

Development of Large-Area Fast Micro-channel Plate Photo-detectors

Marcel Demarteau
Argonne National Laboratory
for the LAPPD collaboration

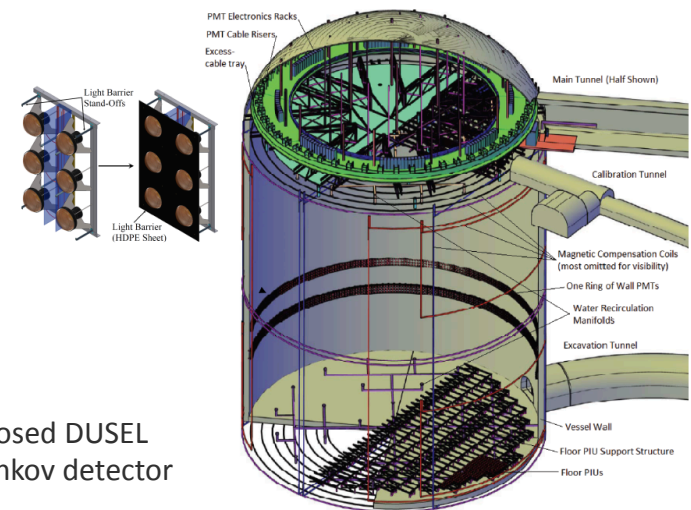
Outline

- Introduction
- Photo-Detector Development
 - Photo-cathodes
 - MCP
 - Anode and signal readout
 - Mechanical Design
- Simulations and Testing
- Concluding remarks



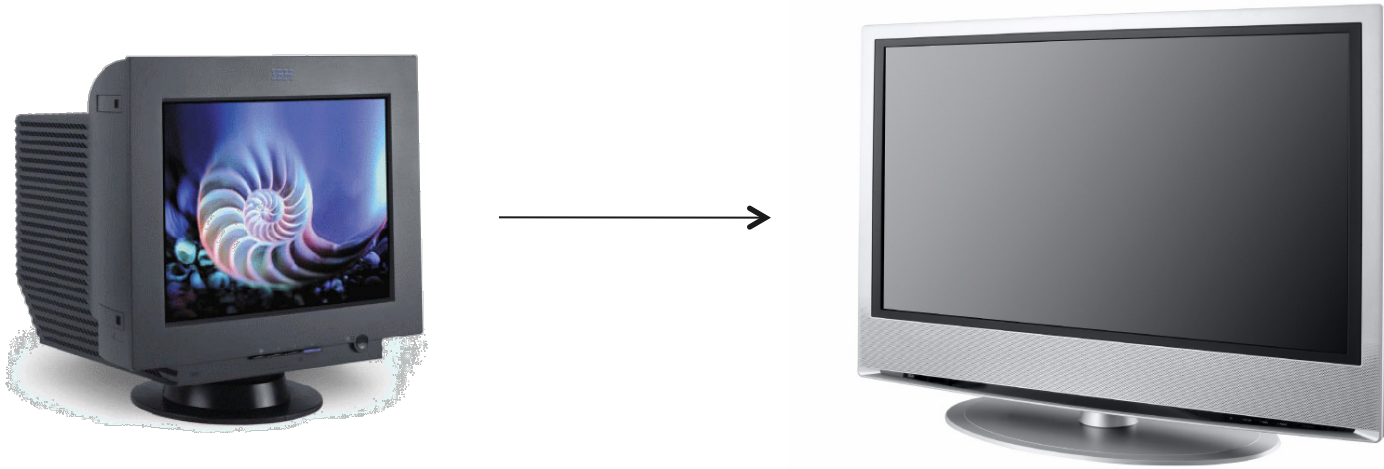
Photo Multiplier Tubes

- “Old” Technology
 - Used for decades
 - Robust, generally low noise
 - Simple biasing
- Time resolution $\sim 2\text{-}3$ nsec
- Spatial resolution limited by tube radius
- Total coverage offered is typically (much) less than 40%
- Typical photocathode efficiency $\sim 25\%$
- Few vendors
- Can this technology address the challenges of the next generation of e.g. H_2O Čerenkov experiments?



Proposed DUSEL
Čerenkov detector

Large-Area Photodetectors



Large-Area Pico-second Photo Detector (LAPPD)

- Newly funded by DOE and NSF (fall '09)
 - 4 National Labs
 - 5 Divisions at Argonne
 - 3 US small companies;
 - Electronics expertise at UofC and Hawaii
 - Photocathode expertise at Washington University, St. Louis and UIC
- Premise:
 - Apply advances in material science and nanotechnology to develop new, batch methods for producing cheap, large area photo-detectors
 - Improvement in at least one performance parameter by an order of magnitude
 - Develop path to a commercializable product
- Project currently in its third year
 - <http://psec.uchicago.edu/>

Large Area Picosecond Photodetector Collaboration

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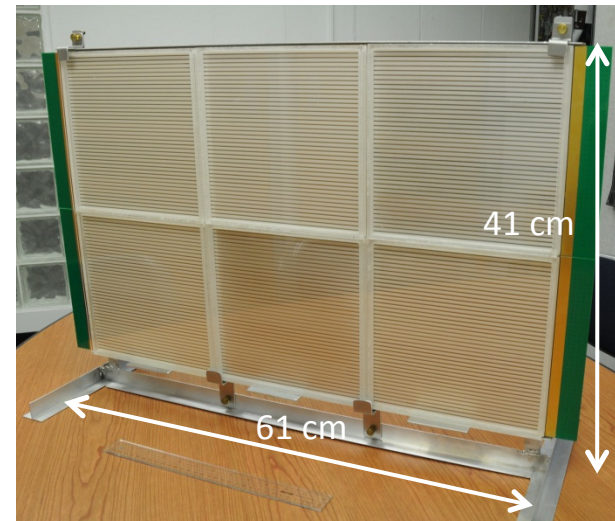
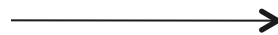
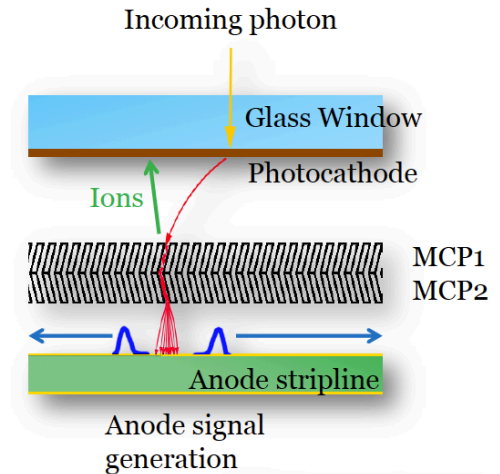
David Forbush, Tianchi Zhao

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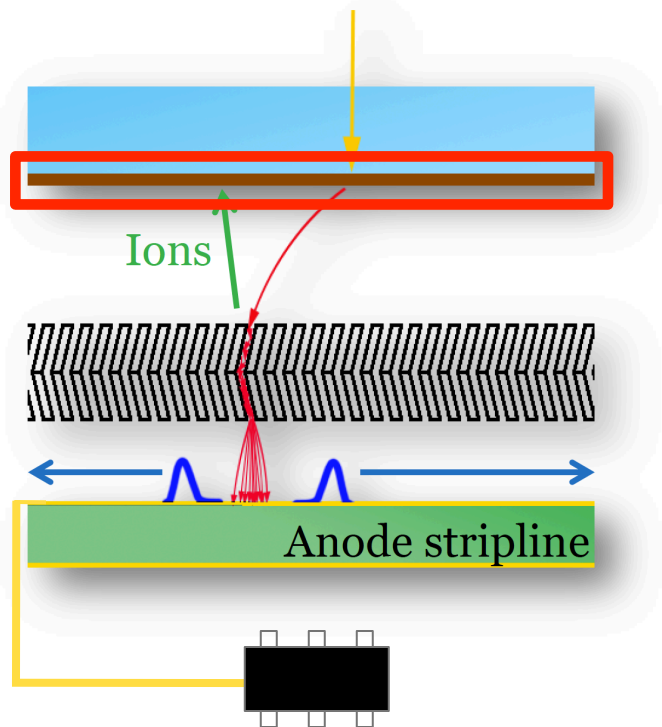


LAPPD: Approach

- Based on Existing Technology: Micro Channel Plate (MCP) photo-multiplier
- Fully integrate advances in material science and electronics to produce large-area MCP-PMTs:
 - Preserve and improve on time and space resolutions of conventional micro-channel plate detectors
 - At low enough cost per unit area



LAPPD Deconstructed



1. Photo-Cathode (PC)

- Conversion of photons to electrons
- Engineer III-V materials to develop robust high QE photo-cathodes

2. Micro-Channel Plates

- Amplification of signal: two plates with tiny pores, held at high potential difference. Use Atomic Layer Deposition for emissive material on inert substrates to create avalanche

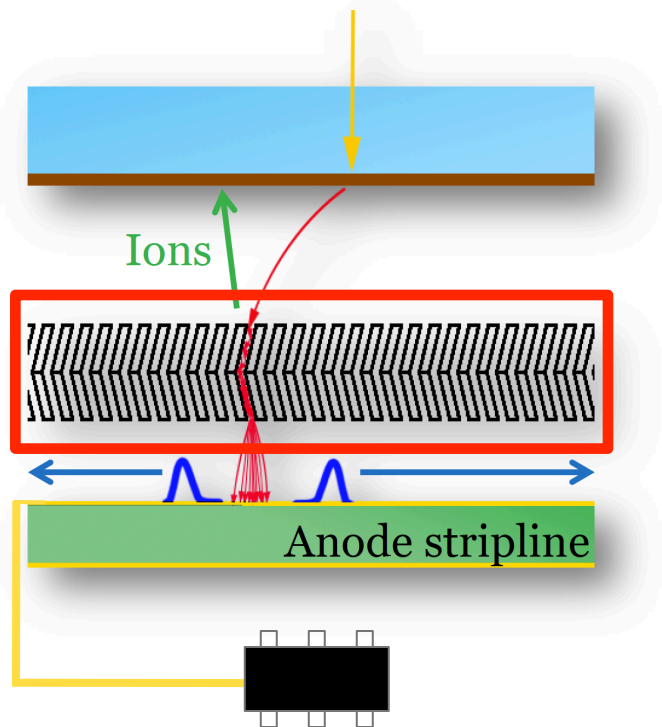
3. Electronics

- Transmission line readout: 50 Ω scalable strip line, silk-screen printed on glass ground plane
- Readout at both ends with fast custom CMOS SCA chip with 10GHz waveform digitization

4. Hermetic Packaging

- Maintain vacuum and provide support. No internal connections; no penetrations

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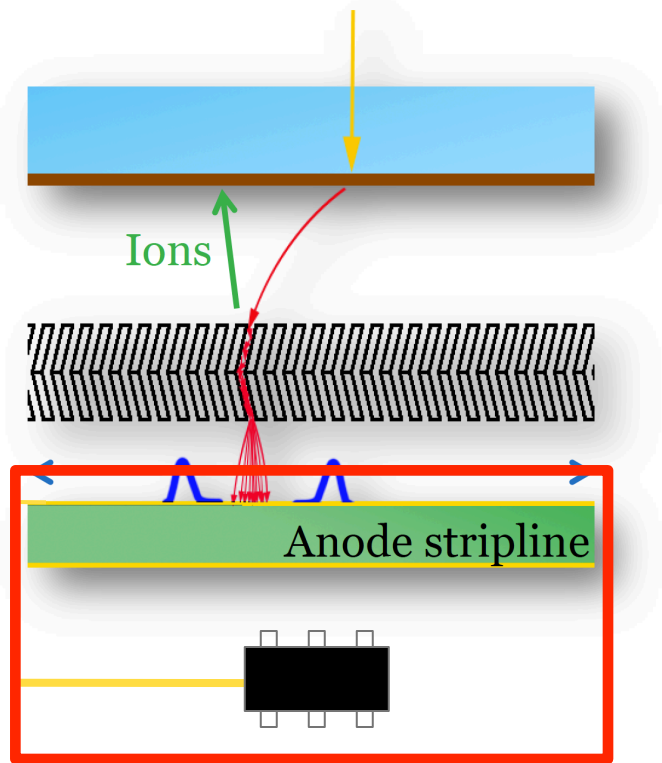
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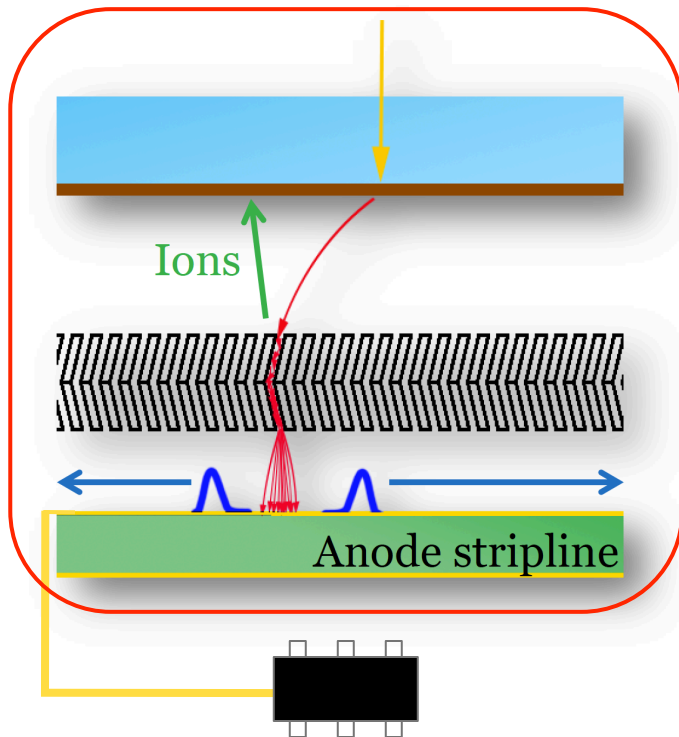
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Photo-Cathode Thrusts

- Space Science Laboratory, Berkeley:
R&D focus on scaling up of traditional bi-alkali to larger area
- ANL/Wash U/UICU:
R&D focus on theory inspired design
 - New novel photocathode technologies like nano-structured photocathodes
 - III-V have the potential for high QE, shifting toward the blue and robustness
 - Simulations, testing & characterization
- Argonne:
R&D focus on design for industrial production of large-area photocathodes for a tile factory
 - In the process of setting up in-house photo-cathode production facility

