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# Testing of LDMX's HCal readout electronics

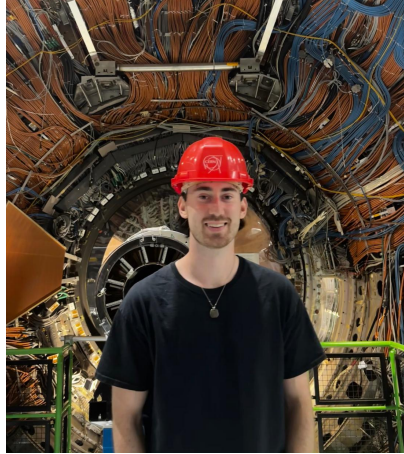
**Verena Hehl**, Blazej Rozmarynowicz, Andreas Pettersson  
Supervisors: Hannah Herde, Erik Wallin, Lennart Österman



# Introduction of the team



Blazej “Blaise”  
Rozmarynowicz



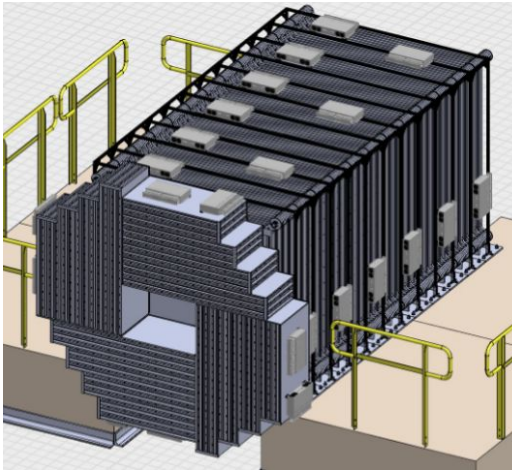
Andreas Pettersson



Verena Hehl  
(Speaker)

# HCal signal readout path

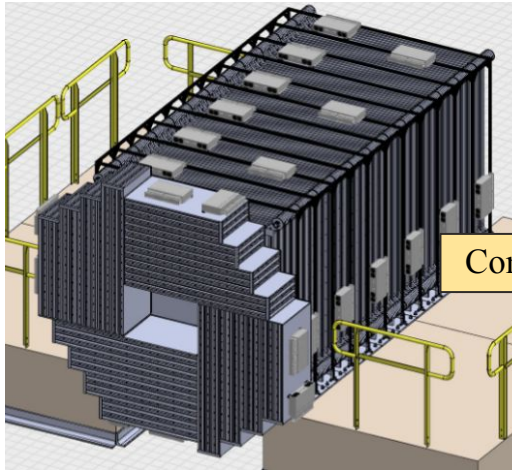
## LDMX HCal



T. Akesson et al. *LDMX – The Light Dark Matter eXperiment*. arXiv:2508.11833, August 2025.

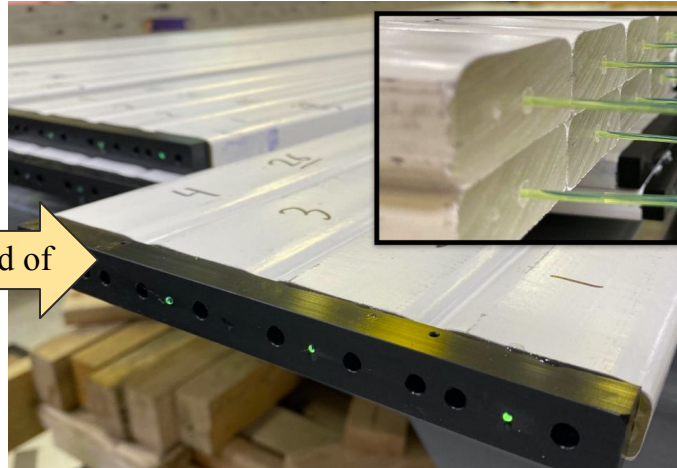
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## Scintillator bars with Counter-Mother-Board (CMB)

