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Article

Monte Carlo Methods to Simulate the Propagation of the Created Atomic/Nuclear Particles from Underground Piezoelectric Rocks inside the Fractures before or during the Earthquakes

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Abstract: Up to now, many studies have been performed on particle radiations before or during earthquakes (EQs). In our previous study, with the help of piezoelectricity relationships and the elastic energy formula, the MCNPX simulation code was applied to find the amount of created atomic/ nuclear particles, the dominant interactions; and the energy of the particles for various sizes of quartz and granite blocks. In this study, using the MCNPX simulation code, we have estimated the flux of the particles (created from under-stressed granitic rocks) at different distances from the EQ hypocenter inside the fractures, filled with air, water, and CO₂. It was found that inside a water-filled fracture, the particles do not show the flux far from the EQ hypocenter, but inside the gases like air and CO₂ with the normal condition density, different types of particles can have a flux far from the source (more than a kilometer) and they might reach themselves to the surface in the case that the EQ hypocenter is very shallow (0- 5 km). However, for deep EQs, it seems that the most detected nuclear particles on the surface should pass via the vacuum-filled fractures and reach themselves to the surface. Moreover, it was concluded that the more density of the fracture's filling fluid, the less distance that the particles can have a flux.

Keywords: Monte Carlo method; granite rocks; piezoelectricity; earthquake; particles radiation

1. Introduction

Up to now, many studies have been performed on the particle radiations before or during the earthquakes (EQs). Fu et al. found anomalous variations in the gamma-ray counting rate a few days before some local EQs in eastern Taiwan [1]. Maksudov et al. proposed a new method for EQ forecasting, based on simultaneous recording of the intensity of fluxes of low-energy neutrons and charged particles by detectors [2].

Volodichev et al. measured neutron emissions in seismic areas of the Pamir region exceeded the usual neutron background "up to two orders of magnitude in correspondence to seismic activity and rather major EQs, greater than or equal to the 4th degree in the Richter scale magnitude" [3]. Moreover, Sigaeva et al. observed neutron emission before the Sumatra EQ at Dec. 2004 [4]. Guo et al. analyzed the characteristic response of gamma radiation monitoring to seismic activity with the data provided by China EQ Data Center. The gamma radiation monitoring in Changsha indicate that near-field EQ swarm or violent EQ affects the gamma radiation in aseismic region [5].

Carpinteri et al. performed some experimental tests on brittle rock specimens specially the piezoelectric rocks like granite to check the neutron emission under different kinds of compression tests and monotonic, cyclic, and ultrasonic mechanical loading [6–10]. Manueto et al. also performed neutron emission measurements on granite specimens from Sardinia during mechanical compression tests [11]. Besides, Freund et al. applied stress on some kinds of igneous rocks, limestone, marble, and

others. These tests prove that electric charge carriers are activated in the metamorphic/ igneous rocks when they become under stress, turning them into semiconductors [12–14].

Bahari et al., with the help of piezoelectricity relationships and the elastic energy formula, applied the MCNPX simulation code to find the amount of created atomic/ nuclear particles, the dominant interactions and the possible particle energies for various sizes of quartz and granite blocks. They have proved that for the large granite blocks, “photonuclear” interactions from the “Bremsstrahlung gamma ray” photons due to the run-away electron avalanche, is the main mechanism for nuclear particles creation when the stress is exerted on a large block. In addition, they have presented some formulas to estimate the quantity and energy of various created particles on a fracture surface, when the piezoelectric block is under different uniaxial stress [15].

The cracks/ fractures are generated inside the rock blocks before the EQ happens because of the mechanical stresses, applied on them. Fractures might be filled with fluids like air, oil, gas, water, CO₂, etc. and in this situation, the type and state of the fluid (liquid or gas) can make a large difference in the response of the seismic waves [16]. Cracks and boreholes penetrating a fractured rock mass have been shown to efficiently circulate air on both daily and seasonal time scales, depending on the temperature contrast between the in-situ rock and atmosphere [17,18]. Moore et al. analyzed the impact of air and water circulation in deep open fractures on the subsurface thermal field. they have supposed that the origin of convective fracture flow might be the fact that during the winter, air at depth is warmer and lighter than atmospheric air and the resulting density contrast or pressure difference of the columns drives localized convection cells [19].

In this study, using the MCNPX simulation code, we want to answer to the question how the particles, created from under-stressed piezoelectric granitic blocks propagate inside the fractures, filled with fluids like air, water, and CO₂ and can reach themselves to the surface. This would be beneficial to understand the particles’ propagation mechanism and to find the flux of the particles in different distances from the EQ hypocenter.

2. Materials and Methods:

2.1. Introduction to MCNPX 2.6.0 Simulation Code

MCNPX (Monte Carlo N-Particle extended) is a general-purpose Monte Carlo radiation transport code with three-dimensional geometry and continuous-energy transport of 34 particles and light ions. Since its inception, MCNPX has focused on the needs of the intermediate energy community, here taken to mean incident energies up to a few GeV. The evaluated data libraries needed to run the code, and several subsidiary libraries needed for the physics models in MCNPX. Tracking is done to a user-settable lower kinetic energy cutoff, and particles will decay with their standard half-lives. For neutrons, all reactions given in a particular cross-section evaluation (such as ENDF/B-VI) are accounted for. Thermal neutrons are described by both the free gas and S (alpha, beta) models. For photons, the code accounts for incoherent and coherent scattering, the possibility of fluorescent emission after photoelectric absorption, absorption in pair production with local emission of annihilation radiation, and bremsstrahlung. A continuous-slowning-down model is used for electron transport that includes positrons, X-rays, and bremsstrahlung but does not include external or self-induced fields [20]. MCNPX contains numerous flexible tallies: surface current & flux, volume flux (track length), point or ring detectors, particle heating, fission heating, pulse height tally for energy or charge deposition, mesh tallies, and radiography tallies [21].

