

CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT IN THAI	I
ABSTRACT IN ENGLISH	II
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	III
CONTENTS	V
LIST OF TABLES	IX
LIST OF FIGURES	X
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	XXI
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
II RESEARCH BACKGROUND	3
2.1 Concept and design of proton computed tomography	3
2.1.1 Position-sensitive detector	4
2.1.2 Residual energy detector	5
2.1.3 Image reconstruction	6
2.1.4 Progression of pCT	9
2.2 Proton interaction with matter	9
2.2.1 Interaction mechanisms	9
2.2.2 Energy loss	12
2.2.3 Proton range	13
2.2.4 Energy and range straggling of proton	15
2.2.5 Multiple Coulomb scattering	15
2.2.6 Nuclear interactions	17
2.3 Track reconstruction	18
2.3.1 Track finding	18
Track following	19
2.3.2 Track fitting	19
2.4 Monolithic Active Pixel sensors	20
2.4.1 Semiconductor physics	20
Silicon electronics structure	20

CONTENTS (Continued)

		Page
	Depletion region	22
	Charge generation	24
	2.4.2 The ALICE detector	25
2.5	Cyclotron	25
	2.5.1 King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital Proton Center	26
III	PROTON TRACK RECONSTRUCTION: MONTE CARLO SIMULATION AND ANALYTICAL MODELS	28
3.1	Introduction	28
3.2	Material and method	28
	3.2.1 Layer material properties	29
	3.2.2 Beam modelling	30
	3.2.3 Physics list	32
	3.2.4 Data collection and conversion	32
	3.2.5 Particle track reconstruction	34
	Track following algorithm	34
	Searching cone	35
	Scattering angle	38
	Radiation Length	40
	Linked list structure	40
	Track efficiency	42
3.3	Results and discussion	43
	3.3.1 Beam profile	43
	3.3.2 Energy deposition	45
	3.3.3 Proton track	48
3.4	Summary	51
IV	PRELIMINARY: THE FPGA TRIGGER CONTROL SYSTEM INTERFACING THE TELESCOPE WITH KCMH BEAM TEST	53
4.1	Introduction	53
4.2	Material and method	54
	4.2.1 Pixel sensor telescope	54

CONTENTS (Continued)

		Page
4.2.2	ALPIDE Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor	54
4.2.3	EUDAQ framework	55
4.2.4	FPGA trigger system	57
4.2.5	The first generation of trigger	59
4.2.6	Basys3 FPGA	59
4.2.7	Signal amplification	60
4.2.8	Microcontroller	61
4.2.9	GUI interface	62
4.2.10	Signal operation	63
4.2.11	Varian ProBeam proton PBS system	64
	Treatment room	65
	Control room	66
	Proton beam in QA mode	66
	PBS beam	68
4.2.12	Experiment setup	68
4.3	Results and Discussion	69
4.3.1	Trigger signal	69
4.3.2	Background measurement	71
4.3.3	KCMH beam test	72
4.4	Summary	73
V	DESIGN STUDY OF PCT TELESCOPE WITH TRACK RECONSTRUCTION	76
5.1	Experimental Setup	76
5.2	Beam setup	77
5.3	Data readout and conversion	78
5.4	Data analysis	79
5.4.1	Noise and background	79
5.4.2	Clusterization	79
5.4.3	Track reconstruction	79
5.4.4	Survival tracks	80

CONTENTS (Continued)

	Page
5.4.5 Correlation	80
5.5 Results	81
5.5.1 Noise and background	81
5.5.2 Beam profile	82
5.5.3 Cluster distribution	85
5.5.4 Track reconstruction	85
5.6 Summary	89
VI SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	94
REFERENCES	96
CURRICULUM VITAE	105

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
2.1	A brief overview of recent and present prototypes for proton CT (pCT).	10
3.1	The radiation length of material layers of ALPIDE sensor.	41
3.2	The simulated beam characteristics of 70 MeV pencil proton beam.	44
3.3	The simulated beam characteristics of 200 MeV pencil proton beam.	45
3.4	The mean and standard deviation (sigma) of proton particles deposit energy in epitaxial layer of ALPIDE sensor.	47
4.1	Basys 3 labeled components and descriptions.	60
4.2	Arduino Pro Mini 3.3V (3.3V/8MHz) pins connecting to Basys3 FPGA and the usages.	62
4.3	Proton beam parameters in Quality Assurance (QA).	67
4.4	Lynx PT measured the proton spot size (sigma, mm) of the KCMH proton center from IBA dosimetry.	68
5.1	Proton beam parameters in Quality Assurance (QA).	77
5.2	The pixel numbers that are activated with 50% of the dark test entries.	83

