



Cancer: A Medical Challenge for Physics

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Outline

- Cancer and radiotherapy
- Charged Particle Therapy
- Research
- Summary and Conclusions



Disclaimer

I am a physicist, and this is a physicist's view of cancer and cancer therapy. However, I do have associates who are oncologists, radiobiologists, biophysicists and accelerator scientists. These are my own views of cancer and its challenges.

CANCER & RADIOTHERAPY

Cancer Statistics & therapies

Figure 2.1: Number of new cases and rates, by age and sex, all malignant neoplasms (exc NMSC), UK, 2007 60,000 3,500 3,000 -Male cases 50,000 Female cases cases 2,500 Male rates 40,000 Female rates 2,000 new 30,000 1,500 Number 20,000 - 1,000 500 Kat 10,000 55-64 45-54 65-74 35-44 75+ under ŵ can increase risk Source CRUK Age at diagnosis

About one third of us will have cancer

About two thirds of cancers are in people over 65

Environmental factors & lifestyle choices Baseline risk of cancer remains that cannot be eliminated

Cancer is a terrible condition but there have been great advances in therapy Contributions to successful treatment of cancer 45-50% surgery, <u>40-50% radiotherapy</u>, 10-15% chemotherapy Radiotherapy is an important weapon in the battle against cancer

Radiation-induced DNA damage



Nuclear / Cellular scale damage

Low-LET (e.g. γ-rays)

1 Gy corresponds to: ~1000 electron tracks ~20-40 DSB Relatively homogeneous





Induction of double strand breaks (DSB)

Simple aberrations



High-LET (e.g. α -particles)

1 Gy corresponds to: ~2 alpha tracks ~20-40 DSB Very non-homogeneous



α-particle

γΗ2ΑΧ



Repair

RAD51



Complex aberrations

Chromosome aberrations

Mark Hill, Gray Institute

Depth Dose curves – x-rays & electrons





Materials and Methods

- Gamma-ray irradiation

- Gamma-ray irradiation system
 - Cesium irradiator
 - Dose rate of ~1.7 Gy/min
 - Dose correction factor was obtained from EBT film dosimetry based on the data of cobolt irradiator at Harwell
- Comparison with x-ray
 - To confirm the correction factor,
 - →Gamma-ray survival curve was compared with x-ray(from X-ray tube) curve
 - Both plots agree well

Al Nagano (PTCRi, private communication)



PTCRi Meeting

The Evolution of Radiation Therapy



Curing Cancer with MV X-rays



MV x-ray treatment plans





Craniopharyngioma Hodgkin's Lymphoma Base of Skull Sarcoma



Conventional Radiotherapy

• Millions of people have benefited from x-radiation therapy



Inside the Linac

 The conceptual design of the radiotherapy linac is relatively simple

but performance is crucial

- Accuracy
 - Position, dose
- Reliability
 - Interrupting treatment is very bad
- Maintainability
 - Simple set-up and diagnostics

and affordability

challenges for physics



Linacs with on-Board Imaging



Imaging & Tumour Definition



Imaging is crucial to better diagnosis and treatment



Change of signal intensity at tumour edge



Credit: Neil Burnet

Organ motion: the problem

- Patients breathe!
- Solutions?
 - Motion tracking
 - Complicated
 - Active breathing
 - May be difficult





4D-CT derived from 4D-MRI

After Martin von Siebenthal, Phillipe Cattin, Gabor Szekely, Tony Lomax, ETH, Zurich and PSI, Villigen

- Diagnosis
 - Early diagnosis leads to better outcomes
- Tumour (and Organs At Risk)
 - identification and delineation
- Treatment planning
 - Optimising the therapeutic ratio
 - Fractionation strategies
- Calibration and dosimetry
 - Deliver the prescribed dose no more, no less
- Follow-up

The need for caution: Calibration & Dosimetry

The New Hork Times

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January 24, 2010

THE FADILATION BOOM Radiation Offers New Cures, and Ways to Do Harm

As Scott Jerome-Parks lay dying, he clung to this wish: that his fatal radiation overdose — which left him deaf, struggling to see, unable to swallow, burned, with his teeth falling out, with <u>ulcers</u> in his mouth and throat, nauseated, in severe pain and finally unable to breathe — be studied and talked about publicly so that others might not have to live his nightmare.

