

# Heterogeneous multiscale simulations of radiation therapy with gold nanoparticles

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Carleton University, Physics, Ottawa, Canada

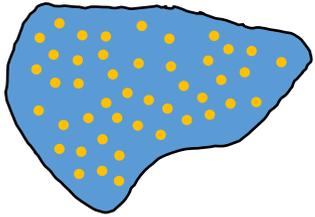
MCMA 2017

Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017



**Carleton**  
UNIVERSITY

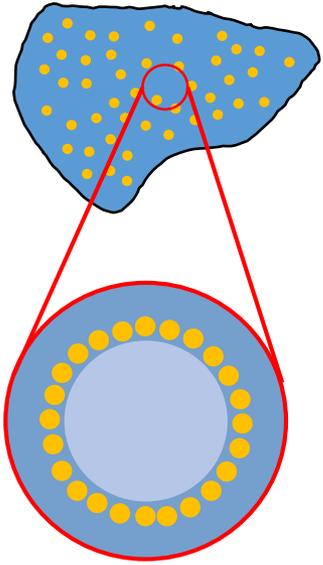
# Gold NanoParticle dose-enhanced radiation Therapy (GNPT)



≈cm

- Load tumour with **Gold NanoParticles (GNPs)**
  - Enhanced photoelectric cross section

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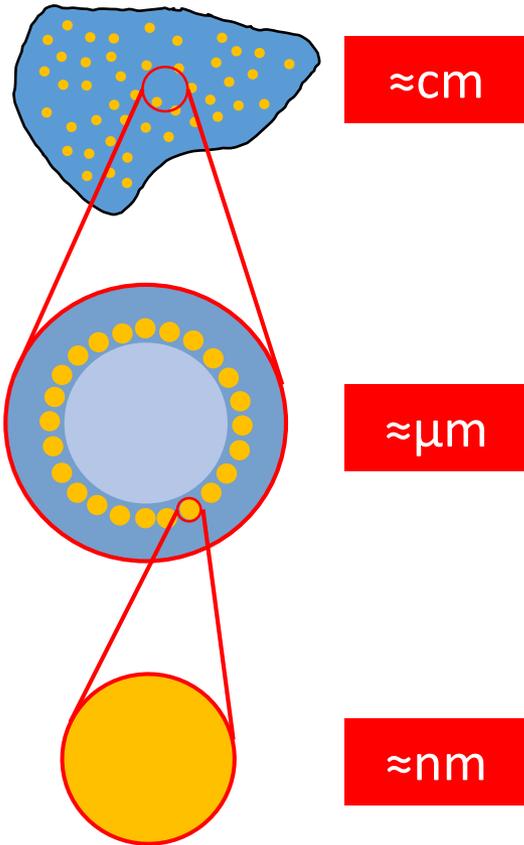
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≈μm

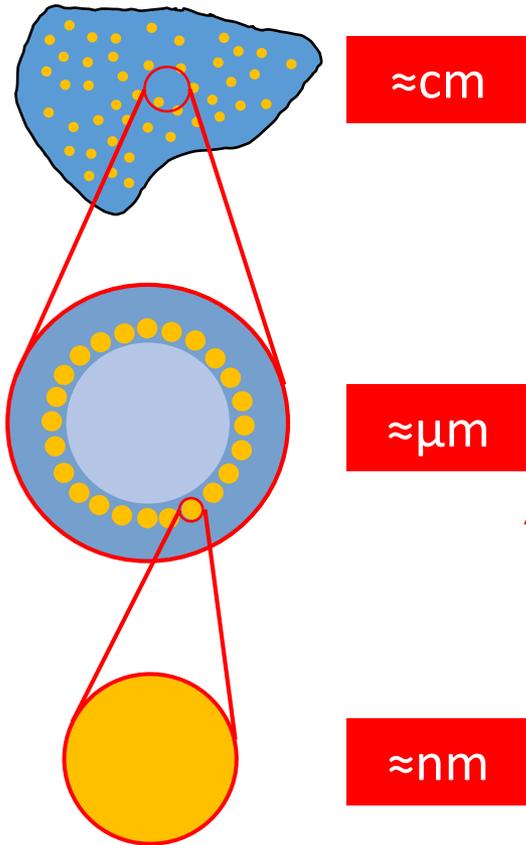
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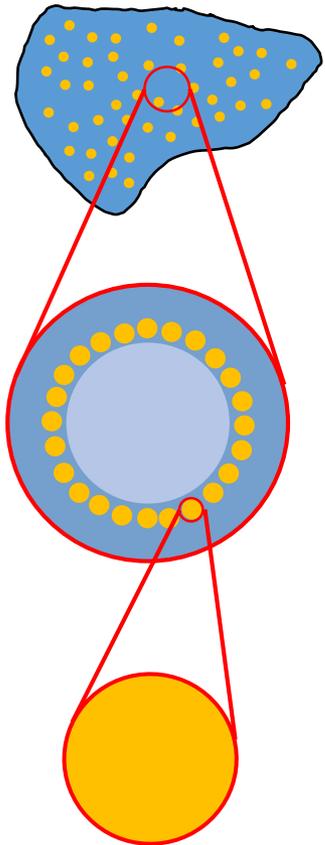
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Upwards of 50,000 GNPs per cell

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300 million cells per cm<sup>3</sup>

≈μm

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  - Distribution within cell varies

Upwards of 50,000 GNPs per cell

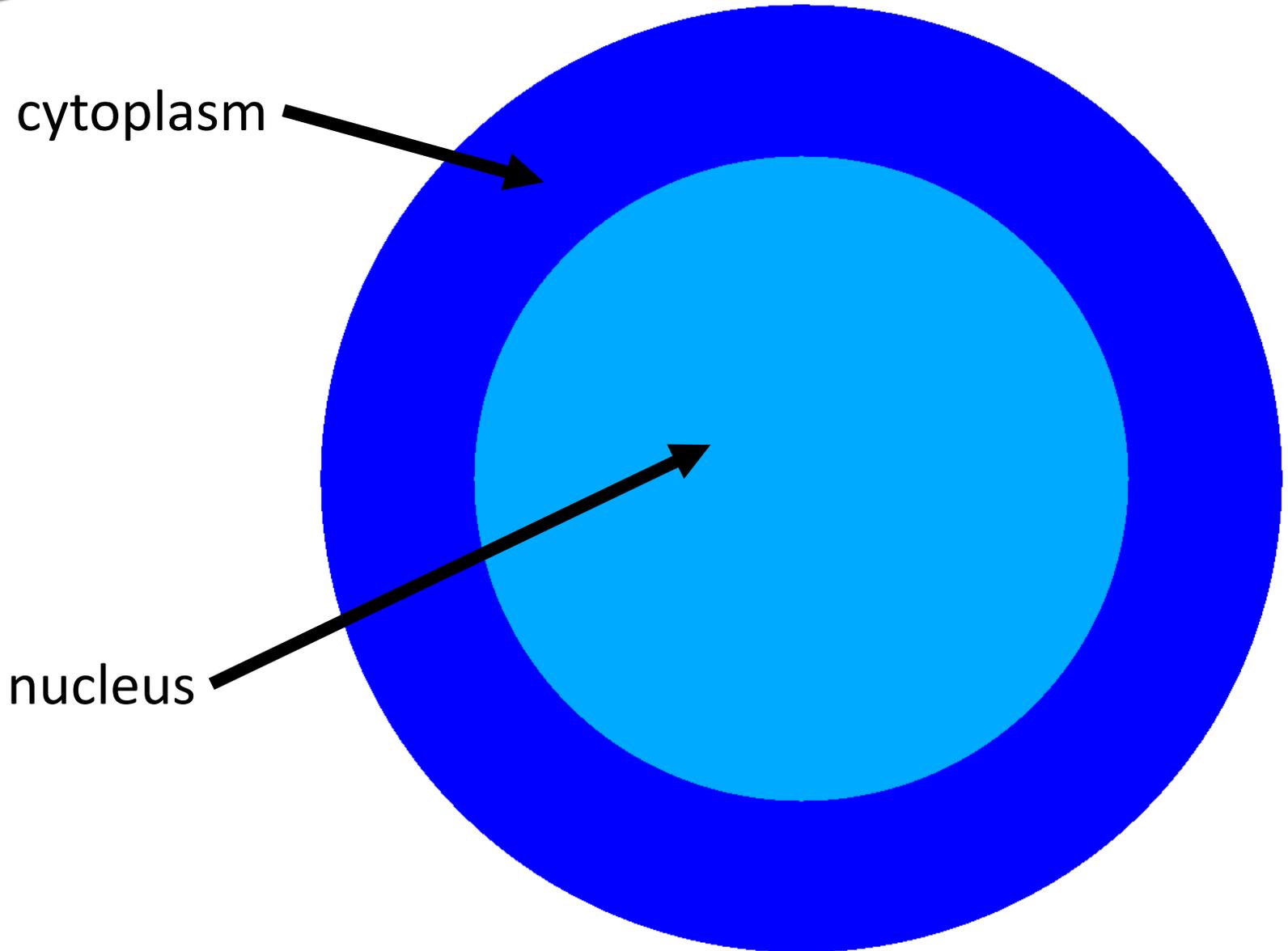
≈nm

- Monte Carlo is an excellent tool for GNPT dosimetry

# Overview

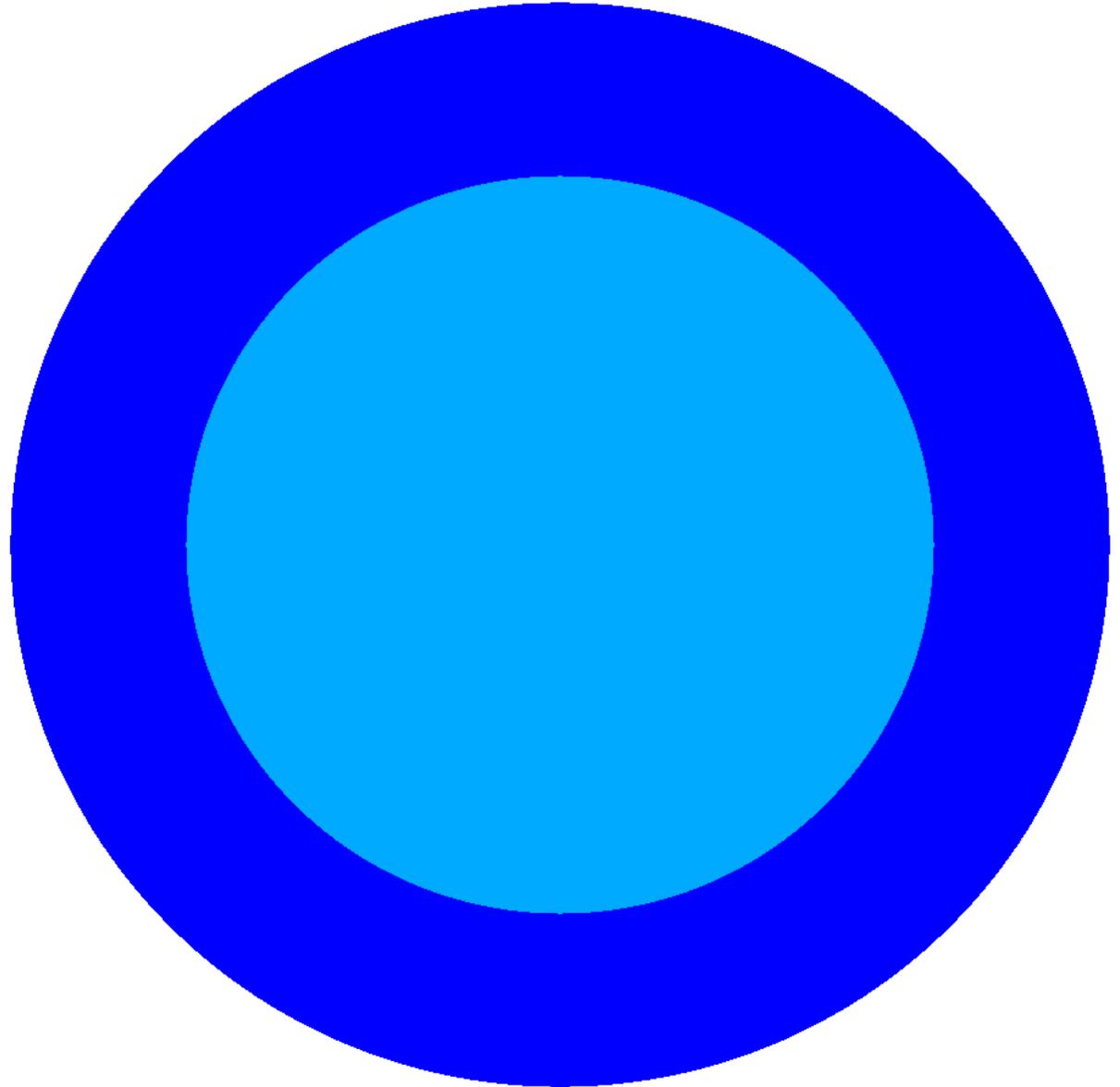
- Modelling cell and GNP geometry
- Heterogeneous Multiscale Model
  - Introduction
  - Creating a scoring volume
  - Full phantom model
- Results

# Cell Model - no gold



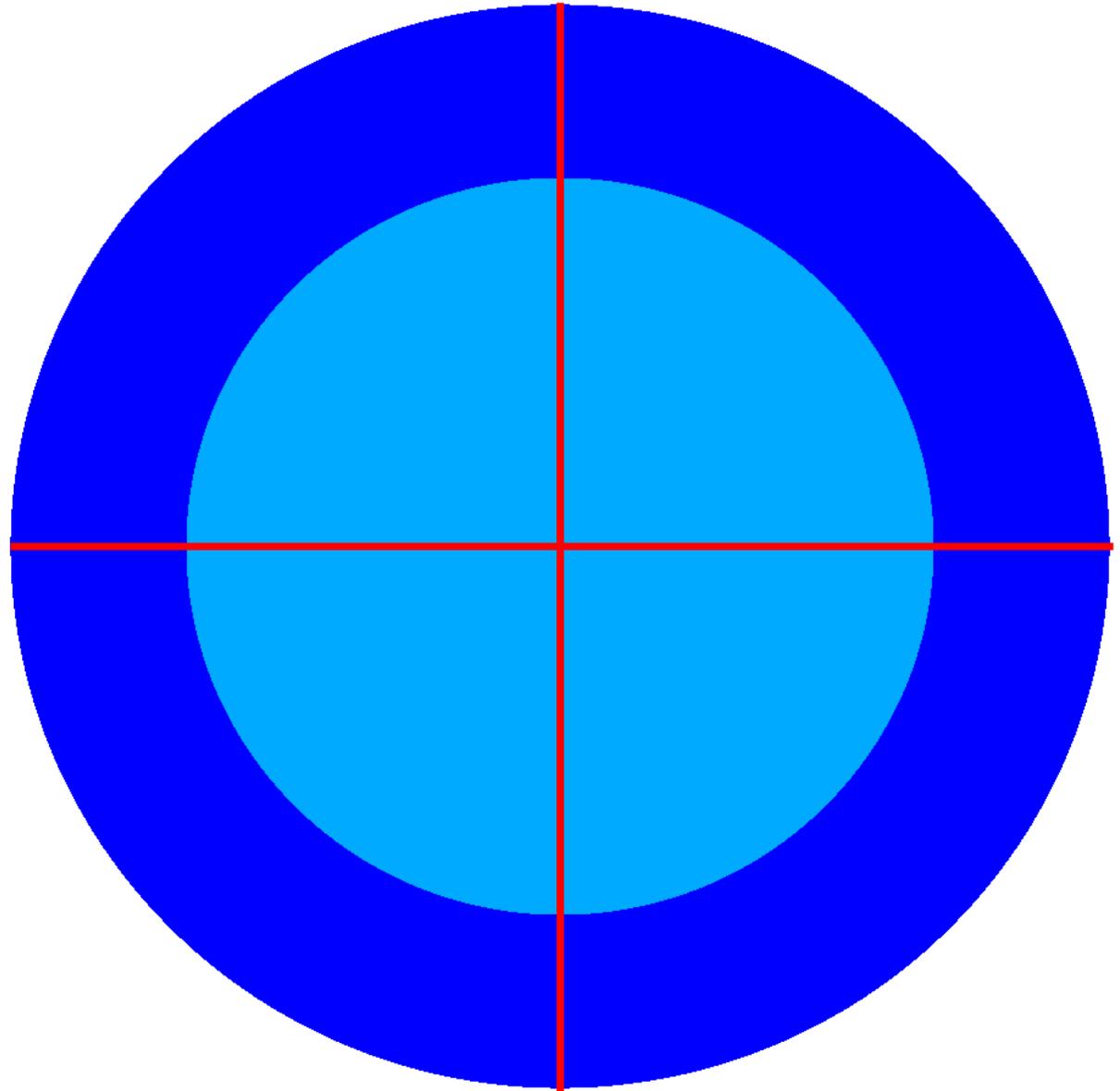
# Cell Model – modelling the gold shell

- GNPs collect on the surface of the nucleus



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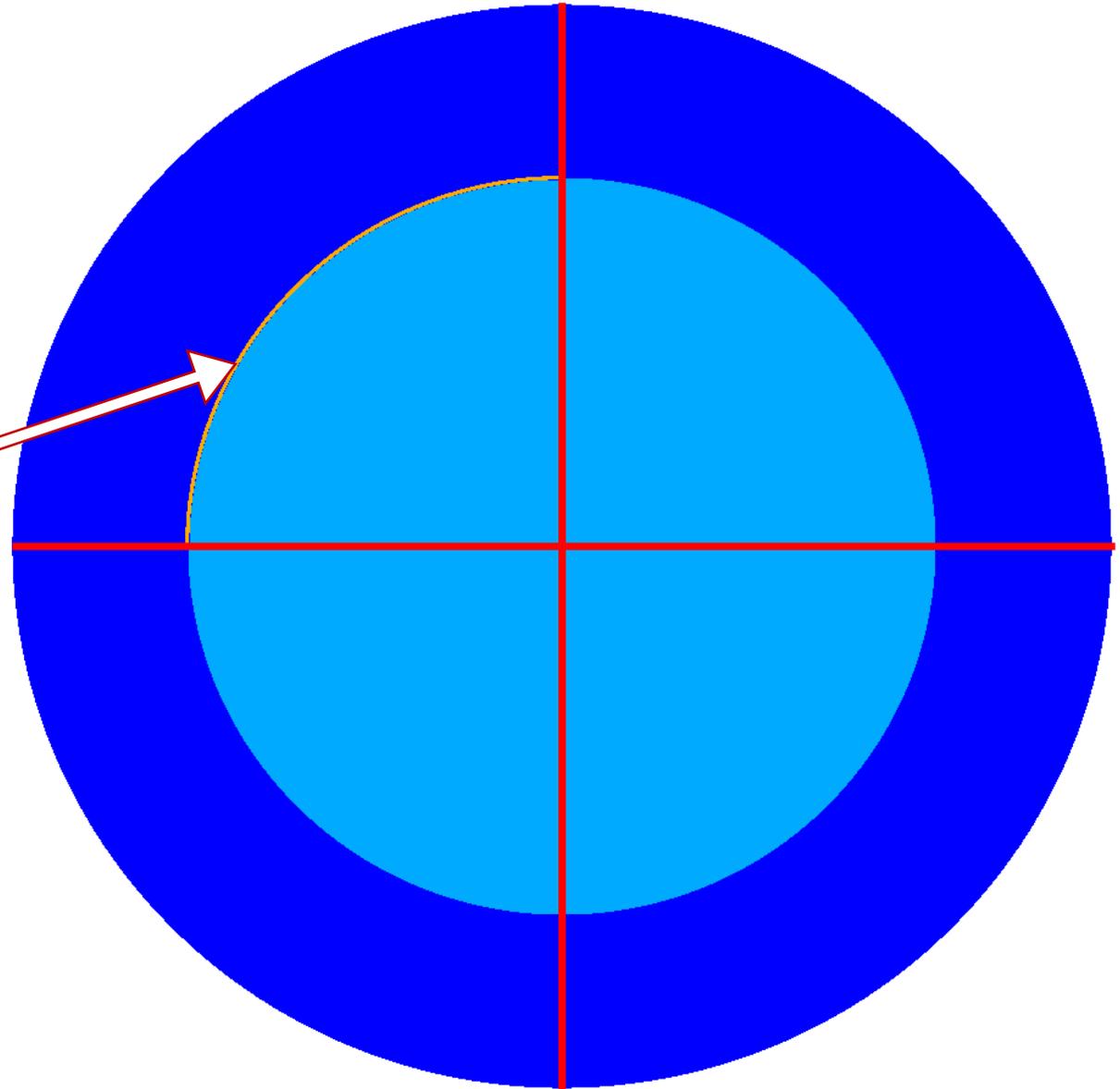
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pure gold

