

**Christian Finck** 

EJC2024 : Saint-Pierre d'Oléron

September 8-13th 1

# Detectors: specific challenges for medical application







#### Christophe Theisen alias Tof

Dedication to Tof: This lesson will be "tout pourri" (completely rotten)





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# Detectors: specific challenges for medical application



- Interaction particle-matter
- Gaseous Detectors
- Scintillators
- Semi-conductors
- Applications



Université

de Strasbourg

→ To detect a particle, an energy loss mut be observed in the sensor

→ I will not present ALL kind of detectors and ALL kind of medical applications



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**Energy loss for charged particles:** 

• Loss given by Bethe – Bloch formula:

$$-\frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{ZN}{4\pi\epsilon_0^2} \times \frac{z^2 e^4}{\beta^2 m_e c^2} \left[ ln \left( \frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2 \gamma^2}{I_0} \right) - ln(1-\beta^2) - \beta^2 - \delta - \frac{C_k}{Z} \right]$$
$$\beta = v/c \qquad \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$$

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epend on

De

- Velocity  $\beta$  and charge  $z^2$  of the impinging particle
- Charge density of medium ZN
- Ionisation factor  $I_0$ , shell  $C_k$  and charge  $\delta$  corrections



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Gas	formula	$I_0 (eV)$
Iso-butane	$C_4 H_{10}$	10.6
Carbone dioxyde	$CO_2$	13.7
Argon	Ar	15.8
Neon	Ne	21.6

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Electromagnetic interactions of charged particles with matter, F. Sauli

Minimum of ionisation: ~95% of mass \_ Classical behaviour:  $\beta \ll 1, \frac{dE}{dx} \propto 1/\beta^2$ 

Relativistic rising: 
$$\frac{dE}{dx} \propto \ln(\beta^2)$$

- Fermi plateau: 
$$\beta \gtrsim 0.95$$

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$$\rightarrow \frac{dE}{dx} \nearrow$$
 when  $\beta \searrow$ 

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- Energy loss for neutral particles:
  - Loss by nuclear scattering:
    - Elastic scattering

$$n +^A_Z X \to n +^A_Z X$$

- Inelastic scattering

$$n +^{A}_{Z} X \to n +^{A}_{Z} X^{*} \to n +^{A}_{Z} X + \gamma$$

- Losing energy by successive collisions
- Does not include capture or fission reaction



- **Energie loss for photons:** 
  - 3 main processes:

- Energie loss for photons:
  - 3 main processes:
    - Compton effect



$$\sigma_c \propto (1 - \gamma)^2 (1 - \gamma \ll 1)$$

 $\sigma_{\!c} \propto 1/\gamma \, (\gamma \gg 1)$ 

- Energie loss for photons:
  - 3 main processes:
    - Compton effect
    - Photoelectric effect



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- Energie loss for photons:
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    - Pair production



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 $\sigma_c \propto 1/\gamma \, (\gamma \gg 1)$ 





 $\sigma_c \propto Z^2 \ln(E_{\gamma}) E_{\gamma} > 2m_e c^2$ 

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d

Response as function of HV:



d

Response as function of HV:

• HT << 1, recombinaison











Primary ionisation:

• Probability to have n pairs of  $e^-$ -ion created for  $\mu_0$  ionisations created in gap d ( $\mu_0 = d/\lambda$ ):

$$P(\mu_0, n) = \frac{\mu_0^n e^{-\mu_0}}{n!}$$

- $n_{int}$ : nb of interactions per length
- $W_i$ : energy to create a pair



-  $\lambda$ : mean free path btw 2 interactions

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t= 0

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λ

- $n_{int}$ : nb of interactions per length
- $-W_i$ : energy to create a pair

Gas	formule	Ζ	n <sub>int</sub>	$W_i$	$\Delta E$
			$(cm^{-1})$	(eV)	(keV/cm)
Iso-butane	$C_{4}H_{10}$	34	46	23	4.50
Carbone dioxyde	$CO_2$	22	34	33	3.01
Argon	Ar	18	30	26	2.44
Neon	Ne	10	12	36	1.41

