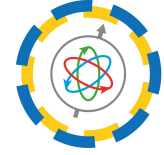




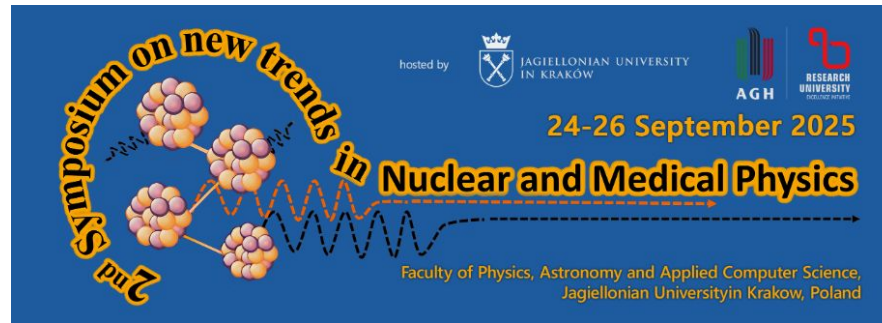
JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY
IN KRAKÓW



J-PET

Range Monitoring in Proton Therapy Using the J-PET Scanner: First Experimental Insights

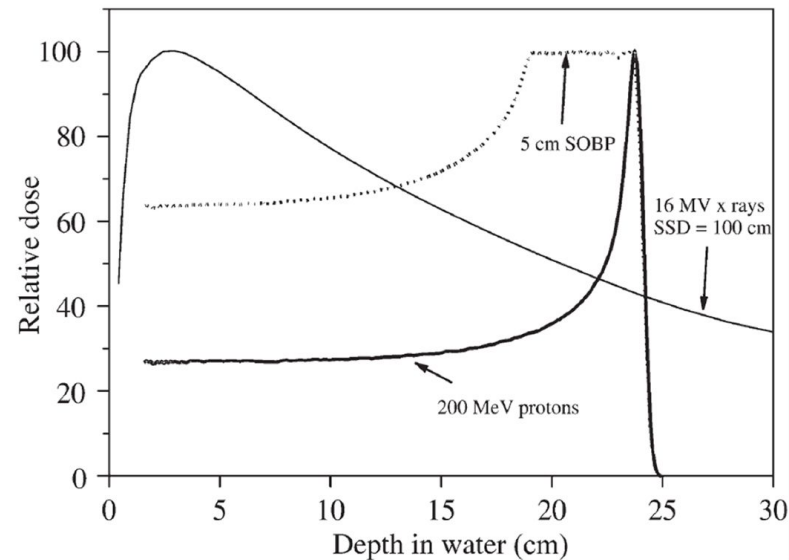
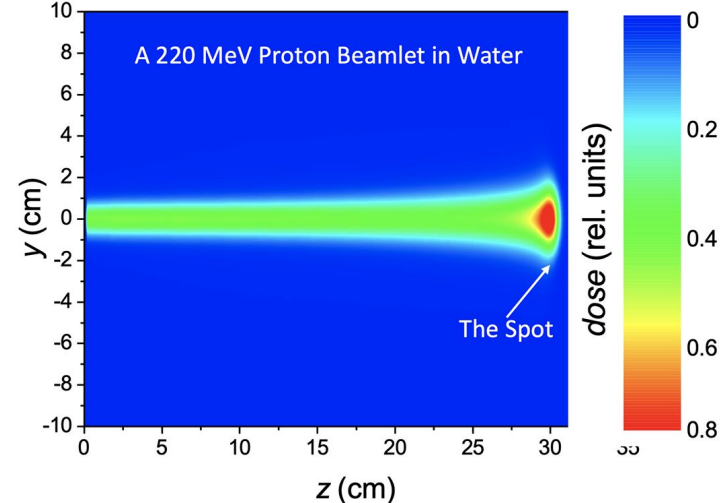
Szymon Niedźwiecki
on behalf of the J-PET collaboration





Proton therapy

- Protons deposit most energy at the Bragg peak leading to a sharp distal dose fall-off.
- Enables high tumor dose with reduced integral dose to adjacent normal tissues.
- Dosimetric advantage forms the rationale for proton therapy.





Proton range determination

Main sources of uncertainty:

- morphological changes,
- anatomical deformation due to motion
- HU to RSP conversion error



Proton range determination

Main sources of uncertainty:

- morphological changes,
- anatomical deformation due to motion
- HU to RSP conversion error

1. Dual-energy CT (DECT) / photon-counting CT (PCCT)

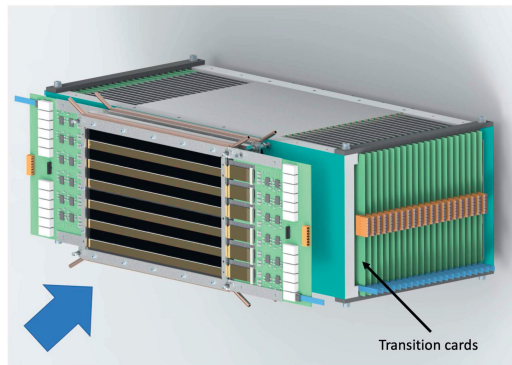
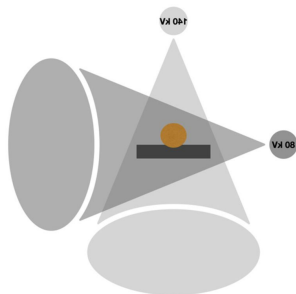
Charles Ekene Chika, World J Radiol. 2025 Jun 28;17(6):105728. doi: 10.4329/wjr.v17.i6.105728

2. Proton CT (pCT) / proton radiography (pRad)

Alme J, et al.(2020) A High-Granularity Digital Tracking Calorimeter Optimized for Proton CT. Front. Phys. 8:568243. doi: 10.3389/fphy.2020.568243

3. Machine learning & Monte-Carlo aid

Wildman VL, et al.. Recent advances in applying machine learning to proton radiotherapy. Biomed Phys Eng Express. 2025 Jul 23;11(4):042005. doi: 10.1088/2057-1976/adeb90. PMID: 40609552; PMCID: PMC12284894.





Proton range determination

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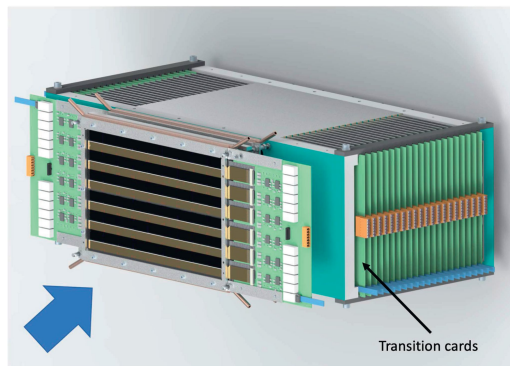
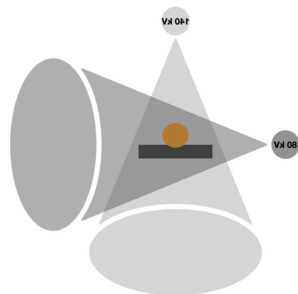
Charles Ekene Chika, World J Radiol. 2025 Jun 28;17(6):105728. doi: 10.4329/wjr.v17.i6.105728

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1. Prompt Gamma Imaging (PGI) / Prompt Gamma Spectroscopy (PGS) / Prompt Gamma Timing (PGT)

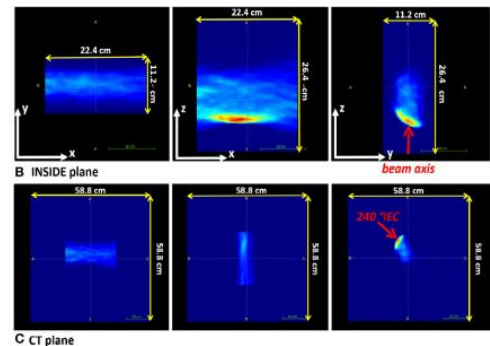
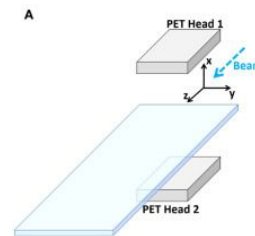
Everaere P, et al. Prompt gamma energy integration: a new method for online-range verification in proton therapy with pulsed-beams. Front. Phys. 12:1371015. doi: 10.3389/fphy.2024.1371015

2. Ionoacoustic / protoacoustic imaging

Alme J, et Wang S, et al. Real-time tracking of the Bragg peak during proton therapy via 3D protoacoustic Imaging in a clinical scenario. Npj Imaging. 2024;2(1):34. doi: 10.1038/s44303-024-00039-x. Epub 2024 Sep 17. PMID: 40078731; PMCID: PMC11893450.

3. In-beam PET and delayed gamma imaging

Mogliani M, et al. In-vivo range verification analysis with in-beam PET data for patients treated with proton therapy at CNAO. Front Oncol. 2022 Sep 26;12:929949. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2022.929949. PMID: 36226070; PMCID: PMC9549776.





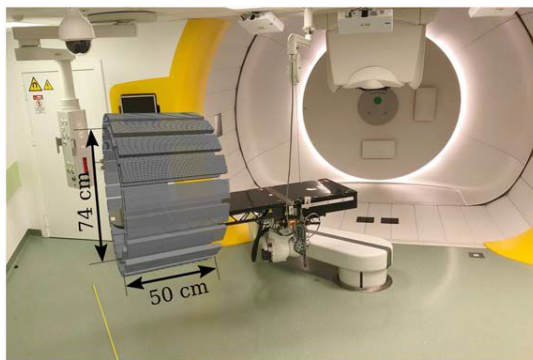
Physics in Medicine & Biology



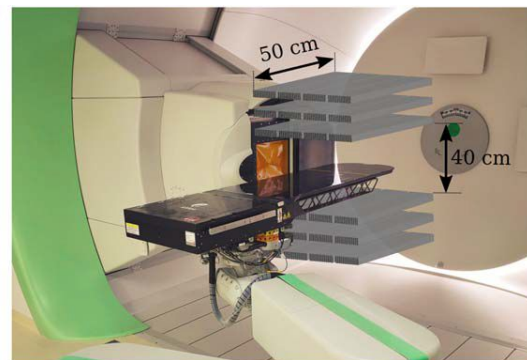
PAPER

Detection of range shifts in proton beam therapy using the J-PET scanner: a patient simulation study

Karol Brzeziński^{1,2,*}, Jakub Baran^{3,4,5}, Damian Borys^{6,7}, Jan Gajewski¹, Neha Chug^{3,4,5}, Aurelien Coussat^{3,4,5}, Eryk Czerwiński^{3,4,5}, Meysam Dadgar^{3,4,5}, Kamil Dulski^{3,4,5}, Kavya V Eliyan^{3,4,5}, Aleksander Gajos^{3,4,5}, Krzysztof Kacprzak^{3,4,5}, Łukasz Kapłon^{3,4,5}, Konrad Klimaszewski⁸, Paweł Konieczka⁸, Renata Kopeć¹, Grzegorz Korcył^{3,4,5}, Tomasz Kozik^{3,4,5}, Wojciech Krzemień⁹, Deepak Kumar^{3,4,5}, Antony J Lomax^{10,11}, Keegan McNamara^{10,11}, Szymon Niedźwiecki^{3,4,5}, Paweł Olko¹, Dominik Panek^{3,4,5}, Szymon Parzych^{3,4,5}, Elena Perez del Rio^{3,4,5}, Lech Raczynski^{3,4,5}, Sushil Sharma^{3,4,5}, Shivani^{3,4,5}, Roman Y Shopa^{3,4,5}, Tomasz Skóra¹², Magdalena Skurzok^{3,4,5}, Paulina Stasica^{3,4,5}, Ewa Ł. Stępień^{3,4,5}, Keyvan Tayefi^{3,4,5}, Faranak Tayefi^{3,4,5}, Damien C Weber^{10,13,14}, Carla Winterhalter^{10,11}, Wojciech Wiślicki⁸, Paweł Moskal^{3,4,5} and Antoni Ruciński¹⁵



(a)



(b)

Physica Medica 118 (2024) 103301

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect



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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmp

Technical note

Feasibility of the J-PET to monitor the range of therapeutic proton beams

Jakub Baran^{a,b,c,e}, Damian Borys^{d,e,f}, Karol Brzeziński^{1,2,g}, Jan Gajewski¹, Michał Silarski^{a,b,c}, Neha Chug^{a,b,c}, Aurélien Coussat^{a,b,c}, Eryk Czerwiński^{a,b,c}, Meysam Dadgar^{a,b,c}, Kamil Dulski^{a,b,c}, Kavya V. Eliyan^{a,b,c}, Aleksander Gajos^{a,b,c}, Krzysztof Kacprzak^{a,b,c}, Łukasz Kapłon^{a,b,c}, Konrad Klimaszewski^h, Paweł Konieczka^h, Renata Kopeć¹, Grzegorz Korcył^{a,b,c}, Tomasz Kozik^{a,b,c}, Wojciech Krzemień¹, Deepak Kumar^{a,b,c}, Antony J. Lomax^{10,m}, Keegan McNamara^{10,m}, Szymon Niedźwiecki^{a,b,c}, Paweł Olko¹, Dominik Panek^{a,b,c}, Szymon Parzych^{a,b,c}, Elena Perez del Rio^{a,b,c}, Lech Raczynski^h, Moyo Simbarashe^{a,b,c}, Sushil Sharma^{a,b,c}, Shivani^{a,b,c}, Roman Y. Shopa^h, Tomasz Skóra¹², Magdalena Skurzok^{a,b,c}, Paulina Stasica¹, Ewa Ł. Stępień^{a,b,c}, Keyvan Tayefi^{a,b,c}, Faranak Tayefi^{a,b,c}, Damien C. Weber^{10,n,l}, Carla Winterhalter^{10,m}, Wojciech Wiślicki^h, Paweł Moskal^{a,b,c}, Antoni Ruciński¹⁵



PAPER

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Physica Medica 118 (2024) 103301

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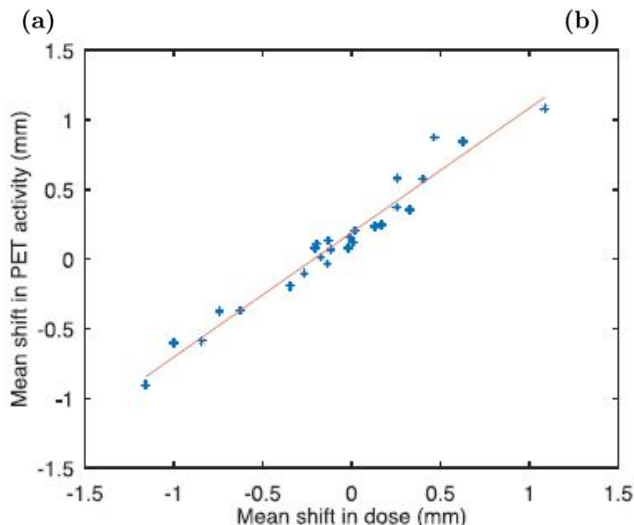
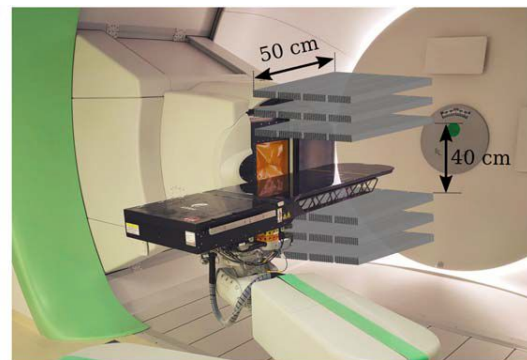
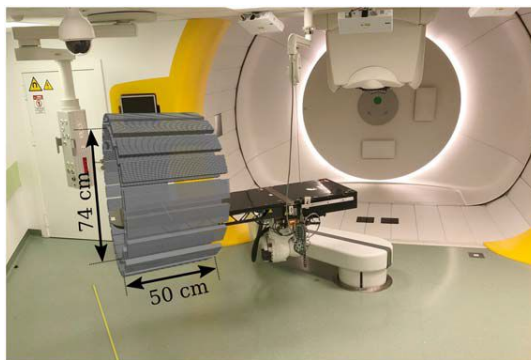
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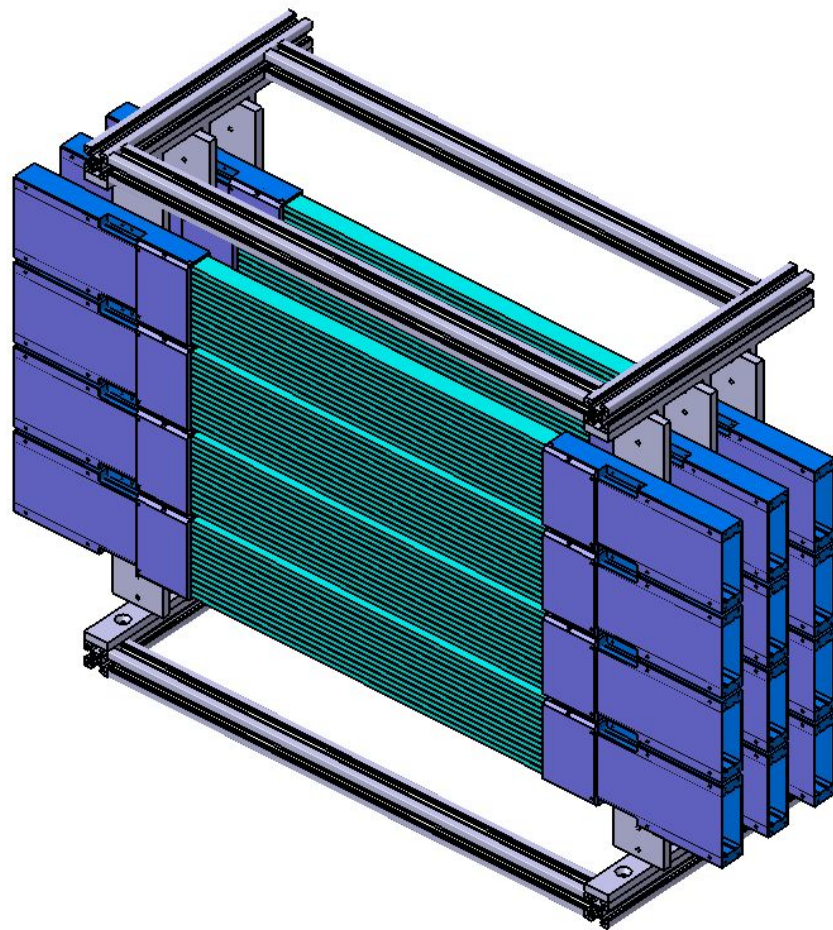
Technical note

