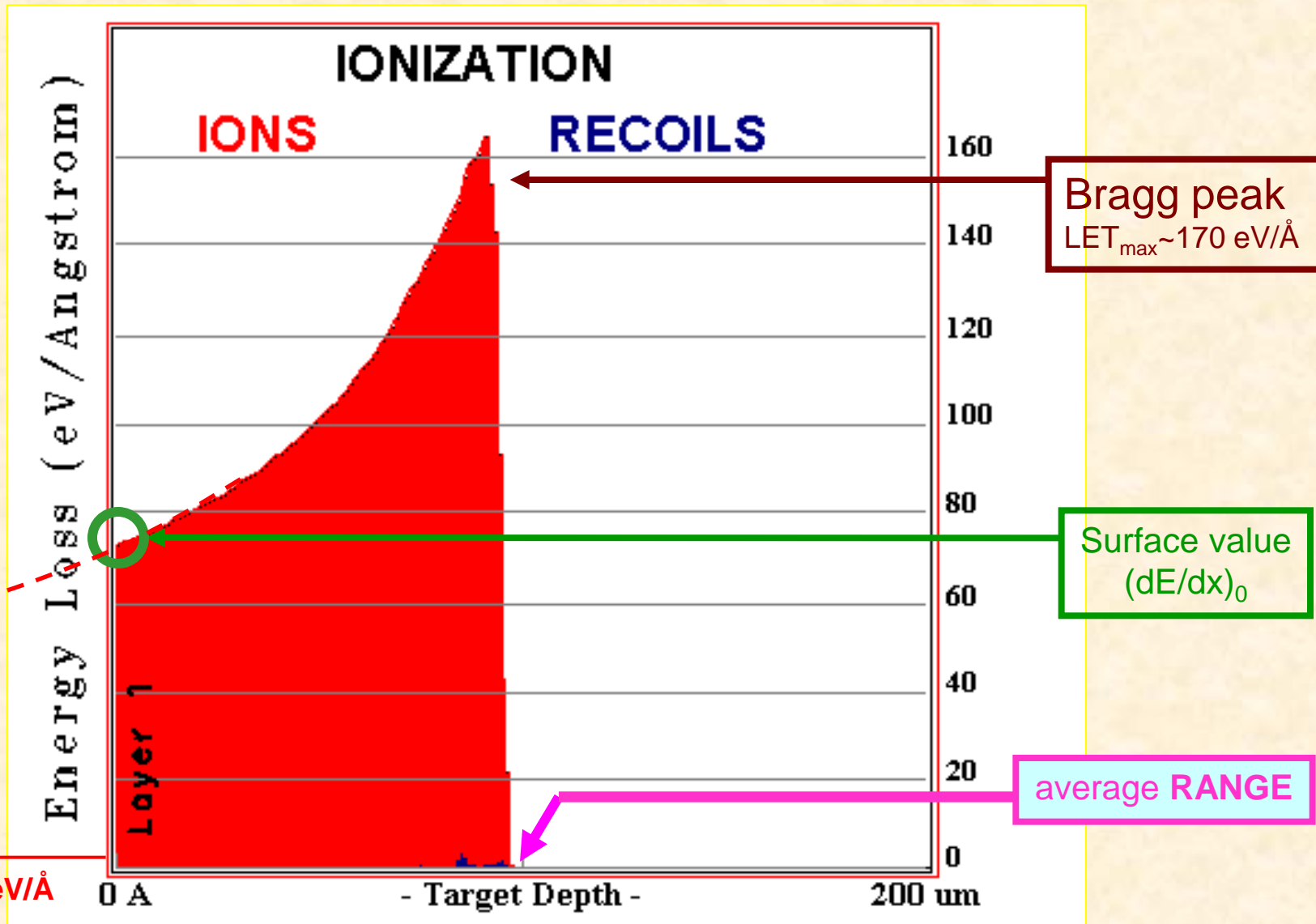
If the incident particle is an electron then the electron can lose a lot of energy in just one collision with an atomic electron or by emitting Bremsstrahlung photons.

# Heavy particles (not electrons) ... especially ions

- LET versus depth
- Surface LET
- Bragg peak
- Range
- Bethe-Bloch electronic stopping power for heavy ions
- stripping, effective charge

ionisation

# $(dE/dx)_{\text{ionization}}$ vs depth of material



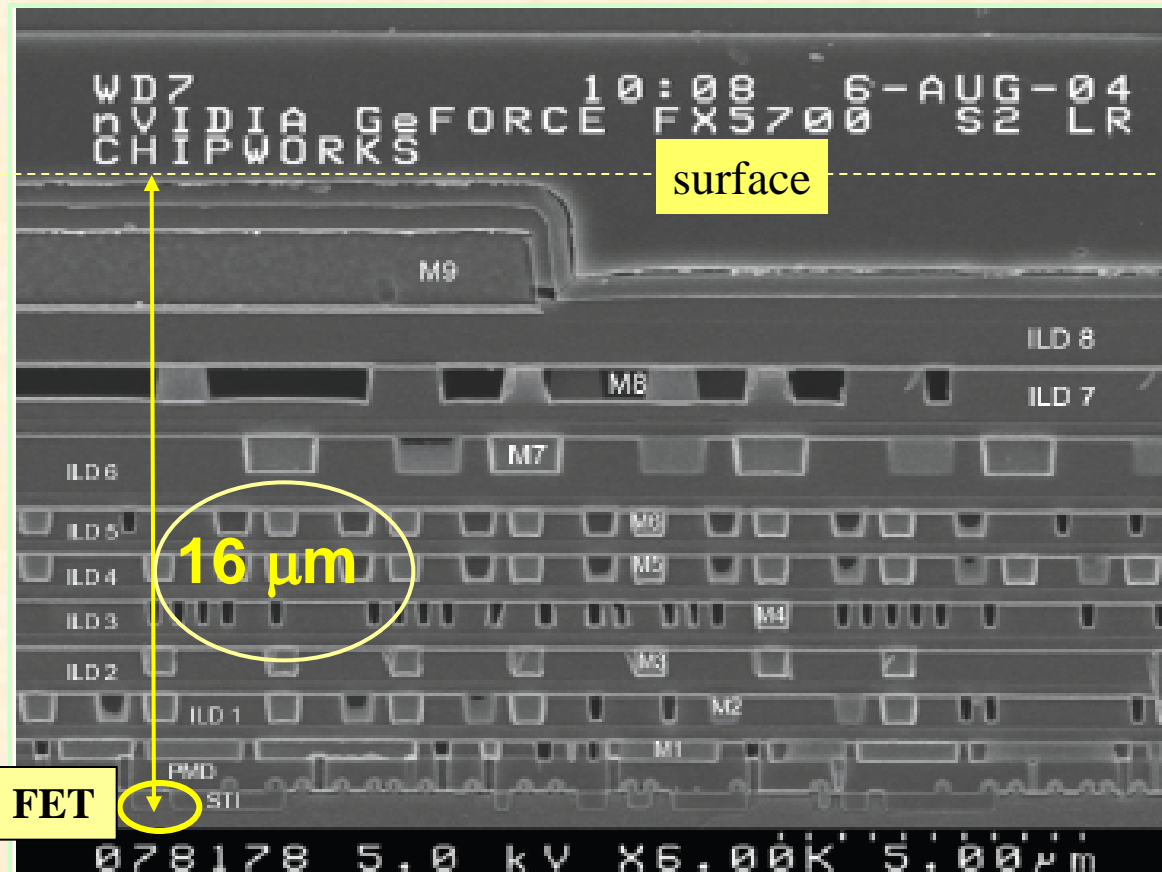
SRIM simulation (<http://www.srim.org>).

Dead superficial layers are an experimental problem for some types of devices.

- Ions must have sufficient energy to penetrate overlayers
- need to evaluate LET at the correct depth

section of a chip  
(courtesy Doyle)

Sensitive volume  
is down here!





## Bethe-Bloch ... for heavy ions

$$\beta = v/c$$

$$\left(\frac{dE}{dx}\right)_{ele} = \left(\frac{Z_{eff}^2}{V^2}\right)_{particle} \times \left(\frac{z\rho}{A}\right)_{material} \times \left\{ \ln\left(\frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{I}\right) - \ln(1 - \beta^2) - \beta^2 - \delta \right\}$$

$I$  = mean excitation potential of target material; for Silicon  $I \approx 170$  eV

- for velocity of ion  $V \gg v_{Bethe} = v_0 Z^{2/3}$  where  $v_0 = c/137 = v_{Bohr}$   
ion completely stripped of electrons, full nuclear charge,  $Z_{eff} \sim Z$

- for velocity of ion  $V \approx v_{Bethe}$  and slower  
ion retains/picks-up electrons and charge decreases(!) as ion slows

$$Z_{eff}(V) = \eta(V) \times Z$$

good to a few percent

$$\eta(V) = 1 - A \exp(-B V/v_{Bethe})$$

$$A = 1$$

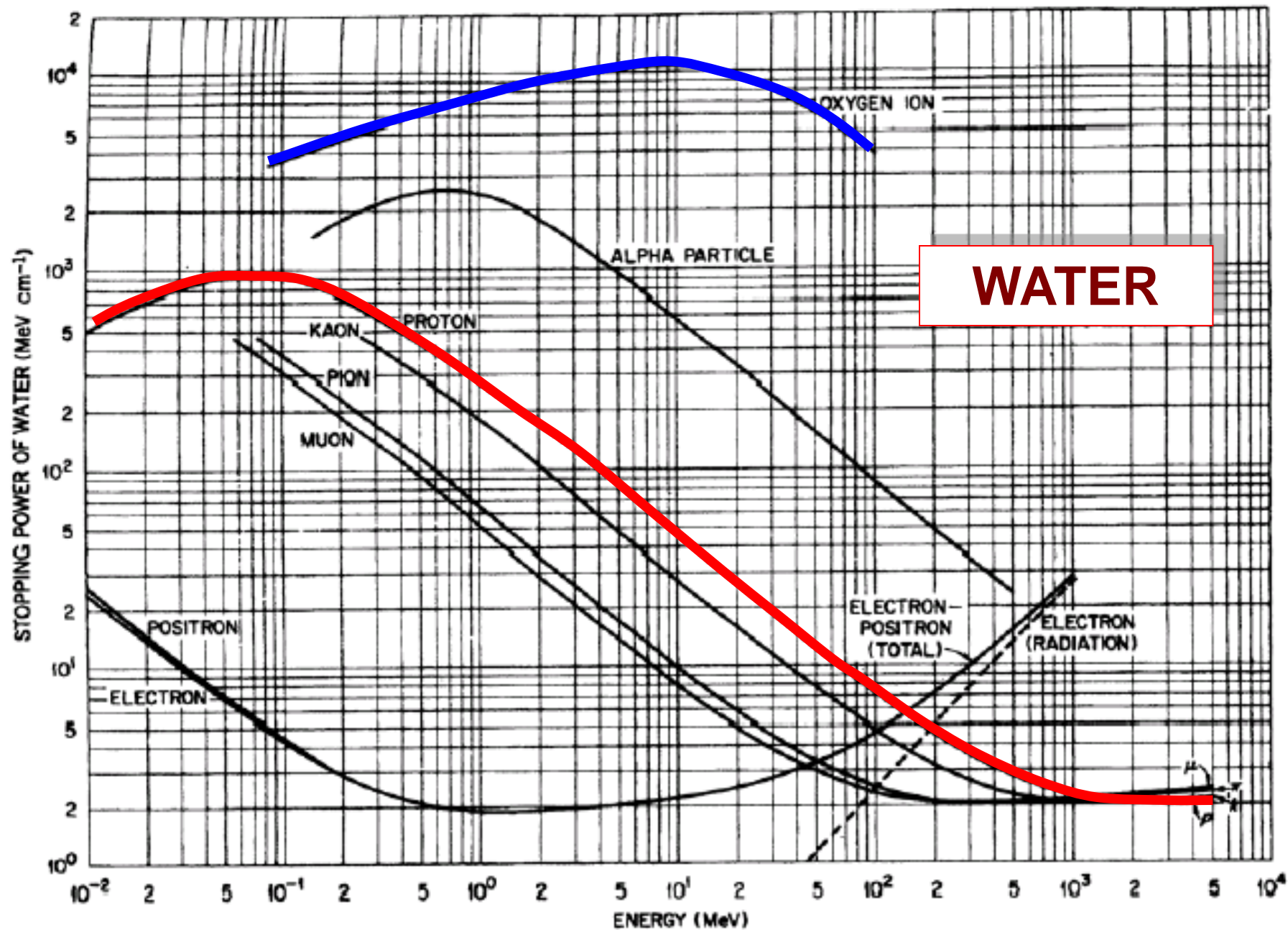
$$B = 0.95$$

$$\left(\frac{dE}{dx}\right)_{ele} \approx \rho \times Z^2 \times F(V) = \rho \times \frac{Z^2}{\beta^2} \times f(V) \quad \rightarrow$$

$$LET = \frac{(dE/dx)_{ele}}{\rho} \approx \frac{Z^2}{\beta^2} \times f(V)$$

$$\text{Silicon: } \rho = 2.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$$

# Ionizing stopping power $(dE/dx)_{ele}$ in MeV/cm

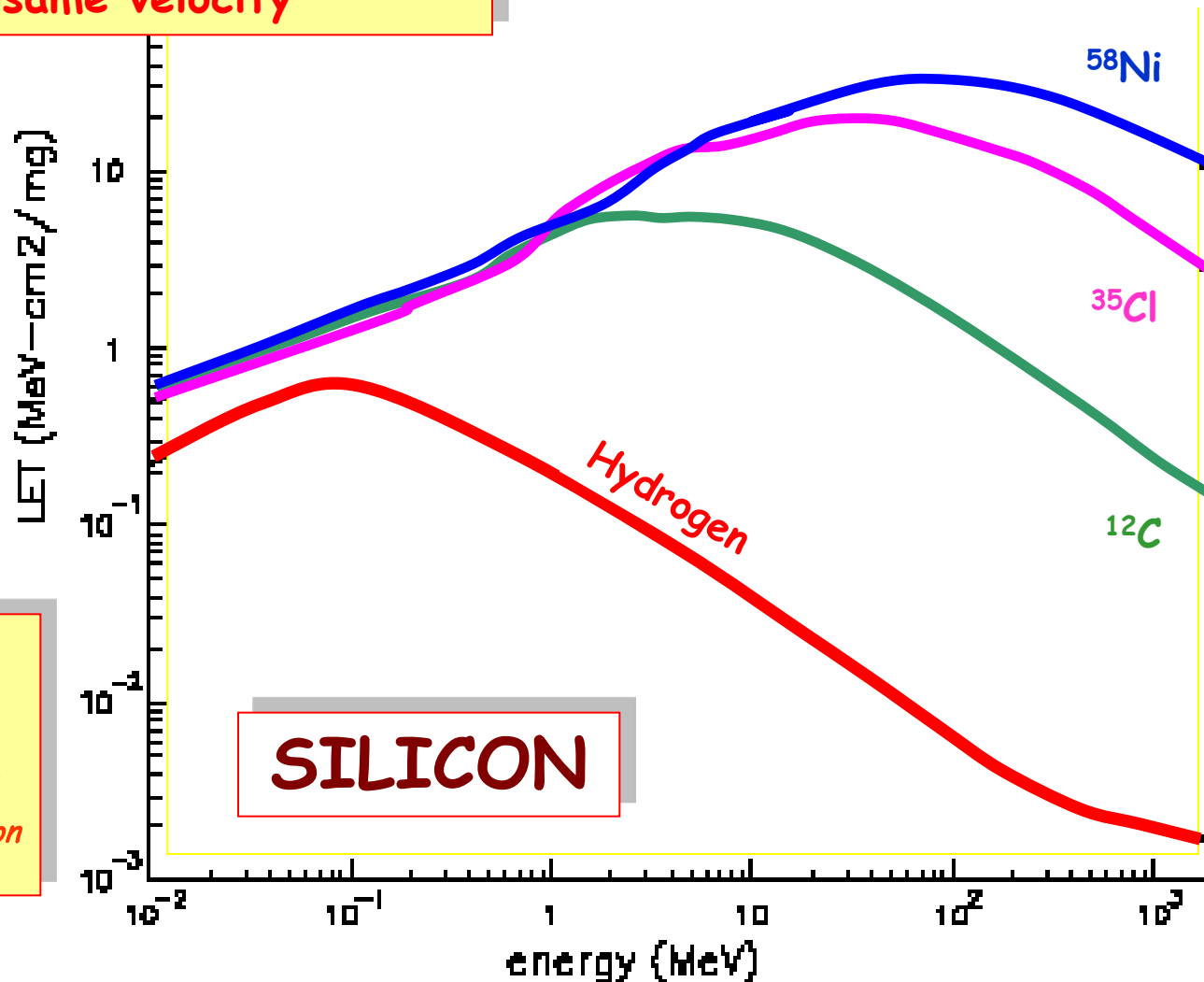


LET

$$\text{LET}(Z, V) = Z^2 \times \text{LET}(\text{proton}, V)$$

for same velocity

obtained from SRIM Tables  
SRIM simulation  
(<http://www.srim.org>)



**SILICON**

Non-Relativistic  
approx.

$$K = \frac{1}{2} Mv^2,$$

$$M_{\text{ion}} \approx A \times m_{\text{proton}}$$

$\Rightarrow$  ion has  
same  $V$  of a proton  
for  $K = A K_{\text{proton}}$

# LET

For **full stripping** (*naked nuclear charge  $Z$* ) can scale proton curve to any ion:

NOTE:

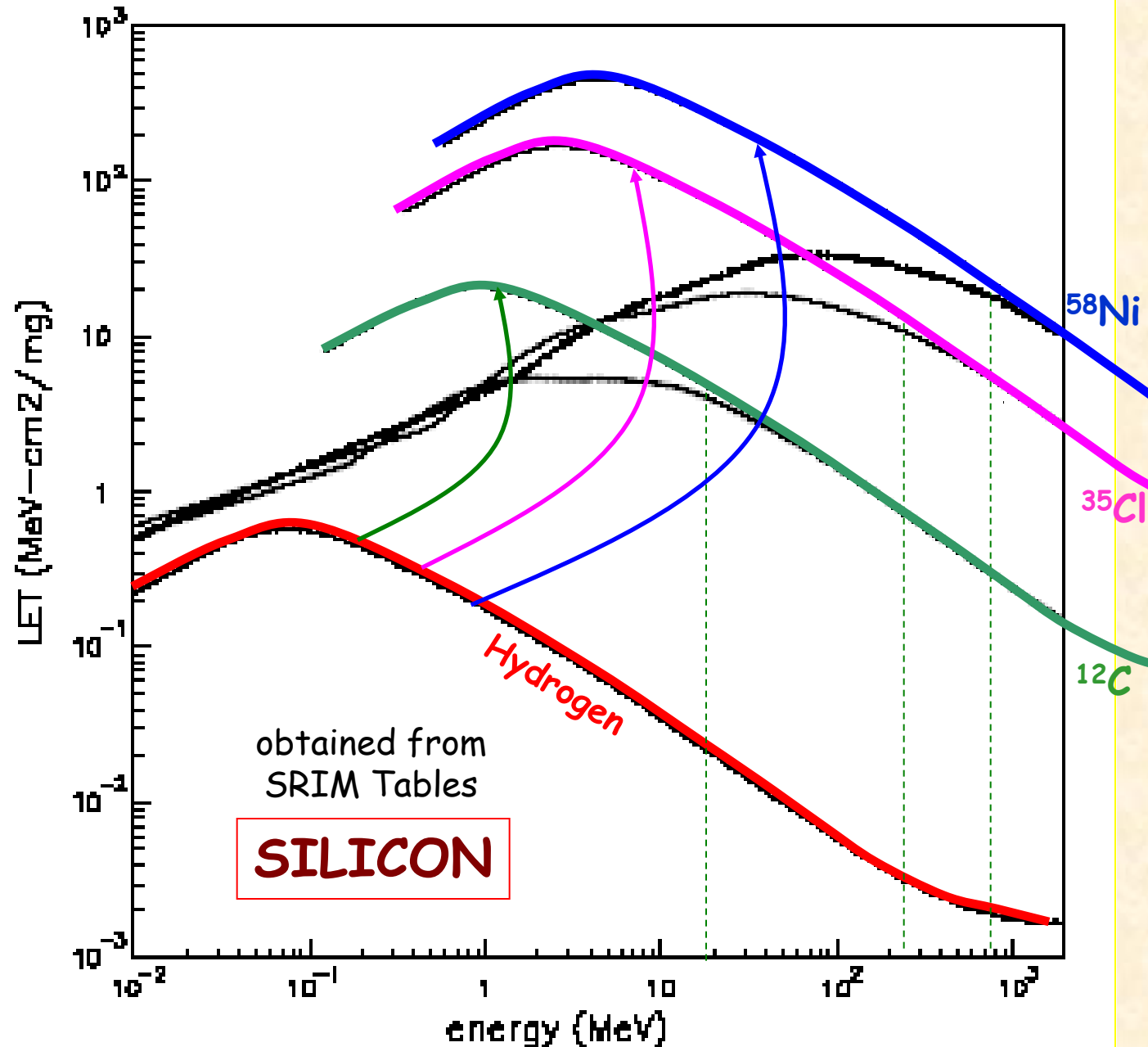
$$\text{for } V = v_0 Z^{2/3}$$

$Z_{\text{eff}} \approx 60\%$  of  $Z$ .

Dashed lines are

at kinetic energy  $E$  for

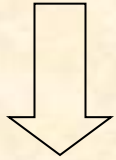
$Z_{\text{eff}} \approx 90\%$  of  $Z$ .



LET

For **full stripping** (*naked nuclear charge Z*) can scale proton curve to any ion:

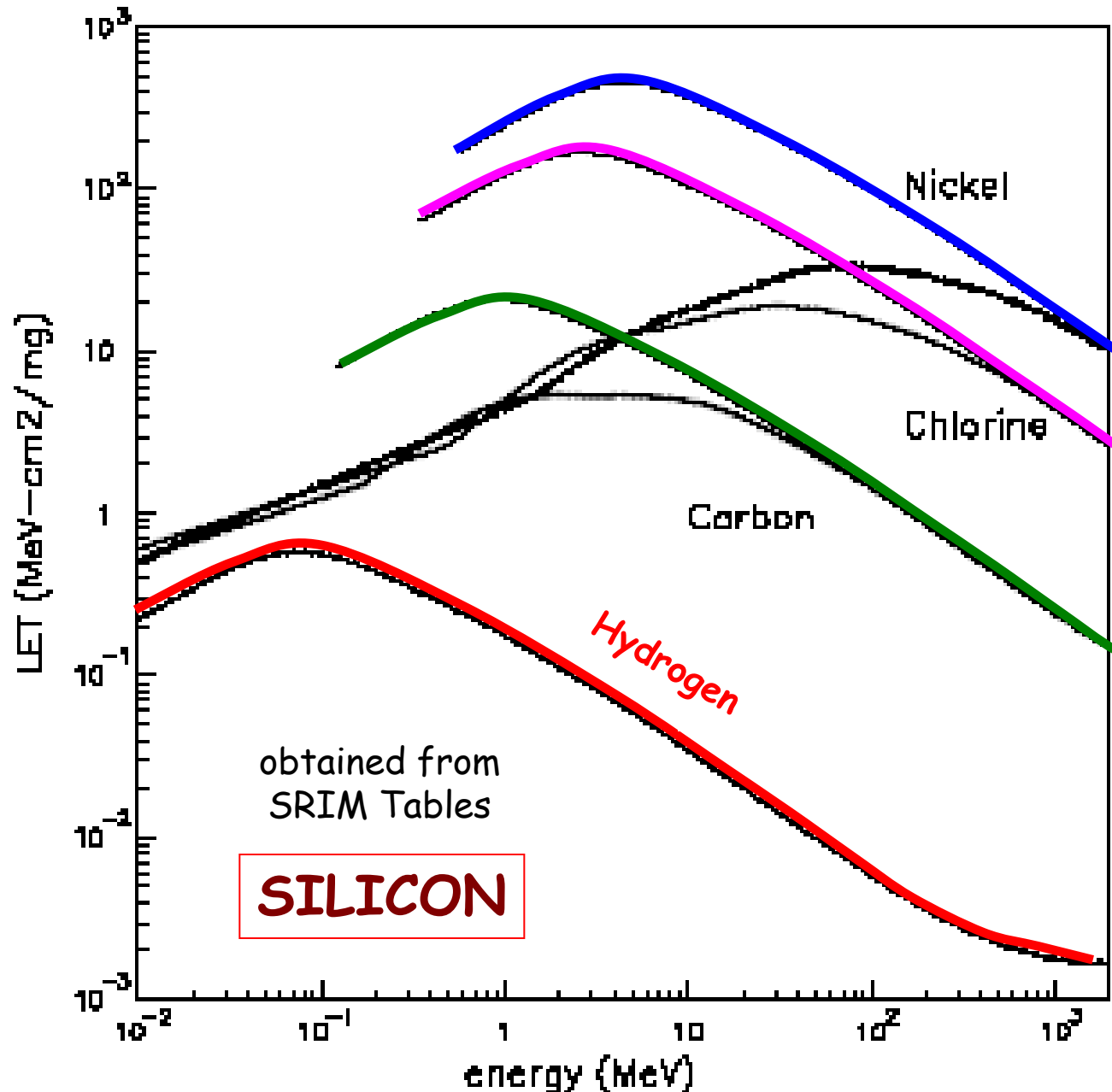
minimum of ionization  
obtained for  
 $\beta\gamma \approx 3$  (Relativistic!),  
i.e. for  
 $E_{\min} \approx 2 \text{ GeV/amu}$



$$\frac{\text{LET}_{\min}(Z)}{\text{LET}_{\min}(\text{proton})} = Z^2$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{LET}_{\min}(\text{proton}) &= \\ 1.665 \times 10^{-3} \text{ MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg} &= \\ &= 0.0386 \text{ eV/\AA}\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{LET}_{\min}(\text{Nickel}, Z=28) &= \\ 1.3 \text{ MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg}\end{aligned}$$



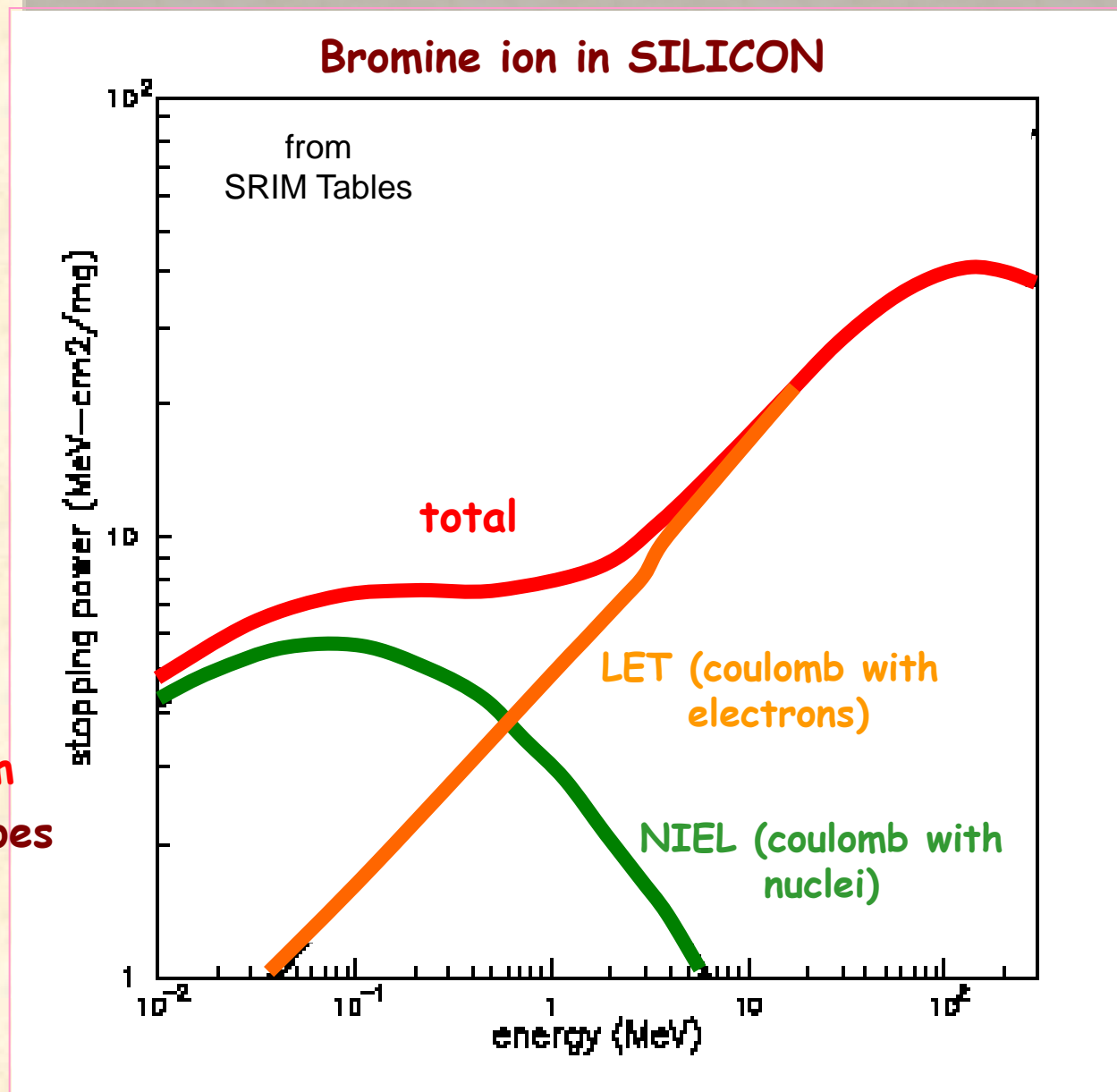


## Stopping power

total mass stopping power:  
 $(1/\rho) S = \text{LET} + \text{NIEL}_{\text{coulombic}}$

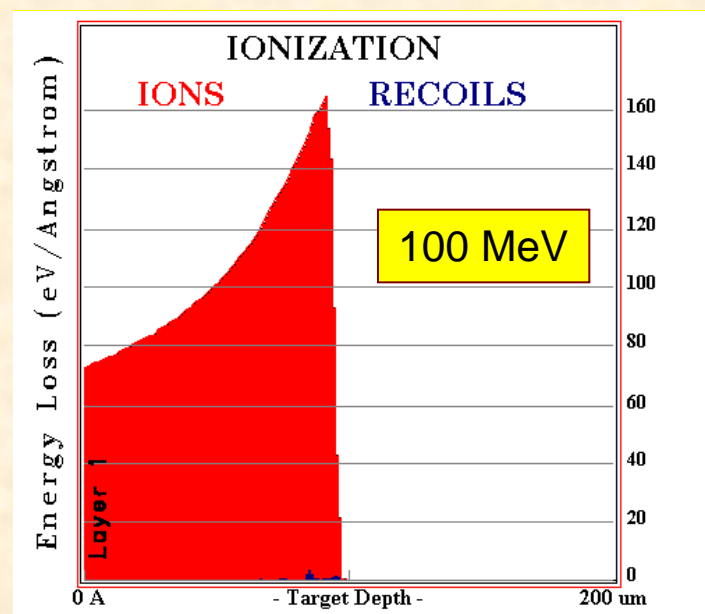
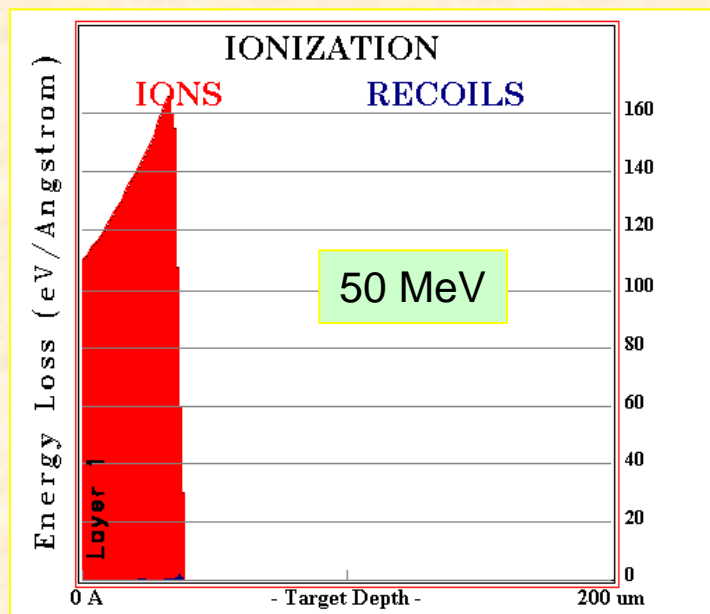
At low velocities ( $V < v_0 Z^{2/3}$ )  
the specific energy loss  
via elastic coulomb collisions  
with nuclei (non-ionizing)  
becomes important!

- LET goes thru a maximum
- nuclear stopping power goes through a maximum



range

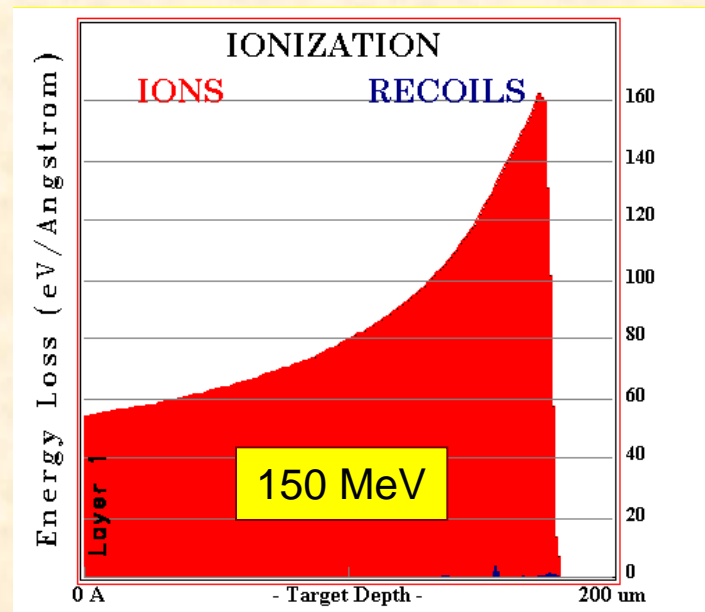
# 1 hundred O<sup>16</sup> in silicon (SRIM 2003)



surface value of  $(dE/dx)_{le}$  in silicon

energy (MeV)	range (microns)	$(dE/dx)_0$ (eV/Å)	$(dE/dx)_0$ (MeV-cm <sup>2</sup> /mg)
50	37.65	108.16	4.66
100	95.23	72.12	3.107
150	176.23	53.97	2.325

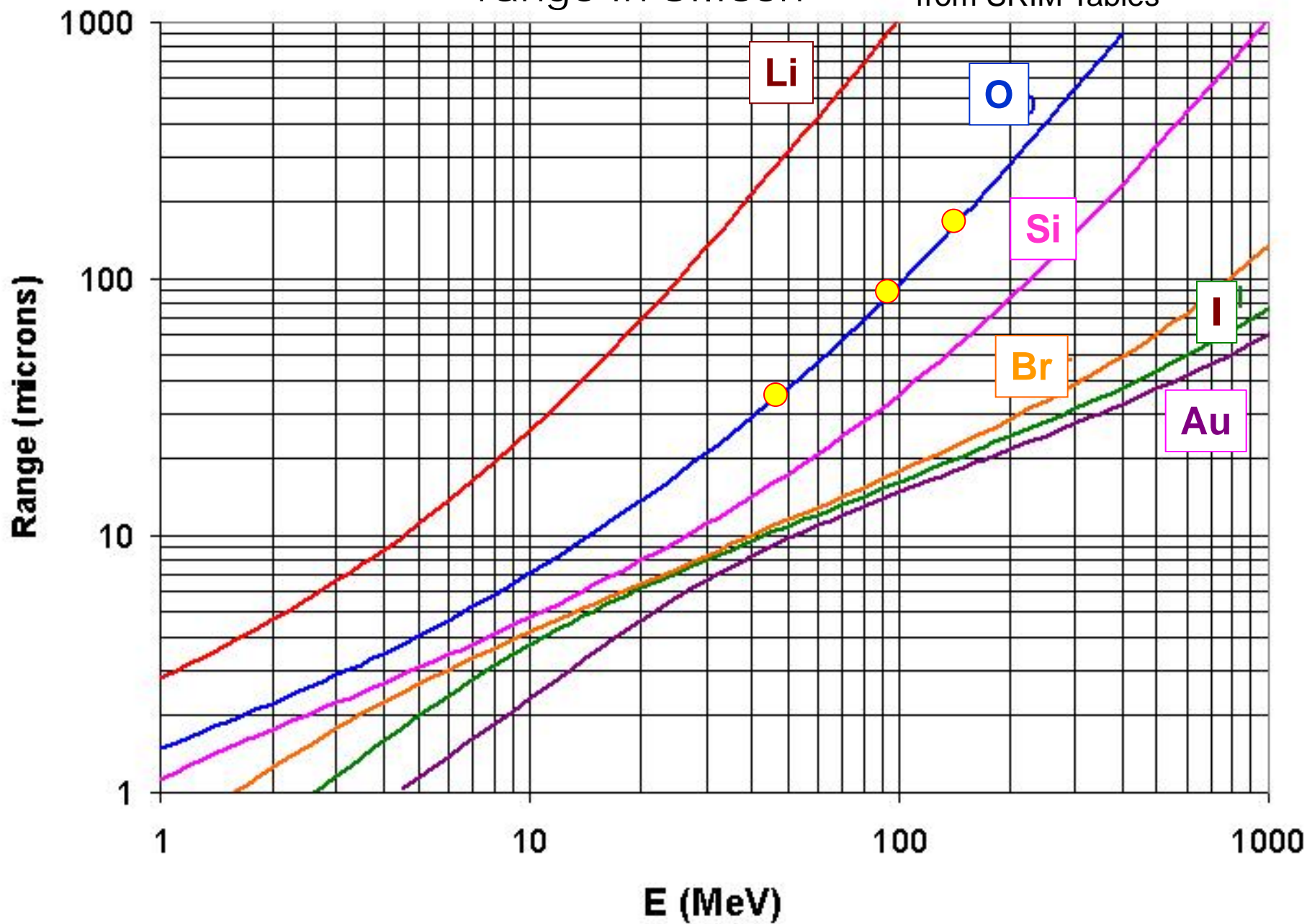
N.B.  $(dE/dx)_0$  decreases  
monotonically with E!



range

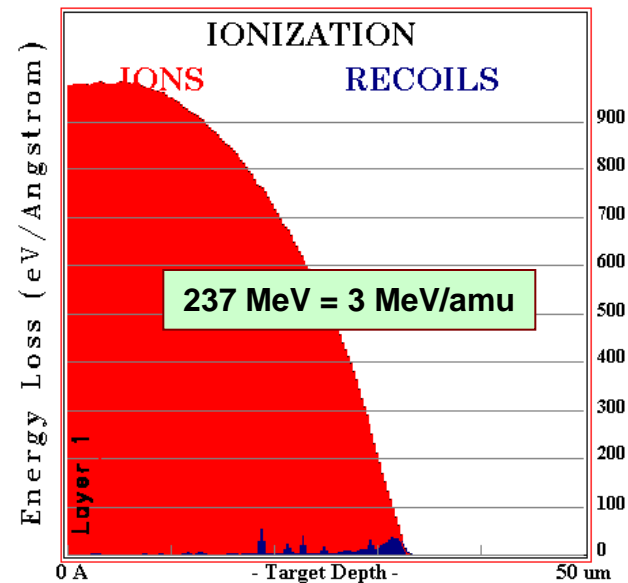
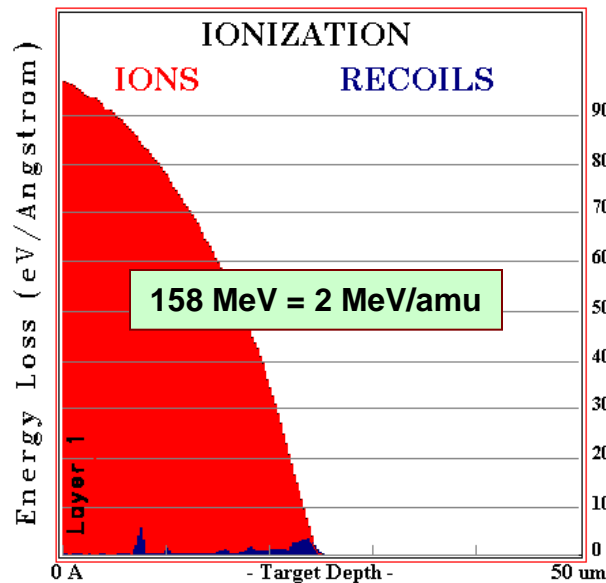
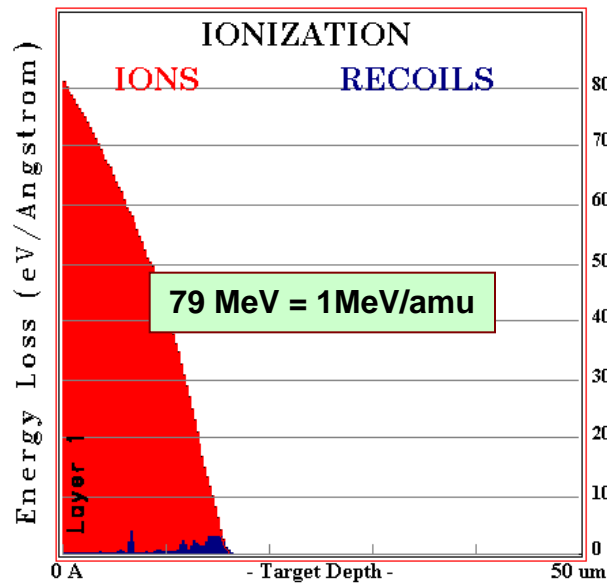
range in Silicon

from SRIM Tables



range

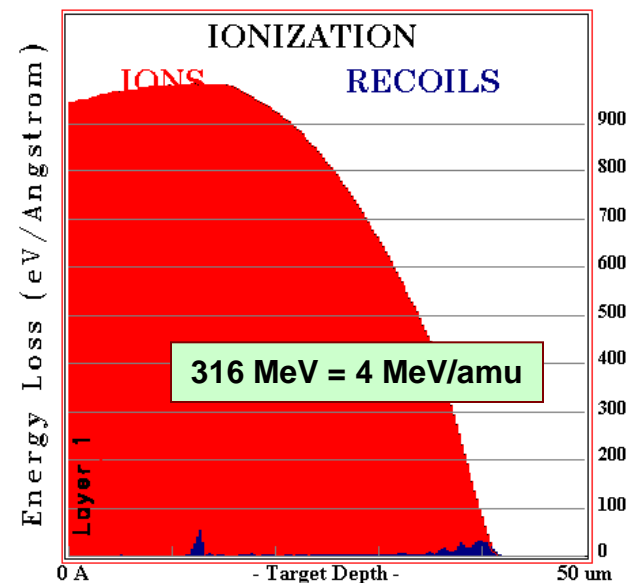
# 1 hundred Br<sup>79</sup> in silicon (SRIM 2003)



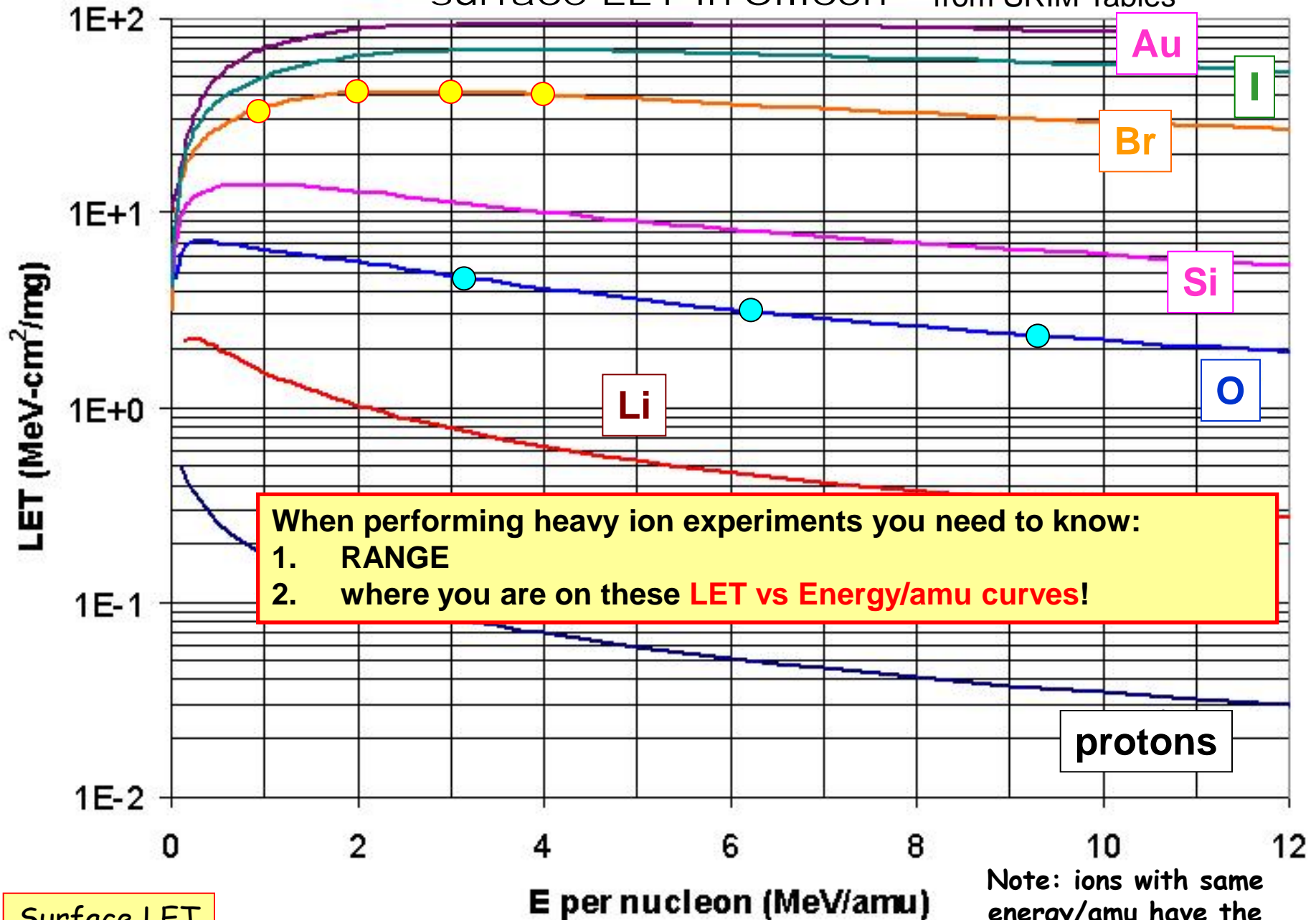
energy (MeV/amu)	LET(0) (eV/Å)	LET(0) (MeV-cm <sup>2</sup> /mg)
1	809	35.0
2	961	41.6
3	968	41.9
4	936	40.5

broad  
maximum

decrease!  
beyond maximum



# surface LET in Silicon from SRIM Tables



When performing heavy ion experiments you need to know:

1. RANGE
2. where you are on these **LET vs Energy/amu** curves!

Surface LET

Note: ions with same energy/amu have the same velocity



range

Depth vs. Y-Axis

$\vartheta = 0^\circ$  (normal)

Well defined Range !

1 hundred 100 MeV  $^{16}\text{O}$  ion in Silicon  
SRIM simulation  
(<http://www.srim.org>).

