

The background image shows a close-up of a PET detector hardware assembly. It features a wooden frame with several blue printed circuit boards (PCBs) mounted vertically. Each PCB is populated with various electronic components, including integrated circuits, resistors, and capacitors. Some components are labeled with part numbers like '1012_B', '1052_B', and '1054_B'. The assembly is designed for Time-of-Flight PET imaging.

PET as an MPPC (SiPM) Application: Time-of-Flight PET for Proton Therapy

John Cesar

On behalf of the TPPT Consortium

March 9th, 2024

3rd Hardware Camp for Fast and Low-Light Detection

Outline:

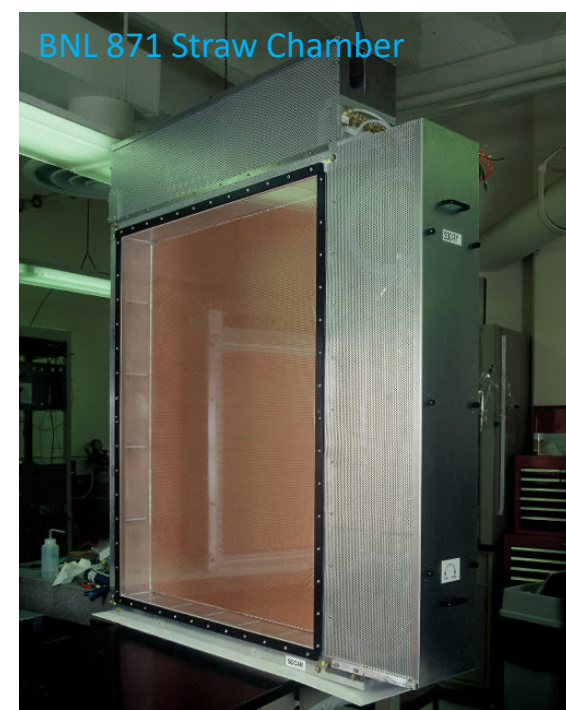
- Our background
- PET imaging
- SiPMs in PET
- The TPPT project
- Future Ideas

Our Background

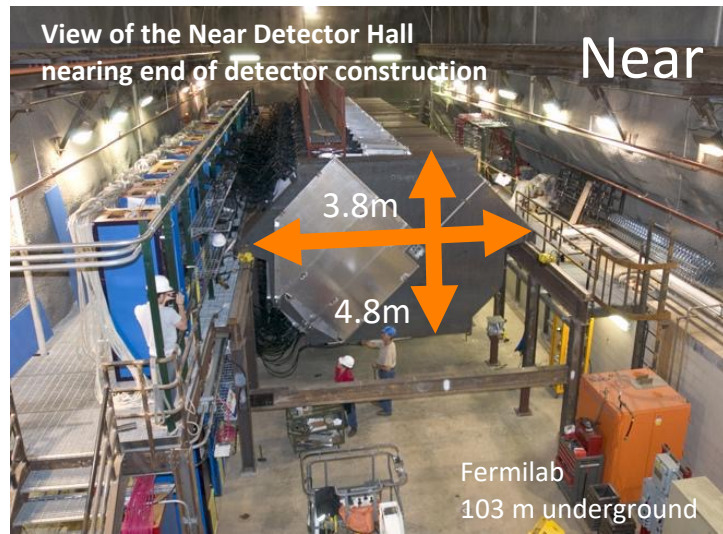
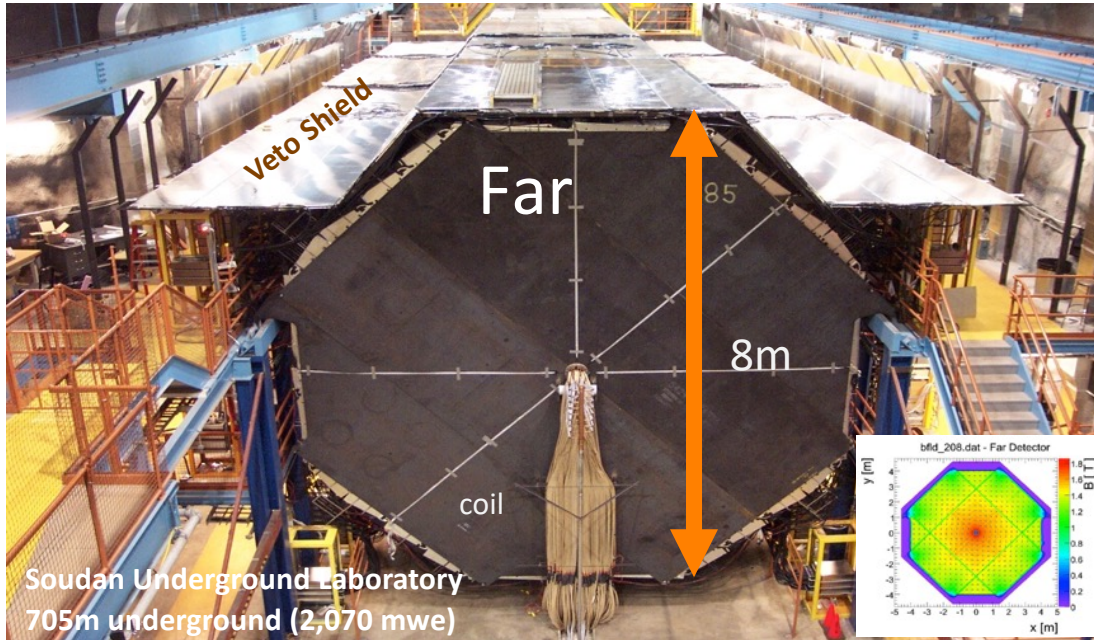
From particle physics to medical physics...(but also still involved in particle physics)

Our Background: The UT Lang Group

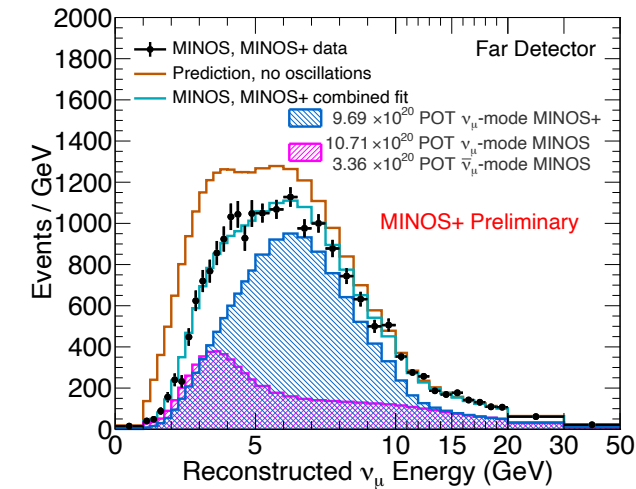
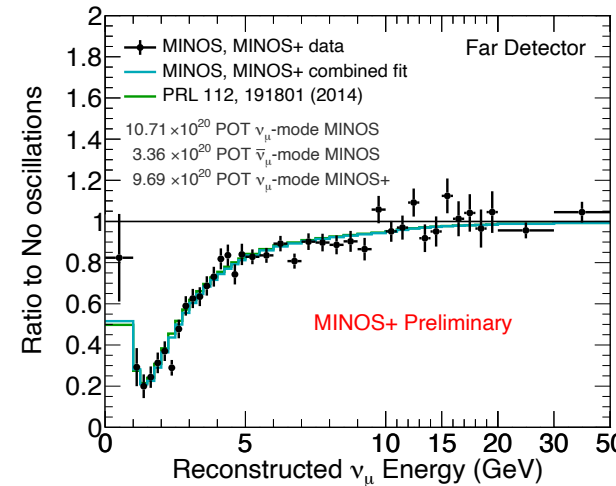
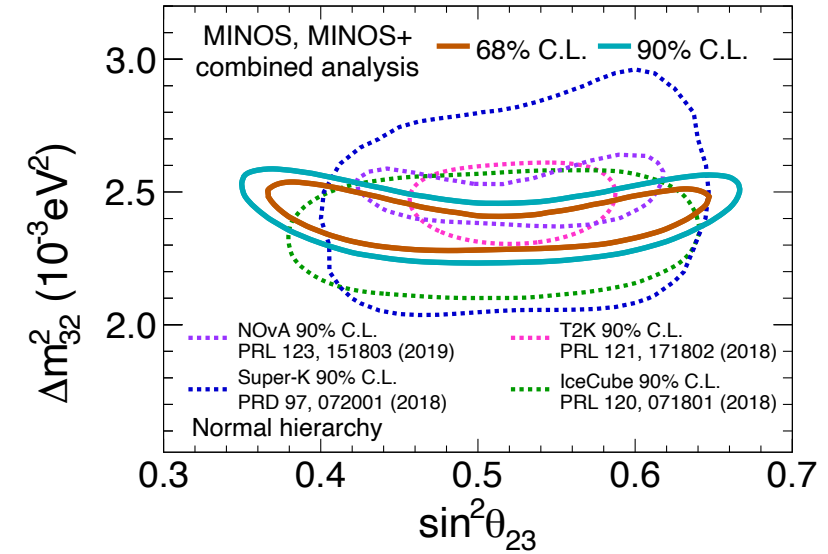
- Historically, our group has been conducting research in high energy physics
 - SSC (Superconducting Super Collider, cancelled in 1993)
 - Rare K_L decays
 - Neutrino oscillations
 - Search for neutrinoless double beta decay
 - Search for coherent neutrino interactions at a reactor
- We have participated in all main aspects of these particle physics endeavors
 - designed, fabricated, deployed new instrumentation
 - developed physics analysis software
- Funded by (over the years)
 - U. of Texas
 - DOE
 - NSF
 - Fermilab
 - URA
 - CNRS (France)
- We have always had interests in contributing to medical physics
 - Turns out that medical imaging is an exciting field to contribute to!



Our Background: MINOS/MINOS+

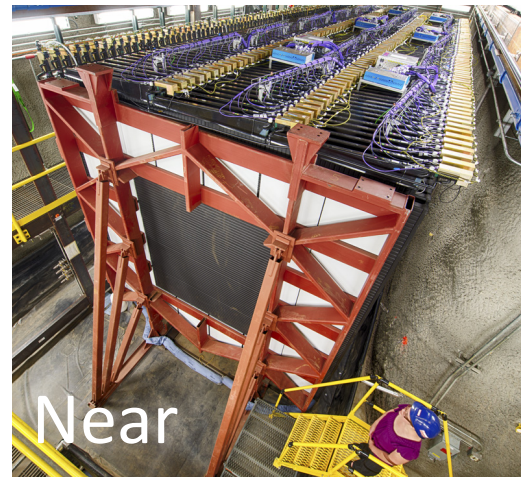


- Large-scale, long baseline neutrino oscillations experiment
- Operated 2005 - 2016
- Precision measurements of mixing parameters

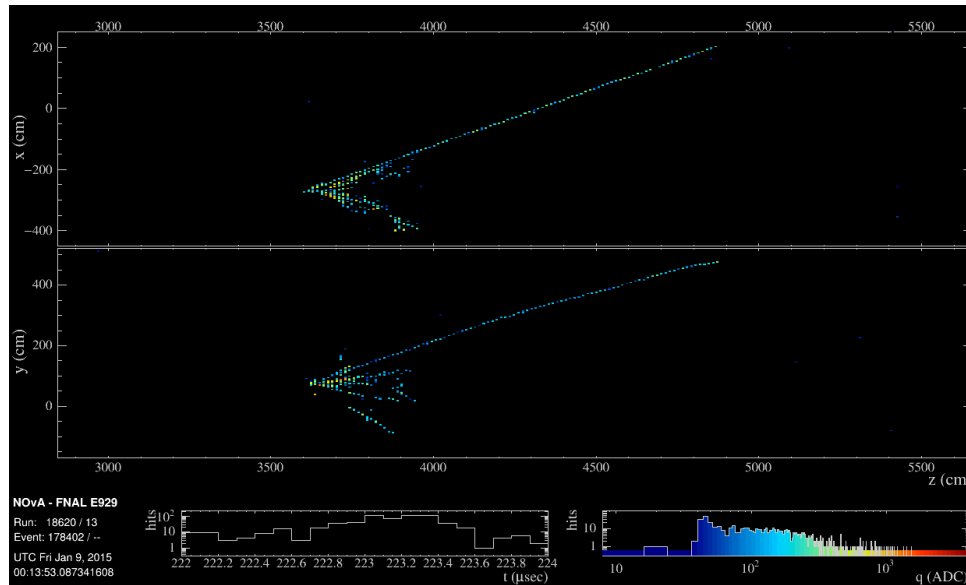


Normal	$\Delta m^2_{32} = +2.41^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$	$(\times 10^{-3} eV^2)$	Inverted	$\Delta m^2_{32} = -2.47^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$	$(\times 10^{-3} eV^2)$
		$\sin^2\theta_{23} = 0.42$			$\sin^2\theta_{23} = 0.42$
		$(0.38 \leftrightarrow 0.48)$			$(0.38 \leftrightarrow 0.48)$

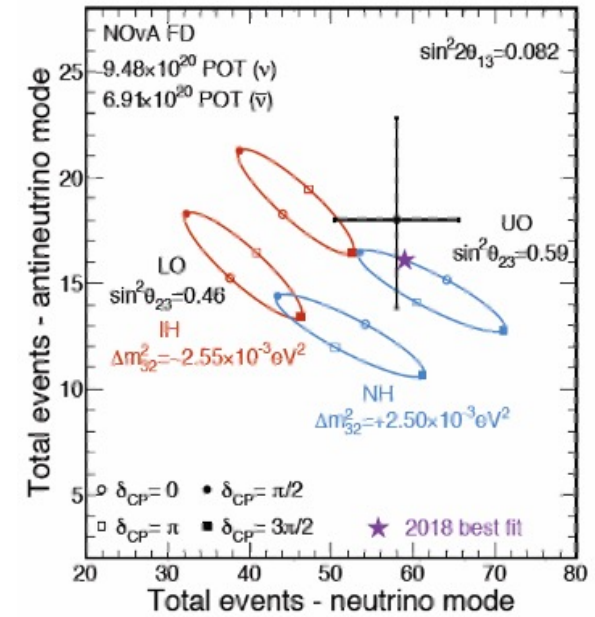
Our Background: NOvA



- Successor to MINOS
- Large-scale, long base-line neutrino oscillations experiment
- Precision measurements of mixing parameters
- Potential mass hierarchy resolution
- Still in operation

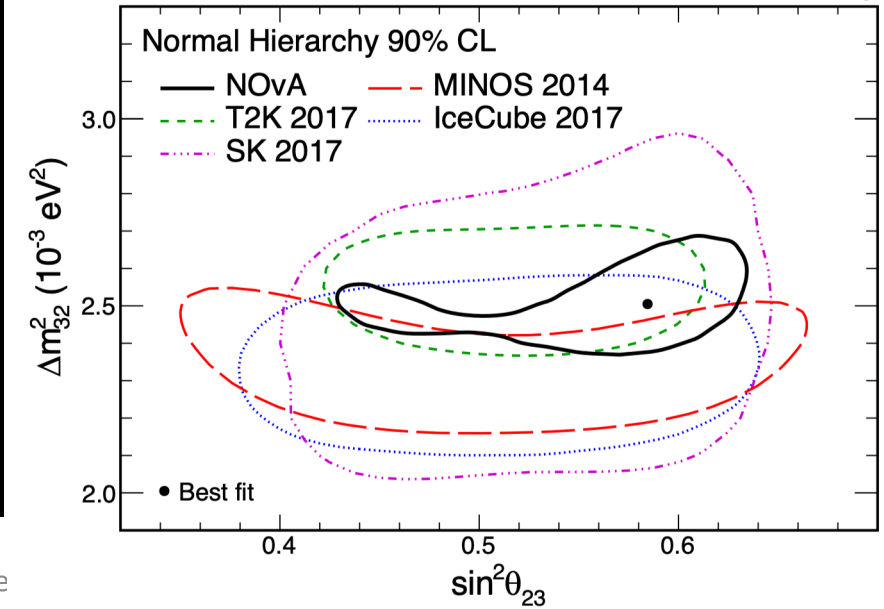


ν_e appearance

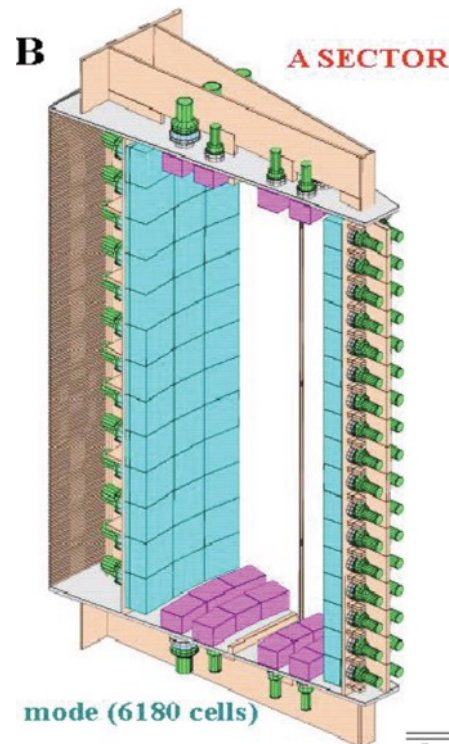


ν_μ disappearance

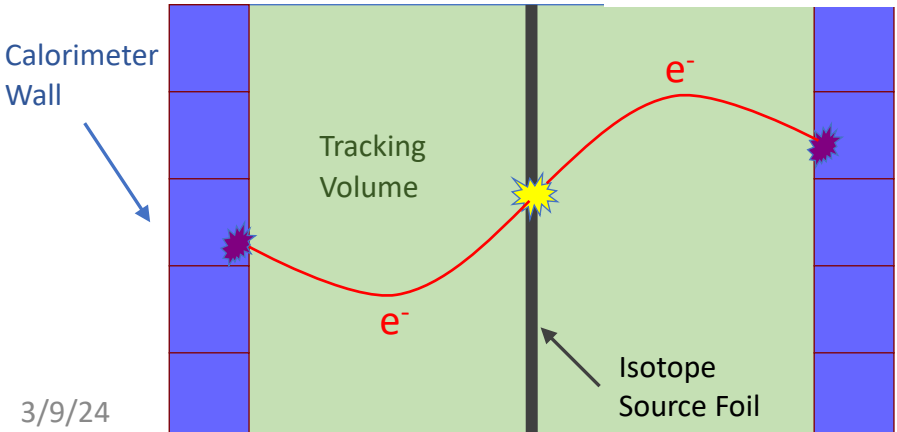
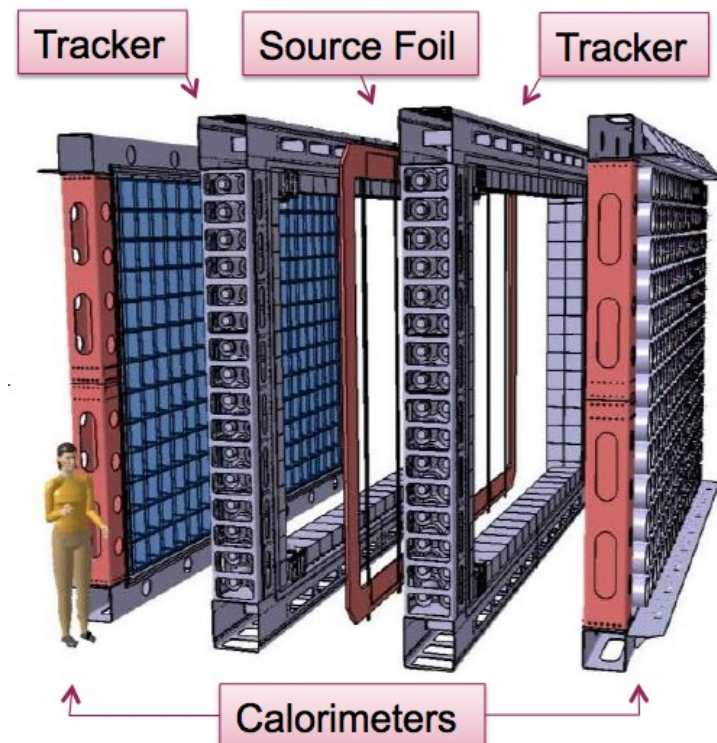
NOvA Preliminary



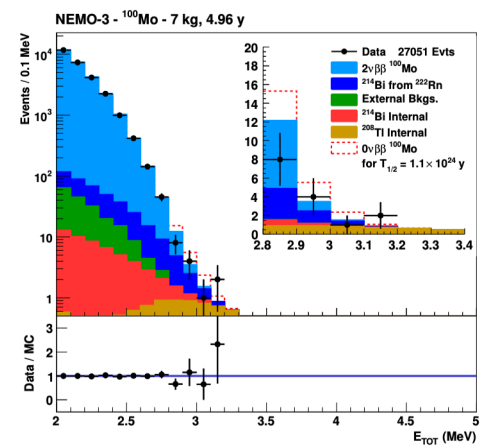
Our Background: NEMO-3/SuperNEMO



- Neutrinoless double-beta decay search experiment
- Novel multi-observable multi-isotope approach
- NEMO-3 operated from 2003 - 2011
- SuperNEMO demonstrator module currently being commissioned



Isotope	$T_{1/2}^{0\nu} (\times 10^{25} \text{ y})$	$\langle m_{\beta\beta} \rangle (\text{eV})$	Experiment	Reference
^{48}Ca	$> 5.8 \times 10^{-3}$	$< 3.5 - 22$	ELEGANT-IV	(157)
^{76}Ge	> 8.0	$< 0.12 - 0.26$	GERDA	(158)
^{82}Se	> 1.9	$< 0.24 - 0.52$	MAJORANA DEMONSTRATOR	(159)
^{96}Zr	$> 3.6 \times 10^{-2}$	$< 0.89 - 2.43$	NEMO-3	(160)
^{100}Mo	$> 9.2 \times 10^{-4}$	$< 7.2 - 19.5$	NEMO-3	(161)
^{116}Cd	$> 1.1 \times 10^{-1}$	$< 0.33 - 0.62$	NEMO-3	(162)
^{116}Cd	$> 1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$< 1.4 - 2.5$	NEMO-3	(163)
^{128}Te	$> 1.1 \times 10^{-2}$	—	—	(164)
^{130}Te	> 1.5	$< 0.11 - 0.52$	CUORE	(124)
^{136}Xe	> 10.7	$< 0.061 - 0.165$	KamLAND-Zen	(165)
^{136}Xe	> 1.8	$< 0.15 - 0.40$	EXO-200	(166)
^{150}Nd	$> 2.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$< 1.6 - 5.3$	NEMO-3	(167)



PET Imaging

PET = **P**ositron **E**mission **T**omography
and it is a subset of the larger medical
imaging field...

PET Imaging: A Subset of Medical Imaging

CT (Computed Tomography)



MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

PET (Positron Emission Tomography)



And there are others:

- **SPECT imaging**
- X-ray imaging
- Ultrasound imaging
- ...

PET and SPECT are nuclear medical imaging techniques

- Radiation being used/detected is **internal** rather than external
- Employ radiopharmaceuticals
- Emphasis on imaging function (metabolism, etc.) not structure (anatomy)

PET Imaging: A Subset of Medical Imaging

CT (Computed Tomography)



MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)



**STRUCTURAL
IMAGING**

PET (Positron Emission Tomography)



And there are others:

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- X-ray imaging
- Ultrasound imaging
- ...

PET and SPECT are nuclear medical imaging techniques

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PET Imaging: A Subset of Medical Imaging

CT (Computed Tomography)



MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

PET (Positron Emission Tomography)

**FUNCTIONAL
IMAGING**



PET and SPECT are nuclear medical imaging techniques

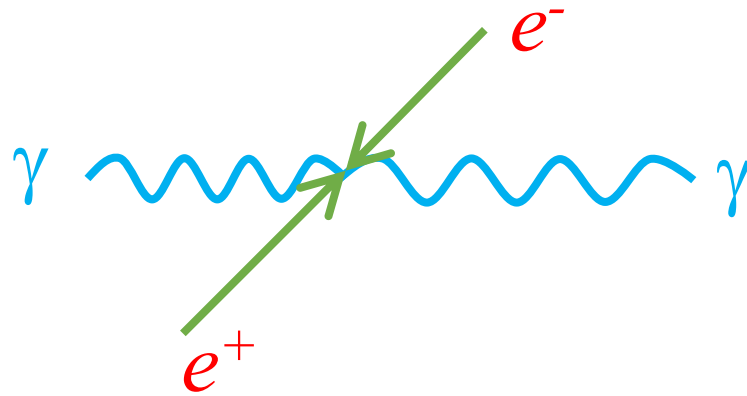
- Radiation being used/detected is **internal** rather than external
- Employ radiopharmaceuticals
- Emphasis on imaging **function** (metabolism, etc.) not **structure** (anatomy)

And there are others:

- **SPECT imaging**
- X-ray imaging
- Ultrasound imaging
- ...

PET Imaging: Positron Emission

Injection of ^{18}F -fluorodeoxyglucose (^{18}F FDG) or other suitable radiopharmaceuticals



$$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow \gamma + \gamma$$

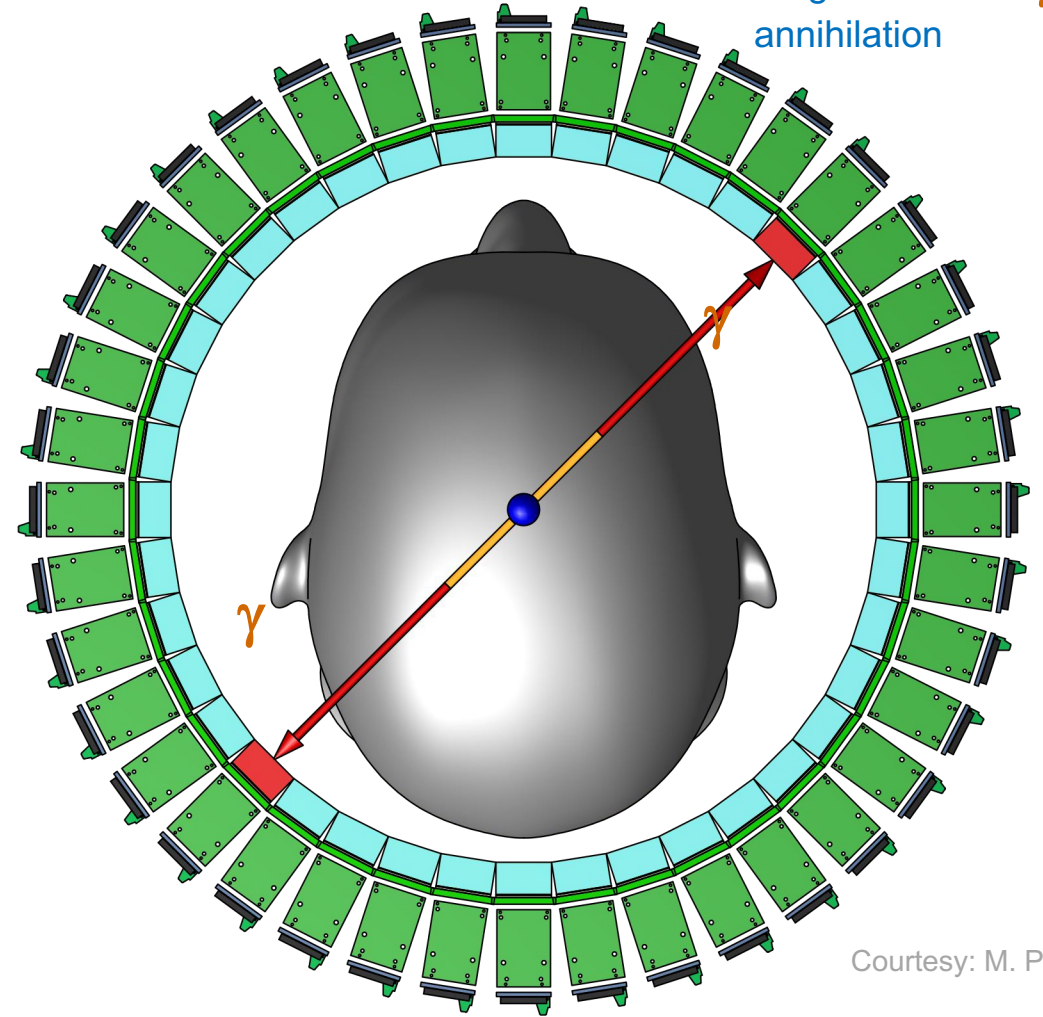
$$E = mc^2$$

mass of the electron = 511 keV

mass of the electron = mass of the positron

$$E_\gamma = 511 \text{ keV}$$

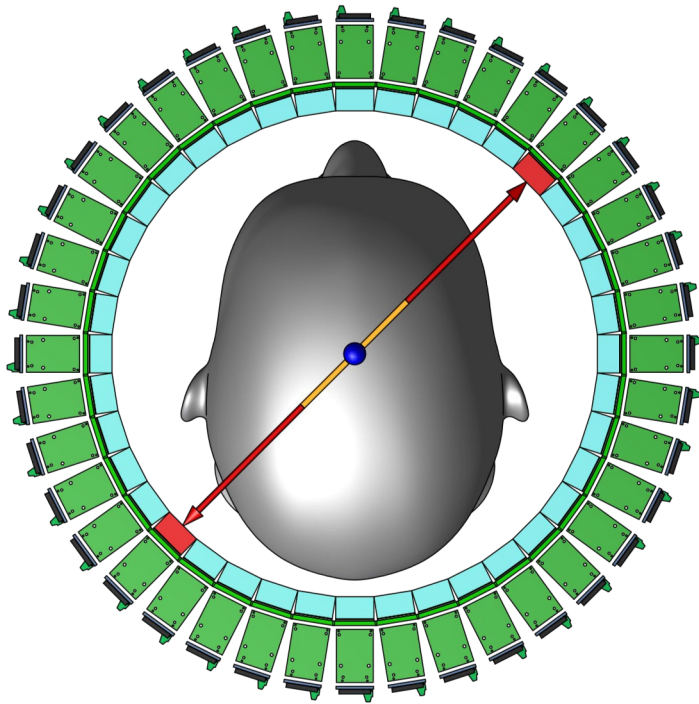
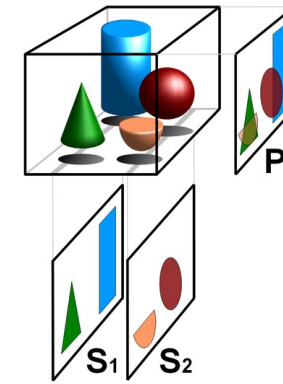
Single $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$
annihilation



