

NECTAR project



Response of solar cells to heavy ions at energies close to 10 AMeV at GANIL

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J. Giovinazzo¹, B. Thomas¹, P. Alfaut¹, T. Chiron¹

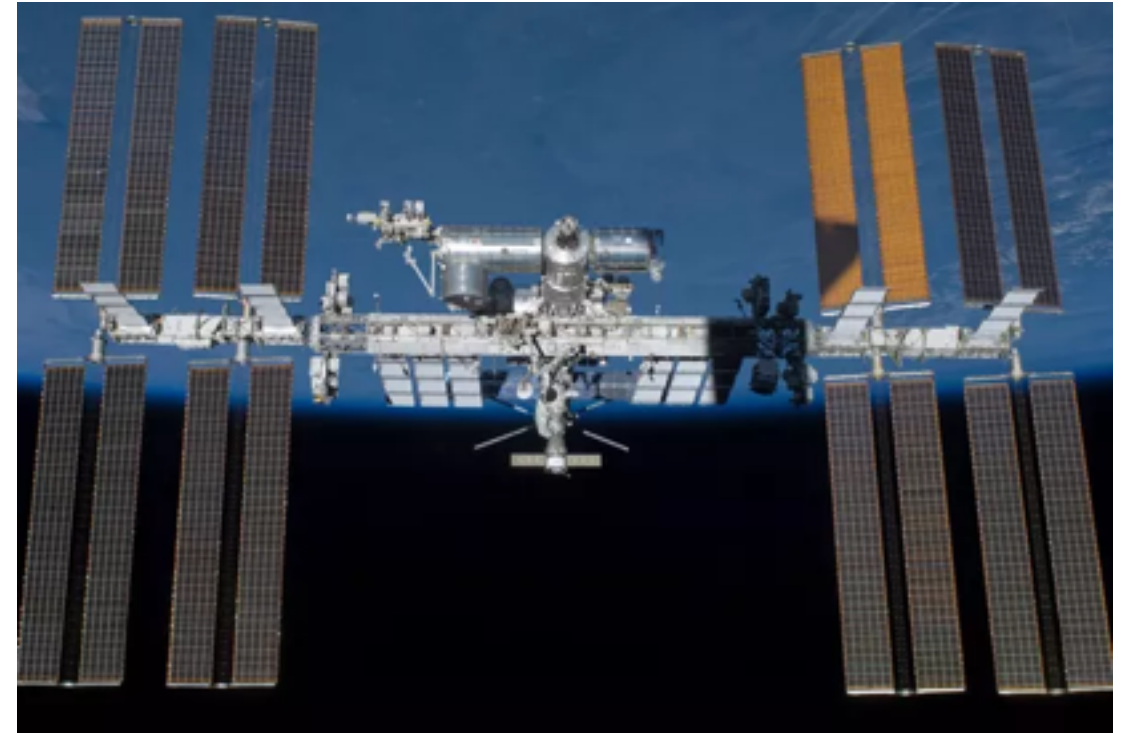
1 Centre d'Etudes Nucléaires de Bordeaux Gradignan (CENBG), CNRS/IN2P3, Gradignan, France

2 Grand Accélérateur National d'Ions Lourds (GANIL), Caen, France



**Silicon - Solar Cells
(Earth Solar
Panels)**

Michele Sguazzin



**Germanium - Solar
Cells
(Space Applications)**

PhyNuBE

December 8, 2021



- 1979 Siegert → First heavy ions detection at energies about 1 AMeV



CHARGE COLLECTION PROCESS IN SOLAR CELLS IS VERY DIFFERENT

**Field-funneling
effect**

- C. Hsieh, et al., Electron Device Lett. IEEE 2 (1981) 103–105
- F.B. McLean, et al., IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 29 (1982) 2017–2023
- G.C. Messenger, et al., IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 29 (6) (1982) 2024–2031



Main Advantages:

1) Energy (1-2%) and time (few ns) resolution

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2) Better radiation resistance

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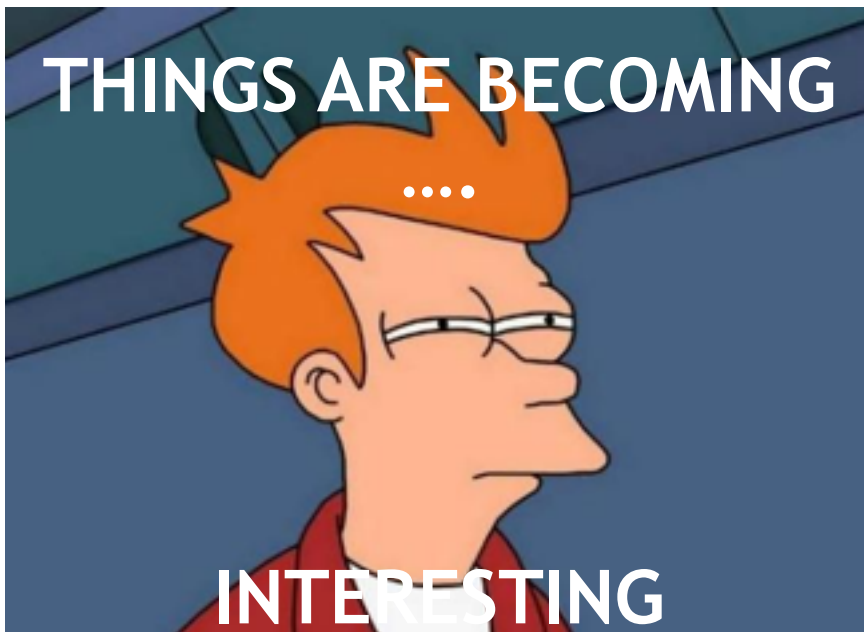
1) Energy (1-2%) and time (few ns) resolution

2) Better radiation resistance

3) Flexible geometry, very robust

4) Extremely cost-efficient
(5 €)





Solar Cells appear a very interesting alternative to Silicons detector for Heavy ions at energies between 1 and 10 AMeV.

But...

➔ high capacitance ($40 \frac{nF}{cm^2}$, 1000 times larger than Si detector), increasing with Solar Cells surface

NECTAR Project:

Solar Cells as heavy ions detectors at energies $E > 1$ AMeV in UHV!



NO TEST HAS EVER BEEN PERFORMED!!

GANIL exploratory test experiments

2018



First irradiation experiment with Heavy ions above 1 AMeV!

CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

- ^{84}Kr at 7, 10 AMeV
- ^{129}Xe at 10, 13 AMeV

First results:

1. Best performance: company Solar Made, 10x10 mm², $\sigma(E)$
 $E=1.5\%$ (RMS) and 3.6 ns (FWHM).
2. Stable behavior during irradiation with 100 to few 10^3 pps for a minute.



A. Henriques et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods A 969 (2020) 163941.

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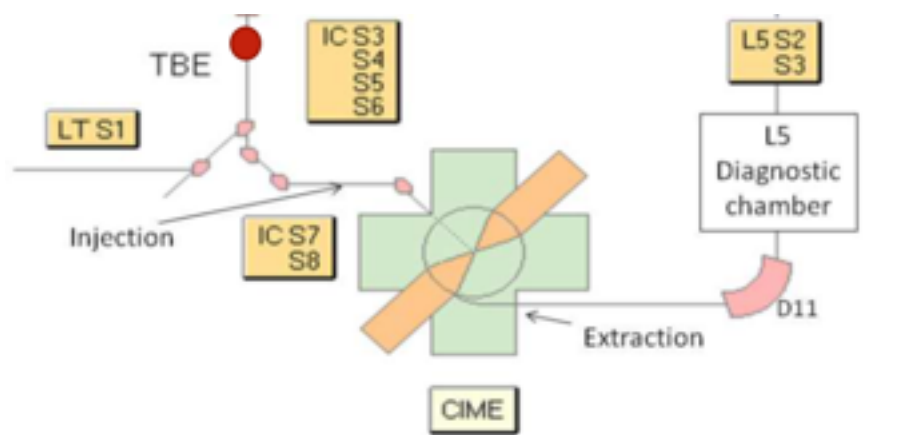


A. Henriques et al., Nucl. Instrum. Methods A 969 (2020) 163941.

New irradiation experiment at
GANIL: March 2021

CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

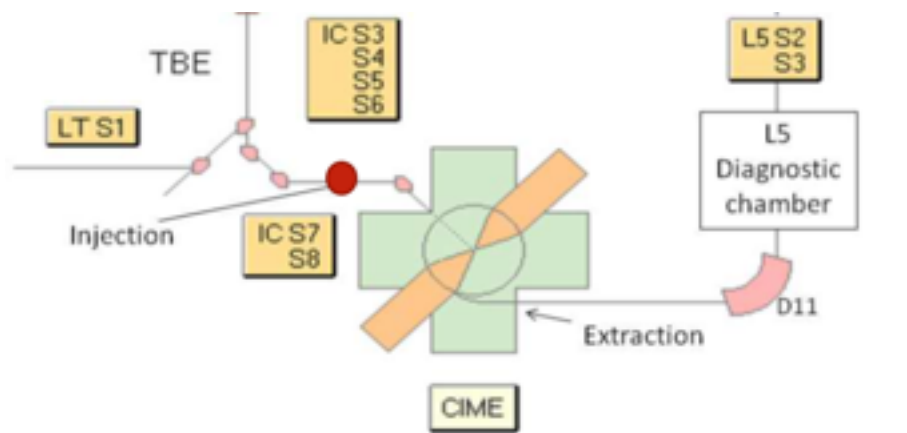
- ^{84}Kr at 5, 10, 15 AMeV



SPIRAL facility

CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

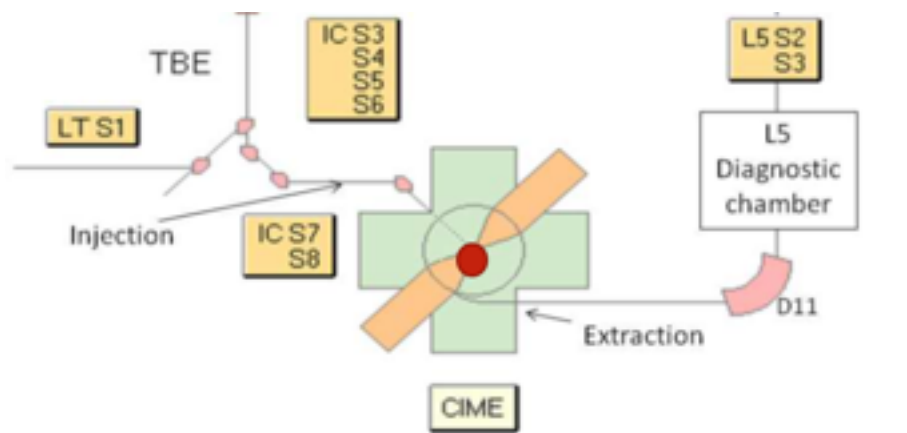
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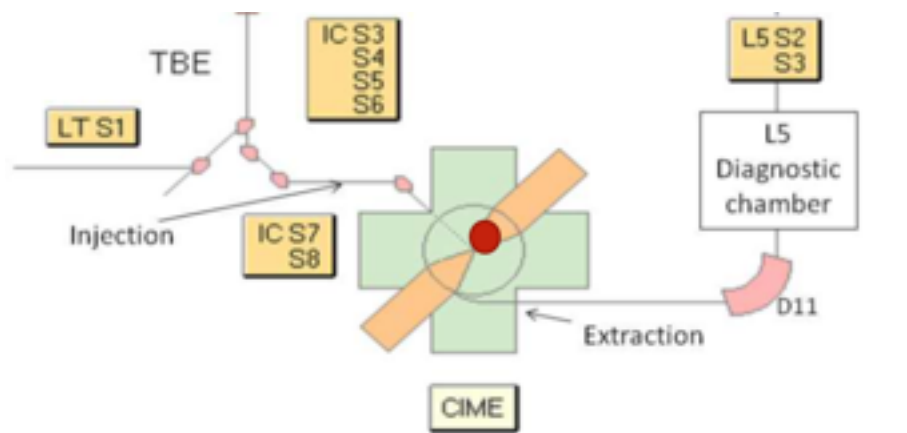
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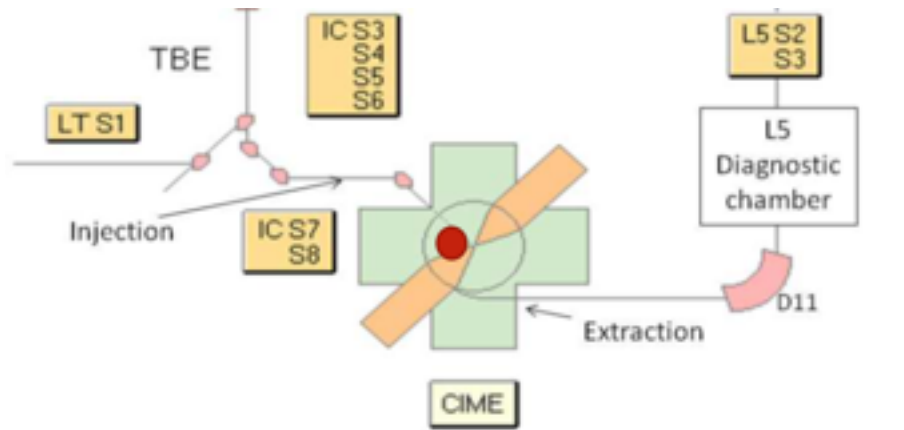
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CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

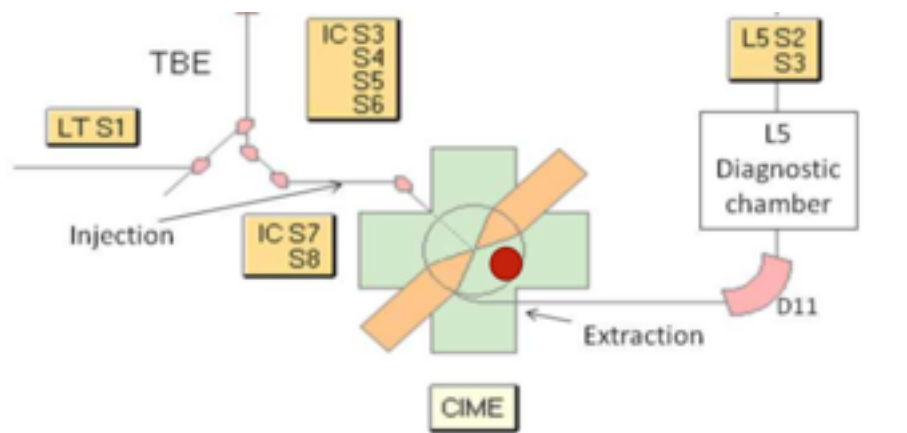
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SPIRAL facility

CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

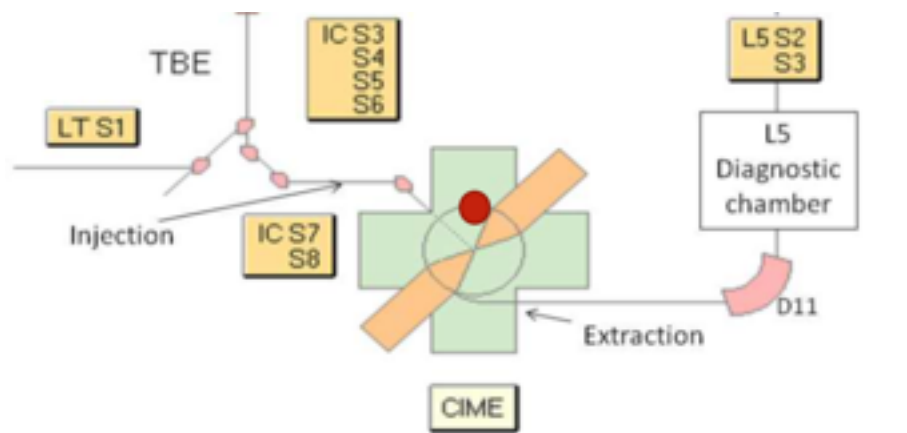
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CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

