



# Instrumentation for Verification of Dose

**S. Vatnitsky**

MedAustron GmbH, Wiener Neustadt, Austria

Presented to: Educational Workshop PTCOG 54  
San Diego, USA, May 18-20, 2015

**Consistent and harmonized dosimetry guidelines**  
**Accurate beam calibration**



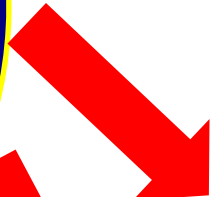
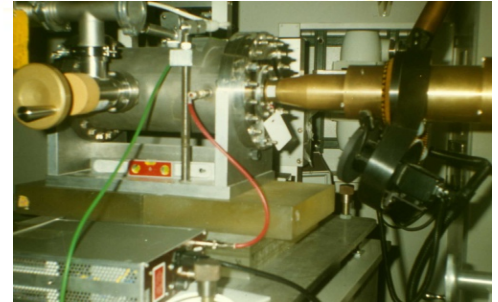
**Dosimetry tasks**



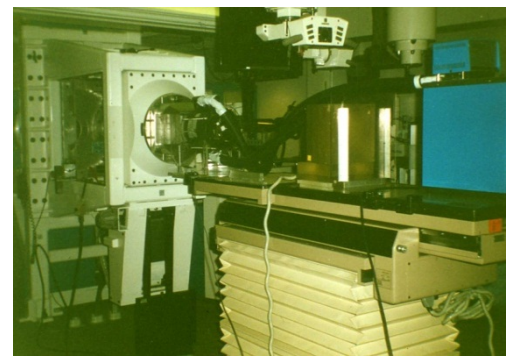
**Absorbed dose determination in reference conditions for protons and heavier ion beams**



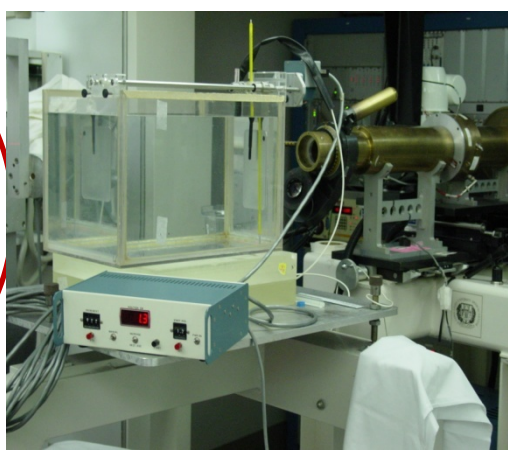
Faraday Cup



Calorimeter

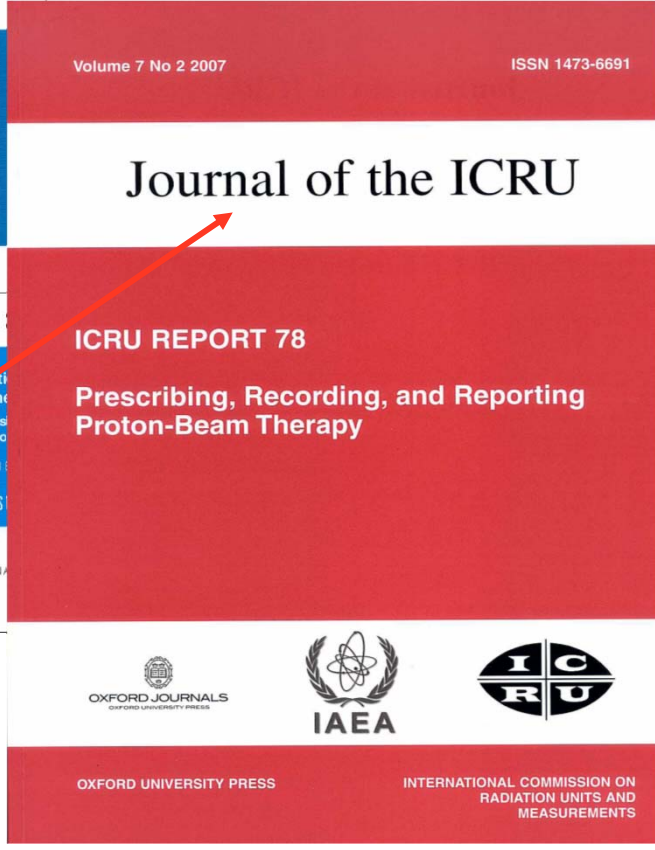
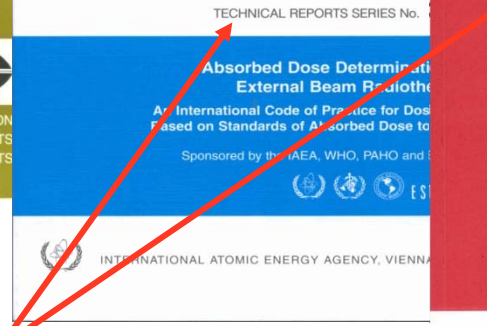
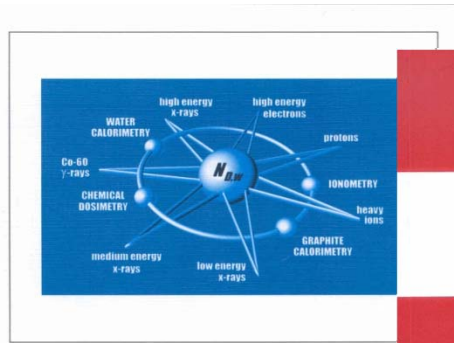
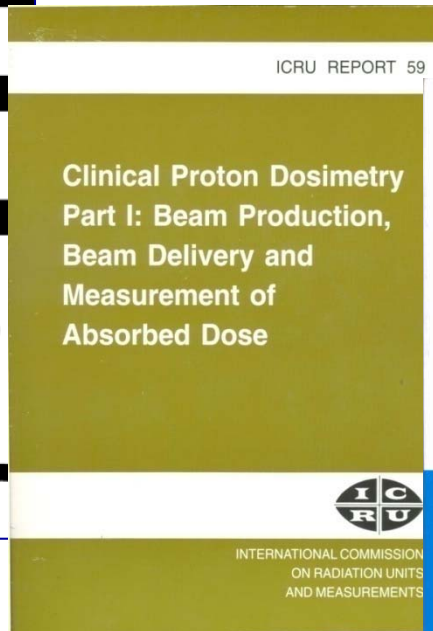
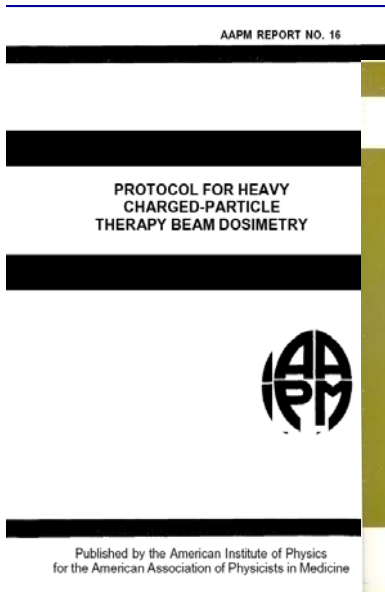


Thimble air-filled ionization chamber



**Lack of national and international dosimetry standards**

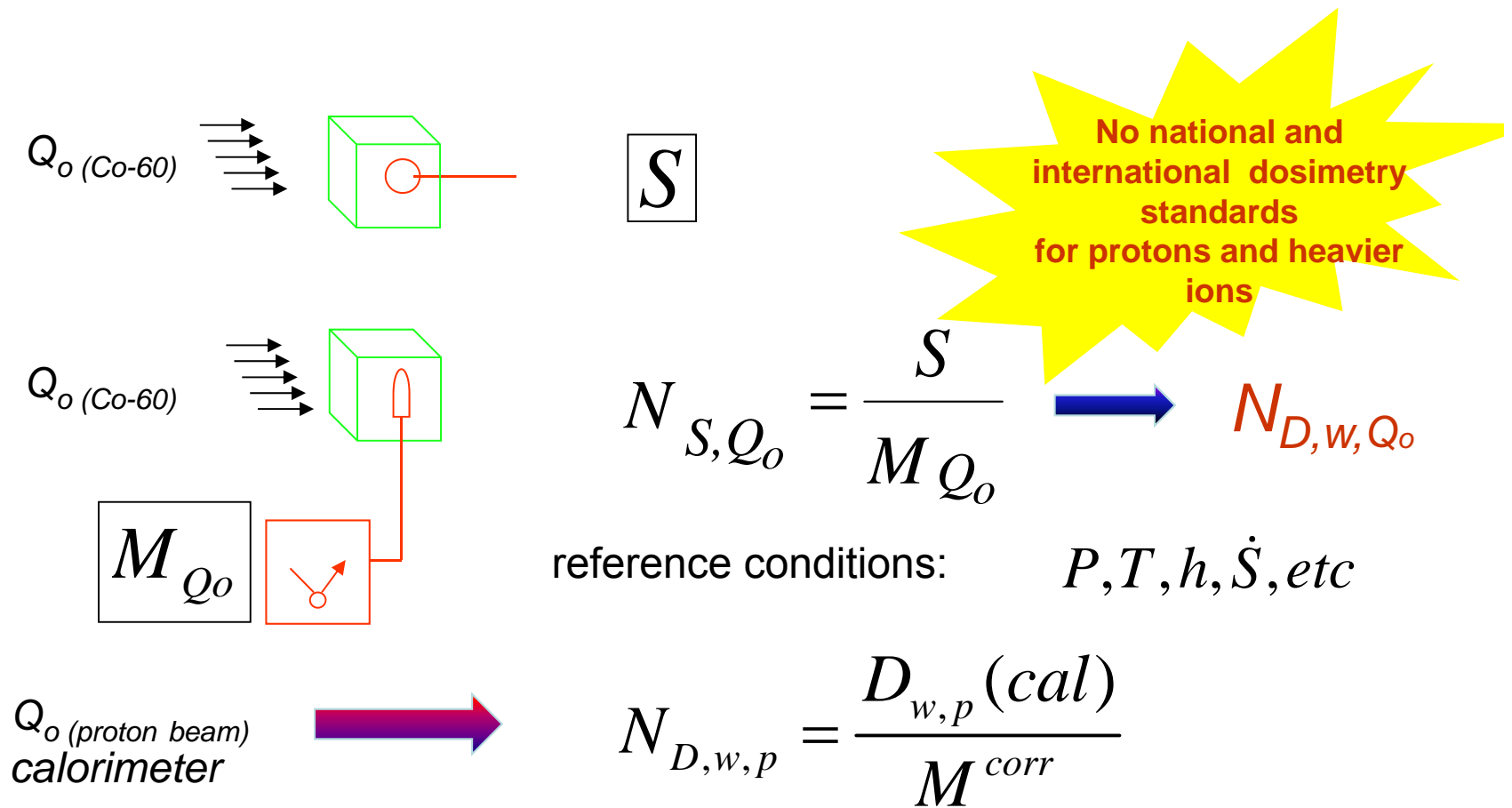
# Protocols/COP for proton and heavier ion beam dosimetry



**Only a Protocol based on standards of absorbed dose to water is being recommended by ICRU/IAEA Reports for protons and heavier ions**

