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Monte-Carlo simulations for the in-beam PETITION PET scanner

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- PETITION (PET for InTensive care units and Innovative protON therapy), collaboration between ETH Zürich, CHUV, and PSI.
- Design of a modular PET detector by ETHZ.
- For patients under anaesthesia at CHUV.
- For range verification and biologically guided proton therapy at PSI.



Module of the PETITION scanner

PETITION project at PSI

- Opening for proton beam
- Mounted on patient table in Gantry 2
- On-line imaging of patient activation
- Phantom and head rest have to fit
- Can be rotated in steps of 90°



Mock-up of the PETITION scanner for PSI





Geometry	Ring PETITION (CHUV)	PETITION	DUAL HEAD PETITION
Number of	11	8	6
modules			
Crystal per	1800	1800	1800
module			
Crystal	$2.74 \times 2.74 \times 15 \text{ mm}^3$	2.74 × 2.74 × 15 mm ³	2.74 × 2.74 × 15 mm ³
dimensions			
Scanner	0 mm	256 mm	322 mm
opening			
Radial	161.3 mm	161.3 mm	161.3 mm
extent			
Axial FOV	179 mm	179 mm	179 mm

Data Processing Chain





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Performance parameter: Sensitivity

- Detected count rate per unit of activity.
- Practical limitations on injected activity and acquisition time.
- Source: Point Na²² (r = 0.3 mm)
- Phantom: An acrylic cube of dimensions 10 x 10 x 10 mm³
- Source activity: 1 MBq
- Acquisition time: 50 seconds at each axial position



Axial sensitivity profile comparison



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Performance parameter: Spatial Resolution

- Ability of a PET scanner to distinguish the fine details.
- Source: Point Na^{22} (r = 0.3 mm)
- Phantom: An acrylic cube of dimensions 10 x 10 x 10 mm³
- Axial positions: [-45, 0, 45] mm
- Radial positions: -50 to 50 mm
- Source activity: 1 MBq and acquisition time: 50 seconds
- Reconstructed PET image: OSEM algorithm (12 iterations, 4 subsets, no filtering)





Spatial Resolution comparison at axial center





PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT PETITION image reconstruction

- Simulated water cylinder in GATE for 40 seconds.
- Water cylinder filled with uniform 1 MBq activity.
- Placed at the axial center.
- Reconstructed PET image: OSEM algorithm (4 subsets, 12 iterations, no filtering)



Reconstructed water cylinder with one position of PETITION scanner



PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT PETITION image reconstruction



SSIM : 0.97

(Structural Similarity Index Measure)



K. McNamara et al., submitted to Phys. Med. Biol. (2022)



Phantom activation reconstruction





Conclusion and outlook

- The simulation to reconstruction workflow for the open ring geometry has been setup using GATE, CASTOR.
- Performance characteristics have been studied and compared against conventional dual head geometry.
- Simulation to activation reconstruction workflow has been simulated.
- Further improvement in image reconstruction using Deep Learning methods for non-conventional PET scanners.





Thank you

 Questions/Comments/ Feedback?



