



GEMPix @ CNAO

Geant4 simulation and measurements

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Outline

- GEMPix detector for hadrontherapy
- GEMPix layout
- CNAO measurements: experimental setup and first results
- GEANT4 simulation
- Conclusions and future developments

A possible detector for hadrontherapy (I)

Fundamental Requirements

High rate capability and Radiation hardness → High fluxes (10^8 particles/s) of carbon ions, protons, oxygen

Good spatial resolution → Beam diagnostic for daily quality controls and dosimetric measurements of treatment plans.



Good candidate → **GEMPix** detector – a Timepix based **GEM** detector

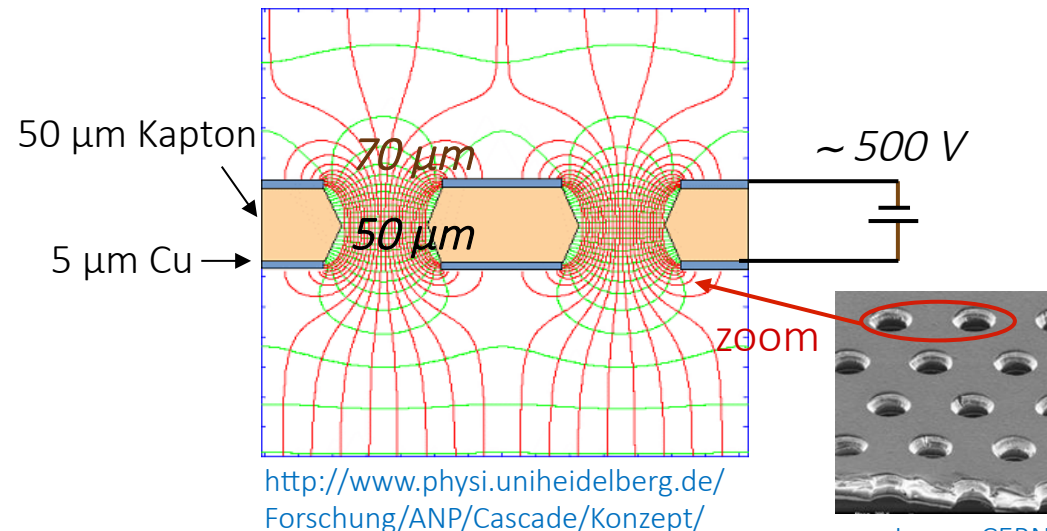
Already used for: Radioactive waste/ Microdosimetry/ Radiotherapy / Radon monitoring @ CERN (<http://ardent.web.cern.ch/ardent/ardent.php?link=publications>)

A possible detector for hadrontherapy (II)

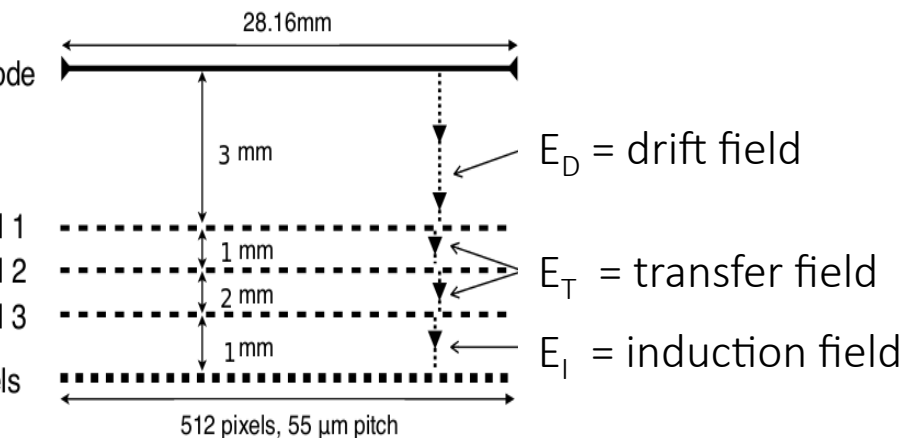
is a GEM detector?

M foil → Kapton sheet (50 μm thick) metallized at both sides (5 μm of Cu) with 70 μm holes etched inside

Electrical field ~100 kV/cm inside the holes
localised electron avalanche



does the GEMPix work ?



Primary particle interaction in the Drift gap

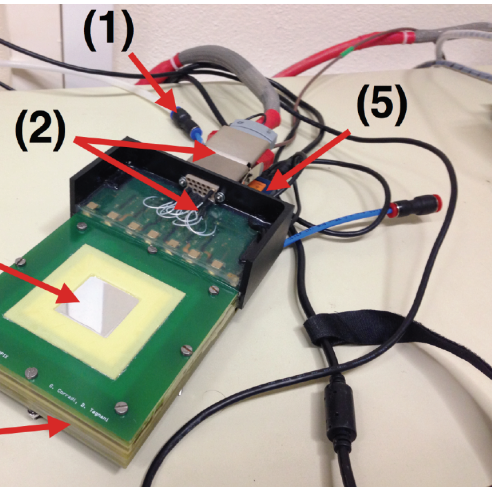


Electrons multiplication: up to 40 output electrons for each electron in. Three GEM foils give gains up to $10^5 \rightarrow f(\text{gas})$

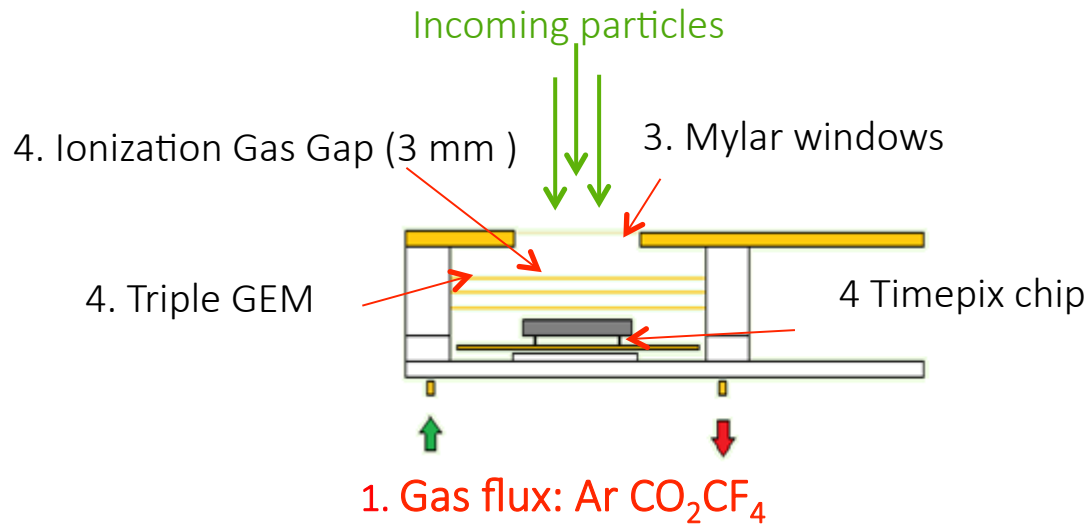


Readout: electrons are collected by the Timepix chip

GEMPix: detector and readout system



Connector / 5. Timepix Readout



Layout

Developed by ARDENT project (CERN – INFN).

Read by 4 naked Timepix chips

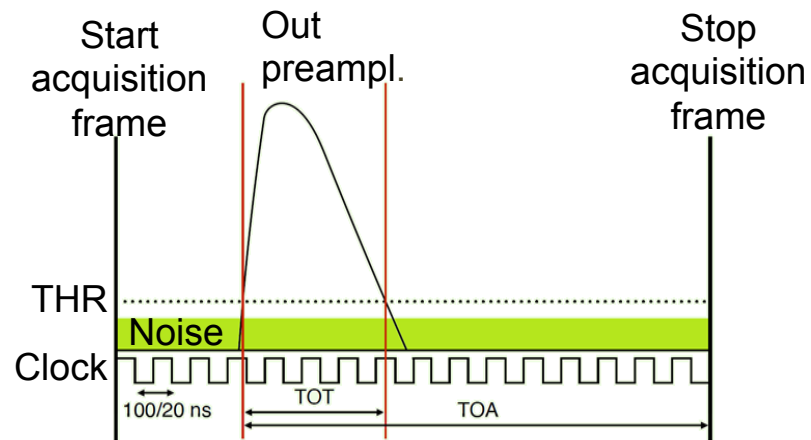
Active area → 9 cm²

Readout System

Each pixel can measure the deposited energy and count the single particle.