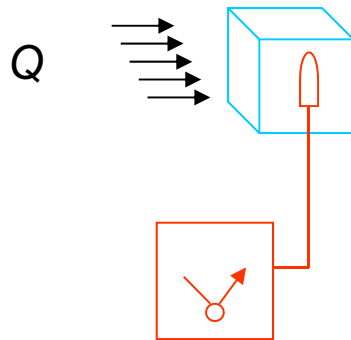
# Absorbed dose determination in reference conditions for light ion beams: **Step one**

At the standards laboratory ionization chamber is provided with a calibration factor in terms of the radiation quantity  $S$  in a beam of quality  $Q_0$ :  $N_{S,Q_0}$



# Absorbed dose determination in reference conditions for light ion beams: **Step two**

The ionization chamber is then subsequently placed at a reference depth in water in the user's beam, of quality  $Q$ .



$$D_{w,Q} = M_Q N_{S,Q_0} f_{Q,Q_0}^{D,S}$$

$M_Q$  is the instrument reading in the user's beam, suitably corrected to the reference conditions for which  $N_{S,Q_0}$  is valid

$f_{Q,Q_0}^{D,S}$  is any **overall** factor necessary to convert both from the calibration quantity  $S$  to dose  $D$  and from the calibration quality  $Q_0$  to the user's quality  $Q$

# $N_{D,w}$ - based formalism: IAEA TRS-398/ICRU 78

$D_w(z_{ref})$  at any user quality  $Q$   
(photons, electrons, protons, heavier ions)

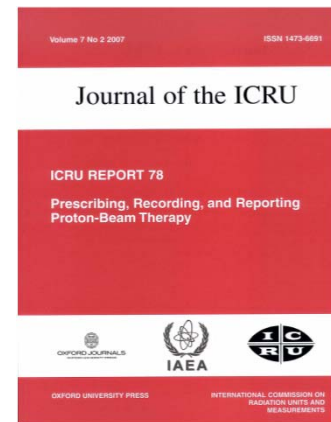


$$D_{w,Q} = M_Q N_{D,w,Q_0} k_{Q,Q_0}$$

*corrected  
instrument  
reading at  $Q$*

*calibration  
coefficient  
at  $Q_0$*

*beam  
quality correction  
factor*



$Q_0$  (proton beam)  
calorimeter



$$D_{w,Q} = M_Q N_{D,w,p} k_{Q,p}$$

# $N_{D,W}$ - based formalism: IAEA TRS-398/ICRU 78

$$\Rightarrow Q_o = {}^{60}\text{Co}$$

$$k_Q = \frac{\left( S_{w,air} \right)_Q}{\left( S_{w,air} \right)_{{}^{60}\text{Co}}} \frac{\left( W_{air} \right)_Q}{\left( W_{air} \right)_{{}^{60}\text{Co}}} \frac{p_Q}{p_{{}^{60}\text{Co}}}$$

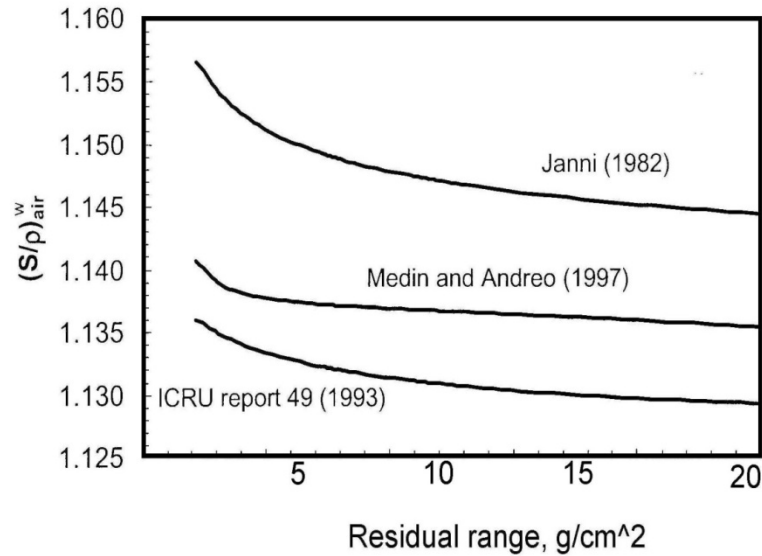
$$\Rightarrow Q_o = \text{proton beam}$$

$$k_{Q,p} = \frac{\left( S_{w,air} \right)_Q}{\left( S_{w,air} \right)_p}$$



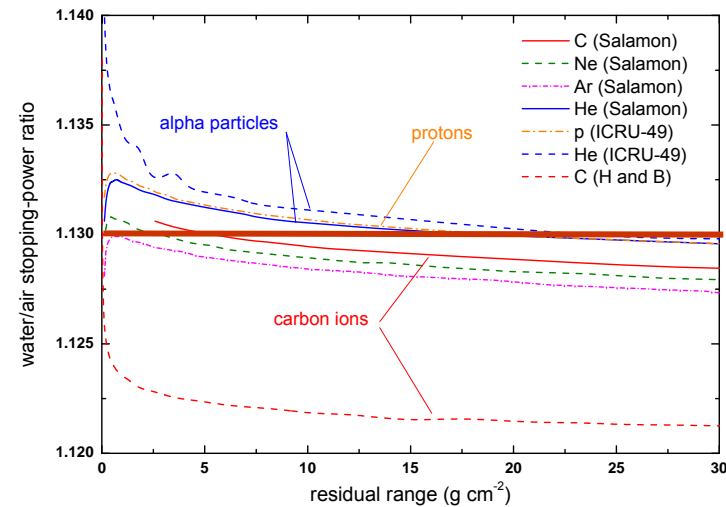
# Stopping powers

## Proton beams

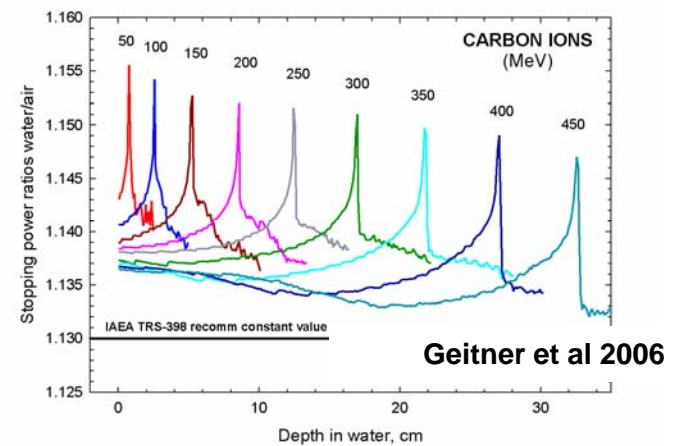


- **Basic proton stopping powers from ICRU 49**
- **Calculation using MC code PETRA following Spencer-Attix cavity theory**
- **Transport included secondary electrons and nuclear inelastic process**

## Heavier ion beams



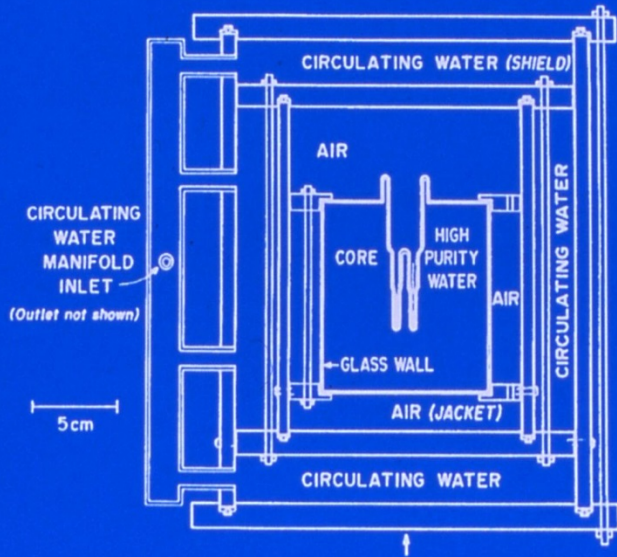
*A constant value of  $s_{w,air} = 1.13$  adopted in TRS 398 (ignores fragments)*



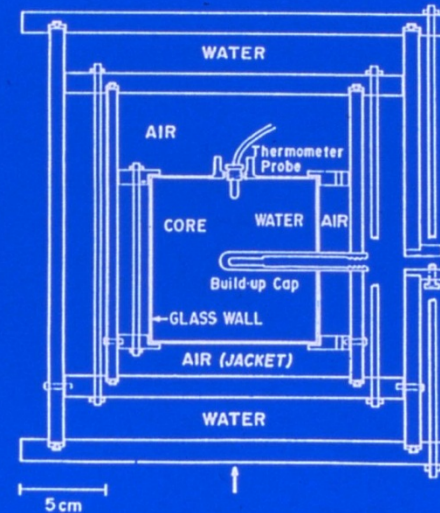
# Calorimetry-based determination of $W$ -values and comparison of calorimetry and ionometry

$$D_w(Q, cal) = c \times \Theta \times \Delta V \times (1 + D_T)$$

Water Calorimeter



Ionization Chamber (Dummy Calorimeter)

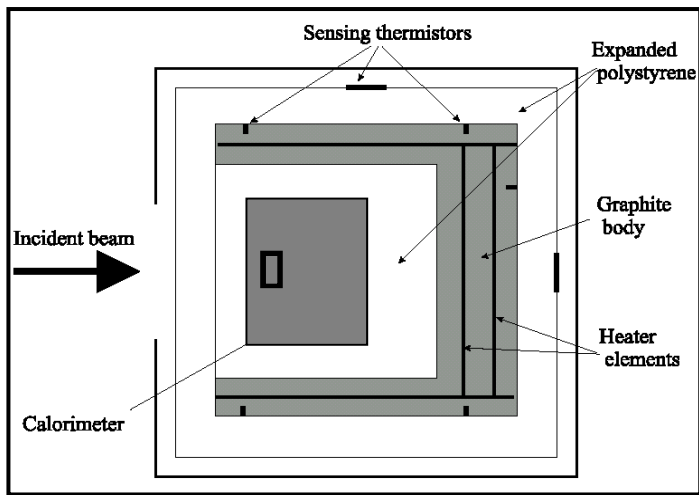


$$D_w(Q, cal)$$

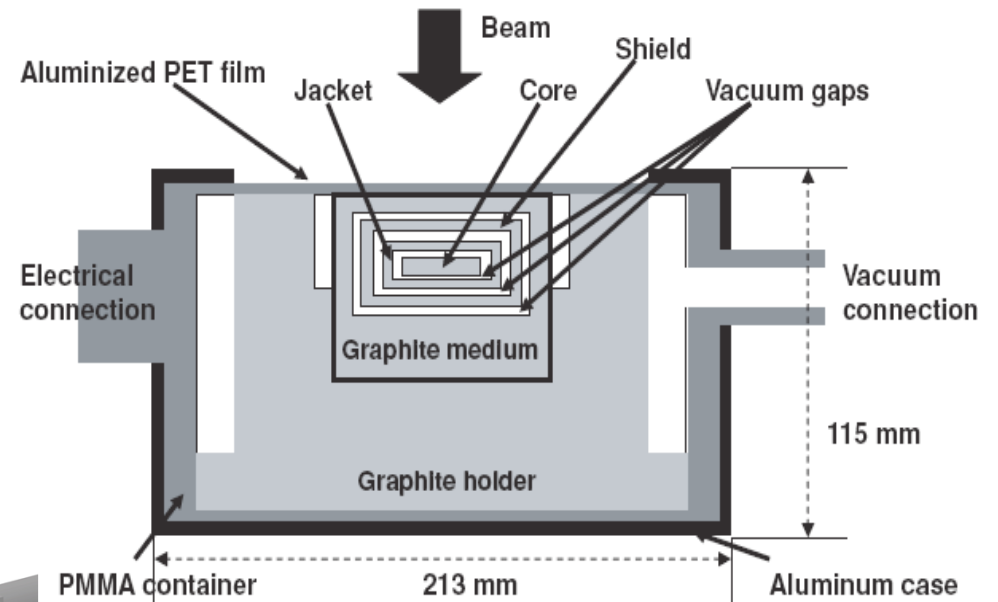
$$M^{cor} N_{D,w,^{60}Co} \frac{(S_{w,air})_Q}{(S_{w,air})_{^{60}Co}} \frac{(W_{air})_Q}{(W_{air})_{^{60}Co}} \frac{(p)_Q}{(p)_{^{60}Co}}$$

