

# BDSIM Applications for Proton Therapy

**William Shields**

([william.shields@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:william.shields@rhul.ac.uk))

on behalf of BDSIM group:

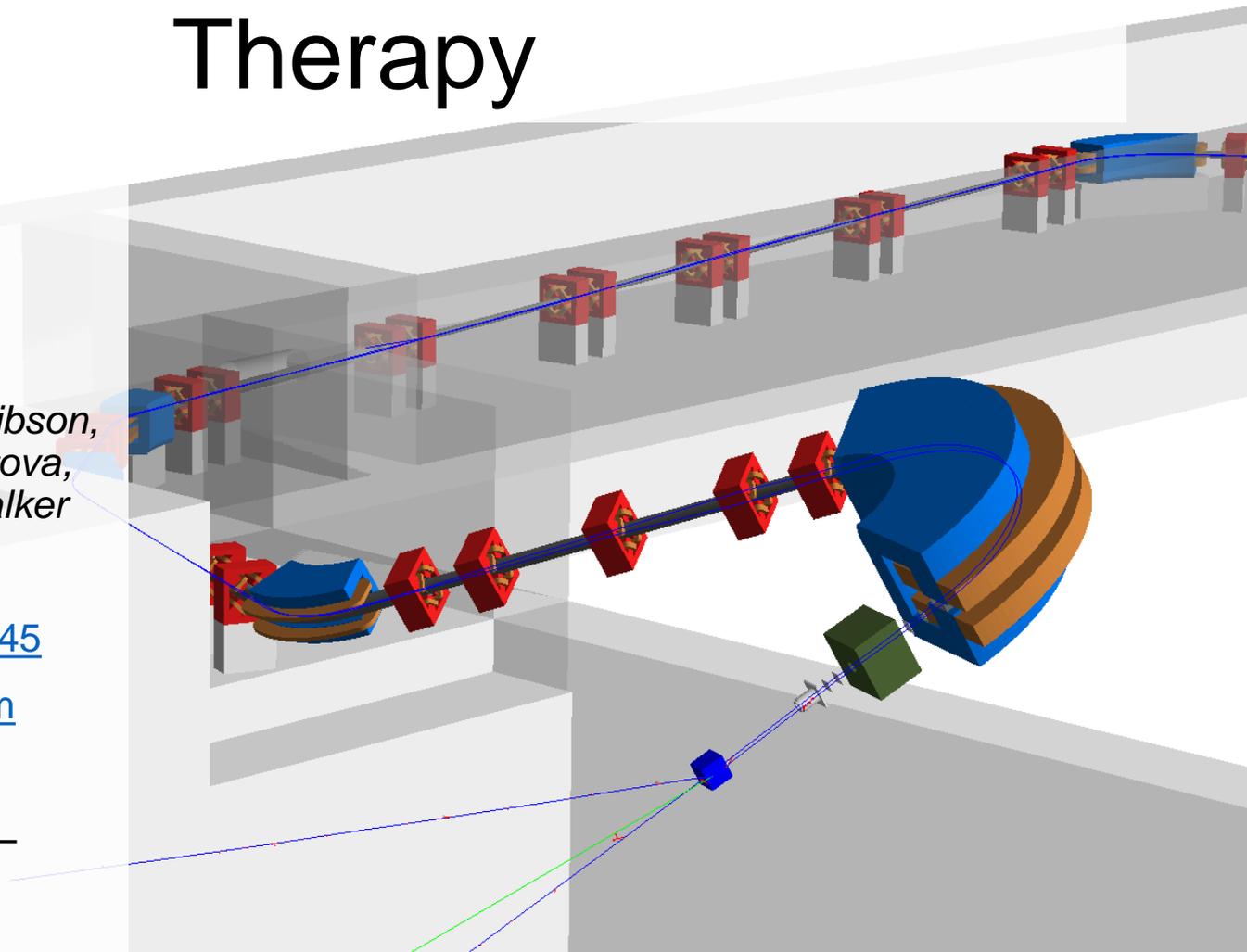
A. Abramov, S. Boogert, S. Gibson,  
H. Garcia-Morales, H. Pikhartova,  
L. Nevay, J. Snuverink, S. Walker

BDSIM:

<https://arxiv.org/abs/1808.10745>

<http://www.pp.rhul.ac.uk/bdsim>

7<sup>th</sup> December 2018, JAI Fest –  
RHUL.



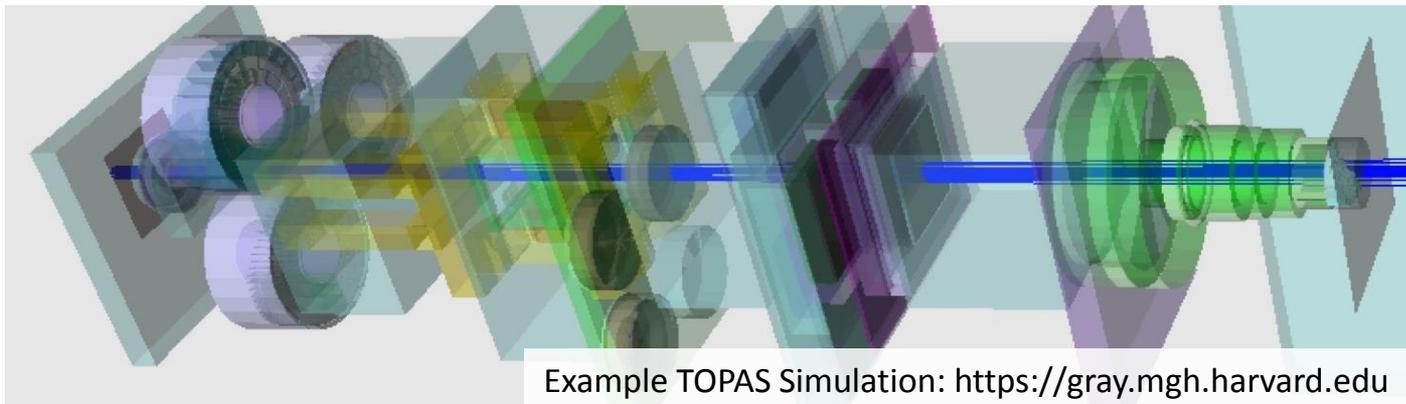
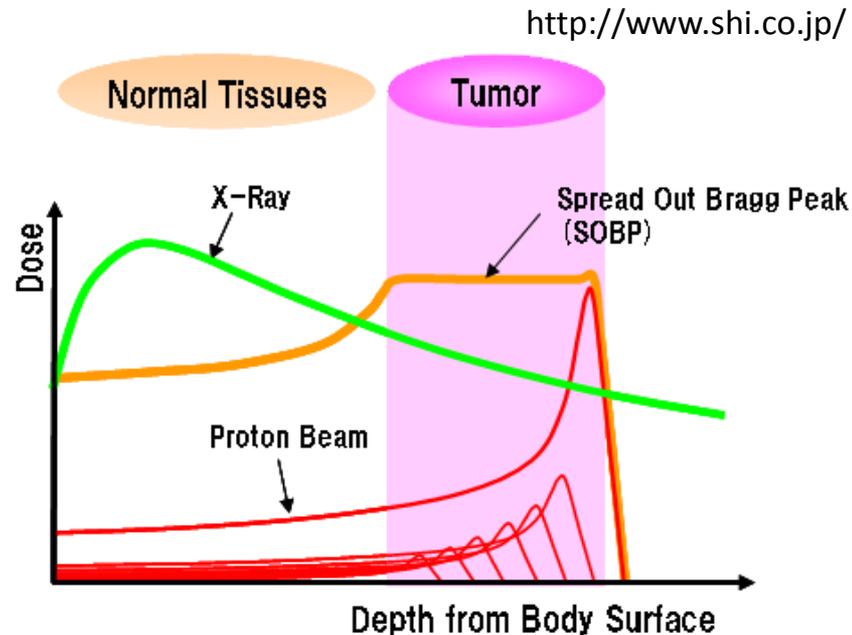
# Outline



