



Invited Plenary Talk  
Spring Conference of the Korean Space Science Society (KSSS)  
Gangneung-si, Gangwon-do, Republic of Korea

## SPACE RADIATION RESEARCH AT NASA

John Norbury

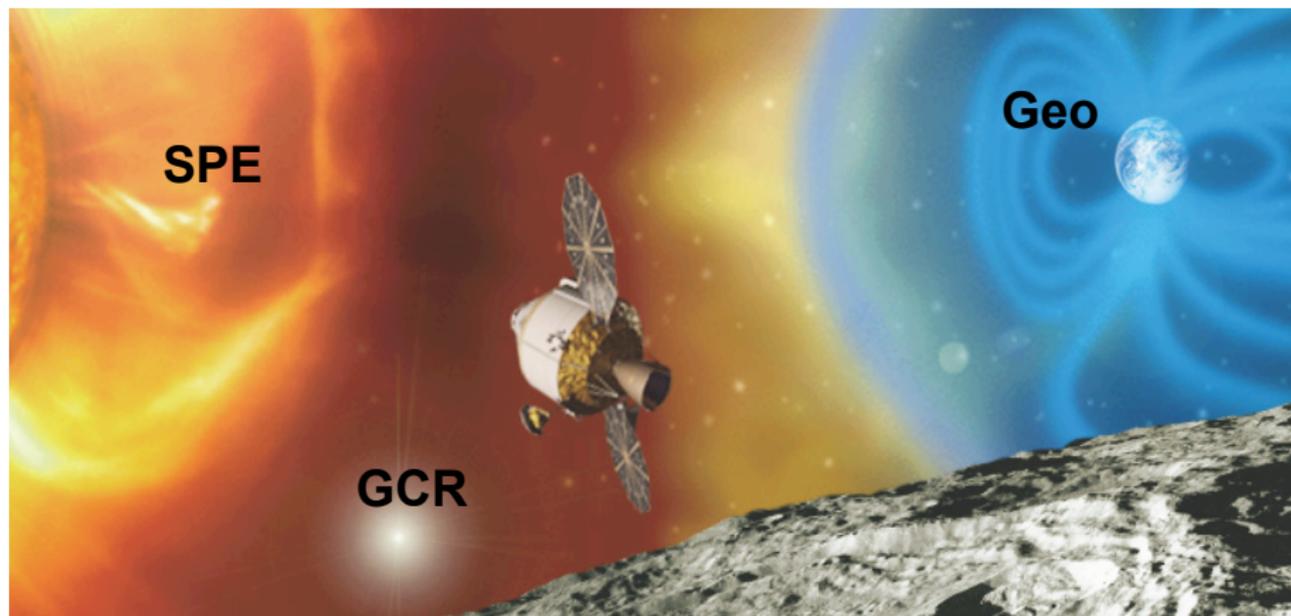
NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia, USA

Friday April 29, 2016

# OUTLINE

- 1 3 SOURCES OF SPACE RADIATION
- 2 RADIATION & DOSE
- 3 NUCLEAR & PARTICLE PHYSICS & TRANSPORT
- 4 MOON, MARS, JUPITER, SATURN
- 5 CONCLUSIONS

# 3 SOURCES OF SPACE RADIATION



<https://oltaris.larc.nasa.gov>

SPE= Solar Particle Event    GCR = Galactic Cosmic Rays

Geo = Geomagnetically trapped particles

# GCR COMPOSITION, SPECTRUM, ORIGIN

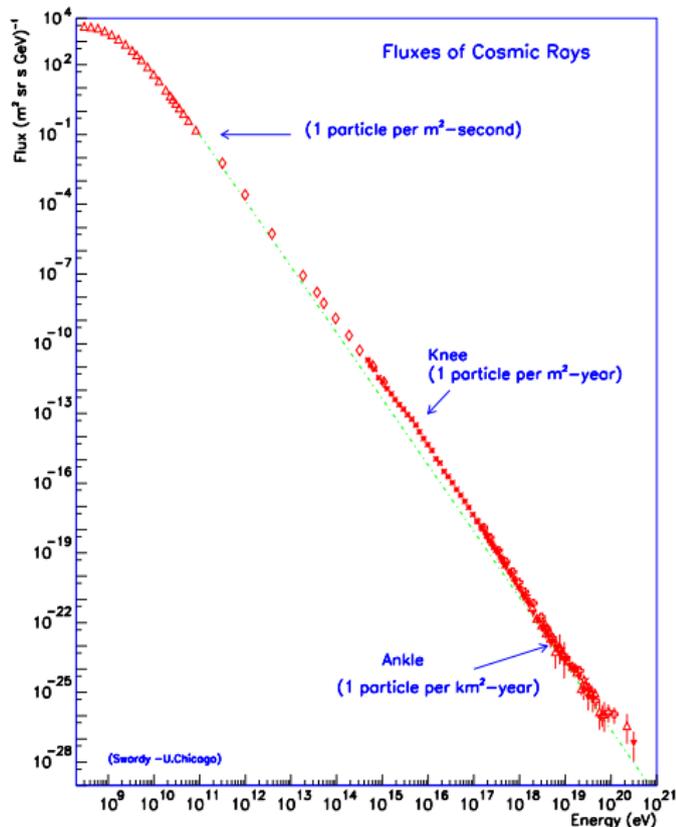
## 3 regions

- High Energy < PeV
- Very High Energy (knee) PeV - EeV
- Ultra High Energy (ankle) > EeV

keV =  $10^3$ eV      MeV =  $10^6$ eV  
GeV =  $10^9$ eV      TeV =  $10^{12}$ eV  
PeV =  $10^{15}$ eV      EeV =  $10^{18}$ eV  
ZeV =  $10^{21}$ eV

## Large Hadron Collider

14 TeV cm  $\Rightarrow$  400 PeV lab



Volk, ICRC, 2001:3

# GCR HIGH ENERGY < PEV

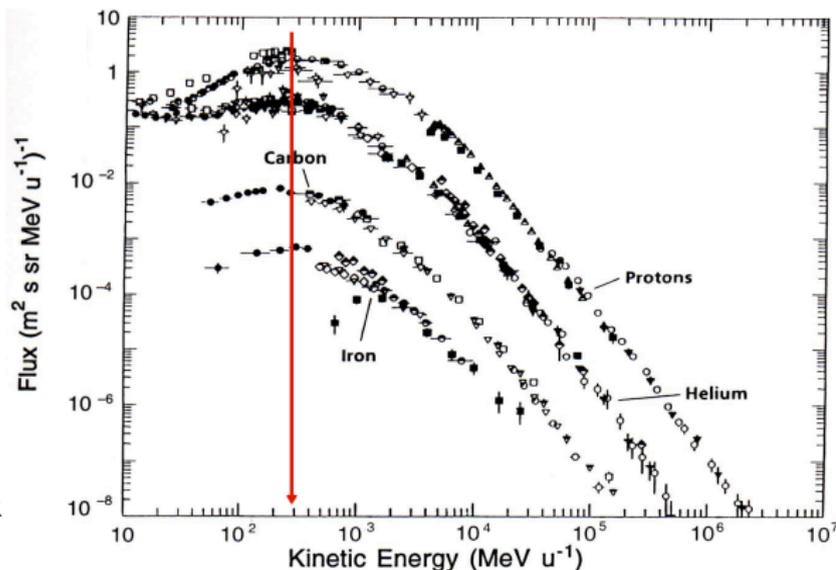
## Space radiation problem

## GCR (primary) composition

- 98% nuclei, 2%  $e^+ e^-$
- Nuclear component:
  - 87% Hydrogen
  - 12% Helium
  - 1% heavy nuclei

