

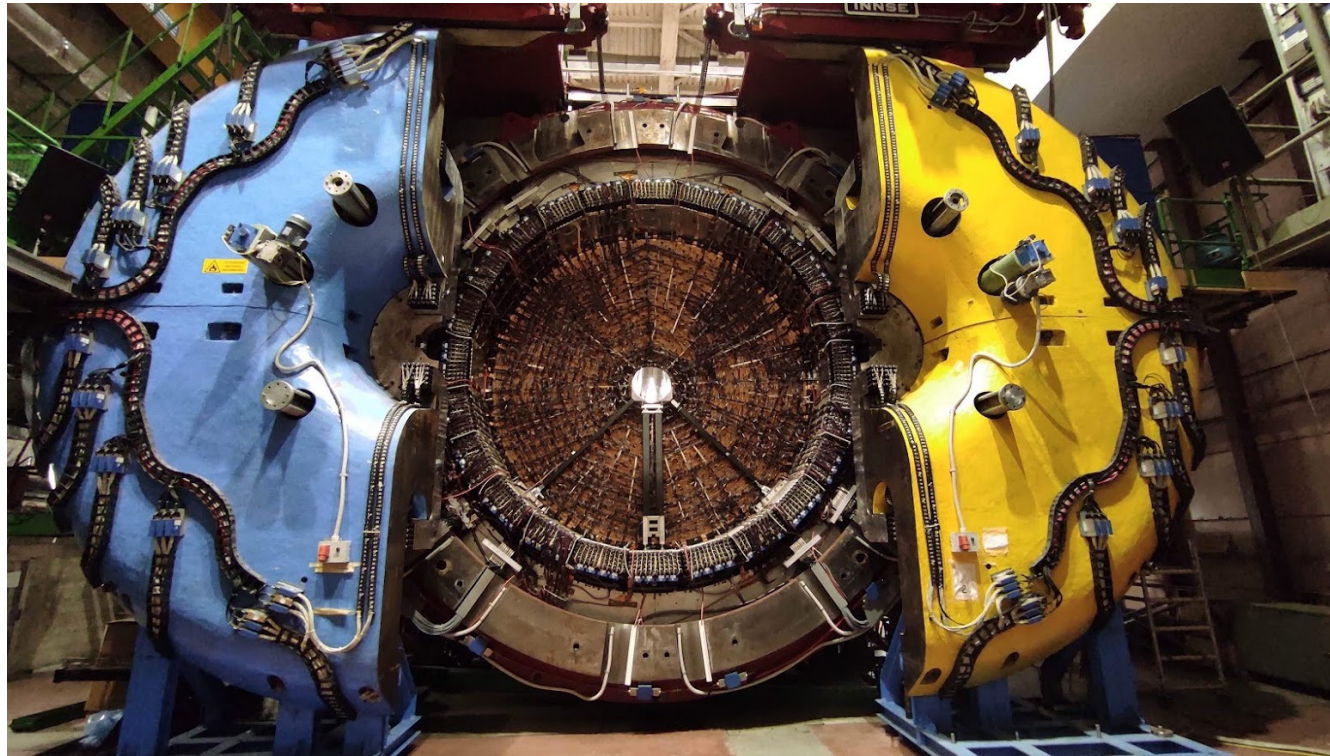
Testing ECAL at LNF and studies for the new FEE

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on behalf of the SAND-ECAL WG



CSN1 Review of SAND – LNF – 11 July 2024

ECAL test at LNF

We plan to test two barrel modules at the same time; $(60+60) \times 2 = 240$ channels

Test area



Refurbishment area

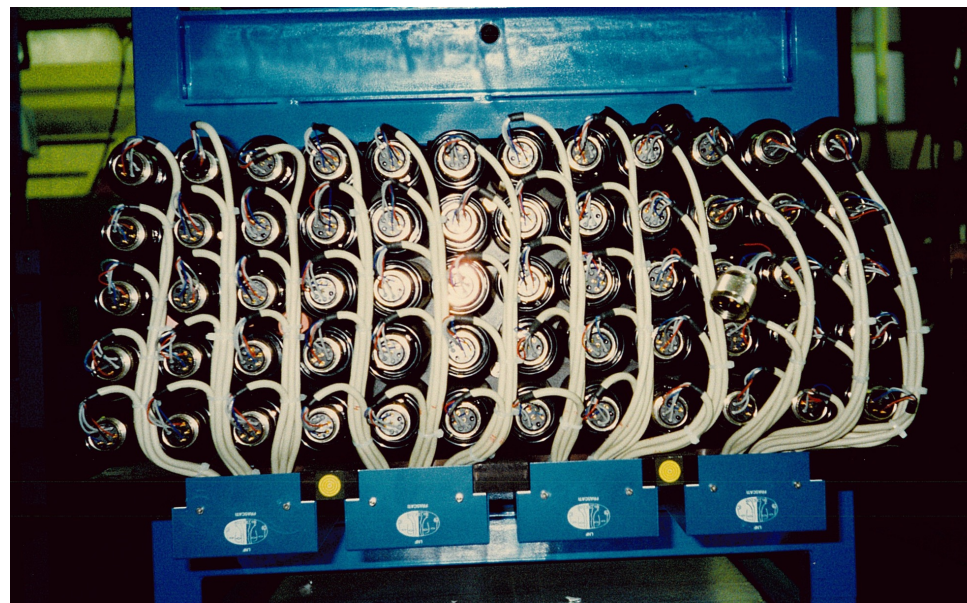
(In total test+refurbishment ~85 mq in bld.57)



PMTs will be dismantled, light guides cleaned, new optical gel applied, and PMT re-mounted.



ECAL module refurbishment and test



Bicron optical gel BC-630

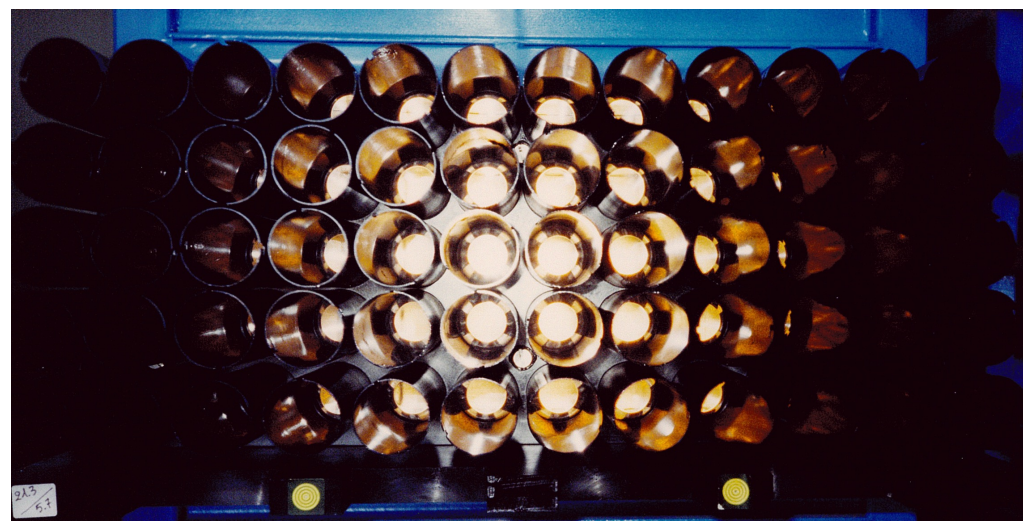
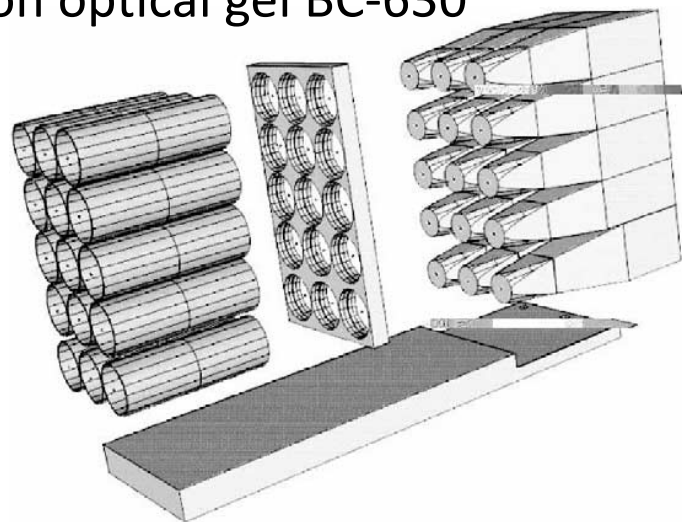


Fig. 4. Exploded view of the PM box.

For the ECAL module test the KLOE electronics will be reused



CAEN HV power supply

KLOE Low Voltage power supply (380~V)
+/-6V (2x 300W) => PMT preamp, FEE etc.
+/- 5.2 (2x 280W) => digital circuitry

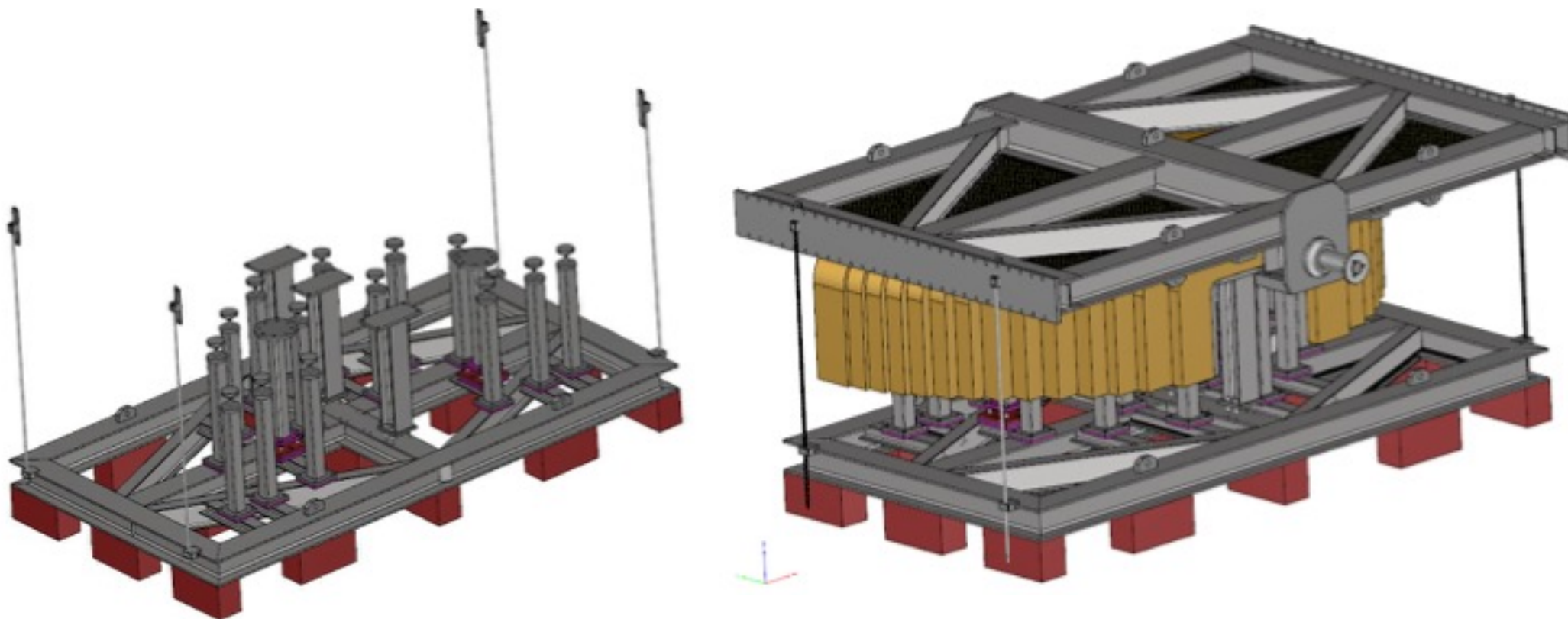
KLOE ADC CAEN VX559 (30 ch.) 8 boards
KLOE TDC CAEN VX569 (30 ch.) 8 boards

KLOE SDS 8 boards: spllitter +
discriminators on 30 ch./board
common tunable threshold(low+high thr.)

VME bridge

trigger distributor
NIM modules
for trigger logic

ECAL test at LNF: End-cap modules



Design of supports for handling and transportation of each half End-cap.

ECAL module refurbishment and test

- After dismounting operation, the special protective adhesive tape of all barrel modules has to be replaced; gluing of delaminated modules, etc.
- check light tightness of module and PMT working;
- test basic performance with cosmics rays
- test FEE prototypes
(comparison with old KLOE electronics)

Shifts of trained technicians and physicists



Test box
for testing
PMTs



ECAL: procurement of HV and LV power supply



HV



LV



Offer CAEN updated July 2024

n° 102 board A7030P (48 ch.) = 527k euro

n° 7 Sistem SY4527B = 41k euro

n° 7 Power supply booster A4533 = 12k euro

TOTAL: **580k euro** (IVA escl.)

spare: 40 5 A7030P + 2 1 SY4527B + 2 1 A4533 = **67k 34k euro** (IVA escl.)

warranty ext. 3 years: = **53k euro** (IVA escl.)

n° 10+2 spare board A25251 8 full floating channels 8V/12A = **31k euro** (IVA escl.)

Mapping of present HV cables 5x12ch on 48 ch. modularity not trivial (to be studied also for LV)

=> under study to minimize cost (custom connectors or patch panel)

one complete spare system to be used to test slow-control software

Studies for the optimization of the ECAL working point and FEE

A. Di Domenico, V. Di Silvestre, P. Gauzzi, D. Truncali - INFN-RM1
A. Balla - INFN-LNF

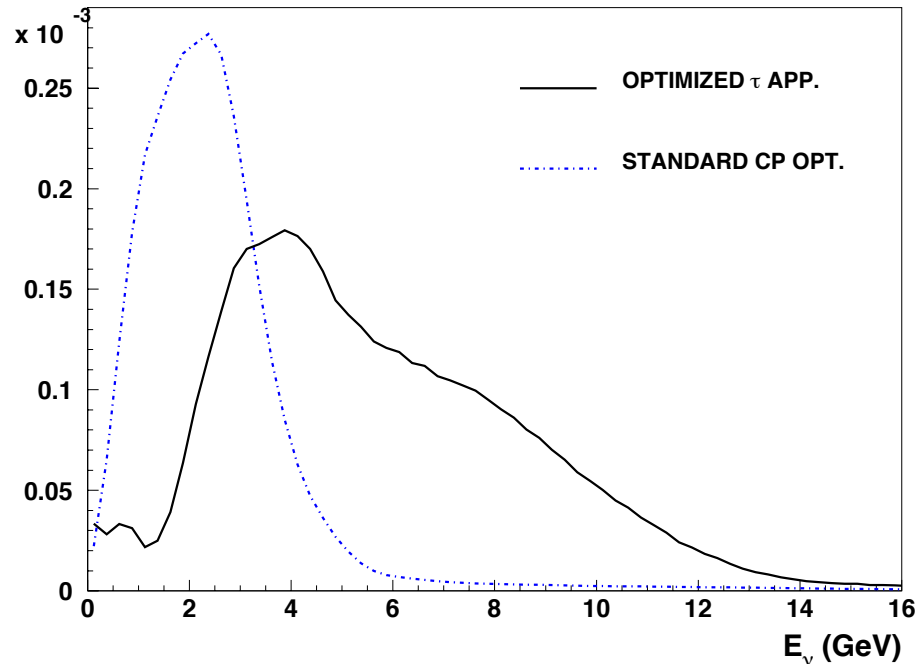


Figure 87: Comparison of LBNF ν_μ fluxes: (a) default 3 horn beam optimized for CP violation (dash-dotted); (b) ν_τ appearance optimized beam (solid).