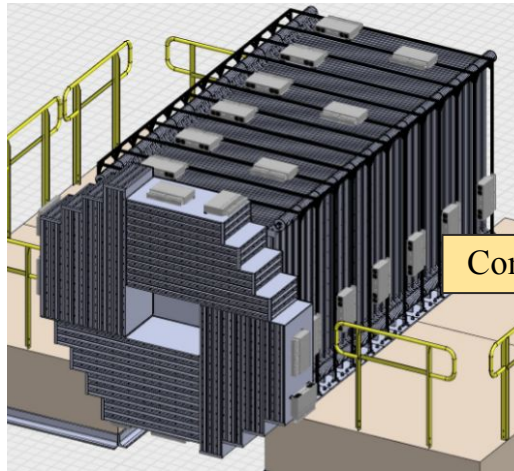


Composed of

H. Herde, Partikeldagarna, 2024

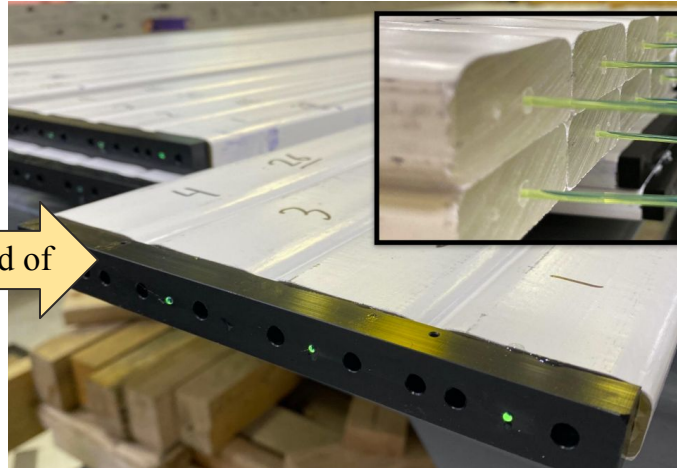
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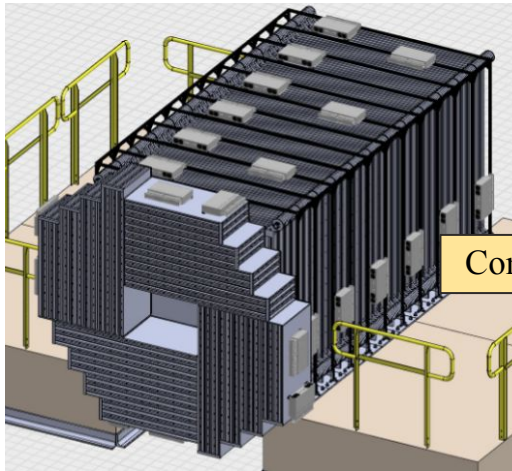
CMB with Silicon Photomultipliers (SiPMs)



Front panel with SiPMs visible

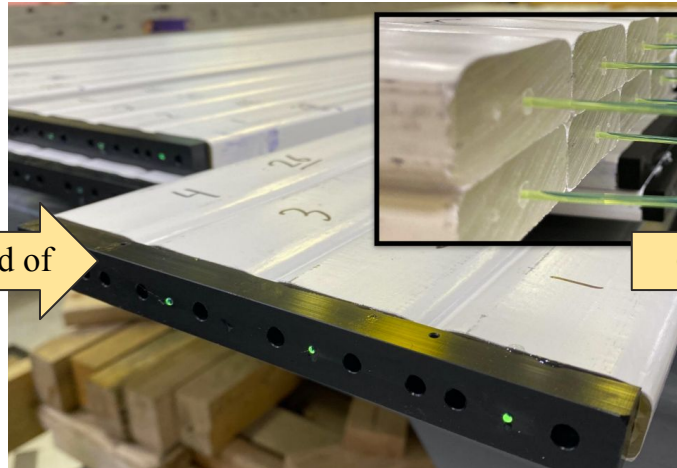
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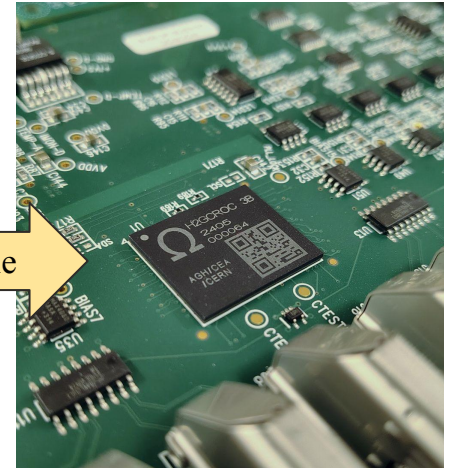
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H. Herde, Partikeldagarna, 2024

## Readout electronics



## CMB with Silicon Photomultipliers (SiPMs)



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# How do we calibrate the HCal readout electronics?

