



Optical properties of liquid Argon for use in Geant4 simulations

Hans Wenzel

17th May 2021

<https://github.com/hanswenzel/CaTS/tree/master/scripts/LAr.C>

- implements formulae from [ArXiv:1502.04213](#)
- Allows to plot/print Refraction index, intensity spectrum etc.
- Creates gdml snippets that can be included in Geometry description files.

<https://github.com/hanswenzel/CaTS/tree/master/scripts/wls.C>

- Implements plotting e.g. of TPB WLS intensity curve from Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78:329

Light yield ~ few 10,000's of photons per MeV (depends on E field, particle type and purity)

([SCINTILLATIONYIELD](#): 50000/MeV when no electric field present)

Wavelength of emission is 128nm (FWHM= 10nm)

Light with two characteristic time constants:

- fast component ([SCINTILLATIONTIMECONSTANT1](#)): 6 ns
([SCINTILLATIONYIELD1](#)): 0.75

- slow component ([SCINTILLATIONTIMECONSTANT2](#)): 1500 ns
([SCINTILLATIONYIELD2](#)): 0.25

([RESOLUTIONSCALE](#)): 1

Refraction Index: $n = 1.358 \pm 0.003$ at 128 nm (M. Babicz et al 2020 JINST 15 P09009)
(compared to $n = 1.45 \pm 0.07$ (ArXiv:1502.04213))

Group velocity: $1/v_g = 7.46 \pm 0.08$ ns/m at 128 nm

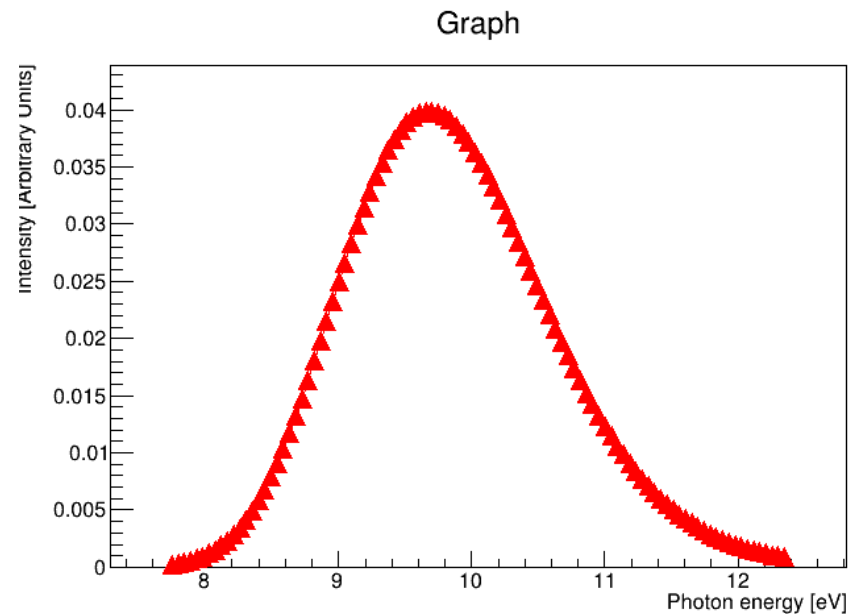
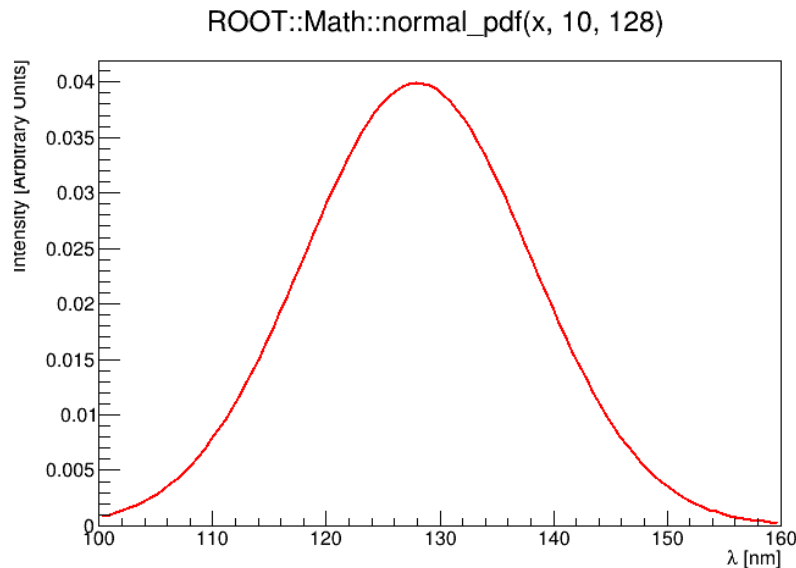
Argon is highly transparent to its own scintillation light. ([ABSLENGTH](#))
>1.1 m (ArXiv:1511.07725)

