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# Pulse shape discrimination between neutrons and gamma rays with digital electronics

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# 0.1. Introduction

## Goal

Digital n-gamma discrimination

Compare classical methods (digitalized)

Impact of ADC characteristics

Especially interested in low energy



# Outline

0. Introduction
1. Setup
2. Analysis
3. Results (so far)
4. Outlook (to do)
5. Summary



# 1.1. Setup

## Available equipment

NORDBALL BC501 detector

4ch 100 MHz 14 bit TNT2 FADC

BARTEK NDE202 PSD Unit

Cf-252 source



# 1.2. NORDBALL BC501 detector

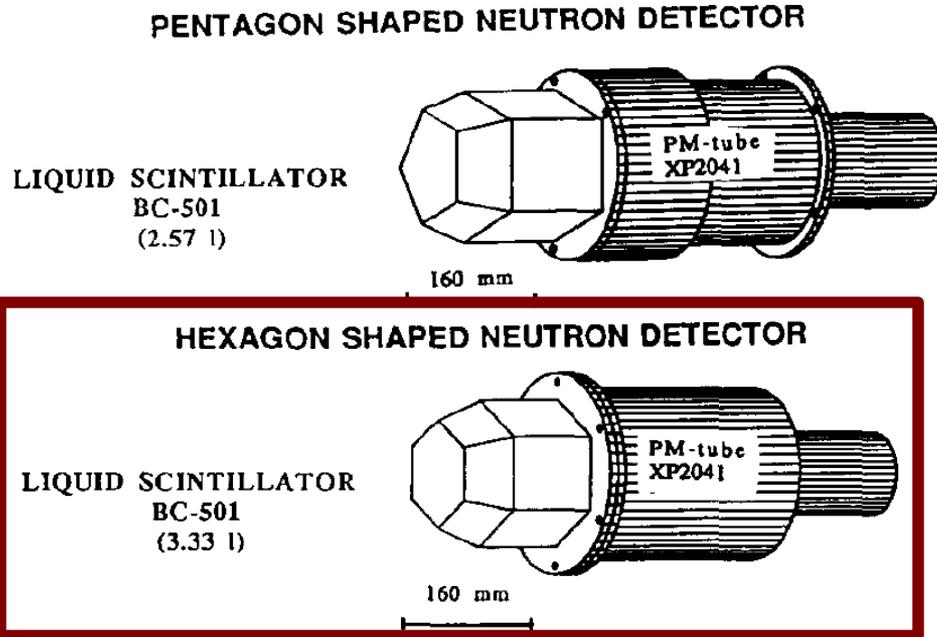


Fig. 1. Schematical drawings of the hexagon and pentagon shaped detectors.

Limited voltage of ADC

=>

Low HV: 1750 V  
(Optimal 2200 V)

Still narrow range,  
but mainly small  
pulses of interest



# 1.3. BARTEK NDE202 PSD Unit

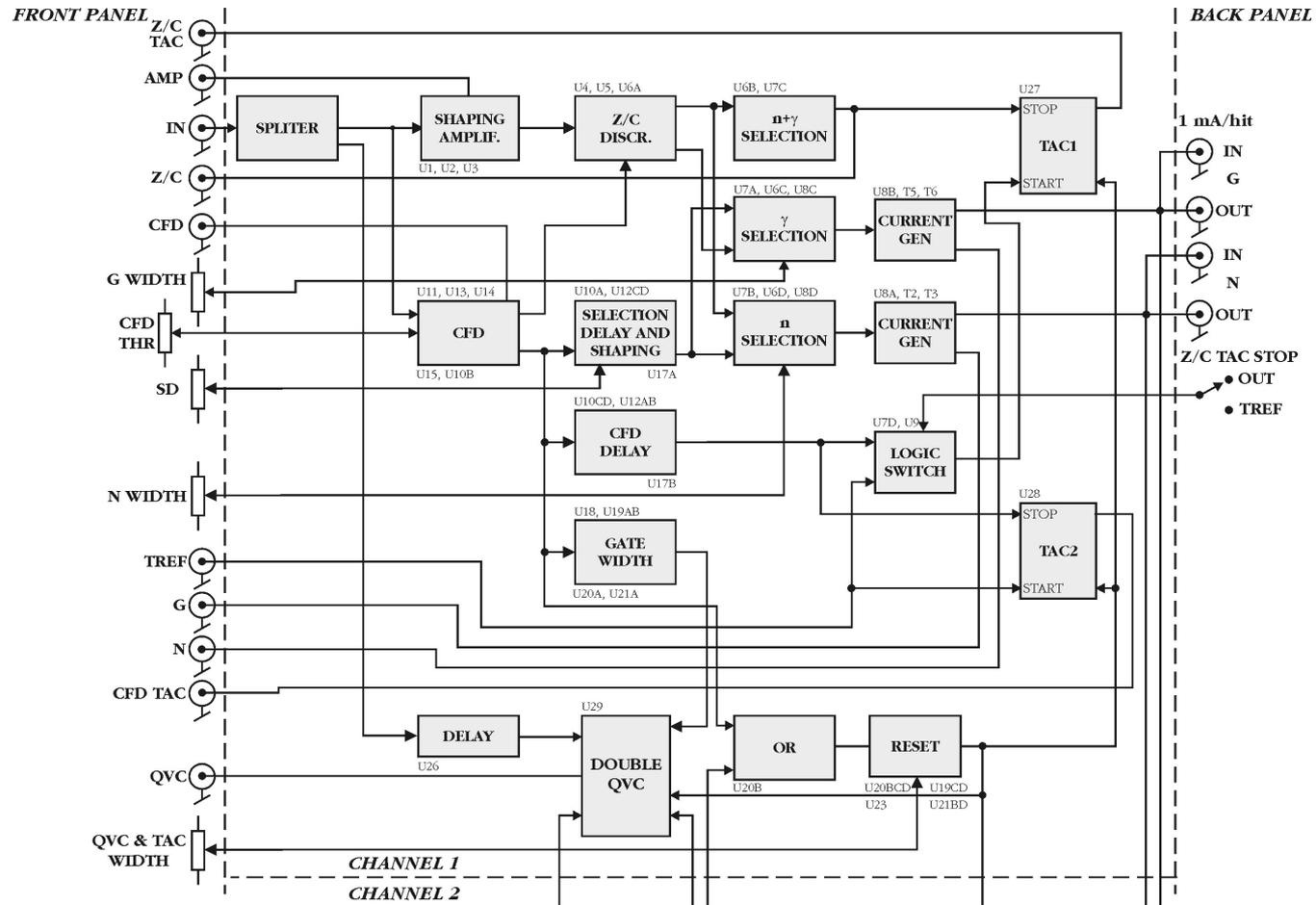
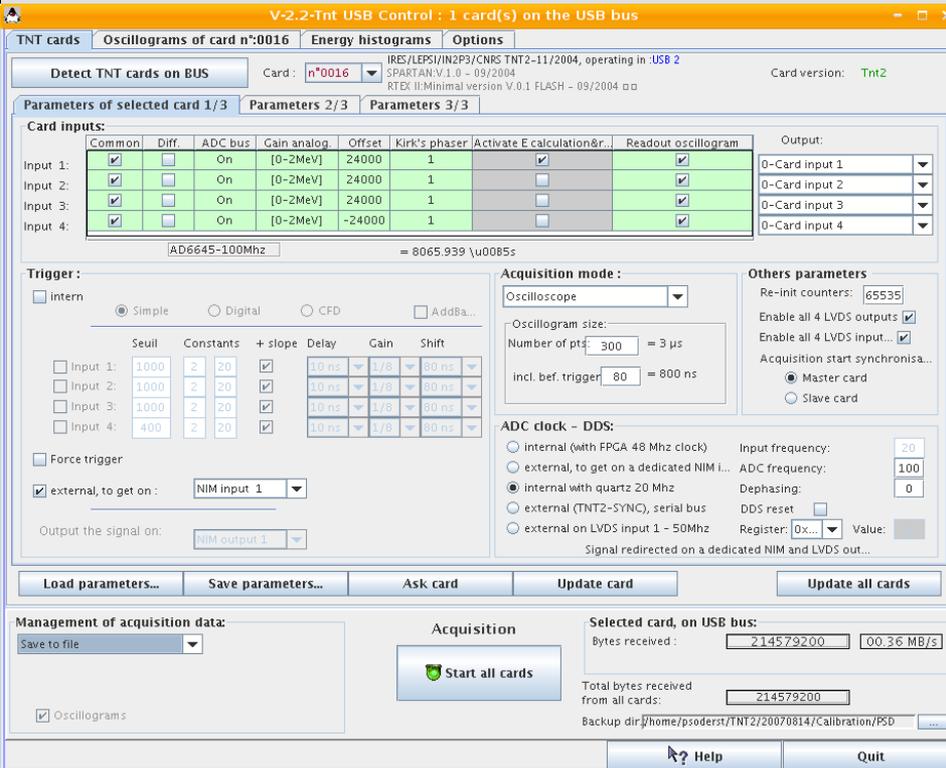


