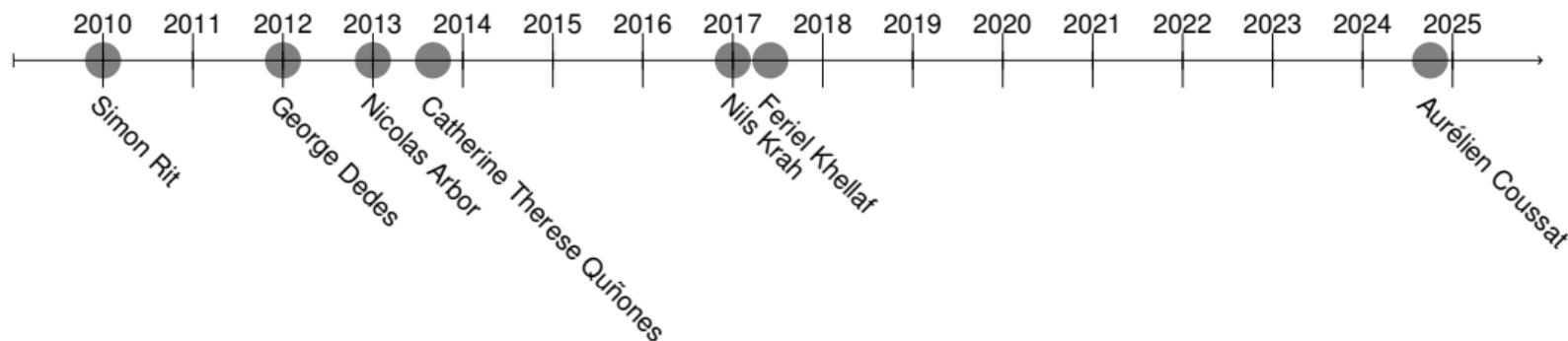


# PCT, an Insight Toolkit (ITK) module for proton computed tomography

Simon Rit, Nicolas Arbor, Aurélien Coussat, George Dedes, Axel Garcia, Lucas Gandel, Sébastien Goll, Ferial Khellaf, Nils Krah, Catherine Therese Quiñones

October 21, 2025

# PCT started with distance driven binning<sup>1</sup>



+ Other LMU students: Jannis Dickmann and Stefanie Götz

+ Software developers: Lucas Gandel and Sébastien Goll (Kitware), Axel Garcia.

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<sup>1</sup>S. Rit, G. Dedes, N. Freud, D. Sarrut, and J.M. Létang. "Filtered backprojection proton CT reconstruction along most likely paths". In: *Med Phys* 40.3, 031103 (2013), p. 031103. DOI: 10.1118/1.4789589.

# Used by several groups on a variety of datasets

- Simulated data
- Real data of the LLU and ProtonVDA prototypes<sup>2</sup>
- Real data of the INFN prototype<sup>3</sup>

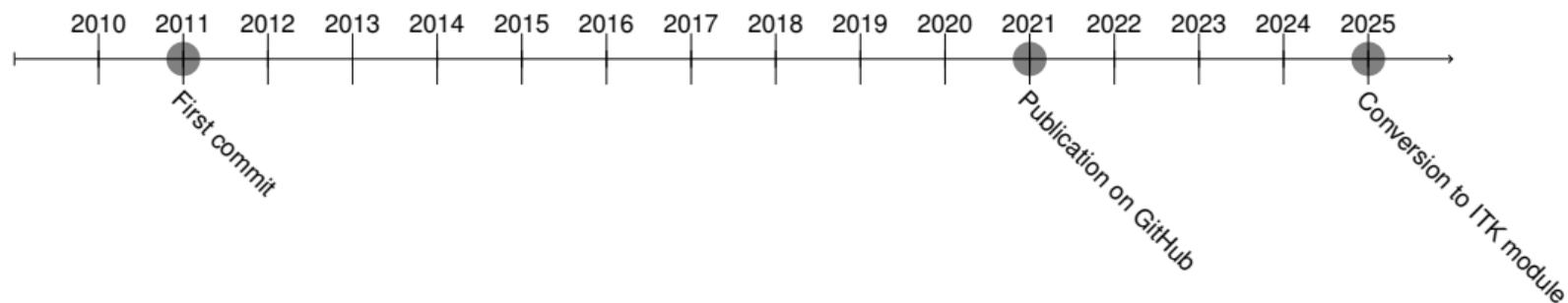
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<sup>2</sup>G. Dedes, H. Drosten, S. Götz, J. Dickmann, C. Sarosiek, M. Pankuch, N. Krah, S. Rit, V. Bashkirov, R.W. Schulte, R.P. Johnson, K. Parodi, E. DeJongh, and G. Landry. "Comparative accuracy and resolution assessment of two prototype proton computed tomography scanners". In: *Med Phys* 49.7 (2022), pp. 4671–4681. DOI: 10.1002/mp.15657, frame.

<sup>3</sup>M. Scaringella, M. Bruzzi, P. Farace, E. Fogazzi, R. Righetto, S. Rit, F. Tommasino, E. Verroi, and C. Civinini. "The INFN proton computed tomography system for relative stopping power measurements: calibration and verification". In: *Phys Med Biol* 68.15 (2023), p. 154001. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/ace2a8, frame.

# Repository history

<https://github.com/RTKConsortium/PCT>



# Copyright and License

<https://github.com/RTKConsortium/PCT/blob/hooks/LICENSE>

- Apache 2.0 license approved by the Open Source Initiative (OSI)
  - Same as ITK
  - A non-contaminating license (BSD-like)
- ⇒ Appealing to companies

# PCT one year ago

- Configured using CMake but compiled on Linux only
  - Mainly C++ (only one python script)
  - A few command-line tools using Gengetopt for parsing the command line
  - A few dependencies
    - Insight toolkit (ITK) with the reconstruction toolkit (RTK)
    - ROOT
    - Geant4 (optional)
- ⇒ Complex and mandatory compilation

# PCT redesign goals

- Make PCT a (remote) module of ITK, as RTK<sup>4</sup>
- Remove other dependencies (Geant4 and ROOT), at least in C++
- ⇒ Simpler compilation for developers, ITK compilation only
  
- Translate command line tools to Python (but keep C++ and Python versions)
- Distribute Python packages for Linux, Windows and MacOS
- ⇒ No compilation required for users, just `pip install itk-pct`
  
- Documentation <https://proton-ct.readthedocs.io/>

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<sup>4</sup>S. Rit, S. Brousmiche, J. Finet, G.C. Sharp, and P. Steininger. "Reconstruction Toolkit (RTK) v2, an Insight Toolkit (ITK) module for tomographic reconstruction". In: *Proceedings of the XXth International Conference on the use of Computers in Radiation therapy (ICCR)*. Lyon, France, 2024.

# Insight ToolKit (ITK)



<https://www.itk.org/>

"ITK is an open-source, cross-platform library (...) for processing, segmentation, and registration of scientific images in two, three, or more dimensions."

# Insight ToolKit (ITK)

Basic requirements for a C++ image processing library for sciences:

- Pixel values can be of many types  $\implies$  templates  
PCT: `float, itk::Vector<float, 3>`.
- Images can have any dimension  $\implies$  templates and iterators  
PCT: 2D, 3D and 4D.
- “Scientific” + “any dimension”  $\implies$  huge images  
 $\implies$  Piece-by-piece processing (streaming), multi-threading

# ITK's modular architecture

- ITK splits its code in modules

<https://github.com/InsightSoftwareConsortium/ITK/tree/master/Modules>

- Dependency graph based on CMake options (see `itk-module.cmake`)
- External modules: `External` or `Remote`
- RTKConsortium currently maintains
  - 2 remote modules: `CudaCommon` and `RTK`
  - 1 external (to be remote) module: `PCT`

# Python wrappings

- Each ITK module has its own Python package
- In each module, `.wrap` files define a list of pre-compiled templates  
See e.g. `pctFDKDDConeBeamReconstructionFilter.wrap`
- Only the required packages are loaded
- Up-to-date packages are compiled by the CI as GitHub artifacts

# PCT code organization

Available at <https://github.com/RTKConsortium/PCT>

## Organization of the subdirectories

- include: PCT .h{xx} headers,
- src: PCT .c{xx} (non-templated) source files,
- test
- wrapping: CMake wrapping macros,
- cmake: CMake modules,
- utilities: third party code, e.g., gengetopt
- applications: command line tools,
- documentation, gate, scripts

# Command line tools

- One application per subdirectory in the `applications` folder
- First C++, on-going translation to Python except `pctpairprotons` and `pctweplfit` which are Python only
- `--help` for the complete list of options from the command line, `help(application)` in Python
- 3 versions in Python (in the future release / CI packages)
  - Command line tool (i.e. reloading the PCT package which is slow):  

```
pctfdk -g geometry.xml -p . -r proj.*.mha -o recon.mha
```
  - Python function with a single string:  

```
pct.pctfdk('-g geometry.xml -p . -r proj.*.mha -o recon.mha')
```
  - Python function with keyword arguments:  

```
pct.pctfdk(geometry='geometry.xml', path='.',  
           regexp='-r proj.*.mha', output='recon.mha')
```

# Testing

## Continuous integration with GitHub actions:

<https://github.com/RTKConsortium/PCT/actions>

The screenshot displays the GitHub Actions interface for the repository `RTKConsortium / PCT`. The navigation bar includes links for Code, Issues (11), Pull requests (3), Discussions, Actions (selected), Projects, Wiki, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'All workflows' and shows 304 workflow runs. A search filter 'Filter workflow runs' is present. The runs are listed in a table with columns for Event, Status, Branch, and Actor. Three runs are visible, all with a green checkmark indicating success.

Event	Status	Branch	Actor
Build, test, package #123: Commit <code>8ed496e</code> pushed by <code>SimonRit</code>	Success	main	SimonRit
clang-format linter #123: Commit <code>8ed496e</code> pushed by <code>SimonRit</code>	Success	main	SimonRit
Pre-commit Checks #58: Commit <code>8ed496e</code> pushed by <code>SimonRit</code>	Success	main	SimonRit

# Testing

## Continuous integration with GitHub actions:

<https://github.com/RTKConsortium/PCT/actions>

The screenshot shows the GitHub Actions interface for the repository RTKConsortium / PCT. The workflow run is titled "ENH: Centralize runtime output location for application targets in CMake #123" and has a status of "Success". It was triggered by a push from user SimonRit to the main branch. The total duration of the run is 1h 54m 26s, and it has produced 15 artifacts. The workflow file is named "build-test-package.yml" and is triggered on a push event. The workflow diagram shows a matrix job "python-build-workflow / ..." with 6 completed jobs. One job is expanded to show a step "pytho... / test-linux-notebooks 0s".

