

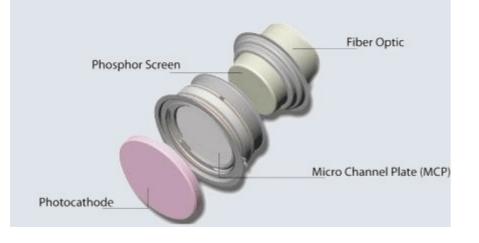
Status & Perspectives of Large-Size MCPs

Bob Wagner for the Argonne MCP Photodetector Group

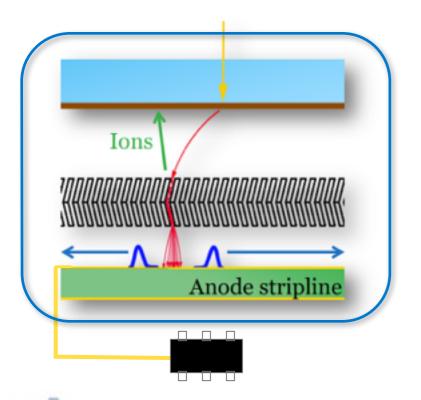
4th Conference on Micro-Pattern Gas Detectors Trieste 13 October 2015



Microchannel Plates (MCPs): Electron Multiplication for Diverse Applications



Typical pore size 6-40µm



- Largest market
 - Night vision
 - Image intensification
- Particle & Nuclear Physics Applications
 - Precision timing
 - · Fine spatial resolution imaging
 - Bare use of MCPs for accelerator beam positioning, mass spec., electron microscopy
- Advantages
 - High gain, single photon/photoelectron sensitivity
 - Compact structure, ability to pack for dense coverage
 - Position resolution; pore-size limit for anode geometry
 - Good magnetic field performance
- Like anything else, not all advantage
 - High cost
 - Fragile, high physisorption (can cause fracture)
 - Limited size areas

Bob Wagner, Argonne, MPGD-2015, Trieste, 13 Oct 2015

Large Area Picosecond Photodetector Collaboration

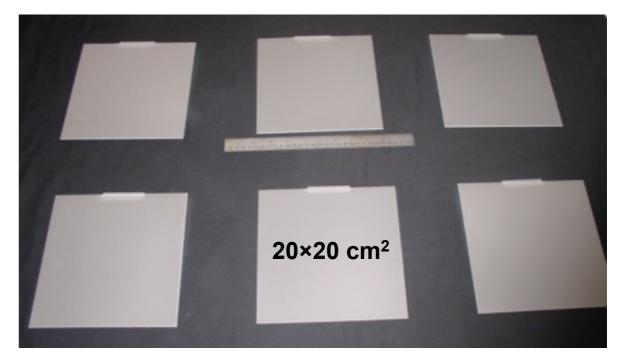
Focus of Development: Address limitations of commercial MCPs

- Eliminate constraints of common material (lead glass) for substrate, resistive and emission layers
- Transformation in size
- Reduce production cost
- Incorporate improved MCP into large area photodetector

Microchannel Plates:

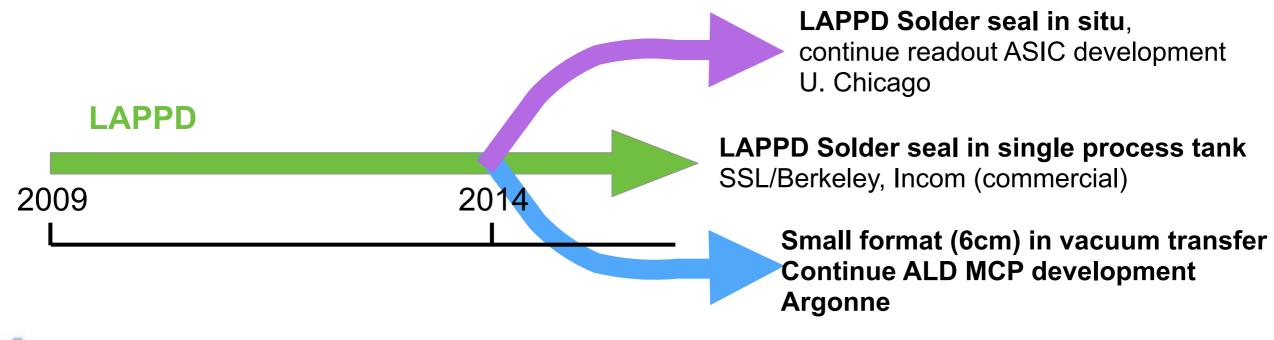
- Block fabrication using hollow core drawn capillary tubes
- Use lower cost borosilicate glass: ~80x10⁶ 20µm pores in 20cm×20cm capillary array
- Separate resistive & secondary emissive functions into 2 materials via Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) coating
- Photocathodes: Develop planar, large-area photocathodes with good quantum efficiency
- Electronics: Waveform sampling 10GSa/s, high bandwidth ASIC for best time resolution
- Hermetic Package: (Has proved to be most challenging part)
 - Standard ceramic package w/InBi hot seal & HV/signal pins feedthrough SSL/UC-Berkeley
 - Less expensive borosilicate all-glass package, pressure In seal, pinless Argonne/UChicago

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Large Area Picosecond Photodetector Collaboration

- Project initiated in 2009
- Success with high gain, uniform ALD MCPs; PSEC-4 waveform sampling ASIC; 25% QE large area photocathodes
- Hermetic package seal was much harder than anticipated
 - ★ Large area Indium alloy solder seal still in development and qualification
 - Thermopressure indium seal is mature process and in production at Argonne in small format devices
- Applications for precision time-of-flight, optical TPC, Cherenkov imaging particle ID Also interest from medical imaging, nuclear security
- Since 2014 Groups have continued development along separate technology paths



Outline for Remainder of Presentation

- Development of Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) functionalized MCPs
- Status of Large Area (20cm x 20cm) Picosecond Photodetectors (LAPPD)
 - New developments since similar talk at CERN MPGD Workshop June, 2015
- Development of Argonne Small Format 6cm x 6cm MCP-PMT Processing System
 - New results from Independently Biased Design production
- Future Plans

Atomic Layer Deposition MCPs

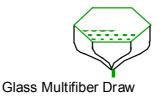
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Commercial Microchannel Plate Fabrication

Glass is gravity-fed via cylindrical furnace

Glass is typically lead glass tube with solid soft glass core





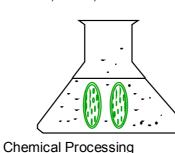


Billet Fabrication

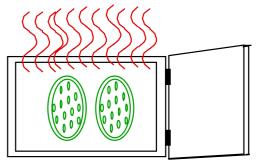


Billet Slice, Grind, Polish

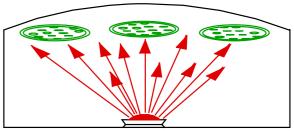
Chemical processing to remove soft core glass



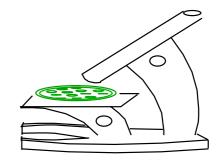
Graphic Credit: B. Laprade & R. Starcher, Burle (2001)



Hydrogen Reduction



Electrode Evaporation



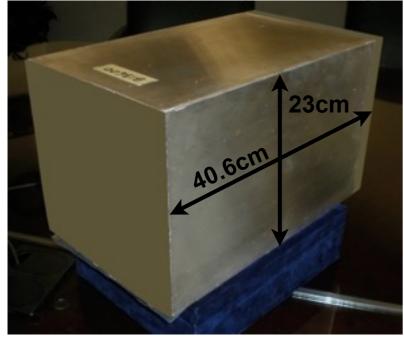
Final Test & Inspection

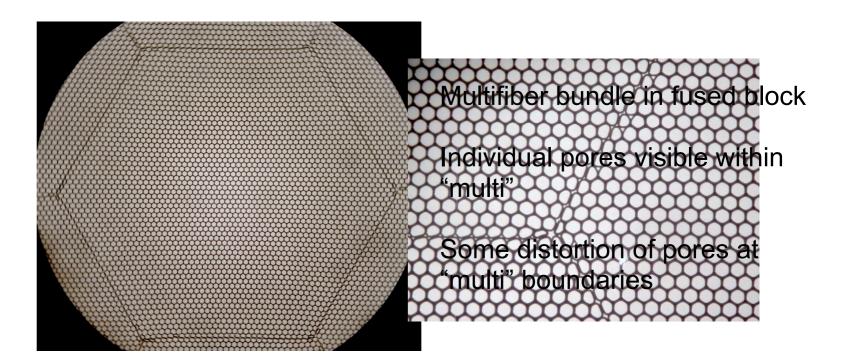
Before sealing in tube, plate must be subjected to prolonged exposure to electrons at low voltage to outgas H₂ and other material

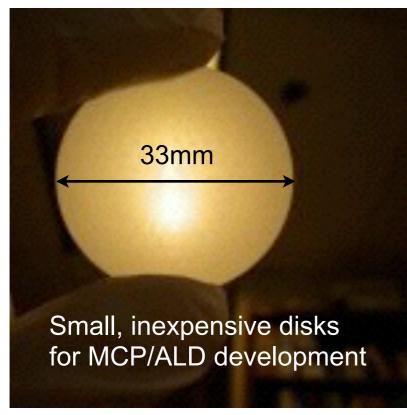


Development of Economical Borosilicate Capillary Arrays for MCPs – Industrial Partnership w/Incom, Oc

Fused block ready for slicing



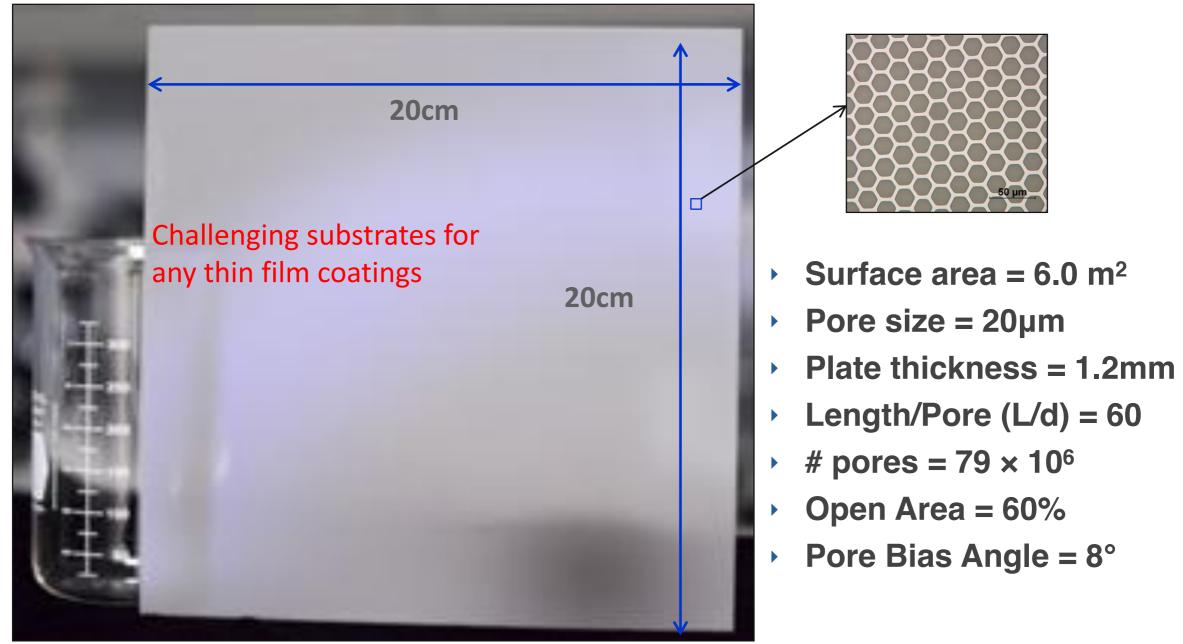




GCA Property	Value
Plate Area	203x203 mm ²
L/D, Thickness	60:1, 1.2mm
Pore Pitch	25µm
Pore Size	20µm
Bias Angle	8° ± 1°
Open Area ratio	> 60%
Material	Borofloat 33

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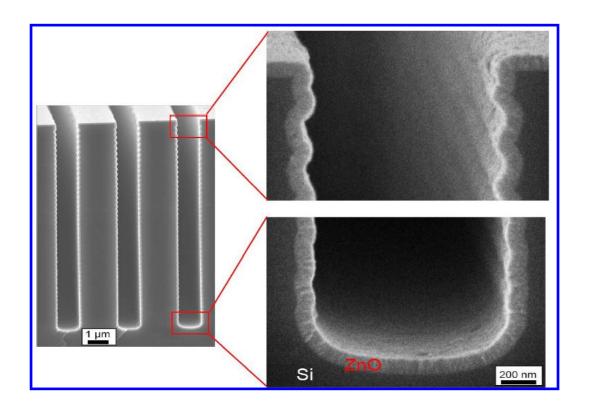
Glass Capillary Arrays for MCP Substrates

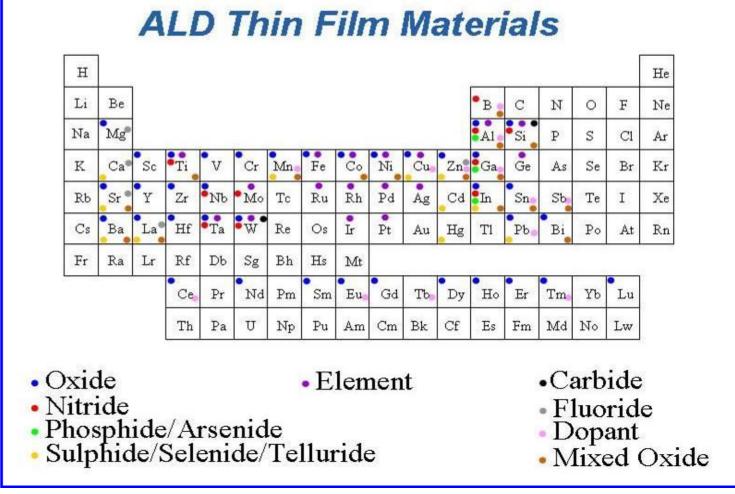


Produced by Incom, Inc

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Pore Activation via Atomic Layer Deposition