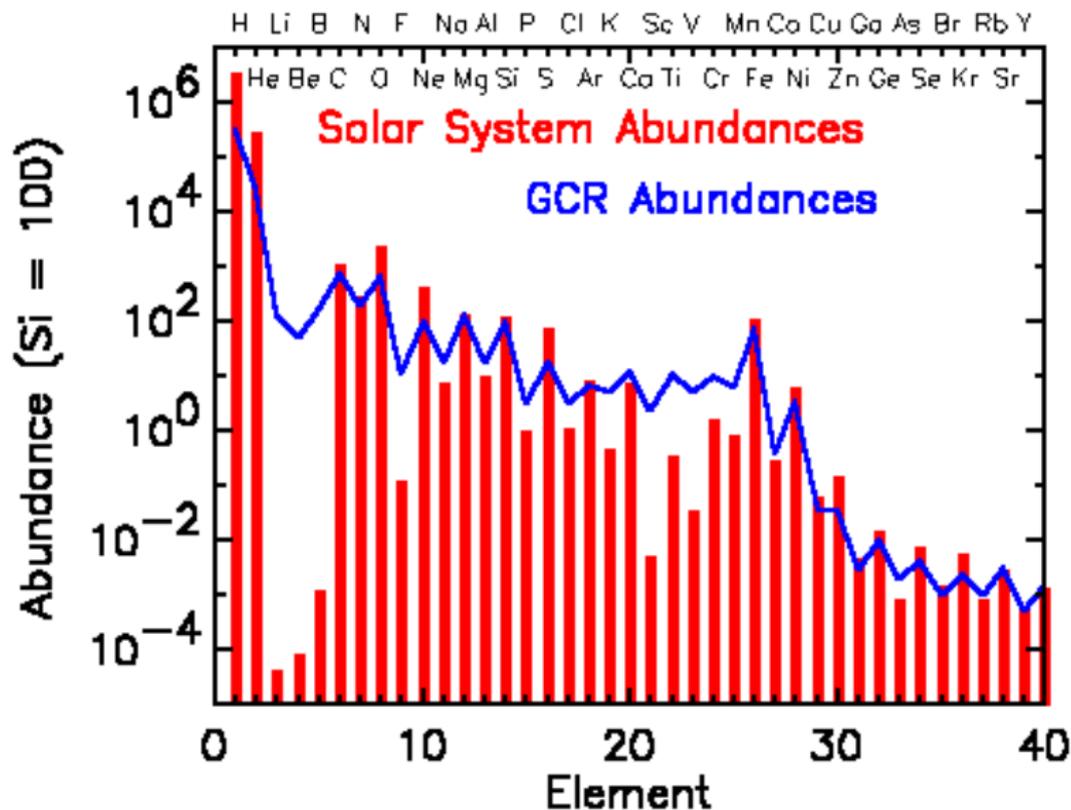
## GCR origin

- Emitted in stellar wind & flares & accelerated by supernova shock waves (within our Galaxy)



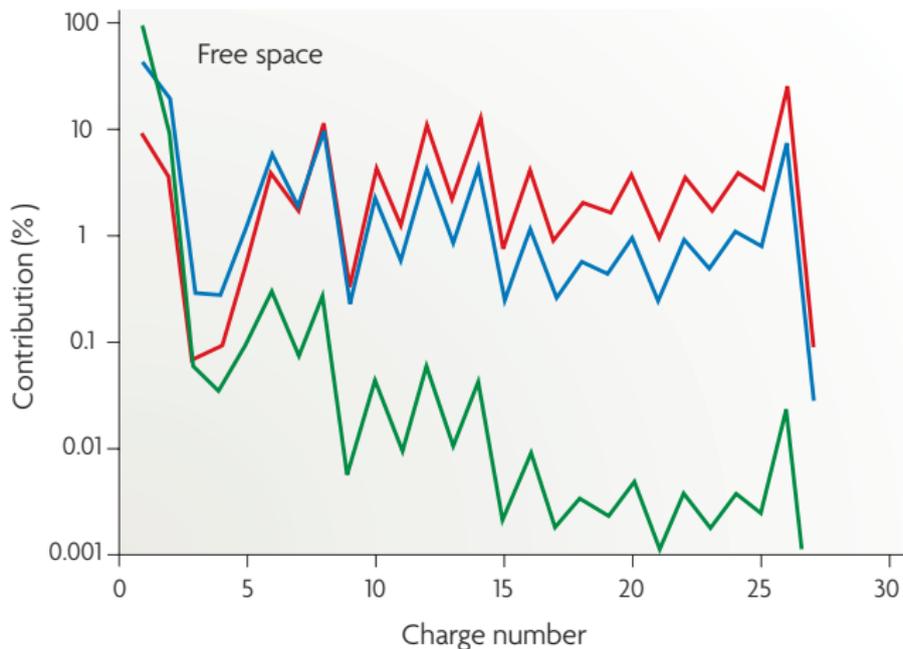
Simpson, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. vol.33, p.323, 1983

# GCR HIGH ENERGY < PEV



<http://imagine.gsfc.nasa.gov/Images/science/abund2.gif>

# APPLIED NUCLEAR PHYSICS RESEARCH



Relative contribution in **fluence**, **dose** and **dose equivalent** of different elements in the GCR spectrum. Calculation is an average over 1 year in solar minimum behind 5 g/cm<sup>2</sup> Al shielding.

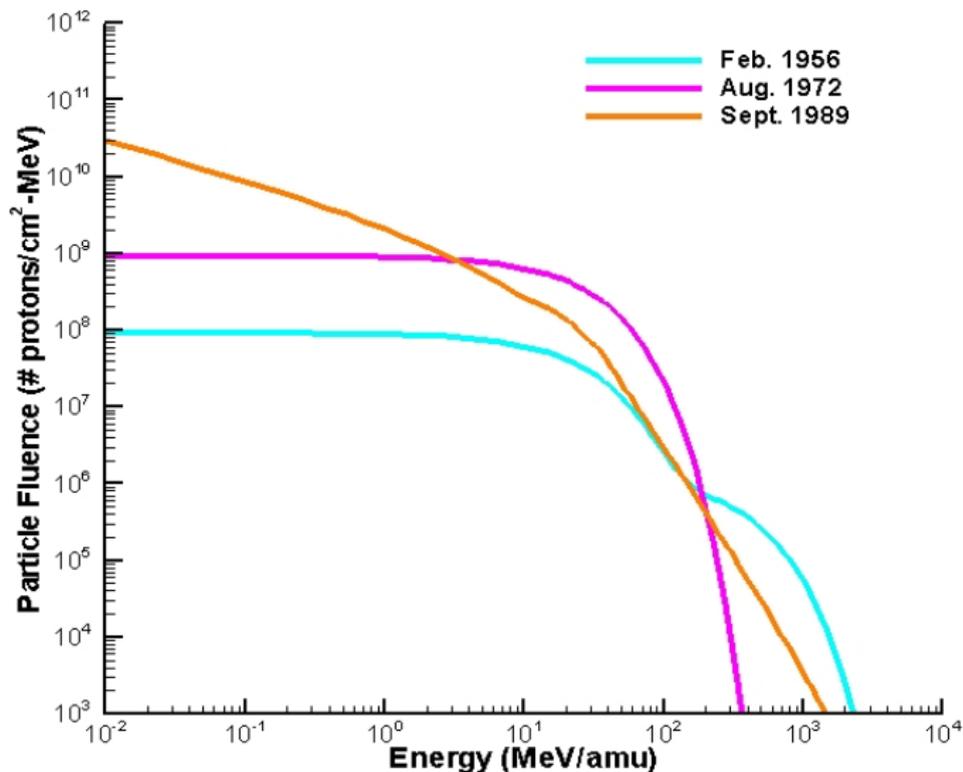
Durante & Cucinotta, Nat. Rev. Canc. vol.8, p.465, 2008

# SOLAR PARTICLES

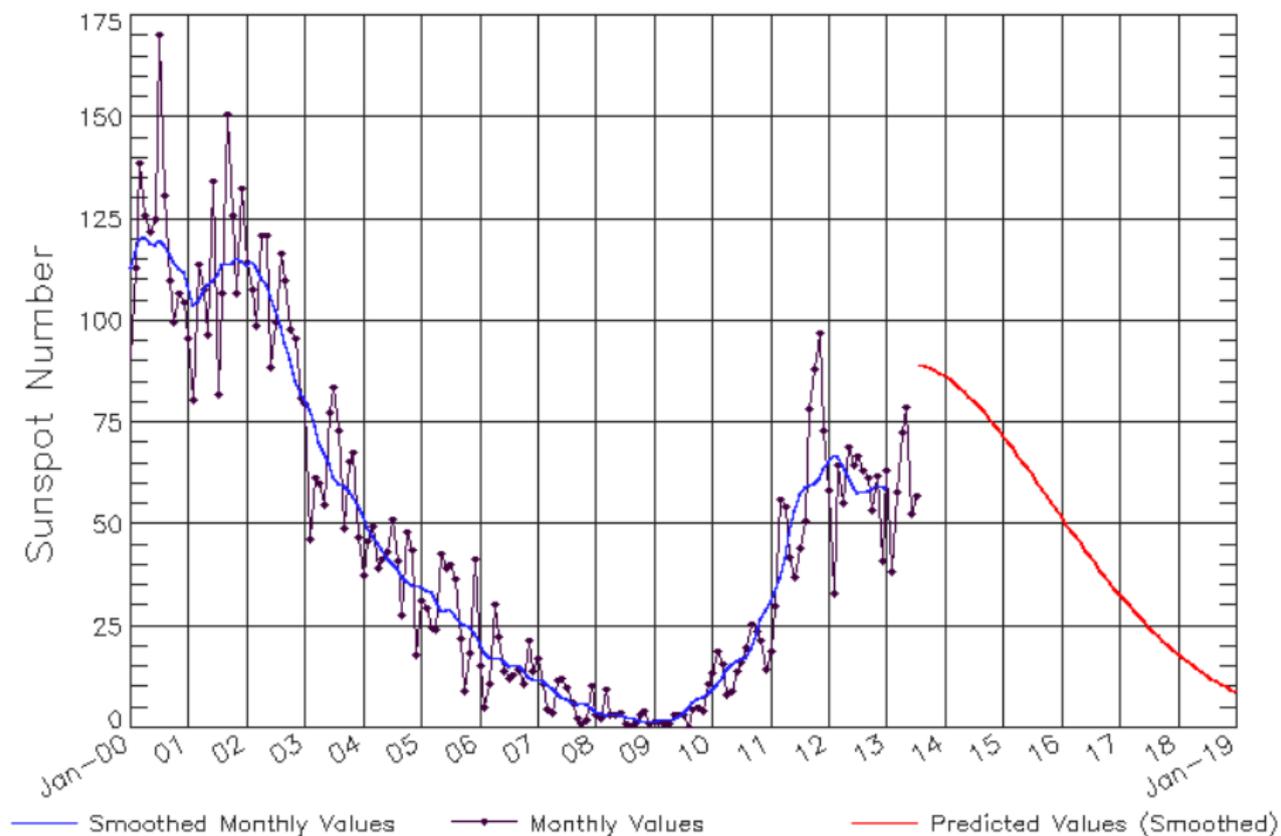
e, p & some heavy nuclei

$< 1 \text{ GeV/N}$

( $v \sim 0.9c$ )