← Build, test, package

✓ **ENH: Centralize runtime output location for application targets in CMake #123** Re-run all jobs

**Summary**

Jobs

- ✓ cxx-build-workflow
- ✓ python-build-workflow

Run details

- Usage
- Workflow file

Triggered via push 10 hours ago	Status	Total duration	Artifacts
SimonRit pushed → 8ed496e main	Success	1h 54m 26s	15

**build-test-package.yml**  
on: push

```

Matrix: python-build-workflow / ...
  ✓ 6 jobs completed
  Show all jobs
  pytho... / test-linux-notebooks 0s
  Matrix: python-build-workflow / ...
  n. / publish-nuthon-nacka... 20s
  
```

# Testing

## Continuous integration with GitHub actions:

<https://github.com/RTKConsortium/PCT/actions>

### Summary

#### Jobs

- ✔ cxx-build-workflow ▼
- ✔ python-build-workflow ▼

#### Run details

-  Usage
-  Workflow file

### Artifacts

Produced during runtime

Name	Size	Digest		
 <b>LinuxWheel3102014-x64</b>	4.13 MB	sha256:4301139d1718e1f24c815b9d22b5...		 
 <b>LinuxWheel310_2_28-aarch64</b>	3.89 MB	sha256:d2496b2b9a69c286bd93b956609a...		 
 <b>LinuxWheel310_2_28-x64</b>	4.17 MB	sha256:a5af4ef4d283fd5bd35043dde63...		 
 <b>LinuxWheel3112014-x64</b>	4.13 MB	sha256:172c1b1a1eeb938429e0f473946e...		 
 <b>LinuxWheel311_2_28-aarch64</b>	3.88 MB	sha256:3db6f98eecbf377d910353114b79...		 
 <b>LinuxWheel311_2_28-x64</b>	4.16 MB	sha256:18327c34448dbb500a596d001499...		 
 <b>LinuxWheel392014-x64</b>	4.13 MB	sha256:8f1b0c4501f2742bd2e580c86f66...		 

# Python wrappings

## C++ code of `pctfdk.cxx`

```
using ImageType = itk::Image<float, 3>;
auto feldkamp = pct::FDKDDConeBeamReconstructionFilter<ImageType>::New();
feldkamp->SetInput(0, constantImageSource->GetOutput());
feldkamp->SetProjectionStack(pssf->GetOutput());
feldkamp->SetGeometry(mygeo);
```

## Python code `pctfdk.py`

```
ImageType = itk.Image[itk.F, 3]
feldkamp = pct.FDKDDConeBeamReconstructionFilter[ImageType].New()
feldkamp.SetInput(0, constantImageSource.GetOutput())
feldkamp.SetProjectionStack(pssf.GetOutput())
feldkamp.SetGeometry(mygeo)
```

## or using the Pythonic interface

```
pct.fdkdd_cone_beam_reconstruction_filter(constantImageSource.GetOutput(),
                                           projection_stack=pssf.GetOutput(),
                                           geometry=mygeo)
```

# Full simulation and energy-loss reconstruction example

```
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose

pctpairprotons --input-in gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceIn.root --input-out gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceOut.root \
  --psin PhaseSpaceIn --psout PhaseSpaceOut --plane-in -110 --plane-out 110 --verbose \
  --output pairs.mhd

for i in {0000..0719}; do
  pctpaircuts --input pairs${i}.mha --output pairs_cut${i}.mha --spacing 2,50 --size 120,1 --robust
  pctbinning --input pairs_cut${i}.mha --output proj${i}.mha --spacing=1,50,1 --size=220,1,220 --source -1000.
done

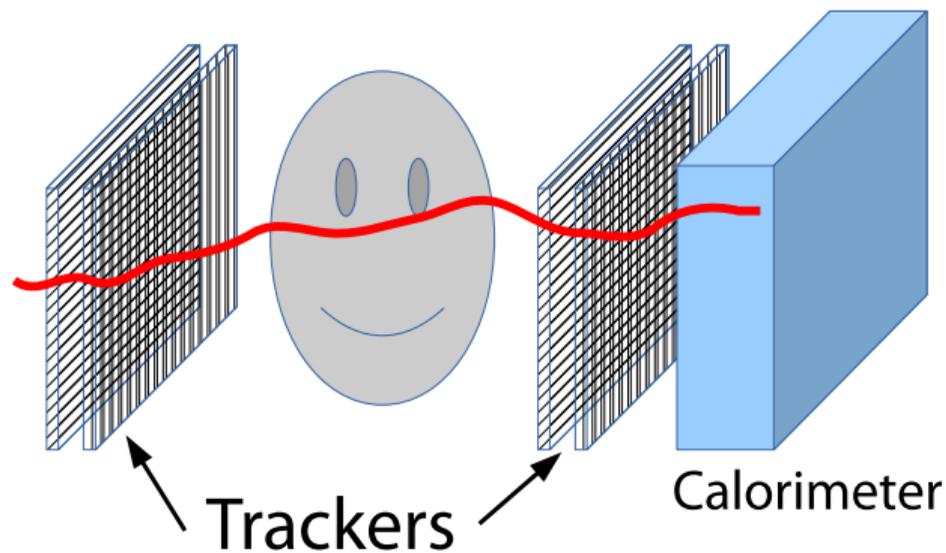
rtksimulatedgeometry --output geometry.xml --nproj 720 --sid 1000 --sdd 1100

pctfdk --geometry geometry.xml --path . --regexp proj....\\.mha --output recon.mha --dimension=210,1,210 -v
```

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts
- 5 pctbinning
- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# List mode ion CT data

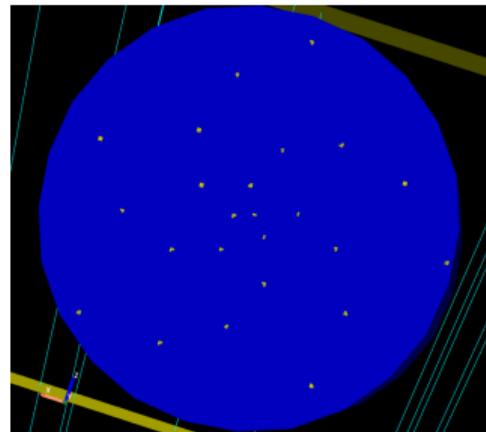
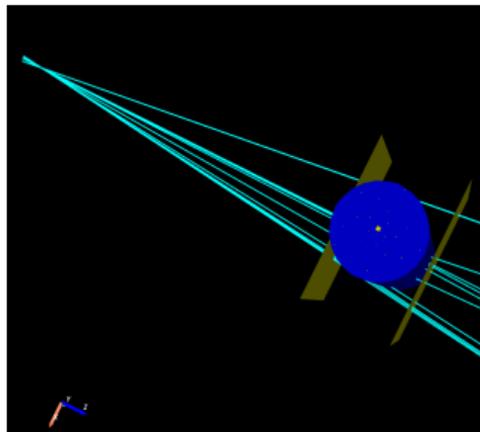
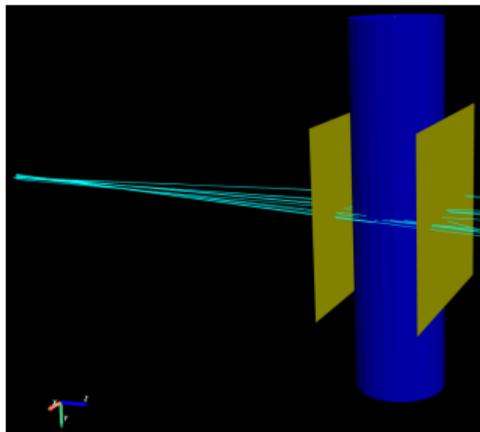


Known:  $E_{\text{in}}$

Records:  $E_{\text{out}}, \mathbf{x}_{\text{in}}, \mathbf{x}_{\text{out}}, \frac{d\mathbf{x}_{\text{in}}}{dt}, \frac{d\mathbf{x}_{\text{out}}}{dt}$

# Gate v10 simulation<sup>5</sup>

```
pip install opengate
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose --visu
```



Outputs: 2 ROOT files with the position, direction, energy, time of particle and Geant4 IDs in each (yellow) plane

<sup>5</sup><https://ionimaging.org/assets/talks/ws2024vienna-nils-krah.pdf>

# Gate simulation code

```
import math
import argparse

import opengate as gate
from scipy.spatial.transform import Rotation

def protonct (
    output,
    projections=720,
    protons_per_projection=1000,
    seed=None,
    visu=False,
    verbose=False,
):

    # Units
    nm = gate.g4_units.nm
    mm = gate.g4_units.mm
    cm = gate.g4_units.cm
    m = gate.g4_units.m
    sec = gate.g4_units.second
    MeV = gate.g4_units.MeV
    Bq = gate.g4_units.Bq
```

# Gate simulation code

```
# Simulation
sim = gate.Simulation()

sim.random_engine = "MersenneTwister"
sim.random_seed = "auto" if seed is None else seed
sim.check_volumes_overlap = False
sim.visu = visu
sim.visu_type = "vrml"
sim.g4_verbose = False
sim.progress_bar = verbose
sim.number_of_threads = 1

sim.run_timing_intervals = [[j * sec, (j + 1) * sec] for j in range(projections)]

# Misc
yellow = [1, 1, 0, 0.5]
blue = [0, 0, 1, 0.5]

# Geometry
sim.volume_manager.add_material_database(
    gate.utility.get_contrib_path() / "GateMaterials.db"
)
sim.world.material = "Vacuum"
sim.world.size = [4 * m, 4 * m, 4 * m]
sim.world.color = [0, 0, 0, 0]
```

