



CartGasLab



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GERMAN  
CANCER RESEARCH CENTER  
IN THE HELMHOLTZ ASSOCIATION

 POLITECNICO DI MILANO



# Investigation of on-line tumor edge detection using multiple Bragg peak detection in carbon therapy.

Marta F. Dias

Charles-Antoine Collins Fekete, Guido Baroni, Marco Riboldi, Joao Seco



## Challenges in charged particle therapy

→ Charged particles, e.g. carbons are highly sensitive to tissue density variations.

e.g.:

400MeV/u carbon beam crosses 27.3cm of water but only 16.4cm of bone

So 1mm of bone in a water medium causes an error of 0.6mm



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→ Tumor shifts/shrinkage  
geographical miss and/or high-dose  
deposition at OARs.

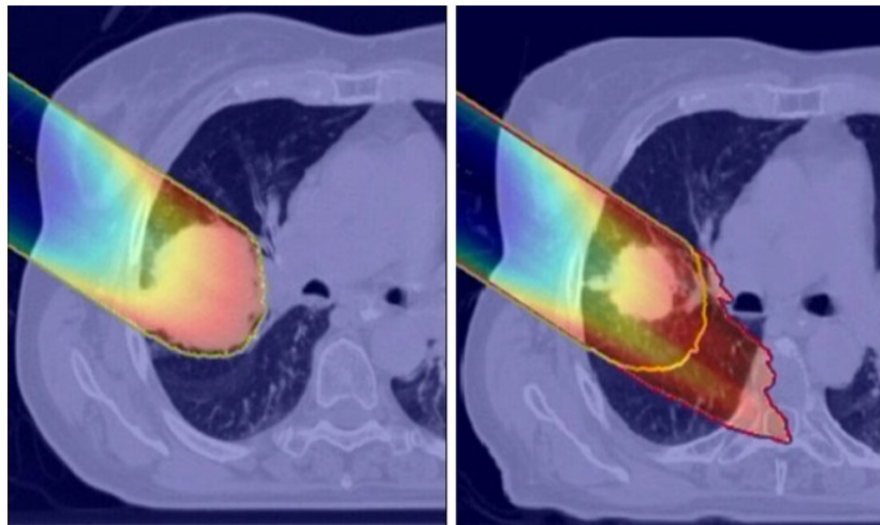


Image from Mori *et al.* [2013]



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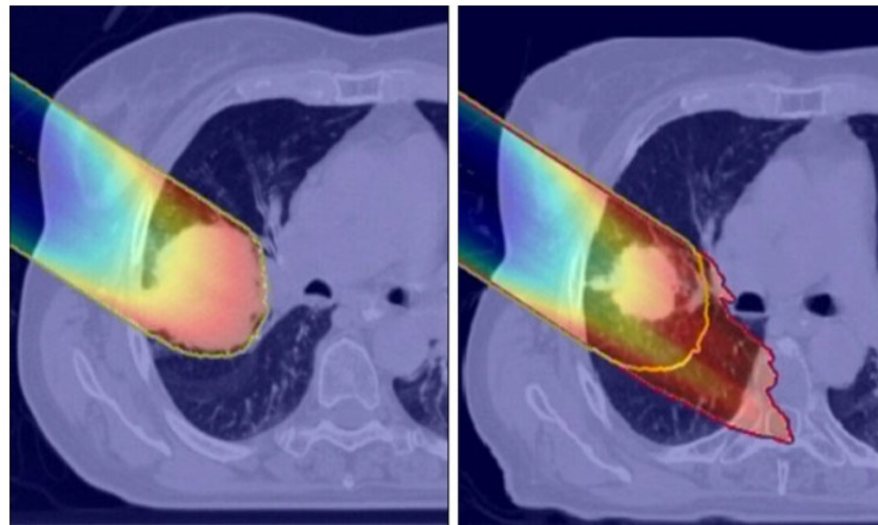


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## 1. Motivation and Aim

# **Possible Solution: Carbon Imaging**

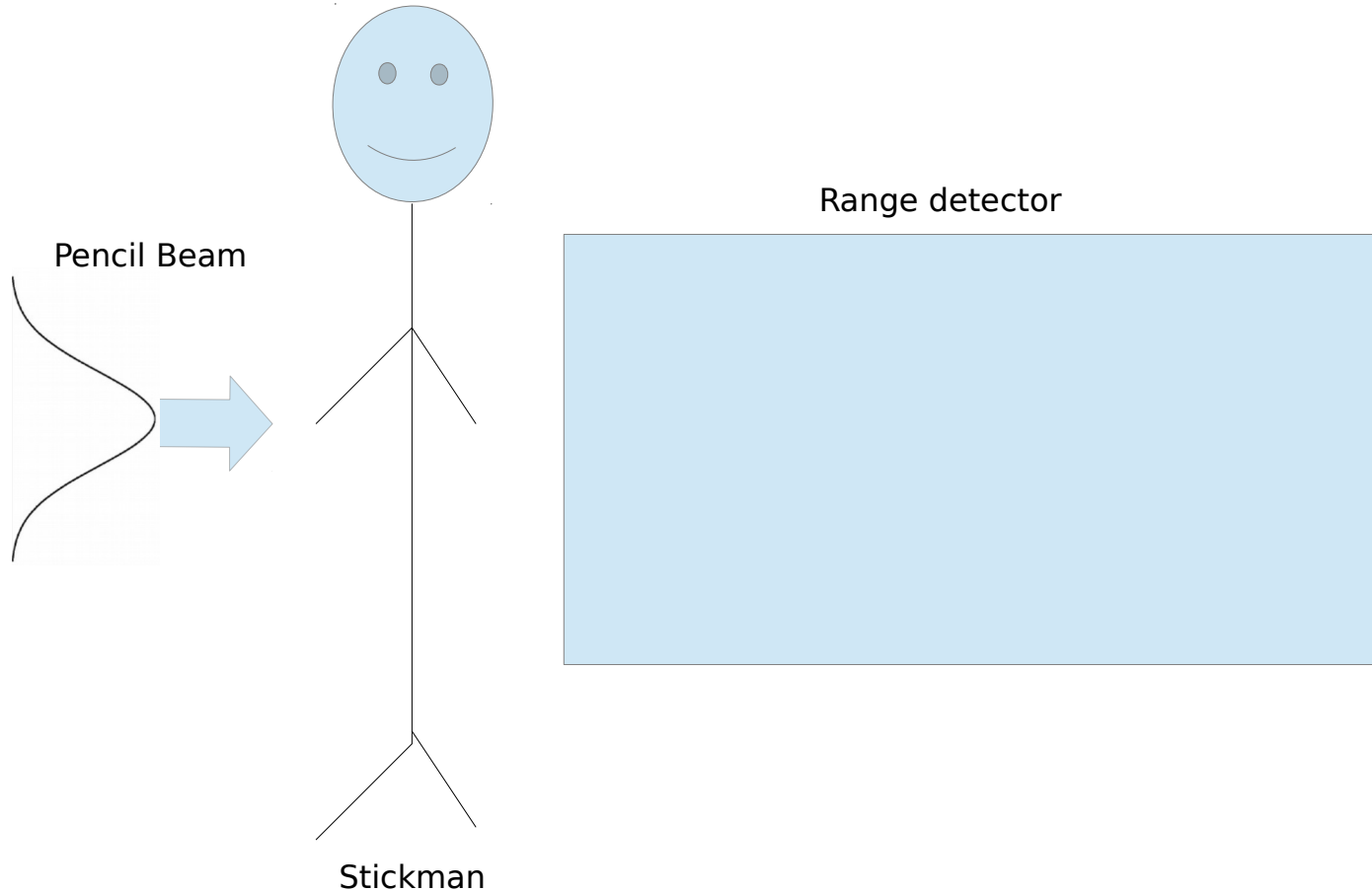
→ Carbon CT/Radiography



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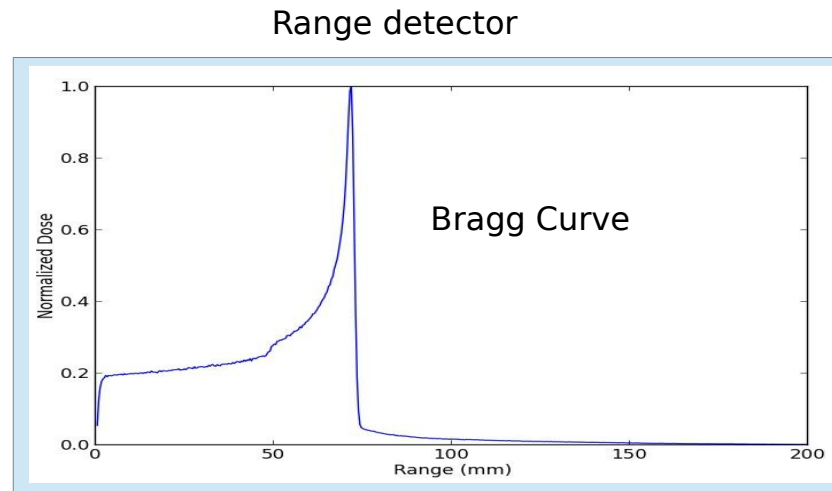
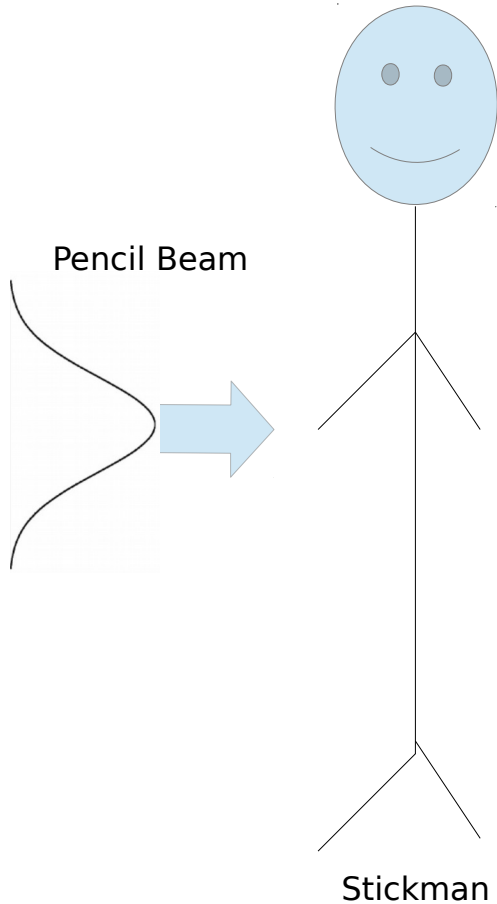




