

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Joint Research Centre


**JUAS**  
Joint Universities Accelerator School

**LOW-ENERGY ELECTRON ACCELERATORS**  
Applications in Medicine and Industry

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Joint Research Centre

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**APPLICATION**

High-energy physics research	120
Synchrotron radiation sources	50
Ion beam analysis	200
Photon or electron therapy	9100
Hadron therapy	30
Radioisotope production	550
Ion implantation	9500
Neutrons for industry or security	1000
Radiation processing	2000
Electron cutting and welding	4500
Non-destructive testing	650
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27700</b>

Accelerators in the world year 2007\* (approximate numbers)

\* R. Hamm at 9th ICFA Seminar October 30, 2008

**~ 60% low-energy electron accelerators**

**Low-energy electron machines**

X-rays      electrons


1. Basic principles of X-ray production  
→ bremsstrahlung  
→ synchrotron radiation

2. Physical, chemical and biological aspects of the application of electrons and bremsstrahlung photons

3. Electron accelerators in medicine

4. Electron accelerators in industry

5. Electron storage rings for medicine and industry



**Radiation of electrons in a transverse field**

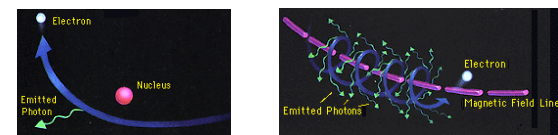
Coulomb field of atomic nuclei      Magnetic field

Electron      Nucleus      Emitted Photon

Electron      Emitted Photons      Magnetic Field Line

**BREMSSTRAHLUNG**  
braking radiation

**SYNCHROTRON RADIATION**

$$P = \frac{q^2 \gamma^2}{6\pi\epsilon_0 m_0^2 c^3} \left( \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} \right)^2$$


**Low-energy electron accelerators in medicine**

1895 Röntgen discovery of X-rays

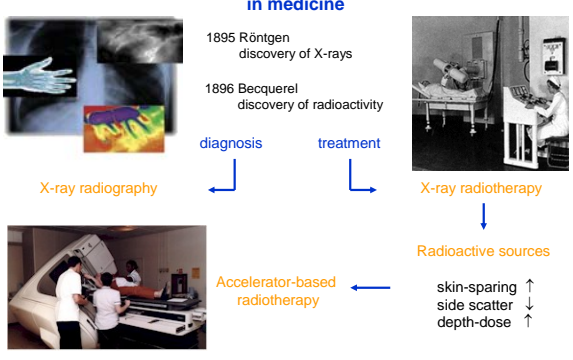
1896 Becquerel discovery of radioactivity

diagnosis      treatment

X-ray radiography      X-ray radiotherapy

Accelerator-based radiotherapy      Radioactive sources

skin-sparing ↑  
side scatter ↓  
depth-dose ↑



**Accelerator-based radiotherapy**

1937 first hospital-based VAN DE GRAAFF


1946 first hospital-based BETATRON + WILSON: use of protons and ions

1952 first hospital-based RF LINAC


1990 first hospital-based PROTON SYNCHROTRON

**Now** electrons and photons: routine therapy  
↓  
conformal therapy

protons and ions: unconventional



### Low-energy electron accelerators in industry



1905 APPLEBY and MILLER, patent: 'use of X-rays to bring about an improvement in the conditions of foodstuffs'

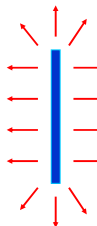
1956 JOHNSON and JOHNSON sterilisation of medical devices

**INDUSTRY**      radiation processing

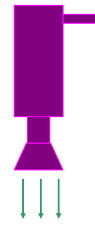
<p>in a car: in an airplane: at the doctor: in the supermarket: in the clothing shop: at home: in the human body:</p>	<p>dashboard, tyres, cables, painting ... constructional components ... syringes, pharmaceuticals, sterile dressings ... strawberries, red meat, shrink packaging materials ... permanently-creased trousers or T-shirts, raincoats ... electrical cables, parquet ... prostheses, catheters, advanced drug-delivery systems ...</p>
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**γ - rays**



**electrons**    **X - rays**



<sup>60</sup> Co	5.2 years	1.173 MeV, 1.333 MeV	14.8 kW / MCi
<sup>137</sup> Cs	30.2 years	0.622 MeV	3.3 kW / MCi

**5 MeV photons**  
**10 MeV electrons**

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### Bremsstrahlung production

