

Recent Developments in PET and its Applications in Particle Therapy

Dennis R. Schaart

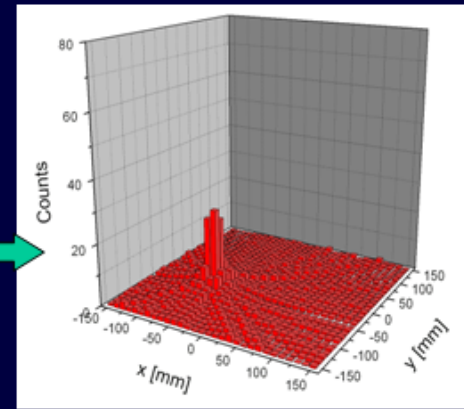
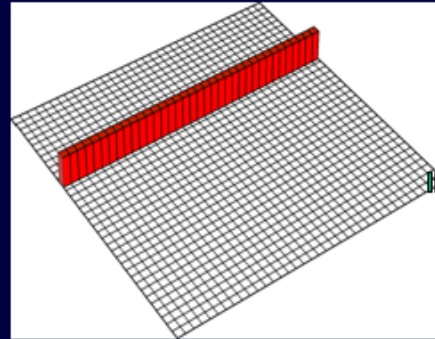
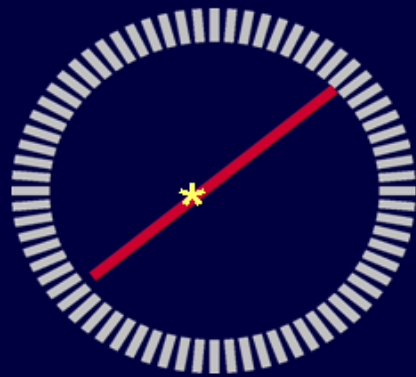
ENLIGHT Annual Meeting, Utrecht, The Netherlands, September 15-16, 2016

Imaging in radiotherapy

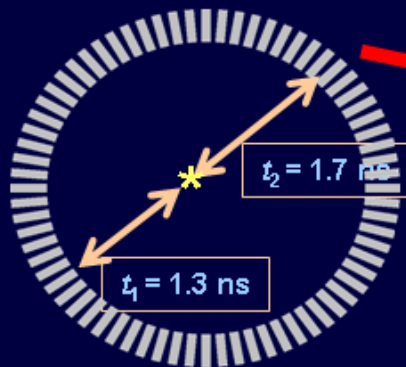
	Diagnosis & Staging	Treatment Planning	In-Situ Verification	Adaptive Radiotherapy	Early Response	Follow-Up
X-rays						
MRI						
PET						

Time of Flight PET Systems

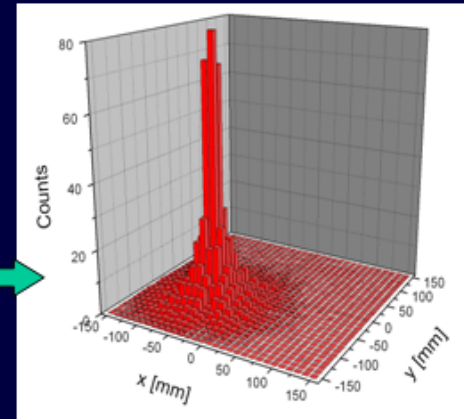
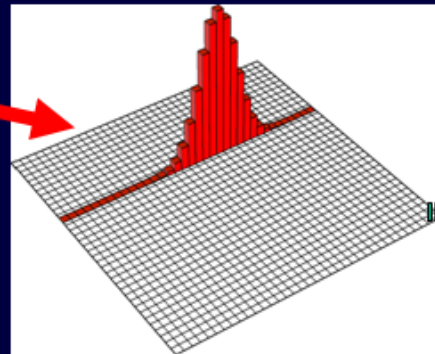
Conventional PET/ ToF off



Time-of-Flight PET



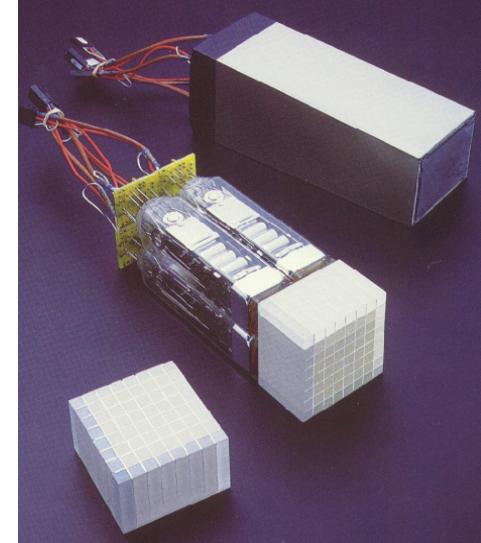
$t_2 - t_1$



→ ToF: more signal, less noise

First TOF-PET systems

- Commercial TOF PET/CT scanners based on PMTs available from several manufacturers (since 2006)
- Coincidence resolving time (CRT): **500-700 ps FWHM**
~ 8-10 cm FWHM



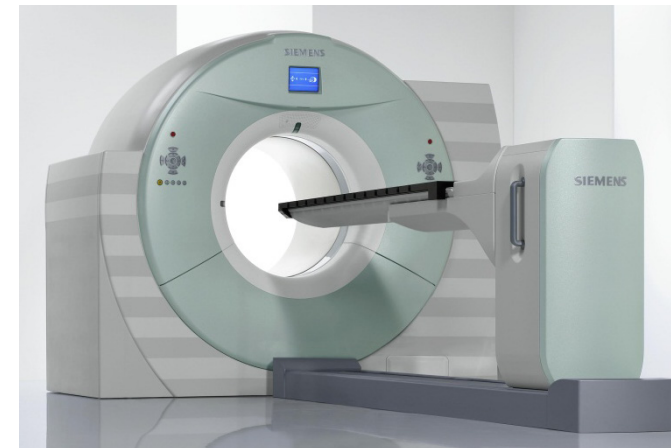
PMT-based
PET detector



Philips Gemini TF



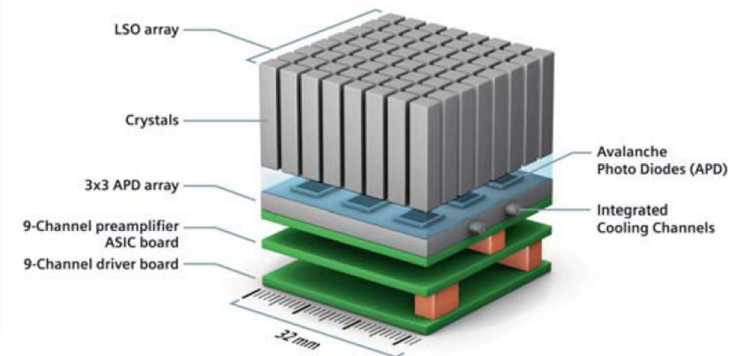
GE Discovery 690



Siemens mCT

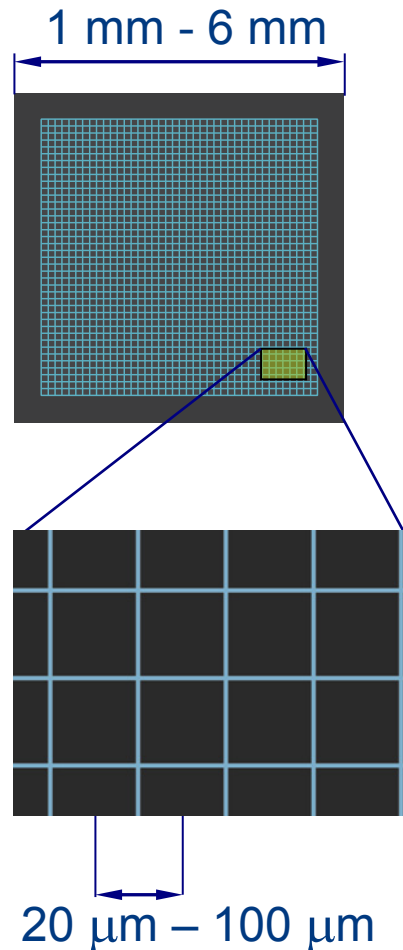
Integrated PET/MRI system

First clinical PET/MRI system based on avalanche photodiodes (APDs)



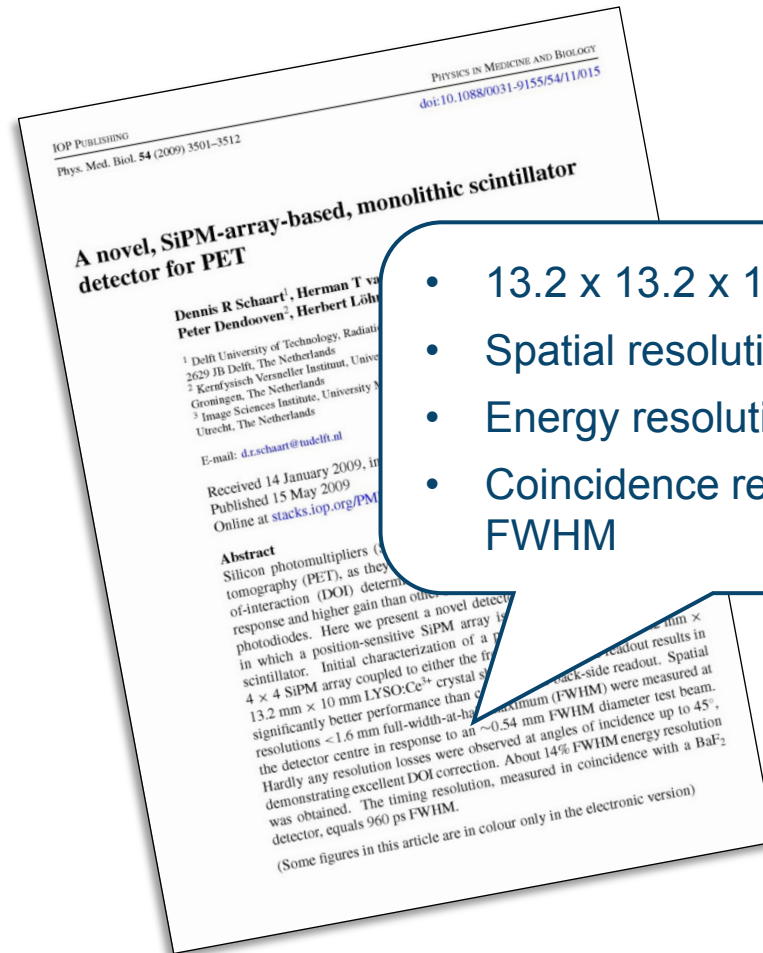
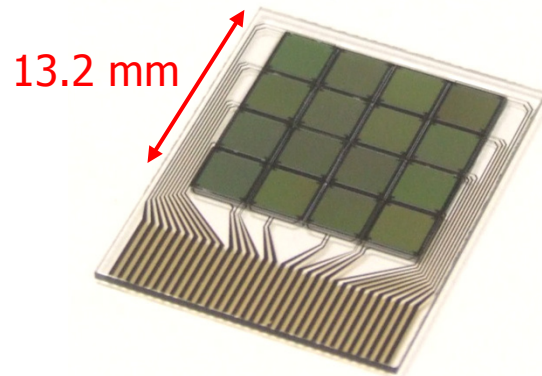
The silicon photomultiplier (SiPM)

- a disruptive photosensor technology



- Array of many self-quenched Geiger-mode APDs (microcells) connected in parallel
- Increasingly interesting as replacement for PMTs:
 - high gain ($\sim 10^6$)
 - high PDE
 - compact and rugged
 - transparent to γ -photons
 - fast response (ns)
 - insensitive to magnetic fields

First SiPM array based PET detectors (2008)

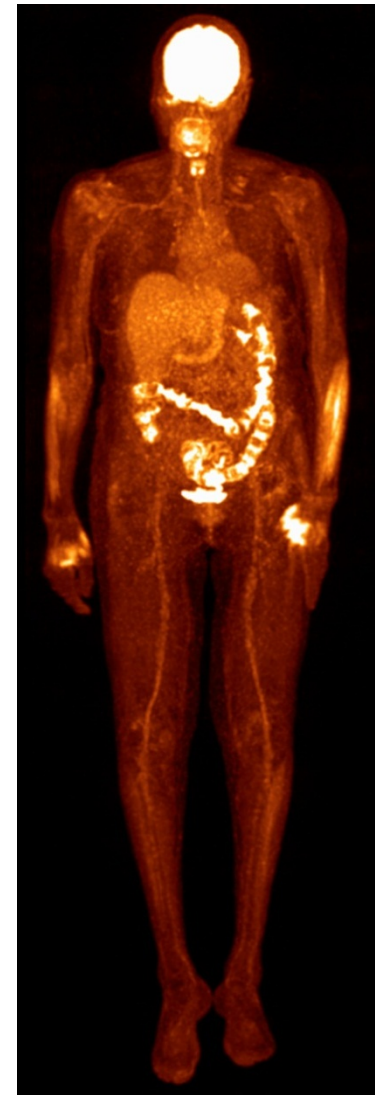
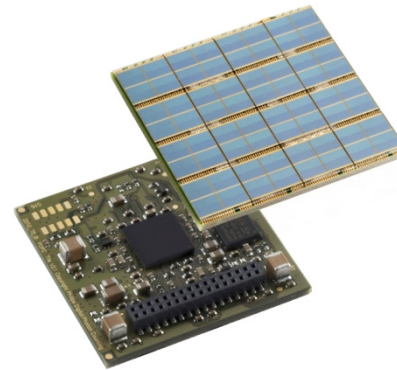
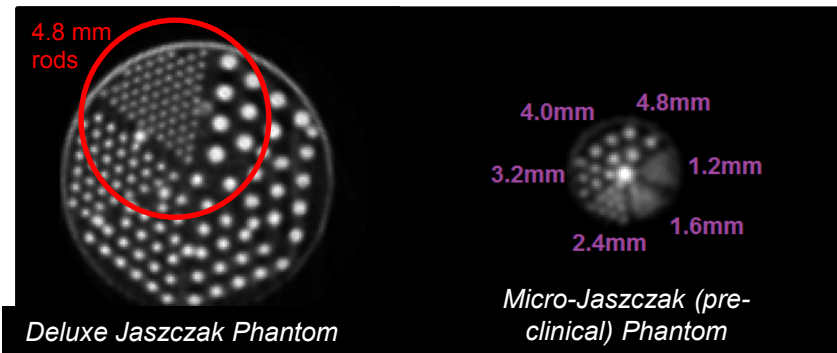