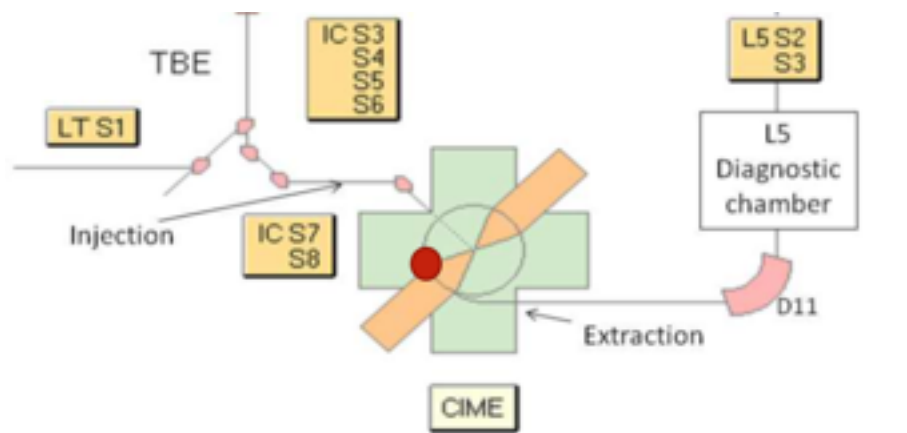
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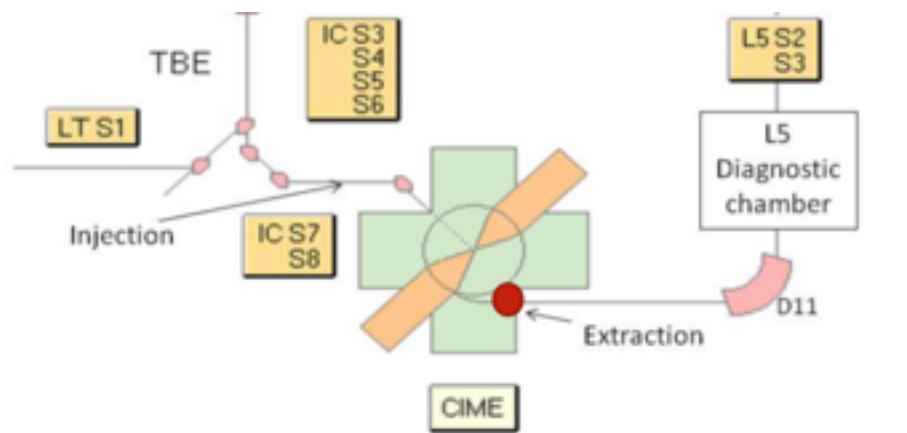
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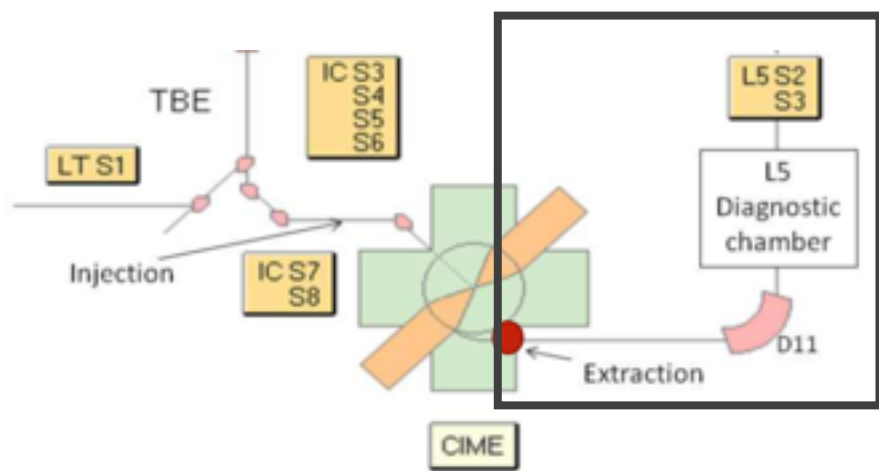
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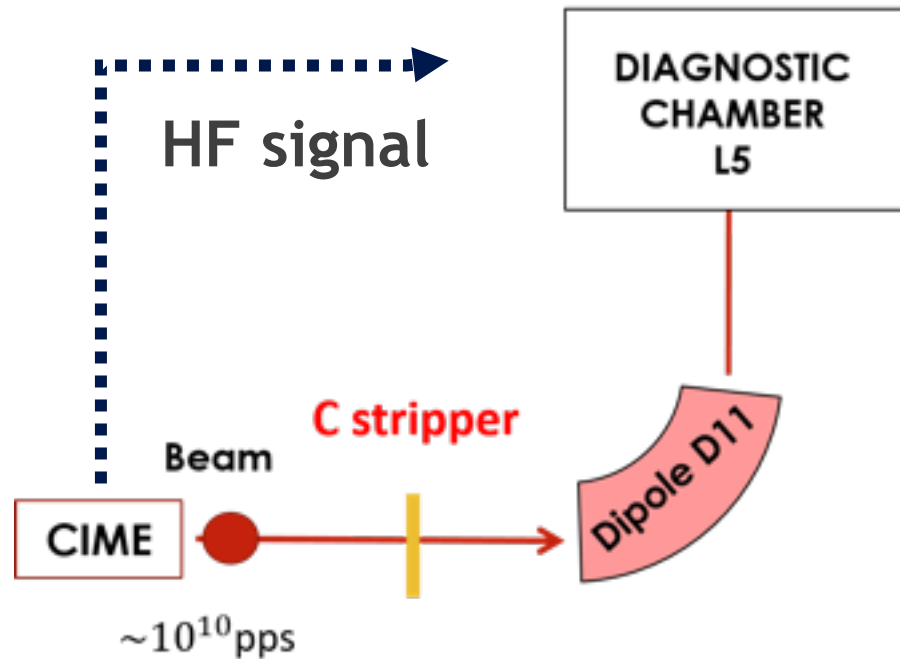
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SPIRAL facility

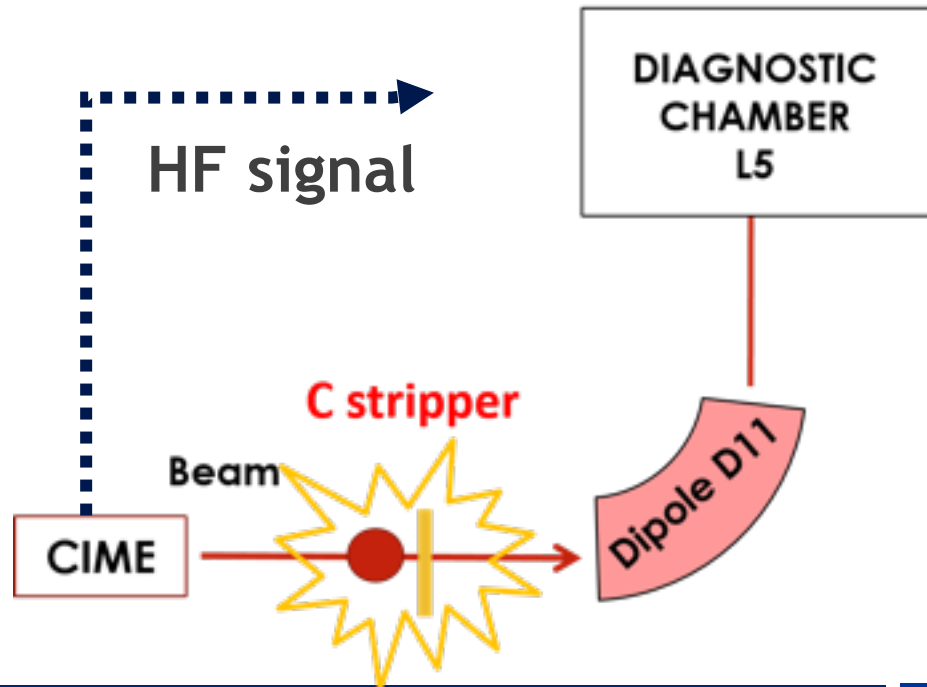
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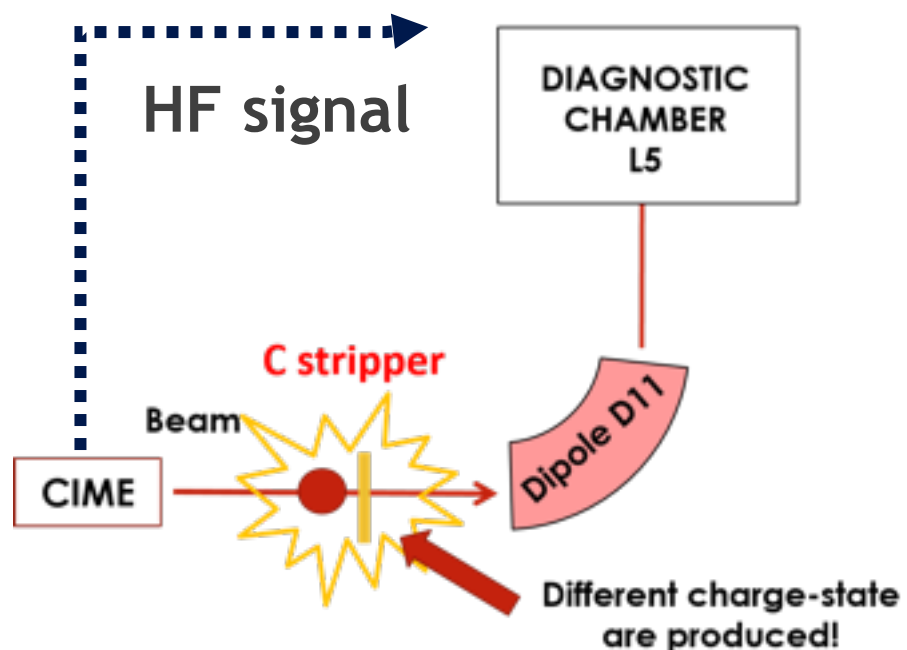
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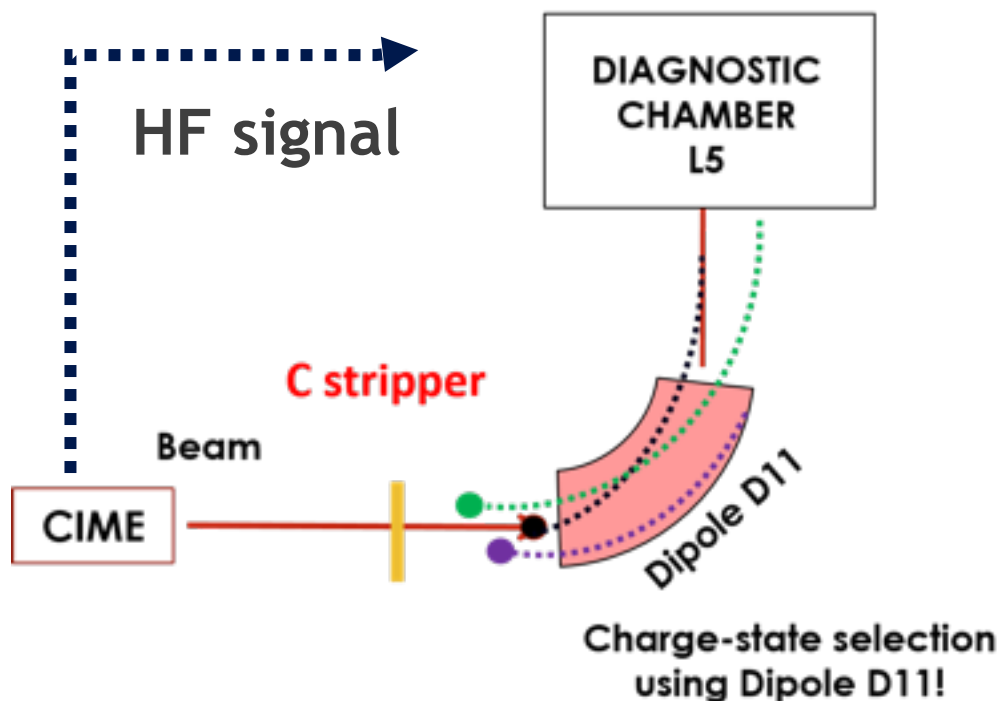
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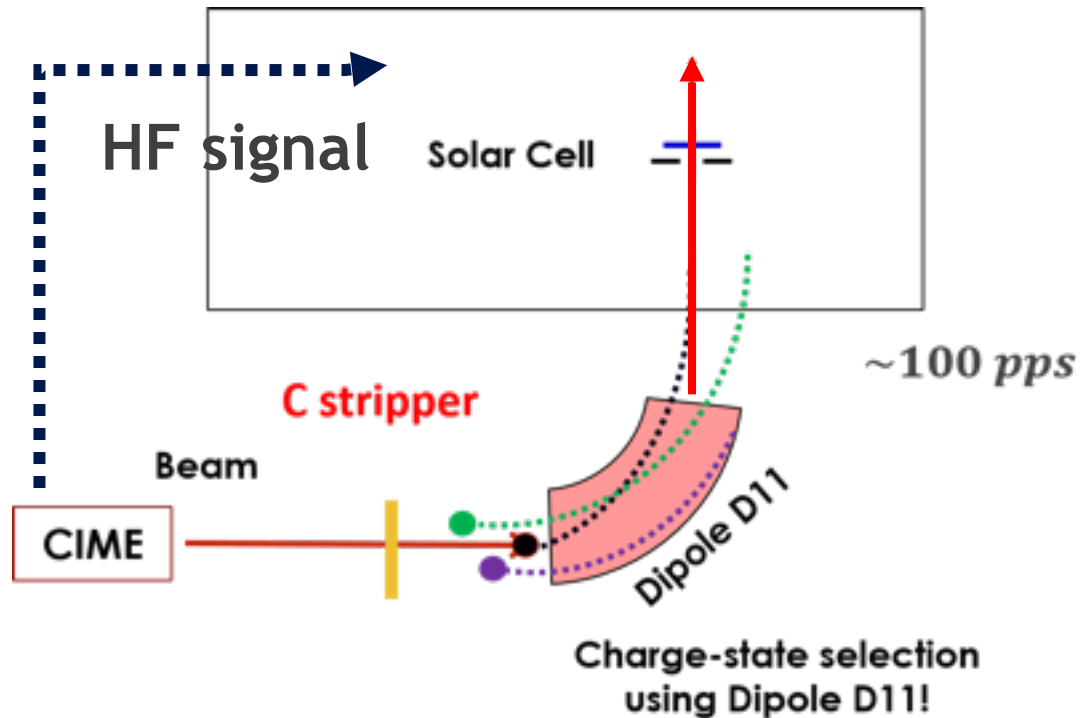
- ^{84}Kr at 5, 10, 15 AMeV



A	Z	Q1	Rate (pps)
84Kr	36		1.37e+07
84Kr	35		1.12e+08
84Kr	34		5.11e+08
84Kr	33		1.31e+09
84Kr	32		1.89e+09
84Kr	31		1.52e+09
84Kr	30		6.87e+08
84Kr	29		1.74e+08
84Kr	28		2.47e+07
84Kr	27		1.97e+06
84Kr	26		8.77e+04
84Kr	25		2.19e+03
84Kr	24		3.07e+01
84Kr	23		2.41e-01
84Kr	22		1.06e-03
84Kr	21		2.62e-06

CIME cyclotron was used to accelerate beams of:

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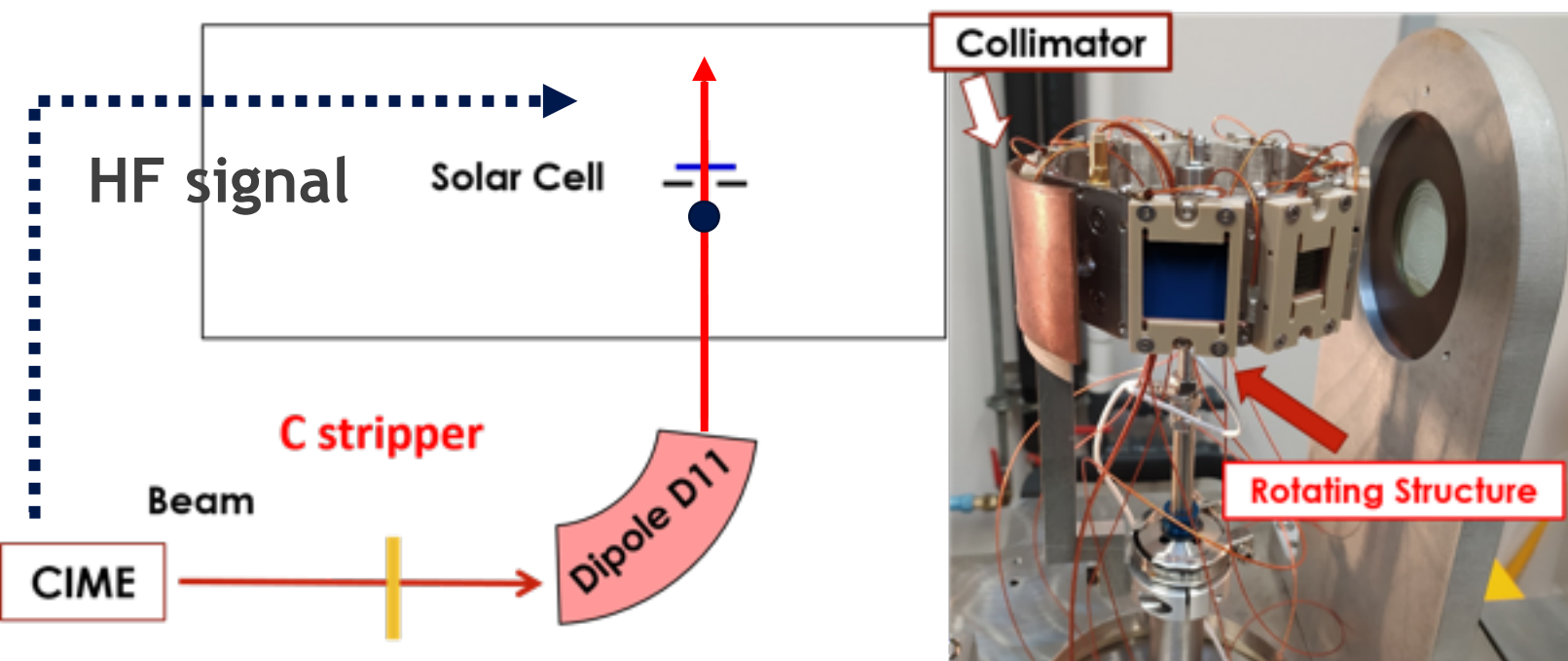
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MAIN IMPROVEMENTS