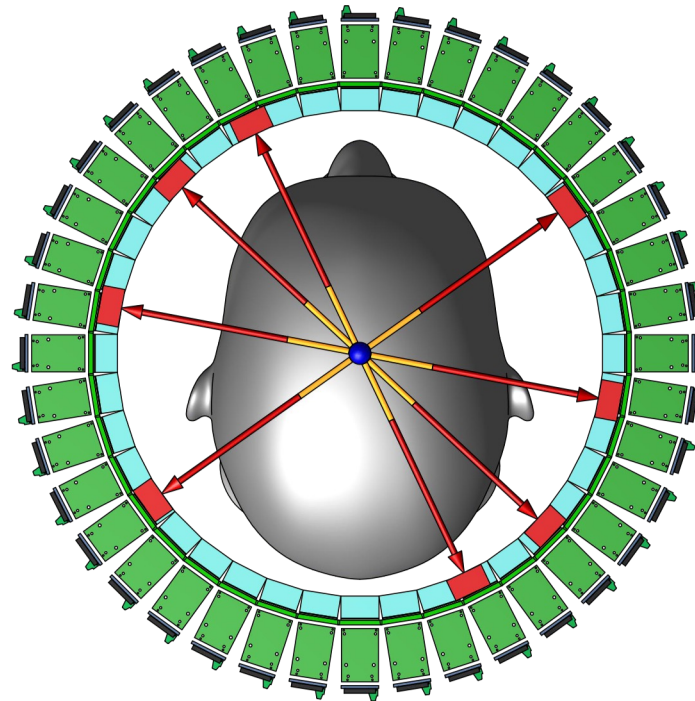
Courtesy: M. Proga

LOR = line of response = the line formed by the trajectories of the two back-to-back gammas

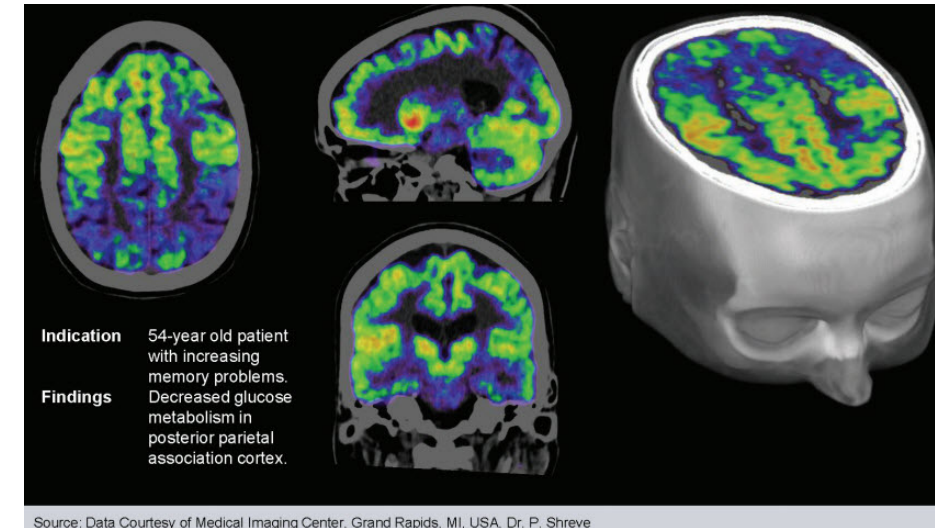
PET Imaging: Tomography



One LOR is not enough, the annihilation could have occurred anywhere along the LOR

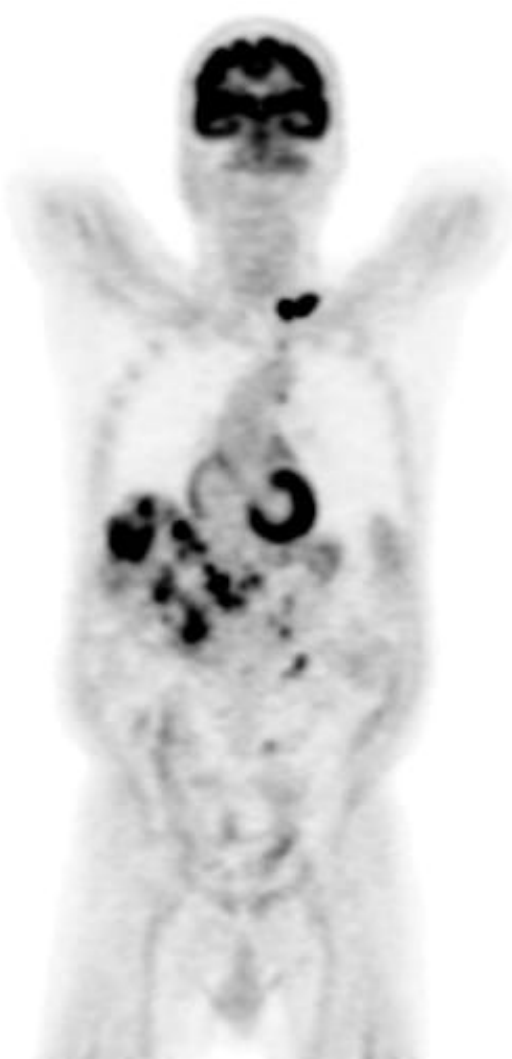


With many LORs from the same region, their intersections can be traced back to a common source



Doing this along different planes then allows for full 3D image reconstruction of activity and/or structure (CT is also tomographic)

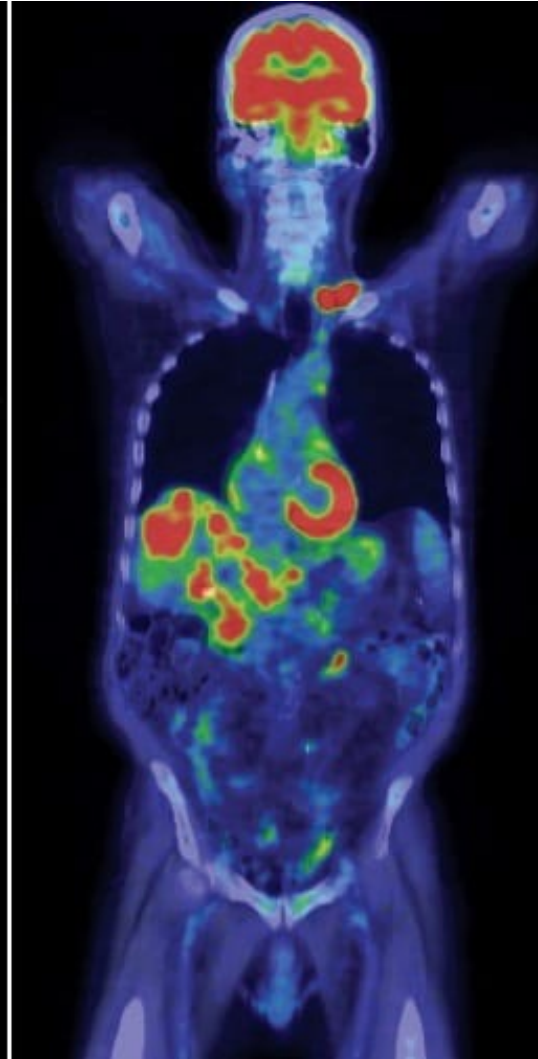
PET Imaging: Conventional PET + CT



PET



CT



PET + CT

Recall...

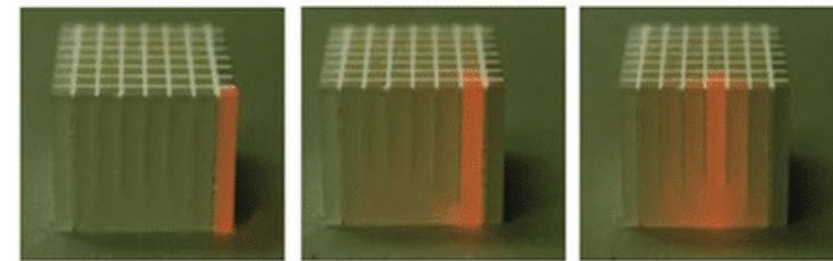
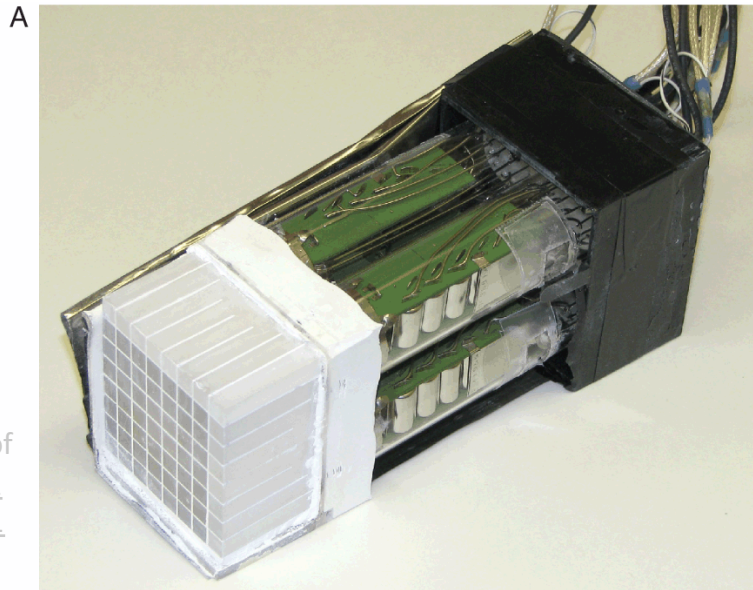
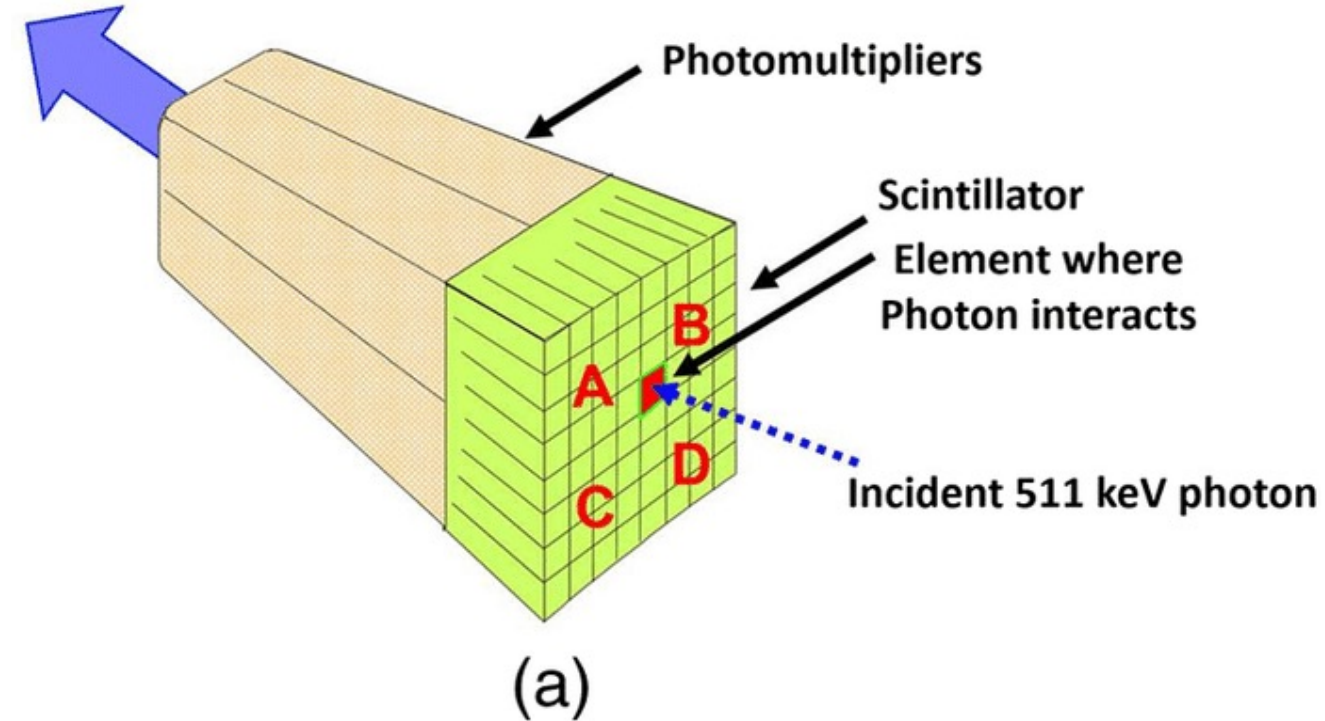
CT = structural
PET = functional

SiPMs in PET

Modern PET scanner technology

SiPMs in PET: Early PMT-based Scanners

- Need to detect and localize emitted gammas
 - Space → gives us LORs
 - Time → Define coincidences
 - Avoid randoms
 - Maybe do more...
- Early scanners used scintillators + PMTs
- But PMTs often had larger surface areas than ideal
 - Needed more pixelization
 - Early designs had to be clever...



Light distribution identifies the element
(b)

Image courtesy of doi: 10.1117/1.JMI.4.1.011013

Image courtesy of
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139088268.007>

SiPMs in PET: Comparisons

	PD	APD	MPPC	PMT
Gain	1	10^2	to 10^6	to 10^7
Quantum efficiency	Highest	High	Medium	Low
Operation voltage	5 V	100 to 500 V	30 to 60 V	800 to 1000 V
Large area	No	No	Medium	yes
Multi channel with narrow gap	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Readout circuit	Complex	Complex	Simple	Simple
Noise	Low	Middle	Middle	Low
Uniformity	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good
Energy resolution	High	Medium	High	High
Temperature sensitivity	Low	High	Medium	Low
Ambient light immunity	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Magnetic resist	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Compact & Weight	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Image courtesy of https://www.hamamatsu.com/eu/en/product/optical-sensors/mppc/what_is_mppc.html

SiPMs in PET: Comparisons

	PD	APD	MPPC	PMT	
Gain	1	10^2	to 10^6	to 10^7	Comparable gain to PMTs and better QE
Quantum efficiency	Highest	High	Medium	Low	
Operation voltage	5 V	100 to 500 V	30 to 60 V	800 to 1000 V	
Large area	No	No	Medium	yes	
Multi channel with narrow gap	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Good for better pixelization (spatial position resolution) and less dead space!
Readout circuit	Complex	Complex	Simple	Simple	
Noise	Low	Middle	Middle	Low	
Uniformity	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	
Energy resolution	High	Medium	High	High	Allows for combined PET + MR (function + structure imaging)
Temperature sensitivity	Low	High	Medium	Low	
Ambient light immunity	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	
Magnetic resist	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Compactness also open new opportunities for PET...
Compact & Weight	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

Image courtesy of https://www.hamamatsu.com/eu/en/product/optical-sensors/mppc/what_is_mppc.html

SiPMs in PET: Fast Timing

- Fast gamma detection opens new opportunities
 - Time-of-Flight (ToF) localization
- Three ingredients:
 - Fast **scintillators**
 - Fast **photodetector**
 - Fast **front-end electronics**
- Leads to improved image reconstruction
 - Less noise in final images

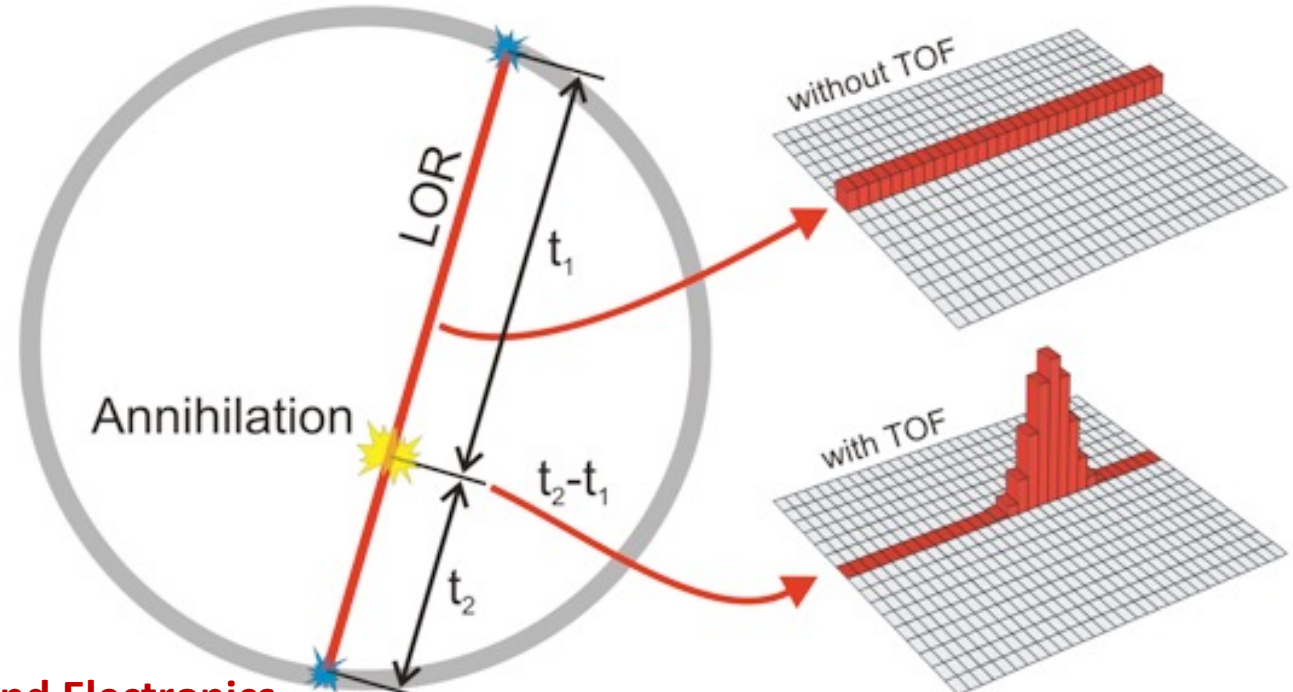
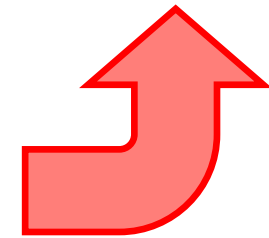
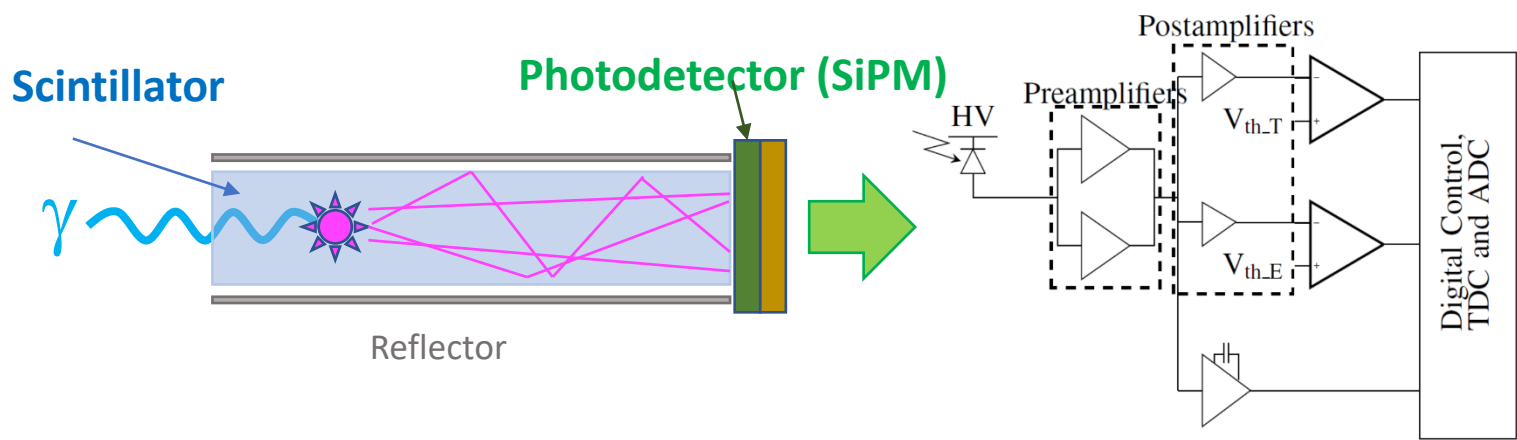


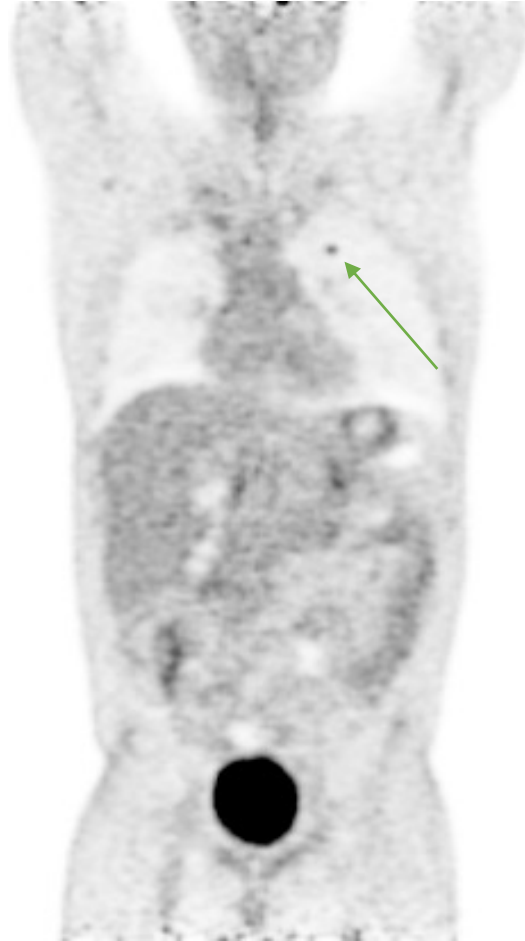
Image courtesy of <https://the10ps-challenge.org/>



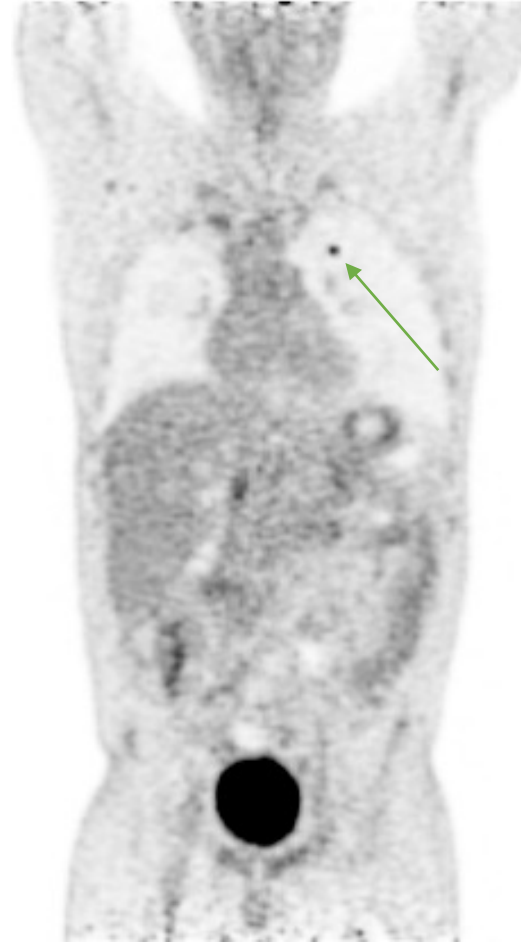
$$\Delta X = c \Delta T / 2$$
$$\Delta T = t_2 - t_1$$

SiPMs in PET: Time-of-Flight PET

Non-TOF



TOF (550 ps)



3 minute/bed
injection of ^{18}F -
fluorodeoxyglu
cose (^{18}F FDG)

Borrowed from Dr. Maurizio Conti
Director, PET Physics and Reconstruction
Siemens Medical Solution USA, Inc, Knoxville, TN, USA



SiPMs in PET: Compact Size

- Compactness of SiPMs also present new opportunities
 - Double-ended readout (to be discussed later)
 - In-beam PET imaging
 - Can be used with proton therapy
 - Which leads us to....



Image courtesy of <https://www.siemens-healthineers.com/en-us/molecular-imaging/pet-ct/biograph-vision>

SiPMs in PET: Compact Size

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Image courtesy of <https://www.siemens-healthineers.com/en-us/molecular-imaging/pet-ct/biograph-vision>



Current conventional PET/CT scanners too large for this because imaging (diagnostics) and treatment (therapy) don't mix...yet

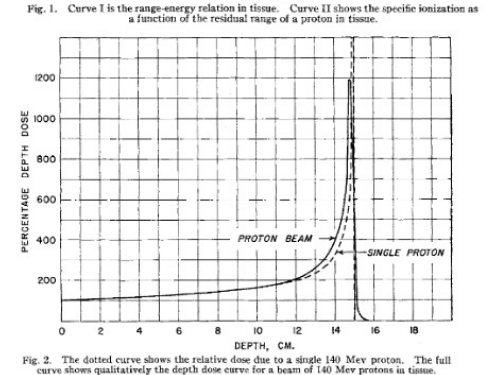
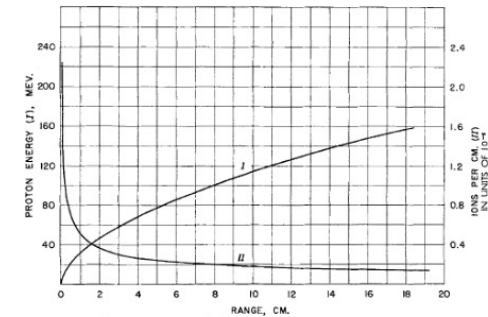
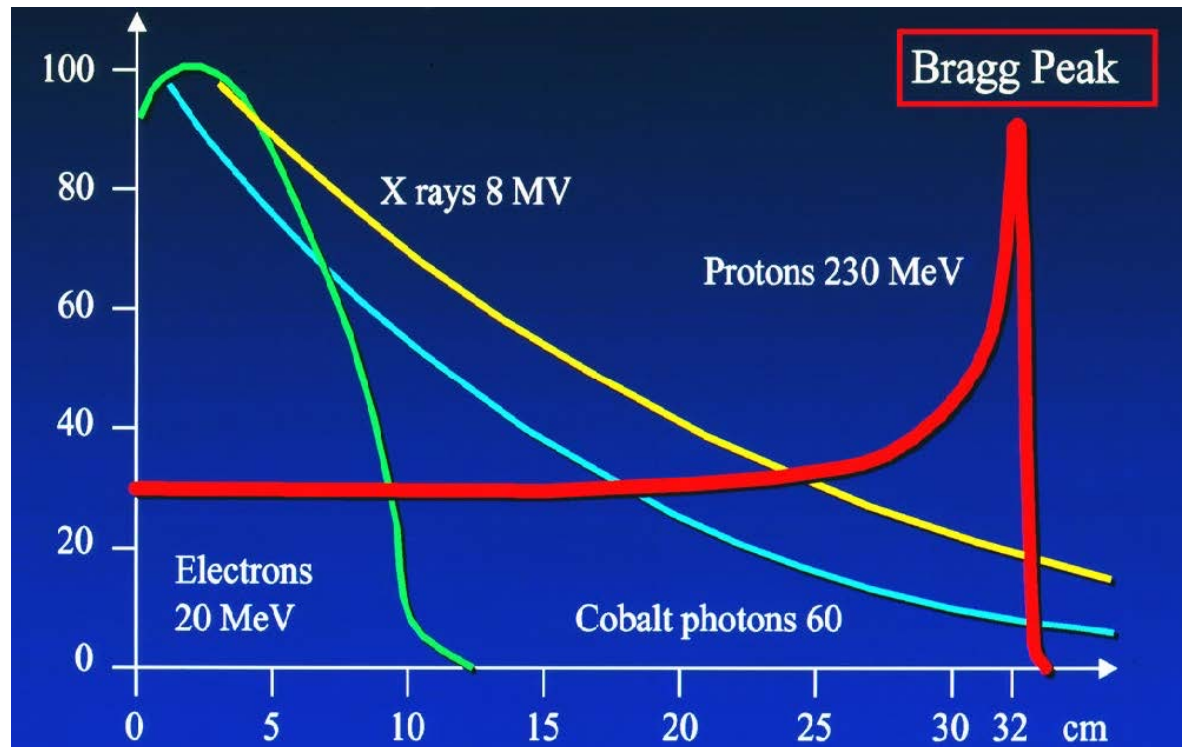
The TPPT Project

Time-of-Flight PET for Proton Therapy:
PET feedback to provide image-
guidance during proton therapy

The TPPT Project: Proton Therapy History

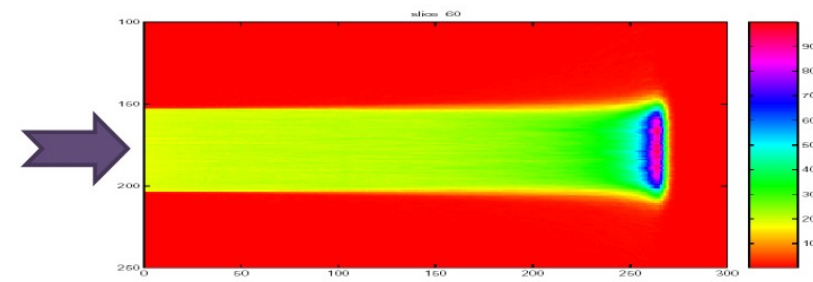
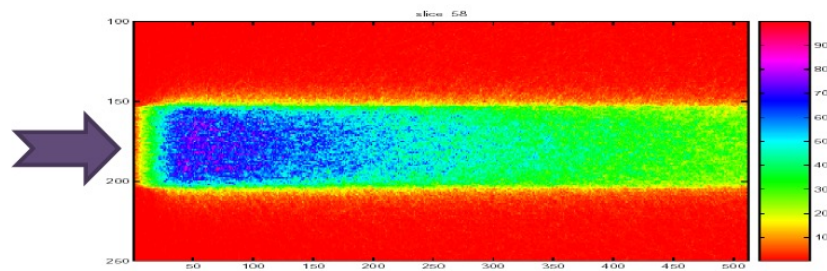
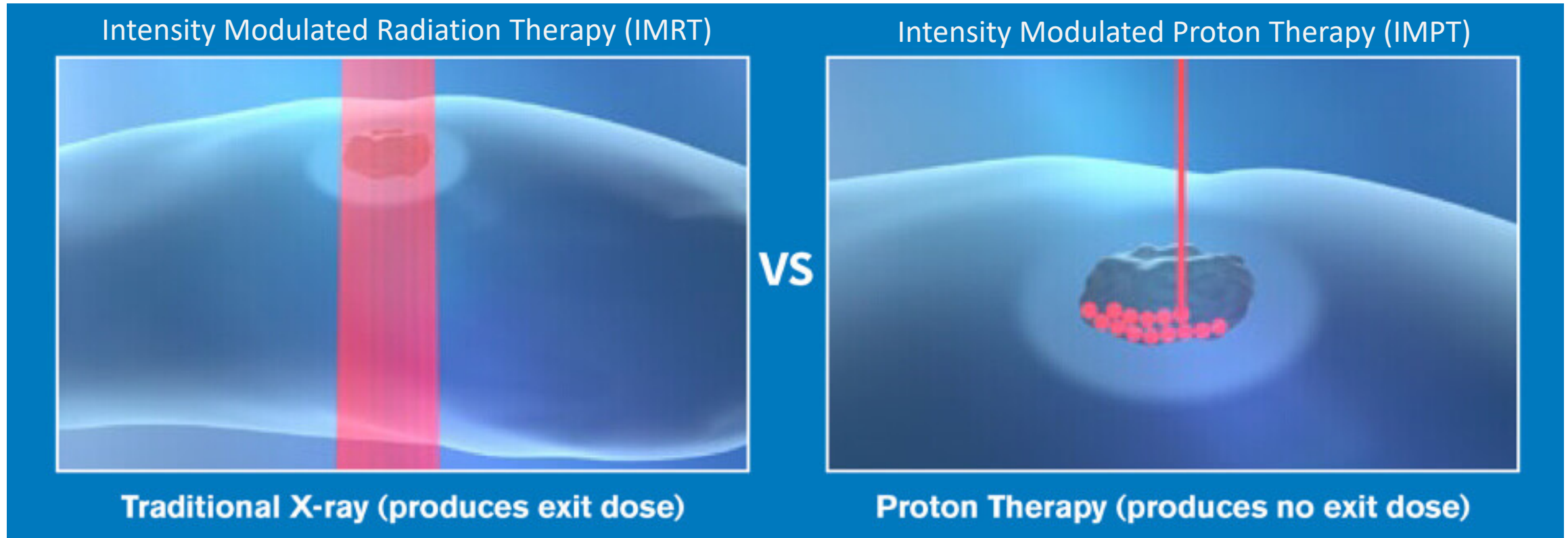
"The proton proceeds through the tissue in very nearly a straight line, and the tissue is ionized at the expense of the energy of the proton until the proton is stopped. [the] **dose is many times less where the proton enters the tissue at high energy than it is in the last centimeter of the path where the ion is brought to rest.** [...] [in a] **strictly localized region within the body**, with but little skin dose. It will be easy to produce well collimated narrow beams of fast protons, and since the range of the beam is easily controllable, precision exposure of well defined small volumes within the body will soon be feasible."

