

Performance Evaluation of the Timing Resolution of an AC-LGADs Bonded to a Si-Ge BJT ASICs

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Carlo Fenoglio^C, Mateus Vicente Barreto Pinto^C

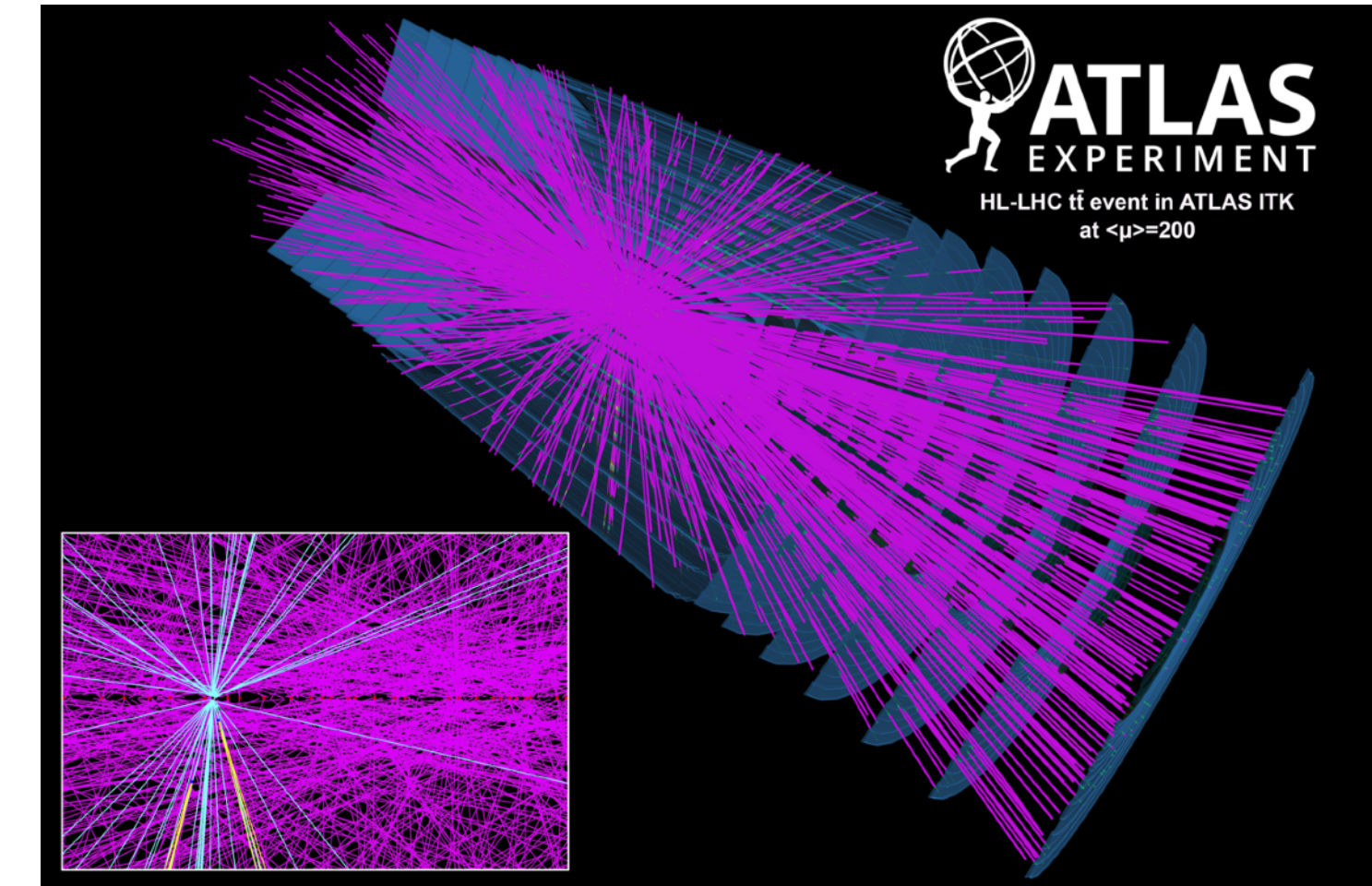
University of Tsukuba^A, KEK^B, University of Geneva^C
August 26th, 2025 VERTEX 2025



Motivation

Future Collider Experiment

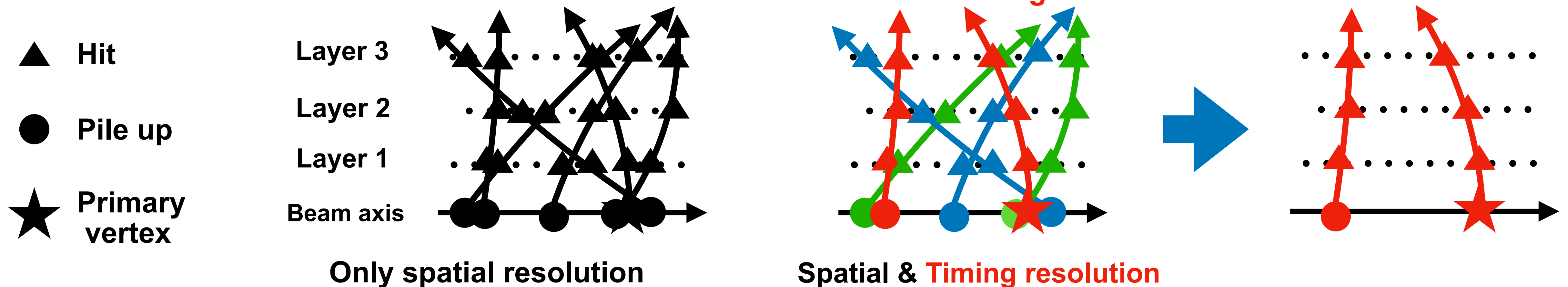
- The number of particles impacting per bunch crossing will increase due to the high luminosity collider experiment.
- **4D tracking** by detectors with both spatial and timing resolution will provide reliable track reconstruction.



↑ HL-LHC pile up simulation
[\[1\] Exploring the scientific potential of the ATLAS experiment at the High-Luminosity LHC](#)

Requirement for timing tracker at HL-LHC

- **~30 ps** timing resolution & **O(10 μm)** spatial resolution.

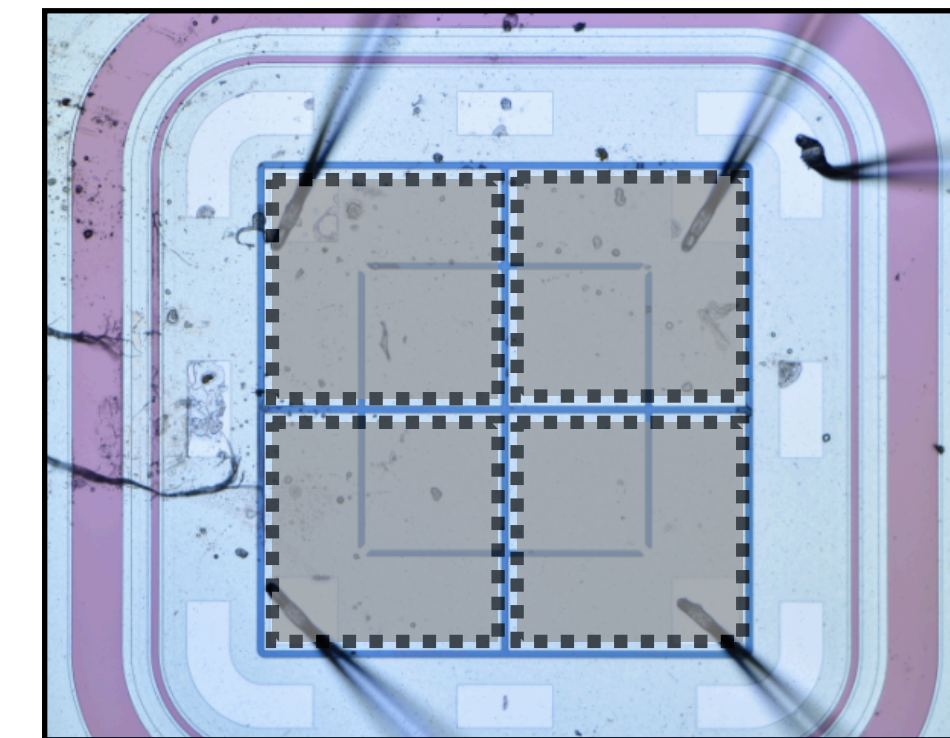


LGAD (Low-Gain Avalanche Diode)

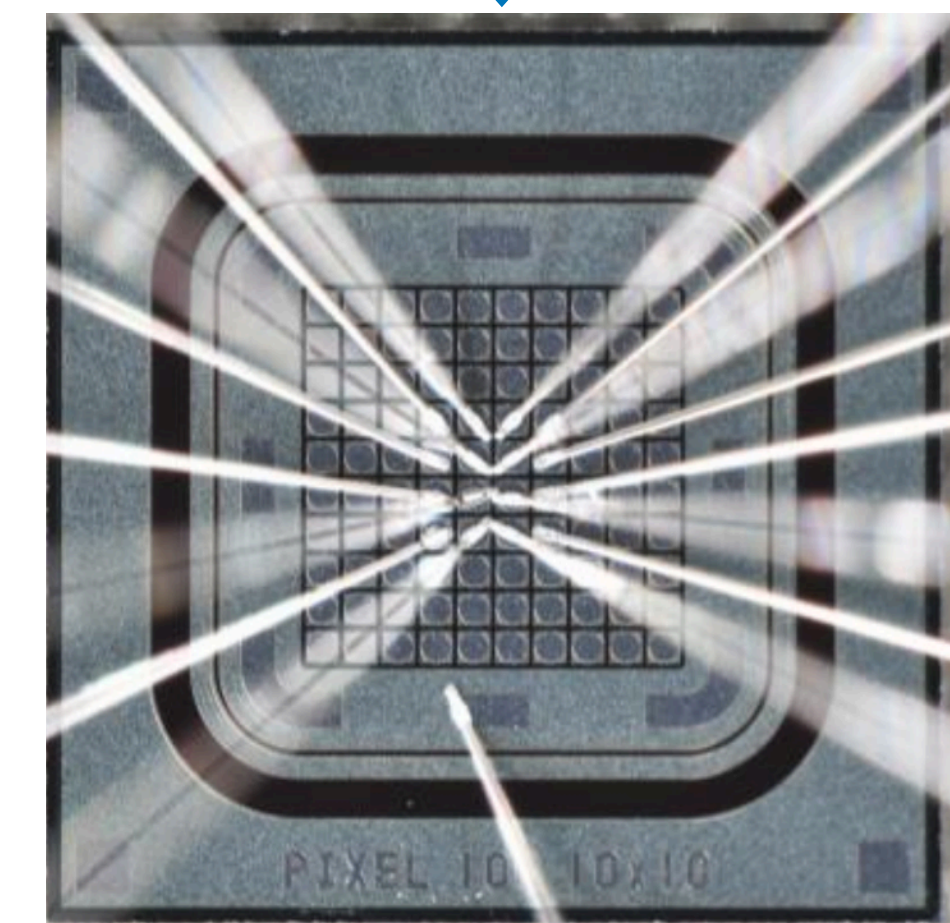
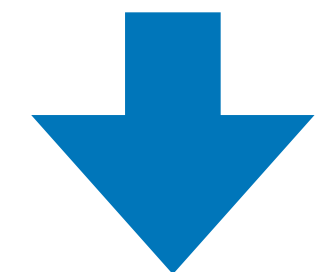
- High electric field are created by implanting the p^+ layer (gain layer) and can cause avalanche multiplication.

AC-LGADpix

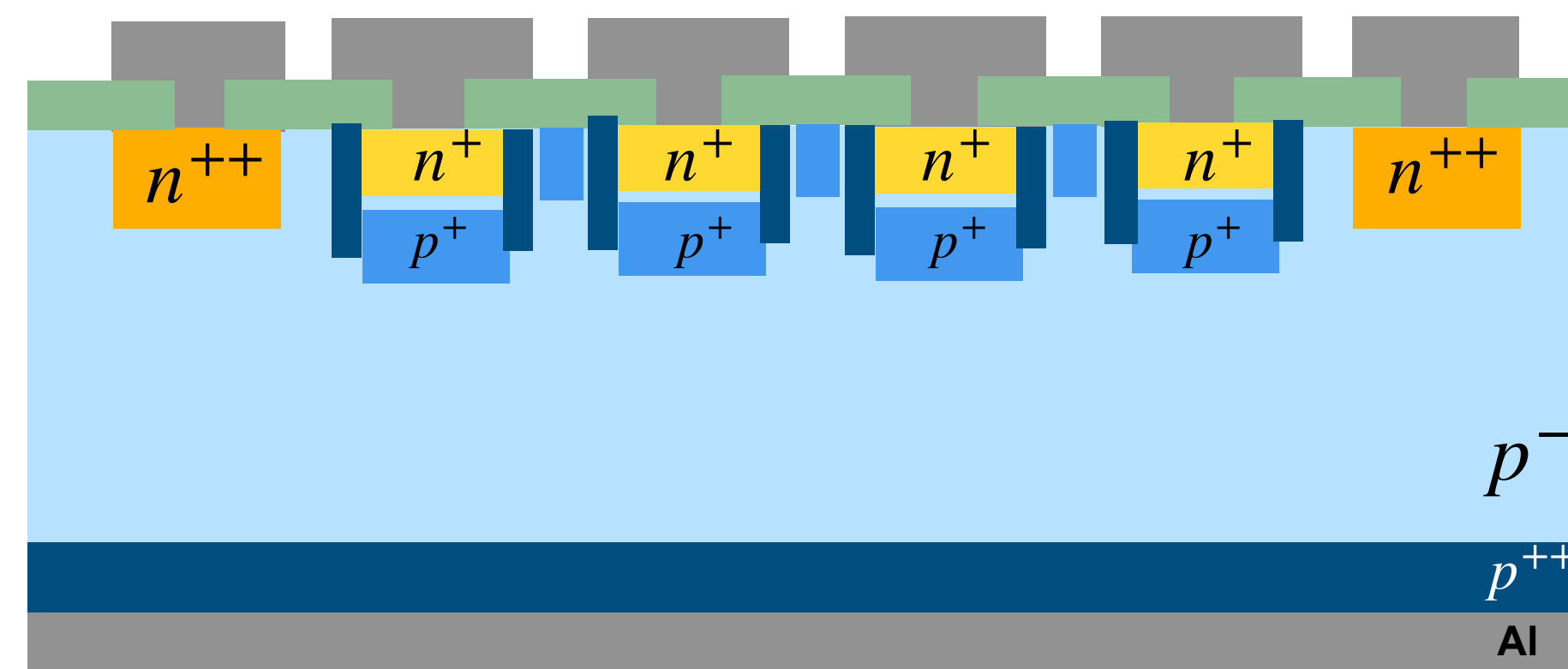
- AC-LGAD is AC coupled LGAD by an oxide layer.
- **AC-LGADpix** developed with (HPK) Hamamatsu Photonics K.K. have a excellent timing resolution as well as a **$100\mu\text{m} \times 100\mu\text{m}$ pitch** pixelated electrodes.
- AC-LGADpix have **no dead region** by uniformly installing the gain layer.



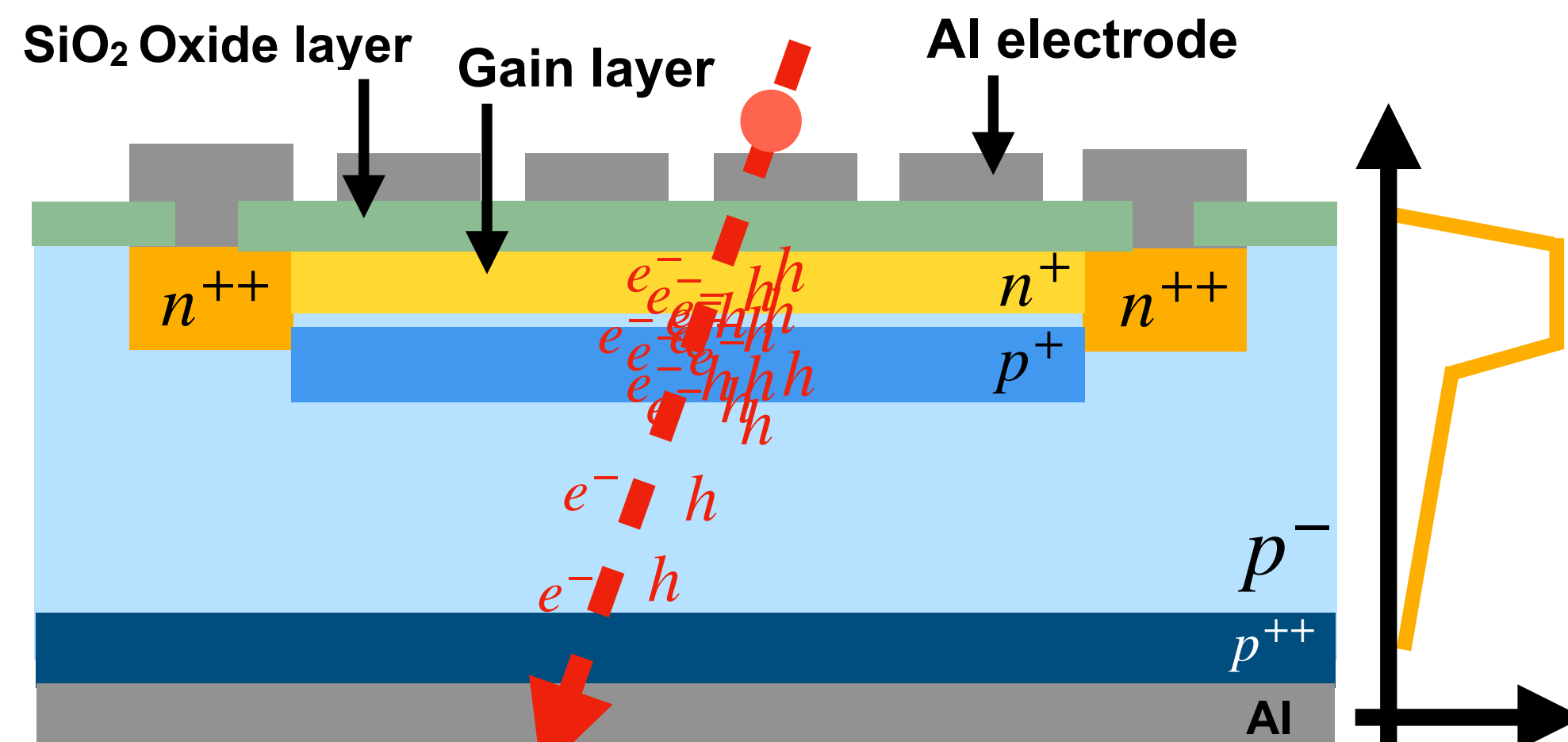
↑ 500 μm pitch AC-LGAD



↑ pixel 100 μm pitch AC-LGADpix



↑ Structure of Normal-LGAD



↑ Structure of AC-LGAD

Electric field

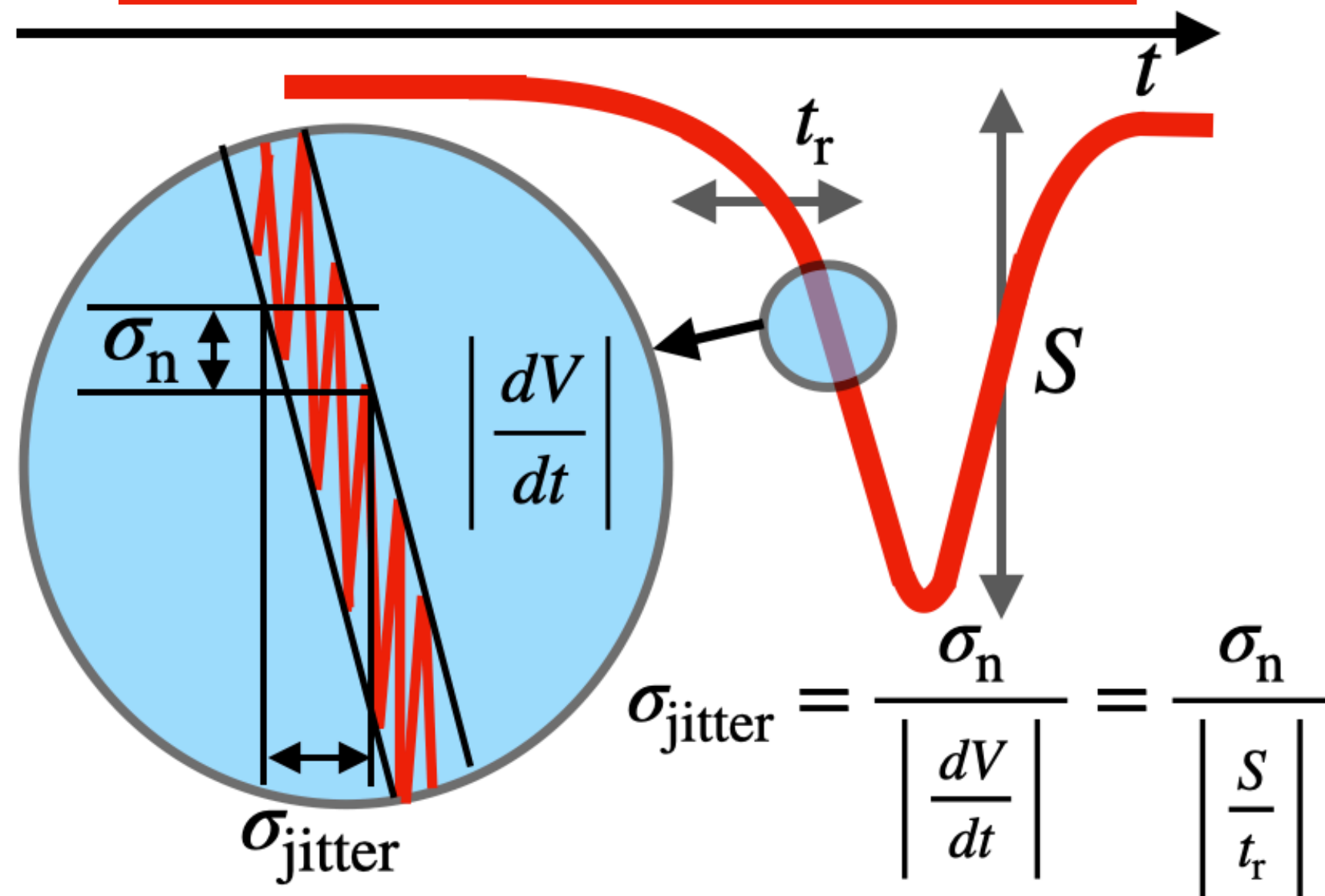
Timing resolution of AC-LGAD

Timing resolution of AC-LGADs is affected by 3 factors: jitter, time walk and charge collection noise.

$$\sigma_t^2 = \sigma_j^2 + \sigma_{tw}^2 + \sigma_{CCN}^2$$

Jitter σ_{jitter}

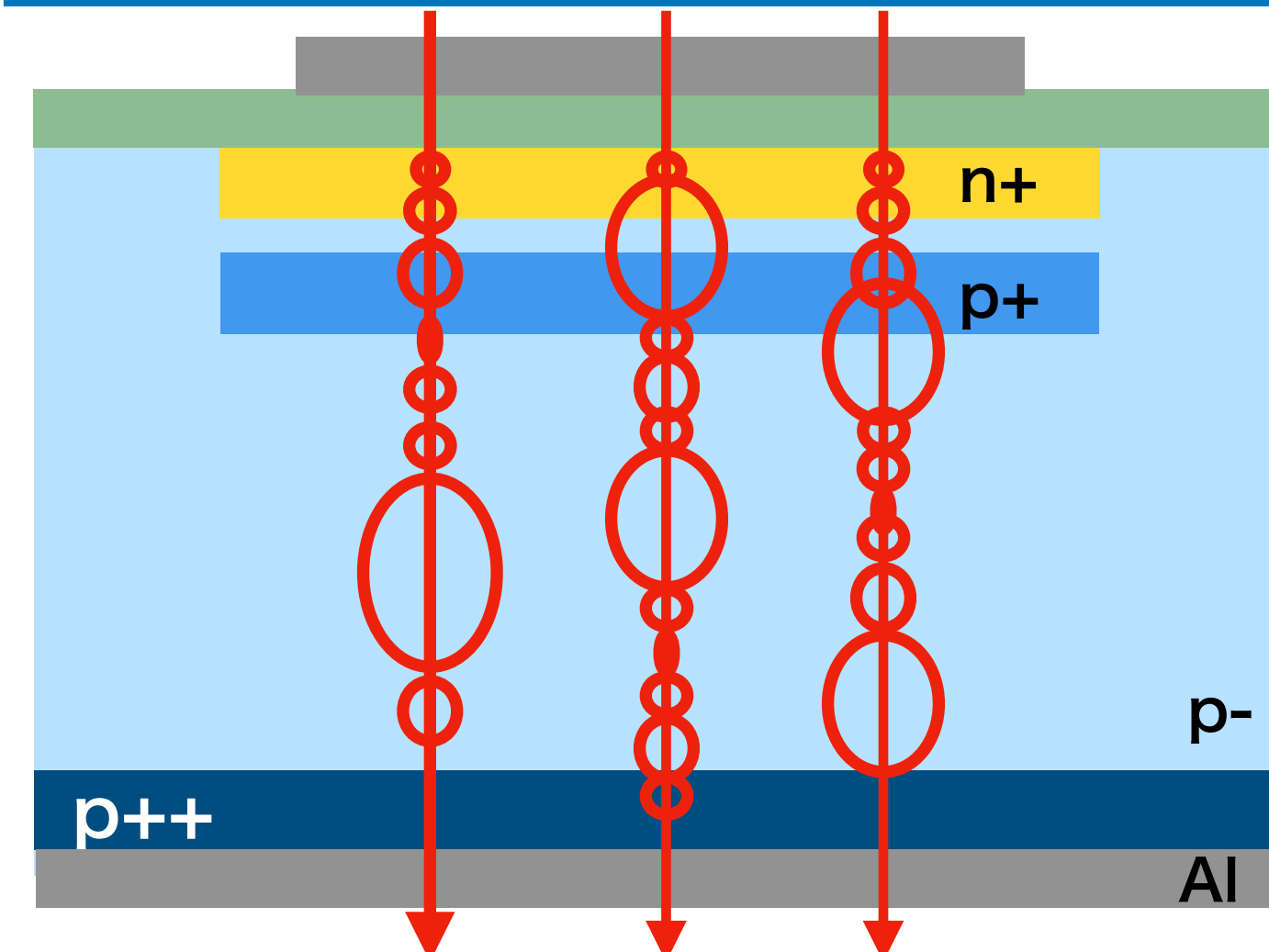
Jitter refers to time fluctuations caused by electronic noise.



