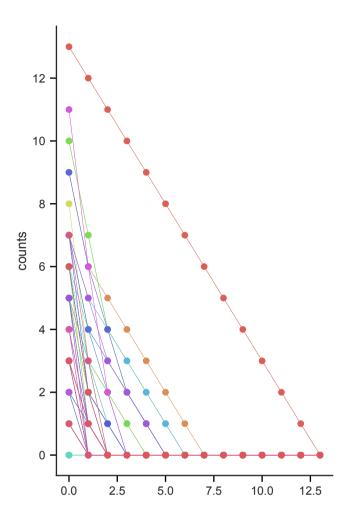length of sequence of consecutive pulses