- 13.2 x 13.2 x 10 mm³ LYSO:Ce
- Spatial resolution: 1.6 mm FWHM
- Energy resolution: 14% FWHM
- Coincidence resolving time: 1.4 ns FWHM

One of the first SiPM arrays: SensL SPMarray 3035G16, containing 4 x 4 SiPMs of ~3 x 3 mm² each

Philips Vereos digital PET/CT system

Based on PDPC digital silicon photomultipliers (dSiPMs)

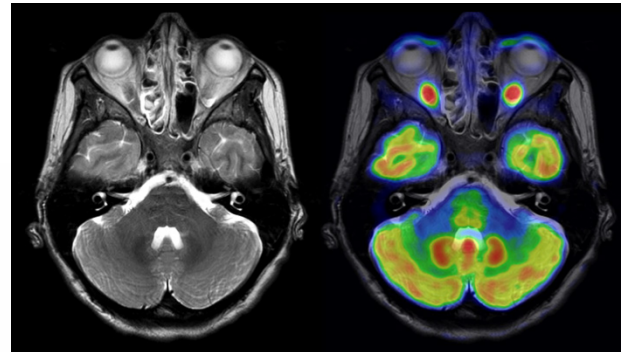


System Performance

CRT	325 ps FWHM
Sensitivity	22 kcps/MBq
FOV	67.6 x 16.4 cm
Spatial res	4.1 mm
Energy res	< 12%

GE Signa SiPM-based PET/MRI system

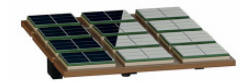
Based on Hamamatsu silicon photomultipliers (SiPMs)



RF & light shield



Crystal array



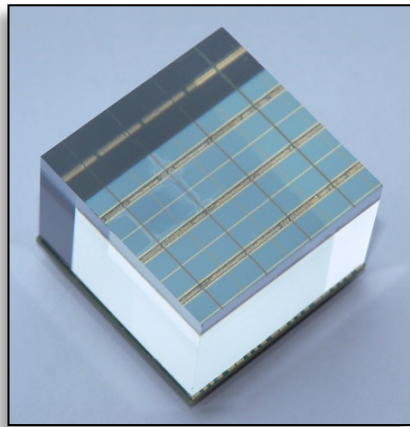
SiPM array



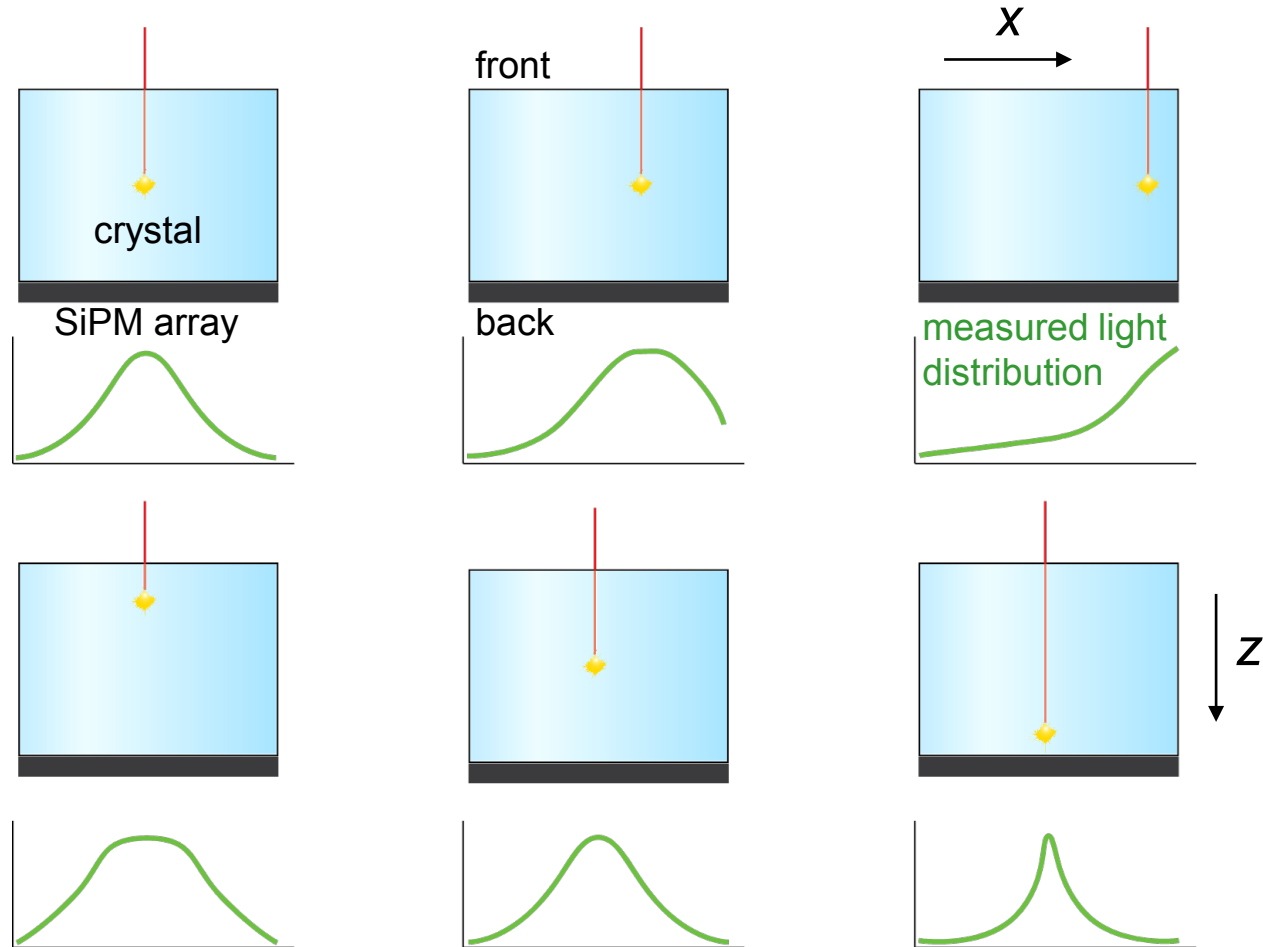
System Performance	
CRT	< 400 ps FWHM
Sensitivity	21 kcps/MBq
FOV	60 x 25 cm
Spatial res	4.1 mm
Energy res	< 12%

Monolithic scintillator detectors

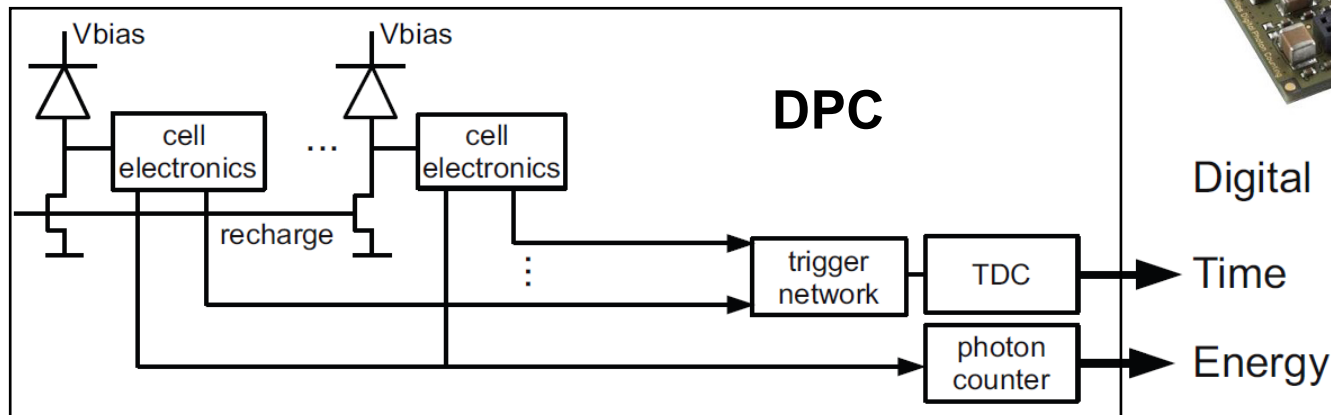
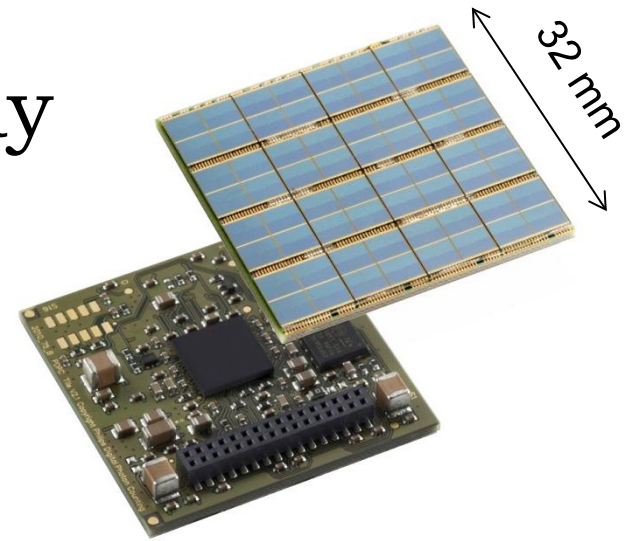
Monolithic scintillator operating principle



32 mm x 32 mm x 22 mm
monolithic LYSO:Ce
crystal on digital silicon
photomultiplier (dSiPM)
array



Readout: digital SiPM array

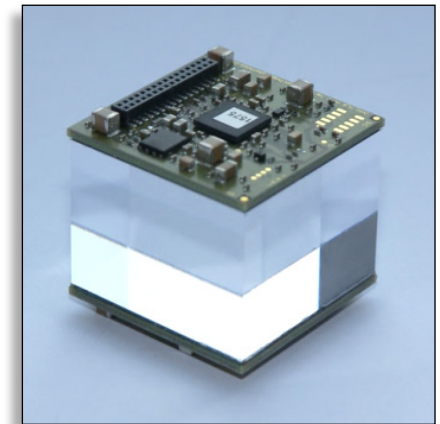


- ++ small single-photon time jitter
- ++ negligible noise at the single photon level
- ++ ~ 30% photon detection efficiency
- + MR-compatible

16 Si chips (4 x 4)
→ 16 time stamps
→ 64 pixel values
(no. of counts)

Performance summary

A practical and cost effective detector for PET/CT and PET/MRI with ultrahigh spatial resolution, CRT, and detection efficiency



32 mm x 32 mm x 22 mm
commercial-grade
LYSO:Ce with double-sided
(DSR) dSiPM readout

Performance parameter	State of the art	BSR monolithic	DSR monolithic
Energy resolution	< 12%	~10%	~10%
Spatial resolution	~4 mm	1.7 mm	1.1 mm
DOI resolution	None	3.7 mm	2.4 mm
Coincidence resolving time	325-400 ps	214 ps	147 ps