Robert Rathbun Wilson, Harvard University
Radiological use of fast protons, *Radiology* **47**, 487-491 (1946) doi:10.1148/47.5.487.

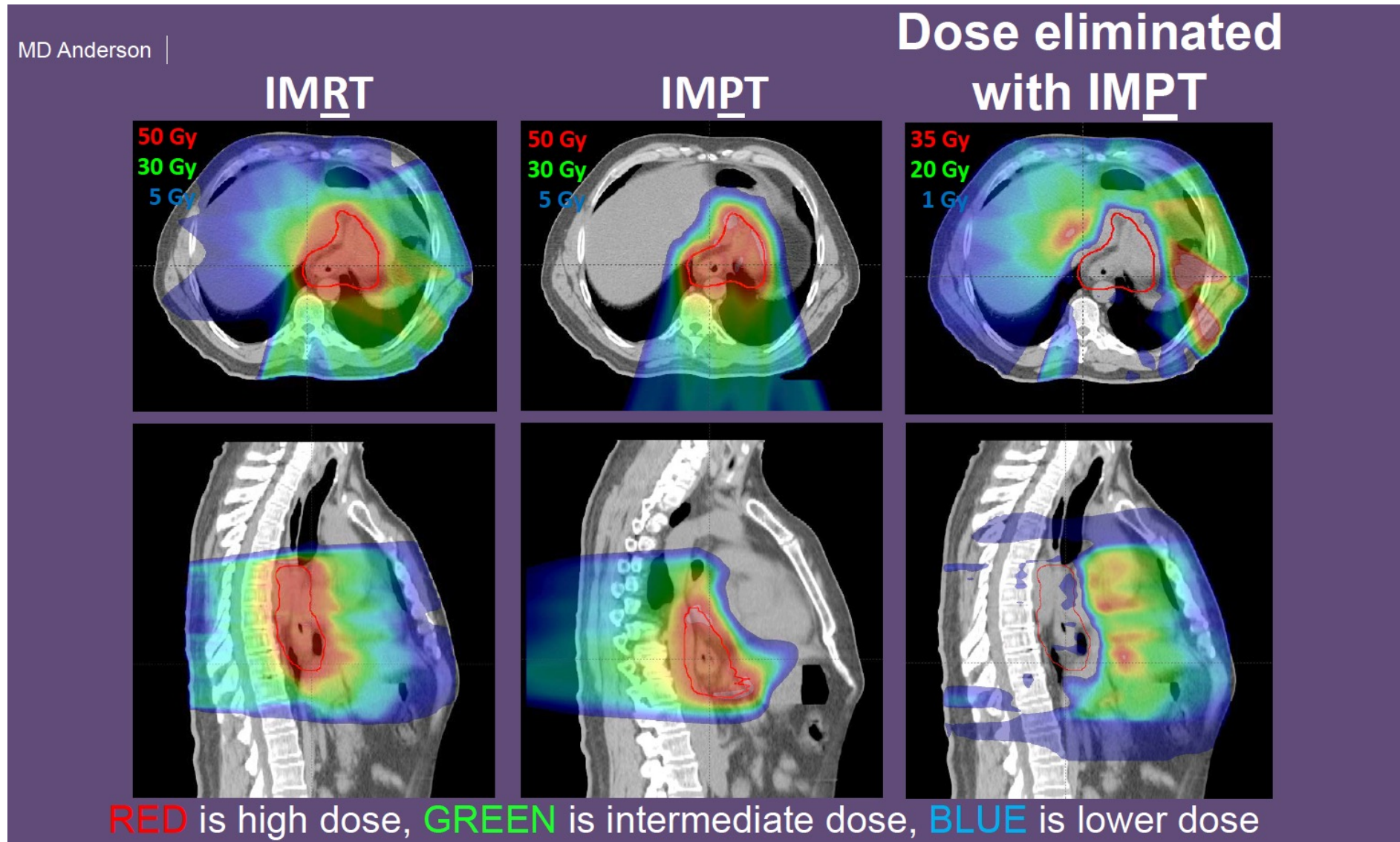


78 years ago!

The TPPT Project: Proton Therapy (PT)



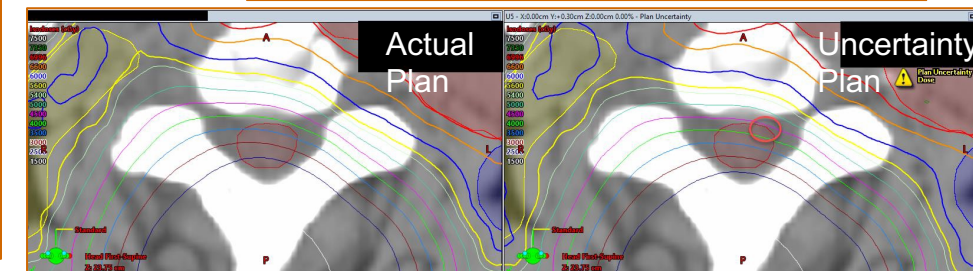
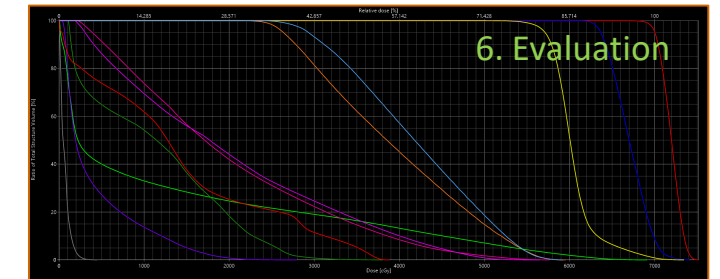
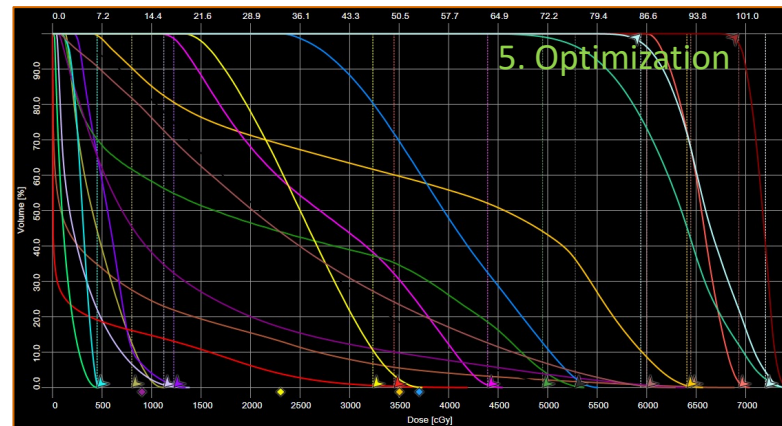
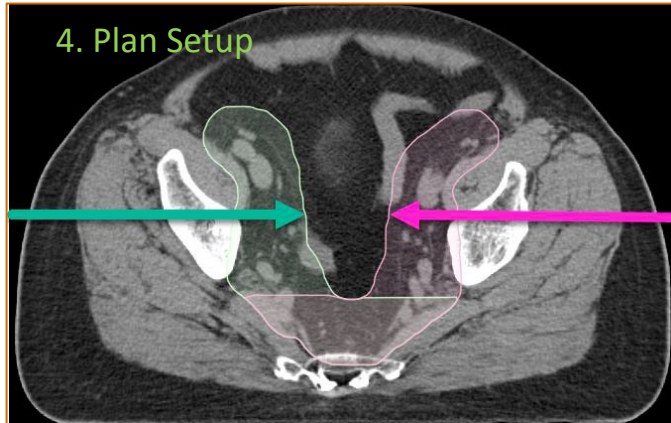
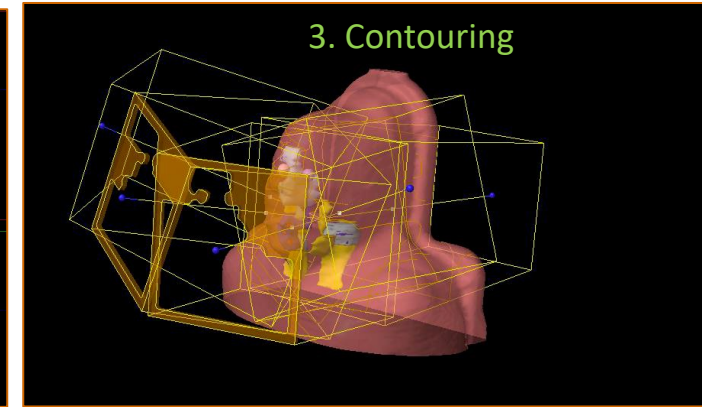
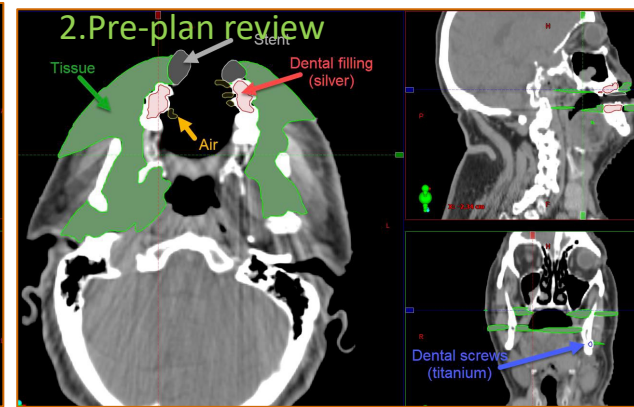
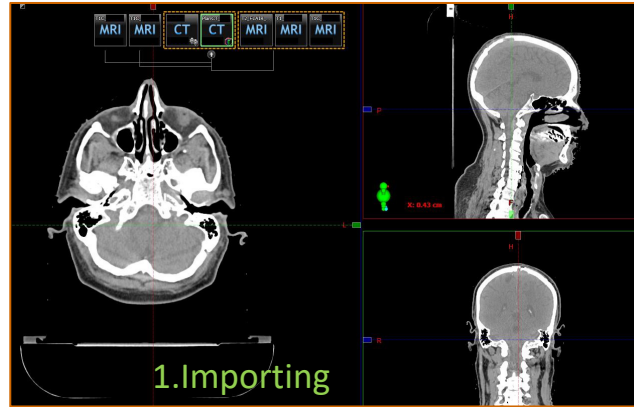
The TPPT Project: Protons vs. Photons



The TPPT Project: Treatment Planning

- Meticulous and sophisticated treatment planning ("well-oiled machine") – 5 days of intense preparations

- 1. Importing
- 2. Pre-plan Review
- 3. Contouring
- 4. Plan Setup
- 5. Optimization
- 6. Evaluation
- 7. Summary



From Christine Chung, MS, CMD, Research Dosimetrist

The TPPT Project: Issues Facing PT

- **Anatomy changes** may perturb dose distributions to a significantly greater extent for protons than for photons
- **High gradients in proton dose distributions** are very sensitive to anatomy motion and changes, and to set up variations
- **Gaps in the knowledge** of relative biological effectiveness (RBE) of protons
 - Proton RBE is assumed to be a constant of 1.1
- **Heterogeneity in patient population**, tumor characteristics and treatment techniques may be obscuring the potential advantages of protons for subpopulations of patients
- **Evolving treatment delivery and planning systems and techniques**
- **Limits to the applicability of knowledge** and models based on photon therapy experience to protons
- **High cost** of proton therapy

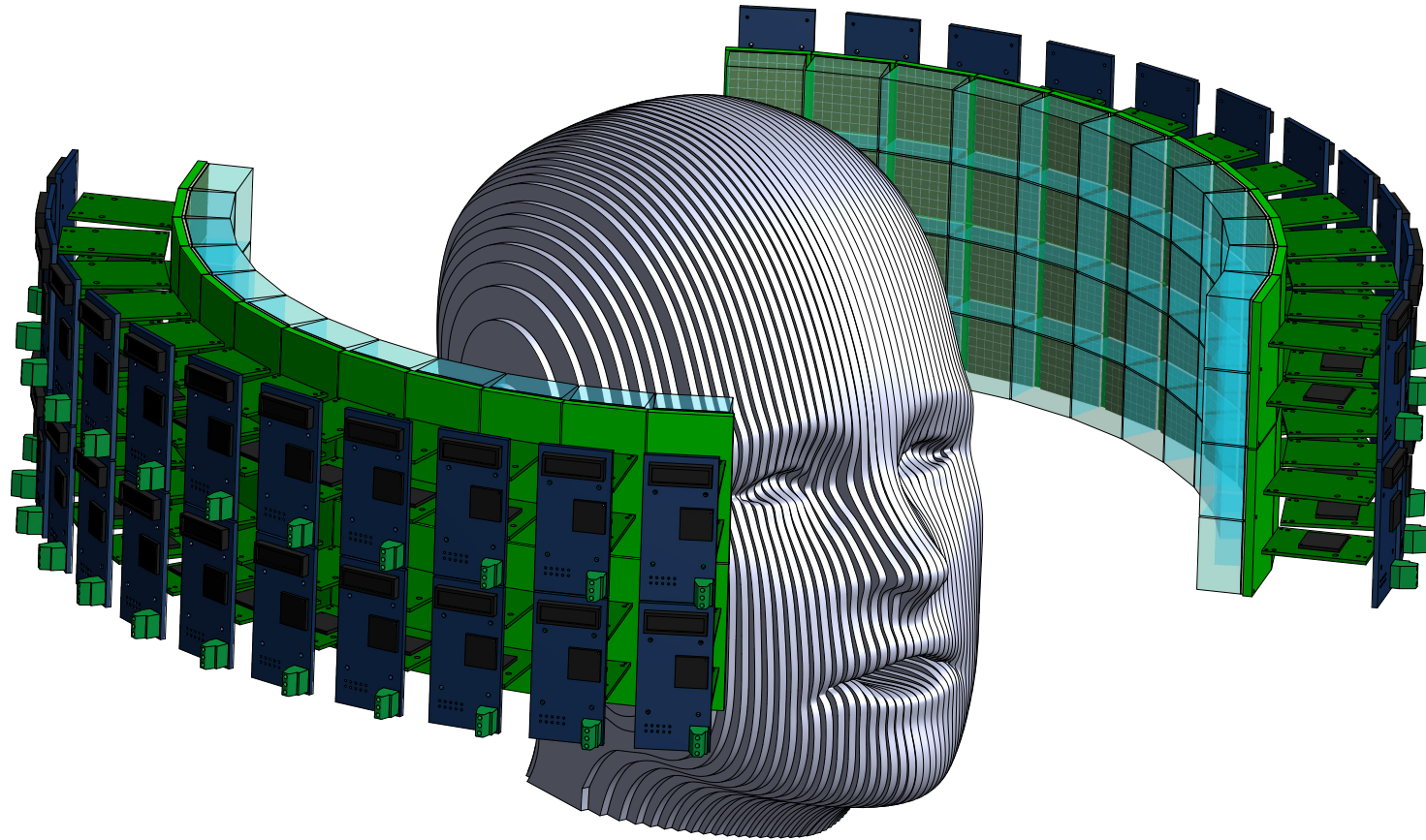
A successful plan requires good communication and multitude of factors that need input from:

- Physician
- Dosimetry team
- Physics team
- Therapy team

Much room for improved feedback of ongoing therapy (a.k.a. proton range verification)

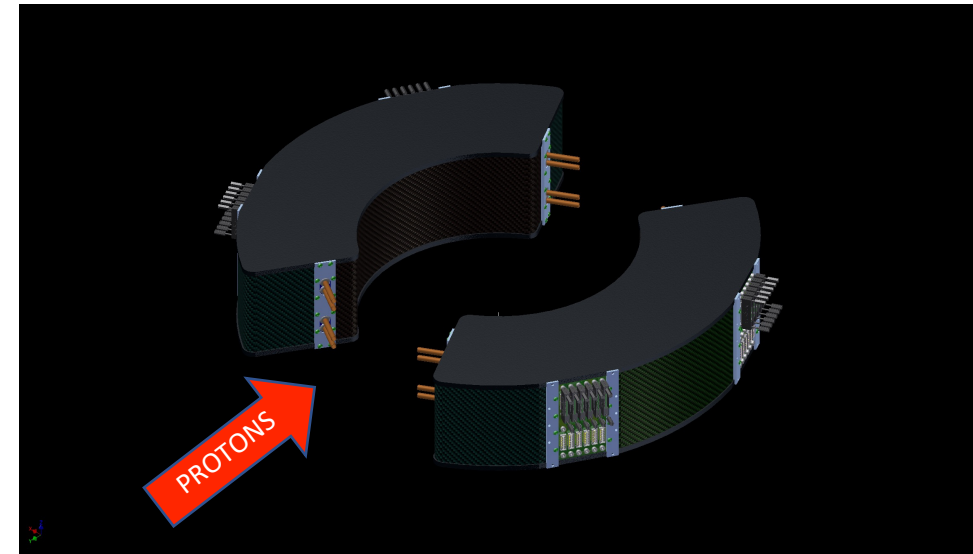
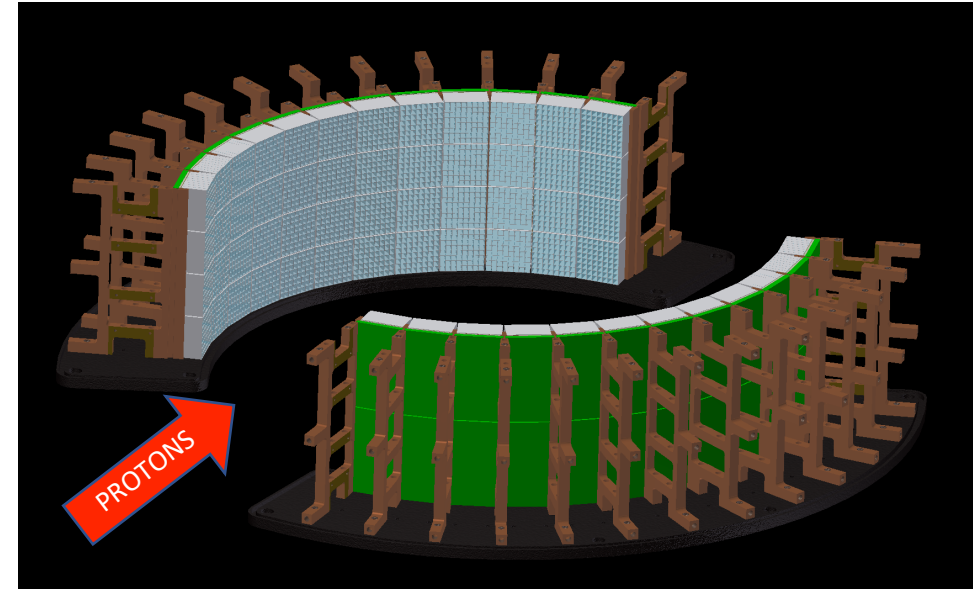
From Radhe Mohan, PhD

The TPPT Project: Meet the TPPT Scanner



The TPPT Project: Scanner Design

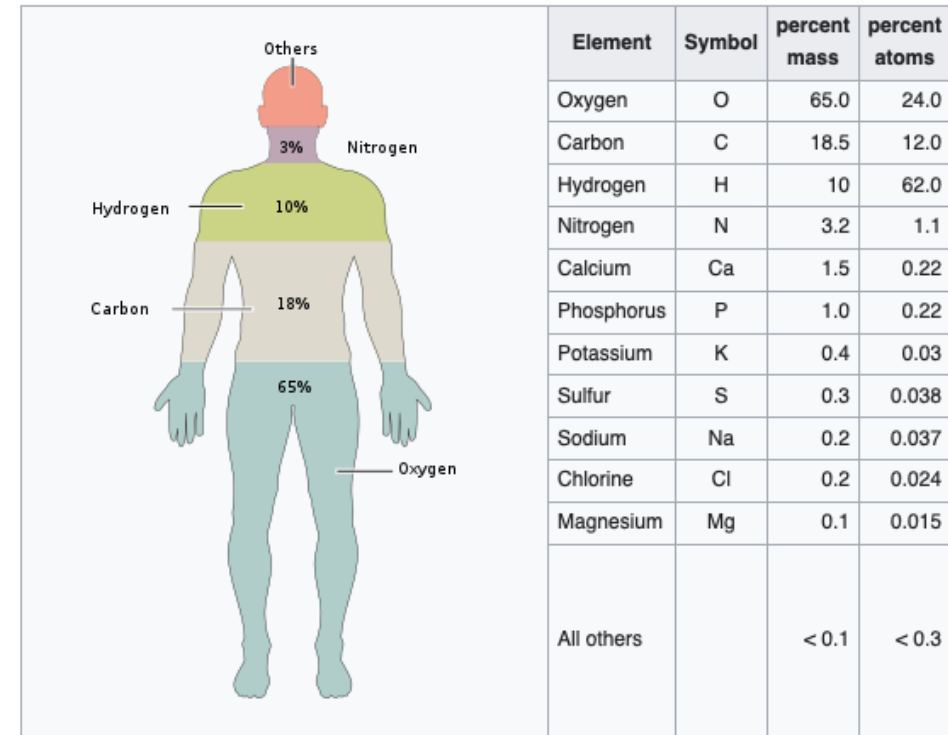
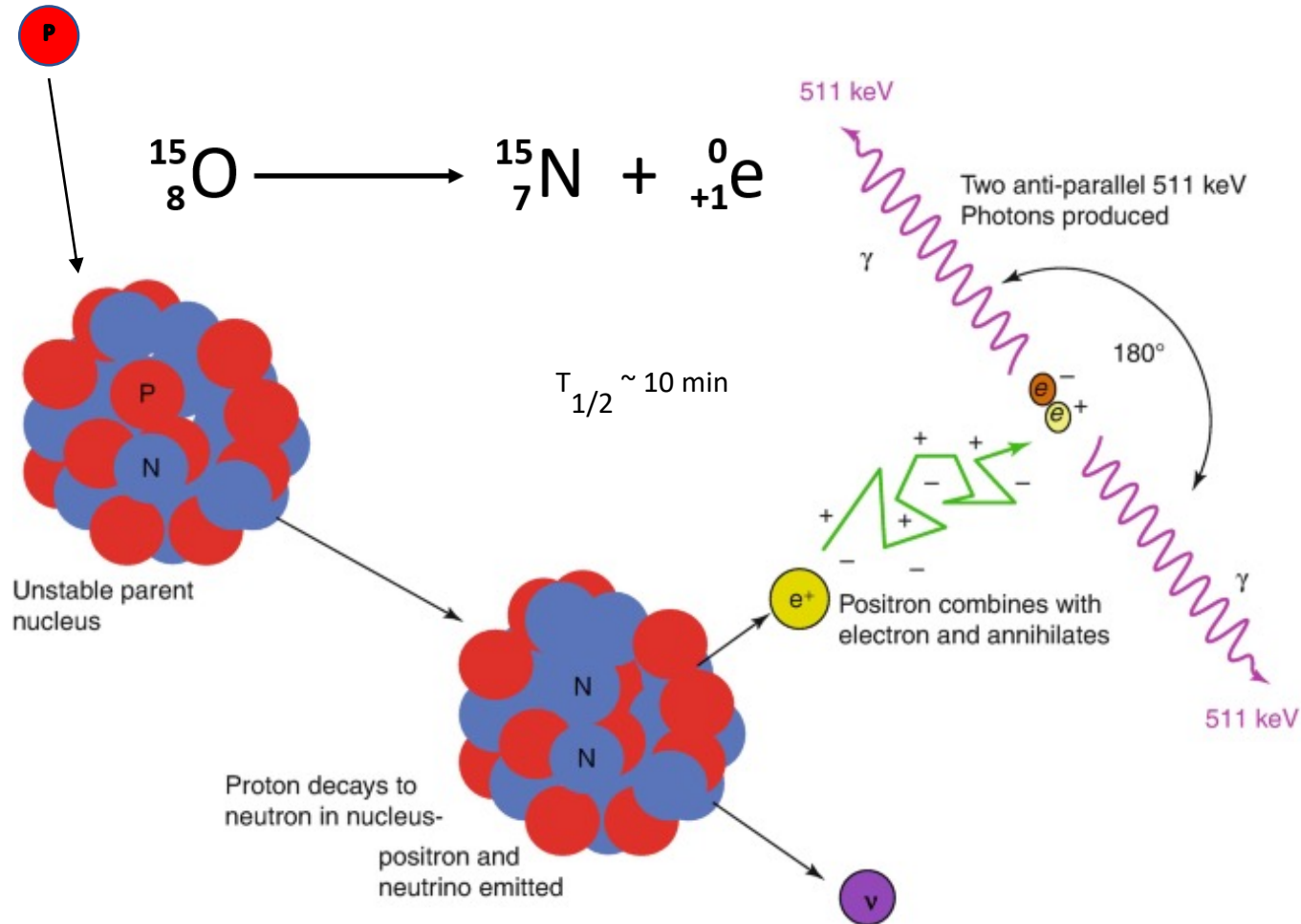
- Design Goal:
 - Detect positron emitting species (PES) activated by beam
 - Short lived, no time for conventional PET scan
 - 15min compared to 30min – 1hr acquisitions
 - Give feedback on where protons are interacting → range verification
 - Bonus: no added dose to patients since using beam activations
- Design Constraints:
 - High sensitivity → “Do more, with less”
 - Shorter acquisition, fewer events
 - ToF greatly helps in this!
 - Beam optimized geometry → gap for proton delivery, detector is “live” during irradiations
 - Veto for beam spill, high-rate environment
 - Needs to be compact to fit into existing infrastructure



The TPPT Project: PES

PES = positron emitting species

Proton beam



The main elements that compose the human body molecules (including water) can be summarized as **CHNOPS**.