Charge Collection Noise

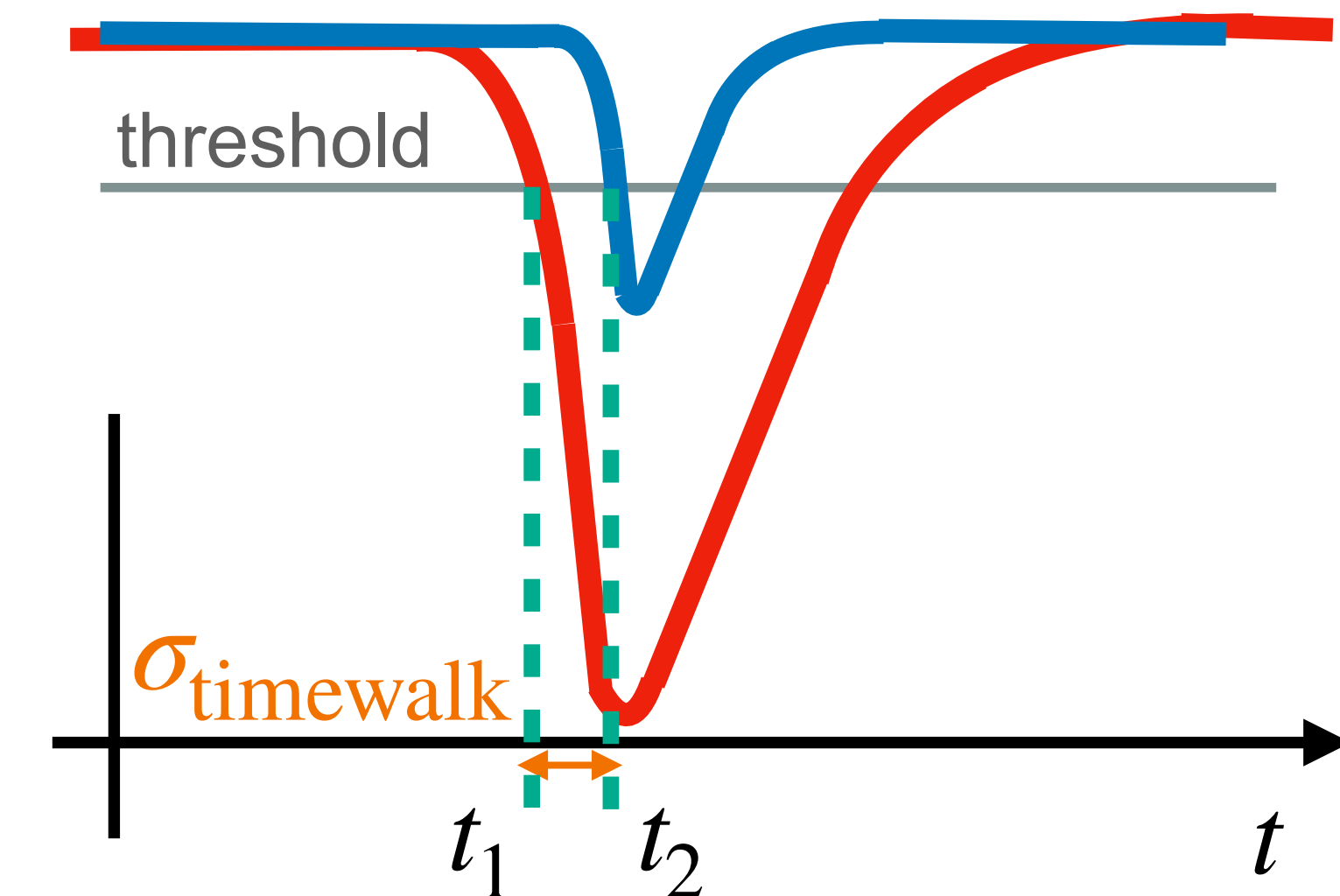
$\sigma_{\text{charge-collection}}$

CCN refers to time fluctuations caused by Non-uniformity energy deposit.



Timewalk σ_{timewalk}

Timewalk refers to time fluctuations caused by difference of pulse height.



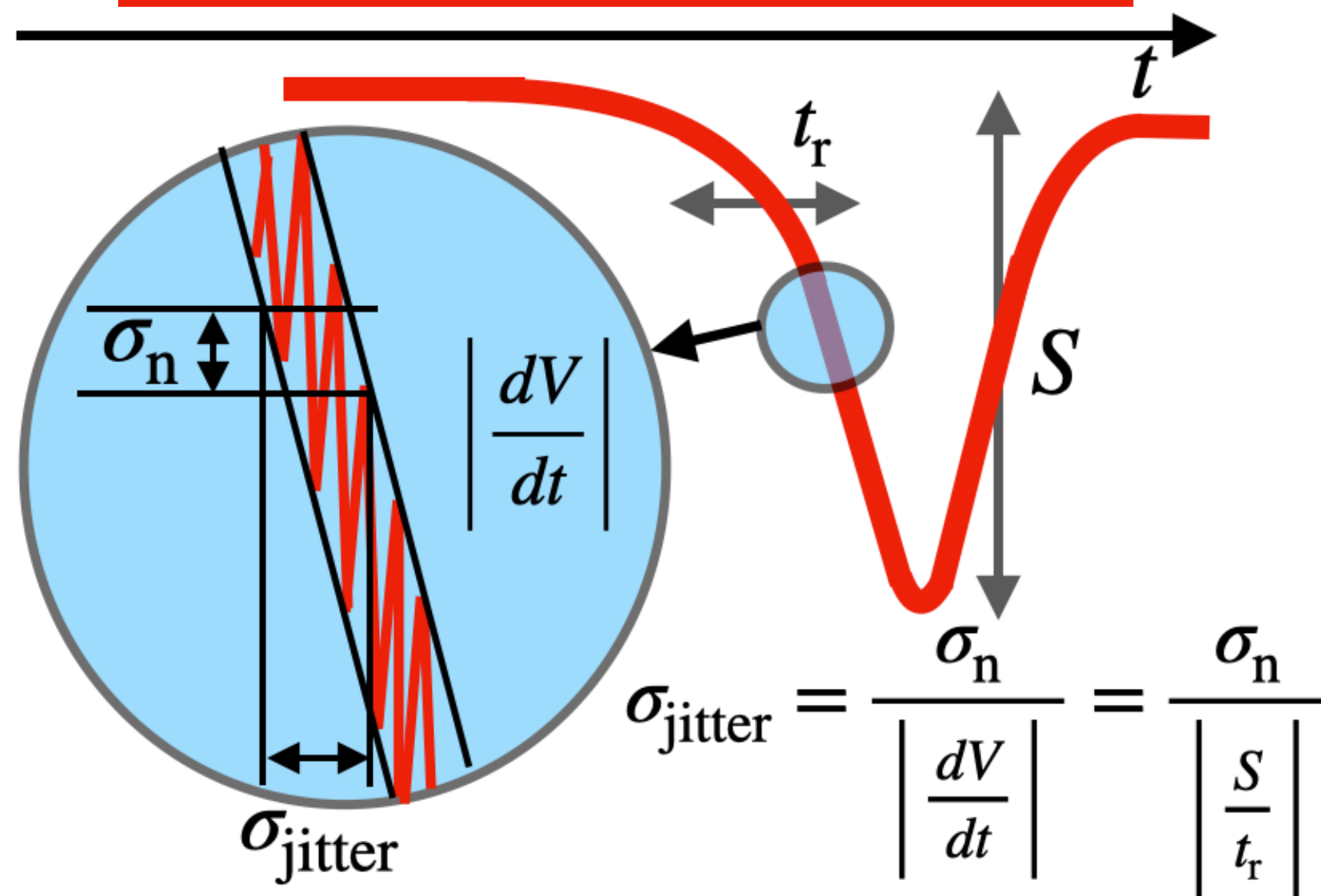
Timing resolution of AC-LGAD

Timing resolution of AC-LGADs is affected by 3 factors: jitter, time walk and charge collection noise.

$$\sigma_t^2 = \sigma_j^2 + \sigma_{tw}^2 + \sigma_{CCN}^2$$

Jitter σ_{jitter}

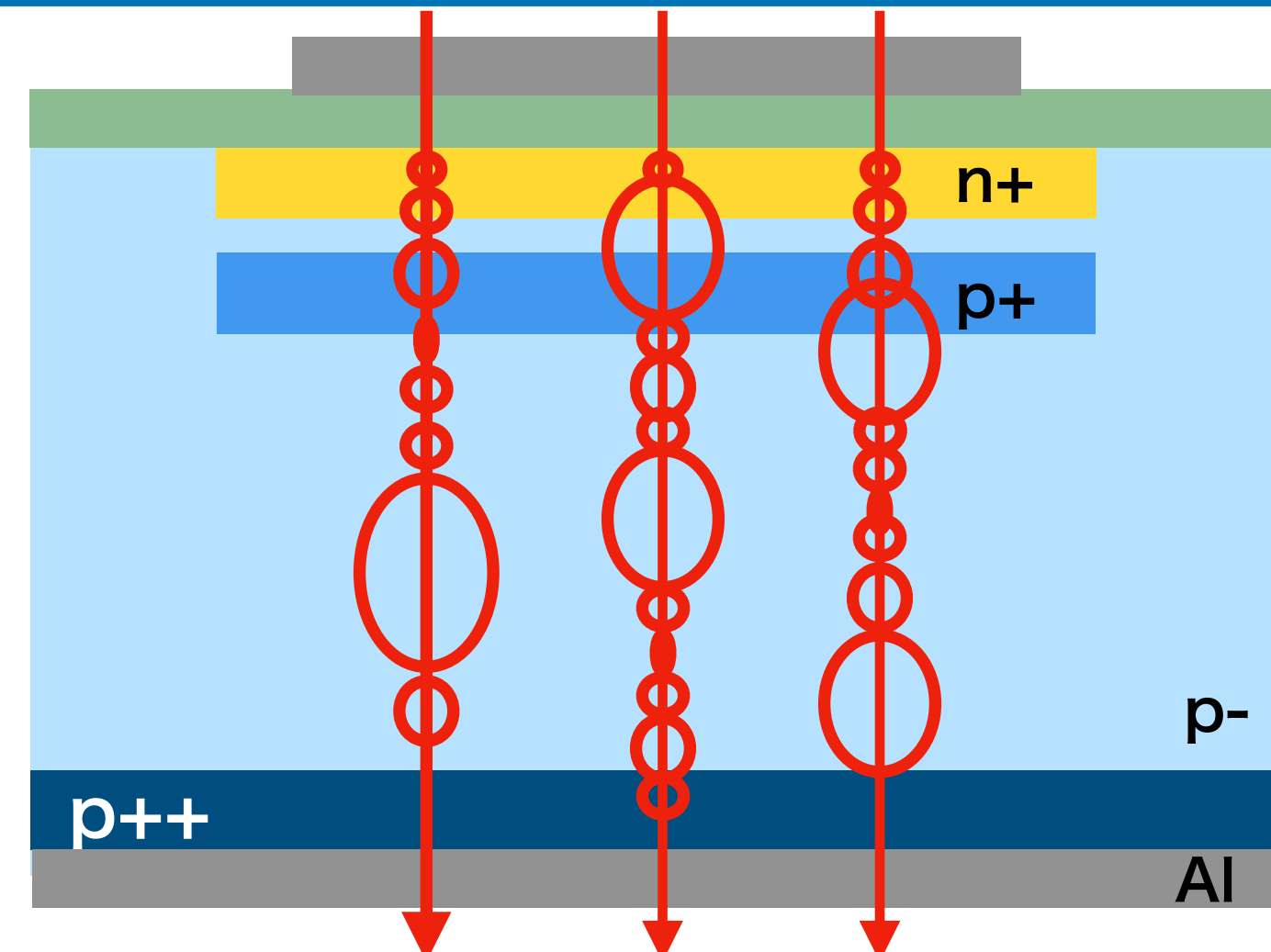
Jitter refers to time fluctuations caused by electronic noise.



Charge Collection Noise

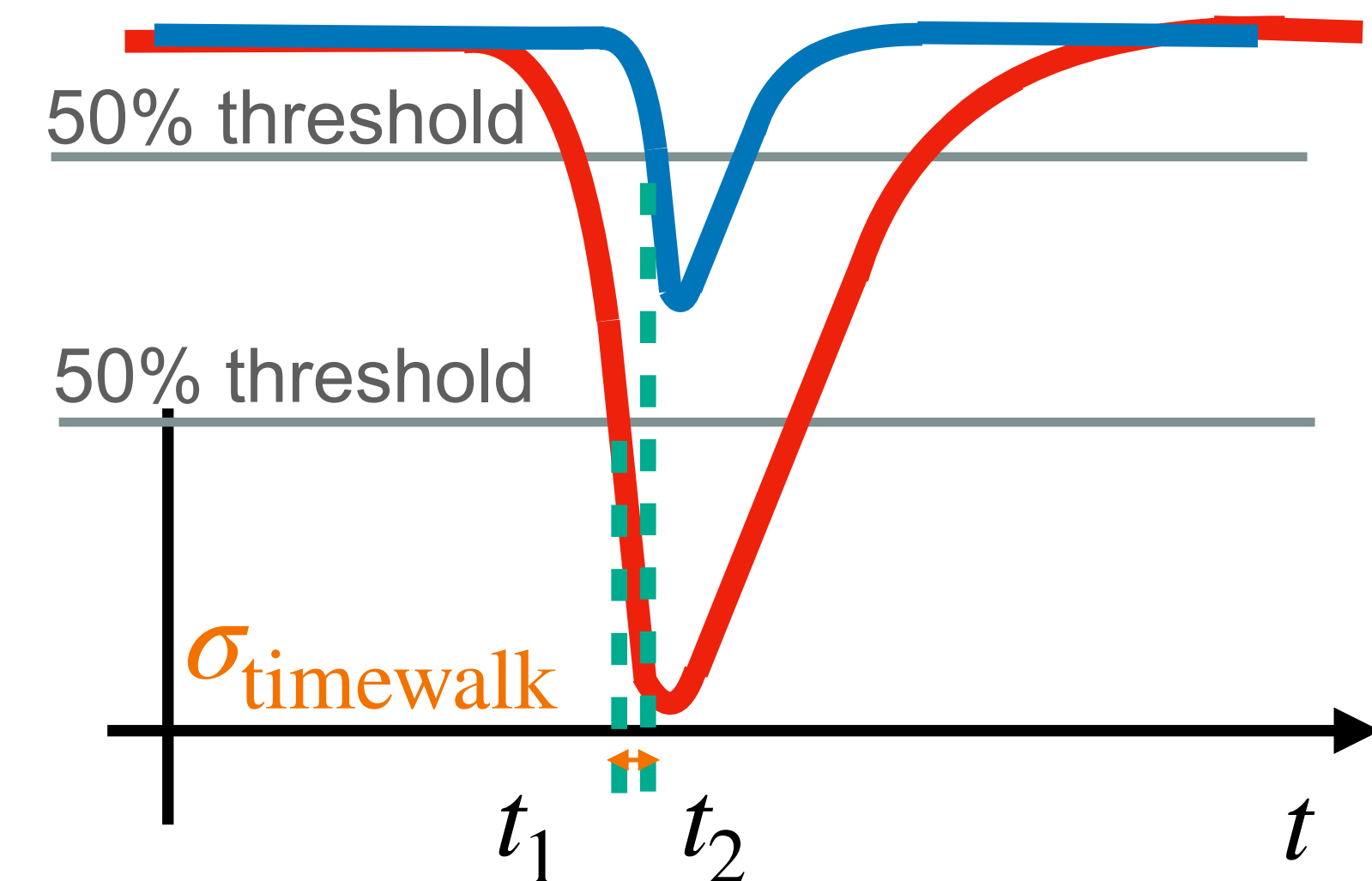
$\sigma_{\text{charge-collection}}$

CCN refers to time fluctuations caused by Non-uniformity energy deposit.

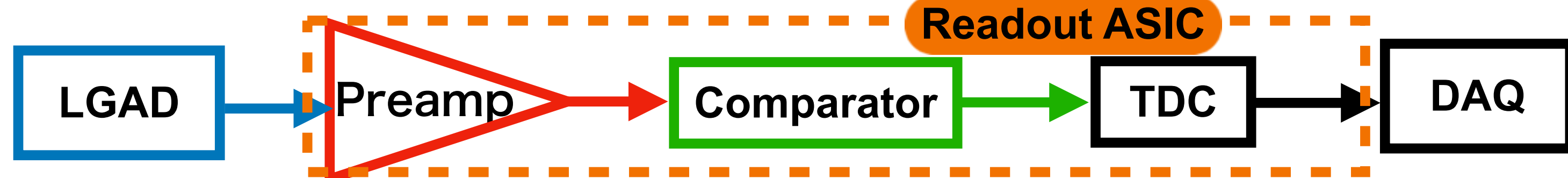


Timewalk σ_{timewalk}

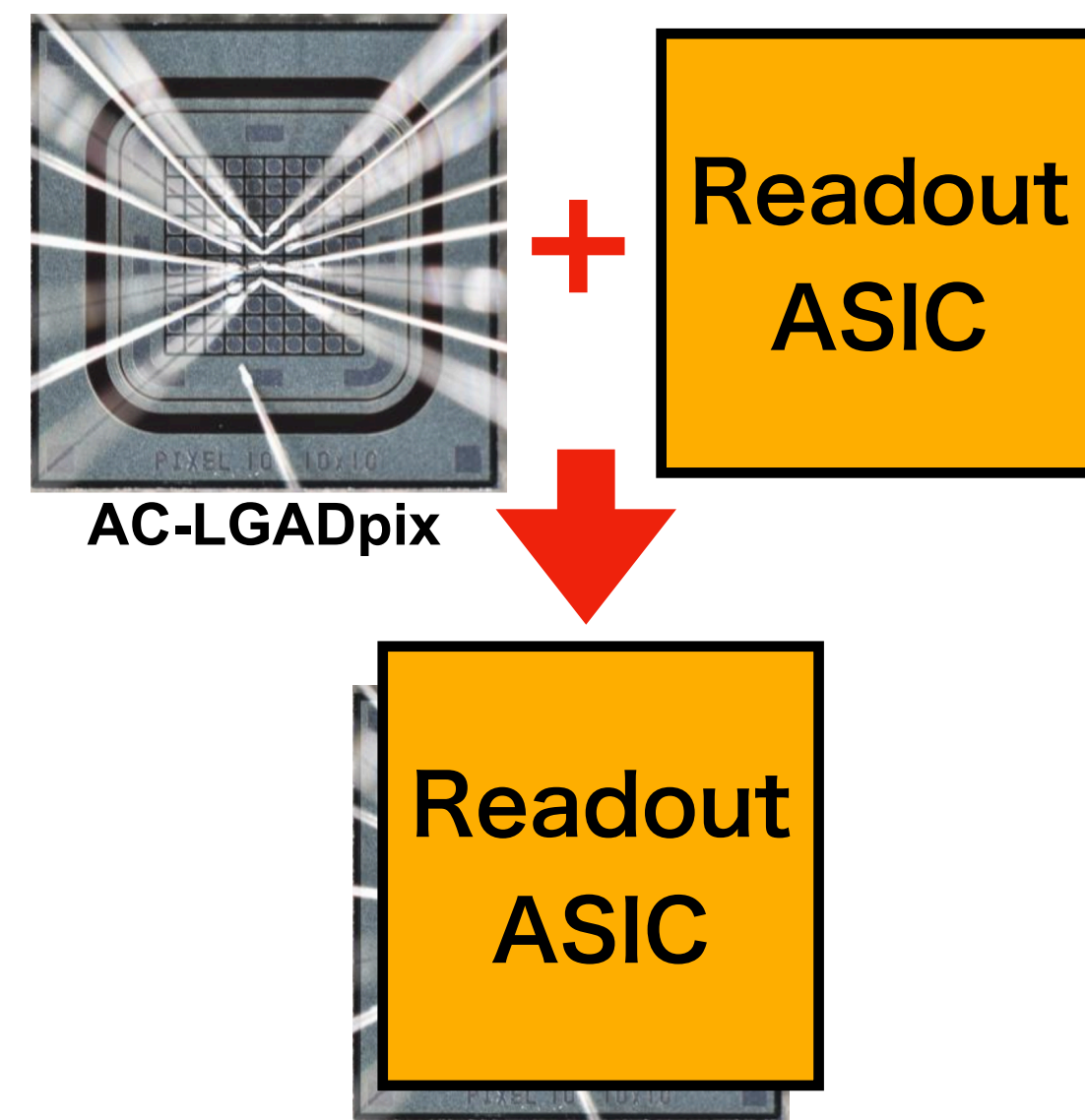
Timewalk refers to time fluctuations caused by difference of pulse height.



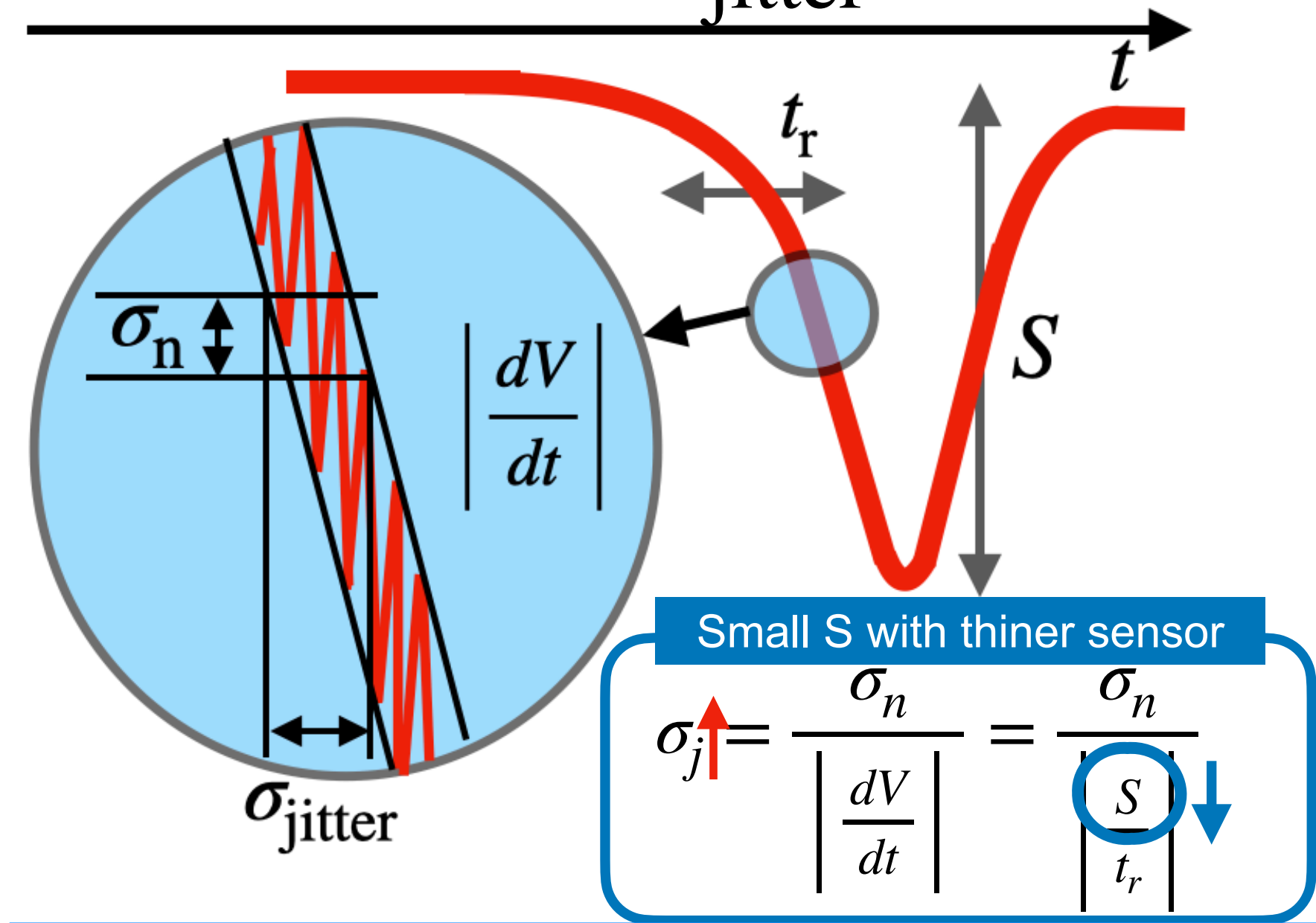
Motivation of ASIC



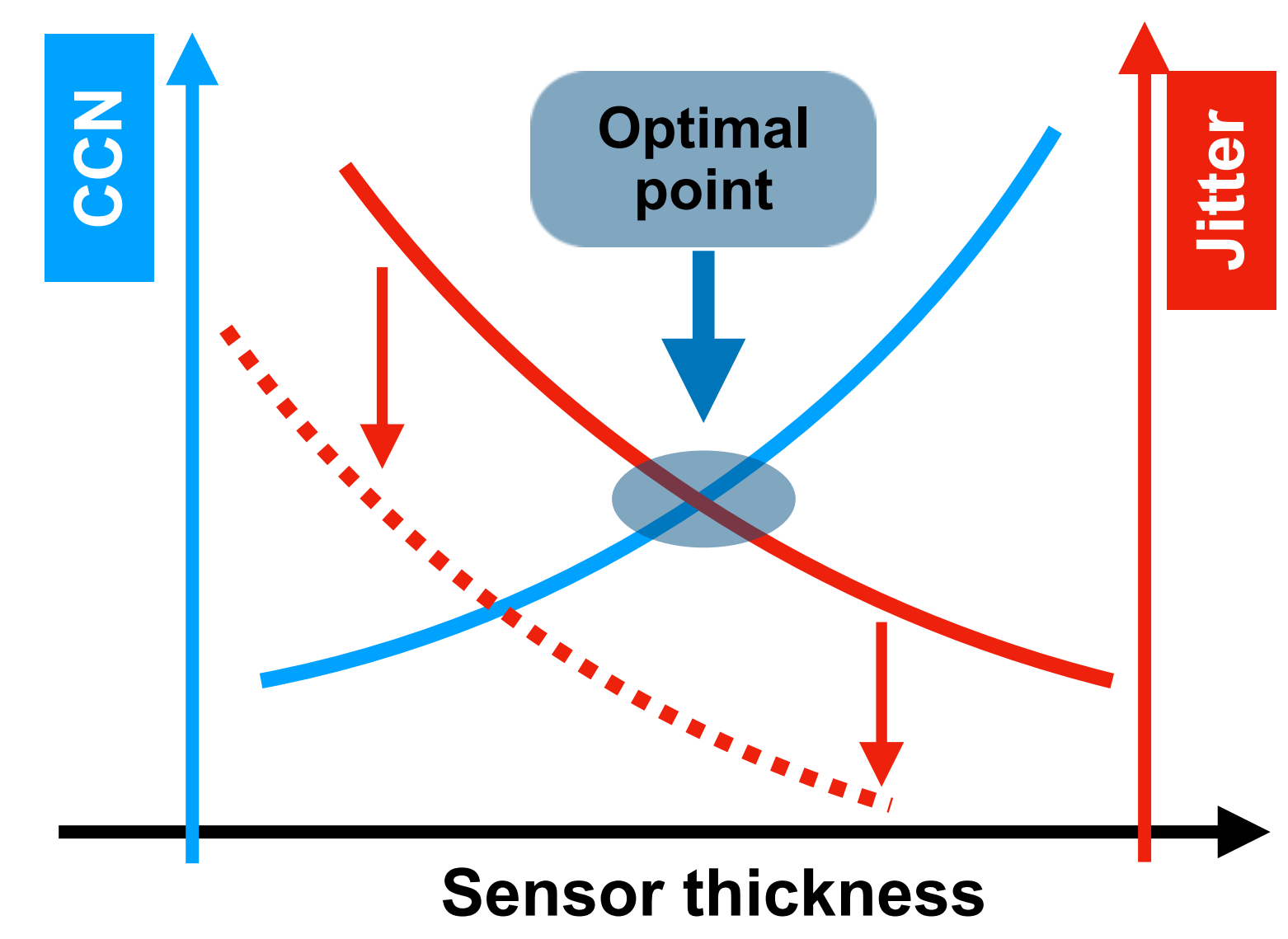
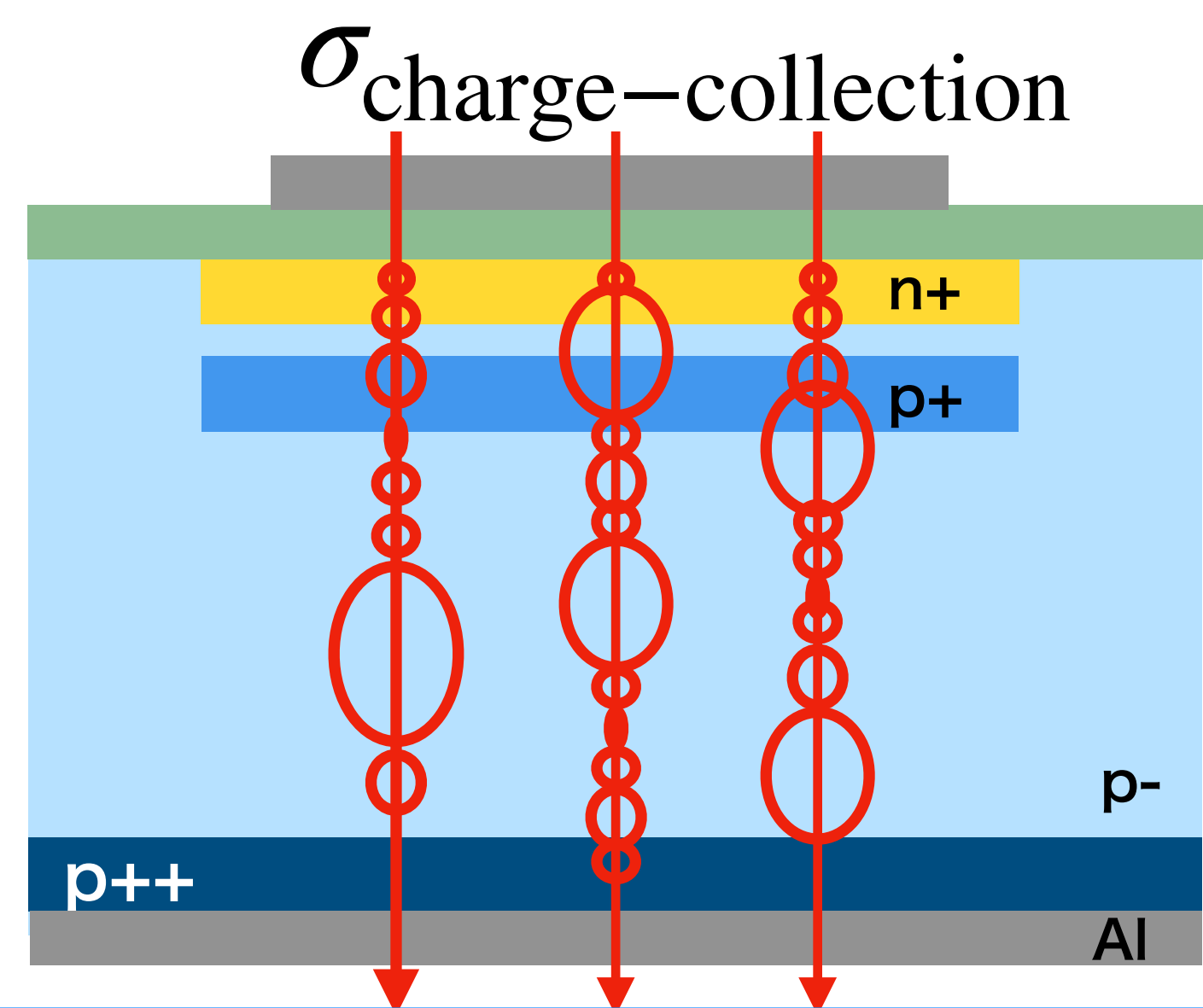
- **Jitter** and **Charge Collection Noise** have a trade-off relationship.
- Increased electrode density demands more readout channels.
- Need to develop ASICs :
 - **low electronic noise** (= high signal noise ratio)
 - **low power consumption** (Heat generation must not exceed the cooling system)