Rayleigh scattering length ([RAYLEIGH](#)): 90 cm (M. Babicz et al 2020 JINST 15 P09009)
55+/- 5 cm (ArXiv:1502.04213)

Scintillation Spectrum

```
root [0] .L LAr.C++  
root [1] init();           // initialize  
root [2] spectrum();
```

128nm (FWHM= 10nm)

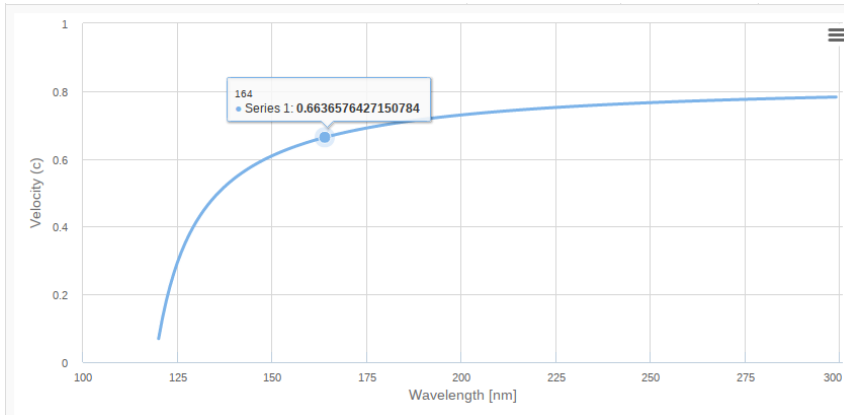


Geant4 uses optical properties as a function of photon energy

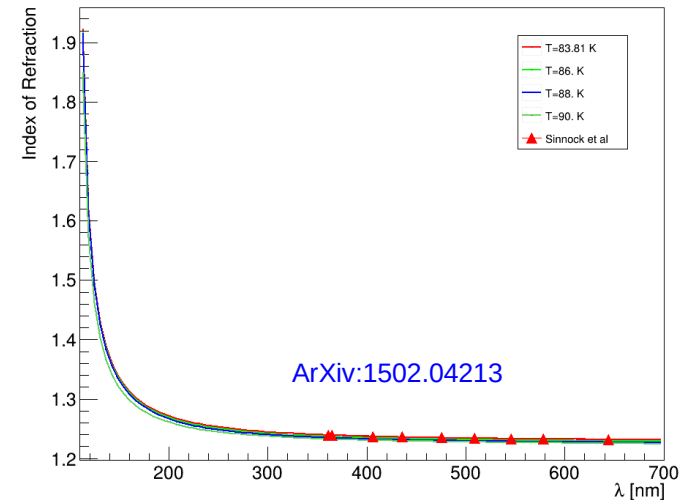
Refraction index and propagation speed

<https://github.com/hanswenzel/CaTS/tree/master/scripts/LAr.C>

implements formula in [ArXiv:1502.04213](https://arxiv.org/abs/1502.04213)



T=83.81 K



group velocity is equal to the phase velocity
 $v_p = c/n$ only
 when the refractive index is a constant

$$v_g = \frac{c}{n + \omega \frac{\partial n}{\partial \omega}} = \frac{c}{n - \lambda_0 \frac{\partial n}{\partial \lambda_0}}$$

$$= v_p \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{n} \frac{\partial n}{\partial \lambda} \right) = v_p - \lambda \frac{\partial v_p}{\partial \lambda} = v_p + k \frac{\partial v_p}{\partial k}$$

