Medical Physics

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Medical Physics

Whatis MEDICAL PHYSICS?

An Introduction to the Field of Medical Physics

MEDICAL PHYSICS IS an applied branch of physics concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of human disease with applications in the following areas:

Radiation and particle based cancer treatments
Medical imaging modalities to identify and track diseases

- Computer simulations of disease treatment/progression and optimization of therapy
 - Utilization of data analytics to improve upon current treatment outcomes



Status of Medical Physics in Africa

Introduction

Information on facilities and clinical programmes in Africa:

- 54 countries in Africa
- I.2 billion population
- 50% of countries with RT facilities
- 20 countries with NM facilities
- ~ 1,000 MPs in region
- I0 countries with MP academic programmes
- 6 countries with MP clinical programmes

Medical Physics (MP) Workforce

The summary of the Africa's Medical Physics workforce is given as follows:



Country	No. of MPs	Country	No. of MPs
Algeria	129	Nigeria	100
Angola	4	Senegal	3
Benin	3	Sierra Leone	1
Botswana	4	South Africa	136
Burkina Faso	2	Sudan	28
Cameroon	2	Tanzania	4
Congo DR	1	Tunisia	37
Cote d'Ivoire	2		57
Egypt	374	Uganda	10
Eritrea	2	Zambia	6
Ethiopia	4	Zimbabwe	9
Gabon	4	Total	1,041



1895



1920's



Wilhelm Conrad Röentgen discovers x-rays



Marie Curie published the "Theory of Radioactivity." 897, it

As early as 1897, it was concluded that x-rays could be used for therapeutic as well as diagnostic purposes





The investigation of xray radiation for patient therapy moved into the clinical routine in the early 1920s.

1930's



1940's



Radioactive cobalt-60 was discovered by Glenn T. Seaborg and John Livingood at the University of California -Berkeley in the late 1930's.

Van de Graaff begins commercial Production of 2 and 2.5 MeV machines 1950's



The cobalt machine was developed in Canada. It was the first available megavoltage cancer therapy machine.



1980's

1960's

The First Clinac





Standard Collimator

The clinac reduced complications compared to Co60

1970's

Cerrobend Blocking Electron Blocking

Blocks were used to reduce the dose to normal tissues



Multileaf Collimator MLC leads to 3D conformal therapy which allows the first dose escalation trials.

Computerized 3D CT 1990's Treatment Planning



 Image: constraint of the second sec

Dynamic MLC and IMRT

Computerized IMRT introduced which allowed escalation of dose and reduced compilations 2000's





Functional Imaging High resolution IMRT

> IMRT Evolution evolves to smaller and smaller subfields and high resolution IMRT along with the introduction of new imaging technologies



Beyond 2000's



Proton Therapy

First

Scatterer

Nal

Detector







Anesthesia

Mouse





Holder Beamline Adjustable Rotating Secondary Primary EBT3 Stage for CT lonization lonization Film Chamber Chamber Distance (cm) 0 20 30 40 10 50 60 70

Second

Scatterer

Proton FLASH Diffenderfer, et al. Intl.Journal RadOncBioPhys, Volume 106, Issue 2 1 February 2020, Pages 440-448

Primary Adjustable

Collimator

Aperture



Career Path in Medical Physics

- Doctor of Philosophy: Nuclear Physics, Hampton University. Thesis - Pion Electroproduction from Helium-3, Deuterium and Hydrogen
- Instructor: Radiation Oncology, The University of Pennsylvania
- Assistant Professor, Radiation Oncology, The University of Pennsylvania.
- Associate Professor, Radiation Oncology, The University of Pennsylvania.
- Director: Medical Physics Graduate Group, The University of Pennsylvania
- Chair: Global Medical Physics Education and Training Committee, American Association of Physics in Medicine
- Research: Quality Assurance in Radiation Therapy, Global Health Stephen.avery@pennmedicine.upenn.edu





The science of ionizing radiation and its interaction with matter, with special interest in the energy absorbed¹

<u>Medical physicists</u>: clinician scientists who specialize in Diagnostic or Therapeutic radiation physics

- Production of ionizing radiation for diagnostic and therapeutic means
- Use of radioactivity for diagnostic and therapeutic means
- Detection and measurement of ionizing radiation
- Calculation of energy deposition in matter
- Radiation safety and shielding
- Development, optimization, and quality control of diagnostic imaging and therapeutic delivery processes

Practical, technical, and safety aspects of ensuring that all patients receive their prescribed dose of radiation to the prescribed location

¹ Andreo, P, Burns DT, Nahum AE, Seuntjens J, Attix FH. Fundamentals of Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry. 2017