Layer 1

0 A - Target Depth - 200  $\mu\text{m}$

Depth vs. Y-Axis

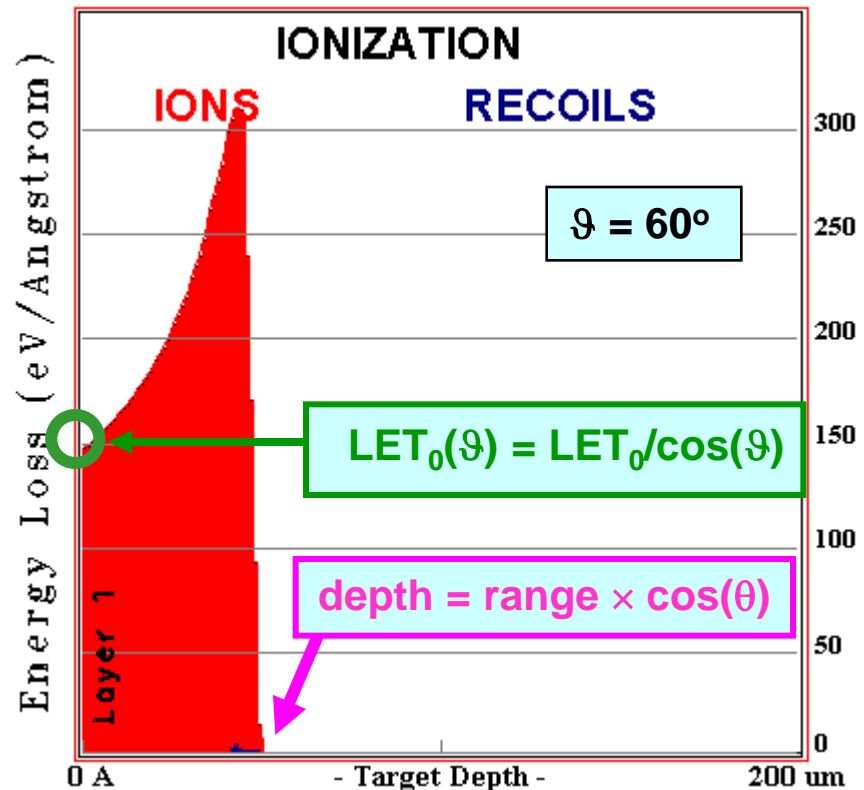
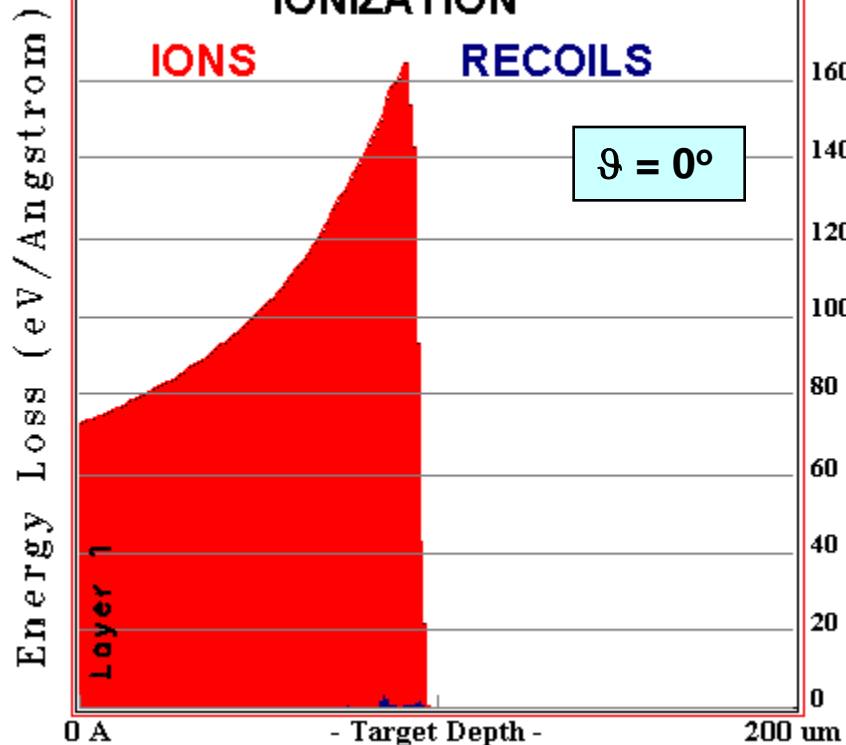
$\vartheta = 60^\circ$

$\vartheta$

Shallower depths  
are reached!

Layer 1

0 A - Target Depth - 200  $\mu\text{m}$



# Caution ionization

**Ionization energy loss** = energy deposited per unit path length due to ionization resulting from the coulomb interaction of the impinging particle with the electrons of the material.

**expression**

$$\Delta E_{\text{ioniz}}/\Delta x \rightarrow (dE/dx)_{\text{ionization}}$$

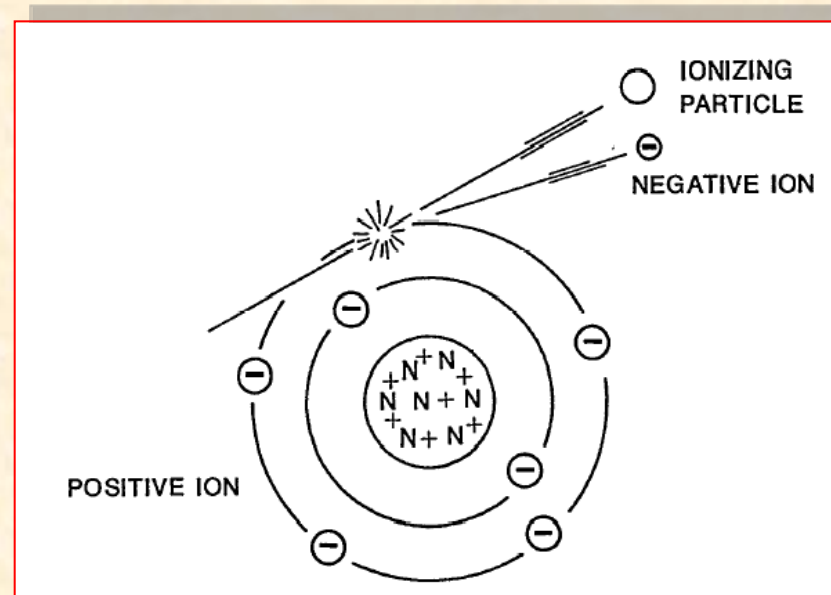
Measured in

**MeV/cm** (also **keV/μm**, **eV/Å**),

or dividing by density

( $\rho_{\text{Silicon}} = 2.33 \text{ g/cm}^3$ )

in **MeV-cm<sup>2</sup>/mg**



LET, FLUENCE and Total Ionising DOSE (TID) are interrelated

$$\text{TID(rad)} = 1.602 \times 10^{-5} \times \text{fluence(cm}^{-2}\text{)} \times \text{LET(MeV-cm}^2\text{/mg)}$$

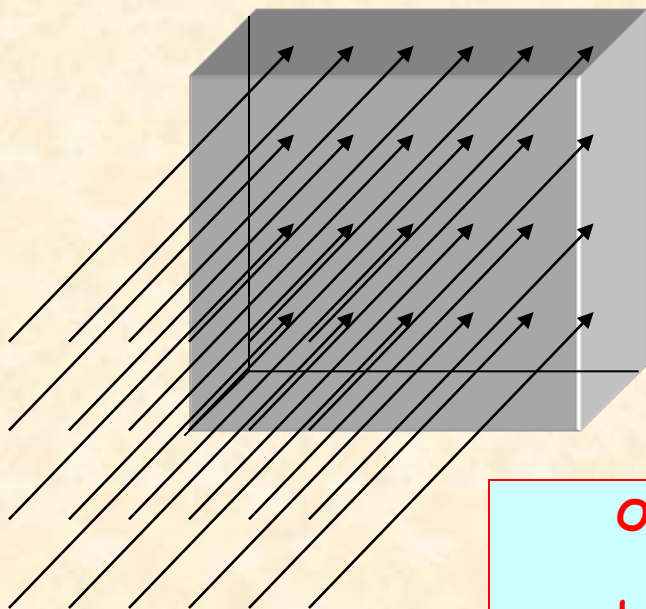
**HOWEVER... caution!**

microdose

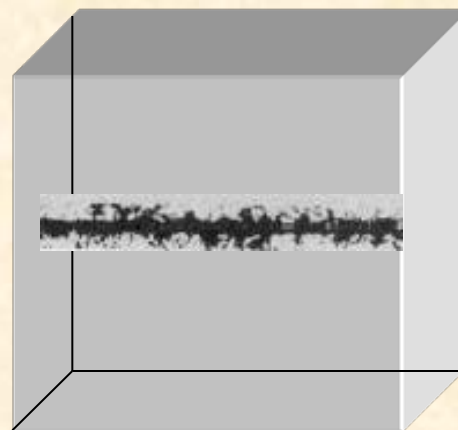
# DOSE: energy absorbed per unit mass

***WARNING: concept of DOSE does not define the spatial pattern of the energy absorption!***

X-rays and gamma radiation  
deposit energy in uniform pattern



Ions deposit ionisation energy  
in NON-uniform highly structured  
pattern



One unit of dose can be deposited by  
many photons (left)  
or by a single ionizing particle track (right)

Common radiobiological X-ray doses (100 rad = 1 Gray) produce  
a uniform pattern of ionisation in target (cell, tissue, patient).

**In the center of a SINGLE ION TRACK the local dose  
may be thousands of Gray but fall close to zero just a few microns away!**

dose

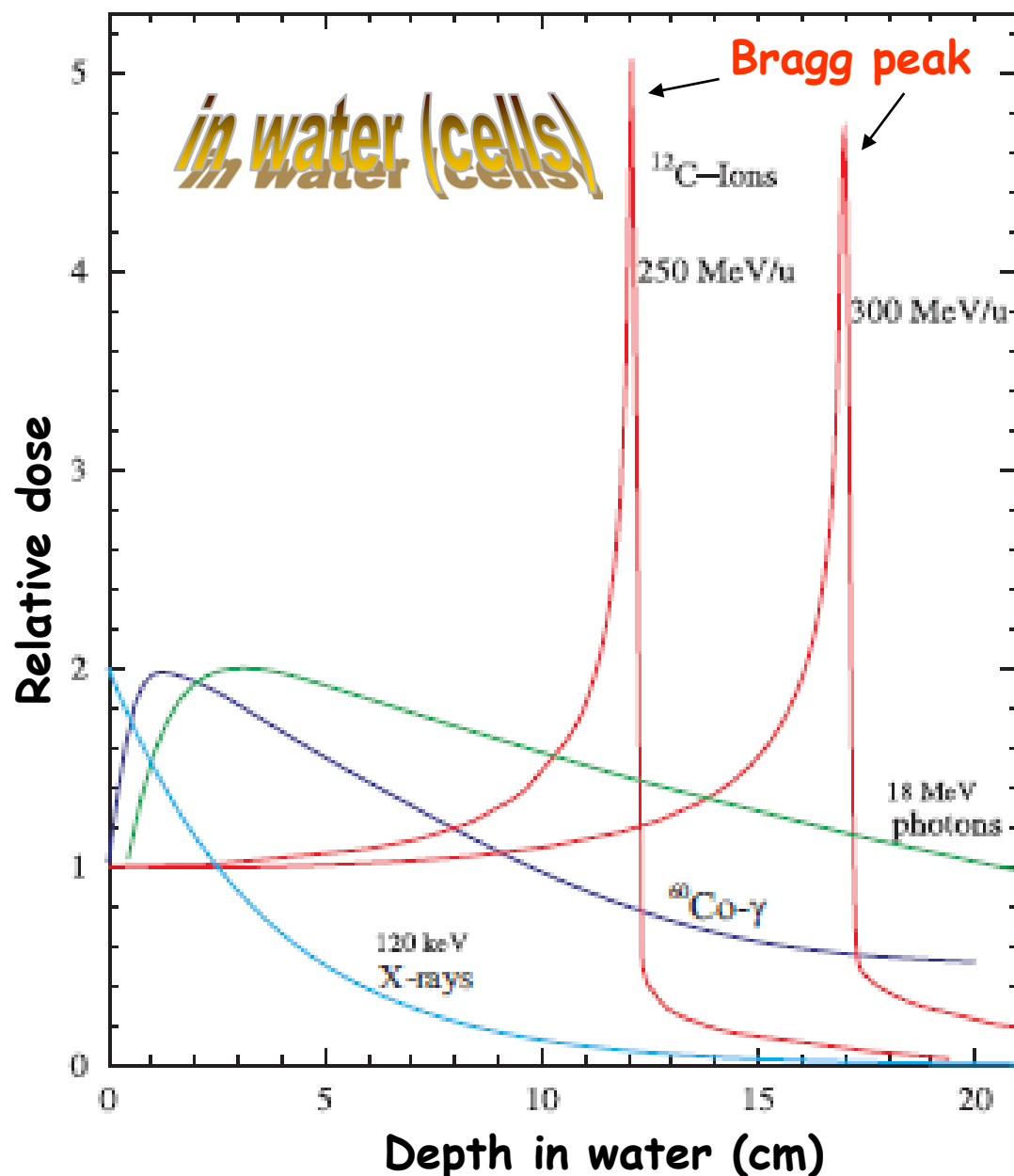
# Comparative Depth Dose profiles

Depth dose profiles of  
photons:

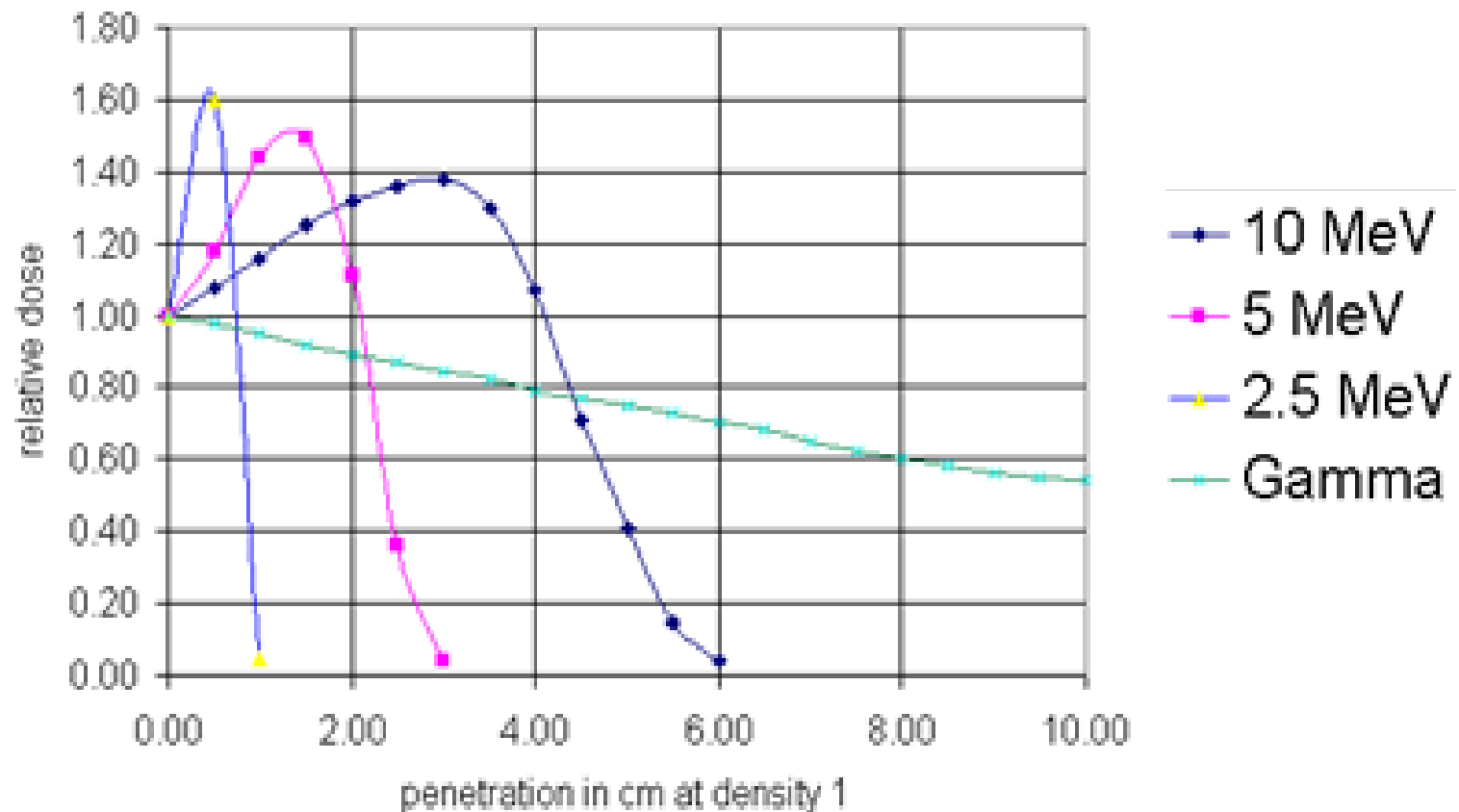
- X-rays (light blue);
- gamma from  $^{60}\text{Co}$  (blue);
- Bremsstrahlung from  
electron beam (green).

Depth dose profiles of  
carbon ion beams (red).

Note: ion dose  
peak in depth  
(Bragg peak)

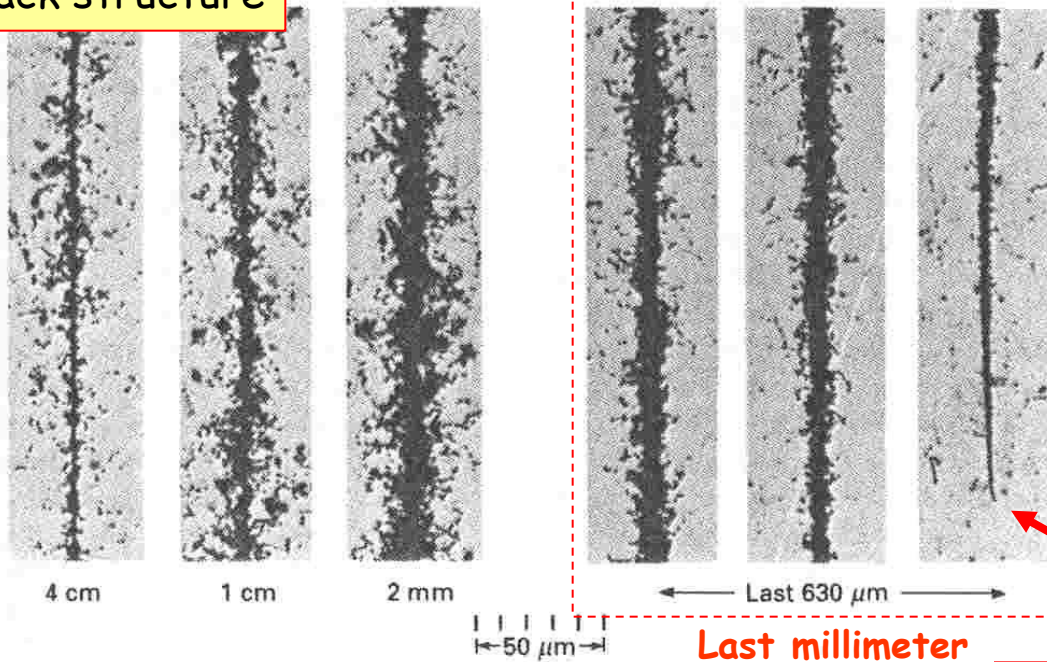


dose depth distribution  
**electrons** (typical low energy LINACs) and  
gamma ( $\text{CO}^{60}$ ) in water

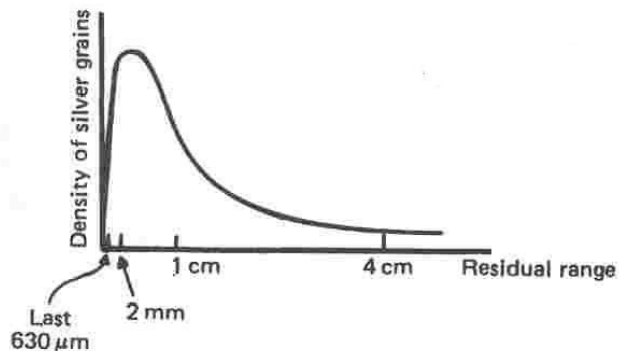




## track structure



Nuclear emulsion tracks of a single cosmic Fe nucleus at various stages in its deceleration from relativistic velocities to REST. The distances are the residual ranges at which the ion track is observed.



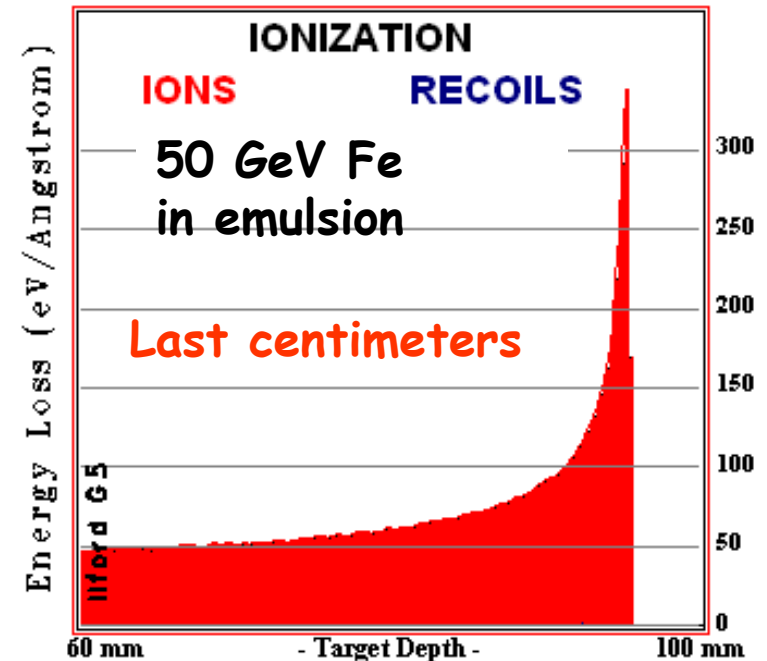
M. M. Shapiro, R. Silberberg  
(1970). *Ann. Rev. Nucl. Sci.*, **20**, 328

## cosmic IRON nucleus

As ion slows  
the **spatial extent**  
of ionisation decreases (not enough  
energy to extract energetic deltas).

The height of ionisation decreases as  
effective charge  $Z_{\text{eff}}$  of ion decreases.

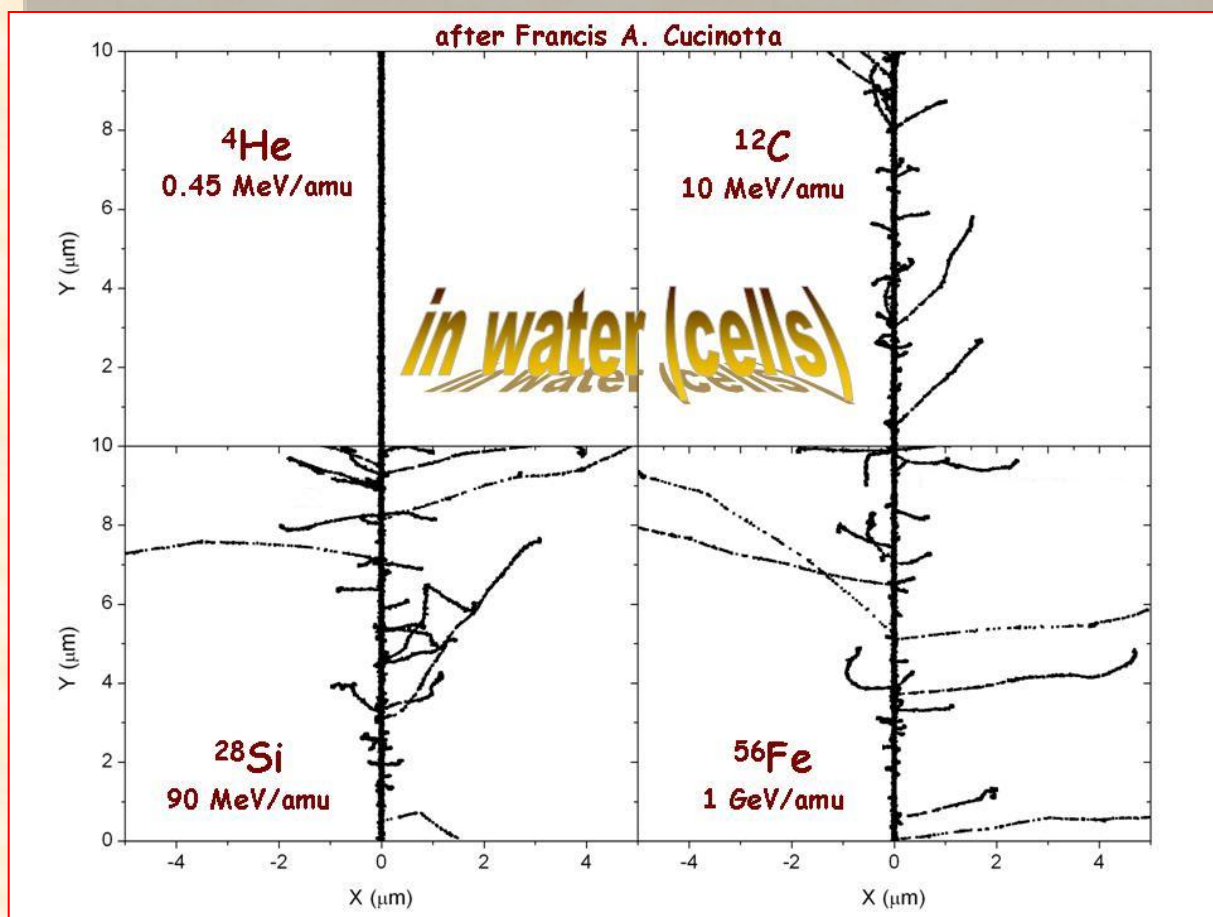
**Ion stopped!**



# Track Structure

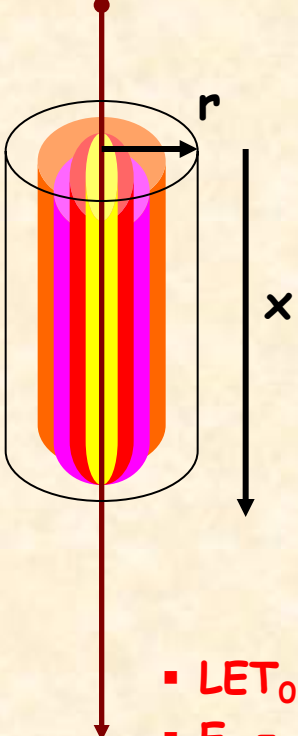
N.B. All four nuclei have about the same LET ( $\sim 150$  keV/micron)

- **NOTE: LET does not adequately describe energy deposition at small scales**
- Full characterization of energetic heavy nuclei:
  - Charge,  $Q$  ( $Z$ ) defines density of ionization along track ( $Q^2$  dependence)
  - Kinetic energy of  $\delta$ -rays defines width of track corresponding to maximum distance of energy deposition laterally from track



# simple track structure model

Model to describe heavy ion induced carrier (electron-hole pairs) generation rate density (number of e-h/cm<sup>3</sup>-s):



$$g(r,t) = \frac{1}{\pi^{3/2} r_0^2 \tau} \frac{LET_0}{E_p} \times \exp(-r^2/r_0^2) \times \exp(-t^2/\tau^2)$$

*N.B. no x dependence  $\equiv$  shallow hypothesis*

- $LET_0$  = initial surface LET (energy/length) value of impacting ion
- $E_p$  = average energy to produce electron-hole pair (3.6 eV in Silicon)
- $r_0$  = length parameter arbitrarily and typically set at 100 nm (0.1  $\mu$ m)
- $\tau$  = duration to describe temporal variation (gaussian) of generation rate; Includes the time of flight of the primary ion and the secondary electrons across the sensitive volume and the relaxation time of the generated carriers. Time of the order picoseconds ( $10^{-12}$  s).

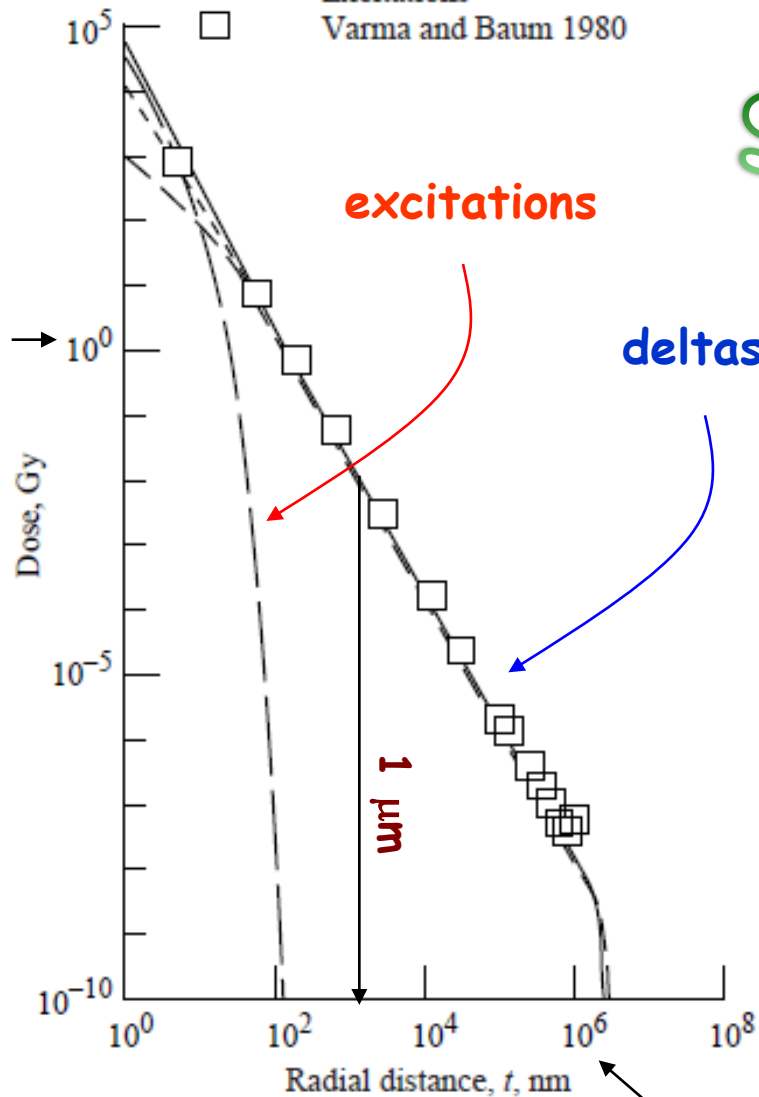
example: for 158 MeV <sup>79</sup>Br

$$g(r,t) = 4.8 \times 10^{31} \text{ (e-h/cm}^3\text{-s)} \times \exp(-r^2/r_0^2) \times \exp(-t^2/\tau^2)$$

track structure

— Total  
 - - -  $\delta$  rays with angular distribution  
 - - -  $\delta$  rays with normal ejection  
 — Excitations  
 Varma and Baum 1980

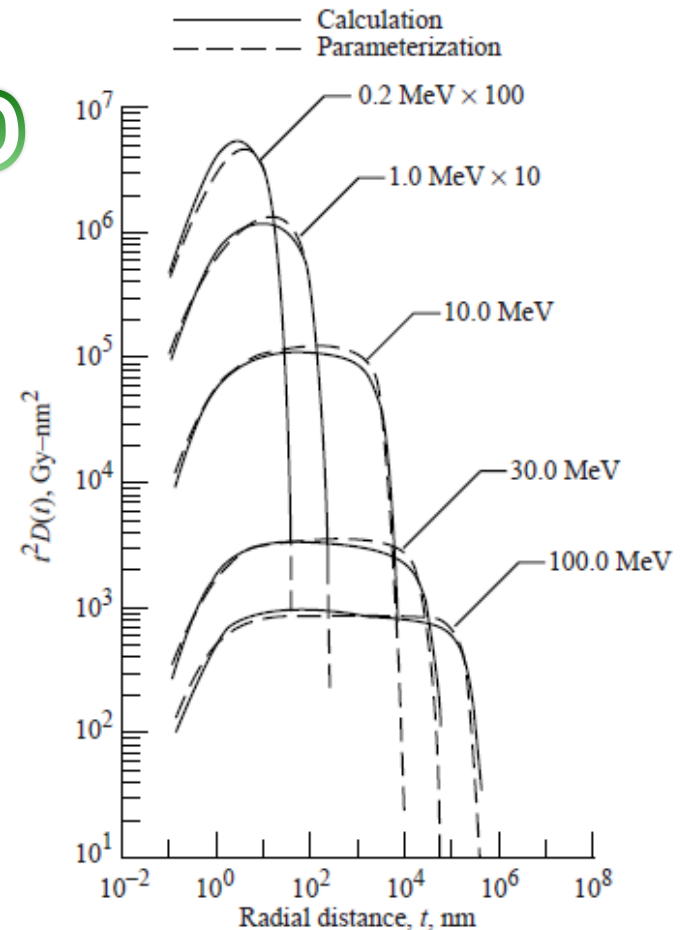
1 Gy



(b)  $^{20}\text{Ne}$  at 397 MeV/amu.

skip

F. Cucinotta et al  
 NASA Technical Paper 3630



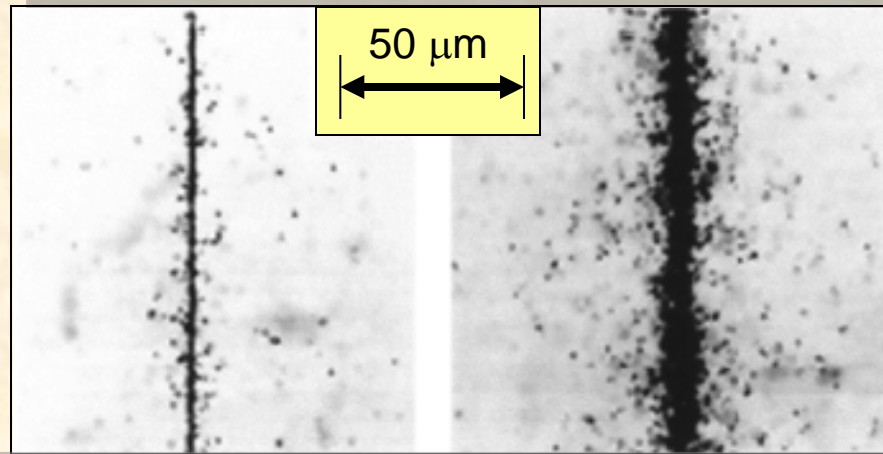
in water (cells)



# track structure

skip

ion with  
Z = 4 to 6



several nanometer  
dense core

Fe ion (Z=26)

## OUTSIDE CORE

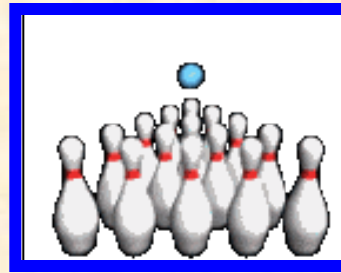
the ionisation density is determined  
by **energy** and **radial** distributions of secondary electrons

- exponential decrease of ionisation density with distance from track; **radial extent of ionisation scales with the velocity V of ion** (indeed the max energy transfer to electrons is  $2m_e V^2$ )
- ionisation scales with velocity V of ion and with effective charge  $Z_{\text{effective}}$  of ion (that changes and with velocity of ion)

$$dE_{\text{ion}}/dx \propto Z_{\text{eff}}^2/V^2$$



# Atomic displacement (displacement damage)



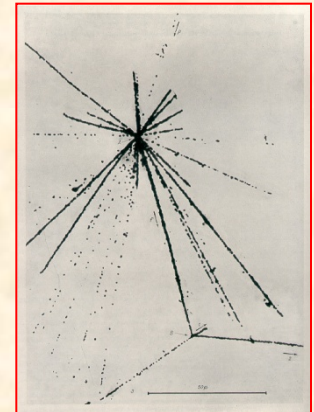
elastic

protons  
ions  
neutrons



anelastic

neutrons  
energetic protons  
energetic ions



Coulomb barrier

Particles can lose energy through non-ionizing interactions with materials, particularly through "displacement damage", or "bulk damage", where atoms are displaced from their original sites.

This can alter the electrical, mechanical or optical properties of materials and is an important damage mechanism for electro-optical components (solar cells, opto-couplers, etc.) and for detectors, such as CCDs.

# Non Ionizing Energy Loss (NIEL)

Non-ionization loss: the **energy deposited** per **length unit** due to **non-ionizing interaction** of the impinging particle with the **nuclei of the lattice** causing **displacement damage**. Interaction may be **coulombic (electromagnetic)** or **nuclear (strong force)**.

**expression**

$$\rightarrow \text{NIEL} = \frac{\Delta E_{\text{displacement}}}{\Delta x} = (dE/dx)_{\text{displacement}}$$

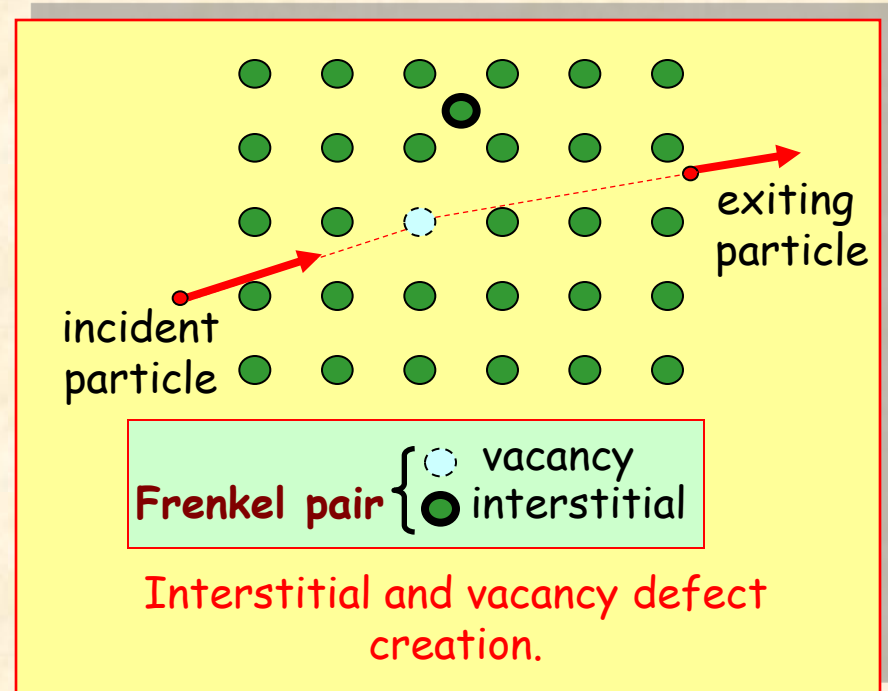
Measurement units

**MeV/cm**, also **eV/μm**

or

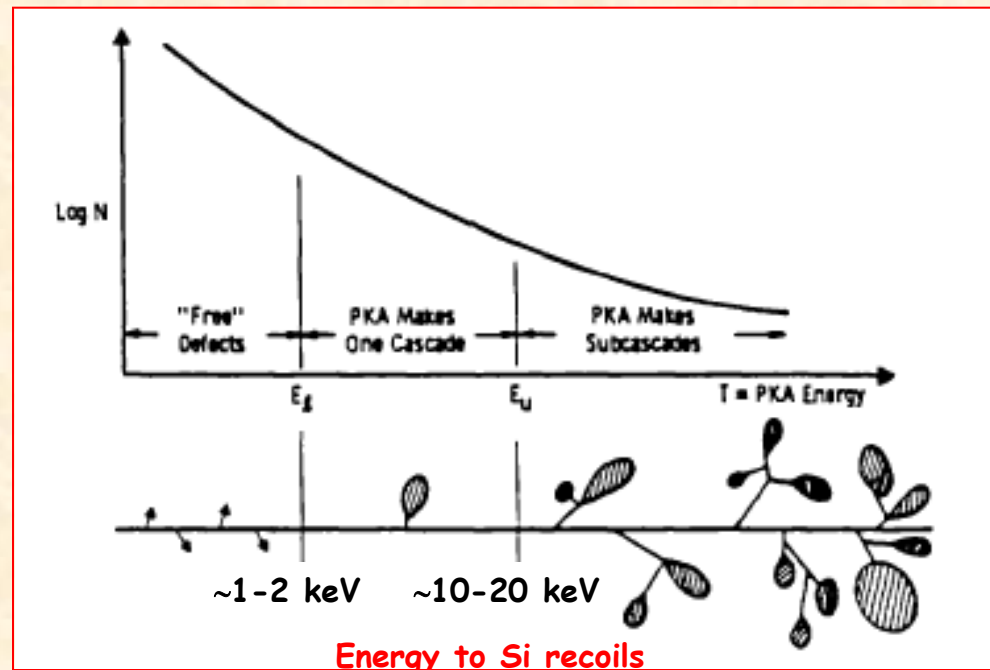
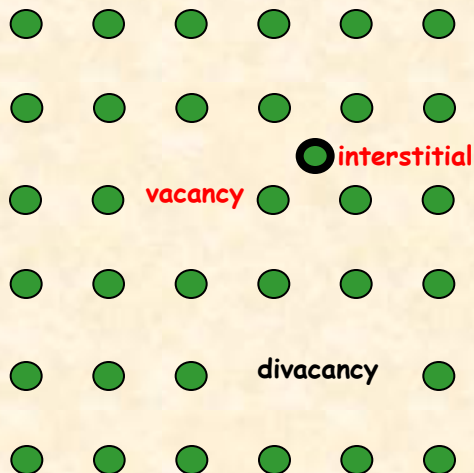
dividing by density

**MeV-cm<sup>2</sup>/mg**

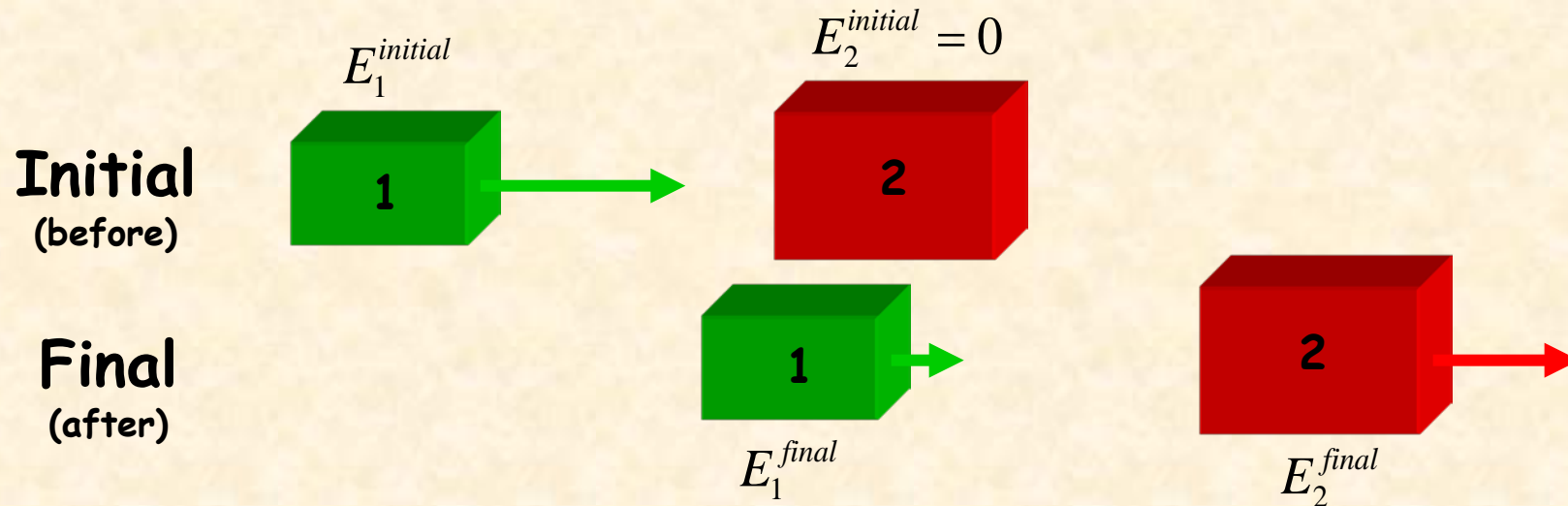


# Displacement damage

- **caused by:** p, n, ions, electrons,  $\gamma$ -rays
- **result of:** transfer of **non-ionizing energy (NIEL)** to lattice **NUCLEI** causing structural damage to lattice (**defects**).
- **basic mechanism:** collision between incoming particle and a lattice nucleus (called Primary Knock-on Atom, i.e. PKA) displaces atom from original lattice position generating point defects (**vacancies and interstitials**).
- **pejorative mechanism:** energetic PKA generates other point defects or even highly damaged regions (cascades, clusters), depending on energy transferred during the primary collision.