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
1.1	The number of clinical proton therapy centers in Europe 2009–2020. Source: www.ptcog.ch	1
2.1	Depth-dose profiles of radiotherapy beams like photons, protons, and carbon ions (Weber et al., 2009).	3
2.2	The design of the proton computed tomography system is shown in a conceptual manner. The system includes two 2D sensitive proton tracking modules placed before and after the patient, and a segmented crystal calorimeter that records residual energy.	4
2.3	The Digital Tracking Calorimeter (DTC) device which is designed by Bergen pCT collaboration. The 50 μm ALPIDEs are mounted as tracking layers and 100 μm ALPIDEs combined with absorbing material act as calorimeter (Alme et al., 2020).	6
2.4	The trajectory of protons as they traverse an object is influenced by multiple scattering events, causing their path to zigzag (depicted in red). The entry and exit positions and directions of the protons are recorded. With knowledge of the object’s boundary, the points where the proton intersects with the object (points A and B) can be determined. Although these intersection points are sufficient for estimating the straight-line path (shown in black) of the proton, additional information regarding the entry and exit directions enables the estimation of the most probable path (represented by the blue line) (Li et al., 2006).	7

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
2.5	The figure displays the primary methods in which protons interact with matter. First, as illustrated in (a), they lose energy through Coulombic interactions. Second, as shown in (b), when protons pass near an atomic nucleus, repulsive Coulombic scattering produces a modification in their initial track. Finally, in (c), the initial proton is eliminated, and non-elastic nuclear interactions produce secondary particles such as neutrons, electrons, helium, and gamma rays (Newhauser and Zhang, 2015).	11
2.6	This graph illustrates the relationship between protons' mass stopping power (S) and energy (E) in liquid water. The graph also shows the range (R), which is produced by taking the S values and applying the continuous slowing down approximation (CSDA) (Newhauser and Zhang, 2015).	13
2.7	This graph demonstrates the proportion of fluence Φ in a broad beam of protons that persists at various depths z in water. Because of nuclear processes, the quantity of protons in the water reduces progressively as they enter. Protons rapidly lose energy and are absorbed by the medium near the end of their range, resulting in a fast decrease in their number. The sigmoid shape of the curve towards the range's end is caused by range straggling or random fluctuations in the energy loss of individual protons (Newhauser and Zhang, 2015).	14

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
2.11	(a) - The outermost shell of a silicon atom contains four electrons. (b) - A valence bond is formed when two silicon atoms come together, with each atom contributing one of its valence electrons. (c) - The silicon atoms continue to assemble to create a silicon crystal. With the exception of the atoms on the crystal's outer borders, each silicon atom establishes valence bonds with its four neighboring atoms. (Source: Max Maxfield)	21
2.12	The mental representation of n-type and p-type atomic structures of doped silicon. (Source: http://www.answers.com/topic/n-type-silicon-technology)	22
2.13	The illustration of n-type and p-type doped semiconductor band structures. (Source: http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu)	22
2.14	The illustration of a depletion region formed by linking n-type and p-type semiconductors. (Source: https://www.studypage.in/physics/formation-of-a-p-n-junction)	23
2.15	Schematic cross section of a MAPS pixel (Kofarago, 2015).	24
2.16	A schematic illustrating the ALICE experiment (ALICE Collaboration, 2008).	25
2.17	A plan view of a cyclotron containing a cylindrical chamber with a centrally positioned ion source. The chamber is vacuum-packed and sandwiched between the poles of an electromagnet, which provides a uniform magnetic field perpendicular to the chamber's flat faces. The voltage is generated by an oscillator that operates at a frequency equal to the rotational frequency of the particles in the magnetic field. The accelerated particles travel in semicircular trajectories with increasing radius (Britannica The Editors of Encyclopaedia, 2024).	26

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
2.18	The figure of ESS by using multi-wedge graphite absorbers. The absorbers are positioned from opposing sides of the beam route, and when they move into the path, they modify the energy by forming a uniform layer of carbon, ensuring uniformity (Source: Varian medical systems).	27
3.1	The detector geometry of MAPS telescope in GATE simulation which has 2.5 cm of air gap between each ALPIDE. The distance between nozzle and isocenter is about 42.1 cm that the first ALPIDE is located at the isocenter.	29
3.2	Schematic cross-section of ALPIDE.	30
3.3	The measurement of KCMH proton beam at distance from isocenter.	31
3.4	The diagram illustrates the sequence of steps in the tracking algorithm. Hits in different layers of the detector are depicted as blue dots. The process begins by selecting the first hit of a track (highlighted in green) from the first layer (A). Next, candidates for the track are searched using a cone defined by S_{max} (B). If the calculated S_n for a new candidate is lower than S_{max} , the hit is added to the track (C). If multiple hits are identified, the candidate with the lowest S_n value is selected (D). These steps are repeated for the subsequent layers (E) until the last layer of the detector is reached (F). Afterward, hits belonging to this track are removed from the pool of hits, and the reconstruction of the next track begins (G). The algorithm continues until all identified tracks are successfully reconstructed (H).	36
3.5	The cone intersects $C(0,0;\alpha,\delta,\theta)$ with a horizontal plane where $z > 0$, the resulting shape is an ellipse. The major axis of the ellipse aligns with the x-axis, while the minor axis aligns with the y-axis. (Maxim et al., 2009).	37