More than 14 million new cases of cancer are diagnosed globally each year

- Approximately 50% of all cancer patients can benefit from radiation therapy in the management of their disease
 - Of these, approximately half present early enough to pursue *curative* intent
 - As opposed to <u>palliative</u> intent designed to relieve symptoms and improve quality of life

• *Frequently used in combination with other treatment modalities*:

- Surgery (pre- or post-op)
- Systemic chemotherapy (before, during, or after radiation)
- Most recently, immunotherapy

Jaffray DA, Gospodarowicz MK. Radiation Therapy for Cancer. In: Cancer: Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (Volume 3). Washington (DC): 2015 Nov 1. Chapter 14.

Radiation Therapy for Cancer

Generally there are 2 primary goals to achieve maximum therapeutic effectiveness

- **1.** Target dose escalation
- 2. Normal tissue sparing

Treatment plans are designed to <u>collimate</u> and <u>direct</u> radiation beams toward the target volume with specific intent to avoid excessive radiation to organs at risk (OARs)



Khan, F. Treatment Planning in Radiation Oncology, 3rd ed.

Radiation Therapy Delivery

- External beam radiation therapy (EBRT): applied externally through directed, collimated beams of radiation
- Brachytherapy: insertion of radiation-emitting sources directly within the tumor or adjacent body cavity
- <u>Radioisotope therapy</u>: systemic injection of a radioisotope designed to target disease



Radiation Therapy Workflow

Complex and carefully orchestrated sequence of events and interactions

- Requires a high level of communication and coordination of processes and systems involved
 - *Radiation Oncologist, MD:* prescribes treatment regimen
 - *Medical physicist, MS, PhD:* all aspects of treatment
 - Dosimetrist, CMD: prepare treatment plan
 - *Radiation Technologist, RT:* operate the treatment units
 - *Nurse, RN:* management of patients undergoing therapy
- Complemented by biomedical engineers, computer scientists, applied mathematicians, and information technology experts



CT Simulation Study

<u>Simulation</u>: acquire volumetric image data simulating the physical and geometric aspects of treatment delivery for planning

- Patient model describing geometric relationship between radiation beam and patient anatomy
- Accurate dose calculation is only possible when sufficiently accurate data are available
- Specially adapted CT scanner, patient setup and immobilization simulating treatment



Khan, F. Treatment Planning in Radiation Oncology, 3rd ed. Bushberg, J. The Essential Physics of Medical Imaging, 3rd ed.



Image Segmentation

Radiotherapy and Oncology 117 (2015) 83-90



Qelineation in 3D is necessary to optimize the spatial dose patterns that best match the target shape and avoid normal tissue (<u>digitally defined</u>!)

 Planning objectives and overall plan quality are processed according to dose deposition within delineated regions of interest (ROIs)





Special planning software allows to model beam placement as well as dose contributed by each beam

- <u>Inverse Planning</u>: What pattern of incident energy fluence will result in the desired distribution of energy absorbed within the patient?
- Start by quantifying the desired distribution



Dose distribution criteria specified as a combination of constraints and priority factors:

$$F_{obj}(j) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} (d_i - c)^2 \cdot \varepsilon \omega$$

- *j*: contoured planning structure (Target, OAR, optimization)
- d_i : dose at a single sample point for iteration *i*
- c: constraint for the structure (max, min, mean, DVH)
- ω: priority constraint
- ε: flag for meeting constraint

Overall score given by the sum of individual objective functions:

$$F_{obj} = \sum_{PTV} F_{PTV} + \sum_{OARs} F_{OARs}$$



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Overall score given by the sum of individual objective functions:

Constraints define acceptable solutions, *not* optimal ones!

$$r_{obj} = \sum_{PTV} r_{PTV} + \sum_{OARs} r_{OARs}$$





Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT): delivery of nonuniform fluence to generate an optimized composite dose distribution

- Dose distribution criteria specified in TPS
- Each field divided into discrete beamlets
- Beamlet weights within each field are optimized to meet the specified criteria
- Optimized fluence converted into deliverable leaf collimator sequences
- Photon energies, number of beams, arc start/stop angles, table rotations, gantry rotation speed



Hårdemark et al. (2003, RaySearch white paper), RaySearch Laboratories AB, Copyright c 2003



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Delivery of the planned dose distribution requires reproducible setup geometry consistent with the simulation study

- Standard treatment planning assumes a fixed relationship between patient anatomy and dose distribution
- Image guidance to compare treatment geometry with planning reference
- Depends on real-time image registration to quantify rotation and translational adjustments prior to beam on