SPE Proton spectra Cloudsley et al., AIAA, 2006



NOAA, 2013

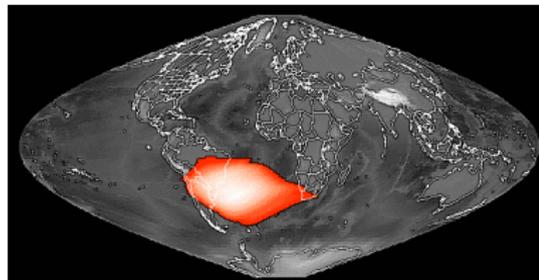
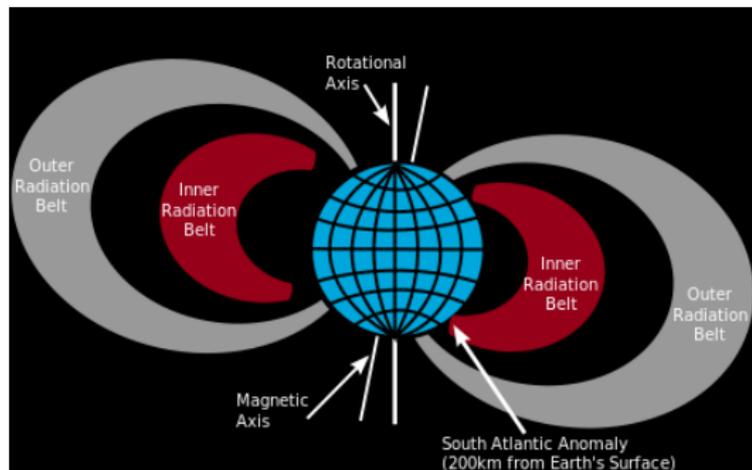
# GEOMAGNETICALLY TRAPPED PARTICLES

Inner belt:  $0 - 3 R_E = 18,000 \text{ km}$  - mainly p

- Starts about 3,000 km
- But SAA dips down to 400 km

Outer belt:  $3 - 12 R_E = 36,000 \text{ km}$  (e,p) - mainly e

(LEO: 200 - 500 km      GEO: 22,000 miles = 35,000 km)



Wikipedia, 2014

<http://science1.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2001>

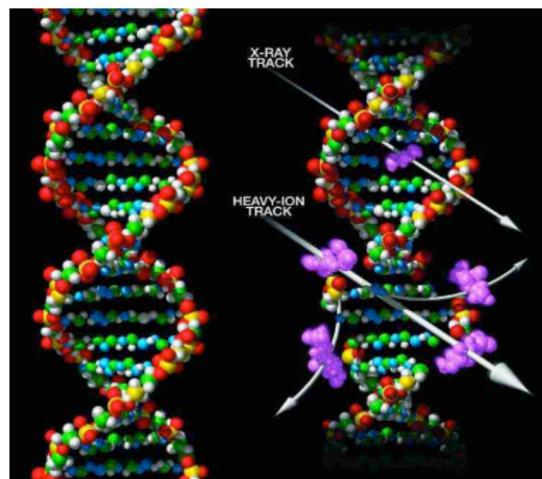
# RADIATION & DOSE

Unit of absorbed dose:

1 Gray == 1 J/kg

Radiation quality factor  $Q$

Sievert = Gray  $\times Q$



<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/multimedia/photos/2003/photos03-183.html>

ICRP estimate: 5% per Gy

1 in 20,000 risk of fatal cancer per 1 mSv dose (lifetime)

# RADIATION & DOSE

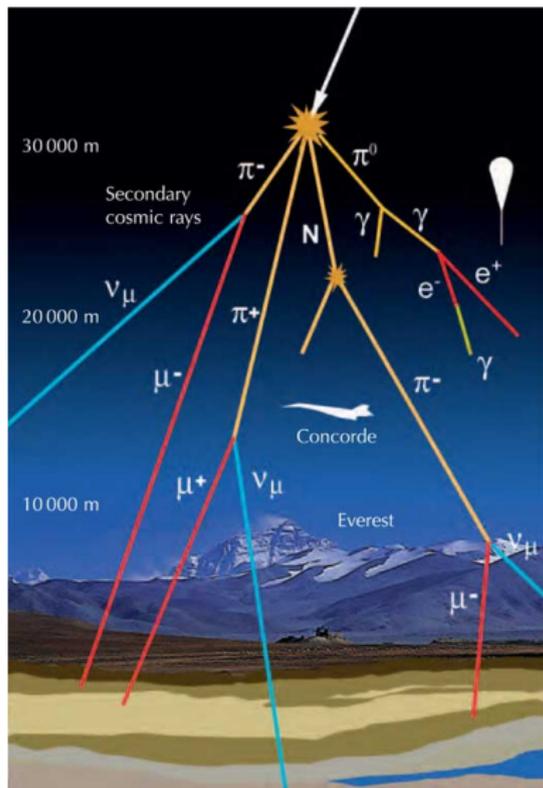
|  | Dose Equiv. (mSv) |
|--|-------------------|
| Chest x-ray  | 0.1               |
| USA annual background                                | 4                 |
| <b>Public annual limit</b> (above background)        | <b>1</b>          |
| International Airline crews                          | 4                 |
| <b>Radiation worker annual limit</b>                 | <b>50</b>         |
| No observed effects (Abomb, instant)                 | 200               |
| Death (instantaneous dose)                           | 3,000             |
|  |                   |
| ISS (with shield) annual                             | 150               |
| <b>Astronaut career limit <i>effective dose</i>*</b> | <b>470</b>        |
| Mars (3 year, incl. surface) annual                  | 1,000             |
| Large solar flare (free space)                       | 10,000            |

ICRP cancer risk estimate: 5% per Gy ~ **5% per Sv** (for Q=1)

1 in 20,000 risk of fatal cancer per 1mSv dose (lifetime)

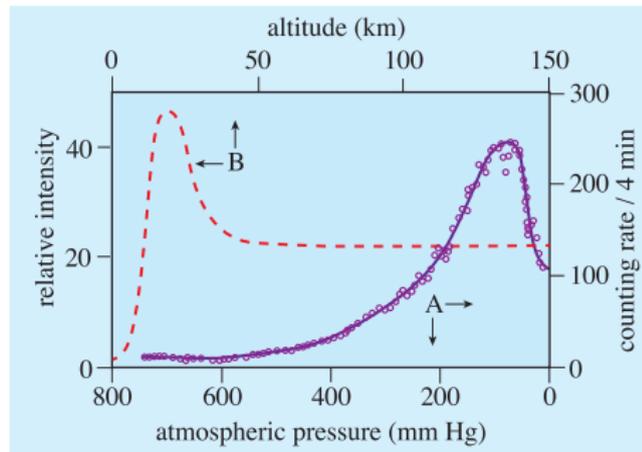
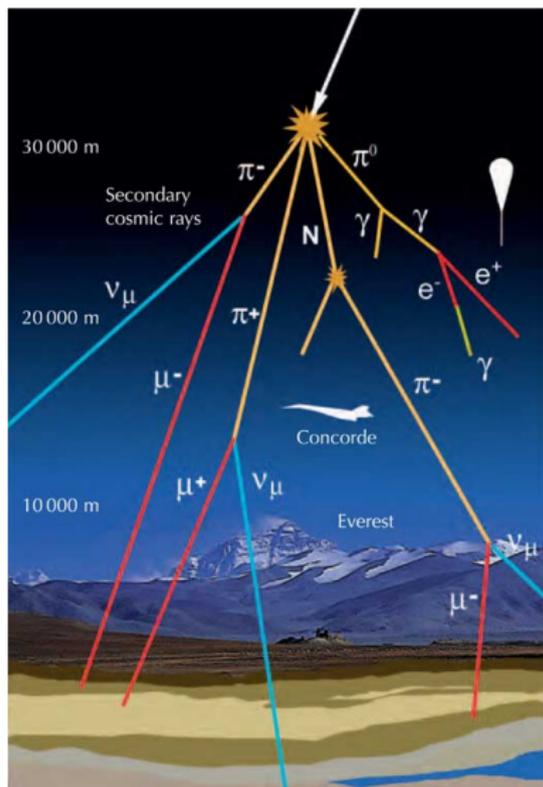
\* 30 year old female, 1 year mission (50 yr m/f ~ 1,000 mSv)