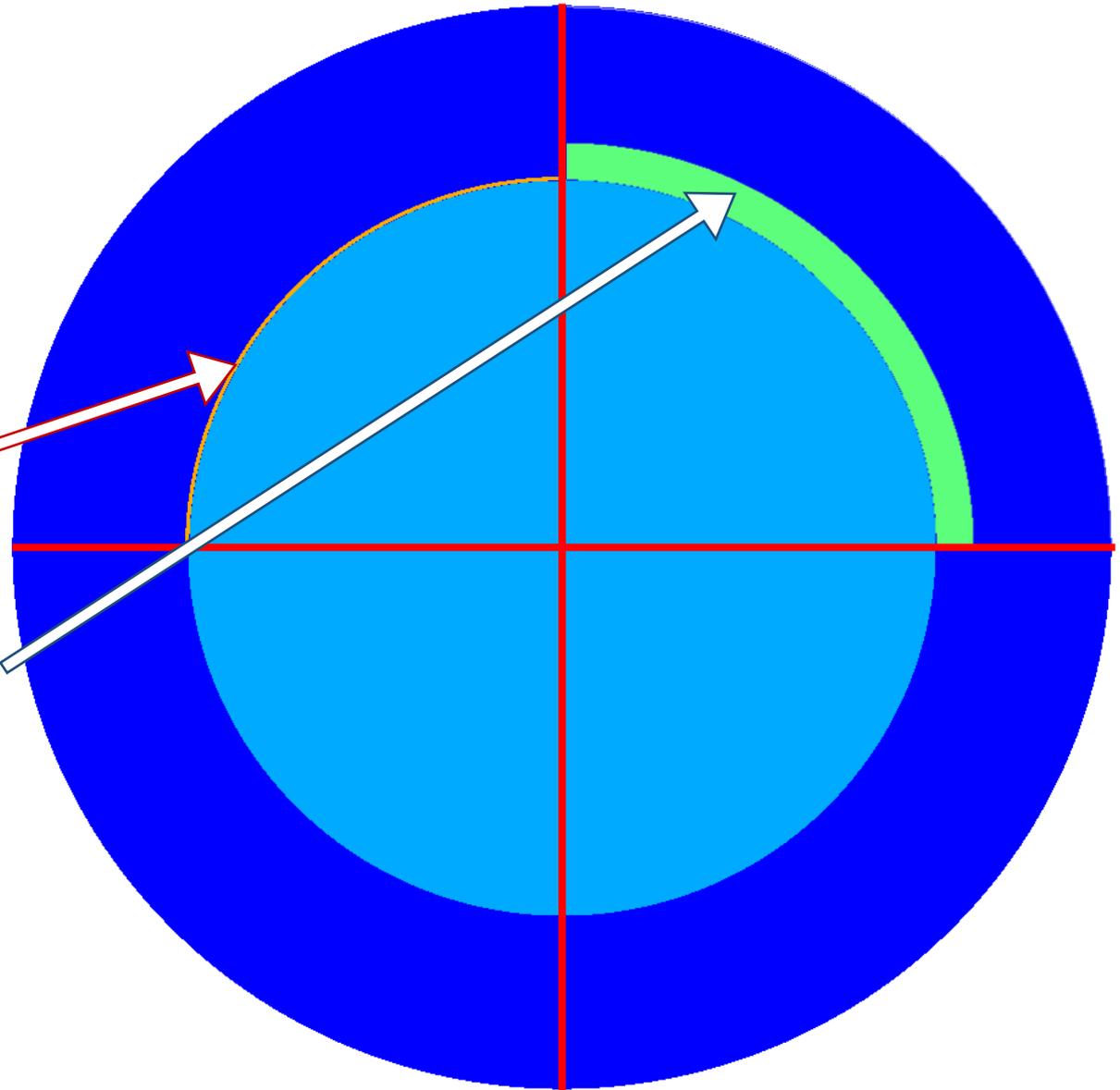


# Cell Model – modelling the gold shell

- GNPs collect on the surface of the nucleus

pure gold

homogeneous  
gold-tissue mixture



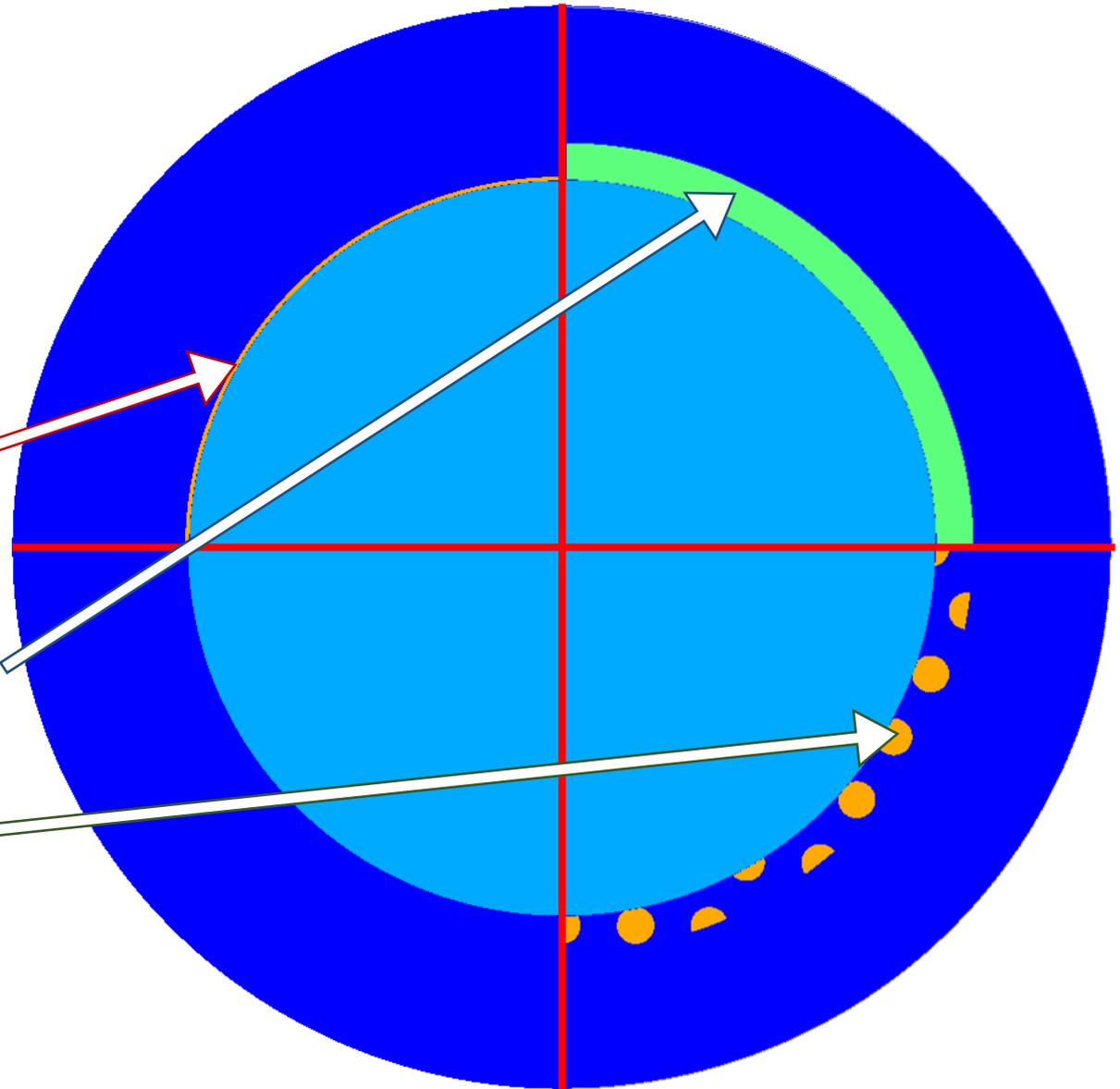
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GNPs in lattice



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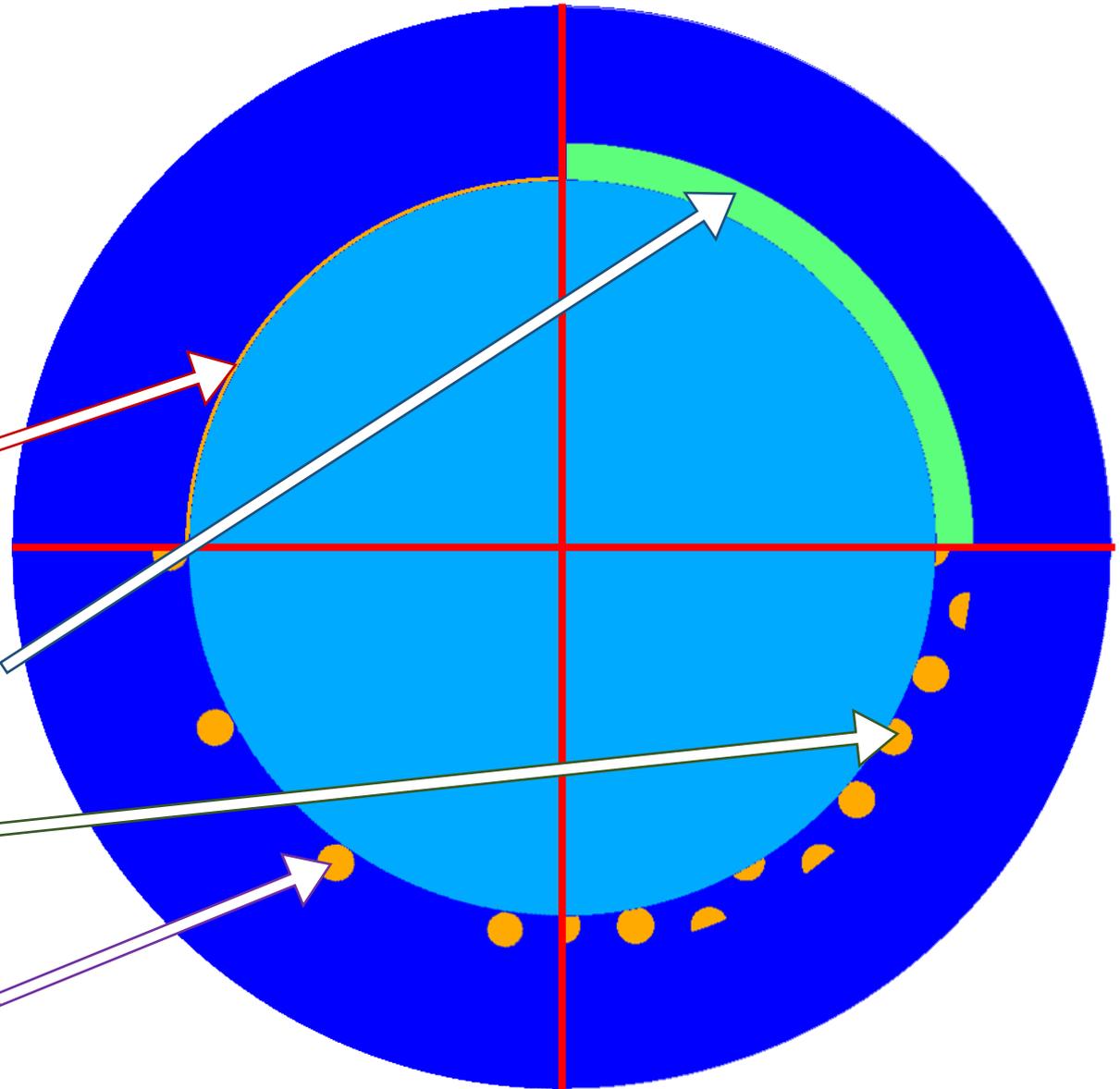
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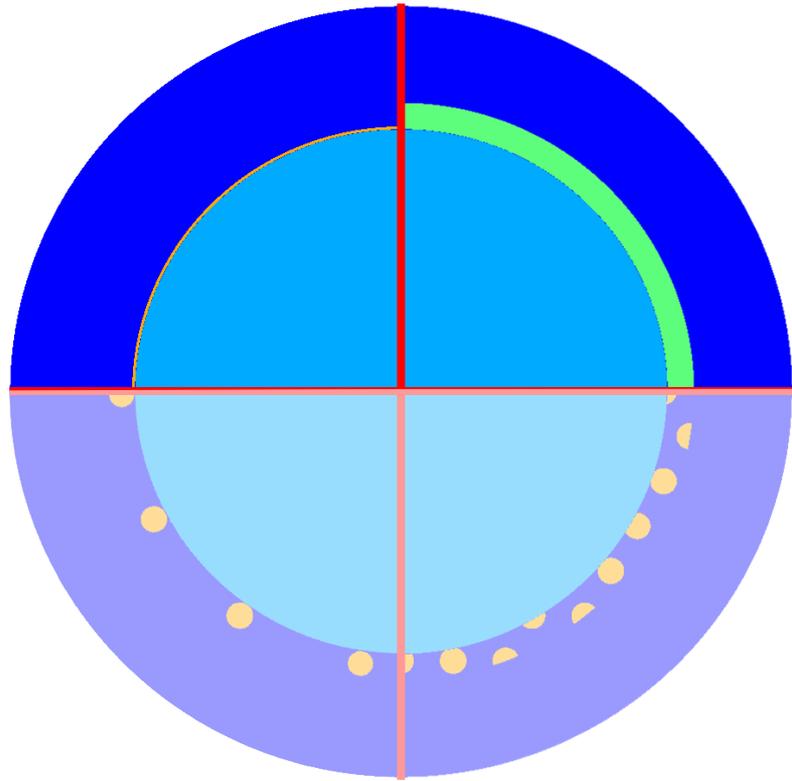
homogeneous  
gold-tissue mixture

GNPs in lattice

GNPs placed in  
spiral config.



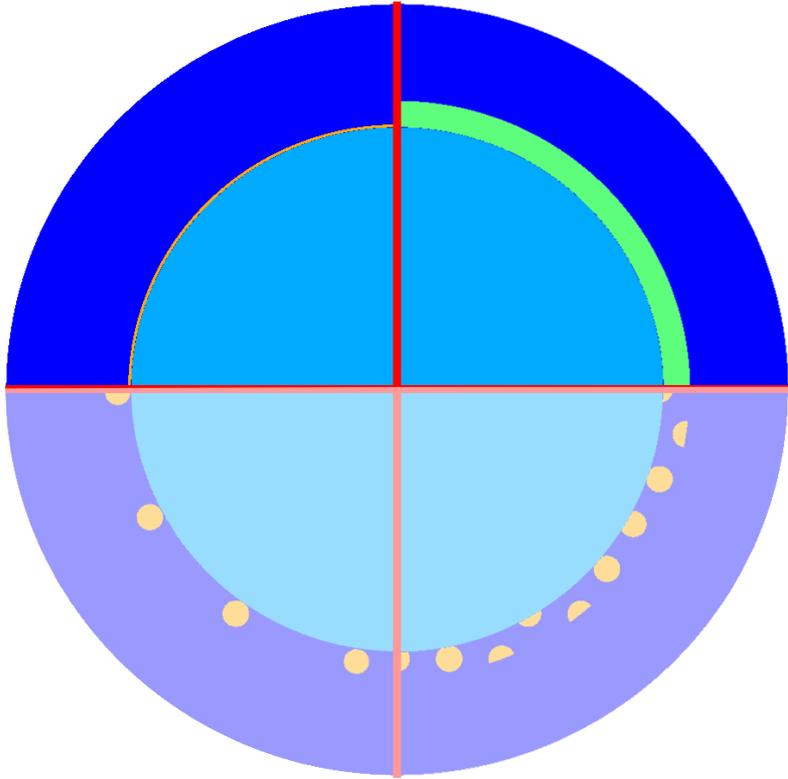
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- Fast simulations but results disagree with discrete GNP models

# Cell Model – modelling the gold shell

100%

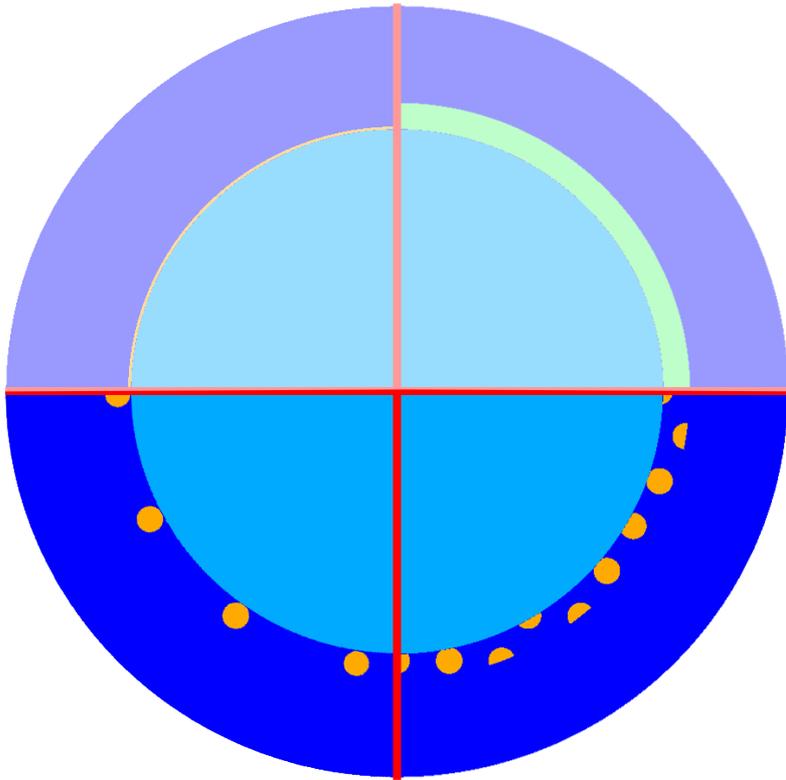


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Single CPU simulating 1E8 histories with 25 nm diameter GNPs  
on an Intel(R) Xeon(R) CPU E5-2667 v4 @ 3.20GHz

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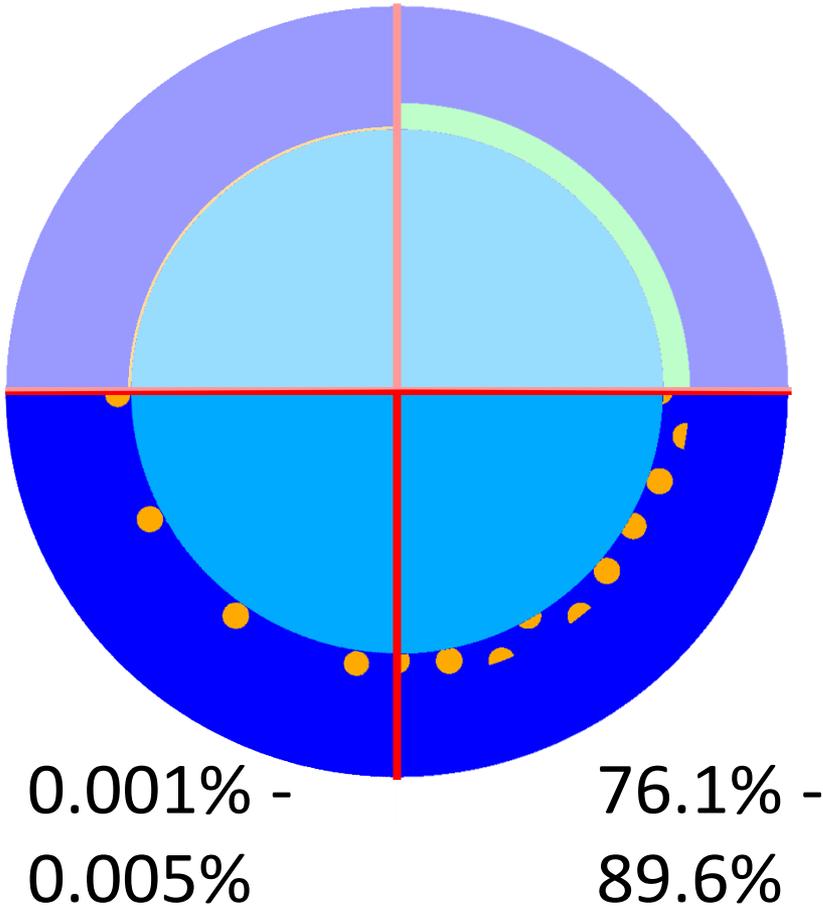


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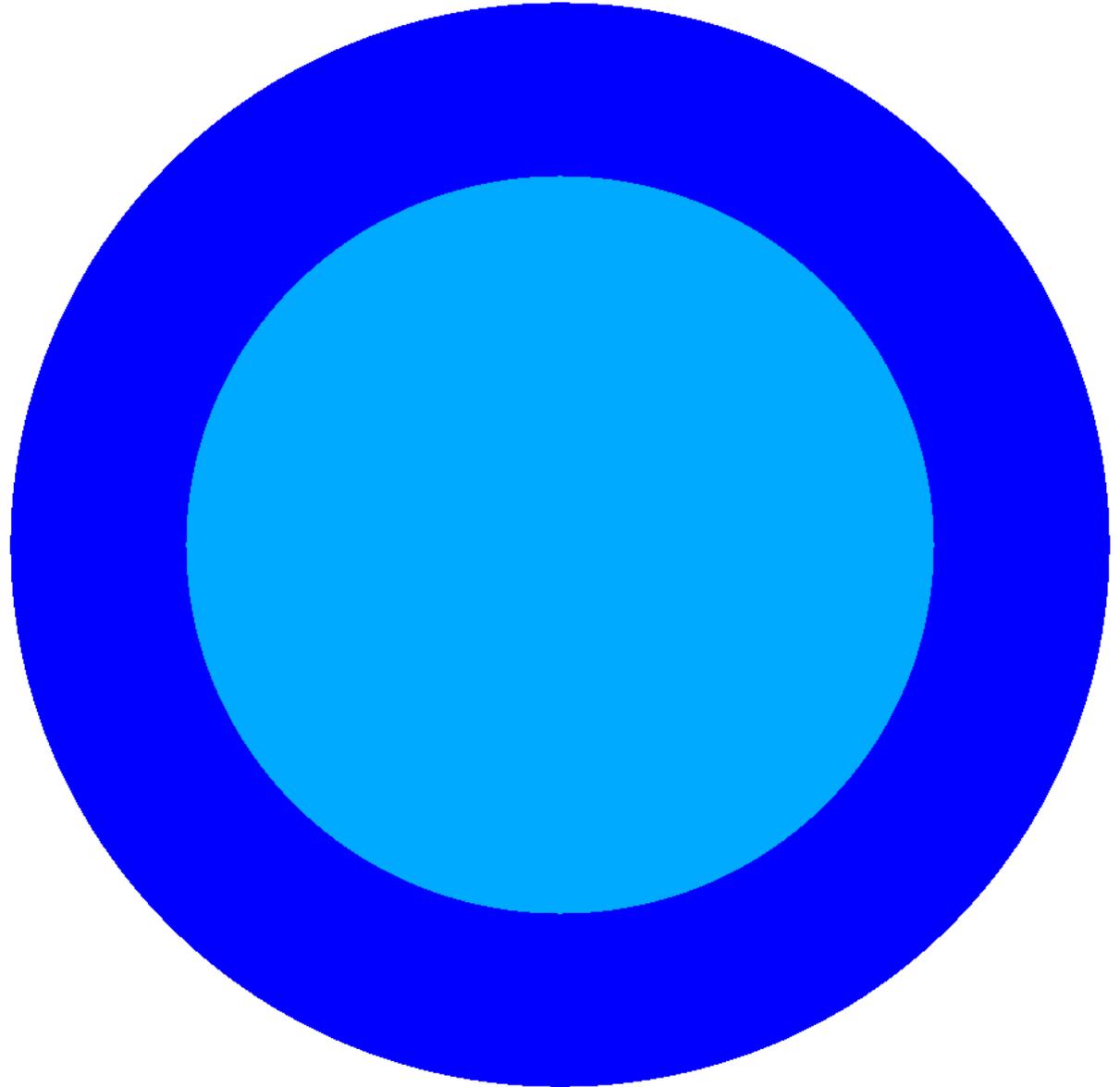


- Fast simulations but results disagree with discrete GNP models
- Models with discrete GNP agree in most cases
- Lattice geometry is up to  $\approx 69,000$  times faster than spiral configuration