Selection threshold around 1000 electrons (noise ~ 100 electrons)

Readout configuration with 4 chips (256x512) → 2.6 x 10⁵ pixels

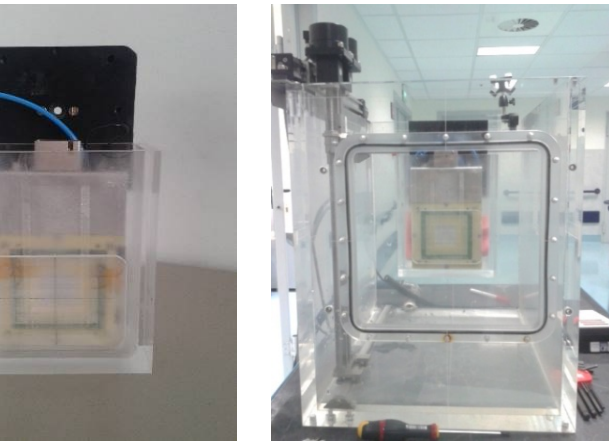


TOA → Time Of Arrival (3D single track reconstruction)

TOT → Time Over Threshold (Charge dE/dX)

→ TOA and TOT clock up to 100 MHz, stable at 50 MHz

GEMPix: *experimental setup at CNAO*

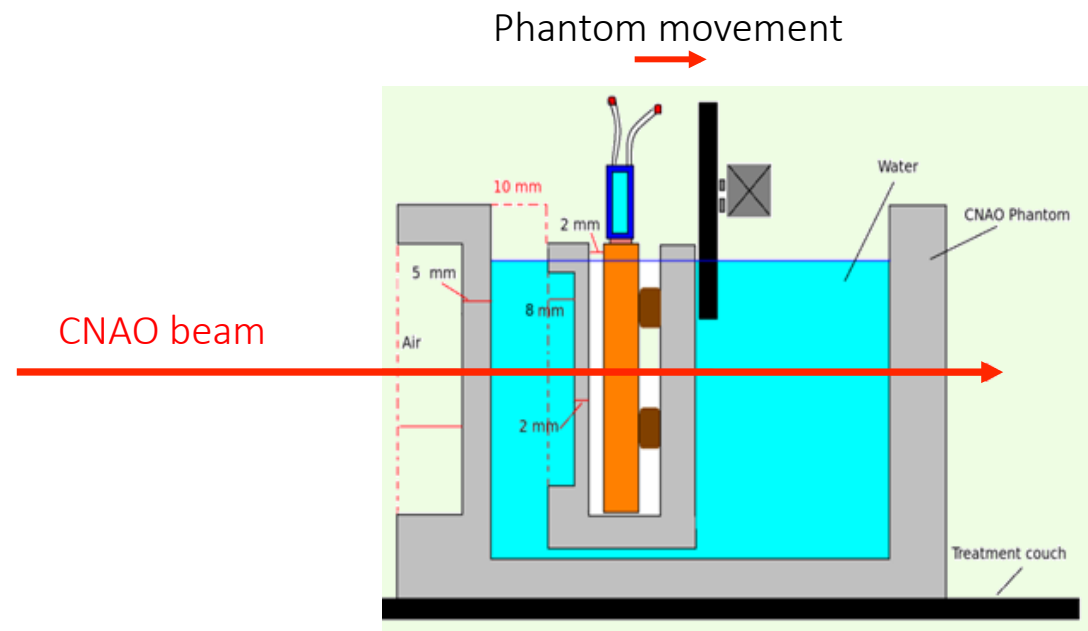
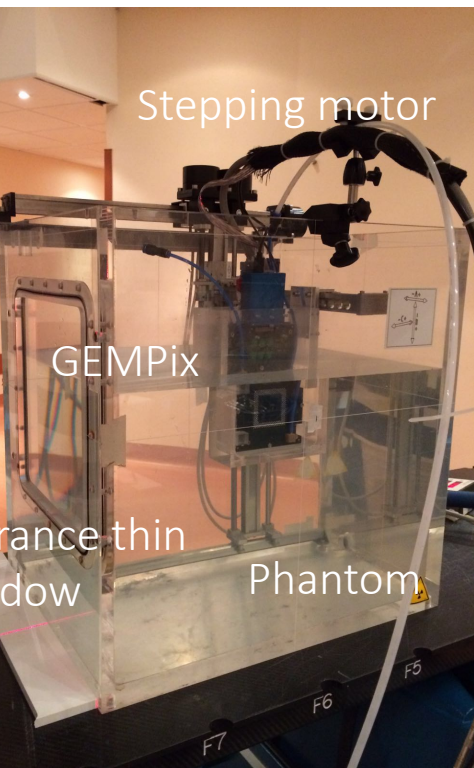


Particles type: **carbon ions** (single beam spot and scanned field)

Beam Energy: **3.9 GeV and 3.4 GeV**

Particles per *spill*: **8×10^5**

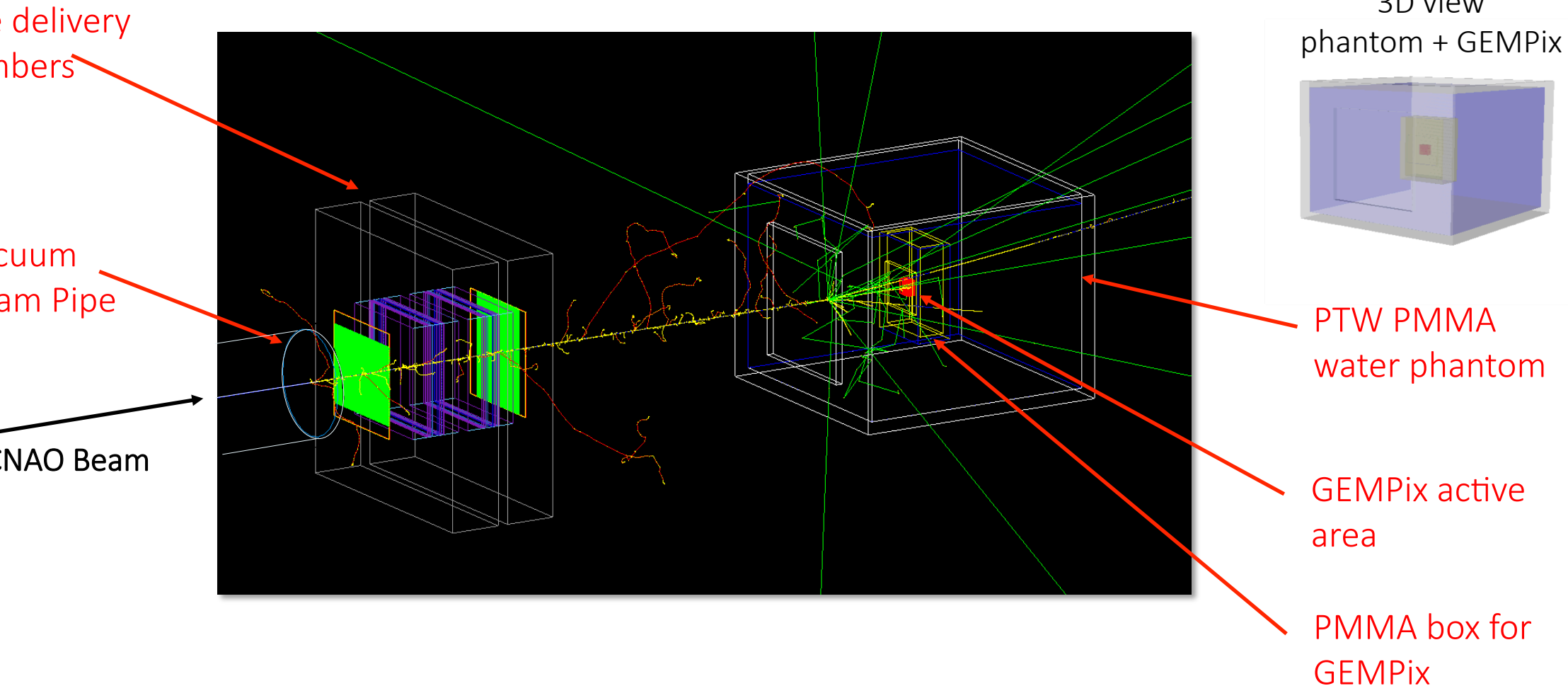
Measurements: ***Linearity, homogeneity and energy measurements at different water depths***