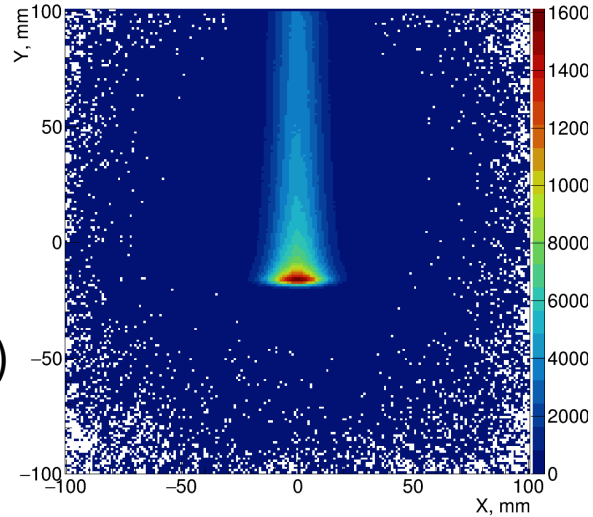
Studenski MT *et al.* Proton therapy dosimetry

Table 1 Relevant positron emitter reactions in tissue from proton therapy

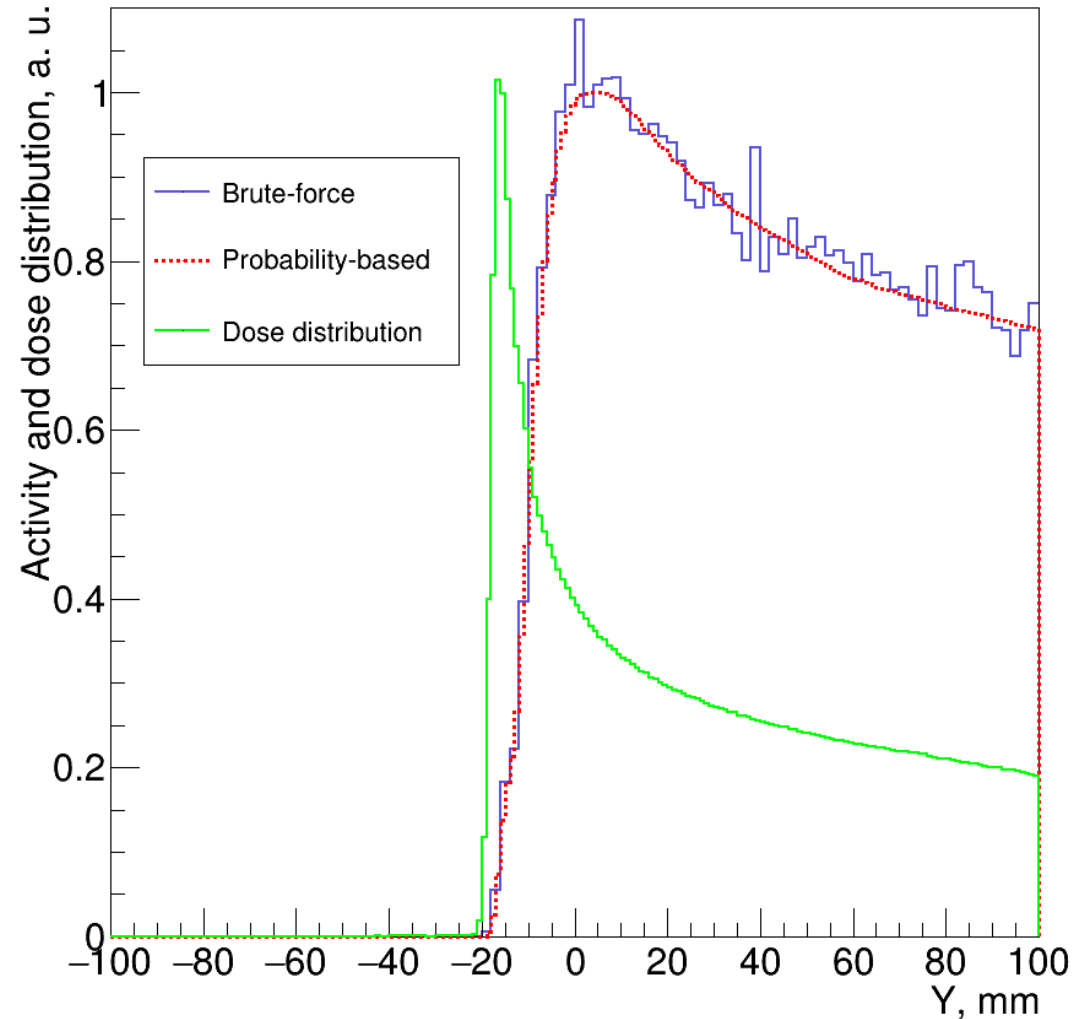
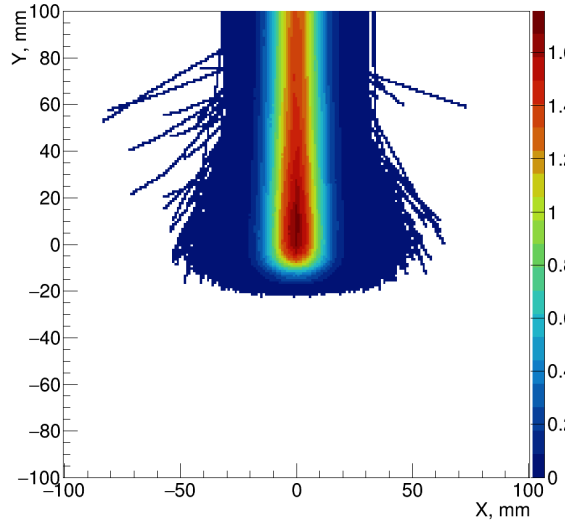
Reaction	Threshold energy (MeV)	Half life (min)	Positron energy (MeV)
$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p}, \text{pn})^{15}\text{O}$	16.79	2.037	1.72
$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p}, \alpha)^{13}\text{N}$	5.66	9.965	1.19
$^{14}\text{N}(\text{p}, \text{pn})^{13}\text{N}$	11.44	9.965	1.19
$^{12}\text{C}(\text{p}, \text{pn})^{11}\text{C}$	20.61	20.390	0.96
$^{14}\text{N}(\text{p}, \alpha)^{11}\text{C}$	3.22	20.390	0.96
$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p}, \alpha\text{pn})^{11}\text{C}$	59.64	20.390	0.96

The TPPT Project: Proton Range Verification

2D projection
along beam of
dose (Bragg Peak)
due to **protons**



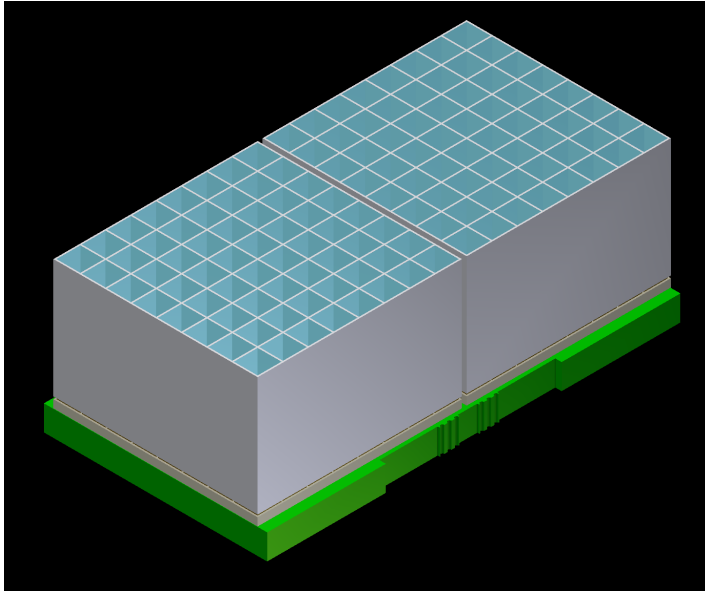
2D projection
along beam of
PES activity



PET imaging of
PES relates to
proton dose
distribution to
give feedback on
proton range!

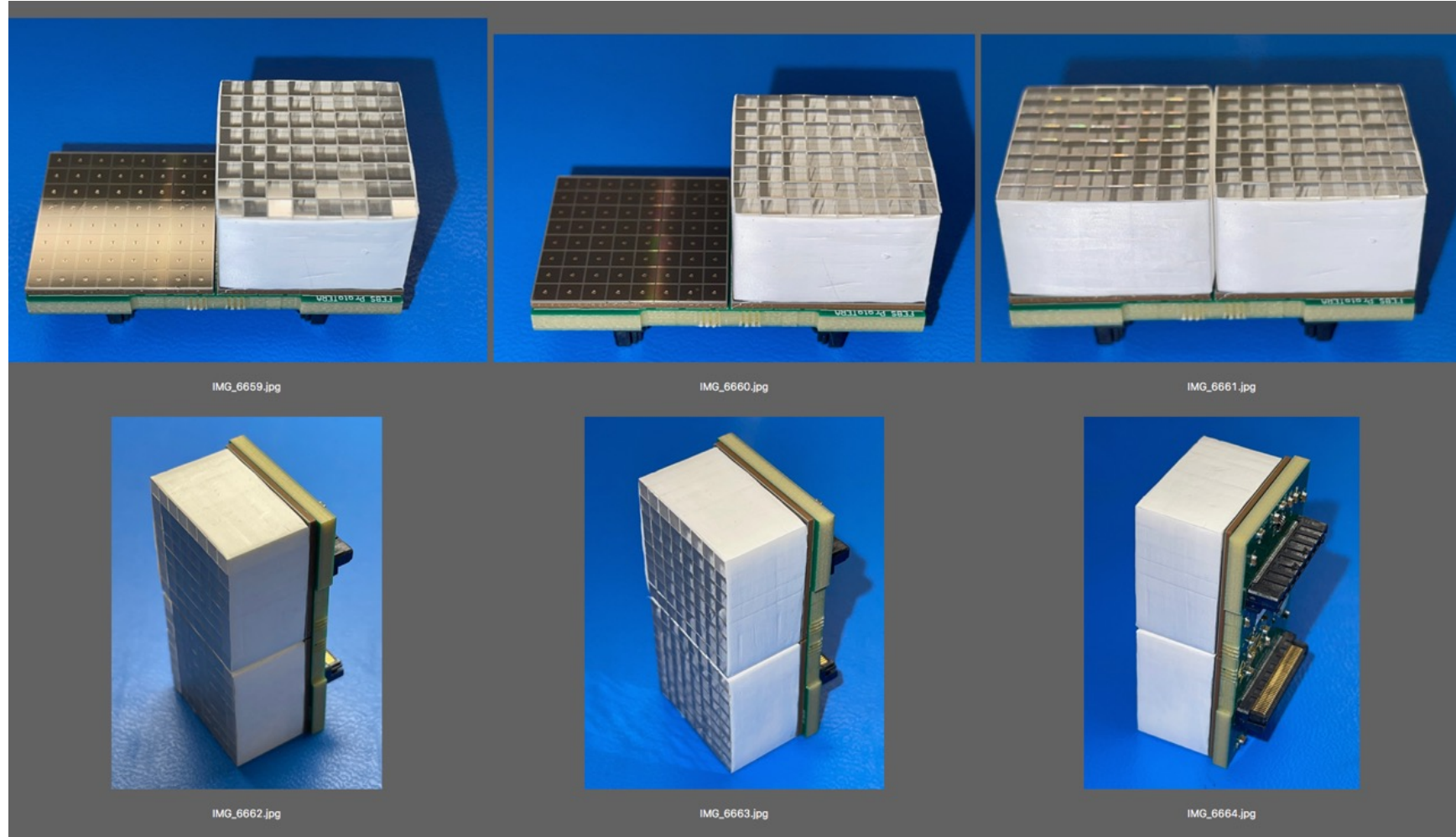
The TPPT Project: The Basic Building Blocks

3 x 3 x 15 mm³ LYSO* crystals



1:1 coupling to Hamamtsu SiPMs
Two 8 x 8 arrays

This is a PET optimized MPPC Array

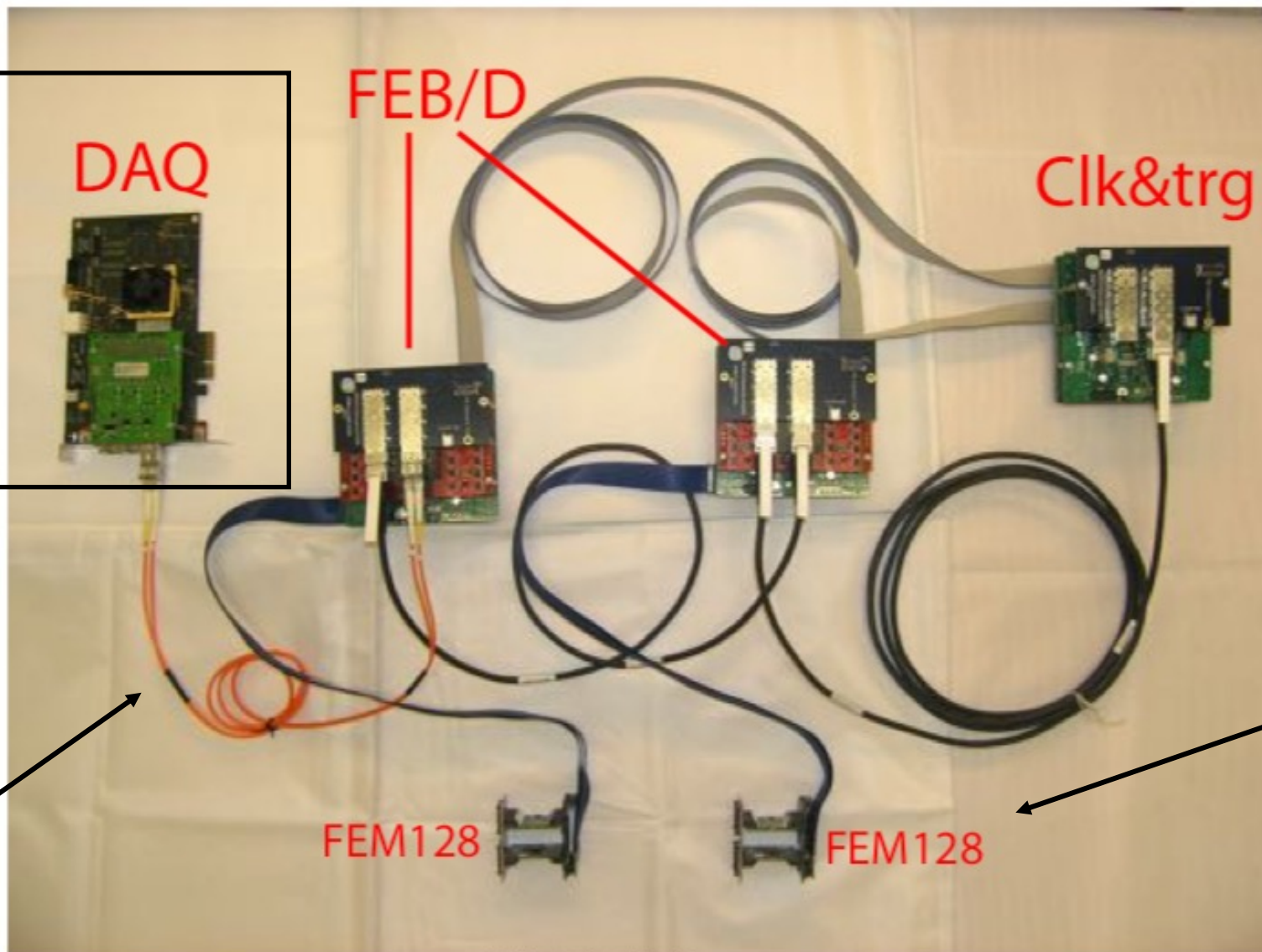


*LYSO (Lu^{1.8}Y²SiO⁵Ce) is a Cerium doped Lutetium-based scintillation crystal

The TPPT Project: PETsys Electronics

DAQ

Data Acquisition (DAQ) PC



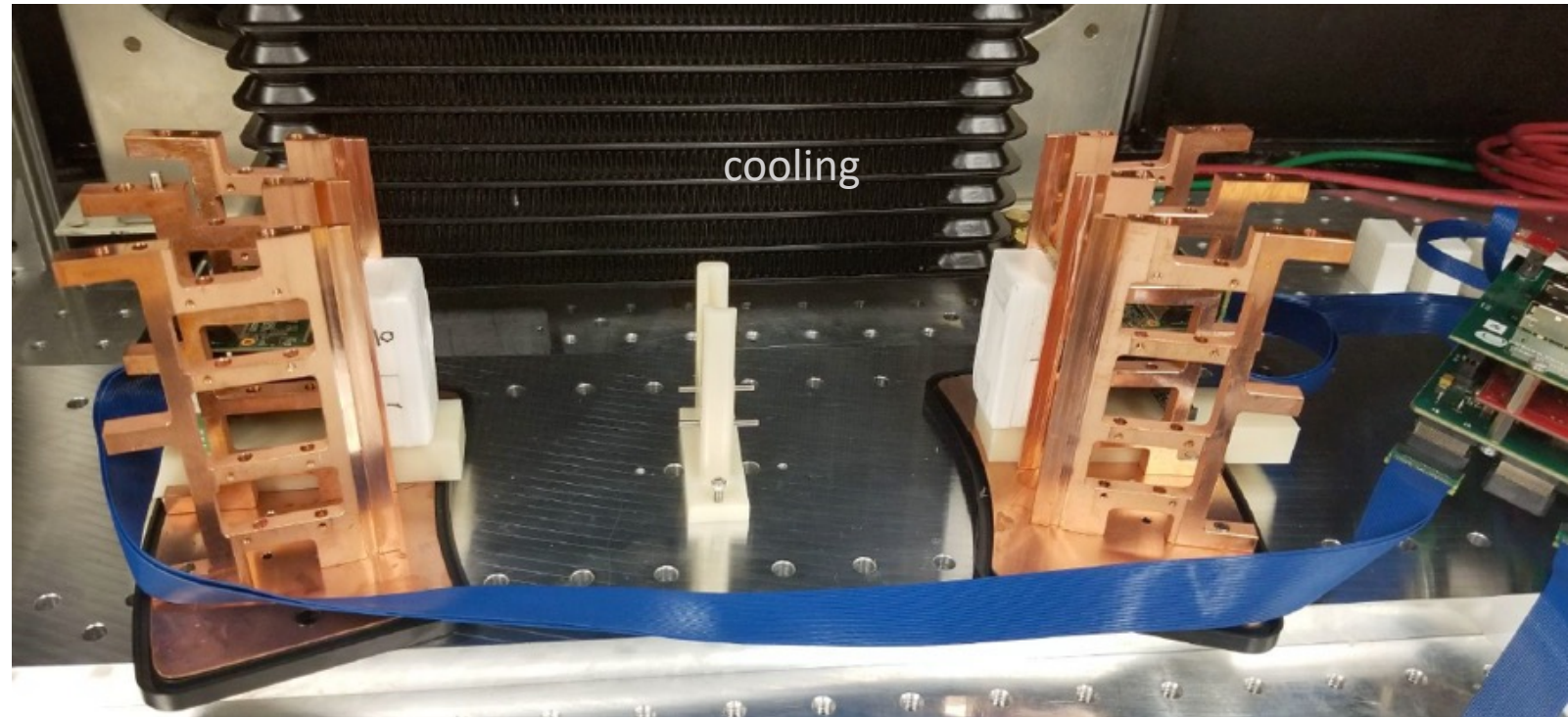
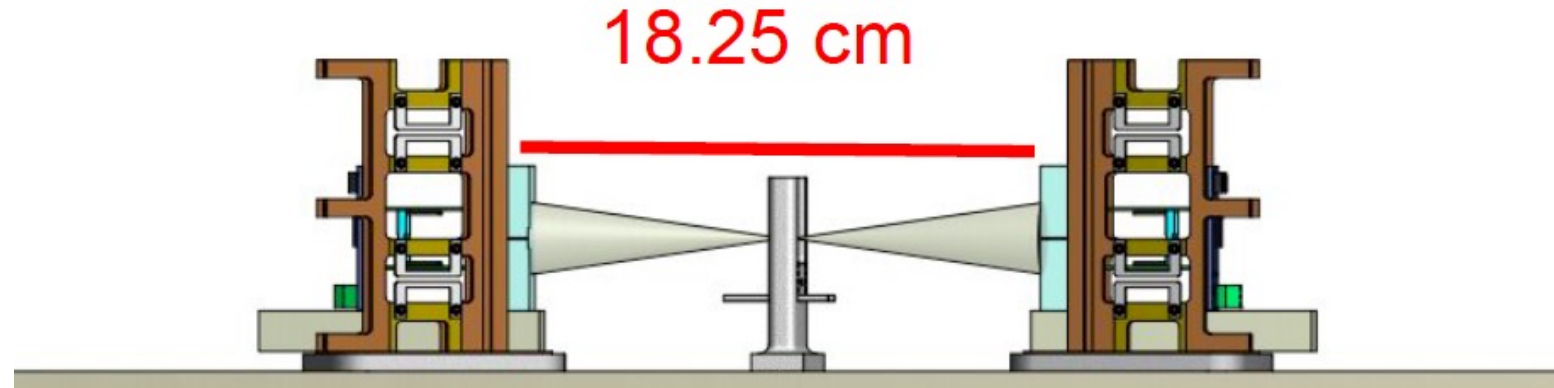
Fiber optic communication between system and DAQ PC

x 48 modules for full scanner

6144 total channels

The TPPT Project: Mini-PET

- Characterization and evaluation of all modules after gluing
 - Quality assurance
- Each module placed opposite a reference module
- Na-22 source for coincident gammas
- Extraction of early performance parameters (energy resolution and coincidence time resolution)
 - Next slides

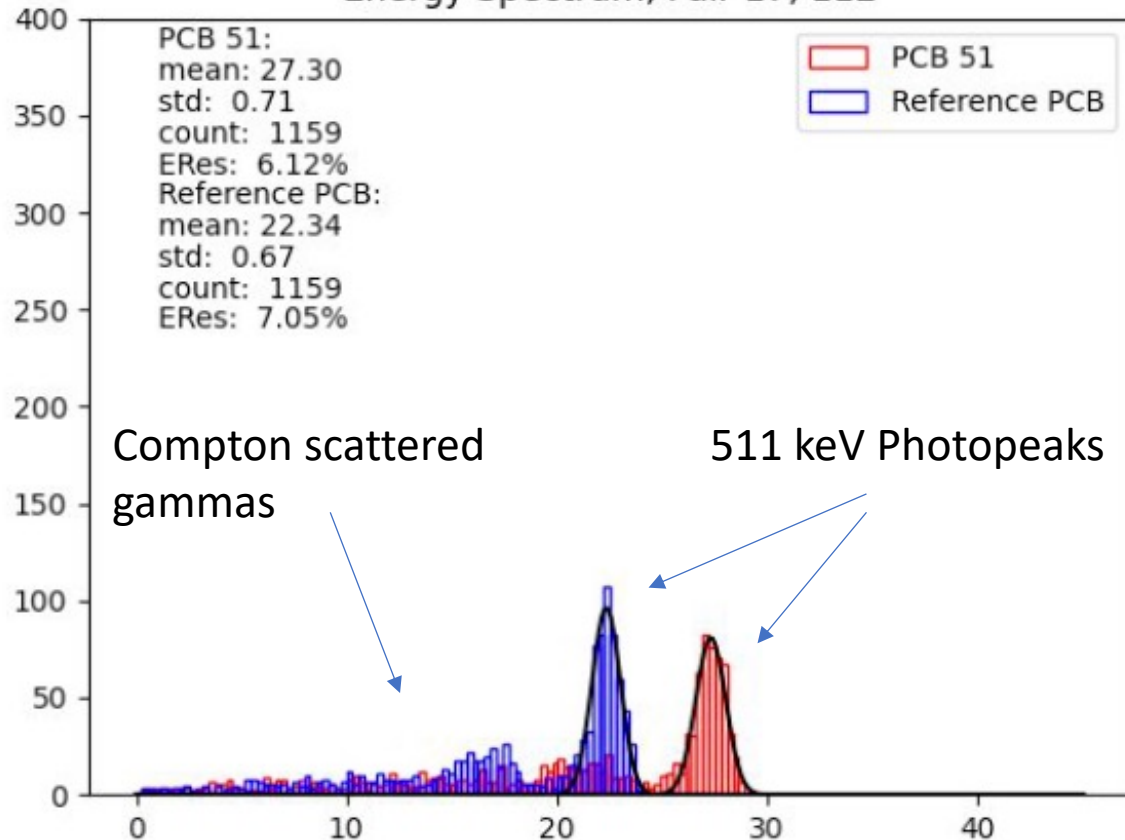


The TPPT Project: Mini-PET Evaluation

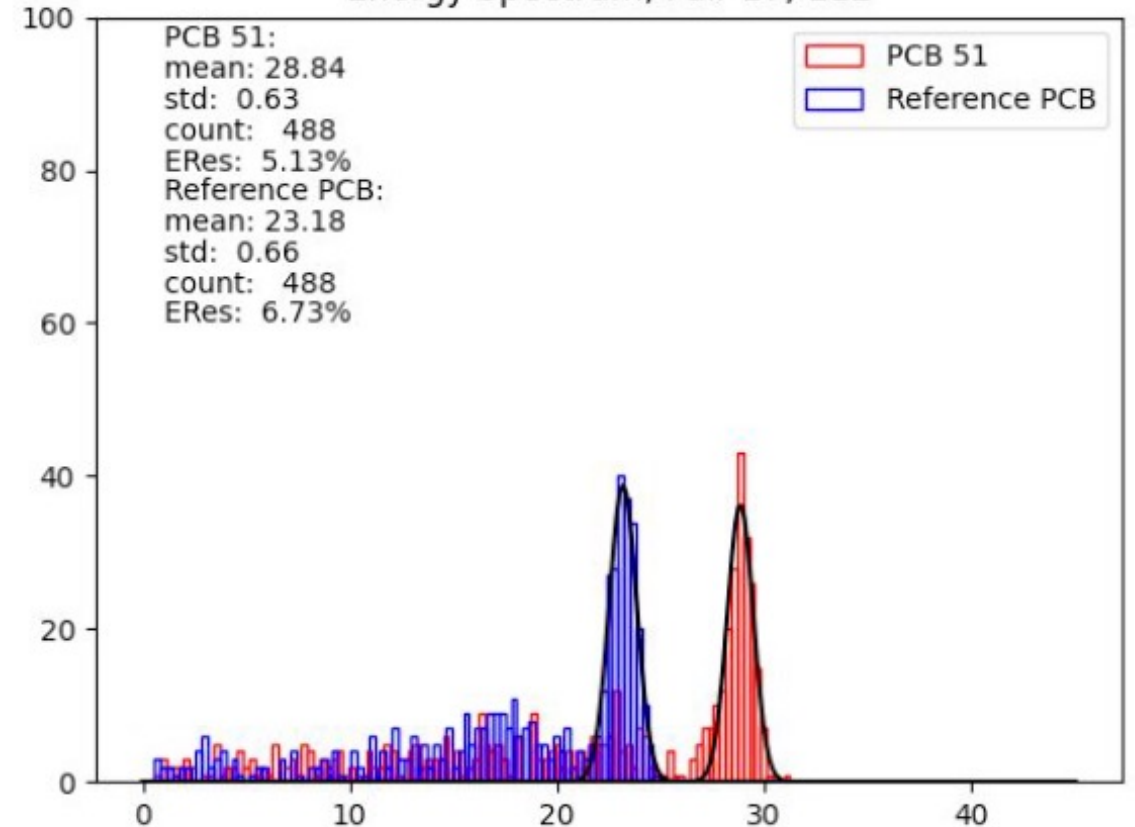
Na-22

Ge-68

Energy Spectrum, Pair 17, 112

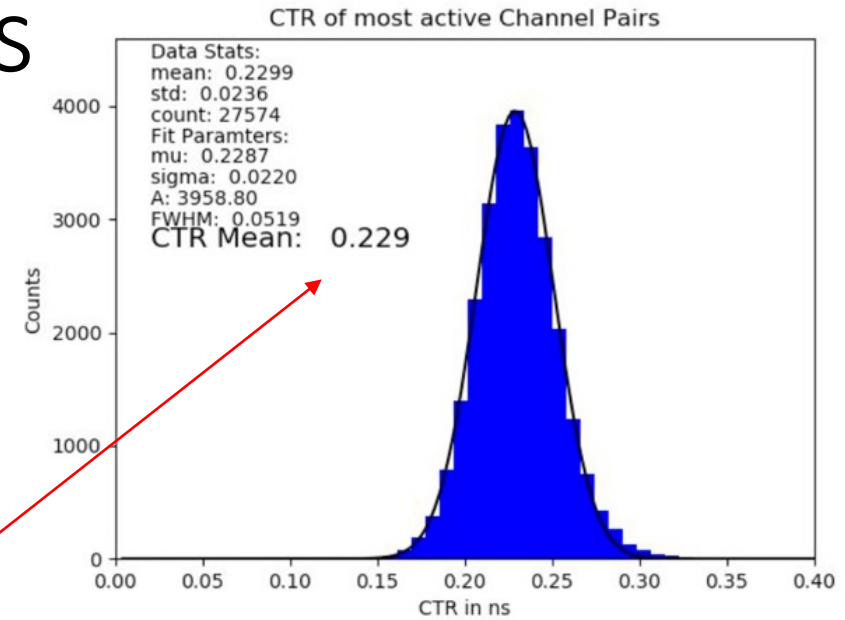
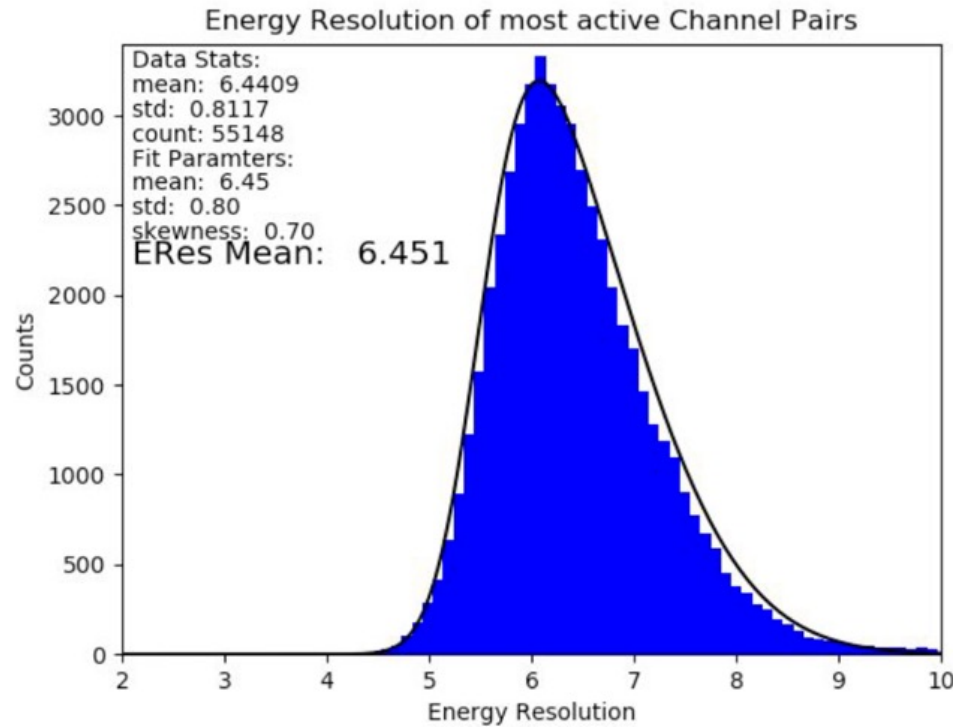