# Transportable graphite calorimeters

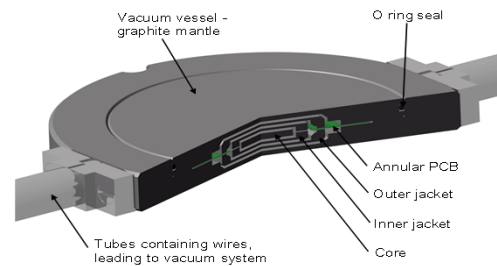
NPL protons at CCO (2004)



NIRS - carbon ions

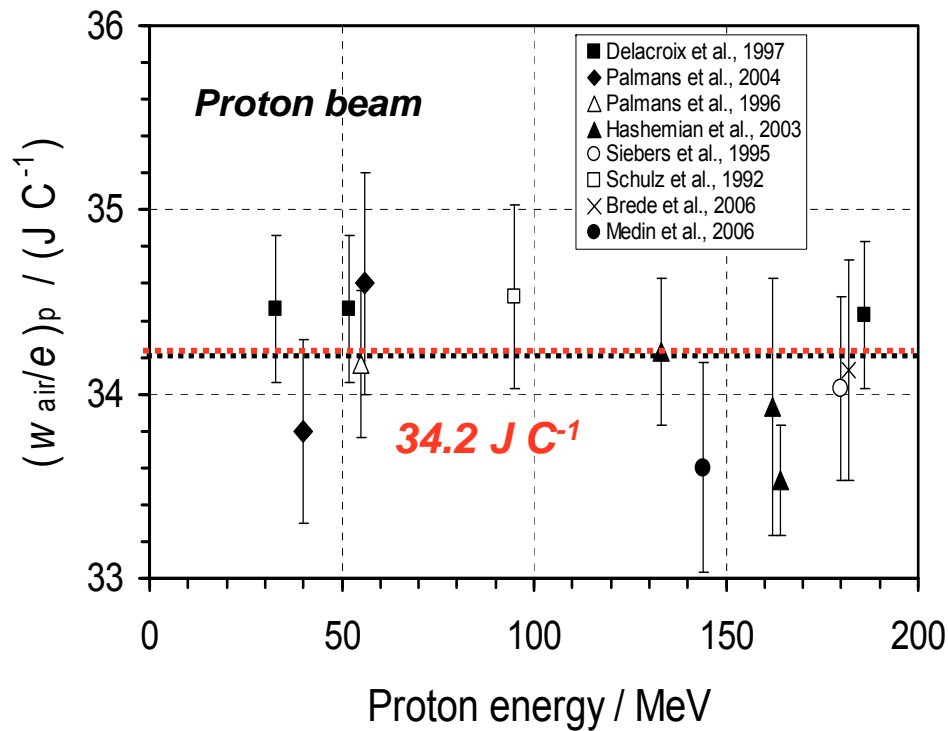


Sakama et al 2008

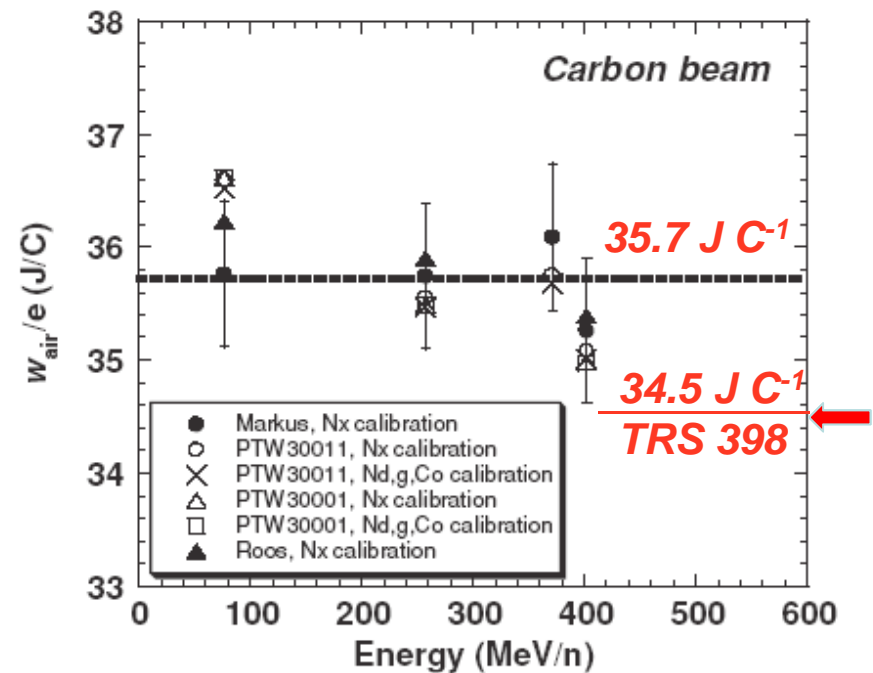


Palmans et al 2012

# Values of $W/e$ for protons and carbon ions deduced from comparison of IC and calorimeter measurements

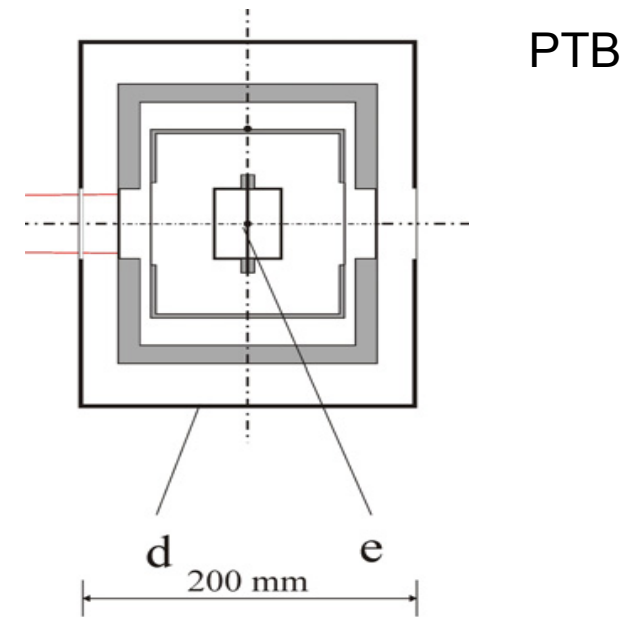
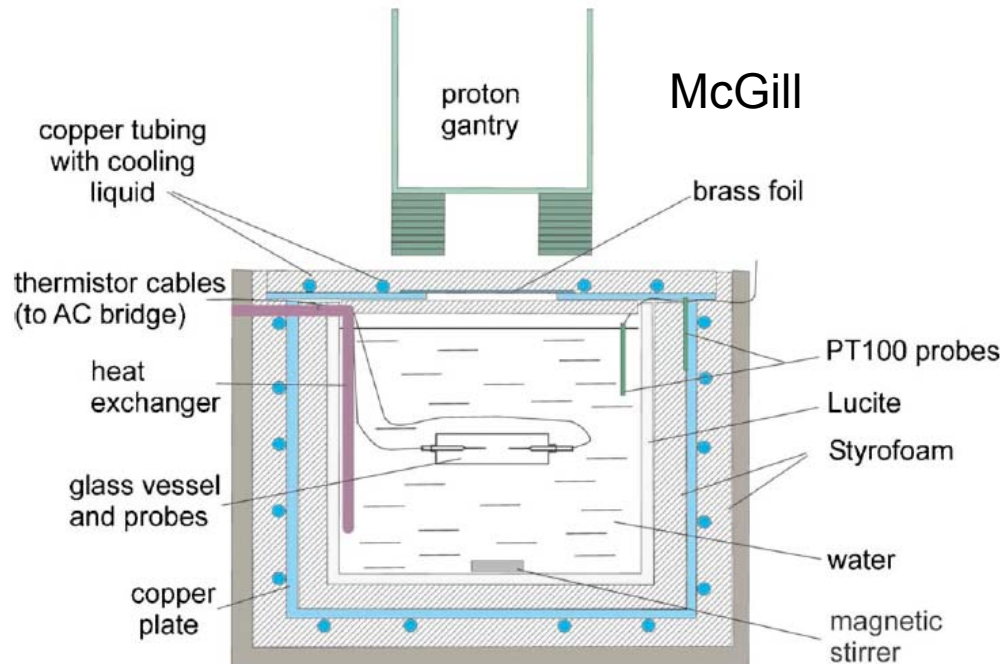