Sensing death was near, Mr. Jerome-Parks summoned his family for a final Christmas. His friends sent two buckets of sand from the beach where they had played as children so he could touch it, feel it and remember better days.

Mr. Jerome-Parks died several weeks later in 2007. He was 43.

A New York City hospital treating him for tongue <u>cancer</u> had failed to detect a computer error that directed a linear accelerator to blast his brain stem and neck with errant beams of radiation. Not once, but on three consecutive days.

Soon after the accident, at St. Vincent's Hospital in Manhattan, state health officials cautioned <u>hospitals</u> to be extra careful with linear accelerators, machines that generate beams of high-energy radiation.

But on the day of the warning, at the <u>State University of New York</u> Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, a 32-year-old <u>breast cancer</u> patient named Alexandra Jn-Charles absorbed the first of 27 days of radiation overdoses, each three times the prescribed amount. A linear accelerator with a missing filter would burn a hole in her chest, leaving a gaping wound so painful that this mother of two young children considered <u>suicide</u>.

Ms. Jn-Charles and Mr. Jerome-Parks died a month apart. Both experienced the wonders and the brutality of radiation. It helped diagnose and treat their disease. It also inflicted unspeakable pain.

Yet while Mr. Jerome-Parks had hoped that others might learn from his misfortune, the details of his case — and Ms. Jn-Charles's — have until now been shielded from public view by the government, doctors and the hospital.

Americans today receive far more medical radiation than ever before. The average lifetime dose of diagnostic radiation has increased sevenfold since 1980, and more than half of all cancer patients receive <u>radiation</u> <u>therapy</u>. Without a doubt, radiation saves countless lives, and serious accidents are rare.

But patients often know little about the harm that can result when safety rules are violated and ever more powerful and technologically complex machines go awry. To better understand those risks, The New York Times examined thousands of pages of public and private records and interviewed physicians, medical physicists, researchers and government regulators.

The New york Eimes

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January 27, 2010

THE RADIATION BOOM

As Technology Surges, Radiation Safeguards Lag

By WALT BOGDANICH

In New Jersey, 36 <u>cancer</u> patients at a veterans hospital in East Orange were overradiated — and 20 more received substandard treatment — by a medical team that lacked experience in using a machine that generated high-powered beams of radiation. The mistakes, which have not been publicly reported, continued for months because the hospital had no system in place to catch the errors.

In Louisiana, Landreaux A. Donaldson received 38 straight overdoses of radiation, each nearly twice the prescribed amount, while undergoing treatment for <u>prostate cancer</u>. He was treated with a machine so new that the hospital made a miscalculation even with training instructors still on site.

In Texas, George Garst now wears two external bags — one for urine and one for fecal matter — because of severe radiation injuries he suffered after a medical physicist who said he was overworked failed to detect a mistake. The overdose was never reported to the authorities because rules did not require it.

These mistakes and the failure of <u>hospitals</u> to quickly identify them offer a rare look into the vulnerability of patient safeguards at a time when increasingly complex, computer-controlled devices are fundamentally changing medical radiation, delivering higher doses in less time with greater precision than ever before.

Serious radiation injuries are still infrequent, and the new equipment is undeniably successful in diagnosing and fighting disease. But the technology introduces its own risks: it has created new avenues for error in software and operation, and those mistakes can be more difficult to detect. As a result, a single error that becomes embedded in a treatment plan can be repeated in multiple radiation sessions.