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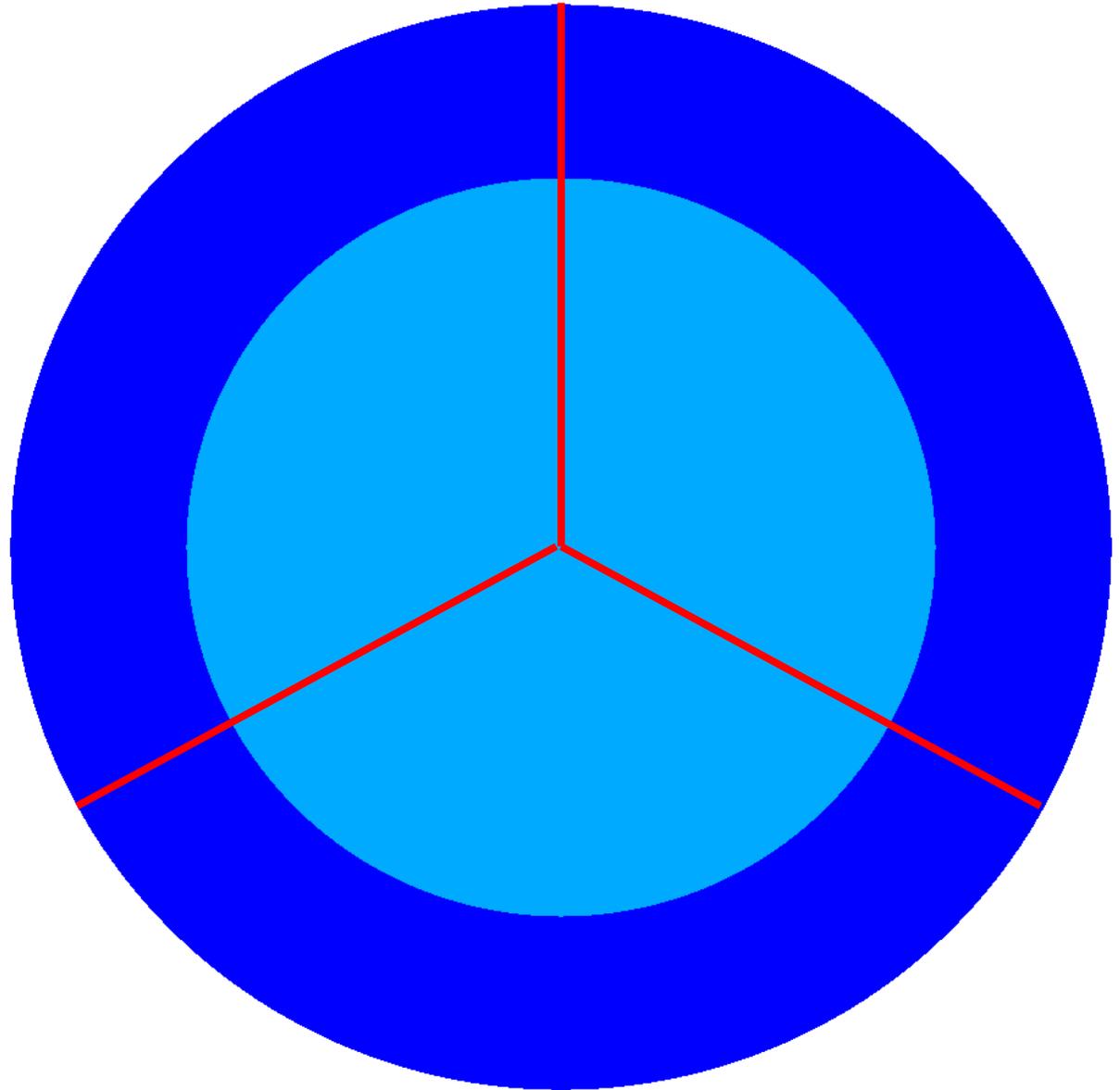
# Cell Model – modelling gold filled endosomes

- GNPs collected in a tightly packed compartment



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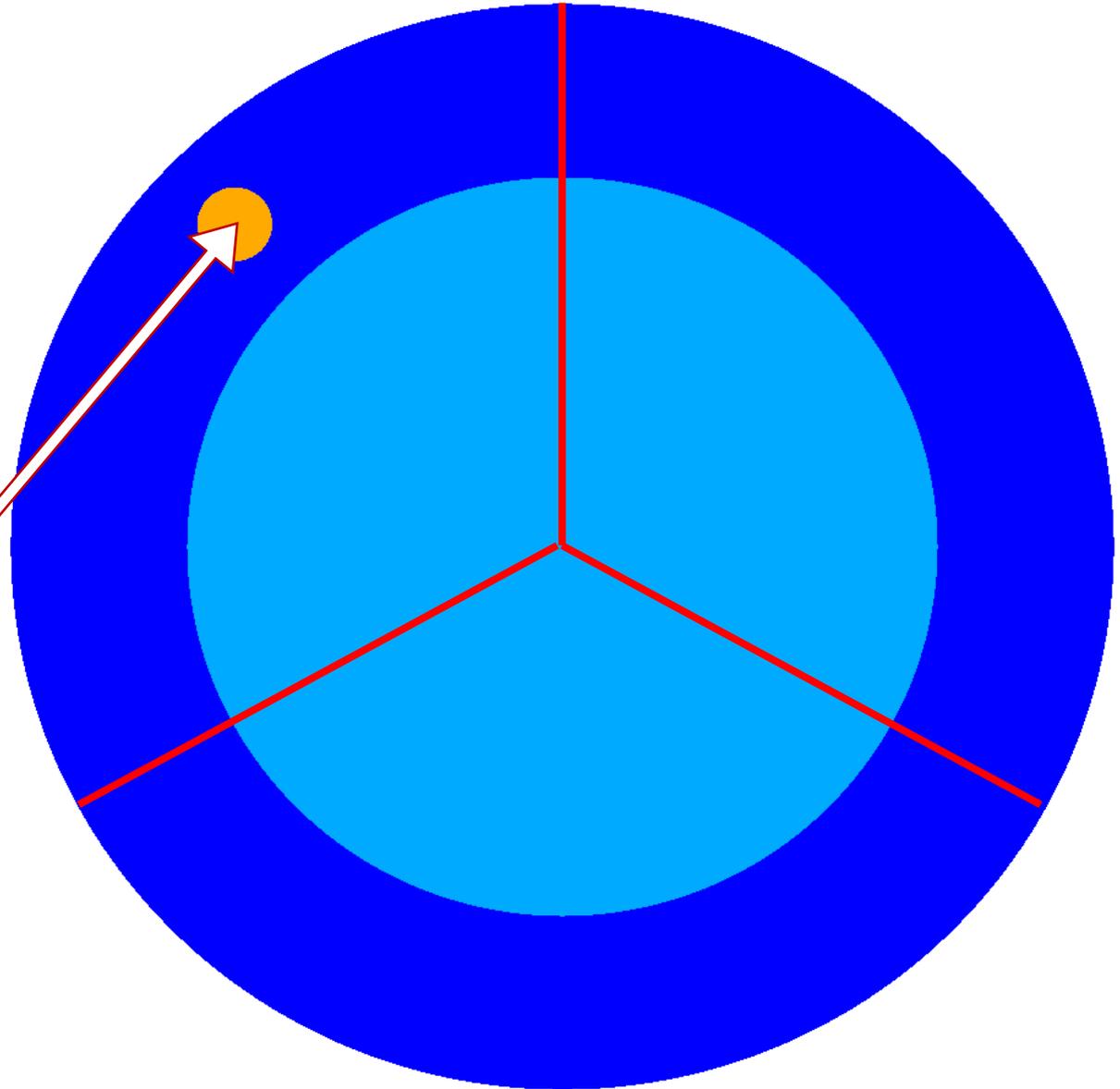
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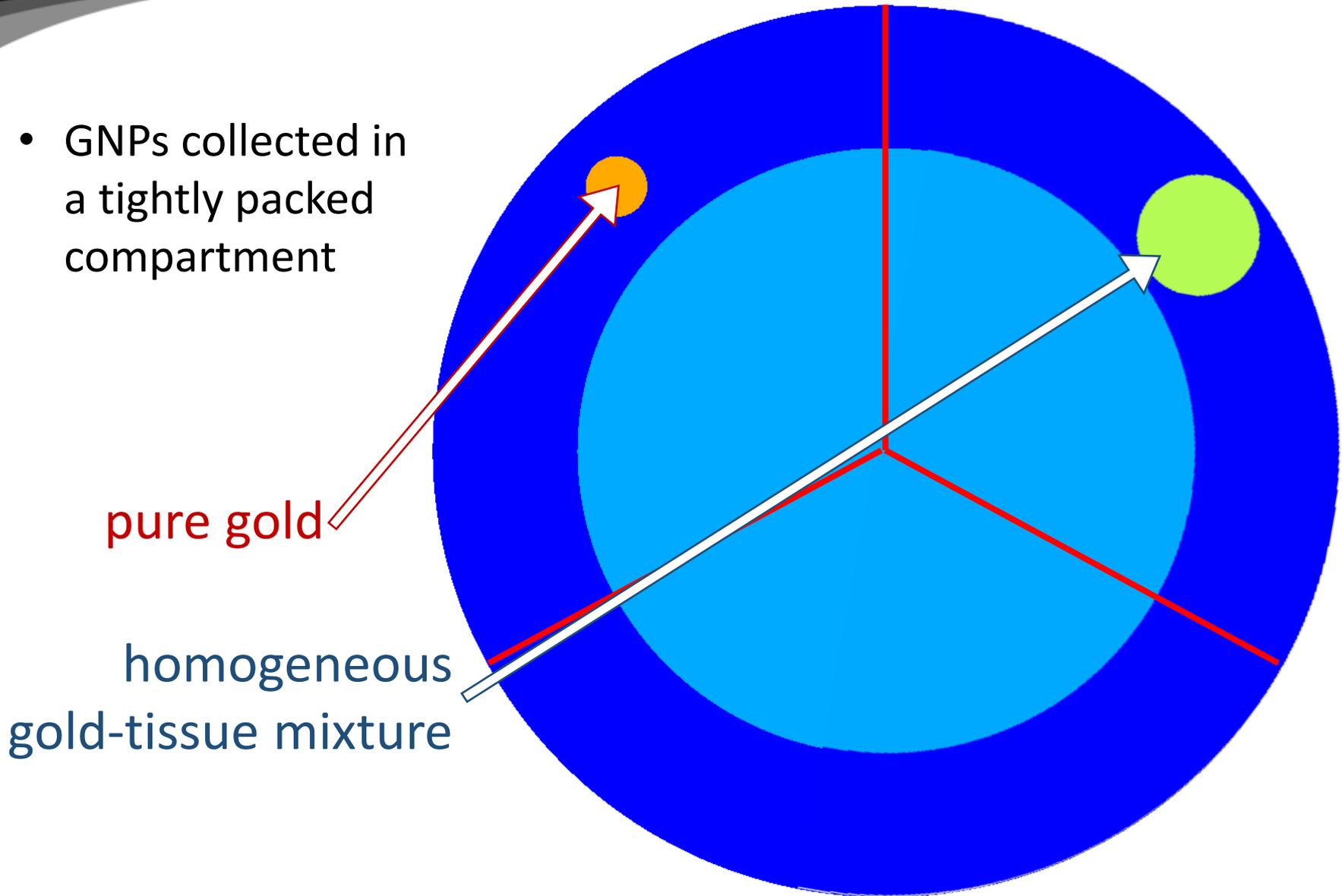
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pure gold



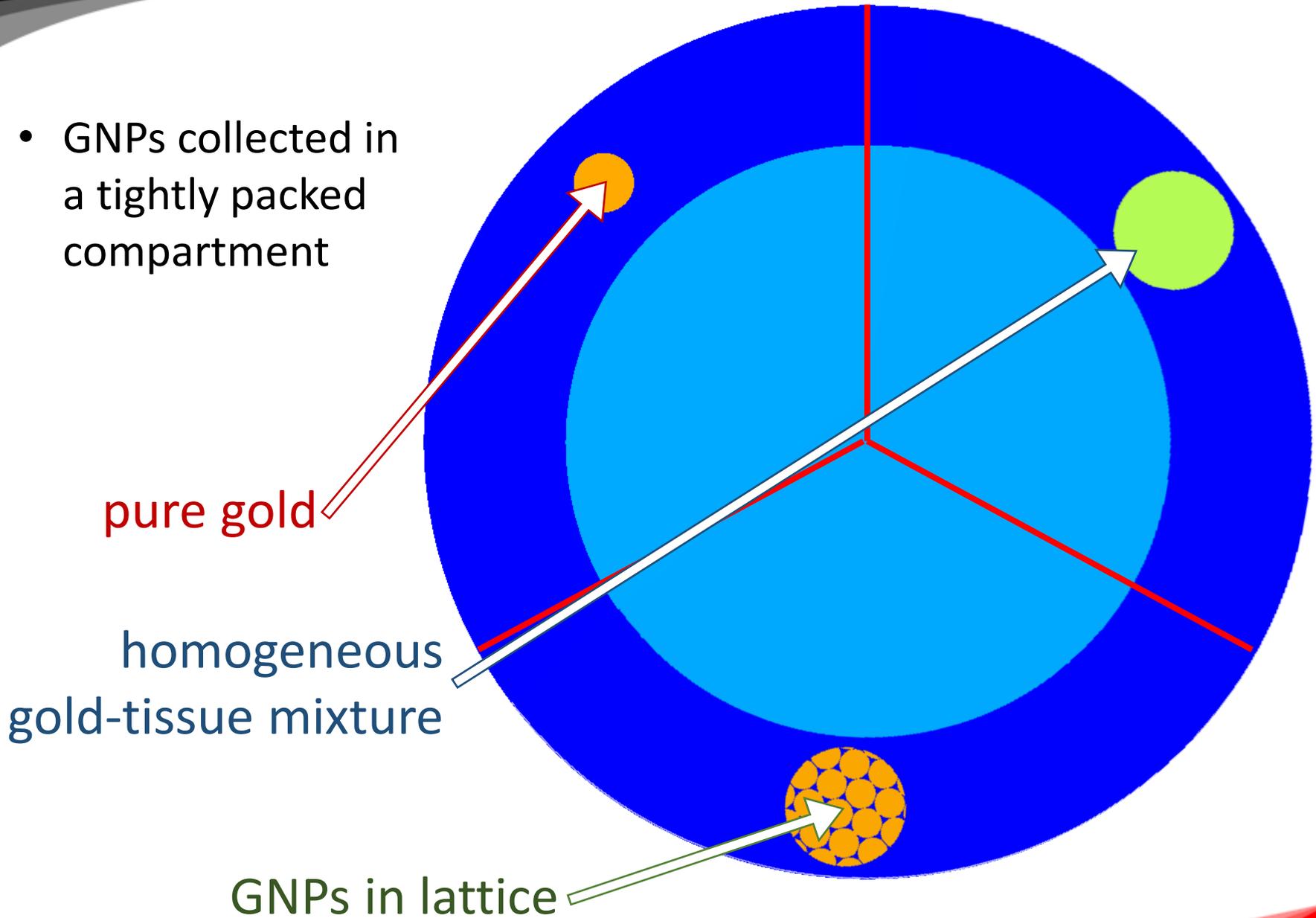
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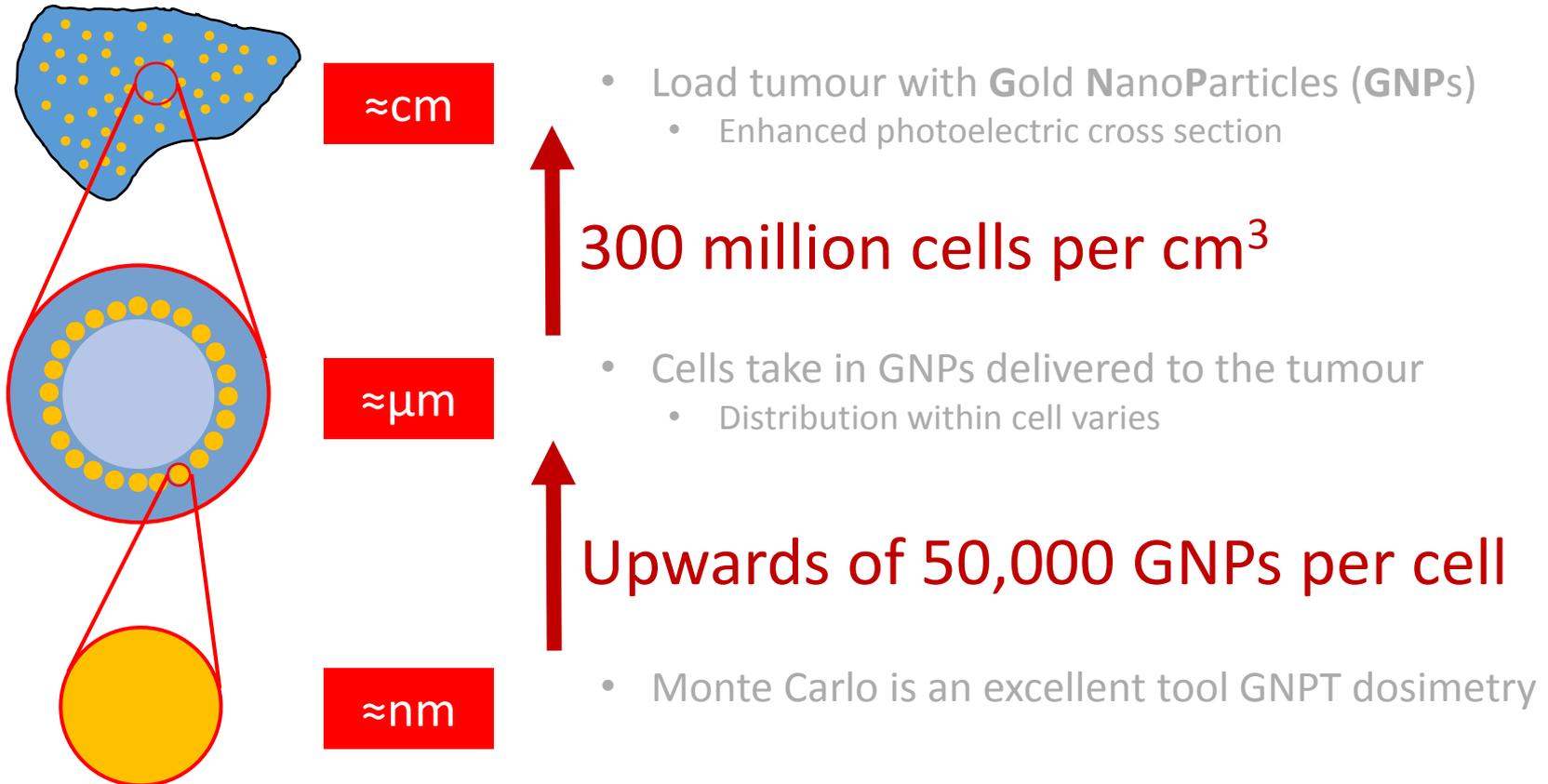
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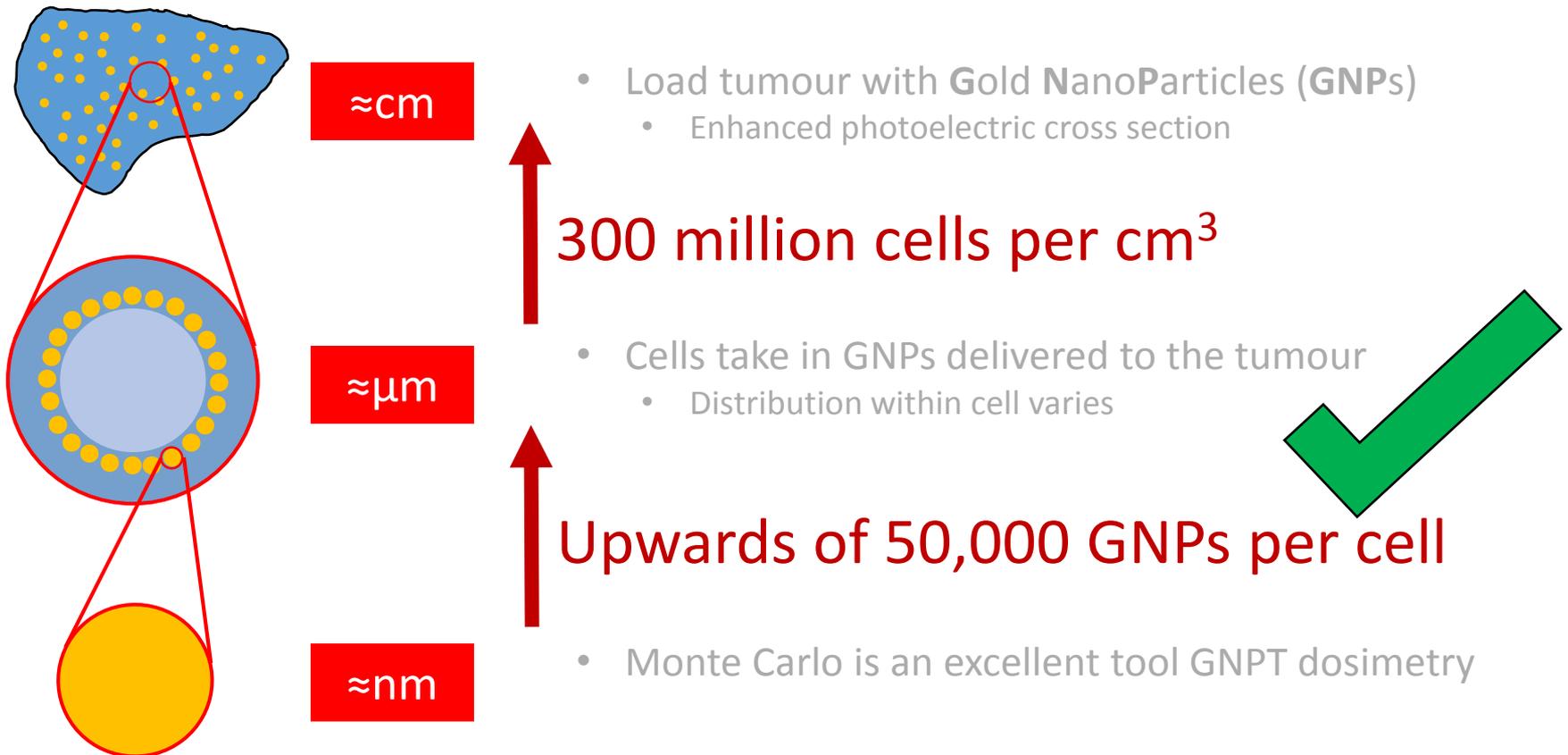
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- Heterogeneous Multiscale Model
  - Introduction
  - Creating a scoring volume
  - Full phantom model
- Results