$$n = c/v_p = ck/\omega.$$

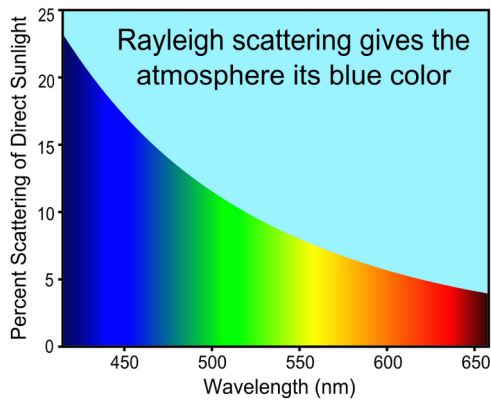
```
root [0] .L LAr.C++
root [1] init(); // initialize
root [2] sellmeierLAr();
root [3] rindextable();
```

```
<matrix name="RINDEX" coldim="2" values="1.7712*eV 1.23148
1.78626*eV 1.23154
1.80157*eV 1.2316
1.81715*eV 1.23166
.....
10.6975*eV 1.72744"/>
```

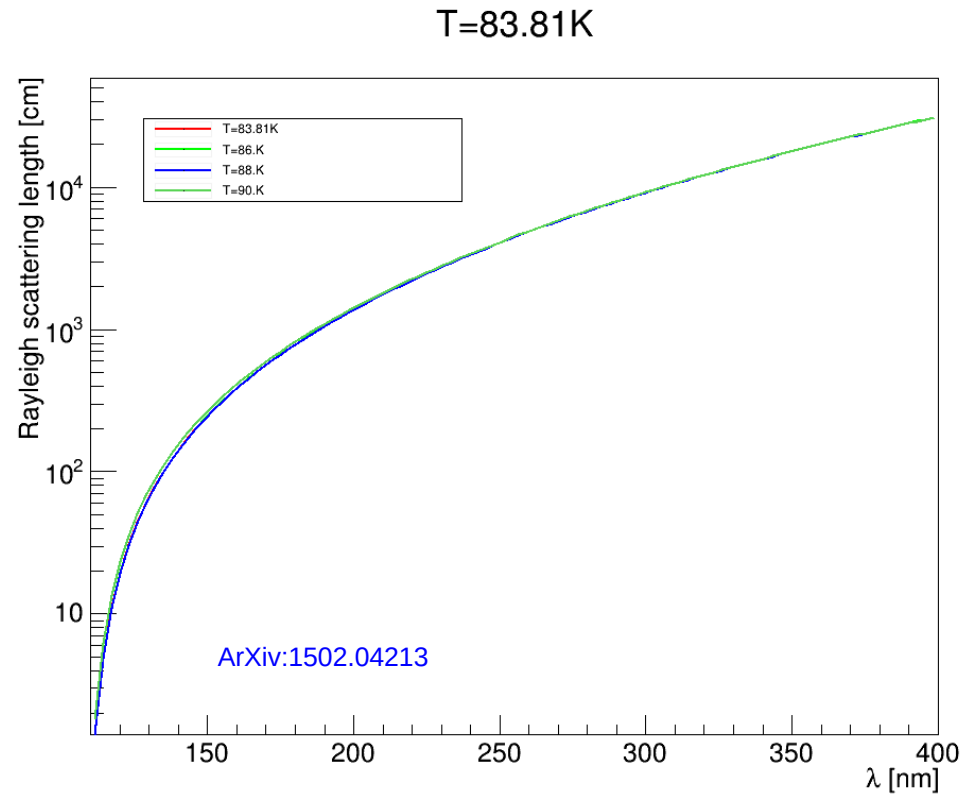
Rayleigh scattering

$$I = I_0 \frac{8\pi^4 \alpha^2}{\lambda^4 R^2} (1 + \cos^2 \theta).$$

```
root [0] .L LAr.C++  
root [1] init();  
root [2] rayleigh();  
root [3] rayleightable()
```



