

# Induction, Repair and Biological Consequences of Clustered DNA Lesions

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51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

## **Health Physics Society**

June 25-29, 2006

Providence, Rhode Island

Continuing Education Lecture (CEL-8)

Thursday, June 29

7:00-8:00 a.m., Ballroom B

# DNA damage induction and repair

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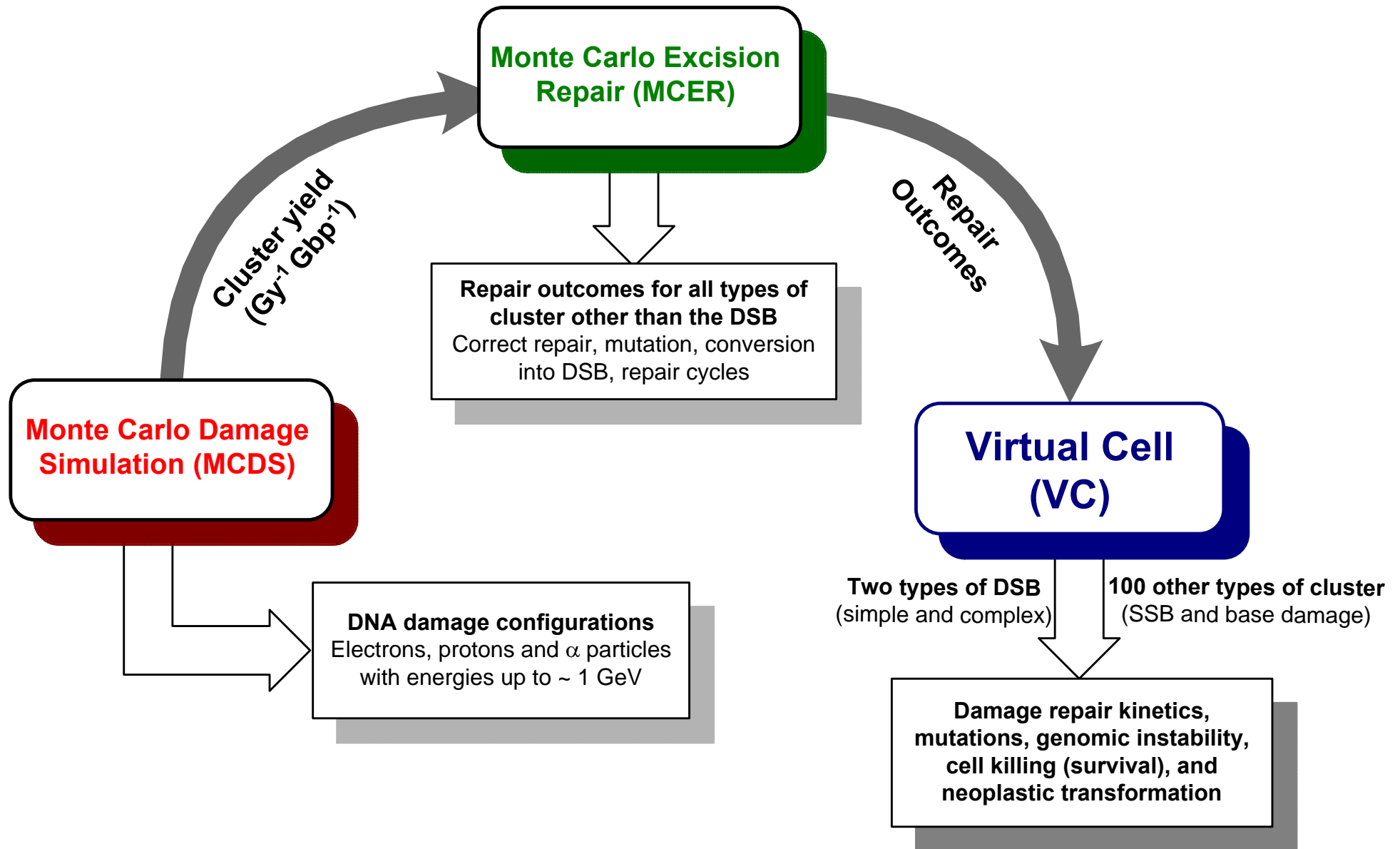
## ■ Monte Carlo Damage Simulation (MCDS)

- V.A. Semenenko and **R.D. Stewart**. A fast Monte Carlo algorithm to simulate the spectrum of DNA damages formed by ionizing radiation. *Radiat Res.* **161**(4), 451-457 (2004).
- V.A. Semenenko and **R.D. Stewart**. Fast Monte Carlo simulation of DNA damage formed by electrons and light ions. *Phys. Med. Biol.* **51**(7), 1693-1706 (2006).

## ■ Monte Carlo Excision Repair (MCER)

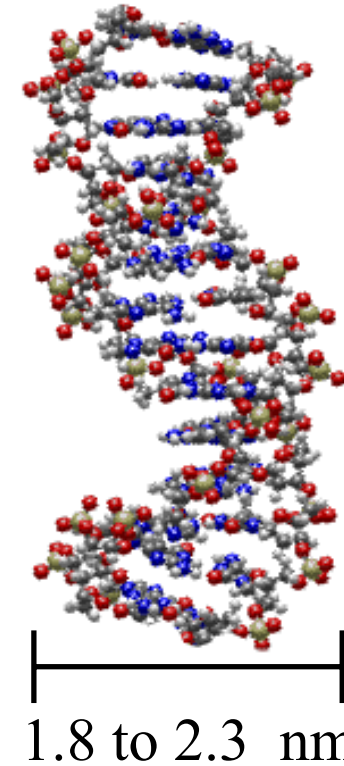
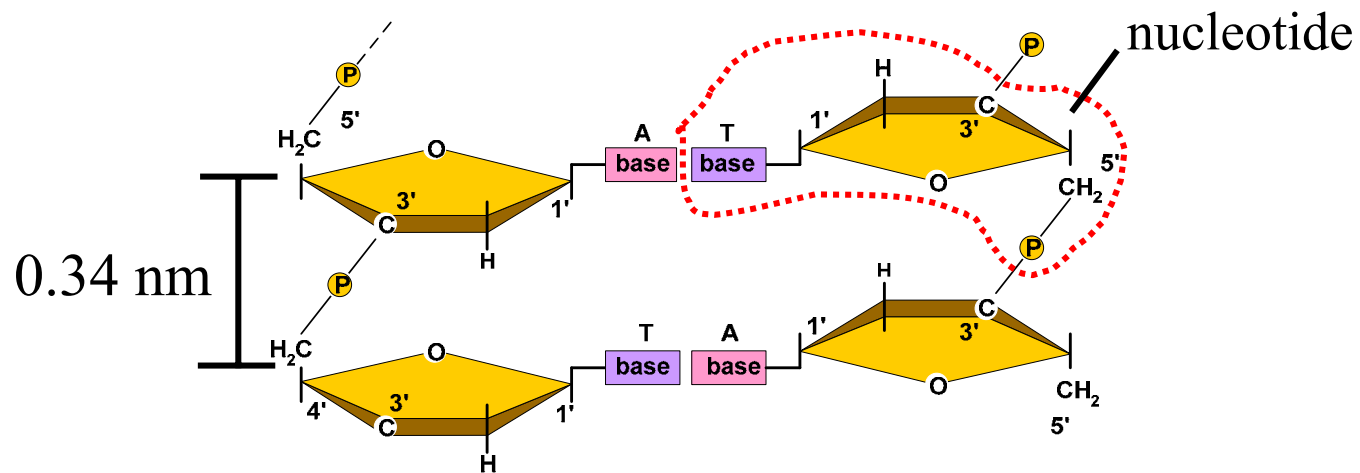
- V.A. Semenenko, **R.D. Stewart**, E.J. Ackerman. Monte Carlo Simulation of Base and Nucleotide Excision Repair of Clustered DNA Damage Sites. I. Model Properties and Predicted Trends. *Radiat. Res.* **164**, 180-193 (2005).
- V.A. Semenenko and **R.D. Stewart**. Monte Carlo Simulation of Base and Nucleotide Excision Repair of Clustered DNA Damage Sites. II. Comparisons of Model Predictions to Measured Data. *Radiat. Res.* **164**, 194-201 (2005).

# Multiscale Modeling of Biological Responses



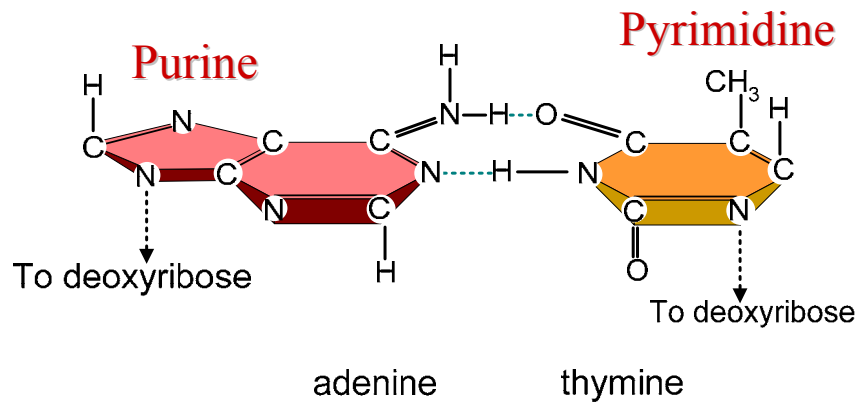
# Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)

- Nucleotides consists of three parts:
  - Deoxyribose sugar
  - Phosphate group (acts as a bridge between adjacent deoxyribose sugars)
  - Nitrogen-containing pyrimidine or purine organic base

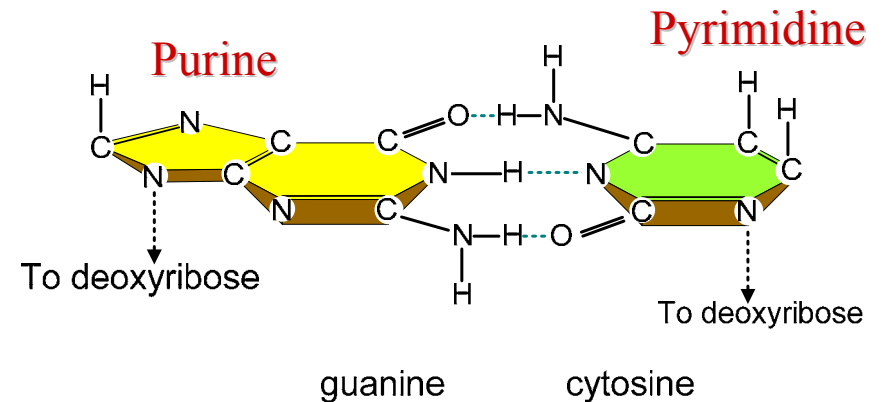


Depends on DNA conformation  
(A, B, C, D, E, and Z)

# Base pair (bp)



**AT base pair**  
(2 hydrogen bonds)



**GC base pair**  
(3 hydrogen bonds)

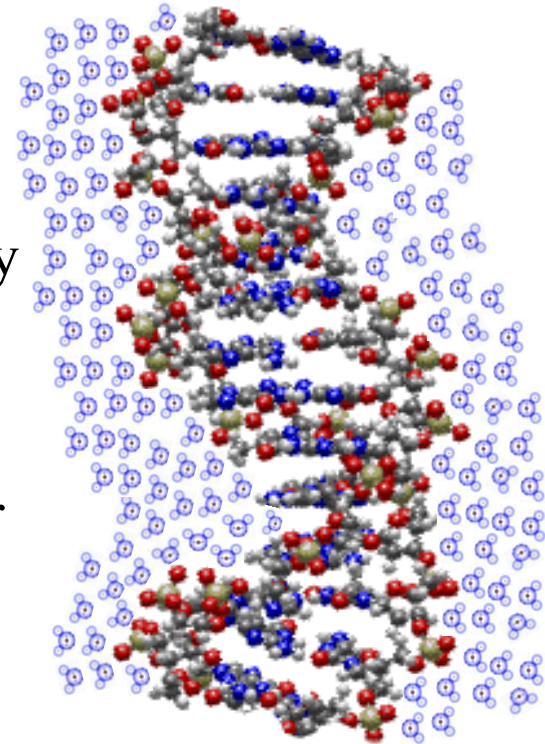
Hydrogen bond (0.087-0.22 eV per bond)



Electron spends more time near oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur so that bases becomes polarized and attract each other

# Stability of the DNA helix

- Hydrogen bond ( $\sim 0.5$  eV/bp)
- van der Waals forces ( $\sim 0.05$  eV/bp)
  - Rapid unequal sharing of electrons among covalently bonded atoms
- Hydrophobic interactions ( $\sim 1$  eV/bp)
  - Bases in the interior of the DNA helix exclude water and form a nonpolar environment



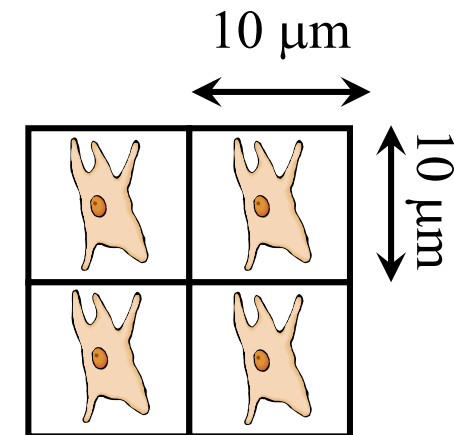
**For comparison...** elements with the lowest and highest ionization potential are cesium (3.89 eV) and helium (24.6 eV), respectively.

Below about 37° C, DNA segments at least 10 bp in length are stable. Stability tends to increase as length of segment increases. But above 50° to 60° C, DNA becomes destabilized and unwinds (denatures or melts).

# DNA content, chromosome and cell size

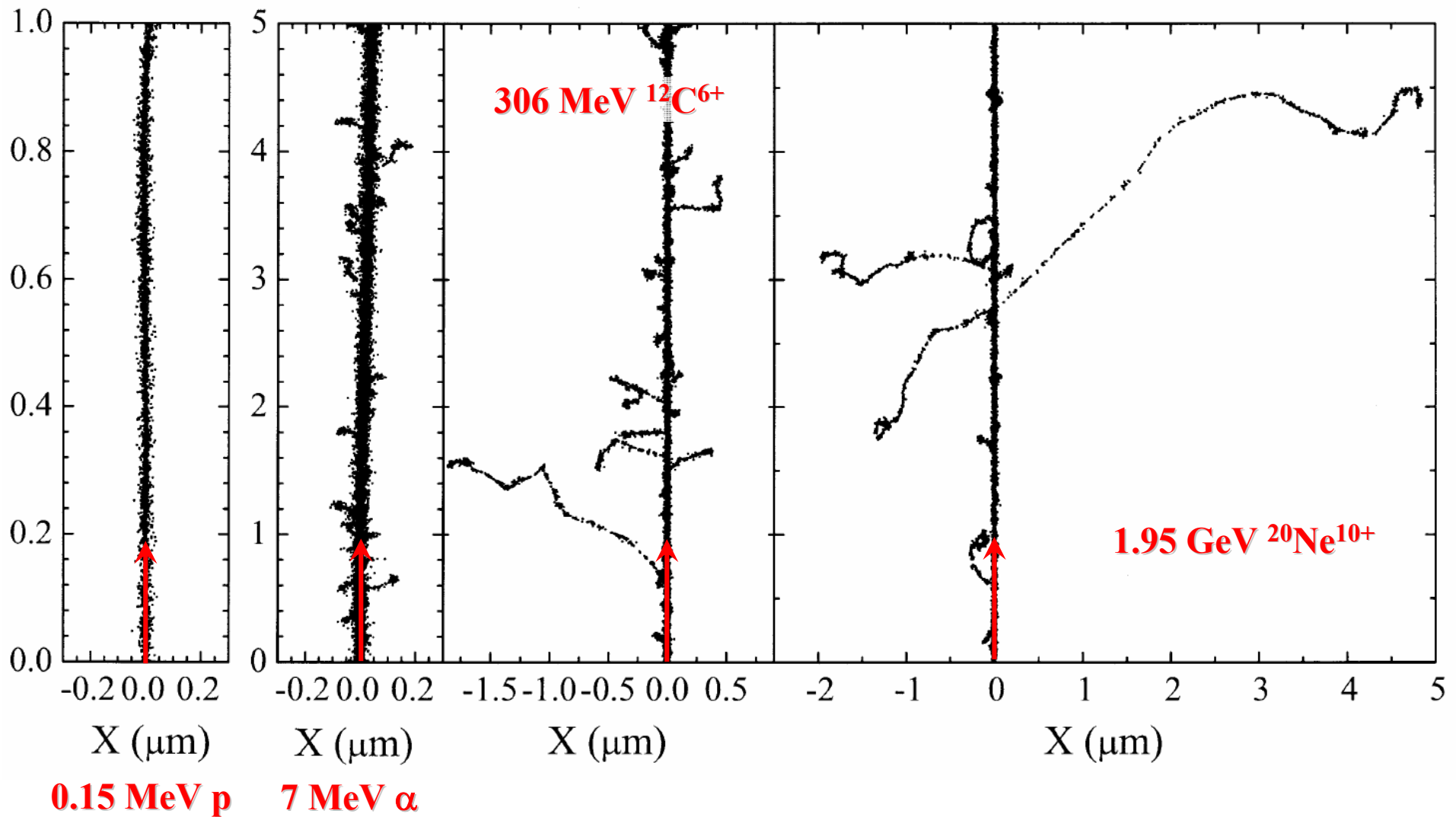
- Diploid human cell contains 46 chromosomes and about 6 billion base pair (bp) of DNA (6 Gbp)
- Each chromosome is a single DNA molecule
  - Min. chromosome length = 24.65 Mbp = 8381.3  $\mu\text{m}$  (= 0.33 in.)
  - Avg. chromosome length = 130.43 Mbp = 44,348  $\mu\text{m}$  (= 1.75 in.)
  - Max. chromosome length = 310.21 Mbp = 105,471  $\mu\text{m}$  (= 4.16 in.)