Many of these mistakes could have been caught had basic checking protocols been followed, accident reports show. But there is also a growing realization among those who work with this new technology that some safety procedures are outdated.

"Scientific societies haven't been able to keep up with the rapid pace of technical improvements," said Jeffrev F. Williamson, a professor of radiation oncology, who leads the medical physics division at the Massey Cancer Center at <u>Virginia Commonwealth University</u> in Richmond.

Hospitals, too, are lagging, sometimes failing to provide the necessary financial support to operate the sophisticated devices safely, according to accident reports and medical physicists, who set up and monitor

SUNDANCE

FILM FESTIVAL

PRINTER-PRIEMOLY FORMA

COMPAGED DV



Therapeutic Ratio: A Juggling Act



•The goal is: the highest therapeutic ratio

- the greatest chance of cure
- the least chance of serious toxicity

Oftentimes radiation doses are limited to avoid toxicity.

Sometimes the price of cure is a complication.

- Technology can provide many things – but clinical practice is conservative
- New ideas must satisfy clinical need – and be effective, reliable and affordable
- If we are lucky
 - we make life better for thousands or millions
- If we get it wrong
 - we do damage, perhaps only to a few
- Remember the Hippocratic Corpus

"επι δηλησει δε και αδικιηι ειρξειν"

"First, do no harm"

CHARGED PARTICLE THERAPY

Using protons and other light ions (e.g. carbon) to treat cancer

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Depth Dose curves – photon and proton



- 1946:
 - Therapy proposed by Robert R. Wilson, Harvard Physics
- 1955:
 - 1st Proton Therapy at Lawrence Tobias University of California, Berkeley
- 1955-73:
 - Single dose irradiation of benign CNS lesions
- 2010:
 - > 75 000 patients had been treated with protons worldwide
 - > 30 proton therapy centres operating worldwide
 - ~ 20 more planned or under construction

Proton Therapy Centres Worldwide

http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/ProtonsBirm ingham/background/facilities.htm

Can we do better?



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Dose Difference



9.3	Studies at UF
2.2	and MMSKCC
i3,1	have
i1.7	demonstrated either high
5.6	blindess rates
6.8	with moderate
റച	cure rates or
-, D,	low blindness
2.8	rates with low
44.2	cure rates,
	however MGH
30.4	studies with
22.8	PT and early
15.2	experience at
	UF with PT
7.6	suggests both
0.0	low blindness
-7.6	rates and high
16.5	cure rates.
10.2	

Lomax et al, PSI

Mendenhall

Hodgkin's Lymphoma; Heart & Spine Sparing



Photons

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X-rays compared with protons





Medulloblastoma in a child



Beam Delivery - Scattering



Courtesy of T. Lomax, PSI, Switzerland.

Beam Delivery - Scanning







CPT worldwide



- Particle Therapy has moved from laboratory to hospital

 where it belongs
- But there is still much to do
 - Improved accelerator technology
 - improved patient experience, better control
 - Improved beam delivery & instrumentation
 - Improved accuracy, lower healthy tissue dose, better control
 - Improved understanding of the evidence
 - better treatment planning, domains of applicability
 - Improved treatment regimes
 - better ways of delivering the lethal tumour dose
 - Improved understanding of mechanisms
 - better treatment planning, more effective outcomes
- Improve patient experience
- Increase effectiveness
- Decrease cost

Parameters



RBE & LET





$$LET = \frac{dE_{transferred}}{dx}$$



 LET is related to dE/dx (Bethe Bloch)
 but is the energy transferred to the medium,
 not the energy lost by the particle

More on RBE



 The recommended value of RBE for protons is 1.1

From Paganetti et al.: Int. J. Radiat. Oncol. Biol. Phys. 2002; 53, 407



RBE values in vivo (center of SOBP; relative to ⁶⁰Co)


Result – proton irradiation-



After AI Nagano (PTCRi, private communication)



 Averaged survival fractions over 3 repeated experiments.

