

# Physical models for track structure simulations with Geant4-DNA



[geant4-dna.org](http://geant4-dna.org)

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Geant4-DNA tutorial  
Princess Srisavangavadhana Faculty of Medicine,  
Bangkok, Thailand  
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## Contents of this talk

- Why Geant4-DNA
- Track-structure vs condensed history
- Geant4-DNA physics implementation and models
- Combination with standard EM and hadronic physics
- Physics for non-water materials
- Other developments
- Geant4 physics extended examples

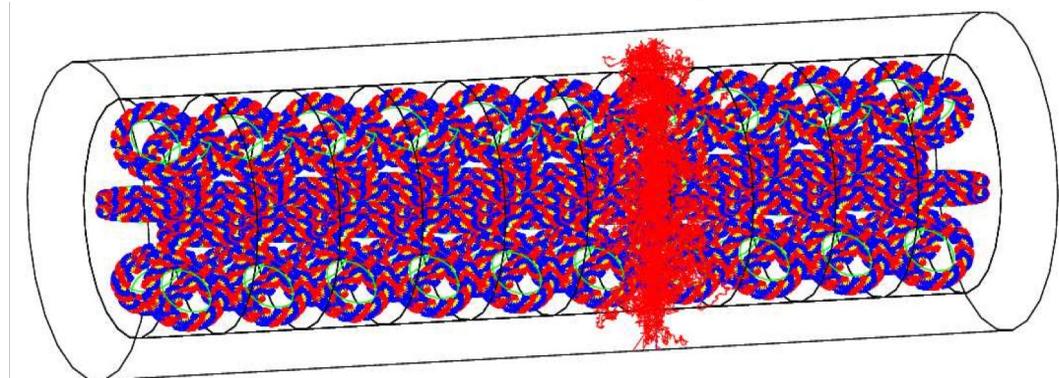
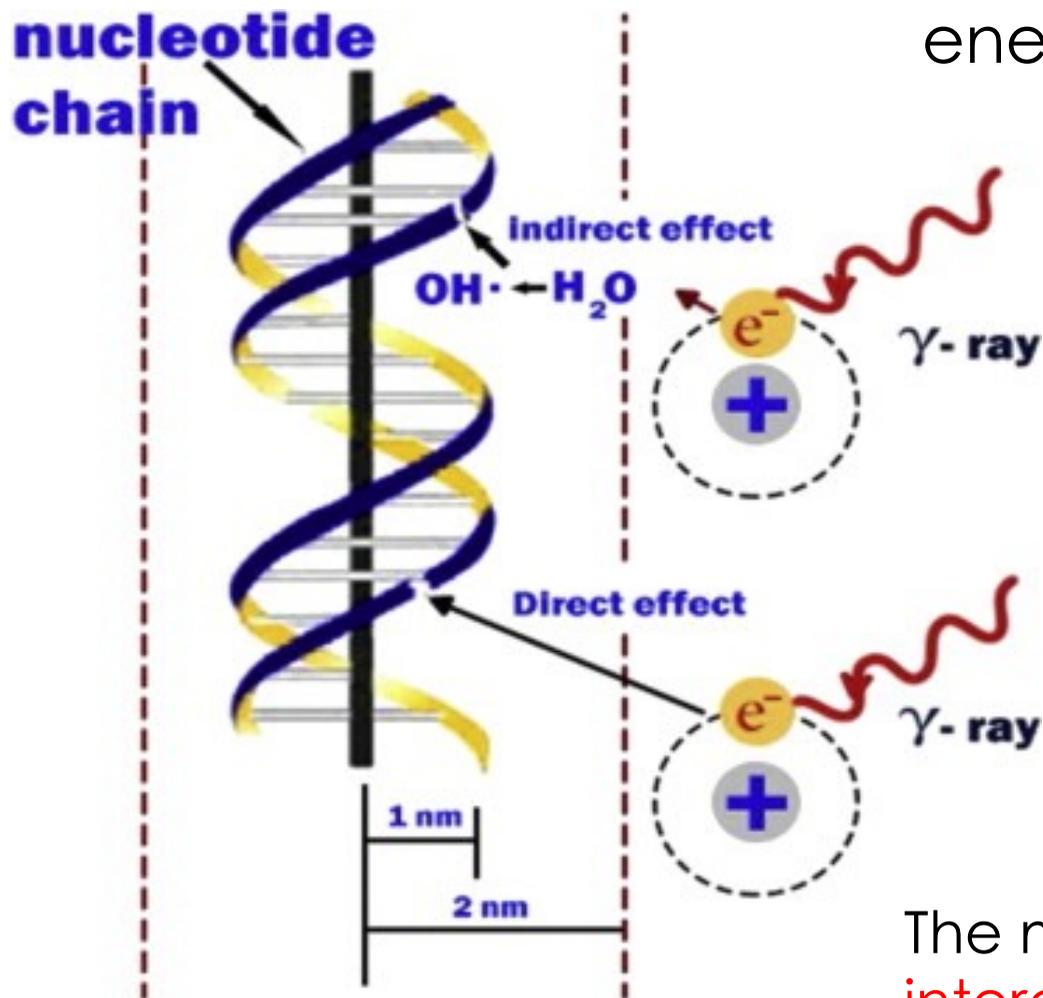
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# Direct action of radiation on DNA

- **Direct action:** DNA damage type caused by energy transfer from radiation to DNA molecule

Long DNA strands are folded and packed into the cell. To simulate **direct action**, we need particle interaction models with **DNA** (in condensed-phase) and particle transport models in **liquid water** medium, which is the main component of the cell surrounding DNA.



DNA and tracks of 500 keV  $He^+$

The main technical challenge is that we deal with **interactions with/in (sub-)microscopic geometry!**

# Why Geant4-DNA?

- Main **requirements** for radiobiological simulations -

- **Physics: High spatial resolution (few  $\mu\text{m}$ , nm), reliable physics for sub-keV energies**

Geant4:

Low spatial resolution,  $E_{\text{limit}} \sim 250\text{eV}$  / Fast

Geant4-DNA:

High spatial resolution,  $E_{\text{limit}} \sim 10\text{eV}$  / **Slow**

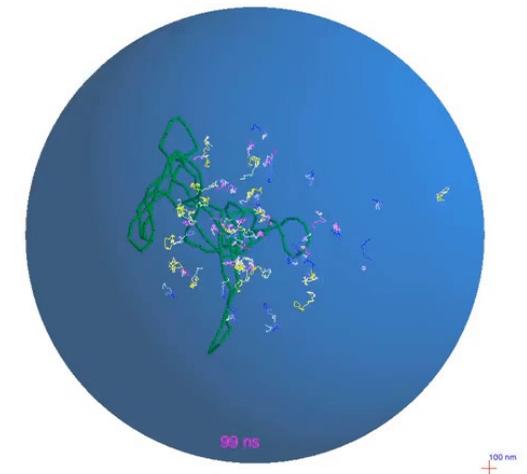
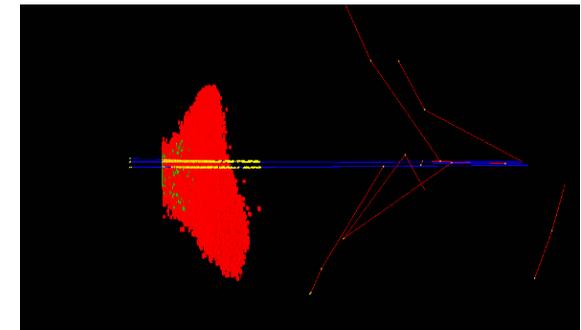
- **Chemistry: Interface for water radiolysis**

Geant4:

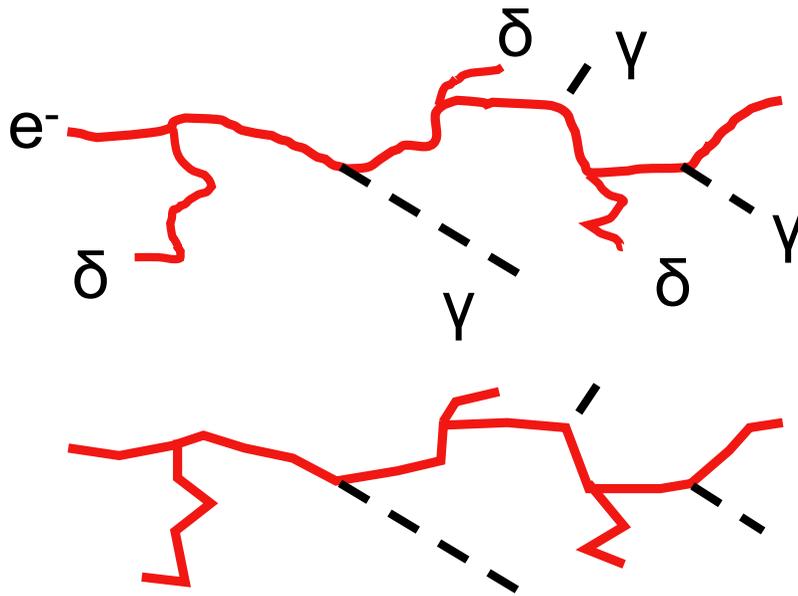
No interface

Geant4-DNA:

Production/Diffusion of chemical molecules



# Requirement for physics: **High spatial resolution**



**High accuracy**/Slow computing



Low accuracy / **Fast computing**

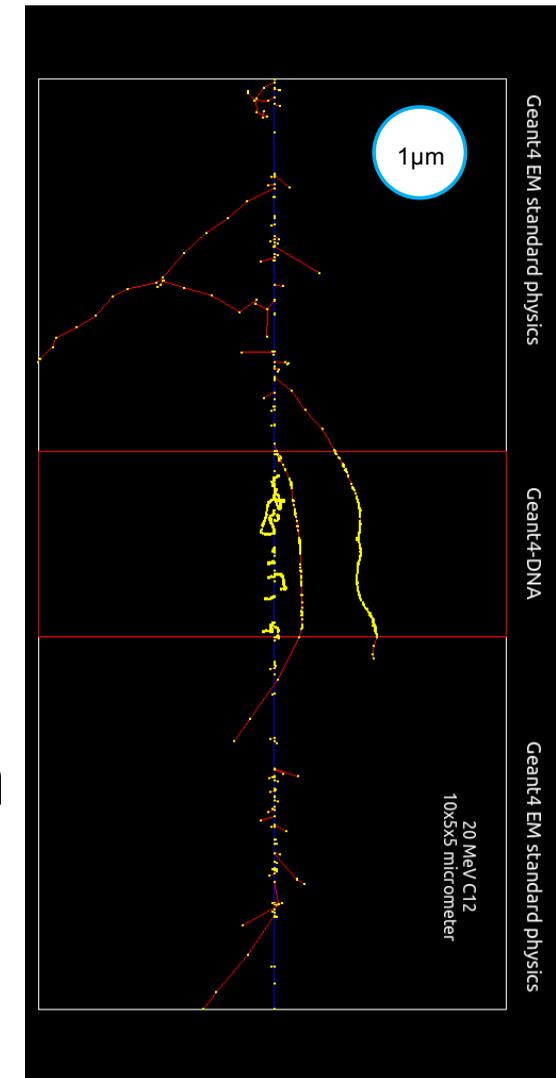
## Trajectory in **real world**

### Track-Structure approach

- All physical interactions are simulated individually in a sequential manner
- Example: **Geant4-DNA**, PARTRAC, RITRACKS, NOREC, KURBUC, PHITS-TS...

### Condensed-History approach

- Several discrete physical interactions are “condensed” into a single transport step
- Multiple-scattering approximation
- Example: **Geant4**, PHITS, EGS, FLUKA, PENELOPE, MCNP...



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# Classification of Monte Carlo models

- **Continuous Slowing Down (CSD)**
  - The simplest transport model
  - Main input: Stopping power (SP)
- **Condensed History (CH): Class I**
  - Groups both elastic and inelastic collisions
  - Main input: Multiple scattering theories
- **Condensed History (CH): Class II**
  - Groups only soft collisions
  - Hard collisions (including  $\delta$ -rays) simulated in a discrete manner
  - Main input: Restricted SP, knock-on cross sections, and more...
- **Track Structure (TS): Class III**
  - All collisions are simulated in a discrete manner
  - Full secondary electron cascade is included
  - Offers molecular resolution
  - Main input: single-collision cross sections (total, differential, etc.)