Energy Spectrum, Pair 17, 112



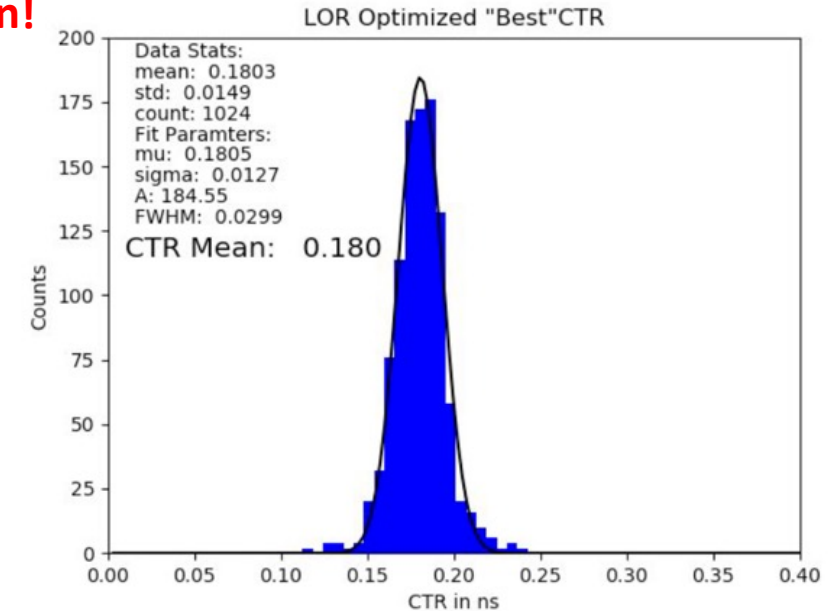
The TPPT Project : Mini-PET Results

- Select photopeak events from previous energy spectra
 - Estimate energy resolution across pairs of channels
 - Coincidence time resolution (CTR) calculated from time difference between photopeak gammas



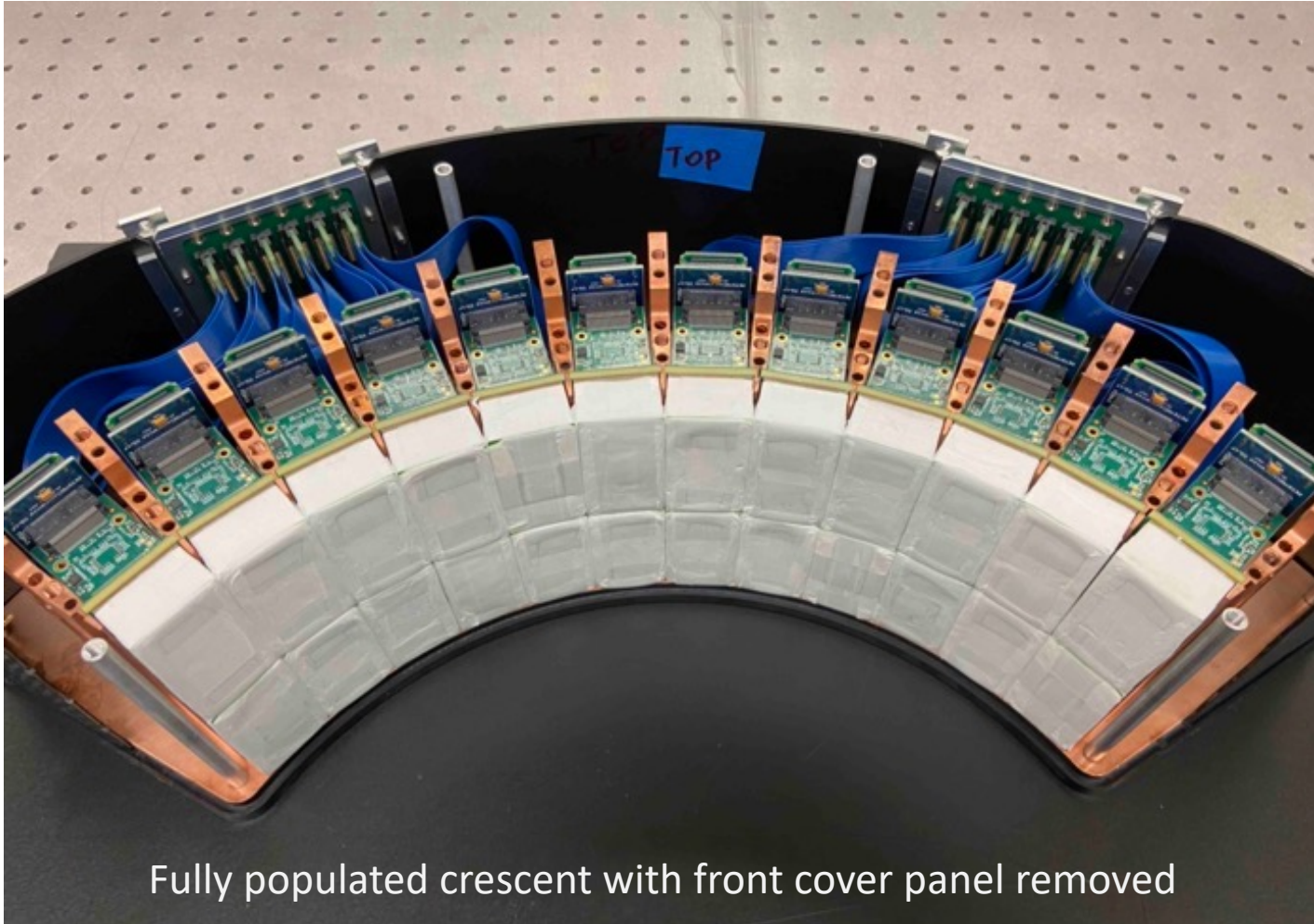
230 ps ToF resolution!

Even better when
looking at most
optimal lines of
response...

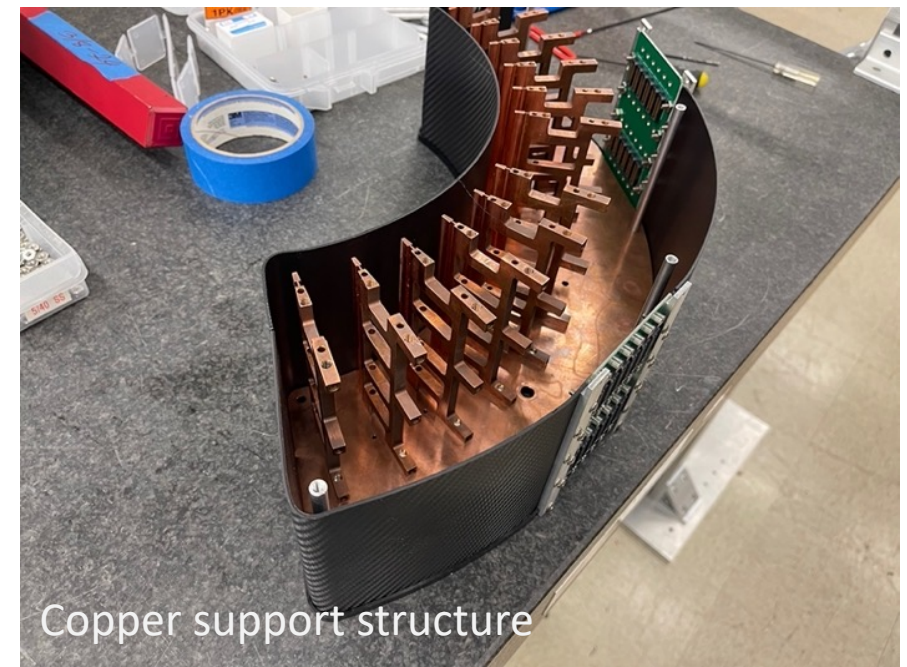


The TPPT Project : Assembly

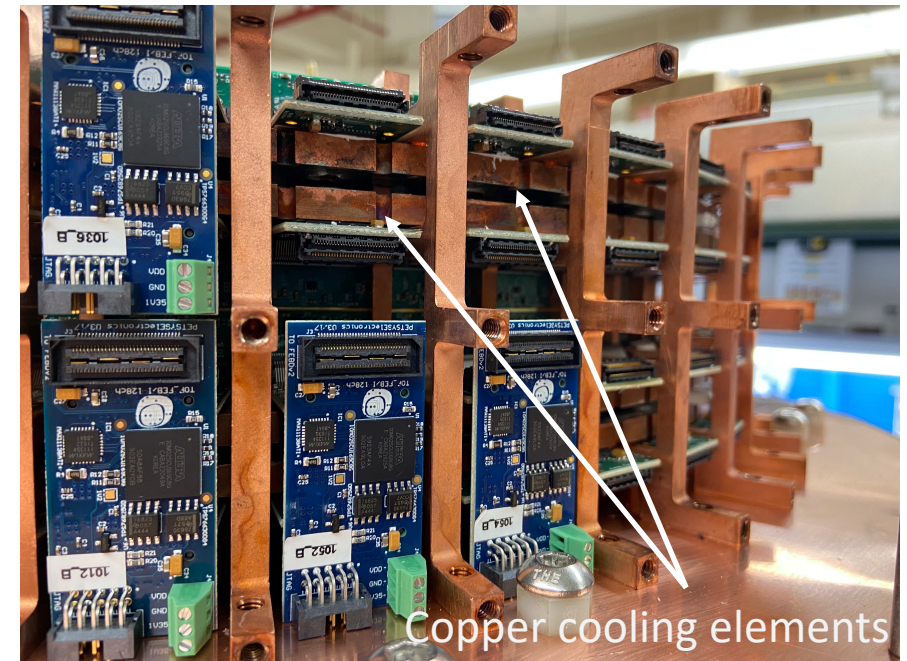
- The scanner at various stages of construction



Fully populated crescent with front cover panel removed

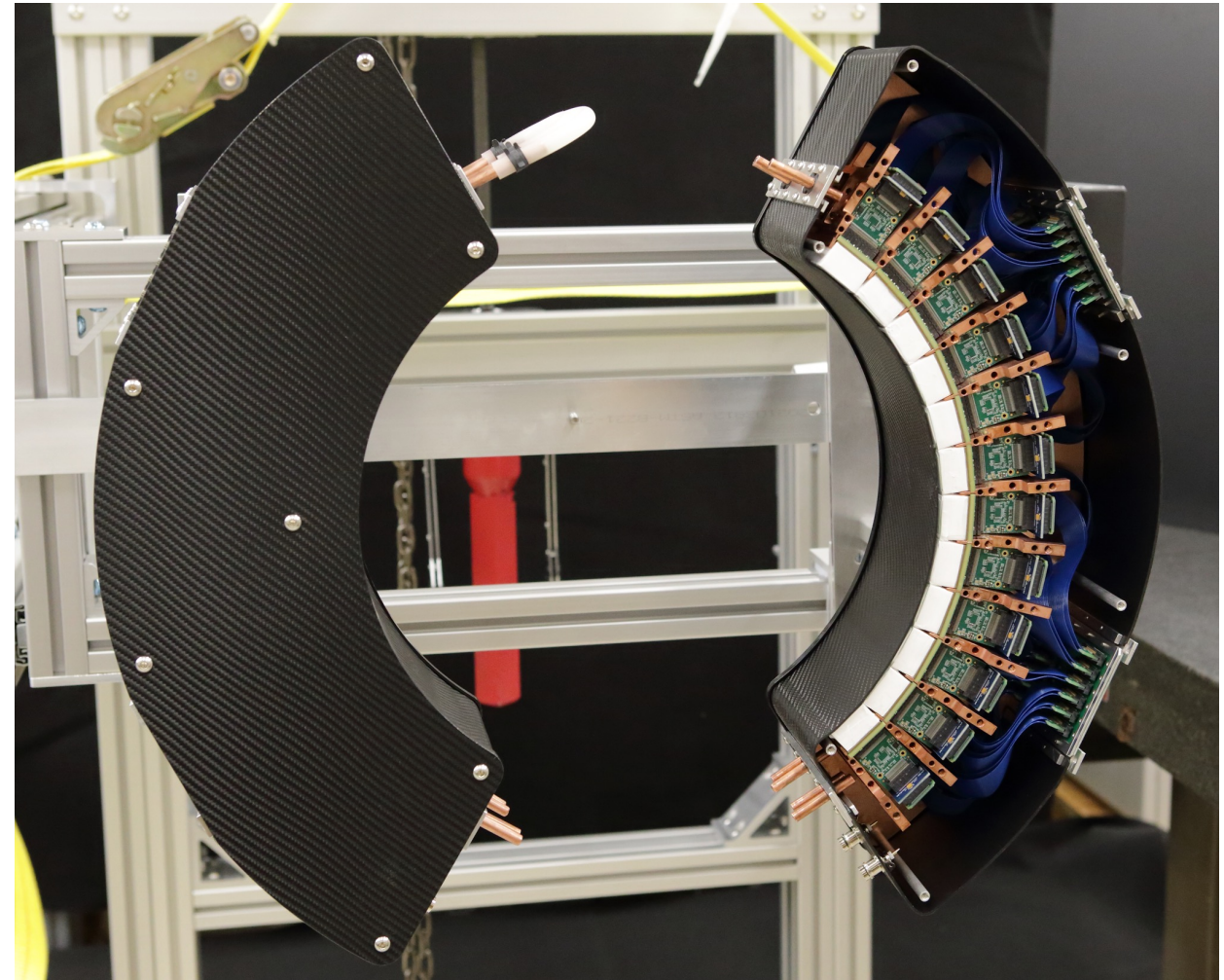
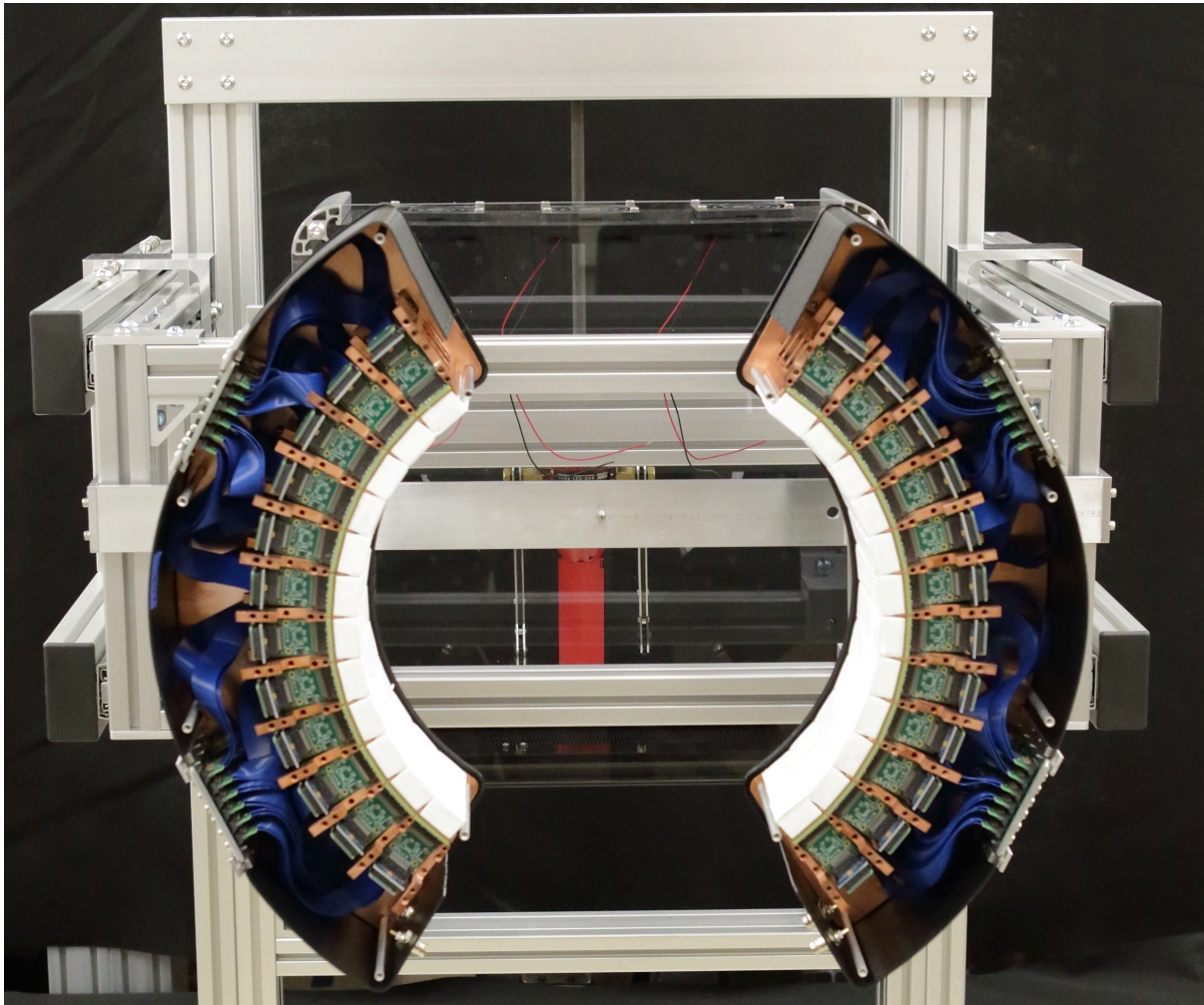


Copper support structure



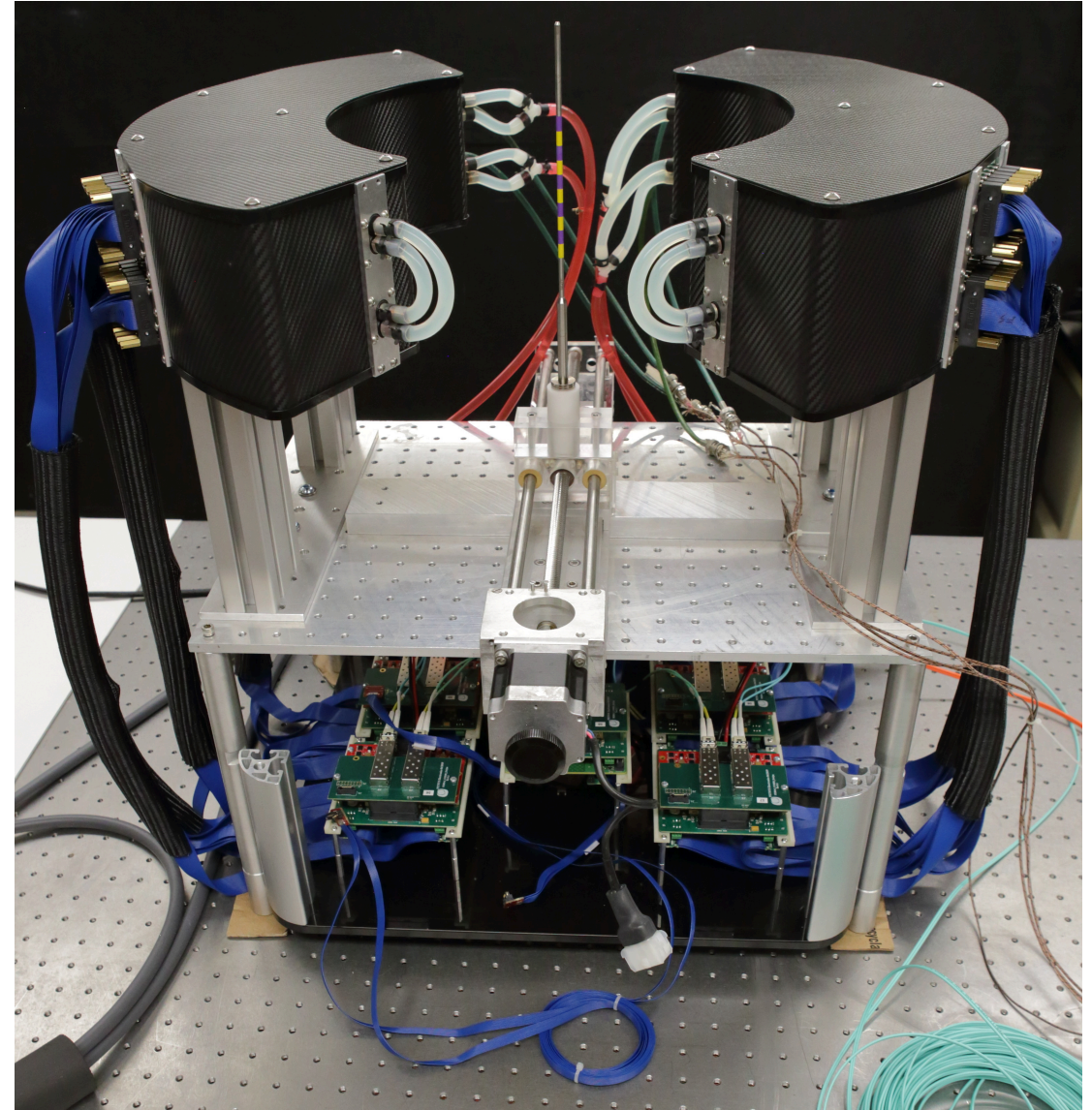
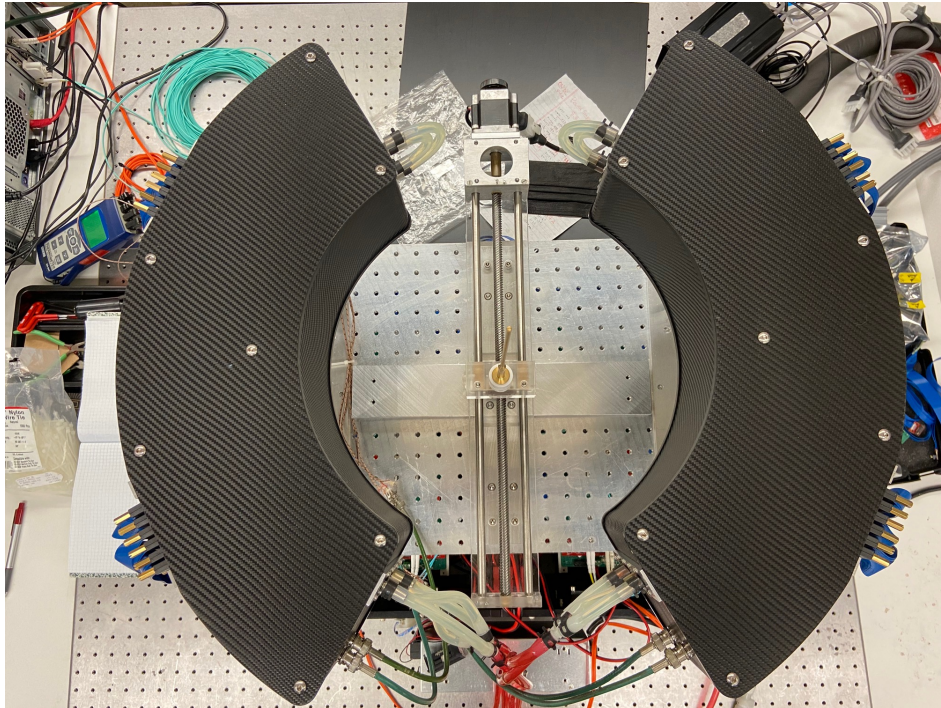
Copper cooling elements

The TPPT Project : Full Scanner on Gantry

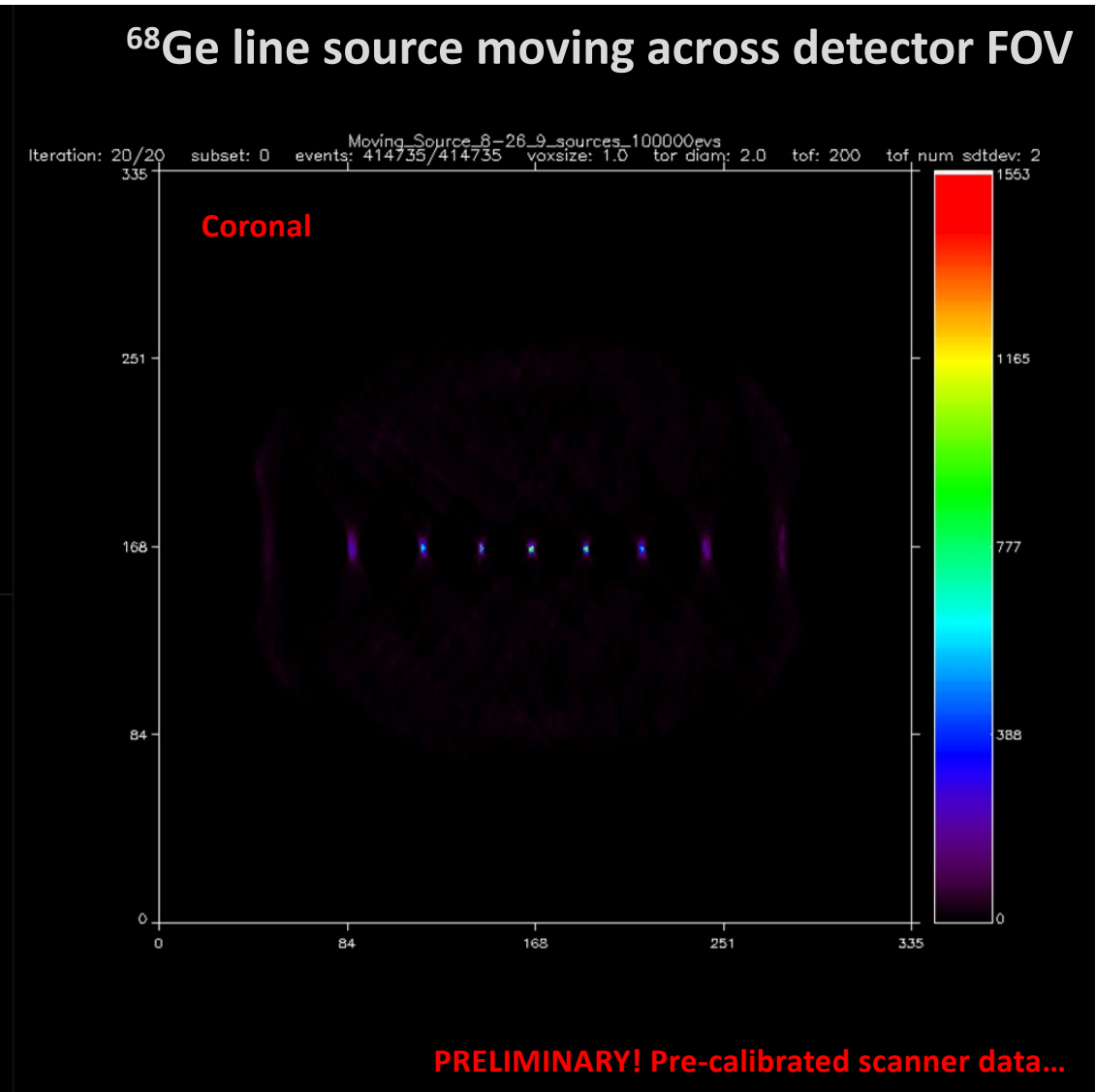
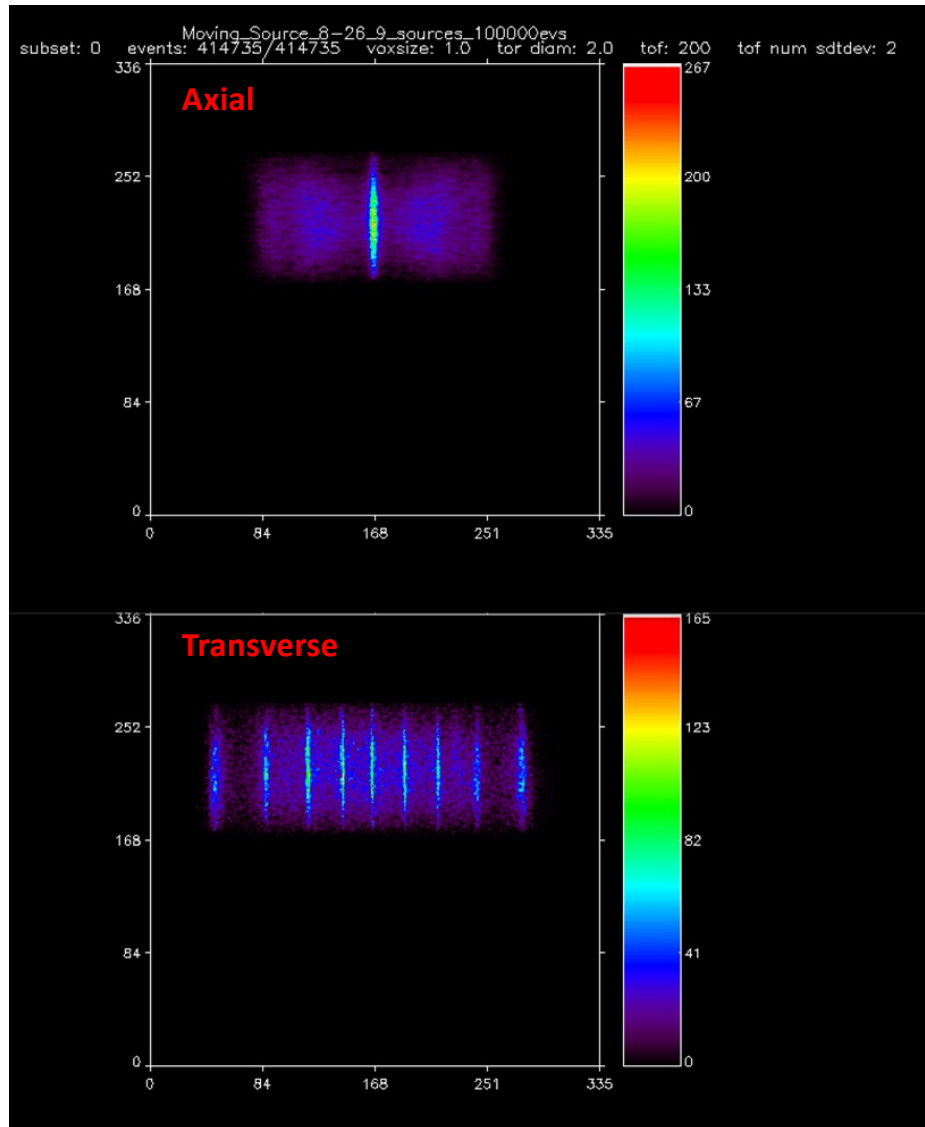