ACCELERATOR TECHNOLOGY

EJ/JOANI/LAUGEATTIG

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Cyclotrons



Yu. G.Alenitsky, Proceedings of RuPAC 2008, Zvenigorod, Russia

IBA & Varian cyclotrons



L IBA

Cyclotrons are essentially fixed energy extraction





66.

4.6,







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IBA



Synchrotrons



The Loma Linda Synchrotron



• First patient treated November 2009



Courtesy HIT

HIT in action



Centro Nazionale di Adroterapia Oncologica



Courtesy Amaldi

PIMMS (CERN/TERA) Synchrotron Hall @ CNAO



Courtesy Amaldi

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Ugo Amaldi/TERA





JAMES MARTIN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL

Physics Challenges

Better conventional technologies

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• Cyclotrons

- Fixed energy extraction, difficult for Carbon at full energy (equivalent to 1.2 GeV/c protons)
- Synchrotrons
 - Flexible, but too slow?
- FFAG
 - Flexible, rapid cycling (fixed field), variable energy ... but ... new technology
 - Scaling (Mori) & non-Scaling (Johnstone, PAMELA)

Main requirements on the accelerator

Parameter	Value	Units	Comment
Extraction energy (proton) [Min, Max]	60, 240	MeV	ranges from 3 mm - 340 mm
Extraction energy (carbon) [Min, Max]	110, 450	MeV/u	ranges from 3 mm - 330 mm
Energy step (protons) [@Min, @Max]	2, 0.5	MeV	2mm step ~ half voxel
Energy step (carbon) [@Min, @Max]	4, 1	MeV/u	2mm step ~ half voxel
Energy resolution ∆E/E [@Min, @Max]	3.5, 1.8	%	= energy scale stability
Voxel Size [Min, Max]	$4^{3},10^{3}$	mm ³	
Largest achievable field of view	200×200	mm	ideally up to 400 x 400 mm
Clinical Dose rate (protons) [Min, Max]	2,≥20	Gy/min	min: 1.6 nA [10 ¹⁰ p/s]
Clinical Dose rate (carbon) [Min, Max]	2,≥20	Gy/min	min: 0.3 nA [3 x 10 ^{8 6+} C/s]

Question

- What would clinicians ideally like?

i.e. without taking into account current limitations – Could technology deliver this?

Photons, Protons and Carbon



Some Accelerator Ideas; Novel technologies



Cyclinac (Italy)

Fast active energy modulation



Compact Cyclotron: Mevion

Compact s/c Cyclotron (10 Tesla) Mounted on gantry (25T)



Single Room system

- Expensive to operate
- Neutron Background?

ne Still River

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Compact Cyclotron





Still River

The IBA 400 MeV/u cyclotron



- Maximum energy: 400 MeV/u, adjustable externally by ESS
- Superconducting magnet. Hill field 4.5 T
- Cooling by helium loop, with 4 external recondensers

Courtesy Y. Jongen, IBA

After Silari

BNL RCS Design



Racetrack design 2 super-periods Strong focusing minimizes the beam size FODO/combined function mags with edge focusing 2x7.6m straight sections, zero dispersion, tune quads Working tunes: 3.38, 3.36

Compact footprint Circumference: 27.8 m Area: 37 sq m

Peaas/BNL

Rapid Cycling Synchrotrons



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Compact Synchrotron



5 meter diameter Synchrotron

Lebedev Physics Institute Commercialized by the Company PRO-TOM In collaboration with MIT/Bates

Protons have been accelerated



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The FFAG

Should combine the advantages of FFAGs – Fixed Field

- Fast cycling (limited essentially by RF)
- Simpler, cheaper power supplies
- No eddy-currents
- High intensity (pulsed, ~continuous)
- Low beam losses
- Easier maintenance and operation
- Lower stresses
- Strong Focussing
 - Magnetic ring
 - Variable energy extraction
 - Higher energies (than cyclotrons)
 - Different ion species possible

