

Recent development of solid state mini-and micro-dosimetry radiation detectors and its applications in particle therapy and space

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Application in proton and heavy ion therapy



Patient brain scans show how proton therapy (left) specifically targets the tumour, with minimal radiation going to surrounding tissue and structures, whereas traditional photon (X-ray) radiation (right) can damage surrounding tissues and structures



Photons

Protons



Bragg Proton therapy Centre, Adelaide to be finished by 2024



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Mechanistic understanding

Chromosomal aberration will be fatal, especially if clustered.
Energy deposition to the chromosomal size (~µm) is the keystone.
Spatial energy deposition in µm scale is highly dependent on the incident radiation ... Microdosimetry

Gamma Radiation

SPE and GCR



Courtesy Matsufuji (QST) and Scholz (GSI)



Definition

Microdosimetry quantifies:

- the spatial and temporal <u>energy deposition</u> by ionizing radiation in irradiated material at a scale where the energy deposition is <u>stochastic</u> in nature
- i.e. microdosimetry quantifies the spatial and temporal <u>probability distribution of energy deposition</u> by ionizing radiation in a irradiated volume



Stochastic nature of ionization events



At microscopic scale

- Interactions between radiation and a medium occur in discrete events
- These events occur stochastically around a track

At macroscopic scale:

• The number of these events allows to treat the energy deposition in a volume as a deterministic quantity



Microdosimetry vs. (traditional) dosimetry

	Dosimetry	Microdosimetry
is a	deterministic quantity	stochastic quantity
measures	average energy deposition per unit mass	probability distribution of energy distribution
is expressed as	$D = rac{\langle E angle}{m}$	f(z)
where	<e> is the average energy deposited in the mass m</e>	f(z) is the probability distribution of deposition of the specific energy z



Microdosimetry : Specific Energy

Energy imparted ε : is the energy imparted within a site

Reducing

changing

$$\varepsilon = \sum \varepsilon_i$$

Predictions on the energy imparted can be made based on a probability distributions of energy transfers.

- Specific energy z: is defined as the ratio of the imparted energy ε and the site's mass $z = \frac{\mathcal{E}}{\mathcal{E}}$ m:
- Lineal energy m' is defined as a ratio of the imparted energy and mean chord length

$$y = \frac{\varepsilon}{l}$$

$$\overline{y_F} = \int yf(y) dy$$

$$\overline{y_D} = \frac{1}{\overline{y_F}} \int y^2 f(y) dy$$

$$\overline{y_D} = \frac{1}{\overline{y_D}} \int y^2 f(y)$$

Each type of radiation has their own signature of a single event spectra

Microdosimetric Kinetic Model (MKM)



Radiobiological Effectiveness (RBE):

 RBE_{10} = Dose that gives 10% cell survival|_Radiation = $\frac{D_{10,x}}{D_{10,ions}}$



Biological dose = RBE × D



Microdosimetric Kinetic Model (MKM)



FIG. 4. The α^* value obtained with Eq. (5) and the value of $\alpha_0 + \beta z_{1D}^*$ in Eq. (7) as a function of lineal energy for a single event, with the biological parameters applicable for HSG cells. The error bars show a variation of 20 keV/µm for the saturation parameter, $y_0 = 150 \text{ keV/µm}$.



- $\alpha_0 = 0.13 \text{ Gy}^{-1}$; $\beta = 0.05 \text{ Gy}^{-2}$; $r_d = 0.42 \ \mu\text{m}$ is radius of sub cellular domain in MK model, $y_0 = 150 \ \text{keV/}\mu\text{m}$
- Where $D_{10,R} = 5$ Gy is 10% survival of 200 kVp X rays for HSG cells



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Microdosimetry devices for cell response (RBE) prediction in particle therapy



• Study of the distribution of deposited energy in welldefined microscopic volumes



Tissue Equivalent Proportional Counter



Intra-Vehicle TEPC, NASA Weight: 8 kg Bias: 700V

Courtesy of E. Semones

Silicon on insulator (SOI) Microdosimeter



- Can measure an array of cells
- Provides true microscopic SV
- $\checkmark \quad \text{Compact size } (<100\text{g})$
- ✓ Low voltage
- ✓ High spatial resolution