Fig. 1 Block scheme of one channel



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# 1.3. TNT2 FADC



CAEN

USB connection to PC

Java interface

40 MHz analogue  
bandwidth

+/- 0.62 V @ 50 ohm

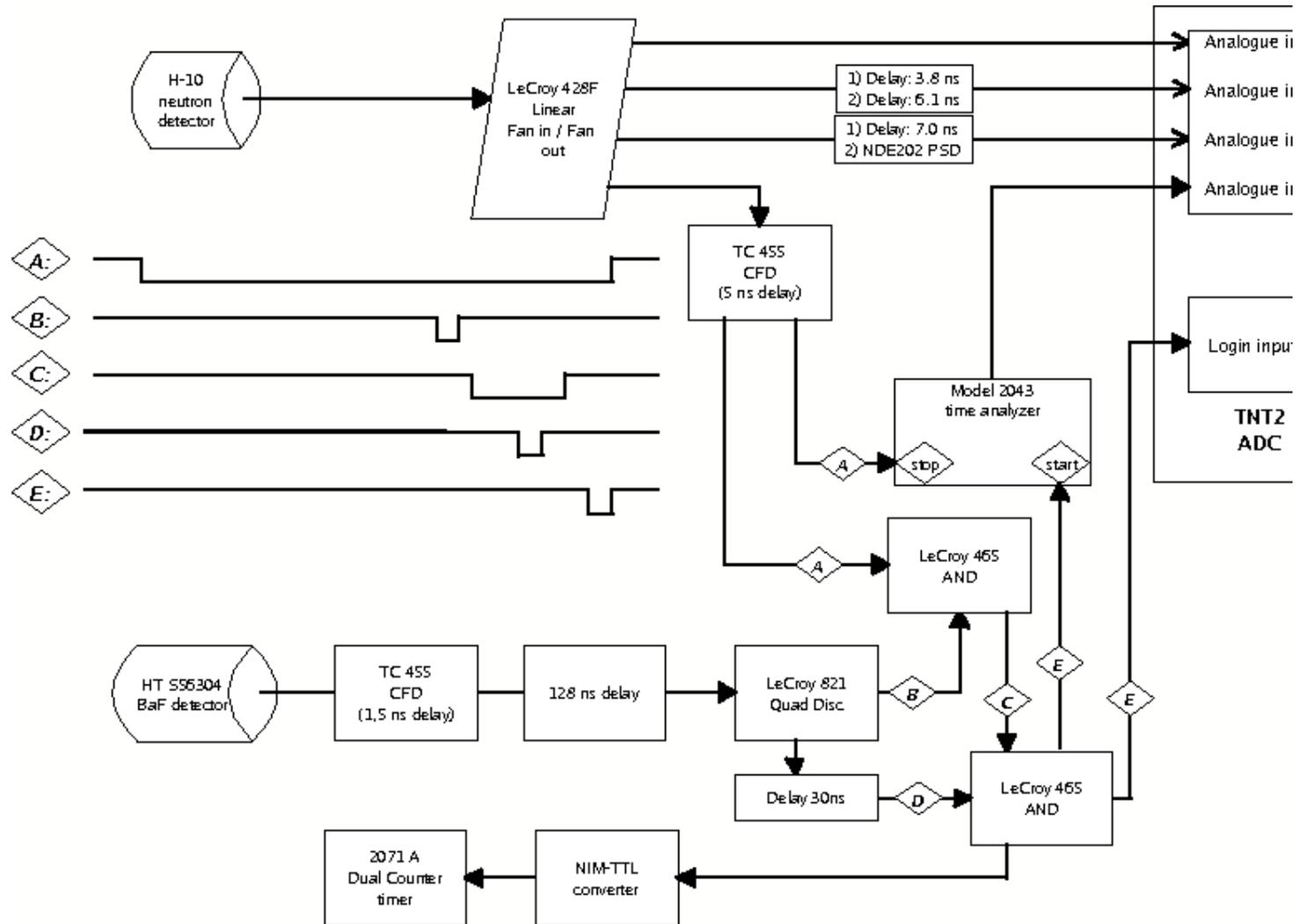
100 MHz & 14 bits

(In our experiment increased up to 300 MHz)