# elastic collisions 1



In elastic collisions kinetic energy is conserved  $E_1^{final} + E_2^{final} = E_1^{initial}$   
 hence the **maximum transferable energy** for a **given incident energy** is

$$E_{2,\max}^{final} = E_1^{initial} \times \frac{4M_1M_2}{(M_1 + M_2)^2} \quad (\text{non-relativistic})$$

$$E_{incident}^{min} = E_{threshold} \times \frac{(M_{inc} + M_{tar})^2}{4M_{inc}M_{tar}} \quad (\text{non-relativistic})$$

**MINIMUM** energy  
 of incident particle  
 to give target particle  
 a minimum (threshold)  
 energy



# elastic collisions 2

**MINIMUM energy for displacement**

$$E_{incident}^{min} = E_{threshold} \times \frac{(M_{inc} + M_{tar})^2}{4M_{inc}M_{tar}} \quad (non-relativistic)$$

Displacement damage <b>threshold</b> energies			
diamond	germanium	silicon	GaAs
35±5 eV	27.5 eV	25 eV	7-11 eV



**in Silicon**

incident particle	$E_{min}$ for creation of a displacement (Frenkel pair)
Silicon ion	25 eV (billiard ball effect)
neutron/proton	186 eV
electron	<del>319 keV (above non-relativistic formula)</del> 255 keV (relativistic)

# elastic collisions 3

**MAXIMUM energy  
transferred to  
recoiling target  
atom**

$$E_{recoil}^{\max} = E_{inc} \times \frac{4M_{inc}M_{tar}}{(M_{inc} + M_{tar})^2} \quad (non-relativistic)$$

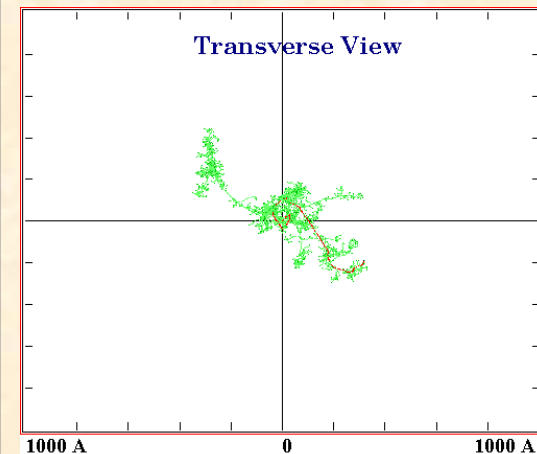
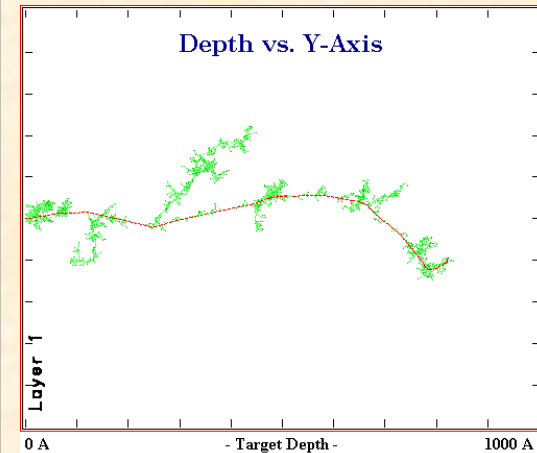
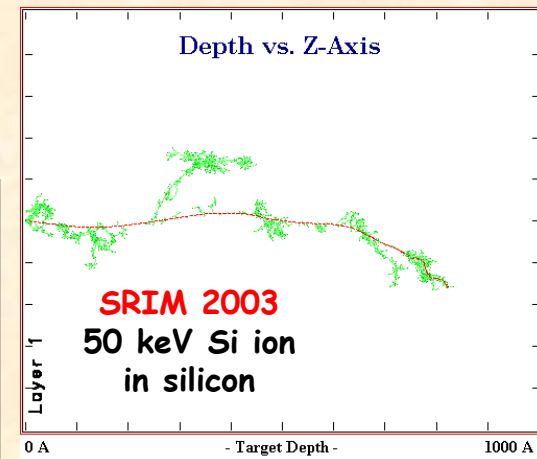
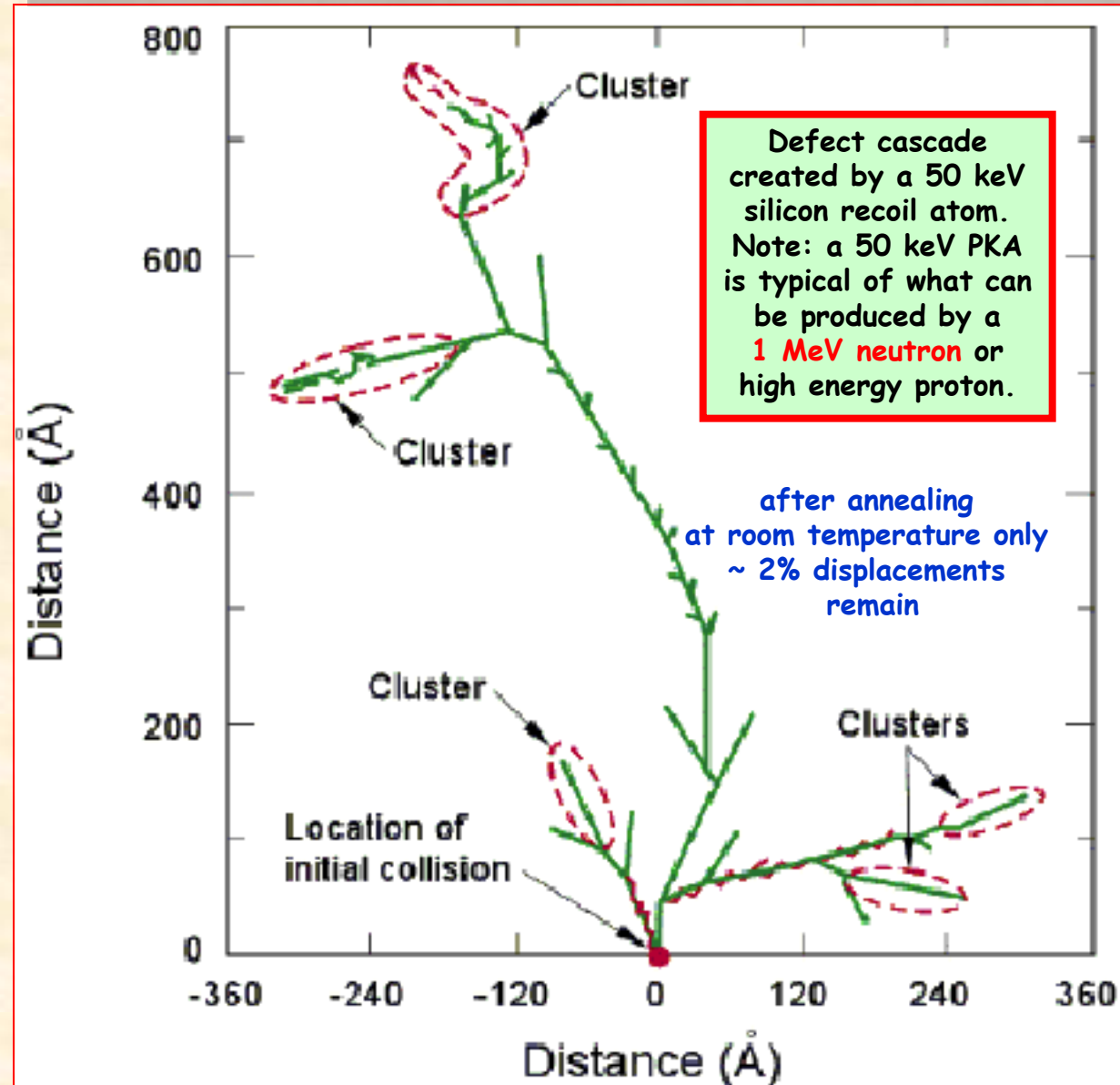
**e.g. incident NEUTRONS in Silicon**

incident energy of neutron	$E_{recoil}^{\max}$	Comments assuming <u>recoiling Silicon with maximum energy</u>
35 keV	4.7 keV	range of recoiling Si is ~ 200 Å, most of energy loss of slow recoiling Si is nuclear (dE/dx) <sub>nucl</sub>
1 MeV	134 keV	range of faster recoiling Si is ~ 6000 Å, ~ 50% of energy loss of Si recoil is nuclear → 2700 displacements ~ 60% recombine within 100 picoseconds → leaving 1000 displacements followed by further long term annealing

NOTE: max  $E_{recoil}$  from Co-60 is only 150 eV (isolated displacements, no clusters)

# Ion displacement damage

*adapted from V. A. J. Lint*



# Vacancies in Silicon

$^{60}\text{Co}$ -gammas	Electrons	Neutrons (elastic scattering)
<p>Max <math>E_\gamma \approx 1 \text{ MeV}</math>                      Effective particles are  <i>Compton</i> electrons.                      Point defects only. (No clusters!)</p>	<p><math>E_e &gt; 255 \text{ keV}</math> for                      displacement  <math>E_e &gt; 8 \text{ MeV}</math> for                      cluster</p>	<p><math>E_n &gt; 186 \text{ eV}</math> for                      displacement  <math>E_n &gt; 35 \text{ keV}</math> for cluster</p>

More isolated  
defects



More clusters

By Mika Huthinen (ROSE)

by Mika Huhtinen ROSE TN/2001-02

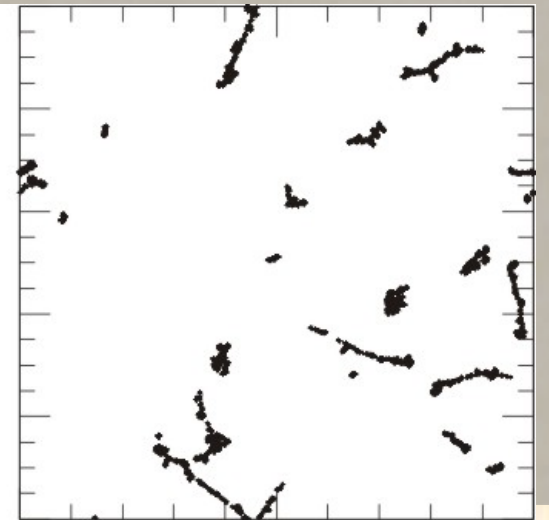
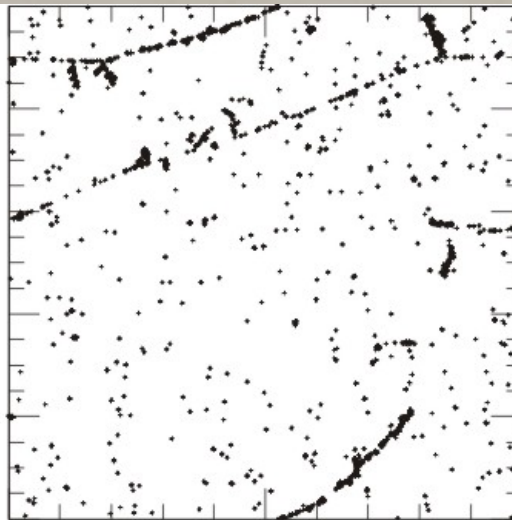
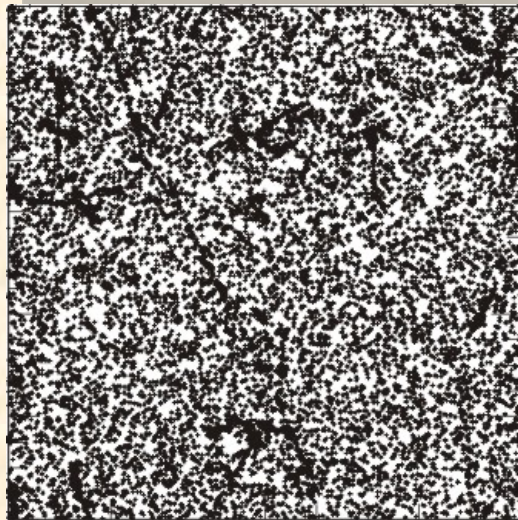
**INITIAL** distribution of vacancies in  $(1\mu\text{m})^3$  after fluence of  $10^{14}$  particles/cm<sup>2</sup>

10 MeV protons  
36824 vacancies

24 GeV protons  
4145 vacancies

1 MeV neutrons  
8870 vacancies

1  $\mu\text{m}$

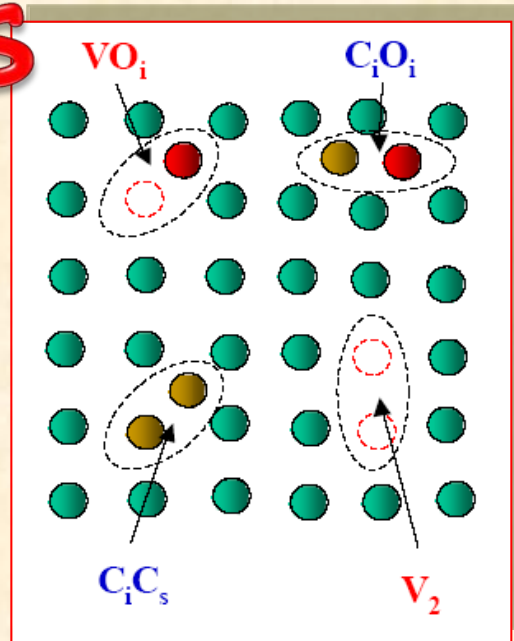


# Quasi-chemistry of defects

Next talks

complex kinetics

(time, concentration, and temperature dependences)



I = interstitial  
V = vacancy  
S = substitutive  
O = Oxygen  
C = Carbon  
P = Phosphorus

## Various quasi-chemical reactions

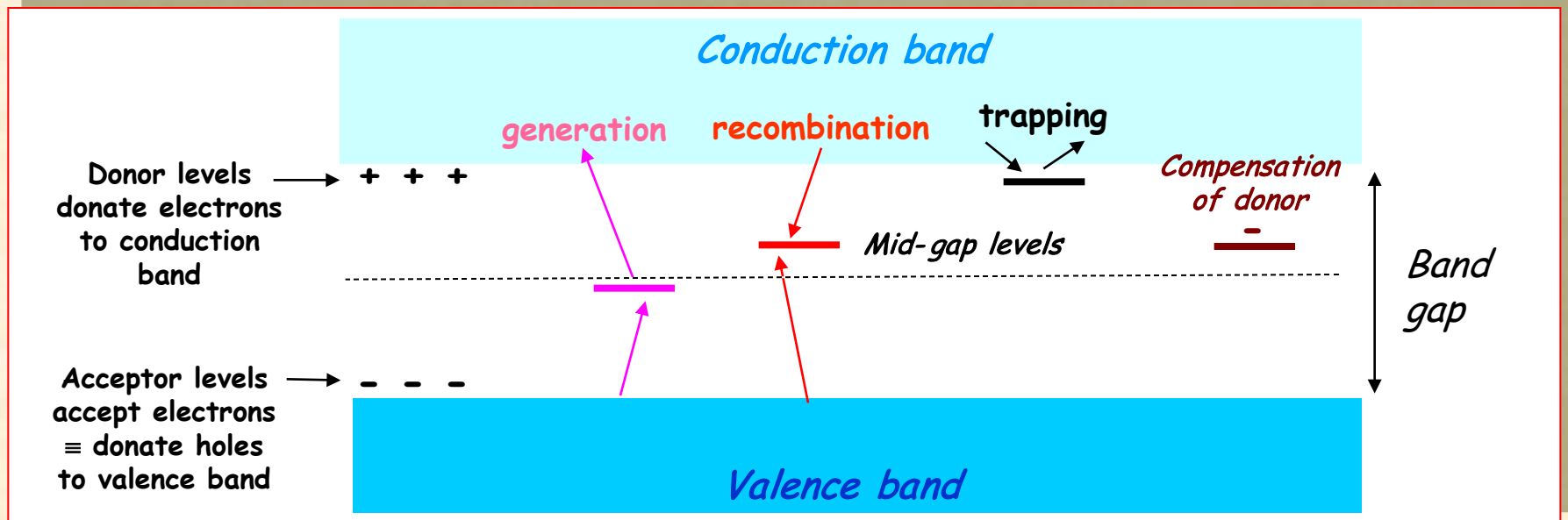




# Damage → defects

Next talks

- n-type Si: V-P, V-O, V-V are stable defects.
- p-type Si: V-O, V-V are stable defects.
- **Defects can be electrically active** (energy levels in the band gap) and capture and release electrons and holes from the conduction and valence bands
  - Defects can be charged
  - can be **generation centers** ⇒ **leakage current**
  - can be **recombination centers** ⇒ **minority carrier lifetime**
  - can be **trapping centers** ⇒ **carrier removal**
  - compensation ⇒ **type inversion (n- to p-type)** & increase in depletion voltage
  - Scattering by defects ⇒ carrier mobility at high fluence



NIEL = energy/m<sup>3</sup> per unit fluence that goes into displacements

PKA = Primary Knock-on Atom (e.g. silicon atom in a silicon lattice)

Frenkel pair = Interstitial-vacancy (I-V) pair

## Reasonably:

- The number  $N$  of displacements (I-V pairs) is proportional to the energy of the PKA
- $N = E_{\text{PKA}} / 2E_{\text{th}}$  (according to Kinchin-Pease), where  $E_{\text{PKA}}$  is the kinetic energy of the PKA,  $E_{\text{th}}$  is the threshold energy to create a Frenkel pair
- in cascade regime the “*nature*” of the damage is independent of the energy of the PKA; one just gets more cascades!

KERMA  $\equiv$  K.E. imparted by radiation into displacement  
total Kinetic Energy Relaxed in Matter (silicon)

“BULK DAMAGE is proportional to total kinetic energy (K.E.)  
that goes into DISPLACING atoms (silicon); i.e.

- **damage**  $\propto$  Kinetic Energy gone to DISPLACEMENT (KERMA)
- **damage** scales with particle fluence  $\phi$

$$\text{displacement damage dose (DDD)} = \frac{\text{KERMA}}{\text{mass}} \propto \phi$$

$$\text{DDD} = \frac{\text{KERMA}}{\text{mass}} = \text{NIEL} \times \phi$$

$$\text{units: } \text{NIEL}(\text{MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg}) = \text{NIEL}(\text{keV-cm}^2/\text{g}) \times 10^3$$

$$\text{KERMA (keV)} = \text{NIEL}(\text{keV-cm}^2/\text{g}) \times \phi(\text{cm}^{-2}) \times \text{mass(g)}$$

$$\text{KERMA (MeV)} = \text{NIEL}(\text{MeV-cm}^2/\text{mg}) \times \phi(\text{cm}^{-2}) \times \text{mass(g)} \times 10^3$$

# NIEL $\Rightarrow$ "Damage function" $D$

The quantity NIEL is often given in terms of the  
*Displace Damage cross-section  $D$*   
 (also called *damage function*, or *displacement kerma function*)

KERMA =  $D$   $\times$  the incident fluence  $\times$  number of irradiated silicon atoms  
 (KE released in matter)

*remembering definition of a barn =  $10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2$*

$$\text{KERMA(MeV)} = D(\text{MeV-mb}) \times \phi(\text{cm}^{-2}) \times (\# \text{ Si atoms}) \times (10^{-27} \text{ cm}^2/\text{mb})$$

WARNING: sometimes  $D$  is called NIEL.

conversion factor for converting  $D \rightarrow$  NIEL:

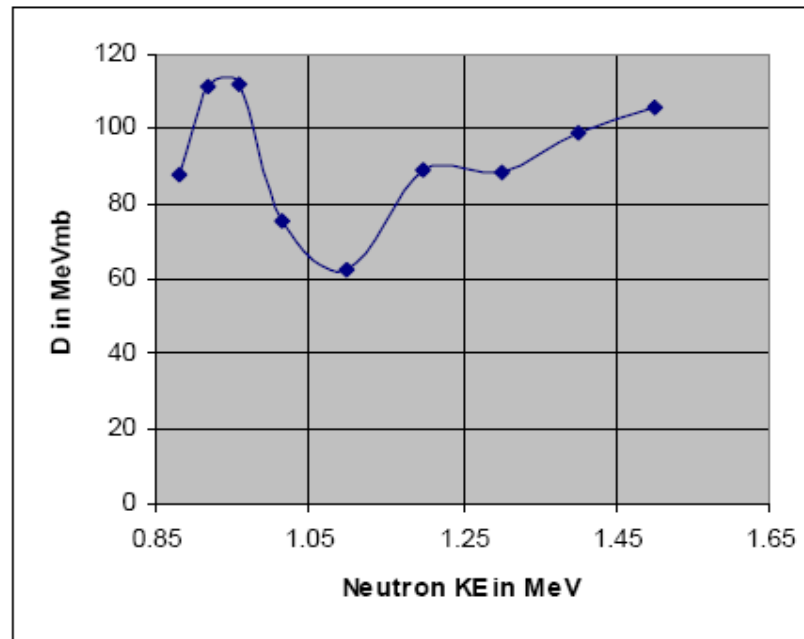
$$\begin{aligned} 100 \text{ MeV-mb} &= 100 \text{ MeV-mb} \times (10^3 \text{ keV/MeV}) \times (10^{-27} \text{ cm}^2/\text{mb}) \times \\ &\quad (\text{mole Silicon}/28.086 \text{ g}) \times (6.022 \times 10^{23}/\text{mole}) = \\ &= 2.144 \text{ keV-cm}^2/\text{g} \end{aligned}$$

# NIEL scaling hypothesis 1

**Observation:** degradation of silicon devices (detectors) is *roughly proportional to amount of displacement damage* (i.e. to the kinetic energy imparted to the silicon atoms)

**HYPOTHESIS:** Displacement Damage is due to non-ionising energy transfers to lattice and can be expressed in terms of the damage caused by a certain flux of mono-energetic neutrons (equivalent damage)

Unfortunately the displacement damage by neutrons has a strong energy dependence.



Neutron displacement damage as a function of energy, from E 722-94 (1998 Annual Book of ASTM Standards)



# "Standard" Bulk Damage

NIEL-hypothesis: "A particle fluence  $\phi$  can be reduced to an equivalent 1 MeV neutron fluence  $\phi_{eq}$  to produce the **nearly** the same bulk damage."

In silicon the *reference values* are:

$$D(1 \text{ MeV neutrons}) = 95 \text{ MeV-mb}$$

$$\text{NIEL}(1 \text{ MeV neutrons}) = 2.037 \text{ keV-cm}^2/\text{g}$$

These are chosen as STANDARD reference values when calculating the equivalent 1 MeV neutron fluence values for irradiations using:

- neutrons of another energy;
- other particle types (electrons, protons, pions, ions...)

# NIEL scaling using “hardness factors”

“Damage parameters induced by different particles scale with NIEL!”

“To scale the effects of one radiation type to another, use the **hardness factor K.**”

A **generic damage parameter  $\alpha$**  (e.g. leakage current) measured with one type of radiation (X) should compare with the same parameter measured using another type of radiation (Y) scale according to:

$$\frac{\alpha(X)}{\alpha(Y)} = \frac{k(X)}{k(Y)}$$

**always true?**

$\alpha(X)$  and  $\alpha(Y)$  are the **generic damage parameters** using radiations X and Y,  
and

$K(X)$  and  $K(X)$  are the **hardness factors of radiation X and Y**, respectively.

# NIEL scaling of leakage current

skip

Use the hardness factor  $K$  to scale the fluence  $\phi$  of a generic particle type and energy to an **equivalent fluence  $\phi_{eq}$  of a standard particle at standard energy.**

leakage current  
density  $\propto \phi$

$$\Delta j = \frac{\Delta I_{leak}}{Vol} = \alpha_X \cdot \Phi_X = \alpha_Y \cdot \Phi_Y$$

$$\Phi_Y = \frac{\alpha_X}{\alpha_Y} \cdot \Phi_X = K_{YX} \cdot \Phi_X$$

$$\Rightarrow \Phi_{equivalent} = \frac{\alpha_{delivered}}{\alpha_{std}} \cdot \Phi_{delivered} = K \cdot \Phi_{delivered} \quad \begin{cases} K > 1 \\ K < 1 \end{cases}$$

$$K = \frac{\Phi_{equivalent}}{\Phi_{delivered}}$$

e.g. for  $K=2$ ,  $\Phi_{eq} = 2 \times \Phi$ , hence  
 $5 \times 10^{13}$  particles/cm<sup>2</sup> make bulk damage  
equivalent to  $10^{14}$  standard-ones/cm<sup>2</sup>

# Equivalent Fluence:

A quantity which attempts to represent the damage at different energies and from different particle types.

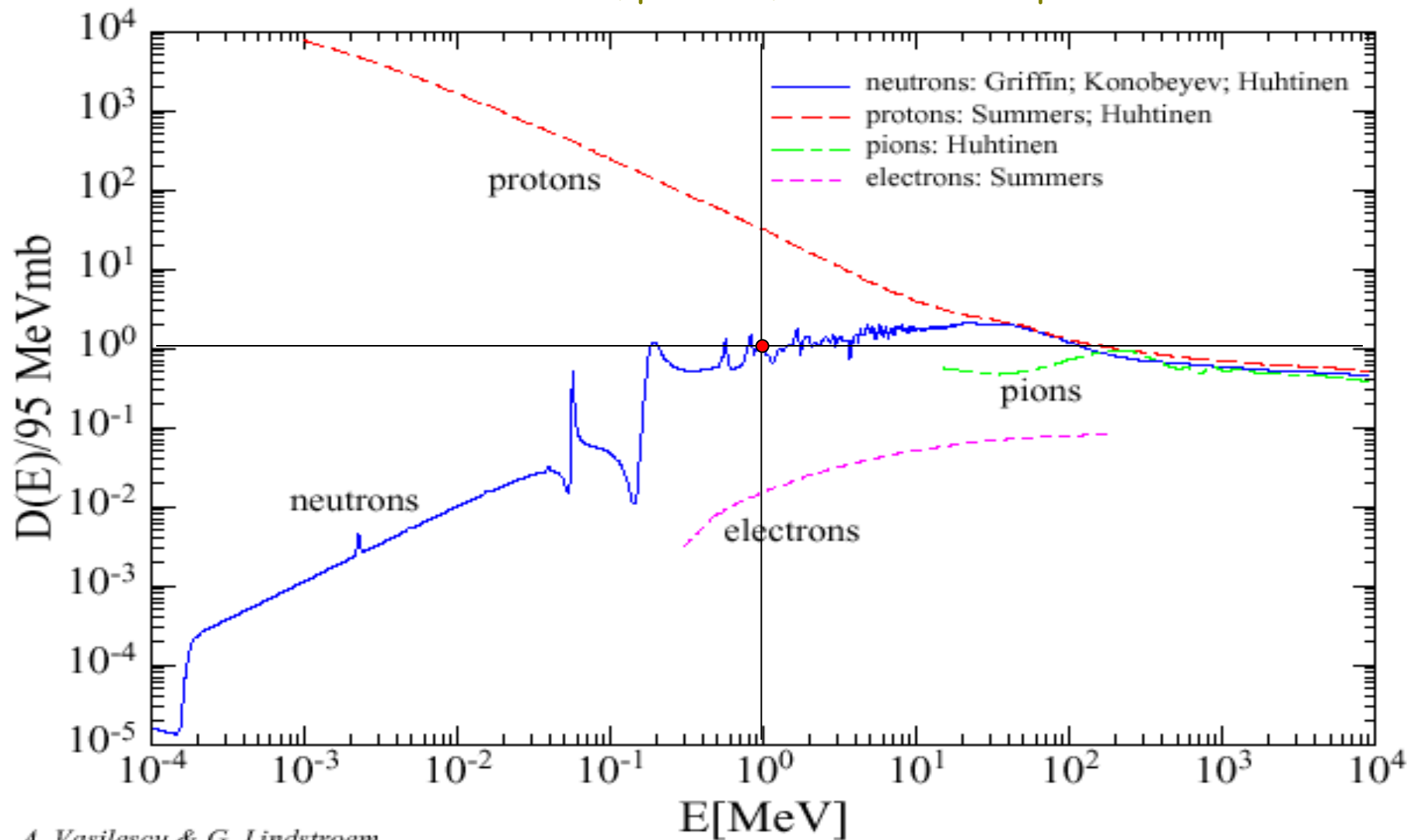
Hardness factors (also called damage coefficients) are used to scale the effect caused by particles to the damage caused by a **standard particle type and energy**.

In the context of non-ionizing energy loss effects, the standard particles are 1MeV neutrons.

*For example: one hundred 50 MeV protons are "equivalent" to 226 1-MeV neutrons.*

For solar cell degradation the standard particle is often taken to be 1MeV electrons. For example one 10-MeV proton is "equivalent" to 3000 1MeV electrons.

energy dependence of  
**Displacement damage cross-section  $D$**  in silicon  
for neutrons, protons, electrons and pions

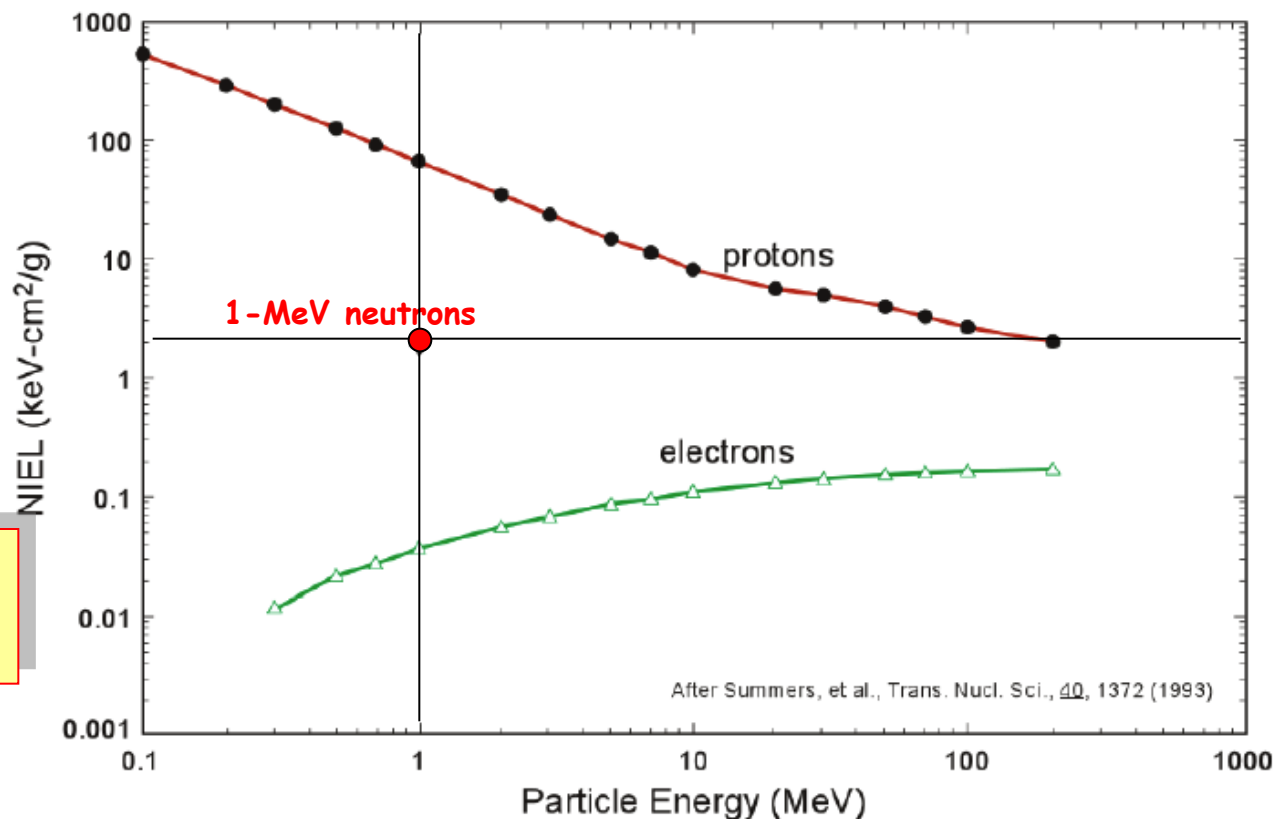




## NIEL scaling

energy dependence  
of **NIEL** in silicon

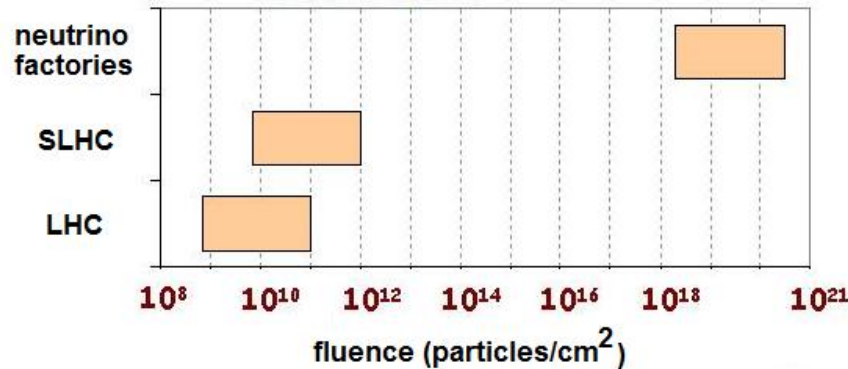
**NIEL(1 MeV neutrons)**  
**= 2.037 keV-cm<sup>2</sup>/g**



particle	total dose [rad(Si)]	$\phi$ fluence (part/cm <sup>2</sup> )	$\phi_{eq}$ equivalent neutron fluence (n/cm <sup>2</sup> )	hardness factor $K = \text{NIEL}/\text{NIEL}_0$ $= \phi_{eq}/\phi$
electrons (100 MeV)	100k	$3.3 \times 10^{12}$	$3.8 \times 10^{11}$	0.12
electrons (2 MeV)	100k	$4.1 \times 10^{12}$	$8.6 \times 10^{10}$	0.02
protons (50 MeV)	100k	$6.2 \times 10^{11}$	$1.4 \times 10^{12}$	2.26

# Non Ionizing Energy Loss fluence expressed in *1 MeV-equivalent neutrons*

B. Camanzi and  
A. G. Holmes-Siedle

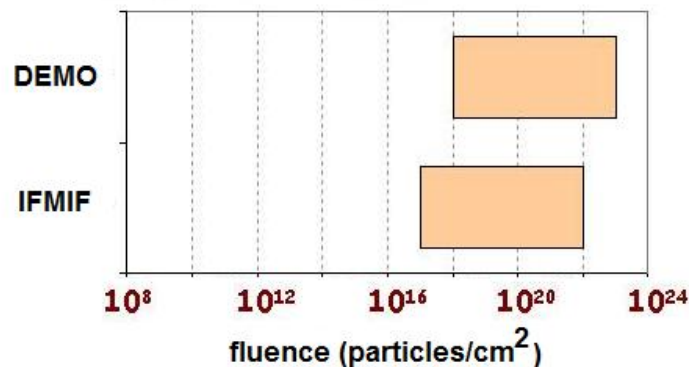
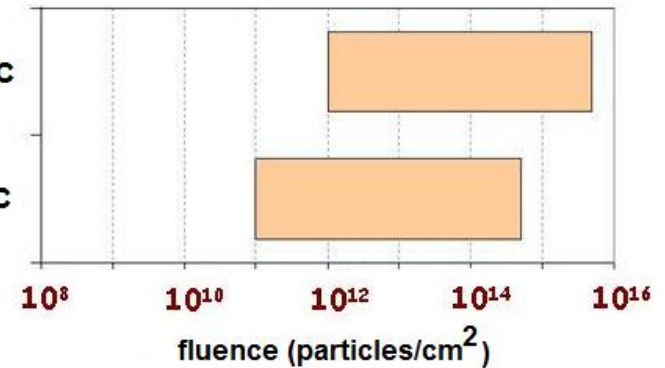


Accelerators  
caverns

Experiments at  
accelerators

CMS at SLHC

CMS at LHC



Nuclear fusion facilities

IFMIF

International fusion  
materials  
irradiation facility

# PART 4:

## basic concepts of radiation damage in electronics

- Electronics, because of the thin sensitive layer, tends to be most sensitive to ionization and the associated accumulation of charge in the material.
- High levels of localized ionization can also affect the behavior of electronics.
- Detectors and sensors are sensitive to both ionization and displacement damage effects, with the most important damage often coming from bulk effect.

# *Effects of radiation in ELECTRONICS*

## **☐ IONIZATION**

- affects all ELECTRONICS
- Charge build-up in insulating layers (*cumulative effect*)
- Charge injection into sensitive nodes (*single effect*)

## **☐ ATOMIC DISPLACEMENT from lattice sites** *accumulation of damage to bulk (cumulative effects)*

- affects SENSORS and DETECTORS
- Crystal structure damage
- Introduction of traps
- Introduction of mid-band states

radiation damage of electronics, detectors and sensors depends on device type and technology

## *energy deposit variables: LET, TID, DDD*

<i>Particle type</i>	<i>energy deposit</i>	<i>quality of measurable effect</i>	<i>variable</i>
heavy particles (primary and secondary): slow protons, $\alpha$ , ions, nuclear fragments	strong ionisation	highly structured tracks, Single Event Effects, Stochastic	Linear Energy Transfer (LET) of single ion
electrons (primary and secondary: compton, photo-electric), muons, m.i.p.	slight ionisation	less structured tracks → uniform; effect by accumulation of charges; predictable	integrated total ionising dose (TID)
neutrons, VERY slow ions (end of range)	non-ionising energy loss	effect by accumulation of displacement damage ( <i>lattice disorder</i> ); uniform (clusters); predictable	integrated displacement damage dose (DDD)

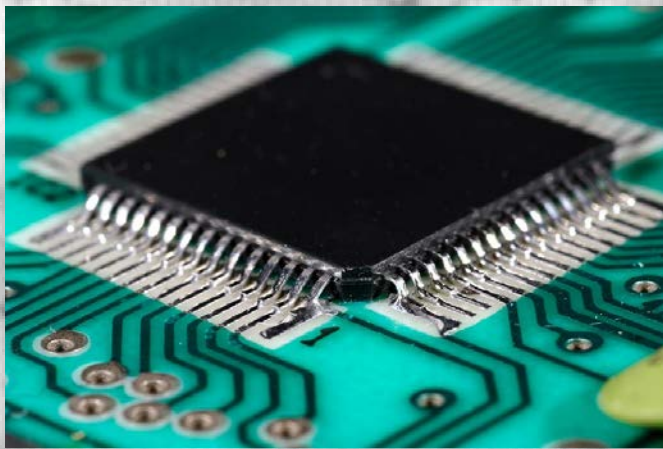


# Radiation: Microscopic effects → macroscopic effects

*micro-effect*

*macro-effect*

Light charged particles electrons, photons (indirect), muons, pions,...	Direct or secondary ionization	<u>Small</u> $\Delta E_{\text{ionization}}$ deposited uniformly and delivered over a long time.	<b>Total Integrated Ionizing Dose (TID) Effects</b>
heavy charged particles protons, alfa, ions	Direct ionization	<u>Sudden large</u> $\Delta E_{\text{ionization}}$ deposited in the 'wrong place at the wrong time'.	<b>Single Event Effects</b>
protons, neutrons, high energy electrons, very slow ions	displacement damage of lattice	<u>Accumulation</u> of small $\Delta E$ transfers to atomic nuclei (Coulomb, nuclear interactions).	<b>DDD bulk effects;</b> enhancement of TID
Energetic heavy particles (protons, neutrons, energetic ions)	Secondary ionization by recoil atoms and nuclear fragments	<u>Sudden high</u> $\Delta E$ transfer to a single nucleus at the 'wrong place and time'.	<b>Single Event Effects</b>



# SEE effects



**“Single Event Effects” (SEE) are becoming more and more important!**

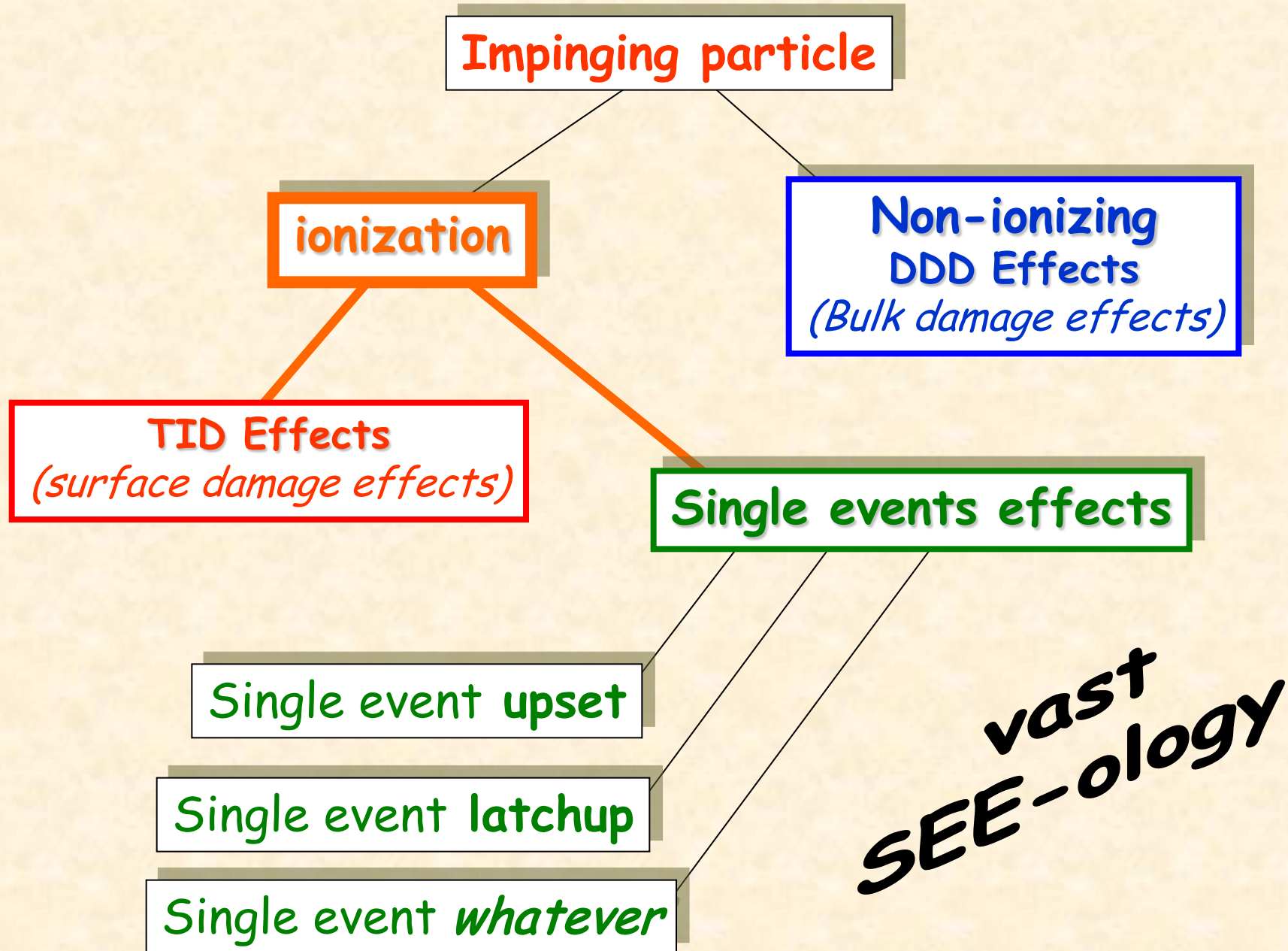
**This is due to:**

- **technology evolution (electronics everywhere!)**
- **increased sensitivity hence stricter requirements for new applications outside of traditional fields**
- **growing complexity of whole systems (computers, servers,...)**

# Single Event Effects (SEE)

1. In space applications electronic devices may receive direct impacts of galactic and extra-galactic heavy energetic ions (HZE) cosmic rays during operational lifetime of a spaceflight.
2. Energetic neutrons and protons may produce secondary highly ionizing ions may be produced in nuclear interactions.
3. Highly ionizing ions are produced indirectly (secondaries) in the experimental halls of High Energy Physics experiments such as LHC where huge quantities of hadrons are produced.
4. Neutrons are a problem in avionics and at sea level.

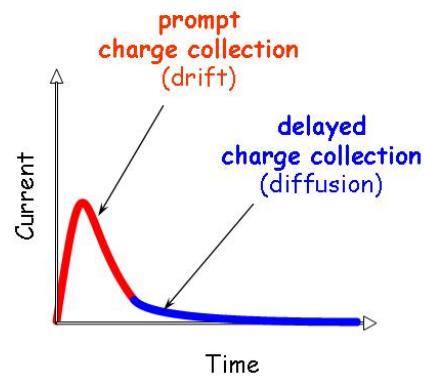
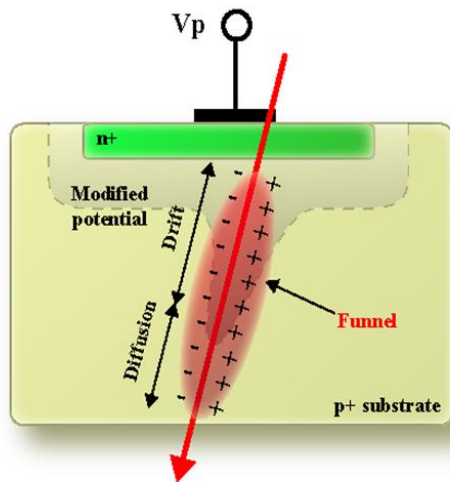
# Radiation Damage on Semiconductor Devices



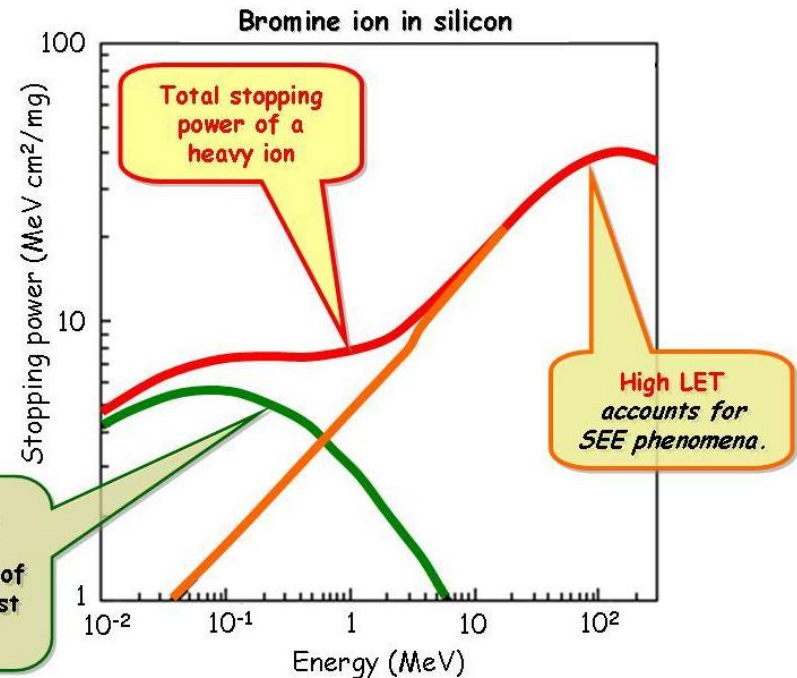
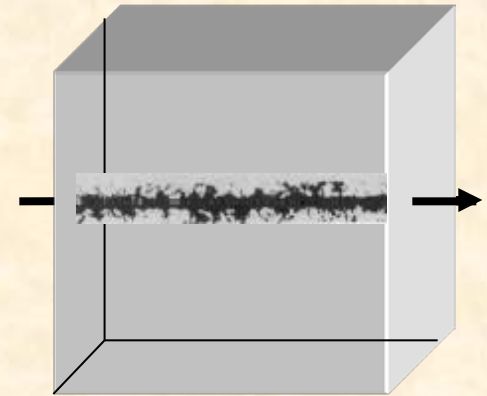


When an **heavily ionizing particle** (e.g. a heavy ion) interacts with a device it leaves an ionization trail that perturbs the device.

### Charge Collection at a sensitive junction



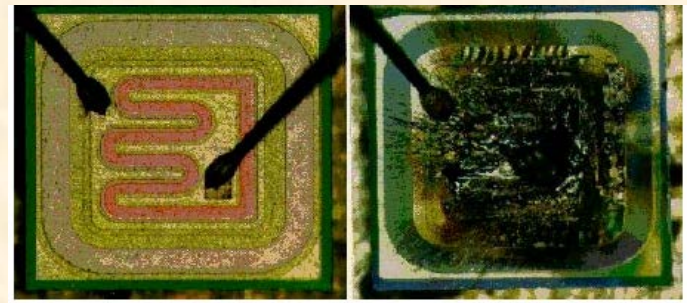
Ions deposit ionization energy in highly structured pattern

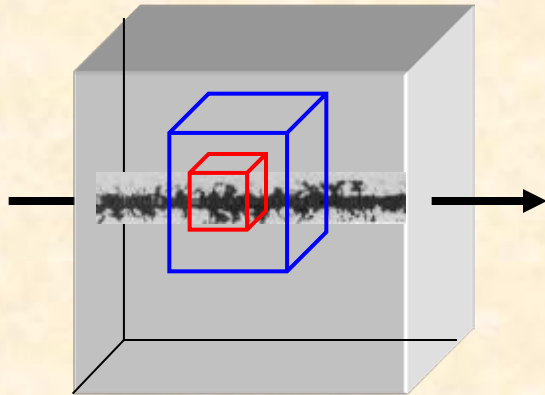




# Depending on circumstances the ionization induced perturbation may cause negative effects:

- a transient in the device output
  - a bit flip
  - a destructive latch-up
  - burn-out, especially in high-power transistors etc.
- etc.





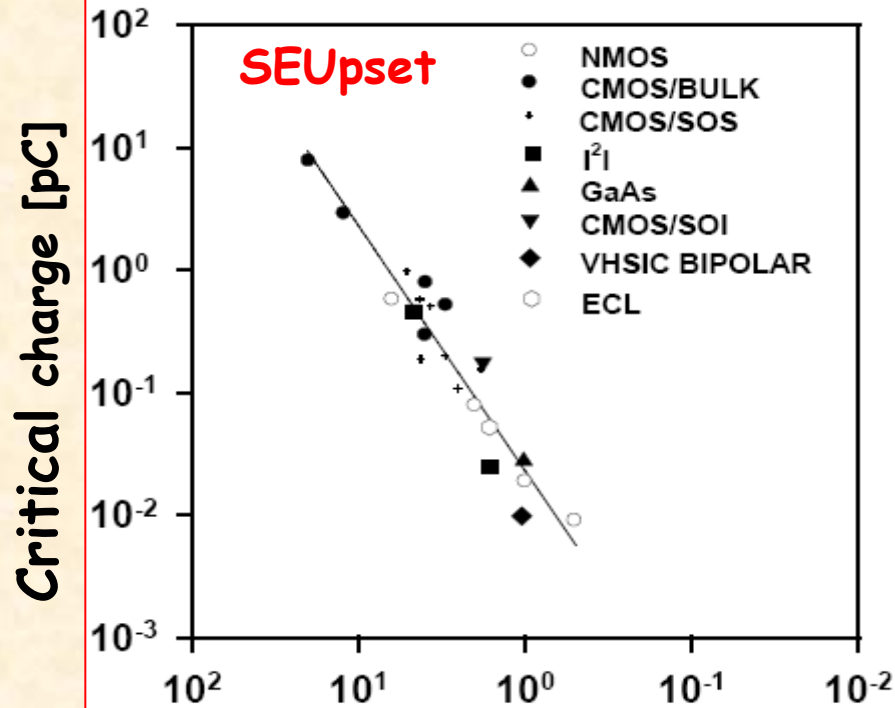
A SEE occurs if an ionizing particle deposits in a sensitive volume a charge higher than some threshold value.

For a given radiation environment the mechanism of an SEE and the chance of it occurring depend on the device and the technology.

For a given device the rate of SEE is proportional to the flux of particles with sufficient LET.

**Experimental concepts:**

- threshold charge  $\Rightarrow$  LET,
- cross-section  $\sigma$  as a function of LET.