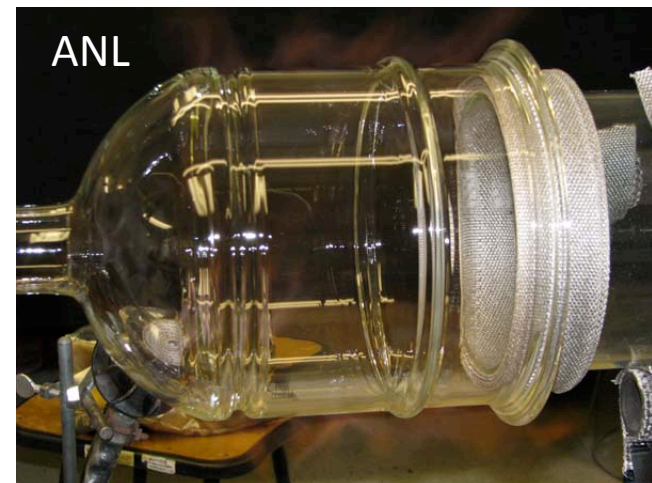


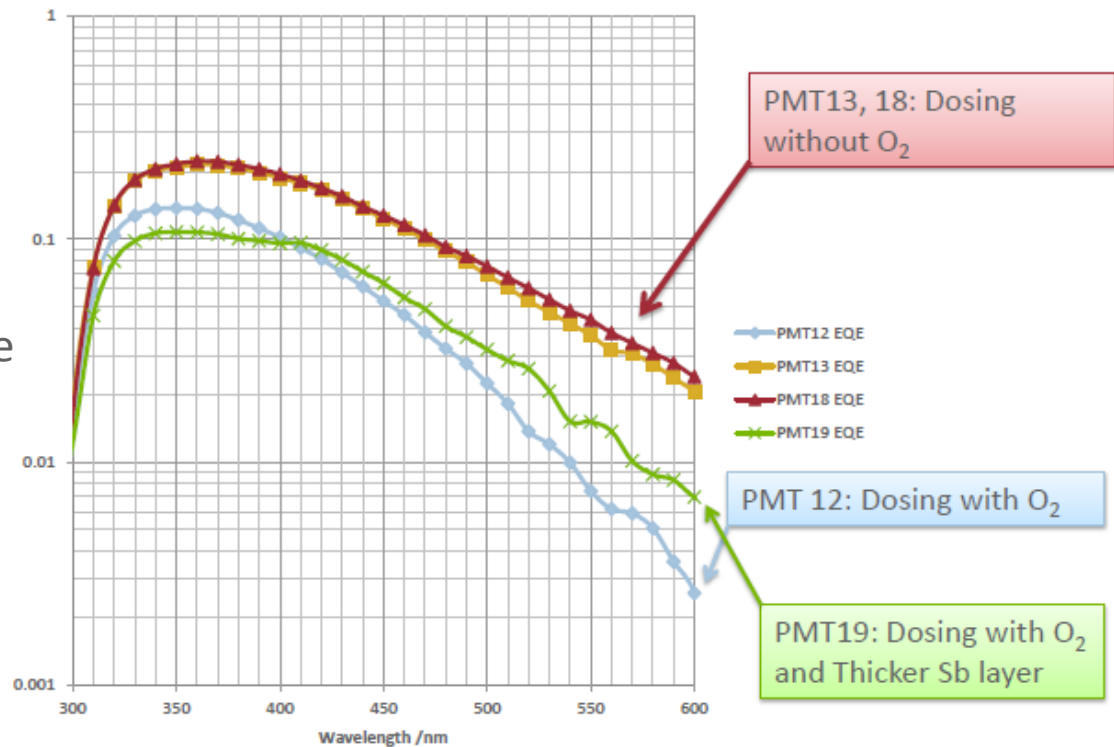
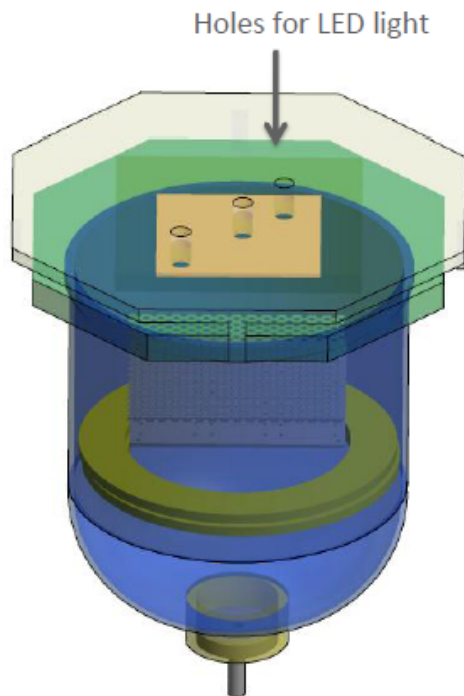
Photo-Cathode Growth at ANL

- Goal of the LAPPD project is to shoot photo-cathodes with 20-25% QE on 8"-square glass substrate
- Photocathode growth similar to traditional PMT method
 - Metal beads activated by current heating
 - Use evacuated glass containment vessel with bead support structure and detachable top window
- PMT processing equipment obtained from Burle Industries
- Process:
 - Grow photocathodes following Burle 'recipe' in evacuated tubes
 - Extend process to 10x10cm² photocathodes in large evacuated glass vessel
 - Extend process to 20x20cm² photocathodes for tile production



PMT Growth

- Multi-alkali (K, Sb, Cs) Phototubes grown at Argonne and characterized
- System calibrated with HPK reference tube
- Results cross-checked at Burle

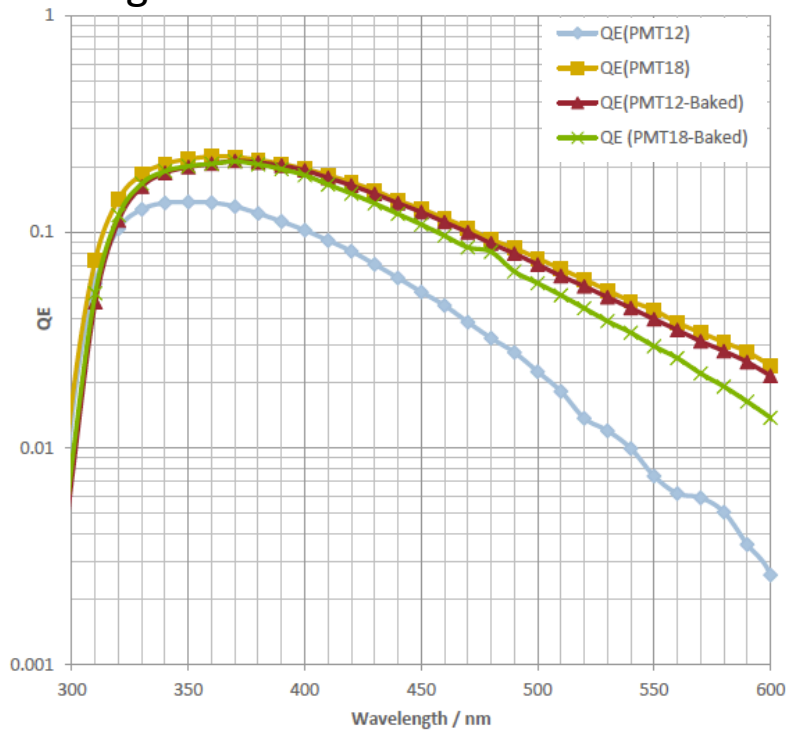


- In the process of transferring growth 'recipe' to 10x10cm² photocathodes on glass substrate, following same recipe
- Characterization in situ (not during growth)

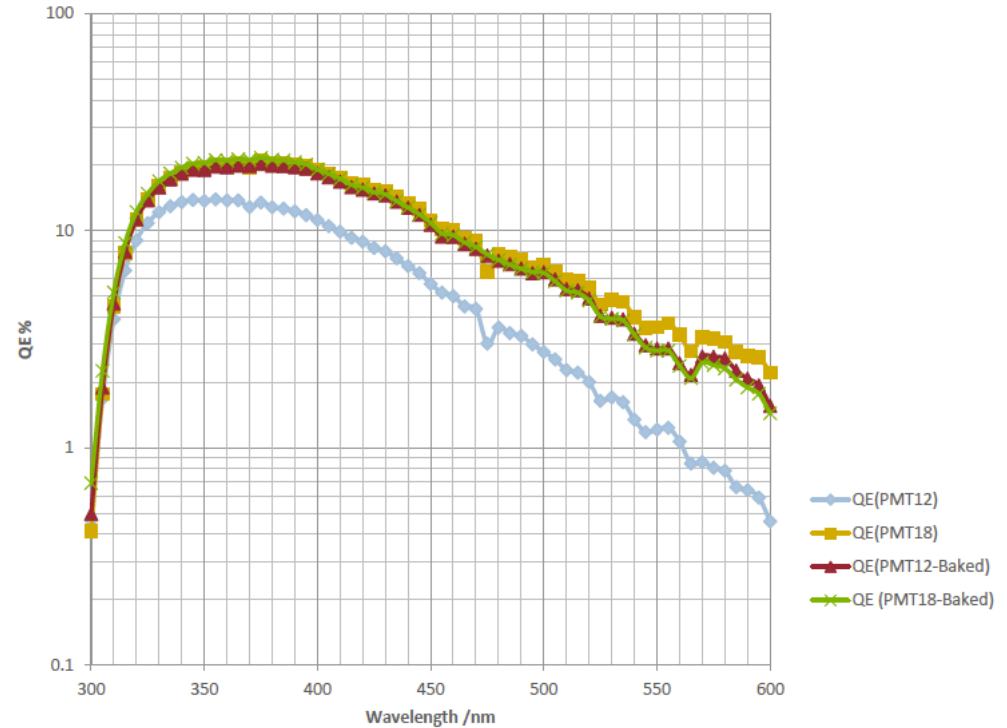
PMT Characterization Cross Check

- Tubes produced and measured at Argonne sent to Burle/Photonis for cross-check

Argonne Measurement



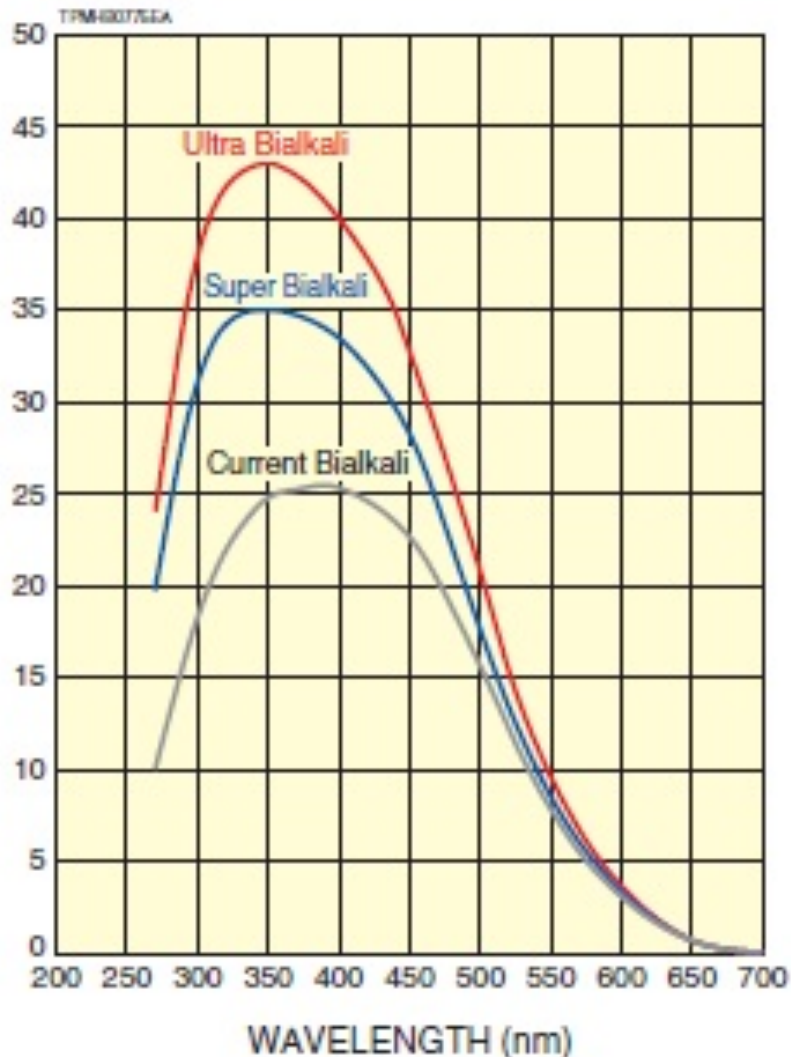
Photonis Measurement



- At Photonis, both phototubes wire cleaned (hot acid solutions), followed by oven bake 140 °C for 2 hrs
- 'Feature' at 475 nm an artifact from bad data point in the reference device



Photo-Cathode QE



- Three step model:
 - Absorption (reflection losses)
 - Transport to the surface
 - Emission through the surface barrier
- Ways to manipulate the material:
 - Absorption (band gap):
 - Band structure by composition variations
 - Transport (scattering):
 - Electron-electron scattering negligible (if not highly doped)
 - Electron-phonon scattering; very difficult to manipulate
 - Electron-impurity scattering; fully growth related
 - Symmetry break (electric fields)
 - Emission properties
 - Surface composition
 - morphology



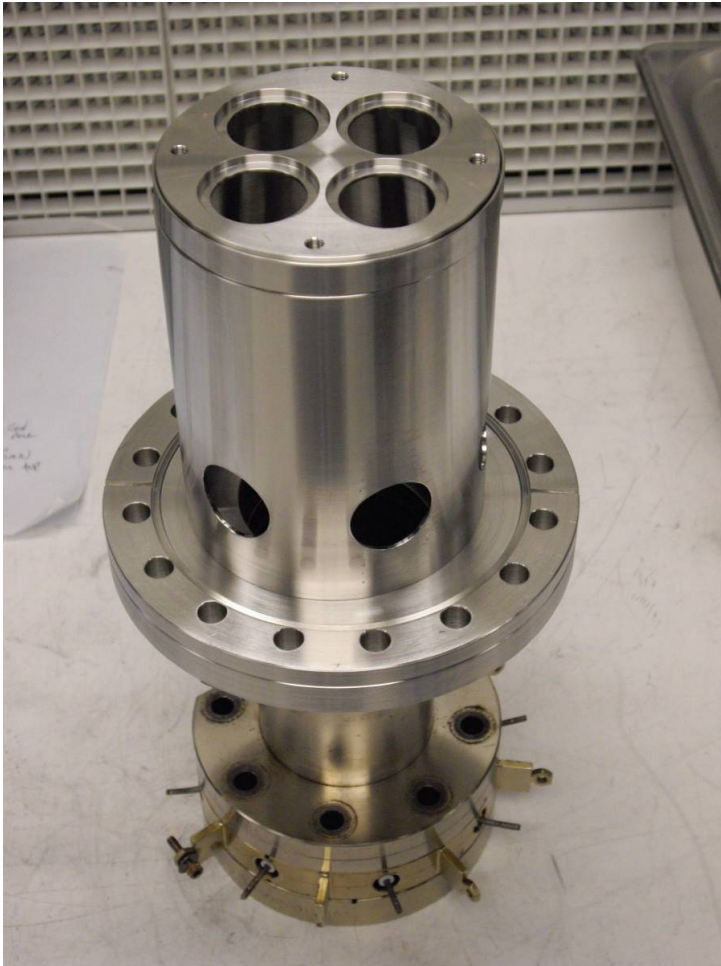
Long Term Studies to Optimize Growth Recipe