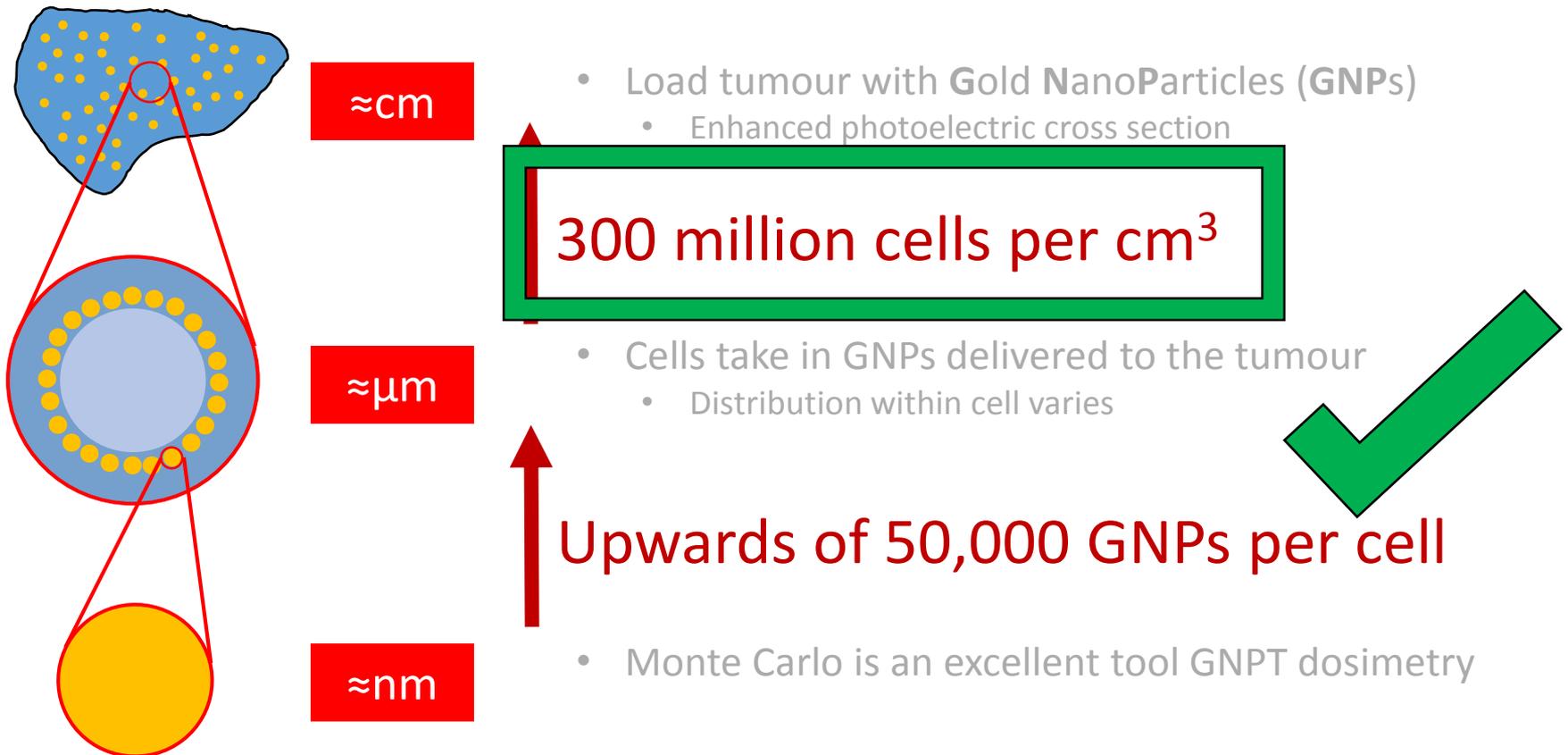
# Heterogeneous MultiScale (HetMS) Model



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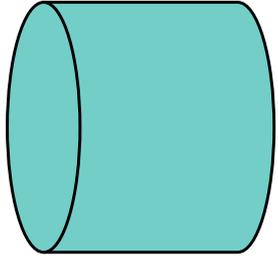


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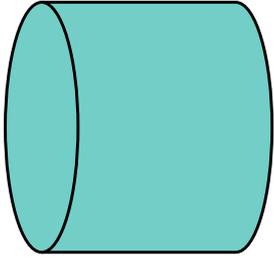
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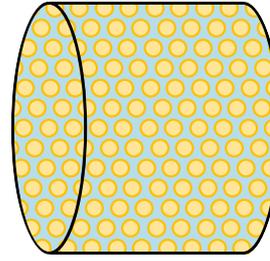


Single medium  
(homogeneous “blend”)

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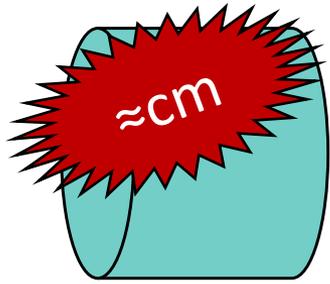


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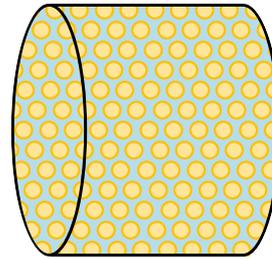


Microscopic structures  
modelled separately

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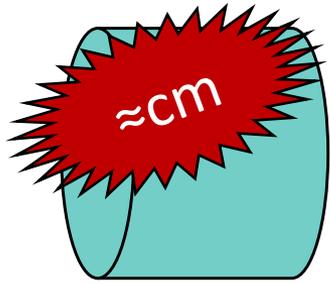
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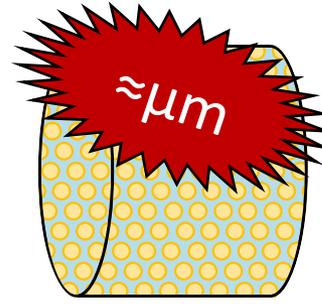
- Fast
- Dose scored in the “blend” media

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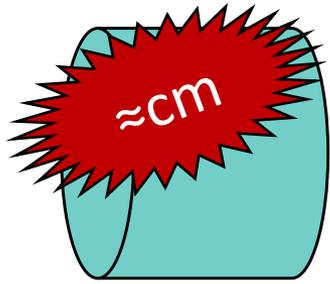
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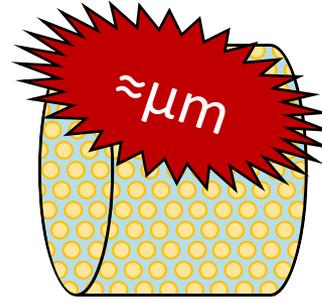
- Slow
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- Investigate GNP arrangement

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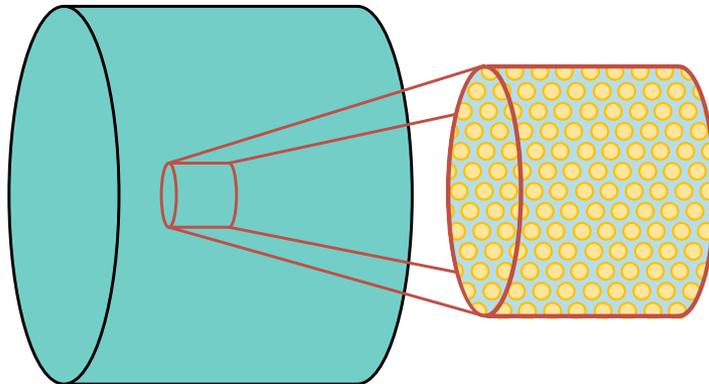
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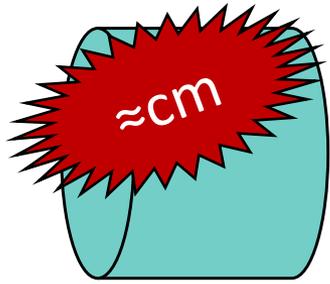
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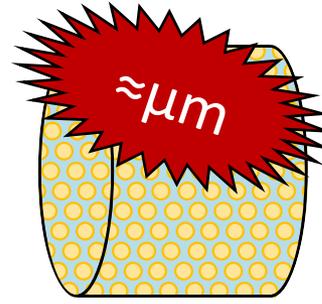
Heterogeneous  
Multiscale model

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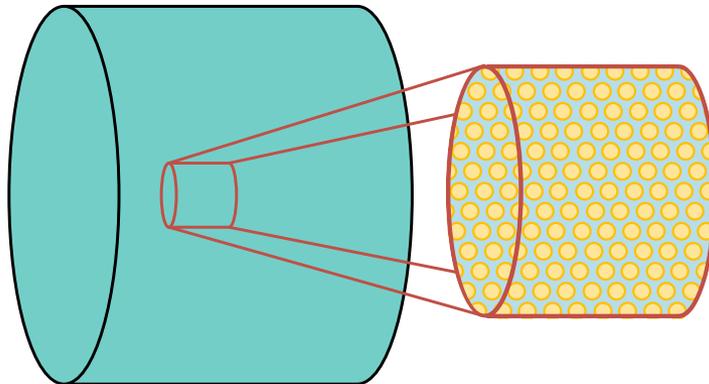
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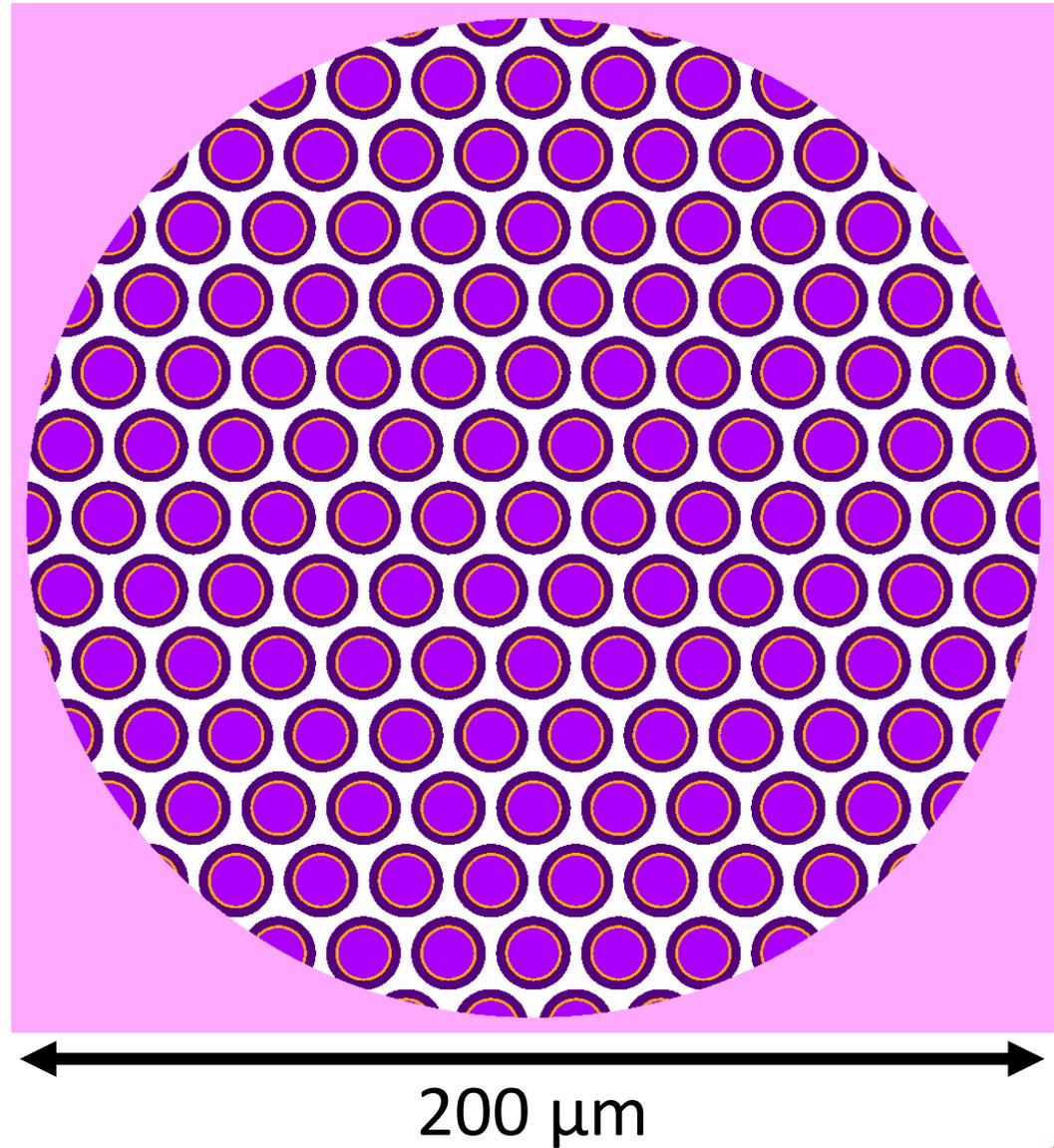
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Heterogeneous  
Multiscale model

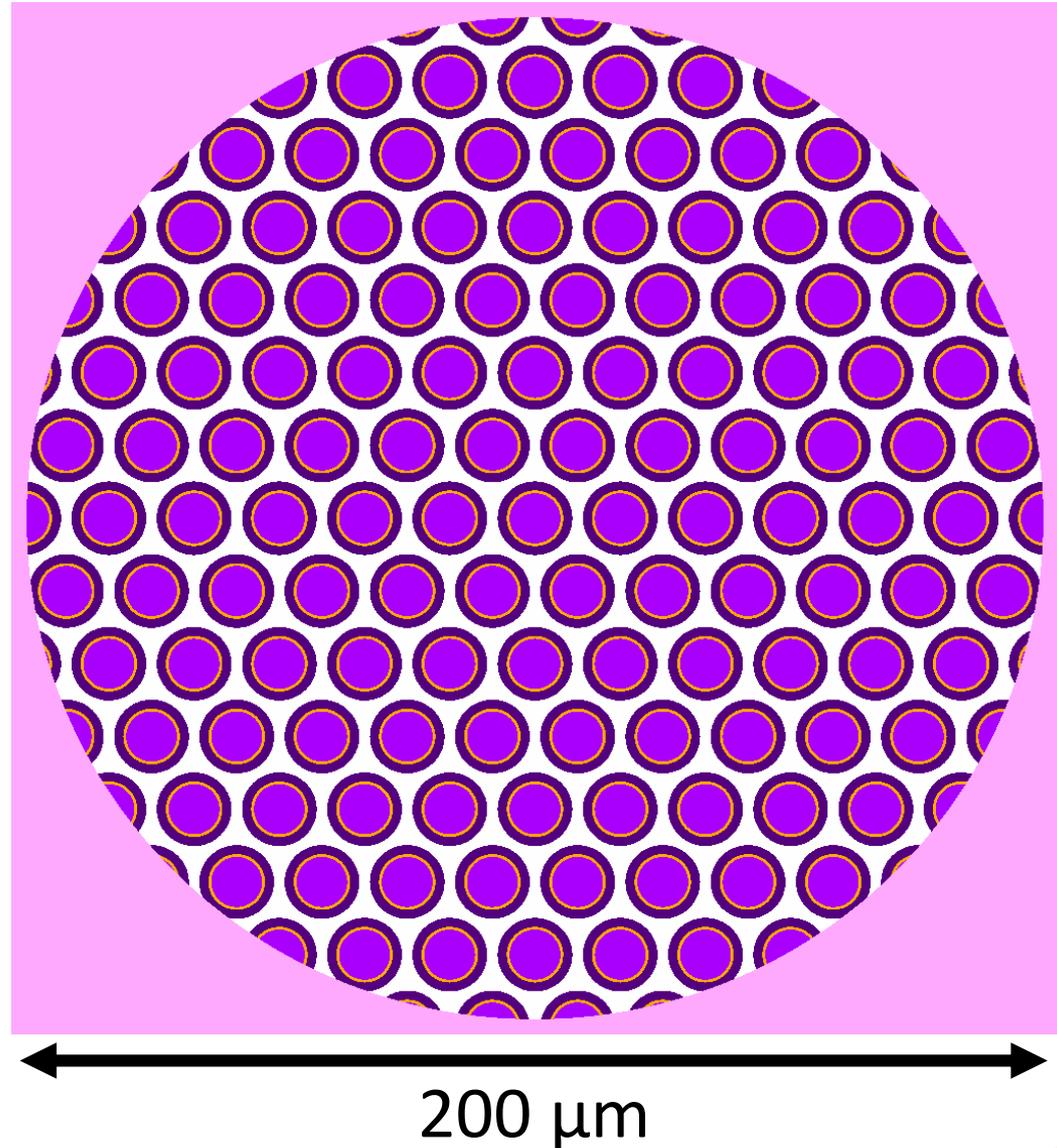
- Distinct models are combined on different length scales into a single (relatively efficient) Monte Carlo simulation