- Better intensity control
- Better alignment with respect to the incoming beam



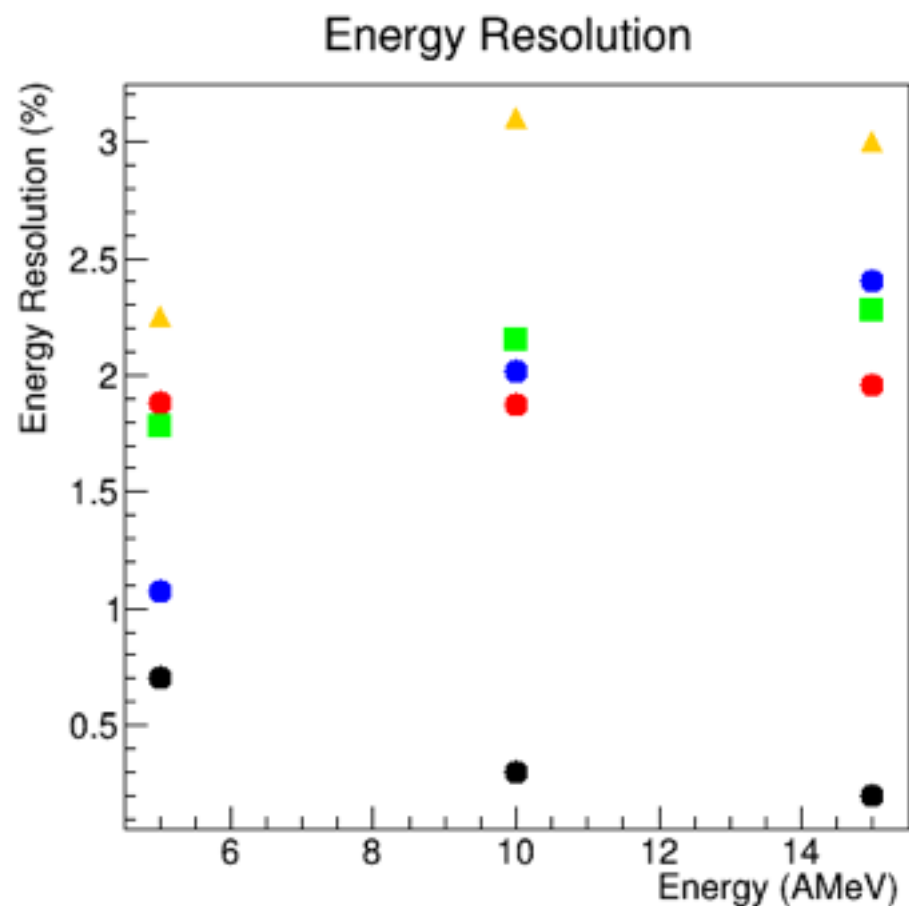
8

GANIL experiment (March 2021) - Final RESULT

1. Energy ($\sigma(E)/E$) and Time (FWHM) resolution

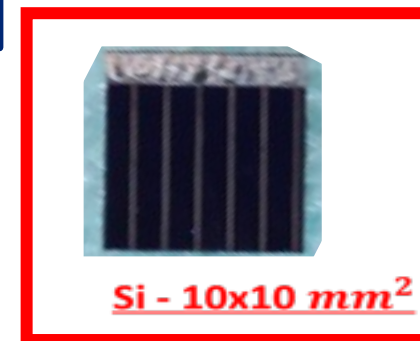


^{84}Kr beam

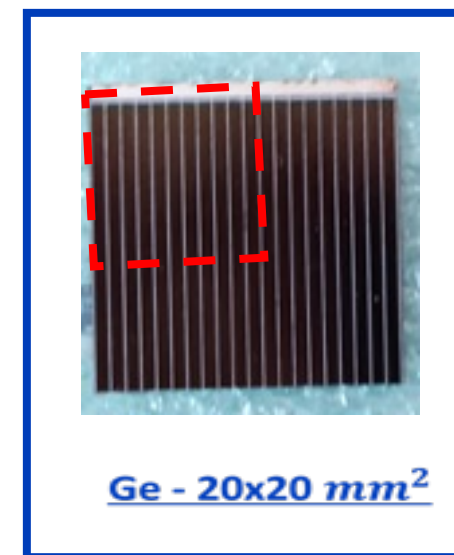


- Si - 10x10 mm²
- ▲ Si - 10x10 mm²
- Si - 10x10 mm²
- Ge - 20x20 mm²
- Si Detector

Si Detector



Si - 10x10 mm²



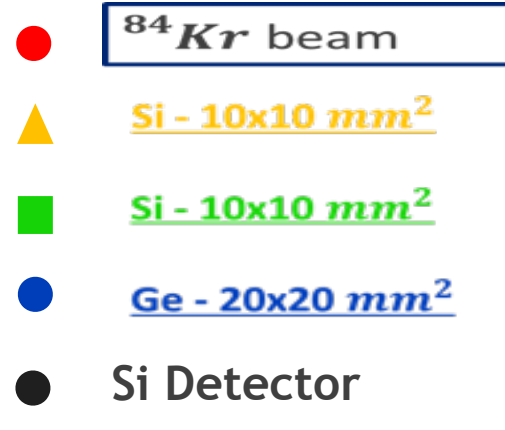
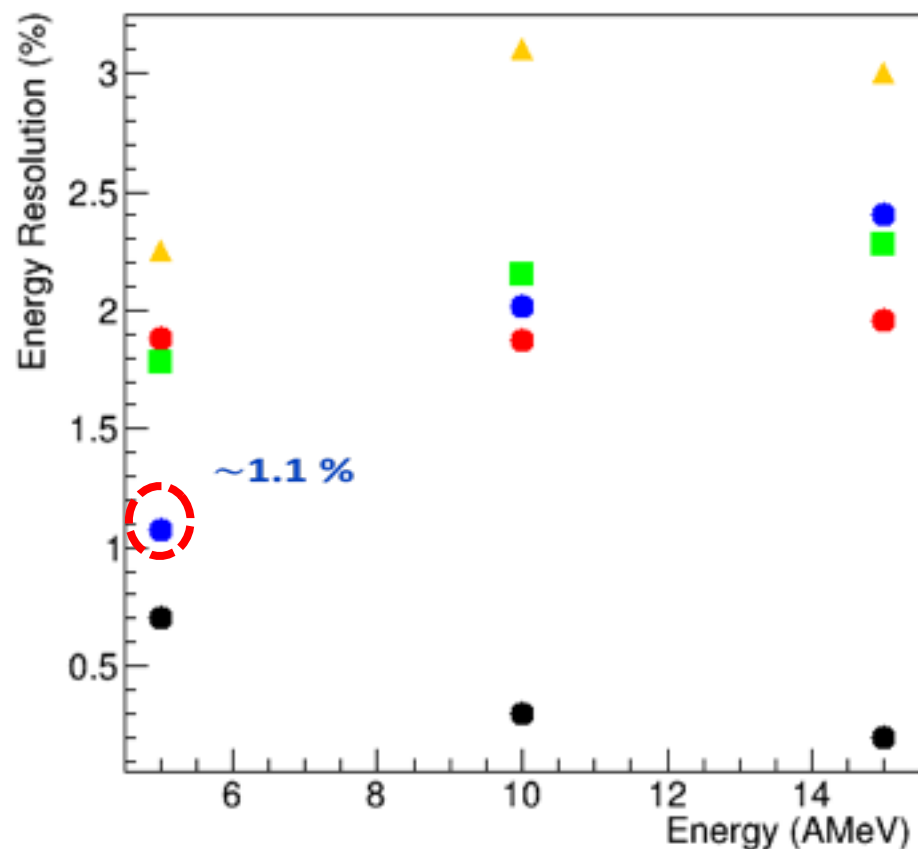
Ge - 20x20 mm²