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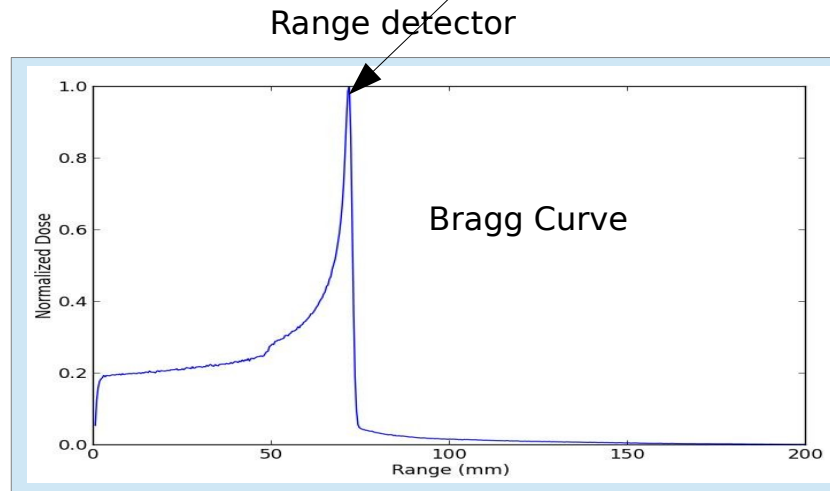
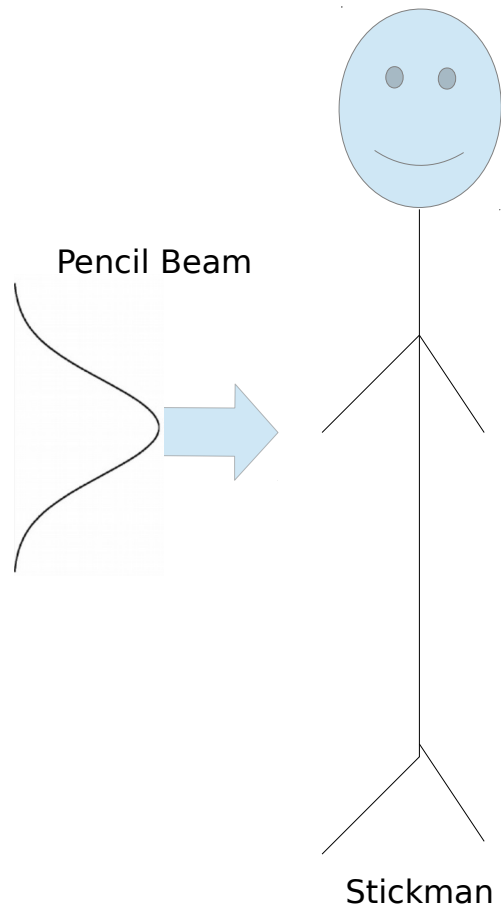




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## Possible Solution: Carbon Imaging

→ Carbon CT/Radiography



**Bragg Peak position** is converted into total WET crossed.



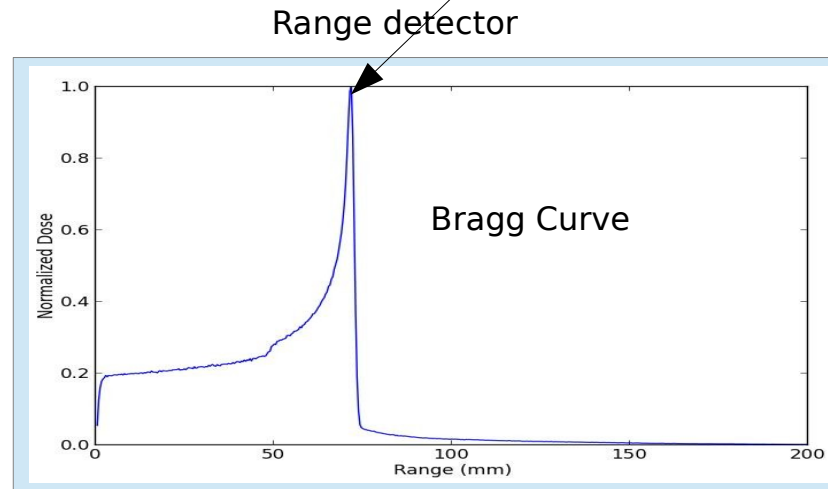
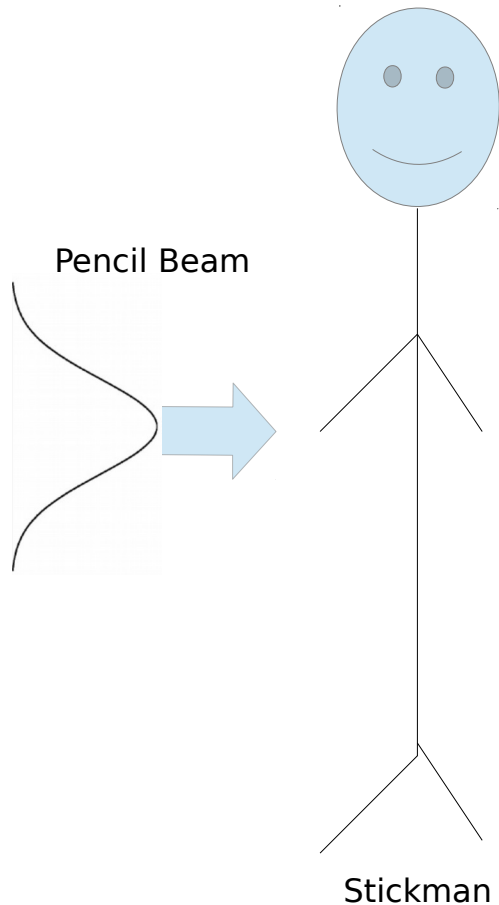


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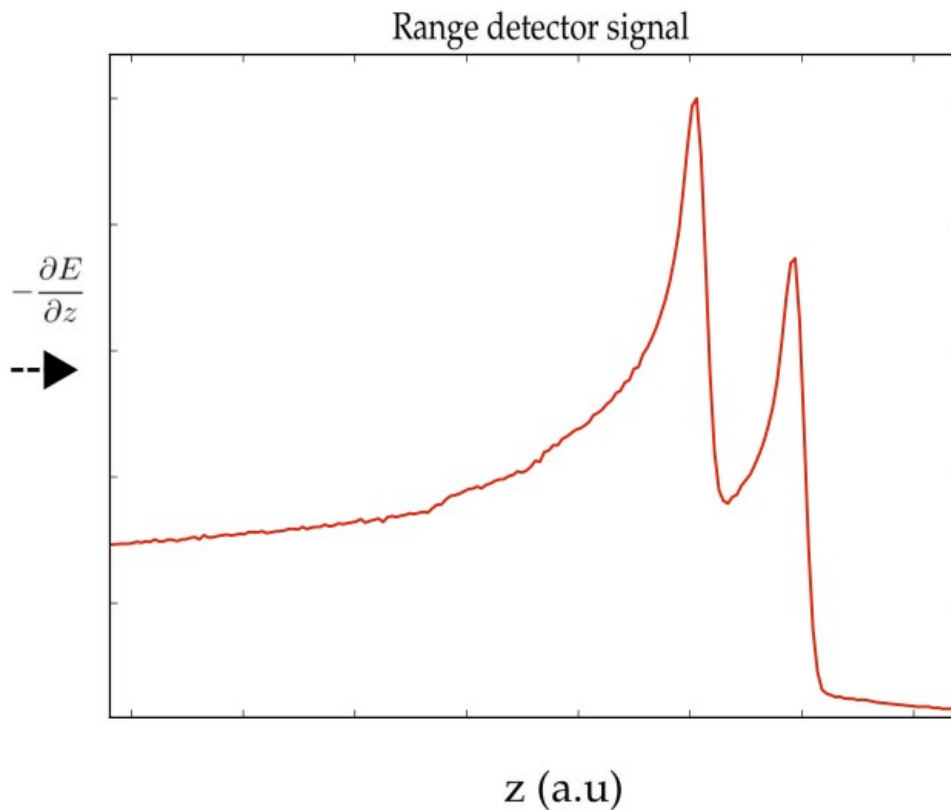
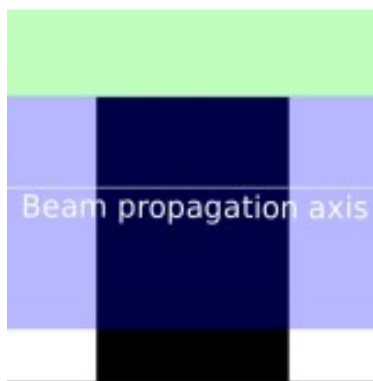


→ Carbons travel near straight paths (less than 1mm error for WET of 20cm) Fekete *et al.* [2016]



