

Tomografia Assiale
Computerizzata
(Computed Tomography)

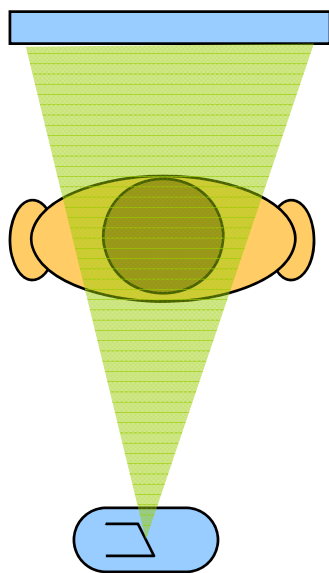
Sommario

- Introduzione
- Descrizione del sistema
 - meccanica (gantry)
 - generazione di raggi X
 - rivelazione
 - trasmissione dati
- Ricostruzione
- Rivelatori
- Applicazioni

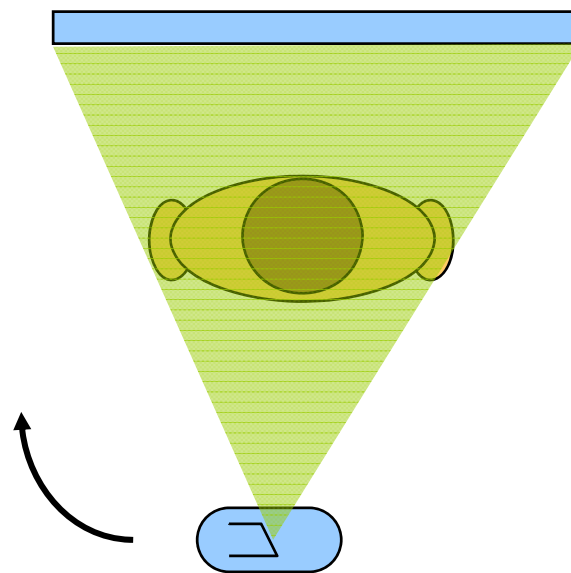
Definizione

- La Tomografia Computerizzata (CT o TAC) è una tecnica di medical imaging per la visualizzazione di sezioni del corpo del paziente
- Componendo le immagini tomografiche dei vari piani tale tecnica consente la ricostruzione tridimensionale delle informazioni anatomiche del paziente
- La CT fa uso di radiazioni ionizzanti (raggi-X)
- Tomografia in trasmissione

Principio di funzionamento

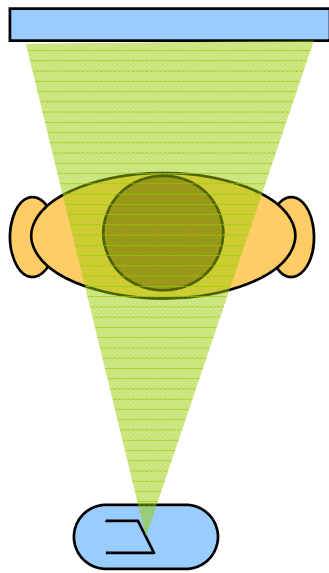


X-ray

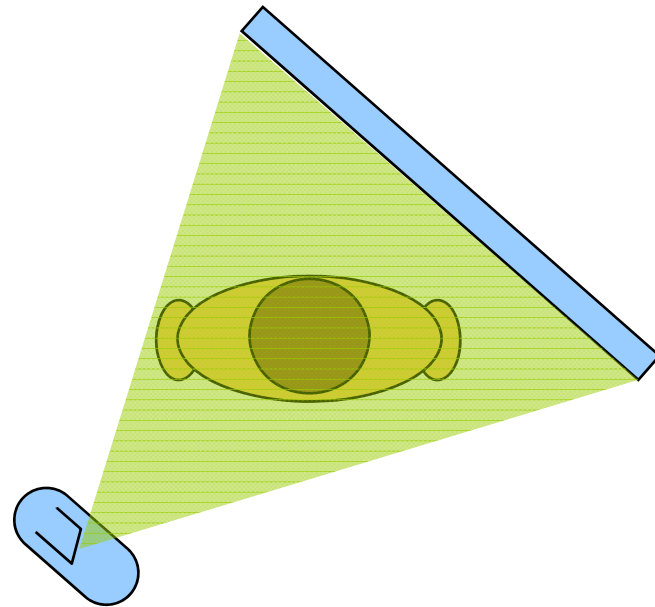


Computed Tomography
(CT)