✓ Their main difference is on the treatment of **elastic and inelastic collisions**

**Geant4**

**Geant4-DNA**

## The **unique capabilities** of **TS** codes

- Simulation of **energy deposition in nm- $\mu$ m volumes**
  - **Microdosimetry** (stochastic quantities, e.g. lineal energy)
  - **Nanodosimetry** (ionisation cluster-size distributions)
- Simulation of the **chemical stage** ("**indirect**" action / damage)
  - **Radiolysis** of water & radical diffusion
  - From **individual** ionised and excited water molecules...
- Simulation of the **molecular spectrum of DNA damage**
  - "complexity" of damage (low- vs. high-LET)
- Provide **radiation "quality"**
  - Calculations of RBE at the DNA level
  - Calculations of the Quality Factor based on the lineal energy (e.g., ICRU 40, TDRA)

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# Geant4-DNA approach



## Physical stage

step-by-step modelling of physical interactions of incoming & secondary ionising radiation with biological medium (liquid water)

## MC Simulation Block

- Excited water molecules
- Ionised water molecules
- Solvated electrons

## Physico-chemical/chemical stage

- Radical species production
- Diffusion
- Mutual chemical interactions

## Geometrical models

DNA strands, chromatin fibres, chromosomes, whole cell nucleus, cells... for the prediction of damage resulting from direct and indirect hits

**DIRECT DNA damage**

**INDIRECT DNA damage**

## Prediction Block

### Biological repair

Prediction of biological parameter yields using semi-empirical biological repair model from nDSB and complex DSB fraction.

- Protein/enzyme kinetics
- DNA rejoining
- Cell survival

t=0

t=10<sup>-15</sup>s

t=10<sup>-9</sup>~10<sup>-6</sup> s

# Interaction types

- **Inelastic** collisions with **atomic electrons**
  - The **dominant contribution** to energy loss (and absorbed dose)
  - Leads to electronic excitations or ionisations
    - **Hard** collisions
      - **Eloss**  $\gg$  **binding energy**  $\rightarrow$  target electrons assumed quasi-free
    - **Soft** interactions
      - **Eloss**  $\sim$  **binding energy**  $\rightarrow$  electronic structure must be considered
- **Inelastic** collisions with the **atomic nucleus** (Bremsstrahlung)
  - Important only at high energies (for electrons above  $\sim 1$  MeV)
- **Elastic** collisions with the **atomic nucleus**
  - Mainly responsible for angular deflections
  - Energy loss is negligible

# Geant4-DNA physics

## ■ Geant4-DNA processes and models allows the transport in liquid water

- **Electrons**: ionisation, el. excitation, elastic scattering, vibrational excitation, electron attachment
- **Protons, H (0,+)**: ionisation, el. excitation, elastic, charge increase/decrease processes
- **Alpha, He (0+,2+)**: ionisation, el. excitation, elastic, charge increase/decrease processes
- **Generic ions**: ionisation

## ■ Recommended Geant4-DNA Physics constructors for simulations in liquid water

- **G4EmDNAPhysics\_option2** (since version 9.1): accelerated default constructor, simulating electron interactions (elastic, inelastic, dissociative attachment, vibrational excitation) **up to 1 MeV**, as well as other particle interactions
- **G4EmDNAPhysics\_option4** (since version 10.2): contains electron elastic and inelastic models, **up to 10 keV**; extended up to 10 MeV (to be released)
- **G4EmDNAPhysics\_option6** (since version 10.4): contains CPA100 electron elastic and inelastic models, **up to 256 keV**

### NOTE

- Protons, alphas, ions can be tracked up to 300 MeV (/u for ions)
- Option4 and option6 can go up to 1 MeV (beyond their default limits, Born models are used)

# Overview of Physics processes & models for liquid water

## ■ Electrons

### ■ Ionisation

- Dielectric optical data-model with low-energy corrections from the work of Emfietzoglou (**Option2**)
- Improved alternative version by Emfietzoglou & Kyriakou (**Option4**)
- Relativistic Binary Encounter Bethe (RBE) by Terrissol from CPA100 (**Option6**)
- Relativistic (and improved) extension up to 10 MeV by Emfietzoglou & Kyriakou (NEW Opt4)

### ■ Excitation

- Dielectric optical-data model and low-energy corrections from the work of Emfietzoglou (**Option2**)
- Improved alternative version by Emfietzoglou & Kyriakou (**Option4**)
- Dielectric model by Dingfelder (**Option6**)
- Relativistic (and improved) extension up to 10 MeV by Emfietzoglou & Kyriakou (NEW Opt4)

### ■ Elastic scattering

- Screened Rutherford and Brenner-Zaider below 200 eV
- Updated alternative version by Uehara (**Option4**)
- Independent Atom Method (IAM) & ice data from CPA100 code (**Option6**)
- Partial wave model by Champion et al. (**Option2**)
- ELSEPA based

### ■ Vibrational excitation (\*)

- Michaud et al. CS measurements in amorphous ice

### ■ Dissociative attachment (\*)

- Melton CS measurements

## ■ Protons & H

### ■ Excitation (\*)

- Miller & Green speed scaling of e- excitation up to 500 keV and Born & Bethe above 500 keV, from Dingfelder et al.
- Relativistic PWBA up to 300 MeV (NEW)

### ■ Ionisation

- Rudd semi-empirical by Dingfelder et al. and Born & Bethe theories & dielectric formalism above 500 keV
- Relativistic PWBA up to 300 MeV (NEW)

### ■ Charge change (\*)

- Analytical parametrizations by Dingfelder et al.

### ■ Nuclear scattering

- Classical approach by Everhart et al.

## ■ He0, He+, He2+

### ■ Excitation, ionisation

- Speed and effective charge scaling from protons by Dingfelder et al.

### ■ Charge change (\*)

- Analytical parametrizations by Dingfelder et al.

### ■ Nuclear scattering

- Classical approach by Everhart et al.

## ■ Li, Be, B, C, N, O, Si, Fe and all other ions

### ■ Ionisation

- Speed scaling and global effective charge by Booth and Grant

## ■ Photons

- from EM physics: Livermore » (EPDL97), EPICS2017 (NEW)

### NOTE

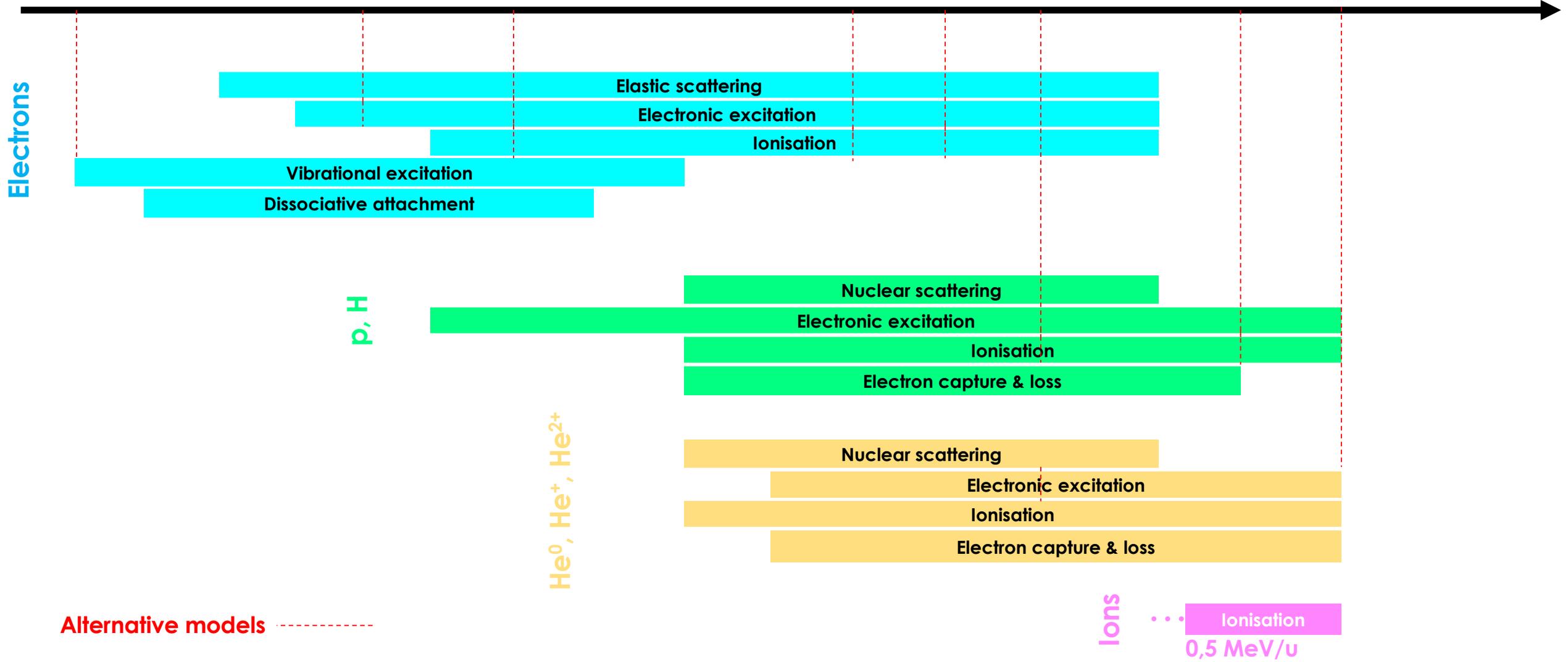
(\*): not available in Geant4, only in Geant4-DNA

Software in: [\\$G4SRC/source/processes/electromagnetic/dna/processes](#)

See [publications](#) for more detail

# Energy coverage of processes

2 eV 4 eV 7,4 eV 8 eV 9 eV 10 eV 11 eV 13 eV 100 eV 1 keV 10 keV 255 keV 500 keV 1 MeV 100 MeV 300 MeV



Alternative models

# Geant4-DNA recommended physics constructors

Geant4-DNA physics constructors electron models

Process	G4EmDNAPhysics_option2	G4EmDNAPhysics_option4	G4EmDNAPhysics_option6
Ionization (inelastic)	Emfietzoglou dielectric model (11 eV–1 MeV) <sup>5</sup>	Emfietzoglou–Kyriakou dielectric model (10 eV–10 keV) <sup>47</sup>	Relativistic binary encounter Bethe model from CPA100 code (11 eV–256 keV) <sup>48</sup>
Electronic excitation (inelastic)	Emfietzoglou dielectric model (9 eV–1 MeV) <sup>5</sup>	Emfietzoglou–Kyriakou dielectric model (8 eV–10 keV) <sup>47</sup>	Dielectric model from CPA100 code (11 eV–256 keV) <sup>48</sup>
Elastic scattering (elastic)	Partial wave model (7.4 eV–1 MeV) <sup>5</sup>	Uehara screened Rutherford model (9 eV–10 keV) <sup>47</sup>	Independent Atom Method model from CPA100 code (11 eV–256 keV) <sup>48</sup>
Vibrational excitation (inelastic subexcitation)	Sanche data (2 eV–100 eV) <sup>49</sup>	n/a	n/a
Attachment (inelastic subexcitation)	Melton data (4 eV–13 eV) <sup>50</sup>	n/a	n/a
Auger electron emission	From the EADL database <sup>51</sup> and the Geant4 atomic relaxation interface <sup>52,53</sup>		
Default tracking cut <sup>(*)</sup>	7.4 eV	10 eV	11 eV

In addition, **Bremsstrahlung**, Livermore **photon** physics (+ 5D gamma conversion), and **positron** physics are activated

Ref.: [Med. Phys. 45, 722-739 \(2018\)](#)

# Option2 physics constructor

2 eV 4 eV 7,4 eV 9 eV 10 eV 13 eV 100 eV 1 keV 500 keV 1 MeV 100 MeV 300 MeV



- ★ Tracking cut (by **process** or by model)
- Energy coverage limit

\*:G4DNABornIonisationModel is displayed at run time, not G4DNABornIonisationModell

