

and EM parameters allowing to configure a space related simulation application. The preview of EM physics in the new release 10.6 will be also made, validation results versus experimental data will be shown.

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Geant4 kernel updates and prospect

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Geant4 simulation for proton irradiation experiments of space-use imager

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For a real beam experiment, uniform irradiation to the device under the test is a key factor. I report Geant4-evaluation result for newly developed irradiation system.

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Geant4 tools in SPENVIS: A user perspective

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ESA's Space Environment Information System (SPENVIS, <https://www.spennis.oma.be>) is providing interfaces to various Geant4-based tools that can be used for supporting scientific studies related to the characterisation of the space environment and its effects. More specifically, the users can employ these tools to verify instrument and detector responses, optimise space radiation shielding, investigate radiation-induced effects on spacecraft components and assess astronaut radiation hazards. Furthermore, SPENVIS and its Geant4 tools are integral part of ESA's Space Situational Awareness (SSA) Space Weather Service Network (<http://swe.ssa.esa.int/>) and supported by the Space Radiation Expert Service Centre (R-ESC).

The SPENVIS system contains several Geant4 tools such as GRAS (3D radiation analysis), MULASIS (1D radiation analysis), GEMAT (micro-dosimetry), SSAT (shielding distribution), MC-SCREAM (NIEL effects in solar cells), MAGNETOCOSMICS (cosmic ray rigidity) and PLANETOCOSMICS (cosmic ray showers). In general, SPENVIS offers a user-friendly interface to these tools so that anyone with no previous knowledge of Geant4 can use them. Nevertheless, working with these tools and understanding their outputs can be cumbersome for an inexperienced user.

The purpose of this talk is to present the SPENVIS Geant4 capabilities to the Geant4 space user community and discuss some challenges that a user might experience when dealing with these tools. The latter could be important feedback for the Geant4 model developers.

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Geant4 usage at JAXA

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Geant4 usage at JPL

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Space radiation is a key design consideration for any spacecraft. At JPL, radiation transport tools like Geant4 are used for understanding and estimating cumulative radiation effects such as total ionizing dose (TID) as well as the transient effects such as on instruments during operation. However, a variety of tools are available and used across various institutions participating in JPL missions. In my presentation, I will discuss TID validation analyses performed at JPL to compare commonly used radiation transport tools as well as overview some Geant4 analyses performed for JPL missions.

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Geant4Py for X-ray Detector Background Simulations

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Geant4Py is a Geant4 Python interface distributed with the Geant4 source code that allows to develop Geant4 applications in the Python programming language. In order to simulate the photon and particle background of X-ray detectors in space, bindings for needed features such as the General Particle Source (GPS) were added to the Geant4Py environment along with general improvements and support for the most current Python versions. A Geant4Py application simulating the background of the XMM-Newton EPIC-pn detector is presented, which is written purely in Python and introduces only a small runtime overhead of roughly 25% for the investigated use case, compared to a Geant4 application written in C++.

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IXPE related Geant4 simulation

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The next NASA Small Explorer (SMEX) mission, IXPE (Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer) , will be launched in 2021, with three identical X-ray mirror module assemblies and Gas Pixel Detectors (GPD). IXPE introduces the capability for X-ray polarimetric imaging, uniquely enabling the measurement of X-ray polarisation with scientifically meaningful spatial, spectral, and temporal resolution, helping answer the fundamental questions.

A series of simulation activities together with the calibration for flight units are in progress. As an important tool to understand the background of the space instruments, Geant4 background simulation will be reported. This work foresees the study of background rejection to be implemented in on-ground analysis software, which is especially important for faint extended sources, like molecular clouds and supernova remnants.

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Improving LRO/CRaTER Measurements of Cosmic-Ray LET Spectra and Lunar Albedo Protons

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The Cosmic Ray Telescope for the Effects of Radiation (CRaTER) sensor has been orbiting the Moon aboard the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) since 2009. As is implied by its name, it was designed primarily to measure the effects of energetic particles in the near-lunar environment rather than to act as a spectrometer to measure the distribution of those particles. As such, it has now recorded the time-varying spectra of Linear Energy Transfer (LET), or more properly lineal energy, from those particles over nearly a complete 11-year cycle of solar activity. However, we have also been able to use it as a particle spectrometer, in particular to obtain measurements of secondary “albedo” protons ejected from the lunar surface by nuclear interactions of GCR particles with that surface.