# Gate simulation code

```
# Phantom

def add_spiral(sim):
    # Mother of all
    spiral = sim.add_volume("Tubs", name="Spiral")
    spiral.rmin = 0 * cm
    spiral.rmax = 10 * cm
    spiral.dz = 40 * cm
    spiral.material = "Water"
    spiral.color = blue
    spiral.rotation = Rotation.from_euler("yz", [90, 90], degrees=True).as_matrix()

    # Spiral rotation
    tr, rot = gate.geometry.utility.volume_orbiting_transform(
        "y", 0, 360, projections, spiral.translation, spiral.rotation
    )
    spiral.add_dynamic_parametrisation(translation=tr, rotation=rot)

    # Spiral inserts
    sradius = 4
    radius = list(range(0, 100 - sradius // 2, sradius))
    sangle = 139
    angles = [math.radians(a) for a in range(0, sangle * len(radius), sangle)]
    posx = [radius[i] * math.cos(angles[i]) for i in range(len(radius))]
    posy = [radius[i] * math.sin(angles[i]) for i in range(len(radius))]
```

# Gate simulation code

```
def add_spiral_insert (
    sim,
    mother,
    name,
    rmin=0 * mm,
    rmax=1 * mm,
    dz=40 * cm,
    material="Aluminium",
    translation=None,
    color=None,
):

    spiral_insert = sim.add_volume("Tubs", name=name)
    spiral_insert.mother = mother.name
    spiral_insert.rmin = rmin
    spiral_insert.rmax = rmax
    spiral_insert.dz = dz
    spiral_insert.material = material
    spiral_insert.translation = translation
    spiral_insert.color = color

for i in range(len(radius)):
    add_spiral_insert (
        sim,
        spiral,
        f"SpiralInsert{i:02d}",
        translation=[posx[i] * mm, posy[i] * mm, 0],
    )
```

# Gate simulation code

```
# Beam
source = sim.add_source("GenericSource", "mybeam")
source.particle = "proton"
source.energy.mono = 200 * MeV
source.energy.type = "mono"
source.position.type = "box"
source.position.size = [16 * mm, 1 * nm, 1 * nm]
source.position.translation = [0, 0, -1060 * mm]
source.direction.type = "focused"
source.direction.focus_point = [0, 0, -1000 * mm]

if sim.visu:
    # For visualisation speed, the number of particle is decreased
    source.activity = 10 * Bq
else:
    source.activity = protons_per_projection * Bq

# Physics list
sim.physics_manager.physics_list_name = "QGSP_BIC_EMZ"
```

# Gate simulation code

```
# Phase spaces
def add_detector(sim, name, translation):
    plane = sim.add_volume("Box", "PlanePhaseSpace" + name)
    plane.size = [400 * mm, 400 * mm, 1 * nm]
    plane.translation = translation
    plane.material = "Vacuum"

    phase_space = sim.add_actor("PhaseSpaceActor", "PhaseSpace" + name)
    phase_space.attached_to = plane.name
    phase_space.attributes = [
        "RunID",
        "EventID",
        "TrackID",
        "KineticEnergy",
        "PreGlobalTime",
        "Position",
        "Direction",
    ]
    phase_space.output_filename = f"{output}/PhaseSpace{name}.root"
    ps_filter = sim.add_filter("ParticleFilter", "Filter" + name)
    ps_filter.particle = "proton"
    phase_space.filters.append(ps_filter)

add_detector(sim, "In", [0, 0, -110 * mm])
add_detector(sim, "Out", [0, 0, 110 * mm])

sim.run()
```

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons**
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts
- 5 pctbinning
- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# Full simulation and energy-loss reconstruction example

```
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose

pctpairprotons --input-in gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceIn.root --input-out gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceOut.root \
  --psin PhaseSpaceIn --psout PhaseSpaceOut --plane-in -110 --plane-out 110 --verbose \
  --output pairs.mhd

for i in {0000..0719}; do
  pctpaircuts --input pairs${i}.mha --output pairs_cut${i}.mha --spacing 2,50 --size 120,1 --robust
  pctbinning --input pairs_cut${i}.mha --output proj${i}.mha --spacing=1,50,1 --size=220,1,220 --source -1000.
done

rtksimulatedgeometry --output geometry.xml --nproj 720 --sid 1000 --sdd 1100

pctfdk --geometry geometry.xml --path . --regexp proj....\\.mha --output recon.mha --dimension=210,1,210 -v
```

# Proton track reconstruction

Pair data of the same proton before and after the scanned object

Previously implemented in C++, hence the ROOT dependency

Now implemented in Python only using the package `uproot`

`pctpairprotons` produces one file per gantry position with perfect “track reconstruction” using the Geant4 IDs

Welcome to use your own track reconstruction algorithm and produce the list mode data in the PCT format

⇒ ITK to NumPy bridge, see `itk.array_from_image` and `itk.image_from_array`

# List mode ion CT data format

- 2D image of 3D vectors: `itk::Image<itk::Vector<float, 3>, 2>`
- Each line corresponds to one proton
- 5 columns:
  - 2 vectors for the entrance and exit positions,
  - 2 vectors for the entrance and exit directions,
  - 1 vector for the entrance and exit energies and a user-defined scalar or 1 vector with 0., WEPL, and a user-defined scalar.

# pctpairprotons --help

Pair corresponding protons from GATE ROOT files

options:

```

-h, --help            show this help message and exit
-V, --version        show program's version number and exit
-i INPUT_IN, --input-in INPUT_IN
                    Root phase space file of particles before object (default: None)
-j INPUT_OUT, --input-out INPUT_OUT
                    Root phase space file of particles after object (default: None)
-o OUTPUT, --output OUTPUT
                    Output file name (default: None)
--plane-in PLANE_IN  Plane position of incoming protons (default: None)
--plane-out PLANE_OUT
                    Plane position of outgoing protons (default: None)
--min-run MIN_RUN    Minimum run (inclusive) (default: 0)
--max-run MAX_RUN    Maximum run (exclusive) (default: 1000000.0)
--no-nuclear         Remove inelastic nuclear collisions (default: False)
--fit FIT            Fit file used to convert from energy loss or TOF to WEPL (default: None)
--fit-kind {tof,energy}
                    Whether to convert to WEPL using energy loss or TOF (default: None)
--store-time         Store time instead of energy in the output list-mode (default: False)
--verbose, -v        Verbose execution (default: False)
--psin PSIN          Name of tree in input phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
--psout PSOUT        Name of tree in output phase space (default: PhaseSpace)

```

# pctpairprotons --help

Pair corresponding protons from GATE ROOT files

options:

```
-h, --help          show this help message and exit
-V, --version       show program's version number and exit
-i INPUT_IN, --input-in INPUT_IN
                    Root phase space file of particles before object (default: None)
-j INPUT_OUT, --input-out INPUT_OUT
                    Root phase space file of particles after object (default: None)
```

## Input phase spaces

```
-o OUTPUT, --output OUTPUT
                    Output file name (default: None)
--plane-in PLANE_IN Plane position of incoming protons (default: None)
--plane-out PLANE_OUT
                    Plane position of outgoing protons (default: None)
--min-run MIN_RUN  Minimum run (inclusive) (default: 0)
--max-run MAX_RUN  Maximum run (exclusive) (default: 1000000.0)
--no-nuclear       Remove inelastic nuclear collisions (default: False)
--fit FIT          Fit file used to convert from energy loss or TOF to WEPL (default: None)
--fit-kind {tof,energy}
                    Whether to convert to WEPL using energy loss or TOF (default: None)
--store-time       Store time instead of energy in the output list-mode (default: False)
--verbose, -v      Verbose execution (default: False)
--psin PSIN        Name of tree in input phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
--psout PSOUT      Name of tree in output phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
```

# pctpairprotons --help

Pair corresponding protons from GATE ROOT files

options:

```
-h, --help          show this help message and exit
-V, --version       show program's version number and exit
-i INPUT_IN, --input-in INPUT_IN
                    Root phase space file of particles before object (default: None)
-j INPUT_OUT, --input-out INPUT_OUT
                    Root phase space file of particles after object (default: None)
-o OUTPUT, --output OUTPUT
                    Output file name (default: None)
--plane-in PLANE_IN
                    Plane position of incoming protons (default: None)
--plane-out PLANE_OUT
                    Plane position of outgoing protons (default: None)
--min-run MIN_RUN   Minimum run (inclusive) (default: 0)
--max-run MAX_RUN   Maximum run (exclusive) (default: 1000000.0)
--no-nuclear        Remove inelastic nuclear collisions (default: False)
```

Artificially filter out unwanted nuclear events

```
--fit FIT           Fit file used to convert from energy loss or TOF to WEPL (default: None)
--fit-kind {tof,energy}
                    Whether to convert to WEPL using energy loss or TOF (default: None)
--store-time        Store time instead of energy in the output list-mode (default: False)
--verbose, -v       Verbose execution (default: False)
--psin PSIN         Name of tree in input phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
--psout PSOUT       Name of tree in output phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
```

# pctpairprotons --help

Pair corresponding protons from GATE ROOT files

options:

```
-h, --help           show this help message and exit
-V, --version       show program's version number and exit
-i INPUT_IN, --input-in INPUT_IN
                    Root phase space file of particles before object (default: None)
-j INPUT_OUT, --input-out INPUT_OUT
                    Root phase space file of particles after object (default: None)
-o OUTPUT, --output OUTPUT
                    Output file name (default: None)
--plane-in PLANE_IN Plane position of incoming protons (default: None)
--plane-out PLANE_OUT
                    Plane position of outgoing protons (default: None)
--min-run MIN_RUN   Minimum run (inclusive) (default: 0)
--max-run MAX_RUN   Maximum run (exclusive) (default: 1000000.0)
--no-nuclear        Remove inelastic nuclear collisions (default: False)
--fit FIT           Fit file used to convert from energy loss or TOF to WEPL (default: None)
--fit-kind {tof,energy}
                    Whether to convert to WEPL using energy loss or TOF (default: None)
```

Use fitting data produced by Gate simulations

```
--store-time        Store time instead of energy in the output list-mode (default: False)
--verbose, -v       Verbose execution (default: False)
--psin PSIN         Name of tree in input phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
--psout PSOUT       Name of tree in output phase space (default: PhaseSpace)
```