Jitter σ_{jitter}



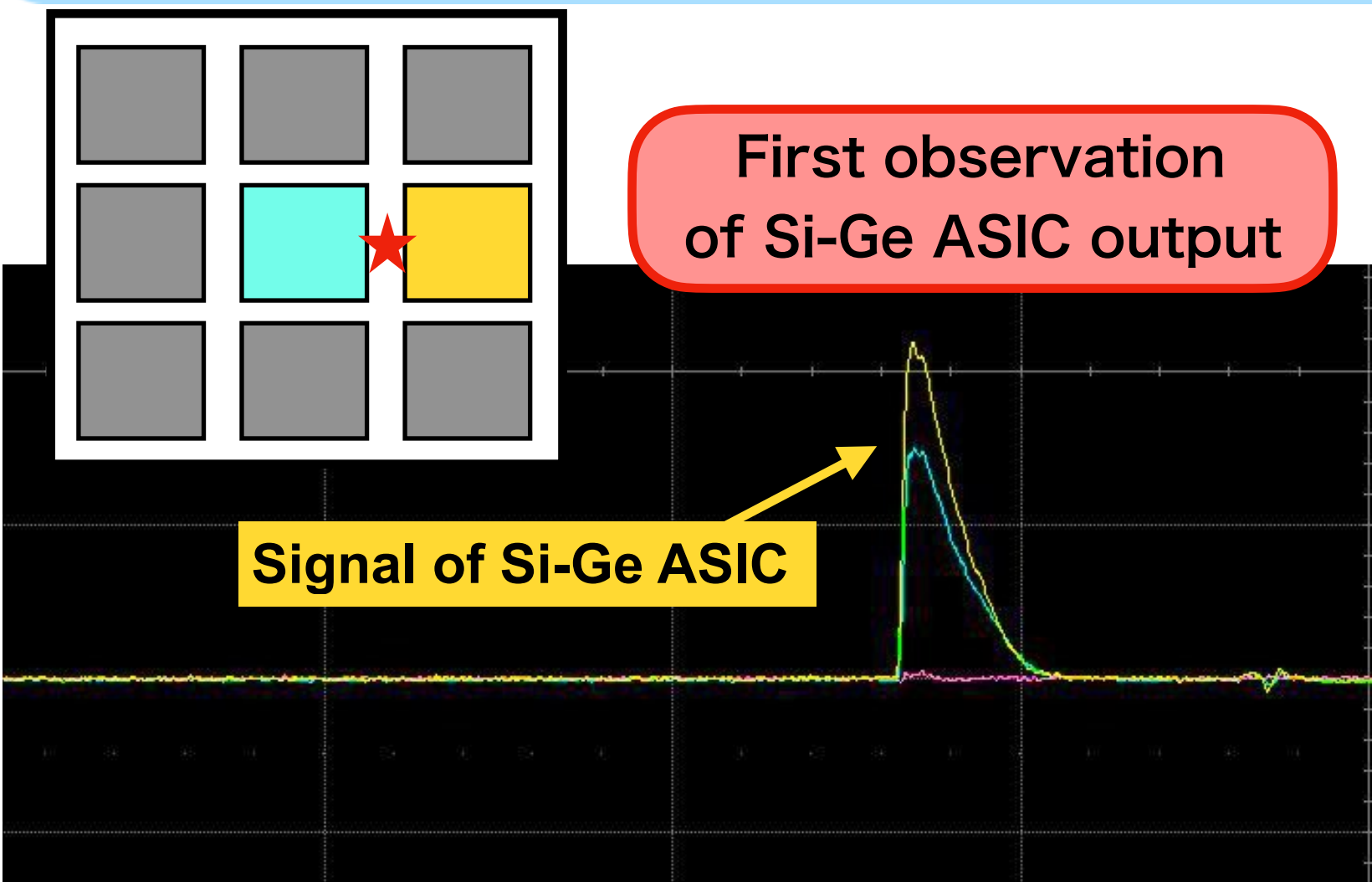
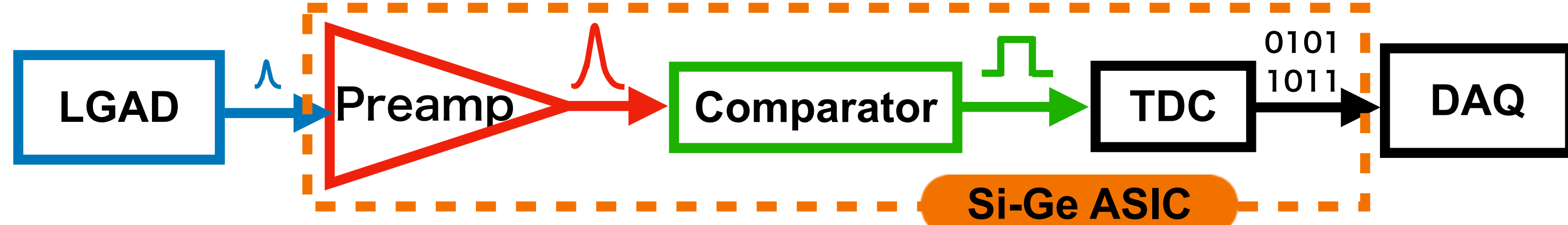
Charge Collection Noise $\sigma_{charge-collection}$



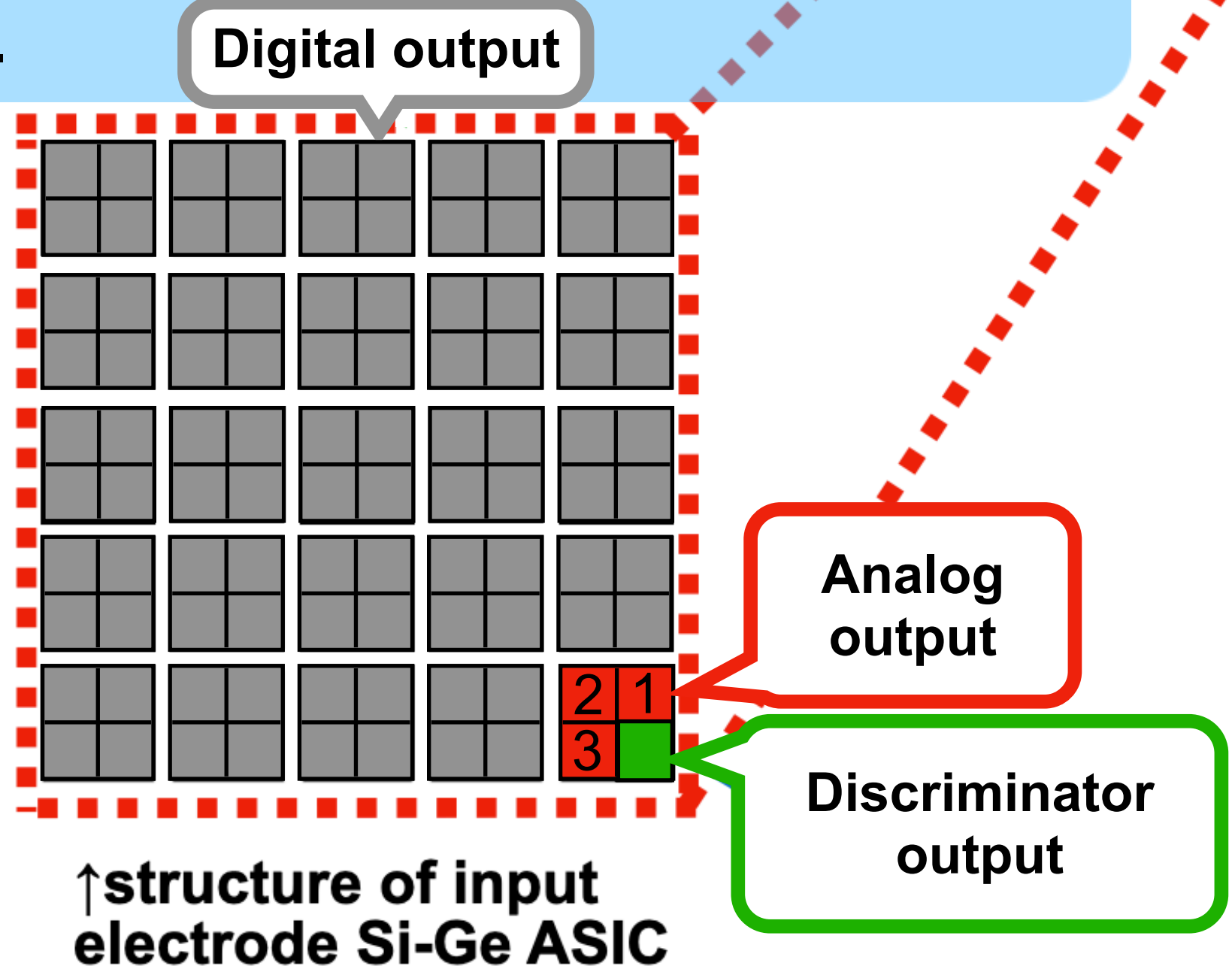
Si-Ge BJT ASIC

Features of Si-Ge ASIC

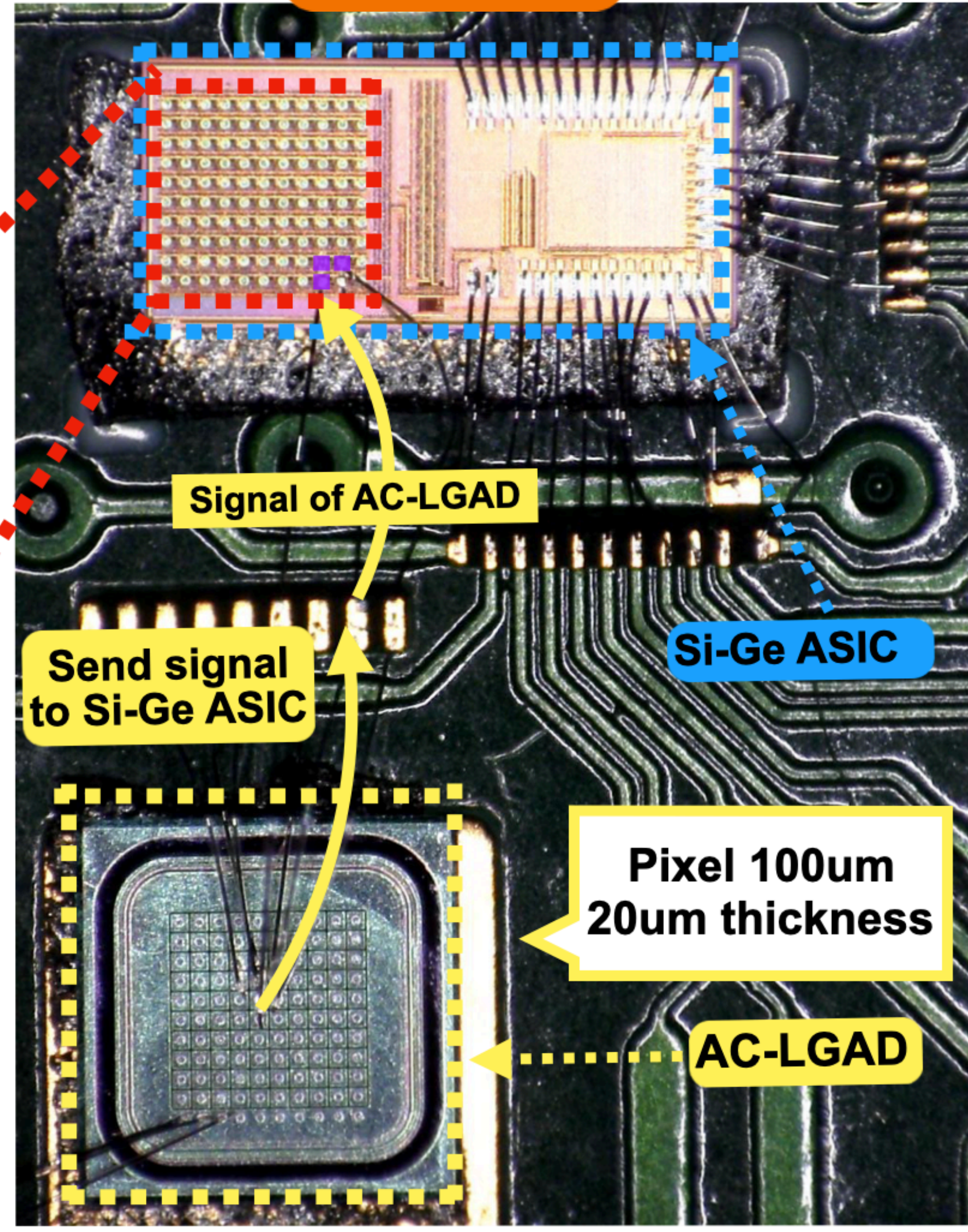
- Si-Ge (Silicon-Germanium) BJT ASIC.
→ Process : IHP 130nm BJT process.
- The preamp is made of HBT : Heterojunction Bipolar Transistor
- The Input electrode is a 10×10 matrix (100×100 μm²).
→ To readout detector signals, we connected by wire-bonding.
- We evaluated timing resolution by reading out AC-LGAD signal through the three analog outputs.



↑ The signal of Si-Ge ASIC



↑ structure of input electrode Si-Ge ASIC



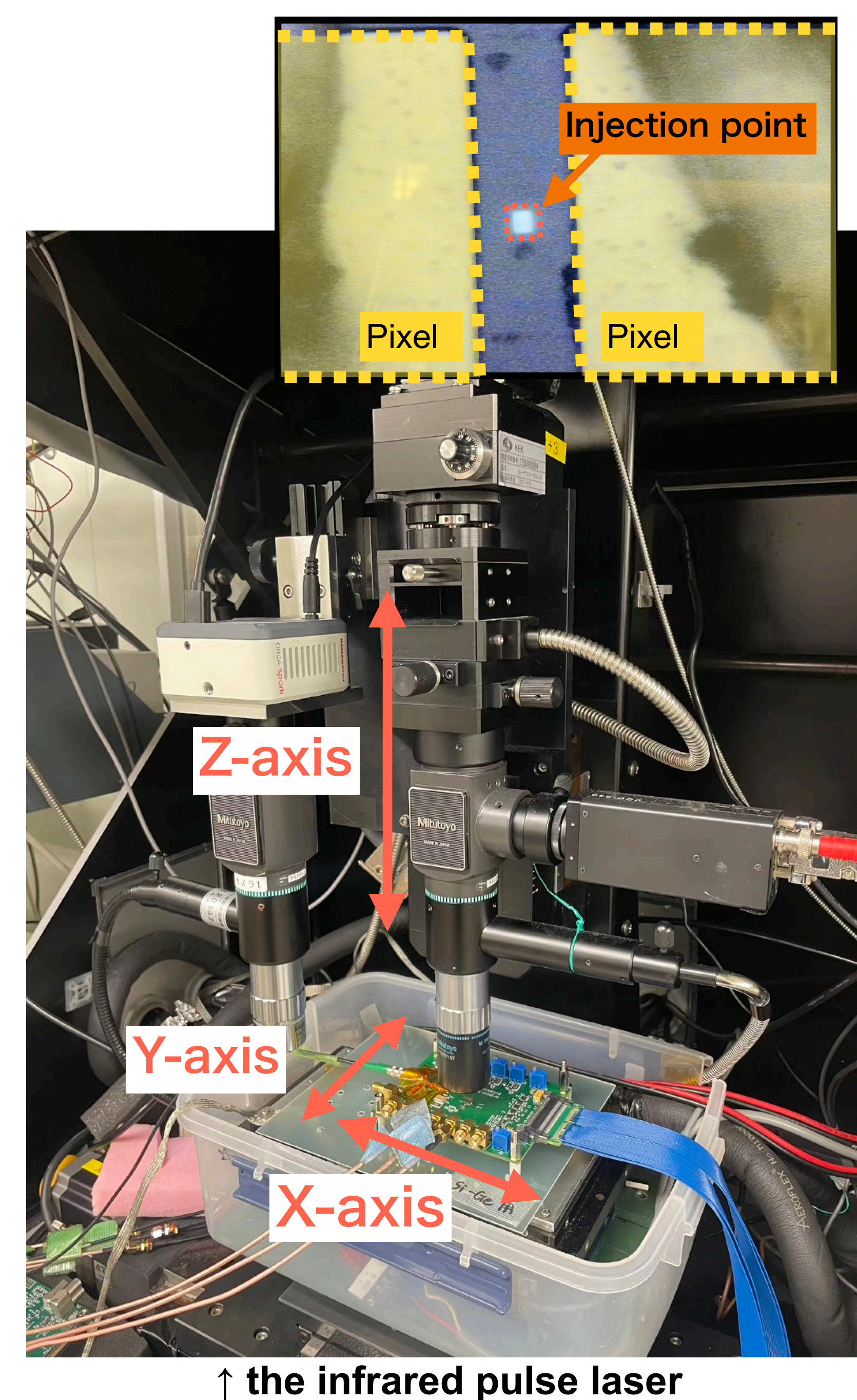
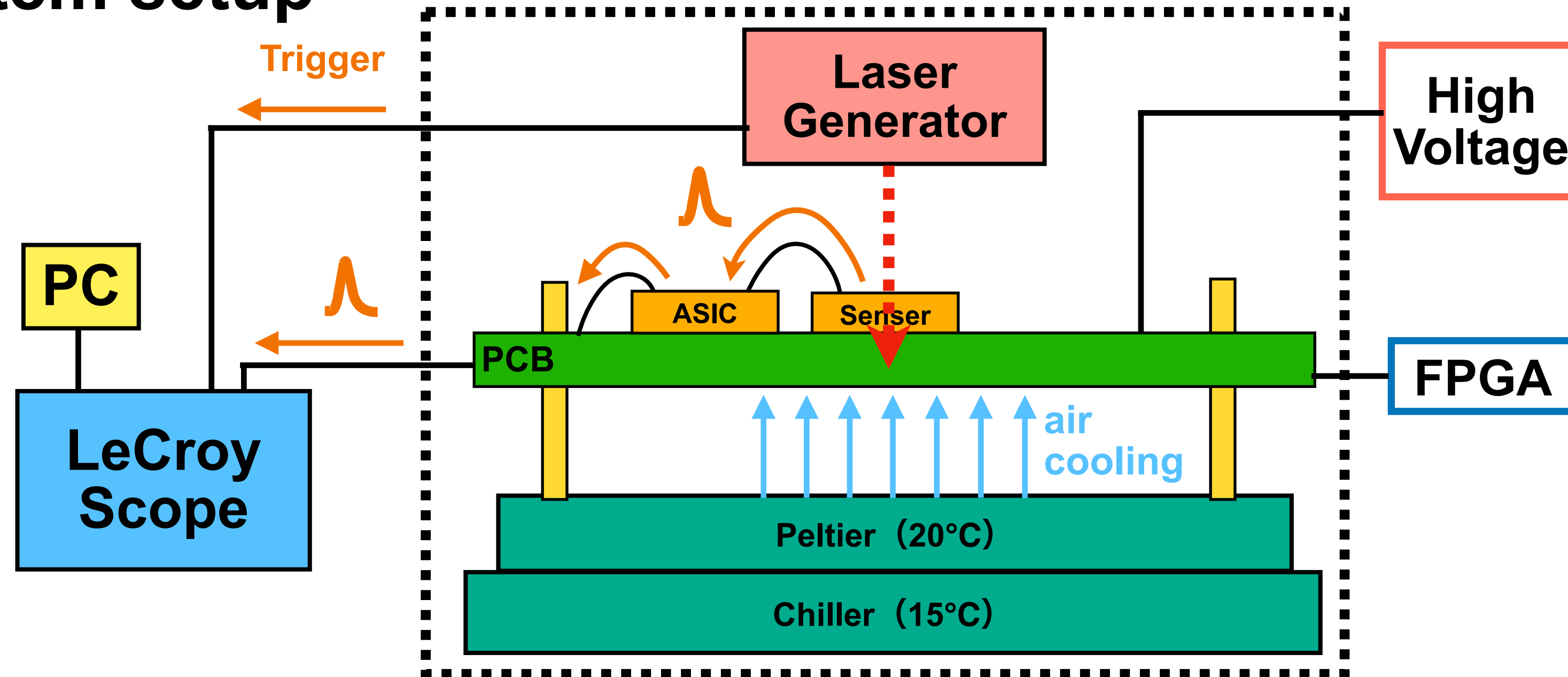
↑ Connection of Si-Ge ASIC to AC-LGAD