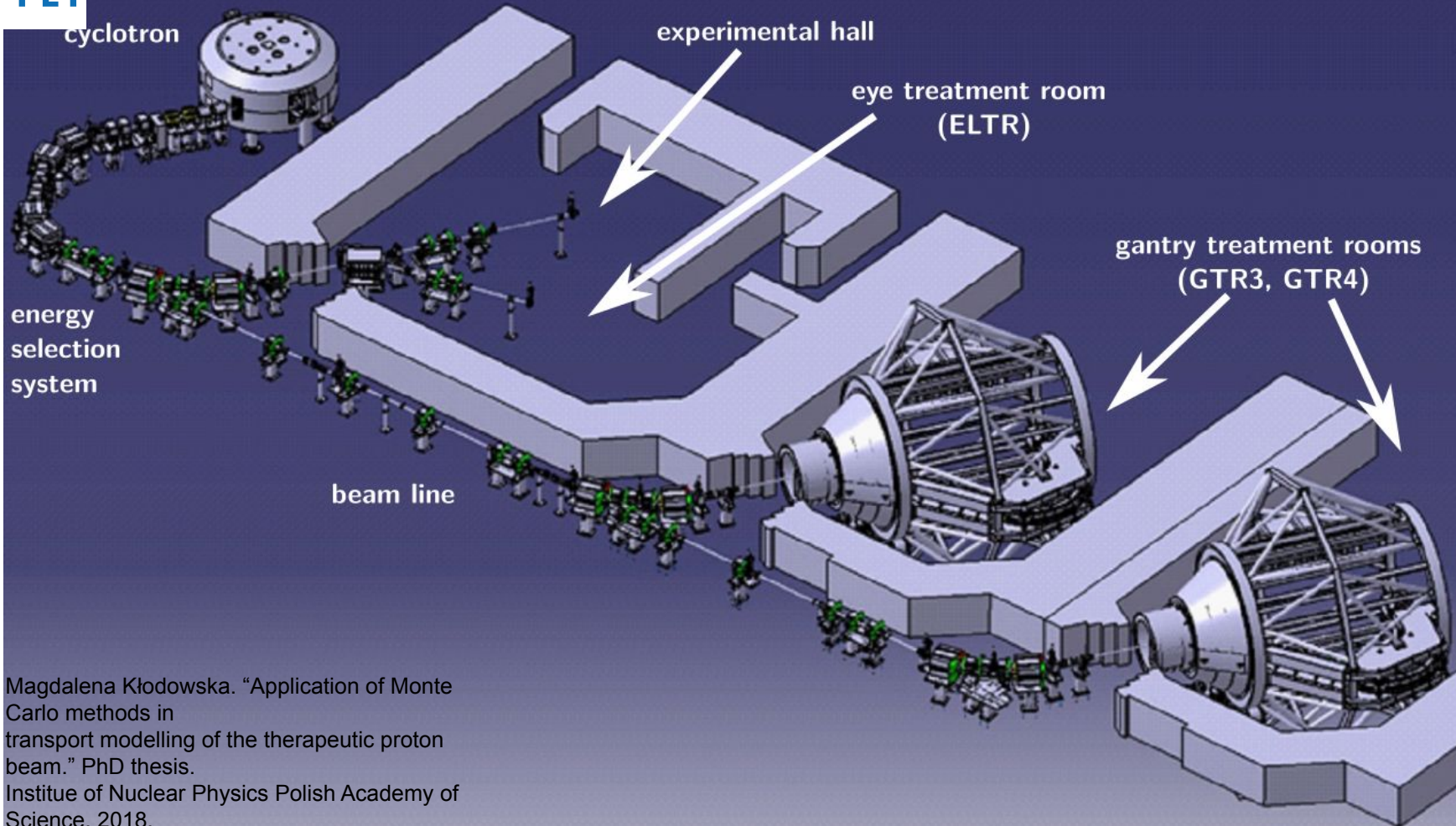
Feasibility of the J-PET to monitor the range of therapeutic proton beams

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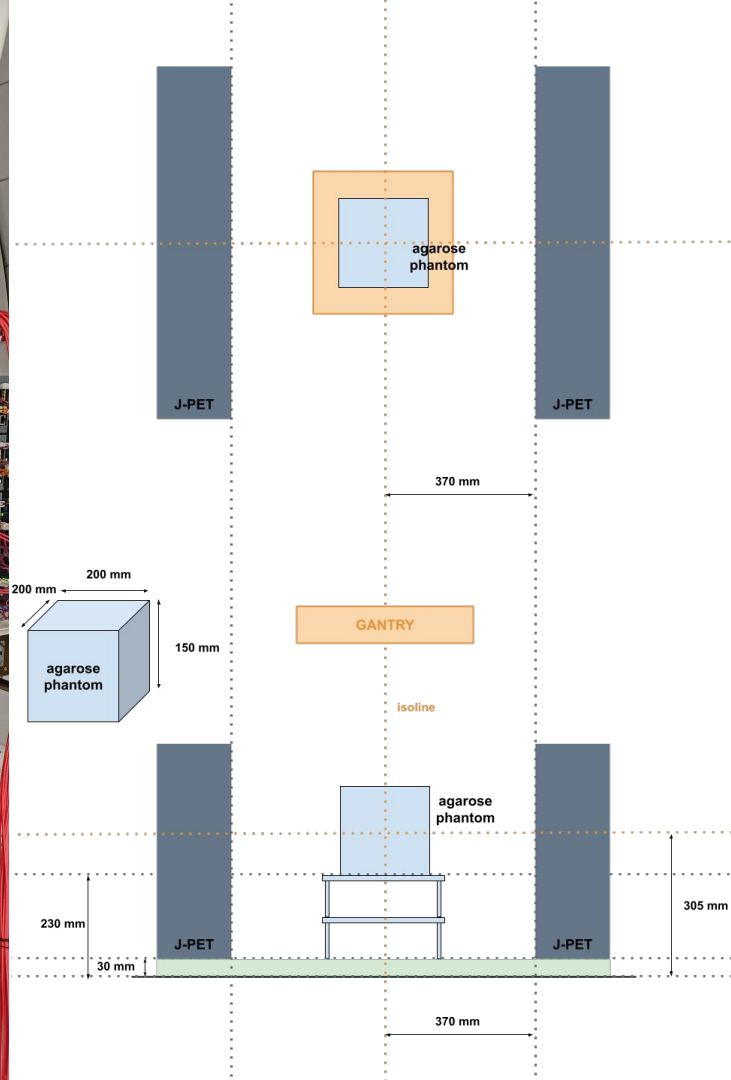


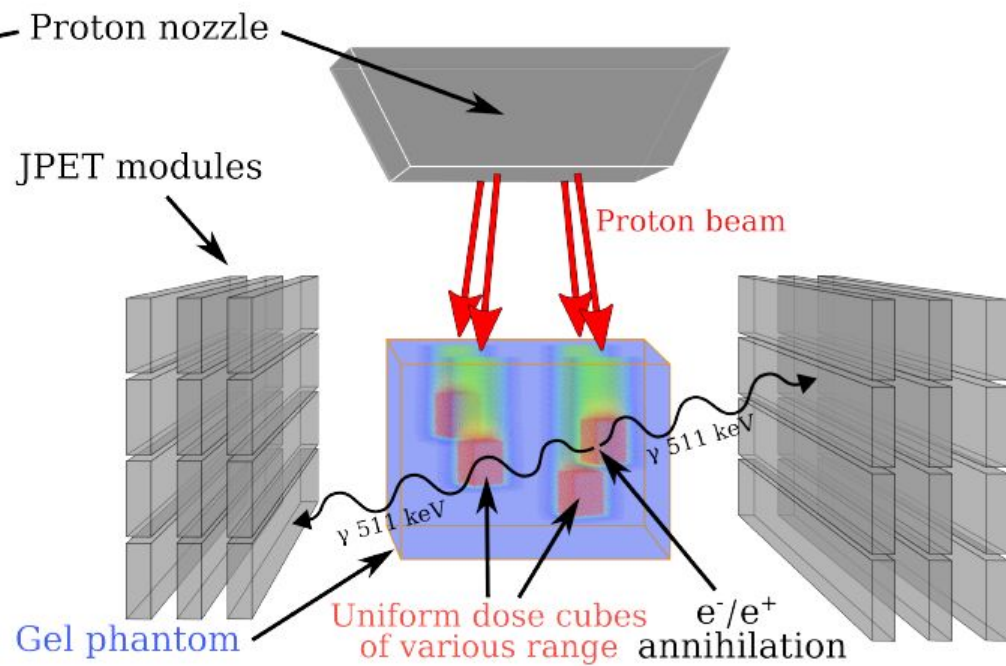
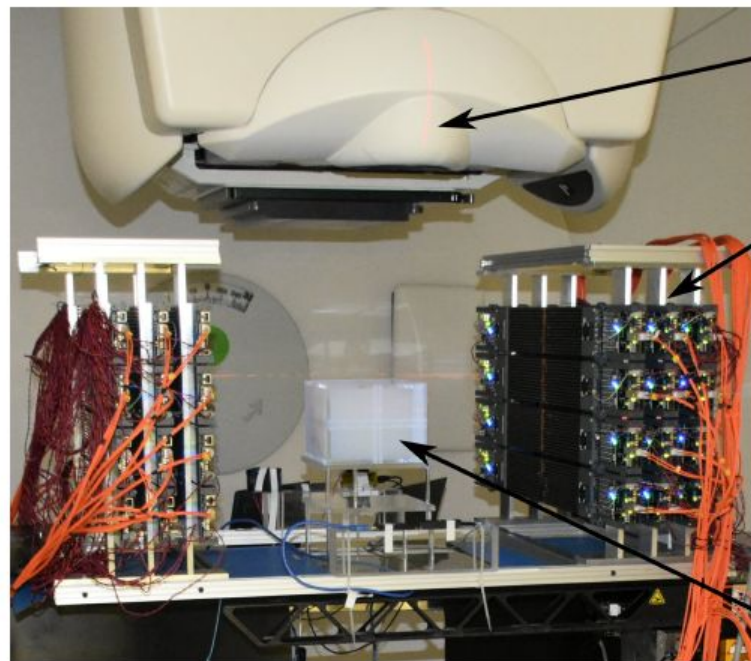
J-PET modular configuration

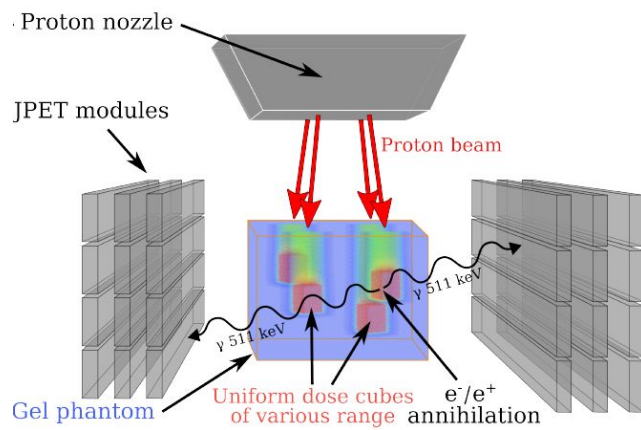


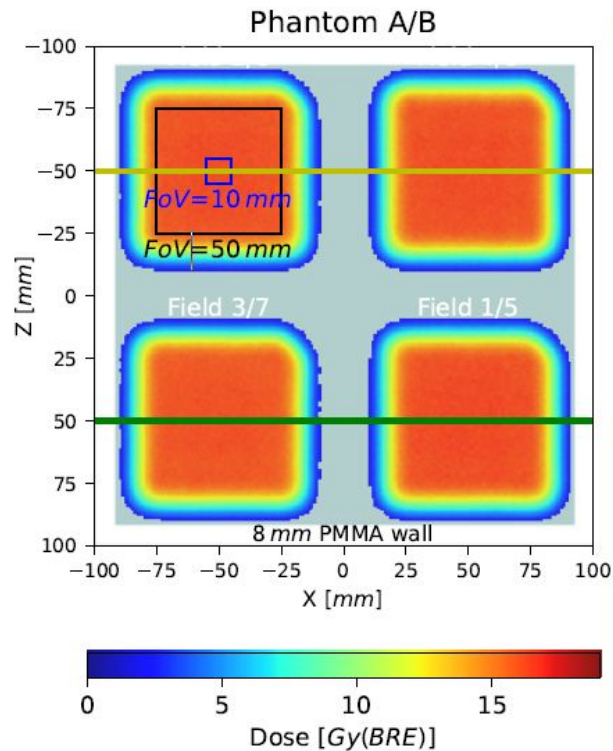
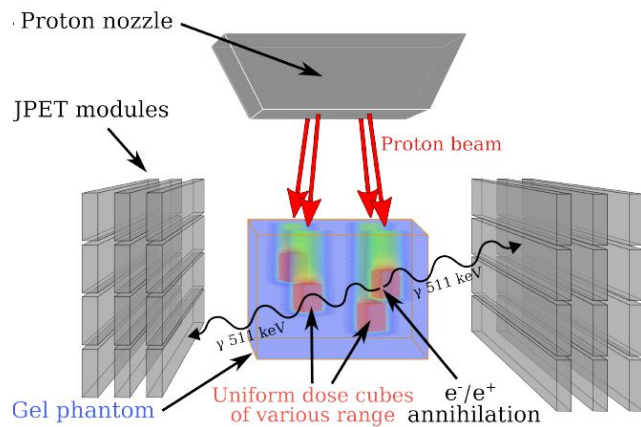


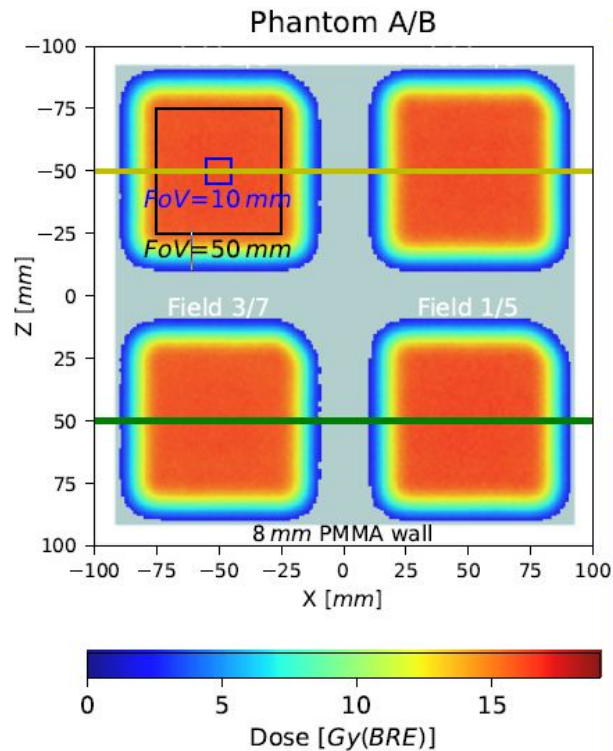
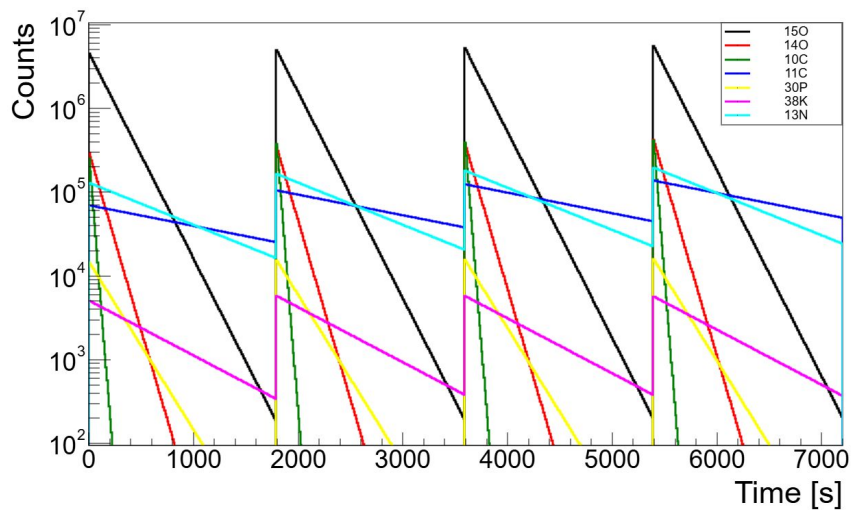
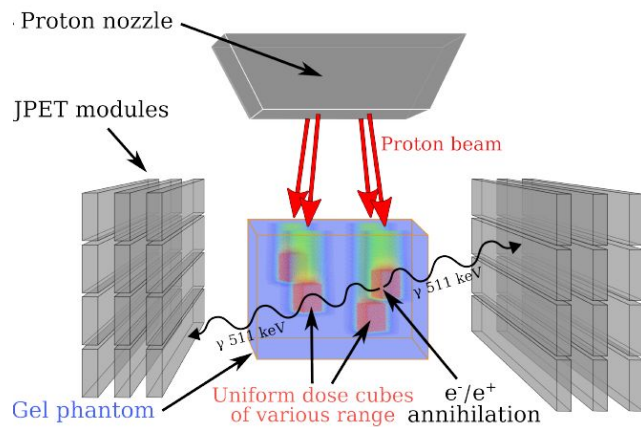
Magdalena Kłodowska. "Application of Monte Carlo methods in transport modelling of the therapeutic proton beam." PhD thesis. Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Science. 2018.