# 1. Motivation and Aim

**Each peak contains information about the crossed materials**





# 1. Motivation and Aim

**It is crucial to have on-line/precise knowledge of edges/interfaces along carbon's path!**

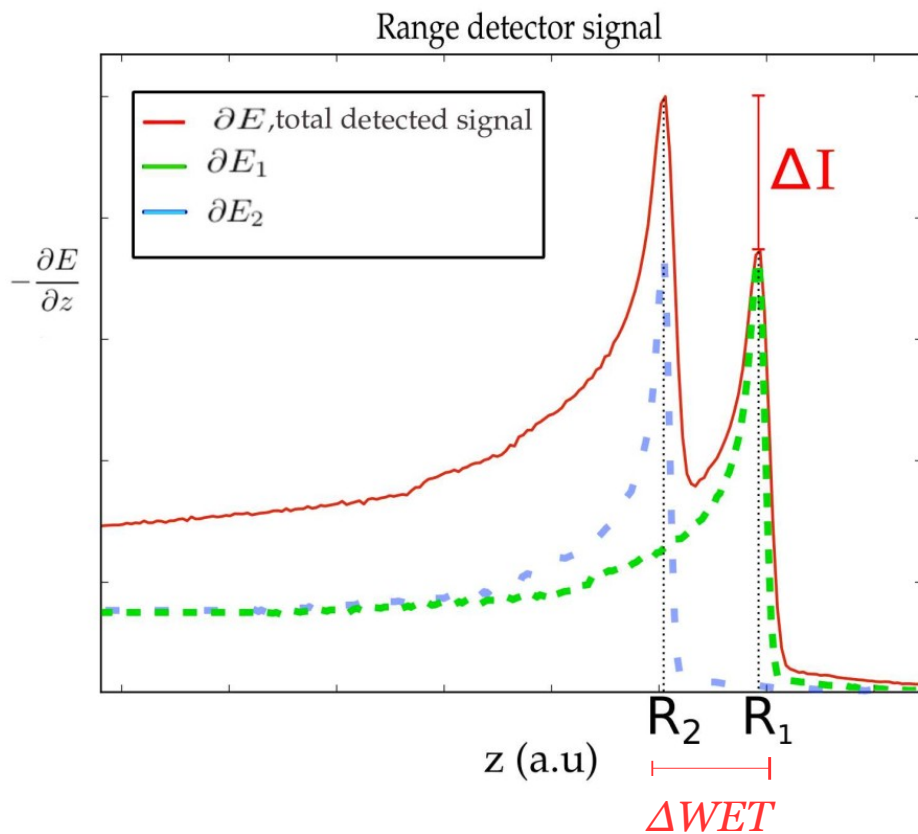
**Hypothesis:** we can detect on-line (during treatment) tumor edges using information from the detected multiple Bragg peaks.

- Reduced number of irradiation beams in order to reduce dose delivered to the patient.
- No imaging reconstruction methods.



## 2. Materials and Methods

→ We can decompose the peak into pristine Bragg peaks.



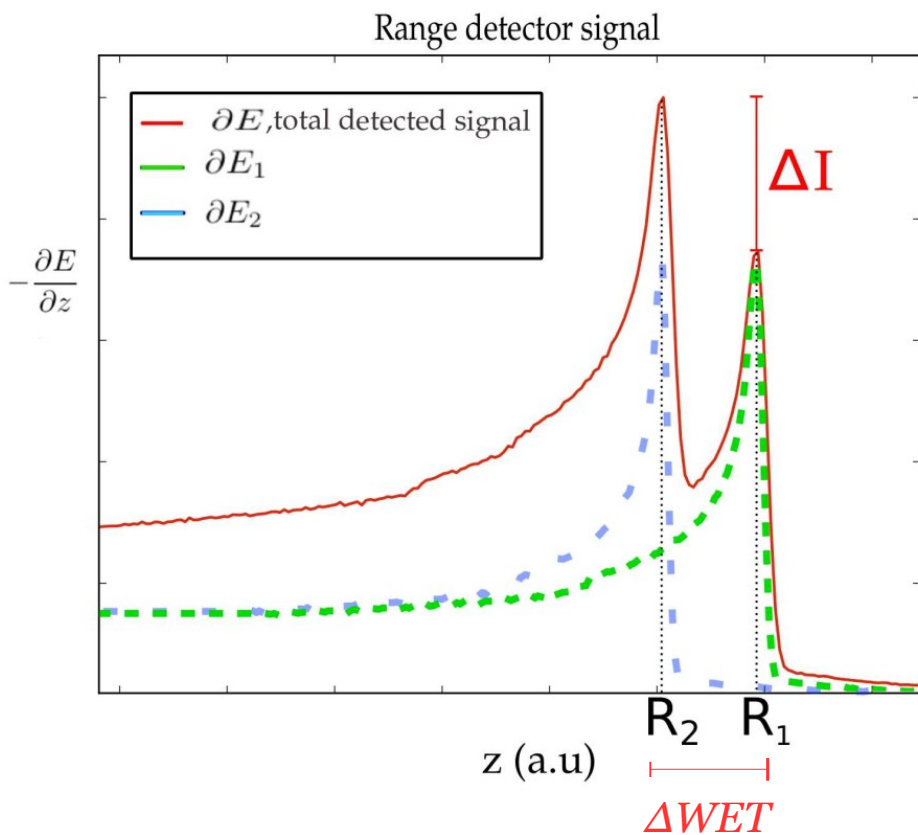


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### Assumptions:

1. Straight path;



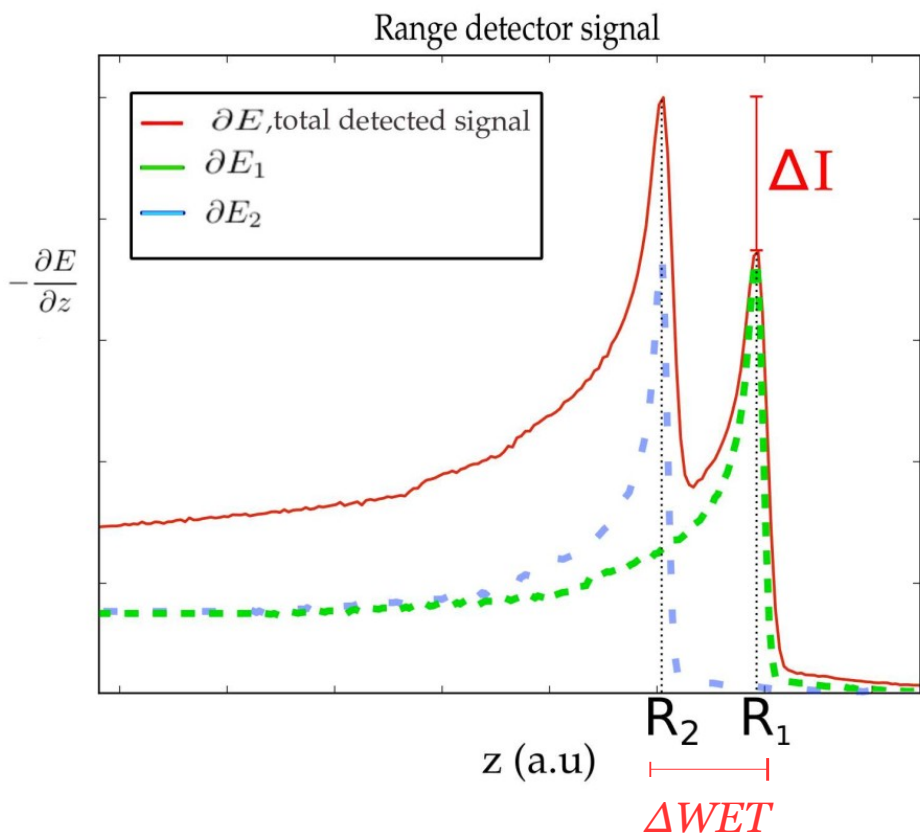


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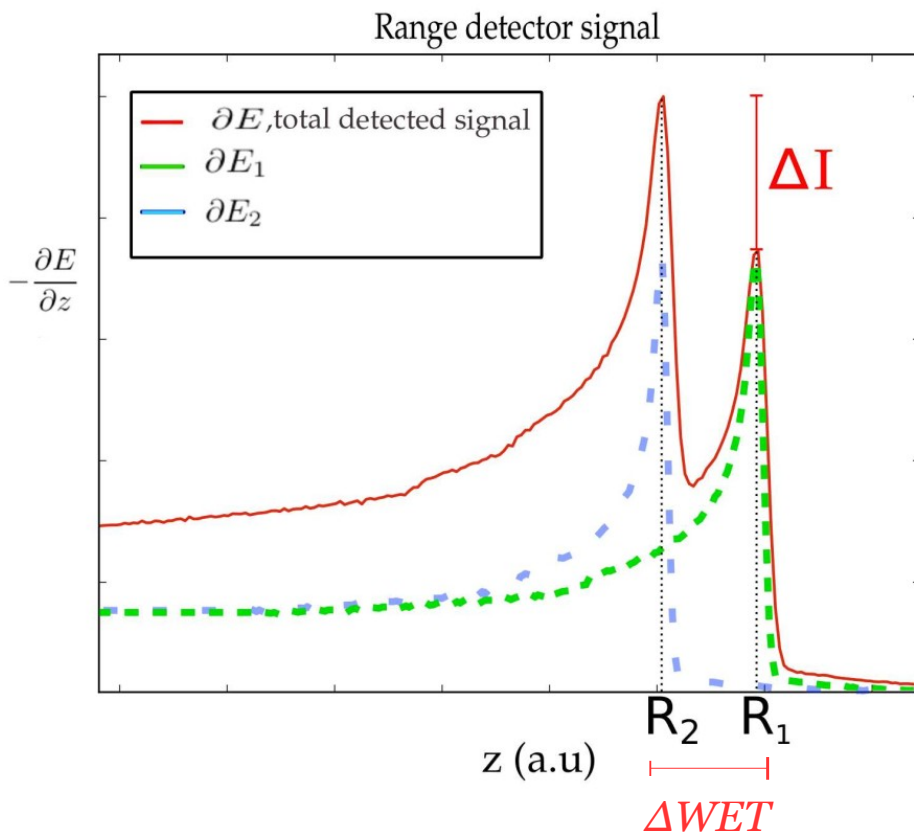
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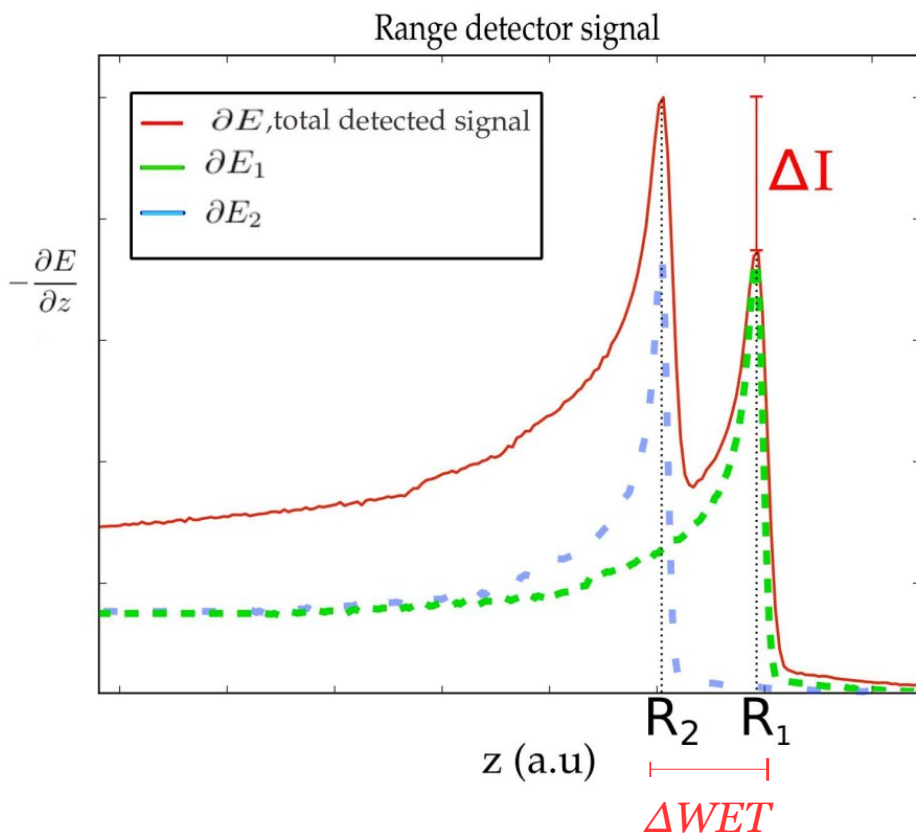
### Assumptions:

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3. Gaussian Beam, this is assumed to be valid at any depth along the beam trajectory.