Setup for the laser measurement

Measurement by infrared laser

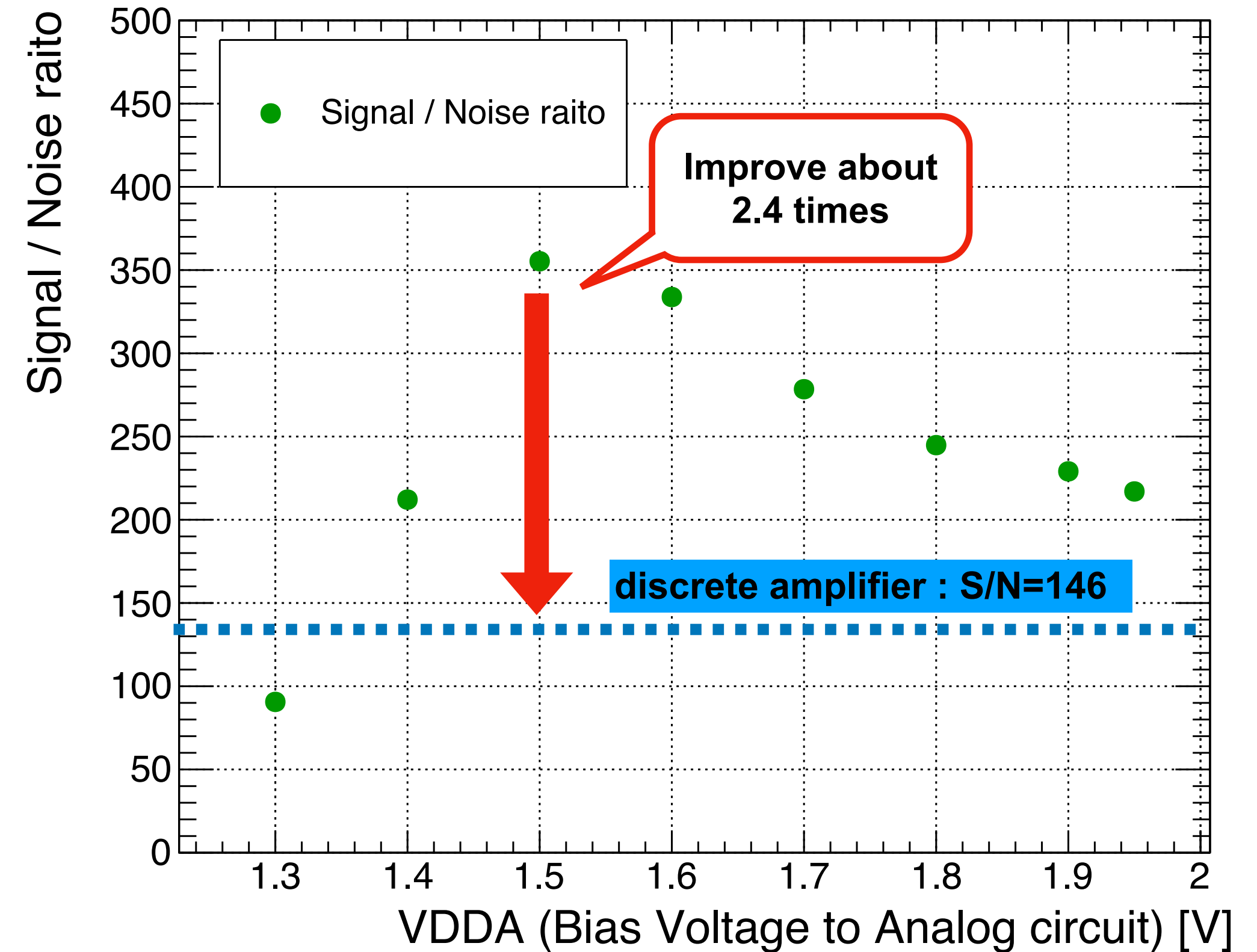
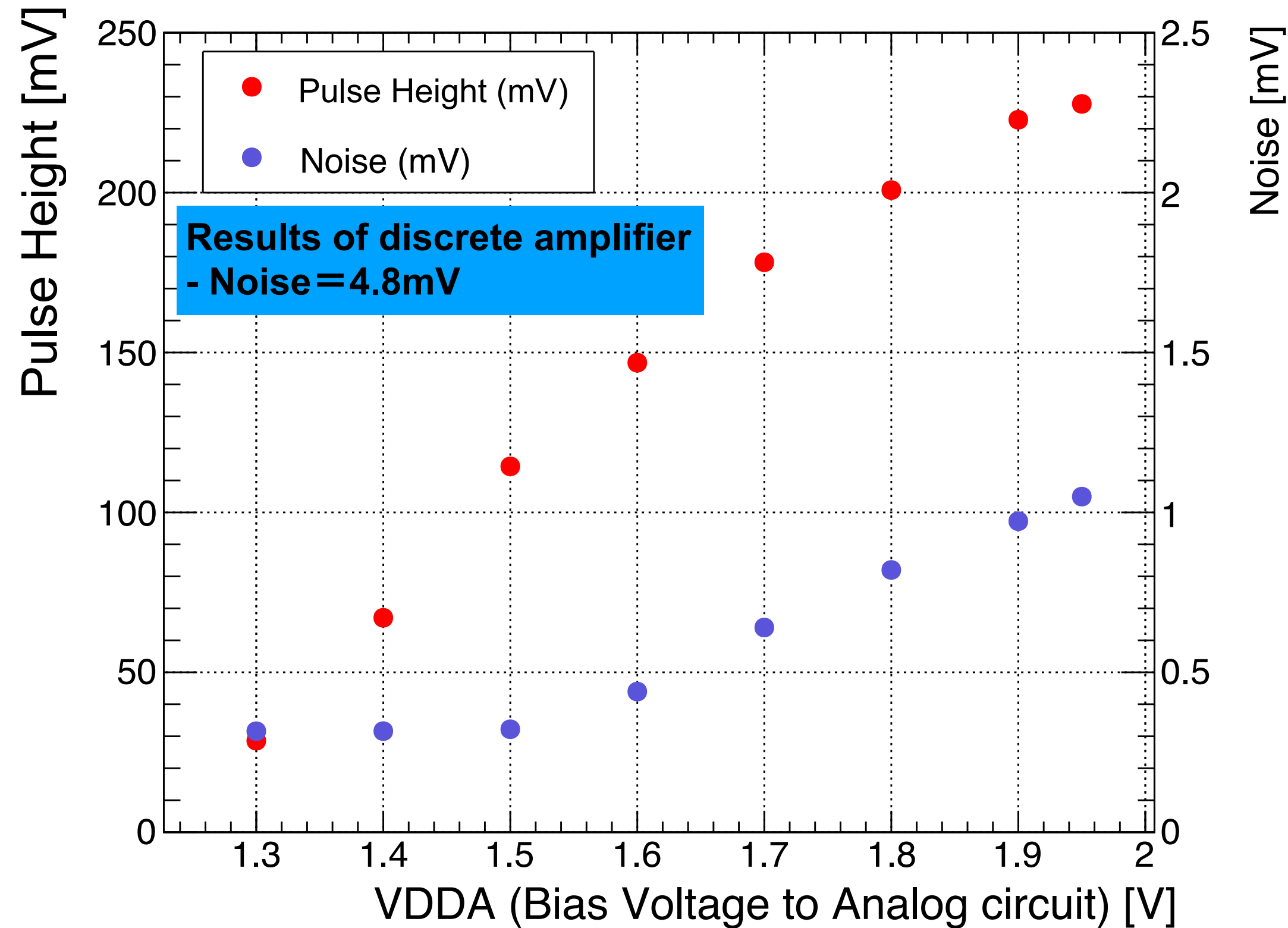
- **Infrared pulse laser** : Wavelength is 1064 nm.
- Laser size can be narrowed **2 μ m** by this setup.
→ We can inject laser between pixels.
- In this setup, We can evaluate jitter, isolated from charge collection noise.

System setup



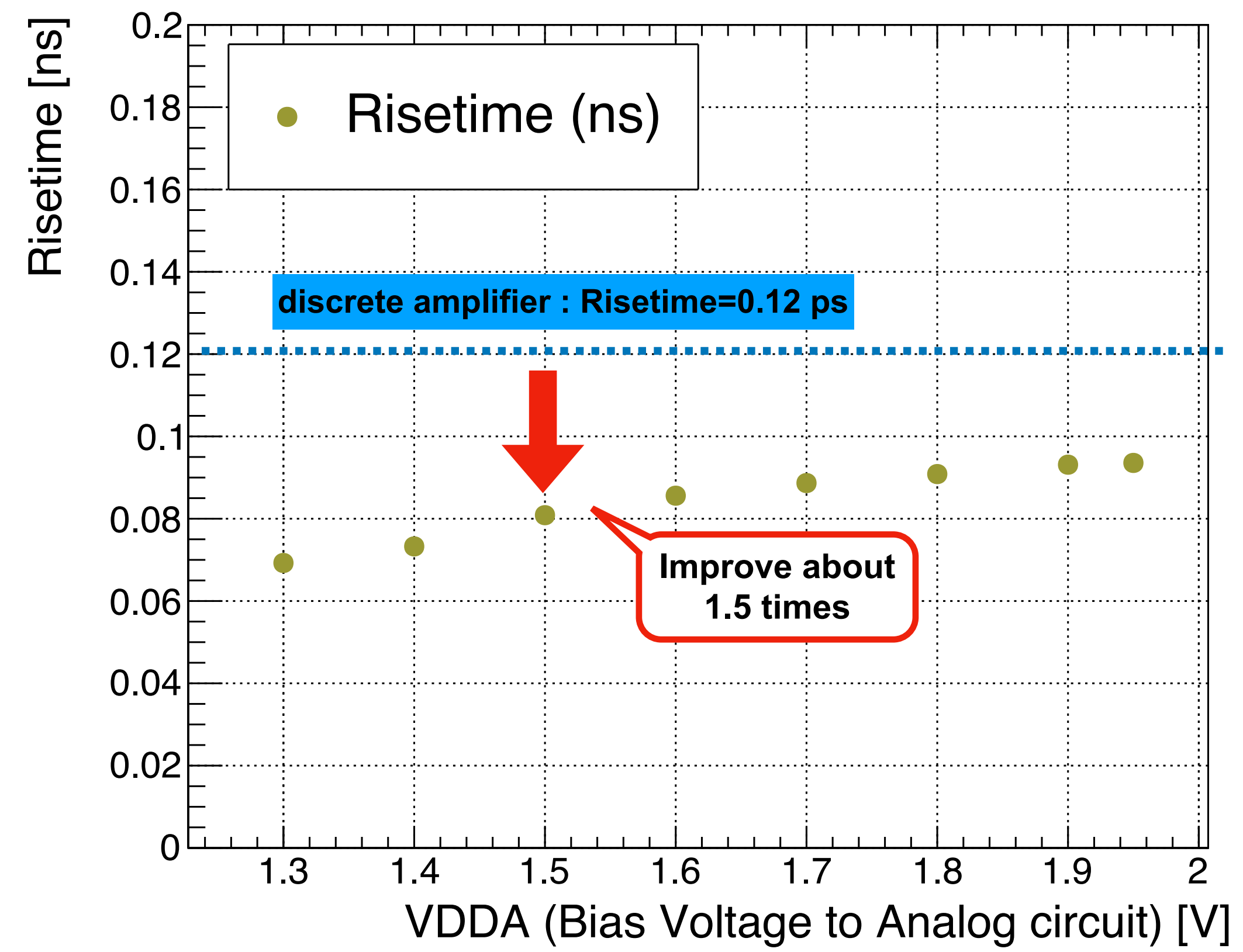
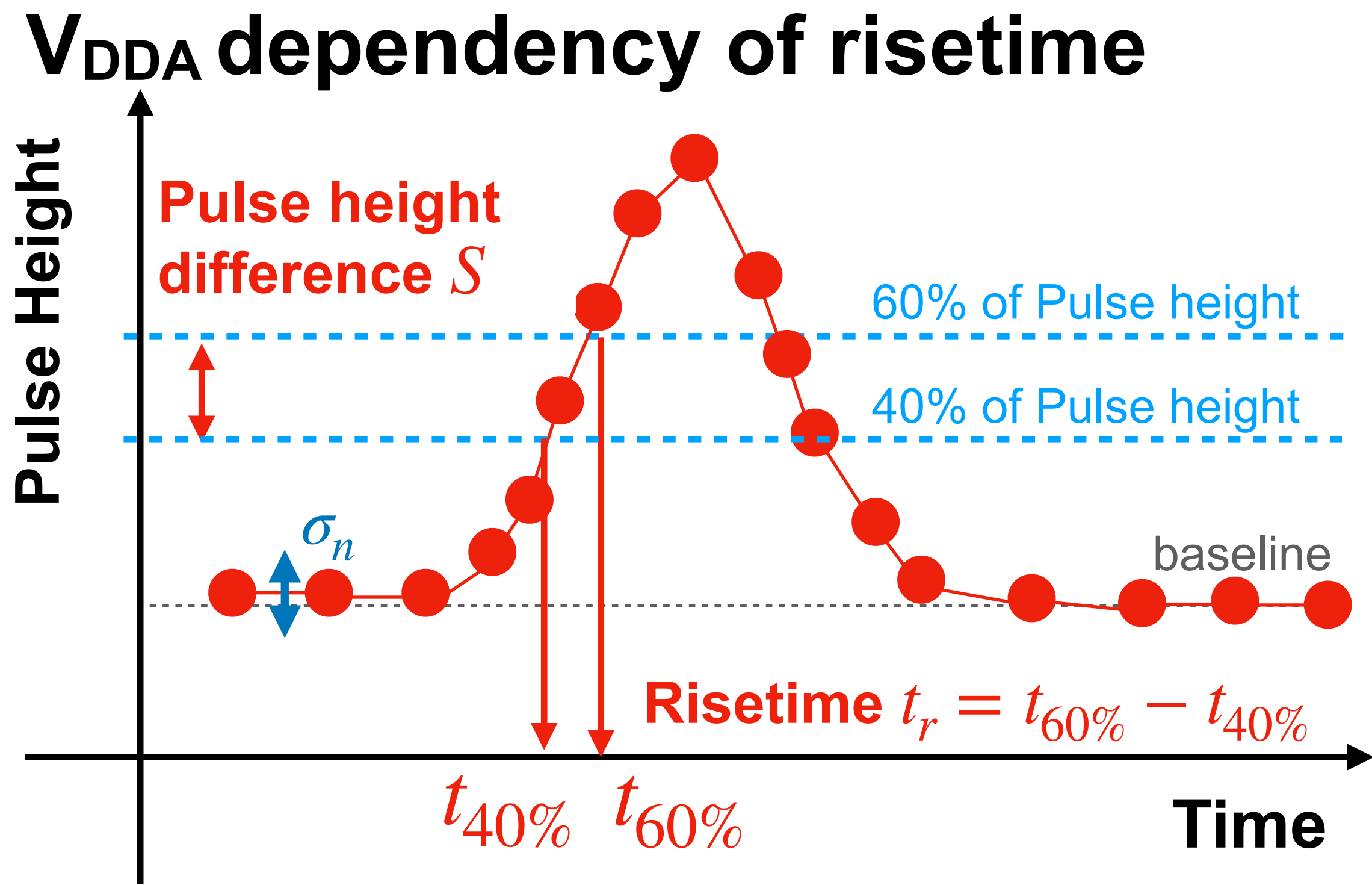
Result of Laser Measurement

The best V_{DDA} (Bias Voltage to Analog circuit)



- As V_{DDA} was increased, both signal and noise was increased.
→ noise level \sim **0.3 mV** with Si-Ge ASIC a factor 16 improvement over discrete amplifier.
- The best analog voltage is **1.5 V**
→ The SN of Si-Ge ASIC is **2.4 times** better than discrete amplifier.

Result of Laser Measurement



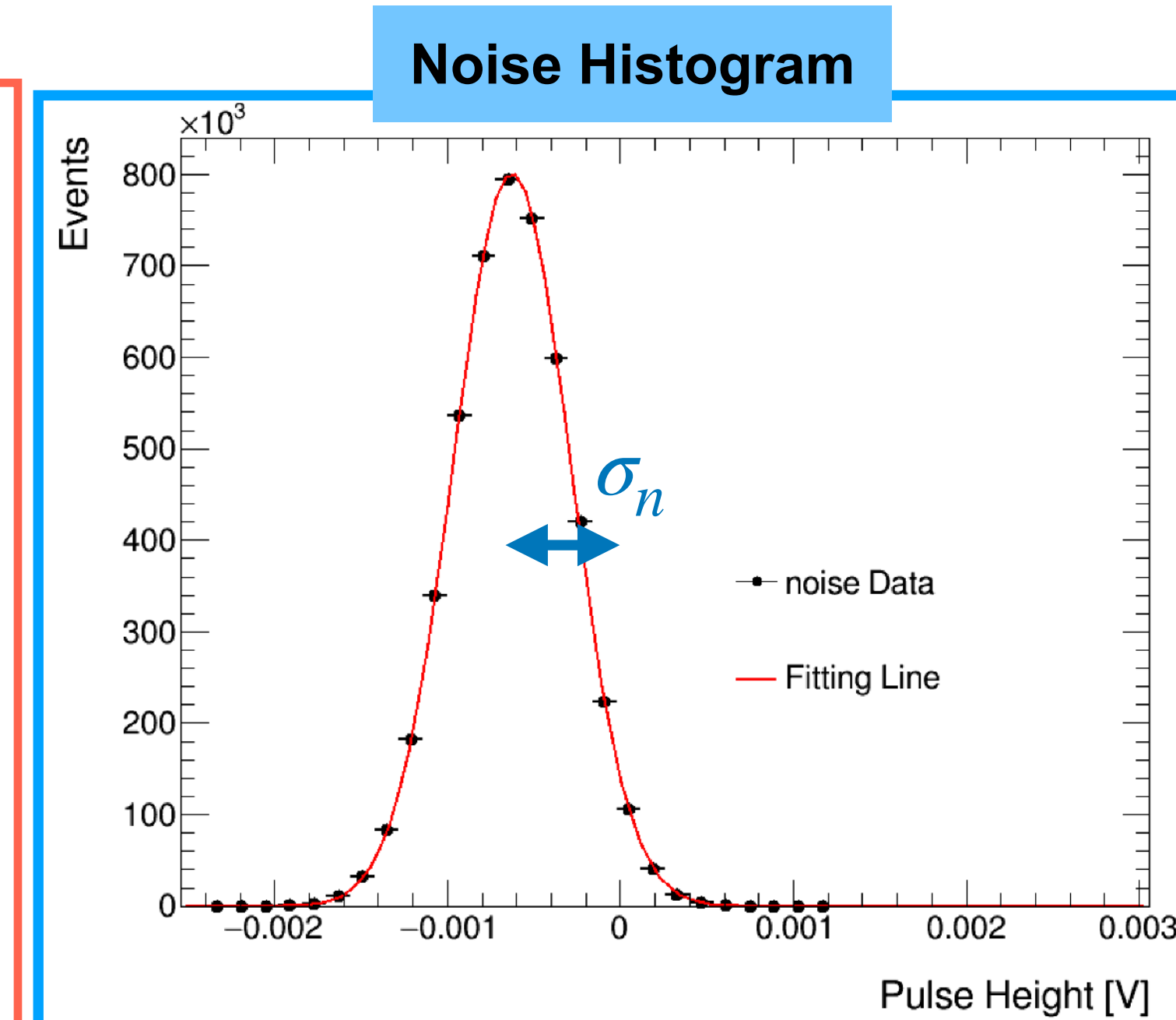
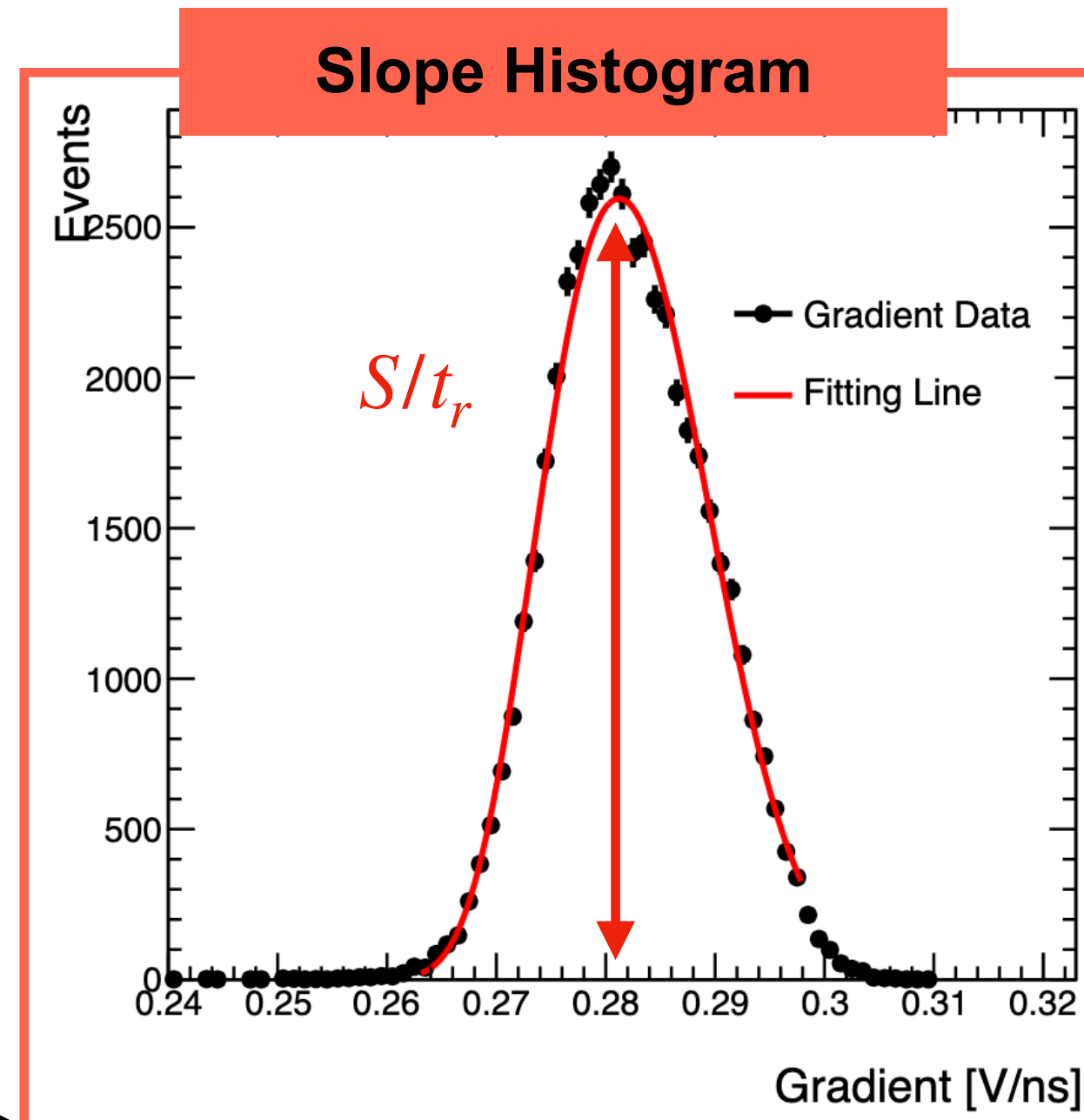
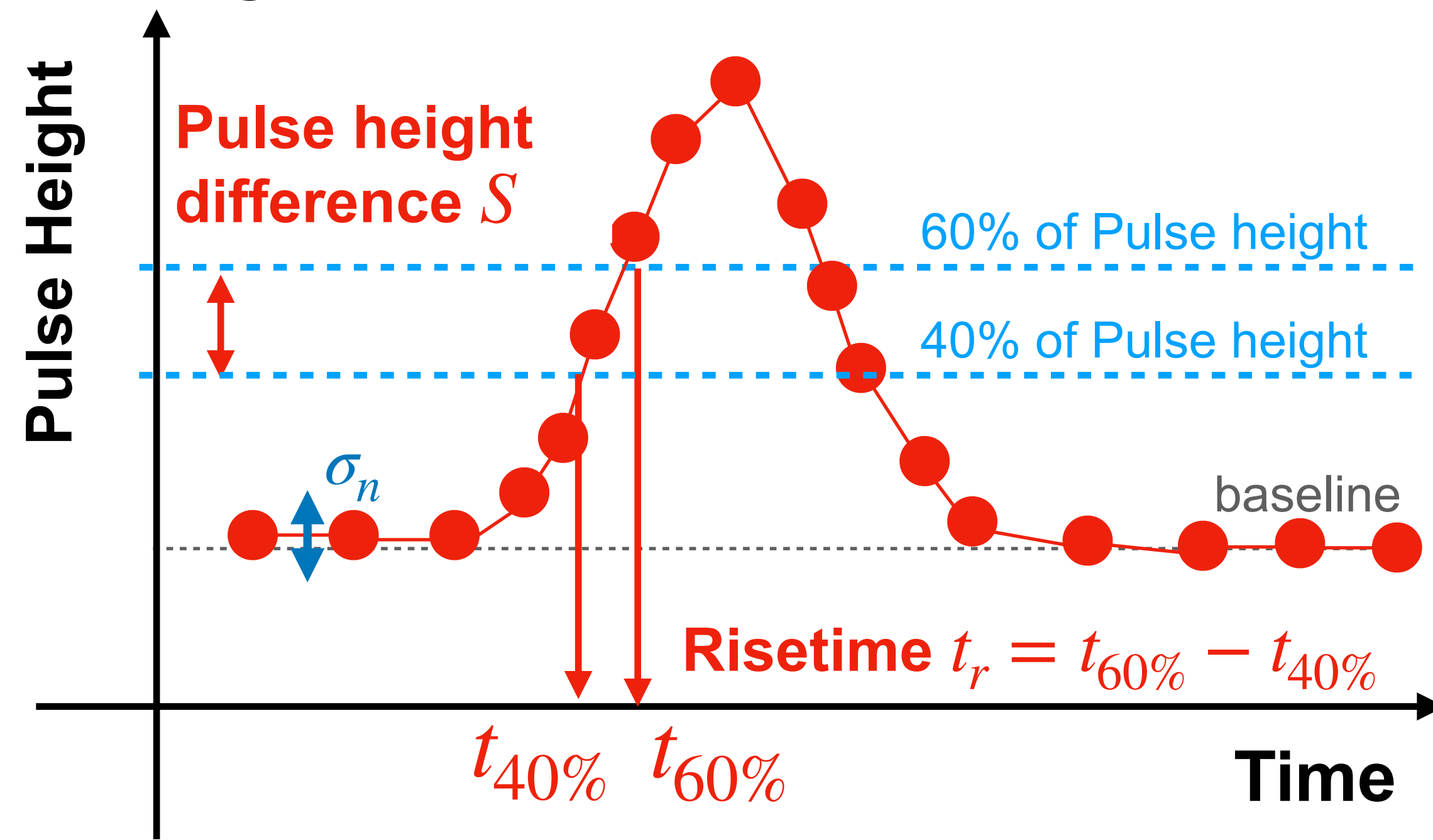
- We define risetime as the time for signal to rise from 40% to 60% of pulse height.

- The risetime of Si-Ge ASIC is **1.5 times** better than discrete amplifier. $\sigma_j = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{dV}{dt} \right|} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{S}{t_r} \right|}$

- Si-Ge ASIC is excellent performance at the signal noise ratio and risetime.

Analysis

Analysis of Jitter



- I need a noise and signal slope to calculate a jitter.
- **The noise** is a sigma of pulse height histogram in region without signals.
- **The slope** is a mode of slope histogram which is difference from 40% to 60% pulse height and risetime.

