Requirements for Space Radiation Dosimetry Walter Schimmerling, Francis A. Cucinotta, and John W. Wilson



Workshop on Radiation Monitoring for the International Space Station Farnborough, UK 3-5 November 1999



Annual Dose Equivalent Behind 5 g/cm² of Aluminum (1977 Solar Minimum)







• Space Radiation Environment

- For a given mission, what are the fluxes of GCR in interplanetary space as a function of particle energy, LET, and solar cycle?
- What is the solar cycle dependence of space radiation?
- What is the trapped radiation flux as a function of time, magnetic field coordinates and geographical coordinates?
- What are the doses related to heavy ions in deep space?

• Nuclear Interactions

- What are the yields for nuclear interactions of HZE particles in tissue and space shielding materials?
- How are radiation fields transformed as a function of depth in different space materials?
- What are the optimal ways of shielding humans in space?
- Atomic Interactions
 - What is the precise energy deposition of heavy ions?
 - What are the yields and energy spectra of electrons?
- Human Radiation Protection
 - What should be the radiation dose limits for manned deep space missions?
 - What is the risk associated with each crew member at any time during a given mission?

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Risk Issues Related to Space Dosimetry

What is risk?

- a priori vs. a posteriori probabilities
- probability of defined effect (e.g., excess leukemia)
- architecture-dependent (trip duration, spacecraft, ÉVA's, etc.)

Prospective risk assessment:

- radiation monitoring
 - identify radiation in sufficient detail to understand results, i.e., spectral information may be required in addition to ionization chambers; area monitors to define radiation field
- risk assessment vs. risk estimate
- architecture issues

Archival risk assessment:

- legal
 - evidence of causation (or lack of causation) of an effect by exposure
 - to space radiation
- medical history
 - acute effects: treatment, record
 - late effects: how?
- epidemiological
 - evaluate effects of cumulative population exposures

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TLD Efficiency(*)



^(*) R.H. Thomas, Passive Detectors. In: Advances in Radiation Protection and Dosimetry In Medicine (R.H. Thomas and V. Perez-Mendez, Eds.) Plenum Press, New York, 1980, p. 218



Separating Species

- Ions with differing M, Z, and E can have similar dE/dx over a substantial portion of their paths.
- Need good energy calibration (< 3% or so) and information from many detectors.
- Measure efficiencies of triggers
- Using these efficiencies, apply corrections.





Radial Energy Deposition



N.F. Metting, H.H. Rossi, L.A. Braby, P.J. Kliauga, J. Howard, M. Zaider, W. Schimmerling, M. Wong, and M. Rapkin, Radiat. Res. 116,183-195 (1988).



Biodosimetry

- Biological monitoring of radiation exposure:
 - record accumulated radiation exposure for individuals
 - supplement area monitors
 - weigh components of environmental radiation according to their biological efficacy
 - desired goal: predict risk
- Different types:
 - intrinsic biological dosimeters: biomarkers for genetic or metabolic changes
 - extrinsic biological dosimeters/indicators for radiation and other genotoxic substances and agents



- sensitivity to the levels of radiation exposure of concern
 - <u>unequivocal</u>: not sensitive to confounding factors (high signal-tonoise ratio)
- accuracy of predictions
 - predict risk and health care decisions at a <u>well-defined level of</u> <u>confidence</u>
- **specificity** of prediction
 - plausible <u>causal</u> relationship based on testable mechanisms of radiation action, rather than just a contingent <u>correlation</u> with radiation exposure
- **precision:** the results are not significantly distorted by individual or circumstantial variations in radiation response
- lead to diagnostic procedures that are:
 - <u>practical</u> under actual circumstances of exposure rather than only under highly restricted laboratory conditions
 - cost-effective, to screen large populations where required



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- Particle identification:

 Positive charges vs. neutrons, electrons, γ-rays
 (1,1) (A,Z) (56,26) [p to Fe]
 ΔZ/Z 0.2]
 - Δ A/A 1
- Energies:
 - 10 ϵ_{HZE} 1000 MeV/nucleon
 - $10 \text{ keV} \bullet \epsilon_n \bullet 100 \text{ MeV}$
 - 700 keV $\varepsilon_{x,\gamma,\beta}$ 10 MeV
- LET range:
 - 0.1 LET 2000 keV/µm
- Acceptance
 - -Solid angle (statistics) 2•
 - -detection efficiency 10%
 - $-\Delta a/a$ (angular resolution) 3°

- Rate Dependence
 - R 10⁵ particles/sec; N 10⁴ particles/cm²
 - 0.01 µGy/min •D/•t 1 Gy/min
- Localization
 - Portability
 - » Personnel dosimetry
 - » Area monitoring
 - Shielding: traceable to mass distributions
- Data acquisition and recording
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