ICRU 78



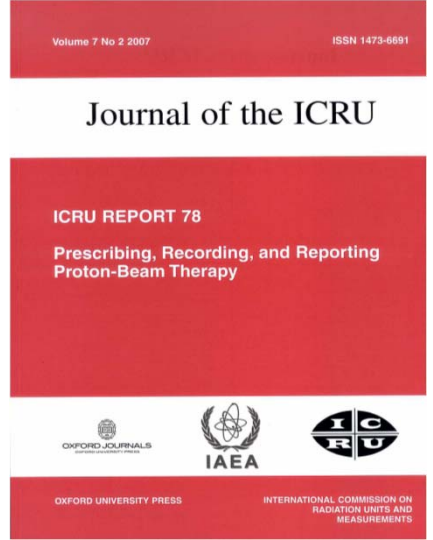
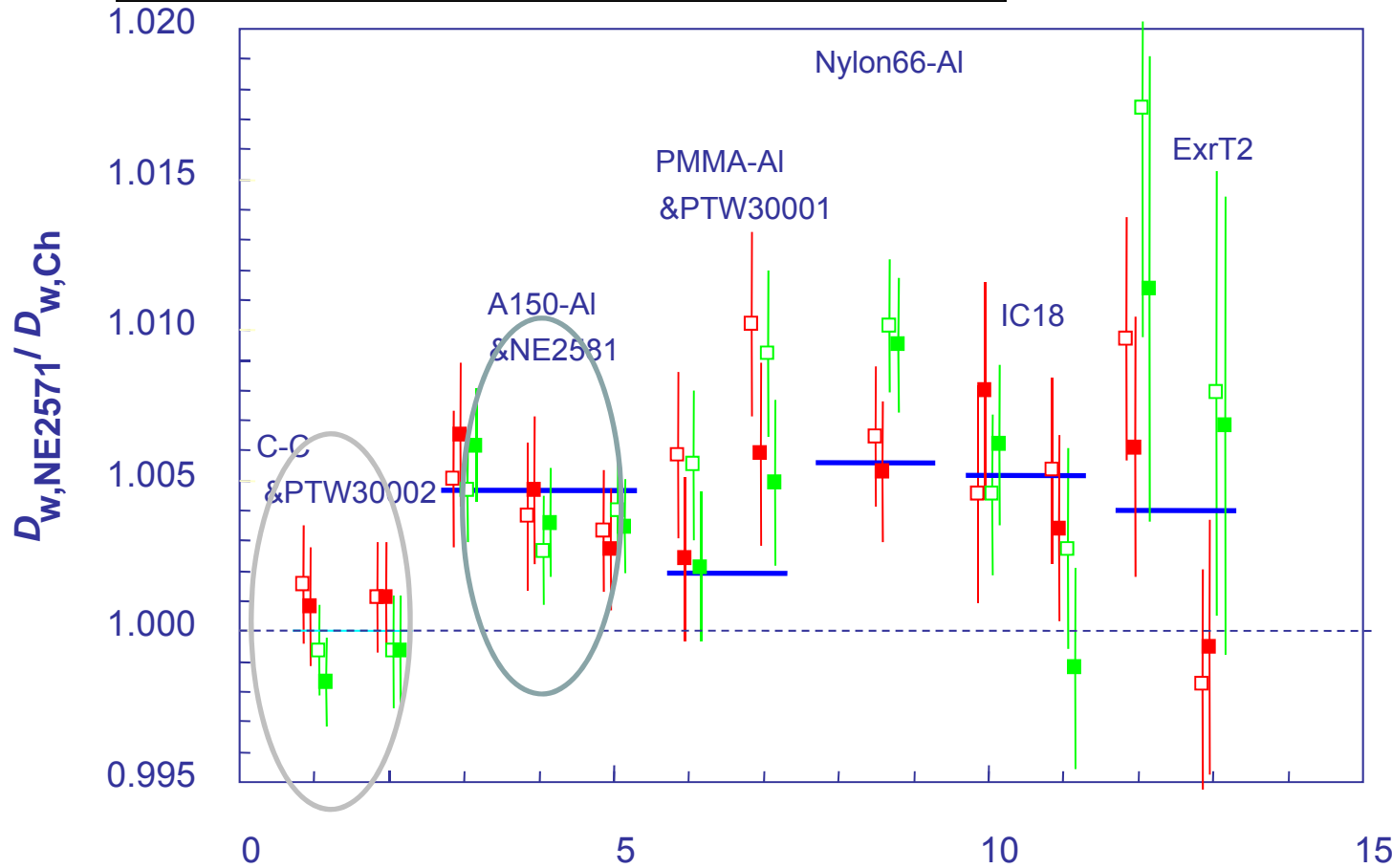
Sakama et al 2008

# Transportable water calorimeters



	Calorimetry Gy/MU	Ionometry Gy/MU	Difference %		Calorimetry Gy/MU	Ionometry Gy/MU	Difference %
<b>Protons Scattering</b>	$9.087 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$9.118 \cdot 10^{-3}$	<b>0.34</b>	<b>Protons 182 MeV</b>	$2.95 \pm 0.04$	$2.97 \pm 0.09$	<b>+0.7</b>
<b>Scanning</b>	$1.198 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$1.203 \cdot 10^{-3}$	<b>0.42</b>	<b>C<sup>12</sup> 430 MeV/u</b>	$2.77 \pm 0.05$	$2.69 \pm 0.08$	<b>- 3.0</b>
Sarfehnia et al., 2010				Brede et al., 2006			

$$k_Q = \frac{(s_{w,air})_Q}{(s_{w,air})_{^{60}\text{Co}}} \frac{(W_{air})_Q}{(W_{air})_{^{60}\text{Co}}} \frac{p_Q}{p_{^{60}\text{Co}}}$$

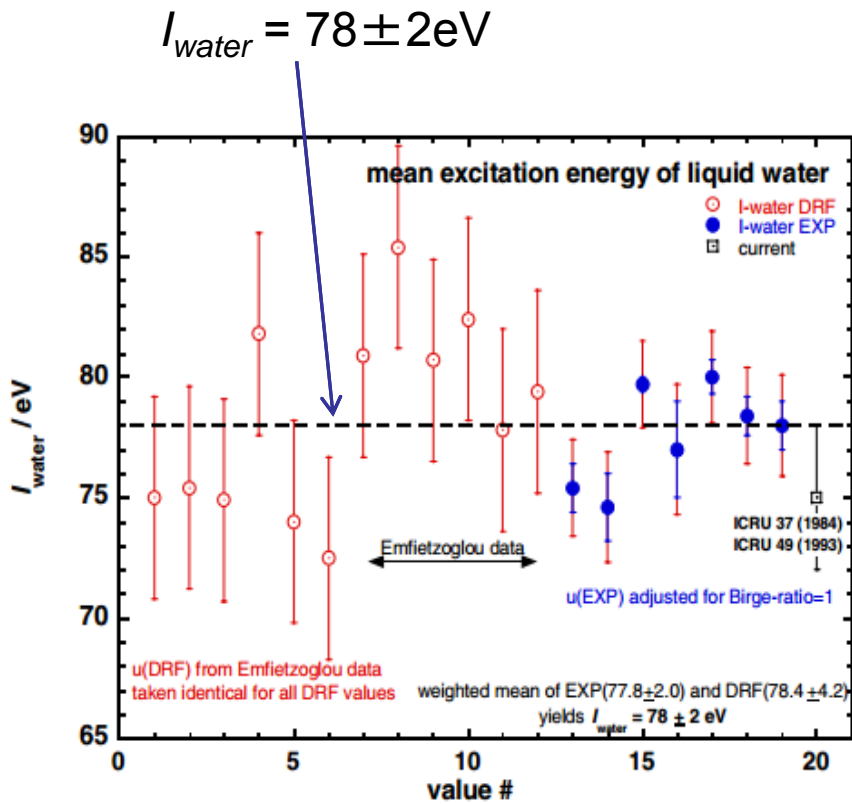


≈ 1 for protons and ions

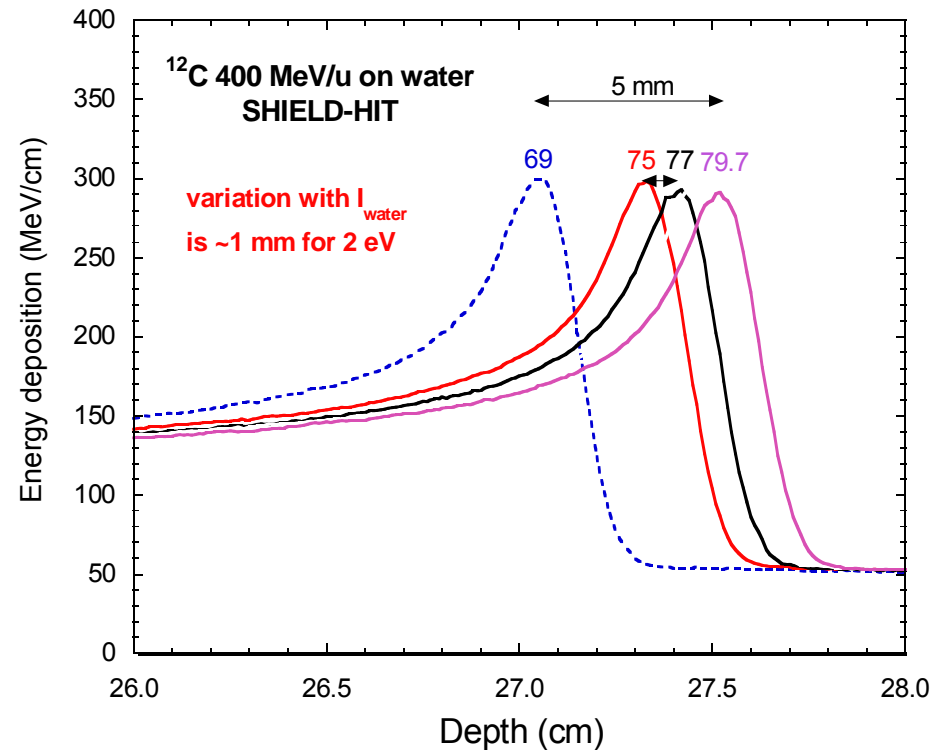
≠ 1 for <sup>60</sup>Co

Data from Palmans et al 2001, and Palmans and Verhaegen, Montreal workshop 2001

# Compilation of published data for $I_{water}$

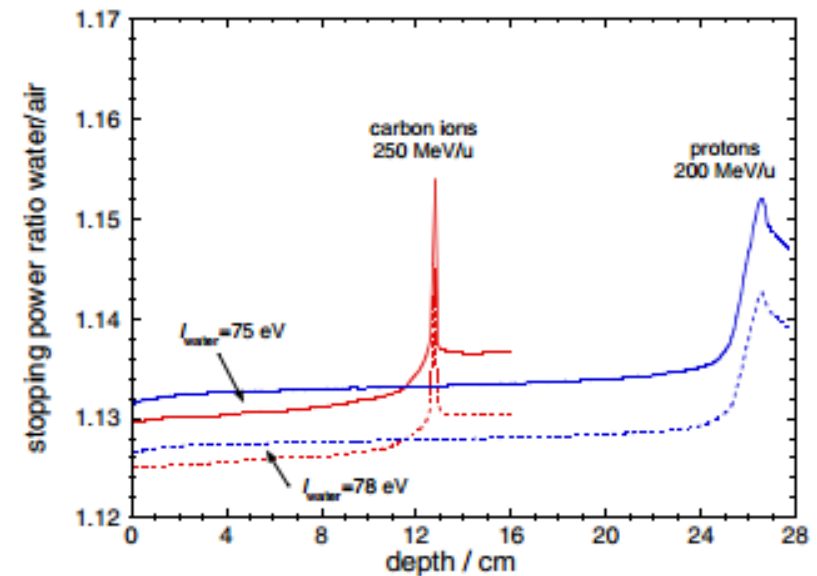


P. Andreo et. al., 2013



# Influence of a change in the $I_{water}$ and $I_{graphite}$ values on basic dosimetry data and $k_Q$ values

- Decrease of 0.6% in  $S_{w,air}$  for Co-60
- Decrease of 0.4% in  $S_{w,air}$  for protons and heavier ions
- Net change in  $W_{air,p}$  - increase of 0.6%  
i.e.  $W_{air,p} = 34.44 \text{ eV}$  (current -  $34.23 \text{ eV}$ )