F. Sauli. Principles of operation of multiwire proportional and drift chambers. CERN Internal Report, vol. 09, 1977.

Charge amplification:

• Gain: 
$$G(E,p) = exp\left[\int_0^d \alpha(E,x)dx\right]$$

- Townsend coefficient:  $\alpha = 1/\lambda$
- Avalanche length:

$$L_{av} = \frac{N_{\lambda}}{\alpha}$$



- Gap et E constants:
  - Gain:  $G(E, p) = e^{(\alpha d)}$

Charge mobility:

- Definition:  $\vec{v} = \mu \vec{F}$  where  $\vec{F} = e \vec{E}$  (electric field)
  - Electrons:

$$\mu_e = \frac{e}{2m_e} E \times \tau$$
 (where  $\tau = \lambda/v$ )



Gas	Ion	Mobility $(cm^2/V/s)$
Neon	$Ne^+$	4.14
Argon	$Ar^+$	1.53
Carbone dioxyde	$[CO_2]^+$	1.09

F. Sauli. Principles of operation of multiwire proportional and drift chambers.CERN Internal Report, vol. 09, 1977.

 $\rightarrow$  Mobility of  $\mu^{e}$  ~10-100 times greater than  $\mu^{ion}$ 

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#### Collected charge

- Shape:
  - Rise time mostly induced by electron movement
  - Fall time mostly due to ion movement







• Total charge:  $Q_{tot} = -e\mu_0 e^{(\alpha d)}$ 

#### Properties:

- Principle:
  - dE/dx converted into light
  - Detection via photosensor (e.g. photomultiplier, ...)
- Main Features:
  - Sensitivity to energy
  - Fast time response (rise time < 10 ns decay time < few 100 ns)
  - Pulse shape discrimination
- Requirements:
  - High efficiency for conversion of exciting energy to fluorescent radiation
  - **Transparency** to its fluorescent radiation to allow transmission of light
  - Emission of light in a spectral range detectable for photosensors





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Vibrationszustände









# Inorganic Crystals

#### Inorganic scintillator (i):

- Mechanism:
  - Energy deposition by ionisation
  - Energy transfer to impurities
- Radiation of scintillation photons
  Light Output
  Emission/absorption spectrum (visible):





# Inorganic Crystals

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  Emission/absorption spectrum (visible):



- High light yield
  - > 30-80 photons/keV
- Use for E measurements



➡ Transparent to its own light

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Transparent to its own light

- Slow timing:
  - Rise time > 10 ns
  - Signal length > few 100 ns
- Not suited for time measurements

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Inorganic scintillator (ii):

• Light production, Birk's Law:

 $\frac{dL}{dE} = L_0 \frac{\frac{dE}{dx}}{1 + k_B \frac{dE}{dx}}$  with  $k_B$  Birk coefficient

- Examples:
  - Sodium Iodide (NaI): good photon yield, available in big volumes, cheep but hygroscopic.
  - **Cesium Iodide** (CsI): better photon yield than Nal, but slow.
  - Baryum Fluoride (BaF2): fast timing (rise time << 1 ns), poor photon yield.
  - Bismuth Germanate (BGO): highly efficient, but very slow (decay time : 300 ns), poor photon yield.
  - Lanthanum Bromide (LaBr3)/Cerium Bromide (CeBr3):
    excellent photon yield, very fast (rise time ≤ 10 ns), but
    hygroscopic and expensive (+ lanthanum is radioactive).




