

*CERN Academic Training Lectures  
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**“The Use of Physics Detectors in Medicine.  
The Future of Molecular Imaging and Multimodality Imaging”**

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<http://www.df.unipi.it/~fiig/>*



**FIIG** FUNCTIONAL IMAGING AND INSTRUMENTATION GROUP  
UNIVERSITY OF PISA



**“The Future of Molecular Imaging and Multimodality Imaging: advantages and technological challenges.”**

**Contents**

- **New Solid State Photo-Detectors (SiPM)**
- **PET-MR**
- **PET on-line in Hadrontherapy**
- **Conclusions**

# **NEW SOLID STATE PHOTODETECTORS**

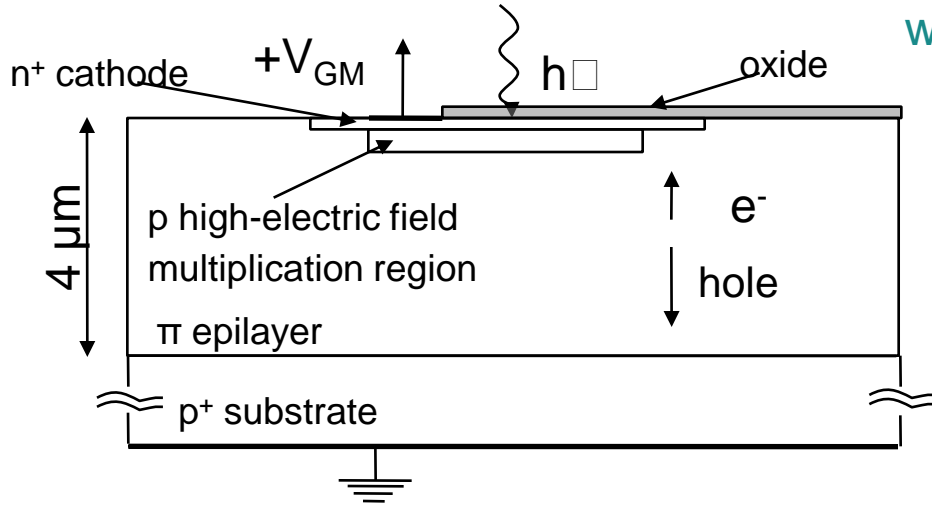


# Silicon PhotoMultiplier = SiPM

## The Ultimate dream??

SOLID STATE PHOTODETECTOR →

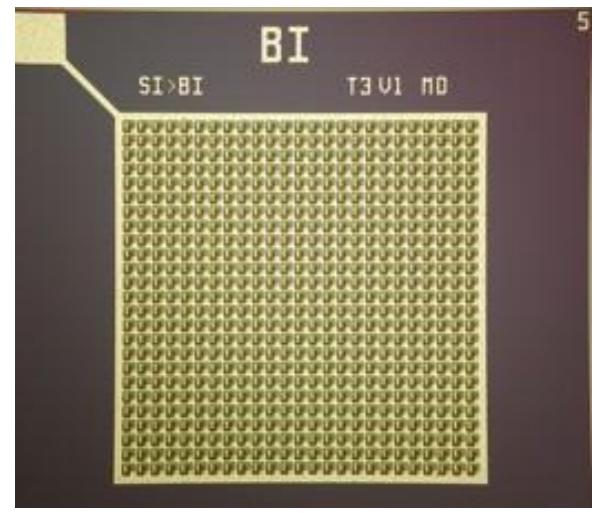
SiPM: **Multicell Avalanche Photodiode** working in limited Geiger mode



- 2D array of microcells: structures in a common bulk.
- $V_{bias} > V_{breakdown}$ : high field in mult. region
- Microcells work in Geiger mode: the signal is independent of the particle energy
- The SiPM output is the sum of the signals produced in all microcells fired.

- The photon is absorbed and generates an electron/hole pair
- The electron/hole diffuses or drifts to the high-electric field multiplication region
- The drifted charge undergoes impact ionization and causes an avalanche breakdown.
- Resistor in series to quench the avalanche (limited Geiger mode).

As produced at FBK-irst, Trento, Italy →



→ High gain → Low noise → Good proportionality if  $N_{photons} \ll N_{cells}$



# Results: characterization

Collaboration with FBK- irst (Trento, Italy), that is developing SiPMs since 2005:

First detectors - Single SiPMs (2006)

First matrices 2x2 (2007)

First matrices 4x4 (2008)

First matrices 8x8 (2009)

Breakdown voltage  $V_B \sim 30V$ , very good uniformity.

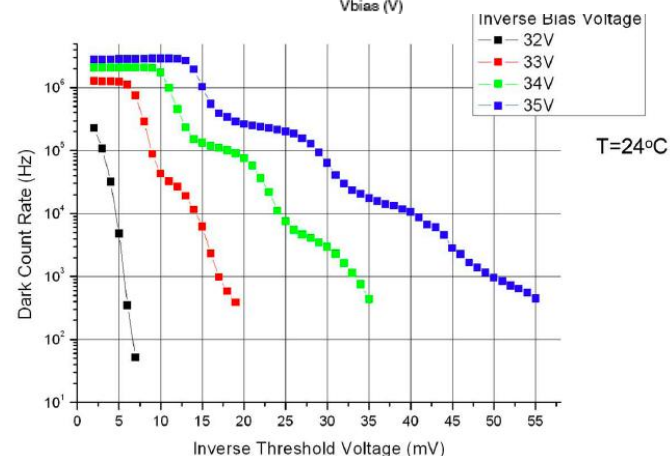
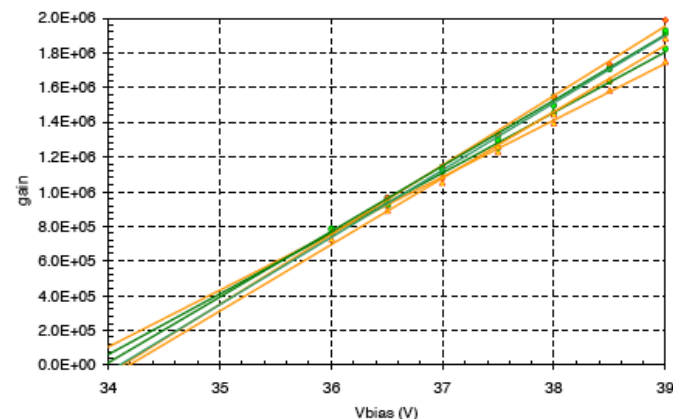
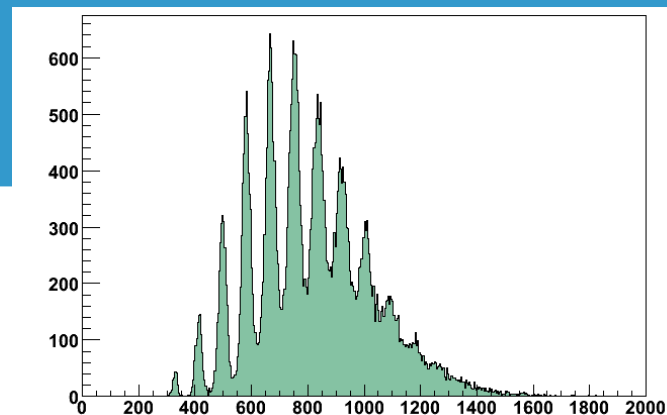
Single photoelectron spectrum: well resolved peaks.

Gain:  $\sim 10^6$

- Linear for a few volts over  $V_{BD}$ .
- Related to the recharge of the diode capacitance  $C_D$  from  $V_{BD}$  to  $V_{BIAS}$  during the avalanche quenching.  
 $G=(V_{BIAS}-V_B) \times C_D/q$

Dark rate:

- 1-3 MHz at 1-2 photoelectron (p.e.) level,  $\sim$ kHz at 3-4 p.e (room temperature).
- Not a concern for PET applications.





# Results: intrinsic timing

**Intrinsic timing measured at s.p.e level:  
60 ps ( $\sigma$ ) for blue light at 4V overvoltage.**

**SiPM illuminated with a pulsed laser with  
60 fs pulse width and 12.34 ns period,  
with less than 100 fs jitter.**

**Two wavelengths measured:**

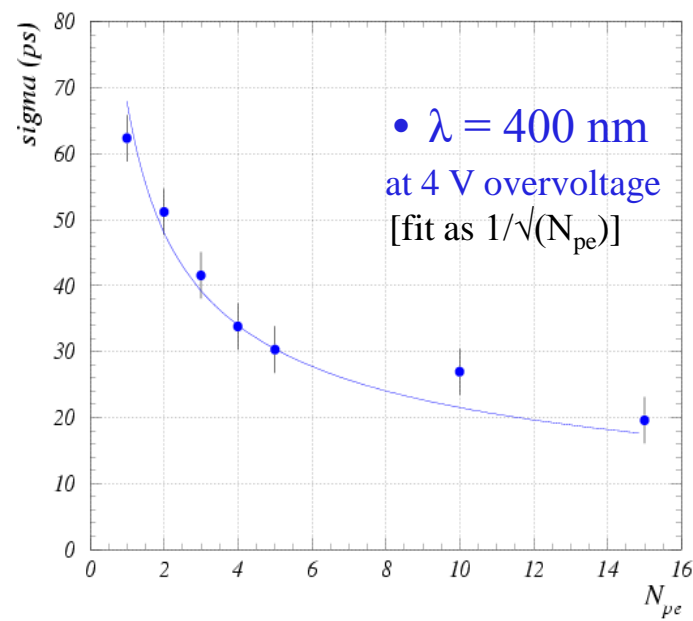
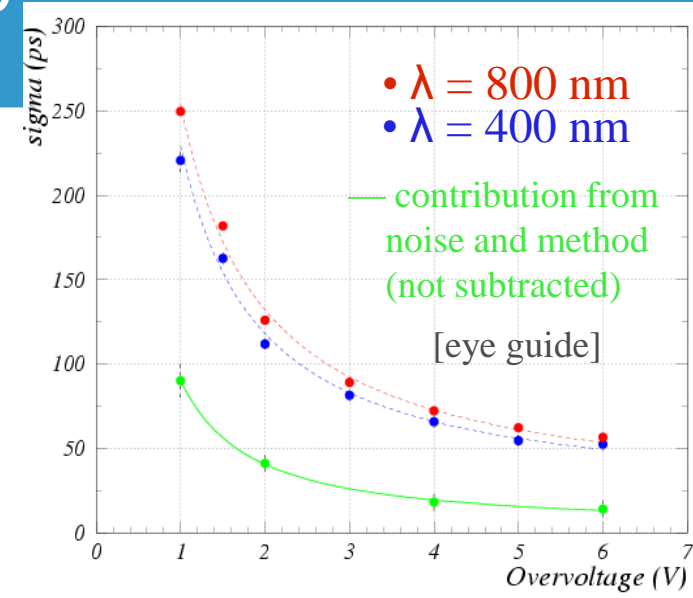
$$\lambda = 400 \pm 7 \text{ nm and } \lambda = 800 \pm 15 \text{ nm.}$$

**Time difference between contiguous  
pulses is determined.**

**The timing decreases with the number of  
photoelectrons as**

$$1/\sqrt{N_{pe}} \rightarrow \underline{20 \text{ ps at 15 photoelectrons.}}$$

[G. Collazuol et al., VCI 2007, NIM A 2007, [A581](#), 461-464]





# Results: coincidence timing (TOF)

Coincidence measurement with two LSO crystals (1x1x10 mm<sup>3</sup>) coupled to two SiPMs {From Theory: [Post and Schiff. Phys. Rev. 80 \(1950\)1113.](#)}

$$\sigma \sim \frac{\sqrt{Q} \tau}{\langle N \rangle}$$

Where:

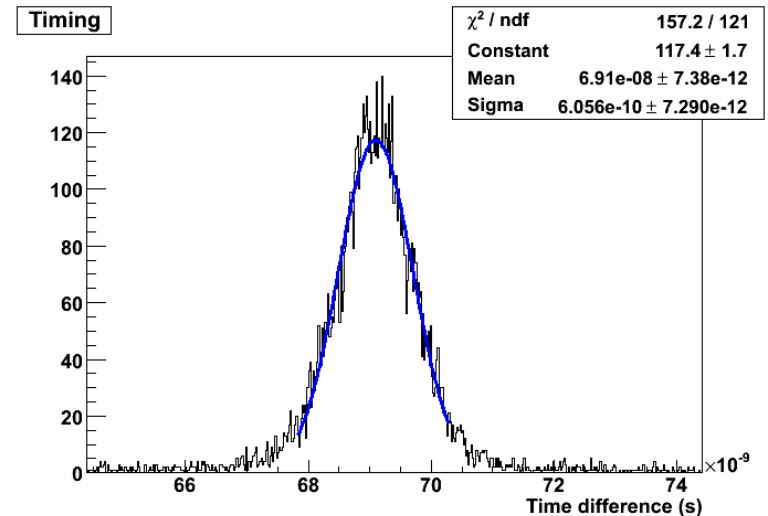
<N> = average number of photons: ~ 100 photons at the photopeak

Q = Trigger level: ~1 photoelectron.

τ = Decay time of the scintillator

**For two scintillators in coincidence expected : =>  $\sqrt{2}\sigma \sim 630$  ps .**  
**Measured => ~ 600 ps sigma.**

**Measurements in agreement with what we expect!!**



[G.Llosa, et al., IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 2008, 55(3), 877-881.]

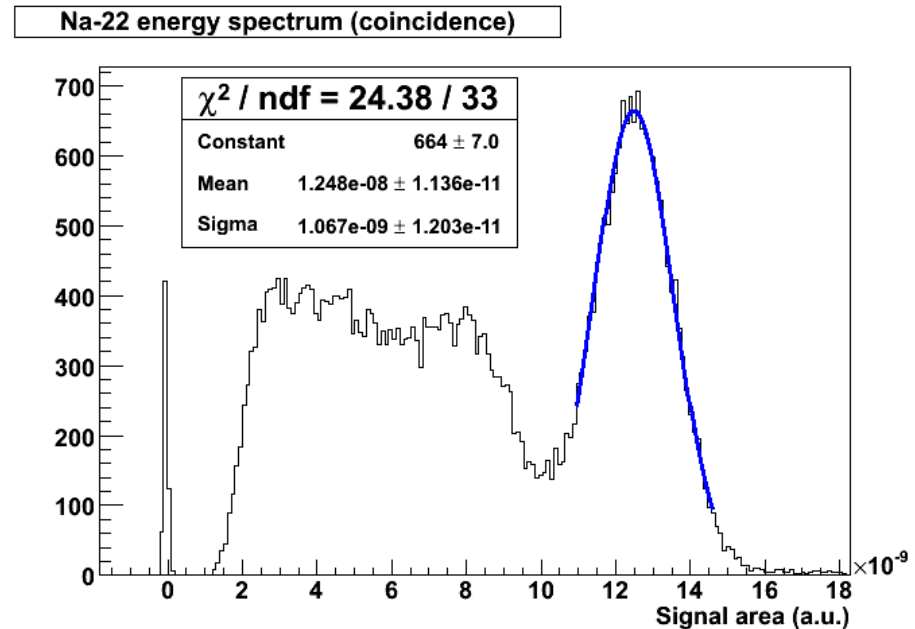


# Results: energy resolution (DE/E)

## Setup:

- 2 LSO [1mm x 1mm x 10mm] crystals coupled to 2 SiPMs
- Home made amplifier board.
- Time coincidence of signals.
- VME QDC for DAQ.
- $^{22}\text{Na}$  source.

**Energy resolution in coincidence: 20% FWHM.  
(best result: 17.5 %)**



[G.Llosa et al, IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 2008, 55(3), 877-881.]



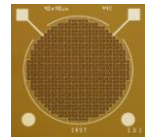


# Results: New detectors (May 2007)

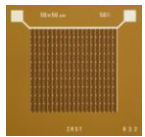
## Different geometry, size, microcell size and GF.

$40 \times 40 \mu\text{m}^2 \Rightarrow \text{GF } 44\%$   
 $50 \times 50 \mu\text{m}^2 \Rightarrow \text{GF } 50\%$   
 $100 \times 100 \mu\text{m}^2 \Rightarrow \text{GF } 76\%$

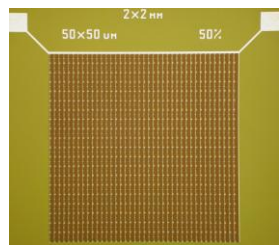
circular



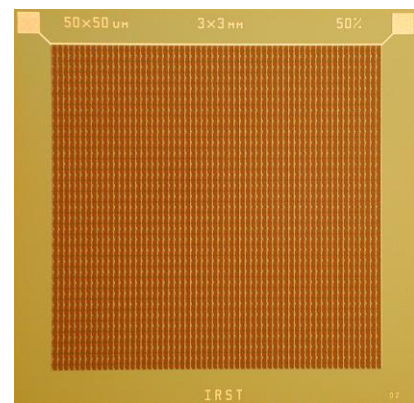
1mm  $\phi$



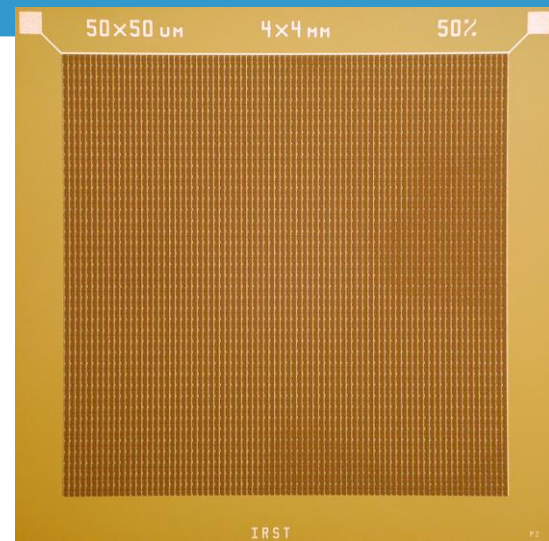
1x1mm<sup>2</sup>



2x2mm<sup>2</sup>

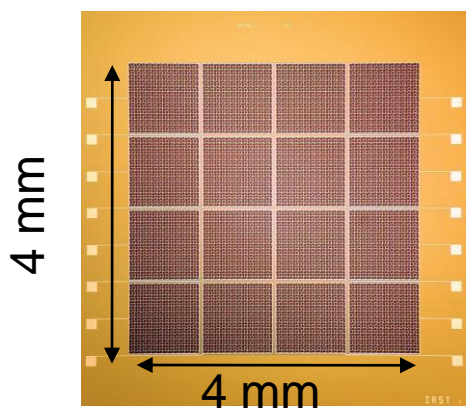


3x3mm<sup>2</sup> (3600 cells)



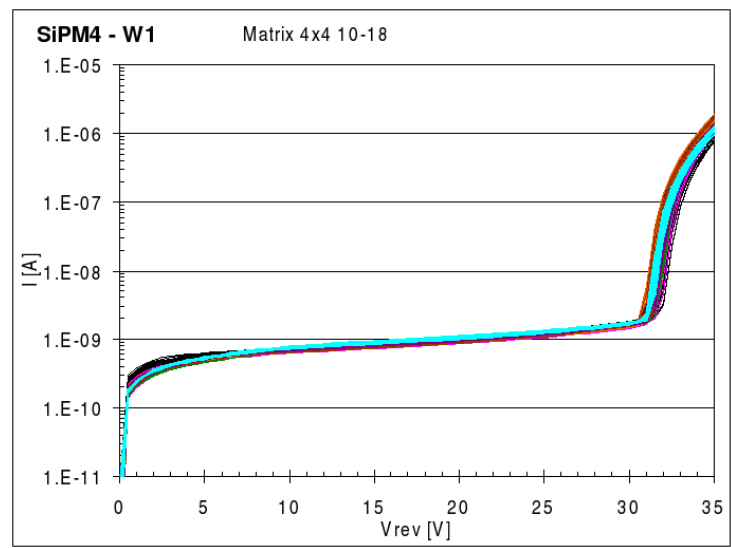
4x4mm<sup>2</sup> (6400 cells)

## Matrices 16 elements (4x4)



IV CURVES OF 9 MATRICES.

VERY UNIFORM BREAKDOWN POINT



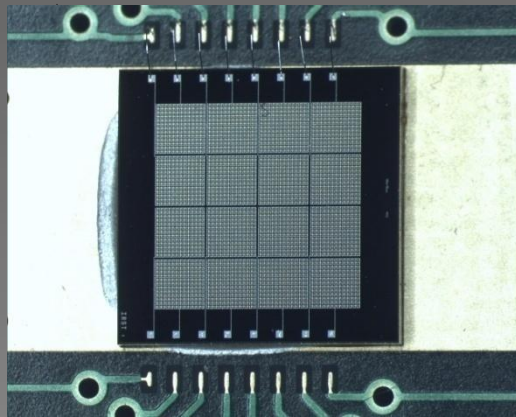
[C.Piemonte et al, Il Nuovo Cimento C, 2007,30(5),473-482]



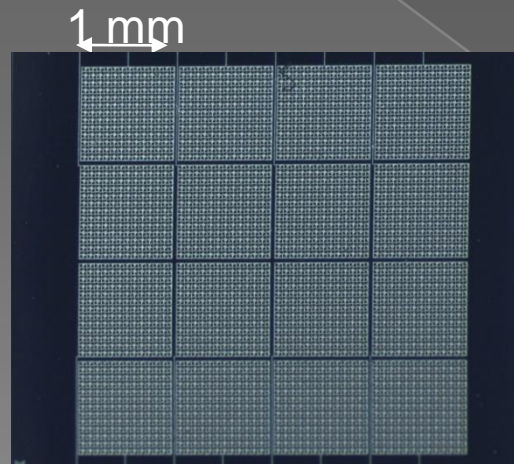
# SiPM 4x4 matrices from FBK-irst

Composed of 16 (4x4) pixel elements in a common substrate  
1 mm pixels in 1.06 mm pitch

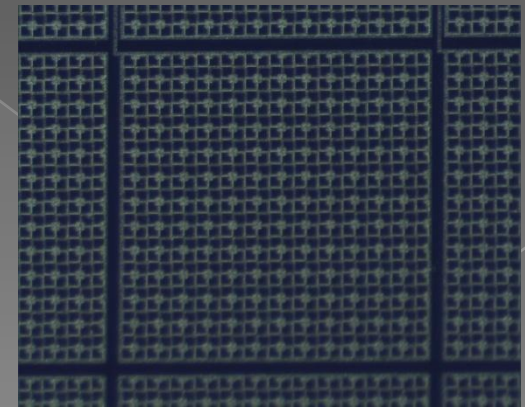
- Structure:  $n^+$ -p- $\pi$ -p $^+$  optimized for blue light: Shallow  $n^+$  layer + specific antireflective coating.
- Each pixel: 625 (25 x 25) microcells,  $40\mu\text{m}$  x  $40\mu\text{m}$  size.
- Polysilicon quenching resistor.
- Fill factor 44%.