# AIRCRAFT



<http://www.scienceinschool.org/2010/issue14/cloud/maltese>

# AIRCRAFT



Bancroft et al., Phys. Ed. vol.49, p.164, 2014

<http://www.scienceinschool.org/2010/issue14/cloud/maltese>

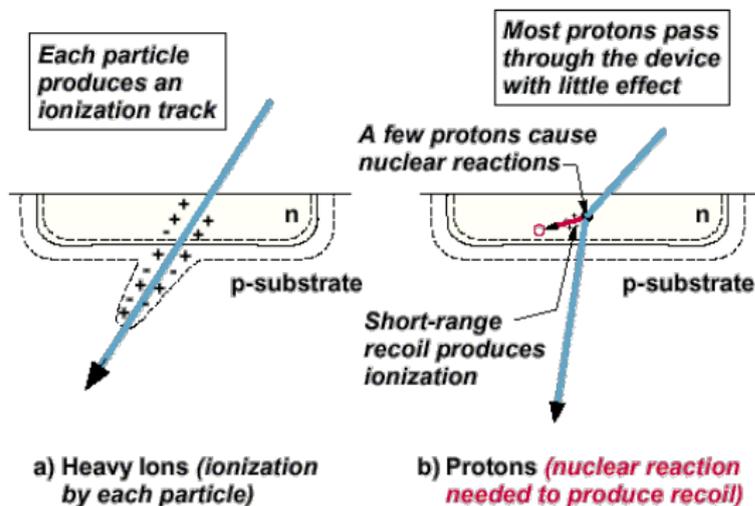
- Domestic crews 1 - 2 mSv /yr
- International crews  $< 4$  mSv / yr
- Pregnant woman  $< 5$  mSv  
(to fetus per pregnancy)

# AIRCRAFT - WHY ALL THE CONCERN NOW?

- NCRP & ICRP have lowered radiation worker exposure
  - 50 mSv / yr to 20 mSv / yr
- Air crews most highly exposed of any occupation group
- FAA criticized for not paying enough attention
- Many more polar flights
- Future High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) radiation levels
  - 3 times higher than for crews of subsonic transport
- Only solution available now:
  - reduce flight hours
- **NAIRAS** - Mertens (Langley)

## Computers

- Junction density increasing
- Switching energy decreasing



<http://holbert.faculty.asu.edu/eee560/see.html>

## Need for predicting Single Event Upsets (SEU)

- satellite electronics
- aircraft electronics (civilian & military)

Shuttle - several hundred SEU / mission

# ELECTRONICS - DEEP SPACE

- Electronics on Spirit, Opportunity, Curiosity etc. are radiation hardened
- Shielding very important for Jupiter, Saturn



<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/multimedia/images/?imageid=3504>



Credit: NASA/JPL/Space Science Institute

<http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA04866>

## These are the doses received

- How were results obtained?
- How to design spacecraft & aircraft shields so dose is minimal?

## Need

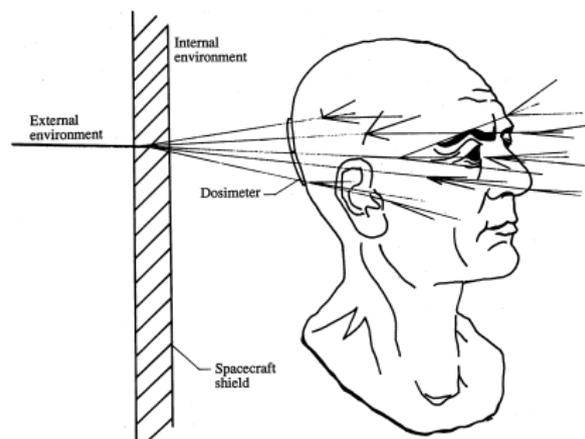
- Accurate atomic, nuclear, particle physics theory
- Accurate transport theory
- Biological models

# TRANSPORT

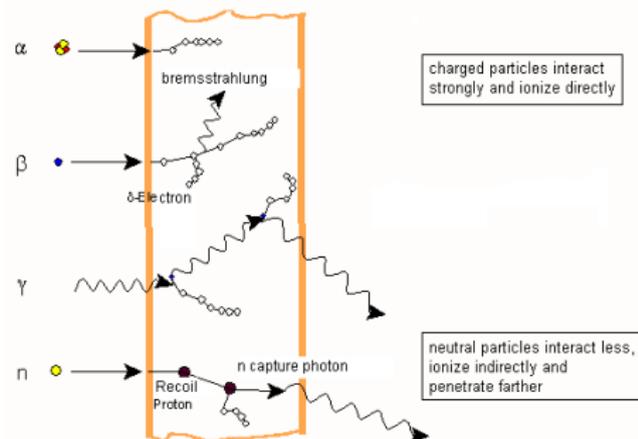
## Solve Boltzmann transport eqn (HZETRN)

### Deterministic, not Monte Carlo

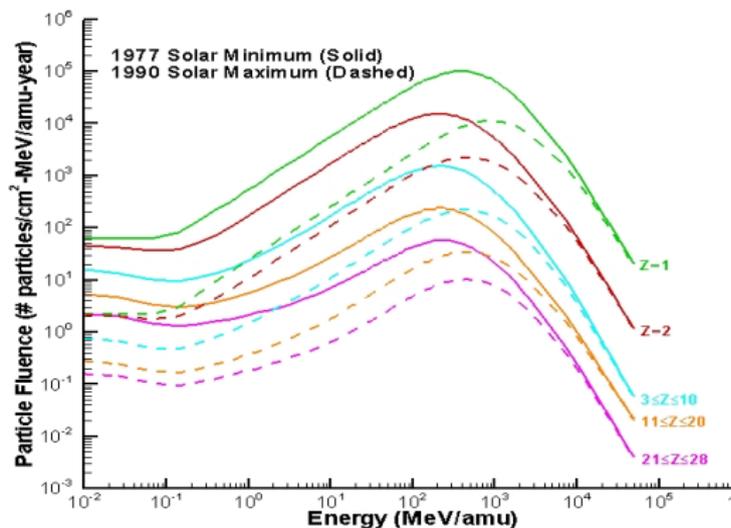
- Want quick answers
- Real time dose as function of position & time
- Both transport & nuclear physics must run fast
- → Applied nuclear physics



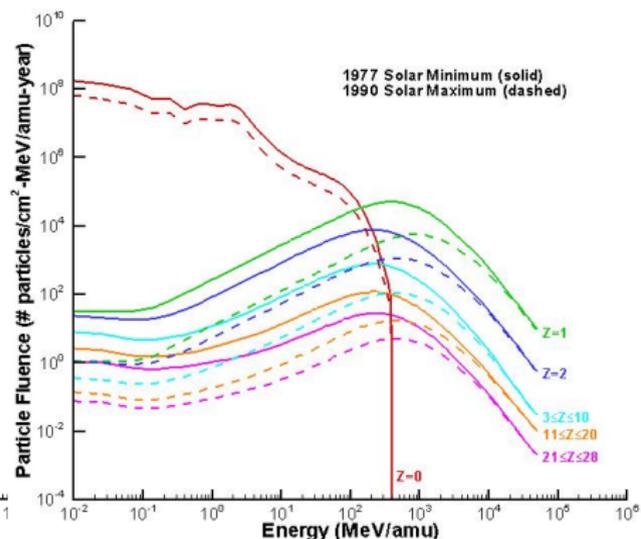
Wilson et al., NASA-RP 1257, 1991



[http://www.wikidoc.org/index.php/Ionizing\\_radiation](http://www.wikidoc.org/index.php/Ionizing_radiation)

