

# Energy Modulated Radiotherapy (EMRT) using sub-MV beams

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# Disclosures

- ▶ Staff physicist UNM Comprehensive Cancer, Albuquerque, NM
- ▶ Part-time contract Verus Research, Albuquerque, NM

# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Initial work toward small field radiotherapy in a practical manner
3. Theory of energy modulation with sub-MV beams
4. EMRT planning/optimization routine
5. Future Work

# Unraveling a thread...



- ▶ First collaboration with UNM Computer Science that is building basic radiotherapy research tools.
- ▶ We want to consider solutions that are—in the end practical—and can be implemented in conventional clinics
- ▶ Then also, build upon historical strategies that are known to be successful
- ▶ Work presented here was motivated by seeking what we have perceived as the frontier of radiation therapy, submillimeter radiotherapy techniques
- ▶ Not knowing what exactly we were going to find, we pulled the string...
- ▶ What we are presenting now is not what we initially set out to do, but its where we are at.

# Radiotherapy Strategies



## War-by-attrition

- Historical—
- Established biological models—
- Low impact weaponry—



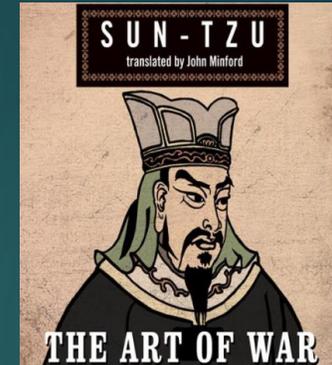
## Ablation

- More recent—
- Extreme impact—
- Advanced technology—

Both strategies have benefits/trade-offs that require different types of radiotherapy techniques

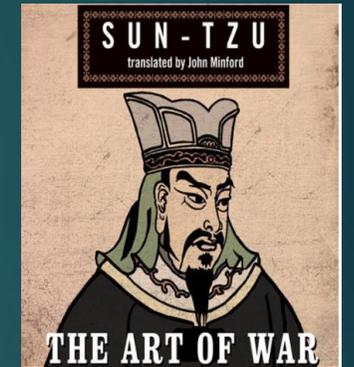
# Treatment strategy: War-by-attrition

- ▶ “Military strategy in which belligerent attempts to win a war by wearing down the enemy to the point of collapse through continuous losses of personnel and materiel.”
- ▶ Goal: limit losses to an acceptable level while maximize enemy's
- ▶ “The war is usually be won by the side with greater resources”
- ▶ Radiation is used to tip the odds in favor of normal tissue



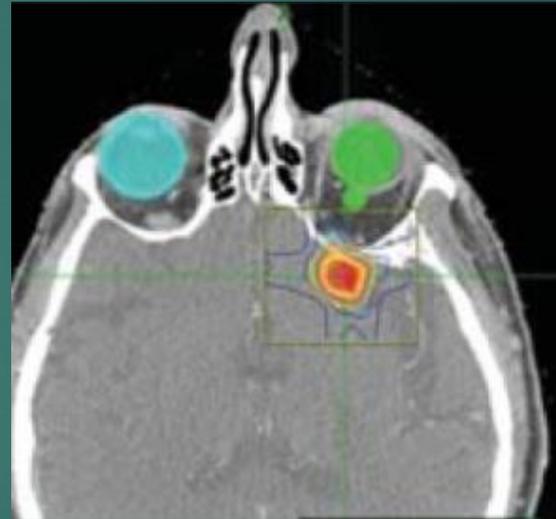
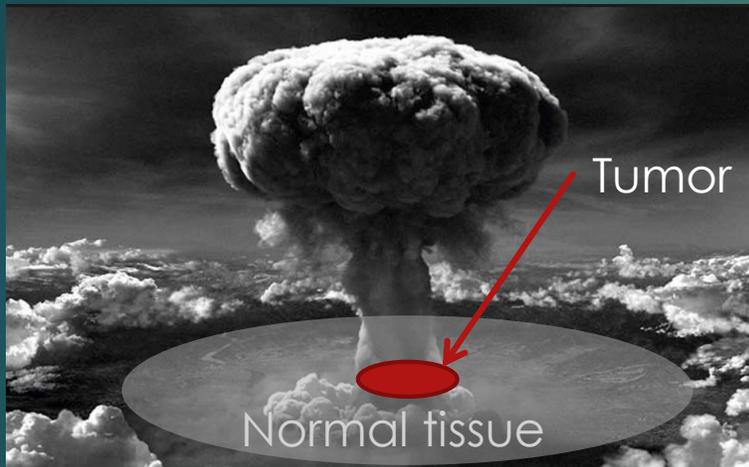
# Sun-Tzu Critique

- ▶ Sun-Tzu viewed that attrition warfare is something to be avoided: represents the opposite principles of war where one attempts to achieve decisive victories by using minimal necessary resources.
- ▶ Attritional methods are tried as a last resort when other strategy have failed or not feasible.



# Treatment strategy: Ablation

- ▶ Large dose for a single or a few treatments to a small area
- ▶ Any tissue exposed, normal or cancer, will be destroyed
- ▶ Extremely focused delivery to tumor



Note: the use of such firepower requires more rigorous QA and accurate alignment tools

# Trend: radiation therapy's footprint is getting smaller

## Many-to-few:

- ▶ Decrease the total amount of treatments, while increasing the dose per fraction

## Big-to-small:

- ▶ Reduce the size of the treatment fields to match the patient's anatomy, motion and the tumor's response
- ▶ With the help of PET imaging these treatment volumes are getting smaller and smaller

# Radiation therapy's footprint is getting smaller: Multi-institutional studies challenging the amount of radiation a patient receives

BR001	A Phase I Study of Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT) for the Treatment of Multiple Metastases	Open	I
G1001	Randomized Phase III Study of Focal Radiation Therapy for Unresectable, Localized Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma	Open	III
1073	GOG-0258/Endorsed Study: "A Randomized Phase III Trial of Cisplatin and Tumor Volume Directed Irradiation Followed by Carboplatin and Paclitaxel vs. Carboplatin and Paclitaxel for Optimally Debulked, Advanced Endometrial Carcinoma"	Open	III
1119	Phase II Randomized Study of Whole Brain Radiotherapy in Combination With Concurrent Lapatinib in Patients With Brain Metastasis From HER2-Positive Breast Cancer: A Collaborative Study	Open	II R
BR001	A Phase II Trial of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) in the Treatment of Operable Stage I/II Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer		
10123	A Phase II Randomized Trial With Captopril in Patients With Stage II-III Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer—RTOG-CCOP Study		
1470	11122 Randomized Phase II Study of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) in the Treatment of Operable Stage I/II Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer		
1471	11122 Randomized Phase II Study of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) in the Treatment of Operable Stage I/II Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer		
1072	11122 Randomized Phase II Study of Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy (SBRT) in the Treatment of Operable Stage I/II Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer		
1115	11171 GOG-0263/Endorsed Study of Chemoradiation With Concurrent Hysterectomy and Pelvic Brachytherapy in Patients With Endometrial Cancer		
1005	11172 COG AEW51031, a Phase II Study of Topotecan-Cyclophosphamide in Patients With Metastatic Ewing Sarcoma		
1008	11173 ECOG E2108/Endorsed Study of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
1014	11174 A Phase III Trial of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer: 0902/GOG-0274		
1016	11175 CALGB 80803/Endorsed Study of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
1021	1201 A Phase II Randomized Study of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
1070	1203 A Randomized Phase II Trial of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
0929	1205 Randomized Phase II Study of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
0933	1235 A Phase III Study of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
0937	1236 NCCTG N107C/B: A Phase III Study of Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer		
0938	A Randomized Phase II Trial of Hypofractionated Radiation Therapy for the Treatment of Cervical Cancer—RTOG-CCOP Study		

This challenges the accuracy of the historical DNA damage/repair model that setup the current standard of care!

Need to explore the use of small fields and understand mechanisms behind the biological response

Sites include

- G1001

of these studies found superior results using fractionation!

International Journal of Radiation Oncology  
biology • physics  
www.ijrojournal.org

Correlates of the Fractionated Whole-Breast Radiation in the State of Michigan

David Heimburger, MD,<sup>1</sup> Eleanor M. Walker, MD,<sup>2</sup> Inga S. Grills, MD,<sup>3</sup> Thomas Boike, MD,<sup>4</sup> Mary Feng, MD,<sup>5</sup> Jean M. Moran, PhD,<sup>6</sup> James Hayman, MD,<sup>7</sup> and Lori J. Pierce, MD\*, on behalf of the Michigan Radiation Oncology Quality Consortium

\*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan; <sup>1</sup>Munson Medical Center, Traverse City, Michigan; <sup>2</sup>Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; <sup>3</sup>Beaumont Health System, Royal Oak, Michigan; and <sup>4</sup>McLaren Northern Michigan, Petoskey, Michigan

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**CLINICAL INVESTIGATION**

**Breast**

**FRACTIONATION FOR WHOLE BREAST IRRADIATION: AN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RADIATION ONCOLOGY (ASTRO) EVIDENCE-BASED GUIDELINE**

BENJAMIN D. SMITH, M.D.,\* SOREN M. BENTZEN, PH.D., D.SC.,† CANDACE R. CORREA, M.D.,‡

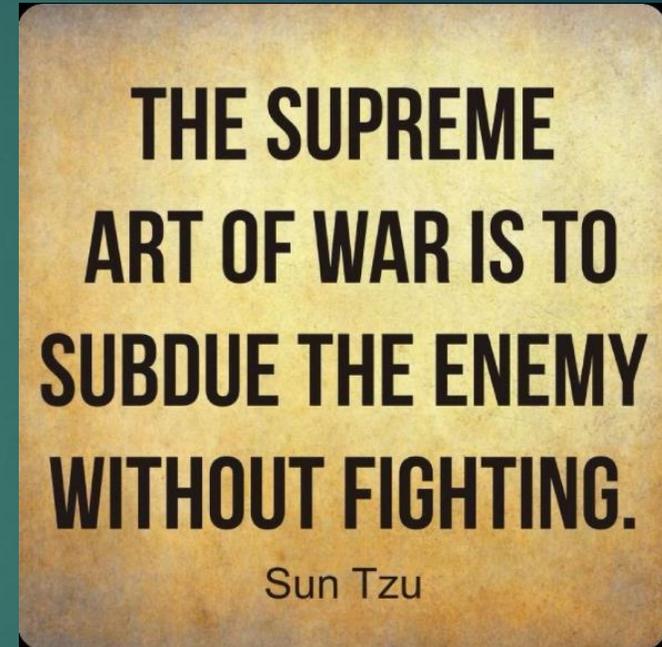
# Next generation of radiation therapy: Submillimeter radiation therapy?



War-by-attribution



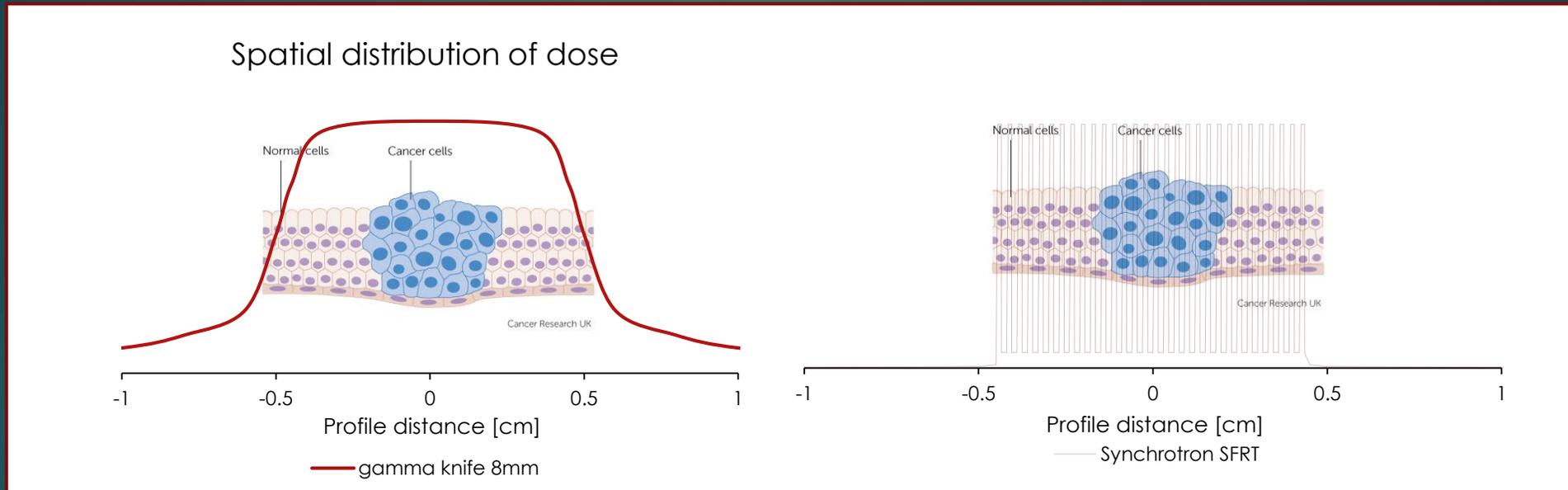
Ablation



“Very” small field sizes:

- Extreme conformal avoidance
- Immune stimulation
- Unique genetic response
- Possibly more...

# Example submillimeter technique: Microbeam Radiation Therapy(MRT)



## Conventional Radiotherapy

- Broad-beam geometry
- Treat entire tumor with uniform dose

**Evidence:** Different biological response

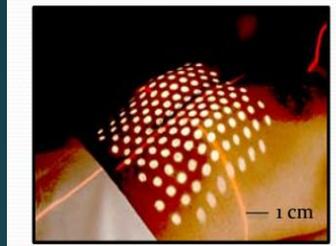
**Reason:** Not fully known

## Microbeam Radiotherapy

- Sharpe peaks and valleys
- Intentionally not irradiating entire region
- High-intensity peaks have treatment dose
- Valley regions are spared

**THE SUPREME  
ART OF WAR IS TO  
SUBDUED THE ENEMY  
WITHOUT FIGHTING.**  
Sun Tzu

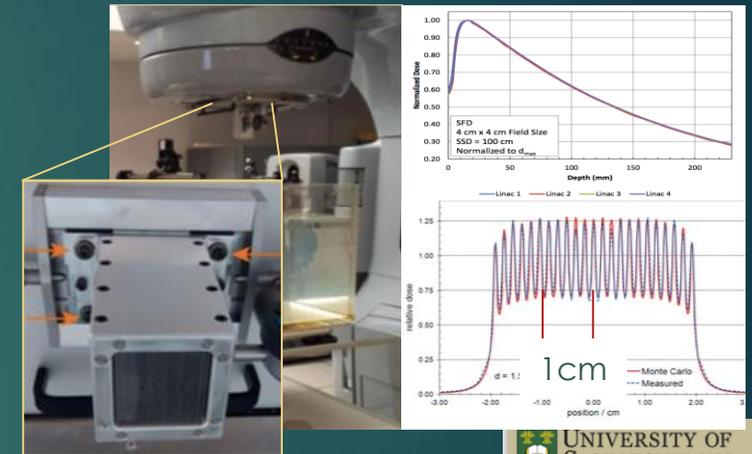
# Future of radiation therapy: submillimeter radiation therapy techniques



Univ. of Kentucky, Arkansas, Maryland  
Dr. Mohiuddin, M.

► “Submillimeter” includes the following variations in techniques:

- “Grid therapy”, “minibeam”, “microbeam”, “spatially fractionated”
- Each are in their own stage of development from clinical trials “grid” therapy and pre-clinical “mini” and “micro” beam
- Each claim different response characteristics than conventional radiotherapy
- Variations also include:
  - Geometric arraignment of radiation source
  - Type of radiation used both photons and charged particles



► But despite these variations, there is a coherent message: Treating with small beams induces a different biological response than the conventional broad-beam radiation therapy

**Medical Physics**  
The International Journal of Medical Physics Research and Practice

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Emerging imaging and therapy modalities

**A preclinical microbeam facility with a conventional x-ray tube**

Stefan Bartzsch, Craig Cummings, Stephan Eismann, Uwe Oelfke

First published: 2 November 2016 Full publication history

Depth (mm)	1	5	10
Peak (mGy/s)	300 ± 20	230 ± 10	170 ± 10
Valley (mGy/s)	10.2 ± 0.5	11.2 ± 0.5	10.7 ± 0.5
PVDR	30 ± 3	21 ± 2	15.5 ± 1.5

# Impact: submillimeter treatment mechanism, beyond ablation

- ▶ Stimulating immune system response: Kanagavelu, et al 2014

- ▶ Remarkable normal tissue tolerance

Crosbie J et al Tumor cell response to synchrotron microbeam radiation therapy differs markedly from cells in normal tissues IJROBP 77 886-894 (2010)

Dilmanian A et al Murine EMT-6 Carcinoma: high therapeutic efficacy of microbeam radiation therapy, Radiation Research 119, 632-641, 2003.

- ▶ Preferential tumorcidal genetic response

Sprung, C et al, Genome-wide transcription responses to synchrotron microbeam radiotherapy, Radiation Research 126, 249-259 (2012)

- ▶ Potent tumor response to typically treatment resistant cancers, such as glioblastoma

Bouchet, A et al Preferential effect of synchrotron microbeam radiation therapy on intracerebral 9L gliosarcoma vasculature networks IJROBP 78, 1503-1512 (2010)

- ▶ Similar responses can be documented in larger fields i.e. fields measured up to millimeters

- ▶ Griffina R et al Microbeam Radiation Therapy Alters Vascular Architecture and Tumor Oxygenation and is Enhanced by a Galectin-1 Targeted Anti-Angiogenic Peptide

# Implications: shrink the scale of treatments



Prostate

IMRT  
Very common,  
standard of care



Brain lesion

SRS/SBRT  
Common



Nerves, lymphatics,  
and blood vessels

May soon be  
possible

# Outline

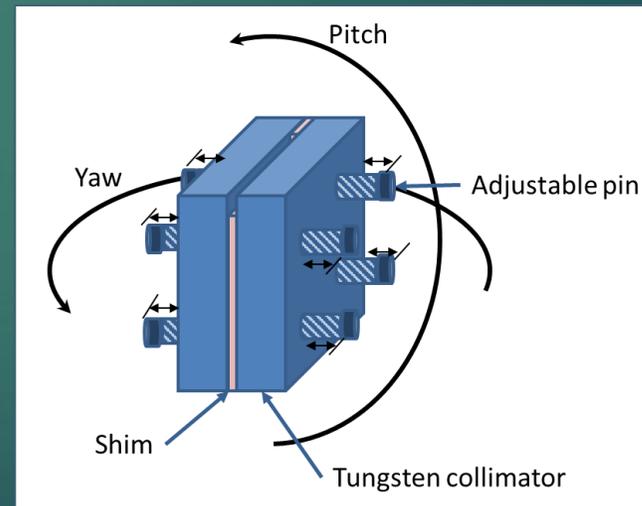
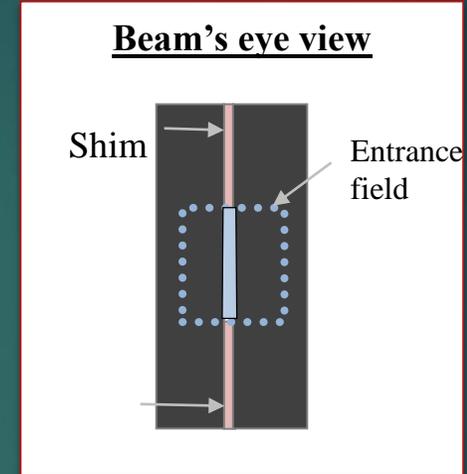
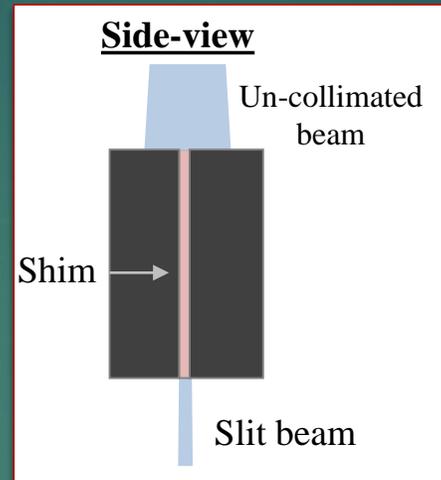
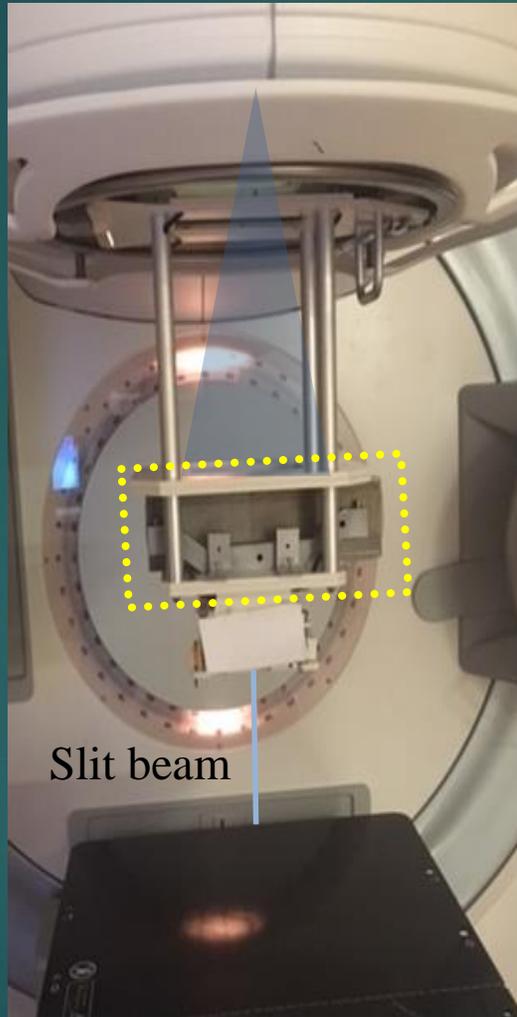
1. Introduction
2. Initial work toward small field radiotherapy, approach
3. Energy modulation with sub-MV beams
4. Planning/optimization routine for energy modulation
5. Future Work

# Small field radiation therapy: potential is too good to ignore

- ▶ Indications that the historical DNA damage/repair model for radiobiology is incomplete.
- ▶ The use of small field sizes could offer another route to attack cancer.
- ▶ Furthermore, comparatively small, submillimeter fields are showing a different type of radiation response model that could be leverage
- ▶ Hence we launched our own study by finding the smallest field size we can generate from a clinical device.