From DUNE docDB note 13262
 A proposal to enhance the DUNE near detector complex

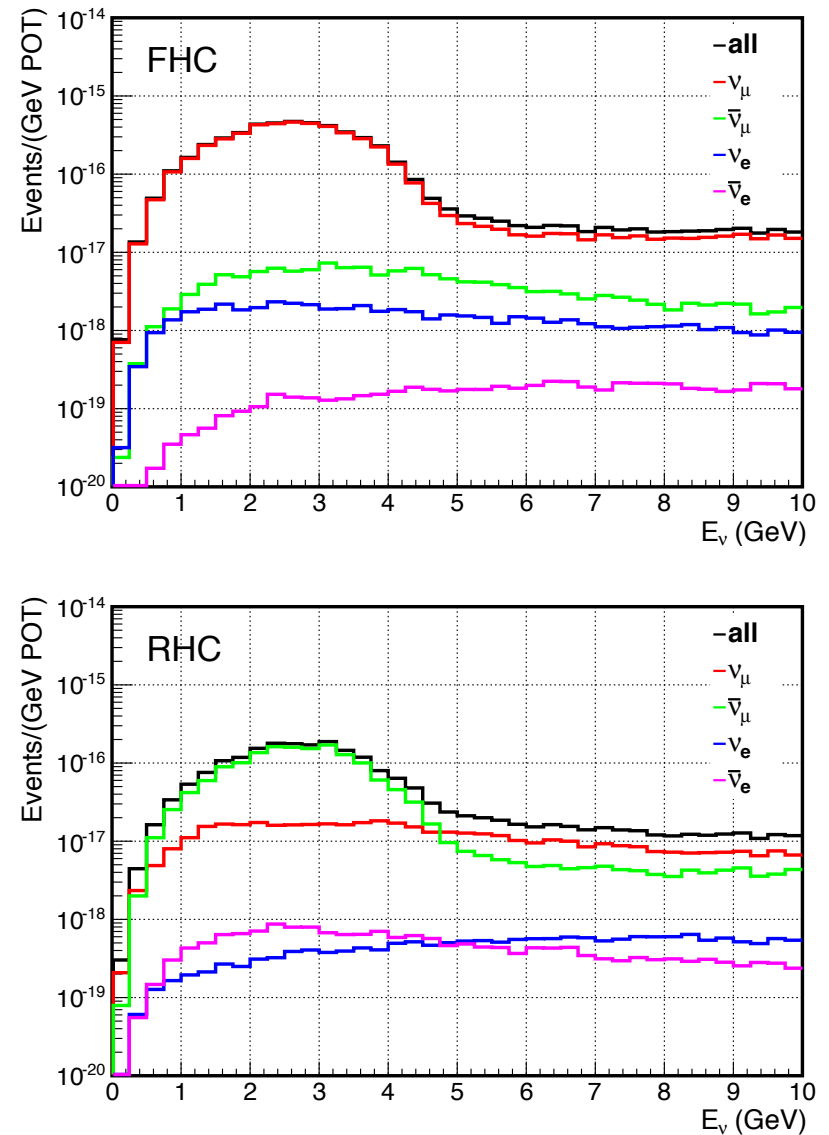
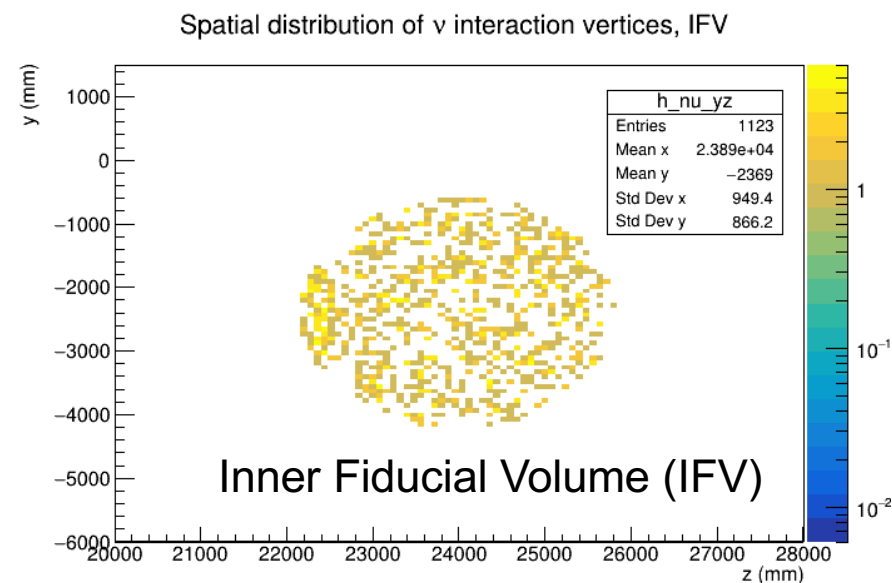
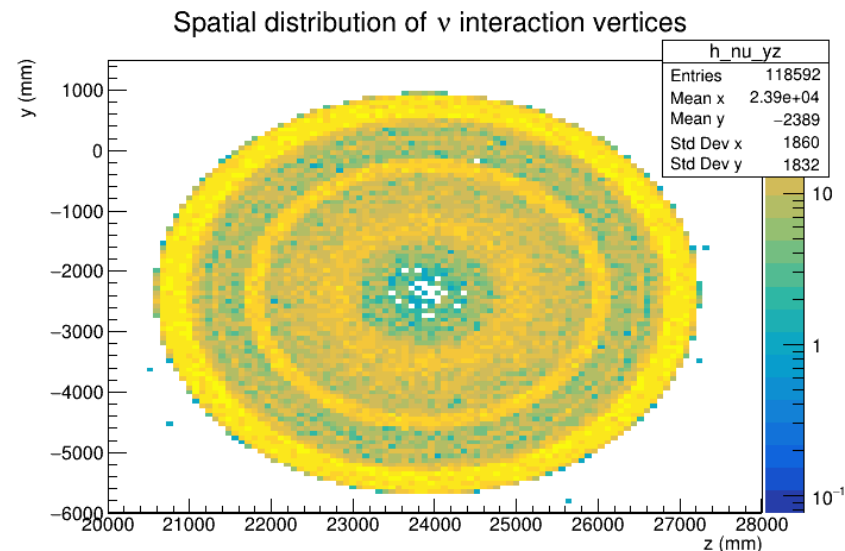
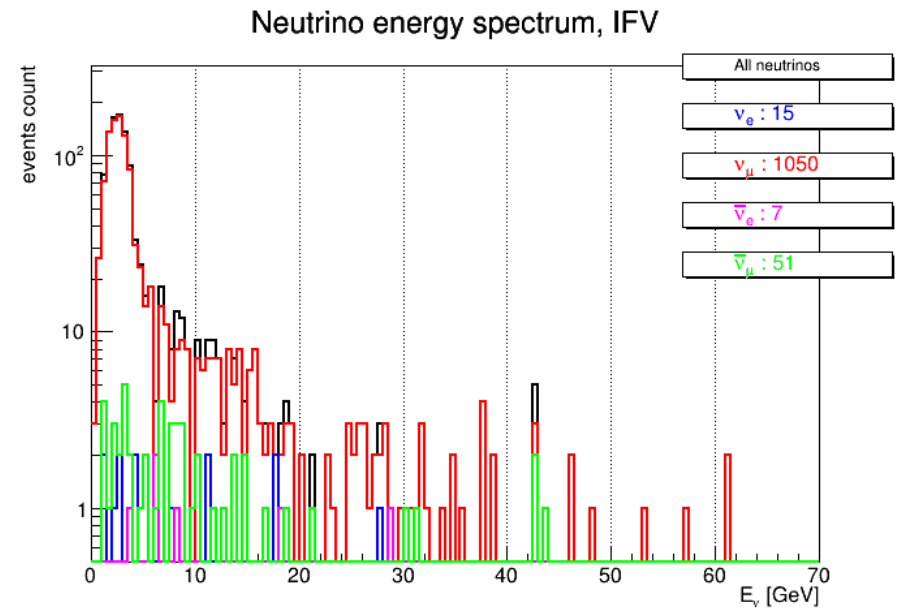
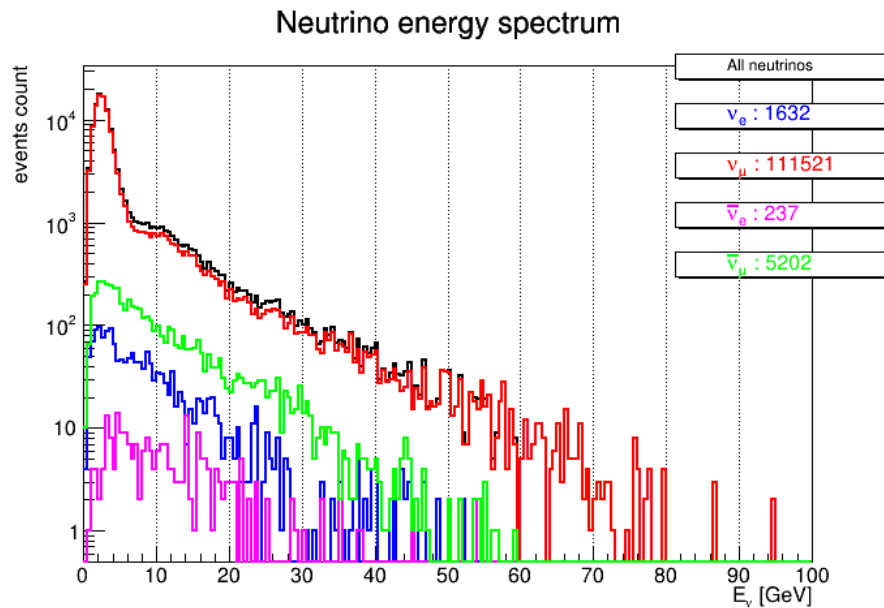


Figure 89: Energy spectra of CC interacting neutrinos in the internal LAr target, having a mass of 1.01 ton, and considering a 120 GeV proton beam in both FHC and RHC modes.

- Analyzed sample: sand-events.*.digi.root and sand-events.*.edep.root
- 100 files
- Total evts = 118592
- Total p.o.t = 1.011×10^{17}
- p.o.t./spill = 7.5×10^{13} at 1.2 MW beam power
- corresponding to ~ 30 minutes of data taking in FHC mode (or equivalently to ~ 15 min at 2.4 MW)
- Inner Fiducial Volume (IFV) defined at a distance of 20 cm from ECAL internal surface



spectrum in the whole energy range

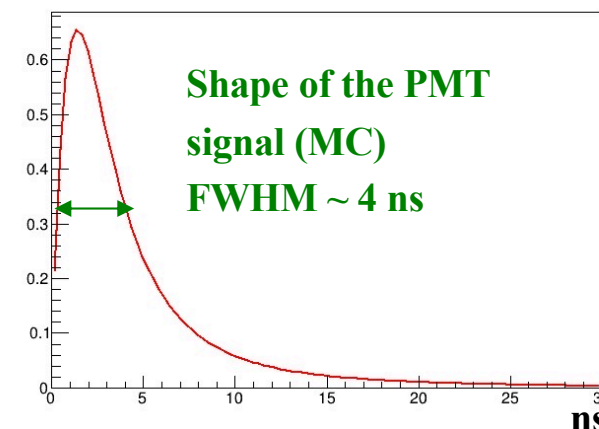
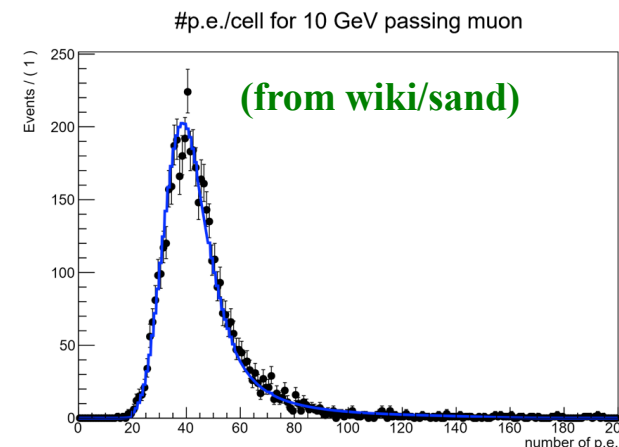


Digitization of ECAL similar to KLOE MC:

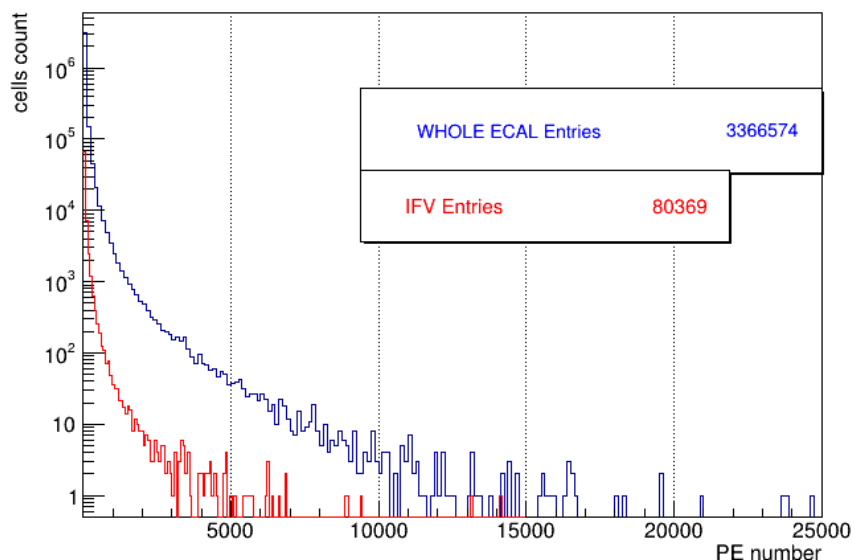
- Deposited energy in the cells propagated to PMTs with double exp. attenuation curve

$$f(x) = Ae^{-\frac{x}{\lambda_1}} + (1 - A)e^{-\frac{x}{\lambda_2}}$$

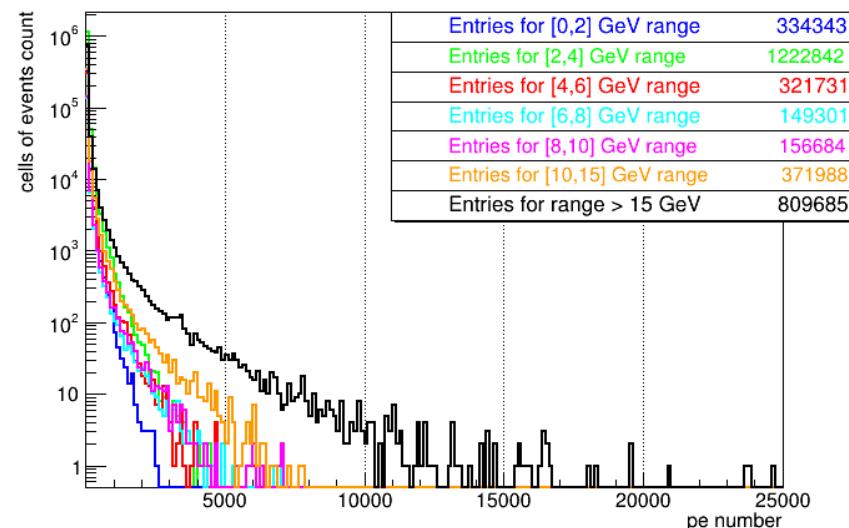
- Converted into p.e. number \Rightarrow 18.5 p.e./MeV of deposited energy (MIP at the module center \sim 40 p.e.)
- Light yield \sim 1 p.e./MeV of total energy of the particle
- Threshold = 2.5 p.e.
- Constant fraction discriminator at 15% of the signal
- Multihit TDC simulation (30 ns integration time + 50 ns dead time)



PE distribution



PE distribution at E_ν fixed



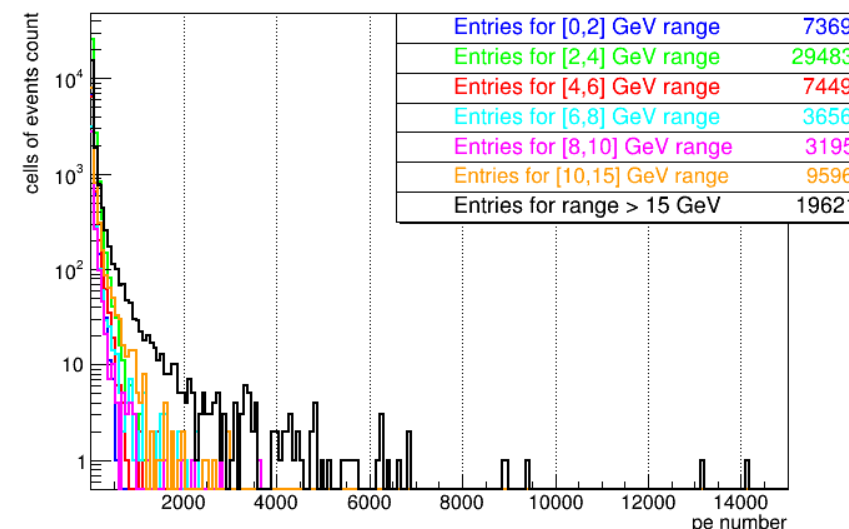
E_ν range = [0,10] GeV

Events number 101,696

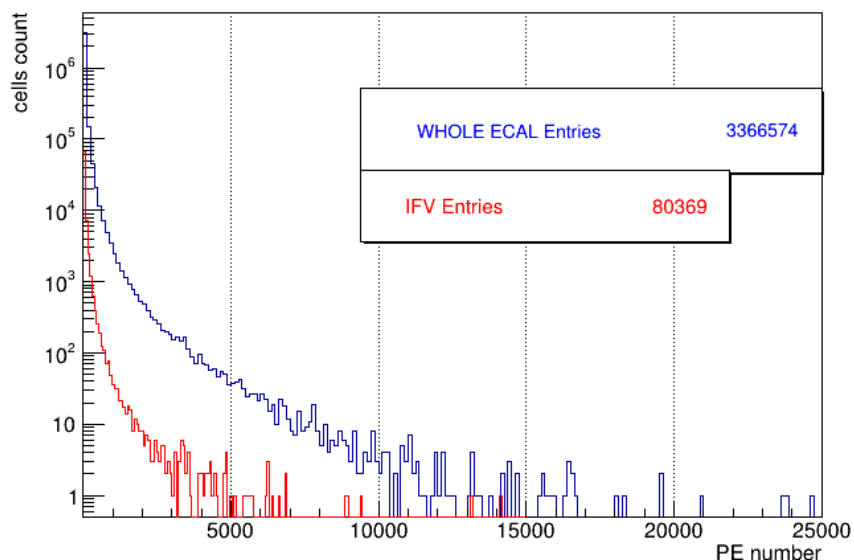
Events cells number 2,184,901

Fraction of events with at least one cell above PE threshold	[%]
1000 PE threshold	2.58
2000 PE threshold	0.49
3000 PE threshold	0.13
4000 PE threshold	$3.64 \cdot 10^{-2}$
Fraction of hit cells above PE threshold	[%]
1000 PE threshold	0.19
2000 PE threshold	$3.03 \cdot 10^{-2}$
3000 PE threshold	$7.19 \cdot 10^{-3}$
4000 PE threshold	$2.11 \cdot 10^{-3}$