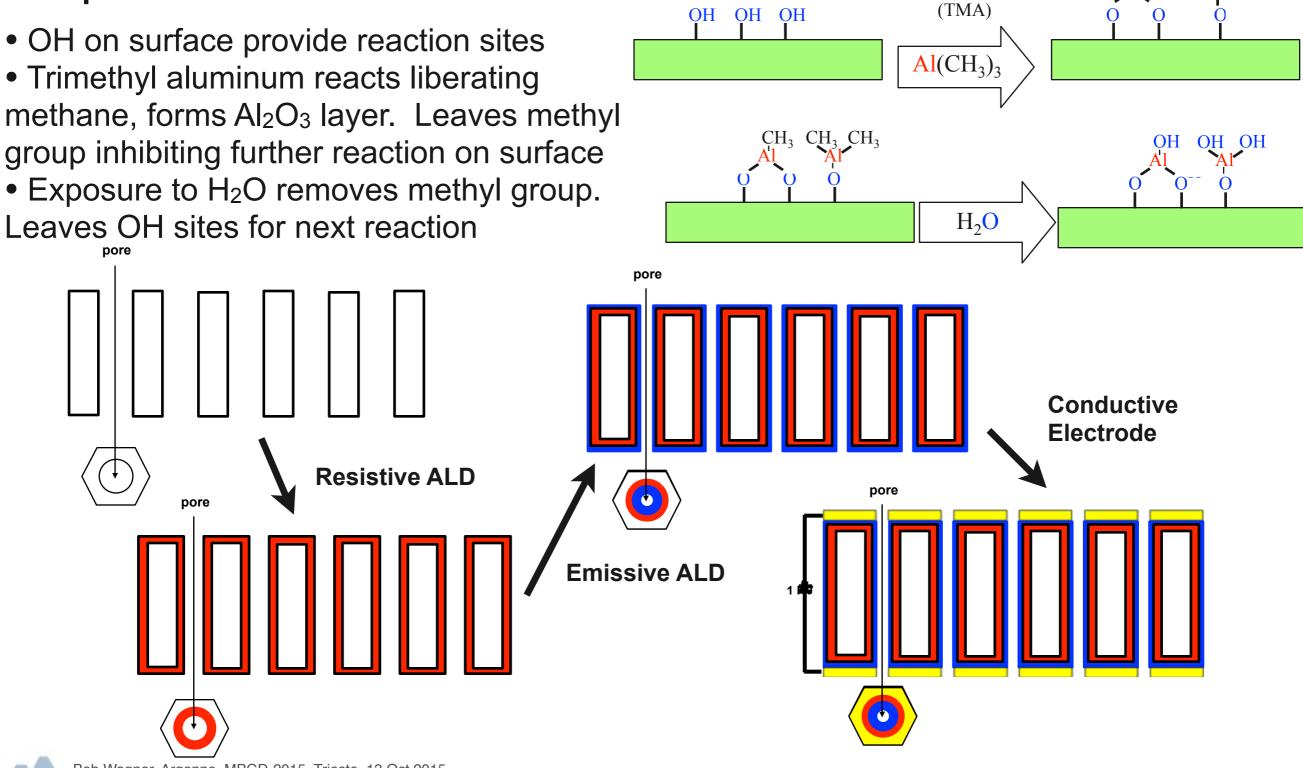




- Conformal, self-limiting process
- Molecular mono-layer thickness control
- Large variety of applicable materials

Pore Activation via Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD)

Example:

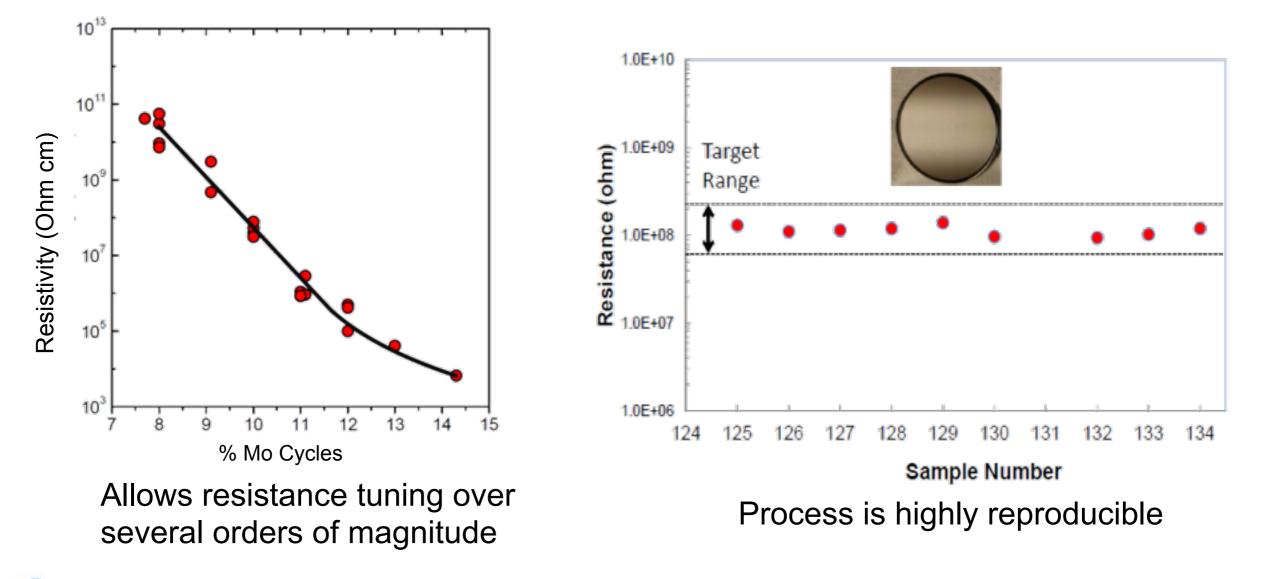


CH₃ CH₃

Trimethyl Aluminum

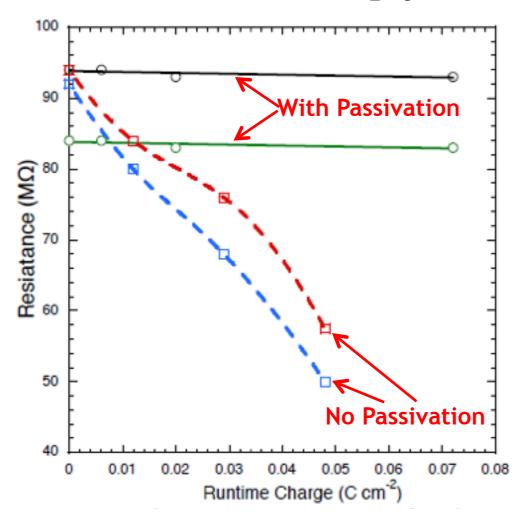
ALD of Metal-Al₂O₃ Composite Films for Resistivity

- Combination of 2 ALD Processes:
 - Trimethyl Aluminum (TMA)/H₂O \rightarrow Al₂O₃ : insulator $\rho \sim 10^{16} \Omega$ -cm
 - Metal-F₆/Si₂H₆ \rightarrow Metal = Mo, W : conductors $\rho \sim 10^{-4} \Omega$ -cm

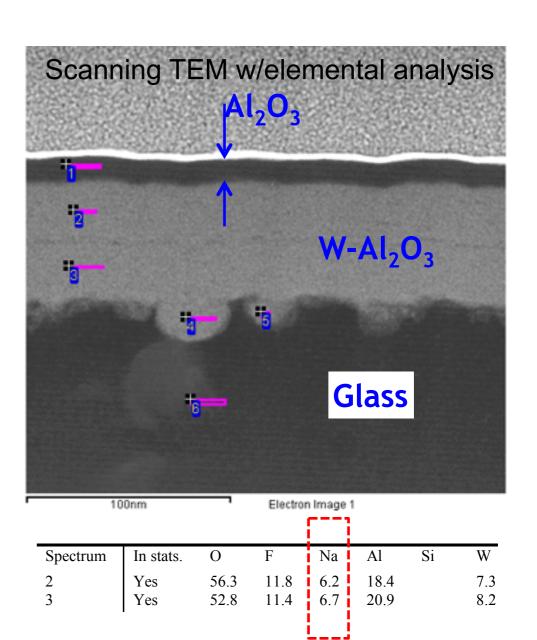


Resistance Change Prevention with Passivation Layer

Resistance Stability During Scrub for 33mm, Chem1 + Al_2O_3 SEE

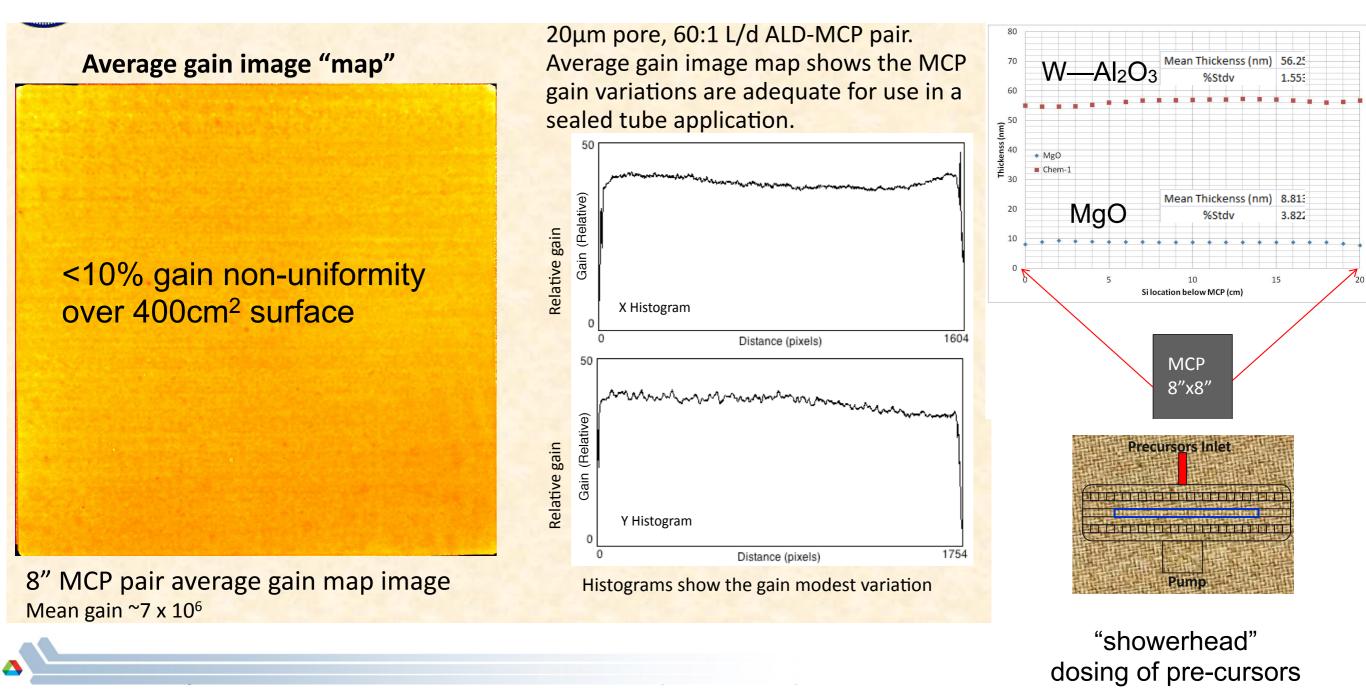


- 100nm ALD Al₂O₃ passivation layer stabilizes MCP resistance
- Further work shows 10-20nm layer is sufficient for stability



Possible cause of change is Na diffusion into resistive coating w/o passivation layer

