

13th MT ARD ST3 Meeting 2025

DESY, Zeuthen, Germany

25th June 2025

Status of instrumentation and new dosimetric approaches for FLASH radiotherapy



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Outline

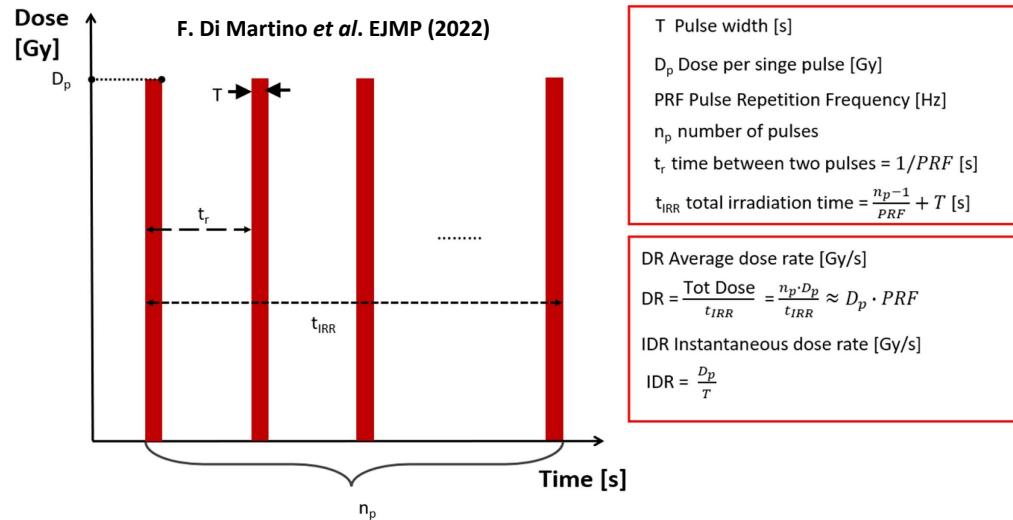
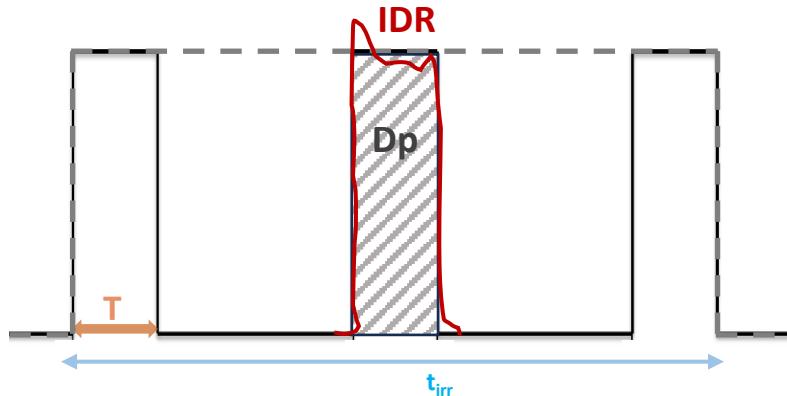
- Role of physical parameters for dosimetry of UHDR beams
- Different pulse structures and accelerators for FLASH Radiotherapy
- Limits of ionization chambers for UHDR reference dosimetry
- Adapting ion chambers and new methods to overcome limitations
- Novel approaches
- Final considerations

Involved physical parameters for FLASH radiotherapy

Physical beam parameters for conv radiotherapy:

- Particle type [e-, p, ions, X-ray, ...]
- Energy [MeV]
- Fluence [$\mu\text{p}/\text{cm}^2$]
- Dose [Gy]

• Time [s]  FLASH (UHDR)



Requirements for ideal (active) dosimeters at UHDR:

- Linear signal-dose relationship, tissue equivalence, dose accuracy, spatial resolution, use convenience, ...
- Accurately measure the D_p
 - independent on DR
 - corrections to be implemented
- Accurately measure the IDR
- Characterize the **pulse temporal structure** (high temp. res.)
→ a combination of technologies...
- **Passive** dosimeters (alanine, RCF, Fricke):
 - Lot of work done at the beginning
 - Still used to characterize novel detectors
 - reliable, but not suitable for clinical routine

Physical parameters to look at?

CONVENTIONAL RADIOTHERAPY

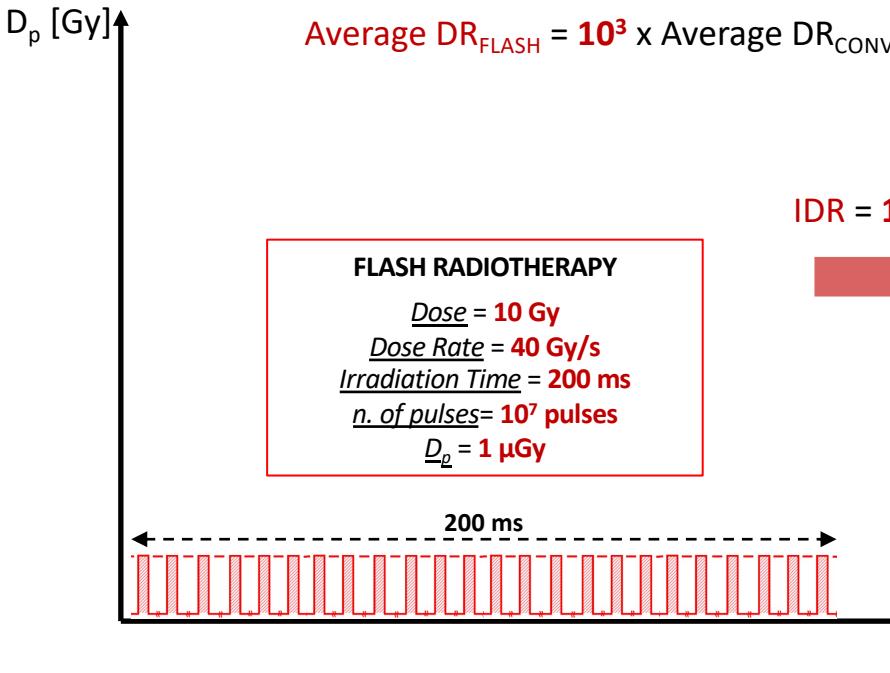
Dose: ~2 Gy/fraction. (x 30 fractions)
Dose Rate: ~ Gy/min
Irradiation Time: few minutes

FLASH RADIOTHERAPY

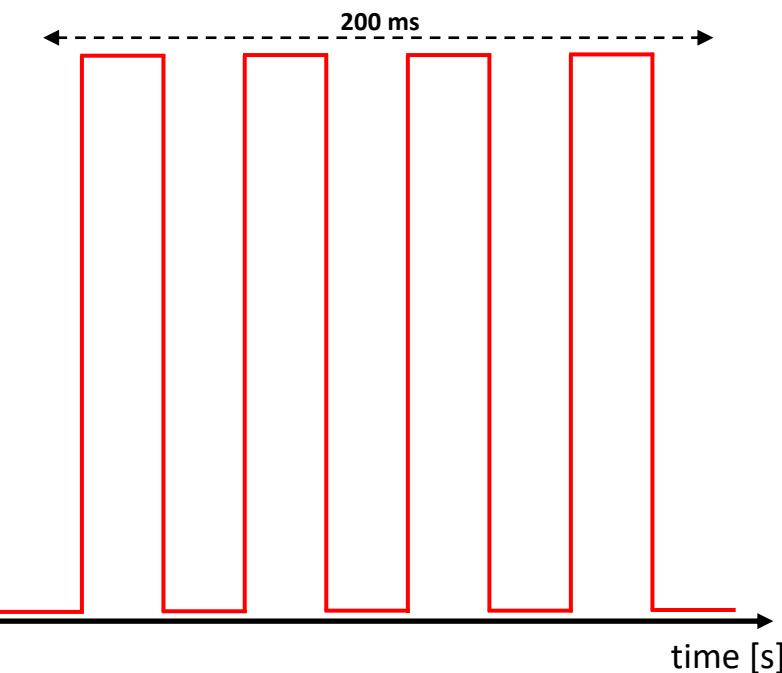
Dose: > 10 Gy (x 1 fraction?)
Dose Rate: > 40 Gy/s
Irradiation Time: < 200 ms