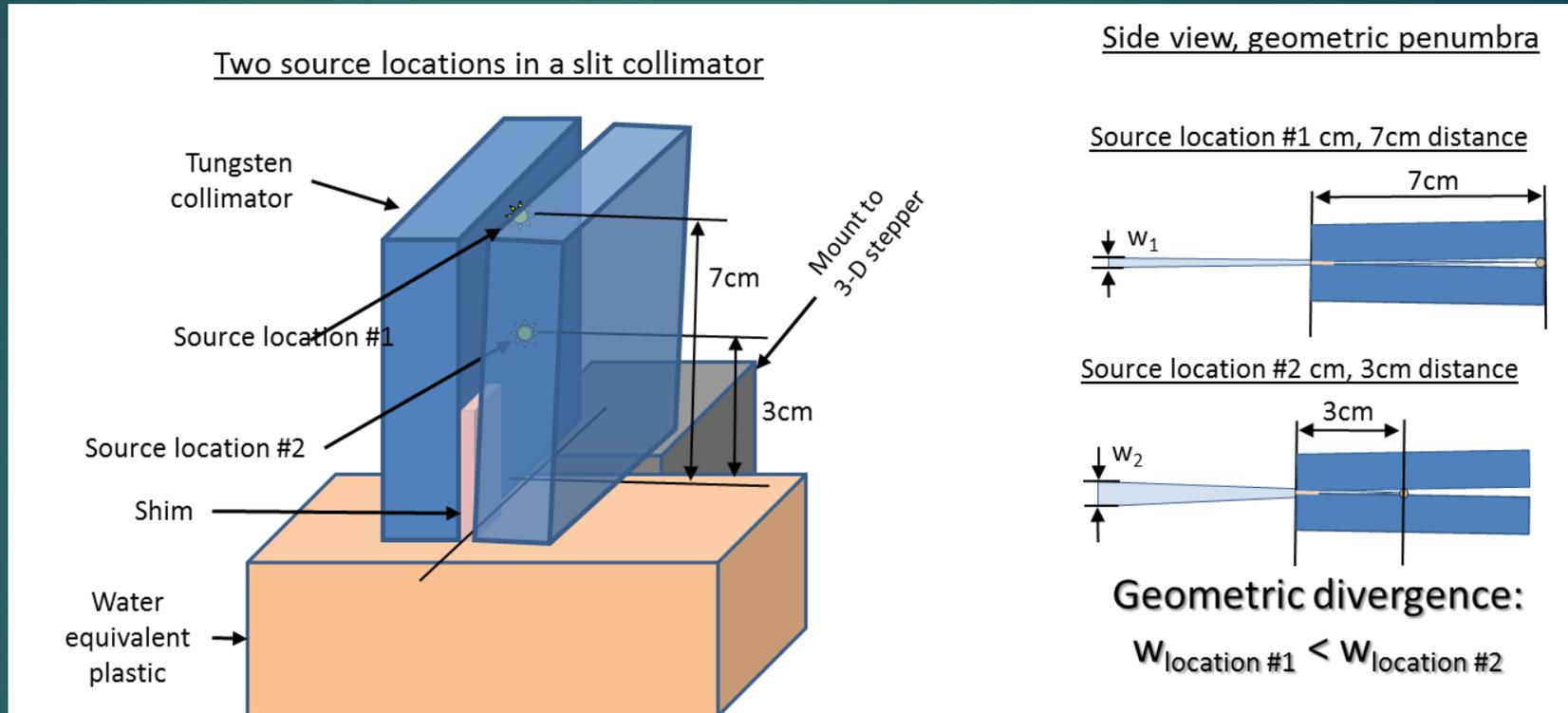


# Linear accelerator

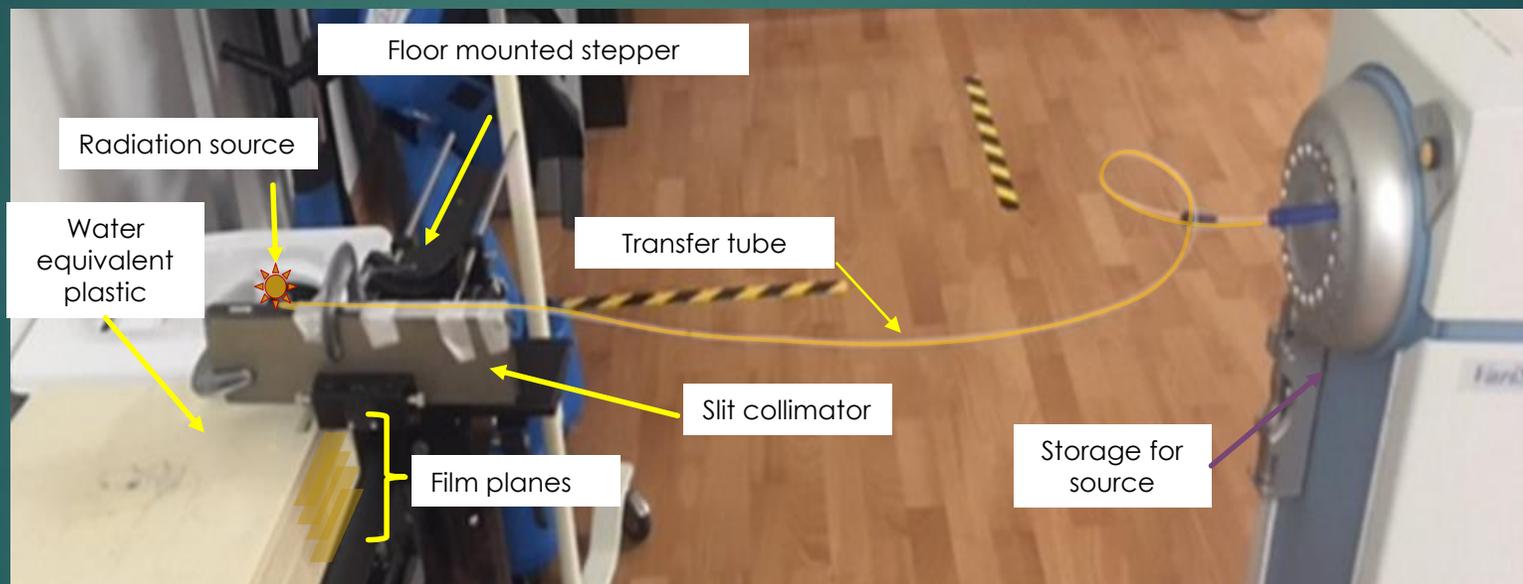


Collaborators:  
Donna Siergiej  
Rob Goodman

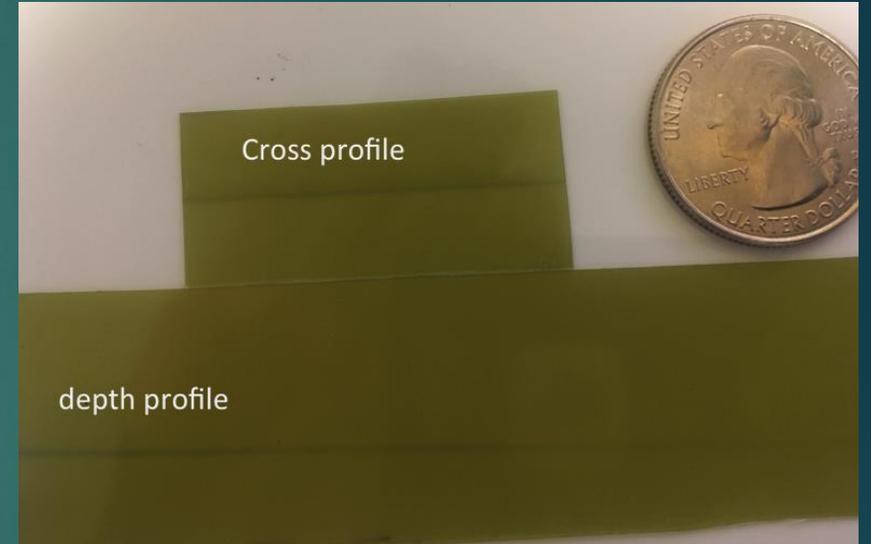
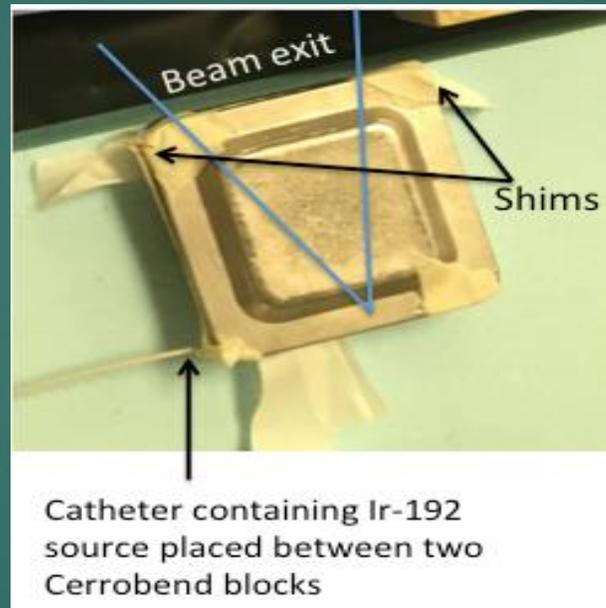
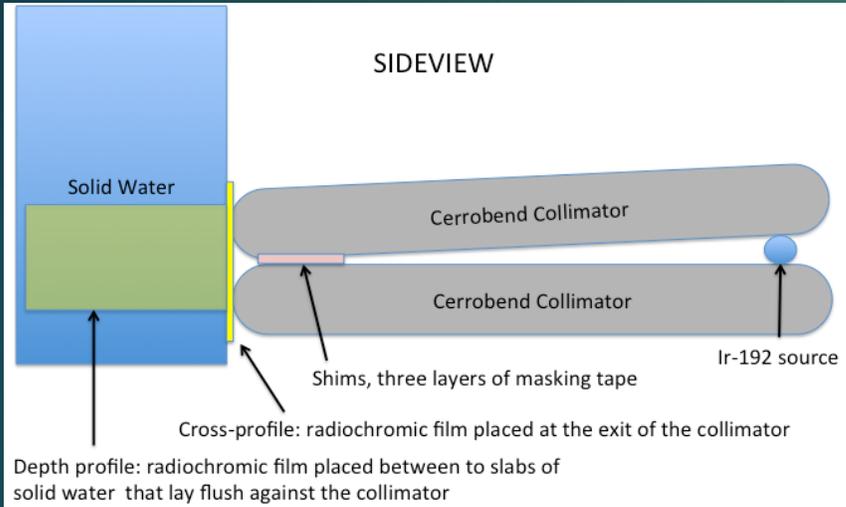
# Ir-192, 380 keV photons



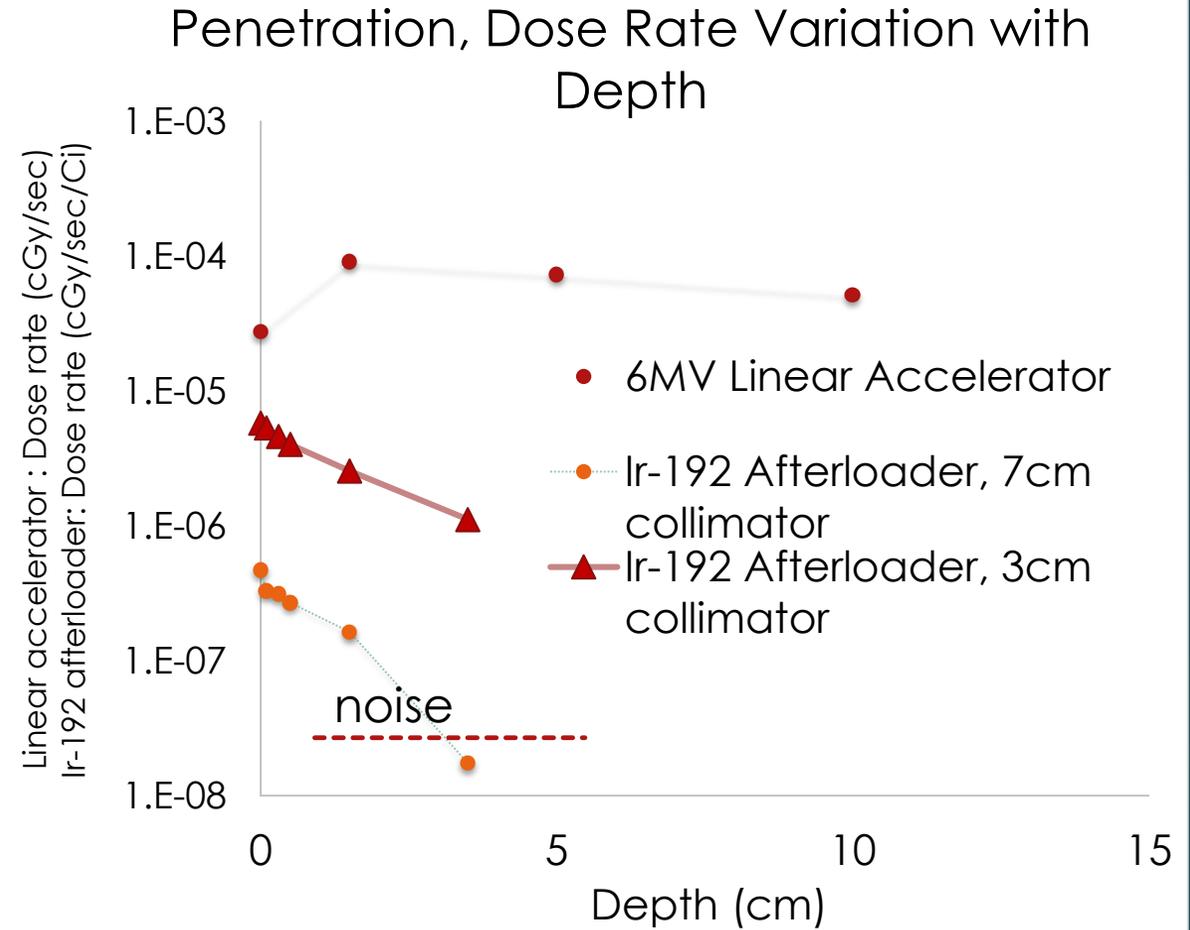
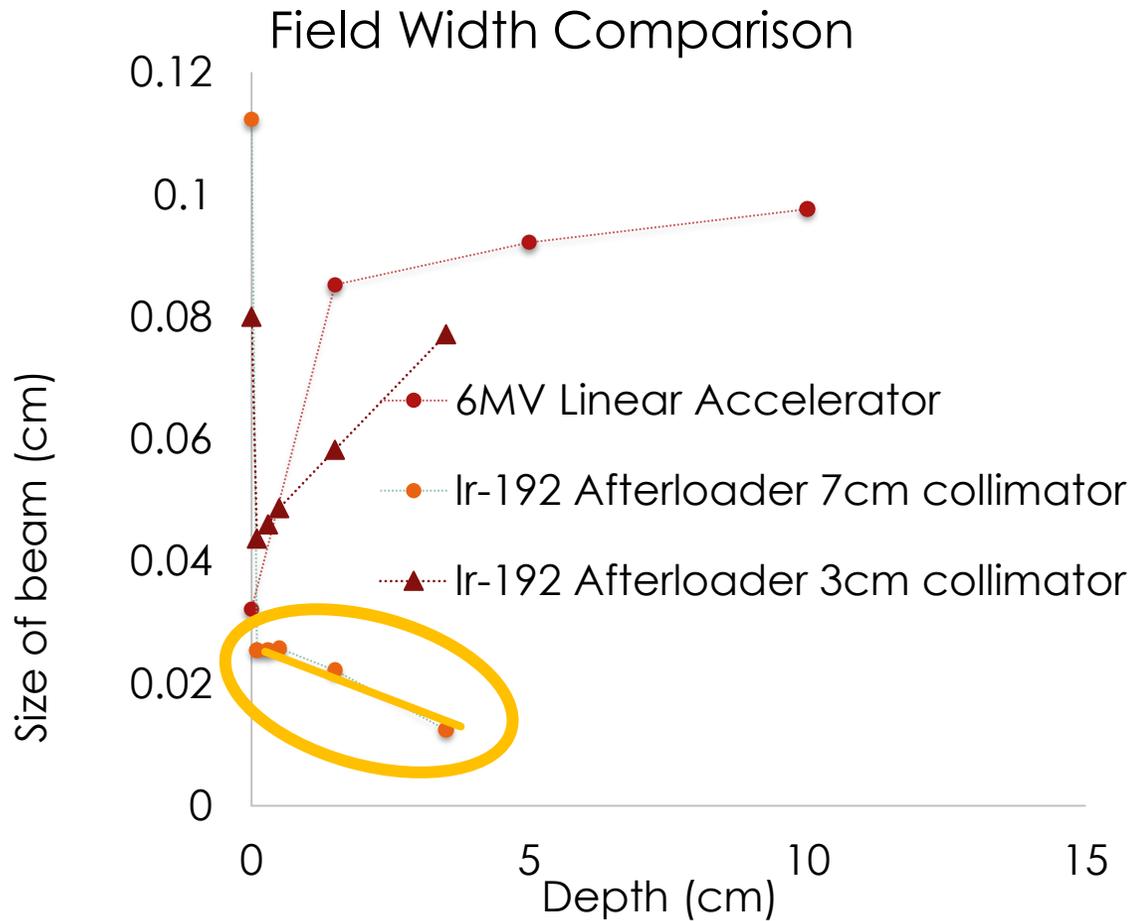
# Ir-192 radioactive source