Calculate the Jitter

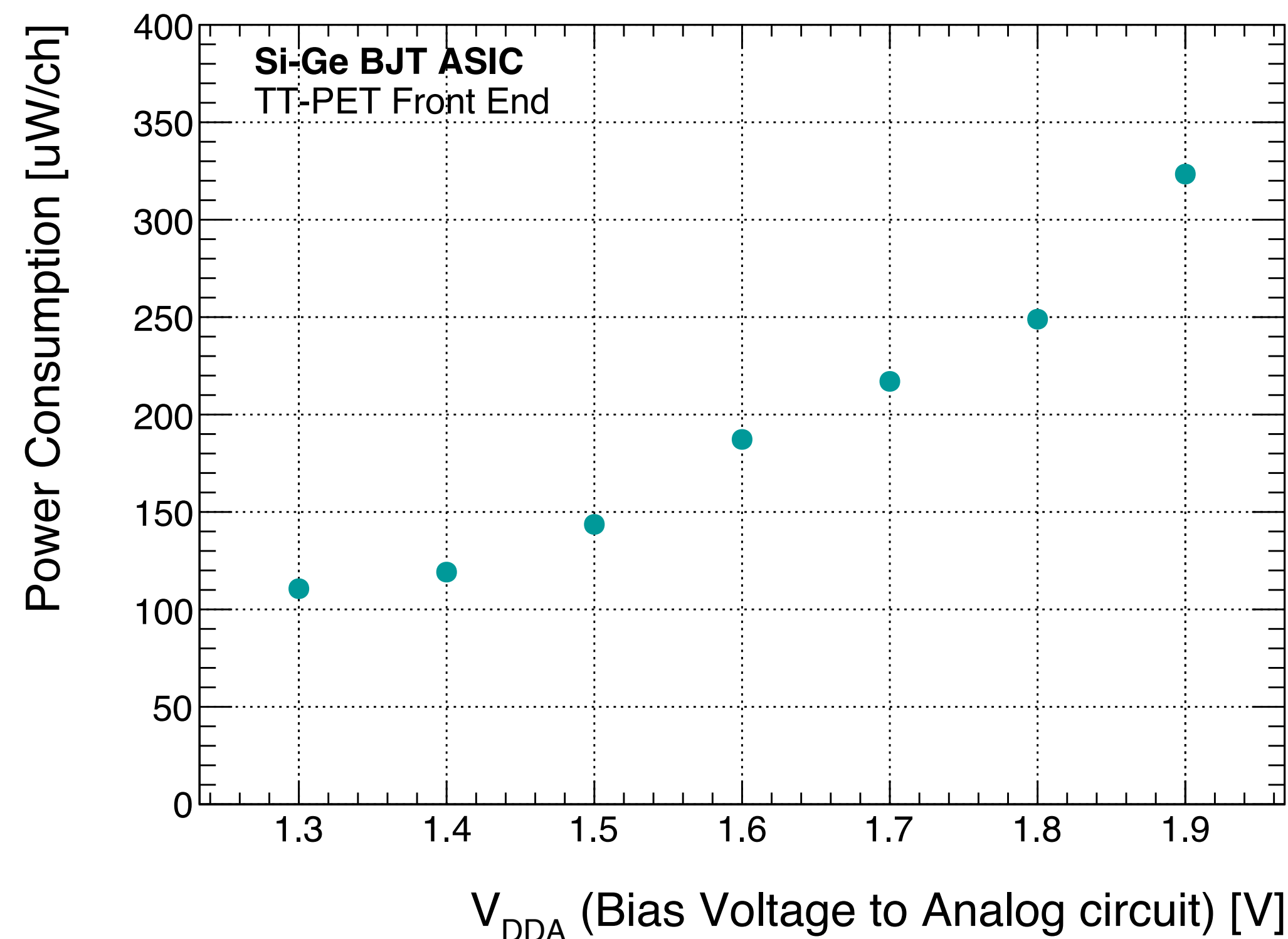
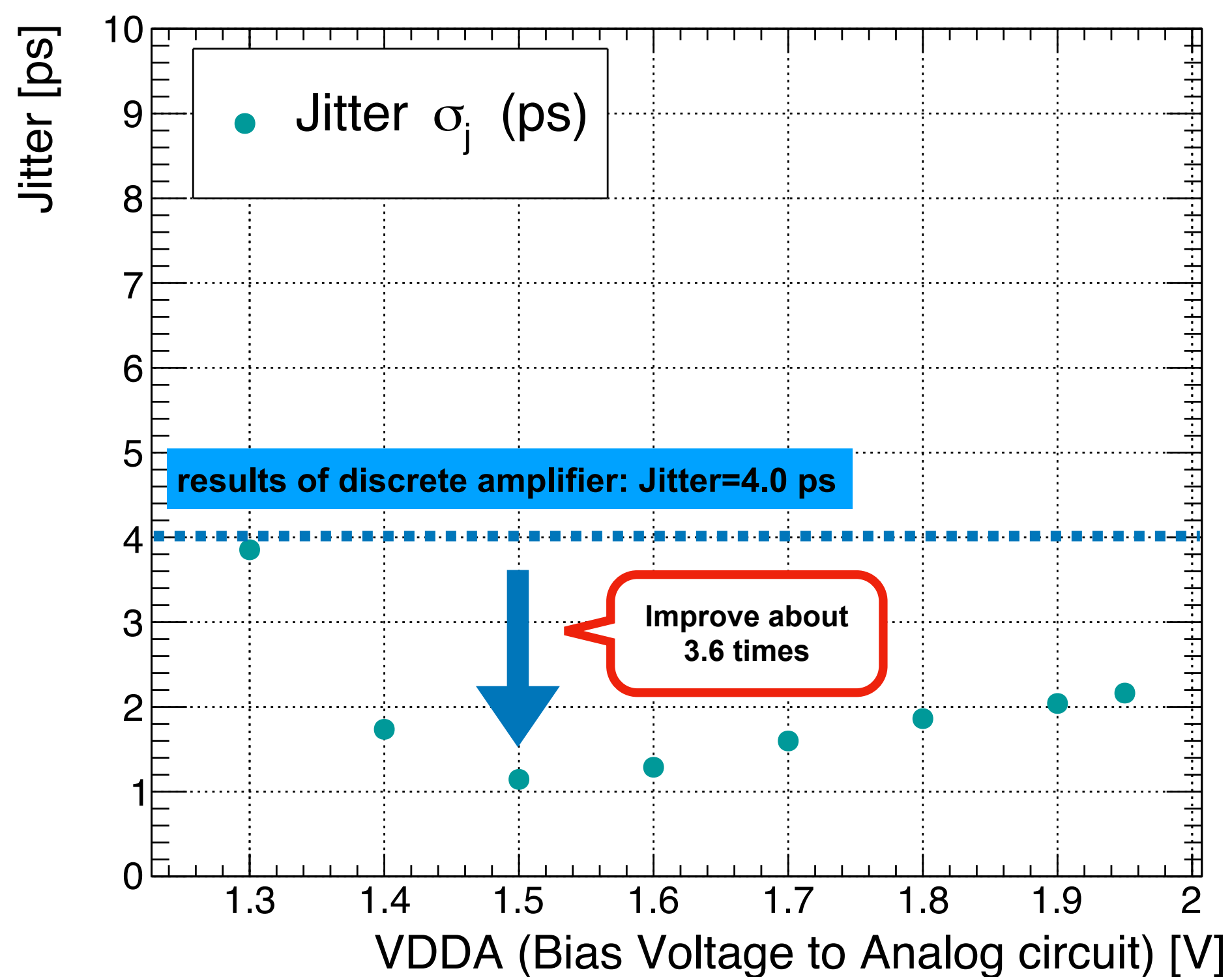
$$\sigma_{\text{jitter}} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{dV}{dt} \right|} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{S}{t_r} \right|}$$

Result of Laser Measurement

V_{DDA} dependency of jitter & power consumption

$$\sigma_{\text{jitter}} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{dV}{dt} \right|} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{S}{t_r} \right|}$$

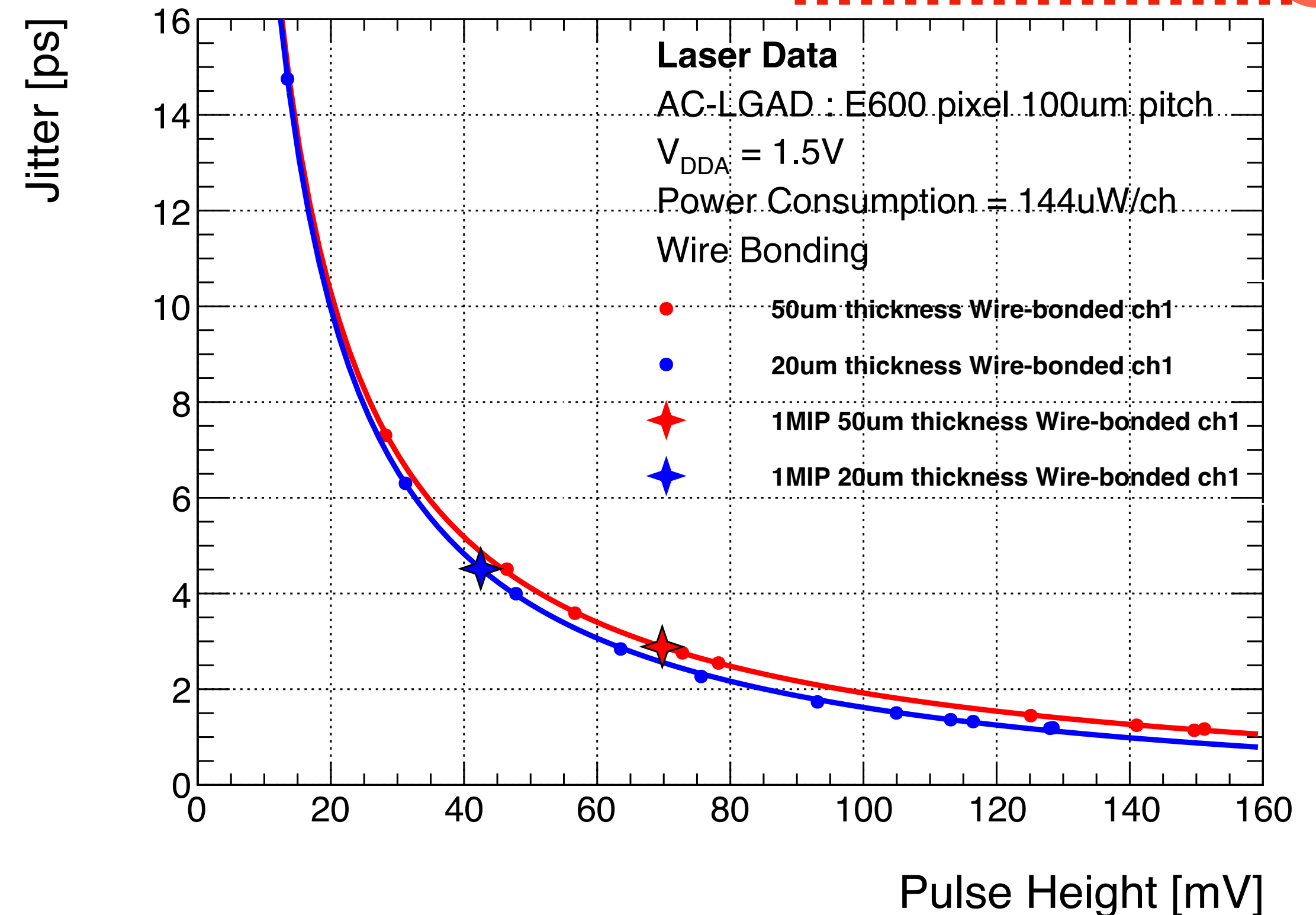
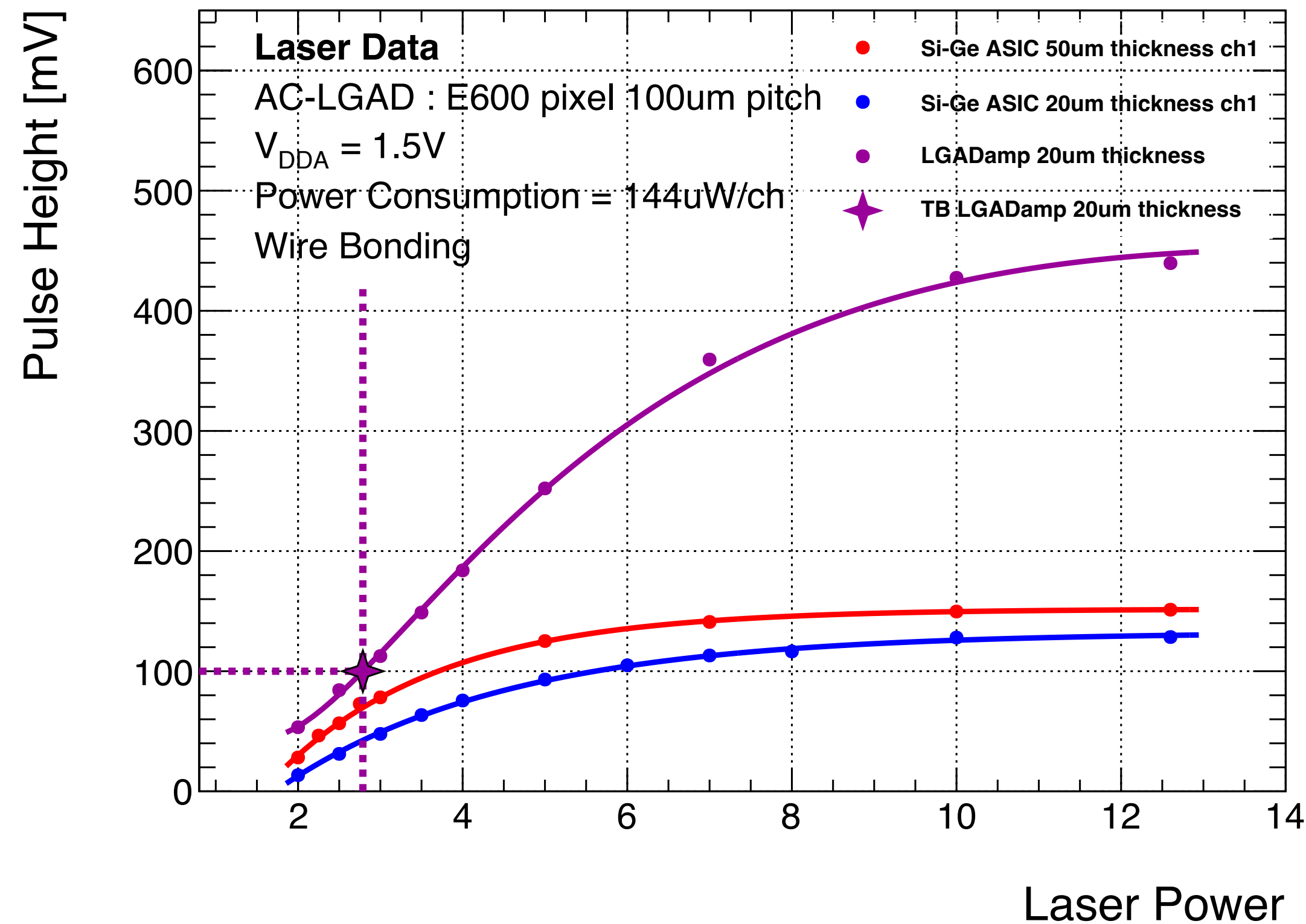
- The best analog voltage is **1.5 V**
→ The Jitter of Si-Ge ASIC is **3.6 times** better than discrete amplifier.
- Power consumption of Si-Ge ASIC preamp is **144 $\mu\text{W}/\text{channel}$** at V_{DDA} 1.5 V.
- Si-Ge ASICs are better jitter and power consumption than discrete amplifiers.



Result of Laser Measurement

Input signal dependency of Jitter

$$\sigma_{\text{jitter}} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{dV}{dt} \right|} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{S}{t_r} \right|}$$



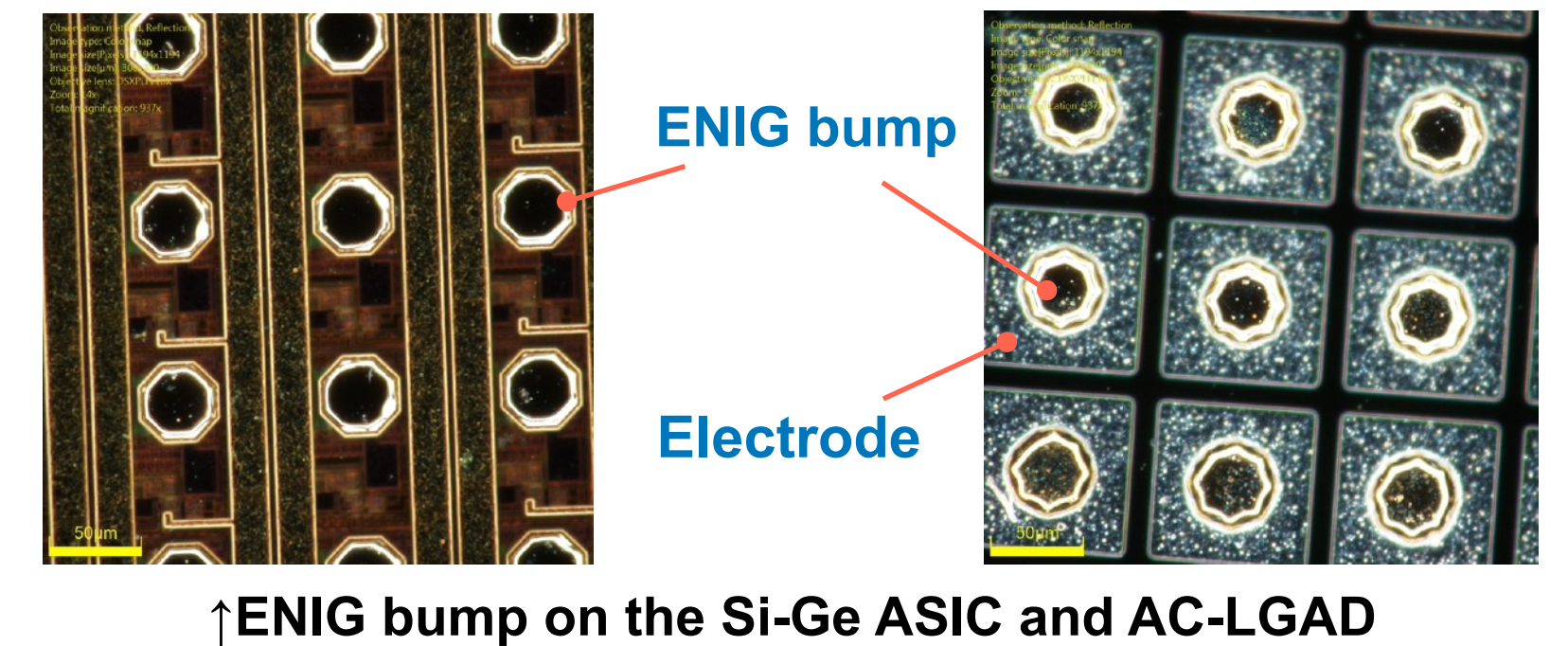
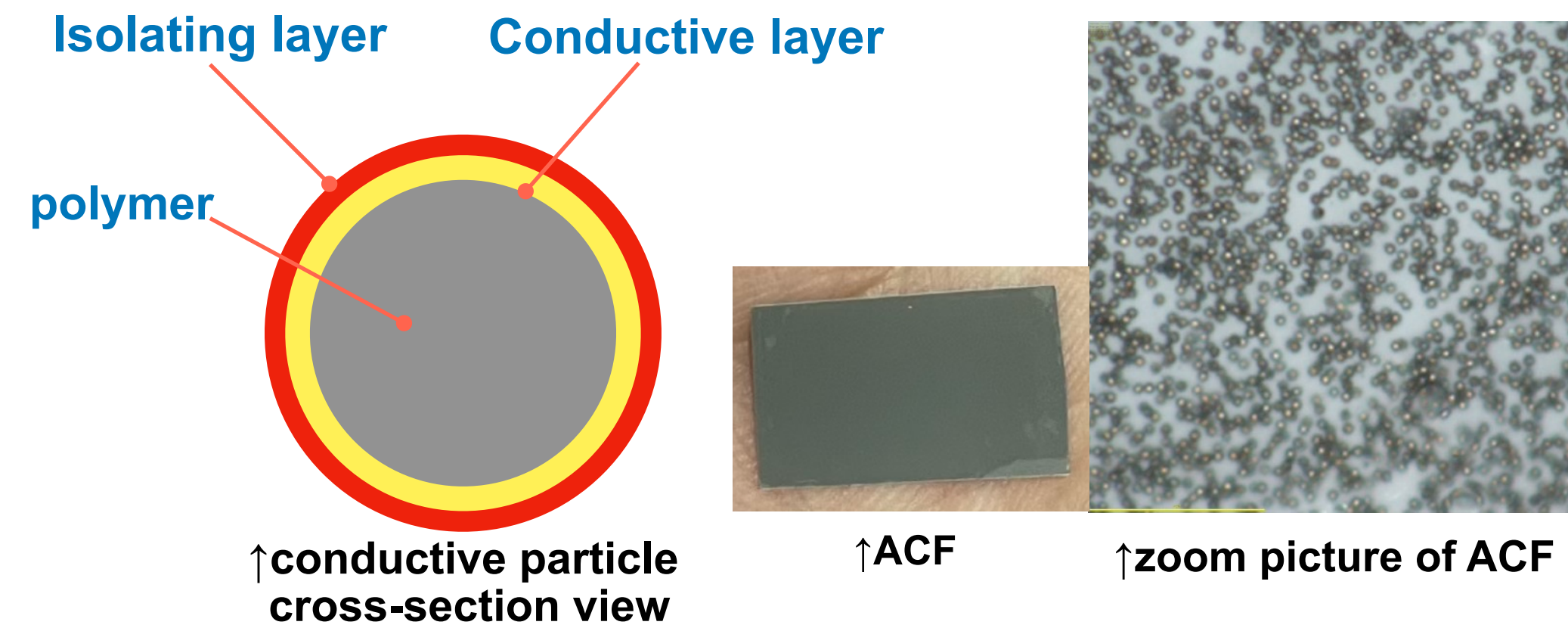
- Pulse height of 20um thickness AC-LGAD is ~100mV at test beam.
 → Laser power of 1MIP (Minimum Ionizing Particle) is 2.8
- The Jitter of Si-Ge ASICs with 1MIP
 → **4.5 ps** with AC-LGAD 20um thickness.
 → **2.9 ps** with AC-LGAD 50um thickness.

| | 50um thickness | 20um thickness |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Pulse Height | 70 mV | 43 mV |
| Jitter | 2.9 ps | 4.5 ps |

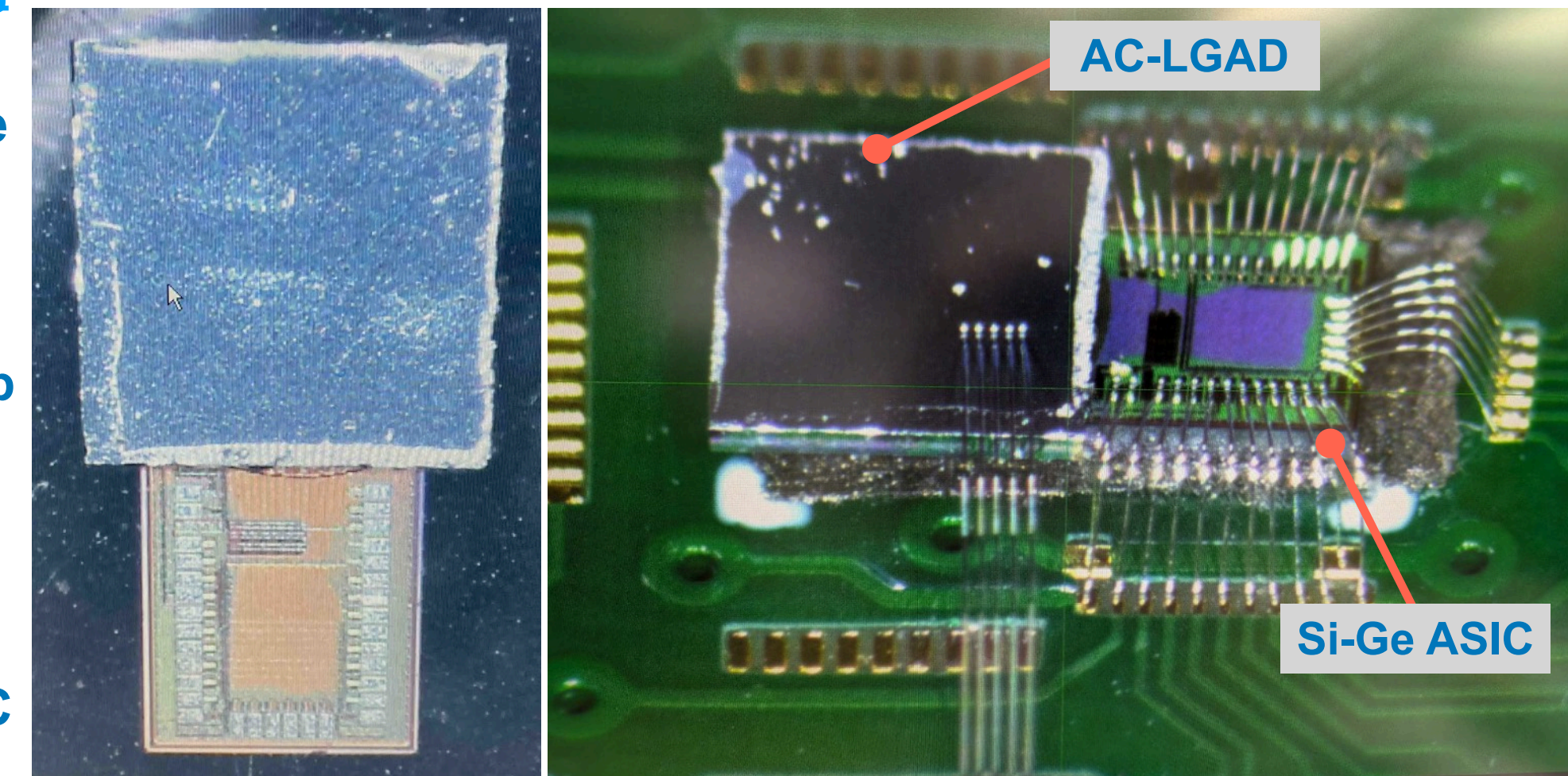
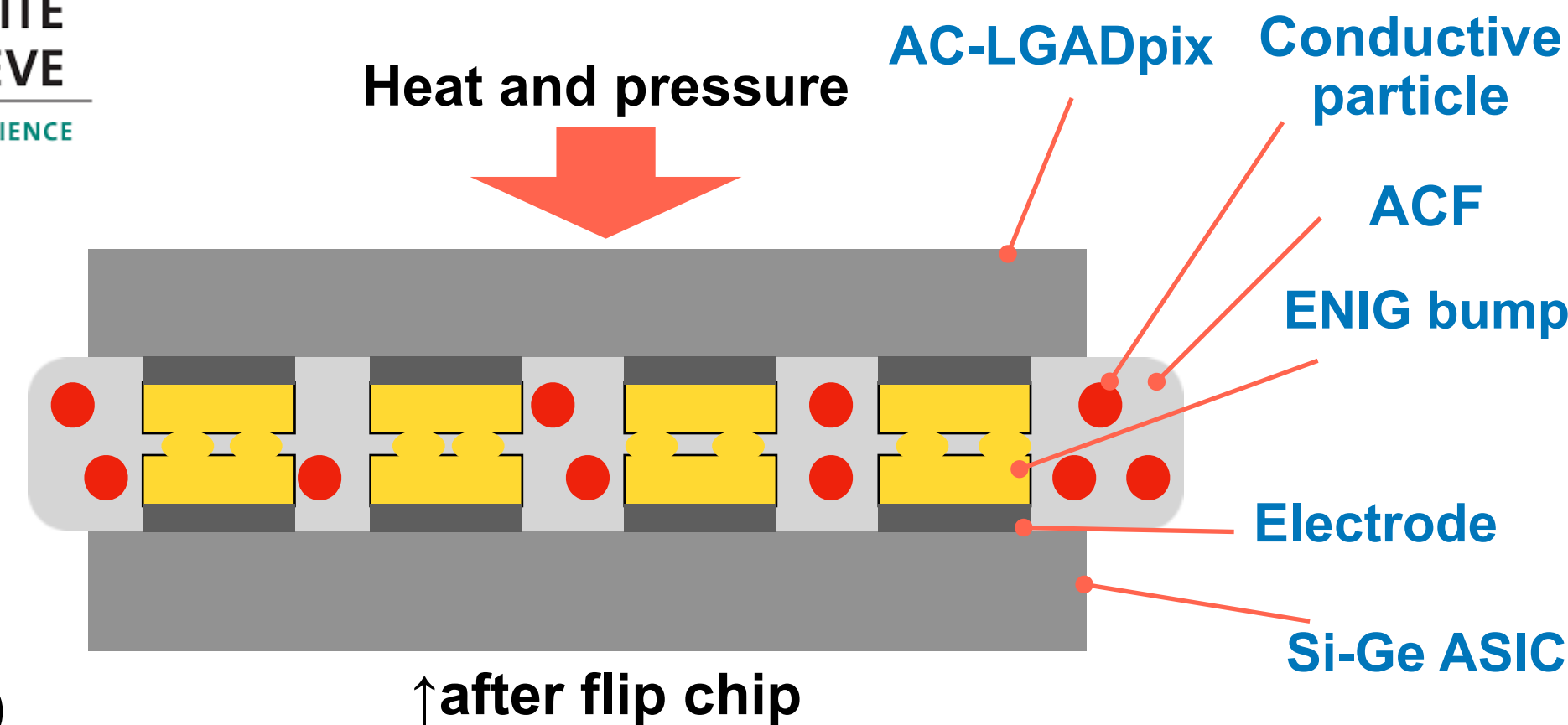
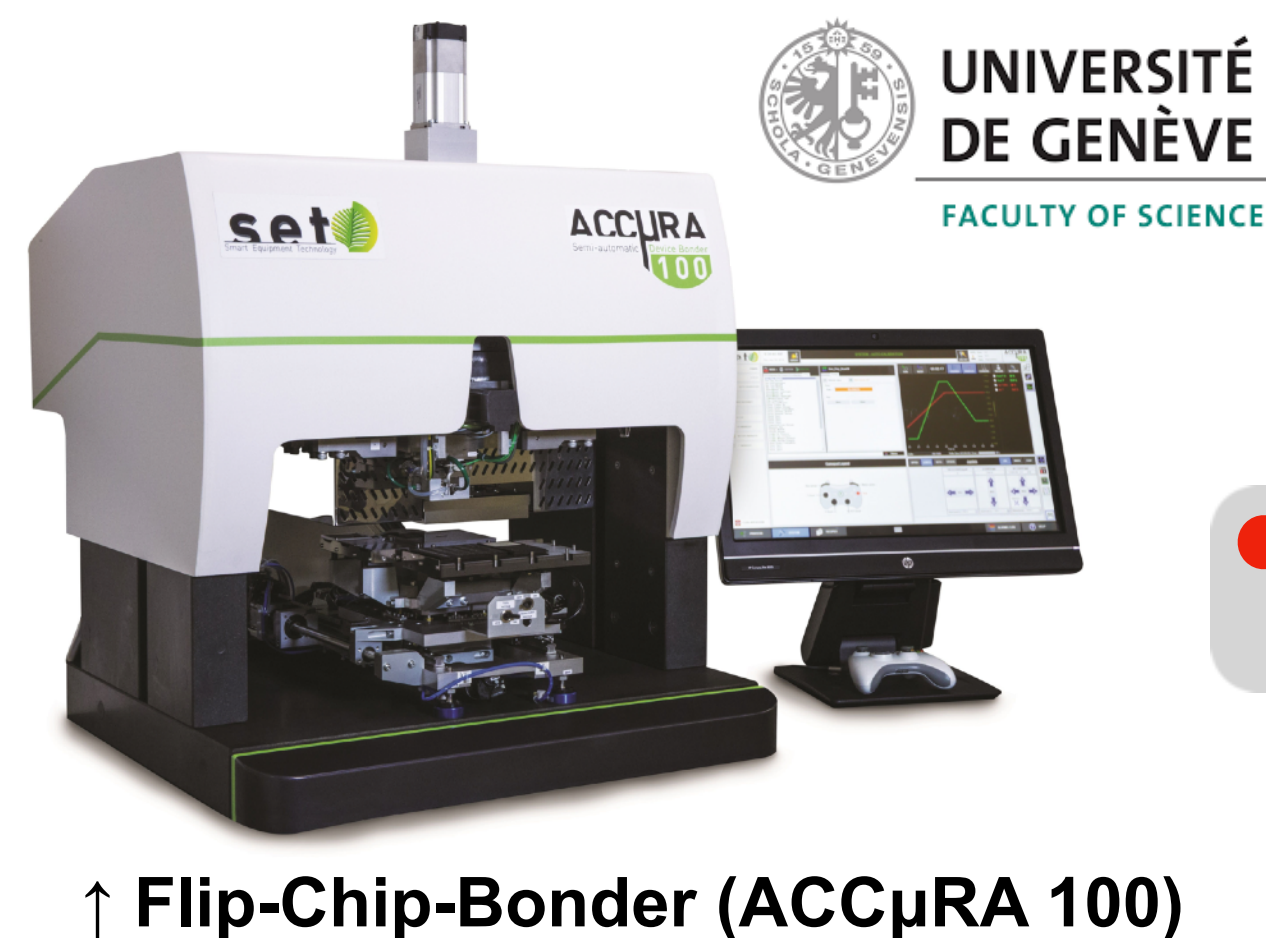
Flip-Chip Bonding

ACF Flip-chip Si-Ge ASIC

- AC-LGADs and Si-Ge ASICs are flip-chipped by crushing the **ACF** (Anisotropic Conductive Film).
- The structure of ACF is that the polymer is coated with a conductive and an insulating layers.
- ENIG (Electroless Nickel Immersion Gold) bump are formed on the electrode of both Si-Ge ASICs and AC-LGADs at **CERN**.
- They can be connected by crushing conductive particles with ENIG bumps at **University of Geneva**.