1. Introduction.
2. Building a BDSIM model.
3. Proton therapy gantry example.
4. Collaboration.
5. Summary & outlook.

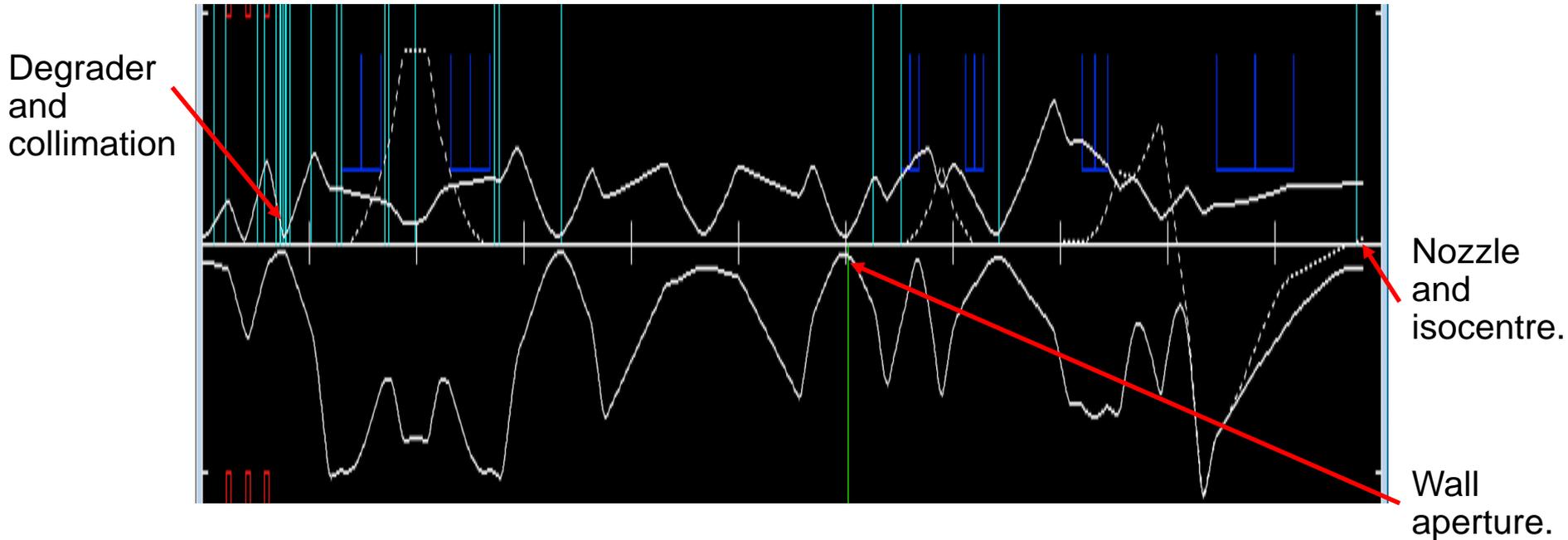
# Proton Therapy Simulations

- Radiotherapy technique using high energy protons.
- Dose deposited at a precise depth.
- Vary beam energy to build up Spread Out Bragg Peak.
- Correct dose is crucial – energy, size, shape, etc.
- Gantry nozzle simulations – no prior accelerator.



# Standard Approach

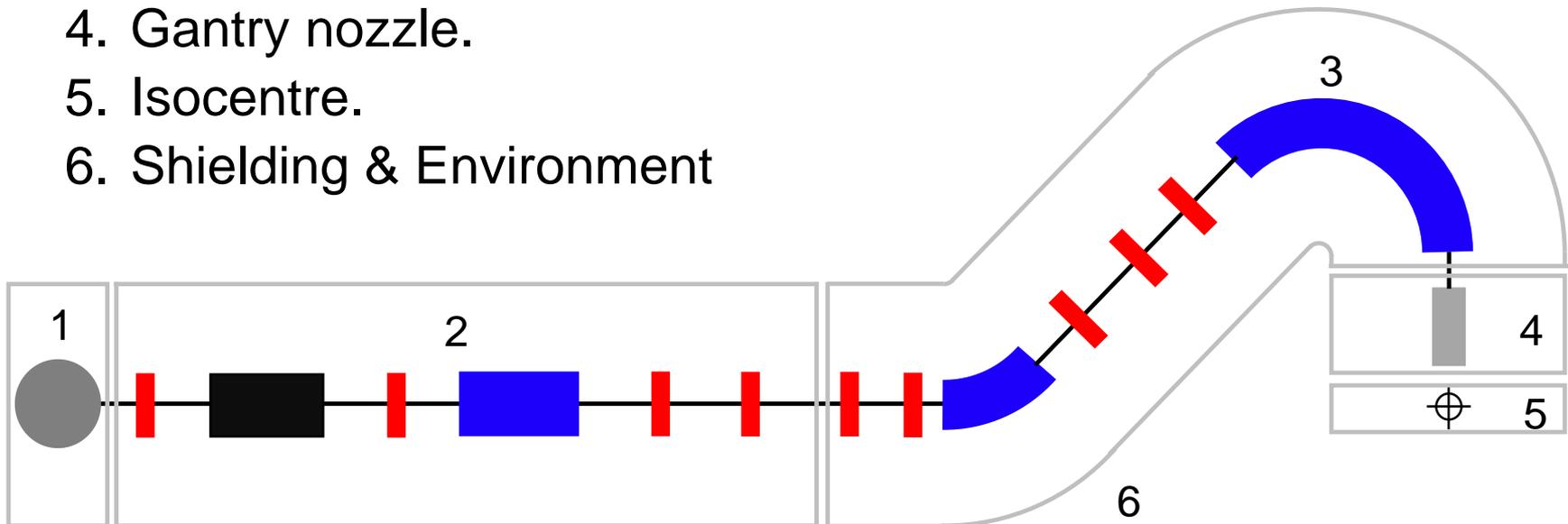
- Inspect machine optics and identify regions of interest.
  - Develop Monte Carlo simulations as required.



- Simulation challenges - high precision, many particles:
  - Computationally expensive.
  - Separate simulations.

# Simulating a Beam Line

- Regions of a proton therapy beamline:
  1. Particle source / acceleration.
  2. Beam transport to gantries.
  3. Gantry beam transport.
  4. Gantry nozzle.
  5. Isocentre.
  6. Shielding & Environment



- Our aim: To demonstrate a start-to-end model of a proton therapy gantry in a single simulation.