**For comparison, a typical mammalian cell has a diameter  $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$ . Cell nucleus is  $\sim 5 \mu\text{m}$ .**



**Maximum of  $10^9$  cell  $\text{cm}^{-3}$**  ← **Mass  $\sim 1$  ng/cell**  
**Volume about  $10^3 \mu\text{m}^3/\text{cell}$**

# Tracks formed in water by 70 keV/ $\mu\text{m}$ ions



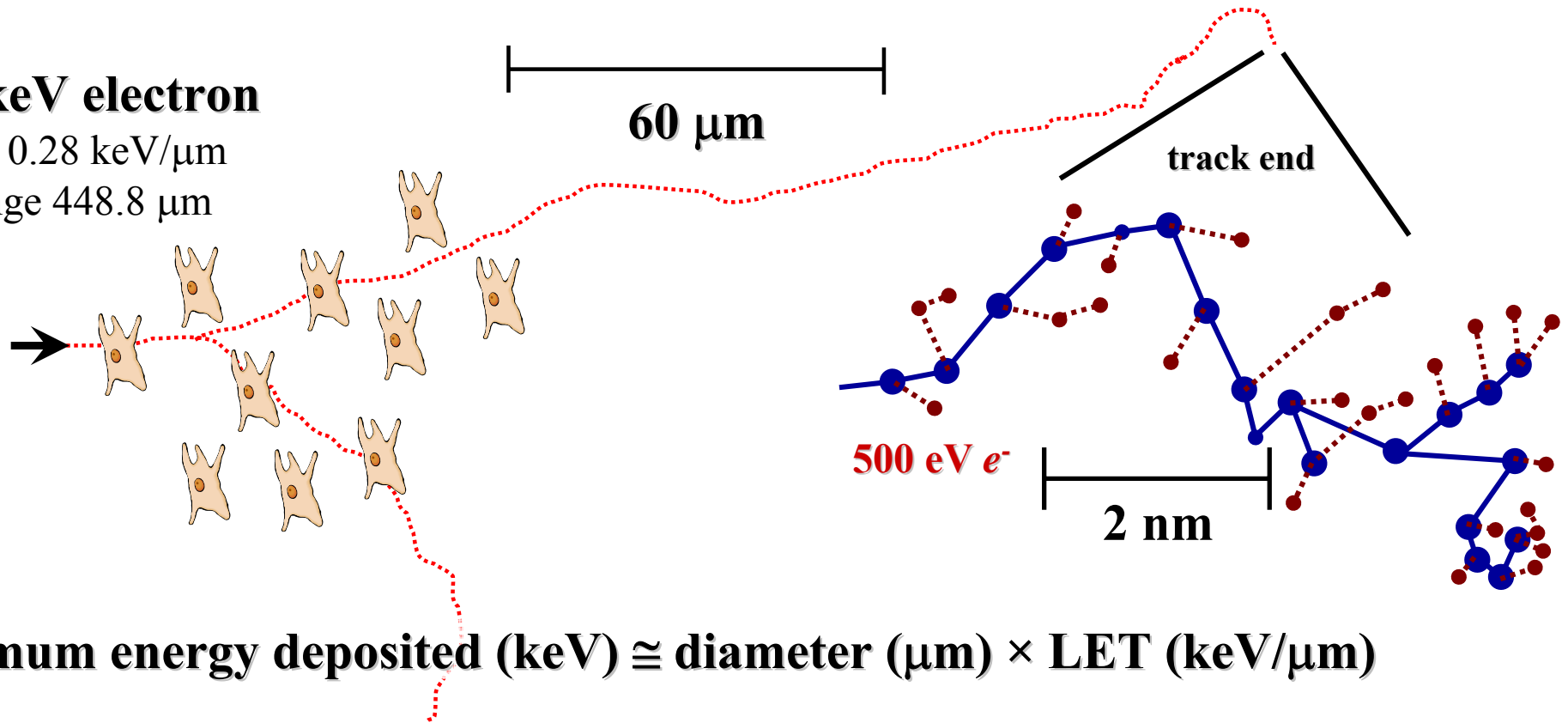


# Energy deposited per charged particle

**200 keV electron**

LET 0.28 keV/ $\mu\text{m}$

Range 448.8  $\mu\text{m}$



**Maximum energy deposited (keV)  $\cong$  diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )  $\times$  LET (keV/ $\mu\text{m}$ )**

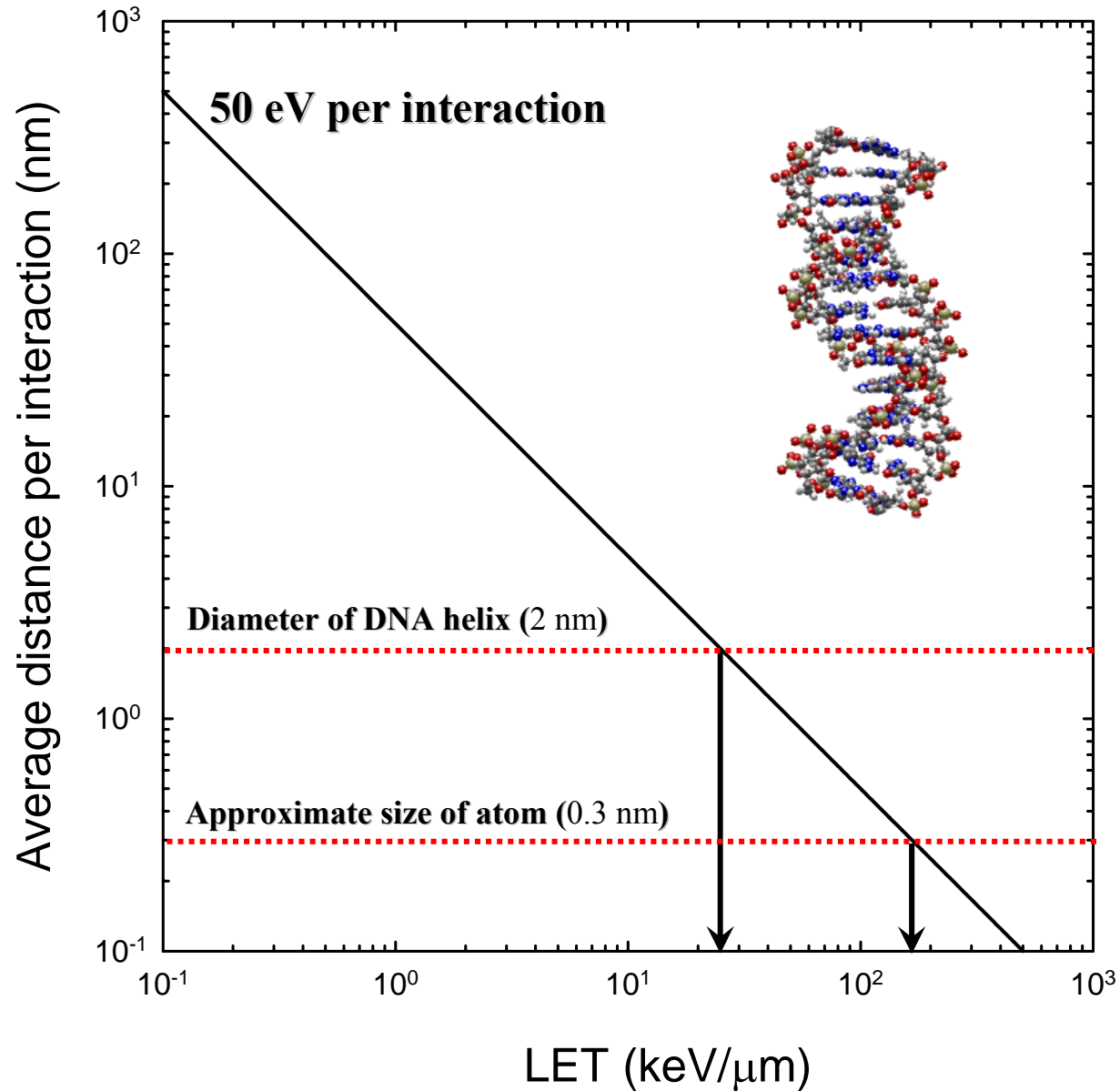
$$5 \mu\text{m} \times 0.28 \text{ keV}/\mu\text{m} = 1.4 \text{ keV (1400 eV)}$$

$$1400 \text{ eV} \times \text{interaction}/50 \text{ eV} = 28 \text{ elastic or inelastic interactions}$$

$$\text{Distance per 1 interaction} = 5 \mu\text{m} \div 28 \text{ collisions} = 0.176 \mu\text{m}$$

$$= 176 \text{ nm} \longrightarrow \text{Large compared to diameter of DNA helix } (\sim 2 \text{ nm})$$

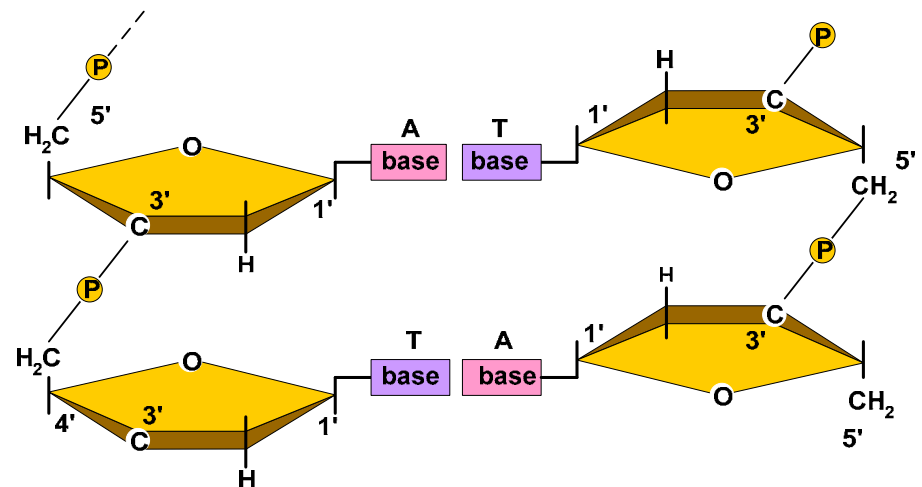
# Distance between interactions



# Direct effects of ionizing radiation

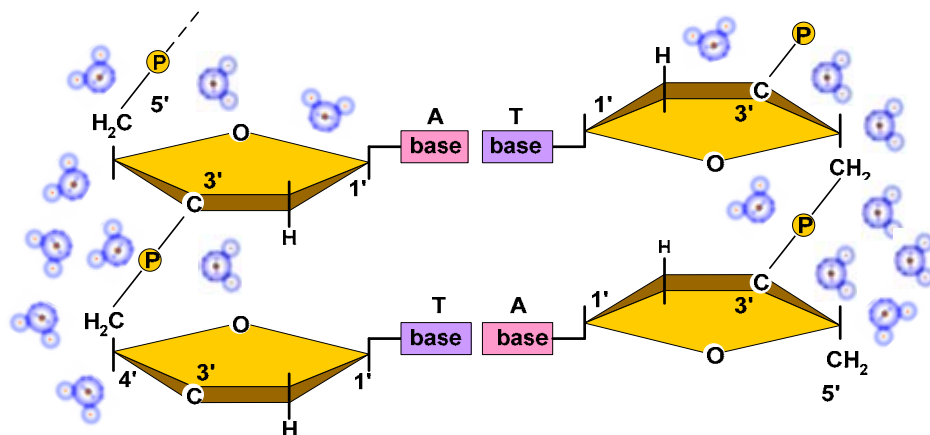
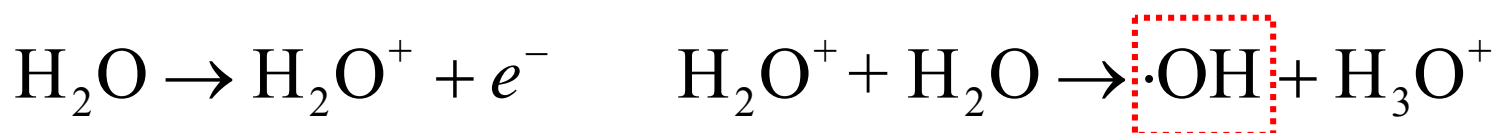
	% Volume of Nucleus	Mass (pg)	MeV per Gy	Number 50 eV events
cell	-	1,000.00	6.2422	124,843.9
nucleus	100.00	125.00	0.7803	15,605.5
human DNA	4.90	6.13	0.0382	764.8
base (A, T, G or C)	2.06	2.58	0.0161	321.8
phosphate (PO <sub>4</sub> )	1.51	1.89	0.0118	236.3
deoxyribose sugar	1.32	1.66	0.0103	206.8
sugar+phosphate	2.84	3.55	0.0222	443.0

energy deposited  $\propto$  mass



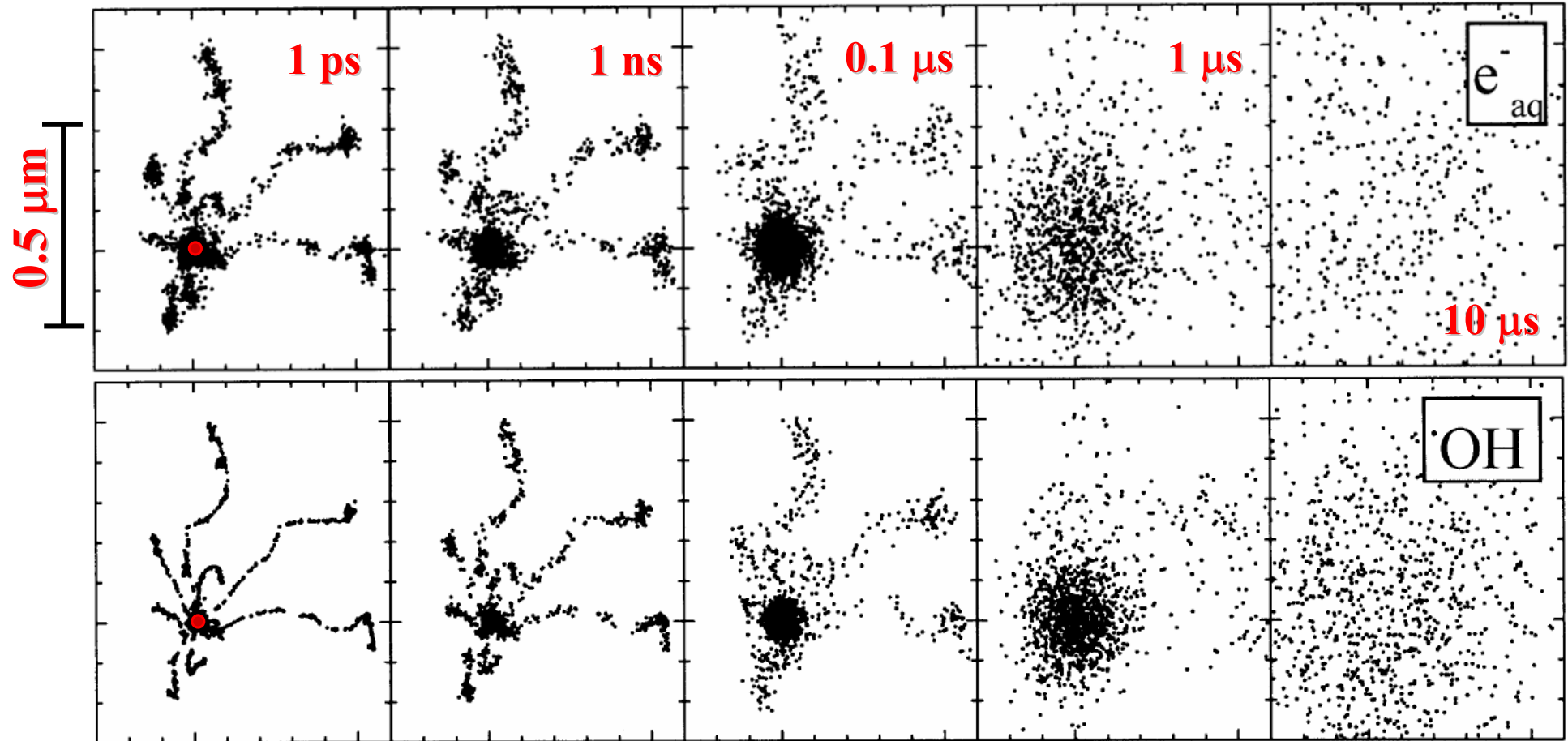
# Indirect Effect

- Reactive chemical species diffuse and interact with the DNA
  - Cell and cell nucleus is about 70% water
  - Primary hydration layer contains about ~ 20 water molecules per base pair of which 12-15 are tightly bound to DNA (“**quasi-direct effect**”)
  - Hydroxyl radical ( $\cdot\text{OH}$ ) is believed to be the main culprit



**Disproportionate number of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  near phosphate group**

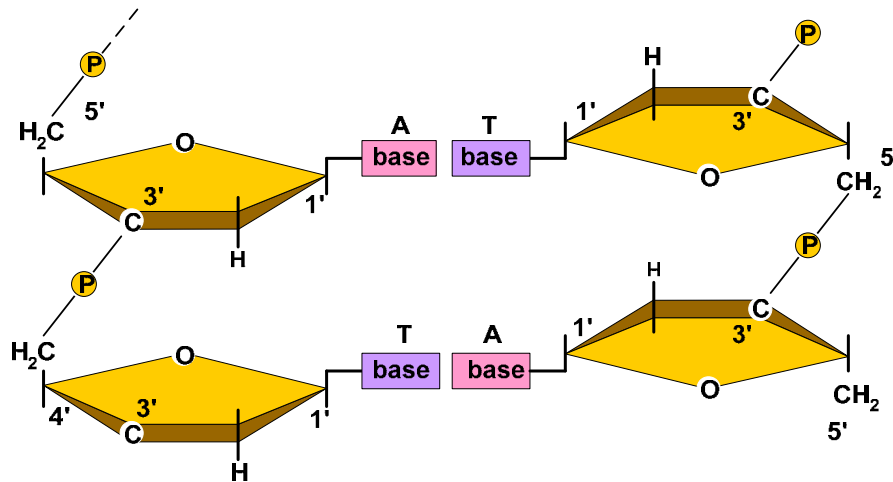
# Radical diffusion



Spatial distributions of  $\cdot\text{OH}$  and  $e_{\text{aq}}^-$  in liquid water. Red dot indicates location of a  $1 \mu\text{m}$  segment of a  $24 \text{ MeV } ^4\text{He}^{2+}$  ion ( $26 \text{ keV}/\mu\text{m}$ ) directed into the image

# Damage from hydroxyl radicals ( $\cdot\text{OH}$ )

$\cdot\text{OH}$  readily interacts with hydrogen (hydrogen abstraction) bound to the 3', 4', and 5' carbons of deoxyribose sugar. Some evidence for preferential attack on 4' C.



