Fraction Groups

Defining **Fraction Groups** is the first step in the PBS Optimization process within Astroid. Most commonly, a fraction group is simply an arrangement of beams that will be used in a typical daily treatment fraction.

About Fraction Groups

The Fraction Group contains basic information, such as a *Color*, *Description*, and *Fraction Count* as well as Fraction Group level constraints and collections of *Beam Sets*, referred to as *Beam Set Groups*. The *Fraction Count* is the total number of fractions to be delivered for this *Fraction Group*, which is important as it will determine the appropriate Monitor Units for the individual beams. The *Beam Set* and *Beam Set Group* are also key concepts within Astroid that allow for high levels of control over the Astroid PBS Optimization engine. Simply speaking, a *Beam Set Group* is just a collection of *Beam Sets*. However, in clinical practice each *Beam Set Group* is most commonly associated with a single target structure (i.e. there will be one *Beam Set Group* per target). Most standard single lesion treatment will therefore use only one *Beam Set Group*. More complex prescriptions, such as Simultaneous Integrated Boost (SIB), are typically split into two groups, one for the primary target and a second for the boost target. Within the *Beam Set Group*, the target and any *Beam Set* level constraints can be specified. The *Beam Sets* are the lowest level unit for the Astroid PBS Optimizer and proper arrangement of the beams within these set allows for both Single Field Optimized (SFO) and Intensity Modulate Proton Therapy (IMPT) fields to be included within the same fraction. Further details of these critical items is provided below and additionally, examples of some common cases and how fraction groups, beam set groups, and beam sets can be constructed to meet the clinical needs of each scenario can be found 

here.

Beam Set Groups

Discuss beam set groups here...

Beam Sets

Discuss beam set groups here...

SFO Beams

I think it might be worth mentioning the difference between making an SFO and IMPT beam in the fraction group (e.g., when a beam is in it's own beamset in the FG, it's SFO. When with other beams in the same beamset, all the beams in the beamset are optimized together). -Daniel

IMPT Beams

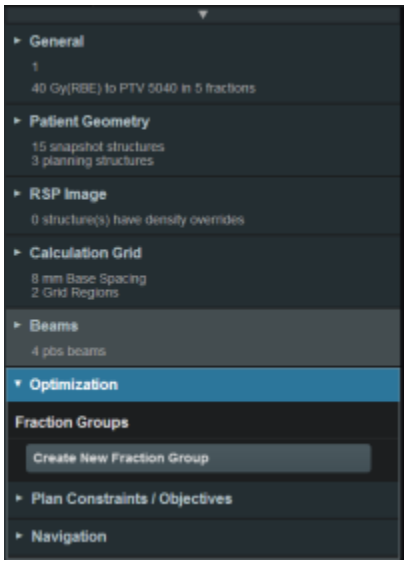
Fix Me! See above -Daniel

Fraction Group Constraints

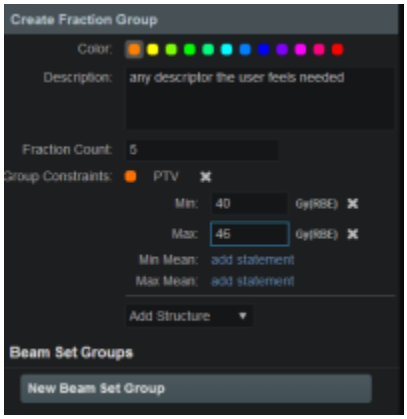
Fix Me! Mention the difference for constraints at the FG level and at the beamset group level. Constraints at the FG level apply to all beams at a whole, where the constraints at the beamset level have their dose values divided by how many beams are in the beam set (Kevin can explain this very well). - Daniel

Working with Fraction Groups

1. Select the Create New Fraction Group button



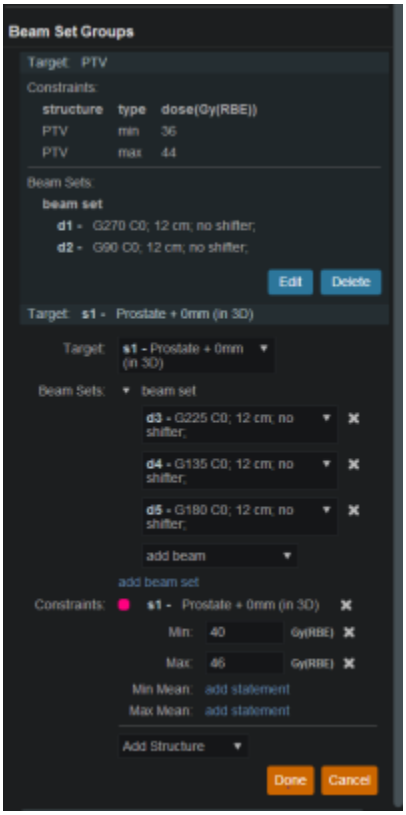
2. In the newly opened block the planner will:
    - choose the color the fraction will be denoted in
    - type in any descriptor that may be needed
    - enter the total number of fractions to be treated
    - enter the group constraints
        - group constraints encompass the whole fraction group



- there can be more than one target entered at this stage

3. Select New Beam Set Group
   - select the target and create a beam set that will be associated to that that target
   - there may be multiple beam sets associated to a target
   - the constraints chosen at this point will just be associated to the particular beam set

   - the user may also have multiple beam set groups associated with multiple targets within a plan



- the user needs to set the constraints for each beam set group. These constraints only apply to the associated beam set group