Energy ($\sigma(E)/E$) and Time (FWHM) resolution

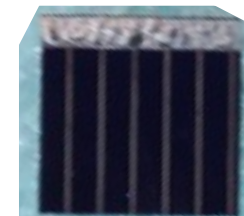


^{84}Kr beam

Energy Resolution



Si Detector



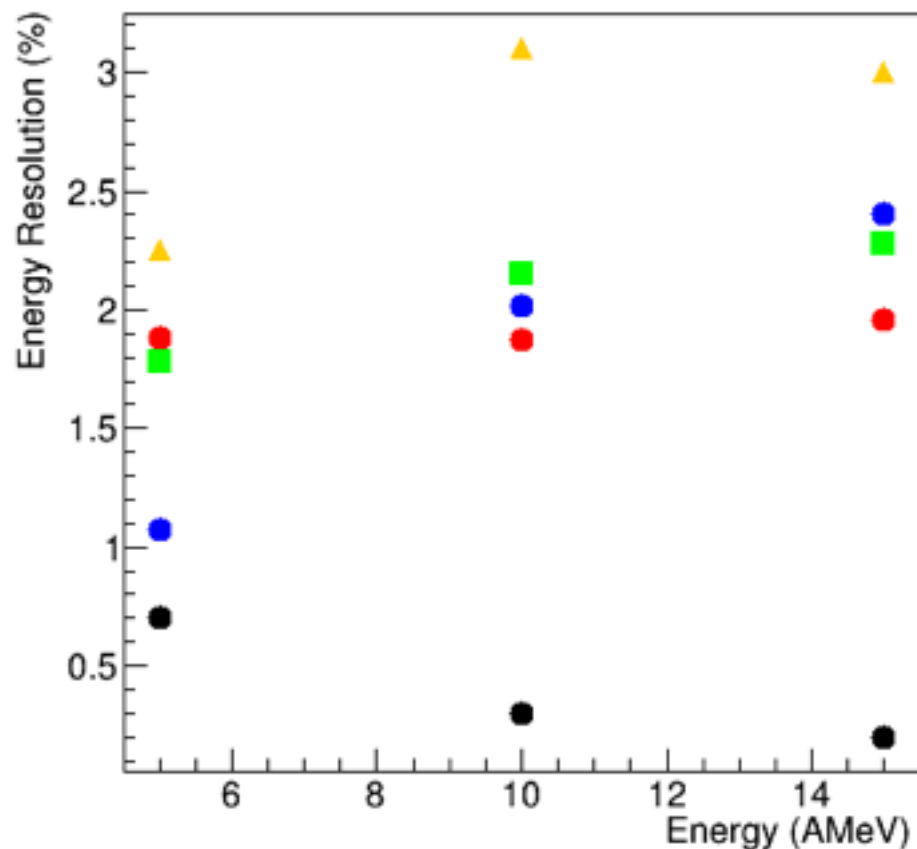
Si - 10x10 mm²



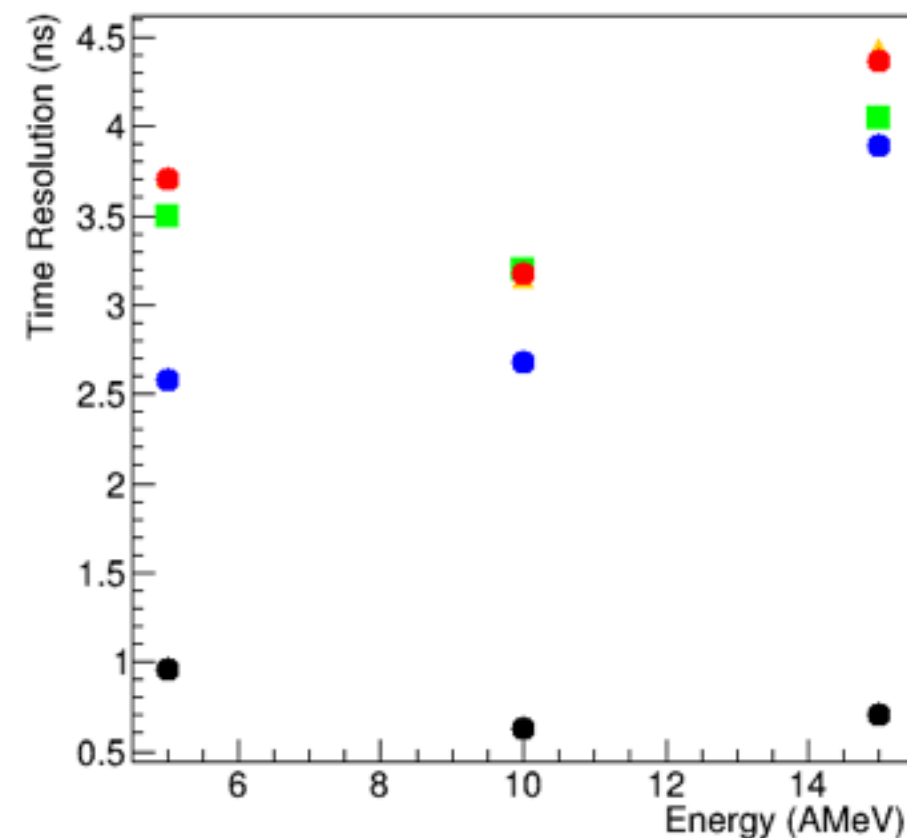
Ge - 20x20 mm²

1. Energy ($\sigma(E)/E$) and Time (FWHM) resolution ^{84}Kr beam

Energy Resolution



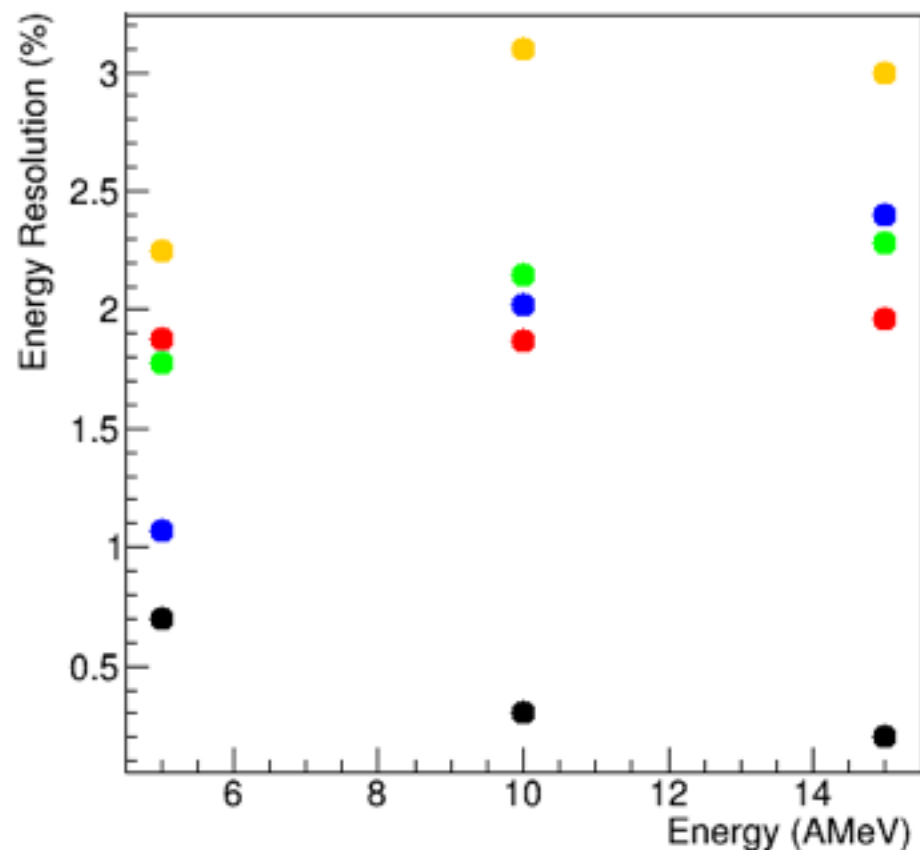
Time Resolution



1. Energy ($\sigma(E)/E$) and Time (FWHM) resolution

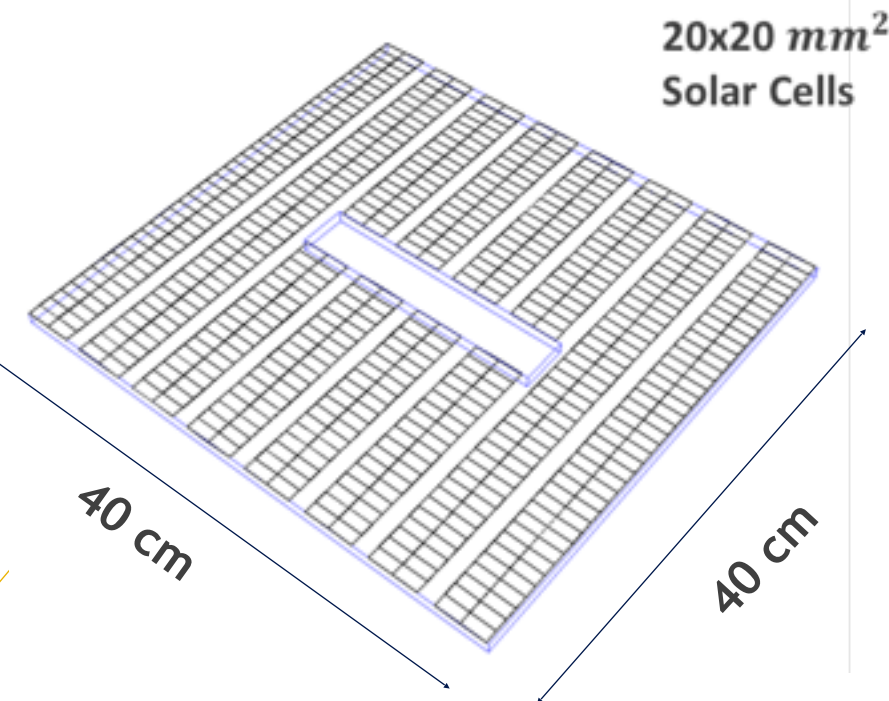
^{84}Kr beam

Energy Resolution



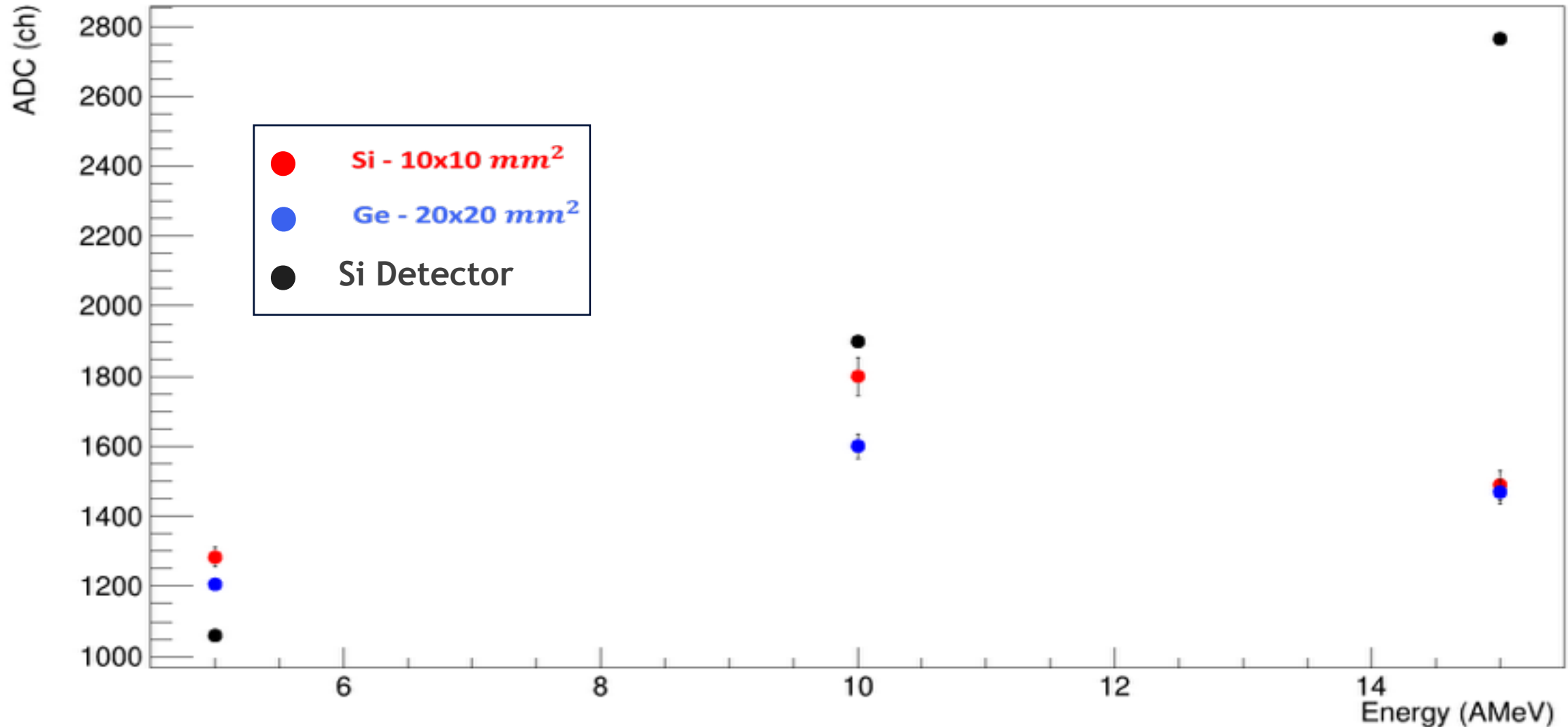
- Si - 10x10 mm²
- ▲ Si - 10x10 mm²
- Si - 10x10 mm²
- Ge - 20x20 mm²
- Si Detector

Very important results
for NECTAR project
(large detection
arrays)!



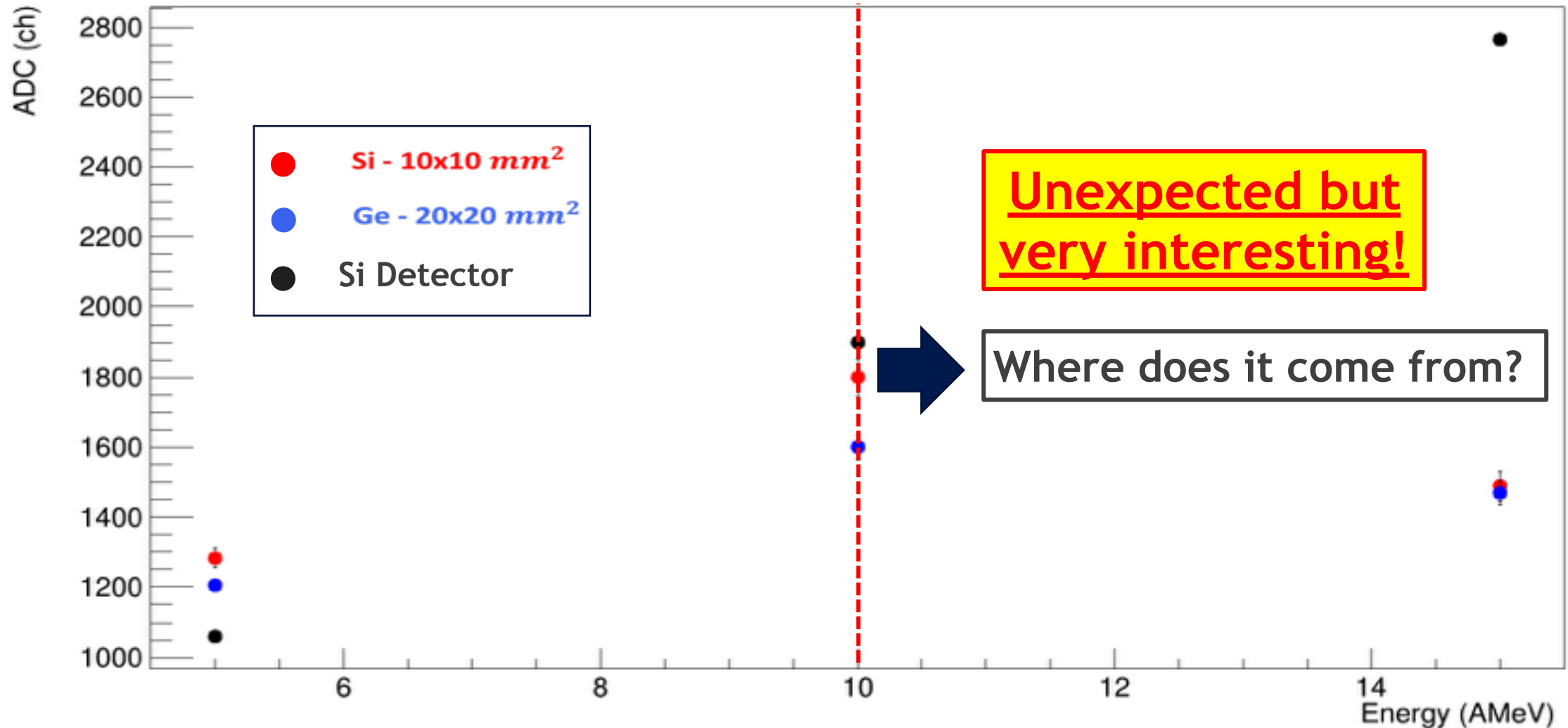
9 GANIL experiment (March 2021) - Final RESULT

2. Characterization of solar cells linearity



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PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3. Simulation

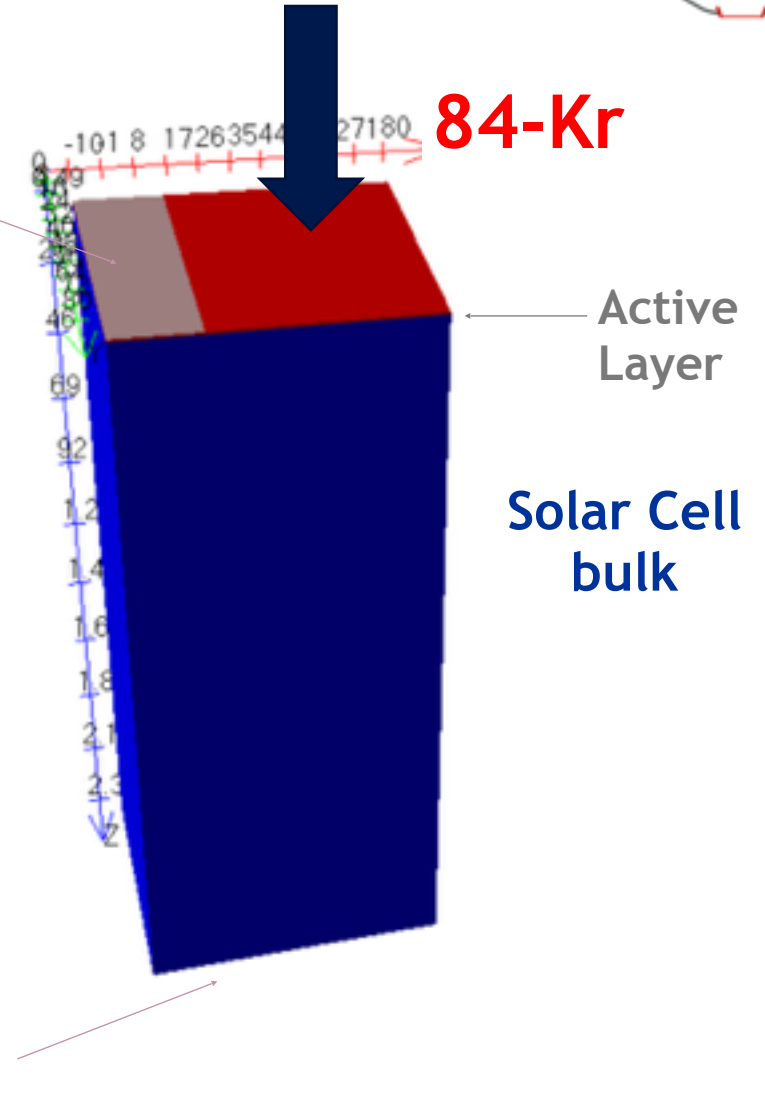


ATLAS Silvaco code

- 1) **84-Kr 5 AMeV**
- 2) 84-Kr 10 AMeV
- 3) **84-Kr 15 AMeV**

CHARGE COLLECTION PROCESS IN SOLAR CELLS

Front
Electrodes



Back
Electrodes

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3. Simulation



ATLAS Silvaco code

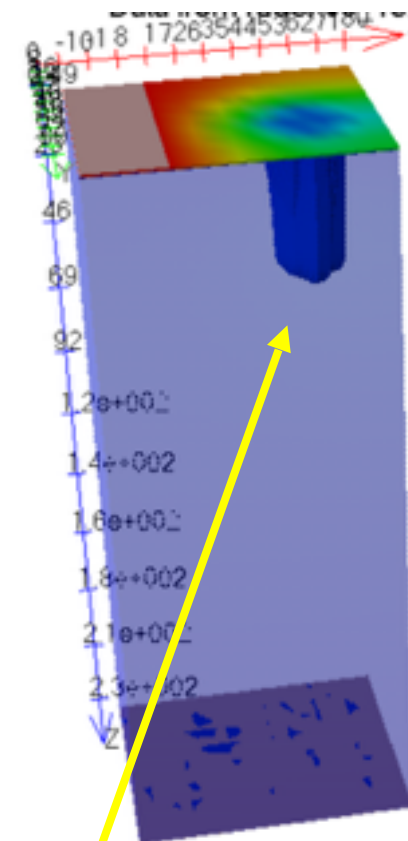
1) 84-Kr 5 AMeV

2) 84-Kr 10
AMeV

3) 84-Kr 15
AMeV

CHARGE COLLECTION
PROCESS IN SOLAR CELLS

Few tens
ns



84-Kr
5 AMeV

POTENTIAL DISTORTION

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3. Simulation



ATLAS Silvaco code

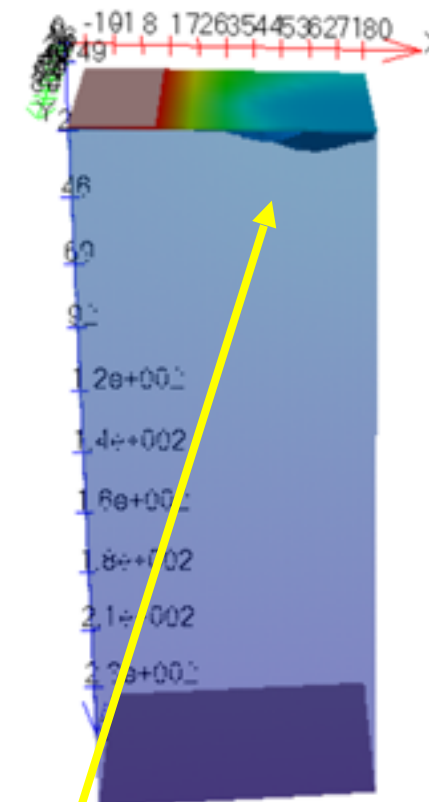
1) 84-Kr 5 AMeV

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CHARGE COLLECTION
PROCESS IN SOLAR CELLS