In a cellular milieu, estimated  $\cdot\text{OH}$  radical diffusion distance is about 6-9 nm (Roots and Okada 1975)

Radicals formed in cytoplasm (*outside nucleus*) cannot easily reach the DNA\*

$\cdot\text{OH}$  also readily interacts with purine (A and G) and pyrimidine (T and C) bases

\* **Caveat:**  $\cdot\text{OH} + \cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  (hydrogen peroxide).  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  can diffuse much greater distances and may be able reach the DNA and interact with a DNA-bound metal to form  $\cdot\text{OH}$  radical (Fenton reaction) in close proximity to the DNA.

# Direct and indirect damage

	% Volume of Nucleus	Mass (pg)	MeV per Gy	Number 50 eV events
cell	-	1,000.00	6.2422	124,843.9
nucleus	100.00	125.00	0.7803	15,605.5
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phosphate (PO4)	1.51	1.89	0.0118	236.3
deoxyribose sugar	1.32	1.66	0.0103	206.8
sugar+phosphate	2.84	3.55	0.0222	443.0
water	70.00	87.50	0.5462	10,923.8

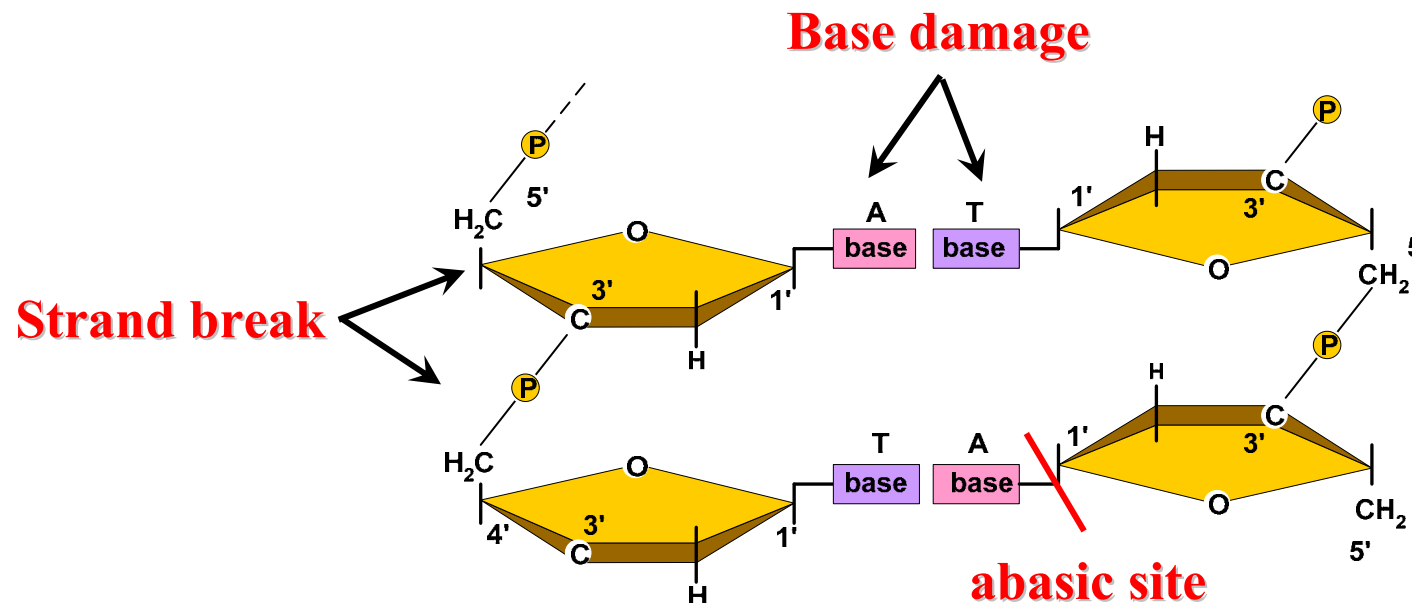
## Direct vs. Indirect

% indirect  $\leq 93.46\%$   
 % direct  $\geq 6.54\%$

**A maximum of about 11,700 nucleotides out of  $10^{10}$  may be damaged by a 1 Gy dose of radiation (1 in  $10^6$ )**

# Lesions formed by radiation

- Damage to a single nucleotide is often (but not always) referred to as a *lesion*
- Types of lesions (damaged nucleotides) include
  - Abasic or AP (apurinic/apyrimidinic) sites = base loss
  - Base damage (A, T, G or C)
  - Strand breaks (damage to sugar or phosphate), usually accompanied by base loss

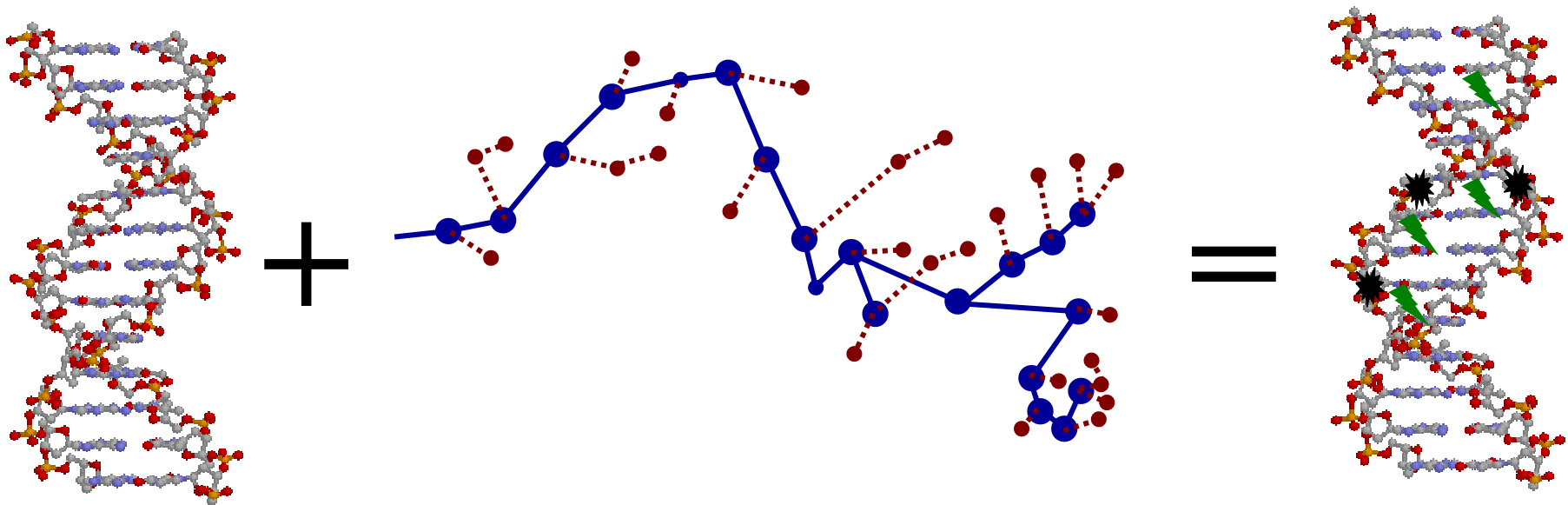


**Strand breaks and base damage are formed through the direct and indirect mechanisms**



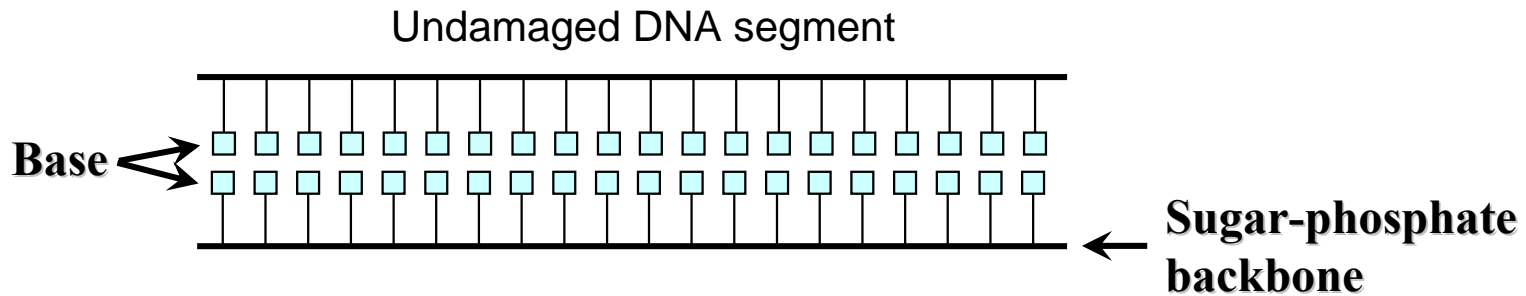
# Lesion clustering

One of the more unique characteristics of ionizing radiation is its ability to produce several lesions within one or two turns of the DNA, i.e., *clustered lesions*\*

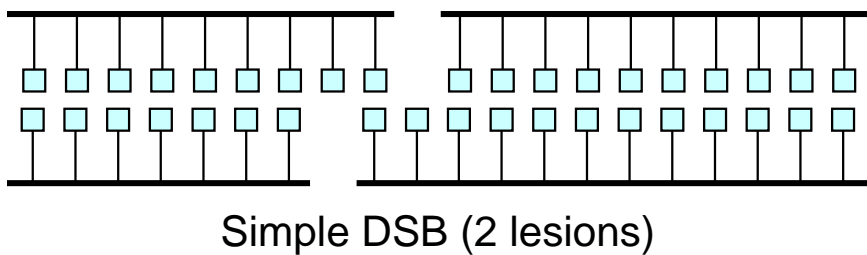


\* “Clustered lesions” are also referred to as *locally multiply damaged sites* (LMDS) and *multiply damaged sites* (MDS)

# Double strand break (DSB)

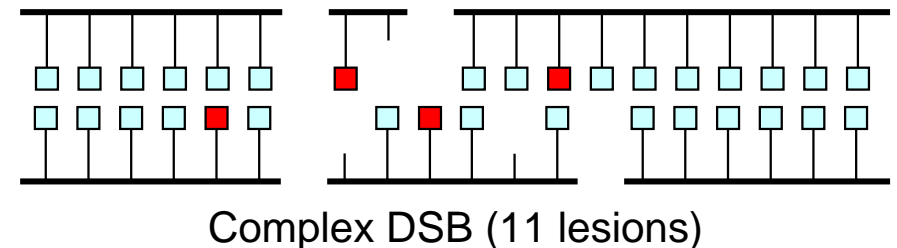


A DSB is a cluster that contains at least two strand breaks on opposing strands within  $\sim 10$  bp of each other



**Strand breaks formed by radiation are chemically reactive (“sticky”)**

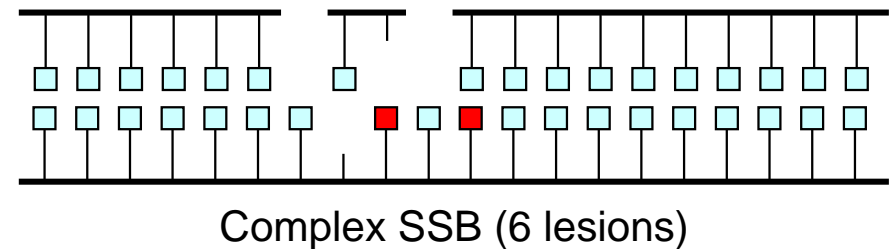
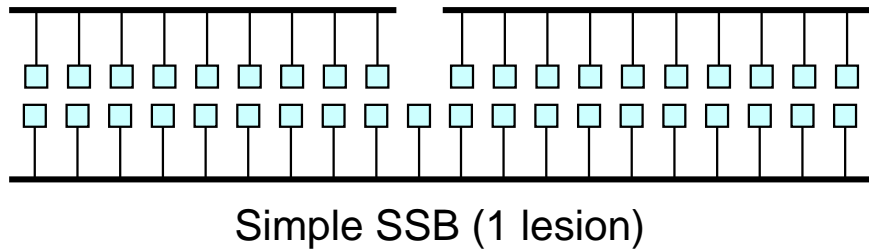
**Number of lesions forming a cluster is a measure of “complexity”**



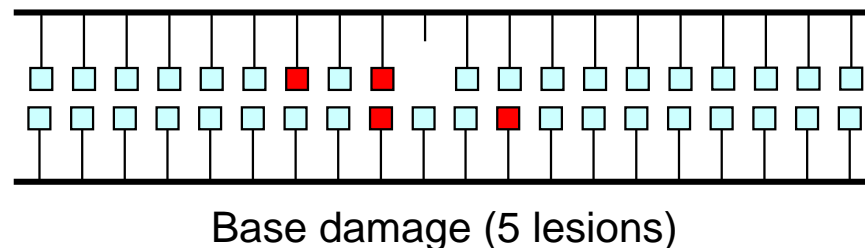
Red square (■) denotes base damage

# Single strand breaks and base damage

SSB (single strand break) denotes the *family* of all types of cluster other than the DSB that contain *at least* one strand break



Clusters that do not contain any strand breaks are referred to as “base damage”



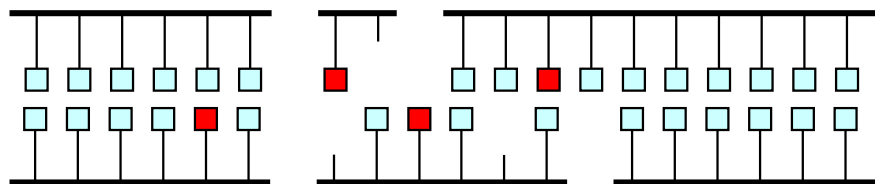
# Damage yield $\propto$ absorbed dose

Damage yield per cell is proportional to dose up to at least a few hundreds or thousands of Gy

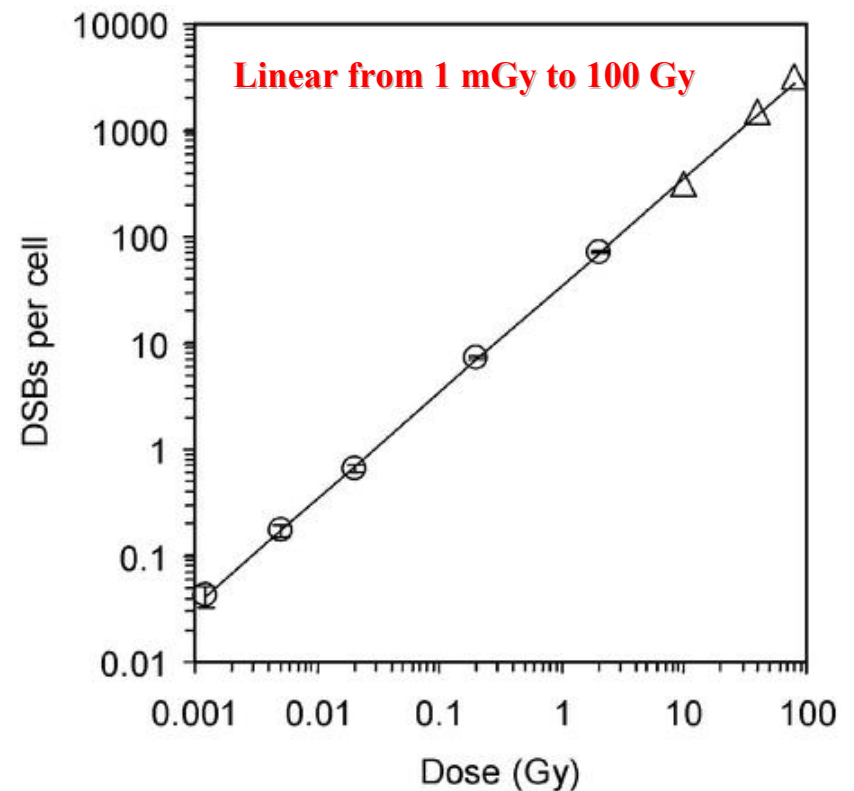
- Low and high LET radiation
- All types of damage (SSB, DSB, ...)