Motorized 3D water phantom

GEANT4 simulation: *experimental setup*

The CNAO extraction beamline and the experimental setup are fully simulated



All the layers of the GEMPix active area are simulated with the corresponding materials

Geant4 simulation parameters

release version: Geant4 10.0 patch 03

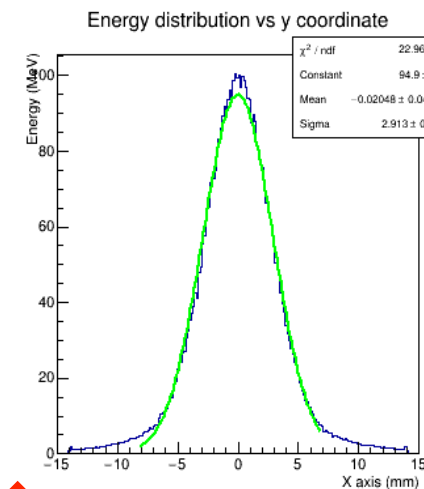
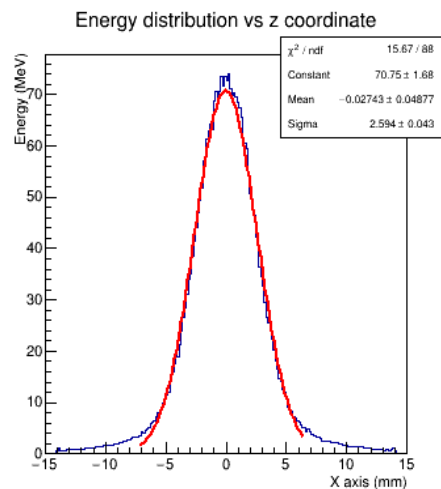
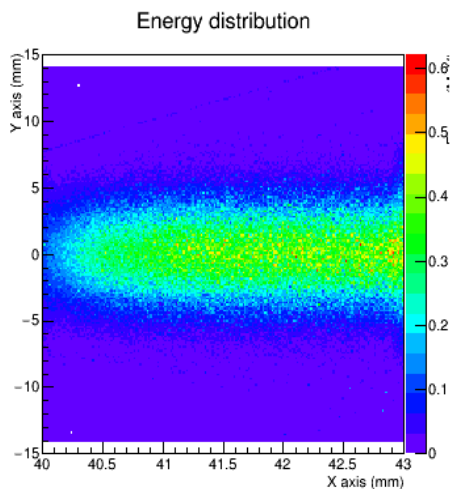
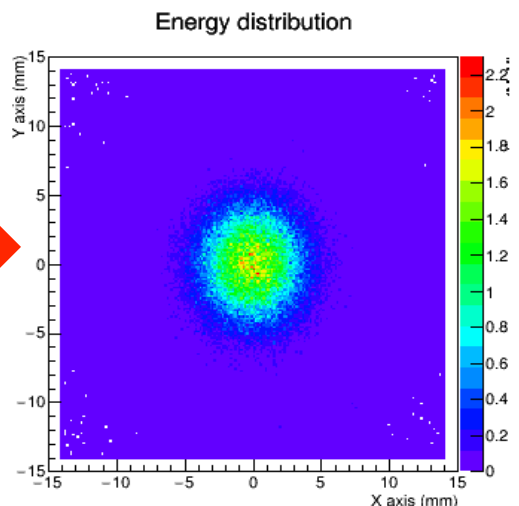
Physics Lists (for Carbon Ions): G4EMStandardPhysics_option4, G4RadioactiveDecayPhysics, G4IonBinaryCascadePhysics, G4EmExtraPhysics, G4HadronElasticPhysicsHP, G4StoppingPhysics, G4EmPenelopePhysics, G4NeutronTrackingCut, G4HadronPhysicsQGSP_BIC_HP

parallel geometries for scoring purposes (3D mesh) and sensitive detectors

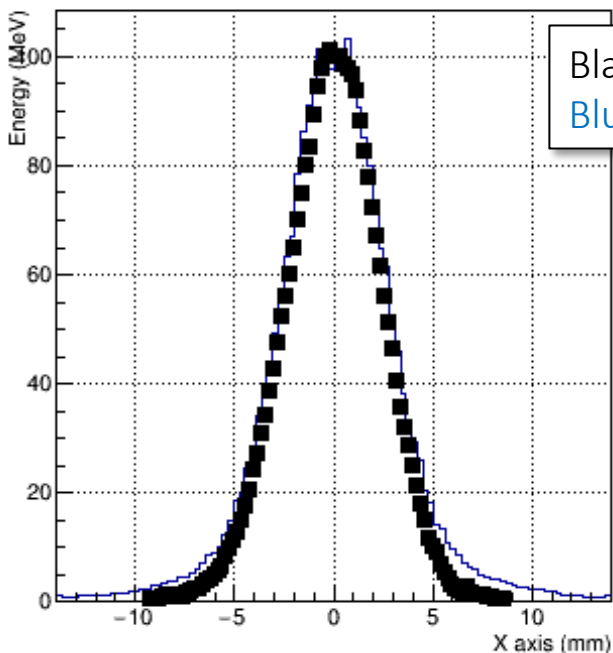
single spot and scanned beam irradiation methods implemented

GEANT4 Simulation: *Lateral Profiles*

ion beams:
transversal and
longitudinal view



Energy distribution vs X coordinate



Black dots: EBT3 film
Blue line: Geant4 simulation

Beam vertical (y) and lateral (z) profile.

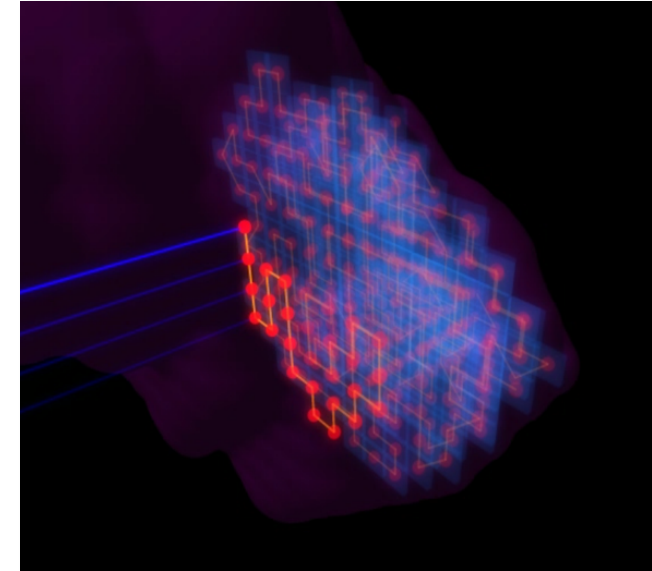
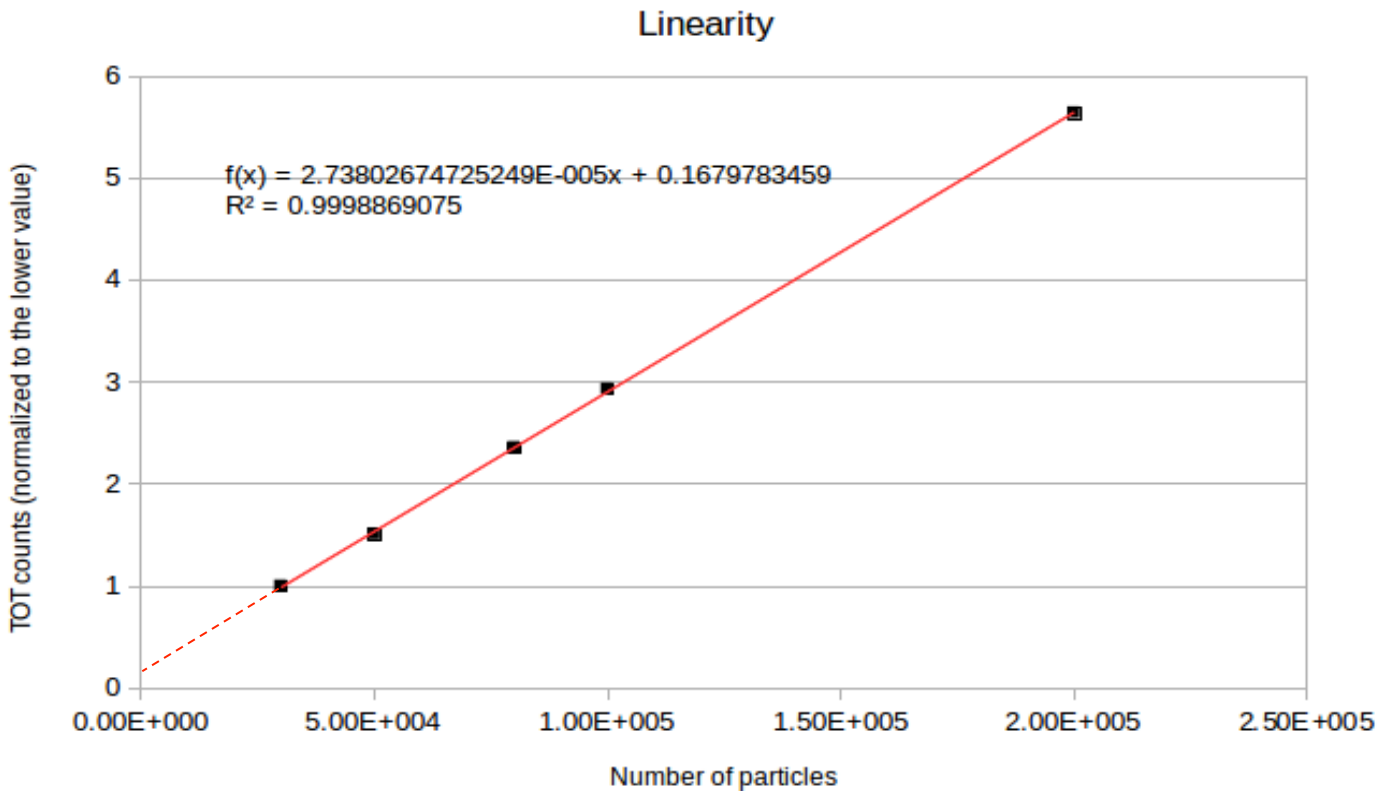
Lateral profile of the energy deposited by **3.9 GeV carbon ions** beam spot along the beam axis (x) within the 3 mm *drift gap*