Feature size [ $\mu\text{m}$ ] (size of technological process)



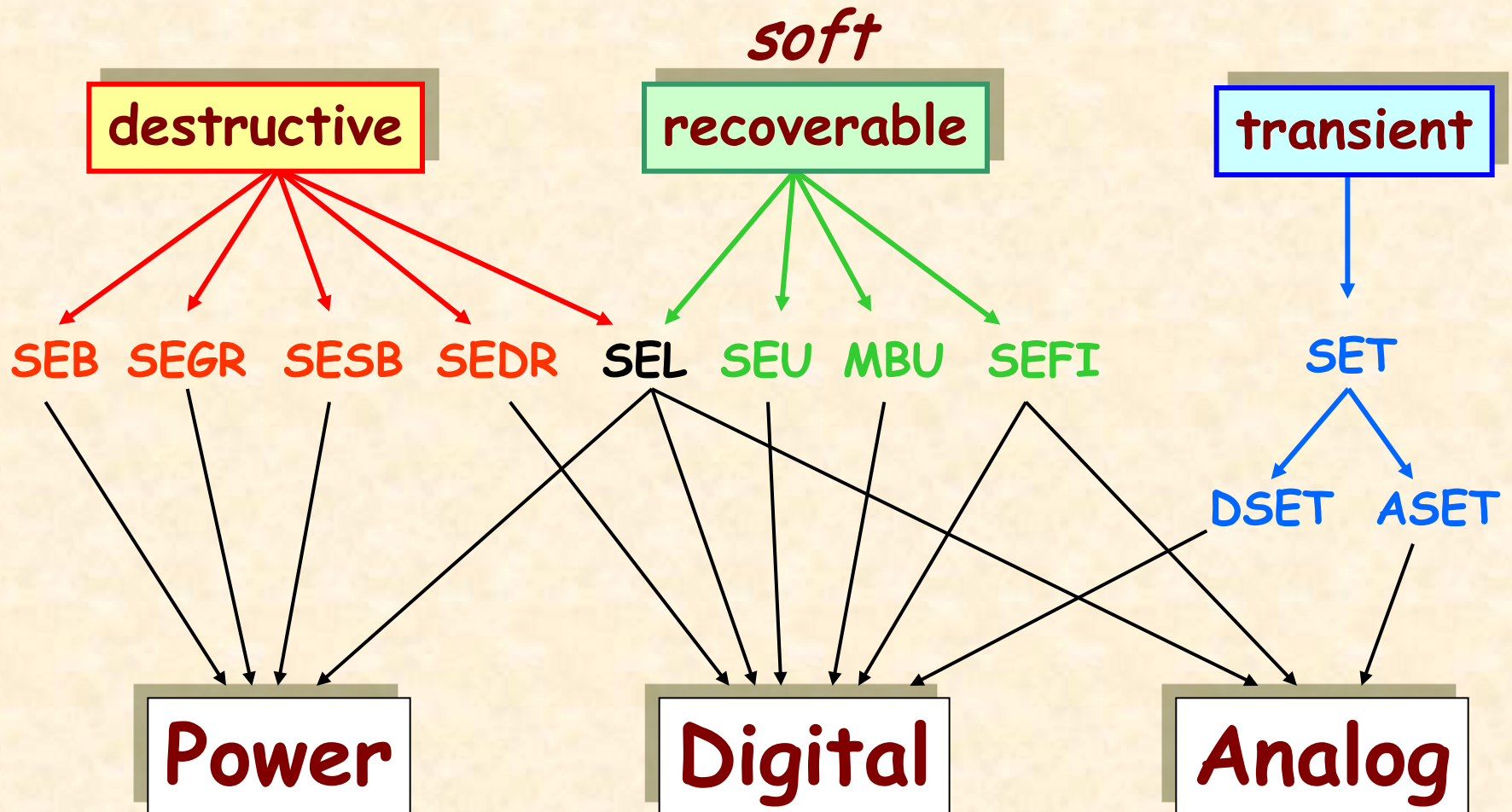
# *Component technology evolution*

## Parameters affecting SEE:

- ❑ **critical charge** (amount needed to change the logic state of a cell)
- ❑ **sensitive geometry** (the volume in which the deposited charge is effective to generate a perturbation in the device)
- ❑ number of elements (complexity)

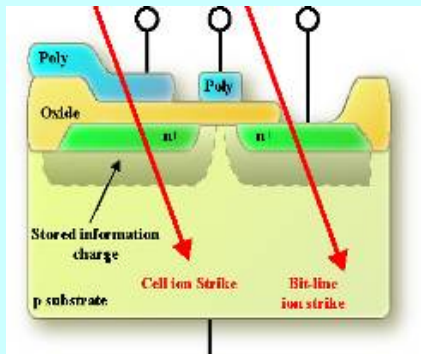
Technology node (nm)	Sensitive volume of Si ( $\mu\text{m}^3$ )	Critical charge in Si (fC)
250	0.245	8
130	0.025	2.5
90	0.02	1.2
65	0.0035	0.8

# SEE

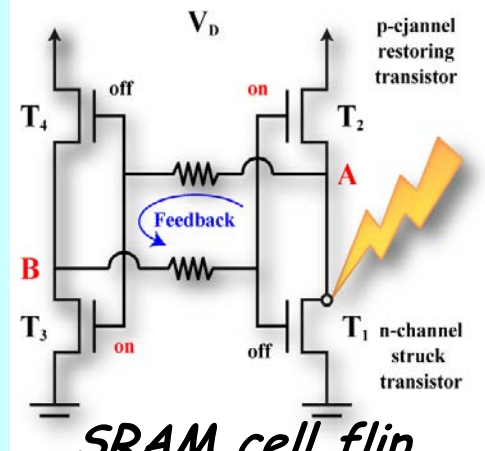


# Soft (non-destructive) vs Hard (destructive)

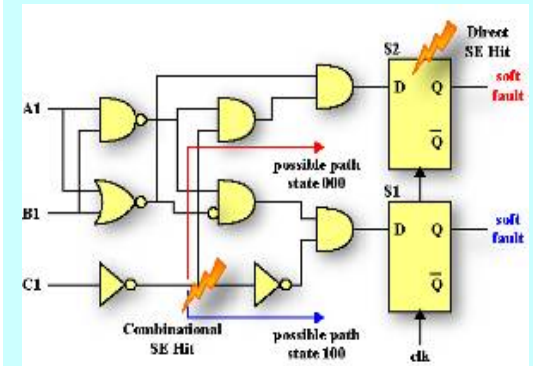
## Soft errors



DRAM cell flip

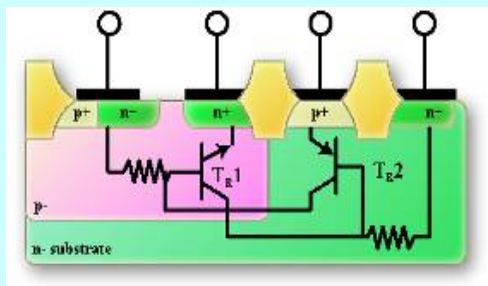


SRAM cell flip

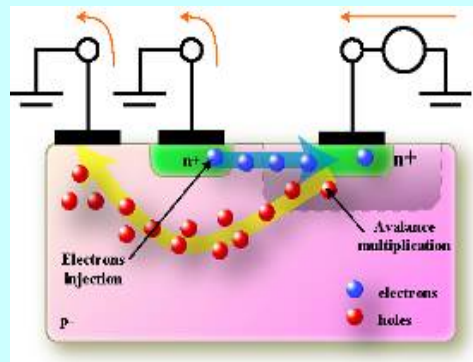


Propagation in logic

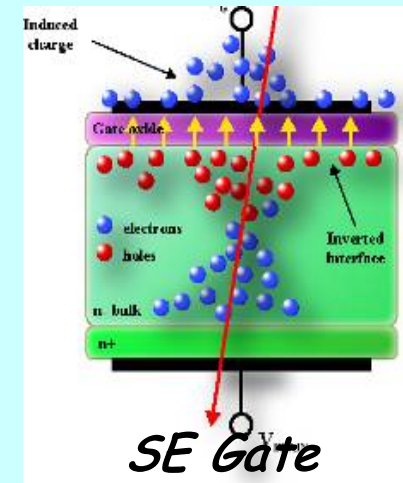
## Hard errors



SE Latchup in pnpn CMOS structure



SE Snap-back in n-MOS transistor



SE Gate rupture



# Single Event Effects (SEE)

## ❑ Upset (SEU): change in logic state, e.g. SRAM memory

- temporary loss in equipment functionality
- temporary modification to system behaviour
- functionality returns without power cycle

## ❑ Latch Up (SEL): creation of low-impedance short circuit that triggers a *parasitic PNP structure* that stops proper functioning

- Requires power cycle to correct; may be destructive

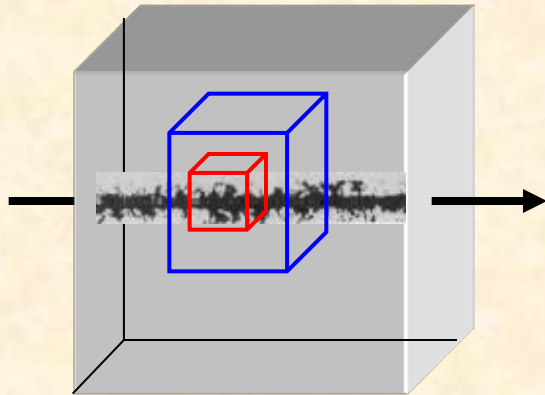
## ❑ Single Event Burnout (SEB): an ion induced current flow turns on the parasitic npn transistor below the source that leading to device destruction if sufficient short-circuit energy is available.

## ❑ Single Event Gate Destruction/Rupture (SEGD/R): an ion through the gate (but avoiding the p-regions), generates a plasma filament through the n-epi layer that applies the drain potential to the gate oxide, *damaging* (increased gate leakage) or *rupturing* the gate oxide insulation (device destruction).

- permanent damage to power transistors or other high voltage devices

# GLOSSARY

	Description	Affected devices
SEU <u>upset</u>	Corruption of information	Memories, latches in logic devices
MBU <u>multiple bit upset</u>	Several memory elements corrupted by single ion	Memories, latches in logic devices
SEFI <u>functional interrupt</u>	Loss of normal operation	Complex devices with built in state/control sections
SET <u>transient</u>	Pulse response of certain amplitude and duration	Analog, mixed signal devices
SED <u>disturb</u>	Momentary corruption of info in a but	Combinatorial logic, latches in logic devices
SHE <u>hard error</u>	Unalterable change of state of a memory cell	Memories, latched in logic devices
SEL <u>latchup</u>	Generation of unexpected high current	CMOS, BiCMOS
SESB <u>snap back</u>	Generation of unexpected high current	N-channel power MOSFETs, SOI
SEB <u>burnout</u>	Destructive burn-out	BJT, etc.
SEGR <u>gate rupture</u>	Rupture of gate dielectric	Power MOSFETs
SEDR <u>dielectric rupture</u>	Rupture of dielectric layer	Non-volatile NMOS, FPGA, linear devices



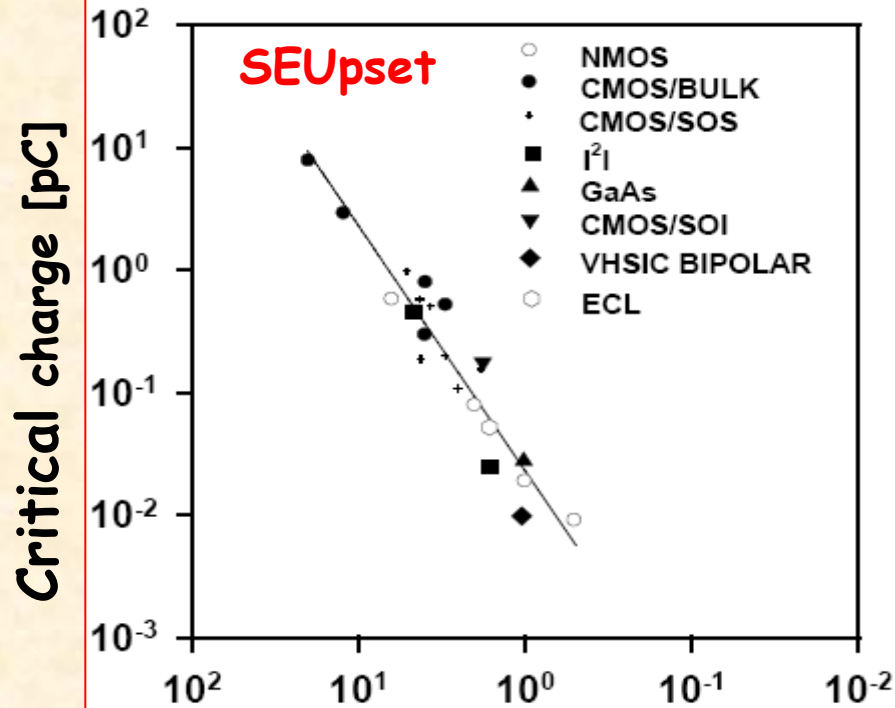
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**Experimental concepts:**

- threshold charge  $\Rightarrow$  LET,
- cross-section  $\sigma$  as a function of LET.



Feature size [ $\mu\text{m}$ ] (size of technological process)



# SEE rates

## ☐ determine sensitivity volume

Difficult to determine!

- must make assumptions about device geometry
- the sensitive volume smaller than physical geometry
- the sensitive volume is different for different ions

## ☐ measure the cross-section vs LET

## ☐ determine the LET effective spectrum

Depends on radiation environment (e.g. orbit), shielding,...

May calculate rate.

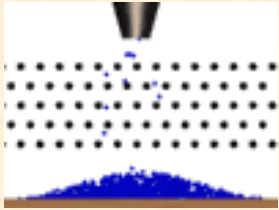


What is a SEE cross-section?

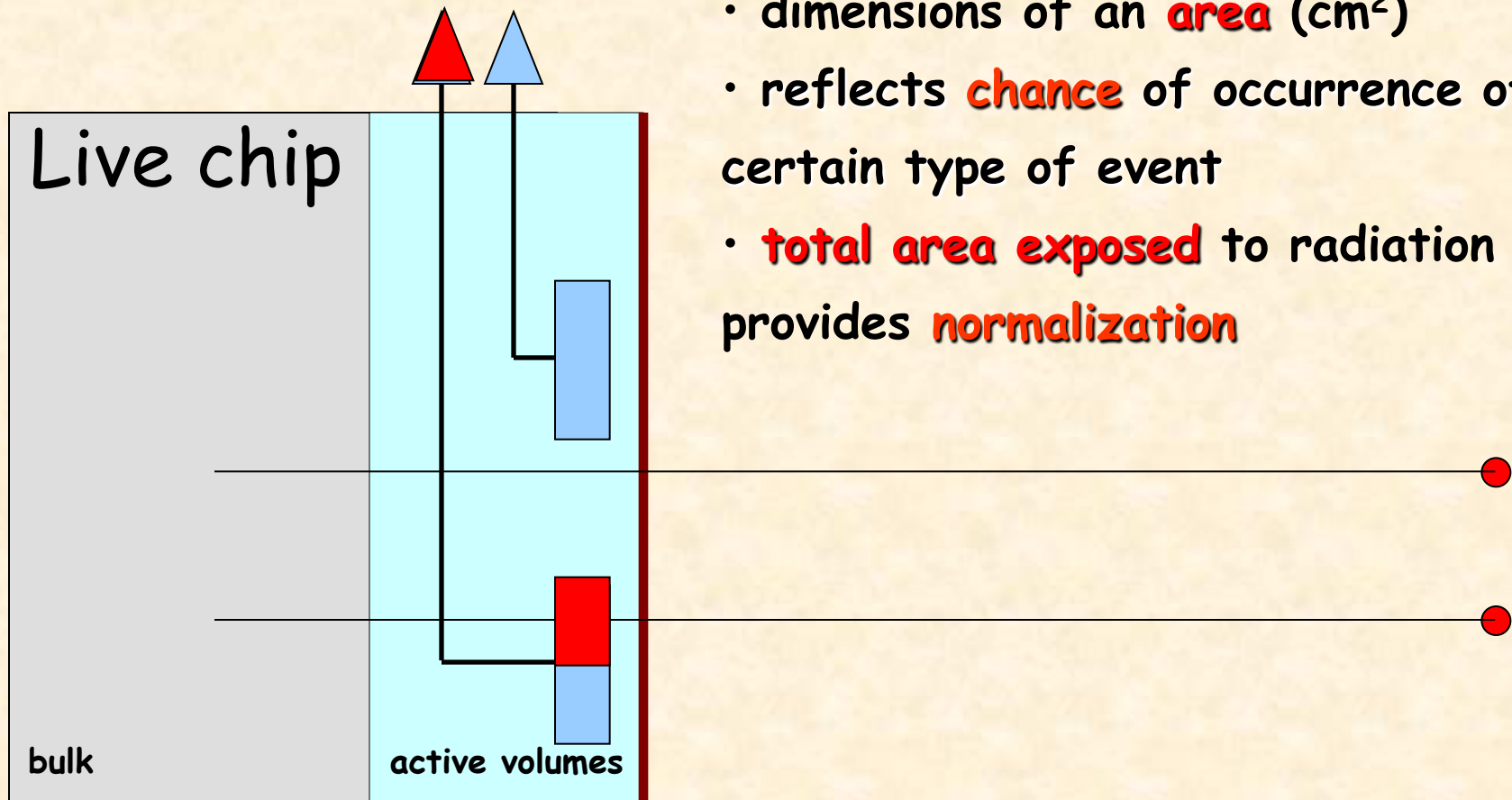
cross-section: SEE

# Single Event Effects

## The cross-section concept

 $\sigma$ 

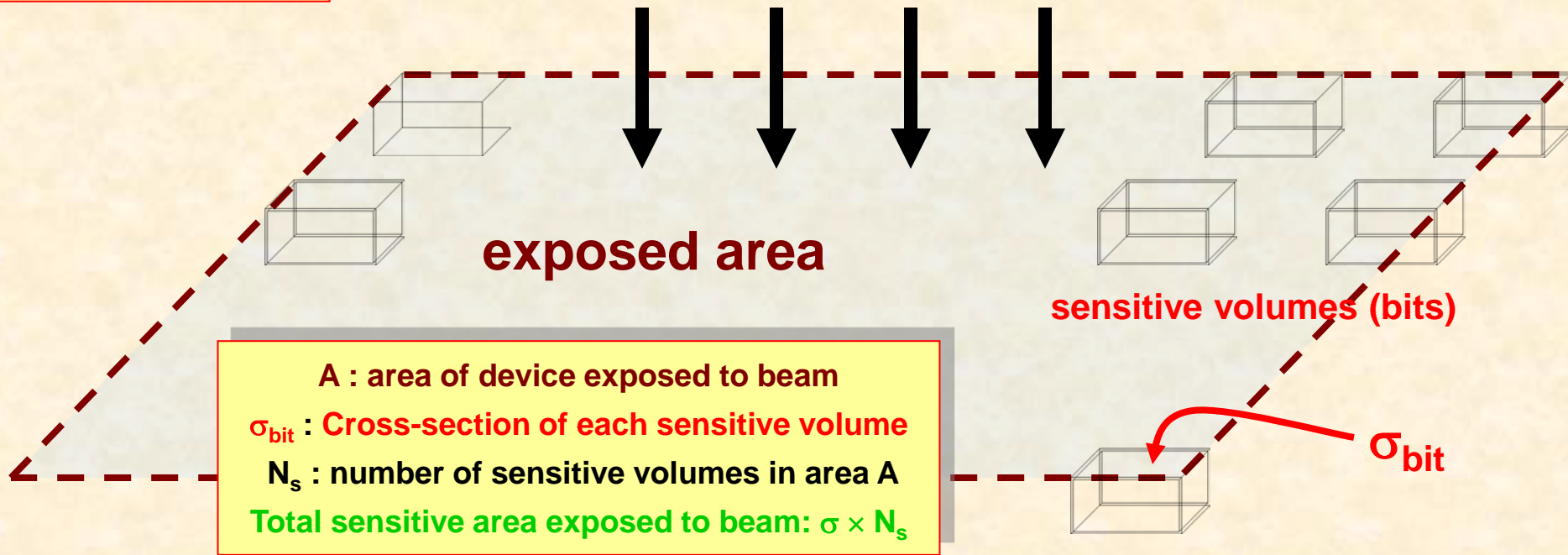
- useful and pervasive concept in radiation (examples from HEP, SEE)
- dimensions of an **area** (cm<sup>2</sup>)
- reflects **chance** of occurrence of a certain type of event
- **total area exposed** to radiation provides **normalization**





cross-section: SEE

SEE experimental cross-section



fraction of incident particles that cause SEE  $N_{SEE}/N_{inc}$   
is equal to the

fraction of exposed area that is sensitive

$$\frac{N_{SEE}}{N_{inc}} = \frac{N_s \cdot \sigma_{bit}}{A} \Rightarrow \text{number of events } N_{SEE} = N_s \frac{N_{inc}}{A} \sigma_{bit} = N_s \cdot \sigma_{bit} \cdot \Phi_{inc}$$

**Experimentally:**  $\sigma_{bit} = \frac{N_{SEE}}{N_s \cdot \Phi_{INC}}$   $\sigma_{device} = N_s \cdot \sigma_{bit} = \frac{N_{SEE}}{\Phi_{INC}}$

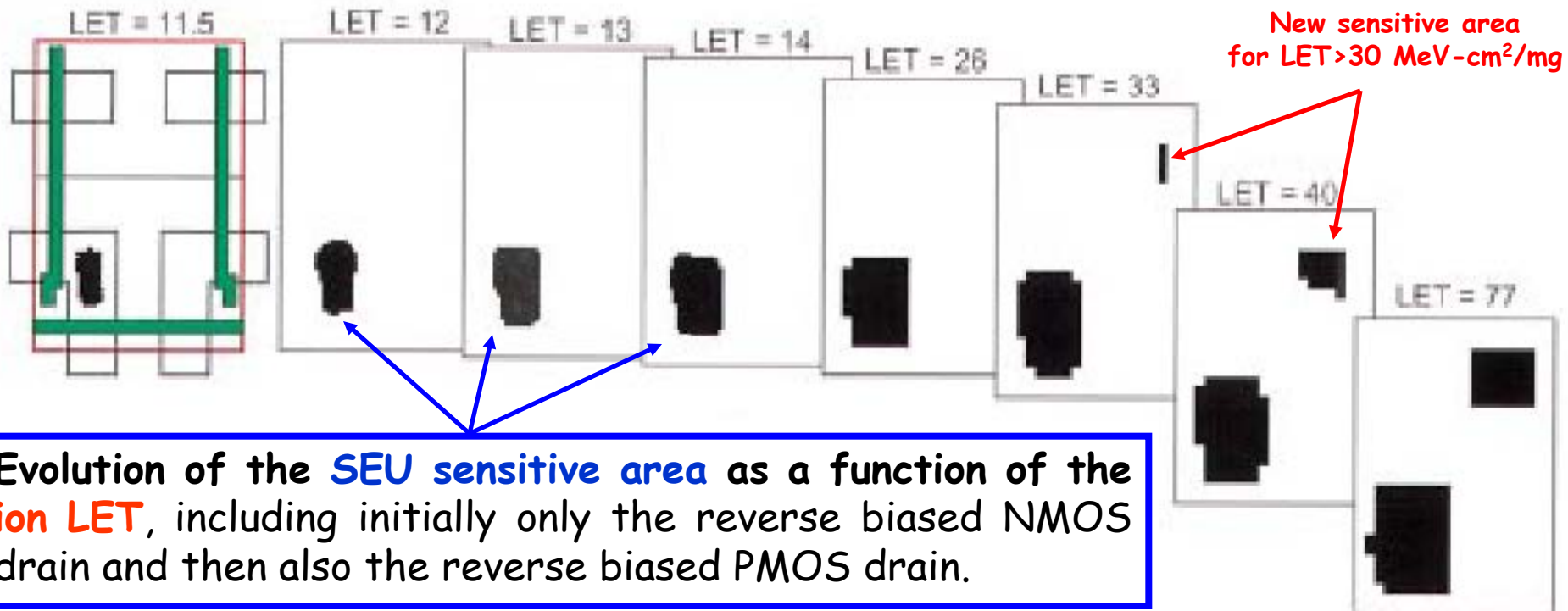
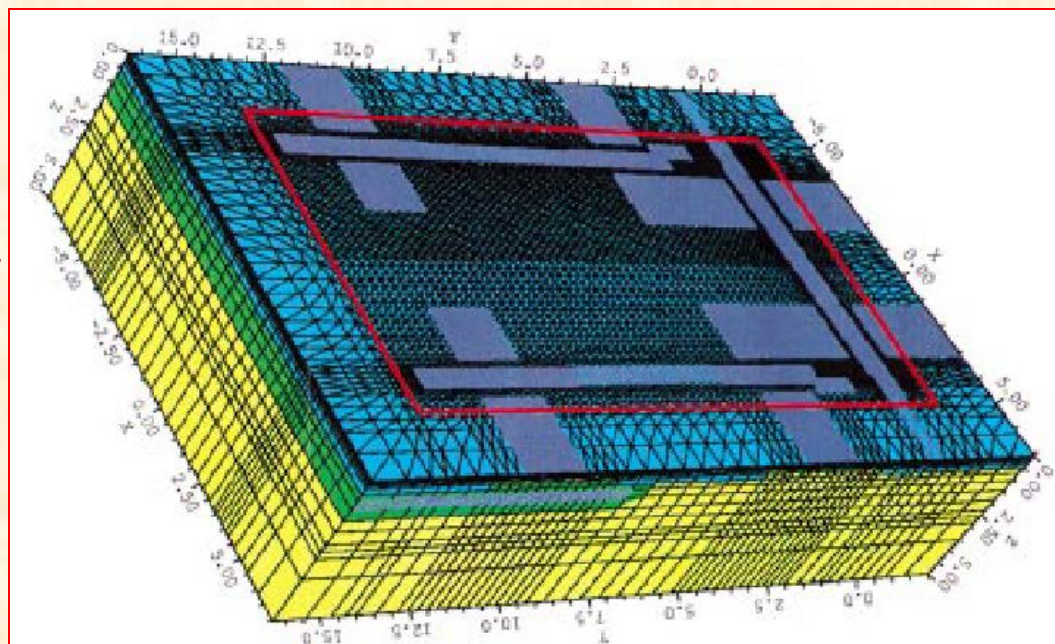
SEE

# sensitivity micro-map

## CMOS 256K SRAM unit cell SEU simulation

Davinci 3D-simulation, P.E.Dodd et al.,  
IEEE Trans.Nucl.Sci. Vol 48 pp1893-  
1903, Dec. 2001

Simulations performed for ion  
strikes incident every  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$   
throughout the unit cell.



# broad beam SEE experiments

The **cross section** ( $\sigma$ ) for Single Event Effects is  $\sigma = N_{\text{SEE}} / \Phi$

$N_{\text{SEE}}$ : number (counts) of SEE observed

$\Phi$ : uniform fluence over some fiducial area

- practical **flux set by dead-time of DUT** (typical few  $10 \div 10^4$  ions  $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )
  - Statistical Error improves with Fluence
  - however **Fluence Limited by Total Dose**

(\*) In silicon a LET of 97  $\text{MeV}\cdot\text{cm}^2/\text{mg}$  corresponds to *charge deposition per unit path length* of  $1\text{pC}/\mu\text{m}$ . NOTE factor  $\sim 100$ : it is handy for conversion.

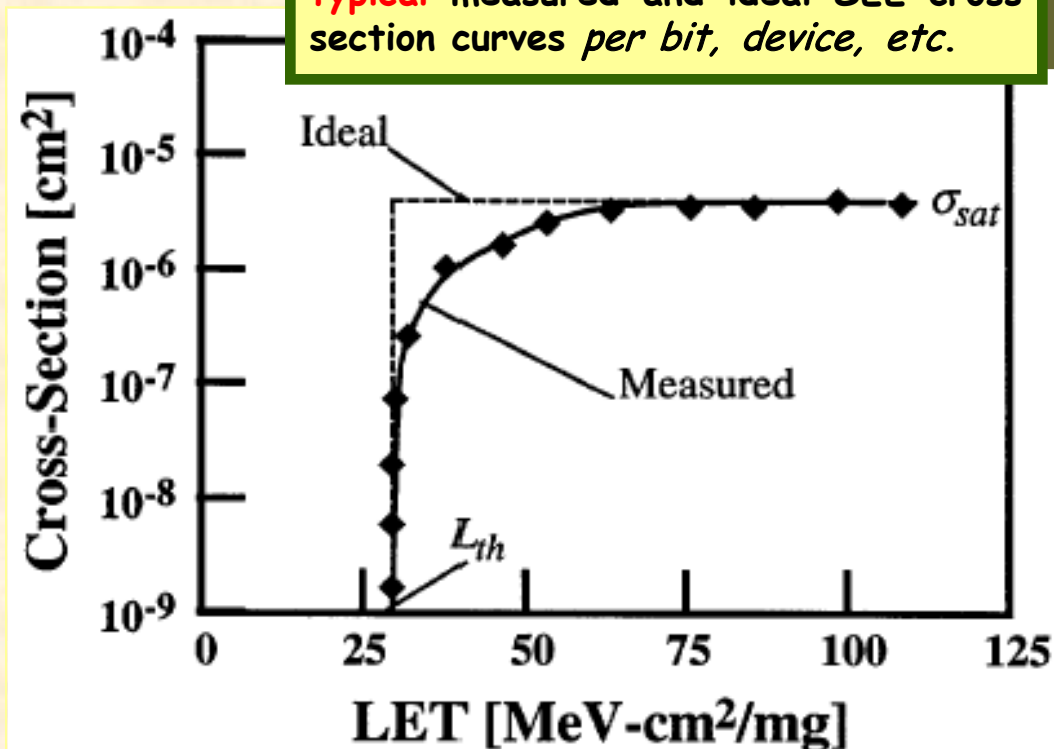
## WEIBULL FIT of threshold curve

$$\sigma = \sigma_{\text{sat}} \times \{1 - \exp[-(L - L_{\text{th}})/W]^s\}$$

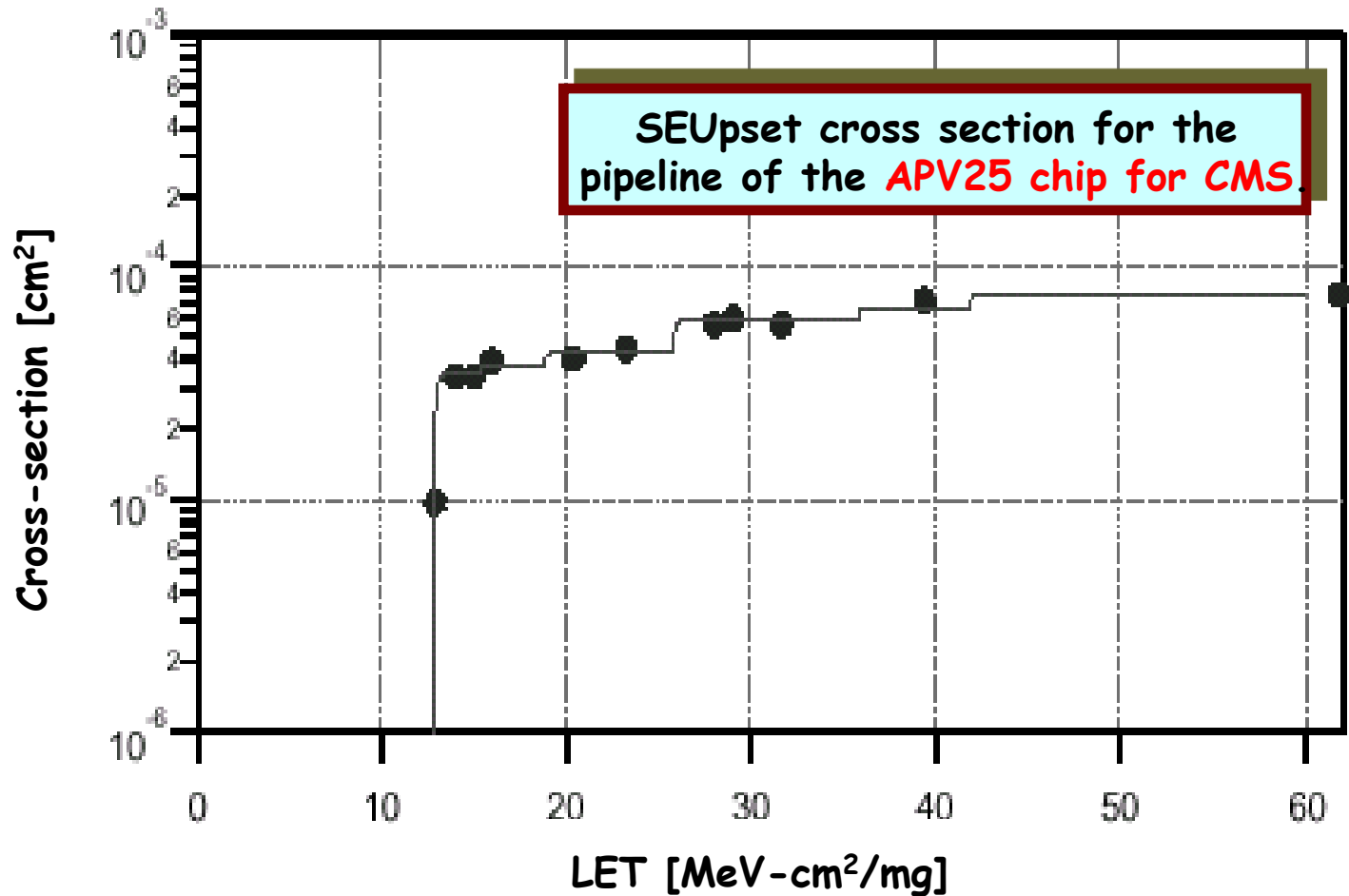
$\sigma_{\text{sat}}$ : saturation value

$L_{\text{th}}$ : threshold LET value

$W$  and  $s$  are fitting parameters



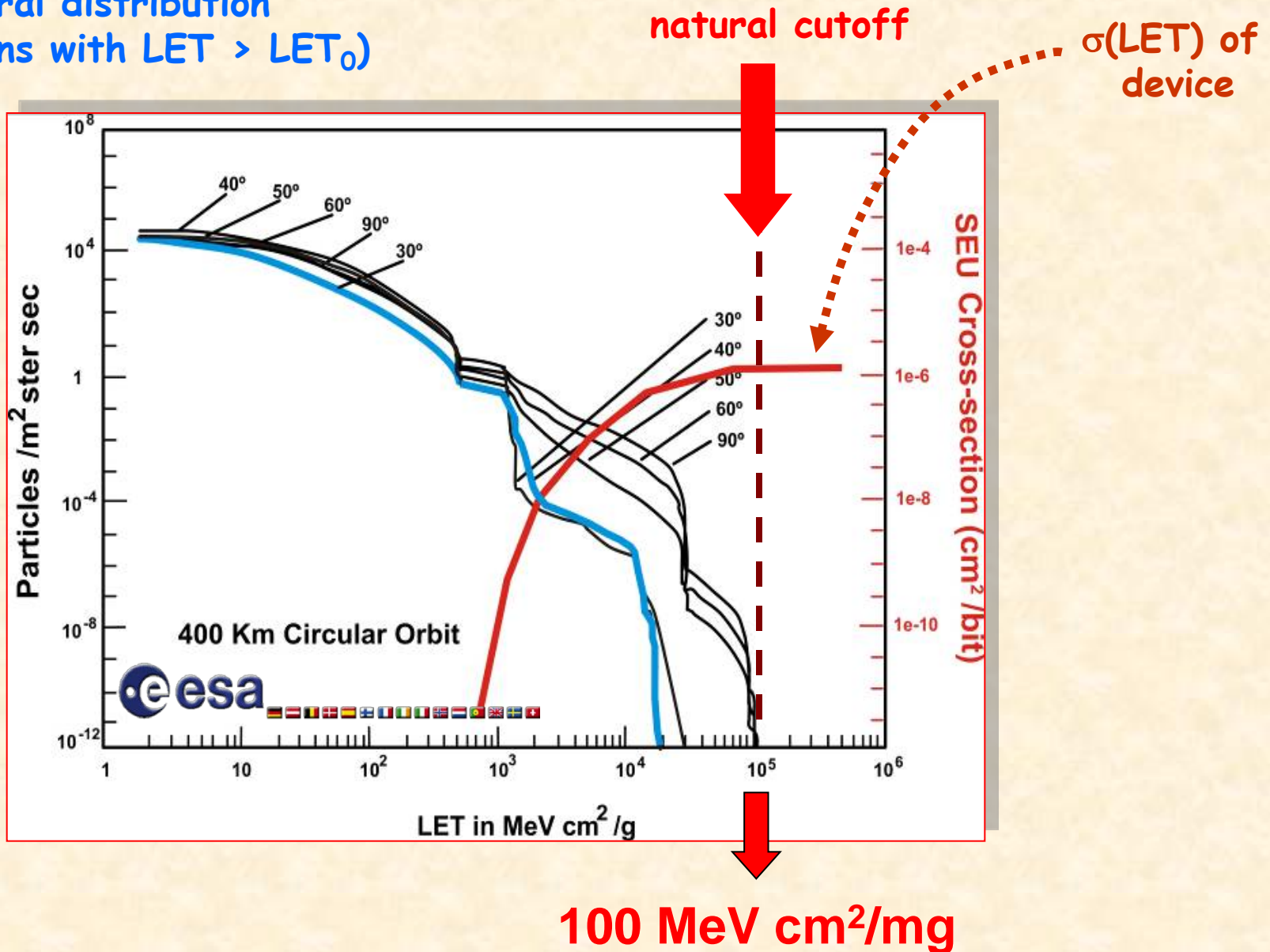
# SEE effects in Application Specific-ICs at SIRAD (LNL)



Solid line is a multiple Weibull fit based on simulations

# ***Ion induced SEE cross sections in real contexts***

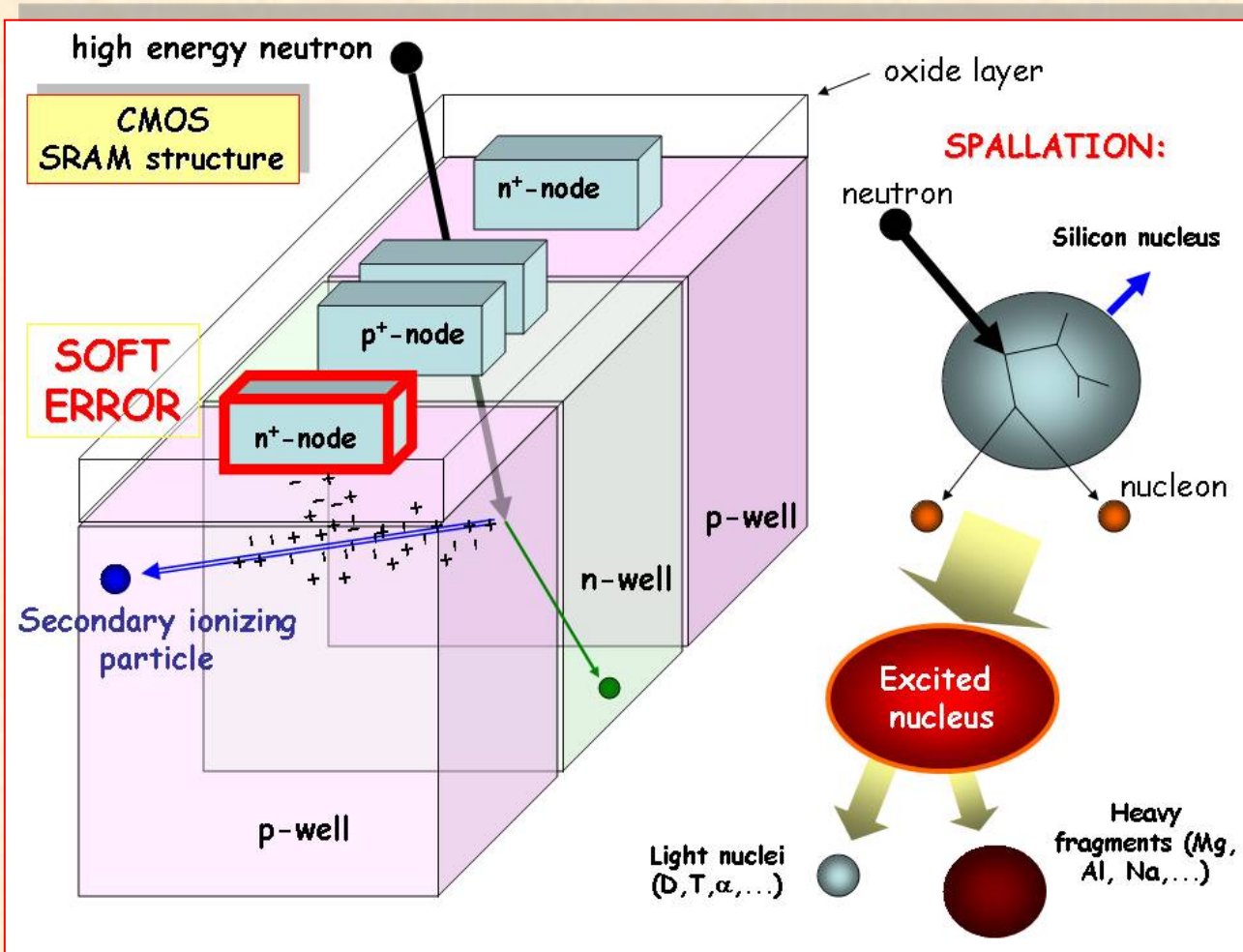
Integral distribution  
(No. of ions with LET > LET<sub>0</sub>)



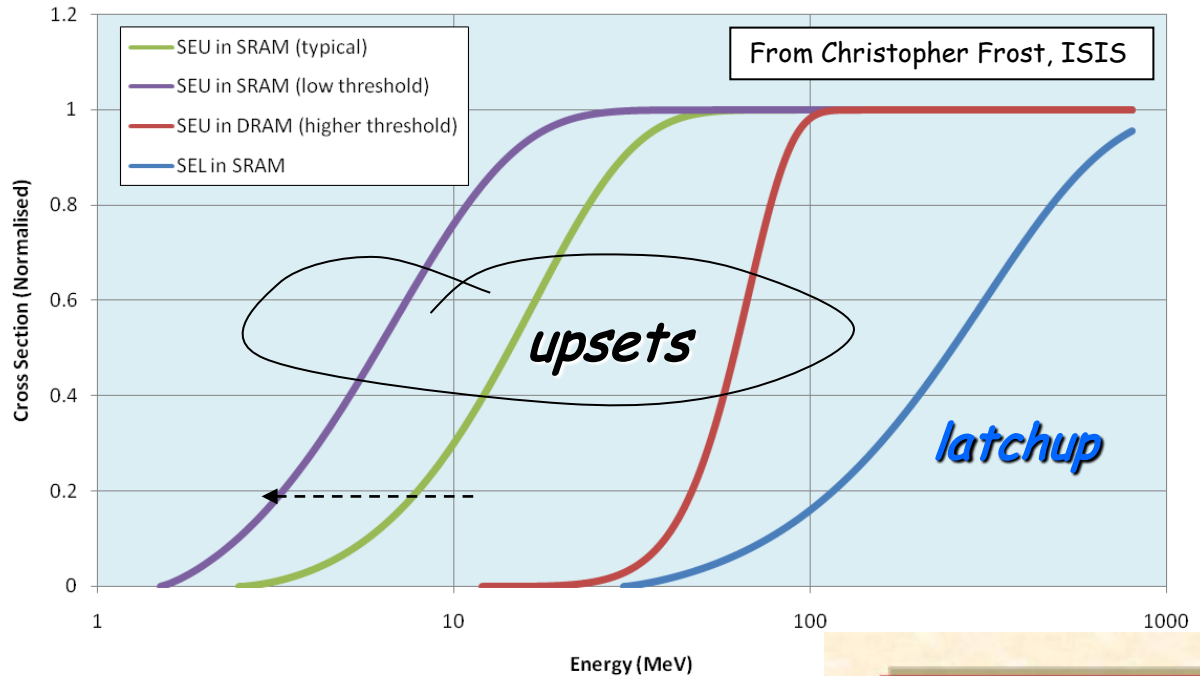


# Hadron induced Single Event Effects (SEE)

a fast neutron ( $E > \text{few MeV}$ ) interacts with a nucleus to produce a heavily ionizing secondary that then causes an anomalous macroscopic effect in an electronic device.



Note: to fragment a nucleus and cause a SEE, a **charged hadron** (proton, pion, kaon,...) needs to overcome coulomb barrier.