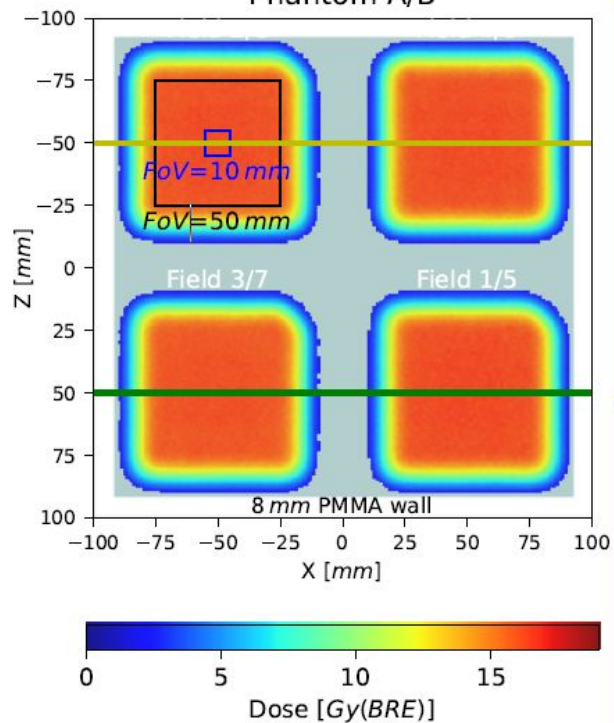




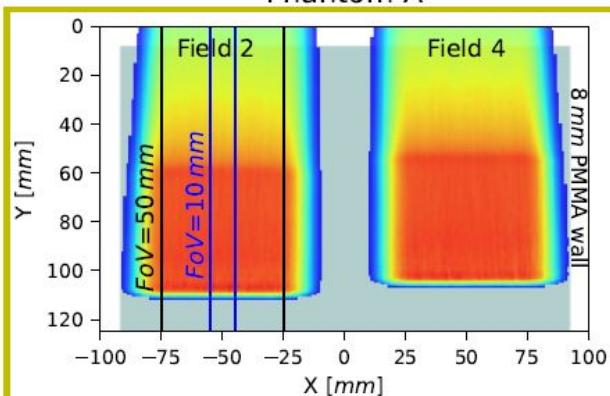




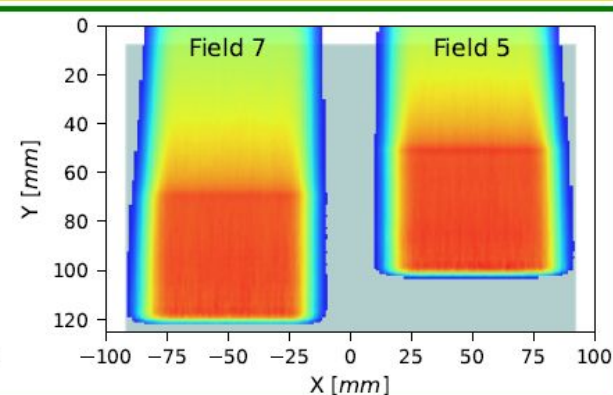
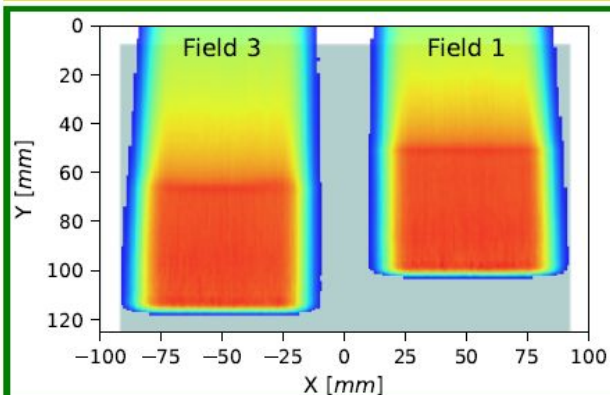
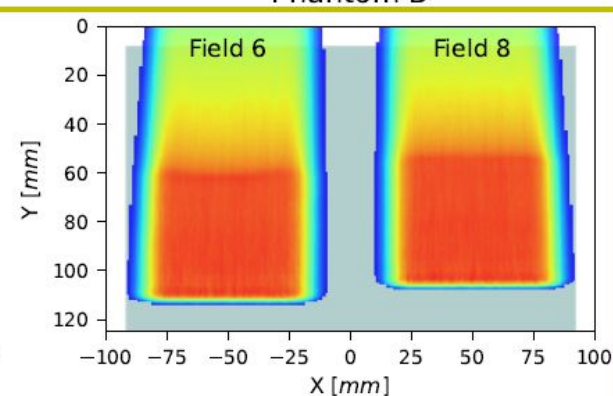
Phantom A/B



Phantom A

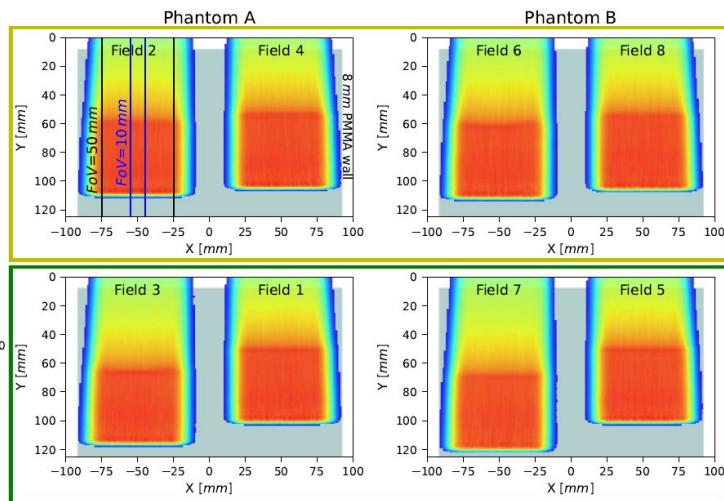
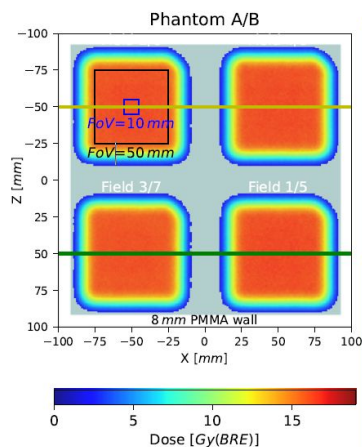


Phantom B

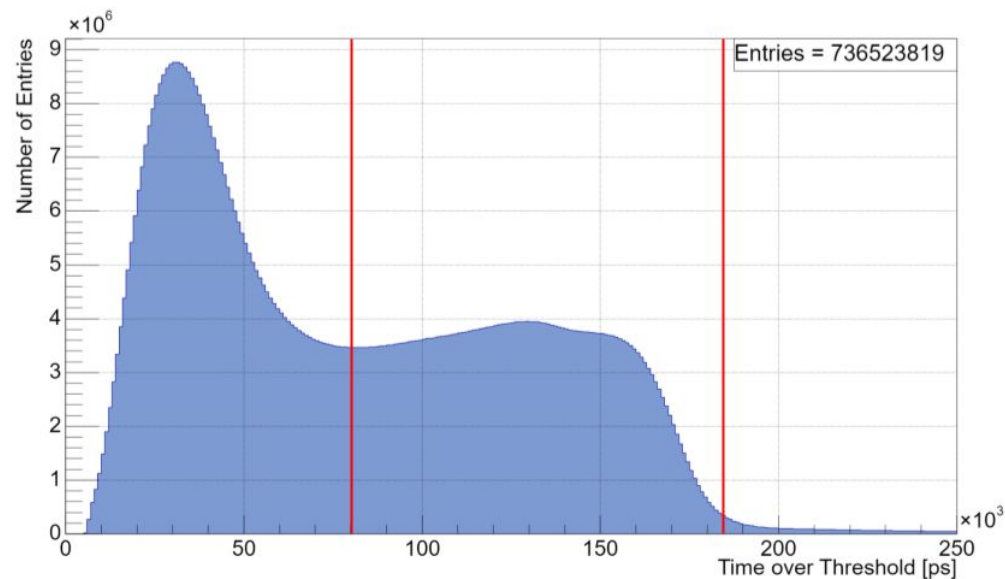
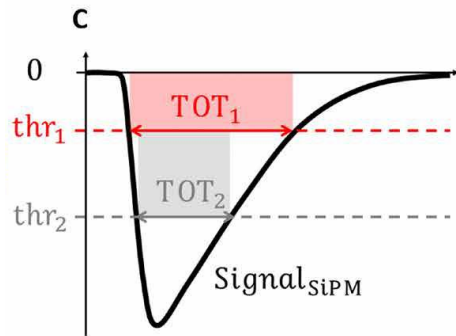




Phantom	Field	Nominal Range [mm]	Range at 50% [mm]	Acquisition time [min]
A	1	100	101.89	30
	2	108	109.98	31
	3	115	116.88	29
	4	103	105.10	30
B	5	100	101.88	33
	6	110	112.10	32
	7	119	121.19	32
	8	104	106.17	35

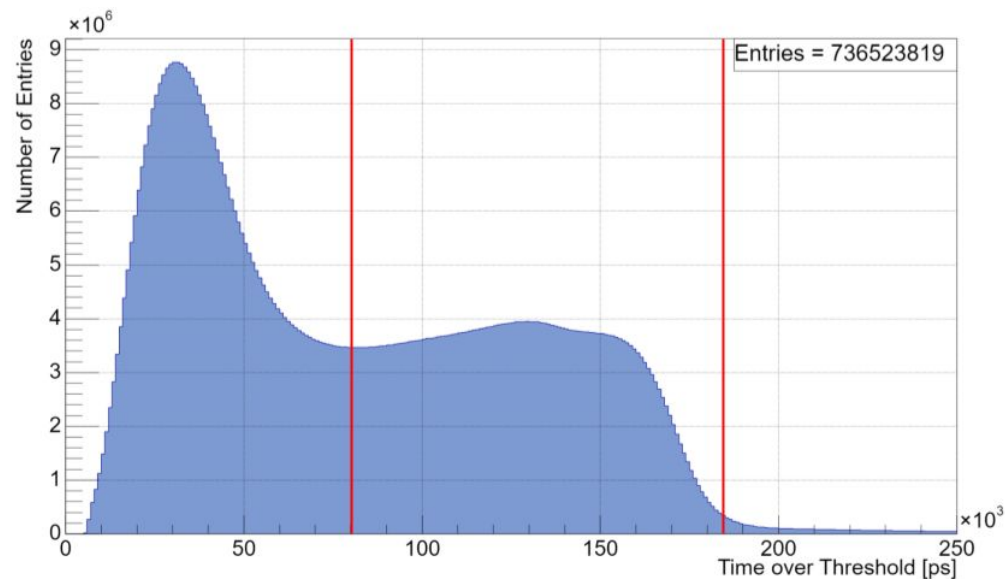
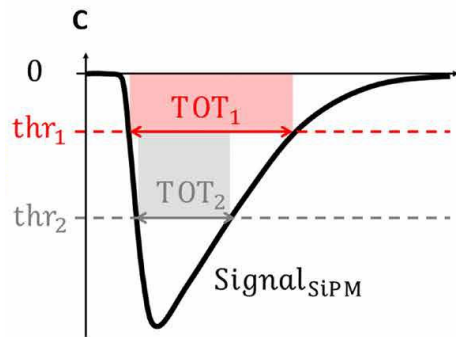


Data selection



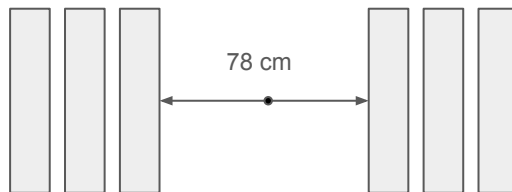
Data selection:

- **unscattered annihilation gamma quanta**
- only two interactions each within different head
- annihilation point within system FOV
- scatter test > 40 cm



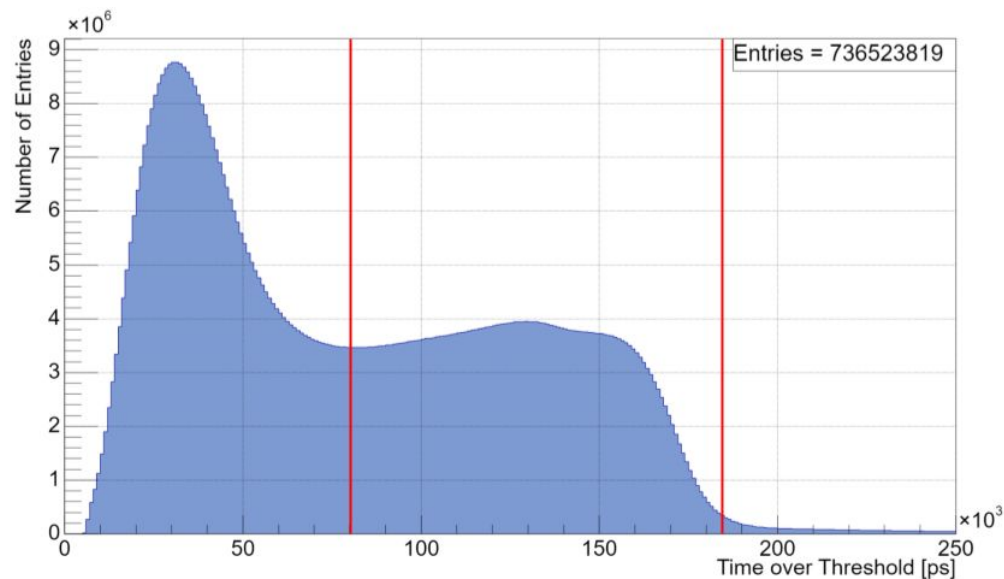
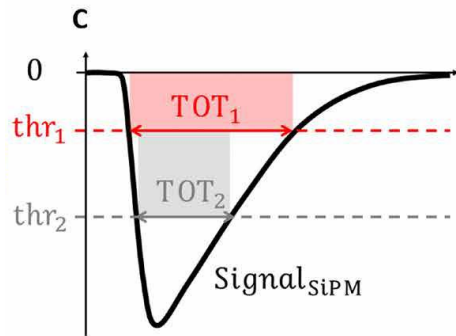
Data selection:

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- **annihilation point within system FOV**
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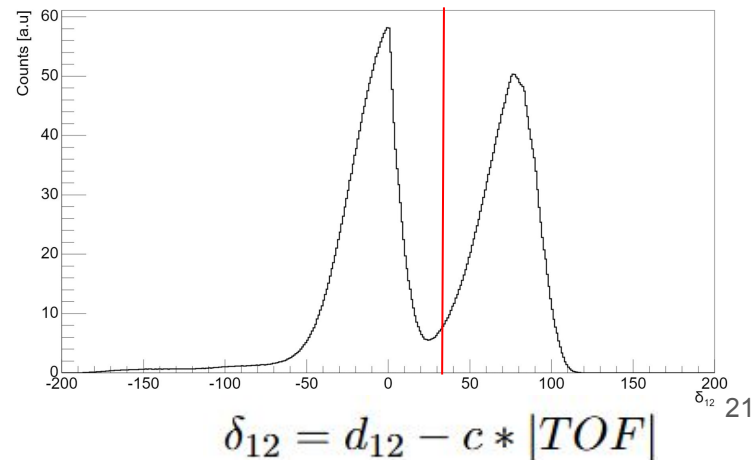
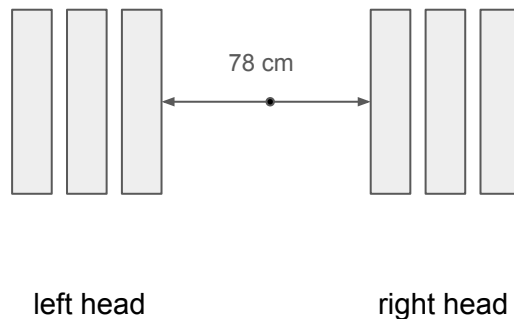
left head

right head



Data selection:

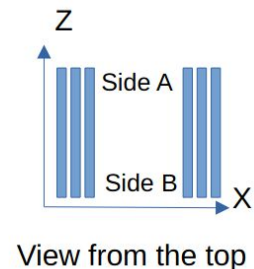
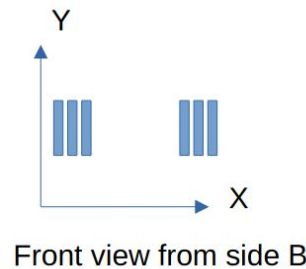
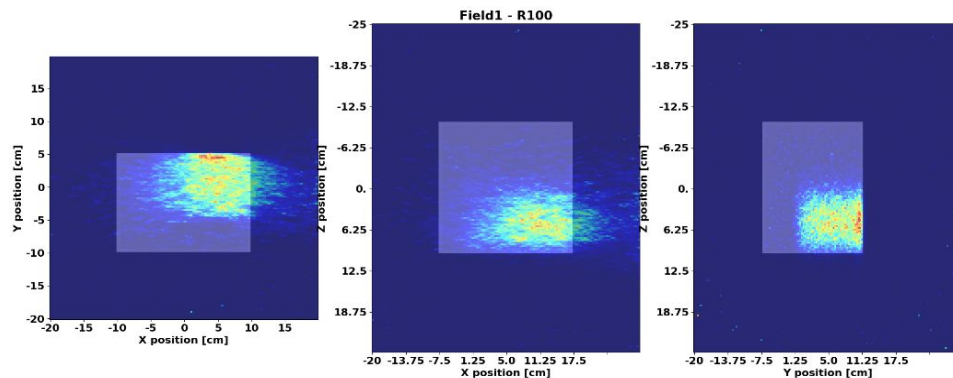
- unscattered annihilation gamma quanta
- only two interactions each within different head
- annihilation point within system FOV
- **scatter test > 40 cm**