Bonded SiPM array



SiPM array



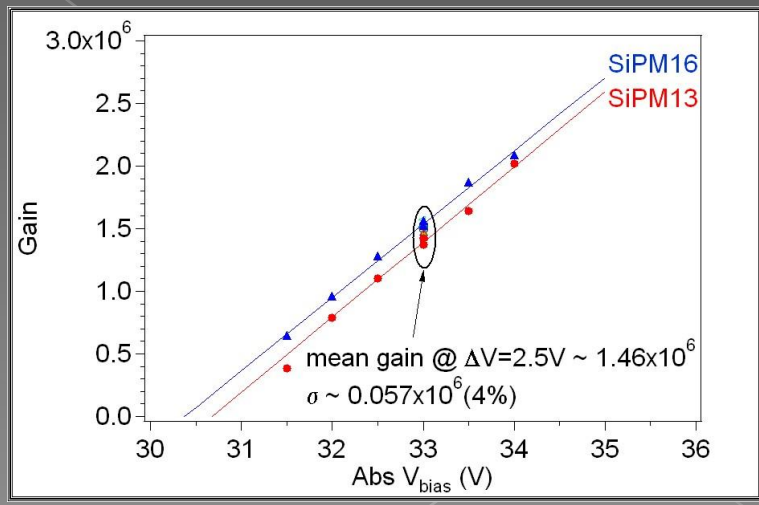
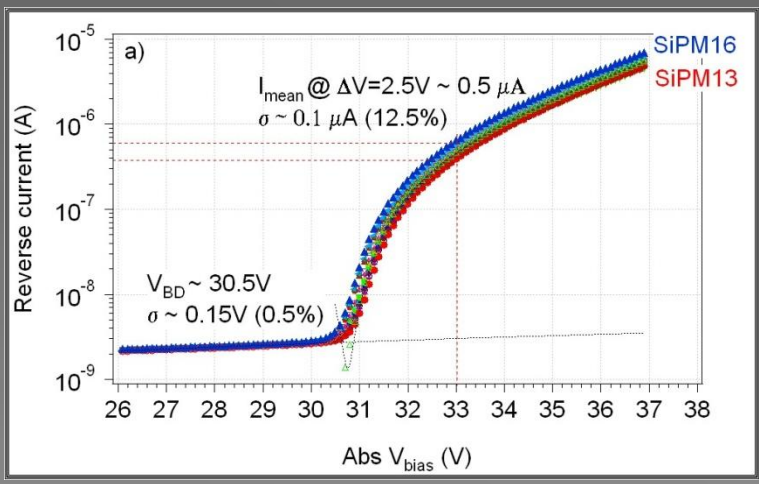
SiPM pixel



# 4x4 Matrices Characterization

- The full characterization of the first production was performed at LAL, Orsay.
- Excellent uniformity.
  - > Breakdown voltage 30.5V ;  $\sigma_{var} = 0.5\%$
  - > Gain @33V  $1.46 \times 10^6$  ;  $\sigma_{var} = 4\%$
- Mean dark rate @33V ( $\Delta V=2.5V$ ): 1.98 MHz
- PDE @ 33V 8-10% from 420 to 680 nm wavelength.

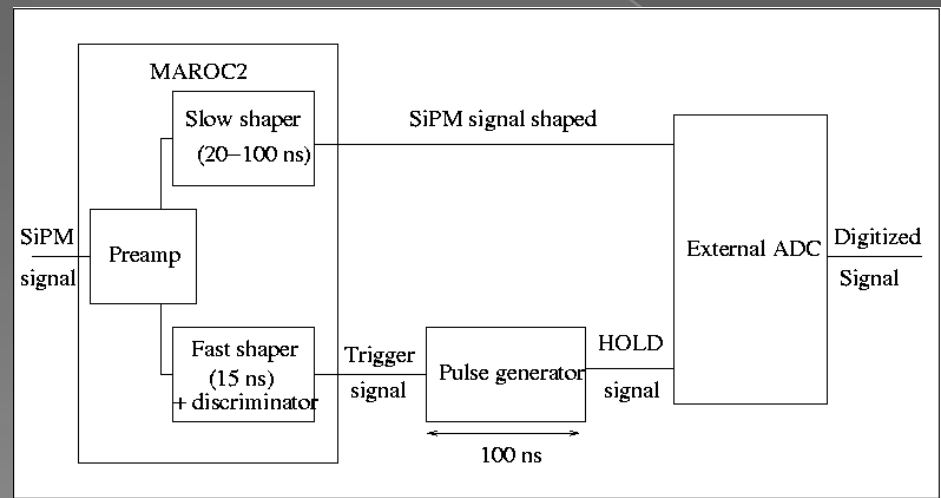
Expected PDE >15% for the results shown here (run II and  $\Delta V=4V$ )





# Readout: MAROC2 ASIC

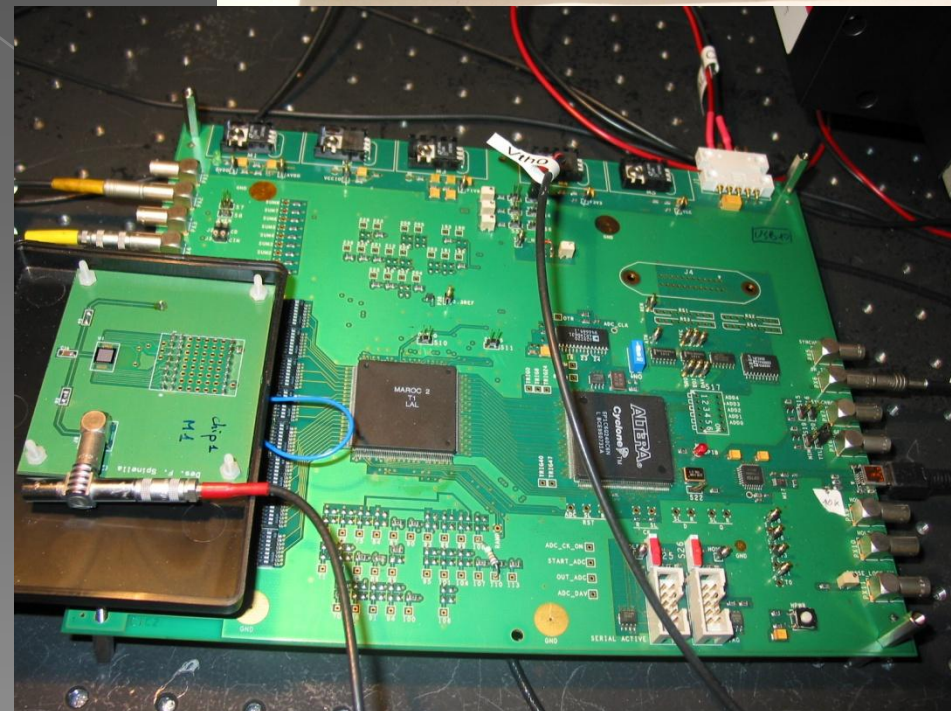
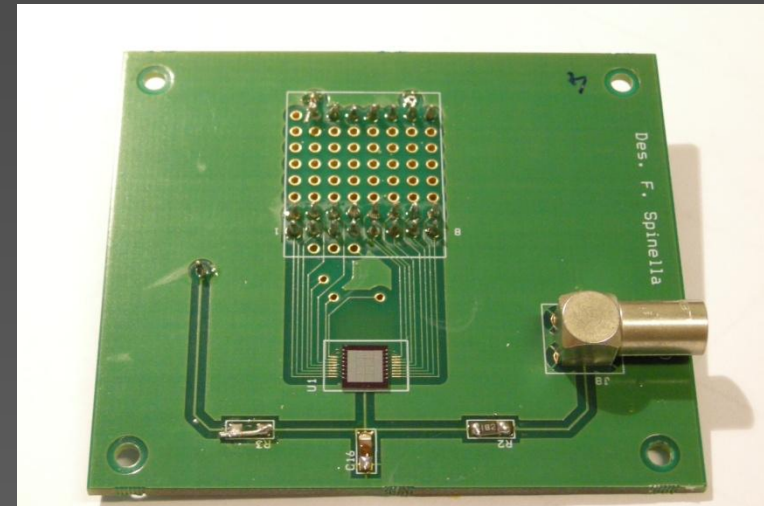
- Developed at Laboratoire de l'Accelérateur Lineaire, Orsay.
- 64 channels
- low noise preamplifier with variable gain (6 bits)
- Slow shaper (~20-150 ns, adjustable)
- Fast shaper (15 ns) + 3 discriminators => Trigger signal.
- Designed for MAPMT (H8500)– not optimized for SiPMs, but allows us to make the tests satisfactorily.





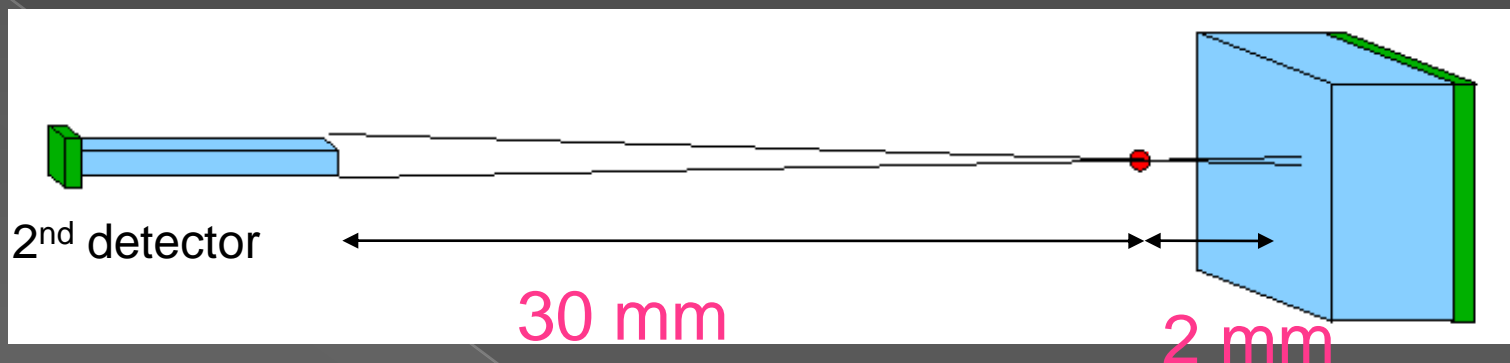
# Readout: Test board

- Altera FPGA
- USB Port
- ADC on the board.
- ASIC calibration input.
- LabVIEW software for data acquisition





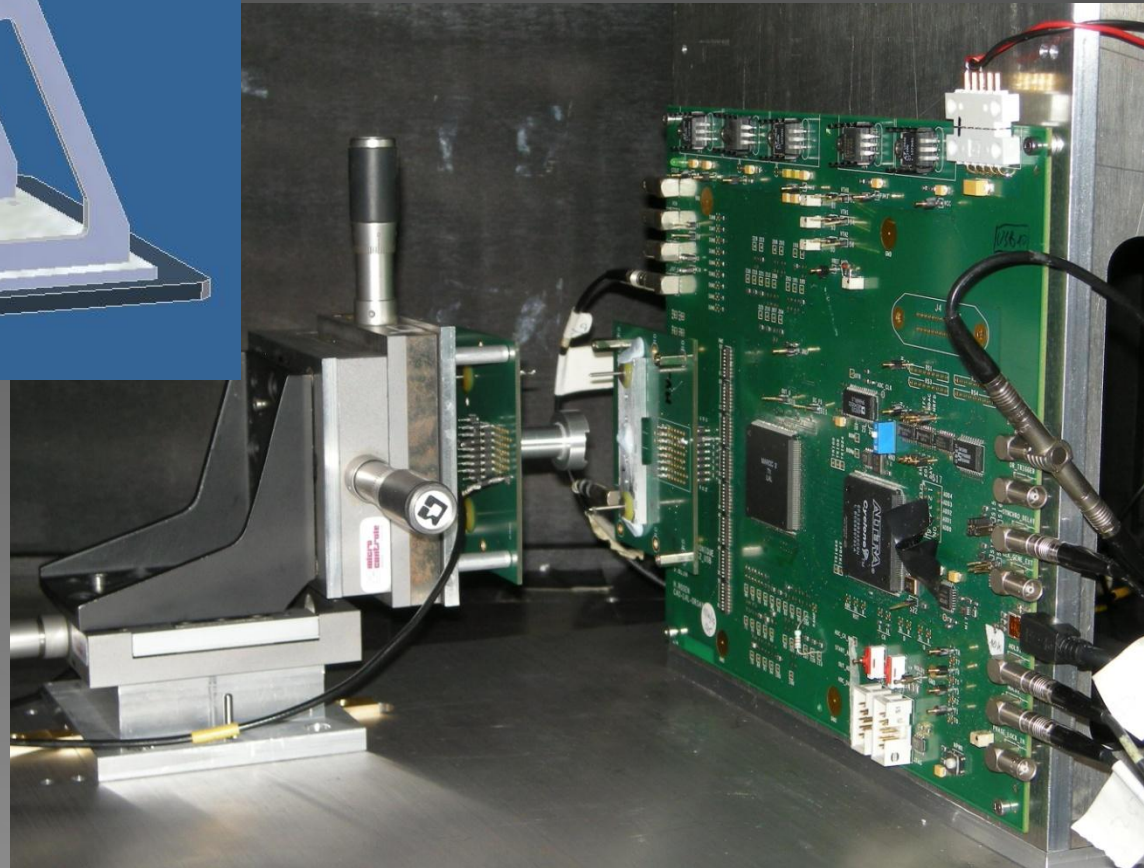
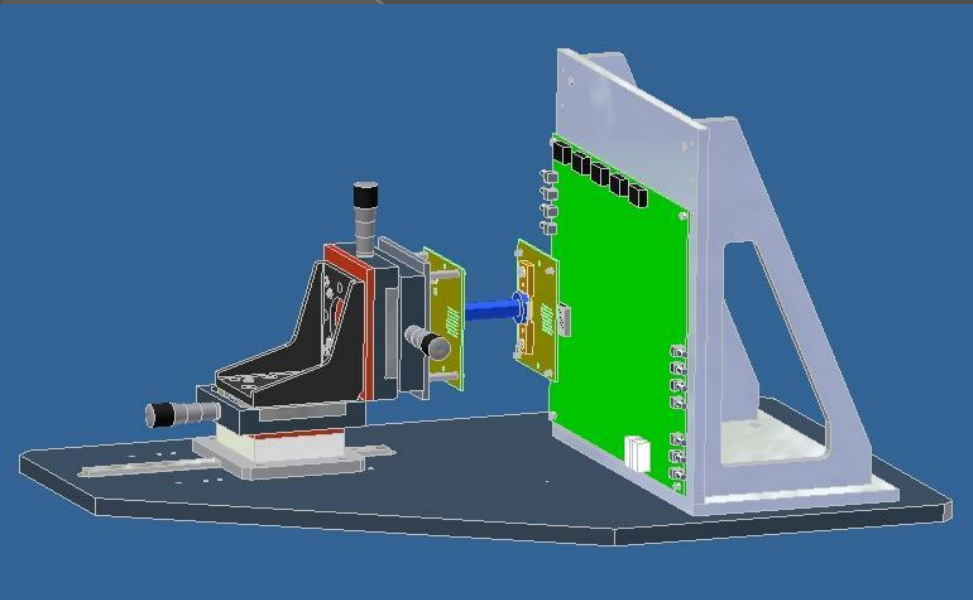
# Position determination



- Coincidence with a 2<sup>nd</sup> detector: 1 mm x 1 mm x 1 cm crystal coupled to a SiPM
- Source close to the matrix, far from 2<sup>nd</sup> detector
- Move together source and 2<sup>nd</sup> detector.



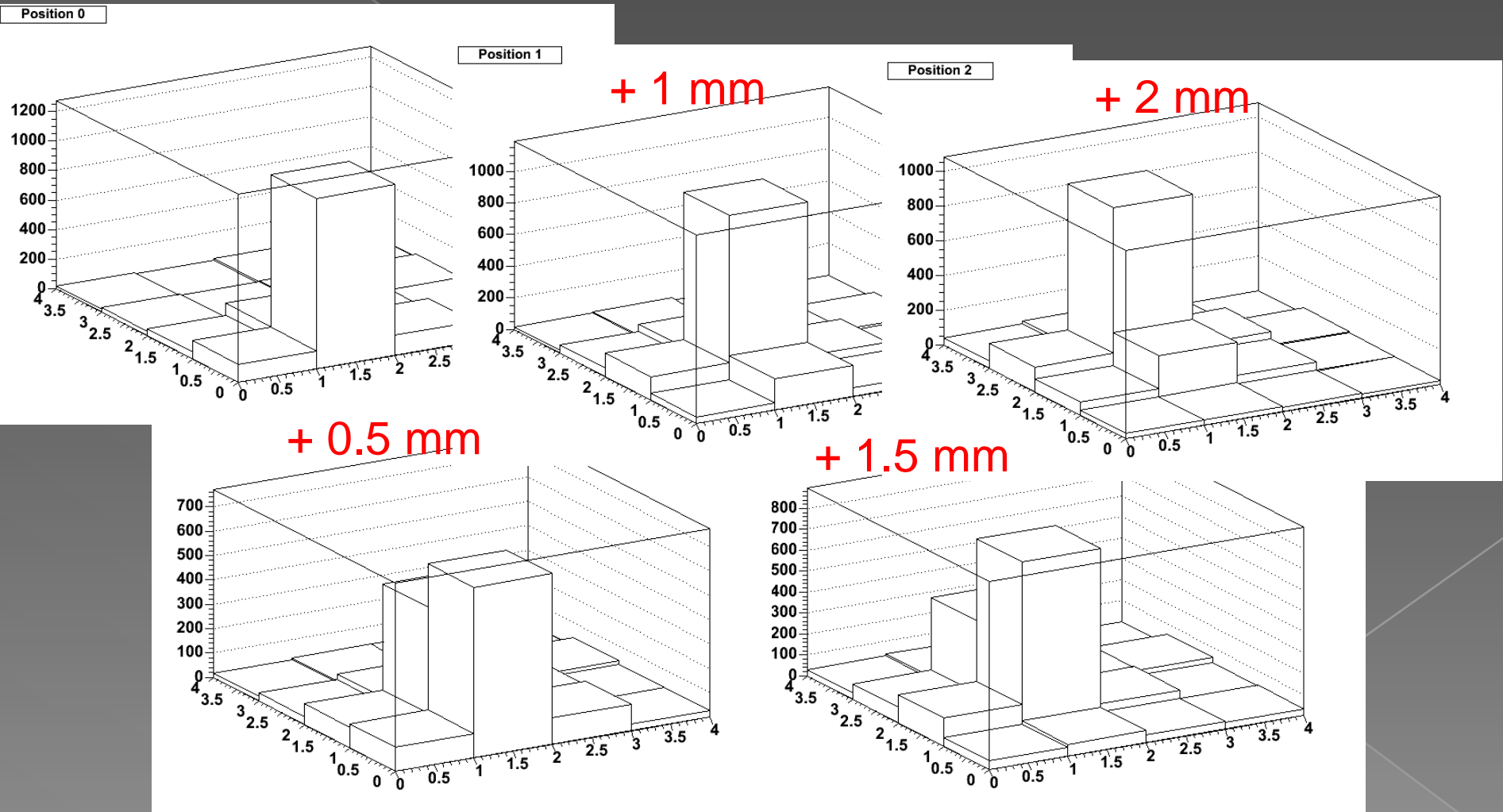
# Position determination setup





# Position determination- crystal array

## Hitmap for different source positions with crystal array

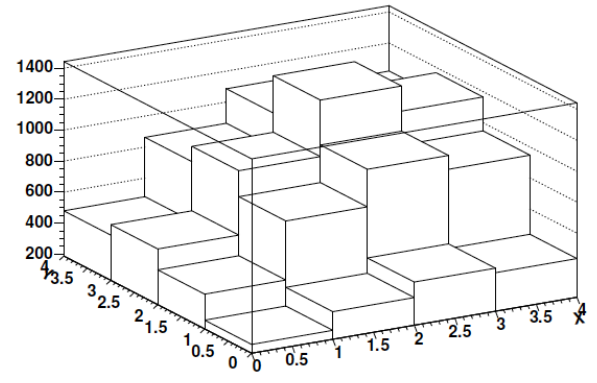




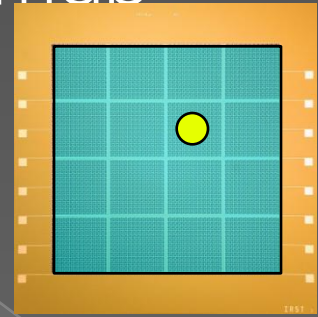


# Position determination. -black slab

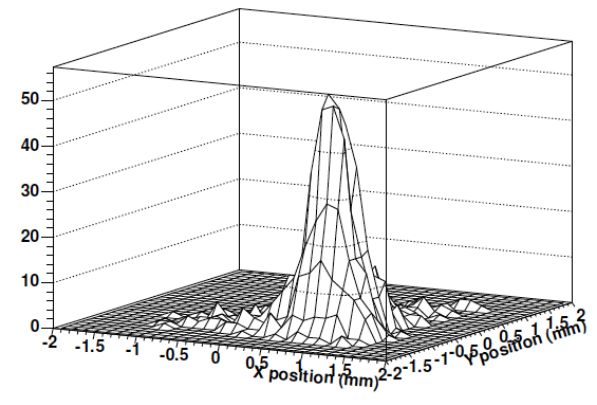
Hitmap position 0.5, 0.5



Hitmap



Reconstructed position 0.5, 0.5



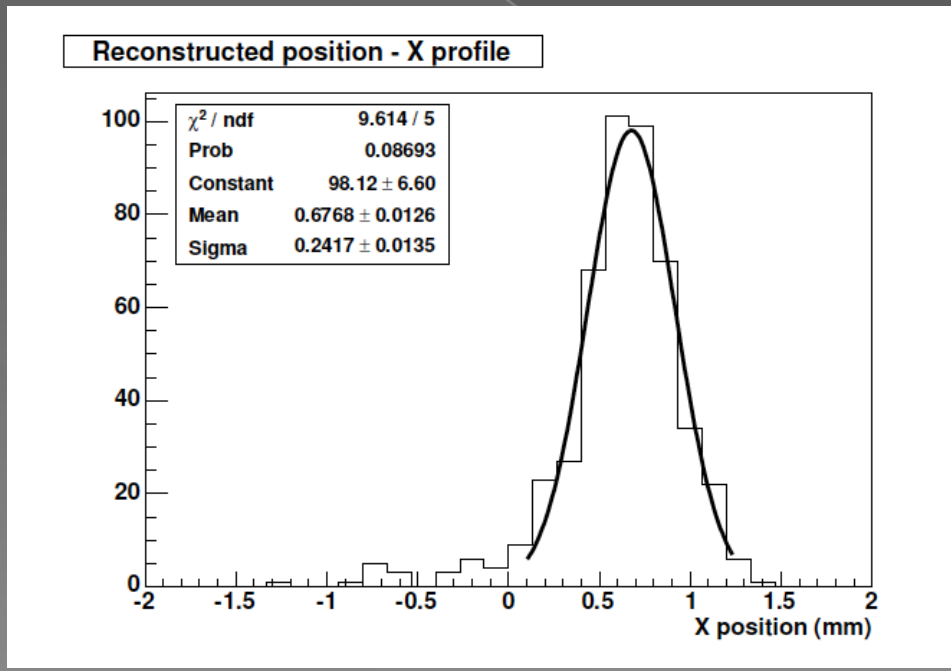
“center of gravity” Algorithm

$$X = \frac{\sum X_i ADC_i}{\sum ADC_i},$$
$$Y = \frac{\sum Y_i ADC_i}{\sum ADC_i},$$