↓ implies

**All types of damage, including DSB, are formed through *one-track* mechanisms**



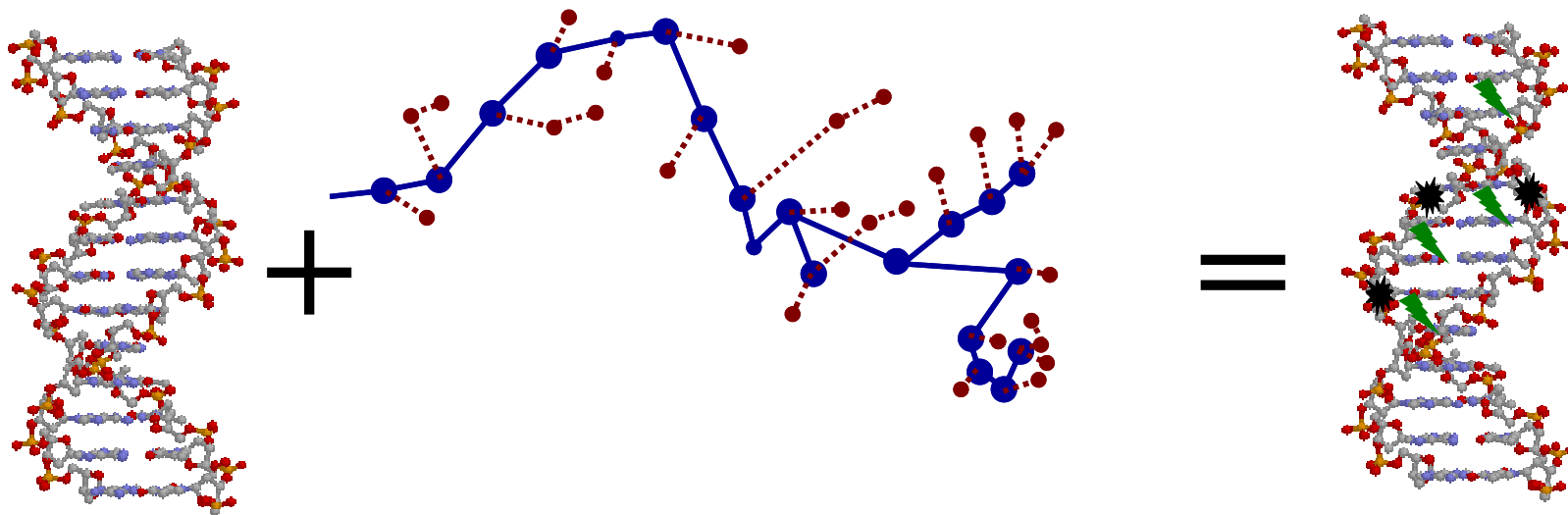
All of these lesions were formed by the same radiation track



DSB induction in non-dividing primary human fibroblasts (MRC-5) irradiated by 90 kVp x-rays (Rothkamm and Lobrich 2003)

# Track structure simulations

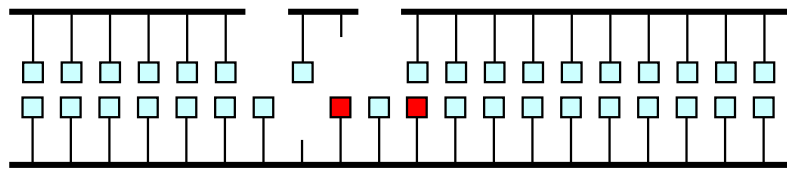
- Analog Monte Carlo simulation of primary and secondary elastic and inelastic collisions down to  $\sim 1$  to 10 eV
- Explicit simulation of direct and indirect damage mechanisms
  - Location of energy deposits superimposed on higher-order models of DNA in an aqueous environment



# Track structure simulations (pros)

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- Predict from first principles *nucleotide-level maps* of cluster configurations
  - Experimental assays provide very limited information about the local complexity of clusters (overall SSB and DSB yield)



**Required for DNA  
repair simulations**

- Effects of particle LET on cluster yield and complexity related to track structure (physics)
  - Relative biological effectiveness (RBE)
- Provide approximate agreement with measured SSB and DSB

# Track structure simulations (cons)

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- Computational requirements are substantial
  - Model spans physical and chemical processes occurring across an enormous time scale (ps to  $\mu$ s) and large spatial scales (nm to cm)
- Highly simplified model of a very complex cellular environment
  - Few if any cell-specific features
  - Ultimately relies on at least 2-4 adjustable parameters that must be determined from measured data (parameters are presumably independent of LET)
- Models (*still*) not fully validated
  - Differences between measurements and calculations not fully resolved even for the most widely studied type of damage (i.e., the DSB)
  - Are nucleotide level maps of damage correct?

**Opportunities for future research! Funding?**

# Monte Carlo Damage Simulation (MCDS)

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**Radical departure from the analog Monte Carlo approach.  
Three step procedure used to model cluster formation:**

1. Determine number lesions formed in the DNA
2. Place lesions within the DNA (group them into clusters)
3. Classify clusters according to properties and complexity

**Step 3 is not specific to the MCDS algorithm**

***Three adjustable parameters* determine the induction and clustering of damage. *Two parameters are independent of LET* (Step 1). One parameter varies with particle type and energy (Step 2)**

**Step 2 is the “radical departure” from track structure simulations**



# Strand break and base damage induction

- Cluster yield is proportional to absorbed dose
  - Negligible chance more than one track will deposit energy “close” to a small section of DNA (~ 10 to 20 bp)
  - After 1 Gy, fewer than 1 in  $10^6$  nucleotides are damaged
- Lesion induction  $\propto$  energy deposited in nucleus
  - Because (energy deposited) = (mass)  $\times$  (absorbed dose), lesion induction is also proportional to absorbed dose

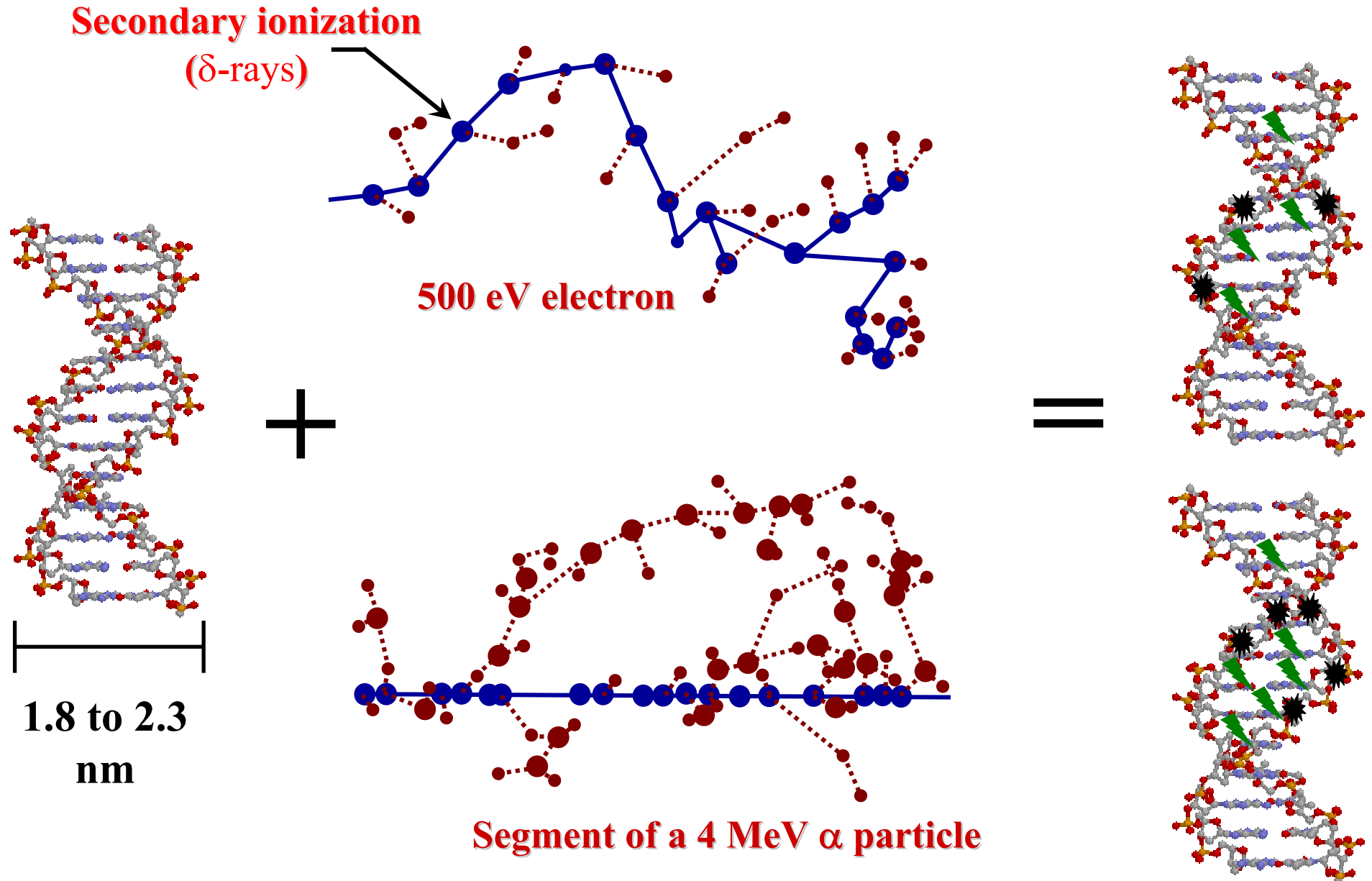
**Strand break:**  $\sigma_{sb} = 1300 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1} \quad (216.67 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ Gbp}^{-1})$

**Base damage:**  $\sigma_{Bd} = f \sigma_{sb} = 3900 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1} \quad (650 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ Gbp}^{-1})$   
 $\searrow$  3 damaged bases per strand break ( $f \sim 2-4$ )

**Total lesions:**  $\sigma = \sigma_{Bd} + \sigma_{sb} = (1 + f) \sigma_{sb}$   
 $= 5,200 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1} \quad (867 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ Gbp}^{-1})$

Compare to rough estimate of less than  $11,700 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$  ( $764 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$  direct).

# LET effects (*clustering @ DNA level*)



## LET effects (*clustering @ cellular level*)

- Lesion induction is the same for low and high LET radiation
  - (number of lesions)  $\propto$  (energy deposited)  $\propto$  (mass of nucleus)  $\times$  (dose)

$$\sigma_{\text{low LET}} = \sigma_{\text{high LET}} = 5200 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$$

- Number of lesions per unit fluence (particle traversal) is larger for high LET radiation than for low LET radiation

$$D \propto \frac{LET}{\rho} \Phi \quad \text{lesion per unit fluence} = \sigma \frac{D}{\Phi} \propto LET$$

$$\rho = \text{density (g cm}^{-3}\text{)} \quad \Phi = \text{fluence (cm}^{-2}\text{)}$$

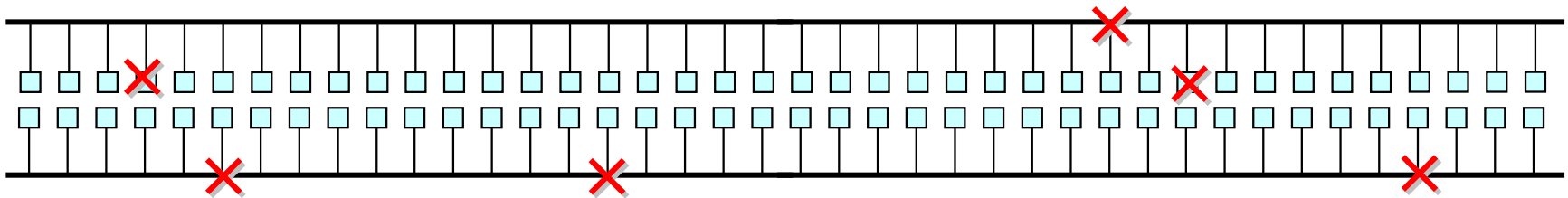
LET = unrestricted linear energy transfer (keV  $\mu\text{m}$ )

**As particle LET increases, same number of lesions are distributed among fewer cells (constant absorbed dose)**

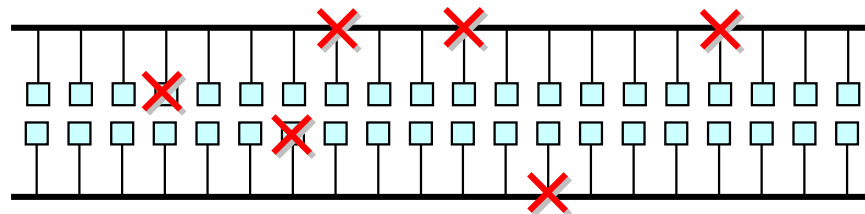
# MCDS clustering algorithm

Number of lesions:  $N_{Sb} = D\sigma_{Sb} = 1300$ ,  $N_{Bd} = Df\sigma_{Sb} = 3900$

Insert lesions into a segment of DNA at random (no overlap)



*Increase* clustering by *decreasing* the DNA segment length



**DNA segment length ( $n_{seg}$ ) treated as a purely *ad hoc* adjustable parameter that depends on particle type and energy**

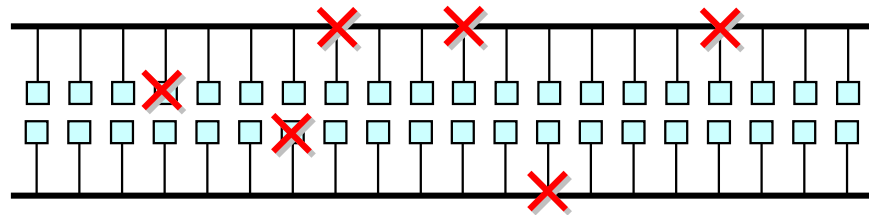
# Effects of particle type and energy on $n_{seg}$

Length of DNA segment ( $n_{seg}$ ) decreases as  $Z_{eff}/\beta^2$  (LET) increases

$$n_{seg}(x) = 149,200 - \frac{123,600x}{x + 267} \text{ bp Gy}^{-1}, \quad 1 \leq x \equiv Z_{eff}^2 / \beta^2 \leq 3200$$

large KE (~ GeV) and low LET

small KE and high LET



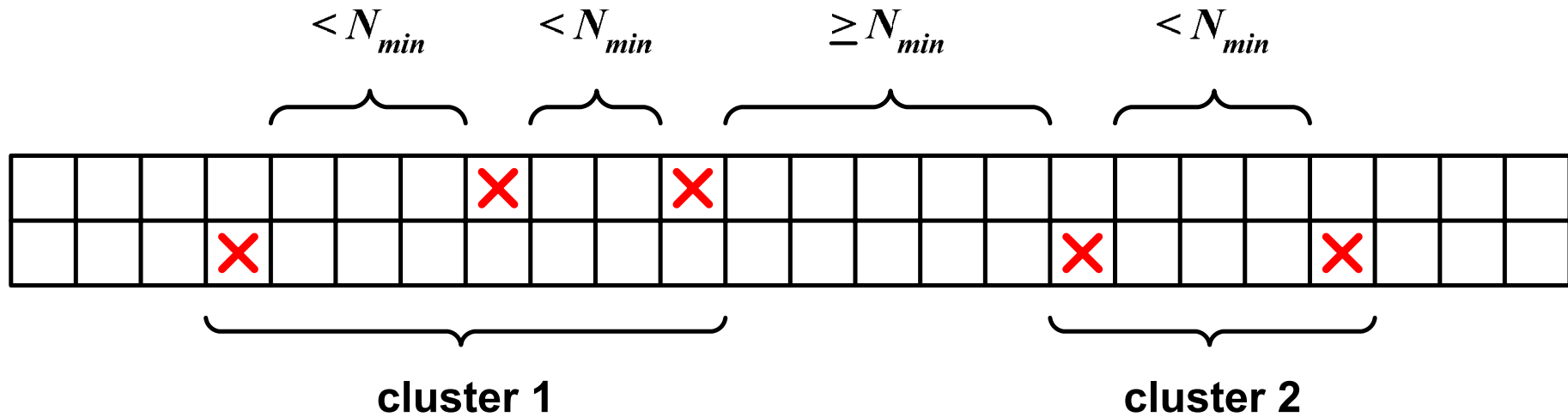
Clustering increases as  $n_{seg}$  decreases