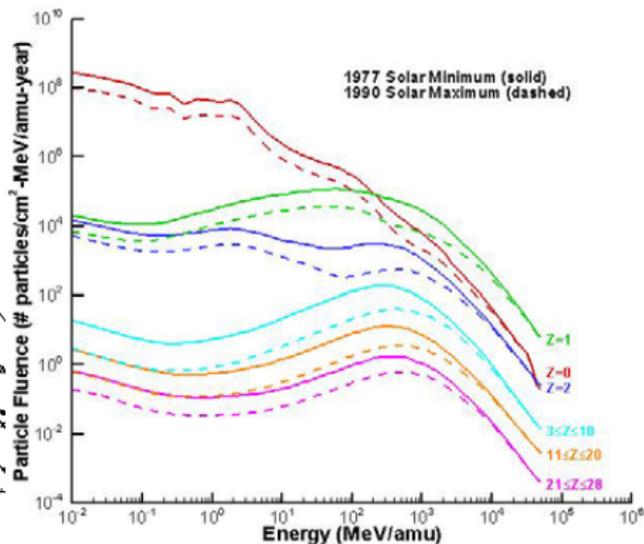
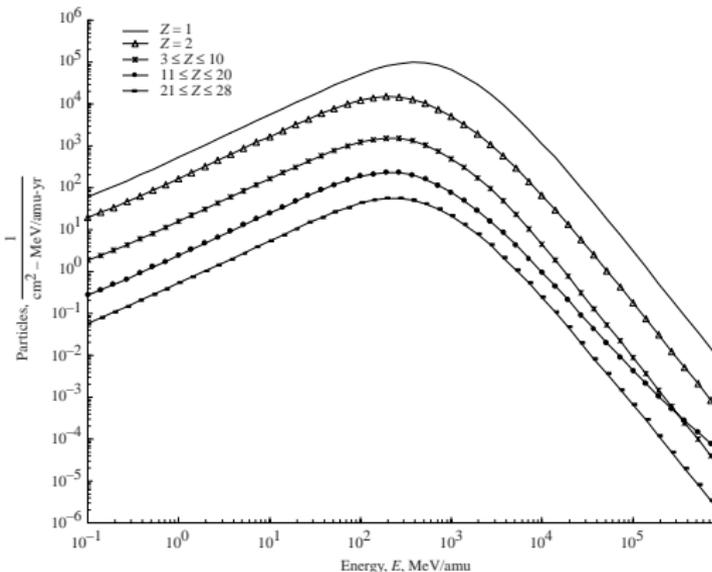


Free space GCR environment at 1AU



Lunar surface environment due to GCR

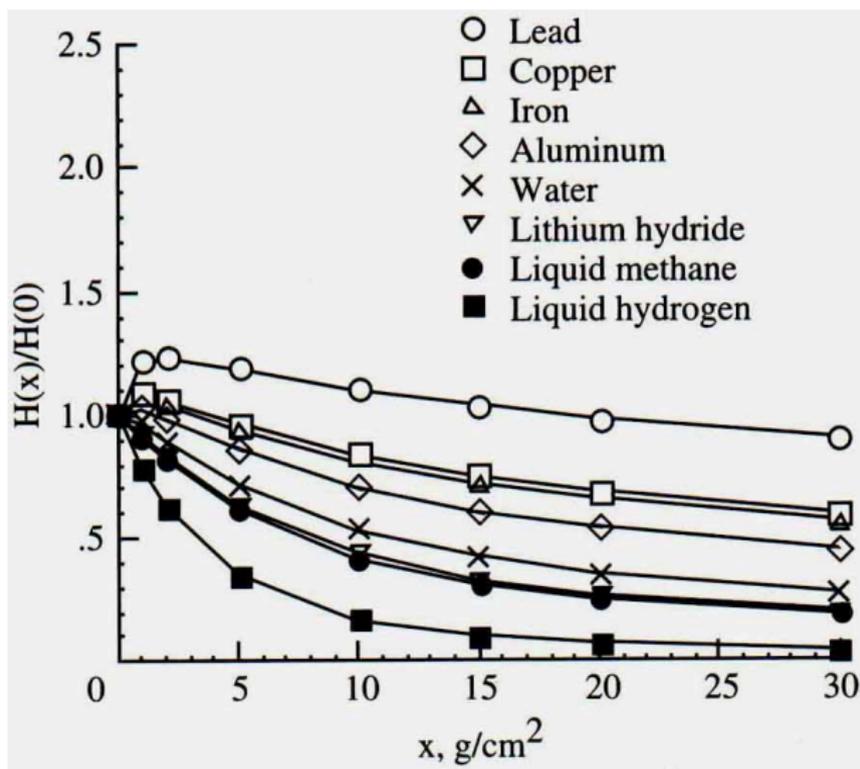
Clowdsley et al., AIAA, 2006



Left: Primary GCR spectra at Mars for 1977 solar minimum [Kim et al., NASA TP 208724, 1998](#)

Right: Martian surface environment due to GCR [Cloudsley et al., AIAA, 2006](#)

# TRANSPORT - MATERIALS COMPARED TO ALUMINUM



Dose Equivalent as a function of depth for various materials

Wilson et al., Materials & Design vol.22, p.541, 2001

From radiation point of view, safest place is inside liquid hydrogen fuel tank!

## Major result

- Low Z materials required for weight reduction necessary for future High Speed Civil Transport (HSCT) and for future spacecraft are *also* the best radiation protection materials
- Thank goodness!

## Short duration

- Solar particle events

## Long duration

- Solar particle events
- Galactic cosmic rays

## Lunar regolith composition

| <u>Material</u> | <u>Mass percentage</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------|
|-----------------|------------------------|

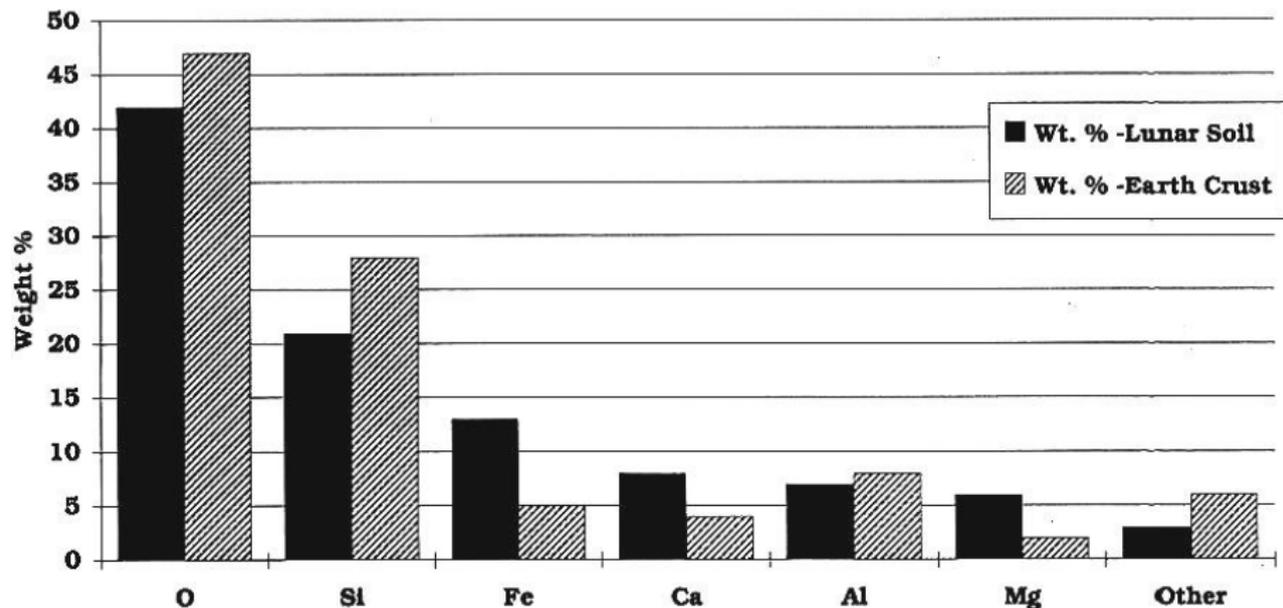
|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| SiO <sub>2</sub> | 52.6% |
|------------------|-------|

|     |        |
|-----|--------|
| FeO | 19.8 % |
|-----|--------|

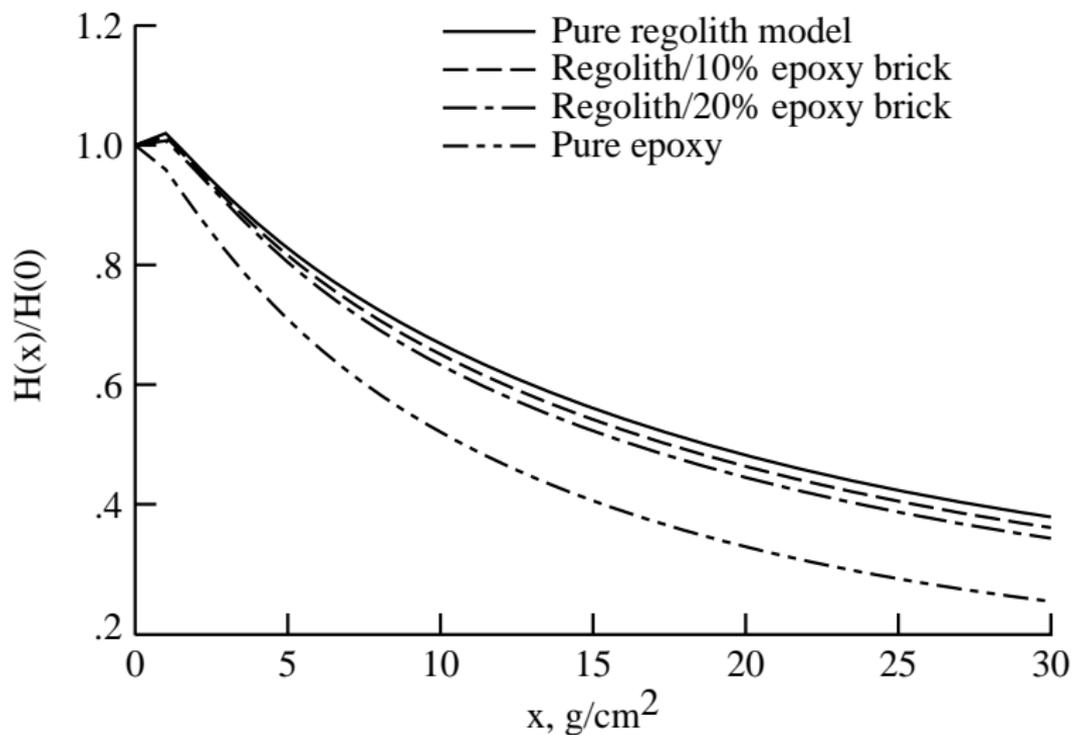
|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 17.6 % |
|--------------------------------|--------|

|     |        |
|-----|--------|
| MgO | 10.0 % |
|-----|--------|

The Surface of the Moon is Slightly Richer in Fe, Ca, and Mg Compared to the Earth's Crust