When a particle starts out from a source, a particle track is created. If that track is split two for one at a splitting surface or collision, a second track is created and there are now two tracks from the original source particle, each with half the single track weight. Within a given cell of fixed composition, the method of sampling a collision along the track is determined using the following theory: The probability of a first collision for a particle between l and $l + dl$ along its line of flight is given by [20]:

$$p(l)dl = e^{-\Sigma_t l} \Sigma_t dl \quad (1)$$

where Σ_t is the macroscopic total cross section of the medium and is interpreted as the probability per unit length of a collision. Setting ξ the random number on $[0,1)$, to be:

$$\xi = 1 - e^{-\Sigma_t l} \quad (2)$$

it follows that

$$l = -\frac{1}{\Sigma_t} \ln(\xi) \quad (3)$$

In addition, the cosine of the angle between incident and exiting particle directions is sampled from angular distribution tables in the collision nuclide's cross-section library [20].

2.2. Assumptions of the Problem for Simulation with MCNPX

As already we have studied (reference [15]), for a typical granite rock with the chemical compound as shown in the Table 1, the piezoelectric coefficient (d) equals to 7×10^{-13} C/N (at room temperature), Relative permittivity (ϵ_r) equals to 5 and uniaxial compressive strength of 140 MPa, when the compressive stress is applied on various sizes of rock block, the atomic/ nuclear particles are released from the rock tissue.

Table 1. elemental percentage of the granite, based in its chemical composition as illustrated in the Table 1.

Elements	O	Si	Al	K	Na	Ca	Fe	Total
Percentage, %	62	22.5	9	3	2	0.5	1	100

To find how much the propagated atomic/ nuclear particles, produced from piezoelectric granite rocks deep inside the Earth can reach themselves to the surface, we first supposed that the particles have been produced from a hypocenter with a focal depth of 2 km. Such an EQ would be categorized among the shallow EQs, (the EQs with a focal depth from 0 to 70 km) [22].

Then, we assumed that a fracture has been produced as a result of different kind of EQ's stresses (tensional, compressive or shear stress) on the rock block. Hence, the **cell card** of the code was defined for this fracture as a rectangular shape with depth (d), length (l) and width (w) equals to 2000 m, 1000 m, and 10 cm, respectively. The width (w) of the fracture is an affecting parameter on the number of created particles and flux. Hence, we have selected a normal width of 10 cm for a typical fracture. Nevertheless, it can be argued that as the width of the fracture increases, the source and created new particles have fewer interactions with the surrounding rocks and hence, the flux of the various particles in the upper sections of the fracture will be higher.

In the **material card**, we supposed that the fracture has been filled with air, water, and CO₂. It must be noted that if the fracture is not filled with any kind of material (vacuum occupies the hole volume of the fracture), all particles with the initial energy they have achieved, can reach themselves to the surface with no capturing and energy loss.

Another input parameter of the code is the **density of the material**. Normally the fluids beneath the surface are under pressure as a result of their hydrostatic column and also due to the upper formations' weight. However, in the model, proposed by Moore et al., the invaded air into the fractures possesses the lighter density than the atmospheric air density because of the higher heat at depth [19]. Hence, for those near surface fractures that make pathways to the surface in which the air is not under upper layers' pressure, although the hydrostatic column results in higher air density at depth, the high temperature at depth has a converse effect and it compensates the rise in the air density. Therefore, we have assumed that the fractures' filling air is not under pressure and we have chosen the air density equals to 1.2041 kg/m³ at 20 °C and atmospheric pressure.

For the water, since it is almost an incompressible fluid, its density at depth does not change considerably in relation to the surface and we thus, we have set its density equals to 1000 kg/m³.

For the CO₂, for those near surface fractures that make pathways to the surface, the condition is the same as for the air and we have chosen its density equals to 1.870 kg/m³ in the normal temperature and atmospheric condition. However, at EQ hypocenters, CO₂ pressure can reach 10– 20 MPa. At depth about 20 km, the temperature could rise to about 600 °C [23]. In this condition, the CO₂ is in a supercritical phase and the density of this gas at 577 °C and 10 MPa pressure equals to 61.31 kg/m³ [24].

As investigated in our previous research, the initial energy of the run-away electrons inside the granite rock tissues can be calculated, applying the piezoelectric and elastic energy relationships. The average energy of the created particles can be estimated, using the MCNPX simulation. Table 2 reveals the computed initial energy of the runaway electrons and the estimated average energy of the created particles inside the granite rock tissue, achieved from the simulation outputs in NPS electron=1000 for two EQ Richter magnitudes (M_L) [15].

Table 2. Computed initial energy of the runaway electrons and the estimated average energy of the created particles inside the granite rock tissue, achieved from the simulation outputs in NPS electron=1000 for two M_L [15].

Block dimensions, m ³	M_L	Initial runaway electrons' energy, MeV	Average energy of the created particles, MeV			
			Neutrons	Photons	Electrons	Protons
400 ³	5.79	885	10.4	1.81	0.03	9.38
4000 ³	7.67	8858	24.6	3.05	0.04	20

As can be seen in this table, neutron (n), proton (h), electron (e) and photon (γ) particles are created from the photonuclear and/ or other atomic/nuclear interactions of the runaway electron avalanche in piezoelectric rocks being under a huge amount of stress. Besides, although the initial energy of the runaway electrons is too high for these two EQ magnitudes, the average energy of the created electrons is relatively low. That is due to various interactions of runaway electron avalanches inside the rock tissue, specially the “knock on electrons” interactions, resulting in different particles radiation and lowering the average energy of the total created electrons. Thus, in the **source card**, we considered the neutrons, protons, and gammas as the source particles, separately and we neglect the electrons because of their low energy.