- **Correlation between functionality and structure**
 - The absorption of photons and generation of photoelectrons
 - The transport of the electrons from the point of generation to the surface
 - The escape from the surface
- **Correlation between Recipe and Structure**
 - Temperature / growth rate
 - Composition of materials
 - Grain size and thickness of the film
- **In-situ Visualization Tool of Microscopic Structure**
 - **X-ray Diffraction:** Crystallographic structure, chemical composition, grain size, crystalline orientation
 - **X-ray Reflectivity:** Control of thickness, various defects, surface roughness



Photo-Cathode Growth at SSL

- SSL has years of experience making bi-alkali photocathodes; backup solution for photocathode production



16" tank for full-sized 8.7" windows

Small tank for 1.22" test run samples
Test runs with Fused Silica, Borofloat glass

Micro-Channel Plate Thrusts

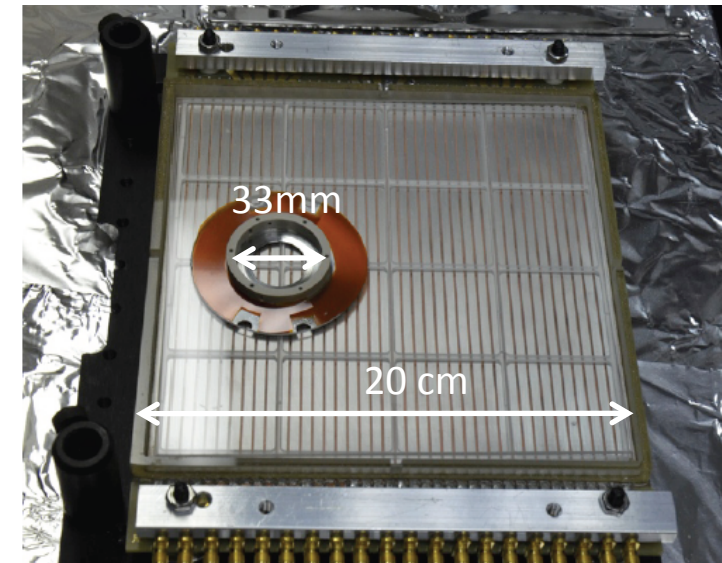
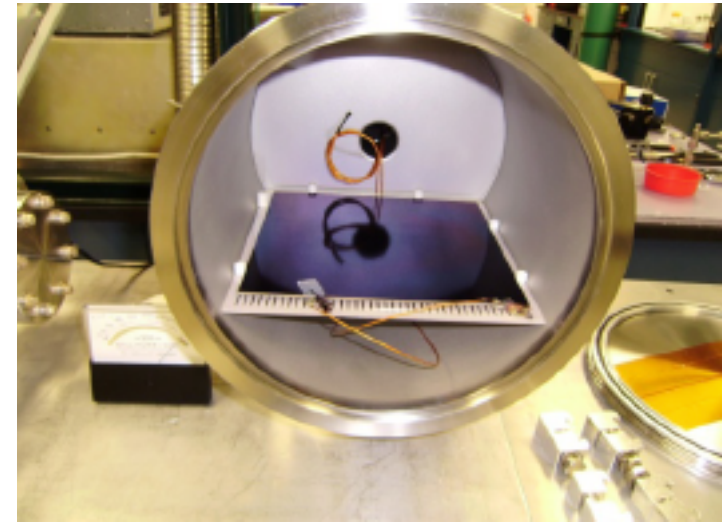
Argonne:

- Atomic Layer Deposition and characterization
 - thickness, uniformity, Resistance
- Gain map in UHV system
- Femto-second laser time/position measurement

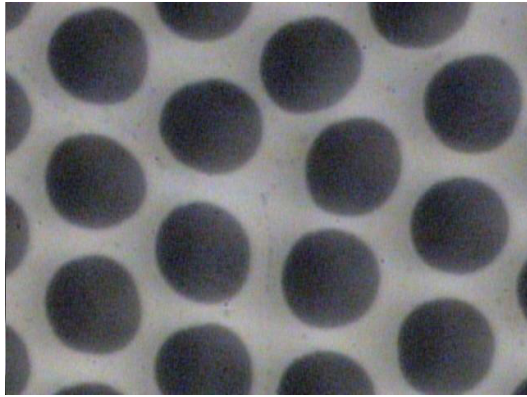
Space Sciences Lab (Berkeley)

- Image quality, gain and uniformity, scrub, spatial resolution

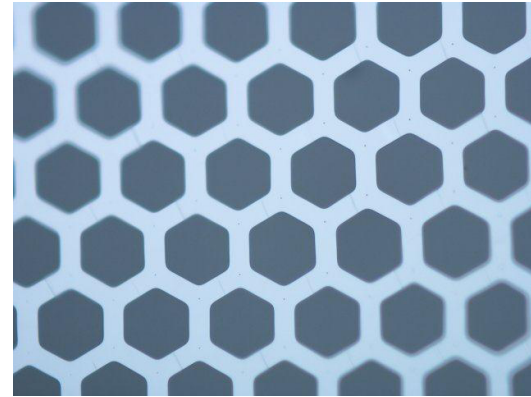
- Two working formats:
 - 33 mm arrays
 - 8"x8" 'tile'



MCP Development: Simplifying Construction



Conventional Pb-glass MCP



Incom Glass Substrate

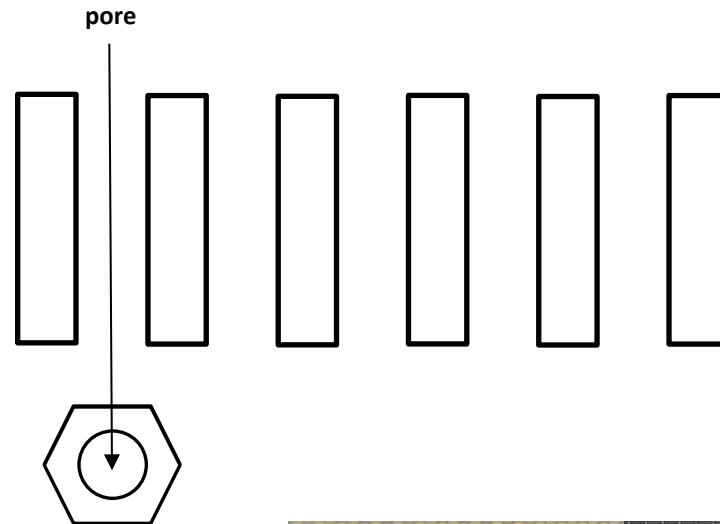
- Chemically produced and treated
- Pb-glass provides 3 functions:
 - Provides pores
 - Resistive layer supplies electric field in the pore
 - Pb-oxide layer provides secondary electron emission
- Separate the three functions:
 - Hard glass substrate provides pores
 - Separate Resistive and Emissive layer functions
 - Produce Tuned Resistive Layer (Atomic Layer Deposition, ALD) provides current for electric field
 - Specific Emitting layer provides secondary electron emission

MCP Fabrication with ALD

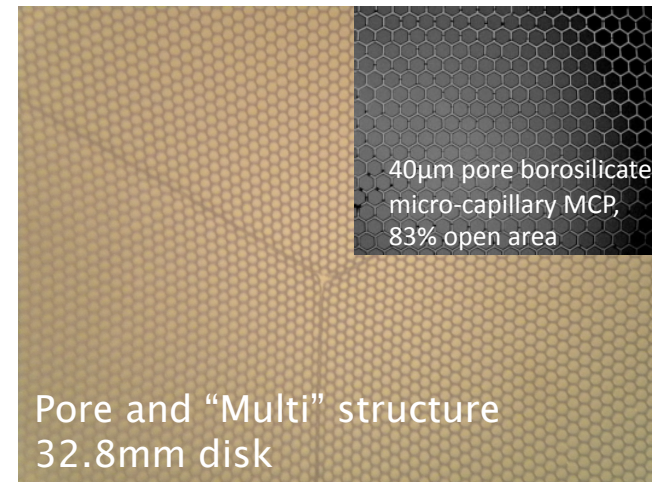
- Start with glass capillary array (borosilicate), pulled to appropriate pore size; pore size 40, 20 μm , 8 degree bias angle



20 μm pores

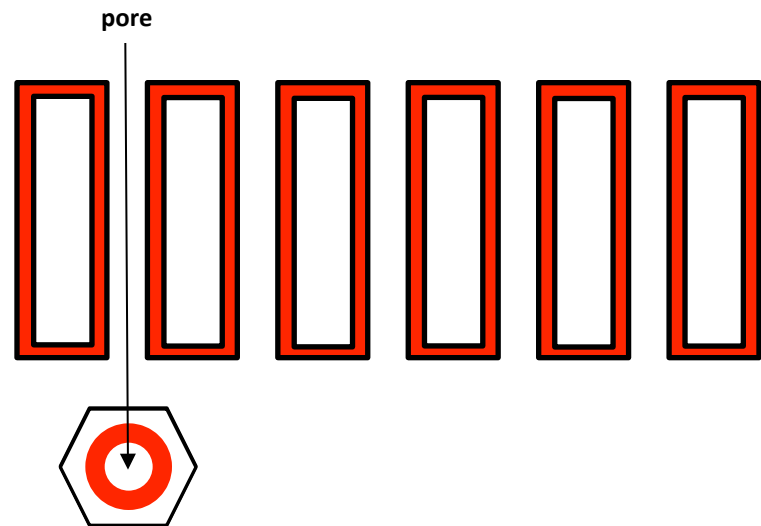
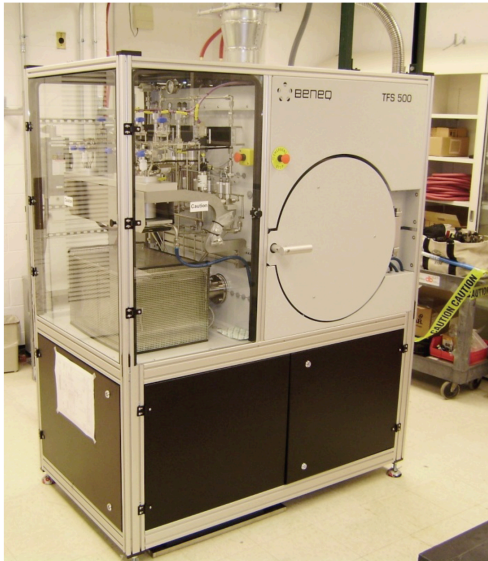


- L/d typically 60:1 but can be much larger.
- Open area ratios from 60% to 83%
- Two form factors: 33 mm circular arrays and 20x20 cm^2 "tiles"



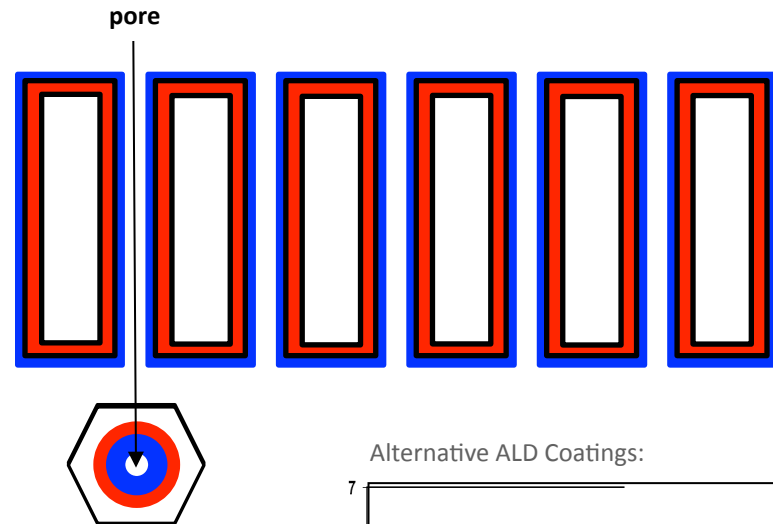
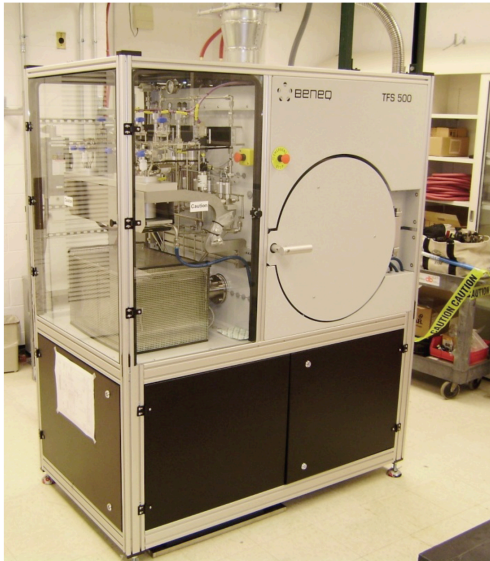
MCP Fabrication with ALD

- Apply resistive coating, 17nm, using Atomic Layer Deposition, in Beneq reactor

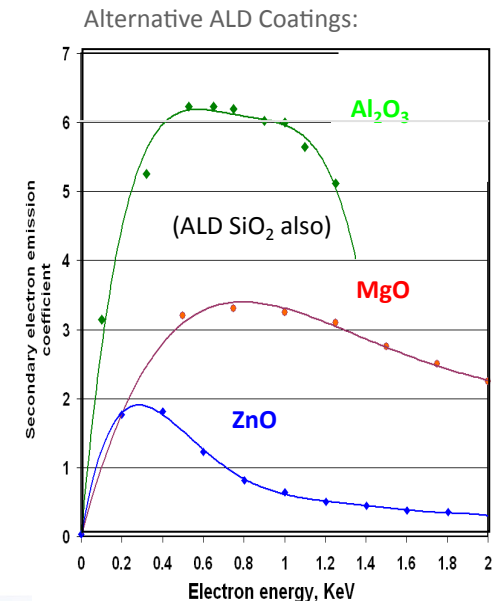


MCP Fabrication with ALD

- Apply emissive Al_2O_3 layer, using using Trimethyl Aluminum $\text{Al}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ and ALD