# Further measurements with Ir-192



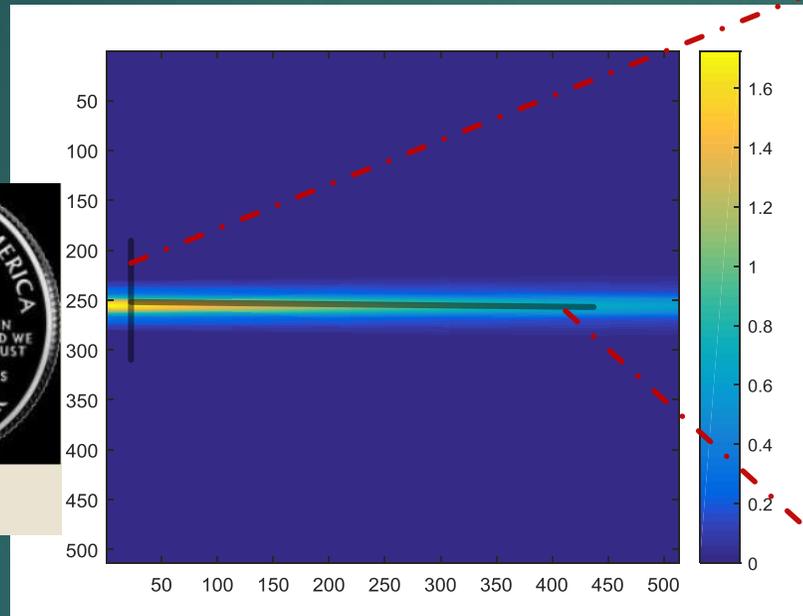
# Results



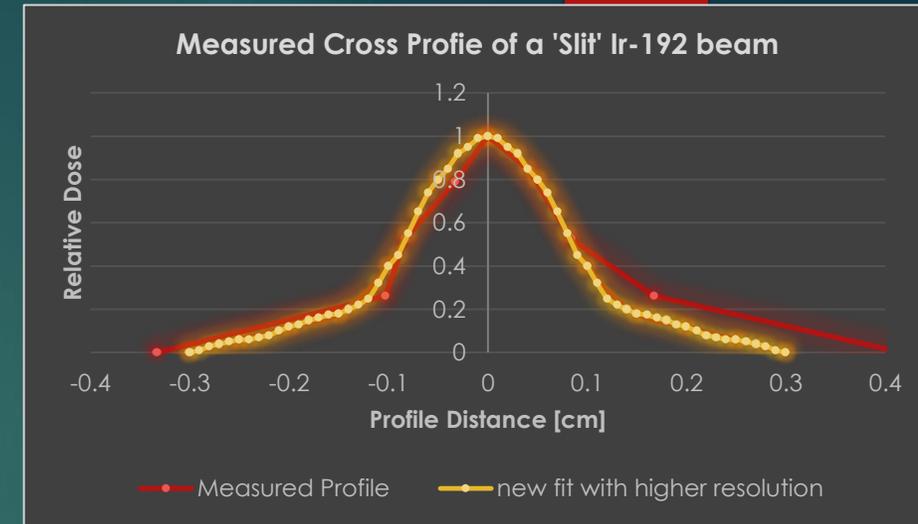
# Ir-192, single beam



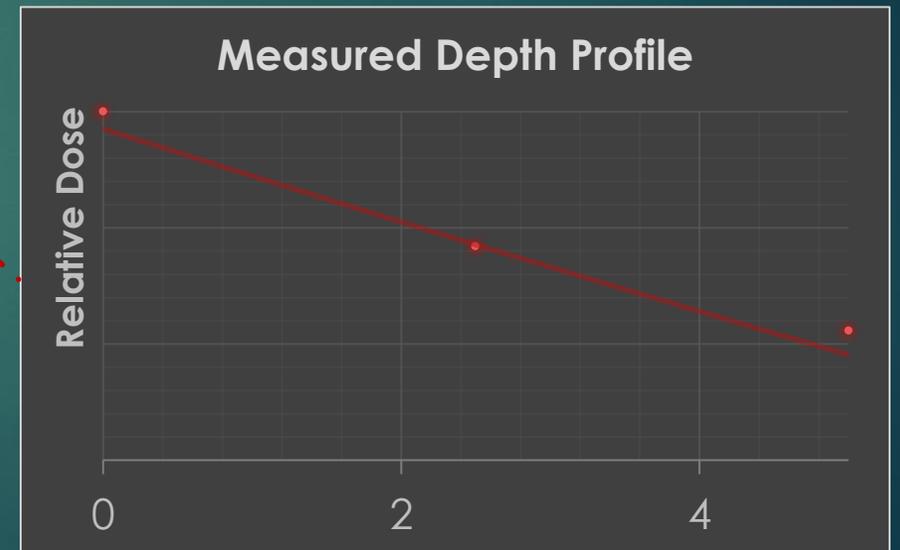
US Quarter 24.26 mm



Note this is an exponential fit, the deeper the depth the larger the dose at the surface

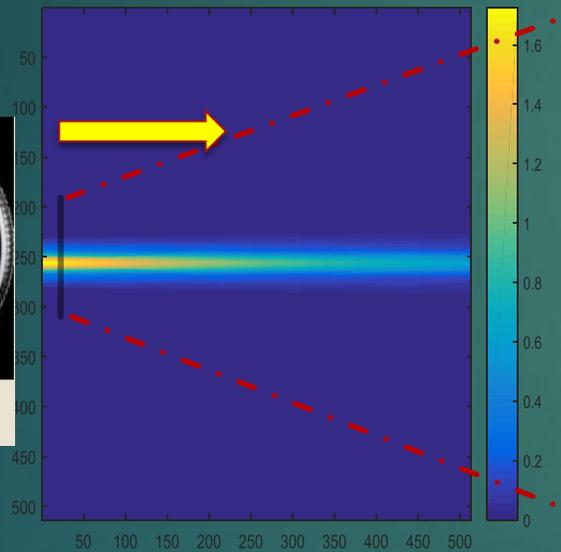
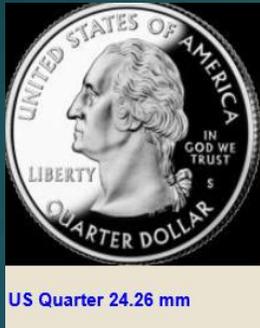


Note: the field size is larger than the prior setup

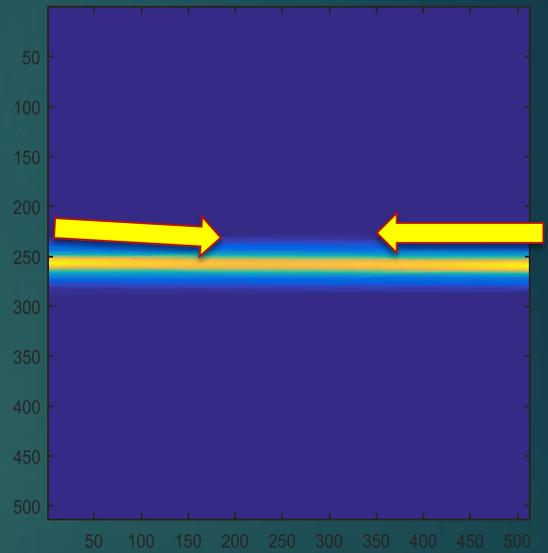
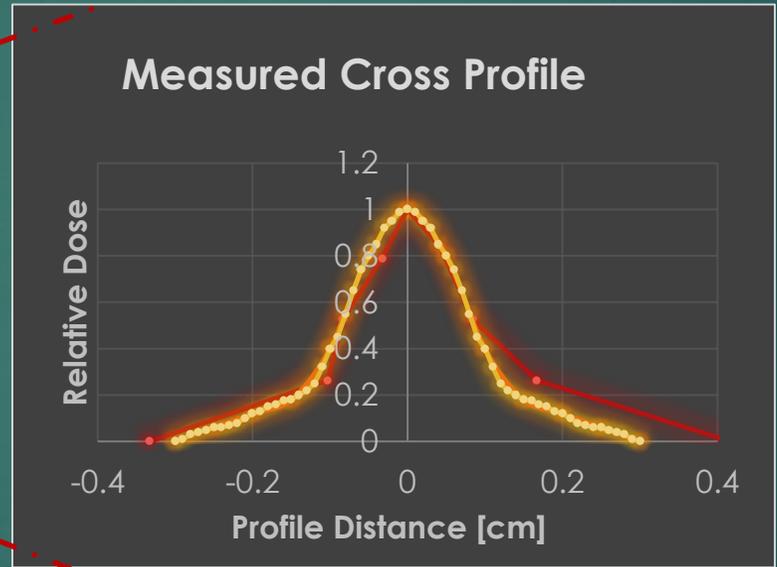


# Simulated opposing beam

24



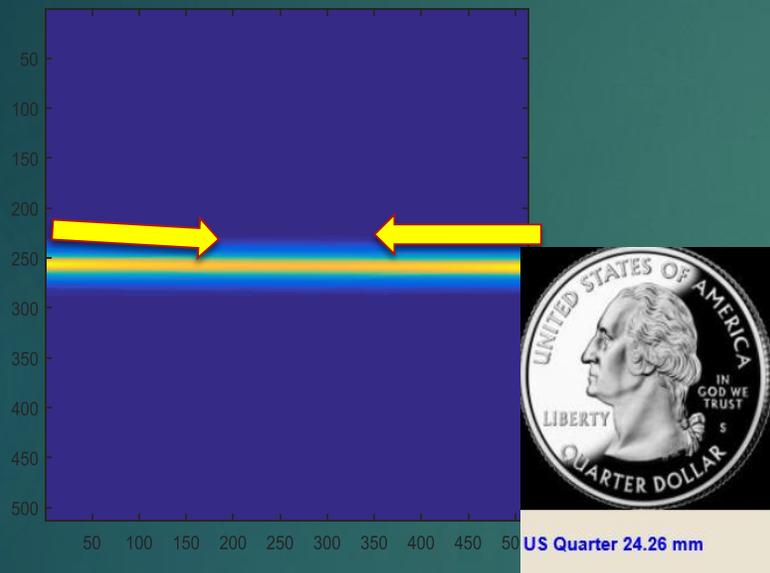
Simulated Ir-192 source



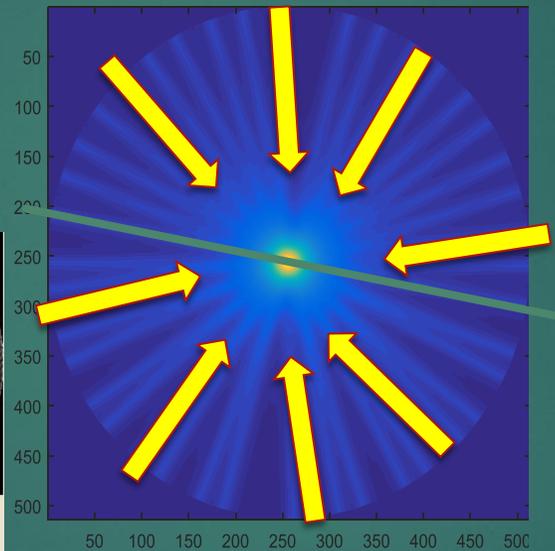
Opposing

# Ir-192, rotational delivery to reduce collateral dose

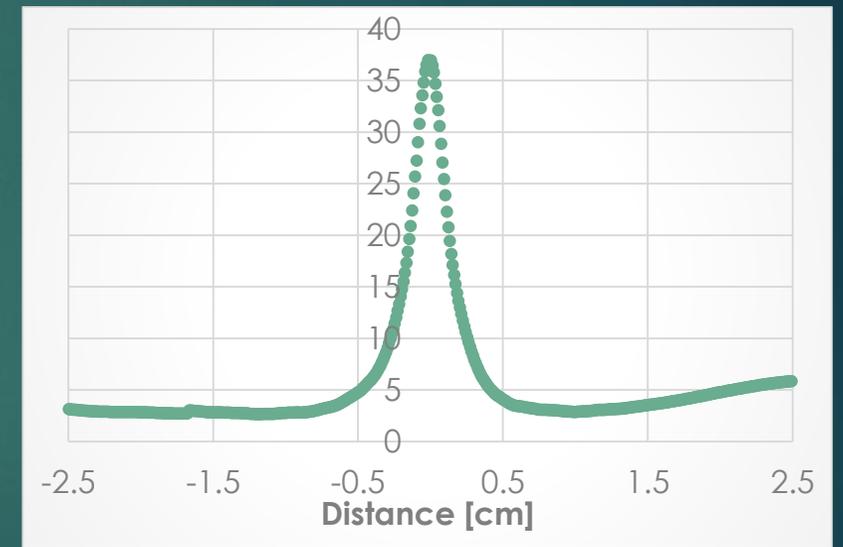
25



Opposing



Rotation



This show us that a relatively small field size can be delivered with a 400keV beam...  
BTW, the dose fall off in this simulation is comparable to charge particle therapy

# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Initial work toward small field radiotherapy, approach
3. Energy modulation with sub-MV beams
4. Planning/optimization routine for energy modulation
5. Future Work

Implications: if we want to make submillimeter treatments widely available, what is the most appropriate radiation to use?

## Options

- ~~Electrons~~
- ~~Brachytherapy~~
- ~~Heavy charged particles~~
  - ~~Protons~~
  - ~~Heavier (i.e. Carbon)~~
- Photons

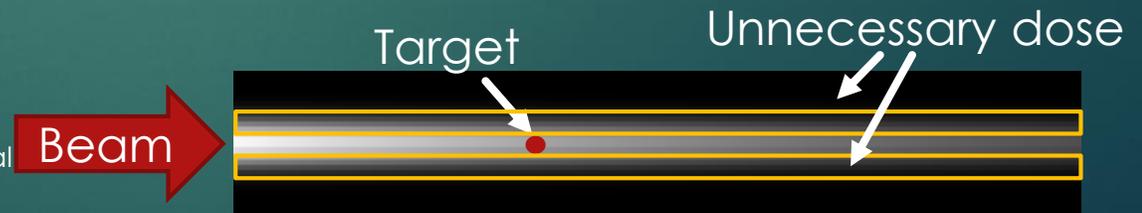
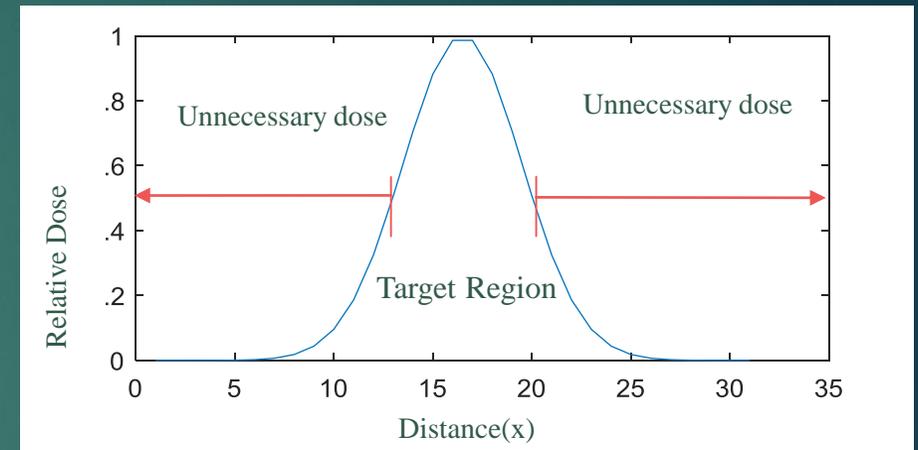
## Considerations

- ▶ If the tumor is not on or near surface, eliminates electron beam therapy.
- ▶ If we desire to have a non-invasive treatment, eliminates brachytherapy and orthovoltage units.
- ▶ For cost, eliminate charged particle therapy.
- ▶ Photons has tradeoffs... but may be the best practical type of radiation for therapy

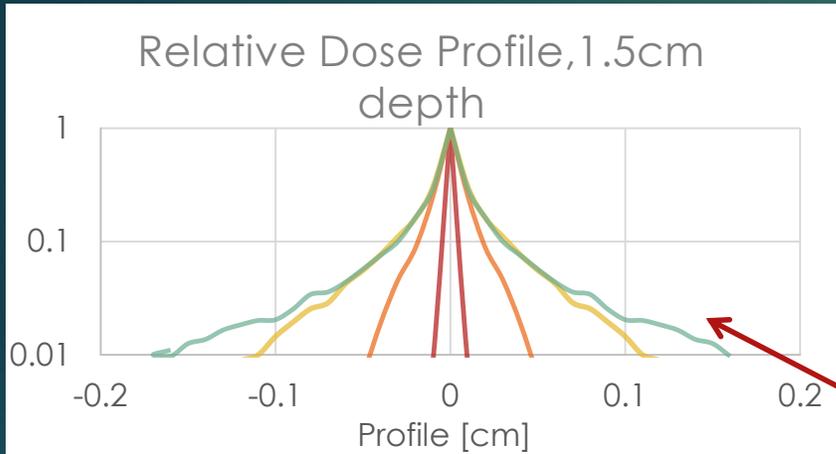
# Tradeoffs involved with selecting the most appropriate photon source (1)

## Field width

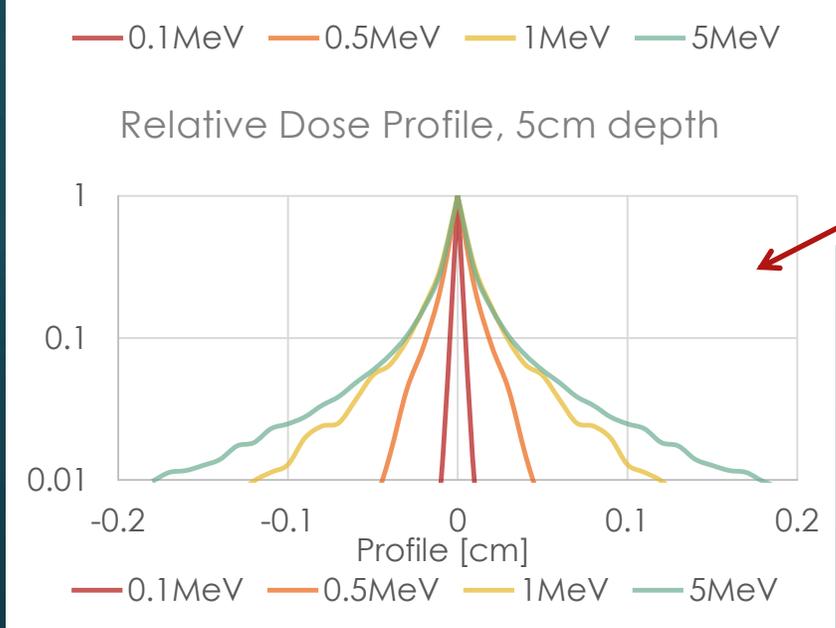
- ▶ Edges of the a photon beam is blurred by secondary interactions that spread dose outside of the edge of the beam's aperture.
- ▶ Certain treatments require very tight penumbra and field size to:
  - 1.)achieve superior avoidance of nearby structures
  - 2.) Reduce collateral dose to the patient
- ▶ For submillimeter therapy: tight penumbra's are required to create the unique biological response.
- ▶ A lower energy spectrum has smaller penumbra
- ▶ Implication:
  - ▶ Whatever beam has the smaller penumbra will have less integral dose.
  - ▶ This effect is more pronounced with beams that have less penetration



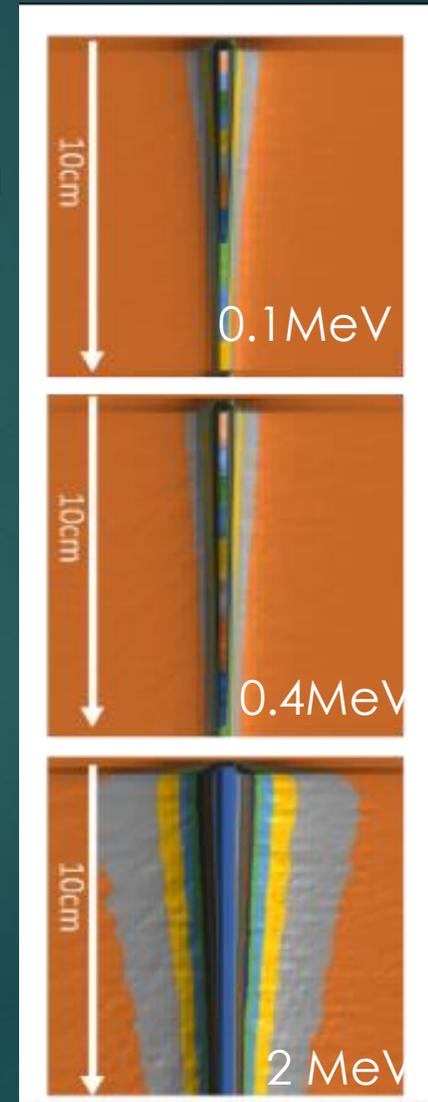
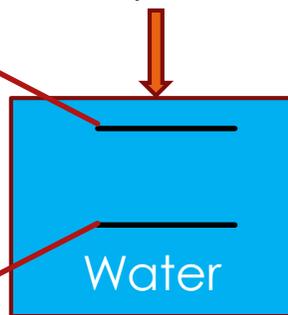
# Penumbra size: What is the smallest treatment field?