The **physics cards** for each of the source particles include some input parameters, set according to the conditions and requirements of the problem. For instance, the parameter *emax* in neutron, proton and electron physics and the parameter *emcpf* in photon physics indicate the upper limit of the particle's energy.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Simulation when the Fracture Is Filled with Air

As already discussed, a deep fracture in the Earth's crust can be filled with air. In this case, for each of the source particles: neutron, proton, and photon, we wrote the simulation code for two EQ magnitudes. It must be noted that for simplicity, we have defined the chemical composition of the air as 80% nitrogen plus 20% oxygen in our written code and the other chemical compounds of the air, containing very little percentage were eliminated. Table 3 represents the input parameters for simulation of the neutron propagation inside an air-filled fracture when an EQ with M_L = 7.67 is occurred inside a granite block. The average energy for each source particle was achieved from the Table 2. In addition, The No. of particles (NPS) in the written code was supposed to be 100'000, since, that is enough to achieve the appropriate results. The simulation running time (CTME) was about 106 min.

Table 3. Input parameters for simulation of the neutron propagation inside an air-filled fracture when an EQ with $M_L = 7.67$ is occurred inside a granite block.

M_L	Material	Fracture dimensions, m^3	Source particle	Average Energy (MeV)	Source position	Source direction	No. of particles (NPS)
7.67	Air	2000×1000×0.1	n	24.6	bottom surface	From bottom to top surface	100'000

When 24.6 MeV neutrons, already created as a result of the piezoelectric effect, are propagated into an air-filled fracture and have interactions with atoms of the air and the surrounded granite rock, various atomic/nuclear interactions would be anticipated and some new particles will be generated. Some of the particles, by their elastic or inelastic interactions with surrounded granite atoms/ nucleus, will be recoiled into the air.

To achieve a model of the created particles flux, the fracture cell was divided into 125'000 meshes with the rectangular mesh tally card (RMESH) of the MCNPX. The type I of this mesh tally was employed. Since the output of this card is a binary file, we used the *gridconv* program to convert it to a data file (*.dat). Then, we applied the *Tecplot* software to plot the 2D view of the constructed mesh tally and the amount of particle flux in unit of No. /cm² per each source particle (to find the real flux amount, the flux, shown in the mesh tally must be multiplied to the NPS number). Figure 1a,b indicates the 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is neutron with $E_n = 24.6$ and 10.4 MeV (for EQs with $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79, respectively).

As is evident in this figure, for $E_n = 24.6$ MeV, we would expect the flux of neutron, almost equals to 5E-5 n/cm² about 1 km above the source position and after that, almost all created neutrons inside the air are lost (captured or their energy decreased below the cut off energy). However, for $E_n = 10.4$ MeV, the same flux at about 950 m above the source position would be expected. For $E_n = 24.6$ and 10.4 MeV, we would also expect the electron flux up to about 780 and 950 m, photon flux up to about 900 and 950 m and proton flux up to about 800 and 0 m, respectively.

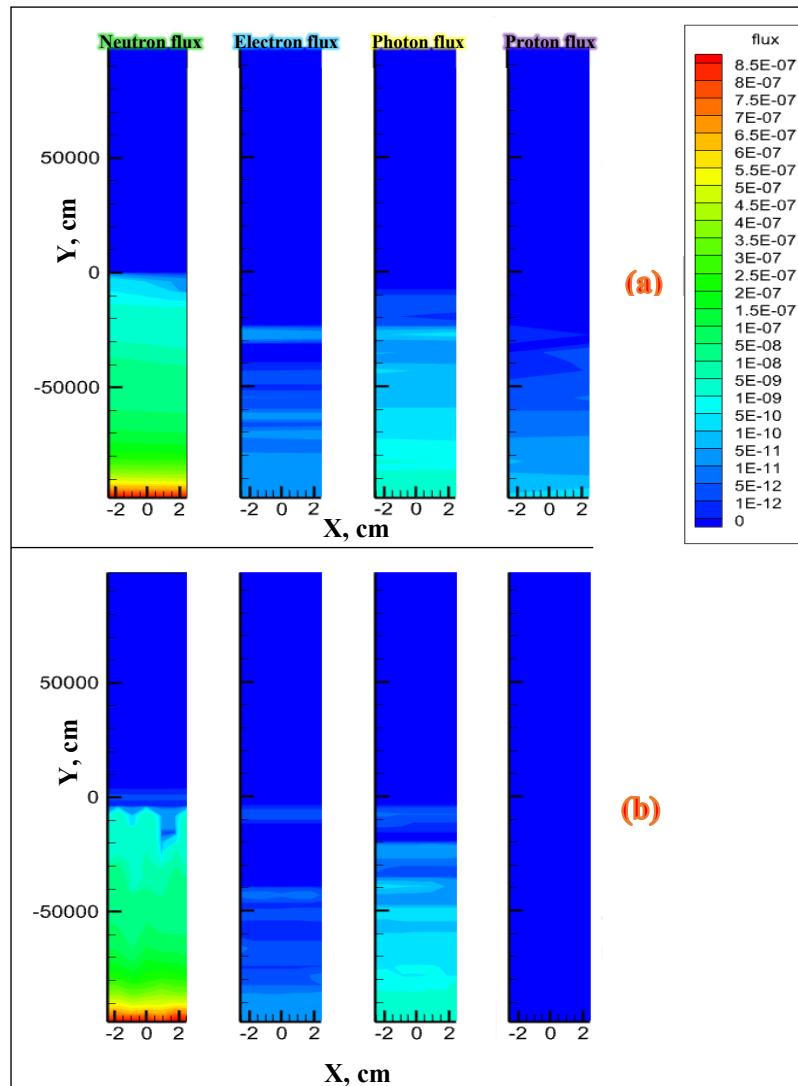


Figure 1. 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is neutron with (a) $E_n = 24.6$ MeV and (b) $E_n = 10.4$ MeV (for EQs with $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79 , respectively).