Cross-check with CNAO data from EBT3 radiochromic films

CNAO measurements: *linearity*

Irradiation method: 60x60 mm² scanned field - 3.4 GeV carbon ions

5 fluxes: 3×10^4 - 5×10^4 - 8×10^4 - 10^5 - 2×10^5 total particles delivered

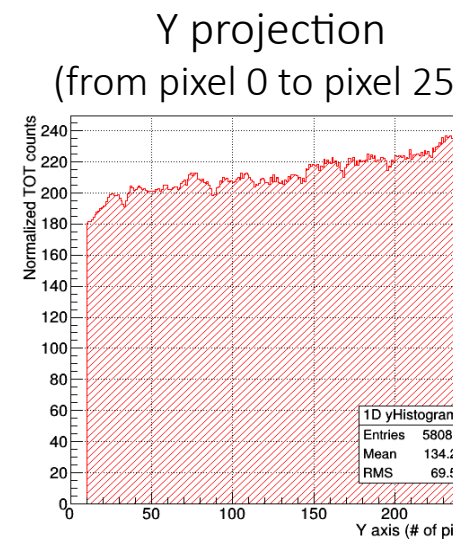
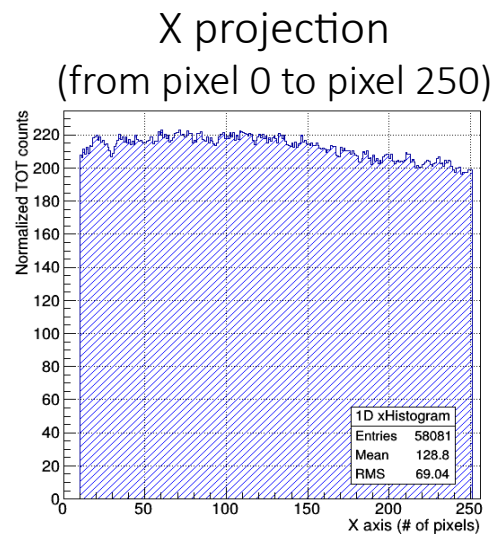
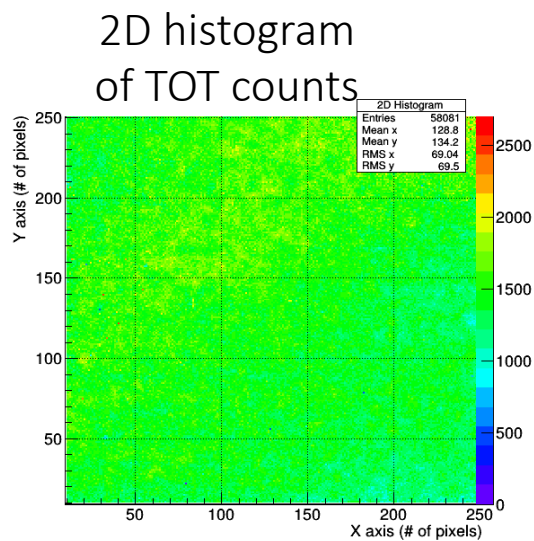
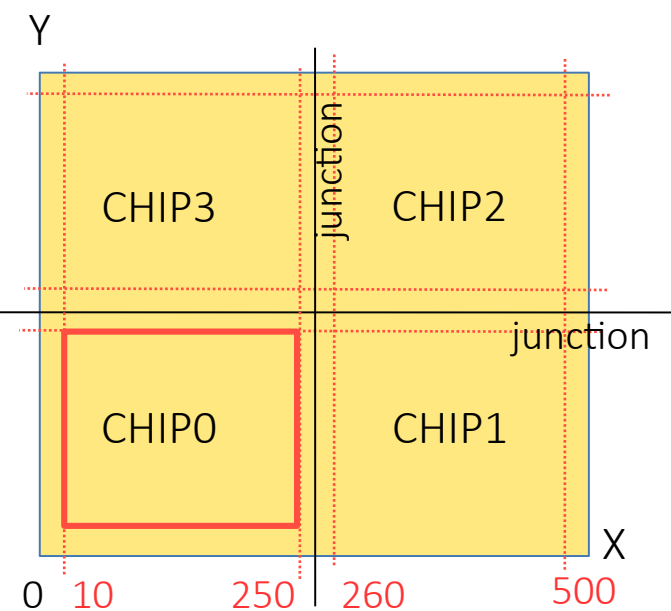


Active scanning

The scanned field dimensions allow to neglect side effects by including all the detector's sensitive area

