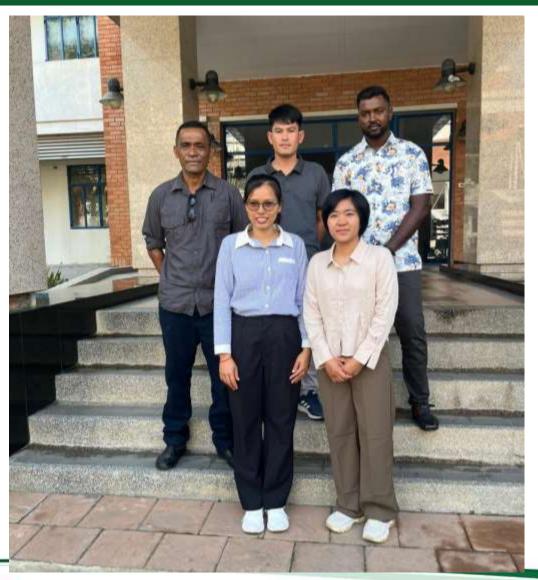
Introduction to Nuclear Science

Roppon Picha
Head of Agriculture and Food Technology Section
Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center
TINT

IAEA Fellowship Training on Plant
Mutation Breeding
5 Feb 2025



Welcome to TINT



Fiji: Josese Tagivetaua

Fiji: Krushneel Chand

Cambodia: Heng Soknang

Myanmar: Zun Phoo Wai

Laos: Phousavanh Inthapanya





Instructor intro

- Roppon Picha
- Position: Head of Agriculture and Food Technology (หัวหน้าฝ่าย เทคโนโลยีเกษตรและอาหาร)



- Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center (ศูนย์วิจัย และพัฒนาเทคโนโลยีนิวเคลียร์)
- Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (สถาบันเทคโนโลยีนิวเคลียร์ แห่งชาติ)
- Background: M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics at UC Davis, US
- Current work: management of agriculture and food research, including food irradiation, food provenance study, plant mutation breeding, and sterile insect technique.



Agriculture and Food Research at TINT

แมลง

(SIT)

ปรับปรุงพันธุ์พืช

(Plant Mutation)

อาหารฉายรังสี

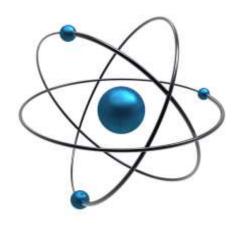
(Food Irradiation)

ตรวจพิสูจน์อาหาร

(Food Authentication)



Outline



Basics



Measurement



Applications

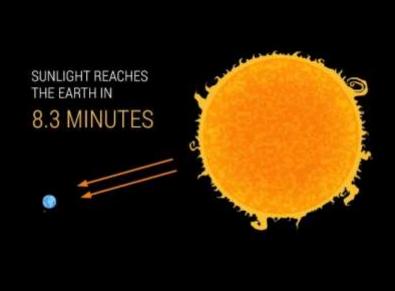


Basic Nuclear Physics

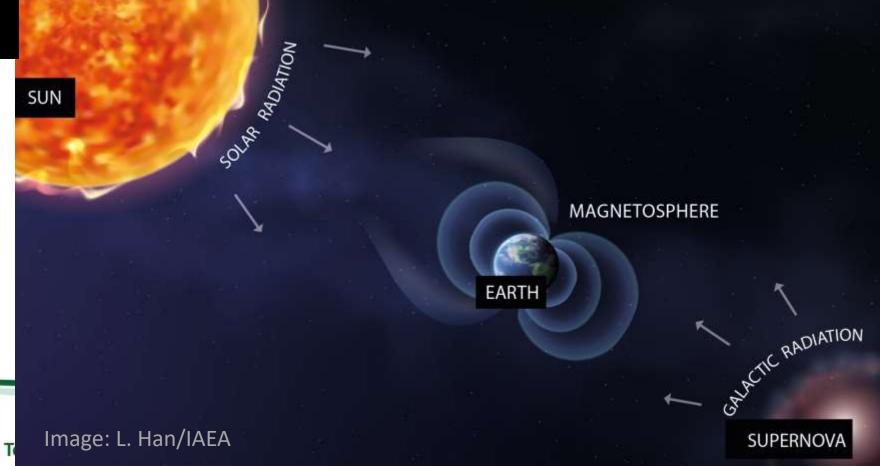
What is "nuclear"?







Cosmic radiation, mostly consisting of protons, can come from the sun or from other galaxies.

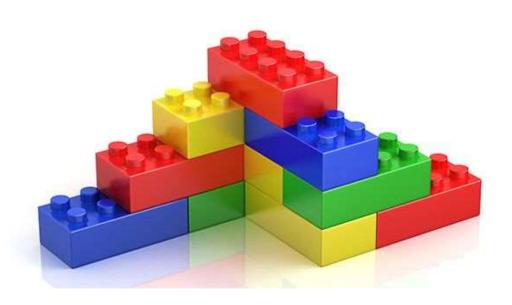




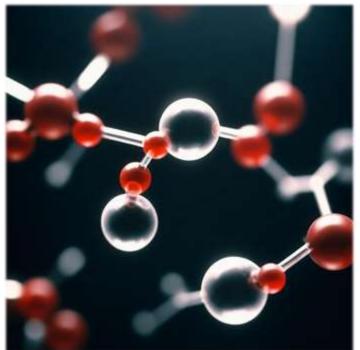
Physics of Nucleus

What are the building blocks of all things?



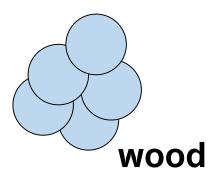


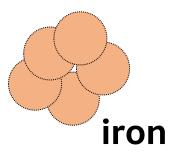


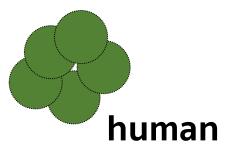


Greeks' *atomos*: uncuttable particles

Democritus 5th century BC

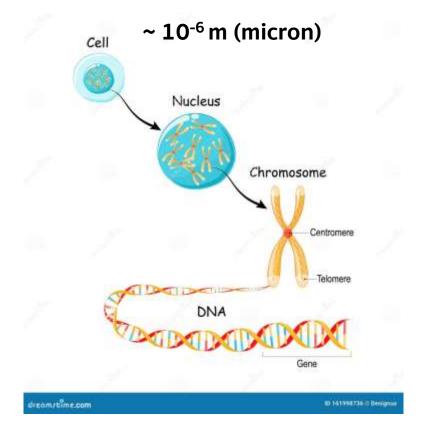




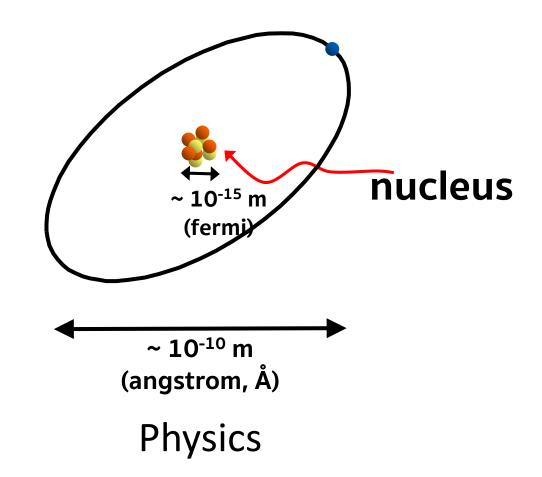




Nucleus



Biology

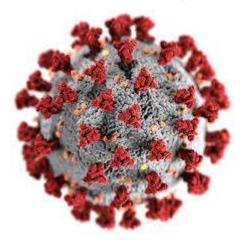


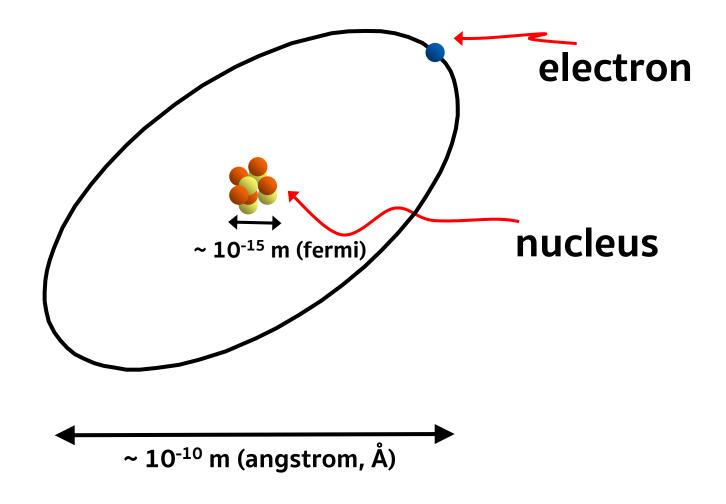
COVID-19 virus

Diameter: ≈100 nm

Volume: $\sim 10^6 \text{ nm}^3 = 10^{-3} \text{ fL}$

Mass: ~10³ MDa ≈ 1 fg







Na

Periodic Table of the Elements



Ne

Kr

Xe

Rn

F

Fluorine

18,998

CI

Chlorine

35,453

Br

Bromine

79.904

fodine

126,904

At

Astatine

209.987

17

35

53

85

S

Se

Te

Tellurium

127.6

Po

Polonium

[208.982]