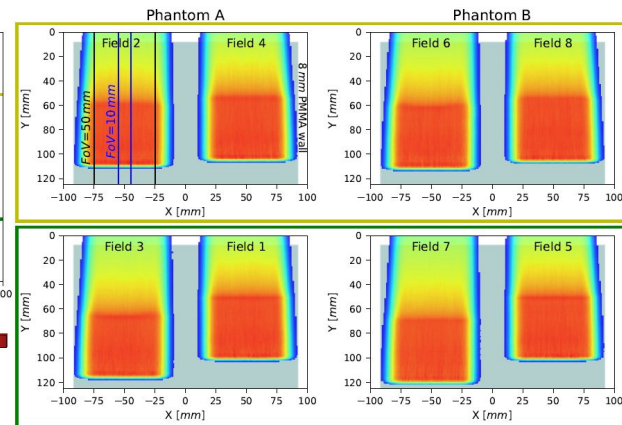
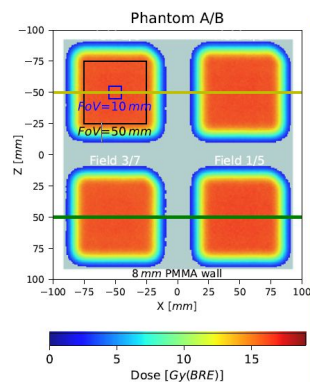
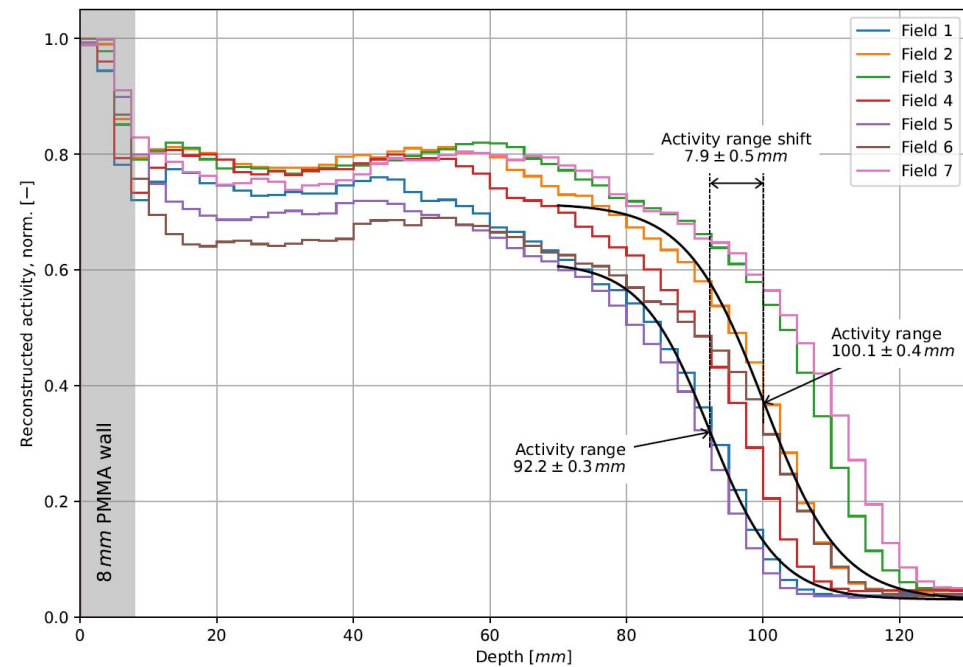
Reconstruction

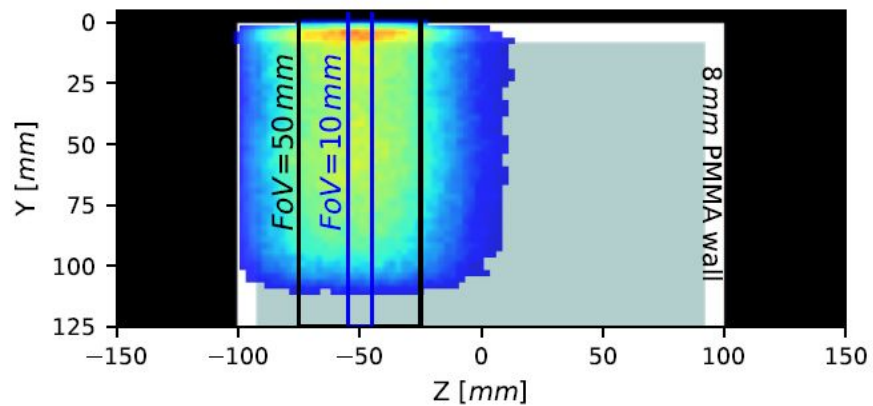
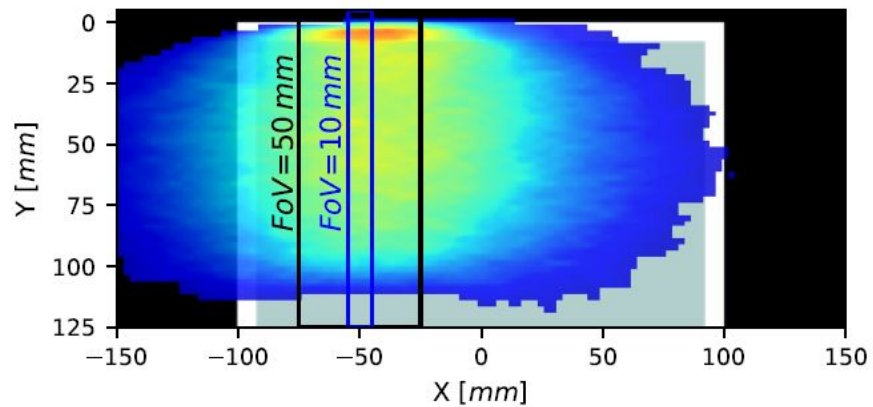
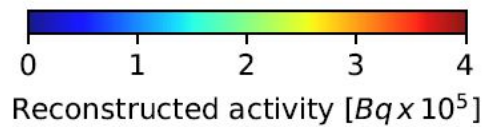
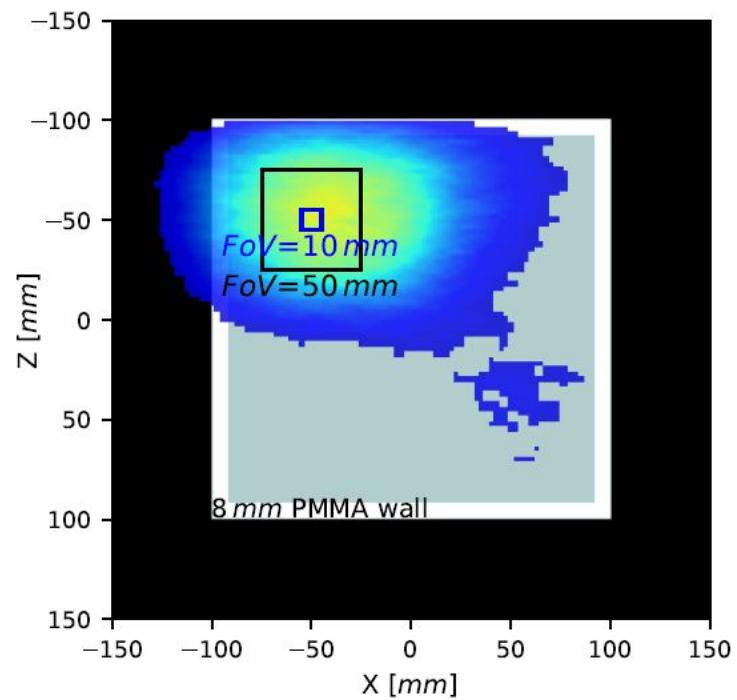
For the J-PET data reconstruction, the CASToR software has been used with following settings:

- TOF LM-MLEM (5 iterations) with TOF=600 ps
- Ray-tracing Siddon projector (10 rays)
- Attenuation and sensitivity corrections incorporated
- All (true, scatter, random) coincidences taken into account
- No additional PSF modeling added



Determination of activity shifts





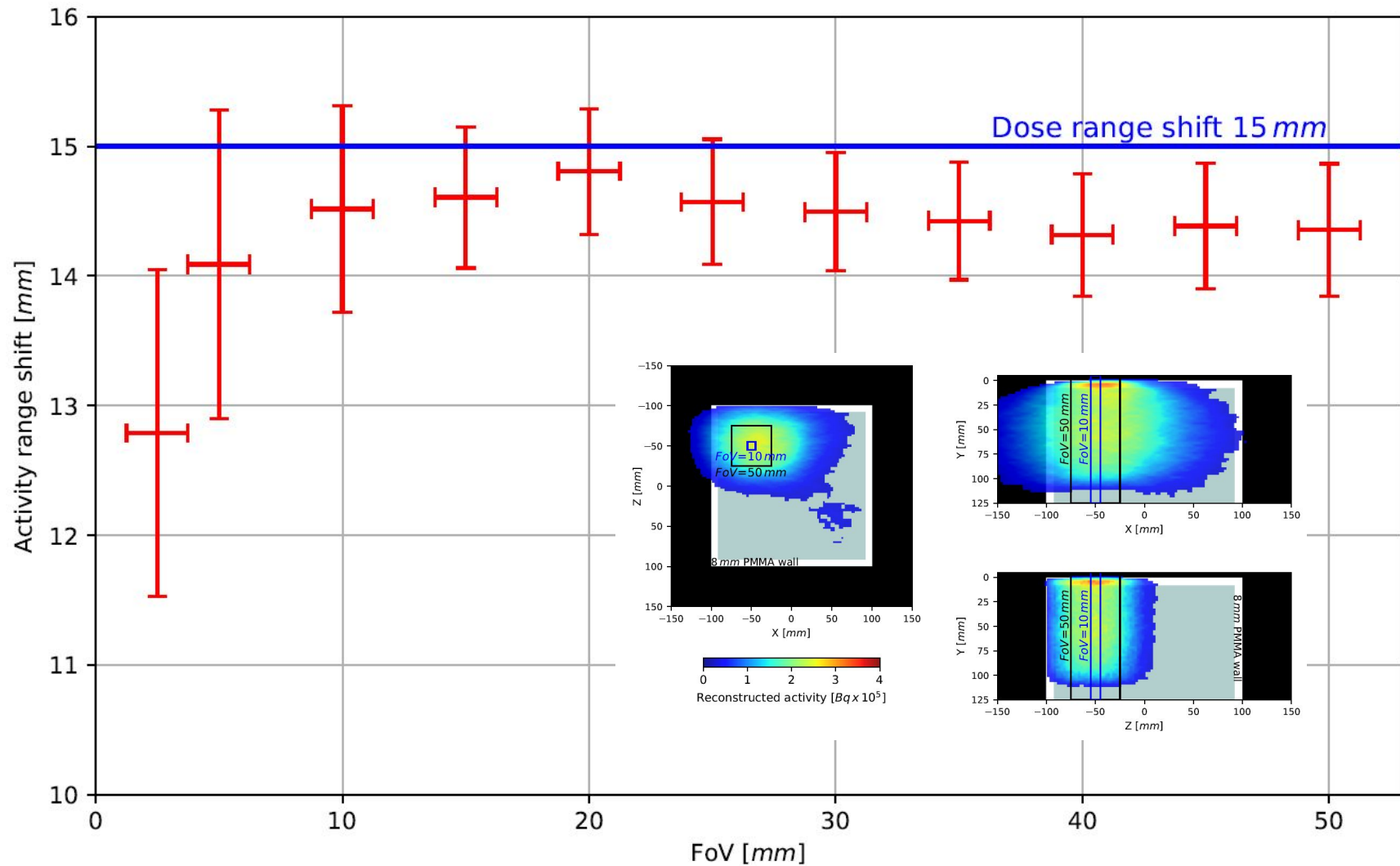
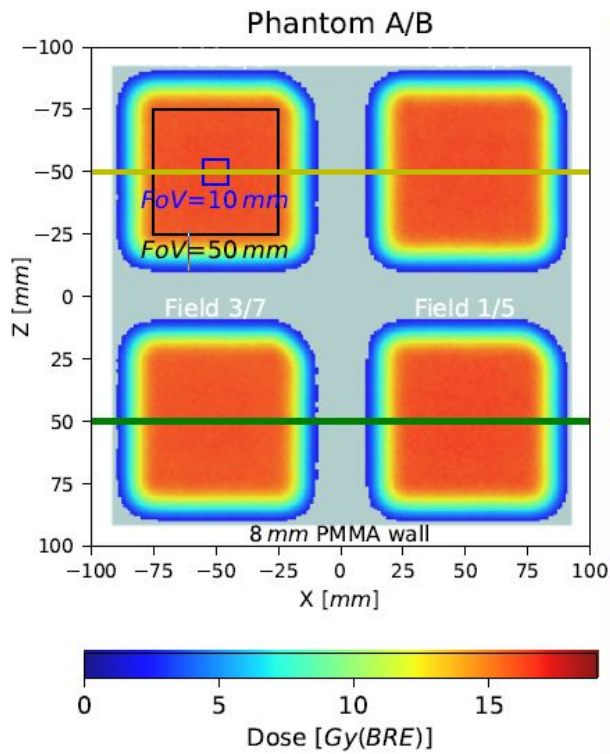




Illustration of all possible combinations:



Phantom	Field	Nominal Range [mm]	Range at 50% [mm]	Acquisition time [min]
A	1	100	101.89	30
	2	108	109.98	31
	3	115	116.88	29
	4	103	105.10	30
B	5	100	101.88	33
	6	110	112.10	32
	7	119	121.19	32
	8	104	106.17	35

Phantom A

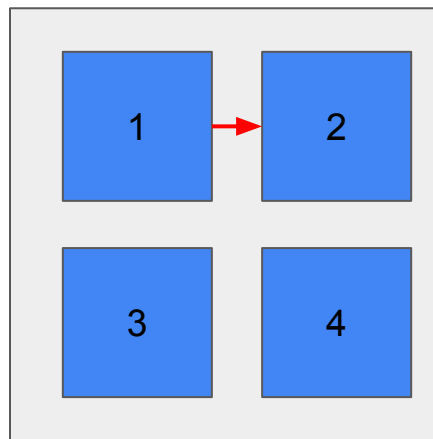
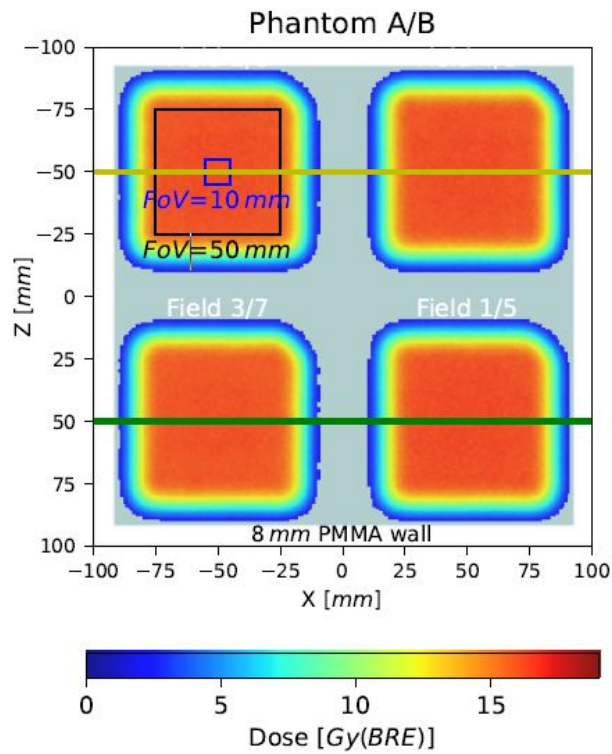




Illustration of all possible combinations:



Phantom	Field	Nominal Range [mm]	Range at 50% [mm]	Acquisition time [min]
A	1	100	101.89	30
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	6	110	112.10	32
	7	119	121.19	32
	8	104	106.17	35

Phantom A

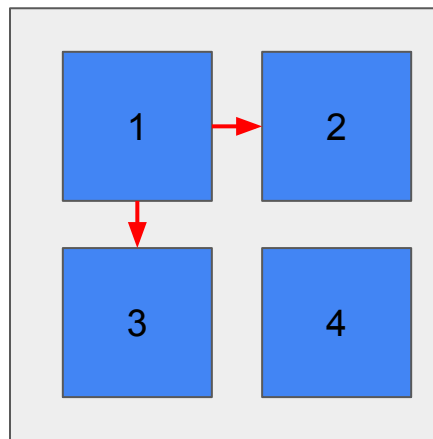
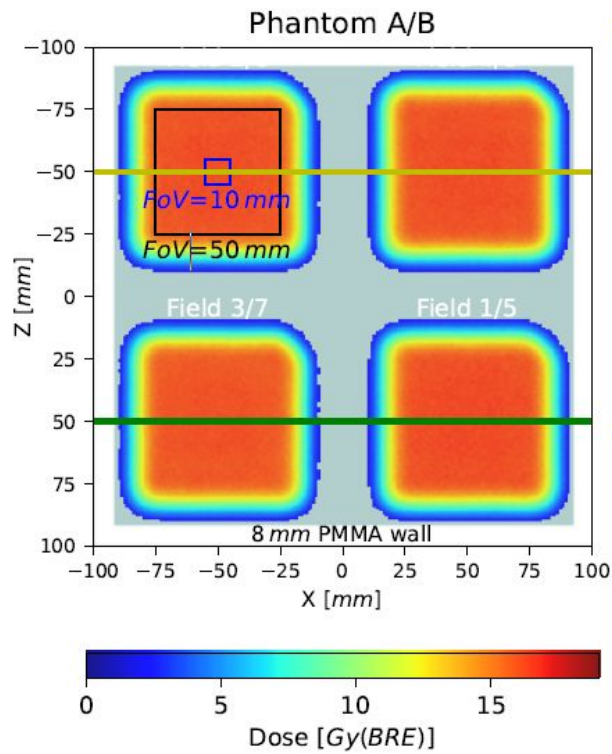




Illustration of all possible combinations:



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	7	119	121.19	32
	8	104	106.17	35

Phantom A

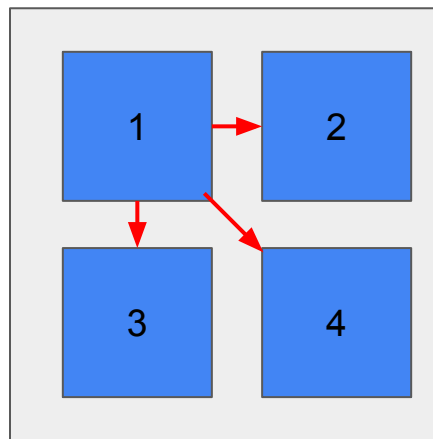
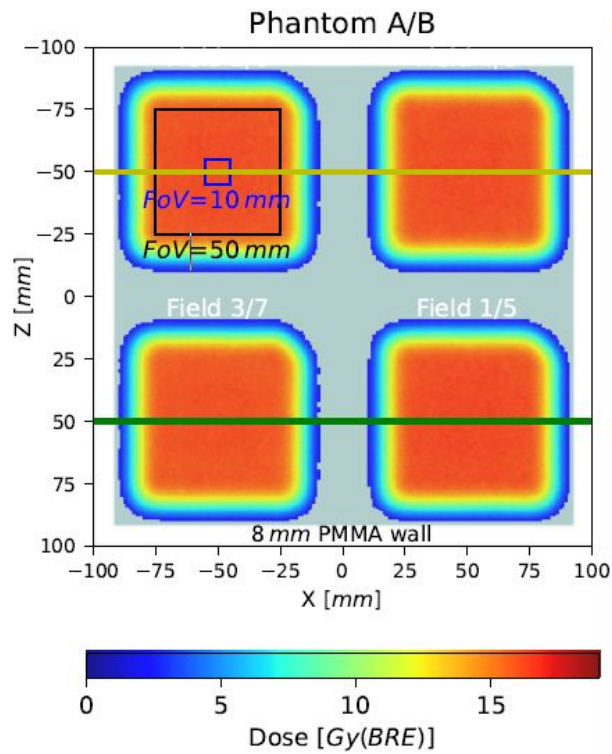