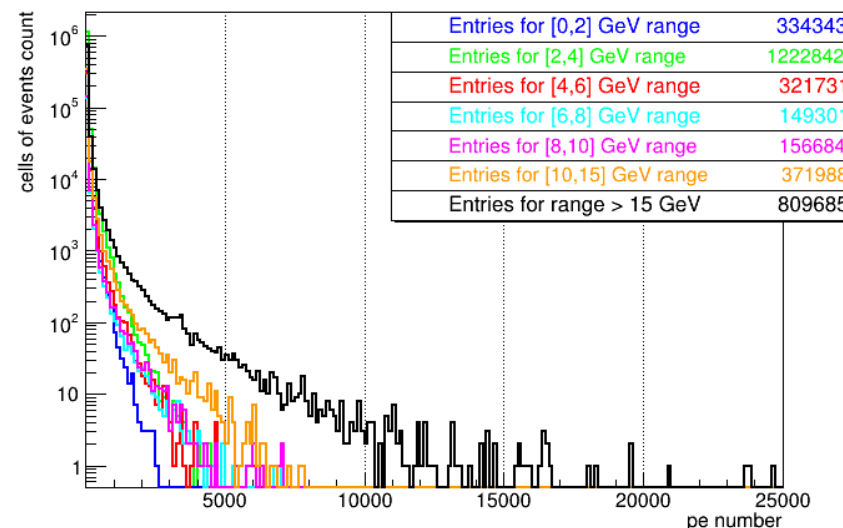
PE distribution at E_ν fixed, IFV



PE distribution



PE distribution at E_ν fixed

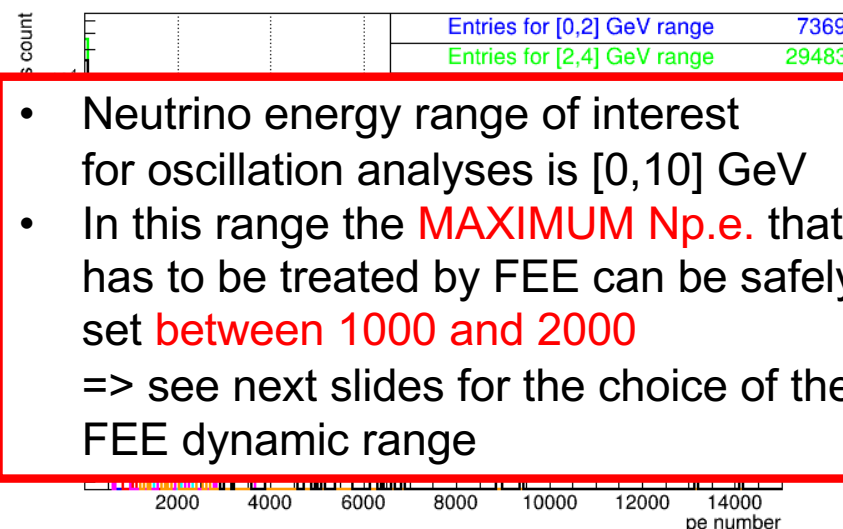


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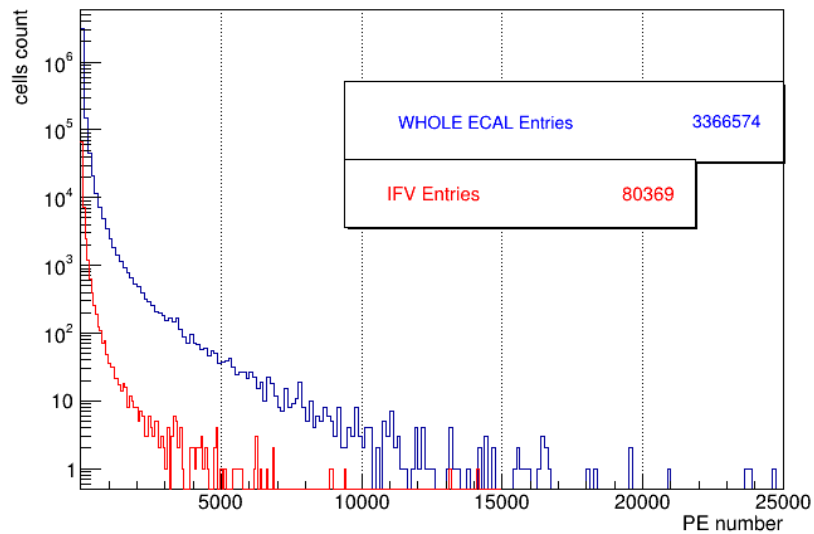
PE distribution at E_ν fixed, IFV



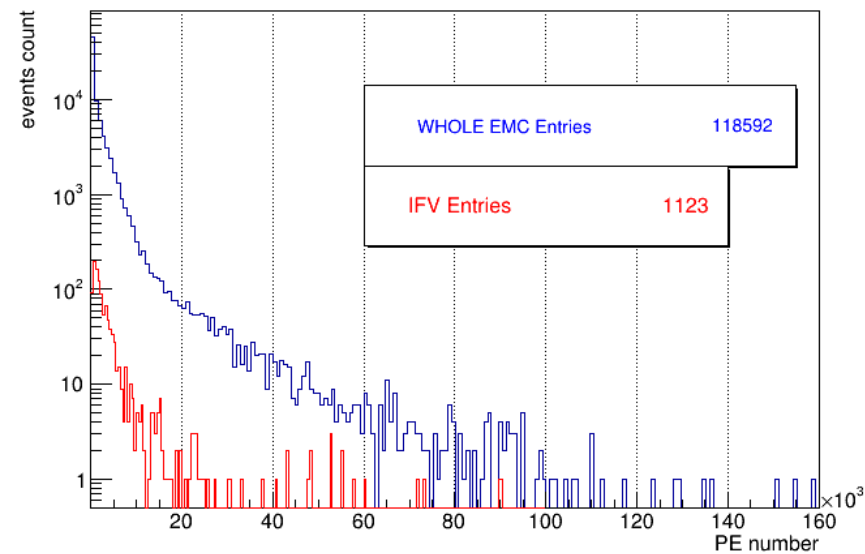
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- Neutrino energy range of interest for oscillation analyses is [0,10] GeV
- In this range the **MAXIMUM Np.e.** that has to be treated by FEE can be safely set **between 1000 and 2000**
=> see next slides for the choice of the FEE dynamic range

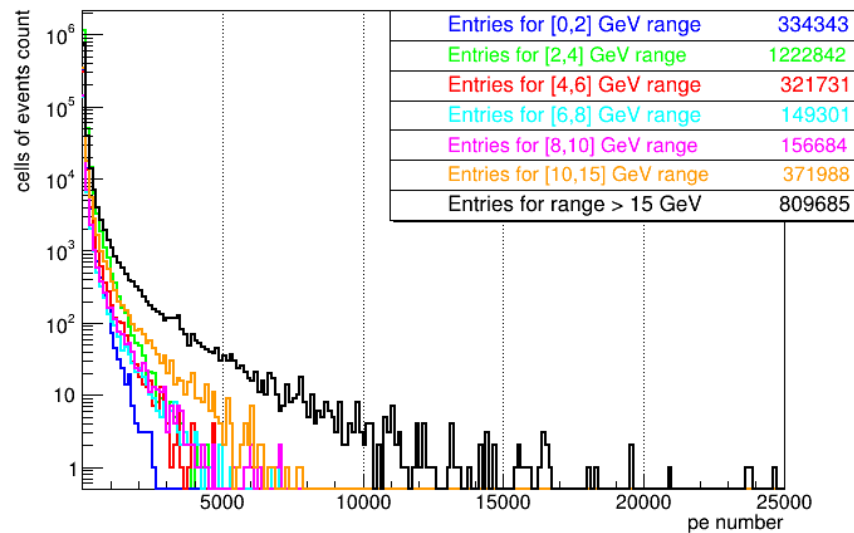
PE distribution



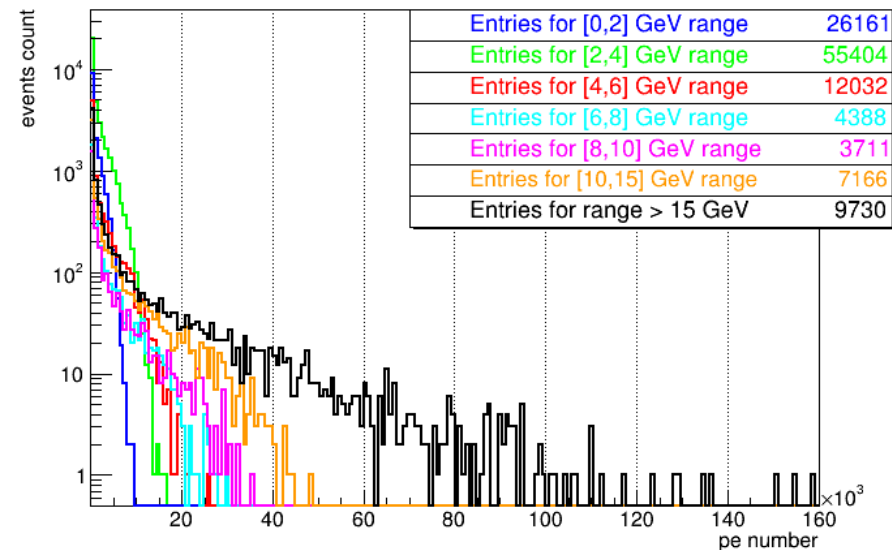
Total PE release

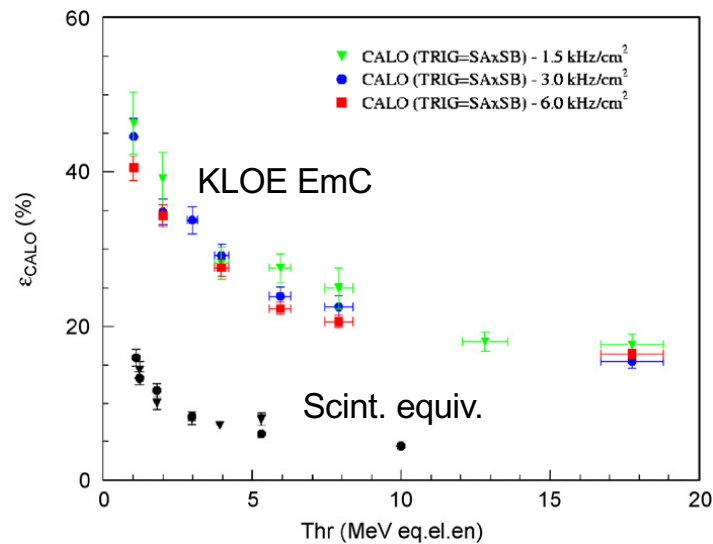


PE distribution at E_ν fixed



Total PE number distribution at E_ν fixed





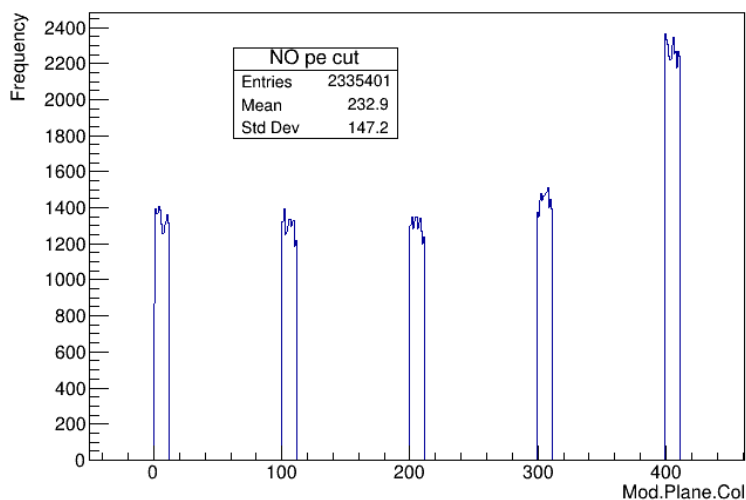
Measurement of the neutron response of the KLOE EmC

- M. Anelli et al., "Measurement and simulation of the neutron response and detection efficiency of a Pb-scintillating fiber calorimeter", NIM **A581** (2007) 368
-
- M. Anelli et al., "Measurement of the neutron detection efficiency of a 80% absorber–20% scintillating fibers calorimeter", NIM **A626** (2011) 67

- to maximize the neutron detection efficiency by ECAL the **MINIMUM Np.e.** that has to be treated by FEE is the **lowest possible, ideally 1-3 Np.e.**

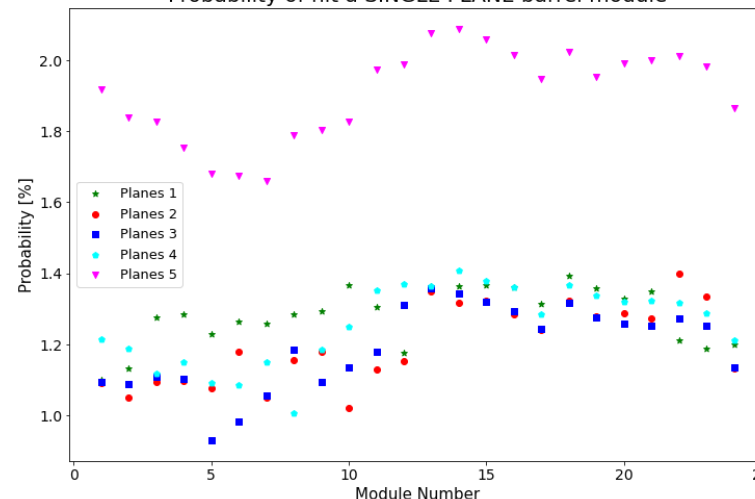
Cell occupancy plots and hit probability

Occupancy plot 1st Barrel MODULE



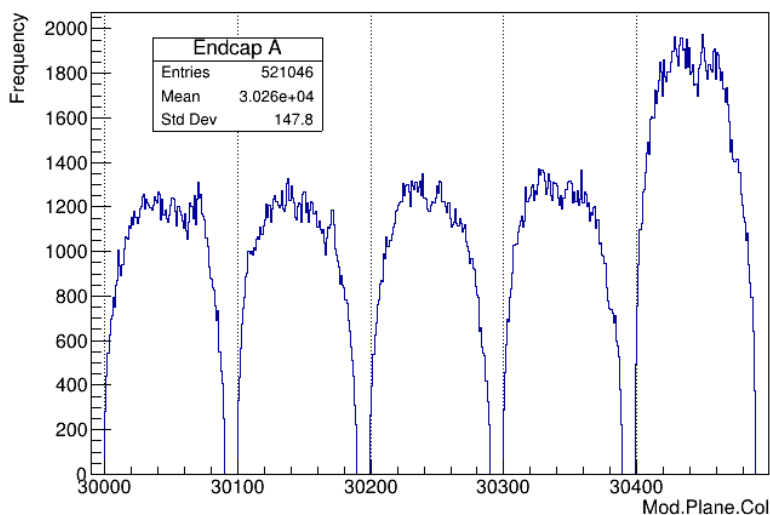
Barrel

Probability of hit a SINGLE PLANE barrel module



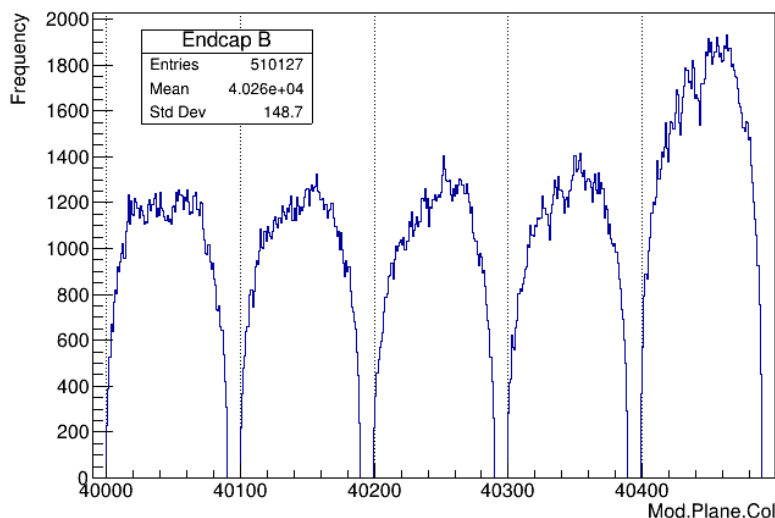
Ecap A

Occupancy plot Endcap A



Ecap B

Occupancy plot Endcap B



Average probability that a cell is fired/hit in a neutrino interaction event:

$$P_{\text{barrel}} = 1.37\%$$

$$P_{\text{ecapA}} = 0.88\%$$

$$P_{\text{ecapB}} = 0.86\%$$

$$P_{\text{cell}} = 1.16\%$$

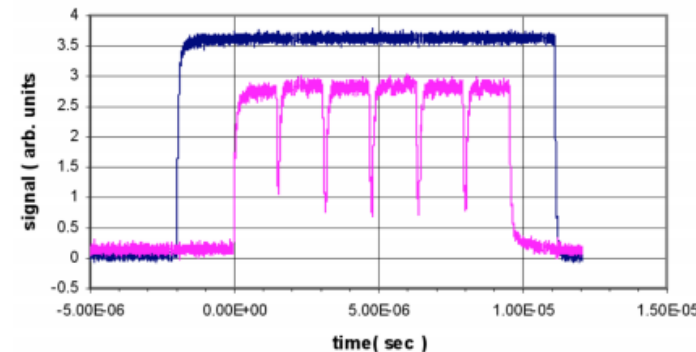
Beam power 1.2 MW

7.5×10^{13} protons extracted every 1.2 s at 120 GeV

1.1×10^{21} pot/year

Spill time structure

- 9.6 μ s per spill
- 6 batches, 84 bunches/batch
- 2 empty bunches
- 1 bunch: Gaus($\sigma = 1.5$ ns)
- Δt bunches = 19 ns



Event rates expected in SAND

~ 84 interactions/spill

$\lesssim 1$ interaction/spill in the SAND fiducial volume

Pile-up probability

The beam time structure is reconstructed to simulate the time of the neutrino interaction event and calculate the pile-up probability that, given a PMT signal, a second signal arrives within a fixed time window (TW) after the first signal.

The times of N interactions per spill (in average $N=84$ with 1.2 MW beam) are extracted uniformly between 0 and $9.6 \mu\text{s}$. The time difference between two consecutive interactions is calculated for all spills, following an exponential distribution with $\tau_{\text{spill}} \approx 114 \text{ ns}$. From this, the distribution of time differences for a single cell with a probability to be hit of $P_{\text{cell}} = 1.16\%$ is evaluated, and then the pile-up probabilities for different time windows are also evaluated, $\text{TW} = 50, 100, 150, 200 \text{ ns}$.