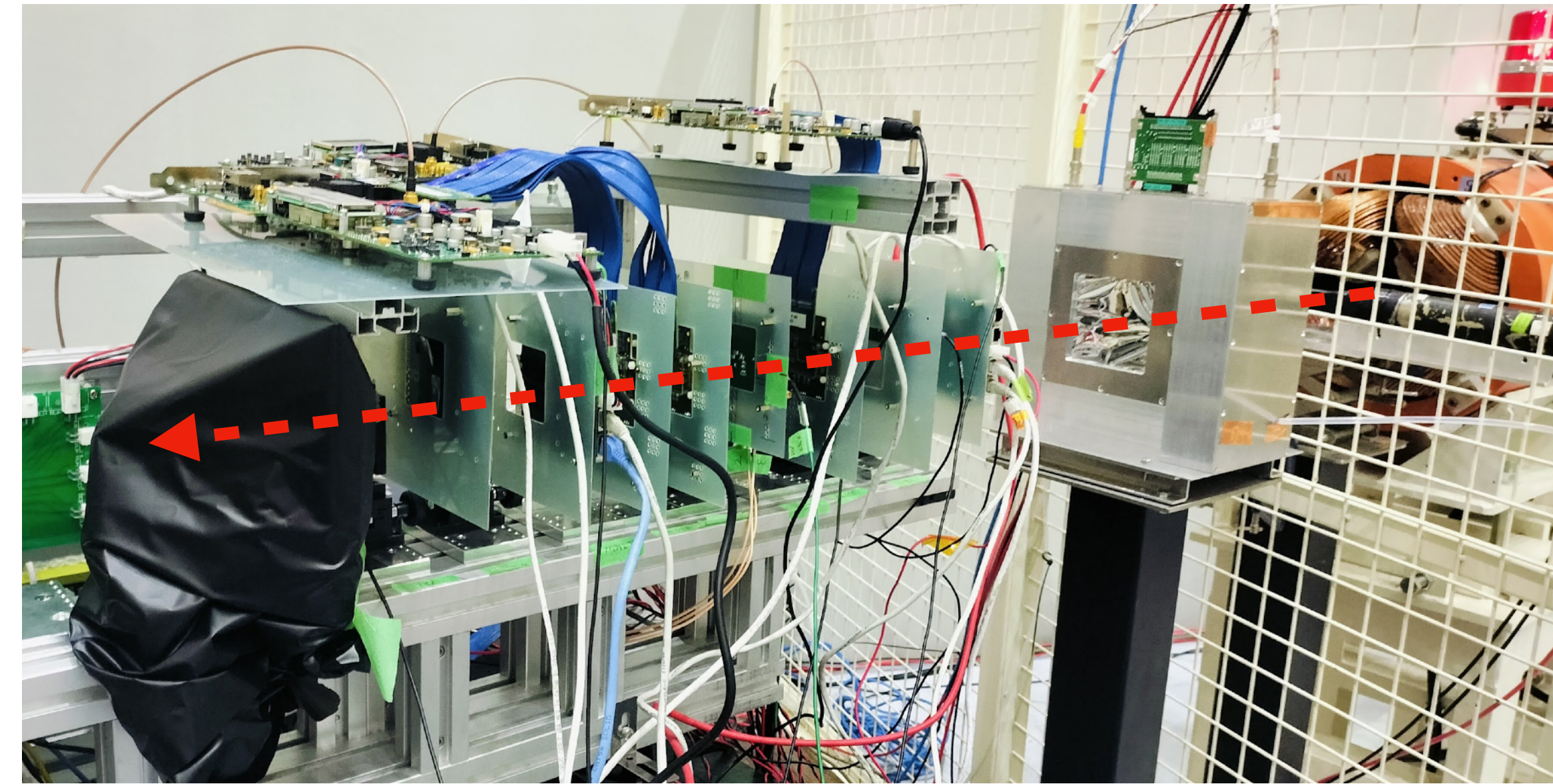
[2] 2nd DRD3 week : Development of in-house plating and hybridization technologies for pixel detectors



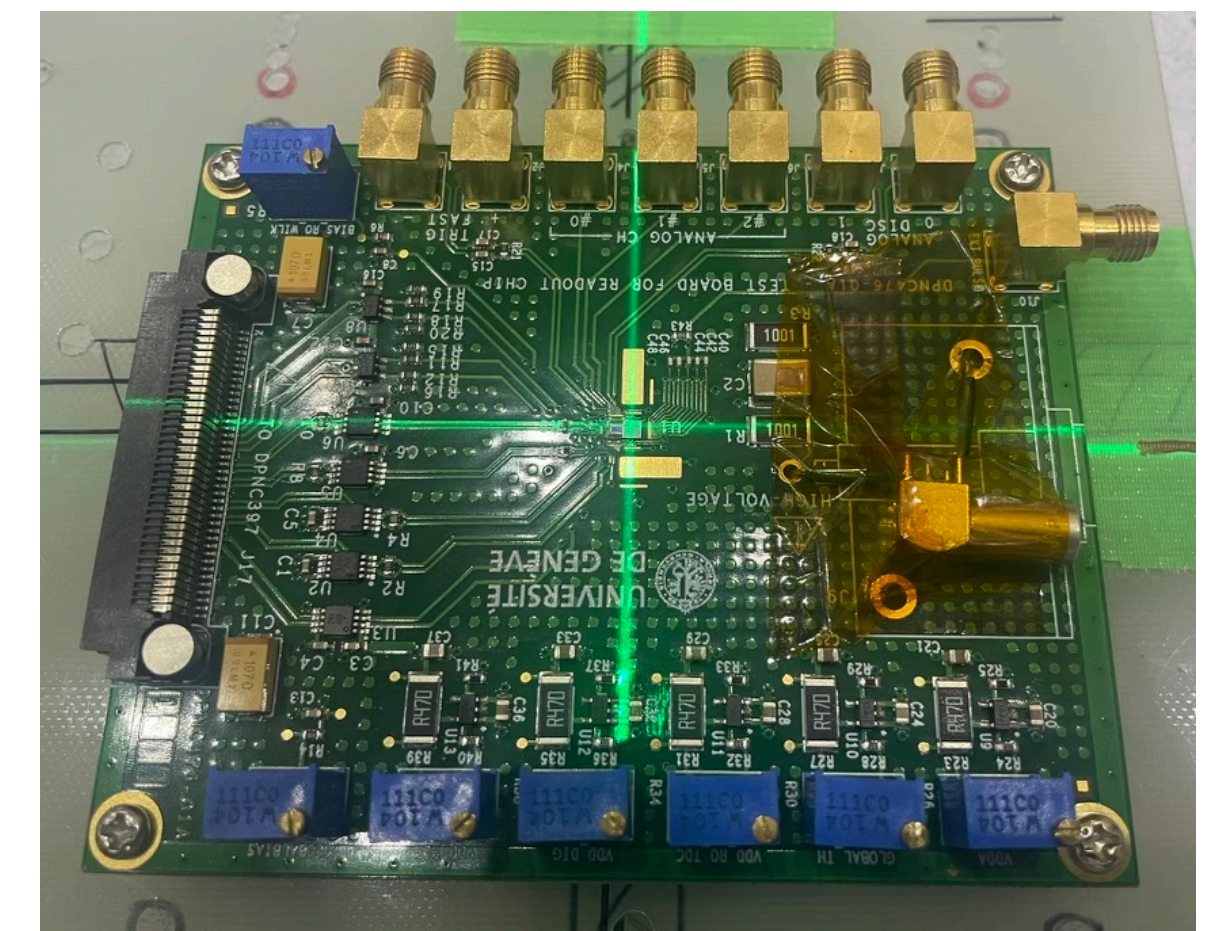
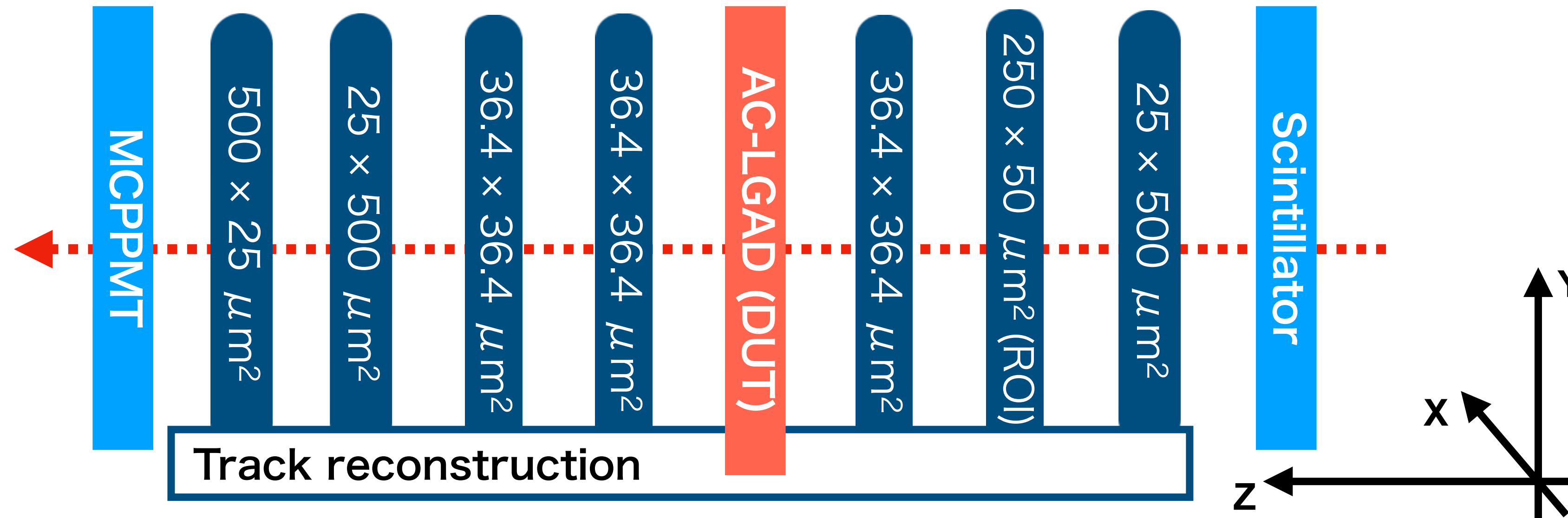
Test Beam Measurement at KEK AR-TBL

Status & Setup

- The beam is 3 GeV electron beam.
- We used 7 layers for tracking reconstruction.
 - FEI4 ($25 \times 500 \mu\text{m}^2$) Dual chip : 3 layers
 - FEI4 ($50 \times 250 \mu\text{m}^2$) Quad chip : 1 layer for Region of Interest (ROI)
 - MALTA2 ($36.4 \times 36.4 \mu\text{m}^2$) : 3 layers
- DUT : AC-LGAD ACF bonded Si-Ge ASIC



↑ Test beam setup at KEK ARTBL

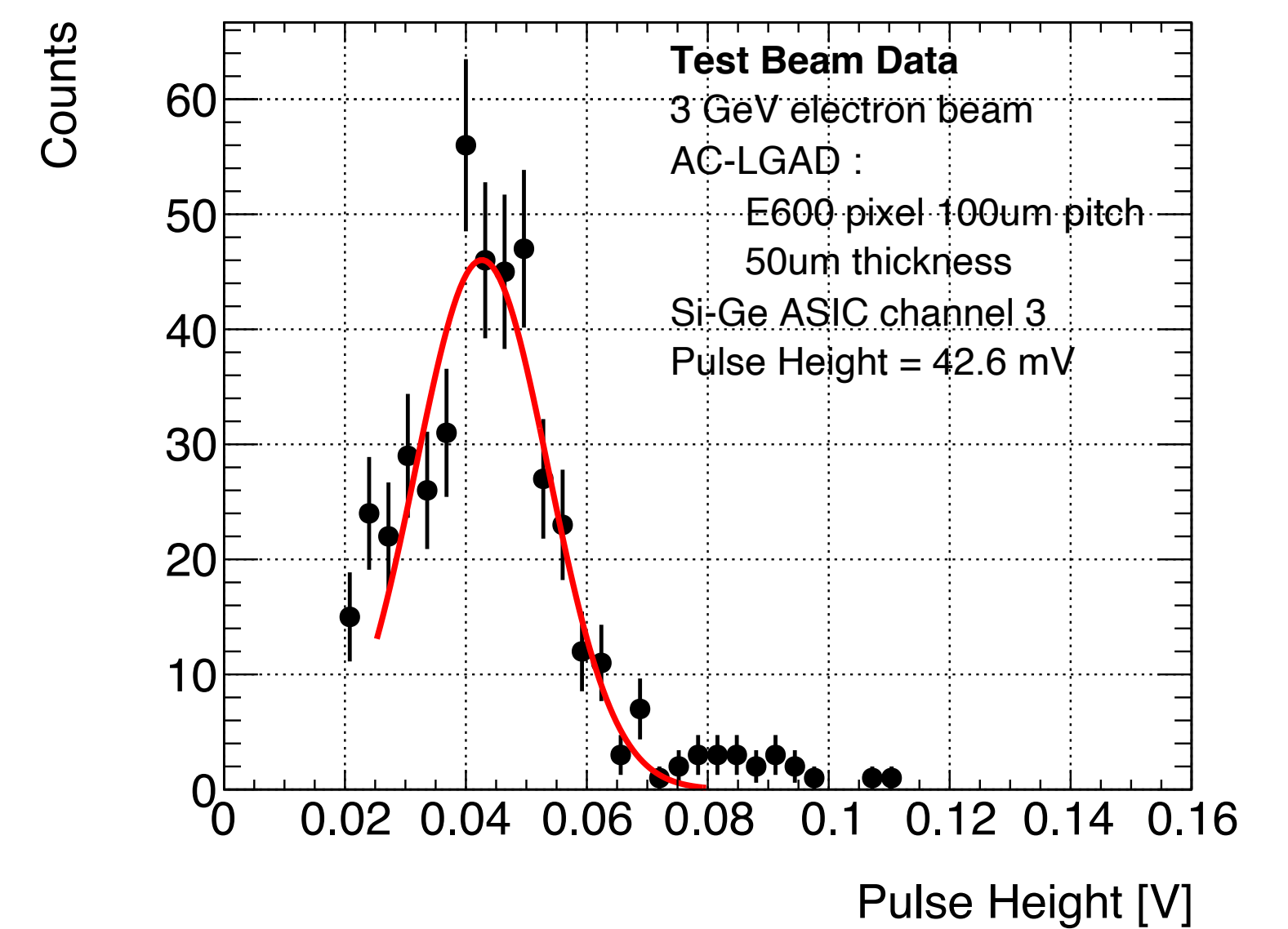
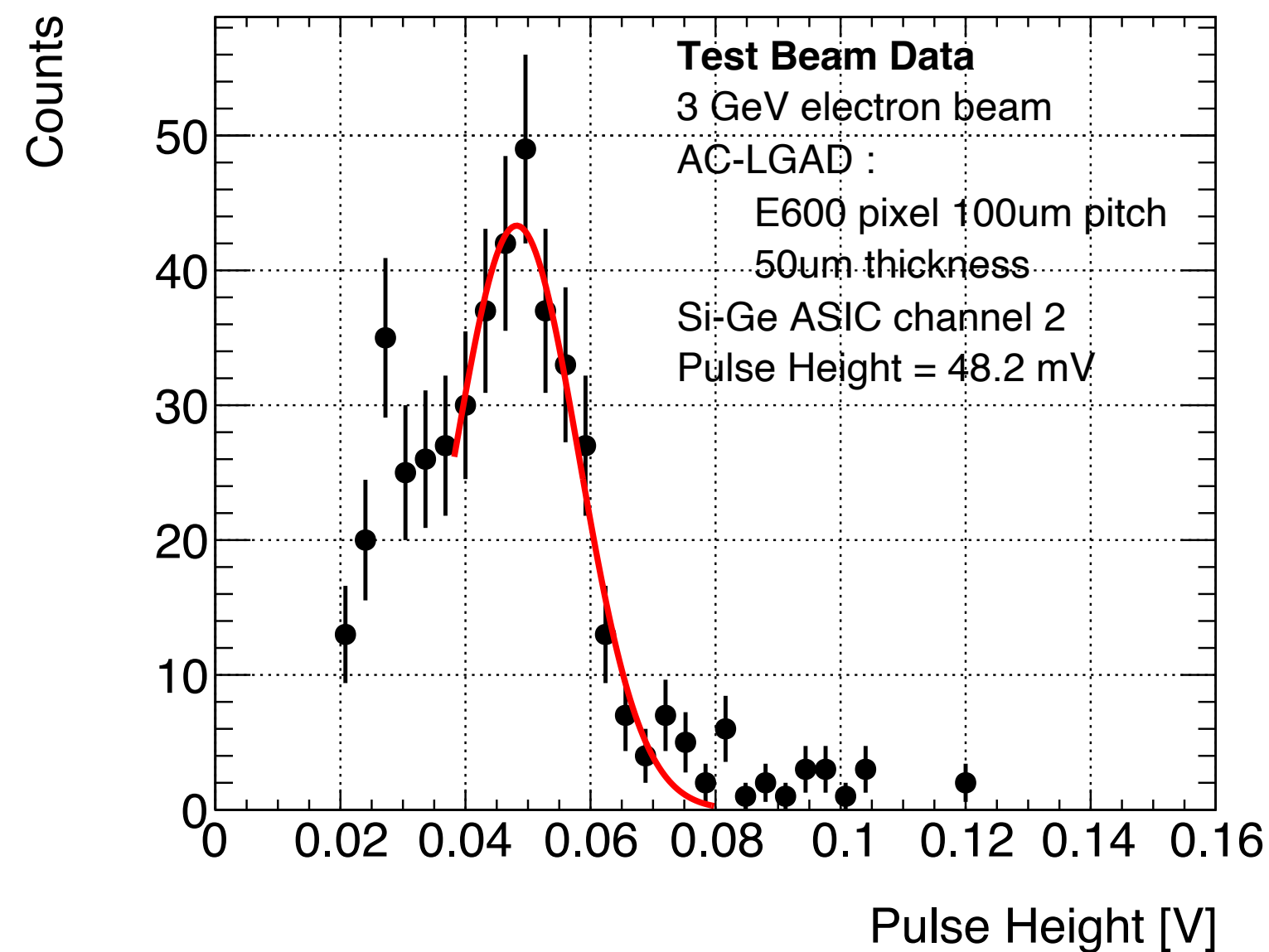
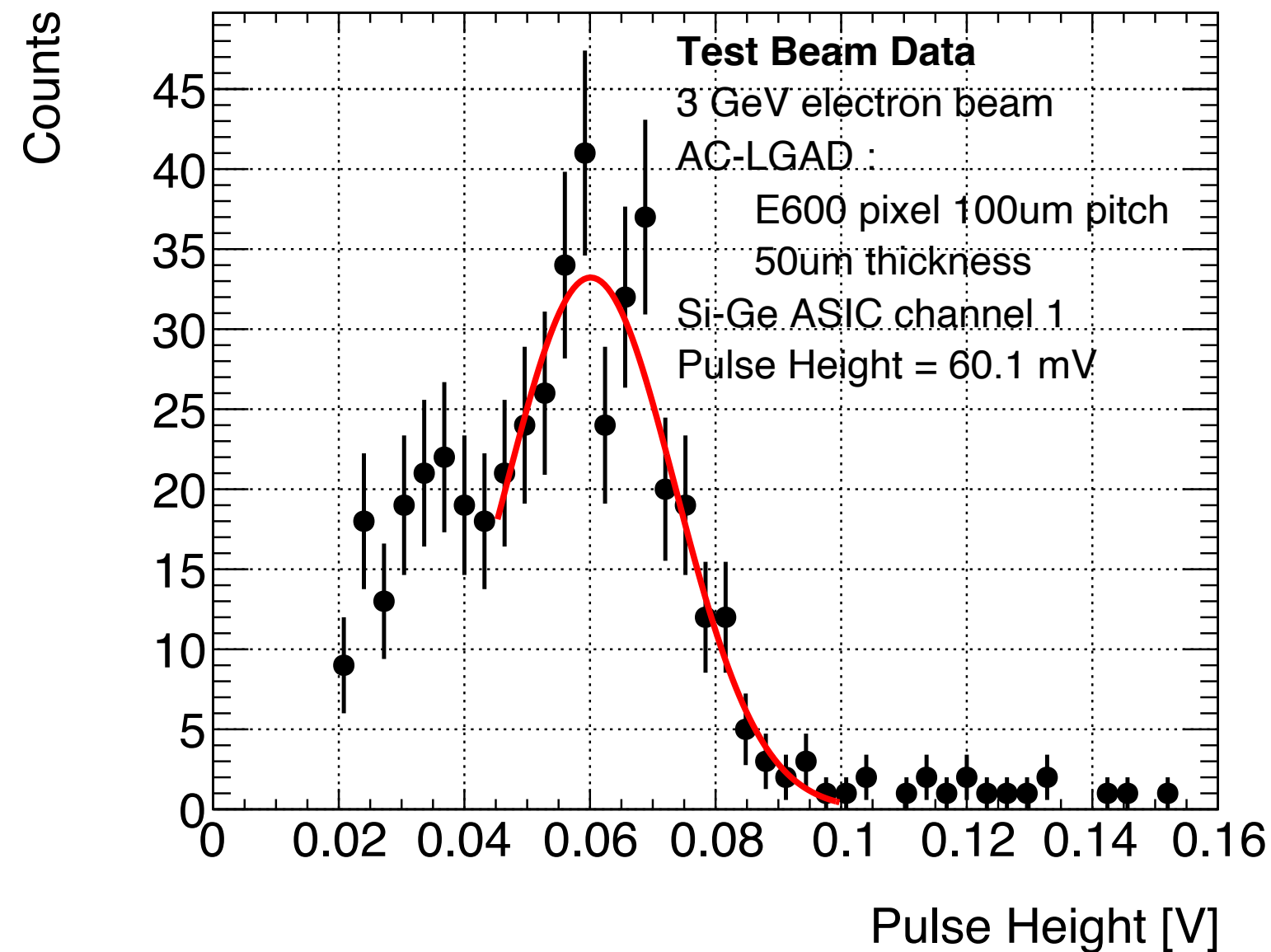
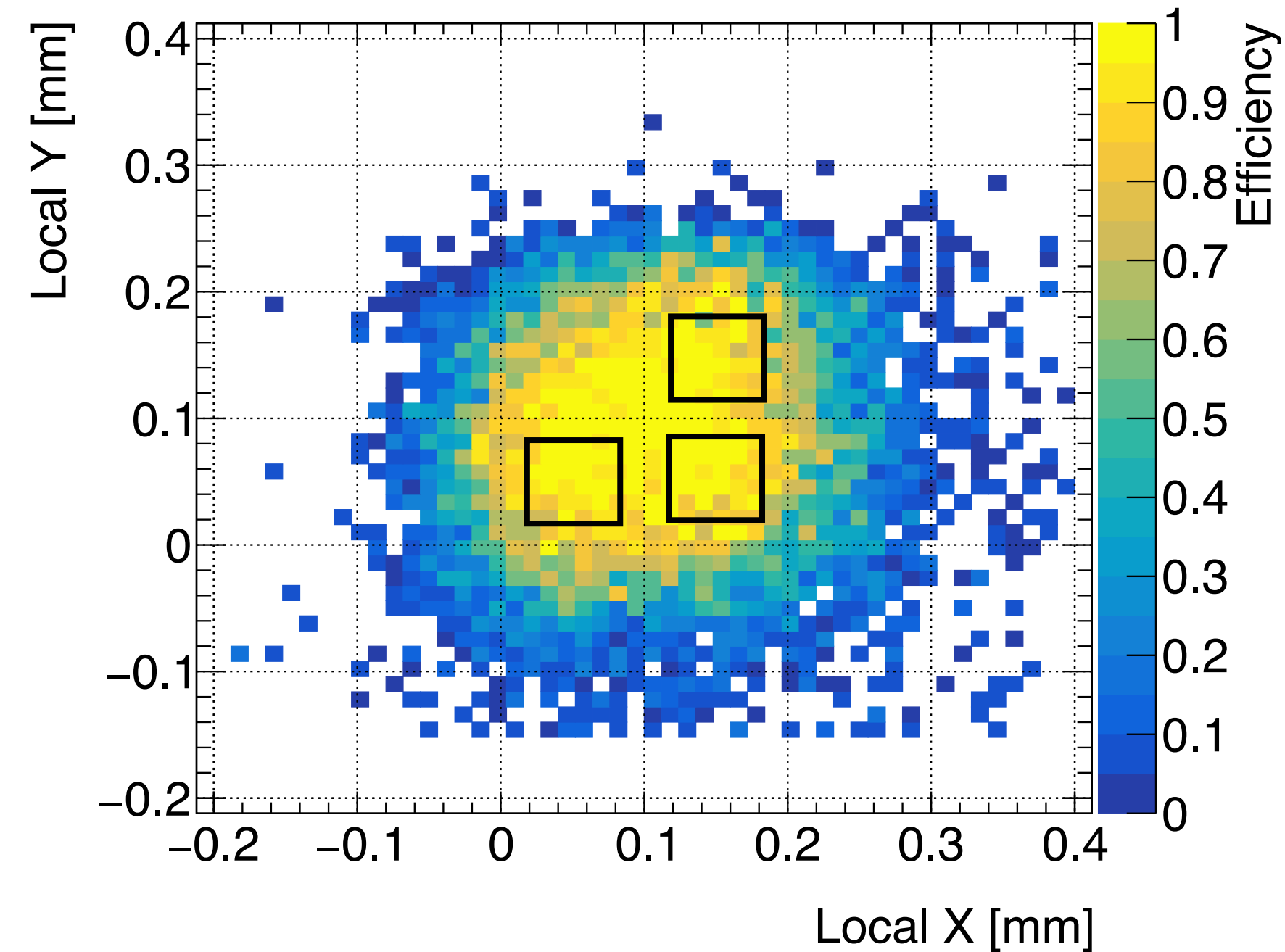


↑ AC-LGADpix+Si-Ge

Results of Test Beam Measurement

Pulse Height for each pixel

- Create a pulse height distribution within a $60\mu\text{m} \times 60\mu\text{m}$ range centered on the pixel to eliminate crosstalk event.
- Channel 1 had the largest signal at **60 mV**, while the signals from channel 2 and 3 were smaller than channel 1.
→ Due to differences in Si-Ge ASIC amplification.
- Pulse height of ACF sample is 60mV and WB sample is 70mV.