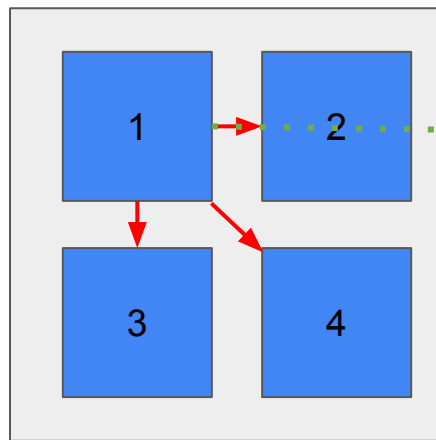


Illustration of all possible combinations:



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B	5	100	101.88	33
	6	110	112.10	32
	7	119	121.19	32
	8	104	106.17	35

Phantom A



Phantom B

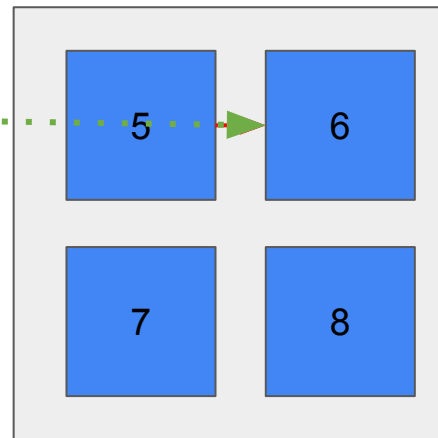
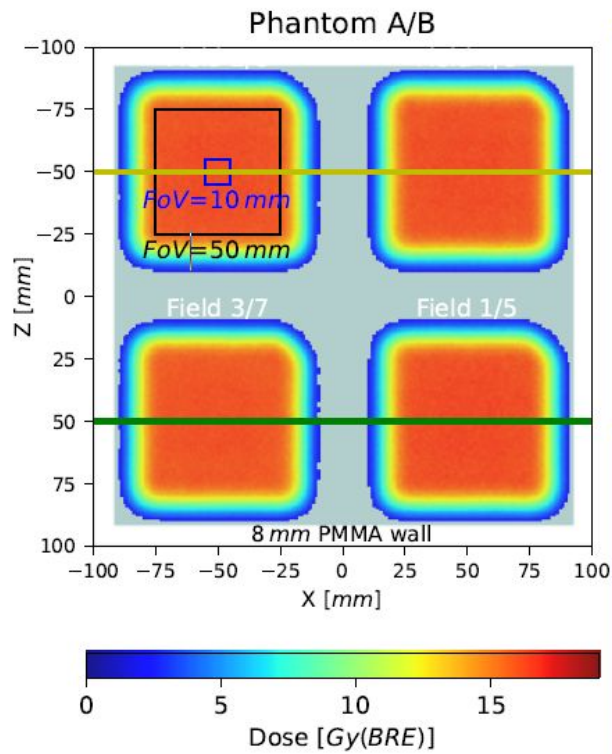


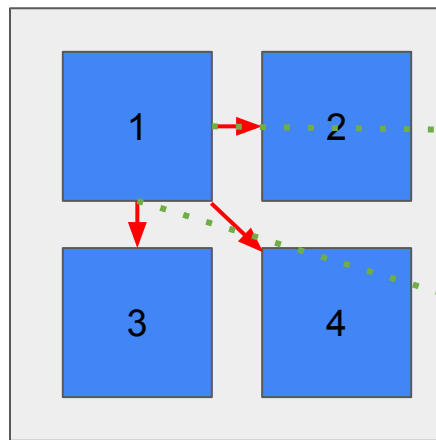


Illustration of all possible combinations:

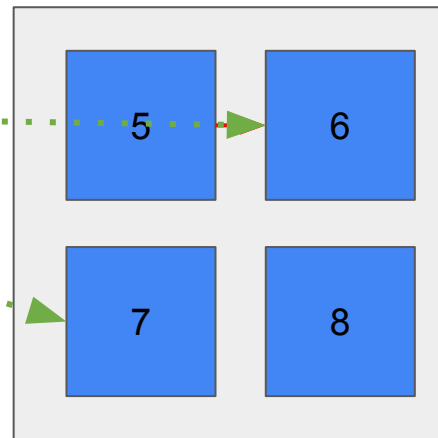


Phantom	Field	Nominal Range [mm]	Range at 50% [mm]	Acquisition time [min]
A	1	100	101.89	30
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	3	115	116.88	29
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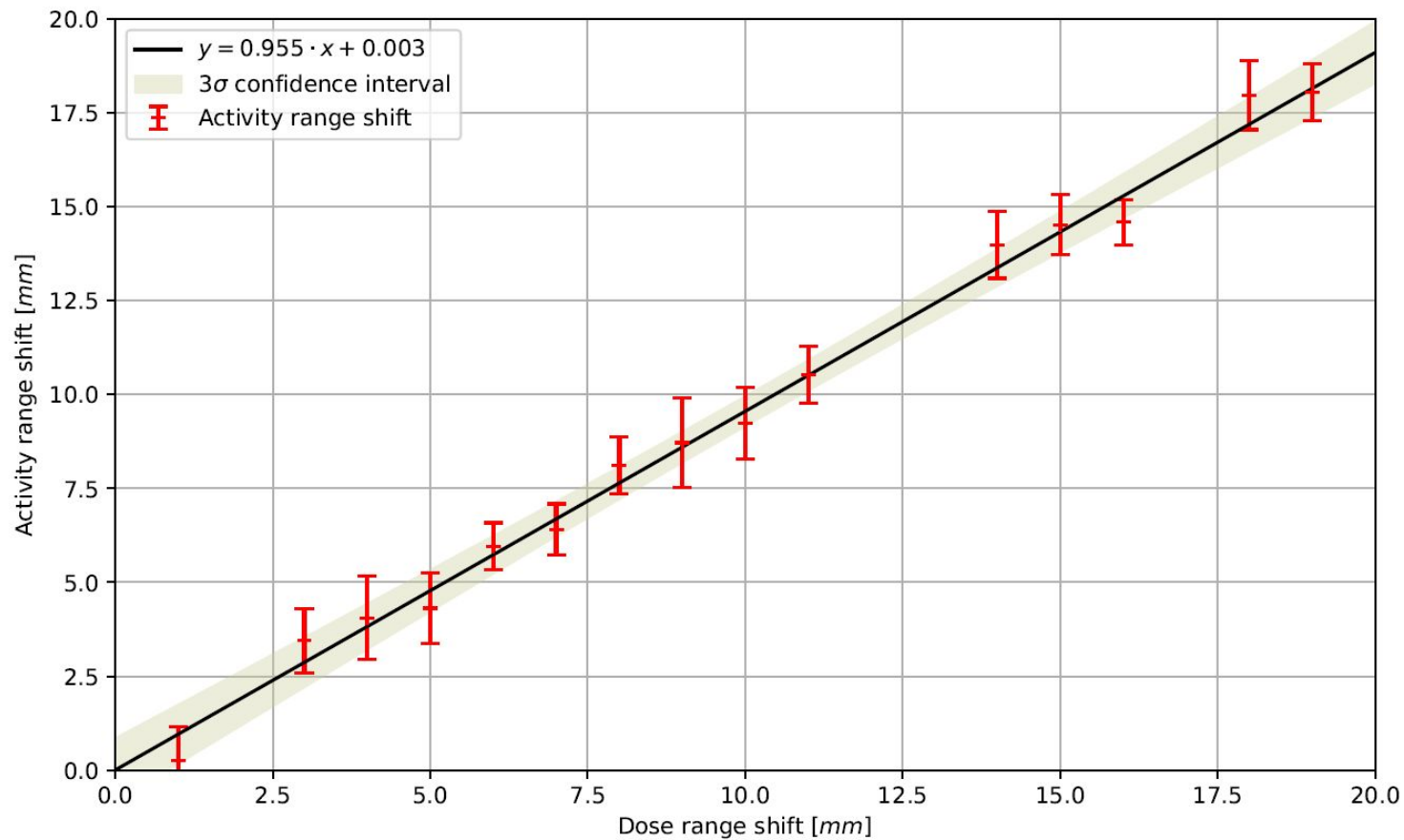
Phantom A

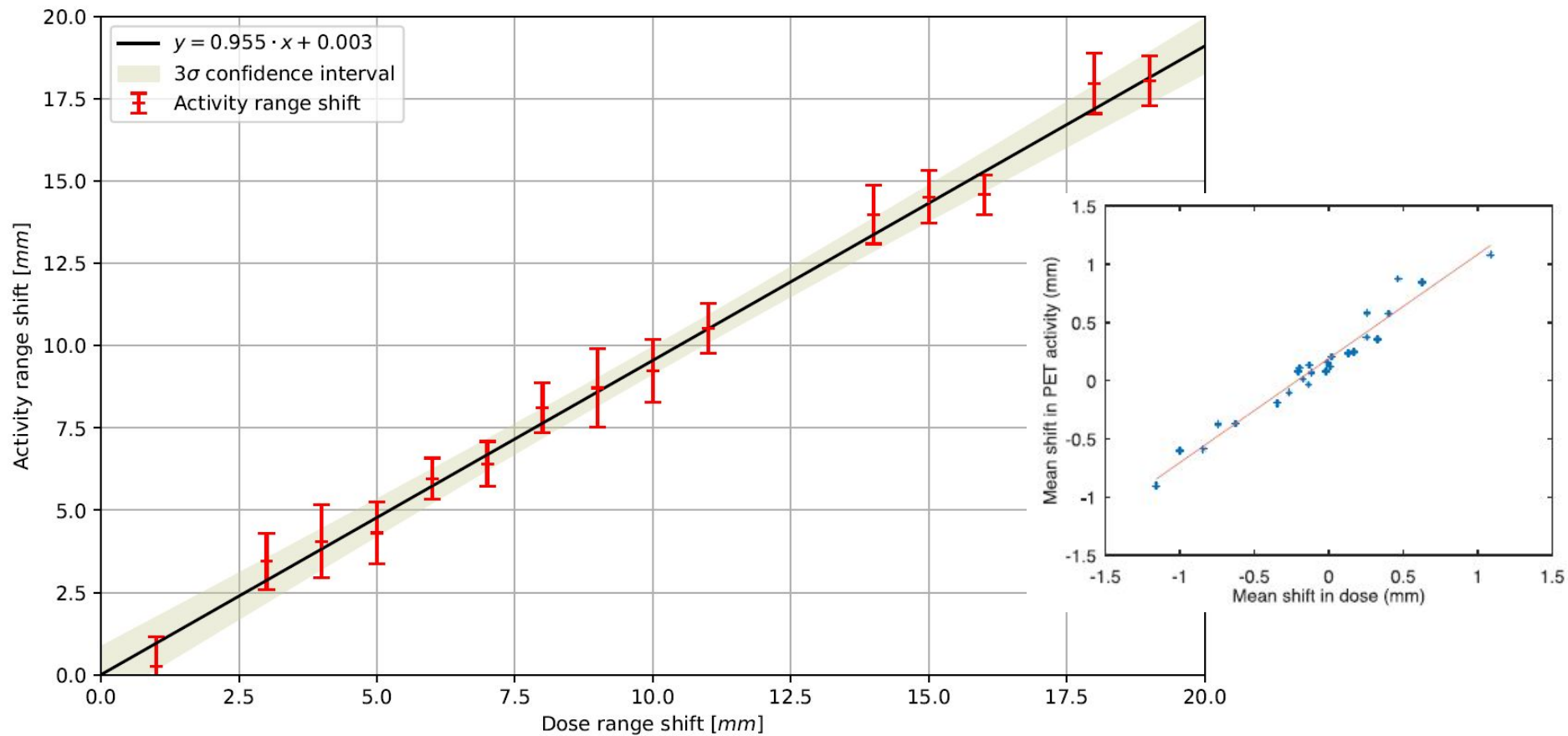


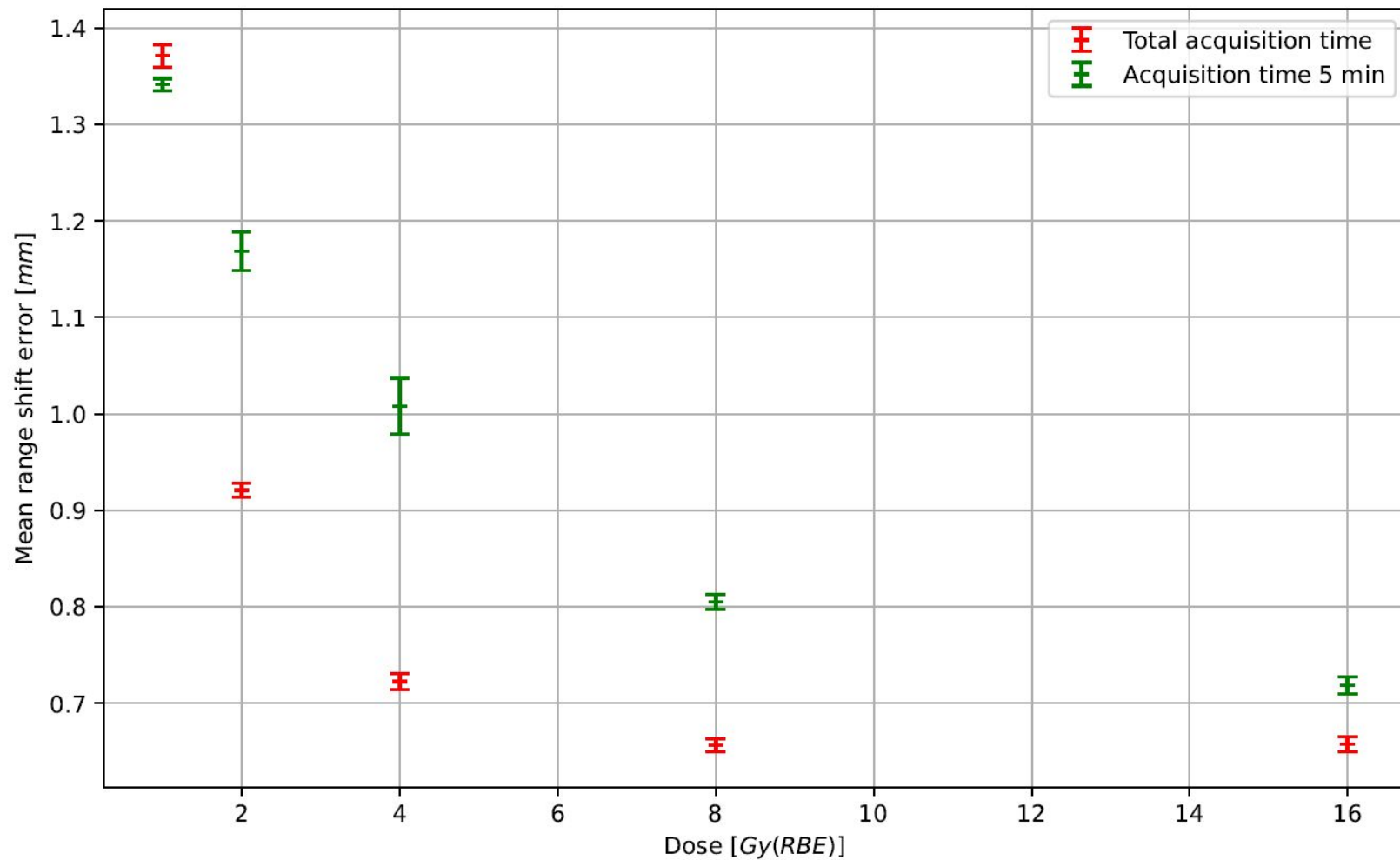
Phantom B



Results

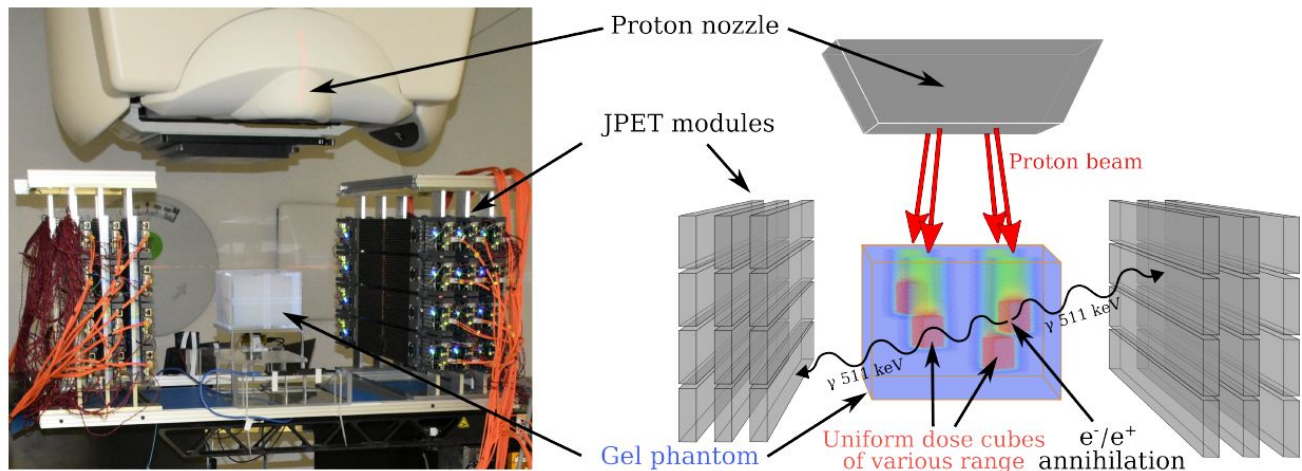




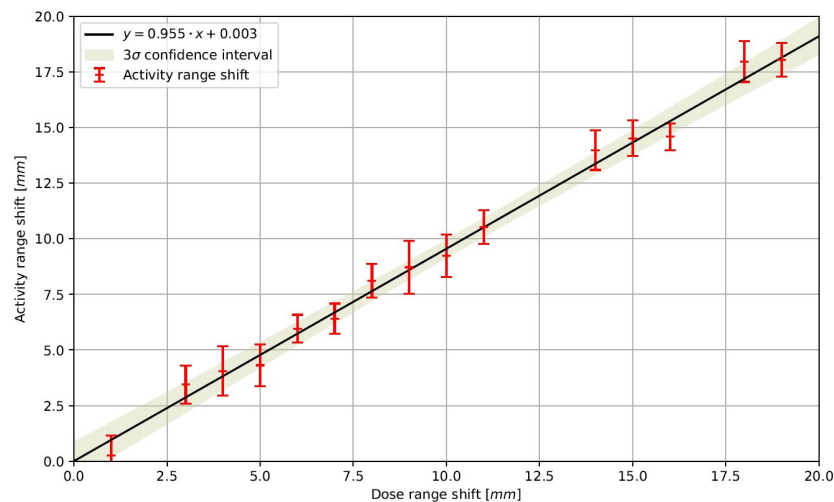




Summary



- we have successfully determined proton range shifts in agarous phantoms with modular J-PET
- a linear dependence between dose and activity shifts was observed
- after system upgrade an on-beam measurements will be possible



Thank you for your attention



Paweł Moskal, Grzegorz Korcyl, Maciej Bakalarek, Damian Borys, Antoni Ruciński, Jan Gajewski, Karol Brzeziński, Jakub Baran, Paulina Stasica et al.