In addition, Table 4 illustrates the simulation results for some of the created particles' characteristics, including number, "average energy", "mean free path (mfp)" and "average time of capture or escape" in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is neutron, photon and proton with NPS=100'000 and the energies equivalent to $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79 , respectively. As could be found in this table, when the source particle is neutron with $E_n = 24.6$ MeV (equivalent to $M_L = 7.67$), the mfp of created new neutrons and photons in the air are 133 and 158 m, respectively. In comparison, when the source neutron possesses the energy equals to 10.4 MeV (equivalent to $M_L = 5.79$), the mfp of created neutrons and photons in the air are 141 and 181 m, respectively, representing the higher value, because of lower interactions of these particles with the air's atoms/ nucleuses. The mfp for created electrons and protons are much lower (in cm dimension) due to their Coulomb interactions with the other atoms/ nucleuses. Besides, when the source neutron contains the energy equals to 24.6 MeV, the average time of capture or escape for created neutrons and photons are $2.68E-04$ and $1.87E-04$, respectively and for electrons and protons this could not be calculated by the MCNPX due to their very prompt capture or escape in/ from the environment.

Table 4. The simulation results for some of the created particles' characteristics, in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is neutron, photon and proton with NPS=100'000 and the energies equivalent to M_L = 7.67 and 5.79 MeV, respectively.

NPS=100'000				Created particles' characteristics				
Fracture filling material	M_L	Source particle	Source particle's Energy, MeV	Particles	No.	Average energy, MeV	Mean free path (mfp), cm	Average time of capture or escape, s
Air	7.67	Neutron	24.6	Neutron	112686	2.31E+01	1.33E+04	2.68E-04
				Electron	94389550	1.59E-02	2.05E+01	.....
				Photon	1207243	9.24E-01	1.58E+04	1.87E-04
				Proton	42362	5.07E+00	3.65E+00	.....
Air	7.67	Photon	3.05	Neutron	0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0
				Electron	27029959	1.56E-02	2.45E+01	.....
				Photon	329562	9.49E-01	2.34E+04	7.60E-07
				Proton	0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	....
Air	7.67	Proton	20	Neutron	31	3.49E+00	8.34E+03	3.35E-04
				Electron	250243	1.59E-02	9.24E+00	.....
				Photon	3098	9.53E-01	1.86E+04	3.48E-05
				Proton	100783	1.99E+01	1.26E+01	.....
Air	5.79	Neutron	10.4	Neutron	100000	1.04E+01	1.41E+04	2.21E-04
				Electron	75862285	1.60E-02	2.10E+01	.....
				Photon	965231	9.31E-01	1.81E+04	1.90E-04
				Proton	6366	3.49E+00	6.94E-01	.....
Air	5.79	Photon	1.81	Neutron	0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0
				Electron	16646303	1.47E-02	1.36E+01	.....
				Photon	132001	7.88E-01	1.77E+04	5.75E-07
				Proton	0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	....
Air	5.79	Proton	9.38	Neutron	0	0.00E+00	0.00E+00	0.00E+00
				Electron	30057	1.53E-02	6.09E+00	.....
				Photon	386	8.89E-01	1.58E+04	1.22E-08
				Proton	105	9.37E+00	2.88E+00	.....

Besides, Figure 2a,b indicates 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is photon with E_γ = 3.05 and 1.81 MeV (for EQs with M_L = 7.67 and 5.79, respectively). As can be understood from this figure, for E_γ = 3.05 MeV, we would expect the flux of photon, almost equals to $1E-8 \gamma/cm^2$ about 1.6 km above the source position (EQ hypocenter) and after that, almost all created photons inside the air are lost. However, for E_γ = 1.81 MeV, the same flux at about 1.2 km above the source position would be expected. We would also expect the flux of electrons up to about 1.7 and 1.4 km for E_γ = 3.05 and 1.81 MeV, respectively. The neutron and proton fluxes are almost zero along the whole fracture length, because, the source photons' energy is not high enough to initiate the photonuclear interactions.