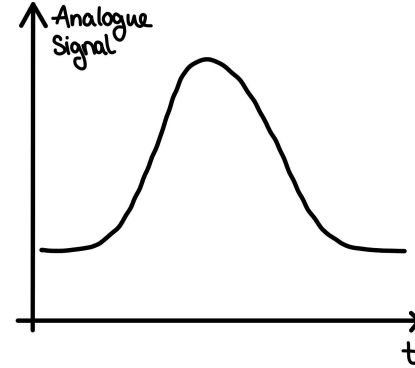
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Three possibilities:

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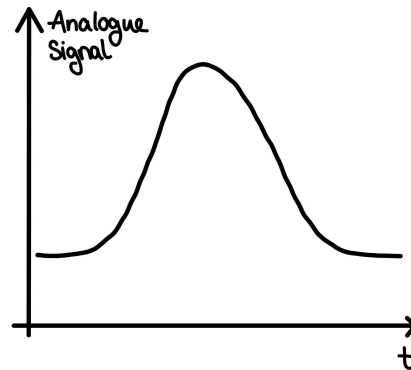
1. Internal charge injections



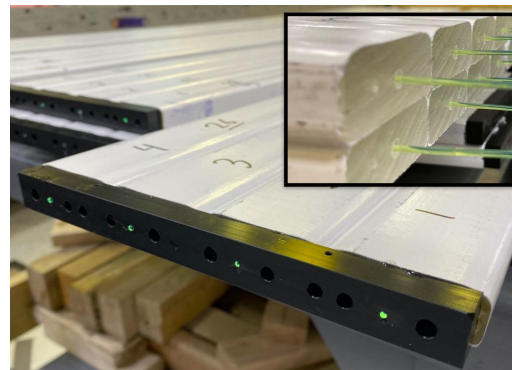
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Three possibilities:

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2. LED flashing (external)



Front panel with SiPMs visible

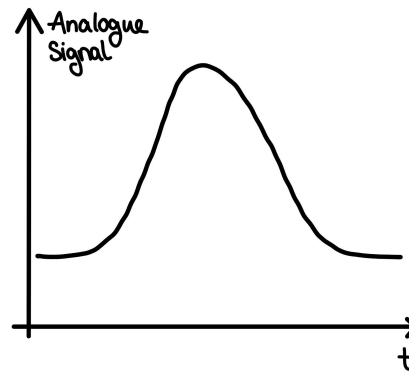


H. Herde, Partikeldagarna, 2024

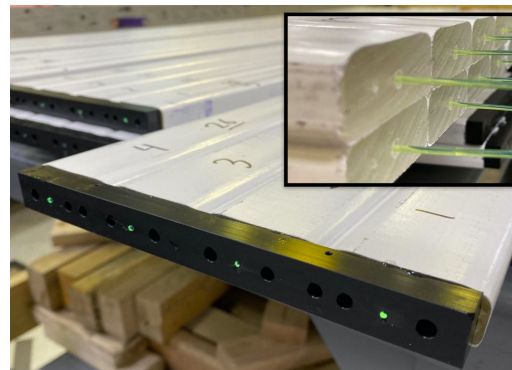
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Front panel with SiPMs visible



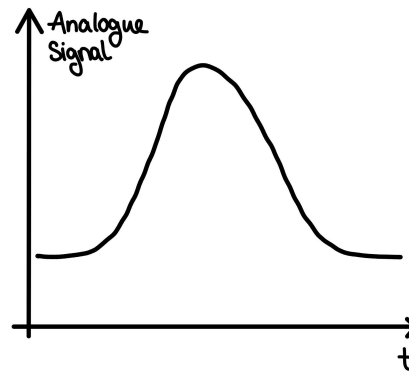
H. Herde, Partikeldagarna, 2024

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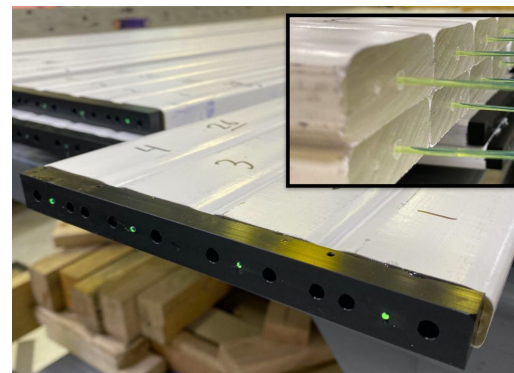
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Our focus  
today