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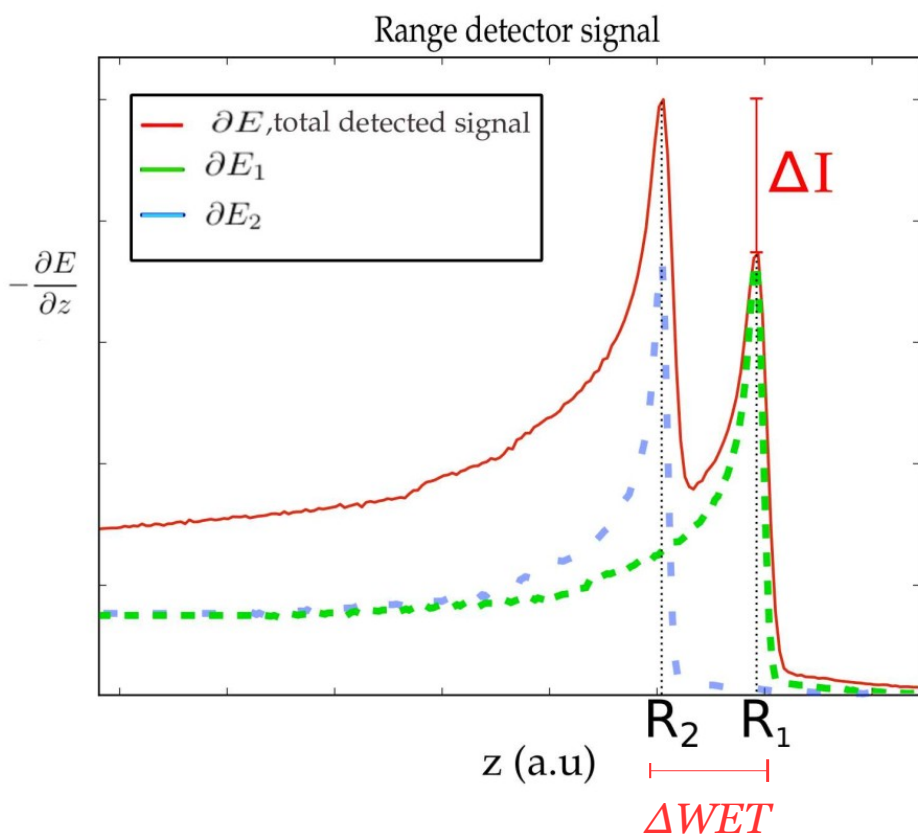
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4.  $R_1 = \alpha E_0^p$  (Bortfeld and Schlegel, [1996])





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The dose deposit at any point  $z < R$ :

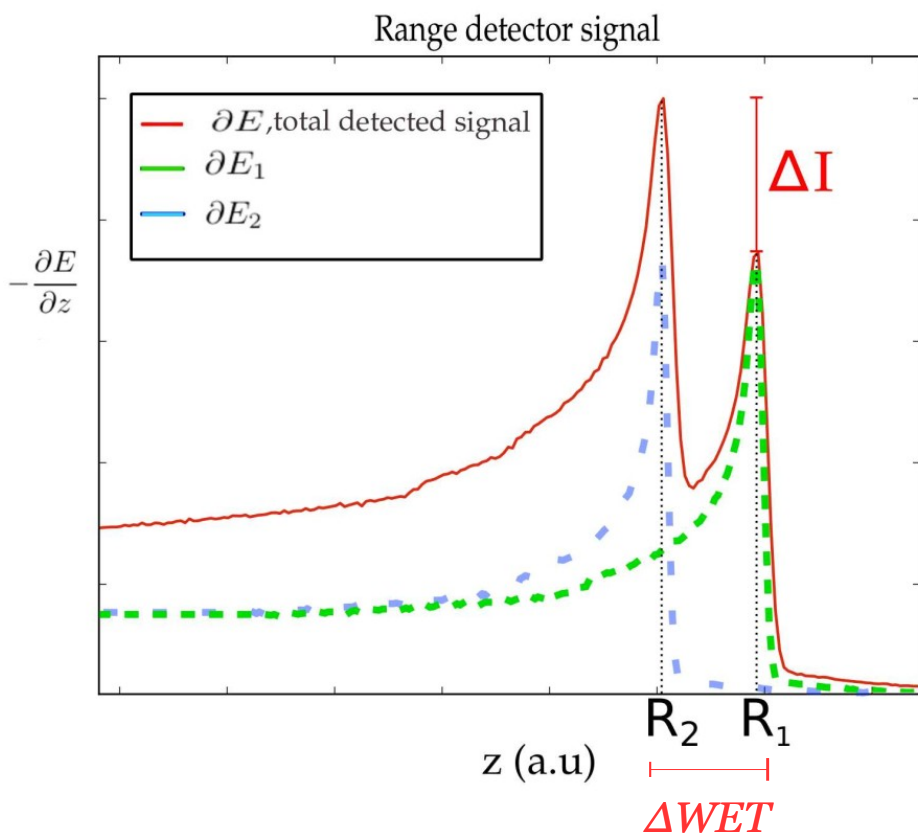
$$-\frac{\partial E}{\partial z} = \frac{(R - z)^{1/p-1}}{p\alpha^{1/p}}$$



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$$\Delta I = \frac{\partial E(R_2) - \partial E(R_1)}{\partial E(R_1)}$$





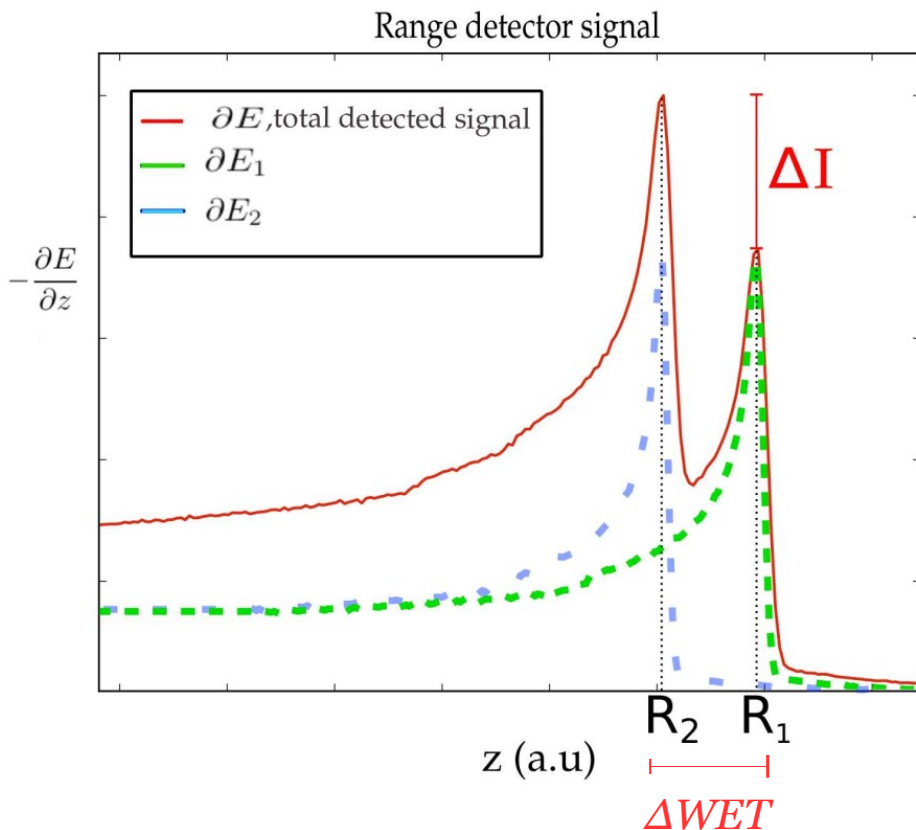
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**Theoretical  $\Delta I$ - $\Delta WET$  curve**

$$\Delta I = \lambda^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \Delta WET^{\frac{1}{p}-1} + \left( \frac{W_2}{W_1} - 1 \right)$$