• with relative ease of construction



Does it work?

nature physics

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Acceleration in the linear non-scaling fixed-field alternating-gradient accelerator EMMA



S. Machida¹*, R. Barlow², J. S. Berg³, N. Bliss⁴, R. K. Buckley^{4,5}, J. A. Clarke^{4,5}, M. K. Craddock^{6,7},
R. D'Arcy⁸, R. Edgecock^{1,2}, J. M. Garland^{5,9}, Y. Giboudot^{5,10}, P. Goudket^{4,5}, S. Griffiths^{4,11}, C. Hill⁴,
S. F. Hill^{4,5}, K. M. Hock^{5,12}, D. J. Holder^{5,12}, M. G. Ibison^{5,12}, F. Jackson^{4,5}, S. P. Jamison^{4,5},
C. Johnstone¹³, J. K. Jones^{4,5}, L. B. Jones^{4,5}, A. Kalinin^{4,5}, E. Keil¹⁴, D. J. Kelliher¹, I. W. Kirkman^{5,12},
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F. Méot³, K. J. Middleman^{4,5}, A. Moss^{4,5}, B. D. Muratori^{4,5}, J. Orrett^{4,5}, H. L. Owen^{5,9}, J. Pasternak^{1,15},
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B. J. A. Shepherd^{4,5}, R. Smith^{4,5}, S. L. Smith^{4,5}, D. Trbojevic³, S. Tzenov¹⁷, T. Weston⁴,

In a fixed-field alternating-gradient (FFAG) accelerator, eliminating pulsed magnet operation permits rapid acceleration to synchrotron energies, but with a much higher beam-pulse repetition rate. Conceived in the 1950s, FFAGs are enjoying renewed interest, fuelled by the need to rapidly accelerate unstable muons for future high-energy physics colliders. Until now a 'scaling' principle has been applied to avoid beam blow-up and loss. Removing this restriction produces a new breed of FFAG, a non-scaling variant, allowing powerful advances in machine characteristics. We report on the first non-scaling FFAG, in which orbits are compacted to within 10 mm in radius over an electron momentum range of 12-18 MeV/c. In this strictly linear-gradient FFAG, unstable beam regions are crossed, but acceleration via a novel serpentine channel is so rapid that no significant beam disruption is observed. This result has significant implications for future particle accelerators, particularly muon and high-intensity proton accelerators.

S. Machida et al, Nature Physics Nature Physics, 8:243–247(2012) doi:10.1038/nphys2179

EMMA

The World's First non-Scaling FFAG



EMMA lattice



PAMELA

EMMA-like ns-FFAG machine

Keil, Sessler & Trbojevic



Application to Cancer?

PHYSICAL REVIEW SPECIAL TOPICS - ACCELERATORS AND BEAMS 16, 030101 (2013)

G

Conceptual design of a nonscaling fixed field alternating gradient accelerator for protons and carbon ions for charged particle therapy

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From EMMA to PAMELA From Doublet to Triplet



- Doublet structure
 - Focus and Defocus
- Dense lattice
 - Little space between magnets
- Lots of RF Acceleration
 - Almost every other cell

- Triplet structure
 - Focus, Defocus, Focus
- Less Dense lattice
 - Long straight sections
- Less of RF Acceleration
 - Larger cavities
 - Lower frequencies
- Larger radius