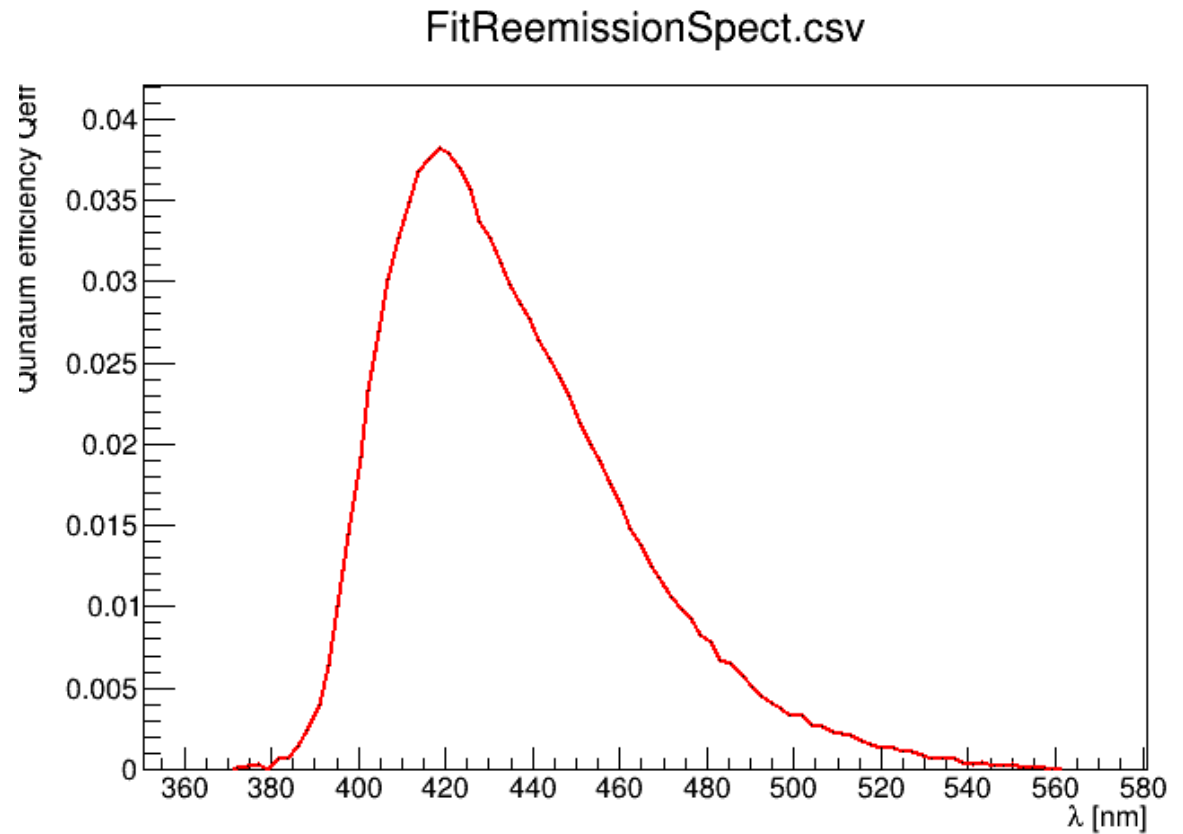
At 128 nm:
90 cm (M. Babicz et al 2020 JINST 15 P09009)
55+/- 5 cm (ArXiv:1502.04213)



Wavelength shifter tetraphenyl butadiene (TPB)

Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78:329

<https://github.com/hanswenzel/CaTS/tree/master/scripts/wls.C>



References

Measurements of the intrinsic quantum efficiency and absorption length of tetraphenyl butadiene thin films in the vacuum ultraviolet regime: [Eur. Phys. J. C \(2018\) 78:329](#)

Index of refraction, Rayleigh scattering length, and Sellmeier coefficients in solid and liquid argon and xenon: [ArXiv:1502.04213](#),
[Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 867 \(2017\) 204](#)

Ben Jones, Introduction to Scintillation Light in Liquid Argon
<http://microboone-exp.fnal.gov>

[J Chem Phys vol 91 \(1989\)](#)
1469 E Morikawa et al

A measurement of the group velocity of scintillation light in liquid argon
[M. Babicz et al 2020 JINST 15 P09009](#)

N. Ishida et al., Attenuation length measurements of scintillation light in liquid rare gases and their mixtures using an improved reflection suppresser, Nucl. Instrum. Meth. A 384 (1997) 380.

ArDM collaboration, Measurement of the attenuation length of argon scintillation light in the ArDM LAr TPC, Astropart. Phys. 97 (2018) 186 [arXiv:1611.02481].

A. Neumeier et al., Attenuation of vacuum ultraviolet light in pure and xenon-doped liquid argon —An approach to an assignment of the near-infrared emission from the mixture, Europhys. Lett. 111 (2015) 12001 [arXiv:1511.07725].

O. Cheshnovsky, B. Raz and J. Jortner, Emission spectra of deep impurity states in solid and liquid rare gas alloys, J. Chem. Phys. 57 (1972) 4628.