Front panel with SiPMs visible



H. Herde, Partikeldagarna, 2024

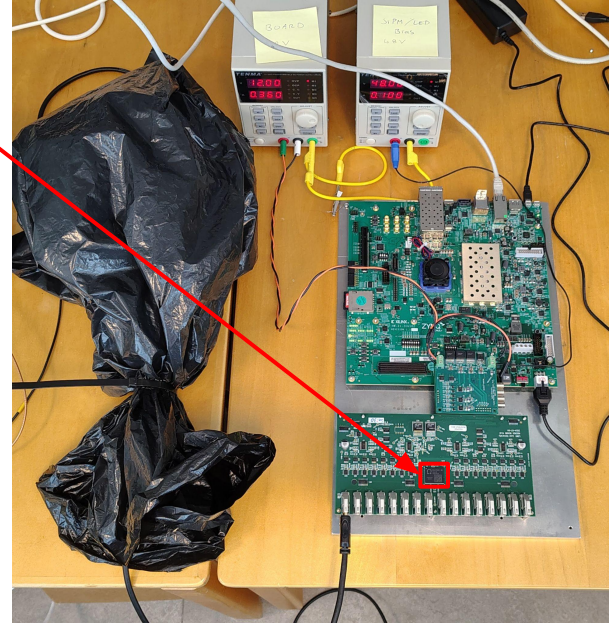
# High Granularity Calorimeter ReadOut Chip (HGCROC)



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- 72 channels, 64 connected to SiPMs



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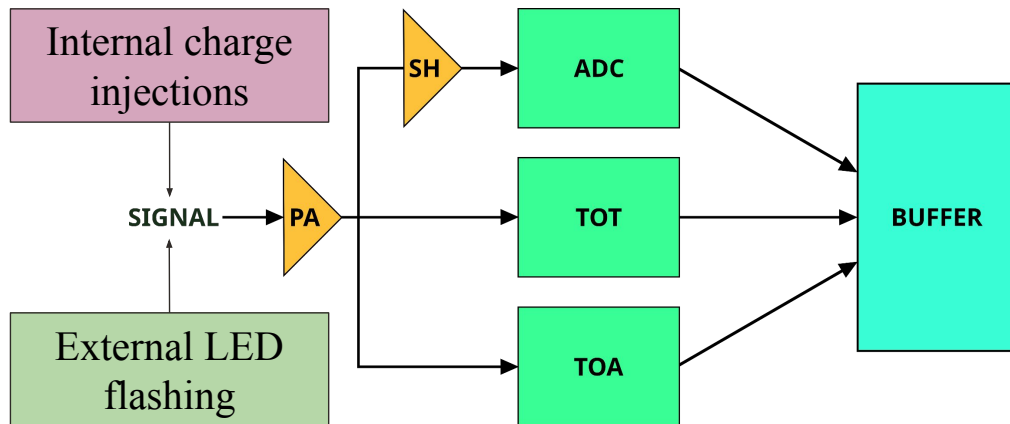
Internal charge  
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External LED  
flashing



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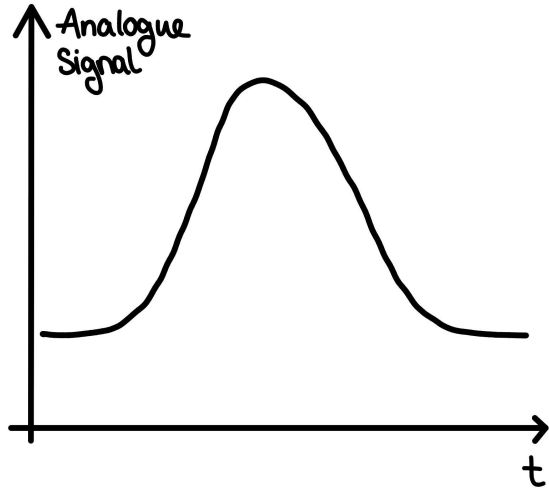