Principio di funzionamento

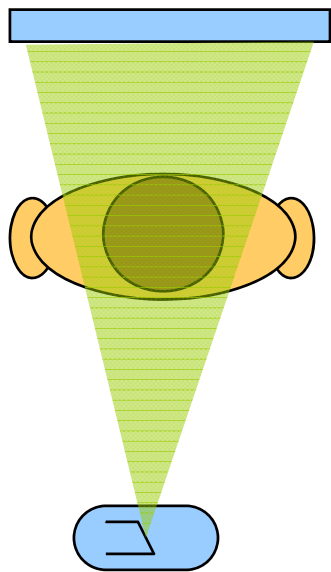


X-ray

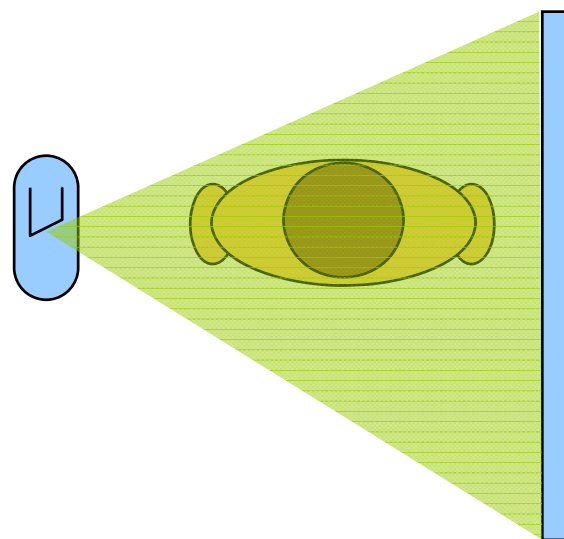


CT

Principio di funzionamento

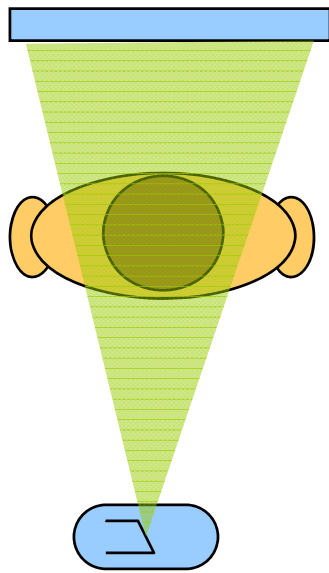


X-ray

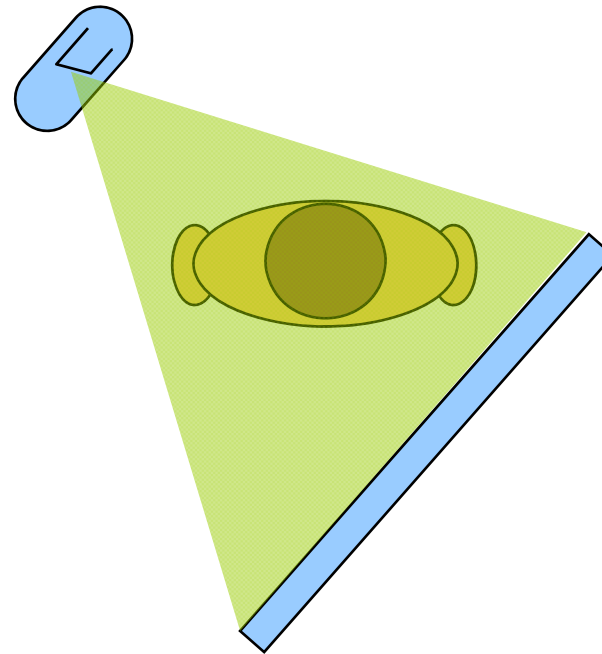


CT

Principio di funzionamento

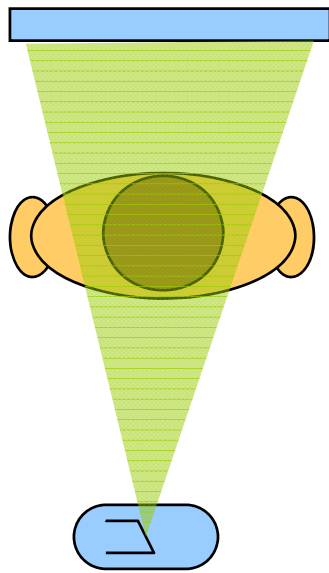


X-ray



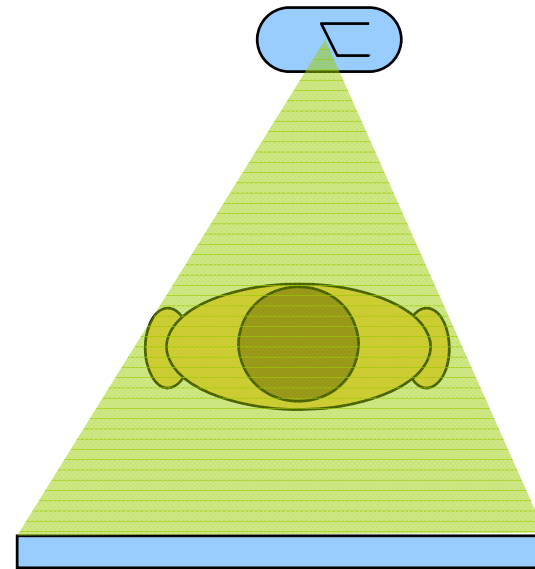
CT

Principio di funzionamento



X-ray

→ proiezione 2D



CT

→ dati 2D

Differenza con X-Ray convenzionali

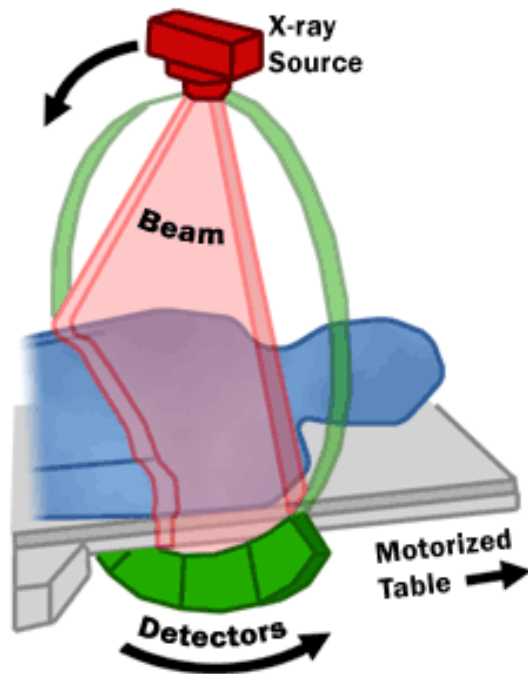


Chest X-ray Image



Cross-sectional Image of Abdomen

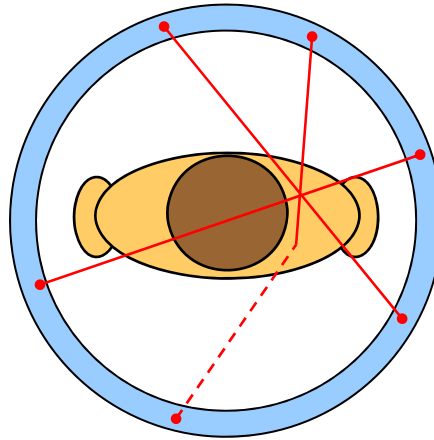
Nuove possibilità



→ 3D data



Tomografia in emissione

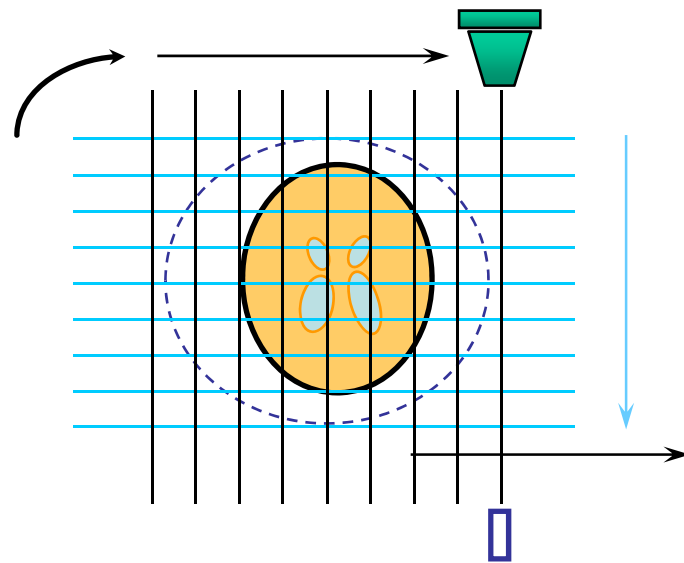


PET

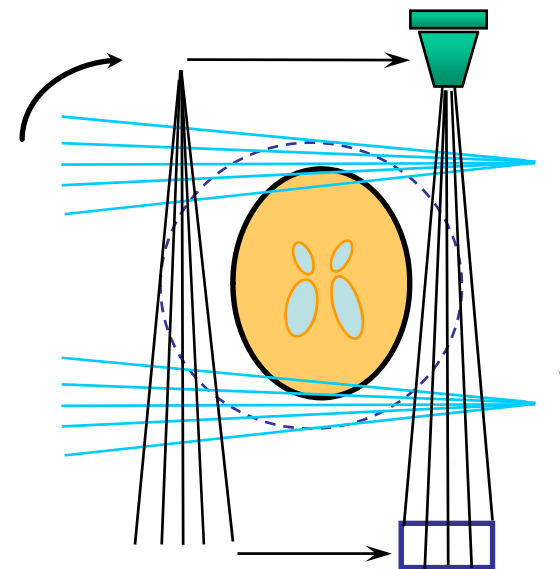
Positron Emission Tomography

CT Scanner

1st Generation

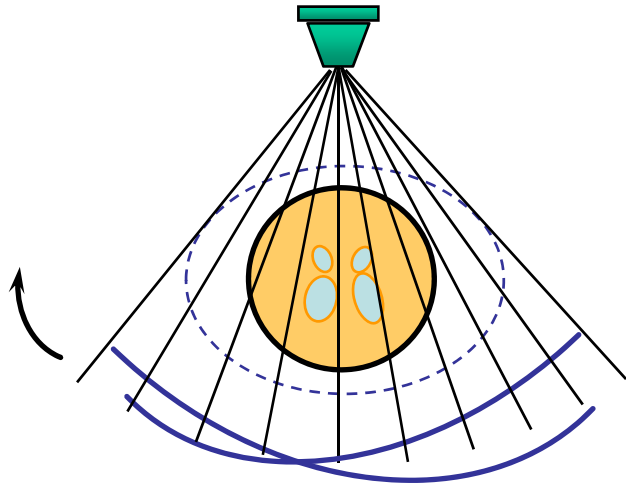


2nd Generation

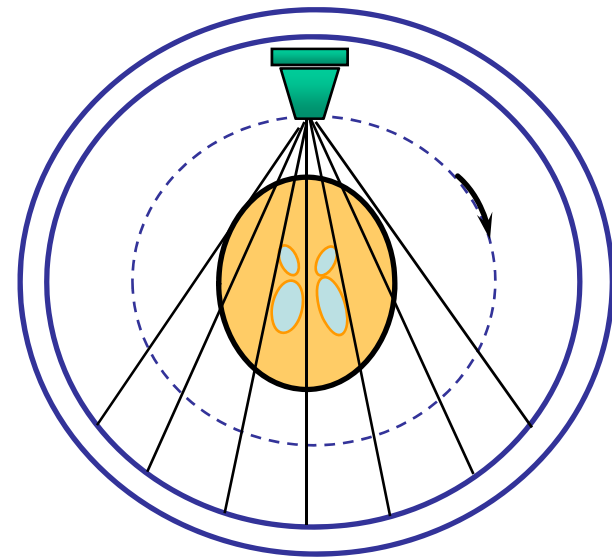


CT Scanner

3rd Generation



4th Generation

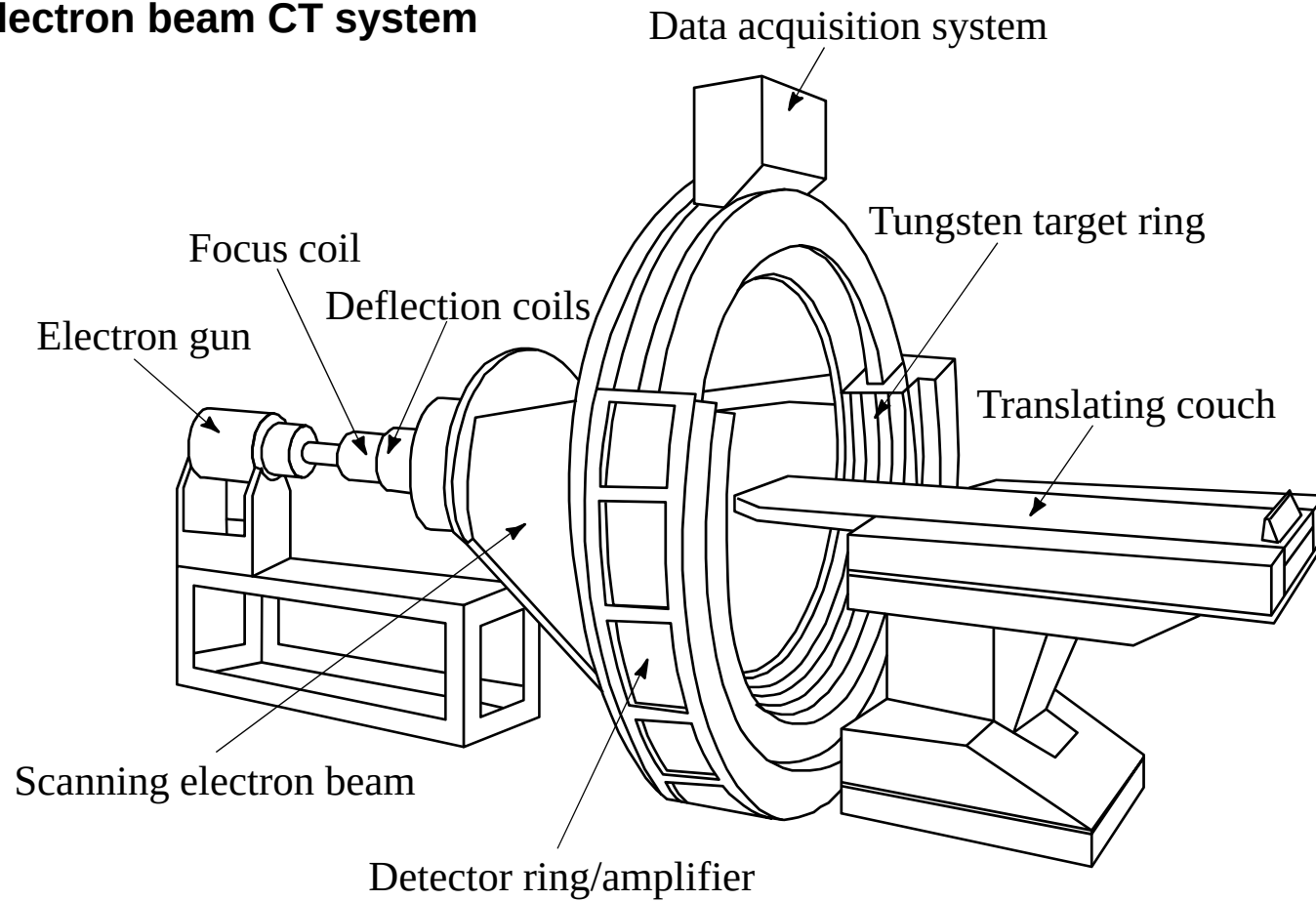


Confronto