## 2. Materials and Methods

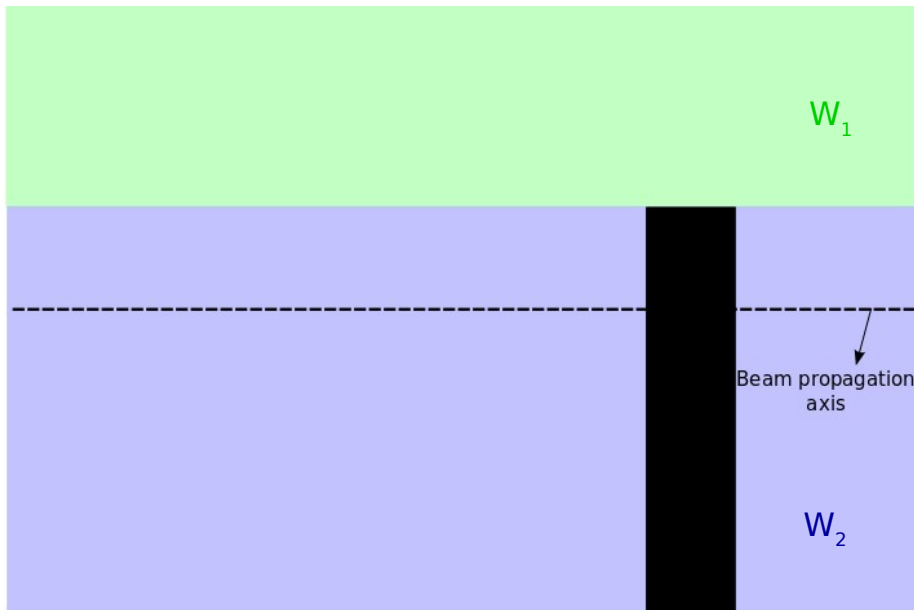
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$W_1$  → percentage of carbons crossing above the interface

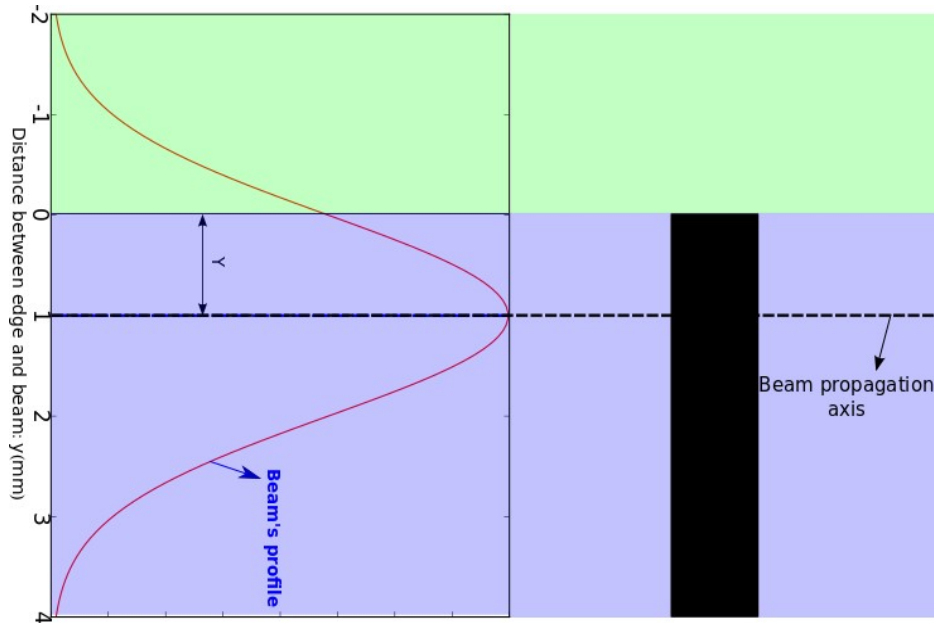




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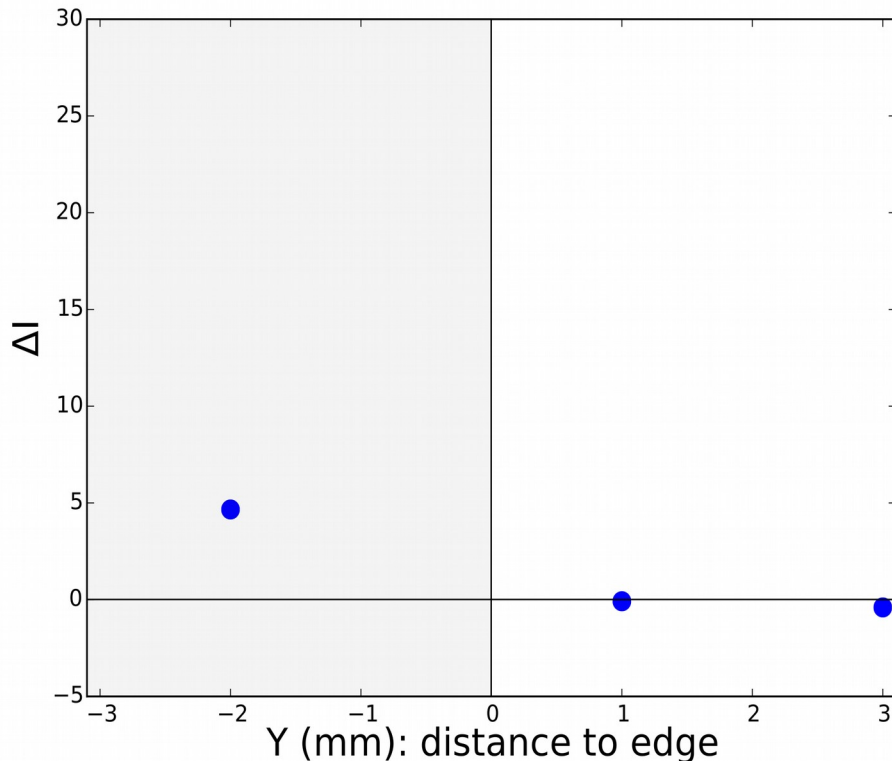
$$W_2 = 1 - W_1 \rightarrow W_1 = \frac{1 - erf\left(\frac{Y}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}\right)}{2}$$



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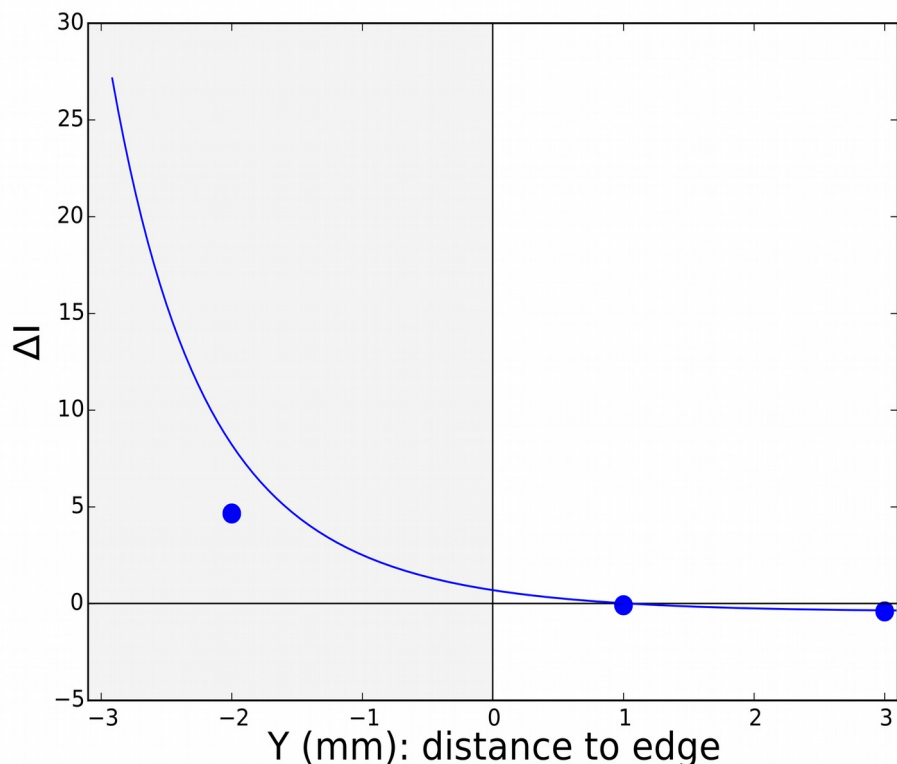
→ We scan the interface for three irradiation spots (known spacing).



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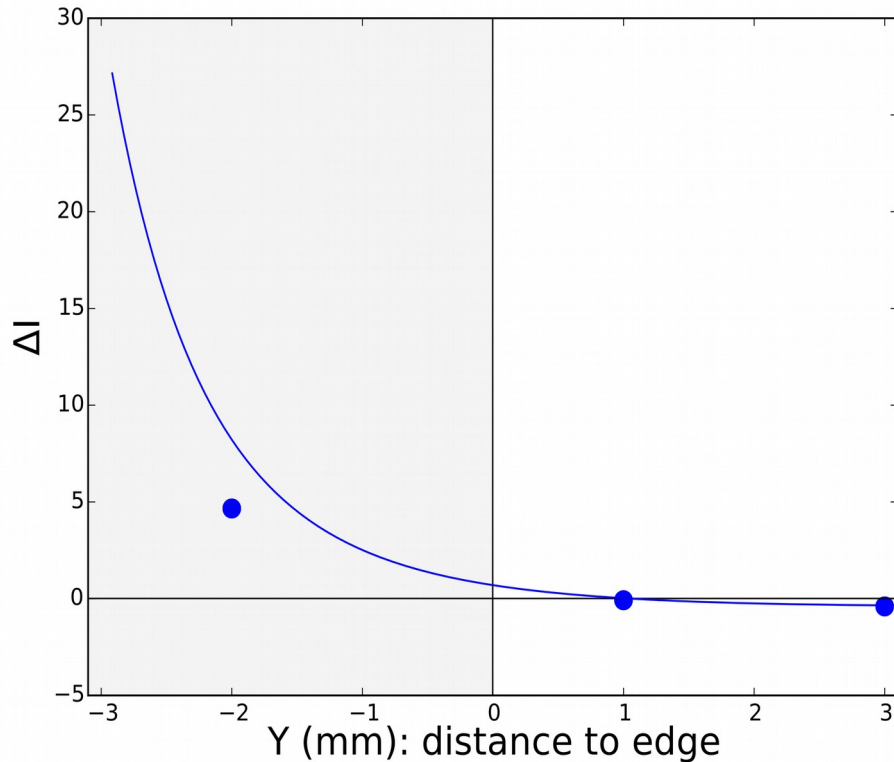
→ Apply the fit



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**Theoretical  $\Delta I$ - $\Delta WET$  curve**

$$\Delta I = \lambda^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \Delta WET^{\frac{1}{p}-1} + \left( \frac{W_2}{W_1} - 1 \right)$$

↓  
0

→ At the edge:

$$\Delta I = \lambda^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \Delta WET^{\frac{1}{p}-1}$$