FLASH RADIOTHERAPY

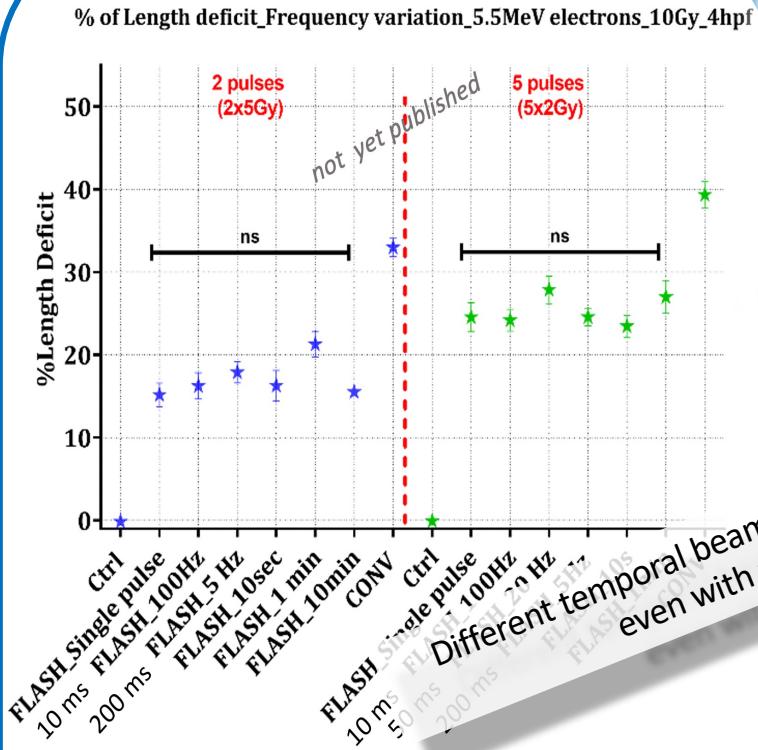
Dose = 10 Gy
Dose Rate = 40 Gy/s
Irradiation Time = 200 ms
n. of pulses = 4 pulses
 $D_p = 2.5 \text{ Gy}$



IDR = 10⁶ higher!



Does only the average dose rate and total irradiation time matter?



Courtesy of M.C. Vozenin (BelFLASH Symposium, Belgium, June 2024)

The overall time of irradiation does not matter
But suggests that the dose delivered in the pulse does matter

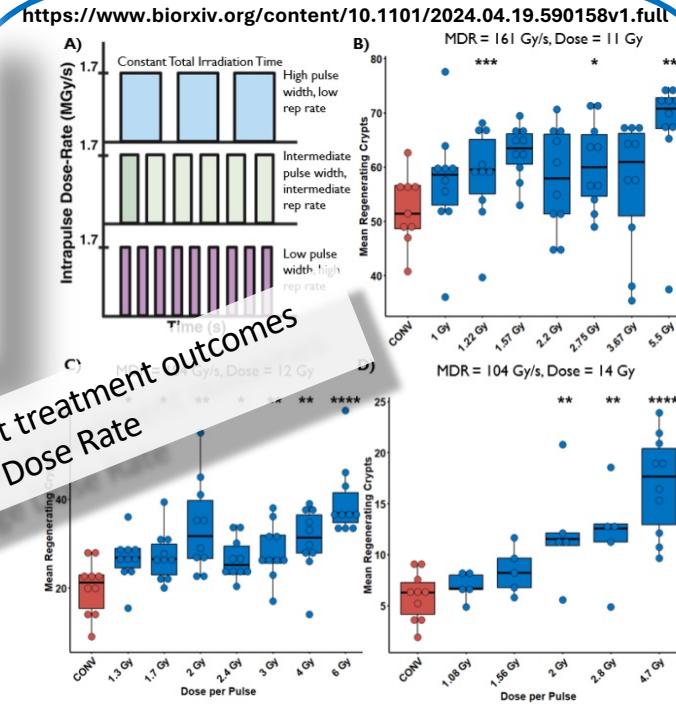


Fig. 2. (A) The beam structure schema (not to scale) illustrating how pulse width (PW) and pulse repetition frequency (PRF) are varied to achieve a delivery of different dose per pulse (DPP) while maintaining constant intrapulse dose rate, total irradiation time, mean dose rate (MDR), and total dose for each set of experiments in B-D. The mean number of regenerating crypts per circumference for mice receiving a total abdominal irradiation by either CONV - (0.3Gy/s, 10mGy/pulse, Red) or FLASH (Blue) to a dose of 11 Gy, MDR = 161 Gy/s, C) 12 Gy, MDR = 184 Gy/s, and D) 14 Gy, MDR = 104 Gy/s. An unpaired parametric t-test was used to compare the FLASH treated groups with the CONV treated group. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001; **** p < 0.0001. For doses of 11-14 Gy and MDR of 104-184 Gy/s, sparing of crypts increases progressively with increasing DPP, especially at 14 Gy/104 Gy/s. At the lower doses/higher MDRs of 11-12Gy/161-184 Gy/s tested here; significant sparing of crypts is observed at DPPs > 1 Gy.

Realization of UHDR beams ...and related accelerators

Year	Radiation type	Machine	Energy (MeV)	Average dose rate (Gy/s)	Dose per pulse (Gy/pulse)	Pulse repetition rate (Hz)	Field size	Purpose	Dosimetry method
2020	Proton ³²	IBA isochronous cyclotron (USA)	227.5	130	N/A	106 MHz (quasi-continuous)	$1.6 \times 1.2 \text{ cm}^2$ ellipse	Mouse (partial abdomen irradiation)	Plane-parallel IC, FC, MC simulation, EBT3 RCF
2020	Photon ³³	ANSTO Australian Synchrotron	0.07 and 0.09 mean	40–350 (at treatment depth and filtration)	200 (at 20 mm reference depth and filtration)	Continuous	$2 \times 2 \text{ cm}$ (reference dosimetry size)	Rat study (brain cancer irradiation)	Pinpoint IC (reference), silicon semiconductor, and MC
2021	Proton ²⁵	Mevion synchrocyclotron (USA)	60	120–160	0.22 Gy/pulse ($9.3 \times 10^3 \text{ Gy/s}$ instantaneous)	750	$\emptyset 1.1 \text{ cm}$ FWHM (5 mm @ 90% isodose)	Feasibility of SOBP beam using a synchrocyclotron	IC, FC, MC simulation, and EBT-XD RCF
2021	Electron ³⁴	Varian Clinac 2100 C/D (USA)	10	240–260	0.81 Gy/pulse	360	$\emptyset 1\text{--}1.5 \text{ cm}$	Feasibility of UHDR at the machine's isocenter	EBT-XD RCF
2021	Proton ³⁵	Research isochronous cyclotron (Germany)	68	75	N/A	20 MHz	$\emptyset 1.3 \text{ cm}$	Preclinical setup for mouse irradiation	IC and RC
2021	Proton ³⁶	COMET ³⁸ isochronous cyclotron (Switzerland)	170–250	9000 (for a single spot)	N/A	72.85 MHz	$\sim 2.3\text{--}5 \text{ mm}$ ($16 \times 1.2 \text{ cm}^2$ by scanning)	Feasibility study	FC
2021	Helium ion ²⁶	Synchrotron (Germany)	145.74 MeV/u	185	N/A	Quasi-continuous	1 cm^2 (by spot scanning)	In vitro study of dose, LET, and O ₂ concentration	Parallel-plate IC
2021	Carbon ion ²⁷	Synchrotron (Germany)	280 MeV/u	70	N/A	Quasi-continuous	1 cm^2 (by spot scanning)	Dosimetry and in vitro study	IC and EBT3 RCF

F. Romano *et al.* Med. Phys. (2022)

e-

Research / modified clinical LINACs

p

Isochronous cyclotrons

p

Synchro cyclotrons

γ
ions

Synchrotrons

Challenges of dosimetry for electron UHDR beams

First studies on **ion recombination** for commercially available chambers → determining ion **collection efficiency**

Petersson et al., Med Phys 44 (2017) 1157

High dose-per-pulse electron beam dosimetry — A model to correct for the ion recombination in the Advanced Markus ionization chamber