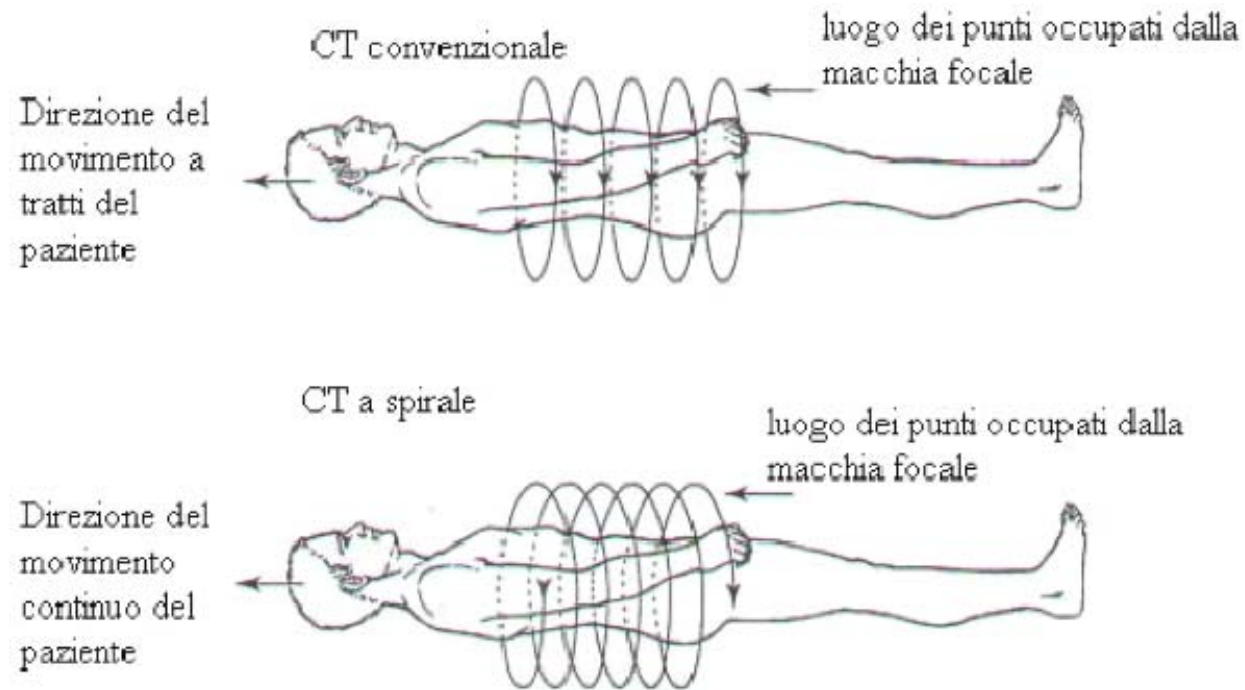
Scheda Tecnica	I generazione	II generazione	III generazione	IV generazione
Movimento	TRX e detettore traslano e ruotano	TRX e detettori traslano e ruotano	TRX e detettori ruotano	TRX ruota
t_{scan}	120s - 6min	10s - 150s	1s - 13s	1s - 6s
tempo di ricostruzione	120 s	20s - 120s	3s - 24s	5s - 30s
N° detettori	1	3 - 30	30 - 800	600 - 4800
Angolo di rotazione ϕ	180°	180°	180° - 360°	360° - 420°
Passo angolare	1° - 2°	3° - 20°	3° - 20°	3° - 10°
Angolo del ventaglio	0°	12° - 26°	30° - 50°	40° - 50°

V Generazione CT

IMATRON electron beam CT system



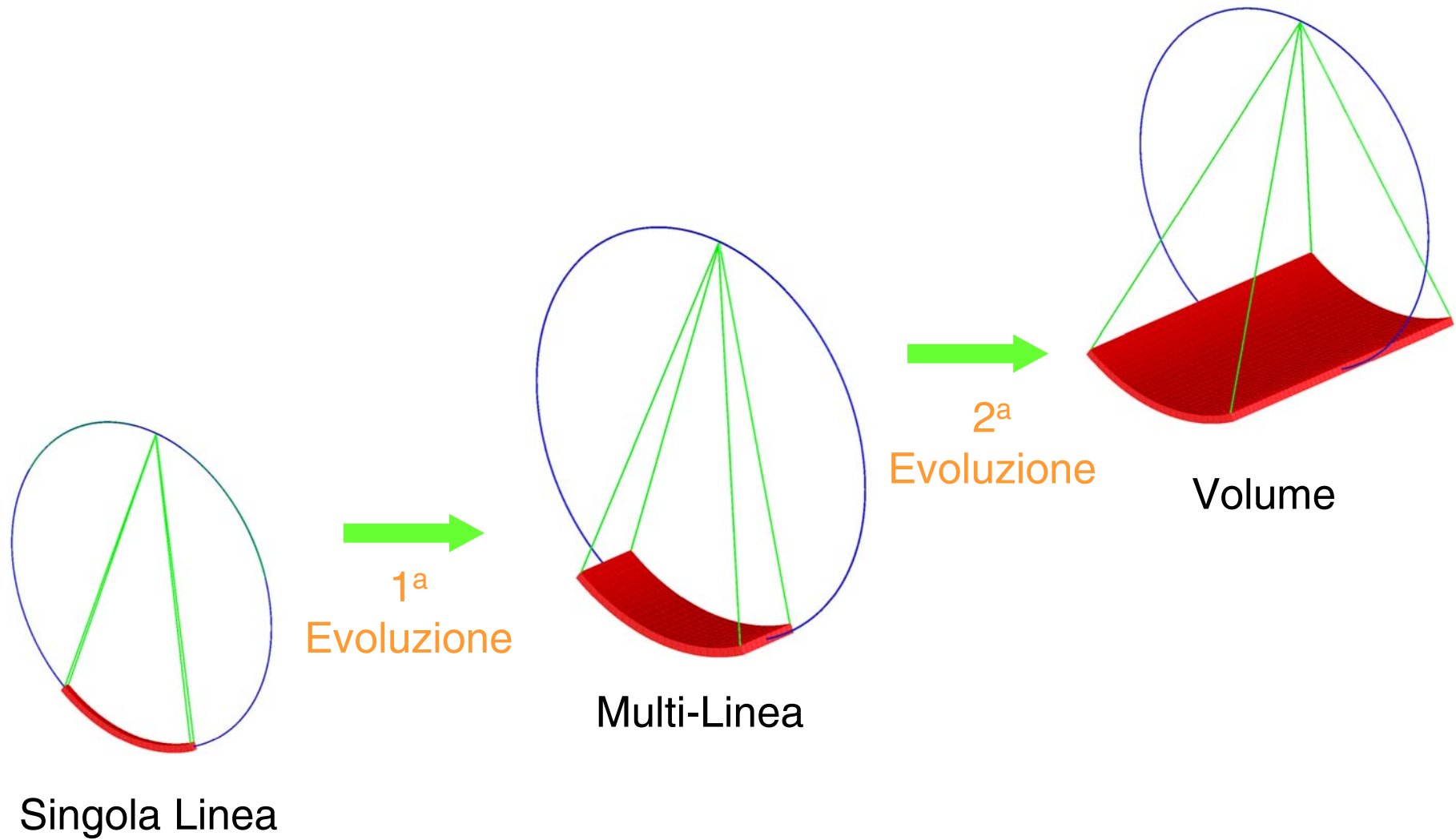
Scansione elicoidale



Scansione in una sola apnea ➡ **minor artefatti**

velocità di avanzamento del tavolo ➡
collimazione (apertura dei collimatori) ➡ a sezioni sovrapposte o disgiunte

Evoluzione CT



Descrizione del sistema

- Gantry
- Lettino paziente



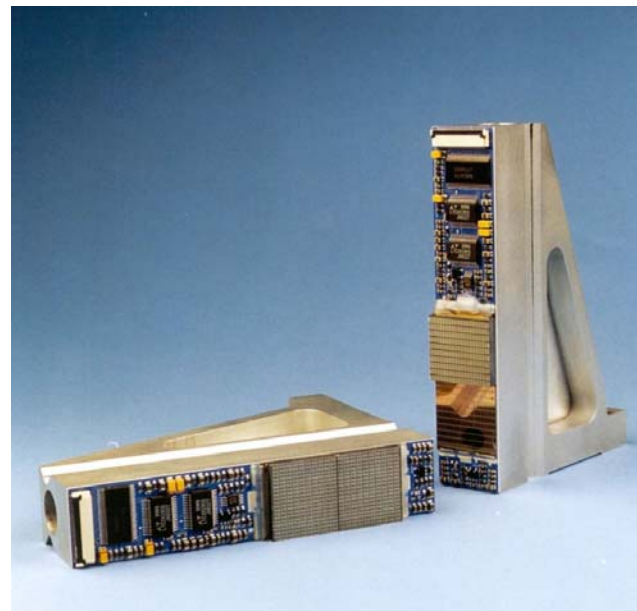
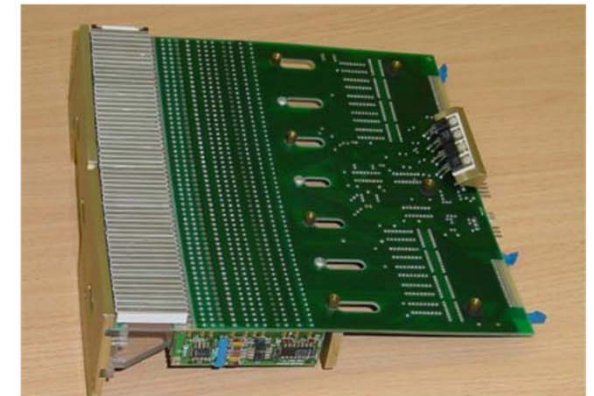
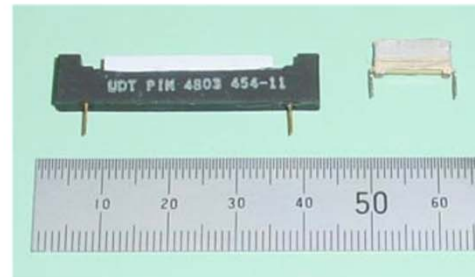
Descrizione del sistema

