

# MCNP

## The perspective of a new user

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# Content

- Introduction
- Input file
- Output file - Results
- Conclusions -Comments

# Introduction

- Distributed through **RSICC** (**R**adiation **S**afety **I**nformation **C**omputational **C**enter) at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA;
- Code Contribution is not free
- Written in FORTRAN 90
- Computer Platforms:
  - ✓ UNIX
  - ✓ Windows/DOS



# Introduction

- General & powerful code
- Numerous **variance reduction techniques** may be invoked by the user
- Particle type: **neutron, photon, electron**
- Continuous-energy Cross Section Tables
- Complete control over **source term**
- **Flexible tallies**
- Criticality calculations are supported

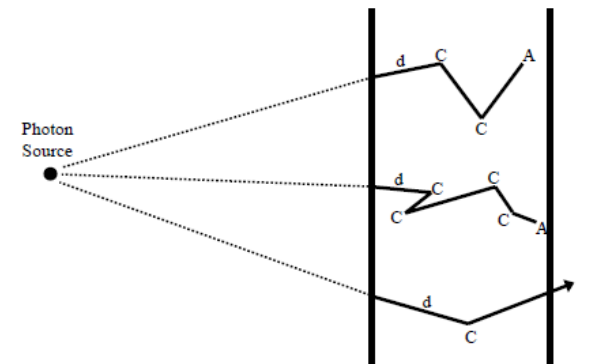
# “Particles” transported in MCNP

Neutrons → **n**:  $10^{-11}$  to 20 MeV (150 MeV for several isotopes)

Photons → **p**: 1 keV to 100 GeV

(incoherent, coherent, photoelectric and pair production cross sections)

Electrons → **e**: 1 keV to 1 GeV



d = distance to collision  
C = collision site  
A = absorption

# MCNP Basic Input

- Lengths in **cm**
- Energies in **MeV**
- Times in **sec**
- Temperatures in **kT**
- Atomic densities in units of **atoms/barn-cm**
- Mass densities in **g/cm<sup>3</sup>**
- Cross section in **barns**
- Heat number in **MeV/collision**
- Atomic weight ratio based on a **neutron mass of 1.00866497 amu**

# Content

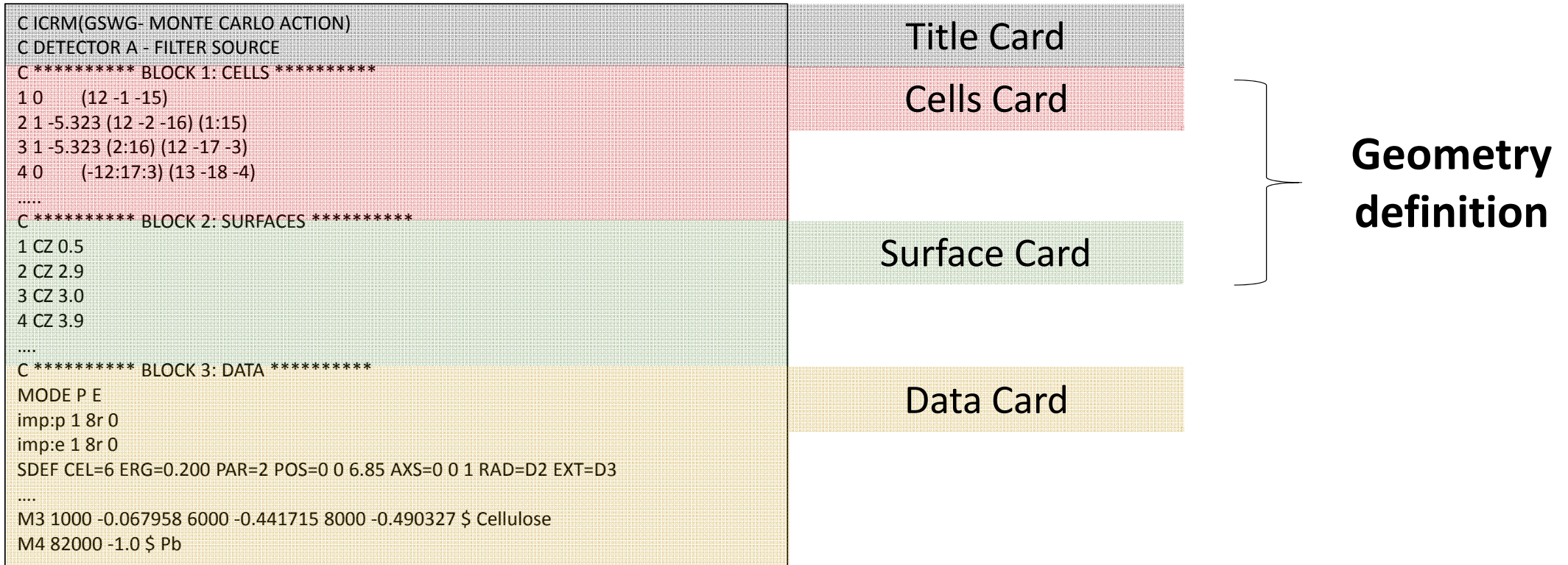
- Introduction
- Input file
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# Input file - Structure