# Position determination-black slab

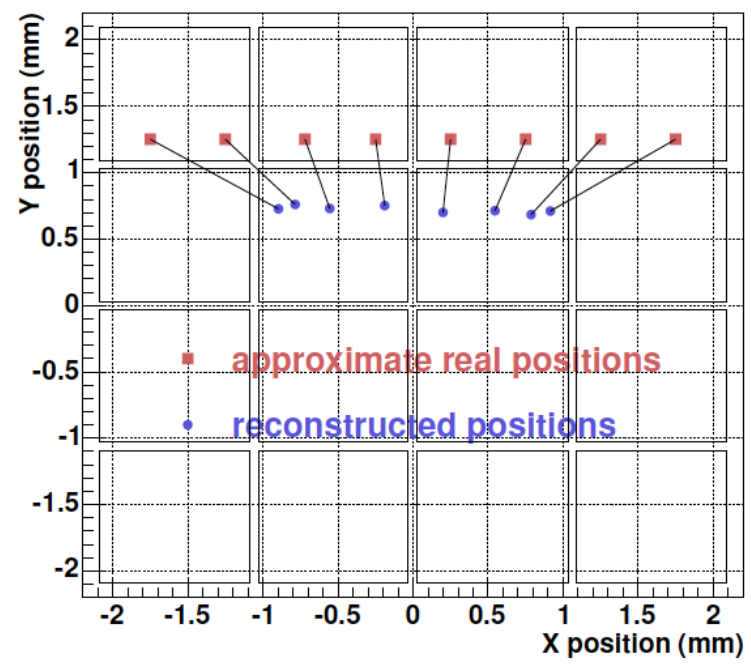
- Matrix + LYSO crystal 4mm x 4mm x 5mm painted black
- Center of gravity algorithm – problems at the edges
- Difficulties due to the small size of the devices
- Intrinsic spatial resolution: 0.57 mm (FWHM) at CFOV



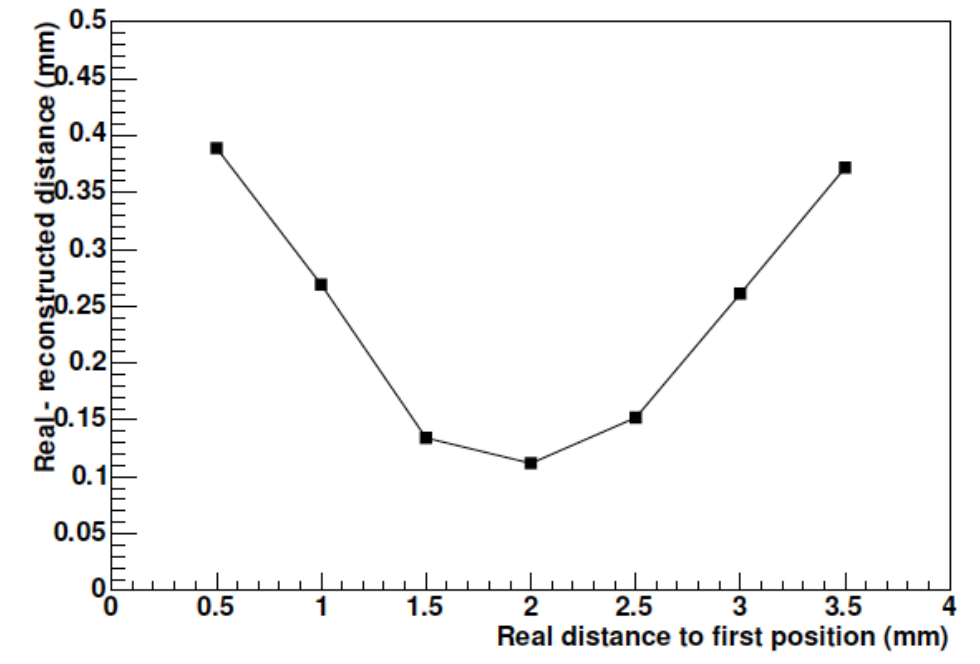


# ge distortions

Position scan - 0.5 mm steps



Difference reconstructed to real distance



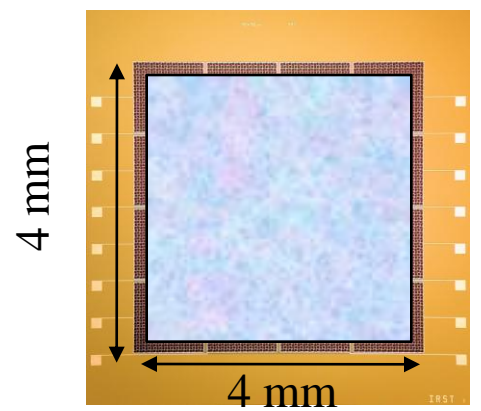


# Results with continuous crystals

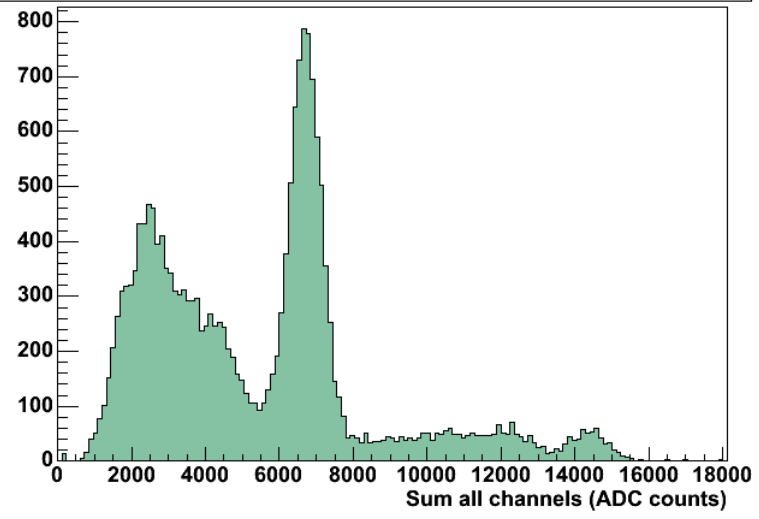
Crystal 4 mm x 4 mm x 5 mm covering the whole 4x4 matrix.

Na-22 spectrum summing signals from all channels.

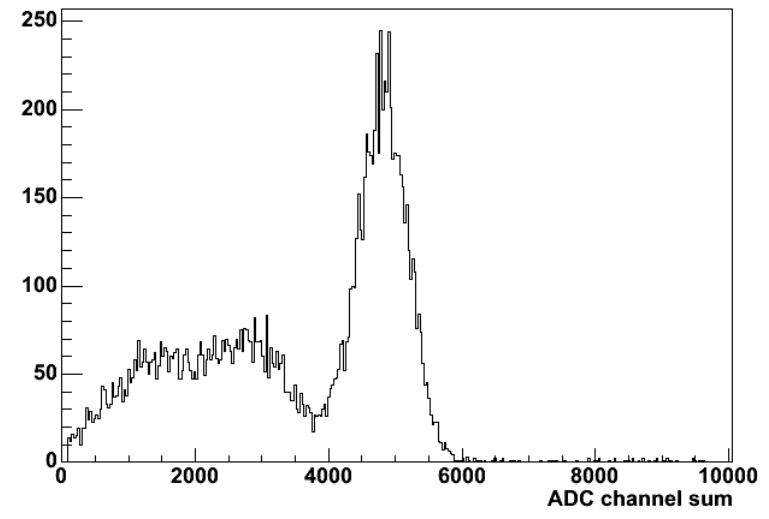
$$\Delta V_{\text{over-br}} = 4V$$
$$\Delta E/E = 16\%$$



Na-22 spectrum SiPM matrix +LYSO crystal 4 mm x 4 mm x 5 mm

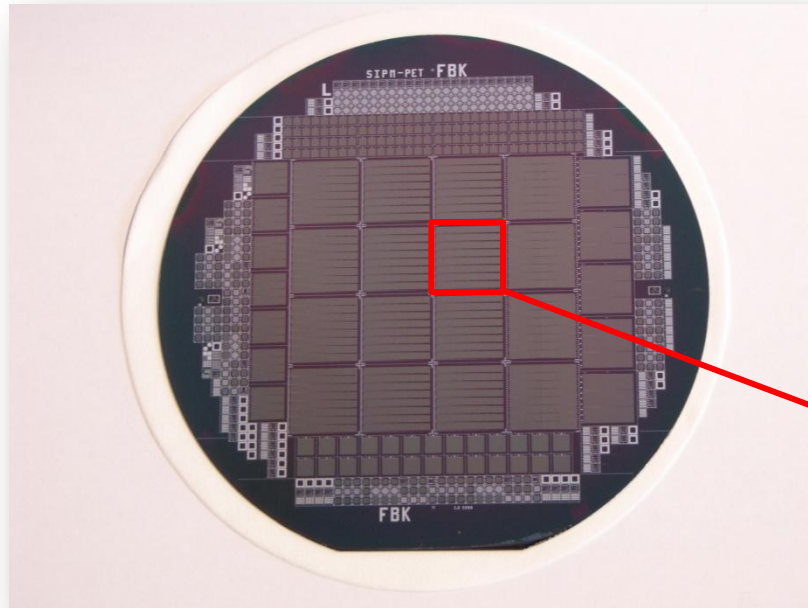


Na22 MV2 + LSO slab coincidence

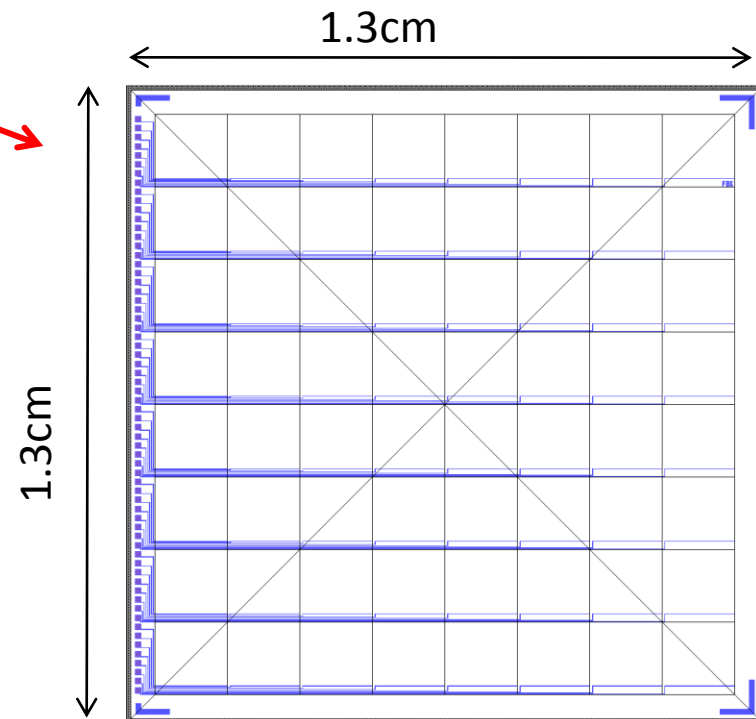


G.Llosa et al., Submitted to IEEE TNS, 2009

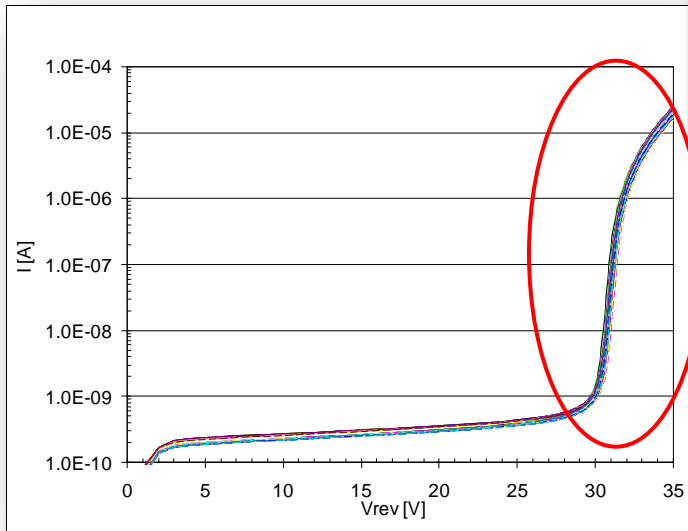
# Matrices for INFN-DaSiPM2 project (2009)



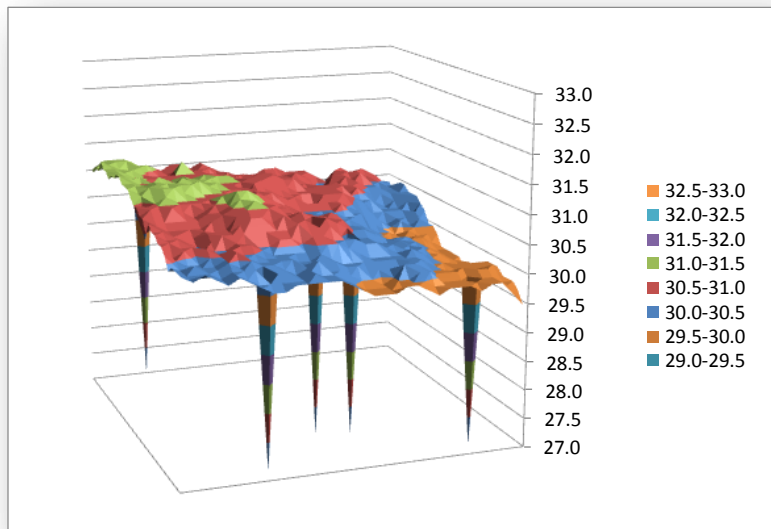
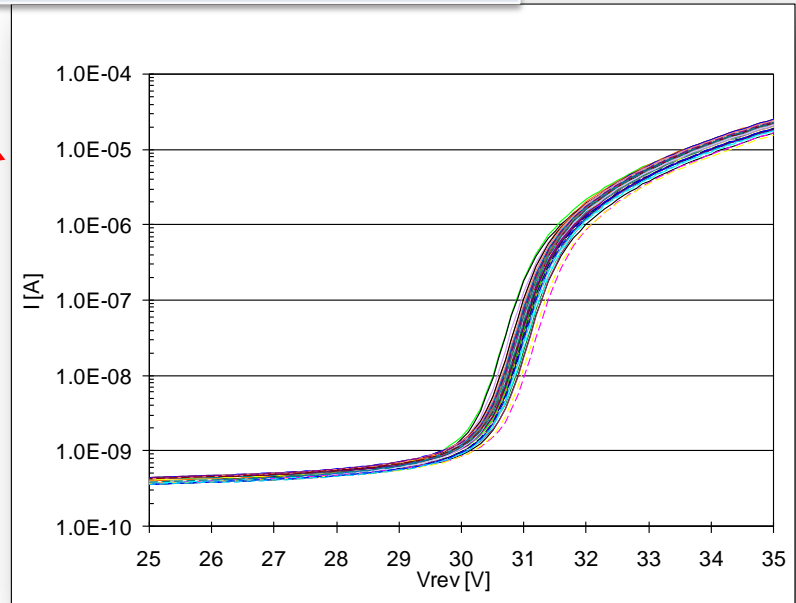
- 8x8 matrix
- 1.5mm element pitch
- 625 (50 $\mu$ m x 50 $\mu$ m)  $\mu$ cells
- read-out on one side



# DaSiPM2 8x8 Matrices (2009)



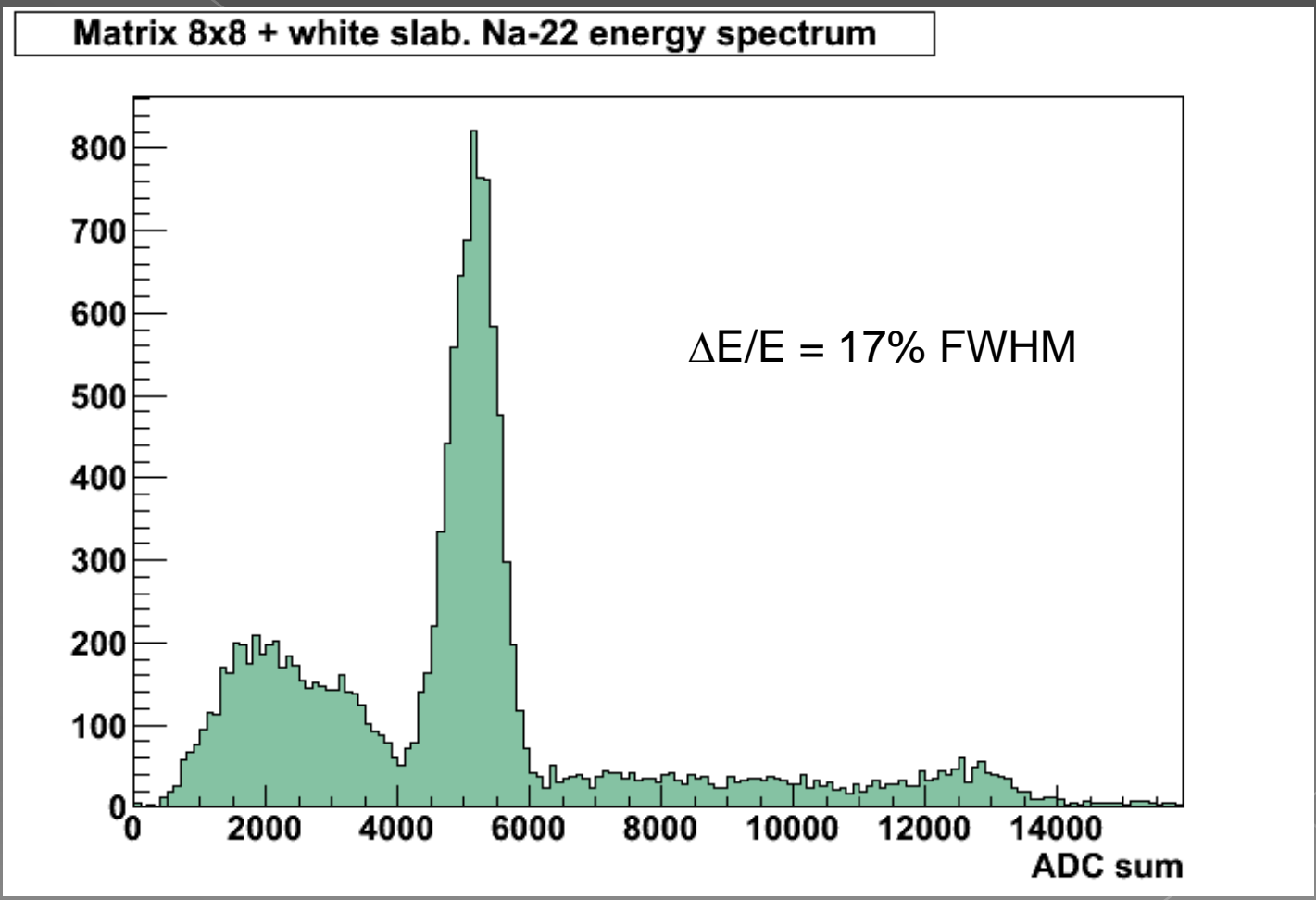
IV plot of the 64 elements of the matrix



Breakdown voltage over the entire wafer surface



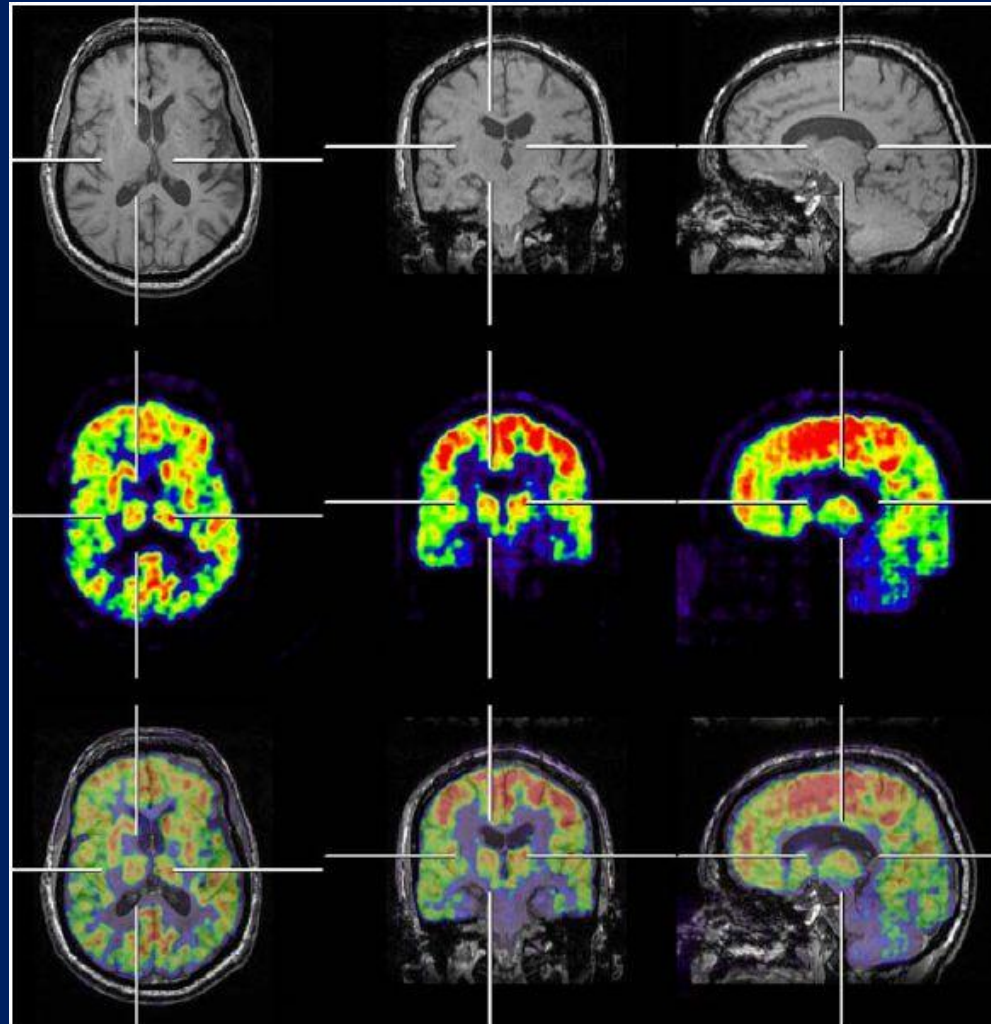
# Matrix 8x8: first $^{22}\text{Na}$ spectrum



# PET/MR

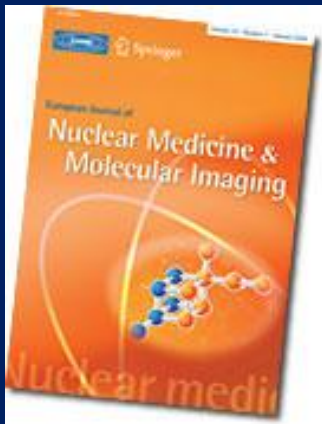


# PET-MR



# PET-MR

“PET/MR is a medical evolution based on a technical revolution”



Volume 36, Supplement 1 / March, 2009  
Multi-modality imaging: PET/MR

“We believe that both PET/CT and PET/MR are here to stay, because both platforms incorporate the diagnostic power of PET.

In fact, with **PET/CT** being a “**dual-modality imaging**” platform by virtue of combining functional (PET) and anatomical (CT) imaging, **PET/MR** offers true “**multimodality imaging**” by virtue of combining function (PET) and anatomy and function (both MR). This will open, without a doubt, new avenues in non-invasive imaging as part of clinical patient management and clinical research”.