- ▶ M Carlo Simulation
- ▶ Lower energy, smaller penumbra



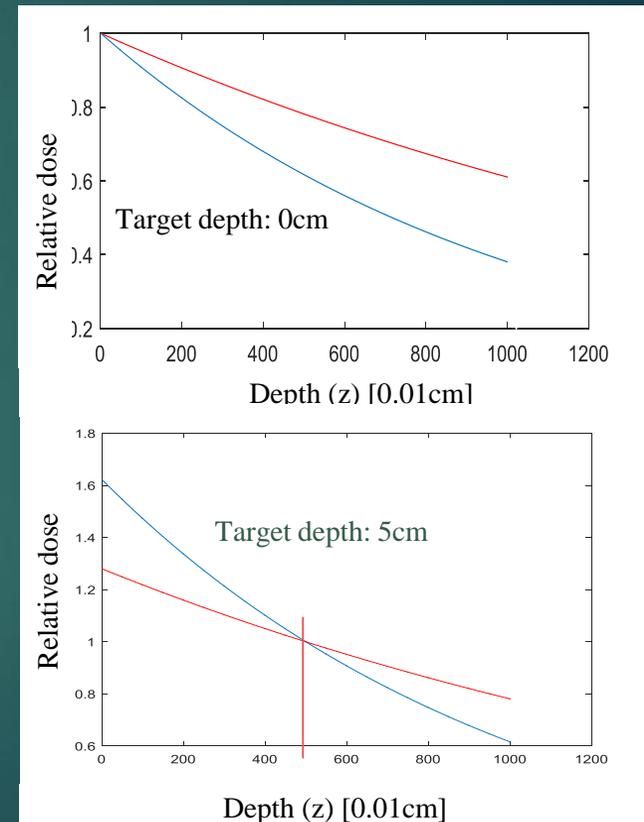
10 micron photon source



# Tradeoffs involved with selecting the most appropriate photon source (2)

## Penetration

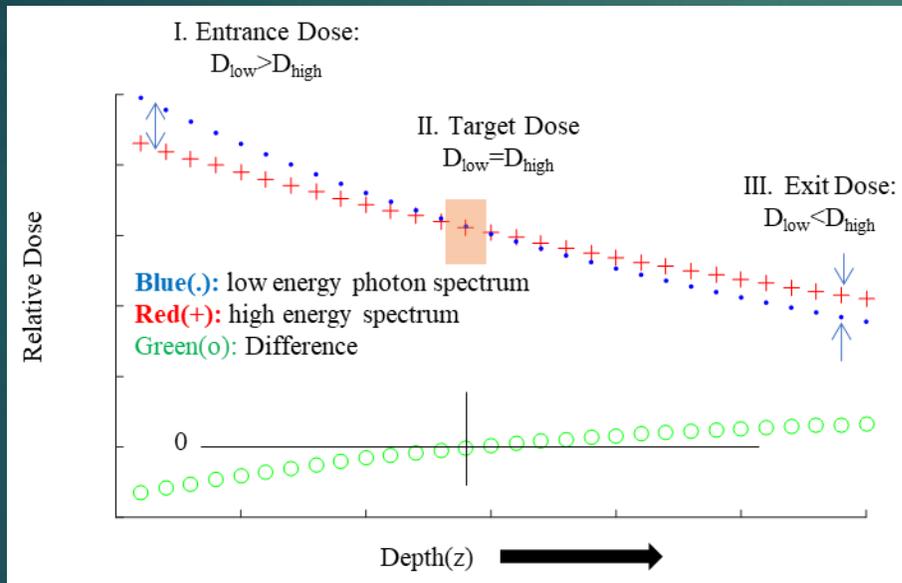
- ▶ To obtain the same dose at depth, the less penetrating requires large dose at shallower depths and less at deeper depths
- ▶ Hence, lower energy beams will have greater skin dose but would have less exit dose.
- ▶ Blending high and low energy photon spectrum has been used with multi-energy radiotherapy LINACS to optimize beam's penetration into normal tissues and control skin dose
- ▶ In general, increasing beam energy also increases the beam's penetration



# Ideal penetration to minimize patient dose, function of target depth

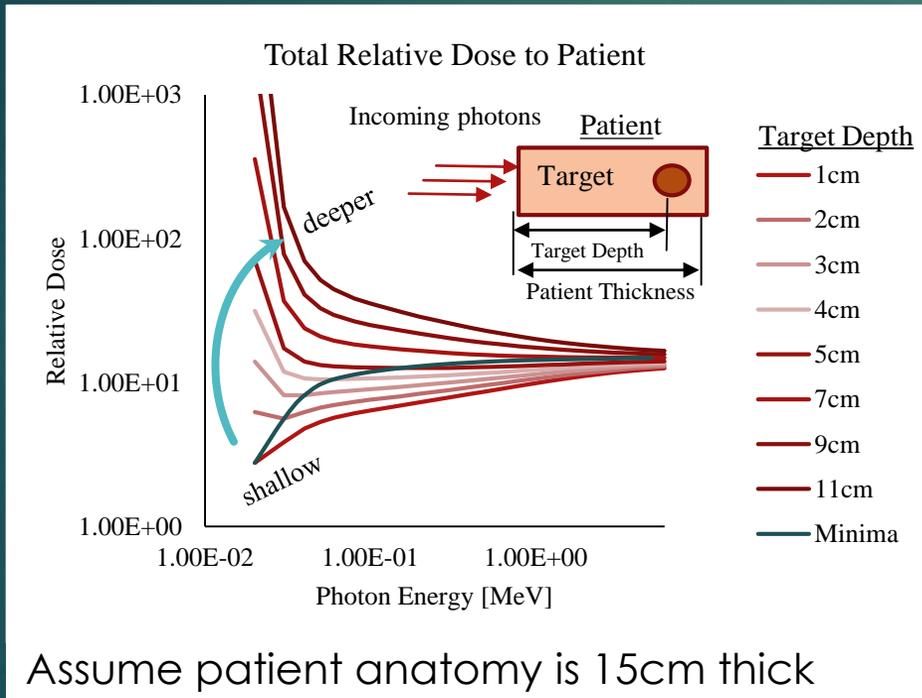
## Dose at depth

- Relationship of the dose at depth



$$D(\mu(h\nu), z)_{CPE} = \frac{\mu(h\nu)_{en}}{\rho} \cdot h\nu \cdot \varphi_o \cdot \exp(\mu(h\nu) \cdot (z - z_{target}))$$

# Ideal photon energy to reduce total dose to patient



## Total dose to patient 1-D model

$$Dose \sim \frac{(\exp(\mu(h\nu) \cdot depth))}{\mu(h\nu)} \cdot (1 - \exp(-\mu(h\nu) \cdot thickness))$$

Energy

Target depth

Patient Thickness

$\mu(h\nu)$  can be found by using NIST values

# Tradeoffs: an opportunity to optimize

- ▶ Higher energy spectrums are more penetrating
  - ▶ (+) lower integral dose for deeper targets
  - ▶ (+) skin sparing
  - ▶ (-) broad penumbra
  - ▶ (-) larger exit dose
- ▶ Lower energy spectrums are less penetrating
  - ▶ (+) lower integral dose for shallow targets
  - ▶ (+) sharp penumbra
  - ▶ (-) large entrance dose

How can we get these tradeoffs compensate for each other?

# Optimization analogy(1):



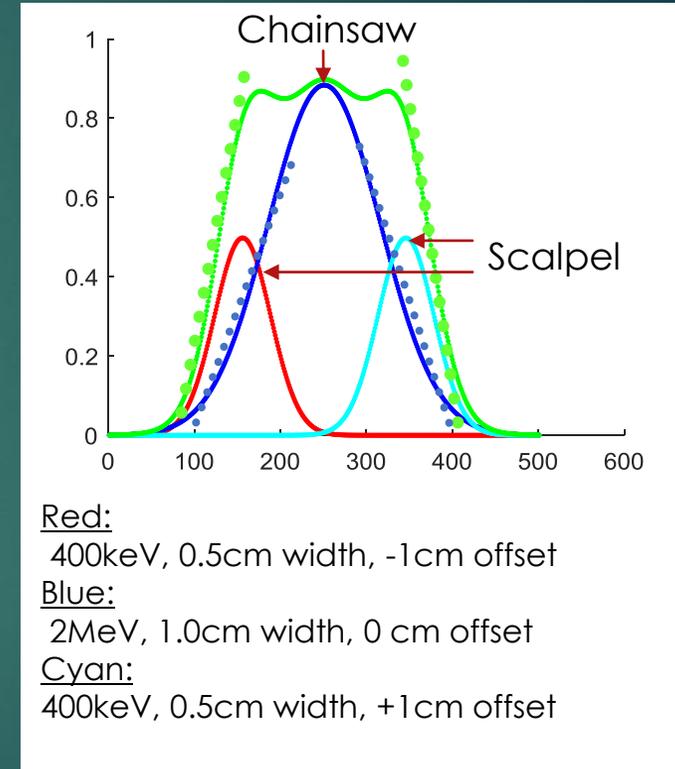
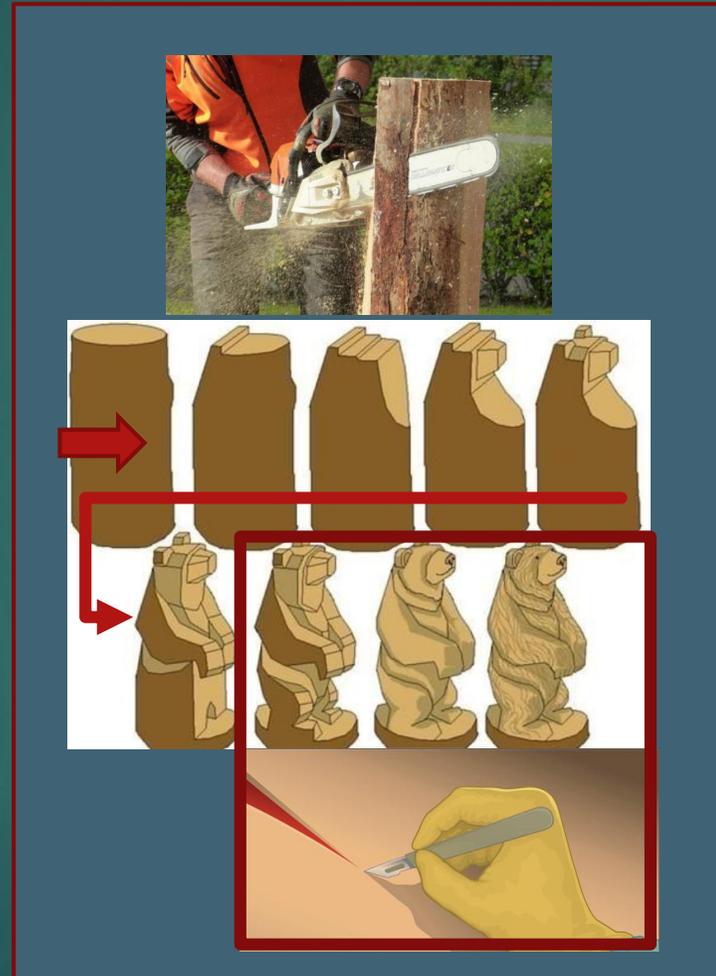
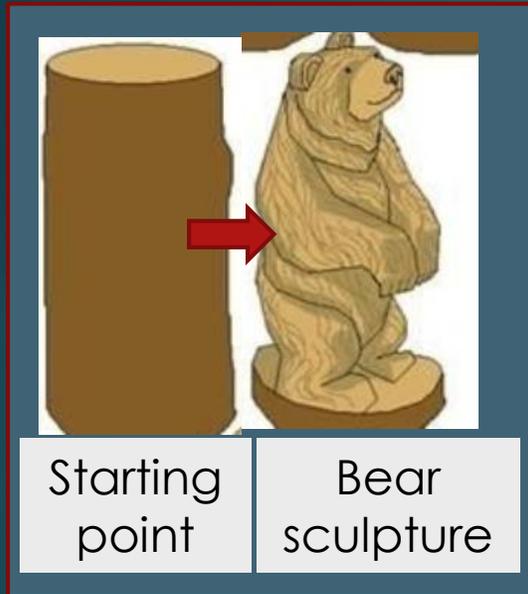
Sub- MV energy spectrum



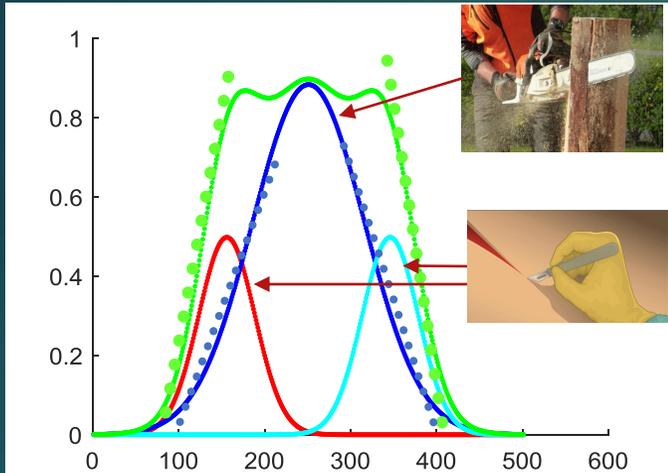
High energy spectrum

- ▶ Razor: very thin, limited penetration, make precise well thought out cuts that leaves neighboring tissues unharmed.
- ▶ Chain saw: relatively broad beam, made for efficiency and power
- ▶ Depending on the situation, you would want to have different tools
- ▶ The following discussion will use Gaussian distributions to approximate a small radiation field

# Optimization analogy(2):



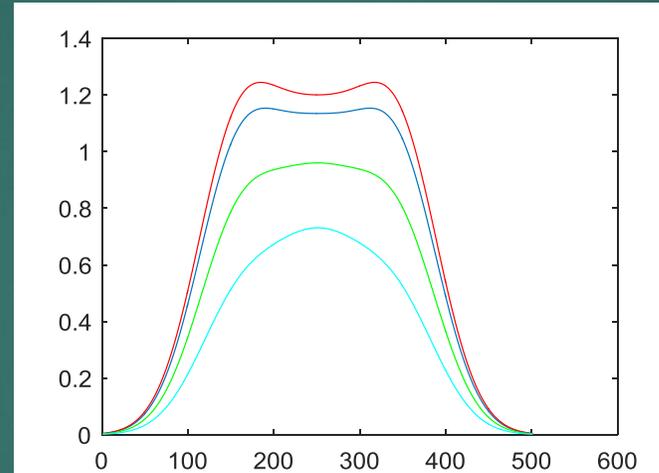
# Changing profile with depth



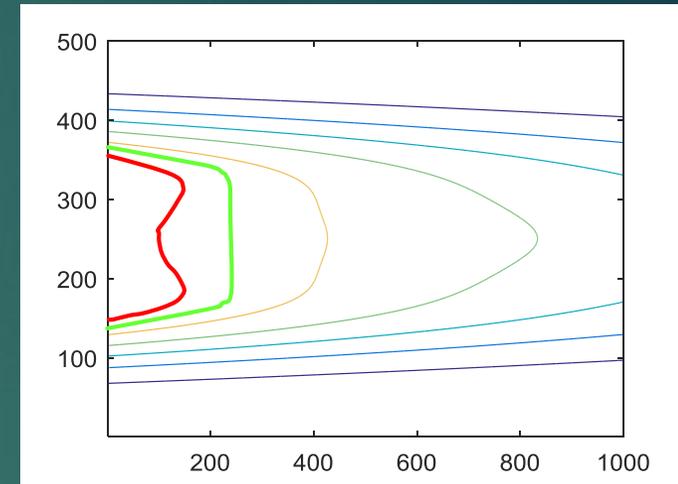
Red:  
400keV, 0.5cm width, -1cm offset

Blue:  
2MeV, 1.0cm width, 0 cm offset

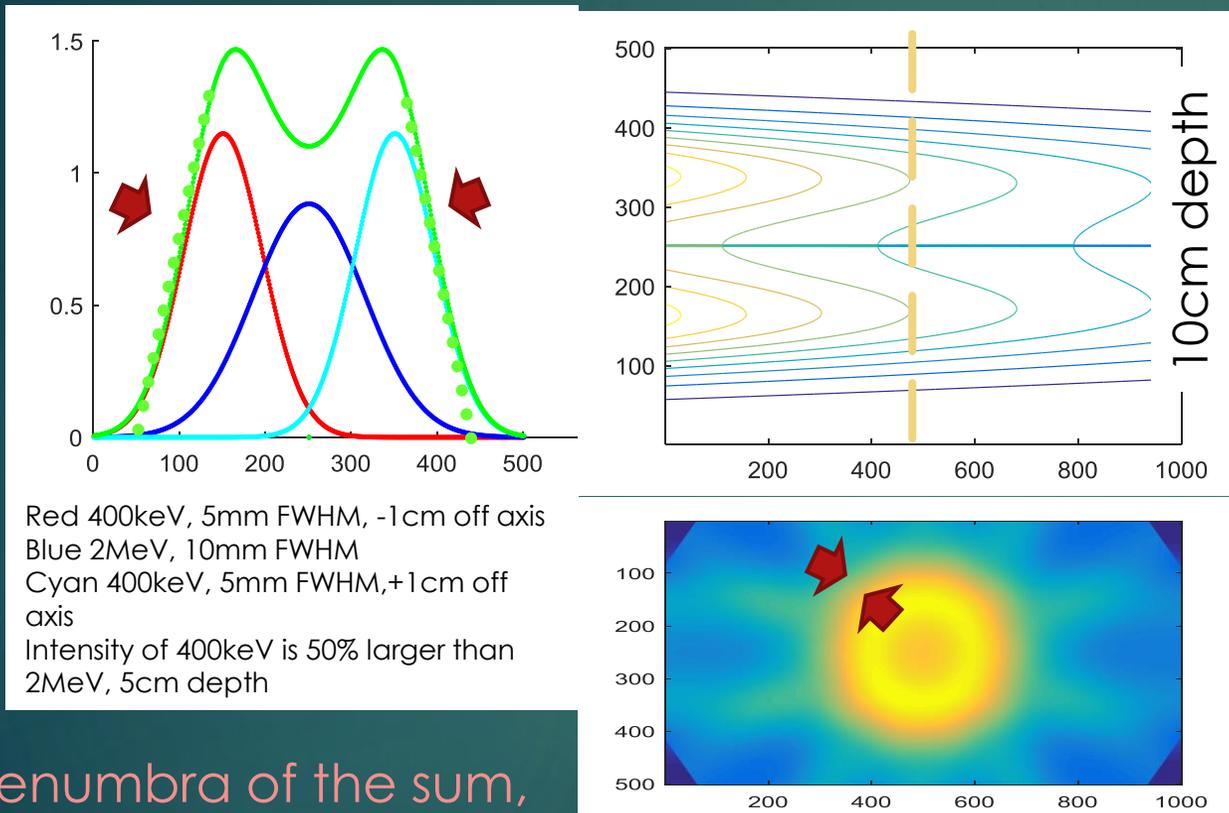
Cyan:  
400keV, 0.5cm width, +1cm offset