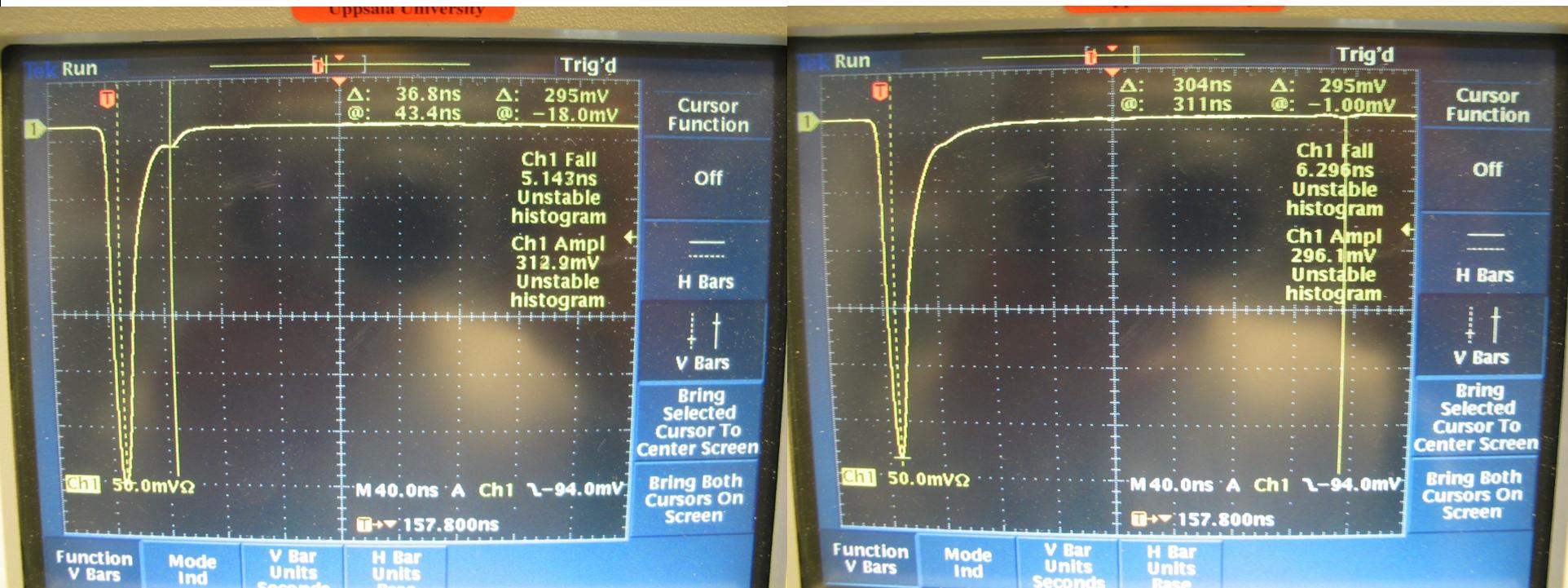


# 1.4. Electronics





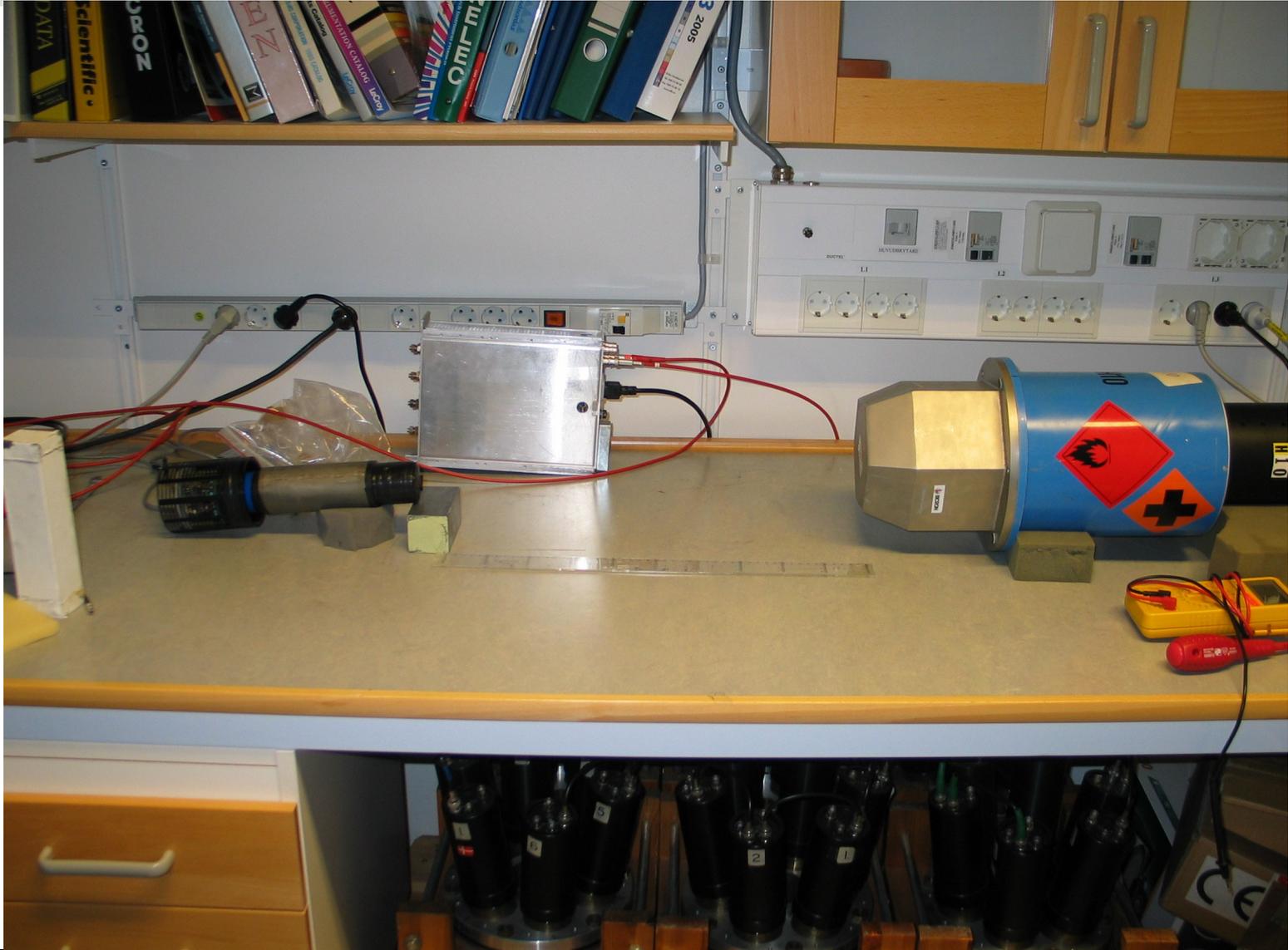
# 1.5. Reflections





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# 1.6. Setup





## 2.1. Analysis

1. Base line fit separately for the three channels
2. Gain and time matching
3. Combining the graphs

	Analog	Semi-Digital	Digital
Z/C	NDE202	Folding	Int. rise time
Charge comp.	-	Slow	GDM integral

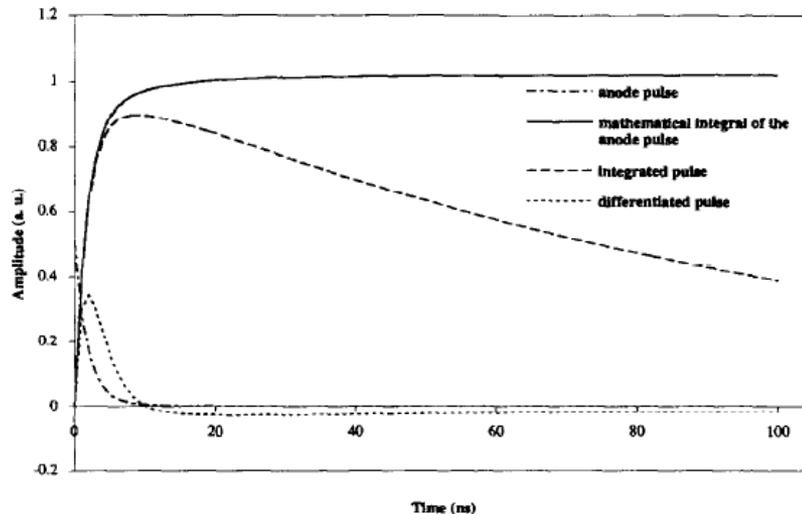


## 2.2. Folding

Digitally imitate the analogue Z/C  
discrimination method

Starts with leading edge on shaped pulse

$$f(t) = p(t) * h(t) = \sum p(\tau) h(t - \tau)$$