# Building a BDSIM Model

```
BDSIMGantry.gmad
BDSIMGantry.gmad > No Selection
1 ! pybdsim.Builder Lattice
2 ! number of elements = 101
3 ! total length      = 50.48259 m
4
5 DR1: drift, l=0.5507;
6 DR2: drift, l=0.5507;
7 QD1: quadrupole, k1=-9.5527, l=0.25;
8 ...
9 ...
10
11 l0: line = (DR1, DR2, QD1, DR3 ...
12 ...
13 lattice: line = (l0, l1a, l2, l3);
14 use, period=lattice;
15
16
17 beam,  distrType="gauss",
18     energy=1.188190*GeV,
19     particle="proton",
20     sigmaX=1.363*mm,
21     ...
22     ...
23
24 option, beampipeRadius=3.75*cm,
25     beampipeThickness=2*mm,
26     physicsList="em em_extra hadronic_elastic qgsp_bic",
27     worldGeometryFile="gdml:./Shielding.gdml",
28     ...
29
30
31 !place element support blocks
32 QD1_support : placement,
33     referenceElement="QD1",
34     referenceElementNumber=0,
35     y = -0.62501 *m,
36     geometryFile="gdml:./QD1_support.gdml";
37
38 sample, all;
```

← Components

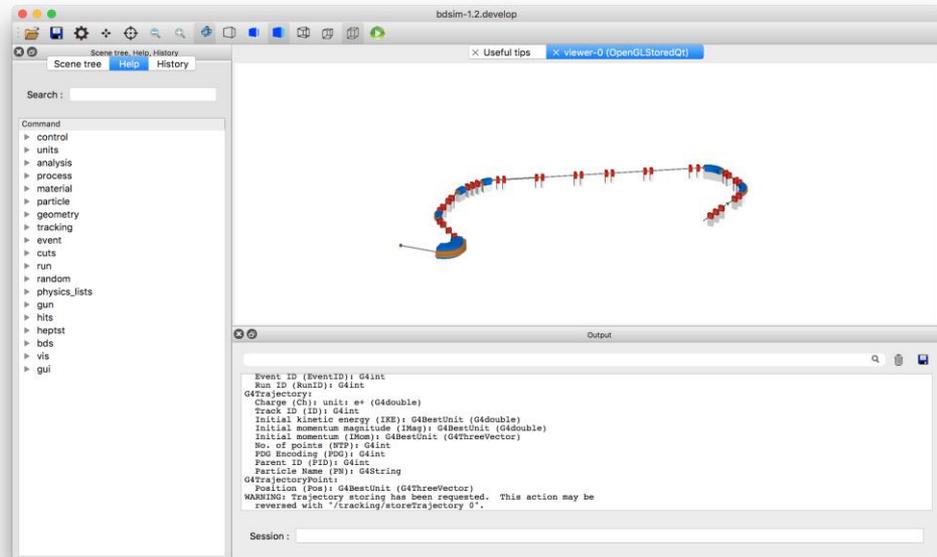
← Sequence

← Beam

← Options

← User geometry placement

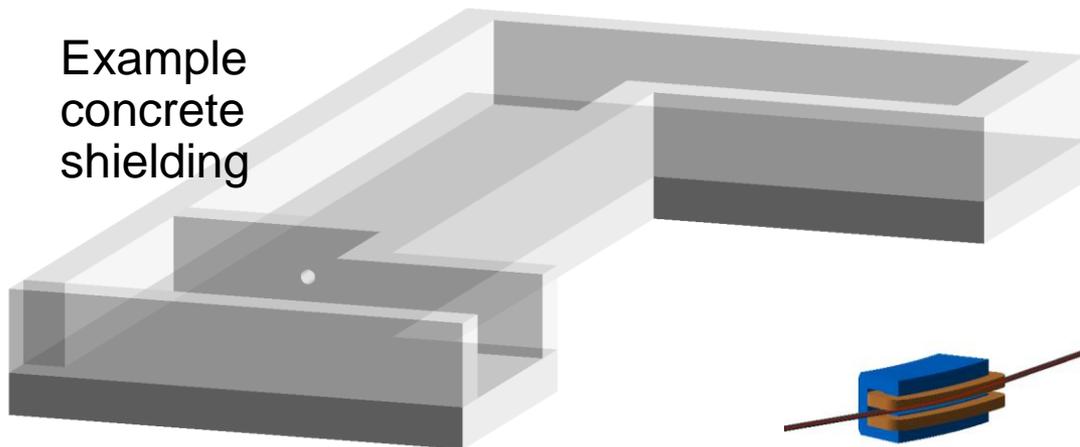
- Python utilities for automatic conversion:
  - Pybdsim, pymadx, pymad8, pytransport
- Optimise model with options.



# BDSIM Geometry

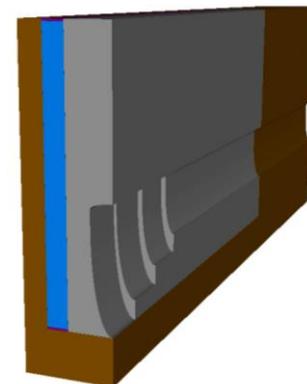
- Custom external geometry can be placed and field maps overlaid.
- Geometry e.g. GDML can be placed in the beam line.
- Python package pyg4ometry to create Geant4 geometry
  - <https://bitbucket.org/jairhul/pyg4ometry/>
  - STL/STEP meshes.

Example  
concrete  
shielding



Custom GDML  
collimator.

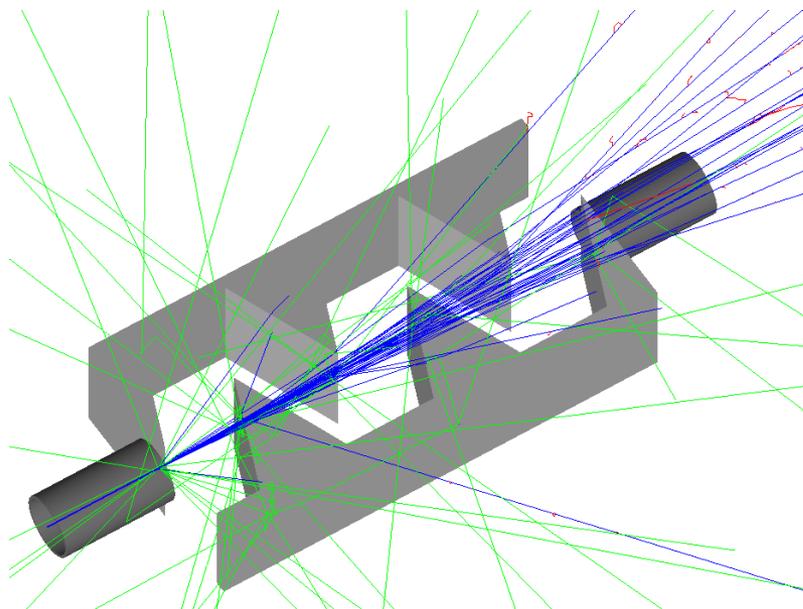
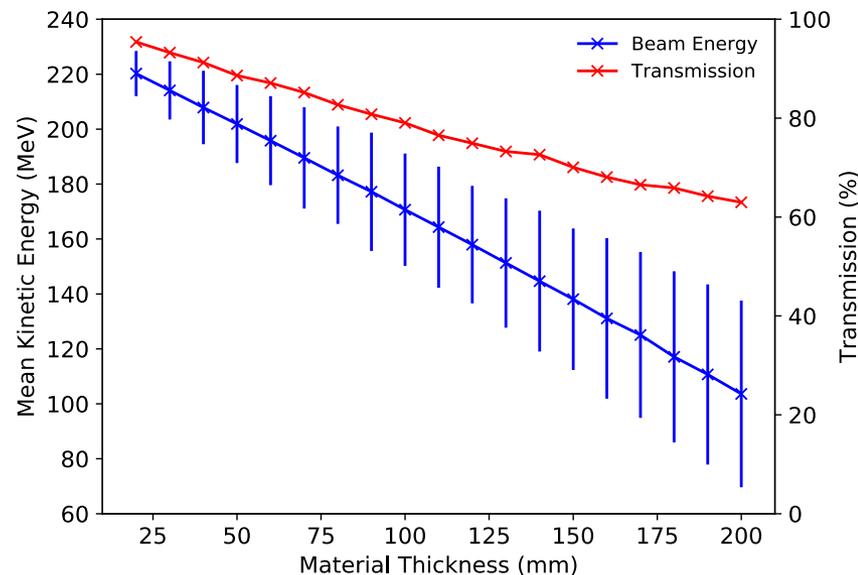
R. Bodenstein &  
A. Abramov.