Kristoffer Petersson,^{a)} Maud Jaccard, Jean-François Germond, Thierry Buchillier, and

François Bochud

CHUV, Institut de Radiophysique, Rue du Grand-Pré 1, CH-1007 Lausanne, Switzerland

Jean Bourhis and Marie-Catherine Vozenin

CHUV, Service de Radio-Oncologie, Rue du Bugnon 46, CH - 1011 Laus

Claude Bailat

CHUV, Institut de Radiophysique, Rue du Grand-Pré 1, CH-1007 Lausanne

Kranzer et al., *Medical Physics*, 48 (2), February 2021

Ion collection efficiency of ionization chambers in ultra-high dose-per-pulse electron beams

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Andreas Schüller and Thomas Hackel

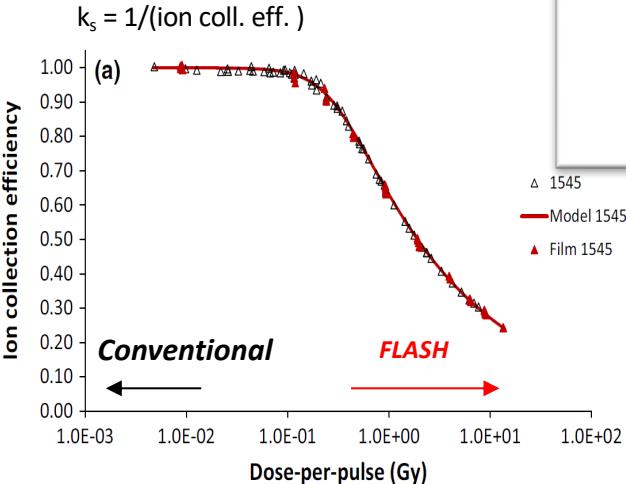
Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Braunschweig 38116, Germany

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A. Bourgouin Phys. Med. Biol. 68 (2023) 235002



EMPIR EURAMET
The EMPIR initiative is co-funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the EMPIR Participating States



PAPER

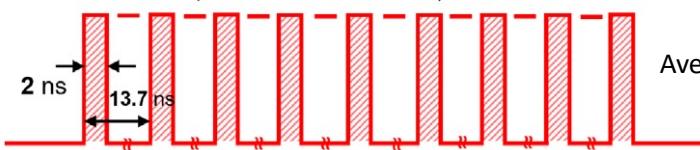
Charge collection efficiency of commercially available parallel-plate ionisation chambers in ultra-high dose-per-pulse electron beams

Alexandra Bourgouin^{1,*}, Jose Paz-Martín², Yunus Can Gedik³, Franziska Frei⁴, Peter Peier⁴, Séverine Rossomme⁵, Andreas A Schönfeld⁶, Andreas Schüller¹, Faustino Gomez Rodriguez² and Ralf-Peter Karsch¹

UHDR proton beams (isochronous cyclotrons)

IBA, Varian, Hitachi

Isochronous cyclotron (quasi-continuous radiation)
($f=72.8$ MHz, 2nd Harmonic)



$\dot{d} < 2$ kGy/s

Average DR 100-400 Gy/s

Received: 2 March 2022 | Revised: 20 June 2022 | Accepted: 27 June 2022

DOI: 10.1002/mp.15844

RESEARCH ARTICLE

MEDICAL PHYSIC

Ultrahigh dose rate pencil beam scanning proton dosimetry using ion chambers and a calorimeter in support of first in-human FLASH clinical trial

Eunsin Lee^{1,2} | Ana Mónica Lourenço^{3,4} | Joseph Speth⁵ | Nigel Lee³ |
Anna Subiel³ | Francesco Romano⁶ | Russell Thomas^{3,7} | Richard A. Amos⁴ |
Yannick Thome^{1,2} | Thibaut Vigné^{1,2} | Anthony Macia^{1,2}



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect
Physica Medica
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ejmp

Ion recombination correction factors and detector comparison in a very-high dose rate proton scanning beam

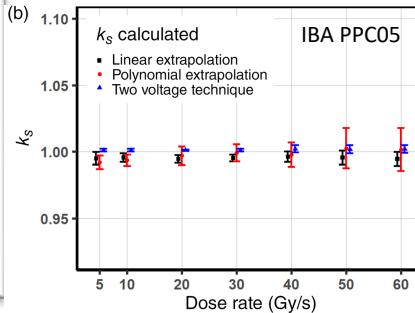
A.M.M. Leite^{a,b,*}, M. Cavallone^b, M.G. Ronga^b, F. Trompier^c, Y. Ristic^c, A. Patriarca^b,
L. De Marzi^{b,d,*}

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^c Institut de Radioprotection et de Sûreté Nucléaire, Service de Dosimétrie des Rayonnements Ionisants, 92262 Fontenay-aux-Roses Cedex, France

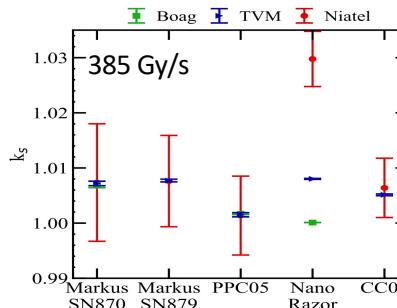
^d Institut Curie, INSERM Research University, Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS UMR 3547, INSERM U1021, 91986 Orsay, France



Average dose rate 5-60 Gy/s
Chambers:

PTW Advanced Markus
IBA PPC05

PPC05
 $K_{sat}: 1.002$
Adv Markus
 $K_{sat}: 1.001-1.006$

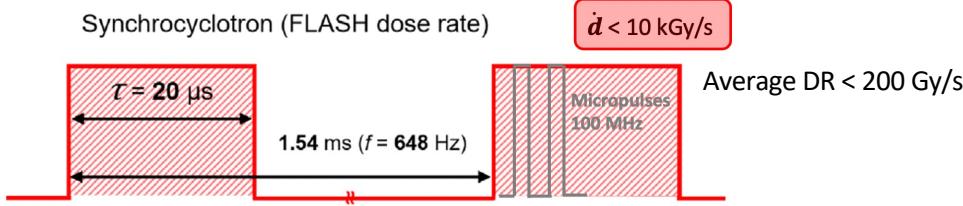


Average dose rate 4 Gy/s - 385 Gy/s
Instantaneous dose rates:
up to 1000 Gy/s
Chambers:

Razor Nano-chamber CC01,
PTW Advanced Markus, PPC05

UHDR proton beams (synchrocyclotrons)

IBA, Mevion



Feasibility of proton FLASH irradiation using a synchrocyclotron for preclinical studies

Arash Darafsheh¹ and Yao Hao

Department of Radiation Oncology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA

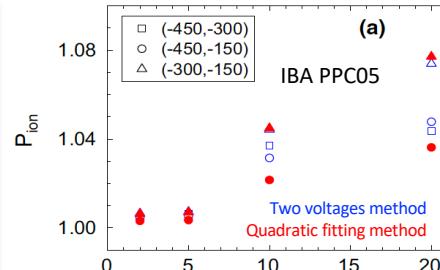
Townsend Zwart, Miles Wagner, and Daniel Catanzano

Mevion Medical Systems, 300 Foster St., Littleton, MA 01460, USA

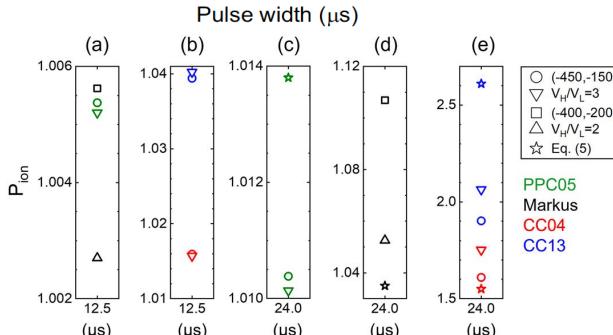
Jeffrey F. Williamson, Nels Knutson, Baozhou Sun, Sasa Mutic, and Tianyu Zhao

Department of Radiation Oncology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110, USA

(Received 7 January 2020; revised 15 May 2020; accepted for publication 15 May 2020; published 15 June 2020)