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
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- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# Full simulation with `pctweplfit`

```
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose

pctweplfit -o weplfit --savefig -v

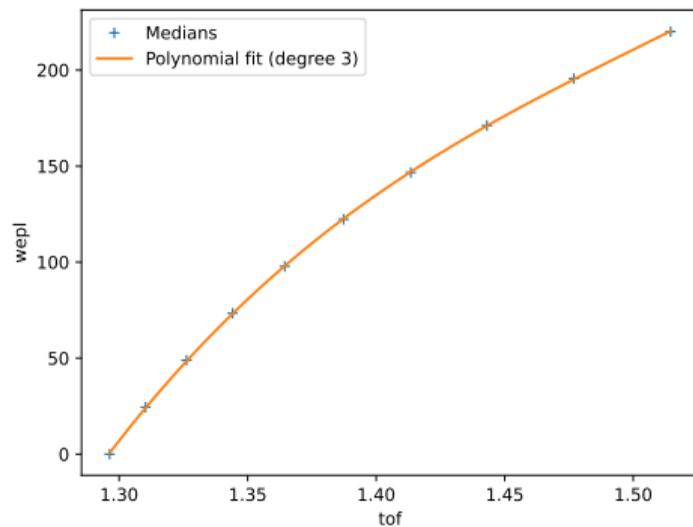
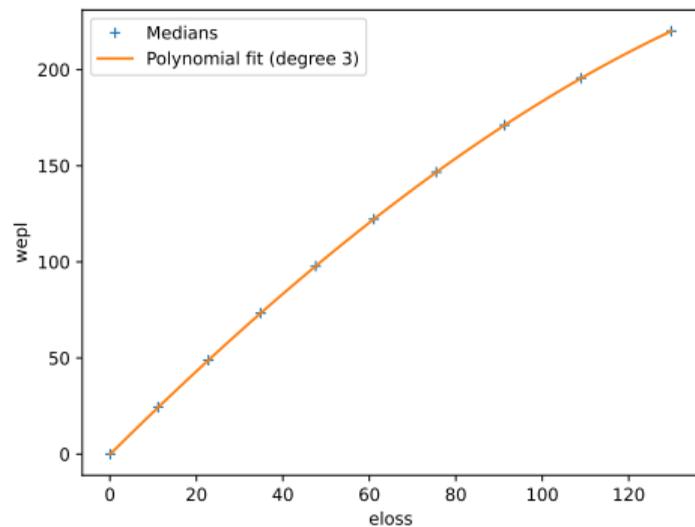
pctpairprotons --input-in gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceIn.root --input-out gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceOut.root \
  --psin PhaseSpaceIn --psout PhaseSpaceOut --plane-in -110 --plane-out 110 --verbose \
  --fit weplfit/eloss_to_wepl_fit_deg3.json \
  --output pairs.mhd

for i in {0000..0719}; do
  pctpaircuts --input pairs${i}.mha --output pairs_cut${i}.mha --spacing 2,50 --size 120,1 --robust
  pctbinning --input pairs_cut${i}.mha --output proj${i}.mha --spacing=1,50,1 --size=220,1,220 --source -1000.
done

rtksimulatedgeometry --output geometry.xml --nproj 720 --sid 1000 --sdd 1100

pctfdk --geometry geometry.xml --path . --regex proj....\\.mha --output recon.mha --dimension=210,1,210 -v
```

## pctwelfit output



# pctweplfit --help

```

-h, --help                show this help message and exit
-V, --version             show program's version number and exit
-o OUTPUT, --output OUTPUT
                          Path of outputs (default: pctweplfit)
-n NUMBER_OF_PARTICLES, --number-of-particles NUMBER_OF_PARTICLES
                          Number of generated particles (default: 10000)
--path-type {phantom_length,simple,realistic}
                          How to compute proton path (default: simple)
--phantom-length-samples PHANTOM_LENGTH_SAMPLES
                          Number of phantom length samples (default: 10)
-w PHANTOM_WIDTH, --phantom-width PHANTOM_WIDTH
                          Phantom width (default: 40.0)
-d DETECTOR_DISTANCE, --detector-distance DETECTOR_DISTANCE
                          Distance between detectors (default: 220.0)
-e INITIAL_ENERGY, --initial-energy INITIAL_ENERGY
                          Initial energy of the protons (in MeV) (default: 200.0)
--number-of-detectors NUMBER_OF_DETECTORS
                          Number of detectors in the phantom (default: 10)
--polydeg-min POLYDEG_MIN
                          Minimum polynom degree (default: 3)
--polydeg-max POLYDEG_MAX
                          Maximum polynom degree (default: 3)
--visu                    Visualize Monte Carlo simulation (default: False)
--display                 Display polynomial fit plot (default: False)
--savefig                 Write polynomial fit plot to disk (default: False)
--verbose, -v             Verbose execution (default: False)

```

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts**
- 5 pctbinning
- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# Full simulation and energy-loss reconstruction example

```
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose

pctpairprotons --input-in gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceIn.root --input-out gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceOut.root \
  --psin PhaseSpaceIn --psout PhaseSpaceOut --plane-in -110 --plane-out 110 --verbose \
  --output pairs.mhd

for i in {0000..0719}; do
  pctpaircuts --input pairs${i}.mha --output pairs_cut${i}.mha --spacing 2,50 --size 120,1 --robust
  pctbinning --input pairs_cut${i}.mha --output proj${i}.mha --spacing=1,50,1 --size=220,1,220 --source -1000.
done

rtksimulatedgeometry --output geometry.xml --nproj 720 --sid 1000 --sdd 1100

pctfdk --geometry geometry.xml --path . --regexp proj....\\.mha --output recon.mha --dimension=210,1,210 -v
```

# Nuclear interactions

Protons which have undergone nuclear interactions are a nuisance and must be filtered out before reconstruction.

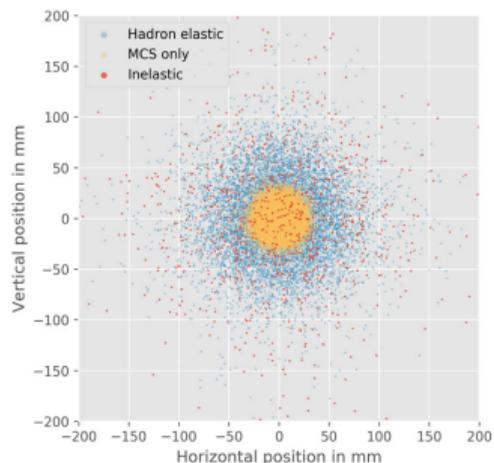


Figure from N. Krah, F. Khellaf, J.M. Letang, S. Rit, and I. Rinaldi. "A comprehensive theoretical comparison of proton imaging set-ups in terms of spatial resolution." In: *Phys Med Biol* 63.13 (13 2018), p. 135013. DOI: [10.1088/1361-6560/aaca1f](https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/aaca1f)

# Nuclear interactions

Protons which have undergone nuclear interactions are a nuisance and must be filtered out before reconstruction.

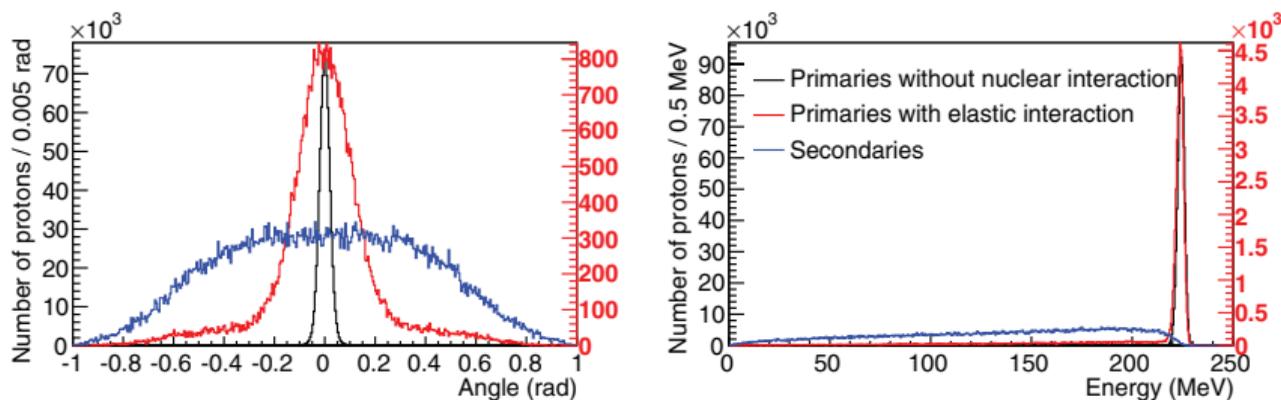


Figure from C.T. Quiñones, J.M. Létang, and S. Rit. “Filtered back-projection reconstruction for attenuation proton CT along most likely paths”. In: *Phys Med Biol* 61.9 (2016), pp. 3258–3278. DOI: [10.1088/0031-9155/61/9/3258](https://doi.org/10.1088/0031-9155/61/9/3258)

# pctpaircuts --help

```

-i, --input=STRING      Input file name containing the proton pairs
-o, --output=STRING     Output file name
-s, --source=DOUBLE     Source position (default='0.')
  --anglecut=DOUBLE     Cut parameter on the SD of proton angle. (default='3.')
  --energycut=DOUBLE    Cut parameter on the SD of proton energy. (default='3.')
-r, --robust            Use robust estimation using 50/19.1 %ile. (default=off)
  --robustopt=INT       Use newer options for robust cut. (default='0')
  --primaries           Consider only primary protons (default=off)
  --nonuclear          Consider only primary protons without nuclear interactions (default=off)
  --wet                Write WET instead of initial energy (default=off)

```

## Projections parameters:

```

--origin=DOUBLE        Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT        Dimension(Deprecated) Use --size instead. (default='256')
--size=INT             Size (default='256')
--spacing=DOUBLE       Spacing (default='1')
--direction=DOUBLE     Direction
--like=STRING          Copy information from this image (origin, size, spacing, direction)

```

## Output cut images:

```

--menergy=STRING       Mean energy file name
--senergy=STRING       Sigma energy file name
--sangle=STRING        Sigma angle file name
--count=STRING         Count file name