## Scintillator (v)

Scintillator coupling (need to convert photon to signal): Photomultiplier: (most used) Photon converted in e- by photocathode (photoelectric effect) Amplification of signal by set of dynode<sup>Shotomultipliers</sup> – Dynode Chain Efficiency ~ length wave Dynodes Quantum efficiency (e- emitted by a Electron incident photon) at most 25%. Anode - Gain:  $A = \delta^n$ , n number of dynodes ar dynode emission coefficient: ~  $10^{6}$ - $10^{8}$ R R R R HV: 1-2 kV Voltage divider = UB

## Scintillator (v)

Scintillator coupling (need to convert photon to signal):



## Scintillator (vi)

Cherenkov light in scintillator

- Cherenkov radiation:
  - Happens when a particle velocity  $\beta$  > light speed in material

Light cone appears:  $cos(\theta) = \frac{1}{\beta n}$  where *n* is the



#### refraction index



Cherenkov radiation and scintillation (right) [47]. Examples of Christian Finck de and IR photovoltaic detectors to selectively detect Cherenkov

# Scintillator (vi)

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### refraction index

### Scintillating fiber

- Core: mainly polystyrene,
- Cladding: PMMA, plastic, ...
- Very thin diameter could < 0.5 mm</li>
- Flexible

nt4 simulutishsuto Botheretatov Schtraliofi Nuclear Fingering Spordue University, IN 47906

Cherenkov radiation and scintillation (right) [47]. Examples of Christian Finck de and IR photovoltaic detectors to selectively detect Cherenkov

### Charged particle Cerenkov cone



# Scintillator (vi)

#### Cherenkov light in scintillator

• Cherenkov radiation:

refraction index

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#### nt4 simulunshyun BonerenkovSchnalion Nuclear Fingineering SPordue University, IN 47906

Cherenkov radiation and scintillation (right) [47]. Examples of Christian Finck de and IR photovoltaic detectors to selectively detect Cherenkov



Lost Photor

- Scintillating fiber
  - Core: mainly polystyrene,
  - Cladding: PMMA, plastic, ...
  - Very thin diameter could < 0.5 mm</li>
  - Flexible
  - ➡ Could be assembled in ribbons



intillation light is generated in the doped core alor

he path of the particle and emitted isotropic

transmitted by total internal reflection (TIR)

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## Scintillator (vii)

#### Scintillators comparison:

Scintillator	Density	Yield	$\Delta_E/E$	Decay Constant
Name	$(g/cm^3)$	$(\mathrm{photons/MeV})$	@ 662 keV (%)	(ns)
Polystyrene	1.05	10000	11	2.5
BGO	7.13	7500	12	300
YAG	4.60	8000	11	70
$BaF_2$	4.88	10000	9.0	0.8
LYSO(Ce)	7.10	32000	8.0	40
CsI(Na)	4.51	34000	7.5	630
NaI(Tl)	3.70	38000	6.0	230
$CeBr_3$	5.10	75000	4.0	20
$LaBr_3$	5.06	86000	3.0	16

→ Efficiency proportional to density

Plastic

→ Energy resolution proportional to yield

### **Electronics chain**



- Discriminator: compute start of signal t<sub>0</sub> (LE, CFD, etc... algorithms)
- ADC: Analog to digit converter, compute the amplitude of the signal
- TDC (TAC+ADC): time to digit converter, compute the time information
- QDC: charge to digit converter, compute the charge (integral) of the signal inside a give gate
- Digitiser (flash-ADC): compute the amplitude of the signal at a given frequency

### Acquisition chain

Acquisition modules







- Event building:
- Build with data arriving in a given time (generated by dedicated detectors )
- Trigger-less, a common clock provides the TimeStamp
  - Build event offline

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### Semi-conductive detector (i)

### Properties (i):

- Principle:
  - Based on electronic band structure
  - Ionising leads e- to conduction band
- Extrinsic detector:
  - n doping brings an e- in valence band
  - p doping remove an e- in the valence band
- Intrinsic detector:
  - No doping, hyper pur crystal



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- Production pair (e- hole):  $W_i \lesssim 3 \, eV$ 
  - ⇒ ~10 times smaller than for gaseous detector
  - Except for wide-bandgap detectors:
    - SiC, GaN, ZnO ( $W_i \gtrsim 2 eV$ ), diamond ( $W_i \lesssim 13 eV$ )
- Most used: silicon and germanium detector