Overview



From scaling to PAMELA



Scaling restoration



PAMELA Layout


Double-Helix Principle

Current density: Helix 2 Helix 1 $x: \quad \frac{Jx}{J_0} = -R\sin(\Theta) \qquad \qquad \frac{Jx}{J_0} = R\sin(\Theta)$ $y: \quad \frac{Jy}{J_0} = R\cos(\Theta) \qquad \qquad \frac{Jy}{J_0} = -R\cos(\Theta)$ $z: \quad \frac{Jz}{J_0} = \frac{nR}{\tan\alpha}\cos(n\Theta) \qquad \qquad \frac{Jz}{J_0} = -\frac{nR}{\tan(-\alpha)}\cos(n\Theta)$ $x: \quad \frac{Jx}{J_0} = -R\sin(\Theta)$ $\begin{bmatrix} J_2 \\ J_3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} J_4 \end{bmatrix}$ J1 **Double-Helix** Jx = 0Jy = 0 $Jz = const \cos(n\Theta)$ Double-helix coil: Smart way of creating a cosine-theta magnet Main advantage for PAMELA: No coil end problem 75% 100%

High field quality



Kicker Magnets



Septum Magnets









Ring-to-Ring transfer line



Ion sources





FFAG Beam Transport



Beam Transport



Gantry Design



How does PAMELA work?



PAMELA: ring overview

Injector(c): RFQ+LINAC		Ring #1 (p, c)	Ring #2 (c)
	Energy	30~250MeV (p) 8~68MeV/u (c)	68~400MeV/u
	# of Cell	12	12
	Diameter	12.5m	18.4m
Proron ring	K-value	38	41
	Orbit excursion	18cm	21cm
Carbon ring	Rev. freq	1.94~4.62MHz(p)	1.92~3.91MHz
$\mathbf{P} (\mathbf{r})^k$ $\mathbf{P} (\mathbf{r})^2$		0.98~2.69MHz(c)	
$\left \frac{B}{B} = \left(\frac{r}{r} \right) \right \implies \left \frac{B}{B} = 1 + k \frac{\Delta x}{r} + \frac{k(k-1)}{2!} \left(\frac{\Delta x}{r} \right) + \dots \right $	Magnet	Triplet(FDF), SC	Triplet(FDF), SC
$\begin{array}{c c} D_0 & r_0 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \\ Scaling \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \hline \\ \hline \\ PAMEL \\ \hline \\ $	length	57cm	113cm
• Stable betatron tune $\Delta v < 0.1$	aperture	25cm	33cm
 Long straight section (~1.3m) 	Long Drift	1.3m	1.2m
Small beam excursion(<20cm)	Packing factor	0.48	0.65
 Strong field (max 3.5T) ⇒ SC magnet 	Inj./Ext	1turn inj/ext	1turn inj/ext
\rightarrow 50 magnet . High repetition rate(~1kHz) is a big		2 LD (each)	2 LD (each
challenge	RF	Max 8 LD	Max 8 LD

PAMELA

- Particle Accelerator for MEdicaL Applications
- There are obvious potential benefits from proton/light ion therapy
 - Need to maximise the benefits
- Requirements
 - Rapid variable energy extraction
 - Rapid variable transverse spot scanning
 - Variable ion species
 - Accurate dose measurements

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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Radiation Therapy: Benefits and Challenges

- Radiation Therapy Cures Cancer
 More than 50% of patients <u>cured</u> have RT
- Radiation Therapy is High Technology
 - It is not traditional medicine
 - Needs highly trained personnel
 - To commission, operate and maintain the equipment
 - To identify and delineate the tumour volume
 - » and associated treatment volumes
 - To define the treatment plan
 - To verify that the treatment plan was implemented
 - » and to modify it as necessary

– and still requires biomedical research

- Cancer is a terrible condition

 but millions are cured every year
- Radiation therapy uses "physics"
 - high technology, many challenges
 - already good, but can be improved
 - in many ways
- Great opportunities to contribute

 and reap the rewards, treating cancer

Summary

- PAMELA Conceptual Design
 - "Proof of Principle"

on paper

Main weaknesses

ion source (can be fixed ... known technology)

- RF (common problem for low E ions)
- Gantry (sketch solution, but needs work)
- Lattice (two rings expensive, esp. carbon)
- Possible new lattice

"Racetrack" configuration matching from arcs to long straights? alignment sensitivity? orbit excursion?