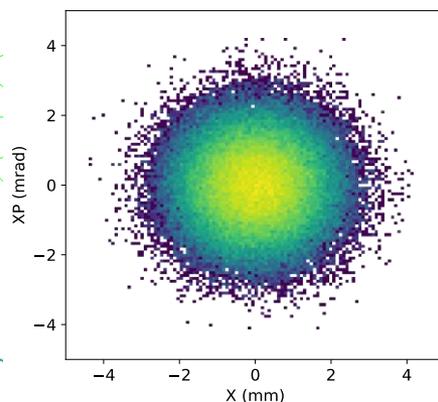
STL conversion to GDML.

# Energy Degradator

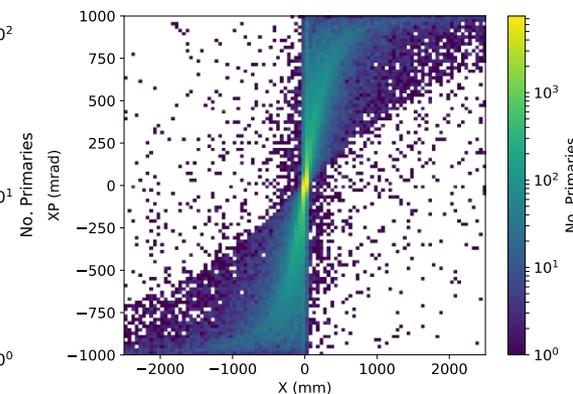
- Interleaved wedge degrader based on design from Center for Proton Therapy at PSI .
- Significant impact on beam phase space distribution and spectrum.



Before



After

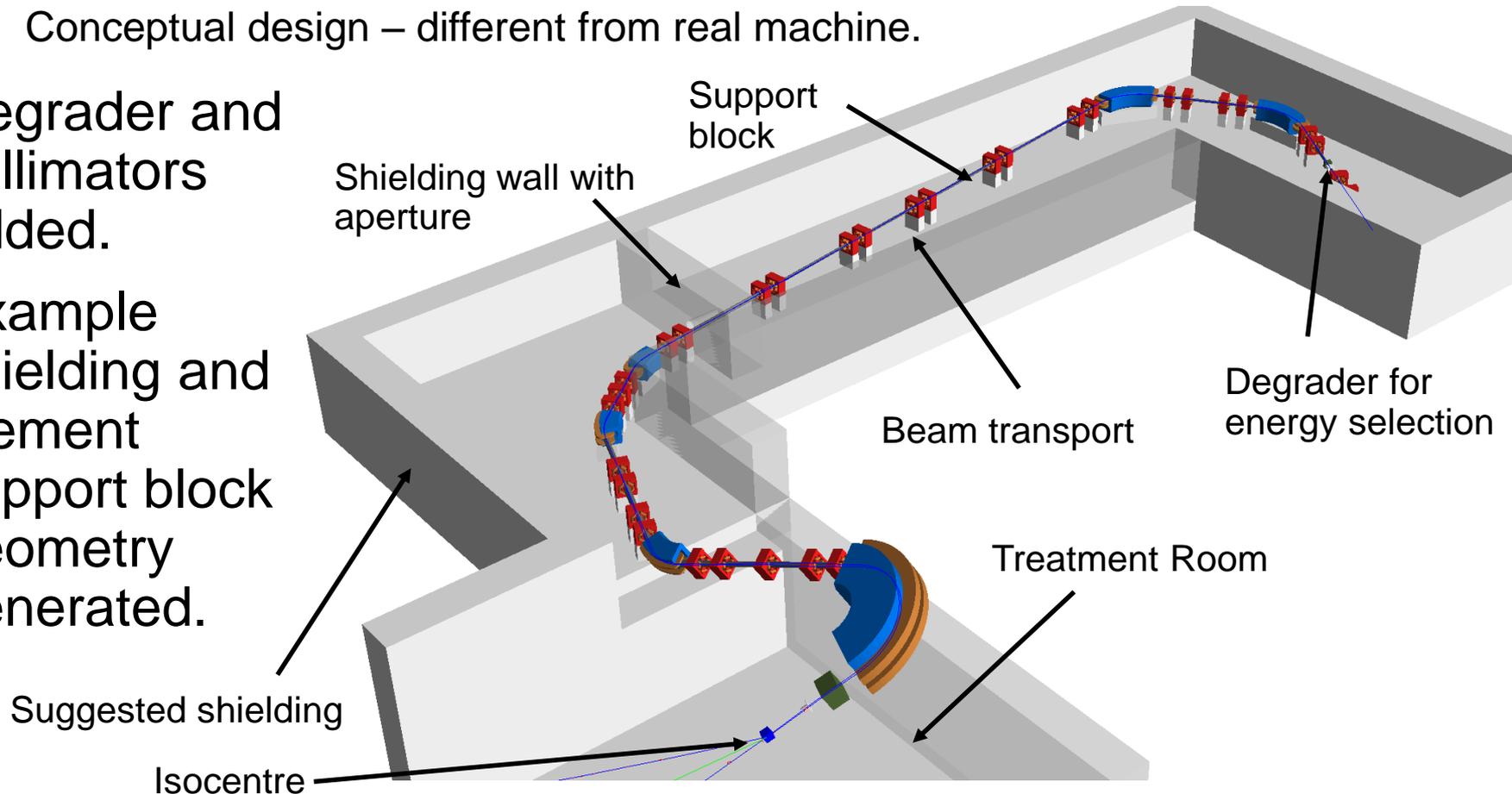


# Example Proton Therapy Gantry

- Gantry 2 from Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland.
  - Lattice publicly available: [http://aea.web.psi.ch/Urs\\_Rohrer/MyFtp](http://aea.web.psi.ch/Urs_Rohrer/MyFtp)
  - Conceptual design – different from real machine.