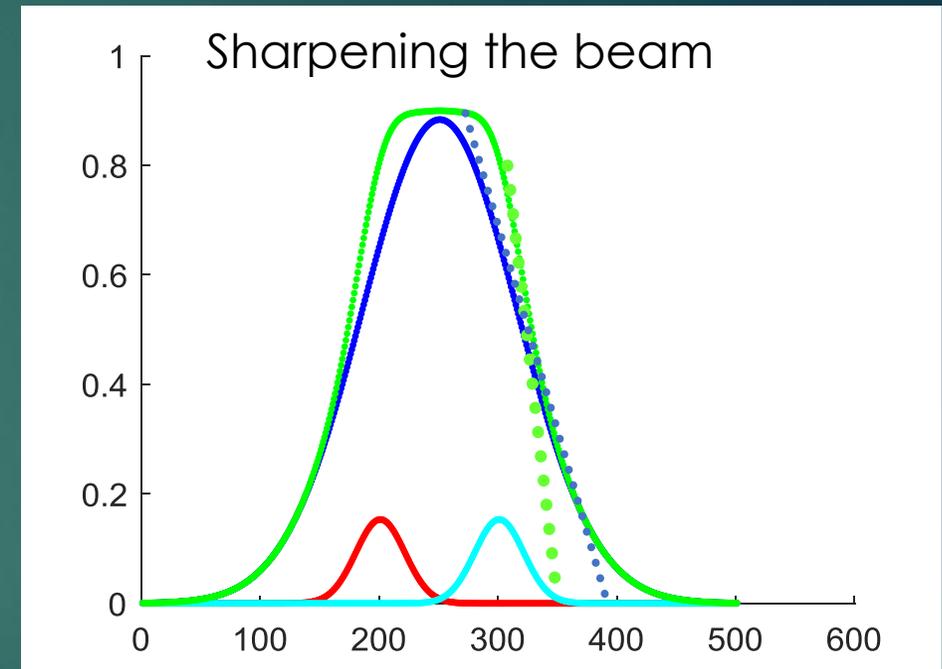
Red, depth = 1cm  
Blue, depth = 2cm  
Green, depth = 5cm  
Cyan, depth = 10cm



# Other considerations



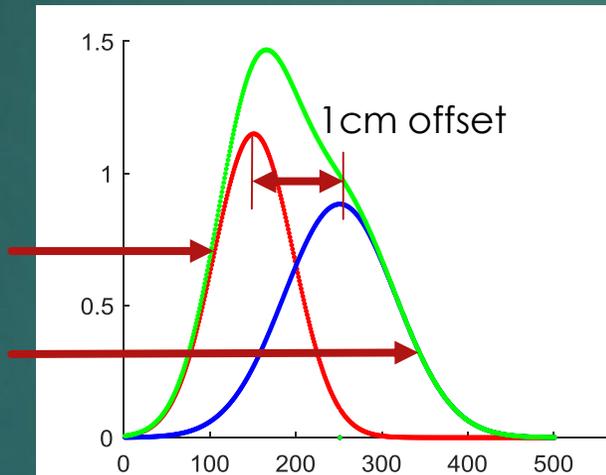
Penumbra of the sum,  
matches the penumbra  
of the thin beamlet



It doesn't take much to increase the  
dose gradient

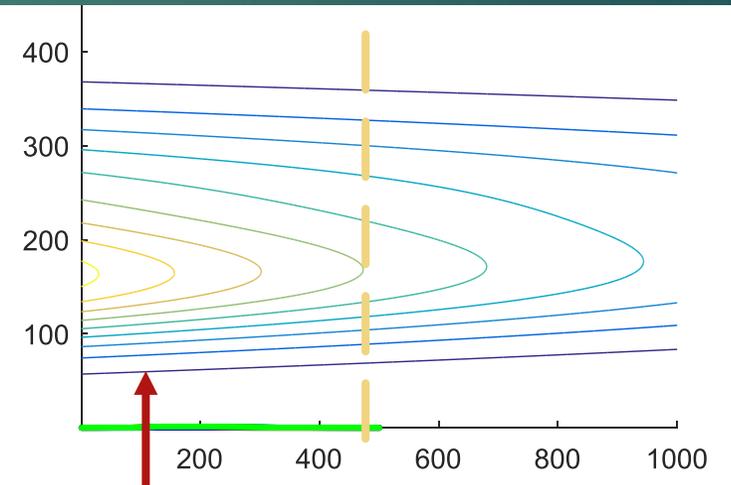
# We can now consider optimize weird dose distributions using different photon beams.

Far enough separation to match penumbra of the total dose



Red, 0.5 cm FWHM, 400 keV  
Blue, 1.0 cm FWHM, 2 MeV  
Green, sum

Intensity of 400keV is 50% larger than 2MeV, 5cm depth



Tight dose gradient

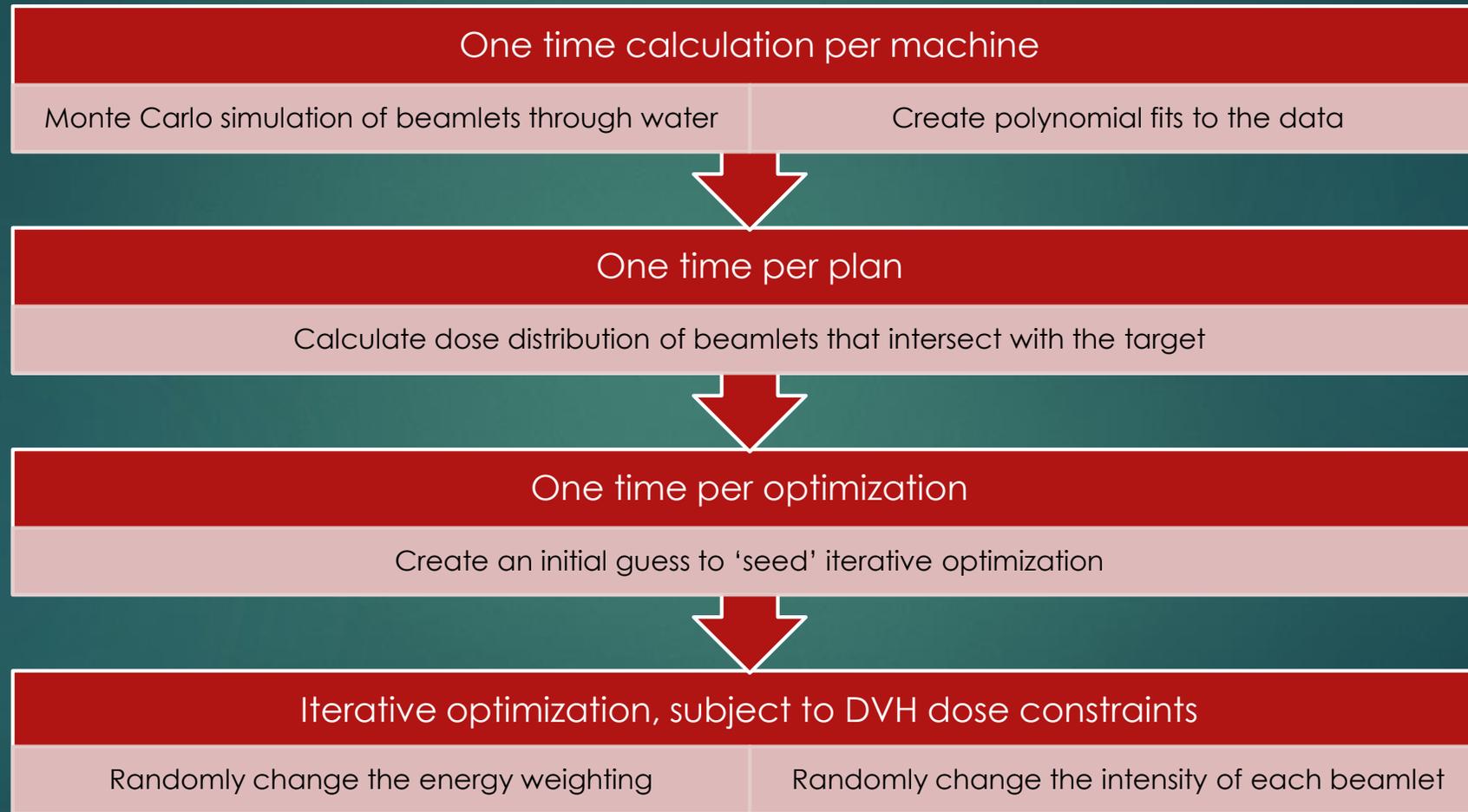
# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Initial work toward small field radiotherapy, approach
3. Energy modulation with sub-MV beams
4. Planning/optimization routine for energy modulation
5. Future Work

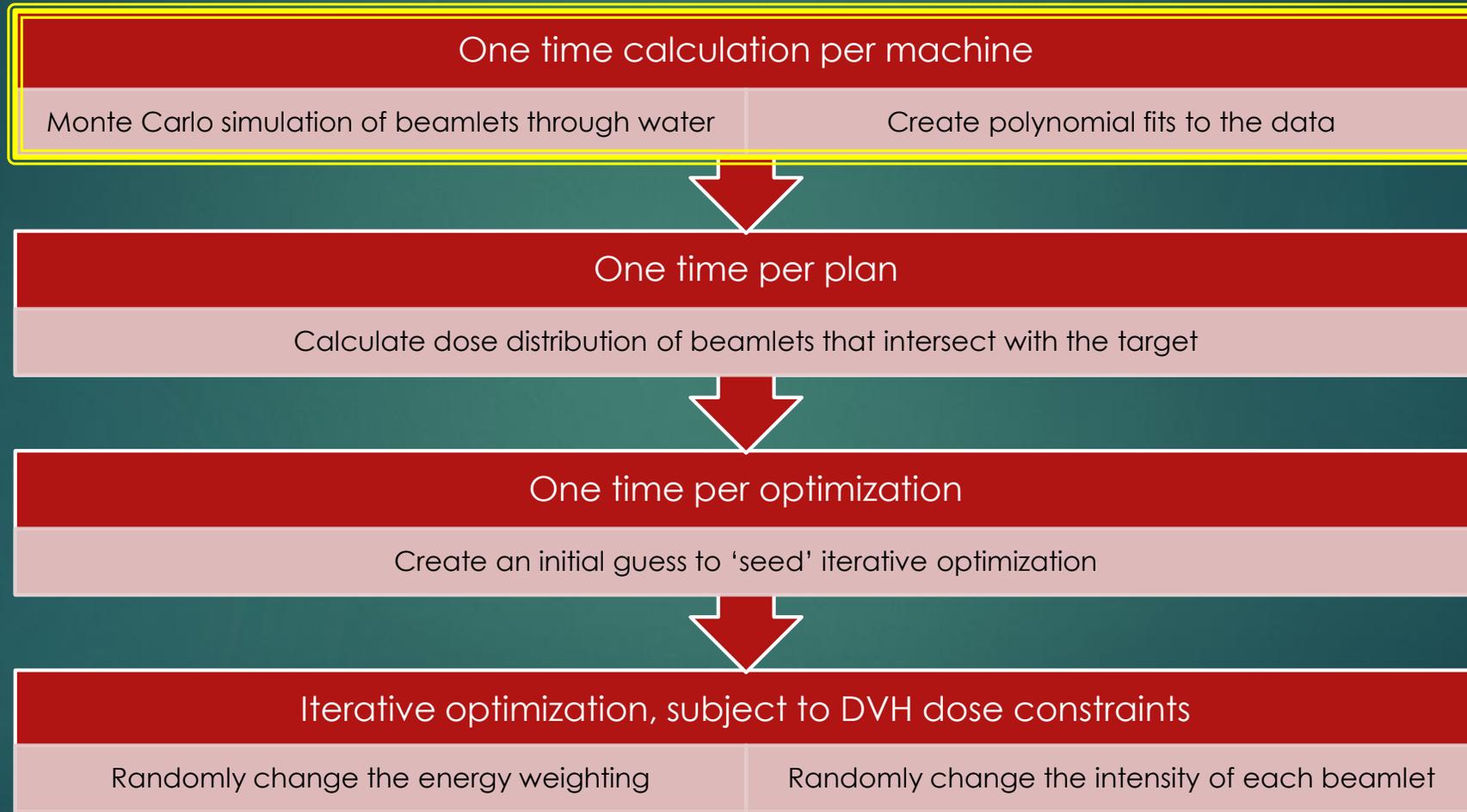
How can we use this in optimization  
process