- Gantry
- Lettino paziente
- Tubo a raggi X



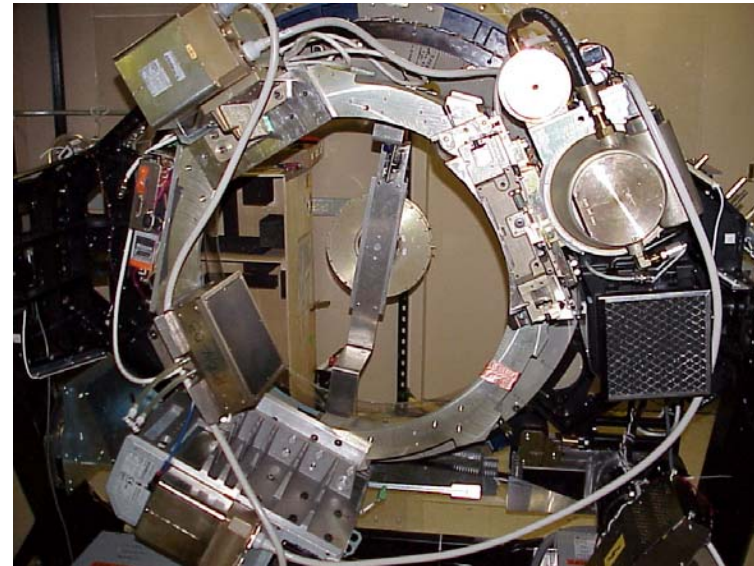
Descrizione del sistema

- Gantry
- Lettino paziente
- Tubo a raggi X
- Detector

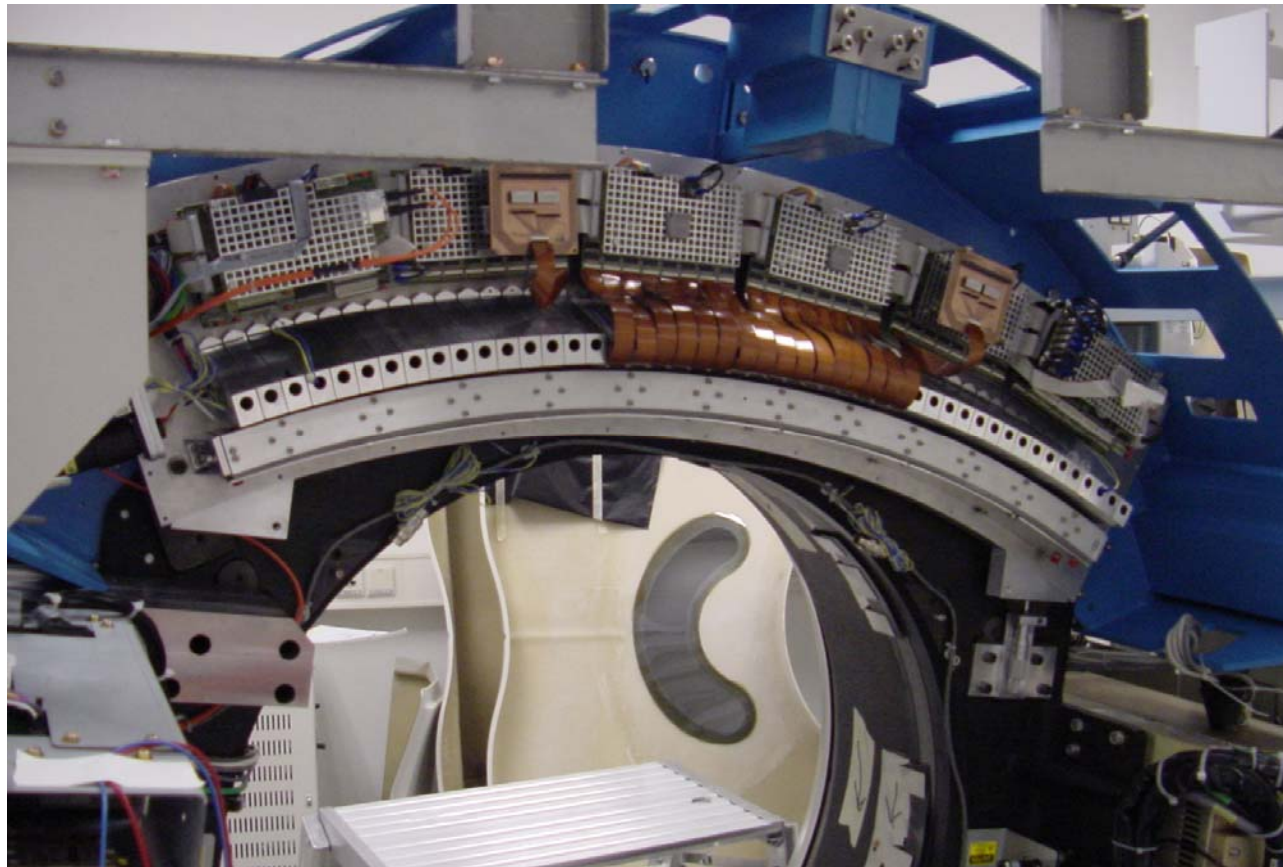


Descrizione del sistema

- Gantry
- Lettino paziente
- Tubo a raggi X
- Detector
- Servizi: trasformatori, connessioni, sistema di trasmissione dati, slip ring, elaboratori



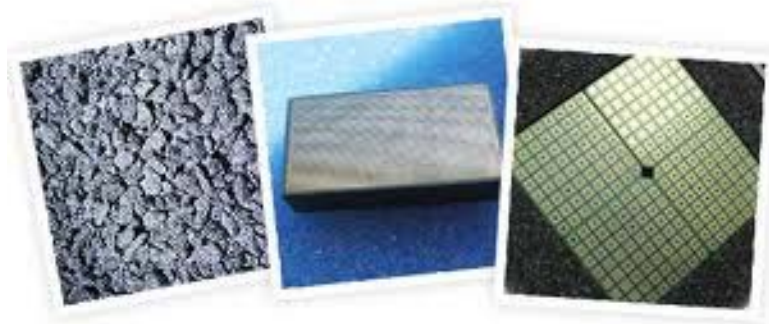
Rivelatori nel CT Gantry



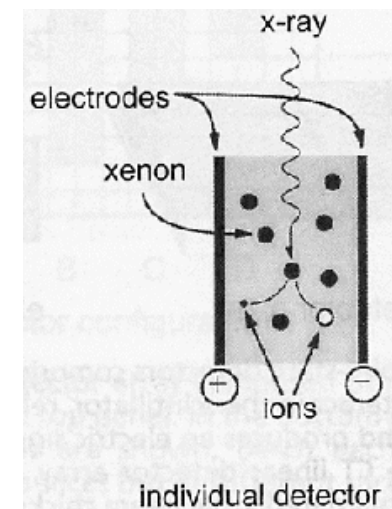
Rivelatori

- Rivelazione diretta

- materiali fotoconduttori ad alto peso atomico sono usati per convertire direttamente i raggi X in coppie elettrone/lacuna: **CZT (CdZnTe)**

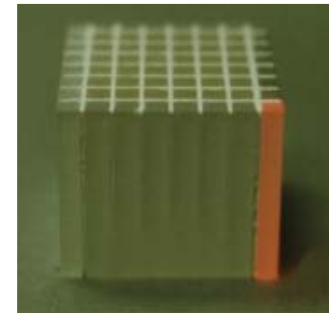
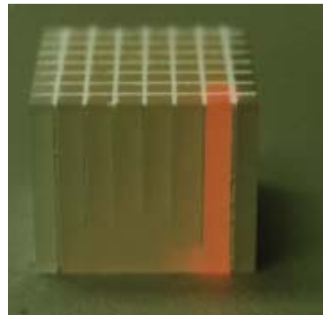
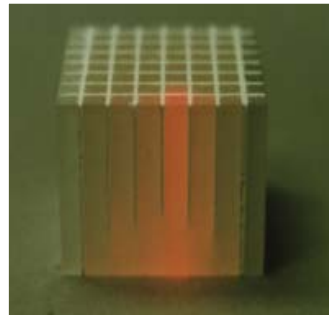


- rivelatore a gas (alta efficienza di conversione):
 - cella chiusa, piena di Xenon ad alta pressione;
radiazione ionizza le molecole di gas,
gli ioni si depositano sul rispettivo elettrodo

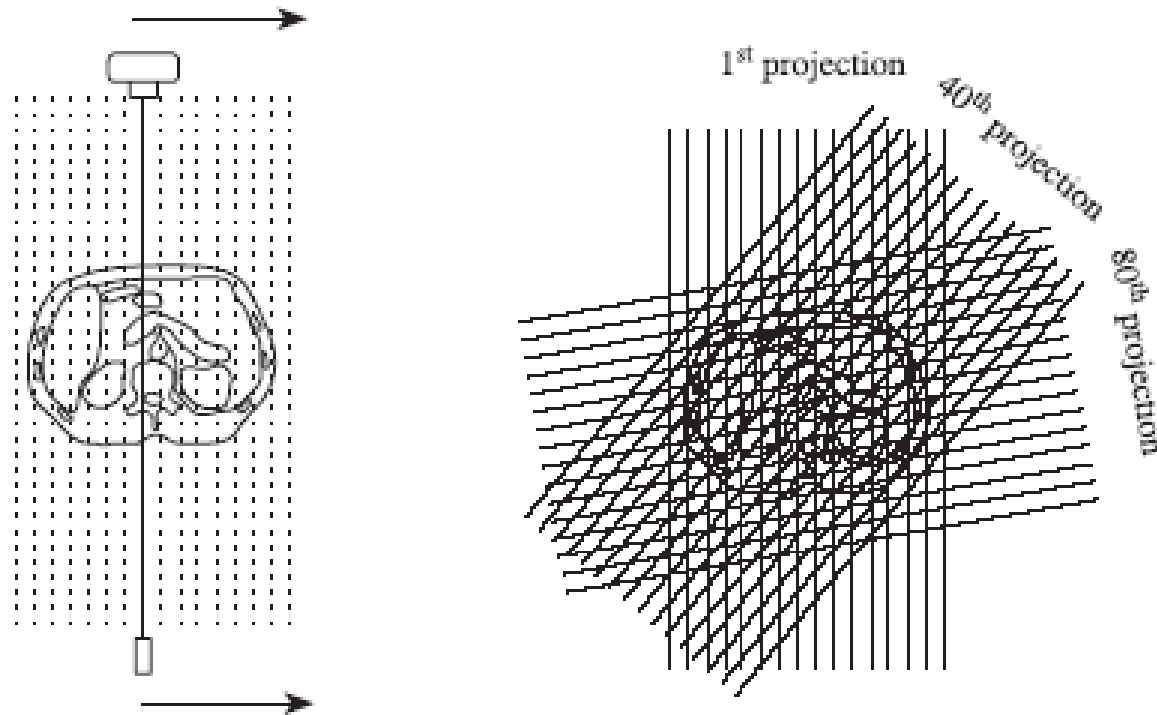


Rivelatori

- Rivelazione indiretta
 - scintillatore (alta efficienza di assorbimento): assorbe i raggi-X riemettendo radiazione visibile, rivelata tramite un fotodiode o un fotomoltiplicatore
 - Esempi: CsI, CdWO_4 , leghe di ittrio e gadolinio



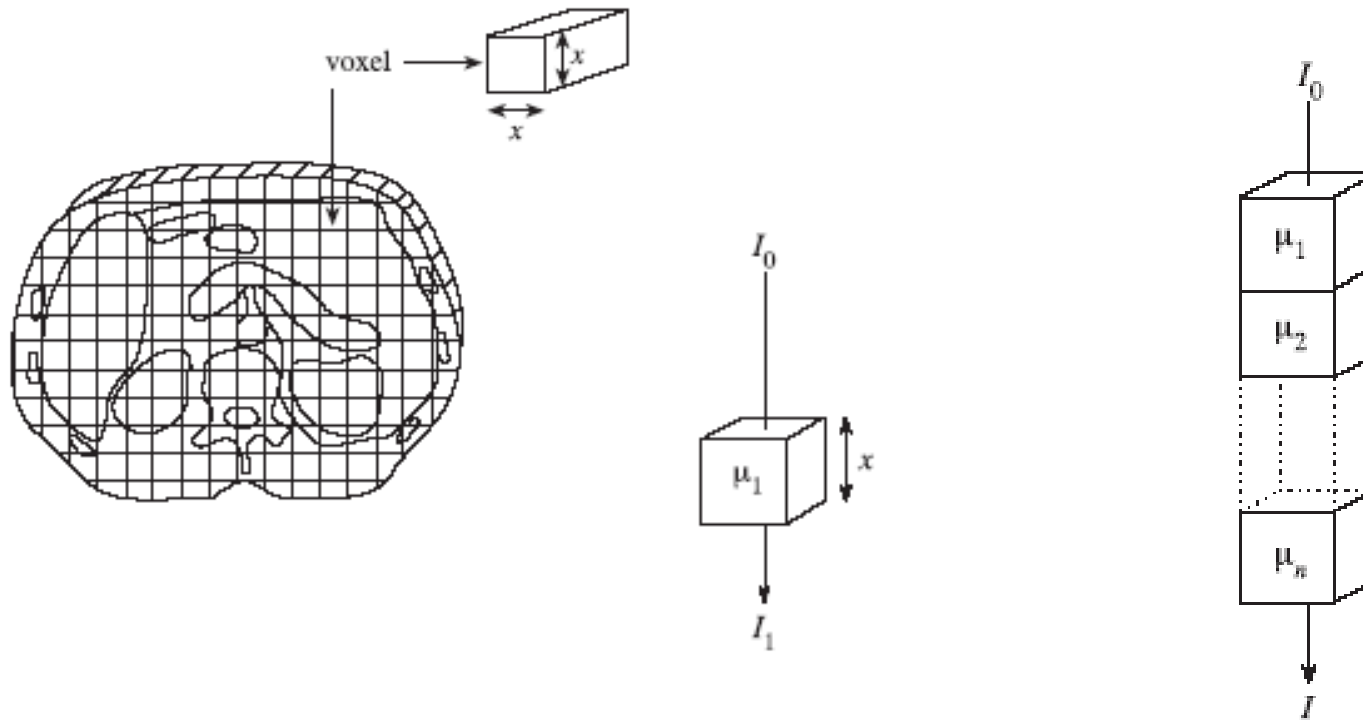
Ricostruzione immagine



Raysum misura fatta da ciascun rivelatore

Proiezione insieme dei raysum relativo a ciascun angolo

Ricostruzione immagine

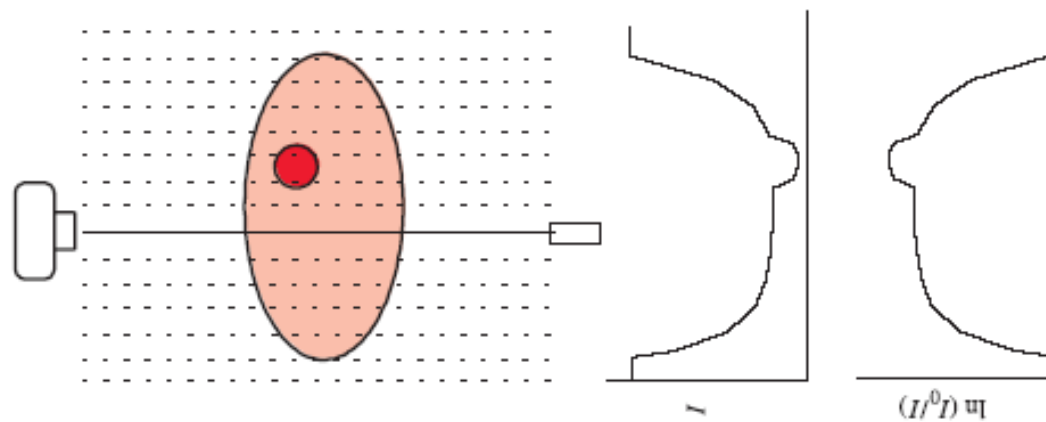


$$I_1 = I_0 \exp(-\mu_1 x)$$

$$I = I_0 \exp\left(-x \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i\right)$$

Ricostruzione immagine

$$\ln \frac{I}{I_0} = -x \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$$



Caso reale:

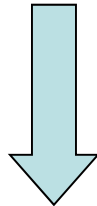
- raggi X poly E $\Rightarrow$ indurimento del fascio $\Rightarrow$ artefatti
- fan beam $\Rightarrow$ aumento della complessità di ricostruzione

Ricostruzione immagine

Realizzare tante misure quanti sono i voxel (coefficienti di attenuazione):

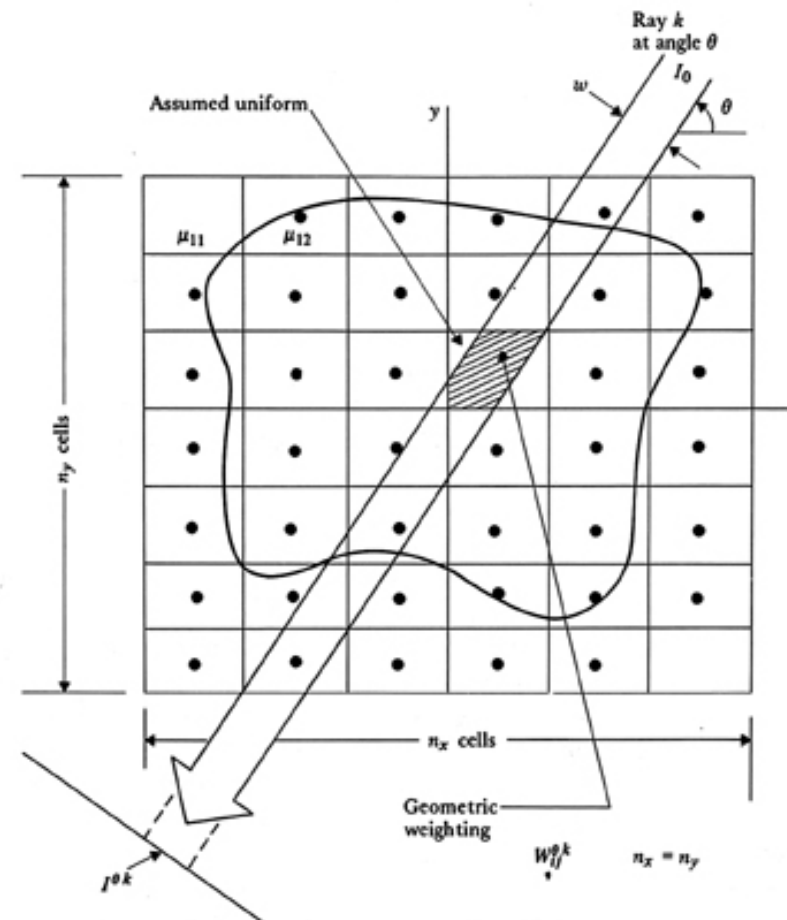
512 x 512 pixel = 262144 voxel

misura di 262144 raysum



262144 equazioni !!!!

Ulteriore problema:



Ricostruzione immagine

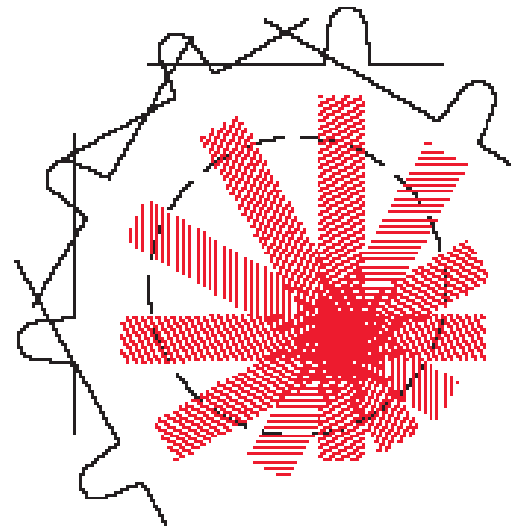
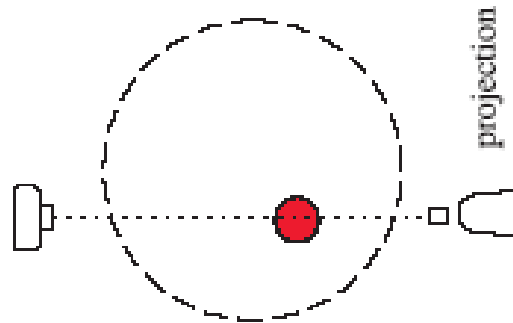
Tecnica algebrica

$$\begin{array}{c} 14 \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 5 & 4 \\ \hline 1 & 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{l} 9 \\ 10 \end{array} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \\ 6-0 \quad 13-0 \end{array} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 3 & 6.5 \\ \hline 3 & 6.5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{l} 9-9.5 \\ 10-9.5 \end{array} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 14-9.5 \\ \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 2.75 & 6.25 \\ \hline 3.25 & 6.75 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline 5 & 4 \\ \hline 1 & 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array}$$

Ricostruzione immagine

Back Projection semplice

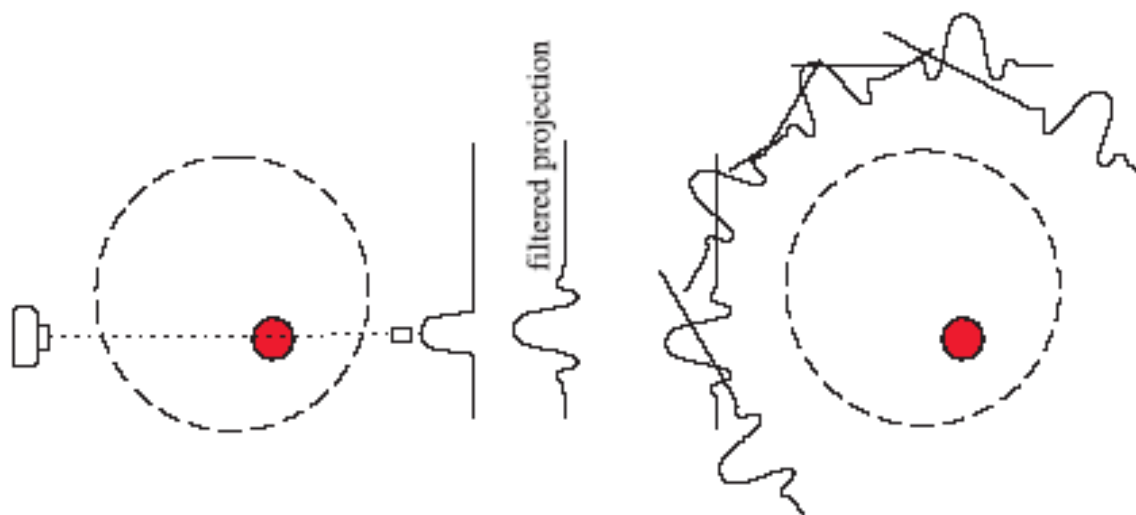


Artefatti: star pattern

Scarsa qualità

Ricostruzione immagine

Back Projection Filtrata



Eliminazione degli artefatti

Ottima qualità

Velocità di ricostruzione

Trasmissione dati

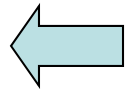
Voxel ↔ **pixel** **pixel** ↔ **17-18 bit** (8 bit = 1 byte)