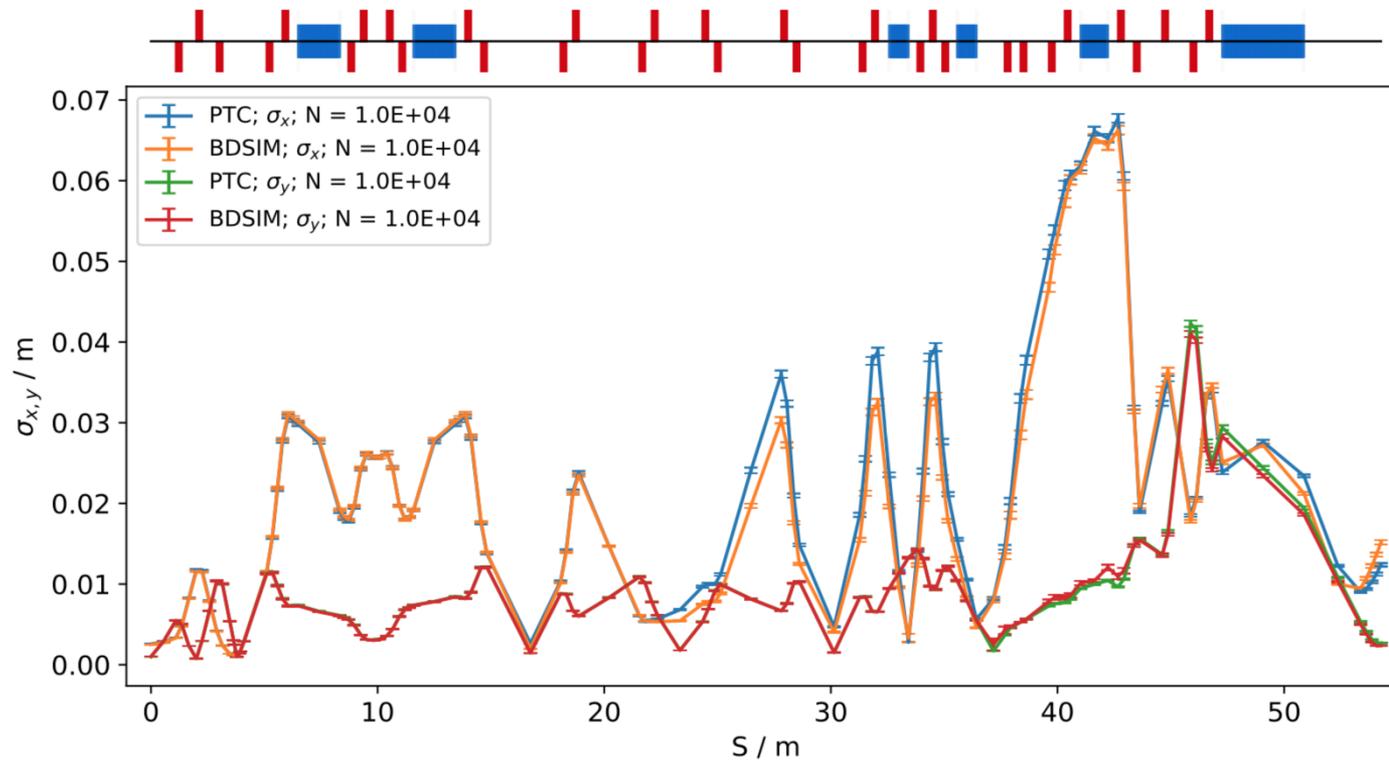
- Degradator and collimators added.

- Example shielding and element support block geometry generated.



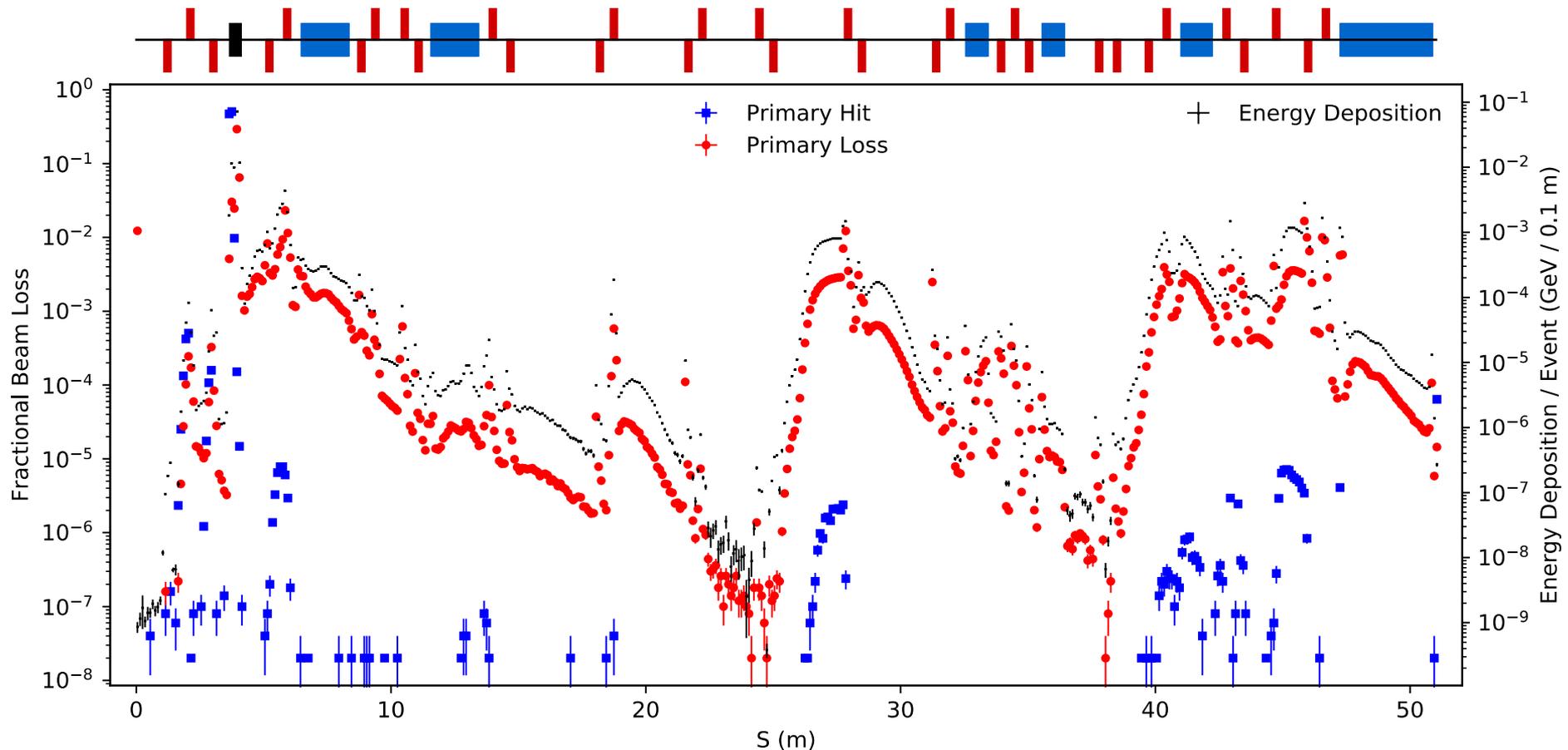
# Lattice Optics

- Particle properties recorded after every element (position, momentum, energy etc).
- Twiss functions calculated with full statistical uncertainties.
- Excellent agreement with PTC tracking routines.