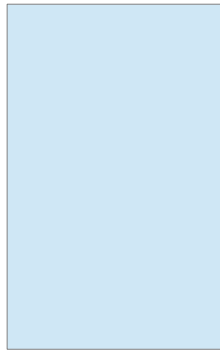
### **Validation: Monte Carlo Simulations**

- 400 MeV carbon beam with  $n=10^6$  particles
- Geant4 (v 4.9.6.p02) (Agostinelli *et al.* [2003]). Ion packages (Lechner *et al.* [2010]).
- FWHM = 4mm, 8mm and 10mm



### Parametric phantoms:

Rectangular bone insert



Semi-cylindrical bone insert

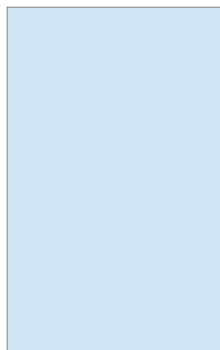


→ Beam position:  $[-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3]$ mm above and below the interface

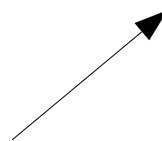


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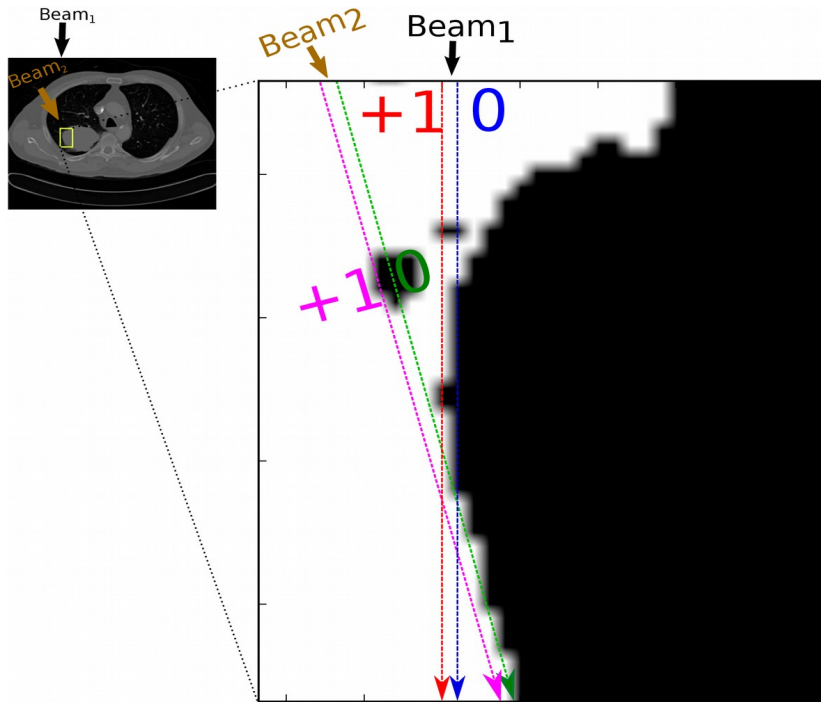


**Range dilution effects**, due to carbons from the same beam crossing different

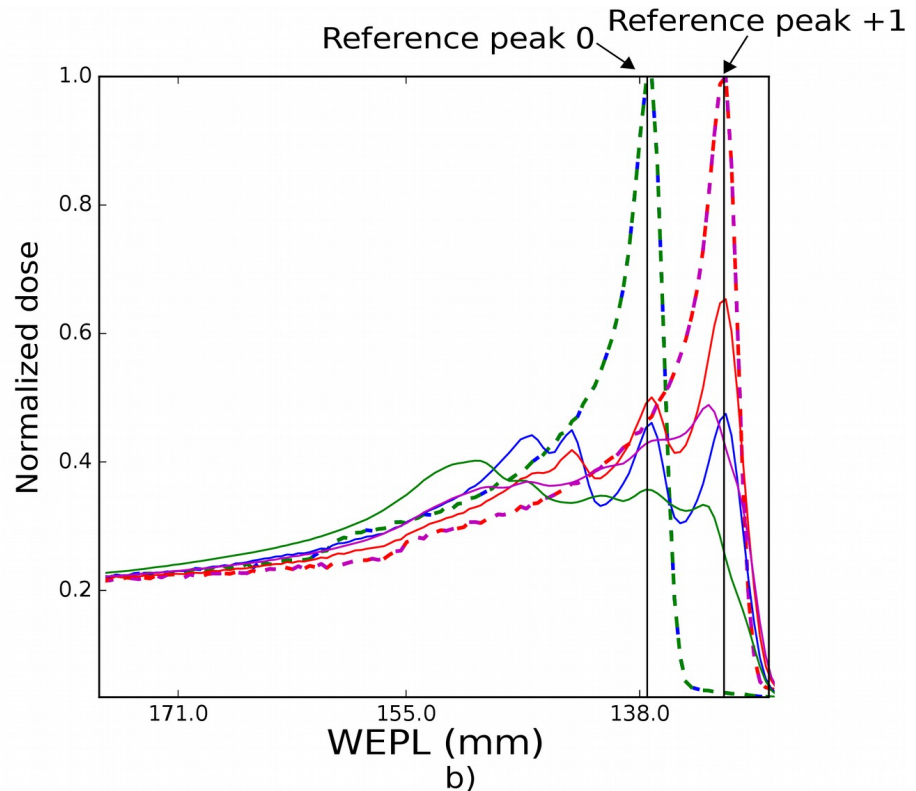
→ Beam position:  $[-3, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, 3]$  mm above and below the interface



## Edge detection through multiple BP: lung tumor example



a)



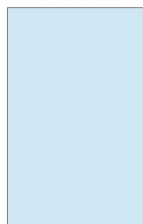
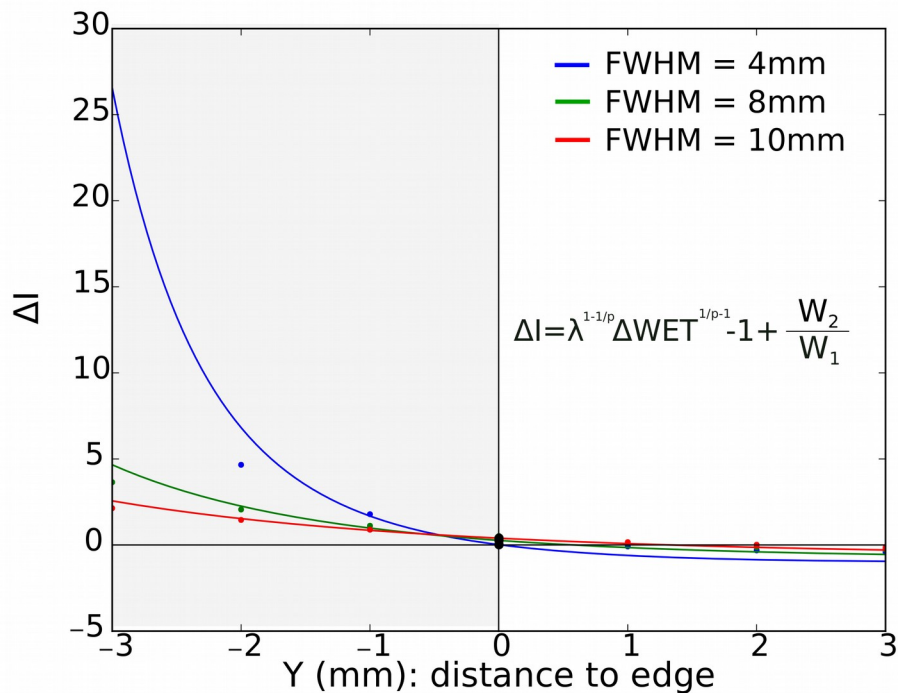
- X-ray CT prior knowledge for peak identification
- The WET crossed and expected BP can be computed.