The TPPT Project : Full Scanner on Test Bench

- Various calibrations performed (or in the process):
 - SiPM OV and ASIC threshold scan
 - Normalization + Time alignment
 - Requires moving line source (^{68}Ge)
 - Cooling studies
 - DAQ stress testing
 - Image reconstruction debugging

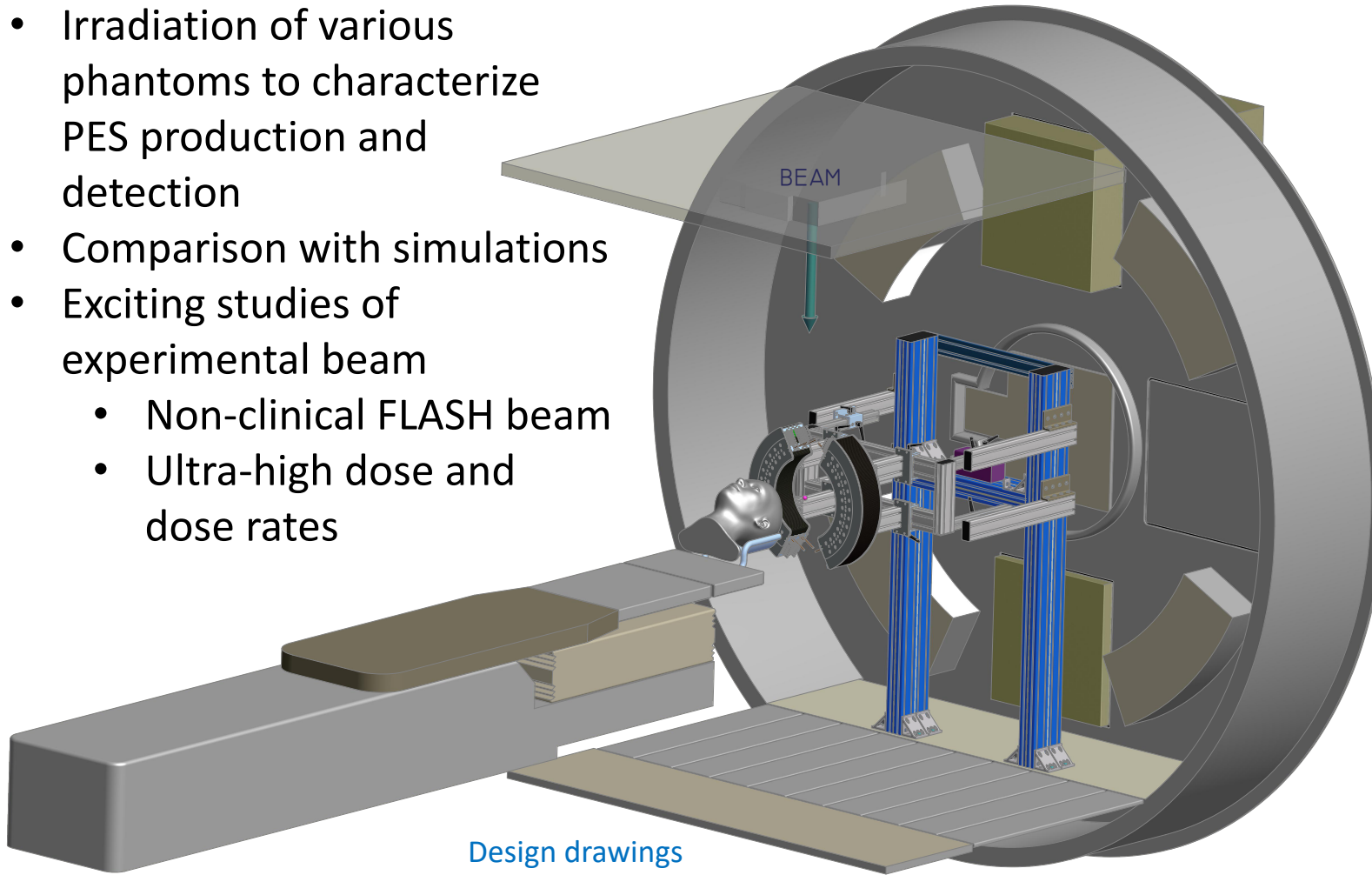


The TPPT Project : First Reconstructed Images!

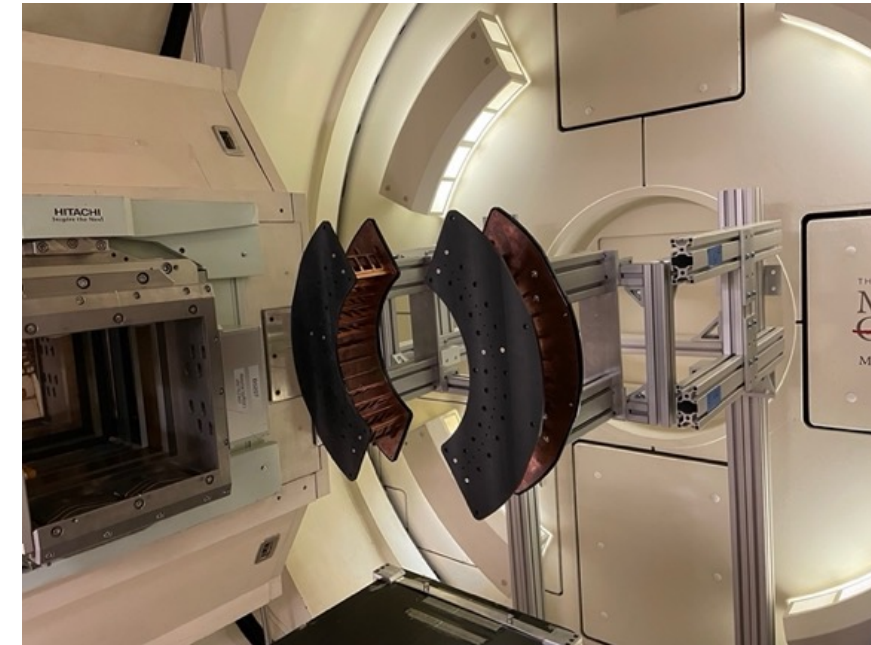
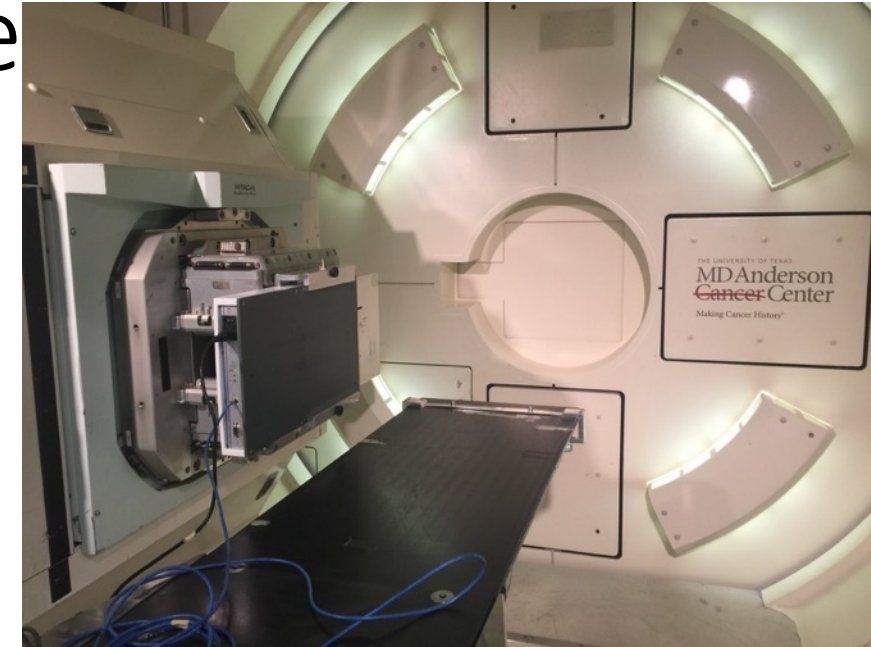


The TPPT Project: The Near Future

- Live in-beam tests at MDACC
- Irradiation of various phantoms to characterize PES production and detection
- Comparison with simulations
- Exciting studies of experimental beam
 - Non-clinical FLASH beam
 - Ultra-high dose and dose rates



Design drawings
by Marek Proga



Future Ideas

Novel PET ideas only
achievable thanks to SiPMs

Future Ideas: C³-PET

Chin – Crown – Cylinder PET

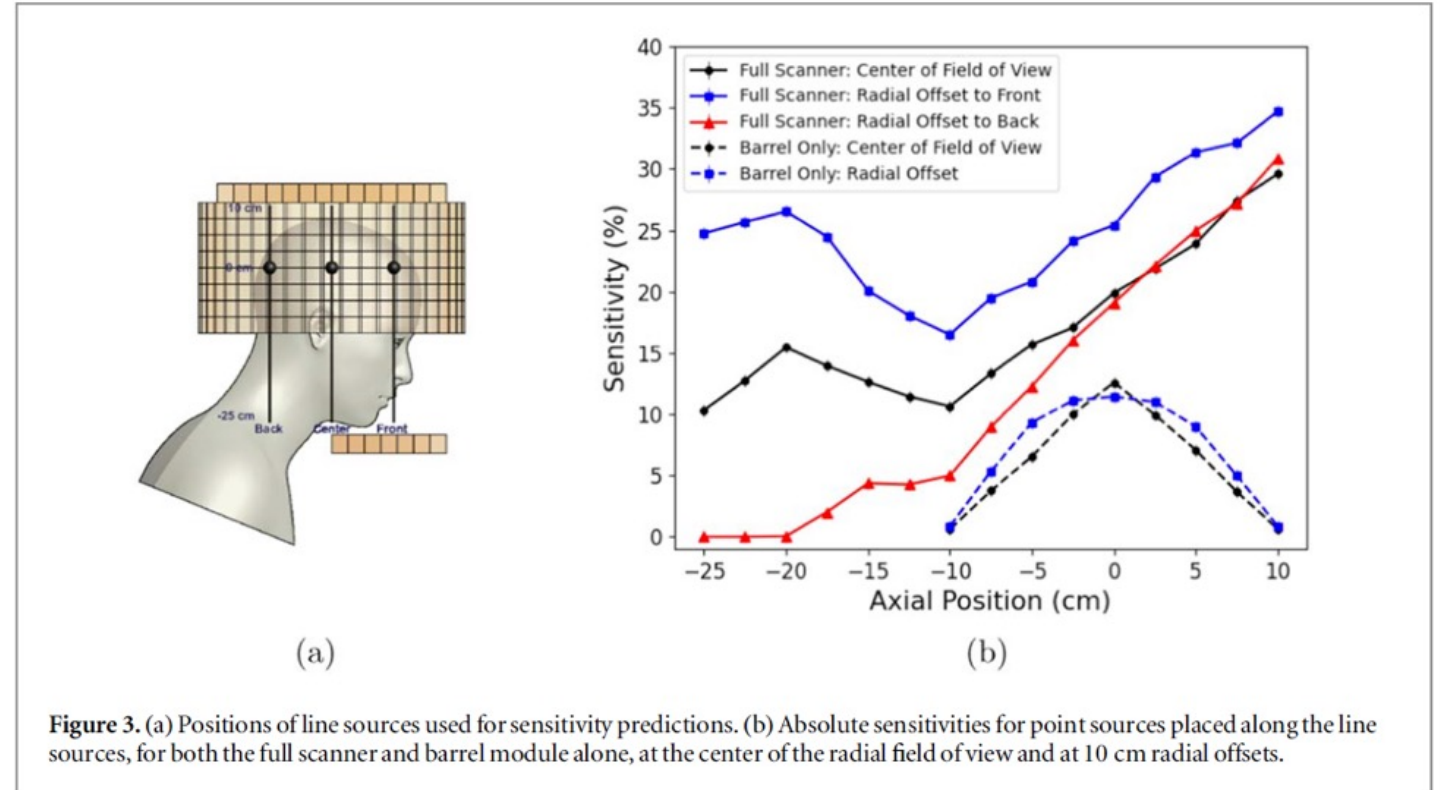
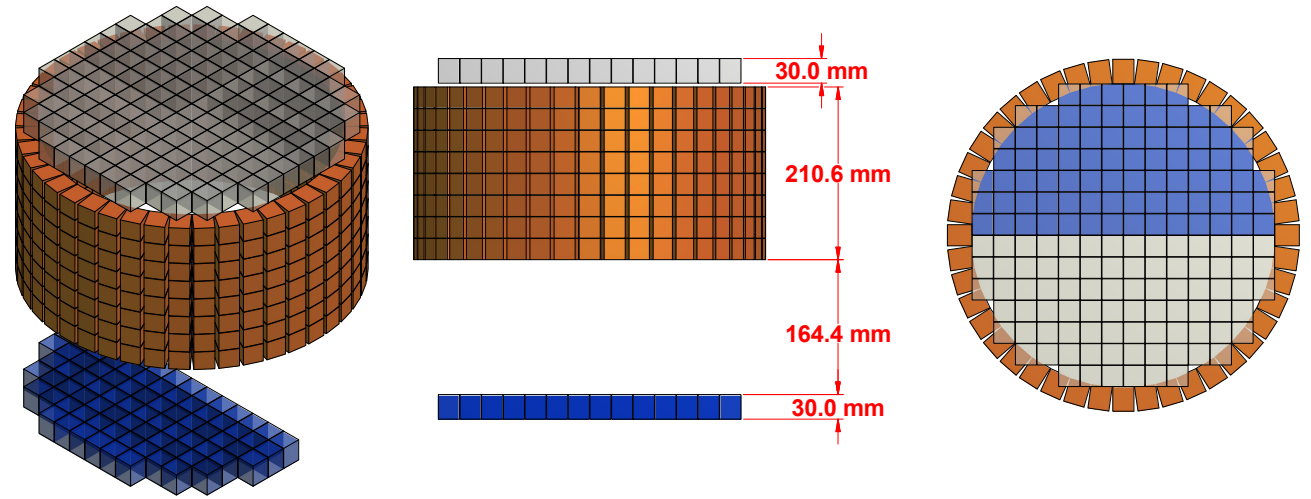
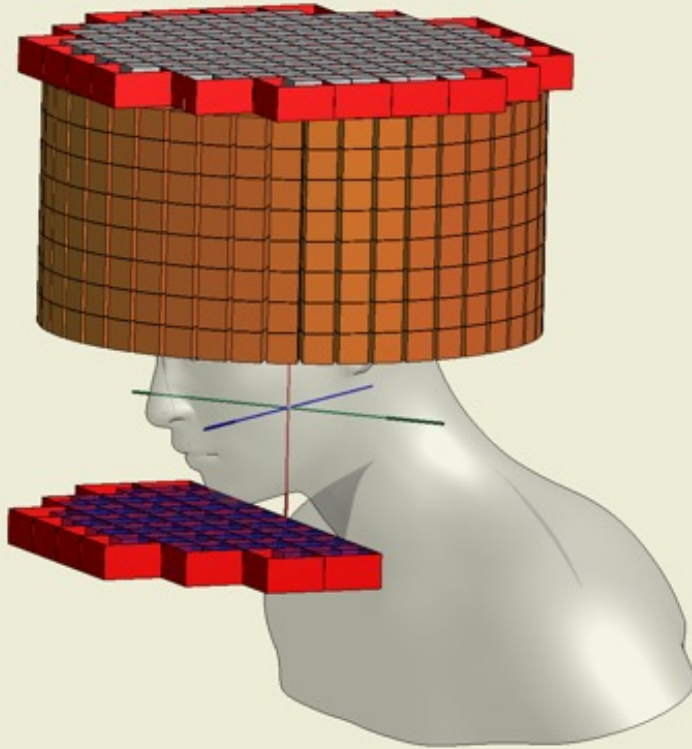


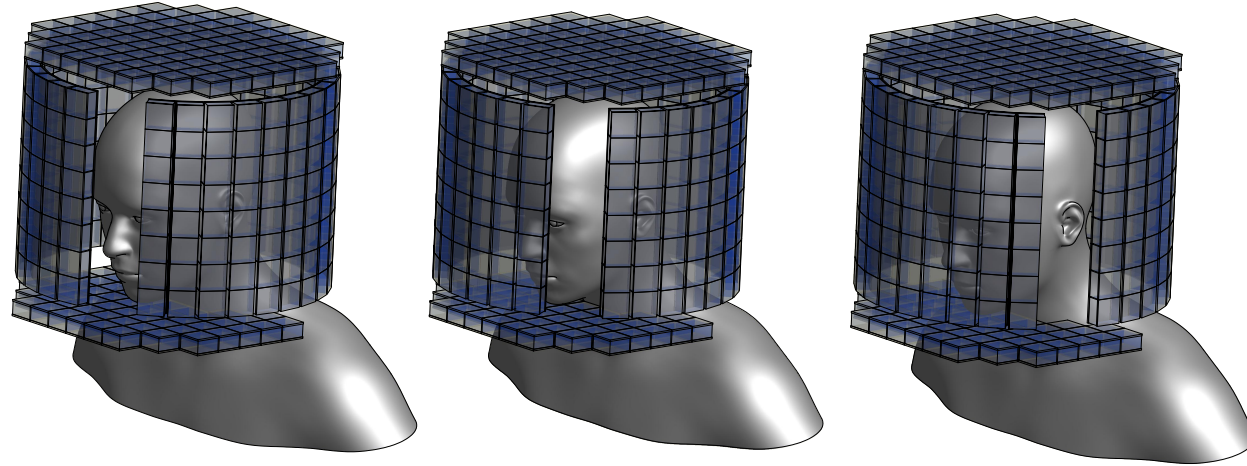
Figure 3. (a) Positions of line sources used for sensitivity predictions. (b) Absolute sensitivities for point sources placed along the line sources, for both the full scanner and barrel module alone, at the center of the radial field of view and at 10 cm radial offsets.

Design and modeling of a high resolution and high sensitivity PET brain scanner with double-ended readout

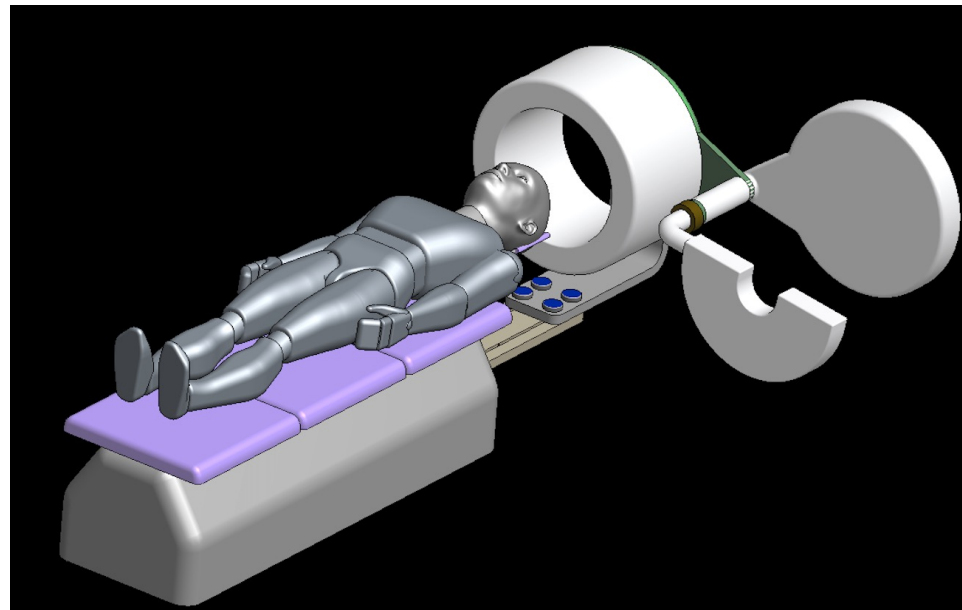
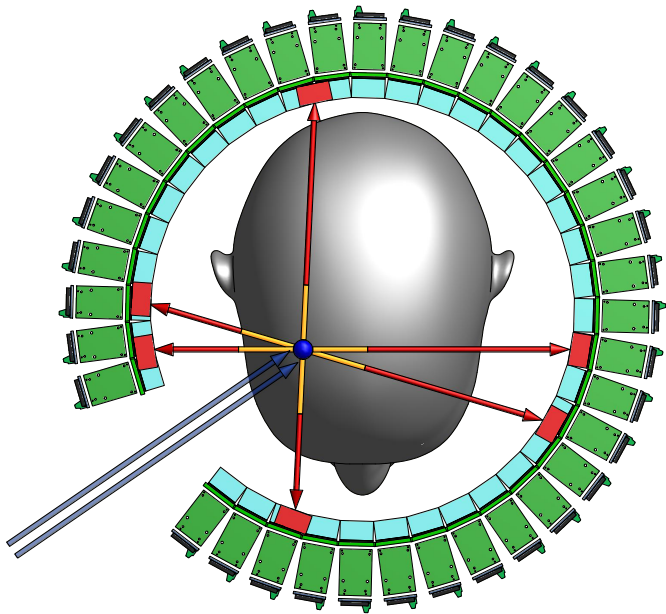
Christopher Layden^{1,*}, Kyle Klein¹, William Matava¹, Akhil Sadam¹, Firas Abouzahr¹, Marek Proga¹, Stanislaw Majewski², Johan Nuyts³ and Karol Lang¹

Future Ideas: C³-PET for Proton Therapy

PET-Image-driven therapy?
PT and radiopharmaceuticals?

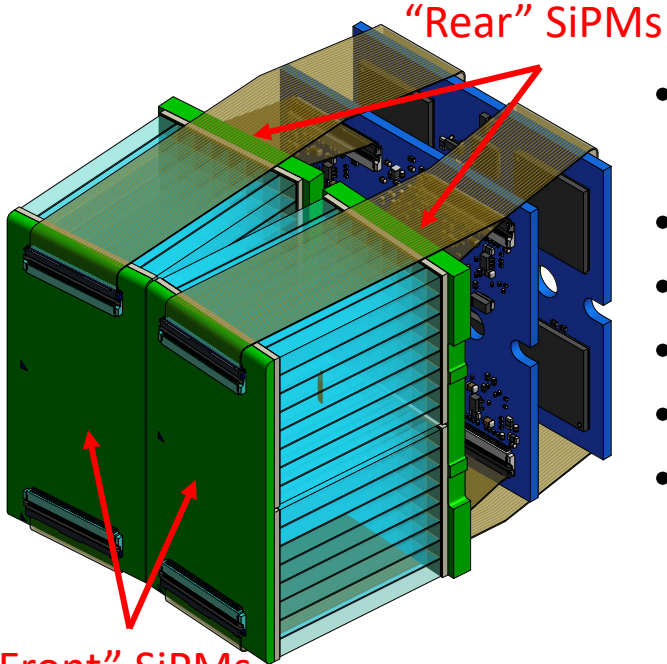


Gapped design for
beam delivery

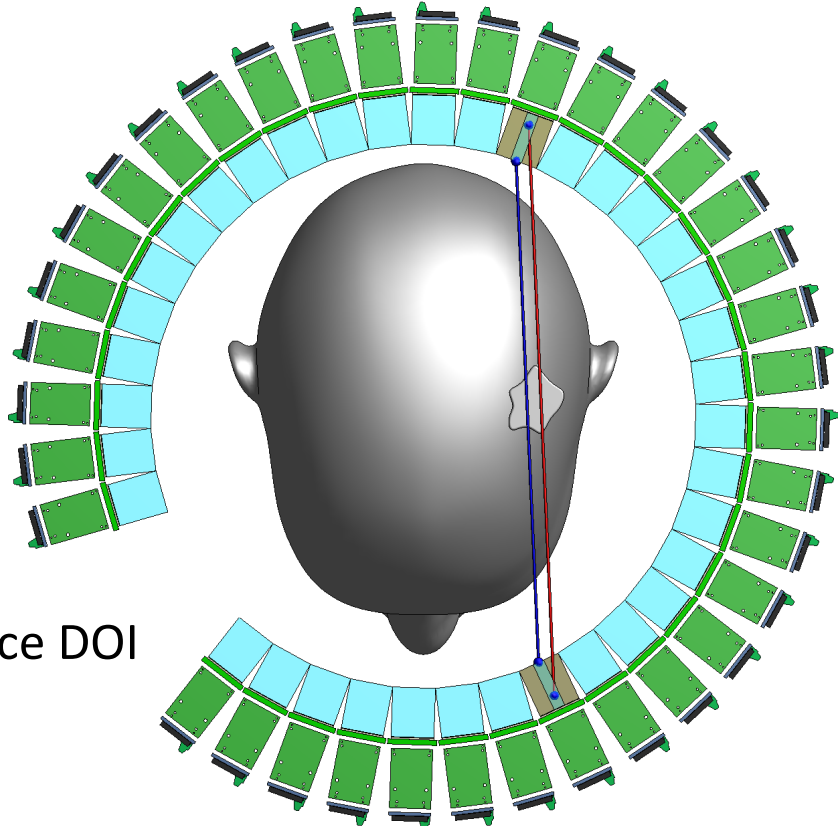


Possible due to the
compactness of SiPMs

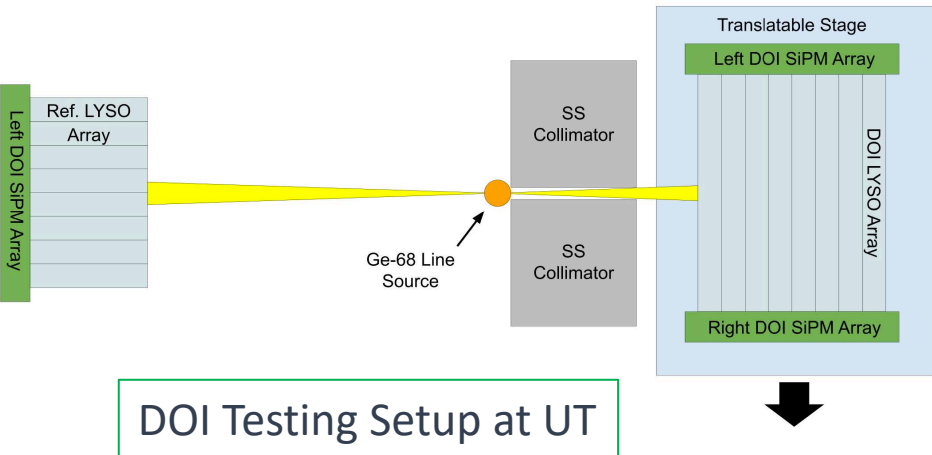
Future Ideas: DOI PET



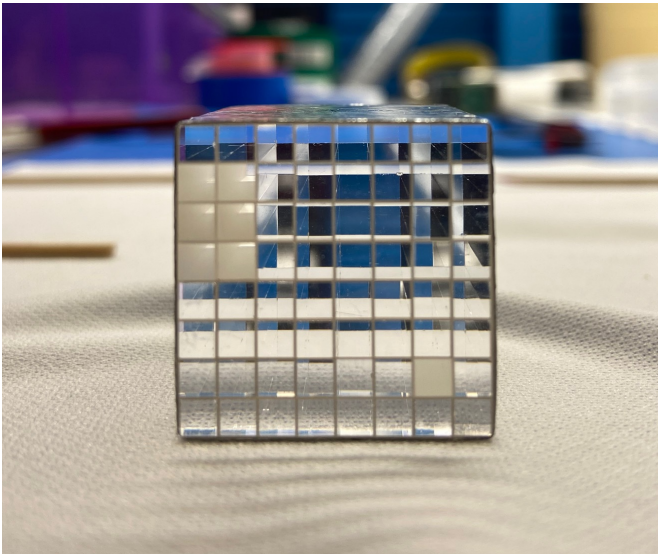
- Goal: Obtaining depth-of-interaction (DOI) information from PET systems
- Sandwich crystals between SiPMs
- Use relative intensities to extract DOI
- Helps eliminate parallax error
- Potential to greatly improve image quality
- Studying optical properties that can enhance DOI