Sr

Strontium

87.62

Ba

Barlum

137,328



Yttrium

88,906

57-71

39





Hf

Hafnium

178.49

Ti

Titanium

47.867

22





Ta

Tantalum

180.948

23

V

Vanadium

50.942



24

Cr

Chromium

51.996



25

43

Mn

Manganese

54.938

Tc

Technetium



61



76

26

Fe

55.845

Ru

Ruthenium

101.07



27

45

77

Co

Cobalt

58.933

Rh

Rhodium

102,906

Ir



Eu

Europium

151.964

28

46

78

Ni

Nickel

58.693

Pd

Paliadium

106.42

Pt

Platinum

195,085



Gd

Gadolinium

157.25



65

Tb

Terbium

158,925













71

Lu

Lutetium

174,967



Cs







58



59



183.84

106



60



107











29

Cu

Copper

63.546

Ag

107.868

Au

Gold

196.967

79



Zn

Zinc

65.38

Cd

Cadmium

112,411

Hg



В

Boron

10.811

Al

Ga

In

114,618



Carbon

Si

Silicon

28.086

Ge

Germanium

72.631

Sn

Pb

D

As

Arsenic

74.922

Sb

Antimony

121.760

Bi



Tm

168,934



Yb

Ytterbium

173.055



La

Lanthanum



Ce

Cerium

140,116



Pr

Praseodymium

140.908



Nd

Neodymium

144,242



Pm

Promethium

144,913



Sm

Samarium

150.36









Dy

162,500

Dysprosium



Ho

Holmium

164,930



Er

Erbium

167.259



















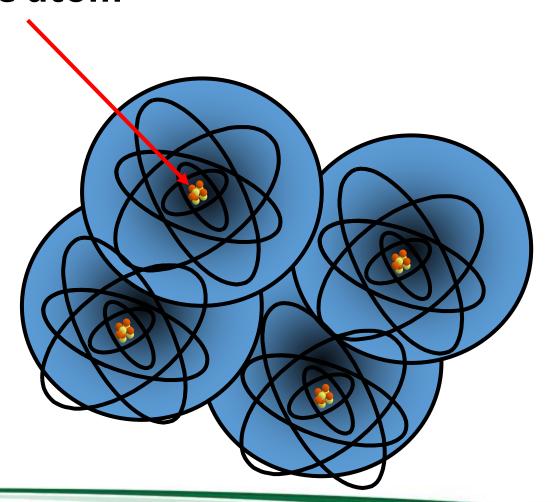








over 99% mass of the atom



- Nuclear physics = the science involving the heart of the atom
- Nucleus = the tiny, superdense core that holds a mind-boggling amount of energy.

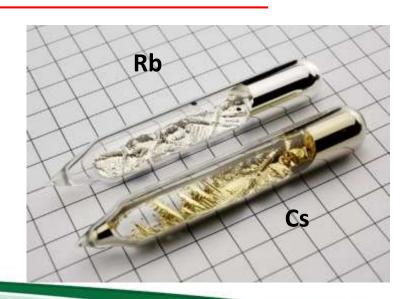
Nuclide symbol

Mass number =
$$p + n$$

Atomic number = p

Atomic number = p

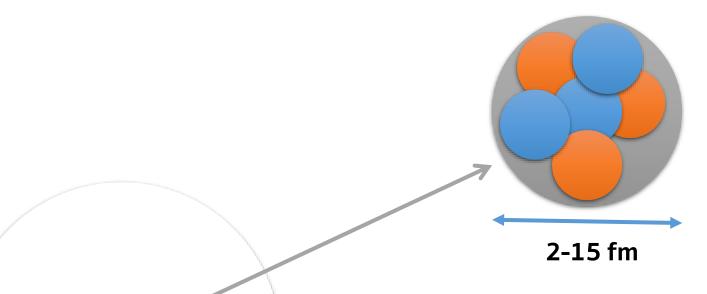
87 37 **Rb**

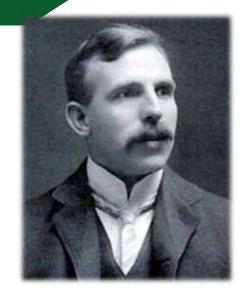




Nuclear Science

stable / radioactive





E. Rutherford

⁴He + $^{14}N \rightarrow ^{17}O + ^{1}p$

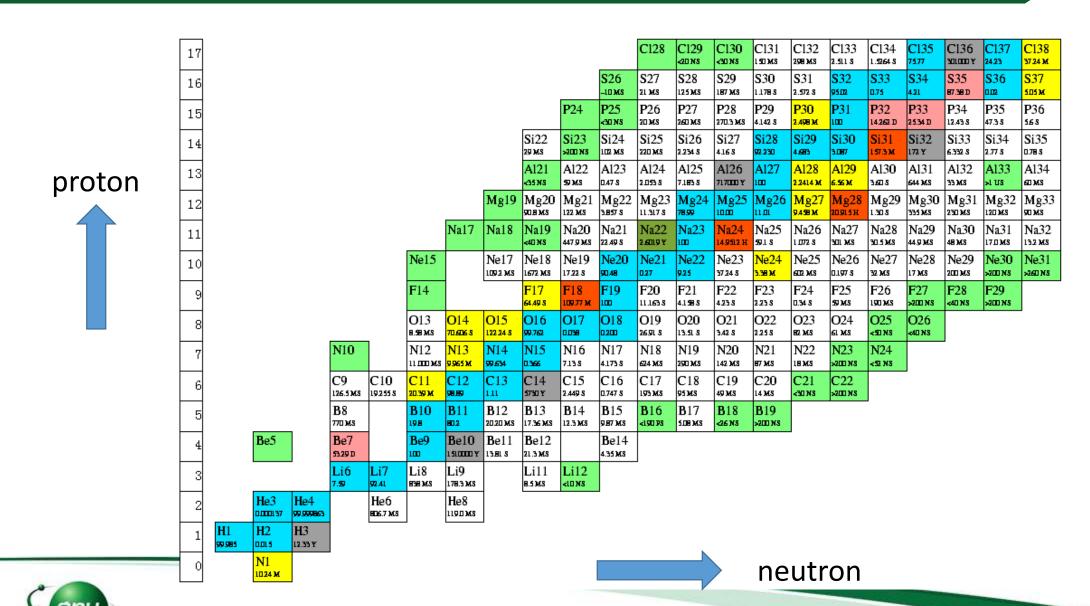


J. Chadwick

⁴He + 9 Be \rightarrow 12 C + 1 n



Chart of nuclides



Fission and Fusion

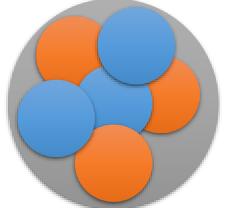
Nuclear fission is like breaking apart those tiny Lego bricks and releasing a tsunami of energy in the process.

Nuclear fusion is where atoms join forces to create even more energy, which is the process that powers the sun.



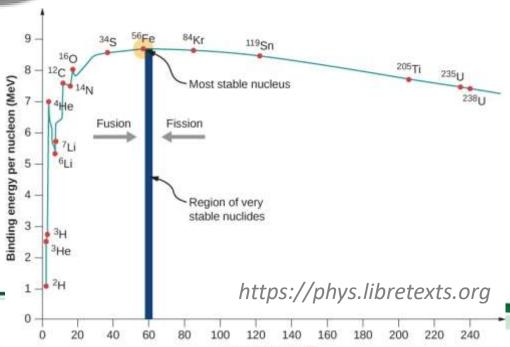
Nuclear Energy

Nucleus is a very dense source of energy.