# Option4 physics constructor

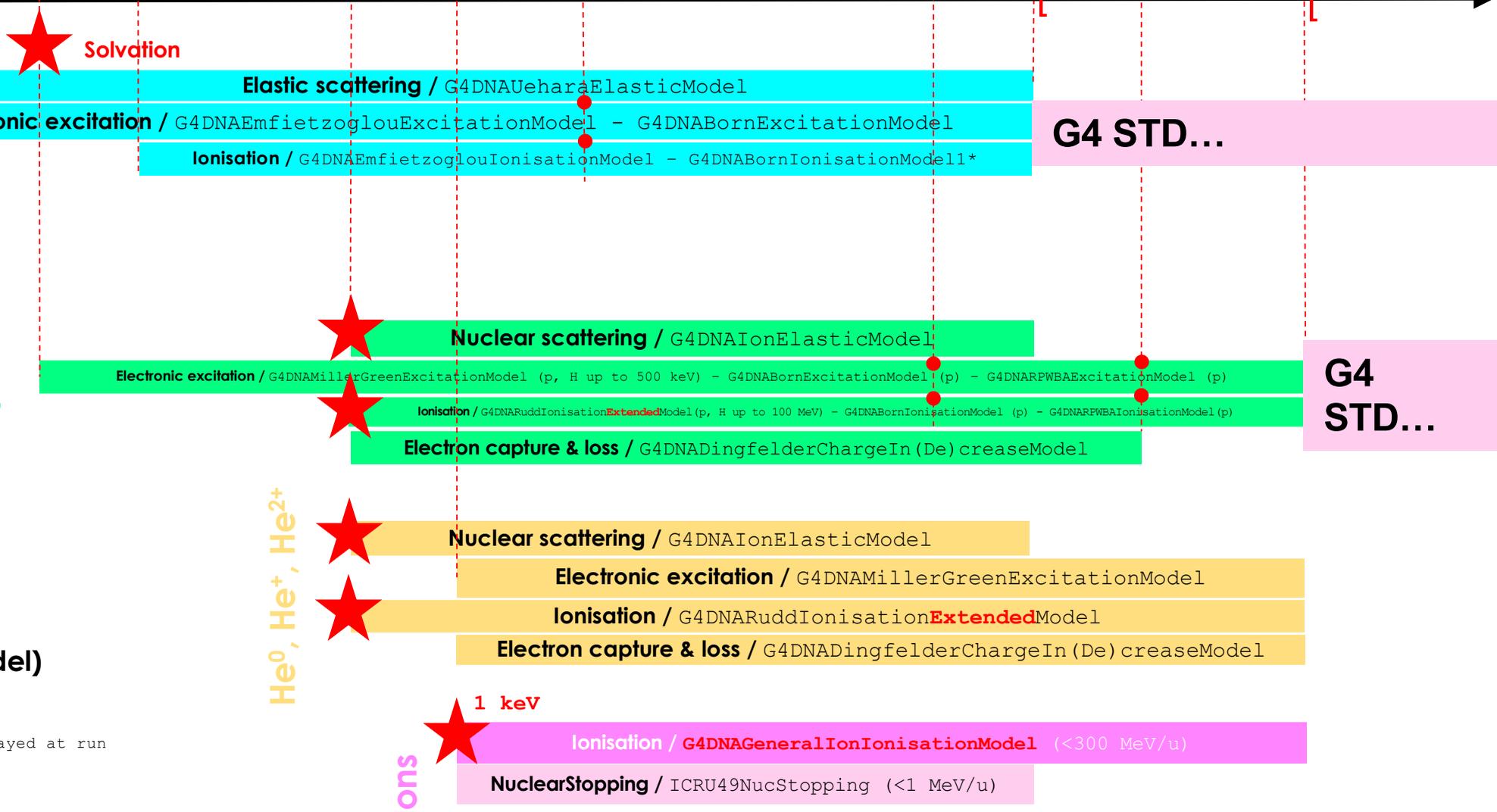
8 eV 9 eV 10 eV 11 eV      100 eV 1 keV 10 keV      500 keV 1 MeV 100 MeV 300 MeV

Electrons

p, H

He<sup>0</sup>, He<sup>+</sup>, He<sup>2+</sup>

Ions

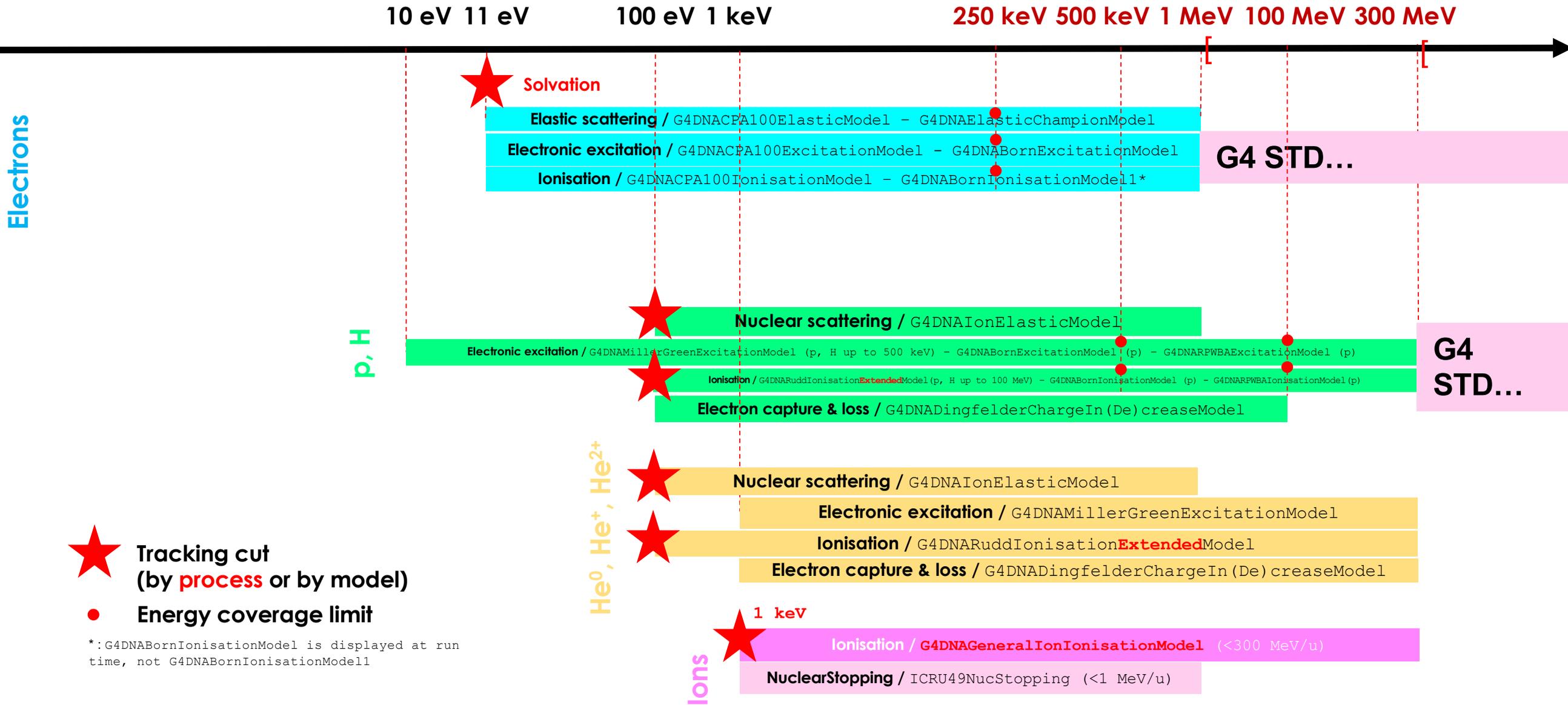


★ Tracking cut (by **process** or by model)

● Energy coverage limit

\*:G4DNABornIonisationModel is displayed at run time, not G4DNABornIonisationModell

# Option6 physics constructor



- ★ Tracking cut (by **process** or by model)
- Energy coverage limit

\*:G4DNABornIonisationModel is displayed at run time, not G4DNABornIonisationModell

# Geant4-DNA **inelastic** models for **electrons**

## Geant4-DNA **Option 2** inelastic models (9 eV – 1 MeV)

- Projectile-target interaction based on the **plane-wave Born approximation** (PWBA) with **relativistic** corrections
- Target response based on the **energy-loss-function** (ELF) determined from Emfietzoglou's dielectric model of liquid water (2002)
  - Uses experimental optical data
  - Accounts for individual ionisation and excitation channels
- Includes corrections to PWBA through **Coulomb-Exchange** terms
- Includes **solid-state** effects (via the ELF)

## Geant4-DNA **inelastic** models for **electrons** (cont...)

- **Geant4-DNA Option 4 inelastic models (10 eV – 10 keV)**
  - Projectile-target interaction based on the **non-relativistic PWBA**
  - Target response based on an improved version of the ELF of Option 2 using the Emfietzoglou-Kyriakou algorithm (2015)
  - Improved implementation of the Coulomb-Exchange corrections of Option 2
- **Geant4-DNA Option 6 inelastic models (11 eV – 256 keV)**
  - ionisations based on the **Binary-Encounter-Bethe (BEB) atomic model** of Kim & Rudd (1994)
  - Excitations based on the ELF model of Dingfelder (1998)
  - Solid-state effects included only in excitations (through ELF)

# Geant4-DNA **elastic** models for **electrons**

## ■ Option 2

- Based on **Schrodinger partial wave** calculations
  - Neglects spin-effects
  - Non-relativistic calculations
  - *Ad hoc* corrections for solid-state effects

## ■ Option 4

- Based on **Born approximation** calculations (screened Rutherford)
  - Relativistic
  - Neglects spin-effects
  - Neglects solid-state effects

## ■ Option 6

- Based on **Schrodinger partial wave** calculations
  - Same problems w/default
  - Neglects solid-state effects

## ■ Model **deficiencies**

- They neglect spin-effects
- They are non-relativistic (except for Option 4)
- They neglect solid-state effects (or include ad hoc corrections)

## ■ General observation

- All models perform poorly at low energies & small-medium angles

# Proton interactions in Geant4-DNA

## ■ Ionisation

- For slow protons (energy < 500 keV): fit to exp. data of Rudd et al. (1985)
- For fast protons (energy > 500 keV): RPWBA calculations using the dielectric model of Dingfelder et al. (2000)
- NEW extension 100 MeV - 300 MeV: RPWBA calculations using the dielectric model of Emfietzoglou et al. (2005) (implementation by Dominguez\_Munoz et al., 2022)

## ■ Excitation

- For slow protons (< 500 keV): analytical expression of Miller & Green (1973)
- The rest are the same as for ionisation

## ■ Charge transfer

- Analytic formula by Dingfelder et al. (2000) with parameters chosen by fit to exp. data of water vapor

## ■ Nuclear elastic

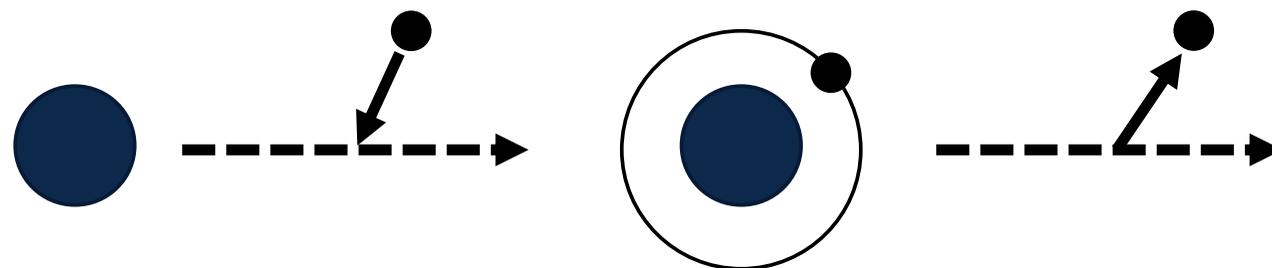
- This interaction is important for very low proton energies (at the keV energy scale)
- See Tran et al. (2015) for details