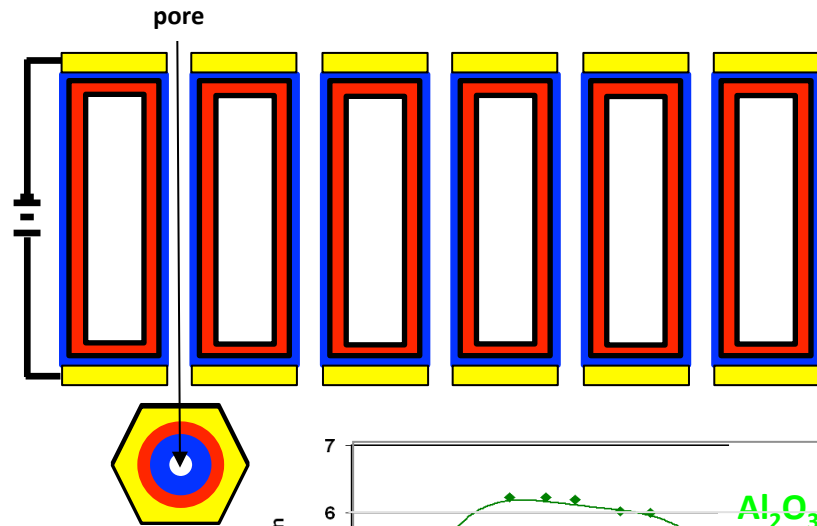
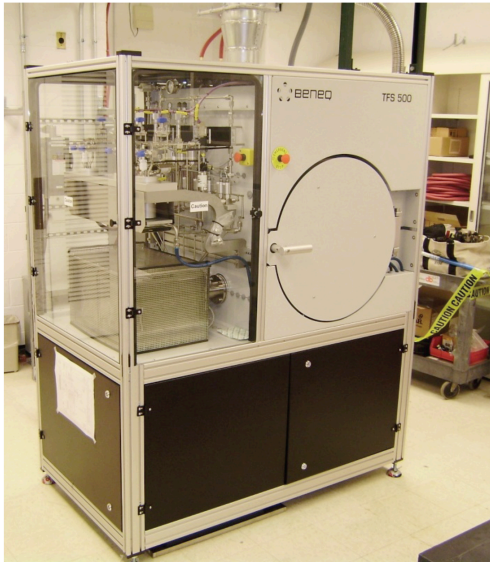


- Wide parameter space studied
 - Relative composition of materials
 - Temperature for ALD
 - Different materials and thicknesses
- Figure shows secondary electron emission coefficient as function of electron energy (keV)

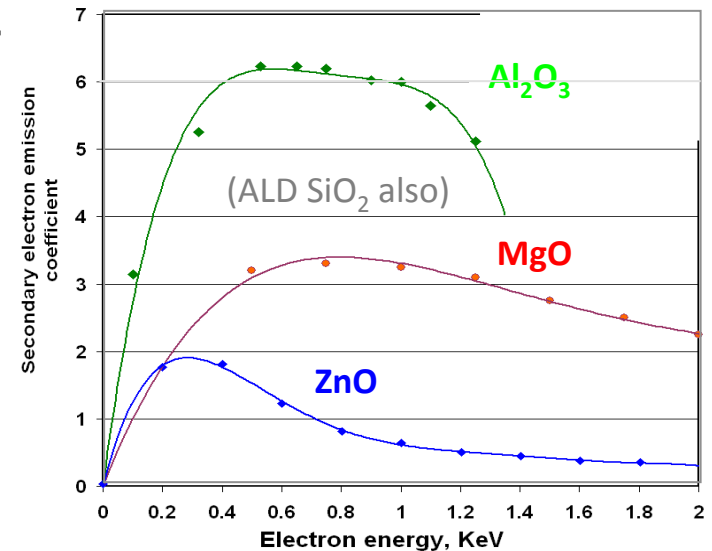


MCP Fabrication with ALD

- Apply conductive coating for HV, using thermal evaporation or sputtering

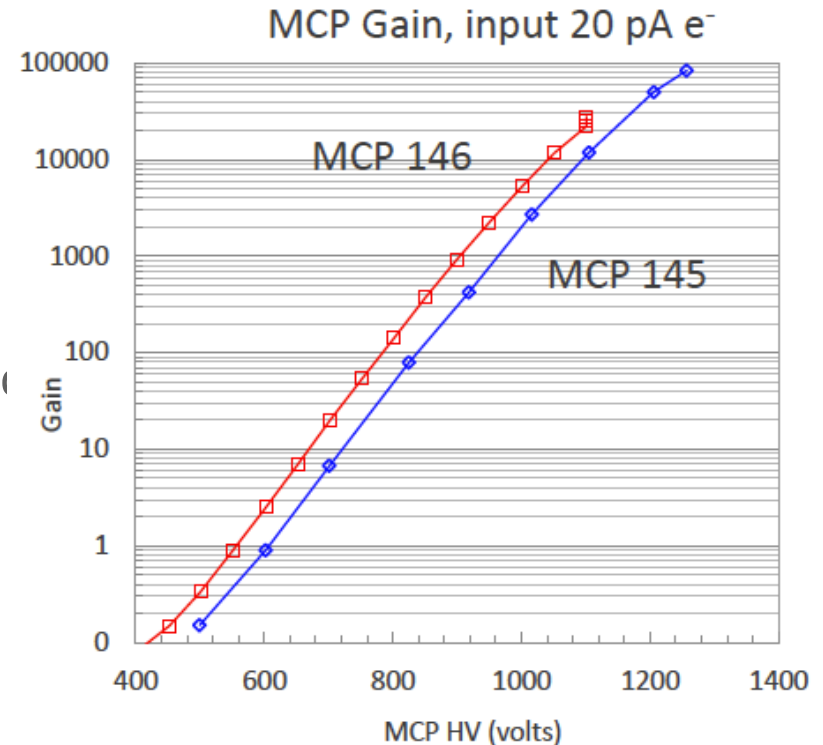


- First time applying new technology, a factor >5 improvement obtained in gain of ALD treated MCPs compared to commercial MCPs; area will be substantially increased



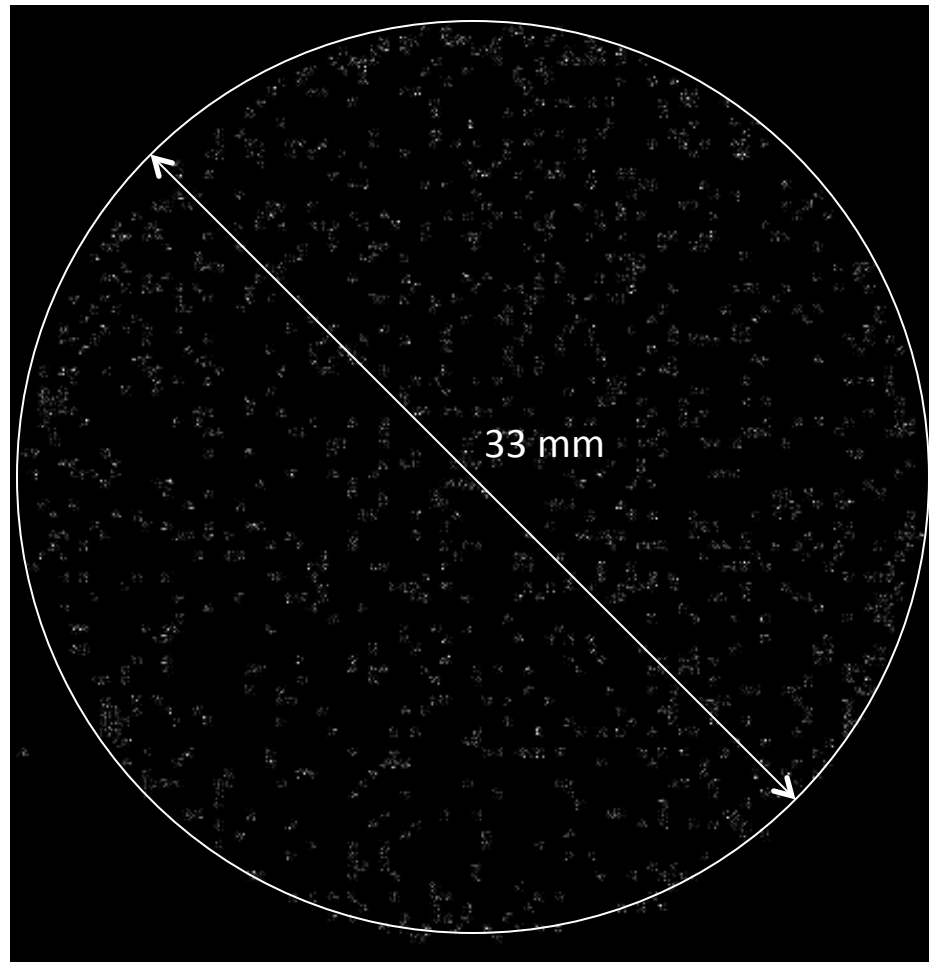
MCP Performance

- Single MCP, 33mm diameter, 20 μ m pore borosilicate MCP substrate, L:d = 60:1, 8 degree pore bias
- MCP disks functionalized with identical “Chemistry 2” resistive coating and Al₂O₃ SEE layer
- Single MCP tests in DC amplification mode imaging and gain very similar to conventional MCPs.
- MCP pair gain of $> 10^7$ with $> 10^5$ in a single plate
 - Attractive for cost/simplicity



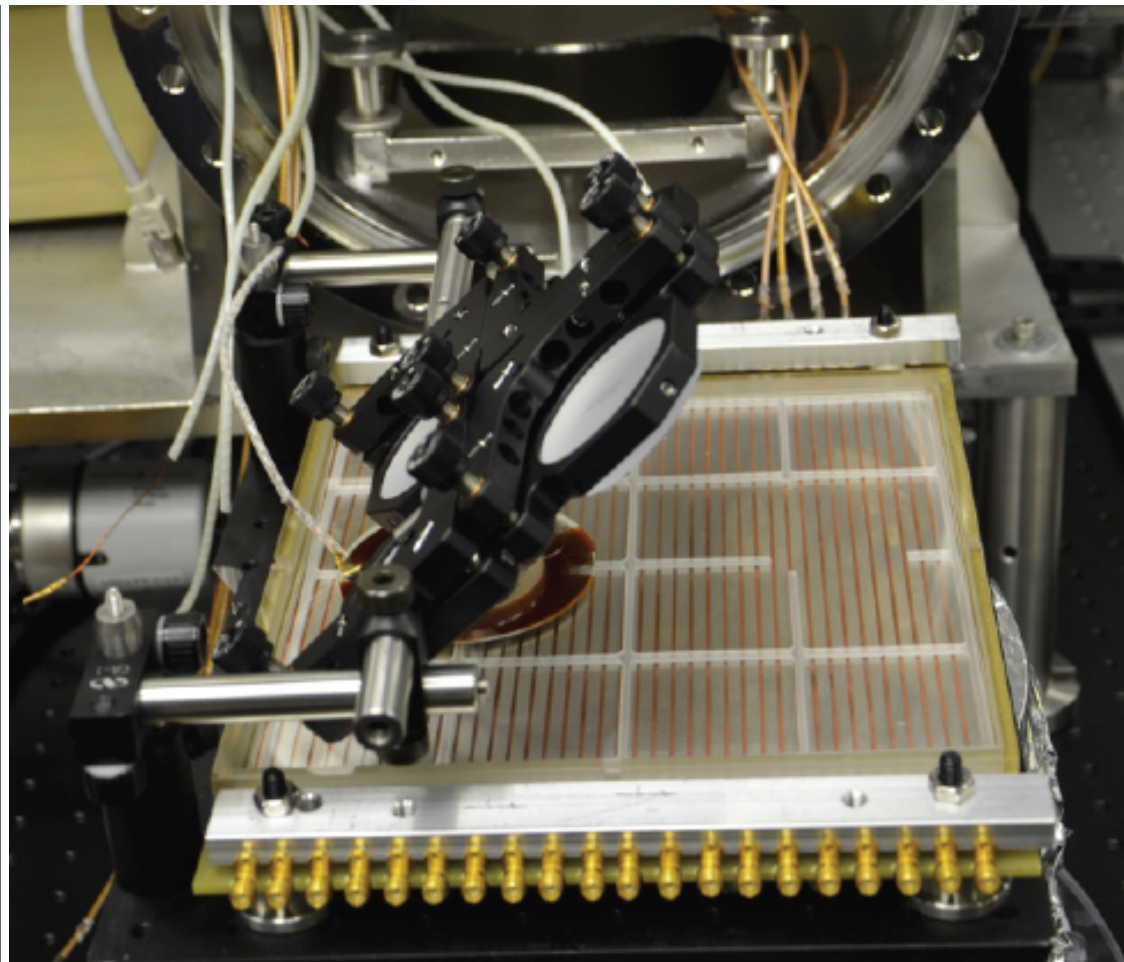
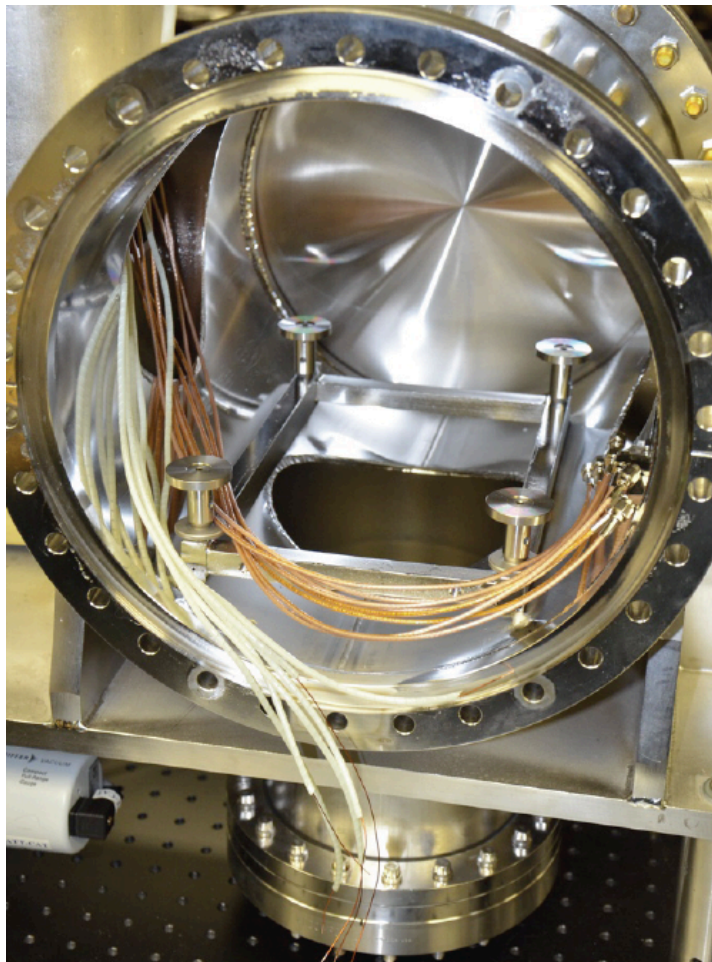
MCP Performance

- MCP pair, 20 μm pores, 8 $^\circ$ bias, 60:1 L/d, 0.7mm pair gap with 300V bias
- 3000 seconds background image from SSL
- Background rate of 0.0845 events $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$ at 7×10^6 gain, 1050 V bias on each MCP
 - Rate compatible with cosmic rate
- Typical behavior
- First look at 8" plates show similar background rates (40 μm pore, 40:1 L/d ALD-MCP pair, 0.7mm gap/400 V)