# HetMS microscopic scoring volume



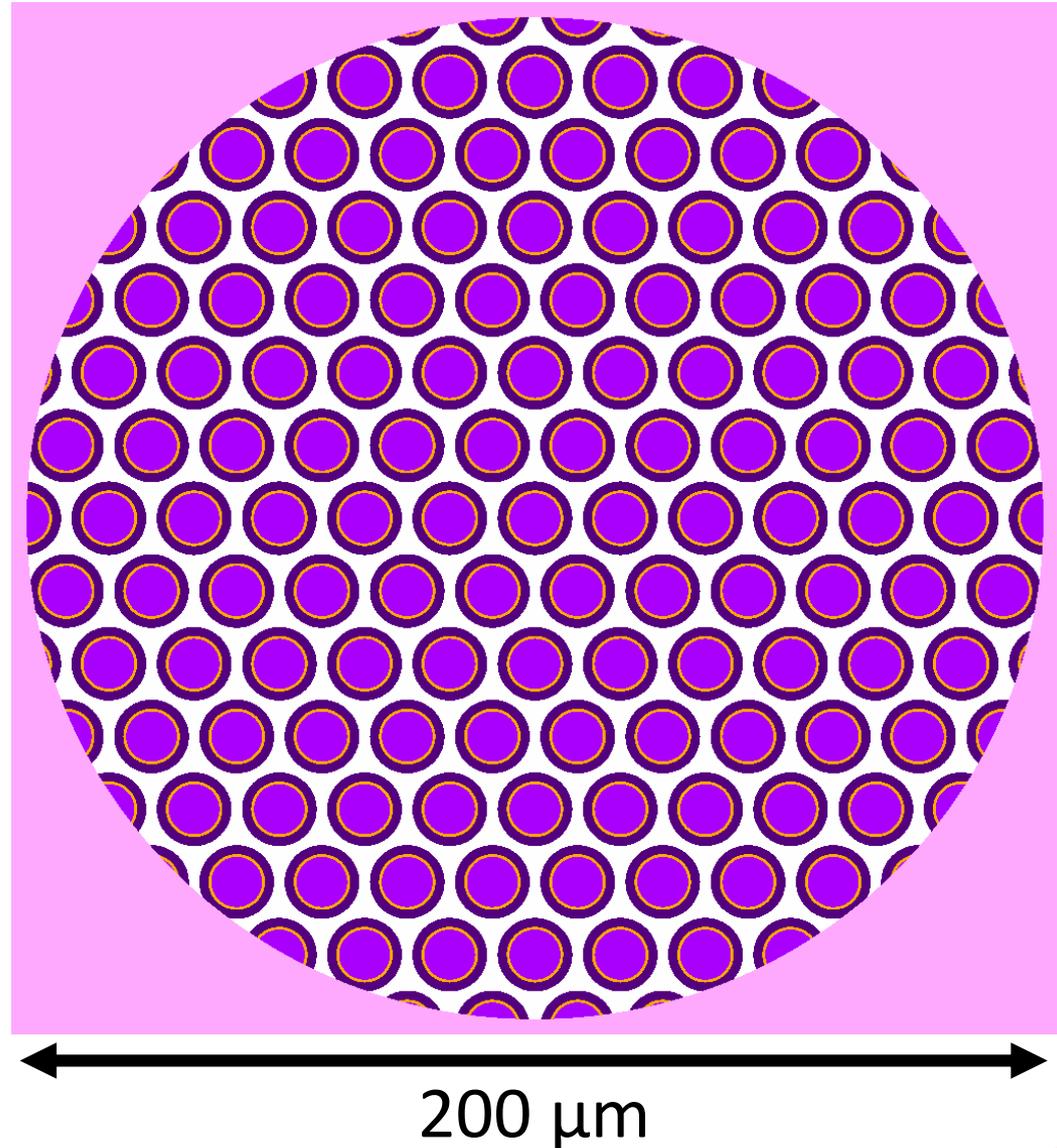
# HetMS microscopic scoring volume

- Previous cell models in a lattice within sphere



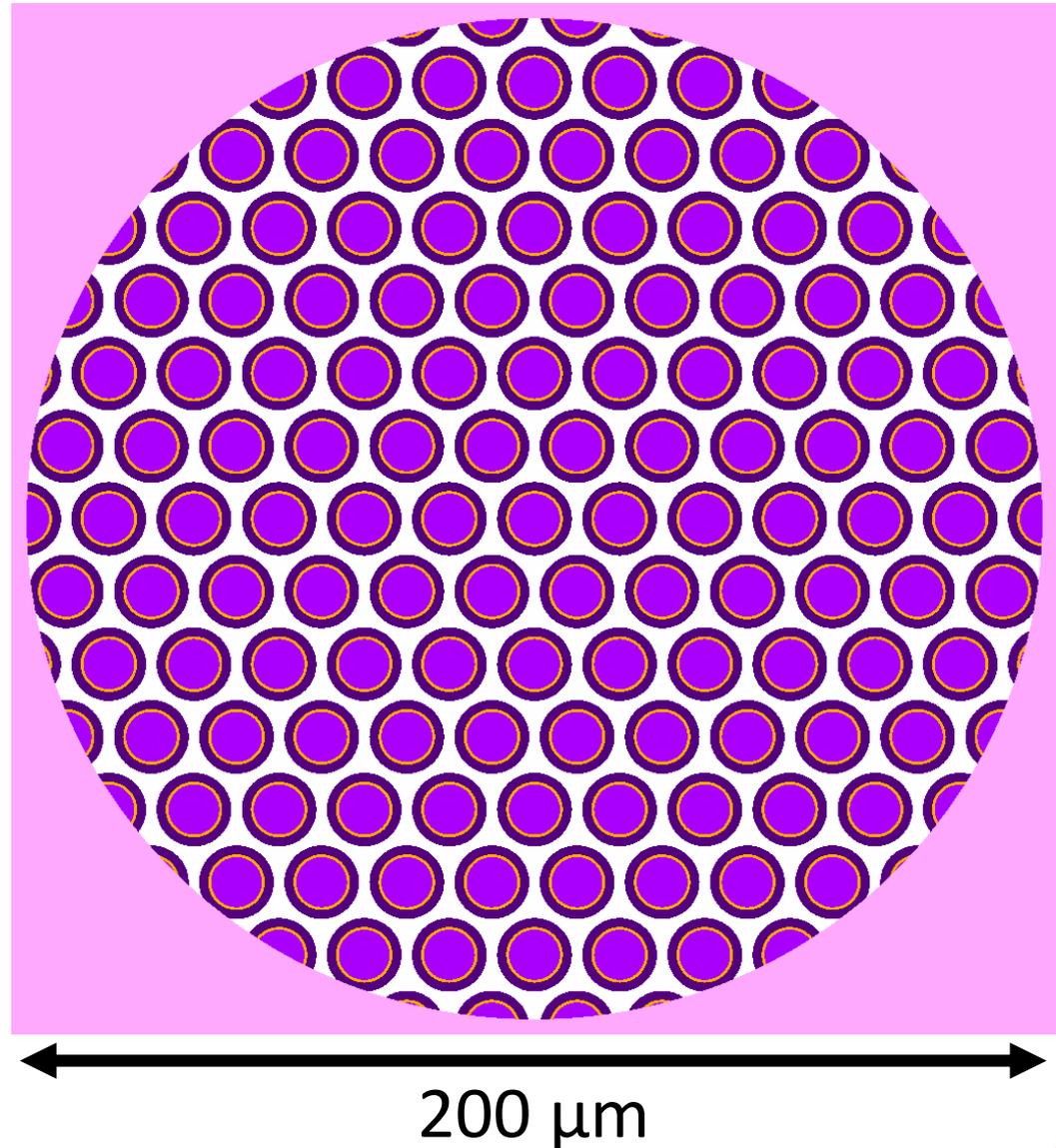
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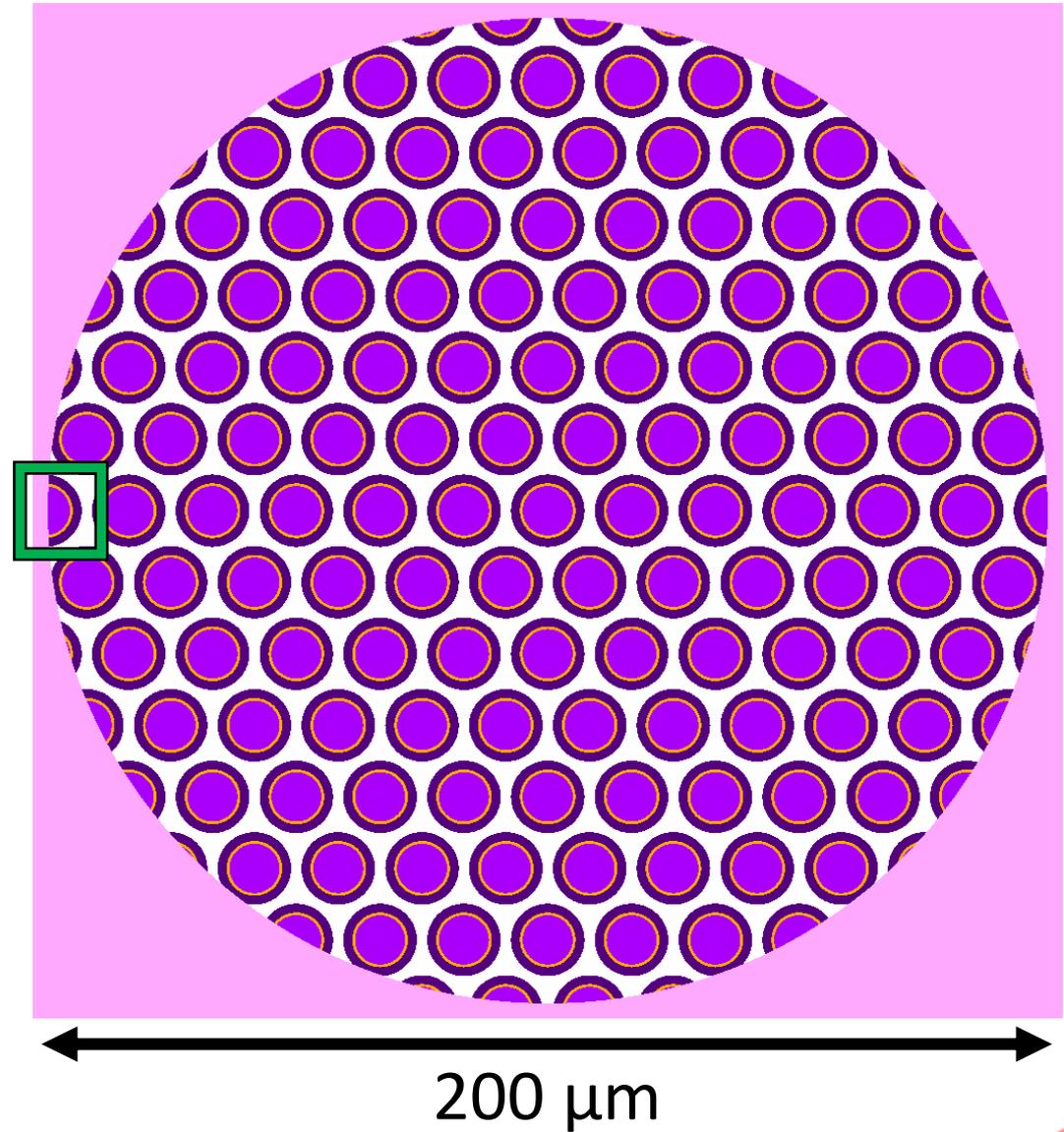


# HetMS microscopic scoring volume

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- ICRU 4-component tissue used for all non-gold media

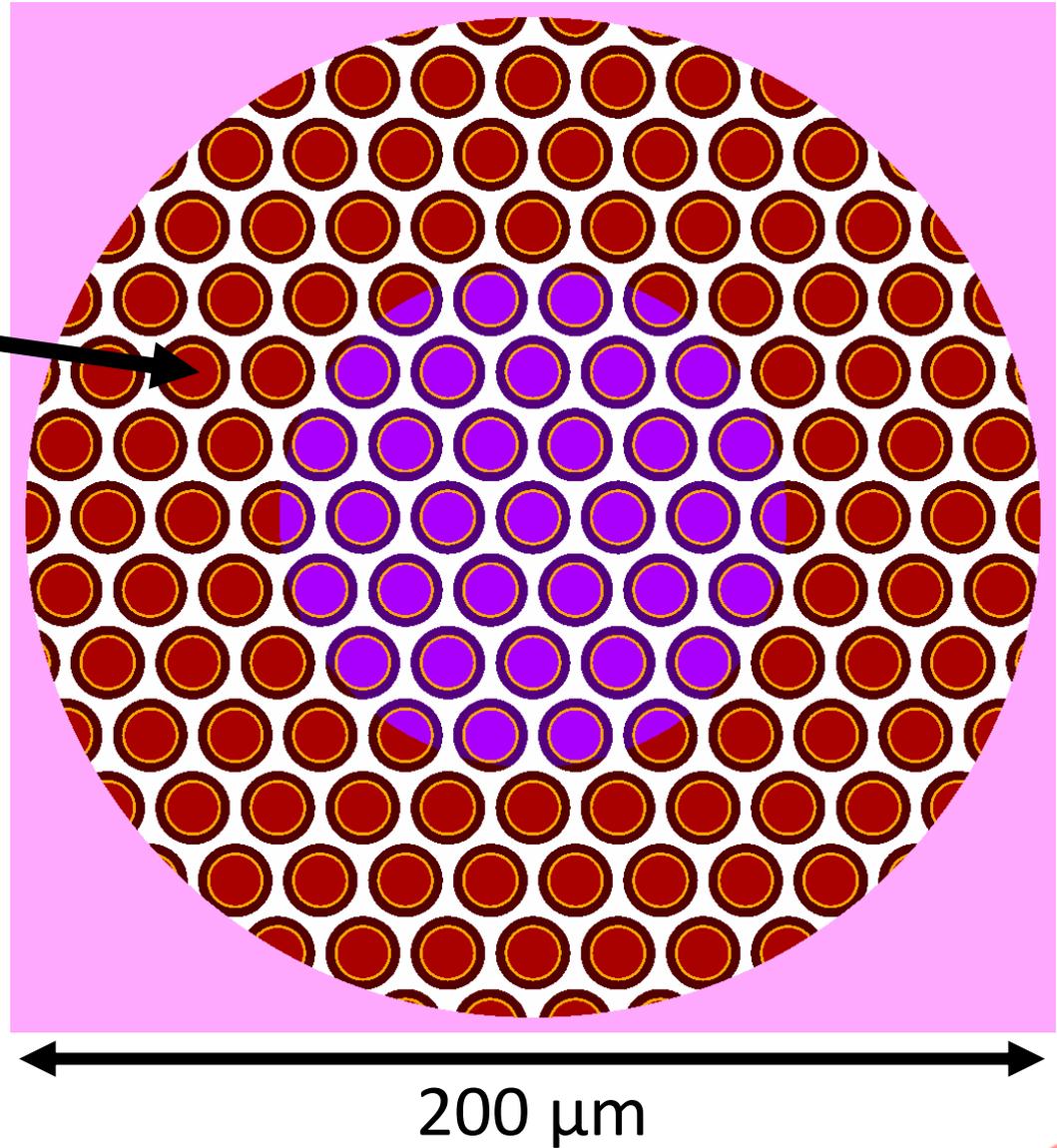


# HetMS microscopic scoring volume



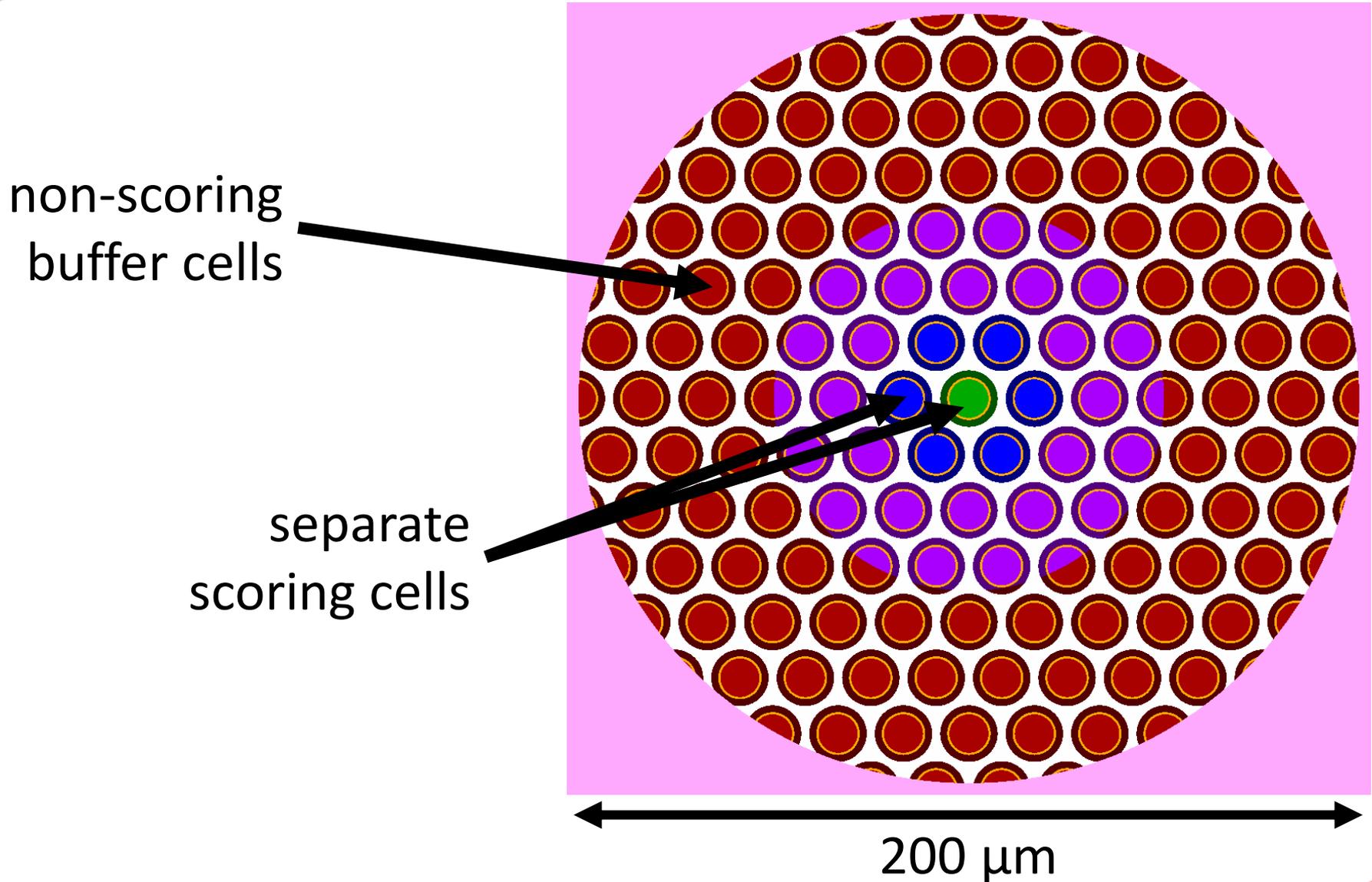
# HetMS microscopic scoring volume

non-scoring  
buffer cells

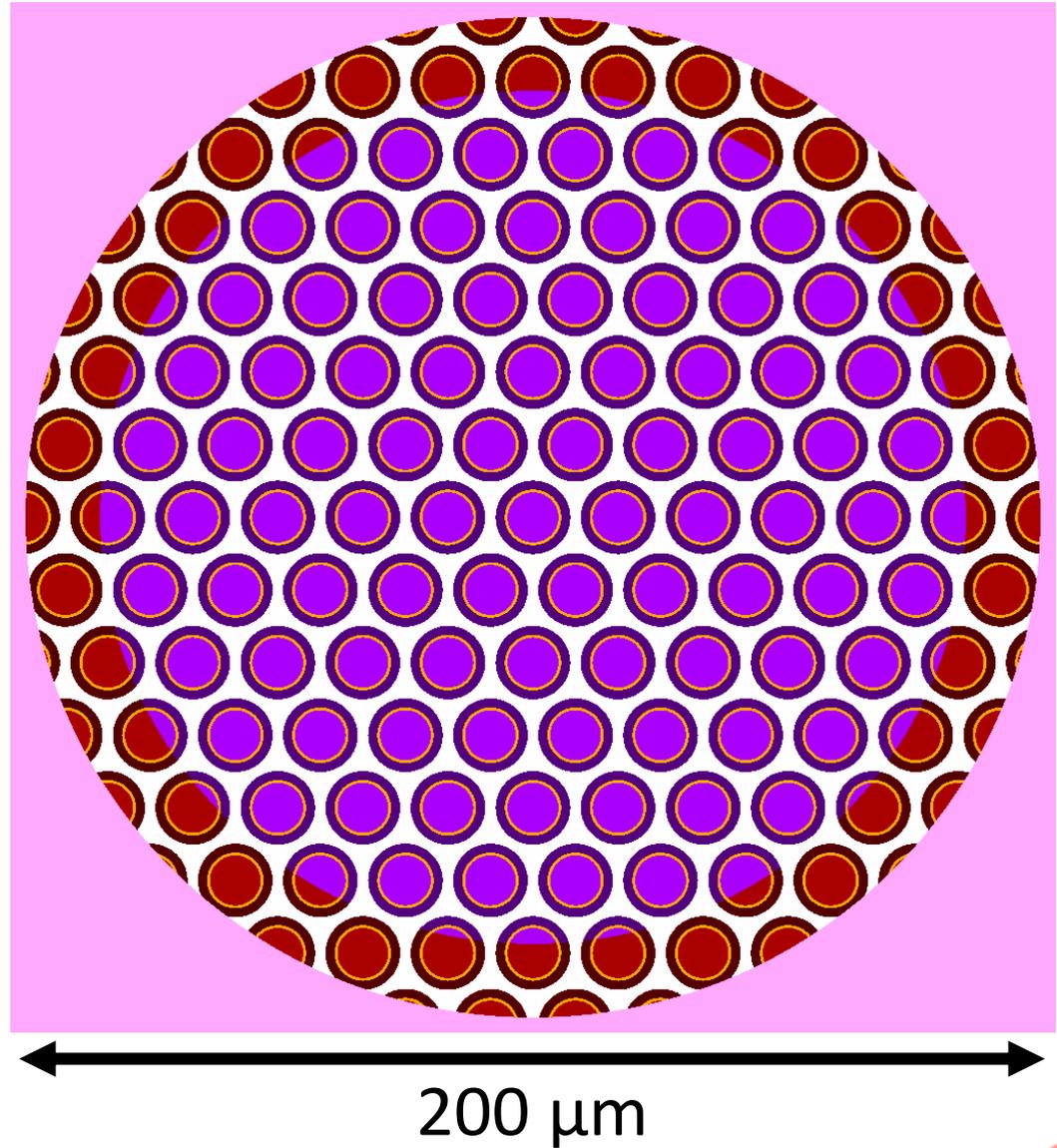


200 μm

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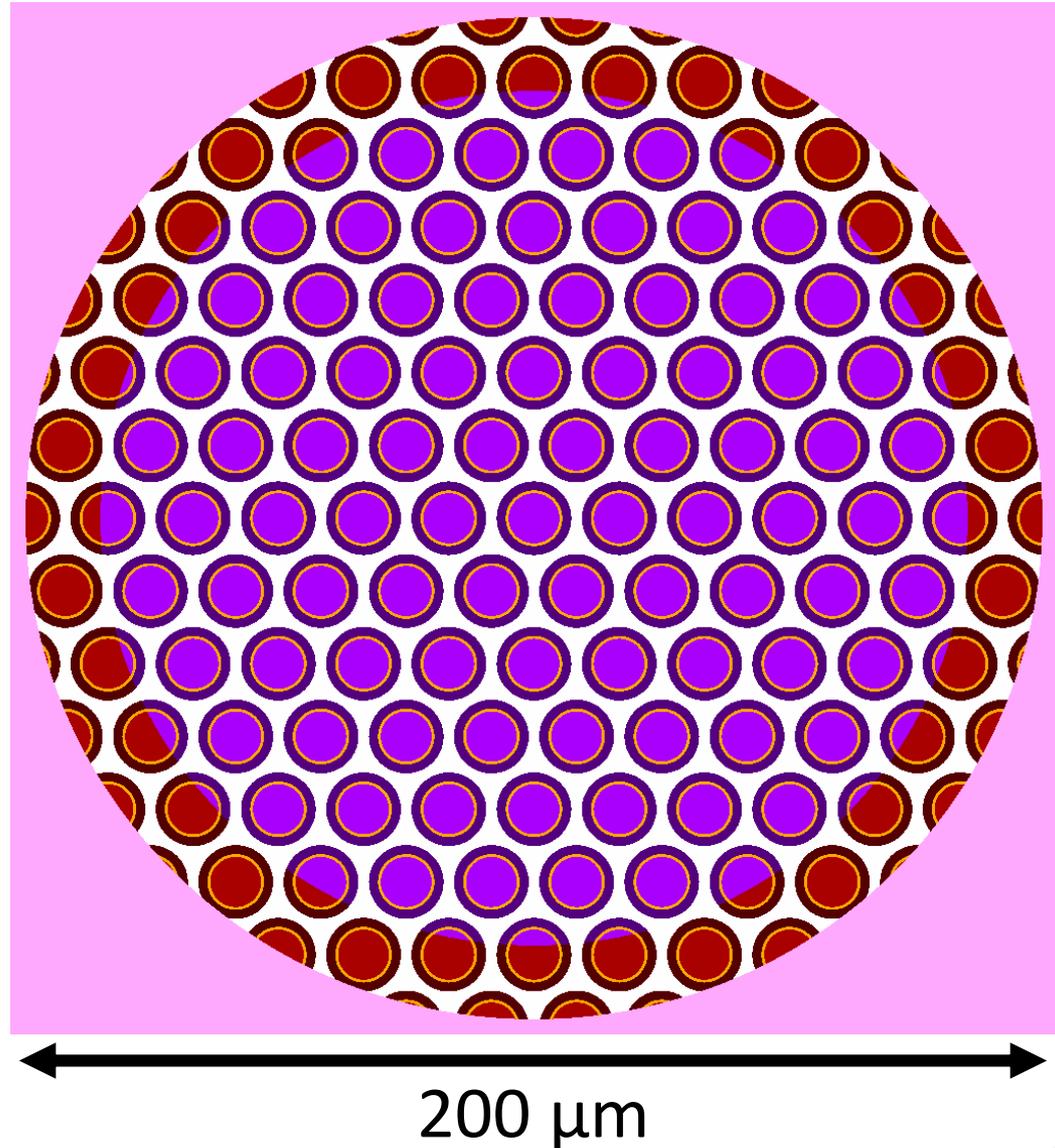