Measurements of both albedo protons and GCR LET spectra are subject to backgrounds caused by the abundant flux of GCRs striking the telescope from outside its nominal fields of view. We have devised a variety of empirical corrections for the backgrounds in both sets of measurements to obtain the results published to date, both in journals and, for LET spectra, as a continuously-updated data product available on the World Wide Web. Recently, we have used updated simulations of the response of CRaTER to particles both inside and outside of its nominal fields of view, using the Geant4 Monte Carlo radiation-transport toolkit, to devise improved background corrections based on the detailed physics of the particle interactions with the active and inert components of the sensor. We will describe the details of these corrections, and will present mission-long sets of observations both of the time-varying GCR LET spectrum and of the temporally- and spatially-varying flux of albedo protons coming up from the lunar surface.

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Latest Updates of Grazing Angle Soft Proton Scattering on X-ray Optics

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The question of soft proton scattering efficiency under grazing angles raised in 1999 quickly after the *Chandra* X-ray observatory was launched. Since then, measurements could confirm a reduction of the large discrepancy between soft proton radiation effects seen in orbit and simulations. Nevertheless, a complete experimental coverage of the relevant parameter space is still pending.

Experimental and theoretical advancement in this field as well as validation and a possible extension of simulation codes are part of the currently running EXACRAD project, which is funded by ESA. Its major goal is to provide the foundations for the thorough assessment of the charged particle background of the upcoming ATHENA X-ray observatory. This contribution will summarize the soft proton measurement results so far, highlight the short-term plans for extending the experimental coverage, and draw comparisons between experimental and simulation results.

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Measurements and Geant4 simulations of the back-scattered electrons off ATHENA X-ray mirrors

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As part of the ATHENA mission development activity, dedicated experiments have been carried out to measure the electron back-scattering yield and their spectrum off the ATHENA X-ray mirror materials. The experiments have been simulated in Geant4 in details and excellent agreements achieved. This validated Geant4 as a tool for the simulation of electrons through the ATHENA X-ray optics.

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Microdosimetry with Geant4 for Quality Factor estimates

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Microdosimetry is the study of the stochastics of energy deposition in microscopic volumes by ionizing radiations and forms the physical basis of the quality factor, Q . The official connection was made more than 30 years ago by ICRU which defined Q as a function of the microdosimetric quantity lineal energy (y) instead of LET. Subsequently, ICRP re-defined $Q(LET)$ to match the $Q(y)$ of ICRU. Theoretical calculations of y -spectra are commonly based on Monte Carlo (MC) radiation transport simulations using either condensed-history (CH) or track-structure (TS) models. CH models are the most popular because of their moderate computing times but they suffer from a limited spatial resolution (μm - mm). On the opposite side, TS models offer superior spatial resolution (nm - μm) to the expense of high computing times. In human space missions, intermediate-energy electrons (keV - MeV) are of concern either as primary particles (e.g., in the Van Allen radiation belts) or as secondary delta rays in high-energy proton and heavy ion tracks. However, intermediate-energy electrons are only partially absorbed in micrometer-size targets, so accurate simulation of their transport is crucial to the calculation of reliable y -spectra for space radiation. The MC simulation of keV - MeV electrons is tricky due to the shortcomings of the available MC models, that is, CH models become less accurate < 1 MeV while TS models become impractical > 1 keV. Geant4 offers both CH (Standard EM, Livermore, Penelope) and TS (DNA package) physics models for electron transport. In this work we examine the influence of some user-defined CH parameters (step-size limit, SL, and tracking and production threshold energies, CUTS) to the calculation of the dose-averaged lineal energy (yD) in 1-3 μm diameter spherical targets for intermediate-energy electrons. Calculations using the TS models of Geant4-DNA are also carried out and used as baseline for comparison. It is found that the influence of SL and CUT is of similar magnitude and sizeable (up to 60%). Choosing SL $>$ diameter may lead to large errors unless very small CUTS are used. For low values of CUTS (< 100 eV) and SL ($< d/10$), Standard EM Opt4 compares well against DNA Opt2 (differences $< 20\%$) with a huge gain in computing time.

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Persistency of Geant4 Phase-Space Information for Radiation Effects and Instrument Background Analysis

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Detailed radiation analysis for scientific instruments may necessitate the retention of very detailed particle track information in order to post-process the track and ionisation data for different instrument conditions. For applications in commercial space industry, the retention of phase-space data can also be used as a method of quantifying the radiation local to a spacecraft subsystem without the need to release to the subsystem manufacturer the details of the overall spacecraft geometry. This paper examines particle phase-space data persistency for these two applications as implemented with ESA's GRAS application for the CIRSOS and AREMBES Projects, and discusses the strategies and pitfalls for this type of approach.