***CONCLUSION: the net effect of all the changes leaves current calculated  $k_Q$  values unaltered***

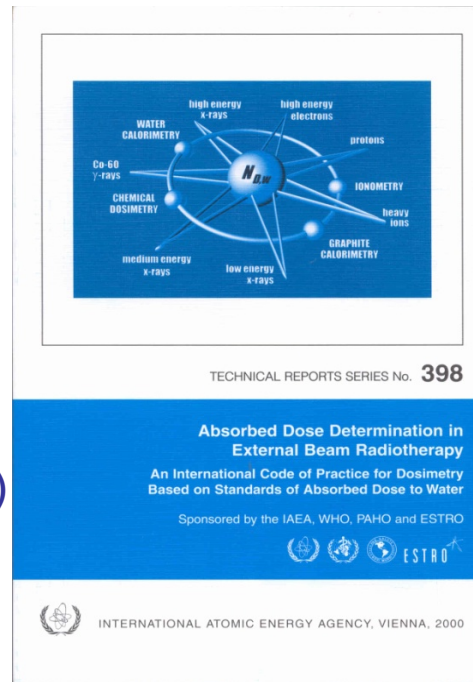
(P. Andreo et al., 2013)



# Recombination corrections for protons and heavier ions

## Protons and heavier ion beams:

- Pulsed (passive) or pulsed scanned (active) beams,
- **no continuous beams !**



## Two-voltage method

$$k_s = a_0 + a_1 \left( \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right) + a_2 \left( \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right)^2$$

**Not all beams are pulsed for determination of recombination**

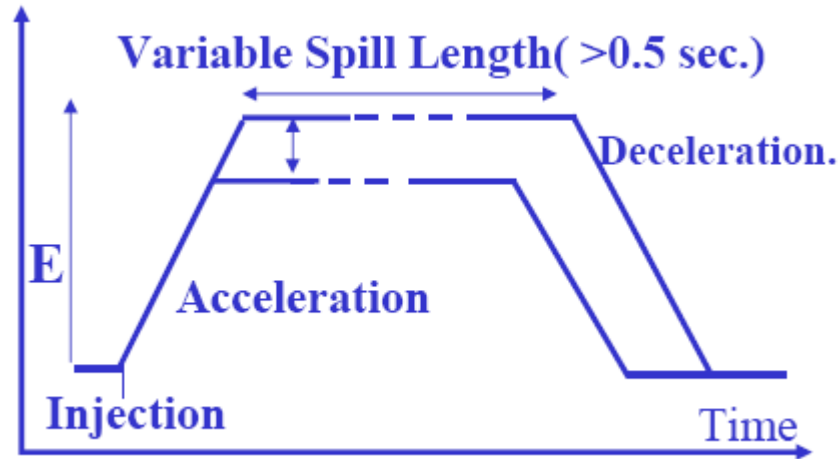
$$k_s = a_0 + a_1 \left( \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right) + a_2 \left( \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right)^2$$

$$1/M = 1/M_\infty + b/V$$

General recombination

# Recombination corrections for proton beams – ICRU 78

**Synchrotrons** (Repetition < 0.5 Hz,  
Acceleration 0.5 – 1s)



**Cyclotrons** (small pulses, high  
repetition, high dose per pulse)

- dose per pulse (0.2 Gy)
  - pulse length 400µs
  - maximum transit time for the ionization chamber 152 µs (300 V) and 76 µs (600 V)
- Lorin et al, 2008**

Effective pulse duration is long  
compared to ion collection time  
of ion chamber

$$k_s = \frac{(V_N/V_L)^2 - 1}{(V_N/V_L)^2 - (M_N/M_L)}$$

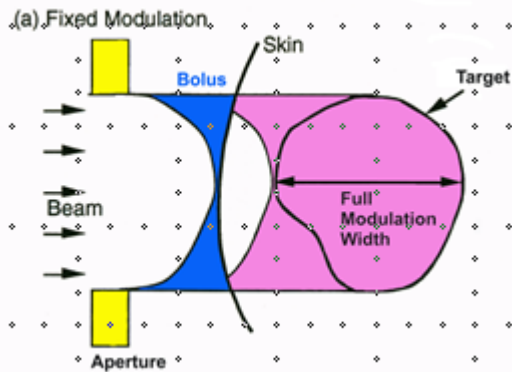
Ion collection time of ion chamber  
shorter compared to pulse duration

**continuous beam**

**Scanned continuous beam**

The user should verify recombination corrections against independent method

# Reference calibration: reference conditions



Passive Scattering protons, carbon ions



Calibration at SOBP

Reference conditions are facility specific

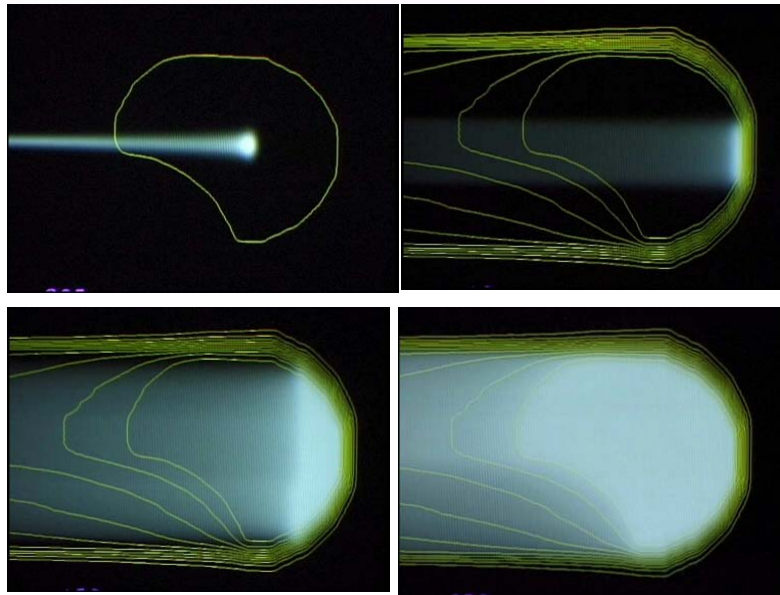
Protons spot scanning  
Carbon ions spot scanning



Calibration at plateau/SOBP



Calibration at plateau



( Pedroni et al., 2001)

Plateau versus SOBP:

- superposition of beams with different intensities
- not continuous and reproducible
- mix of particles with high and low LET
- fluence corrections are small

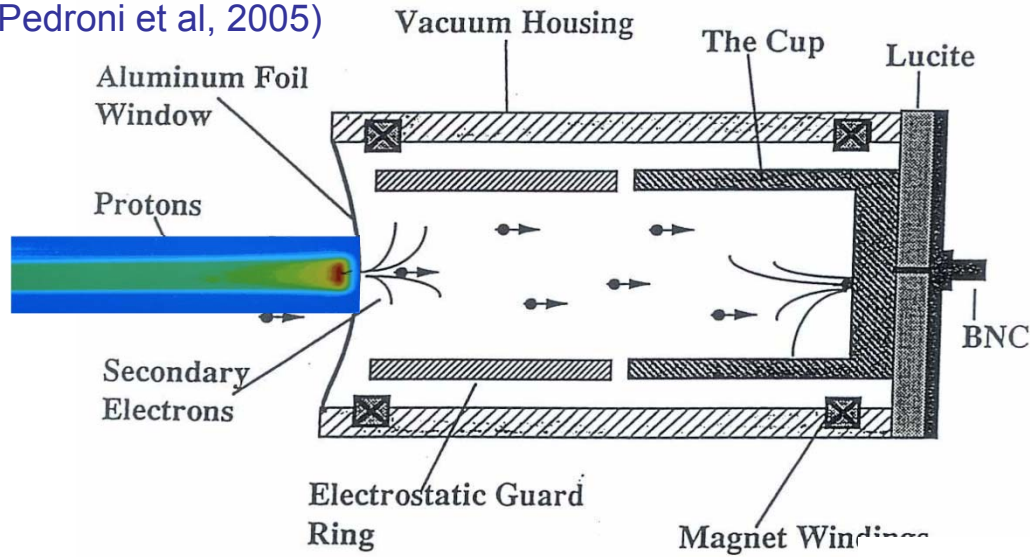
# Proton spot scanning calibration

PSI

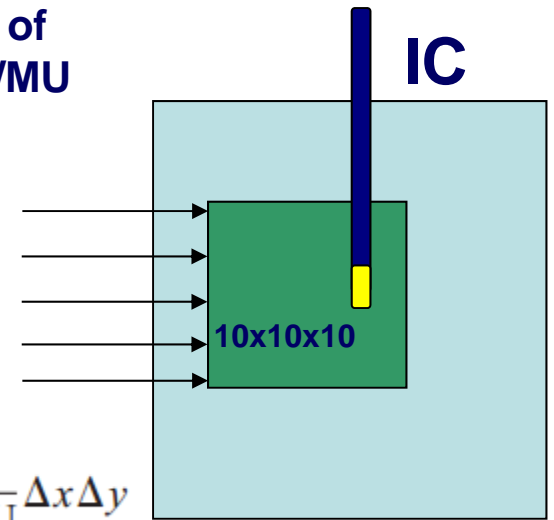
(Pedroni et al, 2005)

MedAustron <sup>N</sup>

$$D_w = (N/A) (S/\rho)_w * 1.602 \times 10^{-10}$$



Number of protons/MU

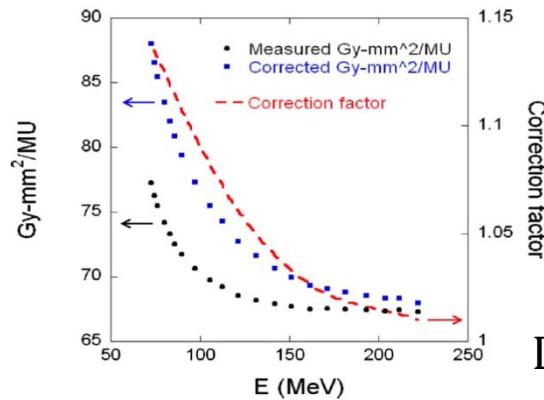
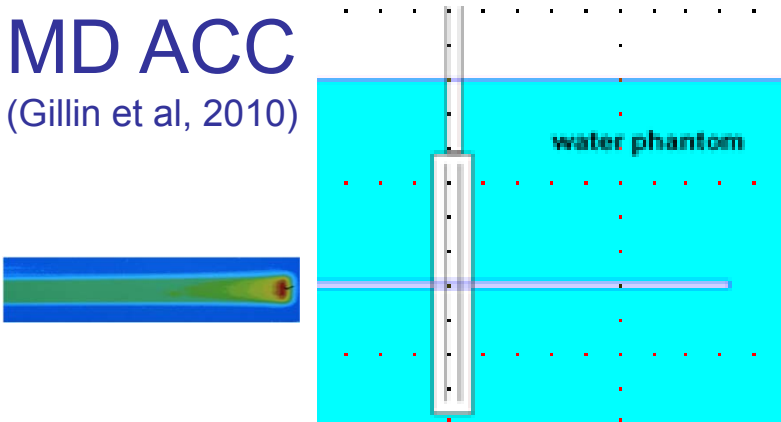


Dose/MU

$$K(E) = \frac{N}{\text{MU}} = \frac{D_{\text{meas}}}{S_E(x) \text{MU}} \Delta x \Delta y$$

MD ACC

(Gillin et al, 2010)



$$N \approx \frac{DAP_w}{(S/\rho)_w}$$

$$DAP_{w,Q}^A = M_Q N_{DAP,w,Q_0} \kappa_{Q,Q_0}$$

# Standard uncertainties in determination of $D_w$ (TRIS 398, ICRU 78)

$u(N_{D,w}^{SSDL}) = 0.6$	$k_Q$ calc	$k_{Q,p}$
<b>Co-60 gamma-rays</b>	<b>0.9</b>	
<b>High-energy photons</b>	<b>1.5</b>	
<b>High-energy electrons</b>	<b>1.4-2.1</b>	
<b>Proton beams</b>	<b>2.0-2.3</b>	
<b>Heavier ions</b>	<b>3.0-3.4</b>	
		<b>1.2</b>