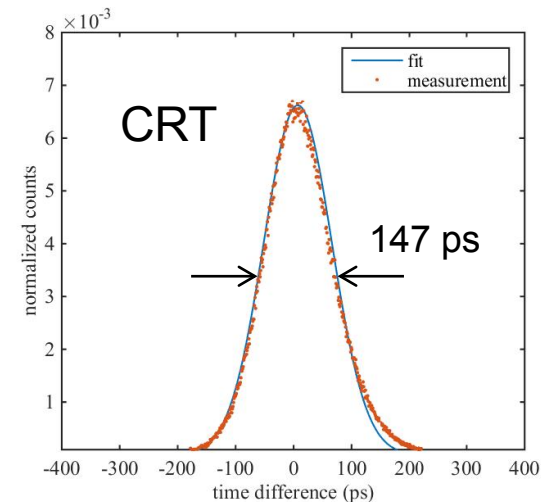
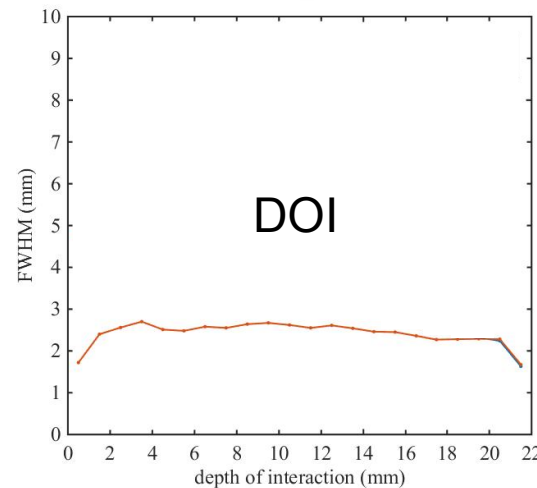
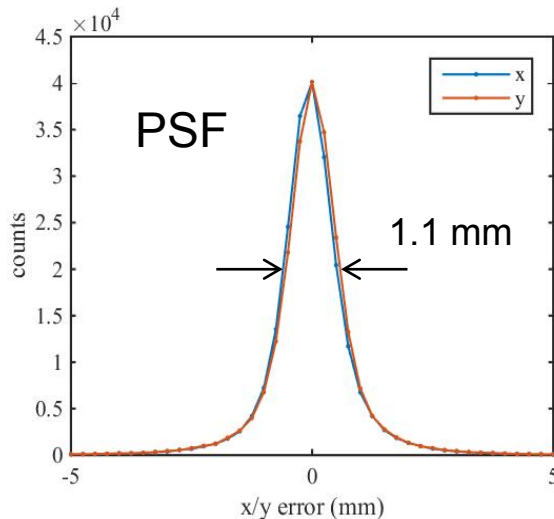
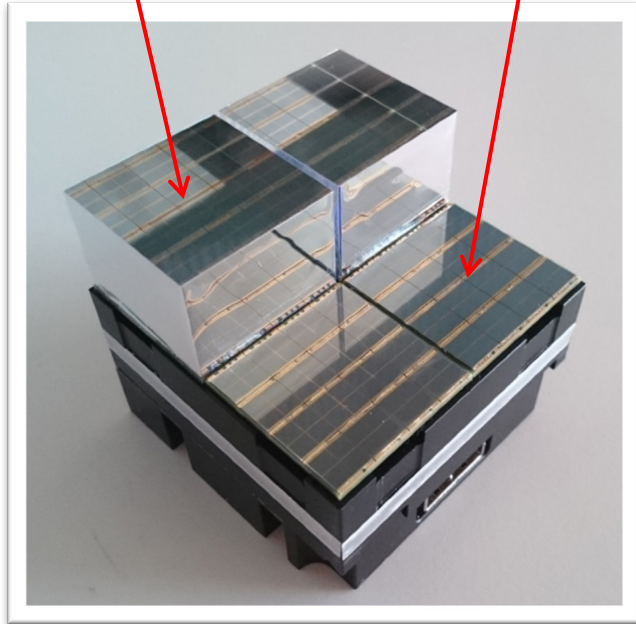


Table-top gantry

32 mm x 32 mm x 22 mm LYSO:Ce

DPC 3200-22-44



Detector module with 4 monolithic scintillators (2 mounted)

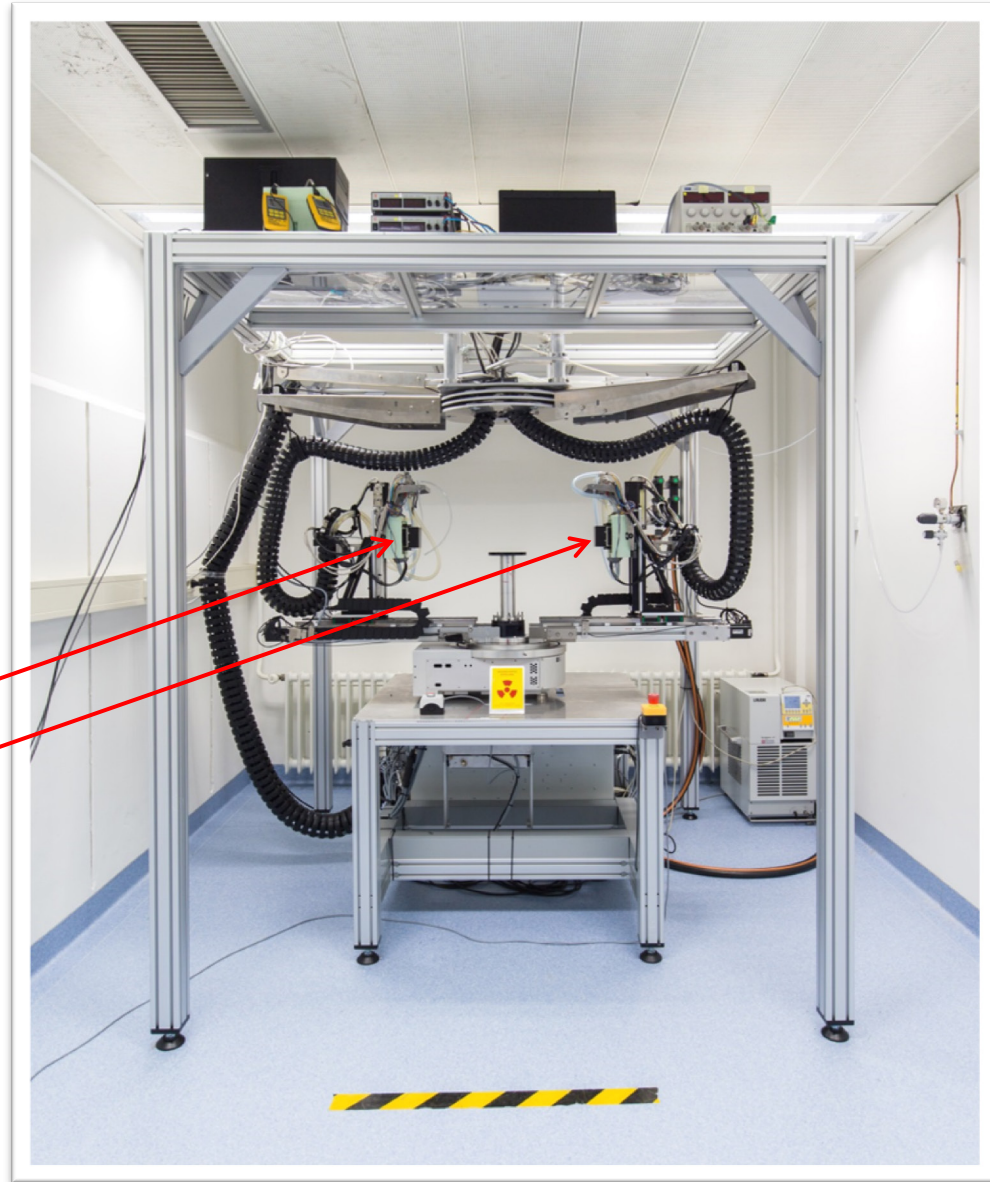
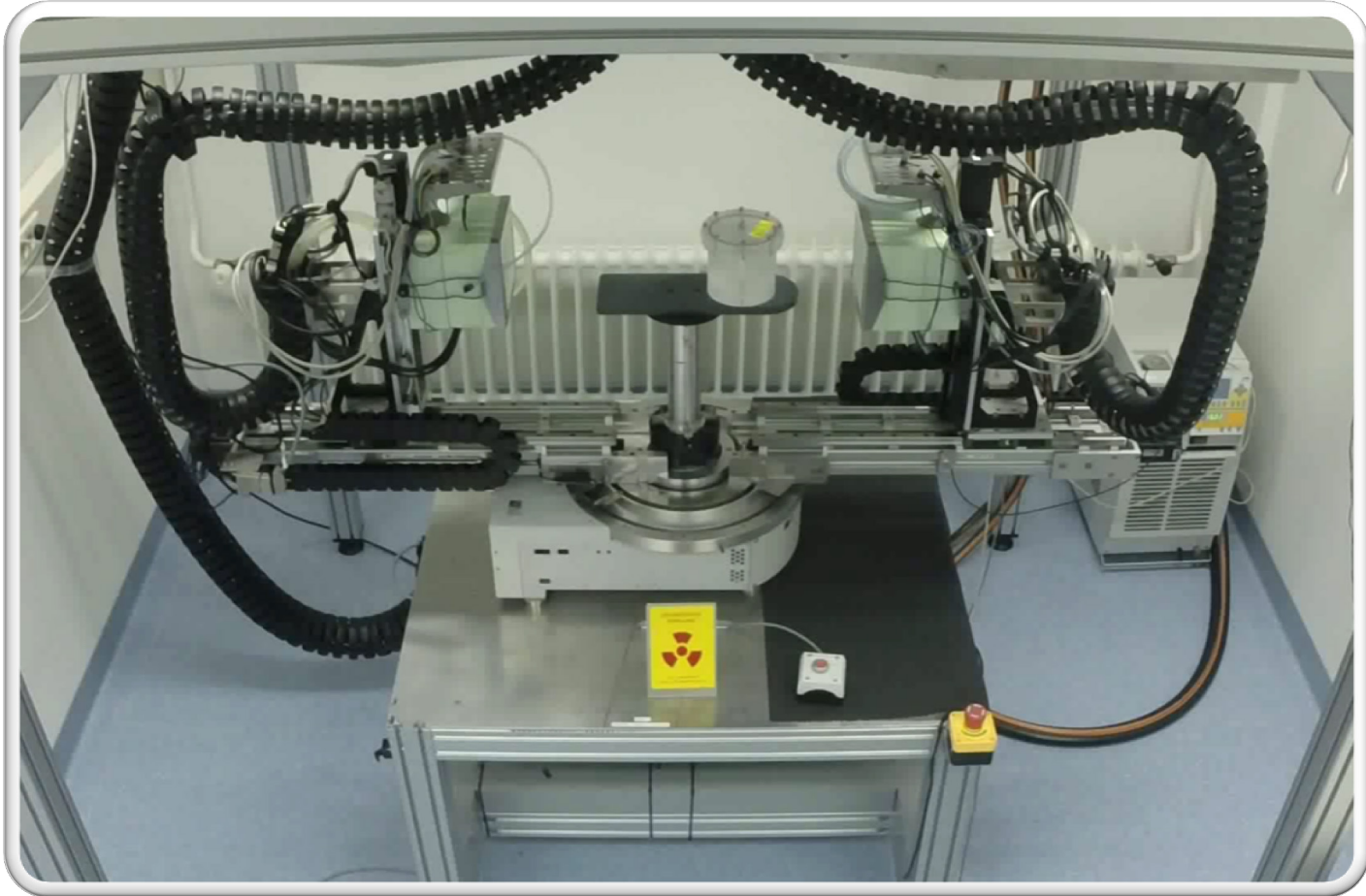
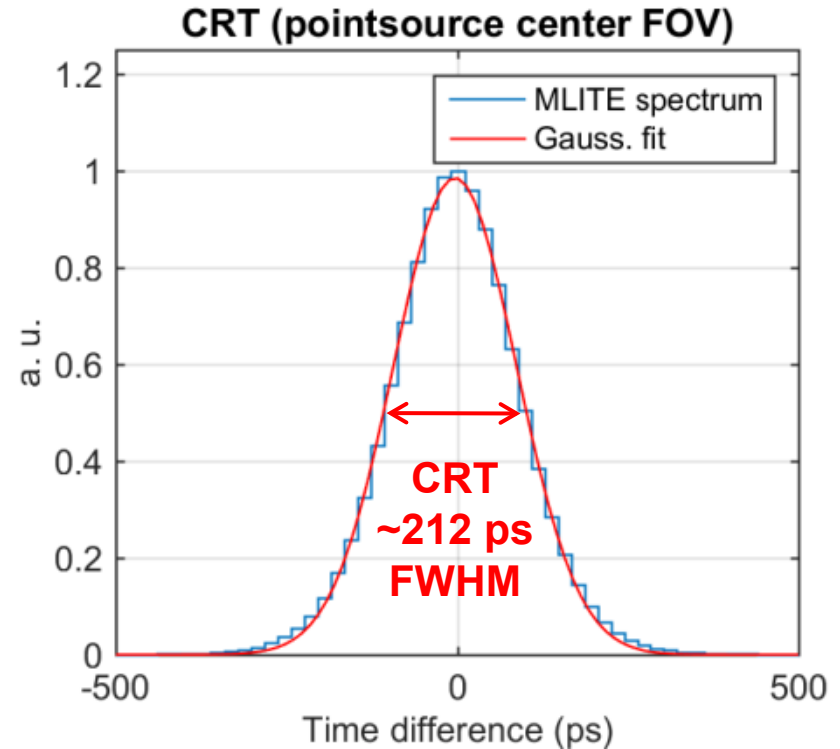
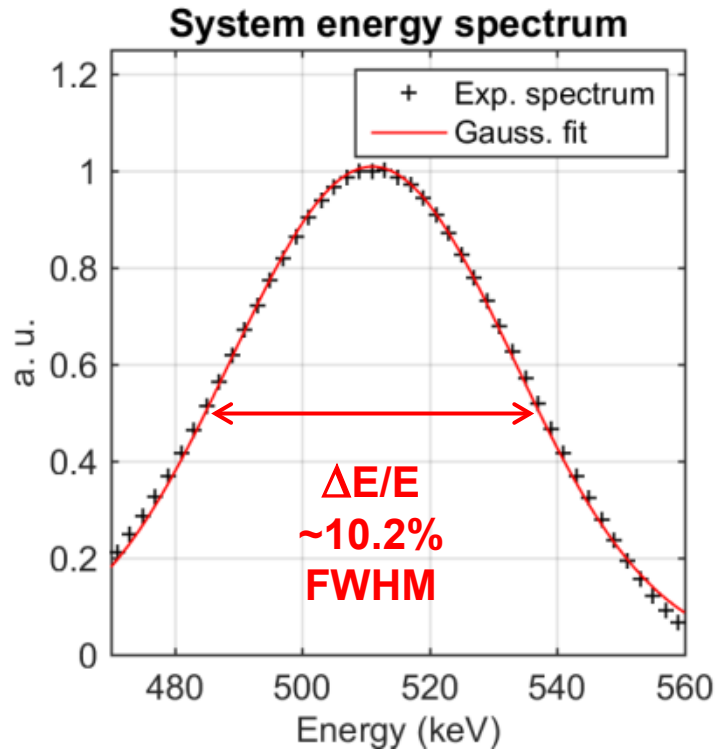