**Low LET  $n_{seg}$  ( $x = 1$ ):** 148.74 kbp (28.6 bp per lesion)

**High LET  $n_{seg}$  ( $x = 3200$ ):** 35.12 kbp (6.75 bp per lesion)

**NOTE:**  $n_{seg}$  is much smaller than average size of chromosome (130,430 kbp)

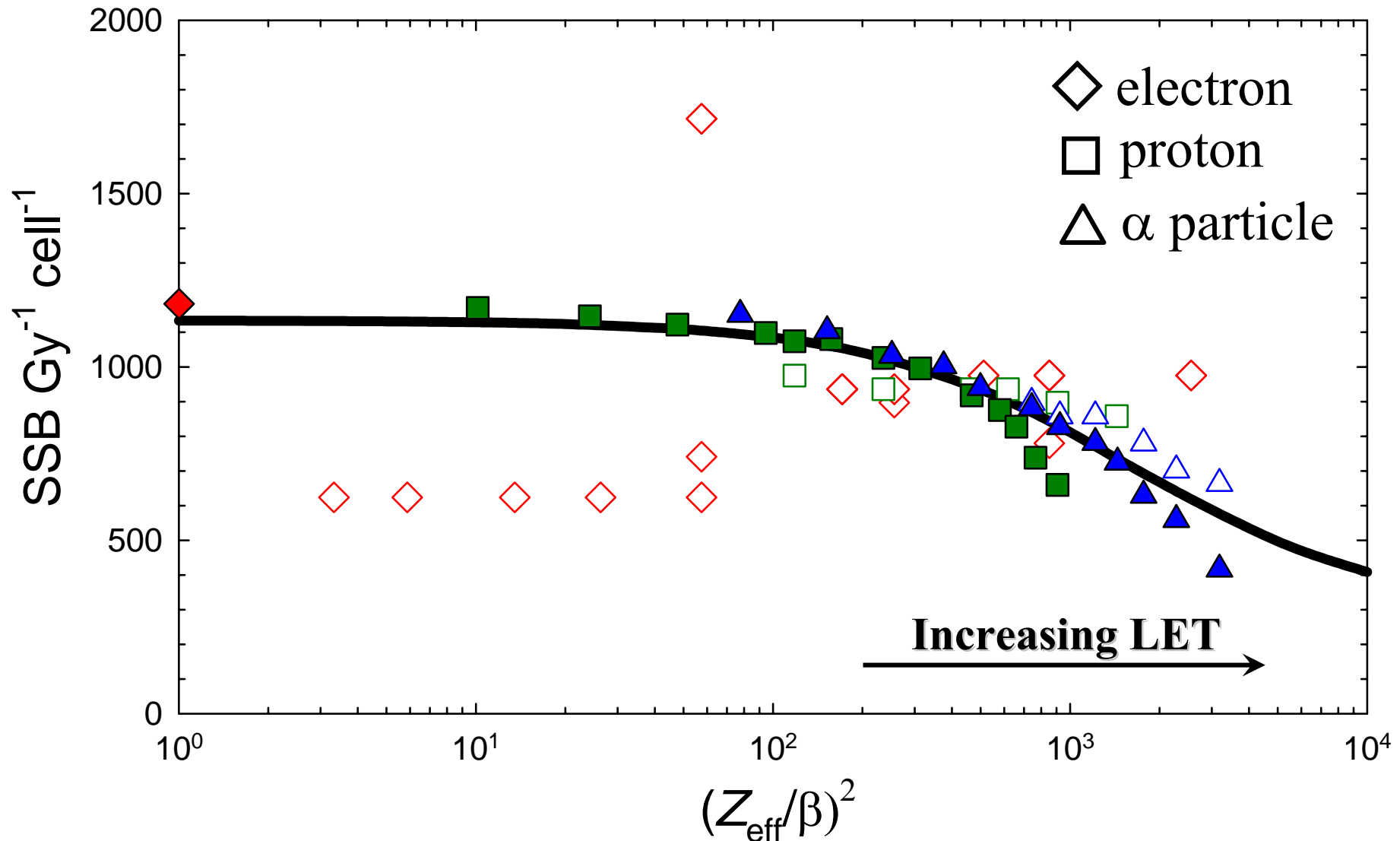
# Cluster classification



**Scan along DNA segment and group all lesions within  $N_{min} = 9$  bp of each other into a cluster.**

**Analyze properties of cluster (length and number of lesions). Classify as SSB, DSB or base damage**

# SSB yield (MCDS vs. track structure)



Filled symbols: Friedland *et al* 2003, 2005

Open symbols: Nikjoo *et al.* 1994, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2002



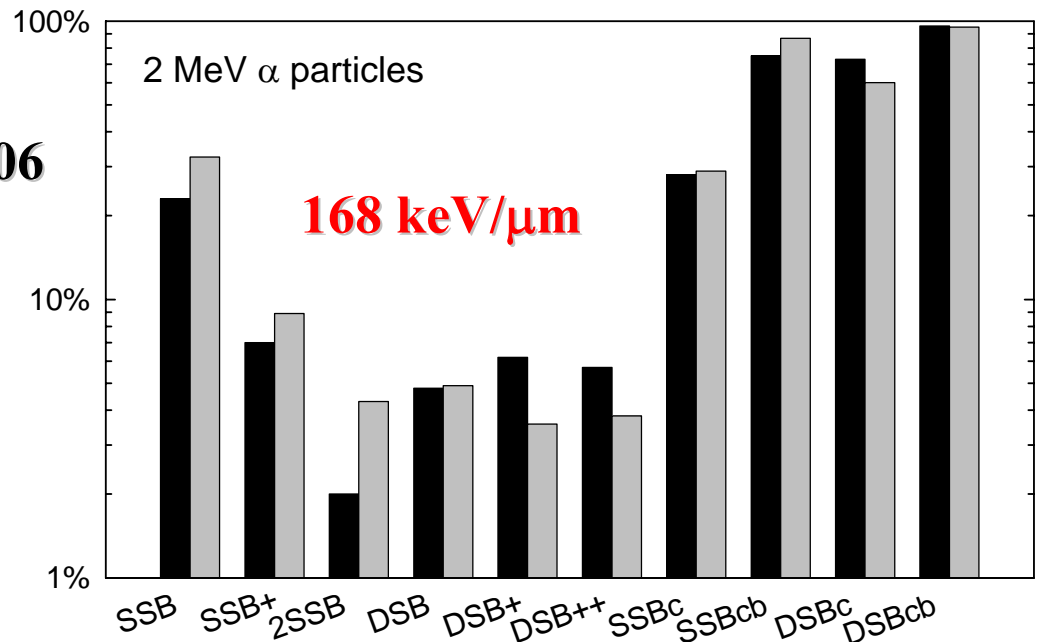
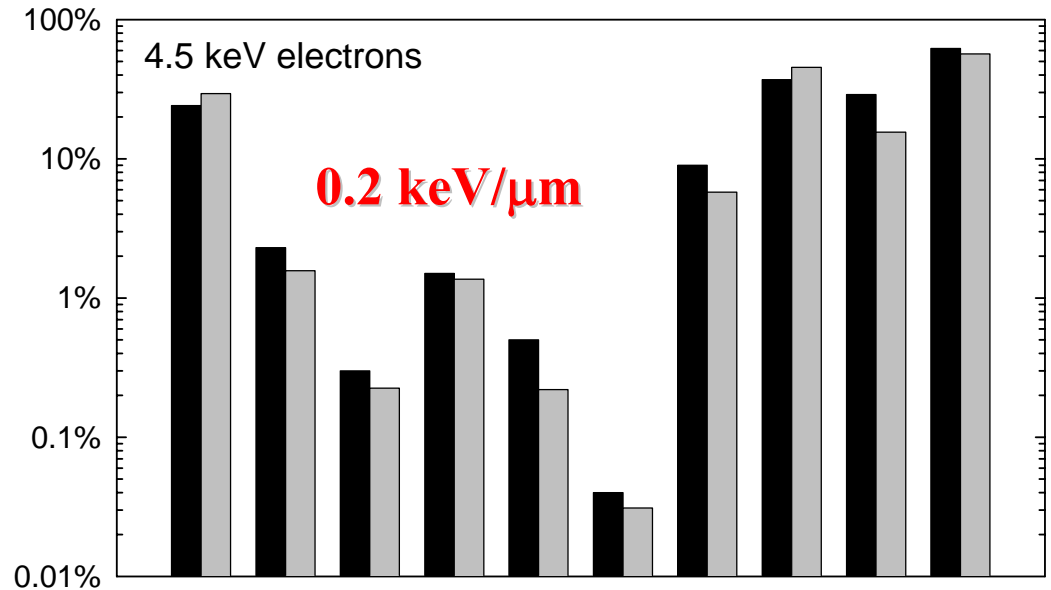


# Local complexity (MCDS vs. track structure)

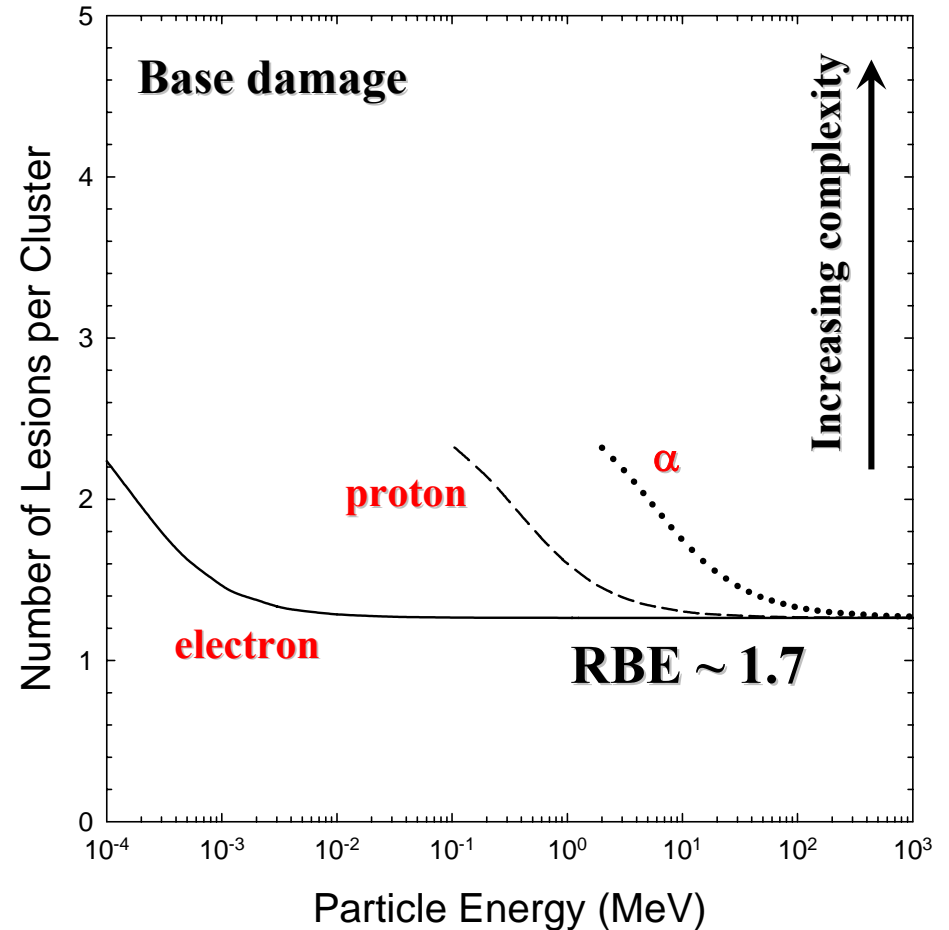
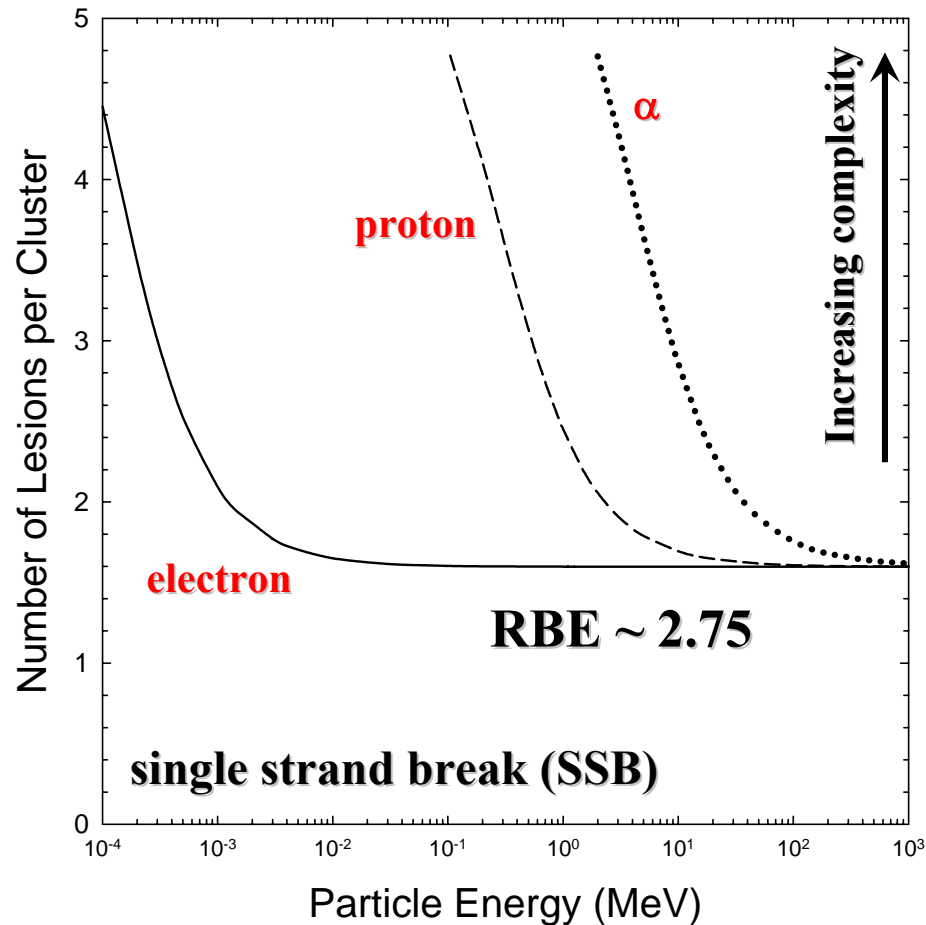
Simple and complex SSB and DSB yields in good agreement for low and high LET radiation

Dark bar: Nikjoo *et al.* 2001

Light bar: Semenenko and Stewart 2006

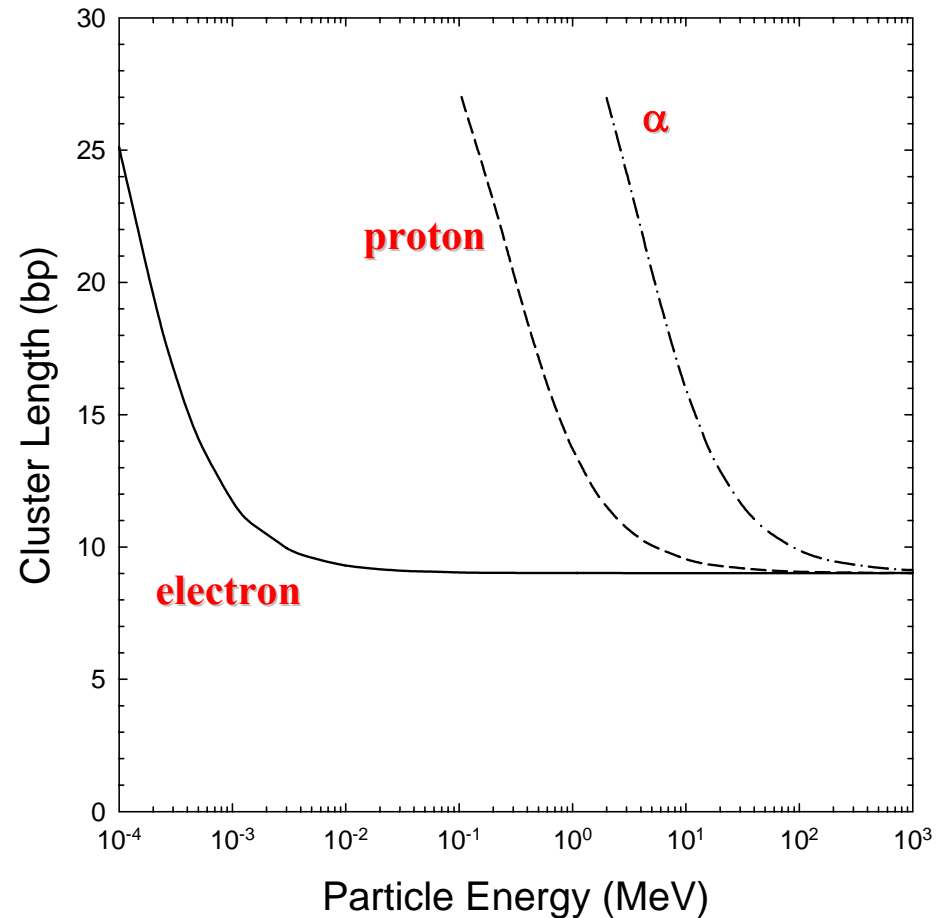
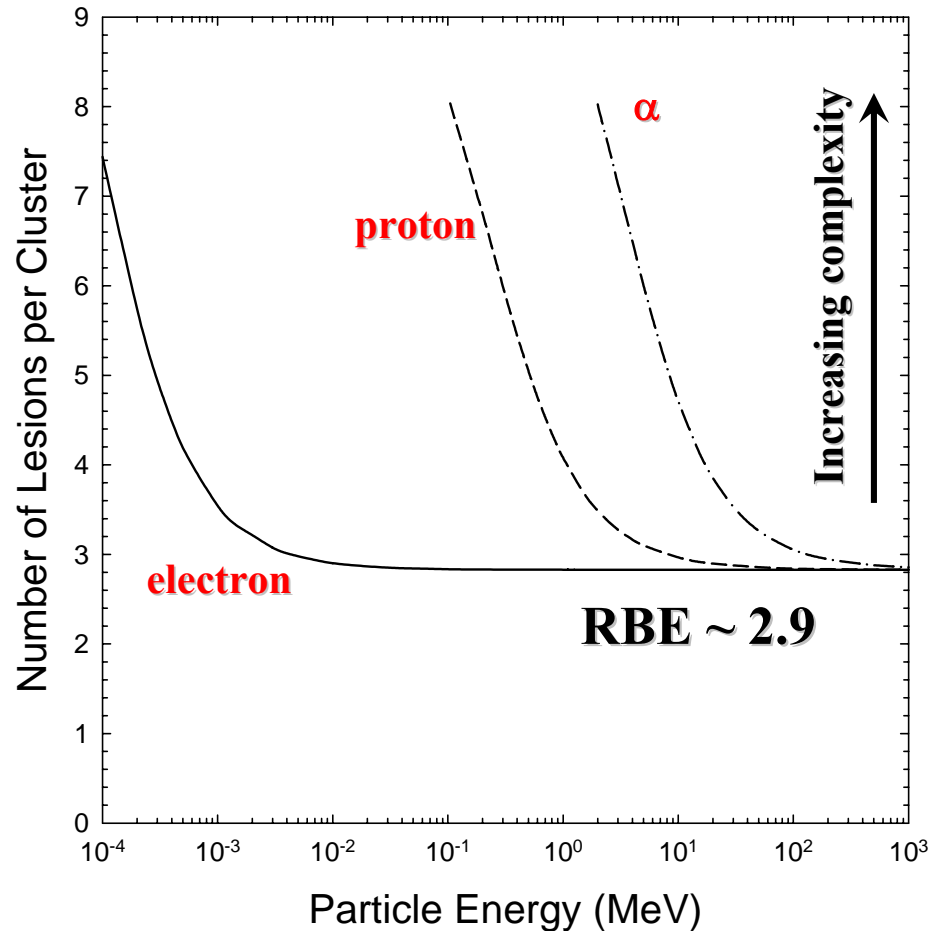