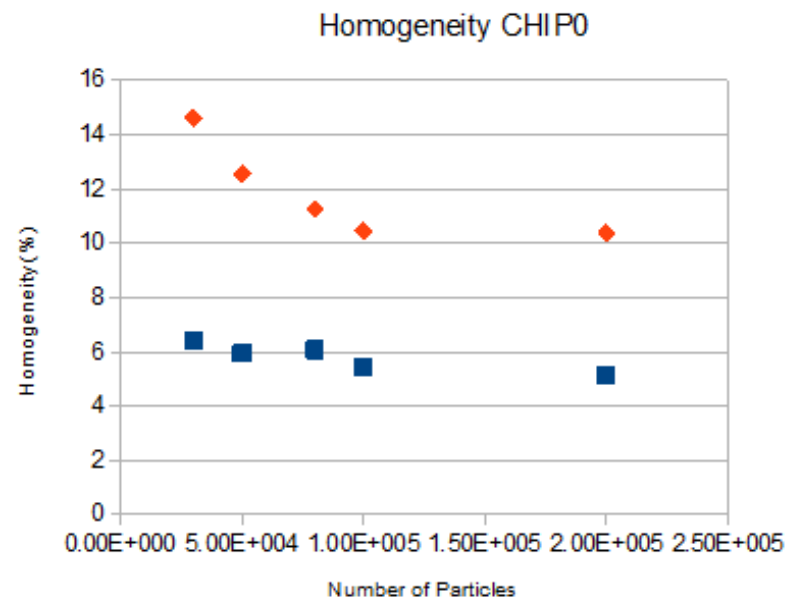
CNAO measurements: *homogeneity*

PRELIMINARY RESULTS



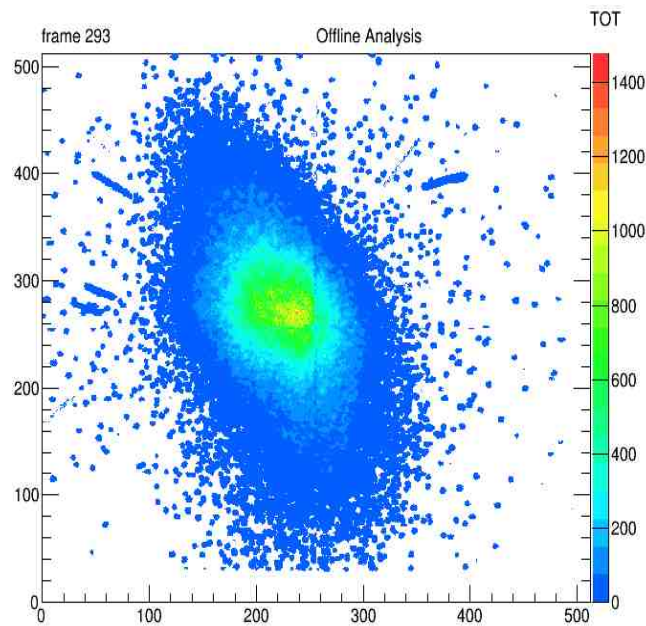
SINGLE CHIP homogeneity:

$$H(\%) = (\text{Max Count} - \text{Min Count}) * 100 / (\text{Max Count} + \text{Min Count})$$

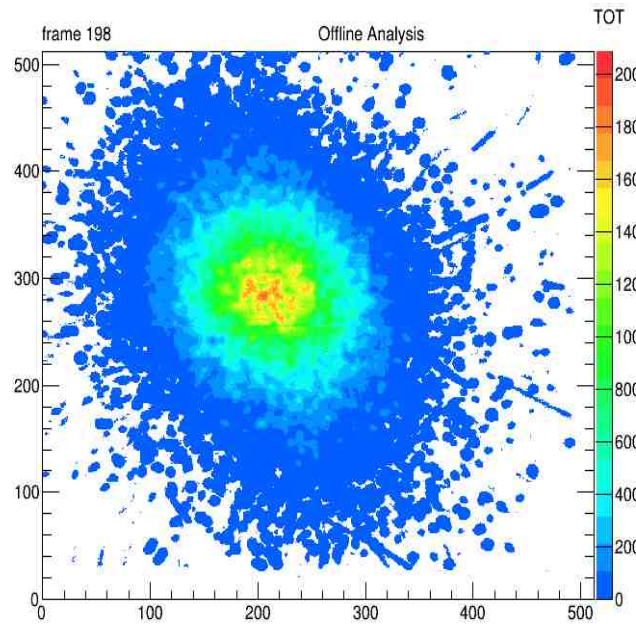


2D histograms of TOT counts obtained with 3.9 GeV carbon ions beam spot as a function of the GEMPix position in water

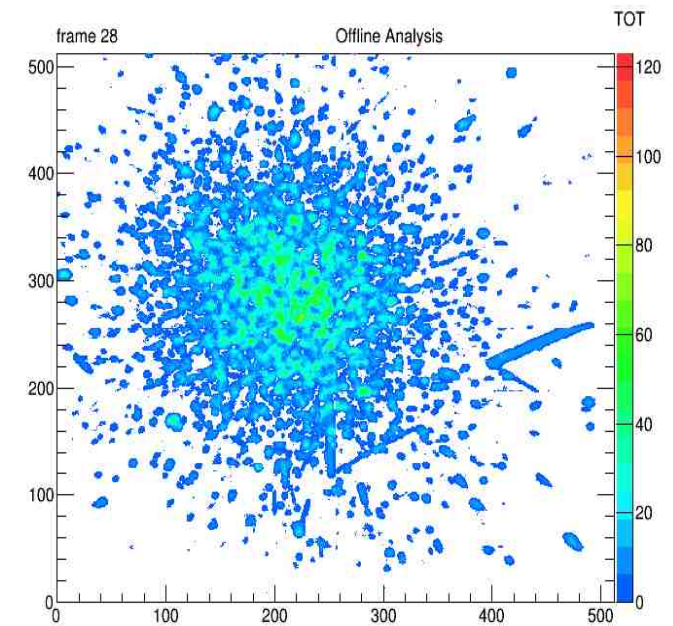
Plateau



Peak



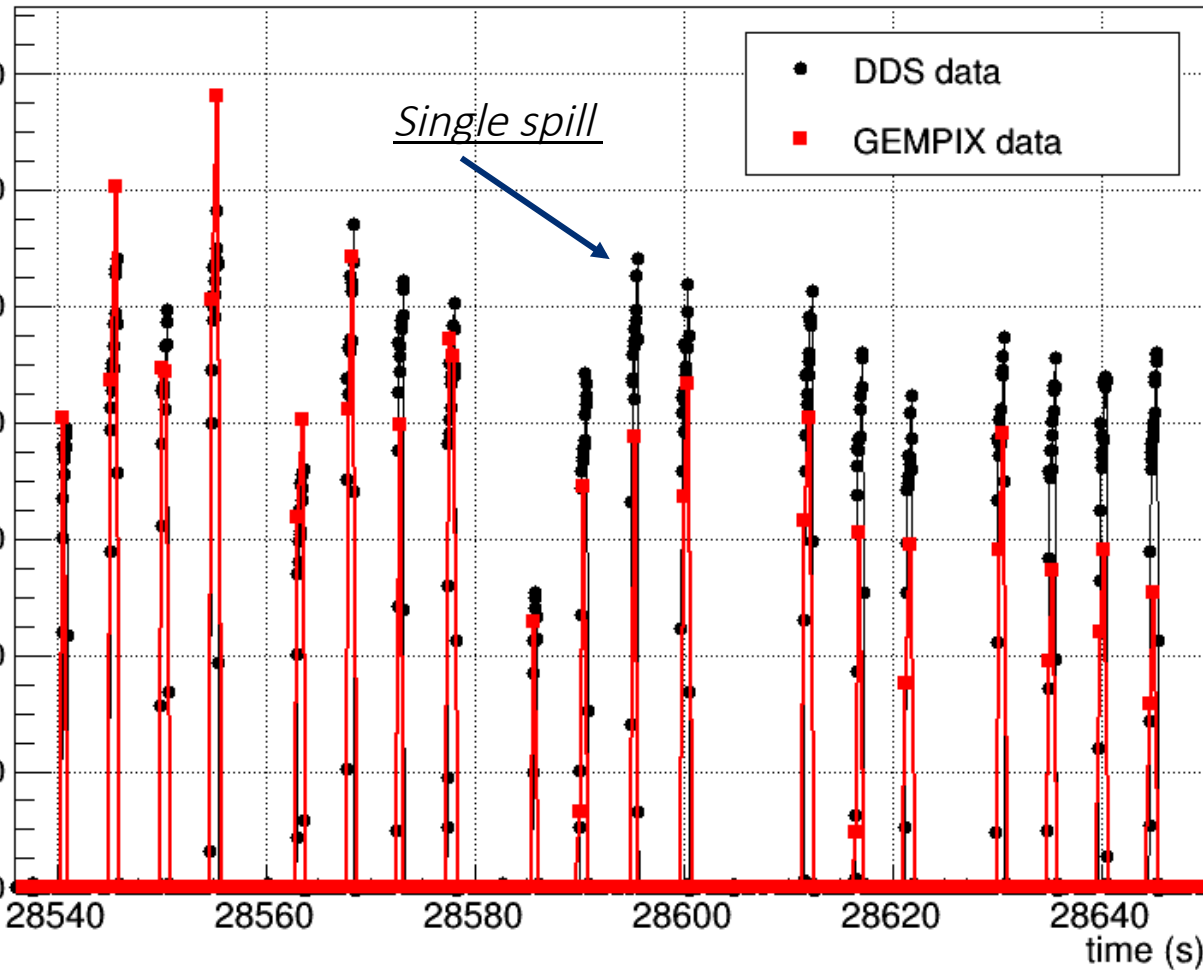
Tail



Further studies are currently ongoing to determine the origin of lateral clusters.