Few hundred ns



84-Kr
5 AMeV

POTENTIAL DISTORTION

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

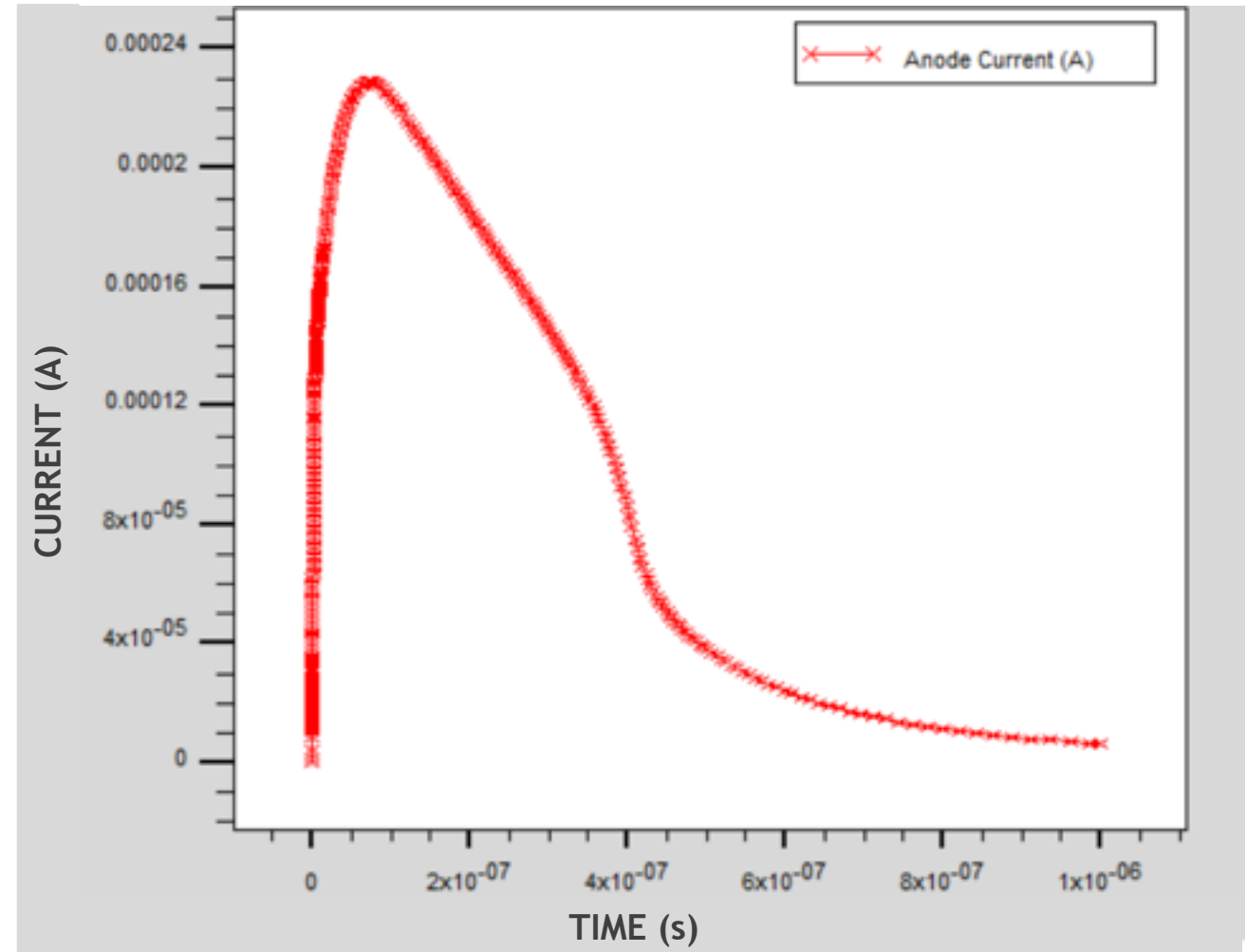
3. Simulation



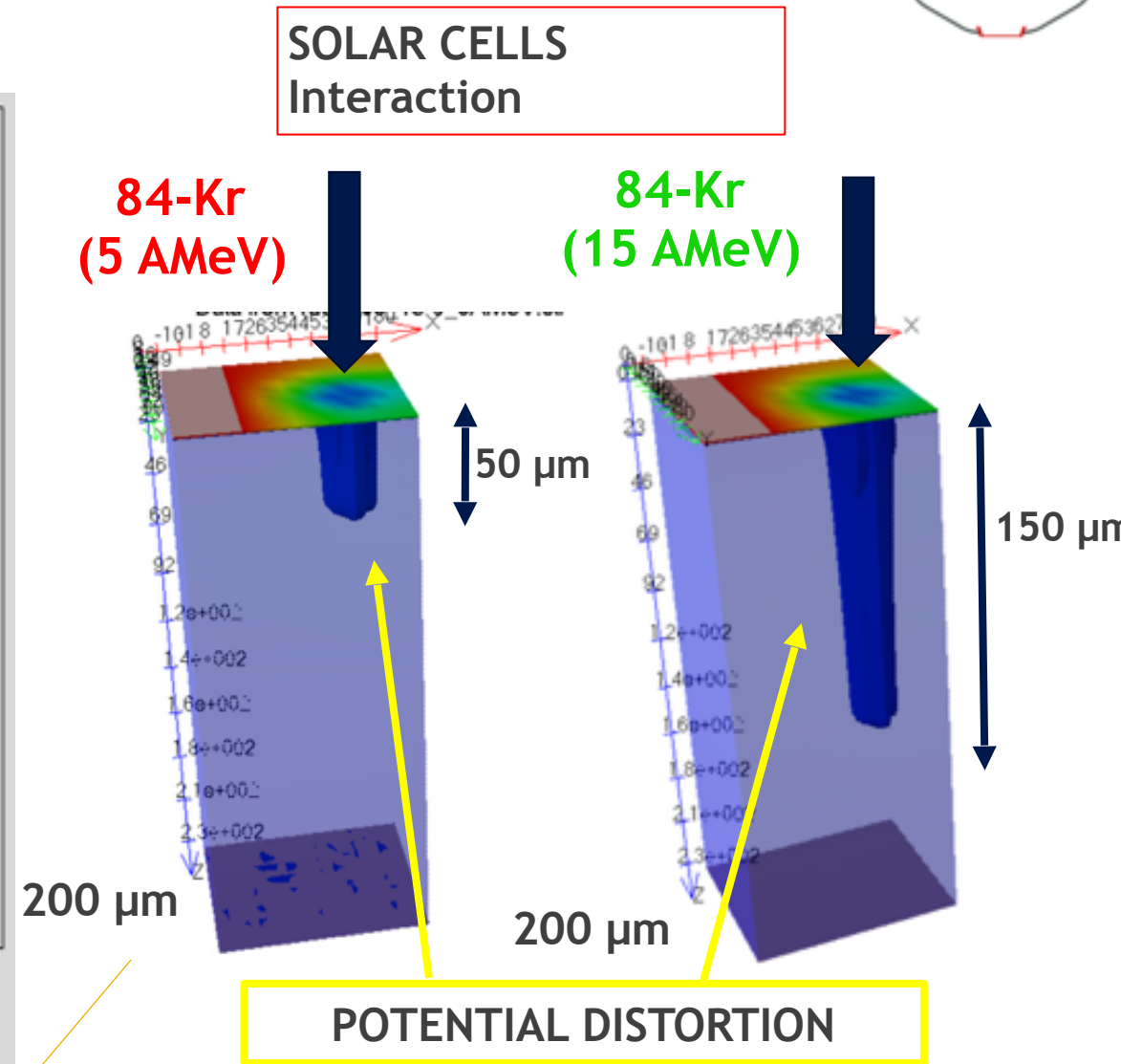
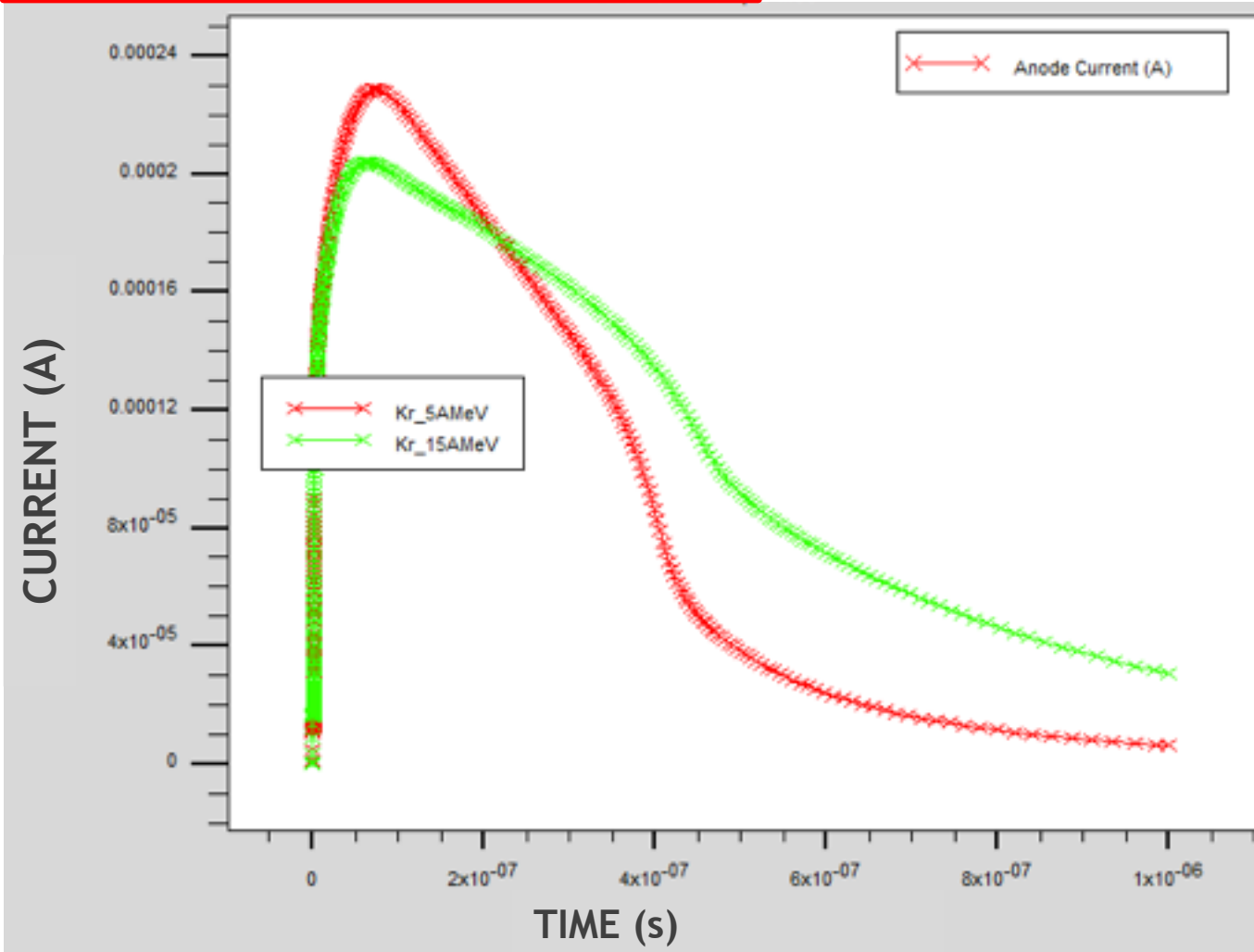
- 1) 84-Kr 5 AMeV
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CHARGE COLLECTION
PROCESS IN SOLAR CELLS



