



# Time Delay in NaI Scintillation Response: Validating the Results of the DAMA-LIBRA Experiment

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# Dark Matter

Matter composed of "invisible" particles

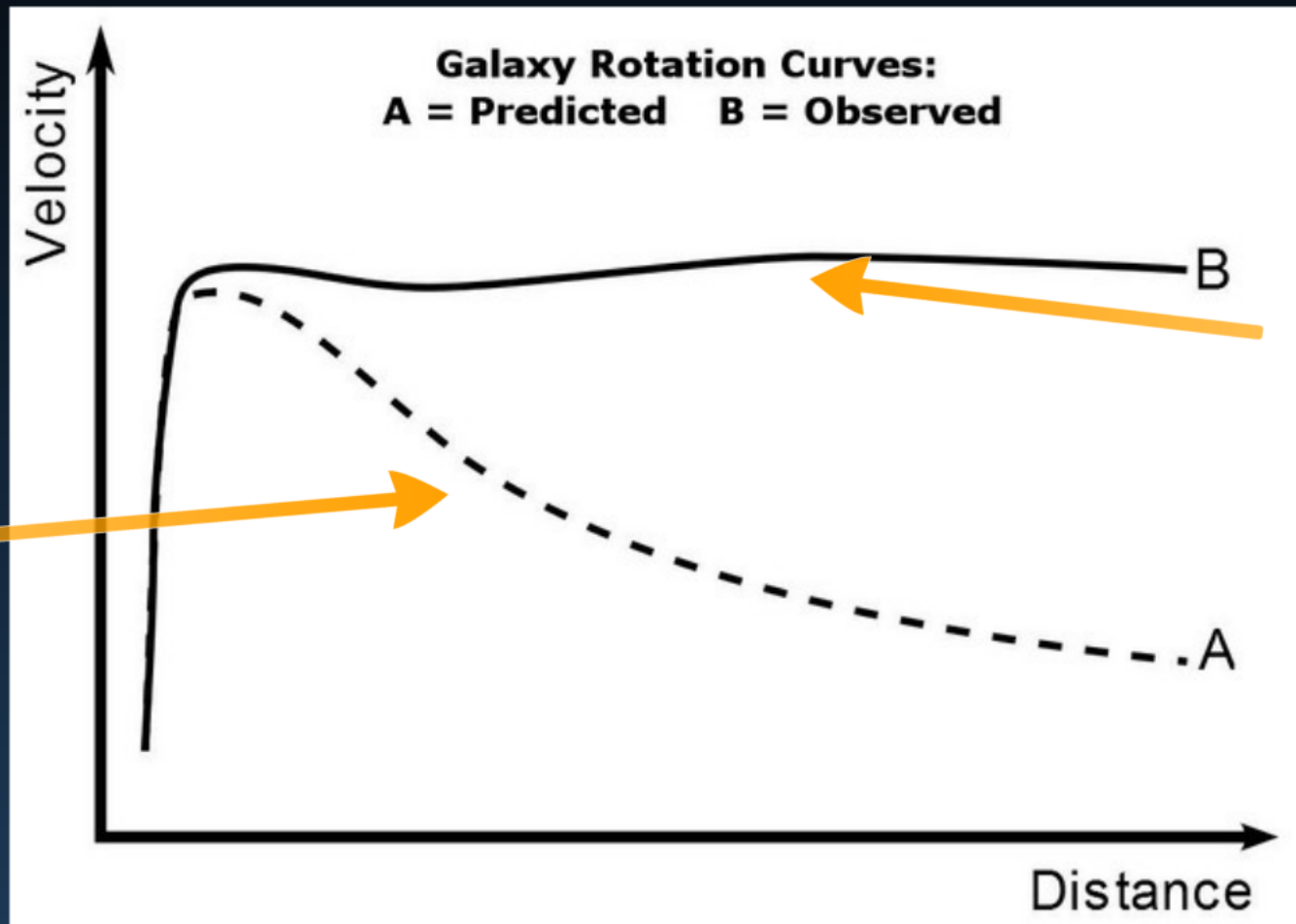
Used to explain missing mass

83% of all matter in the universe- Ordinary matter only 17%

Extremely difficult to detect

# Implications?

Galactic rotation curves- luminance to mass ratio



Mass in  
Central  
Disk  
(Predicted)

Central  
Bulge  
(Observed)

Extremely difficult to detect

# Dark Matter Candidates

WIMPs- Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

.

MACHOs- Massive Astronomical Compact Halo Objects

.

Matter

ntillation

 Prezi.com  
o substances

# WIMPs

Theoretical particles that make up dark matter

Interaction Strength with matter  $\approx$  Weak Force

Detectable interaction with gravity

No radiation or light emitted



# Dark Matter Candidates

WIMPs- Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

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MACHOs- Massive Astronomical Compact Halo Objects

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Matter

ntillation

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o substances



# MACHOs

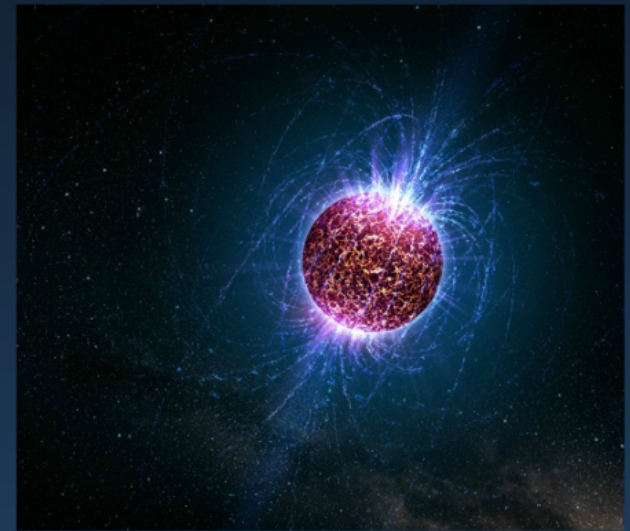
Massive Astronomical Compact Halo Objects

Astronomical Bodies explaining dark matter

Black Holes

Large baryonic matter

- Neutron Stars, Brown Dwarfs, etc.



# Direct Detection of Dark Matter

Interactions in ionization energy, heat, scintillation

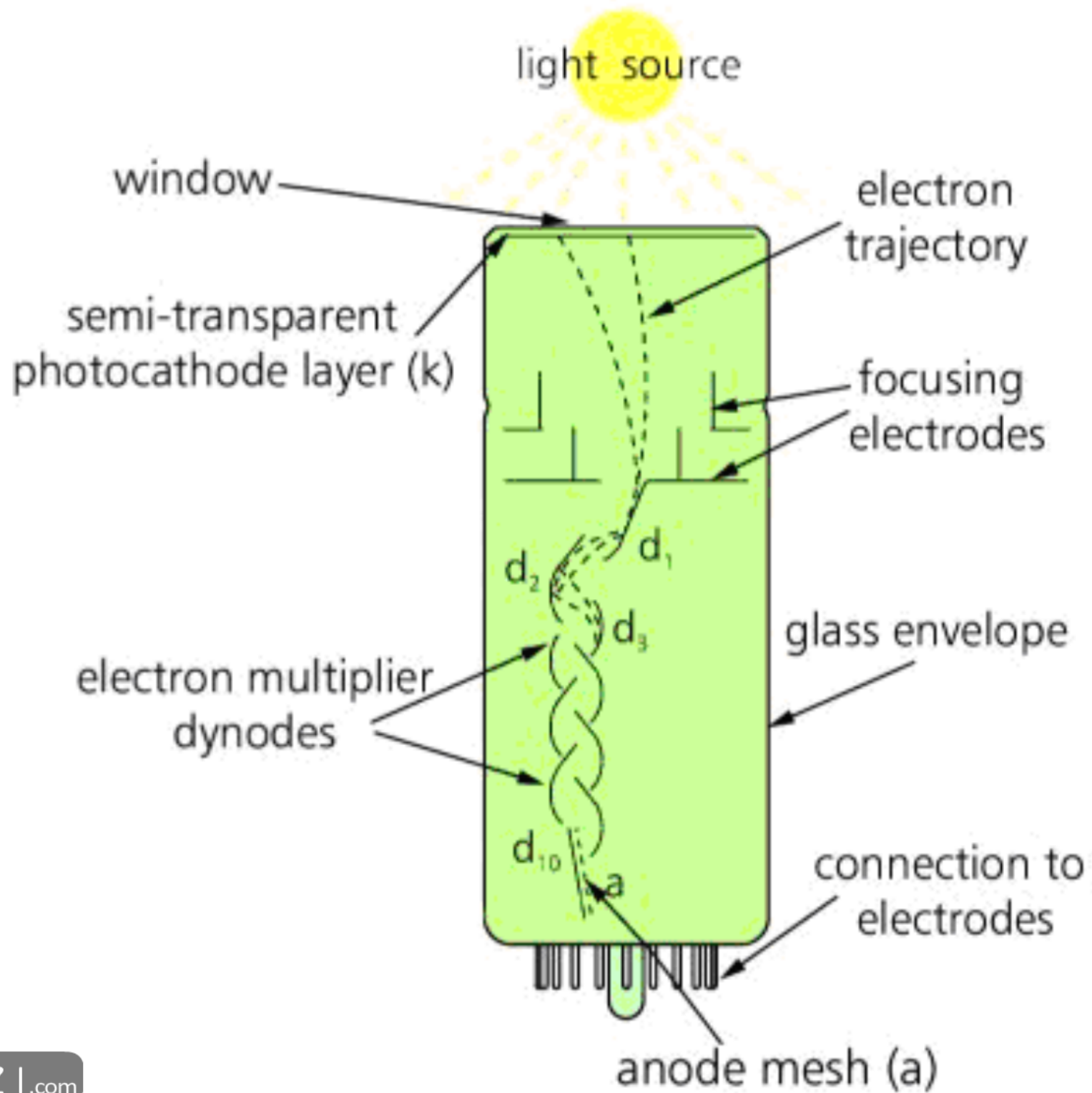
Cryogenic Detectors: Detect heat in supercooled substances

Noble Liquid: Detect scintillation light flashes

Further scintillation detection

- Scintillators, Photo Multiplier Tubes (PMTs)





- DAMA - LIBRA

# The DAMA-LIBRA Collaboration

Carried out in 2003, first results reported 2008

Used a NaI crystal as scintillator, with Tl impurity activator

Detected an annual change in modulation-  $\sim 2-6$  keV

- Rate change in earth's speed relative to dark matter winds



Problem: Modulation signal/WIMP detection not replicated by other experiments

# Proposed Explanation for the DAMA Results

## Nal Crystal Time Delay in Scintillation Response

- Energy absorbed, emitted again as light
- Small amount of energy left within crystal, emitted later