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
3.6	The angular parameters, α and σ , define the arbitrary direction of the cone axis, while β represents the cone opening. The intersection between the cone and a horizontal plane with $z > 0$ forms an ellipse $E(z; \alpha, \sigma, \beta)$. The major axis of the ellipse is inclined at an angle to the $0x$ axis (Maxim et al., 2009).	39
3.7	The linked list structure of the track reconstruction which used for recursive algorithm and low resources consumption.	41
3.8	The beam profile of 70 MeV pencil proton beam in 200000 events. The color bar of the histogram shows the entries of proton hit on specific point of ALPIDE sensor.	43
3.9	The 70 MeV pencil proton beam modeled by Gaussian distribution. The fitting parameters are calculated as shown in Table 3.2.	44
3.10	The beam profile of 200 MeV pencil proton beam in 200000 events. The color bar of the histogram shows the entries of proton hit on specific point of ALPIDE sensor.	45
3.11	The 200 MeV pencil proton beam modeled by Gaussian distribution. The fitting parameters are calculated as shown in Table 3.3.	46
3.12	The distribution of proton energy deposition in epitaxial layer of ALPIDE sensor with 70 MeV pencil beam source	47
3.13	The distribution of proton energy deposition in epitaxial layer of ALPIDE sensor with 200 MeV pencil beam source	48
3.14	3D hit data of simulations.	49
3.15	The contour plot of track efficiency on various S_{\max} and cone angle. The color bar of these plots show the reconstruction efficiency of tracking algorithm.	50

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
3.16	GATE/GEANT4 simulation of 400 primary proton track routes. The tracks connect all candidates from layer 0 to the last layer, in which the last candidates of each track are discovered.	51
3.17	The track efficiency for proton sources at 70MeV and 200MeV depends on the number of primary protons employed in the GATE/GEANT4 simulation.	52
4.1	The pixel sensors telescope which consists of six ALPIDE sensor and DAQ boards. (a) Each DAQ connects to single ALPIDE chip and wired to external trigger signal and the power. (b) The DUT is set to the layer 0 and the rest are references.	54
4.2	The monolithic active pixel sensor ALPIDE.	55
4.3	Block diagram of the ALPIDE pixel cell.	56
4.4	The EUDAQ network typically consists of several components, including the central command and control server known as Run Control, the Data Collector, which is responsible for creating global events and storing them on disk, the Log Collector, which manages and displays log messages, and the monitor application, which allows for real-time monitoring of data quality (Spannagel, 2016).	56
4.5	This figure shows a board for data collecting. The external signal from the trigger system is received through the trigger-in port. The same signal is used as an output in the trigger-out. The Alterla FPGA is included in the board and is used to operate the EUDAQv2 firmware.	57
4.6	The trigger control system scheme for FPGAs. The GUI accepts frequency values from the user. The microcontroller converts frequency to a binary value and sends it to the FPGA along with the register address. Finally, the FPGA sends a trigger signal to the ALPIDEs through the DAQ board.	58
4.7	The Basys3 board layout and labels	60
4.8	SN74HC08N.	61

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
4.9	The microcontroller part that consists of Pro Mini 328 board and USB programming module.	62
4.10	The Graphical User Interface (GUI) of FPGA trigger.	63
4.11	FPGA trigger operational signal of registering the frequency value to FPGA buffer along its 2-bit address.	64
4.12	FPGA trigger operational signal with turning ON Switch signal. . .	65
4.13	The treatment room at KCMH where the experiment setup is placed.	66
4.14	The control room has monitors for requiring users to adjust patient bed position, parameterise proton beam and creating treatment plan.	67
4.15	For the KCMH beam test, the experiment configuration of the FPGA trigger controlling system interfaced with ALPIDEs telescope. While the telescope was inside, the power source and trigger were wired out of the dark box. The telescope was likewise linked to the power supply.	69
4.16	The simulation signal used to write a frequency value to an FPGA register. A particular address is assigned to each of the various 1-bit input values.	70
4.17	The generating trigger simulation signal. The frequency is set to 291E of Hexadecimal.	70
4.18	The WaveRunner 8254 oscilloscope.	71
4.19	The FPGA trigger pulses of regular and amplified signals measured by the Waverunner 8254.	72
4.20	The mean of activated pixels of background measurement in 6907 events.	72
4.21	The number of activated pixels of individual event that is provided FPGA trigger as pulse signal.	73