### Semi-conductive detector (ii)

Germanium detector:

- Advantages
  - High energy resolution: ~ 0.1 %
- → Use for E measurements
- Drawbacks
  - Poor efficiency: ~ 50 % of NaI crystal
  - Slow charge collection: few ten of  $\mu$ s
  - Need to amplify the signal
  - Need to cool down cos  $W_i = 2.62 \, eV$  very low (77° K)
  - Very expensive for large volume (when possible)
- Not portable measurements



### Semi-conductive detector



Silicon detector:

- Properties  $\vec{V}_n = -\mu_n \cdot \vec{E}$ 
  - Pair creation energy:  $W_i = 3.69 \, eV$
  - Mobility:





€  $\mu_e(300K) \simeq 1450 \, cm^2/V/s$  $\mu_h(300K) \simeq 450 \, cm^2/V/s$ 

 $\vec{v}_p = \mu_p \cdot \vec{E}$ 

S.M. Suze, Semiconductor Devices, J. Wiley & Sons, 1985

### Semi-conductive detector



**p**-doping:

• Doping 3 atom (e.g. B, Al, Ga, In). One valence bond remains open. This open bond attracts electrons from the neighbour atoms:



➡ Less electron density (acceptor of e)



### Semi-conductive detector (v

n-doping:

• Doping with 5 atom (e.g. P, As, Sb). The 5<sup>th</sup> valence electron is weakly bound:



→ Higher electron density (donor of e)

-FORWARD CONDUCTION

-REVERSE BREAKDOWN

#### Semi-c e detector (vi) -FORWARD CONDUCTION -REVERSE BREAKDOWN -2

- The p-n junction
  - At the interface of an n-type and p-type semiconductor:
    - Fermi level different: diffusion til ions space charge stops it
    - The stable space charge region is free of charge carries and is called the depletion zone





€

- Depletion width depend on electric field
  - Without external field:

$$W_p = 0.02 \,\mu m$$
$$W_n = 23 \,\mu m$$

With external field:

 $W_p = 0.4 \,\mu m$  $W_n = 360 \, \mu m$ 

 $\rho = \frac{1}{e \mu N_{\text{eff}}}$ 



-REVERSE BREAKDO

p+n junction



- p-n junction silicon detector
  - Impinging charged particles create e-h+ pairs in the depletion zone. These charges drift to the electrodes. The drift (current) creates the signal on each strip/pixel.
  - From fired strips/pixels possible position reconstruction.





➡ Front/backend electronics mostly directly on the chip

#### Beam monitoring:

- Gaseous detectors
- Semi-conductors





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### **PET-(SPECT)-** pCT imaging:

#### Scintillators



#### Beam monitoring:

- Gaseous detectors
- Semi-conductors





#### Online dose control:

- Scintillators
- Silicon tracking devices



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Cylindrical Ionization Chamber

#### Online dose control:

- Scintillators
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### PET-(SPECT)- pCT imaging:

#### Scintillators





#### Cross-section measurement:

- Scintillators (in-organic)
- Silicon tracking devices
- Gaseous detectors



#### Beam monitoring:

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Cylindrical Ionization Chamber

#### Online dose control:

- Scintillators
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- Dosimetry:
  - Passive detectors
  - Gaseous detectors
  - Semi-conductors



Cross-section measurement:

- Scintillators (in-organic)
- Silicon tracking devices
- Gaseous detectors



PET-(SPECT)- pCT imaging:

#### Scintillators



hodoscope (x,y)



## Beam Monitoring (i)

#### Gaseous detectors

- Parallel plate Ionisation chamber
  - Gas at atmospheric (low) pressure
  - Applied HV ~ 100V
  - Simply read out a current
  - ➡ Sustains high beam flux
  - ➡Need calibration



### Beam Monitoring (i)

#### Gaseous detectors

- Parallel plate Ionisation char
  - Gas at atmospheric (low)
  - Applied HV  $\sim 100V$
  - Simply read out a current
  - ➡ Sustains high beam flux
  - Need calibration