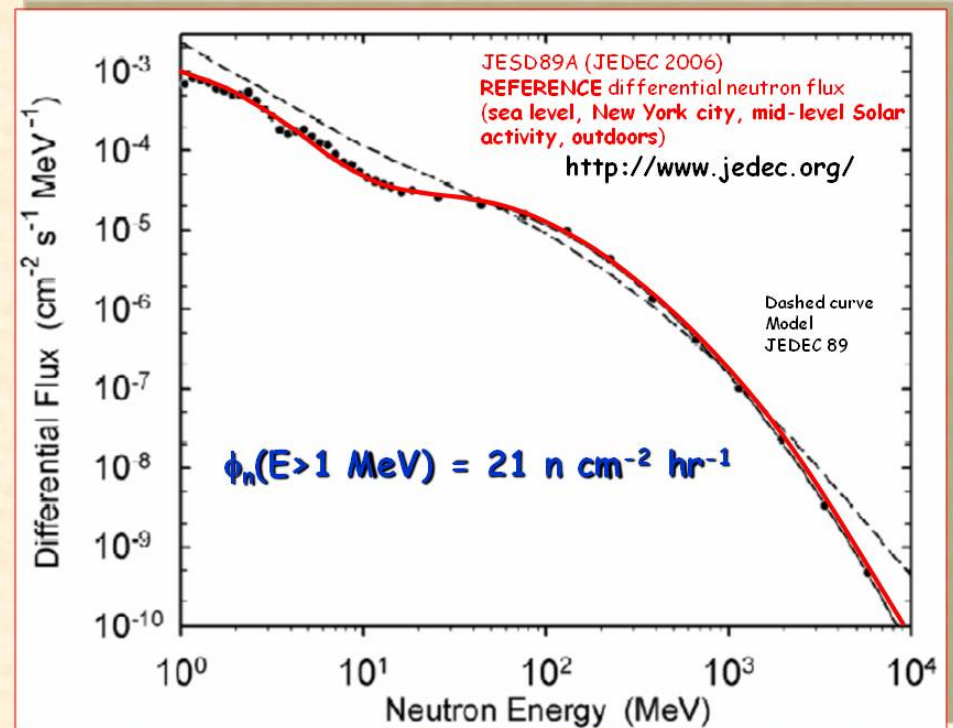


SEE Cross Sections induced by fast neutrons ( $E_n > 1 \text{ MeV}$ )

Reference neutron differential energy spectrum

Rate of SEE in device with  $N_{\text{bits}}$

$$Rate_{SEE} = N_{\text{bits}} \times \int_{E_0}^{E_{\text{max}}} \sigma_{\text{dev}}(E) \phi_{NY}(E) dE$$

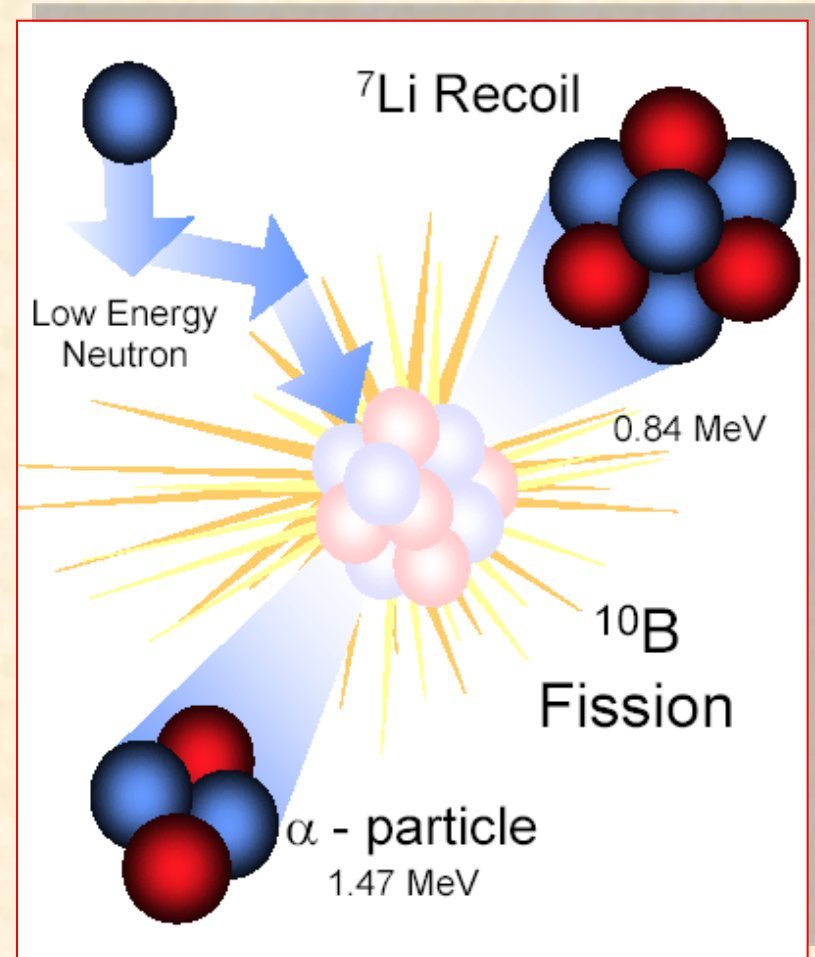


# Slow thermal neutrons too

The SEE problem with low energy neutrons too due to use of Boron-10 in the cover glass layer of some microchips (*Borophosphosilicate glass - BPSG*). *BPSG was used as for a polishing technique. It has been replaced with a Chemical Mechanical Polishing (CMP) technique.*

Boron-10 has a high cross-section for emission of an alpha particle when struck by a **thermal neutron** (a neutron slowed to be in thermal equilibrium with its environment)

N.B. Thermal neutron may induce SEE when Boron concentration becomes extremely high (e.g. PMOSFETS)



# Single Event Effects (SEE)

- single ionizing particle deposits **enough** ionization in a sensitive volume to cause spontaneous damage in live device. Note: it requires a minimum amount of ionization!
- **due to:**
  - heavy ions (e.g. primary galactic high charge and energy cosmic rays)
  - neutrons
  - protons, pions }  $\Rightarrow$  Ionizing nuclear fragments
- **effects in live electronics depend greatly on technology and design:**
  - permanent HARD SEE (may be destructive)
    - SEL (CMOS, CPUs, PLC,...)
    - SEB (MOSFETs, power devices,...)
    - SEGR (power MOSFETS)
    - ...
  - static SOFT SEE (data corruption)
    - SEU (RAM, PLC,...)
    - SEFI
  - transient SEE (spurious signal)
    - combinatorial logic
    - operational amplifiers
- **rate of effects scale with particle flux**
- **tolerance of devices expressed in cross-section( $\text{cm}^2$ ) =  $N_{\text{SEE}}/\text{fluence}$**
- **depends on specific ionization power of culprit  $\text{LET} > \text{LET}_{\text{threshold}}$**
- **in hadron environment SEE rates proportional to hadron flux  $E > 20 \text{ MeV}$**   
 $E_{\text{neutrons}} > 2 \text{ MeV}$

## physical quantities of interest:

- particle fluence  $\Phi(\#/\text{cm}^2)$
- Linear Energy Transfer (LET) ( $\text{keV-cm}^2/\text{g}$ )
- hadron energy
- cross-section  $\sigma(\text{cm}^2) = N_{\text{SEE}}/\Phi$
- $\sigma$  *versus* LET (ions) or energy E (hadron) (threshold and plateau values)



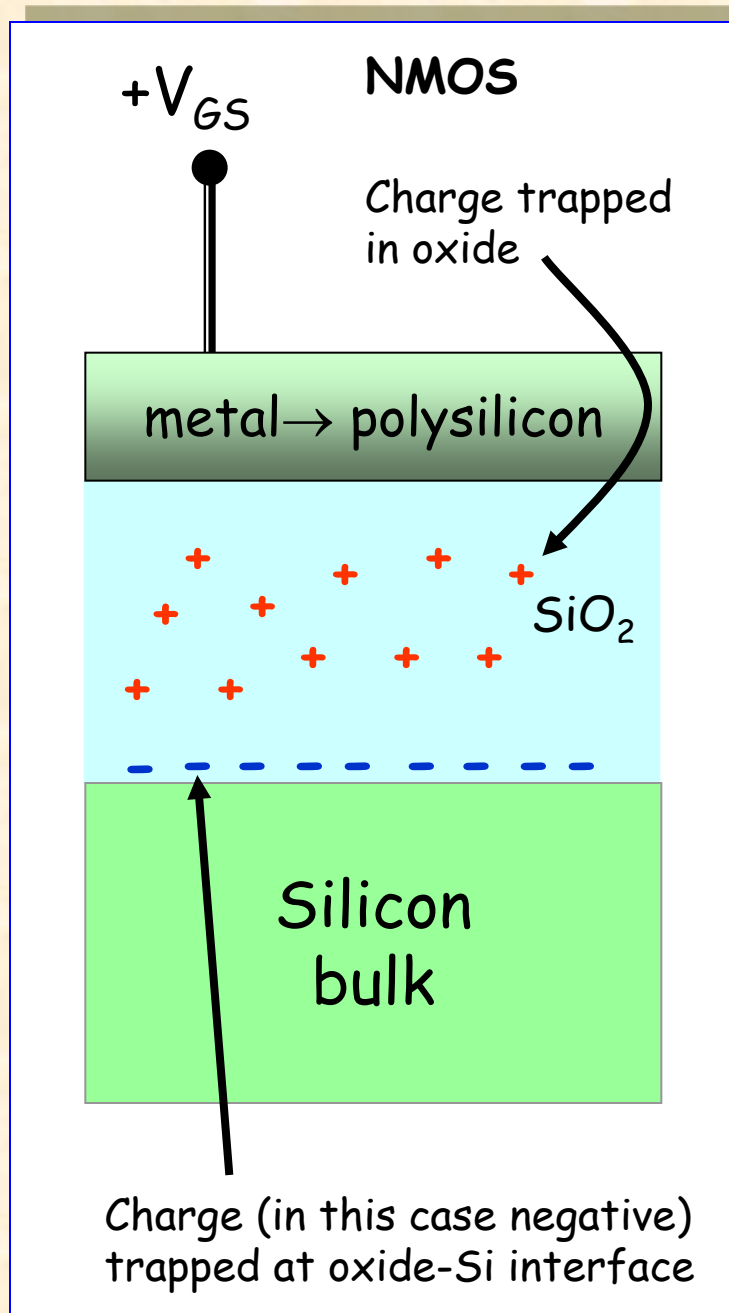
## SEE testing

	name	method	Merit/demerit
proton	Proton accelerator test	Irradiate DUT with mono-energetic protons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many facilities</li> <li>• Equality with neutron? (also ionization; TID may accelerate SEE)</li> </ul>
	Field tests	Keep number of devices at a certain location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costly, time consuming</li> <li>• Reliable</li> <li>• Corrections necessary</li> </ul>
neutron	Quasi-monoenergetic neutrons	Irradiated DUTs with quasi mono-energetic neutrons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilities Limited</li> <li>• Versatile</li> <li>• Correction necessary (quasi monoenergetic)</li> </ul>
	Spallation neutrons	Irradiated DUTs with neutrons of broad energy range similar to atmospheric neutron spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High flux</li> <li>• Facilities limited</li> <li>• White spectrum similar to atmospheric one</li> <li>• Uncertain in selection of energy range</li> </ul>
	Thermal neutrons	Irradiated DUTs with thermal neutrons from experimental reactor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities limited</li> <li>• Estimation of SER in field is difficult do to great difference in neutron spectrums</li> </ul>
Heavy ion	Heavy ions SEE test	Irradiated DUTs with mono-energetic heavy ions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suitable to understand basic SEE mechanism</li> <li>• No immediate correlation with neutron induced SEE</li> </ul>
laser	Focused laser beam test	Pulsed laser beam is focused at a specific spot on the DUT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easy access</li> <li>• Pre-treatment of DUT</li> <li>• Equality with neutron SEU</li> </ul>



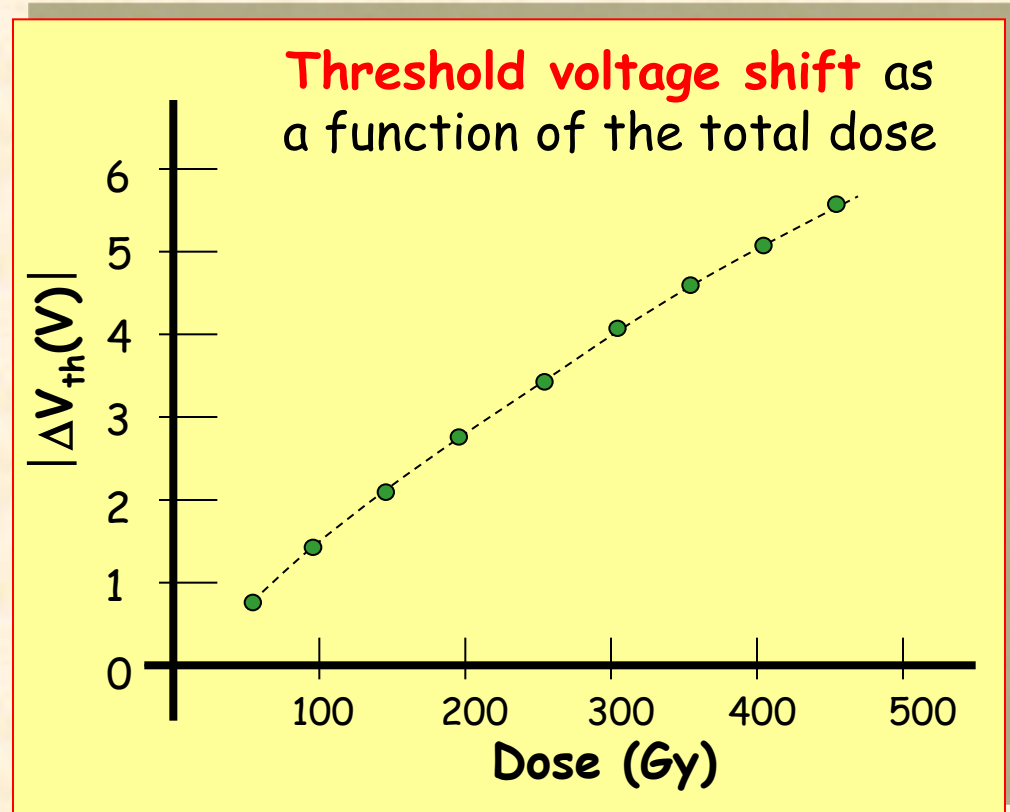
# Total Ionization Dose effects





**Charge trapping ...  
affects device  
operation**

$$\Delta V = \frac{Q_{trapped}}{C}$$



# BASIC MECHANISMS in oxide layer:

1. Electron-Hole Pair Generation in  $\text{SiO}_2$ :  $\sim 17$  eV/pair
2. Pair Recombination. N.B. "fractional yield" depends on **type of radiation** and on the electric field (MV/cm) across the oxide (see figure)
3. **electron** and **hole** transport:  $e^- \sim$  in picosec,  $h^+$  in millisecond
4. **Hole Trapping**
5. Interface Trap Formation

How much charge is trapped depends ....

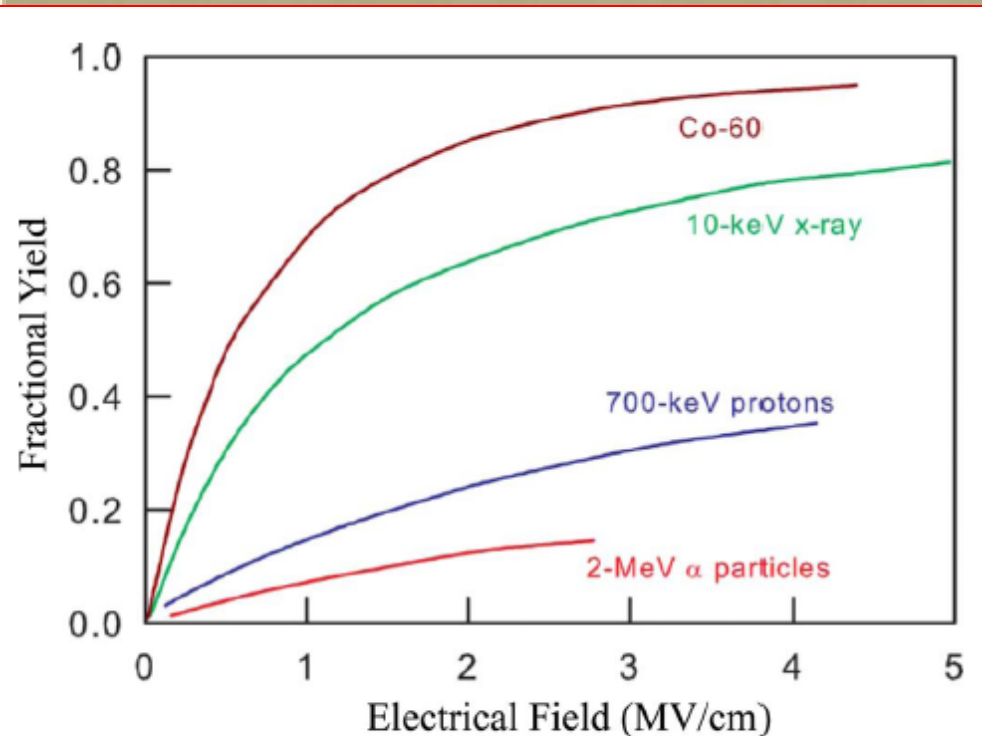


Fig. 1. Fractional yield as a function of the electrical field applied throughout the oxide and for different incident particles [1], [2].

[1] F. B. McLean and T. R. Oldham, "Basic mechanism of radiation effects in electronics materials and devices," Harry Diamond Lab., Adelphi, MD, Tech. Rep. HDL-TR-2129, 1987.

[2] M. R. Shaneyfelt, D. M. Fleetwood, J. R. Schwank, and K. L. Hughes, "Charge yield for 10-keV X-ray and cobalt-60 irradiation of MOS devices," *IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci.*, vol. 38, pp. 1187-1194, Dec. 1991.

# Charge trapping inside oxide and at Si/SiO<sub>2</sub> interface

## 1. Oxide Trapping

Number trapped  $N_{OT}$

## 2. Interface Trapping

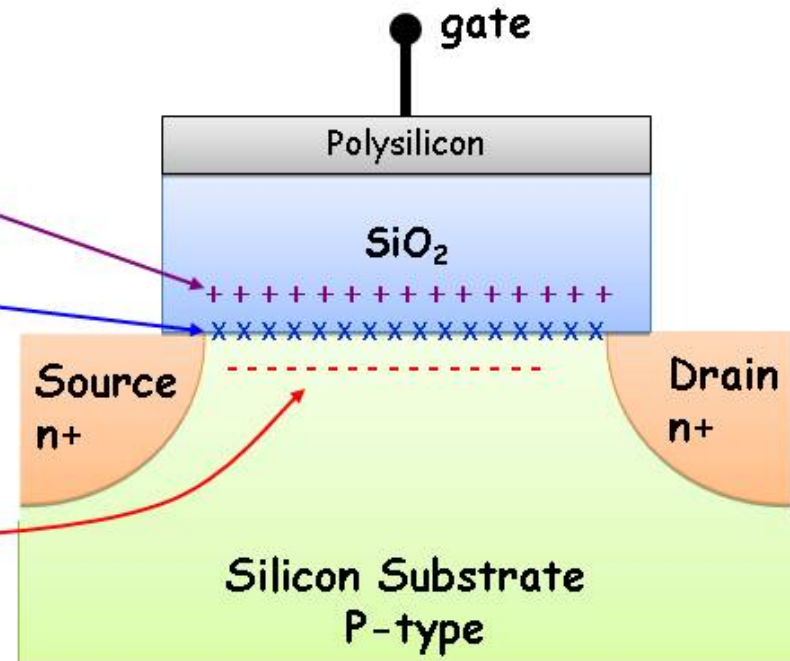
Number trapped  $N_{IT}$

3. Accumulation of positive charge in oxide ( $N_{OT}$ ) creates parasitic channel for leakage current

Resultant voltage shifts due to trapped charges:

$$\Delta V_{IT} = -\frac{Q_{IT}}{C_{ox}} = \pm \frac{q \cdot N_{IT}}{C_{ox}}$$

$$\Delta V_{OT} = -\frac{Q_{OT}}{C_{ox}} = -\frac{q \cdot N_{OT}}{C_{ox}}$$



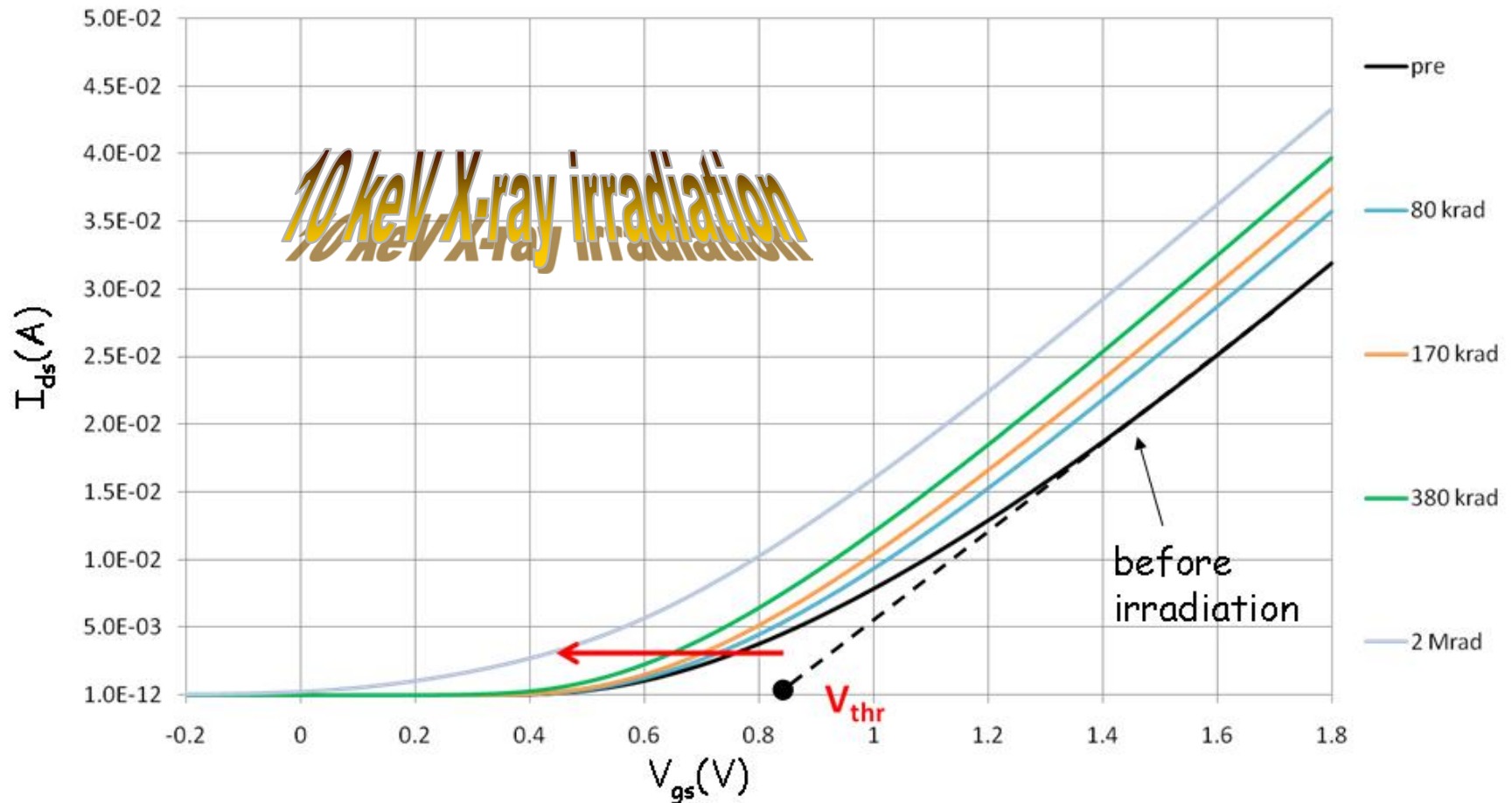
## EFFECTS of TID in MOS devices:

- ☐ Parasitic leakage current paths
- ☐ Mobility degradation
- ☐ Threshold voltage shift

# Voltage shifts

## IV Characteristics

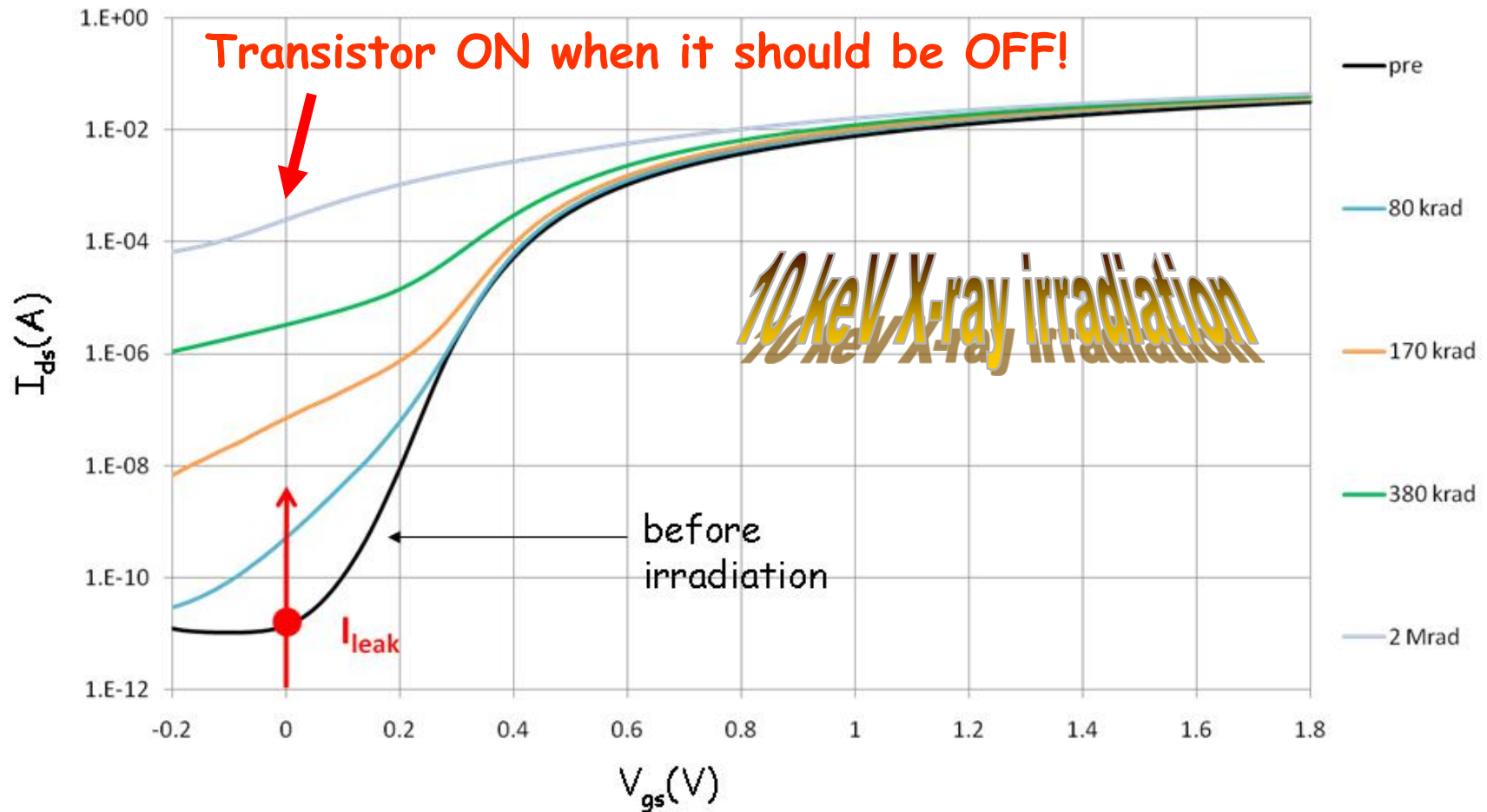
current drain-source  $I_{ds}$  vs voltage gate-source  $V_{gs}$



N.B.  $V_{threshold}$  is given by linear extrapolation (dashed line)



Same IV Characteristics *but in log scale*  
current drain-source  $I_{ds}$  vs voltage gate-source  $V_{gs}$



N.B.  $I_{leakage}$  is given current for zero voltage on gate

## Several step process:

- a) Ionization produced along track of ionizing particle; i.e. creation of electrons and holes with a certain distribution. (Note: if produced in great quantities (e.g. highly ionizing ions, nuclear fragments,...) there is risk of SEE).
- b) Initially many electron-hole pairs recombine before moving too much. Recombination takes place between electrons and holes produced in the same and in different events.
- c) Surviving electrons diffuse or drift away. Some electrons end up on traps, others escape from the dielectric.
- d) Carriers trapped on levels with low ionization energies get thermally re-excited into the conduction or valence band and, subject to further drift or diffusion, escape the dielectric or are captured on deep trap levels (production of permanently trapped charges).
- e) In addition, in the energy gap new oxide-silicon interface levels are induced and occupied by electrons or holes (depending on position of Fermi level at the interface).
- f) **NET EFFECT: induced charges in the oxide changes the electric field in the semiconductor, in the region of the interface.**

old units still in use  
 $1 \text{ Gy} = 100 \text{ rad}$

## Typical electronic-part tolerance

*COTS* ("commercial off the shelf"): 5-20 krad

*Rad Tolerant* : 100 krad

*Rad Hard* : 1 Mrad

# TID, Ionization Damage

- **Cumulative damage** as in insulators wherein electrons and holes produced by ionization are fixed and charged regions are induced; i.e. material does not return to its initial state.  
In context of silicon devices (wherein there are oxide layers and Si-SiO<sub>2</sub> interfaces) also called surface damage.
- **due to energy deposition in form of ionization:**
  - electrons
  - gamma and X-rays ( $\Rightarrow$  electrons via photoelectric, Compton and pair-production)
  - pions, protons, ions
- **damages all types of semiconductor electronics** (CMOS and bipolar)
  - Threshold Shifts (transistors)
  - Leakage Current
  - Timing Changes
  - Startup Transient Current
  - Functional Failures
- **effects scale with total dose**
- **tolerance of devices expressed in TID** (Gray or Rad; 1 Gy = 100 rd = 1 J/kg)
- *modern CMOS COTS usually can withstand 10-20 krad (good for **low(\*) orbits**)*
- shielding may *partially* mitigate
  - Low energy protons
  - Electrons

physical quantities of interest:

- Linear Energy Transfer LET (MeV-cm<sup>2</sup>/mg)
- Total Ionizing Dose (TID) 100 rad = 1 Gray
- for protons and ions: TID = LET  $\times$  Fluence

(\*) below Van Allen

DDD effects

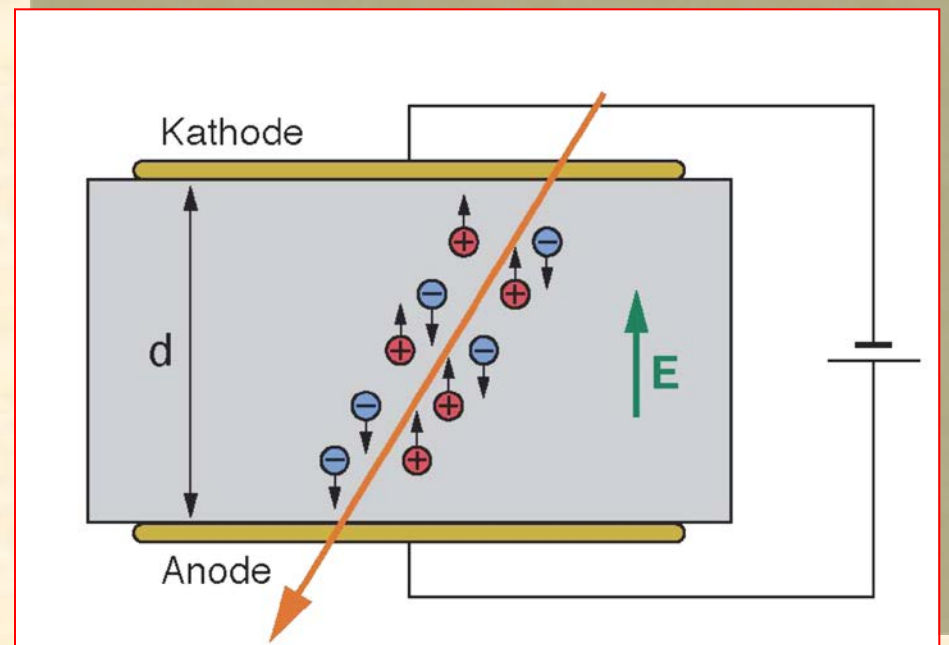




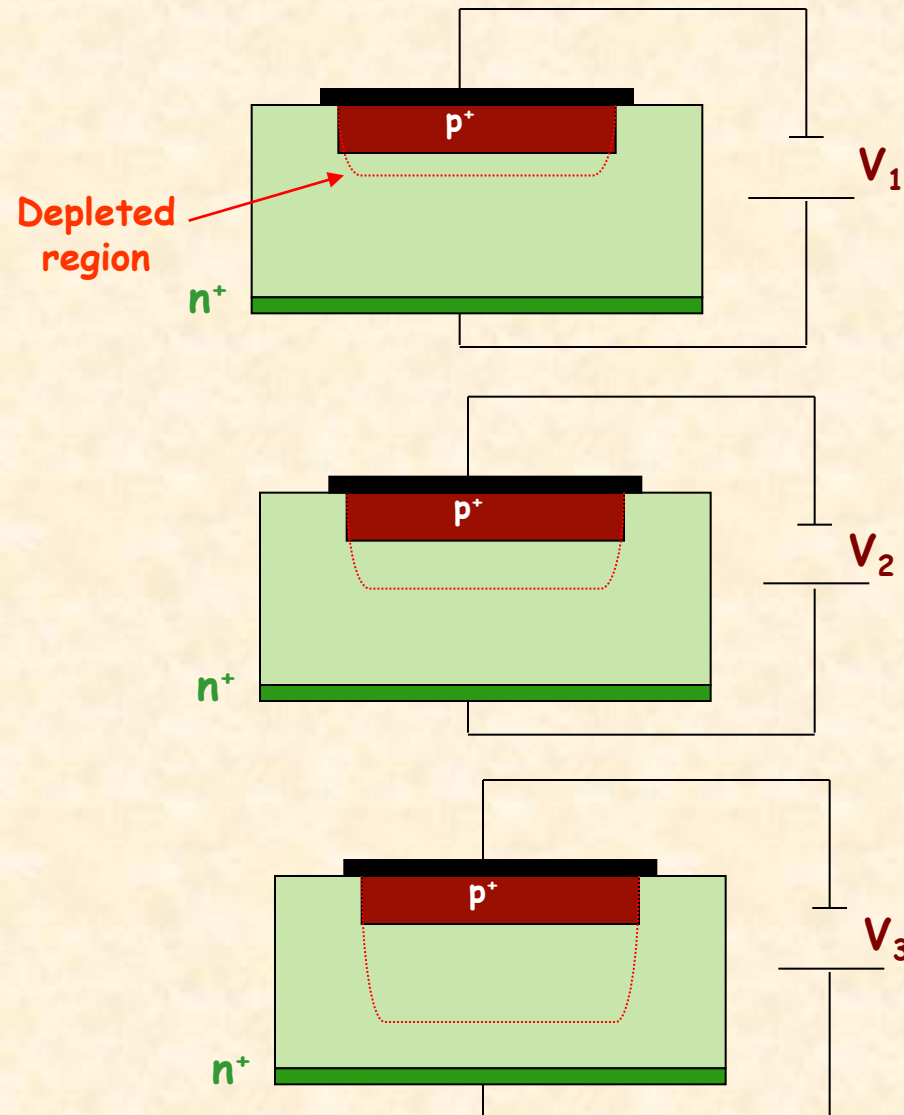
# Silicon Detector - how it works

1. Take a piece of high resistivity silicon (not too thick, not too thin, typically about  $300\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ )
2. produce two electrodes (**sounds easy. Its not!**)
3. Apply a voltage in order to create an internal electric field of some hundreds of volts across the device
4. charged particles crossing device will produce electron-hole pairs
5. The moving electrons and holes will create a signal in the electric circuit.

Radiation damage affects detector performance and Charge Collection Efficiency (depending on detector, geometry and readout electronics!)



# pin-diode detector

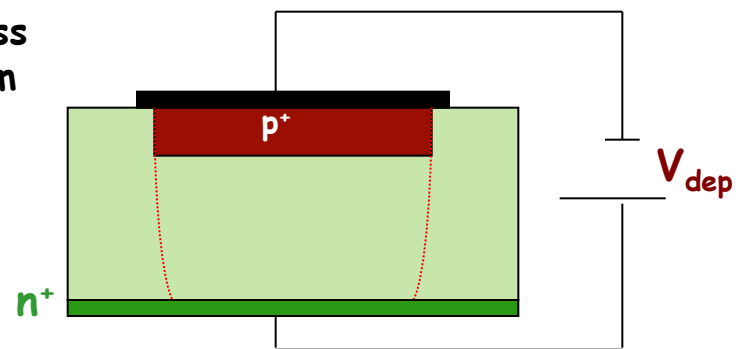


If the detector is under-depleted:

- Charge loss → inefficiency
- Charge spread → loss resolution

To fully deplete apply  
 $V_{\text{dep}}$

Thickness  
 $d = 300\mu\text{m}$



# Radiation Damage in Silicon detectors

The two types of radiation damage to detector materials:

- 1) TID ("surface damage") due to ionization energy loss and trapping of charges in oxide layers and interfaces. It affects
  - interstrip capacitance (noise factor)
  - breakdown behavior,
- 2) DDD ("bulk damage") due to non-ionizing energy loss and build up of crystal defects. It leads to
  - i. Changes in **effective doping concentration** (higher depletion voltage)
  - ii. Increase  $\uparrow$  of **leakage current** (increase of shot noise, thermal runaway!)
  - iii. Increase  $\uparrow$  of **charge carrier trapping** and hence loss of collected charge.

Detectors can fail from radiation damage!  $\Rightarrow$  Signal/noise ratio is the quality factor to "keep an eye on" 

# Collected Charge for a Minimum Ionizing Particle (MIP) in a silicon detector

- Mean energy loss

$$S_{\text{ele}} = dE/dx (\text{Si}) = 3.88 \text{ MeV/cm}$$

$\Rightarrow 116 \text{ keV}$  for  $d = \underline{300 \mu\text{m}}$  thickness

- Most probable energy loss

$$\approx 0.7 \times \text{mean}$$

$$\Rightarrow 81 \text{ keV}$$

- 3.6 eV to create an e-h pair

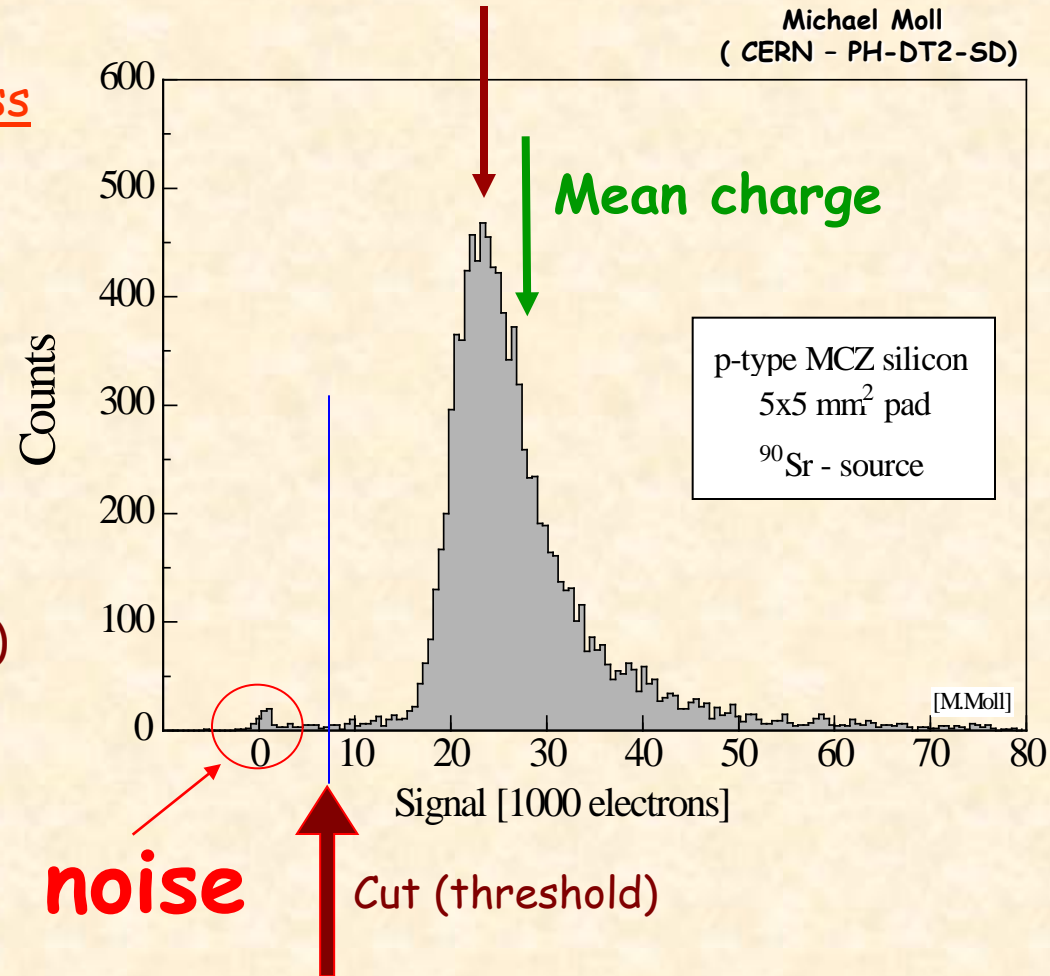
$$\Rightarrow 72 \text{ e-h} / \mu\text{m} \text{ (mean)}$$

$$\Rightarrow 108 \text{ e-h} / \mu\text{m} \text{ (most probable)}$$

- Most probable charge (300  $\mu\text{m}$ )

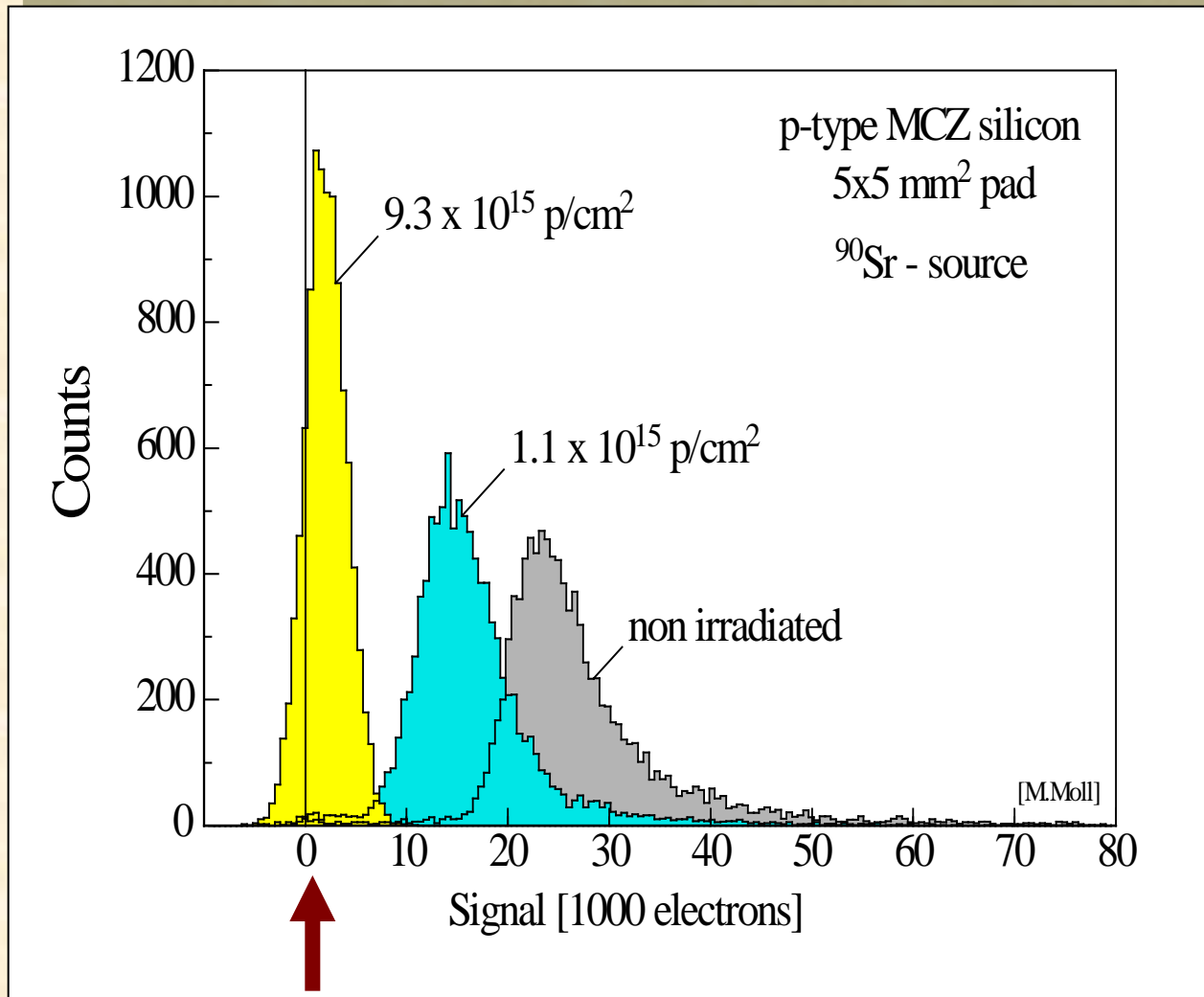
$$\approx 22500 \text{ e} \approx 3.6 \text{ fC}$$

Most probable charge  $\approx 0.7 \times$  mean



# DDD effects

Figure of Merit of detectors: Signal-to-Noise Ratio S/N



MCZ = Czochralski (CZ) crystal growth in an axial magnetic field

**High fluence proton irradiation causes so severe bulk damage that S/N degrades too much.**

Michael Moll  
( CERN - PH-DT2-SD)

**What is signal and what is noise? Any bets?**



# Leakage current effect

Defects act as recombination-generation centers: an increase in overall leakage current with fluence is an almost universal effect (caused most efficiently by mid-gap states created by damaging the bulk lattice).

It does not seem to depend on:

- the details of doping,
- impurities,
- processing.

Exemplifies NIEL  
scaling hypothesis




It is parameterized by:

$$I_{leakage} = I_0 + \alpha \cdot Vol \cdot \Phi_{eq}$$

$$\alpha \approx 4 \times 10^{-17} \text{ A/cm}$$

$$I_{leakage} = I_0 + \alpha \cdot Vol \cdot \Phi_{eq}$$


**Damage parameter**

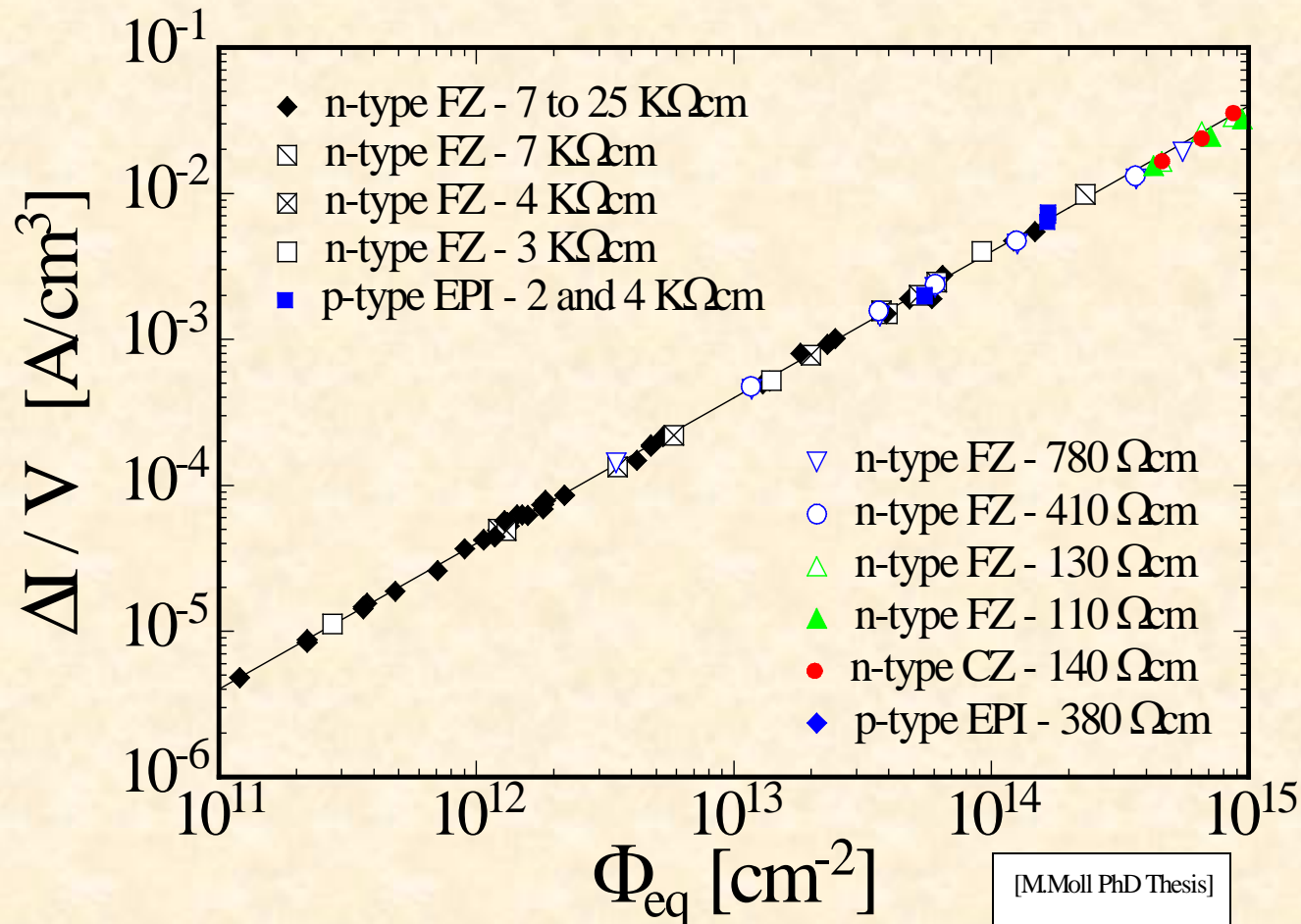
The leakage current per unit volume **grows linearly** with equivalent fluence  $\Phi_{eq}$

The  $\alpha$  damage parameter is constant over several orders of equivalent fluence and independent of impurity concentrations in Si.

Leakage current  
per unit volume

$$\frac{\Delta I_{leak}}{V} = \alpha \cdot \Phi_{eq}$$

$I_{leak}$  measured 80  
min at 60° C

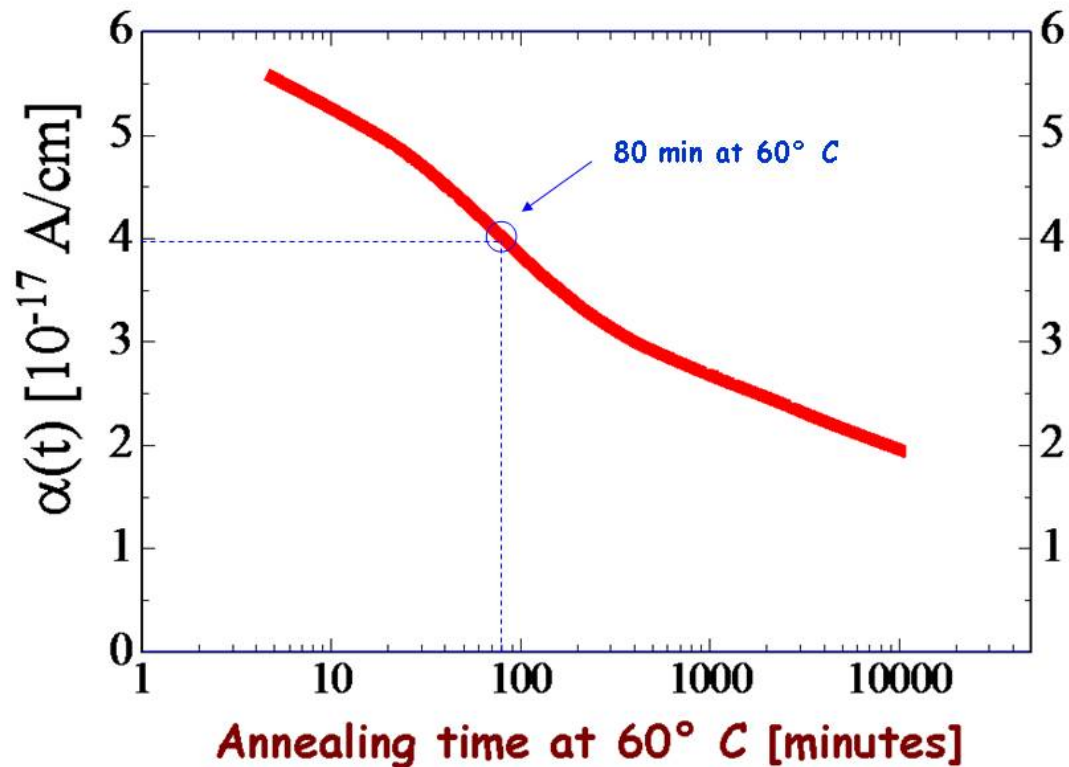


**Question: What  $\alpha$  constant?**  
**Answer: the “standard one”.**

❑ Leakage current decreases in time (depending on temperature)

❑ Strong temperature dependence

$$I \propto \exp\left(-\frac{E_g}{2k_B T}\right)$$



**Cool idea!** Cool detectors during operation!  
Example:  $I(-10^\circ\text{C}) \sim 1/16 I(20^\circ\text{C})$

- **"Type inversion"** : with increasing equivalent fluence, donors become more compensated.