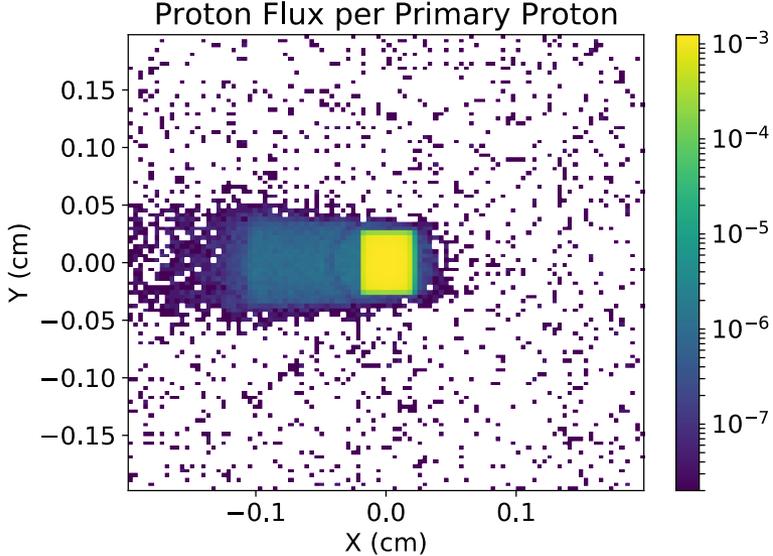


# Loss Map and Energy Deposition

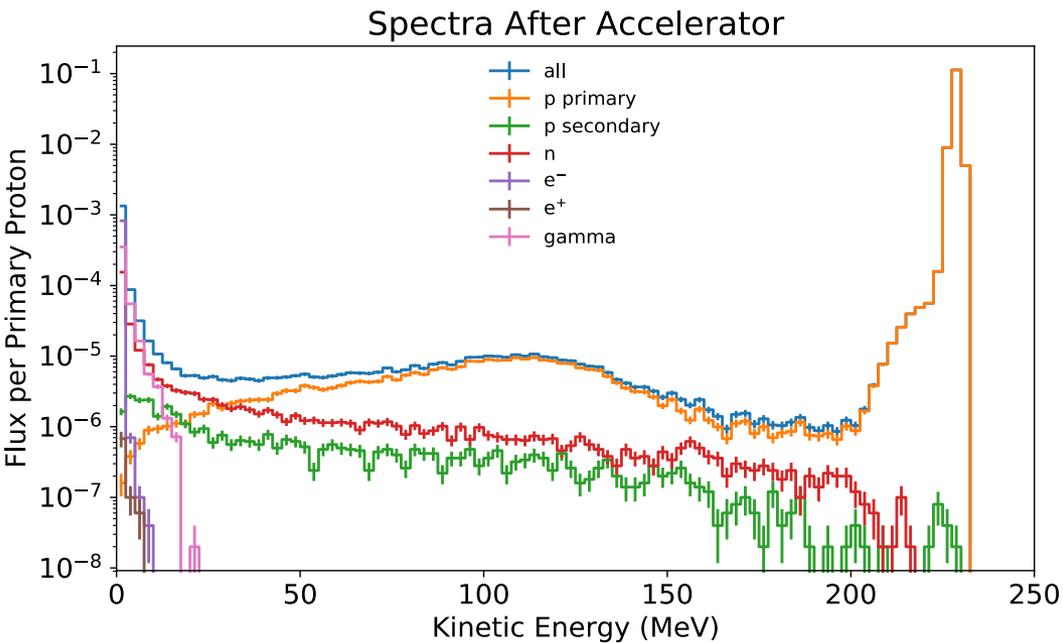
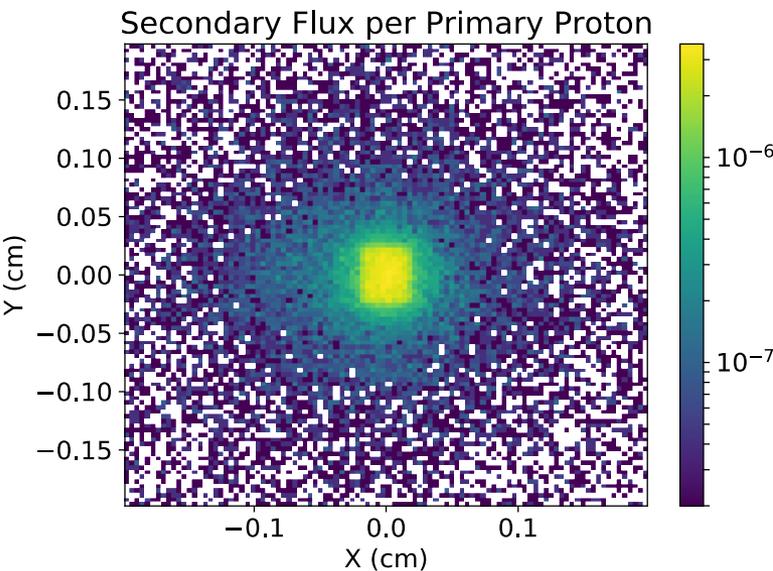
- Energy deposition per 10 cm along curvilinear axis for full machine length.