Nuclear bond ~ few MeV/bond

- fission ~ 180 MeV/reaction
- fusion ~ 18 MeV/reaction
- decay (radiate)

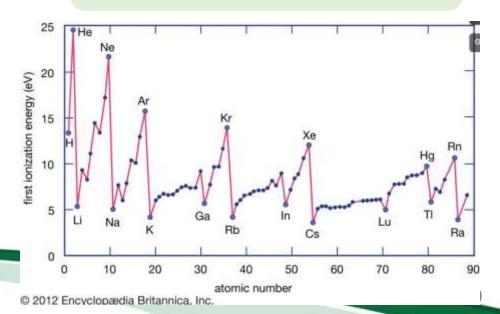


Inaliand Institute of Nuclear Technology (Public Organization)



Chemical bond ~ few eV/bond

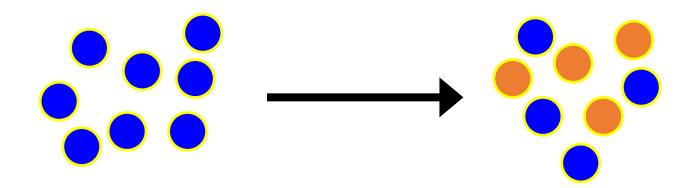
Gas burning ~ 9 eV/reaction



Decay law

Decay rate (dN/dt) is directly proportional to the number of radionuclides (N)

Each radionuclide has a characteristic half-life $(t_{1/2})$



Decay Law

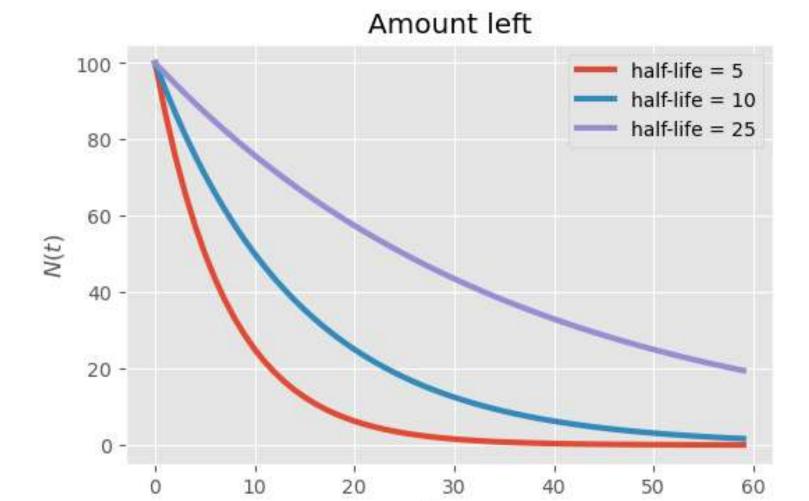
$$dN/dt = -\lambda N$$

$$N = N_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$

N = number of nuclides at time t $N_0 =$ initial number of nuclides (t = 0) $\lambda =$ decay constant

$$\lambda = \ln 2/t_{1/2} = 0.693/t_{1/2}$$

 $t_{1/2} = \text{half-life}$



time



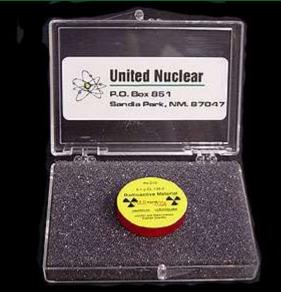
Radiation source types

Sealed:

Radioisotope is prevented from dispersing.



Radioisotope can disperse. Examples are tracers in industrial and medical settings.







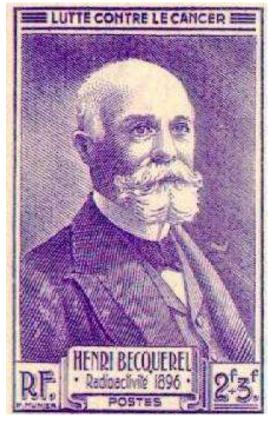


Measurement and Protection

How to measure radiation



1 becquerel (Bq) = 1 decay/sec



Henri Becquerel

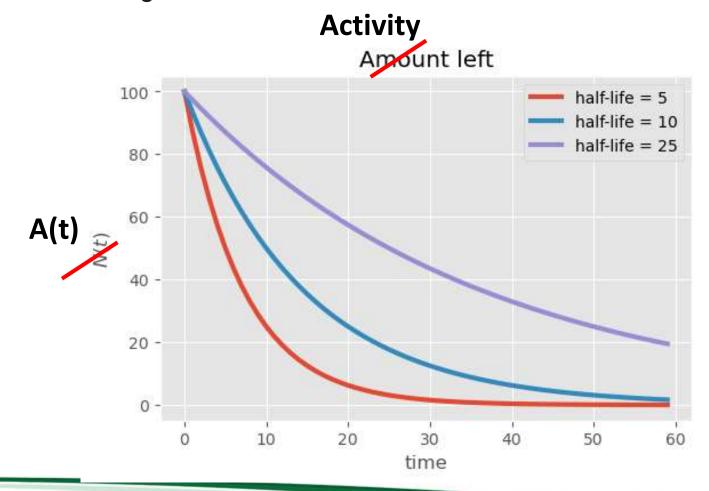


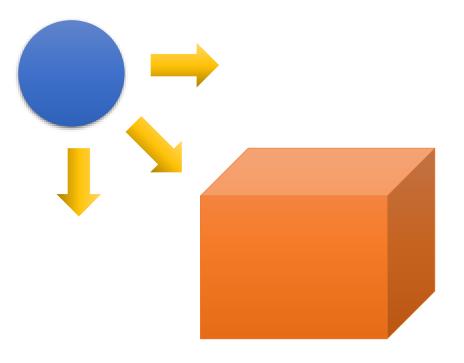
Pierre and Marie Curie

$$1 \text{ Ci} = 3.7 \times 10^{10} \text{ Bq}$$

Activity = decay intensity

$$A(t) = \lambda N(t) = A_0 e^{-\lambda t}$$





Absorbed dose = Energy deposited

J/kg or Gray (Gy)

1 Gy = 100 rad



Table 1. Dose requirement in various applications of food irradiation

	Purpose	Dose (kGy)*	Products
Low	dose (up to 1 kGy)		
(a)	Inhibition of sprouting	0.05-0.15	Potatoes, onions, garlic, ginger- root, etc.
(b)	Insect disinfestation and parasite disinfection	0.15-0.50	Cereals and pulses, fresh and dried fruits, dried fish and meat, fresh pork, etc.
(c)	Delay of physiological process (e.g. ripening)	0.50-1.0	Fresh fruits and vegetables
Medi	um dose (1-10 kGy)		
(a)	Extension of shelf-life	1.0-3.0	Fresh fish, strawberries, etc.
(b)	Elimination of spoilage and pathogenic micro- organisms	1.0-7.0	Fresh and frozen seafood, raw or frozen poultry and meat, etc.
(c)	Improving technological properties of food	2.0-7.0	Grapes (increasing juice yield), dehydrated vegetables (reduced cooking time), etc.
High	dose (10-50 kGy)5		
(a)	Industrial sterilization (in combination with mild heat)	30-50	Meat, poultry, seafood, prepared foods, sterilized hospital diets
(b)	Decontamination of certain food additives and ingredients	10-50	Spices, enzyme preparations, natural gum, etc.

^a Gy: gray - unit used to measure absorbed dose. For definition, see page 20



Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Recommended Radiation Doses:

Treatment type	Total dose	Fraction size
Preoperative*1	45-50 Gy	1.8-2 Gy
Postoperative ^{2,3} • Negative margins • Extracapsular nodal extension or microscopic positive margins • Gross residual tumor	50 Gy 54-60 Gy up to 70 Gy	1.8-2 Gy 1.8-2 Gy 1.8-2 Gy
Definitive • Without concurrent chemotherapy ⁴	up to 77.4 Gy (keep V20 $\leq 35\%$	2-2.15 Gy
With concurrent chemotherapy ⁵ (mainly carboplatin + paclitaxel) ⁵	up to 74 Gy	2 Gy

^{*}Doses greater than 50 Gy in the preoperative setting have been reported to be safe at selective institutions



Practice Guidelines in Oncology – v.2.2009

Source: NCCN, 2009

Source: WHO: Food Irradiation, 1988

^b Only used for special purposes. The Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission has not yet endorsed high-dose applications (see Annex 2).