• Tissue equivalence need to be considered & corrected when generating microdosimetric spectra



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Microdosimetric spectra measured with the SOI microdosimeter in proton beam

"Mushroom" microdosimeter: Patent to reality



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SINTEF RADIATION

(Micro-and Nanotechnology Laboratory, Oslo)

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CMRP Silicon Microdosimeters:18 years of development Bridge MD Version 2





A.Rosenfeld "Novel detectors for silicon based microdosimetry, their concepts and applications", NIM A, 809, 156-170, 2016

"Mushroom" microdosimeter: Fabrication process



FABRICATION STEPS

Step	Description	Mask Layer/Electrode
#1	p-spray implantation	
#2	First oxidation	
#3	Photolithography	p-electrode
#4	Deep Reactive Ion Etching	p-electrode
#5	Doping	p-electrode
#6	Filling of electrodes (in some cases)	p-electrode
#7	Oxidation	p-electrode
#8	Photolithography	n-electrode
#9	Implantation	n-electrode
#10	Oxidation	n-electrode
#11	Photolithography	Contact
#12	Metal deposition	
#13	Photolithography	Metal
#14	Photolithography	Mushroom
#15	Silicon etching	Mushroom
#16	Polyimide deposition	



A summary of key fabrication steps for 3D silicon microdosimeters

A.Kok et al.," Fabrication and First Characterisation of Silicon-based Full 3D Microdosimeters", IEEE Trans. on Nucl. Sci. 63, N12 , 2490-2500, 2020

Improvement in fabrication process of Mushroom microdosimeter

<u>Issues:</u>









Solutions:



Improvement in fabrication process of Mushroom microdosimeter





N+ individually connected for more robust, losing only one SV at a time



Solving broken aluminium lines

- Process optimization by using PECVD oxide
- Design modification for more robust
 metal lines



A.Kok et al.," Fabrication and First Characterisation of Silicon-based Full 3D Microdosimeters", IEEE Trans. on Nucl. Sci. 63, N12 , 2490-2500, 2020

TCAD SIMULATION

• SYNOPSYS TCAD tools



Simulated structure for a full 3-D microdosimeter (F3D). Given the symmetry of the real structures, only a quarter is simulated.





Electric field distribution inside the SV at a bias voltage (a) 2 V and (b) close to breakdown at -60 V.



Numerical simulation results for reverse current (black dots) and reverse capacitance (red squares).

TCAD SIMULATION



2D structures used for numerical simulations of (a) the Trenched-3D and (b) Trenched-planar sensors. The figures also show the drift lines based on the simulated electric field.

Comparison of the radial charge collection profiles for the Trenched-3D and Trenched-planar structures in response to a 5.5 MeV alpha particle for SOI thickness of 10 m.



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L.T.Tran et al "Silicon 3D microdosimeters for advanced quality assurance in particle therapy", Applied Sciences , **12**, 38 ,2022 (invited paper)



Figure 1. Sketch of a sensitive volume surrounded by a tissue-equivalent polymer (left) and a silicon 3D micro-dosimeter with integrated tissue-equivalent polymer.



Figure 1. Top view and cross-section of the three most relevant sensitive volume implementation for a silicon 3D micro-dosimeter.

- Collaboration between CMRP and SINTEF
- Based on a CMRP patent (US8421022B2)
- Initial development in the Si-3DMiMic project (funded by the Norwegian Council for Research, NFR)
- Aims at delivering a reliable measurement of the Equivalent Dose and Radiobiological Effectiveness of a radiation field
- Integrated tissue-equivalent polymer to better mimic the interaction of radiation with tissue
- Design carried out with help of TCAD and GEANT4 simulations





The 6MV SIRIUS Tandem Accelerator, ANSTO for Ion beam induced charge collection (IBIC) study



New nuclear microprobe–Confocal Heavy Ion Micro-Probe (CHIMP)



- Microbeam spatial resolution:
- 0.6 µm x 1.5 µm for 3 MeV H⁺
- 1.5 μm x 1.5 μm for 6 Ν



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Mushroom microdosimeter (5-10 µm thick) IBIC 3 MeV He²⁺ ions *Poly-trenched*



b)



Cross-section image of the 5um thin mushroom microdosimeter.