- Gas mixture Ar+Iso/CO<sub>2</sub> (10-20%)
- Beam profile resolution ~100-200  $\mu$ m
- $\Rightarrow$ Limited by beam flux (  $\ll 10^4/cm^2/s$ )
- ➡Need calibration for drift velocity

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### Beam Monitoring (ii)

#### Semi-conductors

- Silicon detector
  - Bulk, strip or pixels
  - Good radiation tolerance
  - ➡ Charge resolution ~ 3-4%
  - $\Rightarrow$  Excellent beam profile resolution (  $\ll 100 \, \mu m$ )
  - $\Rightarrow$  Limited beam flux tolerance (  $\ll 10^7/cm^2/s$ )





### Beam Monitoring (ii)

#### Semi-conductors

- Silicon detector
  - Bulk, strip or pixels
  - Good radiation tolerance
  - ➡ Charge resolution ~ 3-4%
  - $\blacksquare$  Excellent beam profile resolution (  $\ll 100\,\mu m$ )
  - $\Rightarrow$  Limited beam flux tolerance (  $\ll 10^7/cm^2/s$ )





- Diamond detector
  - Wide-bandgap (low noise)
  - Very good radiation tolerance
  - Fast time response (< 2 ns)
  - $\Rightarrow$  Excellent beam profile resolution (  $\ll 100 \, \mu m$ )
  - $\rightarrow$  Good beam flux tolerance (  $\sim (10^9 10^{12})/cm^2/s$ )



## Beam Monitoring (ii)

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⇒Also other detectors exist: PEPITES, FastPix, micromegas, GEM, plastic, fibres, etc....



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Mostly three techniques used, correlation btw Bragg preak and nuclear reactions



Prompt gamma method reconstruction

S. Jan et al., IEEE (2012)

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Secondary particle vertex reconstruction

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Prompt gamma method reconstruction

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Prompt gamma method reconstruction

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#### Prompt gamma method reconstruction

Collimated, slitted devices or Compton camera









- ⇒ Since low statistics need efficient crystal
- ➡ Fast time response if time gating
- ➡Good energy resolution if ray tagging
- → Mostly used: Nal, LYSO, most recently PbF<sub>2</sub>
- ➡ good comprise btw properties and prices

- Secondary particle vertex reconstruction
  - Using silicon tracking device to reconstruct vertices



- ⇒Since low statistics need efficient sensor
- ➡Good spatial resolution
- Pixelised silicon detector

- Secondary particle vertex reconstruction
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- ⇒Since low statistics need efficient sensor
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- Example M28
  - Area 2x2 cm<sup>2</sup>
  - 1 Mpixels
  - Efficiency > 99 %
  - Spatial resolution  $\,\ll 10\,\mu m$





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## Online dose control/PET-Imaging

Inline (offline) Positron Emission Tomography reconstruction

• Using the 511 keV  $\gamma$ -rays from annihilation  $\beta$ -decay with medium





- Need to reconstruct the road of the two  $\gamma$ -rays
- Good timing resolution to avoid false reconstruction
- Wash out phenomena
- Need a 3D reconstruct (could take time)
- ➡ Mostly used: LYSO, good comprise btw properties and prices



## pCT-Imaging

Proton(carbon)-computed tomography

• Using same particle for treatment and imaging (avoid conversion)





Sinogram



A. C. Kak and Malcolm Slaney (2001)

Reconstruction

Proton Tomography Imaging



Vladimir A. B et al . (2016)

- Need to reconstruct the most probable part of protons
  - Fast tracking system
  - Good resolution on energy or path

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## pCT-Imaging

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Need to reconstruct the most probable part of protons

- ➡ Fast tracking system
- Good resolution on energy or path
- → Mostly proposed:
  - Tracking: Scintillating fibers diameter < 1 mm</li>
  - Residuals: (stack of) scintillators for energy or range-meter