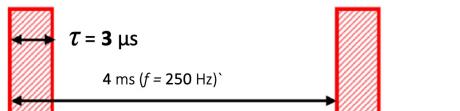
230 MeV **passive** proton beam
Average dose rate: **100-200 Gy/s**,
Instantaneous: dose rate **$1.66 \cdot 10^4 \text{ Gy/s}$**
Pulse duration: **2-20 μs**



UHDR electron beams (LINAC)

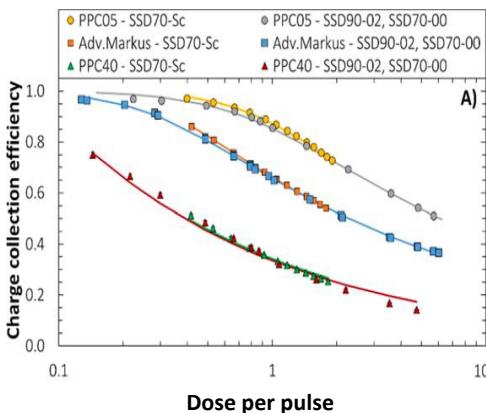
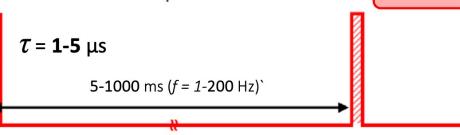
Average DR < 200-700 Gy/s

Clinical LINAC for Radiotherapy (modified) $\dot{d} < 100 \text{ kGy/s}$



Average DR < 2 kGy/s

Research LINAC for pre-clinical studies $\dot{d} < 5 \text{ MGy/s}$



Modified clinical LINACs

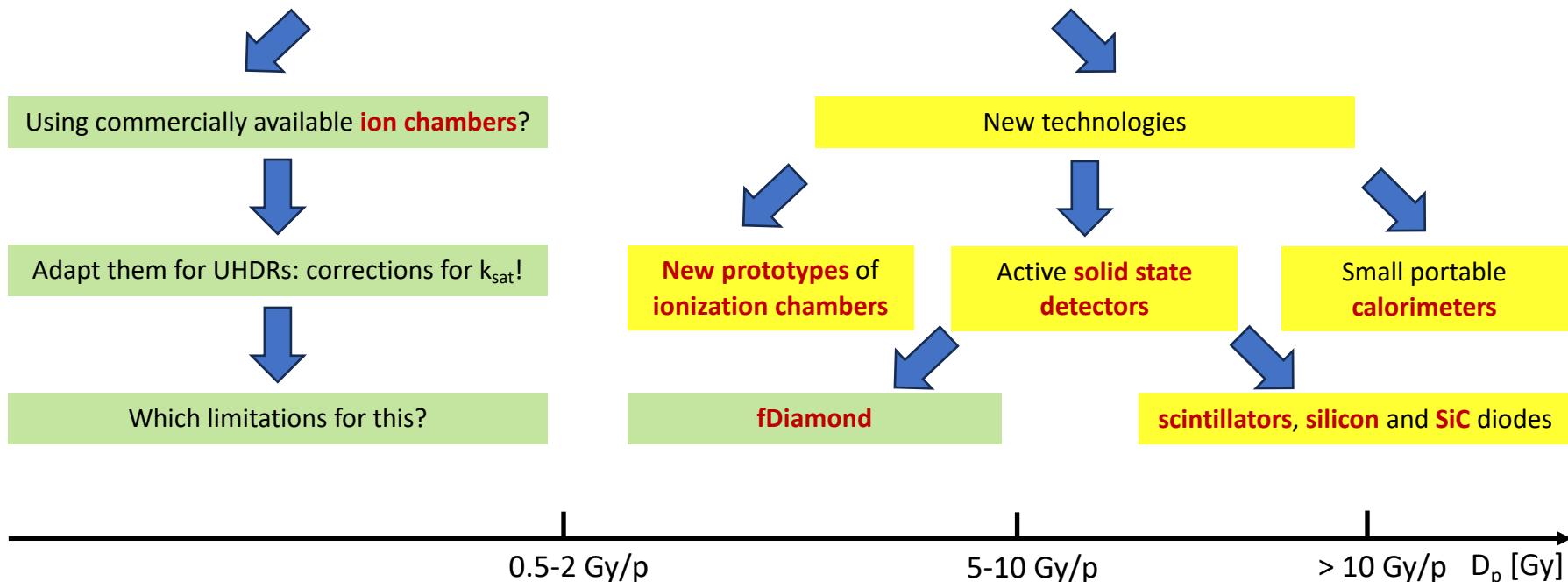
Research LINACs

TABLE I. Characteristics of currently available electron devices.

	Kinetron (CGR-MeV/ PMB-Alcen)	Oriatron eRT6 (PMB-Alcen)	Oxford linac	Modified Varian (Stanford)	Modified Elekta	Mobetron (IntraOp)	FLASH-knife (PMB-Alcen)	SIT (Sordina)	FLEX (RadiaBeam)	PITZ
Available beam energy (MeV)	4.5	5	6	17	8 and 10	6 and 9	6–10	5–12	9	22
Maximum average dose rate (Gy/s)	2500	1000	1500	750	≥ 300	> 700 at 6 MeV, > 800 at 9 MeV	Up to 350 Gy/s at 30 mm depth	1500	7500	10 000
Maximum dose per pulse (Gy)	6.3	12	5	3	1.9	> 8 at 6 MeV, > 9 at 9 MeV	...	18.2	>25	1000
Max. beam size for at least 1.5 Gy/pulse (cm)	5	20.5 (FWHM)	5 (FWHM)	5	2 (5% flatness)	6 at 90%	...	1.3 (FWHM)	6	15
Max. beam size at max. dose rate (cm)	0.012	0.5	...	5	2 (5% flatness)	4 at 90%	...	0.5 (FWHM)	6 (FWHM)	2
Short-term stability (%)	...	<1	...	<2	1 to 4	0.8	...	...	$\pm 2\%$	<1%
Long-term stability	...	4.1%	...	$\sim 4\%$	...	1.8 at 6 MeV, 2.3 at 9 MeV	...	...	$\pm 2\%$	<1%
Commissioning reference(s)	Lansonneur et al. (2019)	Petersson et al. (2017), Jaccard et al. (2018), and Jorge et al. (2019)	...	Schueler, Trovati et al. (2017)	Lempart et al. (2019)	Moëckli et al. (2021)	...	Di Martino et al. (2020)	Kutsaev et al. (2021)	Stephan et al. (2022)
FLASH effect validated	Favaudon et al. (2014), Vozenin et al. (2019), and Fouillade et al. (2020)	Montay-Gruel et al. (2017, 2019, 2020, 2021), Vozenin et al. (2019), Alaghband et al. (2020), Allen et al. (2020), Limoli et al. (2020), Chabi et al. (2021), Kacem et al. (2022), and Rohrer Bley et al. (2022)	Ruan et al. (2021)	Simmons et al. (2019), Levy et al. (2020), Y.-E. Kim et al. (2021), and Eggold et al. (2022)	No	Valdes Zayas et al. (2023)	No	No	No	No
Dosimetrically intercompared	Dismantled in 2020	Gonçalves Jorge et al. (2022)	No	Gonçalves Jorge et al. (2022)	No	No	No	No	No	No
Biologically intercompared	Dismantled in 2020	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No



What's the current status of instrumentation for UHDRs?





PTW A. Markus

IBA PPC05



ALLS IC



Ultra-thin IC
USC



calorimeter



PTW fD



SiC



scintillator
Optical fiber



silicon
DANGER
High Voltage

What's the current status of instrumentation for UHDRs?



Using commercially available **ion chambers**?



