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## Performance demonstration of multi-modal imaging using hybrid Compton cameras

X-ray and gamma-ray imaging techniques are crucial in various fields. In the field of nuclear medicine, singlephoton emission tomography (SPECT) and positron emission tomography (PET) scans are the two most commonly used techniques; however, both techniques only image a specific energy range of either X-rays or gamma rays. SPECT can only image gamma rays with energies less than 300 keV using a collimator, whereas PET can image only 511 keV gamma rays from positron emitters. Compton cameras have attracted attention because of their capability of imaging above 1 MeV.

We propose a hybrid Compton camera (HCC) that realizes simultaneous Compton and pinhole imaging within a single detector system. Similar to conventional Compton cameras, the HCC consists of two layers of scintillator arrays. The front detector acts as a scatterer for high-energy photons (>200 keV) and an active pinhole for low-energy photons (<200 keV). Furthermore, we developed a system consisting of multiple HCCs to simultaneously realize three modalities: Compton, pinhole, and PET imaging. We successfully performed the simultaneous imaging of Cs-137 (Compton mode; 662 keV), Na-22 (PET mode; 511 keV), and Am-241 (pinhole mode; 60 keV) within the same field of view. Further, the 3D distribution of an At-211 tracer inside a mouse was imaged. We also investigated the effectiveness of implementing BGO active shields to enhance the imaging performance. Our study introduces a new imaging modality in nuclear medicine.

## **Primary experiment**

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