A. Pettersson, V. Hehl, Partikeldagarna, 2025

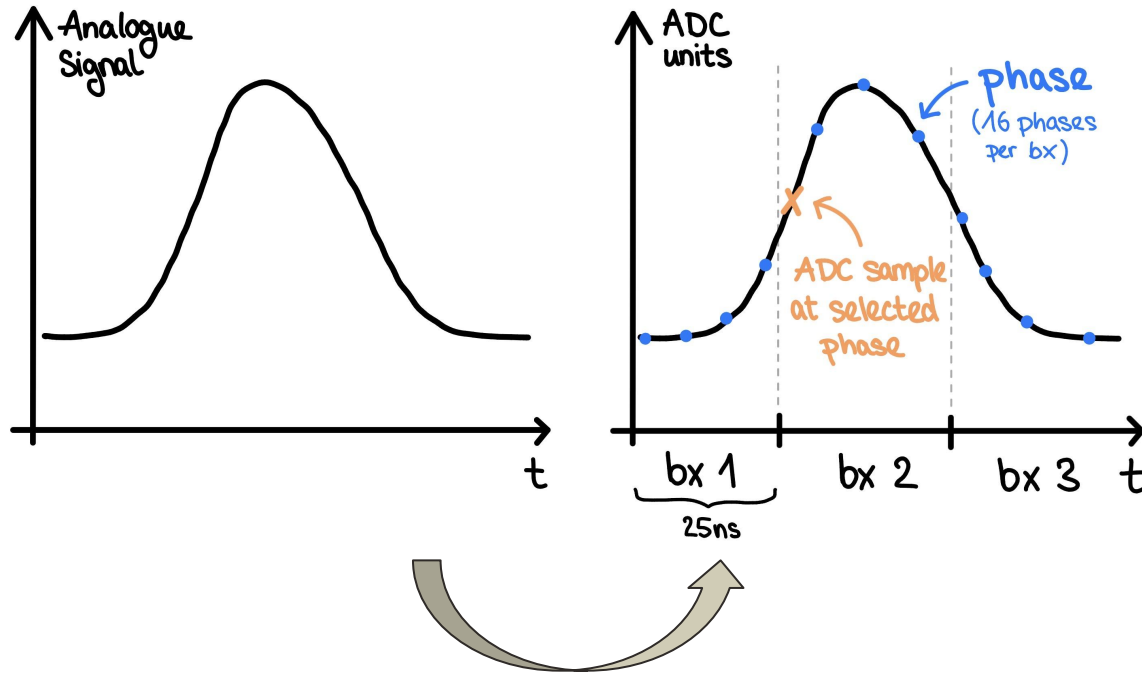
# Analogue-to-Digital Converter (ADC)



