

State of the art time resolution in TOF-PET detectors for various crystal sizes and types

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Time of flight (TOF) in positron emission tomography (PET) has experienced a revival of interest after its first introduction in the eighties. This is due to a significant progress in solid state photodetectors (SiPMs) and newly developed scintillators (LSO and its derivatives). Latest developments at Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK) lead to the NUV-HD SiPM with a very high photon detection efficiency of around 50%. Despite the large area of $4 \times 4 \text{mm}^2$ it achieves a good single photon time resolution of $205 \pm 5 \text{ps}$ FWHM. Coincidence time resolution (CTR) measurements using LSO:Ce codoped 0.4%Ca scintillators yield values of $73 \pm 2 \text{ps}$ FWHM for $2 \times 2 \times 3 \text{mm}^3$, $83 \pm 4 \text{ps}$ for $2 \times 2 \times 5 \text{mm}^3$, $100 \pm 4 \text{ps}$ for $2 \times 2 \times 10 \text{mm}^3$ and $122 \pm 6 \text{ps}$ for $2 \times 2 \times 20 \text{mm}^3$ crystal sizes. Results with standard LYSO:Ce are $95 \pm 5 \text{ps}$ for $2 \times 2 \times 5 \text{mm}^3$, $105 \text{ps} \pm 4 \text{ps}$ for $3 \times 3 \times 5 \text{mm}^3$, $130 \text{ps} \pm 5 \text{ps}$ for $2 \times 2 \times 20 \text{mm}^3$ and $140 \text{ps} \pm 5 \text{ps}$ for $3 \times 3 \times 20 \text{mm}^3$. A measured increase in cross-talk probability given by the crystal acting as a reflector could be a reason for the deteriorated CTR observed with the higher crystal cross-sections. Further measurements with various scintillator cross-sections ($1 \times 1 \text{mm}^2$ - $4 \times 4 \text{mm}^2$) will be a basis for discussing this influence to timing in TOF-PET. Additionally, CTR measurements with LuAG and GGAG type samples are presented and the results are interpreted in terms of their scintillation properties, e.g. rise time, decay time, light yield and emission spectra.

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