<pre>C ICRM(GSWG- MONTE CARLO ACTION) C DETECTOR A - FILTER SOURCE C ***** BLOCK 1: CELLS ***** 1 0 (12 -1 -15) 2 1 -5.323 (12 -2 -16) (1:15) 3 1 -5.323 (2:16) (12 -17 -3) 4 0 (-12:17:3) (13 -18 -4) .... C ***** BLOCK 2: SURFACES ***** 1 CZ 0.5 2 CZ 2.9 3 CZ 3.0 4 CZ 3.9 .... C ***** BLOCK 3: DATA ***** MODE P E imp:p 1 8r 0 imp:e 1 8r 0 SDEF CEL=6 ERG=0.200 PAR=2 POS=0 0 6.85 AXS=0 0 1 RAD=D2 EXT=D3 .... M3 1000 -0.067958 6000 -0.441715 8000 -0.490327 \$ Cellulose M4 82000 -1.0 \$ Pb</pre>	Title Card
	Cells Card
	Surface Card
	Data Card



# Input file - Structure



# Input file – Geometry (1)

## Surface Cards

- “Simplest” cards
- Specification by equation coefficients or points
- Standard Surfaces designated by **mnemonics**
- Planes, cylinders, and cones are infinite in extent

Title Card

Cells Card



Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Geometry (2)

```
C ***** BLOCK 2: SURFACES *****  
1 CZ 0.5  
2 CZ 2.9  
3 CZ 3.0  
4 CZ 3.9  
5 CZ 4.0  
12 PZ 0.0  
13 PZ -1.3  
14 PZ -1.4  
15 PZ 4.0  
16 PZ 5.9  
17 PZ 6.0  
18 PZ 6.5  
19 PZ 6.6  
24 PZ 17.6  
25 PZ -12.4  
26 CZ 15  
27 PZ 22.6  
28 PZ -17.4  
29 CZ 20  
30 SO 50
```

## Surface 1:

$x^2 + y^2 - R^2 = 0$ , **cylinder** on z-axis, R=2.9

## Surface 13:

$z - D = 0$ , **plane** normal to z-axis, Z=-1.3

All dimensions are expressed in **cm**

## Surface 30:

$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - R^2 = 0$ , **sphere** centered at origin, R=50