Table-top gantry

Time-lapse: full-ring image acquisition of Na-22 filled Derenzo phantom



Energy and time resolution

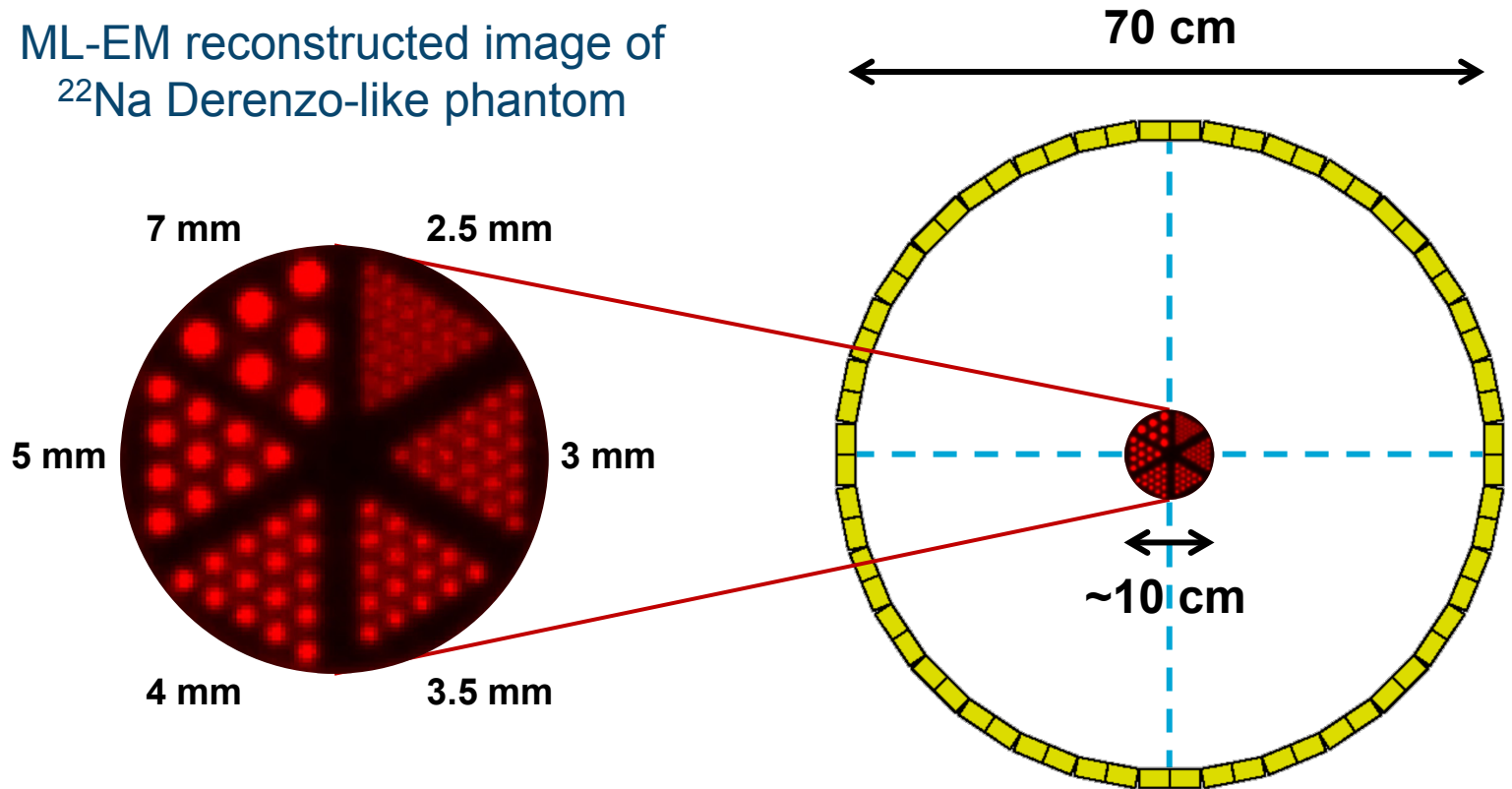


Left: system energy spectrum obtained from a full tomographic acquisition of a ~ 3 MBq Na-22 point source at the center of the FOV.

Right: coincidence resolving time (CRT) obtained from a full tomographic acquisition of a ~ 3 MBq Na-22 point source at center FOV. Timestamps were derived using MLITE.

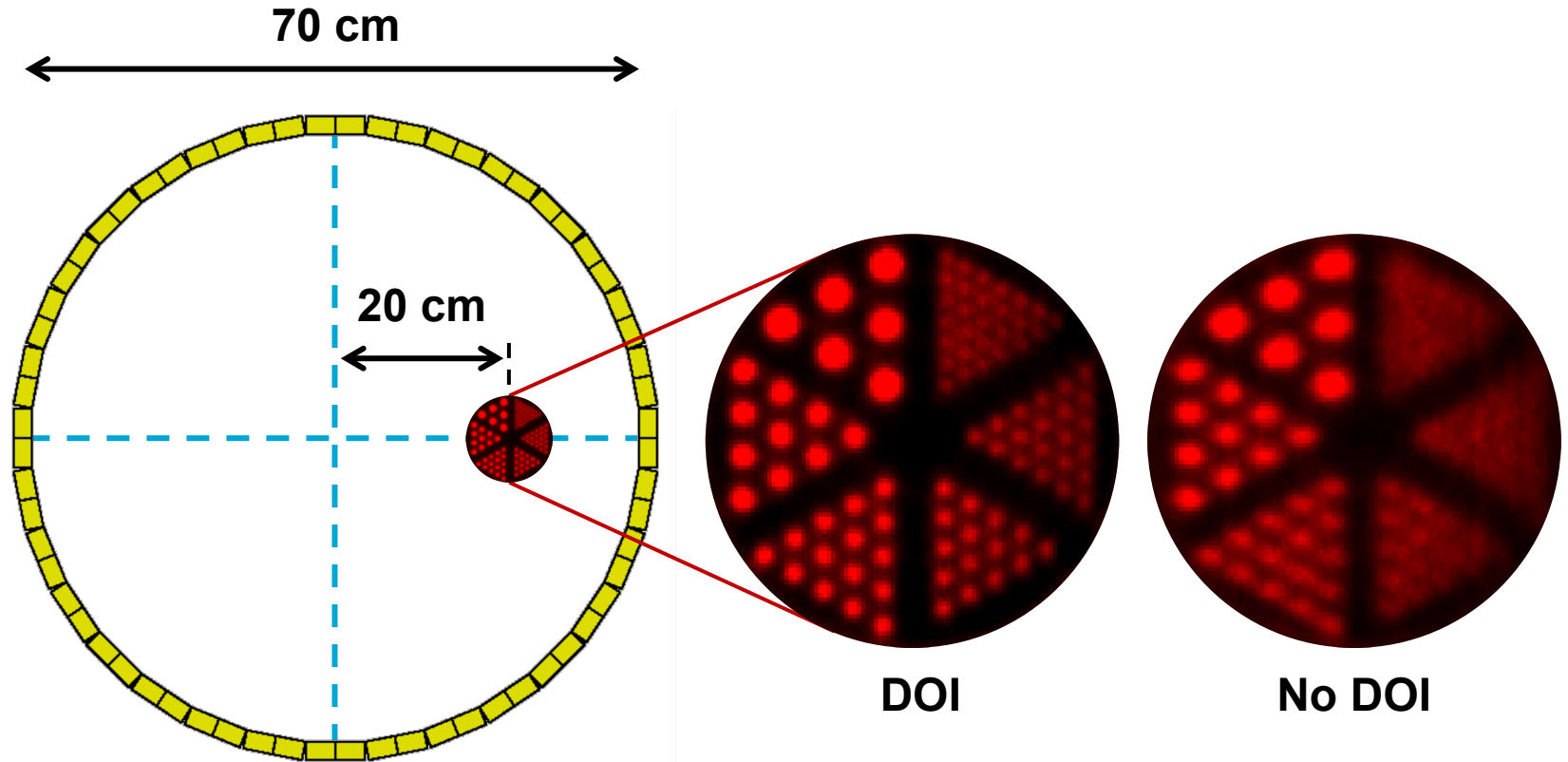
Na-22 filled Derenzo phantom (ML-EM)

ML-EM reconstructed image of ^{22}Na Derenzo-like phantom



Sub-3 mm spatial resolution & 212 ps timing in a whole-body clinical TOF-PET geometry using monolithic LYSO:Ce scintillators and digital SiPM arrays

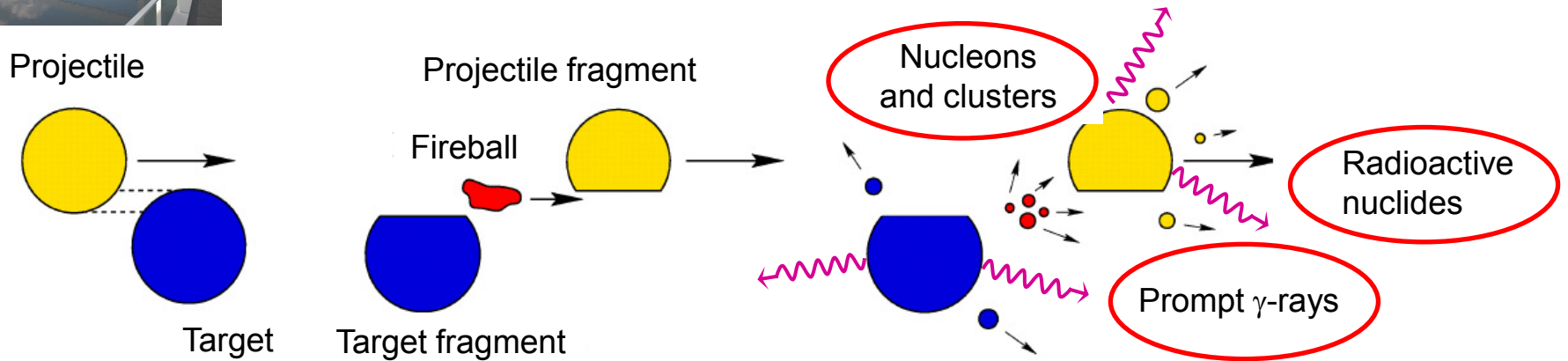
Na-22 filled Derenzo phantom (ML-EM)



ML-EM reconstructed images of the Na-22 filled Derenzo phantom at 20 cm off-center, with (right) and without (left) depth-of-interaction (DOI) correction.