$$h(t) = h_s(t) * h_i(t) * h_d(t)$$

$$h_i(t) = \exp(-t/\tau_i)$$

G. Ranucci, Nucl. Instr. and Meth. A  
354 (1995) 389.

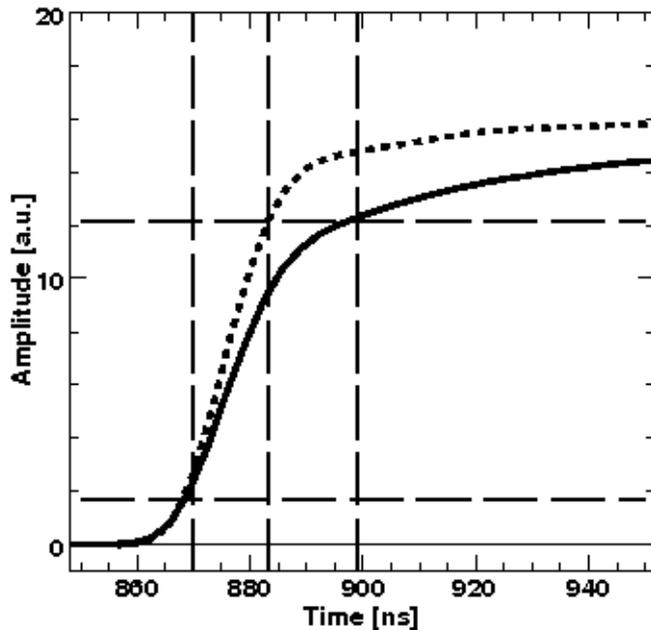
Fig. 9. The waveforms in the figure explain the principle of the zero crossing method, representing the scintillation pulse, its mathematical integral, the output after the RC integration and the result after the CR differentiator.



## 2.3. Integrated rise time

Digitally integrate the pulse and take the rise time

Start on 10 % of max



In this case the optimal is found to be about

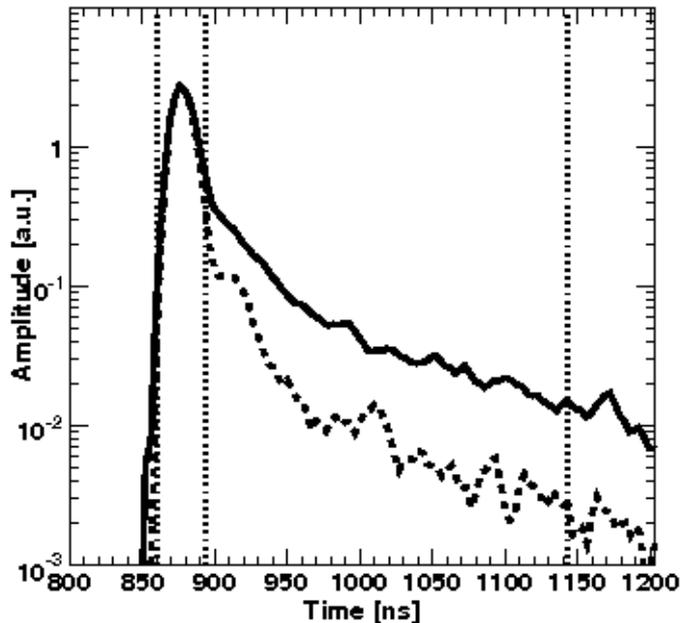
10 % - 72 %.