# Our Project

Replicate the DAMA experiment, trying to prove time delay caused DAMA results

Progress, not time delay

Calibration of detector

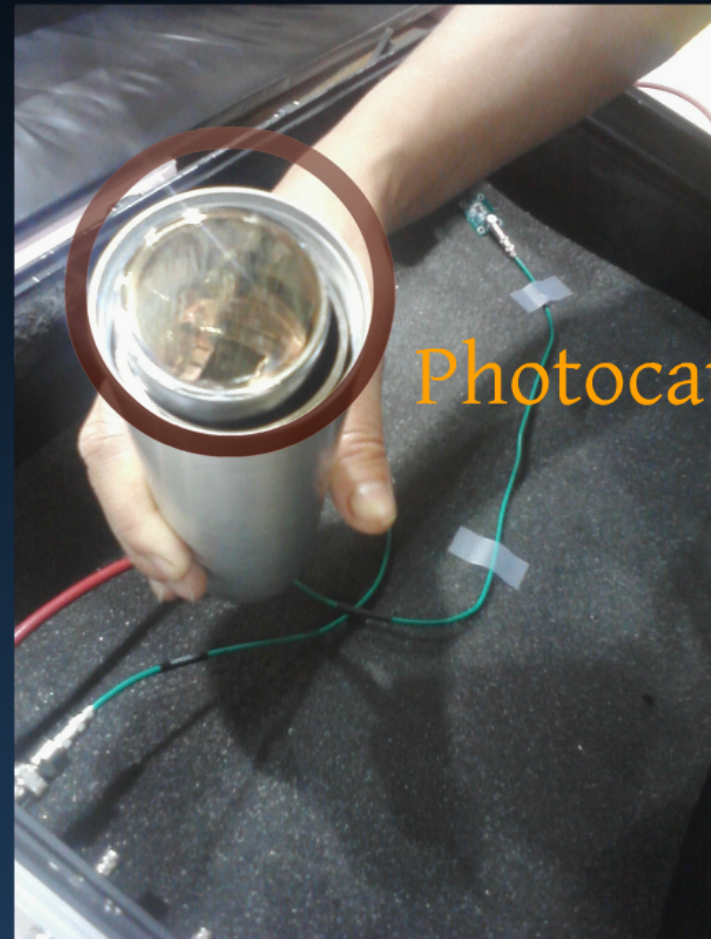


- PMTs
- NaI Crystal

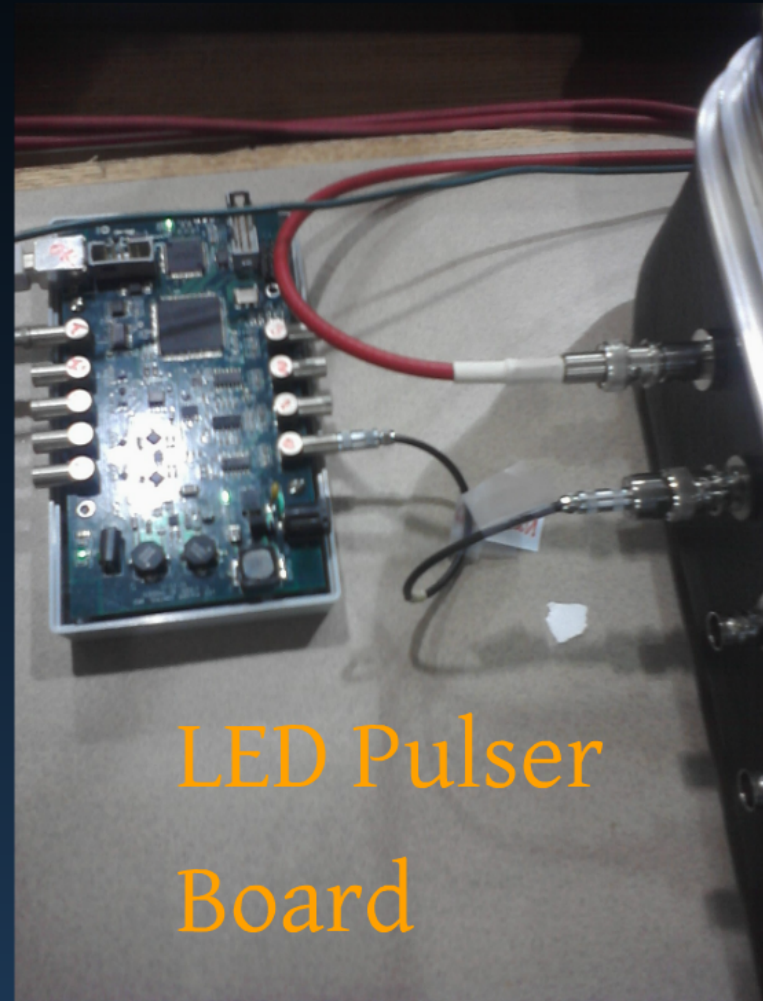
# Calibrating the PMT



Sodium Iodide  
Crystal



Photocathode



SE

LED outputs sequenced in two groups, Ch0,Ch1(P4,P3) and Ch2,Ch3(P2,P1)

LED Pattern, (Ch0,Ch2)On, Delay, (Ch1,Ch3)On, Delay, ALL\_ON, Delay

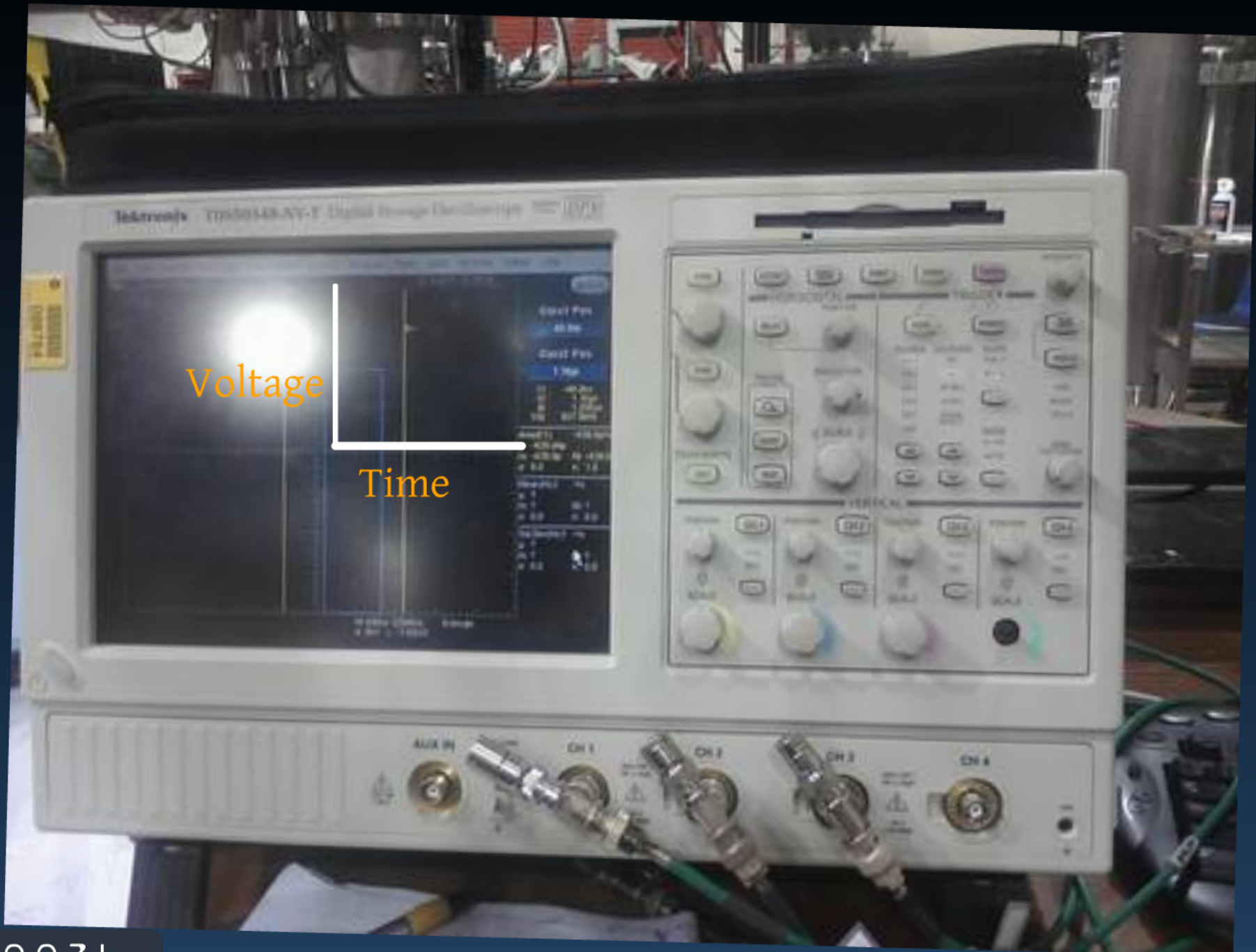
Each Sequence (Seq) holds up to 1365 LED Pulse Patterns

At the end of each Seq the DAC volts increase by 'Step Voltage'

LED Lemo DC out is 4 \* DAC volts (increases by 'Step Volts' after ea Seq)

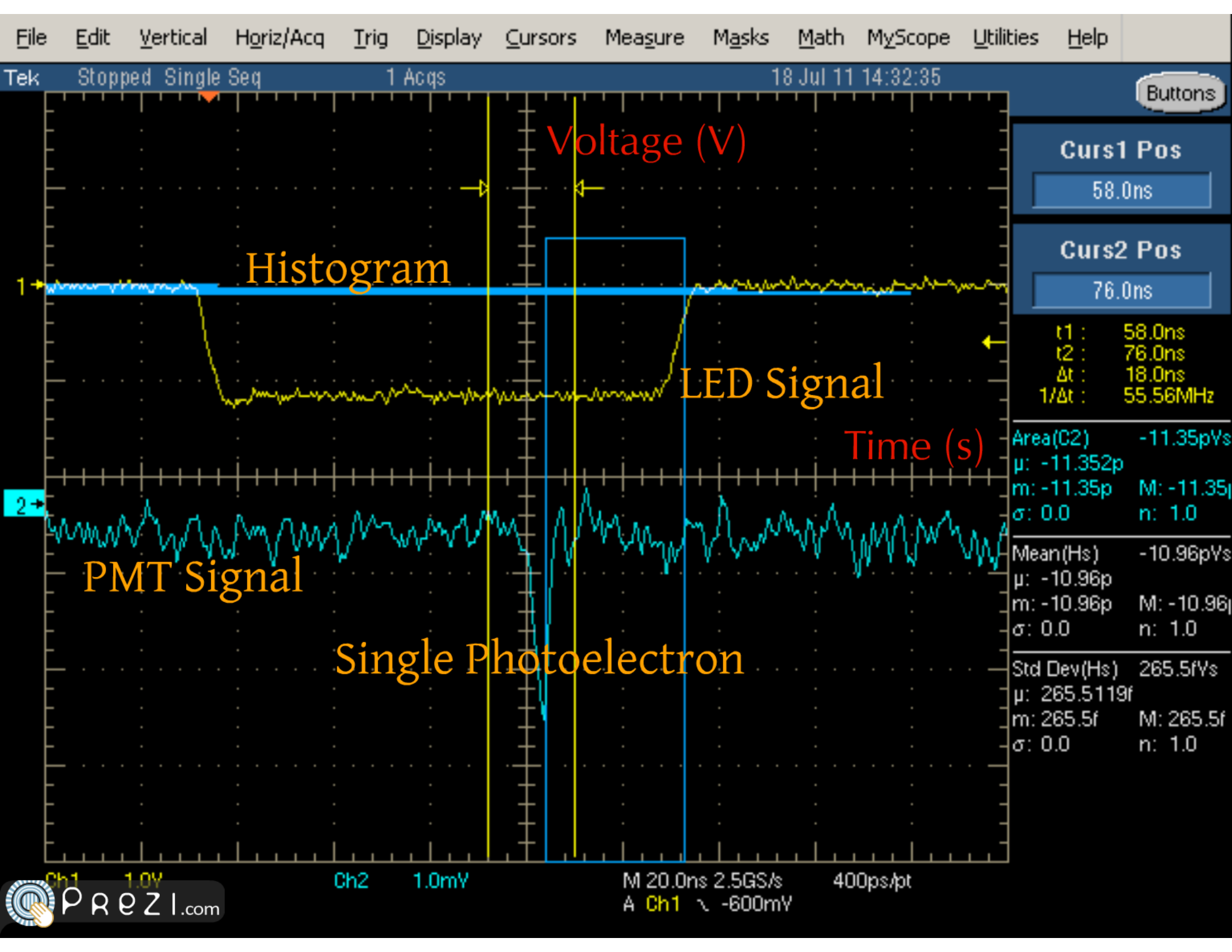
Hit Enter Key on each line for a default sequence setup

Enter Initial Ch0-1 DAC Voltage	(0-4095mV)	2500	→ X 4 Output
Enter Initial Ch2-3 DAC Voltage	(0-4095mV)	1	
Enter Ch0-1 DAC, Step Voltage	(0-4095mV)	0	
Enter Ch2-3 DAC, Step Voltage	(0-4095mV)	100	
Enter DACs Maximum Voltage	(0-4095mV)	2500	
Enter Delay btw LED Pulses	(10nS/Cnt)	100	
LED Pulse Patterns per Seq	( 1-1365)	1000	
Seq repeat count, Def=Cont.	( 0-65535)	Continuous	
Delay before Seq repeats	(1-65535mS)	5	
LED Sequence Started			