(T. Beyer and B. Pichler)

# Technical Challenges in PET/MR

## ***Interference on PET (photomultiplier and electronics)***

- Static magnetic field
- Electromagnetic interference from RF and gradients

## ***Interference on MR (homogeneity and gradients)***

- Electromagnetic radiation from PET electronics
- Maintaining magnetic field homogeneity
- Eddy currents
- Susceptibility artifacts

## ***General Challenges***

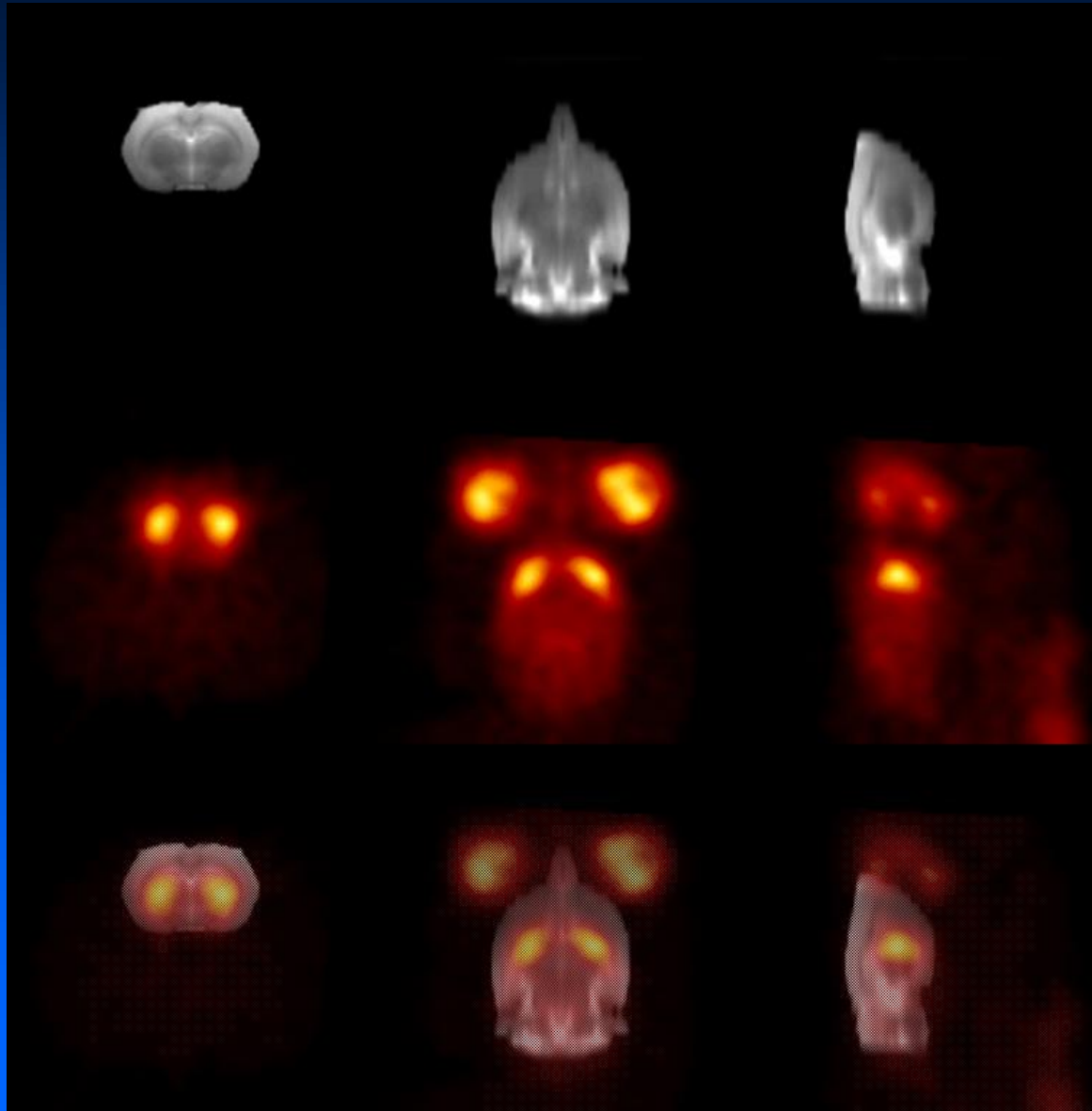
- Space
- Environmental factors (temperature, vibration...)
- Cost

***PET attenuation correction via MR data is a challenge!***

# PET/CT vs PET/MR

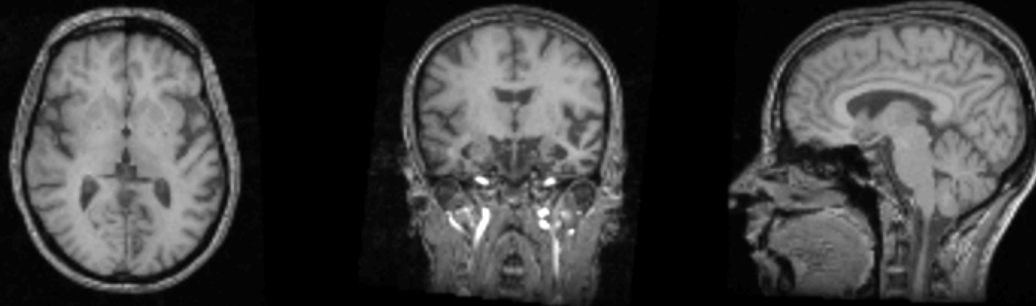
- Argument for integrated scanner won
- Increased patient throughput
- Enhanced diagnostic ability
  - fuse function and anatomy
- Same arguments and even more ...  
apply to MR/PET
  
- A few examples of MR/PET

# RAC + MR

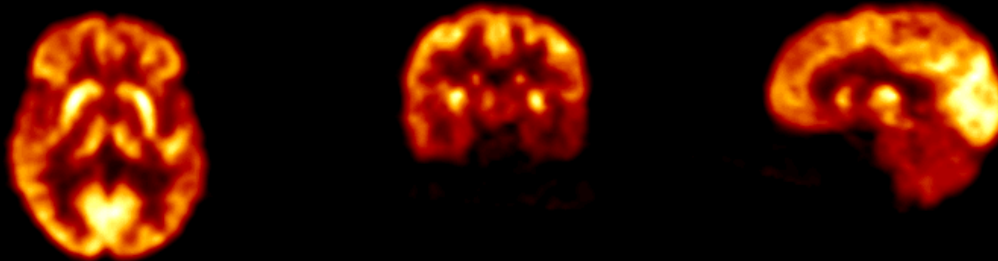


# PET + MR: Semantic Dementia

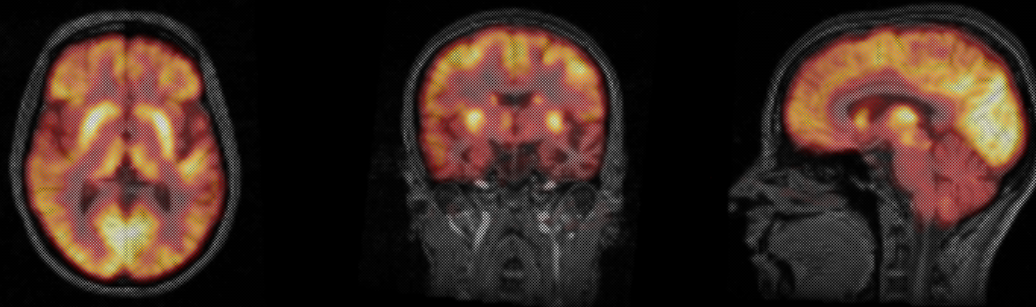
MR



[<sup>18</sup>F]FDG

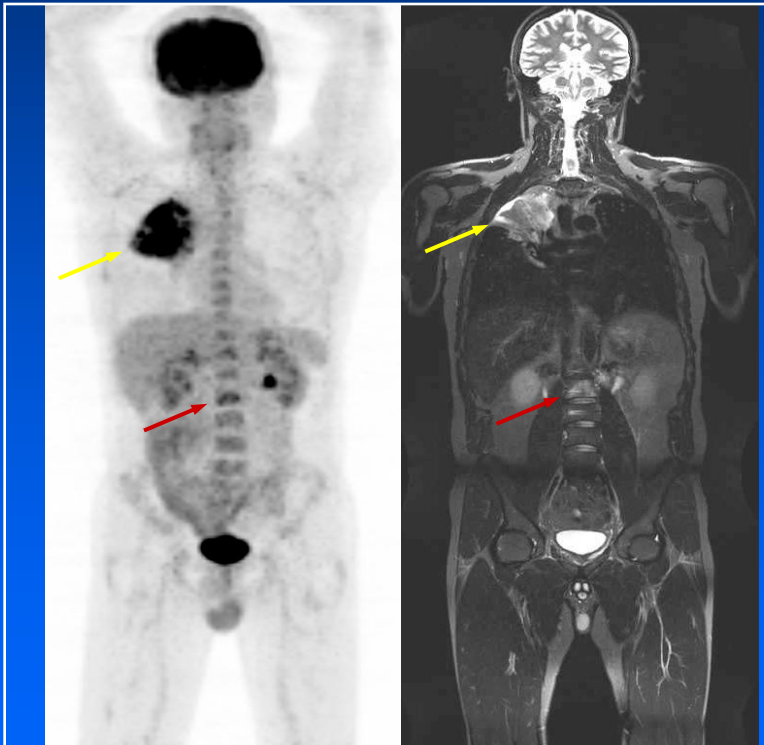


Fused



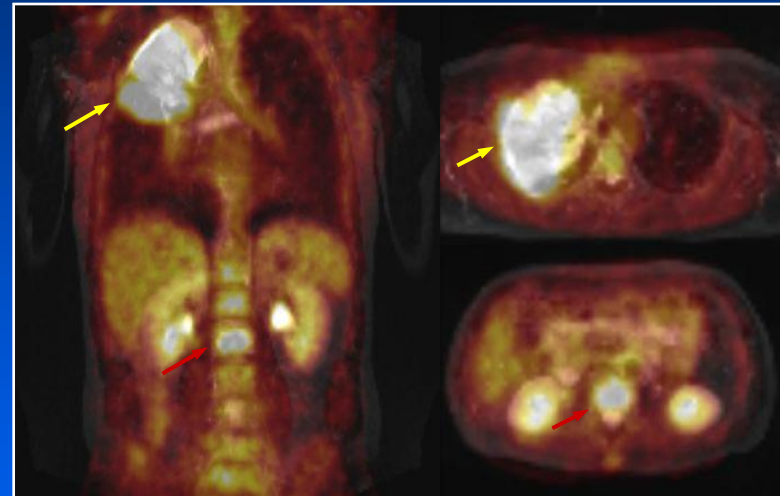
# MR/PET: “one-stop-shop”

New whole-body imaging procedures allow comprehensive imaging examinations



Coronal overview of 18F-FDG PET and MRI (T2-weighted Turbo-STIR)

Fused MRI/PET facilitates accurate registration of morphological and molecular aspects of diseases



Pulmonary and osseous (arrow, red) metastatic disease of a non-small cell lung cancer (arrow, yellow)

Coronal and transversal MRI/PET fusion images

# Technology for MR/PET

- (1) Scintillating crystals plus photomultiplier tubes (PMT)
- (2) Scintillating crystals plus solid state light detectors

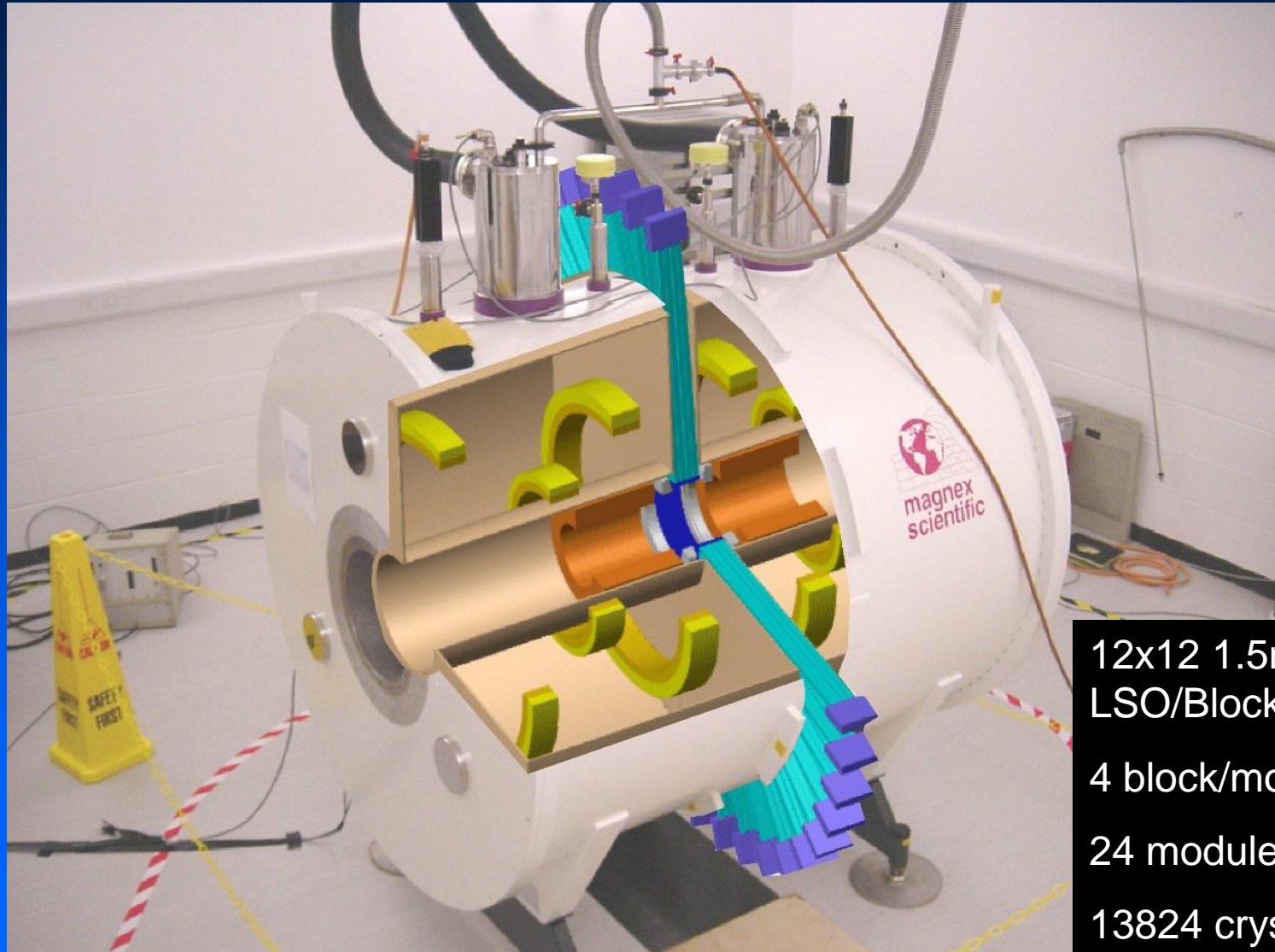


# Technology for MR/PET (1)

## ■ PMT Approach

- Well understood, stable electronics, high gain ( $10^6$ )
- However, Position sensitive PMT (PSPMT) operate in 1mT
- Combination of distance (light guide) and iron shield (1-2mm of soft iron can further reduce 30mT -> 1mT) to operate in 1mT

# Technology for MR/PET (1)



12x12 1.5mm  
LSO/Block  
4 block/module  
24 modules/ring  
13824 crystals

# Technology for MR/PET (1)

- 1mT has minimal effect on PSPMT performance
- Long light guides reduce energy resolution from 17 -> 27%, but this shouldn't have too big an impact upon performance
- Can perform simultaneous and isocentric MR/PET measurements
- However, small axial FOV

# Technology for MR/PET (2)

- **Solid state devices**
  - Avalanche Photodiodes (gain ~ 150)
  - Silicon Photomultiplier (gain ~  $10^6$ )
  - Less well established as PET detectors
- **Can operate in high static field > 7T**
- **Need to shield devices from both gradients and RF**



# Results: tests of SIPM in MR system (MRI)

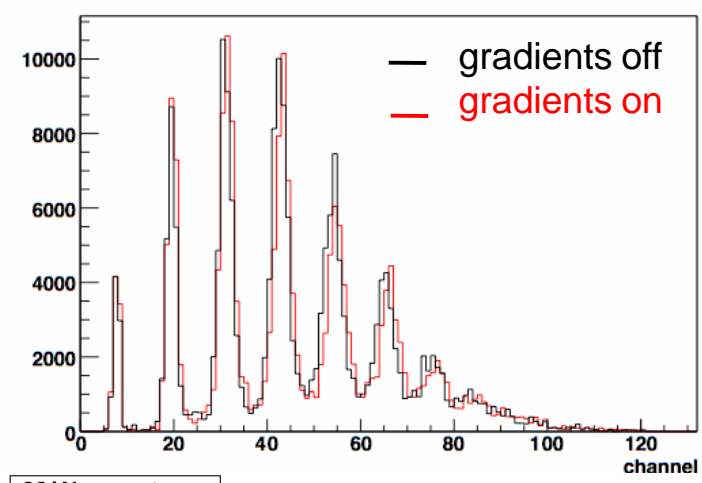
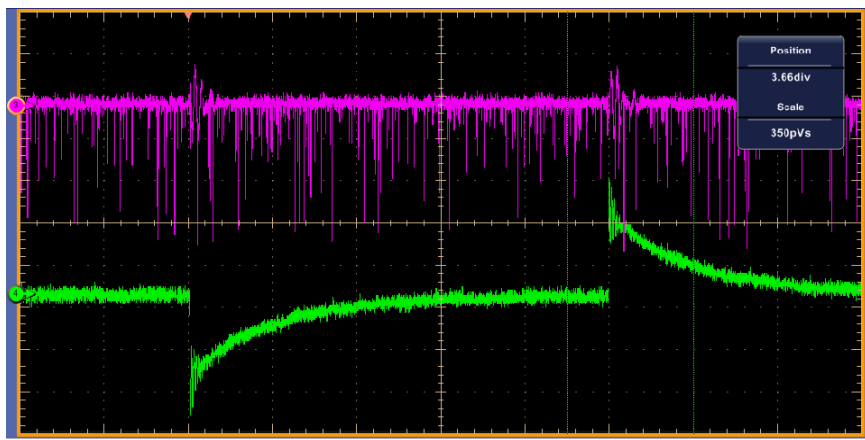
in collaboration with the Wolfson Brain Imaging Center, Cambridge, UK

S.p.e and  $^{22}\text{Na}$  energy spectra acquired with gradients off (black line) and on (red line).

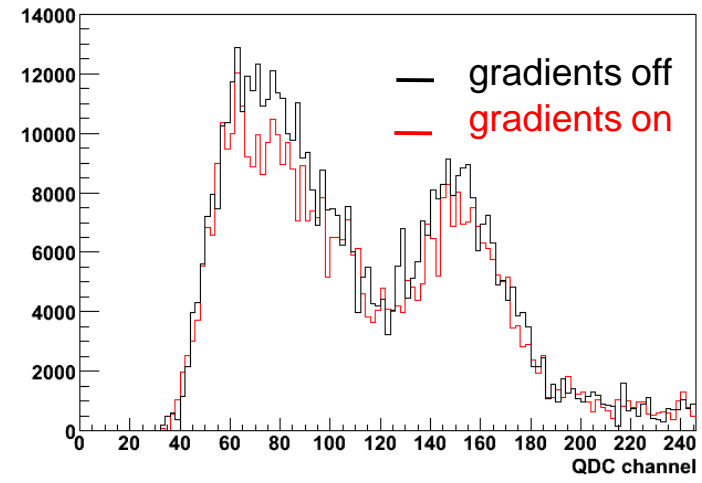
No real difference is appreciated in the data.

Differences in photopeak position is due to temperature changes in the magnet (apparent change in gain due to changes in breakdown voltage).

Pickup in baseline when switching on/off

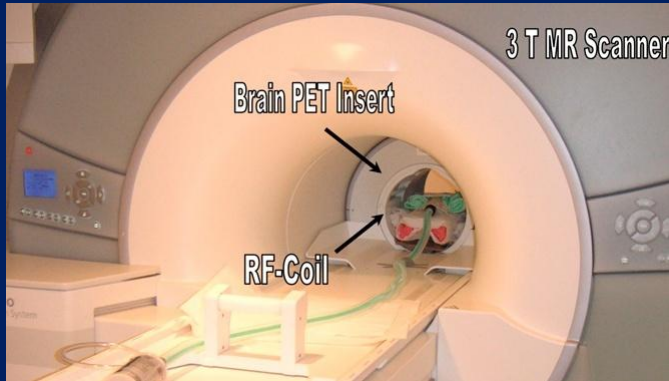


**22<sup>Na</sup> spectrum**

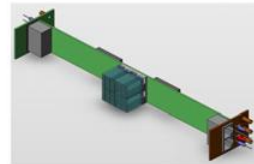
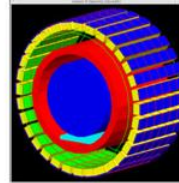


[ R.C.Hawkes, et al. 2007 IEEE NSS-MIC, Honolulu, USA, October 28-November 3, 2007: M18-118. ]

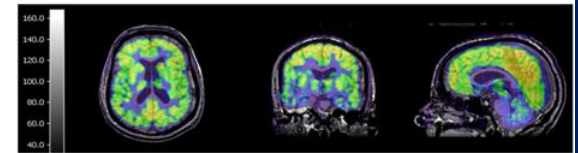
# Brain PET/MRI



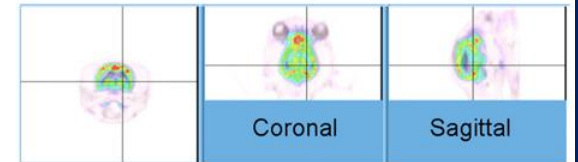
PET Insert



- Six 12 x 12 arrays of 2.5 x 2.5 x 20 mm<sup>3</sup>
- LSO blocks read out by 3 x 3 APD array
- Total of 192 LSO APD block detectors
- FOV: 35.5 cm x 19.25 cm axial
- Siemens 3T TRIO MR scanner