Energy deposited = dose x Quality Factor

radiation dependent

RBE: relative biological effectiveness

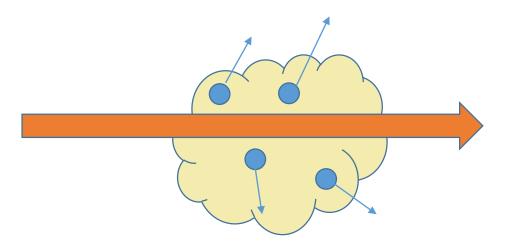
Dose equivalent

1 sievert (Sv) = 100 rem



Name	Symbol(s)	Representation	
Alpha particle	⁴ ₂ He or ⁴ ₂ α	83	
Beta particle	$_{-1}^{0}e$ or $_{-1}^{0}\beta$	•	
Positron	$^0_{+1}$ e or $^0_{+1}\beta$	•	
Proton	¹ / ₁ H or ¹ / ₁ p	• L	
Neutron	¹ / ₀ n	· v	
Gamma ray	γ	~~~~γ	

Linear energy transfer (LET)



Which ones are high LET?

Table 3.1. Approximate LETs and RBEs of Several Types of Radiation

Radiation Type	LET (keV/μm)	RBE
Linac X-rays (6–15 MeV)	0.3	~0.8
Beta particle (1 MeV)	0.3	0.9
Cobalt-60 γ-rays	0.2	0.8-0.9
250 kVp X-rays (standard)	2	1.0
150 MeV protons (therapy energies)	0.5	~1.1
Neutrons	0.5–100	1–2
Alpha particles	50–200	5–10
Carbon ions (in spread out Bragg peak)	40–90	2–5

LET, linear energy transfer; RBE, relative biological effectiveness.

Modified from Coia LR, Moylan DE. Introduction to clinical radiation oncology. 3rd ed. Madison, WI: Medical Physics Publishing; 1996.p. 24, Table 2.1, © 1996 with permission.



Activity (A)

Decay rate

unit: Ci (curie) and Bq (becquerel)

1 Bq = 1 dps

1 Ci = $3.7x10^{10}$ dps (A of 1-g radium)

Exposure Dose (X)

Ionization of air (1 cc) at STP (T=273.15 K and P=1 atm)

unit: R (roentgen) or C/kg

 $(1 R = 2.58 \times 10^{-4} C/kg)$

Absorbed Dose (D)

Energy absorption

unit: Gy (gray) and rad (1 Gy = 1 J/kg = 100 rad)

Dose Equivalent (DE)

Dose with impact on living cells DE = D*QF

unit: Sv (sievert) and rem

(1 Sv = 100 rem)

QF is radiation dependent



Radiation sources @ TINT

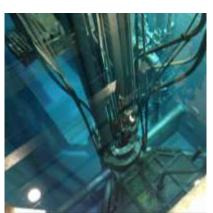


Gamma Co-60 (1.17, 1.33 MeV) A various







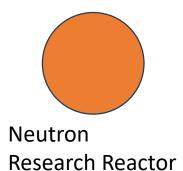




E-beam 20 MeV (Ongkharak) 3-10 MeV (Klong 5)



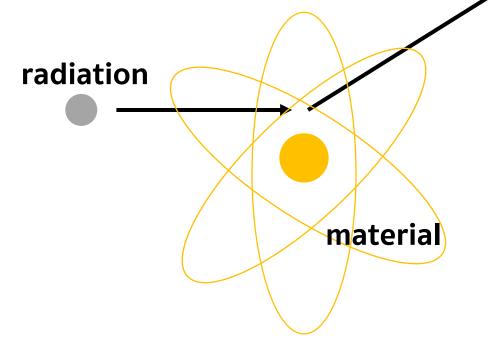
X-ray 5 MV





Nuclear interactions

Scattering: inelastic, elastic Capture: radiative, fission, fusion



Photons:

Photoelectric effect
Compton scattering
Pair production
Auger effect (electron emission)

Name	Symbol(s)	Representation
Alpha particle	4_2 He or $^4_2\alpha$	
Beta particle	$_{-1}^{0}e$ or $_{-1}^{0}\beta$	•
Positron	$_{+1}^{0}$ e or $_{+1}^{0}\beta$	•
Proton	¹ ₁ H or ¹ ₁ p	•
Neutron	¹ ₀n	
Gamma ray	γ	~~~~>γ

- cobalt (Co)-60: 1.17, 1.33 MeV gamma
- cesium (Cs)-137: 661 keV gamma
- technetium (Tc)-99m: 140 keV gamma
- radon (Rn)-222: 5.6 MeV alpha
- uranium (U)-238: 4.3 MeV alpha
- americium (Am)-241: 5.5 MeV alpha
- iodine (l)-131: beta-
- fluorine (F)-18: beta+ (positron)



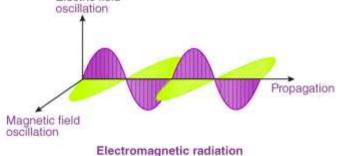
What about X-ray?

Is it "nuclear"?



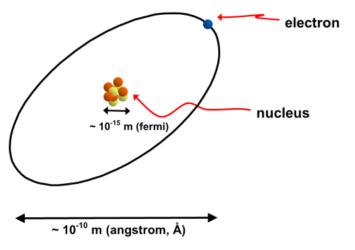
High energy photons

- X-ray is a high-energy electromagnetic (EM) radiation. Like all other EM waves, X-ray travels at speed of light c
- Its energy is directly proportional to the frequency (Planck-Einstein relation): E = hf (h = Planck's constant)
- While visible light has energy of 2-3 eV, energy of X-ray is in the range 100 eV-100 keV.
- Similar to X-ray, gamma is a high-energy EM wave. They come from different sources.

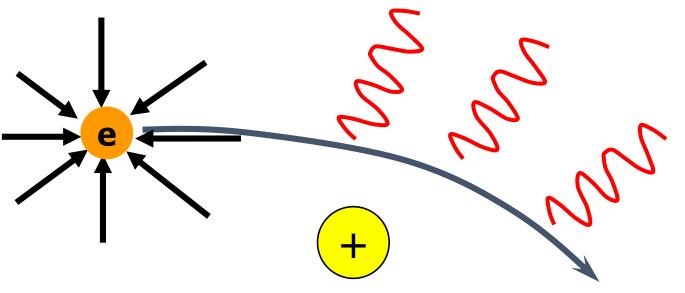


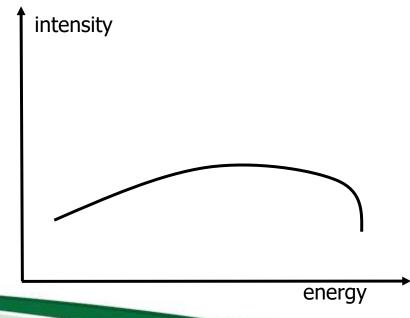


X-ray



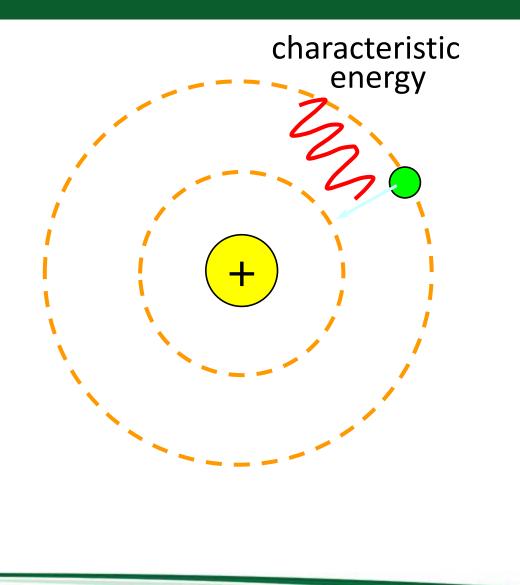
bremsstrahlung (braking radiation): Continuous energy