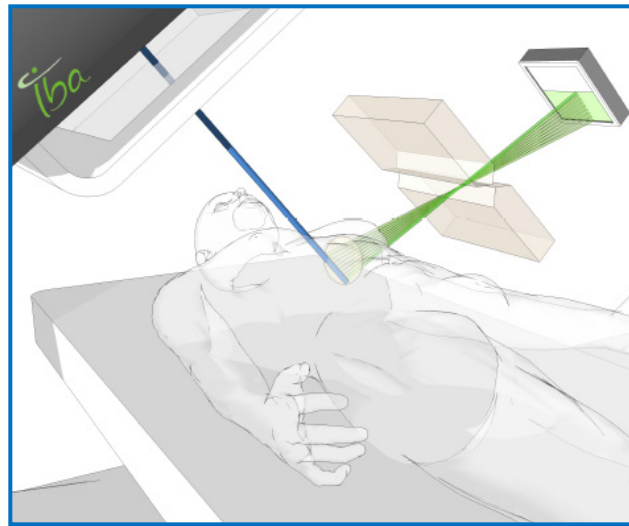
In-situ treatment verification



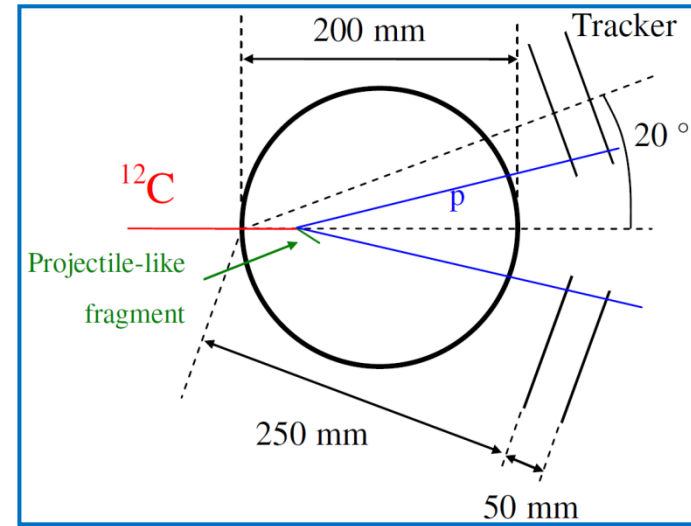
In-situ PET



Prompt γ -ray imaging



Vertex imaging



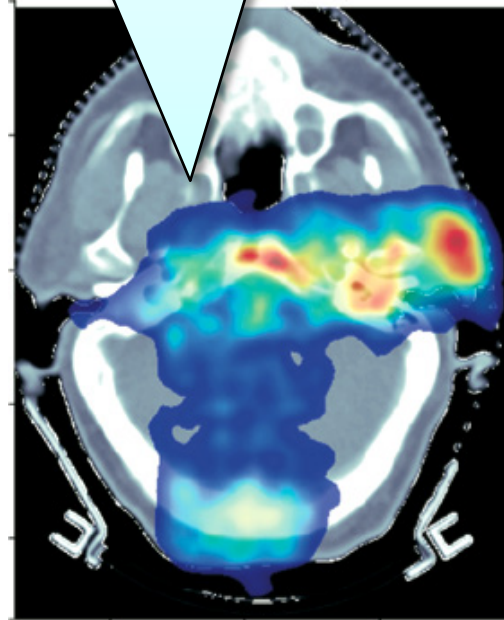
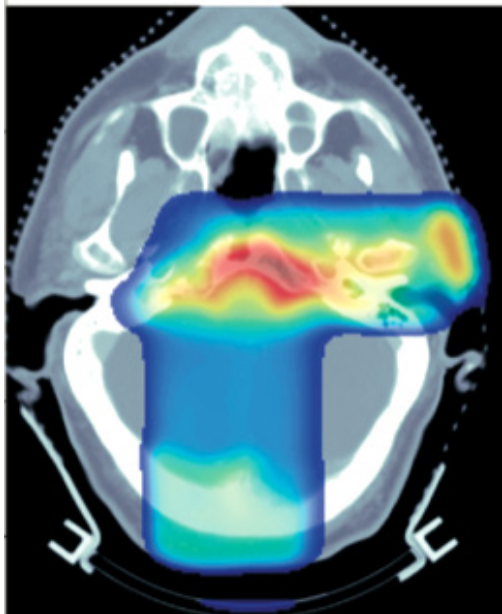


Offline dose imaging

Problem: poor image quality due to rapid decay of radioactivity and biological washout



Commercial PET scanner



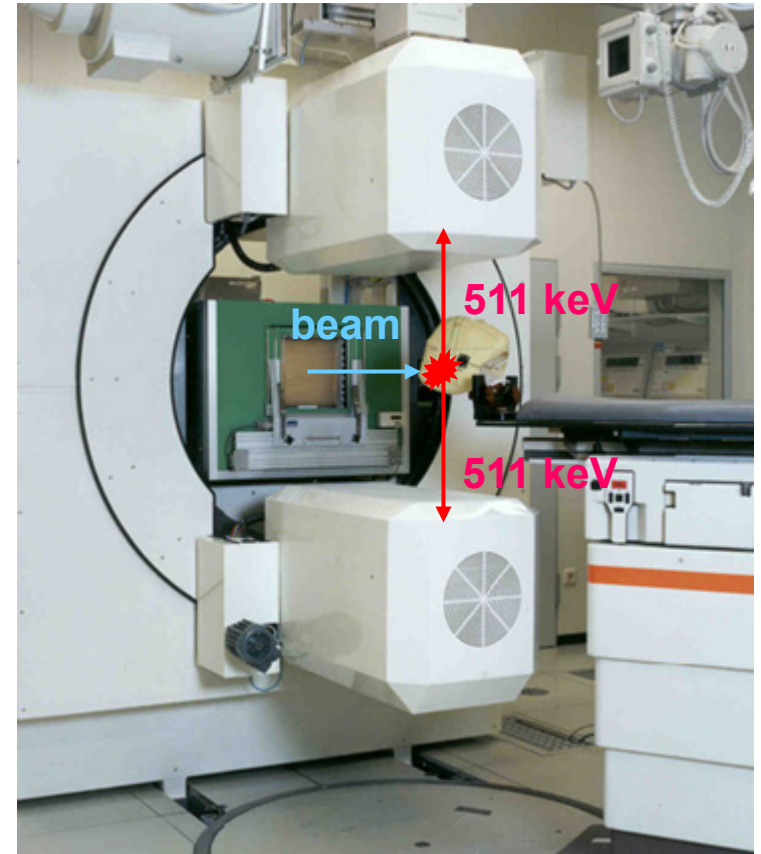
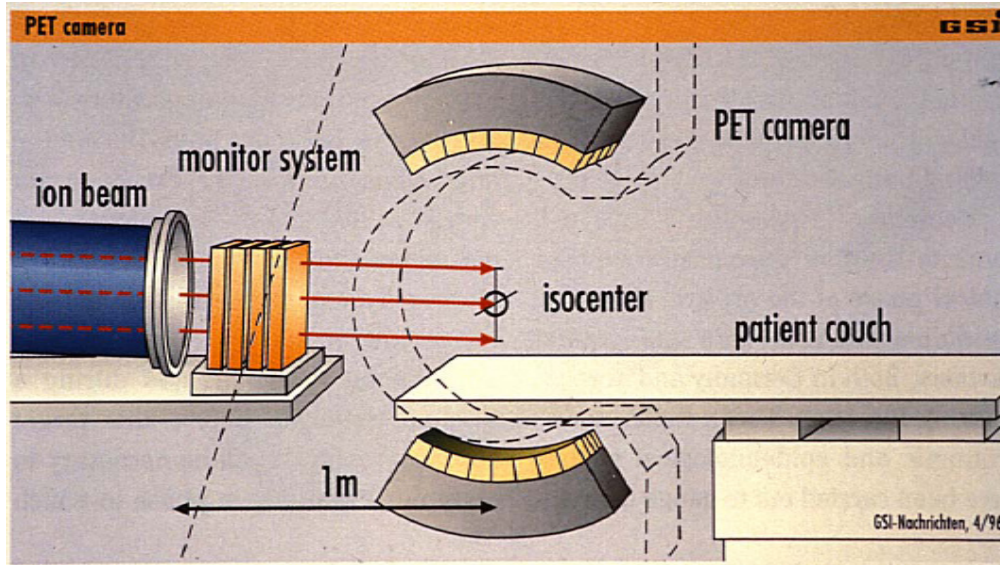
Activity distribution after 2-beam proton irradiation at Massachusetts General Hospital. Left: predicted. Right: measured with PET scanner outside treatment room.



In-situ PET: early work GSI

Problem: low angular coverage => insufficient counts & image artefacts

Proof-of-concept
K. Parodi, P. Crespo, et al
GSI Darmstadt / FZ Dresden-Rossendorf



HollandPTC

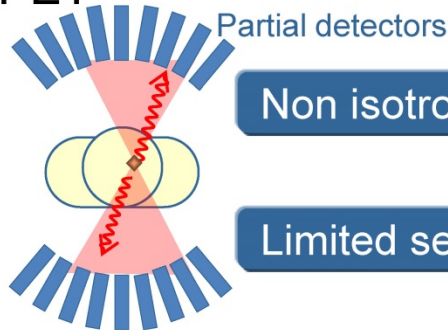


“OpenPET”: our idea for 3D in-beam PET

Conventional in-beam PET



GSI
Pawelke et al, 1996

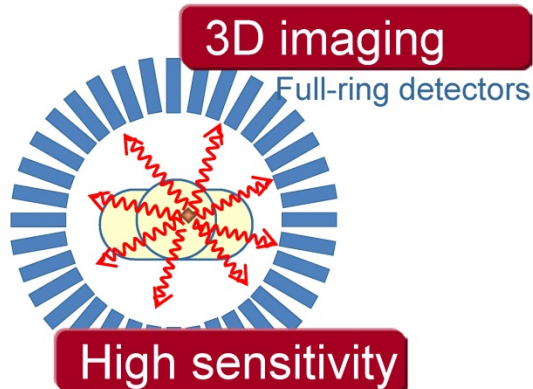


Non isotropic res.

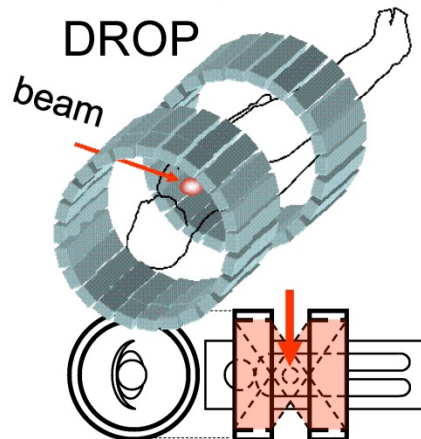
Limited sensitivity

Possible solution 1:
alternative PET
geometries

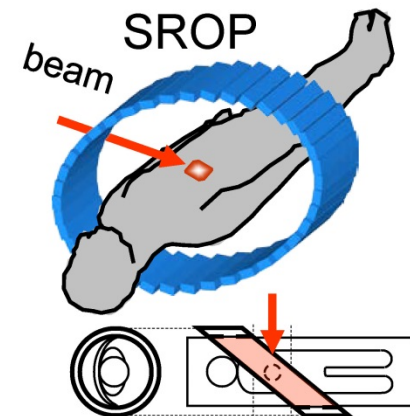
OpenPET



Yamaya PMB 2008



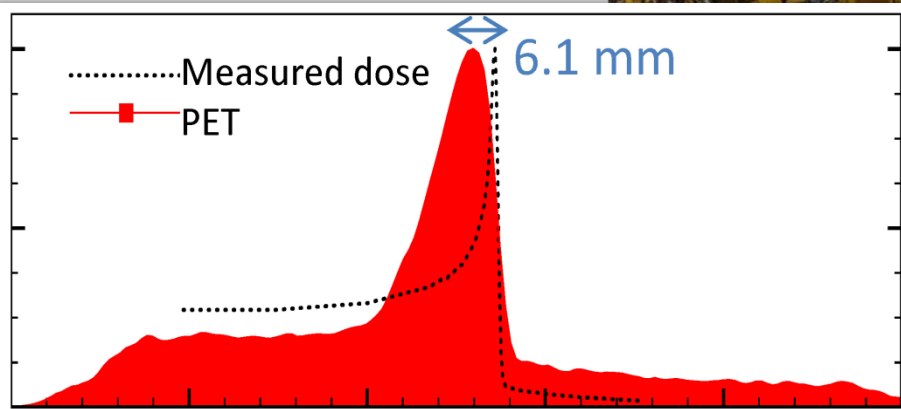
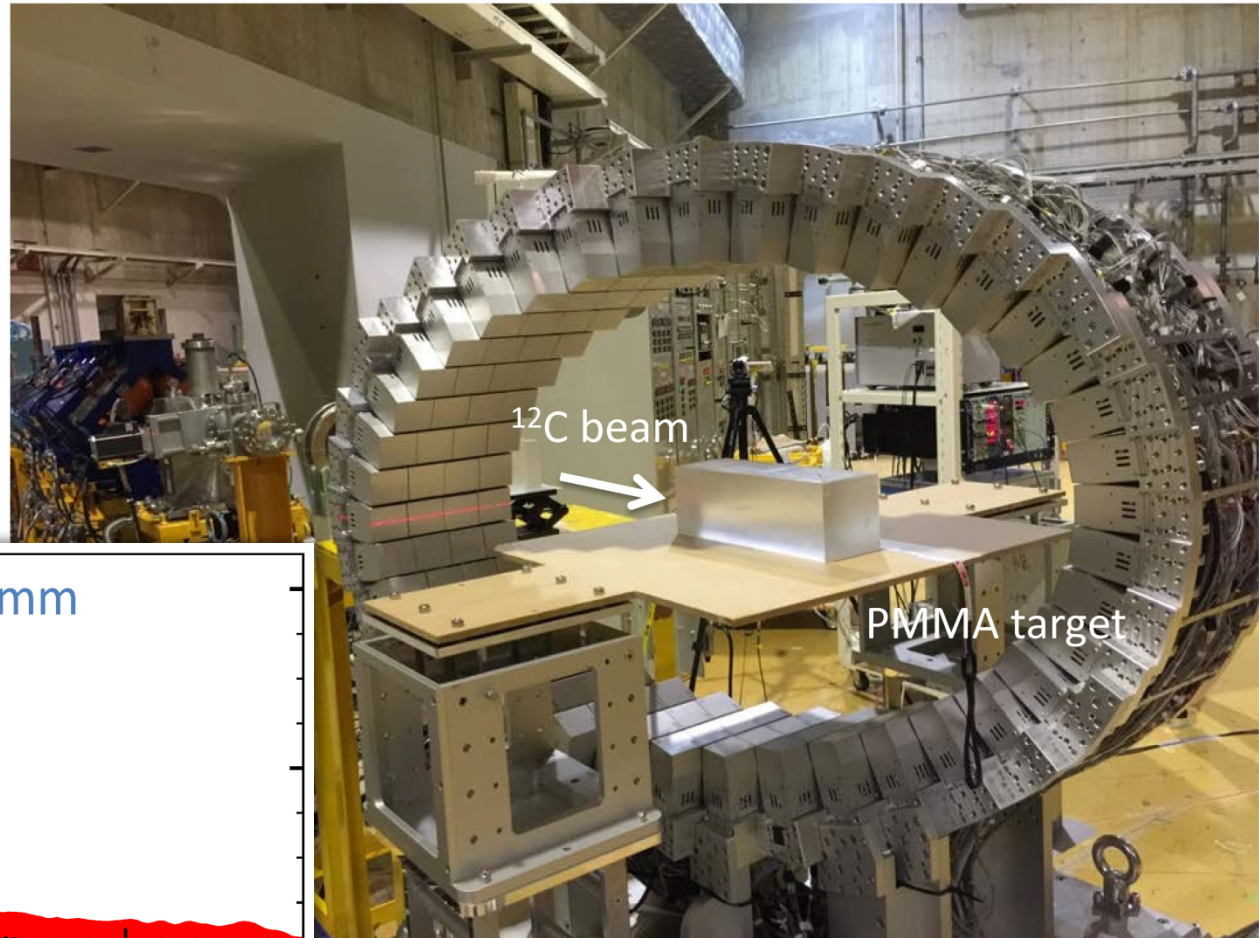
Tashima PMB 2012