# Interactions for protons and neutral H in Geant4-DNA

Interaction mode	Proton (p)	Neutral hydrogen (H)
Elastic scattering	$p + H_2O \rightarrow p' + H_2O$	$H + H_2O \rightarrow H' + H_2O$
Target ionisation	$p + H_2O \rightarrow p' + H_2O^+ + e^-$	$H + H_2O \rightarrow H' + H_2O^+ + e^-$
Target excitation	$p + H_2O \rightarrow p' + H_2O^*$	$H + H_2O \rightarrow H' + H_2O^*$
Electron capture ( $\sigma_{10}$ )	$p + H_2O \rightarrow H' + H_2O^+$	-
Electron loss ( $\sigma_{01}$ )	-	$H + H_2O \rightarrow p' + H_2O + e^-$
Simultaneous electron capture and target ionisation	$p + H_2O \rightarrow H' + H_2O^{2+} + e^-$	-
Simultaneous electron loss and target ionisation	-	$H + H_2O \rightarrow p' + H_2O^+ + 2e^-$

**Main energy loss mechanism for energies > 1 MeV**

**Charge-transfer processes contribute to the energy loss mechanism for energies ≤ 0.3 MeV**



Ref. : [Int. J. Radiat. Biol., 87\(2\), 141-160 \(2010\)](#)

## Helium and ion interactions in Geant4-DNA

- **Speed scaling** procedure using the corresponding proton cross sections
- Takes into account the **effective charge** of the incident projectile
  - Different effective charges used for He, He<sup>+</sup>, He<sup>++</sup> projectiles
  - Charge transfer processes using the analytical fit by Dingfelder (2005)
  - For ions heavier than helium, only ionisation is taken into account, using an effective charge formula by Booth and Grant (1965)

# How the Geant4-DNA constructors are built?

All processes & models are declared in G4EmDNABuilder

```
// DNA physics
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNAElectronPhysics(emaxDNA, 4, fast, st);
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNAProtonPhysics(eminBorn, emaxIonDNA, 4, fast, st);
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNAIonPhysics(emaxIonDNA, 4);

G4ParticleDefinition* part = genericIonsManager->GetIon("hydrogen");
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNALightIonPhysics(part, 0, 4, emaxIonDNA, fast, st);

part = G4Alpha::Alpha();
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNALightIonPhysics(part, 2, 4, emaxLightIonDNA, fast, st);

part = genericIonsManager->GetIon("alpha+");
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNALightIonPhysics(part, 1, 4, emaxLightIonDNA, fast, st);

part = genericIonsManager->GetIon("helium");
G4EmDNABuilder::ConstructDNALightIonPhysics(part, 0, 4, emaxLightIonDNA, fast, st);
```

**Electron** physics  
mainly option2, 4, 6 is available

**Proton** physics

**Ion** physics

**Alpha** physics

« Light ion » :  $H^0$ ,  $He^{2+}$ ,  $He^+$ ,  $He^0$

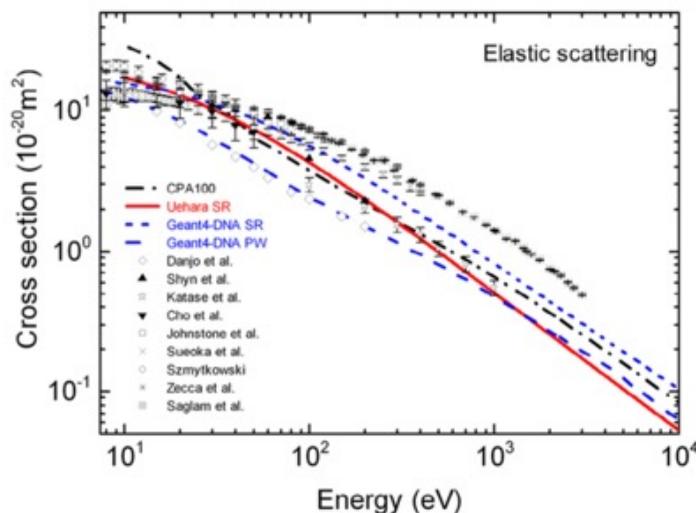
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[\\$G4SRC/source/physics\\_lists/constructors/electromagnetic/src/G4EmDNAPhysics\\_option4.cc](#)

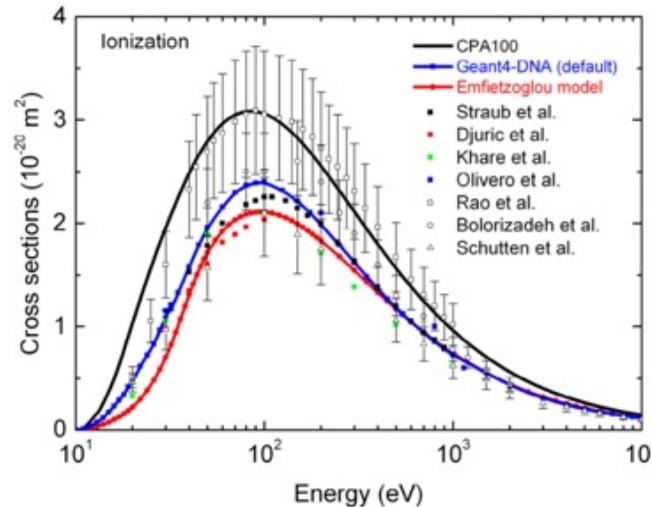
# E.g. of validation and verification of Physics : total cross sections

Electron CS:

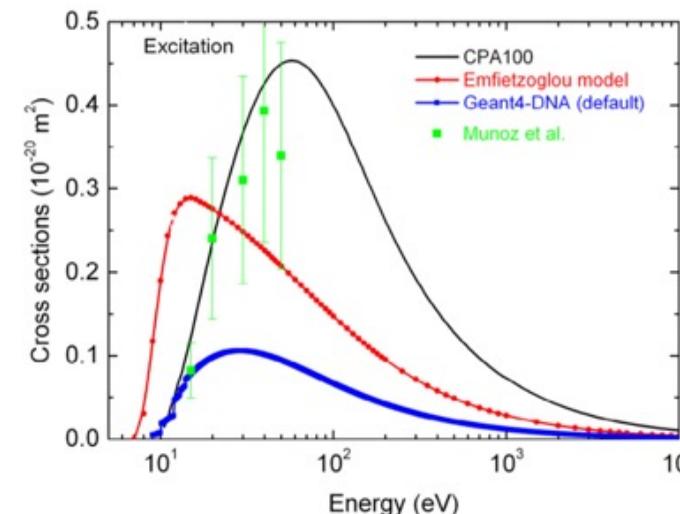
Elastic



Ionisation

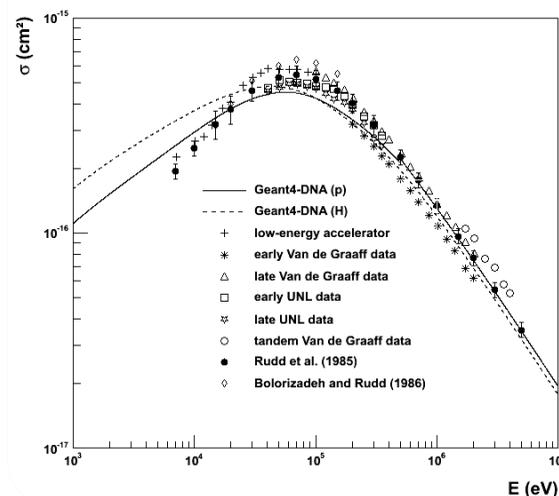


Electronic excitation

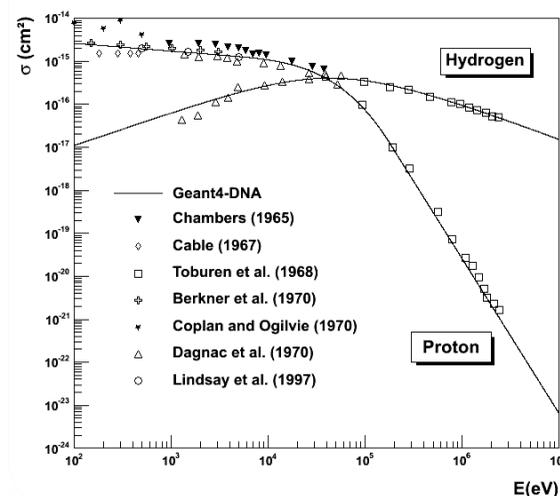


Proton CS:

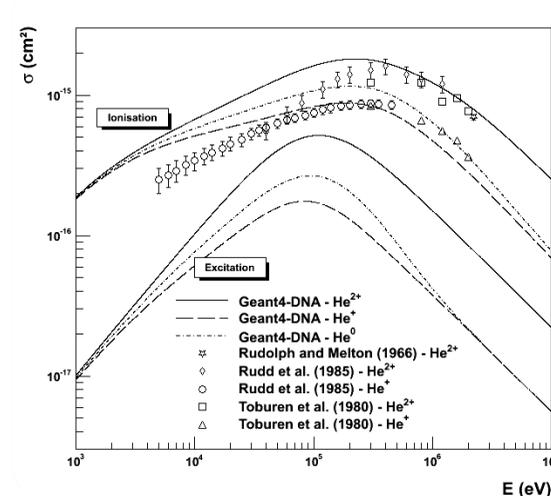
Ionisation



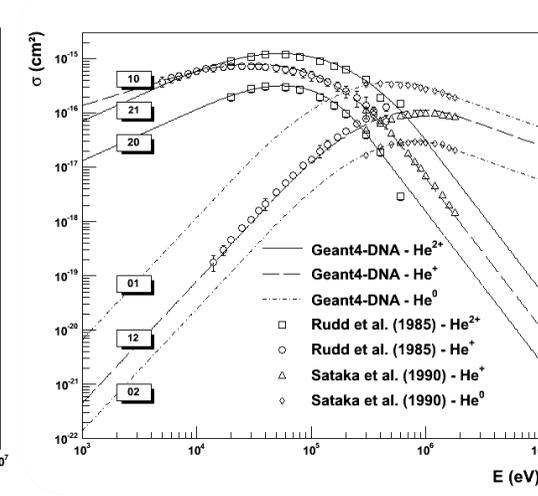
Charge exchange



Helium CS: Ionisation



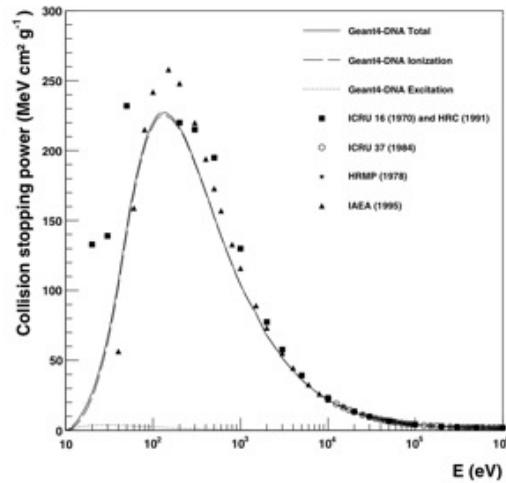
Charge exchange



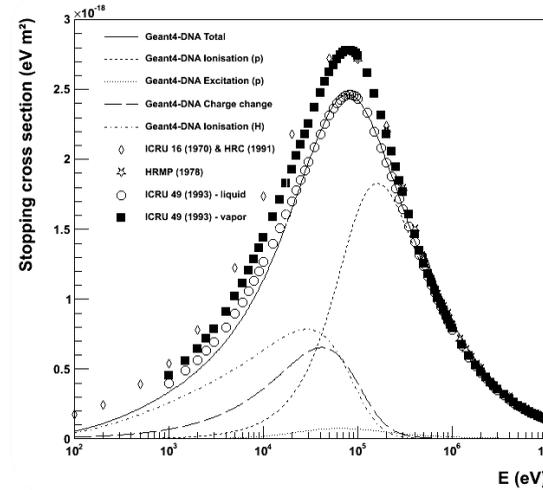
# E.g. of validation and verification of Physics: **range** and **stopping power**