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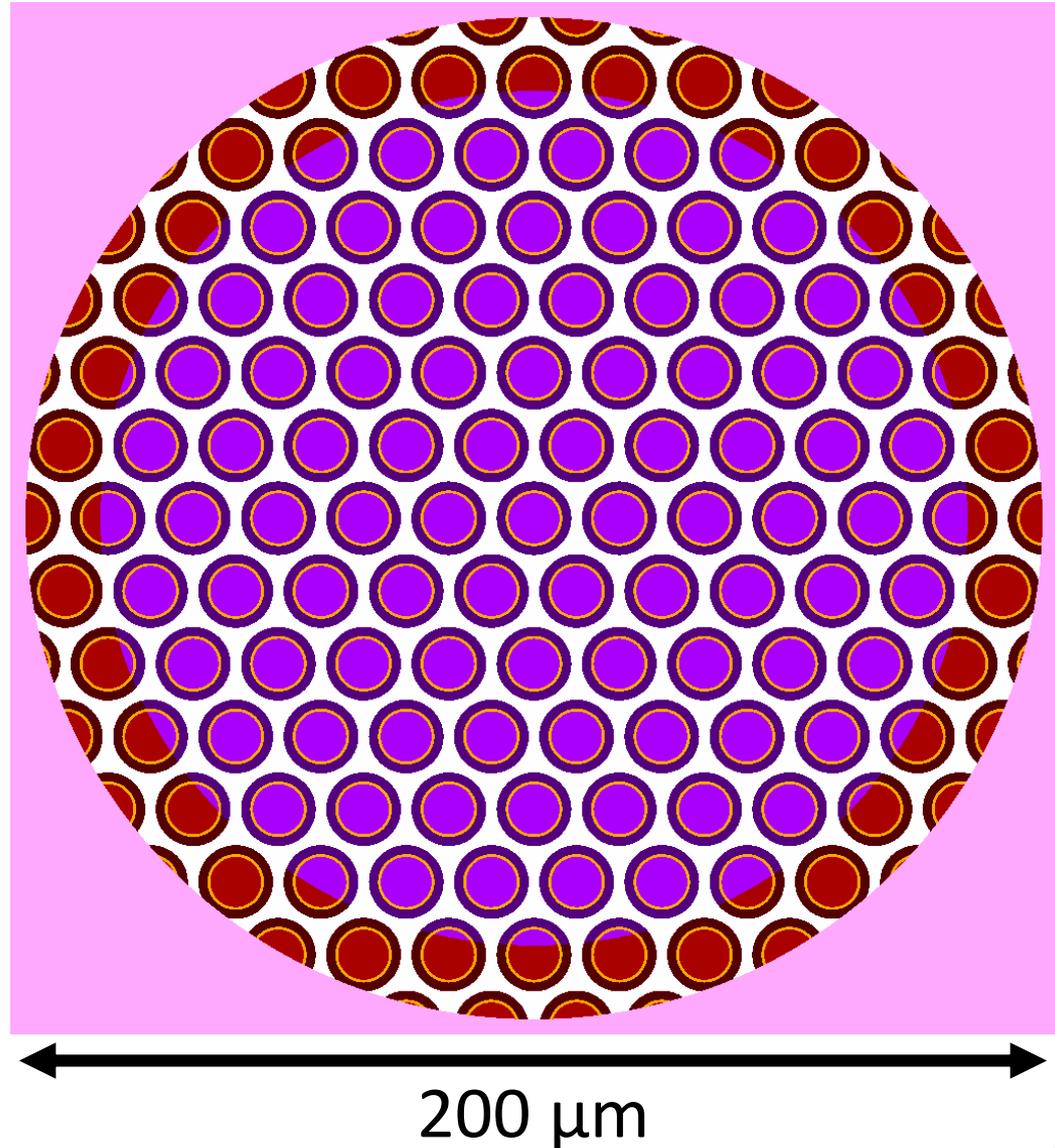
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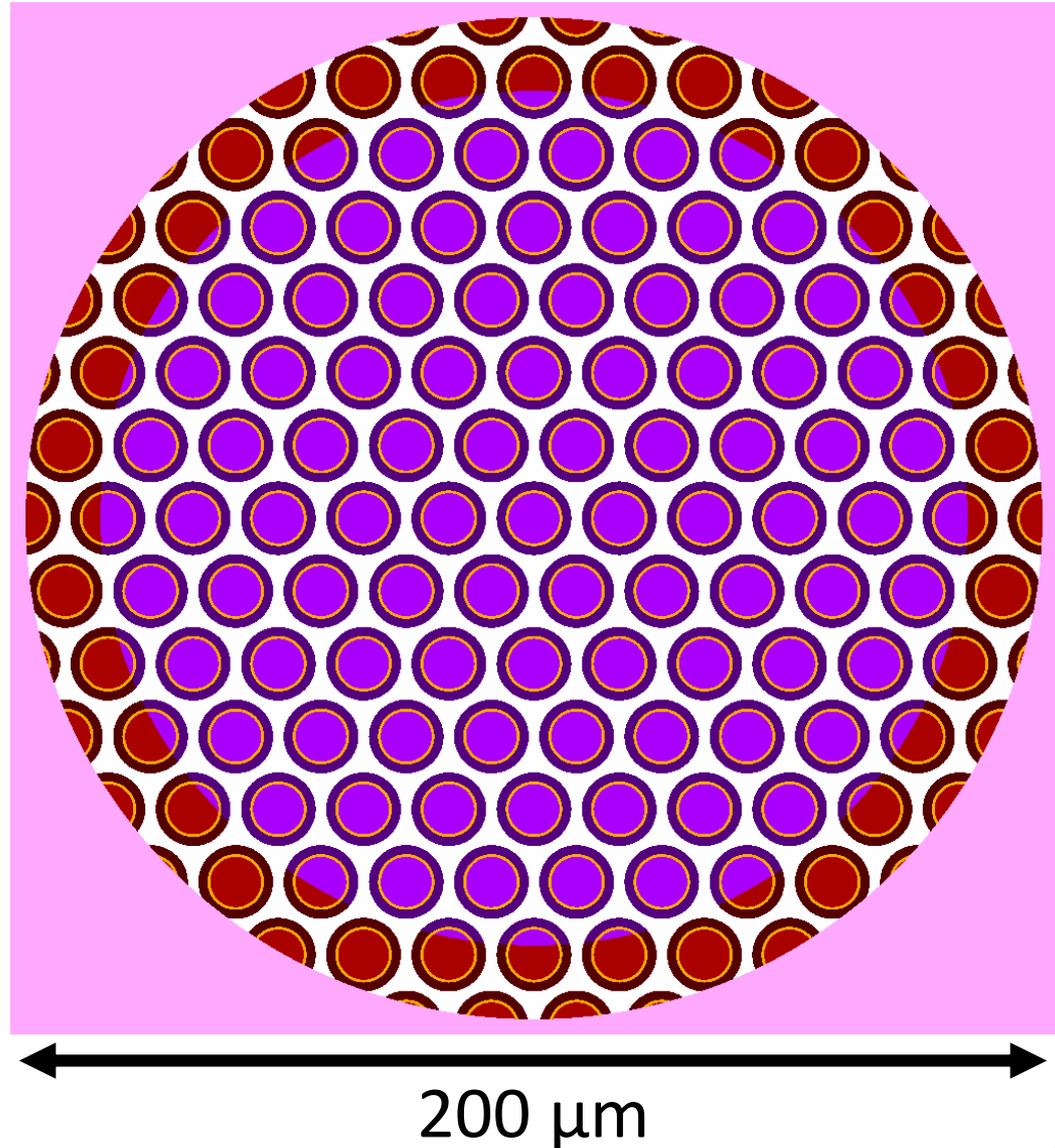
# HetMS microscopic scoring volume

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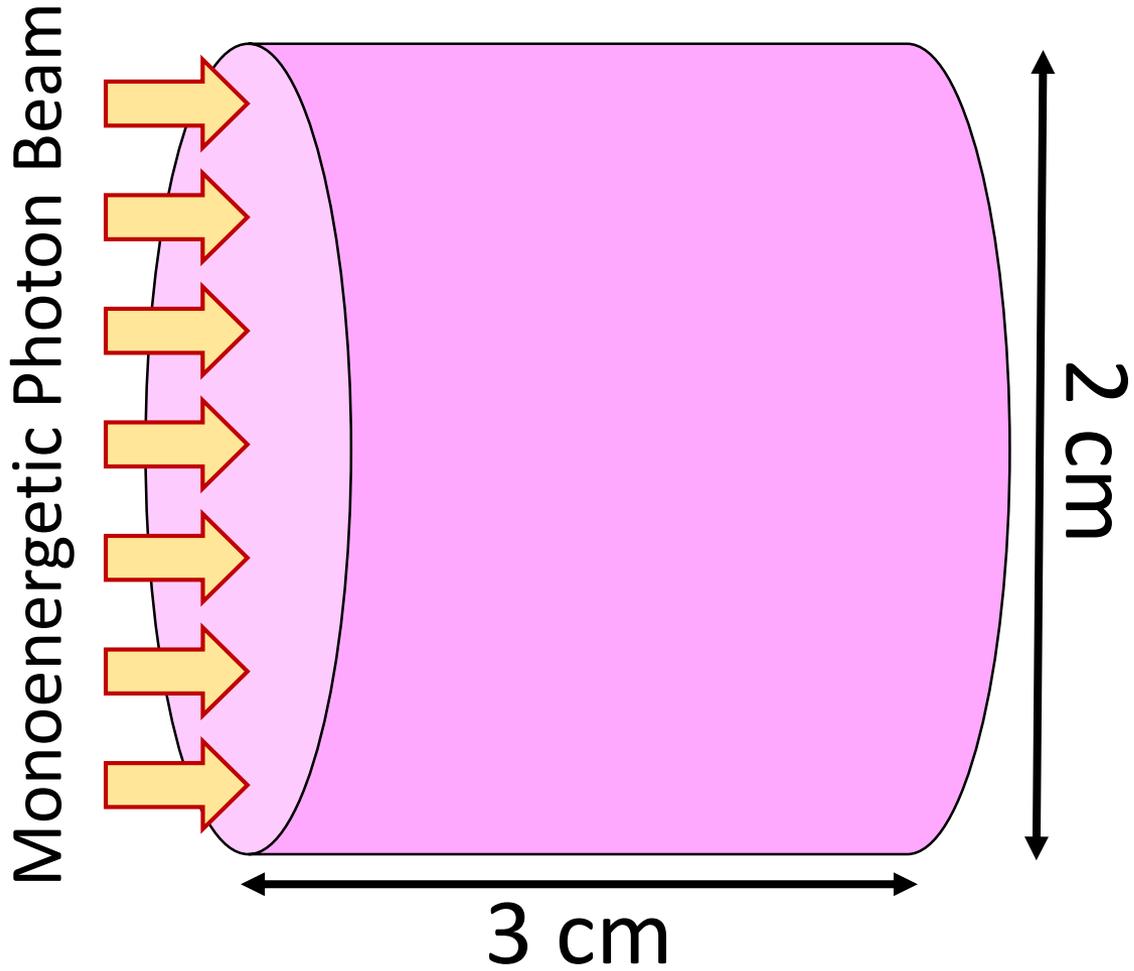


# HetMS microscopic scoring volume

- Cells are not sensitive to gold concentration variations in neighbours
- Scoring volume size enhances efficiency
- The lattice is rotated to not be parallel to the source

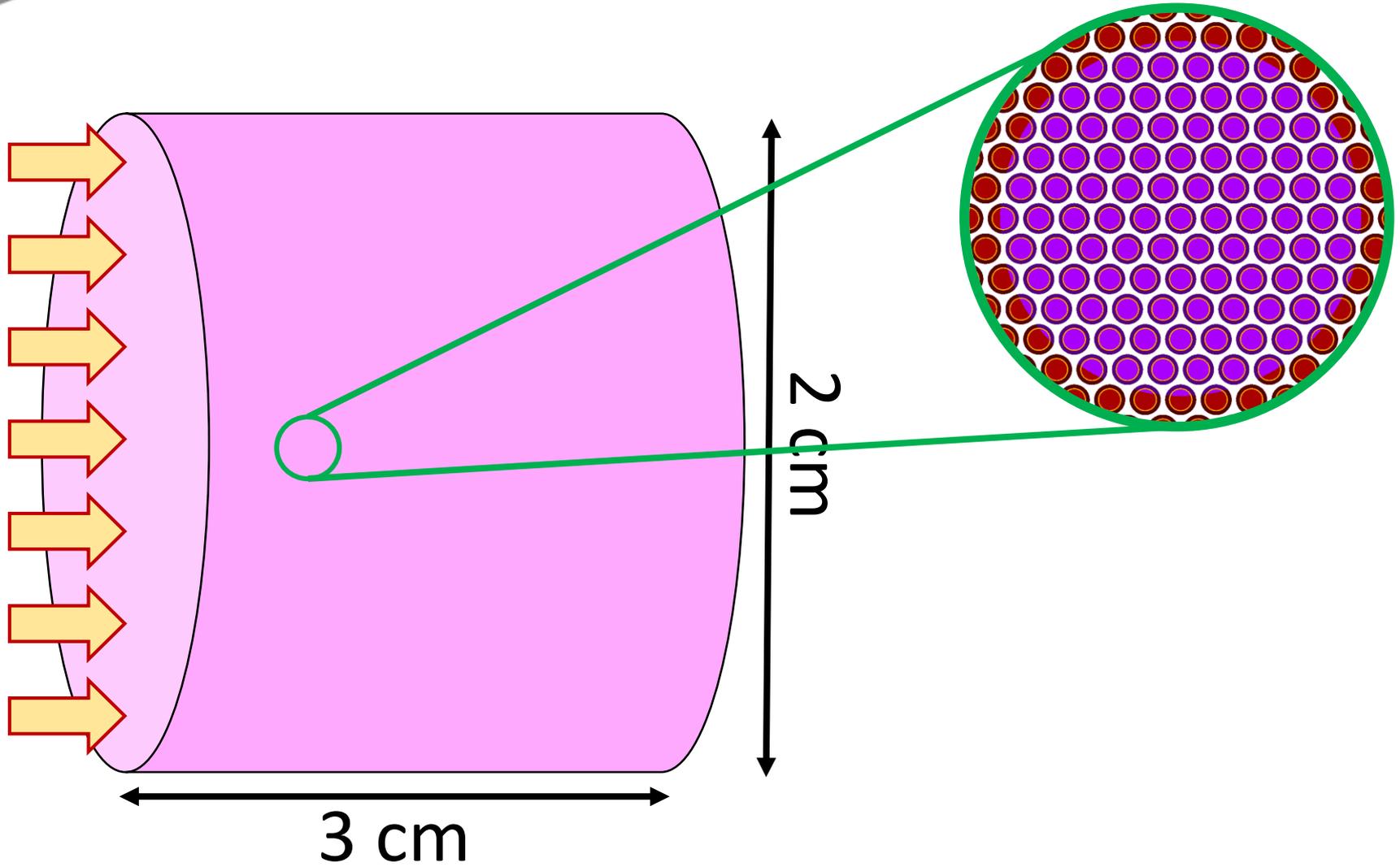


# HetMS full model



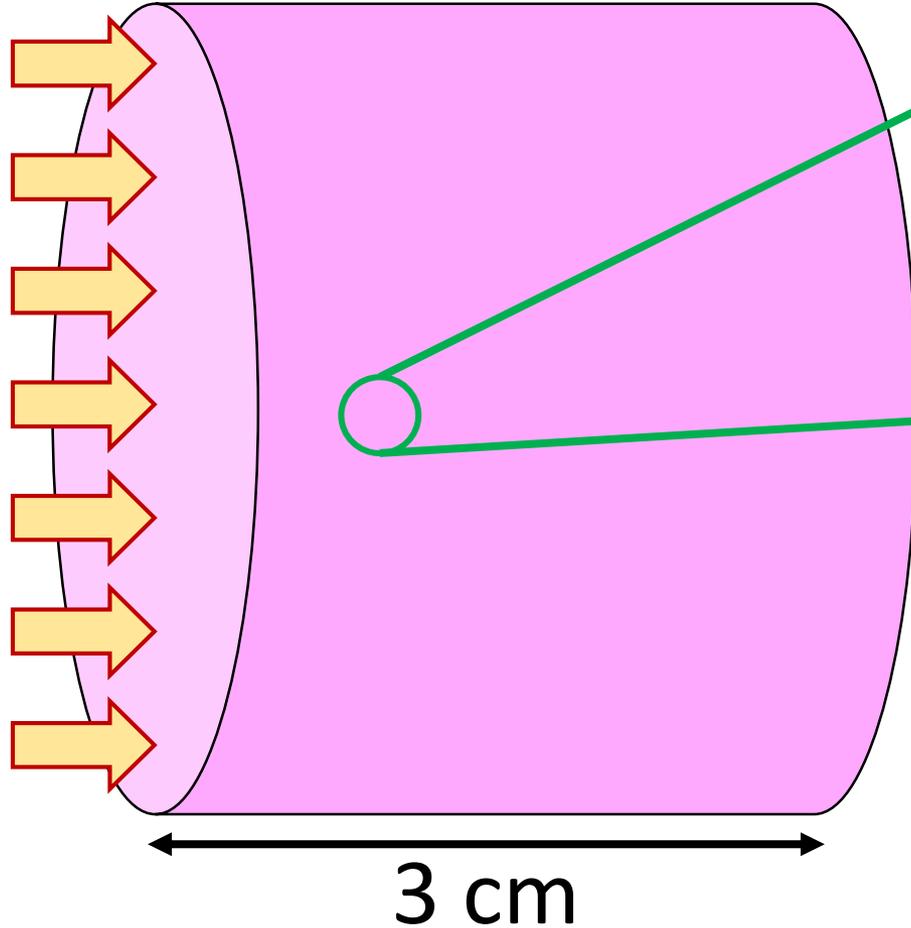
# HetMS full model

Monoenergetic Photon Beam



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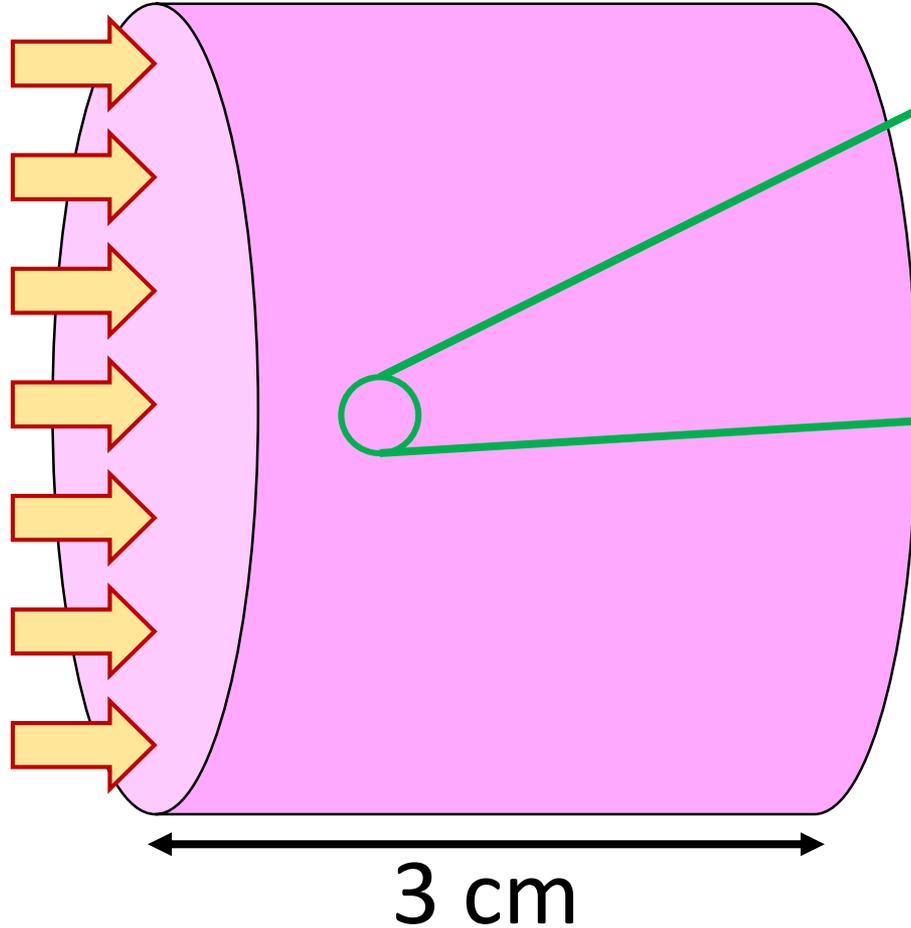
Monoenergetic Photon Beam



119 Scoring Regions  
≈150,000 cells

# HetMS full model

Monoenergetic Photon Beam



2 cm

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≈150,000 cells

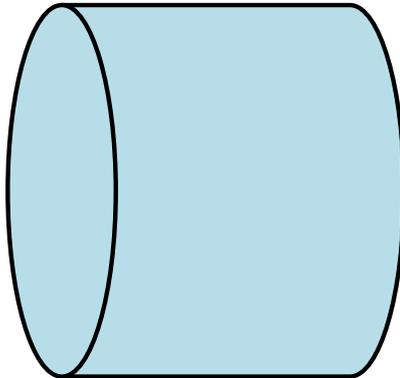
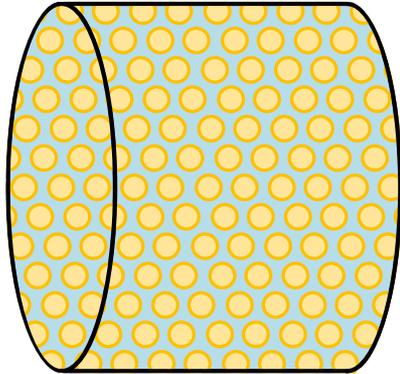
VS

≈5,800,000,000 cells  
Scatter phantom

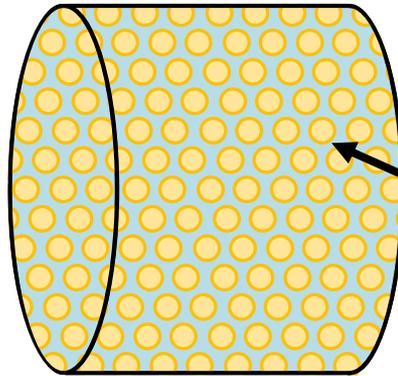
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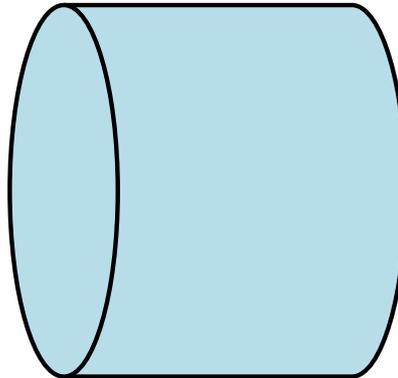
# Dose Enhancement Factor (DEF)



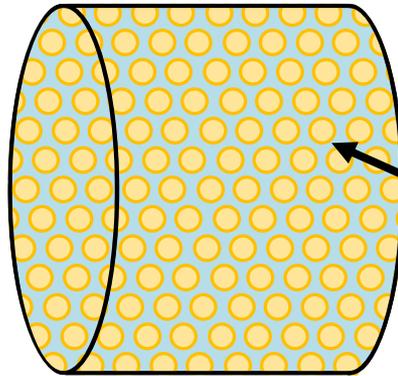
# Dose Enhancement Factor (DEF)