Purpose: experimental comparison of DROP and SROP

HIMAC test (^{12}C beam)

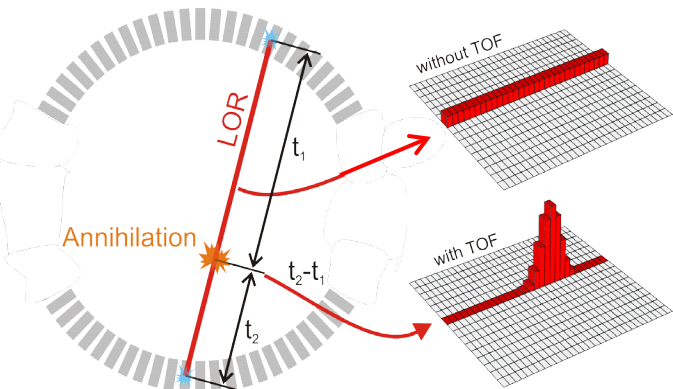
- Beam
 - ^{12}C
 - 3 spill
- PET measurement
 - 23 min
- Target
 - PMMA phantom (10 x 10 x 30 cm³)



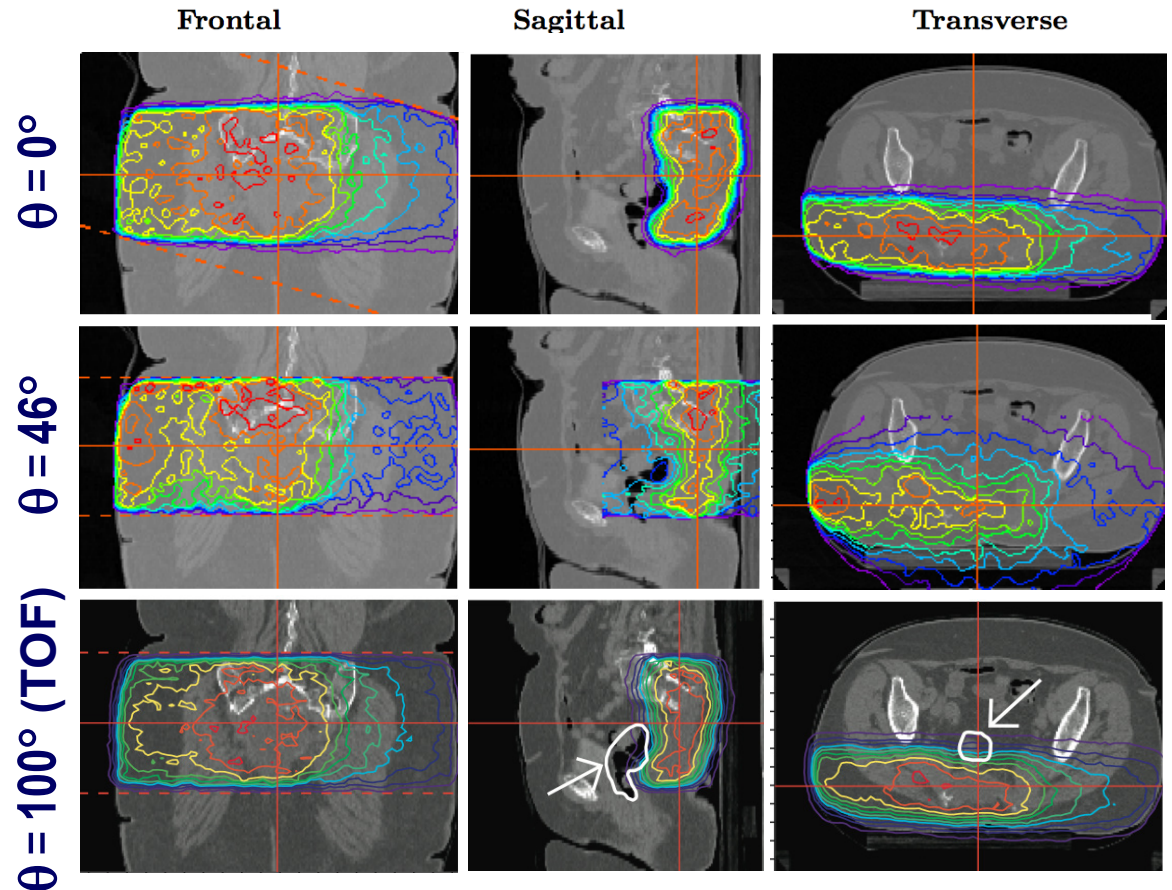


In-situ TOF PET

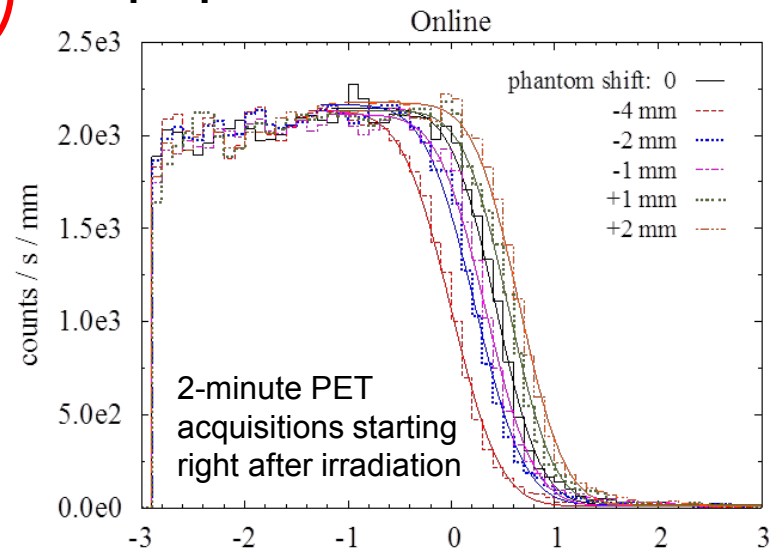
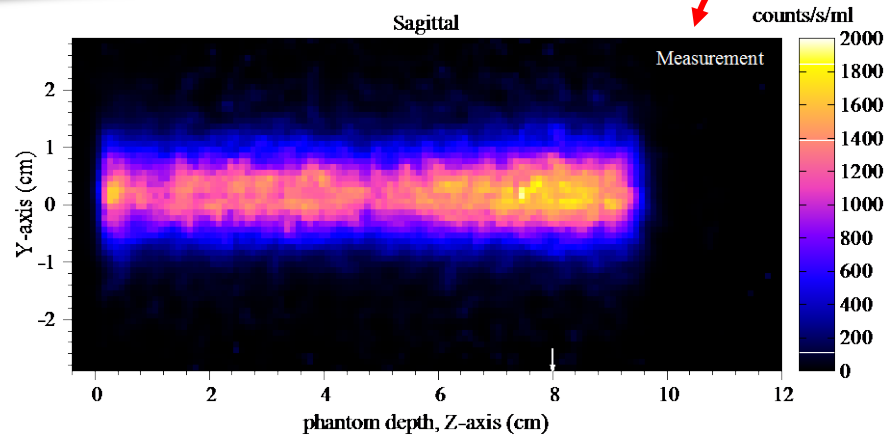
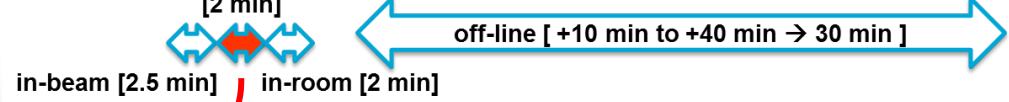
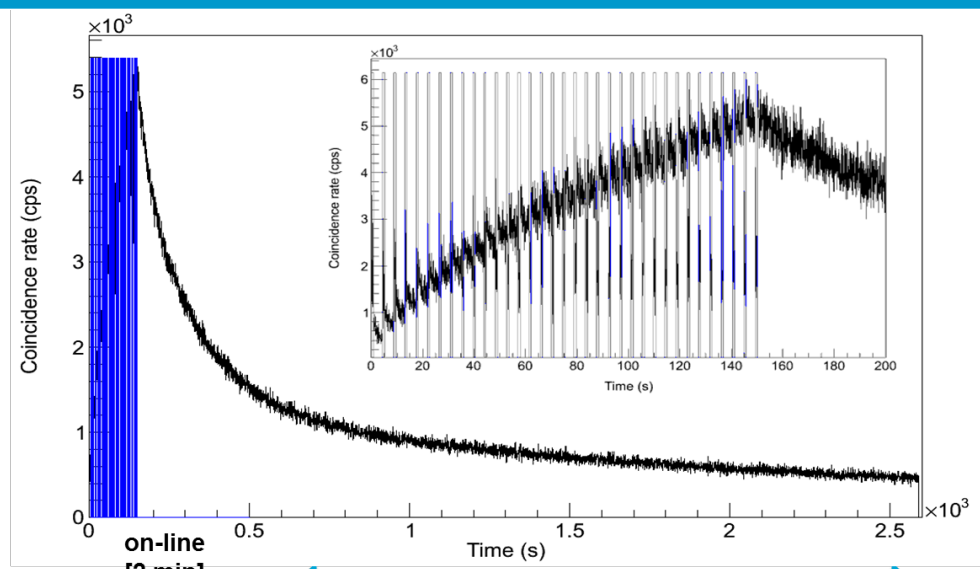
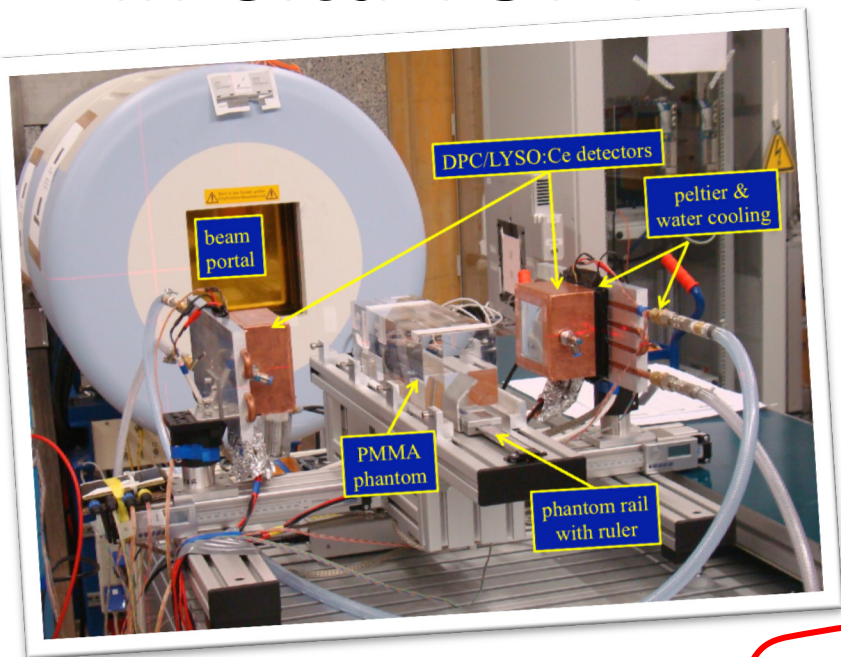
Possible solution 2: TOF-PET
=> less noise & less limited angle artefacts