## 2.4. Slow component

Locate the start of the slow decay component, and compare integrals

Starts by leading edge



In this case:

Fast = 0 - 33 ns

Slow = 33 - 283 ns



## 2.5. Gatti and De Martini integral

Starts by leading edge

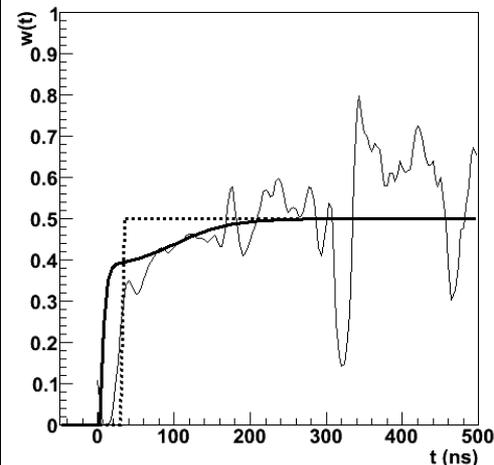
Integrate the entire pulse with a  
suitable weight

$$S = \int_0^T p(t) w(t) dt$$

The optimal weight can be shown to be

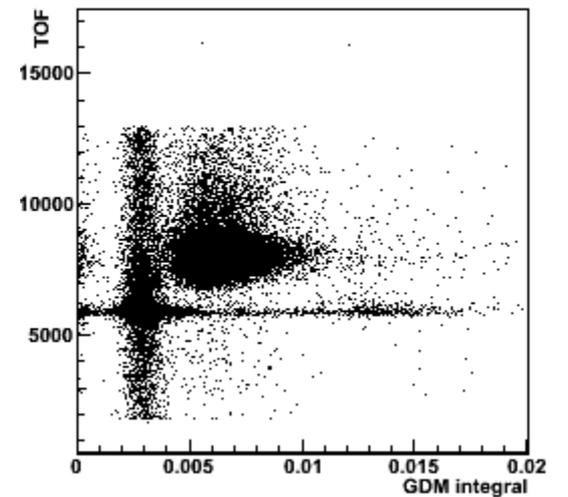
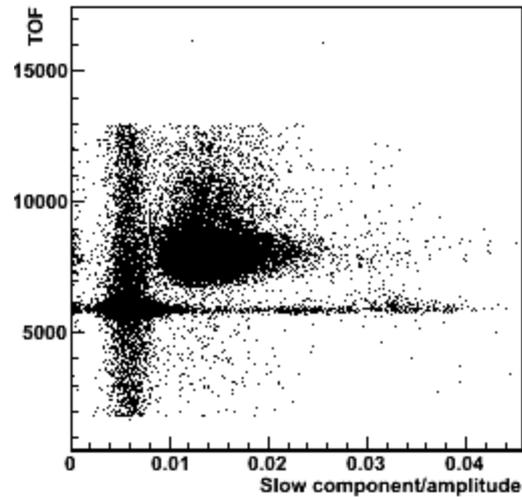
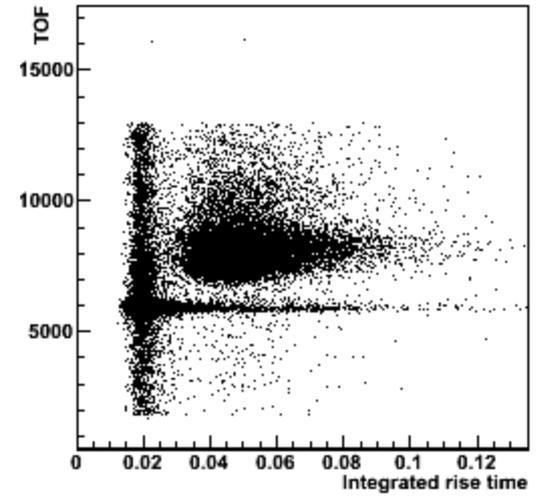
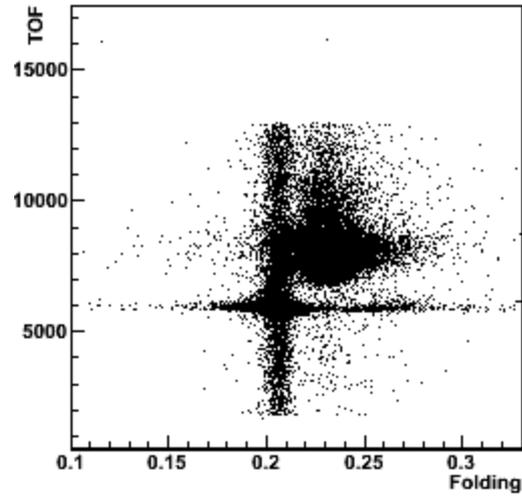
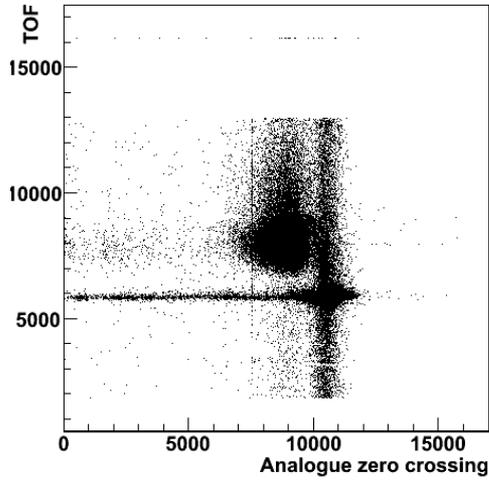
$$w(t) = (n(t) - \gamma(t)) / (n(t) + \gamma(t))$$

E. Gatti, F. de Martini, in: Nuclear Electronics, Proceedings of International Conference at Belgrade, Vol. II, IAEA, Vienna, 1962, p. 265.