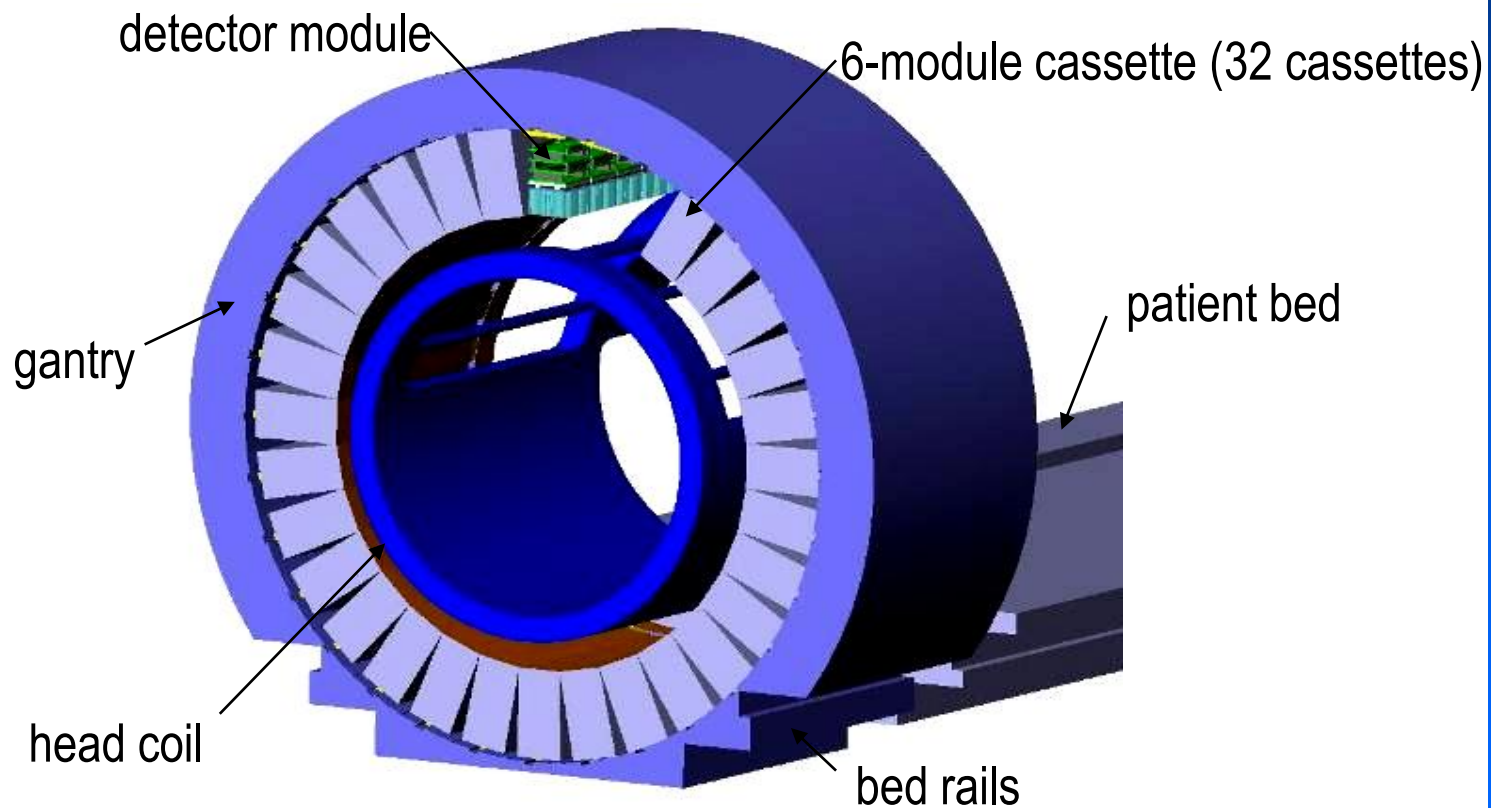
Patient study



Dog study

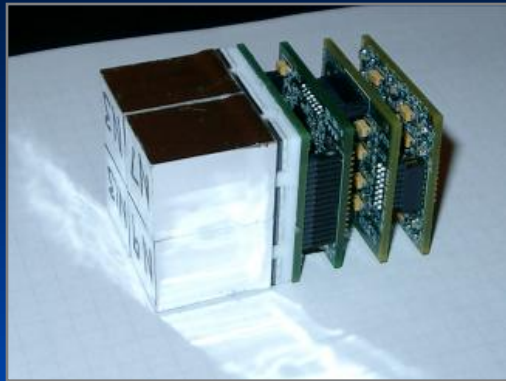
- Ring of LSO detectors inserted in a 3T MR tomograph
- Simultaneous PET and MR data acquisition

# MR/PET Head Insert

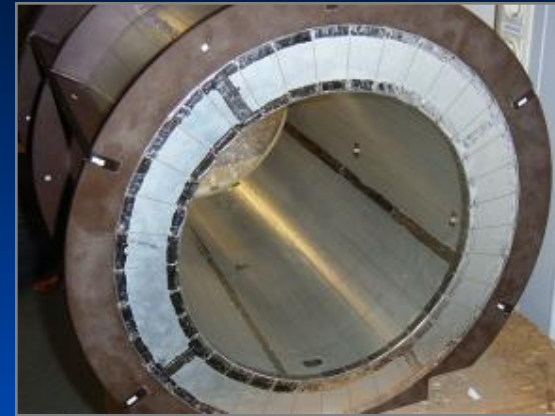


Scanner size: 36cm dia. x 20cm FOV

# MR-PET Head Insert



New integrated Detector Block



Prototype PET Head-Insert



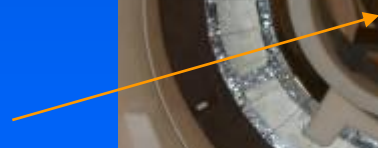
RF shield



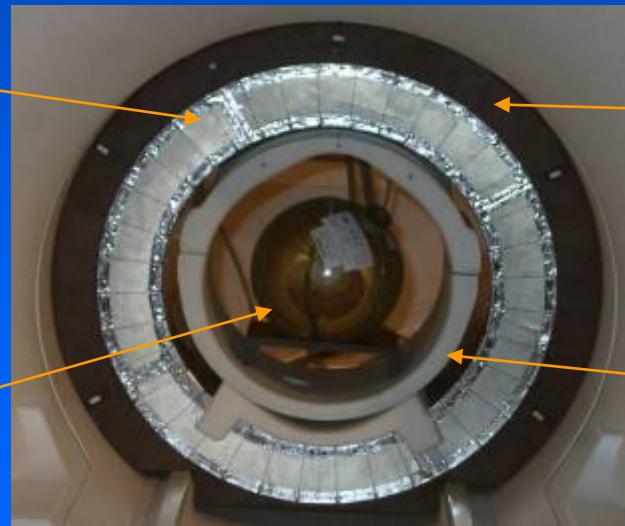
gantry



phantom



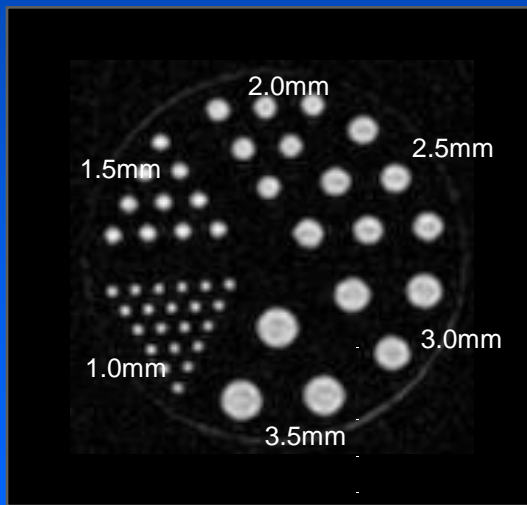
head coil



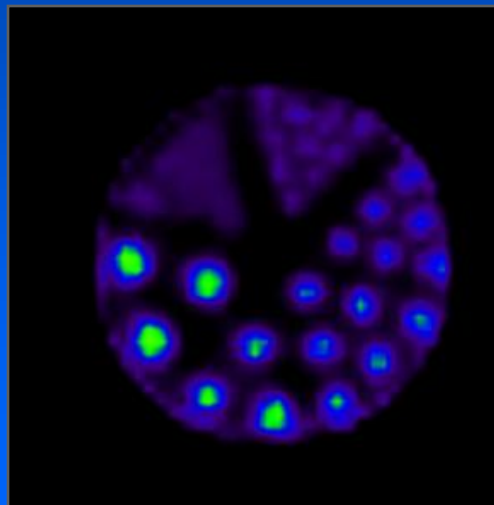


# MR-PET Head Insert

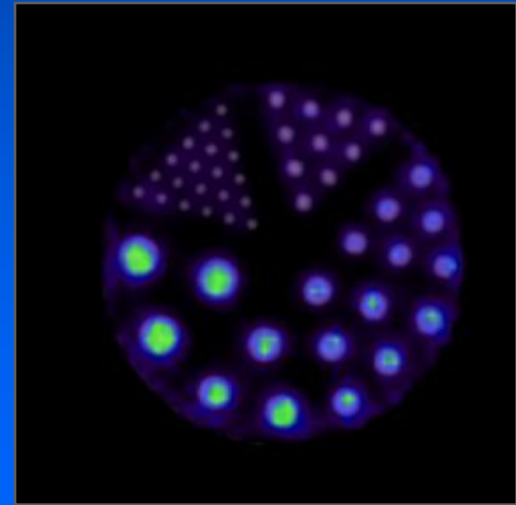
- Simultaneous dual-modality data acquisition
  - High resolution artifact free PET images
  - High resolution artifact free MR images



MR

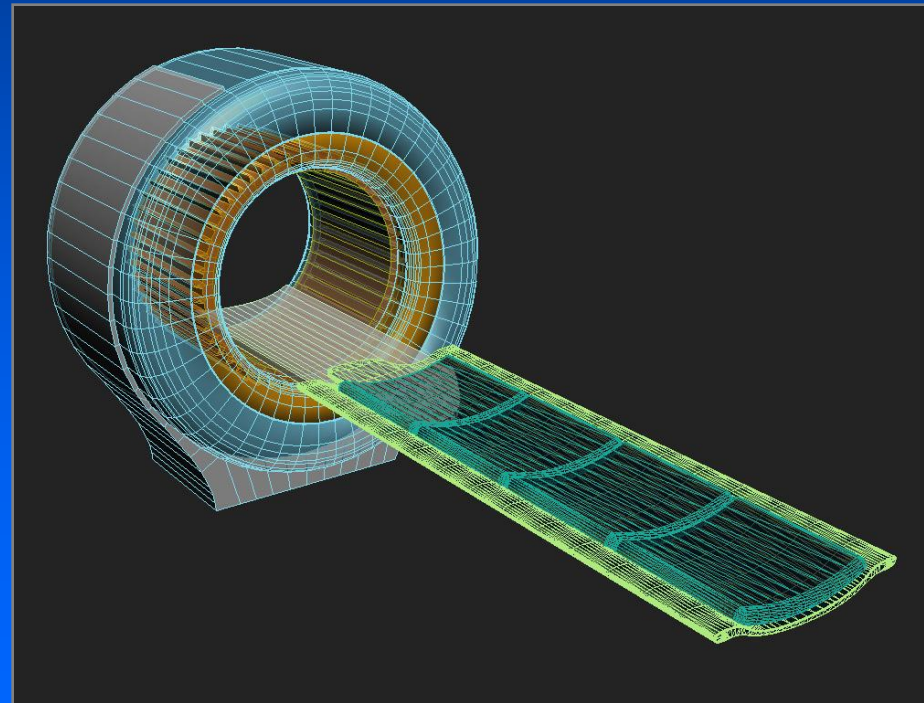
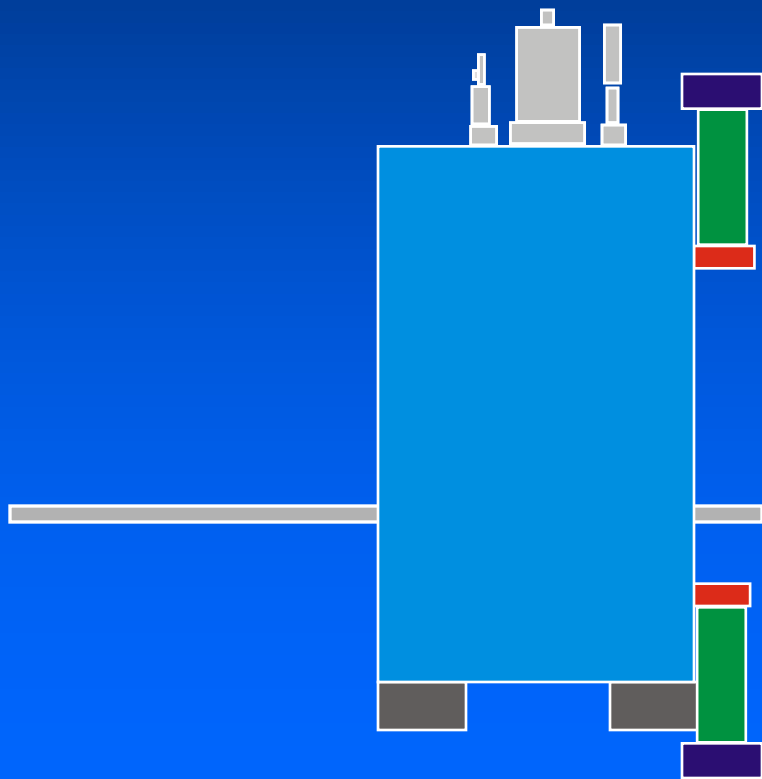


PET



MR-PET

# Wholebody MR/PET



# **PET on-line in Hadrontherapy**



# Combating Cancer with Radiotherapy

**GOAL** → Achieving a higher dose deposition to the tumor regions still sparing surrounding healthy tissues.

## **FROM X-RAYS TO HADRON THERAPY WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS?**

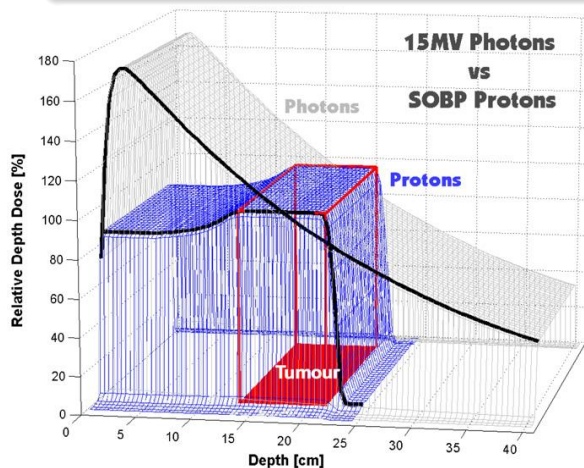
- Favorably shaped energy deposition curve;
- Negligible lateral spreading;
- High LET radiation just before coming to rest.

## **WHAT IS THE CLINICAL IMPACT?**

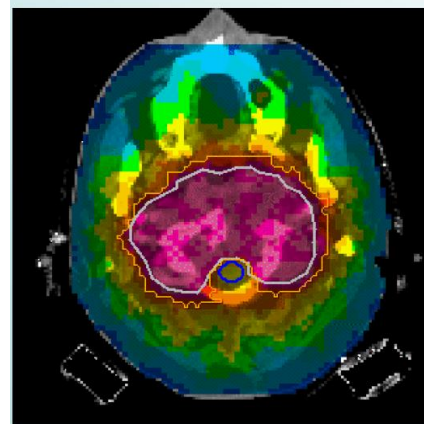
# Hadron Therapy

## Physical advantages of hadron beams

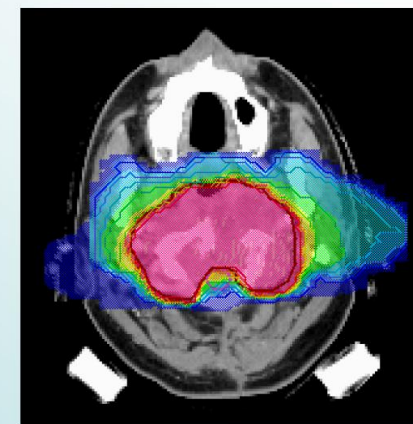
exponential attenuation  
VS  
Bragg peak



IMRT: 9 Fields



Carbon ions: 2 Fields



M Kraemer and M Scholz, 2000, Treatment planning for heavy ion therapy  
Phys. Med. Biol. 45 3319–30

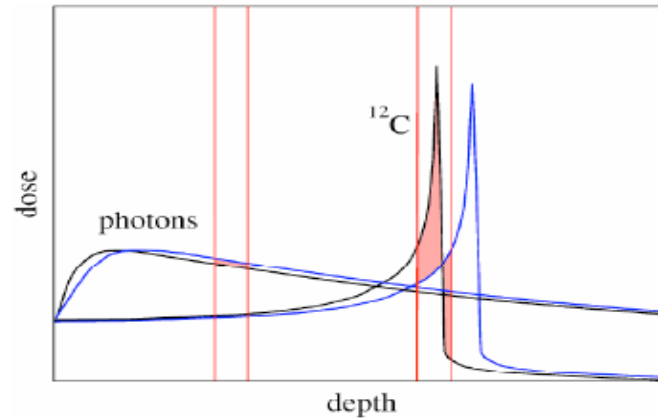
- Increase of conformity and reduction of integral dose
- Improve local control rate
- Higher survival rate.



## Biological advantages of high LET radiations

Compared to X-rays:

- **Higher RBE (Relative Biological Effectiveness):**
  - lower repair of irradiation damages;
- **Smaller differences between cell cycle phases:**
  - growing and dormant tumor cells killed;
- **Lower OER (Oxygen Enhancement Ratio):**
  - good and bad blooded tumor regions killed;
- **Lower fractionation effect:**
  - lower damage of normal tissue;
  - lower necessity of repair capacity.



High gradients in the dose profile make the clinical practice require a highly precise superposition of such gradients on tumor boundaries.

### •ARISING DIFFICULTIES:

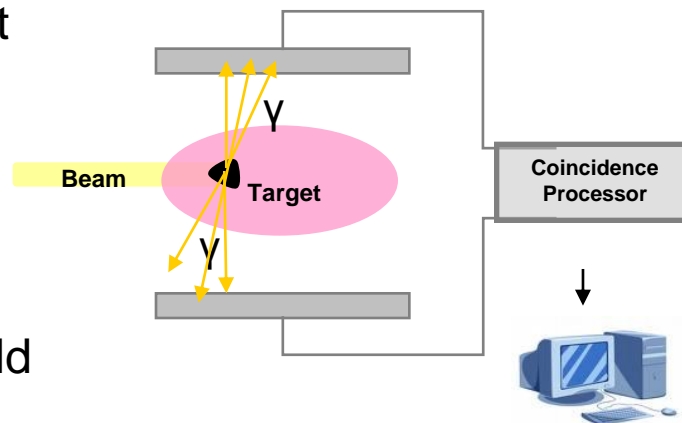
- Approximations of dose calculation methods
- Differences between treatment preparation and treatment delivery
  - Possibilities of patient misalignment;
  - Anatomical or physiological variations among different treatment sessions;
  - Internal organ motion.

# The principle of PET monitoring

- Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is potentially a unique tool for *in vivo*, *non invasive* monitoring of the precision of the treatment in hadrontherapy.
- Therapeutic hadron beams produce in the biological tissues short - lived  $\beta^+$  emitters by means of projectile and/or target nuclei fragmentations.

| isotope<br>${}^A X$ | half life $T_{\frac{1}{2}}$<br>[s] | $\beta^+$ spectrum endpoint<br>[MeV] |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ${}^{11}\text{C}$   | 1222.8                             | 0.96                                 |
| ${}^{15}\text{O}$   | 122.2                              | 1.73                                 |
| ${}^{10}\text{C}$   | 19.3                               | 0.90                                 |
| ${}^{13}\text{N}$   | 597.6                              | 1.19                                 |

- Nuclear cross sections fall off at low energy just few millimeters before Bragg peak.
- Finding the distribution of positron annihilation points it would be possible to extract non invasively **in vivo information about dose localization.**

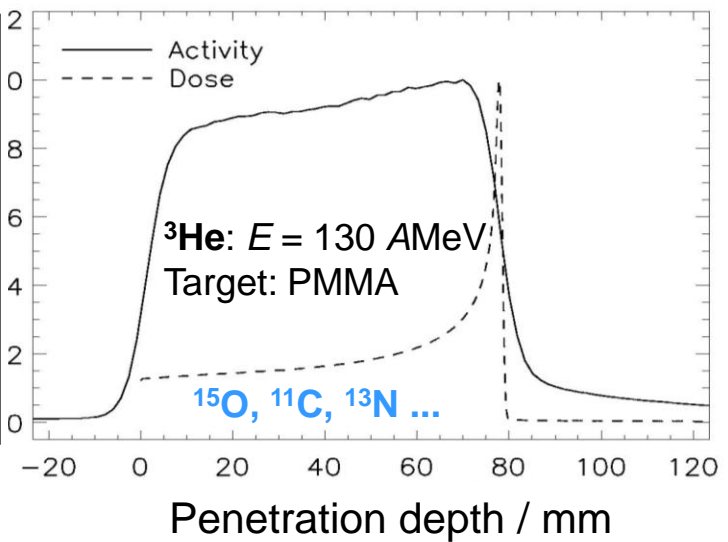
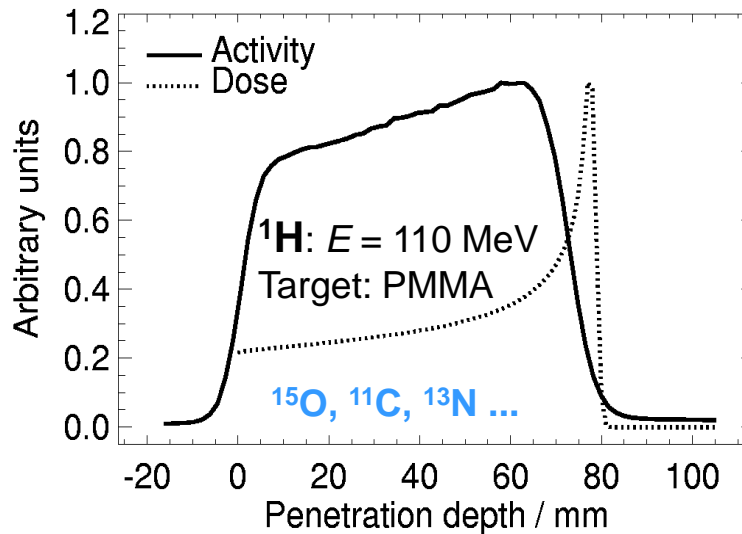
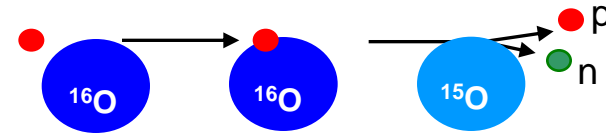




- The case of light ions irradiation: e.g. protons, He,...

Low - Z beam ( $Z \leq 6$ ):

↳ Target  $\beta^+$  activation



J Pawelke et al., Proceeding: Ion Beams in Biology and Medicine (IBIBAM), 26.-29.09.2007, Heidelberg, Germany

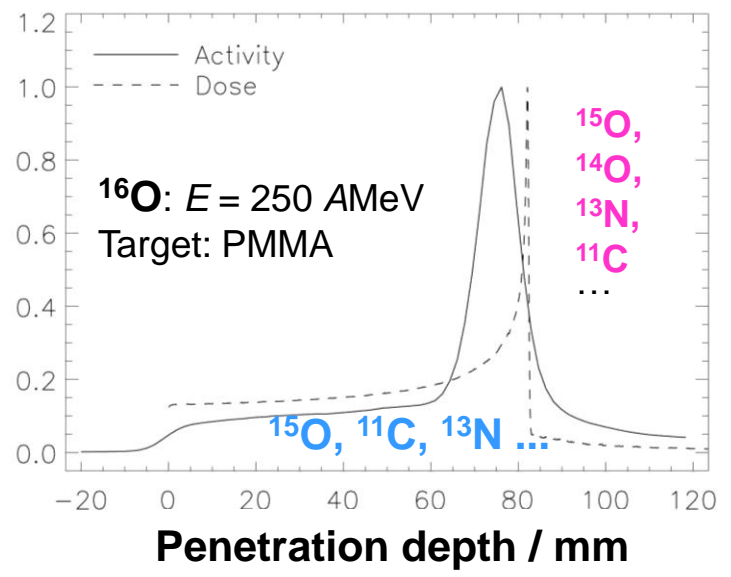
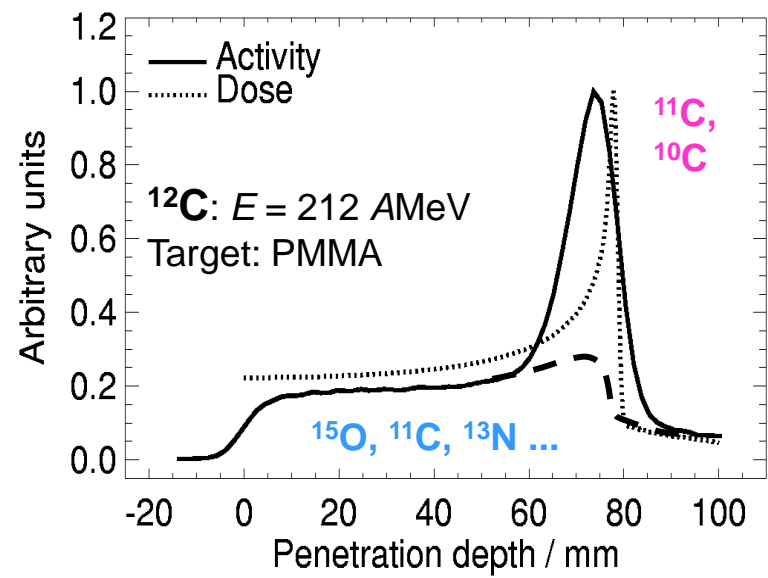
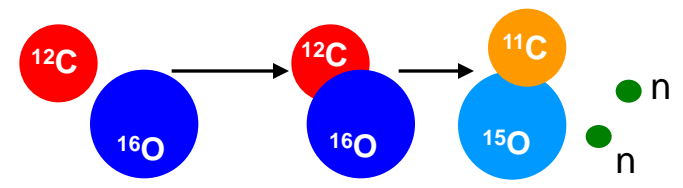


# The principle of PET monitoring

## • Light ions versus heavy ions:

High - Z beam ( $Z \geq 6$ ):

- ↳ Target  $\beta^+$  activation
- ↳ Projectile  $\beta^+$  activation



J Pawelke et al., Proceeding: Ion Beams in Biology and Medicine (IBIBAM), 26.-29.09.2007, Heidelberg, Germany



# Towards the final GOAL: The Unfolding Procedure

**The correlation between dose and activity profiles must be extracted in order to derive from the measurements the information of dose distribution and to compare it with the planned one :**

$$D_{Inferred}(z) \Leftrightarrow D_{TPS}(z)$$

But we measure the activity that is not linearly related to the dose:

$$A(z) \neq D(z)$$

It requires a strategy for range verification:

## ❖ Choice#1:

Ideal approach for MC dose quantification on the basis of PET images:

- Implement a MC program which automatically produces the most probable activity distribution corresponding to the activity distribution measured via PET
- MC, that produces the most probable activity distribution, also gives the most probable dose
- However, MC is still too much time consuming and not proven yet in clinical → TPS are based on analytical models



# Towards the final GOAL: The Unfolding Procedure

## ❖ Choice#2: Filtering approach\*

$$A_{Measured}(z) = f(z) \cdot D_{Inferred}(z)$$

⇓

$$D_{Inferred}(z) = f^{-1}(z) \cdot A_{Measured}(z)$$

### Exp #1. Phantom study at Catania (LNS, Catania, Italy)\*\*

$$D_{Diode\ Measured}(z) \cdot f(z) = A_{Inferred}(z)$$

⇕

$$A_{Measured}(z)$$

### Exp #2. Patient study at MGH (Boston, USA) \*\*\*

$$D_{TPS}(z) \cdot f(z) = A_{Inferred}(z)$$

⇕ ⇔  $A_{Measured}$  (still to be done)

$$A_{MC}(z)$$

\* Parodi K and Bortfeld T, Phys. Med. Biol. 51 (2006) 1991 - 2009.