Mushroom : Charge Collection study using 5.5 MeV He²⁺



- Median energy maps generated using two different scan sizes, in both cases the detector is biased using 10V
- No cross-talk between adjacent sensitive volumes





Application in proton and heavy ion therapy





Heavy Ion Medical Accelerator in Chiba







 μ^+ microdosimeter probe in PMMA sheath



HIMAC Bio-cave beam port with passive scattering delivery



MicroPlus probe with 3D printer XYmovement stage

400MeV/u ¹⁶O Ion Irradiation

- Parameters measured:
 - Physical dose
 - Dose-mean lineal energy (y_D)
 - Relative Biological Effectiveness (RBE₁₀)



Physical dose distribution of 400 MeV/u ¹⁶O ions



Dose-mean lineal energy measured for 400 MeV/u ¹⁶O ions





Ability for Multi-ion therapy: RBE10 obtained with SOI microdosimeter in
response to pristine BP of 14N, 16O and 12C ion beam (HIMAC at NIRS,
180 MeV/u 14N180 MeV/u 14N400 Japan 16O290 MeV/u 12C



Linh T. Tran, et. al., **"The relative biological effectiveness for carbon, nitrogen and oxygen ion beams using passive and** scanning techniques evaluated with fully 3D silicon microdosimeters" Medical Physics, 2018 ,(AAPM Award: The best paper Med

Validation of MK model in MIT

Microdosimetric spectra were measured with MicroPlus-mushroom probe at different depths along pristine BP for He, C, O, Ne ions to compare MKM predicted SF with measured from *in vitro* MiaPaca cells experiment in a wide range of LETs



Cell flasks were setup behind PMMA slabs of different thicknesses.

Measurements with MicroPlus probe at the same irradiation condition as cells

Pencil Beam Scanning dose delivery



UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG AUSTRALIA Survival Fraction of *in vitro* data compared to microdosimetric measurements



Survival fraction (markers) of in vitro data of the MIA PaCa-2 cells for each LET of He, C, O and Ne ion beams and the survival curves (solid lines) calculated from physical dose and lineal energy measured with SOI microdosimeter.

MK model parameters of cells $\alpha_0 = 0.001 \text{ Gy}^{-1}$, $\beta = 0.085 \text{ Gy}^{-2}$, $R_n = 6.8 \,\mu\text{m}$, $r_0 = 0.57 \,\mu\text{m}$ and $y_0 = 260 \,\text{keV}/\mu\text{m}$.



SF: MicroPlus predicted vs TPS in SOBP



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S.H.Lee et al "Estimating the biological effects of helium, carbon, oxygen, and neon ion beams using 3D silicon microdosimeters", PMB , 66(4) 2021









European Space Agency

Application in space environment



- ✓ Measure dose equivalent for astronauts
- ✓ Predict Single Event Upsets (SEU)
- ✓ Radiation shielding optimization
- ✓ Real-time Space Radiation monitoring



Columbus ISS space module: wall shielding properties optimization

Z=2 (He^{2*}) Z=6 (C^{6*}) – Z=8 (O^{8*}) – Z=14 (Si^{14*}) – Z=26 (Fe^{36*})

10000

100000

GCR: Heavy Charged Particles

Energy (MeV/nucleon)

1E-



Layout of the Columbus debr shield configuration [R. Destefanis et. al.]



Soo MeV/u ⁵⁶Fe Beam direction direction Beam direction direction





Experiment in HIMAC accelerator, Japan

Development of radiation sensors at the Centre for Medical Radiation Physics, University of Wollongong





Semiconductor sensors for radiation monitoring in Space radiation environment





European Space Agency



Questacon travelling exhibition Australia in Space, 2021-2025







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Meet the CMRP microdosimetry team





Dist. Prof Anatoly Rozenfeld Founder and Director

Prof Michael Lerch



A/Prof Susanna Guatelli



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umcg





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