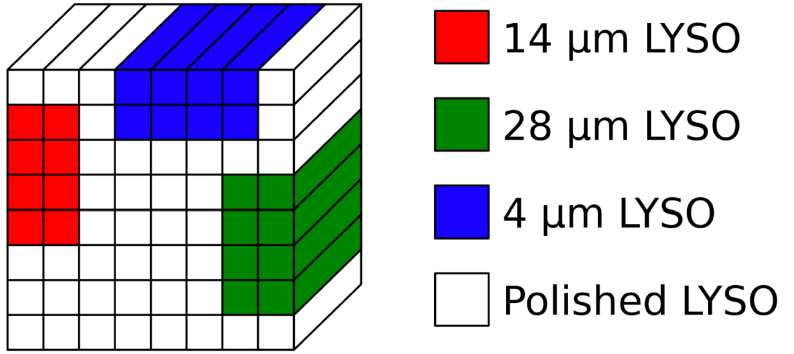
"Front" SiPMs



DOI Testing Setup at UT



Example of parallax error resulting in shifted LOR

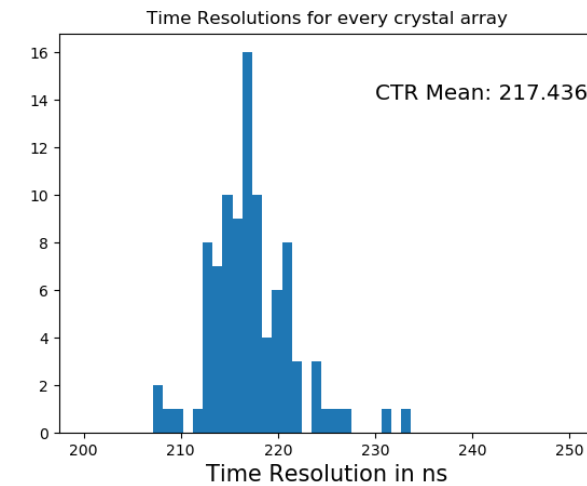
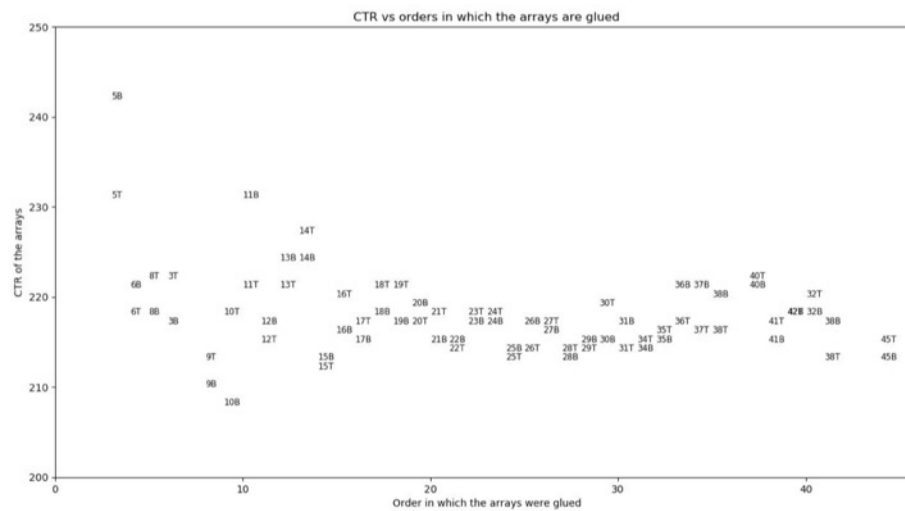
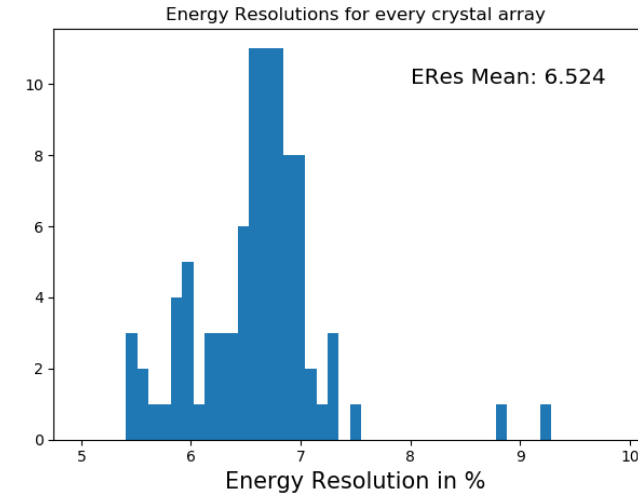
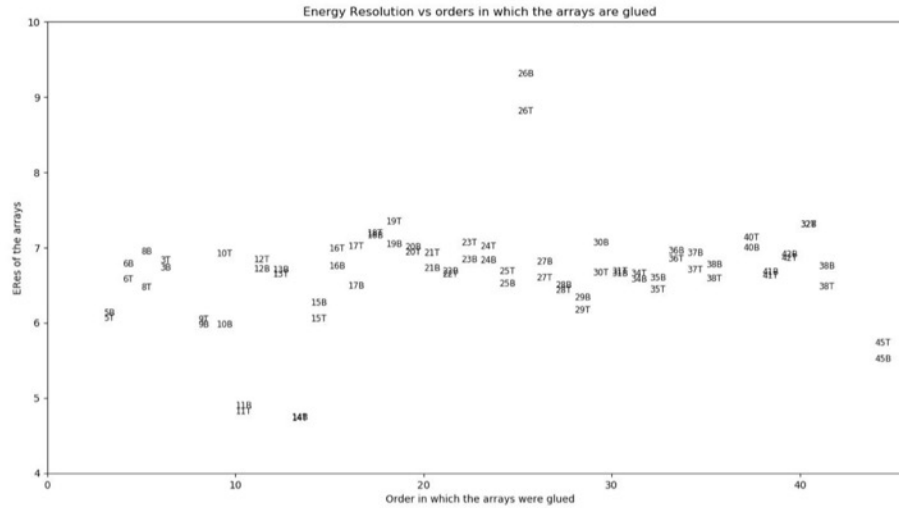


Summary and Conclusions

- Physicists **CAN** help fight cancer!
 - Medical professionals are incredibly valuable and talented but also very busy!
 - We can apply our long history and expertise in detector technology to advance the field
 - Help improve treatment outcomes for PT patients
- ... And SiPMs have been crucial in this effort!
 - They offer numerous advantages over PMTs in PET imaging:
 - Fast timing, pixelization, compactness, functionality in magnetic fields fields (for integration with MRI)
 - Can be used to create novel scanner designs to push PET into new territory
- The TPPT Scanner is one such example of a next-gen SiPM-based PET system
 - It has been designed, assembled, and almost fully commissioned
 - Just some last calibration steps remaining
 - We will move it to MDACC later this year to begin taking in-beam data
- The project has excited us to continue working in PET and medical imaging

Backup Slides

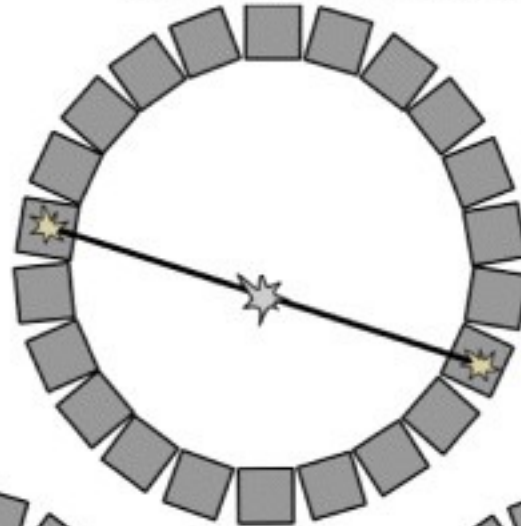
The TPPT Project : Mini-PET Results



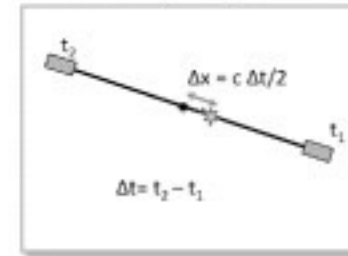
PET Imaging: Time-of-Flight PET

Real event: annihilation location is unknown, what's measured is just the position and time of each hit in the detector

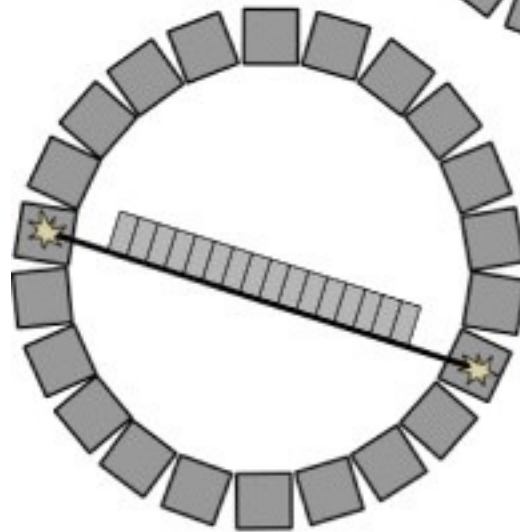
Real annihilation event



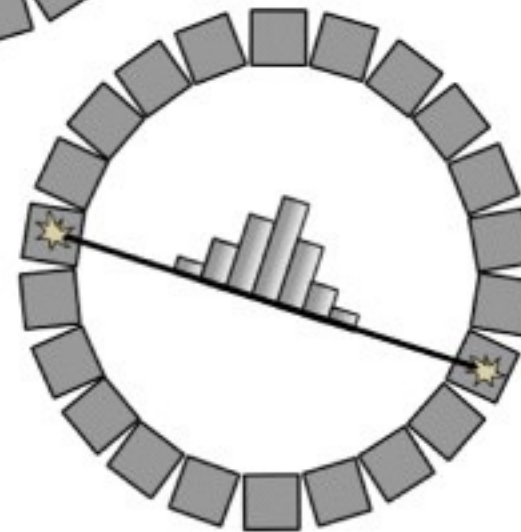
TOF principle



Traditional PET: Annihilation location probabilities uniformly distributed along LOR



Conventional PET

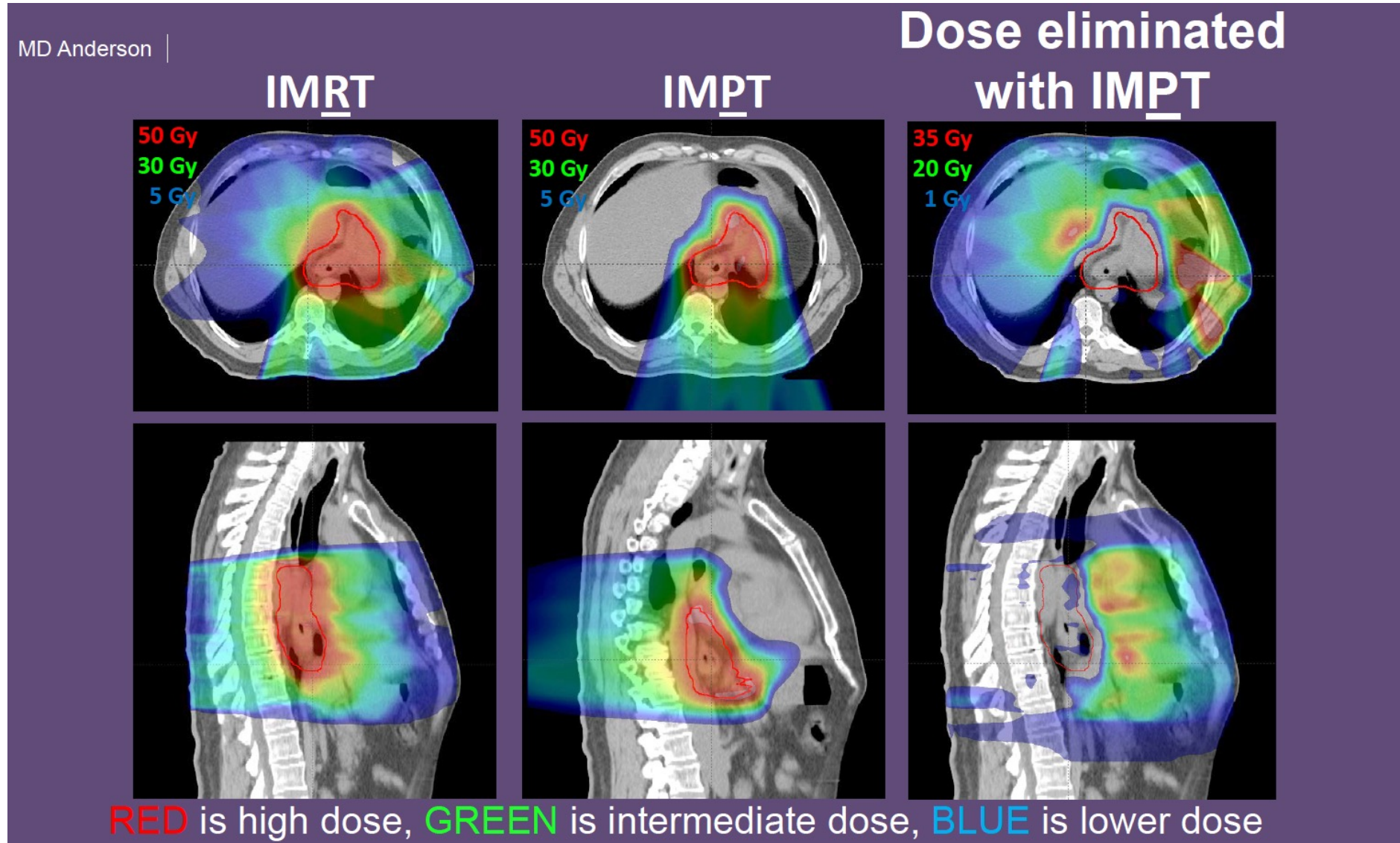


Time-Of-Flight PET

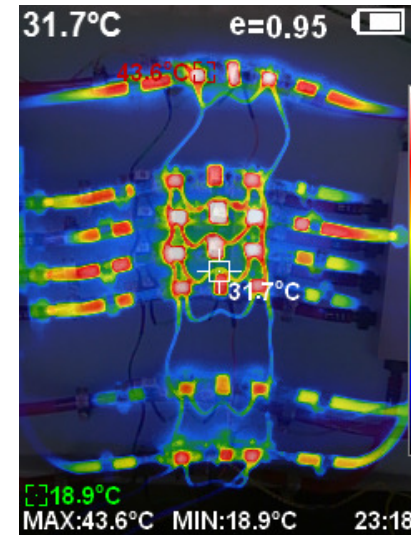
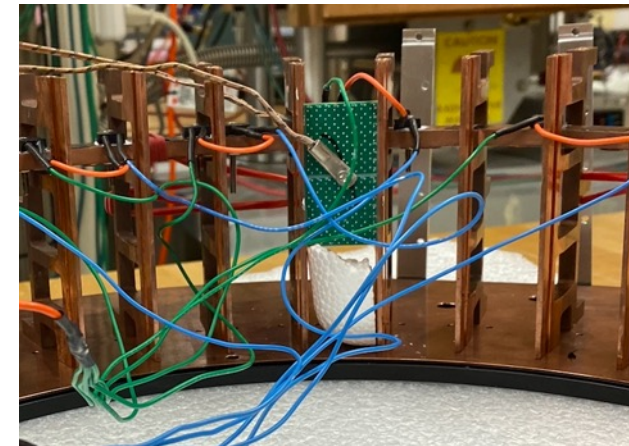
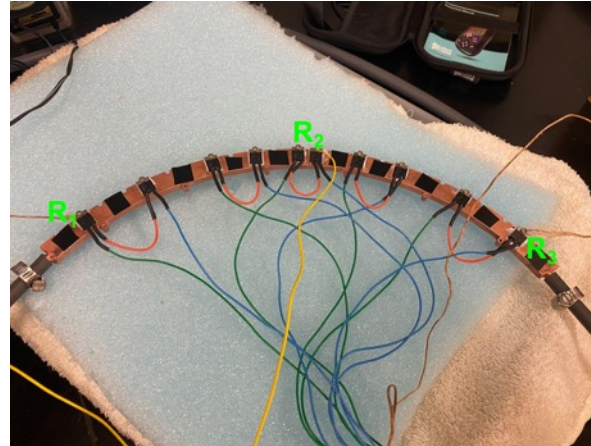
TOF PET: Time difference between detections used to estimate annihilation location along LOR

- Gaussian width determined by timing resolution

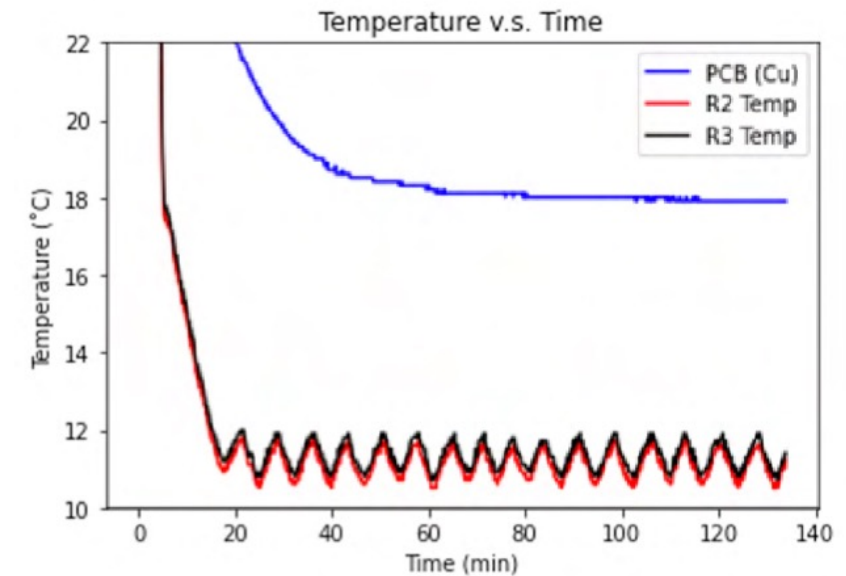
Radiation Therapy: Protons vs. Photons



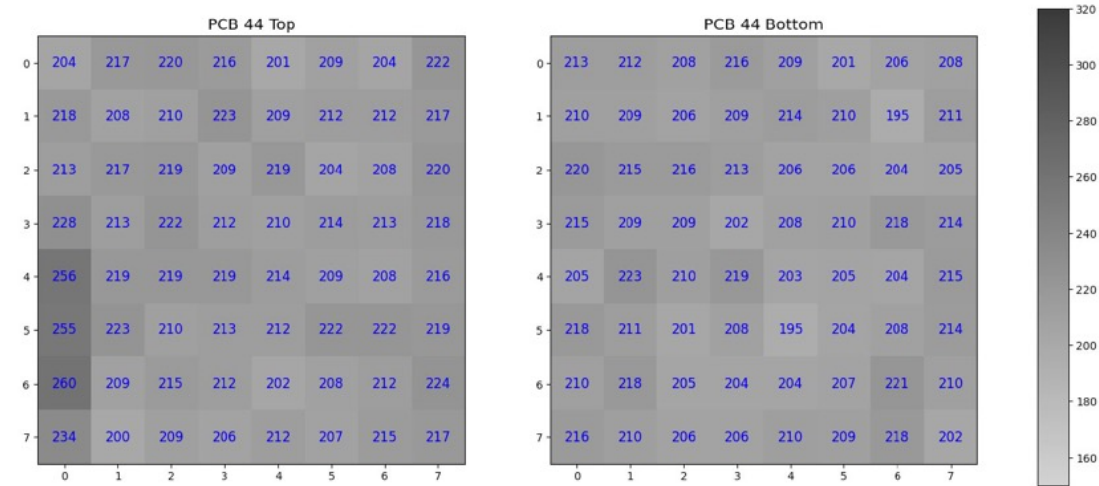
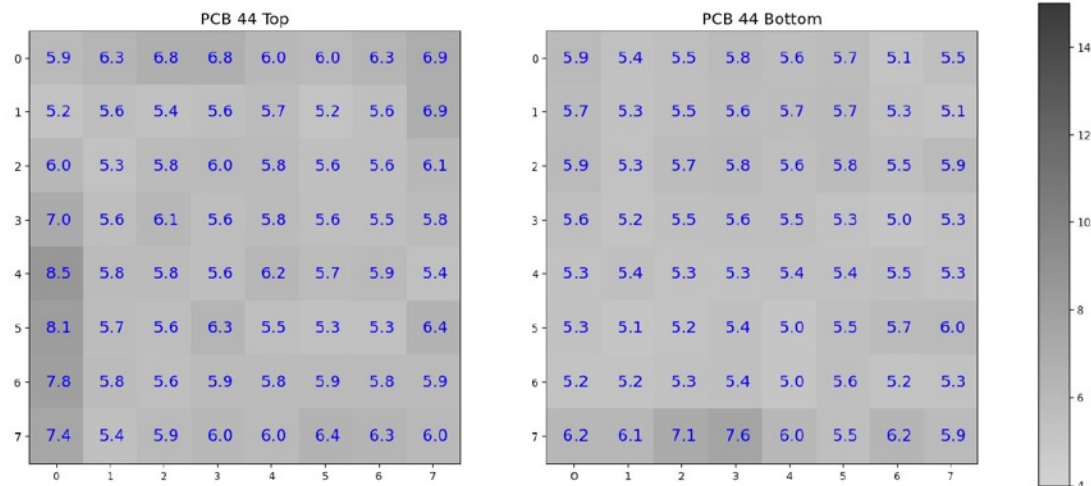
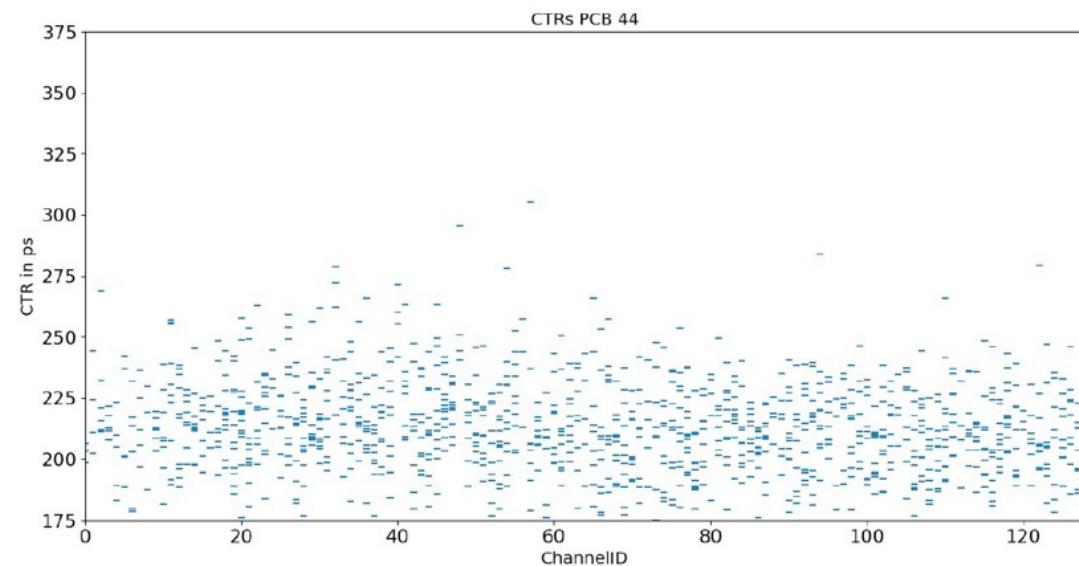
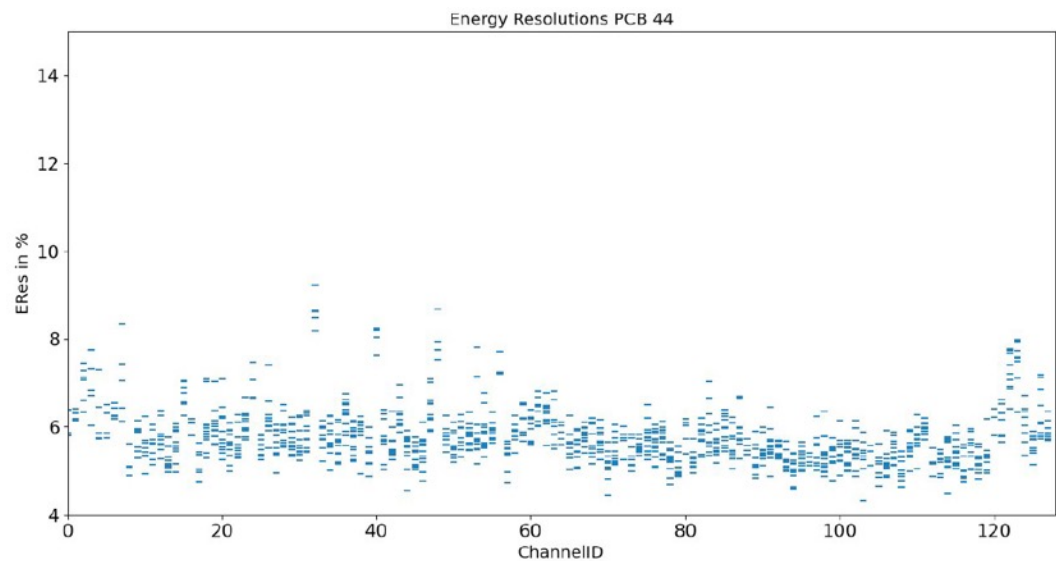
TPPT Hardware: Cooling System



- $\sim 1\text{W}$ dissipation per ASIC (2 x ASIC p module, 96 total)
- ASICs require stable temperature for calibration and operation
- Developed custom liquid cooling system
 - Copper elements circulate coolant and make thermal contact with ASICs and internal structure

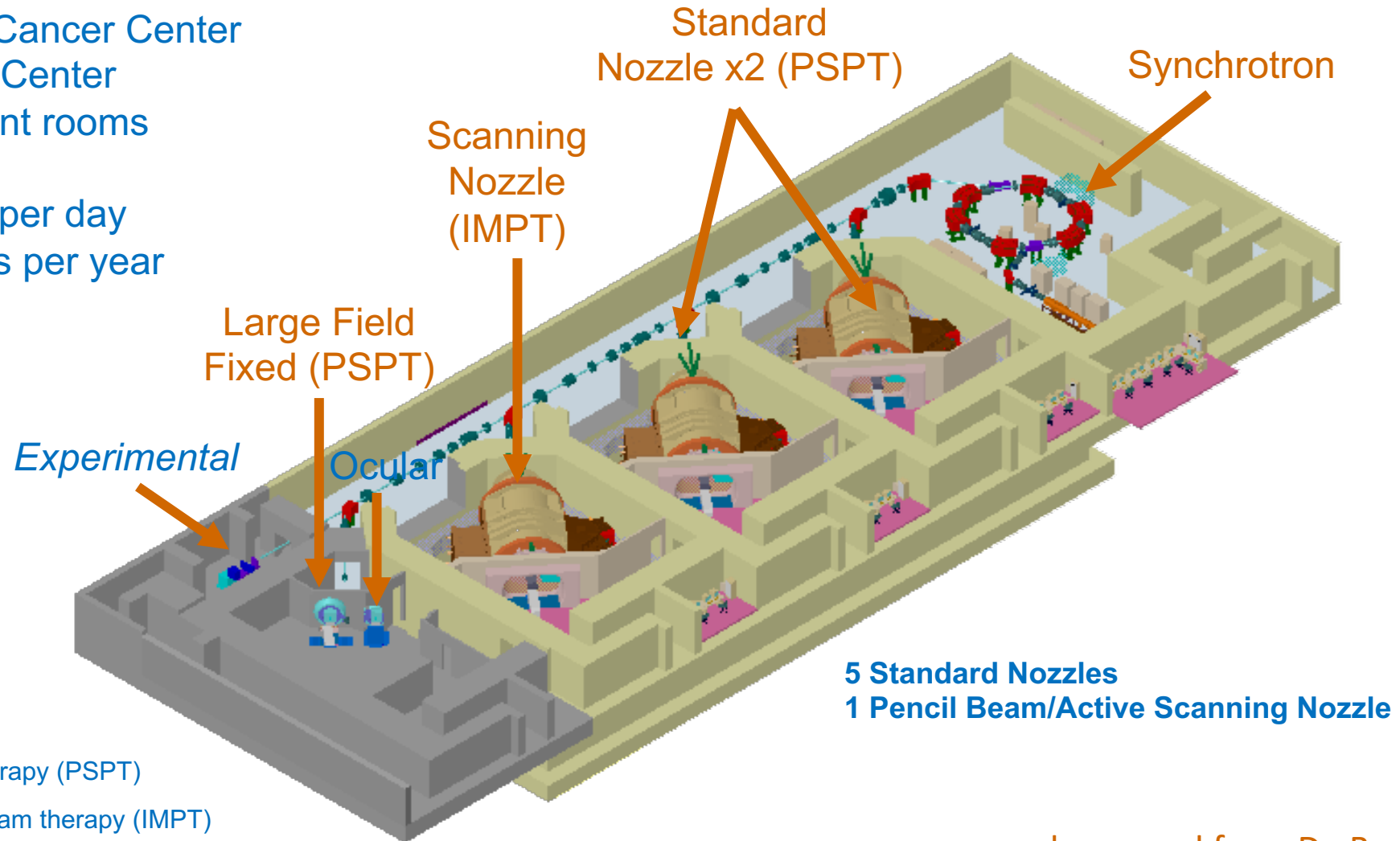


The TPPT Project : Mini-PET Results



Proton Therapy: MDACC Beamline

- M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Proton Therapy Center
- 4 active treatment rooms
- kV imaging
- 90-110 patients per day
- 700-800 patients per year



borrowed from Dr. Brandon Gunn

Proton Therapy: The scale ...

1 Cyclotron

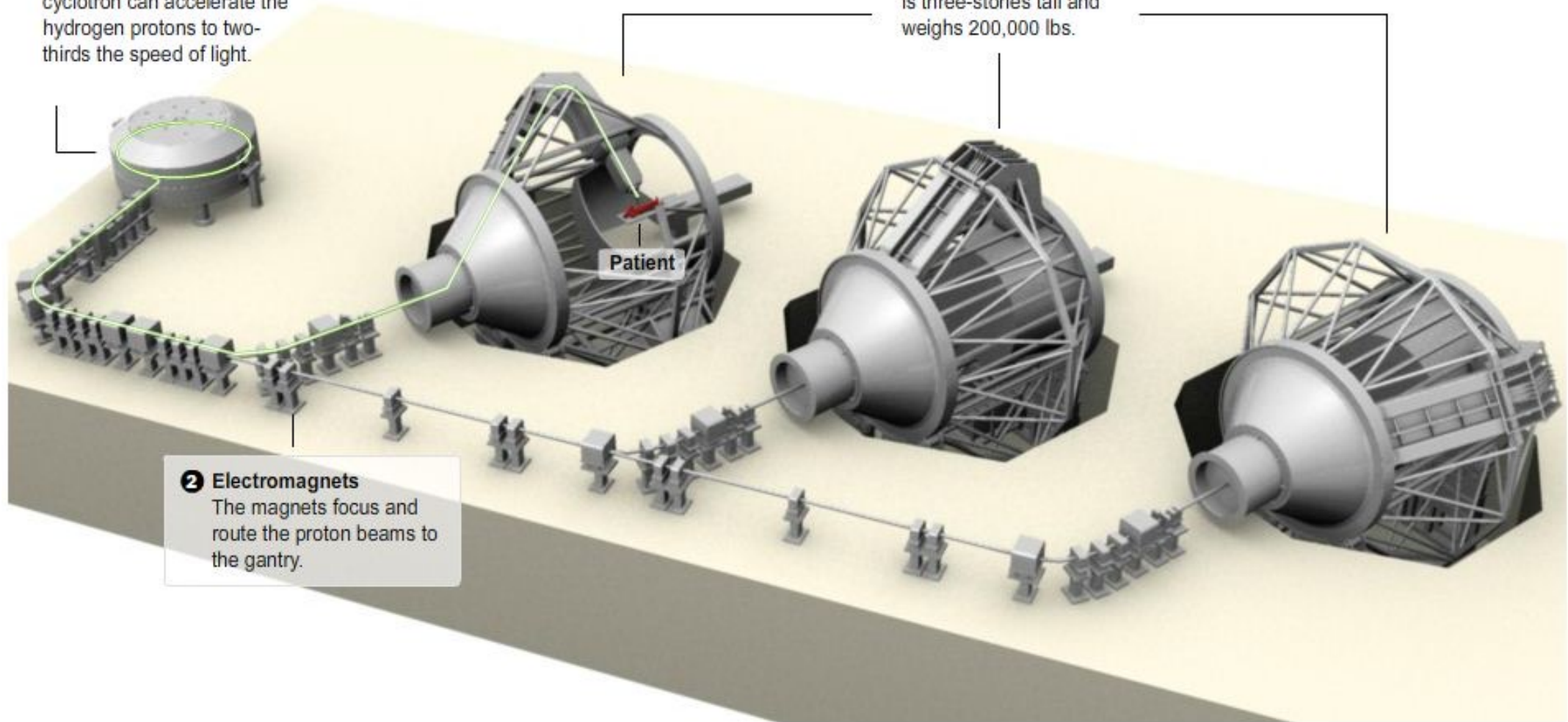
Using electric fields, the cyclotron can accelerate the hydrogen protons to two-thirds the speed of light.