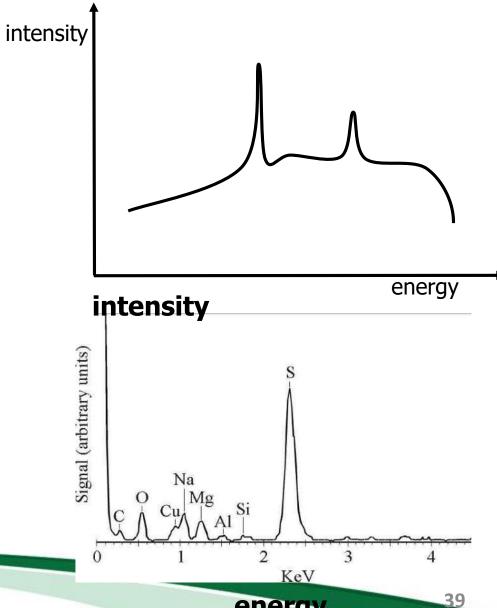




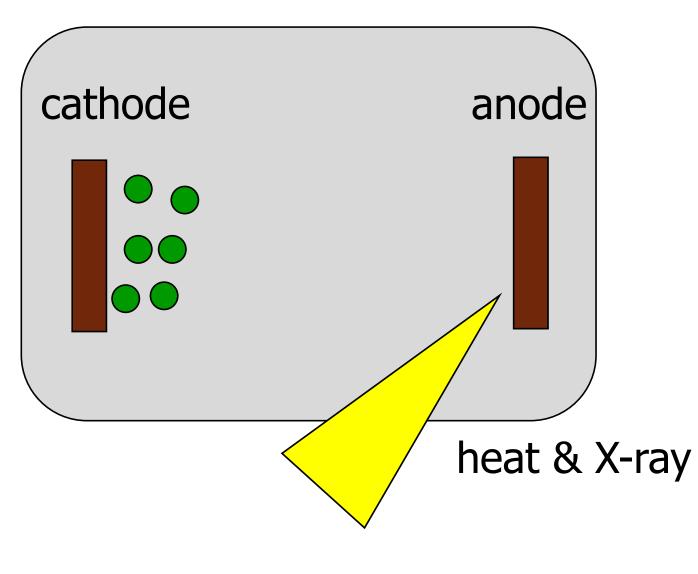


X-ray











Wilhem Conrad Roentgen

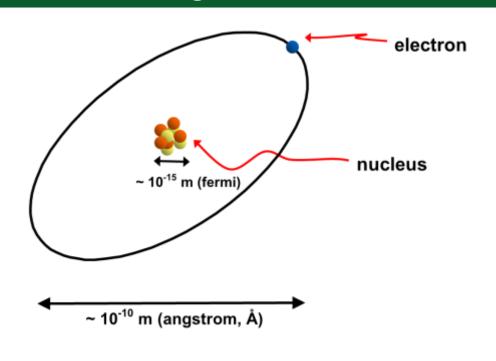


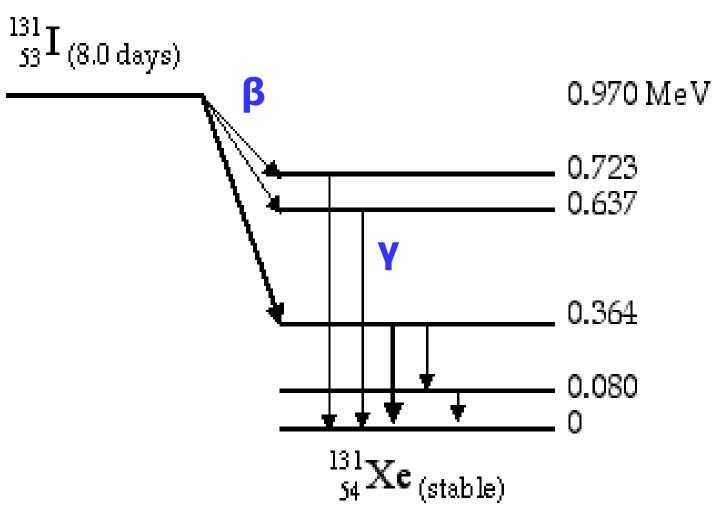


One of the first X-ray images, taken in 1895. Hand of Anna Bertha Ludwig (Roentgen's wife).

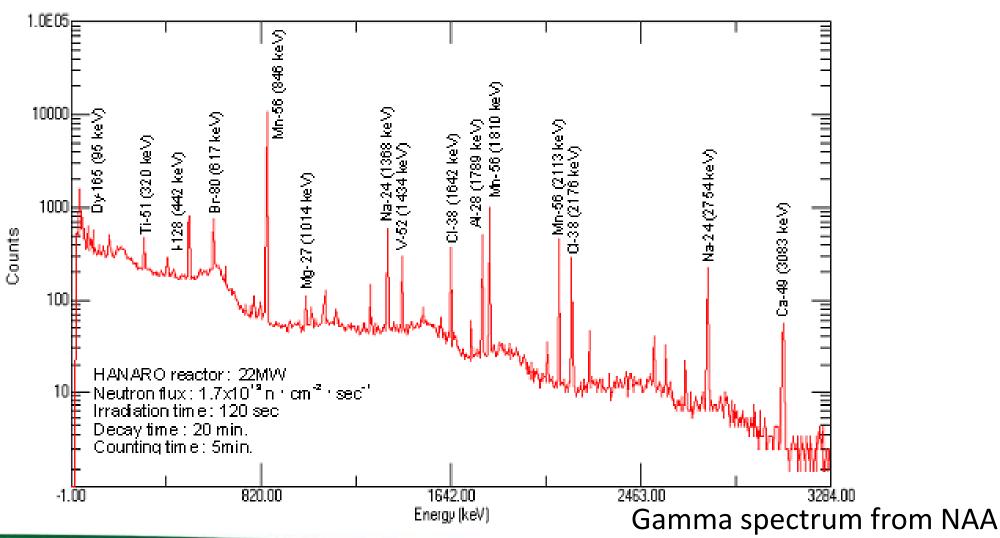


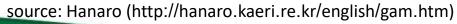
Gamma ray





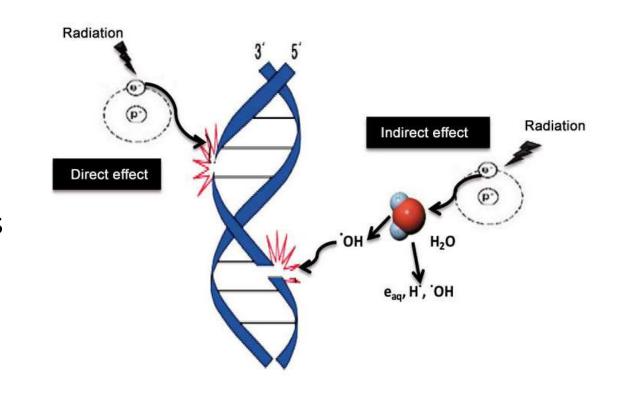
Gamma ray





Biological effects: mutation

- Direct: radiation energy is absorbed directly by DNA molecule. This causes breaks in DNA strands (single- or double-strand)
- Indirect: radiation ionizes water molecules, creating reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as hydroxyl radicals (●OH), superoxide (O₂●⁻), and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂). These ROS cause oxidative damage to DNA, proteins, and lipids.

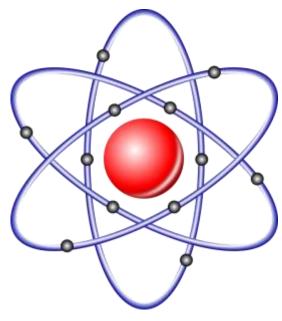


Gamma effects

- Physical Level: Energy Transfer Femtoseconds to picoseconds
 - Gamma photons transfer energy to atoms, knocking out electrons from orbit, causing ionization.
 - Ionization creates free radicals, positive ions, and free electrons.
- Chemical Level: DNA and Cellular Damage Nanoseconds to seconds
 - The high-energy gamma rays break chemical bonds in the DNA molecules, causing single-strand breaks (SSBs) and double-strand breaks (DSBs).

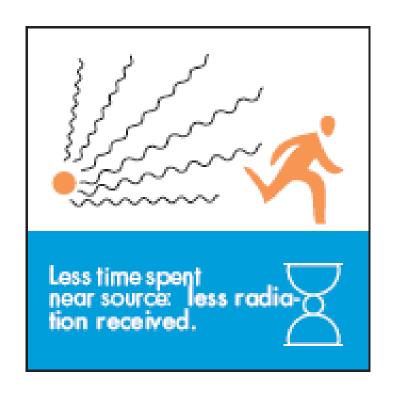


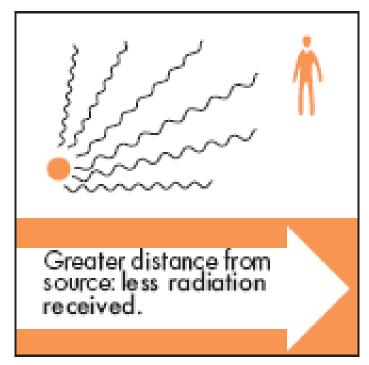
- After gamma radiation exposure, plant cells activate DNA repair mechanisms.
- These repair mechanisms are not always perfect. Inaccurate repair or misalignment during homologous recombination can lead to mutations.