# Average number lesions per cluster



**On average, SSB are more complex than clusters without any strand breaks (e.g., 1.6 vs. 1.3 lesion per cluster for large KE)**

# DSB complexity



Average DSB composed of 2.8 to 8 lesion distributed in a DNA segment less than 25 bp (8.5 nm) in length

# MCDS summary

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- Nucleotide-level damage maps are needed for cluster repair simulations
  - At present, can only be obtained through Monte Carlo simulations
- MCDS successfully reproduces cluster configurations predicted by track structure models
  - Electrons ( $> 80$  eV), protons ( $> 105$  keV),  $\alpha$  ( $> 2$  MeV)
  - Maximum kinetic energy  $\sim 1$  GeV
- Three adjustable parameters
  - Lesion induction ( $\sigma_{sb} = 216.67 \text{ Gy}^{-1} \text{ Gbp}^{-1}$  and  $f \sim 3$ )
  - Lesion clustering ( $n_{seg}$ , depends on LET and varies from 35-149 kbp)
- Computationally efficient
  - Damage configurations for 100,000 cells exposed to 1 Gy can be simulated on 2.8 Ghz Pentium in about 1.5 minutes

# DSB repair

- Two main pathways for DSB repair
  - Non-homologous endjoining (NHEJ)
  - Homologous recombination (HR)
  - NHEJ is an error-prone repair mechanism whereas HR is potentially error free.
- In mammalian cells, over 99% of the initial DSB formed by radiation are successfully rejoined.
  - DSB rejoining most likely results in the deletion or insertion of small sections of DNA (point mutation), although larger-scale chromosome and chromatid aberrations can also occur

$$S(1 \text{ Gy}) \cong \exp\left(-40 \frac{\text{DSB}}{\text{Gy cell}} \times 1 \text{ Gy}\right) = 4.25 \times 10^{-18}$$

**For comparison, the human body is composed of less than  $10^{14}$  cells. Also, experiments with mammalian cells indicate that  $S(1 \text{ Gy}) \sim 0.1$  to  $0.9$**

# Base damage and SSB repair

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- Primary pathway for the repair of radiation damage other than the DSB is base excision repair (BER)
- BER is usually quite accurate and speedy compared to DSB repair
  - Accuracy and speed of repair tends to decrease as damage complexity increases
- Monte Carlo Excision Repair (MCER) model is the first and only model available to predict cluster repair outcomes for ionizing radiation
  - Correct repair, base substitution, conversion of a SSB into a DSB, number of repair cycles (presumably related to repair kinetics)

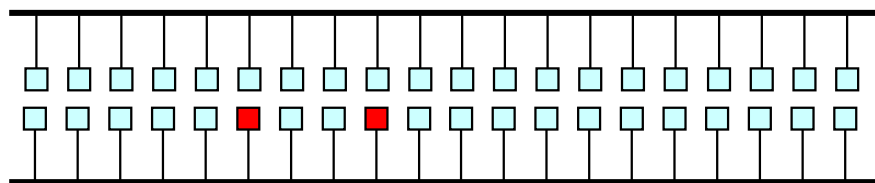
# MCER Model

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- Analog Monte Carlo simulation that captures selected important features of the excision repair process
  - (1) excision of a damaged base, (2) cleavage of the DNA backbone with the removal of the phosphodeoxyribose group (2) gap-filling synthesis by a DNA polymerase (4) sealing of the gap by a DNA ligase
- BER is a highly conserved repair pathway among all eukaryotes, i.e., from yeast to humans
- Significant homologies have also been demonstrated among bacterial and human proteins that participate in BER

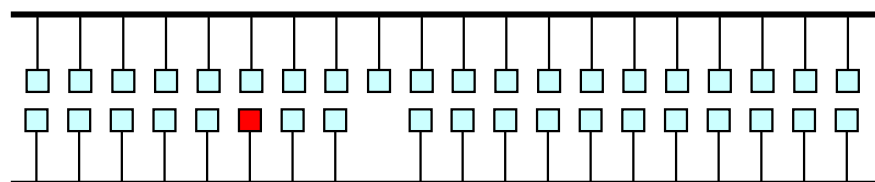
**In the absence of information to the contrary, observations from prokaryotes and lower eukaryotes can be reasonably used to make inferences about mechanisms in humans**

# BER of base damage (Step 1)



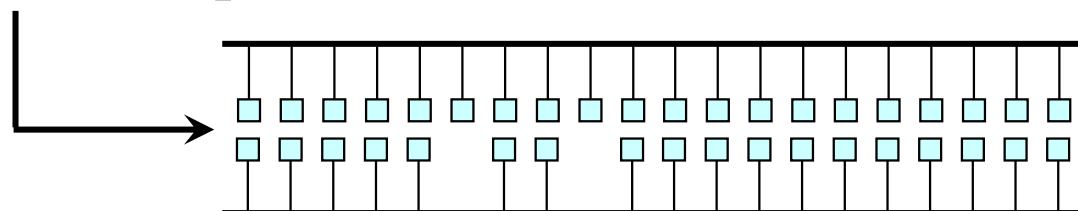
Equal chance of selecting either lesion

Lesion-specific glycosylase cleaves the bond between the sugar and damaged base



abasic site created  
(also called AP site)

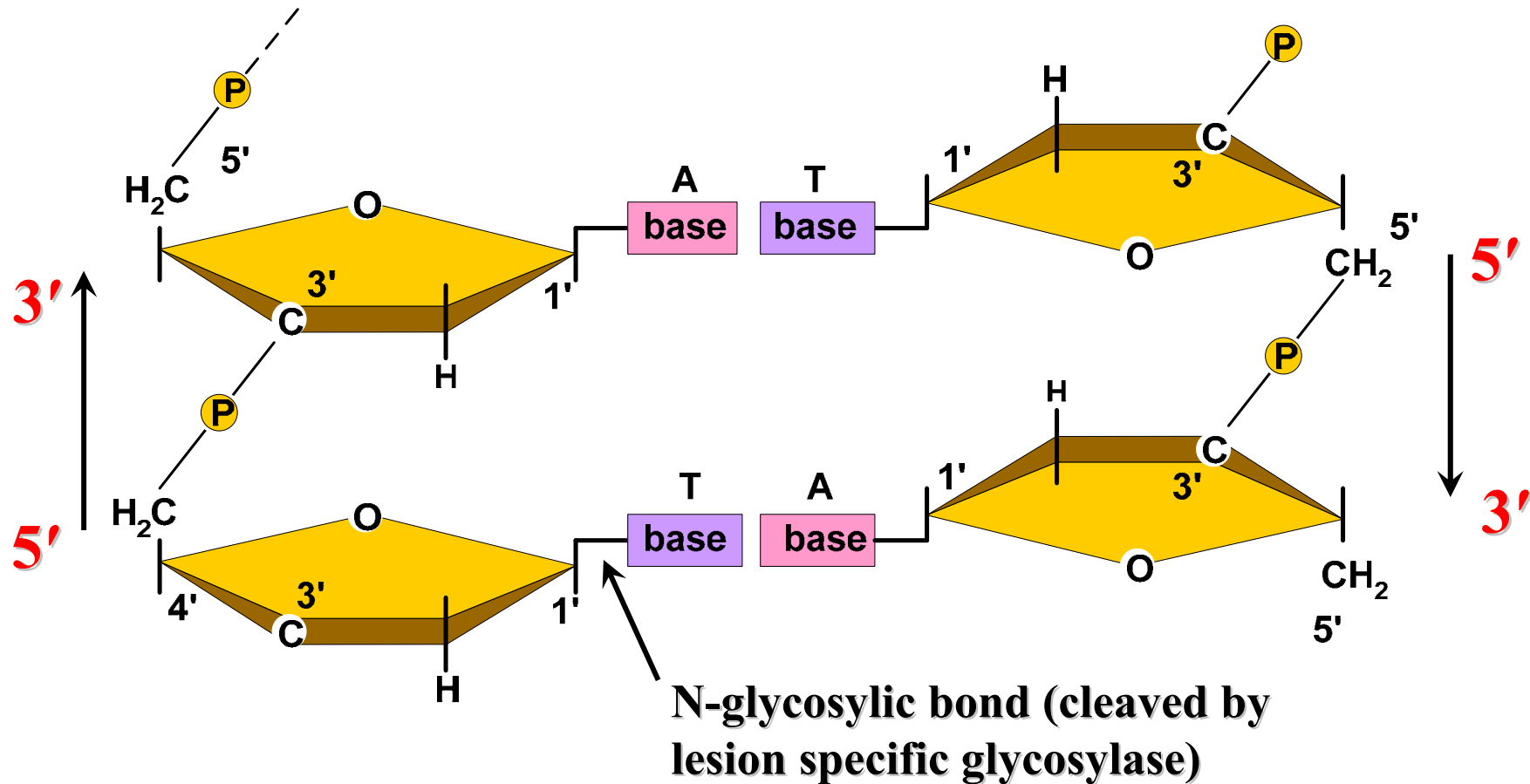
Possible (?) that several damaged bases are removed before next step in BER occurs. In MCER, we assume that initiate of BER at the location of one lesion proceeds to completion before BER is initiated at site of another lesion



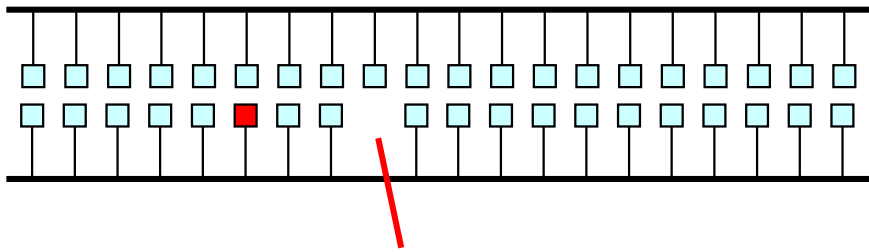


# DNA helix and directionality

Sugar-phosphate linkages in one strand proceed from the 5' to 3' carbon. In the other strand, linkages proceed in 3' to 5' direction.

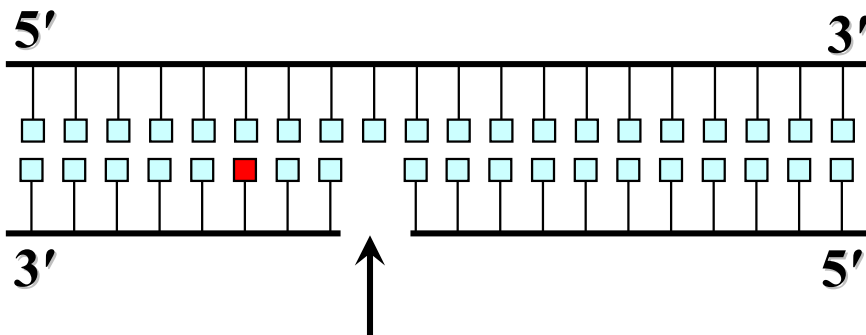


# BER of a damaged base (step 2)

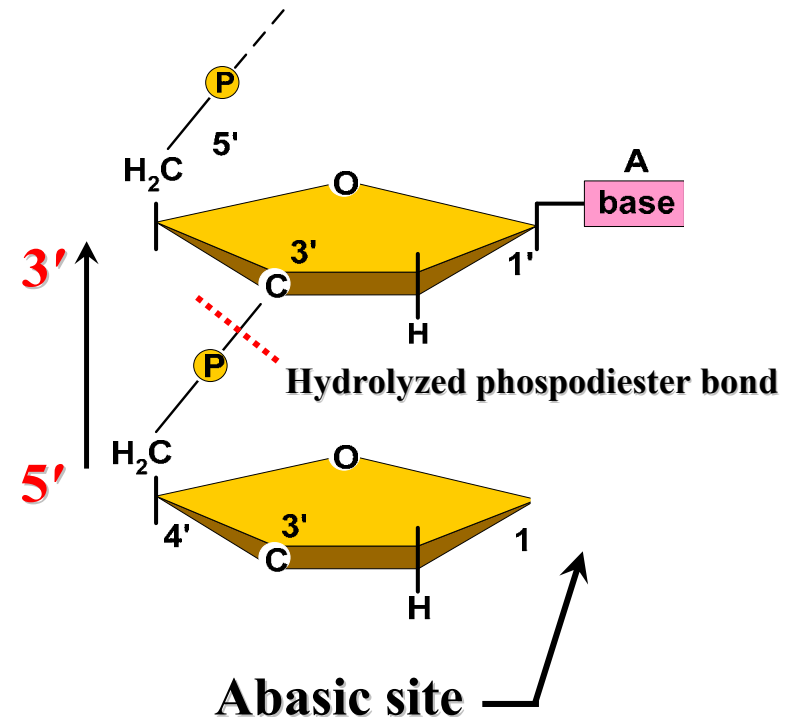


Sugar-phosphate backbone  
cleaved by nuclease

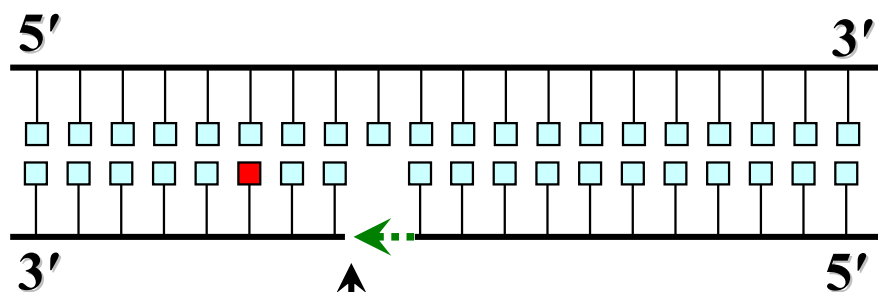
AP endonuclease (APE1) hydrolyzes the phosphodiester  
bond 5' to abasic site



Gap (nick) with a 3'-OH terminus suitable  
for extension by a DNA polymerase



# BER of base damage (short patch BER)



DNA polymerase  $\beta$  removes the 5'-deoxyribose phosphate residue. Opposing strand used as a template for nucleotide insertion

**A-T or G-C**  
**Error rate  $\sim 10^{-4}$**

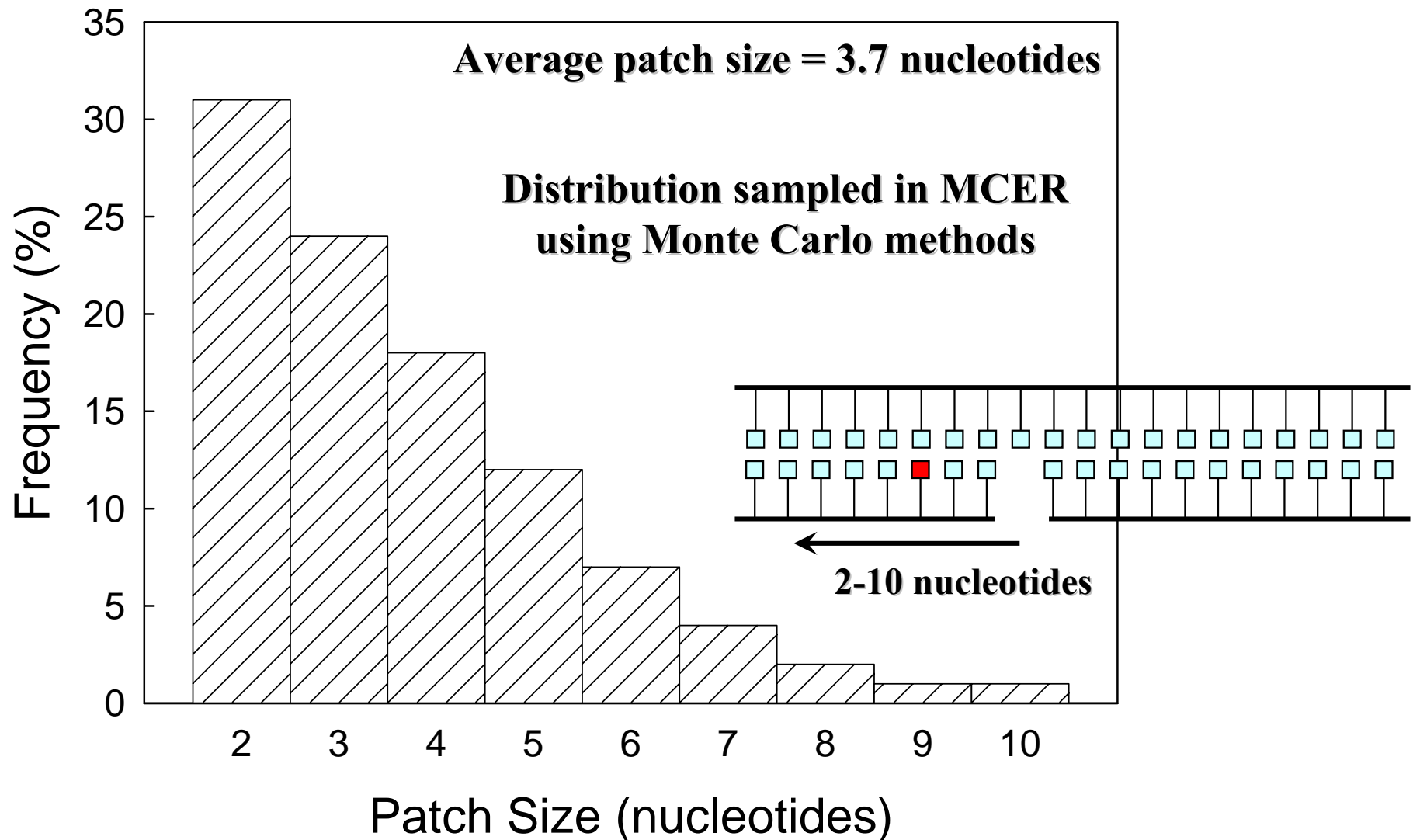
Repair is complete when a DNA ligase seals the nick.