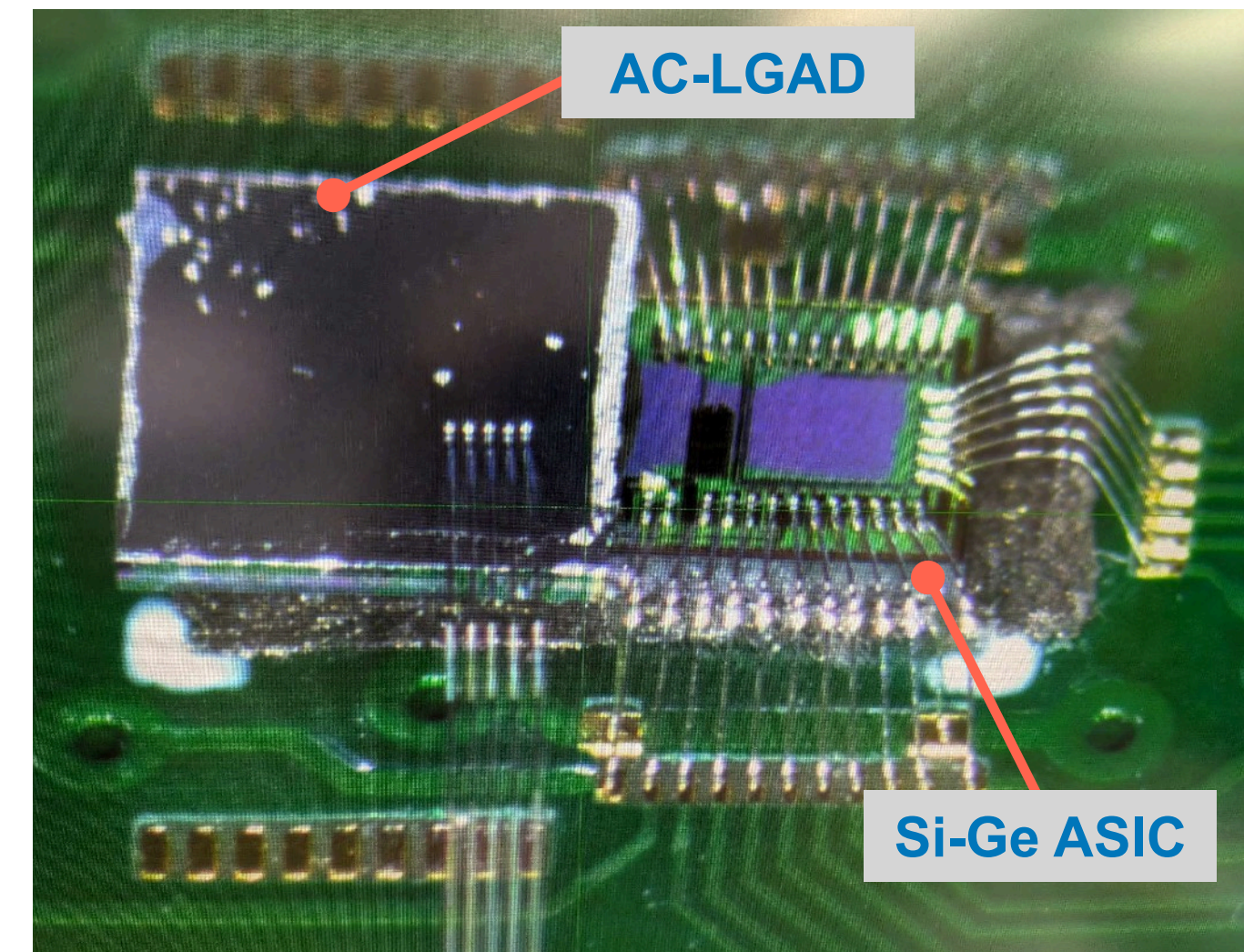
Summary

AC-LGADpix & ASIC development

- AC-LGADs have **no dead region** by uniformly installing the gain layer.
- Need to develop ASICs with **low electronics noise** and **low power consumption**.

Si-Ge BJT ASIC

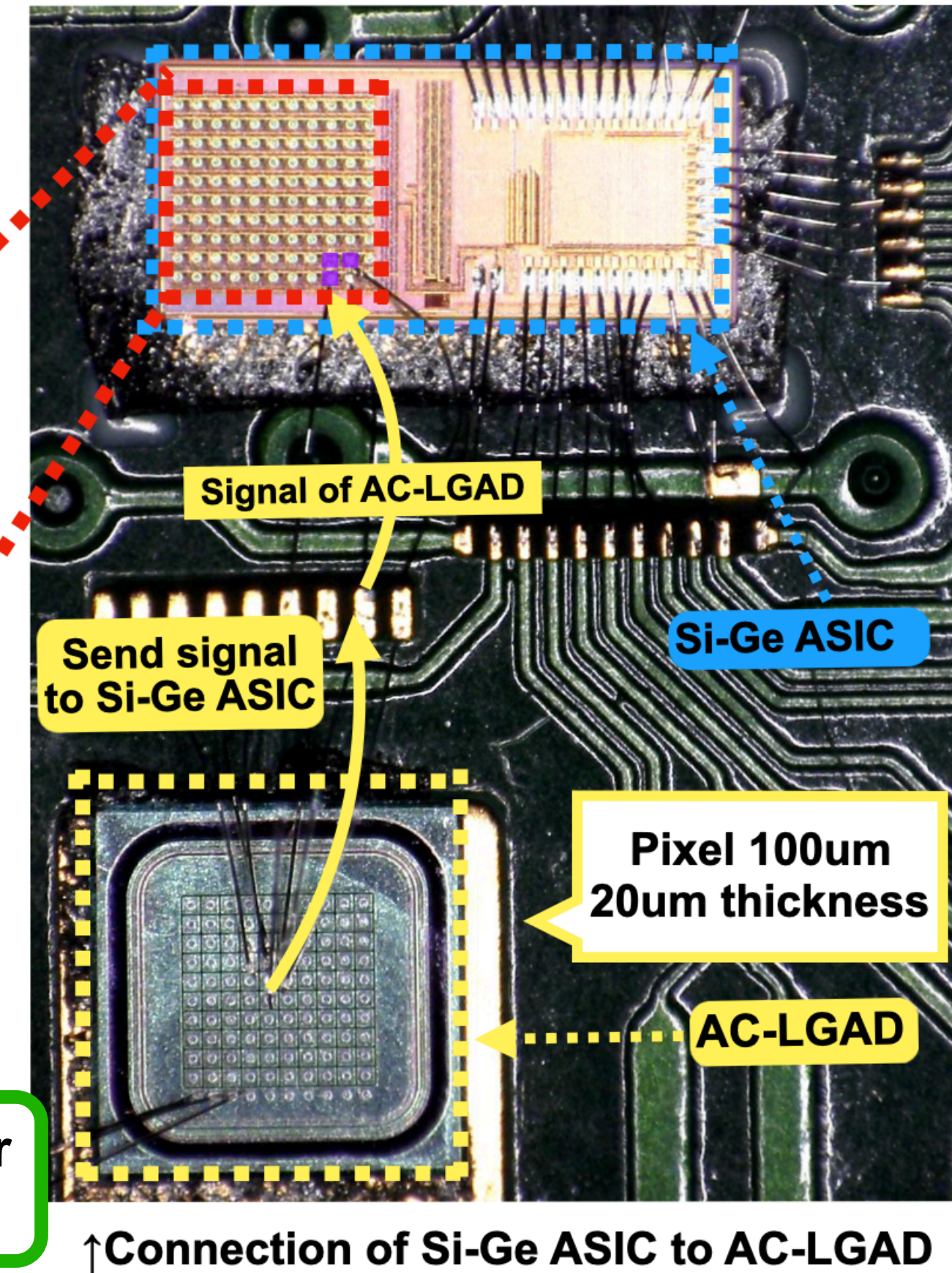
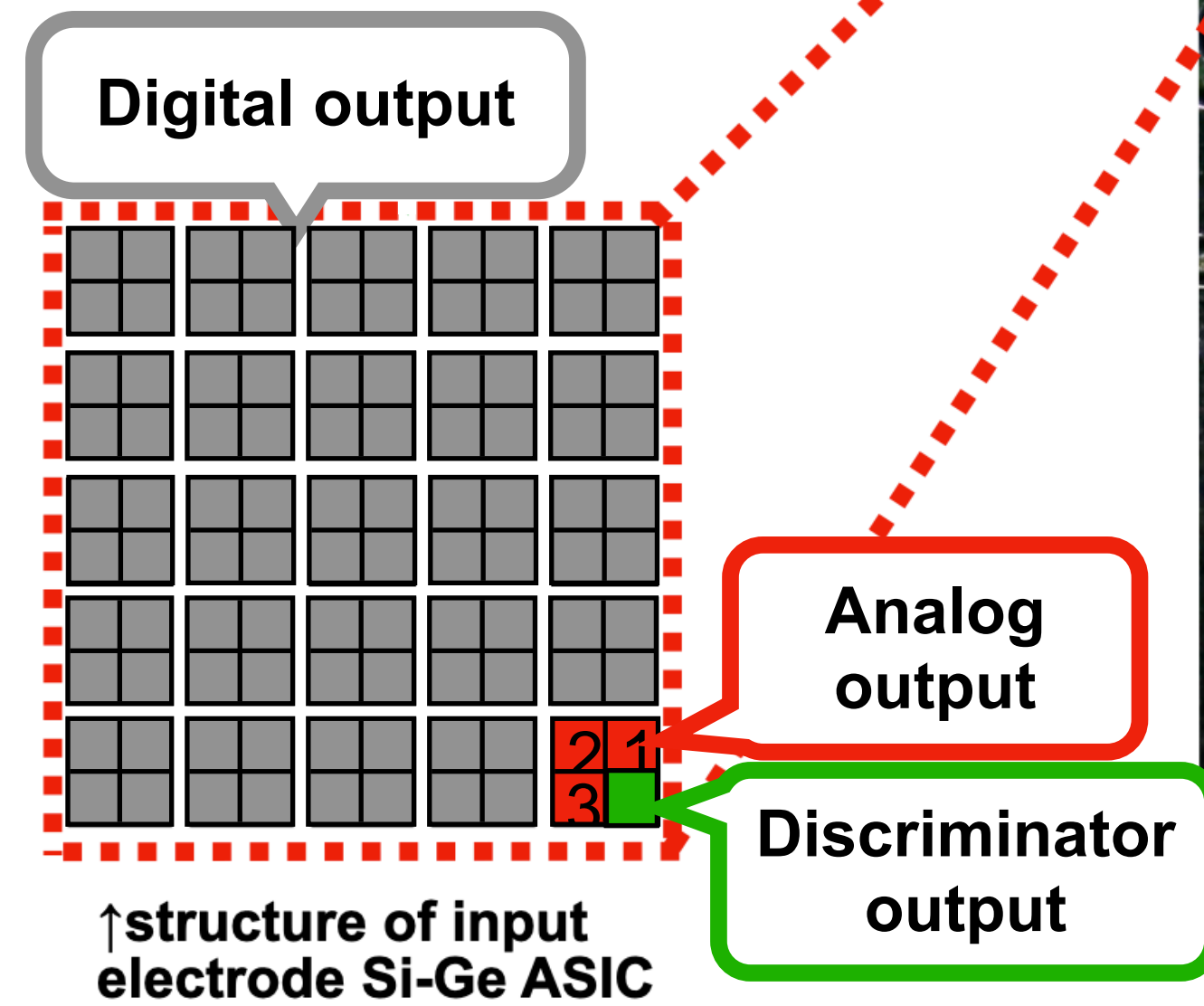
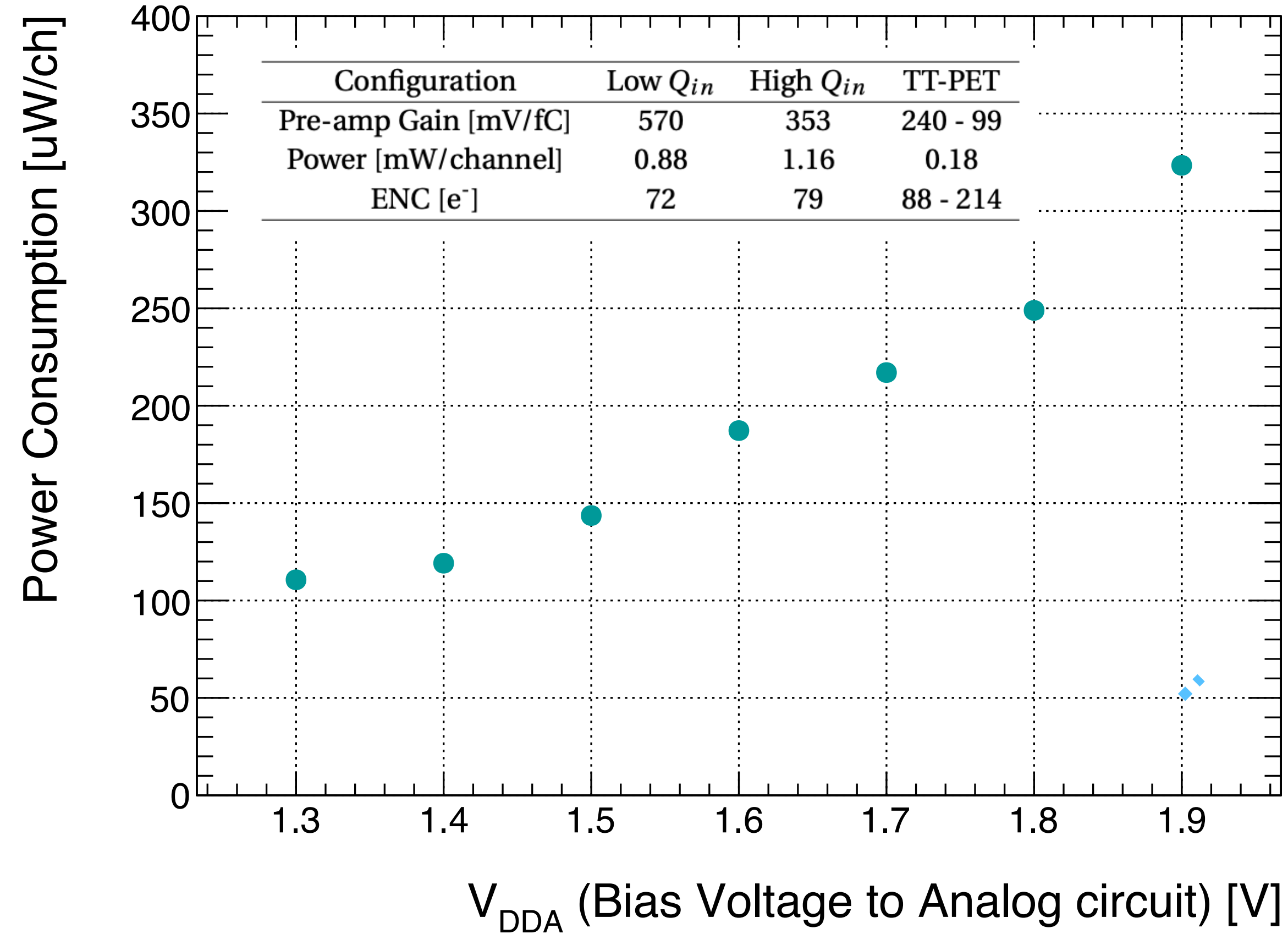
- Si-Ge ASIC : IHP 130nm BJT process
→ Preamp power consumption is **144uW/channel**.
- The Jitter of Si-Ge ASICs
→ **4.5 ps** with AC-LGAD 20 μ m thickness.
→ **2.9 ps** with AC-LGAD 50 μ m thickness.
- Measured AC-LGAD ACF bonded Si-Ge ASIC using 3 GeV electron beam at KEK in Japan
- Pulse height of Si-Ge ASIC using the test beam
→ **60 mV** with ACF bonded AC-LGAD 50 μ m thickness
→ **70 mV** with wire bonded AC-LGAD 50 μ m thickness



| | 50um thickness ACF bonding | 50um thickness Wire bonding | 20um thickness Wire bonding |
|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pulse Height | 60 mV | 70 mV | 43 mV |
| Jitter | - | 2.9 ps | 4.5 ps |

Backup

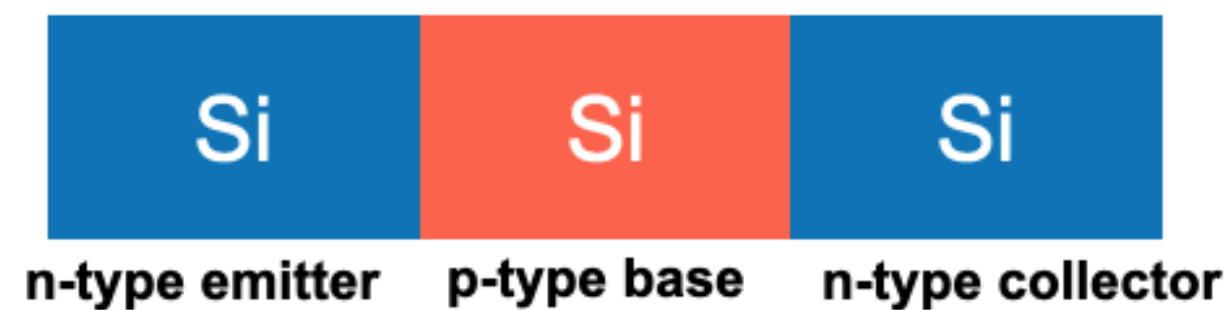
Power consumption



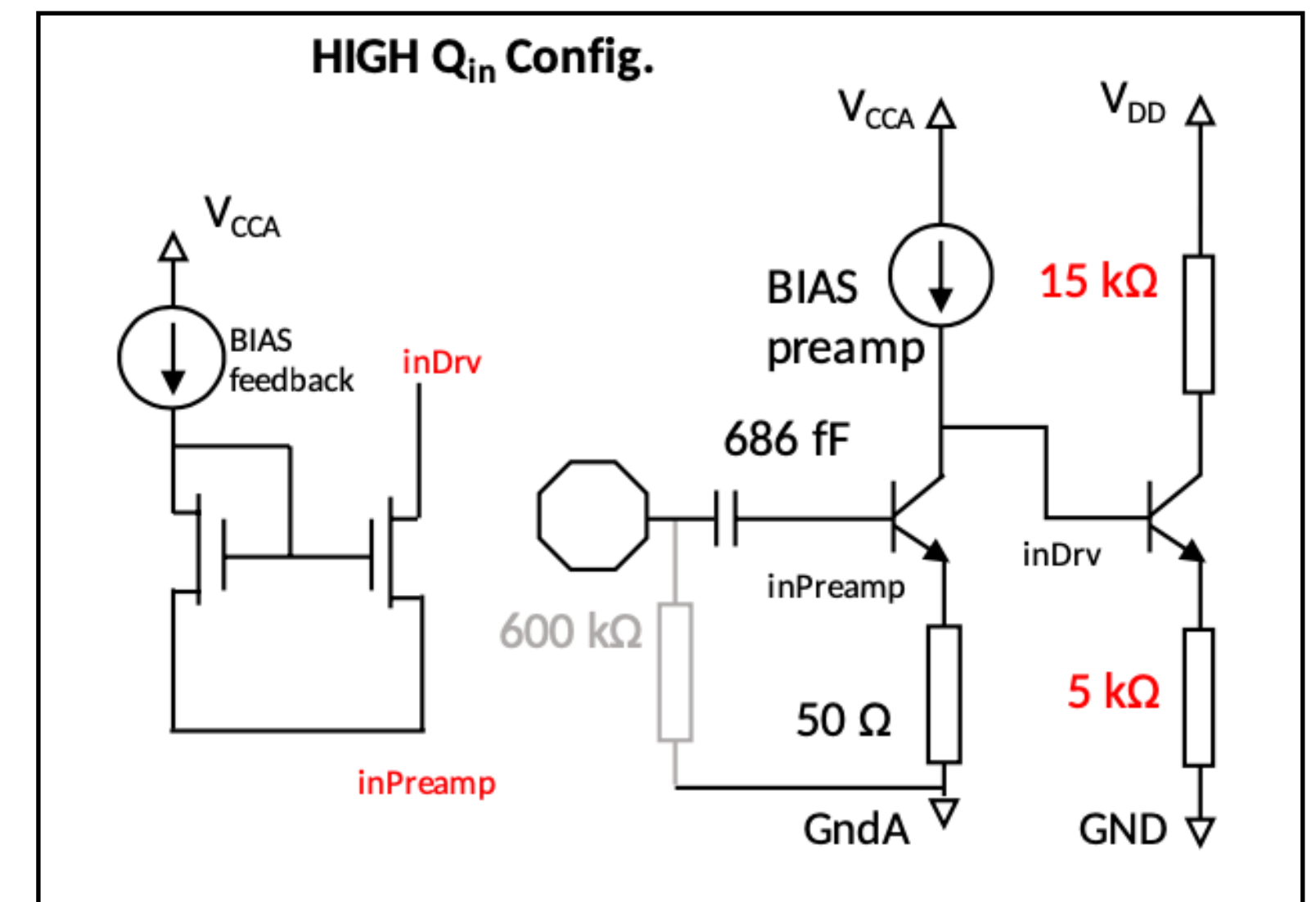
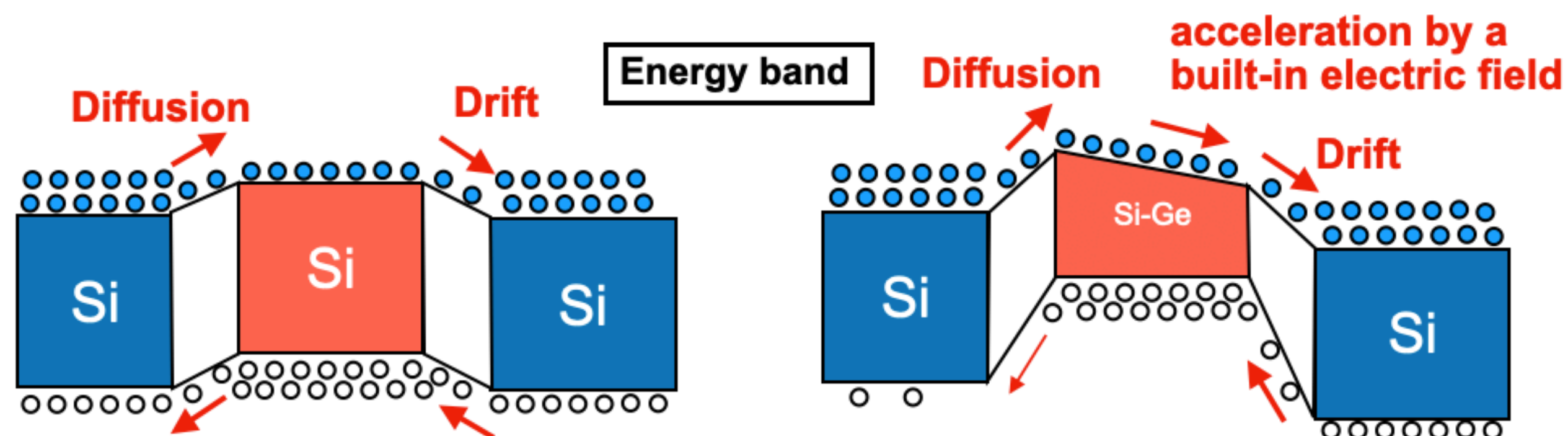
HBT

- Si-Ge (Silicon-Germanium) BJT ASIC.
→ Process : IHP 130nm BJT process.
- The preamp is made of HBT : Heterojunction Bipolar Transistor
- The Input electrode is a 10×10 matrix ($100 \times 100 \mu\text{m}^2$).
→ To readout detector signals, we connected wire-bonding.
- We evaluated timing resolution by reading out AC-LGAD signal through the three analog outputs.
- Doping of Germanium is ingredient → can get electric field

Normal bipolar transistor (homojunction)