Title Card

Cells Card

Surface Card

Data Card

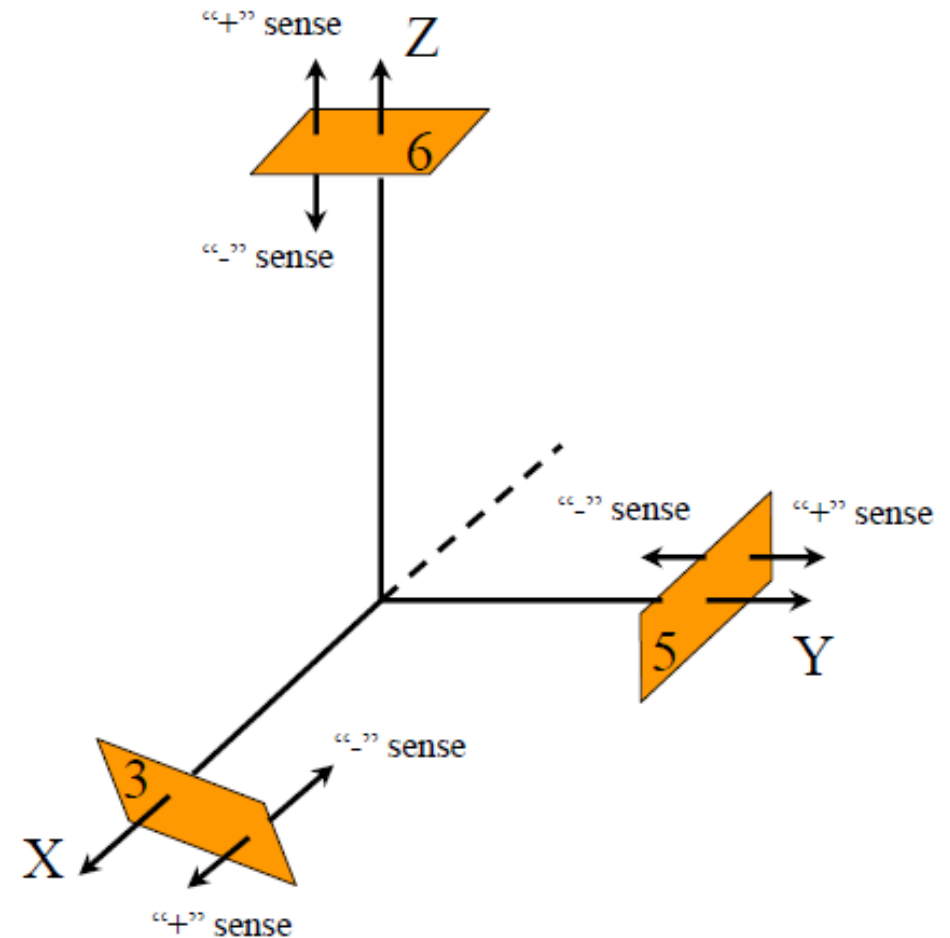
**Table 3.1: MCNP Surface Cards**

Mnemonic	Type	Description	Equation	Card Entries
P	Plane	General	$Ax + By + Cz - D = 0$	ABCD
PX		Normal to X-axis	$x - D = 0$	D
PY		Normal to Y-axis	$y - D = 0$	D
PZ		Normal to Z-axis	$z - D = 0$	D
SO	Sphere	Centered at Origin	$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - R^2 = 0$	R
S		General	$(x - \bar{x})^2 + (y - \bar{y})^2 + (z - \bar{z})^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{x} \bar{y} \bar{z} R$
SX		Centered on X-axis	$(x - \bar{x})^2 + y^2 + z^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{x} R$
SY		Centered on Y-axis	$x^2 + (y - \bar{y})^2 + z^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{y} R$
SZ		Centered on Z-axis	$y^2 + z^2 + (z - \bar{z})^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{z} R$
C/X	Cylinder	Parallel to X-axis	$(y - \bar{y})^2 + (z - \bar{z})^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{y} \bar{z} R$
C/Y		Parallel to Y-axis	$(x - \bar{x})^2 + (z - \bar{z})^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{x} \bar{z} R$
C/Z		Parallel to Z-axis	$(x - \bar{x})^2 + (y - \bar{y})^2 - R^2 = 0$	$\bar{x} \bar{y} R$
CX		On X-axis	$y^2 + z^2 - R^2 = 0$	R
CY		On Y-axis	$x^2 + z^2 - R^2 = 0$	R
CZ		On Z-axis	$x^2 + y^2 - R^2 = 0$	R
K/X	Cone	Parallel to X-axis	$\sqrt{(y - \bar{y})^2 + (z - \bar{z})^2} - t(x - \bar{x}) = 0$	$\bar{x} \bar{y} \bar{z} t^2 \pm 1$
K/Y		Parallel to Y-axis	$\sqrt{(x - \bar{x})^2 + (z - \bar{z})^2} - t(y - \bar{y}) = 0$	$\bar{x} \bar{y} \bar{z} t^2 \pm 1$
K/Z		Parallel to Z-axis	$\sqrt{(x - \bar{x})^2 + (y - \bar{y})^2} - t(z - \bar{z}) = 0$	$\bar{x} \bar{y} \bar{z} t^2 \pm 1$

# Input file – Geometry (3)

## Surface sense:

- **Above plane:** “+” or positive sense
- **Below plane:** “-” or negative sense
- **Inside cylinder or sphere:** “-”
- **Outside cylinder or sphere:** “+”