<http://fti.neep.wisc.edu/neep602/lecture12.html>

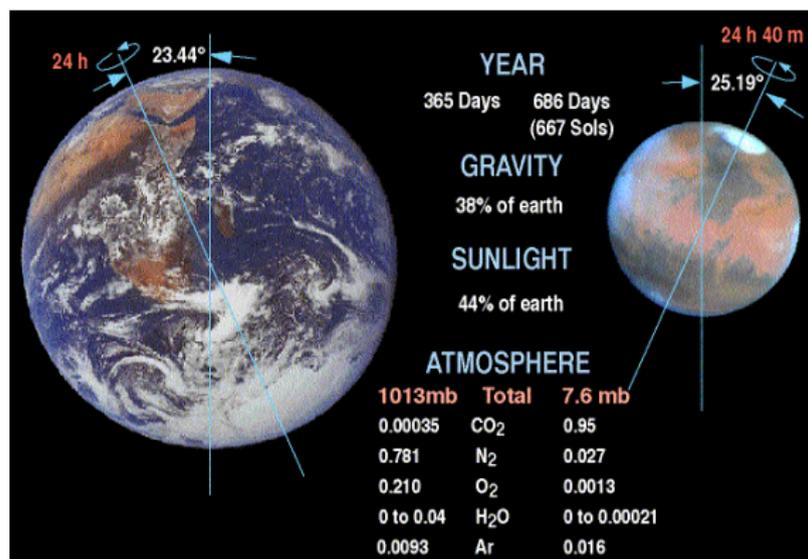


Attenuation of dose equivalent due to 1977 solar minimum GCR

Simonsen et al., NASA Conference Publication 3360, 1997

# MARS

|  | Earth | Mars |
|--|-------|------|
| Atmospheric thickness (g/cm <sup>2</sup> ) | 1000  | 20   |
| Magnetic field (Gauss)                     | 1     | 0    |



<http://www-k12.atmos.washington.edu/k12/resources/>

## Chemical composition of Martian atmosphere

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| Component       | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------|----------------|
| CO <sub>2</sub> | 95.32          |
| N <sub>2</sub>  | 02.70          |
| Ar              | 01.60          |
| O <sub>2</sub>  | 00.13          |
| CO              | 00.08          |

De Angelis et al., Rad. Meas. vol.41, p.1097, 2006

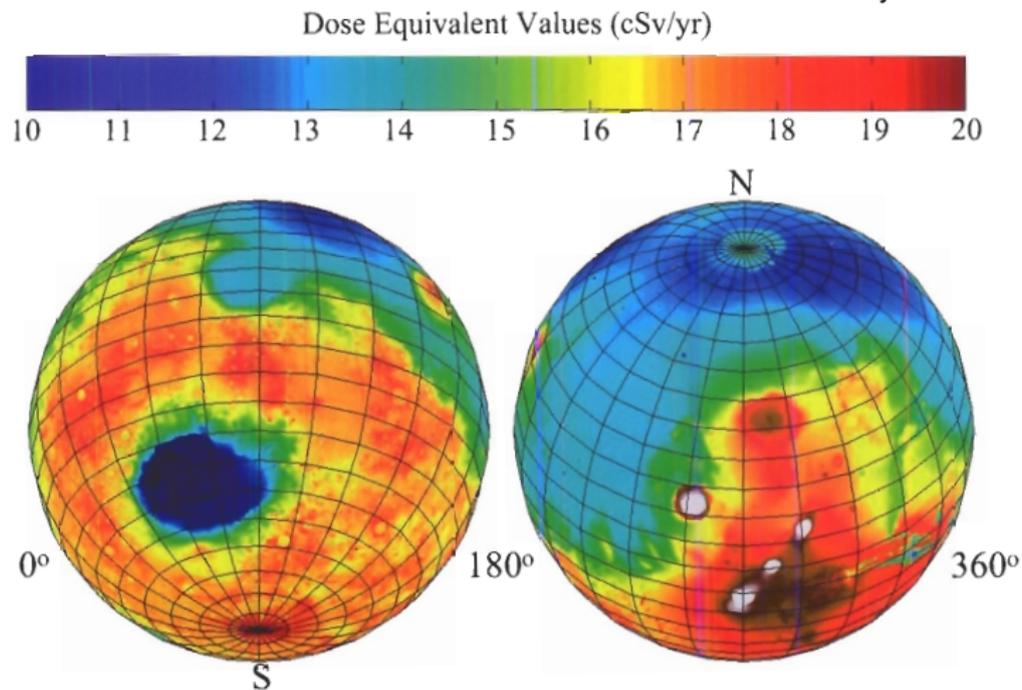
## Chemical composition of Martian surface

| Component                      | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| SiO <sub>2</sub>               | 44.2           |
| Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 16.8           |
| Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> | 08.8           |
| CaO                            | 06.6           |
| MgO                            | 06.2           |
| SO <sub>3</sub>                | 05.5           |
| Na <sub>2</sub> O              | 02.5           |
| TiO <sub>2</sub>               | 01.0           |

De Angelis et al., Rad. Meas. vol.41, p.1097, 2006

## GCR Environment

20 cSv/year = 200 mSv/year



Model prediction of dose equivalent from GCR. Calculations are shown at average skin depth near solar maximum. [Cucinotta, Rad. Res. vol.43, p.S35, 2002](#)