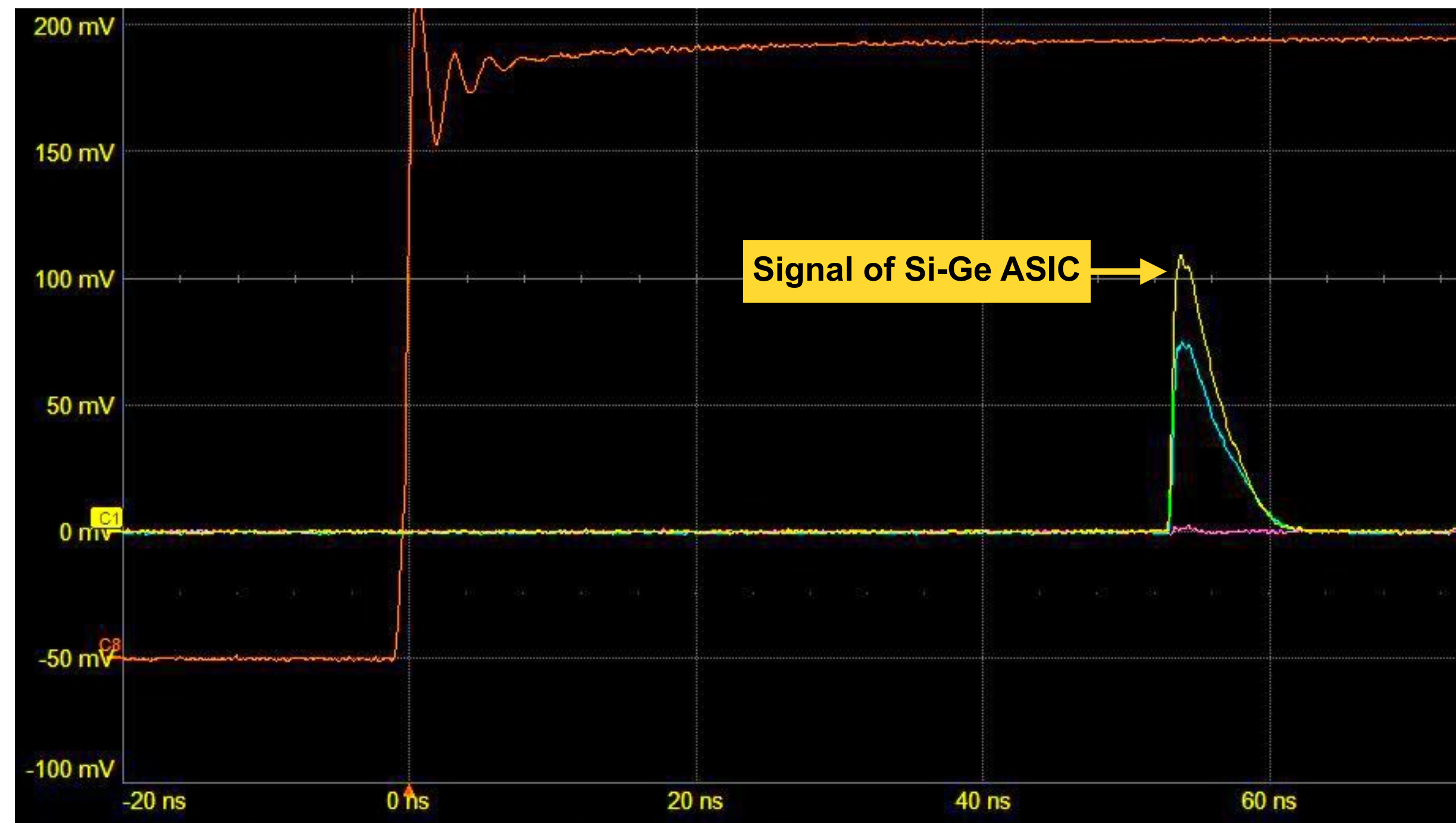


Si-Ge HBT (Heterojunction)

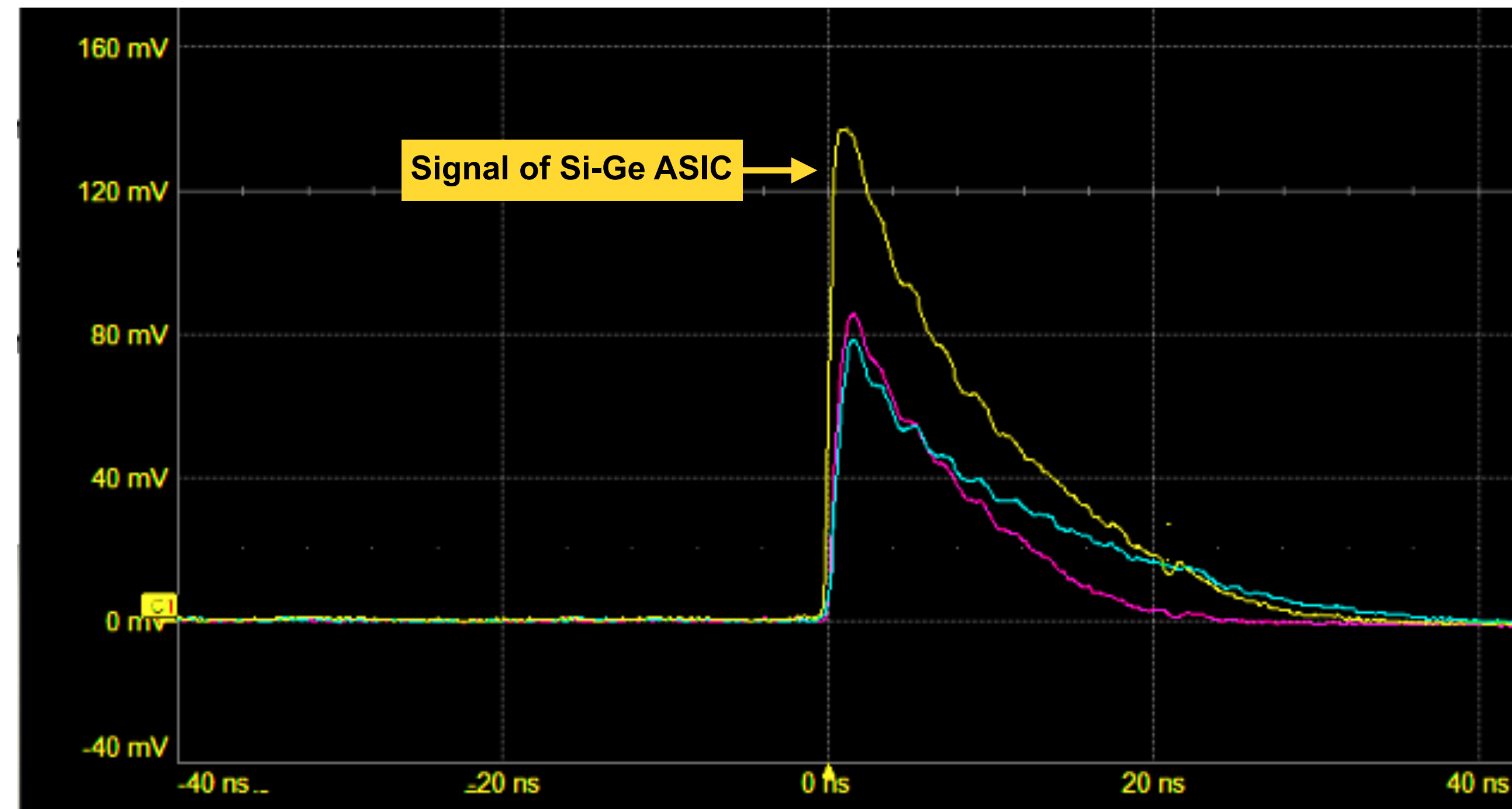


Si-Ge ASIC

wire-bonded 20um thick AC-LGAD
using infrared laser



ACF-bonded 50um thick AC-LGAD
using radioactive source

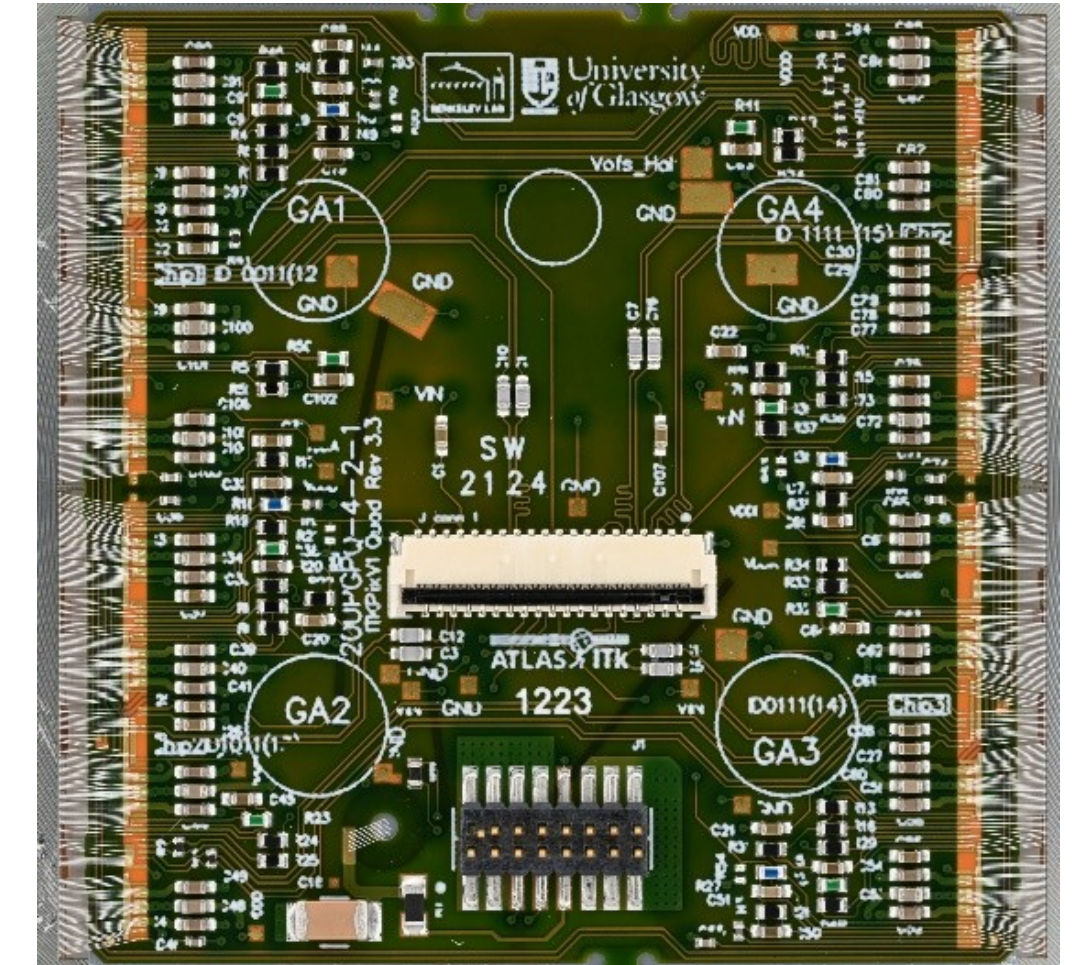


Power consumption

Other detector power consumption

ITk (Inner Tracker)

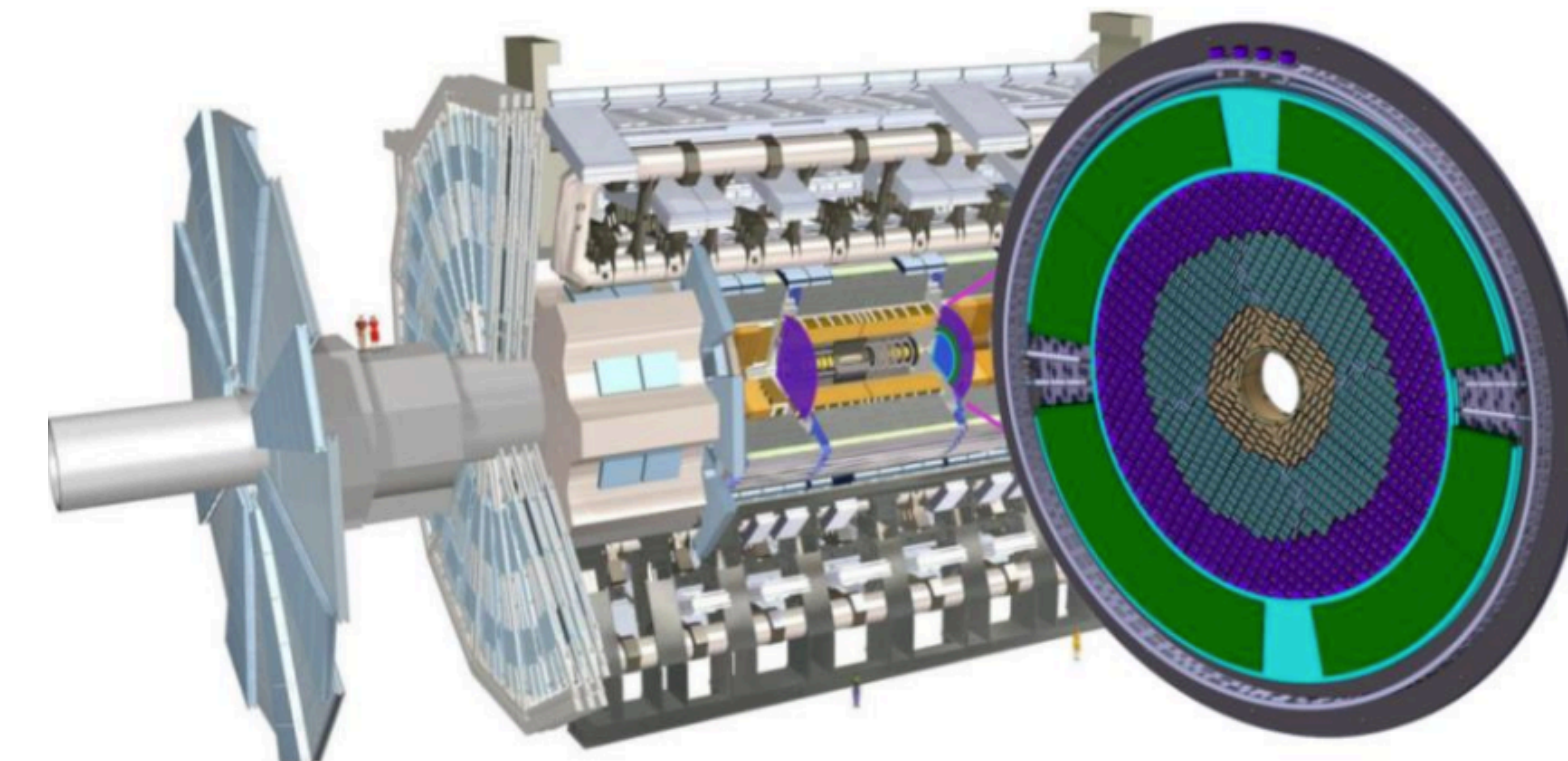
- ITk ASIC : RD53b
- 1channel size : $50\mu\text{m}\times 50\mu\text{m}$
- Power consumption : $0.8\text{W}/\text{cm}^2 = 40\mu\text{W}/\text{channel}$
→ Si-Ge ASIC is $144\mu\text{W}/\text{channel}$, $1.4\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ (only preamp)



↑ITk

HGTD (High Granularity Timing Detector)

- HGTD ASIC : ALTIROC2
- 1channel size : $1.3\text{mm}\times 1.3\text{mm}$
- Power consumption : $0.6\text{W}/\text{cm}^2 = 10\text{mW}/\text{channel}$

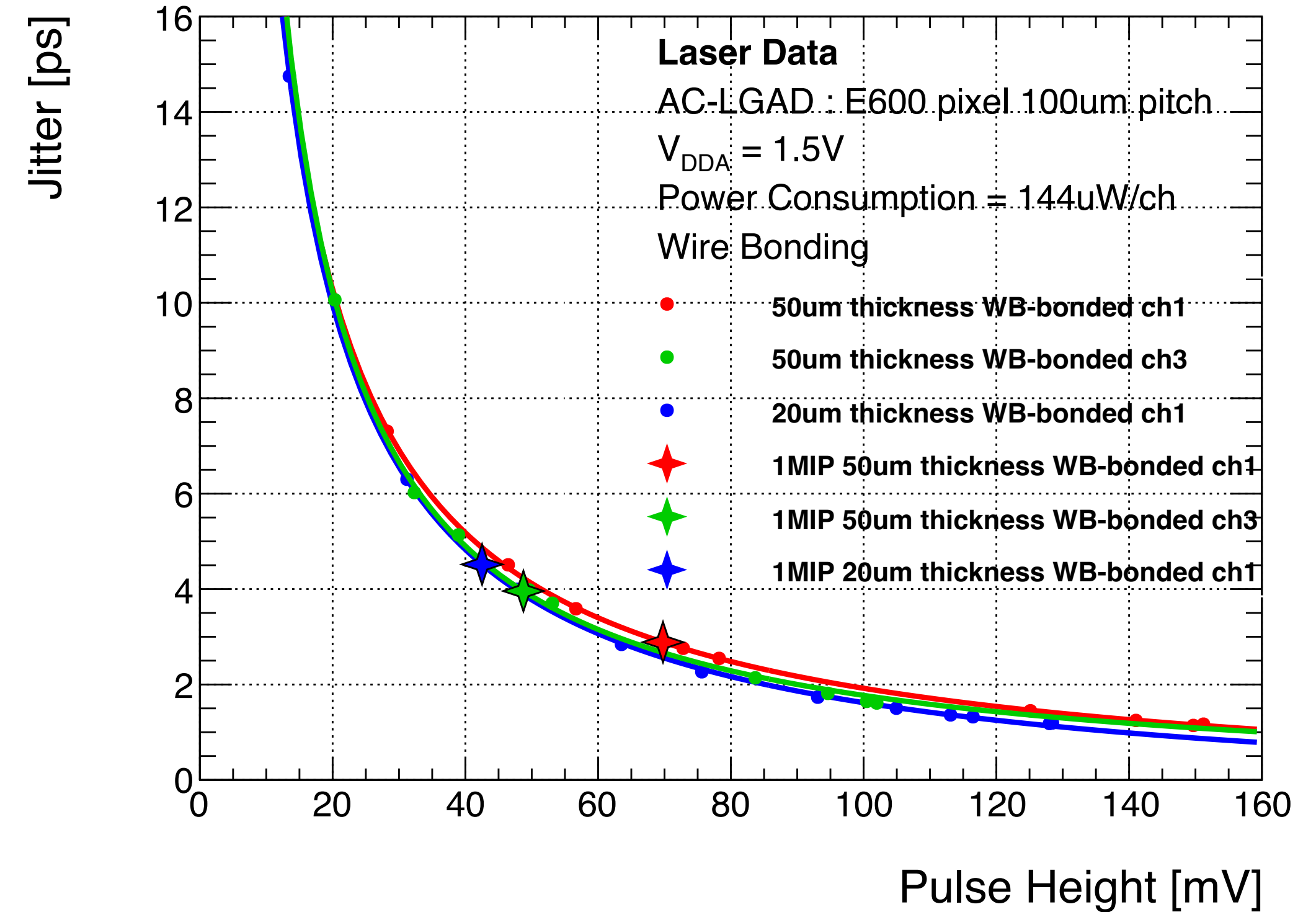
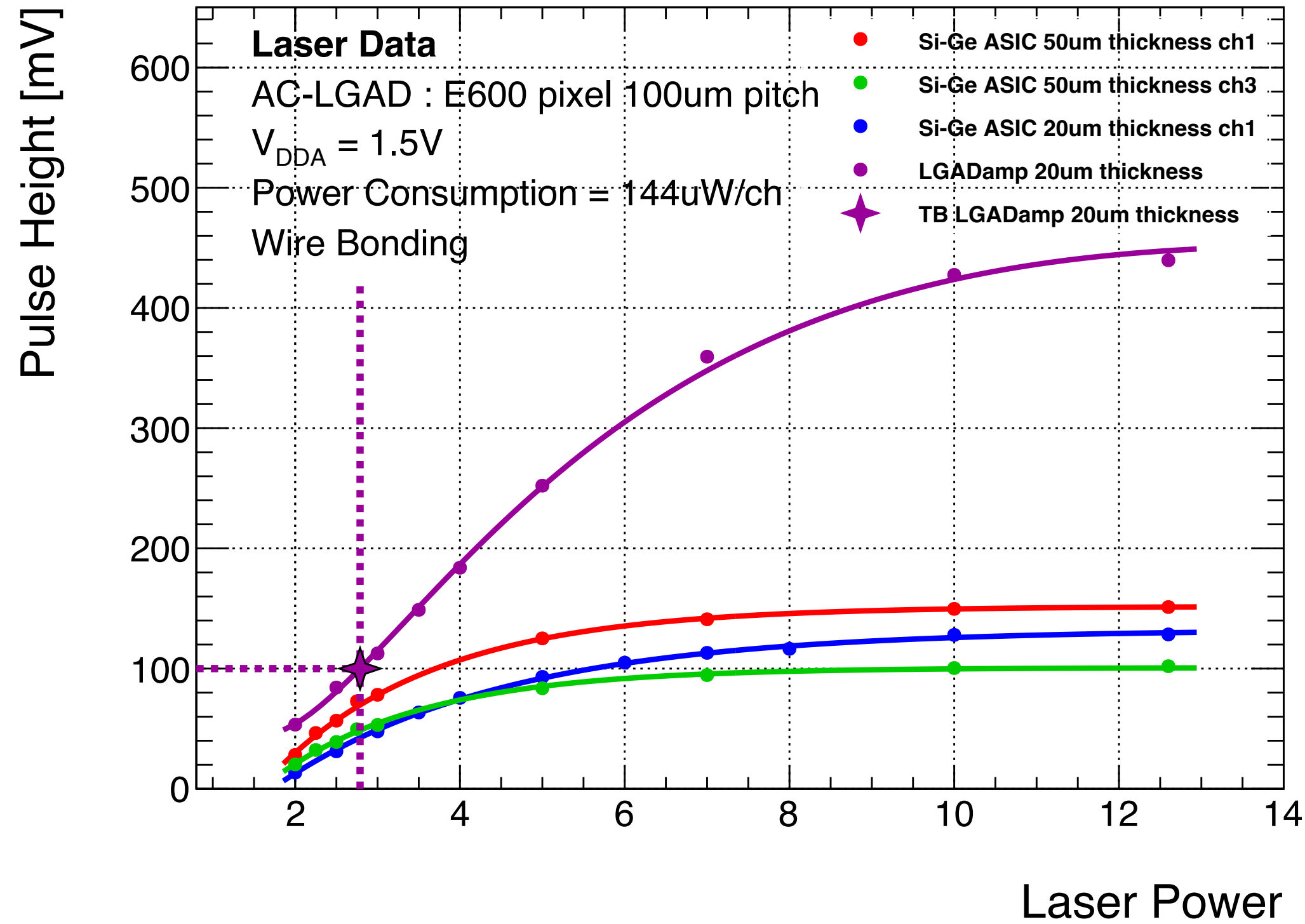


↑HGTD

Result of Laser Measurement

Input signal dependency of Jitter

$$\sigma_{\text{jitter}} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\left| \frac{dV}{dt} \right|} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\frac{S}{t_r}}$$



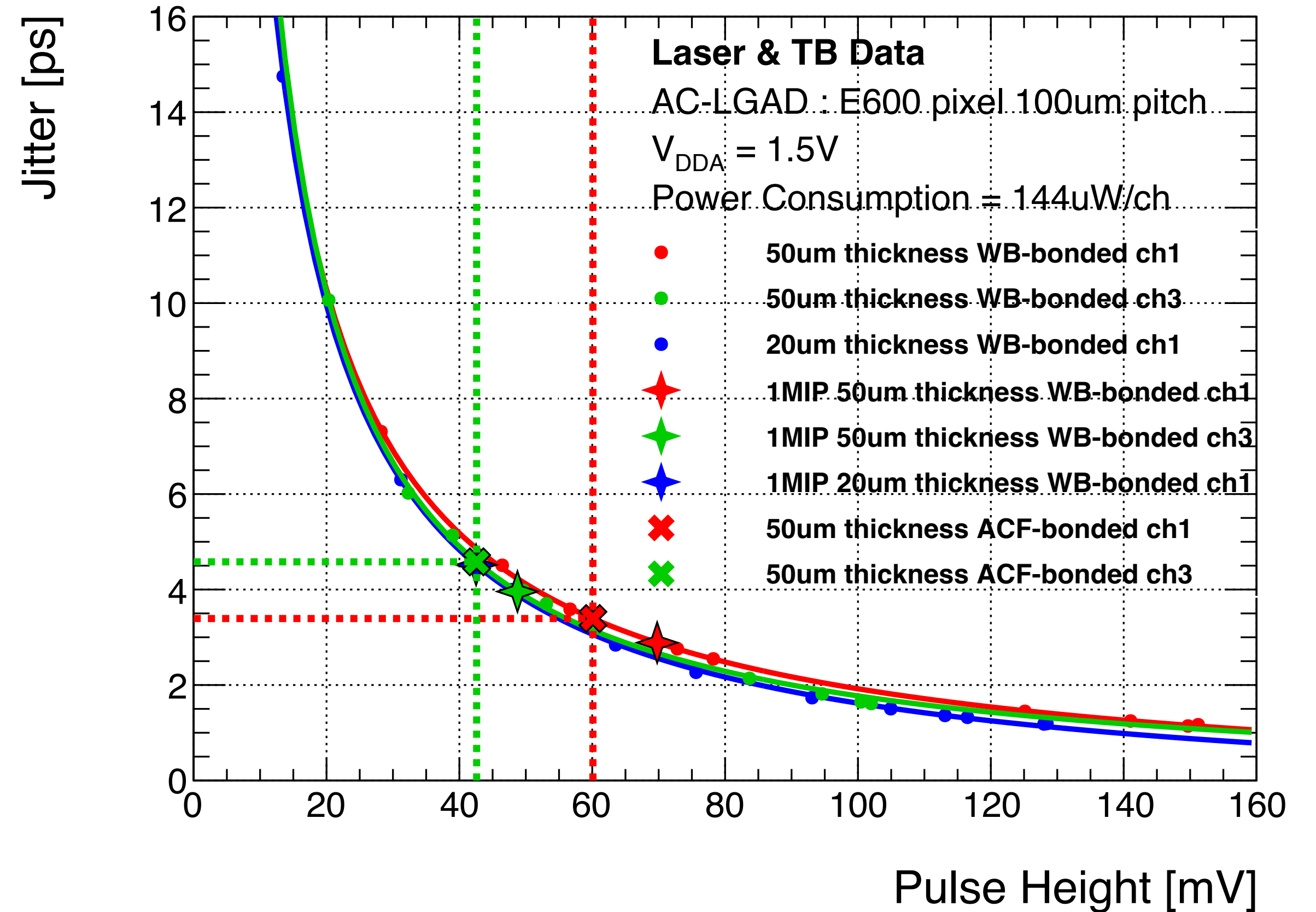
- Laser power of 1MIP (Minimum Ionizing Particle) is 2.8
 → Pulse height of 20um thickness AC-LGAD is ~100mV at test beam.
- The Jitter of Si-Ge ASICs with 1MIP
 → **4.5 ps** with AC-LGAD 20um thickness ch1.
 → **2.9 ps** with AC-LGAD 50um thickness ch1.

| | 50um ch1 | 50um ch3 | 20um ch1 |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Pulse Height | 70 mV | 49 mV | 43 mV |
| Jitter | 2.9 ps | 4.0 ps | 4.5 ps |

Results of Test Beam Measurement

Jitter at Laser and TB

- measured jitter in the test beam using laser data (Pulse height vs Jitter).
- Sensor type:
AC-LGAD 50um thickness WB or ACF
- Jitter of Si-Ge ASIC using the test beam
→ **3.4 ps** with ACF bonded
- Jitter of Si-Ge ASIC using the laser
→ **2.9 ps** with wire bonded
- Compared to wire bonding, ACF bonding produces smaller signals.
→ Contact resistance is caused by ACF bonding.



| | Test Beam ACF ch1 | Test Beam ACF ch3 | Laser WB ch1 | Laser WB ch3 |
|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Pulse Height | 60 mV | 43 mV | 70 mV | 49 mV |
| Jitter | 3.4 ps | 4.6 ps | 2.9 ps | 4.0 ps |