Beam time/space evolution

3.4 GeV carbon ions beam



DDS (Dose Delivery System)



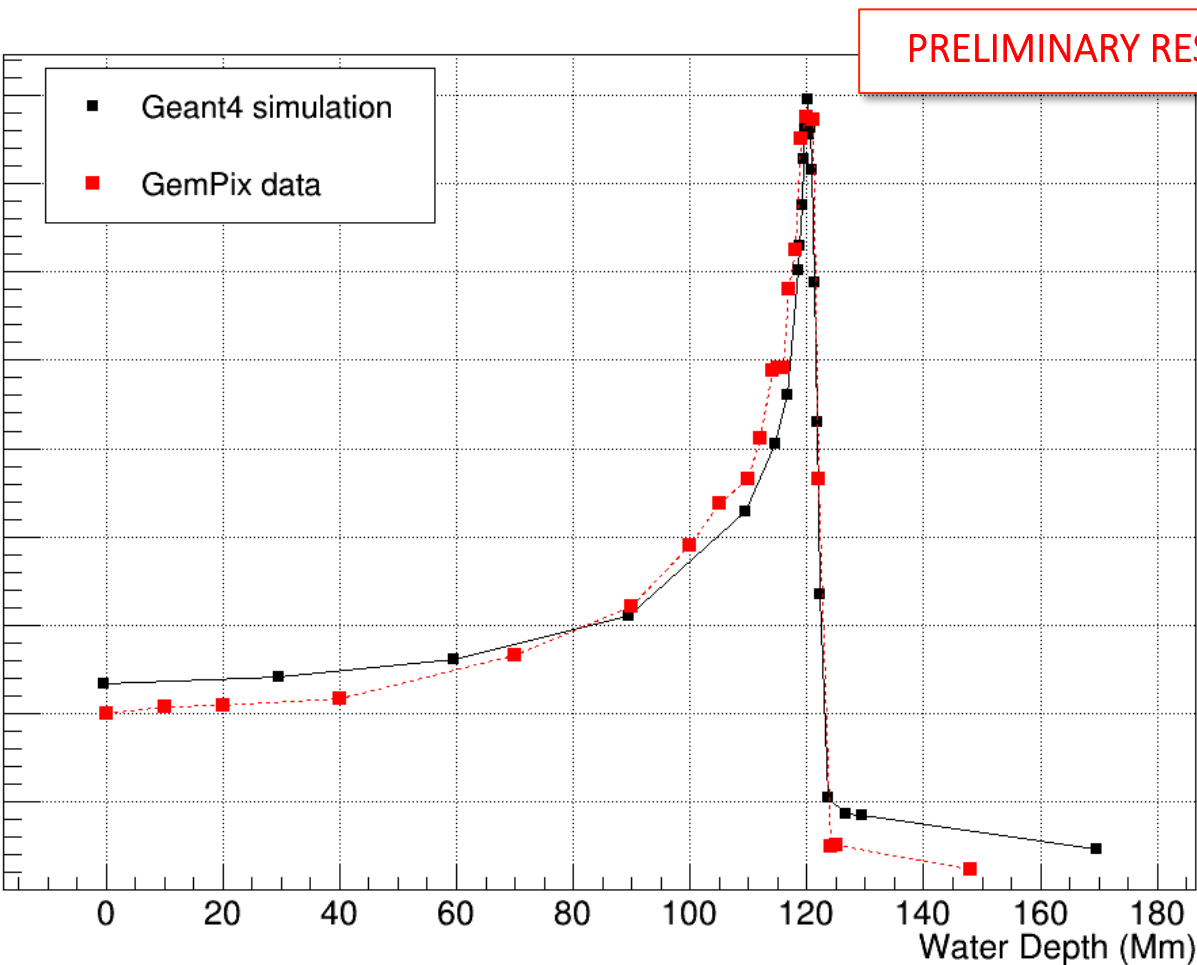
CNAO beam control system

(Ionization and pixels chambers)

Med Phys. 2015 Jan;42(1):263-75. doi: 10.1118/1.4903

CNAO measurements: *Bragg Peak (II)*

3.4 GeV carbon ions beam



Deposited dose underestimated:

- Plateau region
- Fragmentation tail

→ Ongoing studies on physics lists and interaction processes in Geant4.

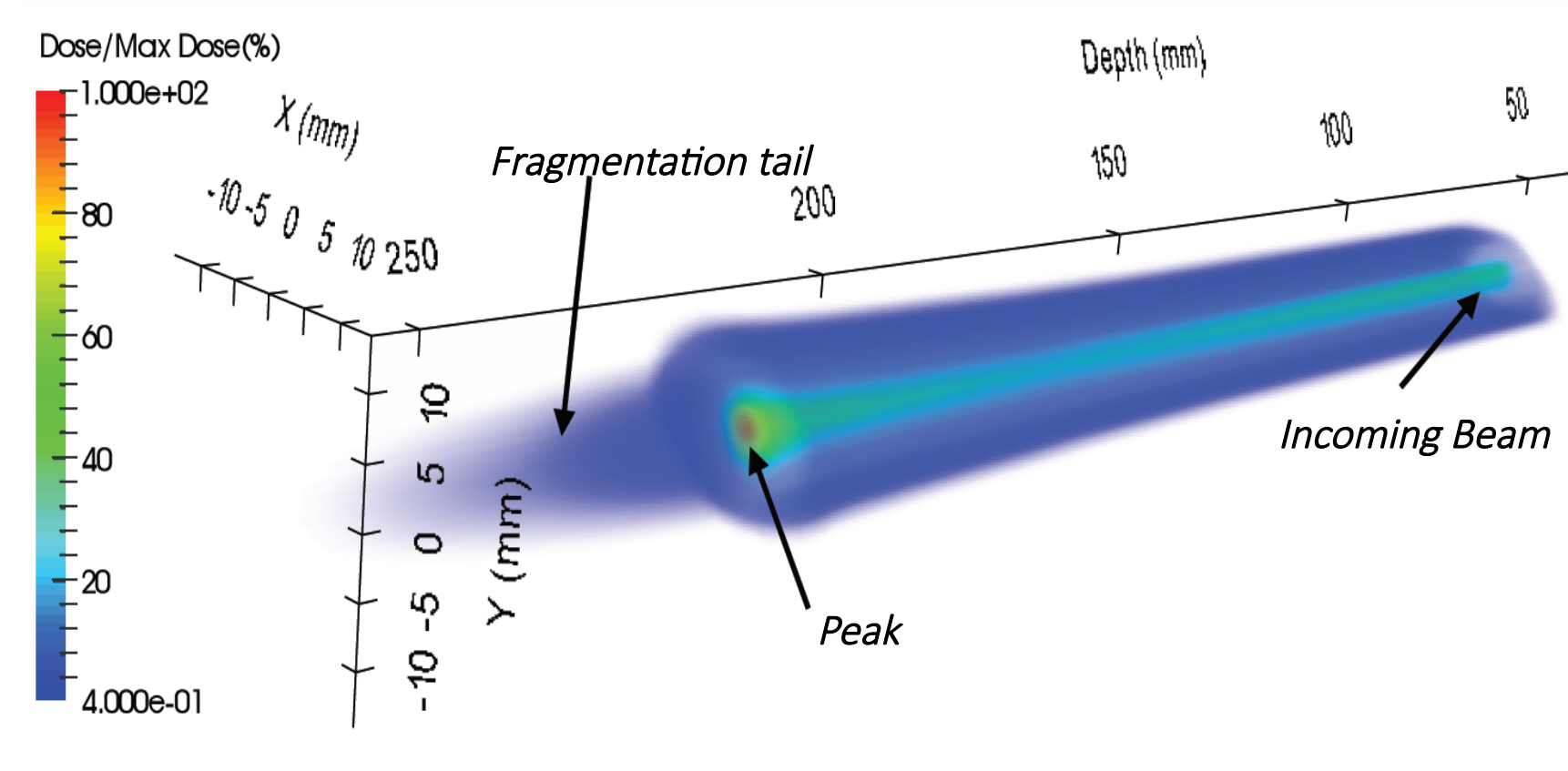
→ Further characterization tests of the GEMPix detector with carbon ion beams (different clock, gain, gas ...)