MCP Gain Uniformity



technique

20cm x 20cm MCP pair with MgO Secondary Emission Layer

Plot courtesy of Ossy Siegmund, SSL

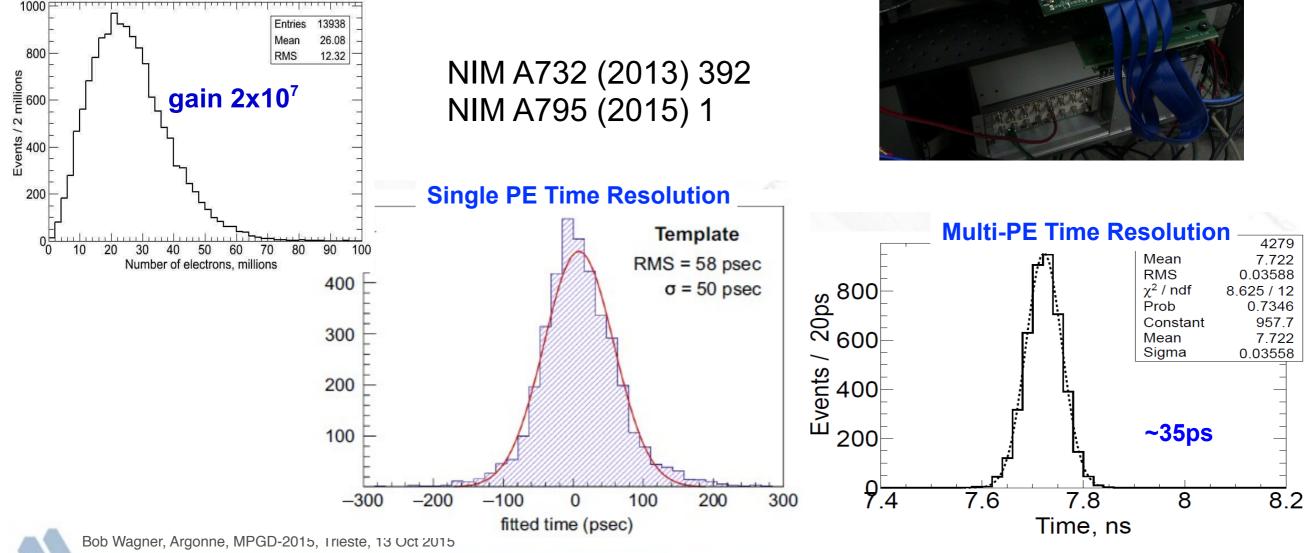
Progress on LAPPDs Devices

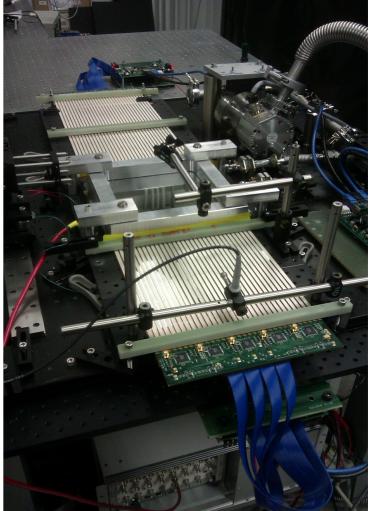
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LAPPD "Demountable" Prototype

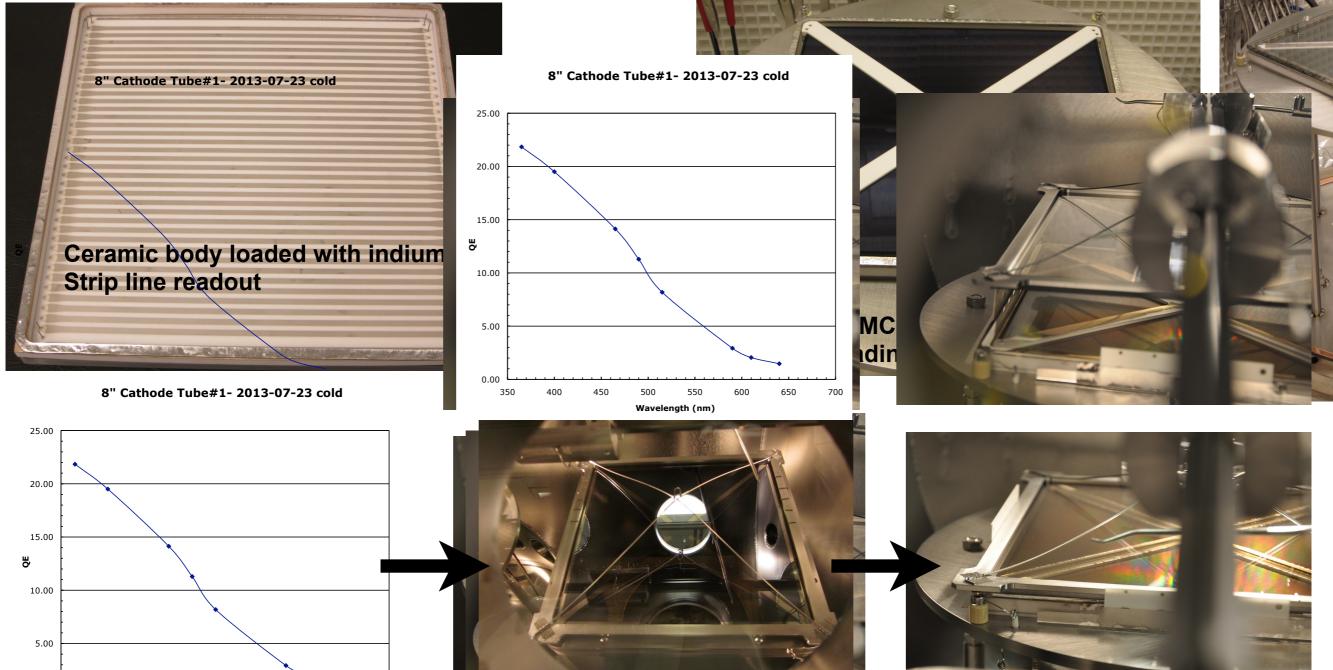
First working LAPPD MCP Detector

- Operated starting May, 2012 through early 2015
- Aluminum photocathode
 - Detector sealed in air, so no alkalis
 - poor QE but produced photoelectrons with UV laser
- O-ring sealed and continuously pumped



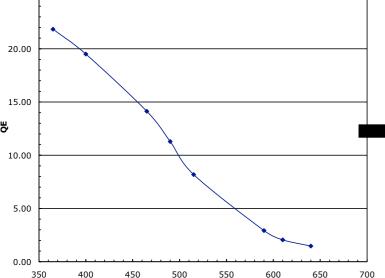


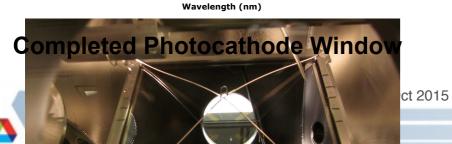
Space Sciences Lab/Berkeley Ceramic Tube #1 Assembly - 20cm x 20cm, 20µm pores

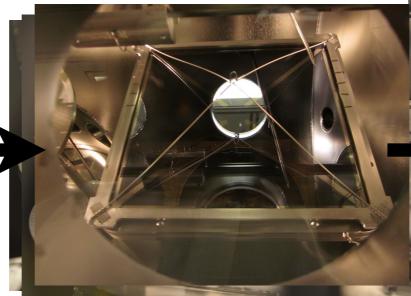


Completed Sealed Tube August, 2013

Photos Courtesy Ossy Siegmund & Jason McPhate, SSL









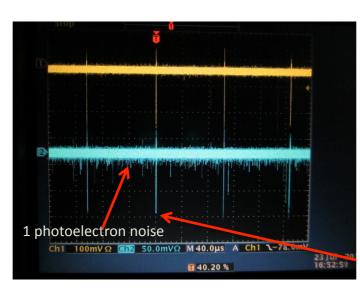
SSL/Berkeley C



Anode delay line start/stop pulses

Characterization in process tank showed good performance

Unfortunately, tube failed to seal completely and was lost upon bringing out to air



M 10.0ns A Ch1 1 - 100m

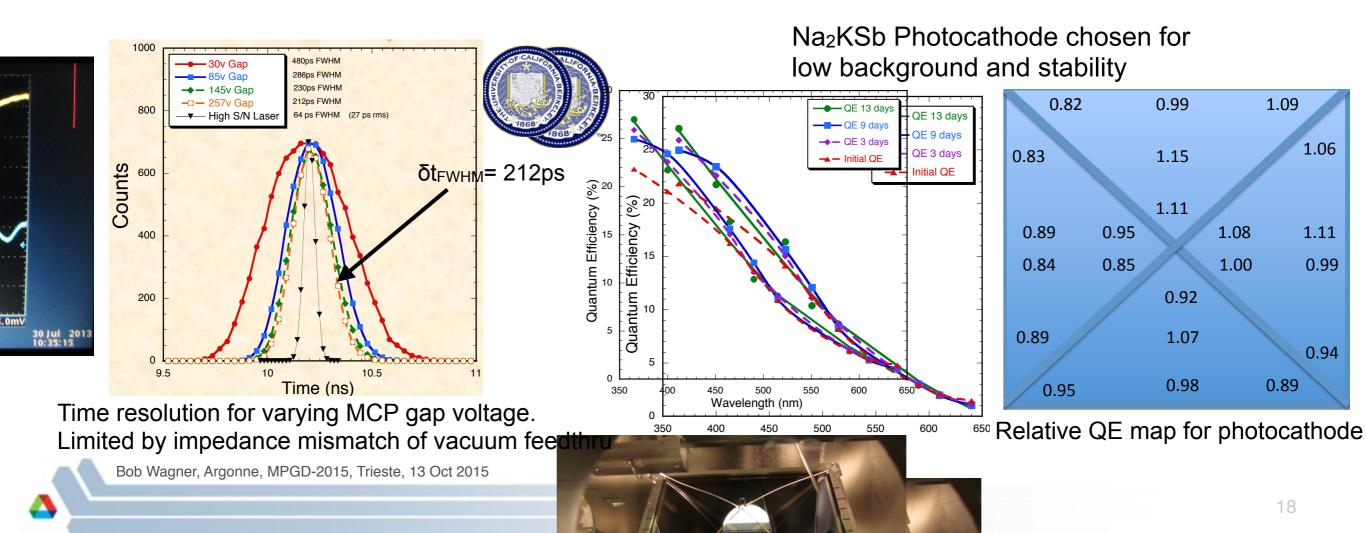
23 Jul 14:31:

> Laser spot pulses for ~10 photoelectron pulses (100ps laser)

cont)

10kHz laser rep rate for ~10 photoelectron pulses (100ps laser)

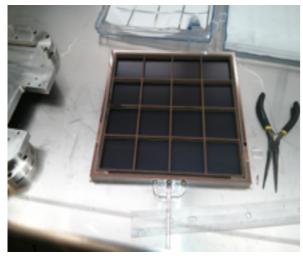


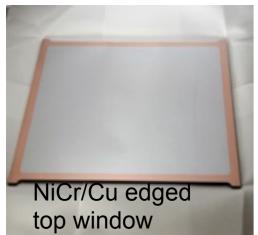


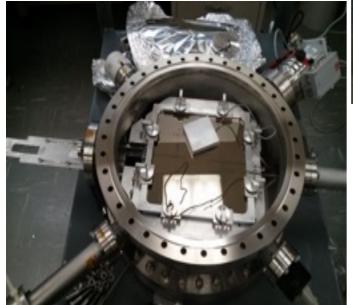
Recent Developments 20cm x 20cm Ceramic & Glass Body Detectors

- Ceramic Body Tube #2 at SSL processed in July, 2015
 - Also showed a leak with process tank back-filled with nitrogen
 - Re-pumping restored photocathode and tube operation but can't bring to air
 - Further ceramic body work suspended
- SSL will produce glass body detectors in collaboration with NGA & Incom, Inc.
 - Glass bodies, top windows, and internal "hold-downs" provided by Incom, Inc.
 - First qualification of design planned for Incom commercial production
 - Targeting 2 detectors by end of January, 2016
- Incom is completing installation of final piece of equipment for producing commercial 20cm x 20cm Glass-Body MCP Photodetector (LAPPD) in Massachusetts
 - Functionalized MCPs can be ordered
 - ALD reactor is being commissioned and will operate soon
 - Process tank in place
 - Targeting first tube fabrication by end of 2015

In Situ MCP Photodetector Assembly at U. Chicago







20cm x 20cm tile with pump port



Assembled detector in vacuum bakeout chamber **Goal:** Avoid vacuum transfer process with PMT-style photocathode fabrication by introducing alkali's externally through glass tube

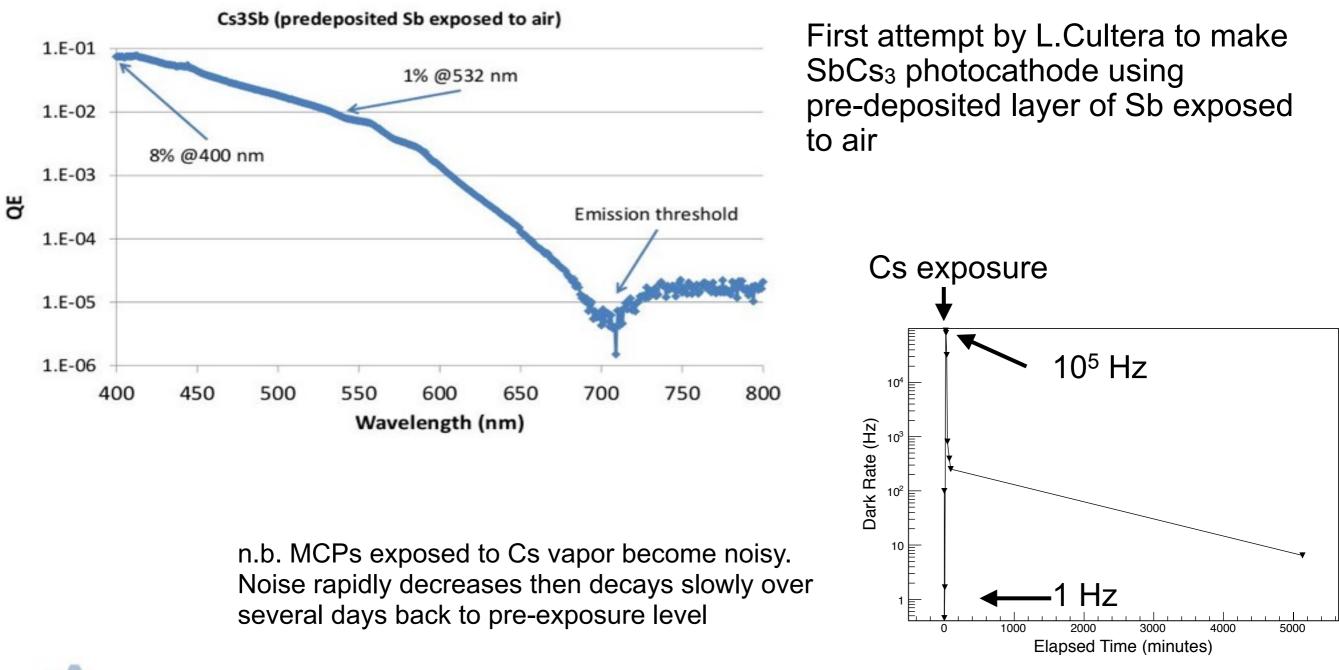
Process:

- 1. Deposit Sb on top window (air stable, thin oxide layer forms on surface)
- 2. Hermetic indium seal on metallizations on window and glass-body sidewall
- 3. Bake for outgassing MCPs at high T
- Activate photocathode by evaporation of Cs/K through glass tube on detector body
- 5. Flame seal glass tube to complete detector
- Light weight processing chamber
- Potential for high yield production using multiple chambers

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In Situ LAPPD Assembly at U. Chicago Critical Component #2: In Situ Photocathode Fabrication

Working closely with Cornell group (Luca Cultera and Ivan Bazarov) to optimize photocathode activation step



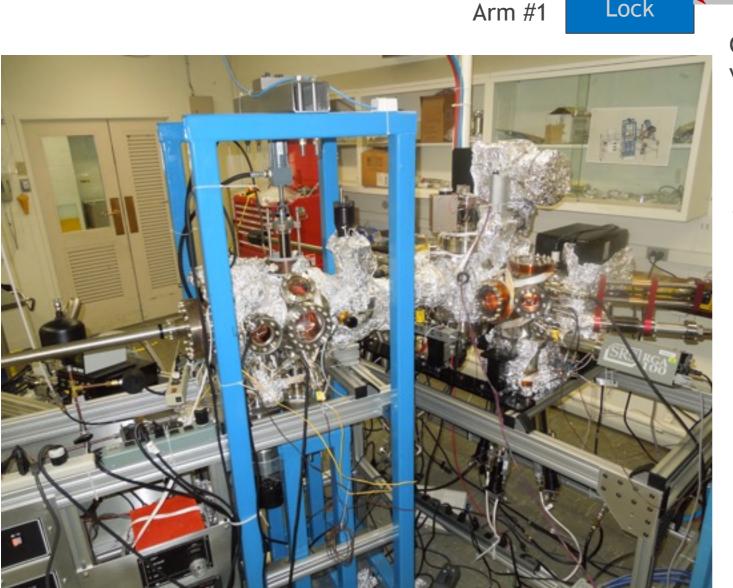
Argonne 6cm x 6cm MCP Photodetector Production

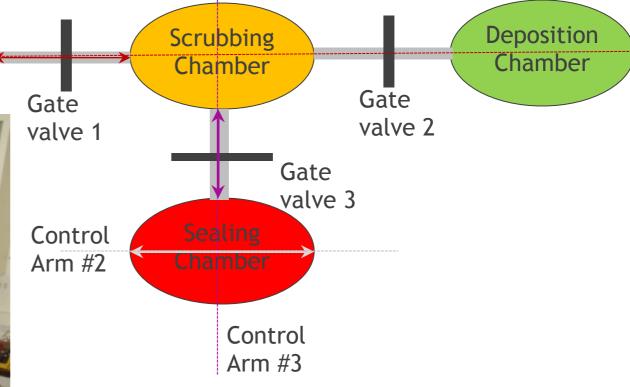
Argonne Small Single Tube Processing System (SmSTPS)

Load

Lock

Control

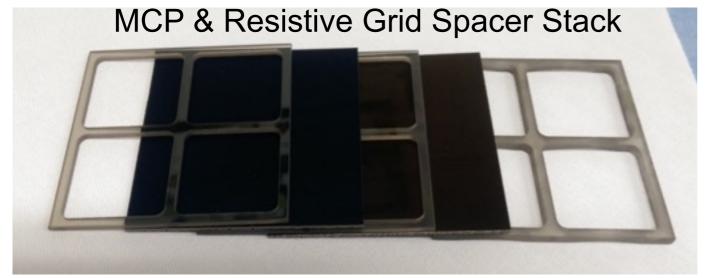


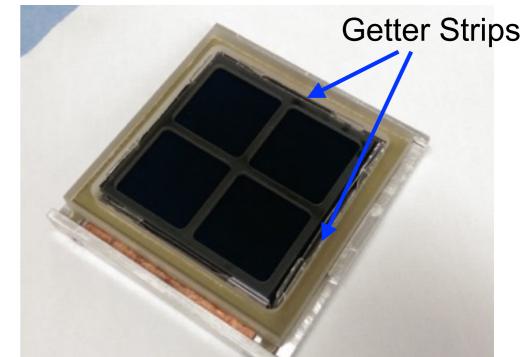


- Based on techniques developed for LAPPD Collaboration
- Unique features
 - Local heating w/ halogen lamps
 - Each process step has dedicated chamber
 - Photocathode evaporative deposition using effusion cells

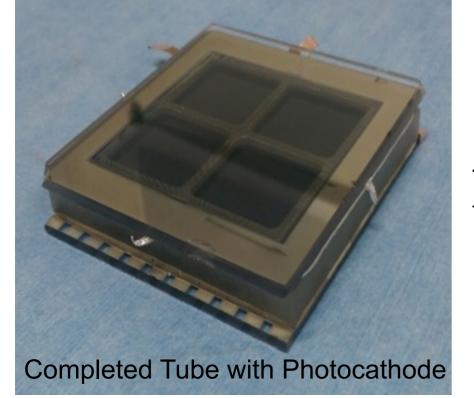
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6cm x 6cm Active Area MCP Photodetector Composition



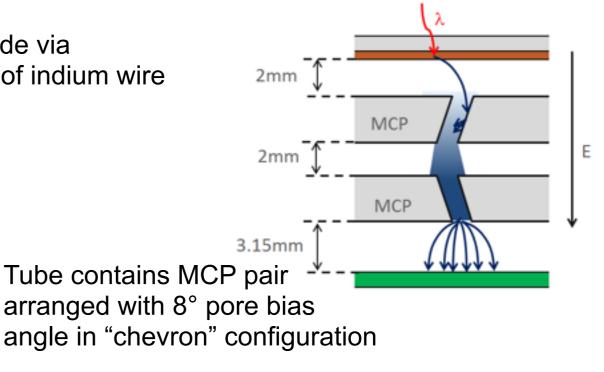


Stack in Glass Lower Tube Assembly



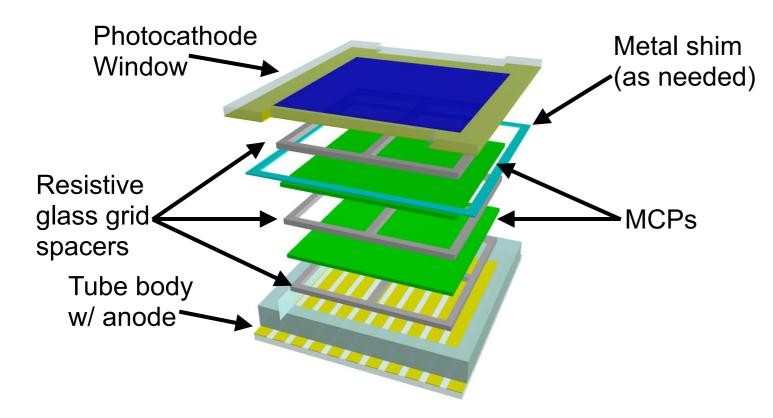
Double-ended readout via 7 or 9 anode strip lines

Top window seal made via thermocompression of indium wire

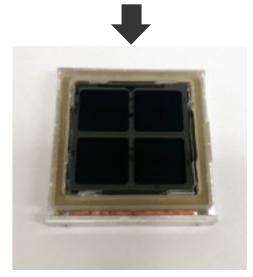


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Tube Processing

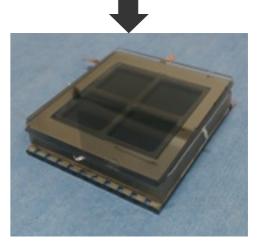




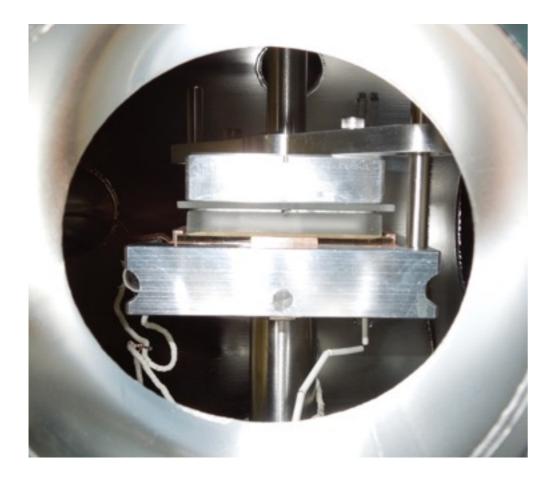


Detector tiles are processed in the 6cm system following these major steps

- Clean parts to UHV standards; MCP's cleaned & baked prior to functionalization
- Bake tube body & MCP "stack" in vacuum; scrub MCPs (3-4 days)
- Tube → air. Insert getter strips → back to Scrub Chamber (<20 minutes)
- Scrub MCP's with electron gun (1 day)
- low temperature bake for outgas; activate getters (2-3 days)
- Load & bake top window in Deposition Chamber, photocathode deposition (2 days)
- Press indium wire between window and tube body for detector sealing (1 day)
- Finished detector in Sealing Chamber → air
- Total processing time ~ 2 weeks/tube

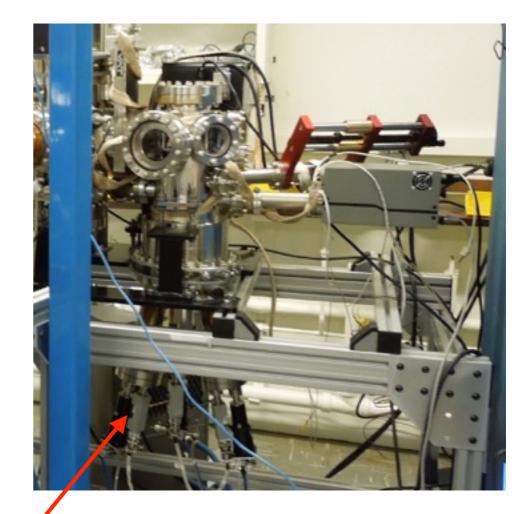


Details on Photocathode & Sealing



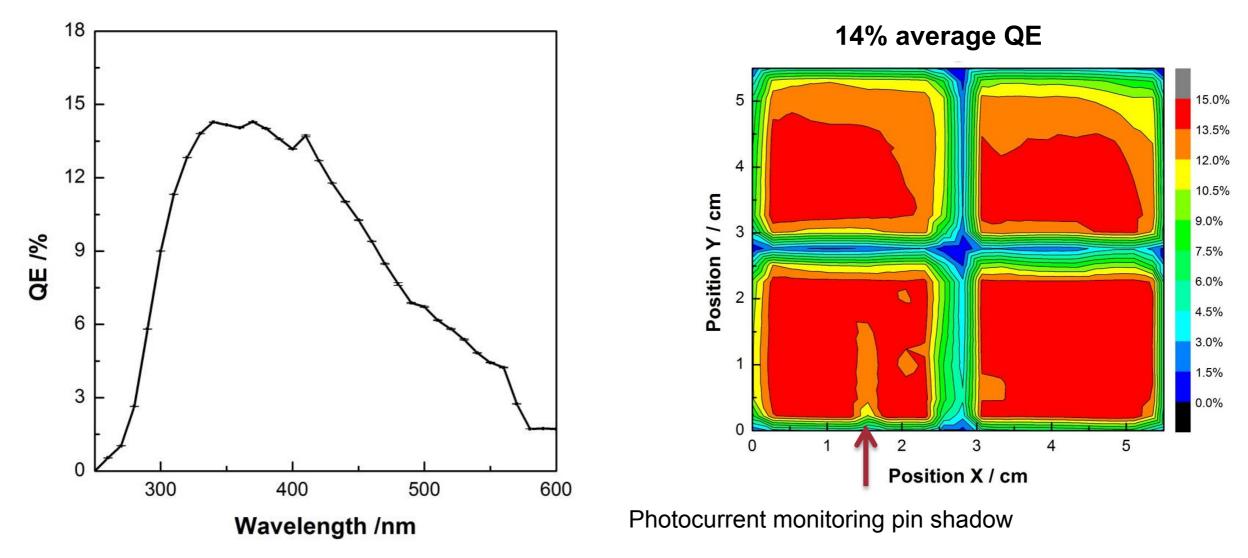
- Sealing uses hydraulic driven platens to crush indium wire between top window & sidewall
- Heaters used to raise glass to ~80°C to improve seal quality

- Monitor photocathode with
 - Quartz crystal µ-balance (QCM)
 - Photocurrent response during growth
- QE Uniformity ~ ±15%; improving



Sb, K, Cs effusion cells

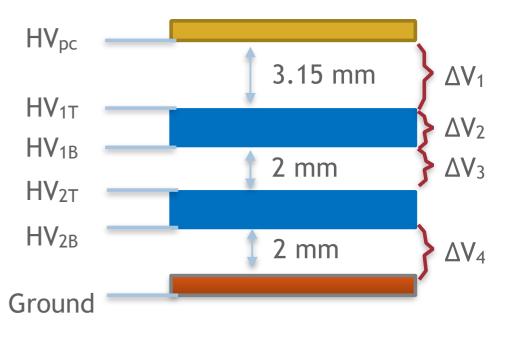
Photocathode Quantum Efficiency & Uniformity