Title Card

Cells Card

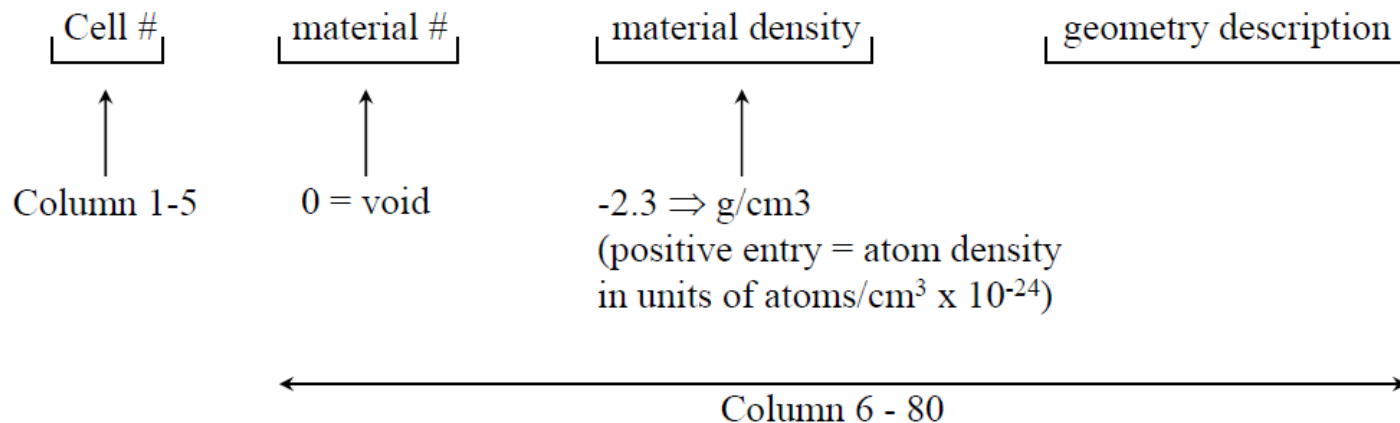
Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Geometry (4)

## Cell Cards:

- Cells are the **basic geometry** unit
- **Cartesian** Coordinate System
- Each region must be uniquely defined (no “cookie cutter” cells allowed)
- At least one cell must describe the **problem exterior**



Title Card

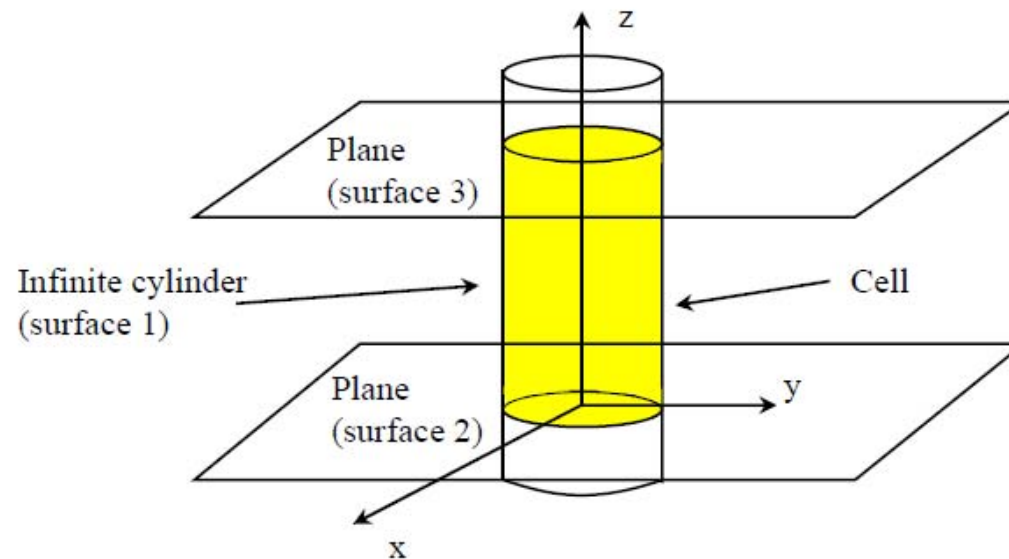
**Cells Card**

Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Geometry (4)