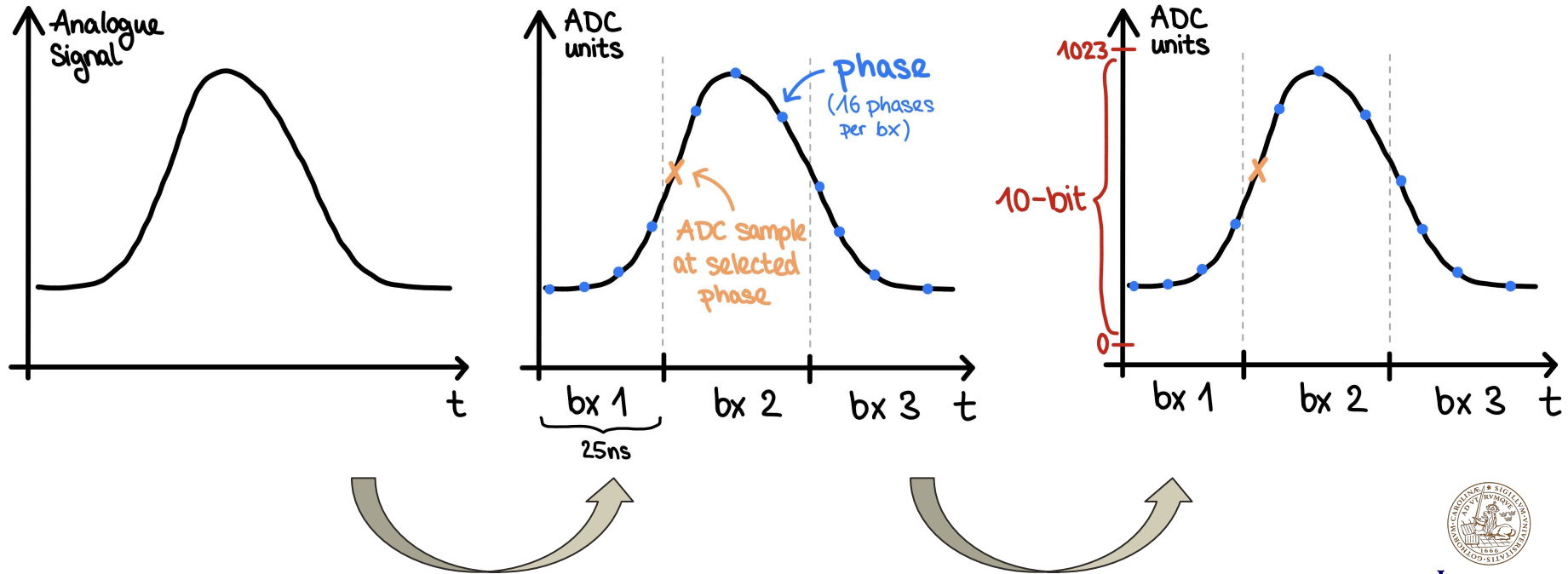
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# Time Of Arrival (TOA) and Time Over Threshold (TOT)

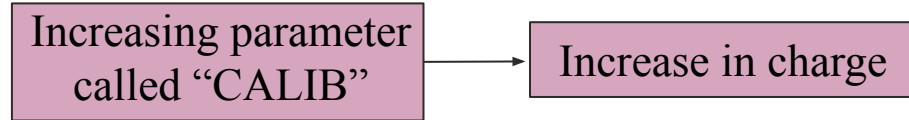


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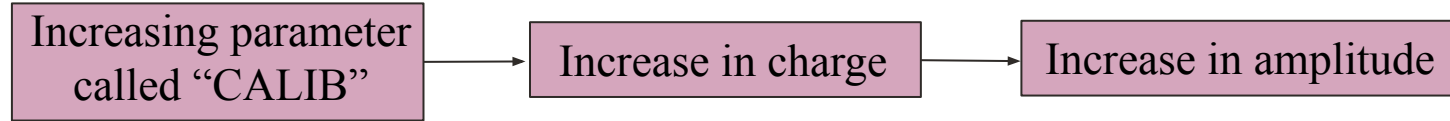
Increasing parameter  
called “CALIB”



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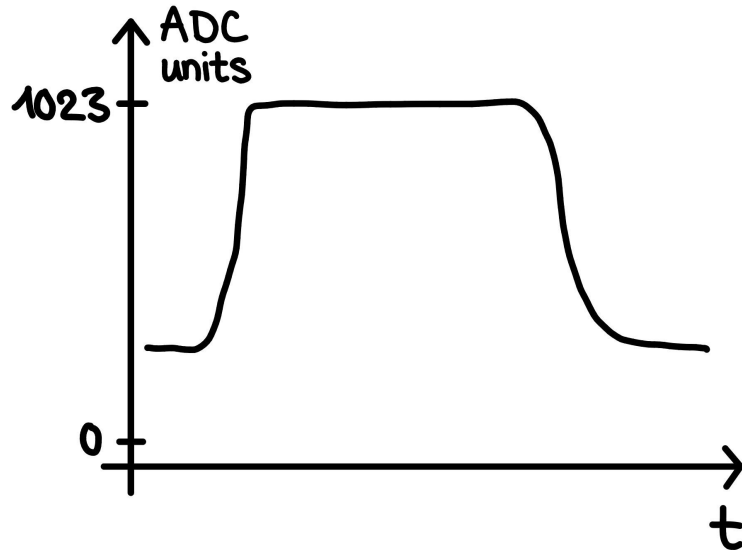