Investigating new methods to correct for the k_{sat} for
commercially available chambers (up to specific D_p)



Analytical methods



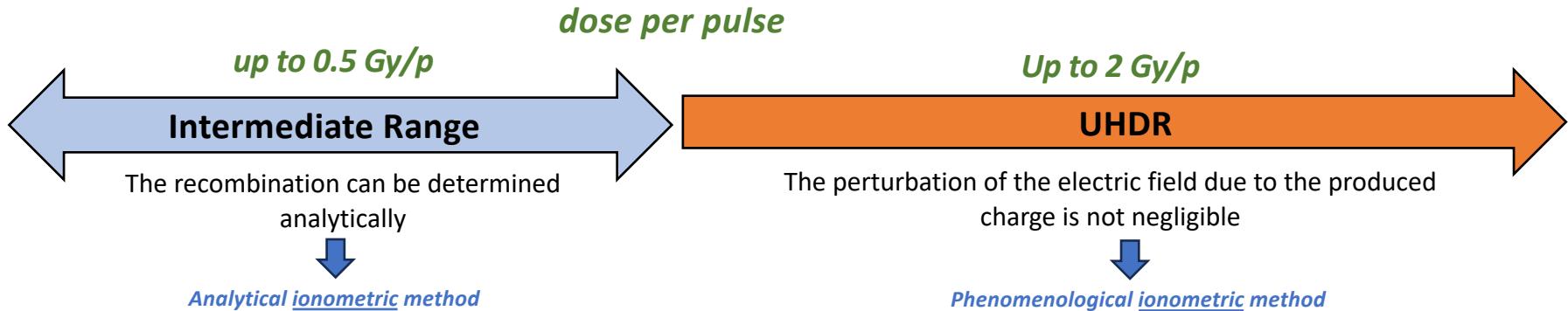
Phenomenological methods

*Ionometric (self-consistent)
or
non-ionometric (external reference) methods*

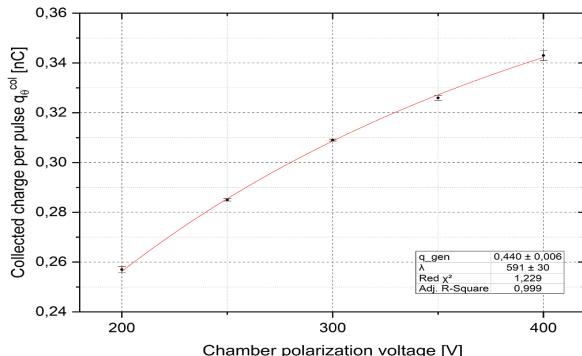
0.5-2 Gy/p

D_p [Gy]

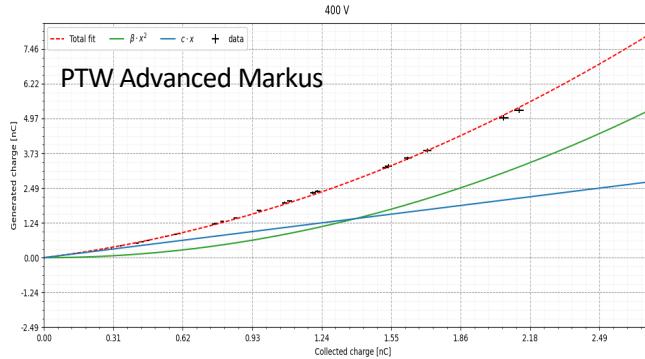
Ionization chambers: determine the ion rec corr (ksat) for commercial chambers

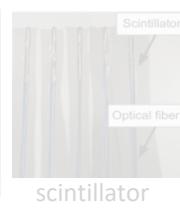
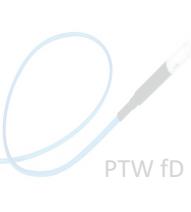


F. Di Martino et al., *Physica Medica* 103 (2022) 175–180



L. Masturzo et al., *Med. Phys.*, under review





What's the current status of instrumentation for UHDRs?



New technologies



Exploring new approaches and designing
new chambers for mitigating the ion
recombination correction



Collect as "fast" as possible produced charges

Try to reduce the produced charges

Reducing the gap
or
the gas pressure
between the chamber
electrodes

5-10 Gy/p

D_p [Gy]

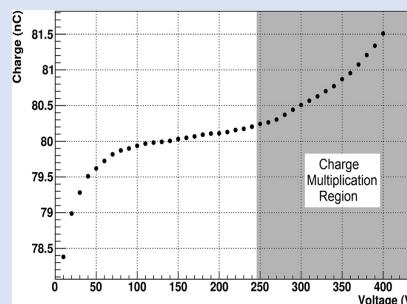
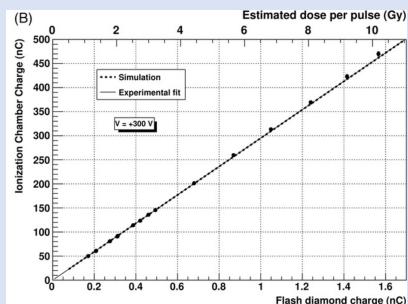
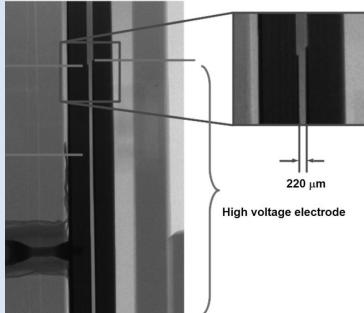
Challenges of dosimetry for electron UHDR beams

New approaches and chamber designs for decreasing ion recombination on new prototypes

Ultra-thin ionization chambers

F. Gomez et al., Med. Phys. 2022

R Kranzer et al., Physica Medica 104 (2022) 10–17



USC (University of Santiago De Compostela)

Noble gas filled ion chamber: the ALL chamber

F. Di Martino et al., EJMP 2022

Fill the cavity with a noble gas to prevent the capture of electrons and then the production of negative ions which are responsible of the ion recombination (and decreasing gas pressure)

1nd prototype

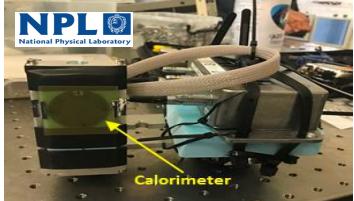


2nd prototype

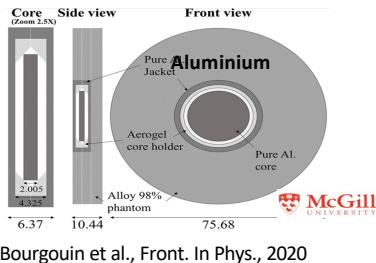


- ✓ 2nd prototype filled with N₂ gas at 1 bar, 500 mbar, 100 mbar
- ✓ First tests with 9 MeV UHDR at CPFR show linearity up to 5 Gy/pulse at 100 mbar pressure

INFN Pisa Division, CPFR and USC



F. Romano et al., Journ. of Phys. (2020)
S. Mc Callum et al., App. Science (2023)



Bourgoin et al., Front. In Phys., 2020

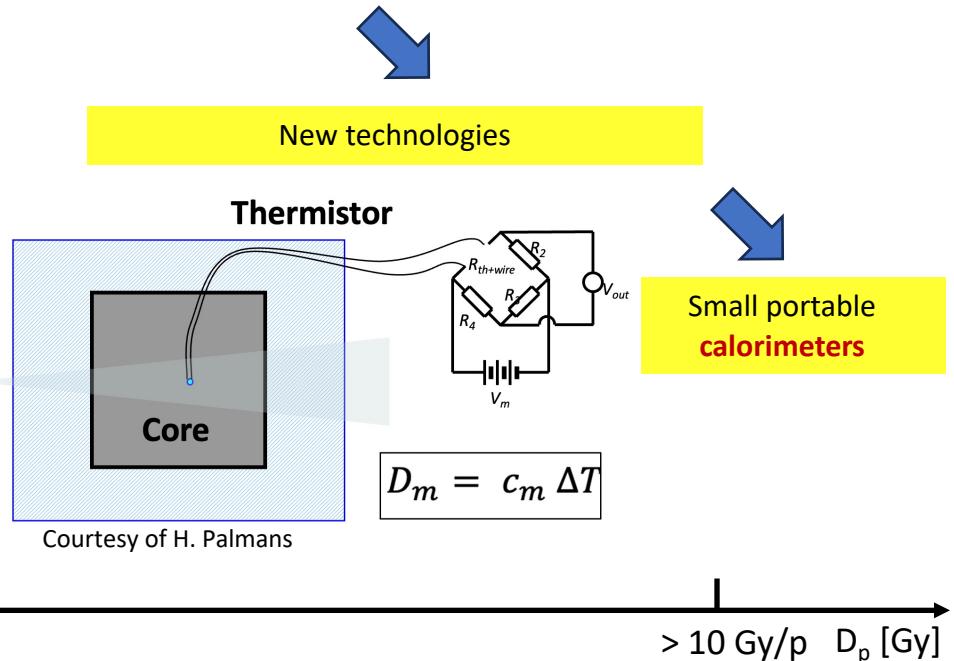
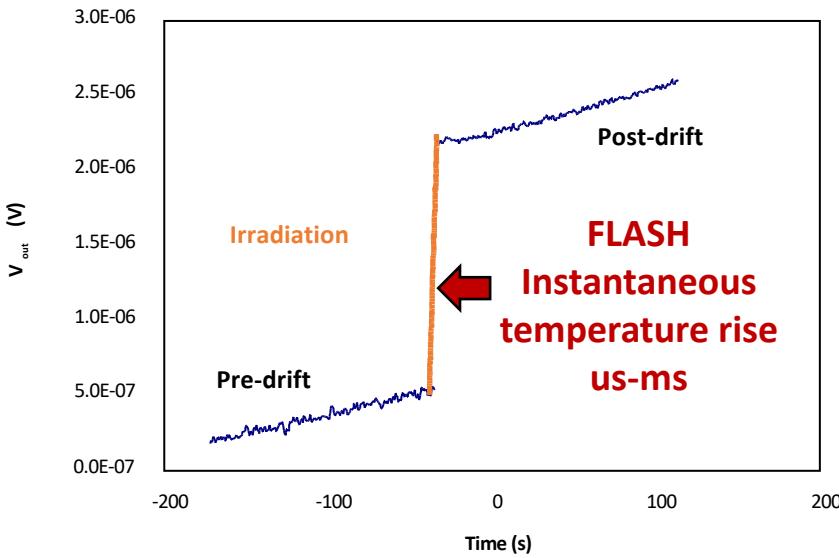