# Dosimetry in non-reference conditions

Relative dose measurements require no detector calibration other than verification of linearity of response within assumed dynamic range of measurement conditions

## Dosimetry tasks

- Routine daily clinical physics activity
- Beam line commissioning
- Collecting data for TPS
- Periodic QA

### *Beam characteristics*

- ✓ Depth dose
- ✓ Lateral profiles
- ✓ Output factors

# Detectors for measurements in non-reference conditions

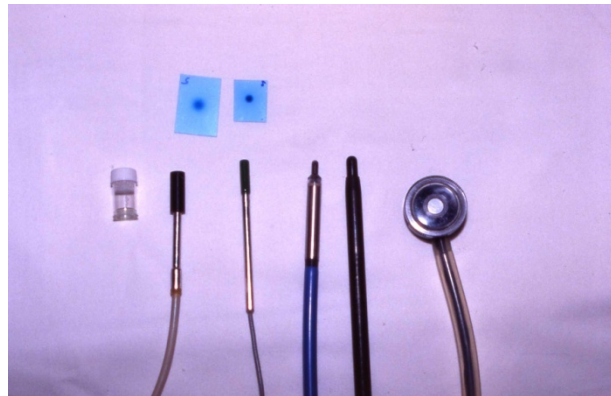
Active detectors:

Ion chambers, diodes, diamond detector, scintillators

(single and multiple)



Direct display of the current dose rate or the accumulating dose



Passive detectors:

Destructive – TLD

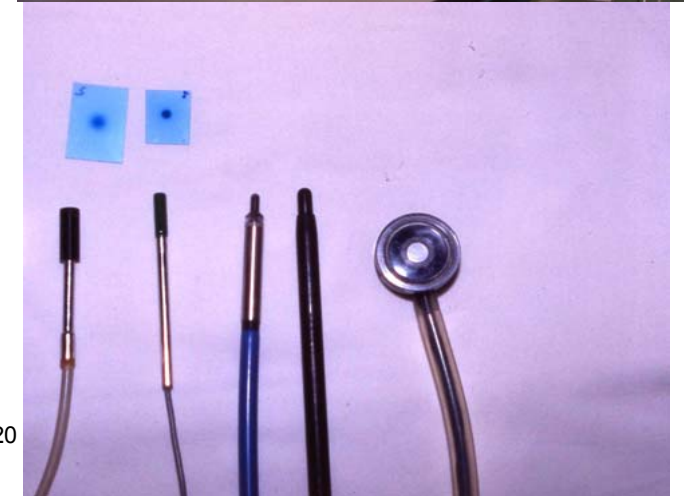
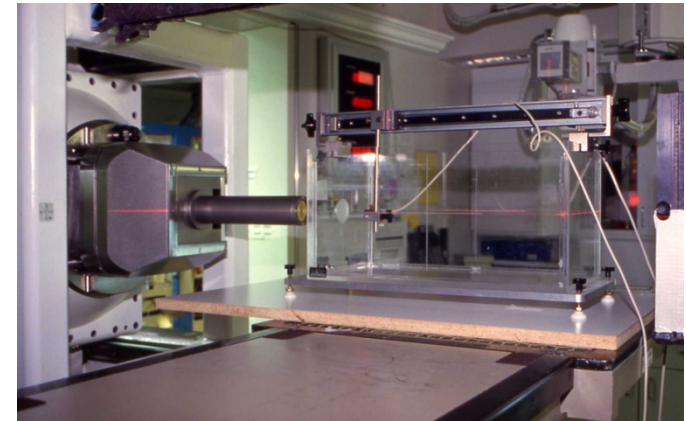
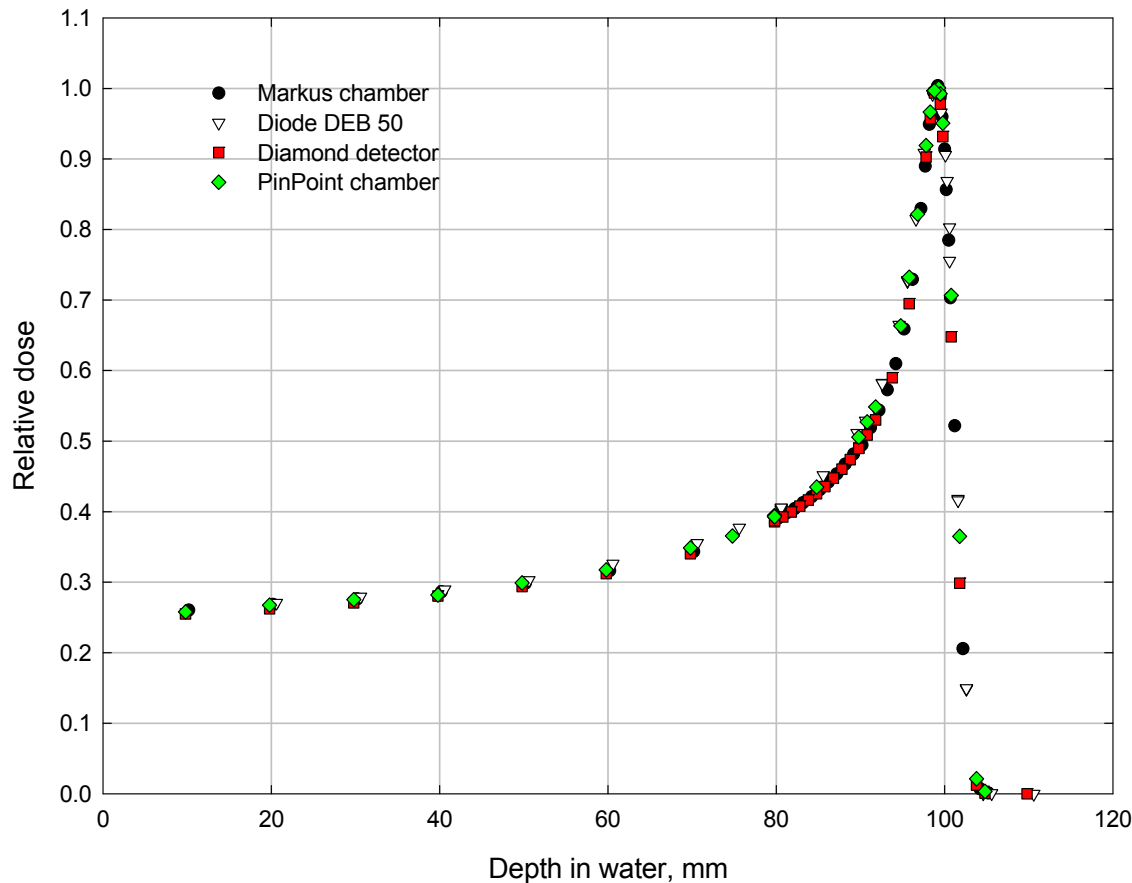
Non-destructive – Films, alanine



Probe accumulates the dose during irradiation. The value of dose is obtained after irradiation with read-out device

# Characterization of small proton beams

126 MeV protons, collimator 30 mm, no modulation



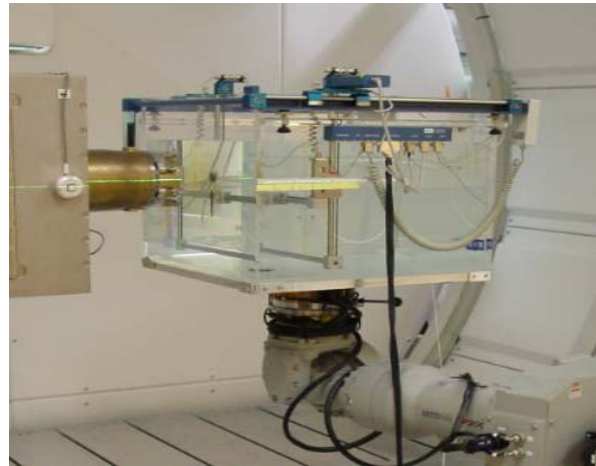
The user should carefully select detectors depending on beam size



# Characterization of scanned proton pencil beams

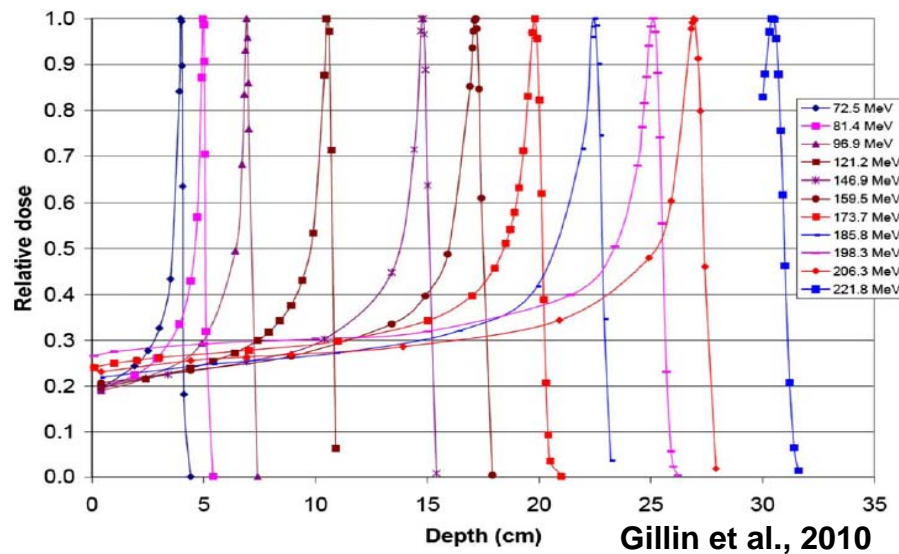


courtesy by PTW



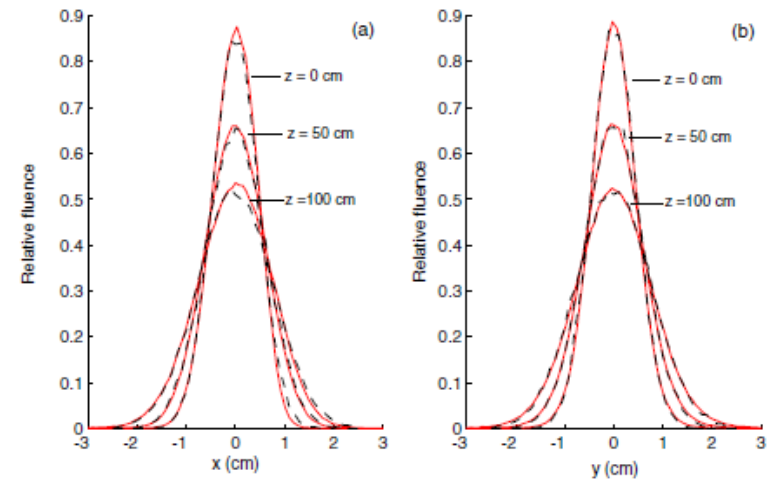
courtesy by PTW

## Depth dose distribution



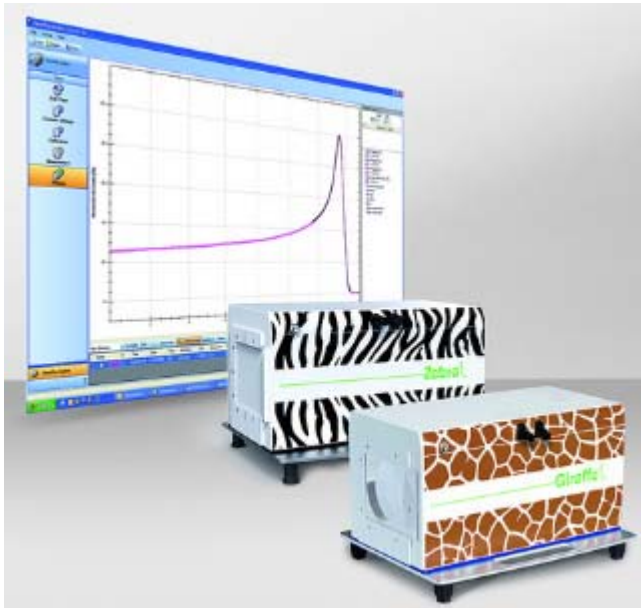
Instrumentation for verification of dose: S. Vatnitsky