Stopping power:

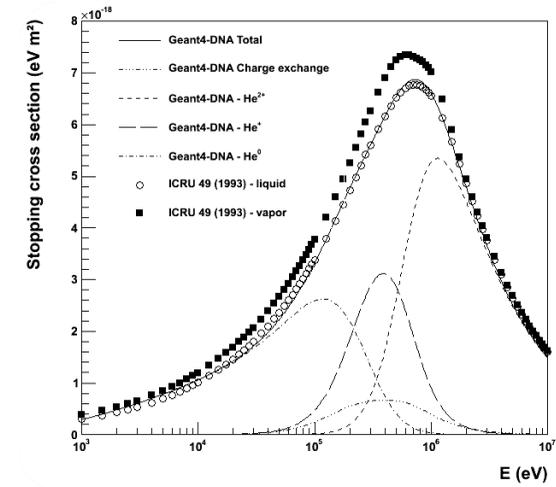
Electron



Proton

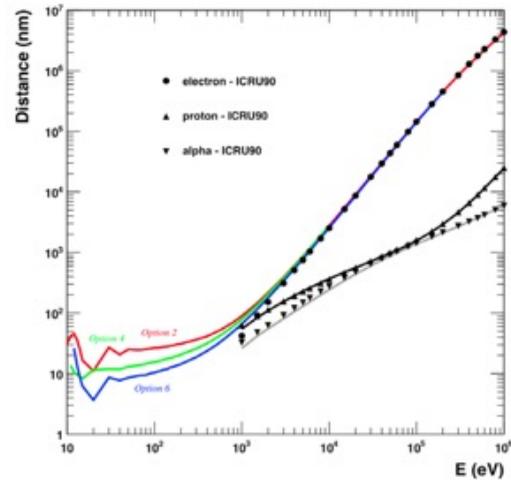


Helium

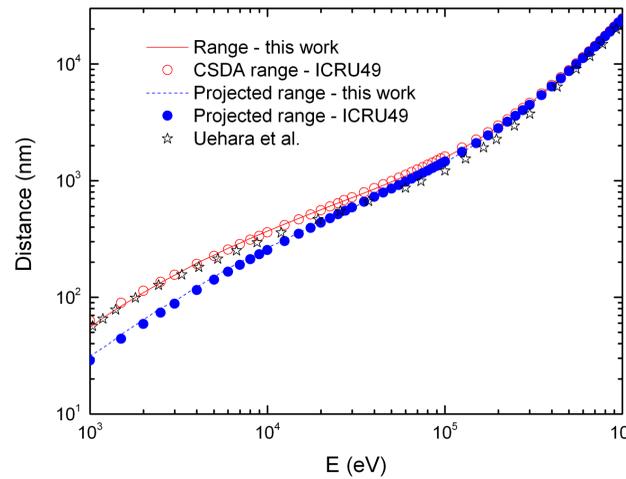


Range:

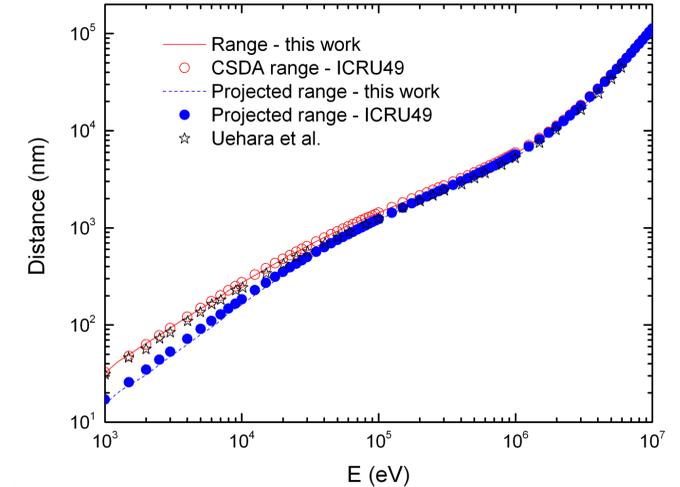
Electron



Proton



Helium





**Bonus (if time permits)**

**Inelastic cross section calculation**

# Focus: basic quantities for the simulation of inelastic scattering with the use of a Monte Carlo code

- **Differential cross section (DCS)** over energy transfer ( $E$ ):

$$\text{DCS} \equiv \frac{d\sigma}{dE}$$



TS codes

- **Total cross section (TCS)** for inelastic scattering:

$$\text{TCS} \equiv \sigma \equiv \int \frac{d\sigma}{dE} dE$$



TS codes

- **Stopping power (SP)** by electronic excitations:

$$\text{SP} \equiv \int E \frac{d\sigma}{dE} dE$$



CH codes

## Models based on the **ELF** for condensed media

- Models based on the **Energy-Loss Function** can be used to calculate the

**Doubly Differential cross section**

$$\text{DDCS} \equiv \frac{d^2\sigma(T)}{dEdq}$$

- T is the **kinetic energy** of the primary particle
- E is the **energy-transfer** in the inelastic collision
- q is the **momentum-transfer** in the inelastic collision
  - q is **equivalent to the scattering angle  $\theta$  of the primary particle**

$$q = \sqrt{2m[2T - W - 2\sqrt{T(T - W)} \cos \theta]}^{1/2}$$

(  $W \sim E$  )

## The central role of the **Born approximation**

The DDCS is calculated based on the plane-wave Born approximation (PWBA) or simply the **1<sup>st</sup> Born approximation**

**Why ?**

## The advantage of the Born approximation

- The DDCS is factorized into a particle-dependent term and a **material-dependent** term
- The particle term is trivial
  - only the charge and velocity are needed
- The **material** term can be measured by many spectroscopic techniques

$$\text{DDCS}_{\text{Born}} = \underbrace{(\text{particle term})}_{\text{trivial}} \times \underbrace{(\text{material term})}_{\text{measurable}}$$

## What is the material term?

$$\text{DDCS}_{\text{Born}} = \underbrace{(\text{particle term})}_{\text{trivial}} \times \underbrace{(\text{material term})}_{\text{measurable}}$$

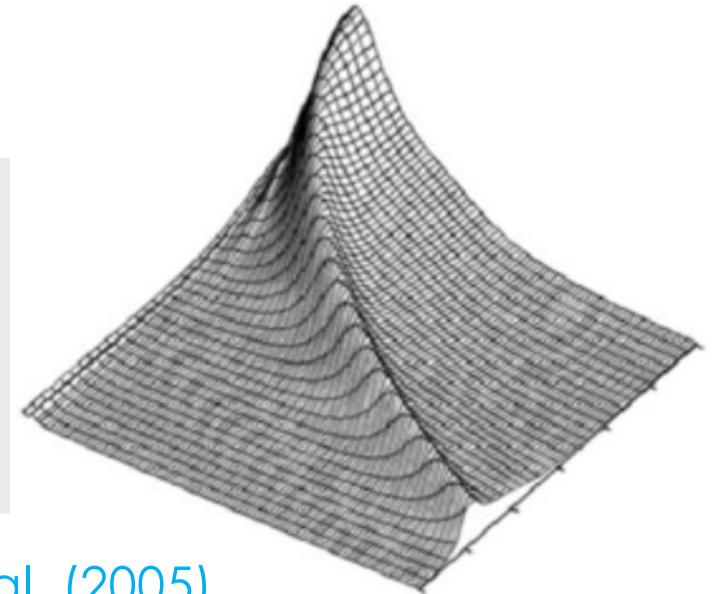
For condensed media, the material term is the **energy-loss-function (ELF)**

For gases, the material term is the **generalised-oscillator-strength (GOS)**

## ELF and GOS

- Both are functions of **energy-transfer** ( $E$ ) and **momentum-transfer** ( $q$ )
- Both give the **probability of excitation of a target atom** for a given pair of values ( $E, q$ )
- Both are **properties of the medium** and do NOT depend on the particle, i.e. they are the same for electrons, protons, etc.

The 3-dimensional plot of ELF or GOS versus  $E$  and  $q$  is given a special name:  
the **Bethe surface**



Emfietzoglou et al. (2005)

## Cross sections

$$\text{DDCS}_{\text{Born}} = (\text{particle term}) \times \text{ELF}(E, q)$$



$$\text{DCS}_{\text{Born}} = (\text{particle term}) \times \int_{q_{\min}}^{q_{\max}} \text{ELF}(E, q) dq$$



$$\text{TCS}_{\text{Born}} = (\text{particle term}) \times \int_{E_{\min}}^{E_{\max}} dE \int_{q_{\min}}^{q_{\max}} \text{ELF}(E, q) dq$$



$$\text{SP}_{\text{Born}} = (\text{particle term}) \times \int_{E_{\min}}^{E_{\max}} E dE \int_{q_{\min}}^{q_{\max}} \text{ELF}(E, q) dq$$

If the medium is a gas simply replace ELF by GOS

# Methods to compute the ELF

## ■ **Ab initio** methods

- They are based on (complicated) theory
- Computationally intensive
- **Limited energy range** ( $\sim < 50$  eV)

## ■ **Homogeneous electron gas theory**

- They are based on well-established theory
- **Limited material range** (only simple metals, e.g. aluminum)

## ■ **Optical-data models**

- Semi-empirical
- Depend on the availability of **experimental** optical data
- Applicable to **many materials** and **wide energy range**

**Geant4-DNA**

## Constructing optical data models for ELF

- **Step 1:** Assume excitation ( $k$ ) and ionisation ( $n$ ) channels and the corresponding threshold energies
- **Step 2:** Decompose the ELF as following:

$$\text{ELF} \left\{ \text{Im} \left[ -\frac{1}{\underbrace{\varepsilon(E, q)}_{\text{DRF}}} \right] = \sum_{n/k} \frac{\text{Im}[\varepsilon_{n/k}(E, q)]}{|\varepsilon(E, q)|^2} \right.$$

Each term  $\text{Im}[\dots]$  corresponds to energy absorption of the corresponding channel (excitation or ionisation)

- **Step 3:** Obtain  $\text{Im}[\varepsilon(E, q=0)]$  from fit to experimental data (loss or absorption)
- **Step 4:** Perform *f-sum-rule* test for  $\text{Im}[\varepsilon(E, q=0)]$
- **Step 5:** Calculate  $\text{Re}[\varepsilon(E, 0)]$  via Kramers-Kronig
- **Step 6:** Calculate  $\text{ELF}(E, 0)$  and perform *f-sum-rule* test for ELF
- **Step 7:** Extend ELF to  $q > 0$  by dispersion relations

## ELF and dielectric function

The **ELF** is defined through the **dielectric-response-function (DRF)** of the medium

The **DRF**  $\varepsilon$  is a complex function and accounts for the screening and absorption properties of the medium

$$\text{ELF} \left\{ \text{Im} \left[ \frac{-1}{\varepsilon(E, q)} \right] \right\} = \frac{\varepsilon_2(E, q)}{\varepsilon_1^2(E, q) + \varepsilon_2^2(E, q)}$$

**DRF**

$$\varepsilon(E, q) = \underbrace{\varepsilon_1(E, q)}_{\text{screening}} + i \underbrace{\varepsilon_2(E, q)}_{\text{absorption}}$$

The **ELF** includes the different absorption channels of the medium as modified by the screening properties of the medium

$$\text{Im} \left[ \frac{-1}{\varepsilon(E, q)} \right] = \sum_n^{\text{all}} \frac{\varepsilon_2^{(n)}(E, q)}{|\varepsilon(E, q)|^2}$$

**Absorption channels**

**Screening**

# Summary about ELF models

## ■ Main advantages:

- Self-consistency tests are available
- Condensed-phase effects are in-built through the dielectric function
- Experimental data of ELF available for many materials
- Reliable over a wide energy range (Born approximation)

## ■ Main disadvantages:

- Limited experimental data for the ELF at  $q > 0$
- Cross sections specific to the different ionisation shells and excitation levels are not well known

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## Multi-scale **combination** of physics processes