Dose to tissue  
in the presence  
of gold

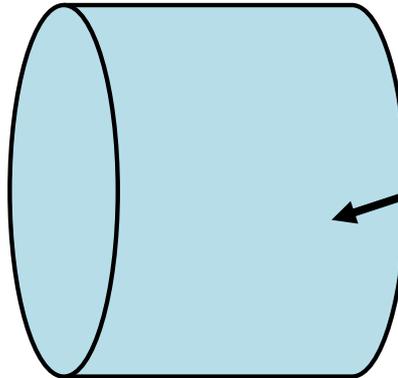


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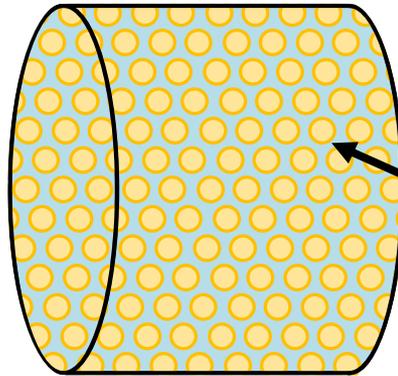
Dose to tissue  
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Dose to tissue  
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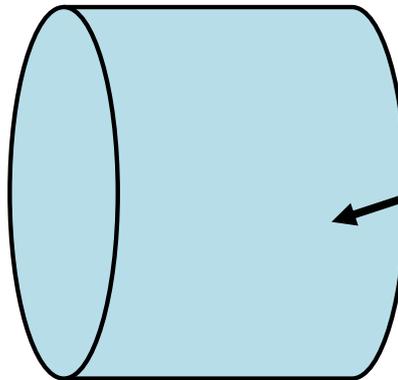
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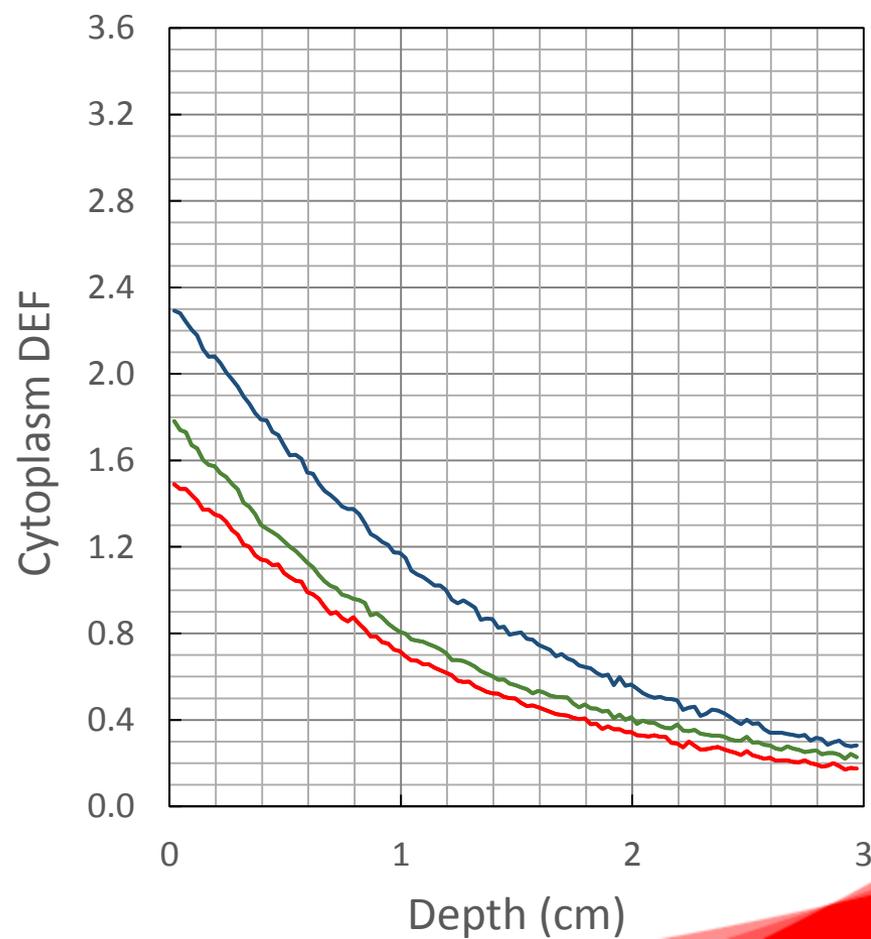
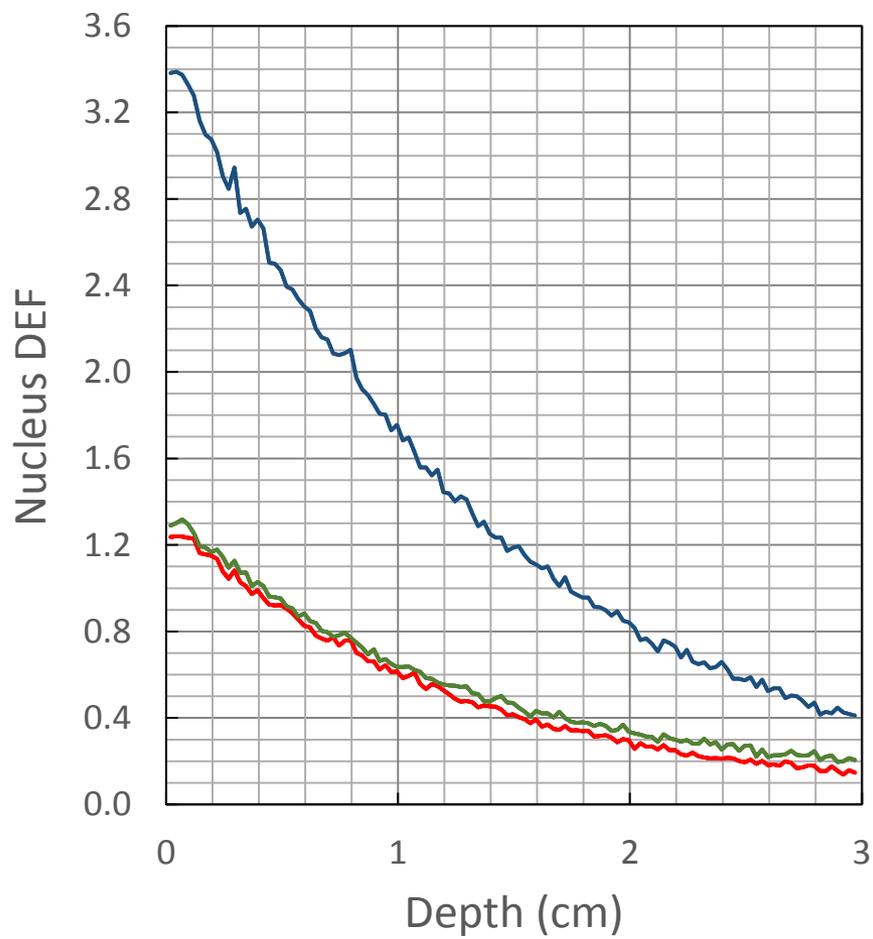
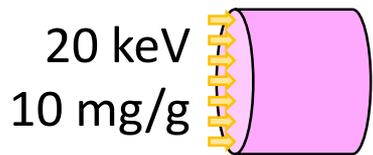
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= DEF



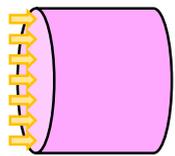
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# DEF vs Depth

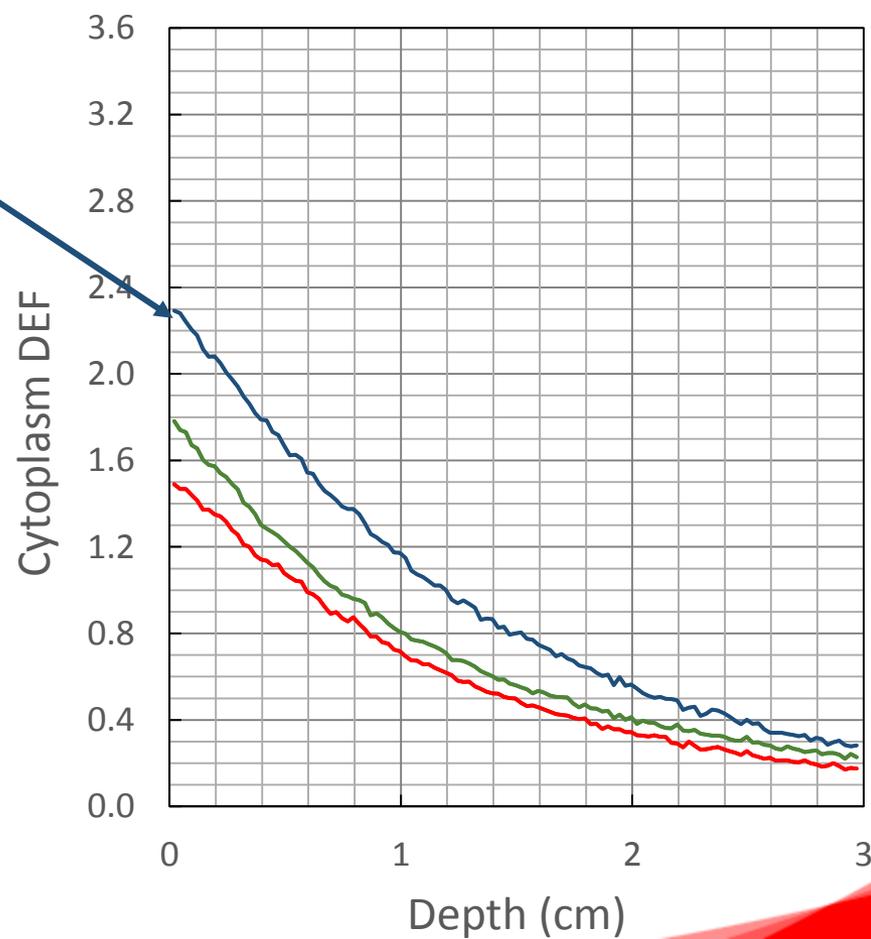
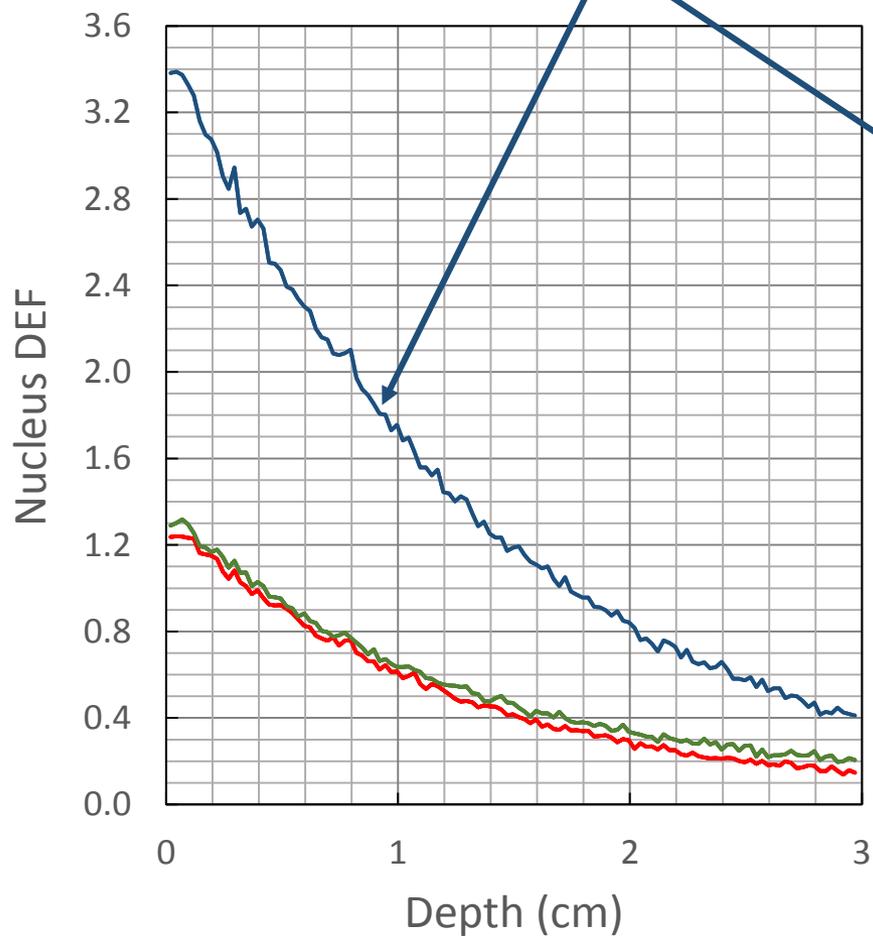


# DEF vs Depth

20 keV  
10 mg/g

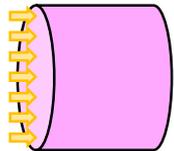


GNPs about  
nucleus



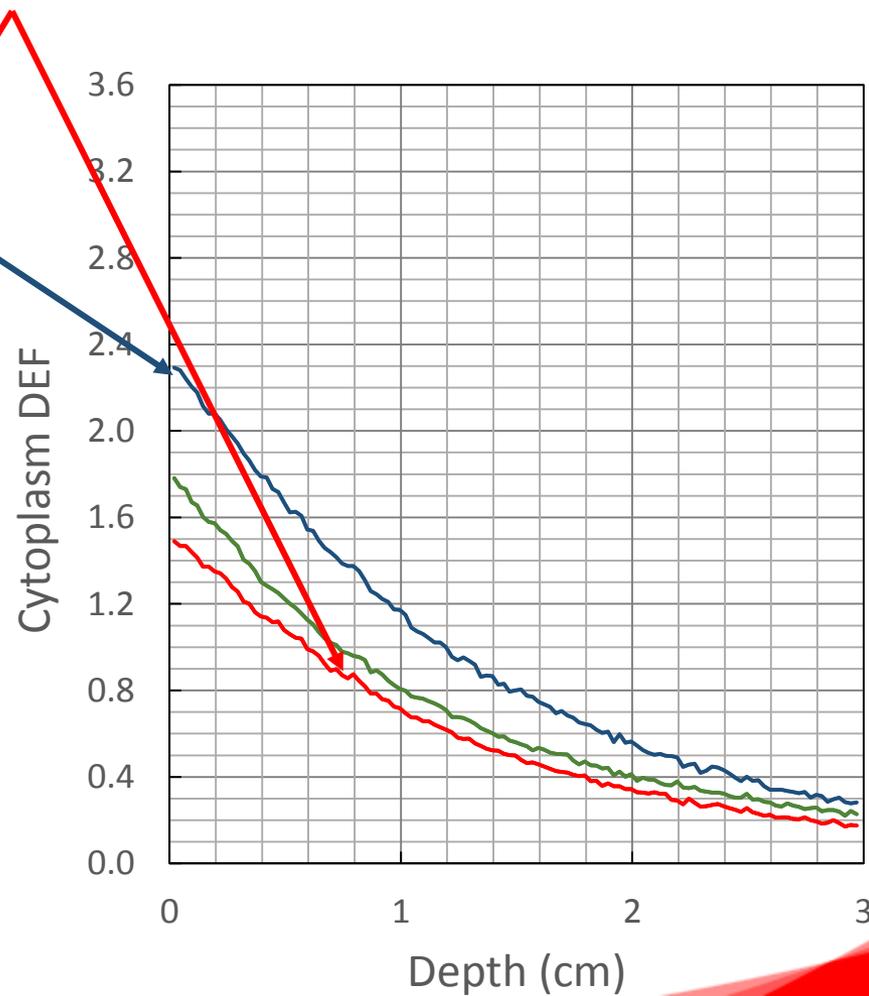
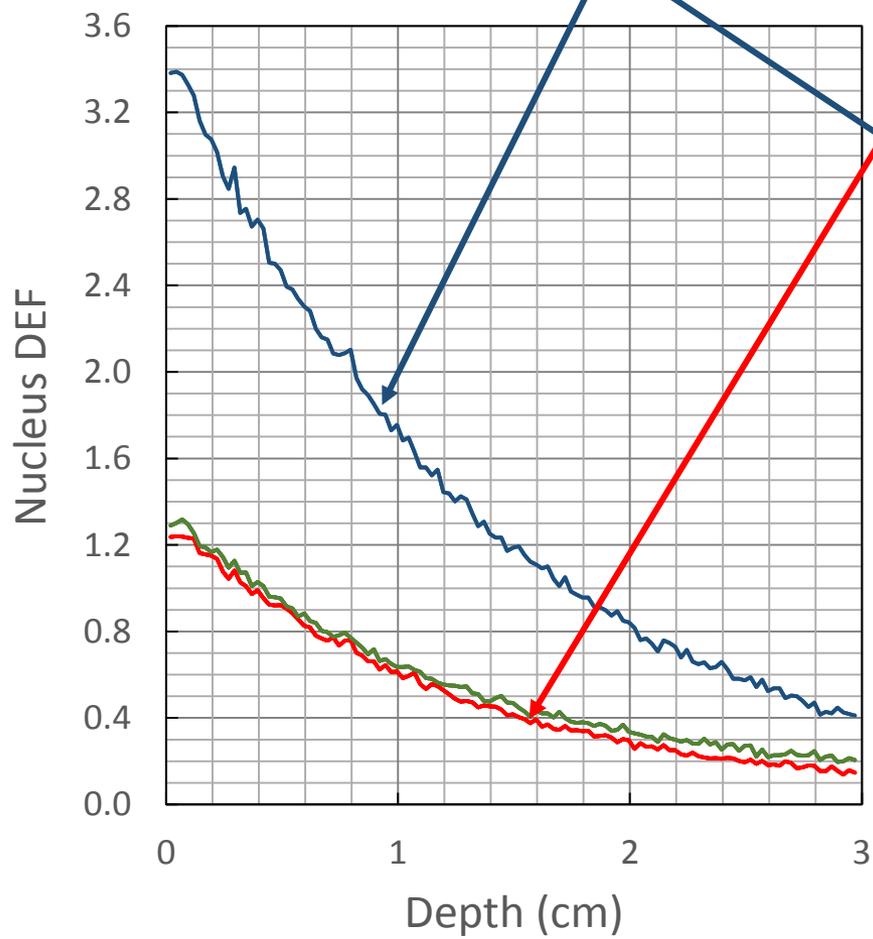
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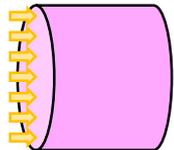
GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome



# DEF vs Depth

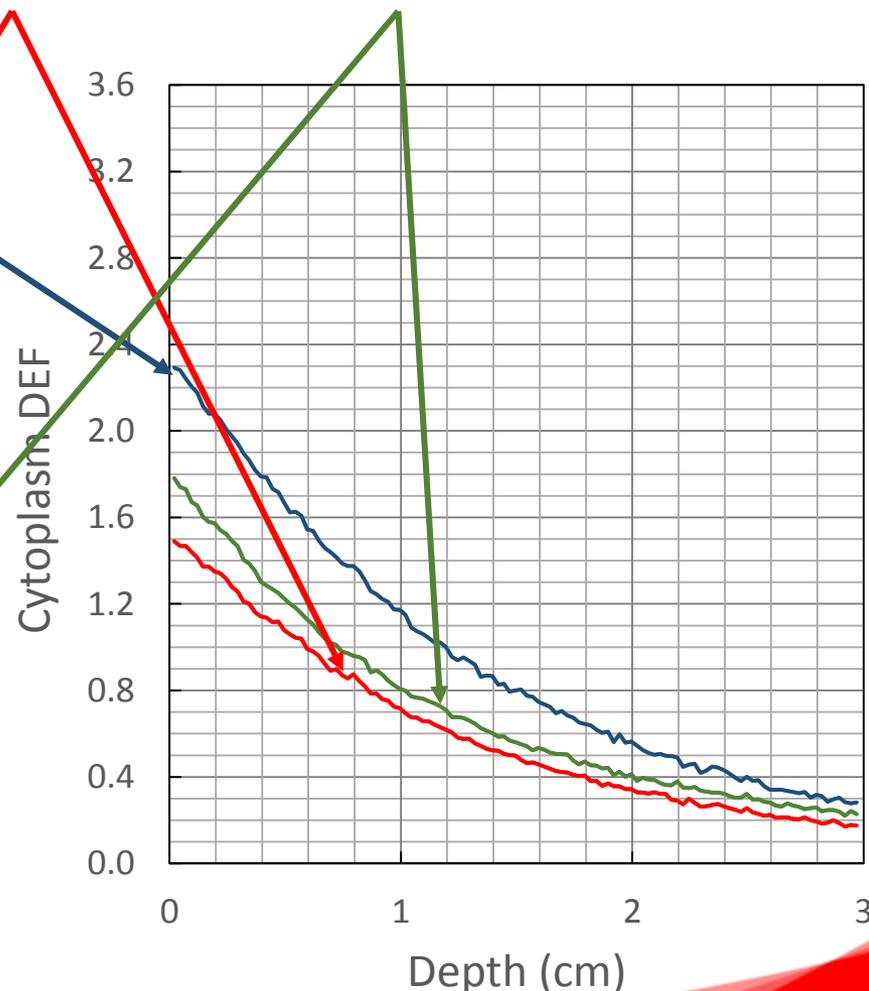
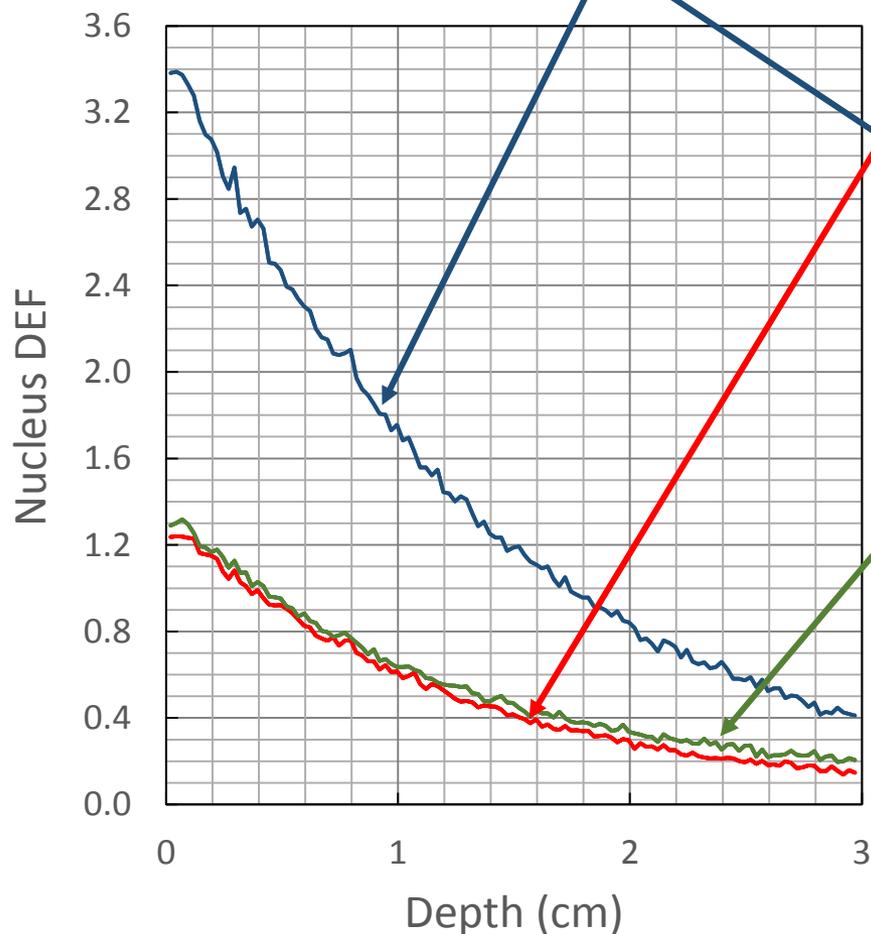
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