## Dose profiles

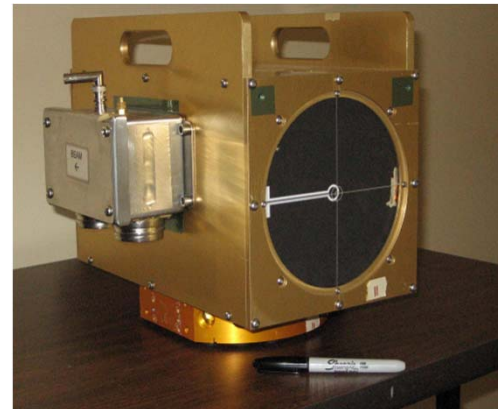


Kimstrand et al., 2007

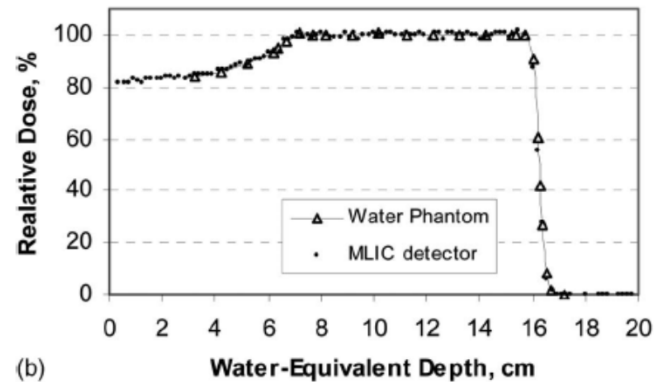
# Multi-detector systems for characterization and QA of proton and carbon beams



courtesy by IBA



courtesy by PTW



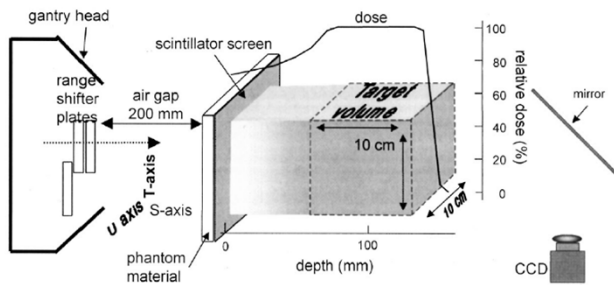
(b)

Nichiporov *et al.* 2007

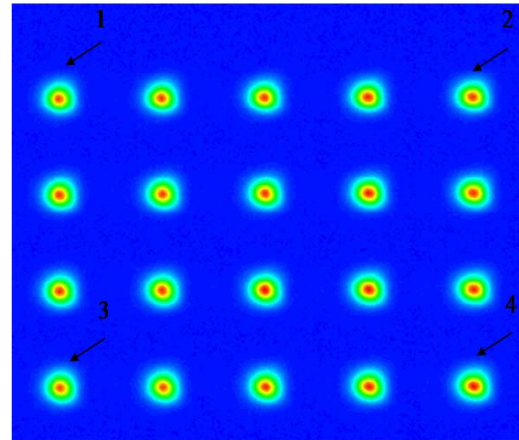


courtesy by IBA

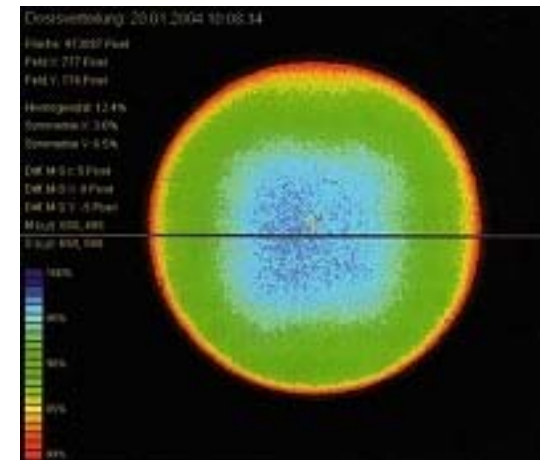
# 2-D dosimetry: fluorescent screen and CCD camera



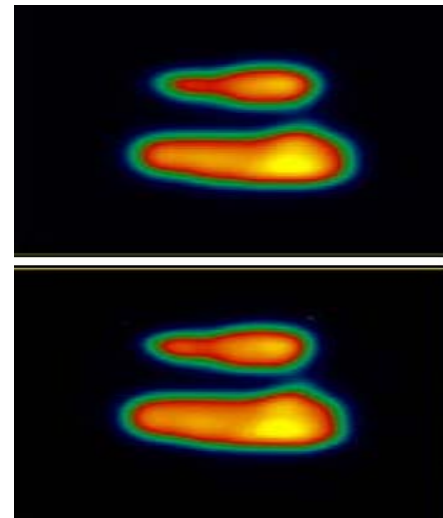
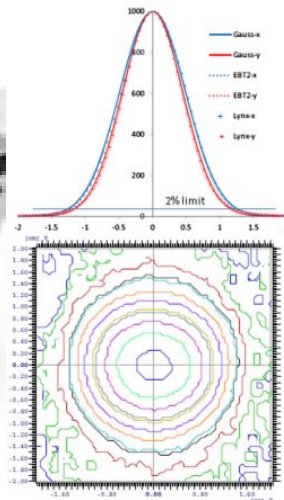
Boon et al 2000



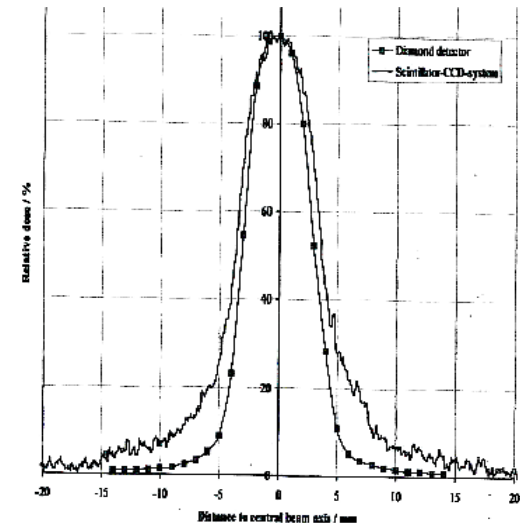
Courtesy CMS



Lin et al., 2013



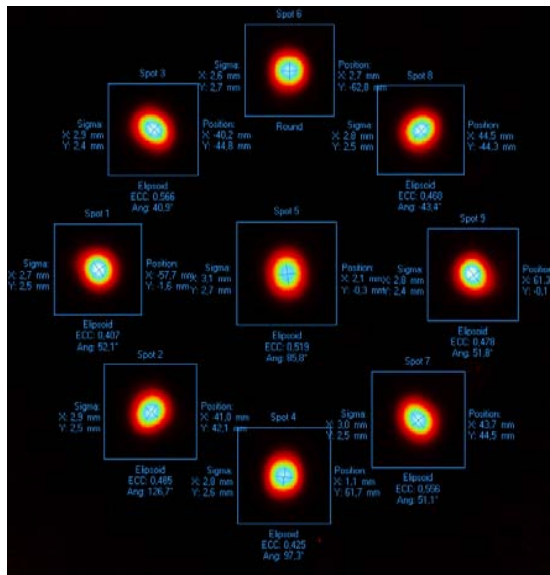
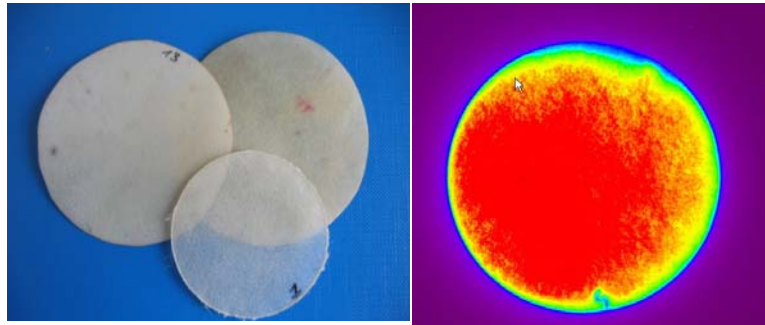
E. Pedroni et al., 2005



Rosenthal et al., 2004

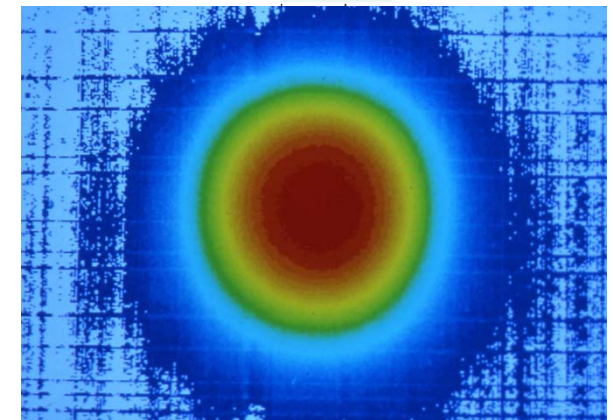
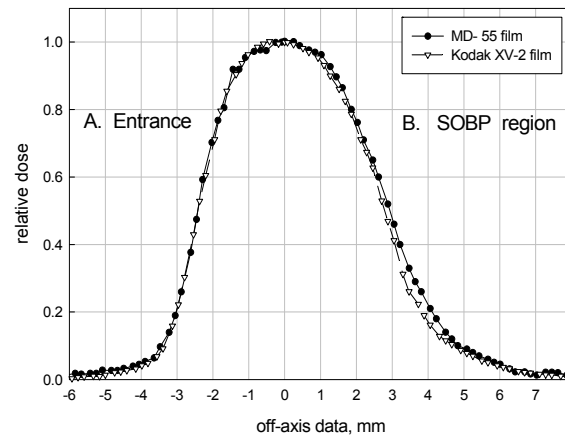
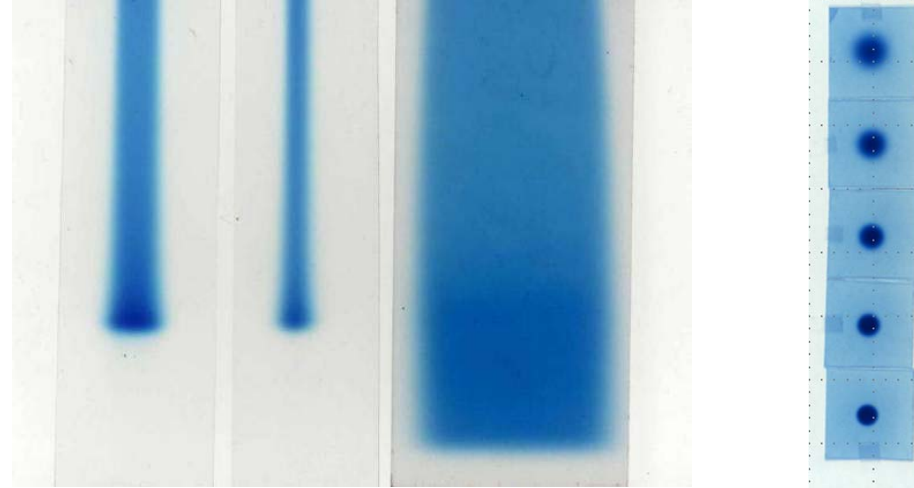
# 2-D dosimetry:

## TLD



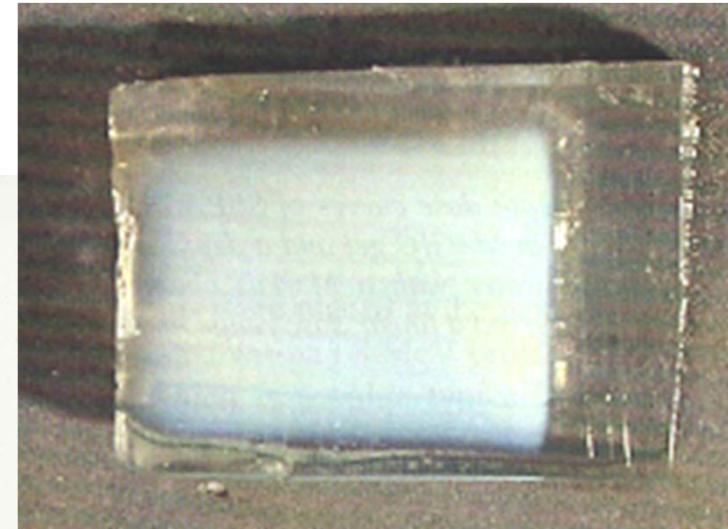
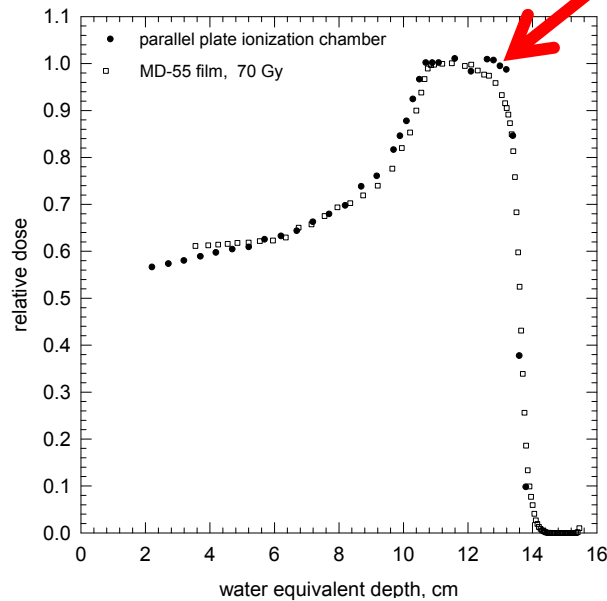
(courtesy of P. Oiko).

## Radiochromic film

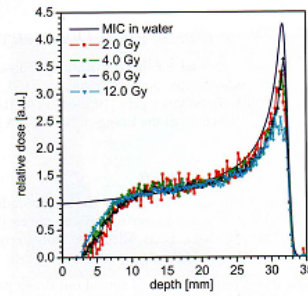
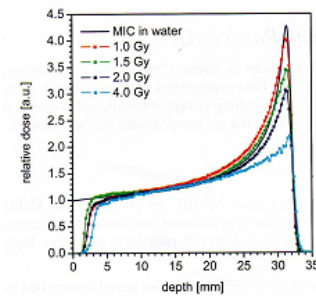
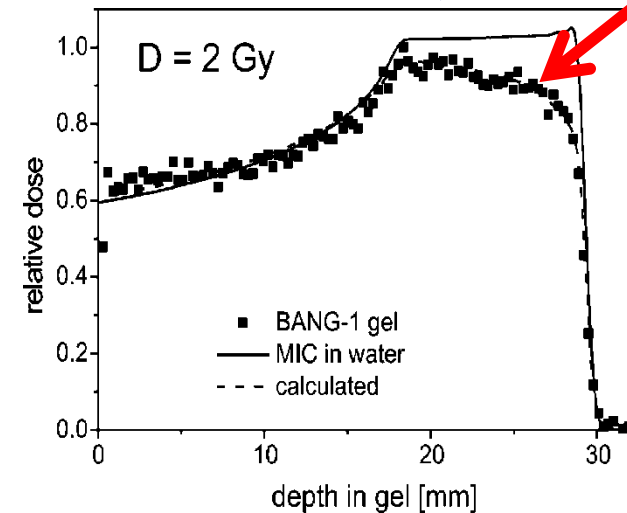


# Radiochromic films and gels for characterization of clinical proton beams

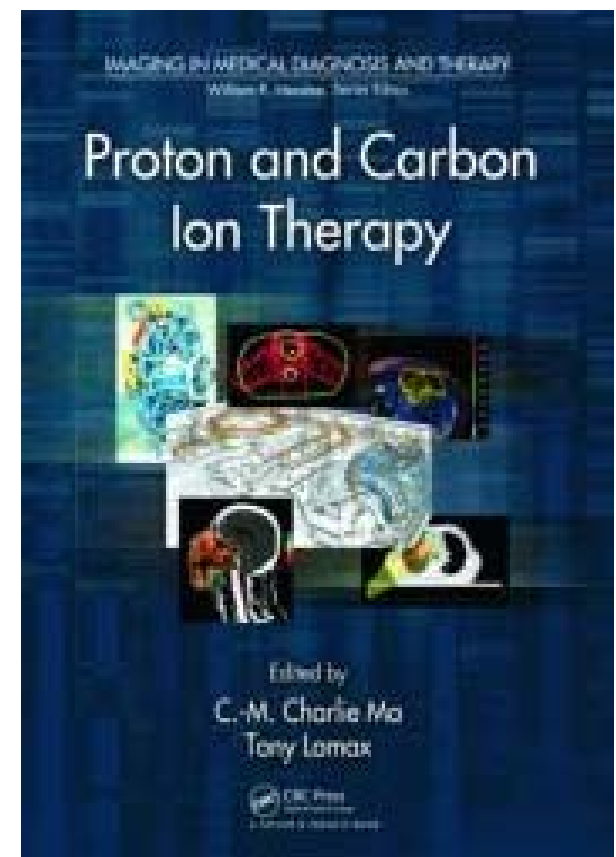
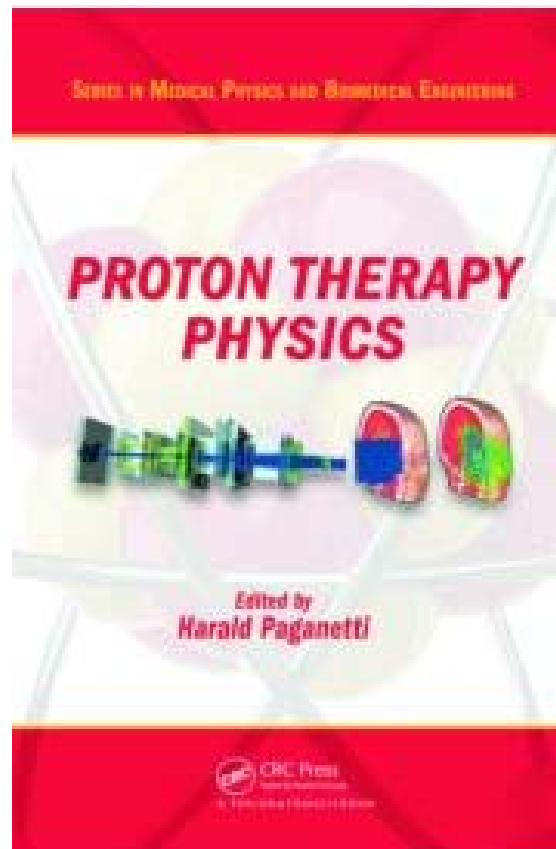
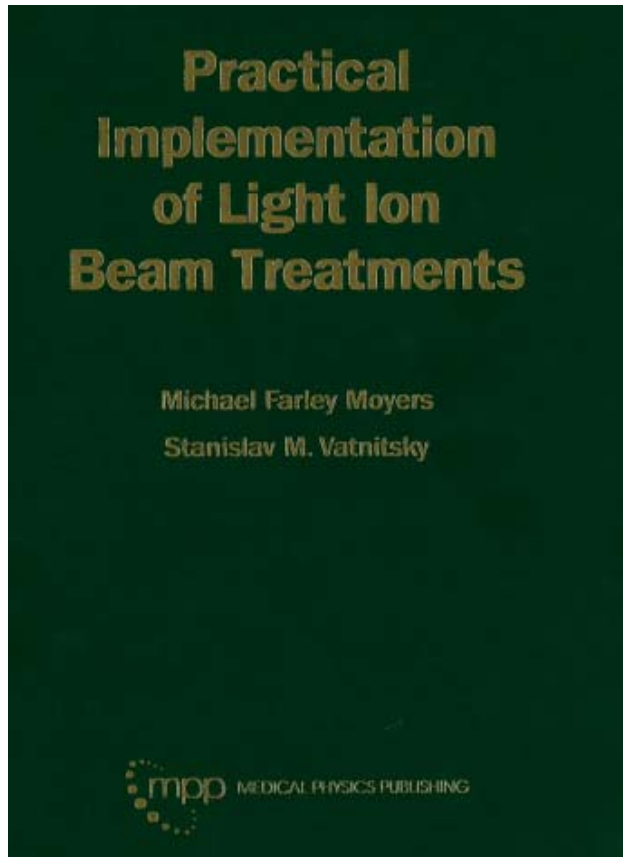
155 MeV, modulation 3 cm, normalized at 11 cm



Heufelder et al, 2003



# Additional reading



# Take home message

Implementation  
of ICRU Report 78  
IAEA TRS 398

harmonize clinical dosimetry  
at proton and heavier  
ion beam facilities



**Traceability audits:**  
Dose /MU review of proton  
facilities: Moyers et al 2014  
 $N_{D,w}$  (ICRU 78):  $0.997 \pm 0.016$

provide a level of accuracy  
comparable to that  
in calibration of photon  
and electron beams

# Acknowledgements

- Members of ICRU/IAEA Committee Report 78
- O. Jäkel and colleagues at HIT
- T. Lomax and colleagues at PSI
- M. Moyers and H. Palmans