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

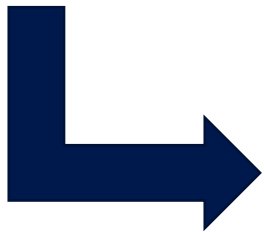


PRELIMINARY RESULTS

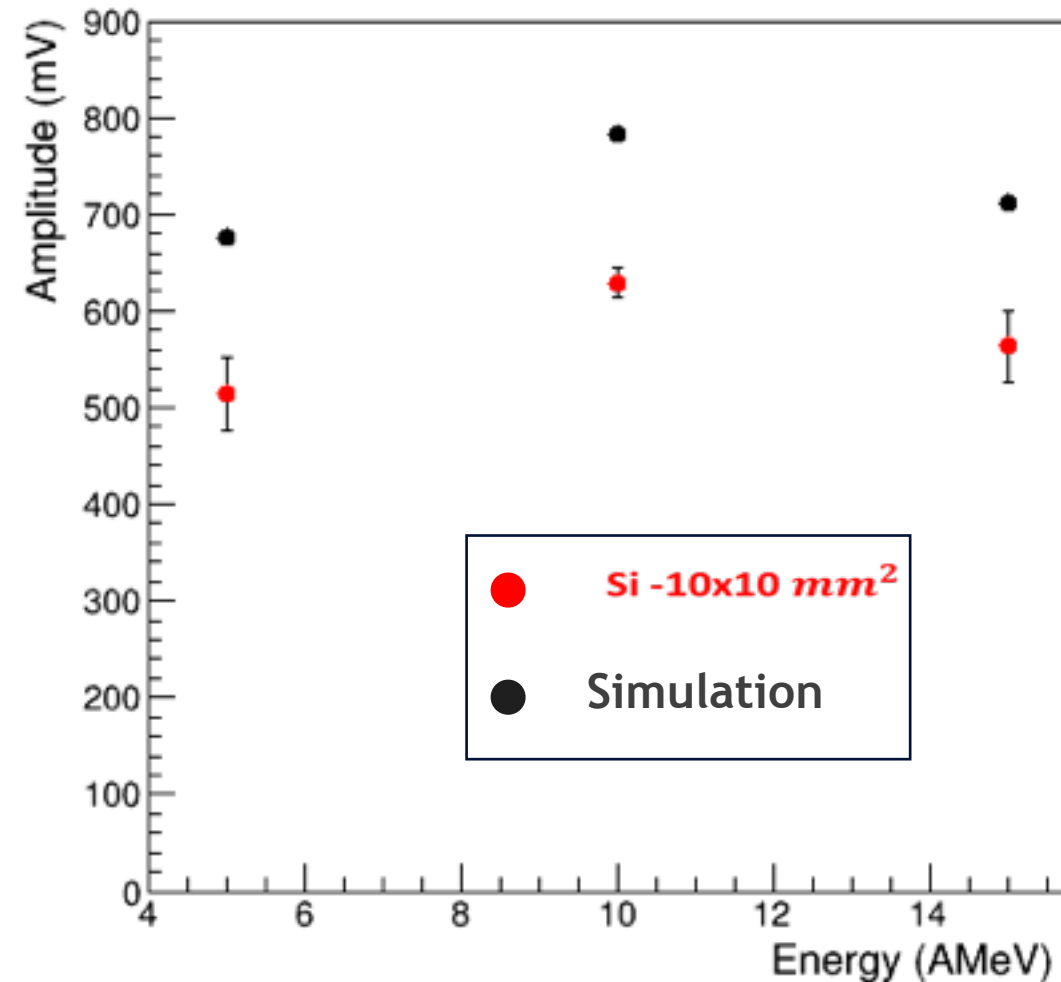
3. Simulation

- 1) 84-Kr 5 AMeV
- 2) 84-Kr 10 AMeV
- 3) 84-Kr 15 AMeV

SOLAR CELL SIGNAL IS REPRODUCED but
there are still many free parameters

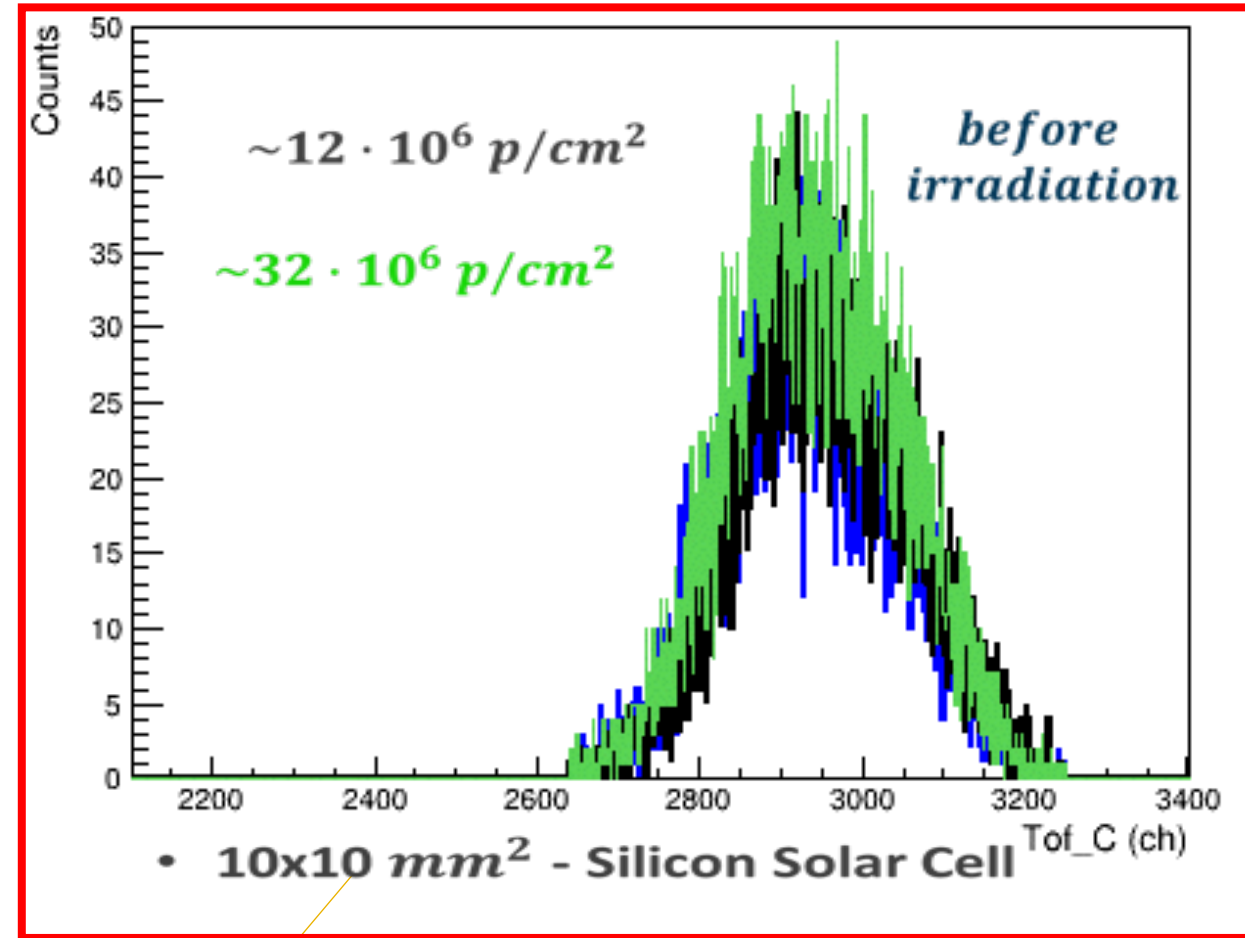
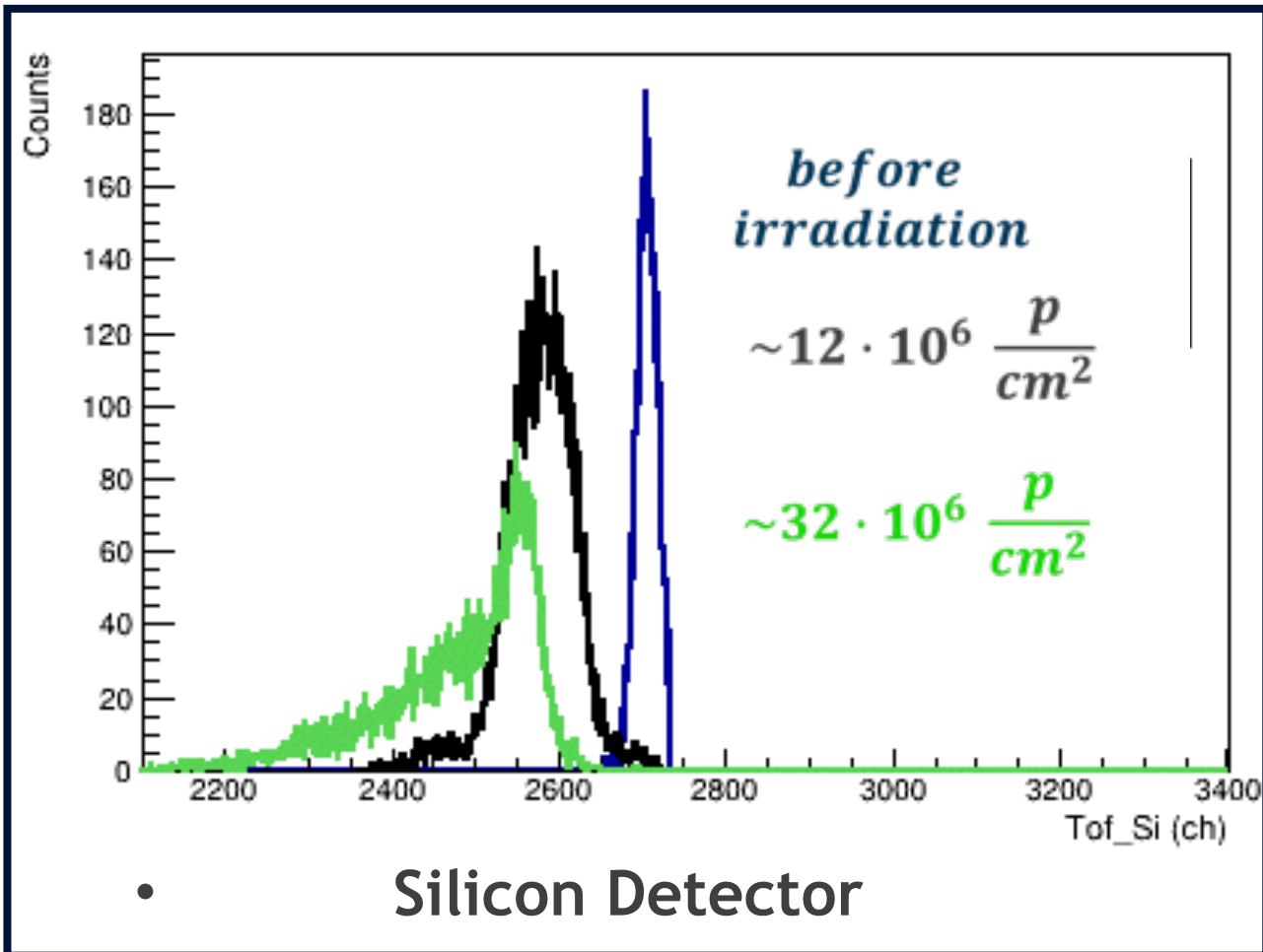


COLLECTION PROCESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SOLAR CELLS NON LINEARITY



13 GANIL experiment (March 2021) - Final

RESULTS 4 - Irradiation



^{84}Kr beam at 15 AMeV

Conclusions & Future Prospectives

Solar Cells remain an interesting alternative to Silicon Detectors for heavy ions beams at energies > 1 AMeV!!

Main Results:

- 1) • 20x20 Ge substrate the best performances in Energy ($\sigma(E)/E=1.1\%$ RMS) and Time Resolution (2.6 ns)
- 2) The Response of Solar Cells have been characterized up to 15 AMeV for ^{84}Kr :
 - Simulations are able to reproduce Solar Cells signal
- 3) Long Irradiation Test : Better behaviour of Solar Cells with respect to Silicon Detector (for time response)
 - VERY IMPORTANT FOR USE IN UHV!

SOLAR CELLS ARE WELL SUITED FOR NECTAR project but also for other experiments with heavy ions

FUTURE PROSPECTIVES

- Xe & Kr beams



- Confirm experimentally our predictions
- Digitize Solar Cells signal
- Preamplifier system: Final optimization stage

- U beam



explore Solar Cells possibilities as beam like residues detectors

.....Thank you for your work

Collaborators:

**J.C. Thomas², J. Pibernat¹, B. Jurado¹, J. Michaud¹, J. Swartz¹,
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.....Thank you for your attention

.....



***This work has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (ERC-Advanced grant NECTAR, grant agreement No 884715).**

Backup Slides

E809 experiment(March 2021) - RESULTS



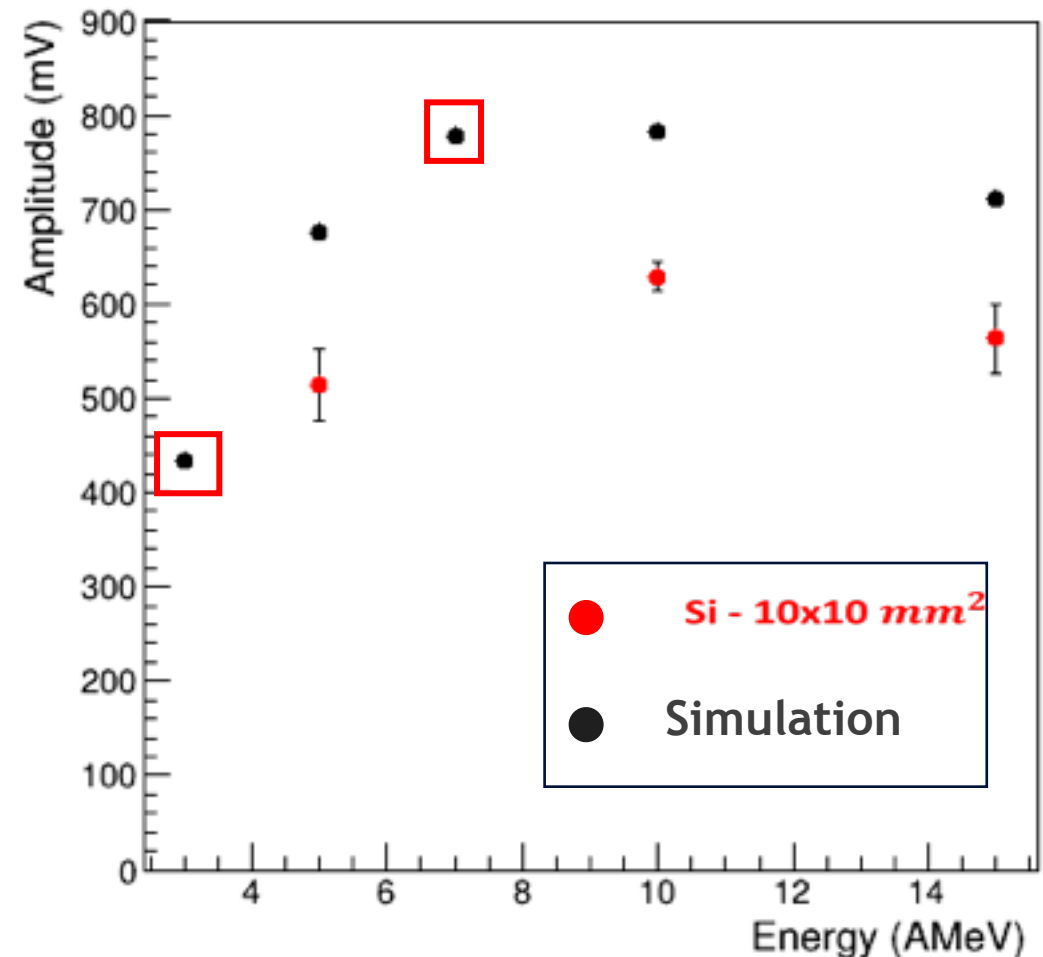
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3. Simulation



- 1) 84-Kr 3 AMeV
- 2) 84-Kr 5 AMeV
- 3) 84-Kr 7 AMeV
- 4) 84-Kr 10 AMeV
- 5) 84-Kr 15 AMeV

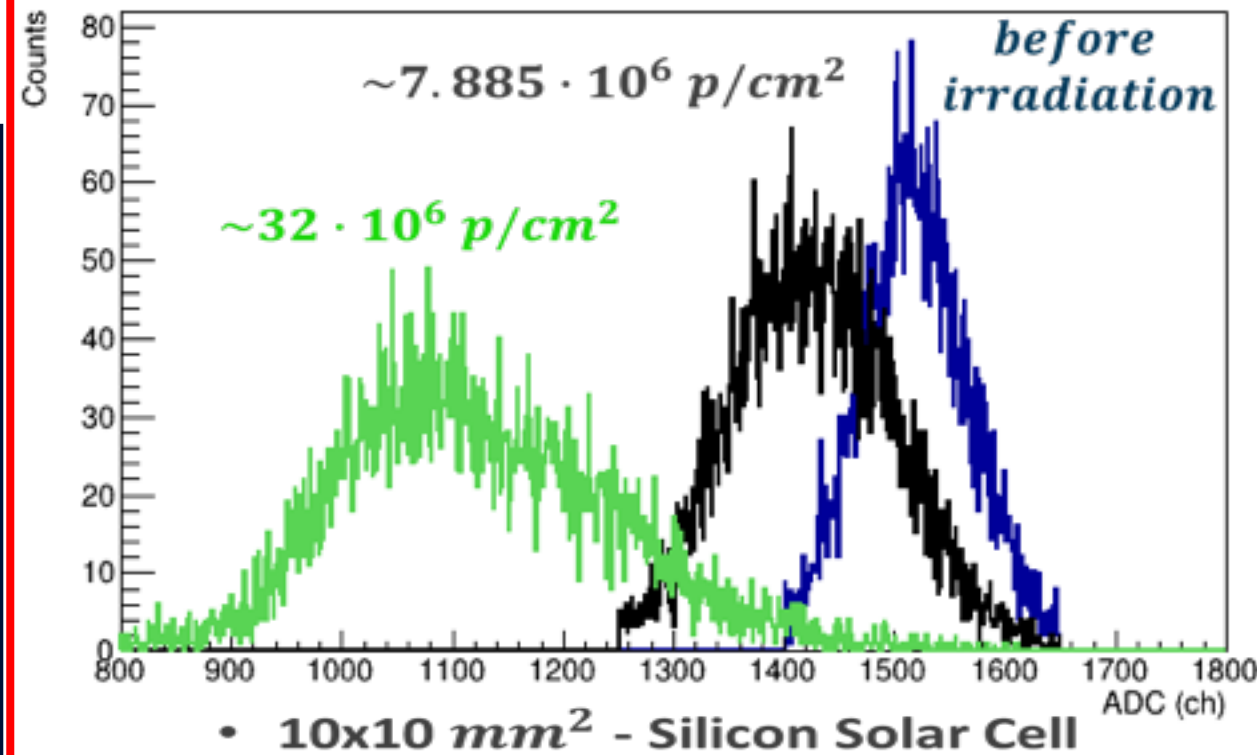
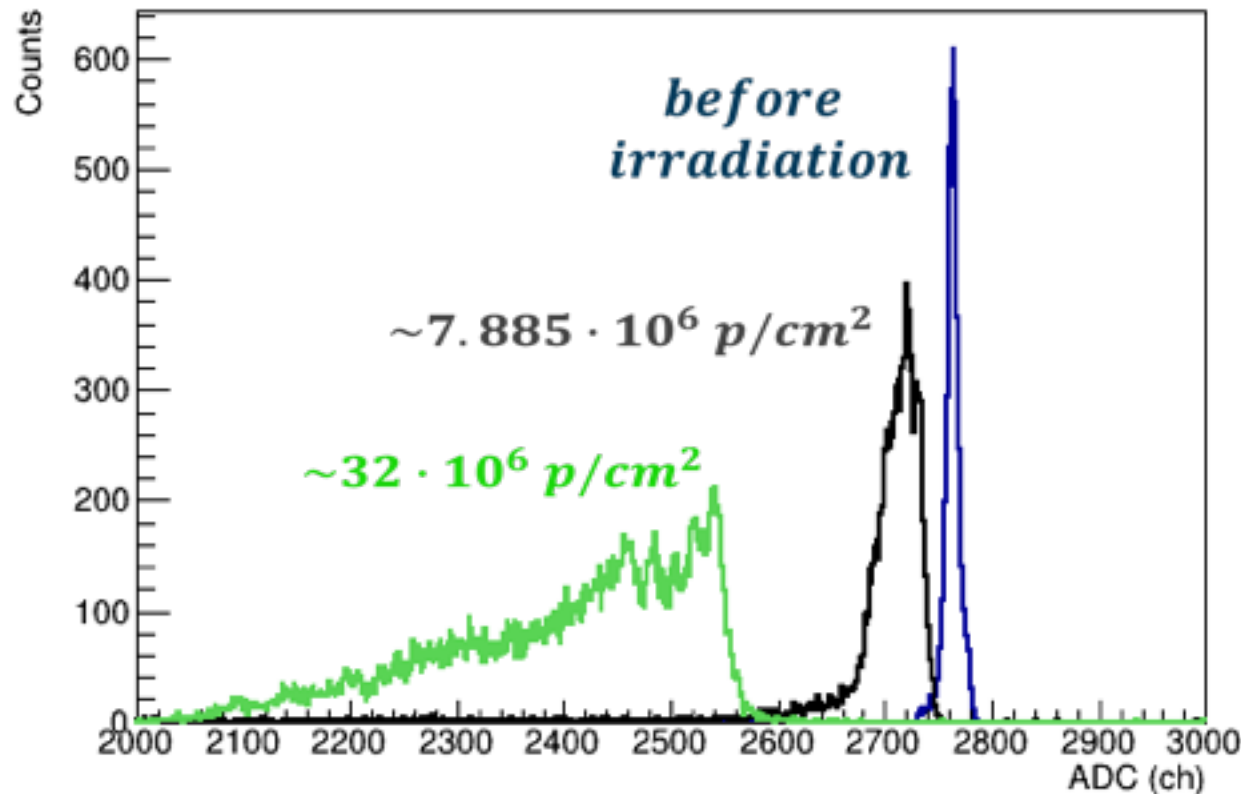
ATLAS Silvaco code