- 3-5 rot/s
- 1200-2400 proiezioni/rot
- 1000 pixel/proiezione
- 3 byte/pixel

→ 3 kB/pro

→ 6 MB/rot

1,2 GB/s



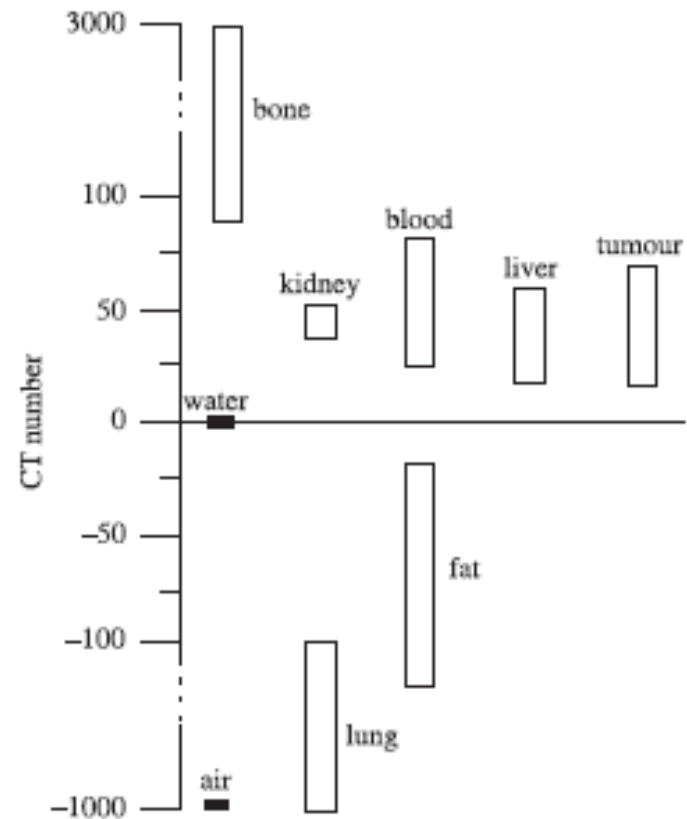
detector multilinea (64)

20 MB/s

Numeri CT

Unità di Hounsfield

$$N_i = 1000 \times \frac{\mu_i - \mu_w}{\mu_w}$$



CT numbers

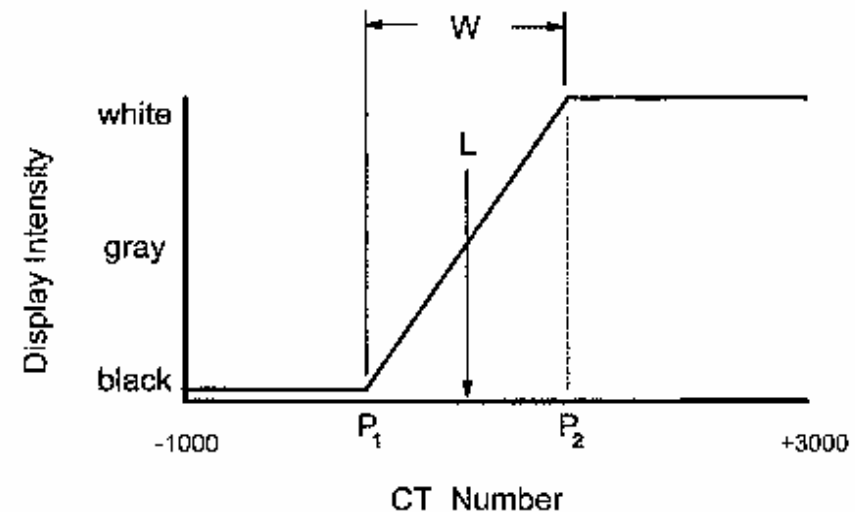
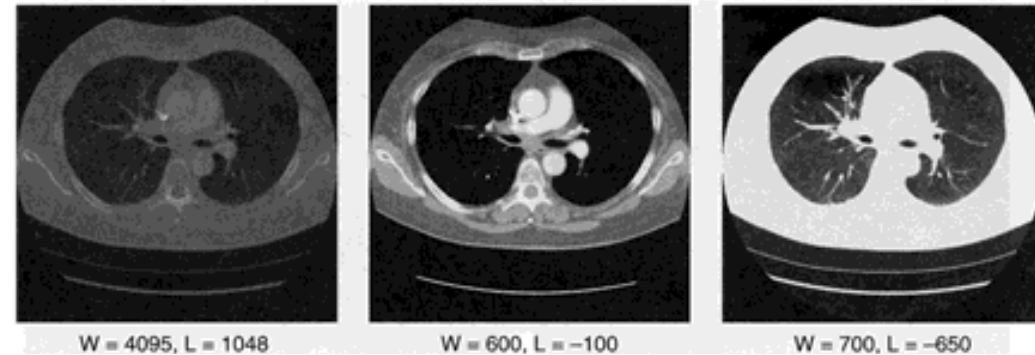
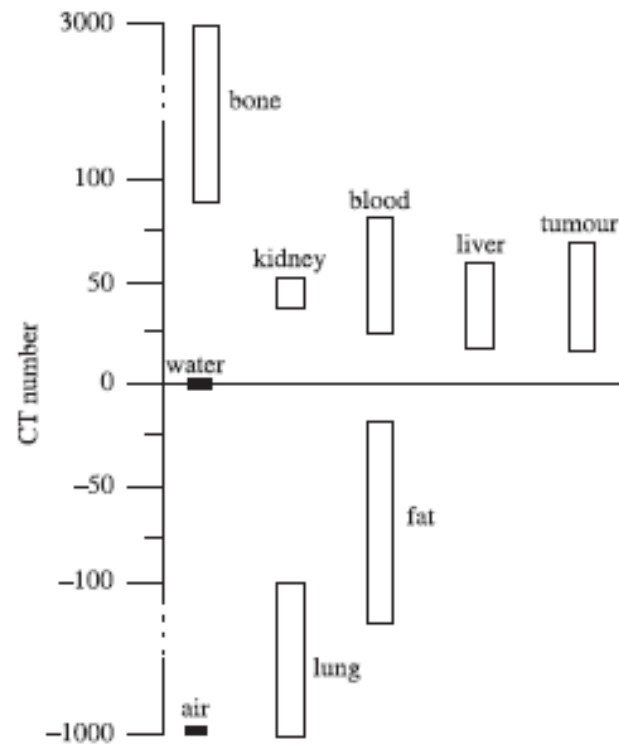
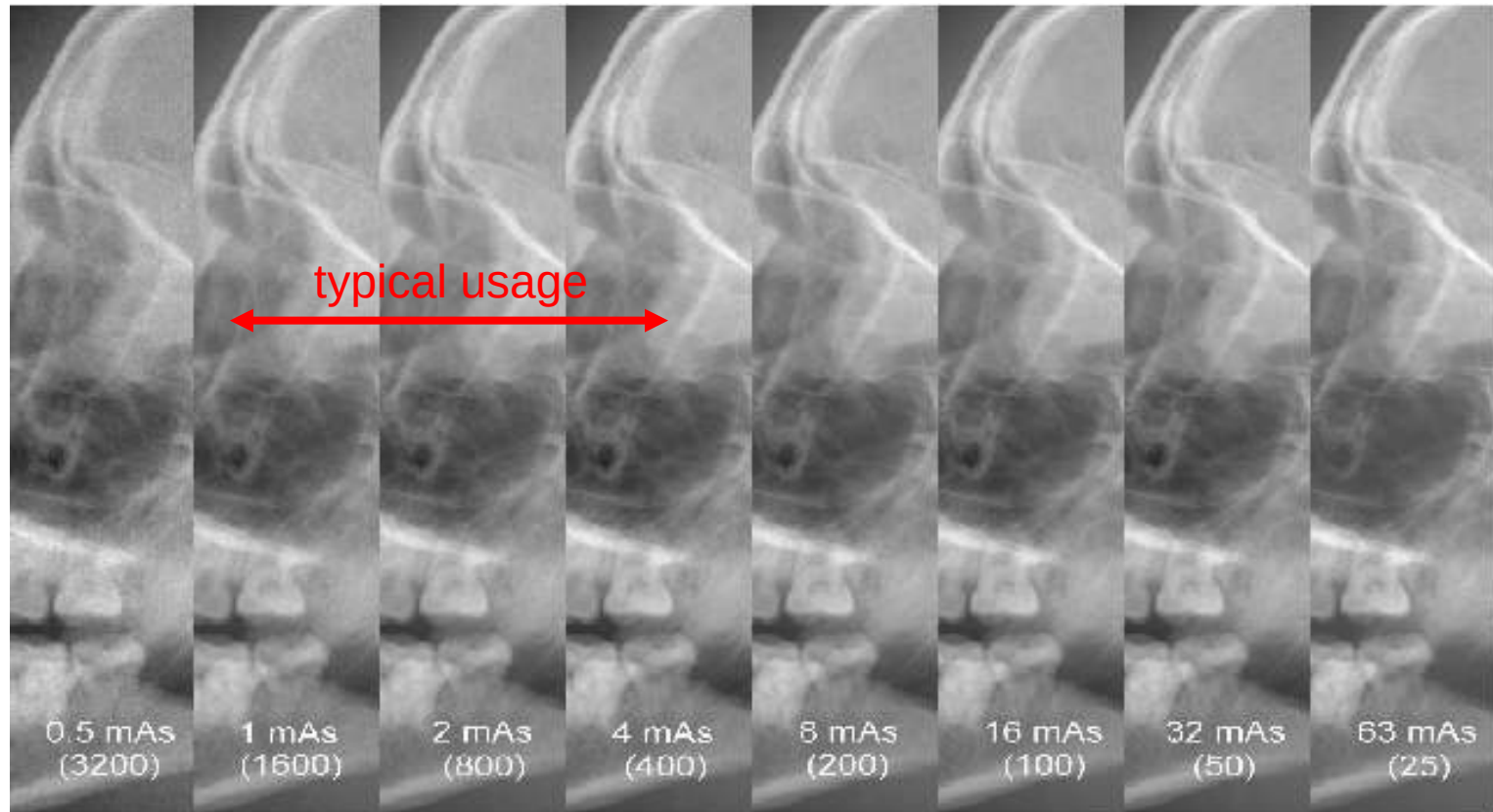


FIGURE 13-32. The concept of how the window and level values are used to manipulate the contrast of the CT image is illustrated. The level is the CT number corresponding to the center of the window. A narrow window produces a very high contrast image, corresponding to a large slope on the figure. CT numbers below the window (lower than P_1) will be displayed on the image as black; CT numbers above the window (higher than P_2) will be displayed as white. Only CT numbers between P_1 and P_2 will be displayed in a meaningful manner. The thoracic CT images (top) illustrate the dramatic effect of changing the window and level settings.

