

# Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>List of Publications</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>List of Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>Summary</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>Resumen</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>Resum</b> .....	<b>xiii</b>
<b>I Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1 Medical Imaging</b> .....	<b>3</b>
1.1 Medical Imaging history .....	3
1.2 Anatomical imaging .....	4
1.2.1 Radiography .....	5
1.2.2 Computed Tomography .....	5
1.2.3 Magnetic Resonance Imaging .....	5
1.3 Molecular Imaging .....	6
1.3.1 Gamma camera .....	8
1.3.2 Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography .....	8
1.3.3 Positron Emission Tomography .....	9
1.4 Multimodality imaging techniques .....	9
<b>2 Positron Emission Tomography</b> .....	<b>13</b>
2.1 PET history .....	13
2.2 PET basics .....	16
2.2.1 Positron emission and annihilation .....	16
2.2.2 Coincidence detection .....	17
2.2.2.1 Physical effects limiting image performance .....	19
2.2.2.2 Image degradation caused by coincidence detection method .....	20
2.2.2.3 Role of Time of Flight (TOF) .....	21
2.3 Physical principles .....	21
2.3.1 Scintillator .....	21
2.3.1.1 Pixelated scintillators .....	25
2.3.1.2 Monolithic scintillators .....	26
2.3.1.3 Semi-monolithic scintillators .....	29
2.3.2 Surface treatment of the scintillator .....	29
2.3.3 Photodetector .....	31
2.3.3.1 Photomultiplier tube .....	32
2.3.3.2 Solid-state photodetectors .....	33
2.3.4 Front-end electronic system .....	36
2.3.4.1 Projection readout circuit .....	37

2.3.5	Performance of PET detectors.....	37
2.4	PET image reconstruction and corrections .....	39
2.5	PET system performance .....	41
2.6	State-of-the-art PET systems .....	41
2.6.1	Whole Body PET systems.....	42
2.6.2	Total-Body PET systems.....	43
2.6.3	Organ-dedicated PET systems .....	44
2.6.4	Preclinical PET systems .....	44
2.7	Artificial Intelligence in PET.....	45
<b>3</b>	<b>Position estimation and calibration in monolithic-based PET detectors .....</b>	<b>49</b>
3.1	Position estimation methods.....	49
3.1.1	Analytical methods .....	53
3.1.1.1	Center of Gravity (CoG) method .....	53
3.1.1.2	Raise to the Power (RTP).....	54
3.1.1.3	DOI estimators.....	54
3.1.2	Fitting methods based on physical or parametric LD models .....	55
3.1.2.1	Parametric model of the LD .....	56
3.1.2.2	Physical model of the LD .....	56
3.1.3	Statistical methods .....	56
3.1.3.1	Maximum Likelihood Estimator .....	57
3.1.3.2	Least Squares.....	58
3.1.3.3	Nearest Neighbor .....	58
3.1.4	Machine Learning methods .....	59
3.1.4.1	Support Vector Machines.....	60
3.1.4.2	Gradient Tree Boosting .....	60
3.1.4.3	Artificial Neural Networks: Multilayer Perceptron .....	62
3.1.4.4	Convolutional Neural Networks .....	65
3.2	Calibration methodology of PET systems .....	66
<b>II</b>	<b>Objectives and contribution to PET technique .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Contribution to position estimation and calibration procedures .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Contribution to research projects .....</b>	<b>79</b>
5.1	ProsPET.....	79
5.2	ScintoTube.....	81
5.3	DeepBreast.....	83
<b>III</b>	<b>Scientific Research .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Calibration of gamma ray impacts in monolithic-based detectors using Voronoi diagrams.....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Reducing Calibration Time in PET Systems Based on Monolithic Crystals ..</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Experimental validation of a rodent PET scanner prototype based on a single LYSO crystal tube .....</b>	<b>133</b>

9	Performance evaluation of side-by-side optically coupled monolithic LYSO crystals .....	157
IV	Discussion .....	175
V	Conclusions.....	183
	Bibliography .....	185
	Contributions published during the course of the PhD thesis.....	201
	Participation in conferences during the course of the PhD thesis.....	205