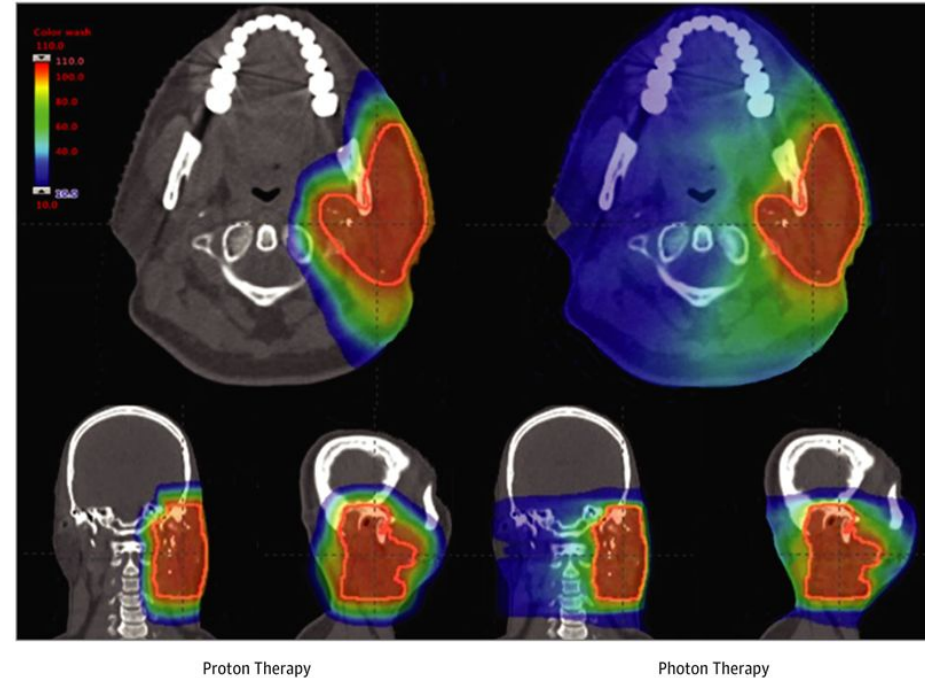
Backup

J-PET Proton therapy

- Pediatric tumors: reduced late toxicity and secondary malignancy risk.
- Head & neck, skull-base tumors: improved sparing of salivary glands/brainstem.
- Ocular and selected CNS tumors: excellent local control.
- Some studies show comparable tumor control to photons.

Chen Z, et al. Proton versus photon radiation therapy: A clinical review. *Front Oncol.* 2023 Mar 29;13:1133909. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2023.1133909

Efstathiou, J.A. et al., Prostate Advanced Radiation Technologies Investigating Quality of Life (PARTIQoL): Phase III Randomized Clinical Trial of Proton Therapy vs. IMRT for Localized Prostate Cancer
International Journal of Radiation Oncology, Biology, Physics, Volume 120, Issue 2, S1 October 01, 2024.



Baumann BC, Mitra N, Harton JG, et al. Comparative Effectiveness of Proton vs Photon Therapy as Part of Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy for Locally Advanced Cancer. *JAMA Oncol.* 2020;6(2):237–246. doi:10.1001/jamaoncol.2019.4889



Proton range determination

Main sources of uncertainty:

- morphological changes,
- anatomical deformation due to motion
- HU to RSP conversion error

1. Dual-energy CT (DECT) / photon-counting CT (PCCT)

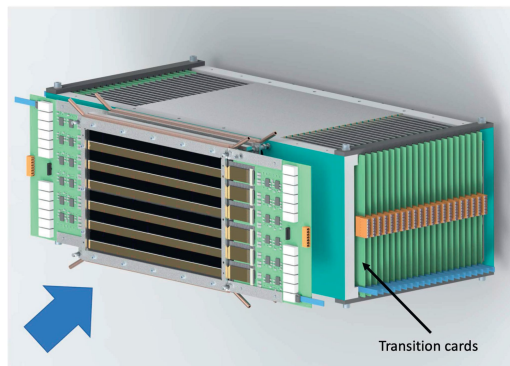
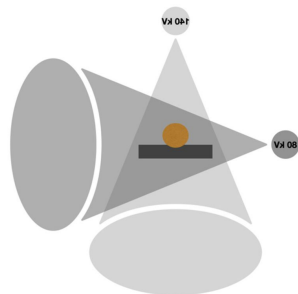
Charles Ekene Chika, World J Radiol. 2025 Jun 28;17(6):105728. doi: 10.4329/wjr.v17.i6.105728

2. Proton CT (pCT) / proton radiography (pRad)

Alme J, et al.(2020) A High-Granularity Digital Tracking Calorimeter Optimized for Proton CT. Front. Phys. 8:568243. doi: 10.3389/fphy.2020.568243

3. Machine learning & Monte-Carlo aid

Wildman VL, et al.. Recent advances in applying machine learning to proton radiotherapy. Biomed Phys Eng Express. 2025 Jul 23;11(4):042005. doi: 10.1088/2057-1976/adeb90. PMID: 40609552; PMCID: PMC12284894.



1. Prompt Gamma Imaging (PGI) / Prompt Gamma Spectroscopy (PGS) / Prompt Gamma Timing (PGT)

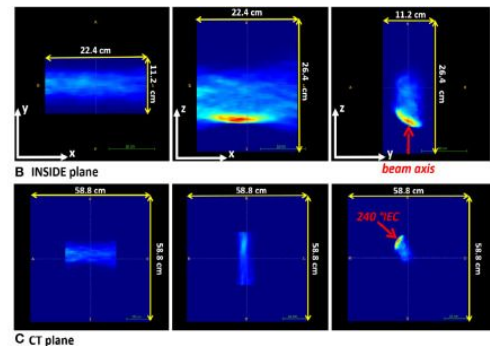
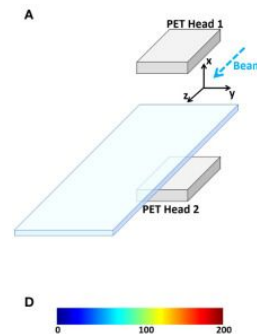
Everaere P, et al. Prompt gamma energy integration: a new method for online-range verification in proton therapy with pulsed-beams. Front. Phys. 12:1371015. doi: 10.3389/fphy.2024.1371015

2. Ionoacoustic / protoacoustic imaging

Alme J, et Wang S, et al. Real-time tracking of the Bragg peak during proton therapy via 3D protoacoustic Imaging in a clinical scenario. Npj Imaging. 2024;2(1):34. doi: 10.1038/s44303-024-00039-x. Epub 2024 Sep 17. PMID: 40078731; PMCID: PMC11893450.

3. In-beam PET and delayed gamma imaging

Mogliani M, et al. In-vivo range verification analysis with in-beam PET data for patients treated with proton therapy at CNAO. Front Oncol. 2022 Sep 26;12:929949. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2022.929949. PMID: 36226070; PMCID: PMC9549776.





Physics in Medicine & Biology



PAPER

Detection of range shifts in proton beam therapy using the J-PET scanner: a patient simulation study

Karol Brzeziński^{1,2,*}, Jakub Baran^{3,4,5}, Damian Borys^{6,7}, Jan Gajewski¹, Neha Chug^{3,4,5}, Aurelien Coussat^{3,4,5}, Eryk Czerwiński^{3,4,5}, Meysam Dadgar^{3,4,5}, Kamil Dulski^{3,4,5}, Kavya V Eliyan Aleksander Gajos^{3,4,5}, Krzysztof Kacprzak^{3,4,5}, Łukasz Kapłon^{3,4,5}, Konrad Klimaszewski¹, Paweł Konieczka⁸, Renata Kopeć¹, Grzegorz Korcył^{3,4,5}, Tomasz Kozik^{3,4,5}, Wojciech Krzemiński⁹, Deepak Kumar^{3,4,5}, Antony J Lomax^{10,11}, Keegan McNamara^{10,11}, Szymon Niedźwiecki^{3,4,5}, Paweł Olko¹, Dominik Panek^{3,4,5}, Szymon Parzych^{3,4,5}, Elena Perez del Rio^{3,4,5}, Lech Raczyński⁸, Sushil Sharma^{3,4,5}, Shivani^{3,4,5}, Roman Y Shopa⁸, Tomasz Skóra¹², Magdalena Skurzok^{3,4,5}, Paulina Stasica¹, Ewa Ł. Stępień^{3,4,5}, Keyvan Tayefi^{3,4,5}, Faranak Tayefi^{3,4,5}, Damien C Weber^{10,13,14}, Carla Winterhalter^{10,11}, Wojciech Wiślicki⁸, Paweł Moskal^{3,4,5} and Antoni Ruciński¹

Physica Medica 118 (2024) 103301

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

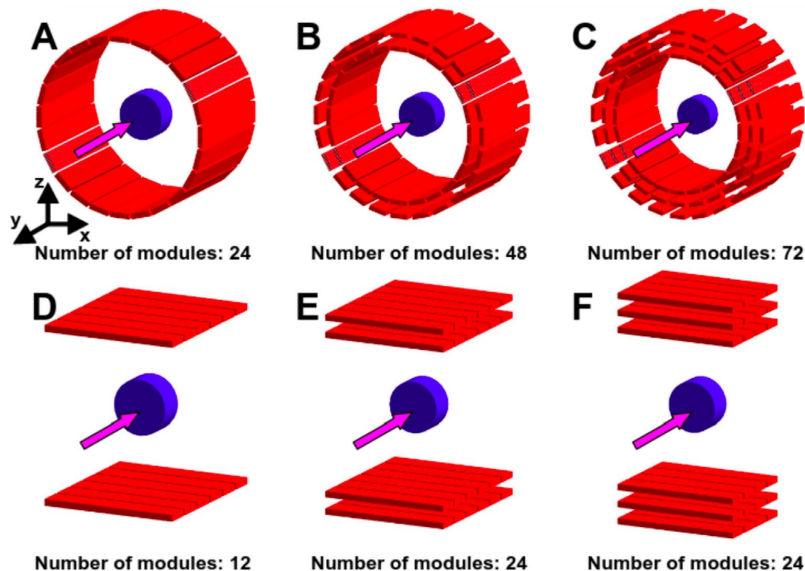
Physica Medica

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmp

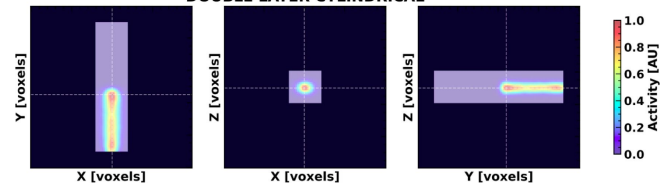
Technical note

Feasibility of the J-PET to monitor the range of therapeutic proton beams

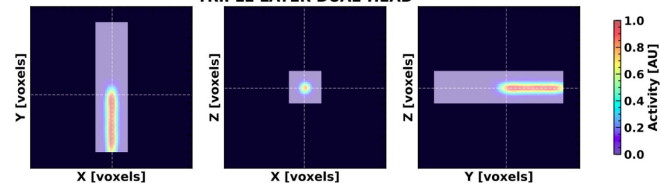
Jakub Baran^{a,b,c,*}, Damian Borys^{d,e,f}, Karol Brzeziński^{g,h}, Jan Gajewski^f, Michał Silarski^{a,b,h,c}, Neha Chug^{a,b,c}, Aurélien Coussat^{a,b,c}, Eryk Czerwiński^{a,b,c}, Meysam Dadgar^{a,b,c}, Kamil Dulski^{a,b,c}, Kavya V. Eliyan Aleksander Gajos^{a,b,c}, Krzysztof Kacprzak^{a,b,c}, Łukasz Kapłon^{a,b,c}, Konrad Klimaszewski^h, Paweł Konieczka^h, Renata Kopeć¹, Grzegorz Korcył^{a,b,c}, Tomasz Kozik^{a,b,c}, Wojciech Krzemiński¹, Deepak Kumar^{a,b,c}, Antony J. Lomax^{10,11}, Keegan McNamara^{10,11}, Szymon Niedźwiecki^{a,b,c}, Paweł Olko¹, Dominik Panek^{a,b,c}, Szymon Parzych^{a,b,c}, Elena Perez del Rio^{a,b,c}, Lech Raczyński^h, Moyo Simbarashe^{a,b,c}, Sushil Sharma^{a,b,c}, Shivani^{a,b,c}, Roman Y. Shopa⁸, Tomasz Skóra¹², Magdalena Skurzok^{a,b,c}, Paulina Stasica¹, Ewa Ł. Stępień^{a,b,c}, Keyvan Tayefi^{a,b,c}, Faranak Tayefi^{a,b,c}, Damien C. Weber^{10,13,14}, Carla Winterhalter^{10,11}, Wojciech Wiślicki^h, Paweł Moskal^{a,b,c}, Antoni Ruciński^f



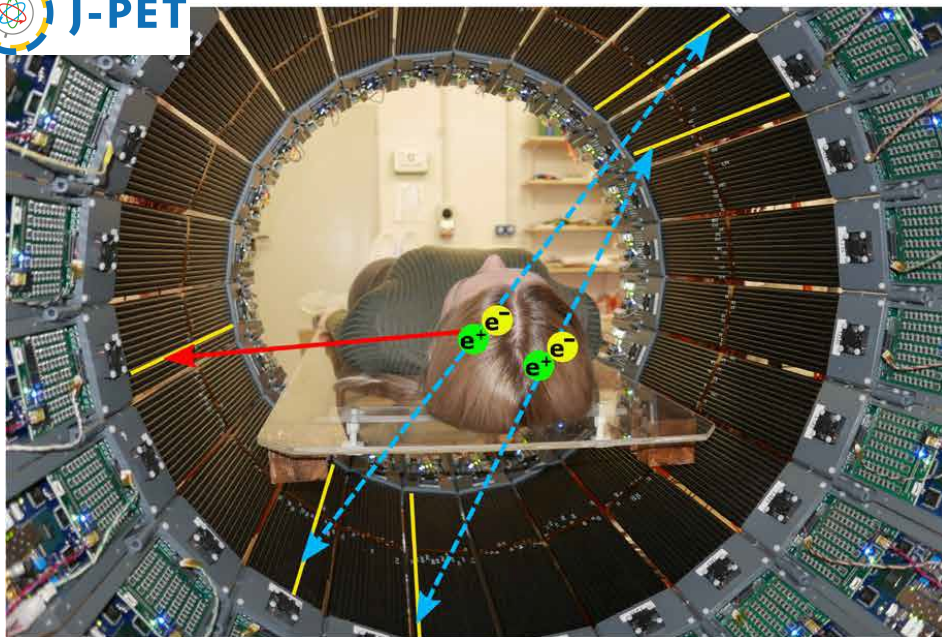
DOUBLE LAYER CYLINDRICAL



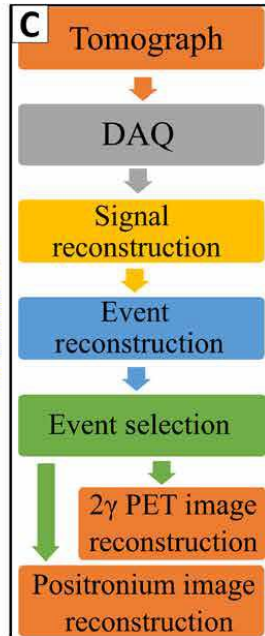
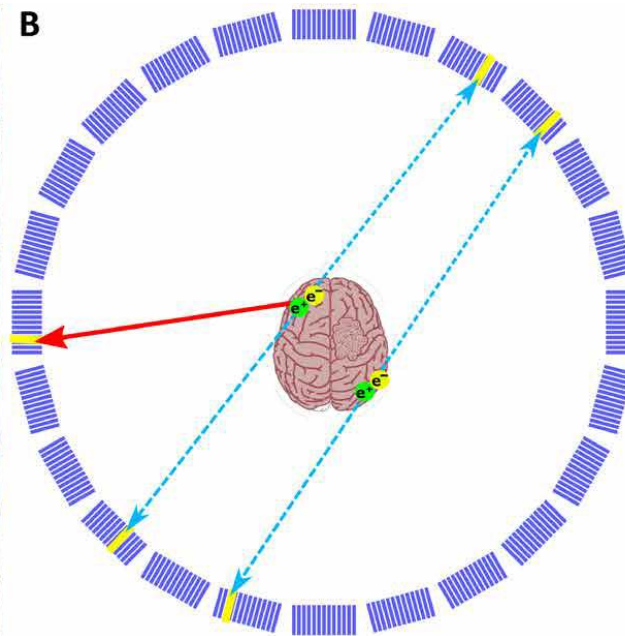
TRIPLE LAYER DUAL-HEAD