Bourgoin et al., Med Phys.
2022;49:6635–6645



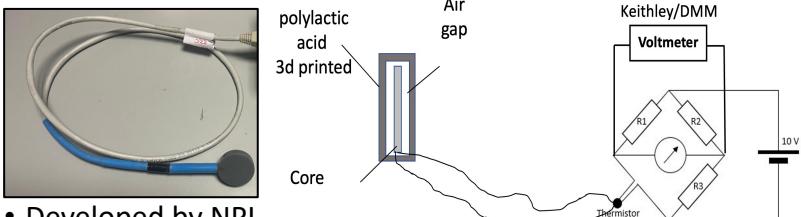
G. Bass et al., Br. J. Radiol. (2023)

What's the current status of instrumentation for UHDRs?



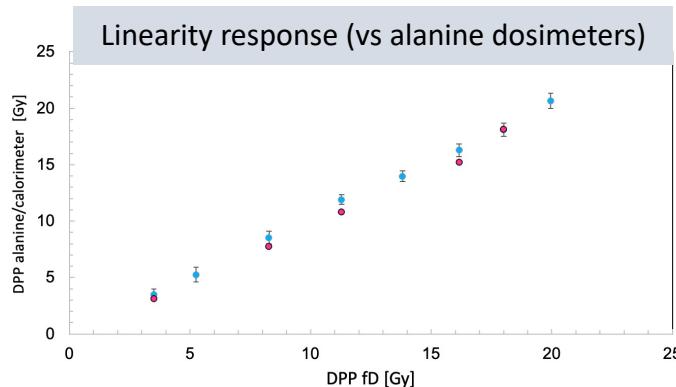
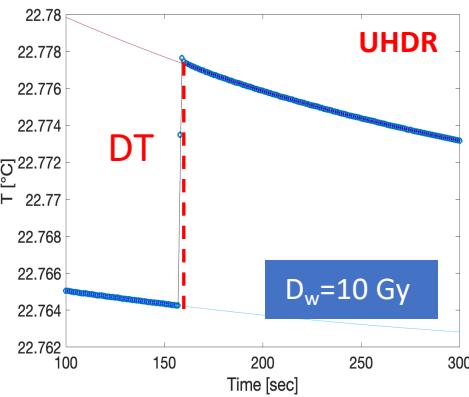
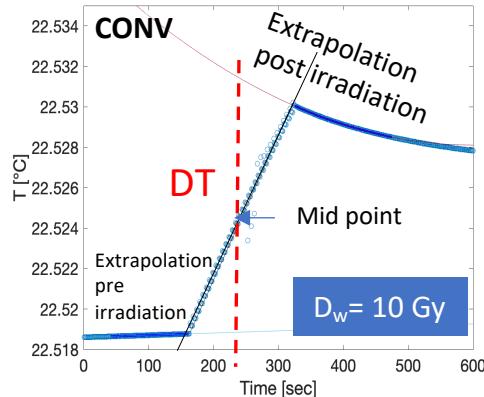
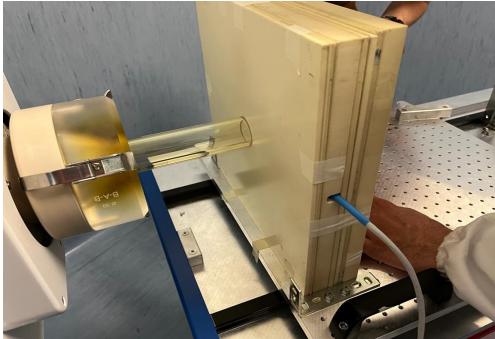
Test of the calorimeter with UHDR electron beams @ CPFR in Pisa

G. Bass et al., Br. J. Radiol. (2023)



- Developed by NPL
- Simple usage and low cost
- 2 mm graphite core
- 1 single termistor connected to the Wheatstone bridge
- IBA PPC05 ion chamber geometry (same holders)

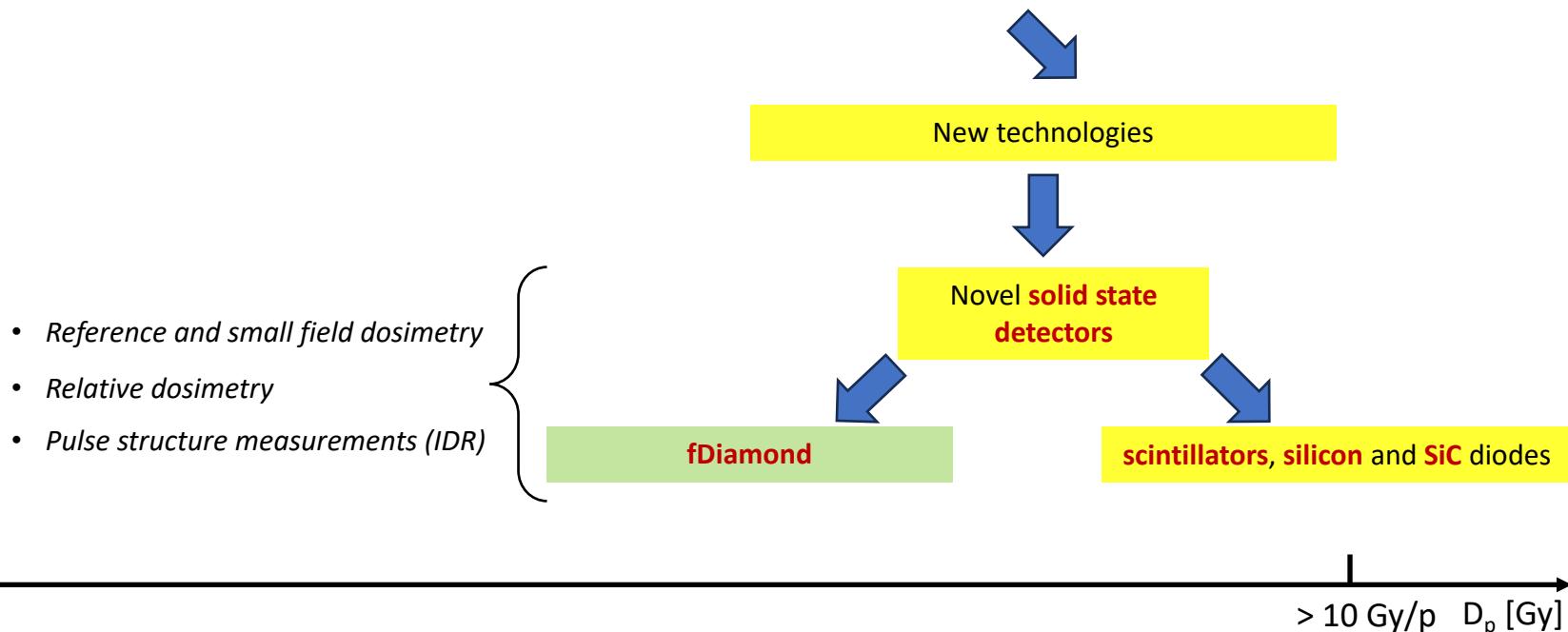
- Tested at CPFR with the SIT ElectronFLASH LINAC
- $E = 9 \text{ MeV}$; **single pulse duration: 4 us**