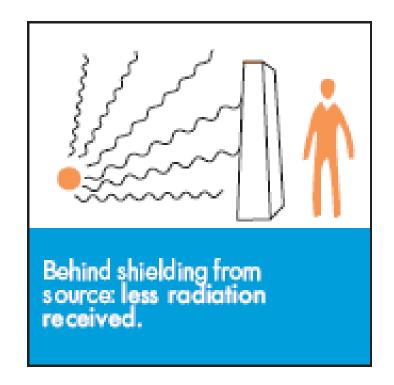


How to keep yourself safe from radiation?

"ALARA = as low as reasonably achievable"







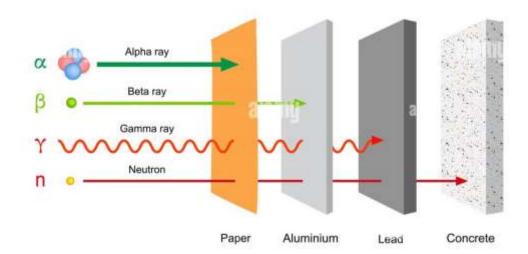
Source: U of Alabama at Birmingham, Environmental Health & Safety Department

Radiation interaction with matter

- Gamma and X-ray: high-energy electromagnetic radiation
 - Very high penetration, typically several cm to meters in biological samples, depending on energy
- Alpha: large mass and double charge
 - very high linear energy transfer (LET)
 - Very short range (few tens of micrometers) in biological samples
- Beta: low mass and single charge
 - limited penetration (few mm to few cm), depending on energy
 - Rapid energy loss, effects are mostly on surface

alamu

Penetrating power of Alpha, Beta and Gamma ray through Paper, Aluminium, Led and Concrete

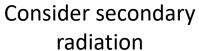




Name	Symbol(s)	Representation	
Alpha particle	⁴ ₂ He or ⁴ ₂ α		No ex
Beta particle	$_{-1}^{0}e \text{ or } _{-1}^{0}\beta$	•	
Positron	$_{+1}^{0}$ e or $_{+1}^{0}\beta$	•	
Proton	¹ ₁ H or ¹ ₁ p	•	C
Neutron	¹ ₀n		ł
Gamma ray	γ	~~~~>γ	

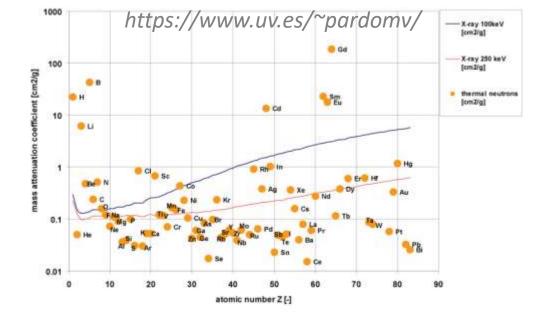
No real need for external source

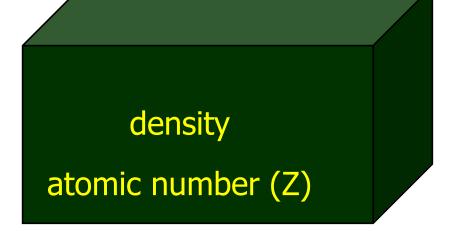
Low-Z: Al, wood, plastic. (maybe)



H-rich + Cd or Gd

High-Z: Pb





Shielding is not about Termination.

It is Attenuation.



Dose and Effects

Radiation effects on the human body depend on the dose, dose rate, type of radiation, and individual susceptibility.

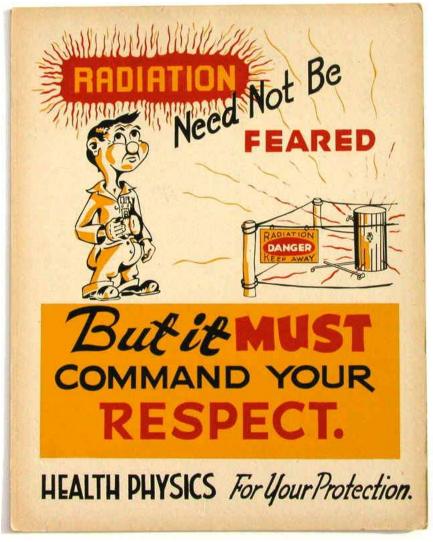
Dose Range	Effects	Examples
0.001–0.1 Sv	No immediate symptoms; long-term cancer risk.	Background radiation, X-rays.
0.1–1 Sv	Mild symptoms (nausea, fatigue); increased cancer risk.	Radiation therapy, occupational exposure.
1–6 Sv	Acute Radiation Syndrome (ARS) (hematopoietic, gastrointestinal effects).	Severe radiation accidents. (e.g., Chernobyl, Fukushima).
>6 Sv	Neurovascular syndrome; rapid death.	Lethal radiation exposure. (e.g., warfare)

Life expectancy reduction

Activity/Exposure	Risk	Life Expectancy Reduction	
Smoking (1 pack/day)	Lung cancer, cardiovascular disease	~10 years	
Severe Obesity (BMI >40)	Diabetes, cardiovascular disease, metabolic disorders	~10 years	
Heavy alcohol consumption (> 3 drinks/day)	Liver disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, accidents	~5-10 years	
Construction Job	Accidents, exposure to hazardous materials	~1–2 years	
Unmarried or divorced	Stress, loneliness, poor health behaviors	~1-2 years compared to married individuals	
Elevated background radiation (10 mSv/year) (natural background radiation ~ 2.4 mSv/year)	No significant reduction observed in high background areas (such as Ramsar, Iran) Theoretical risk: ~1-2 days of life lost per year at 10 mSv/y)	~1–2 days/year	







Oak Ridge Nat. Lab., 1947

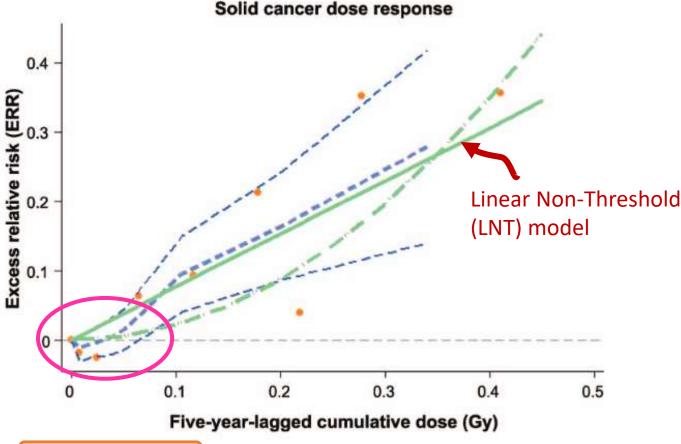


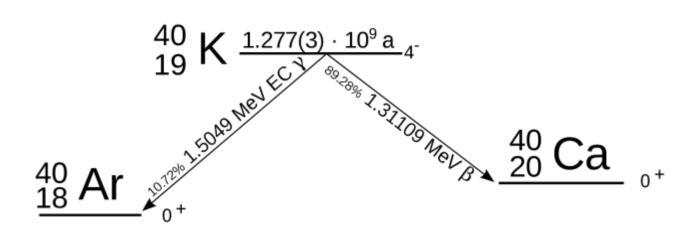
FIG. 1 Solid cancer dose response. All results shown are based on models with adjustment for smoking in the baseline rates. The green lines are the fitted linear (solid) and quadratic (dash-dot-dot) dose-response curves. The orange points are ERR estimates in dose categories while the thick-blue-dashed curve is a nonparametric smooth fit to these points. The outer blue-dashed curves represent approximate (pointwise) ± standard error limits on the nonparametric smooth.

Davis, FG, Yu, KL, Preston, D, Epifanova, S, Degteva, M, Akleyev, AV. Solid cancer incidence in the Techa River Incidence Cohort: 1956–2007. Radiat Res. 2015;184(1):56–65.