The curves are normalized at the peak

CNAO measurements: *Bragg Peak (III)*

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3D reconstruction 3.9 GeV carbon ions Bragg peak in water



Conclusions

Complete simulation of the CNAO extraction beamline, GEMPix detector and experimental setup

Linear response as a function of particle flux

Quite good homogeneity response → study of edge/junction effects

Good agreement between data and simulation

Further experimental measurements have been done at CNAO and are being analysed

Future developments

More detailed simulation → electric field of GEM layers

Advanced simulation study of secondary particle distribution in water and in the GEMPix

Study of the Bragg curve for different GEMPix setting parameters (gain, acquisition clock)

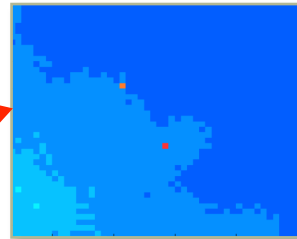
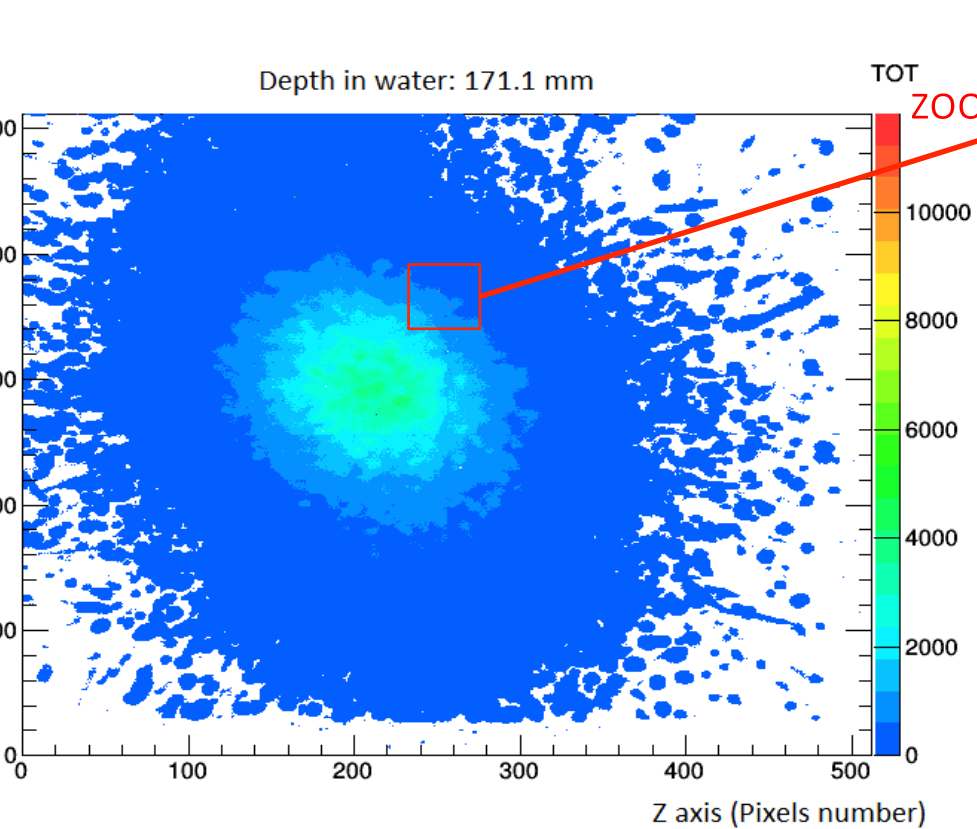
Continuous monitoring of pressure and temperature inside the detector during the measurements

Implementation of a better trigger system between GEMPix and DDS CNAO system

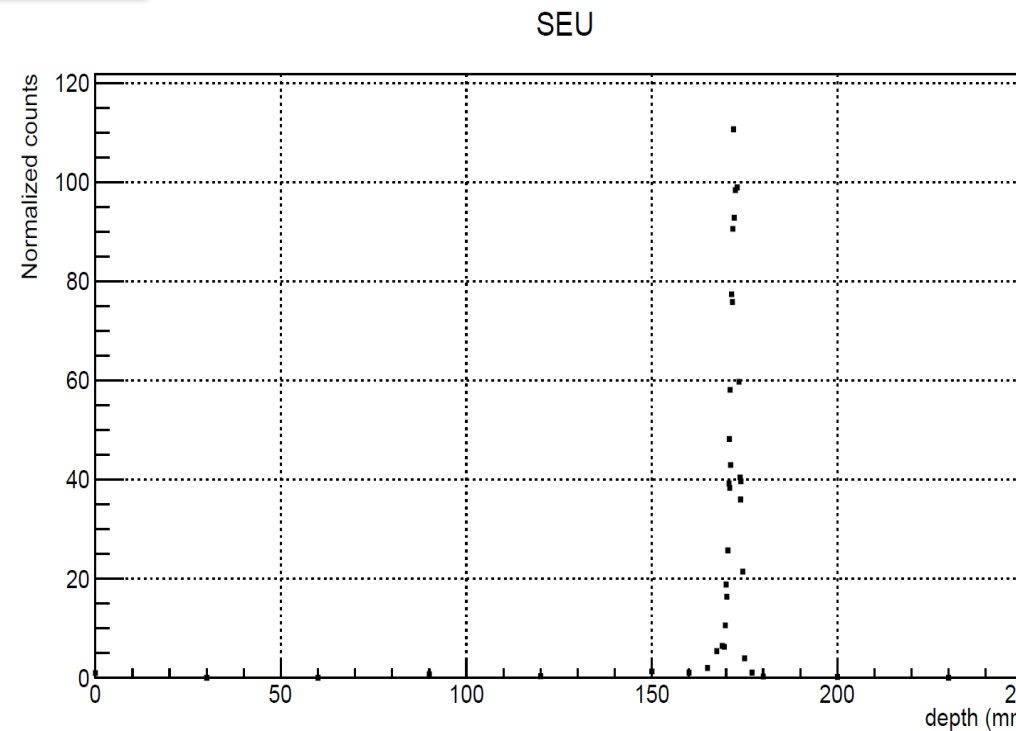
New measurements at CNAO Centre



GEMPix and SEU (*Single Event Upset*)



SEU events above (red) and below (orange) the TOT saturation level (11000)