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Quantitative estimation of biological effects after irradiation by MPEXS-DNA

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Biological effects for instance DNA single-/double-strand breaks (SSB/DSB) in nanodosimetry has been estimated quantitatively in conventional Monte Carlo methods. i.e. the methods simulate track structure of charged particles and distribution of molecular species such as hydroxyl radicals inside a cell nucleus. From the overlaid distributions of energy loss and molecular species on such geometry, the positions where physical and chemical interactions occurred with DNA components can be scored. This approach allows evaluating DNA damages induced by radiation with higher accuracy, but at the costs of huge computation times.

We evaluate radiation damages induced on DNA molecules with a new clustering algorithm that uses a simple geometry. Any complex cell geometries such as DNA double-helix structures are not necessary to take into account in this algorithm. Yields of SSB/DSB are estimated by this method based on sampled positions where DNA damages occurred. We developed an application with MPEXS-DNA to estimate DNA damages using this clustering algorithm, where MPEXS-DNA is a nanodosimetry simulator based on Geant4-DNA running on GPU devices. Our application predicts yields of SSB/DSB induced by ionization of charged particles (direct yields) and chemical interactions of hydroxyl radicals (indirect yields). We compared our results with other Monte Carlo codes and measurements. In conclusion, MPEXS-DNA agreed reasonably well with them.

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Recent developments for Geant4 low-energy hadronic physics

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The developments for low energy hadron/ion cross sections, pre-compound model, and de-excitation module will be described. For neutrons, protons and light ions a new data set has been released for Geant4 10.5 and updated for coming release 10.5. Classes, responsible for the Glauber-Gribov hadron/ion nuclear cross section were reviewed and updated. The new Fermi-Break-up model for light ion fragmentation is now the default. A new general evaporation model for simulation of light ion emission is under development. New validation results will be reported.

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TRADCARE: a multi-physics SEE prediction software using Geant4 toolkit

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The scaling trend of highly integrated circuits makes them more and more sensitive to single event effects (SEE). It has now become necessary for circuit designers to figure out the sensitivity of their circuit and new technology during the design phase. The purpose of TRADCARE is to assess their reliability before manufacturing and therefore, reduce the testing costs. TRADCARE can also be used on existing technologies as preliminary analysis, to assess the testing need.

SEE occurrences are ruled by a stochastic process. Many prediction tools have grown up around of the Monte-Carlo approach which is commonly chosen to describe the particle transportation through the matter. Geant4 offers many interesting features both in technical (extended physicist, low energy physics...) and practical (full custom, cross-platform, c++) aspects, and is the core of several prediction tools. However, the use of very detailed physical processes of particle transportation coupled with simplified approaches (i.e. parallelepiped sensitive volumes, single energy threshold value or critical charge) may only provide a rough estimation of SEE occurrences.

The spreading parasitic effects of a single particle strike results in an observable and measurable failure or defect at the circuit and system scale. Therefore, every physical mechanism involved in SEE should be thoroughly considered.

A multi-physics SEE prediction chain, including Geant4, was developed and implemented in the TRADCARE software. It is an engineering tool developed by TRAD, a company renowned worldwide for its unique expertise on radiation effects. This work presents:

- TRADCARE features and the characteristics of the implemented modules;
- the simulation flow with an emphasize on the Geant4 part;
- an application case on simple and complex circuits with the experimental comparison.

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The EXACRAD Project

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Within the framework of the ESA financed activity AREMBES, there have been considerable efforts to set up a Space Physics lists. The realization that for some of the processes under consideration experimental data is scarce or inconclusive has lead to the launch of another ESA financed project known as EXACRAD. At the heart of EXACRAD are 3 experimental activities aimed at characterizing: 1) soft proton scattering of ATHENA mirrors;

2) secondary production from high energy protons and 3) electron back-scattering. In this presentation I will report on the status of these activities, highlighting their relevance to the ATHENA background characterization.

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The impact of low-energy electrons on EP-WXT based on Geant4 simulations

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The Einstein Probe (EP) mission is dedicated to time-domain astrophysics in 0.5–4 keV energy band to discover high-energy transients and to monitor variable objects. To realize these objectives, EP is equipped with a Wide-field X-ray Telescope (WXT) which applies the micro-pore lobster-eye optics. Seward et.al 1973 first pointed out that low-energy electrons could cause serious background problem for soft X-ray instrument. We will present the impact of such low-energy electrons on the background of WXT based on Geant4 simulations. We will also introduce the magnetic diverter developed based on this investigation.

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Welcome and overview of Greek Geant4-based activities

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