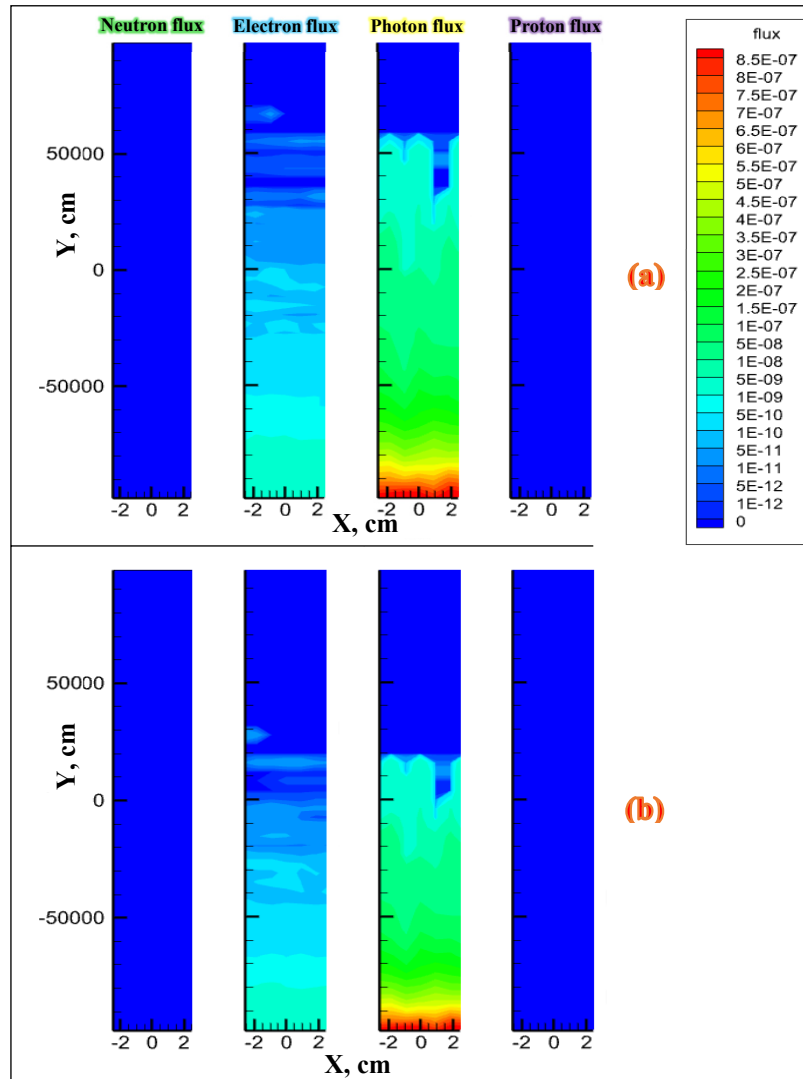


Figure 2. 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is photon with (a) $E_\gamma = 3.05$ MeV and (b) $E_\gamma = 1.81$ MeV (for EQs with $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79 , respectively).

Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the photonuclear total cross section versus the photon energy in ^{14}N and ^{16}O (the main constituent parts of the air), plotted from ENDF library of nuclear data services web page [25]. As can be seen in these figures, the photonuclear interaction in ^{14}N and ^{16}O initiates at 7.55 MeV and 12.5 MeV, respectively. These energies are higher than 3.05 and 1.81 MeV (the average photon's energy, released from the EQs with $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79 in granite block, respectively) and hence, no neutrons nor protons are released from photonuclear reactions of the air atoms' nuclei.

It must be taken into consideration that, since the photon has a Wave-particle duality, whenever it possesses low energy, its frequency is low enough to allow the electromagnetic wave to pass through kilometers of solids. Therefore, the ultra-low frequency (ULF) photon waves can reach themselves to the surface via the empty or gas-filled fractures or even the solid rocks. Nonetheless, these waves can not be simulated by MCNPX, because this code only simulates the particle's nature of photon in straight lines. The simulation of ULF waves propagation inside the Earth' crust and its fractures can be performed via the appropriate models/ simulators.

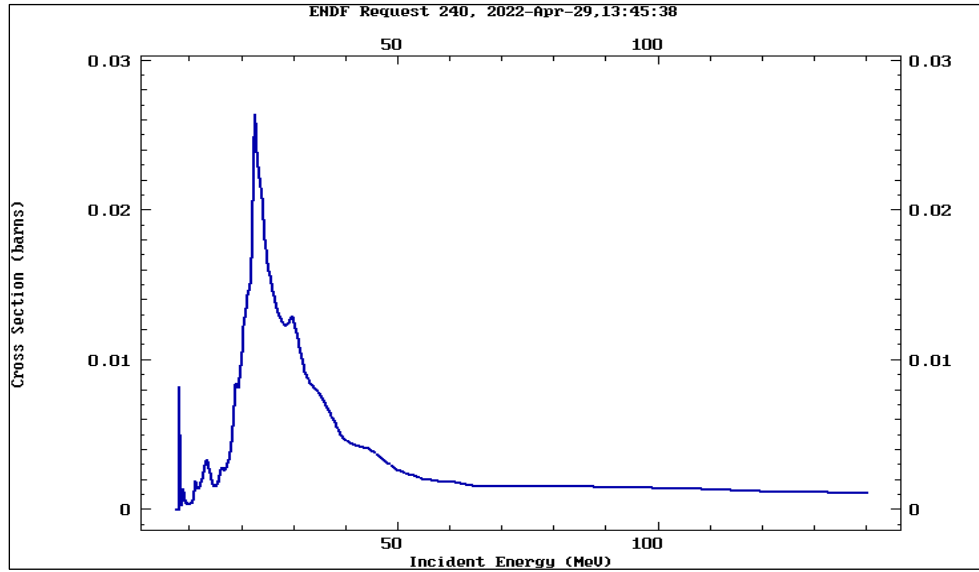


Figure 3. The photonuclear total cross section versus the photon energy in ^{14}N , plotted from ENDF library data.