```

# pctpaircuts --help

```

-i, --input=STRING      Input file name containing the proton pairs
-o, --output=STRING     Output file name
-s, --source=DOUBLE     Source position (default='0.')
  --anglecut=DOUBLE     Cut parameter on the SD of proton angle. (default='3.')
  --energycut=DOUBLE    Cut parameter on the SD of proton energy. (default='3.')
-r, --robust            Use robust estimation using 50/19.1 %ile. (default=off)
  --robustopt=INT       Use newer options for robust cut. (default='0')
  --primaries           Consider only primary protons (default=off)
  --nonuclear          Consider only primary protons without nuclear interactions (default=off)
  --wet                Write WET instead of initial energy (default=off)

```

## Projections parameters:

```

--origin=DOUBLE        Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT        Dimension(Deprecated) Use --size instead. (default='256')
--size=INT             Size (default='256')
--spacing=DOUBLE       Spacing (default='1')
--direction=DOUBLE     Direction
--like=STRING          Copy information from this image (origin, size, spacing, direction)

```

Define a grid of pixels on the entrance detector plane

## Output cut images:

```

--menergy=STRING      Mean energy file name
--senergy=STRING      Sigma energy file name
--sangle=STRING       Sigma angle file name
--count=STRING        Count file name

```

# pctpaircuts --help

```

-i, --input=STRING      Input file name containing the proton pairs
-o, --output=STRING     Output file name
-s, --source=DOUBLE     Source position (default='0.')
  --anglecut=DOUBLE     Cut parameter on the SD of proton angle. (default='3.')
  --energycut=DOUBLE    Cut parameter on the SD of proton energy. (default='3.')
-r, --robust            Use robust estimation using 50/19.1 %ile. (default=off)
  --robustopt=INT       Use newer options for robust cut. (default='0')
  --primaries           Consider only primary protons (default=off)
  --nonuclear          Consider only primary protons without nuclear interactions (default=off)
  --wet                Write WET instead of initial energy (default=off)

```

## Projections parameters:

```

--origin=DOUBLE        Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT         Dimension(Deprecated) Use --size instead. (default='256')
--size=INT              Size (default='256')
--spacing=DOUBLE        Spacing (default='1')
--direction=DOUBLE     Direction
--like=STRING           Copy information from this image (origin, size, spacing, direction)

```

## Output cut images:

```

--menergy=STRING       Mean energy file name
--senergy=STRING       Sigma energy file name
--sangle=STRING        Sigma angle file name
--count=STRING         Count file name

```

Bin protons which hit the same pixel of the entrance detector  
 Compute the energy and angle deviation means and sigmas

# pctpaircuts --help

```

-i, --input=STRING      Input file name containing the proton pairs
-o, --output=STRING     Output file name
-s, --source=DOUBLE     Source position (default='0.')
  --anglecut=DOUBLE     Cut parameter on the SD of proton angle. (default='3.')
  --energycut=DOUBLE    Cut parameter on the SD of proton energy. (default='3.')
```

Select those within `--anglecut / --energycut  $\sigma$`  around the mean.

```

-r, --robust            Use robust estimation using 50/19.1 %ile. (default=off)
  --robustopt=INT      Use newer options for robust cut. (default='0')
  --primaries          Consider only primary protons (default=off)
  --nonuclear          Consider only primary protons without nuclear interactions (default=off)
  --wet                Write WET instead of initial energy (default=off)
```

## Projections parameters:

```

--origin=DOUBLE        Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT        Dimension(Deprecated) Use --size instead. (default='256')
--size=INT             Size (default='256')
--spacing=DOUBLE       Spacing (default='1')
--direction=DOUBLE     Direction
--like=STRING          Copy information from this image (origin, size, spacing, direction)
```

## Output cut images:

```

--menergy=STRING       Mean energy file name
--senergy=STRING       Sigma energy file name
--sangle=STRING        Sigma angle file name
--count=STRING         Count file name
```

# pctpaircuts --help

```

-i, --input=STRING      Input file name containing the proton pairs
-o, --output=STRING     Output file name
-s, --source=DOUBLE     Source position (default='0.')
  --anglecut=DOUBLE     Cut parameter on the SD of proton angle. (default='3.')
  --energycut=DOUBLE    Cut parameter on the SD of proton energy. (default='3.')
```

Select those within `--anglecut / --energycut  $\sigma$`  around the mean.

```
-r, --robust            Use robust estimation using 50/19.1 %ile. (default=off)
```

Median and centiles are used to computes the means and  $\sigma$ .

```

--robustopt=INT        Use newer options for robust cut. (default='0')
--primaries            Consider only primary protons (default=off)
--nonuclear            Consider only primary protons without nuclear interactions (default=off)
--wet                  Write WET instead of initial energy (default=off)
```

## Projections parameters:

```

--origin=DOUBLE        Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT        Dimension(Deprecated) Use --size instead. (default='256')
--size=INT              Size (default='256')
--spacing=DOUBLE        Spacing (default='1')
--direction=DOUBLE     Direction
--like=STRING           Copy information from this image (origin, size, spacing, direction)
```

## Output cut images:

```

--menergy=STRING       Mean energy file name
--senergy=STRING       Sigma energy file name
--sangle=STRING        Sigma angle file name
```

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts
- 5 pctbinning**
- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# Full simulation and energy-loss reconstruction example

```
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose

pctpairprotons --input-in gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceIn.root --input-out gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceOut.root \
  --psin PhaseSpaceIn --psout PhaseSpaceOut --plane-in -110 --plane-out 110 --verbose \
  --output pairs.mhd

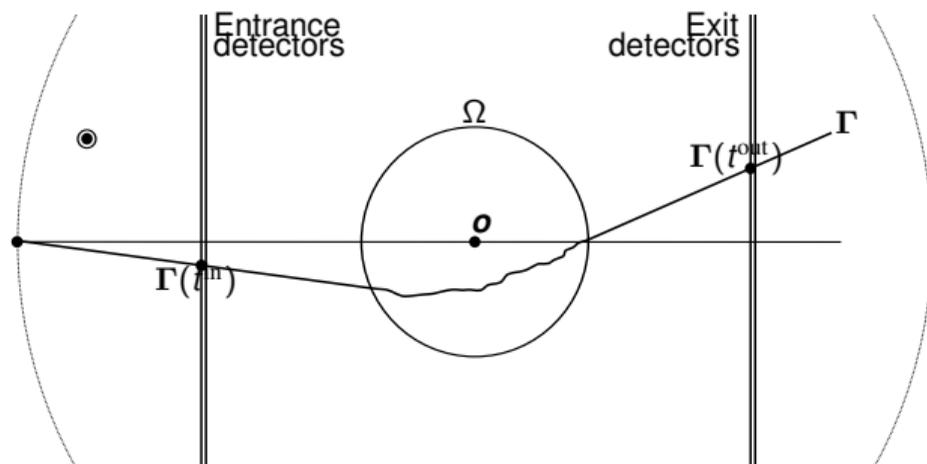
for i in {0000..0719}; do
  pctpaircuts --input pairs${i}.mha --output pairs_cut${i}.mha --spacing 2,50 --size 120,1 --robust
  pctbinning --input pairs_cut${i}.mha --output proj${i}.mha --spacing=1,50,1 --size=220,1,220 --source -1000.
done

rtksimulatedgeometry --output geometry.xml --nproj 720 --sid 1000 --sdd 1100

pctfdk --geometry geometry.xml --path . --regexp proj....\\.mha --output recon.mha --dimension=210,1,210 -v
```

# Most likely path

Estimates the proton path from available measurements, i.e., the positions  $\Gamma(t^{\text{in}})$  and  $\Gamma(t^{\text{out}})$ , the directions  $\dot{\Gamma}(t^{\text{in}})$  and  $\dot{\Gamma}(t^{\text{out}})$ , the energies  $E^{\text{in}}$  and  $E^{\text{out}}$ , the patient envelope  $\Omega$ .



# Most likely paths in PCT

- Third order polynomial

T. Li, Z. Liang, J.V. Singanallur, T.J. Satogata, D.C. Williams, and R.W. Schulte. "Reconstruction for proton computed tomography by tracing proton trajectories: a Monte Carlo study". In: *Med Phys* 33.3 (2006), pp. 699–706

- Bayesian approach assuming water

R. W. Schulte, S. N. Penfold, J. T. Tafas, and K. E. Schubert. "A maximum likelihood proton path formalism for application in proton computed tomography.". In: *Med Phys* 35.11 (2008), pp. 4849–4856. DOI: 10.1118/1.2986139

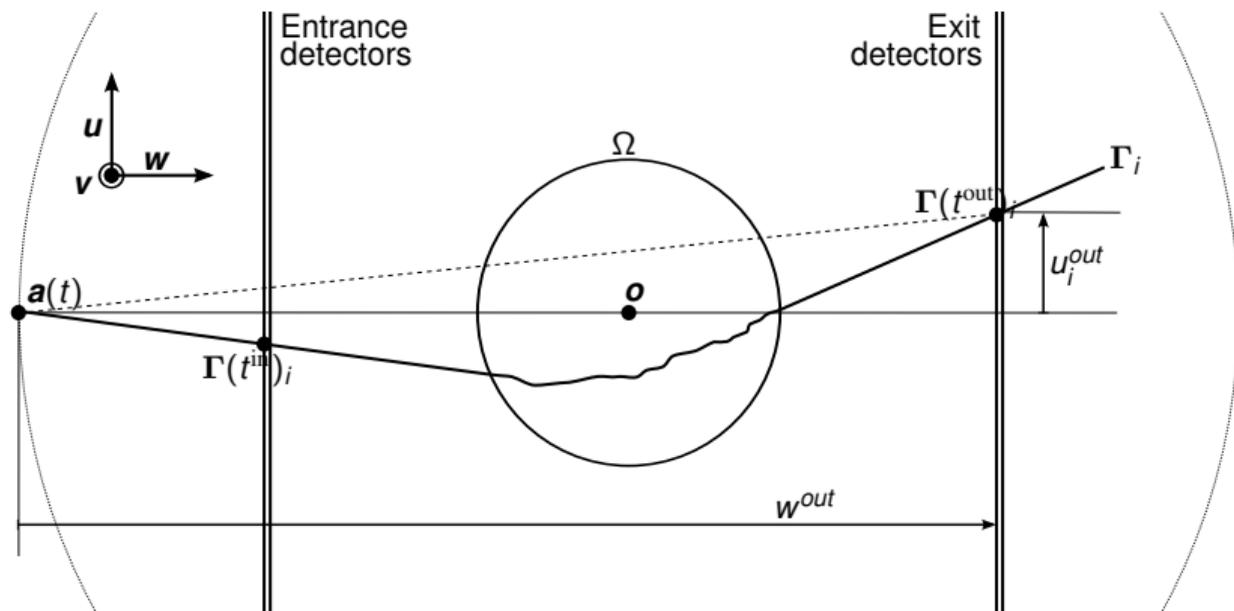
- Polynomial formulation according to the energy loss polynomial