- Quantum Efficiency of recent tube (#47)
- Improvements made in deposition process after this fabrication Believe we can soon achieve ~20%
- Effusion cells refilled last week; chamber cleaned and in bakeout now

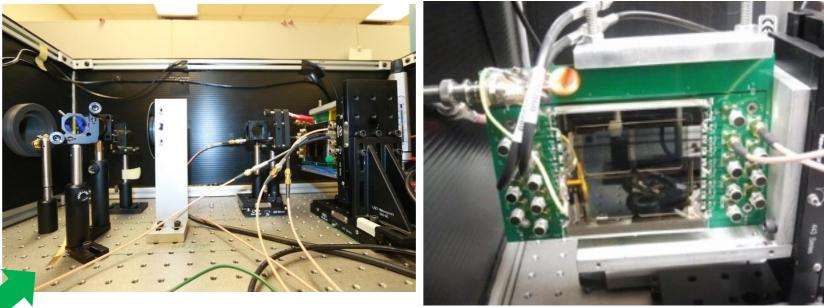
Recent Results on Small Format MCP from Argonne

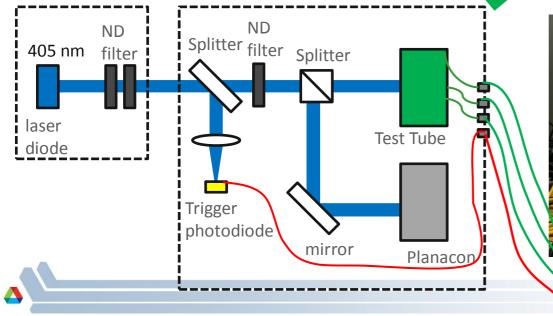
- Produced 6 functional tubes with internal resistance biasing chain
 - 3 have worked for over 1 year
 - Internal resistance limits performance
 - Need fine matching between component resistances
 - No direct QE measurement in sealed tube
 - Can't optimize each stage
- Have qualified Independently Biased Design (IBD-1) and producing tubes
 - 5 working tubes; process yield > 80%
 - first tube out during MPGD Workshop at CERN, June 2015
 - 6th tube MCP resistance degraded during processing
 - On track for 10 functional tubes by year end
 - Will release first tubes to outside users in near future (few weeks)
 - Can now optimize performance of each stage
 - Next improvement: adjust gap spacings

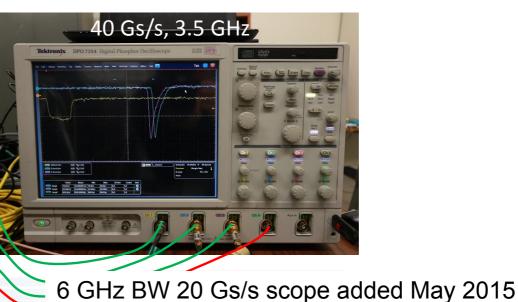


Tube Testing at Argonne HEP Laser Test Facility

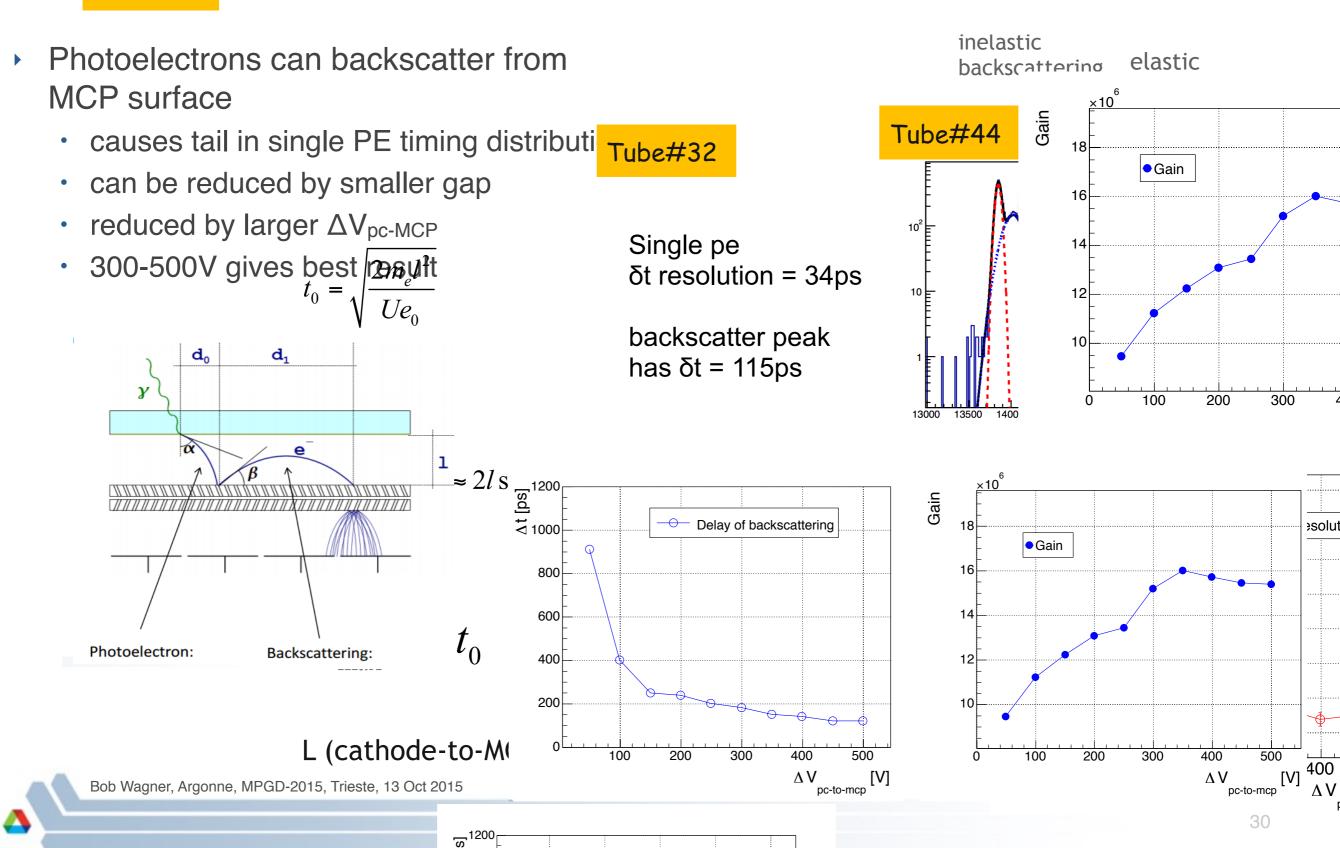
- Wavelength: 405nm
- Pulse Duration: FWHM 70ps (σ=30ps)
- Frequency: 2Hz 10MHz
- Beam size: 1-2mm
- Start signal: Photodiode (<3ps) Laser pulse (~7ps)
- Readout: 20S/s Oscilloscope
- Translation Stage: µm precision
- Analysis: Waveform samples offline





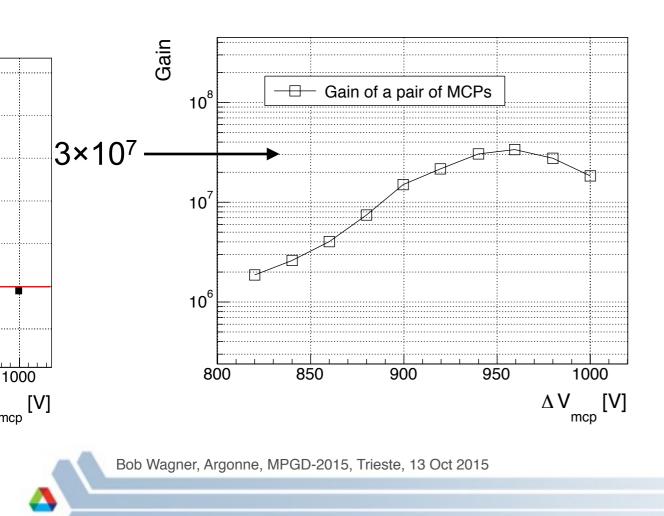


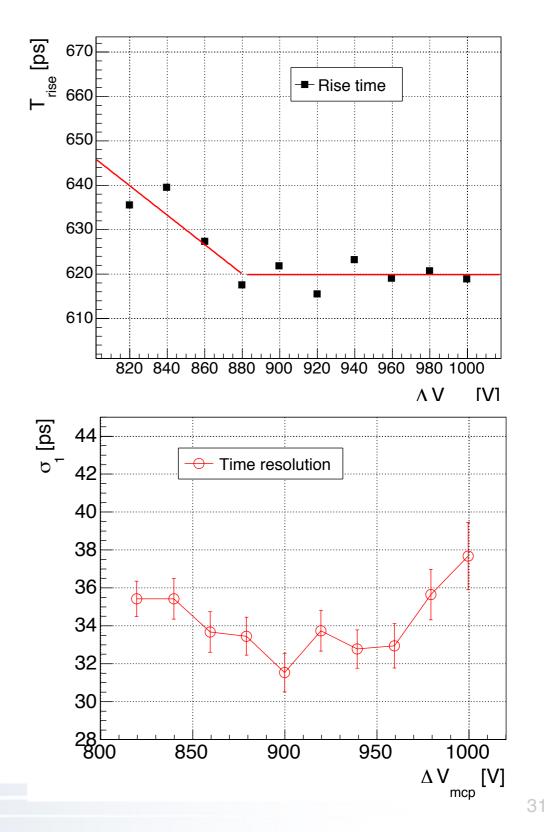
R_{Tube#44} from Optimization (I): Backscatter



Results from Optimization (II): MCP Voltage

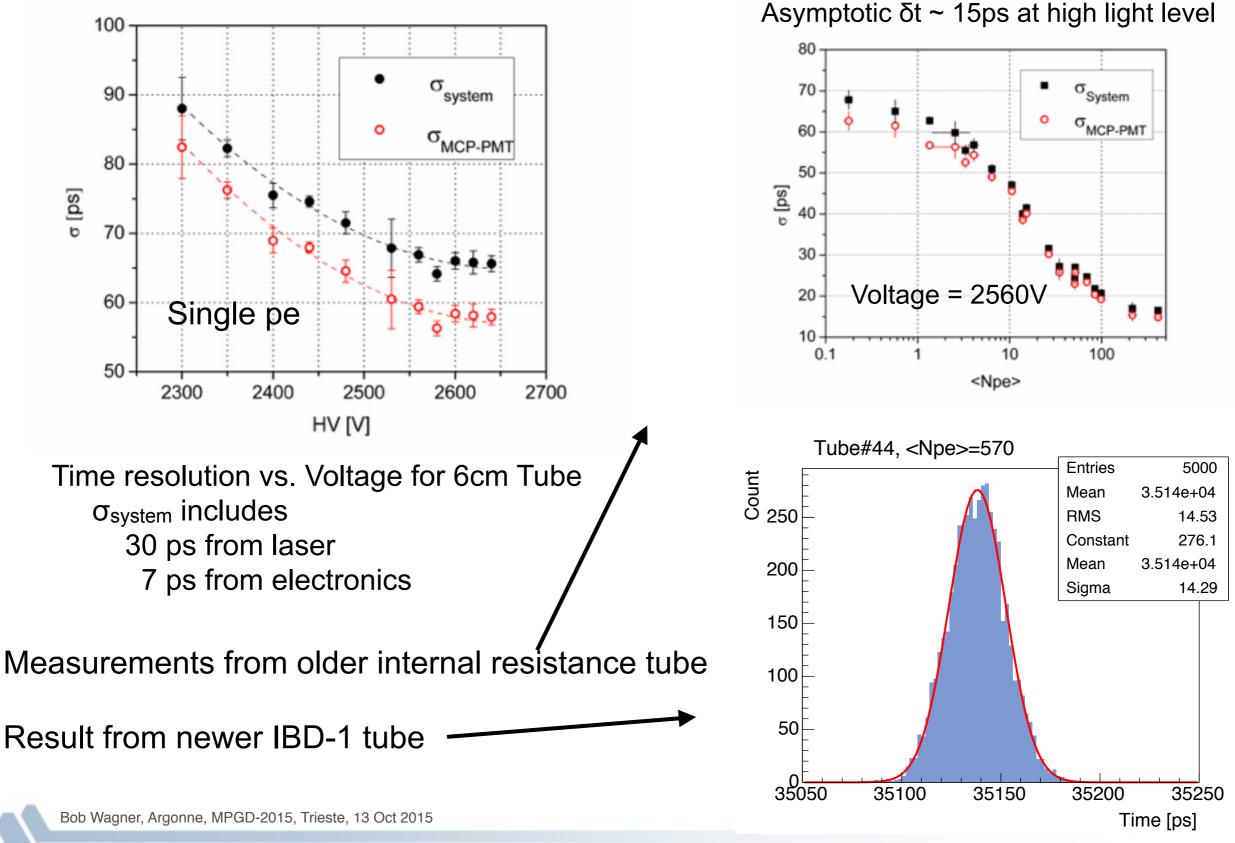
- Scan individual MCP voltages
 - Used identical values on each MCP
 - Rise time improves with gain
 - Timing resolution flat over MCP operating voltage
 - Optimal voltage for tubes is 860-1000V
 ΔV_mcp [V]