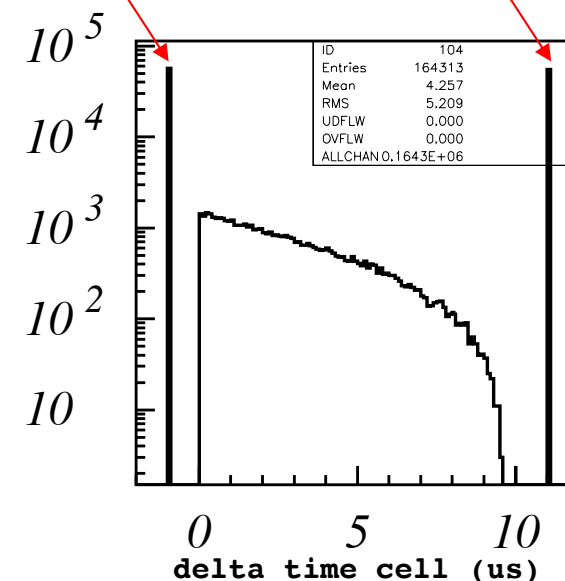
before smearing

after smearing

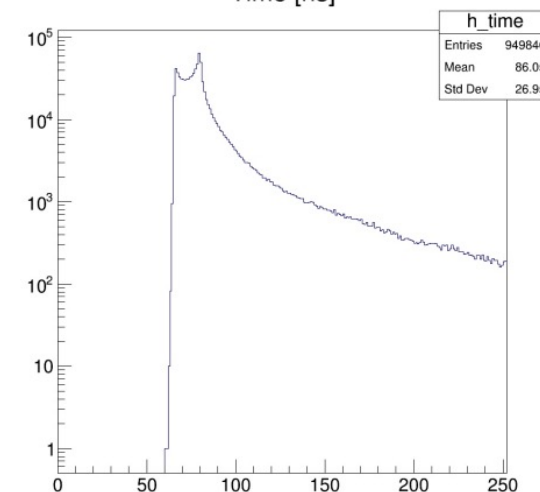
$P_{\text{CELL}} [\%]$	1.16	1.5	2.0	1.16	1.5	2.0
Time window [ns]	pile-up probability (%)					
50	0.67	0.90	1.28	0.64	0.86	1.36
100	1.33	1.81	2.52	1.32	1.71	2.56
150	1.95	2.71	3.72	1.91	2.60	3.78
200	2.59	3.58	4.87	2.52	3.48	4.93

spills with 0 hit

1 hit



Time [ns]



Time propagation/smearing of hits in a single neutrino interaction event.

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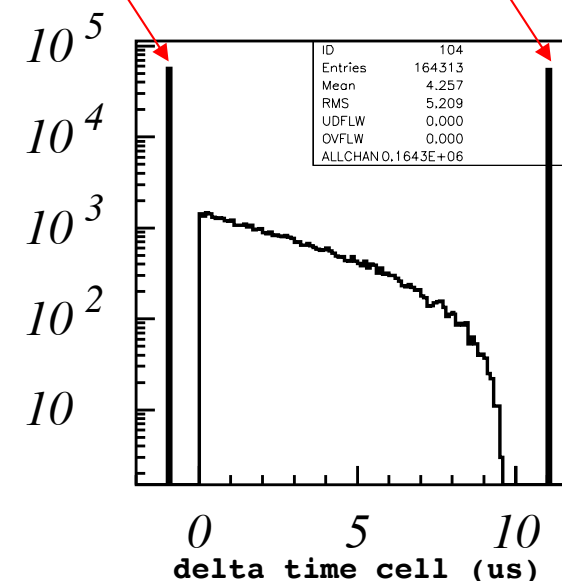
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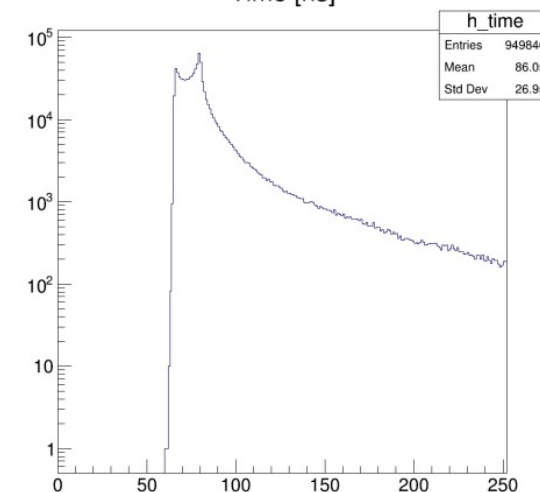
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PMT signal and discriminator threshold in KLOE

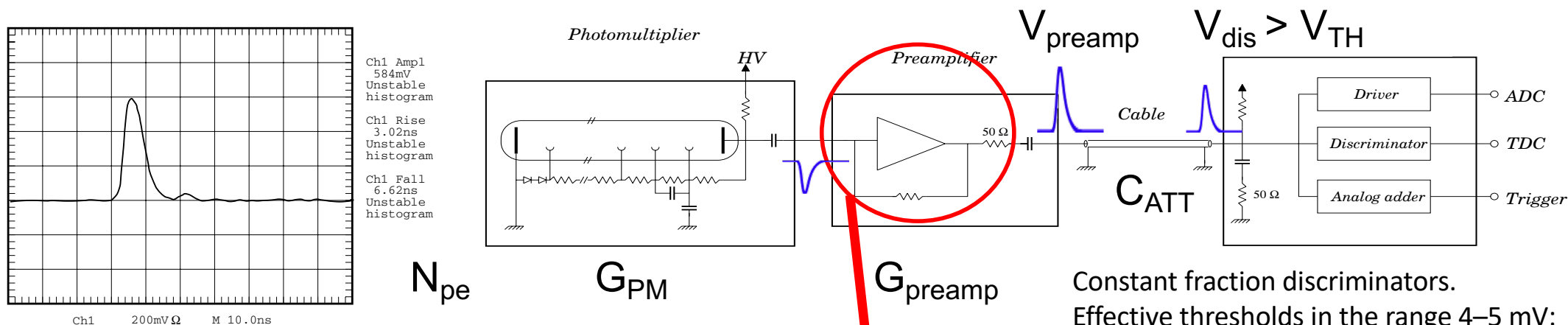
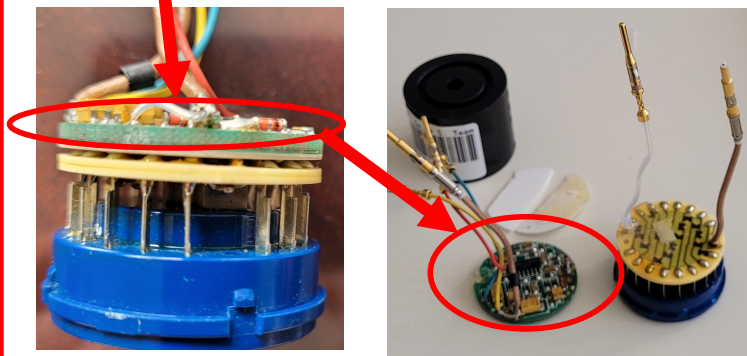


Figure 4: Typical signal from the PM base.

Constraints:

- minimum discriminator threshold 4-5 mV
- max energy release in one cell: 410 MeV
=> 1.p.e./MeV at cell center ~1.8 p.e. at end.
- maximum HV for PMs divider is 2300 V
typical HV 1700-1800 => $G \sim 1-3 \times 10^6$
- preamplifier linear (**within 0.2%**) for signals up to 4.7 V (gain preamp ~ 2.5)
=> 1.74 V at discriminator level after 12-15 m long cables and termination

Constant fraction discriminators. Effective thresholds in the range 4–5 mV: correspond to signals originated by 3–4 p.e. or a 3–4 MeV photon at 2 m from PMT



thanks to A. Balla and P. Ciambrone



Choice of the dynamic range in KLOE

The dynamic range in terms of N_{pe} and the PMT gain G_{PM} can be evaluated using the following constraints for the FEE after the PMT:

- Minimum discriminator threshold $V_{TH} = 5 \text{ mV}$
- Preamp linearly (within 0.2%) range = $[0, 4.7] \text{ V} \Rightarrow V_{preamp}(\text{max}) = 4.7 \text{ V}$
- preamp transimpedance gain $G = 250 \text{ V/A} \Rightarrow I_{peak}(\text{max}) = 19 \text{ mA} \Rightarrow \text{max signal charge } Q(\text{max}) = 133 \text{ pC}$ (triangle approx.); from $Q = e N_{pe} G_{PM} \Rightarrow (N_{pe} G_{PM})(\text{max}) = 83 \cdot 10^7$
- $G_{TOT} = G_{PM} G_{preamp}$ with $G_{preamp} \approx 2.5$
- 12m long cable attenuation: $C_{ATT} = 0.74$
- MAX single pulse amplitude at the discriminator/digitizer input is:
 $V_{dis}(\text{max}) = V_{preamp}(\text{max}) \cdot 0.5 \cdot C_{ATT} = 1.74 \text{ V}$
- signal ampl = $V_{dis}(\text{max})/N_{pe}(\text{max})$
- $N_{pe}(\text{min}) = V_{TH}/(\text{signal ampl}) \Rightarrow N_{pe}(\text{max})/N_{pe}(\text{min}) = V_{dis}(\text{max})/V_{TH}$

G_{PM} ($\times 10^5$)	G_{tot} ($\times 10^6$)	$N_{pe}(\text{max})$	signal amplitude (mV/pe)	$N_{pe}(\text{min})$ $V_{TH} = 5 \text{ mV}$	MeV at module center
4.2	1.04	~ 2000	0.87	~ 6	6.0
5.5	1.38	~ 1500	1.16	~ 4	4.0
8.3	2.1	~ 1000	1.74	~ 3	3.0
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KLOE
choice



Extending dynamic range in SAND

At oscilloscope:
preamplifier saturation
well visible over **3.2 V**



Preliminary considerations:

there is margin to increase the dynamic range by slightly releasing the stringent requirements for linearity in KLOE (e.g. from 0.2% to 1%) .

In fact, in the specific case of the above picture at the oscilloscope (negligible cable length $C_{ATT} = 1$) we expect linearity at **0.2%** level for $V_{dis}(\max) = V_{preamp}(\max) \cdot 0.5 = \mathbf{2.35 V}$

Assuming to increase $V_{preamp}(\max)$ by 15% while keeping linearity at an acceptable level, e.g. **1%** (feasible - see next slide), we get: $V_{preamp}(\max) = 5.4 V$

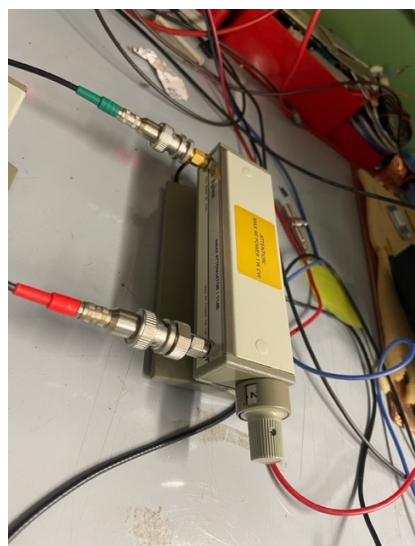
$V_{dis}(\max) = V_{preamp}(\max) \cdot 0.5 = \mathbf{2.7 V} \Rightarrow \text{increase dynamic range}$

Preamp linearity test (1) using pulse generator

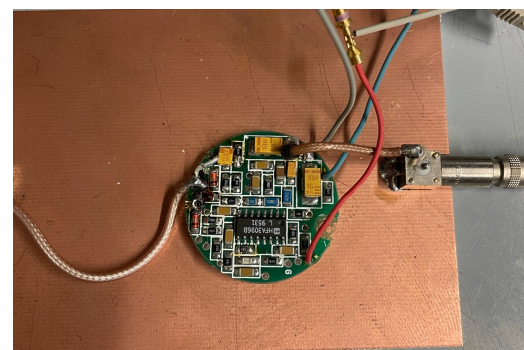
Test set-up



Signal amplitude varied with calibrated attenuators (pulse width ~ 30 ns)

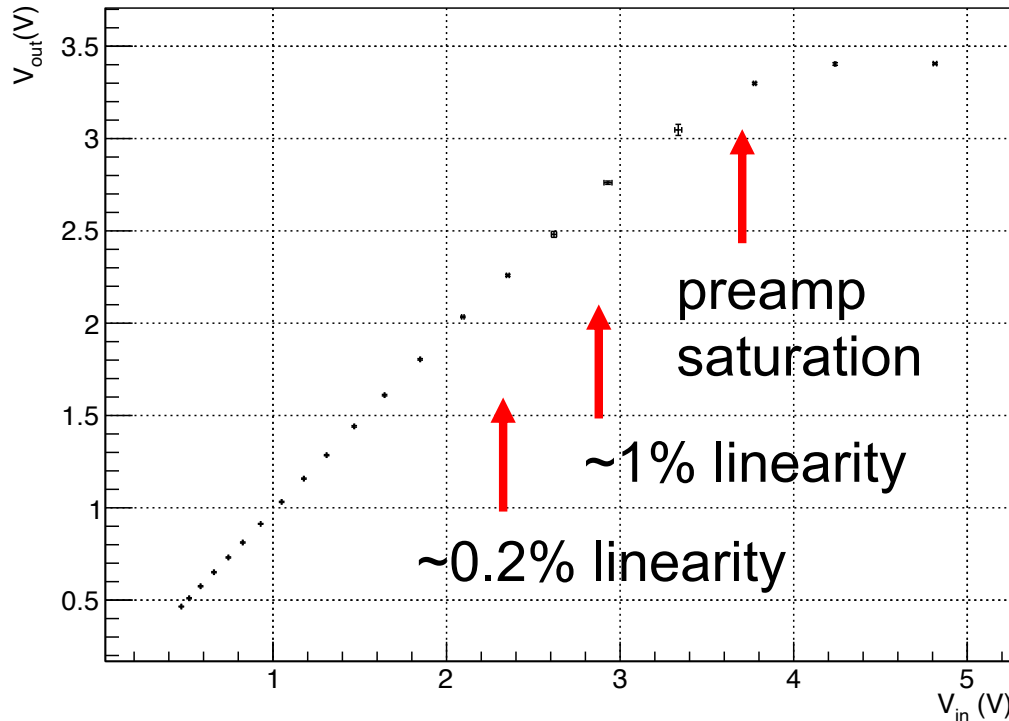


Signal at a modified test input: preamp gain ~ 1

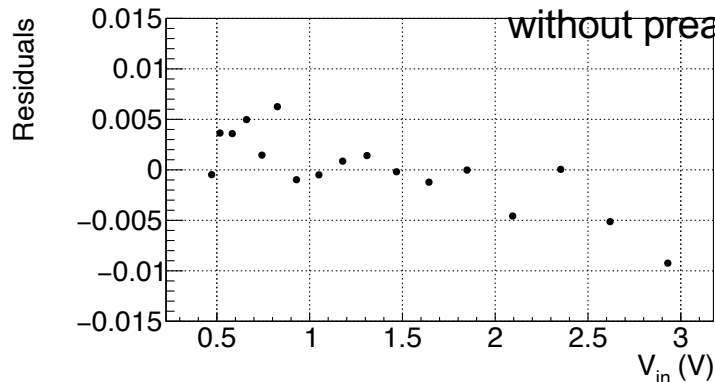


Preamp linearity test (1): linear and saturation regimes

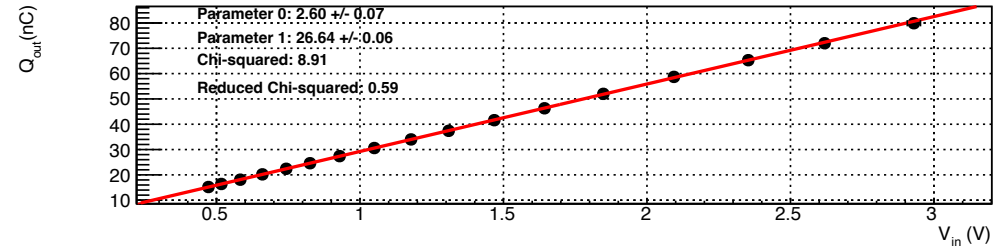
Linearity test



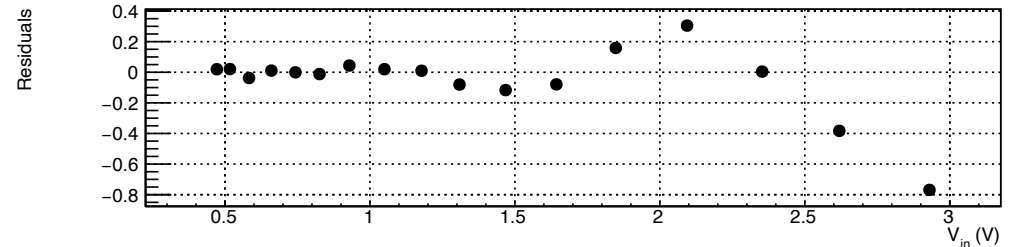
Residuals (subtracted system response without preamp)



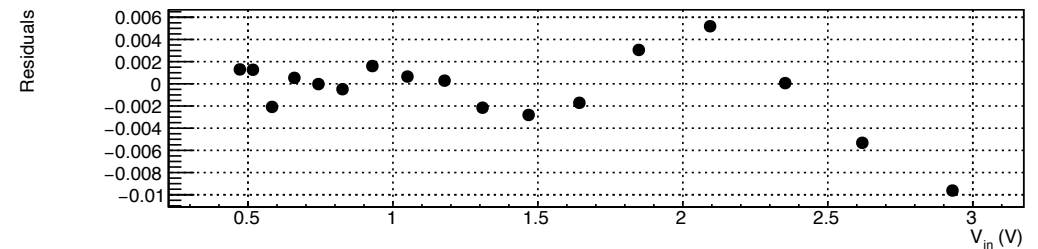
Linear fit



Non normalized residuals



Residuals



Conclusion: the dynamic range of signals can be increased in SAND by accepting linearity at 1% level (instead of 0.2% as in KLOE)

Choice of the dynamic range

Assuming:

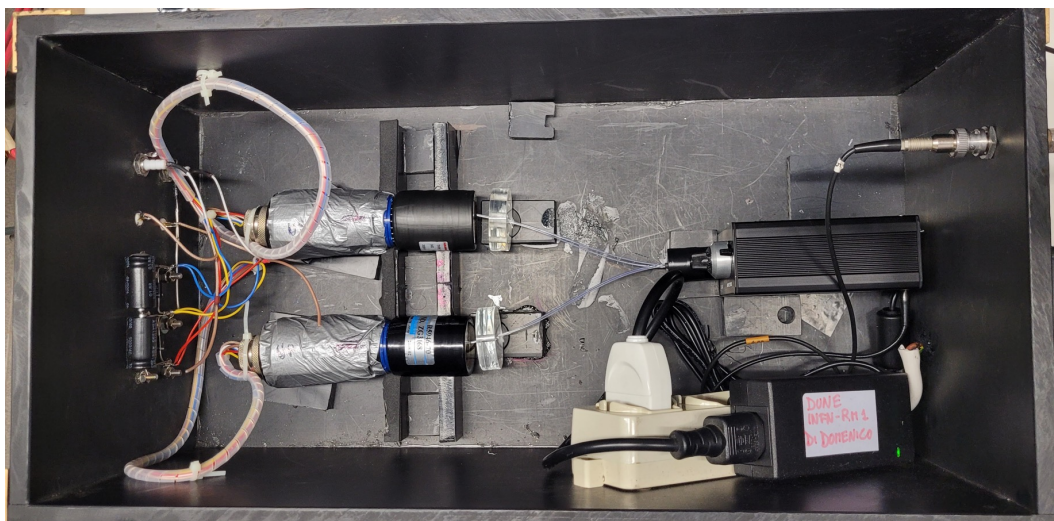
- to increase $V_{\text{preamp}}(\text{max})$ by 15% $\Rightarrow V_{\text{preamp}}(\text{max}) = 5.4 \text{ V}$
(linearity from 0.2% to 1%)
- $(N_{\text{pe}} G_{\text{PM}})(\text{max}) = 95 \cdot 10^7$
- $V_{\text{dis}}(\text{max}) = V_{\text{preamp}}(\text{max}) \cdot 0.5 \cdot C_{\text{ATT}} = 2.0 \text{ V}$ (12m long cable attenuation: $C_{\text{ATT}} = 0.74$)
- to have a very low noise environment as in KLOE \Rightarrow lowering (halving) the minimum discriminator/digitizer threshold to $V_{\text{TH}} = 2.5 \text{ mV}$

G_{PM} ($\times 10^5$)	G_{tot} ($\times 10^6$)	$N_{\text{pe}}(\text{max})$	signal amplitude (mV/pe)	$N_{\text{pe}}(\text{min})$ $V_{\text{TH}} = 2.5 \text{ mV}$	MeV at module center
4.8	1.2	~ 2000	1.0	~ 3	3.0
6.4	1.6	~ 1500	1.3	~ 2	2.0
9.5	2.4	~ 1000	2.0	~ 1	1.0

- Different dynamic ranges can be implemented changing $G_{\text{PM}} \Rightarrow$
the final choice should be a compromise between an affordable level of events with energy saturated cells, depending on $N_{\text{pe}}(\text{max})$, and an acceptable neutron detection efficiency, depending on $N_{\text{pe}}(\text{min})$.

Preamp linearity test (2) with PMT system test

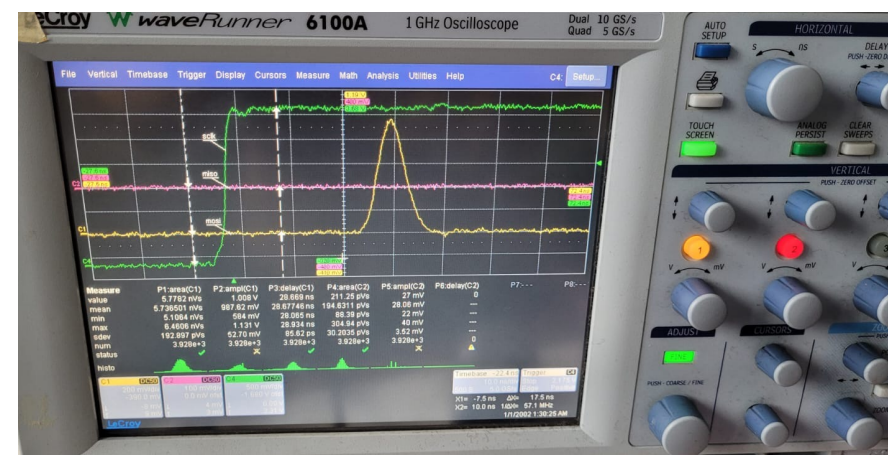
- PMT system test at LNF with
 - CAEN LED driver SP5601 (wavelength ~ 400 nm) with fine tunable LED intensity
 - scint. fiber splitter
 - two PMTs (for relative QE meas.)



no preamplifier



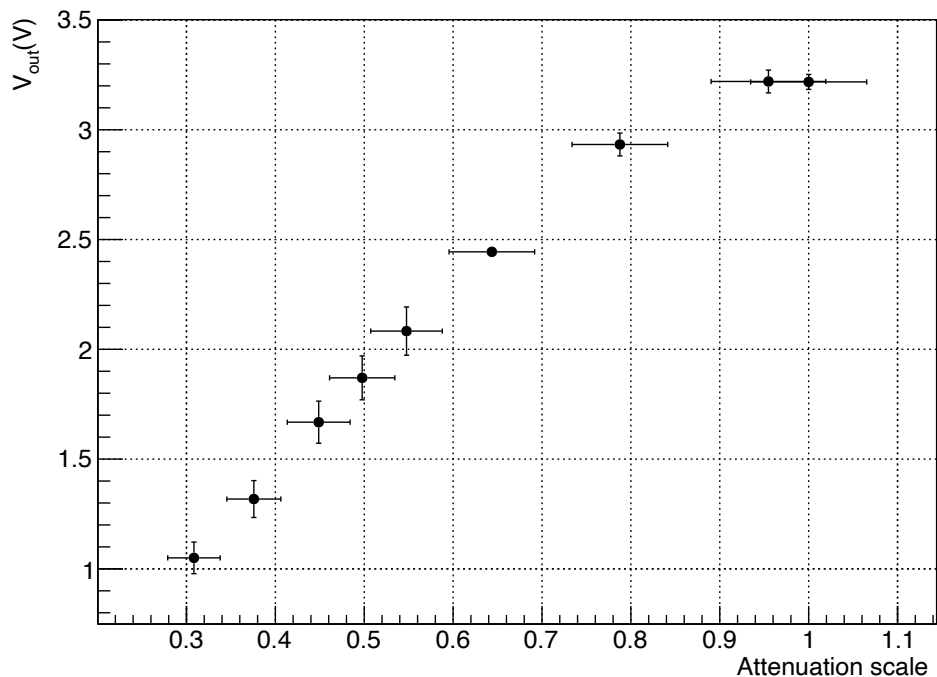
with preamplifier



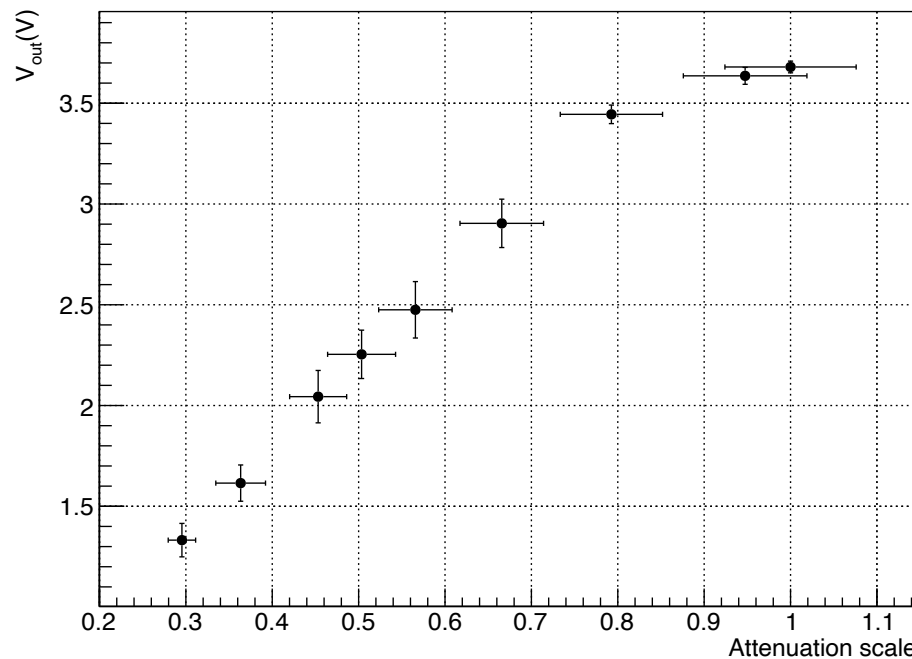
Preamp linearity test (2): results (i)

LED driver attenuation scale checked and calibrated with PMT response in linear region

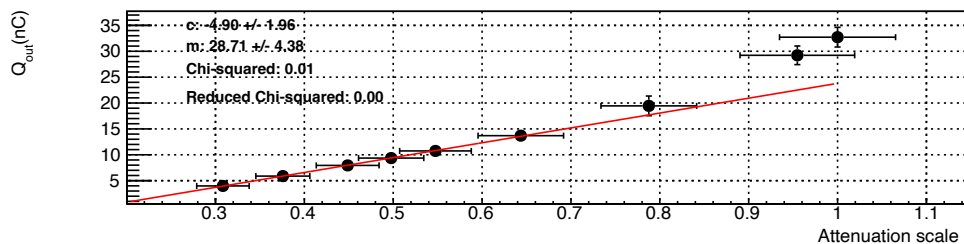
Saturation curve PMT1



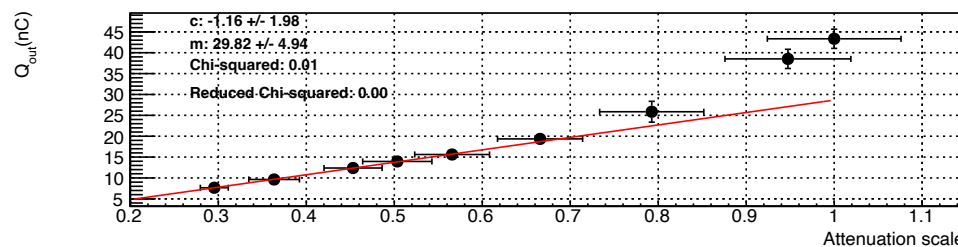
Saturation curve PMT2



Linear fit PMT1



Linear fit PMT2



Preamp linearity test (2): results (ii) => saturation

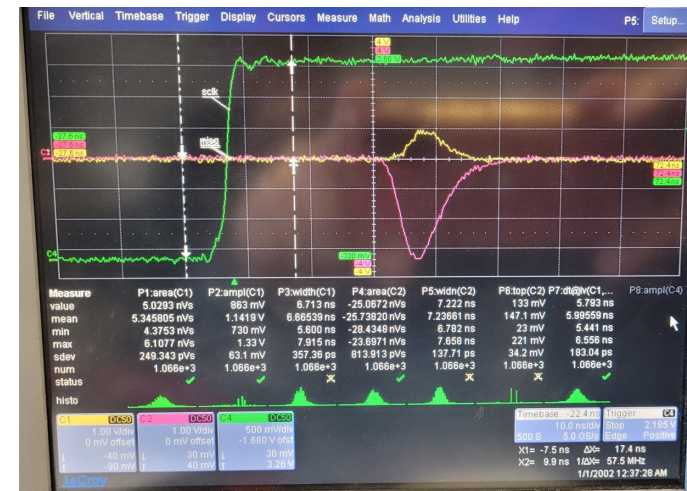
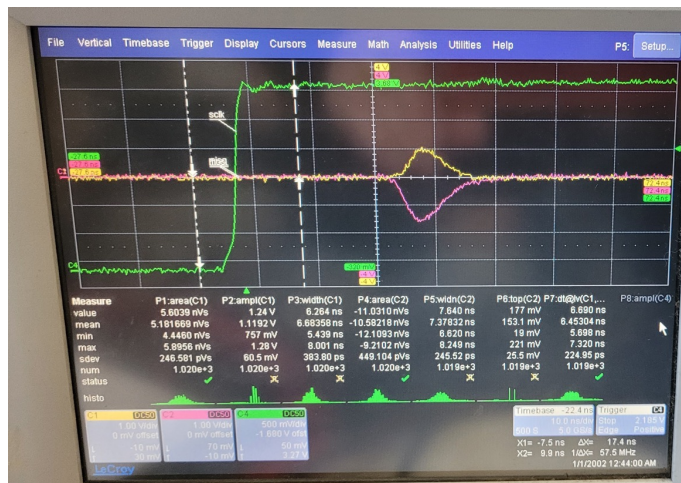
PMT2 HV=1700 V

REF PMT1

HV=1900 V

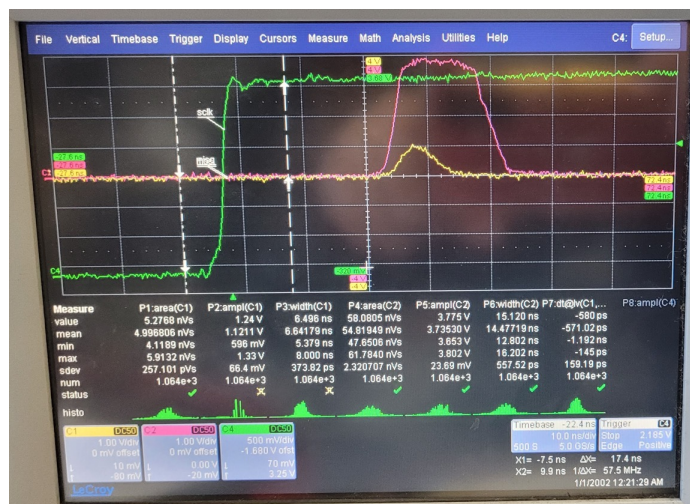
fixed LED
intensity (full)

HV=2100 V



no preamp PMT2
with preamp PMT2

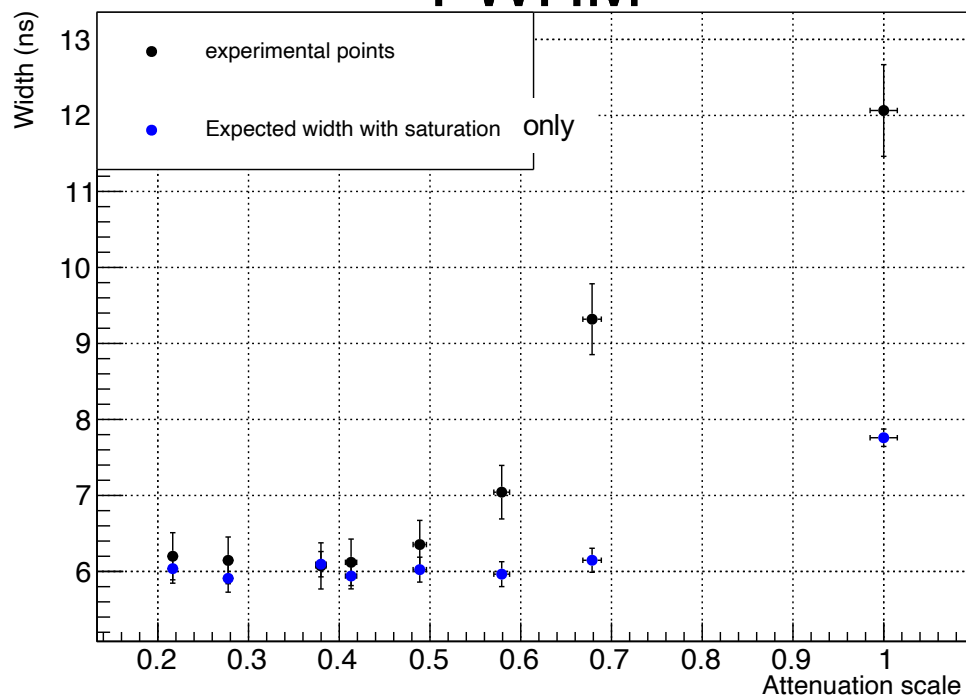
preamp recovery time from saturation
depends on input amplitude signal



Preamp linearity test (2): results (iii) => saturation

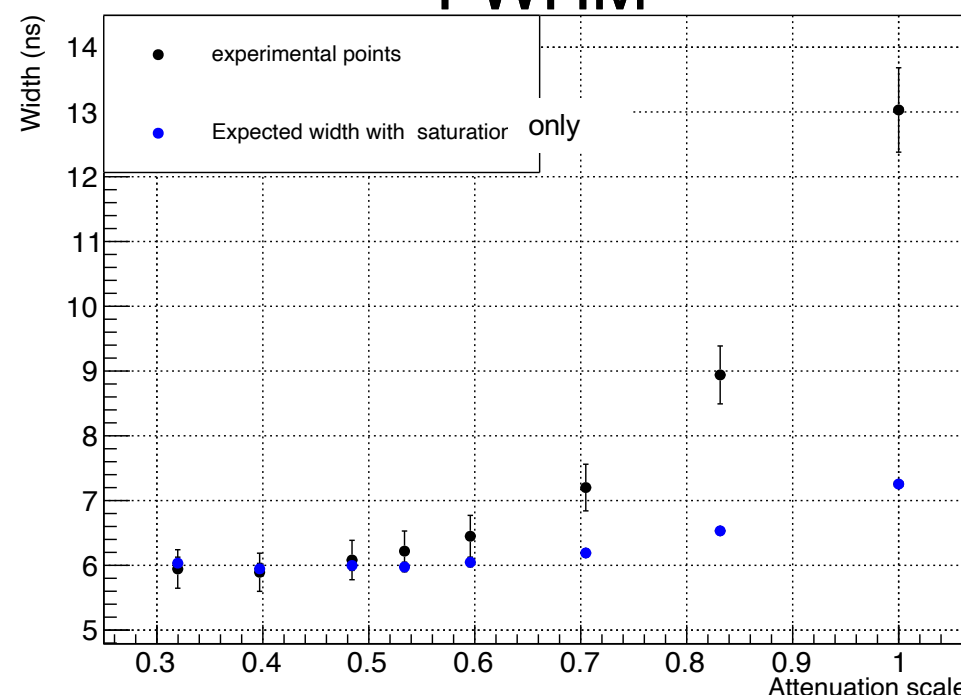
PMT1

FWHM



PMT2

FWHM



- The time baseline is distorted during saturation. The recovery time from saturation to linear regime depends on the input signal amplitude.
- The input information is not fully lost during the saturation regime. The “over-linearity” of the integrated charge, or the signal width increase vs the input signal amplitude could be exploited to characterize signals beyond the preamp saturation regime.