N. Krah, J.-M. Létang, and S. Rit. "Polynomial modelling of proton trajectories in homogeneous media for fast most likely path estimation and trajectory simulation.". In: *Phys Med Biol* 64.19 (19 2019), p. 195014. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/ab3d0b

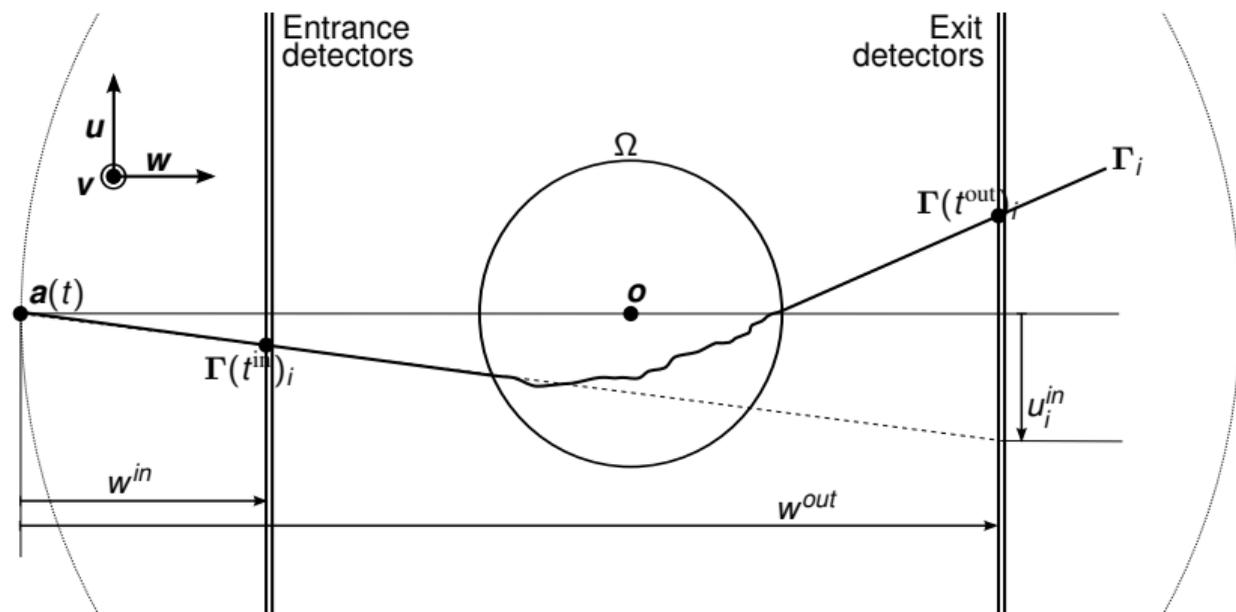
- Energy adaptive

N. Krah, D. Dauvergne, J.M. Létang, S. Rit, and E. Testa. "Energy-adaptive calculation of the most likely path in proton CT". In: *Phys Med Biol* 66.20NT02 (2021), pp. 1–6. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/ac2999

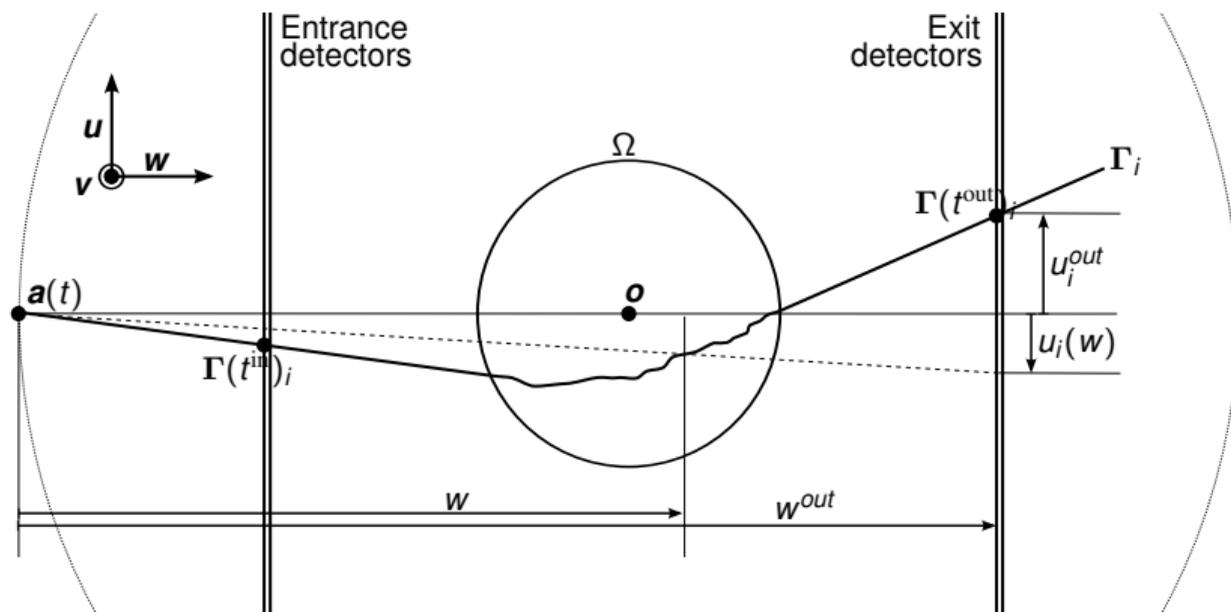
# “Natural” binning



# Binning driven by entrance position



# Distance-driven binning



# Distance-driven binning

- Name following

B. De Man and S. Basu. "Distance-driven projection and backprojection in three dimensions". In: *Phys Med Biol* 49.11 (2004), pp. 2463–2475

- In practice, binning is computed for several distances between the entrance and the exit detector.

⇒ 4D sinogram instead of a standard 3D sinogram

# Illustration on one projection only

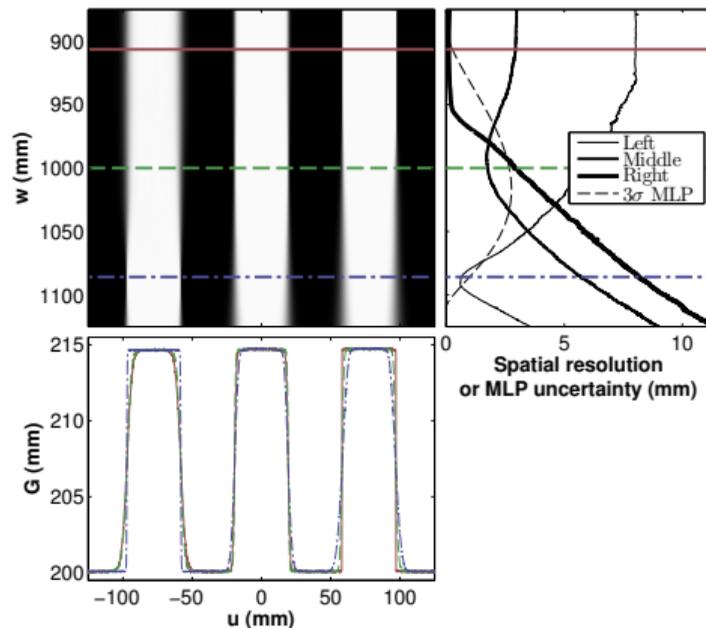
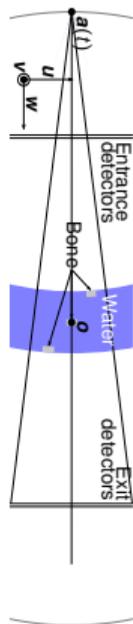


Figure from S. Rit, G. Dedes, N. Freud, D. Sarrut, and J.M. Létang. "Filtered backprojection proton CT reconstruction along most likely paths". In: *Med Phys* 40.3, 031103 (2013), p. 031103. DOI: [10.1118/1.4789589](https://doi.org/10.1118/1.4789589)

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate  $1/\beta^2 p^2$  (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE         Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE
                        Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE
                        Material budget  $x/X_0$  of tracker
--fill                  Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

--elosswepl=STRING            Output file name (alias for --output)

S. Rit, G. Dedes, N. Freud, D. Sarrut, and J.M. Létang. "Filtered backprojection proton CT reconstruction along most likely paths". In: *Med Phys* 40.3, 031103 (2013), p. 031103. DOI: 10.1118/1.4789589

```
-c, --count=STRING            Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING            Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING               Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE           Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                              http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE          Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                              http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING             Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert            Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT              Degree of the polynomial to approximate 1/beta^2p^2 (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE               Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE    Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE       Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE       Material budget x/X0 of tracker
--fill                         Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)
```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING     Image of count of proton pairs per pixel

```

C.T. Quiñones, J.M. Létang, and S. Rit. "Filtered back-projection reconstruction for attenuation proton CT along most likely paths". In: *Phys Med Biol* 61.9 (2016), pp. 3258–3278. DOI: 10.1088/0031-9155/61/9/3258

```

--scatwepl=STRING      Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING         Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE     Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                       http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE    Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                       http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING       Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert     Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT       Degree of the polynomial to approximate  $1/\beta^2 p^2$  (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE        Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                       Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE
                       Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE
                       Material budget x/X0 of tracker
--fill                 Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel

```

N. Krahl, C.T. Quiñones, J.M. Letang, and S. Rit. "Scattering proton CT". In: *Phys Med Biol* 65.22 (2020), p. 225015. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/abbd18

```

--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krahl 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate  $1/\beta^2 p^2$  (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE          Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE Material budget  $x/X_0$  of tracker
--fill                   Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel

```

J. Dickmann, P. Wesp, M. Rädler, S. Rit, M. Pankuch, R.P. Johnson, V.A. Bashkirov, R.W. Schulte, K. Parodi, G. Landry, and G. Dedes. "Prediction of image noise contributions in proton computed tomography and comparison to measurements". In: *Phys Med Biol* 64.14 (2019), p. 145016. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/ab2474