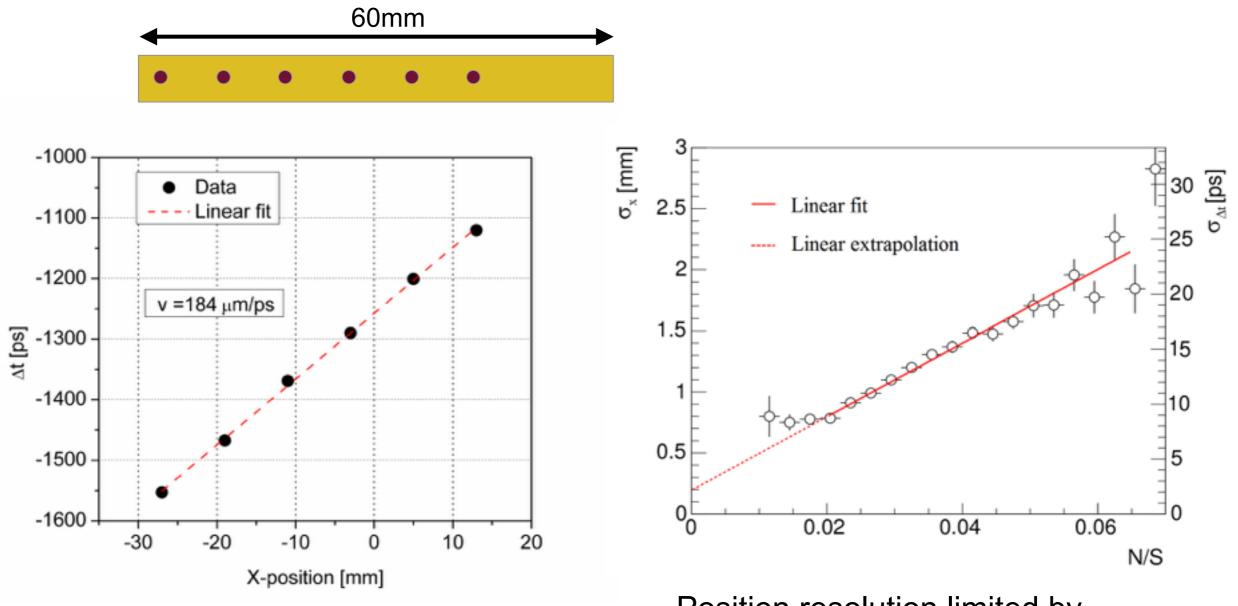
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Time Resolution vs Voltage & <N_{pe}>



Position Resolution

1-2mm laser spot scan 60mm active strip length



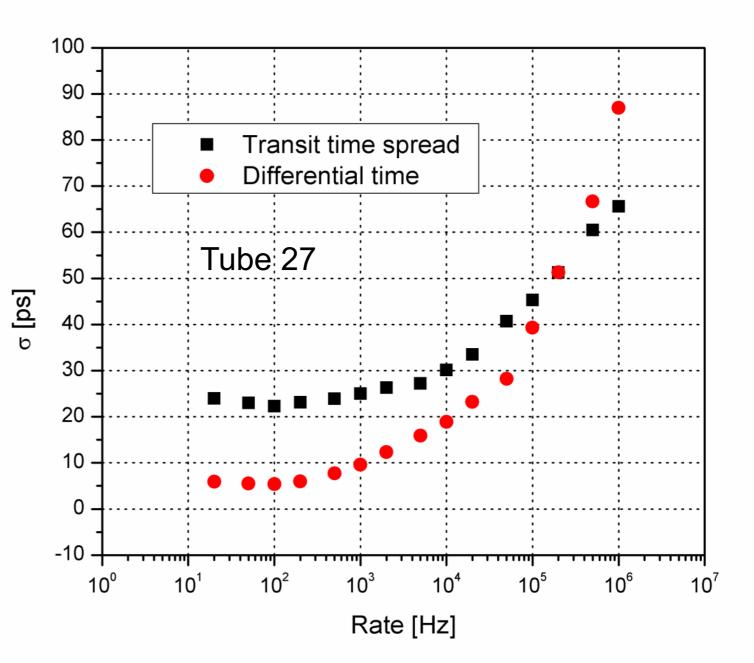
Position resolution limited by beam spot size at high light levels

Rate Scan: Time Resolution vs Spot Pulse Rate

Measure time resolution for laser illuminating fixed 1-2mm spot

Use high light level

Timing performance degrades above 10kHz but <70ps up to 1MHz



6cm Tube Summary & Near Future Plans

- New tube biasing design qualified and in production
- Reliable tube processing achieved
 - Goal: 50% overall yield (successful seal, 30 day lifetime) seems realized
- Working to reduce process time (2 weeks → 1 week)
 - Constructing separate Bake & Scrub Chamber to pre-process MCPs
- Photocathode QE still needs work
 - Continual thought and effort on fabrication improvement
 - Studying possibilities for VUV sensitive photocathode for LAr and LXe use
- Ongoing work on readout improvement for users
 - New board design in fabrication for IBD-1; user-friendly for distributed tubes
 - Pixel anode is needed; dependent on effort and funding availability
- Getting ready to try 3D printing of glass capillaries arrays
 - May reduce cost: no capillary drawing; no slicing, grinding, polishing
 - Surface roughness could be a noise issue though
- Beginning study of feasibility of using MCPs in gas for X-ray polarization detection
 - Supported by "seed" grant from Argonne lab management
 - Formation of electron cloud in gas; drift to MCP for proportional amplification

Overall Summary

- Atomic Layer Deposited (ALD) MCP fabrication has achieved reliable production of high, uniform gain MCPs. Future work to
 - understand characteristics of baseline ALD materials
 - develop new materials for lower cost, better stability, improved performance
- ALD MCP Photodetectors progressing along several efforts
 - LAPPD 20cm x 20cm active area commercialization in progress at Incom, Inc
 - Production equipment all delivered and being commissioned
 - Hope to fabricate tube by year end
 - Look for tube production in 2016
 - Glass-body tubes set for fabrication at Space Sciences Lab/Berkeley
 - In situ assembly design with PMT-style photocathode deposition work at Univ. of Chicago
 - Argonne 6cm x 6cm small format MCP photodetector tubes being produced

Looking to have more tubes, small & large, into HEP community in near future

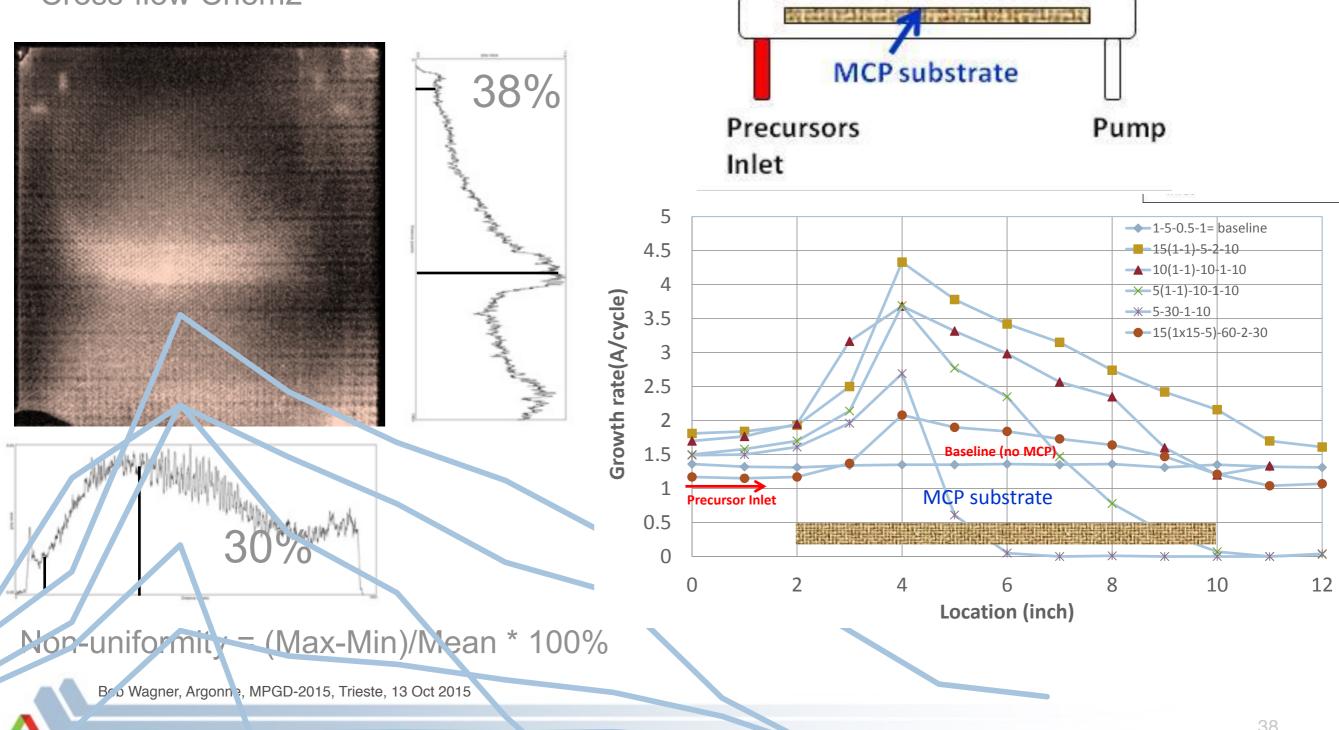
Backup Slides

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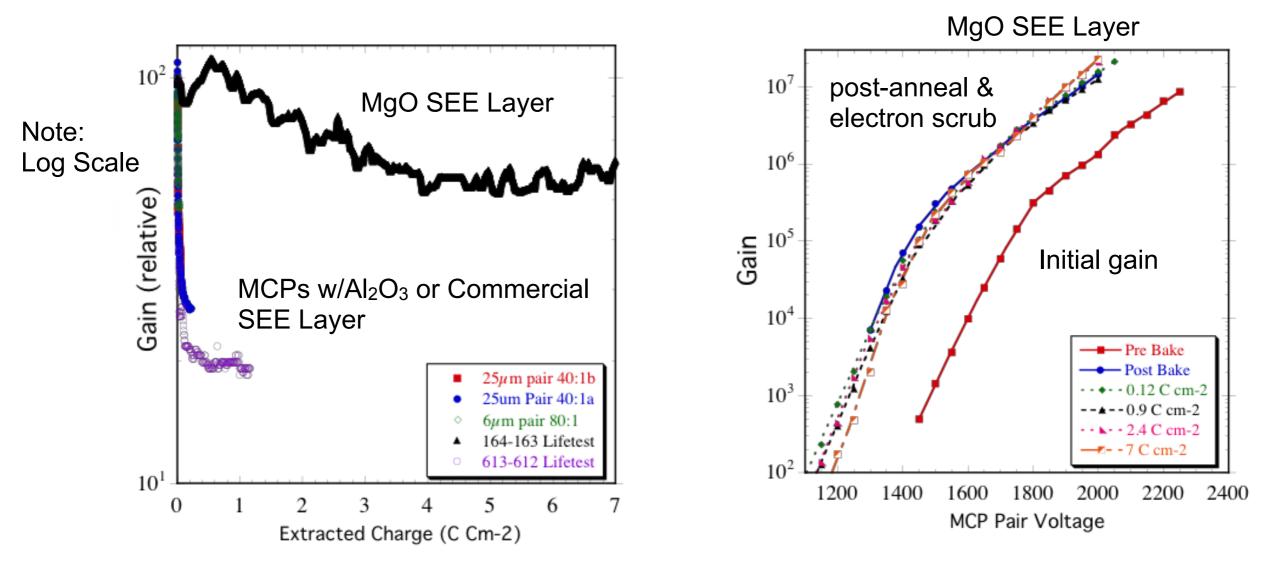
Initial Non-Uniformity of 20cm MCP Gain Using Cross-Flow ALD Method

Cross-flow Chem2

Cross-Flow ALD reactor



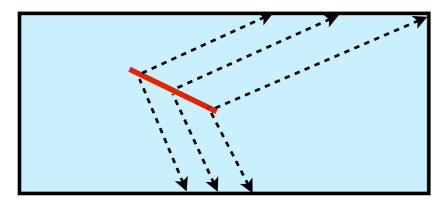
MgO vs Al₂O₃ vs Commercial SEE Layer



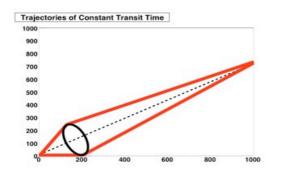
- Standard Secondary Emission Layer (SEE) for production of MCP gain is currently MgO
- Gain increases upon annealing or with initial scrub, then extremely stable

Applications - Optical Time Projection Chamber Atmospheric Neutrino Neutron Interaction Experiment (ANNIE)

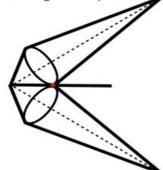
Signal: 20 photons/mm Cherenkov Drift time: 225 m/µs Track trajectory -> drift distances

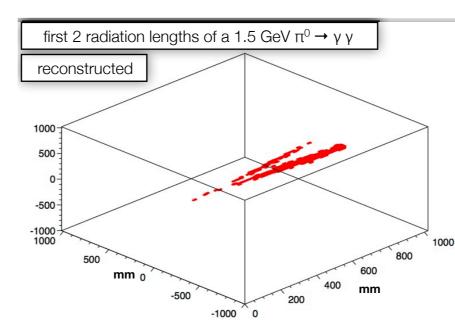


For a single PMT, there is a rotational degeneracy (many solutions).