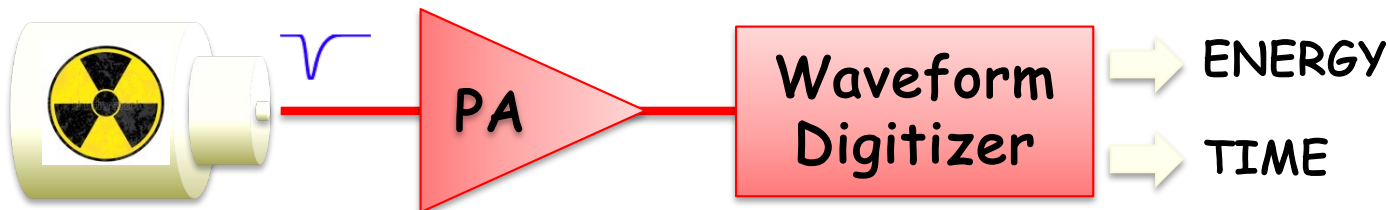
Studies and tests for FEE choice in collaboration with CAEN

A. Di Domenico, V. Di Silvestre - INFN-RM1
C. Tintori, C. Maggio, L. Colombini – CAEN, Viareggio

Choice of FEE for SAND/ECAL

Three possible read-out schemes:

Detector



Highest Flexibility

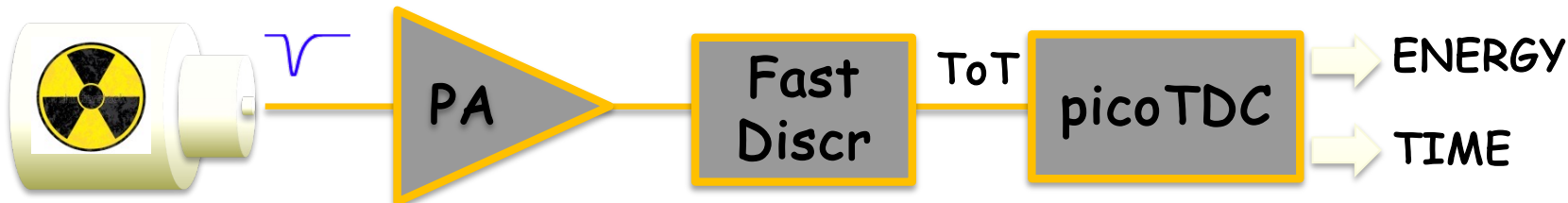
=>

$F_{\text{sampl}} \sim 1 \text{ GS/s} \Rightarrow \text{High Cost or}$

$F_{\text{sampl}} \sim 125\text{-}250 \text{ MS/s}$

+ signal shaper

Detector



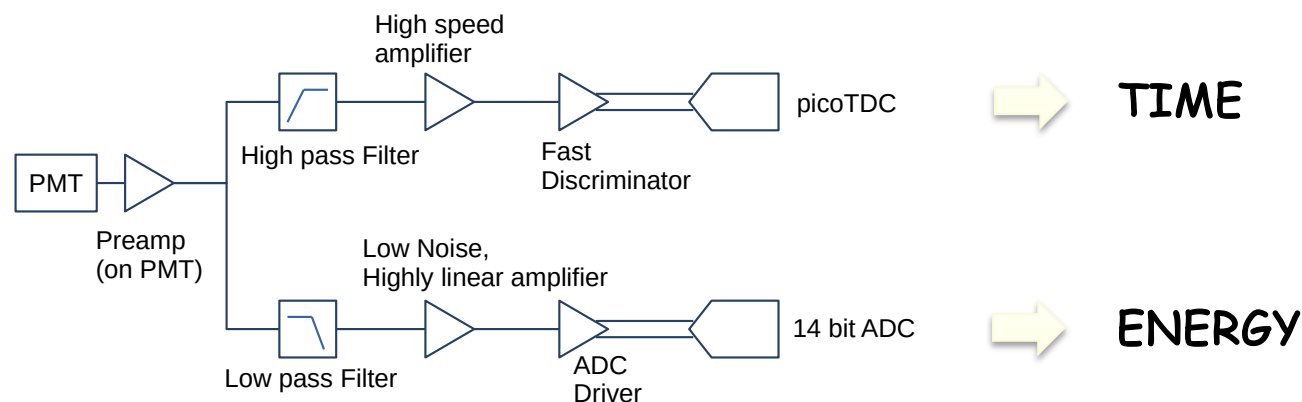
Less Flexibility

=> energy by ToT

with 2 or more thresholds
not to worsen energy resol.

Time walk correction
needed

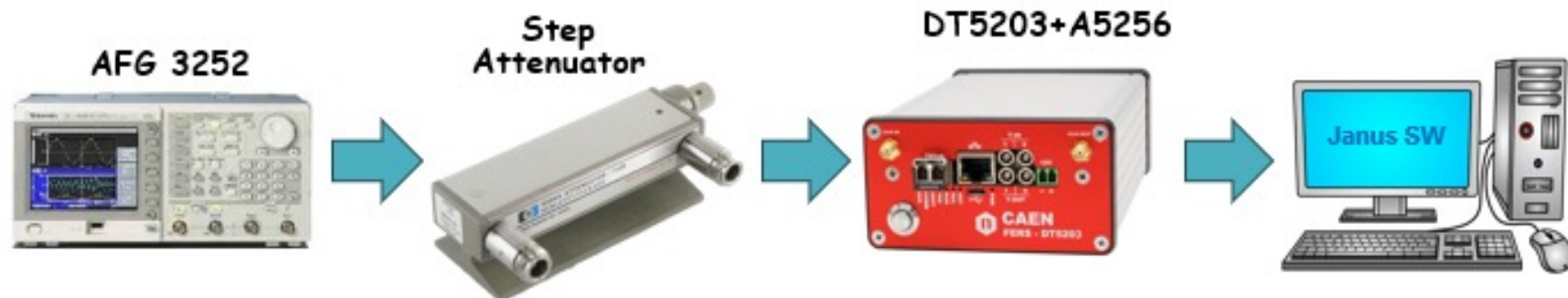
a more conventional approach



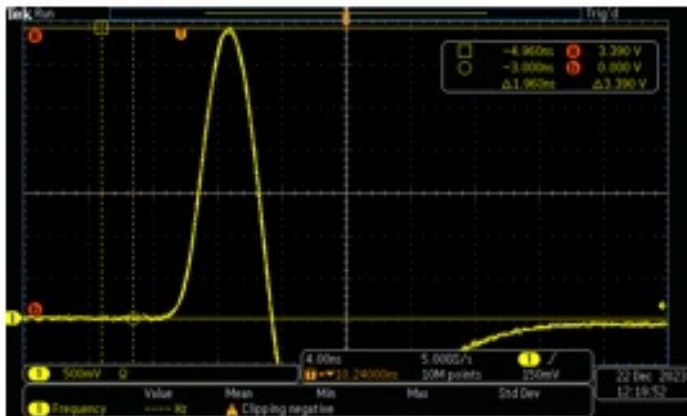
CAEN:

collaboration for a commercial (partly customized) solution keeping KLOE energy and time performance

Test setup:



Pulse: Amp = 3.85 V, Rise = ~2.5 ns

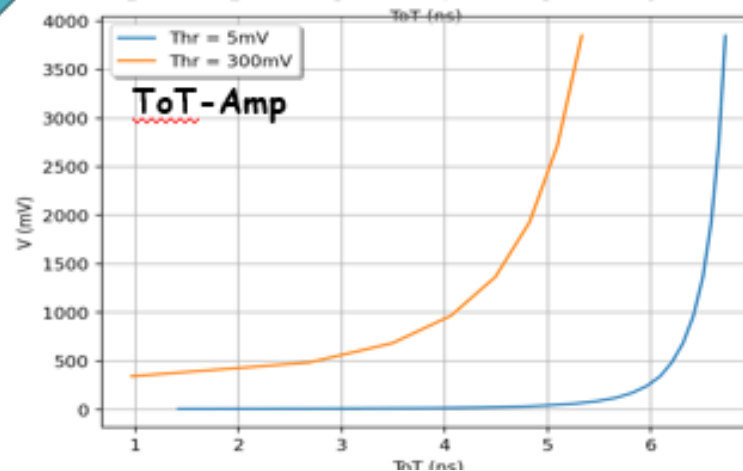
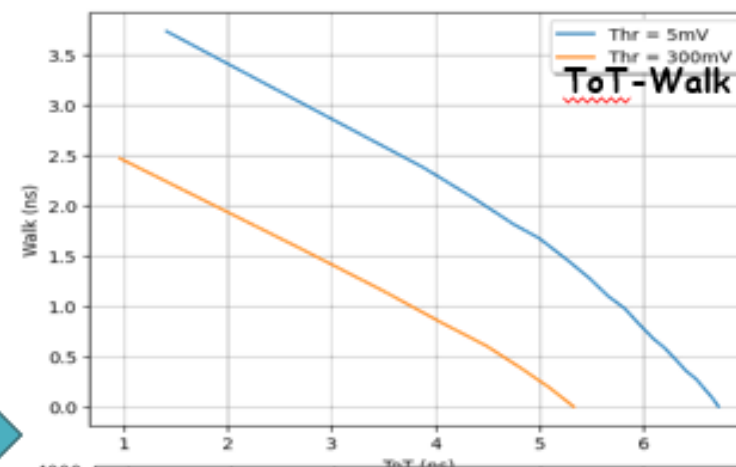
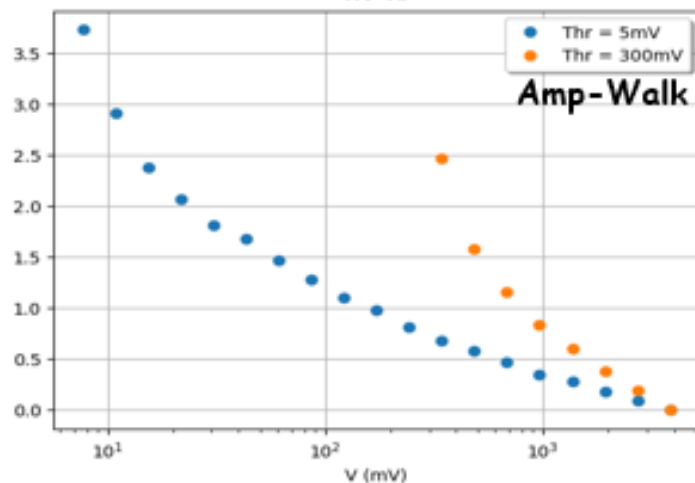
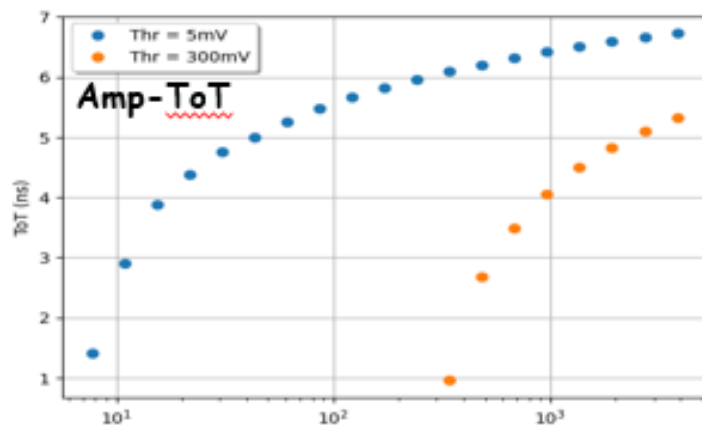


- Start on Ch0 with fixed amplitude. Stop on Ch1 and Ch2 (dual threshold) with variable amplitude (max = 3.85 V). Delay = 13 ns.
- Acquire **ToT** (**ToT = Time Over Threshold**) and ΔT ($\Delta T = \text{walk}$) at different amplitudes (from 0 to 52 dB, 3 dB step)
- Fit points and build **ToT-Walk** and **ToT-Ampl** curves
- Use curves to correct Walk from ToT (replace CFD)
- Use curves to get Amplitude from ToT (make ADC from TDC)

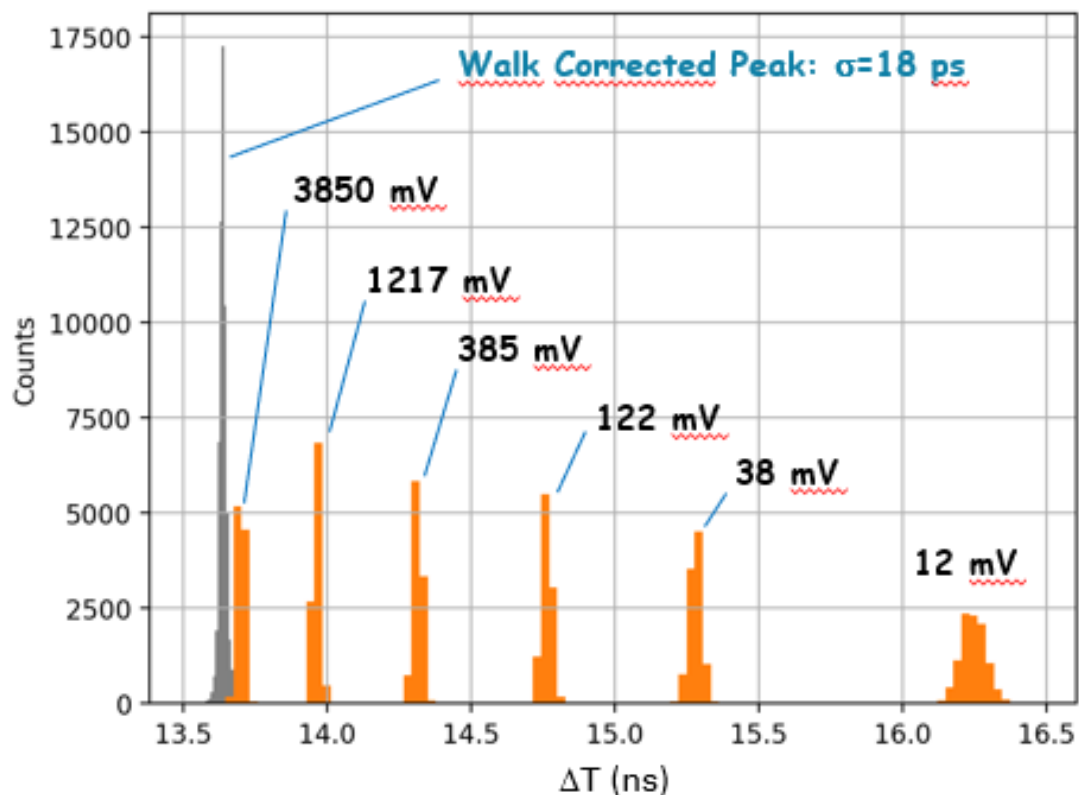
Calibration Curves:

Low threshold: 5mV

High threshold: 300mV

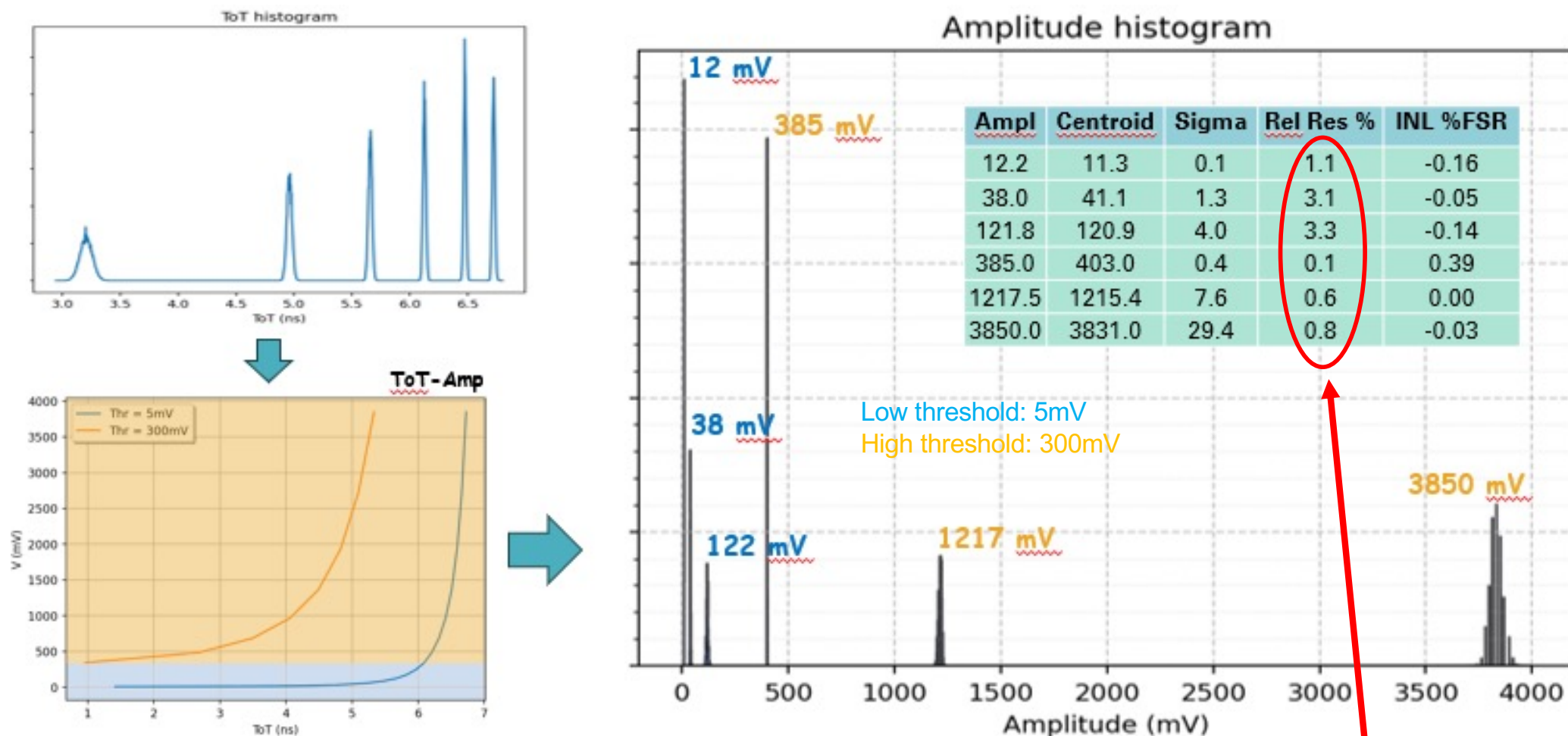


Time Reconstruction (using ToT-Walk correction)