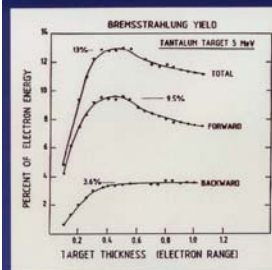
**COLLISION STOPPING POWER → HEAT !!!**

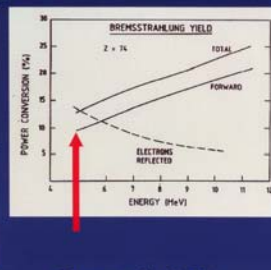
$$-\left(\frac{dT}{dx}\right)_c = 2\pi \frac{e^4 N Z^2}{m \beta^2 c^2} \left[ \ln \frac{m \beta^2 c^2 T}{2 F (1-\beta^2)} + (1-\beta^2) - \ln(2\sqrt{1-\beta^2} - 1 + \beta^2) + \frac{1-\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}{8} \right]$$

**BREMSSTRAHLUNG STOPPING POWER**

$$-\left(\frac{dT}{dx}\right)_r = \frac{N T Z(Z+1) e^4}{137 m_e c^2} \left[ 4 \ln \left( \frac{2T}{m_e c^2} \right) - \frac{4}{3} \right]$$

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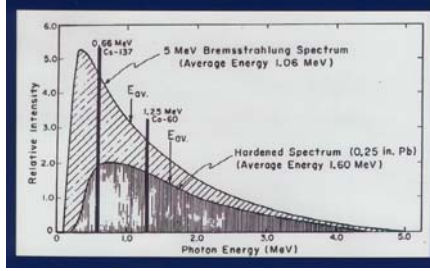




Bremsstr. eff. 9.5%

**1 MCi of <sup>60</sup>Co ↔ 5 MeV / 155 kW**

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**BREMSSTRAHLUNG SOURCE:**

- forward-peaked
- on / off
- Cobalt 12.4% / year ↓
- no nuclear waste
- X-ray and electron mode

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**Bremsstrahlung photons**

**Electrons**

Photoelectric effect    Compton scattering    Pair production    Bremsstrahlung production    Collision

**Low-energy electrons**

ionisation

chemical reactivity

Ions

free electrons

recombination

Excited molecules

recombination

**FREE RADICALS**

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**FREE RADICALS**

↓

- damage DNA *radiotherapy*
- chain reaction  $R^\bullet + AB \rightarrow R-AB^\bullet$   
 $R-AB^\bullet + AB \rightarrow R-AB-AB^\bullet$  *food irradiation*  
*sterilisation*  
*polymer chemistry*
- special chemical reactions *radiation synthesis*
- graft a second polymer *curing*  
*biomaterials*

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Physical, chemical and biological effects  
~ deposited energy

↓

**DOSE = deposited energy per unit mass**

**1 Gray = 1 J / kg**

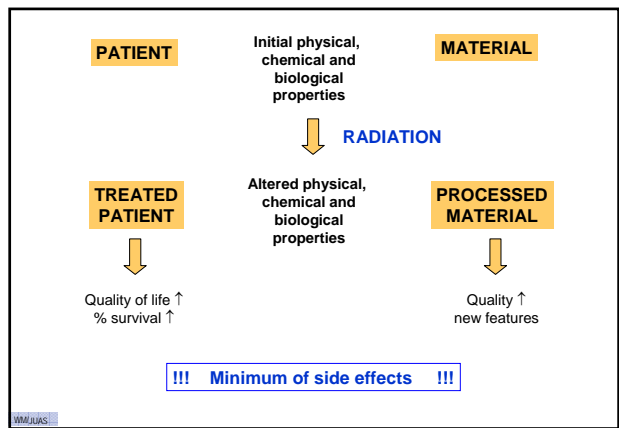
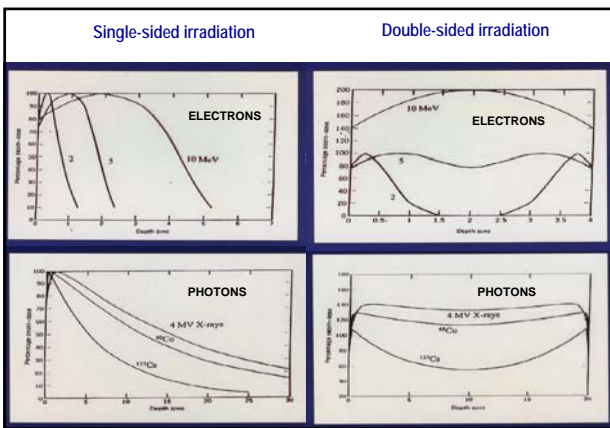
1 Gy = 100 rad

4.2 kGy in water → 1° C

⇒ high yields of reactive species at low temperatures

**ELECTRONS or PHOTONS**  
similar end products  
different spatial distributions

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Low-energy electron accelerators in medicine

Why X-rays or electrons ?