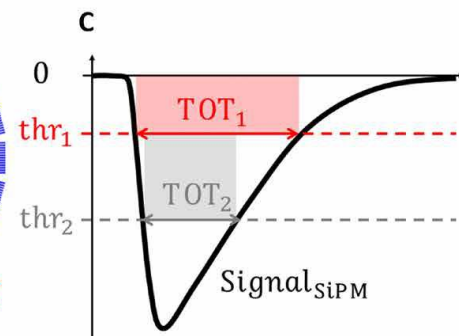
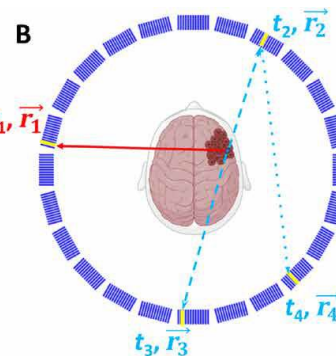
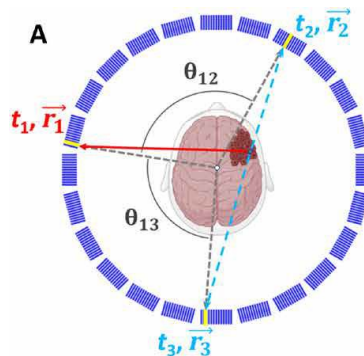
J-PET modular - general

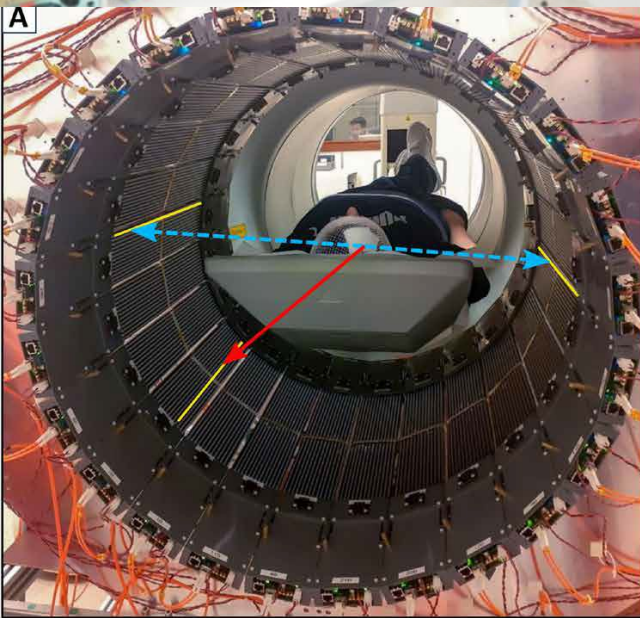


B



- **modular design**
- 24 modules
- 13 scintillators per module
- 4 SiPM per scintillator side
- 2 constant threshold per SiPM
- 50 cm FOV
- digital data at the module output
- 74 cm diameter
- very light ~60 kg





	Modular J-PET	Total Body uExplorer	PENPET Explorer	Biograph Vision Quadra
Company/facility	Jagellonian University, J-PET group	UC Davis and United Imaging Healthcare	UPenn, KAGE Medical and Philips	Siemens Healthineers, Turku PET
Scintillator type	BC-404	LSO (18.1 mm)	LYSO (19mm)	LSO (20 mm)
Light sensor	MPPC-1X4CH-ARRAY S13361-6674	SensL J-series	Philips Digital Photon Counting	MRD 85
Type of light sensor	Analog	Analog	Digital	Analog
Scintillator cross section (mm^2)	24×6	2.76×2.76	3.86×3.86	3.2×3.2
Axial length (cm)	50	194	64	106
Diameter (cm)	73.9	74	76.4	82
No. of modules	24	-	18	38
No. rings	1	-	3	32
Time window (ns)	4	4.5-6.9	4	4.7
Energy window (keV)	> 200	430-645	440-600	435 - 585
Sensitivity in center (cps/kBq)	2.1	174	54	82.6
Sensitivity in 10 cm offset from center(cps/kBq)	1.8	177	57	84.1
Scatter fraction (%)	41.68 ± 0.19	36.3	32	37
Radial FWHM (mm)	4.9 ± 0.2	3.0	3.9 ± 0.4	3.19
Tangential FWHM (mm)	7.3 ± 0.1	3.0	3.9 ± 0.4	3.58
Axial FWHM (mm)	30.10 ± 0.01	2.8	4.1 ± 0.2	3.78

CCB and phantoms



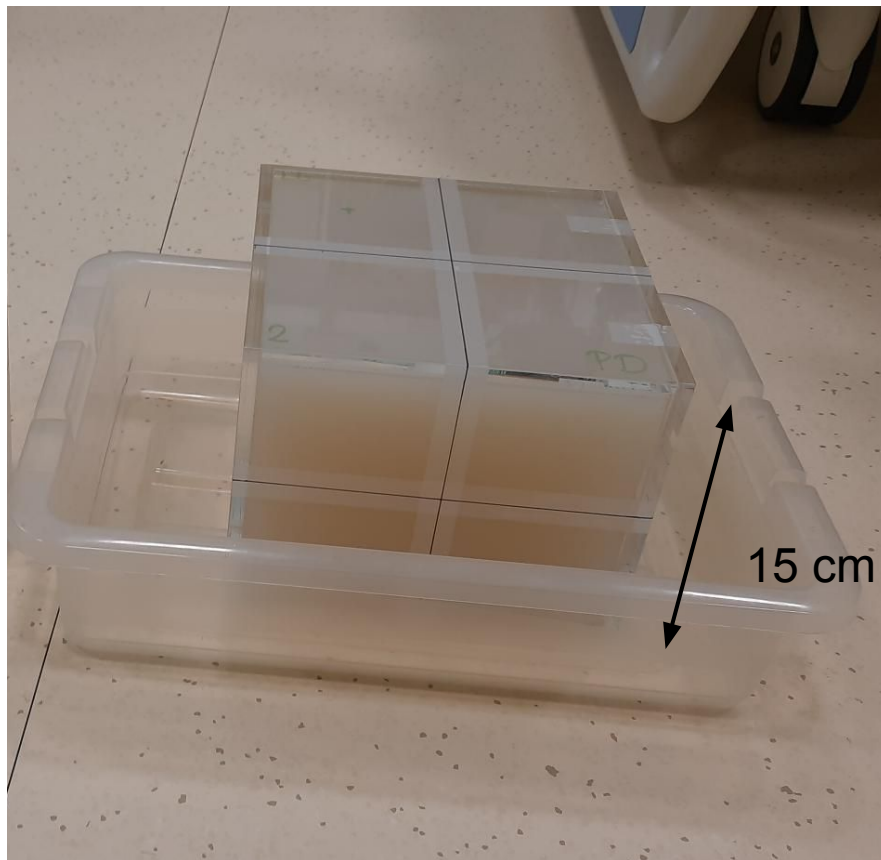
- The Cyclotron Centre Bronowice (CCB) produces and accelerates protons to therapeutic energies from 70 to 230 MeV using the isochronous cyclotron C-230 (IBA, Belgium).
- In Poland, proton therapy is used clinically for radiation therapy at Cyclotron Centre Bronowice (CCB), Krakow Proton Beam Therapy Center of the Institute of Nuclear Physics PAS (IFJ PAS) to treat patients from Krakow and neighboring oncology hospitals, where over 1500 patients have been treated so far.

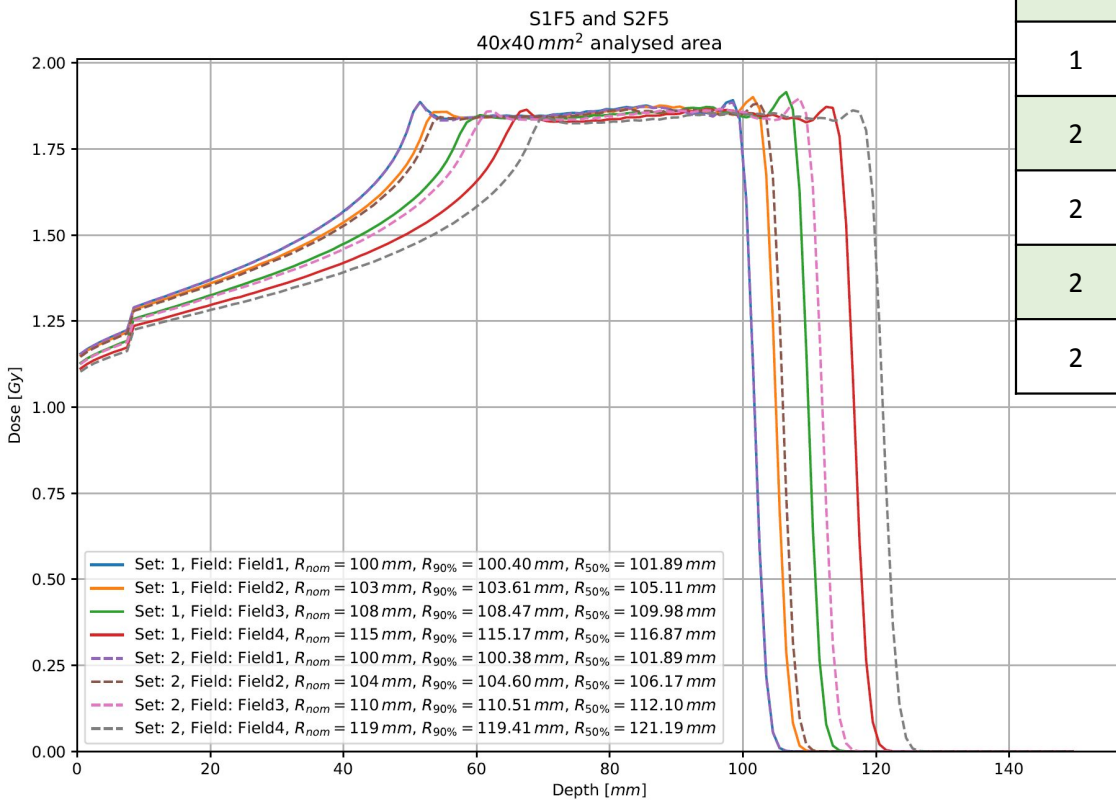




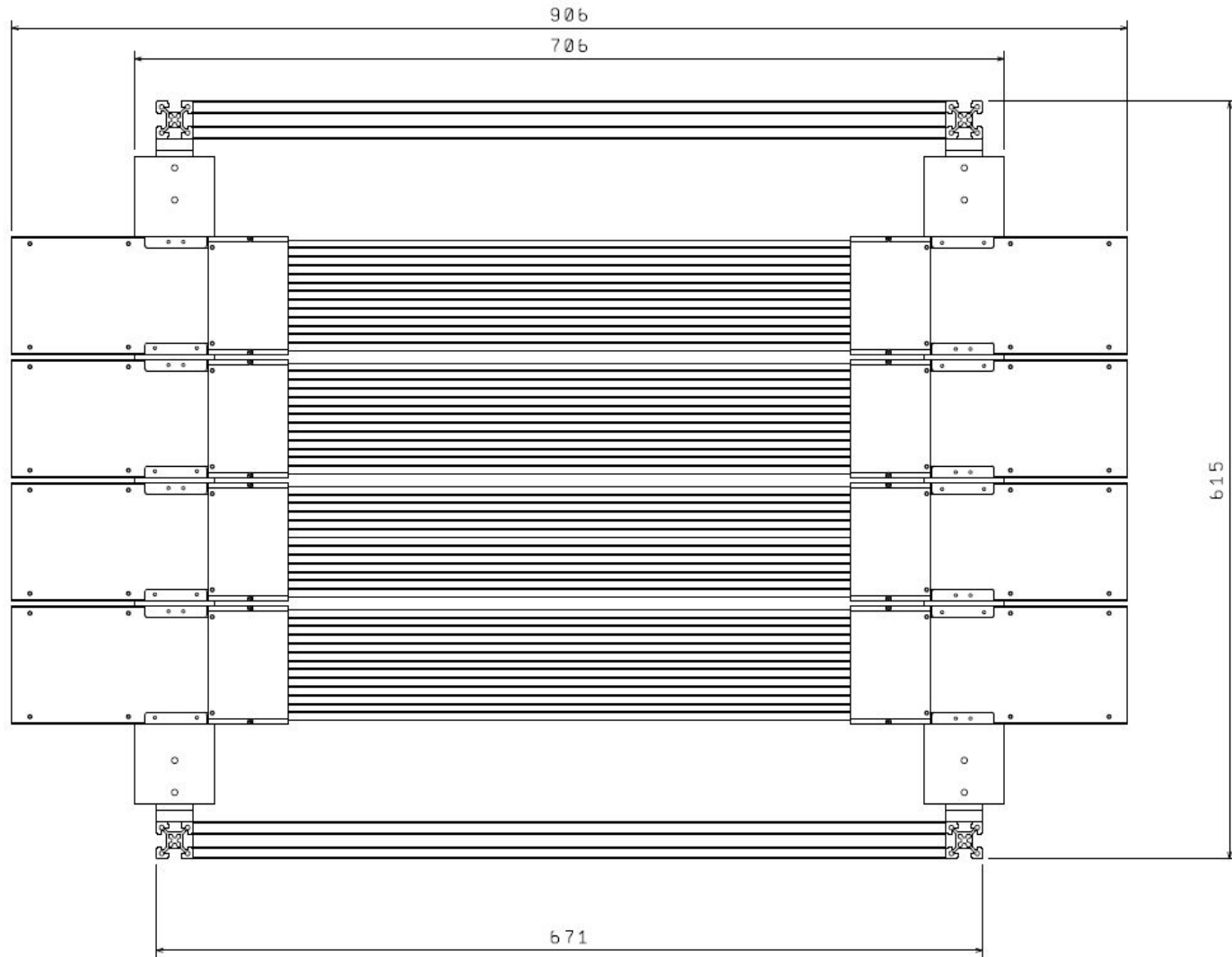
Agarose gel phantom:

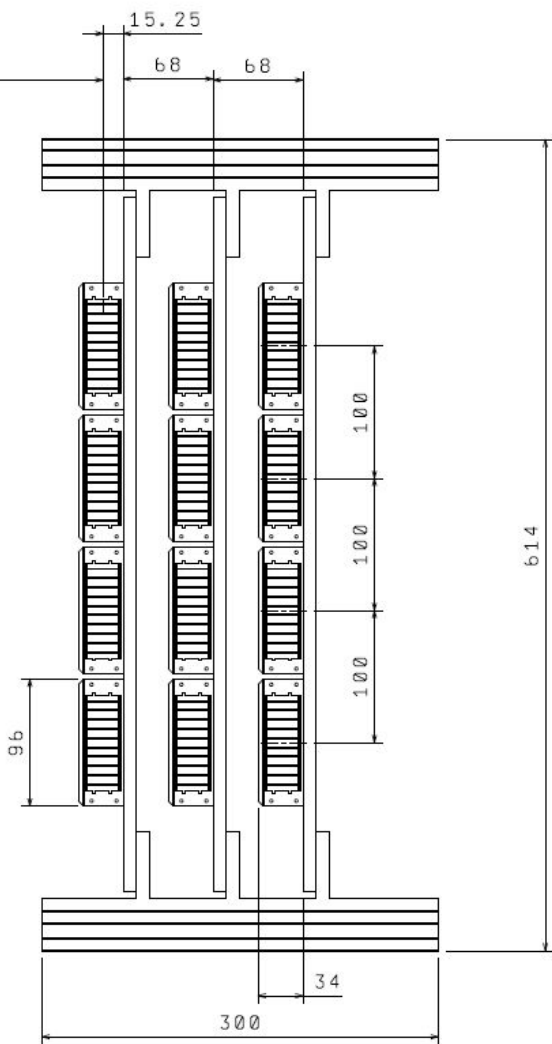
- $20 \times 20 \times 15 \text{ cm}^3$
- 6 mm PMMA walls
- filled with agar + water