- Acquired pulses at 6 different amplitudes over a 50 dB dynamic range, the walk causes ~ 2 ns spread on ΔT : 6 separate peaks appear on the histogram (sample independent from calibration sample)
- ΔT corrected by ToT using calibration data with a 5th order polynomial fit of the **ToT-Walk** points taken at lower threshold (5 mV)
- Corrected ΔT histogram presents one single peak:
- **Time resolution ~ 18 ps over 50 dB dynamic range**

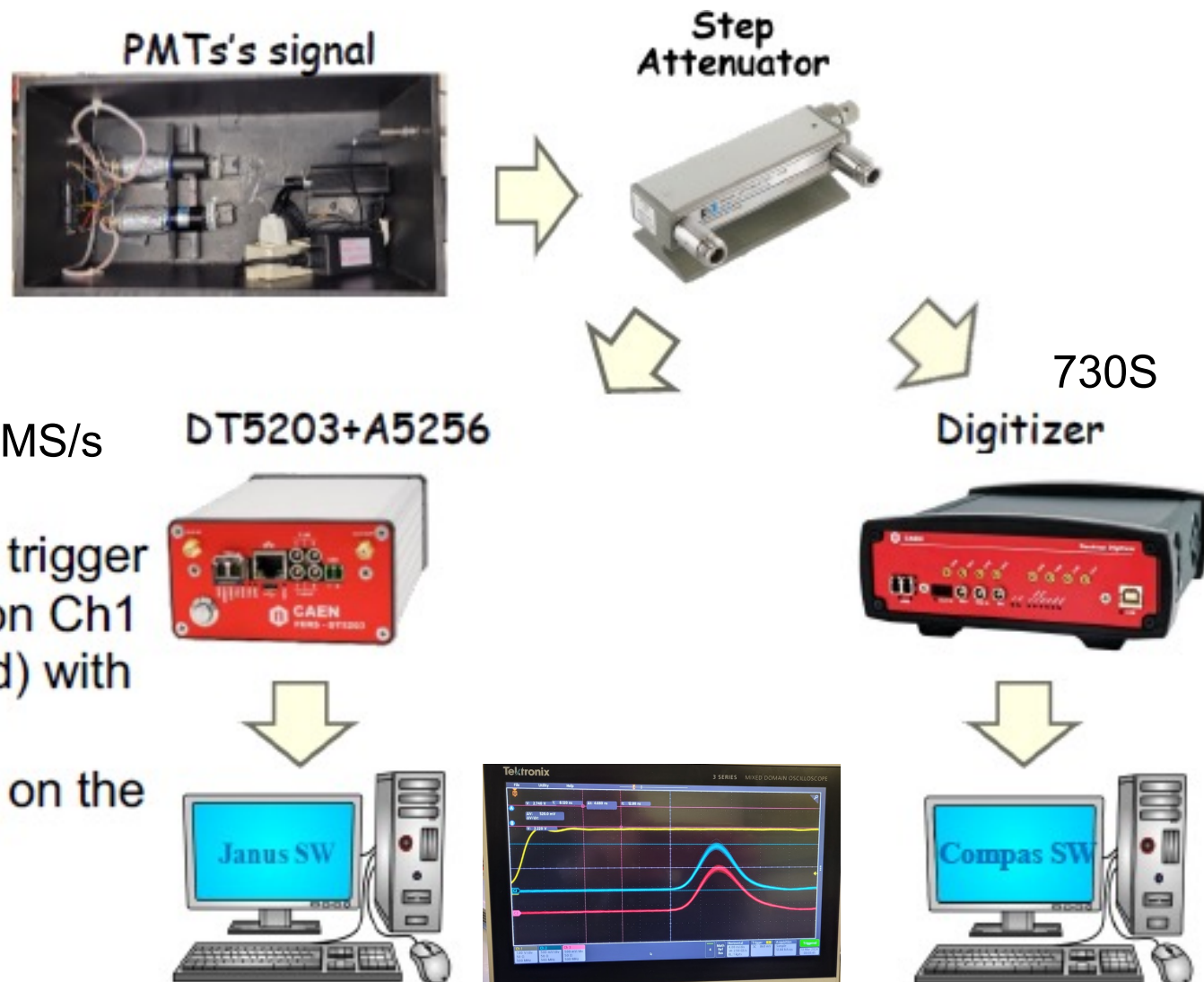
Amplitude Reconstruction (using ToT-Amp correction)



Amplitude resolution <1% at large values
(well below ECAL resol. $\sim 5.7\%/\sqrt{E}$ in the whole range)

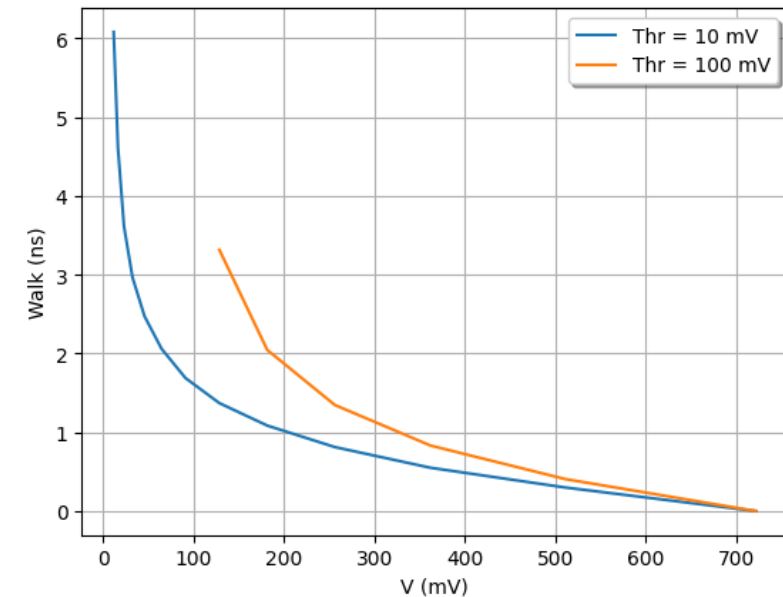
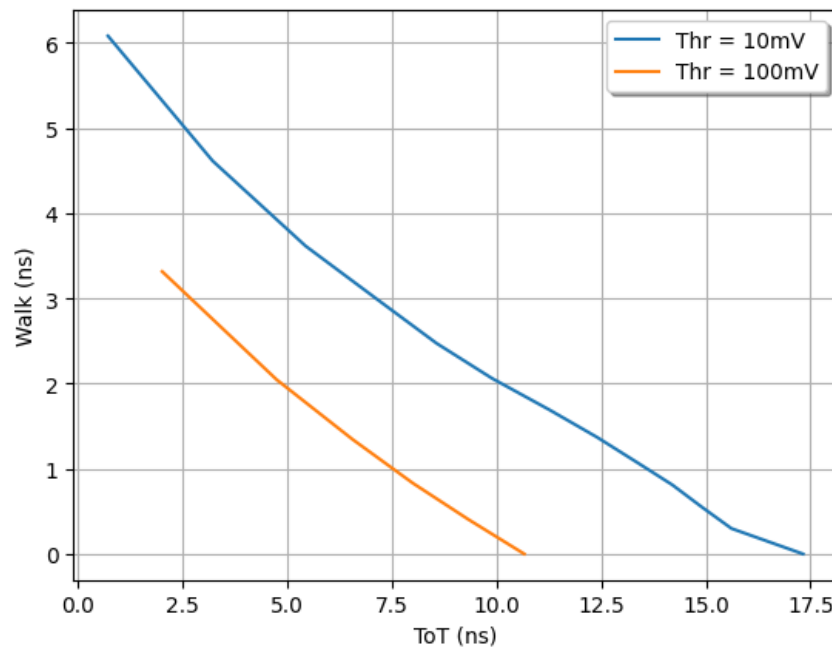
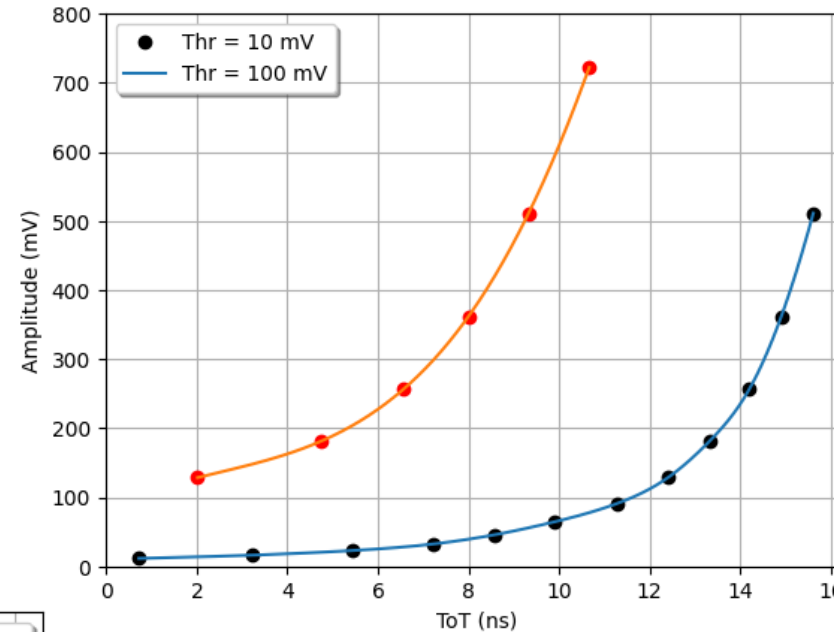
Test setup: 2.

- PMT WA5656
- PMT WA8792
- Signal splitted:
 - i. Pico TDC
 - ii. Digitizer 14 bit @ 500 MS/s
- Resolution comparison
- TDC: Start on Ch0 with trigger from LED Driver. Stop on Ch1 and Ch2 (dual threshold) with variable amplitude.
- Digitizer: autotriggering on the Ch0.

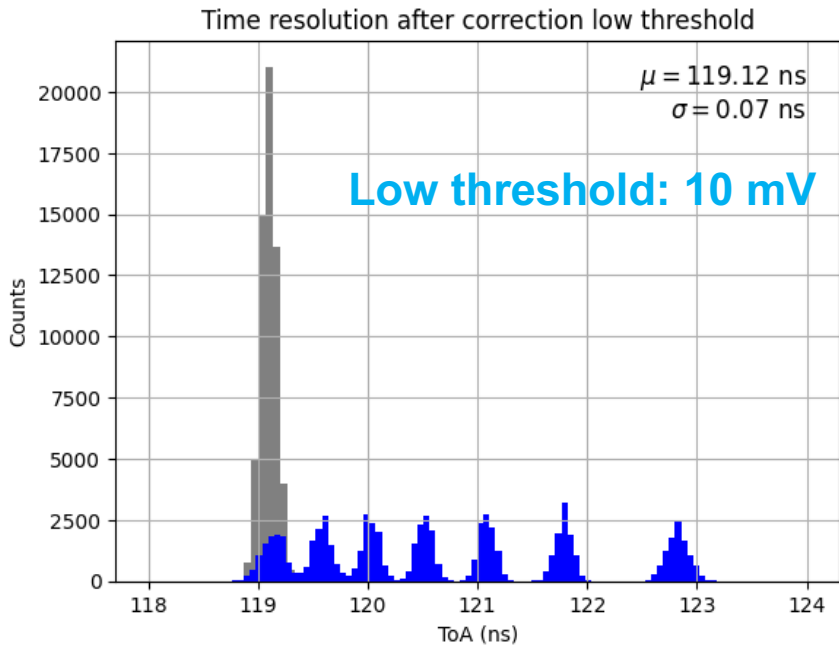


Calibration Curve:

- Acquire **ToT** and ΔT at different amplitudes (from 0 to 39 dB, 3 dB step)
- Low threshold: 10 mV
- High Threshold: 100mV

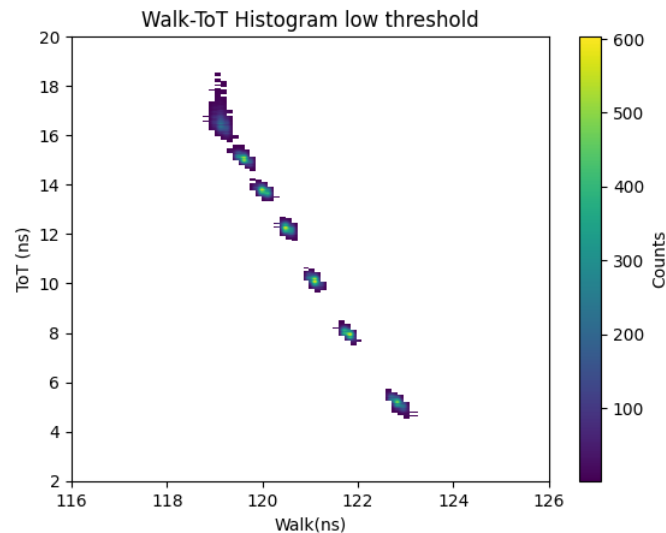


Time Reconstruction (using ToT-Walk correction)



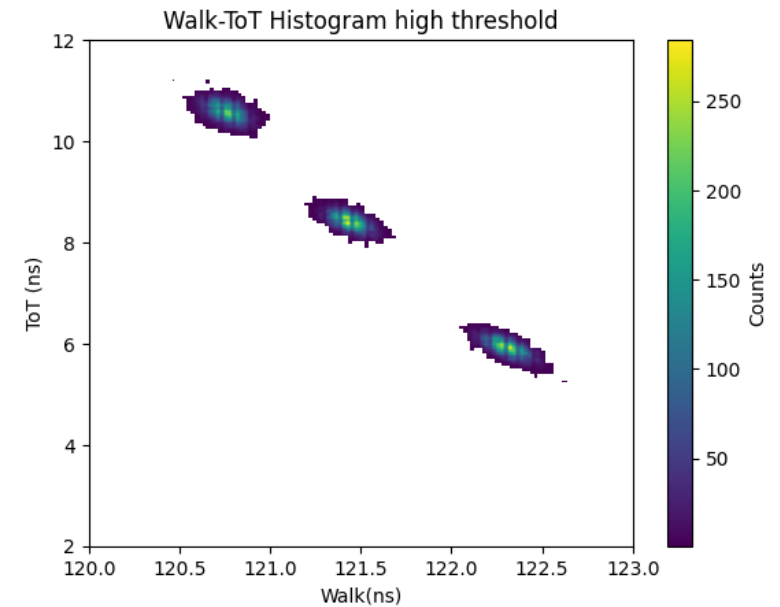
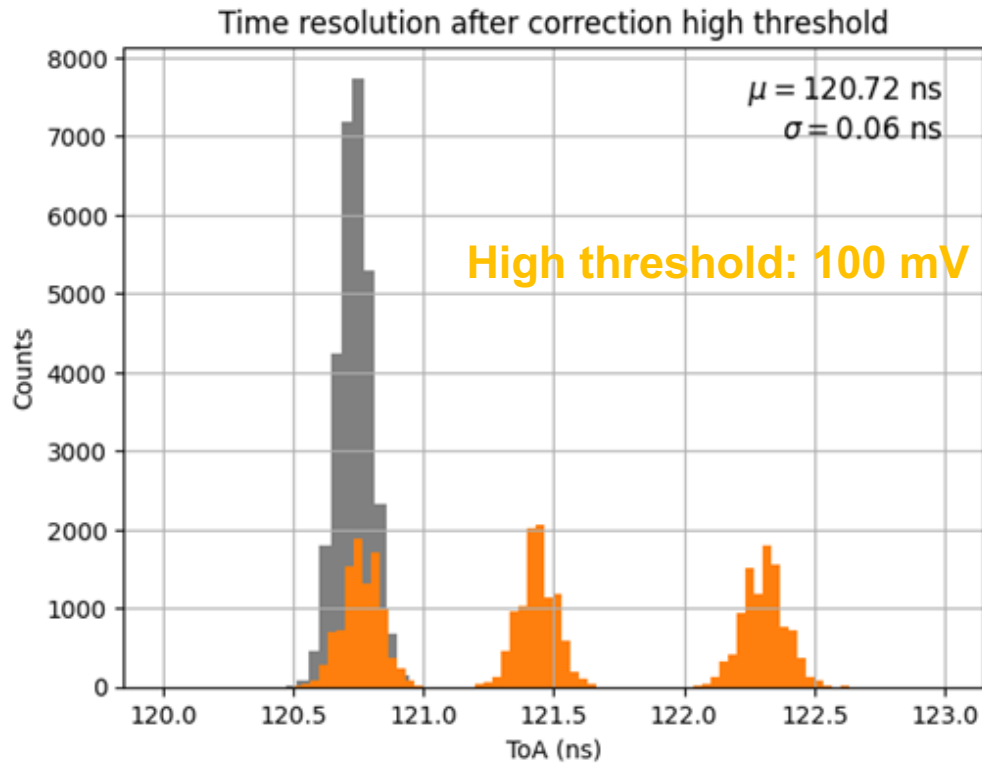
(peak at 119.1 ns at limit)