230 MeV protons  
only gantry is shown

8 MeV photons  
accelerator and gantry are shown

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Photons and electrons in radiotherapy

**Radiation damage to DNA:**

- direct
- indirect by free radicals and reactive species

Base pairs  
↓  
T - A  
G - C  
C - G

hydrogen bonds

sugar phosphate chain

double chain break

base damage

single chain break

**Repair mechanisms**

60 Gy survival probability 10<sup>-2</sup>

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### Dose fractionation

- dose-dependent survival fraction
- oxygenation
- radiosensitivity during cell cycle

The top graph shows survival fraction (ln S/S<sub>0</sub>) on a log scale versus dose fractions (1-5). Three curves are shown: FAST REPAIR (steepest), SLOW REPAIR (intermediate), and NO FRACTIONATION (shallowest). The bottom graph shows a cell cycle diagram with phases G<sub>1</sub>, S, G<sub>2</sub>, and M, and a corresponding survival fraction curve showing peaks during G<sub>1</sub> and troughs during S phase.

### Radiotherapy

30 fractions of 2 Gy  
4 Gy / min  
40 x 40 cm<sup>2</sup>

Accuracy of dose delivery ± 3.5 %

### Treatment dose PLANNING DELIVERY

The top graph shows two curves: 'probability to kill tumour' (solid line) and 'probability to kill healthy cells' (dashed line) versus 'Dose to tumour'. The bottom diagram shows a patient lying on a table with a collimator mask and source trajectory relative to the patient.

### Conformal therapy : IMRT

The top part shows two cross-sectional diagrams of a head and neck. The left one shows a conventional radiotherapy field (PTV) with a large Organ at Risk (OAR). The right one shows IMRT with a more conformal PTV and smaller OAR. The bottom part shows a comparison of conventional and IMRT beam arrangements, highlighting the 'treated volume', 'tumor (GTV)', 'target vol. (PTV)', and 'organ at risk'.

### IMRT

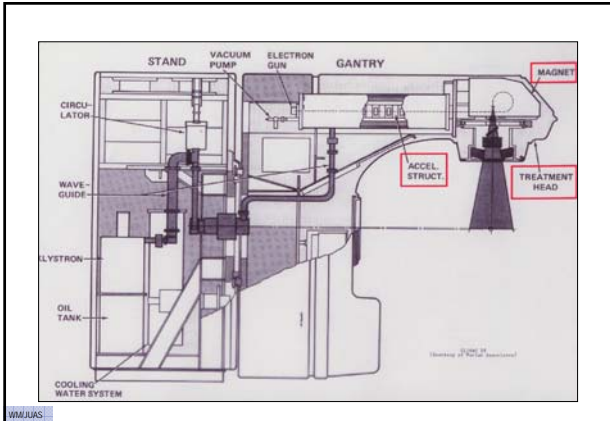
The top left shows 'Multileaf collimation' with a yellow beam profile. The top right shows 'Scanned elementary beams' with a diagram of a scanning system. The bottom part shows two techniques for intensity modulation: (a) static technique using a multi-leaf collimator and (b) dynamic technique.

### Radiation field requirements

<p><b>BEAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>well defined</li> <li>variable in size</li> <li>moveable in three dimensions</li> <li>variable energy</li> <li>variable intensity</li> <li>X-ray ⇌ electron mode</li> <li>pure and well-confined</li> </ul> <p><b>TREATMENT UNIT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reliable and reproducible</li> <li>easy maneuverable</li> <li>simple and fail-safe</li> <li>very compact</li> </ul>	<p><b>DOSE RATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>high</li> <li>irradiation time ~ 1/2 minute</li> <li>accurately monitored</li> <li>fail-safe feedback to accelerator</li> </ul> <p><b>DOSE DISTRIBUTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uniform or</li> <li>non-uniform in predefined way</li> <li>controllable</li> <li>stable</li> </ul>
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### Machine requirements