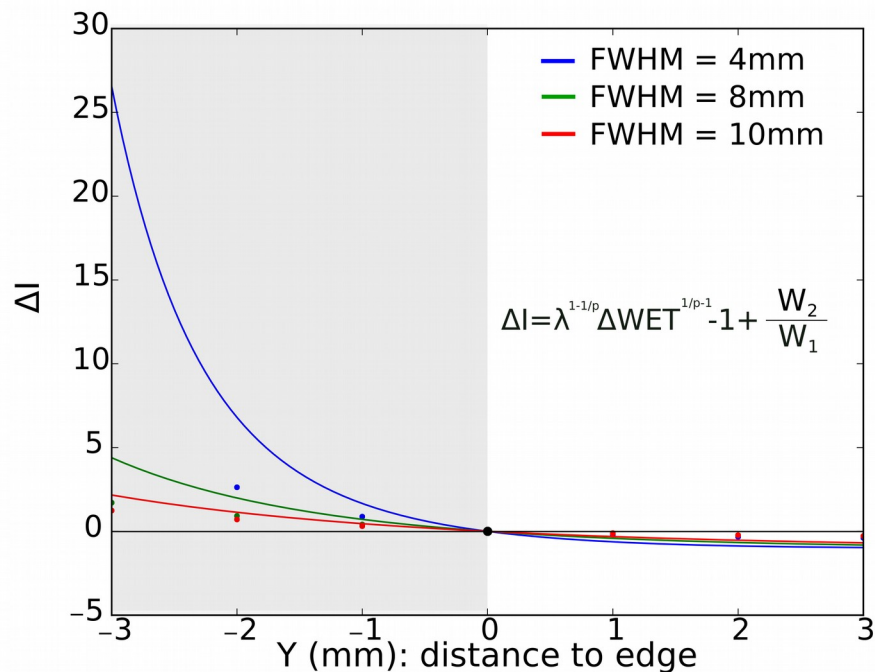
## 4. Results and Discussion

### Parametric phantoms:

Parallel interface



Semi-cylindrical

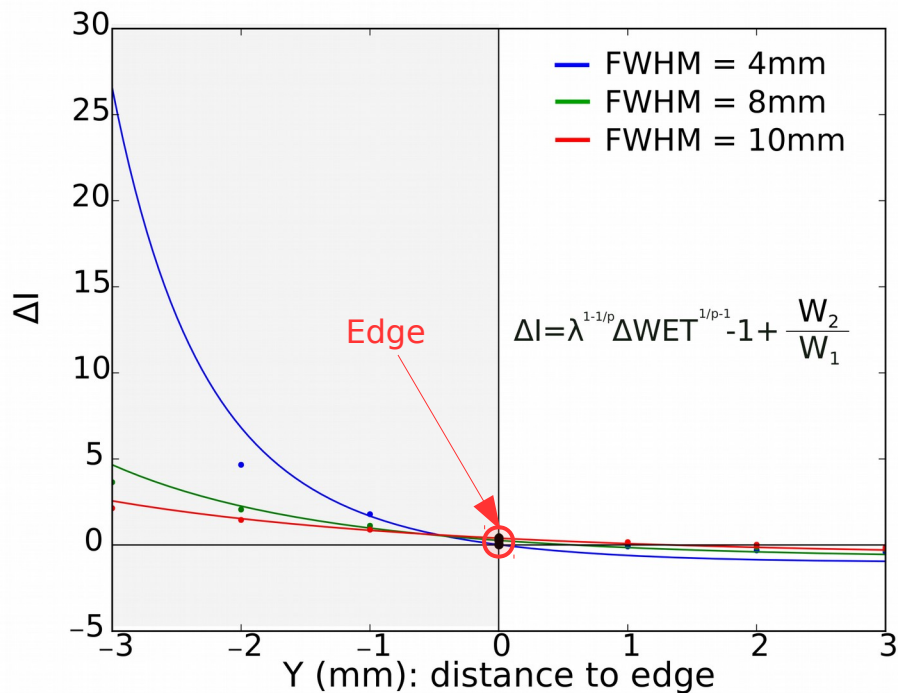




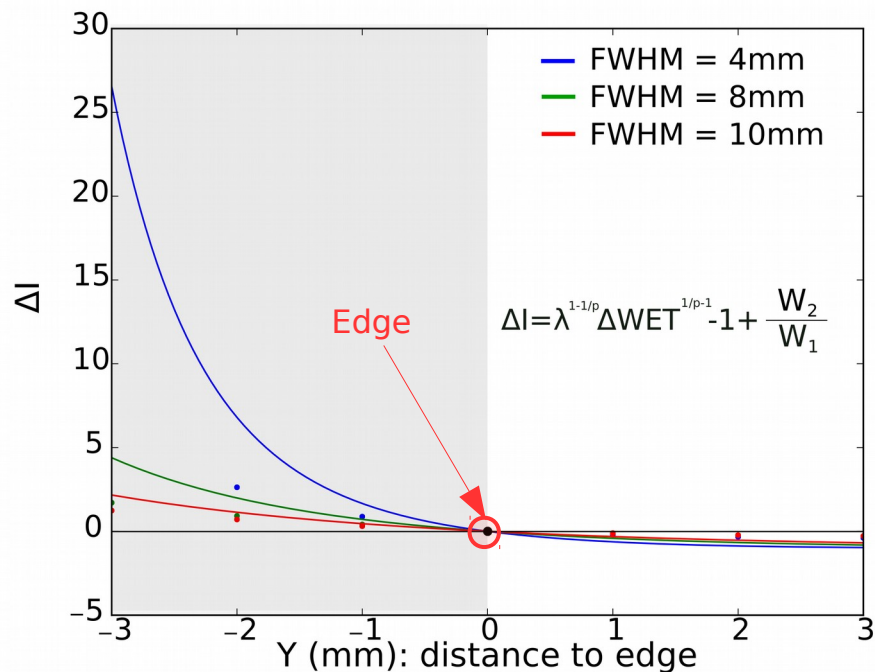
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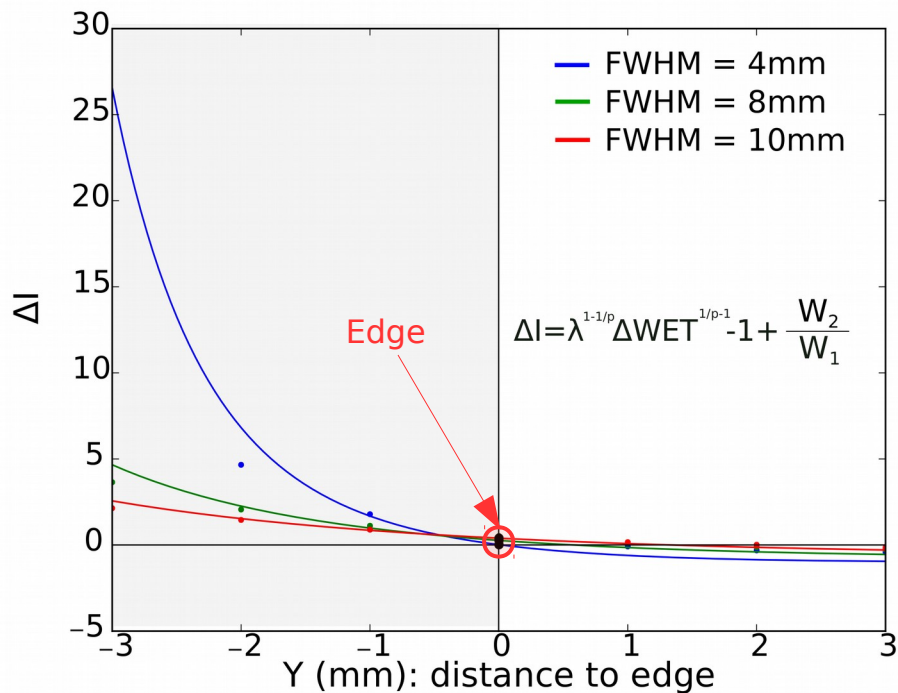
Zero at: 0.001mm



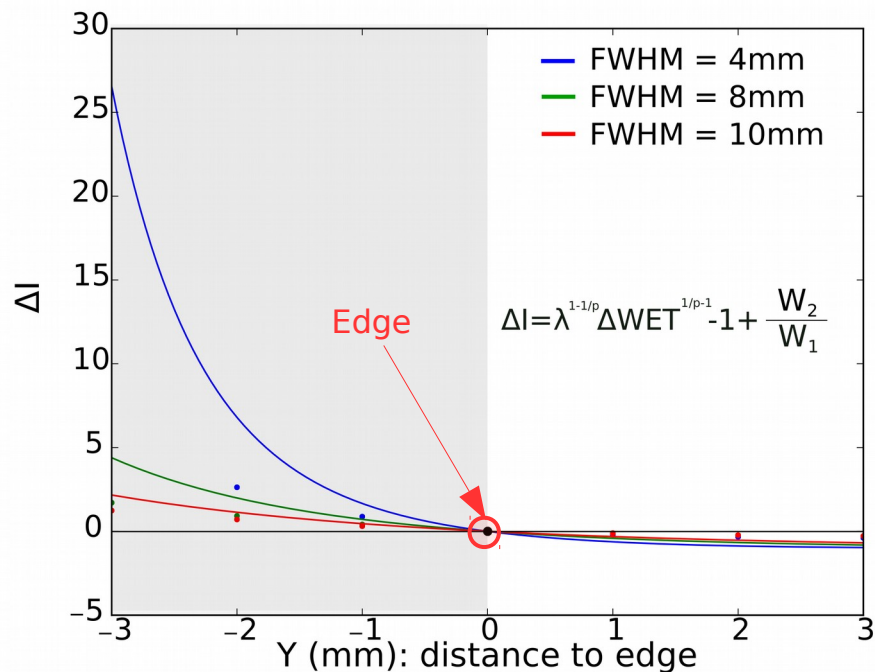
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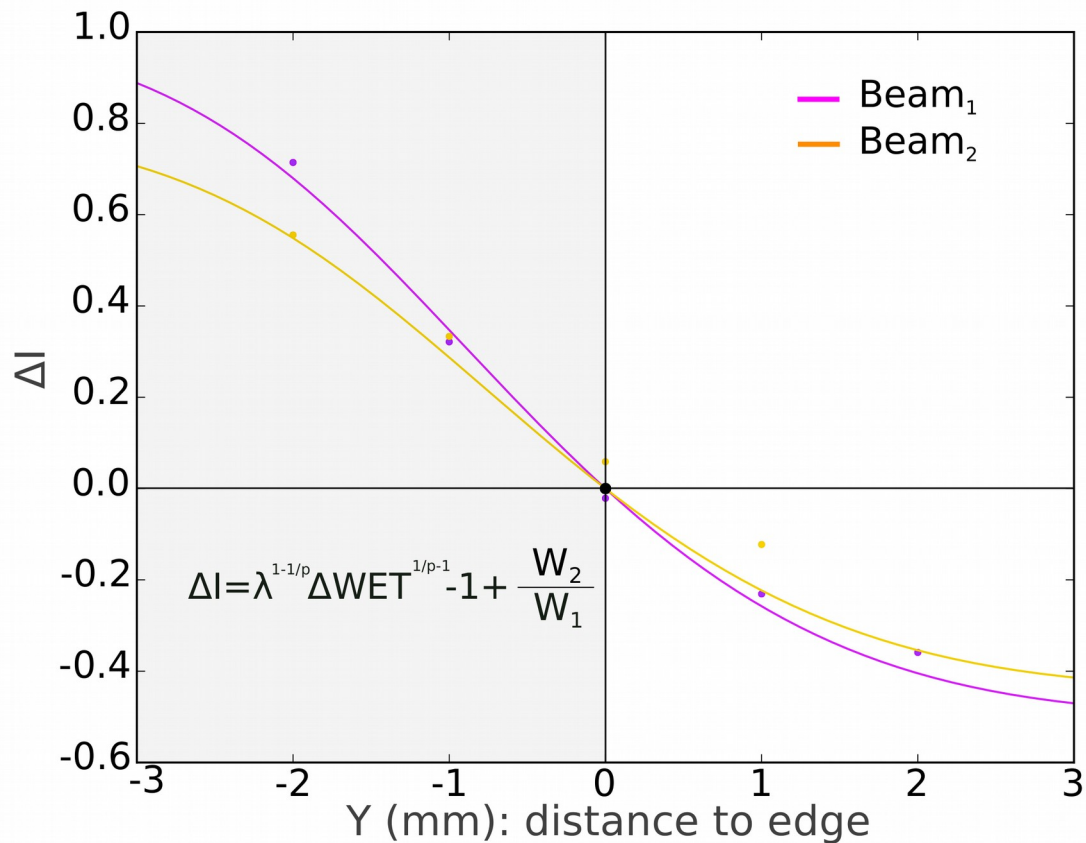
→ Same error for all FWHM