Geant4 simulation

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# Dosimetry

- Using different type of detector for different purpose
  - Geiger-Müller counter
    - Simple ionisation wired tube
    - Count number of interaction (wide range in energy/particle)
  - Ionisation chamber (see before)
    - Give an good dose measurement
    - Wide dynamic range
  - Semi-conductors
    - Use for γ-spectroscopy (isotope identification)
    - Accurate energy resolution
  - Proton recoiled neutron detector
    - Using a converter (hydrogenated)
    - Detect the proton to reconstructed neutron properties:

 $E_n = E_p / \cos^2(\theta)$ 









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- Nuclear reactions during hadrontherapy (12C and 16C)
  - During treatment ~50% of beam loss due to reactions
  - Extra dose after Bragg peak
  - Need to measure cross-section as function of angle/energy





#### Exclusive measurements (ii):

• Results (highlights):



E600 experiment @ Ganil (D. Juliani) 12C+12C @ 95MeV/u

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E600 experiment @ Ganil (D. Juliani) <sup>12</sup>C+<sup>12</sup>C @ 95MeV/u

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#### Inclusive measurements:

- Full coverage for a given angular acceptance
- Need different type of detector



- Beam monitoring: drift chamber
- Tracking system: silicon pixel and strip detector
- Momentum reconstruction: Permanent magnet
- Time of flight: plastic scintillators
- Calorimeter: BGO crystal

Inclusive measurements:

• Results (highlights)

- Full coverage for a given angular acceptance
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01 [MeV]



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[MeV/u]

#### Inclusive measurements:

- Full coverage for a given angular acceptance
- Need different type of detector
  - O400 5mm C Frag trigger FOOT experiment @ CNAO Calorimeter Time Of Flight Inner Tracker Vertex tracker Multi Strip Detector -0.005 10.5 11 Time-Of-Flight [ns] 10 Residuals (cm) Beam monitor - p Start Counter ADC [%] - He - 0 Calo Magnets
  - Beam monitoring: drift chamber
  - Tracking system: silicon pixel and strip detector
  - Momentum reconstruction: Permanent magnet
  - Time of flight: plastic scintillators
  - Calorimeter: BGO crystal

- **Required performances:** 
  - $\sigma(p)/p < 5\%$

Results (highlights)

E [MeV

- $\sigma(\Delta E)/E < 5\%$
- $\sigma(ToF) < 50 \, ps$

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10°COUNTS

= 2.6 ± 0.0 µm ail = 9.1 ± 0.1 %

#### Inclusive measurements:

- Full coverage for a given angular acceptance
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  - O400 5mm C Frag trigger FOOT experiment @ CNAO Calorimeter Time Of Flight Inner Tracker Vertex tracker Multi Strip Detector -0.005 10.5 11 Time-Of-Flight [ns] 10 Residuals (cm) Beam monitor - p Start Counter ADC [%] - He - 0 Calo Magnets
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➡ Analysis ongoing

Counts

ə = 2.6 ± 0.0 μm ail = 9.1 ± 0.1 %

Results (highlights)

E [MeV

### Conclusions

In many fields (not all covered here) in medical applications, nuclear physics detectors are used

- Beam monitoring
- PET-SPECT-pCT Imaging
- Cross-section measurement
- Online dose control
- Dosimetry
- Etc....

### Outlooks

- Also many fields were still improvement and development are need to face existing or forthcoming chalenges:
  - Beam monitoring: flash therapy
    - ⇒Sustain high flux in a short time (40-100 Gy/s)
  - PET-pCT Imaging:
    - ⇒increase time resolution and decrease acquisition time
  - Online dose control:
    - ➡ Increase Bragg peak correlation resolution (new technique / new detectors ?)
  - Cross-section measurement:
    - ⇒Increase the number of measurements, including the existing data in TPS
  - Dosimetry:
    - ⇒Increase sensitivity (neutrons for instance) and decrease acquisition time

• Etc....

Backup

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