But, multiple hits from the same track will intersect maximally around their common emission point, resolving the degeneracy





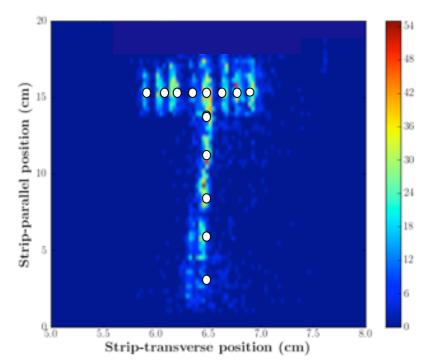
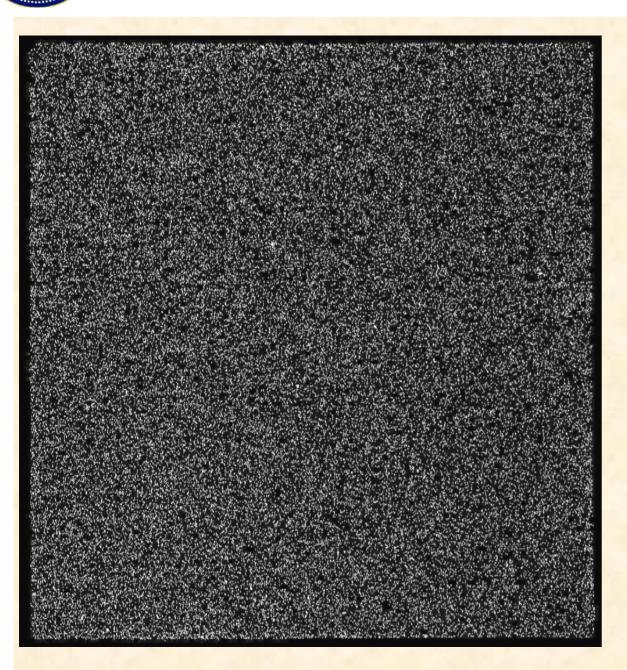


Image from UV laser scan on 20cm LAPPD MCP Detector: n.b. o-ring sealed, continuously pumped prototype

Bob Wagner, Argonne, MPGD-2015, Trieste, 13 Oct 2015

graphic credit: Matt Wetstein

kground 20cm x 20cm 20µm pore MCP Pair

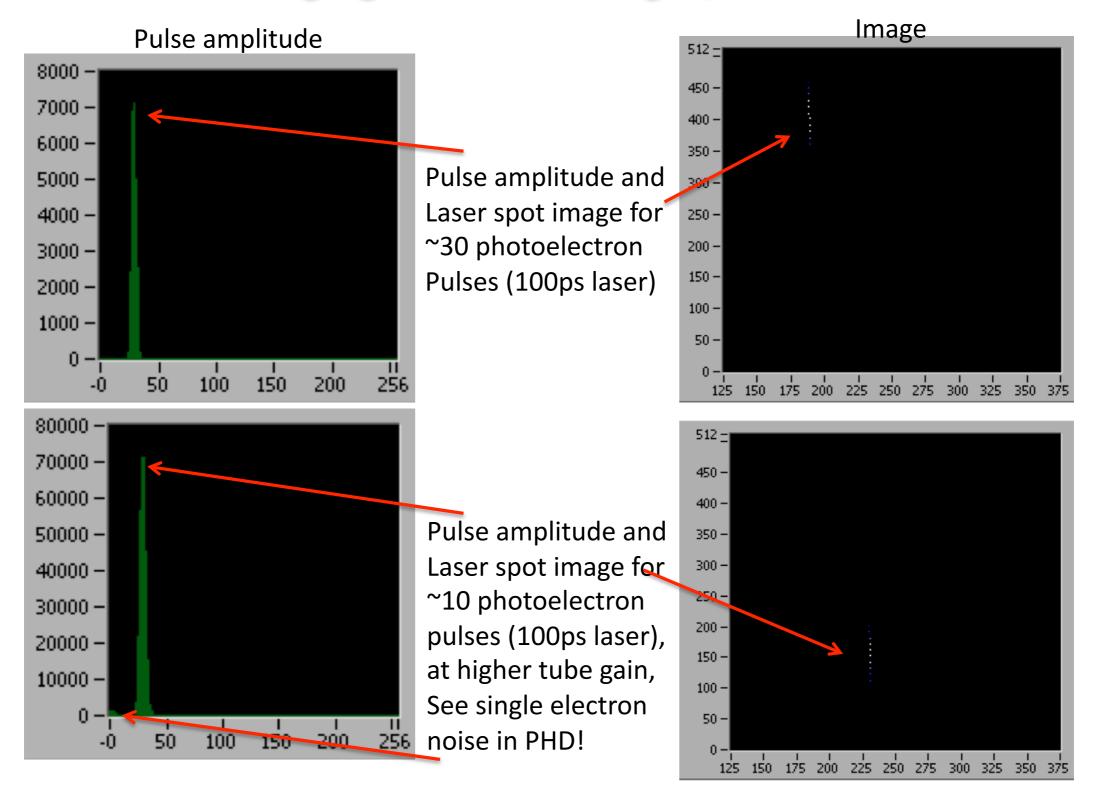


20cm MCP pair background, 2000 sec, 0.055 cnts sec⁻¹ cm⁻². 2k x 2k pixel imaging.

- 20µm pore, 60:1 L/d ALD-MCP pair,
 0.7mm gap/200v.
- Background very low !! 0.068 cnts sec⁻¹ cm⁻² is a factor of 4 lower than normal glass MCPs.
- This is a consistent observation for all MCPs with this substrate material and relates to the low intrinsic radioactivity of the glass.
- Without lead content the cross section for high energy events is also lower than standard glasses.
- There are issues with hotspots on some substrates, however this can be addressed

Slide courtesy of Ossy Siegmund, SSL

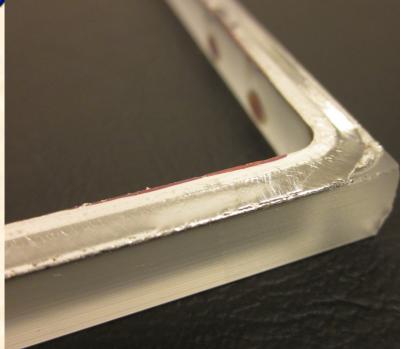
Ceramic Body Tube #1 Pulse Amplitude and Imaging



Bob Wagner, Argonne, MPGD-2015, Trieste, 13 Oct 2015



Glass Grooved Sidewall 8in Indium Seal.



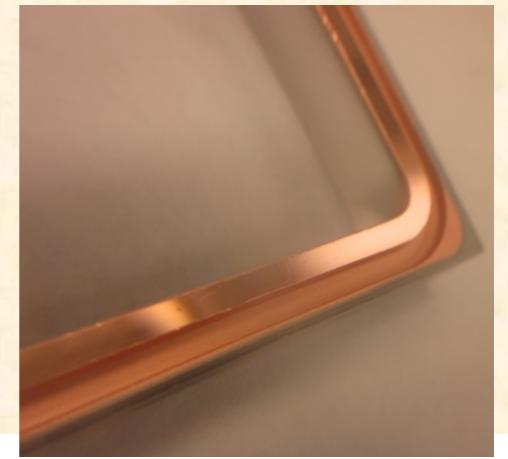
Glass grooved sidewall

after Indium filling

Glass grooved sidewall after Indium filling

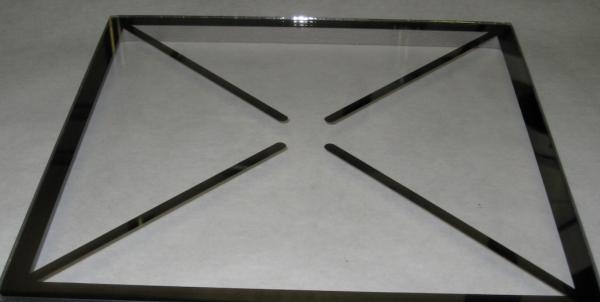
Indium filled grooved sidewall was electroded and vacuum baked, then was used to seal to an 8" window in the vacuum process tank after going through all the processes to simulate a real tube seal.

> Glass grooved sidewall after NiCr and Cu evaporations

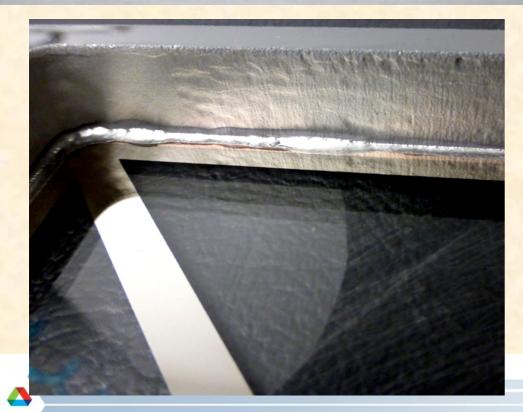




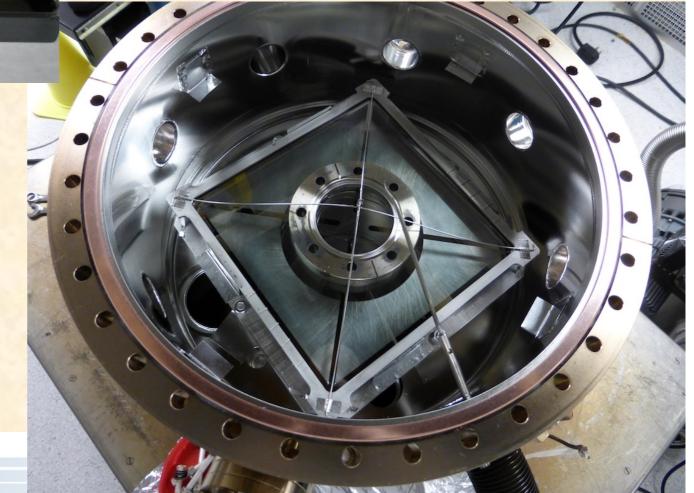
Glass Grooved Sidewall Seal Test



Used the same processes developed for the ceramic sidewall to do the seal test on the glass grooved sidewall. Weight was used on the window to accommodate stress relief and guides were used to establish seal positioning. Final alignment was better than 0.5mm



Bob Wagner, Argonne, MPGD-2015, Trieste, 13 Oct 2015

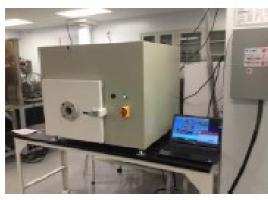


Graphic courtesy of Ossy Siegmund, SSL 44

INCOM

Bright Ideas in Fiberoptics

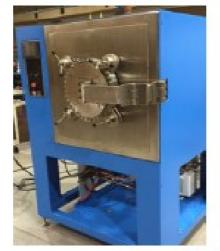
Recent Incom Equipment Installations



Plasma cleaner rec'd 9/2015



Beneq ALD coater with load-lock installed 6/2015



Vacuum oven due 10/2015



Thermal evaporator commissioned 12/2014



LAPPD integration and sealing tank rec'd 9/2015



Measurement & test station, commissioned 8/2015

Slide credit: Chris Craven

Vacuum oven is final major piece of equipment needed for fabrication of LAPPDs at Incom

In Situ LAPPD Assembly at U. Chicago Critical Component #1: Top Window Seal

Developed two techniques for solder seal between flat glass surfaces

I) InBi alloy solder seal in inert atmosphere (N₂ filled glove box)

- low temperature seal (~73°C)





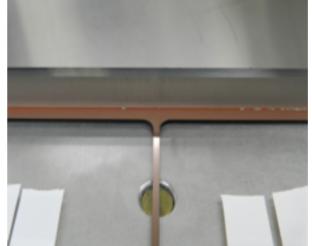


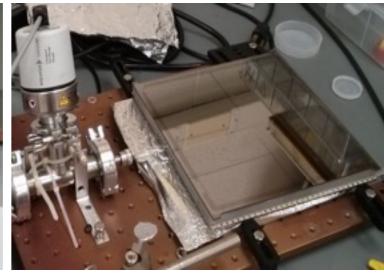
II) Pure indium solder seal (~157°C) in vacuum

- high temperature seal (350°C), done in the processing chamber during the bake
- better suited for Cs/K photocathode deposition temperature