The material seems to change from n-type to p-type (type inversion): the effective doping concentration  $N_{eff} = N_D - N_A$  changes from positive to negative (space charge inversion)

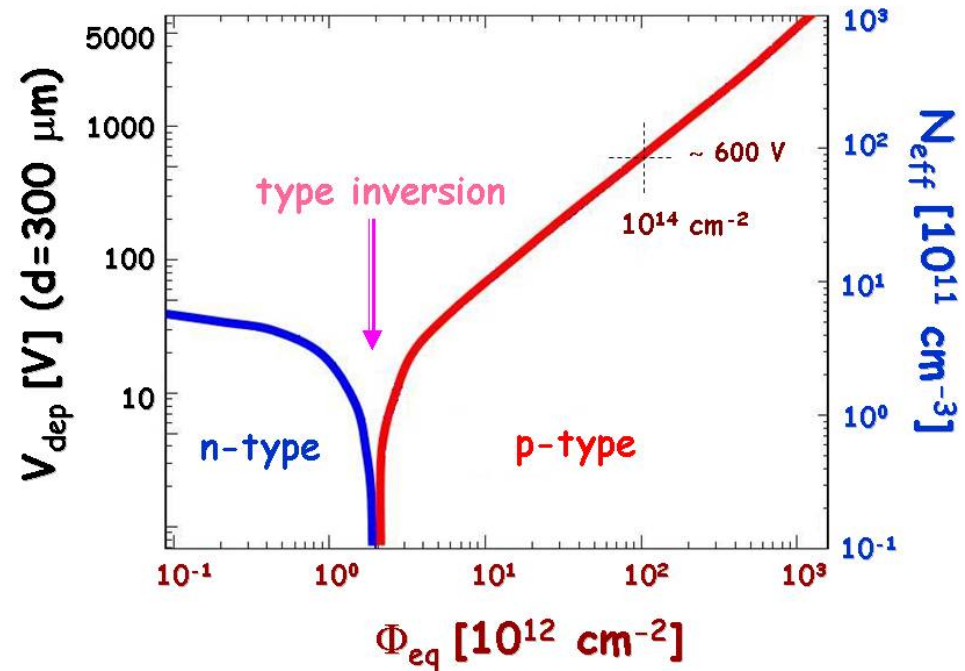
⇒ **increase of depletion voltage**

$$V_{depletion} = \frac{eN_{eff}d^2}{2\epsilon_0\epsilon_{Silicon}}$$

$$N_{eff} = \frac{2\epsilon_0\epsilon_{Si}V_{dep}}{ed^2}$$

$$d = 300 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\epsilon_{Si} = 11.7$$



# Depletion Voltage

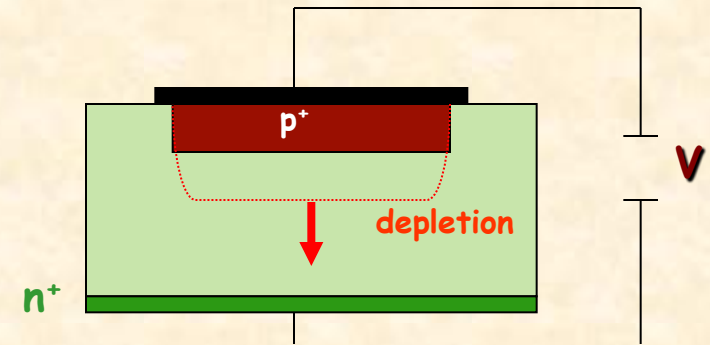
For a non-irradiated diode and before type inversion, the depletion region grows from the p-n junction side; i.e. from the p<sup>+</sup> implant for p-intrinsic-n detectors.

With Type-Inversion, the n-type bulk starts to behave like p-type bulk and the depletion grows from the backside of the diode.

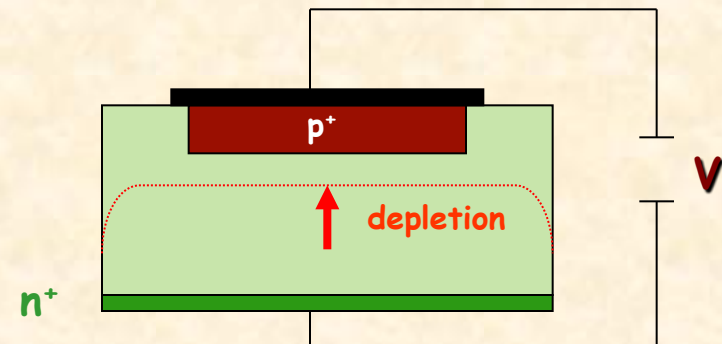
If the detector is under-depleted:

- ⇒ Charge spread
- ⇒ Charge loss

Before type inversion:



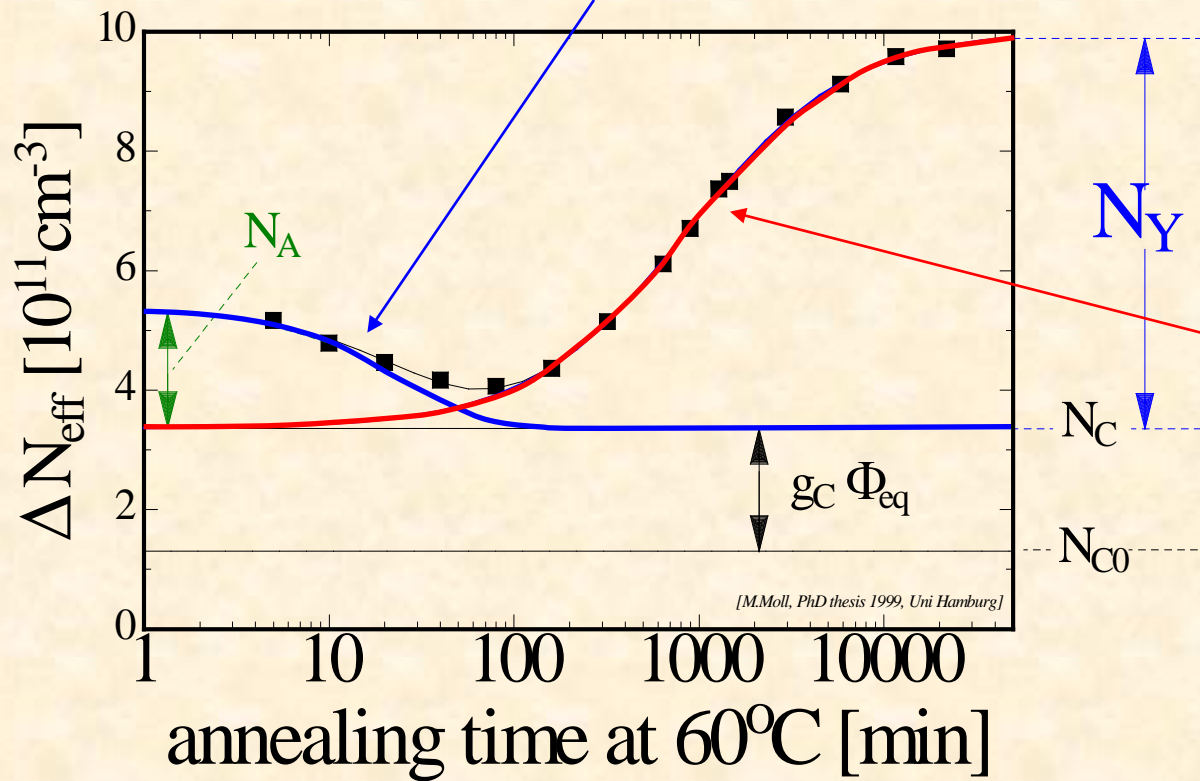
After type inversion:





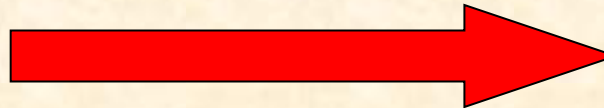
# Question: What effective doping concentration $N_{\text{eff}}$ ?

Short term beneficial annealing ☺



Long term reverse annealing, not-beneficial ☹☹

- WARNING: time constant depends on temperature:
  - ~ 500 years      ( $-10^\circ\text{C}$ )
  - ~ 500 days      ( $20^\circ\text{C}$ )
  - ~ 21 hours      ( $60^\circ\text{C}$ )



**BE CAREFUL!**  
Keep detectors cool even when the experiment is not running!

# NIEL, Displacement Damage (DD)

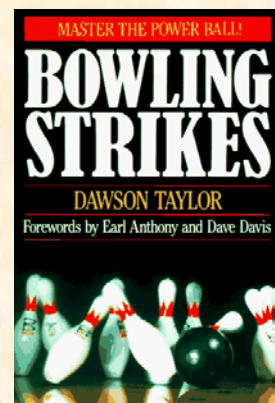


- Cumulative bulk damage; e.g. a less ordered lattice produces long term effects on semiconductor properties
- due to energy deposition in non-ionizing interactions:
  - neutrons
  - protons, ions (especially slow ones near end of range)
  - energetic electrons
- effects in electronics:
  - Production of defects which results in progressive device degradation
  - May be similar to TID effects
- sensitive devices (NOTE: CMOS, not bulk sensitive, is practically unaffected)
  - silicon detectors
  - laser diodes, LED, opto-couplers
  - solar cells
  - CCDs
  - linear bipolar devices
- effects scale with particle fluence
- tolerance of devices expressed in fluence of 1-MeV neutron equivalents
- risk begins at fluence  $> 10^{11-12}$  1-MeV neutrons/cm<sup>2</sup>
- shielding has some effect:
  - depends on location of device
  - may reduce significant electron and some proton damage

## physical quantities of interest:

- particle fluence  $\Phi$  (#/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Non-Ionizing Energy Loss (NIEL) (keV-cm<sup>2</sup>/g)
- DDDose = NIEL  $\times$   $\Phi$

# steps to long term effects in electronics: displacement damage



## four step process:

- 1) Primary particle hits atom in lattice, transferring enough energy to displace it. Creation of interstitials and vacancies (Frenkel defects).  
For high energy primaries, nuclear reactions can occur and produce several fragments.
- 1) The recoil atom or its fragments (secondaries) migrate through lattice causing further displacements. The *mean free path* between successive collisions decreases towards end of the range, so that defects are produced close and interact (general; i.e. true for primary and secondaries, tertiary...).
- 2) Thermal motion causes rearrangement of the lattice defects. Annealing at room temperature. Some rearrangements are influenced by presence of impurities in initial material.
- 3) Thermally stable defects influence the semiconductor properties; e.g. increase of capture, generation and recombination rates of non-equilibrium charge carriers.

NET Effects of displacements in **detectors (reverse biased pn-junctions)** cause:

- a) changes of the internal electric field, due to modified doping concentrations,
- b) eventually leading to inverting the conduction type for very high irradiations;
- c) increase of the leakage current;
- d) changes in capacitance and resistivity;
- e) charge collection losses.

# Summary slides

# Summary TID, NIEL, SEE

## 1. **Total Ionization Dose (TID), for electronics also called surface damage:**

- Effects caused by long term exposure to ionizing radiation.
- Induces changes in the mechanical and electrical properties of materials that may cause them to operate incorrectly or even fail.
- An important effect for insulators (charge build-up), cabling, electronics (surface charge effects), optical elements (lenses, filters) and cryogenics.

## 2. **Displacement Damage Dose (DDD) also called NIEL:**

- Effects due to long term exposure to interactions with non-ionizing energy transfers.
- Originates displacement defects in semiconductor materials (introduction of deep band-gap levels, traps,...)
- Important effect in all semiconductor bulk-based devices.

## 3. **Single Event Effects (SEE):**

- Effect due to a single interaction, wherein a large ionization gives a temporary or permanent damage to many electronically live devices or systems.
- Important effect for digital circuits such as memories or microprocessors.
- Induces errors, undesired latch-ups and may lead to system failure.



# Radiation: Microscopic effects → macroscopic effects

<i>micro-effect</i>			<i>macro-effect</i>
<u>Small</u> $\Delta E_{\text{ionization}}$ deposited uniformly and delivered over a long time.	charged particles	Direct or secondary ionization	<b>Total Integrated Ionizing Dose (TID) Effects</b>
<u>Sudden</u> large $\Delta E_{\text{ionization}}$ deposited in the ' <i>wrong place at the wrong time</i> '.	heavy charged particles (protons, ions)	Direct ionization	<b>Single Event Effects</b>
<u>Accumulation</u> of small $\Delta E$ transfers to atomic nuclei (Coulomb, nuclear interactions).	protons, neutrons, high energy electrons	displacement damage of lattice	<b>bulk effects: enhancement of TID Effects</b>
<u>Sudden</u> high $\Delta E$ transfer to a single nucleus at the ' <i>wrong place and time</i> '.	Energetic heavy particles (protons, neutrons, energetic ions)	Secondary ionization by recoil atoms and nuclear fragments	<b>Single Event Effects</b>

# CONCLUSIONS: studying radiation effects NEED TO define

- **quality of radiation** {
  - particle type (p, e,  $\gamma$ , n, ions,...)
  - energy
  - flux/fluence (how many!); i.e. cross-sections
  - source predictable or stochastic
- **properties of target** {
  - material (silicon, plastic, water...)
  - active devices (memories, diodes,..., *living cells*)
  - active volumes (different sensitivities, how many, where, ...)

## Questions that need answers:

- are there *predictable or stochastic* effects?

- what is correct variable?

(dose, fluence, 1-MeV equivalent neutron fluence for NIEL;  
LET and fluence hadrons  $E > 20$  MeV for SEE)

- any normalisation factors?

(scaling, NIEL-hypothesis, quality factors, *radiobiological equivalents*)

- any role of microenvironment?

(parasite structures such as latch-up in CMOS; *bystander effect*)



- any relaxation effects?  
(annealing, *adaptive response*)

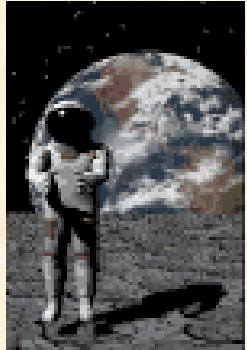
- are there dose rate/flux effects?

- are there low dose effects?

after  
H. Sadrozinsky,  
Santa Cruz

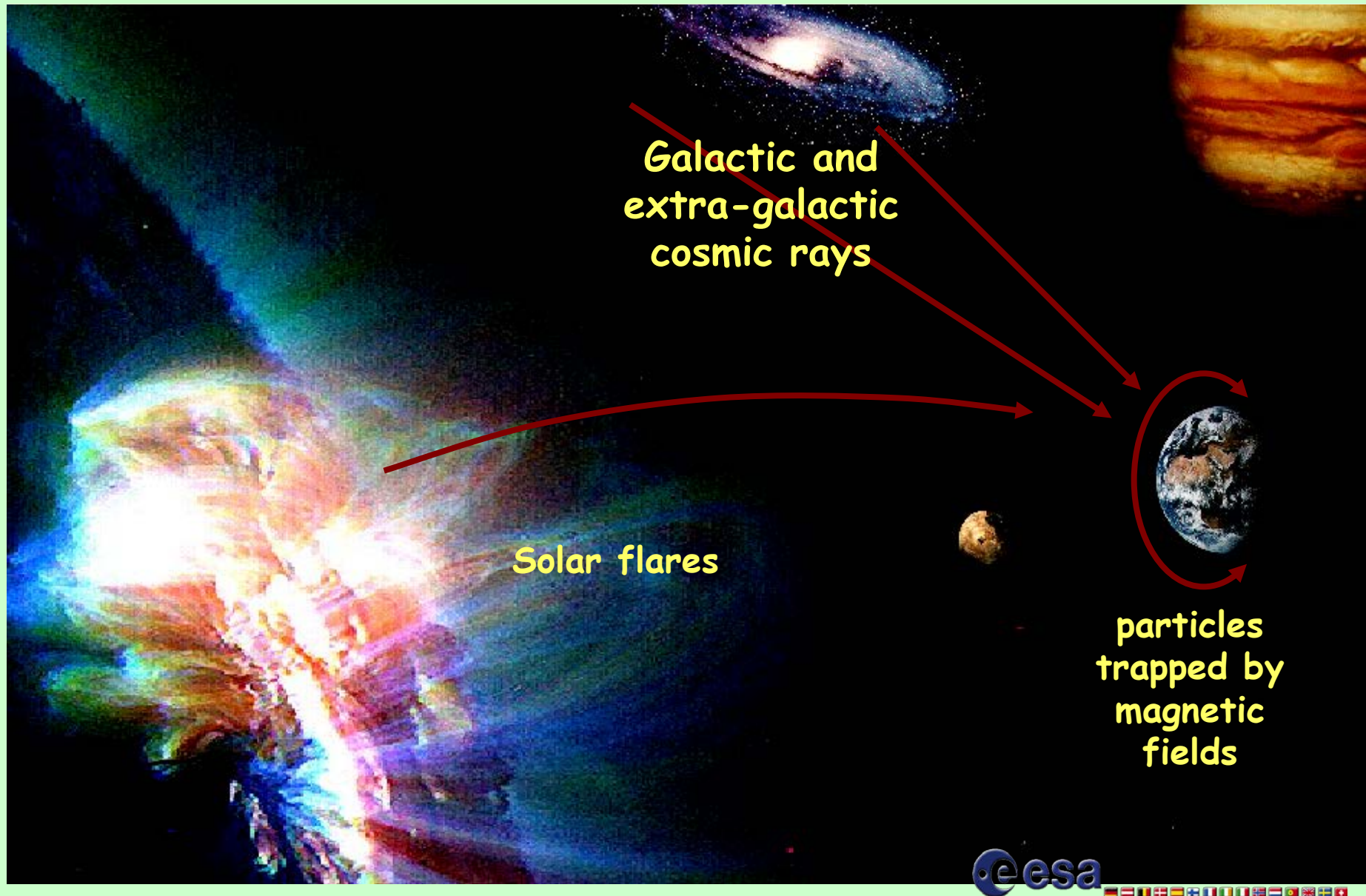
# PART 5:

## Environments





# *The space environment is full of energetic particles*



# Space Radiation and effects on electronics

stochastic effect

Single Event Effects (SEE)

cumulative effect

Displacement Damage

cumulative effect

Ionizing dose (TID)

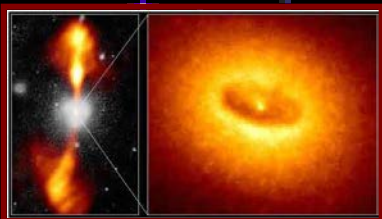
IONS



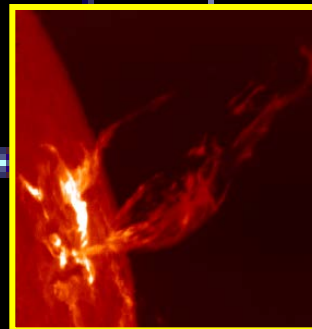
Galactic sources (1987a)



EXTRA-Galactic sources (NGC-4261)



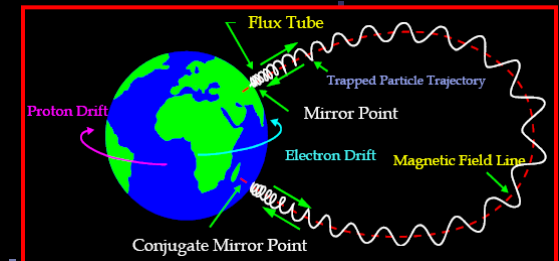
protons



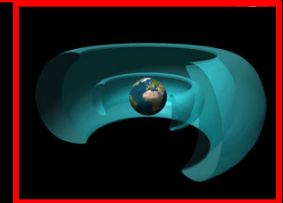
Solar flares

protons

electrons



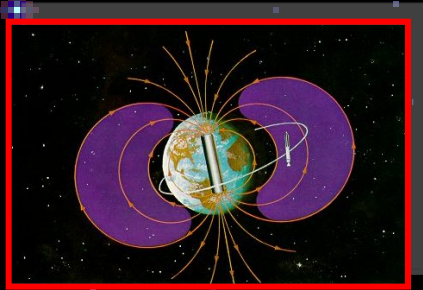
radiation belts





# Space radiation environment 1

Radiation belts (Van Allen): depends on Solar activity



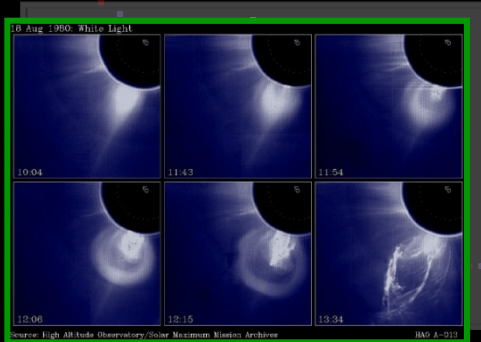
protons

keV  $\div$  500 MeV

electrons

eV  $\div$  10 MeV

Solar wind and flares: depends on Solar activity



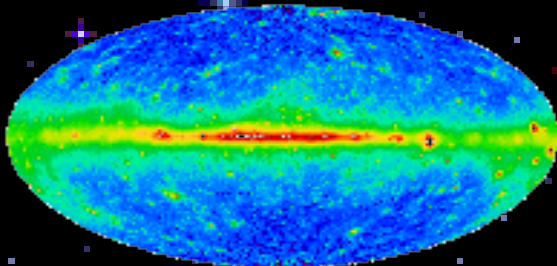
protons

keV  $\div$  500 MeV

ions

1  $\div$  few 10  
MeV/n

Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCR, HZE):  $\sim$  constant background



Protons and  
HZE ions (*high  
charge Z and energy E*)

Flux maximum at  
 $\sim$  300 MeV/n

# Space radiation environment 2

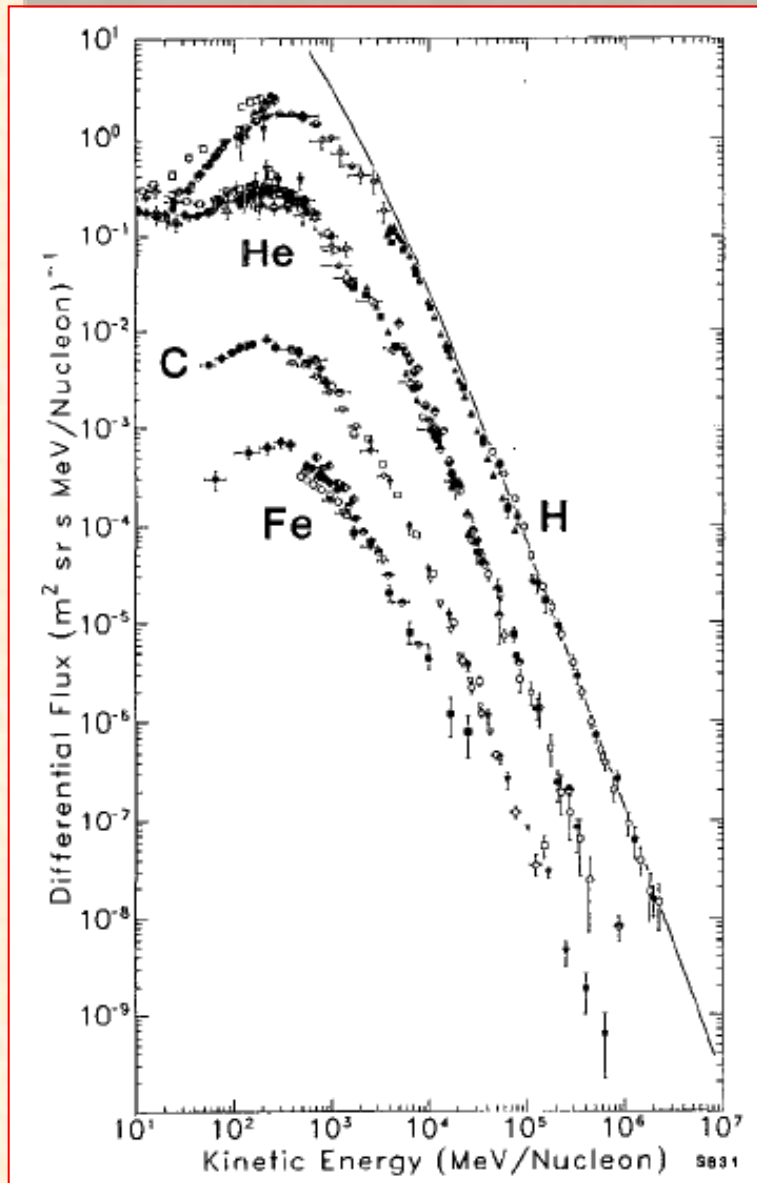
- **Solar particle events**: give rise to **solar cosmic rays**
- Solar activity: 11-year cycle:
  - **7 years of high activity (solar maximum)**
  - **4 years of low activity (solar minimum)**
- composition: mostly **protons,  $\alpha$ , heavy nuclei**
- **Flares**: at Earth surface fluxes up to  $10^6$  p/(cm<sup>2</sup>s) [1972], spectra highly variable



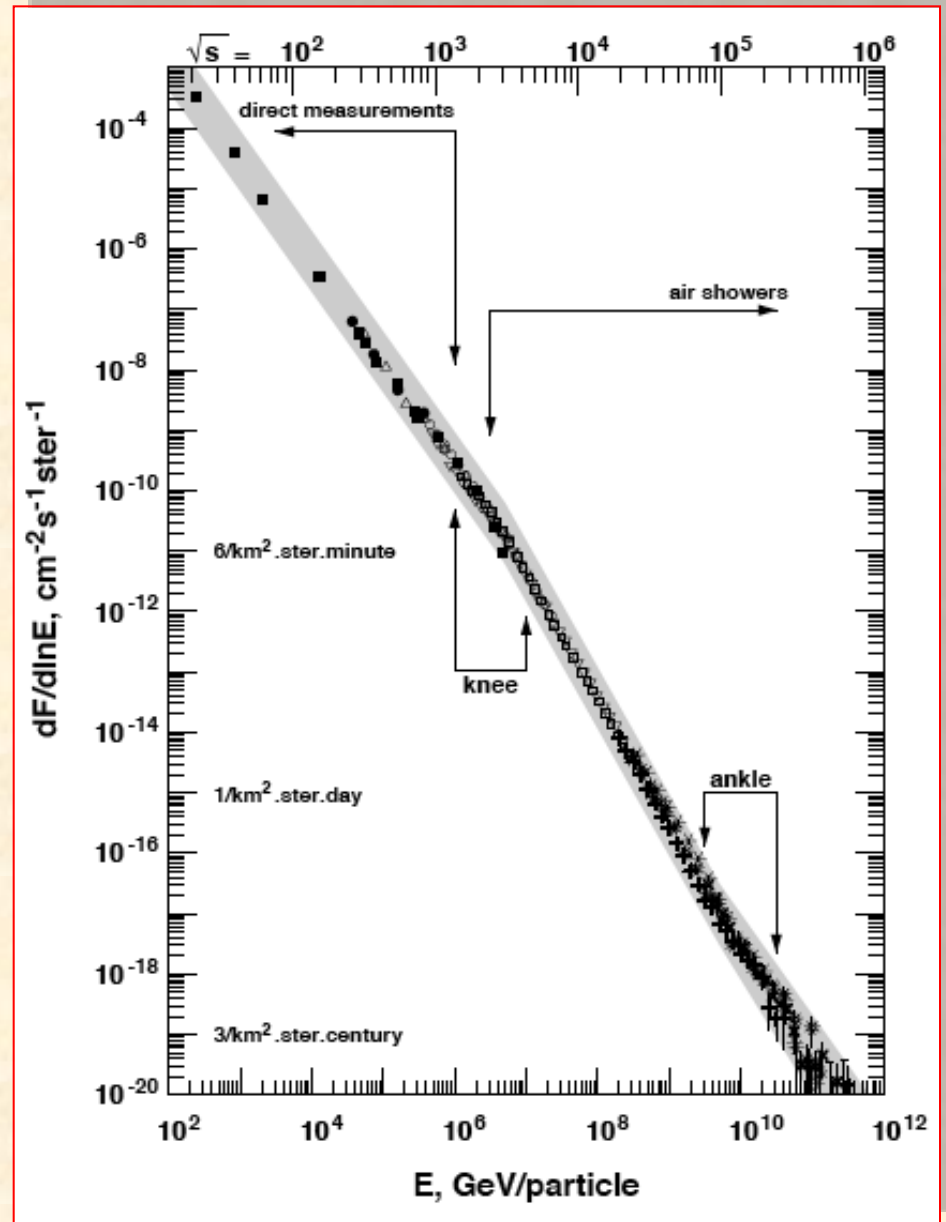
- **Galactic Cosmic Rays**: diffuse galactic background
- composition: ~85% protons, ~14%  $\alpha$ , ~1% heavy nuclei (HZE)
- most up to 10 GeV/amu. Rarely up to **up to  $10^{20}$  eV ( $10^{11}$  GeV) = 16 joules!**
- **anti-correlated with solar activity: solar flux scatters incoming charged particles**



# Energy spectra of primary cosmic rays

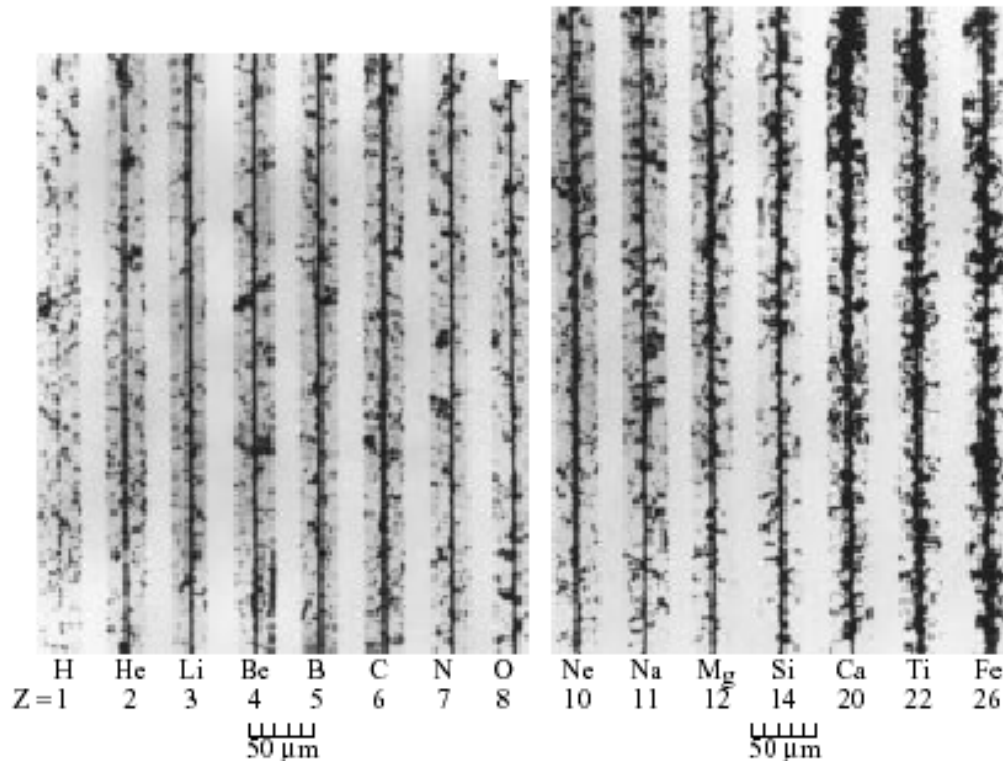


J.A.Simpson, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.  
33 (1983) 323

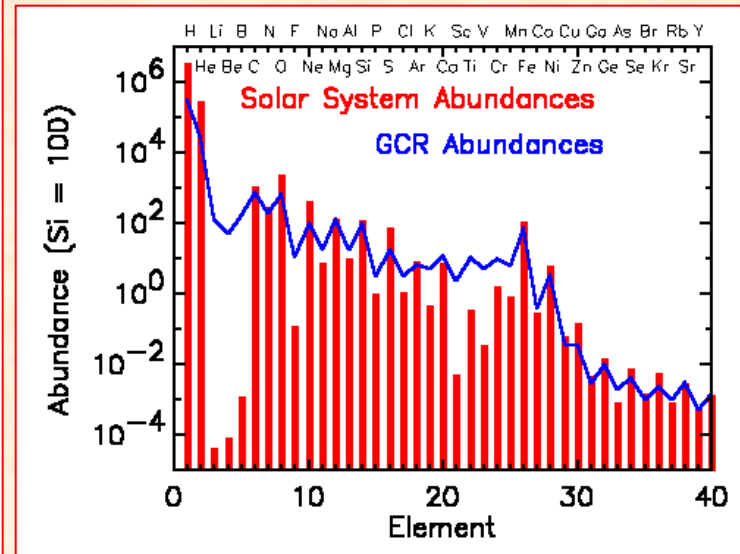


T. Stanev, SLAC Summer Institute, 2004;  
 astro-ph/0411113.

# Galactic High Charge and Energy (HZE) ions



McDonald F. B. (1965). "Review of Galactic and Solar Cosmic Rays",  
*Second Symposium on Protection Against Radiations in Space*  
 (Reetz A., editor), NASA SP-71: 19-29



HZE are a direct cause of **Single Event Effects**

# Simulating the radiation environment

- **CREME (models cosmic-ray environment and effects)** . The standard model for cosmic ray environment assessment, and standard tool to investigate radiation induced effects.
- Provides comprehensive set of cosmic ray and flare **ion energy spectra**
- Includes **treatment of geomagnetic shielding** and **material shielding**
- **Worst case scenarios**: worst day, worst week, peak 5 minutes, solar maximum, solar minimum

- **PURPOSE**: Calculate electron/proton/ion fluxes, and energy released in device
- ⇒ failure rates of device can be estimated

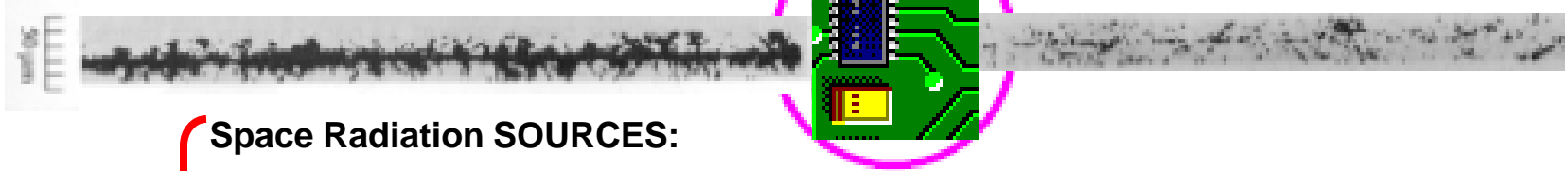




# paradigm in SPACE electronics

GALACTIC HZE PARTICLE (Fe)

SOLAR OR TRAPPED  
PROTON



Space Radiation SOURCES:

- **predictable:** trapped protons and electrons, galactic cosmic rays
- **stochastic (unpredictable):** protons from solar event (storm, flare)

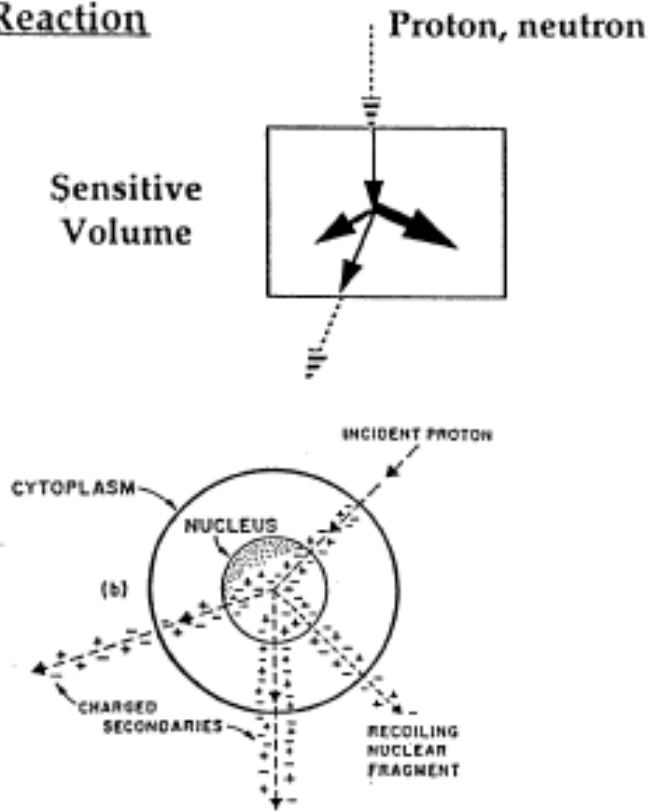
electronic RESPONSES (effects):

- **predictable effects** (continuous Dose→ parameter shifts): thresholds; leakage currents...
- **stochastic effects** (unpredictable Single Event Effects): SEE

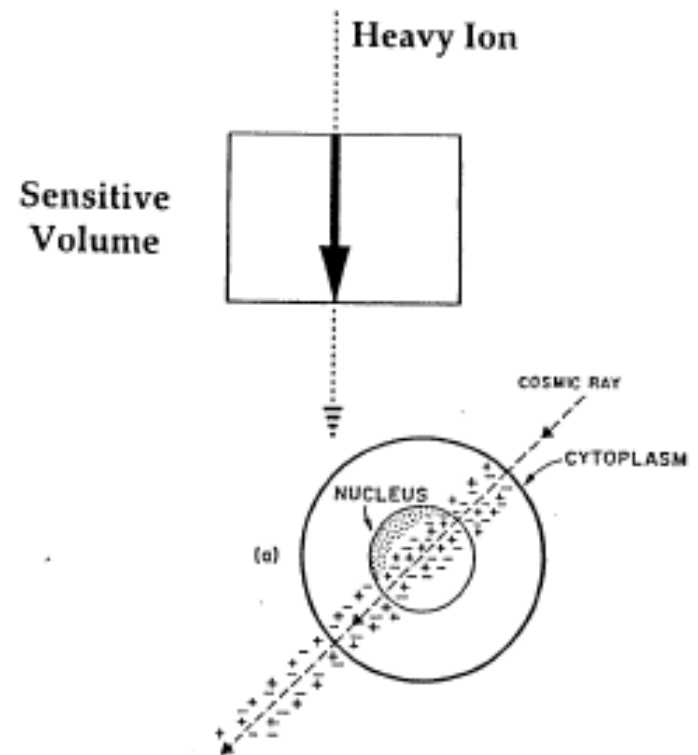
	device/system 1	device/systen 2	device/system 3
<b>trapped particles</b>	dose predictable effect <b>stochastic</b>	dose predictable effect <i>negligible</i>	dose predictable effect <i>negligible</i>
<b>solar storm protons</b>	dose stochastic effect <b>stochastic</b>	dose stochastic effect <b>predictable</b>	dose <b>stochastic</b> effect <i>negligible</i>
<b>galactic cosmic rays (HZE)</b>	dose predictable effect <b>stochastic</b>	dose predictable effect <i>negligible</i>	dose predictable effect <b>predictable</b>

# SINGLE EVENT EFFECTS & RADIOBIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

## Nuclear Reaction



## Direct Ionization



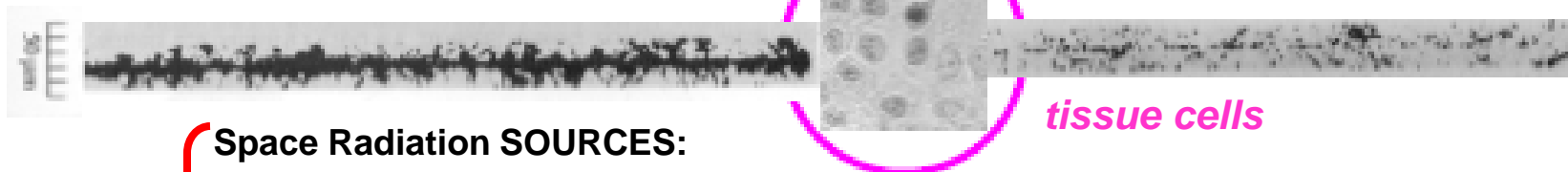
# New paradigm

## in SPACE RADIOBIOLOGY

adapted from P.Todd: **Space Radiation Health: a brief primer**  
*Gravitational and Space Biology Bulletin* 16(2) June 2003

GALACTIC HZE PARTICLE (Fe)

SOLAR OR TRAPPED  
PROTON



### Space Radiation SOURCES:

- **predictable:** trapped protons and electrons, galactic cosmic rays
- **stochastic (unpredictable):** protons from solar event (storm, flare)

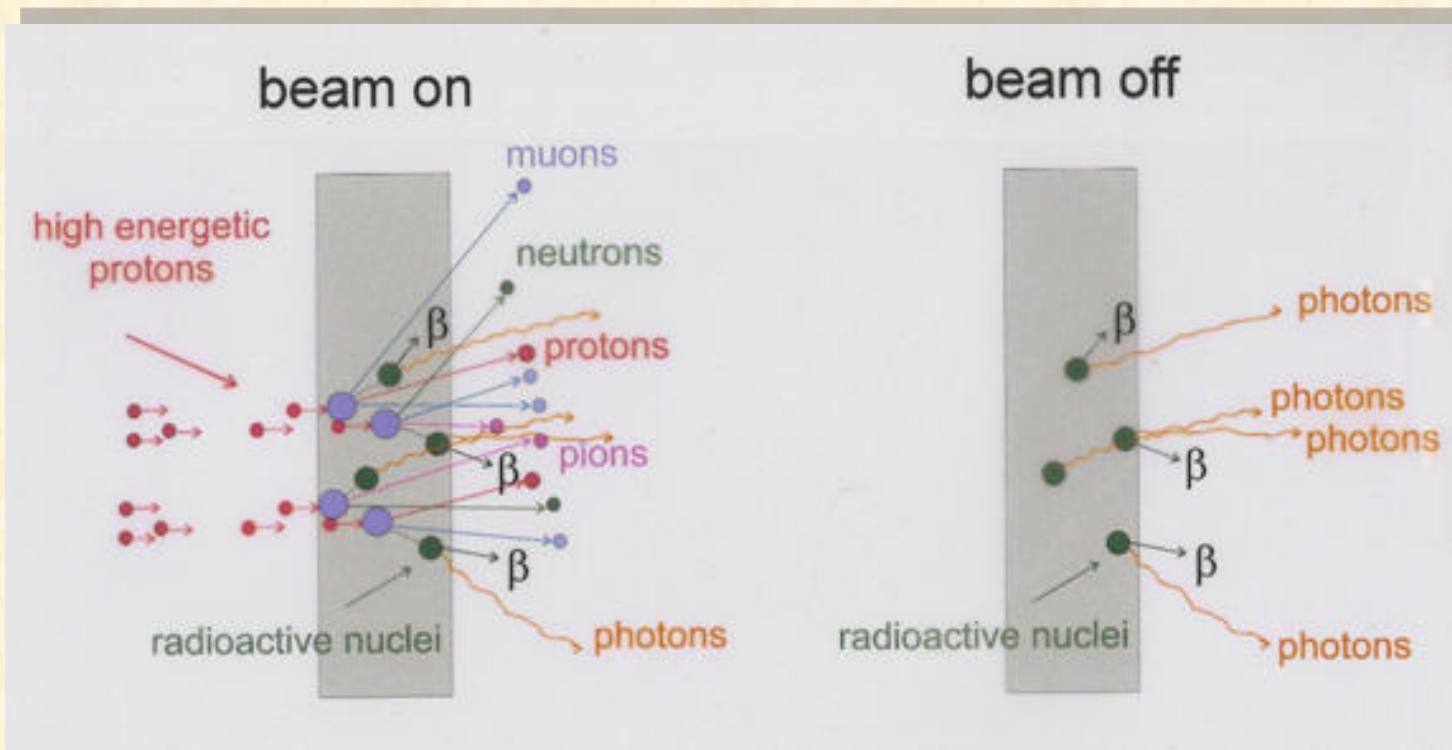
### Biological RESPONSES (effects):

- **predictable effects** (continuous Dose→Response curves): blood, immune system
- **stochastic effects** (unpredictable Single Event Effects): cancer

	<b>cancer</b>	<b>immune</b>	<b>neurological</b>
<b>trapped particles</b>	dose predictable effect <b>stochastic</b>	dose predictable effect <i>negligible</i>	dose predictable effect <i>negligible</i>
<b>solar storm protons</b>	dose <b>stochastic</b> effect <b>stochastic</b>	dose <b>stochastic</b> effect <b>predictable</b>	dose <b>stochastic</b> effect <i>negligible</i>
<b>galactic cosmic rays (HZE)</b>	dose predictable effect <b>stochastic</b>	dose predictable effect <i>negligible</i>	dose predictable effect <b>predictable</b>

accelerators

# *Radiation at accelerators*



RF cavities

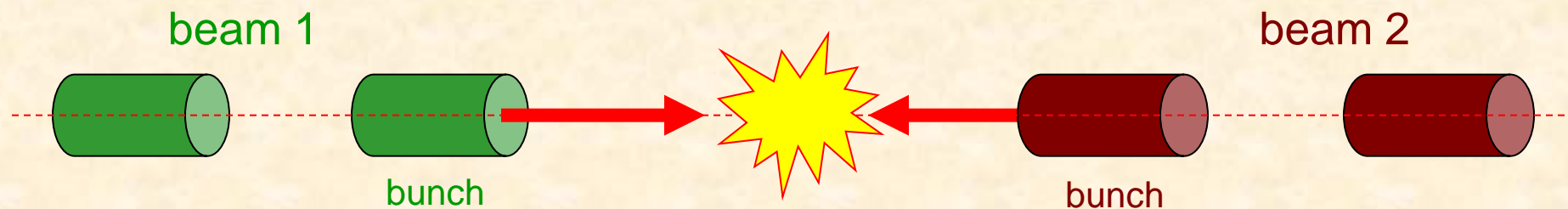
Klystrons

Radioactive  
sources  $\alpha, \beta, \gamma$

**PROMPT** radiation

**INDUCED**  
radioactivity

## HEP: colliding particle beams



$N_1$  ,  $N_2$  = particles per bunch

$b$  = number of bunches/beam

$f$  = revolution frequency; i.e. bunches per second cross

$A$  = cross-sectional area beams at intersection

interaction rate (events per second)

$$R_{\text{int}} \propto \underbrace{f \cdot b \cdot N_1 \cdot N_2 / A}_{L \text{ luminosity (cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1})}$$

$L$  luminosity ( $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ )

total interaction rate:  $R_{\text{int}} = L \cdot \sigma_{\text{tot}}$

**cross-section**



cross-sections: CMS/LHC

“...big as a barn...”

cross-section of 1 *barn* =  $10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2 = 10^{-12} \text{ cm}$  on a side

1 *inverse picobarn* =  $1 \text{ pb}^{-1} = (10^{-36} \text{ cm}^2)^{-1} = 10^{36} \text{ cm}^{-2} = 10^{-3} \text{ fb}^{-1}$

LHC luminosity  $L(t) = 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} = 10^{-2} \text{ pb}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$

upgrade 35

time integrated luminosity in 10 LHC physics years

$$L = \int L(t) dt = 5 \times 10^{41} \text{ cm}^{-2} = 5 \times 10^5 \text{ pb}^{-1} = 500 \text{ fb}^{-1}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{inelastic}} = 80 \text{ mb} = 8 \times 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^2$$

Rate of *inelastic events*

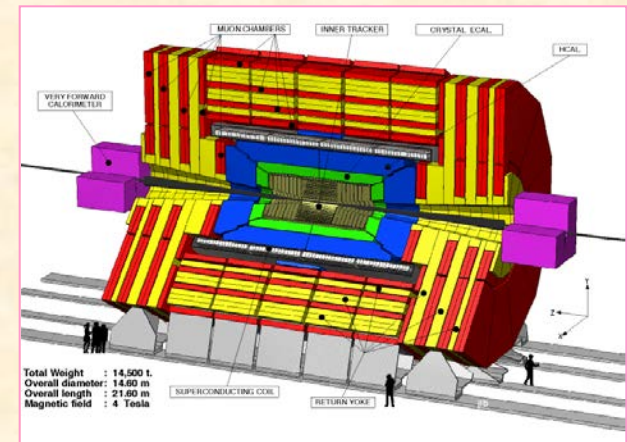
$$R_{\text{elastic}}(t) = L(t) \cdot \sigma_{\text{inelastic}} = 8 \times 10^8 \text{ events/s}$$

$$\text{after 10 years } N_{\text{elastic}} = 4 \times 10^{16} \text{ events}$$

Consider a RARE process with  $\sigma_{\text{rare}} = 10^{-38} \text{ cm}^2 = 10 \text{ fb}$   
After 10 years  $N = L \cdot \sigma = 500 \text{ fb}^{-1} \times 10 \text{ fb} = 5000 \text{ events}$

**Extremely hostile radiation environment!!!**

# Radiation @ LHC



## ❑ Instantaneous effects (due to presence of beam):

- **detector occupancy** (pattern recognition, detector saturation and pileup, trigger rates)
- **Single Event Effects** (data corruption, loss of control or timing,...):  
neutrons ( $E > \text{few MeV}$ ) and charged hadrons with  $E > 21 \text{ MeV}$  (coulomb barrier)

## ❑ Cumulative effects due to long duration of experiment:

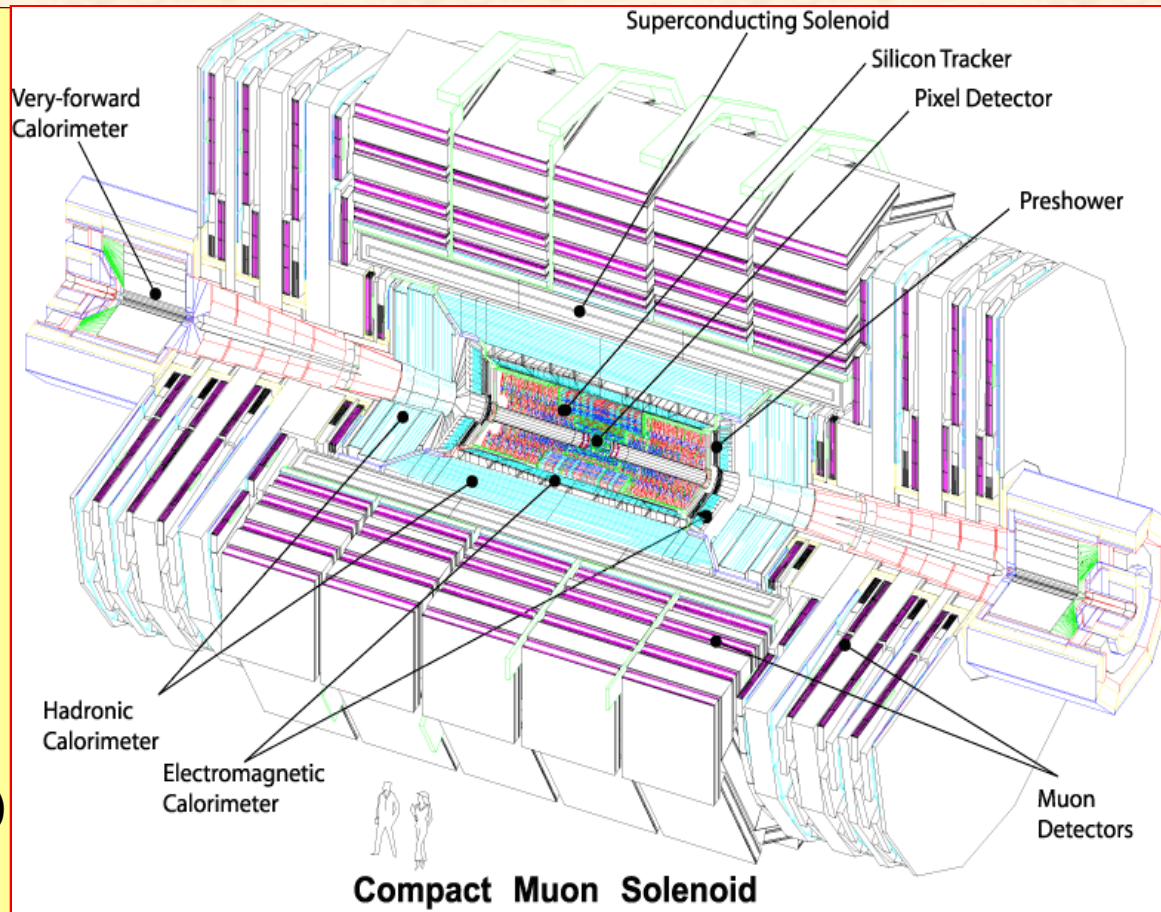
- **bulk (displacement) damage** to Silicon-detectors:  
neutrons  $> 20 \text{ keV}$ , charged hadrons
- **surface (Ionization) damage** to electronics (degrade of S/N,...)
- Light loss in scintillators/fibers
- activation of detectors and materials (problems for maintenance)
- damage to materials (insulators)

# Normalized Radiation levels @ CMS

lowest/highest levels  
integrated over 10 years:

- **Total Ionization Doses**
  - 5 Gy (Cavern)
  - 8 MGy (Pixels)
- **Displacement Damage fluences**
  - $2 \times 10^{10}$  equivalent 1 MeV neutrons/cm<sup>2</sup> (Cavern)
  - $2.5 \times 10^{15}$  equivalent 1 MeV neutrons/cm<sup>2</sup> (Pixels)
- **Hadron fluences (SEE risk)**
  - $2 \times 10^9$  hadrons/cm<sup>2</sup> (Cavern)
  - $3 \times 10^{13}$  hadrons/cm<sup>2</sup> (Pixels)

$E_{\text{charged hadrons}} > 21 \text{ MeV}$



Obtained from **simulation tools** (Fluka, ...)