Radiation Therapy Delivery







Radiation Therapy Delivery





Radiation Therapy Follow-Up





Ongoing Research

"Medical physics is ... translational research where basic experimental and theoretical discoveries are rapidly implemented into benefiting humanity through improved procedures in diagnosis and treatment of disease"

Active computational, theoretical, and translational research in all aspects of the radiation therapy process

- Image segmentation
- Automated and knowledge-based treatment planning
- Novel optimization criteria
- Deformable image registration
- Dose response modeling
- Outcomes prediction
- Novel image markers for outcome or response

Podgorsak, EB. Radiation Physics for Medical Physicists. 3rd ed. 2016





Cancer Treatments



- Treating cancer both photons and protons are effective
- Protons are advantageous because the stop, sparing healthy tissue
- There exist an uncertainty where they stop

Problem with Protons

Planning CT

Permission from H. Paganetti

During Treatment

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Changes to

Anatomy

Motion

Setup errors

Tumor/Organ

Patient Motion

Penn Medicine 27

Anatomical Changes During Treatment

Before treatment



After 3 weeks



Barker et al, Inter. J. of Rad. Onc.* Biology* Physics, 2004. 59



Setup Errors - Prostate



A. Melancon, MDACC, 2010



Summary of Typical Penetration Uncertainties

standard energy (or range) energy (or range) reproducibility bolus WET alignment devices*	± 0.6 mm ± 1.0 mm ± 0.9 mm ± 1.0 mm	<u>Range Uncert.</u> 2 mm
CT# accuracy (after scaling) RLSP of tissues and devices energy dependence of RLSP CT# to RLSP (soft tissues only)	± 2.5% ± 1.6% ± 1.0% ± 1.5%	<u>CT Uncert.</u> 3.5%
bolus position relative to patient heterogeneity straggling patient motion	variable variable variable	<u>Planning</u> bolus expansion multiple angles

Moyers PTCOG 2008



Proton Treatment Verification

- **1.** Verify proper dose delivery
- 2. Measure tissue response
- Present Verification Methods
 - Repeat CT Scans
 - Post Treatment PET imaging
 - Follow up MRI imaging

Prompt gamma production correlated with dose



Moteabbed, et al, Physics in Med. and Bio., 2011, 56

Tissue Spectroscopy





Compton Camera



Simple Backprojection



Gamma emission origins calculated with Monte Carlo

Backconstruction

Stochastic Origin Ensembles (SOE) Algorithm



Big Idea from SOE:

Don't reconstruct with the cones; Reconstruct with a single point on each cone.

Goal of SOE algorithm:

Select a "good" representative point for each cone.

A. Andreyev et al., *IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci.*, vol. 57 (2010)
A. Sitek, *Phys. Med. Biol.*, vol. 53 (2008)



SOE 2-D proton pencil beam

Dose and gamma origins from Monte Carlo



Thermo acoustic measurement



CBCT on a Proton Gantry





CBCT on a Proton Gantry





On-site Installation and Testing

- On-site gantry flex tests completed with existing imaging system.
- X-ray tube and imaging panel up-date required on one of the orthogonal x-ray systems.
- On-site upgrades, system testing and final implementation in progress.

GEANT4 Monte Carlo



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Radiation Oncology / Physics Collaboration

A new technology for fast two-dimensional detection of proton therapy beams

Robert Hollebeek,¹ Mitch Newcomer,¹ Godwin Mayers,¹ Brian Delgado,¹ Gaurov Shukla,¹ Richard Maughan,² and Derek Dolney²

¹Department of Physics, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104. ²Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104.



Detector/electronics design & signal processing in Physics Department

Detectors fabricated at CERN

Medical Physics Divison Radiation Oncology Department

Proton Beam in PCAM

Monte Carlo simulation with GEANT4





Photodynamic Therapy



Whole-body TOF PET/CT

Philips Gemini TF scanner installed at Penn 2005



- LYSO detectors state-of-art performance 4.7 mm spatial resol., 11.5% energy resol.
- 600 ps timing resolution TOF
- Stable electronics and timing calibrations
- Multi-node computer cluster: iterative reconstruction





PET shows increased FDG uptake in region of porta hepatis CT demonstrates that this uptake corresponds to the gallbladder representing acute cholecystitis, not bowel activity