MCP Performance

- UHV Test Chamber setup and commissioned at ANL for testing 20cm MCP tiles

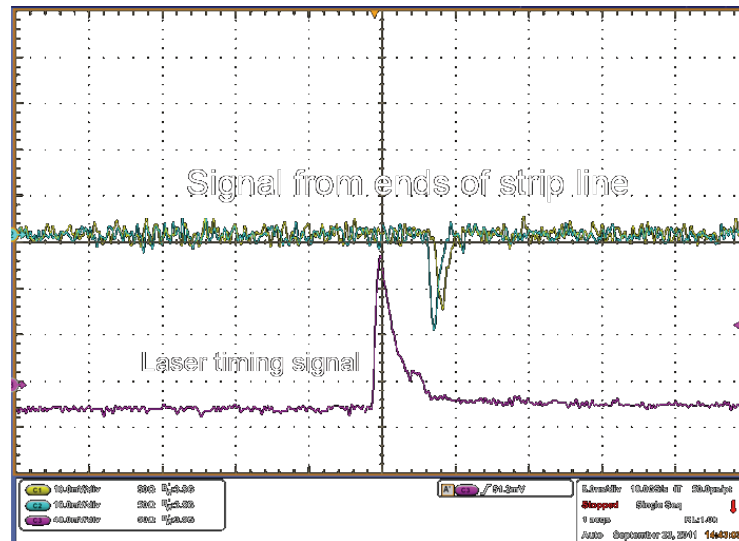


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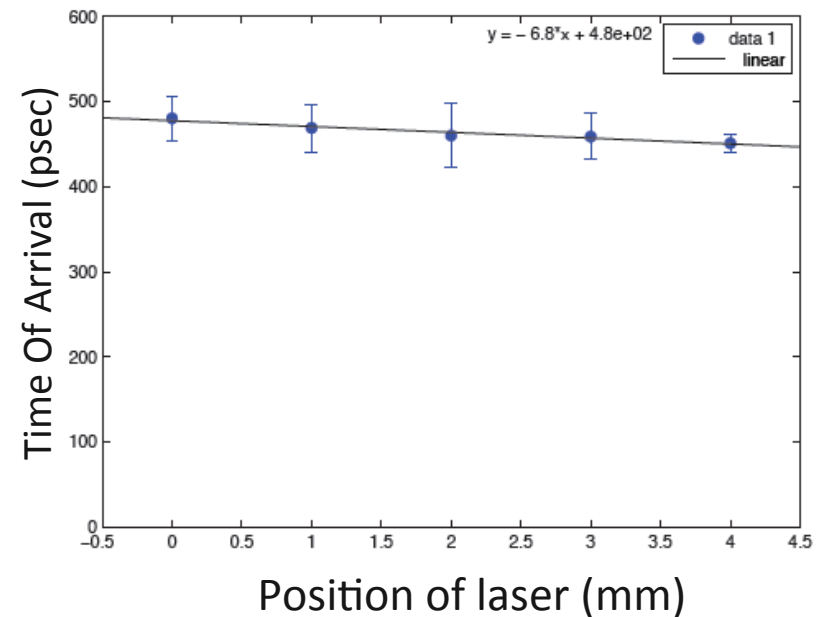
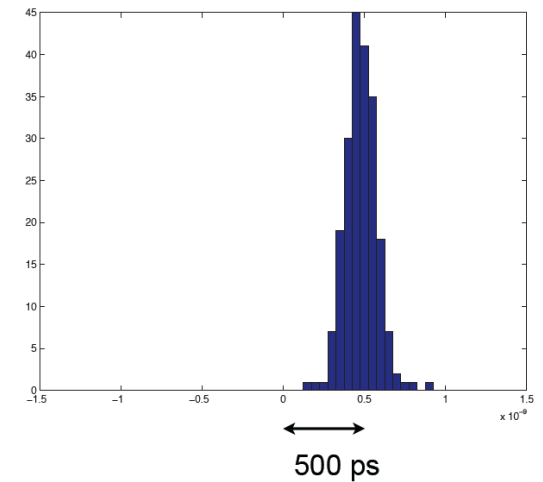
- Response of first single 20cm MCP to femto-second laser
 - Time difference of the 2 ends of the strip: longitudinal pos.
 - Average of the time at 2 ends: arrival time
 - Strip number: transverse position

$$c = 300 \mu\text{m/ps}$$

$$1/c = 3.3 \text{ psec/mm}$$

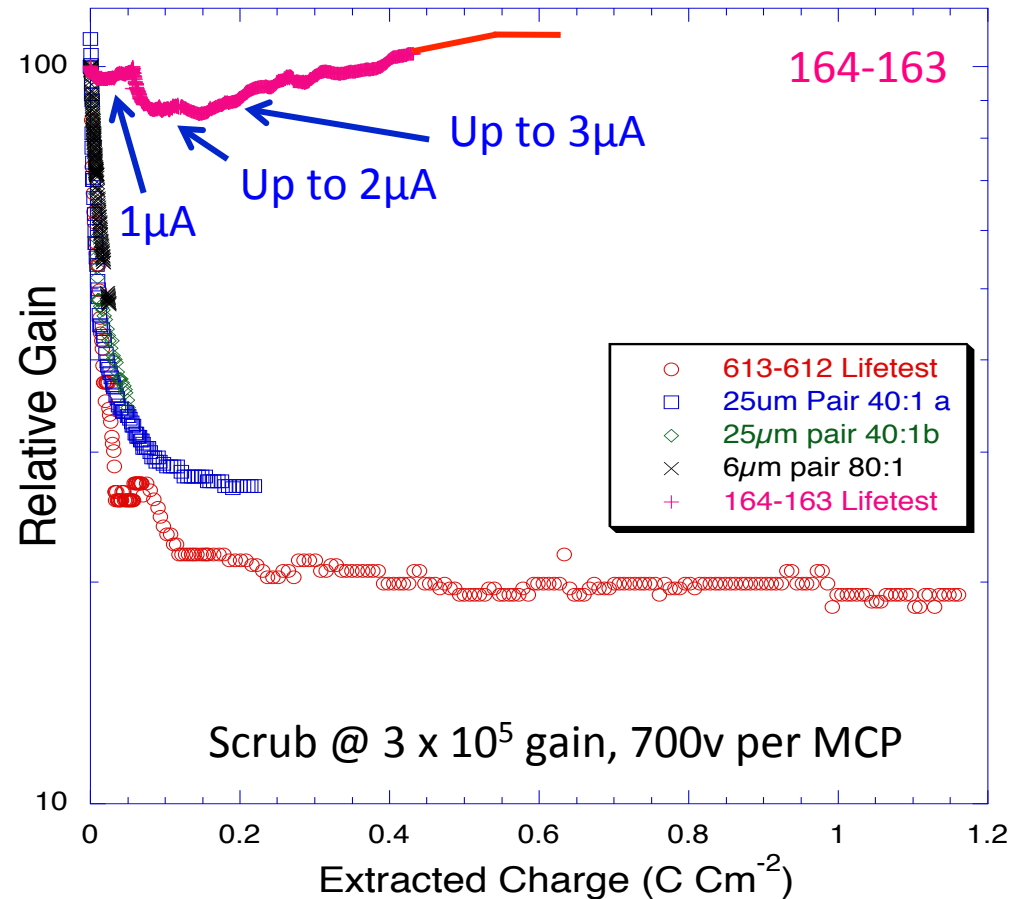


differential arrival time distribution



MCP Performance

- MCP pair, 20cm, 20 μ m, 60:1, 8° bias; Resistances 159M Ω , 138M Ω , NiCr, MCPs gapped by 0.001" spacer
- 350°C bake, with RGA scans
- Scrub at 1 μ A, 2 μ A and 3 μ A,
 - Minimal gain drop for 1 μ A to 0.06 C/cm², some small H2 outgas (10⁻¹⁰ Torr)
 - Faster drop @ 2 μ A but stabilized quickly with some H2 outgas (4 x 10⁻¹⁰ Torr).
 - At 3 μ A small drop then recovery to >100% gain – leveling off
- Scrub ongoing at SSL!



MCP Testing Program

Gap 1:

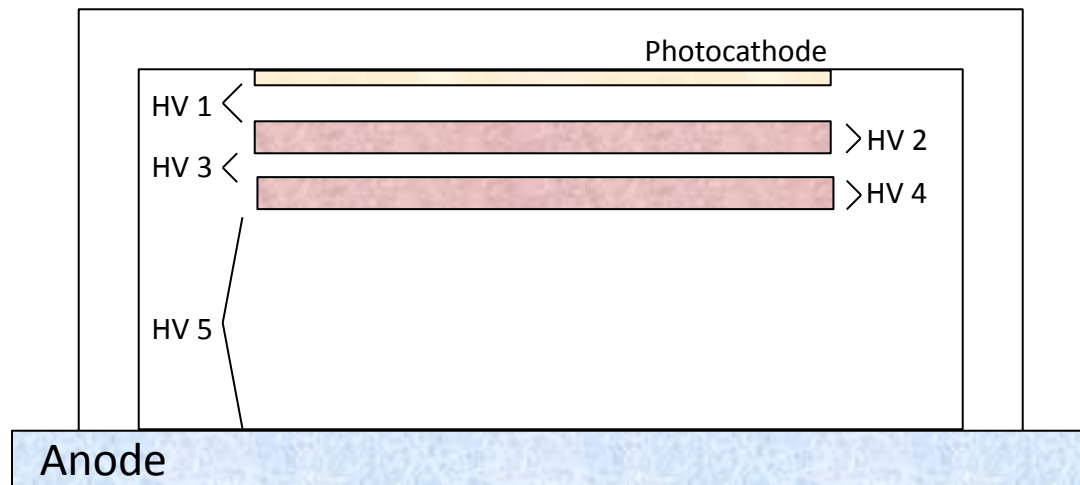
“first strike” impacts variability of transit time and amplification

Gap 2:

Impact on saturation of MCP pair, spatial spread of signal

Gap 3:

spatial and temporal spreading of the charge cloud. Space charge effects. Interface with anode.



MCPs:

Operational voltages
Plate geometry: pore size, L/D

MCPs:

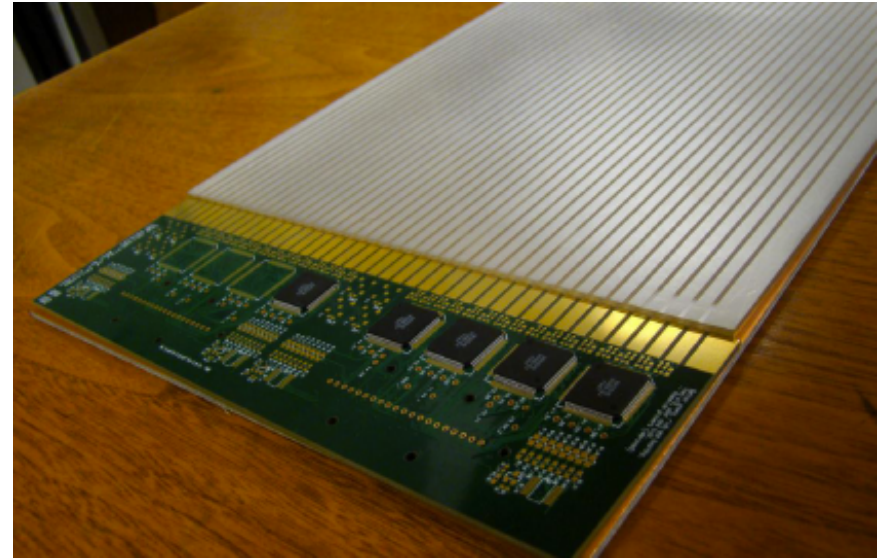
Chemistry: SEE, resistive layer,
Plate quality, Uniformity,
Noise, Stability

MCPs:

Plate resistance:
Saturation,
Relaxation time

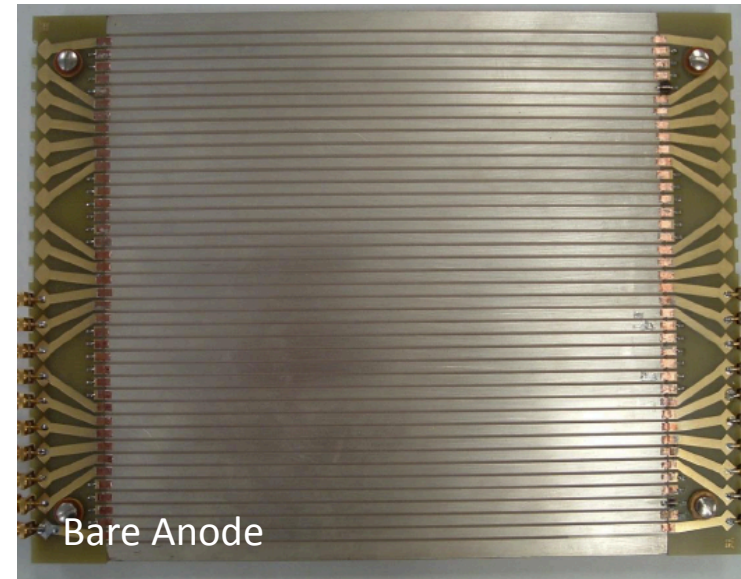
Electronics Thrusts

- LAPPD Anode: Transmission line readout
 - 30 microstrip transmission lines ($Z_0=50\Omega$)
 - 0.108" thick glass substrate, 0.182" strip width
- Front-end: Gigahertz waveform digitizing ASICs
 - PSEC4 6-channel ASIC in IBM-8RF 0.13 μm process with fast (>10 GSa/s), low-power waveform digitization
- Data Acquisition System
 - Analog Card: 5 PSEC4 ASICs (4 Analog Cards per module)--flexibility allows for integration of alternative front-end ASIC
 - Digital Card: control, trigger handling and calibration



Anode

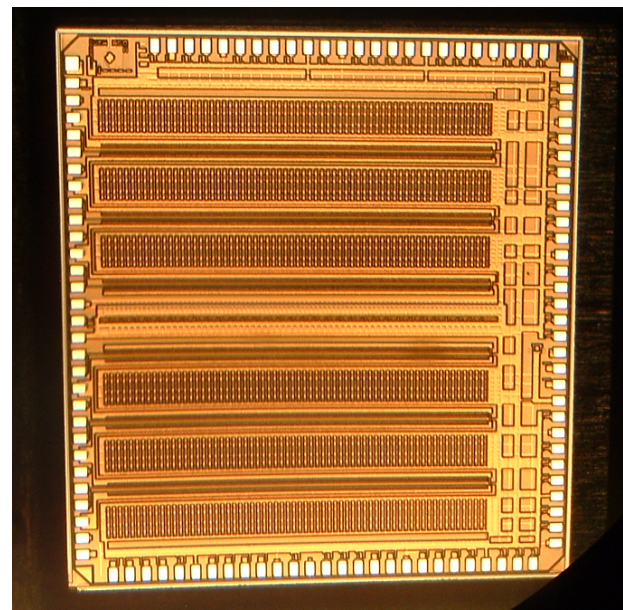
- Anode:
 - Silk-screened, no pins, penetrations, no internal connections
 - Transmission line readout both ends → gets position and time
 - Signal is differential between ground (inside, top), and PC traces (outside)
 - Simulations indicate that these transmission lines could be scalable to large detectors without severe degradation of resolution.
- Cover large areas with much reduced channel count
- Bottom glass seal of edge directly onto strip lines: no penetrations