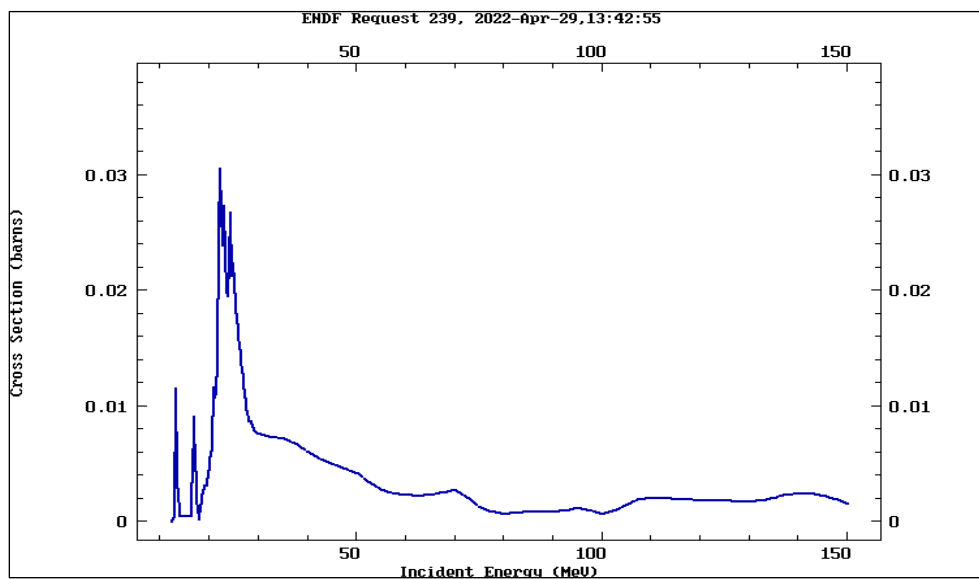


Figure 4. The photonuclear total cross section versus the photon energy in ^{16}O , plotted from ENDF library data.

Moreover, Figure 5a,b reveals 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is proton with $E_h = 20$ and 9.38 MeV (for EQs with $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79, respectively). As could be seen in this figure, for both $E_h = 20$ and 9.38 MeV, the protons have a flux of $5\text{E-}12$ h/cm² up to about 50 m above the hypocenter (source position) and then, they are all lost. Besides, very little flux of photons and electrons up to about 50 m from the hypocenter and almost no neutron flux can be anticipated.

The reason of very little particles creation and flux when the source particles are protons could be the fact that, the protons have normally short mean free path (mfp) in relation to the neutrons because of their electric charge (Coulomb interactions). Once they are created, they will have atomic or nuclear interactions (elastic, inelastic, fusion, etc), promptly. They might also create stable hydrogen atoms by attracting electrons.

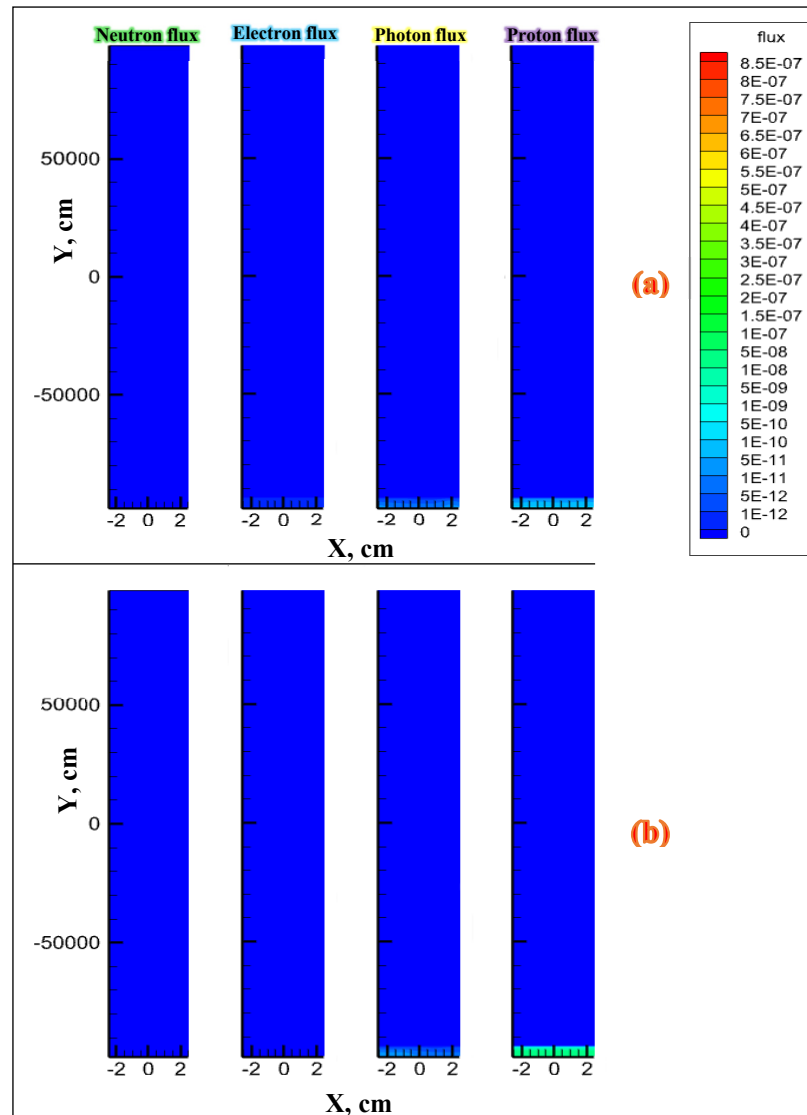


Figure 5. 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in an air-filled fracture when the source particle is proton with (a) $E_h = 20$ MeV and (b) $E_h = 9.38$ MeV (for EQs with $M_L = 7.67$ and 5.79 , respectively).

3.2. Simulation when the Fracture Is Filled with Water

We also wrote the same simulation code when the fracture is filled with water (the water chemical composition and density were given to the code). Table 5 represents the input parameters for simulation of the neutron propagation inside a water-filled fracture when an EQ with $M_L = 7.67$ is happened inside a granite block. The simulation running time (CTME) was about 63 min.

Table 5. Input parameters for simulation of the neutron propagation inside a water-filled fracture when an EQ with $M_L = 7.67$ is happened inside a granite block.