# EMRT treatment planning

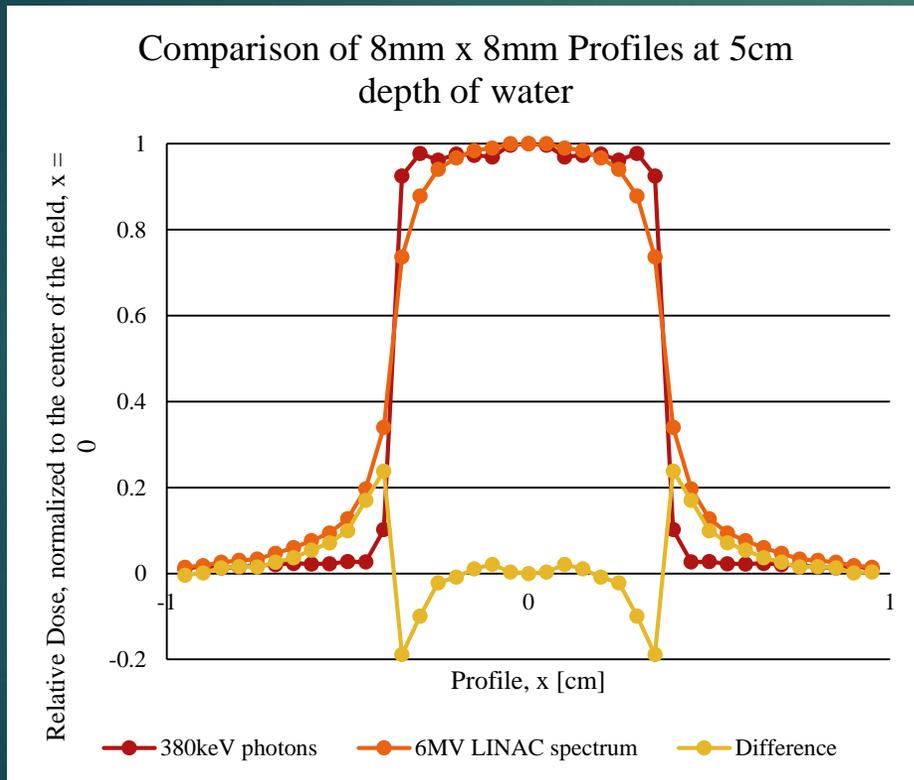


# EMRT treatment planning

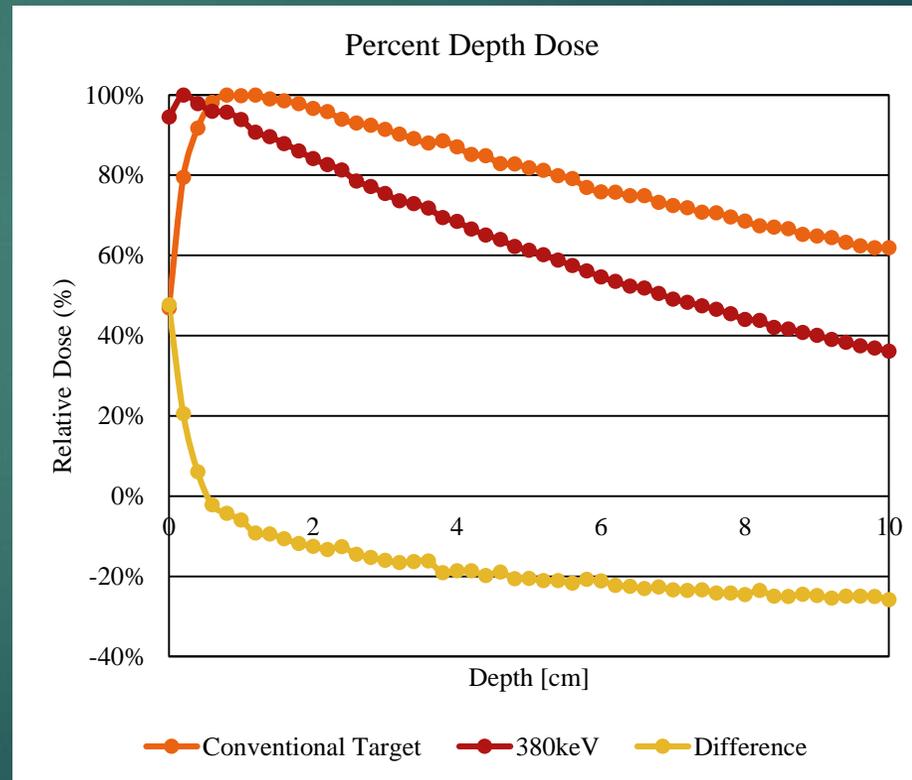


# Results of the MC

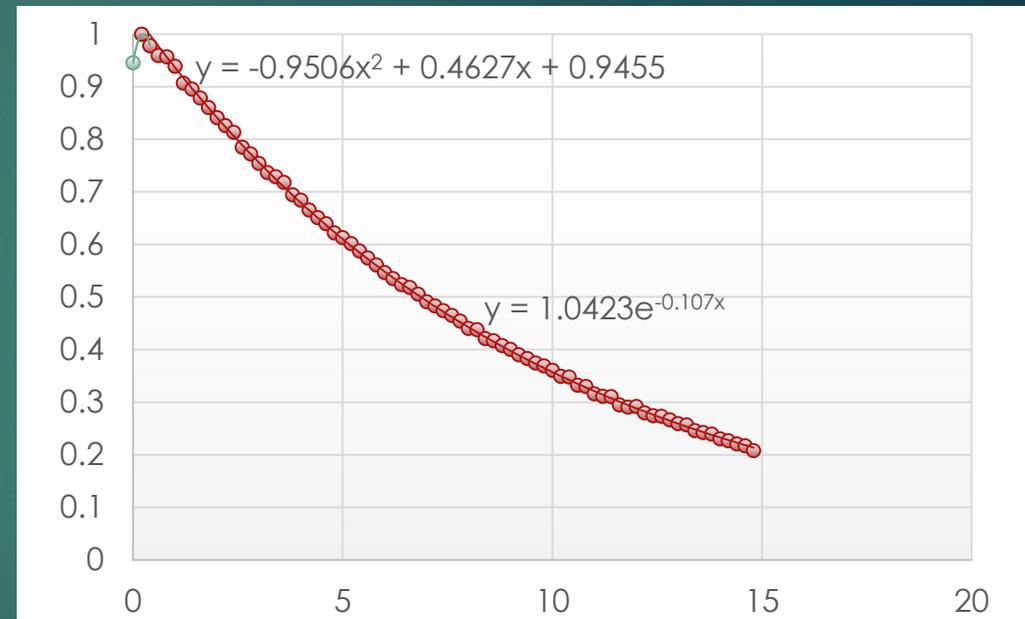
## Profile



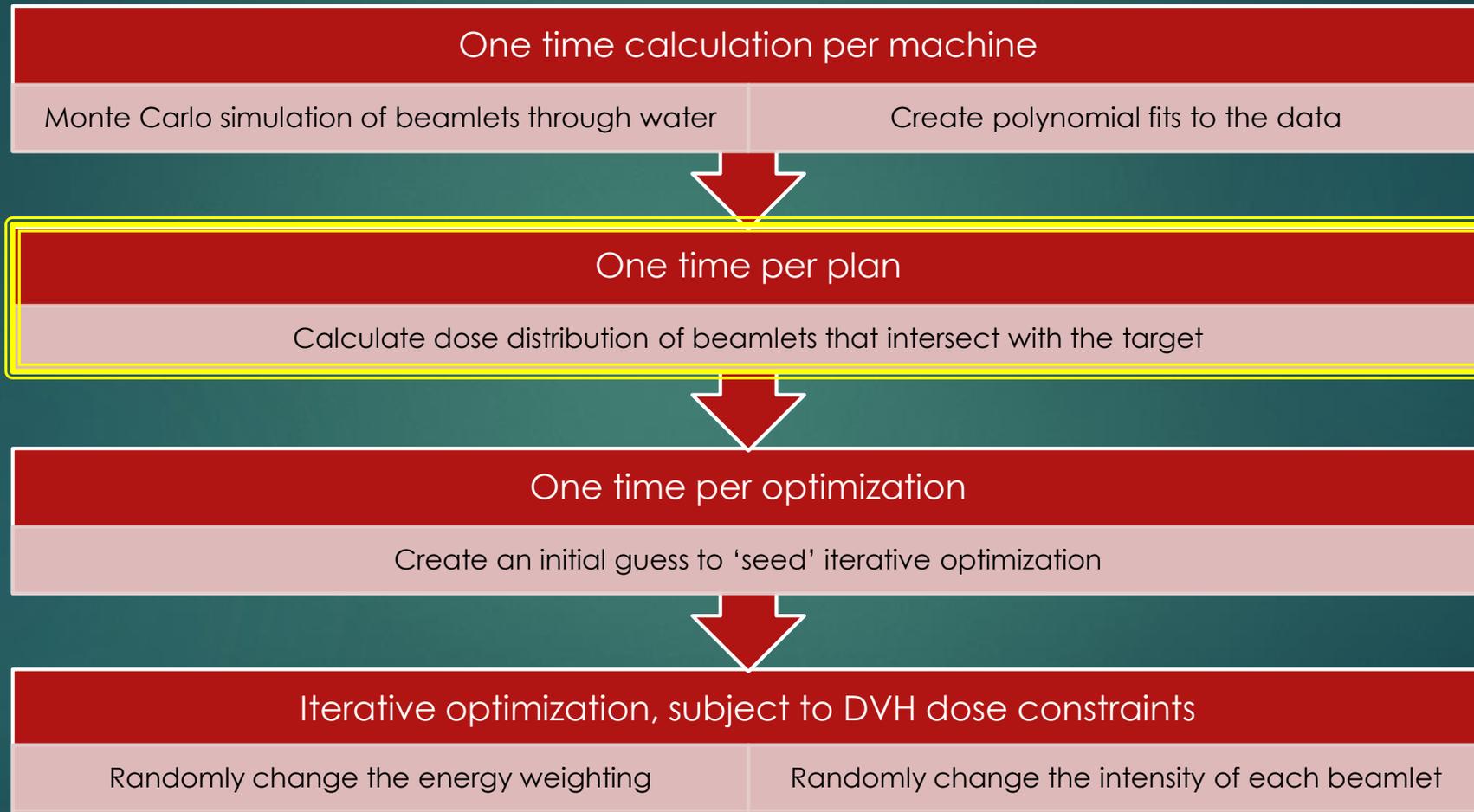
## Depth dose



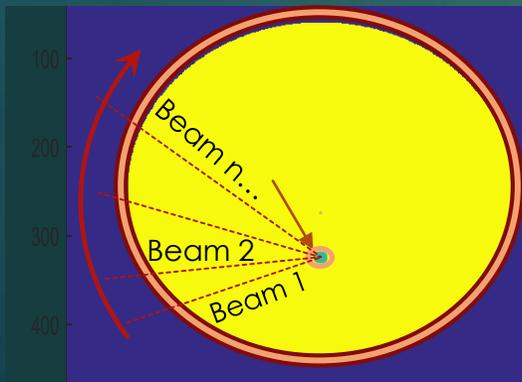
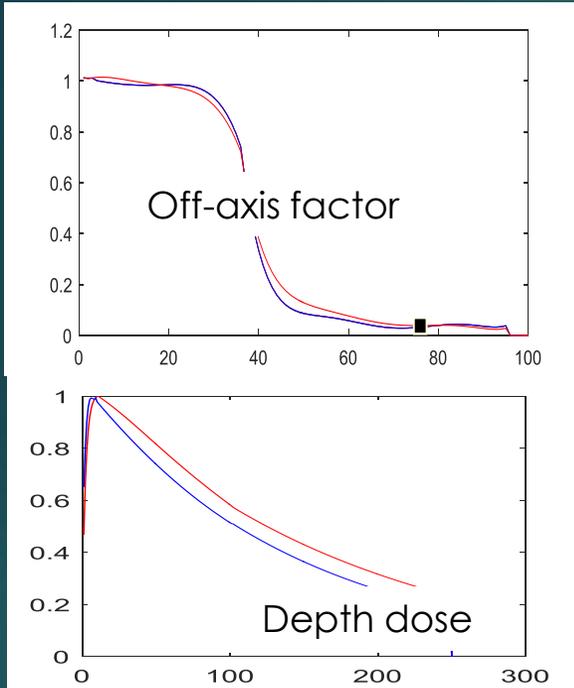
# Generate piece-wise polynomial fit for each data set



# EMRT treatment planning



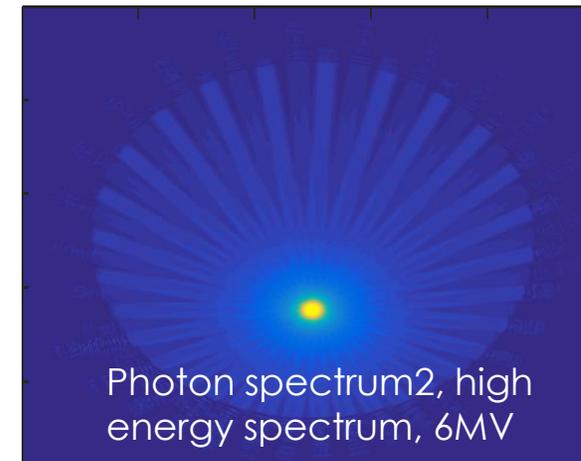
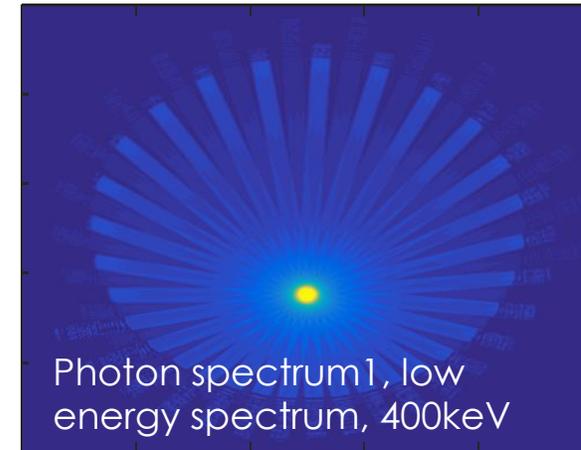
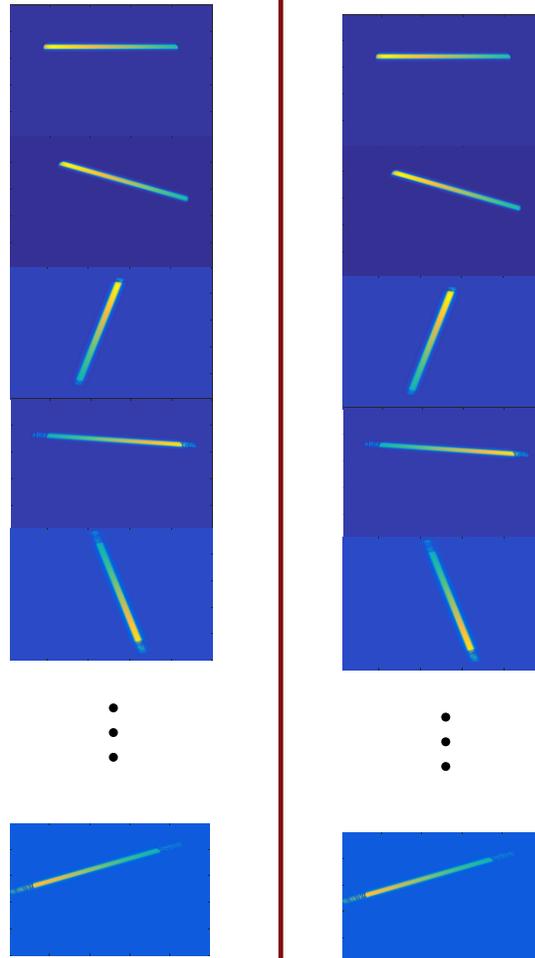
# Patient beamlet calculation



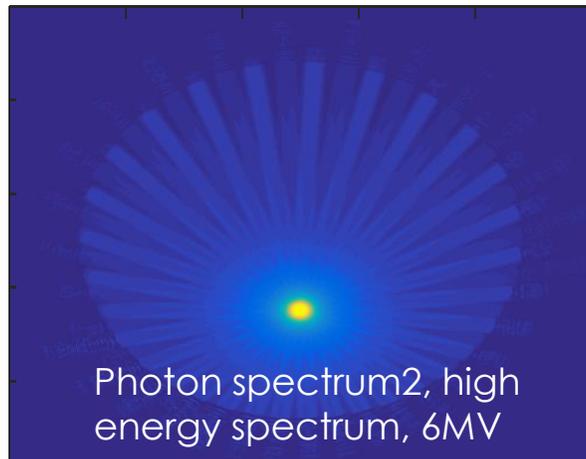
## Dose calculation per beam

Photon spectrum 1

Photon spectrum 2



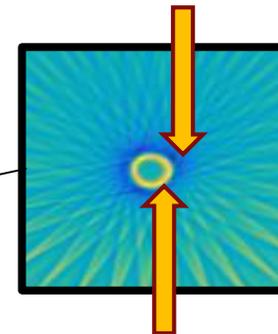
# Comparison



More dose with 400keV



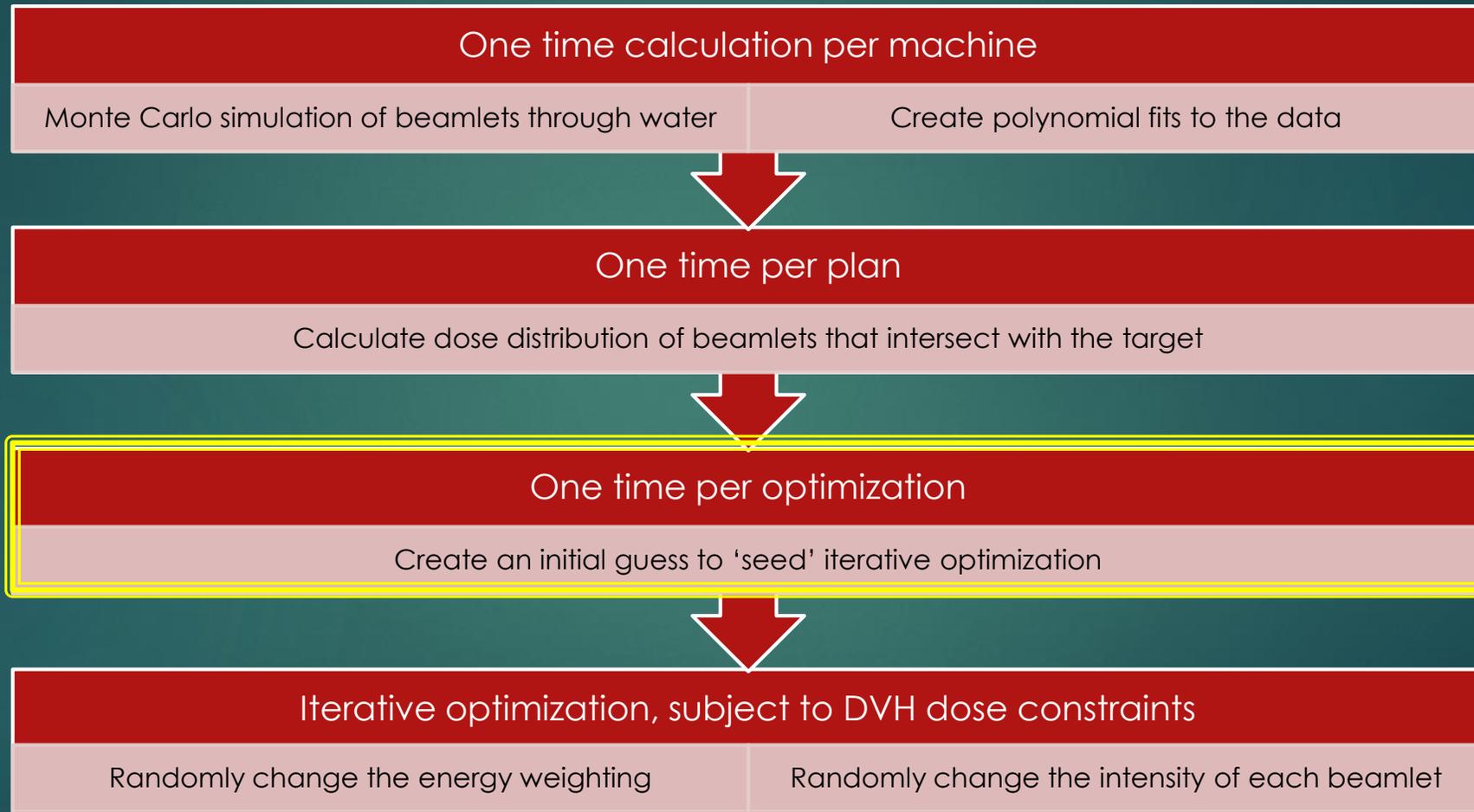
Less dose with 400keV



400keV - 6MV

More dose with 400keV

# EMRT treatment planning



# Initial guess

- ▶ The better the initial guess, the faster and better the plan will become
- ▶ Options:
  - ▶ 1.) set all intensity to a uniform value
  - ▶ 2.) set all intensities to random number to the relative intensity
  - ▶ 3.) Use built-in “nonnegative least-squares” routine:

**lsqnonneg**  
Solve nonnegative least-squares constraints problem

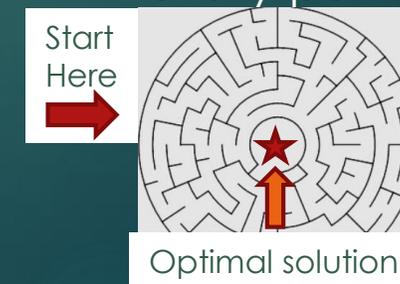
**Equation**  
Solves nonnegative least-squares curve fitting problems of the form

$$\min_x \|C \cdot x - d\|_2^2, \text{ where } x \geq 0.$$

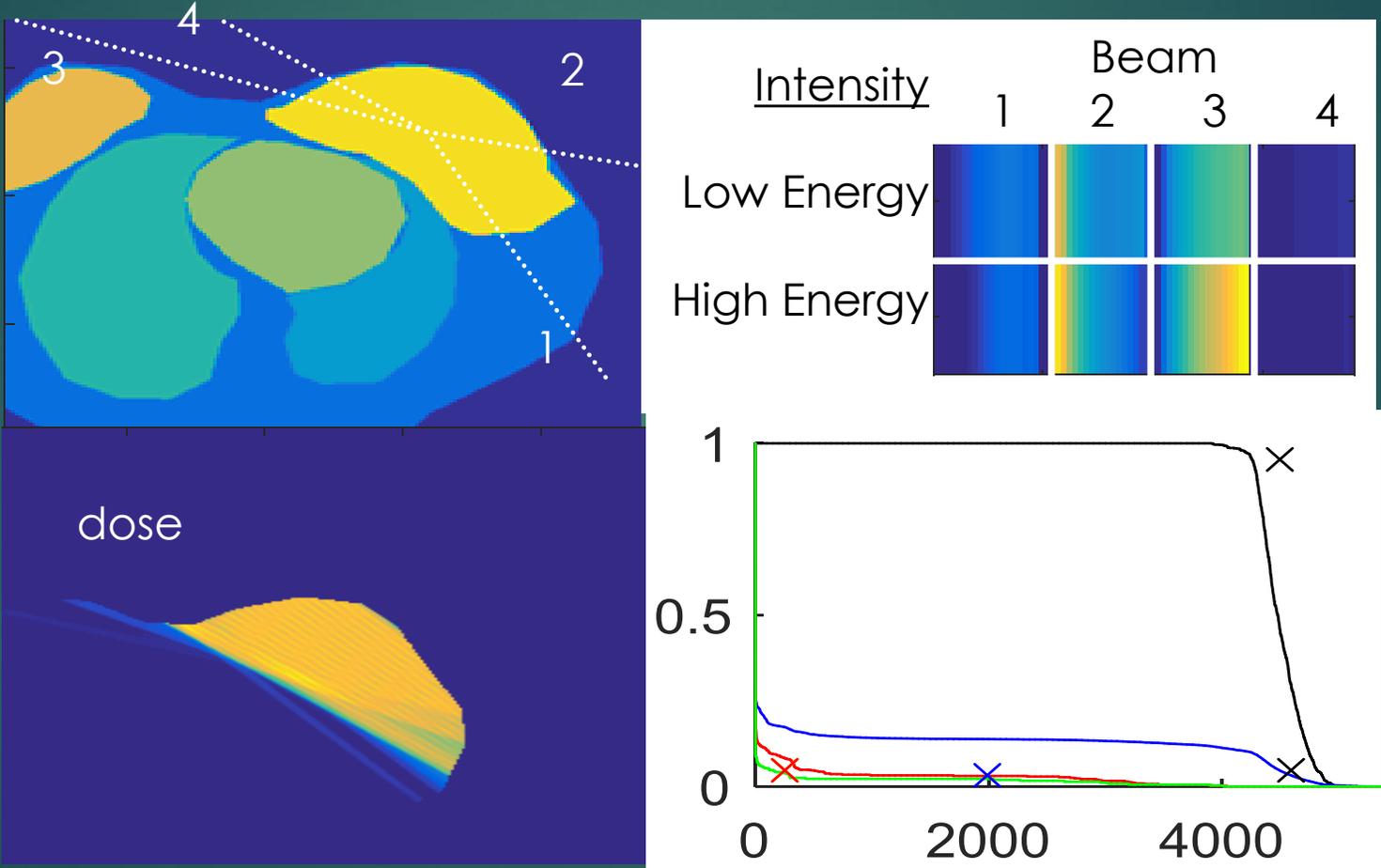
Less sophisticated starting point,  
more complicated route to  
optimal intensity pattern