PSEC-4

- PSEC-4: 6-channel “oscilloscope on a chip”, analog bandwidth of 1.6 GHz, 10-15 GS/s
 - Buffer depth of 256 analog samples on each channel
 - Parallel 1.5 GHz Wilkinson ADC
 - Serial data readout that includes the capability of region-of-interest windowing
 - A switch capacitor array architecture
 - Measured jitter of better than 15ps
 - Sampling rates up to 17 GSa/s
 - RMS noise less than 1mV

- Evaluation board uses USB 2.0 interface and PC data acquisition software

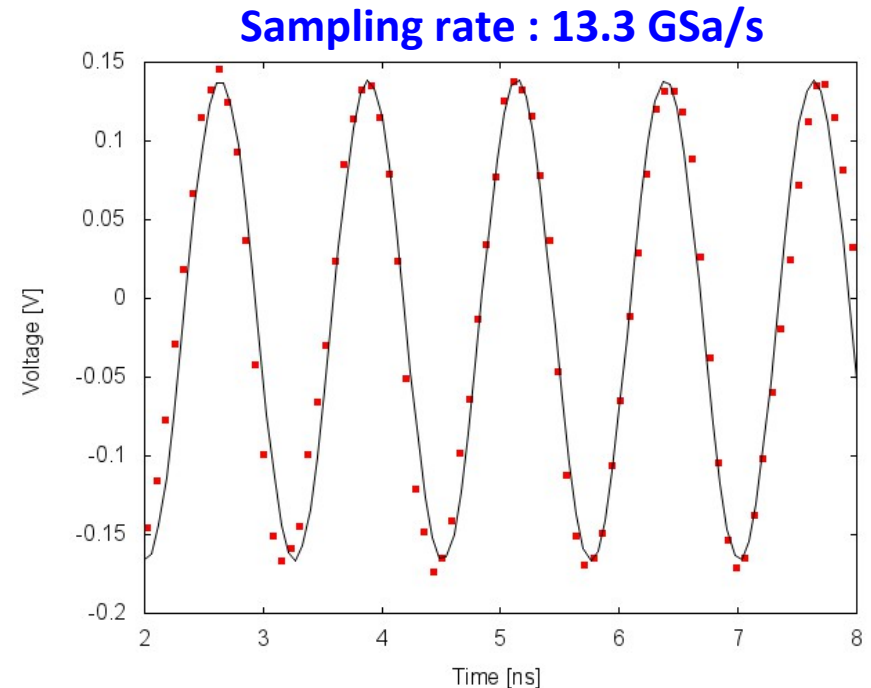
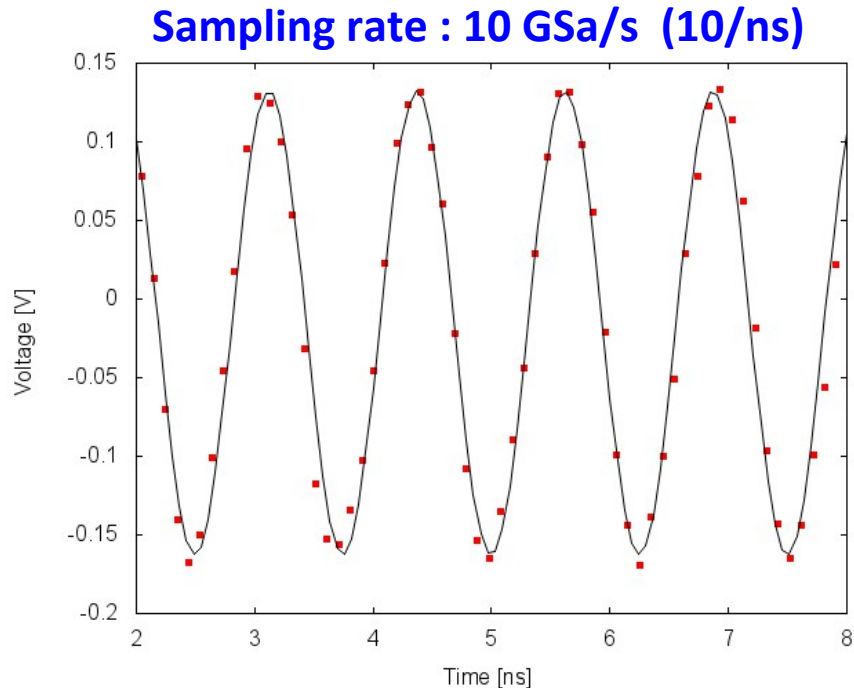


PSEC-4 ASIC

	ACTUAL PERFORMANCE
Sampling Rate	2.5-15 GSa/s
# Channels	6 (or 2)
Sampling Depth	256 (or 768) points
Sampling Window	Depth*(Sampling Rate) ⁻¹
Input Noise	<1 mV RMS
Analog Bandwidth	1.5 GHz
ADC conversion	Up to 12 bit @ 1.5 GHz
Dynamic Range	0.1-1.1 V
Latency	2 μs (min) – 16 μs (max)
Internal Trigger	yes

PSEC-4

- Performance with 800 MHz input sine-wave, 300 mV peak-to-peak; digitized waveforms



- Only simple pedestal correction to data
- As the sampling rate-to-input frequency ratio decreases, the need for time-base calibration becomes more apparent (depending on necessary timing resolution)

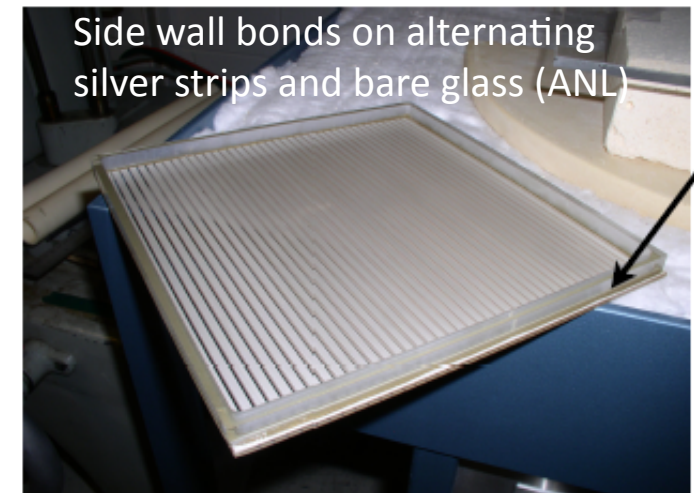
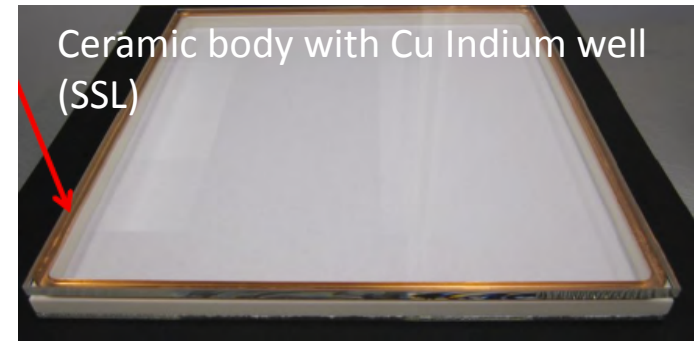
DAQ

- The DAQ system is targeted towards a module, which is six tiles (large area applications)



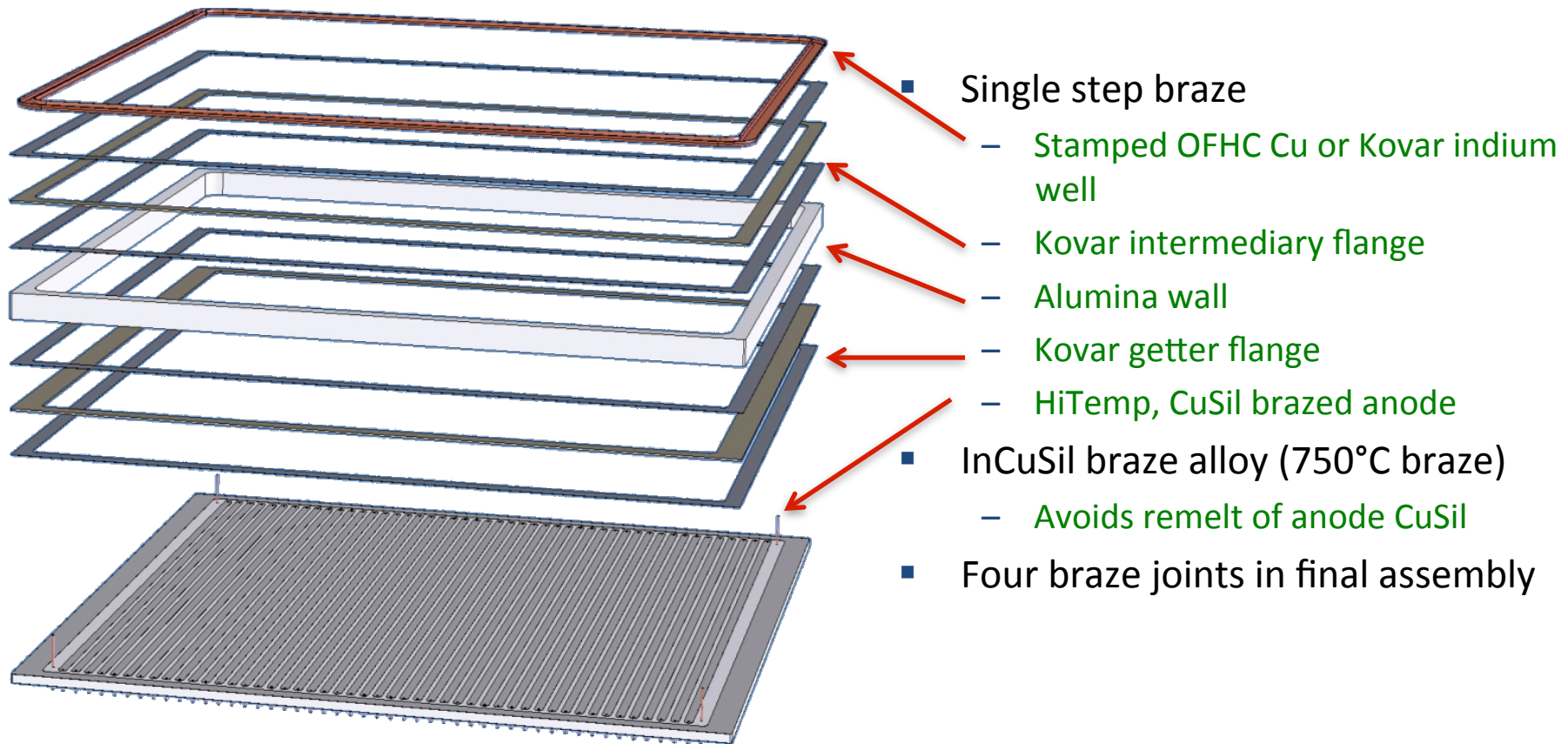
Hermetic Packaging Thrusts

- Two parallel paths: ceramic package at Space Science Lab (Berkeley) and all glass package at ANL
- SSL
 - Ceramic assembly
 - Alumina / Kovar brazing
 - Top seal is hot
- ANL
 - All inexpensive borosilicate glass for containment vessel
 - No pins penetrating glass for HV and signal
 - Top seal is cold



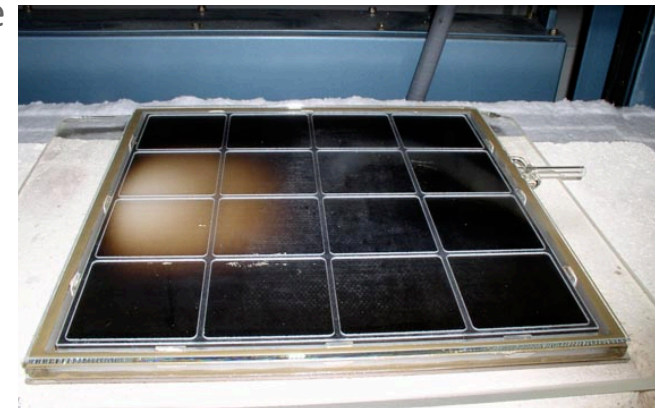
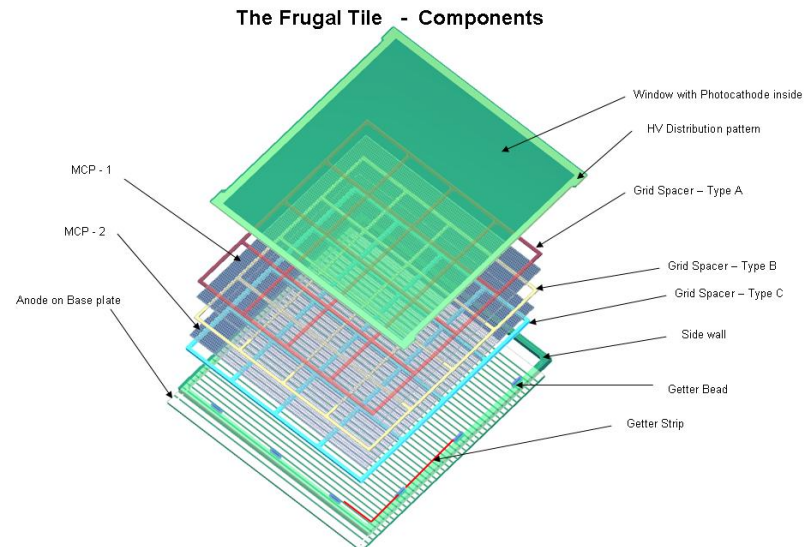
Ceramic Hermetic Package

- Use ceramic assemblies, similar to those used by conventional MCPs.
- Well developed technology, know-how available at Space Sciences Lab, Berkeley



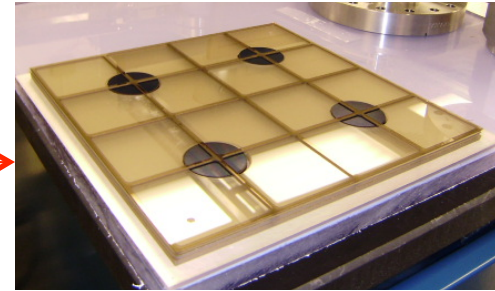
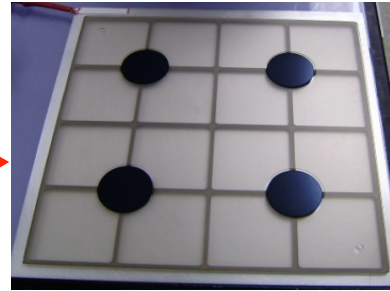
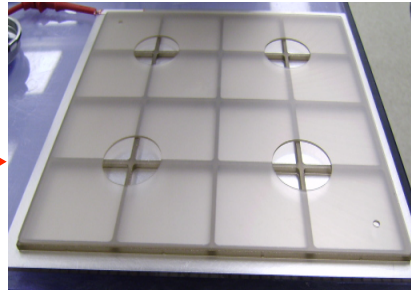
All Glass Hermetic Packaging