- uncertainties due to: physics models; detector model, ...
- uncertainties with electronics (COTS, dose rate effects, ...)

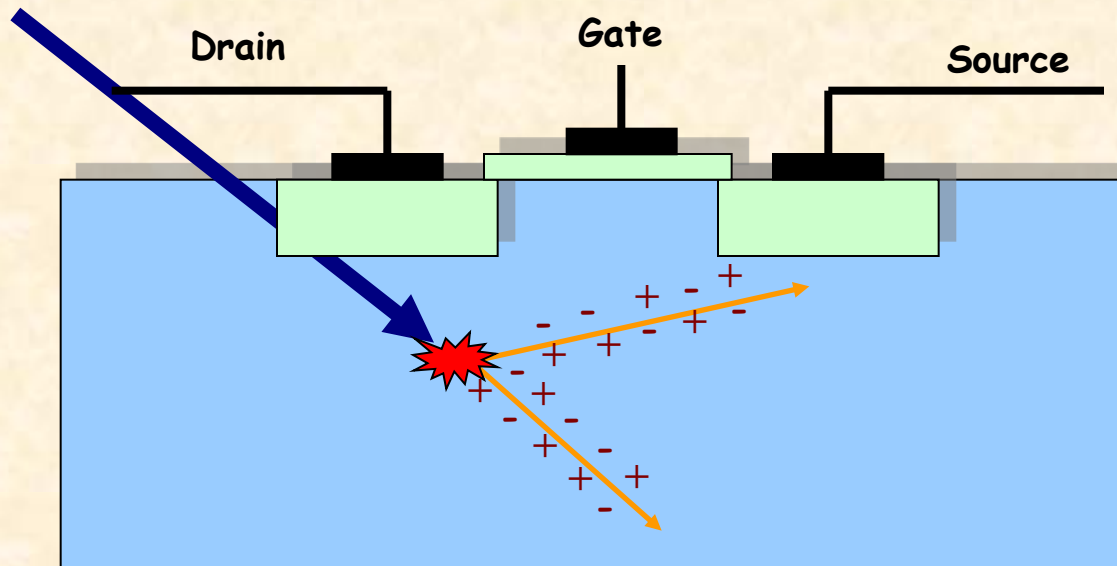
→ **Safety Factors**

# Physics of hadron-induced SEE

Interdisciplinary approach is required to understand SEEs

(1) Primary hadron  
(accelerator, cosmic-ray  
physics)

(4) Charge transport in device  
(device physics)



(2) hadron-nucleus reactions  
with production of ionizing  
secondaries (Nuclear Physics)

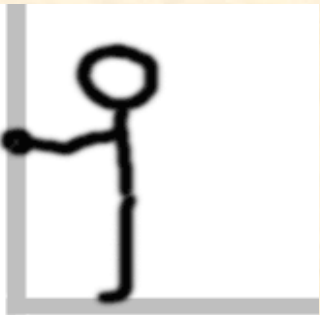
(3) Generation of  
electron-hole pairs  
(radiation physics and  
solid-state physics)



# Neutron induced SEE

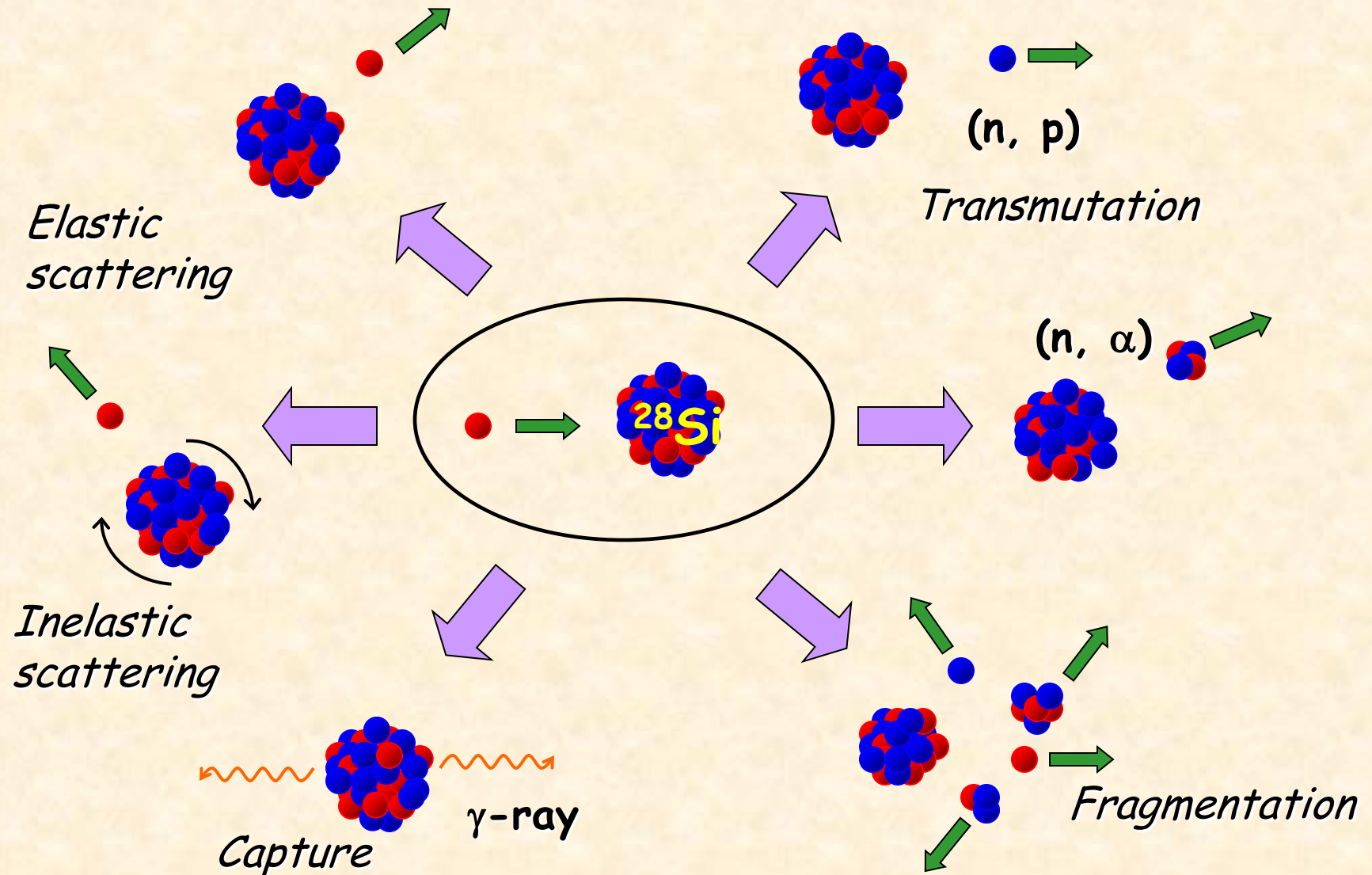
Neutron induced SEE is:

- an increasing, real and current problem;
- increasing use of complex microchip technologies in wider commercial and economic activity;
- no single technological solution in near future.

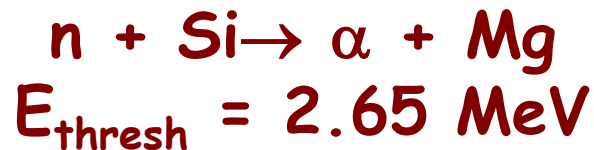
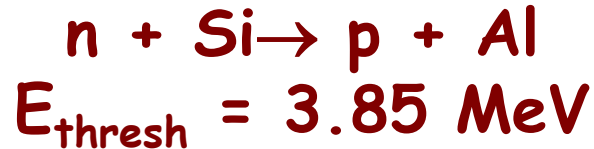




# neutron-induced reactions on $^{28}\text{Si}$



# thresholds



THRESHOLD ENERGIES OF NEUTRON REACTIONS  
WITH SILICON AND OXYGEN ATOMS

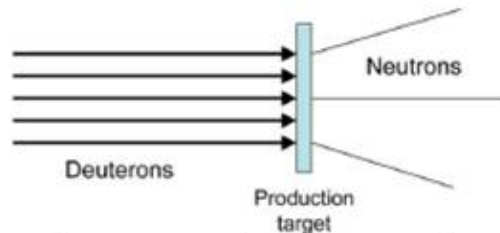
Reaction	Neutron Threshold Energy (MeV)
Si elastic	0
Si inelastic	1.78
Si(n, $\alpha$ )	2.76
Si(n,p)	4
Si(n,d)	9.70
Si(n,n- $\alpha$ )	10.35
O elastic	0
O inelastic	6.05
O(n, $\alpha$ )	2.35
O(n,n- $\alpha$ )	7.61
O(n,p)	10.24
O(n,d)	10.52



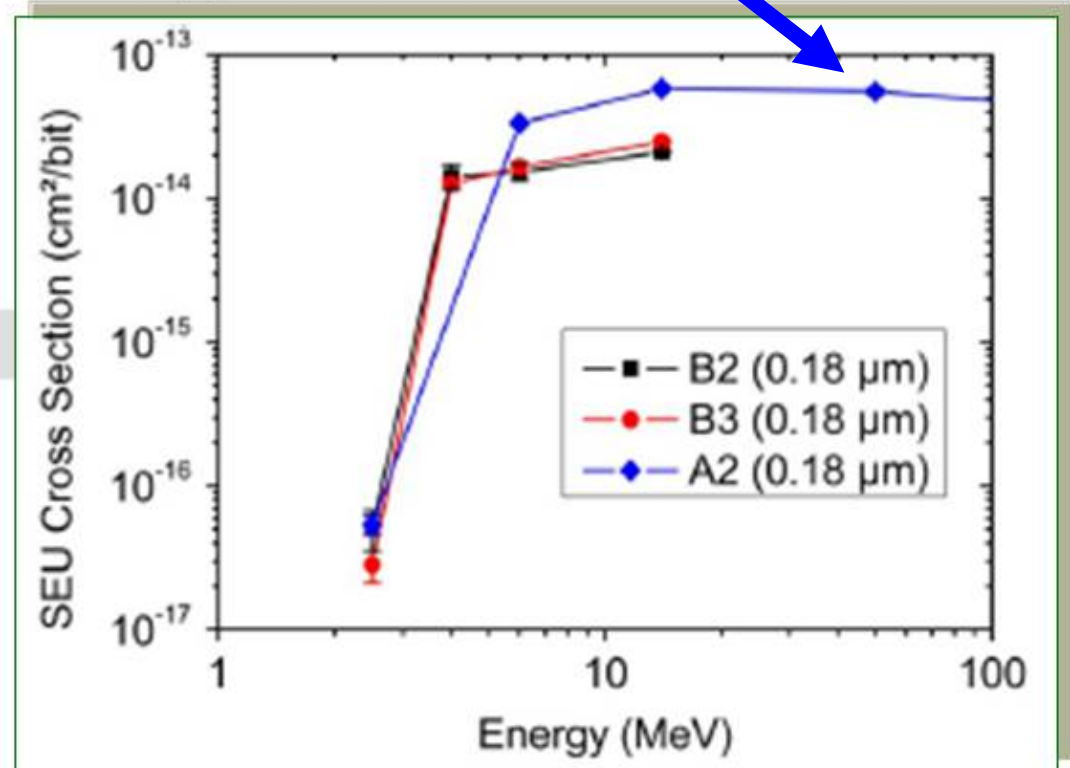
As active volumes of devices become smaller,  
SEE occur for  $E_n$  closer to threshold values.

**Abstract**—The neutron-induced SEU sensitivity in the 1–10 MeV energy range is investigated using monoenergetic neutron beams at 2.5, 4, 6, and 14 MeV. Below the 0.25  $\mu\text{m}$  technology node, bulk technologies exhibit a relatively high sensitivity to neutrons between 4 and 6 MeV which is explained by the contribution of alpha particles coming from  $(n, \alpha)$  reactions. In the terrestrial environment, the contribution to SER of neutrons in this energy range exceeds 10%.

Depending on the ion current and the reaction efficiency, the neutron fluxes are ranging from  $3 \times 10^4$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>/s at 4 MeV, up to  $10^9$  n/cm<sup>2</sup>/s at 14 MeV.



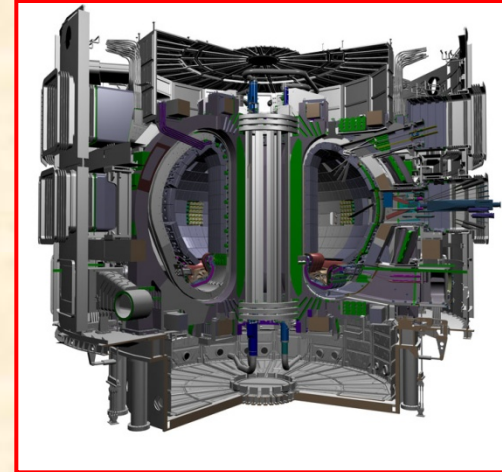
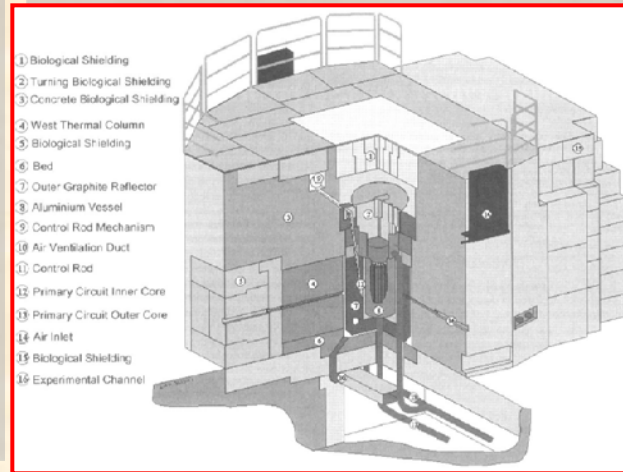
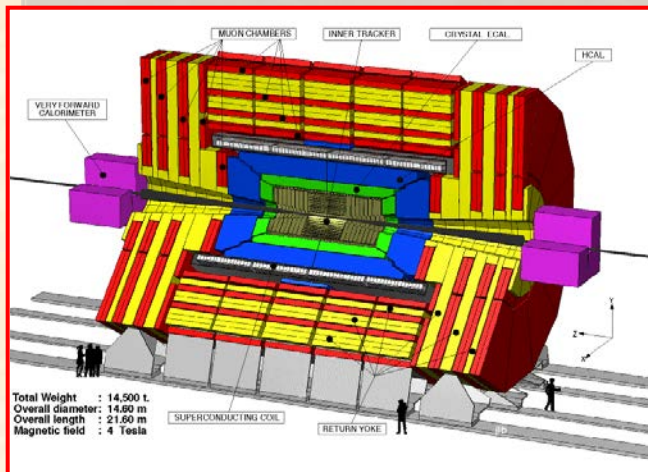
Deuteron Energy	Target	Reaction	Neutron Energy
180 keV	Ti/D	$D(d,n)^3\text{He}$	2.5 MeV
1.06 MeV	Ti/D	$D(d,n)^3\text{He}$	4 MeV
3.2 MeV	Ti/D	$D(d,n)^3\text{He}$	6 MeV
180 keV	Ti/T	$T(d,n)^4\text{He}$	14 MeV



# Neutrons, neutrons, yet more neutrons

## Energetic neutrons:

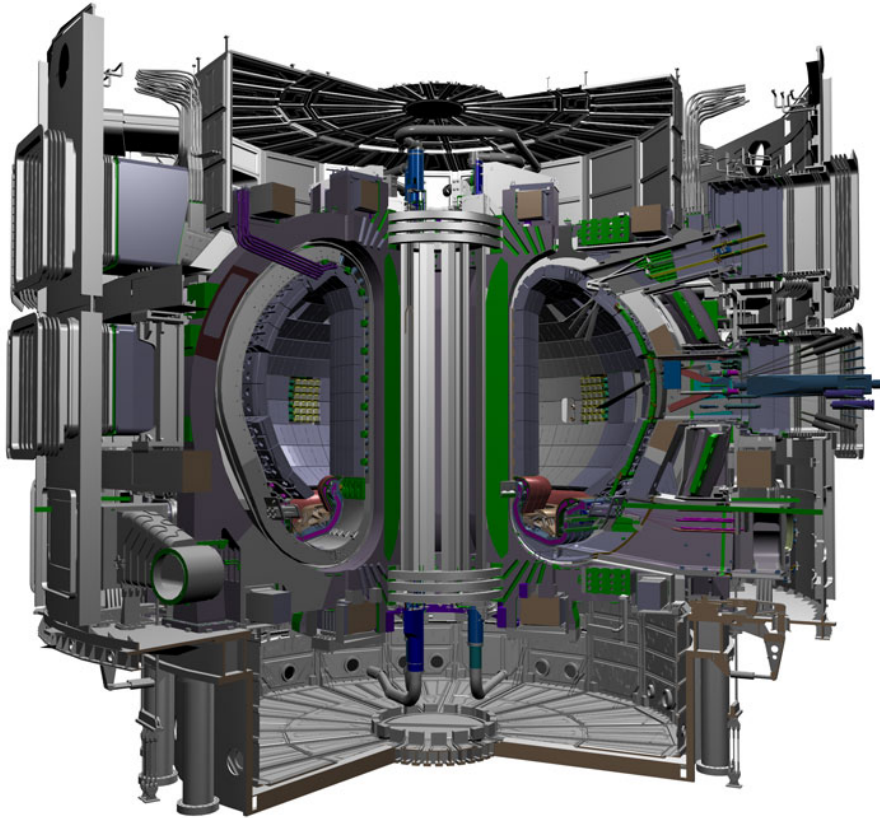
- High energy collisions (e.g. LHC)
  - thermonuclear fusion reactors (ITER)
  - nuclear power plants
  - cosmic ray atmospheric showers (avionics and SEA LEVEL electronics). (more than enough neutrons to cause trouble)
- } a GREAT many neutrons



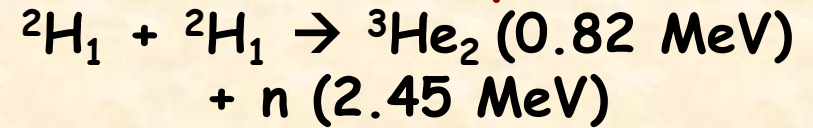


# *ITER*

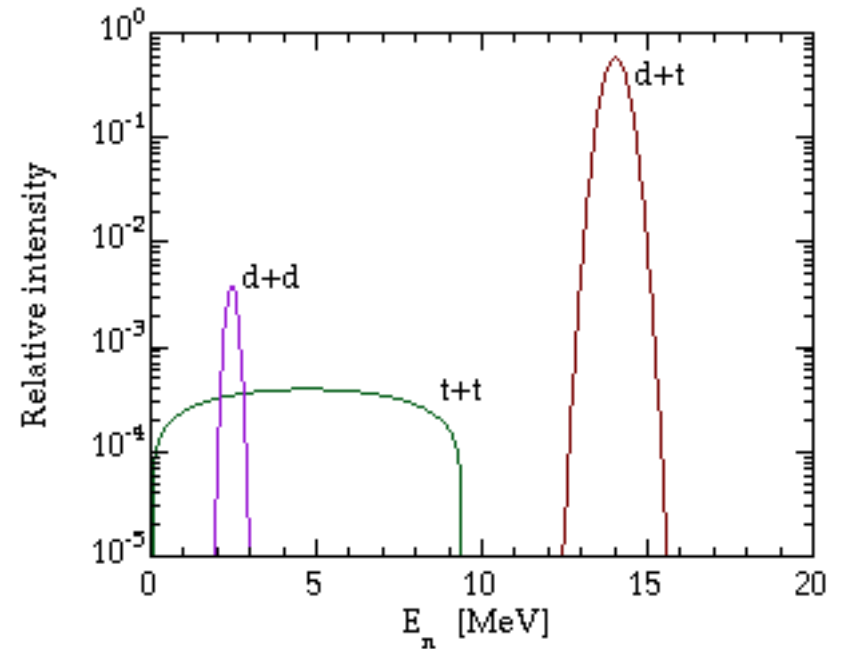
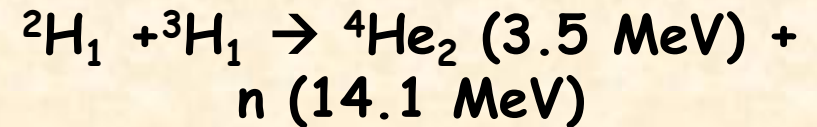
## *(International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor)*



### Initial D-D phase



### Fusion D-T

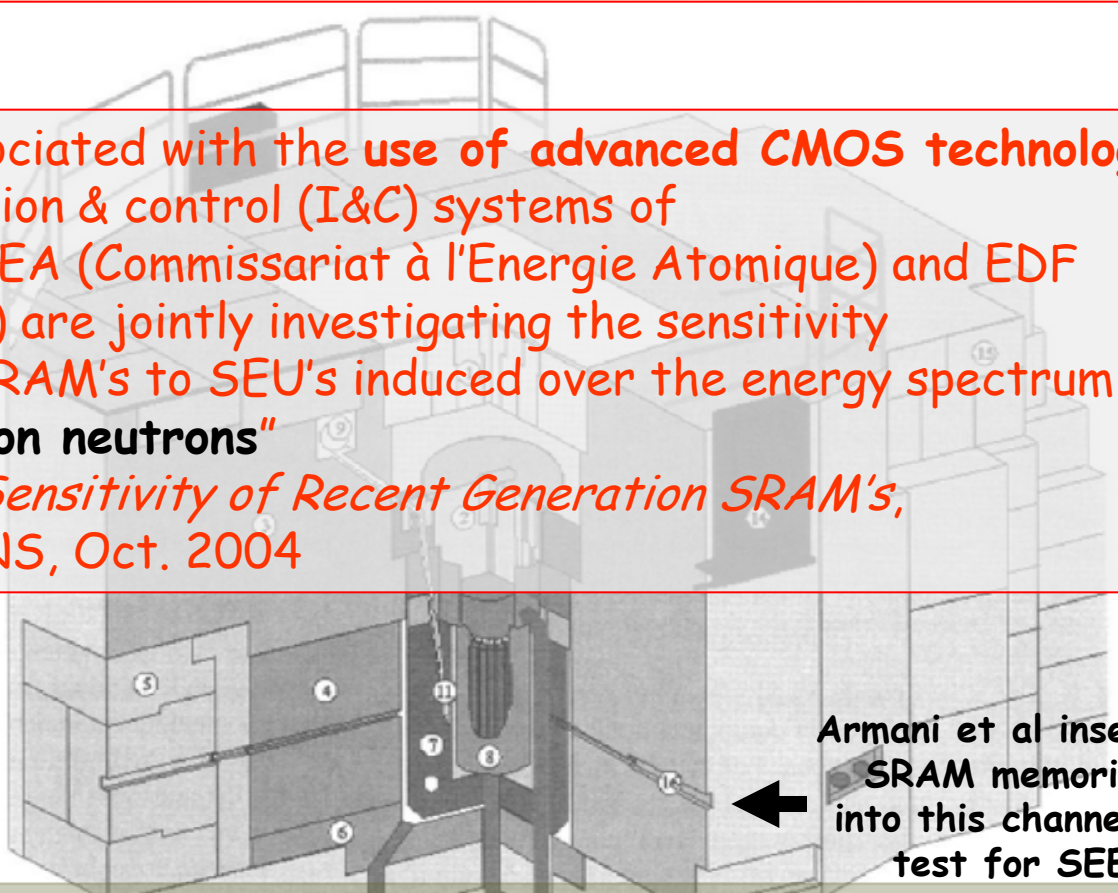




# SEE in the nuclear power research and industry

"To evaluate risks associated with the use of advanced CMOS technology in future instrumentation & control (I&C) systems of nuclear power plants CEA (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique) and EDF (Electricité de France) are jointly investigating the sensitivity of highly integrated SRAM's to SEU's induced over the energy spectrum from thermal to fission neutrons"

*Low-Energy Neutron Sensitivity of Recent Generation SRAM's,*  
Armani et al, IEEE, TNS, Oct. 2004

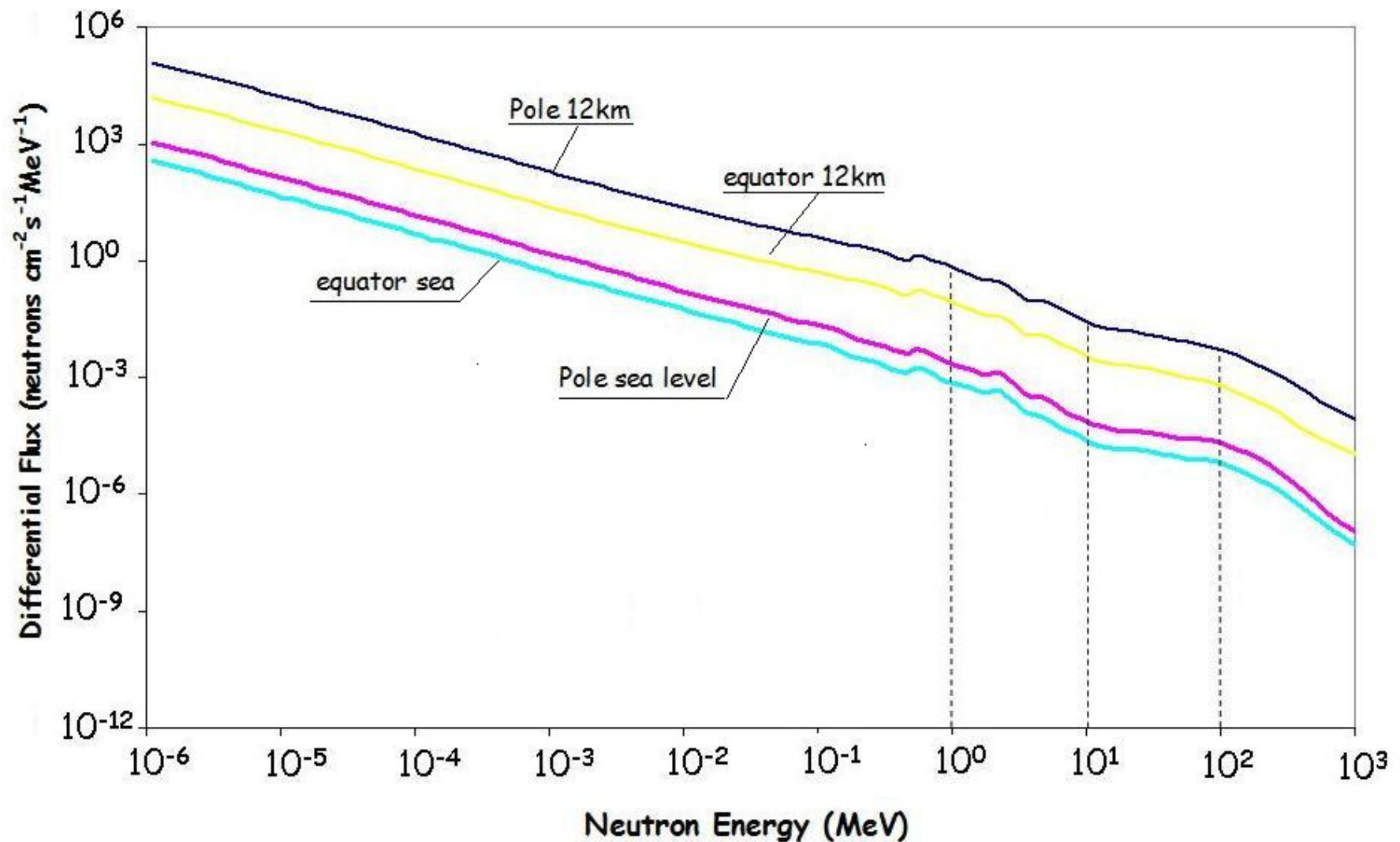
- 
- ⑩ Air Ventilation Duct
  - ⑪ Control Rod
  - ⑫ Primary Circuit Inner Core
  - ⑬ Primary Circuit Outer Core
  - ⑭ Air Inlet
  - ⑮ Biological Shielding

Armani et al inserted  
SRAM memories  
into this channel to  
test for SEE

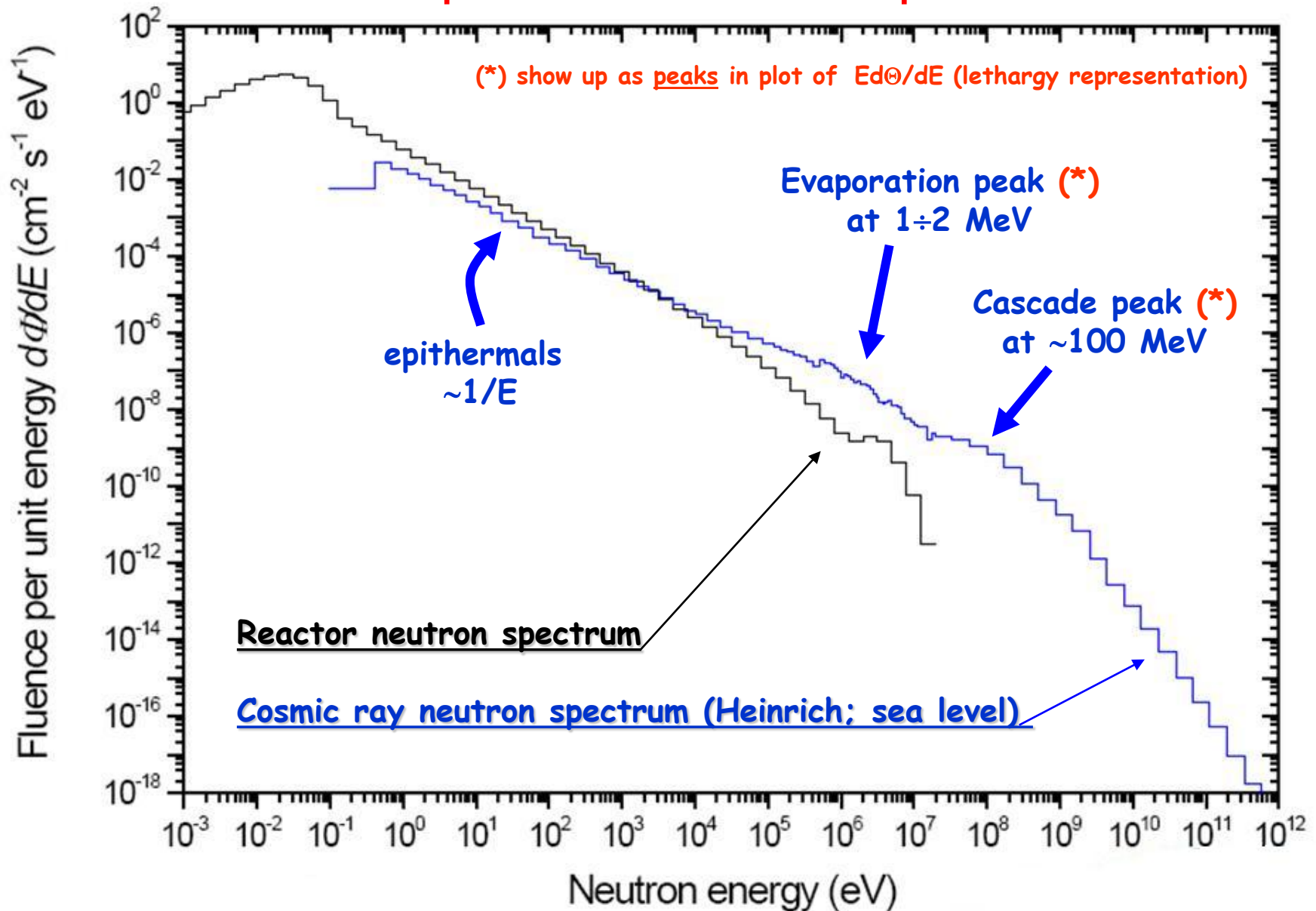
## Revitalization of the nuclear power industry?

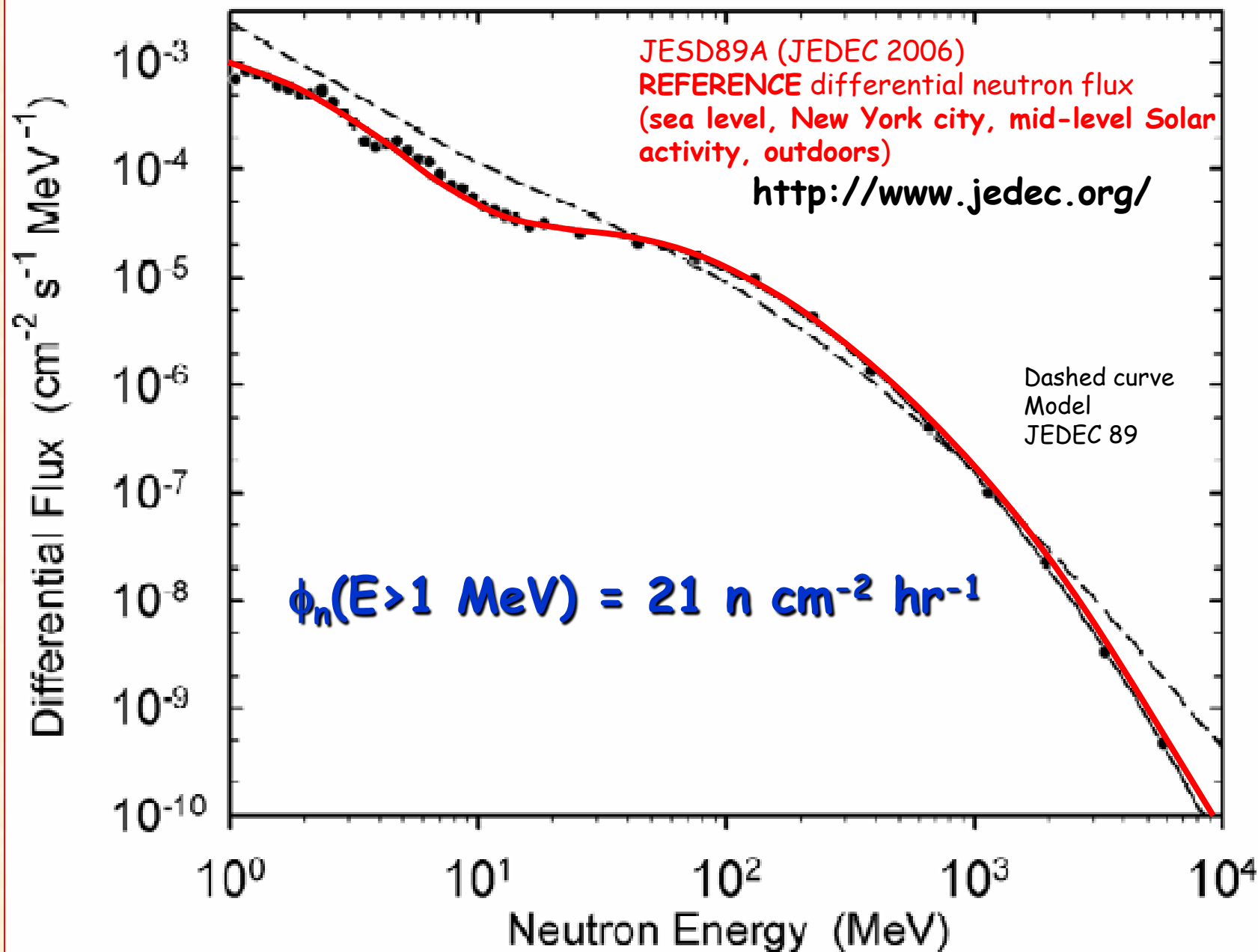
→ New nuclear reactors will need to use advanced microelectronic parts and will have to overcome a significant SEE problem.

# Continuous ("white") atmospheric neutron spectra



# "white" spectra: reactor vs atmospheric one





# *Systems complex and error prone to atmospheric neutrons*

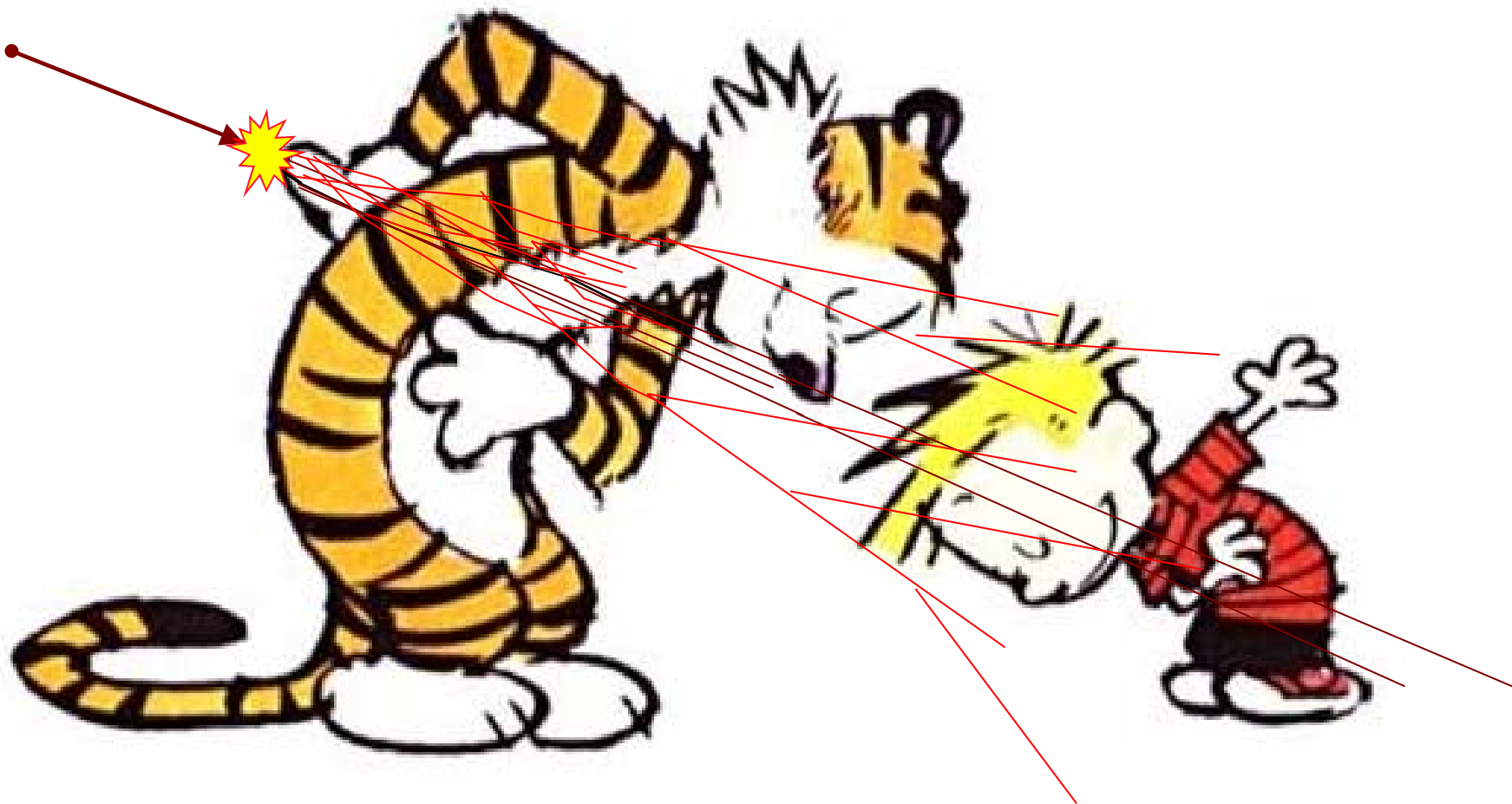
❑ electronic systems are more complex as feature sizes decrease increasing likelihood of SEE causing a system failure and increases the probability of a neutron defeating error correction mechanisms (multiple bit upsets).

❑ SEE threat also from low energy "thermal" neutrons through a reaction of boron present as dopant in semiconductors. Thermal neutrons are generated within moderating materials (concrete in buildings; fuel in aircraft;...)

❑ Developments towards smaller faster devices at lower bias voltages have increased SEE susceptibility in the 1÷10 MeV range making soft errors more likely as they are then sensitive to the greater proportion (~40%) of atmospheric neutron flux.



# END



**Extra slides**

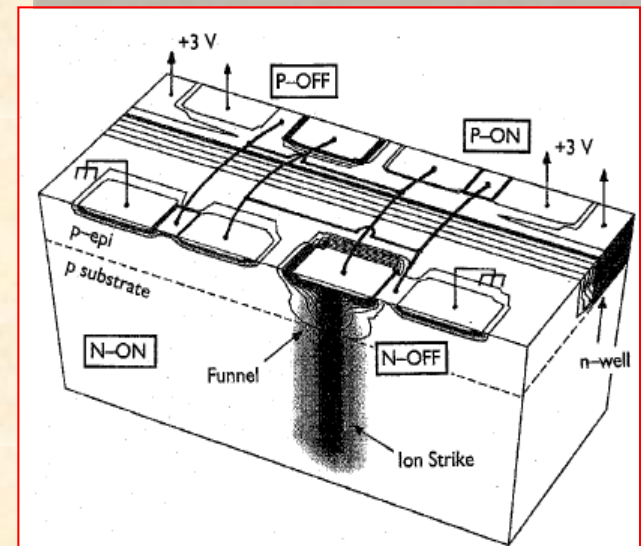
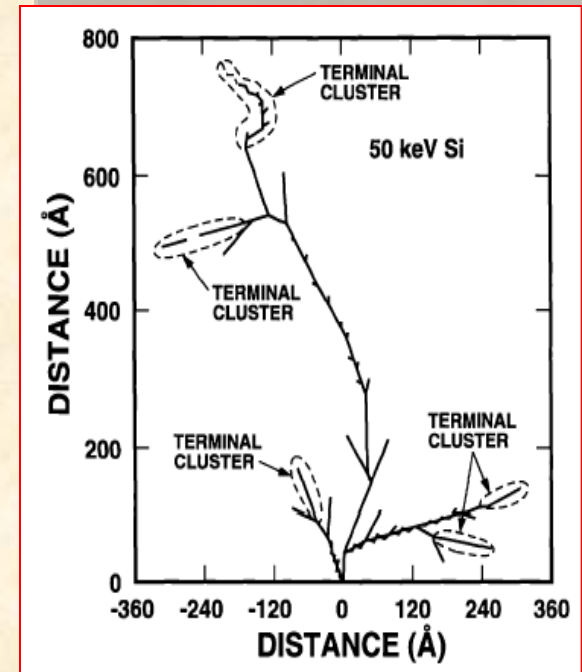
# History of the SIRAD irradiation facilities at 15MV Tandem accelerator of LNL (protons, heavy ions)

The facility was created from scratch in 1996-7 and in 1998 started running bulk damage studies in silicon detectors for High Energy Physics applications (in the framework of the RD48 CERN Collaboration, R&D for CMS) using 30 MeV protons and 70 MeV lithium ions.

In 2000 the facility began studies of heavy ion induced Single Event Effects (SEE) in microelectronics devices for HEP and space applications.

Presently SEE studies are the main activity.