↓  
“repair cycle”

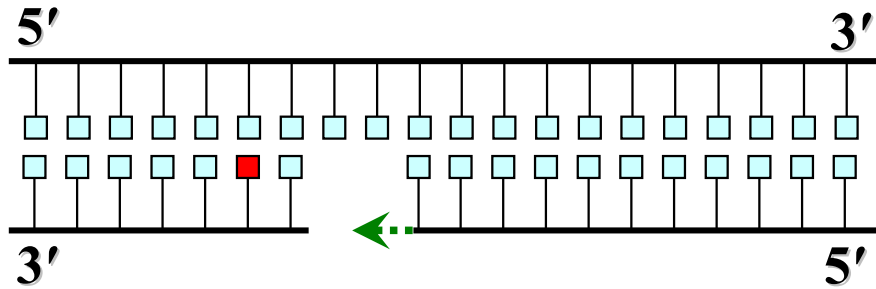
Replacement of a single lesion is referred to as ***short patch BER***

If the abasic site (sugar residue) is oxidized or reduced prior to initiation of repair, long patch BER is initiated instead of short-patch BER. In long patch BER, DNA polymerases  $\delta/\epsilon$  remove and replace several nucleotides in the 5' to 3' direction. The size of this “repair patch” is ...

# Patch size distribution (long patch BER)



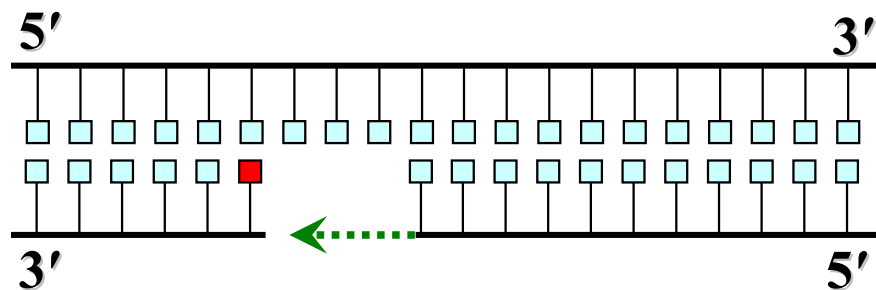
# BER of base damage (long patch BER)



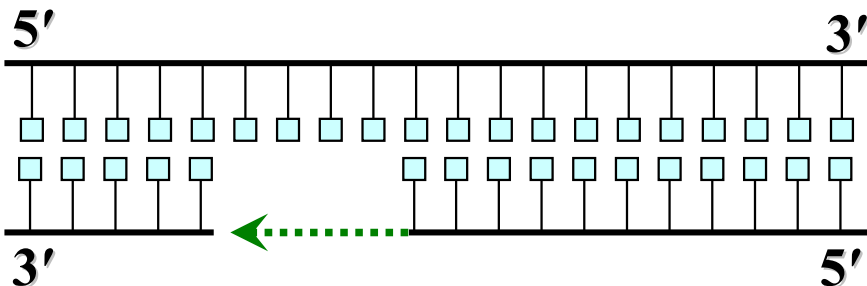
DNA polymerase  $\delta/\epsilon$  remove and resynthesize nucleotides in the 5' to 3' direction. Opposing strand used as template to insert new nucleotide

**A-T or G-C**

**Error rate  $\sim 10^{-6}$**

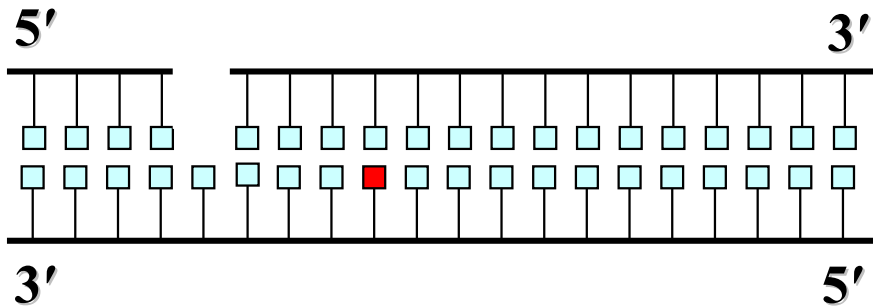


If patch extends past other lesions (5'  $\rightarrow$  3' direction), a single round (“**cycle**”) of BER may remove multiple lesions



Repair is complete when a DNA ligase seals the nick.

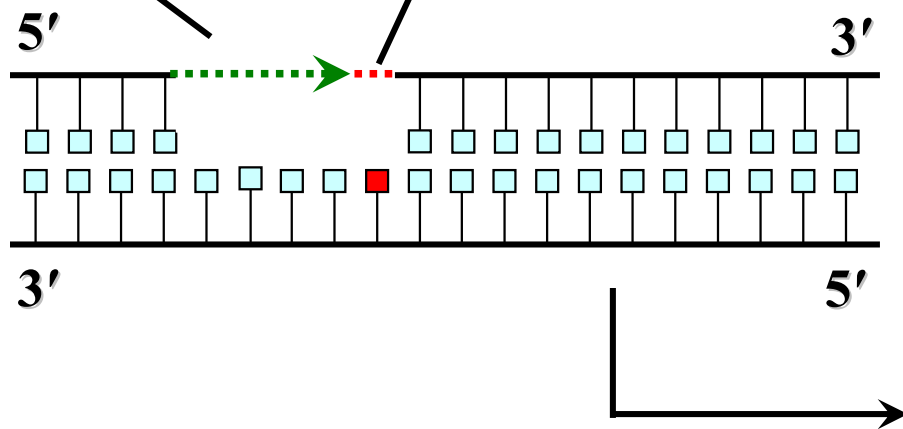
# Base substitution (point mutation)



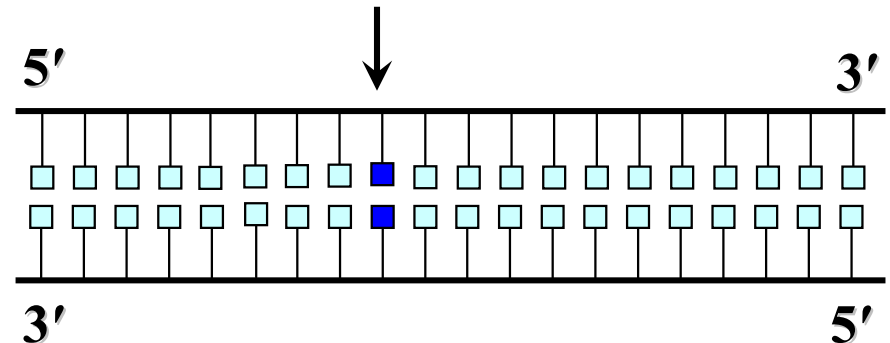
Equal chance of selecting either lesion

Error rate  $10^{-6}$   
(undamaged template)

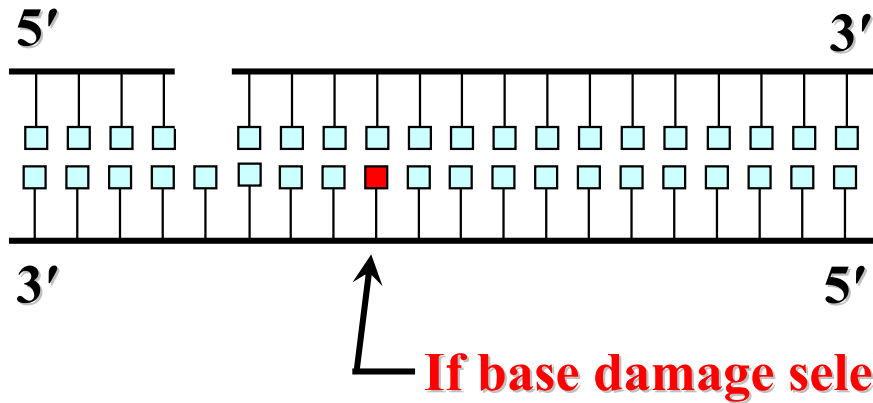
Error rate  $3/4$  = Randomly insert  
A, G, T or C  
(damaged template)



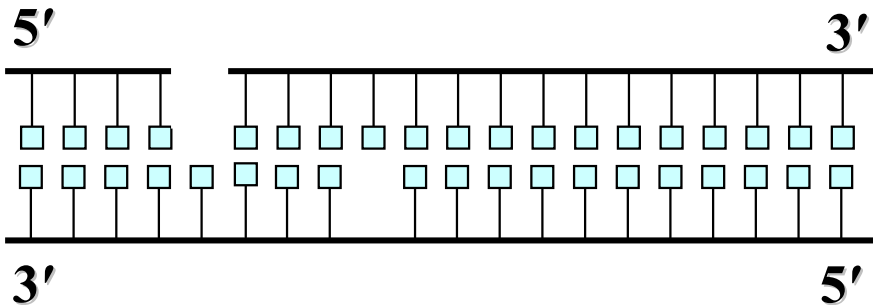
base substitution



# Conversion of SSB into DSB

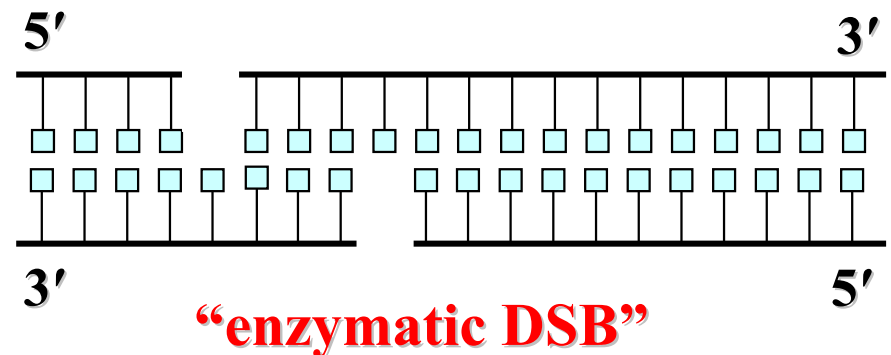


Equal chance of selecting either lesion

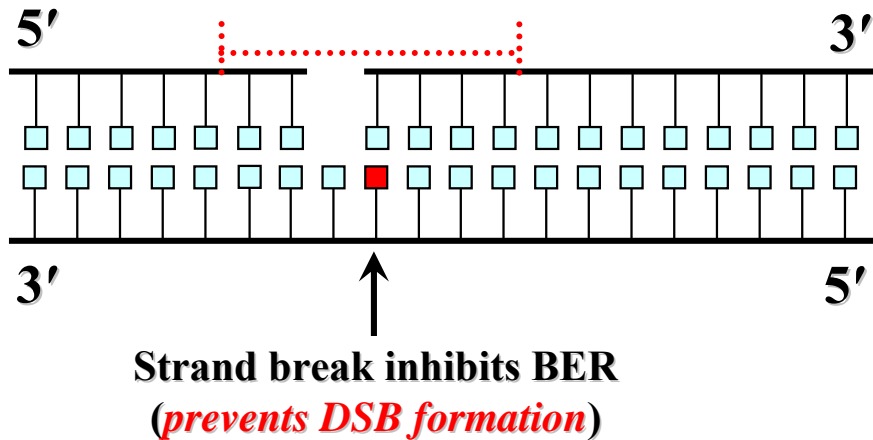


Glycosylase generates an abasic site

AP endonuclease generates a DSB



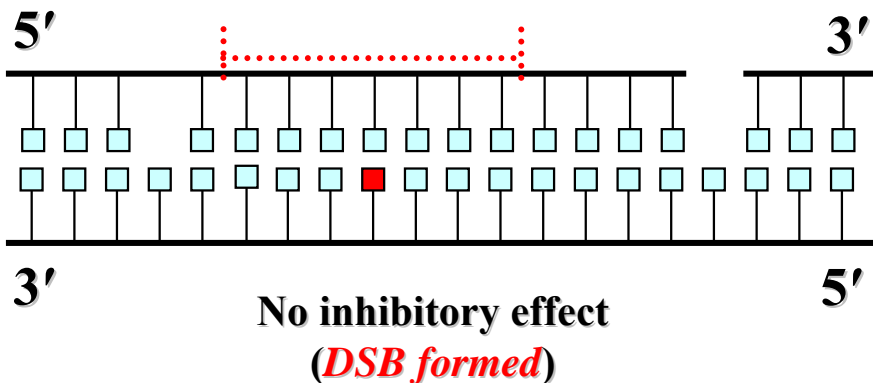
# Inhibitory effect of strand breaks



If a strand break occurs within 3-8 bp on opposite strand, BER of the damaged base is strongly inhibited



$N_{inh}$  parameter in MCER  
(3 bp in *E. coli* and 8 bp in humans)



If strand break is more than 3-8 bp away from damaged base, no inhibitory effect



## For additional details...

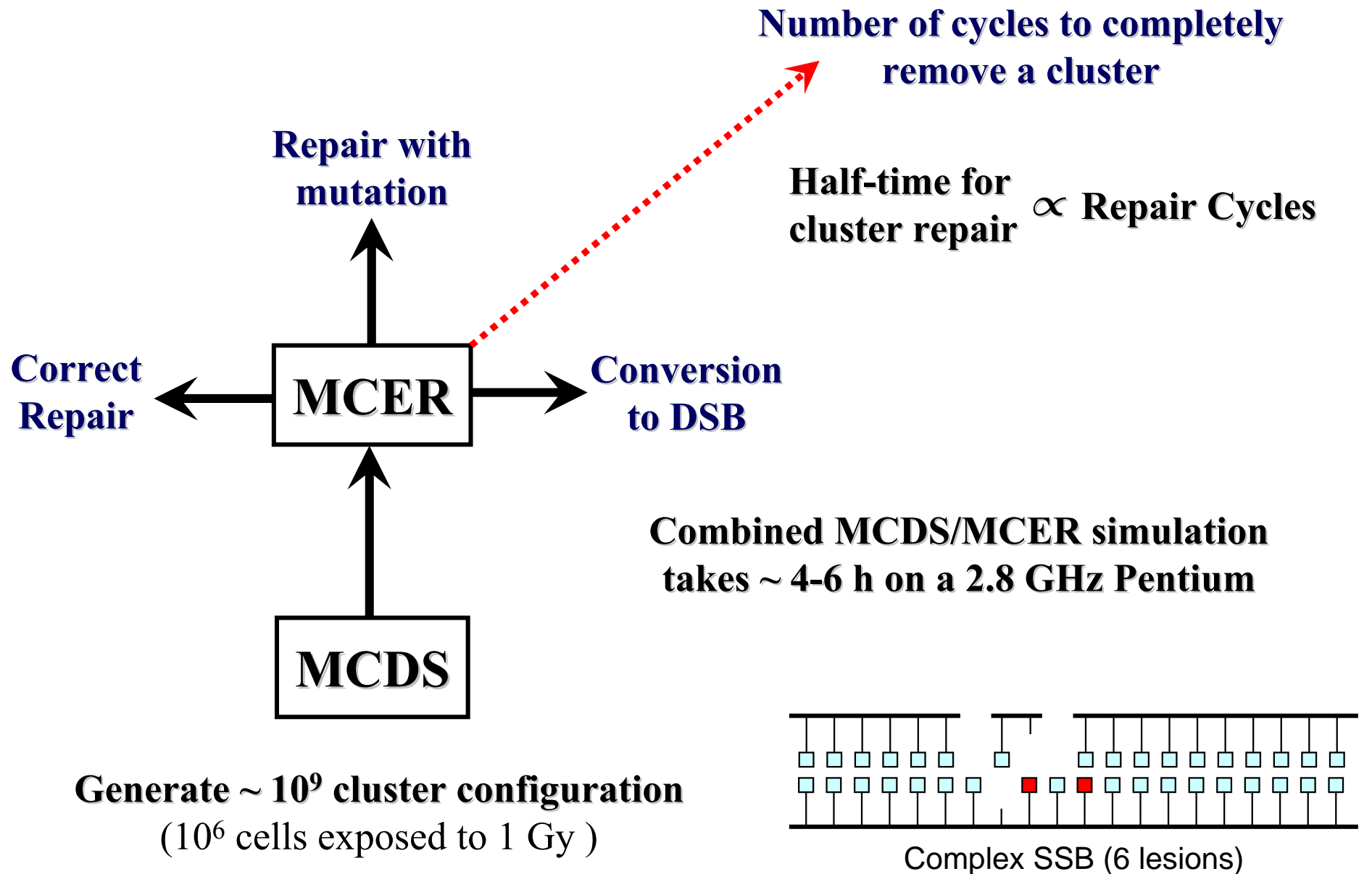
---

- **Monte Carlo Damage Simulation (MCDS)**
  - V.A. Semenenko and **R.D. Stewart**. A fast Monte Carlo algorithm to simulate the spectrum of DNA damages formed by ionizing radiation. *Radiat Res.* **161**(4), 451-457 (2004).
  - V.A. Semenenko and **R.D. Stewart**. Fast Monte Carlo simulation of DNA damage formed by electrons and light ions. *Phys. Med. Biol.* **51**(7), 1693-1706 (2006).
- **Monte Carlo Excision Repair (MCER)**
  - V.A. Semenenko, **R.D. Stewart**, E.J. Ackerman. Monte Carlo Simulation of Base and Nucleotide Excision Repair of Clustered DNA Damage Sites. I. Model Properties and Predicted Trends. *Radiat. Res.* **164**, 180-193 (2005).
  - V.A. Semenenko and **R.D. Stewart**. Monte Carlo Simulation of Base and Nucleotide Excision Repair of Clustered DNA Damage Sites. II. Comparisons of Model Predictions to Measured Data. *Radiat. Res.* **164**, 194-201 (2005).