Voltage

Time



# Objectives

Determine correct LED Voltage \_\_\_\_\_

Determine optimal range of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

Measure single photoelectron spectrum \_\_\_\_\_

Determine Gain of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

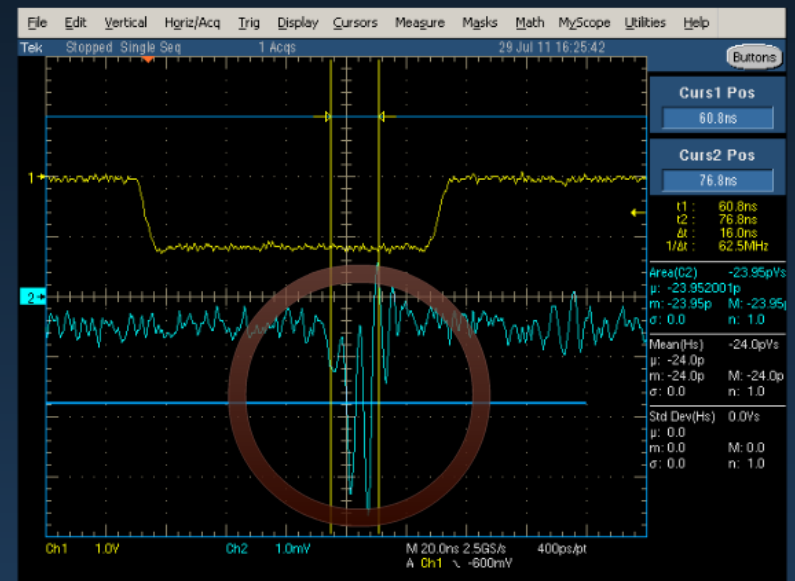
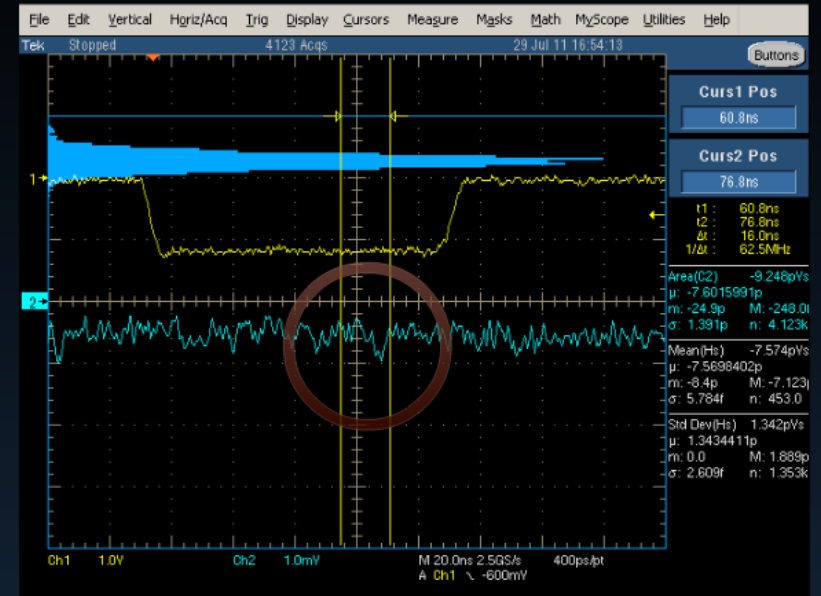
Minimum- Below threshold  
(no photoelectrons)

1.1 V LED Input)

LED Voltage

Maximum- Above threshold  
(Mostly 2+ photoelectrons)

4.096 V LED Input)





# Objectives

Determine correct LED Voltage \_\_\_\_\_

Determine optimal range of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

Measure single photoelectron spectrum \_\_\_\_\_

Determine Gain of PMT \_\_\_\_\_



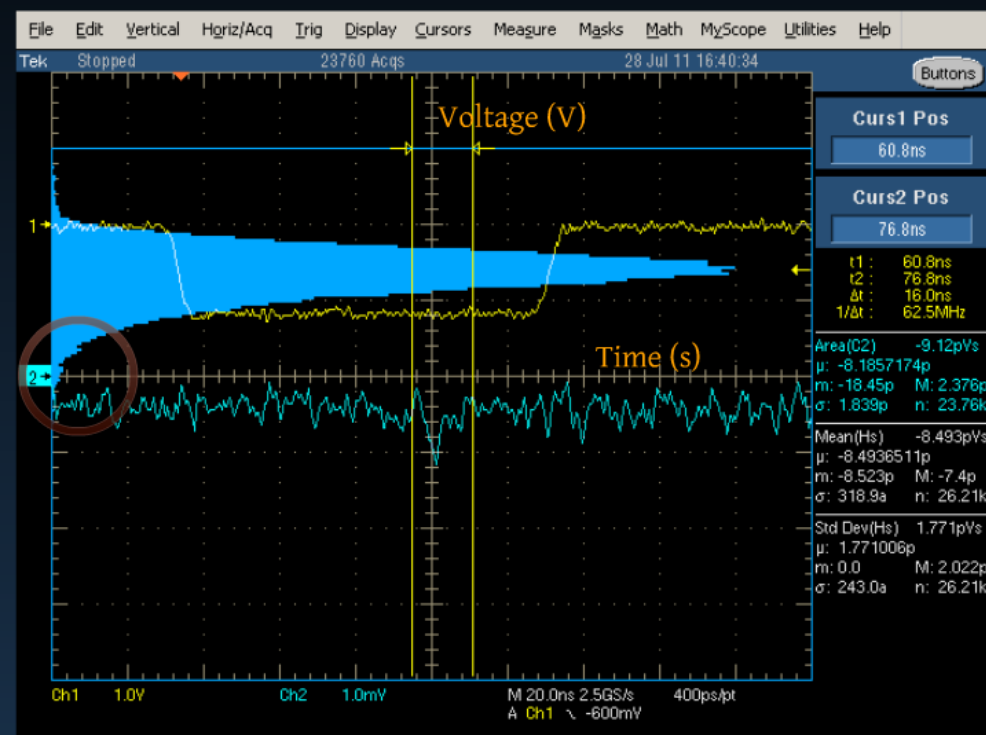
Optimal Range

## Range of High Voltages

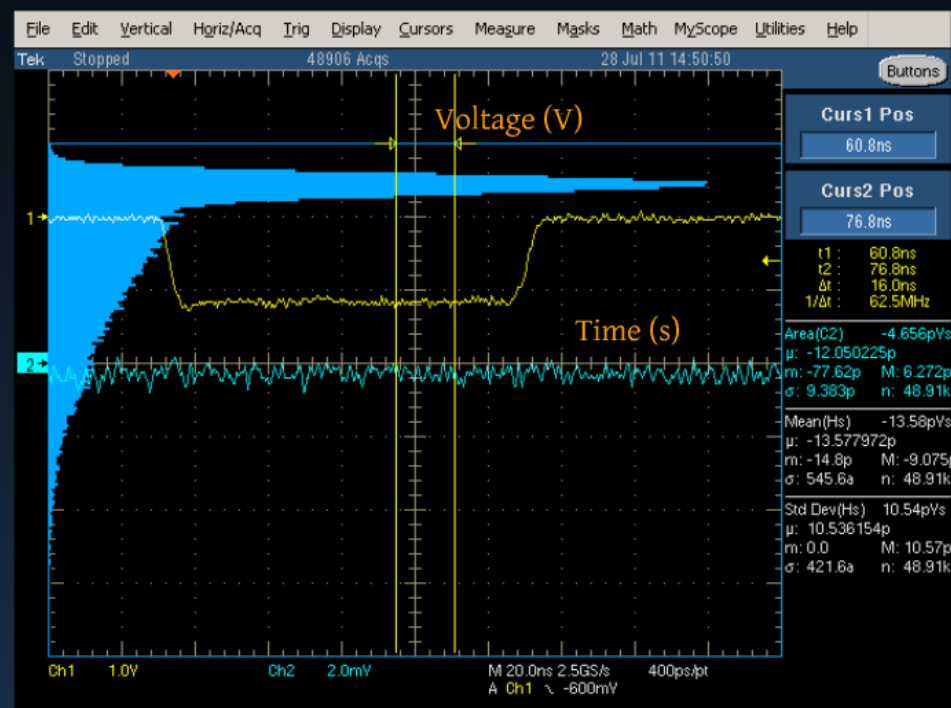
900 V (Distributor Recommended) -  
1251 V (Noise dominated)

## Optimization

Point maximizing separation between single photoelectron peaks and noise distribution



PMT- 900 V



PMT- 1251 V

# Objectives

Determine correct LED Voltage \_\_\_\_\_

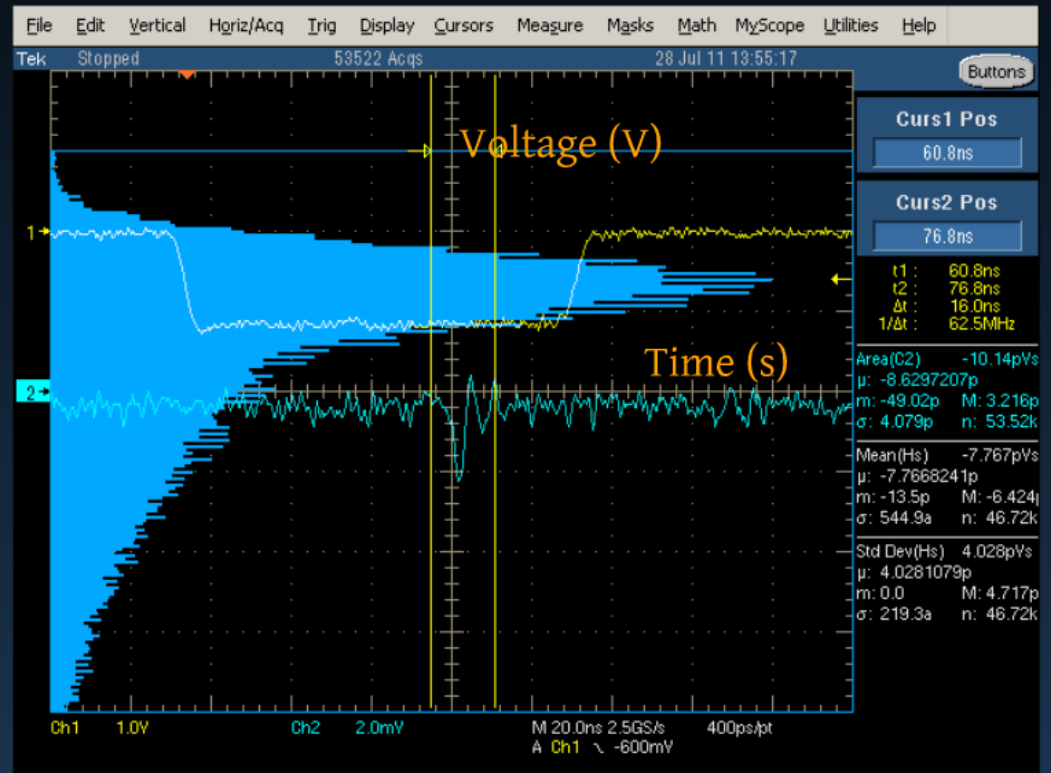
Determine optimal range of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

Measure single photoelectron spectrum \_\_\_\_\_

Determine Gain of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

# Histograms

Single Photoelectron Peak



Conversion factor between initial photoelectron and number of final

# Fit curves to histograms

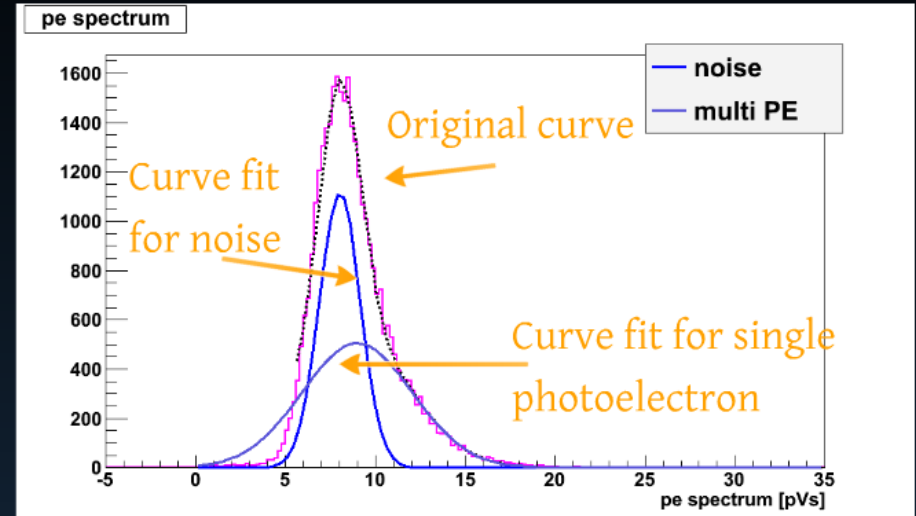
Mean of single photoelectron peak

- measured in pVs -

Convert mean of area (pVs)  
to charge (C)



Conversion factor between number of photoelectrons released (pVs) and energy intensity (keV)



Radioactive Source Data: Correlate gamma peaks (pVs) to known energy values (keV)  
-- Stage 2 of full project

# Objectives

Determine correct LED Voltage \_\_\_\_\_

Determine optimal range of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

Measure single photoelectron spectrum \_\_\_\_\_

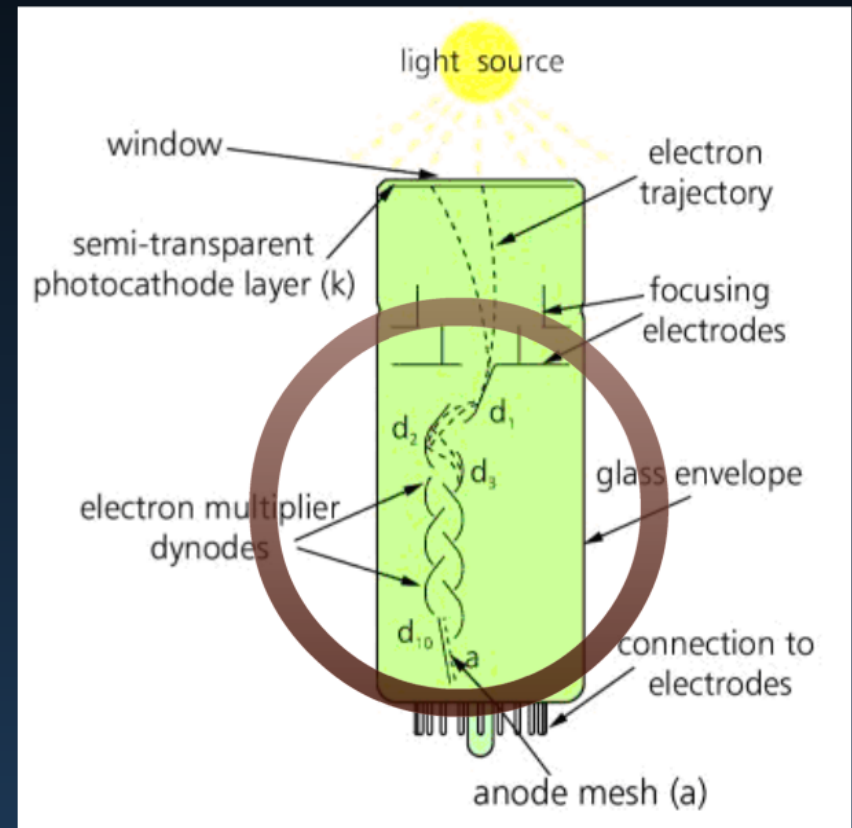
Determine Gain of PMT \_\_\_\_\_

Conversion factor between initial photoelectron and number of final electrons

# PMT Gain

Area of peaks -> charge -> number of electrons

Gain factor across multiple high voltages





# Data Collection

Black Box configuration to produce only single photoelectrons

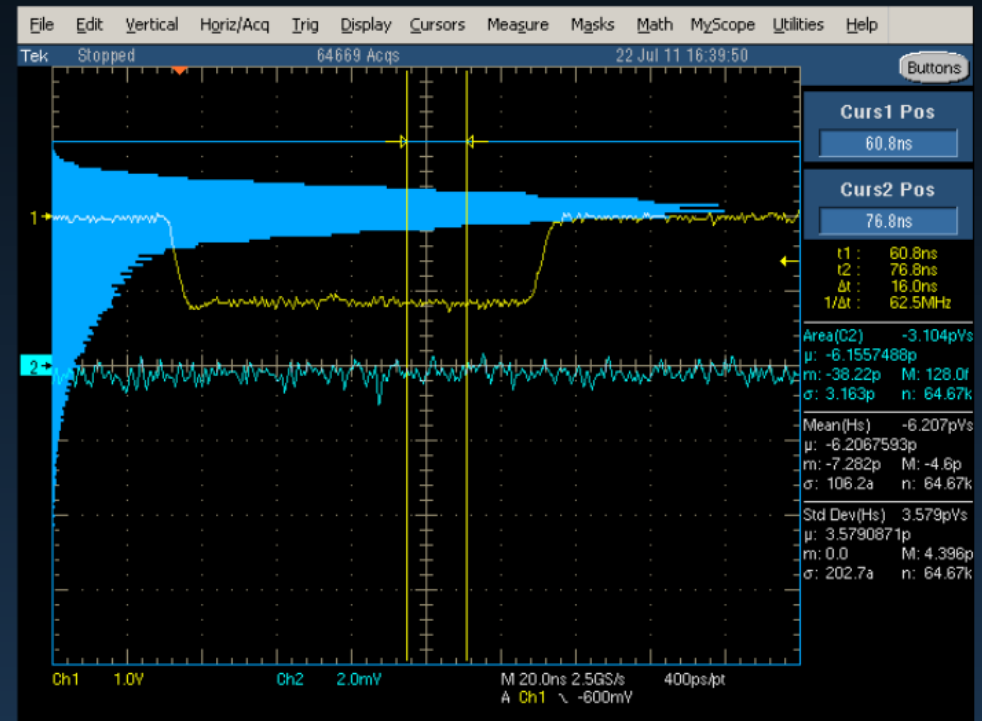
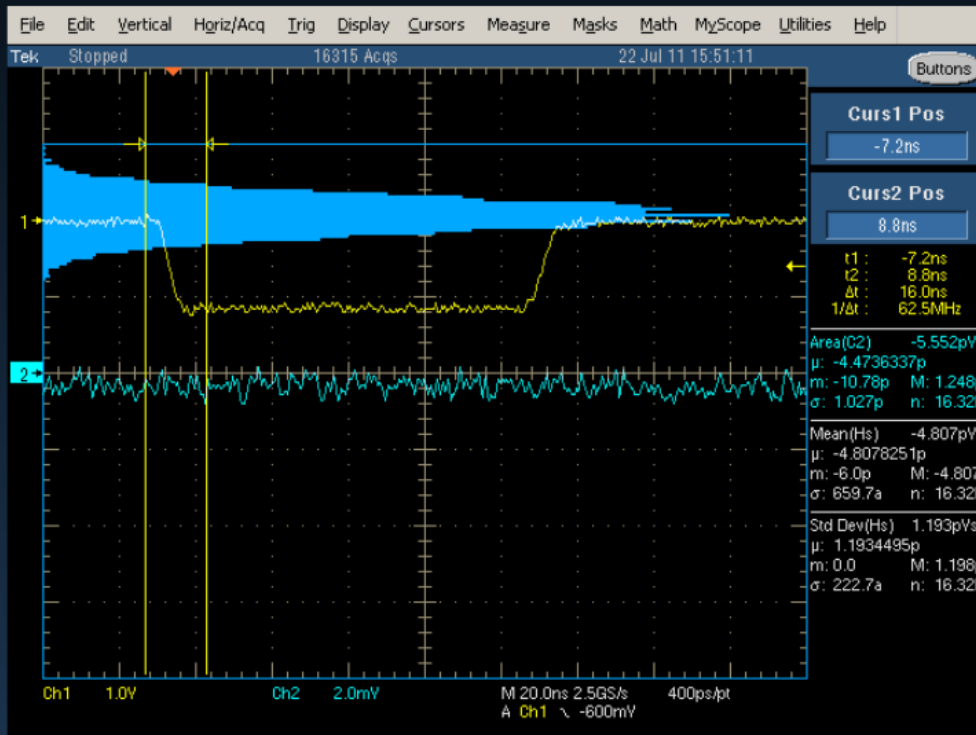
- LED light intensity
- Distance between LED and PMT

Data for single photoelectron histograms

Data for noise offset



# Initial Data



# Constant Voltage

LED- Stepping voltage (default setting) vs. constant input voltage

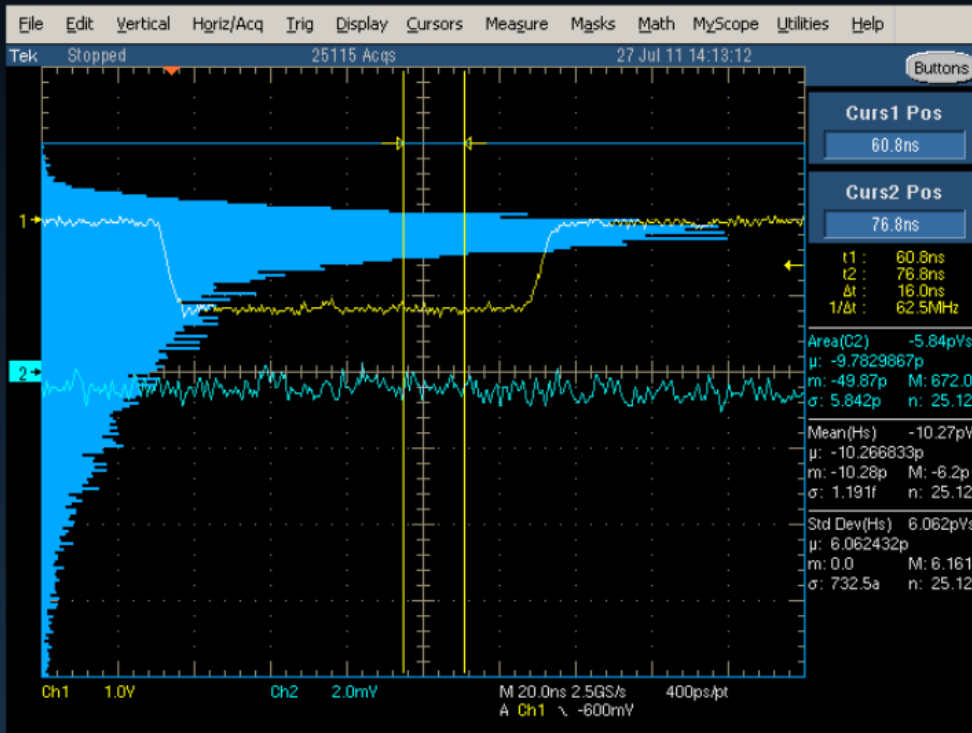
SE

LED outputs sequenced in two groups, Ch0,Ch1(P4,P3) and Ch2,Ch3(P2,P1)  
LED Pattern, (Ch0,Ch2)On, Delay, (Ch1,Ch3)On, Delay, ALL\_ON, Delay  
Each Sequence (Seq) holds up to 1365 LED Pulse Patterns  
At the end of each Seq the DAC volts increase by 'Step Voltage'  
LED Lemo DC out is 4 \* DAC volts (increases by 'Step Volts' after ea Seq)  
Hit Enter Key on each line for a default sequence setup

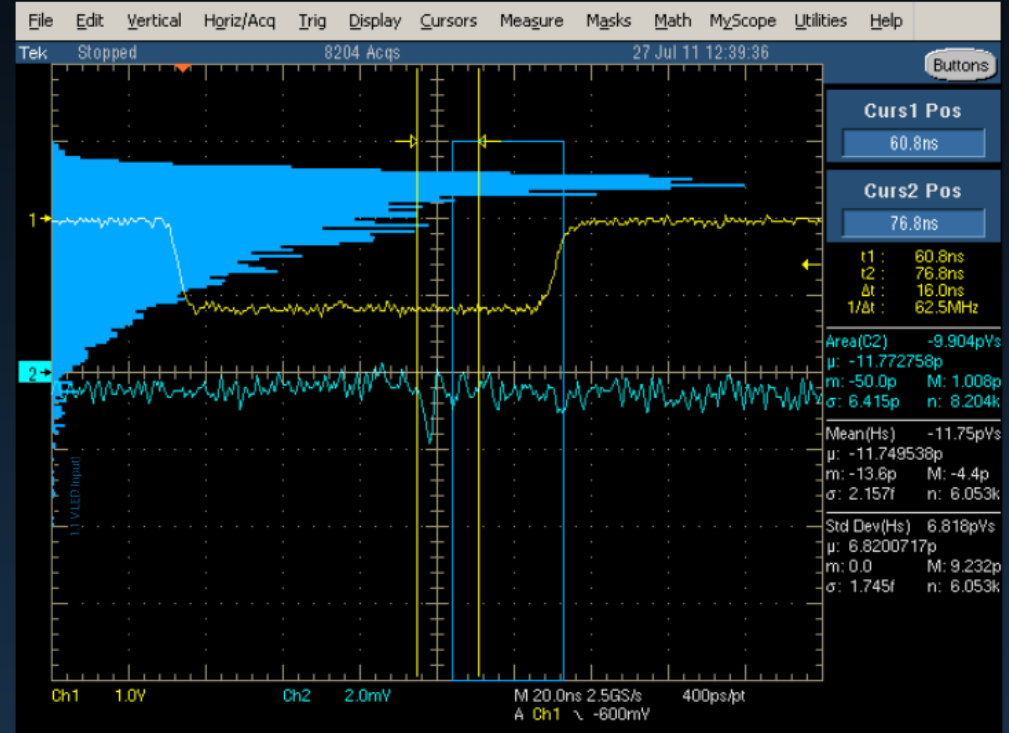
```
Enter Initial Ch0-1 DAC Voltage (0-4095mV) 2500
Enter Initial Ch2-3 DAC Voltage (0-4095mV) 1
Enter Ch0-1 DAC, Step Voltage [ (0-4095mV) 0 ]
Enter Ch2-3 DAC, Step Voltage [ (0-4095mV) 100 ]
Enter DACs Maximum Voltage (0-4095mV) 2500
Enter Delay btw LED Pulses (10nS/Cnt) 100
LED Pulse Patterns per Seq ( 1-1365) 1000
Seq repeat count, Def=Cont. ( 0-65535) Continuous
Delay before Seq repeats (1-65535mS) 5
LED Sequence Started
```

1:32 43x160 1k 115200 N81

# First Trials with non-Stepping LED Voltage



2.5 V LED



3.3 V LED

## Reasons for Data Discrepancy

LED Pulser Board not functioning correctly

Confirmed with Oscilloscope- Correct voltage not applied to LED when step voltage set to 0



Reconfiguration of LED Board

# Post-Fix Data Collection

## Determination of threshold LED Voltage:

- $< 1.75$  V- No photoelectrons released
- $1.75 - 2.5$  V: Mostly single photoelectrons released
- $2.5 - 4.096$  V: Mostly multiple photoelectrons

1.75 V: Threshold Voltage

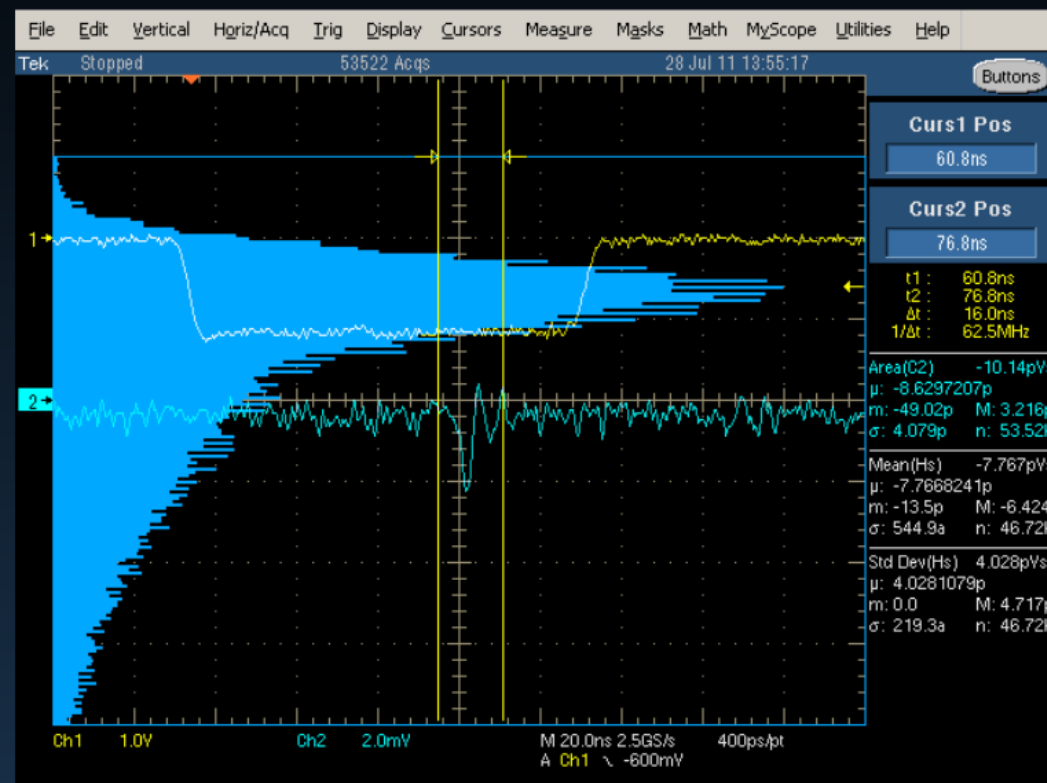
# Post-Fix Data Collection (cont.)

Constant voltage maintained at 2V

PMT Voltages: 900 V - 1250 V

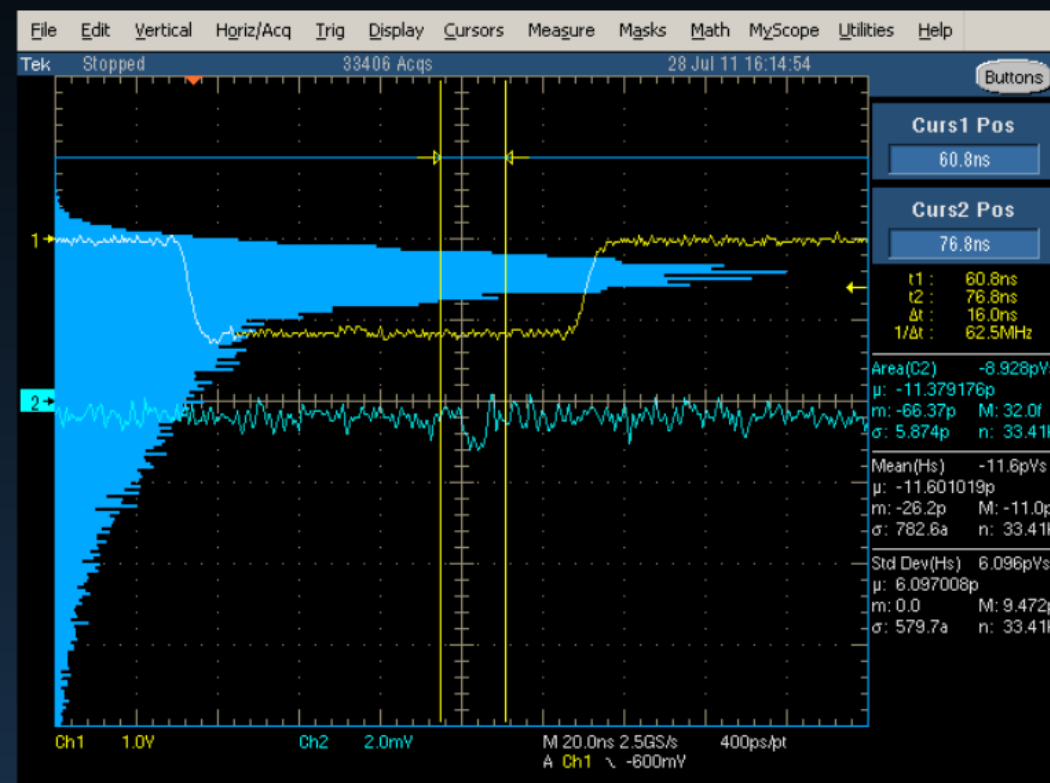
- 50 V increments
- Noise Tests taken for each