- “global” (broad beam) irradiation
- Ion Electron Emission Microscopy
- TID studies with X-ray machine
- **Future:** neutron-induced SEE at the SPES 70 MeV 500 $\mu$ A cyclotron

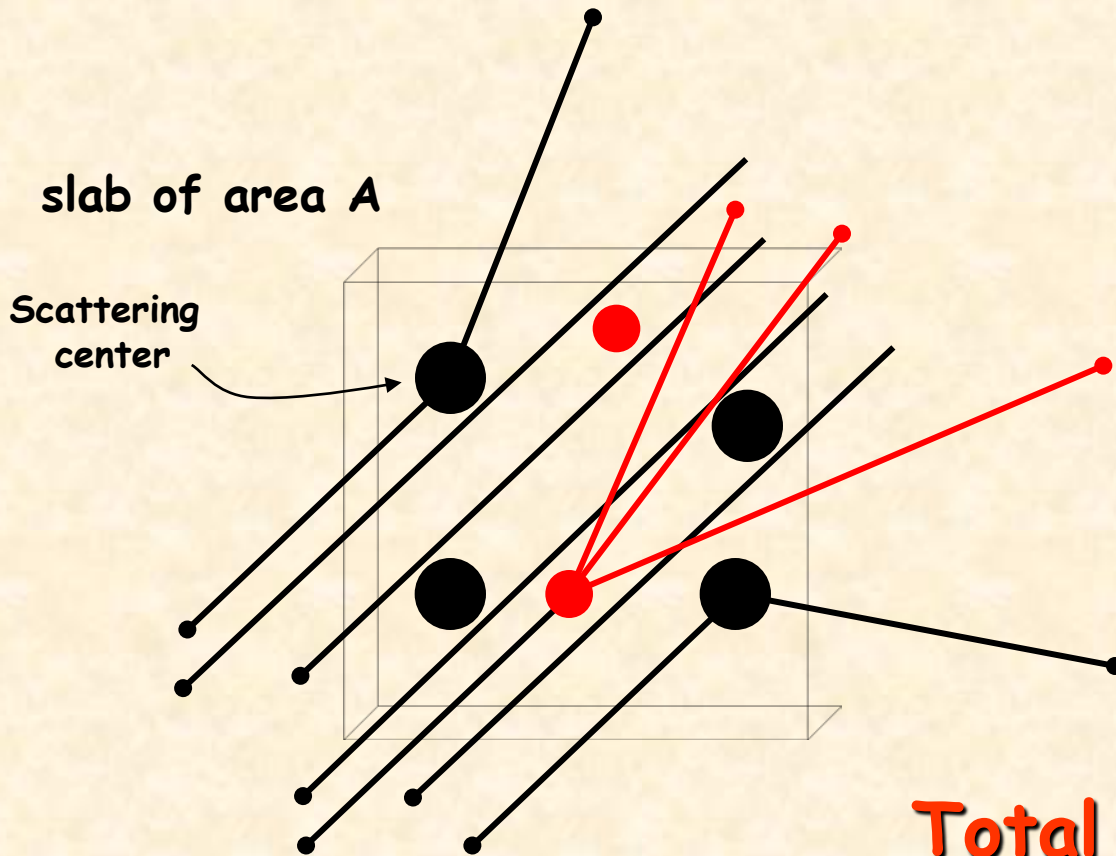


cross section

**Total event rate**  $n(t) = \phi \cdot N_s \cdot \sigma_{tot} = L(t) \times \sigma_{tot}$

flux

- **fluence**  $\Phi = \int \phi(t) dt$
- **integrated luminosity**  
 $L = \int L(t) dt$
- $N_s$  = number of scattering centers in slab of area  $A$  each with cross-section  $\sigma_{tot}$



$\phi$  number of incident particles per area  $A$  and per unit time (a *flux*)

**Total cross section**

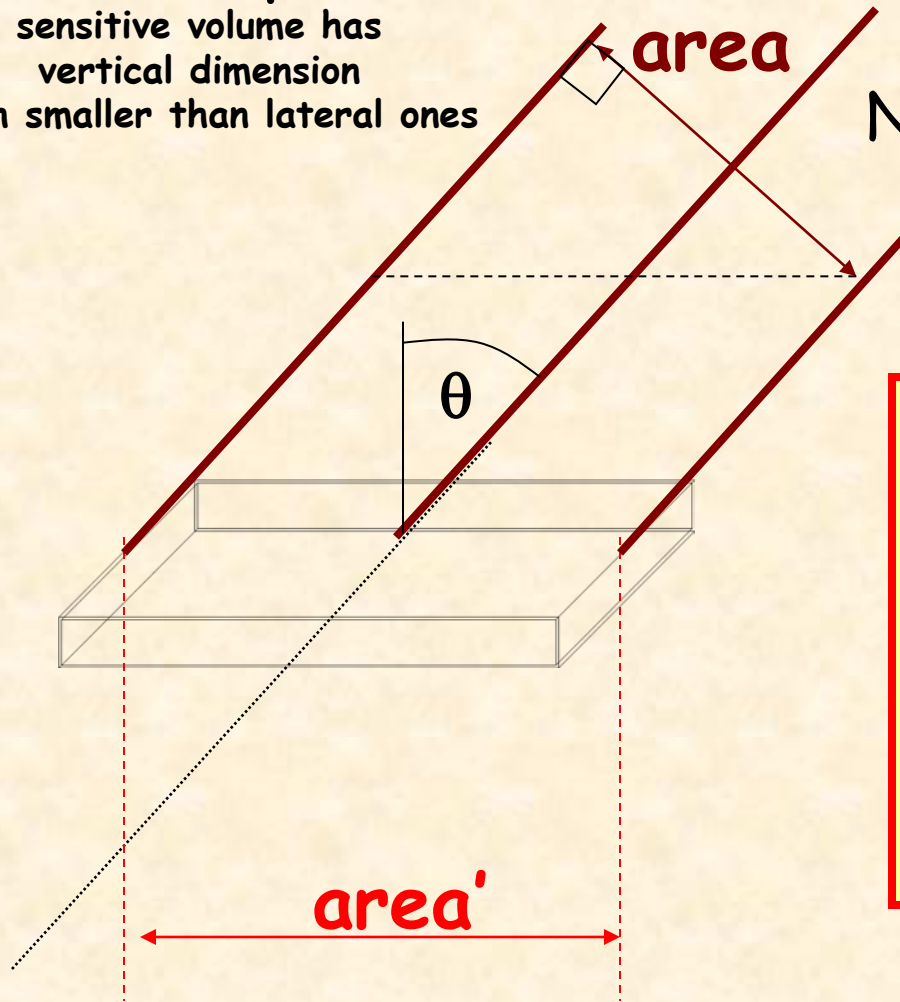
$$\sigma_{tot} = \sigma_{elastic} + \sigma_{inelastic}$$

$$\sigma_{tot} = \sum_k \sigma_k$$

total cross-section is sum of cross-sections of all possible modalities (channels)

## inclined SEE exposure

**SEE assumption:**  
sensitive volume has  
vertical dimension  
much smaller than lateral ones



Beam fluence  $\phi$

NOTE:  $\text{area} = \text{area}' \cos(\theta)$

$$\text{LET}(\theta) = \text{LET}(0^\circ) / \cos(\theta)$$

AND

$$\sigma(\text{LET}, \theta) = \frac{N_{\text{SEE}}}{\phi \cos(\theta)}$$

NOTE:  $\cos(\theta)$  enters twice!

1.  $\text{LET}(\theta)$
2.  $\sigma(\theta)$



# borealis: haunting beauty

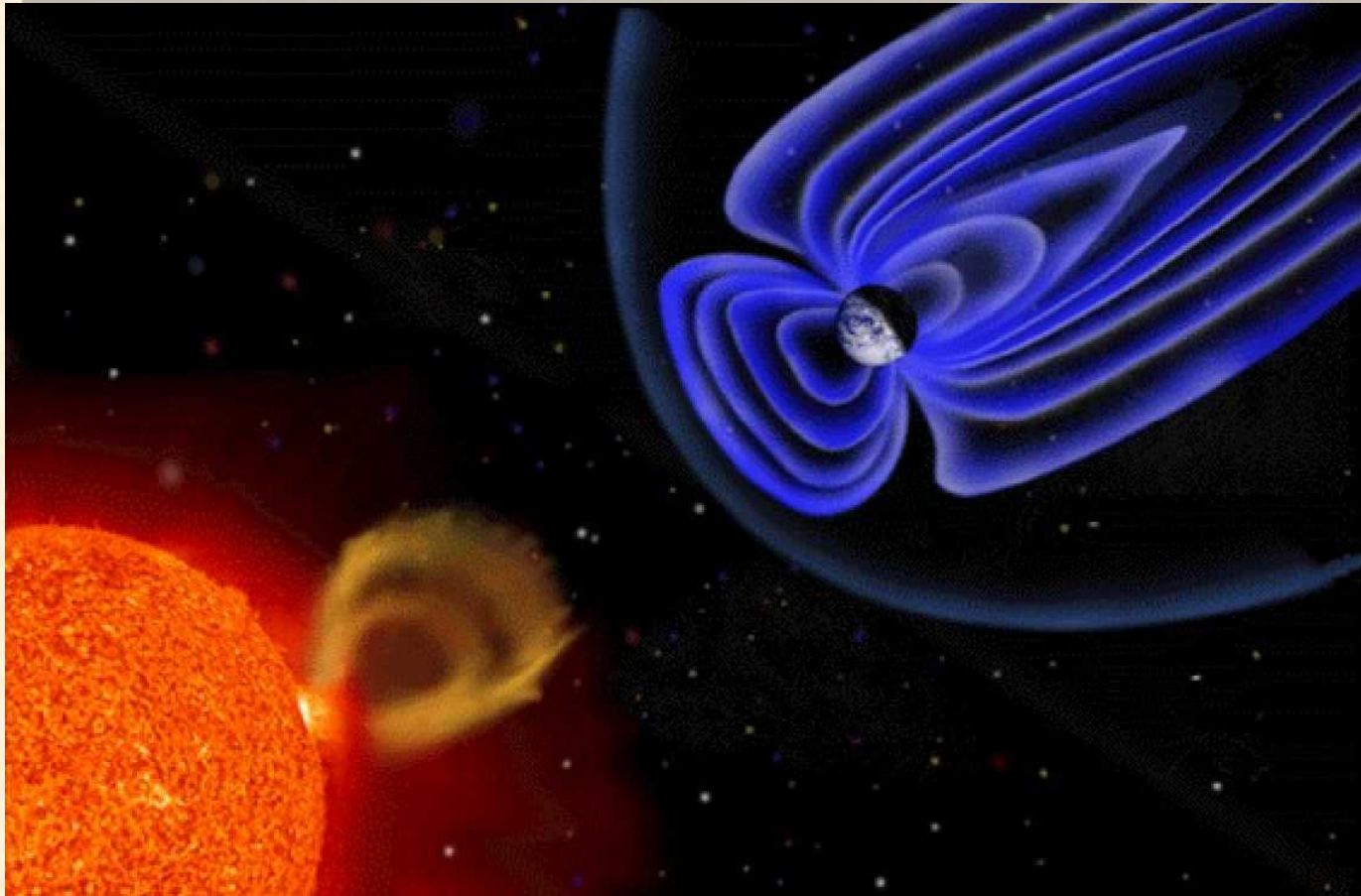
<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora/images/>



# Space radiation environment

Space is full of energetic particles with damaging potential (TID, DDD, SEE):

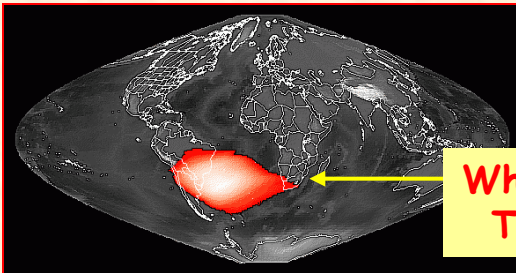
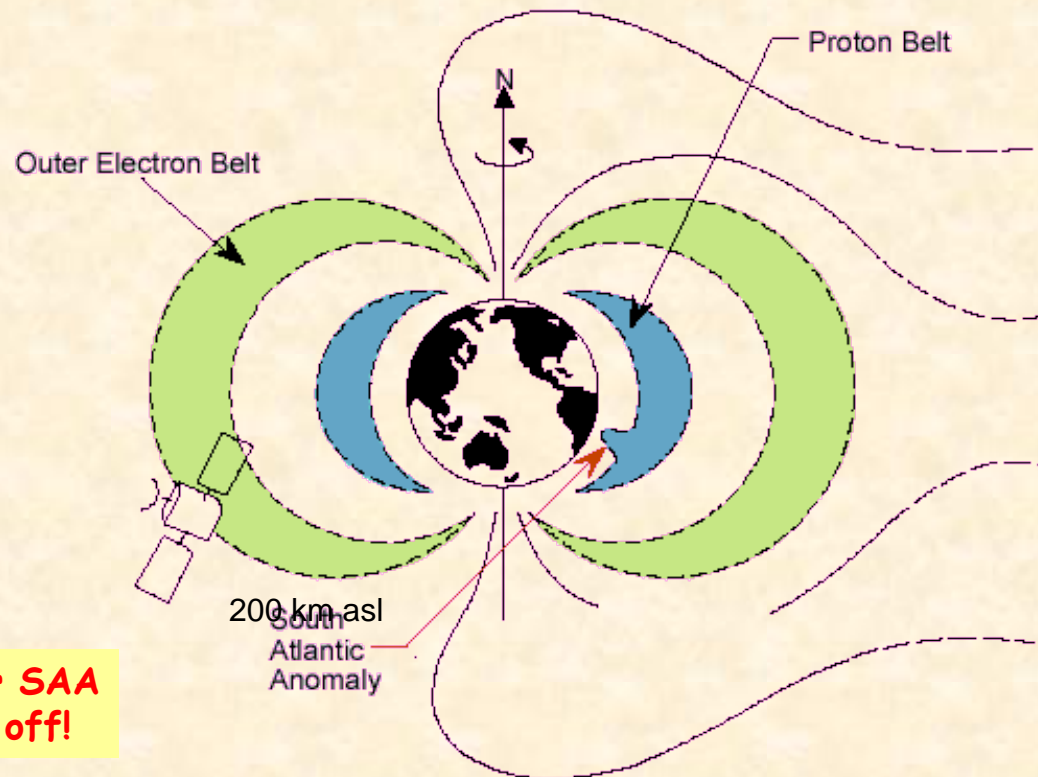
- from the SUN: *normal*/ solar wind and solar events (storms, flares)
- from outside the solar system (galactic cosmic rays)



- Some are deflected when their magnetic rigidity is small enough, others are magnetically trapped in Van Allen belts.

# trapped particles

- The Earth's dipole is slightly off-axis (320 km from the planet axis) and inclined at  $11.5^\circ$
- In some points the magnetic field intensity is smaller
- Lowest magnetic intensities are above Brazil, the so called **South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)**
- For instruments in Low Earth Orbit (below 1500 km) the SAA gives the highest contribution to radiation exposure
- Electrons: up to 7 MeV in *inner & outer zone*
- Protons: up to 100s MeV
- Current models: AE8 & AP8, with data from 43 satellites, 55 space instruments, 1630 channel-months of data

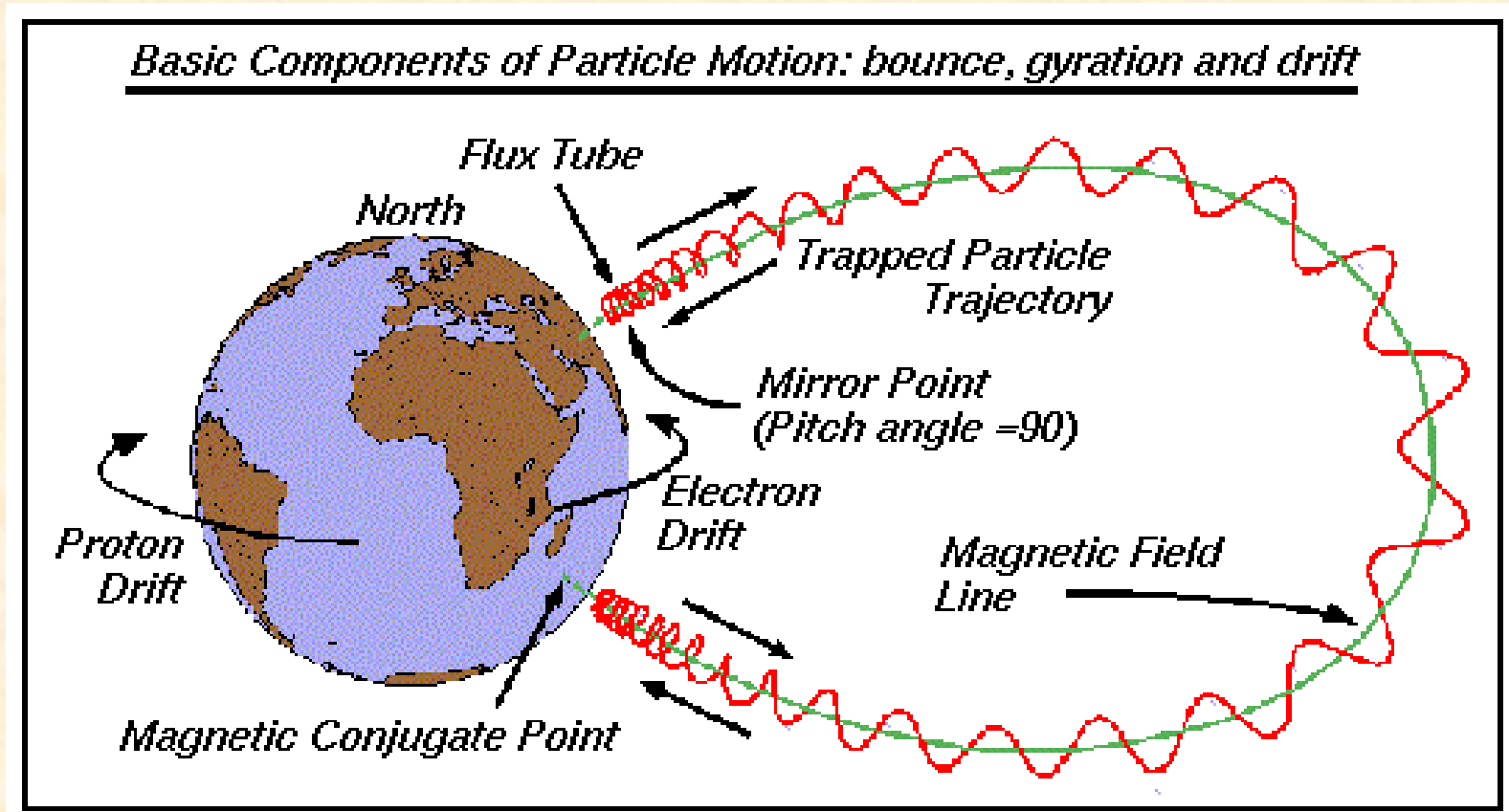


**When passing over SAA  
Turn electronics off!**



# trapped particles (extra slide)

- Passing charged particles interact with **Earth magnetic dipole field**
- Some particles are **trapped in Van Allen belts**
- At poles particle may **bounce** (magnetic mirroring), and drift around the Earth depending on their charge
- Particles are **trapped if the mirror point is high enough**

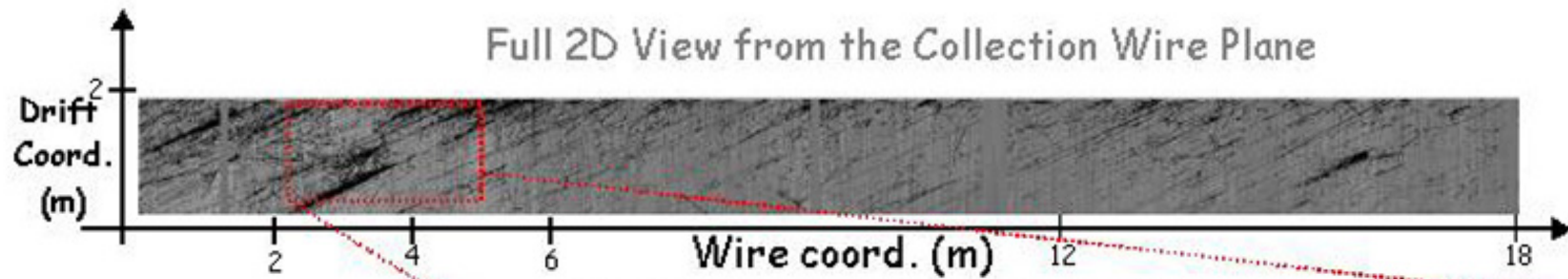


# ICARUS (liquid argon time projection chamber)

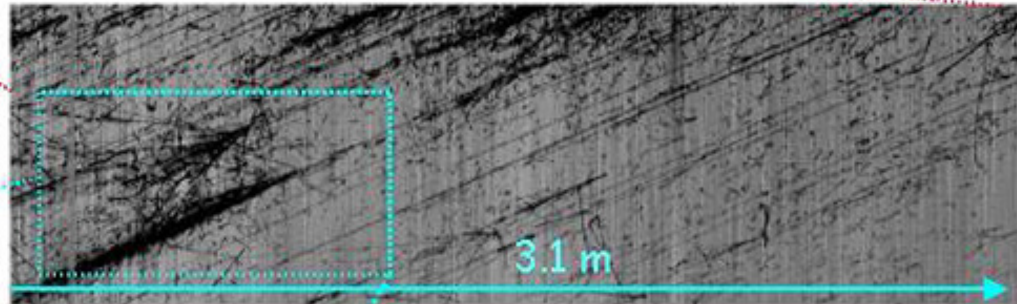
## electronic but with visual quality!

Cosmic rays

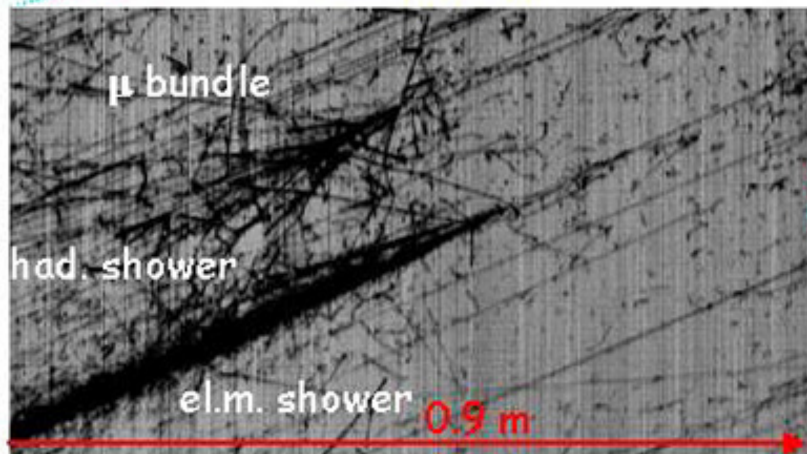
spectacular  
air-shower event



Zoom View

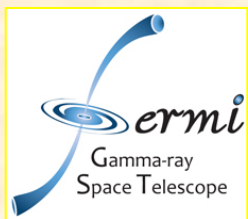


Zoom View



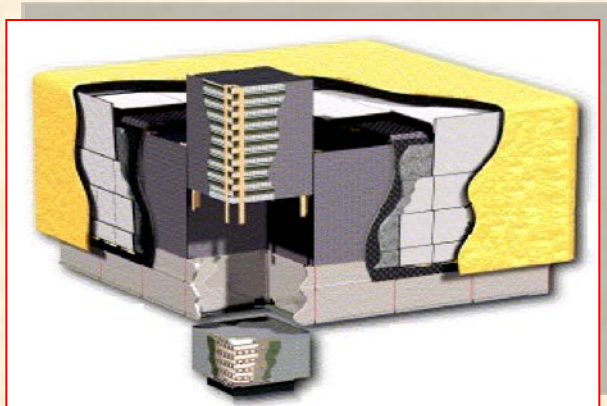
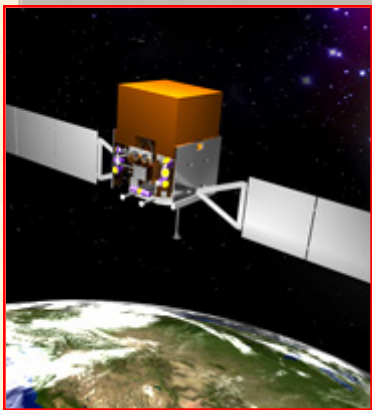
A spectacular event showing  
A dense Air Shower formed by  
hundreds of parallel tracks  
(muons and pions) and low energy  
 $\gamma$ 's converting into electrons.  
Also visible in the zoom views a  
hadron shower, an el.m. shower and  
a highly collimated muon bundle.



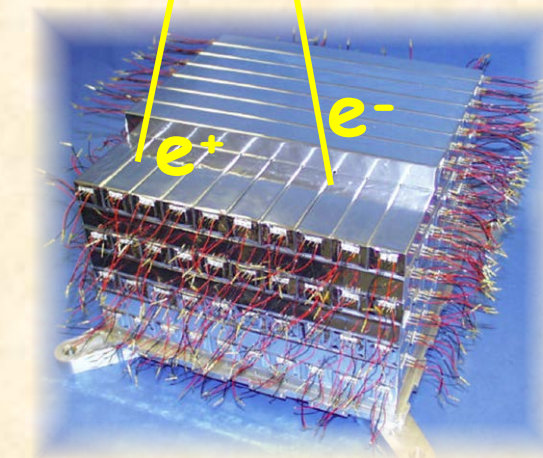
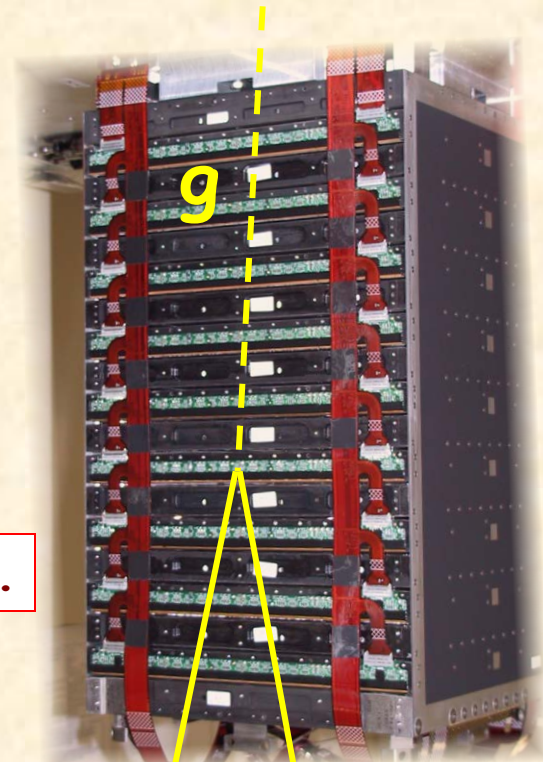
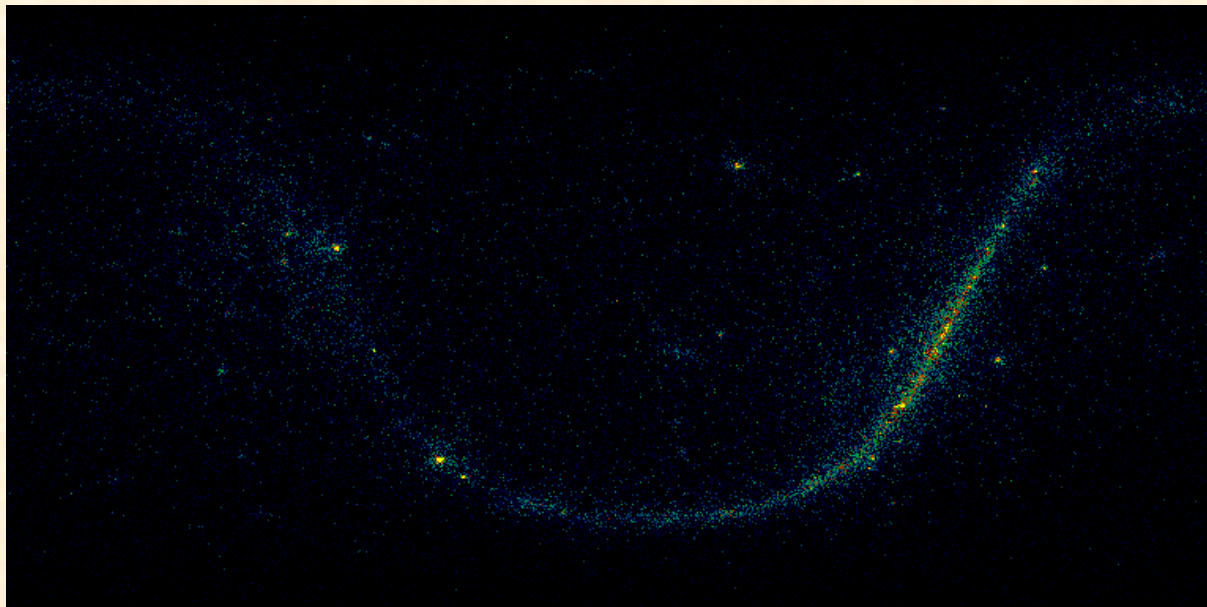


# Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope (ex-GLAST)

detector in space



A lot of silicon (less than CMS but more than Atlas!).





# Harsh Environment above Earth's Atmosphere

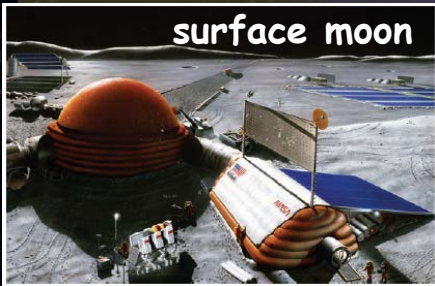


Solar Flares

Galactic Cosmic Rays

Trapped Electrons & Protons

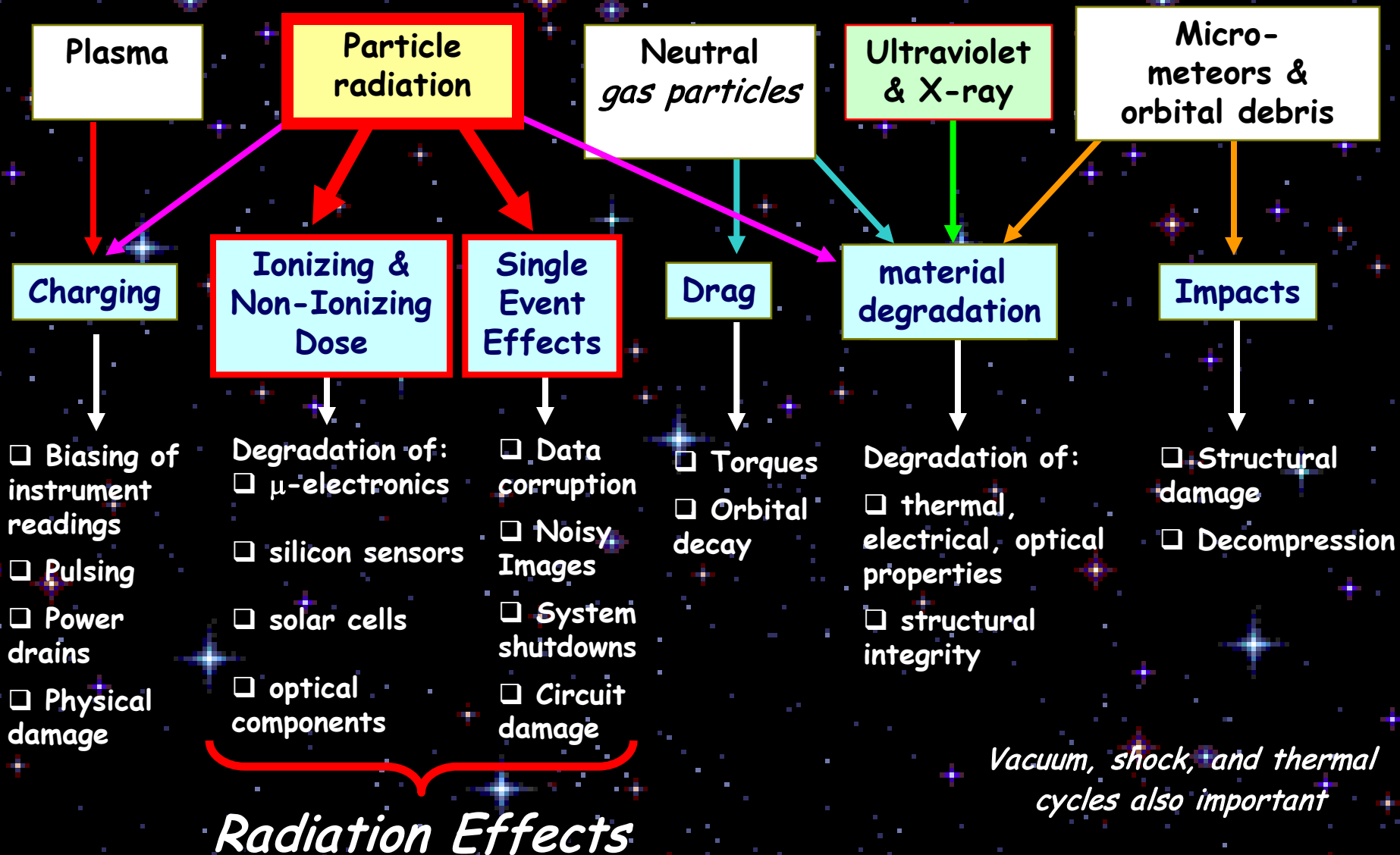
surface moon



# Space Environment Effects complete picture

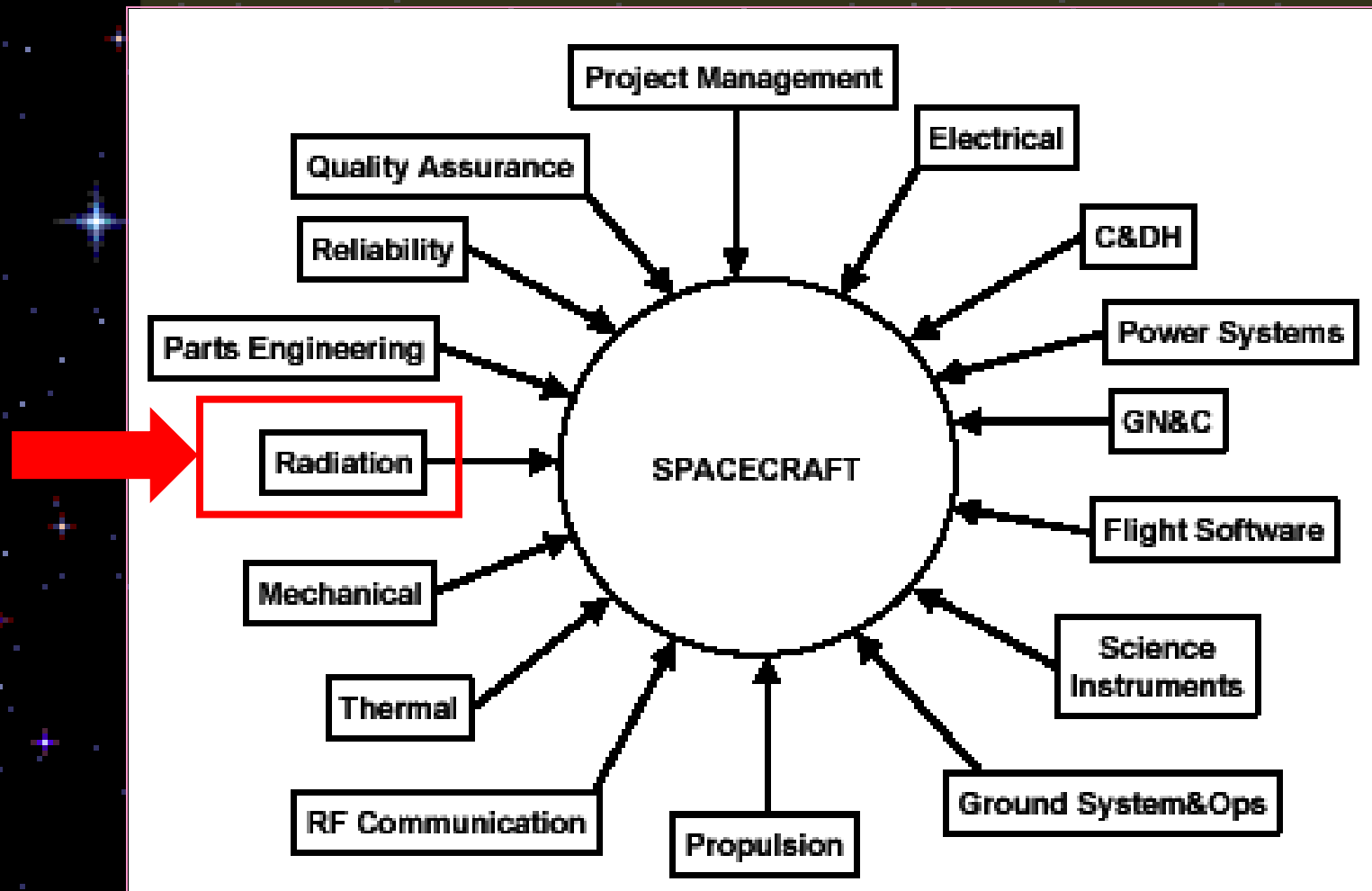


after Barth



# Spacecraft design team

A typical spacecraft design team:  
the radiation group is only one part of the team.



# In context

J. Gasiot

«Electronique et Rayonnement»

Université de Montpellier II, FRANCE

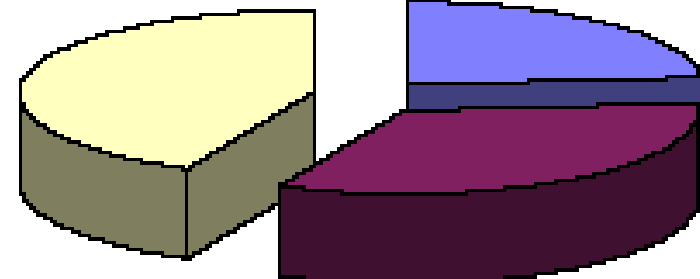


Unidentified  
Anomalies

Other  
Anomalies

43 %

24 %

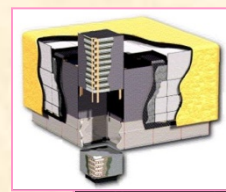


33 %

Radiation Induced Anomalies



# LET spectra and dose for **FERMI** (*GLAST*)



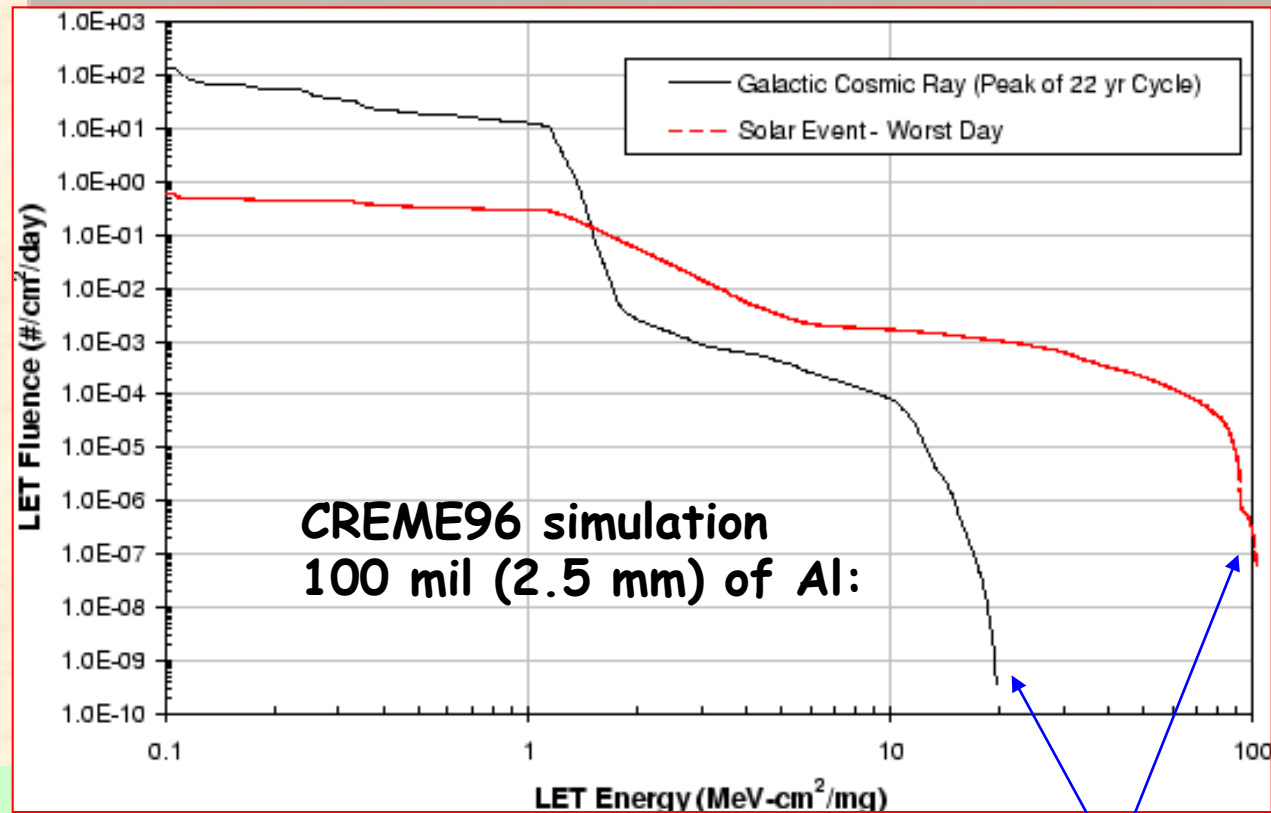
- GLAST orbital parameters:

- 565 km asl, circular orbit
- 28.5° inclination, ~1.6 hr orbital period
- 5 year mission

*Courtesy of  
Riccardo Rando,  
FERMI collaboration*



- Biggest contribution to dose is passage into South Atlantic Anomaly
- Maximum **total dose is 0.8 krad** in most exposed devices in a 5 year mission
- 5X engineering limit, another 2X safety margin
- **Galactic Cosmic Rays + Solar Particle Events < 0.3 ions/cm<sup>2</sup> (5 yrs)**



FERMI estimate

**10 krad, 1 ion event/cm<sup>2</sup> (5 years)**

upper cutoffs

# Biological radiation QUALITY weighting factors

$$1 \text{ Sv} = 1 \text{ Gy} \times \text{RBE} = 100 \text{ rad} \times \text{RBE} = 100 \text{ rem}$$

skip

<i>Radiation type</i>	<i>Relative Biological Effectiveness</i>
photons, electrons and muons	1
protons > 2 MeV (except recoil protons)	5
alpha particles and heavy ions (Z>2)	20
neutrons < 10 keV	5
10 keV < 100 keV	10
100 keV < 2 MeV	20
2 MeV < 20 MeV	10
> 20 MeV	5



Rolf Sievert

$$1 \text{ Sv} = 1 \text{ Gy} \times \text{RBE} = 100 \text{ rad} \times \text{RBE} = 100 \text{ rem}$$

$$1 \text{ mSv} = 100 \text{ mrem}$$

skip

- 3 mSv/yr = average exposure of a person in one year
- 0.2  $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$  .... at 4000 m above sea level
- 5  $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$  .... at 12000 m above sea level
- 13  $\mu\text{Sv/hr}$  .... at 20000 m above sea level
- 50  $\mu\text{Sv}$  .... flight London  $\rightarrow$  New York
- X-ray .... 1mSv
- CAT scan .... 3÷4 mSv
- total body scan (scintigrafia), PET .... 20 mSv
- radiotherapy ....tens of Sv



# its a tough LIFE in space

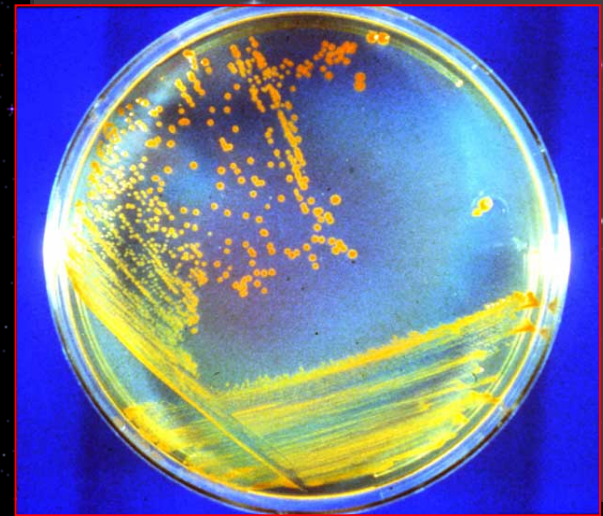
# skip



- active Sun (every 11 yrs) may expel intense clouds of protons that deliver doses of 0.3-3 Gy/3 days (Townsend, Shinn, Wilson, *Radiation Research* 126:108-110);

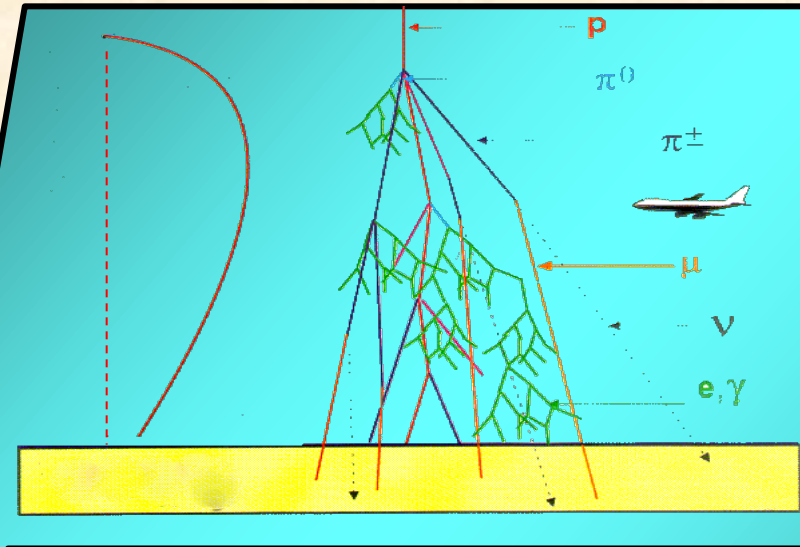
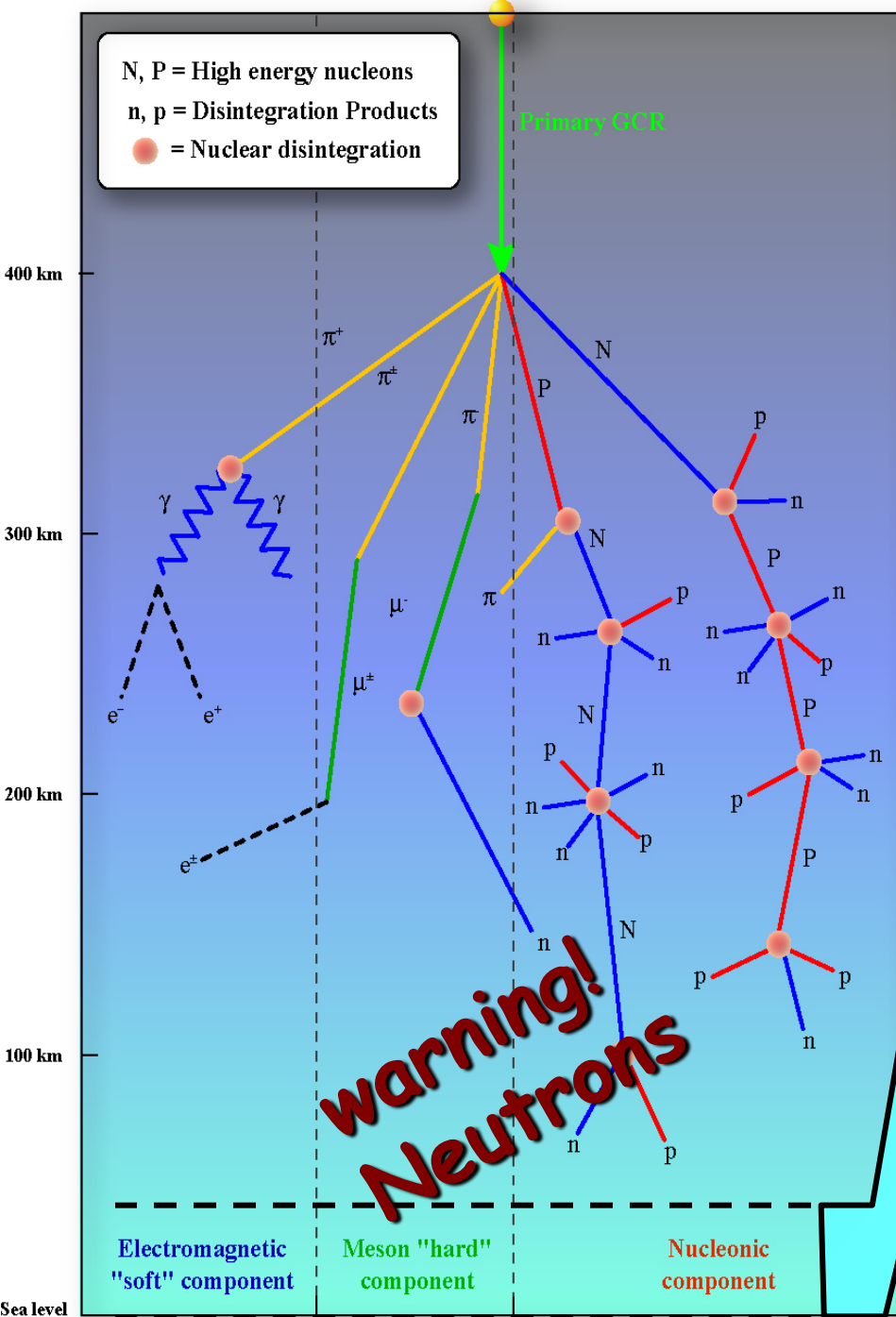
- NOTE: ~ 1/2 of cells of crew members of round trip to Mars will be traversed by at least one galactic cosmic rays with high charge and energy (HZE) (Setlow, *Mutation Research* 430:169-175)

rad-hard bacteria  
**deinococcus radiodurans**



- Skylab mission 2500 mrad = 0.025 Gy
- orbits 250-300 km at 65° (resp. equator) 10 mrad/day
- pass thru Van Allen 0.1-0.2 Gy/hr (passage lasts 10-20 min)
- Shuttle ~ 433 mrem/mission average skin dose
- Shuttle 7864 mrem highest skin dose

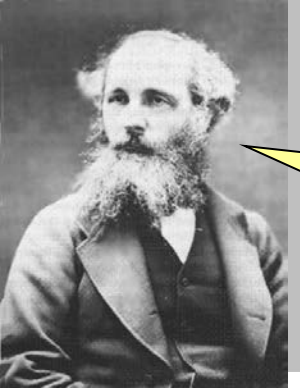
*Shower maximum at ~18 km*



Under 20 km altitude **neutrons** dominate as cause of so called **Single Event Effects** in avionic systems.

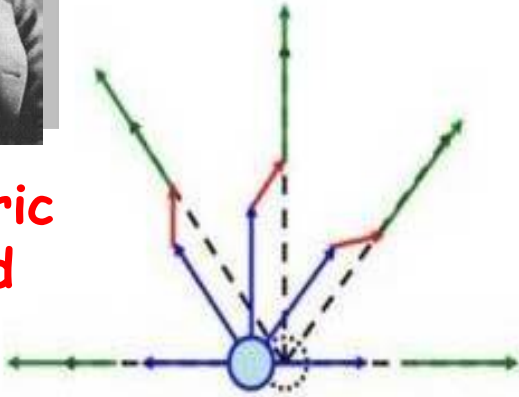
In mountains and at sea level there are enough of them to be a real concern for ground-based electronics that play vital roles (e.g. in computers, pace makers, cars, voting machines..., power devices in locomotives,...)





Take a charge .... and move it

Electric  
field



There will be kinks in the electric  
field and they will propagate

Shake the charge  
back and forth  
and...