K-40

Natural radioisotope Half-life ~ 1.2 x 10⁹ y





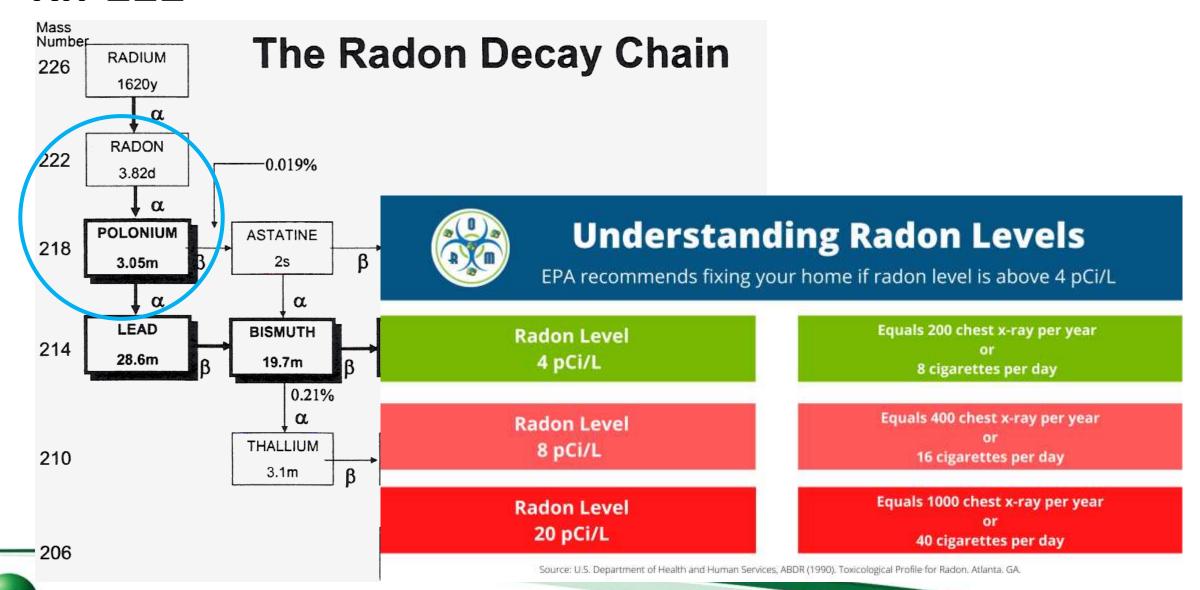
~ 3,500 pCi/kg







Rn-222







Radium Hot Springs in British Columbia, Canada Bathing dose rate $^{\sim}$ 2.6 μ Sv/h ($^{\sim}$ 10 times normal background level)

Application examples

What are some research fields?



Environment

NORM EIA for RR Archaeology

Scope of works

Water Resource

Ocean &Soil

+ Food adulteration

Infrastructure/ Techniques

- Radiocarbon dating
- Stable Isotope
 Analysis
- Tritium analysis
- > IRMS
- Chemical analysis

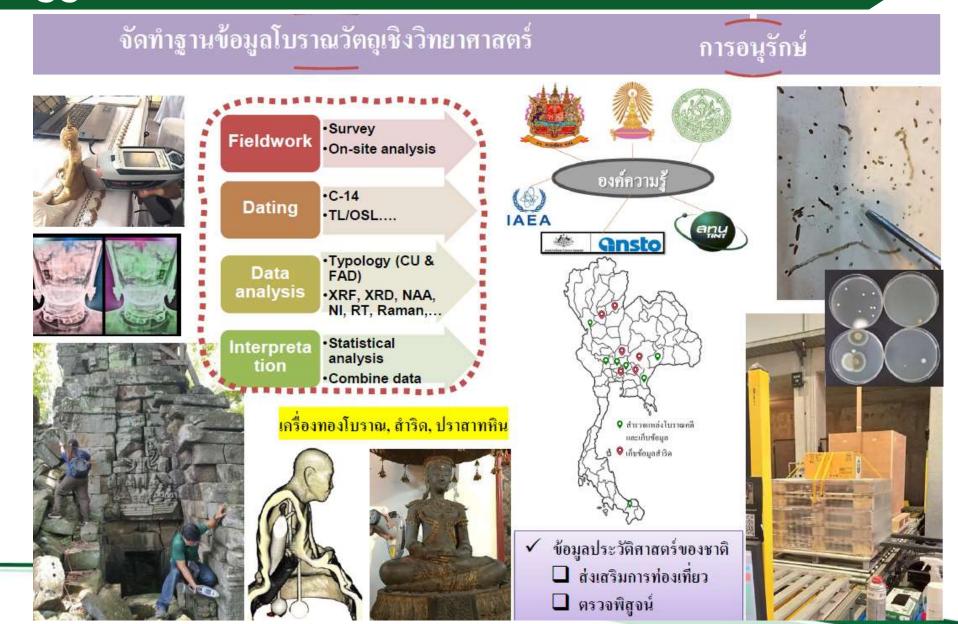
- Carbon cycle
- Toxin
- Pb-210 dating

Radon &Thoron analysis

Simulation software

- > PXRF
- > TL/OSL

Archaeology

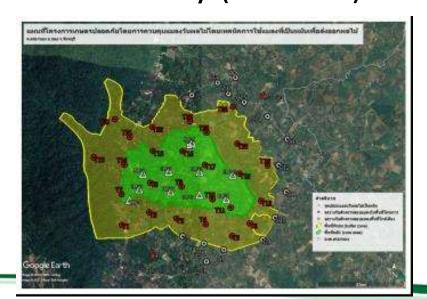


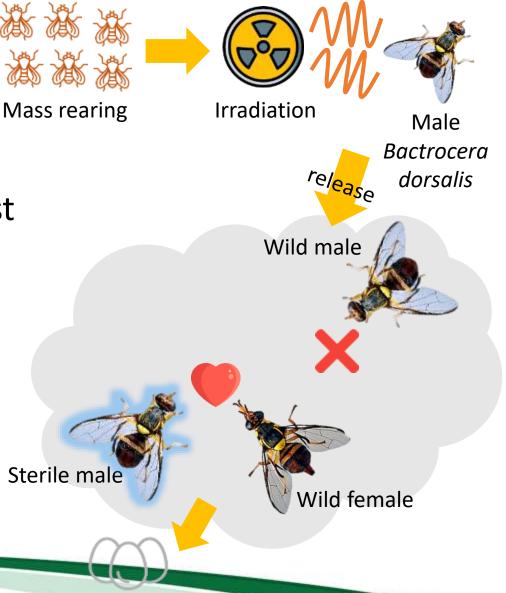
Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (Public Organization)

Agriculture – Fruit flies

 Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) utilizes gamma and X-ray in decreasing fruit fly population

 Model area: Trok Nong, Chanthaburi, as the first establishment of area of low pest prevalence of fruit fly (ALPP-FF)

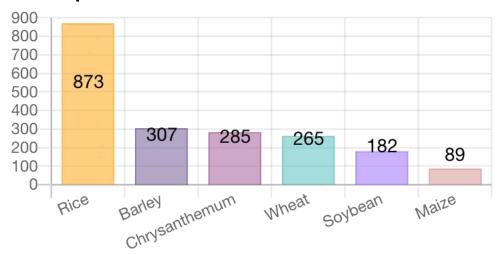






Agriculture – Plant Breeding

- Plant mutation breeding using radiation to damage DNA.
- It accelerates natural mutation process to obtain faster crop improvement.
- The improvement is crucial for food security. It helps develop plant varieties to withstand stresses (biotic and abiotic), such as hot climate, droughts, soil acidity, and pests and diseases.