Rivelatori: Contrasto



Ottenere contrasti paragonabili diminuendo la dose!

Dosi nelle differenti applicazioni

Diagnostic Procedure	Typical Effective Dose (mSv)¹	Number of Chest X rays (PA film) for Equivalent Effective Dose²	Time Period for Equivalent Effective Dose from Natural Background Radiation³
Chest x ray (PA film)	0.02	1	2.4 days
Skull x ray	0.07	4	8.5 days
Lumbar spine	1.3	65	158 days
I.V. urogram	2.5	125	304 days
Upper G.I. exam	3.0	150	1.0 year
Barium enema	7.0	350	2.3 years
CT head	2.0	100	243 days
CT abdomen	10.0	500	3.3 years

1. Effective dose in millisieverts (mSv).

2. Based on the assumption of an average "effective dose" from chest x ray (PA film) of 0.02 mSv.

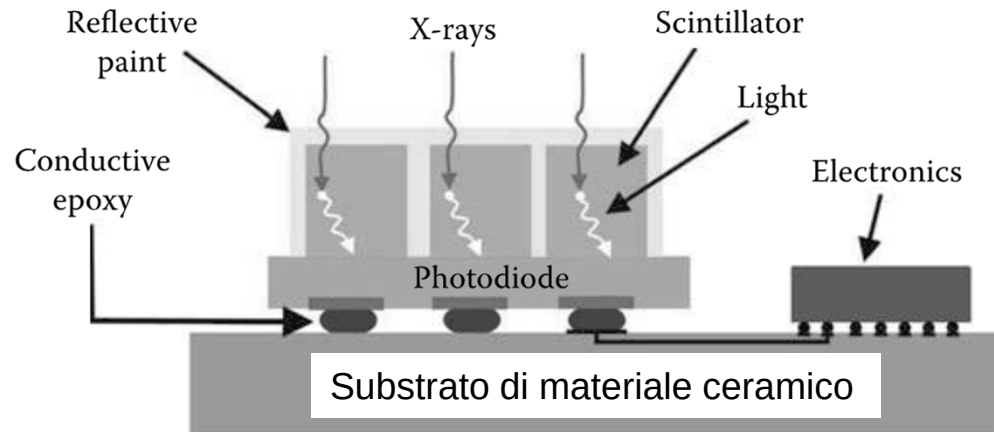
3. Average "effective dose" from natural background radiation of 3 mSv per year in the United States.

Parametri dei rivelatori nella CT

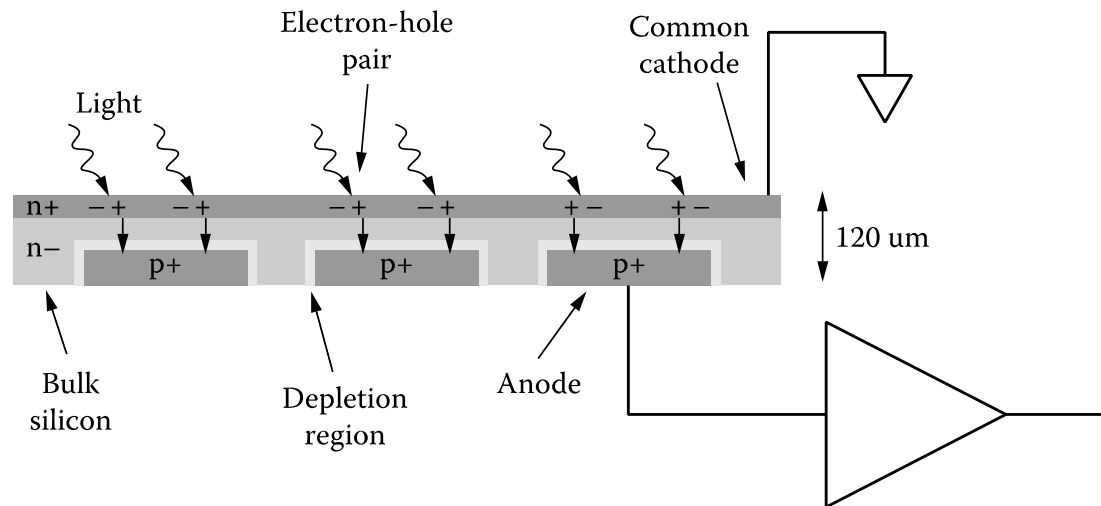
Pixel size	$\leq 1.1 \times 1.4 \text{ mm}$
Rise time/fall time	$< 10 \text{ } \mu\text{s}$
Dynamic range	up to 18 bits
Frame rate	1,000 to 10,000 fps
Linearity	$< 0.05\%$ error at any signal level relative to an ideal linear response
Number of pixels	$672 \times 128 = 86,016$
Maximum energy	140 keV
Maximum X-ray flux	$1\text{--}10 \times 10^9/\text{mm}^2/\text{s}$
Maximum afterglow	$< 200 \text{ ppm}$ after 5 ms $< 20 \text{ ppm}$ after 500 ms
PD ^a responsiveness at 540 nm	$\geq 0.36 \text{ A/W}$ (BIP-based detector)
PD ^a responsiveness at 500 nm	$\geq 0.31 \text{ A/W}$, i.e., quantum efficiency of 0.77
Shunt resistance	$\geq 1 \text{ G}\Omega$
Capacitance	$< 20 \text{ pF}$
Crosstalk	$< 1\%$
Electronic noise floor	$1\text{--}5 \text{ pA}_{\text{rms}}$, depending on frame rate

^a PD refers to pixels of the photodiode matrix.

Rivelatori a conversione indiretta

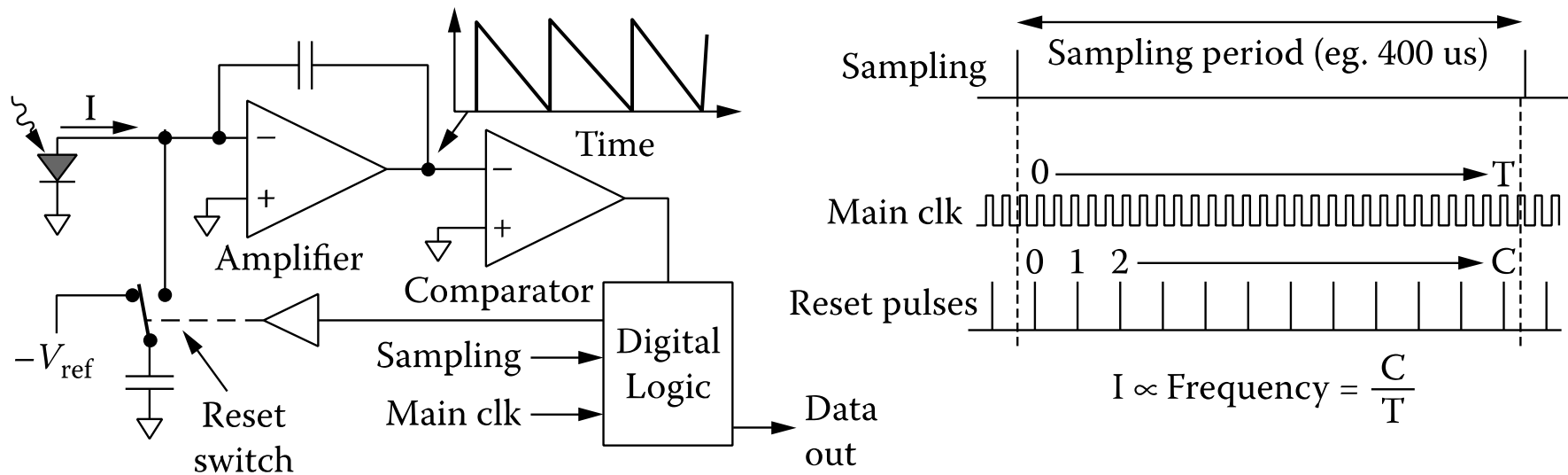


Diffusione di lacune in 10 us



Circuito di lettura

Convertitore corrente-frequenza, A/D converter

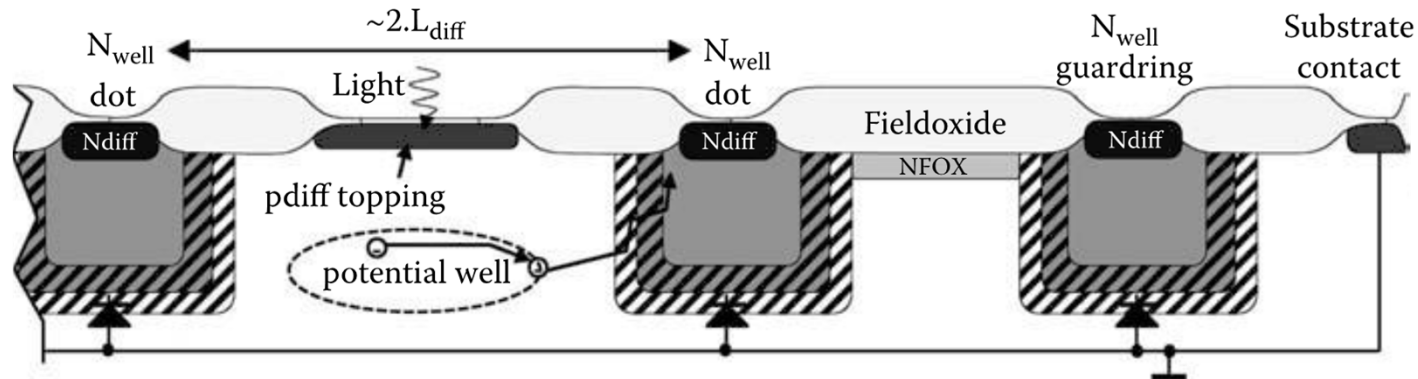


Rate up to 10000 fps

At 2500 fps electronic noise $\approx 2\text{pA}$

Nuovi trend nei circuiti di lettura

- Integrazione dei fotodiodi nei wafer



Measured Characteristic of CMOS Photodiode

Capacitance	5.6–6.4 pF ^a
Dark current	150 fA (at 20°C)
Responsiveness	0.13 A/W ($\lambda = 480$ nm)
Cutoff frequency	>15 kHz

^a Pixel size is 1.390×0.830 mm².