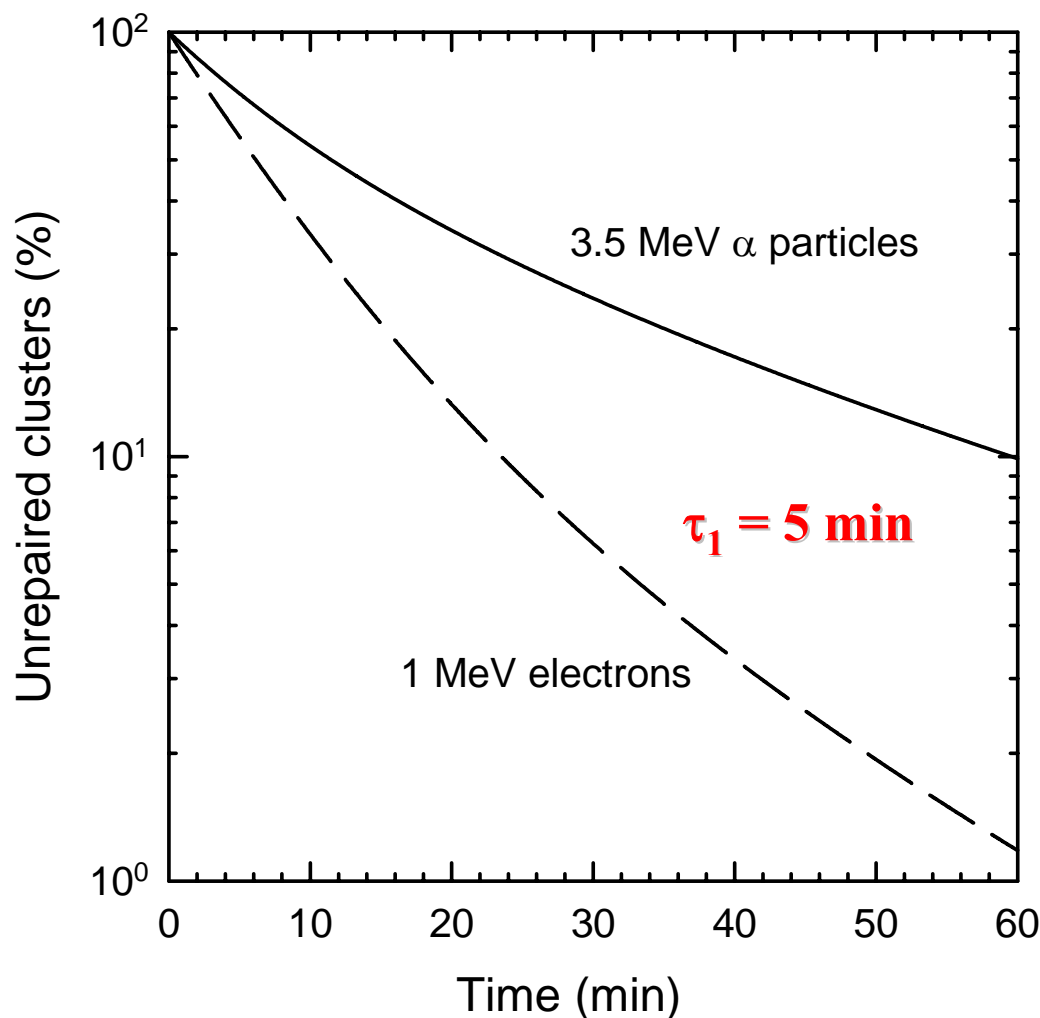
<http://rh.healthsciences.purdue.edu/mcdfs/>

<http://rh.healthsciences.purdue.edu/mcer/>

# Repair outcomes for ionizing radiation



# Cluster repair kinetics (working hypothesis)



Multi-exponential cluster repair kinetics:

$$U(t) = D \sum_{i=1}^{100} \sigma_i e^{-\lambda_i t}$$

$\sigma_i$  = number of  $i^{\text{th}}$  type cluster  
 $\text{Gy}^{-1} \text{ cell}^{-1}$  (**MCDS**)

$$\lambda_i = \ln(2) / (\kappa_i \times \tau_1)$$

↓  
 Repair cycle  $i^{\text{th}}$  type of cluster (**MCER**)

$\tau_1$  = time to repair a 1-cycle cluster

**Over two-fold reduction in rate of repair predicted for  $e^-$  compared to  $\alpha$  particle**

# Point mutations in HPRT gene (low LET)

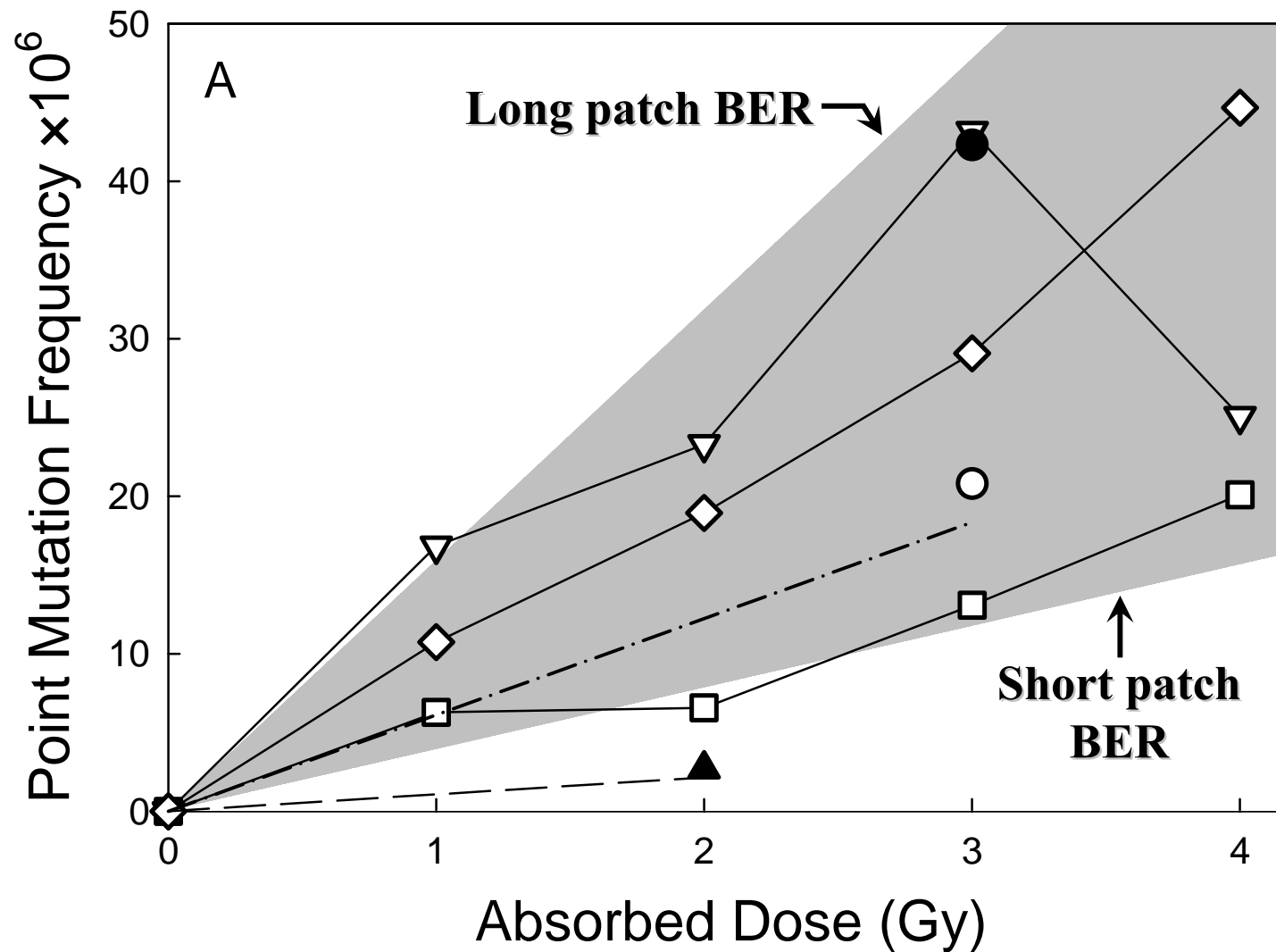
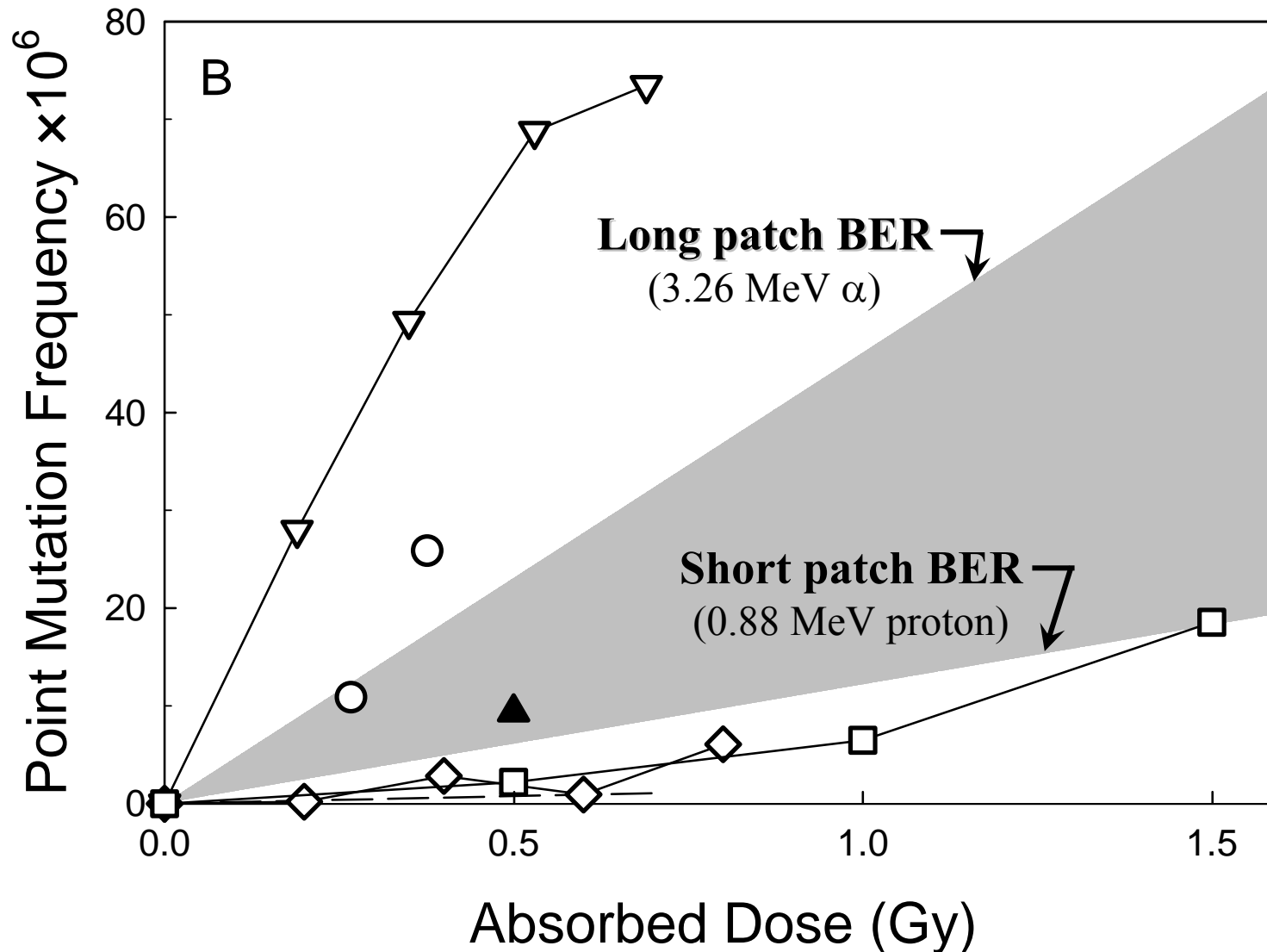


Figure 2 in V.A. Semenenko and R.D. Stewart. Monte Carlo Simulation of Base and Nucleotide Excision Repair of Clustered DNA Damage Sites. II. Comparisons of Model Predictions to Measured Data. *Radiat. Res.* **164**, 194-201 (2005).

# Point mutations in HPRT gene (low LET)



# Repair outcomes (selected radiations)

Radiation Type	$L_{\infty}$ (keV/ $\mu$ m)	Yield (Gy <sup>-1</sup> cell <sup>-1</sup> )				Correct Repair (%)		Enzymatic DSB	
		DSB	SSB	Base Damage	Total	SSB	Base Damage	number	% SSB
1 MeV electrons	0.19	49.8	1136	2567	3753	96.2	99.4	29.4	2.59
250 MeV protons	0.39	50.1	1135	2562	3747	96.1	99.4	29.5	2.60
100 keV electrons	0.41	50.1	1135	2559	3744	96.1	99.4	29.6	2.61
10 keV electrons	2.3	53.3	1123	2483	3659	95.8	99.3	31.3	2.79
1 MeV protons	26	95.6	944	1558	2598	91.2	98.3	51.6	5.47
6.29 MeV $\alpha$ particles	75	127	776	981	1884	86.1	97.1	62.5	8.06
5.49 MeV $\alpha$ particles	83	131	750	908	1789	85.2	96.9	63.8	8.50
3.5 MeV $\alpha$ particles	113	144	664	703	1511	82.2	96.1	65.9	9.93

Experiments with mammalian cells suggest 0.3-0.8 enzymatic DSB per prompt DSB compared to 0.4-0.6 from MCDS/MCER simulations

# MCER summary

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- Combined MCDS and MCER simulations correctly predict trends in repair outcomes with LET and have right order of magnitude
  - Conversion of SSB into DSB
  - Point mutations in HPRT gene
- Excision repair model captures some important mechanistic aspects with a minimum number of parameters
  - Patch size distributions (size and directionality)
  - Inhibitory effects of strand breaks
- Supports the hypothesis that clustered damage is repaired less accurately and efficiently than singly lesions

# Acknowledgements

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**U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Grant  
DE-FG02-03ER63541 and DE-FG02-03ER63665.**



Low Dose Radiation Research Program  
<http://lowdose.tricity.wsu.edu/>

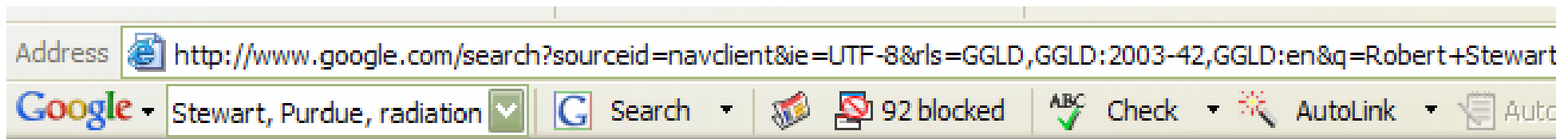


Vladimir Semenenko, Ph.D.  
(now at Medical College of Wisconsin)



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