Tested also with UHDR proton beams

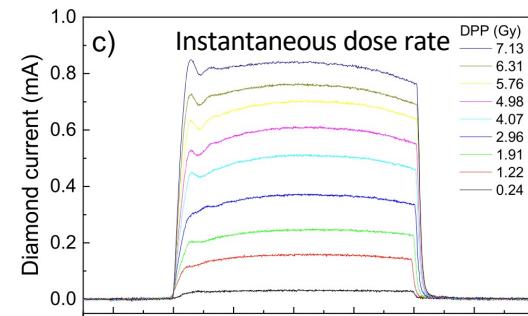
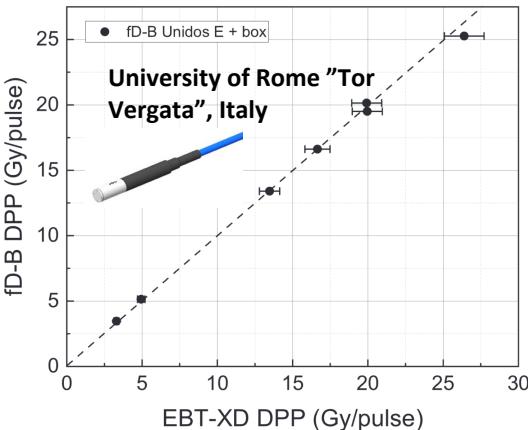


What's the current status of instrumentation for UHDRs?



fDiamond for reference dosimetry and IDR measurements

PTW FLASH diamond



- Linear response at UHDRs
- pulse structure measurements
- High spatial resolution (<< 1 mm)

Table 1. The summary of devices and their applications in UHDR beams.

Device/instrument	UHDR beam modality	Energy (MeV)	DPP (Gy)	Instantaneous dose rate ($\text{Gy } \mu\text{s}^{-1}$)	Average dose rate (Gy s^{-1})	Pulse duration (μs)	Pulse repetition rate (Hz)	Standard uncertainty	Availability	References
Potential secondary/tertiary standards										
UTIC	Electrons	9 20	1–10 1.2–5.4	0.25–2.5 0.48–2.2	10–100 6–27	4 2.5	10 5	1.40%	Under development	(Kranzer <i>et al</i> 2021) (Gómez <i>et al</i> 2022) figure 3
Alanine	Electrons	20	0.15–9	0.15–3.3	0.75–45	1.35, 2.5, 2.7	5	0.85%	Commercial (through calibration laboratories)	(Bourgouin <i>et al</i> 2023a) Figure 4
flashDiamond	Electrons	7, 9 20	0.3–26 0.2–10	0.5–6.6 0.15–3.3	Up to 960 1–50	1–4 1.35–3	5–245 5	1% @ 0.25 $\text{Gy } \mu\text{s}^{-1}$ 3% @ 2.5 $\text{Gy } \mu\text{s}^{-1}$	Commercial	(Kranzer <i>et al</i> 2022a) (Marinelli <i>et al</i> 2022) (Marinelli <i>et al</i> 2023) (Tessonnier <i>et al</i> 2023) (Verona Rinati <i>et al</i> 2022) (Di Martino <i>et al</i> 2023) figure 5
SiC diode	Electrons	20 9	0.4–11 0.02–5	0.7–3.8 0.01–1.2	2–55 0.6–53	2.9, 1.6, 0.5 2, 4	5 30	3%	Under development	(Fleta 2024) (Romano <i>et al</i> 2023) (Milluzzo <i>et al</i> 2023)
Aerrow graphite probe calorimeter	Electrons	20	0.6–5.6	0.24–2.24	3–28	2.5	5	1.06%	Commercial	(Bourgouin <i>et al</i> 2023b)
Commercially available ionization chambers	Electrons Protons (PBS)	20 227	0.14–6.2 4.3, 17.5, and 38.1	0.352–2.48 4×10^{-6} – 3.85×10^{-3}	0.7–31 4–385	2.5 1×10^6 , 99×10^3	5 Single pulse (PBS)	2.5% up to 10% ^a 1.5% ^b	Commercial	(Bourgouin <i>et al</i> 2023b) (Leite <i>et al</i> 2023)

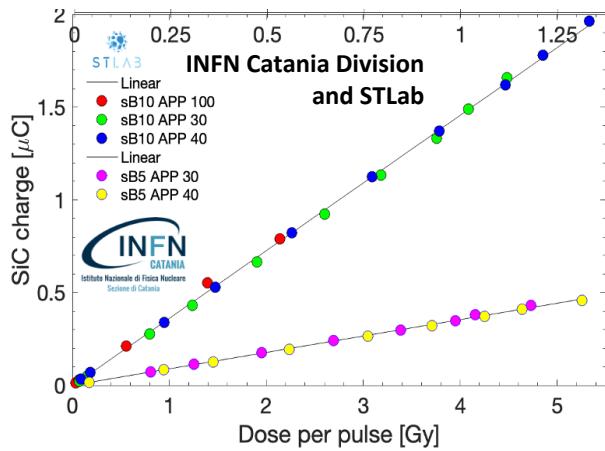
Response of other active solid-state detectors a UHDRs



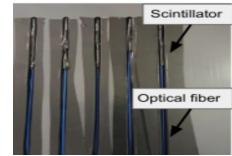
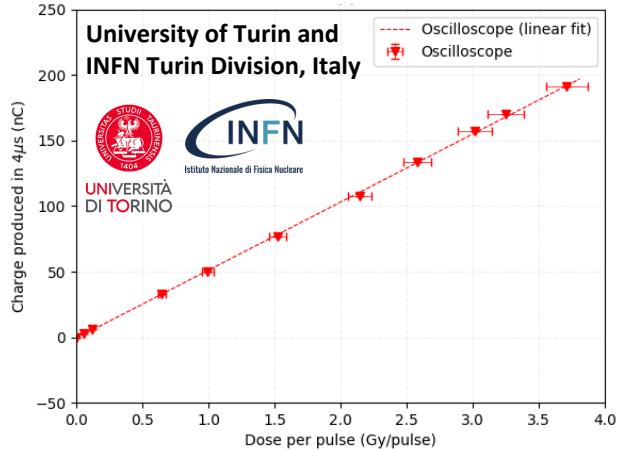
- Linear response at UHDR
- High spatial resolution (< 1 mm) → small fields
- Good stability (long-term response stability?)
- Water equivalence
- Possibility for 2D configurations
- Encapsulation to be used in reference conditions



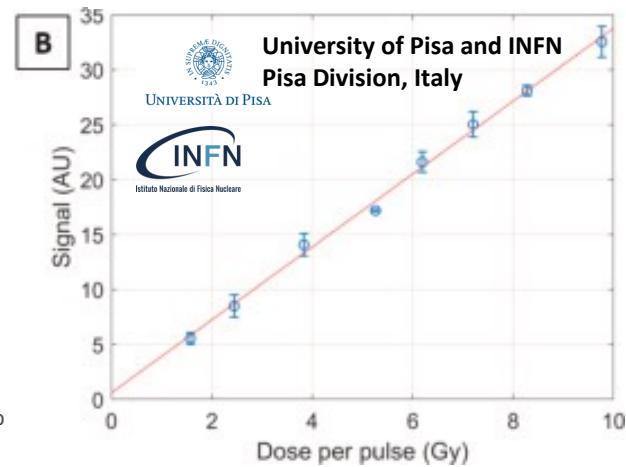
SiC detectors



Silicon detectors



Scintillators/scintillator fibers



F. Romano et al. Appl. Phys. (2023)
G. Milluzzo et al. (2024)
C. Okpuwe et al 2025 Rad. Res. (2025)

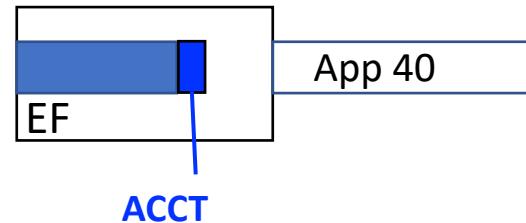
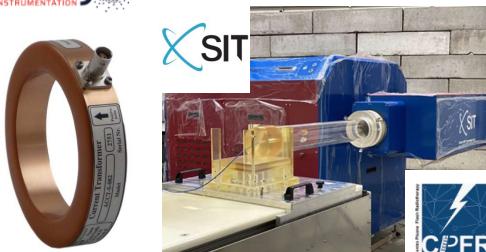
E. Medina et al., Frontiers in Physics (2022)