- Acquired pulses at 7 different amplitudes over a 40 dB dynamic range, the walk causes $\sim 3\text{-}4$ ns spread on ΔT : 7 separate peaks appear on the histogram. (sample independent from calibration sample)
- ΔT corrected by ToT using calibration data with a 5th order polynomial fit of the **ToT-Walk** points taken at the lower threshold (10 mV)
- Corrected ΔT histogram presents one single peak:
- **Time Resolution ~ 70 ps**



Walk (ns)	Sigma before (ps)	Sigma after (ps)
119.1	-	-
119.6	89	72
120.0	81	71
120.5	75	70
121.1	74	65
121.8	77	63
122.8	100	71

Time Reconstruction (using ToT-Walk correction)

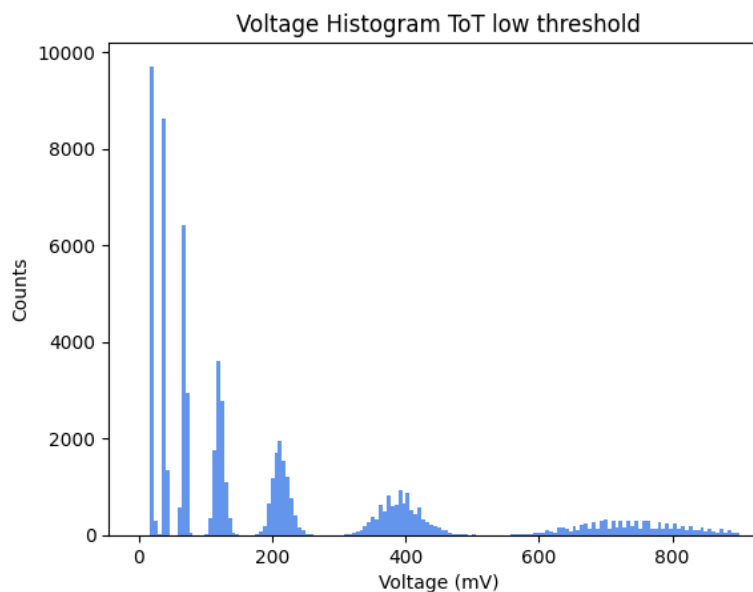
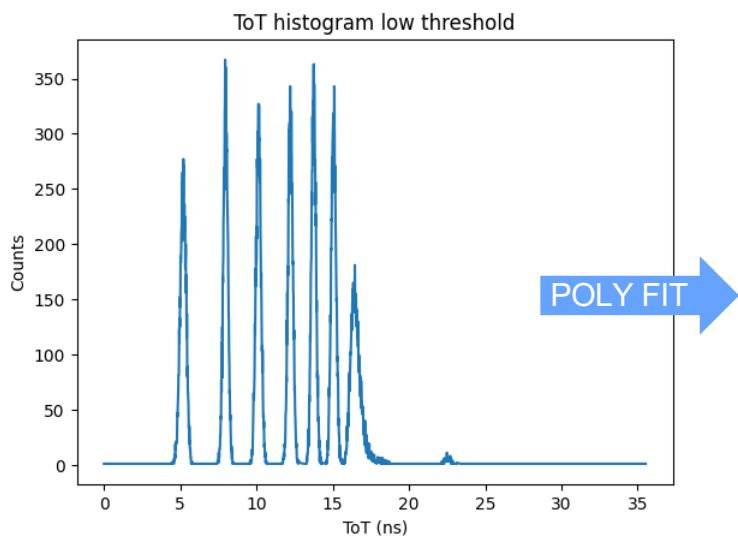


Time Resolution ~ 60 ps
 (ECAL resol. ~ $54\text{ps}/\sqrt{E} + 100 \text{ ps}$)

Walk (ns)	Sigma before (ps)	Sigma after (ps)
120.8	74	69
121.4	72	61
122.3	82	62

Amplitude Reconstruction (using ToT-Amp correction)

Low threshold: 10 mV

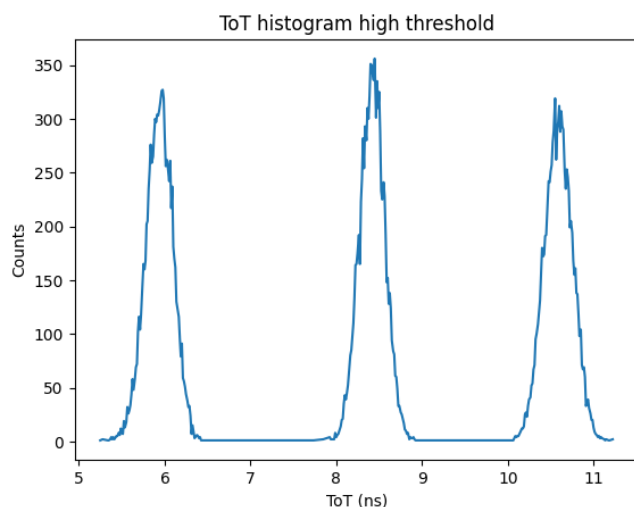


Amplitude (mV)	Sigma (%)
722.0	-
406.0	8.0
228.3	5.9
128.4	5.4
72.2	4.0
40.6	4.0
22.8	3.2

Amplitude resolution from 3 to 6 % in the low/medium range
 (well below ECAL resol. $\sim 5.7\%/\sqrt{E}$ in this range – see next slides)

Amplitude Reconstruction (using ToT-Amp correction)

High threshold: 100 mV



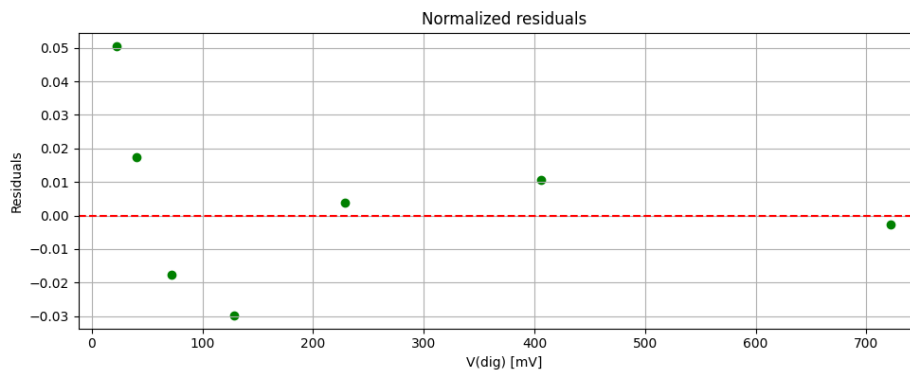
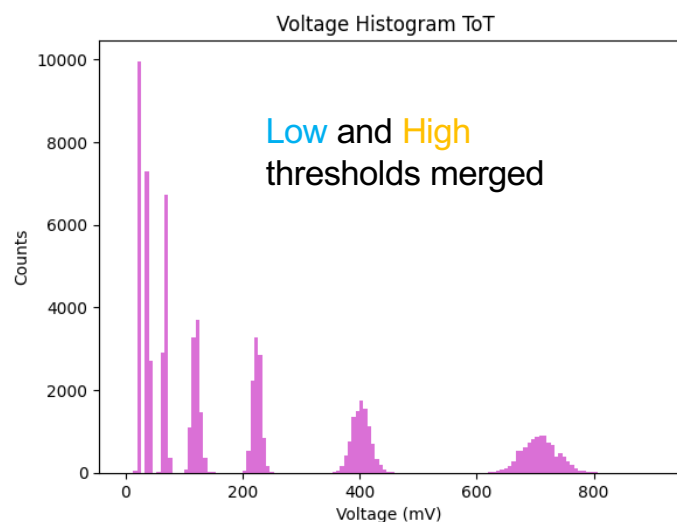
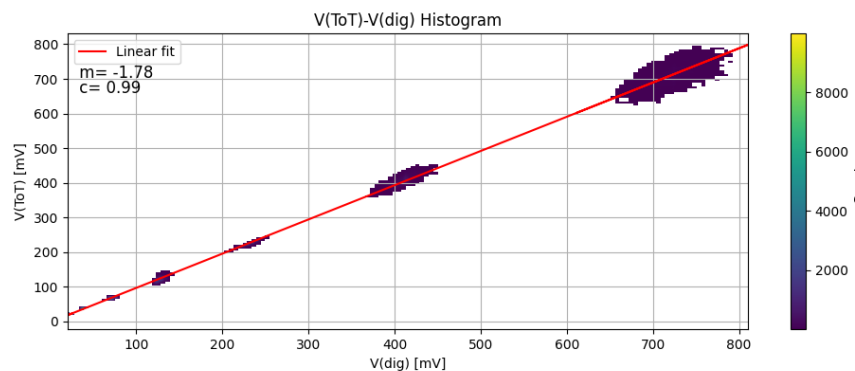
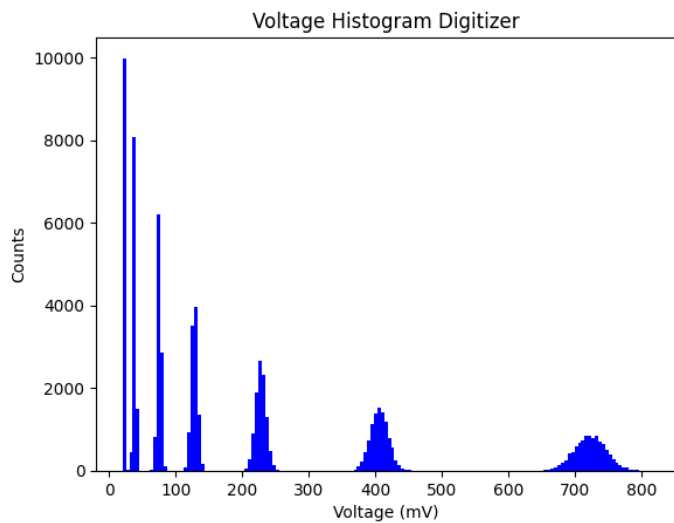
POLY FIT



Amplitude (mV)	sigma (%)
722.0	4.2
406.0	3.8
228.3	3.2

Amplitude resolution ~ 3-4 % in the higher range
(below ECAL resol. ~ $5.7\%/\sqrt{E}$ – see next slides)

Amplitude reconstruction: comparison with Digitizer



Amplitude (mV)	sigma digit. (%)	sigma ToT (%)	sigma Diff (%)
722.0	3.2	4.2	3.3
406.0	3.2	3.8	2.4
228.3	3.3	3.2	1.5
128.4	3.6	5.4	4.7
72.2	4.2	4.0	4.3
40.6	5.3	4.0	5.2
22.8	10.8	3.2	-

Pico TDC test II (CAEN+INFN)

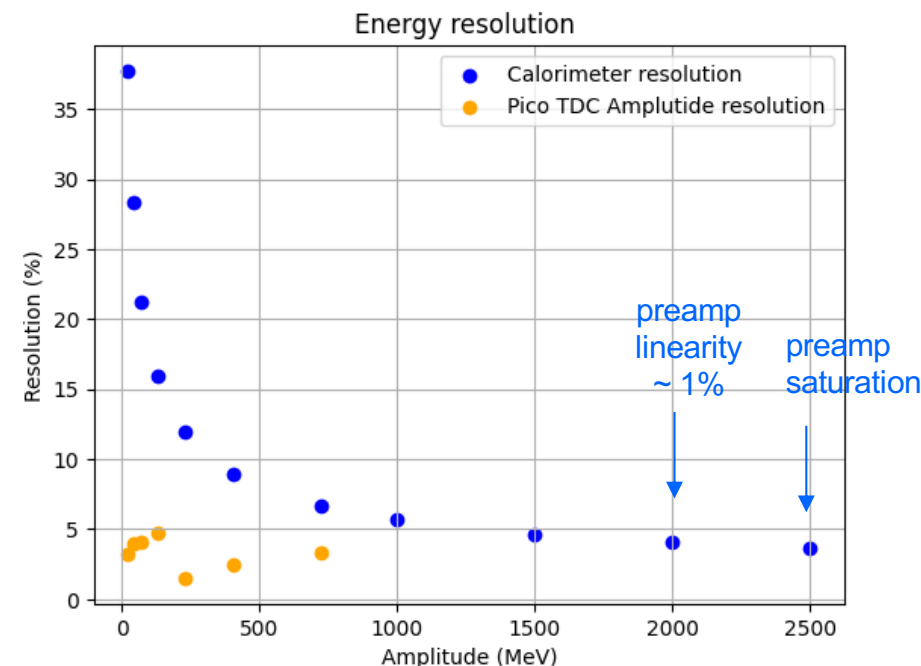
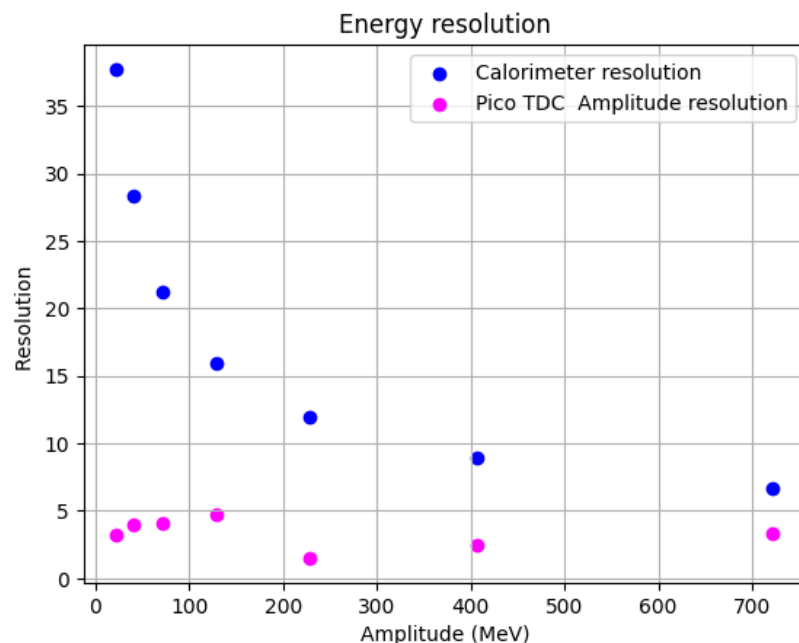
comparison with Ecal resolution

From previous studies on dynamic range:

- $V_{\text{dis(max)}} = V_{\text{preamp(max)}} \cdot 0.5 \cdot C_{\text{ATT}} = 2.0 \text{ V}$
- minimum discriminator threshold possible $V_{\text{TH}} = 2.5 \text{ mV}$

G_{PM} ($\times 10^5$)	G_{tot} ($\times 10^6$)	$N_{pe}(\text{max})$	signal amplitude (mV/pe)	$N_{pe}(\text{min})$ $V_{TH} = 2.5 \text{ mV}$	MeV (min) at module center
4.8	1.2	~ 2000	1.0	~ 3	3.0
6.4	1.6	~ 1500	1.3	~ 2	2.0
9.5	2.4	~ 1000	2.0	~ 1	1.0

Amplitude resolution obtained from ToT is compared with the intrinsic calorimeter resolution (assuming $1 \text{ mV} = 1 \text{ p.e.} = 1 \text{ MeV} \Rightarrow 1 \text{ V} = 1 \text{ GeV}$)



Choice of FEE for SAND/ECAL

Four possible solutions investigated with CAEN

Digitizer VX2730



$F_{\text{sampl}} \sim 500 \text{ MS/s} \Rightarrow \sim 3.5 \text{ Meuro}$

Digitizer VX2745B



$F_{\text{sampl}} \sim 125 \text{ MS/s}$
+ shaper 64 ch. $\Rightarrow \sim 1.6 \text{ Meuro}$

DT5203+A5256



PicoTDC + discr. double threshold with ToT $\Rightarrow \sim 790 \text{ keuro}$

A5204
RADIOROC with
picoTDC



PicoTDC + discr. single threshold with ToT (for all signals)
+ peak sensing ADC with slow shaper – dead time $20\mu\text{s}$
and good resolution (for rarer signals of large amplitude);
feasibility study in progress $\Rightarrow \sim 520 \text{ keuro}$

ECAL testing is being to start at LNF in a dedicated area

Studies for the optimization of the working point of the SAND calorimeter read-out electronics have been performed.

The dynamic range and pile-up of the signals have been studied with MC.

PMT preamplifiers have been tested for linearity and are well compatible with needed dynamic range and proposed FEE solutions, with the additional advantage of a lower gain and HV level, beneficial for PMTs lifetime.

The features of preamp saturation could be exploited to partially recover input signal information during saturation regime.

Possible solutions for the FEE that could constitute a good compromise between cost and performance are being investigated in collaboration with CAEN.

In general, any solution must be integrated in the SAND DAQ scheme, with possible synergies with other detector electronics.

PicoTDC tests:

- The time resolution with the signal generator is 18 ps, while for the PMTs signal is 60/70 ps on a 39 dB dynamic range;
- Amplitude resolution from ToT with two thresholds is ~3-5 % in the range 20-700 mV (with no specific threshold optimization)
- In this range the resolution from ToT is well below the intrinsic calorimeter resolution $\sigma/E=5.7\%/\sqrt{E}$
- Next steps:
 1. Optimization of the thresholds for the best performance in the whole expected dynamic range (2.5-2000 mV) and in the preamp saturation regime.
 2. Improve simulation of the PMT signal and FEE electronics in the official SAND MC simulation; implementation of Walk-ToT correction, ToT amplitude reconstruction, preamp saturation etc..
 3. Test of PicoTDC and ToT with KLOE modules at test stand in Frascati.
 4. Other solutions based on PicoTDC + amplitude meas. (RADIOROC chip) are being investigated in collaboration with CAEN and appear very promising.