energy range	4 - 25 MeV
intensity range	0.5 - 50 μA
dose rates	1 - 4 Gy / min
number of electron energies	5
number of X-ray energies	2
homogeneity of X-ray fields	5 % over 40 x 40 cm <sup>2</sup>
homogeneity of electron fields	5 % over 25 x 25 cm <sup>2</sup>
leakage doses	below 10 <sup>-3</sup> at 1 m
gantry rotation	360°
isocentre definition	1 mm
degrees of freedom	15 (rotation and translation)
good definition at target	energy, position, direction
volume	5 x 3 x 3 m <sup>3</sup>



### Accelerating structures

Energy: 4 - 25 MeV  
 Length: ~ 1 m  
 HF power: 2 - 5 MW<sub>p</sub> magnetron  
 5 - 10 MW<sub>p</sub> klystron

↓

**Disc-loaded waveguides**

Shunt impedance ↑↑  $R_0 = -\frac{E_0^2}{dP/dz}$

- travelling wave structure → biperiodic structure
- standing wave structure → side-coupled structure

### Energy variation

- Variation of input power  $P_0$  or accelerated current  $I$

$$V = \sqrt{(1 - e^{-2t})P_0 R_0 L - \frac{R_0 L I}{2} \left[ 1 - 2\tau \frac{e^{-2t}}{1 - e^{-2t}} \right]}$$
 BEAM LOADING
 

- Variation of RF frequency

- Buncher + accelerator section

### Bending magnet systems

$$x_1 = m_{11}x_0 + m_{12}x'_0 + m_{13}\frac{\Delta p}{p}$$

$$x'_1 = m_{21}x_0 + m_{22}x'_0 + m_{23}\frac{\Delta p}{p}$$

Energy spread  
 medical ~ 10 %  
 research < 1 %

### Treatment head

Multileaf collimator

### New trends

- intensity-modulated radiotherapy
- tomotherapy
- image-guided radiotherapy
- stereotactic radiosurgery
- intra-operative radiotherapy

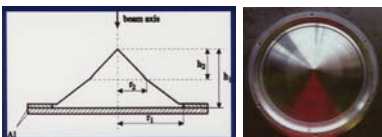

↓

**Extracorporeal bone tumours therapy**

**Ghent University**

**Extracorporeal bone tumours irradiation**

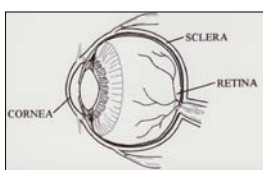
**Homogeneity < 2 %**

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**Radiation treatment of human grafts and artificial implants**

- sclerae of the human eye**  
prosthesis → inflammation rejection  
⇒ 'packed' in human sclerae  
- less reactions  
- synchronous movement
- lyophilisation → sterilisation 25 kGy → tissue bank
- bone fragments:** maxillo-facial reconstruction
- human implants:** cardiological stents, polymeric implants, hydrogels
- blood products:** lymphocytes 40 Gy (graft-versus-host disease)



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**Low-energy electron accelerators in medicine**

**BEAM POWER = ENERGY x INTENSITY**

DOSE RATE  
↓  
INTENSITY

**ACCELERATORS**  
3 energy ranges


Energy  
< 10 MeV electrons  
< 5 MeV photons  
~ penetration depth

150 KW  
5 MeV / 30 mA  
0.5 MeV / 300 mA

0.1 – 0.5 MeV  
0.5 – 5 MeV  
5 – 10 MeV

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**Energy range 0.1 - 0.5 MeV**



**Single-stage machines**

- self-shielding
- low penetration capability
- integrated in production line
- beam widths ~ 2.5 m

**APPLICATIONS:**  
surface treatment  
irradiation of coatings, adhesives, inks  
e.g. thin film packaging  
printing industry



**BROAD BEAM**

**SCANNING TYPE**

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**Energy range 0.5 - 5 MeV**

**Multi-stage machines**

- high penetration capability
- up to 300 kW
- beam widths ~ 2 m

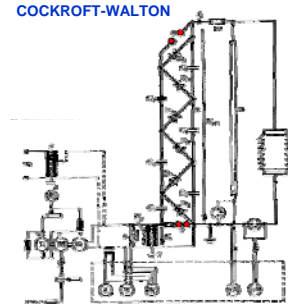
**COCKROFT-WALTON**  
**INSULATED-CORE TRANSFORMER**  
**DYNAMITRON**

**APPLICATIONS:** processing of thick sheets  
wires and cables  
tubes and pipes  
fiber composites  
tire components  
heat-shrinkable products  
foamed polyethylene