\*\*Attanasi et al., Phys Medica 24(2) (2008) 102-6.

\*\*\*Attanasi et al., to be submitted to Phys Med Biol (2009).



# The experience from in-beam PET phantom experiments @ CATANA with proton beams

## Centro di Adro Terapia e Applicazioni Nucleari Avanzate (LNS, Catania,IT)



SC cyclotron - based facility for ocular melanomas treatment.

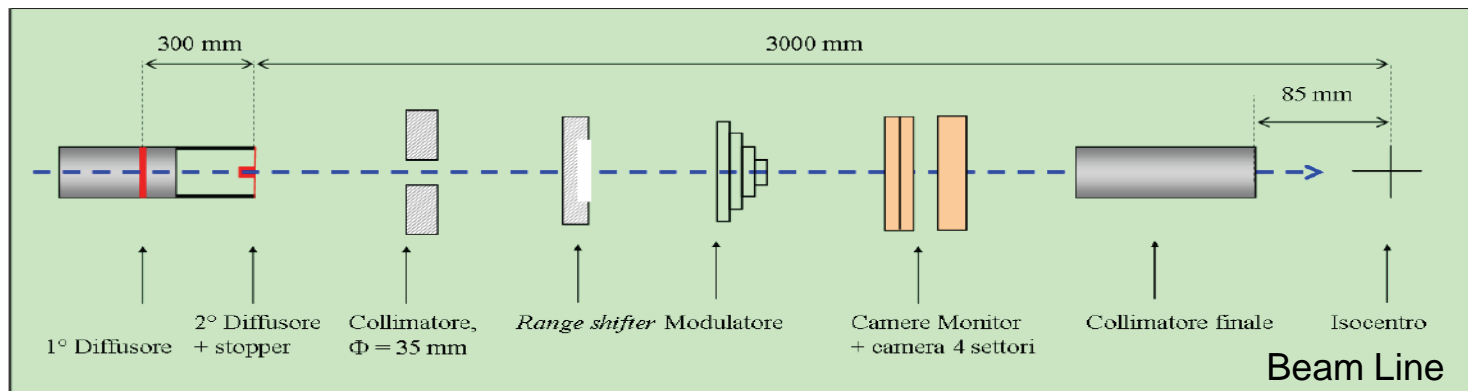
# The CATANA facility

## The Beam Delivery System



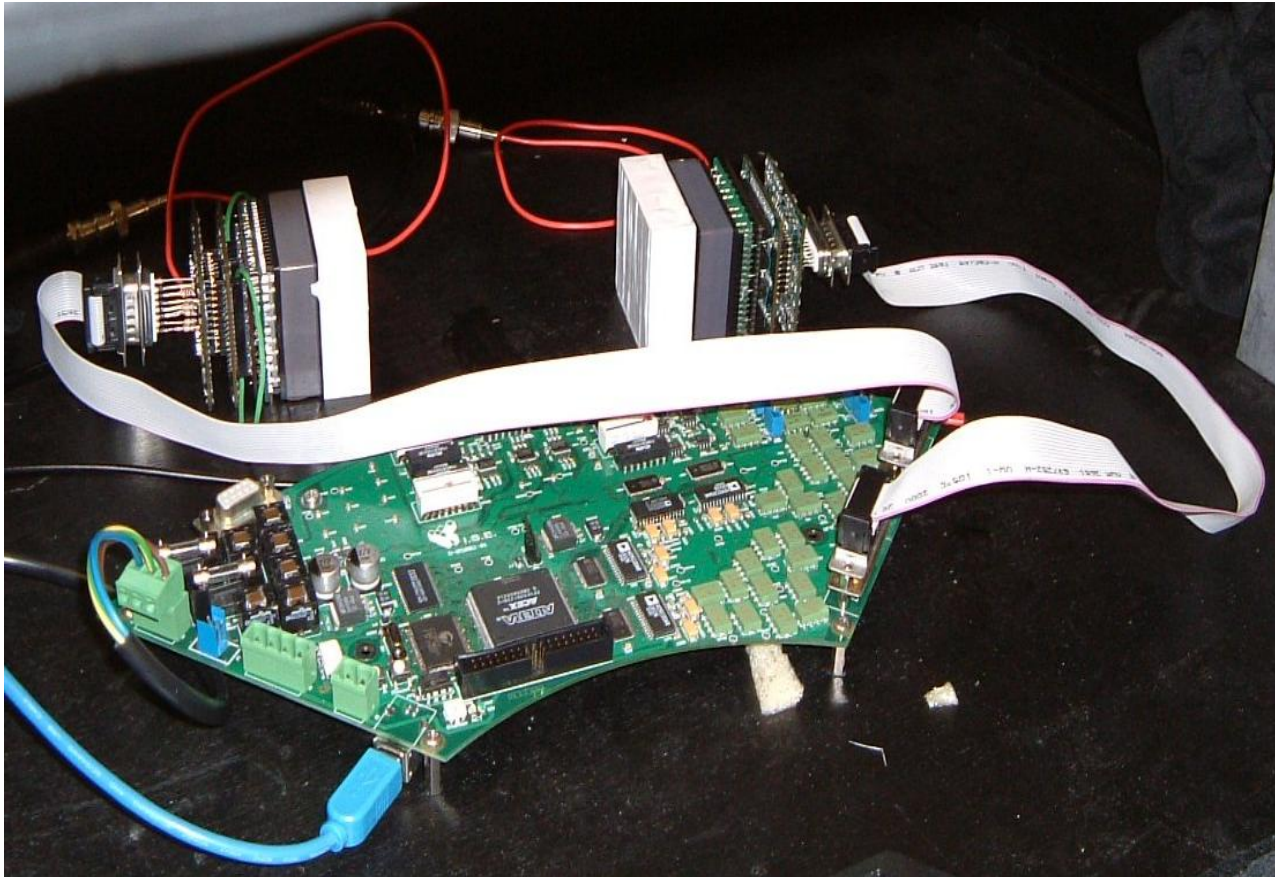
### The Beam Line @ Catana

- $E_{\text{max}}$ : 62 MeV protons;
- Fluence:  $10^6$ - $10^8$  particles/s;
- Passive beam shaping:
  - range shifters and
  - modulator wheels;
- Final collimator: max 25 mm.





# Exp#1: The DoPET project (INFN) (Dosimetry Positron Emission Tomography)

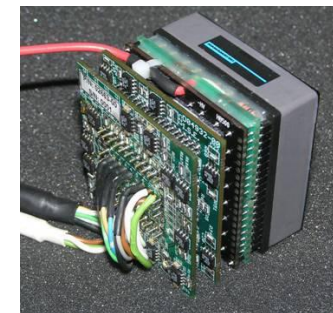
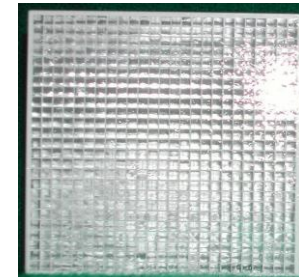


Dedicated “home-made” PET prototype

# The Tomograph Architecture

## Detector head

- **Scintillating crystals LYSO:Ce** from Hilger Crystals Ltd:
  - 21 x 21 pixels;
  - 2 x 2 x 18 mm<sup>3</sup> pixel dimensions.
- **PS-PMT H8500** from Hamamatsu Photonics K.K.:
  - 49 x 49 mm<sup>2</sup> active area, 8 x 8 anodes;
  - 12 stage dynode.
- **Front-end electronics:**
  - Resistive chain 64 inputs/8+8 outputs SCD (symmetric charge division);
  - 2D chain 8+8 inputs/2+2 outputs;
  - pre-amp (PSP).



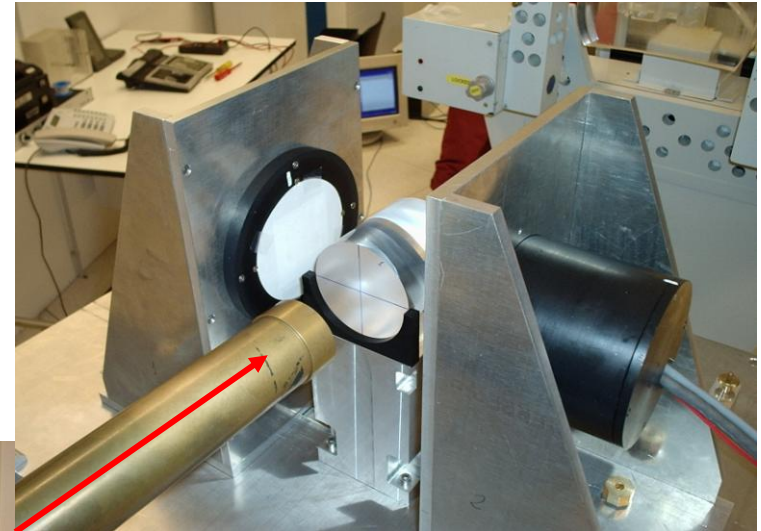
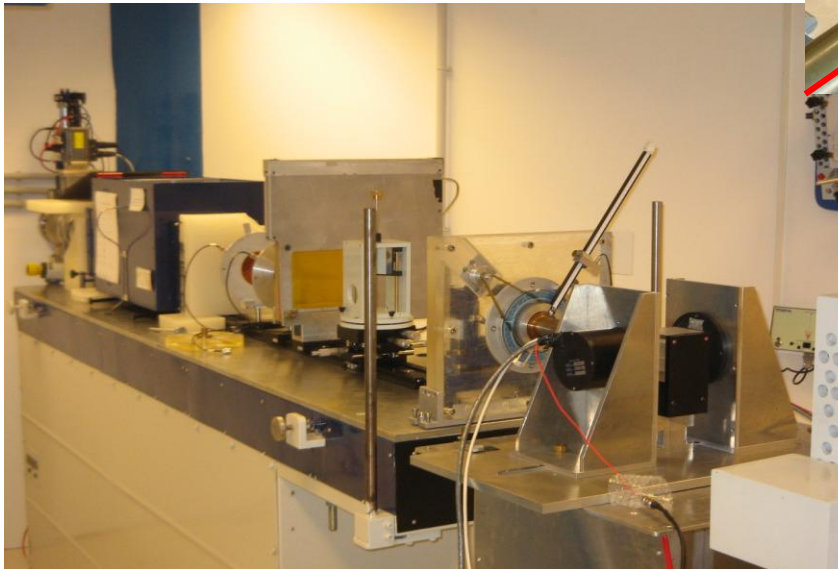




# The experiments on homogeneous phantoms

## Irradiation & Imaging

- Homogeneous cylindrical phantoms of PMMA at center of FoV;
- Spread-out Bragg Peak irradiation (SOBP, 10.8 mm plateau width);
- Delivered dose: 30 Gy;
- Irradiation Time: 20-60 s;



- Final collimator: 25 mm  $\varnothing$ ;
- Distance between detectors: 14 cm.
- PET acquisition time: 20 min.
- FoV: 42 x 42 x 42 voxels.
- 1.076 x 1.076 x 1.076 voxel dimension.



# The experiments on homogeneous phantoms

## The feasibility of range monitoring

- **SOBPs irradiation of PMMA phantoms** were performed using different range shifters along the beam line so that each irradiation differed from the other ones only in the proton range, *with variations less than 2 mm*.

Range shifters

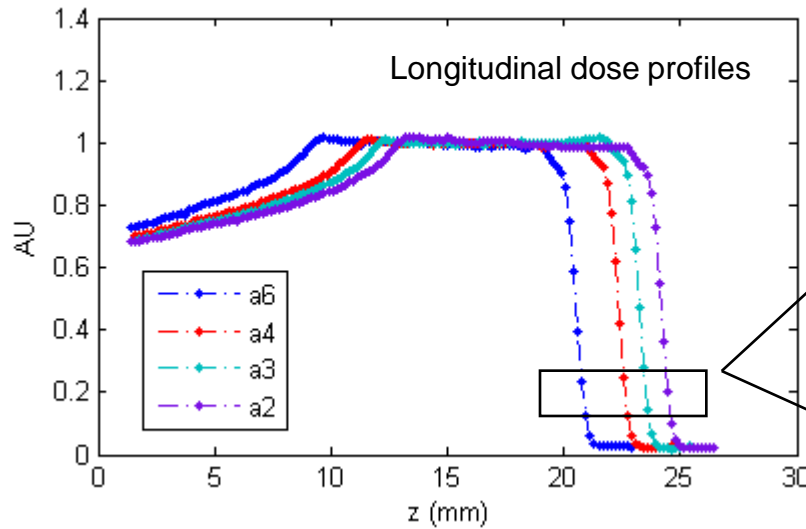
| Label | Material | Equivalent thickness in PMMA (mm) |
|-------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| a2    | Aluminum | 1.9                               |
| a3    | PMMA     | 2.9                               |
| a4    | PMMA     | 3.9                               |
| a6    | PMMA     | 5.8                               |

- Preliminary dosimetric measurement of each selected dose configuration was performed for accurate irradiation planning.

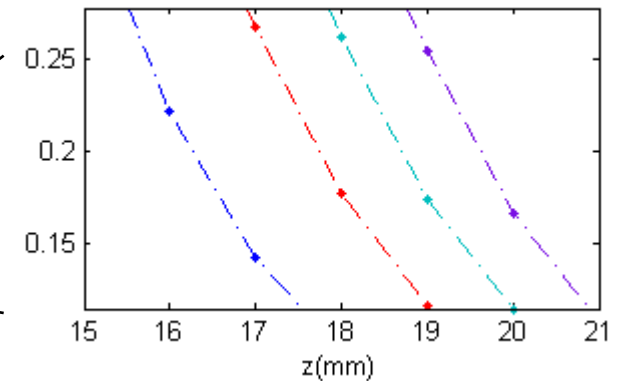
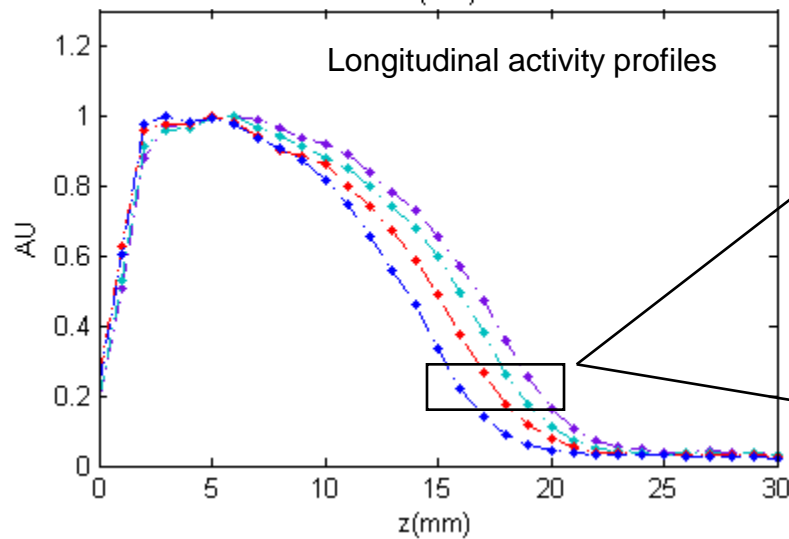
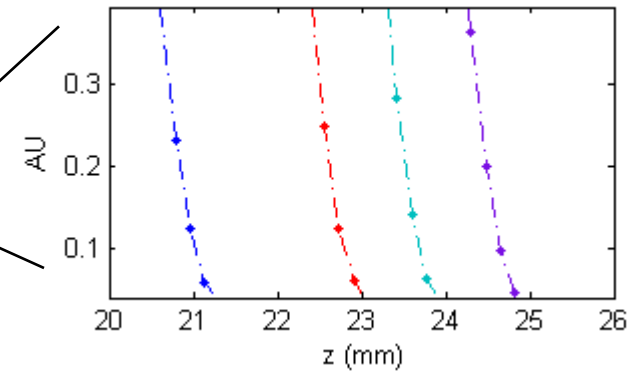


# The experiments on homogeneous phantoms

## The feasibility of range monitoring



- Vecchio, S. et al., ”, IEEE Trans Nucl Sci 2009, 56(1), 51-56.
- F. Attanasi et al., Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research A 591 (2008), 296–299





# The experiments on homogeneous phantoms

## Reproducibility of range measurement

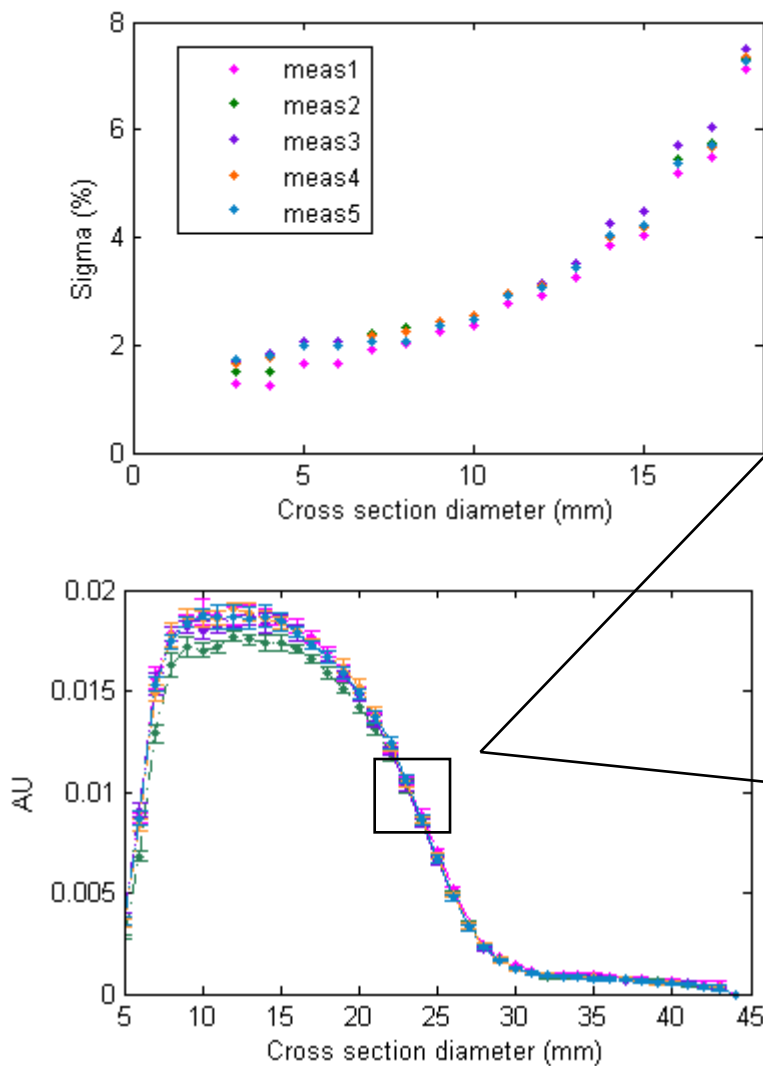
**Extended irradiation of PMMA phantoms and data acquisition were repeated five times under nearly identical experimental condition.**

- *Aims:*
  - Study of the variability in the reconstructed activity;
  - ***Estimate of the accuracy*** on 50% position of the distal activity distribution for proton range monitoring.
- *Method:*
  - Variance analysis.

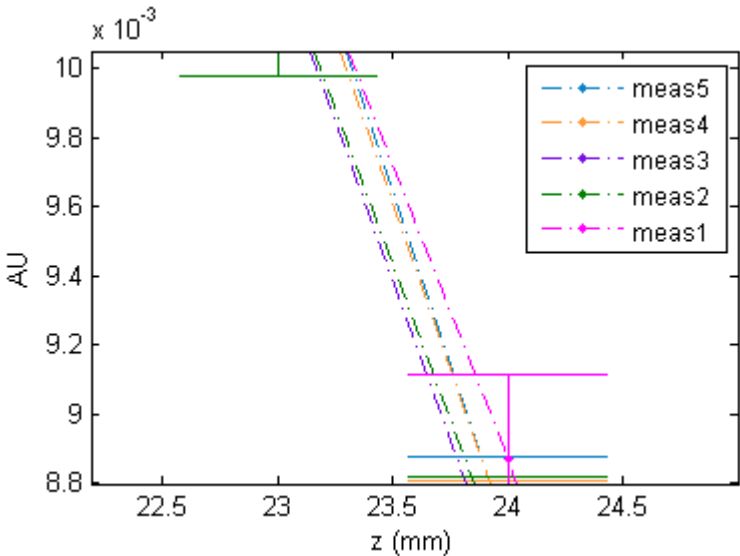


# The experiments on homogeneous phantoms

## Reproducibility of range measurement



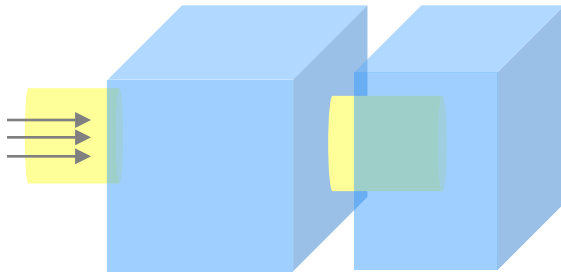
Variability in the reconstructed activities increases considering larger volumes around the beam central axis. It doesn't take more than ~3% in the subvolume with a cross section diameter of 10 mm.