E809 experiment(March 2021) -

RESULTS 4 - Irradiation

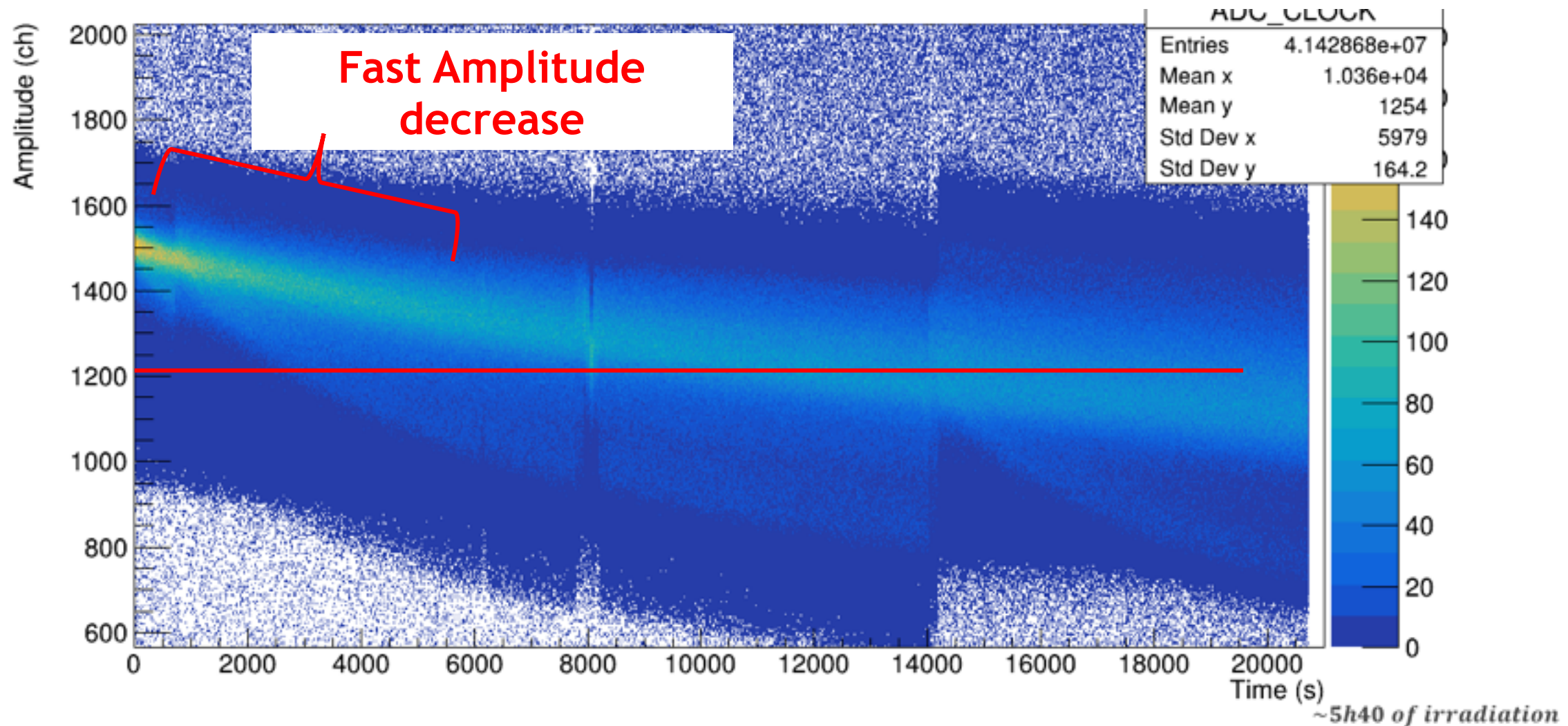
• Silicon Detector



^{84}Kr beam at 15 AMeV

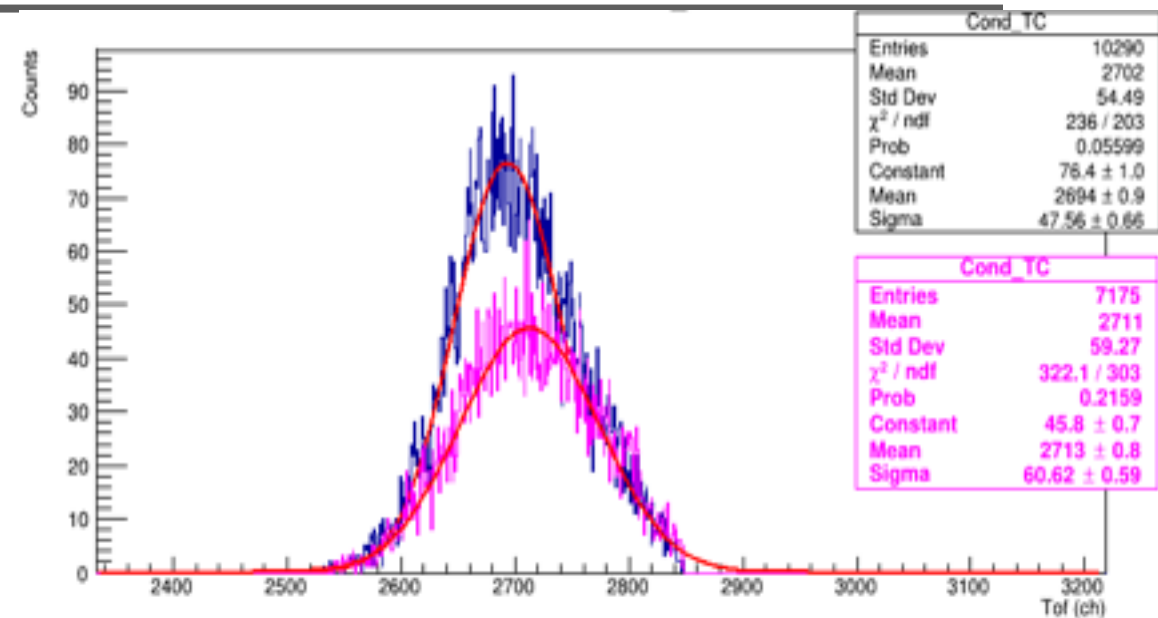
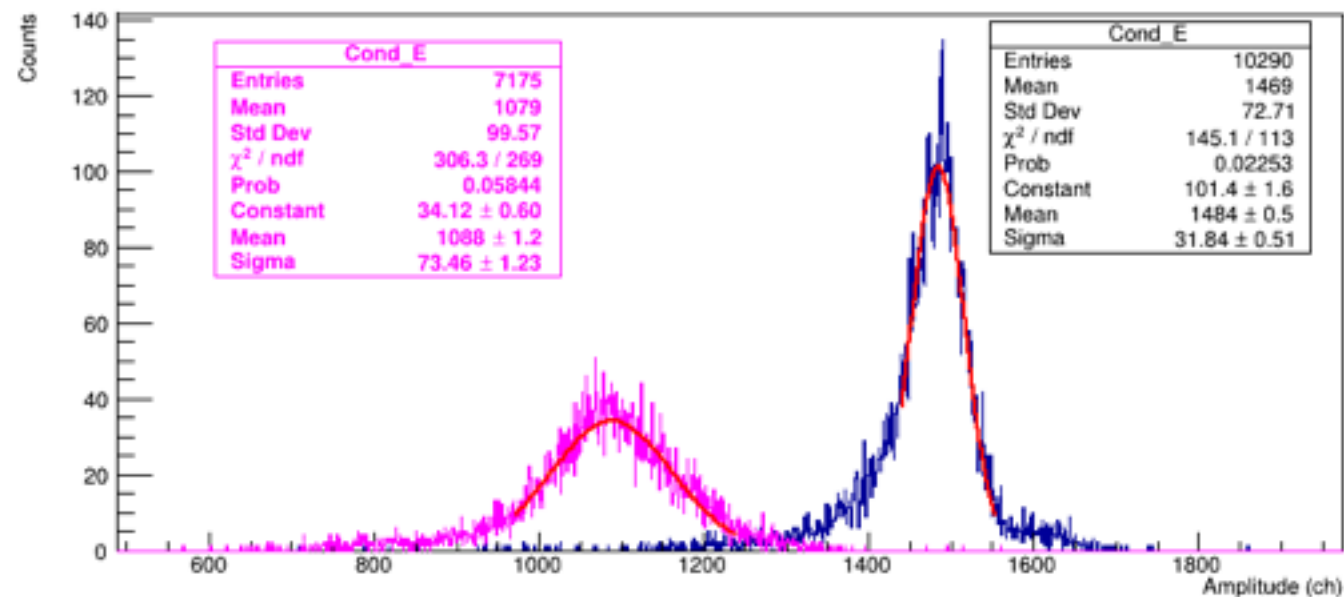
Amplitude Spectra as function of real time

- Solar Cells: Ge 20x20 mm² ----> rate 5 KHz



Amplitude & Time Spectra before and after the irradiation

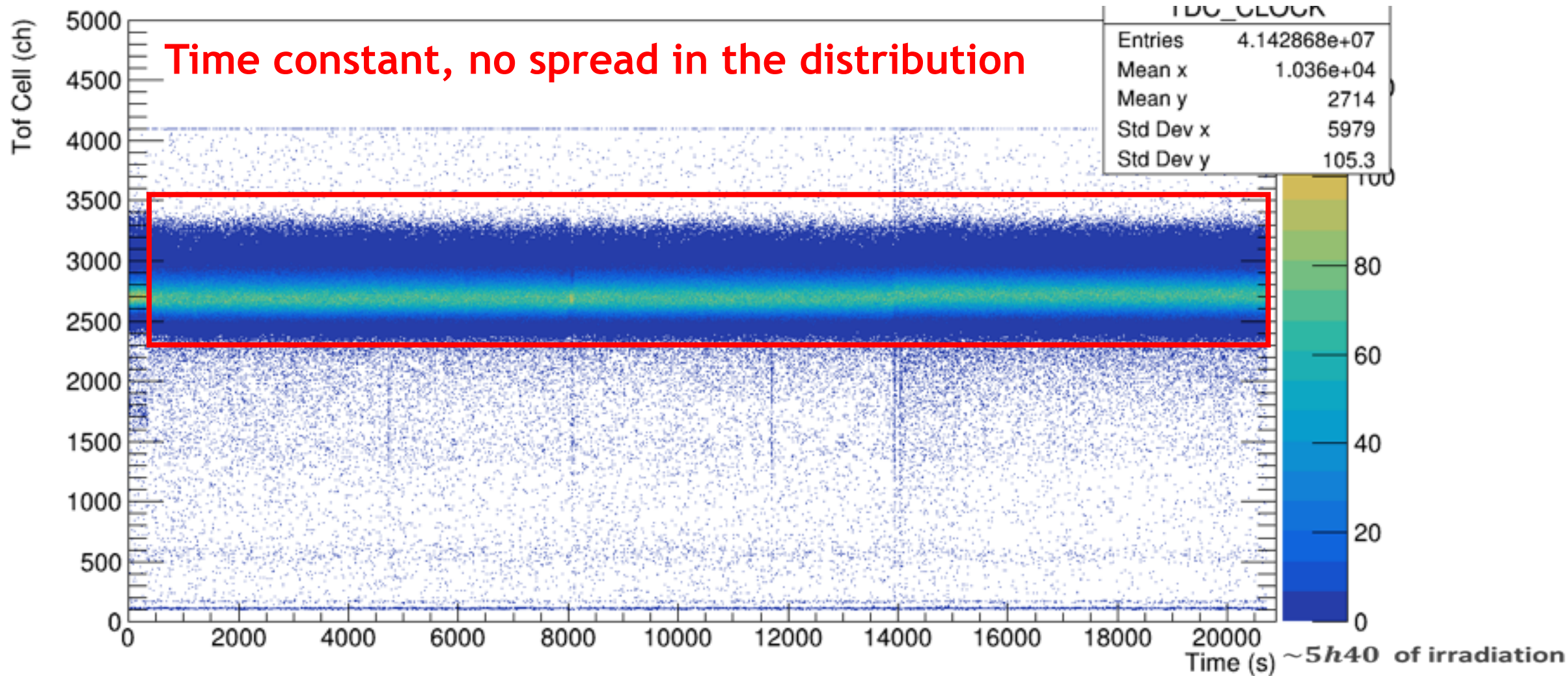
Solar Cells: Ge 20x20 mm² ----> rate 5 KHz