# Time Of Arrival (TOA) and Time Over Threshold (TOT)

Increasing parameter  
called "CALIB"

→ Increase in charge

→ Increase in amplitude

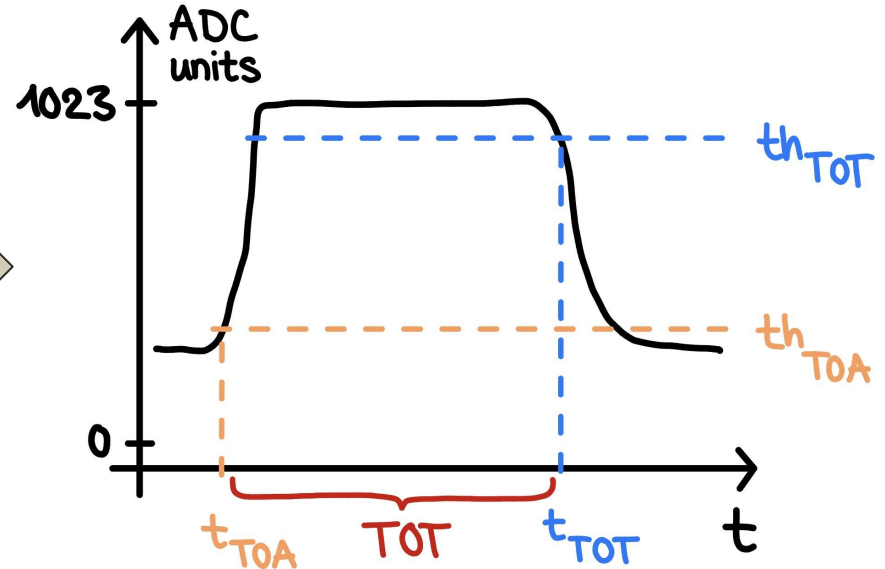
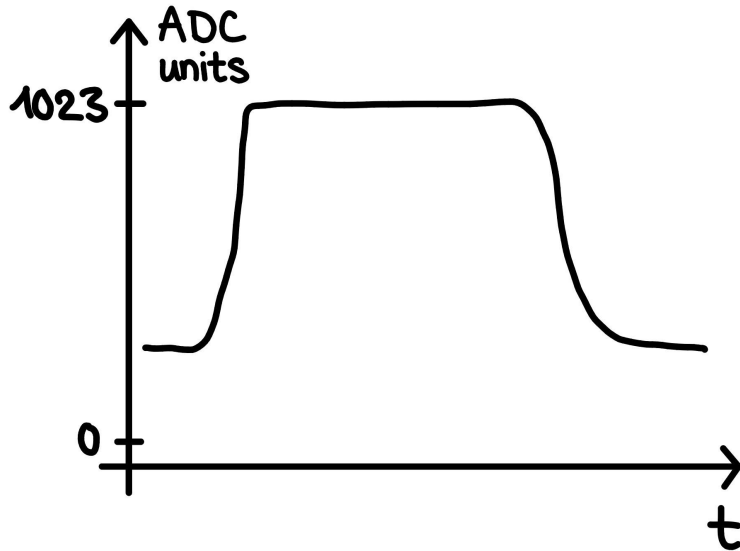


# Time Of Arrival (TOA) and Time Over Threshold (TOT)

Increasing parameter  
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Increase in charge