Nuovi trend nei circuiti di lettura

- Integrazione dei fotodiodi con l'amplificatore di corrente

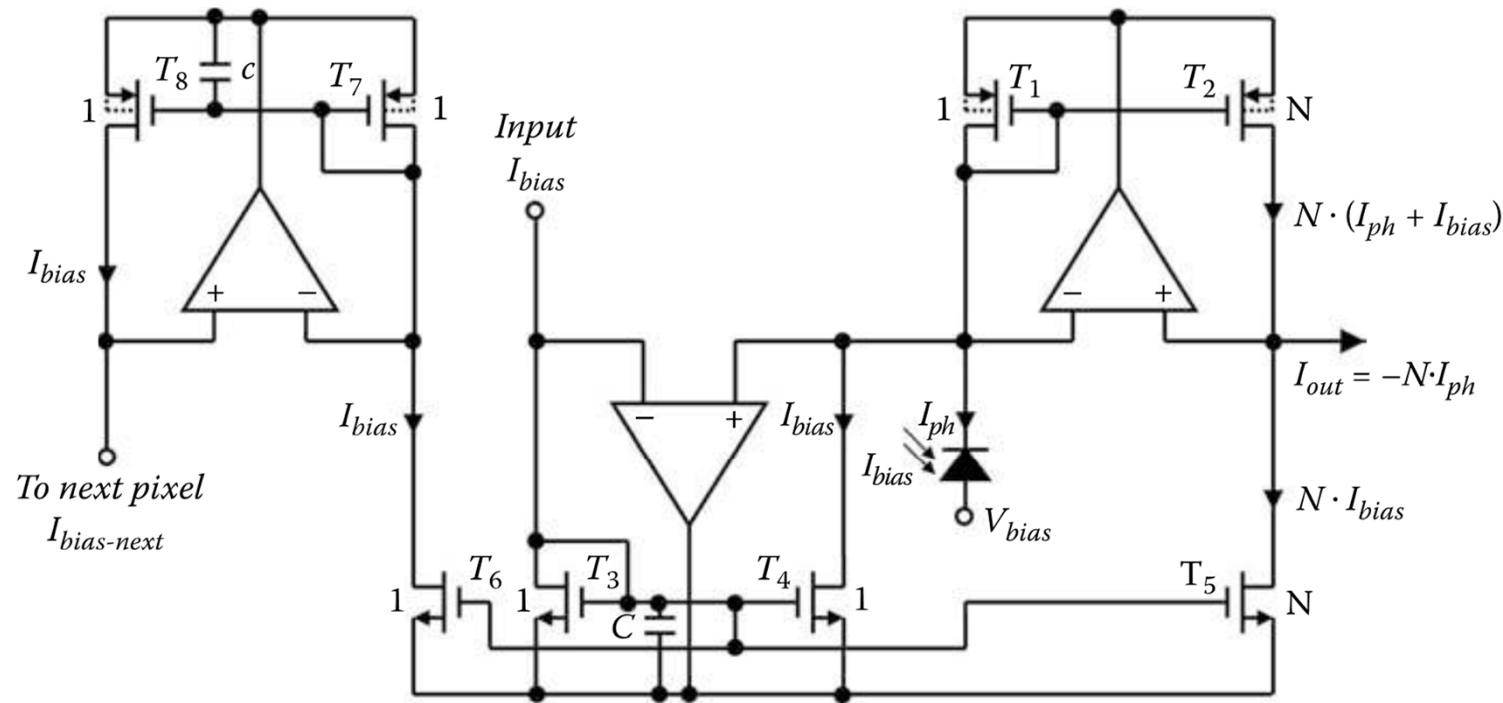
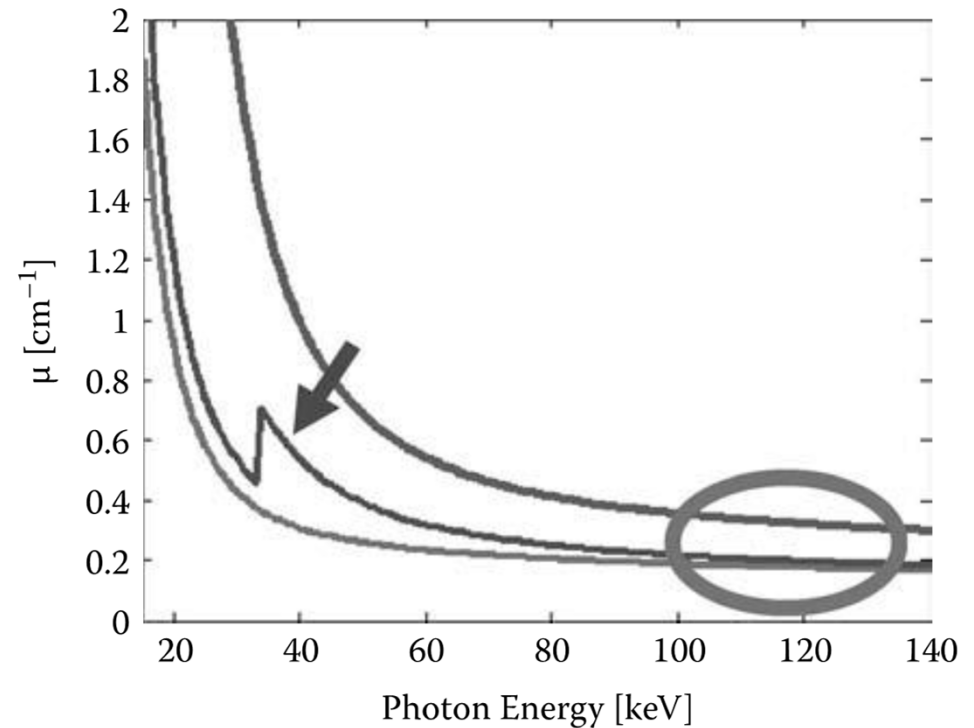


FIGURE 2.7 Complete in-pixel current-mode amplifier. (From R. Steadman et al., “A High Dynamic Range Current-Mode Amplifier for Computed Tomography,” *IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits* 41 [2006]: 1615–1619. With permission.)

Coefficiente di assorbimento

- Dipende da:
 - Composizione chimica (andamento della curva)
 - Massa (ampiezza)
 - Energia della radiazione



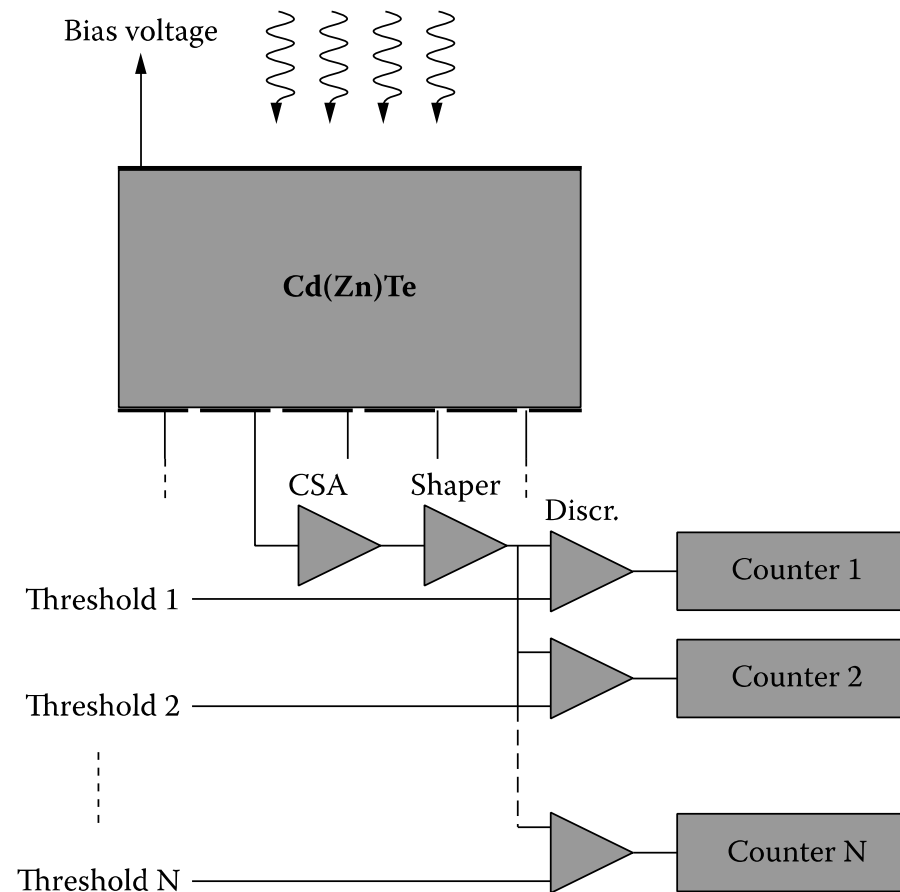
Detector a lettura di corrente

- Svantaggi:
 - Range dinamico è limitato dal rumore
 - Minimo segnale rivelabile è limitato dal rumore
 - Si perde l'informazione sull'energia

Detector a conteggio di fotoni

Nuovi trend nei circuiti di lettura

- Rivelatori a conteggio di fotoni per l'analisi energetica



Nuovi trend nei circuiti di lettura

- Small-pixel effect

$$I(t) = e \times \mu_e \times \vec{E}(\vec{x}(t)) \cdot \nabla \phi(\vec{x}(t))$$

Voltage 100-500V

t_d 100-200ns

Small-pixel effect

t_{ind} 3-10ns

Conteggi fino a 10^6 ph/s per pixel

Fotoconduttori utilizzati

TABLE 3.1

Characteristics of Candidate Detector Materials for X-ray Imaging: Analysis of Single Crystals at Room Temperature

Material	Mean Energy for e-h Creation (eV)	Density (g/cm³)	Atomic Number	Resistivity (Ohm-cm)	Electron Mobility- Lifetime Product (cm²/V)	Hole Mobility- Lifetime Product (cm²/V)
CdTe	4.43	6.2	48,52	10 ⁹	3.3 × 10 ⁻³	2 × 10 ⁻⁴
CdZnTe	5	6	48,30,52	10 ¹¹	1 × 10 ⁻³	6 × 10 ⁻⁶
HgI ₂	4.2	6.4	80,53	10 ¹³	10 ⁻⁴	4 × 10 ⁻⁵
TlBr	6.5	7.56	81,35	10 ¹²	1.6 × 10 ⁻⁵	1.5 × 10 ⁻⁶
PbI ₂	4.9	6.2	82,53	10 ¹²	8 × 10 ⁻⁶	

Applicazioni

- Radiologia
- Densitometria ossea
- Visualizzazione di tumori
- Progetto di protesi
- Pianificazioni di radioterapie

Cardio Computed Tomography