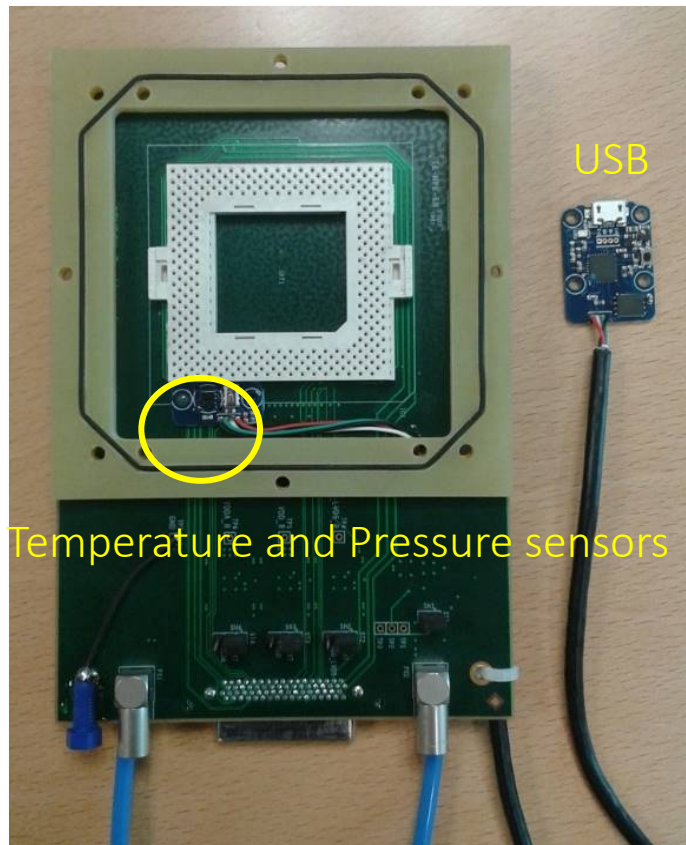
SEU is a function of water depth



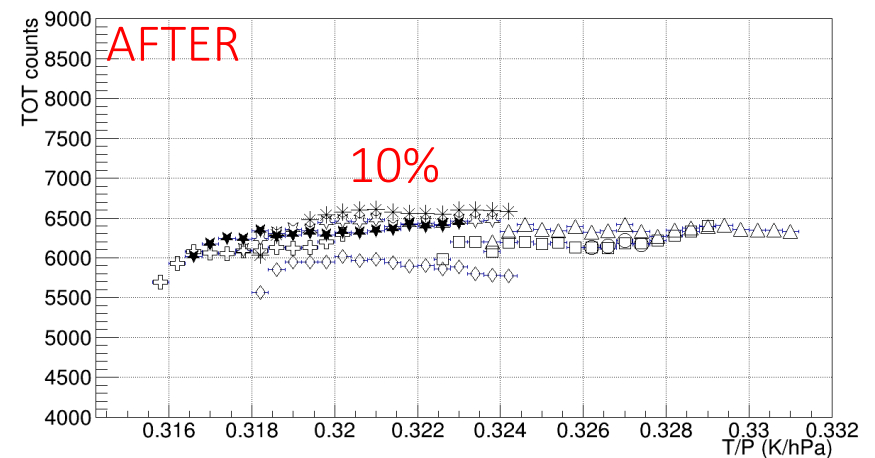
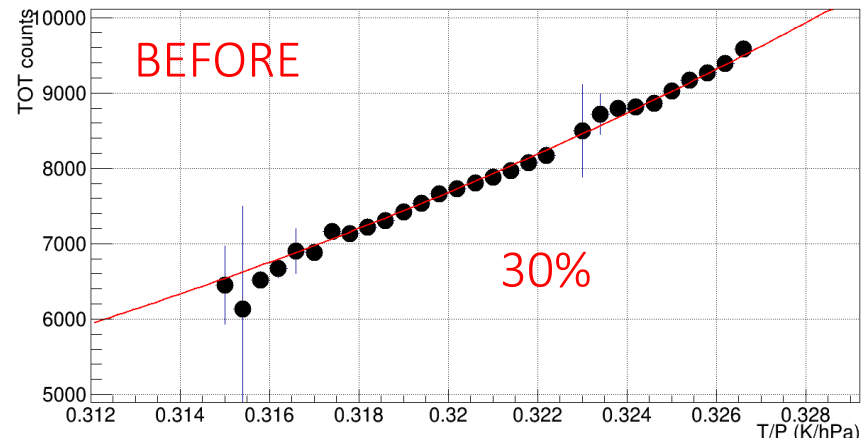
Maximum value of SEU at the Bragg peak → maximum dose release

Energy calibration and T/P correction

The temperature and the pressure measured **inside the detector** allow **the realtime HV correction to obtain gain stability**



Online
HV correctic
➔

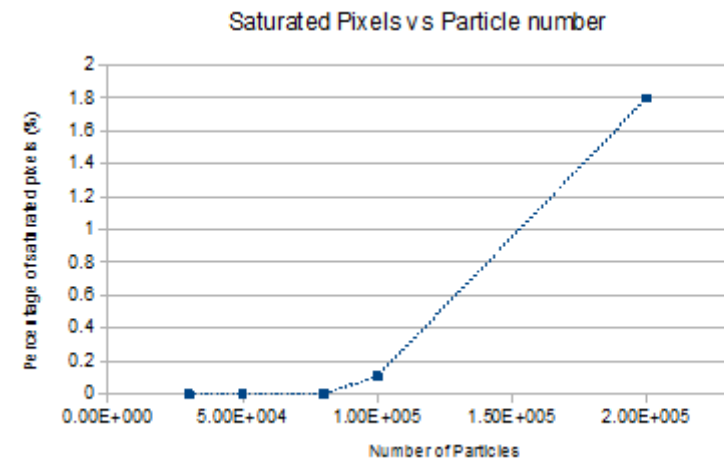
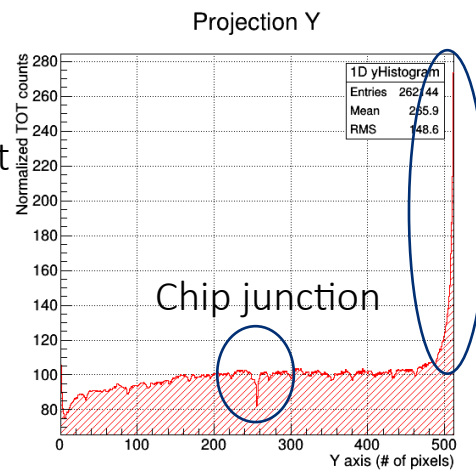
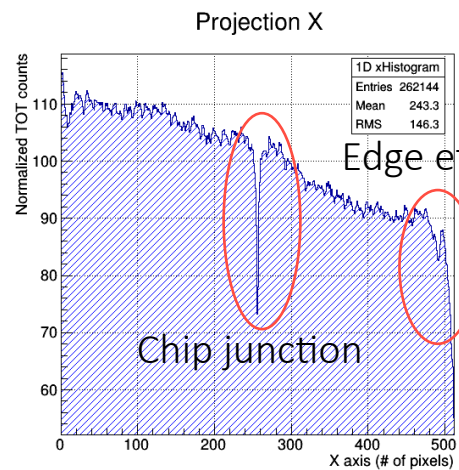
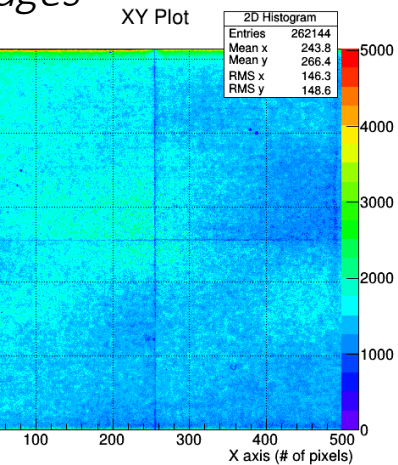


CNAO measurements: *homogeneity (I)*

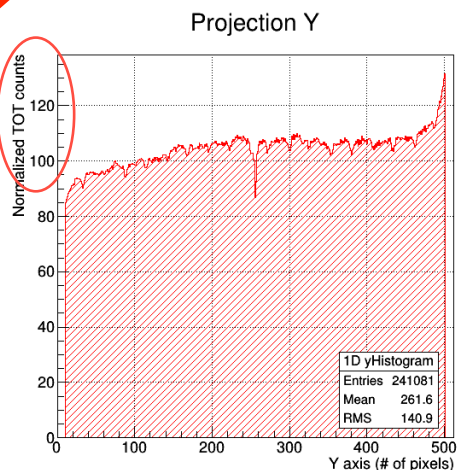
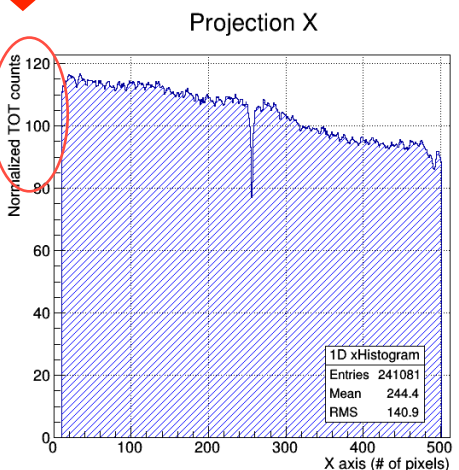
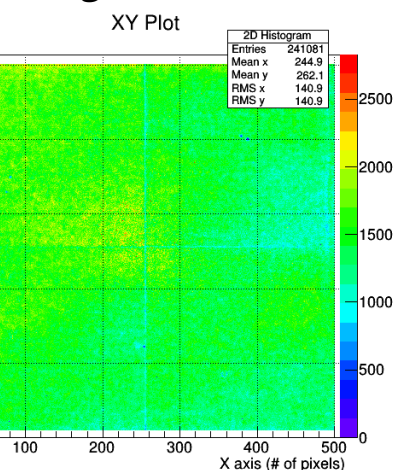
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

60 mm² carbon ions scanned field (3×10^4 total particles delivered)

edges



at edges



Edge effects → 2% of saturated pixels at higher particle flux