3 Gantry

Each of the three gantries is three-stories tall and weighs 200,000 lbs.

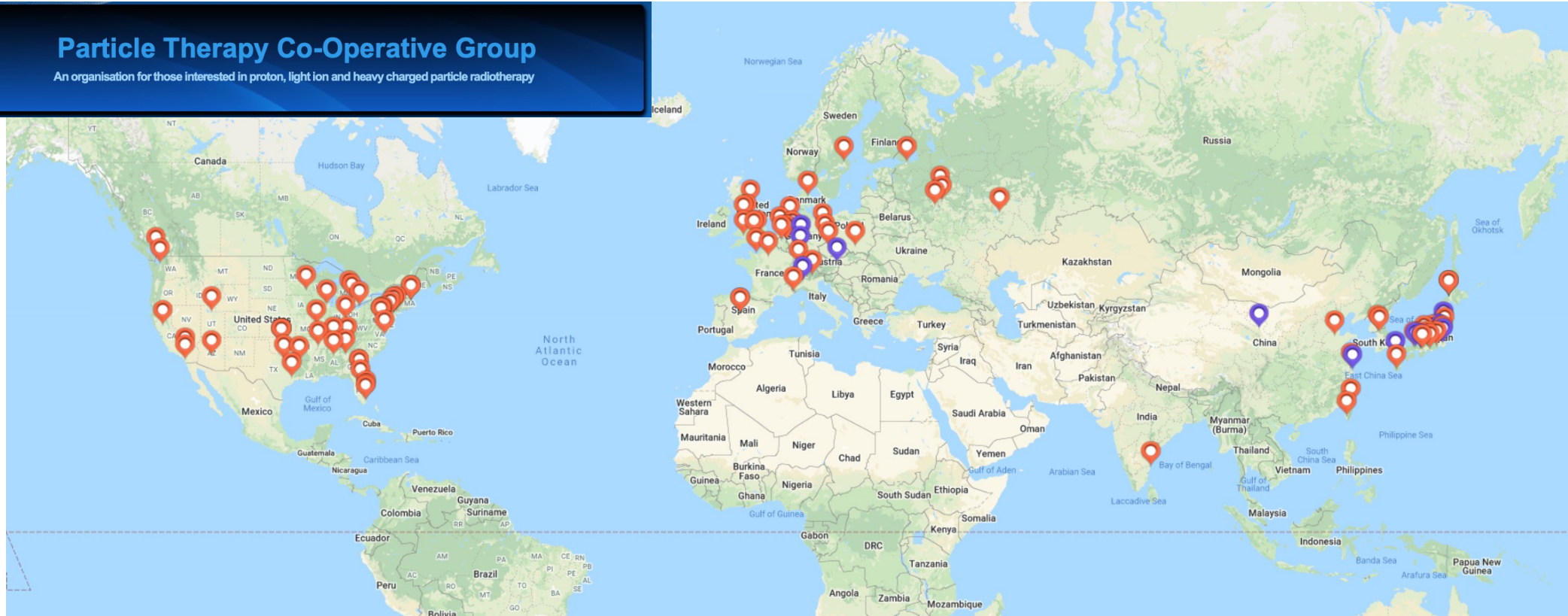
2 Electromagnets

The magnets focus and route the proton beams to the gantry.



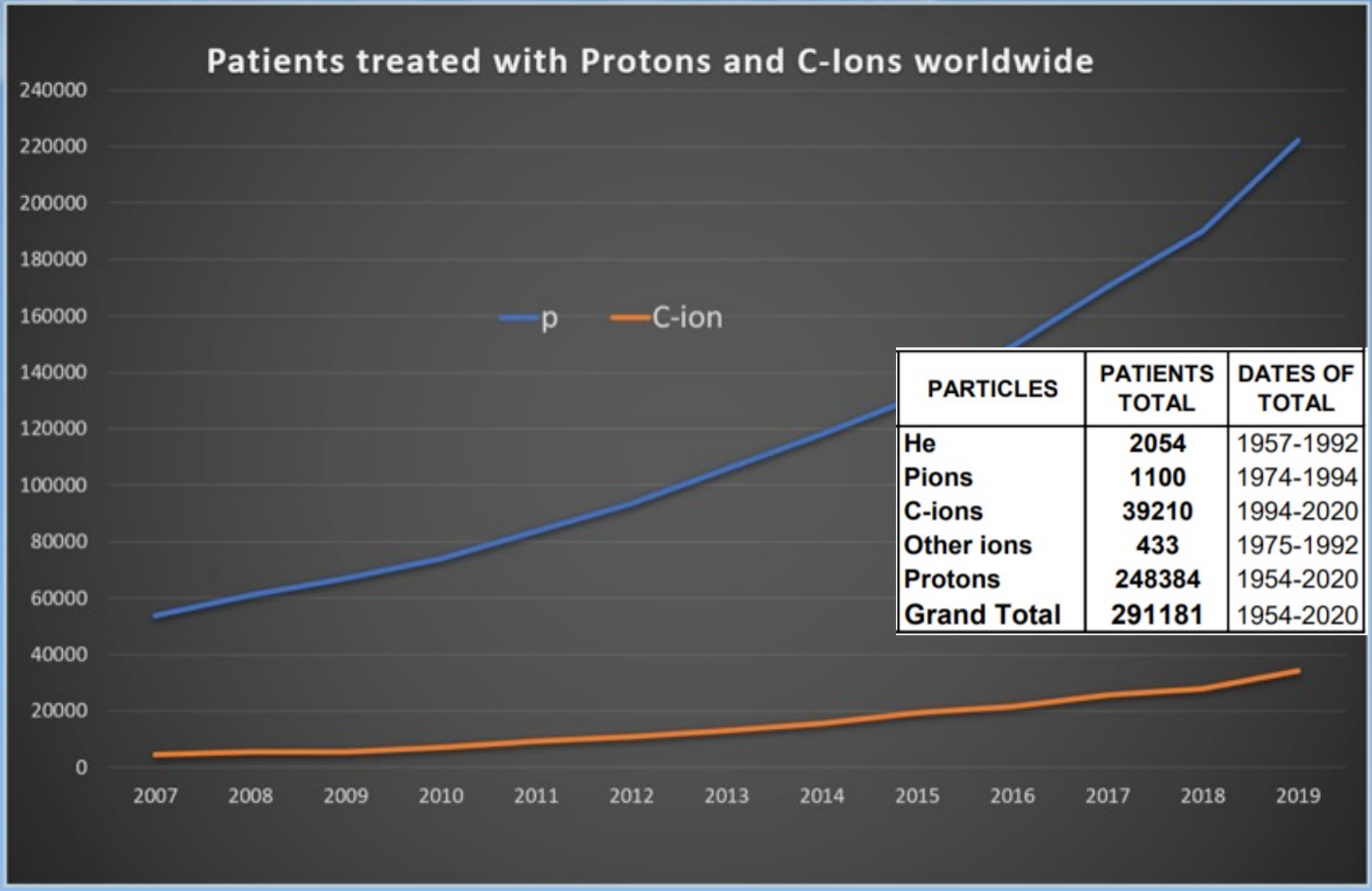
Proton Therapy: On the rise....

112 facilities worldwide, another ~100 in various planning stages



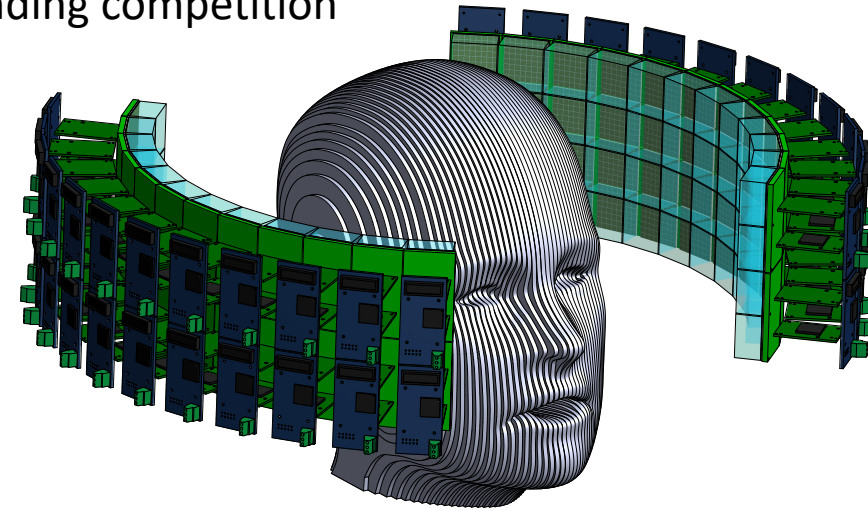
- 42 facilities in the USA 26 in Japan ... 7 in Germany ... 7 in China ... (3 Netherlands)
- 2 in Texas: MD Anderson CC and at UT Southwestern Medical Center
- 1 more to open soon at MD Anderson

Proton Therapy: On the rise....



The TPPT Project: Inception

- 3 years ago we formed a consortium to compete in the UTAustin - Portugal funding competition
- The consortium includes
 - **U. of Texas MD Anderson Proton Therapy Center**
Sahoo Narayan, Falk Poenisch, David R. Grosshans
 - **U. of Texas at Austin**
Karol Lang, Marek Proga, +
 - **PETsys Electronics**
Vasco Varela, João Varela, Stefaan Tavernier, Ricardo Bugalho, Luis Ferramacho, Miguel Silveira, Carlos Leong, Jose da Silva
 - **LIP, Laboratorio de Instrumentação e Fisica Experimental de Particulas (Coimbra)**
Paulo Crespo, Mario Pimenta, Patricia Goncalves, Hugo Simões, Andrey Morozov
 - **Centro de Ciências e Tecnologias Nucleares (C²TN), Instituto Superior Técnico (Lisbon)**
António Paulo, Fernanda Marques, Paula Raposinho, Joana Guerreiro, Filipa Mendes, Salvatore di Maria, Maria Paula Campello
 - **Instituto de Ciências Nucleares Aplicadas à Saúde (ICNAS), Universidade de Coimbra**
Nuno Ferreira, Francisco Caramelo, Antero Abrunhosa
- We proposed a “feedback” PET scanner to register nuclides activated in proton irradiations:
 - **C-11** ($T_{1/2}=20\text{min}$), **N-13** ($T_{1/2}=10\text{min}$), **O-15** ($T_{1/2}=123\text{sec}$)



LYSO vs BGO Crystal Properties

Table 1.

Properties of LYSO and BGO (from [Saint-Gobain 2014, 2017](#)).

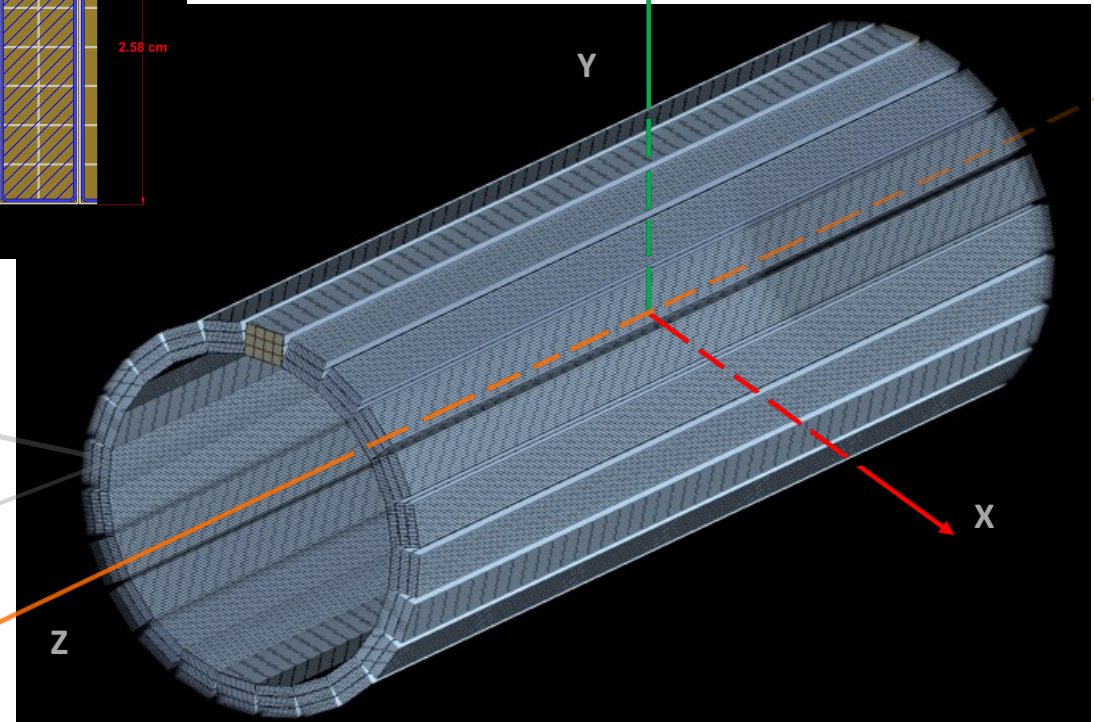
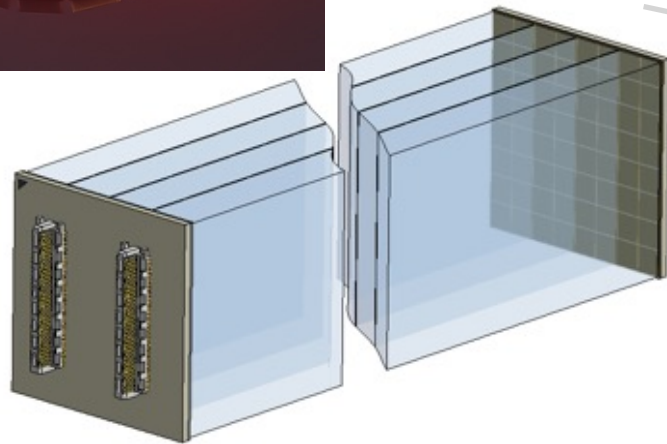
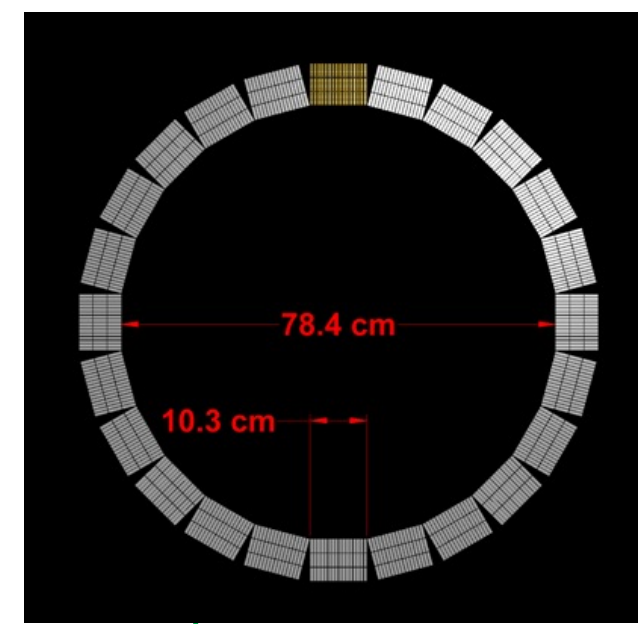
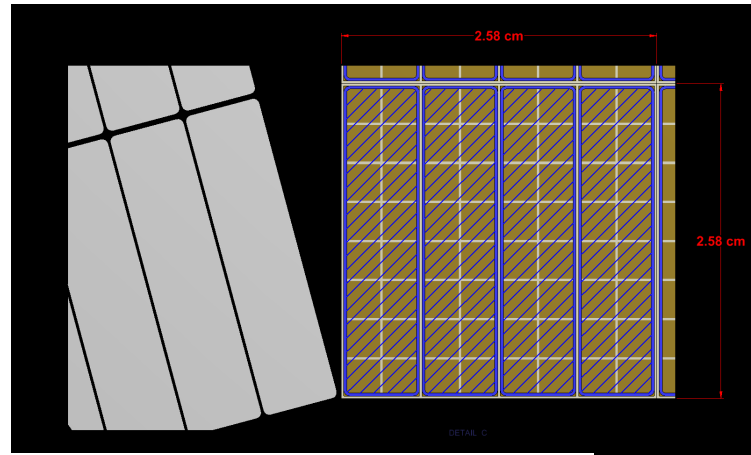
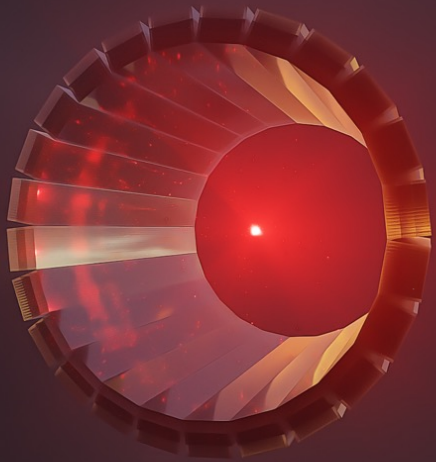
	LYSO	BGO
Effective atomic number (Z_{eff})	60	74
Density (g cm^{-3})	7.1	7.13
Attenuation length for 511 keV (cm)	1.2	1.0
Light yield (photons MeV^{-1})	8000–10 000	30 000
Decay time (ns)	37–45 ns	300
Peak wavelength (nm)	420	480

Image courtesy of doi: [10.1088/1361-6560/abc365](https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/abc365)

Future Ideas: Full Body PET

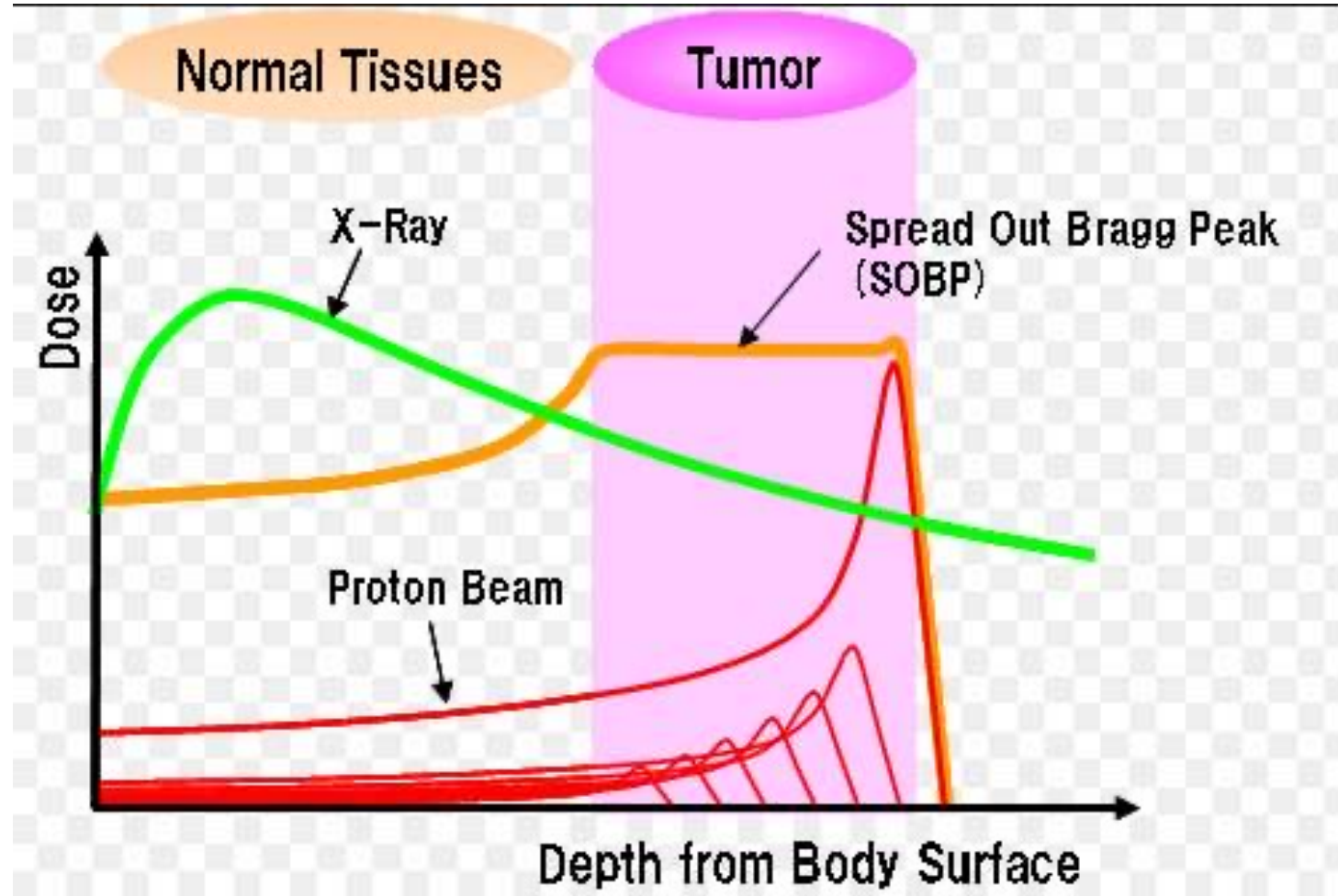
- 1m long barrel PET (2.54 x 0.62 x 100cm scintillator)
- 1152 plastic scintillator strips and 576 SiPMs.
- kNN based reconstruction

Preliminary

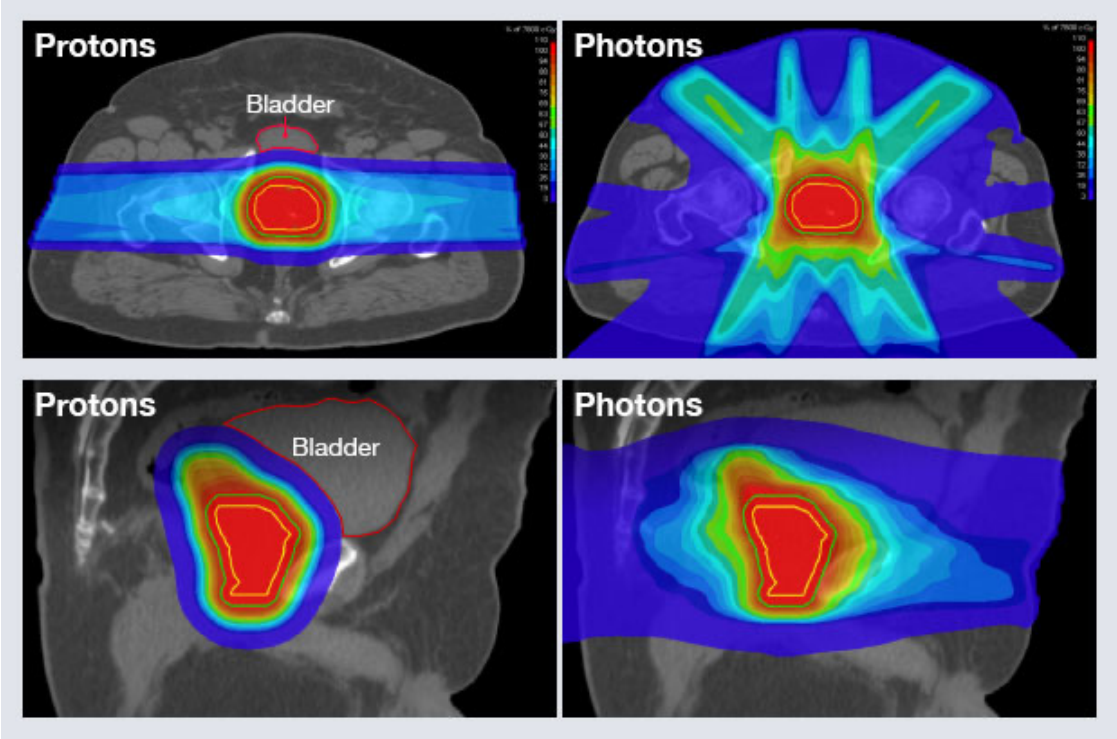
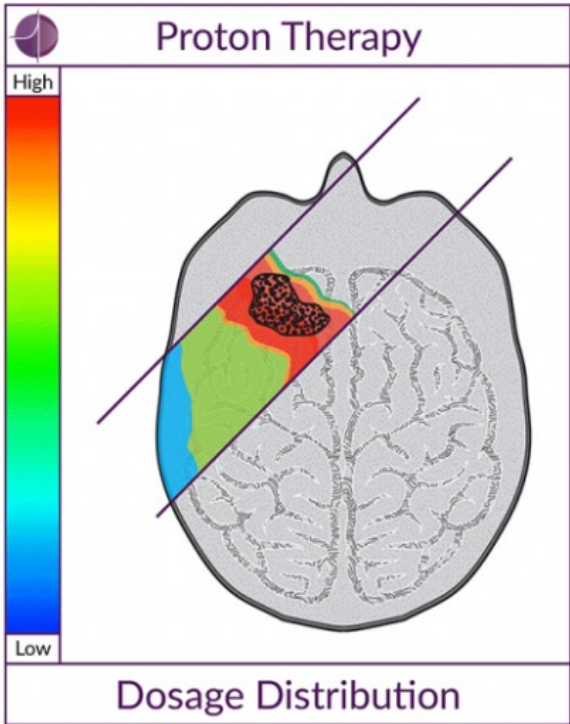
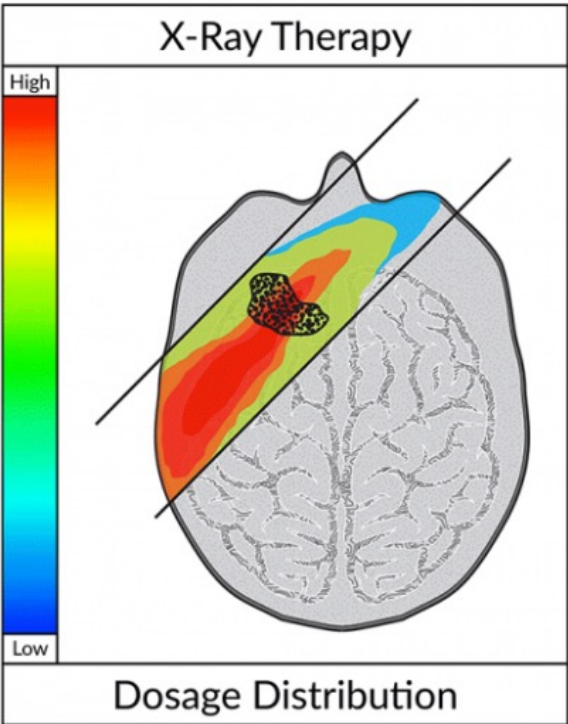


IMPT

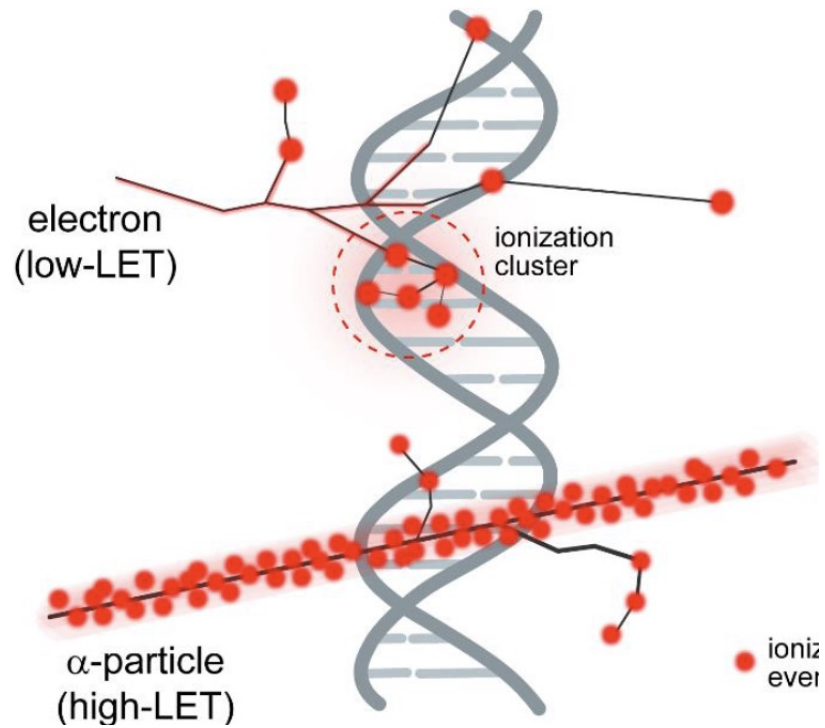
(Intensity Modulated Proton Therapy)



IMRT vs IMPT



Destroying cancer or impeding its growth



oxygen radicals ...