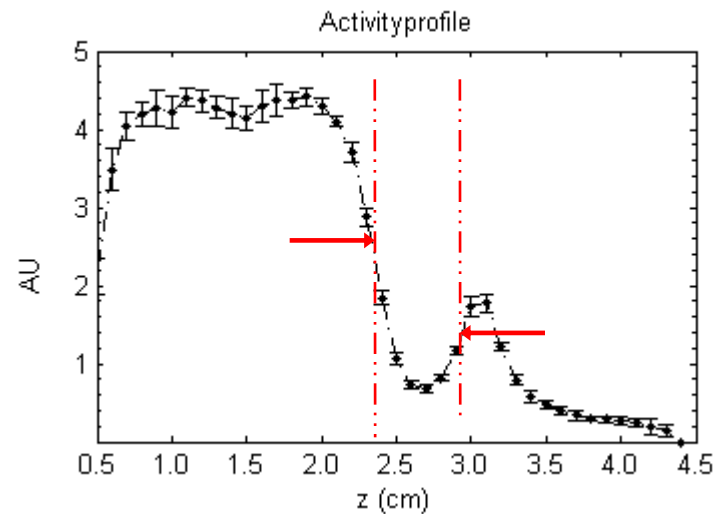
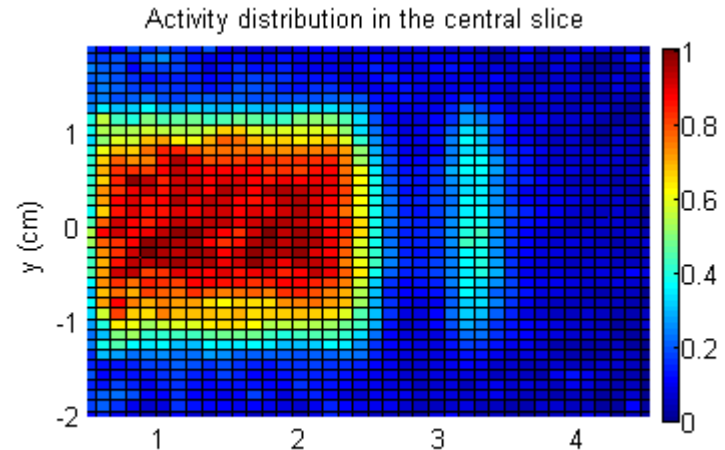
50% fall off activity distribution is reproduced with an accuracy of about  $\pm 200\mu\text{m}$

# Resolution of air gaps in PMMA phantoms within the irradiation field

**PMMA phantom with 0.5 cm  
Air\_Gap at 2 cm depth;**

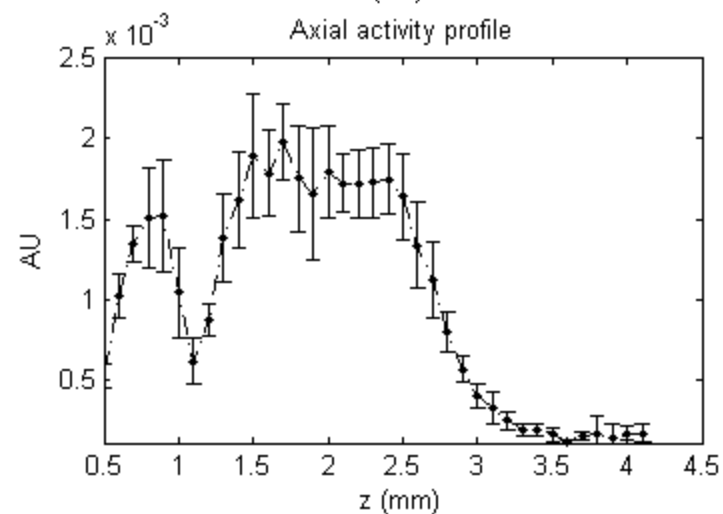
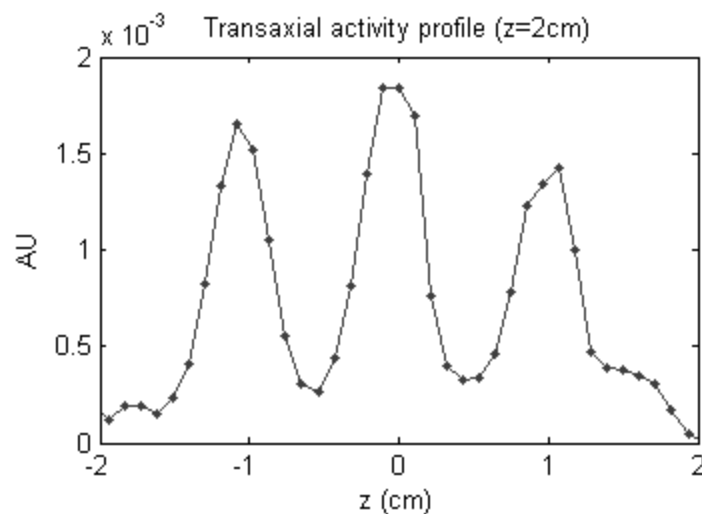
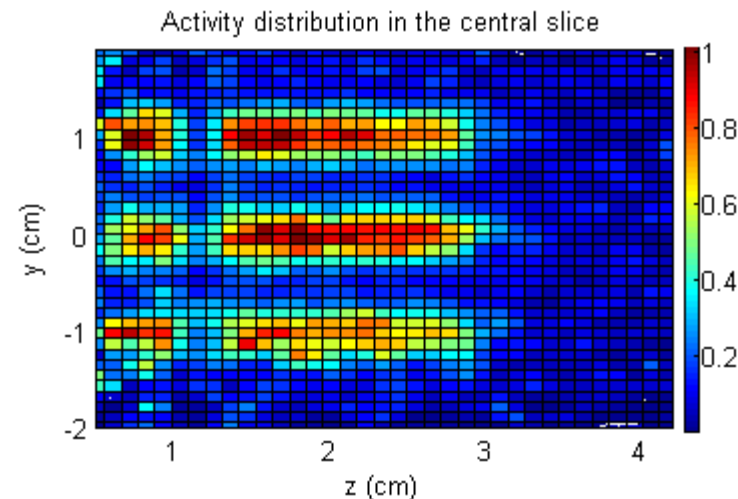
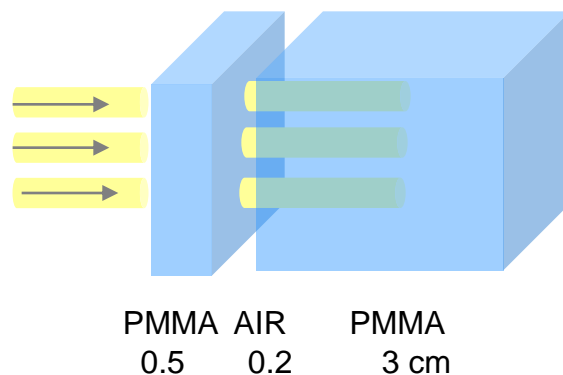


- **Phantom irradiation:**
  - **Bragg peak dose: 30 Gy**
  - **Irradiation time: 18 s;**
- **Beam cross section: 2.5 cm Ø;**
- **Acquisition time: 20 minutes**



# Resolution of air gaps in PMMA phantoms within the irradiation field

•Three holes collimator: 0.5 cm Ø each;



# The experiments on slab phantoms

## Sensitivity of the PET method

- Materials

|             | $\rho$<br>(gr/cm <sup>3</sup> ) | H(%) | C(%)  | O(%)  | Ca(%) | N(%) |
|-------------|---------------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| <b>PE</b>   | 0.94                            | 14   | 86    | --    | --    | --   |
| <b>PMMA</b> | 1.18                            | 8.05 | 59.99 | 31.96 | --    | --   |
| <b>BONE</b> | 1.819                           | 3.41 | 31.41 | 36.50 | 26.81 | 1.84 |

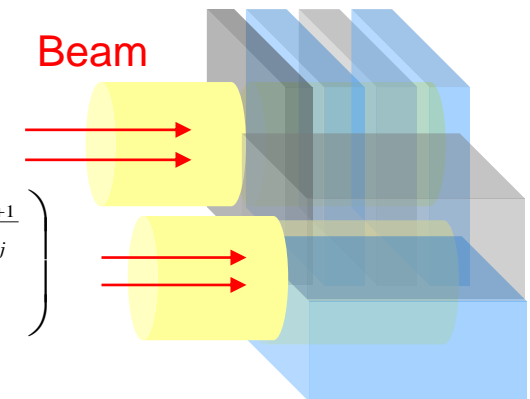
- Time analysis on the measured data

- The separation of isotope contributions

$\forall$  (subset, voxel) :

$$n_{[t_i, t_{i+1}]}(x, y, z) = \sum_j N_j^{T_{Irr}}(x, y, z) \cdot \left( e^{-\frac{t_i}{\tau_j}} - e^{-\frac{t_{i+1}}{\tau_j}} \right)$$

with 
$$N_j^{T_{Irr}} = N_j^{Tot} \frac{\tau_j}{T_{Irr}} (1 - e^{-\frac{T_{Irr}}{\tau_j}})$$

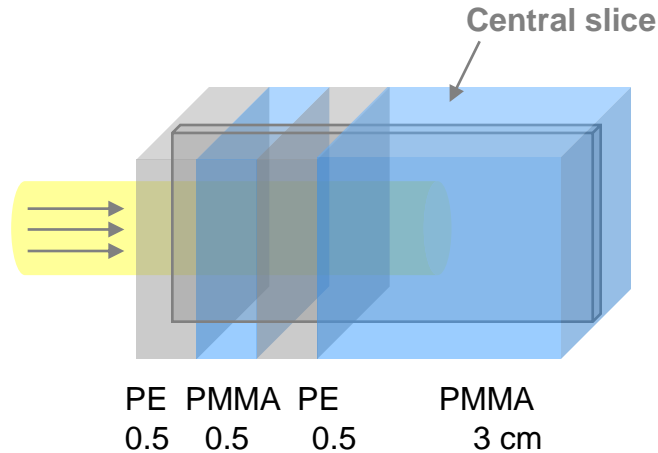




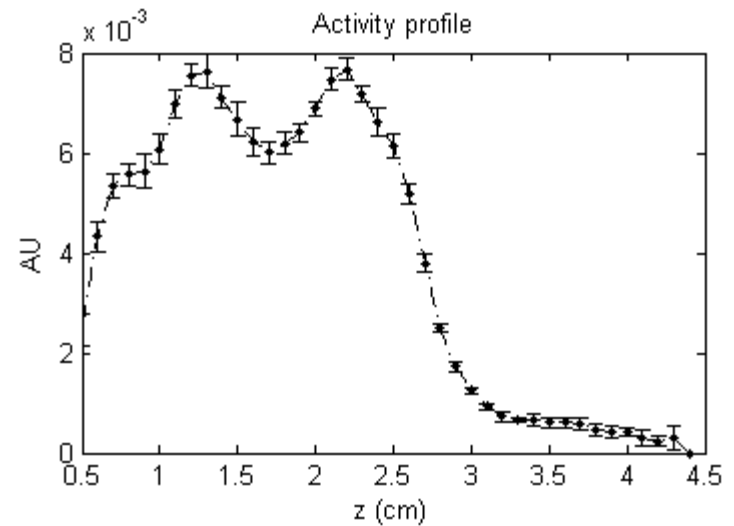
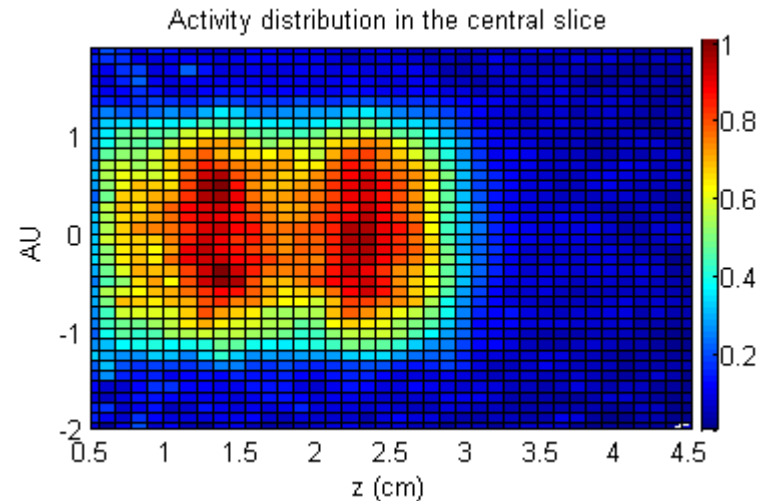
# The experiments on slab phantoms

## Sensitivity of the PET method

### PE/PMMA slabs phantom



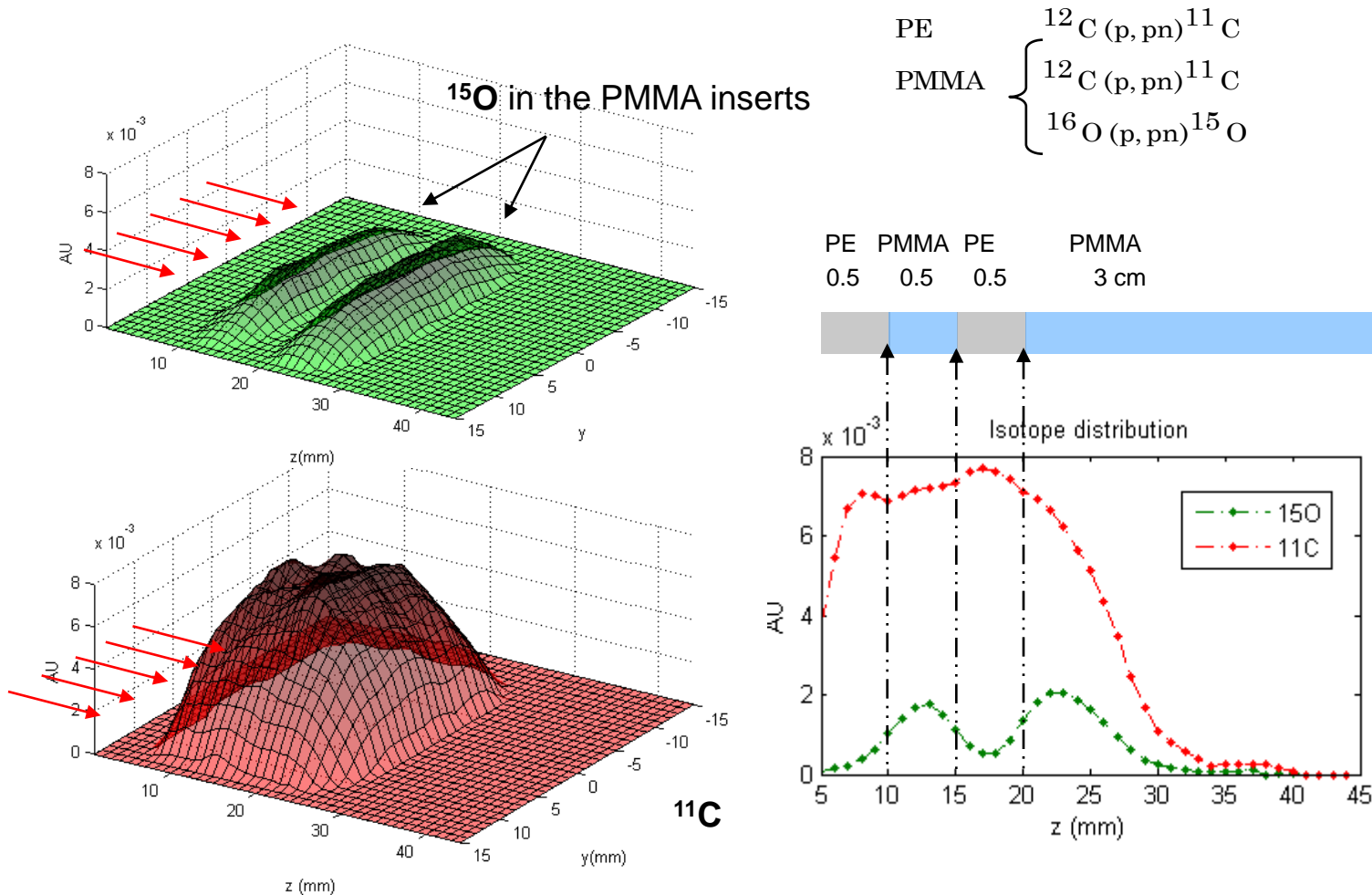
- **Monoenergetic irradiation:**
  - Bragg peak dose: 30 Gy
  - Irradiation time: 18 s;
- **Beam cross section: 2.5 cm Ø;**
- **Acquisition time: 20 minutes;**



# The experiments on slab phantoms

## Sensitivity of the PET method

Reconstructed isotope distributions in the central slice





# Exp#2: Validation of an analytical 1D filtering of the dose distribution for the calculation of the expected PET distribution in proton therapy (1)

## The method (on patient 3D data)

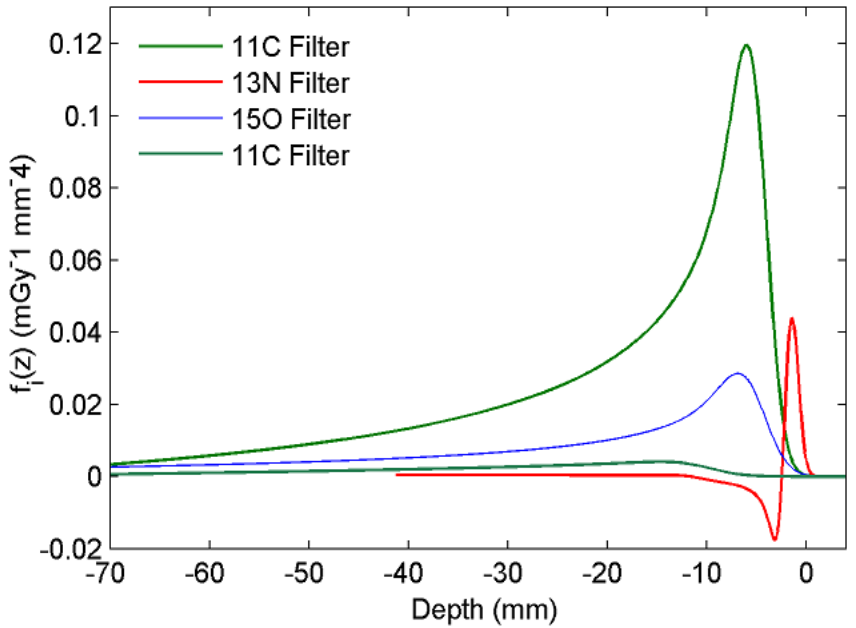
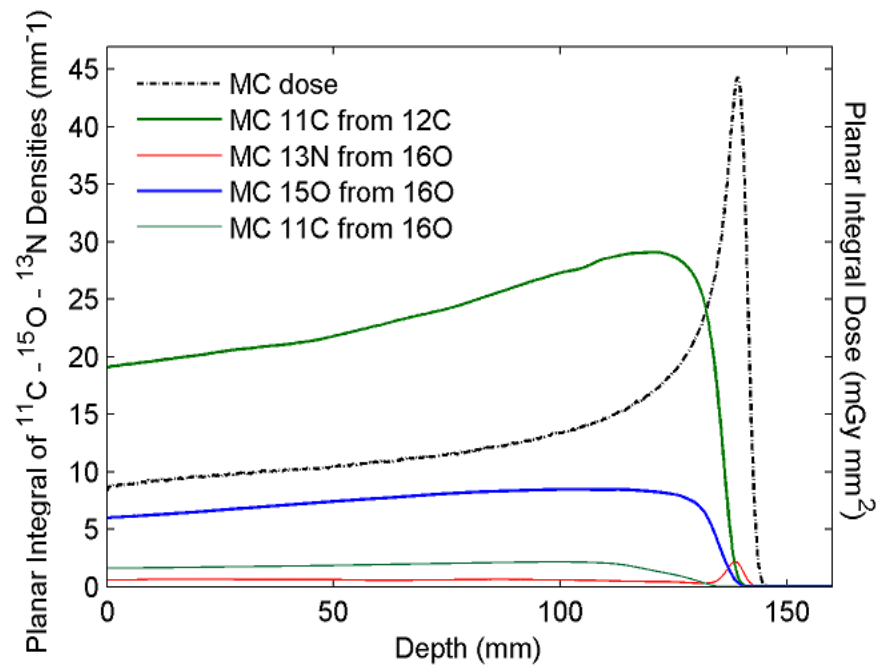
- **Treatment Planning** on Patient → Obtain planned Dose for each voxel with a CT number
- **Convert the patient 3-D matrix to PMMA** matrix (according to local electron density)
- **Apply the filters** (pre-obtained in PMMA) to the dose for each voxel to obtain activity
  - All the filters for production of the various radioisotopes are applied independently → the activity due to each radioisotope is obtained
- **Convert the PMMA 3-D Matrix back to Patient 3-D matrix**
- **Compare the activities** as obtained from the **filter** with the activities as obtained by the **Monte Carlo**
- **[ Compare the activities** as obtained from the **filter** with the activities as obtained **experimentally** – still to be done]



# Validation of an analytical 1D filtering of the dose distribution for the calculation of the expected PET distribution in proton therapy (2)

## The materials

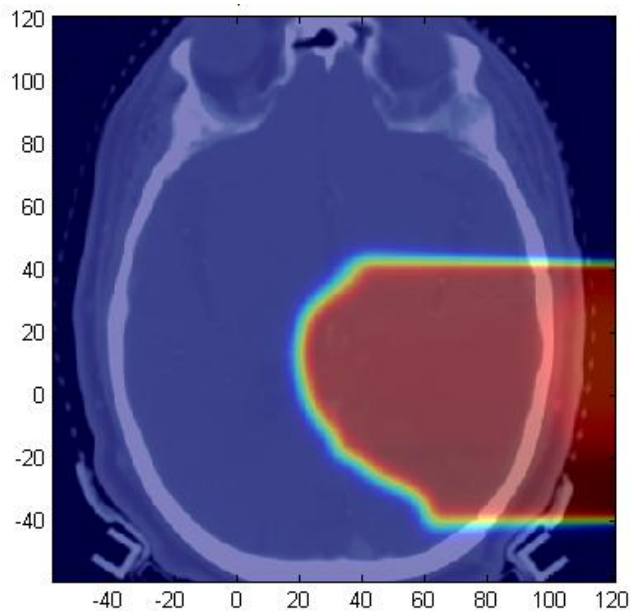
Figure shows the MC depth-dose and positron emitter distributions used to calculate the reaction-dependent filter functions. All profiles were obtained integrating over the lateral field extension the distributions generated with the FLUKA code for  $5 \times 10^4$  protons stopped in a homogeneous target of polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA,  $C_5H_8O_2$ ,  $\rho=1.18 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$ ) at the intermediate energy of 152.1 MeV (see left side).