- Geant4-DNA is mainly dedicated to **(very) low energy charged particles**
  - Is it possible to simulate neutral particles such as photons?
  - Can we include the physics processes for high-energy particles?
- Any Geant4-DNA process can be combined with other Geant4 process such as:
  - Geant4 **photon** processes
  - Geant4 **alternative EM** processes for charged particles
  - Geant4 **atomic de-excitation** (fluorescence + Auger emission, including cascades)
  - ...and also Geant4 **hadronic physics**

## Other processes: photons

- Cross sections for low energy photons were recently updated (since version 11.0)
- Based on the database **EPICS2017**
  - Major update of the existing Livermore database EPDL97
- Four photon processes:
  - **Gamma conversion**
    - Classes: `G4PairProductionRelModel`
  - **Compton scattering**
    - Class: `G4LowEPComptonModel` and `G4KleinNishinaModel` (> 20 MeV)
  - **Photoelectric effect**
    - Class: `G4LivermorePhotoElectricModel`
  - **Rayleigh scattering**
    - Class: `G4LivermoreRayleighModel`
- Other (older) choices for photons:
  - Livermore (EPDL97, EPICS2014 for photoelectric and PENELOPE)

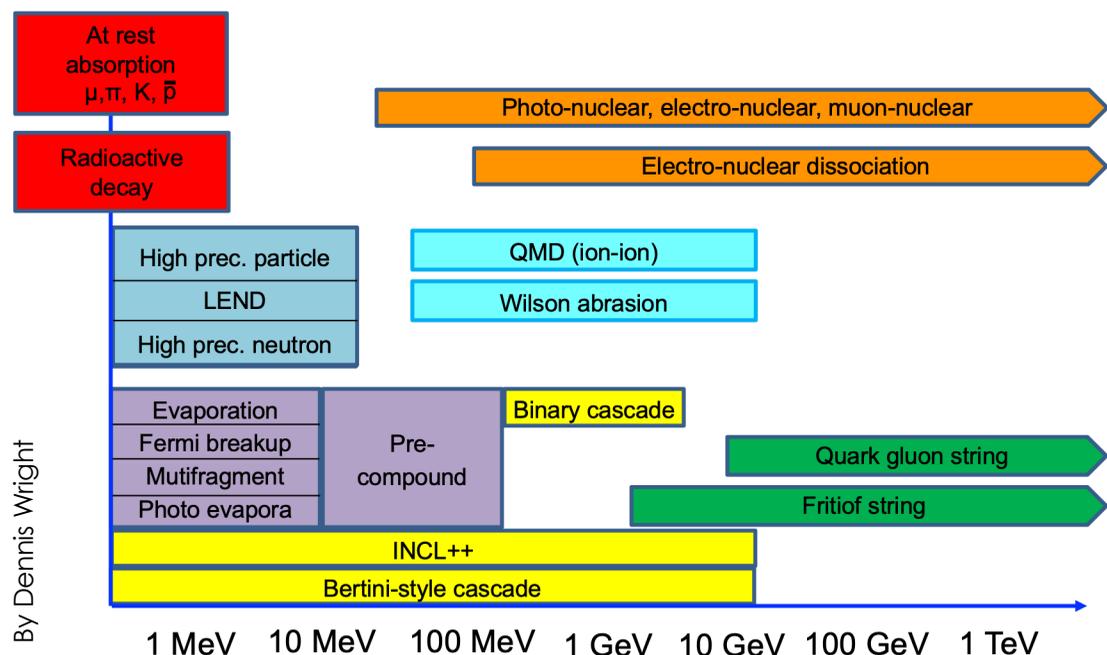
## Other processes: Bremsstrahlung

- Significant only for **light charged particles** (i.e.  $e^-$ ,  $e^+$ ) and for **high Z materials**
- For **water**, it becomes important **above ~10 MeV**
- These simulations exist in the EM packages of Geant4 and are not specific to Geant4-DNA
- There are different options that one can use to include bremsstrahlung interactions
  - Livermore, Penelope, Standard

## Other processes: **atomic de-excitation**

- Follows **vacancies created in atomic shells** to describe secondary effects after ionisation of an atom by the projectile
  - **Fluorescence emission**
  - **Auger cascades**
  - **PIXE (Particle Induced X-ray Emission)**
- Used for applications such as radiobiology, material composition analysis, study of detector performance, optimization, etc.
- These simulations exist in the EM package of Geant4 and are not specific to Geant4-DNA
- Can be activated or deactivated with the use of **UI commands** in macro files

# Other processes: **hadronic** processes



**Recommendation for medical applications: "QGSP\_BIC"**

**(Best accuracy < 200 MeV with QGSP\_BIC\_EMY or QGSP\_BIC\_HP\_EMZ )**

More details:

[https://geant4.web.cern.ch/documentation/dev/plg\\_html/PhysicsListGuide/physicslistguide.html](https://geant4.web.cern.ch/documentation/dev/plg_html/PhysicsListGuide/physicslistguide.html)

## High energy hadron models

**FTF** : Fritiof Parton String  
**QGS** : Quark Gluon String

## Low energy hadron models

**BERT** : Bertini-style cascade  
**BIC** : Binary cascade  
**INCLXX** : Liège intra-nuclear cascade (INCL)

## Option for low energy hadron models

**...P** : Precompound model for nuclear de-excitation  
 (for example, FTFP, QGSP, etc.)

## Neutron model

**HP** : High Precision neutron **E < 20 MeV**

### How to activate?

Add following lines in your application

```
#include "QGSP_BIC.hh"

int main( int argc, char** argv ) {
    ...
    G4RunManager * runManager = new G4RunManager();
    runManager->SetUserInitialization( new QGSP_BIC() );
    ...
}
```

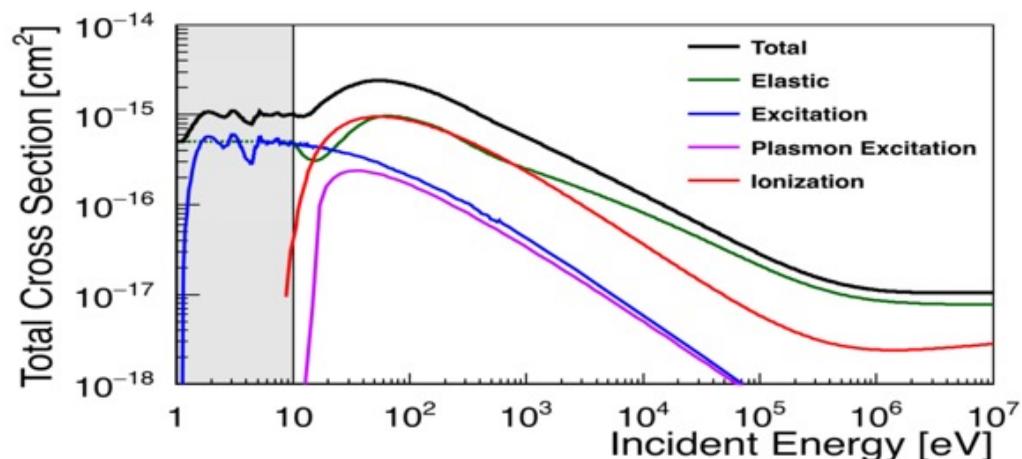
(some particles are not supported in Geant4-DNA)

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# Electron physics models for **GOLD**

- Extension of Geant4-DNA to model **radiosensitization from GNPs**
- Discrete physics models for electrons in the range **(10 eV – 1 GeV)**
- An alternative approach based on the ELF for gold material was developed and will be available in one of the next releases of Geant4



Physics process	Physics model
<b>Elastic</b>	Partial Wave Analysis (ELSEPA)
<b>ionisation</b>	M. Relativistic Binary-Encounter Bethe Vriens
<b>Excitation</b>	Experiment + Dirac B-Spline R Matrix
<b>Plasmon Excitation</b>	Quinn Model
<b>Bremsstrahlung</b>	Seltzer and Berger Model

Ref.: [J. Appl. Phys. 120, 244901 \(2016\)](#)

Ref.: [Phys. Med. 63, 98-104 \(2019\)](#)

See [examples/extended/medical/dna/AuNP](#)

# Cross sections for DNA material

## ■ For DNA bases (A, T, G, C), sugar, phosphate

- Applicable to **electrons** in the **11 eV – 1 MeV range**, derived from the CPA100 MCTS code
- Processes
  - **Elastic** (IAM & ELSEPA, with Gaussian09 for molecular geometries)
  - **Excitation** (same scaling as for ionisation between liquid water and DNA components, as in CPA100)
  - **Ionisation** (Relativistic Binary Encounter Bethe Vriens)
- Fully available in the **option 6** Geant4-DNA physics constructor
  - Can be used **in any example** that uses option 6

Ref.: [Nucl. Instrum. Meth. B 542, 51-60 \(2023\)](#)

Ref.: [Nucl. Instrum. Meth. B 488, 70-82 \(2021\)](#)

## ■ For precursors of DNA material

- Based on gas-phase **measurements from PTB lab.** (Germany)
- For **12 eV – 1 keV electrons** (ionisation, excitation, elastic)
- For **70 keV – 10 MeV protons** (ionisation based on the HKS approach)
- They serve as models for phosphate groups in the DNA backbone, DNA bases and deoxyribose
  - **Tetrahydrofuran** (THF) for deoxyribose
  - **Trimethylphosphate** (TMP) for phosphate
  - **Pyrimidine** (PY) for thymine, cytosine
  - **Purine** (PU) for adenine, guanine
  - (Nitrogen is also available)

Ref.: [Radiat. Phys. Chem. 130, 459-479 \(2017\)](#)

See [examples/extended/medical/dna/icstd](#)

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## Other recent developments in the physics of Geant4-DNA

- Extension of DNA-**Option 4 up to 10 MeV for electrons** (to be released - [link](#))
- Extension of DNA-Option 6 to other biological targets is now available
  - Simulate **more reliably direct and indirect DNA damage**
- Electron cross sections for **N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> molecules** for atmospheric simulations (to be released - [link](#))
- Electron cross sections for **propane (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>)** for gas detectors (in progress)
- Electron cross sections for **gold up to 1 MeV** using the ELF approach (2018 model, to be released - [link](#))
- Electron cross sections for **ice water** using the ELF approach (in progress)
- **Proton** cross sections in liquid water based on the improved DNA-**Option 4** model (in progress)
- **Li and C ions** cross sections in liquid water (in progress)