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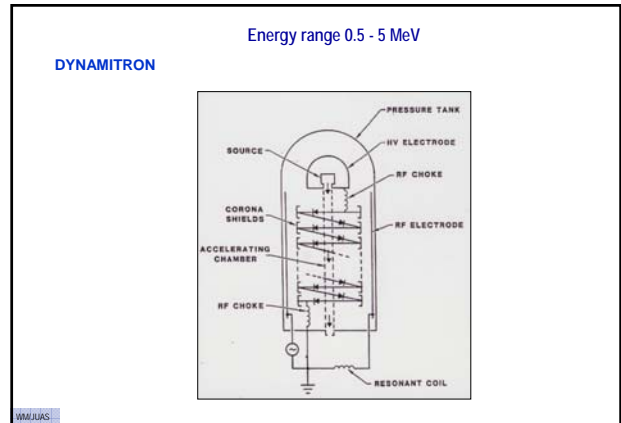
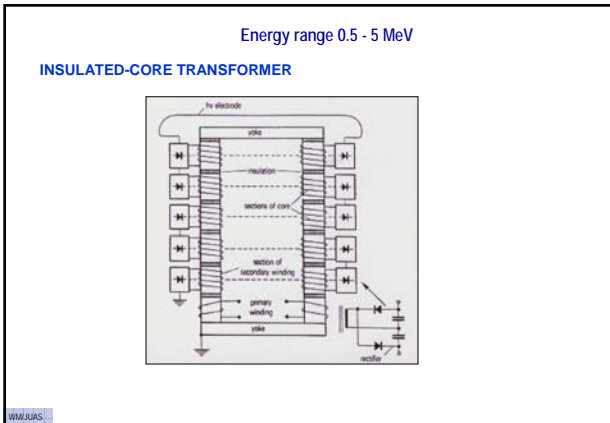
**Energy range 0.5 - 5 MeV**

**COCKROFT-WALTON**



**Greinacher cascade generator**

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Energy range 5 - 10 MeV

**RF linear accelerator** → 50 kW

**RHODOTRON** → 200 kW up to 1 MW

**APPLICATIONS:**

- < 5 MeV applications
- medical sterilisation
- food processing
- polymer crosslinking, grafting, degradation

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Energy range 5 - 10 MeV

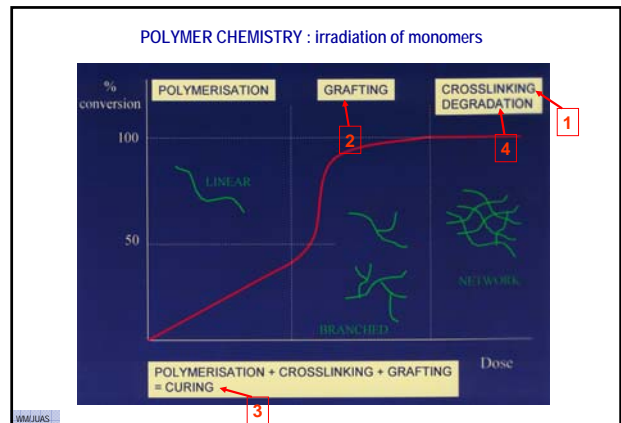
**RHODOTRON**

$$E = \frac{E_0}{r} \cos 2\pi \frac{z}{\lambda} \sin(\omega t + \phi)$$

$$B = \frac{B_0}{r} \sin 2\pi \frac{z}{\lambda} \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

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- INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS  
of ELECTRONS and BREMSSTRAHLUNG**
1. POLYMER CHEMISTRY
    - crosslinking
    - grafting
    - curing
    - degradation
  2. STERILISATION
  3. FOOD TREATMENT
  4. RADIOGRAPHY
  5. WELDING AND CUTTING
- WM/JUAS

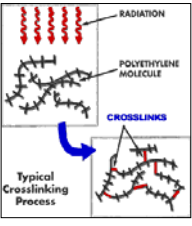


### CROSSLINKING

Linear molecule → 3D structure  
e.g. polyethylene

↓

≠ physical properties



**Typical Crosslinking Process**

- cable insulation
- tubes, pipes and mouldings
- heat-shrinkable films
- vulcanisation of rubber and tires
- synthesis of biomaterials