- Cells are built up using one or more surfaces.
- Cells are volumes in space bounded by simple surfaces:



Title Card

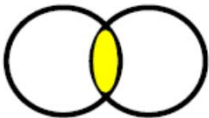
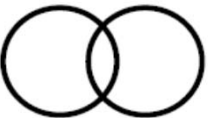
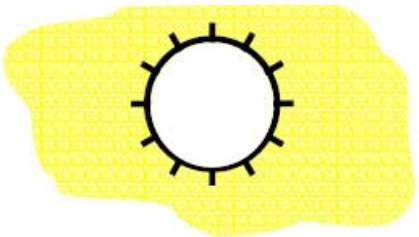
**Cells Card**

Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Geometry (5)

Surfaces are combined using 3 operators:

	Name	Operation	Designator	
AND	Intersection			Blank space between surface numbers
OR	Union		:	Between surface numbers
NOT	Complement		#	Points outside of cell or surface

Title Card

Cells Card

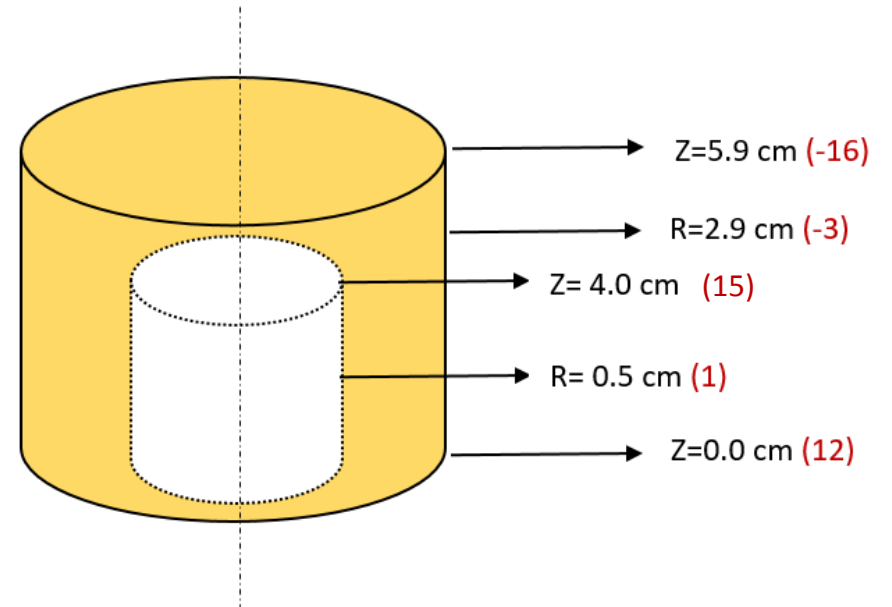
Surface Card

Data Card



# Input file – Geometry (6)

C	*****	BLOCK 1: CELLS	*****
1	0	(12 -1 -15)	
2	1 -5.323	(12 -3 -16) (1:15)	
3	0	(-12:16:3) (13 -18 -4)	
4	2 -2.7	(14 -19 -5) (-13:18:4)	
5	0	(25 -24 -26) (-14:19:5)	
6	4 -11.35	(28 -27 -29) (-25:24:26)	
7	0	-30 (-28:27:29)	
8	0 30		