→ Larger FWHM easier to identify the peaks



## 4. Results and Discussion

### Clinical environment: Lung tumor

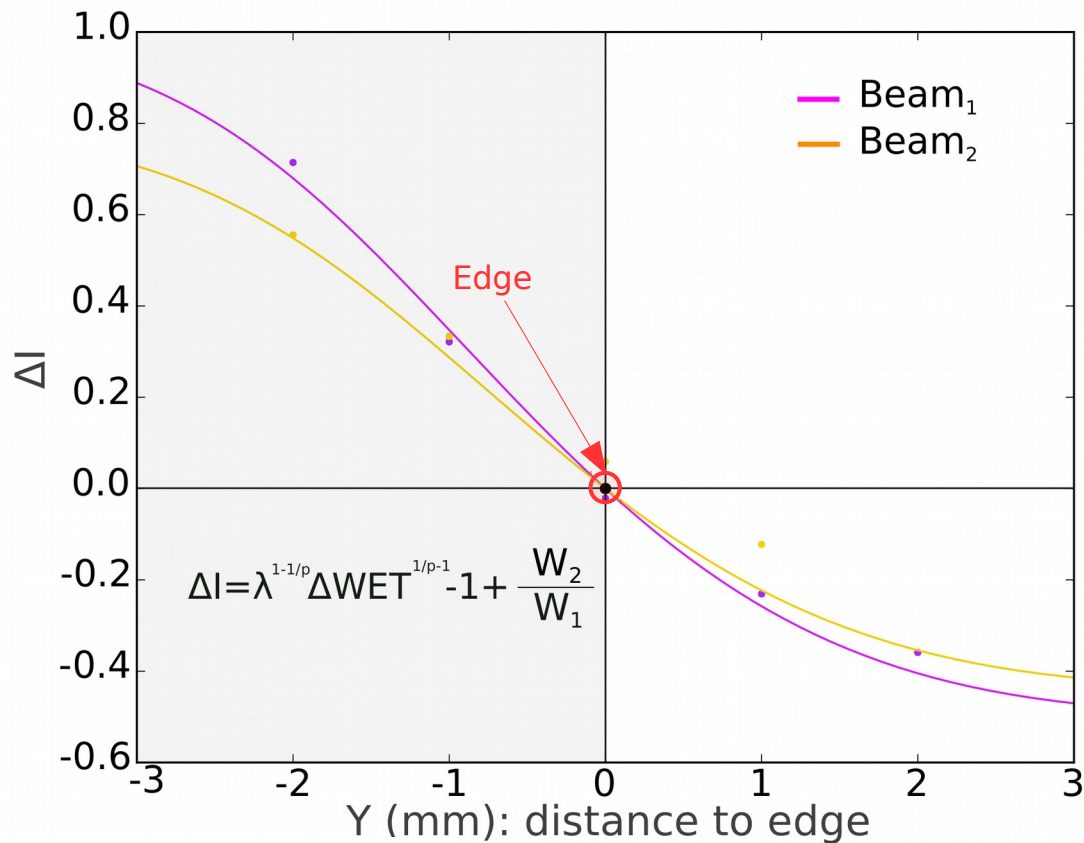






## 4. Results and Discussion

### Clinical environment: Lung tumor



$\Delta I = \lambda^{1-\frac{1}{p}} \Delta WET^{\frac{1}{p}-1}$        $\longrightarrow$       Zero at: 0.001/-0.015mm

**Edge detection within  $<0.01\text{mm}$  accuracy using multiple BP information.**

→ Carbon imaging is worse than helium imaging [Fekete *et al.* 2016];

**Edge detection within  $<0.01\text{mm}$  accuracy using multiple BP information.**

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- Low dose to the patient;

### **Edge detection within $<0.01\text{mm}$ accuracy using multiple BP information.**

- Carbon imaging is worse than helium imaging [Fekete *et al.* 2016];
- Difficult to change particle type and if two beams available, it is possible on-line detection;
- Low dose to the patient;
- Prior-knowledge strategies are required for the identification of the relevant peaks;
- Future work will consider applying the same methods to other tumor areas and structures which can be used for patient positioning.



# Acknowledgements

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Grant SFRH / BD / 85749 / 2012



German Cancer Research Center



Politecnico di Milano



Computer Aided RadioTherapy & Computer Aided Surgery



Massachusetts General Hospital





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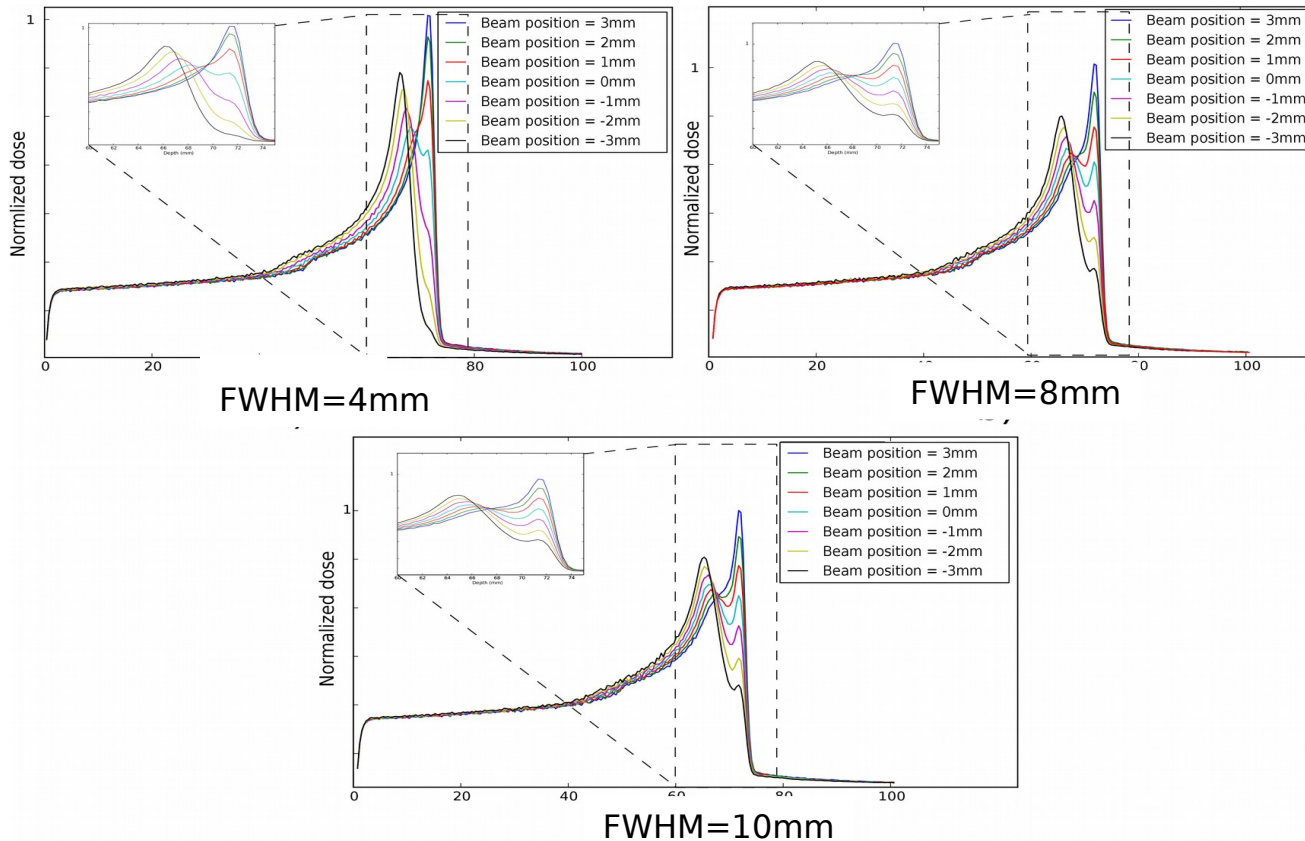


Thank you so much for your attention/time!

Questions?



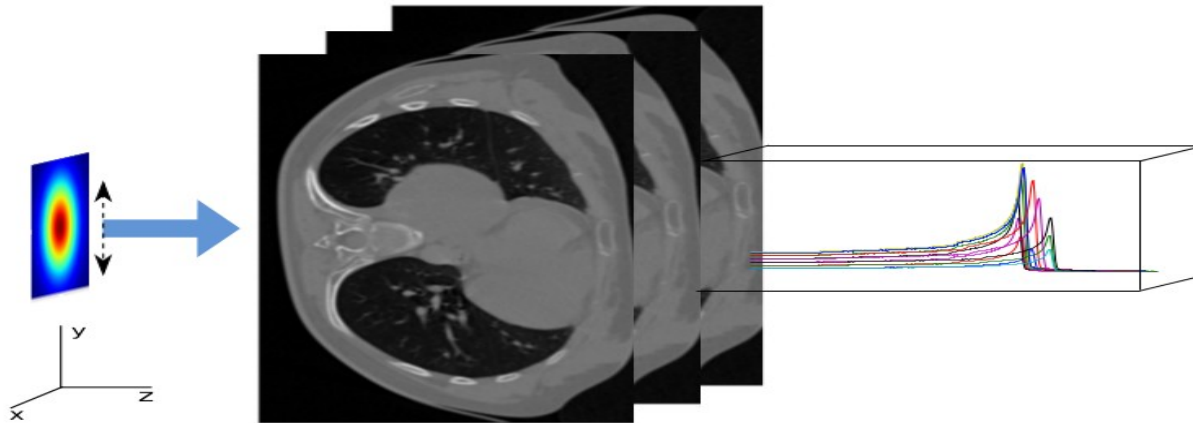
## Edge detection through two Bragg peaks: theoretical formulation



### Semi-cylindrical insert

- Smearred BP
- Different BP position
- Larger FWHM → Larger the  $\Delta$ WEPL
- Larger FWHM → easier BP identification

## Validation: Validation with ray-tracing



- HU-RSP calibration curve
- Patient CT data (Cancer Imaging Archive)
- FWHM=4mm
- Beam position: [-3,-2,-1,0,1,2,3]mm above and below the interface

$$WET = \sum (RSP_i \times a_i)$$

Measured  
signal  
with  
range  
dilution  
effects