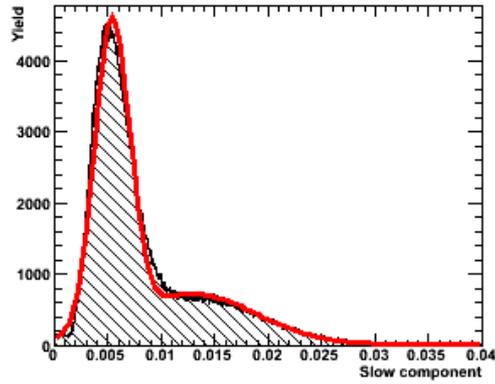
# 3.1. Results





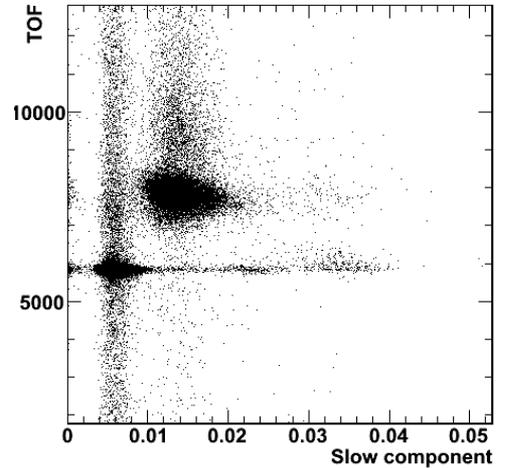
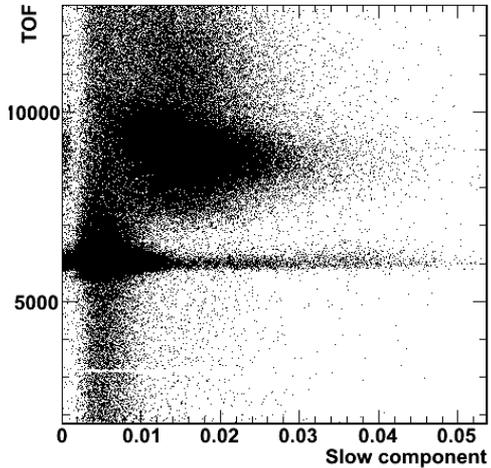
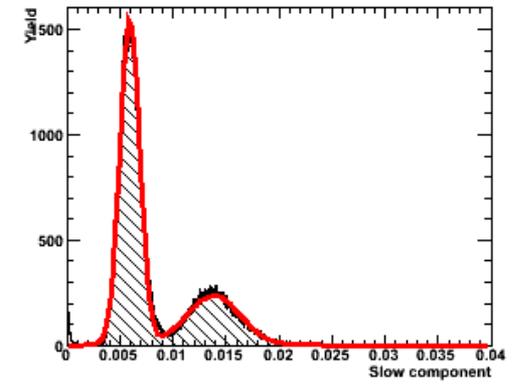
# 3.2. Figure of Merit

FOM = 0.4



$$FOM = \frac{|X_y - X_n|}{(W_y + W_n)}$$

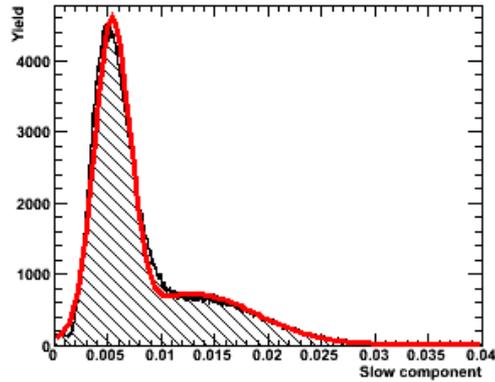
FOM = 1.0





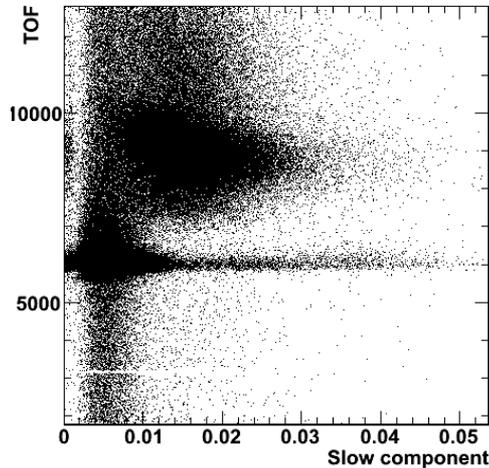
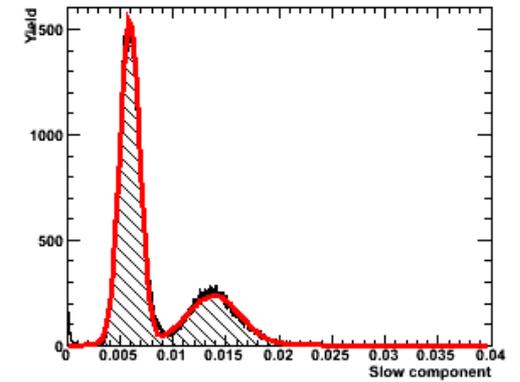
# 3.2. Figure of Merit

FOM = 0.4



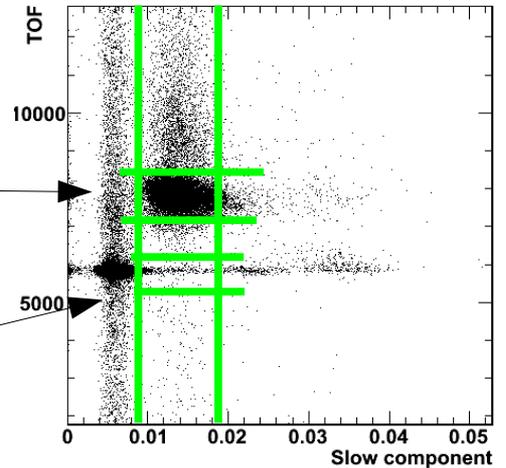
$$FOM = \frac{|X_y - X_n|}{(W_y + W_n)}$$