- heat resistance ↑↑
- insulation properties ↑
- mechanical strength ↑
- breakdown voltage ↑
- chemical resistance ↑
- creep ↑
- 'memory effect'

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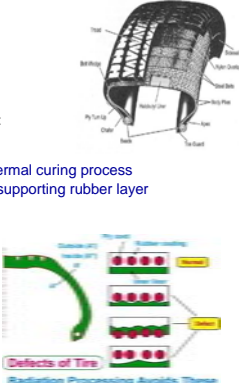
### EXAMPLE : Pre-vulcanisation of tires

partial crosslinking before the tire is assembled:

- stabilizes thickness of sections during final thermal curing process
- prevents steel belt from migrating through its supporting rubber layer

↓

- improves manufacturability
- better dimensional stability
- higher quality tire
- more uniform thickness
- better balance
- thinner thus generating less frictional



**Defects of Tire**  
Radiation Processing Avoids These

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### EXAMPLE : Synthesis of biomaterials

HYDROGELS = crosslinked macromolecular networks swollen in water

- rubbery structure
- substantial water content
- ~ soft living tissue → **BIOCOMPATIBLE**
- porous network → **BIOFUNCTIONAL**

phase change  
temperature  
pressure  
pH  
sound  
e.m. wave  
electric field  
magnetic field

→ HYDROGEL → DRUG

- biodegradable polymers
- hydrogels for burn wounds
- porous polymeric hydrogels for advanced drug delivery systems

↓

constant release  
signal responsive

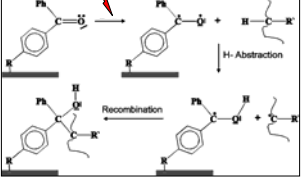
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### GRAFTING

Polymer backbone + monomer

↓

≠ surface properties



- biocompatibility
- adhesion
- permeability
- wettability
- chemical resistance
- chemical compatibility
- printability
- hydrophilic / phobic quantities
- functionalisation
- mechanical properties

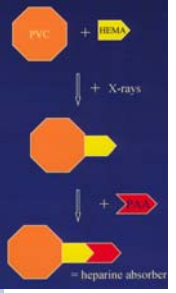
- finishing of textiles
- adhesion of polyethylene on aluminium
- weak hydrogels on polymeric support
- bifunctional groups on inactive supports

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### EXAMPLE : Immobilisation of bioactive agents

Grafting of biofunctional groups on polymer supports

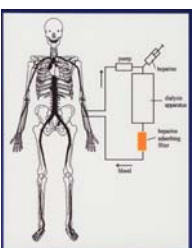
- **HEPARINE FILTER**



• **FIXATION of HD CELL CULTURES**  
→ natural skin  
→ pancreas cells

Hemodialysis of uremic patients  
blood + artificial surfaces → coagulation

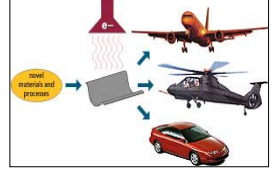
heparin adsorbing filters



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### CURING

Polymerisation + crosslinking + grafting



e.g. carbon fiber reinforced epoxies

- automobiles
- aircraft
- ships
- space vehicles
- building materials
- sporting goods
- printed circuit boards

on **SURFACES** (mainly with electrons)

- antistatic films
- laminates (credits cards, telephone cards)
- offset printing
- door finishing
- parquet coating
- protective films....

in **BULK MATERIAL** (mainly bremsstrahlung)

- wood-polymer composites
- concrete-polymer composites
- advanced composites

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### EXAMPLE : On-aircraft repair

Composite materials (carbon-reinforced epoxies):

- strength-to-weight ratio ↑
- stiffness-to-weight ratio ↑
- corrosion resistance
- impact damage tolerance
- wear properties

20 - 25 % of aircraft structural weight

AIR CANADA Airbus A320 on aircraft repair with mobile accelerator

### DEGRADATION

cellulose in viscose industry

- powdered Teflon molecular weight ↓  
lubricants, high quality inks
- degradation of pollutants  
water, industrial or hospital waste  
sewage sludge, flue gases

### STERILISATION

Radiation killing of pathogenic microorganisms

- energy-efficient (↔ heat)
- low temperature (↔ heat)
- no toxic residues (↔ EtO)
- total sterilisation (↔ EtO)
- no ozone depletion (↔ Met.B.)