M_L	Material	Fracture dimensions, m ³	Source particle	Average Energy (MeV)	Source position	Source direction	No. of particles (NPS)
7.67	Water	2000×1000×0.1	N	24.6	bottom surface	From bottom to top surface	100'000

Figure 6a–c represents 2D views of different particle fluxes per each source particle in a water-filled fracture when the source particle is (a) neutron with $E_n= 24.6$ MeV, (b) photon with $E_\gamma= 3.05$ MeV; and (c) proton with $E_p= 20$ MeV (all for EQ of the $M_L = 7.67$). As is evident in this figure, in all situations, the flux of particles can be seen up to about 50 m above the source position and then, almost all created particles inside the water are lost (captured or their energy is reduced below the cut off energy).

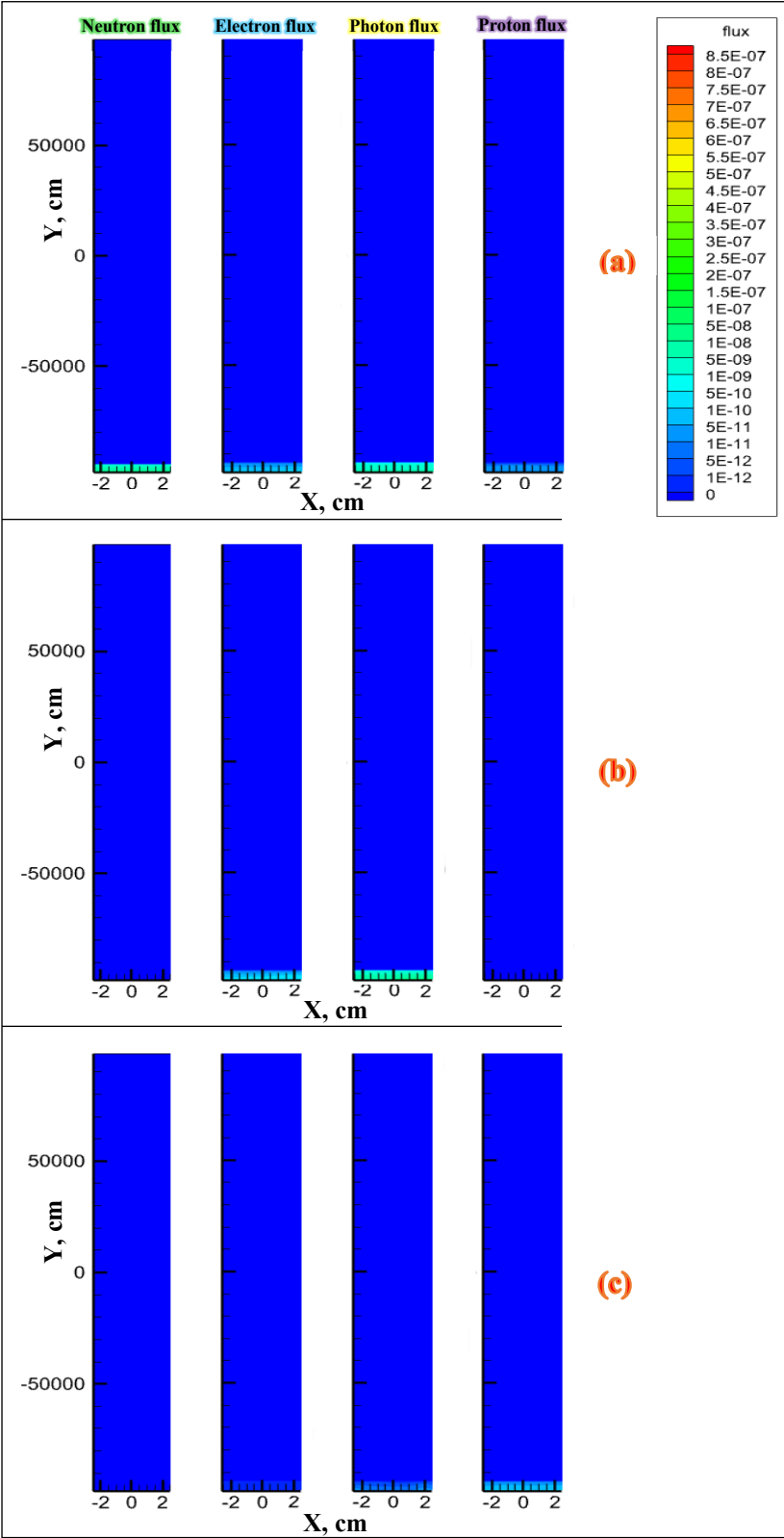


Figure 6. 2D views of different particle fluxes per each source particle in a water-filled fracture when the source particle is (a) neutron with $E = 24.6$ MeV, (b) photon with $E = 3.05$ MeV and (c) proton with $E = 20$ MeV (all for EQ with $M_L = 7.67$).

The water density, being much higher than the air density is the most affecting parameter, resulting in particles' capturing or lowering their energy below the cut off energy. Therefore, it can be argued that if the fractures around the EQ's hypocenter are filled with water, the radiated particles from the piezoelectric mechanism could not be transmitted to a long distance or to the surface of the Earth even if the EQ magnitude is high.

3.3. Simulation when the Fracture Is Filled with CO_2

We also wrote the simulation code when the fracture is filled with CO_2 with the same parameters. However, for its density, as previously explained in the section 2.2, we have chosen its density equals to 1.870 kg/m^3 in the normal pressure/ temperature condition. However, since at depths below than 20 km, CO_2 pressure and temperature are much higher, for comparison, we have also applied the density equals 61.31 kg/m^3 for the pressure at 10 MPa and temperature at 577°C .

Figure 7a,b represents 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in a CO_2 -filled fracture when the source particle is photon with $E_\gamma = 3.05$ MeV (for EQ with $M_L = 7.67$) and the density of CO_2 is 1.870 and 61.31 kg/m^3 , respectively.