CRT < 200 ps FWHM



In-Situ TOF-PET

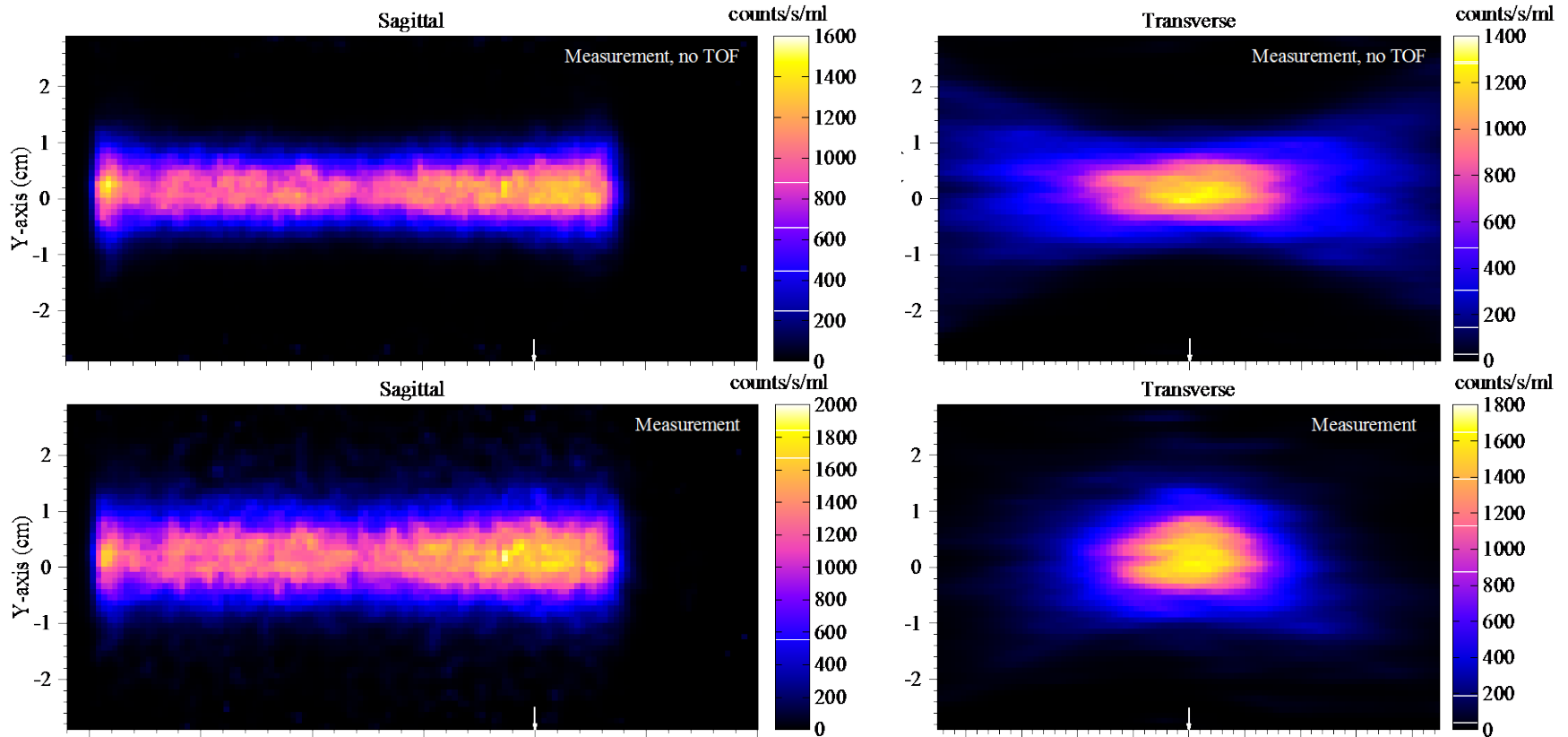


P.C. Lopes et al, "First in-situ TOF-PET study using DPCs for proton range verification," PMB 61, 6203-6230, 2016



In-situ PET results

Reconstructed images of proton-induced activity in PMMA, without (top) and with TOF information used in the reconstruction (bottom)

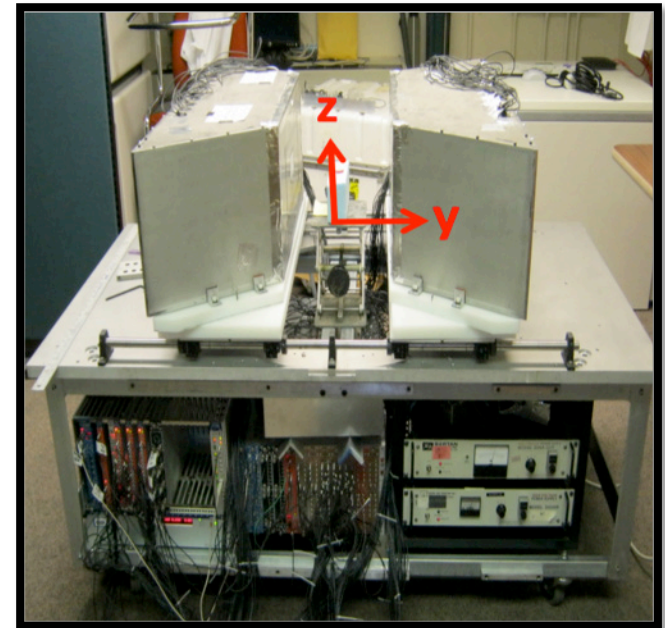


CRT = 382 ps FWHM

U Penn prototype partial-ring TOF PET scanner

- Prior simulation* suggests 4 mm wide crystals sufficient to provide ~1 mm accuracy for proton range estimate
- LaBr_3 chosen on account of superior TOF capability: CRT = 375 ps FWHM
- 30-mm long crystals for higher sensitivity
- Detector modules: 12 cm along z dir. X 25 cm along x dir.
- Off-the-shelf DAQ components
- Modules separated by ~12 cm
- Angular coverage ~ 2/3

- 92 MeV protons (passive scattering)
- Scanner placed adjacent to proton treatment bed to minimize delay

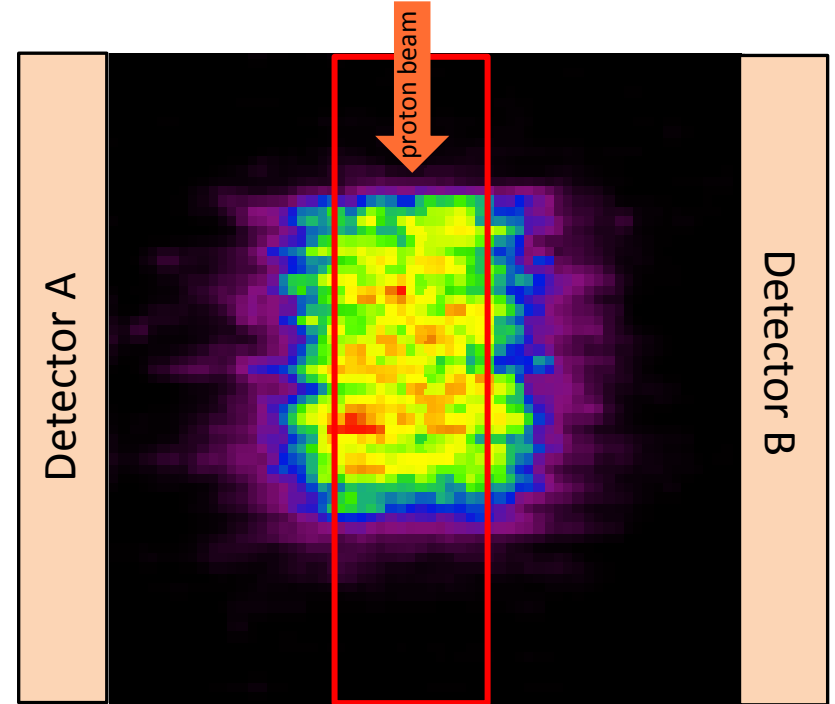
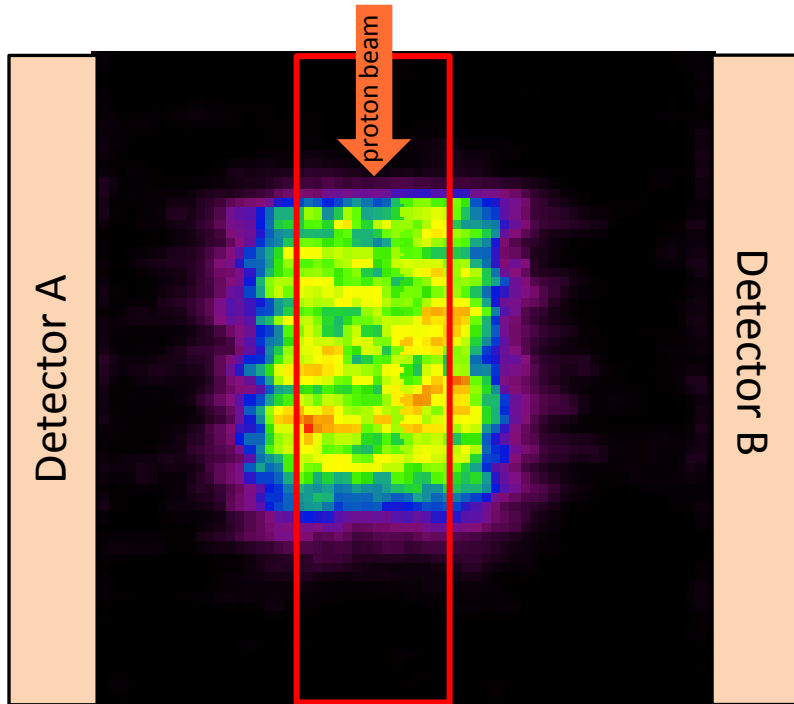


*Surti et al., Phys. Med. Biol., 56 (2011) 2667-85.

Adipose phantom – 92 MeV irradiation

TOF image slice

non-TOF image slice



Bias in range ~ 1.0 mm with TOF and 1.6 mm with non-TOF

Phys. Med. Biol. **60** (2015) 8923–8947

Short-lived positron emitters in beam-on PET imaging during proton therapy

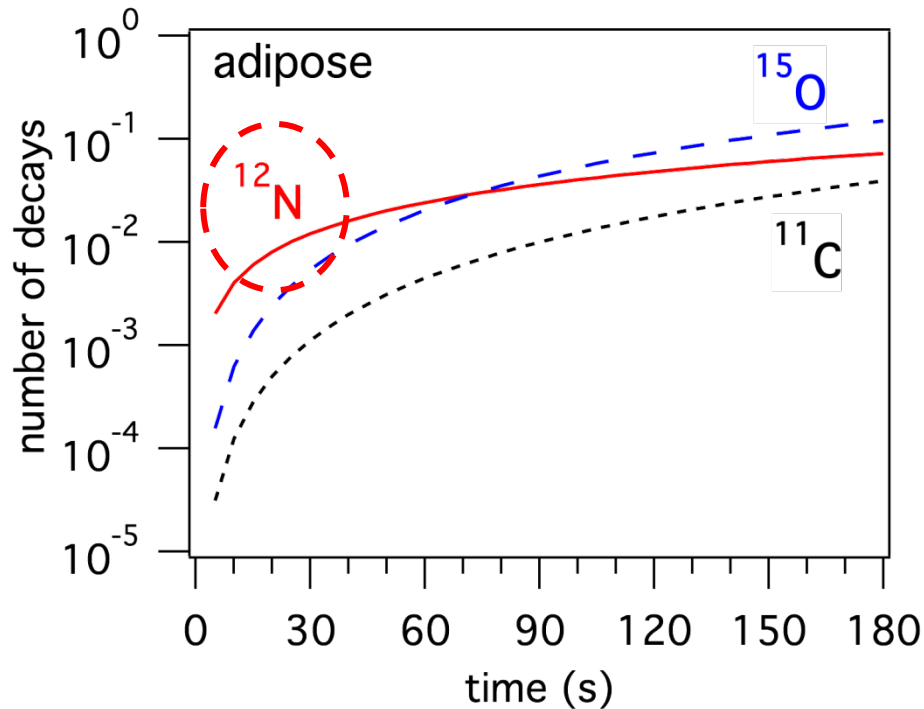
P Dendooven¹, H J T Buitenhuis¹, F Diblen^{1,3},
P N Heeres¹, A K Biegun¹, F Fiedler⁴, M-J van Goethem²,
E R van der Graaf¹ and S Brandenburg¹

production integrated over the stopping range of 55 MeV protons

Production rates

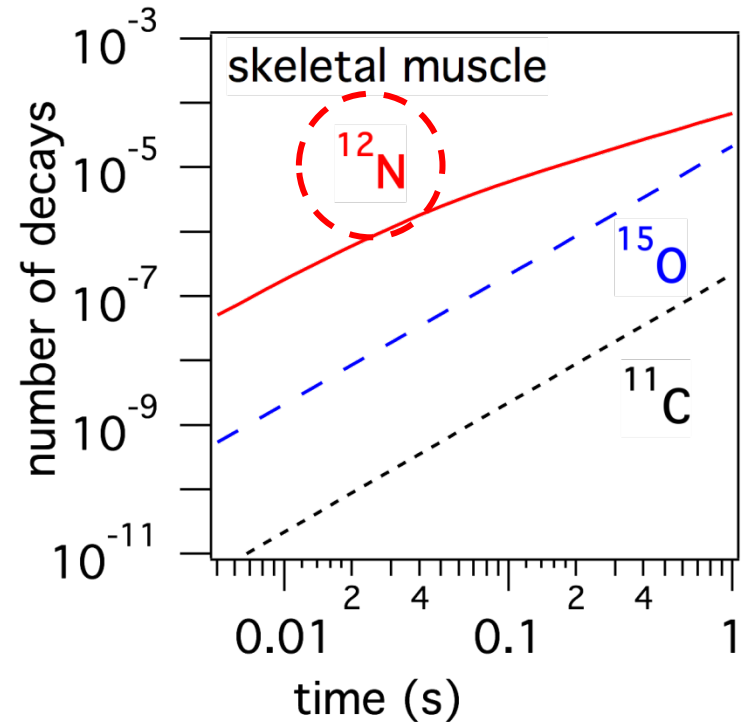
nuclide	half-life	target	production per proton (\pm stat. uncertainty)	systematic uncertainty (%)
O-15	2.0 min	water	$8.83 \pm 0.11 \times 10^{-3}$	3
O-14	71 s	water	$7.3 \pm 0.5 \times 10^{-5}$	20
N-12 + O-13	11 / 8.6 ms	water	$< 7 \times 10^{-5}$	12
C-11	20 min	carbon	$8.04 \pm 0.10 \times 10^{-3}$	3
C-10	19 s	carbon	$3.08 \pm 0.08 \times 10^{-4}$	3
C-9	127 ms	carbon	$< 5 \times 10^{-4}$	10
N-12	11 ms	carbon	$7.32 \pm 0.16 \times 10^{-4}$	12
B-8	770 ms	carbon	$1.1 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{-5}$	9
P-29	4.1 s	phosphorus	$1.11 \pm 0.02 \times 10^{-3}$	4
P-30	2.5 min	phosphorus	$5.44 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{-3}$	3
S-30	1.2 s	phosphorus	$1.3 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$	5
K-38g	7.6 min	calcium	$5.66 \pm 0.06 \times 10^{-4}$	3
K-38m	0.92 s	calcium	$6.38 \pm 0.17 \times 10^{-4}$	8
K-37	1.2 s	calcium	$1.6 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-4}$	8