```

--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate 1/beta^2p^2 (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE         Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE Material budget x/X0 of tracker
--fill                  Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')

```

R. W. Schulte, S. N. Penfold, J. T. Tafas, and K. E. Schubert. "A maximum likelihood proton path formalism for application in proton computed tomography." In: *Med Phys* 35.11 (2008), pp. 4849–4856. DOI: 10.1118/1.2986139

```

--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate 1/beta^2p^2 (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE         Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE Material budget x/X0 of tracker
--fill                  Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate 1/beta^2p^2 (default='5')

```

N. Krah, J.-M. Létang, and S. Rit. "Polynomial modelling of proton trajectories in homogeneous media for fast most likely path estimation and trajectory simulation." In: *Phys Med Biol* 64.19 (19 2019), p. 195014. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/ab3d0b

```

--ionpot=DOUBLE         Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE Material budget x/X0 of tracker
--fill                  Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate  $1/\beta^2 p^2$  (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE          Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE Material budget  $x/X_0$  of tracker

```

N. Krah, F. Khellaf, J.M. Letang, S. Rit, and I. Rinaldi. "A comprehensive theoretical comparison of proton imaging set-ups in terms of spatial resolution." In: *Phys Med Biol* 63.13 (13 2018), p. 135013. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/aaca1f

```

--fill                  Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

# pctbinning --help

```

--elosswepl=STRING      Output file name (alias for --output)
-c, --count=STRING      Image of count of proton pairs per pixel
--scatwepl=STRING       Image of scattering WEPL of proton pairs per pixel
--noise=STRING          Image of WEPL variance per pixel
--quadricIn=DOUBLE      Parameters of the entrance quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--quadricOut=DOUBLE     Parameters of the exit quadric support function, see
                        http://education.siggraph.org/static/HyperGraph/raytrace/rtinter4.htm
--mlptype=STRING        Type of most likely path (schulte, polynomial, or krah) (default='schulte')
--mlptrackeruncert      Consider tracker uncertainties in MLP [Krah 2018, PMB] (default=off)

--mlppolydeg=INT        Degree of the polynomial to approximate 1/beta^2p^2 (default='5')
--ionpot=DOUBLE         Ionization potential used in the reconstruction in eV (default='68.9984')
--trackerresolution=DOUBLE
                        Tracker resolution in mm
--trackerspacing=DOUBLE Tracker pair spacing in mm
--materialbudget=DOUBLE Material budget x/X0 of tracker
--fill                  Fill holes, i.e. pixels that were not hit by protons (default=off)

```

D.C. Hansen, T. Sangild Sorensen, and S. Rit. "Fast reconstruction of low dose proton CT by sinogram interpolation". In: *Phys Med Biol* 61.15 (2016), pp. 5868–5882. DOI: 10.1088/0031-9155/61/15/5868

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts
- 5 pctbinning
- 6 pctfdk**
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# Full simulation and energy-loss reconstruction example

```
python protonct.py --output gate_simulation --verbose

pctpairprotons --input-in gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceIn.root --input-out gate_simulation/PhaseSpaceOut.root \
  --psin PhaseSpaceIn --psout PhaseSpaceOut --plane-in -110 --plane-out 110 --verbose \
  --output pairs.mhd

for i in {0000..0719}; do
  pctpaircuts --input pairs${i}.mha --output pairs_cut${i}.mha --spacing 2,50 --size 120,1 --robust
  pctbinning --input pairs_cut${i}.mha --output proj${i}.mha --spacing=1,50,1 --size=220,1,220 --source -1000.
done

rtksimulatedgeometry --output geometry.xml --nproj 720 --sid 1000 --sdd 1100

pctfdk --geometry geometry.xml --path . --regexp proj....\\.mha --output recon.mha --dimension=210,1,210 -v
```

# Reconstruction algorithm

Adaptation of the FDK algorithm in

```
pct::FDKDDConeBeamReconstructionFilter
```

- Same 2D processing (weighting and filtering) at each distance

```
pct::FDKDDWeightProjectionFilter and  
rtk::FFTRampImageFilter
```

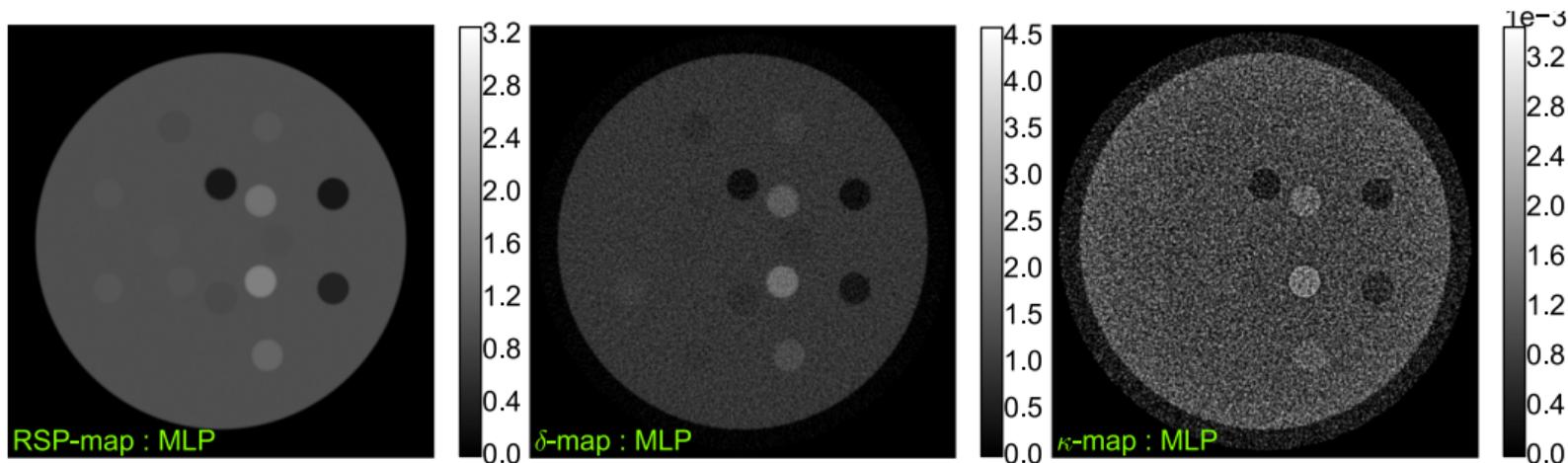
- Rotate and add (+account for divergence if not parallel)

⇒ Each proton information is backprojected along its most likely path

```
pct::FDKDDBackProjectionImageFilter
```

# Results

N. Krah, C.T. Quiñones, J.M. Letang, and S. Rit. "Scattering proton CT". In: *Phys Med Biol* 65.22 (2020), p. 225015. DOI: [10.1088/1361-6560/abbd18](https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6560/abbd18)



# pctfdk --help

```

-h, --help           Print help and exit
-V, --version        Print version and exit
-v, --verbose        Verbose execution (default=off)
  --config=STRING    Config file
-g, --geometry=STRING XML geometry file name
-p, --path=STRING    Path containing projections
-r, --regexp=STRING  Regular expression to select projection files in path
-o, --output=STRING  Output file name
-l, --lowmem         Load only one projection per thread in memory
                    (default=off)
  --wpc=DOUBLE       Water precorrection coefficients (default is no
                    correction)

```

## Ramp filter:

```

--pad=DOUBLE         Data padding parameter to correct for truncation
                    (default='0.0')
--hann=DOUBLE        Cut frequency for hann window in ]0,1] (0.0 disables
                    it) (default='0.0')
--hannY=DOUBLE       Cut frequency for hann window in ]0,1] (0.0 disables
                    it) (default='0.0')

```

## Volume properties:

```

--origin=DOUBLE      Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT       Dimension(Deprecated) Use --size instead.
                    (default='256')
--size=INT           Size (default='256')
--spacing=DOUBLE     Spacing (default='1')
--direction=DOUBLE   Direction
--like=STRING        Copy information from this image (origin, size,

```

# pctfdk --help

```

-h, --help                Print help and exit
-V, --version             Print version and exit
-v, --verbose             Verbose execution (default=off)
  --config=STRING         Config file
-g, --geometry=STRING     XML geometry file name
-p, --path=STRING         Path containing projections
-r, --regexp=STRING       Regular expression to select projection files in path
-o, --output=STRING       Output file name
-l, --lowmem              Load only one projection per thread in memory
                          (default=off)
  --wpc=DOUBLE            Water precorrection coefficients (default is no
                          correction)

```

## Ramp filter:

```

--pad=DOUBLE              Data padding parameter to correct for truncation
                          (default='0.0')
--hann=DOUBLE             Cut frequency for hann window in ]0,1] (0.0 disables
                          it) (default='0.0')

```

E. Fogazzi, D. Trevisan, P. Farace, R. Righetto, S. Rit, M. Scaringella, M. Bruzzi, F. Tommasino, and C. Civinini. "Characterization of the INFN proton CT scanner for cross-calibration of x-ray CT". In: *Phys Med Biol* 68.12 (2023), p. 124001. DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/acd6d3

```

--hannY=DOUBLE           Cut frequency for hann window in ]0,1] (0.0 disables
                          it) (default='0.0')

```

## Volume properties:

```

--origin=DOUBLE          Origin (default=centered)
--dimension=INT          Dimension (Deprecated) Use --size instead.
                          (default='256')

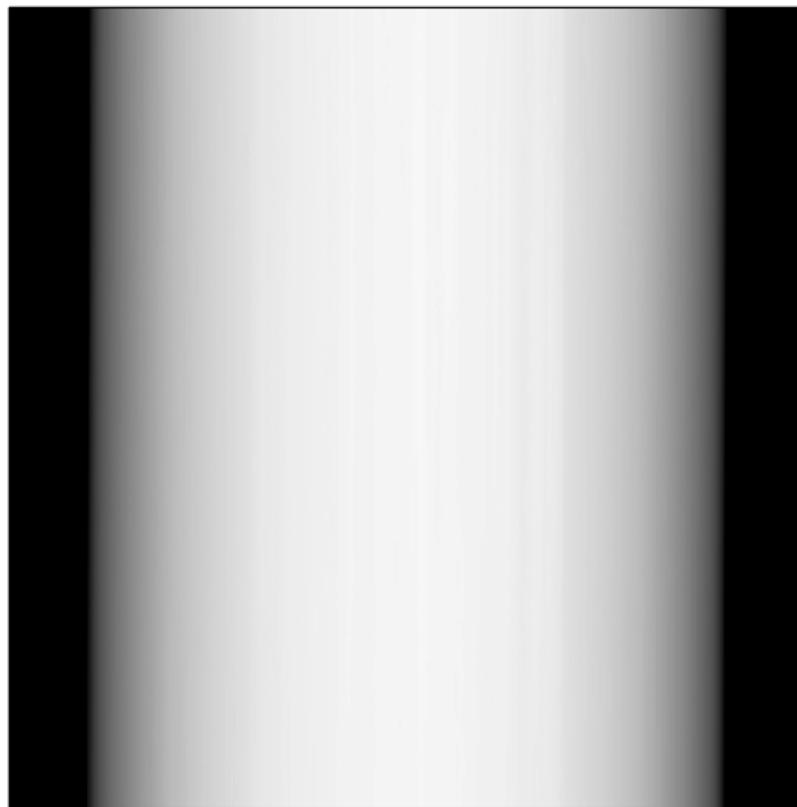
```