Proto-type Scanner

24 detector modules





PMT digitization/integration board -> position, energy

trigger board-> timing





Motivation

- Due to CT scan errors, imaging artifacts, and changes in patient anatomy, there is proton range uncertainty.
- To account for these uncertainties...
 - Increase treatment volume
 - Typically 3.5% of the proton range + 1-3 mm
- *in vivo* determination of the proton range will reduce the uncertainty
 - PET
 - Prompt Gamma
 - Proton Radiography
 - Acoustic-Based Range Verification: "Protoacoustics"
 - Collected during treatment
 - Simple
 - Low cost

Knopf + Lomax, PMB, **48** (2013) R131-R160



Depth





Homogeneous and Heterogeneous









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20

-100

-50

50

0



Range Verification



Generating a Short, Sharp Proton Pulse



History of proton acoustics



Hayakawa et al. Rad. Onc. Invest. **3** (1995) 42-45 Sulak et al. Nucl. Instr. Meth. **161** (1979) 203-217 PENN RADIATION Assimance and Med. Phys. **42** (2015) 567-574

Acoustic Imaging/Range Finding Techniques



Protoacoustics: Conceptualization



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Xu+Wang, Rev. Set net not 17 14006 044101 54

Hydrophone – B&K 8105



- Frequency range: 0.1 Hz to 160 kHz
- Receiving sensitivity: -205 dB re 1 V/µPa
- Charge sensitivity: 0.41 pC/Pa
- Omnidirectional over full frequency range
- Completely encased in rubber



Accelerometer & Vibrometer

B&K Piezoelectric charge Accelerometer (Type 4517-C-001)

- Low weight; adhesive mounting.
- Frequency range: 1-20kHz





Polytec

- OFV-5000 Vibrometer controller
- VD-06 Velocity Decoder: 0.01 µm s-1 / √Hz 0-350 kHz bandwidth
- **DD-900** Displacement Decoder: 15pm Max. resolution 0-2.5 MHz bandwidth.
- Programmable scanning.





Pressure-Dose Calibration Curve

Performed TRS-398 (P3) using Markus Chamber in Water Tank

Pulse Width	IC Cyclo Current	Dose Rate
10 µs	1 nA	1.648 Gy/s
30 µs	3.9 nA	11.138 Gy/s
50 µs	4.3 nA	19.929 Gy/s
70 µs	5.5 nA	38.002 Gy/s
100 µs	9 nA	71.652 Gy/s

For all measurements: Frequency 100 Hz Arc Current 200 nA

Performed high dose test @ Pulse width 10µs, Frequency 100 Hz

Delivered beam at IC cyclo of 80 and 500 nA

Pressure-Dose Calibration Curve



Vibrometer Setting

- 5000 averages
- 1.28 MHz sampling rate
- 16384 samples
- 12.8 ms
- 781.3 ns resolution
- 0.5 mm/s/V sensitivity





Measurement @ 38 Gy/s



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Measurement @ 38 Gy/s



Simulations: Gaussian Proton Pulses



Observation #1: non-monotonic relationship between Gaussian proton pulse FWHM and the pressure amplitude **Observation #2**: The TOF distance calculation error ($c*\tau - l$) depends on the proton pulse

Jones, Sehgal, Avery, PMB 61 (2016) 2213-2242



Proton Pulse Shape Dependence



As the proton pulse rise time increases, the acoustic signal broadens and features become "washed out."

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Triangulation Algorithm

Vibrometer Data

	Left 5cm	Lower 5cm	Right 5cm	Upper 5cm	center	1 martine and	Y	1
Proton peak (us)	338.28	338.67	337.9	338.6	338.28		1	
Vibrometer (us)	758.59	757.81	785.2	754.69	753.91			
delta t (us)	420.31	419.14	447.3	416.09	415.63	-		
	4.68	3.51	31.67	0.46			and a second second second second	
						X		
Proton peak (us)	10338.65	10338.28	10337.5	10338.3	10338.28			
Vibrometer (us)	10759.38	10757.81	10786.7	10755.47	10753.13			
delta t (us)	420.73	419.53	449.2	417.17	414.85	A DECEMBER OF THE OWNER OWNER OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OF THE OWNER OWNE	and the second second	
	5.88	4.68	34.35	2.32				

Accelerometer Data – Previous Experiment



Figure 17. Prototype experiment using the accelerometer system to measure the TOF of protoacoustic waves, then calculate the BP position in a PE phantom through triangulation algorithm. The depth of BP is 37.8 mm (simulation), 37.8 \pm 1.4 mm (experimental data), and 37.6 \pm 0.2 mm (triangulation algorithm).



Liver Measurement - Hydrophone



Abdominal Phantom





Abdominal Phantom







Brain Phantom – King Louie



Brain Phantom – King Louie



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Brain Phantom – King Louie



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