Testing to make sure calibration held



PMT- 1001 V

LED- 2 V



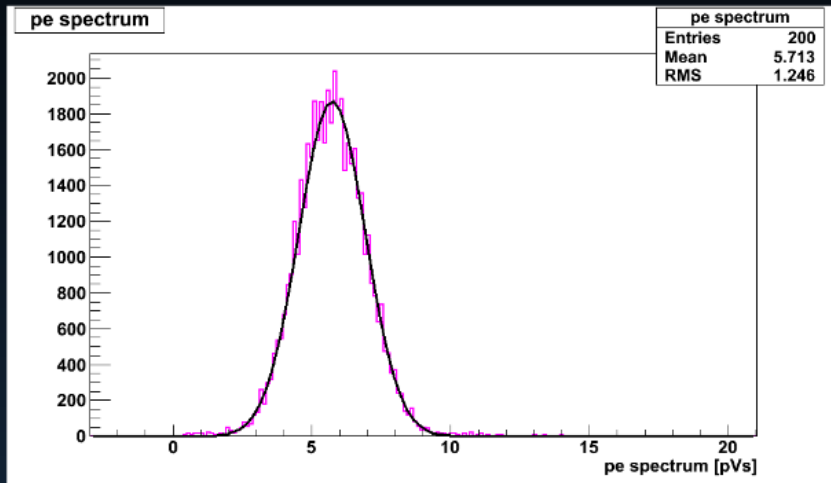
PMT- 1049 V

LED- 2 V



LED- 2 V

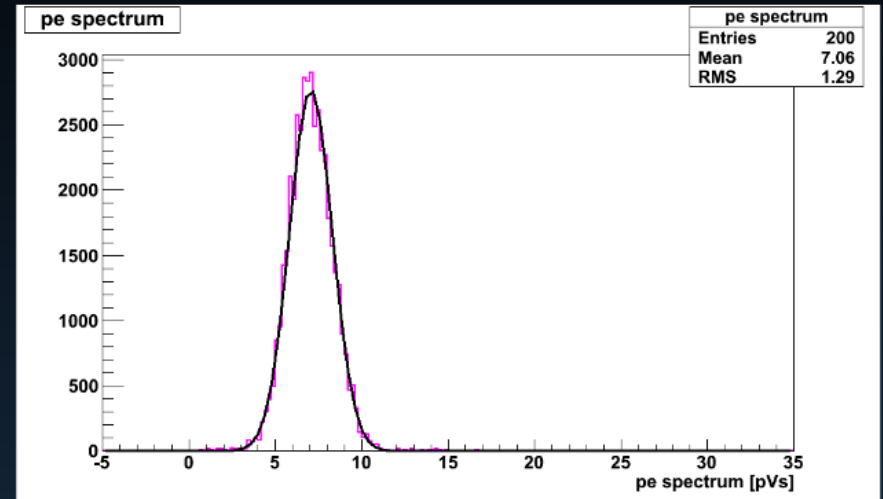
1001 V



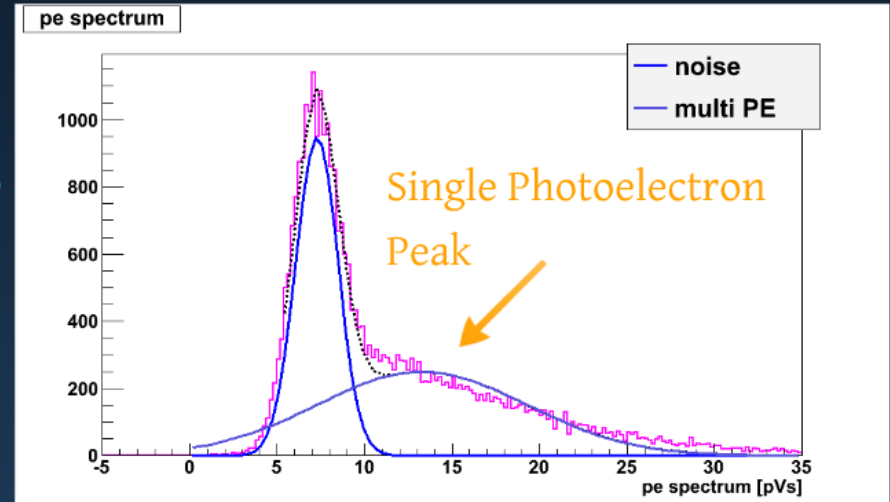
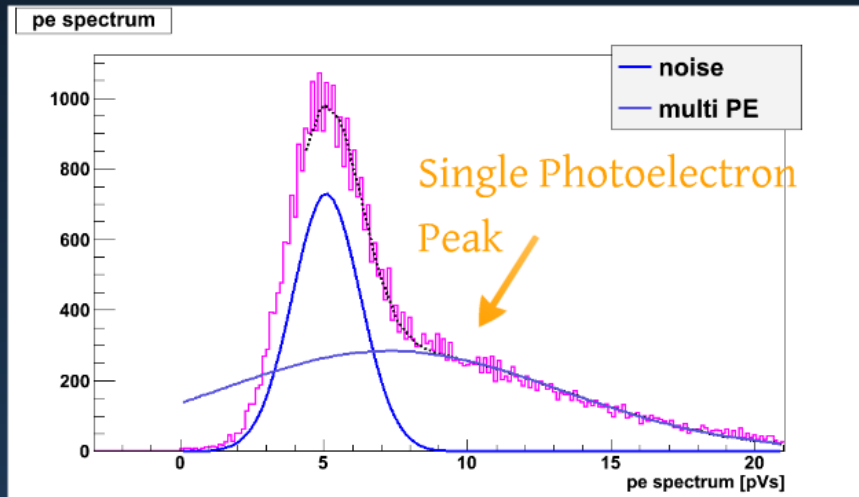
Offset