Curiosity MSL RAD      Zeitlin et al. Science vol. 340, p.1080, 2013

Mars transit inside vehicle:  $1.84 \pm 0.33$  mSv / day

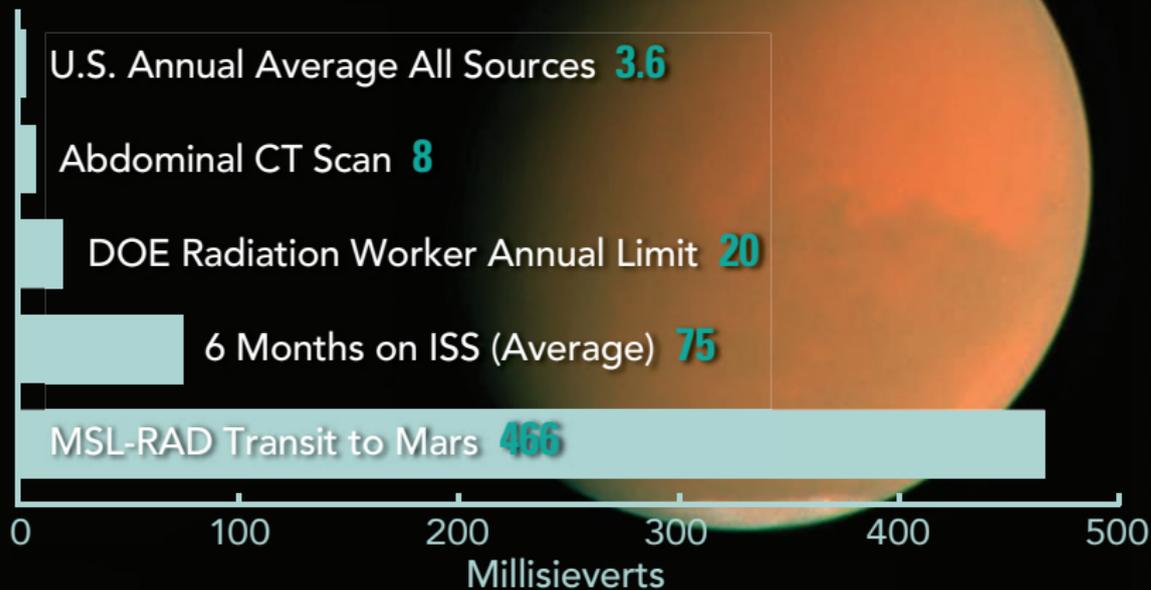
⇒ MSL (one way) 253 days gives 466 mSv

⇒ 331 mSv for 180 day cruise DRM

⇒ 662 mSv return trip

- Plus surface exposure 200 mSv ?
- Approaching and exceeding limits

## Comparative Radiation Exposures

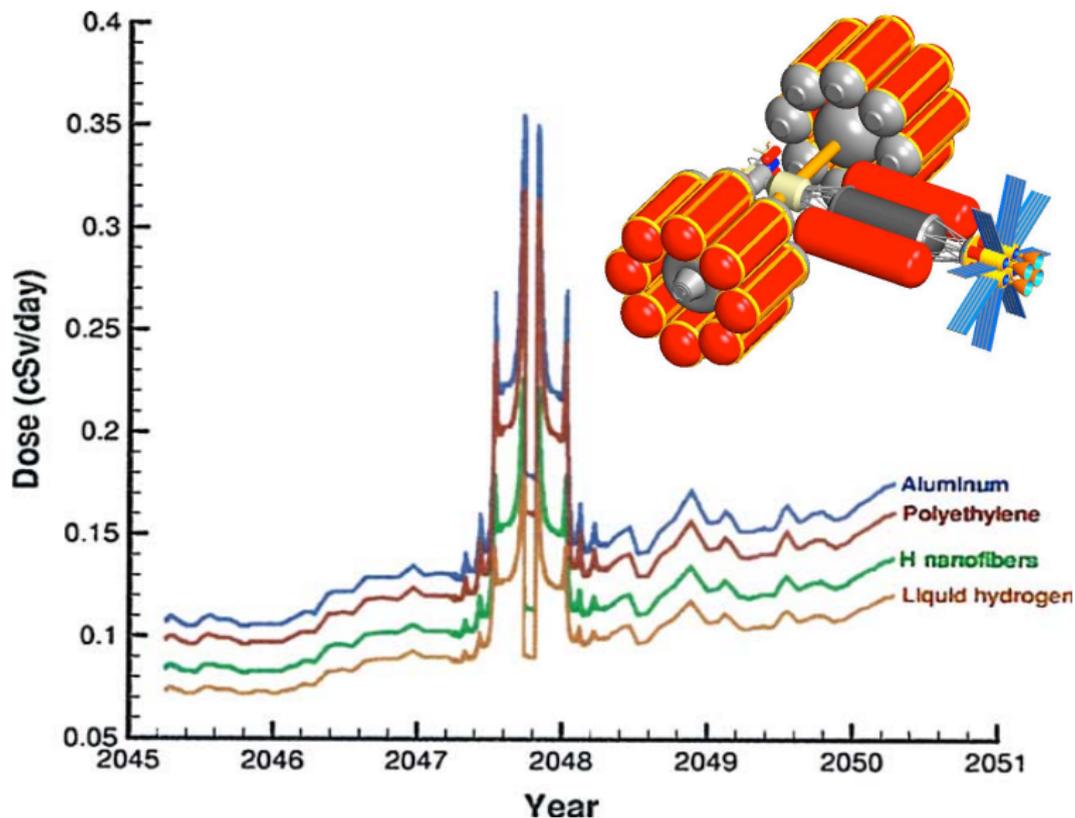


MSL-RAD= Mars Science Laboratory Radiation Assessment Detector [Kerr, Science vol.340, p.1031, 2013](#)

## Intense radiation

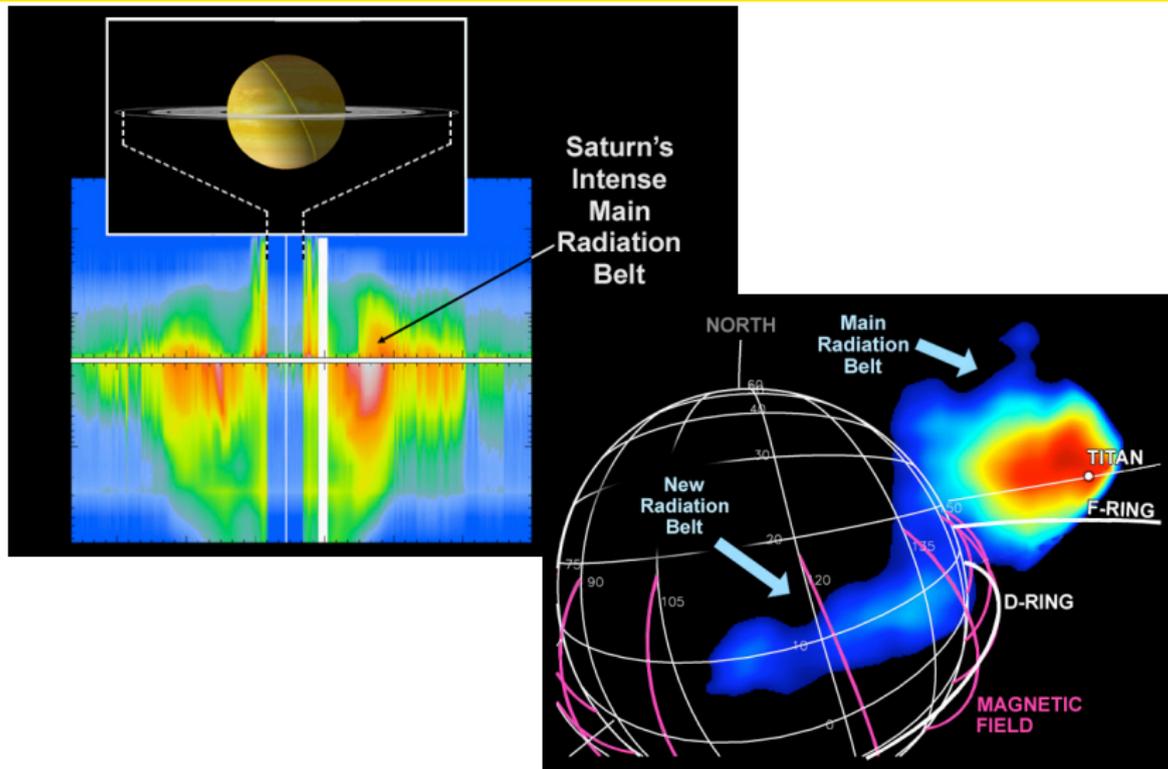
- On Jupiter moon Io humans could not survive for more than a few hours
- Callisto

# L1 TO CALLISTO SURFACE OPS (30 DAYS) & RETURN



Wilson et al., Adv. Space Res. vol.34, p.1281, 2004

# SATURN



<http://www.universetoday.com/15381/radiation-on-saturn/>

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/cassini/multimedia/pia06421.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/cassini/multimedia/pia06421.html)

# HEALTH EFFECTS ON HUMAN BODY

- Carcinogenesis
  - Earlier appearance and more aggressive tumors not seen with controls, gamma-rays or proton induced tumors
  - Persistent oxidative damage and inflammatory pathway responses
  - New genomics data showing distinct gene expression profiles in HZE versus  $\gamma$ -ray or x-ray irradiated cell models
- Acute Radiation Syndrome due to Solar Particle Events
  - Research addresses dose threshold, dose-rate effects with countermeasure evaluation
  - Future work to understand impact of possible high skin dose and microgravity on immune system and blood forming organs

# HEALTH EFFECTS ON HUMAN BODY

- Acute or Late Central Nervous System (CNS) Effects
  - Concern for CNS risks originated with the prediction of the light flash phenomenon from single high-Z high-energy nuclei traversals of the retina; this phenomenon was confirmed by the Apollo astronauts
  - Major uncertainty how to extrapolate results from animals to humans
- Degenerative Tissue or other health effects
  - Occupational radiation exposure from the space environment may result in degenerative tissue diseases (non-cancer or non-CNS) such as cardiac, circulatory, or digestive diseases, & cataracts
  - Mechanisms & magnitude of influence of radiation leading to these diseases are not well characterized