# A Patient study: Filter predictions of $\beta^+$ - activity distribution vs CT-based Monte Carlo simulated patient data

## Head and neck tumor sites Case #1



### Input files :

The CT patient data and the prescribed dose distribution

### Input parameters:

Voxel\_ct dimensions in mm (x,y,z)

Voxel\_plan\_dose dimensions in mm (x,y,z)

Prescribed dose in mGy: 1 Gy

Duration of Irradiation: 75 s

Delay between irradiation and imaging: 10 s

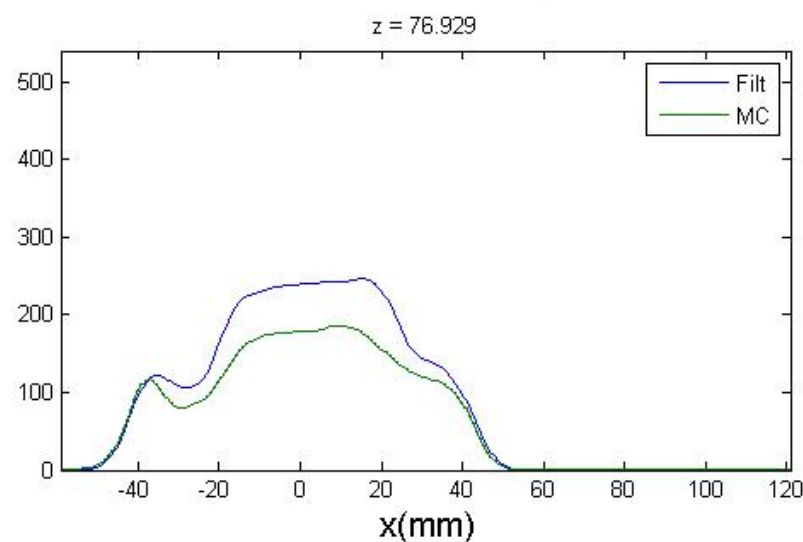
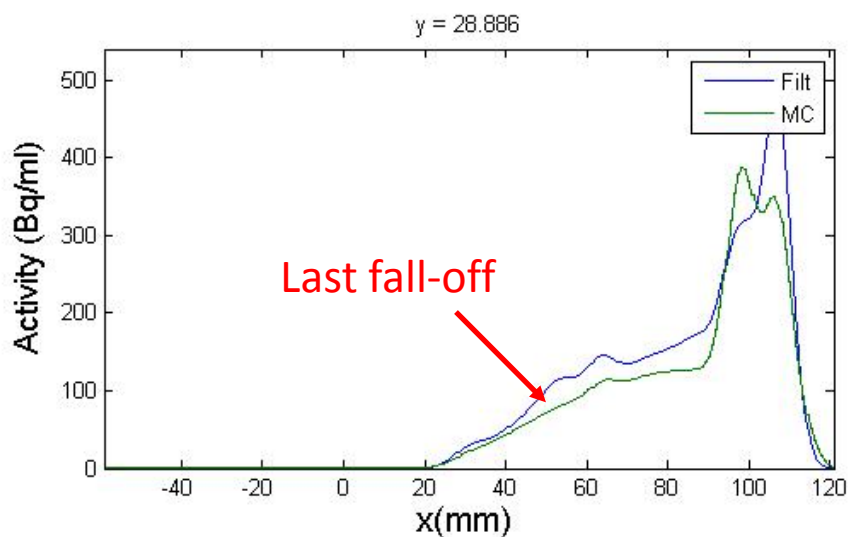
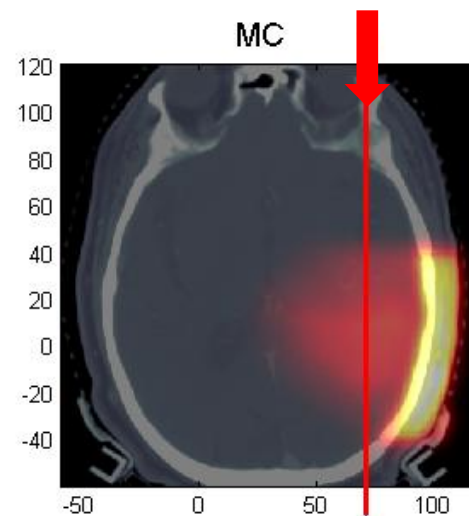
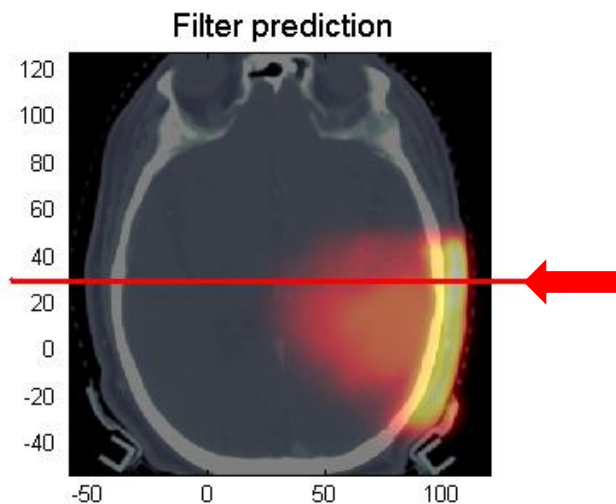
Duration of imaging: 20 min



# RESULTS : $^{11}\text{C}$ Filter prediction vs CT-based Monte Carlo simulated patient data

## Head and neck tumor sites

At positions where the beam stopped in soft tissue

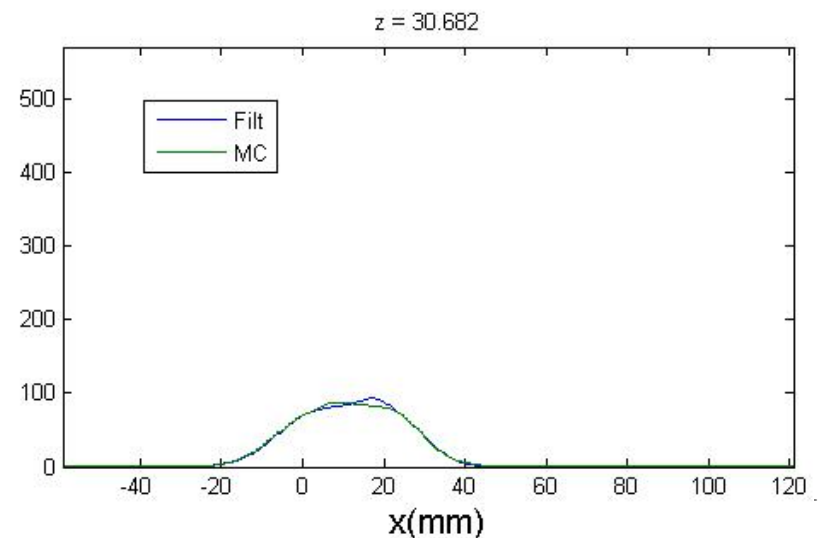
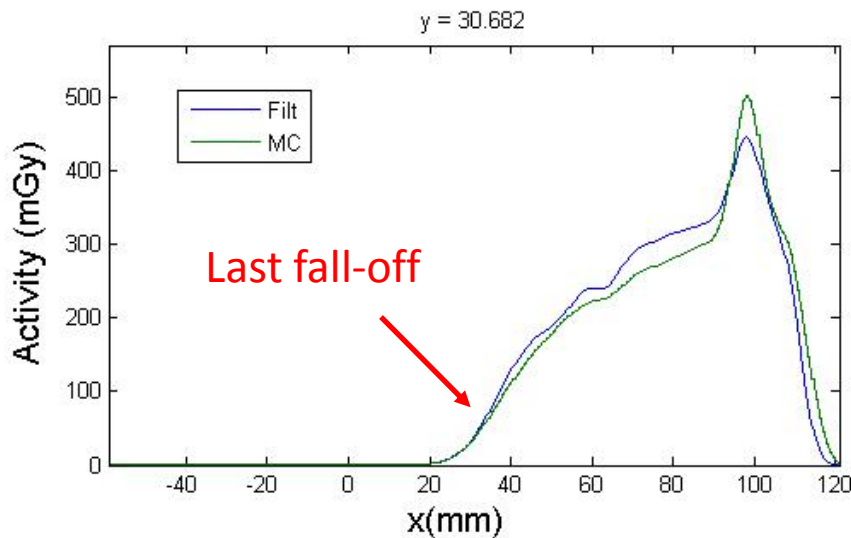
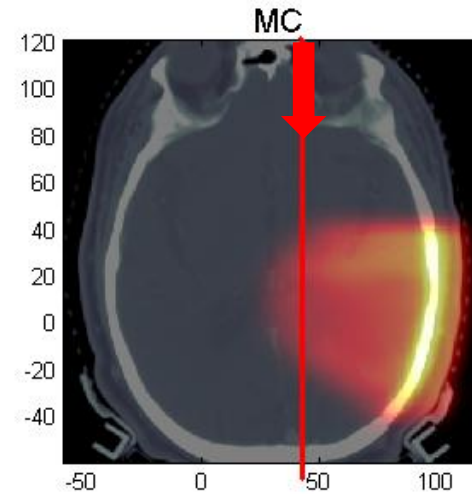
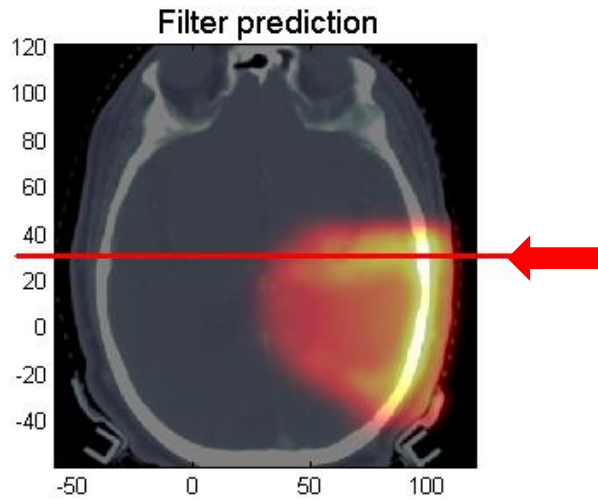




# RESULTS : $^{15}\text{O}$ Filter prediction vs CT-based Monte Carlo simulated patient data

## Head and neck tumor sites

At positions where the beam stopped in soft tissue





# CONCLUSIONS



# Five Technologies Set to Change the Decade\* (2009 - 2019)

- **Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV)**
  - *(solar technology projected to generate 50% of the electrical needs of the developing countries)*
- **Personal Genome Sequencing**
- **Molecular Imaging**
- **Graphene Transistors**
  - *(nanomaterial graphene to replace silicon flash memory chips)*
- **Multi-touch Displays**

\*Wolf, J. Five Technologies Set to Change the Decade. *Forbes.com*. Jan. 1, 2009

[Courtesy of Hedvig Hricak, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, ECR-2009]



## From WIKIPEDIA → Tomography

[Atom probe tomography](#) (APT)

- **[Computed tomography](#) (CT)**

[Confocal laser scanning microscopy](#) (LSCM)

[Cryo-electron tomography](#) (Cryo-ET)

[Electrical capacitance tomography](#) (ECT)

[Electrical resistivity tomography](#) (ERT)

[Electrical impedance tomography](#) (EIT)

[Functional magnetic resonance imaging](#) (fMRI)

[Magnetic induction tomography](#) (MIT)

- **[Magnetic resonance imaging](#) (MRI)**

[Neutron tomography](#)

[Optical coherence tomography](#) (OCT)

[Optical projection tomography](#) (OPT)

[Process tomography](#) (PT)

- **[Positron emission tomography](#) (PET)**

- **[Positron emission tomography - computed tomography](#) (PET-CT)**

[Quantum tomography](#)

- **[Single photon emission computed tomography](#) (SPECT)**

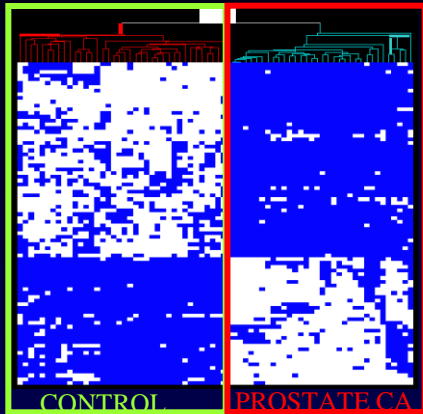
[Seismic tomography](#)

[Ultrasound assisted optical tomography](#) (UAOT)

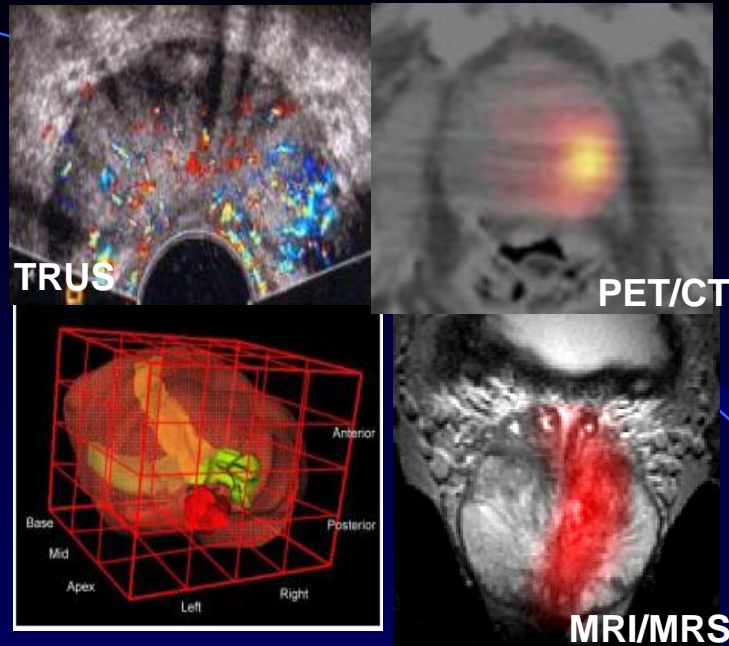
[Ultrasound transmission tomography](#)

[Photoacoustic tomography](#) (PAT), also known as Optoacoustic Tomography (OAT)

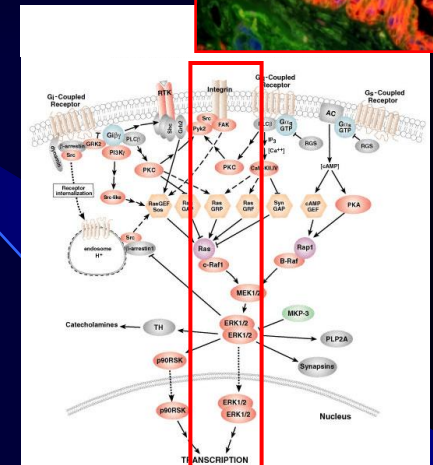
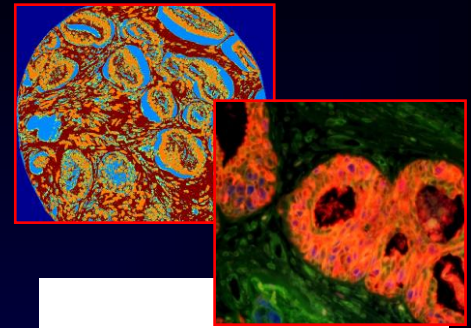
[Zeeman-Doppler imaging](#), used to reconstruct the magnetic geometry of rotating stars.



# Proteomics



# Imaging Prostate Cancer

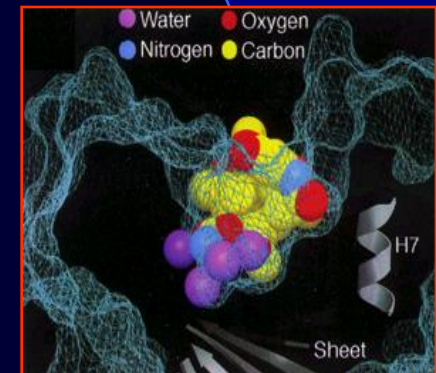


# Molecular Pathway Identified & Targeted



# Serum Screening

**INTEGRATED  
DIAGNOSTICS  
APPROACH TO  
MANAGEMENT OF  
CANCER**

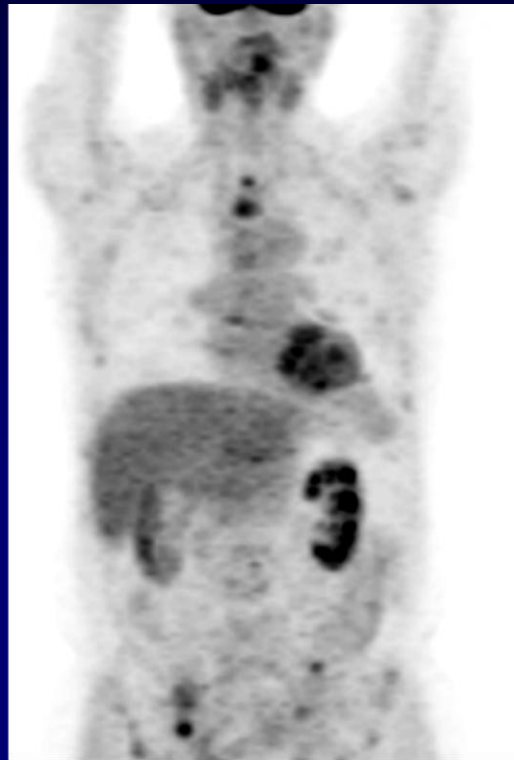


# Prostate Cancer: Imaging Tumor Biology

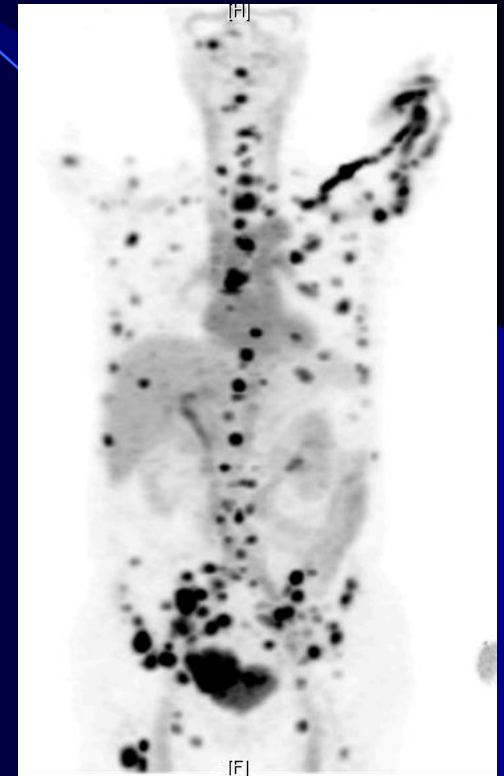
## *Detection of metastasis: Targeted Imaging*



$^{99}\text{Tc}$  – Bone Scan

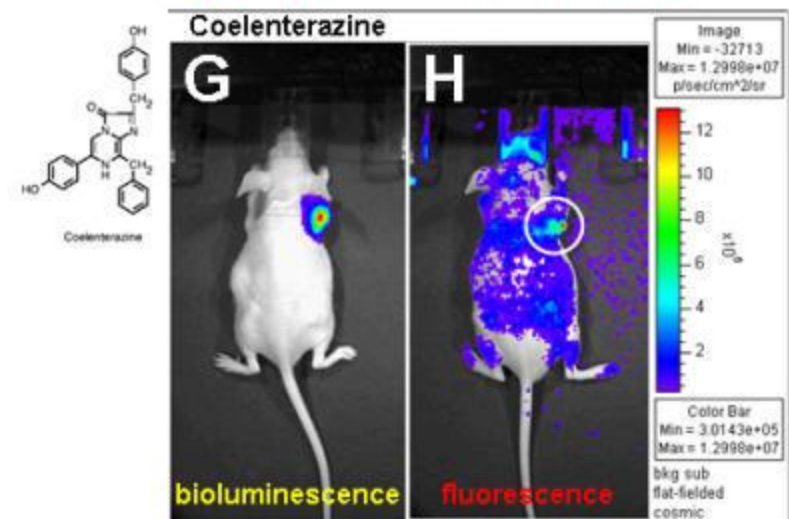
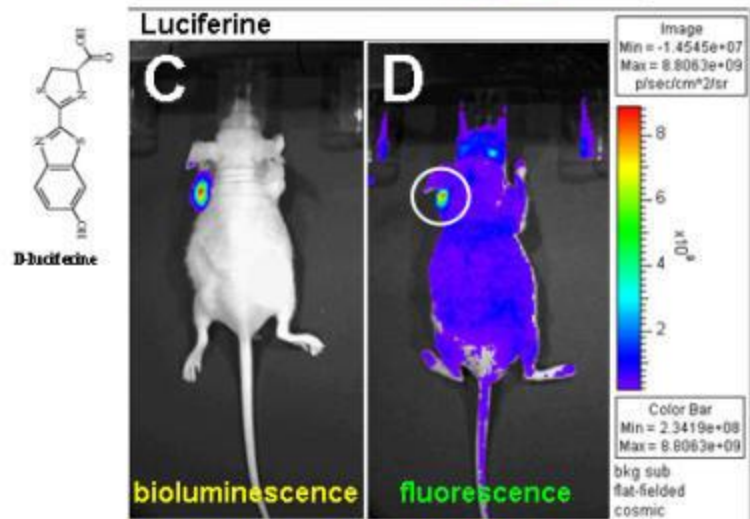
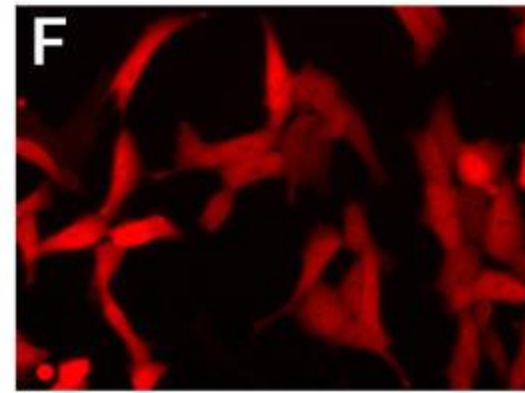
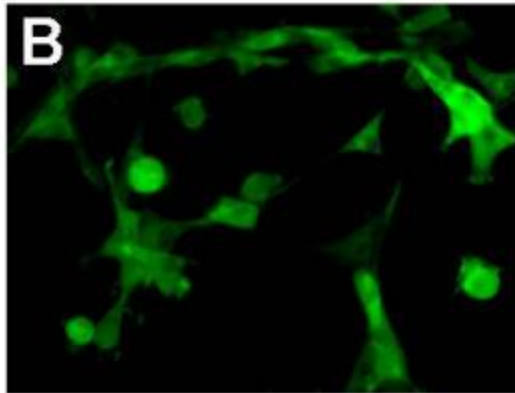


$^{18}\text{F}$ FDG PET



$^{18}\text{F}$ FDHT PET





Multi-modality imaging of GFP/Firefly Luciferase and RFP/Renilla Luciferase Reporter Genes expression performed sequentially in the same living mouse in vivo

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**Sara Vecchio (Post-doc)**



# Further reading

- **A.Del Guerra ,“IONIZING RADIATION DETECTORS FOR MEDICAL IMAGING”**  
World Scientific, Singapore, ISBN 981-238-674-2, 2004, pp.1-507.
- **W.A.Kalender, “COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY”, 2<sup>nd</sup> revised edition**  
Publicis, Erlangen, Germany, ISBN 3-89578-216-5,2005,pp.1-304.
- **J.L.Humm, A.Roszenfeld, A.Del Guerra,“From PET Detectors to PET Scanners.  
A Review”, European Journal of Nuclear Medicine 30 (2003) 1574-1597.**
- **Tom K Lewellen, “Recent developments in PET detector technology”,**  
*Physics in Medicine and Biology* **53** (2008) R287-R317
- **D.W.Townsend,“Multimodality imaging of structure and function”,**  
*Physics in Medicine and Biology* **53** (2008) R1- R39
- **Berndt Pichler and Thomas Beyer (Guest Editors), “Multi-modality imaging:  
PET/MR”, European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Vol 36  
(Suppl 1) March 2009**



# ANATOMY LECTURE ~ 2009 – MOLECULAR



[Courtesy of Hedvig Hricak, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, ECR-2009]





**THE END**