LED- 2 V

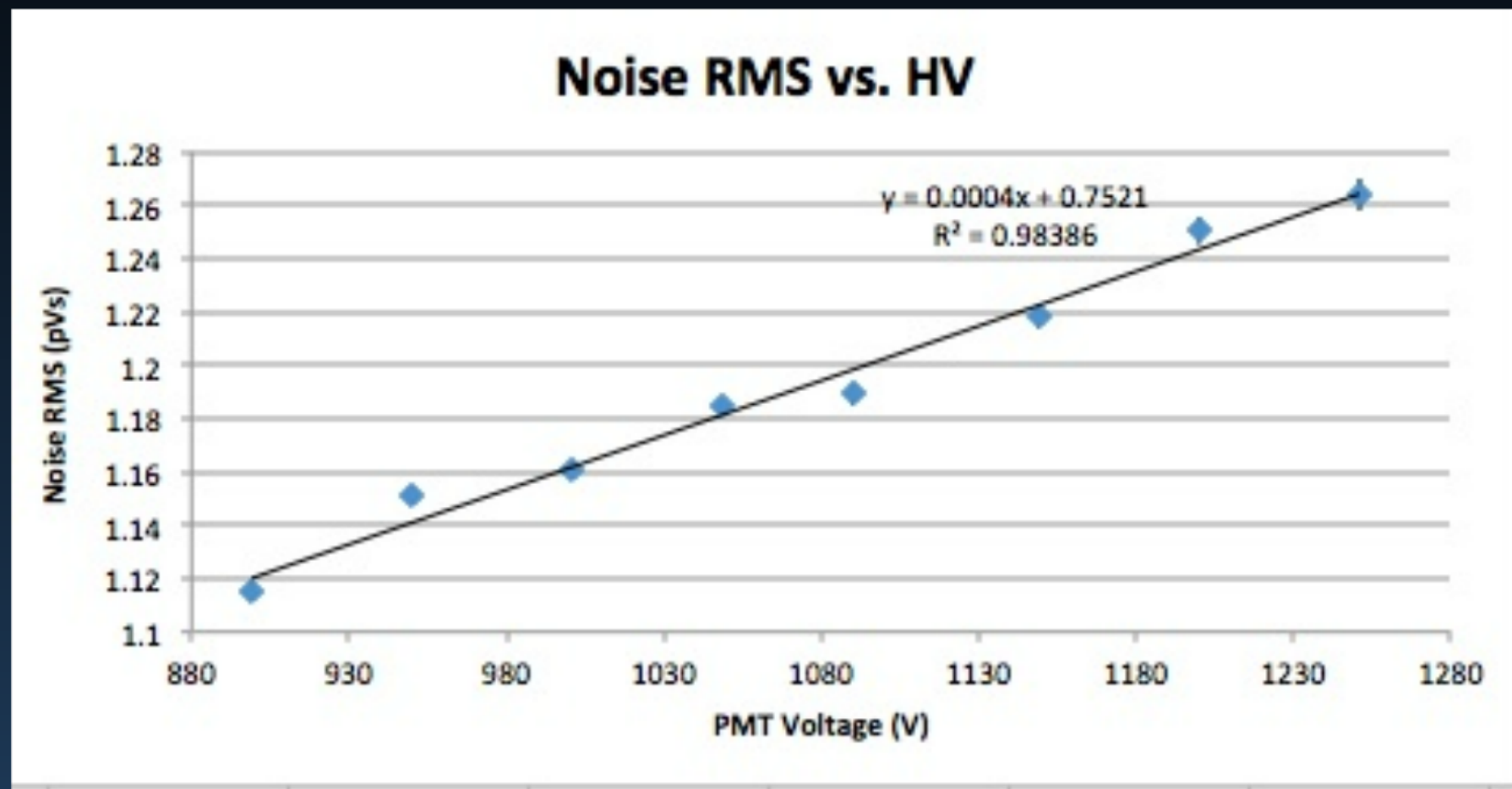
1049 V



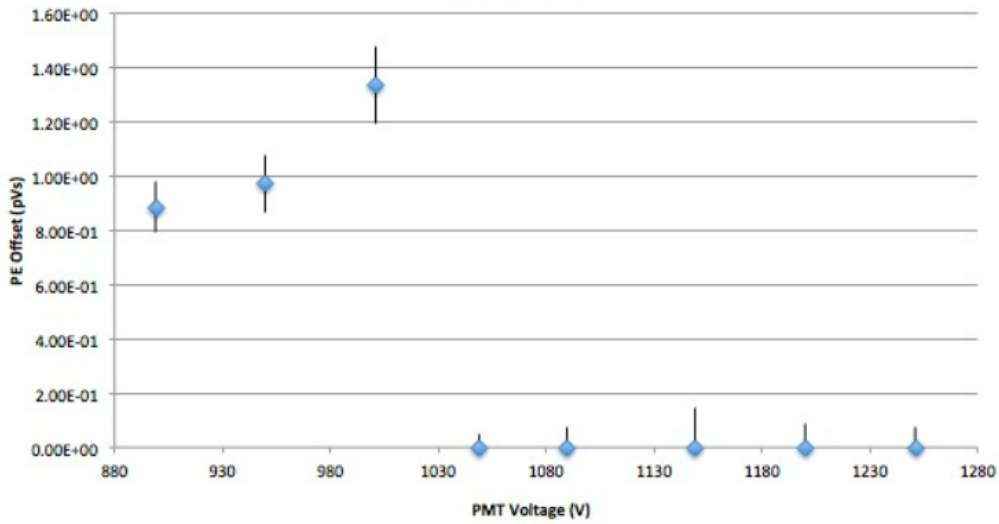
Single Peak



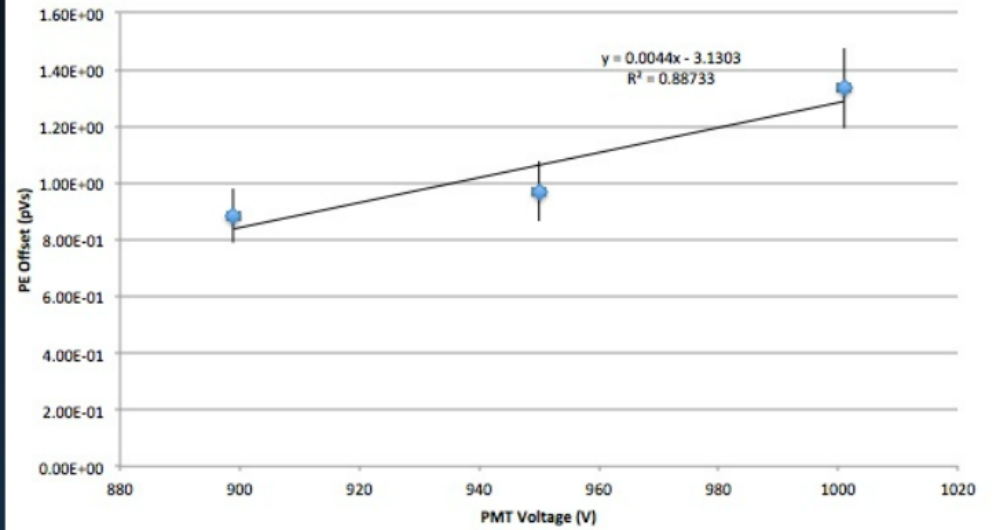
# Results



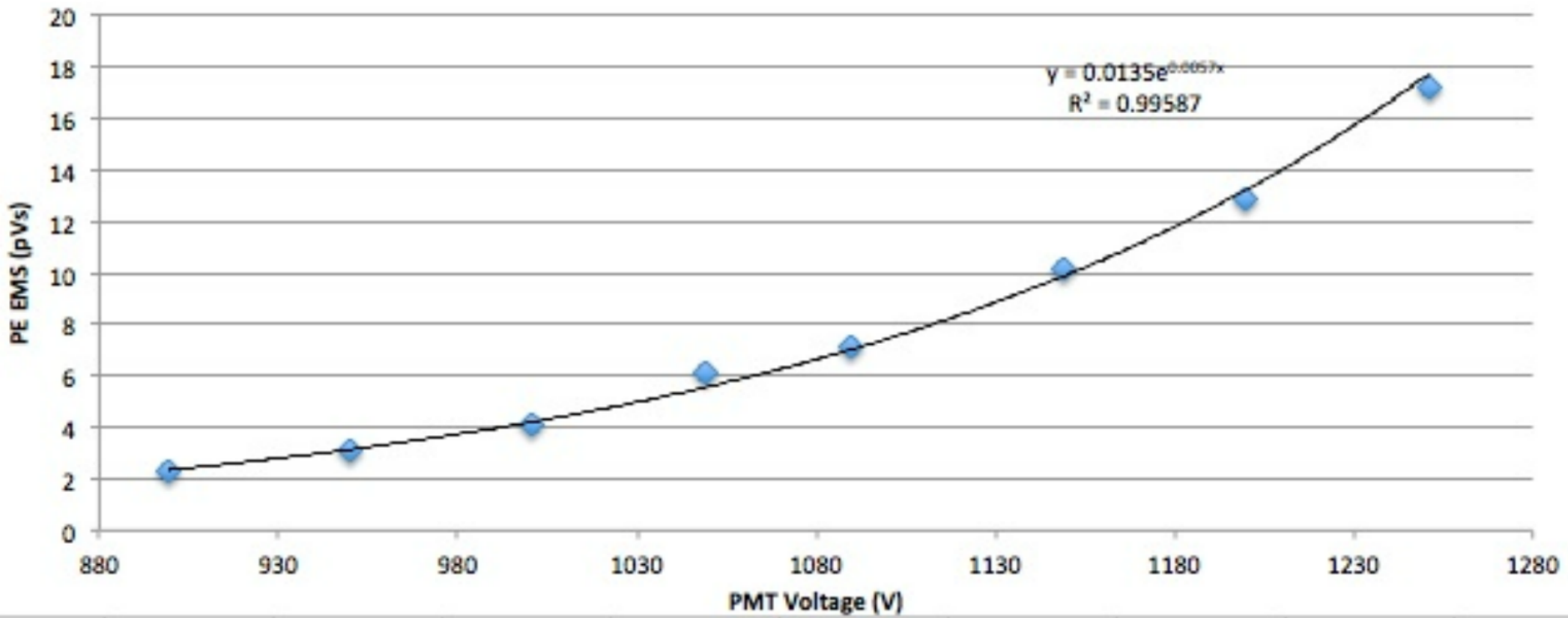
PE Offset vs. HV



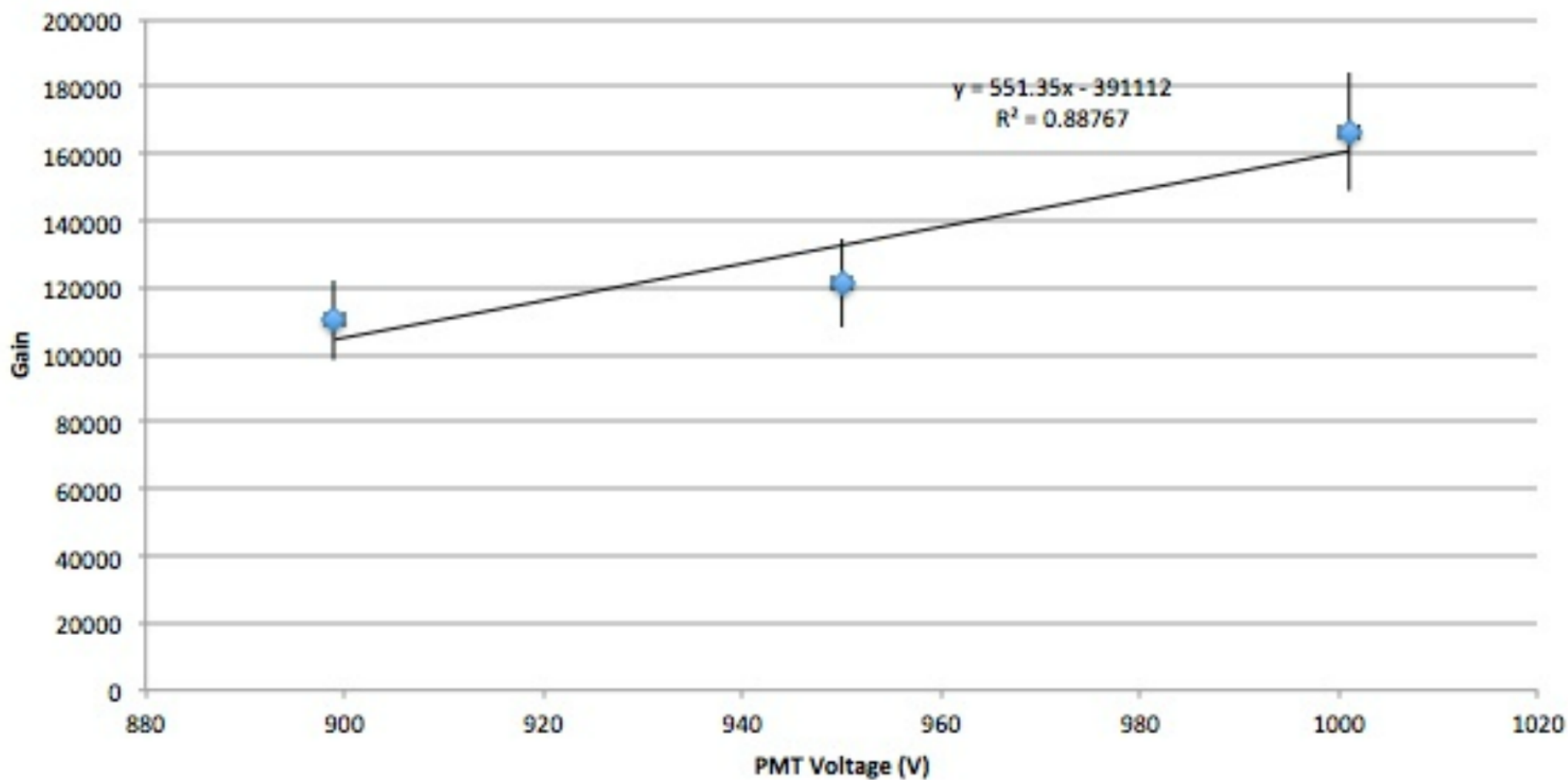
PE Offset vs. HV



## PE RMS vs. HV



## Gain vs. HV



# Phase 2: Coupling with Radioactive Sources

NaI crystal reattached to PMT

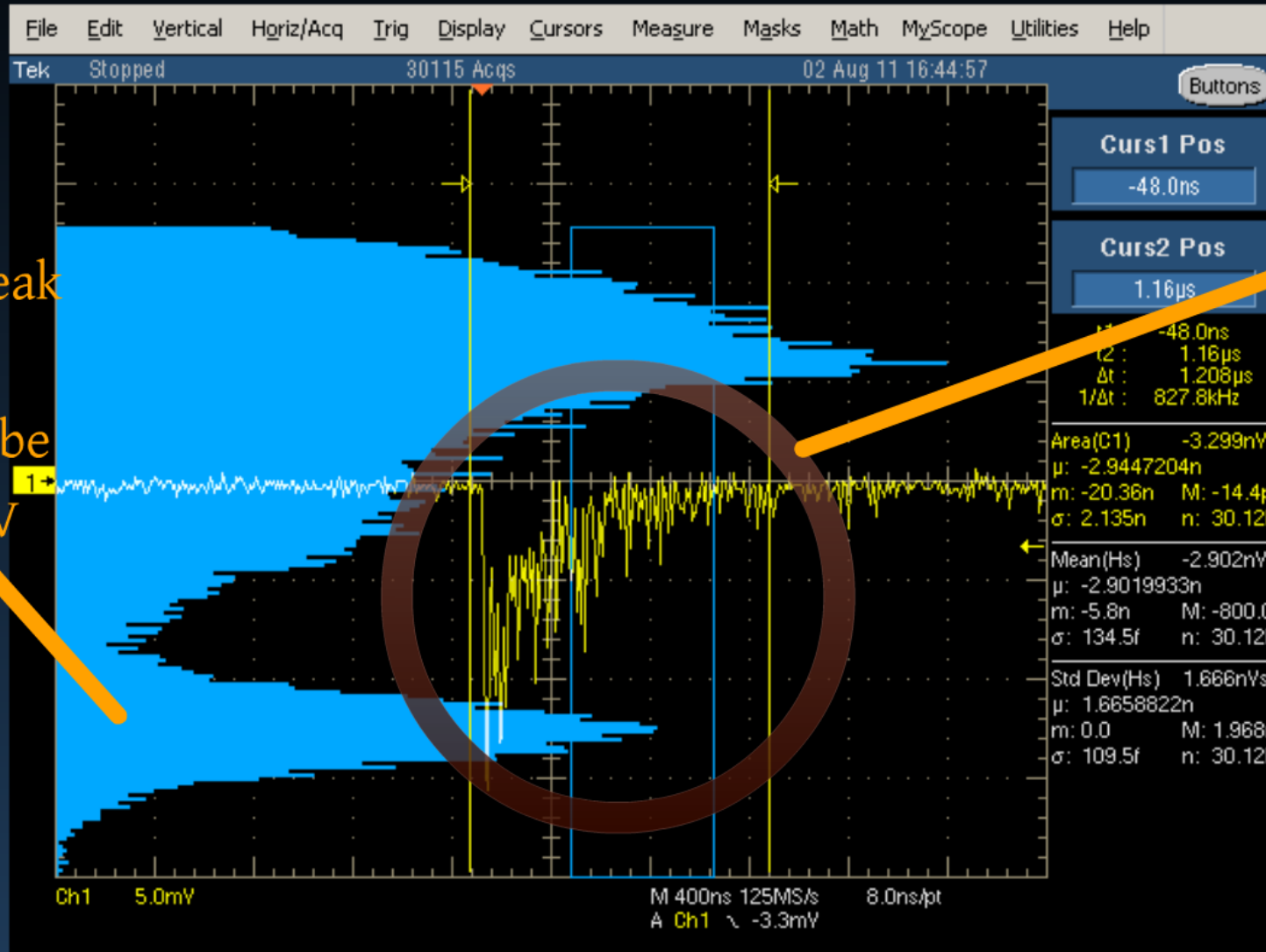
Low-intensity radioactive sources

- Cs-137, Na-22, Co-57

Gamma Peaks

Correlation from area of gamma peaks (pVs) to energy (KeV)