# Outline

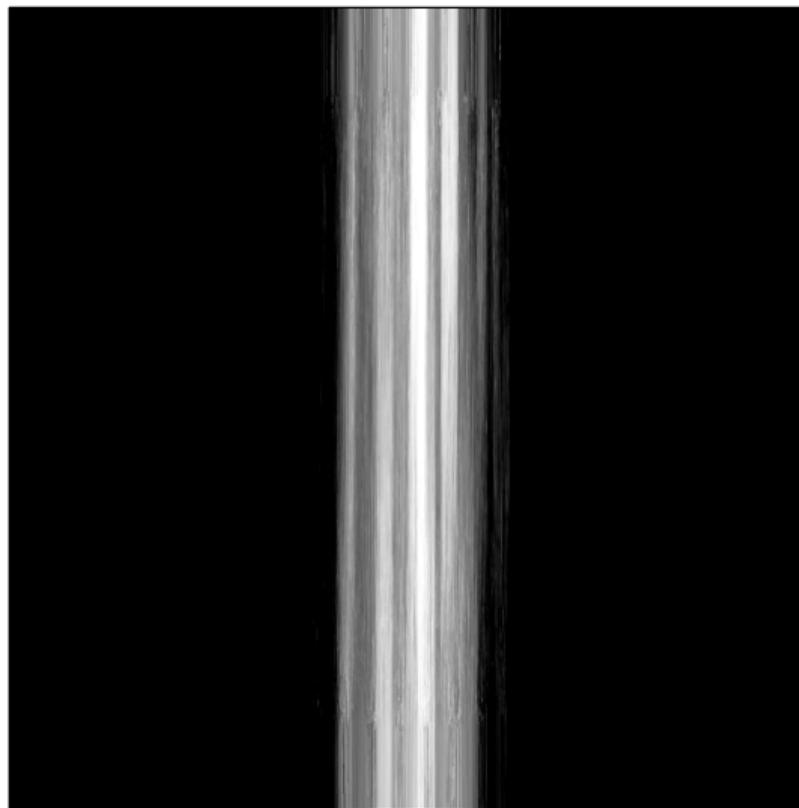
- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts
- 5 pctbinning
- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning**
- 8 pctzengbackprojections

# Pixel-specific backprojection

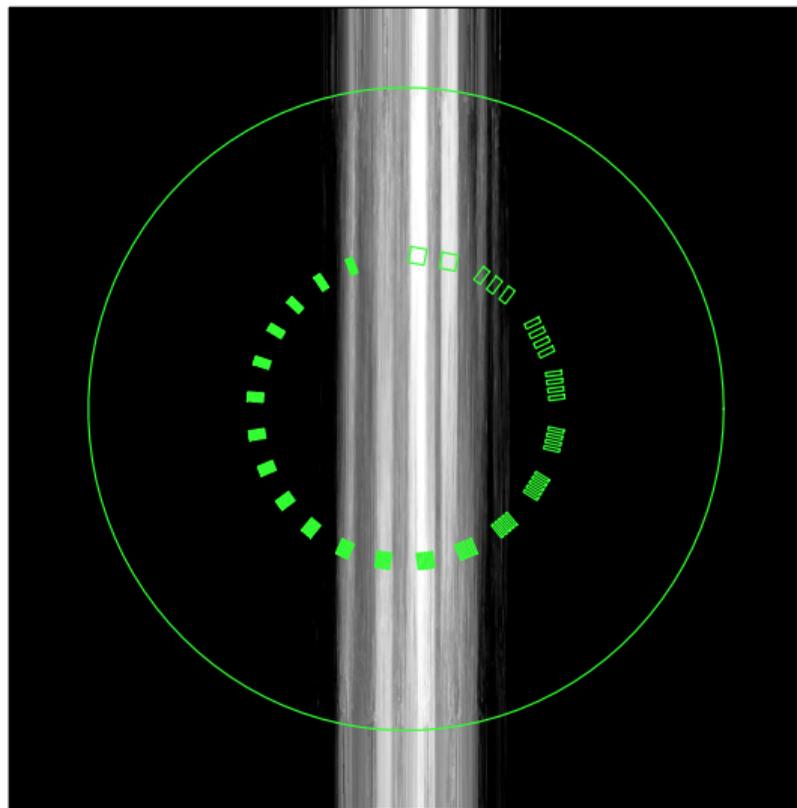
# Pixel-specific backprojection



# Pixel-specific backprojection



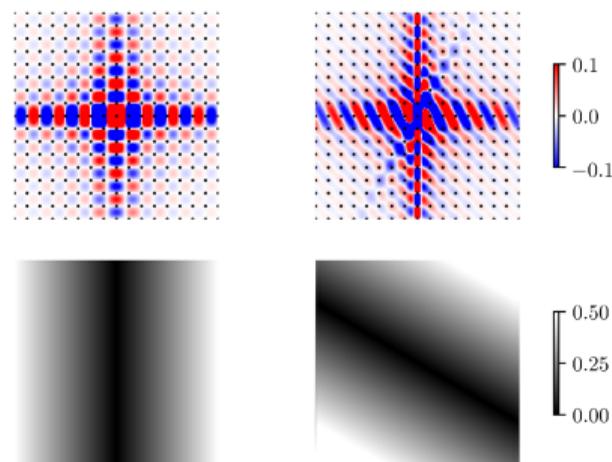
# Pixel-specific backprojection



# Directional ramp filter

F. Khellaf, N. Krahe, J.M. Létang, and S. Rit. "2D directional ramp filter". In: *Phys Med Biol* 65.8 (2020), 08NT01.

DOI: 10.1088/1361-6560/ab7875



Code not in PCT (yet)...

# Outline

- 1 Gate simulation
- 2 pctpairprotons
- 3 pctweplfit
- 4 pctpaircuts
- 5 pctbinning
- 6 pctfdk
- 7 pctbackprojectionbinning
- 8 pctzengbackprojections**

# Backprojection then filtering

S. Rit, R Clackdoyle, J. Hoskovec, and J.M. Létang. “List-mode proton CT reconstruction using their most likely paths via the finite Hilbert transform of the derivative of the backprojection”. In: *Fully 3D Image Reconstruction in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine*. Newport, USA, 2015, pp. 324–327

- Based on Noo’s two-step Hilbert transform method and Zeng’s adaptation to backproject first

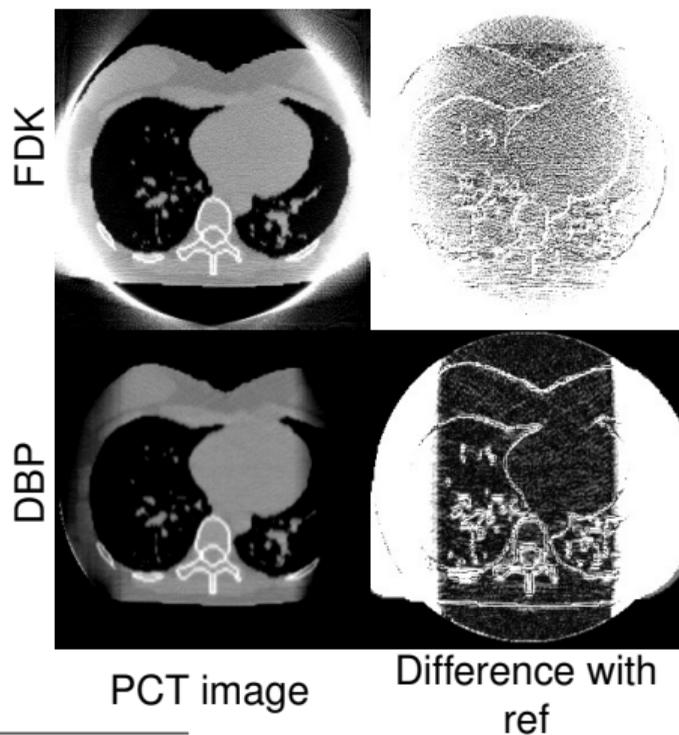
F. Noo, R. Clackdoyle, and J.D. Pack. “A two-step Hilbert transform method for 2D image reconstruction”. In: *Phys Med Biol* 49.17 (2004), pp. 3903–3923. DOI: 10.1088/0031-9155/49/17/006

G.L. Zeng. “Image reconstruction via the finite Hilbert transform of the derivative of the backprojection.”. In: *Med Phys* 34.7 (2007), pp. 2837–2843

- Bonus: region-of-interest reconstruction.

The second step, the inverse Hilbert transform, is not in PCT yet.

# Backprojection then filtering



<sup>6</sup>S. Rit, R Clackdoyle, J. Hoskovec, and J.M. Létang. "List-mode proton CT reconstruction using their most likely paths via the finite Hilbert transform of the derivative of the backprojection". In: *Fully 3D Image Reconstruction in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine*. Newport, USA, 2015, pp. 324–327.

# Conclusions

- Overview of our open-source reconstruction package PCT

- Already available but



- `pctpaircuts` must be translated to Python
  - Finalize and document full attenuation, scatter pipelines
  - Idem for variance and He CT in collaboration with LMU
- Will advertise the release on [users@ionimaging.org](mailto:users@ionimaging.org)
- We welcome any feedback and contribution
  - What data format are you using? What does it store?
  - Any alternative open source software available?