- All glass hermetic package:
 - Use inexpensive borosilicate glass for containment vessel
 - Avoid use of pins penetrating glass for HV and signal
 - Cheap, reliable, reproducible containment vessel fabrication
- Constraints:
 - Support vessel against implosive atmospheric pressure
 - Top photocathode window seal at low temp. (<120 C)
 - ~10 yr stability for seal with small leak rate
 - Minimum handling steps in fabrication
 - Avoid particulates in vacuum space
 - Materials chemically compatible with alkali metal photocathode



20cm ALD MCP, with spacer, side wall bonded to base

Construction of (Mock) Tile

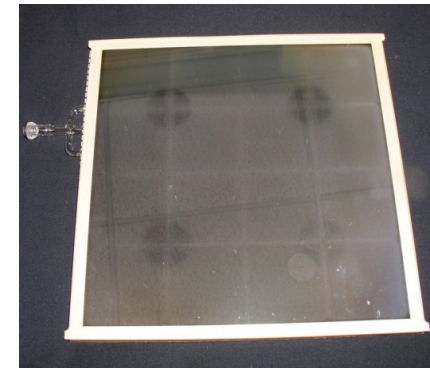
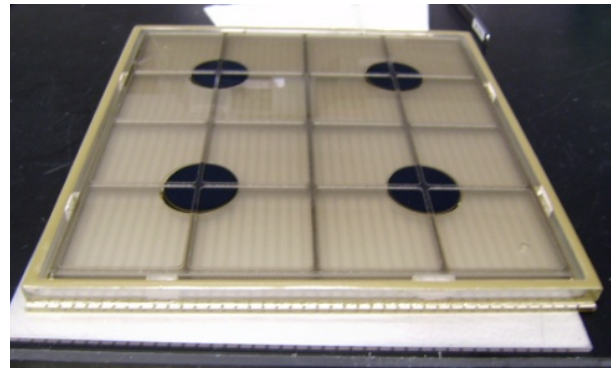
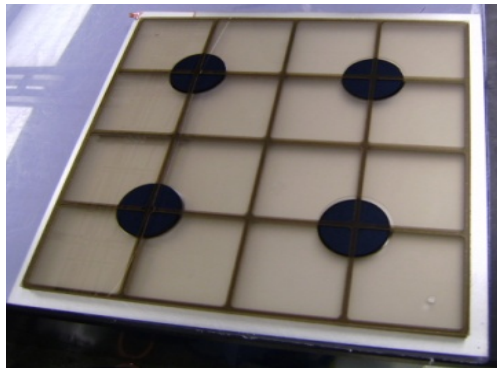


2.97mm bottom Grid Spacer

add Mock MCP

add functionalized MCPs

add 1.1mm Grid spacer



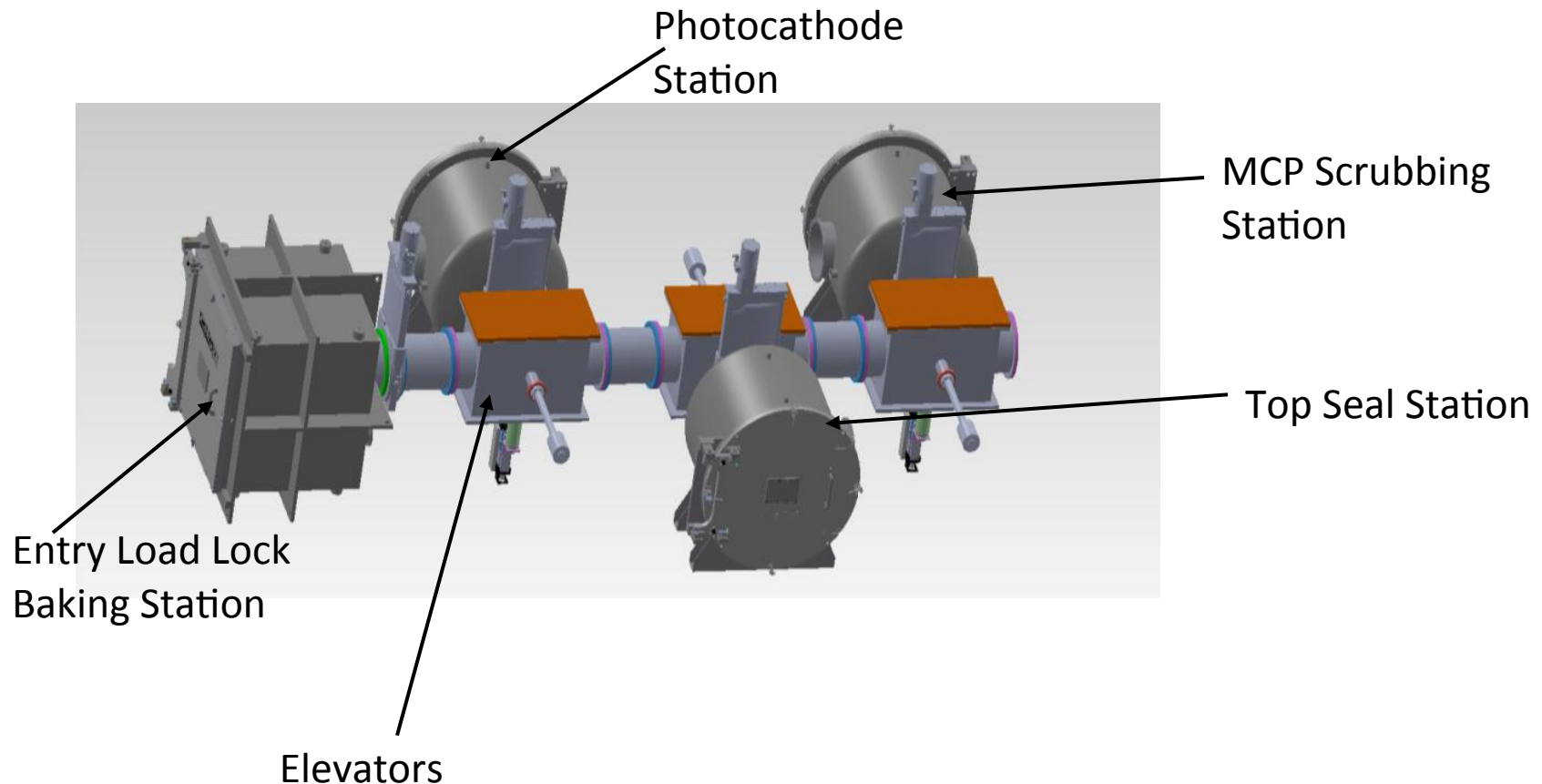
Add mock MCPs, 33mm functionalized MCPs & top 1.1mm Grid spacer

full stack in mock tile

Mock tile after sealing and evacuation

Single Tile Production Facility

- Plans are being developed for an all-glass, low temperature, single tile production facility
- Tentative design:



Simulation and Testing

Microscopic/Materials-Level

Material Science Division, ANL

Constructing dedicated setup for low-energy SEE and PE measurements of ALD materials/photocathodes.

parts-per-trillion capability for characterizing material composition.



Berkeley SSL

Decades of experience.

Wide array of equipment for testing individual and pairs of channel plates.

Infrastructure to produce and characterize a variety of conventional photocathodes.



Macroscopic/Device-Level

HEP Laser Test Stand, ANL

Fast, low-power laser, with fast scope.

Built to characterize sealed tube detectors, and front-end electronics.

Highly Automated



Advanced Photon Source, ANL

Fast femto-second laser, variety of optical resources, and fast-electronics expertise.

Study MCP-photocathode-stripline systems close to device-level. Timing characteristics amplification etc.



Concluding Remarks

- ANL is moving towards development of new sensors and detectors going back to basic underlying physics principle using advances in other disciplines. Other technologies being pursued
- LAPPD based on this philosophy and has met 1st and 2nd year milestones
 - Innovation in lots of areas- detectors, wave-form sampling, ALD, material science, photocathodes, ...
 - Ultimate goal is to transfer technology to industry.
- Project currently in its third year of funding and transitioning to a project stage
- Lots of interesting applications in (and interest from) many areas of science: TOF at colliders, PET, Reactor Monitoring, HEP neutrino detectors,
- We always welcome new collaborators

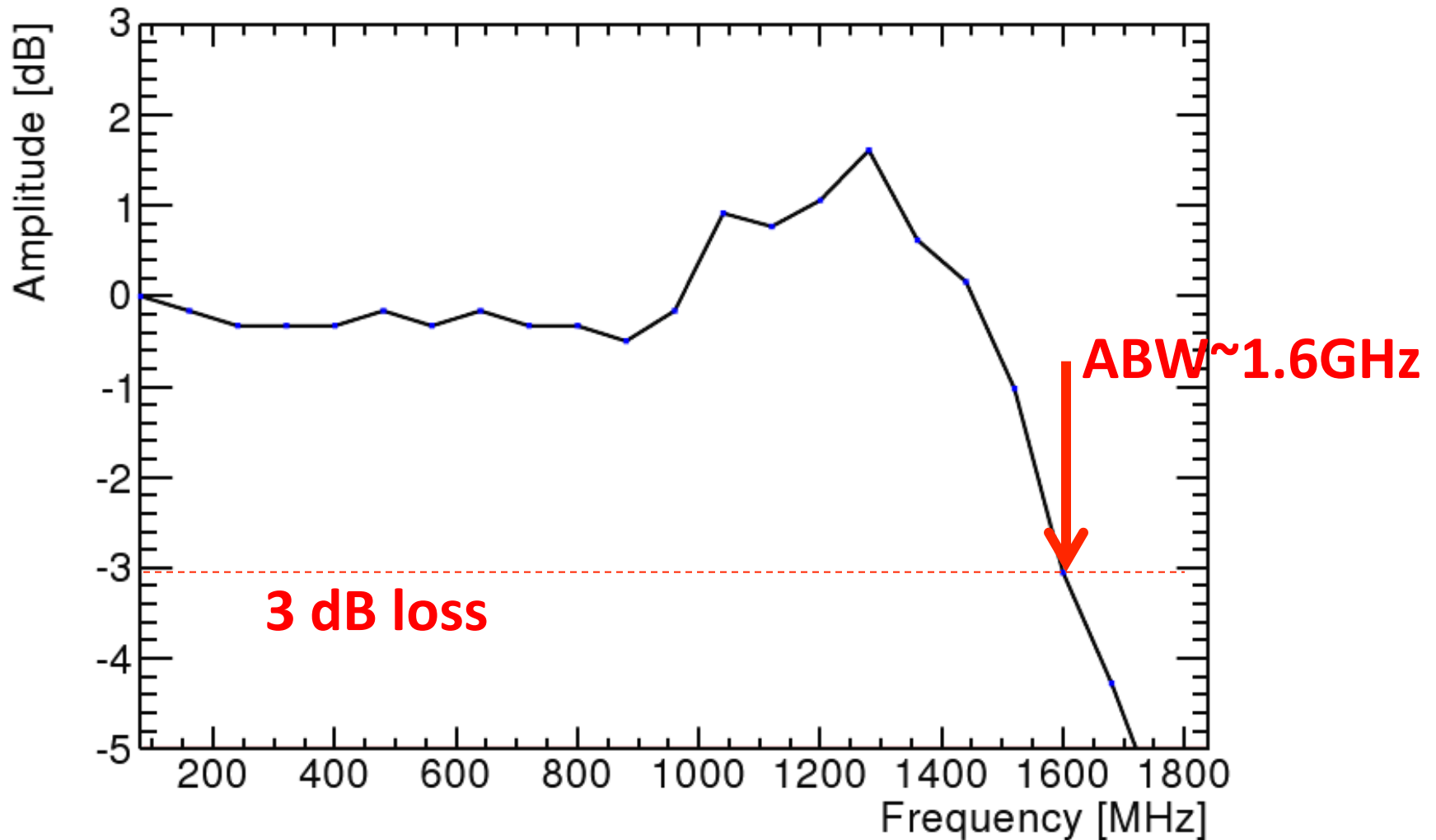


References

- 12 submissions of the LAPPD Project to the TIPP 2011 conference, Photodetector session
<http://conferences.fnal.gov/tipp11/>
- 4 talks at ANT11 conference
<http://www.physics.drexel.edu/~neutrinoweb/ANT11/>
 - Henry Frisch
 - Matt Wetstein
 - Klaus Attenkofer
 - Eric Oberla
- 4 talks at Light11 Conference, Ringberg Castle (Ringberg11)
<http://conference.mppmu.mpg.de/light2011/>
<http://indico.mppmu.mpg.de/indico/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=1407>
 - Henry Frisch
 - Bob Wagner
 - Klaus Attenkofer
 - Oswald Siegmund