# Spectra and Lateral Beam Profiles



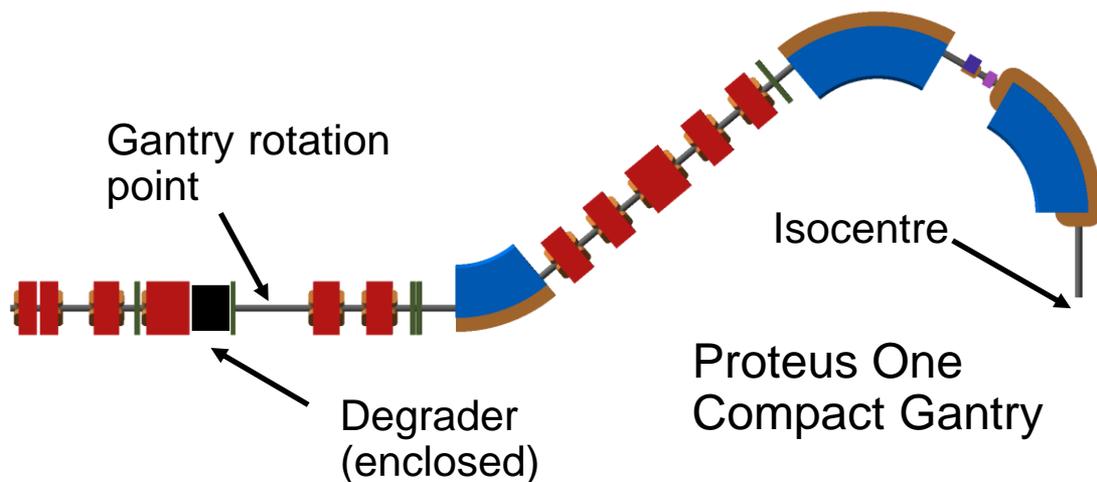
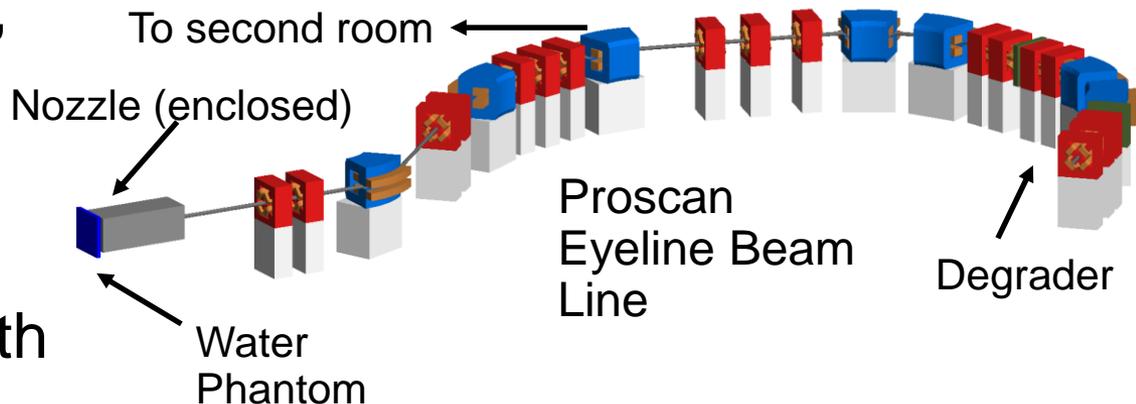
- Profiles prior to nozzle section.
  - Primary protons and secondary particles.
- Spectra of all particle species.



# Collaboration with IBA



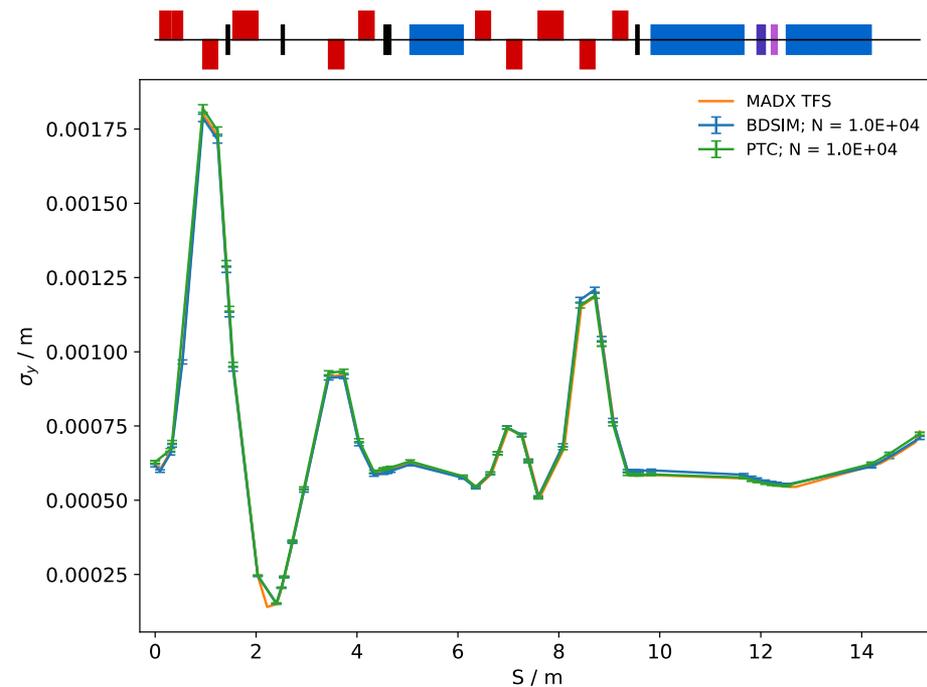
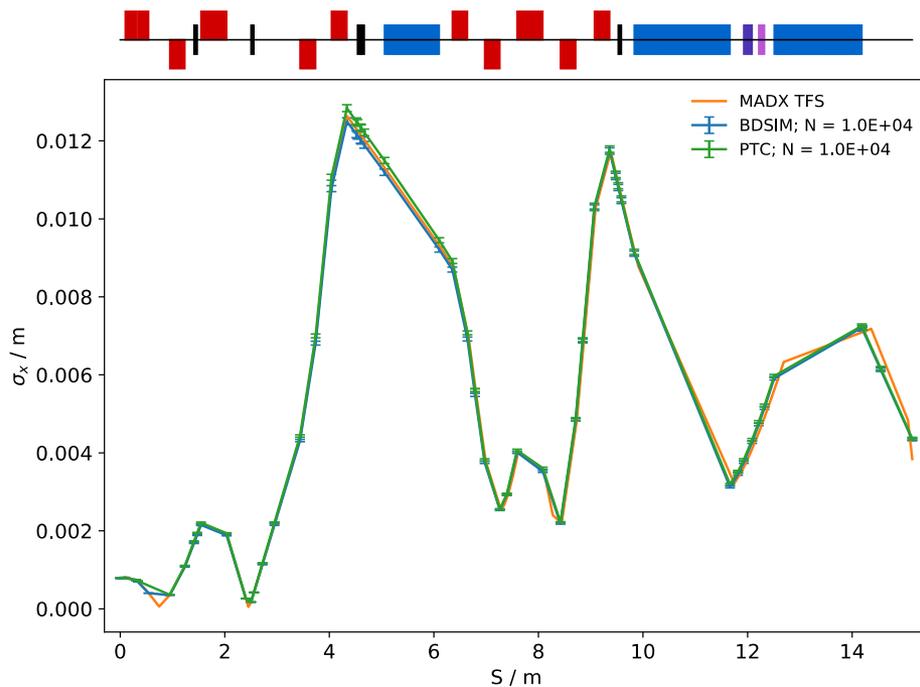
- Collaboration with IBA (Ion Beam Applications), Belgium.
- Simulation of two beam lines.
- Improve beam profile with optimised nozzle and optics.
- Enhanced dose rate from degrader efficiency studies.
- Loss maps for shielding activation.
- Publish next year.