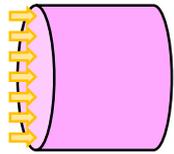
Single  
Endosome

Four  
Endosomes



# DEF vs Depth

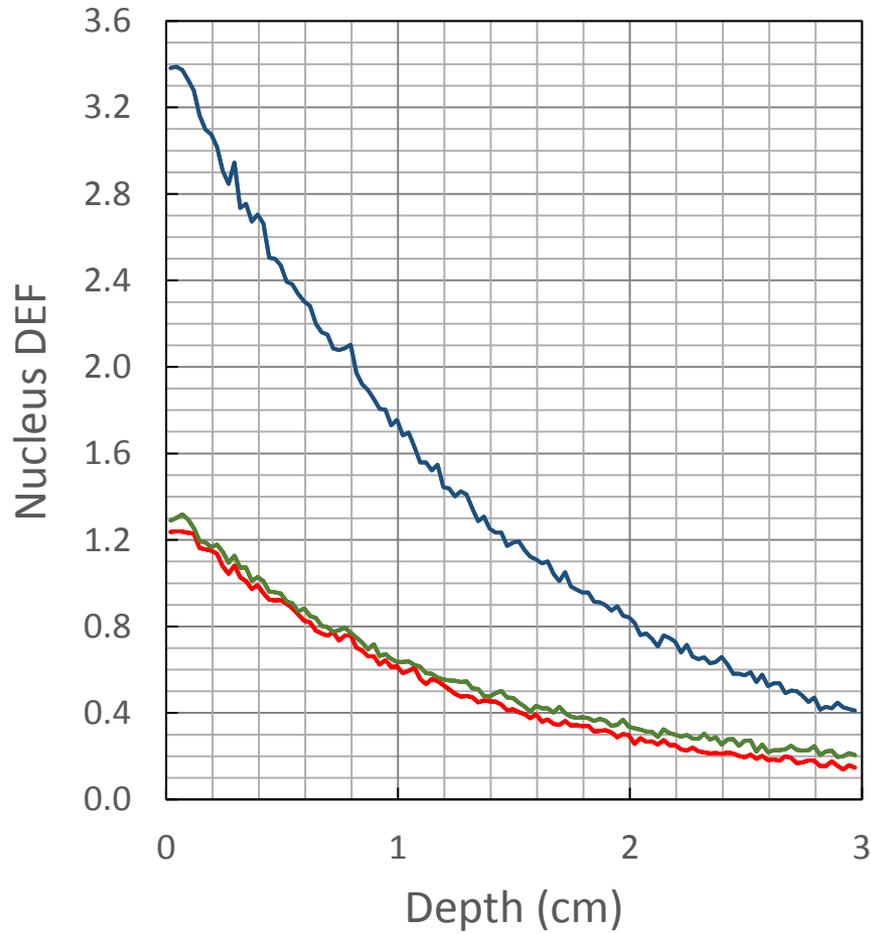
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

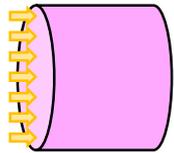
Single  
Endosome

Four  
Endosomes



# DEF vs Depth

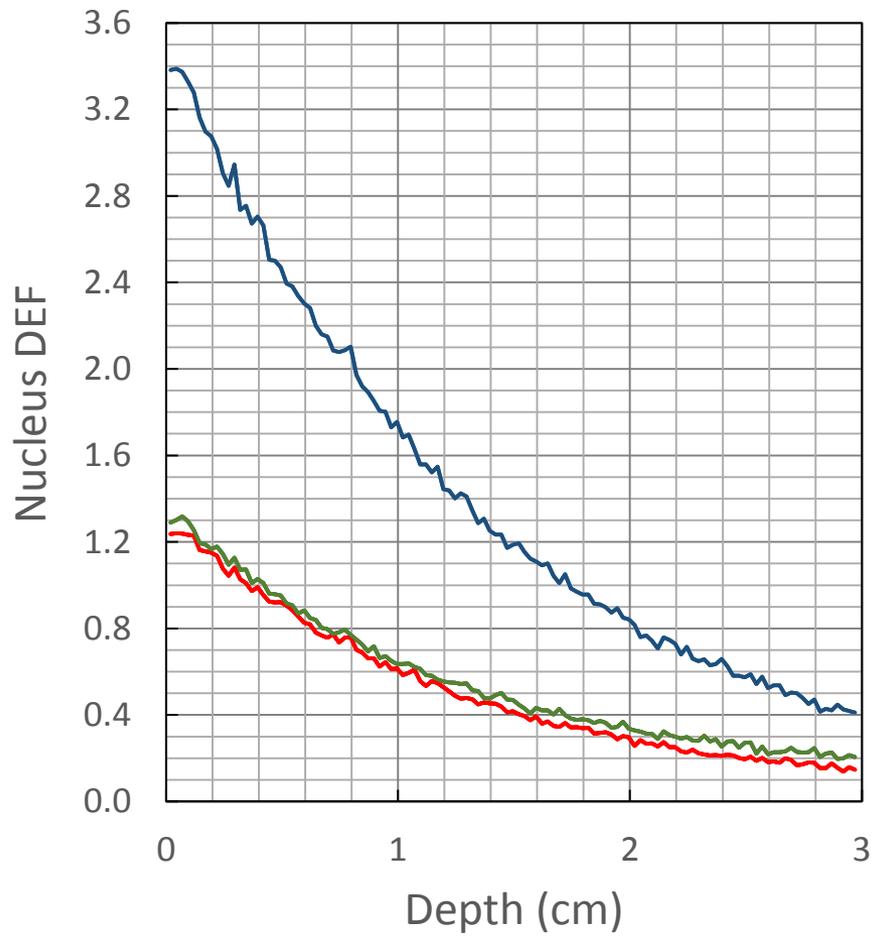
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome

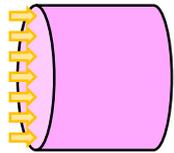
Four  
Endosomes



- DEF is highest when GNPs gather about the nucleus

# DEF vs Depth

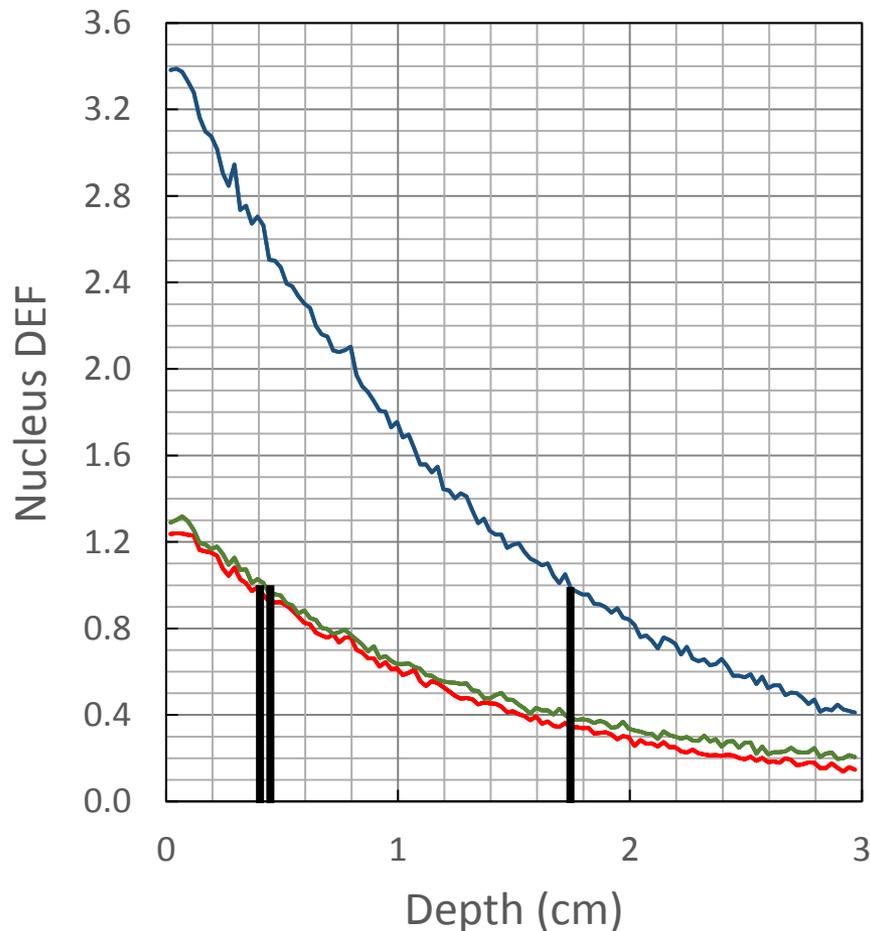
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome

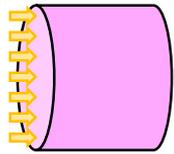
Four  
Endosomes



- DEF is highest when GNPs gather about the nucleus
- DEF drops below 1 at various depths within the phantom

# DEF vs Depth

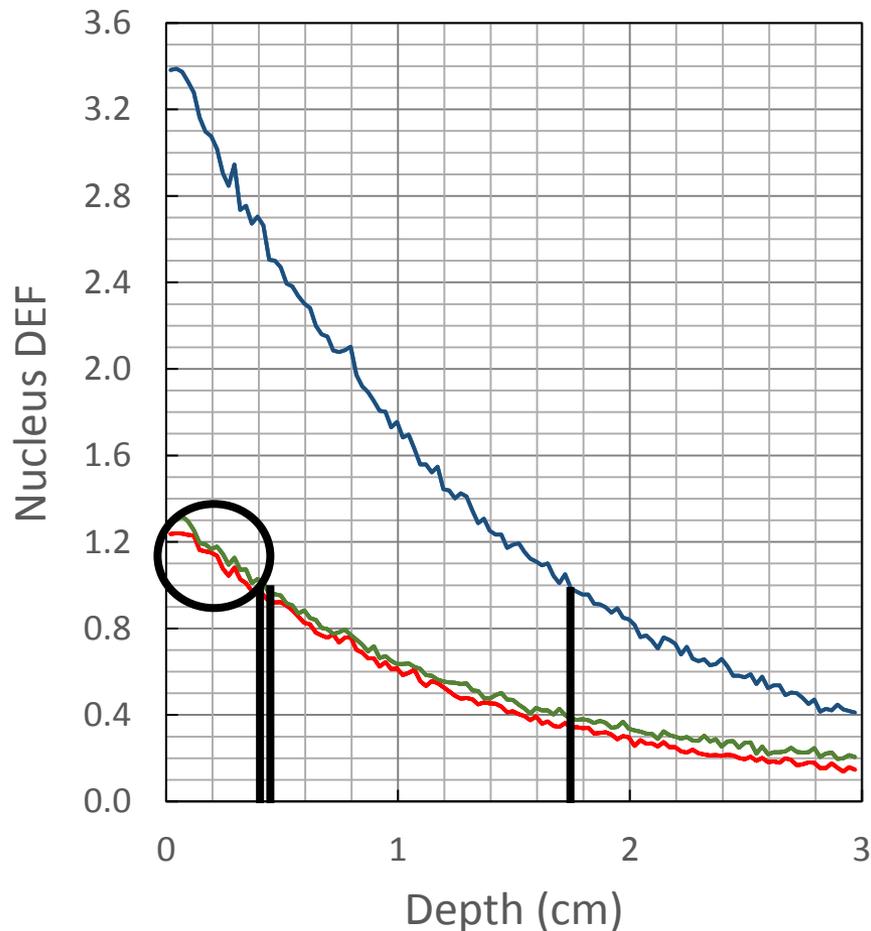
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome

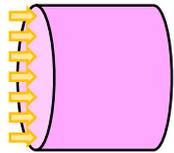
Four  
Endosomes



- DEF is highest when GNPs gather about the nucleus
- DEF drops below 1 at various depths within the phantom
- Low nucleus DEFs for GNPs in endosomes

# DEF vs Depth

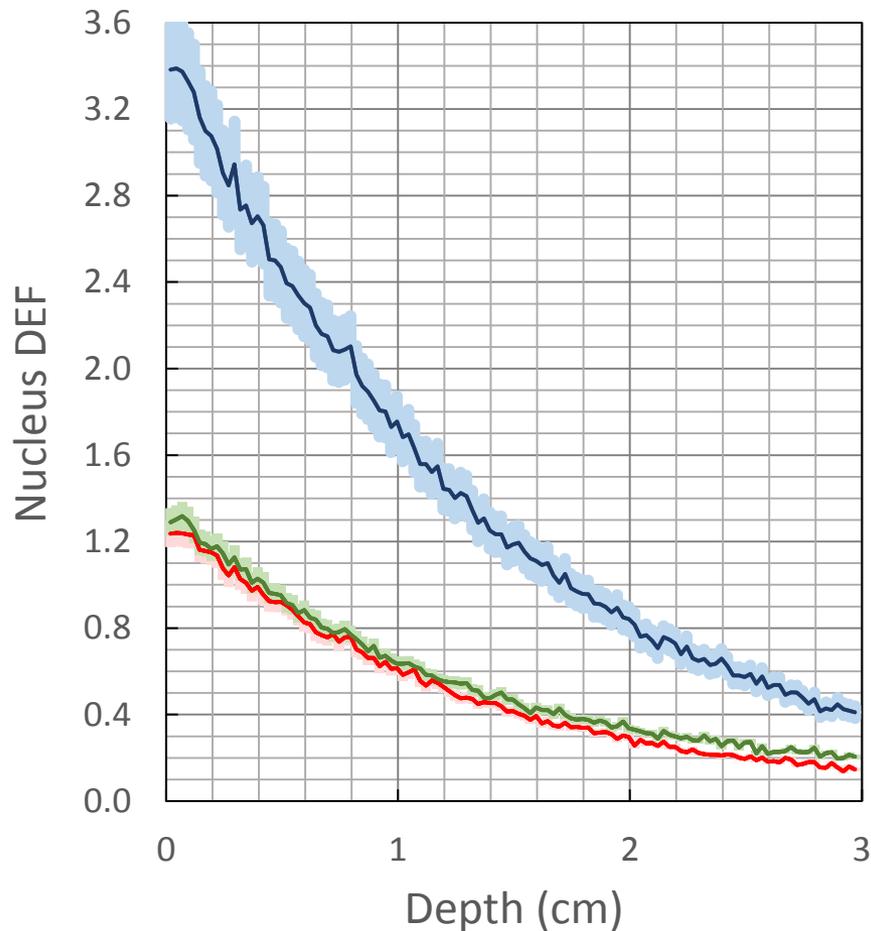
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome

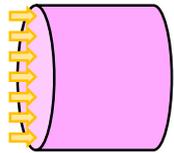
Four  
Endosomes



- Shaded region represents a local 10% variation in gold concentration

# DEF vs Depth

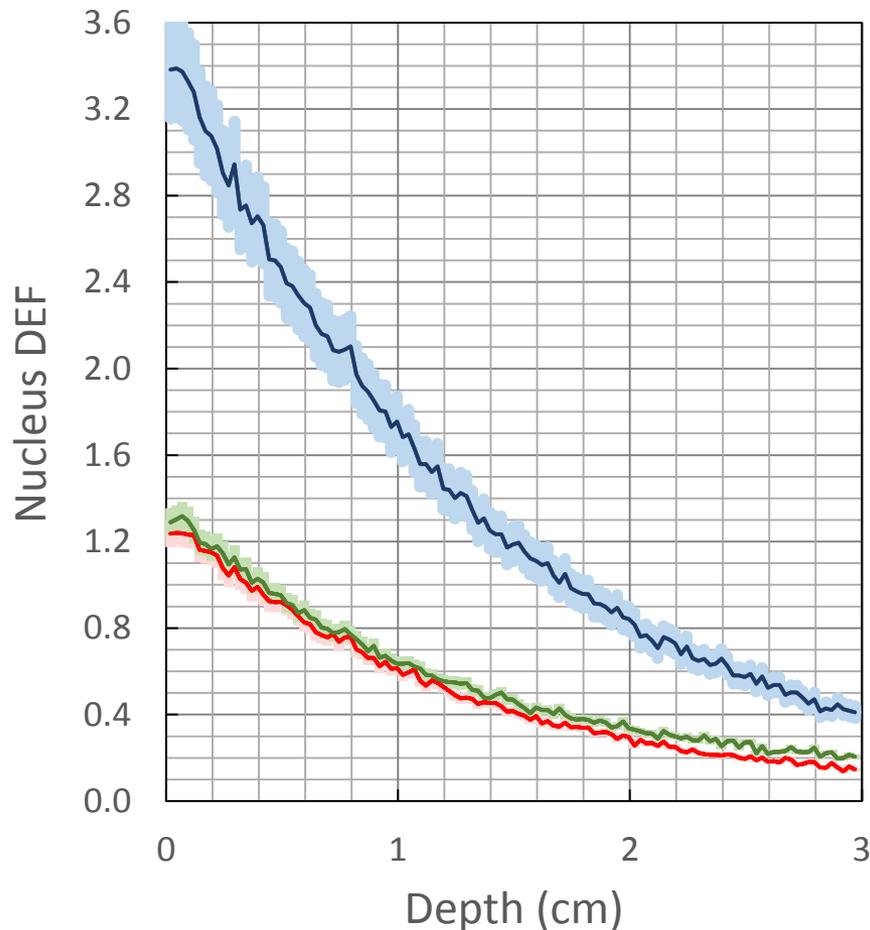
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome

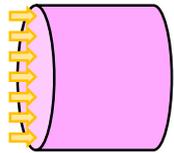
Four  
Endosomes



- Shaded region represents a local 10% variation in gold concentration
- Simulations are **≈100 times** faster using HetMS rather than full cell simulations

# DEF vs Depth

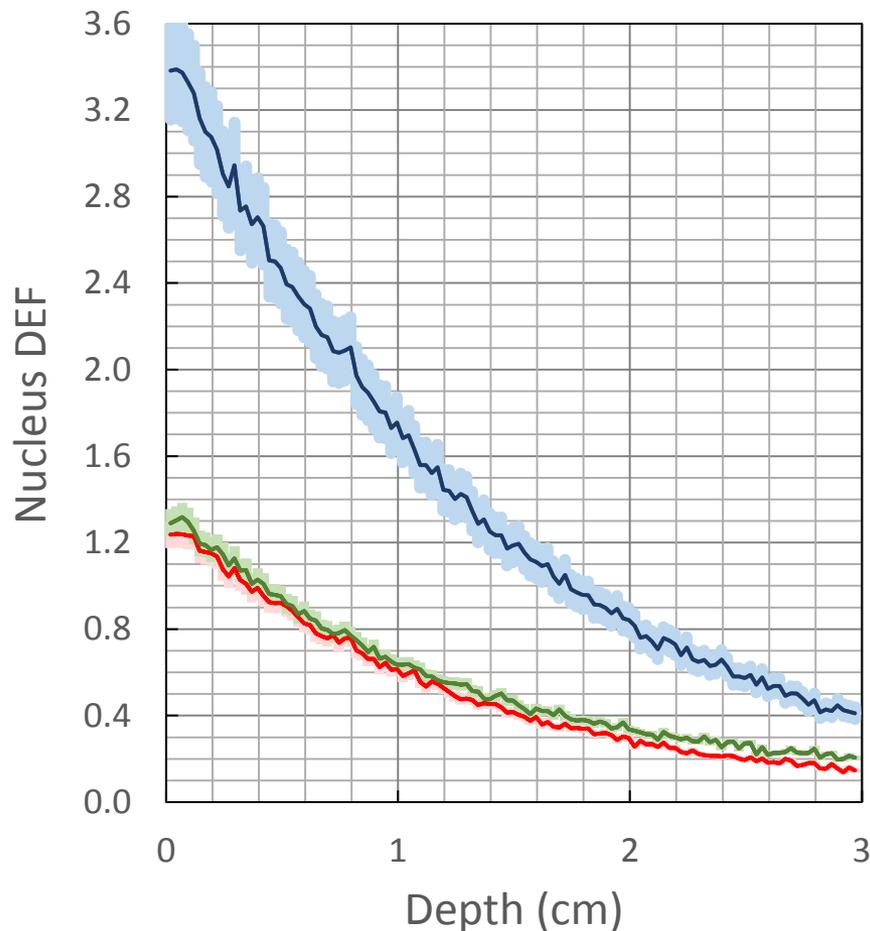
20 keV  
10 mg/g



GNPs about  
nucleus

Single  
Endosome

Four  
Endosomes



- Shaded region represents a local 10% variation in gold concentration
- Simulations are **≈100 times** faster using HetMS rather than full cell simulations
- Simulations can be up to **≈1000 times** faster in the worst case scenarios

# Conclusion

- The Heterogeneous Multiscale model is useful for large scale simulation of microscopic metrics

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- The Heterogeneous Multiscale model is useful for large scale simulation of microscopic metrics
- In the context of GNPT, cellular dose enhancement due to GNPs varies with depth in tumour
- Future work
  - To create a more realistic model, incorporating recent experimental work
  - Laying out the extensive validation work done on EGSnrc at small length scales

# Acknowledgements

Support from:



