

# Silicon Photomultiplier (SiPM) Status and Perspectives

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Special Workshop on Photon Detection with MPGDs*  
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# Contents

- Introduction
- Properties and Performance
- New Developments
- Application Examples
- Summary



# Caveats

- I apologise that I can't cover everything on SiPM in this talk because of the limited time.
- Topics selection is (very much) biased by my personal interests.

# Contents

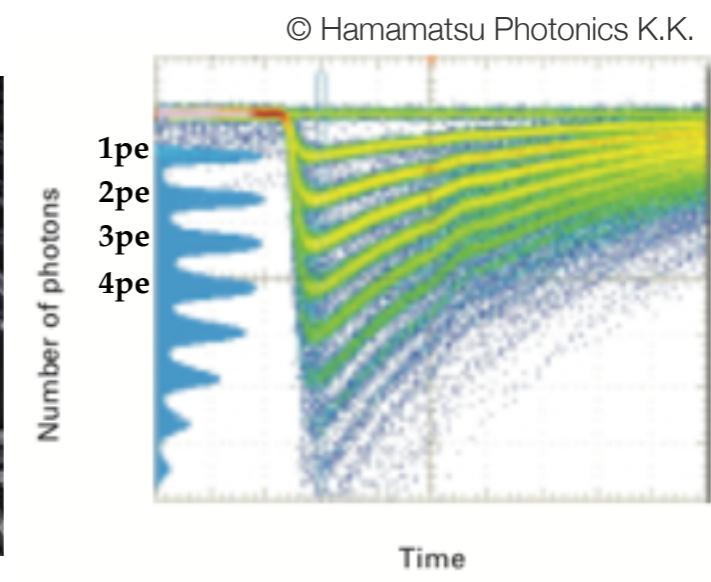
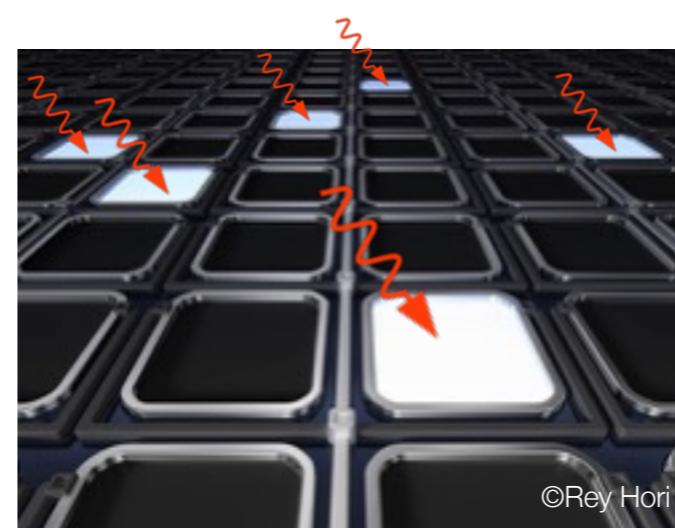
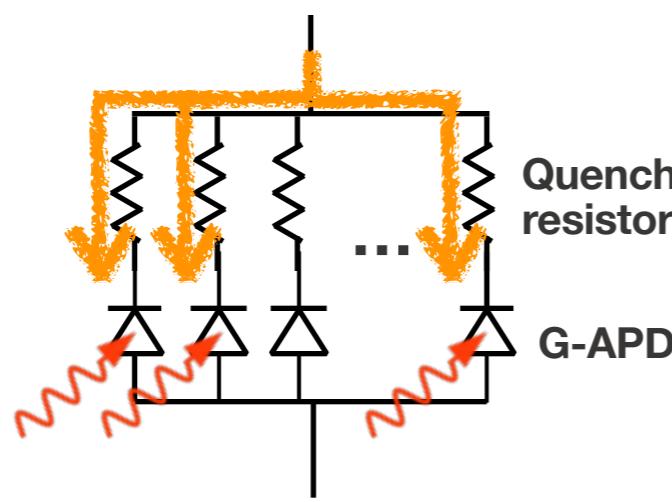
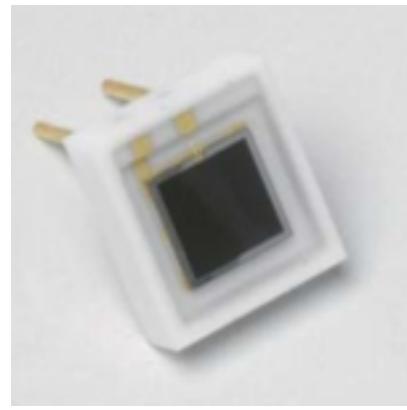
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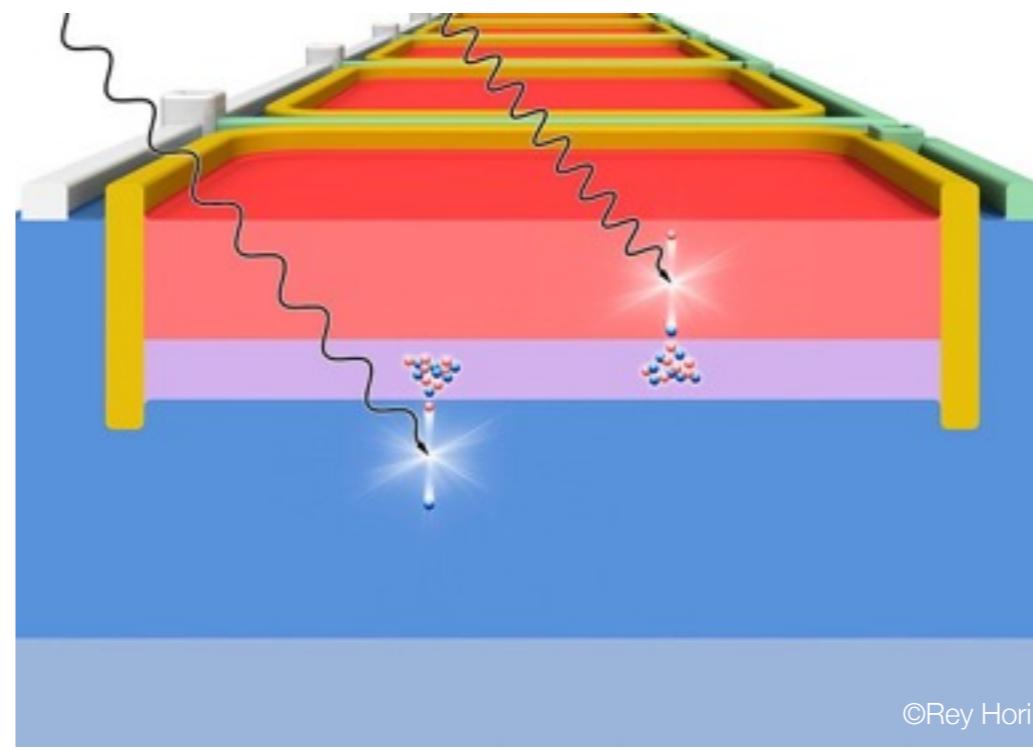
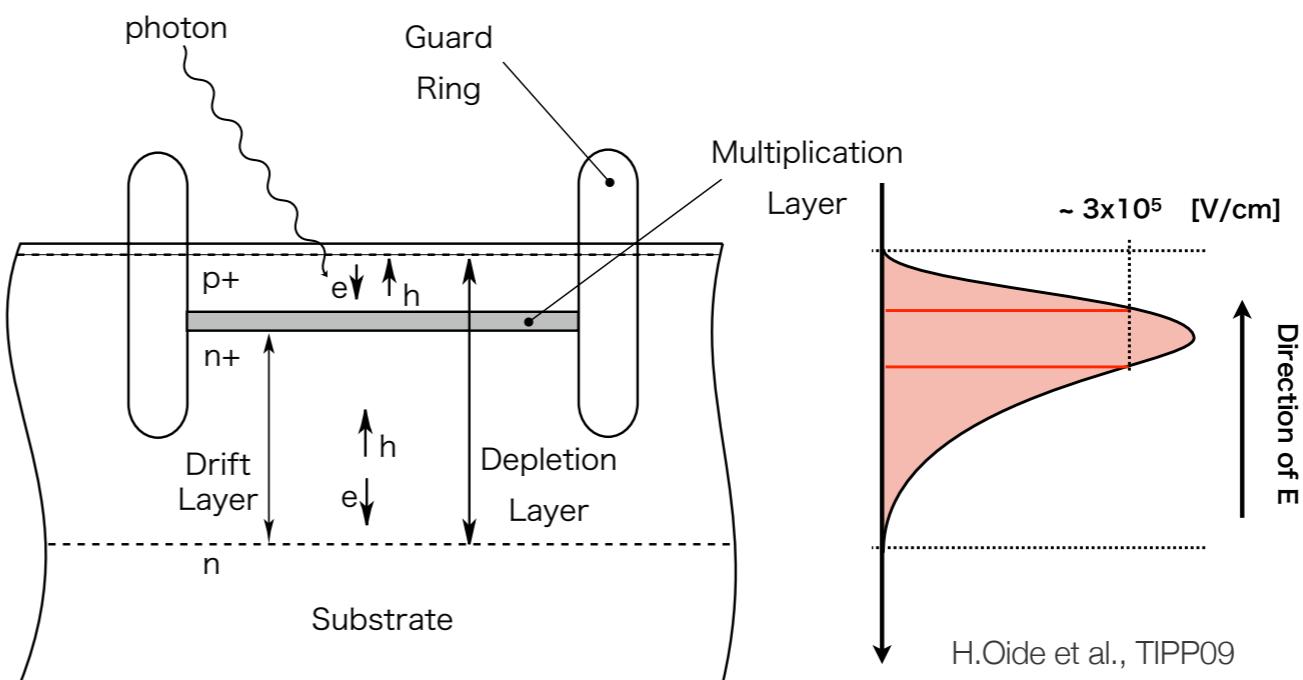
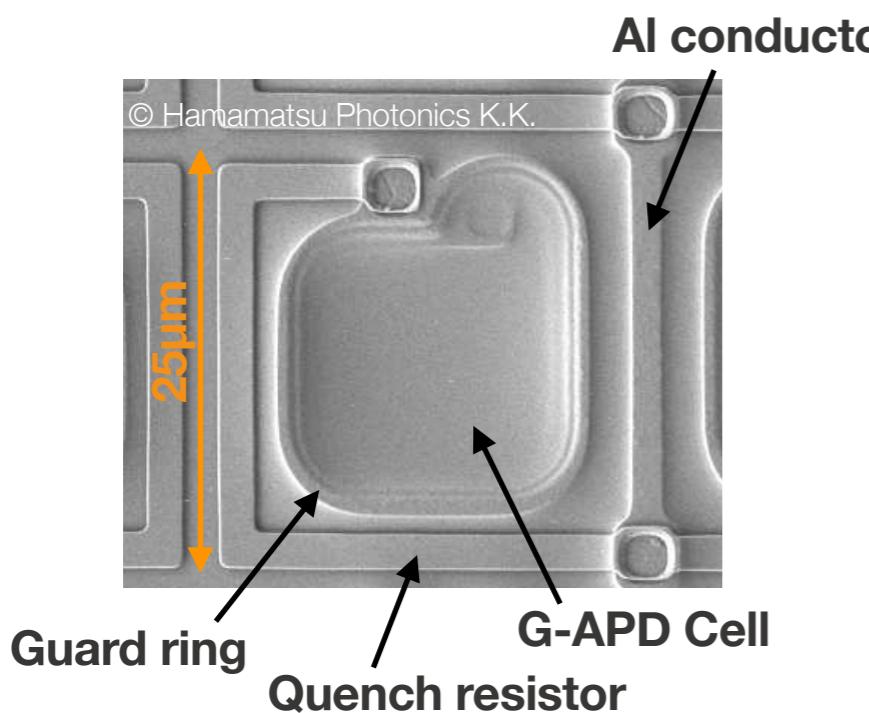
# What Is Silicon Photomultiplier (SiPM)?

- SiPM = Multi-pixelated Geiger-mode APD (G-APD).
  - Tiny G-APD cells are connected in parallel together with resistor for self-quenching of avalanche
  - Each G-APD cell is a “binary” device. The same charge from each photon trigger.
  - SiPM output is a sum of signals from triggered G-APD cells.
- SiPM output is proportional to # of impinging photons
  - SiPM = “analogue” device.
- Pioneering works by Russian institutes in late 80ies (Golovin, Dolgoshein, Sadygov)

© Hamamatsu Photonics K.K.



# Closer Look at Cell



©Rey Hori

# SiPM: Basic Parameters

Sensor size (single)	1×1 - 6×6mm <sup>2</sup>
Cell size (cell pitch)	10 - 100μm
Quench resistor	10k - 10MΩ
Internal gain	10 <sup>5</sup> - 10 <sup>6</sup>
Photon detection efficiency (PDE)	20 - 50%
Time resolution (single photon)	O(100ps) (FWHM)
Dark noise rate	50k - 1M Hz/mm <sup>2</sup>
Bias voltage	20 - 70 V

# Advantages of SiPM

- High photon detection efficiency
- High internal gain
- Insensitive to B-field
- Good single photoelectron resolution
- Fast (good timing resolution)
- Low bias voltage (<100V)
- Low power consumption
- Compact
- Low cost

# Weak Points of SiPM

- Large sensor area is difficult.
- Temperature dependence
- Noise (dark noise + correlated noise)
- Radiation hardness
- Saturation for a large number of incoming photons

# SiPMs from over The World



# Contents

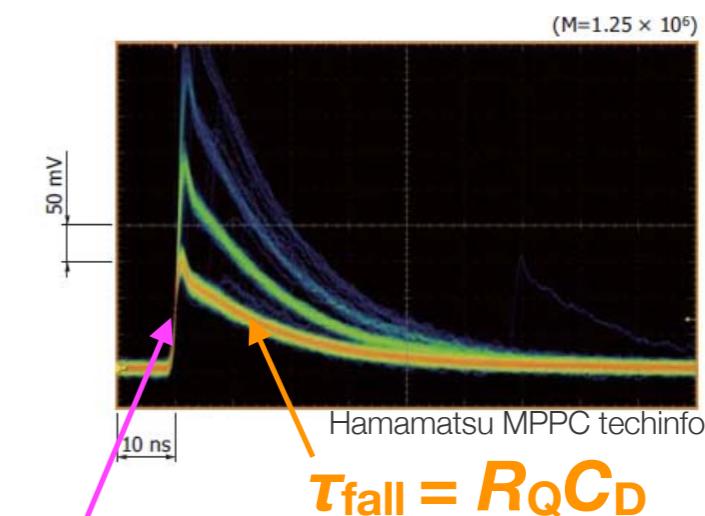
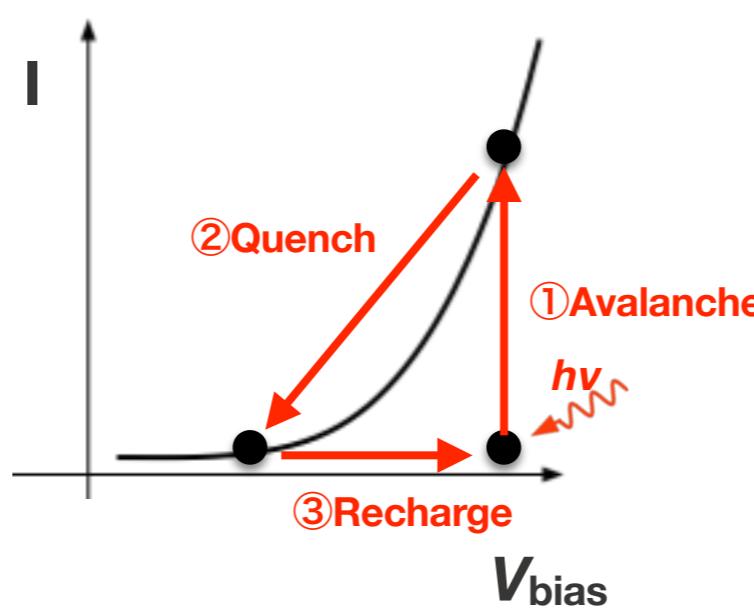
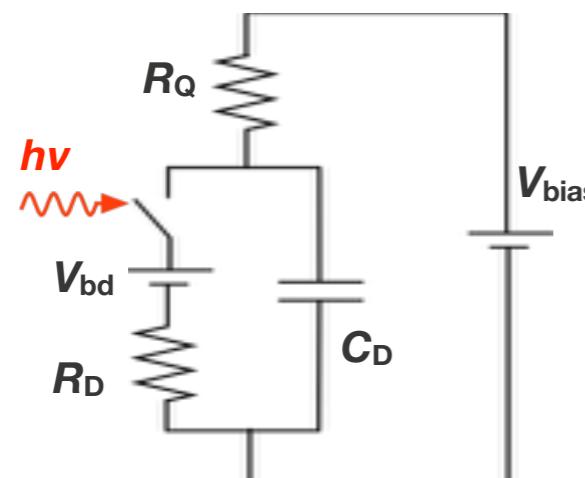
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# Pulse Shape

- SiPM cell operation cycle (simplified model)

- ① Photo-generation of carrier → avalanche (switch ON)
- ② Self-quenching (switch OFF)
- ③ Re-charge cell



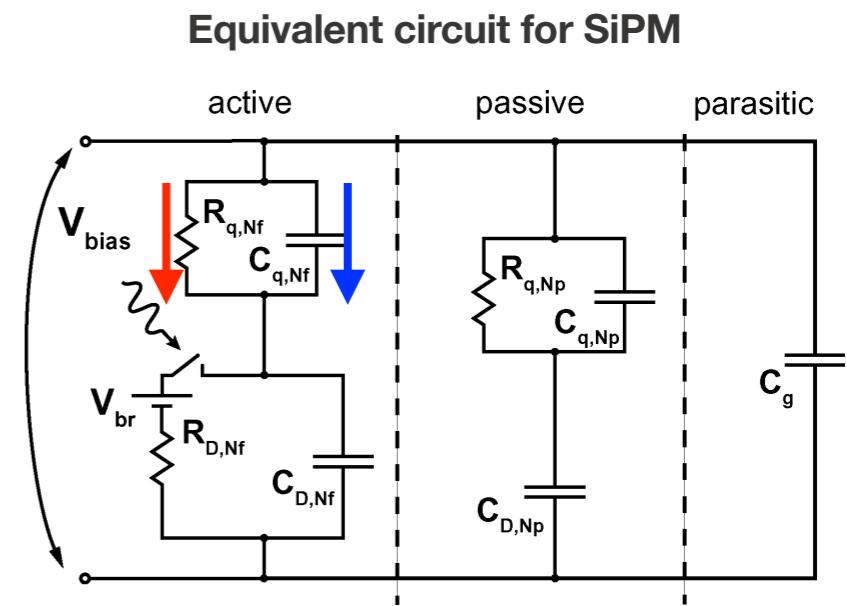
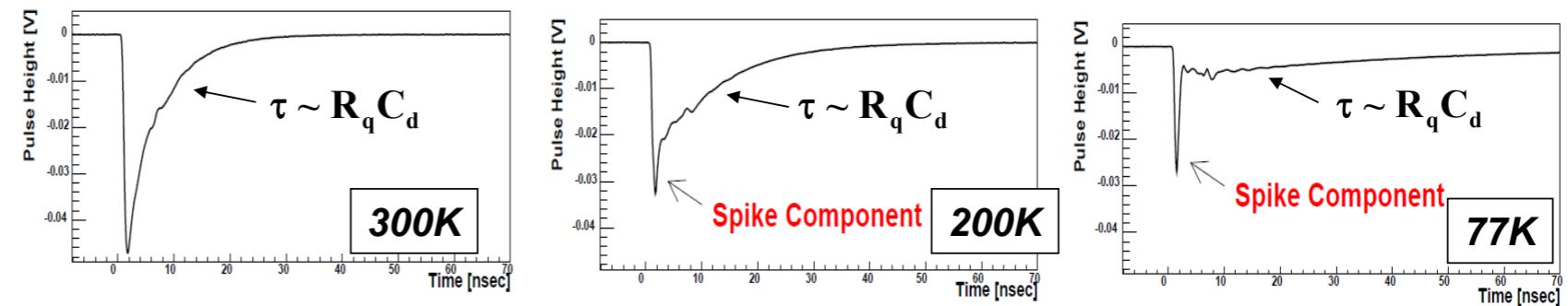
$\tau_{\text{rise}} = R_D C_D$

# Pulse Shape

- More complicated response in reality due to
  - Parasitic capacitance of quench resistor
  - Parasitic capacitance of neighbouring cells
- Two components (fast and slow)
  - Slow: slow recharge through quench resistor ( $R_q$ )
  - Fast: fast discharge through parasitic capacitance of quench resistor ( $C_q$ )
    - Fast component is only visible in case of large  $R_q$

	300K	200K	77K
$R_q$	0.21M $\Omega$	0.40M $\Omega$	1.68M $\Omega$
$C_q$	22.1fF	22.0fF	22.1fF

H. Oide et al. PoS(PD07)007

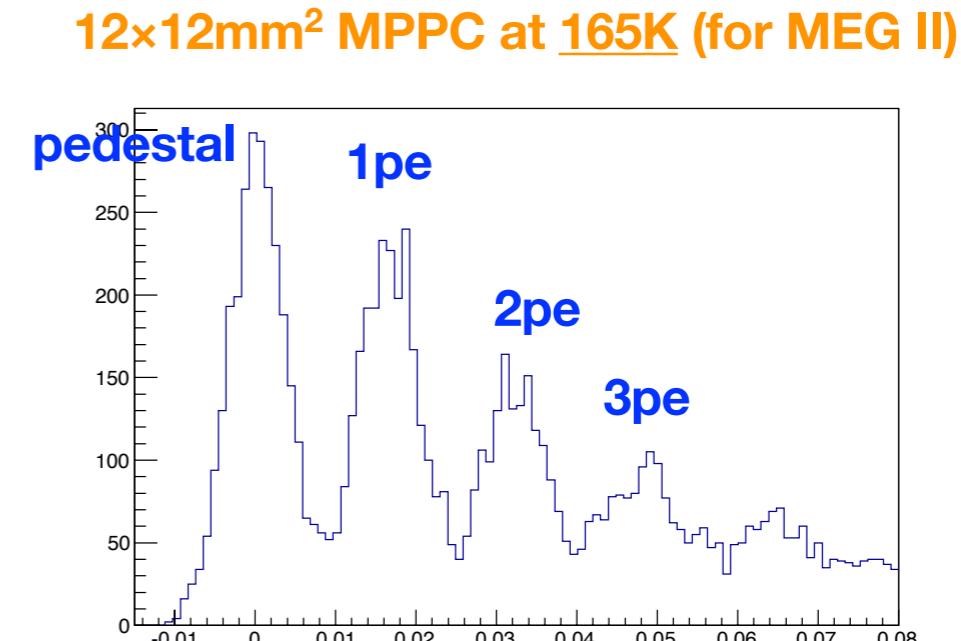
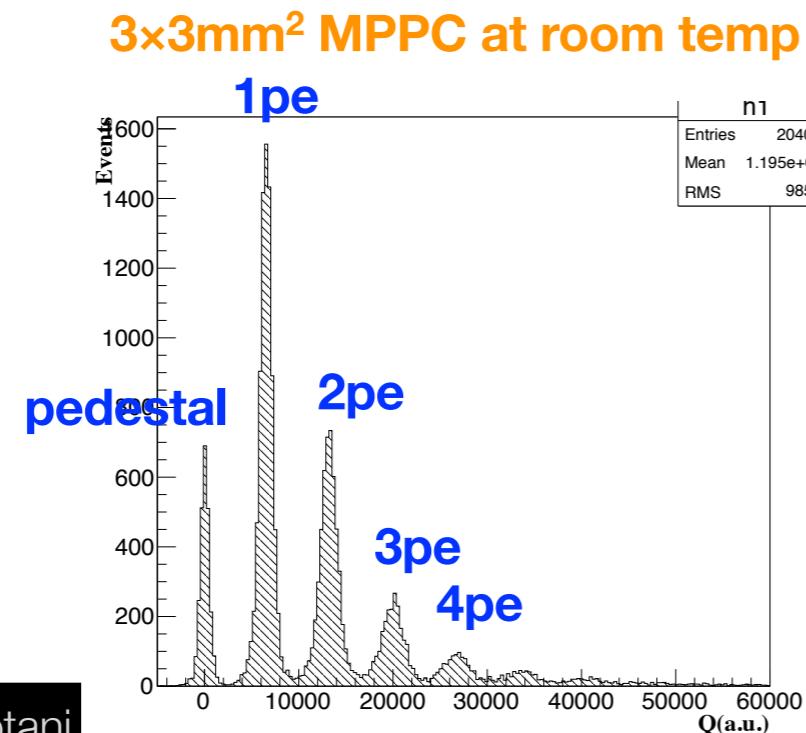


S.Seifert et al., IEEE TNS 56(2009)3726

- Signal for light detection: Convolved with light emission time distribution

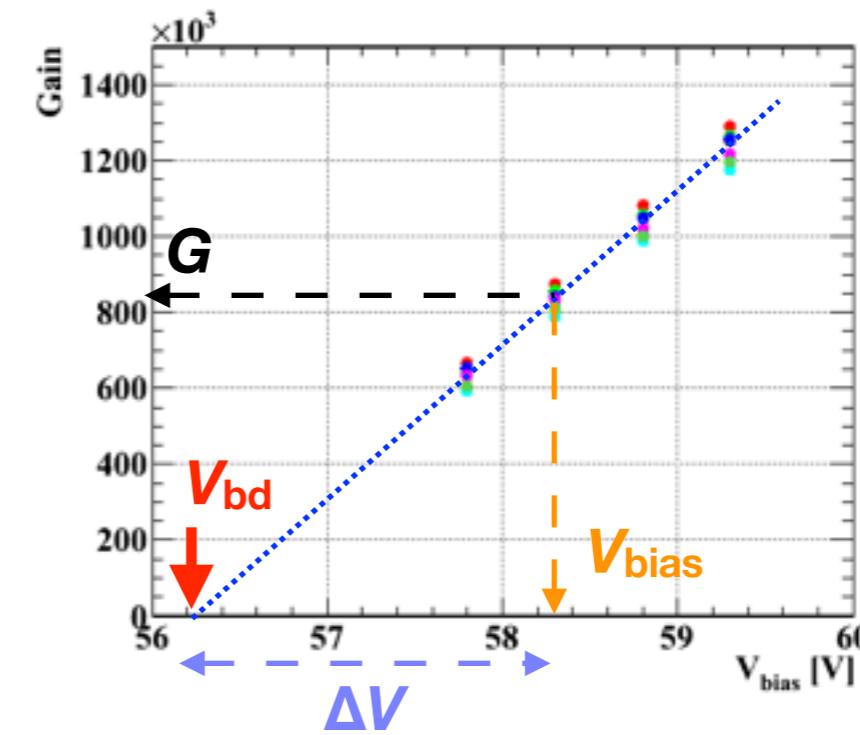
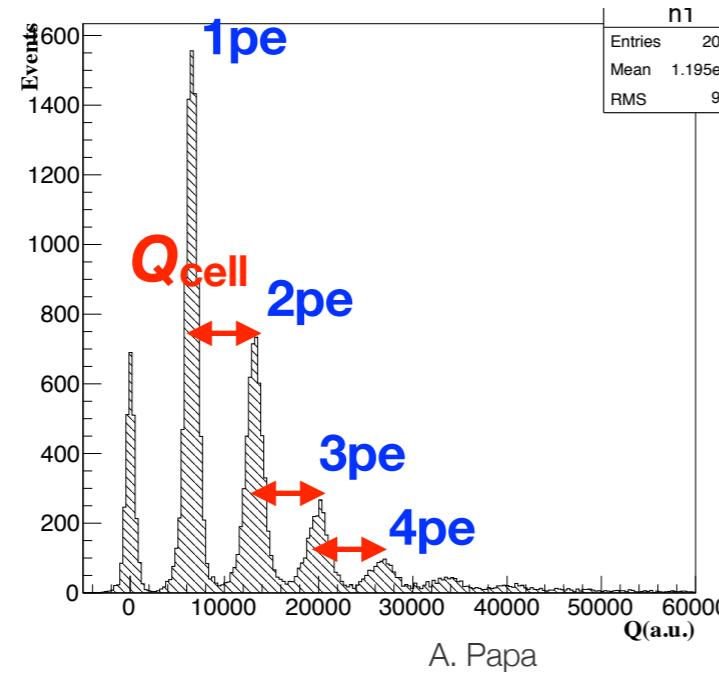
# Single Photoelectron Resolution

- Excellent single photoelectron resolution because of
    - High internal gain (= good S/N)
    - Good cell-to-cell gain uniformity
  - Can be worsened by electrical noise and pileup due to dark noise and afterpulse
  - Practically single photoelectron peak can not be resolved for  $>6\times 6\text{mm}^2$  sensor area due to increasing dark noise
- N.B. Good photoelectron resolution still possible for larger sensor size at low temp.



# Gain

- High internal gain:  $10^5$ - $10^6$
- Proportional to over-voltage ( $\Delta V = V_{\text{bias}} - V_{\text{bd}}$ )
- Easily measured from single photoelectron charge
- Gain fluctuation is quite small
  - Cell-to-cell uniformity on capacitance and  $V_{\text{bd}}$
  - Small statistical fluctuation in avalanche multiplication ( $\leftrightarrow$  Poisson fluctuation in APD)



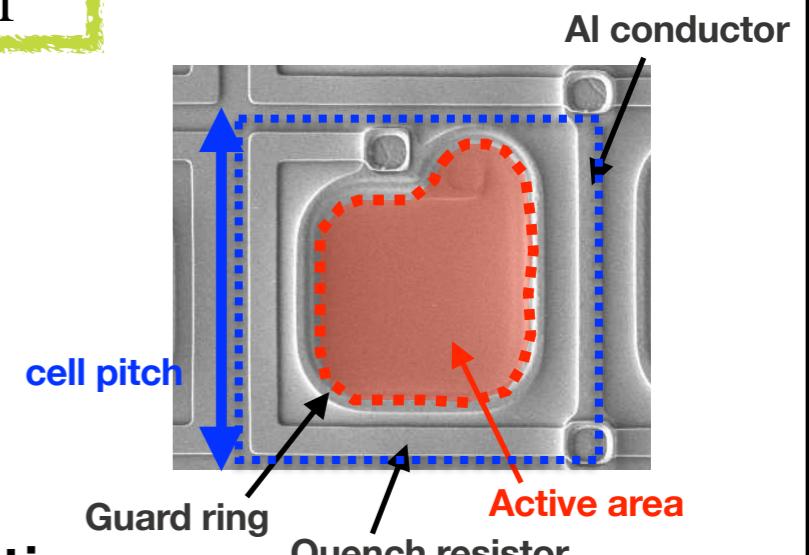
$$G = \frac{Q_{\text{cell}}}{e} = \frac{C_{\text{cell}} \Delta V}{e}$$

over-voltage  $\Delta V = V_{\text{bias}} - V_{\text{bd}}$

# Photon Detection Efficiency (PDE)

$$\text{PDE} = \epsilon \times QE \times P_{\text{trigger}}$$

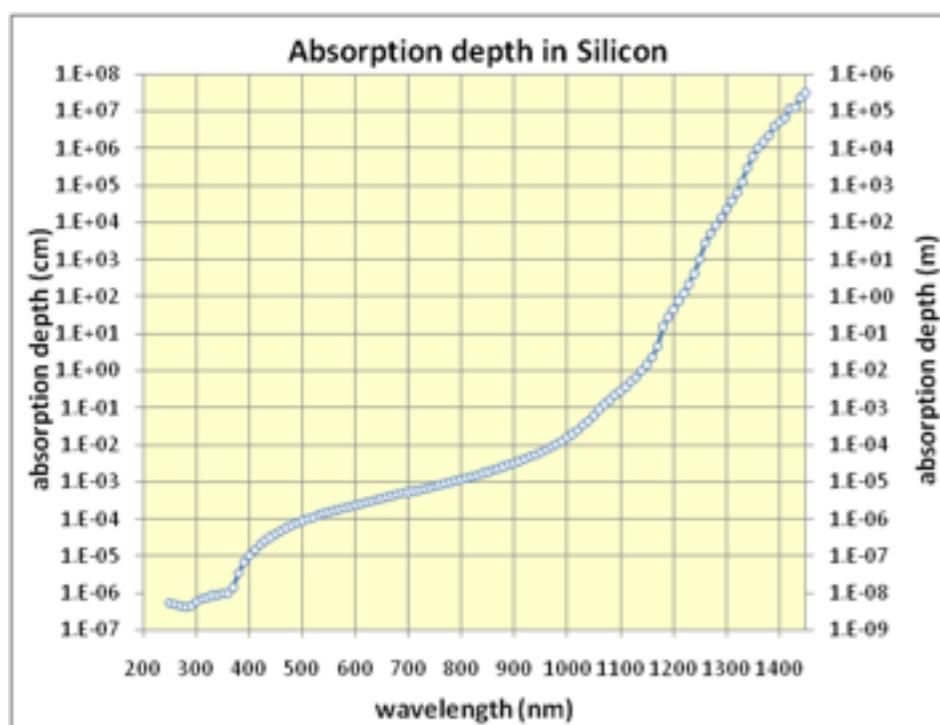
- $\epsilon$  (Fill factor)
  - Fraction of active area, typically 50-70%
  - Dead area due to signal line, guard ring, trench,...
- QE (Quantum efficiency)
  - Probability of photo-generation of carrier
  - Dependent on reflectivity on Si surface and absorption length in Si
- $P_{\text{trigger}}$ 
  - Probability for generated carrier to trigger avalanche
- Dependence on
  - $\lambda$
  - $\Delta V$
  - temperature (small)



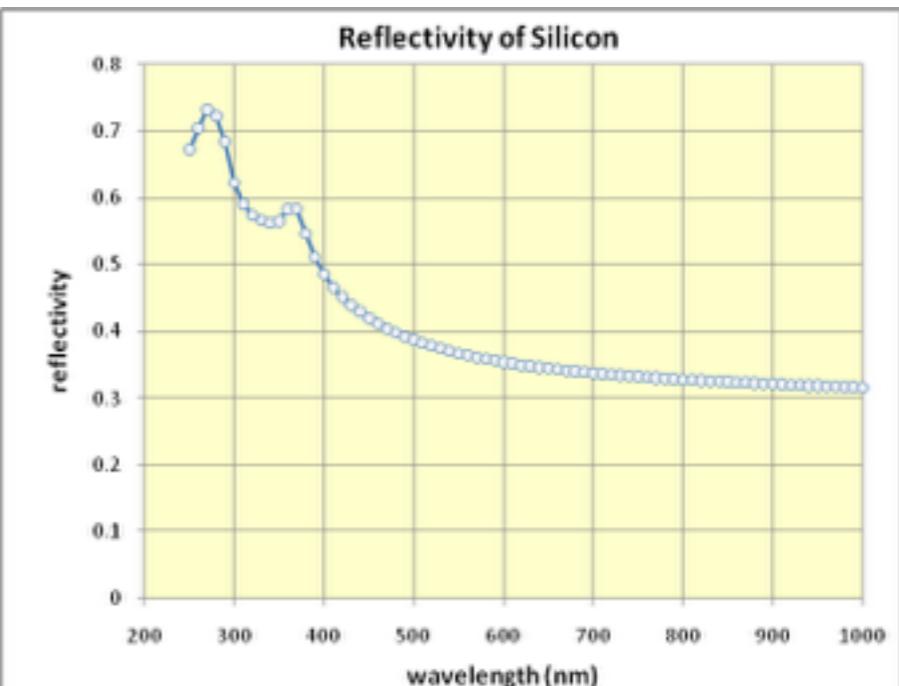
# Photon Detection Efficiency (PDE)

## Key parameters for QE

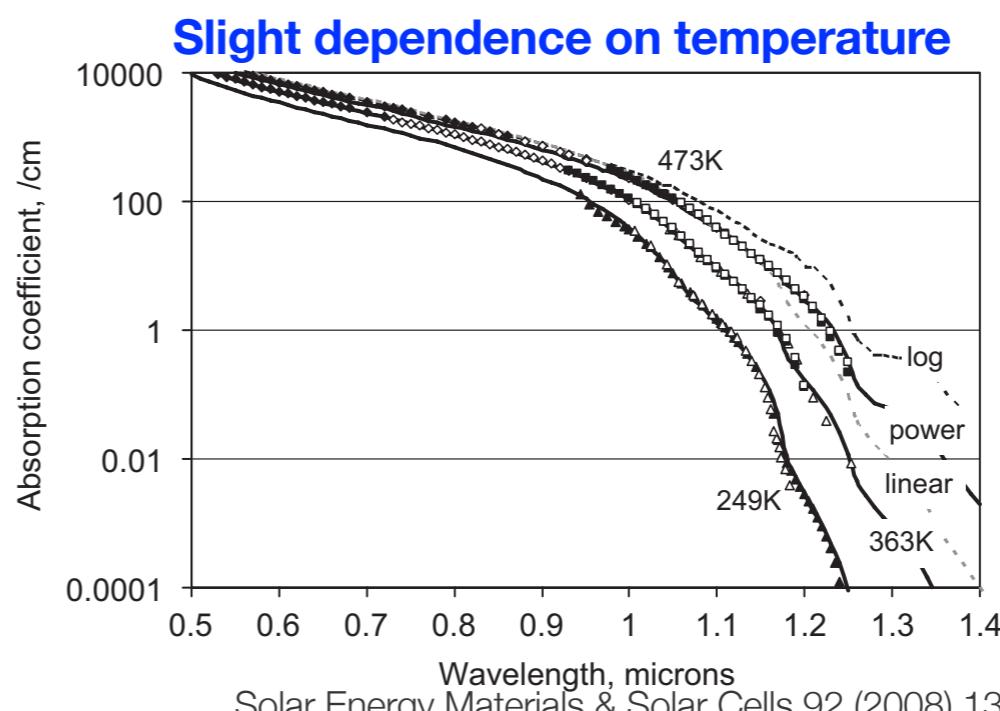
- Reflectivity on Si surface
  - Reflection can be somewhat reduced with AR coating.
- Absorption length in Si depends on  $\lambda$



PV EDUCATION.ORG homepage



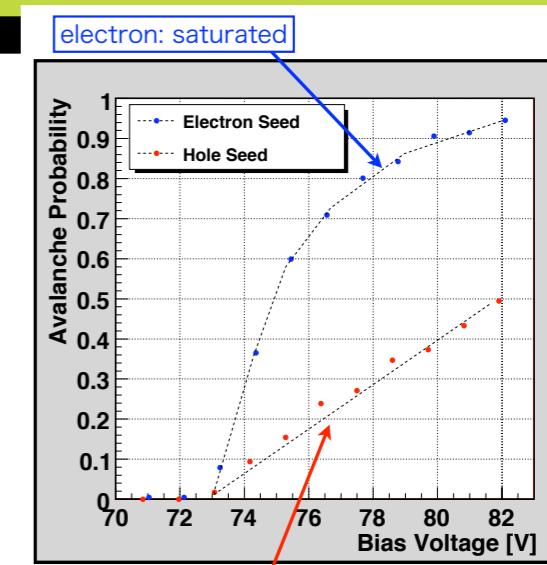
PV EDUCATION.ORG homepage



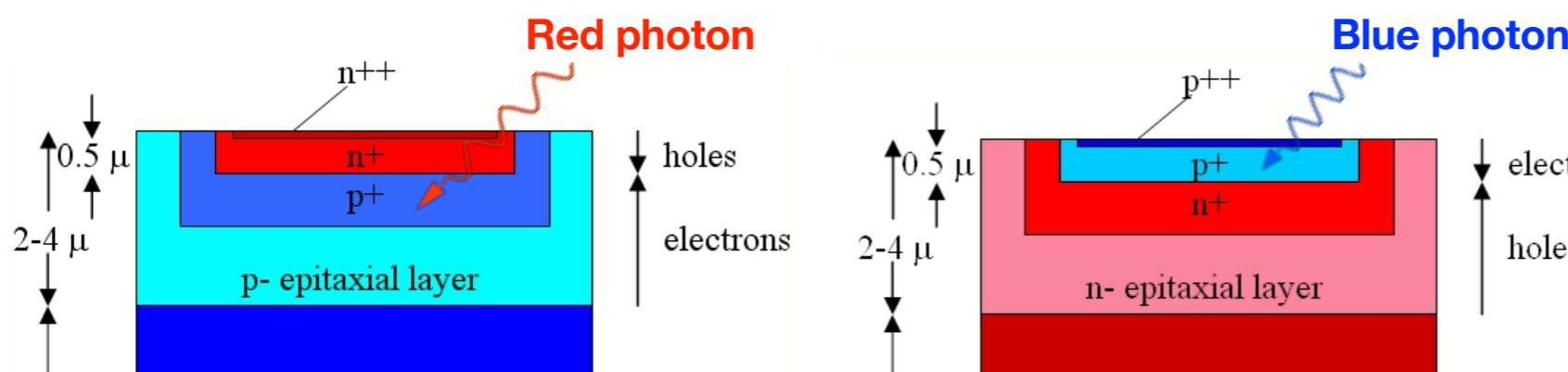
Solar Energy Materials & Solar Cells 92 (2008) 1305– 1310

# Photon Detection Efficiency (PDE)

- $P_{\text{trigger}}(\text{electron}) \gg P_{\text{trigger}}(\text{hole})$   
→ Higher PDE for carrier generated in p+ layer
- λ-dependence of absorption length in Si  
→ Different λ-dependence of PDE depending on depth of p+ layer.

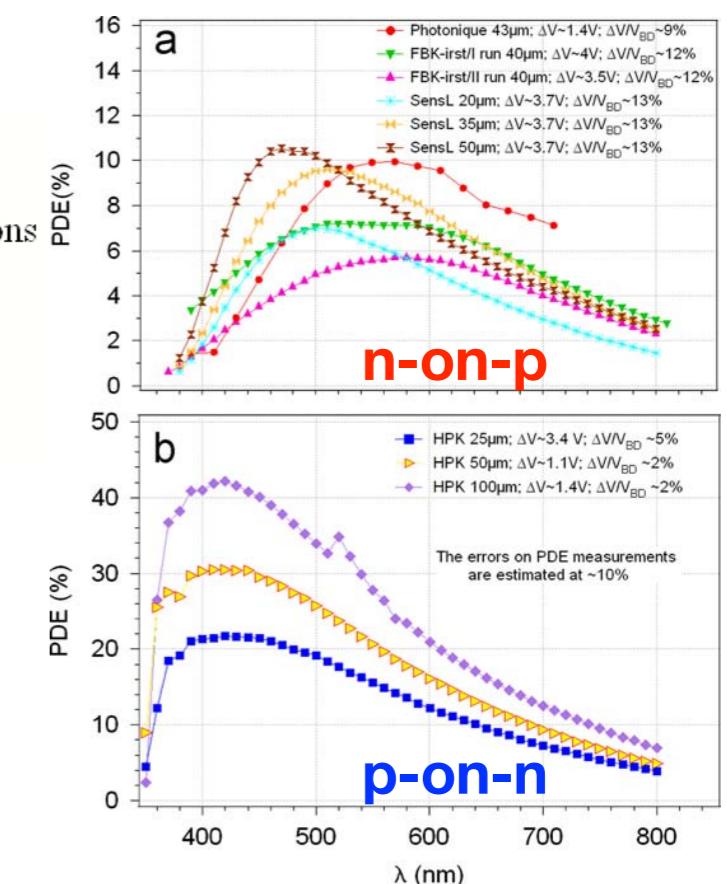


H. Otono, et al., PANIC08



**n-on-p structure**  
→ Green/Red sensitive

**p-on-n structure**  
→ Blue sensitive

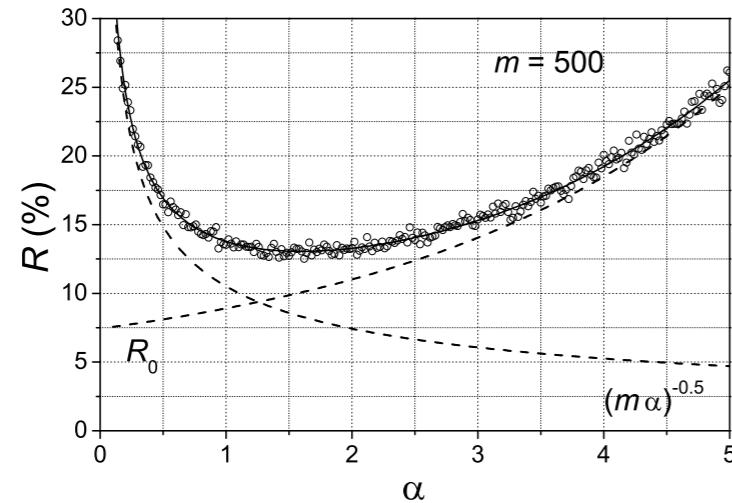


N. Dinu et al., NIMA 610(2009)423

# Linearity/Saturation

- Good linearity as long as  $N_{pe} < N_{cell}$
- Non-linearity (saturation) caused by finite number of cells
- Limiting factors
  - Incoming photon intensity
  - Cell size
  - Recovery time
- Need careful correction for many photons
- How to mitigate saturation → smaller cell

Energy resolution worsened by saturation (Simulation)



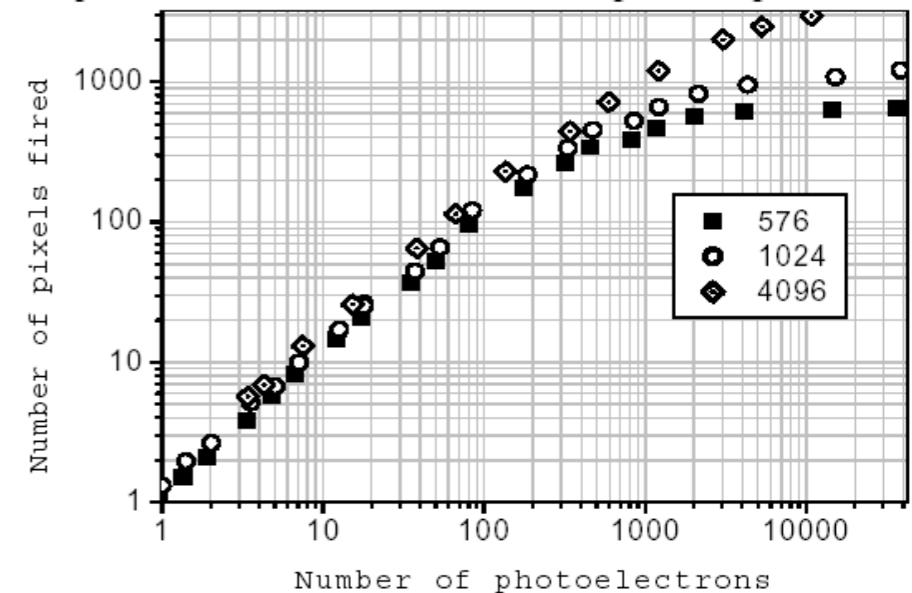
$m: N_{cell}$

$n: N_{photon} \times PDE$

$a = n/m$

A. Stoykov, et al., JINST 2 P06005

Response functions for the SiPMs with different total pixel numbers measured for 40 ps laser pulses



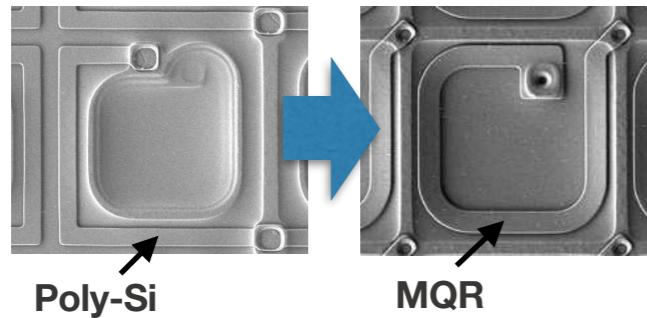
B. Dolgoshein, TRD2005

$$N_{\text{fired}} = N_{\text{cell}} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{N_{\text{photon}} PDE}{N_{\text{cell}}}} \right)$$

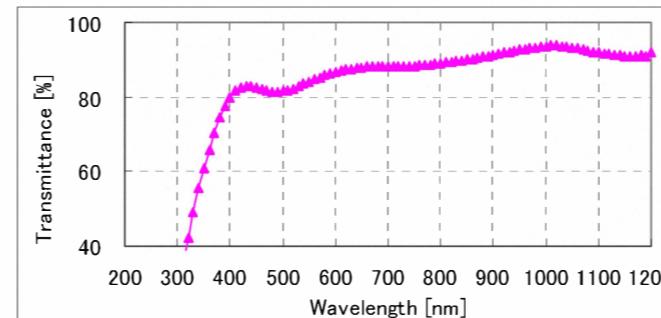
# Small Cell SiPM

- **10 $\mu\text{m}$  cell pitch for Hamamatsu MPPC**

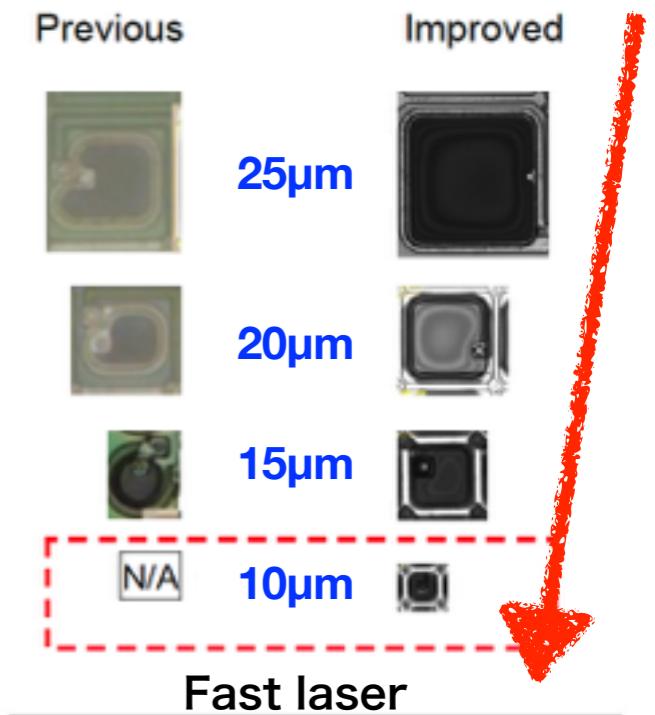
- Fill factor improved by metal quench resistor (MQR)
- Thin MQR ( $\Leftarrow$  transparent to light) over active area!



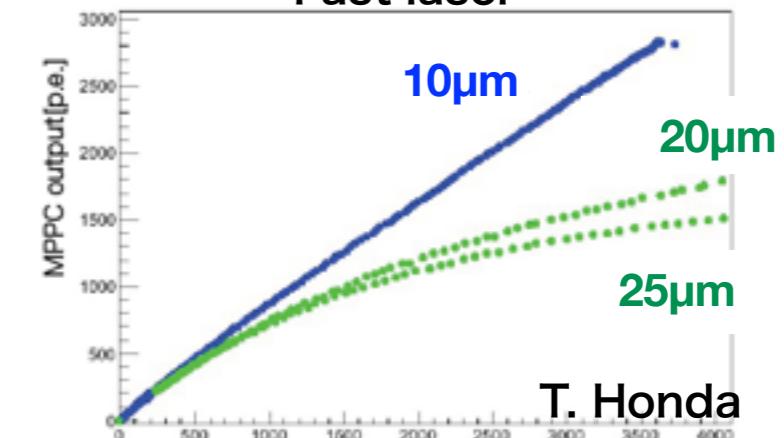
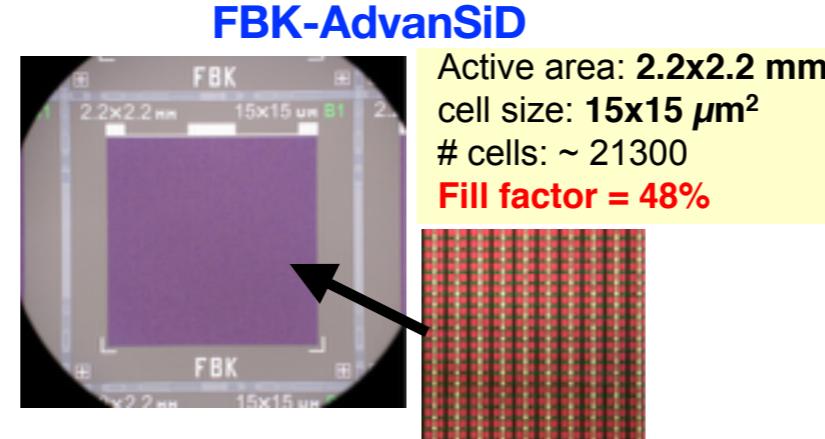
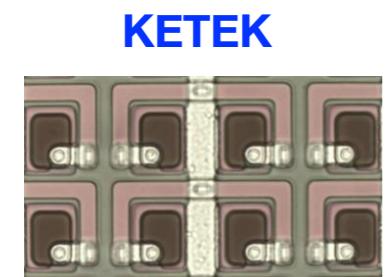
K. Sato et al., IEEE TNS 2013



T.Nagano et al., IEEE TNS 2011



- **15 $\mu\text{m}$  cell pitch for KETEK and AdvanSiD**

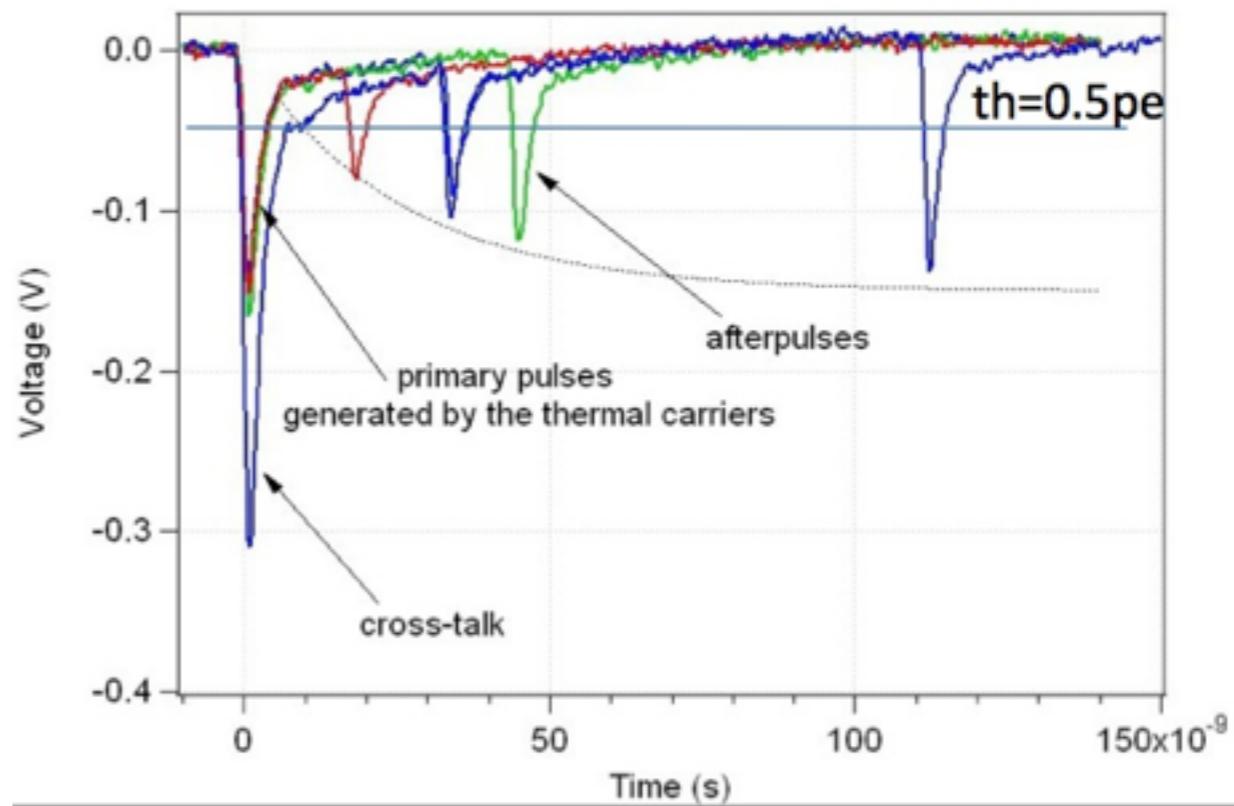


- **Micro-cell: Micro-pixel APD (MAPD) from Zecotek**
- Up to 40,000 cell/mm<sup>2</sup>

# Noise in SiPM

## Intrinsic noise source of SiPM

- Dark noise
  - Thermally generated carrier
  - Random
- Correlated noise
  - Optical cross-talk
  - After-pulsing

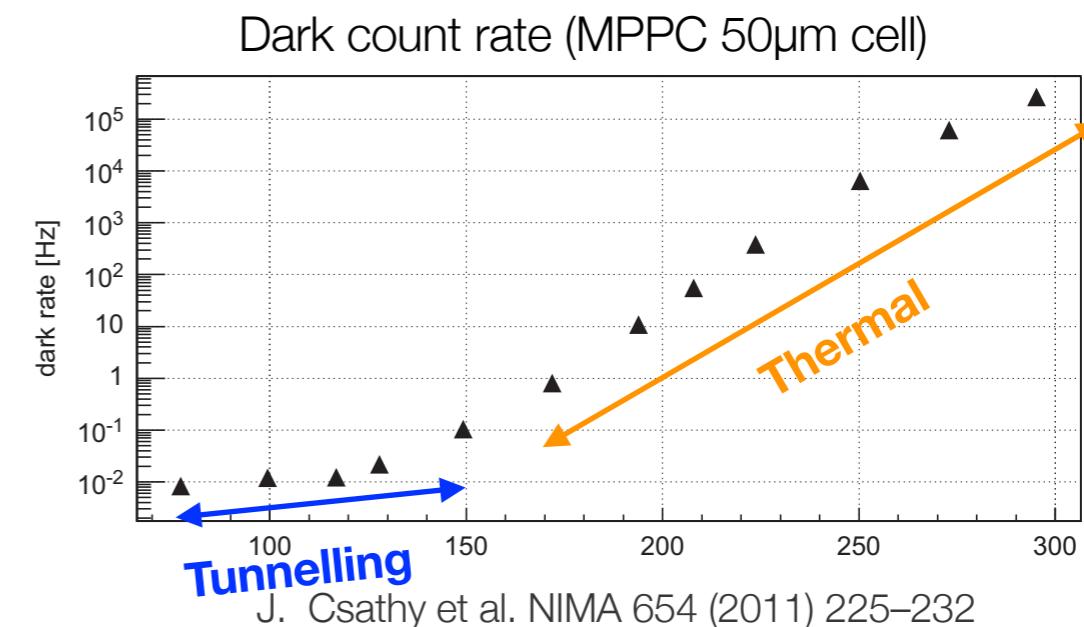
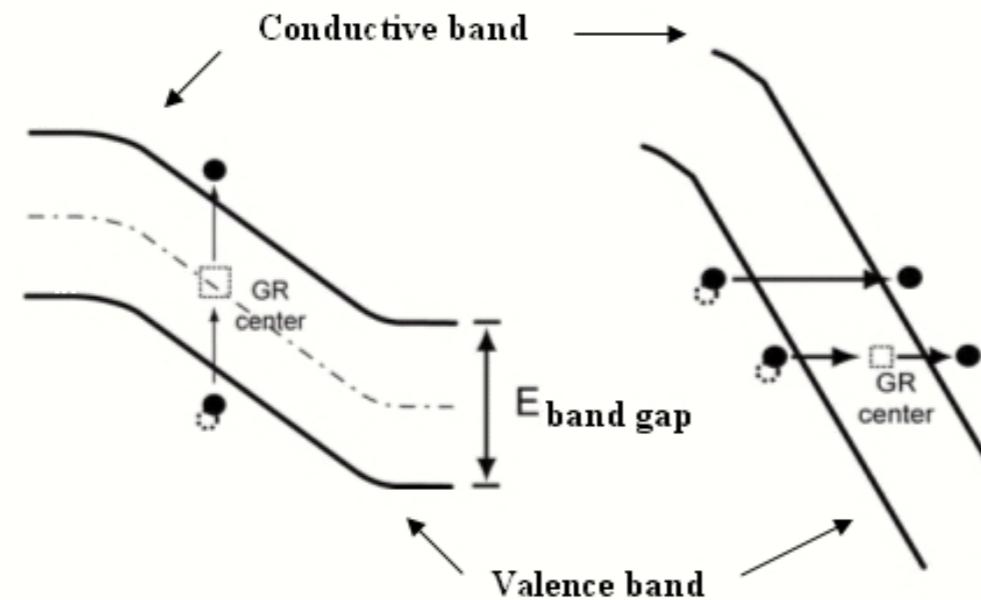


- Correlated noise increases gain fluctuation and thus increases excess noise factor (ENF).
  - Energy resolution is deteriorated with increased ENF.

$$ENF = 1 + \frac{\sigma_G^2}{G^2}$$

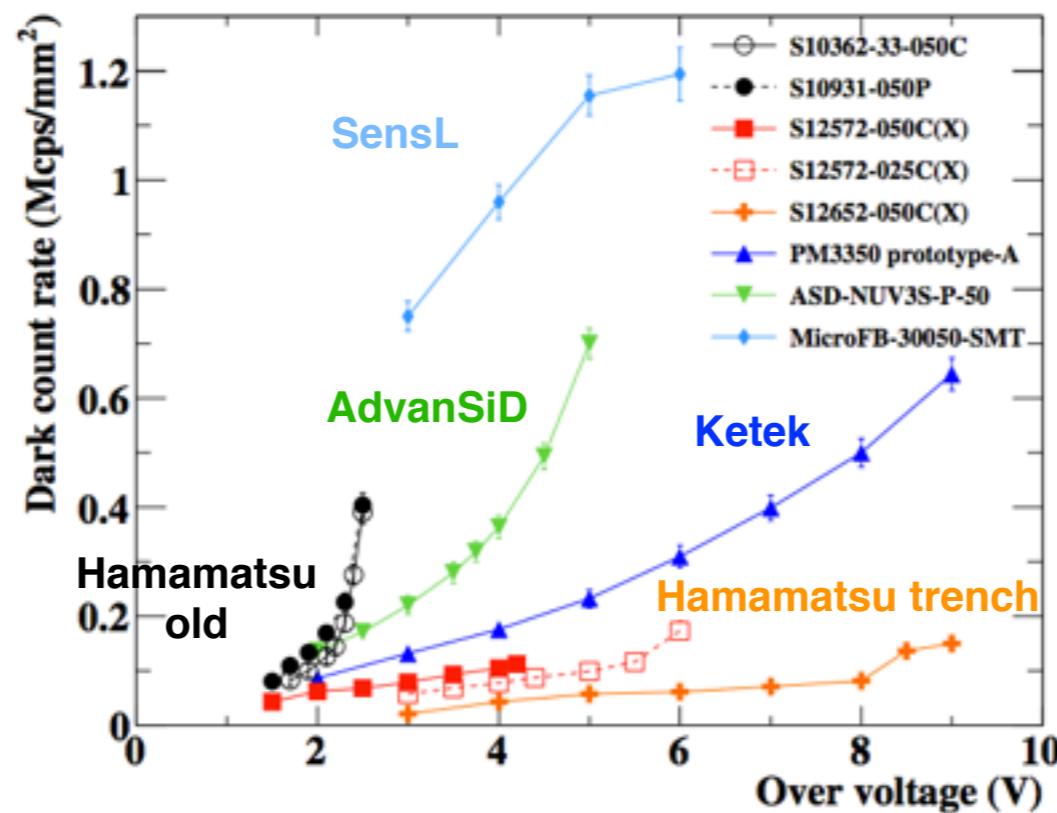
# Dark Noise (Dark Count)

- Signal from avalanche triggered by randomly generated carrier
- Two sources
  - Thermal generated
    - Dominates at room temperature
    - Drastically reduced at low temperature (A factor of two every 8 deg. temperature drop)
  - “Field-assisted” generation (Tunnelling)
    - Dominates at  $T < 200\text{K}$



# Dark Noise (Dark Count)

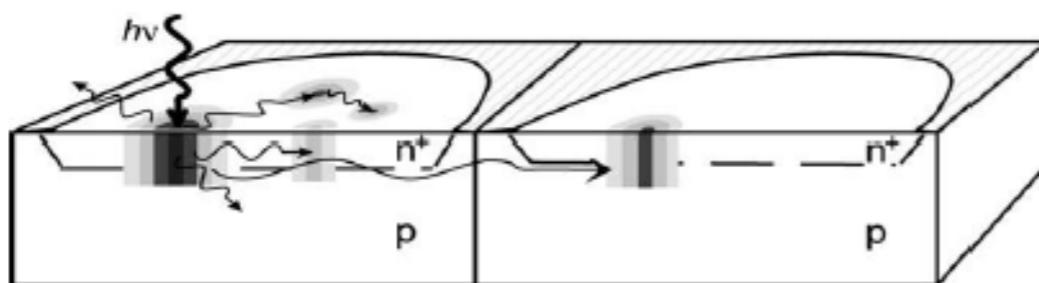
- Dark count rate improved as  $<50\text{kHz}/\text{mm}^2$  for recent devices
  - Improved wafer quality
  - Improved processing of epitaxial layer
  - Impurity getter
- Easy solution: Setting higher threshold ( $>1\text{pe}$ ,  $2\text{pe}$ , ...)



P. W. Cataneo, WO, et al. IEEE-TNS 61(2014)2657

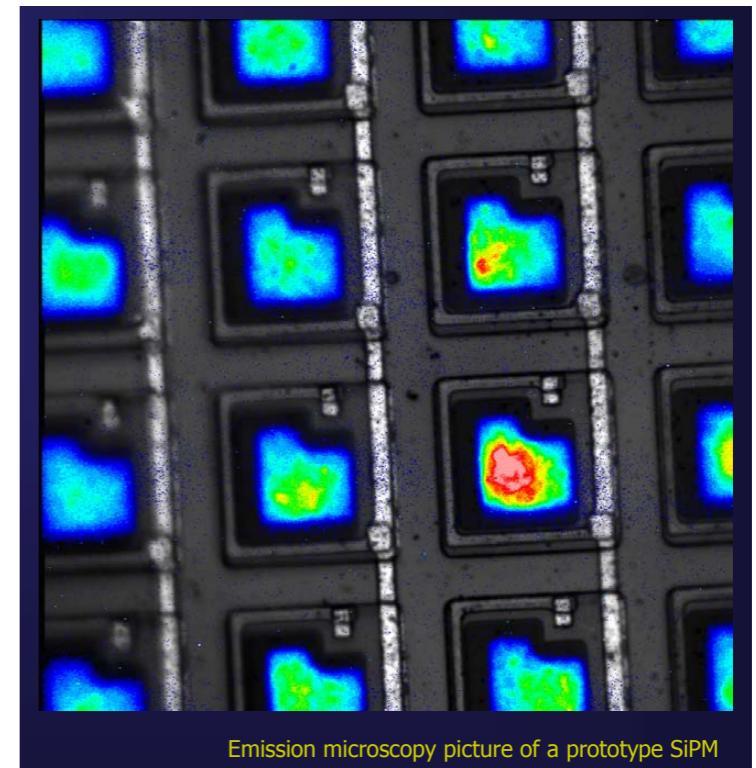
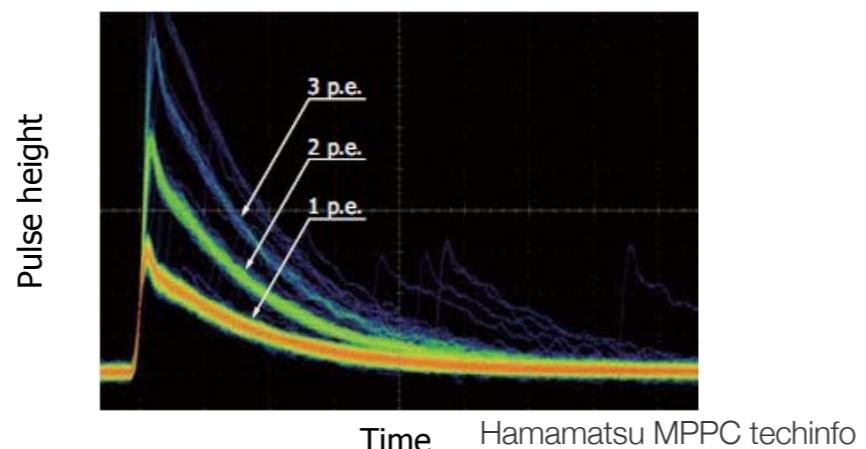
# Optical Cross-talk

- **NIR luminescence during avalanche:**
  - ~3 photons generated for  $10^5$  carriers (A. Lacaita et al., IEEE TED 1993)
- Photon can generate carrier in neighbouring cell and then induce another avalanche.
- Superimposed on the primary pulse at the same timing.



A. Lacaita et al., IEEE TED 2013

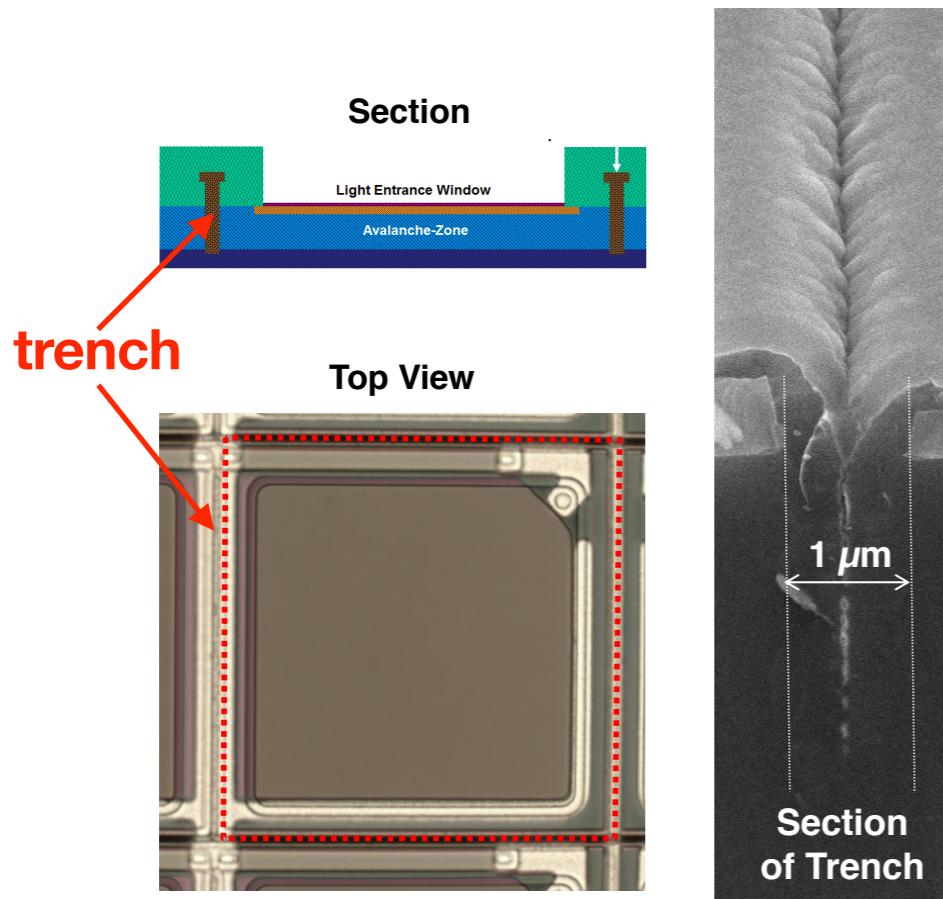
Optical crosstalk superimposed on primary pulse



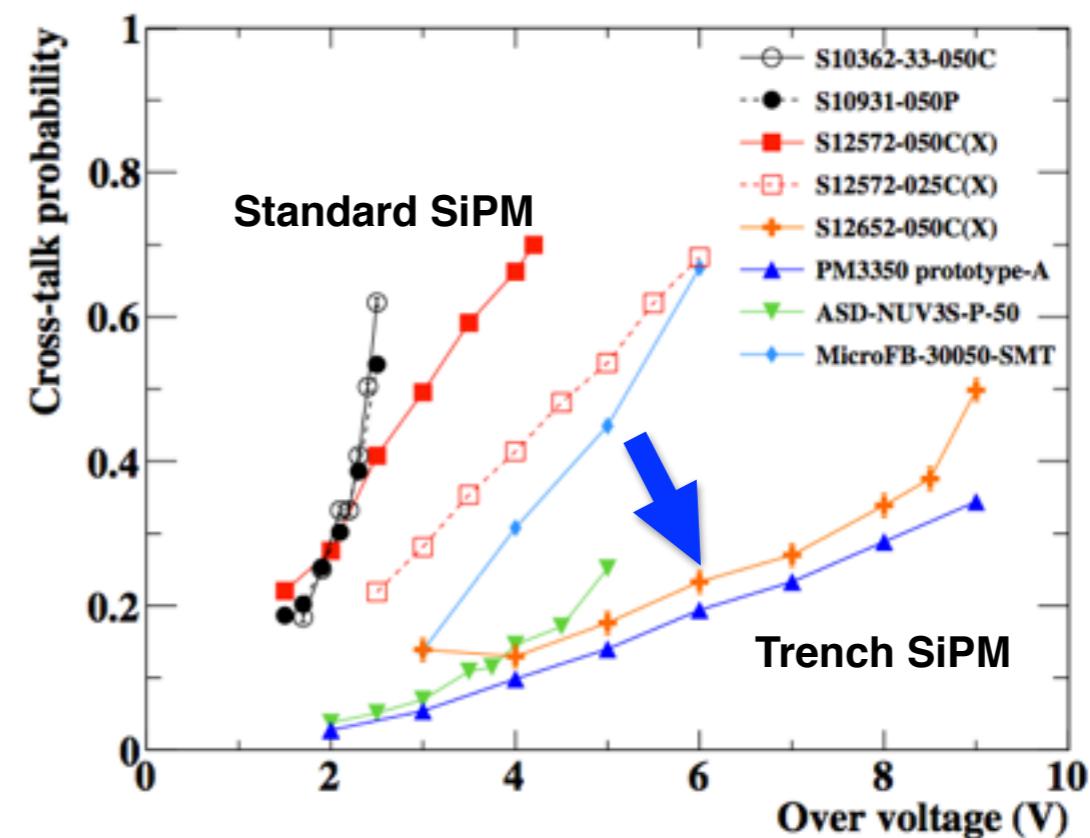
N. Otte, SNIC2006

# Optical Cross-talk

- Optical cross-talk can be reduced by
  - Lower bias voltage (at the cost of lower gain/PDE)
  - Smaller cell
  - Cell isolation by trench filled with opaque material



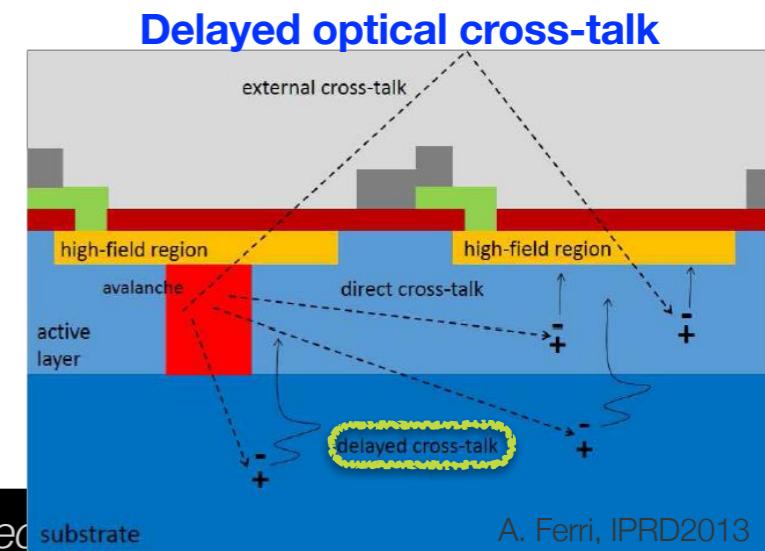
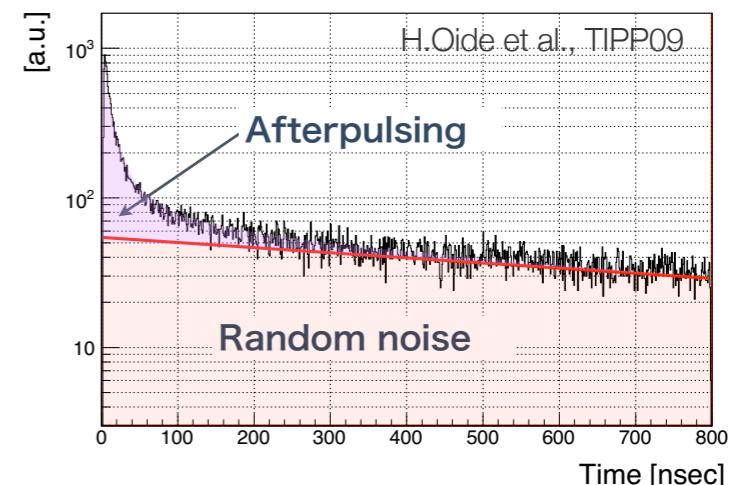
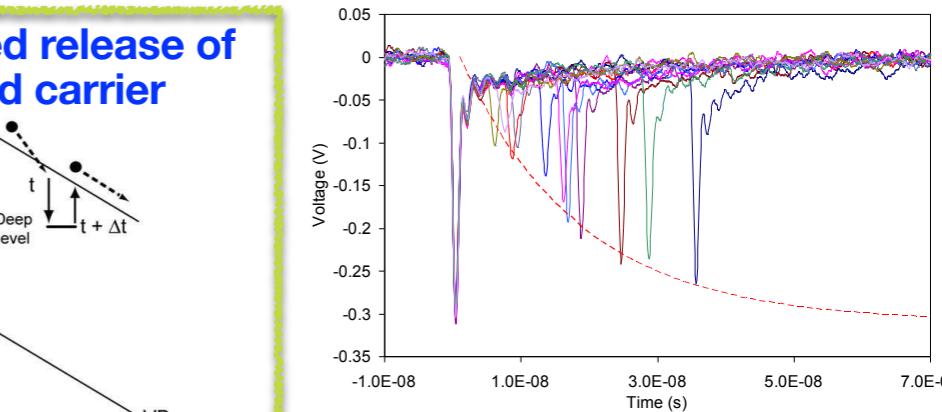
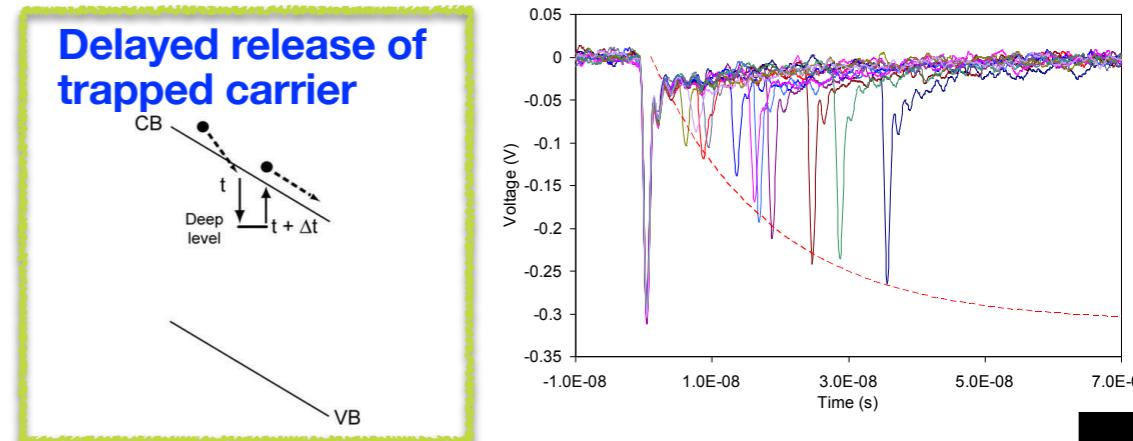
F. Wiest et al., PhotoDet2012



P. W. Cataneo, WO, et al. IEEE-TNS 61(2014)2657

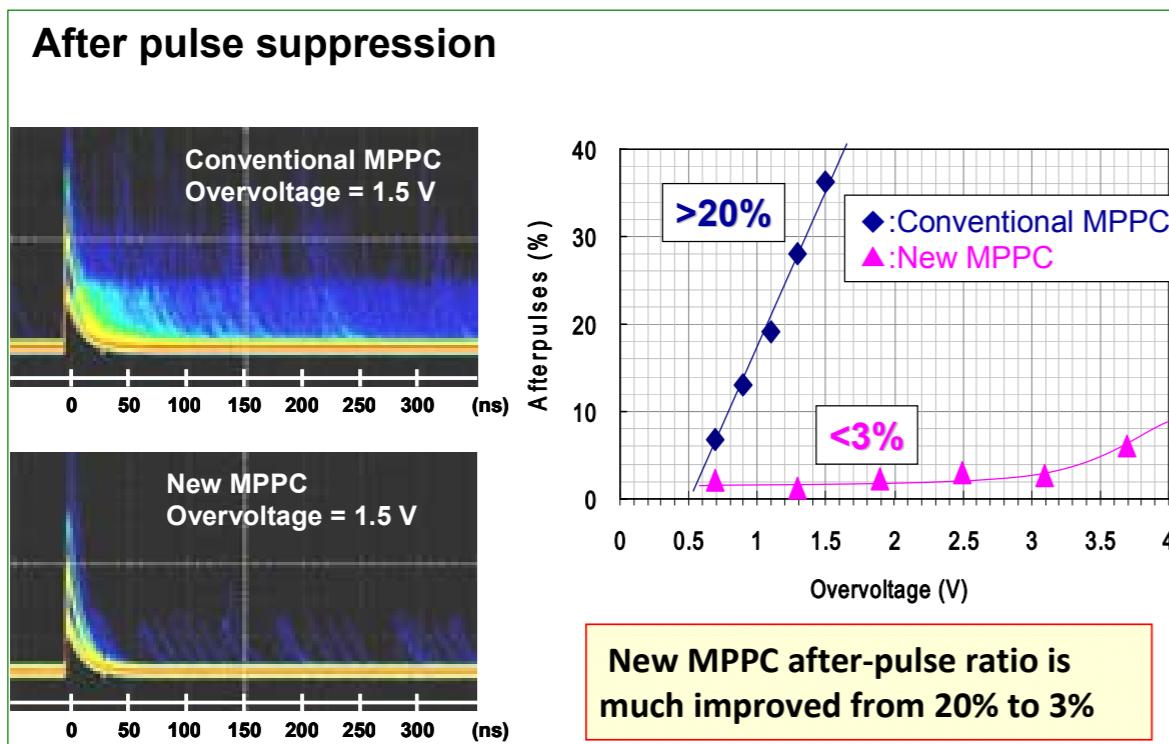
# After-pulsing

- Delayed correlated noise
- Two sources
  - Delayed release of trapped carrier
    - Some carriers from primary avalanche are trapped in a deep trapping level in energy band gap → delayed release → trigger another avalanche
    - $\Delta V^2$  dependence ( $N_{\text{carrier}} \propto \Delta V$ ,  $P_{\text{trigger}} \propto \Delta V$ )
  - Solutions
    - Better quality of wafer and epi. layer
    - Reduced gain
- Delayed optical cross-talk
  - Solutions: Buried junction to block delayed carrier diffusion from substrate

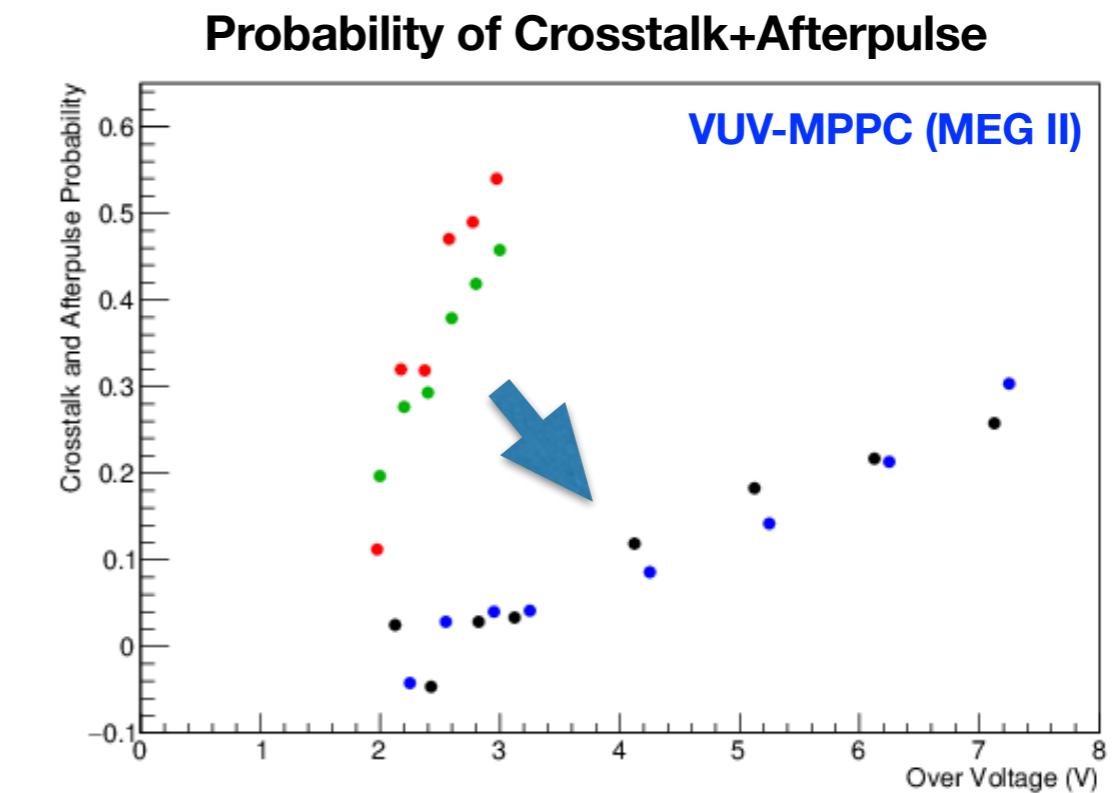


# After-pulsing

- After-pulsing drastically reduced for recent Hamamatsu MPPC



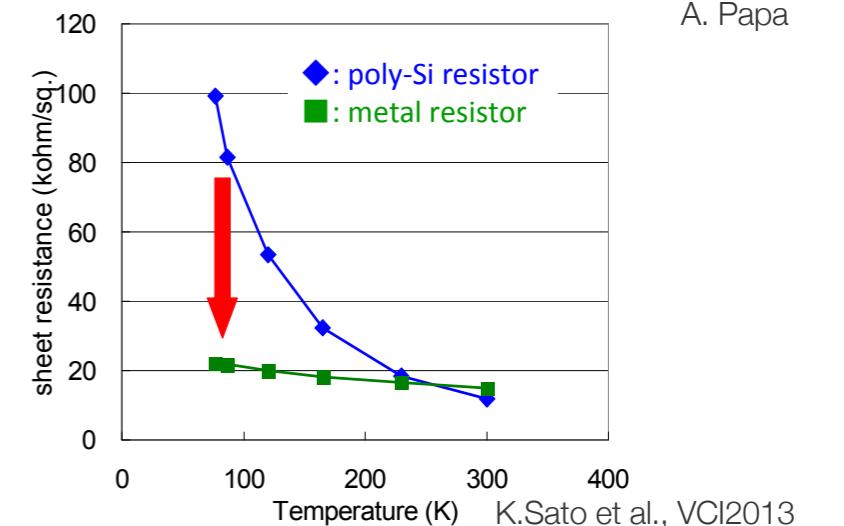
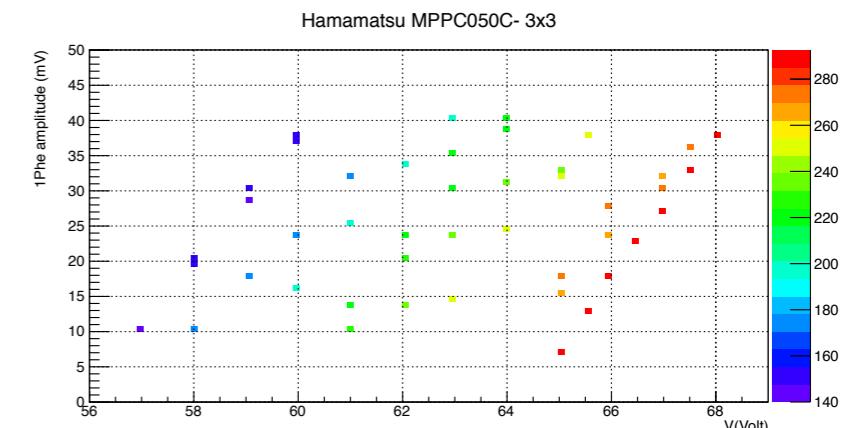
K. Sato, et al., VCI2013



- Both cross-talk and after-pulsing drastically reduced at the same device!
- Bonus: Operational at higher bias voltage → higher gain/PDE

# Temperature Dependence

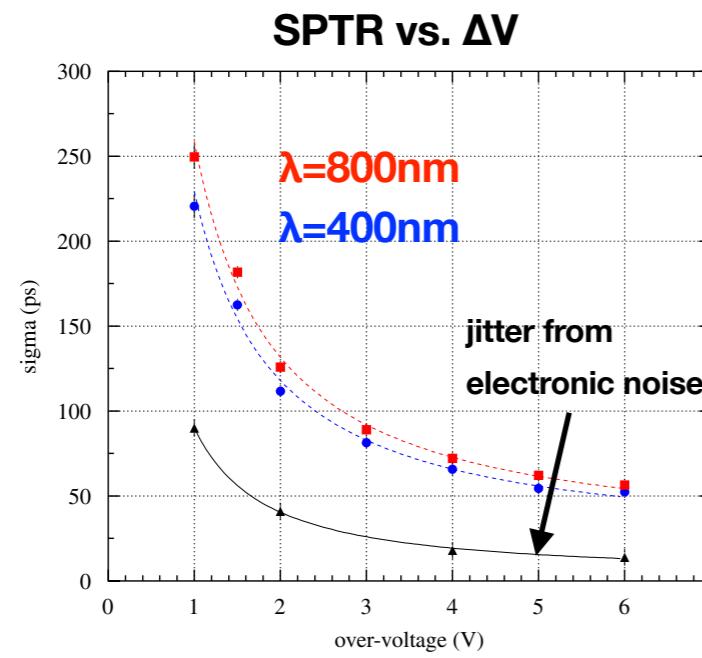
- In general, SiPM has to be operated at controlled temperature. ☹
- Temperature dependence of SiPM
  - Breakdown voltage
    - $\Delta V_{bd} / \Delta T = 55\text{mV/deg}$  (MPPC),  $25\text{mV/deg}$  (AdvanSiD)
    - Gain can be drastically changed when temperature varies, if  $V_{bias}$  is not adjusted accordingly.
  - Dark count rate
    - $\times 2$  reduction every 8deg temp. reduction
  - Quench resistor
    - Signal shape can be changed.
    - Improved by using metal quench resistor instead of poly-Si (Hamamatsu MPPC)



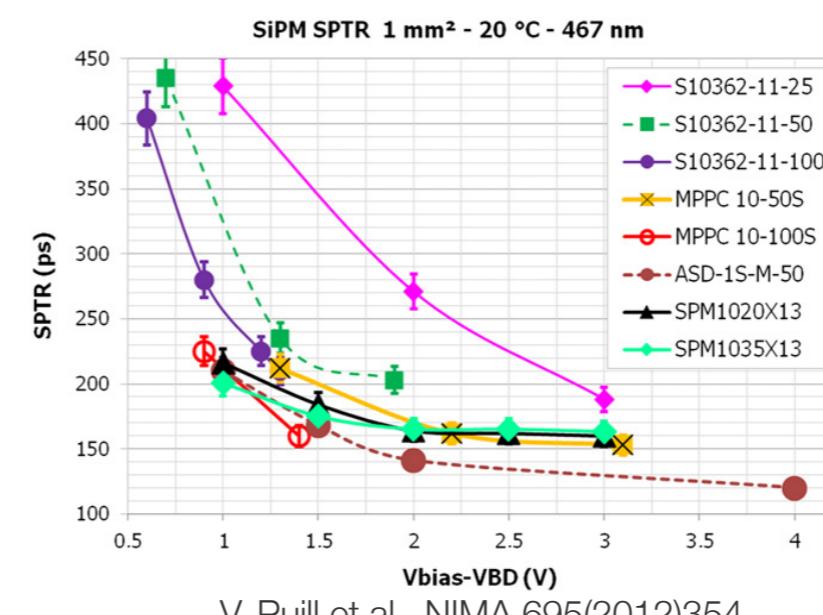
K.Sato et al., VCI2013

# Timing Resolution

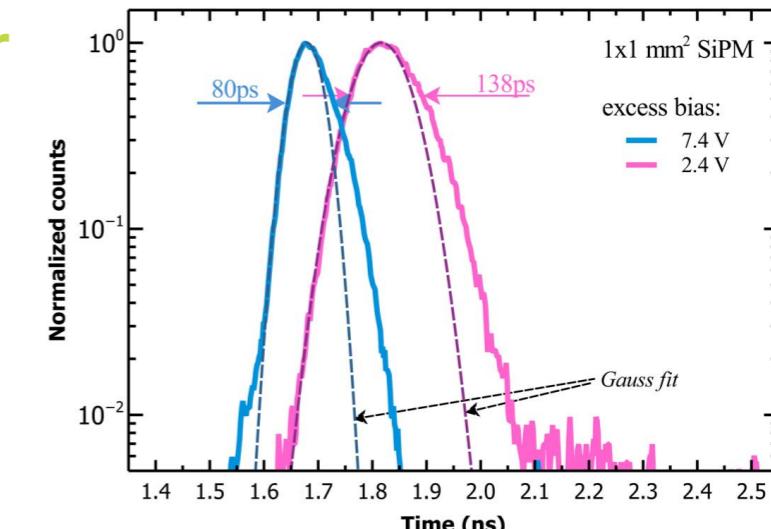
- SiPM signal charge generated in very thin layer (~a few  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- SiPM has an excellent Single Photon Time Resolution (S PTR).
  - Major component: Gaussian jitter  $\sim O(100\text{ps})$  (FWHM)
  - Minor slow tail ( $\sim O(\text{ns})$ ) from carrier drift from neutral region
- Strong dependence on  $\Delta V$ , weak dependence on  $\lambda$



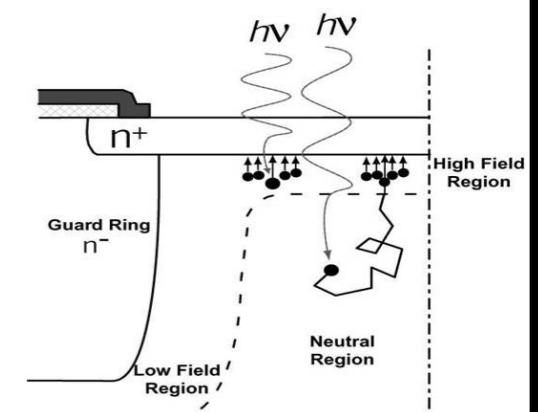
G. Collazuol et al., NIMA 581(2007)461



V. Puill et al., NIMA 695(2012)354



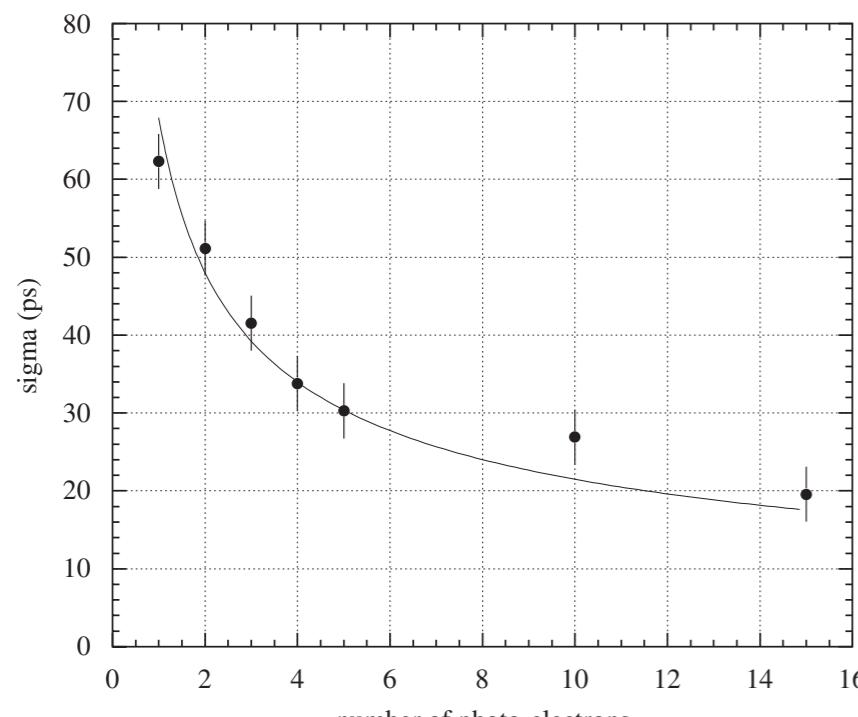
F. Acerbi et al., IEEE-TNS 61(2014)2678



S. Cova et al., NIST Workshop on Single Photon Detectors 2003

# Timing Resolution

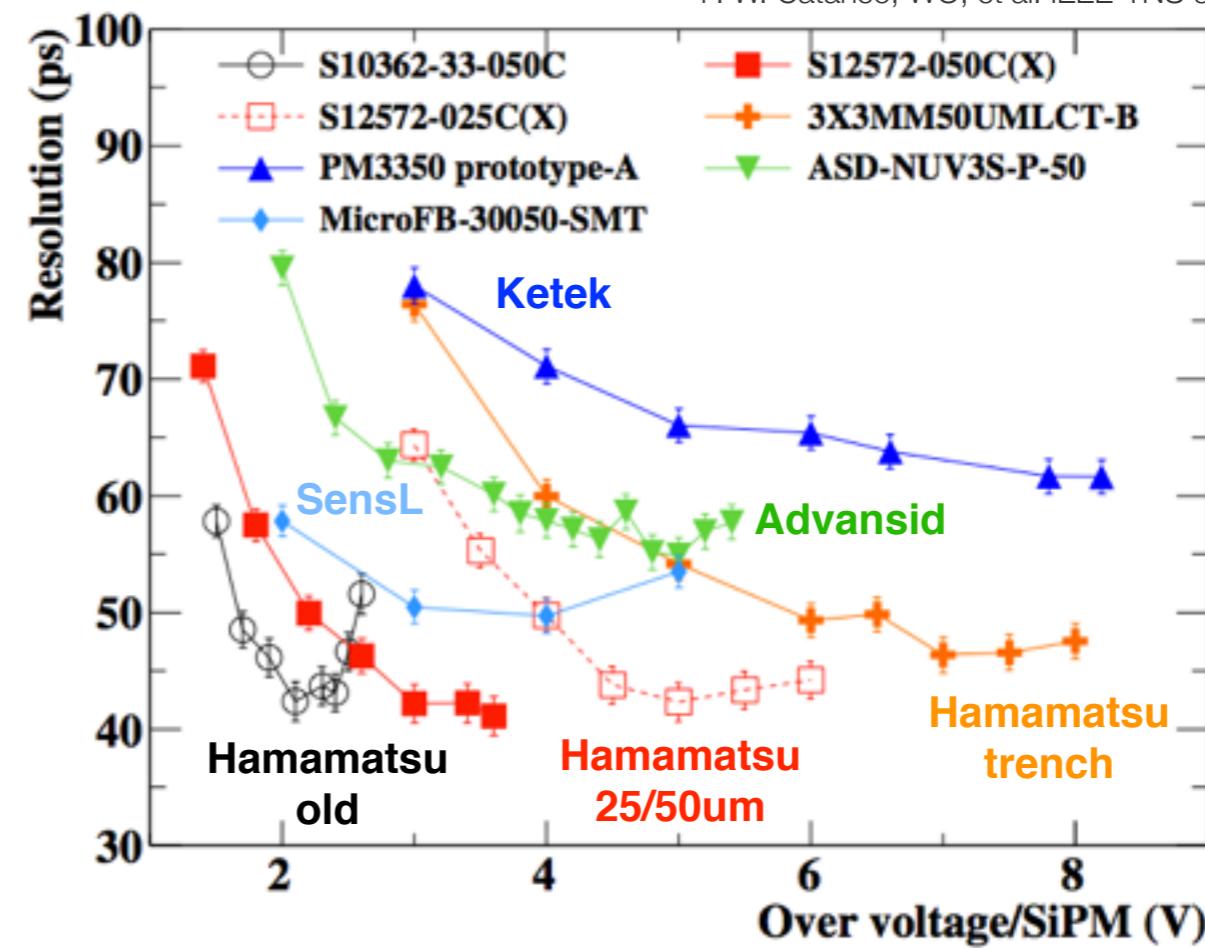
- Timing resolution for many photons



G. Collazuol et al., NIMA 581(2007)461

Fast plastic scintillator (BC422 60×30×5mm<sup>3</sup>)  
readout by 6 SiPMs

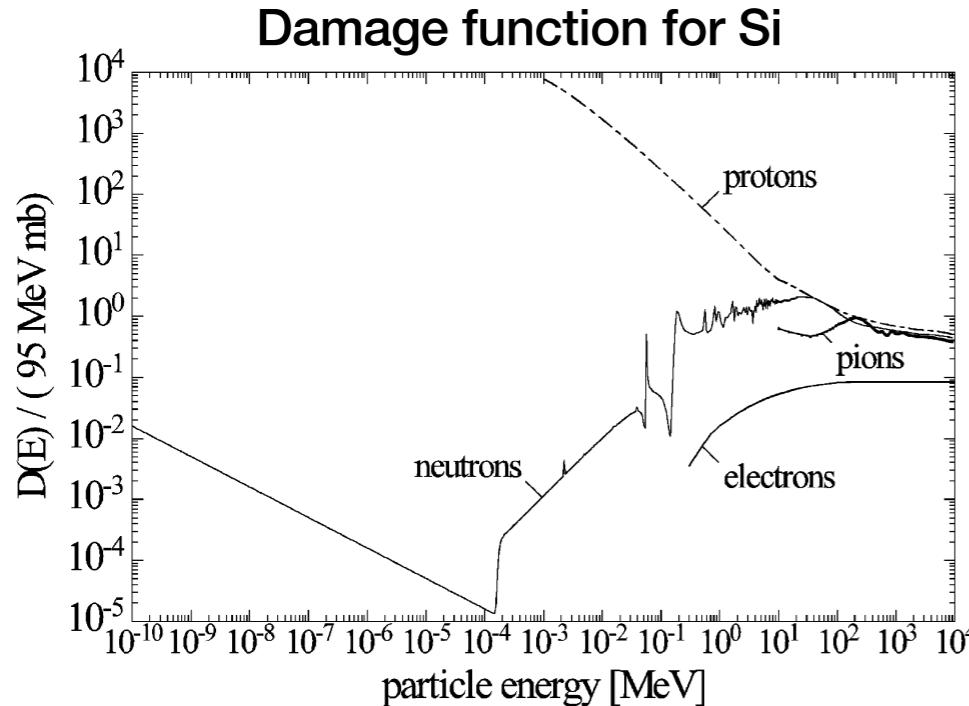
P. W. Cataneo, WO, et al. IEEE-TNS 61(2014)2657



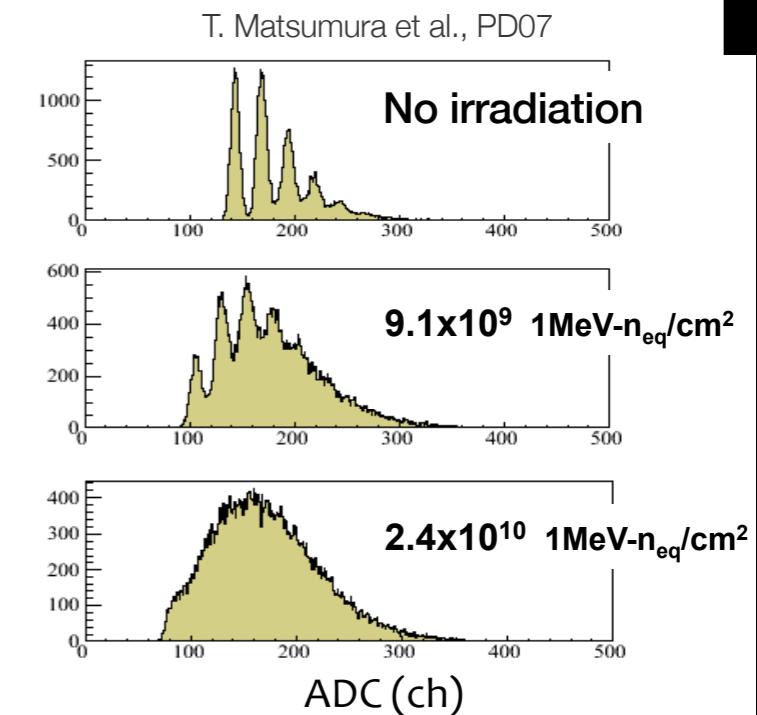
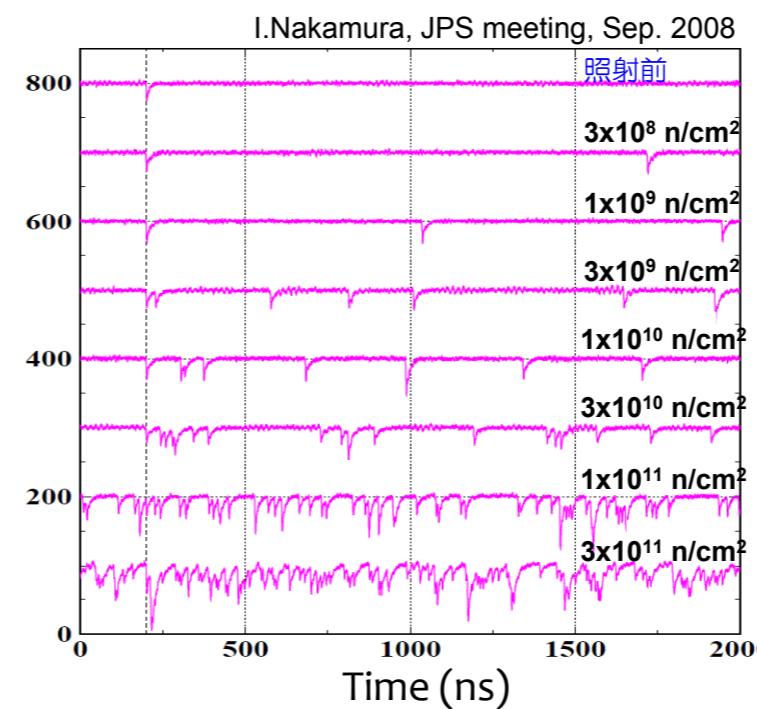
- Better resolution at higher  $\Delta V$  (gain, PDE, SPTR)
- Saturated due to dark noise or after-pulsing

# Radiation Hardness

- Radiation damage of SiPM
  - Neutron, Proton → Bulk damage by Non-Ionizing Energy Loss (NIEL)
  - $\gamma$ -ray, X-ray → Damage of Si-SiO<sub>2</sub> interface by ionizing energy loss → Charge trap at interface
- Effect of radiation damage
  - Increase of dark noise
  - Change in breakdown voltage, gain and PDE



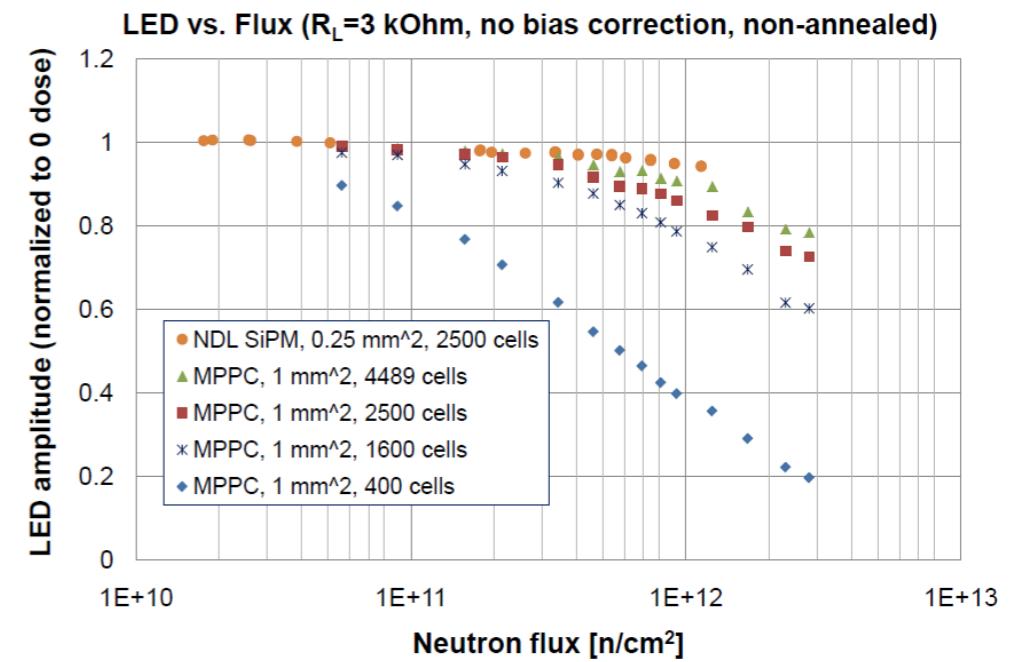
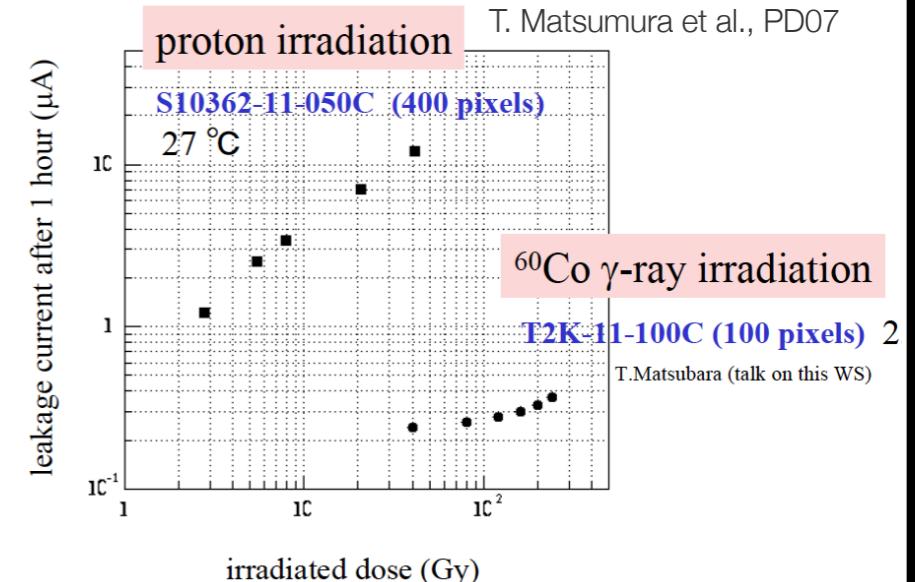
G. Lindstrom, et al., NIMA 426(1999)1



# Radiation Hardness

## Effect of radiation damage

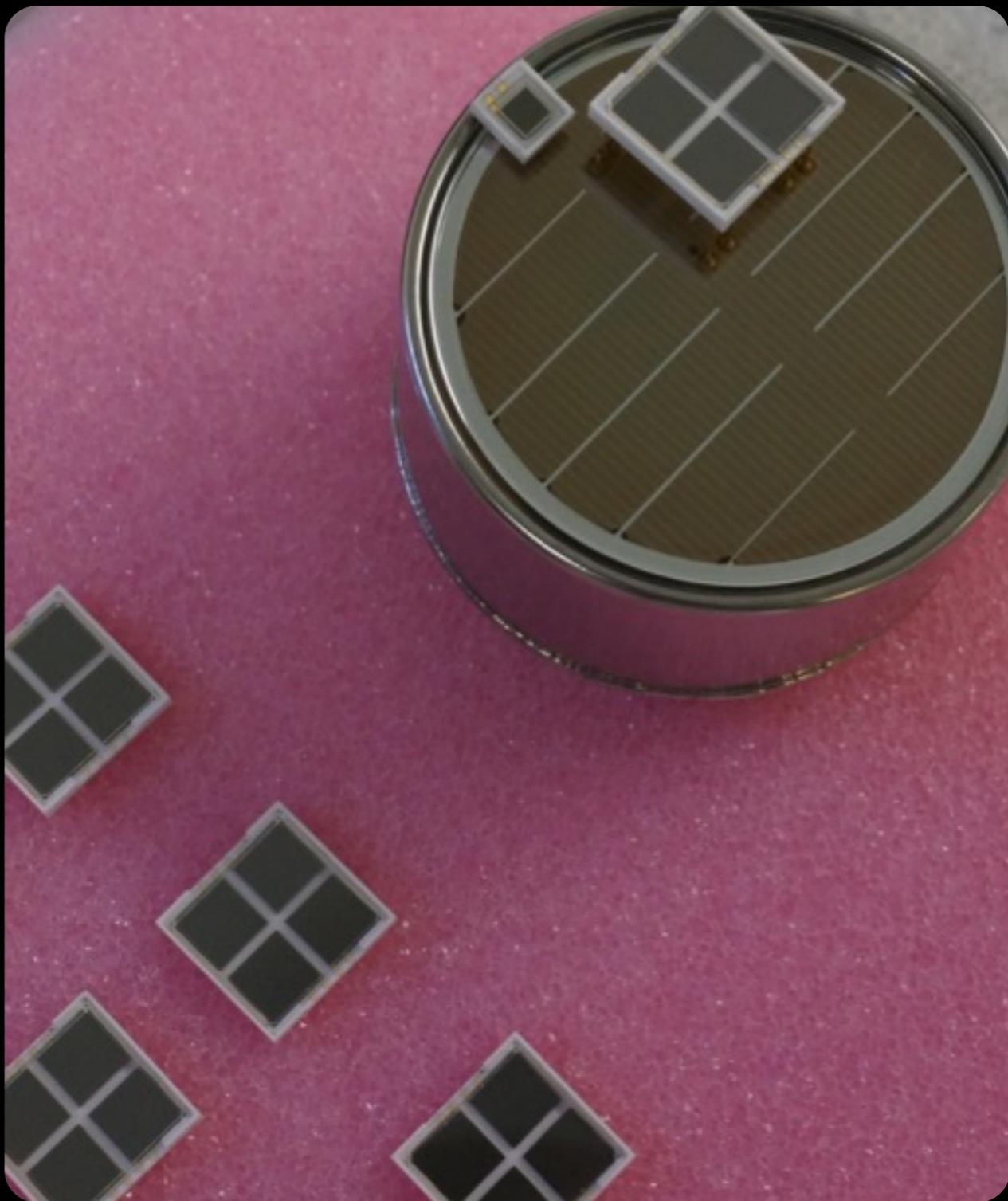
- Neutron/proton
  - $>10^8 \text{ 1MeV-n}_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$ : increase of dark noise
  - $>10^{10} \text{ 1MeV-n}_{\text{eq}}/\text{cm}^2$ : loss of single photoelectron resolution
- $\gamma$ -ray
  - $\sim 200\text{Gy}$ : local breakdown
- Damage effect for proton: 1-2 orders larger than  $\gamma$ -ray
- Possible solution for radiation hardness
  - Reduce volume to be damaged
    - Thinning down epitaxial layer  $\leftarrow$  smaller cell
    - Thinning down substrate
  - Better insulator material for surface damage?
  - Other material? Not “Si”PM any more...



Y. Musienko, CERN SiPM workshop 2011

# Contents

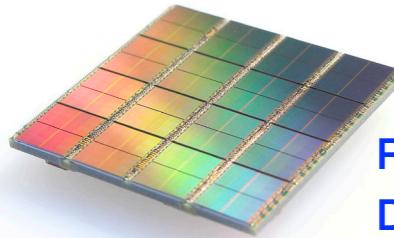
- Introduction
- Properties and Performance
- **New Developments**
- Application Examples
- Summary



# Digital SiPM

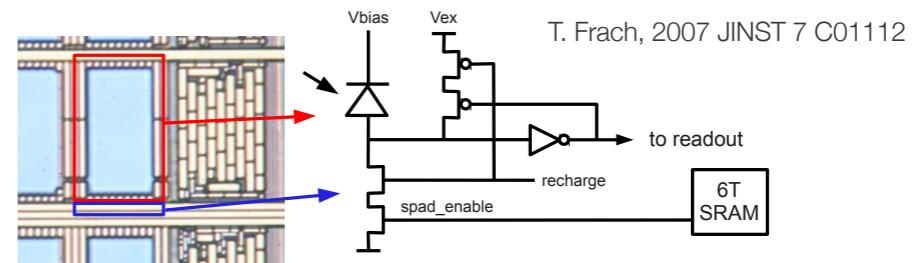
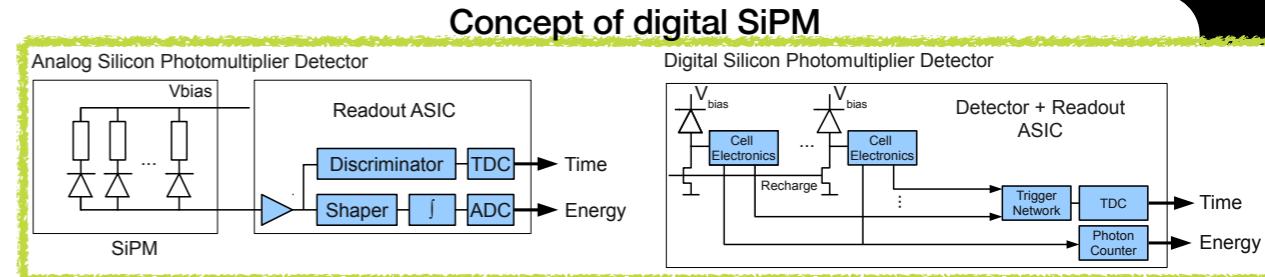
- **Digital SiPM (dSiPM) from Philips**

- G-APD arrays with integrated electronics
- Features
  - Counting # of fired cells
  - Time stamp of first fired cell (per die)
  - Cell-by-cell active control → disable hot cell
  - Active quenching

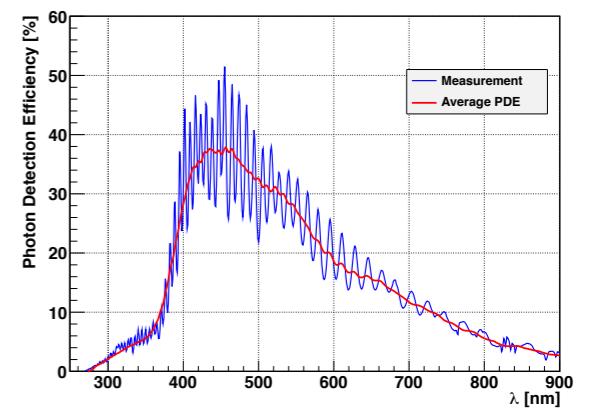


Philips digital SiPM  
DPC6400-22-44 (DPC3200-22-44)

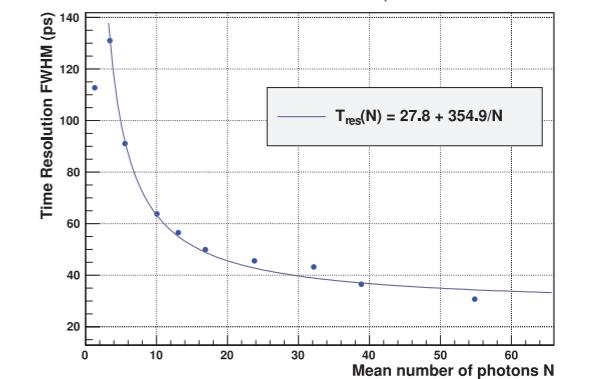
Outer dimensions	32.6×32.6 mm <sup>2</sup>
Pixel pitch	4×4 mm <sup>2</sup>
Pixel active area	3.9×3.2 mm <sup>2</sup>
# of cells	6936(3200)
Cell size	59.4×32(64) mm <sup>2</sup>
Pixel fill factor	54(74) %
Tile fill factor	75(55) %
Operational bias voltage	27±0.5 V



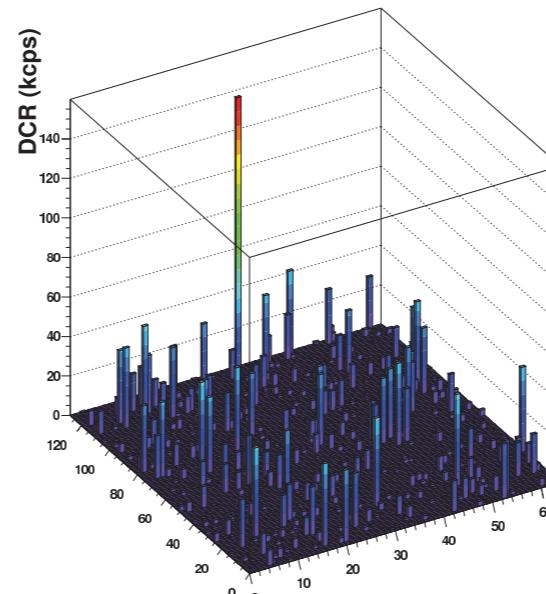
Photon Detection Efficiency T. Frach, 2007 JINST 7 C01112



Time Resolution T. Frach et al., IEEE-NSS 2009



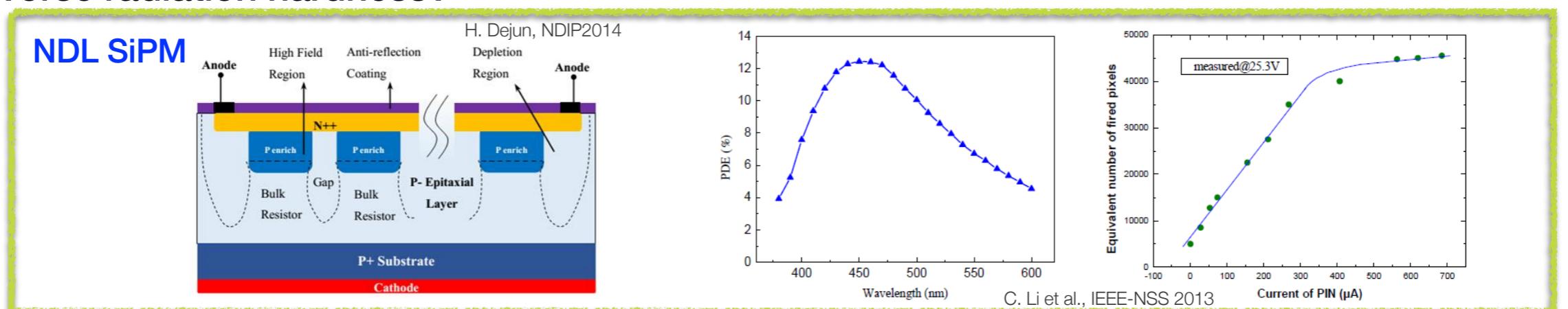
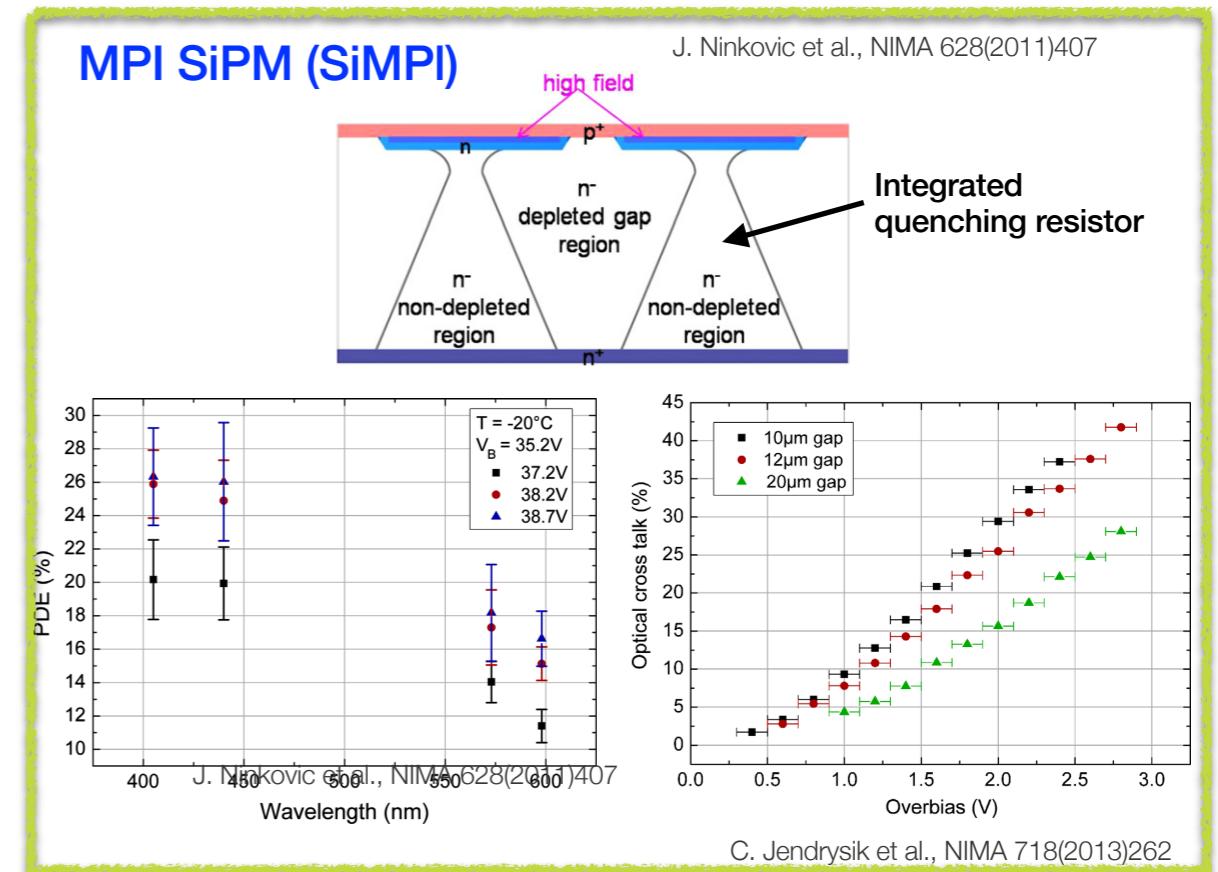
Dark noise rate distribution



T. Frach et al., IEEE-NSS 2009

# SiPMs with Bulk Integrated Resistor

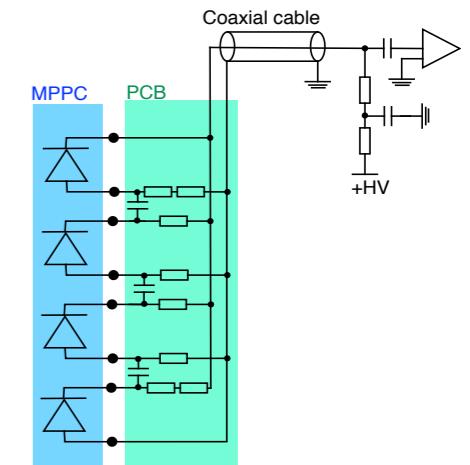
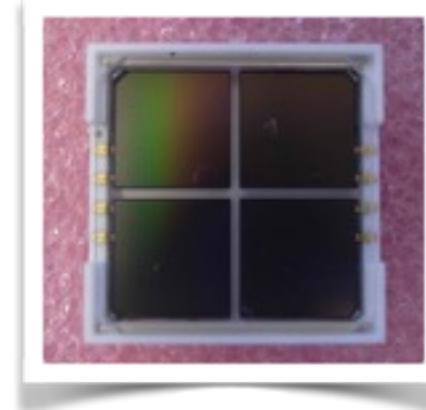
- Quenching resistor is integrated in Si bulk.
  - Advantages
    - High fill factor
    - Simpler processing
    - Flat surface → Easier implementation of anti-reflecting coating)
    - Higher cell density (smaller cell)
    - Less optical cross-talk
  - Issues
    - Need thicker wafer for vertical R length
    - Long recovery time
    - Worse radiation hardness?



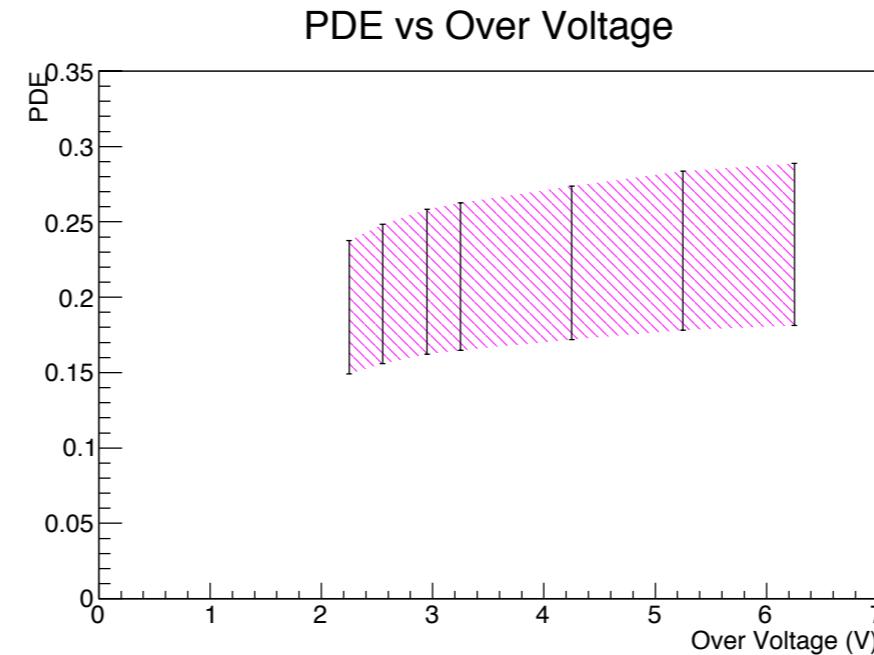
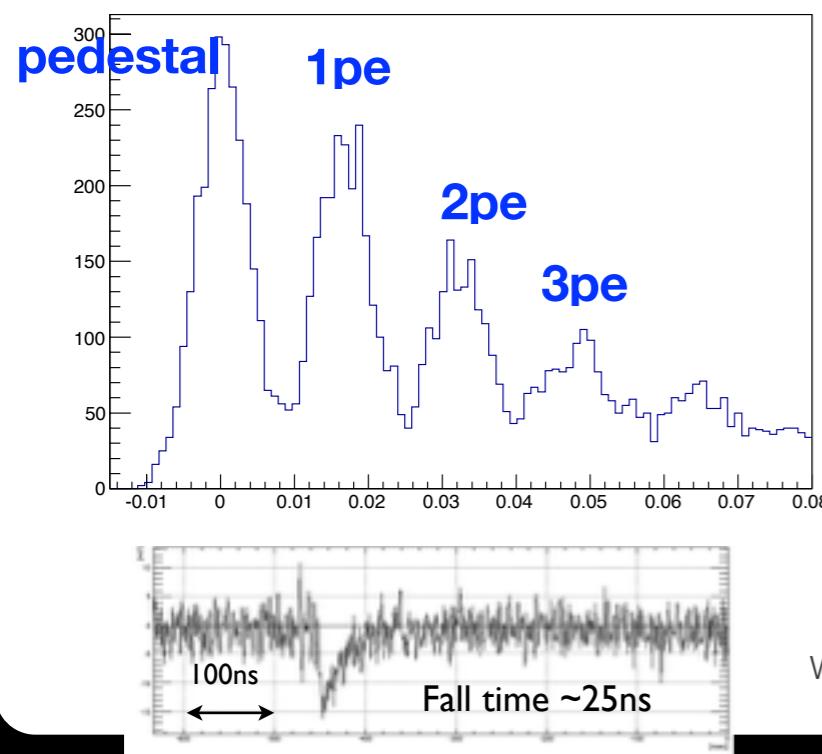
# SiPM for Deep UV Light

- DUV-sensitive MPPC developed for MEG II LXe detector

- Hamamatsu MPPC S10943-4372
- PDE  $\geq 20\%$  at  $\lambda=175\text{nm}$
- $12 \times 12\text{mm}^2$  (discrete array of four  $6 \times 6\text{mm}^2$  chip)
- $50\mu\text{m}$  cell pitch
- Metal quench resistor
- Suppression of after-pulsing/cross-talk
- Operational at LXe temp. (165K)

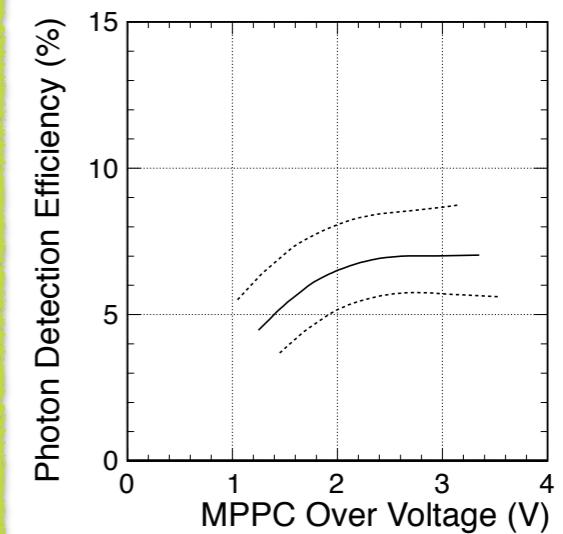


Four segment chips connected in series on readout PCB



WO et al., NIMA 787(2015)220

Same technology applied for LAr ( $\lambda=128\text{nm}$ ,  $T=87\text{K}$ )

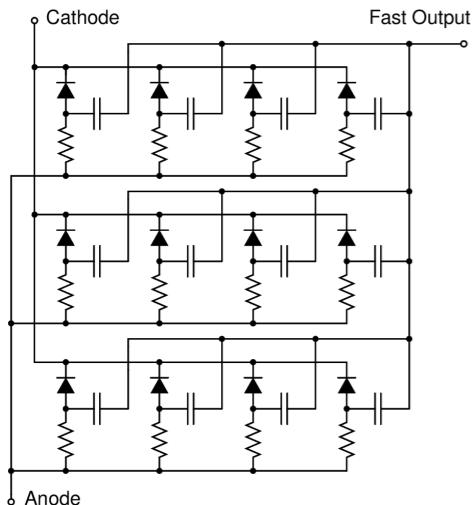


T. Igarashi et al., arXiv:1505.00091

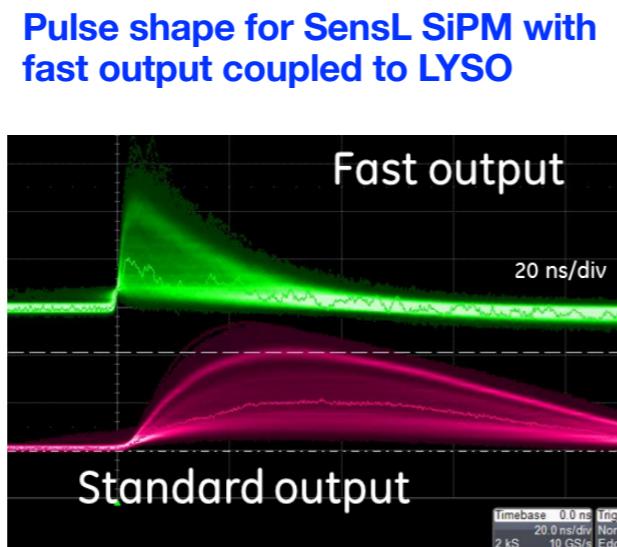
# Other New Developments

- New implementation in SensL SiPM for fast timing
- Separate fast output in addition to standard output

“Fast output” scheme in SensL SiPM



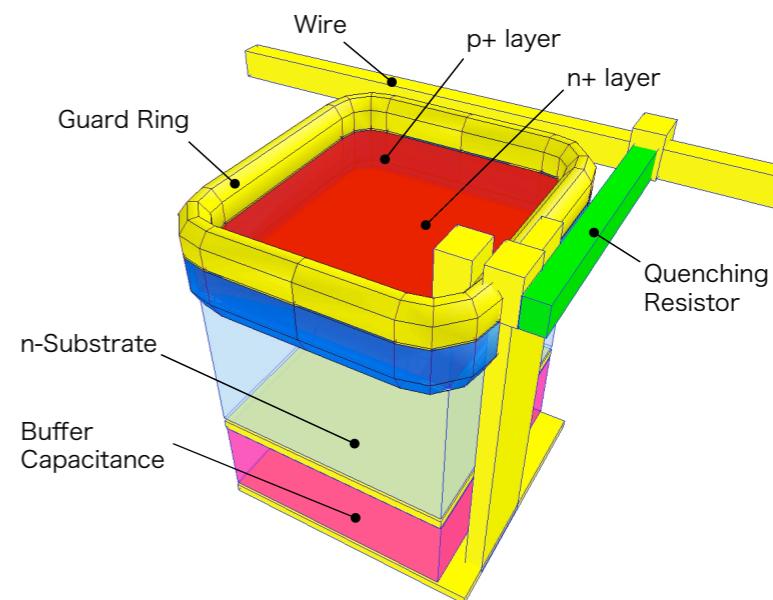
S. Dolinsky et al., IEEE-NSS 2013



## A proposal for new SiPM structure

- Thinning depletion layer
  - Additional buffer capacitance parallel to p-n junction
- 
- Reduced dark noise and afterpulse
  - Better radiation hardness
  - Higher gain

$$G = (C_{\text{diode}} + C_{\text{buffer}})\Delta V/e$$



# Contents

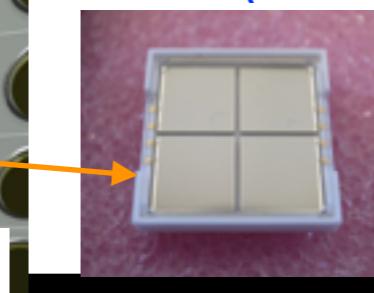
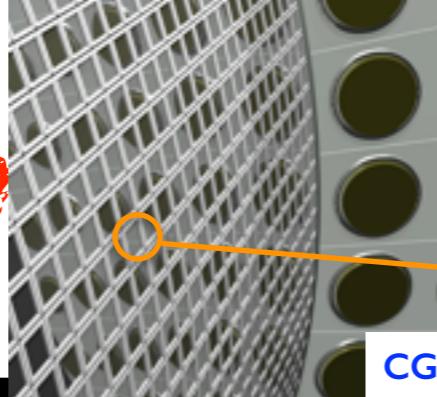
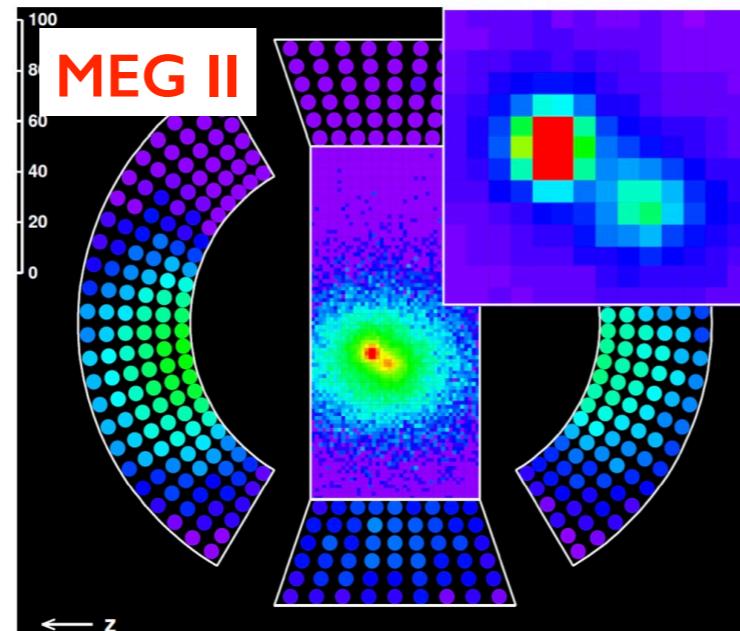
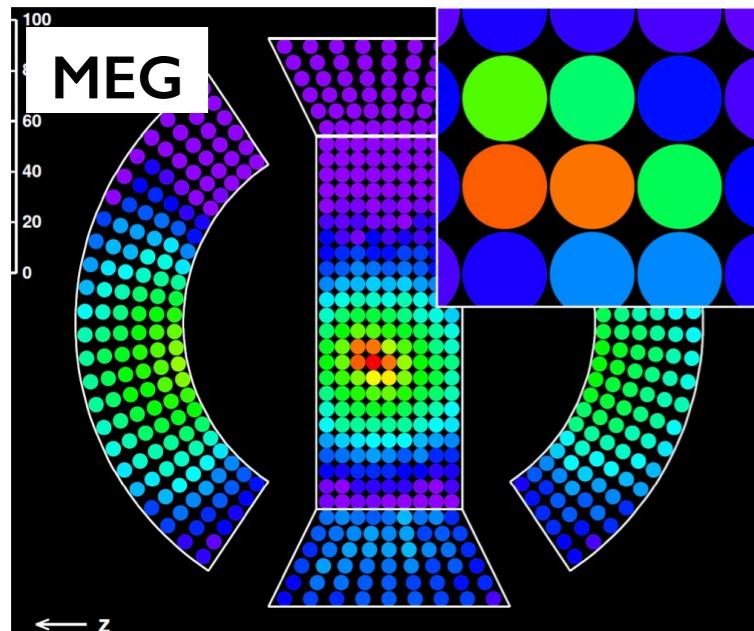
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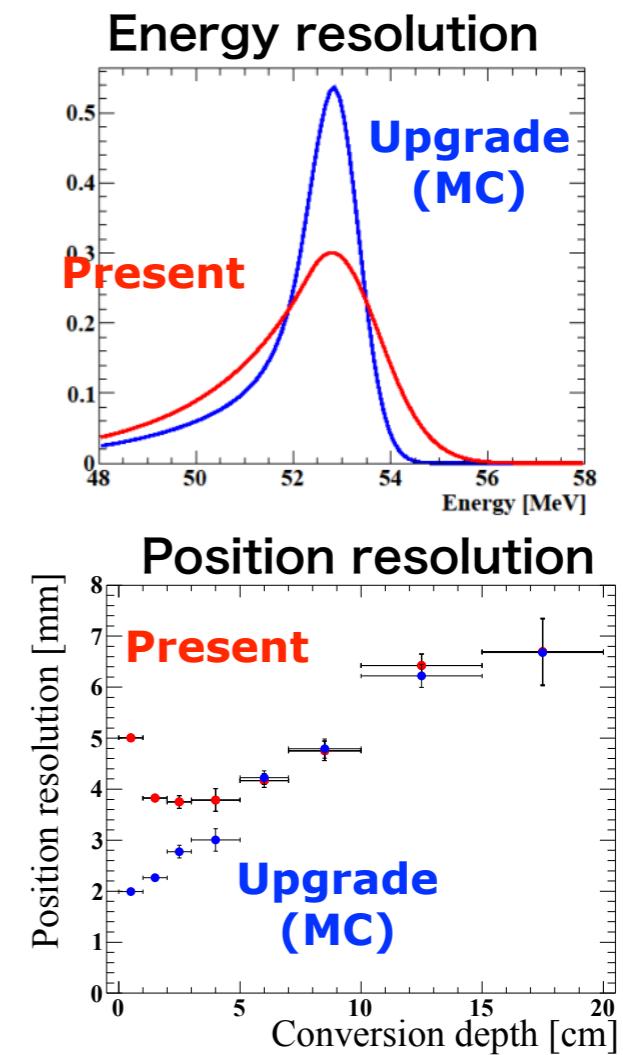
# MEG II LXe Detector

- Upgrade for LXe Detector in MEG experiment to measure 52.8MeV  $\gamma$ -ray from  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  decay
- Highly granular scintillation readout with VUV-MPPC
  - 256 PMTs (2 inch) replaced with 4092 VUV-MPPCs ( $12 \times 12 \text{ mm}^2$ )
- Construction to be finished within 2015

MEG II Proposal: arXiv:1301.7225  
WO et al., NIMA 787(2015)220

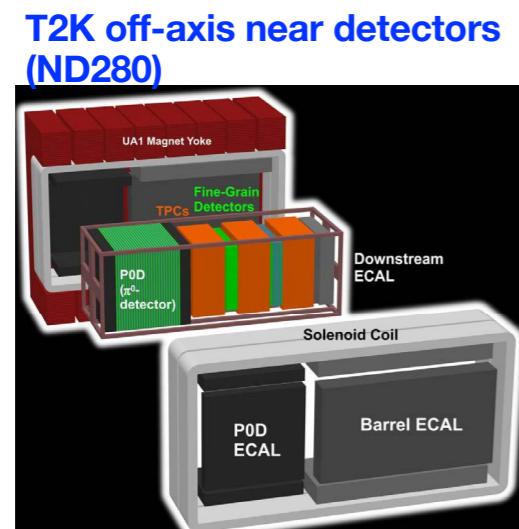


CG



# T2K: Neutrino Oscillation Experiment

- A large number of MPPCs totalling ~56,000 used in several detectors in T2K.
- Working fine for several years
- # of bad channel < 0.28% incl. problem of readout electronics



A. Minamino, Next generation photosensor worksop 2010

Item	Spec
Active area	1.3 x 1.3 mm <sup>2</sup>
Pixel size	50 x 50 μm <sup>2</sup>
Num. of pixels	667
Operation voltage	70 V (typical)
PDE @ 550nm	~ 25 %
Dark count (Gain = 7.5 x 10 <sup>5</sup> )	< 1.35 Mcps @ 25 deg. (Thre. = 0.5 p.e.)
Num. of device	56,000



Produced by Hamamatsu Photonics

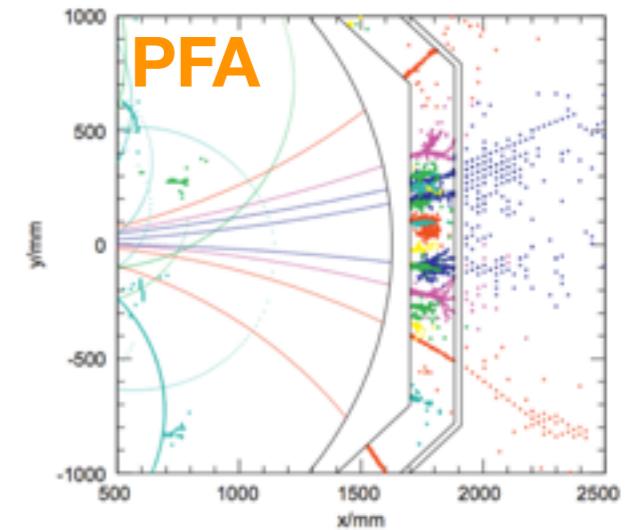
17

T. Kikawa, Next generation photosensor worksop 2012

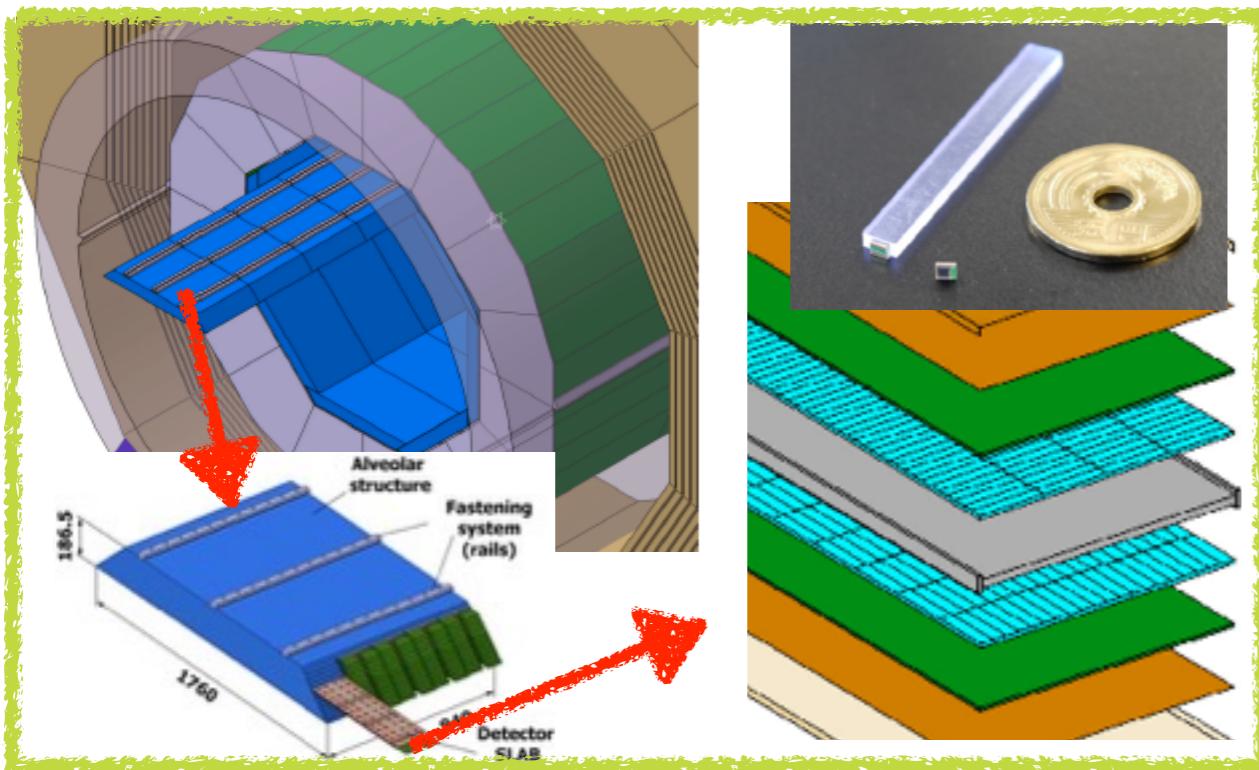
Detector	# of ch	# of bad ch		Fraction of bad ch	
		2010	2012	2010	2012
INGRID	10796	18	37	0.17%	0.34%
FGD	8448	20	20	0.24%	0.24%
ECAL	22336	35	58	0.16%	0.26%
P0D	10400	7	28	0.07%	0.27%
SMRD	4016	7	15	0.17%	0.37%
計	55996	87	158	0.16%	0.28%

# ILD Scintillator Calorimeters

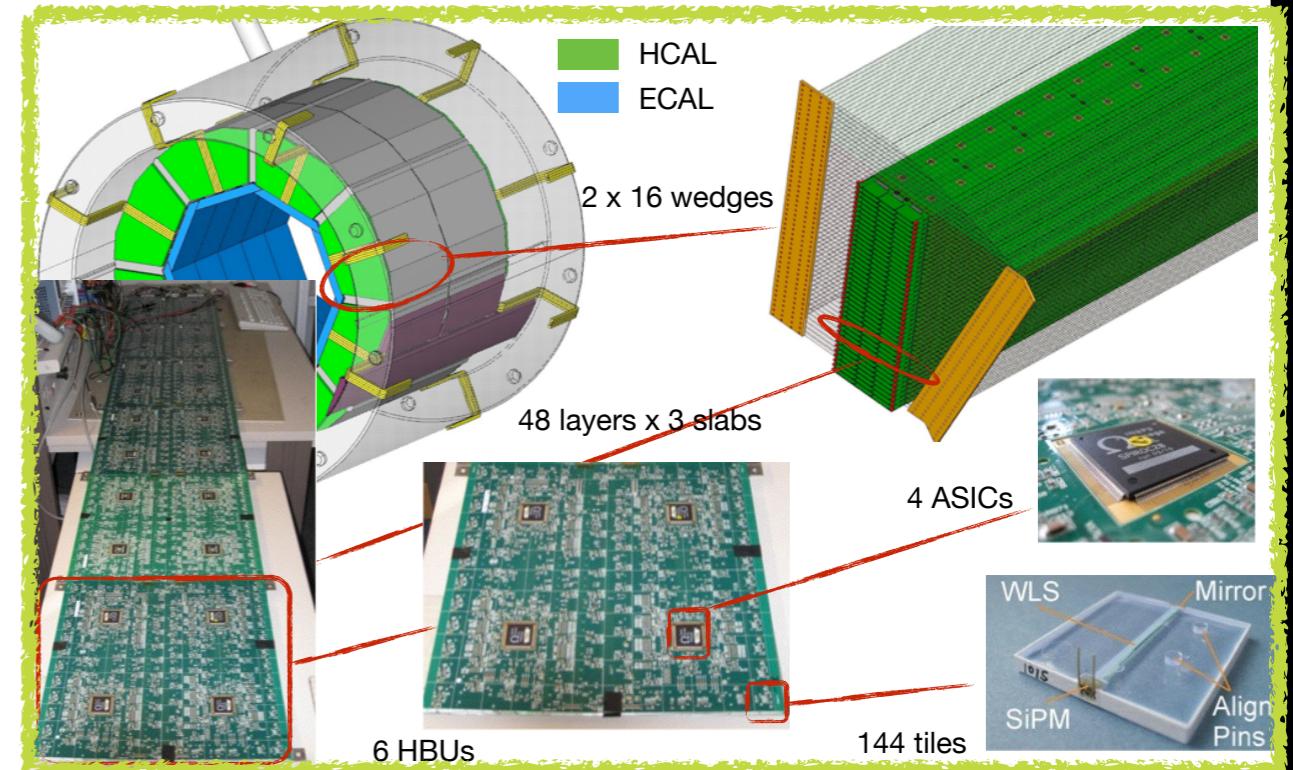
- Highly granular calorimeter for ILC detector based on Particle Flow Algorithm (PFA).
  - AHCAL:  $\sim 10^7 \times (30 \times 30 \times 3 \text{ mm}^2$  scint. cell + SiPM)
  - ScECAL:  $\sim 10^7 \times (5 \times 45 \times 2 \text{ mm}^2$  scint. strip + SiPM)
- SiPM technology allows
  - SiPM and readout electronics are integrated in active volume
  - Calorimeters in solenoid field of 4T



## ScECAL



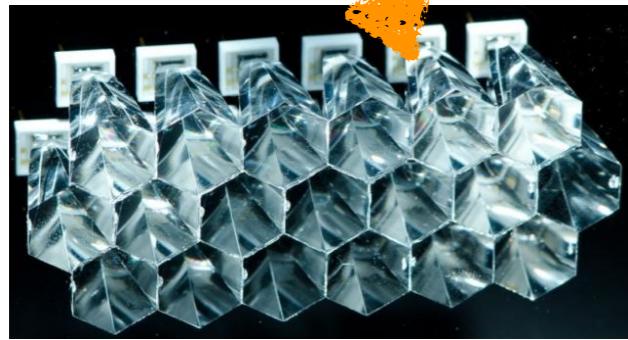
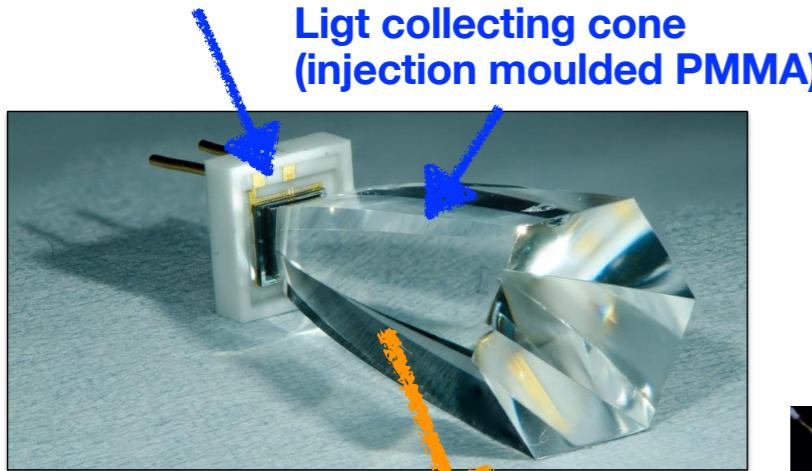
## AHCAL



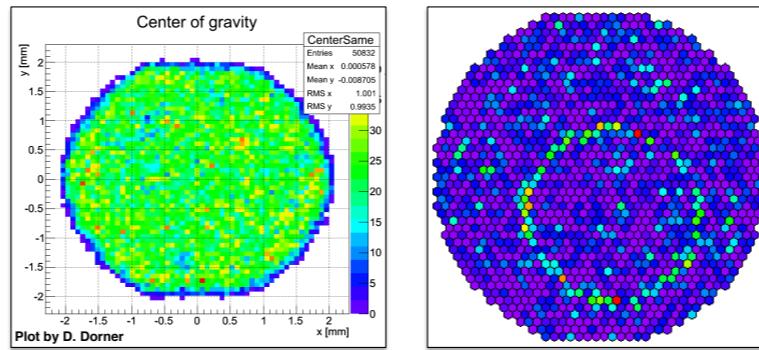
# FACT: First G-APD Cherenkov Telescope

- SiPM-based camera for Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes (IACTs)
- 1440 pixel modules based on MPPC with light collecting cone.
- Integrated electronics: trigger and digitisation (DRS4 chip)
- First operation on Oct. 11, 2011 (full moon)

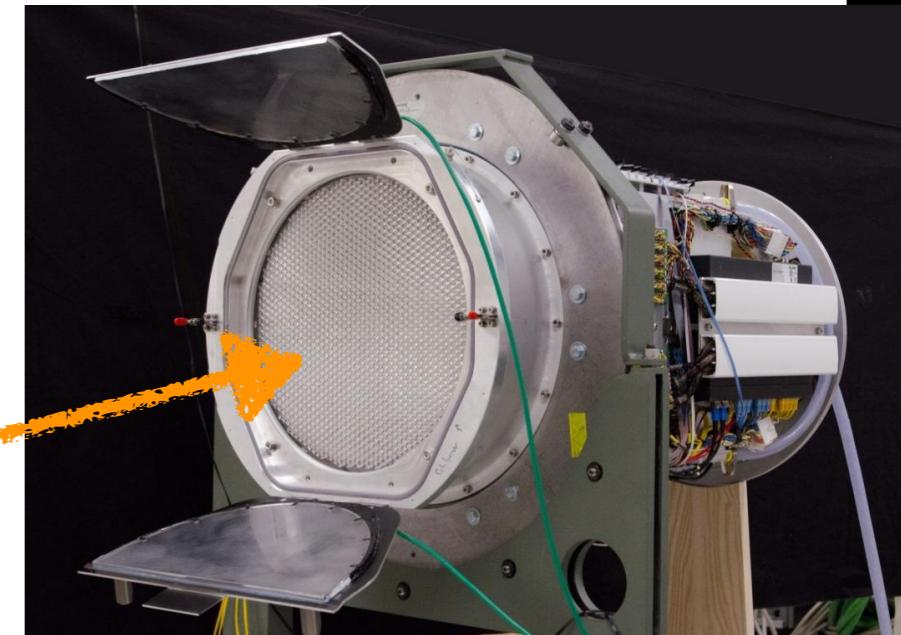
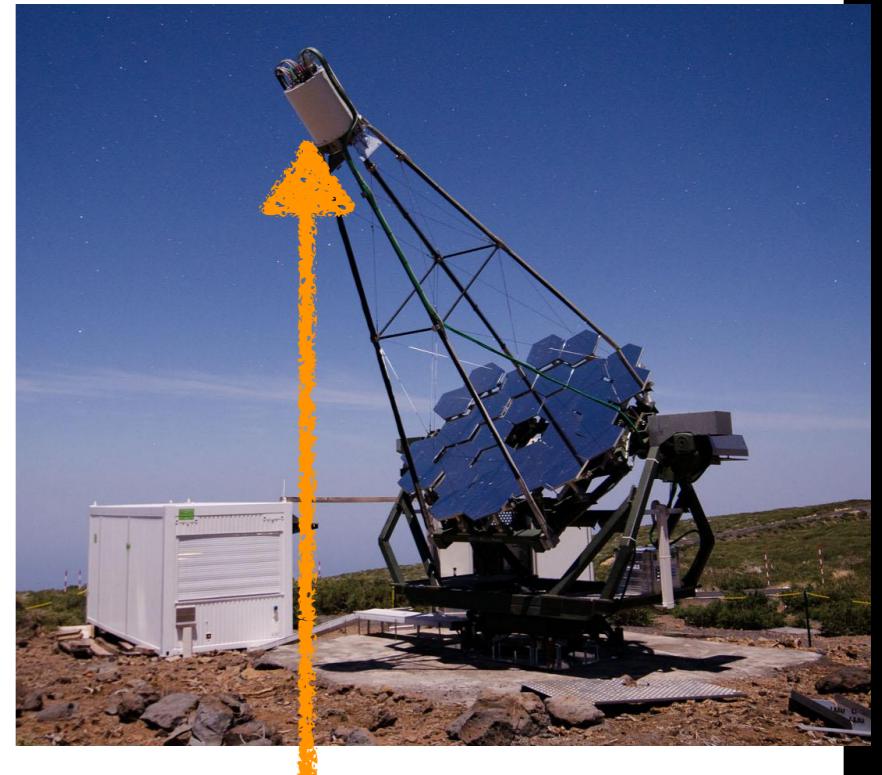
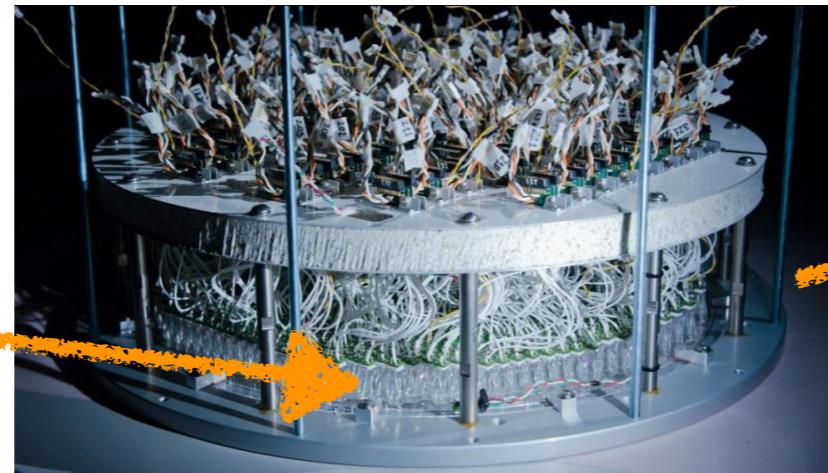
MPPC S10362-33-050C



Th. Krähenbühl, Photodet2012



1440 pixels glued onto front window



# Summary

- Vast progress in development of SiPM technology since last two decades.
- SiPM technology is mature enough in terms of both performance and cost to be employed in many projects.
- Many advantages, while some weak points to be overcome.
  - Dark noise
  - Correlated noise
  - Saturation
  - Radiation hardness
  - Temperature dependence
  - Limited sensor area
- Many new developments and new applications are on-going.

# Summary

- Vast progress in development of SiPM technology since last two decades.
- SiPM technology is mature enough in terms of both performance and cost to be employed in many projects.
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  - Correlated noise 😊
  - Saturation 😐
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  - Temperature dependence 😢
  - Limited sensor area 😐
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# Summary

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  - Temperature dependence 😢
  - Limited sensor area 😐
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# Thank you for your attention!

## Questions?

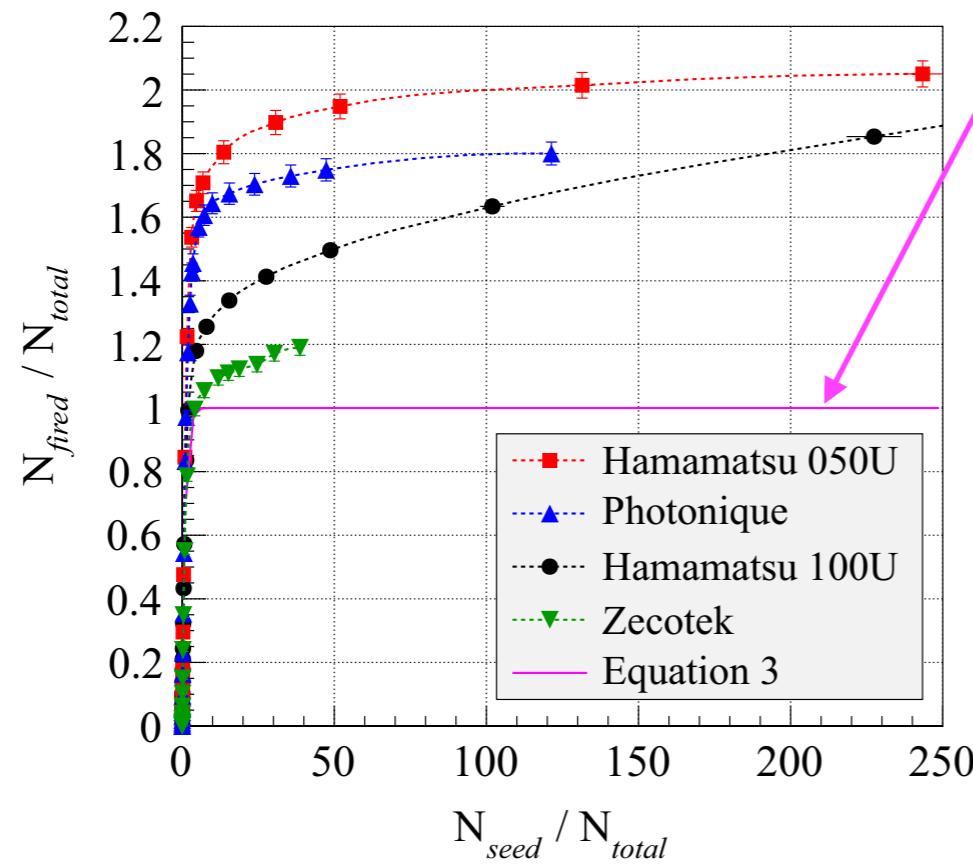
### More complete reviews

- V. Puill, “*Tutorial SiPM*”, *NDIP2014*
- G. Collazuol, “*Status and Perspectives of Solid State Photo-detector*”, *RICH2013*

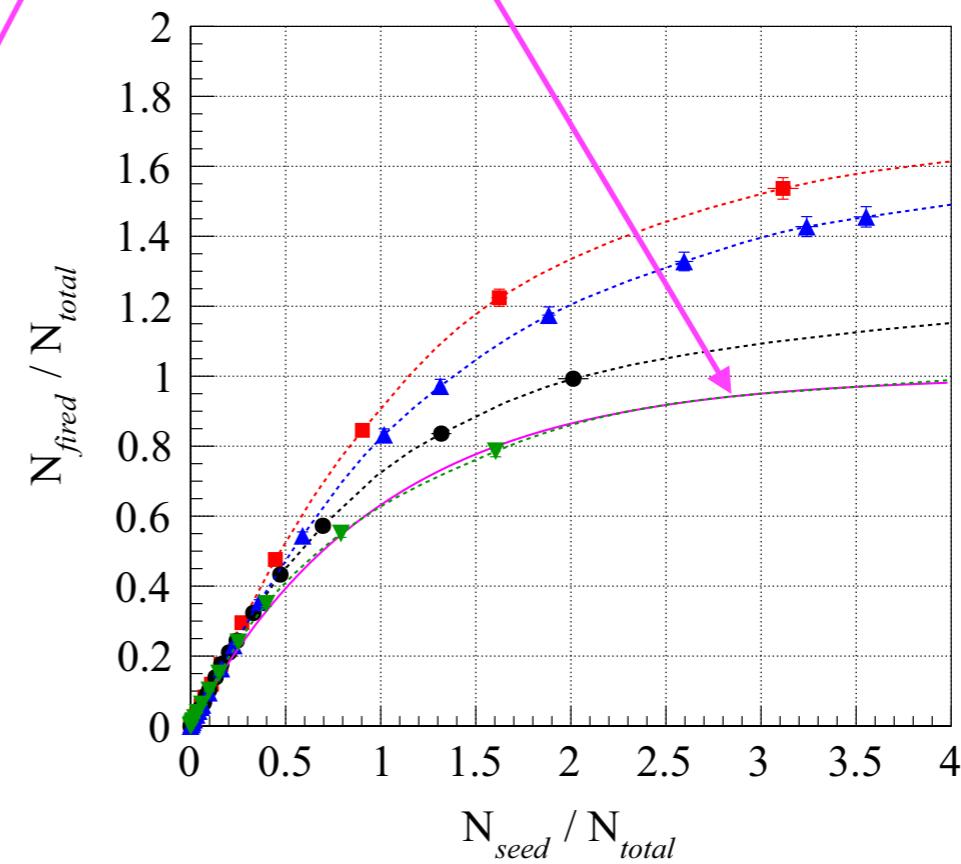
Backup

# Over-Saturation?

- Some reports on over-saturation
  - $N_{\text{fired}} > N_{\text{cell}}$  with fast laser (32ps pulse width → No chance of cell recovery)
- Still to be understood



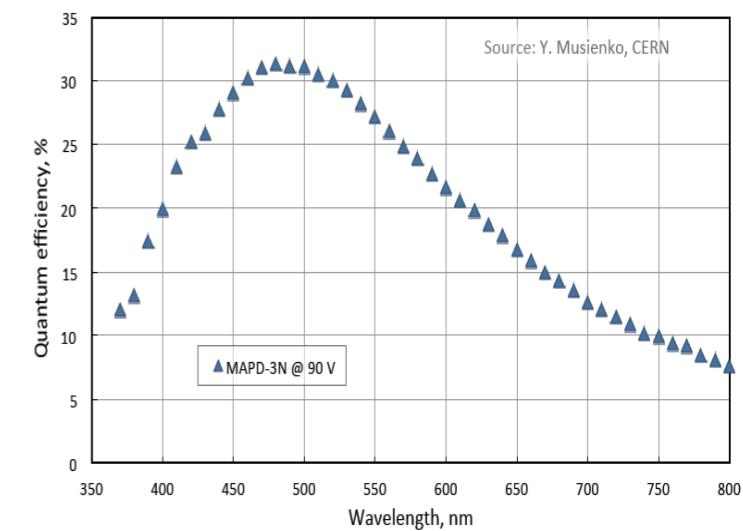
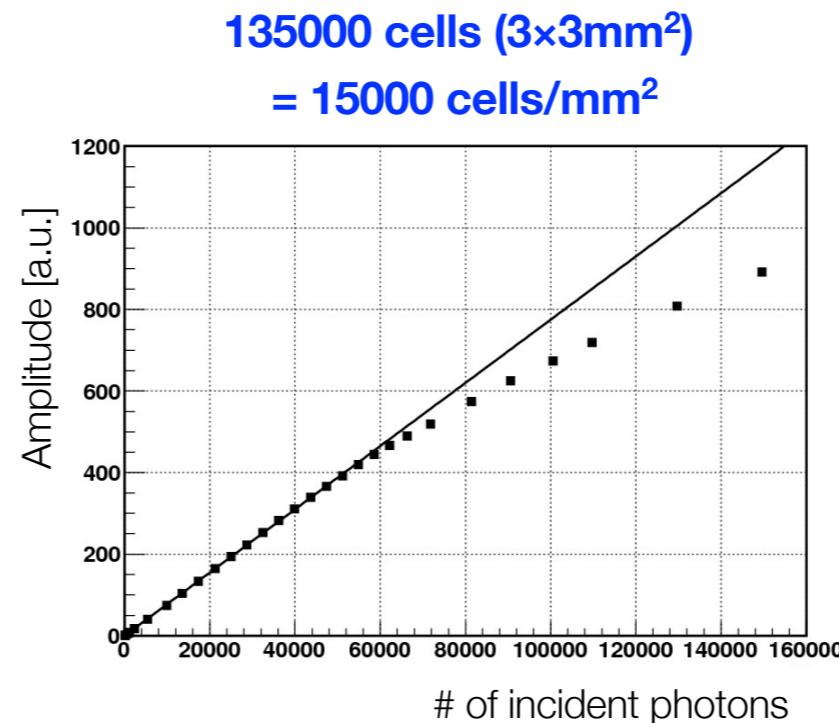
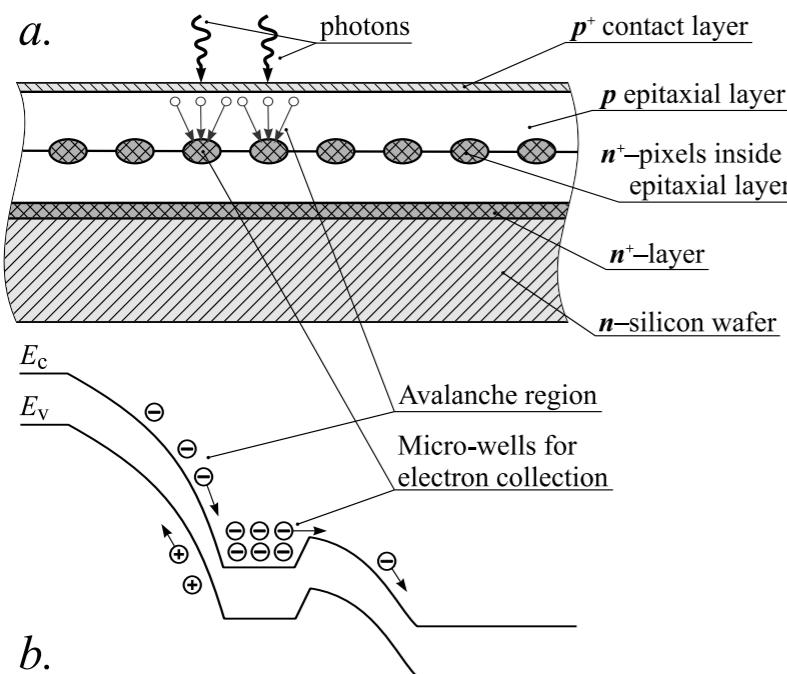
$$N_{\text{fired}} = N_{\text{cell}} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{-N_{\text{photon}} PDE}{N_{\text{cell}}}} \right)$$



L. Gruber et al. NIMA737 (2014) 11

# Even Smaller... Micro Cell SiPM

- Micro-pixel APD (MAPD) from Zecotek
  - Cells inside epitaxial layer
  - No quenching resistor. Directly biased p-n junction under each cell is used to quench avalanche instead.
  - up to 40,000 cells/mm<sup>2</sup>



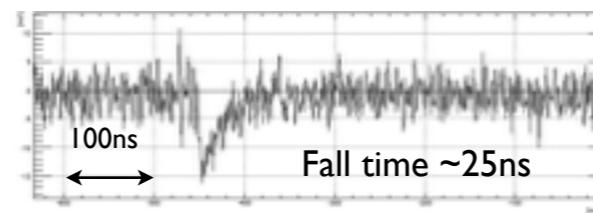
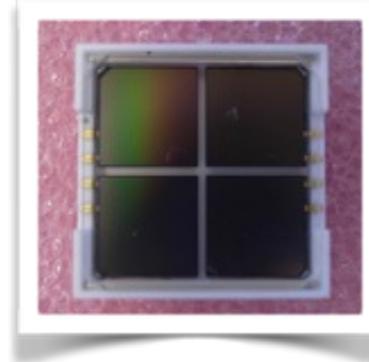
Measured by Y. Musienko (CERN)

Z.Sadygov, et al., Tech. Phys. Lett. 36(2010)528

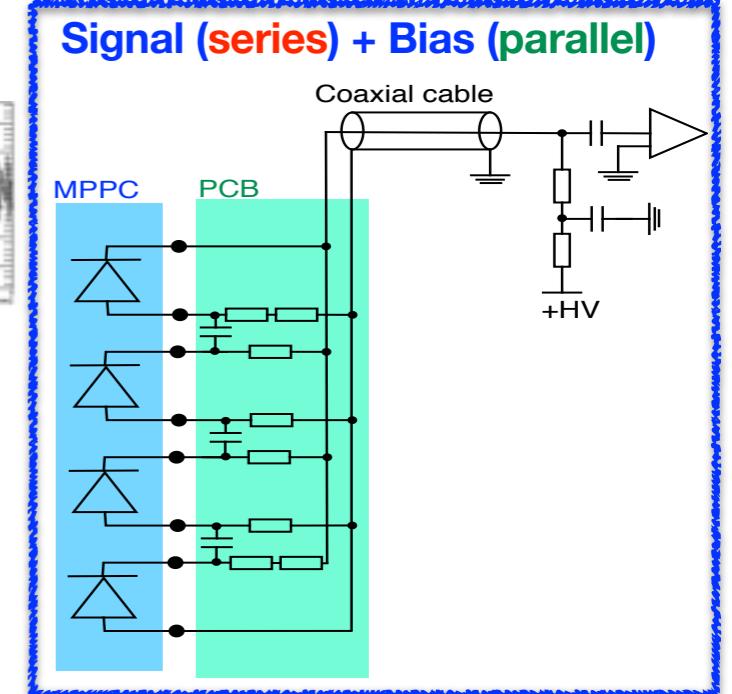
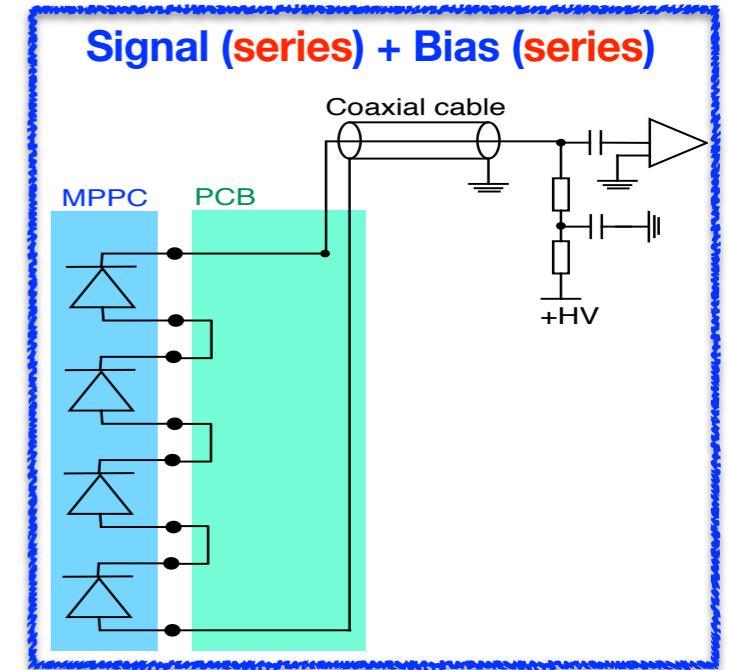
# Large Area Sensor

- SiPM sensor area is limited by dark noise and sensor capacitance.
- Cost per unit area is already comparable to PMT!
- Solutions for large area sensor
  - Array
    - Discrete or monolithic
    - Need individual channel readout
  - Series connection of multiple sensors
    - Working as a single sensor → Reduction of # of readout channel
    - Reduced sensor capacitance
    - Need operation at low temp to reduce dark noise

**Hamamatsu VUV-MPPC**  
(total area  $12 \times 12\text{mm}^2$ , four segments)



Series connection of SiPM segments



WO et al., NDIP2014

# MEG II Pixelated Scintillator Detector

- Timing counter for 52.8MeV positron from  $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$  decay in MEG II
- $\times 512$  fast scintillator plates, each of which is readout by multiple SiPMs connected in series
- Excellent timing resolution of 30-40ps demonstrated with prototype
- To be constructed in 2015

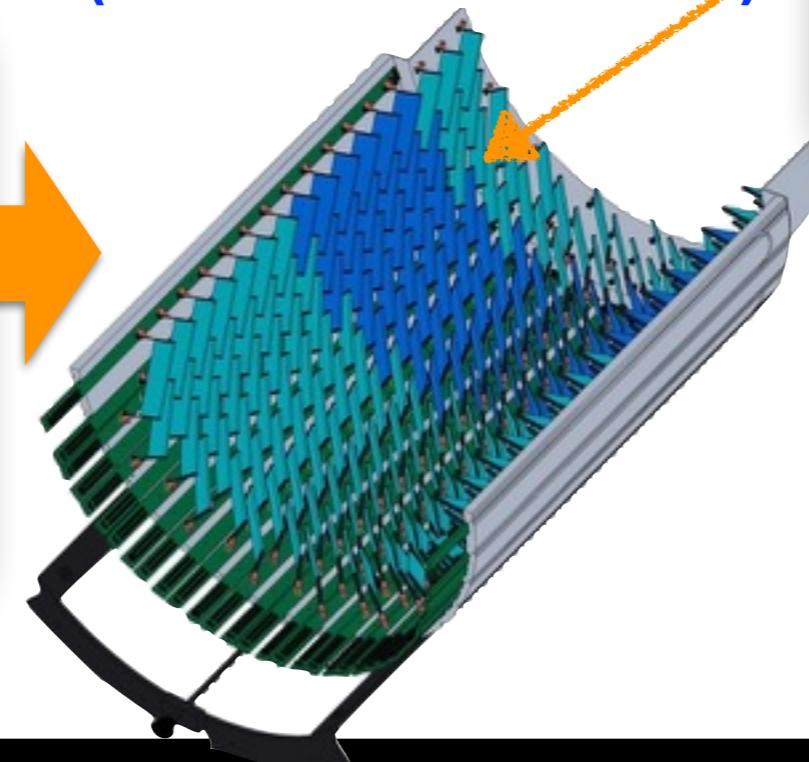
MEG II Proposal: arXiv:1301.7225  
WO, NIMA 732(2013)146  
M. De Gerone, WO et al. JINST9(2014)C02035  
P. W. Cattaneo, WO et al., IEEE-TNS 61(2014)2657

MEG timing counter



Plastic scintillator bar  
(40x40x900mm<sup>3</sup>) + PMT

MEG II timing counter  
( $\times 512$  counter modules)



6 SiPMs connected in series  
(AdvanSiD AMSASD-NUV3S-P50, 3x3mm<sup>2</sup>, 50μm)

V<sub>bd</sub> distribution for ~4000 SiPMs