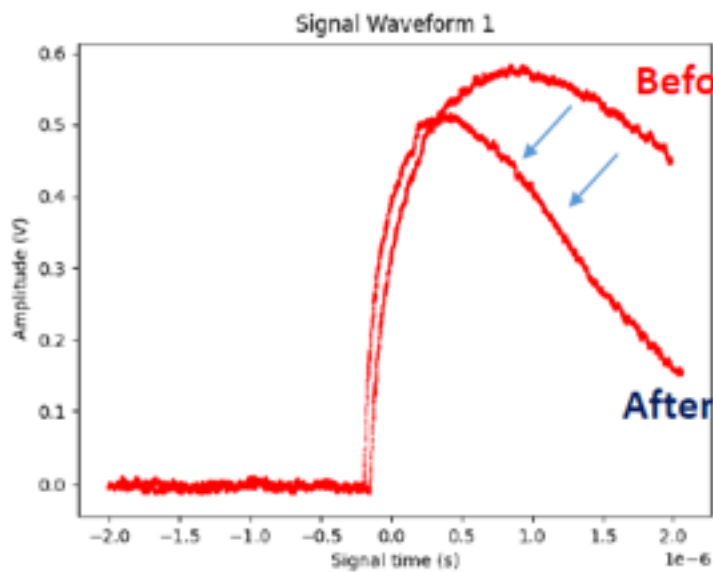


Measurements realized
at low rate ~ 50 Hz

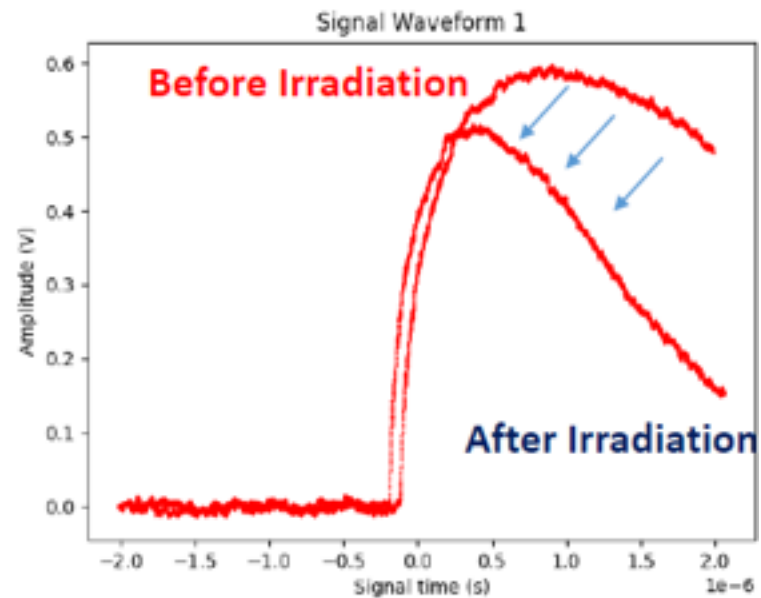
Time Spectra as function of real time

- Solar Cells: Ge 20x20 mm² ----> rate 5 KHz

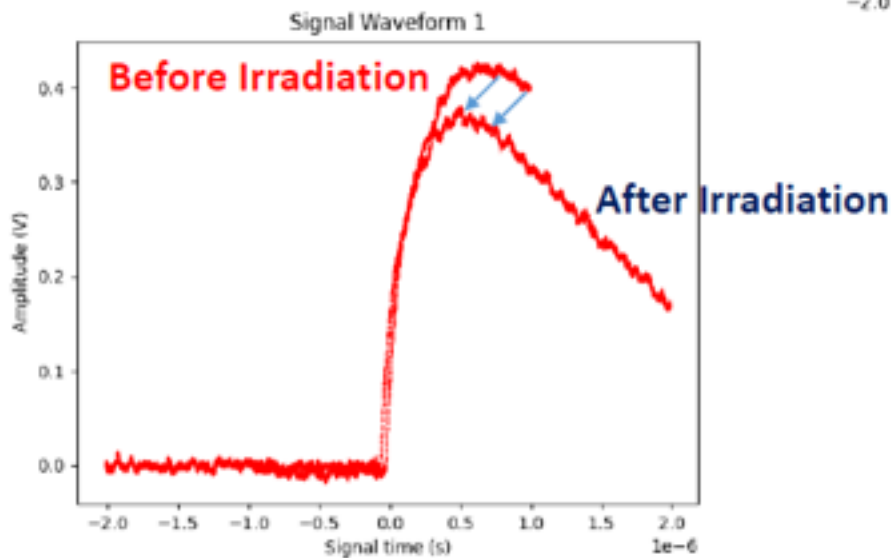


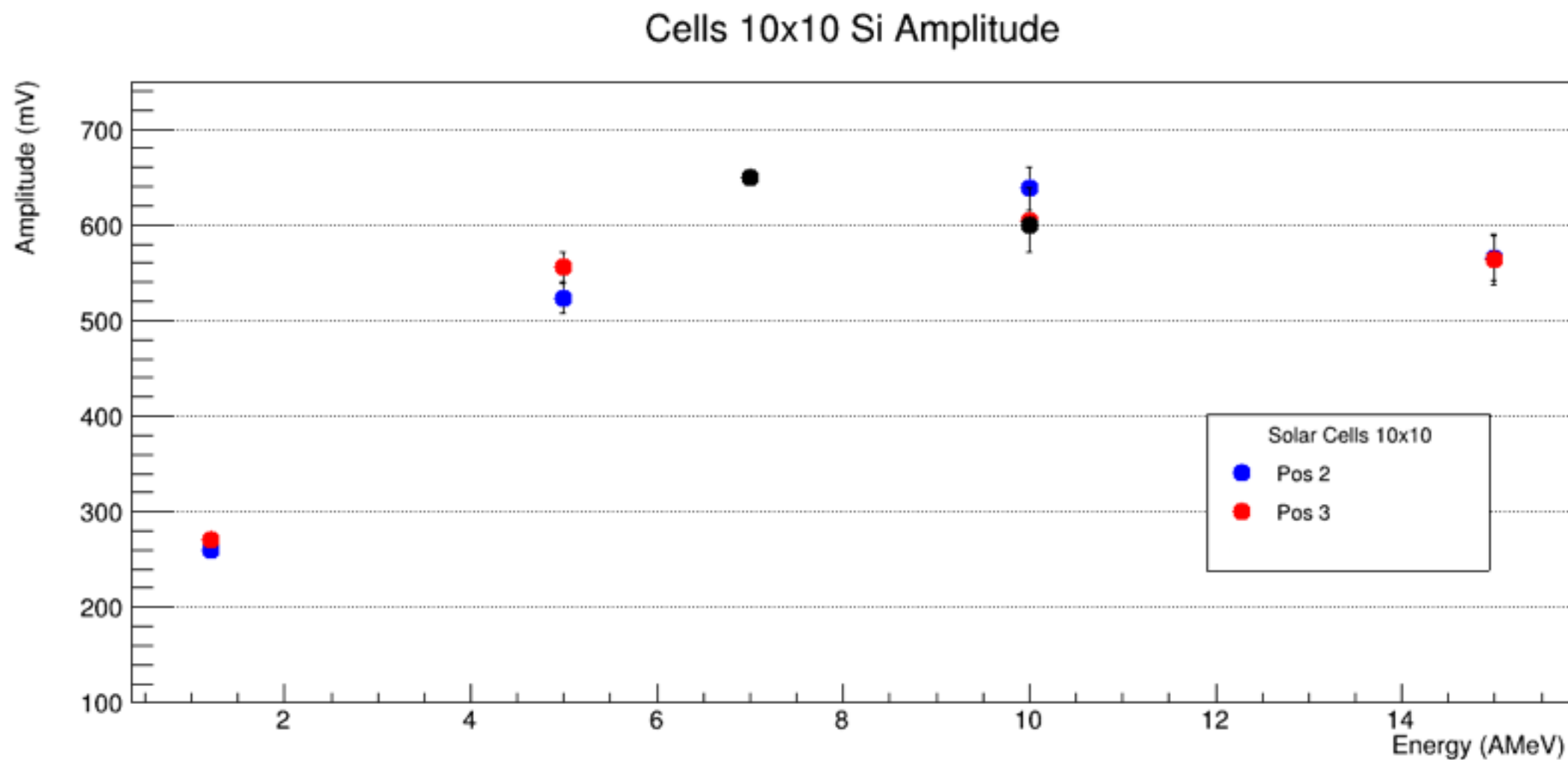


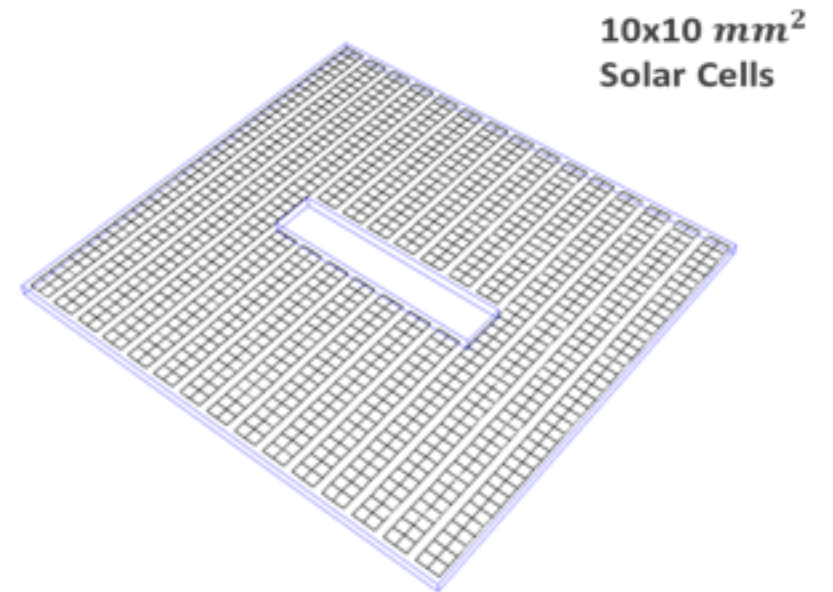
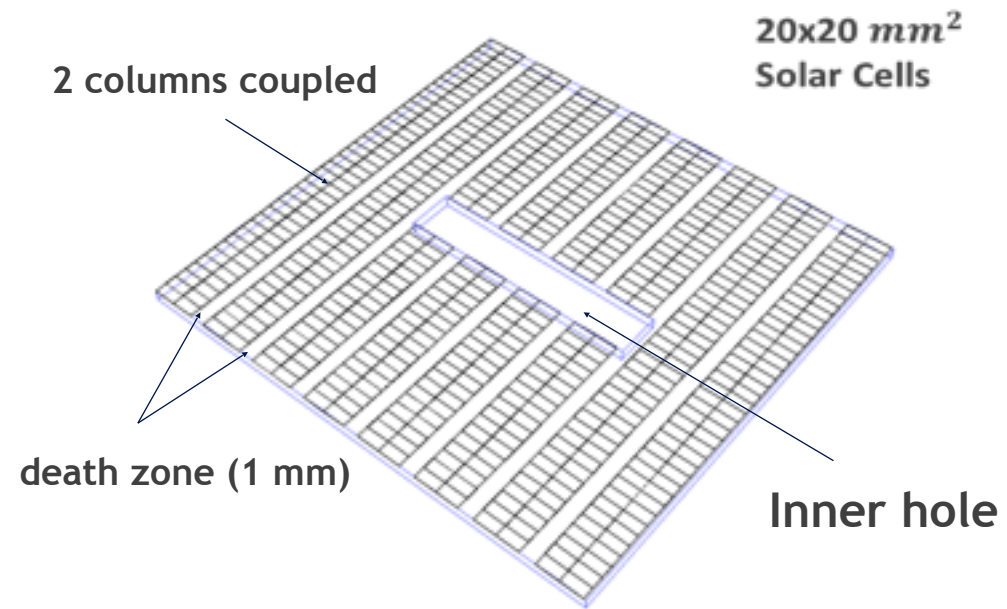
Solar Cells (Si) 10x10 mm²



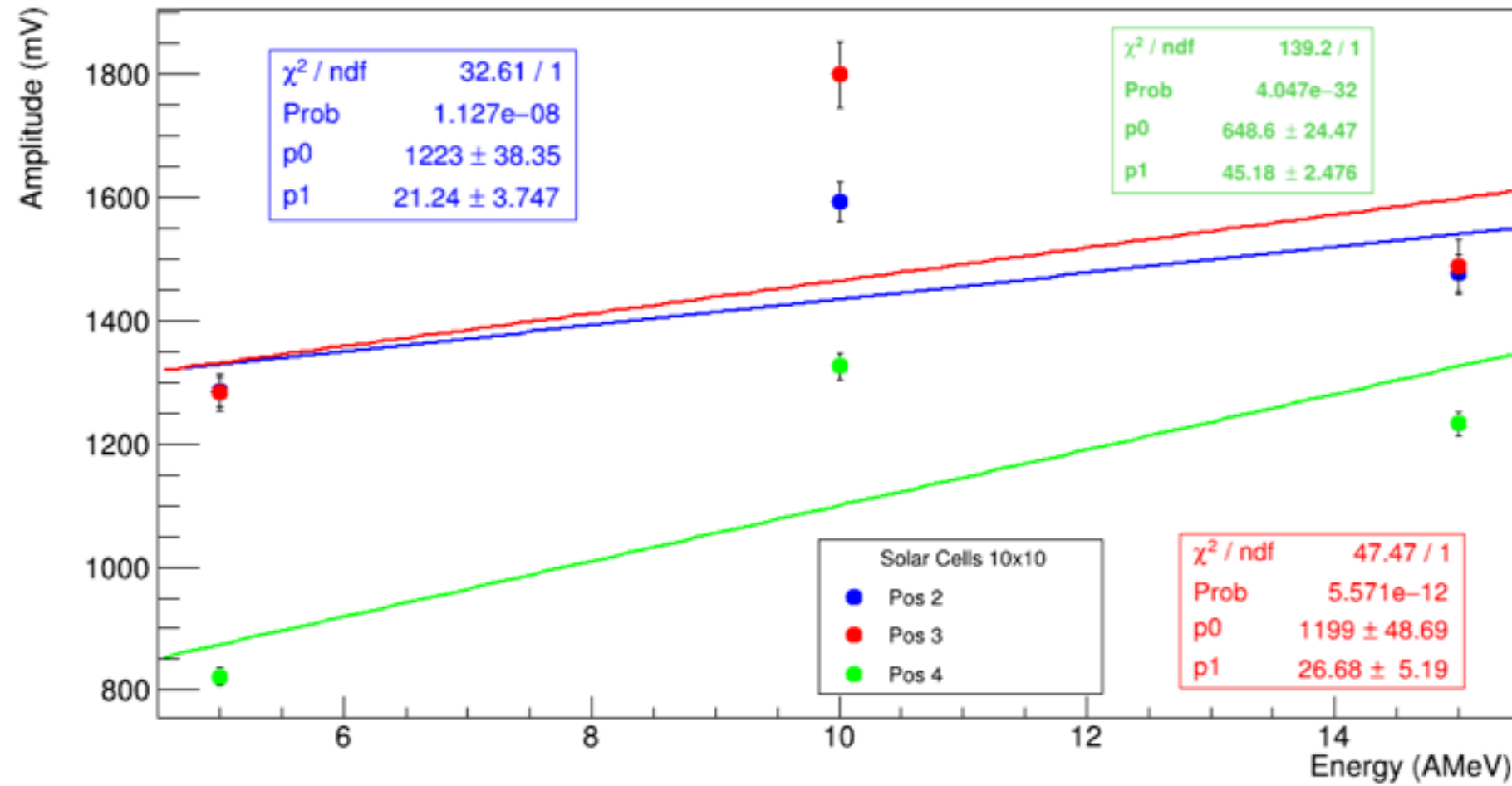
Solar Cells (Ge) 20x20 mm²

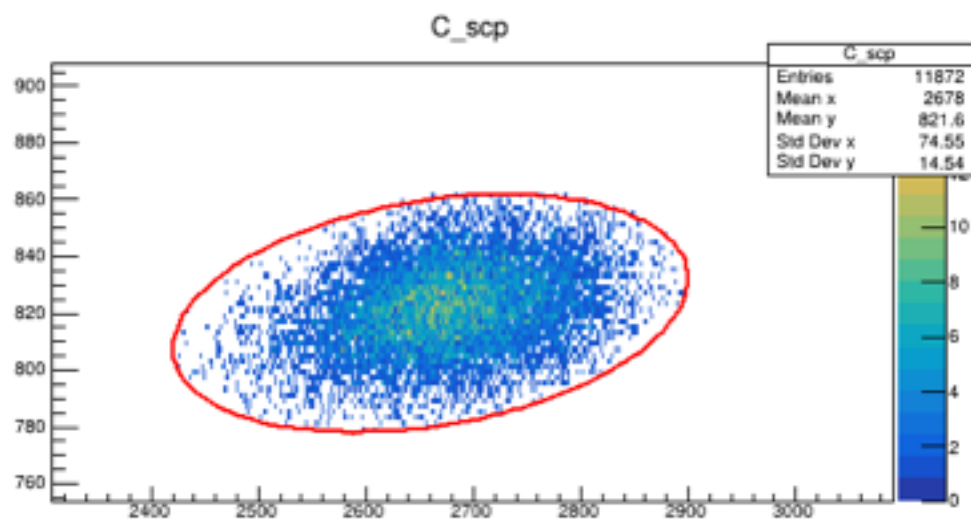
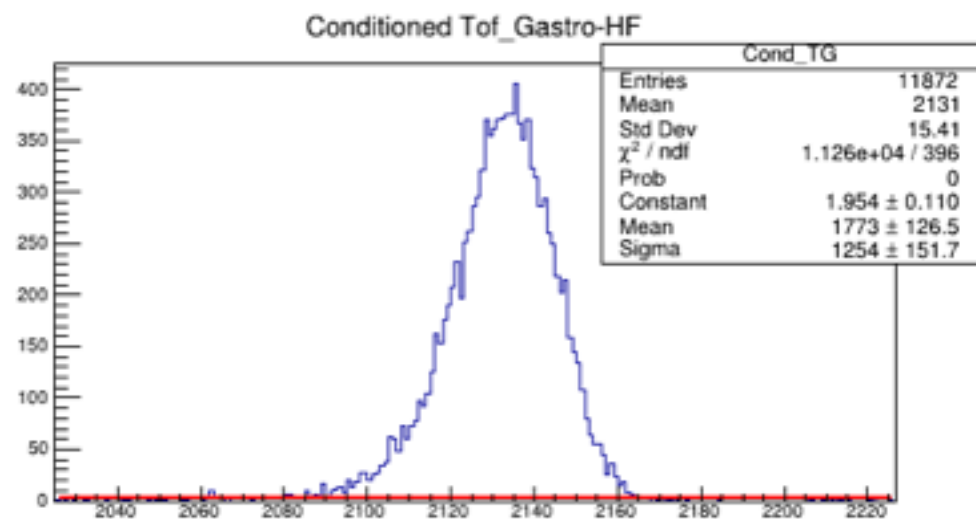
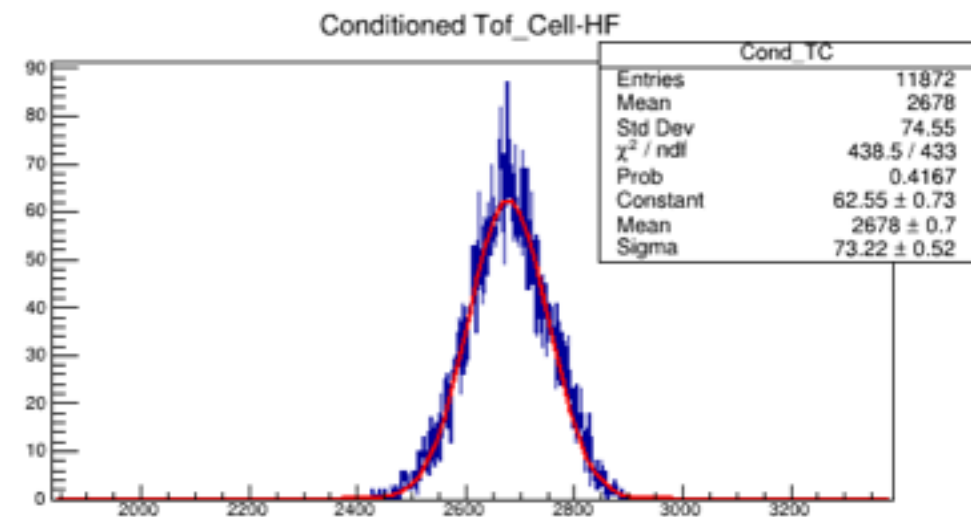
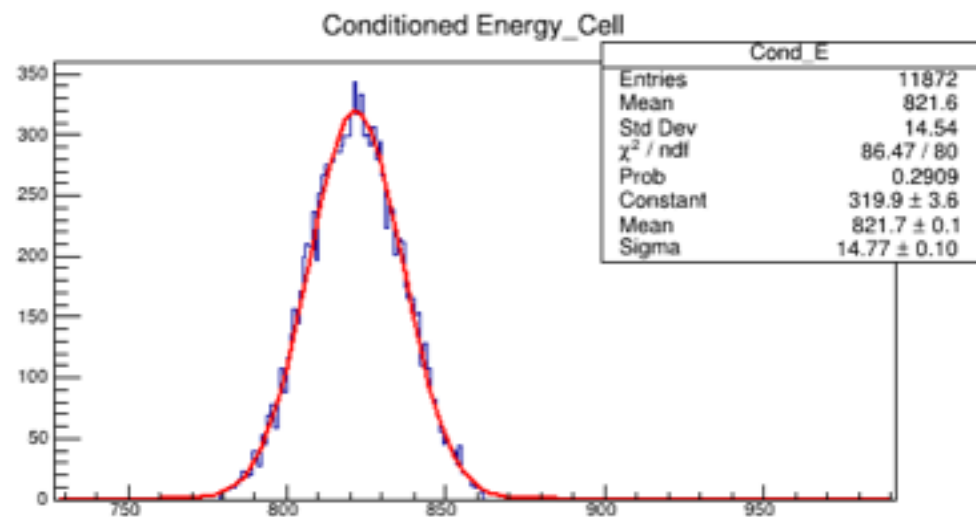






Cells 10x10 Si Amplitude





ADC_Energy & Tof_Cell