M. Morrocchi et al. JINST (2022)
E. Ciarrocchi et al., Physica Medica (2024)

Beam pulse structure / IDR measurements:

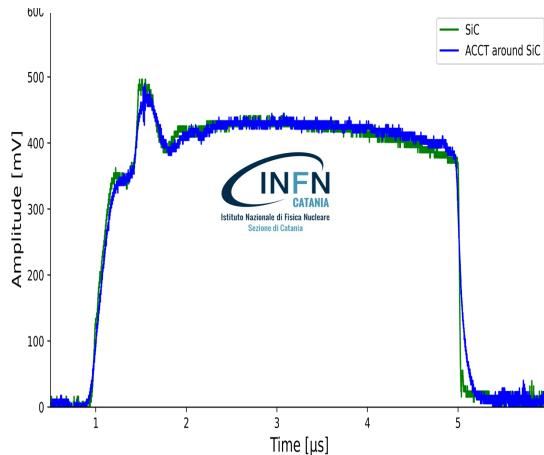


ACCT (AC current transformer)

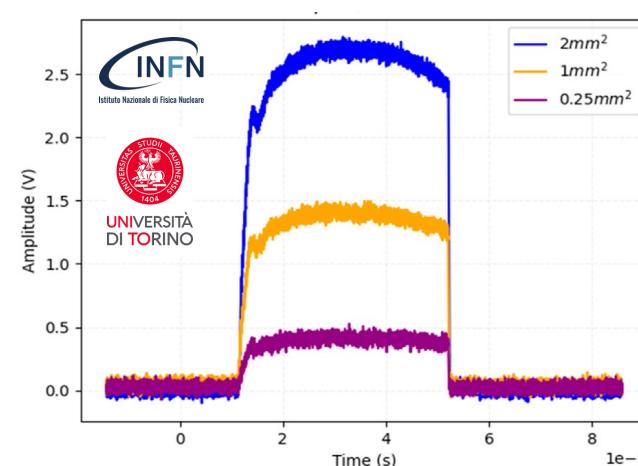


SiC/Silicon/Scintillators

SiC detectors



Silicon detectors



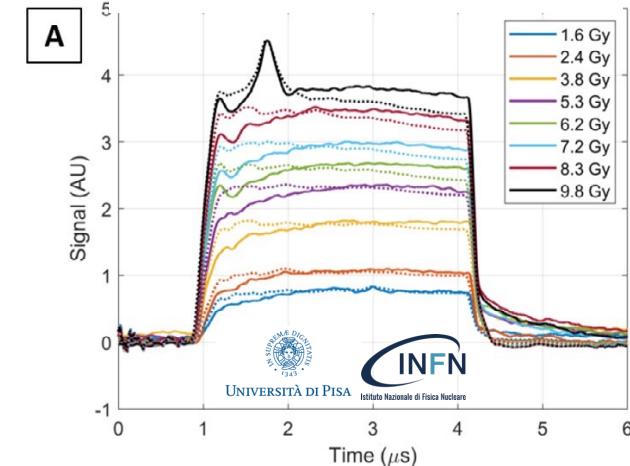
F. Romano et al. Appl. Phys. (2023)

G. Milluzzo et al. (2024)

C. Okpuwe et al 2025 Rad. Res. (2025)

E. Medina et al., Frontiers in Physics (2022)

Scintillators/scintillator fibers



M. Morrocchi et al. JINST (2022)

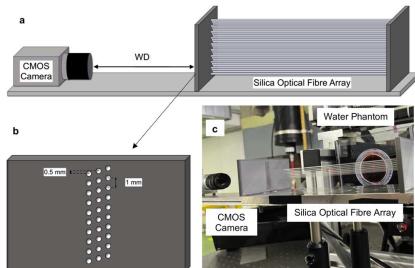
E. Ciarrocchi et al., Physica Medica (2024)

QA devices to support clinical trials (and address radiation protection issues?)

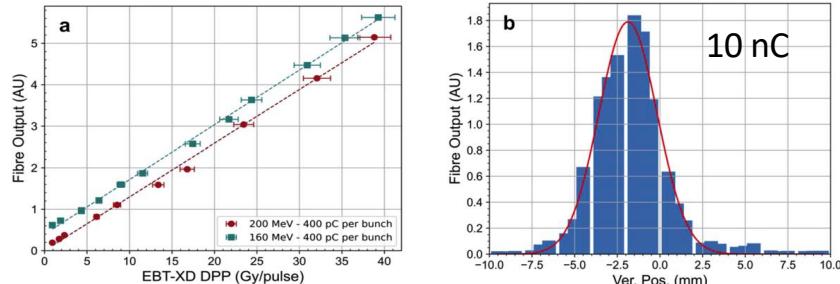
Multi scintillating fibers

- 28 fused silica optical fibres
- 0.4mm in diameter
- 30 cm length

clear+



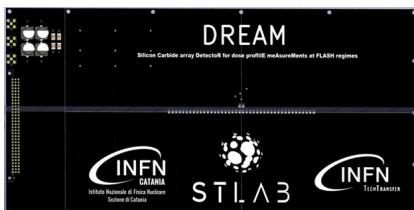
Joseph J Bateman et al 2024 Phys. Med. Biol. 69 085006



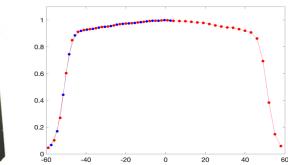
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SiC 1D geometrical configurations for real time dose profile measurements (DREAM)



R4I Research for Innovation

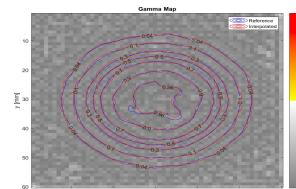
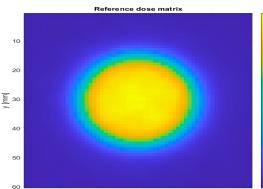


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SiC 2D geometrical configurations for real time dose map measurements (DALI')



Final considerations

- Huge effort in the last years on **characterizing technologies for dosimetry** and develop **new approaches**
- The final goal is probably less challenging than it was thought at the beginning (20-30 Gy/p vs few Gy/p)
- Now clinical trials push physicists to address new challenges:
 - **Compare performances** of dosimeters with dedicated experiments at the same conditions
 - **Small field** dosimetry, **pulse structure** characterization, **radiation protection** ...most suitable technology
 - Understanding which developed dosimeters are “useful” for **medical physicist** and for which cases
- Dosimetry:
 - Less critical for **proton beams**: small corrections for isochronous cyclotrons, larger with synchrocyclotrons
 - More effort required for **electron beams** (Linacs):
 - **commercial ion chambers** reliably used with correction methods up to 2 Gy/p: to be also used for Linac output periodic checks (**new chamber prototypes** under development for higher Dpp)
 - **calorimeters** for higher Dpp or stability check for novel detectors (semiconductors) and commissioning
 - **Solid state detectors** for relative dosimetry, small field dosimetry, temporal reconstruction (IDR)
 - **2D systems (scintillators, semiconductors,...)** for: i) QA; ii) addressing radiation protection issues; iii) (in a future perspective) dosimetric check of treatment plans
- Protocols and current initiatives : **AAPM** task group 359, **ESTRO** FLASH FOCUS Group, **AIFM** (for low E e-)



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Thank you for your attention

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BAC project of National Plan for PNRR Complementary Investments "DALI"