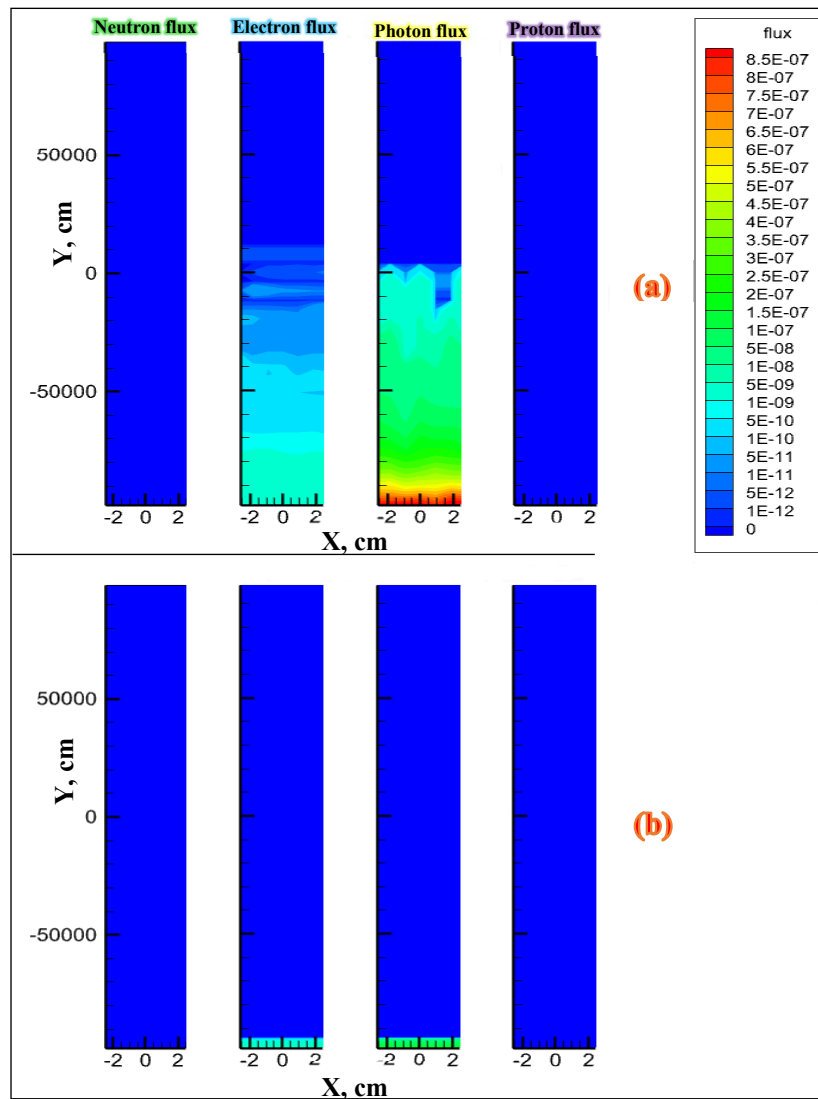


Figure 7. 2D views of neutron, electron, photon and proton fluxes per each source particle in a CO₂-filled fracture when the source particle is neutron with $E_\gamma = 3.05$ MeV (for EQ with $M_L = 7.67$) and the density of CO₂ is **(a)** 1.870 kg/m³ and **(b)** 61.31 kg/m³, respectively.

As understood from this figure, when the CO₂ density is 1.870 kg/m³, we can expect the flux of photon and electron far from the source position (more than a kilometer). In comparison, when the CO₂ density is 61.31 kg/m³, the flux of particles, about 50 m above the source position reduces rapidly and thereafter, almost all created particles inside the CO₂ are lost (captured or their energy is reduced below the cut off energy).

4. Conclusions:

- 1- If we consider a rectangular-shaped fracture from the EQ hypocenter to the surface, in the case that the fracture contains vacuum (no fluid fills it), those created particles from under-stressed granitic rocks, entering into the fracture and moving alongside and parallel to the fracture walls, can pass long distances from the EQ hypocenter and reach themselves to the surface with their initial energy.
- 2- Using the MCNPX simulation code, we have estimated the flux of the particles inside the fractures, filled with air, water, and CO₂ in different distances from the EQ hypocenter. Those particles are created from under-stressed granite rocks and also from the interactions between them and the filling fluid's atoms/ nucleuses. It was found that inside a water-filled fracture, the particles do not show the flux far from the EQ hypocenter even if the EQ magnitude is high (more than 7 in Richter's magnitude), but inside the fractures, filled with gases like air and CO₂ with density in a normal condition, various types of particles can have a flux far from the source (more than a kilometer) and they might reach themselves to the surface when the EQ hypocenter is very shallow (0- 5 km). However, for deep EQs, it seems that the most detected atomic/ nuclear particles on the surface have been transmitted to the surface via the vacuum-filled fractures.
- 3- By running the simulation code on a CO₂-filled fracture, it was concluded that the more density of the fracture's filling fluid, the less distance that the particles can have a flux.
- 4- The fracture's geometry and size, specially the width of the fracture, the moving direction of the source particles, the type and density of the filling fluid, are amongst the important factors, affecting on how much the particles can reach themselves to the surface.
- 5- Due to the photon's wave- particle duality, low energy photons like ULF waves can pass long distances of solids/ fluids and be detected on the surface. However, the wave properties of photon can not be simulated with MCNPX and it must be simulated with other simulators.
- 6- We have considered the "average energy" of the particles for each EQ magnitude. However, some of the interactions in which the particles are created have higher energies than the average and therefore, created particles from those interactions can pass longer distances inside a fluid-filled fracture.

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