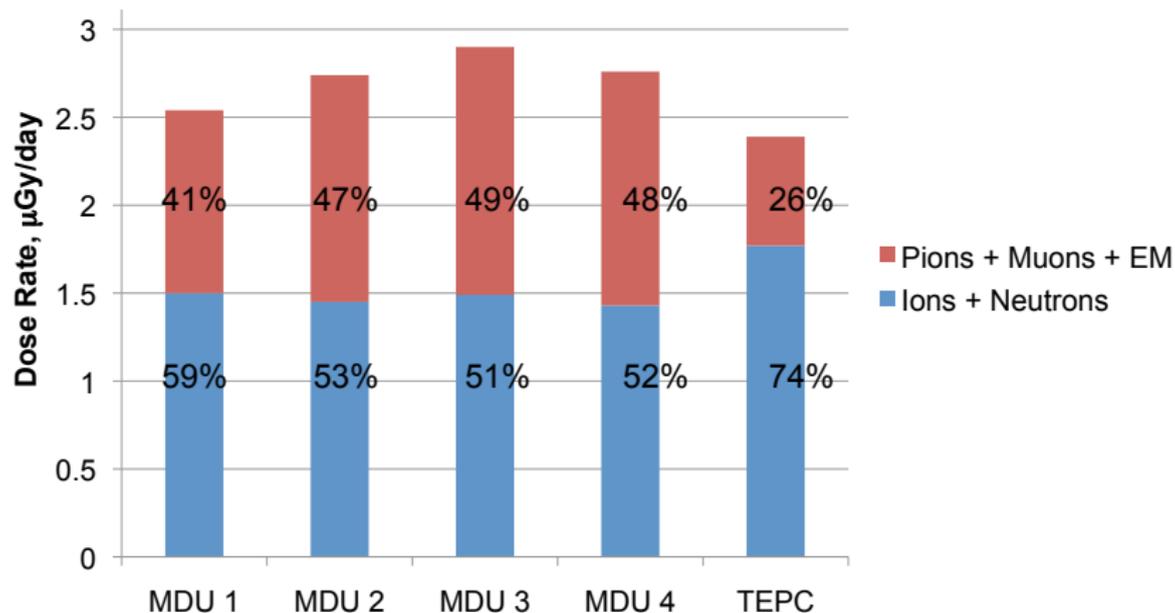
# NASA SPACE RADIATION LABORATORY

- Brookhaven National Lab on Long Island
- protons: 4 GeV
- protons - Fe: 50 MeV/n - 1.5 GeV/n
- up to Au: 165 MeV/n



<http://science.energy.gov/np/benefits-of-np/applications-of-nuclear-science/archives/nasa-space-radiation-laboratory-nsrl/>  
<http://spaceref.com/missions-and-programs/nasa/nasa-fiso-presentation-an-overview-of-the-nasa-space-radiation-laboratory.html>

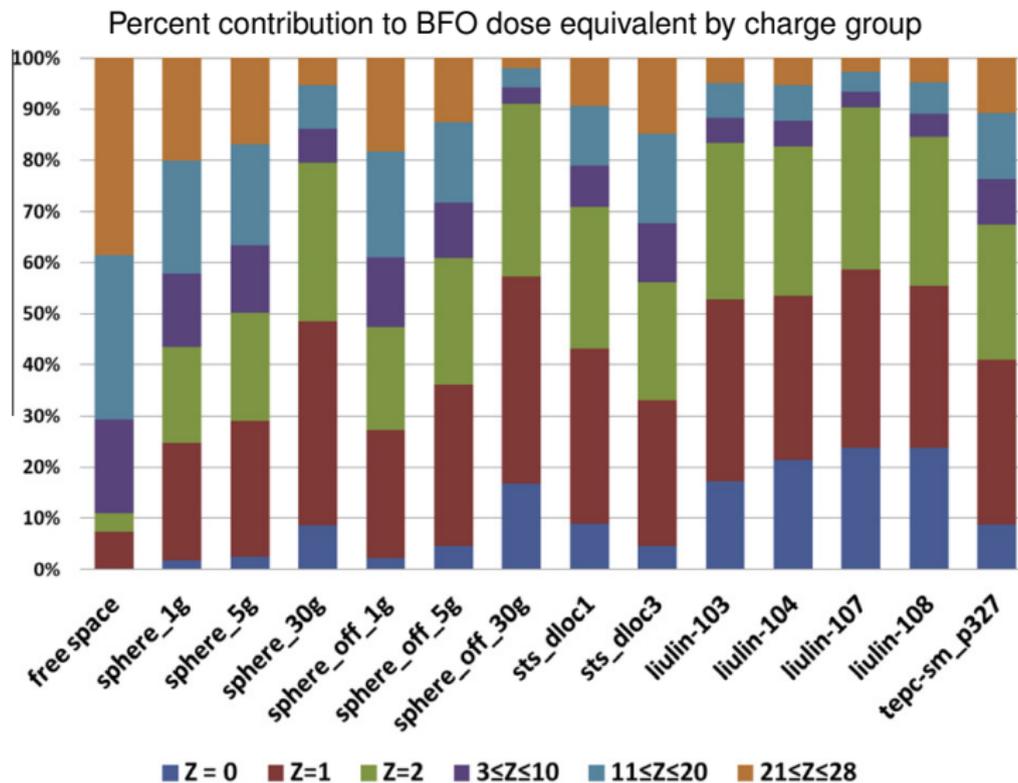
# NEW DEVELOPMENTS - PION CONTRIBUTION TO DOSE



Norman, Blattnig, De Angelis, Badavi, Norbury: Adv. Space Res. 50, 146, 2012; Aghara, Blattnig, Norbury, Singleterry: Nucl. Inst. Meth. B 267, 1115, 2009; Slaba et al., NASA TP-2013-217983; Adv. Space Res. 52, 62, 2013;

Pions can contribute almost 50% to dose

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS - NEUTRONS & LIGHT IONS



Walker, Townsend, Norbury, Adv. Space Res. vol.51, p.1792, 2013

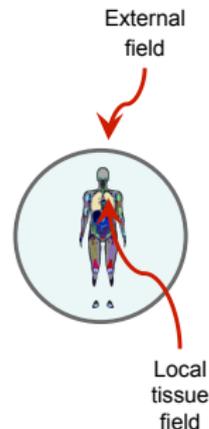
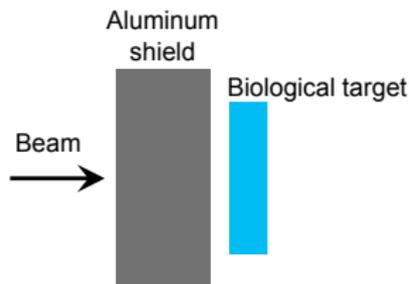
Neutrons and light ions (H, He) can dominate Dose Equivalent

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS - GCR SIMULATION

Two approaches to Galactic Cosmic Ray (GCR) simulation:

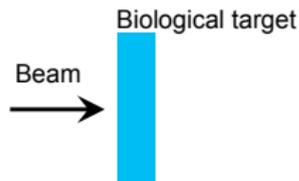
## External field approach

Beams selected to represent external, free space field before shielding

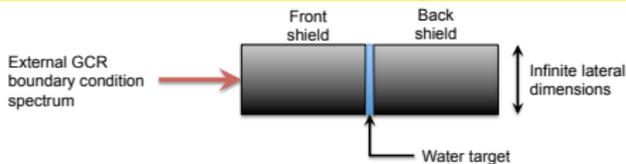


## Local tissue field approach

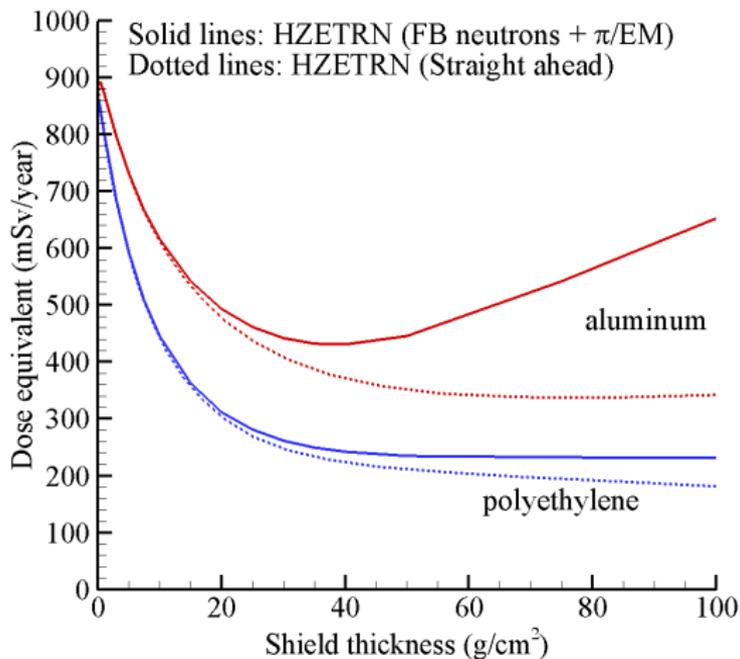
Beams selected to directly represent shielded tissue field



# NEW DEVELOPMENTS - MINIMUM DOSE EQUIVALENT VS. DEPTH



$$X \text{ g/cm}^2 \text{ Al} \equiv X \text{ g/cm}^2 \text{ Al front} + 0.03 \text{ mm water} + X \text{ g/cm}^2 \text{ Al back}$$



Blattnig, Slaba, Bahadori, Norman, Cloudsley, Space Radiation Investigators' Workshop, Galveston, TX, 2014

# KOREA CONTRIBUTIONS

- Human presence throughout solar system in 21 century
  - International endeavour
  - New frontier - many economic rewards - reaped by participants
- Korea Institute of Radiological and Medical Sciences (KIRAMS)
  - Expertise in proton and heavy ion therapy and radiological sciences
  - Highly relevant to space radiation
- Space Radiation
  - Major uncertainties associated with low dose rate
  - KIRAMS contribution?

# CONCLUSIONS

- Human exploration of solar system
- Radiation protection is a major issue
- Fundamental studies in physics and radiobiology still needed
- Republic of Korea could make major contributions

# THE END

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