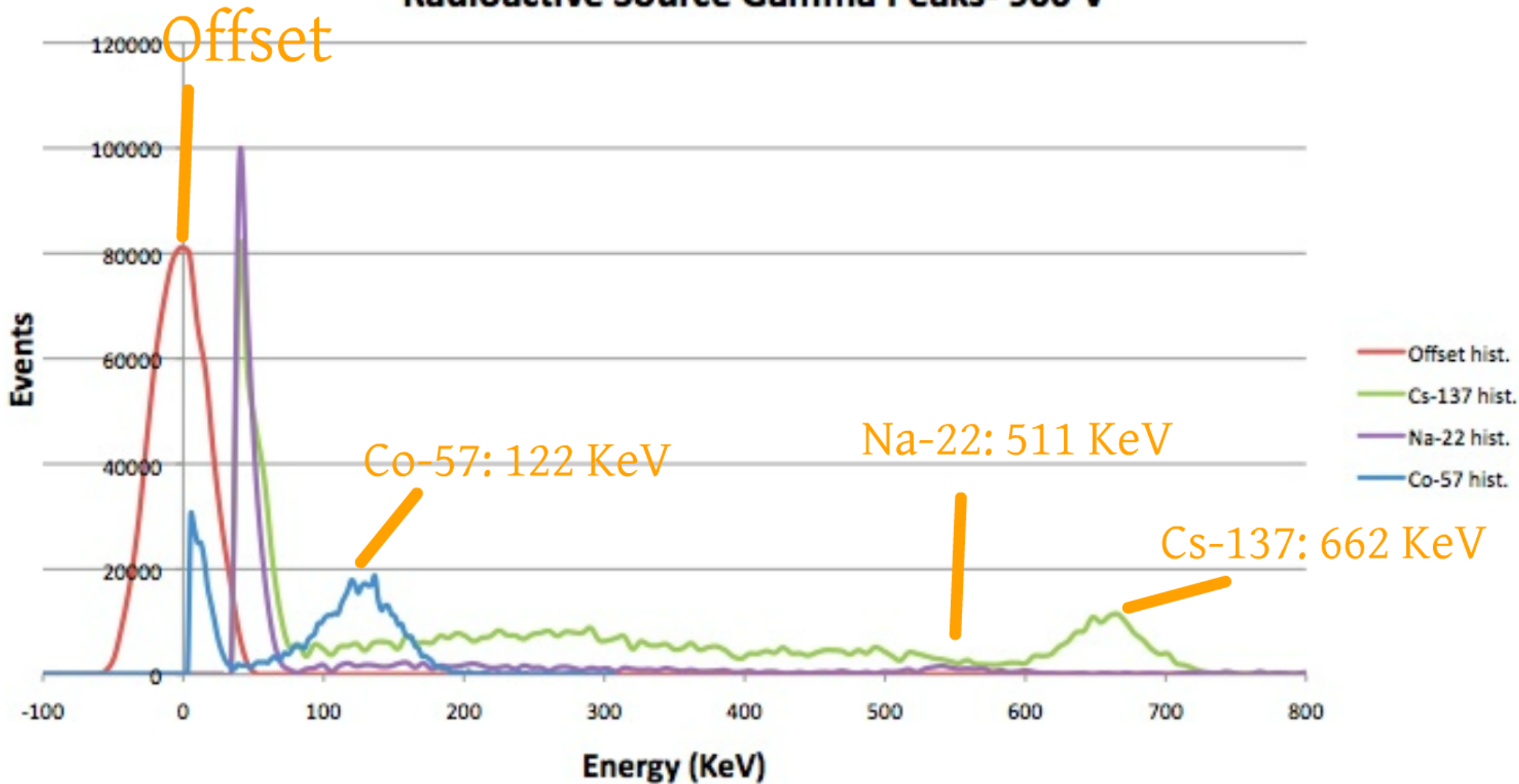
# Cs-137, 1000 V PMT



Gamma spectrum given by source

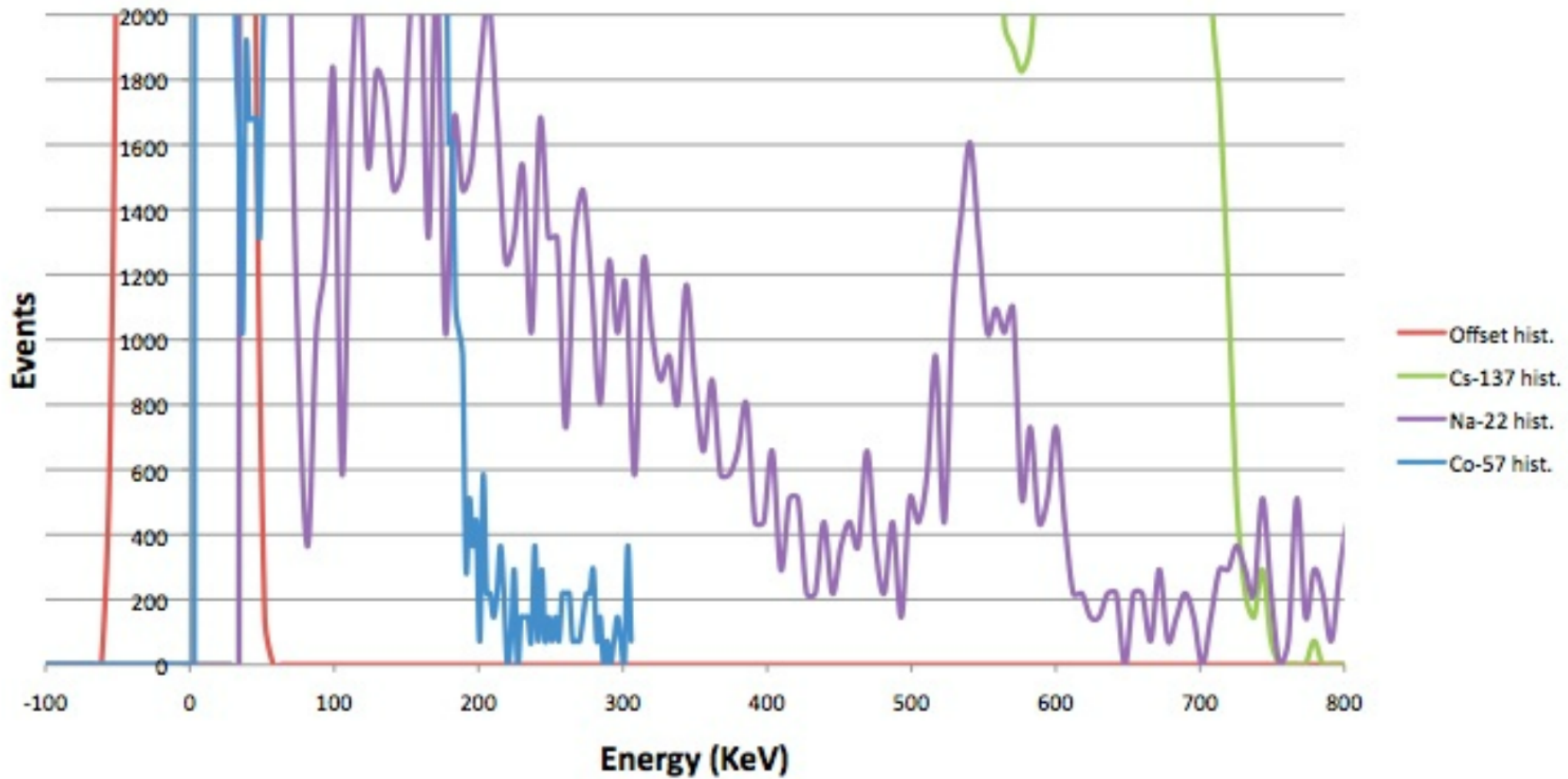
Gamma peak in pVs- known to be 661.64 KeV

## Radioactive Source Gamma Peaks- 900 V

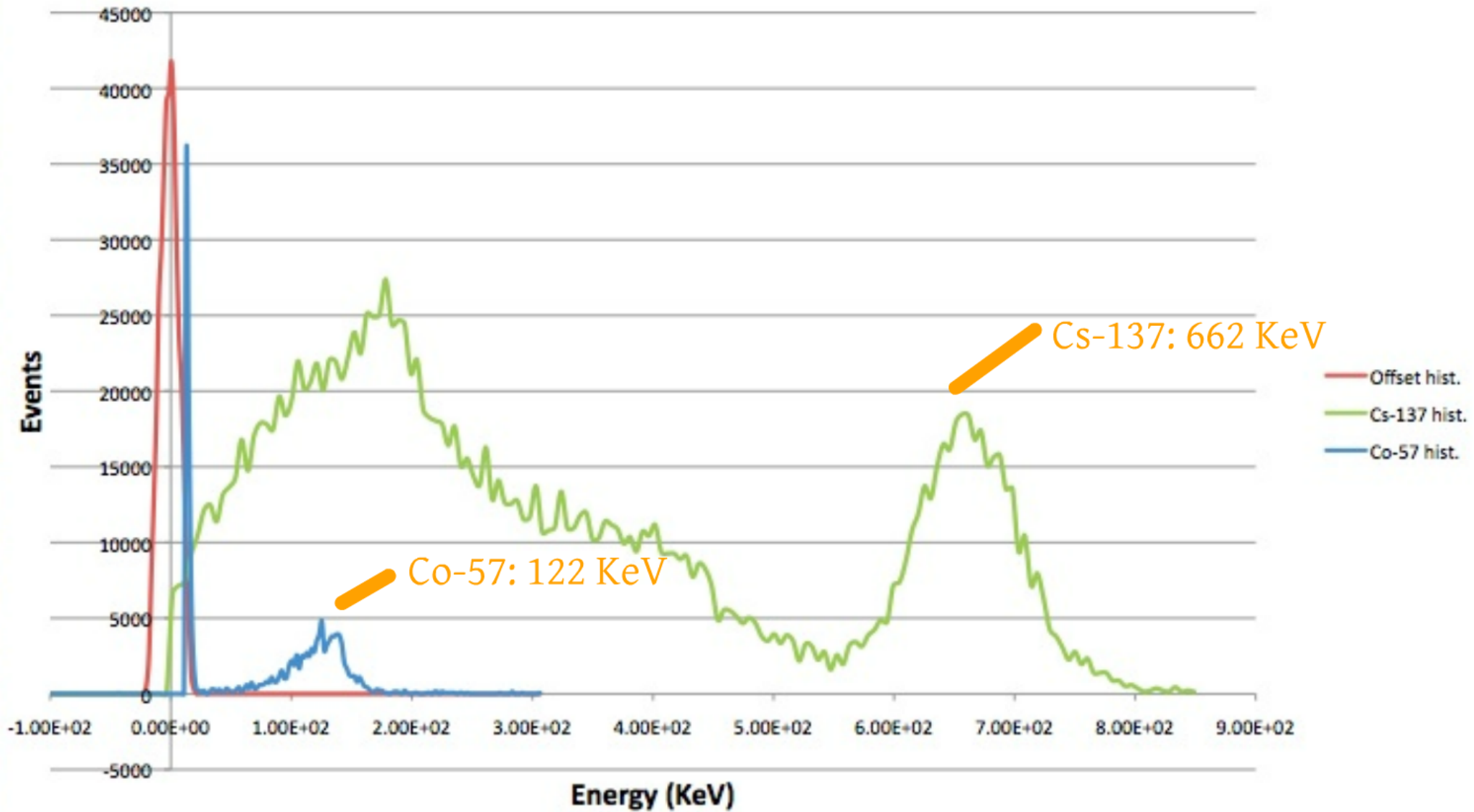




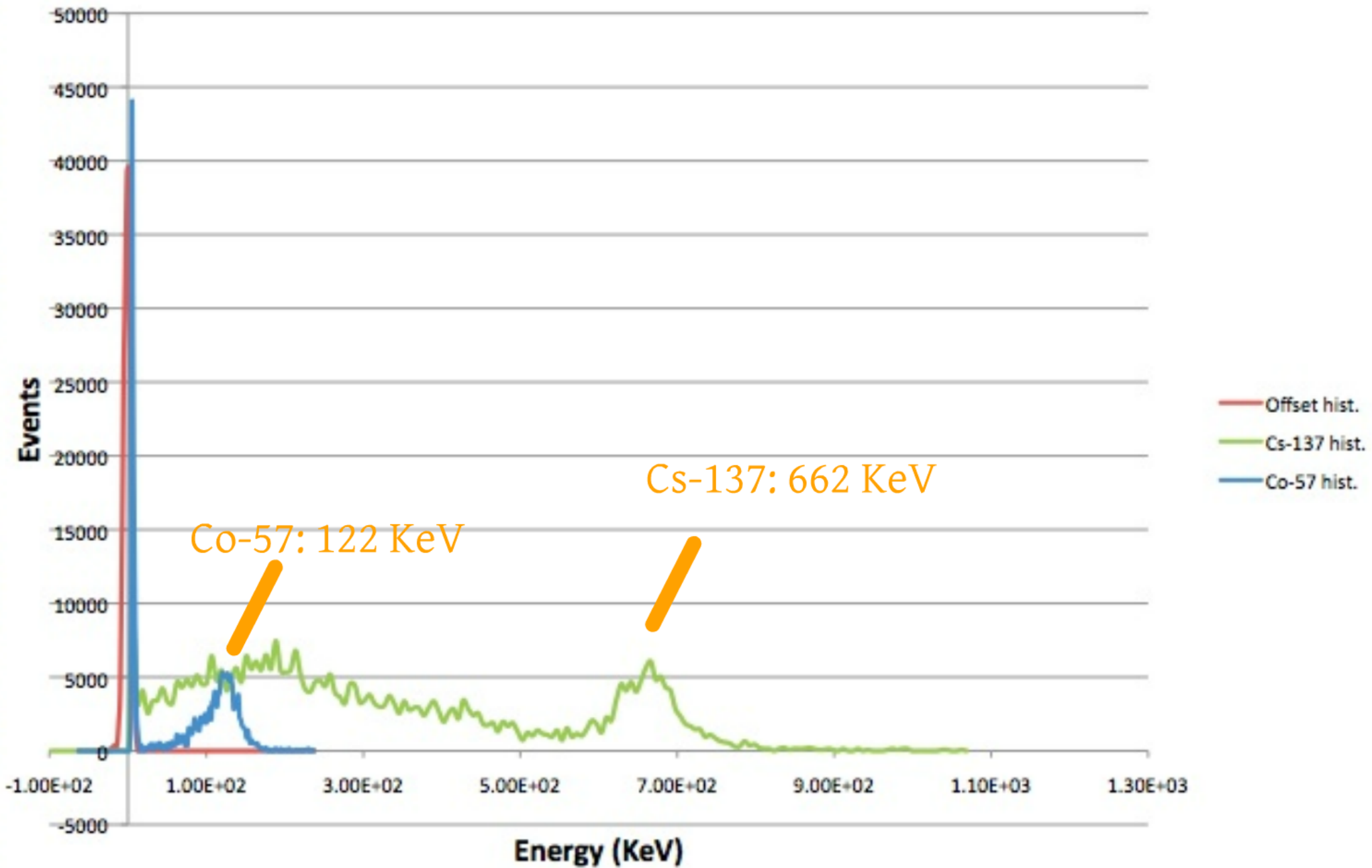
## Radioactive Source Gamma Peaks- 900 V



# Radioactive Source Gamma Peaks 1000 V



## Radioactive Source Gamma Peaks- 1100 V



# Finding the Time Delay

Determine Background Radiation

Final Exposure



# Background

With crystal/PMT setup, determine background spectrum

- Environmental factors -- cosmic rays, environmental radioactivity

# Finding the Time Delay

Determine Background Radiation

Final Exposure

1) Expose crystal to high intensity radioactive sources



Final Exposure

2) Immediately remeasure background spectrum after stopping exposure

Background changed?

# Which is, essentially....

- More money
- More data



# Special Thanks

Lauren Hsu

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Terry Kiper

Sten Hansen

George Dzuricsko

Chris Stoughton