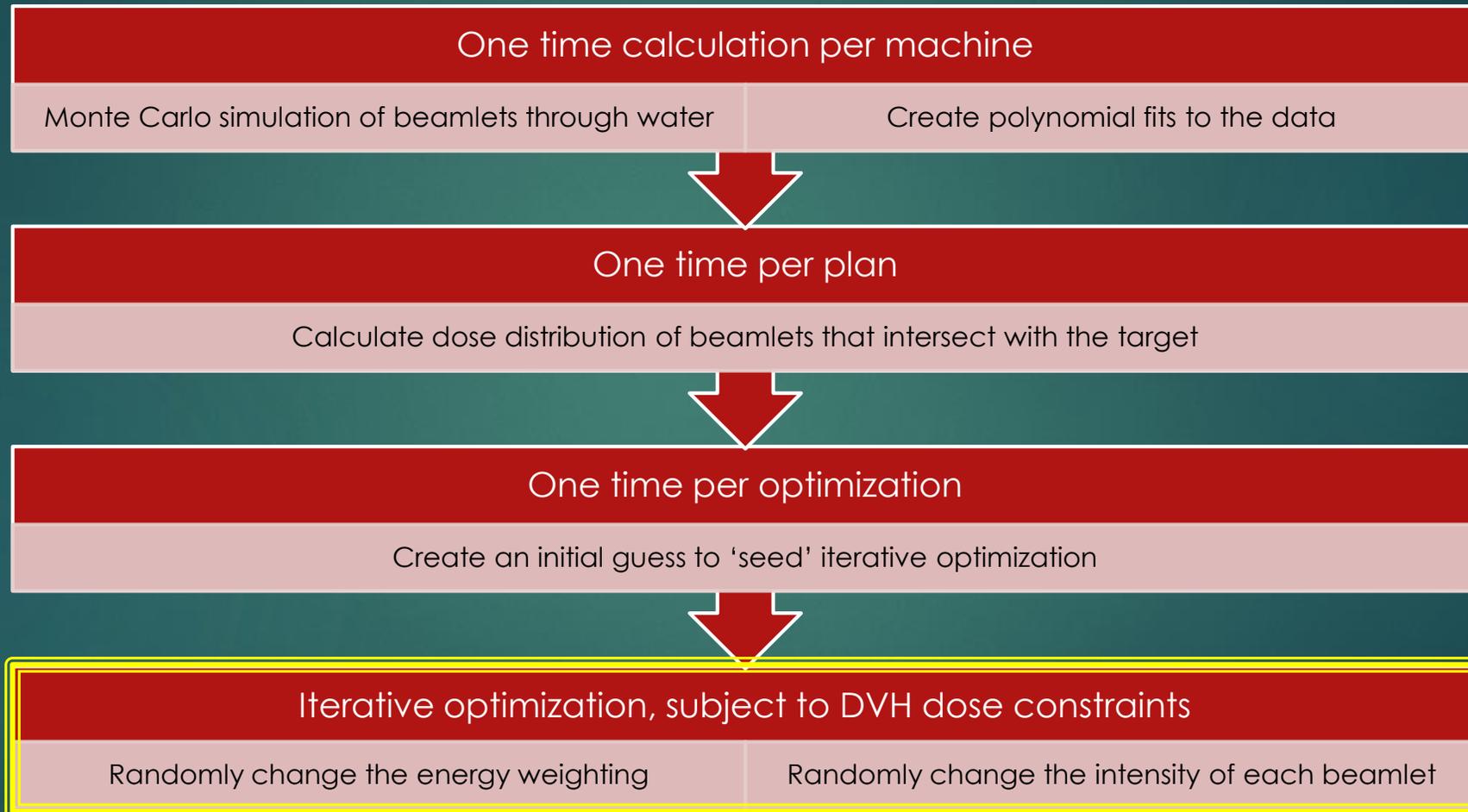
More sophisticated starting point,  
less complicated route to optimal  
intensity pattern



# Initial Guess using Matlab's non-negative least squares(1)



# EMRT treatment planning



# Iteration Step 1, Vary Energy Weight per angle

1. Calculate dose volume histograms,  $DVHn(\text{volume}, \text{dose})$ , for each type of structures,  $n$ , on the current iterations' dose distribution

2. Calculate least squares (LSQ) on the dose volume histogram values of materials,  $n$   $DVHn(\text{volume}, \text{dose})$ :

$$LSQ_o = \sum_{Structures,n} \left( \sum_{Constraints,i} k_i \cdot (DVHn(\text{volume}, \text{dose})_{desired,i} - DVHn(\text{volume}, \text{dose})_{actual})^2 \right)$$

3. Find a percentage to change the relative weight of beam **Keep the same total intensity but exchange a certain percentage for low and high energy spectrums**

$$\Delta w[\%] = \text{random}(0 \rightarrow 1)$$

4. For each angle/beam change the weighting of the low energy verses high energy

$$\begin{aligned} Intensity'_{low} &= Intensity_{o,low} \cdot (1 - \Delta w) \\ Intensity'_{high} &= Intensity_{o,high} \cdot (1 + \Delta w) \end{aligned}$$

Evaluates the benefits of increasing the contribution of the **higher** energy spectra for the given beamlet.

5. Calculated dose from the new beam intensity distribution.

6. Calculate new dose volume histogram

7. Calculate new LSQ' for new distribution

8. If  $LSQ' < LSQ_o$ , keep new intensity distribution

--- Repeat steps 1-8 but now multiply  $\Delta w$  by (-)1, effectively reversing the change in the weighting

Evaluates the benefits of increasing the contribution of the **lower** energy spectra for the given beamlet.

# Iteration Step 2, Vary Energy Weight per angle

1. Calculate dose volume histograms,  $DVH_n(\text{volume}, \text{dose})$ , for each type of structures,  $n$ , on the current iterations' dose distribution

2. Calculate least squares (LSQ) on the dose volume histogram values of materials,  $n$   $DVH_n(\text{volume}, \text{dose})$ :

$$LSQ_o = \sum_{\text{Structures}, n} \left( \sum_{\text{Constraints}, i} k_i \cdot (DVH_n(\text{volume}, \text{dose})_{\text{desired}, i} - DVH_n(\text{volume}, \text{dose})_{\text{actual}})^2 \right)$$

3. Find a percentage to change the relative weight of beam

$$\Delta w[\%] = \text{random}(0 \rightarrow 1)$$

4. For each a given angle/energy change the Intensity:weighting of the low energy verses high energy

$$\text{Intensity}'_{\text{low or high}} = \text{Intensity}_o \cdot (1 - \Delta w)$$

5. Calculated dose from the new beam intensity distribution.

6. Calculate new dose volume histogram

7. Calculate new LSQ' for new distribution

8. If  $LSQ' < LSQ_o$ , keep new intensity distribution

--- Repeat steps 1-8 but now multiply  $\Delta w$  by  $(-)$ 1, effectively reversing the change in the weighting

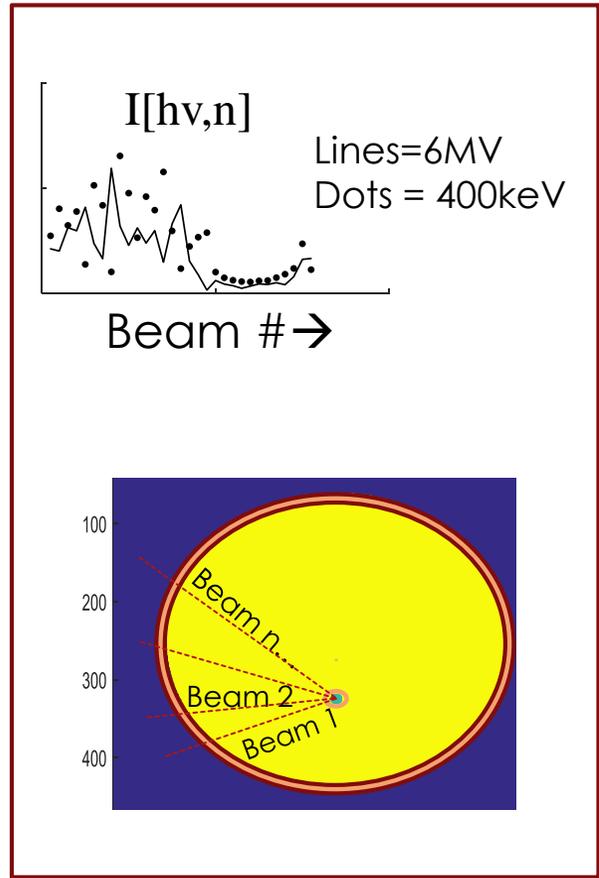
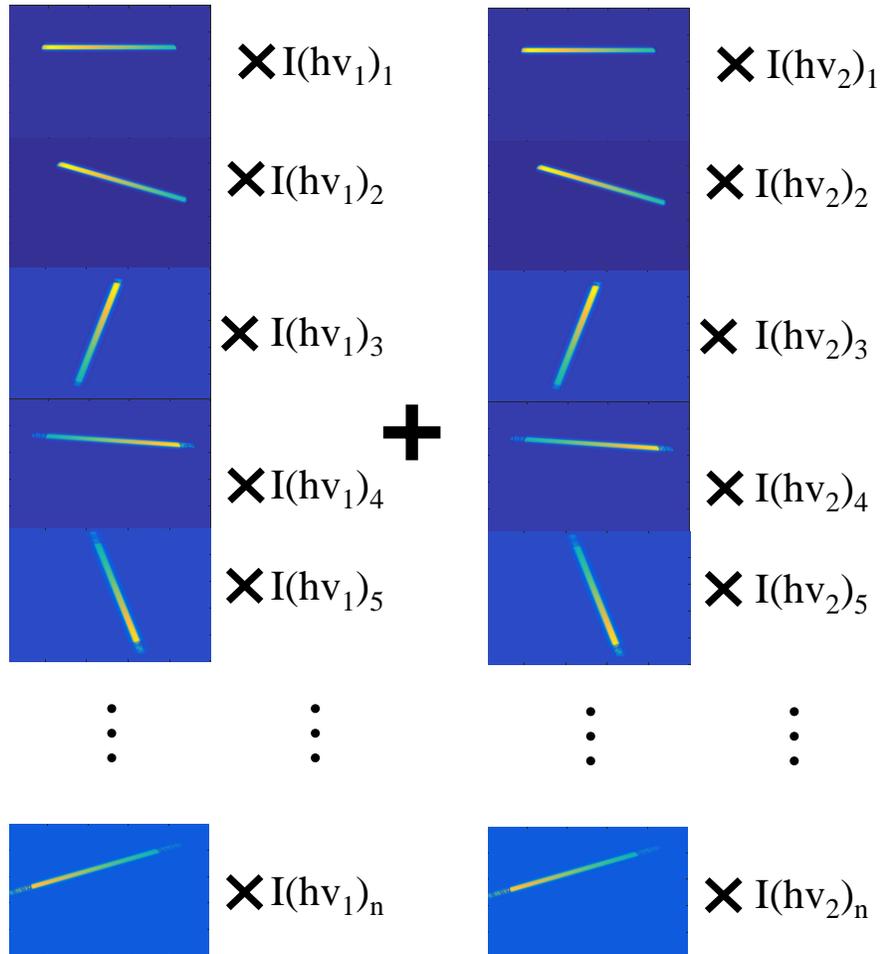
**Changes the total intensity of the beam at that angle,  
regardless of which energy is being used**

GOAL: Find intensity distribution,  $I[h\nu, n]$ , to meet dose constraints

Dose calculation per beam

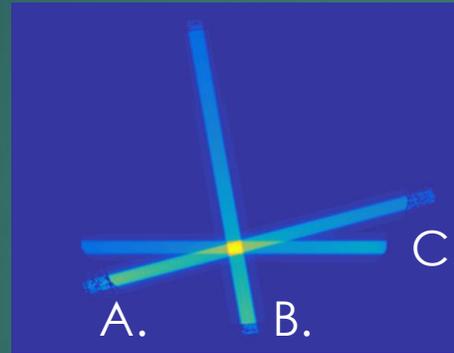
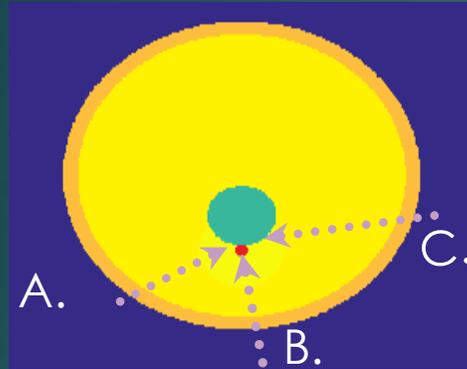
Photon spectrum 1

Photon spectrum 2

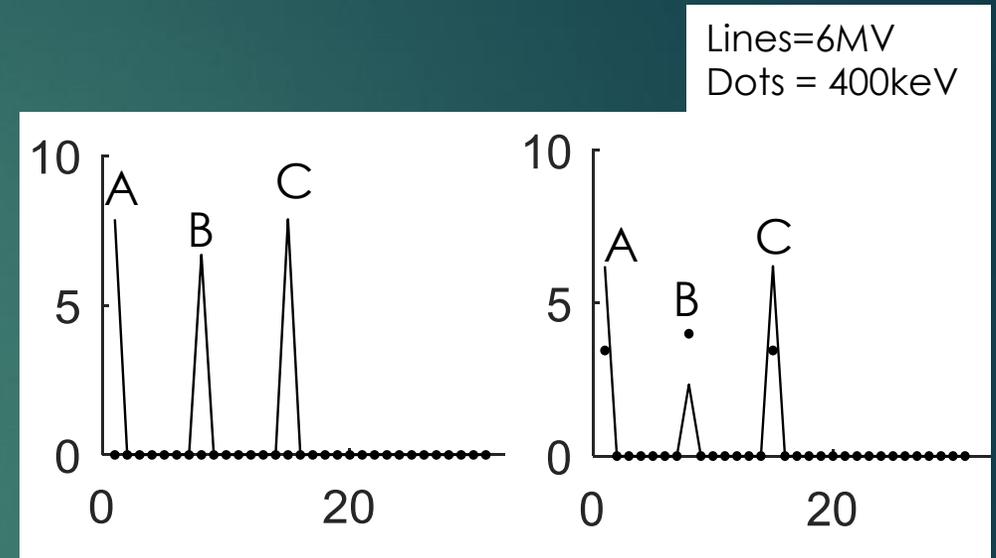


# Simple multi-energy plan(1)

Step 1: calc dose per angle for each energy

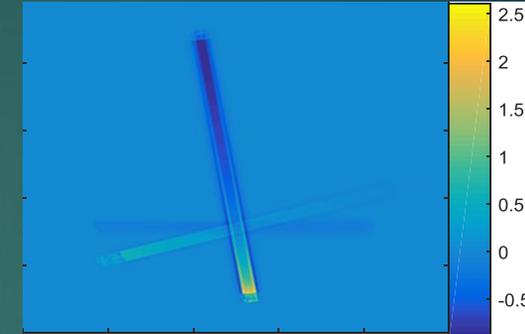
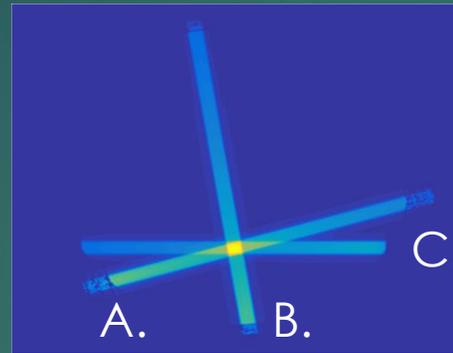
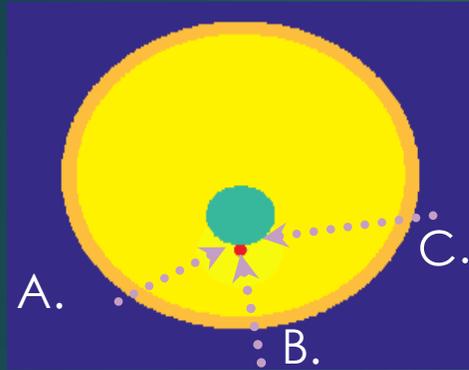


- ▶ Red, 8mm diameter target
- ▶ Green, avoidance structure
- ▶ Orange, 5mm skin surface contour
- ▶ Yellow, other tissue



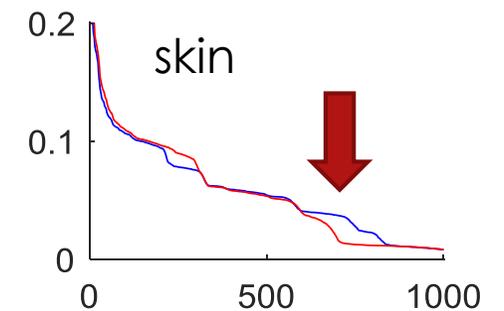
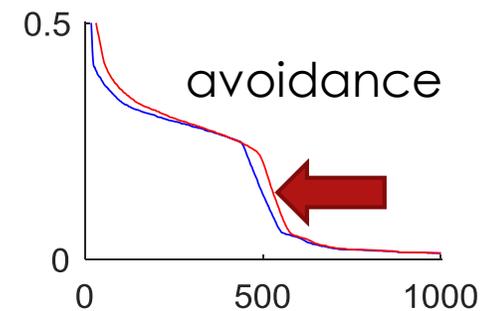
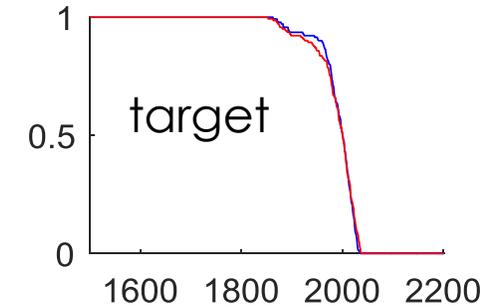
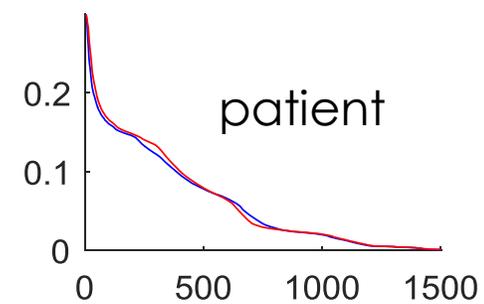
- ▶ Depth of target for beams B and C are equal
- ▶ Depth of target for A is shallower
- ▶ Hence to give equal contribution for each field, require more intensity from the laterals
- ▶ Send to inverse optimizer to find the most ideal intensity for each beam

# Simple multi-energy plan(2)



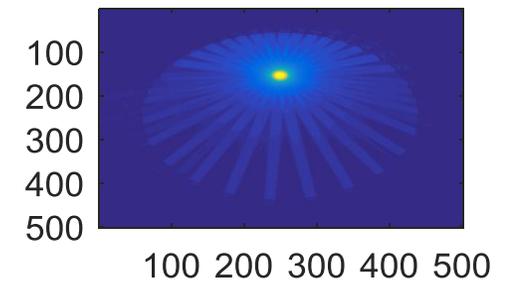
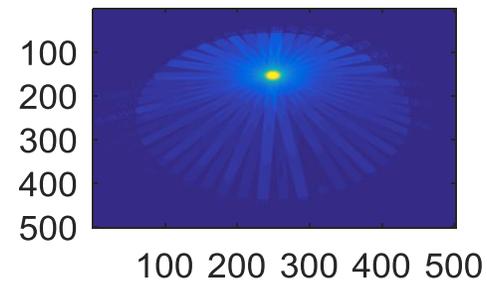
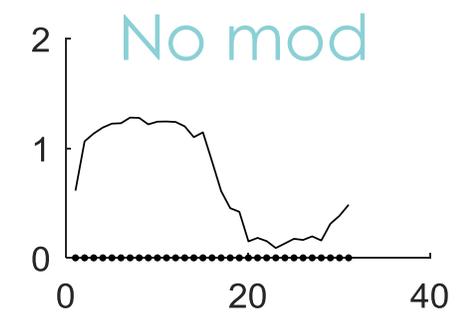
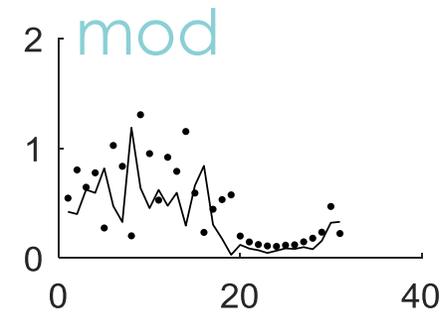
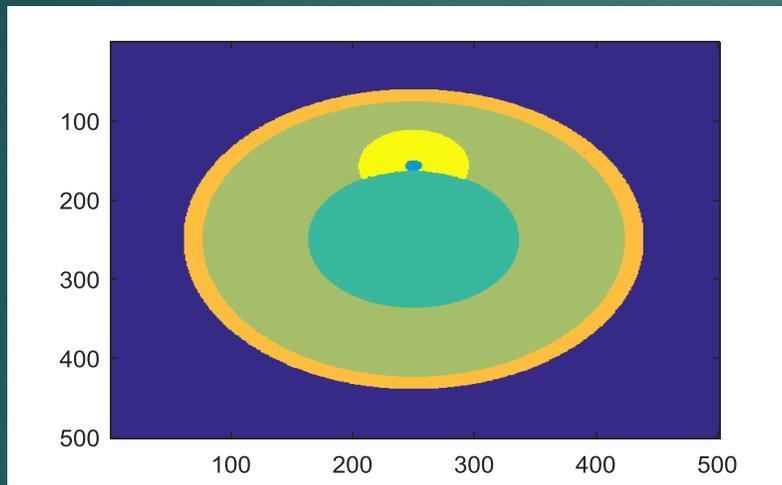
- ▶ Red, 8mm diameter target
- ▶ Green, avoidance structure
- ▶ Orange, 5mm skin surface contour
- ▶ Yellow, other tissue