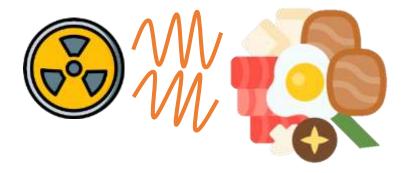






Food Irradiation

Pathogen and parasite reduction -> shelf-life extension



Galangal chili paste: gamma (up to 6 kGy)

น้ำพริกข่า ฉายรังสีแกมมา 2, 4 และ 6 กิโลเกรย์

Dried salted fish: e-beam (10 kGy)

ปลาสลิดแดดเดียวไร้ก้าง : ฉายลำอิเล็กตรอน 10 กิโลเกรย์

วัตถุประสงค์ในการทดสอบ : <mark>เพื่อยืดอายุการเก็บ</mark>







- ลด จุลินทรีย์ ยีสต์และรา
- หลังจากฉาย รสชาติ เนื้อสัมผัส ไม่เปลี่ยน
- ยืดอายุการเก็บที่อุณหภูมิห้อง 5 วัน

วัตถุประสงค์ในการทดสอบ : เพื่อกำจัดจุลินทรีย์ปนเปื้อน และยืดอายุการเก็บ



- ลด จุลินทรีย์ ยีสต์และรา
- หลังจากฉาย สี รสชาติ เนื้อสัมผัส ไม่เปลี่ยน
- ยืดอายุการเก็บที่อุณหภูมิห้องได้เพิ่มขึ้น

Material Innovation

Sericin extract from radiation-induced degradation of silk cocoon





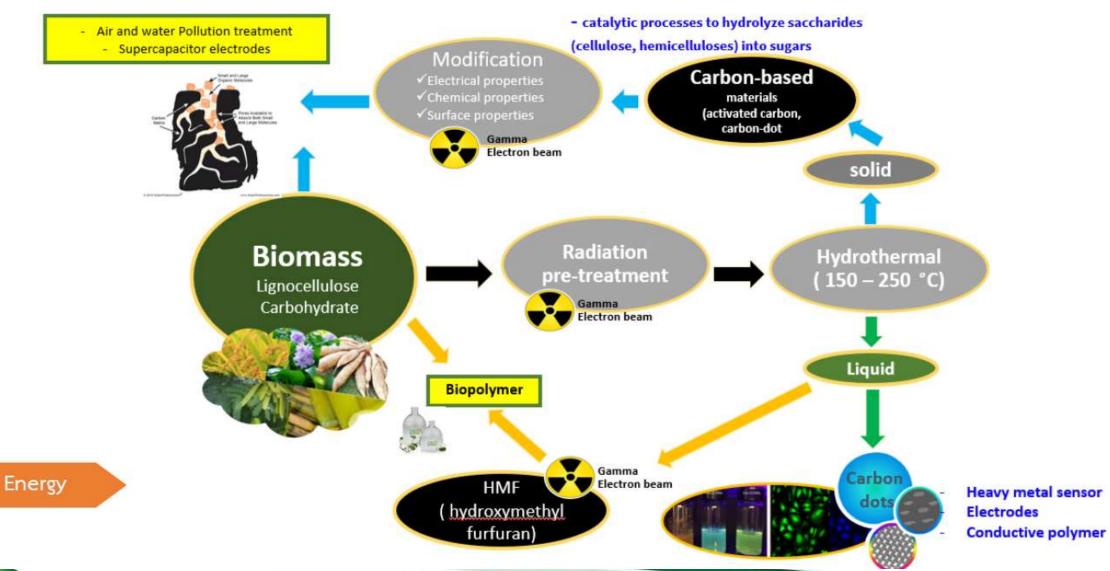
Chitosan from radiationinduced degradation of chitin



Super water absorbent (SWA) from radiationinduced graft polymerization of acrylic acid (AA) onto cassava starch



Innovative materials prepared by radiation technology



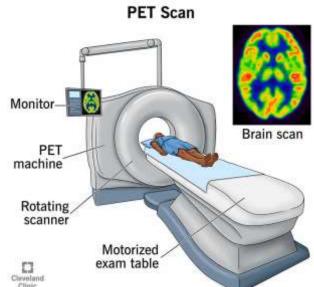


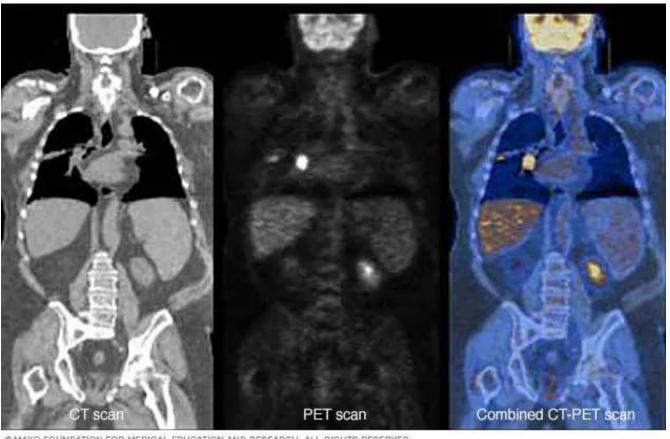
Development of absorbent from green materials using radiation process



Applications in medicine (global): Diagnostic

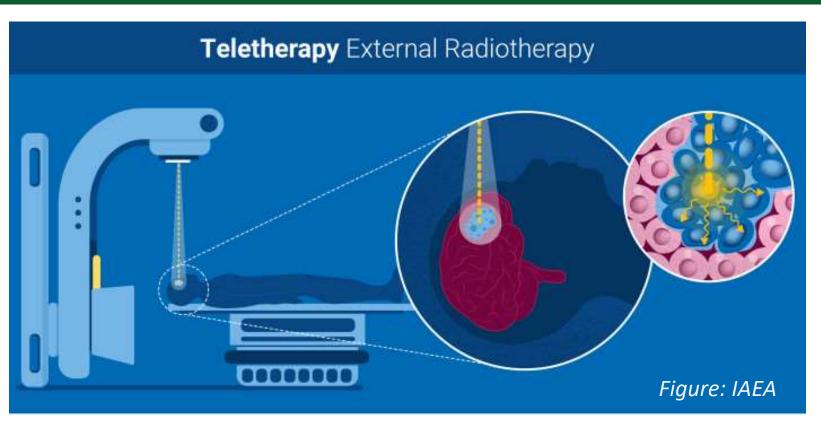
PET (Positron Emission Tomography) scans use radioactive tracers to detect diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and heart conditions with precision.





The bright spot in the chest, seen best on the PET and PET-CT scans, is lung cancer.

Applications in medicine (global): Treatment



Teletherapy: a large machine moves around you, sending gamma beams into precise points in your body.

Brachytherapy: radioisotopes are injected into patients to treat cancers from inside. Mostly the head, neck, breast, cervix, prostate, thyroid, and eye.

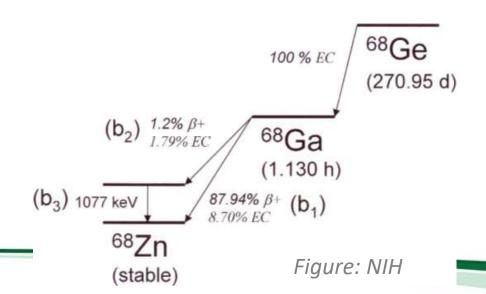
Dose fractioning: Therapy doses typically range from 30 to 60 Gy. Typically, these doses are divided into multiple smaller doses, given over 1-2 months.

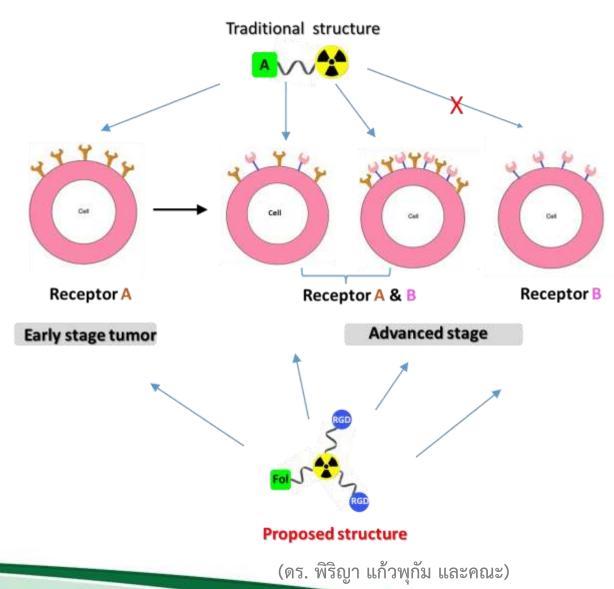


Health & Medical Research @ TINT

Ga-68 development for cancer imaging

Development of Ga-68 for dual targeting, binding cancer drugs two receptor types, to increase the effectiveness of cancer imaging.

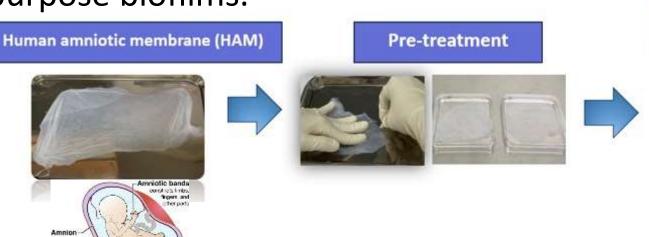




Health & Medical Research @ TINT

Cytotoxicity test using MTT assay of medical devices that have been irradiated.

Development of amniotic membrane using gamma and e-beam as multi-purpose biofilms.







(ดร. พิมพ์พร อุทยารัตน์และคณะ)

Thank you

Q&A