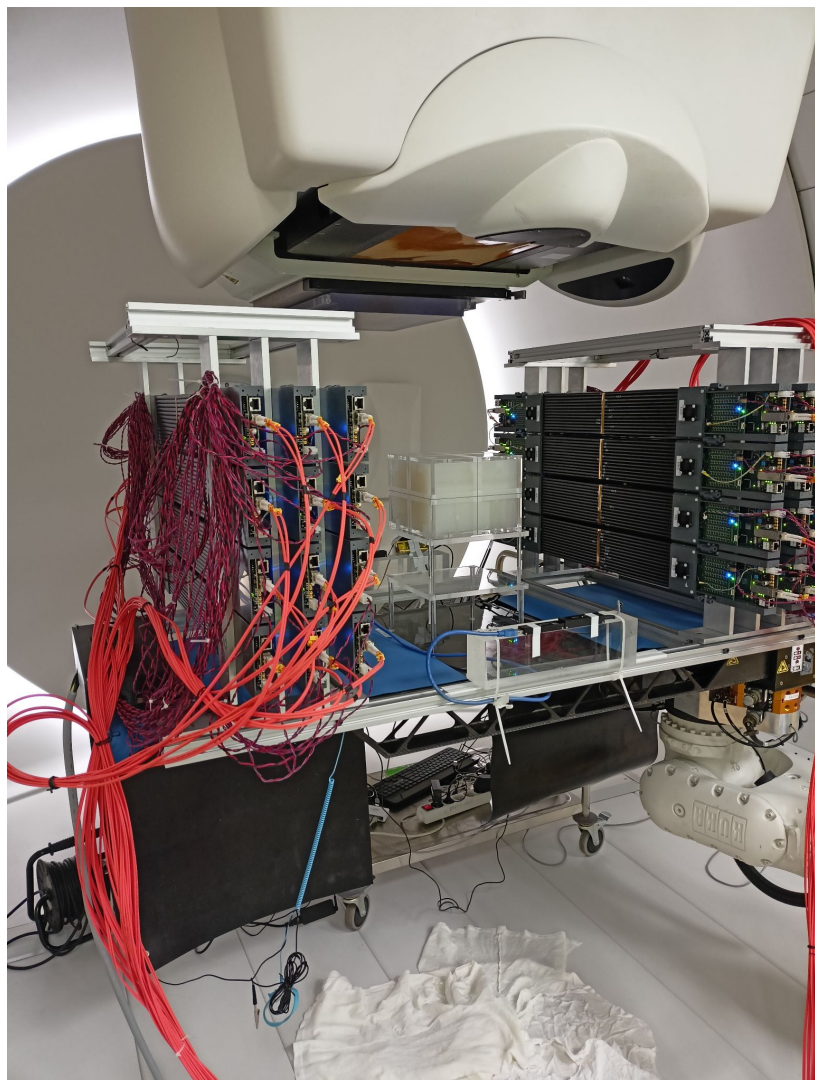


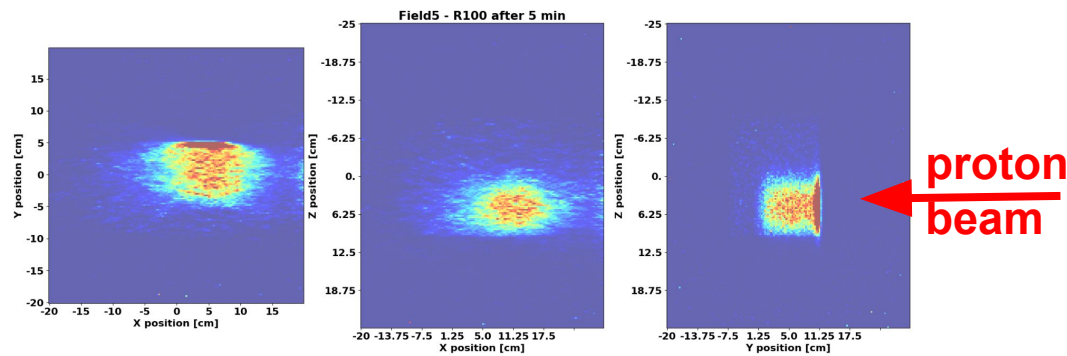
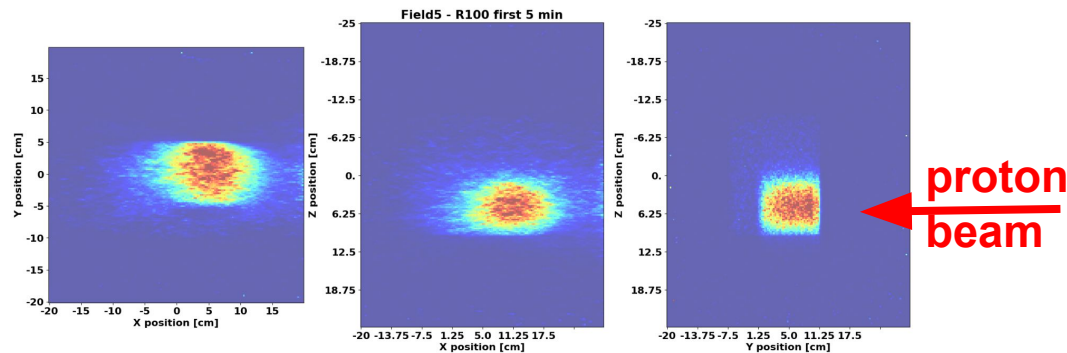
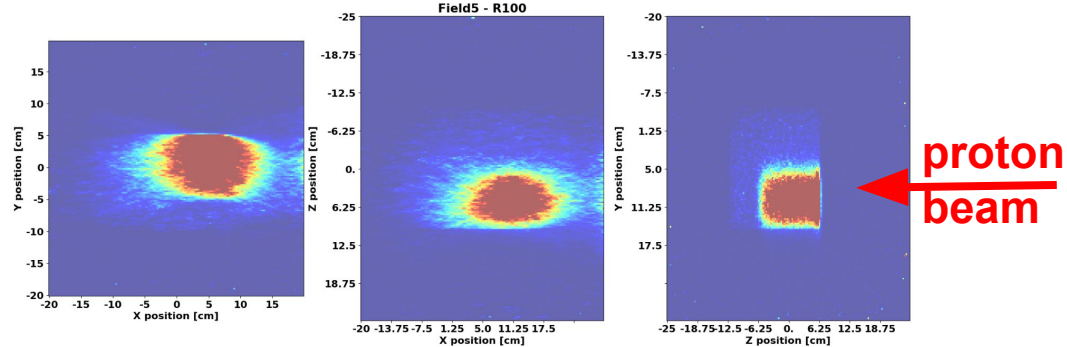


setNo	fieldName	fieldNo	nomRange	range90	range50
1	Field1	1	100	100.40	101.89
1	Field2	2	103	103.61	105.11
1	Field3	3	108	108.47	109.98
1	Field4	4	115	115.17	116.87
2	Field1	1	100	100.38	101.89
2	Field2	2	104	104.60	106.17
2	Field3	3	110	110.51	112.10
2	Field4	4	119	119.41	121.19



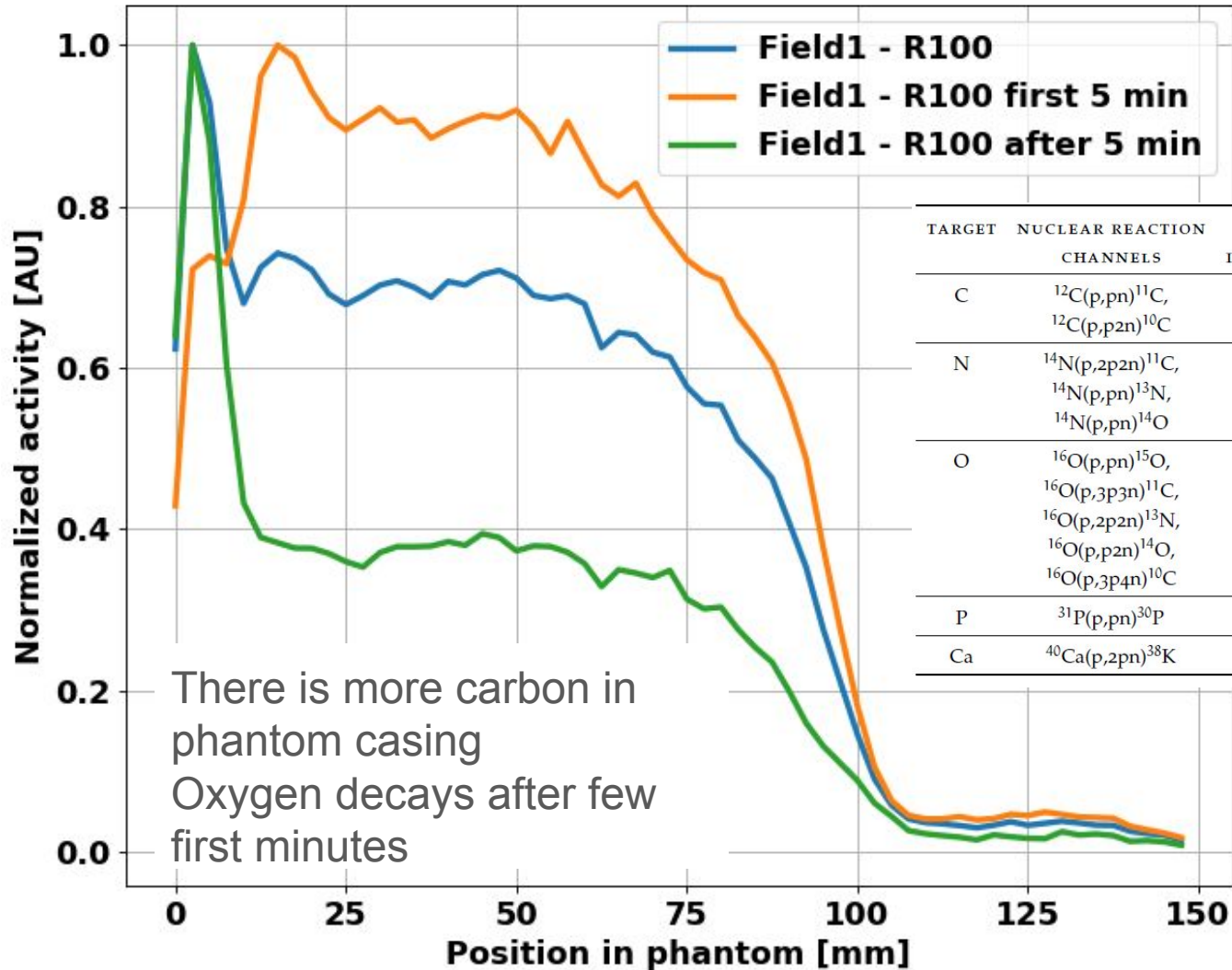






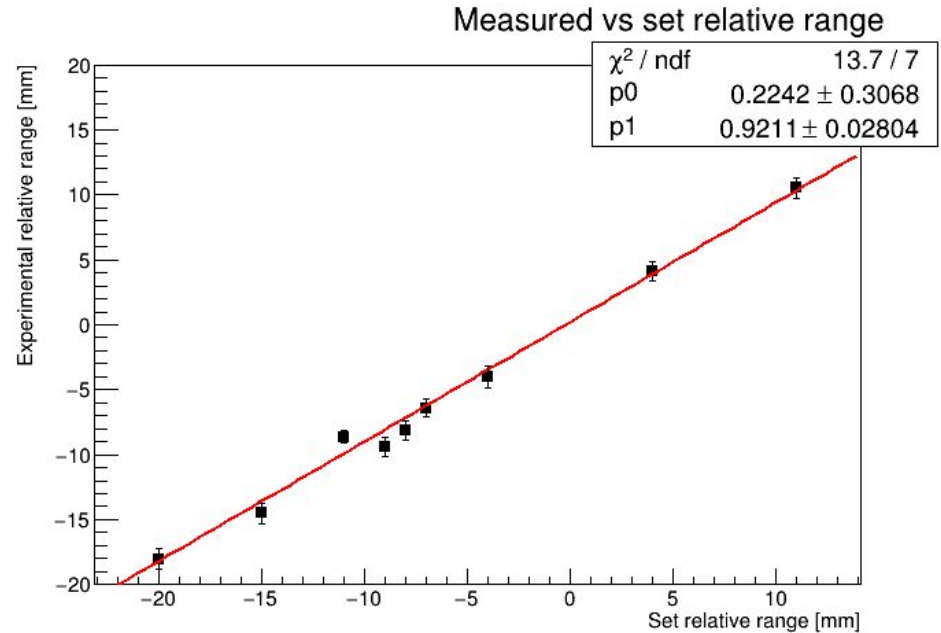
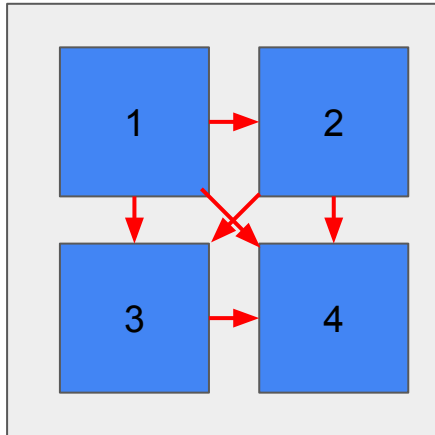
TARGET	NUCLEAR REACTION	β^+ ISOTOPES	HALF-LIFE
C	$^{12}\text{C}(\text{p,pn})^{11}\text{C}$	^{10}C	19.29 s,
	$^{12}\text{C}(\text{p,p2n})^{10}\text{C}$	^{11}C	20.33 min
N	$^{14}\text{N}(\text{p,2p2n})^{11}\text{C}$	^{13}N	9.96 min
	$^{14}\text{N}(\text{p,pn})^{13}\text{N}$		
	$^{14}\text{N}(\text{p,pn})^{14}\text{O}$		
O	$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p,pn})^{15}\text{O}$	^{14}O	70.61 s,
	$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p,3p3n})^{11}\text{C}$	^{15}O	122.24 s
	$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p,2p2n})^{13}\text{N}$		
	$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p,p2n})^{14}\text{O}$		
	$^{16}\text{O}(\text{p,3p4n})^{10}\text{C}$		
P	$^{31}\text{P}(\text{p,pn})^{30}\text{P}$	^{30}P	2.50 min
Ca	$^{40}\text{Ca}(\text{p,2pn})^{38}\text{K}$	^{38}K	7.64 min

proton
beam →



Remark 2 - make combinations between different fields

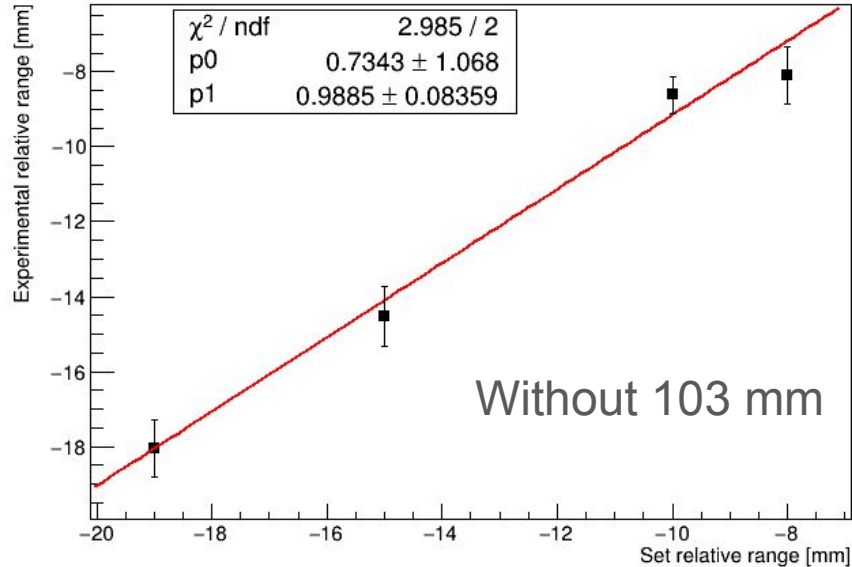
New set of combinations:
1-2; 1-3; 1-4; 2-3; 2-4; 3-4;



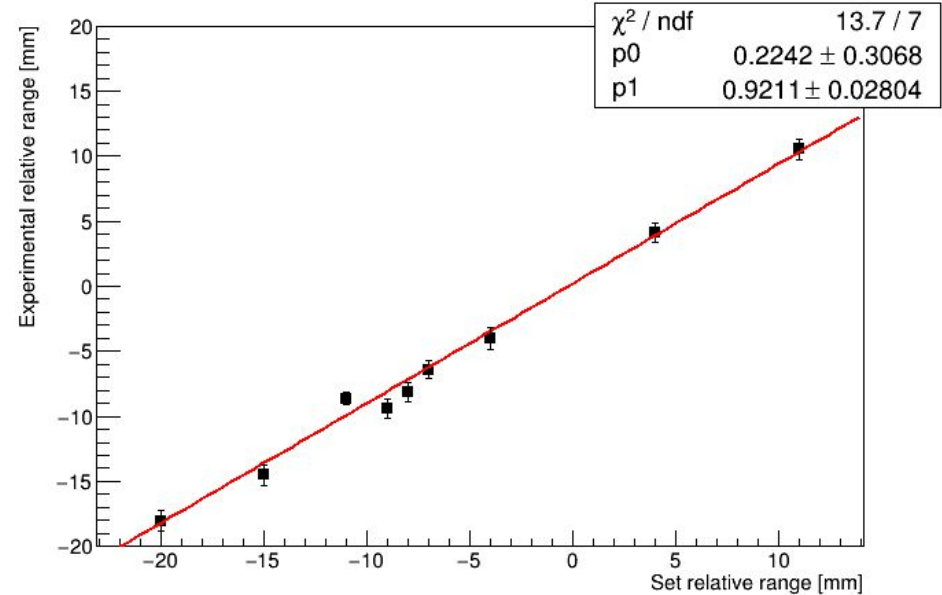
Remark 2 - make combinations between different fields

4 Gy data

Measured vs set relative range

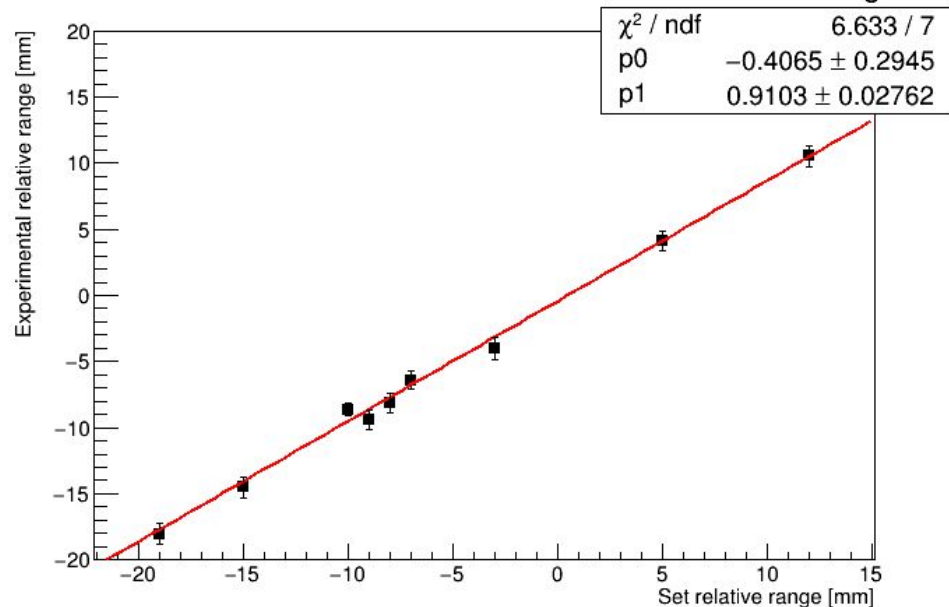


Measured vs set relative range



Remark 2 - make combinations between different fields ranges from JG

Measured vs set relative range



Phantom	Field	Nominal Range [mm]	Range at 50% [mm]	Acquisition time [min]
A	1	100	101.89	30
	2	108	109.98	31
	3	115	116.88	29
	4	103	105.10	30
B	5	100	101.88	33
	6	110	112.10	32
	7	119	121.19	32
	8	104	106.17	35

J-PET experiment at CCB - offline data

S. Niedźwiecki^{b,c}, Antoni Rucinski^a, A. Gajos^{b,c}, G. Korcyl^{b,c},
K. Baran^{b,c}, J. Gajewski^a, P. Stasica^a, K. Brzezinski^{a,d}, D.
Borys^{e,f,a}, R. Kopeć^a, Pawel Moskal^{b,c}, author list is there to
catch an eye and not in any particular order :) maybe besides
the first and the last author

^a Institute of Nuclear Physics PAN, Krakow, Poland

^b Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science, Jagiellonian
University, S. Łojasiewicza 11, 30-348 Kraków, Poland

^c Total-Body Jagiellonian-PET Laboratory, Jagiellonian University, Poland

^d Instituto de Física Corpuscular (IFIC), CSIC-UV, Valencia, Spain

^e Silesian University of Technology, Department of Systems Biology and Engineering,
Gliwice, Poland

^f Biotechnology Centre, Silesian University of Technology, Gliwice, Poland

Difference between 100 mm range in two phantoms

16 Gy data!