PET decays from soft tissue



C: 64 w%, O: 23 w%

composition



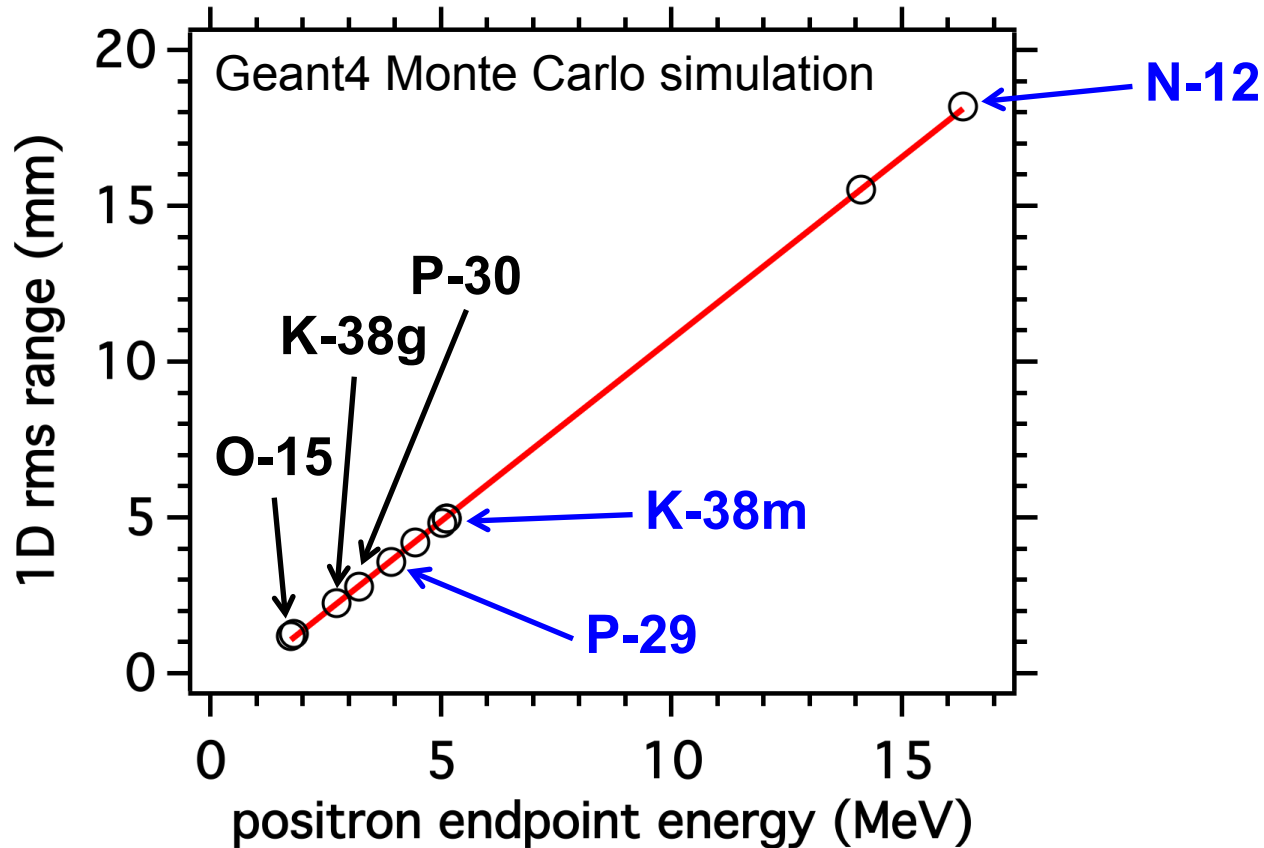
C: 11 w%, O: 76 w%

N-12 ($T_{1/2} = 11$ ms) dominates early on

→ prompt information ?

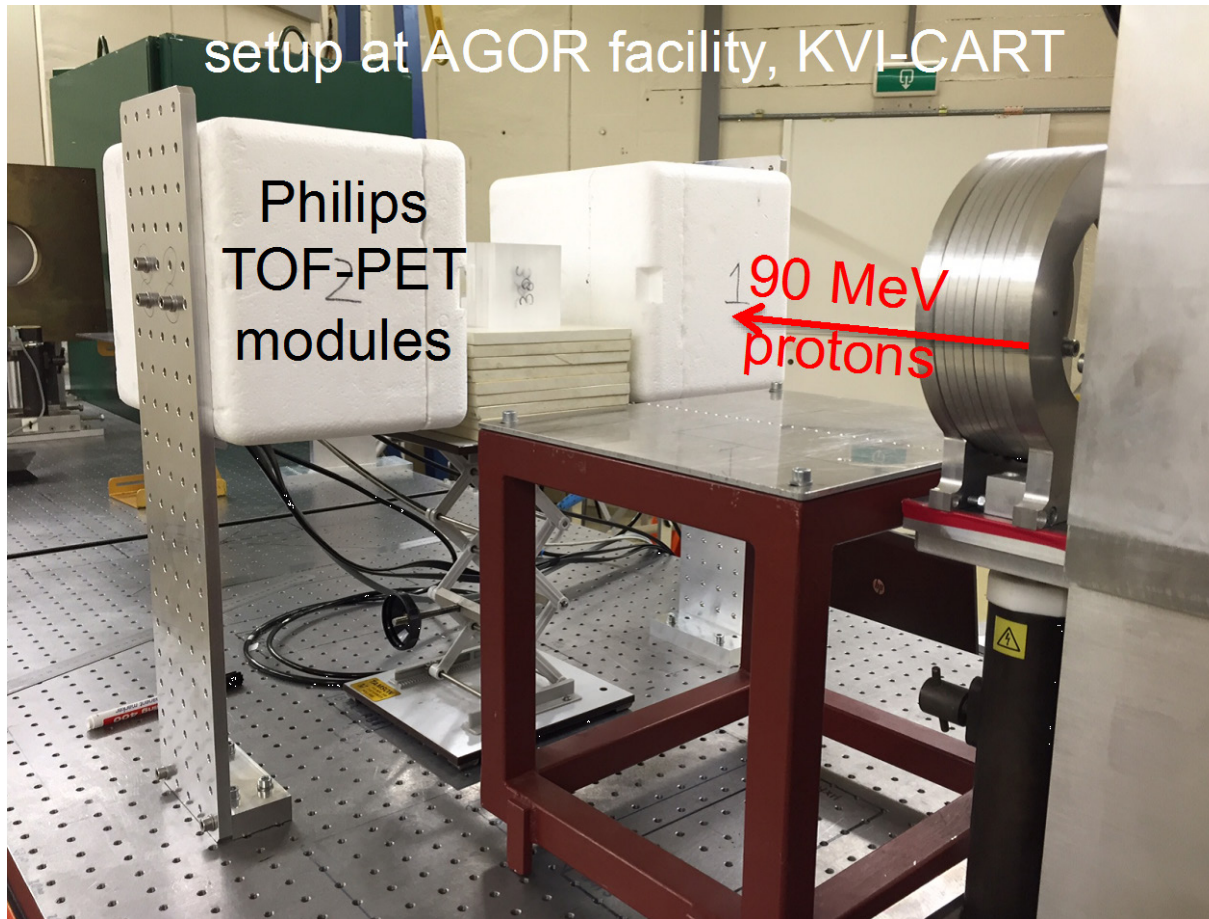
Positron range blurring

root-mean-square of 1-dimensional projection



N-12: a benefit or a nuisance in beam-on PET ?

Beam-on experiment at KVI-CART



proton bunches:

~2 ns full width

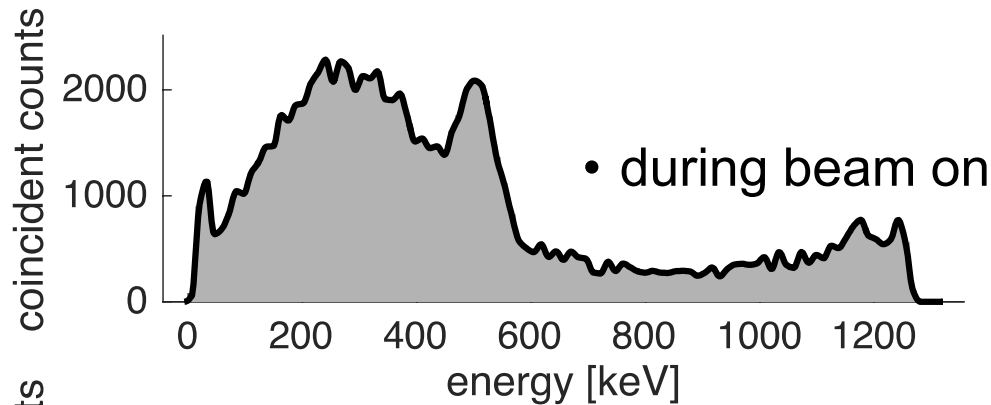
23 ns period

proton beam pulsing

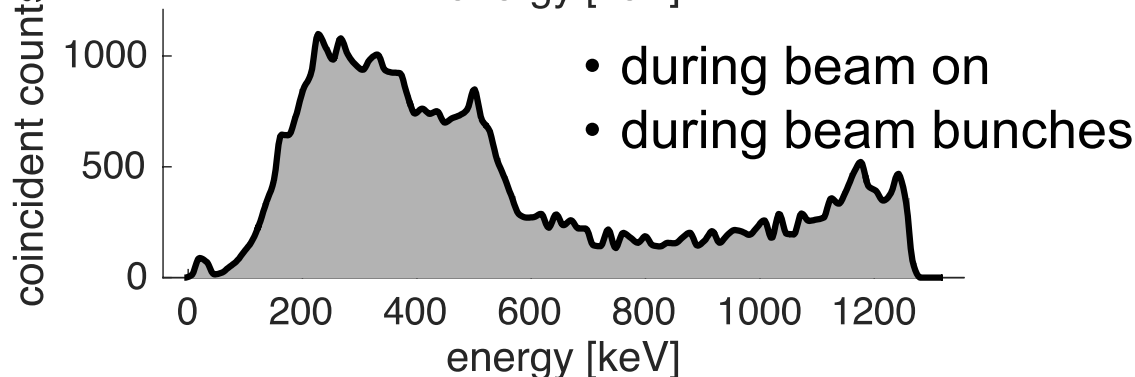
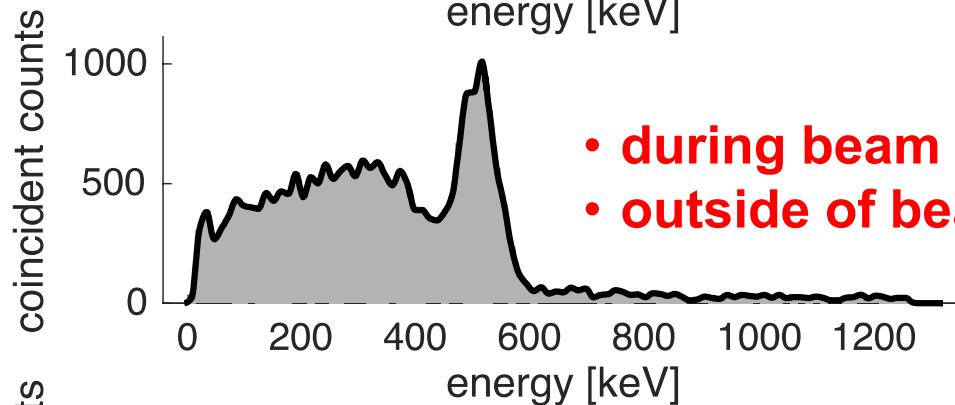
30 ms on / 59 ms off

Measurements by Tom Buitenhuis & Peter Dendooven

Beam-on energy spectra



- 120 s irradiation
- ~2 ns p+ bunch width
- 23 ns period
- 10 ns coincidence window



Tom Buitenhuis / Peter Dendooven

Courtesy: Peter Dendooven (KVI-CART)



Thank You