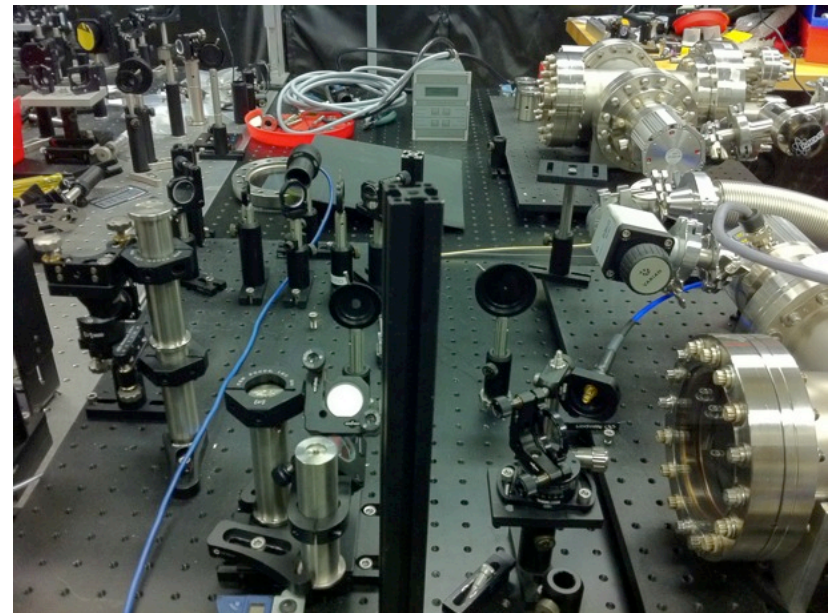
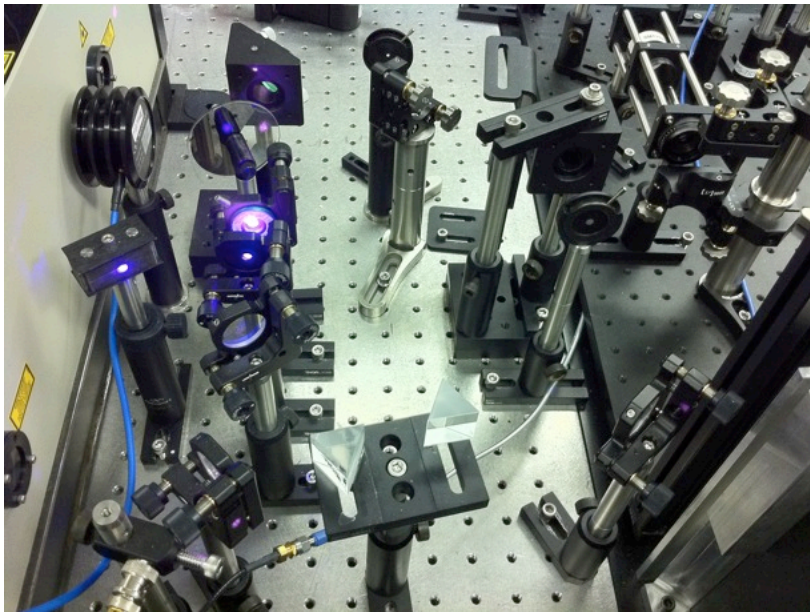
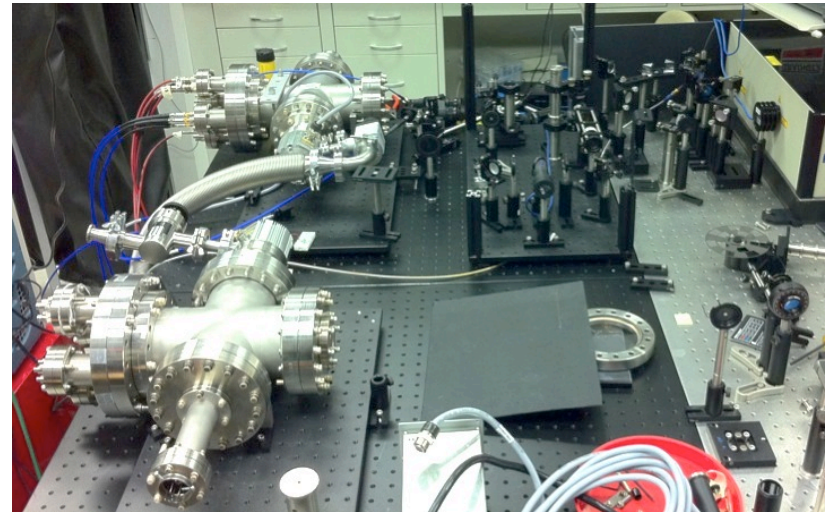


Analog Bandwidth



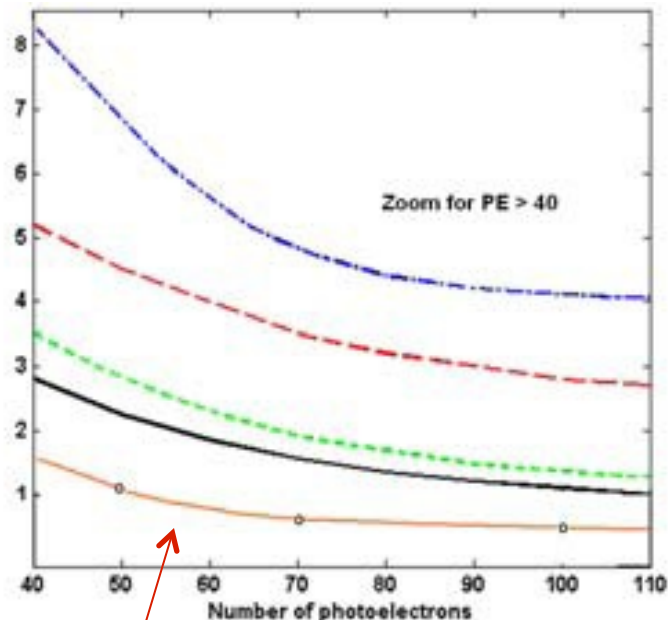
MCP Testing

- Full laser test setup with fs laser at APS
 - Clean UV beam
 - Laser power monitoring
 - Position scan
 - Absolute laser arrival time on MCP (in progress)
- Results compared with simulation

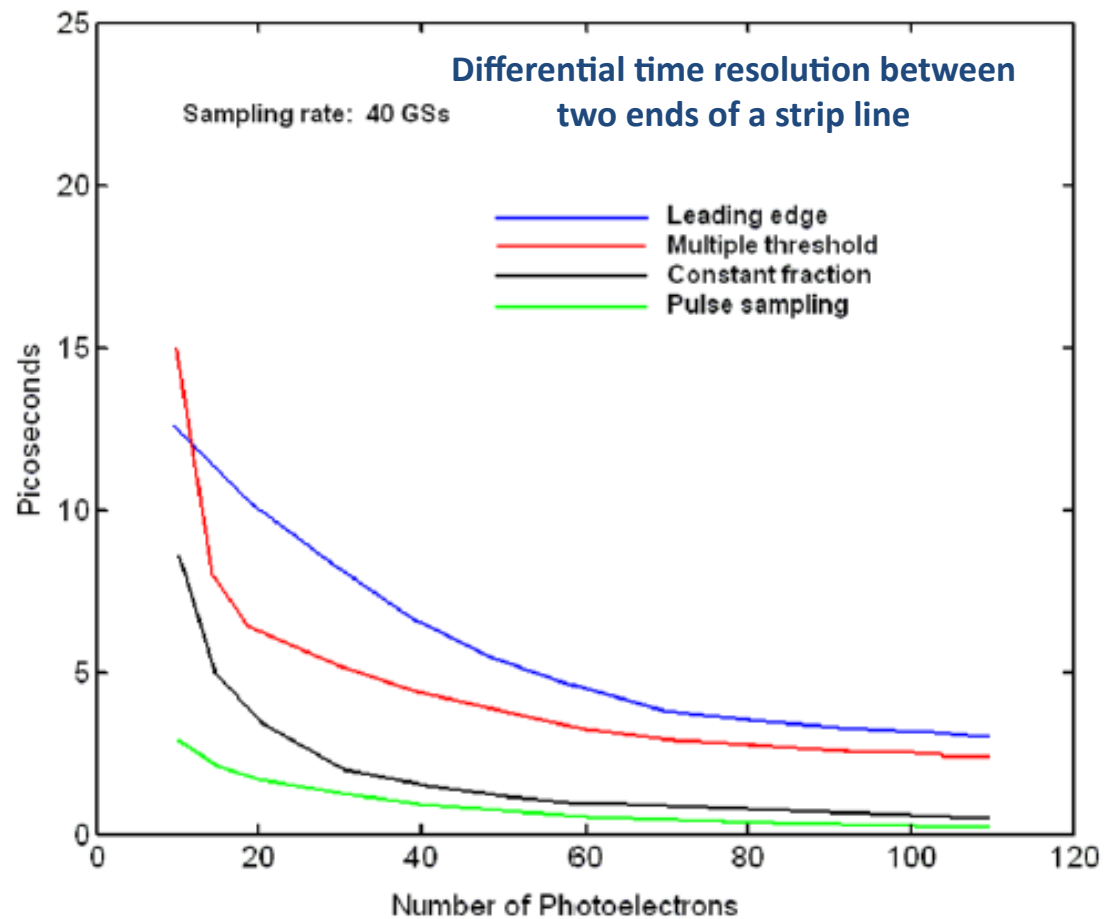


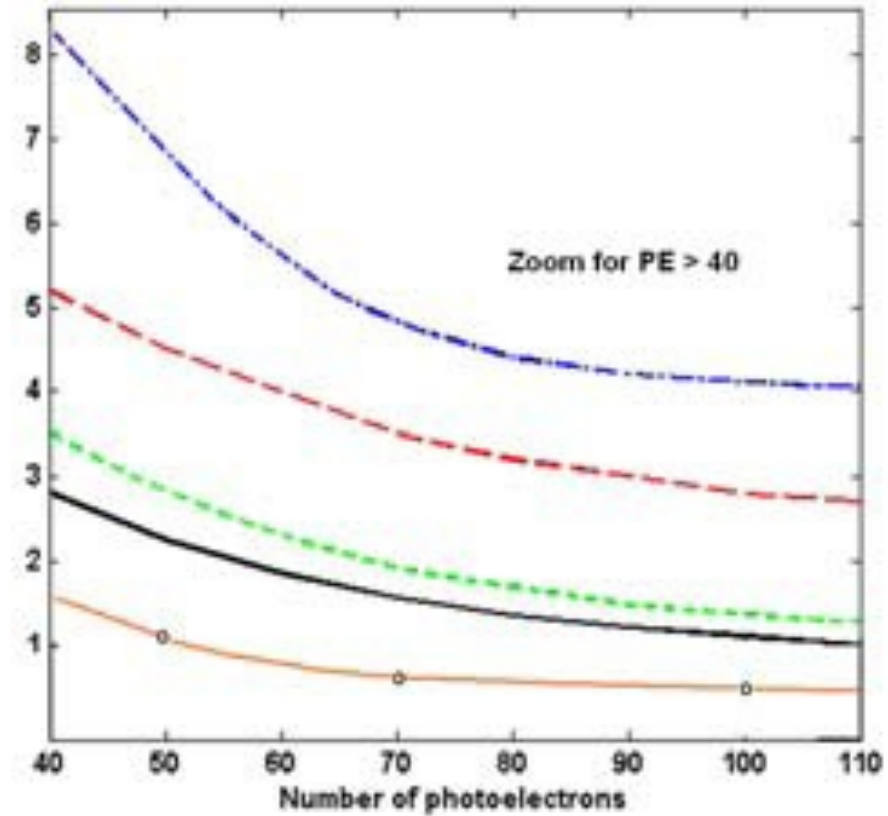
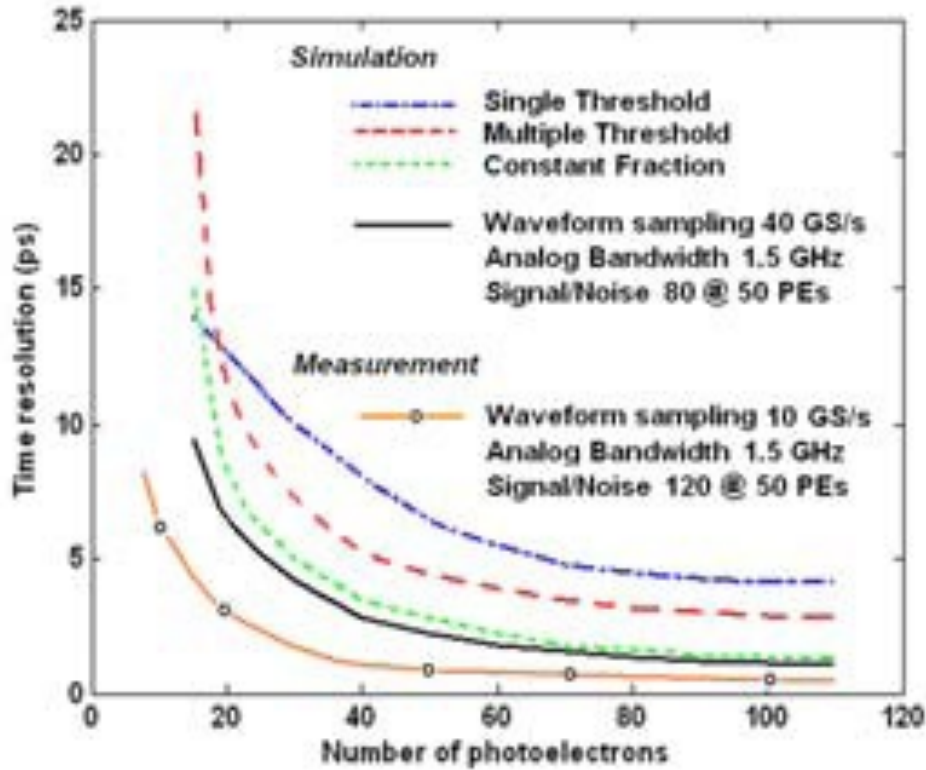
PSEC4 Waveform Sampling ASIC

- Resolution depends on # photoelectrons, analog bandwidth, and signal-to-noise.
- Simulations showed “pulse sampling” to give the best results



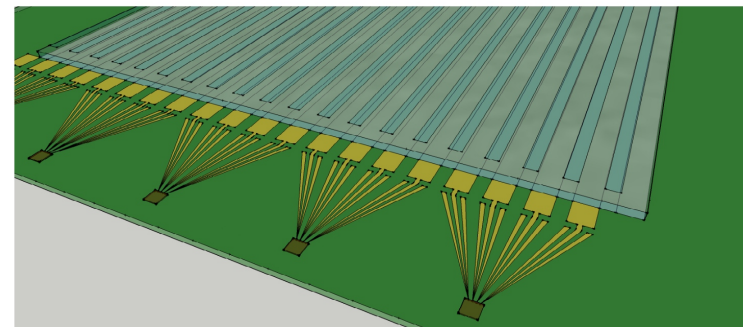
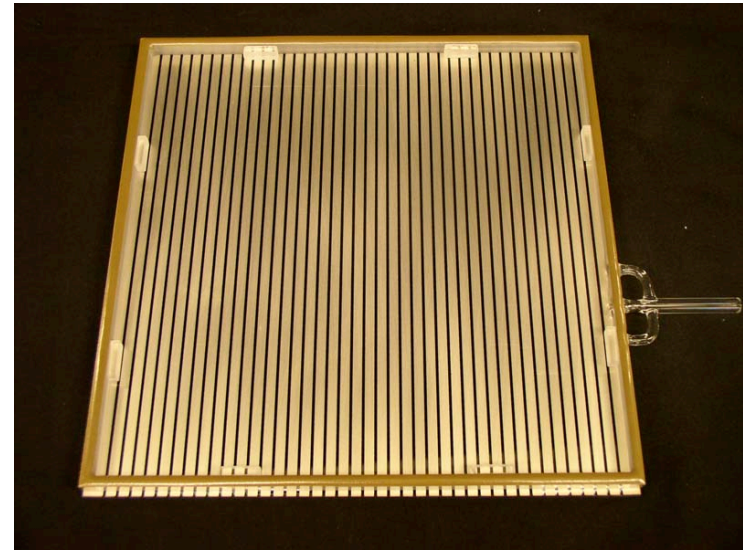
Measured!





Anode and Signal Readout

- Sealed tile construction: all glass
- Anode:
 - Silk-screened, no pins, penetrations, no internal connections
 - Transmission line readout both ends → gets position and time
 - Signal is differential between ground (inside, top), and PC traces (outside)
 - Simulations indicate that these transmission lines could be scalable to large detectors without severe degradation of resolution.
- Cover large areas with much reduced channel count



Future

- Construction of 8"x8" planar photo-detector imminent.
- Establishes the proof of principle; to be followed by construction of 3x2 array (not part of the DOE approved project)
- Exploring wide array of applications to bring technology into the field as quickly as possible through intermediate steps
- Large area H₂O Čerenkov detectors
- Pico-second timing resolution allows for π^0/e rejection
 - 100 ps time resolution corresponds to about 1 cm space resolution
 - Vertex separation many cm