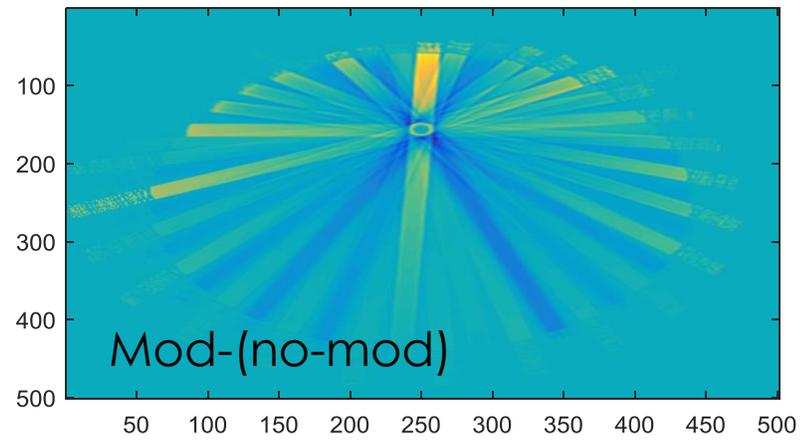
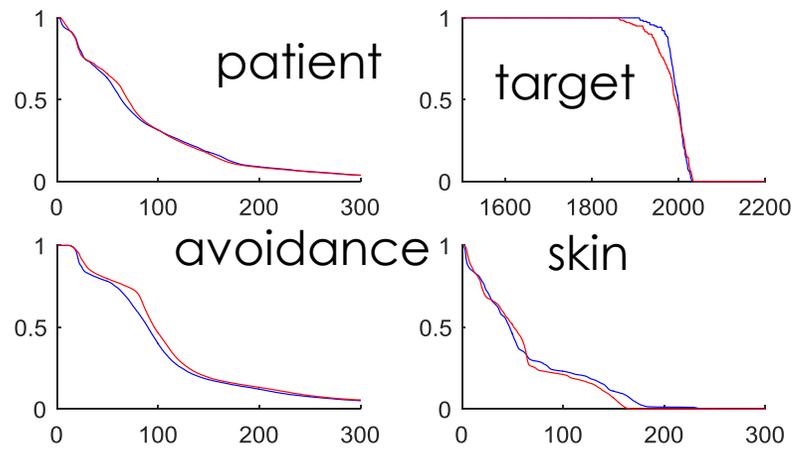
- ▶ Depth of target for beams B and C are equal
- ▶ Depth of target for A is shallower
- ▶ Send to inverse optimizer to find the most ideal intensity for each beam



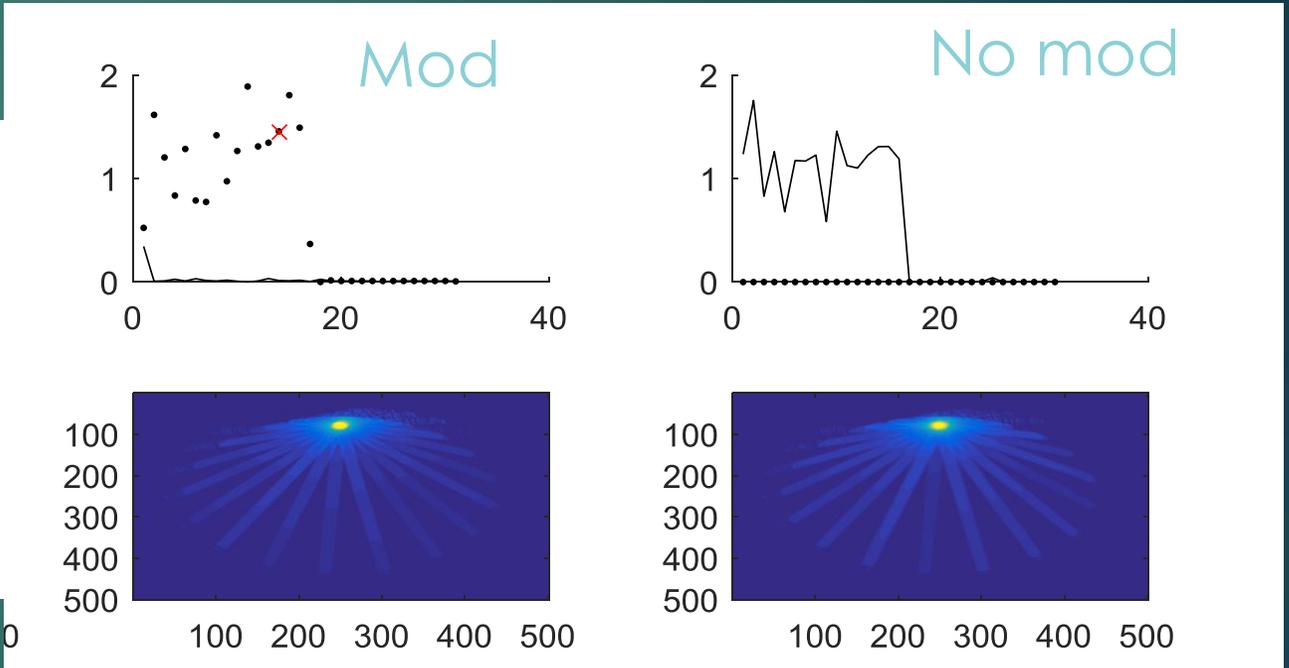
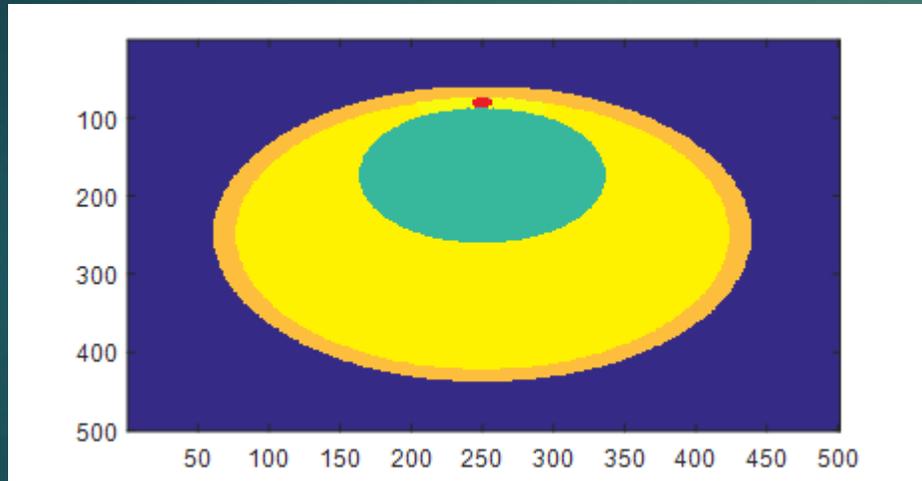
# Example 1

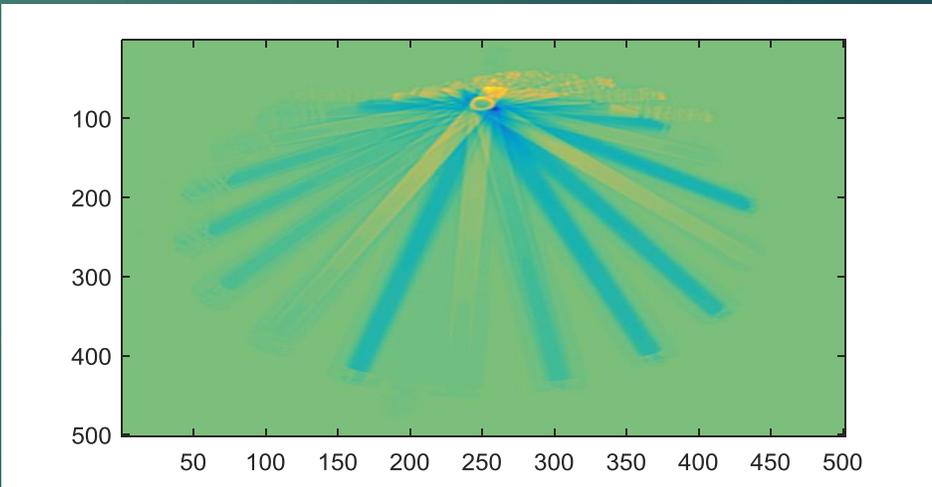
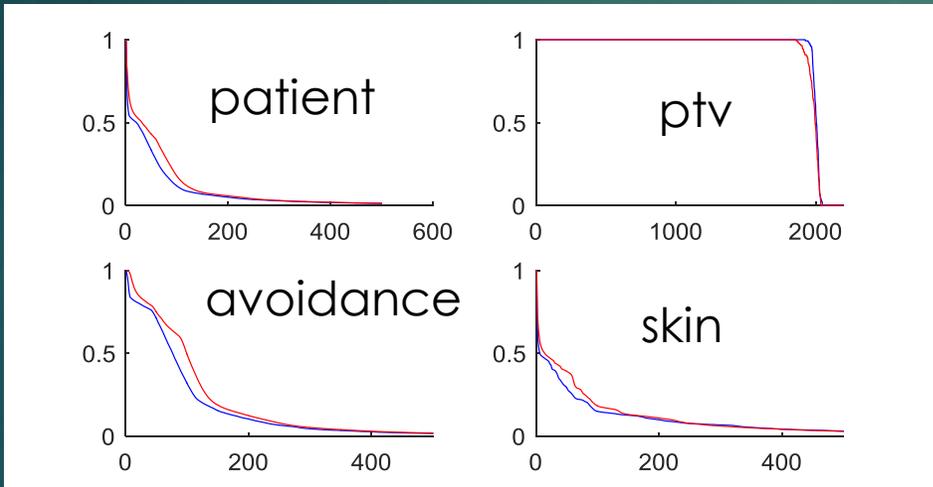
Lines=6MV  
Dots = 400keV





# Example2





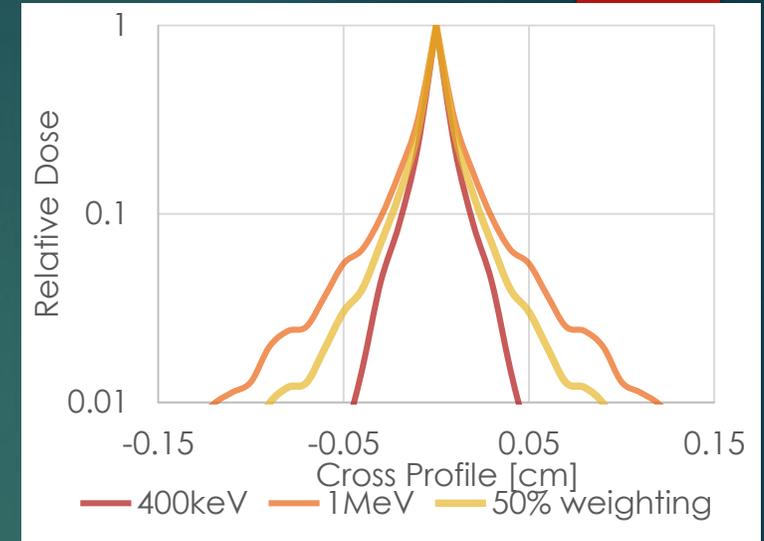
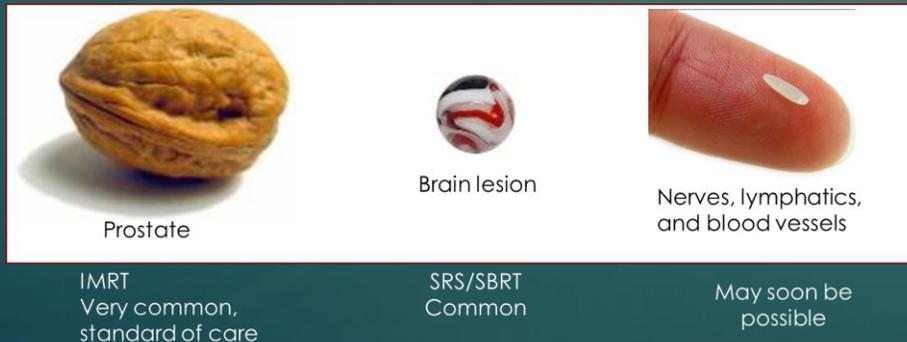
- ▶ Blue mod
- ▶ Red no mod

# Lessons learned thus far...

- ▶ 400keV is used more than 6MV when target is close to the surface
- ▶ Some of the changes are not yet significant, reasons:
  - ▶ Insufficient resolution
  - ▶ Geometry is too perfect, no opportunity to really demonstrate capabilities to vary penetration
- ▶ We really see the impact of the use of energy modulation to create really small treatment fields

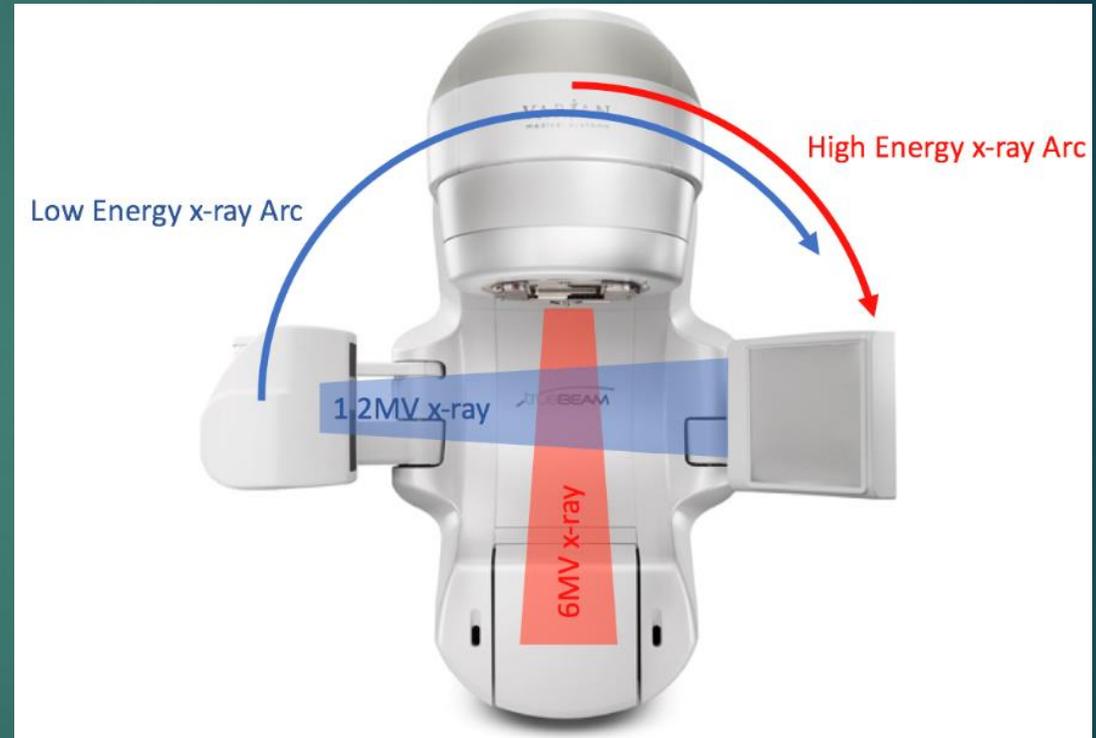
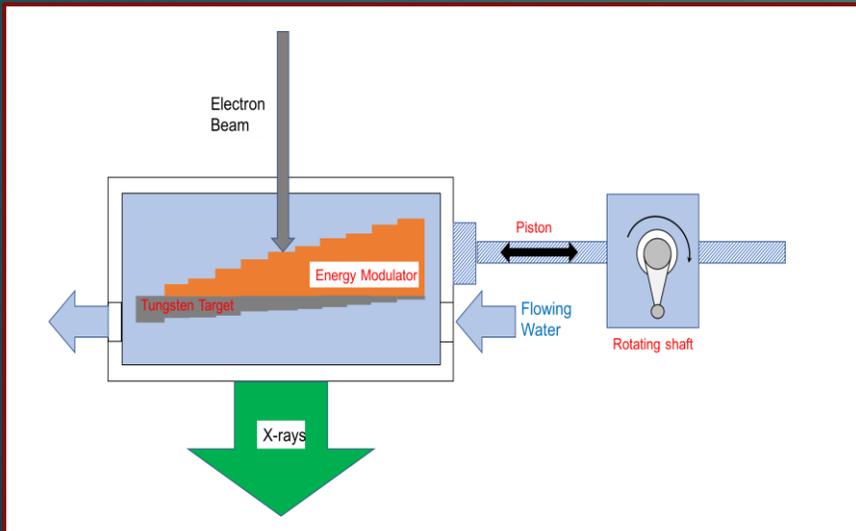
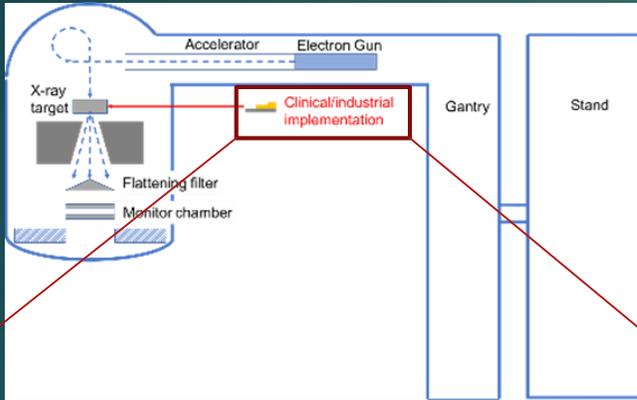
# Future work

- ▶ Optimize with minimum field width, need more resolution with dose calculation, i.e. submillimeter voxels
- ▶ Seeking a planning system to commission with a lower energy spectrum
- ▶ Need to consider the device to deliver the radiation, this device should be practical to implement in a clinical setting



Need rigorous 3D  
planning tools that are  
common to all planning  
systems

# Energy Modulated Arc Therapy



# Unraveling a thread...



- ▶ Started pulling the thread on how we could make microbeam practical
- ▶ We found that the current devices treatment devices do not have characteristics to reproduce some other experiments
- ▶ Ideally we would need a new high intensity radiation source with lower energy capabilities
- ▶
- ▶ First collaboration with UNM Computer Science that is building basic radiotherapy research tools.
- ▶ We want to consider solutions that are—in the end practical—and can be implemented in conventional clinics
- ▶ Then also, build upon historical strategies that are known to be successful

Thank you