## The ELSEPA code:

# Elastic Scattering of Electrons and Positrons by Atoms

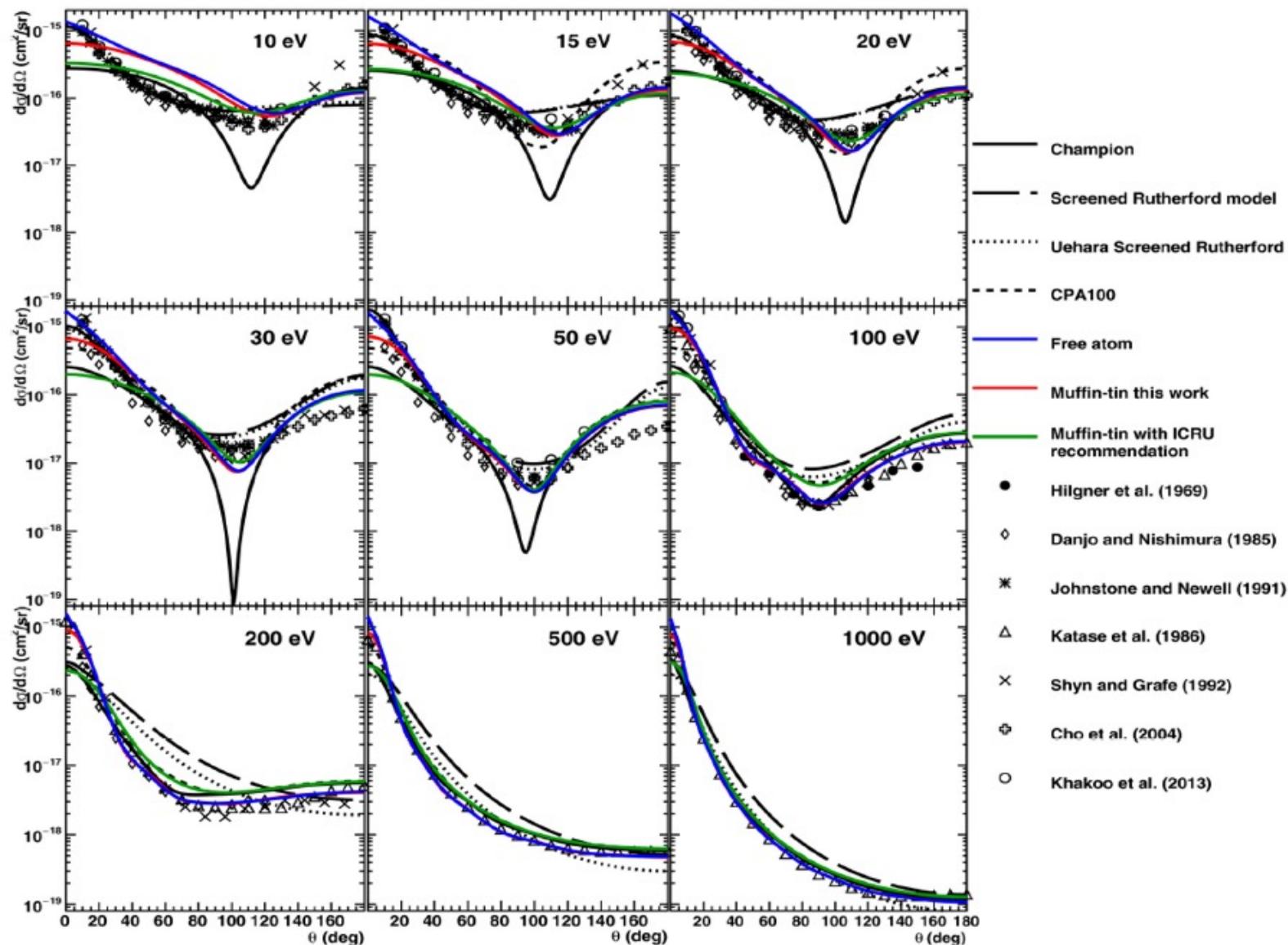
- Developed by Fransesc Salvat and co-workers at U. Barcelona
  - Implemented in the PENELOPE code
  - Used in the NIST elastic scattering cross section database (SRD 64)
  - Used in ICRU Report 77 (2007) recommendations
- Important features
  - Based on Dirac partial wave calculations
  - Includes:
    - Spin effects
    - Relativistic effects
    - Low-energy corrections (exchange & correlation-polarization)
    - Solid-state corrections (Muffin-tin model)

Alternative for elastic

Ref.: [Comput. Phys. Commun. 165, 157 \(2005\)](#)

# Improvement of electron elastic scattering: **ELSEPA**-based

- A new cross section data set has been developed using the ELSEPA approach.
- Parameters have been qualitatively optimized.
- The new model offers **significant improvement at < 1keV energies and at small-medium angles.**
- Available since version 10.6, it is expected to become the new default elastic model.



## Extension of Option4 to relativistic energies

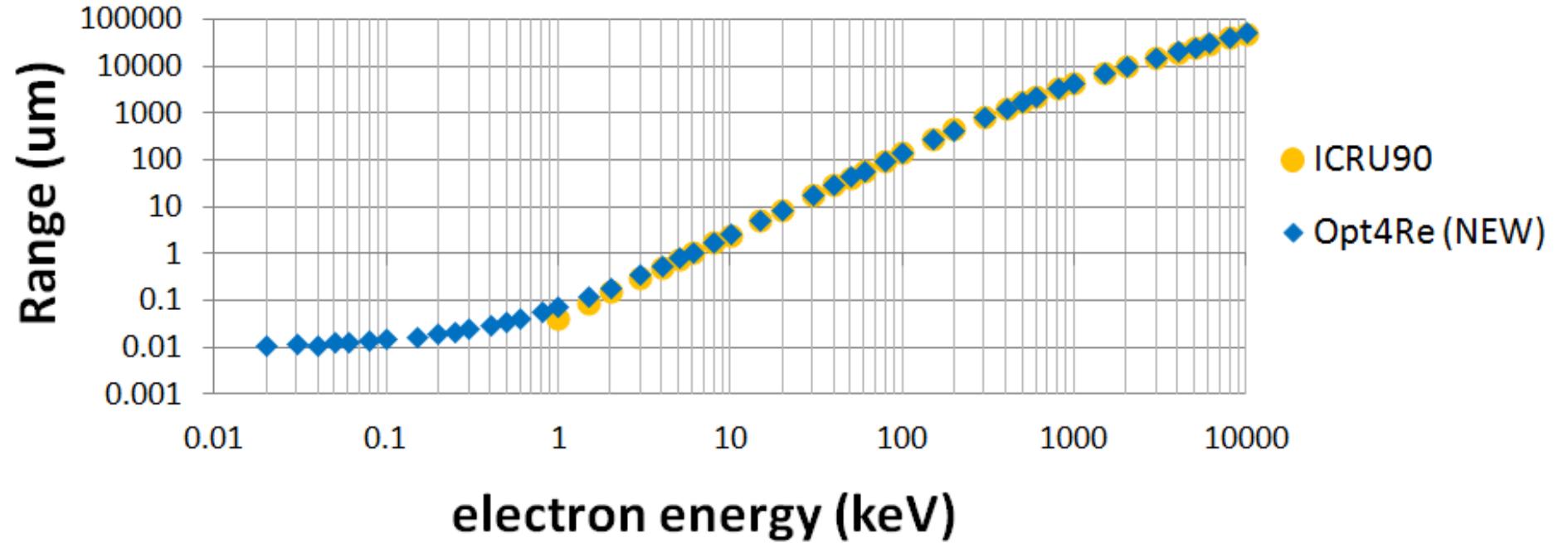
- On-going, will be released soon
- Cover most of Medical Physics applications (including radiotherapy)
- **Replace fully Option 2** to have a model for liquid water **up to 10 MeV**
- Extend the code's TS capabilities
- Make some improvements to the existing DNA\_Option4 model

# Range

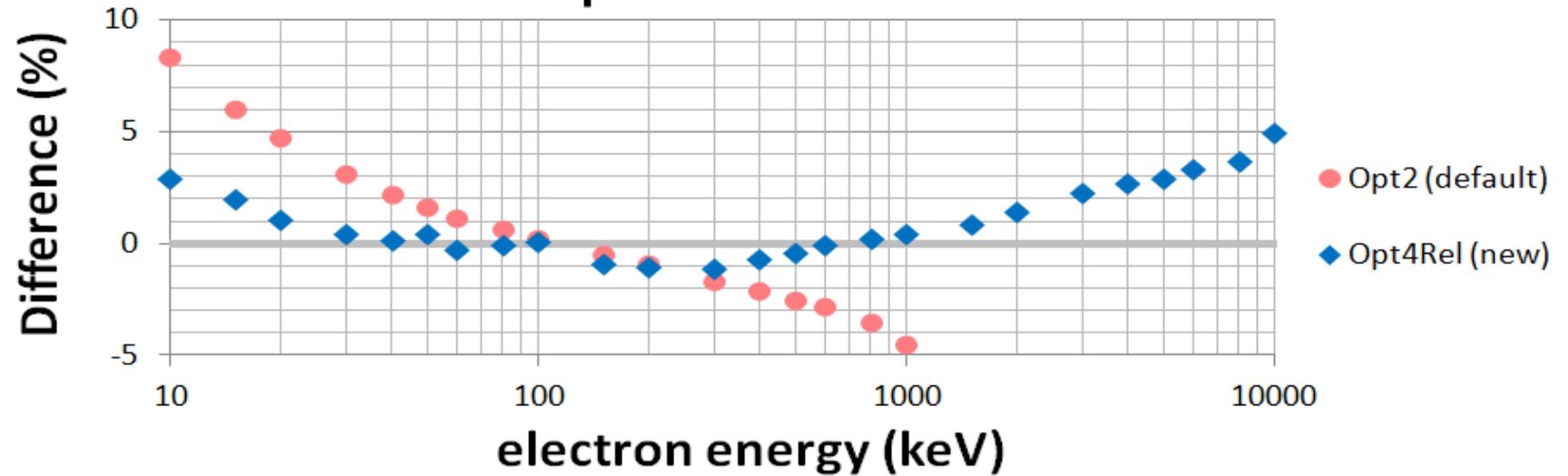
New model within 5% from ICRU

Default model within 8% from ICRU

### electron CSDA range in liquid water



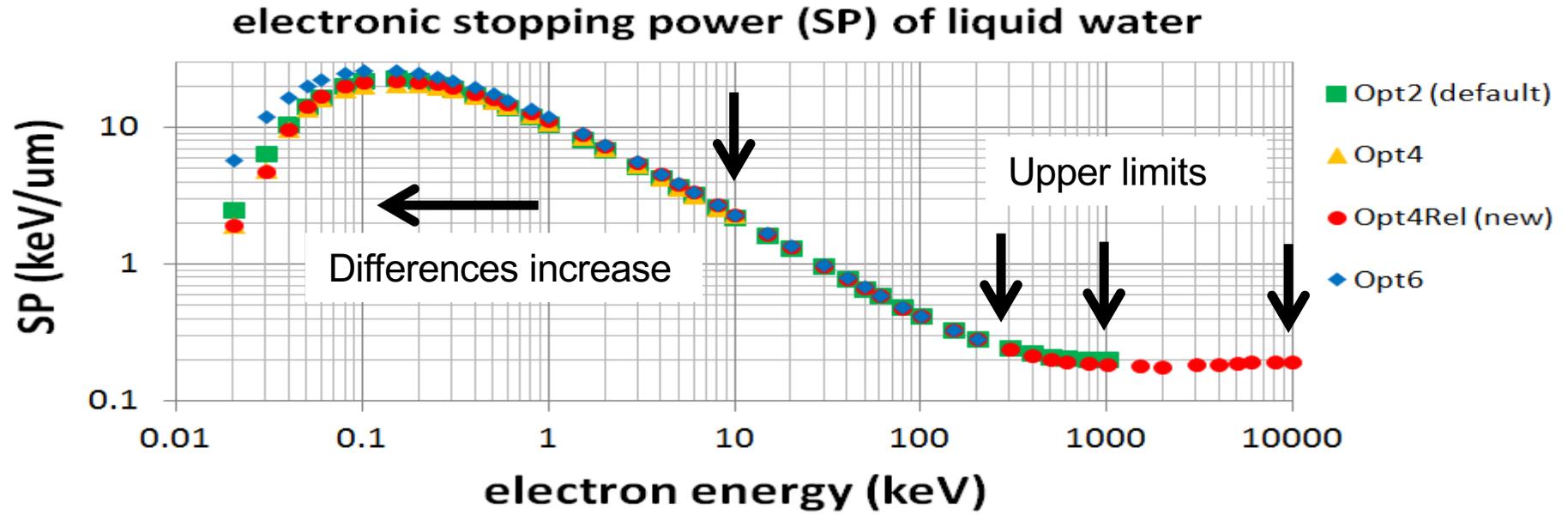
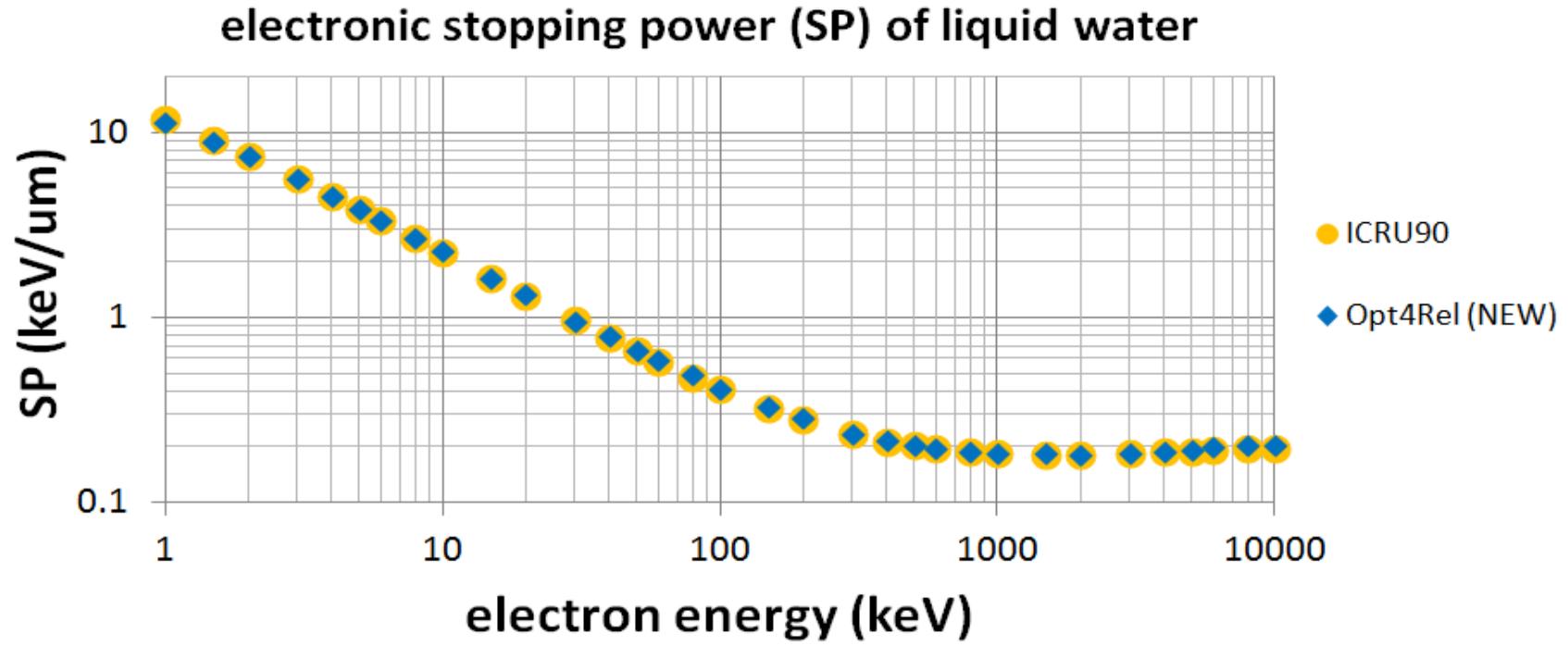
### ICRU Report 90 as reference