Title Card

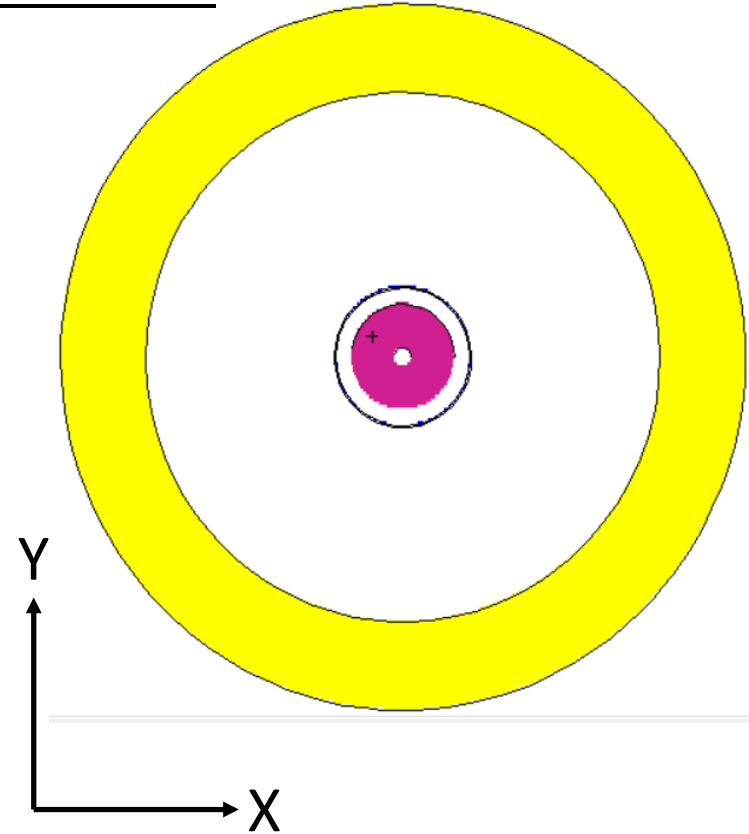
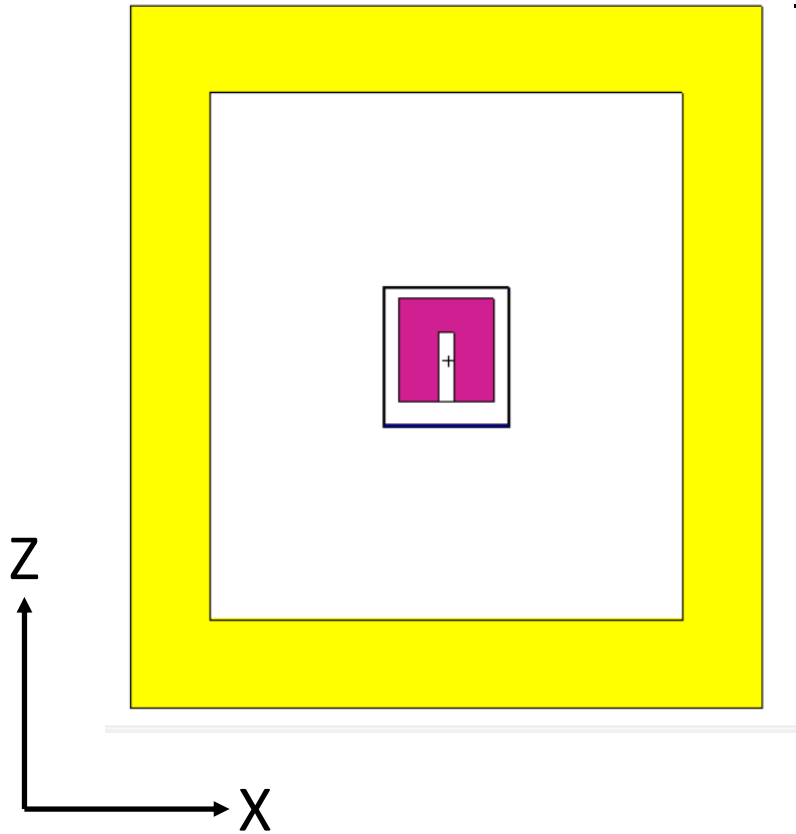
Cells Card

Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Geometry (7)

## Visual Editor - VISED



<http://www.mcnpvised.com/visualeditor/visualeditor.html>

Title Card

Cells Card

Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Data Cards

- Anything that isn't a surface or cell card!
- The third “chunk” of information in an MCNP input file
- Includes everything else is needed for the radiation transport:
  - ✓ mode → **MODE**
  - ✓ cell and surface parameters → **IMP:N**
  - ✓ source specification → **SDEF**
  - ✓ tally specification → **Fn, En**
  - ✓ material specification → **Mm**

Title Card

Cells Card

Surface Card

**Data Card**

# Input file – Data Cards

- **MODE**

Form

MODE

$x_1 x_2 \dots x_n$

$x_i$ :

**N** for neutrons transport (default)

**P** for photons transport

**E** for electrons transport

**P E** for photons and electrons transport

---

- **IMP: N**

Importance of each simulated “particle” within every cell of the geometry:

1 → important

0 → not important

e.g. imp: p 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0

or

imp: p 1 8r 0

8

Title Card

Cells Card

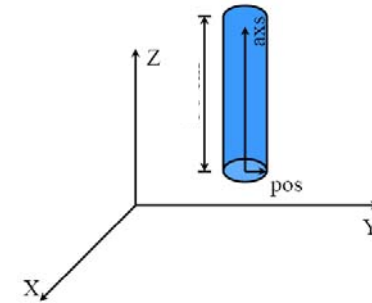
Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Data Cards

- **SDEF** : Source Definition

Example: Source distributed in a cylindrical volume



SDEF **CEL=6** **ERG=0.050** **PAR=2** **POS=0 0 8.7** **AXS=0 0 1** **RAD=D2** **EXT=D3**

Starting source cell : 6

Source energy: 0.050 MeV

1:neutron, 2:photon, or 3:electron

x, y, z vector for reference point for position sampling

Reference vector of the cylinder

Radial distance from POS

Distance from POS along AXS

Title Card

Cells Card

Surface Card

Data Card

# Input file – Data Cards

- **TALLY**

MCNP builds up a picture of the radiation field by using tallies:

- position
- direction
- energy
- weight

## Application

- Energy deposition of photons in 1000 channels (0.001 ÷ 0.505 MeV)
- Detector: Cell 2

```
E0 0 1E-5 0.001 998i 0.505
```

```
F8:P 2
```

Title Card

Cells Card

Surface Card

**Data Card**

# Content

- Installation
- Input file      *mcpnp5 n=(input file)*
- Output file - Results
- Conclusions - Comments

# Output file

Several information are given:

- Cells: density, volume, mass, fluxes
- Random numbers information
- Cross section tables
- Statistical tests concerning the tally fluctuations
- Energy deposition:

Peak eff. : 4.05574 e-02 ± 0.40%

~~Total eff. : 9.85622 e-02 ± 0.25%~~  
8.26467 e-02 ± 0.28%

cell 2		
energy	eff. (en/p)	Rel. unc. (1σ)
<del>0.0000E+00</del>	<del>0.00000E+00</del>	<del>0.0000</del>
<del>1.0000E-05</del>	<del>1.59155E-02</del>	<del>0.0065</del>
1.0000E-03	9.65026E-05	0.0836
1.2012E-03	2.42944E-05	0.1667
1.4024E-03	2.29447E-05	0.1715
1.6036E-03	2.96931E-05	0.1508
1.8048E-03	3.77912E-05	0.1336
2.0060E-03	2.42944E-05	0.1667
2.2072E-03	3.91409E-05	0.1313
.....		
1.9918E-01	4.52145E-05	0.1222
1.9938E-01	4.25151E-05	0.1260
1.9959E-01	5.19630E-05	0.1140
1.9979E-01	4.11655E-05	0.1280
1.9999E-01	3.57667E-05	0.1374
2.0019E-01	4.05574E-02	0.0040
2.0039E-01	0.00000E+00	0.0000
total	9.85622E-02	0.0025

Detector A, Water, 200 keV

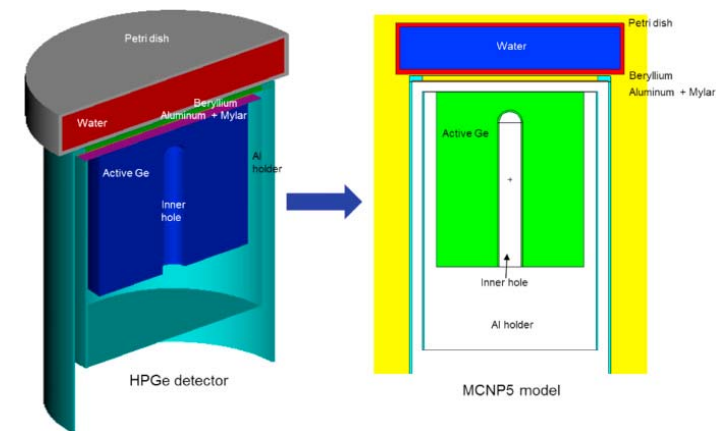


# Content

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# Conclusions - Comments

- 1 input file controls the simulation;
- 1 output file rich of information;
- Vised software can be used for both input and output files;
- User friendly even for new users
  - Input files prepared for this action were easily understandable



# Thank you very much for your attention!



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