Dosimetric Verification of the Radiotherapy Treatment Planning System Based on the PENFAST Monte Carlo Code for Photon and Electron Dose Calculations

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Context

Dose calculation using advanced statistical methods for treating cancer with radiotherapy

- Radiotherapy
 - High dose to the tumour \rightarrow chance of recovery
 - Lowest dose to sound tissues
 → avoid complications
- New technologies (IMRT, IGRT) require a very accurate dose calculation: heterogeneities, small beams
- Solution: Monte Carlo (MC) methods
 ✓ Accurate results closer to reality
 x Long computing time, normally not adapted to the clinical situation



Objective

• MAESTRO & TELEDOS Projects → **ISOgray TPS (MC)**

- Optimised physics
- Variance reduction techniques
- Parallelisation with MPI

Verification of the dose calculation accuracy ?

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Monte Carlo dose calculation

- PENELOPE (PENetration and Energy LOss of Positrons and Electrons) CODE:
 - Detailed simulation of particle transport through the accelerator head
 - A PSF is created for each beam

• **PENFAST code** (in the TPS):

 Accelerated MC simulation of dose distributions in the voxelised geometry (CT scan)



е

Monte Carlo dose calculation



ISOgray TPS





PENFAST dose calculation & Visualisation of dose

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Verification of the dose calculation accuracy

Habib B et al. Evaluation of PENFAST - a fast Monte Carlo code for dose calculations in photon and electron radiotherapy treatment planning. Physica. Medica. Eur. J. Med. Phys. 2009



Difference < (2% - 2 mm)

4 min (e-), 15 min (Ph) for 1% stat. uncert. on 20 processors

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Materials

Primus-Siemens Accelerator

- 25 MV photon and 9 MeV electron modes
- Fields: 4x4 (6x6 for electrons), 10x10, and 20x20 cm²

Dosimeter

- IC Scanditronix Wellhöffer CC13 (0,13 cm³) in water
- Radiographic film in heterogeneous phantoms
- Phantoms
 - Water phantom 50x50x50 cm³
 - Heterogeneous slab phantom (Lung and Bone)



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9 MeV electron mode, water phantom Depth-dose and dose profiles at 2 cm depth



25 MV photon mode, water phantom Depth-dose and dose profiles at 10 cm depth





9 MeV electron mode, 10x10 cm²



Dose profiles at 3 cm depth in the heterogeneous phantom



9 MeV electron mode, 10x10 cm² Dose profiles at 3 cm depth in the heterogeneous phantom

Errors in the material and mass density assignment:

- Artefacts in the CT image due to the presence of a high density slab (bone)
- Unique HU-materiel and HU-density correspondences?

	Material	Color	
1	Liquid water		
2	Air		
3	Compact bone		
4	Lung		
5	Titanium		
6	Lead		
		-	

9 MeV electron mode, 10x10 cm² Dose profiles at 3 cm depth in the heterogeneous phantom

Radiographic film influence:

Perturbation of the dose measurement by the presence of the film

 Overestimation of the dose because of the film sensibility for low energy radiation backscattered from the high density material

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9 MeV electron mode, 10x10 cm²

Dose profiles at 3 cm depth in the heterogeneous phantom



Difference (PENELOPE with film/Measurements) < (2% - 2 mm)

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25 MV photon mode, 10x10 cm²



Dose profiles at 5 cm depth in the heterogeneous phantom



Conclusions and outlook

- TPS (MC) ables to calculate accurate dose distributions for photon and electron beams when materials are well defined and the dosimeter disturbance is taken into account
- Errors in HU-material and HU-density conversion (artefacts, image acquisition conditions, phantom characteristics)

 Sensibility problem with the radiographic film in presence of high density materials (bone)

• Evaluation of the material assignment process & testing complex configurations ... progressing





Thank you for your attention bouchra.habib@cea.fr

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9 MeV electron mode, 10x10 cm²

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25 MV photon mode, 10x10 cm²

Dose profiles at 5 cm depth in the heterogeneous phantom