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
4.22	The 2-dimensional hitmap of six ALPIDE planes with 70 MeV proton source in 10 MU by applying 10000 events of trigger. . . .	74
4.23	The 2-dimensional hitmap of six ALPIDE planes with 200 MeV proton source in 10 MU by applying 10000 events of trigger. . . .	75
4.24	The histogram of EUDAQv2 output for 70 MeV and 200 MeV of KCMH proton beam on 10000 trigger events.	75
5.1	a) the KCMH telescope test with a collimator in the treatment room with its b) schematic picture.	76
5.2	The 36 cm acrylic collimator.	77
5.3	The flowchart demonstrates how multi-threading software works. The Software runs from interested event 0 to interested event n. The central theme monitors the export's.root file in an endless loop. Upon finding the main thread .root file, the main thread will compel the worker thread to terminate EUDAQv2 monitor. Finally, the exporting program gathers all ROOT files before repeating the process. The last task is to repeat the procedure while increasing the number of events.	78
5.4	The flowchart of the track reconstruction process that the track following algorithm description can be found in section 3.2.5, the track efficiency was calculated as track survival in section 5.4.4, and the correlation of the reconstruction definition will be mentioned in Section 5.4.5.	80
5.5	The illustration of average activated pixel count of each event for every ALPIDE planes in the telescope during the dark test. The red line indicates the standard deviation of activated pixels. . .	81
5.6	The cluster size distribution of every ALPIDE layers which generate noise and background signal in the dark test.	82

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
5.7	These histograms represent the distribution of pixel activations from the initial sensor layer, positioned 5 cm behind the isocenter. The treatment beam passes through an acrylic collimator.	84
5.8	The figure shows a) the spot sigma of six ALPIDEs and b) the number of activated pixels from all ALPIDEs.	84
5.9	The illustration of cluster size samples which can be detected by the telescope with 70 MeV of proton energy.	86
5.10	The illustration of cluster size samples which can be detected by the telescope with 200 MeV of proton energy.	87
5.11	The distribution of cluster sizes for collimated beam energies of 70 MeV and 200 MeV. These distributions were observed across 6 ALPIDE chips. In the top right corner of each figure, you can find the mean and standard deviation values for the cluster size distribution.	88
5.12	The correlation between the typical cluster size of proton beams traveling through the collimator and the typical energy deposited in the ALPIDE chip is illustrated graphically. The graphic contains information for proton beam kinetic energies between 70 MeV and 200 MeV. The mean cluster size values on the plot are surrounded by error bars that show the standard deviation of the cluster size distribution.	89
5.13	Illustration of the reconstruction efficiency of various S_{\max} values.	90

LIST OF FIGURES (Continued)

Figure		Page
5.14	The averaged R^2 value of track reconstruction using a cone search angle of $\Delta\theta$ (upper) after fitting the location correlation of hit data on each ALPIDE layer in the telescope. The saturated curve (lower) is found by determining the average correlation of the X and Y axes between the first layer and the last layer.	91
5.15	The distribution of the number of reconstructed tracks in the telescope.	92
5.16	The visualization of track reconstruction from the experiment with the acrylic collimator in 70 MeV and 200 MeV of proton energy within single event.	92
5.17	The visualization of track reconstruction from the experiment with the acrylic collimator in 70 MeV and 200 MeV of proton energy. The number of events which are chosen from the total data events is 10 events.	93

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

pCT	Proton Computed Tomography
PT	Proton Therapy
CT	Computed therapy
DTC	Digital Tracking Calorimeter
PSD	Positioned Sensitive Detector
RED	Residual Energy Detector
YAG:Ce	Yttrium aluminum garnet activated by cerium
NaI(Tl)	Thallium-activated sodium iodide
CsI(Tl)	Thallium-activated cesium iodide
Si strip	Silicon Strip Detector
Sci Fi	Scintillating Fiber
MAPS	Monolithic Active Pixel Sensor
ALPIDE	ALICE Pixel Detector
ALICE	A Large Ion Collider Experiment
ITS	Inner Tracking System
KCMH	King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital
FPGA	Field-programmable gate array
MeV	Mega Electron Volt
MC	Monte Carlo
CMOS	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
PBS	Pencil Beam Scanning
PDG	Particle Data Group
DAQ	Data Acquisition
QA	Quality Assurance
MU	Monitor Unit
GUI	Graphical User Interface