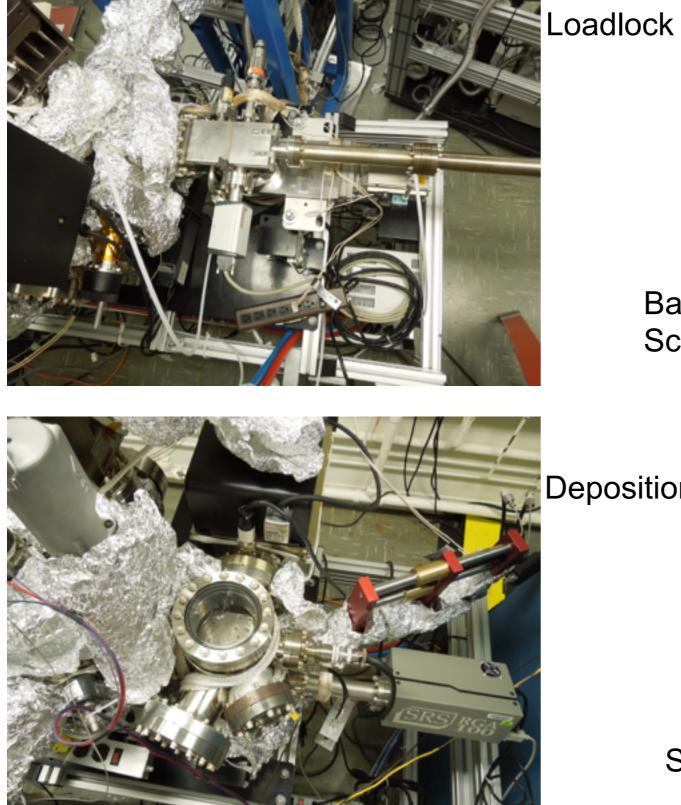






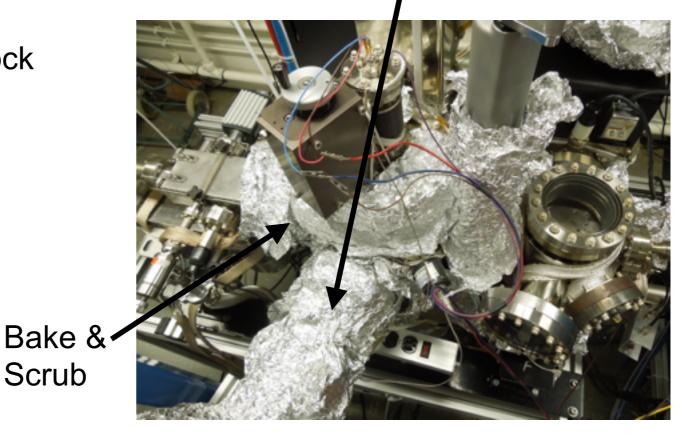


SmSTPS Chambers



Bob Wagner, Argonne, MPGD-2015, Trieste, 13 Oct 2015

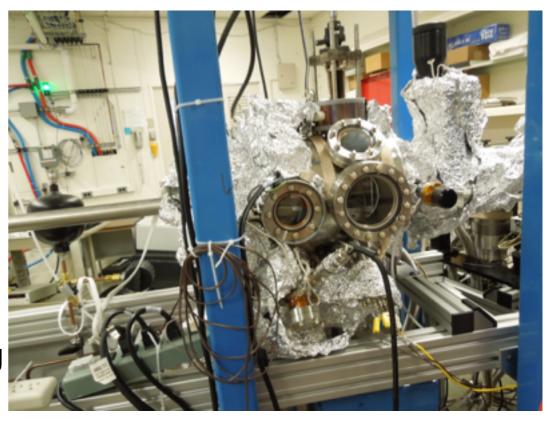
Connection to Sealing Chamber



Deposition

Scrub

Sealing



Example of 20cm Resistance Uniformity

Dice 20cm x 20cm plate for 6cm x 6cm MCPs

Resistance shows good uniformity across plate



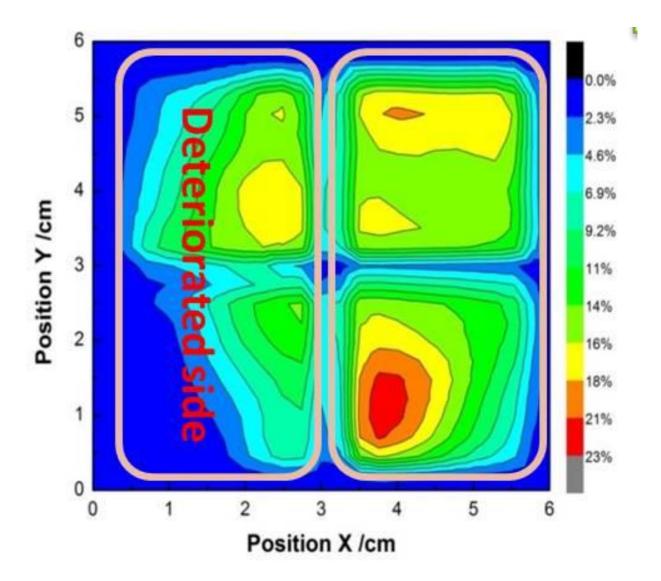
1x(8"x8") MCP= 9x (6x6cm²) MCPs

Example of 6cm Photocathode with 22% QE Region

Prototype IBD-1 tube allowing direct QE measure

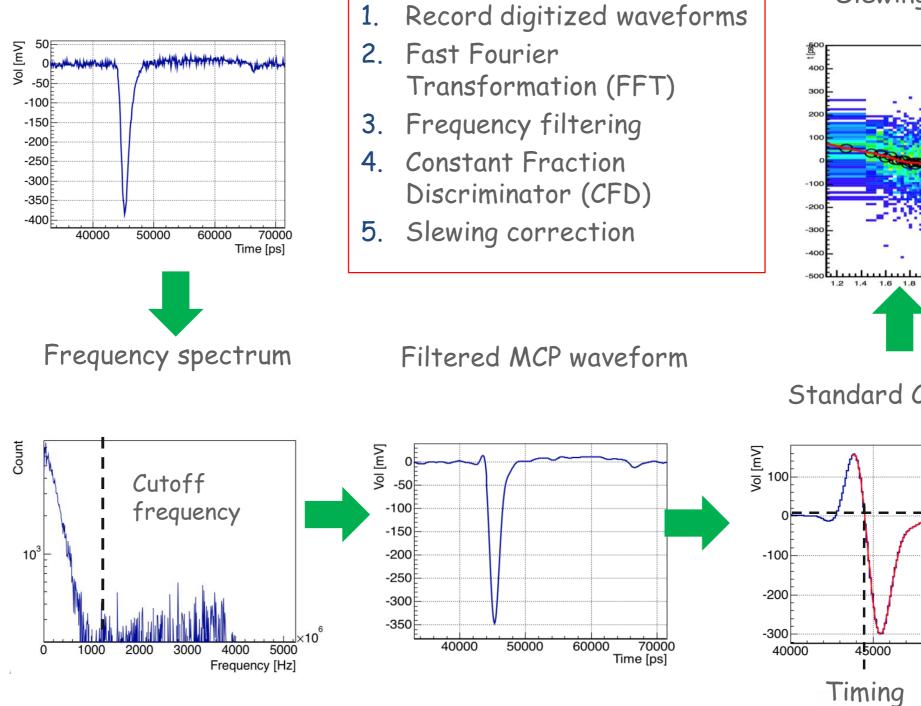
Average QE ~ 15%, Max ~23%

Cathode deteriorated due to small leak in bottom frit seal

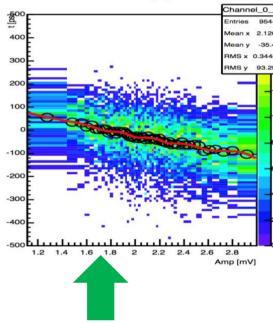


Data Analysis Flow

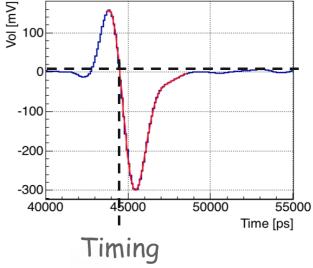
Raw MCP waveform



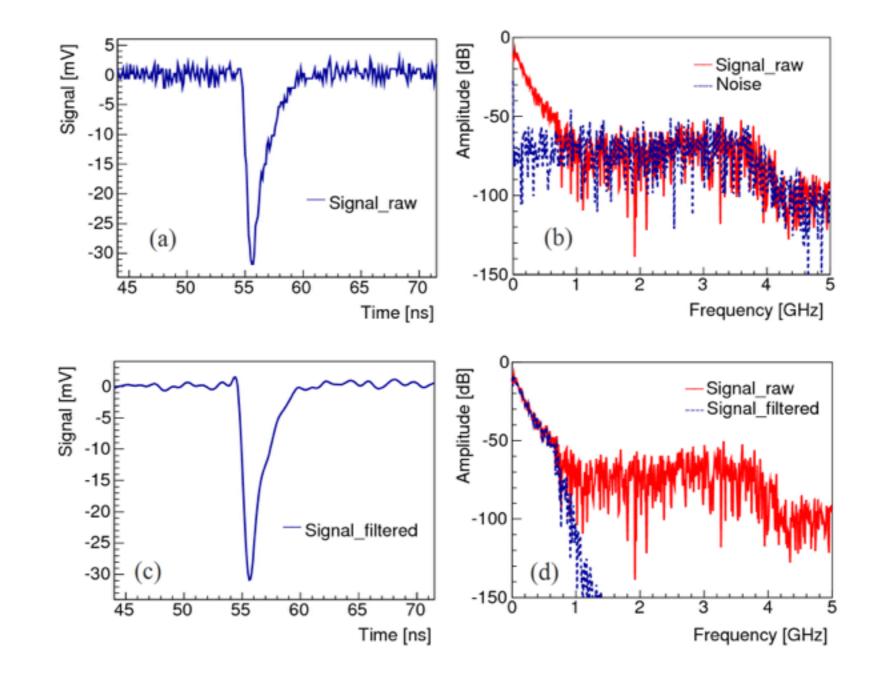
Slewing correction



Standard CFD/ARC

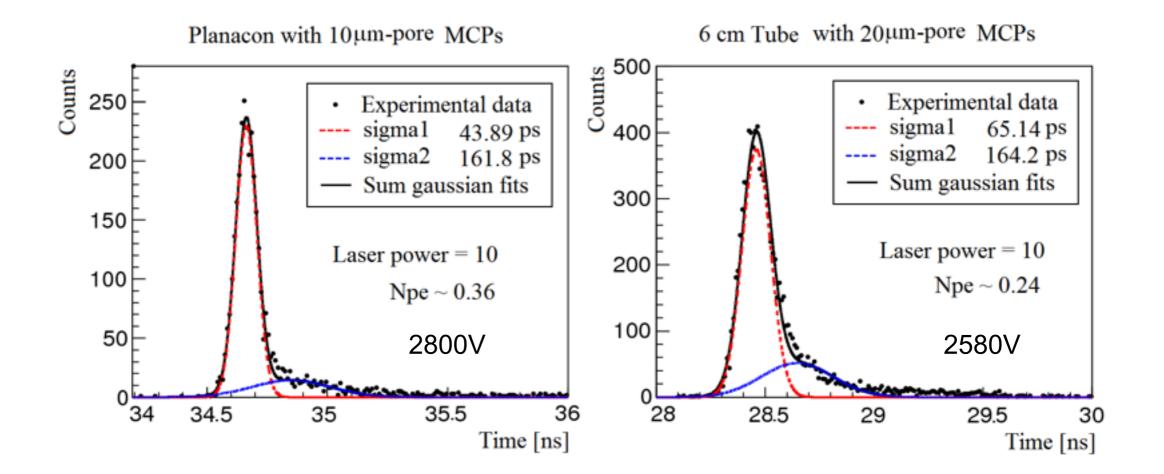


Noise Removal from MCP Laser Signal for 6cm Characterization



Butterworth noise filter applied to improve signal shape for timing

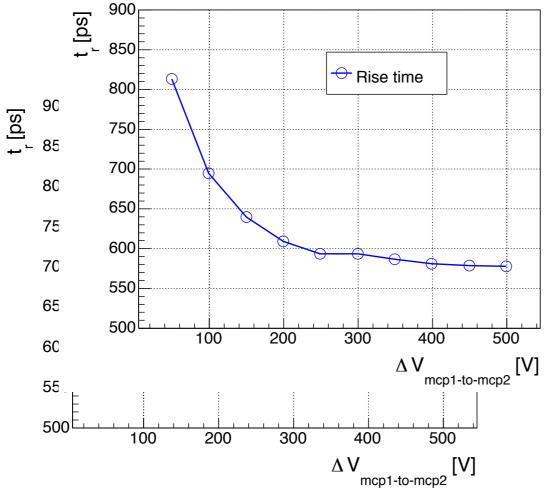
Single Photoelectron Time Response

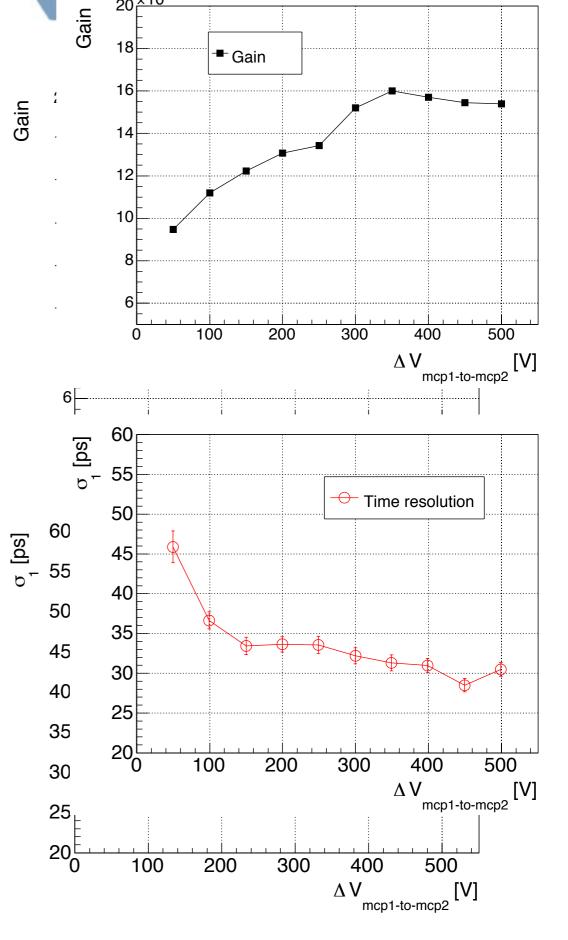


Comparison of single photoelectron time resolution between 10 μ m pore Burle Planacon ($\delta t \sim 44$ ps) and 20 μ m pore Argonne 6cm tube ($\delta t \sim 65$ ps)

Results from Optimization (III):

- Voltage between MCPs
 - Wide angle spread of electrons from 1st MCP
 - Keep Gap V moderate to distribute electrons over several pores in 2nd MCP
 - Optimal vc





6cm MCP-PMT Position Resolution Improvement at Higher Incident Number of Photons