# Stopping power

*New model  
within 5% from  
ICRU*

*Default model  
within 10% from  
ICRU*



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# Geant4-DNA Physics **extended examples**

✓ Calculation of several physics related magnitudes...

Located in  
\$G4EXAMPLES/extended/medical/dna

- The « **clustering** » **extended/medical/dna** example illustrates how to **identify ionisation clusters**.
- The « **dnaphysics** » **extended/medical/dna** example shows how to simulate track structures in liquid water using the Geant4-DNA physics processes and models, assembled in **Geant4-DNA physics constructors**. It also explains how to extract physical information at the step and track levels, such as process type, position, energy deposited, scattering angle... and how to use the variable density material feature for liquid water.
- The « **icsd** » **extended/medical/dna** example illustrates how to use cross section models for **DNA-related materials**.
- The « **jetcounter** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate a **gas dosimeter**.

See <http://geant4-dna.org> → Examples

## Geant4-DNA Physics **extended examples** (cont.)

- The « **microdosimetry** » **extended/medical/dna** example shows how to use Geant4 and Geant4-DNA physics models in **different regions** of the geometrical setup, using the `G4EmDNAPhysicsActivator` class.
- The « **microprox** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **microdosimetry proximity functions**.
- The « **microtrack** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **microdosimetry quantities for ions**.
- The « **microyz** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **microdosimetry quantities for electrons**.
- The « **mfp** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to extract **mean free paths**.
- The « **phasespace** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to produce phase space files from Geant4 physics processes and models.

See <http://geant4-dna.org> → Examples

## Geant4-DNA Physics **extended examples** (cont.)

- The « **radial** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **radial doses around ion tracks**.
- The « **range** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **ranges**.
- The « **slowing** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **slowing down spectra**.
- The « **splitting** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to accelerate simulation through **splitting in ionisation**.
- The « **spower** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate **stopping powers**.
- The « **svalue** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate "**S-values**" in spherical targets of liquid water.
- The « **wvalue** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate "**W-values**" in liquid water.
- The « **AuNP** » **extended/medical/dna** example explains how to simulate track structures of electrons in a microscopic **gold volume** immersed in liquid water.

Ref.: [Med. Phys. 45, e722-e739 \(2018\)](#)

Ref.: [Cancers 14, 35 \(2022\)](#)

See <http://geant4-dna.org> → Examples

# Geant4-DNA example: dnaphysics

Number of physical processes

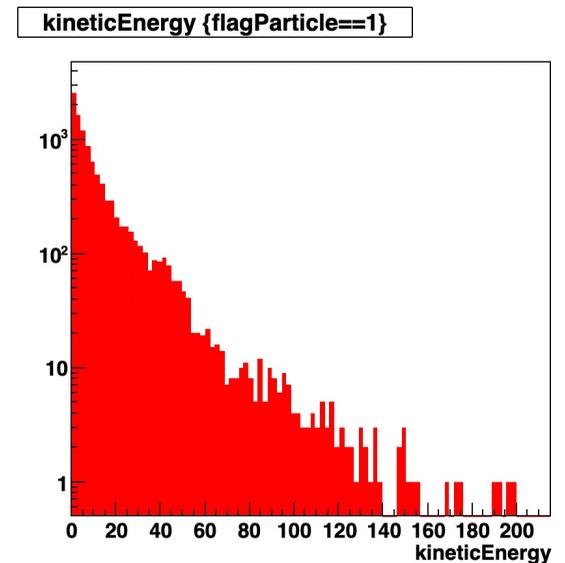
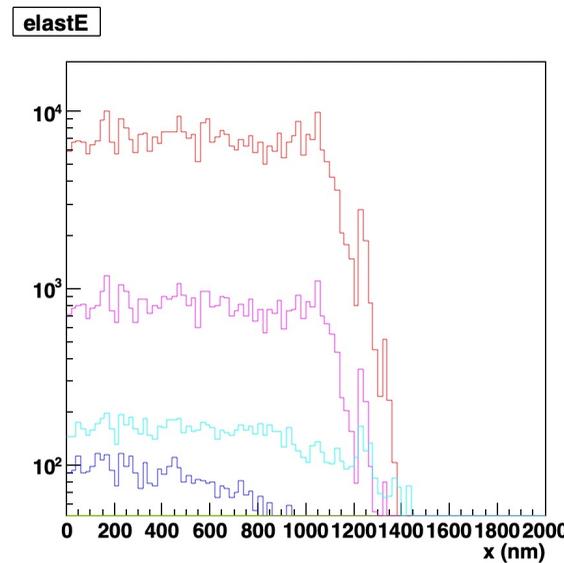
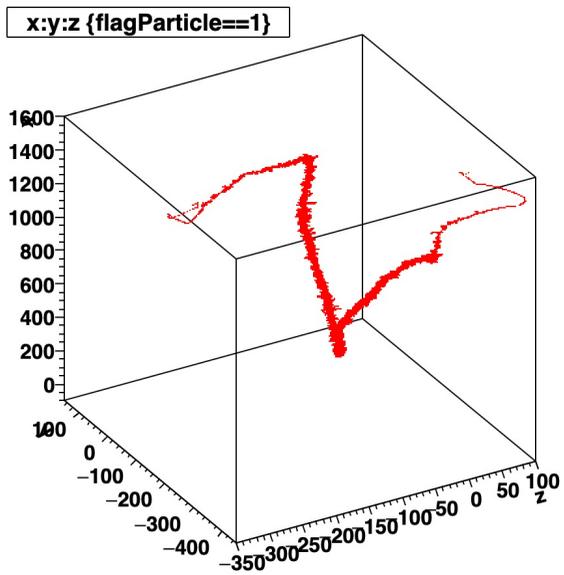
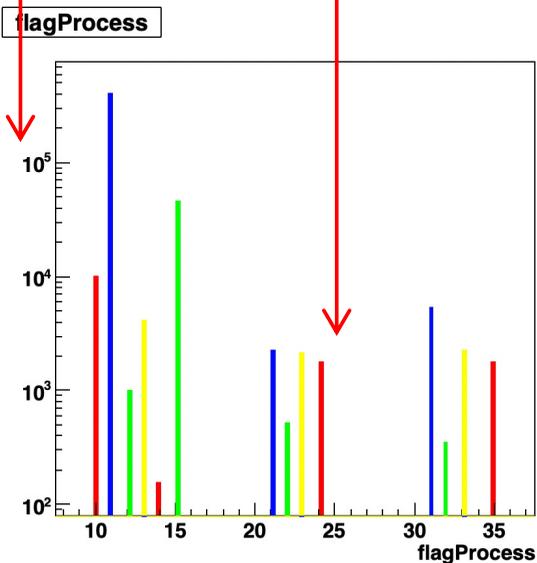
3D visualization of proton tracks

Longitudinal distributions

Secondary e-energy distribution

Type of physical processes (see [README](#))

proton_G4DNAElastic	21
proton_G4DNAExcitation	22
proton_G4DNAIonisation	23
proton_G4DNAChargeDecrease	24



**Thank you for your attention!**



Any questions?

[ikyriak@uoi.gr](mailto:ikyriak@uoi.gr)

**More slides...**

## New features in relativistic DNA\_Option 4

- Implementation of a new Energy-Loss-Function (ELF) using the algorithm developed at the Univ. of Ioannina with **improved features**
  - sum-rules,
  - parametrization of exp. data,
  - high energy asymptotic trend
- More consistent implementation of **low-energy Born corrections**.
- Implementation of the **Fermi density correction** to the DCS (differential cross section).

## Analytic models

- **Several analytic models** for the ionisation cross section are available:
  - Moller
  - Weizsacker-Williams (WW)
  - Gryzinski
  - Vriens (BEA)
  - Seltzer (WW+BEA)
  - Miller-Wilson-Manson (MWM)
  - Kim-Rudd (BED, BEB)

## The general idea

They try to predict the correct “mixing” of soft and hard collisions in the DCS

Moller, Gryzinski, Vriens (BEA) ignore the soft term: apply only to hard collisions

Seltzer, MWM, BED, BEB consider both the soft & hard terms

$$\frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} = f_{\text{soft}} \left. \frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} \right|_{\text{soft}} + f_{\text{hard}} \left. \frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} \right|_{\text{hard}}$$

They differ on how they determine these weighting functions

$$\frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} = f_{\text{soft}} \left. \frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} \right|_{\text{soft}} + f_{\text{hard}} \left. \frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} \right|_{\text{hard}}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} = f_{\text{soft}} \left. \frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} \right|_{\text{soft}} + f_{\text{hard}} \left. \frac{d\sigma_i}{dE} \right|_{\text{hard}}$$

Use approx. GOS( $q=0$ )  
for soft term

Use BEA for hard term

# Most used analytic models

## ■ Seltzer's model

- Soft term based on photoelectric cross section (through the WW)
- Hard term based on BEA-with-exchange (BEAX) model
- $f_{\text{soft}} = f_{\text{hard}} = 1$
- Used in KURBUC (vapor version), RETRACKS, Livermore (EEDL)

## ■ Kim-Rudd models (BED, BEB)

- Soft term based on the OOS (BED) or simple analytic approx (BEB)
- Hard term based on the BEA-with-exchange (BEAX) model
- $f_{\text{soft}}$  and  $f_{\text{hard}}$  are adjusted to give the Bethe approximation
- BEB is used in CPA100

# Summary of analytic models

## ■ Main advantages:

- Simple to use with only few material parameters
- Provide analytic expressions for the cross section
- Cross sections specific to the different ionisation shells are available
- Reliable over a wide energy range (Born approximation)

## ■ Main disadvantages:

- Self-consistency tests are NOT available
- Apply ONLY to ionisations (excitations are NOT included)
- For condensed media they are **NOT reliable below ~1 keV**