FOM = 1.0



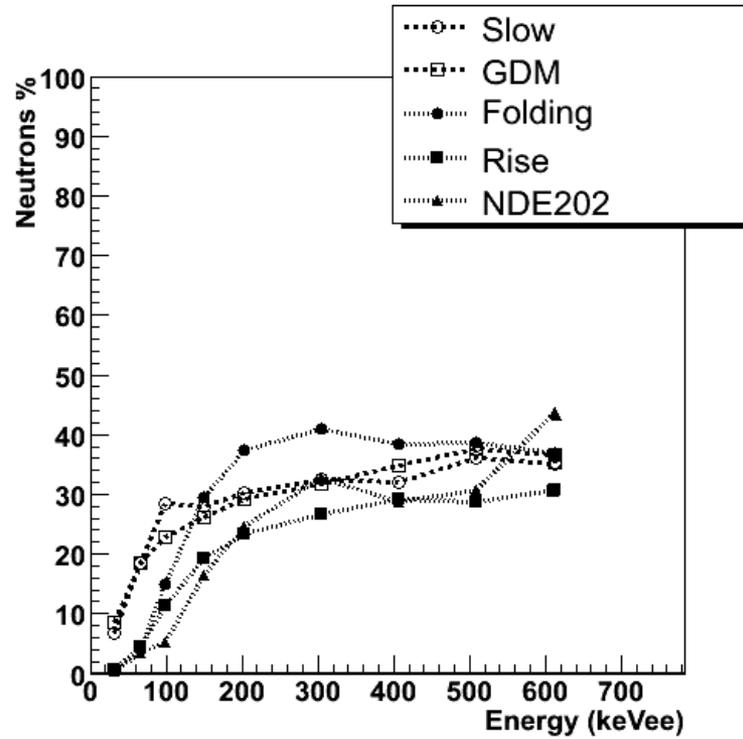
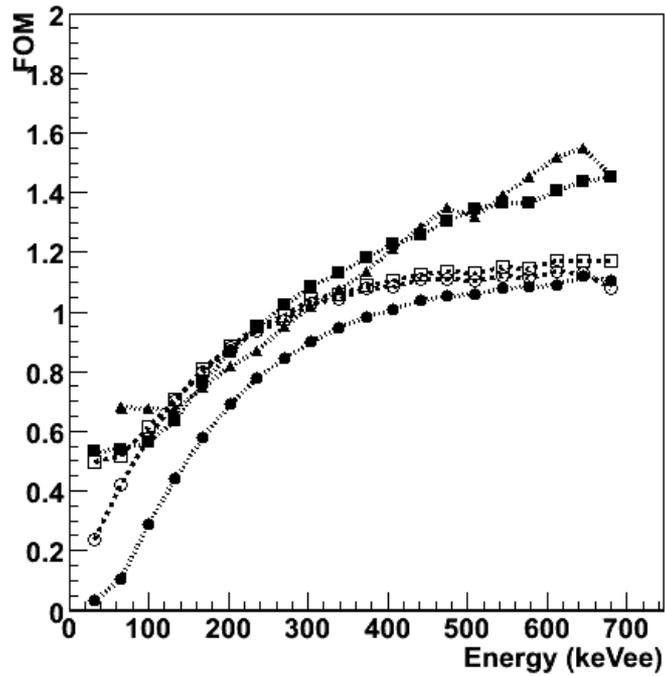
n %

0.1 %



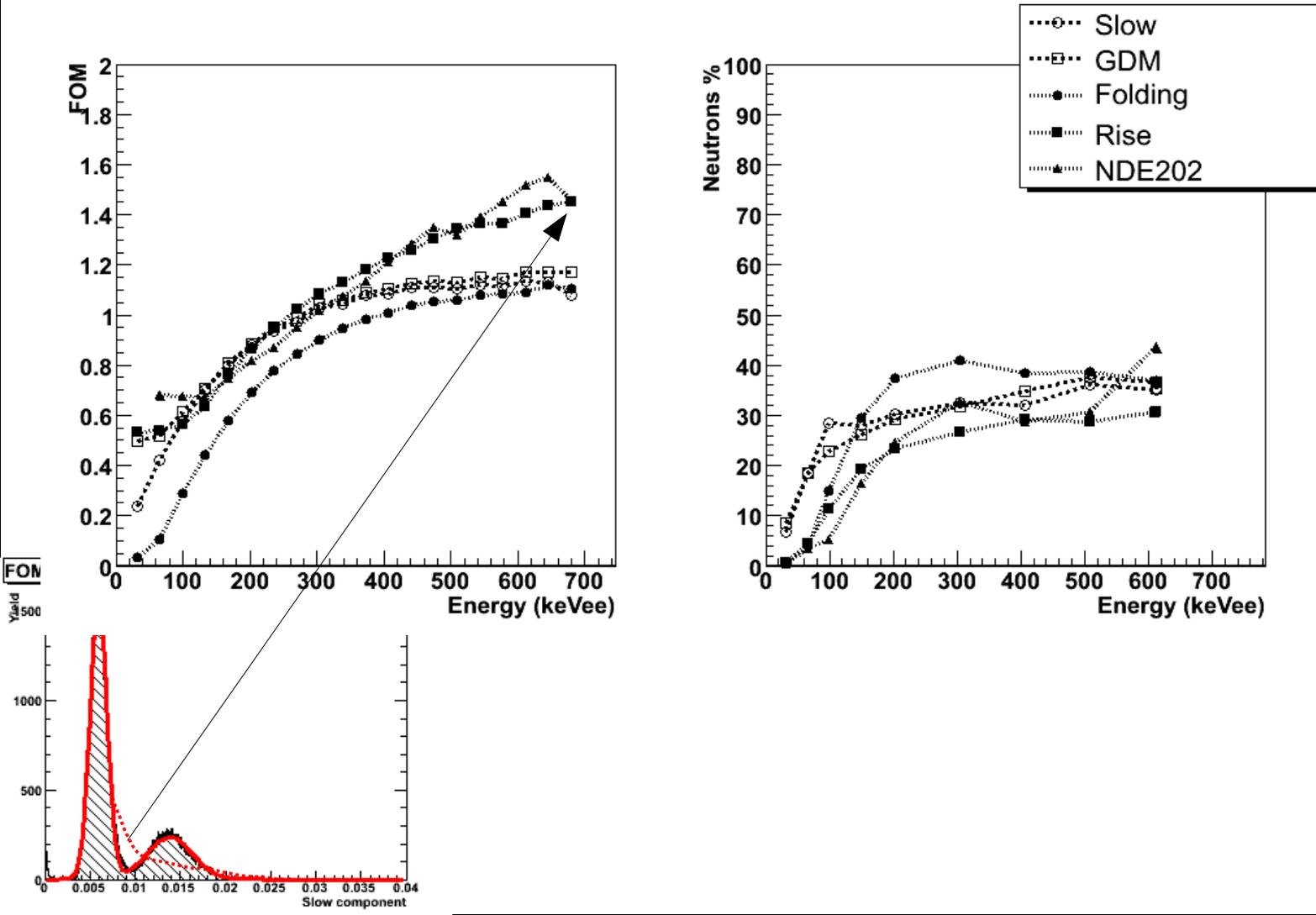


# 3.3. Different methods





# 3.3. Different methods





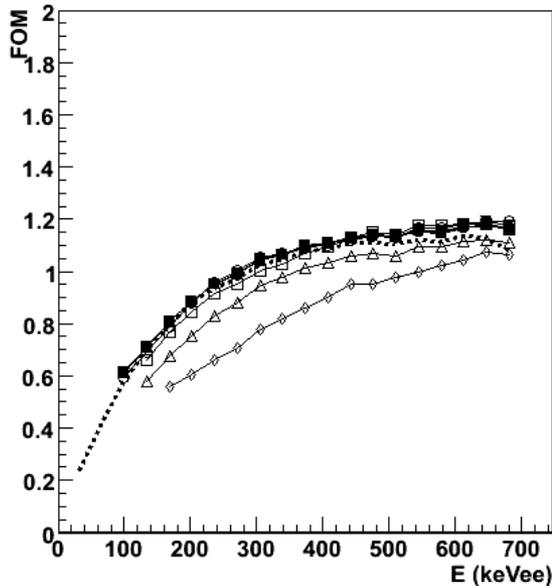
## 3.4. Reducing bits and frequencies

- Reducing number of bits 14 -> ... -> 5
  - Integer division on the datasets
- Reducing frequencies 300 -> ... -> 75
  - Keeping every other, third, forth, point in the dataset

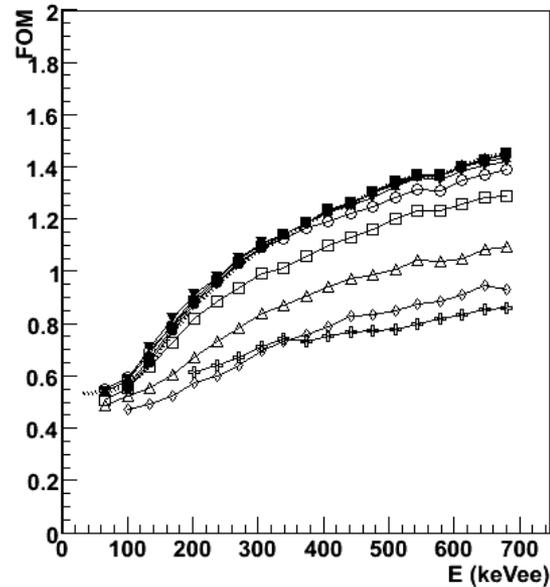


# 3.5. Reducing the bits

GDM less sensitive to reduction in bits  
9 bits enough for the range up to 700 keV



GDM



Rise

- 14 bits
- 13 bits
- 12 bits
- ▲ 11 bits
- ▼ 10 bits
- ⊖ 09 bits
- ⊞ 08 bits
- △ 07 bits
- ◇ 06 bits
- ⊕ 05 bits



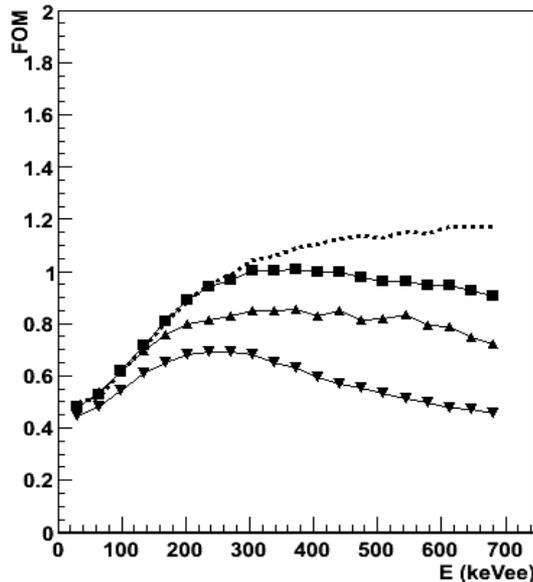
## 3.6. Reducing the bits

	keV	
Bits	Electron E	Proton E
9	700	1650
10	1400	3200
11	2800	6600
12	5600	13200
13	11200	26200
14	22400	52500

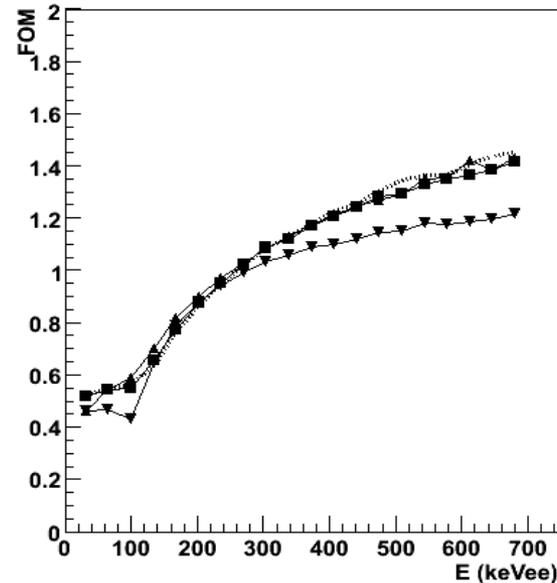


# 3.7. Reducing the frequencies

Rise less sensitive to reduction in frequencies  
GDM not converged?



GDM



Rise

- .... 300 MHz
- 150 MHz
- ▲ 100 MHz
- ▼ 75 MHz



## 4.1. Outlook

GDM not converged for frequency reduction

Increase the frequencies somehow.

Simulations? (Probably possible/needed only  
for Charge Comparison)



## 5.1. Summary

- Methods for PSD in BC501 scintillator
  - 2 x Charge comparison
  - 3 x Zero Cross Over
- Impact of ACD properties on PSD
  - 5-14 bits
  - 75-300 MHz



## 5.1. Conclusions

- Quite low sampling frequencies can be tolerated if integrated rise time is used
  - Still an open question at which frequency and to what value the GDM converges.  
Simulations?
- Down to 9 bits can be used for a range of up to 700 (~1700) keV electron (proton) energy. 13 bits for up to 10 (~23) MeV. GDM is less sensitive .