### FOOD TREATMENT

**Low Dose Applications (< 1 kGy)**

- Phytosanitary Insect disinfection (grains, papayas, mangoes, avocados...)
- Sprouting Inhibition (potatoes, onions, garlic...)
- Delaying of maturation, parasite disinfection

**Medium Dose Applications (1 to 10 kGy)**

- Control of foodborne pathogens (beef, eggs, crab meat, oysters...)
- Shelf-life extension (chicken, pork, low fat fish, strawberries, mushrooms...)
- Spice irradiation

**High Dose Applications (> 10 kGy)**

- Food sterilisation (meat, poultry, seafood...)

### RADIOGRAPHY

- dynamically inspecting jet engines
- X-ray screening of cargo containers
- inspecting concrete structure integrity
- inspecting castings
- reverse engineering CT studies
- nuclear waste inspection
- border control

### WELDING AND CUTTING

Not formation of reactive species is important, but well-defined electron beam heat deposition

**SYNCHROTRON RADIATION**  
in MEDICINE and INDUSTRY

- continuous X-ray spectrum of high intensity
- strong concentration in the horizontal plane
- small source size and low divergence

↓

**INDUSTRIAL**

- X-ray lithography for microelectronics
- deep X-ray lithography for micromachining

**MEDICAL**

- digital subtraction angiography

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**X-ray lithography for microelectronics**

the **SMALLER** the wavelength the better the resolution

↳ X-ray lithography

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**Deep X-ray lithography for micromachining**

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**Digital subtraction angiography**

Monochromatic X-rays

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**Basic design considerations**

<b>Critical wavelength:</b>	1 nm	X-ray lithography
	0.2 nm	deep X-ray lithography
	0.0037 nm	digital subtraction angiography

**Photon flux:** 2.10<sup>11</sup> - 2.10<sup>12</sup> ph/sec-mm<sup>2</sup>

Required radiation at the lowest price

↓

**COMPACT SR FACILITIES**

↔

2<sup>nd</sup> generation

Research SR facilities

↙

**DESIGN CRITERIA**

- 0.7 – 3 GeV range
- high photon flux
- small size
- low investment and operating cost
- not too complex
- easy to operate
- applications define ring parameters

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**1. MAGNETS**

**COMPACTNESS**

**Normal-conducting**

- simplify existing storage ring design
- remove some quadrupoles
- dimensions ↓

**superconducting magnets ?**

- unusual storage ring design
- new optical schemes
- dimensions ↓↓

$$\lambda_c = \frac{20.7}{\rho^2 (m) B^3 (T)}$$

Normal conducting	1,5 T	
Superconducting	4,5 T	$\rho/5$

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### 2. LATTICES

#### IRON MAGNET LATTICES

#### SUPERCONDUCTING LATTICES

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### 3. INJECTION at LOW ENERGY

Accumulation of high currents in SR facilities:

- injection of bunch
- phase space shrinks during damping time
- following bunch injected

**Low energy:** preaccelerator space and cost ↓↓

↓

- weak radiation damping efficiency      damping time  $\sim 1/E^3 \approx$  lifetime
- scattering with gas atoms                      lifetime ↓↓
- Touscheck scattering: mutual interaction of electrons in bunch  
lifetime ↓

**LINACS  
MICROTRONS**

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### ANKA

- Energy                      2.5 GeV
- Stored current            400 mA
- Bending radius          5.56 m
- Magnets                    8 normal conducting 22.5°    4 cells of 2 x DBA
- Critical wavelength      0.2 m
- Magnetic field            1.5 T
- Nb of beamports        11
- Diameter ring             $\varnothing$  35 m
- Injector                    500 MeV booster synchrotron    53 MeV microtron

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### HELIOS

HELIOS 1      IBM East Fishkill  
HELIOS 2      Singapore

- Energy                      700 MeV
- Stored current            620 mA
- Bending radius          0.52 m
- Magnets                    2 superconducting 180°
- Critical wavelength      0.84 m
- Magnetic field            4.5 T
- Nb of beamports        20
- Dimensions              6 m x 2m
- Injector                    200 MeV linac (HELIOS 1)  
100 MeV microtron (HELIOS 2)

WM/JUAS