# IBA Compact Gantry Optics



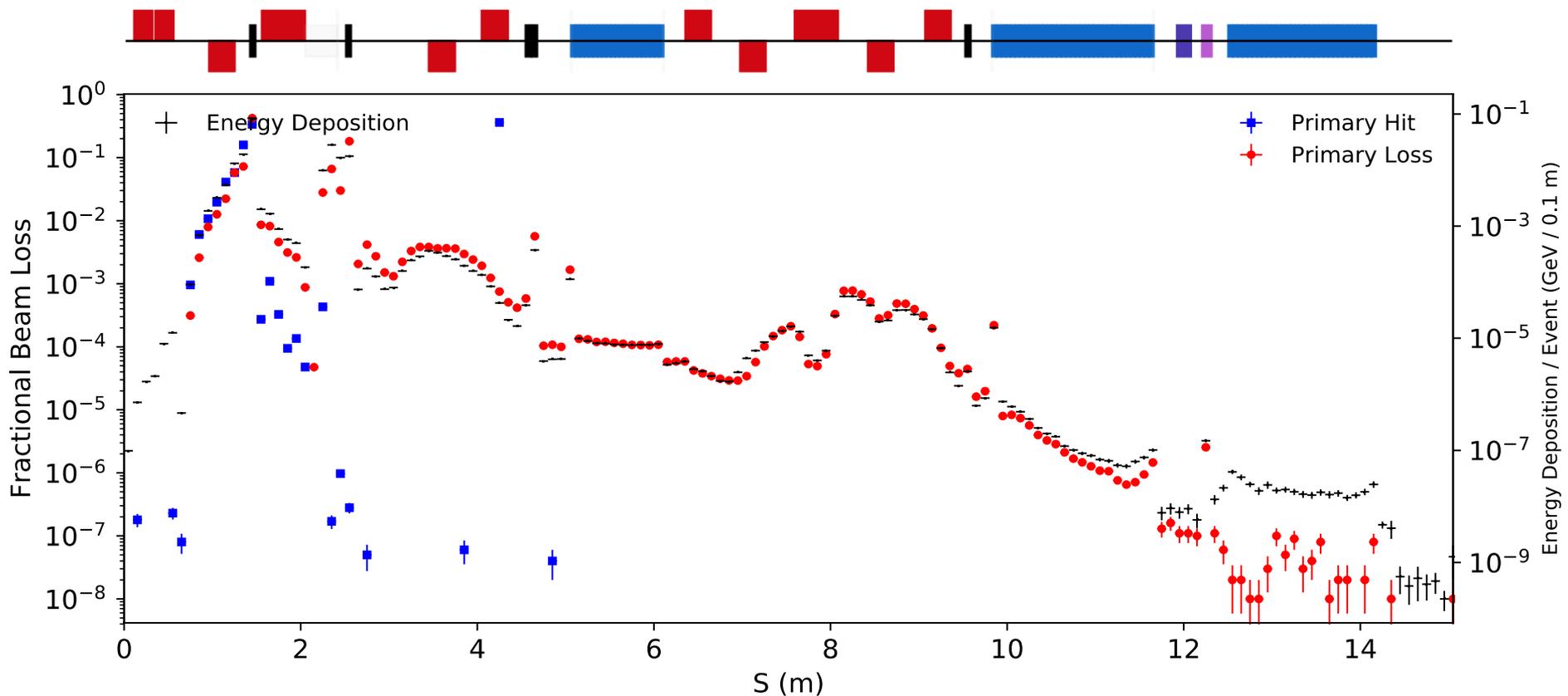
- Excellent agreement with BDSIM and other tracking codes.



# IBA Compact Gantry Loss Map

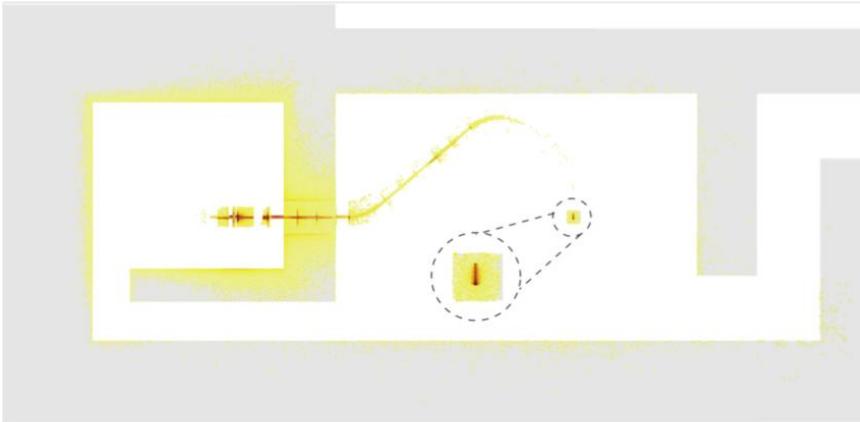


- Loss map for 70 MeV beam.



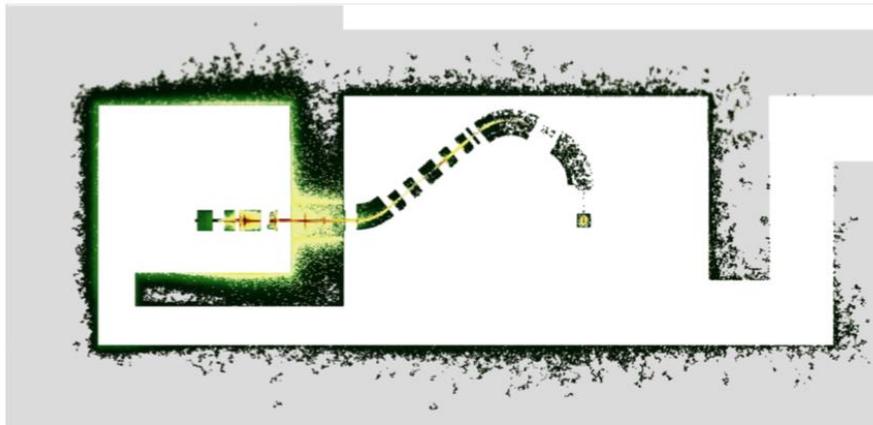
# IBA Shielding Activation Studies

Proton interactions

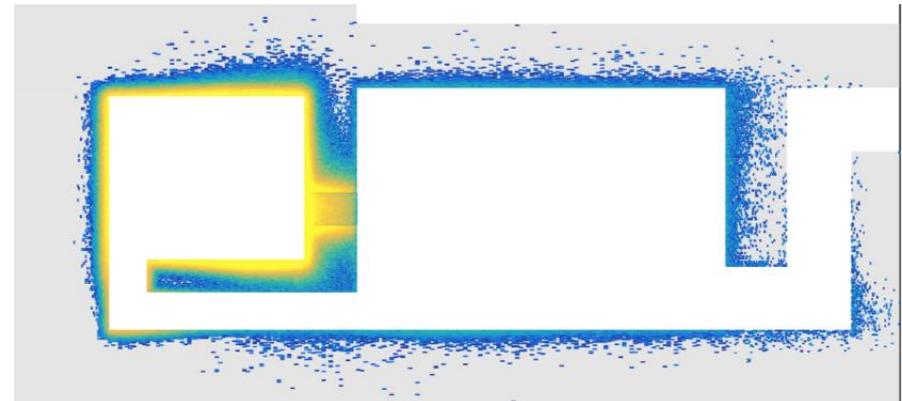


- Calculate shielding activation rate.
- Presented in Robin Tesse PhD thesis (ULB).
- ICAP 18 (20-24<sup>th</sup> Oct, Key West, Florida).

Protons & Neutron interactions



Shielding only



# Summary & Outlook



- First start-to-end simulations of proton therapy beam lines.
- Verified optics, generated loss maps, shown spectra and lateral profiles, and demonstrated potential for shielding & dosimetry.
- BDSIM development:
  - Dosimetry, further fringe fields, nozzle components.
- Expanded analyses.
- More detailed model.
- Watch this space!



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

Thank you

William Shields  
[william.shields@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:william.shields@rhul.ac.uk)  
<http://www.pp.rhul.ac.uk/bdsim/>