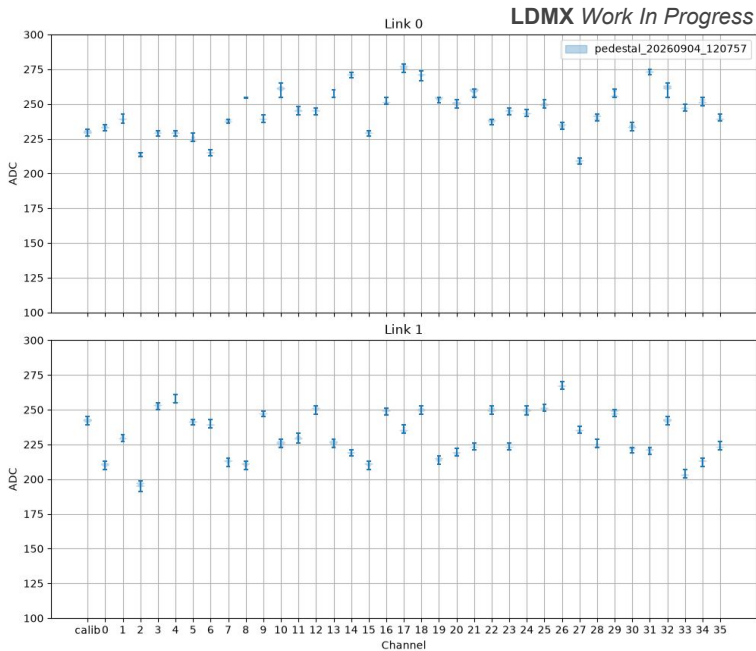
Increase in amplitude



# Calibration procedure: Pedestal alignment

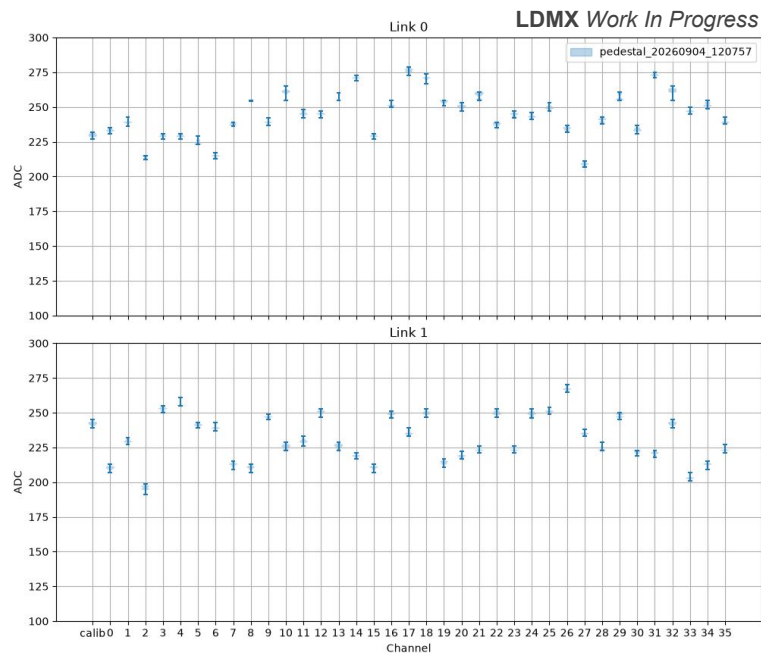


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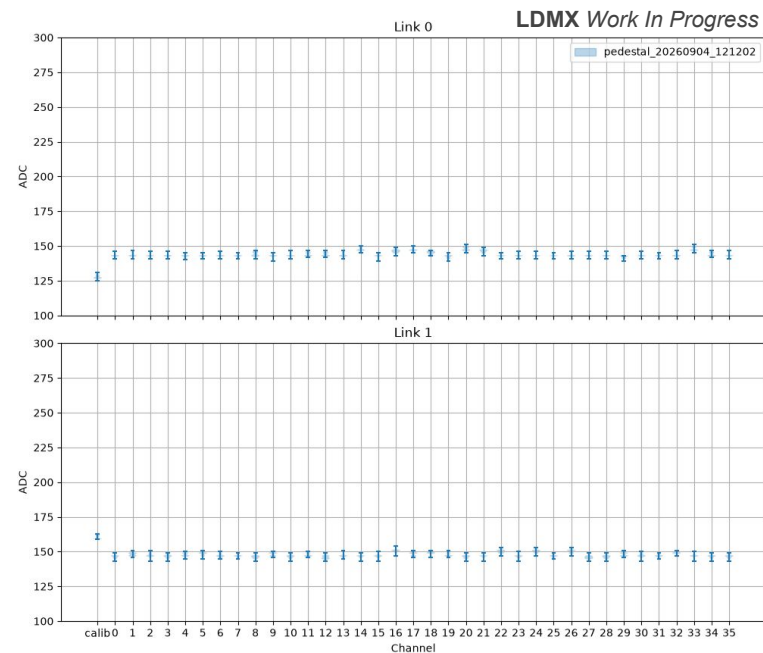
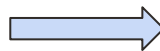


Before levelling

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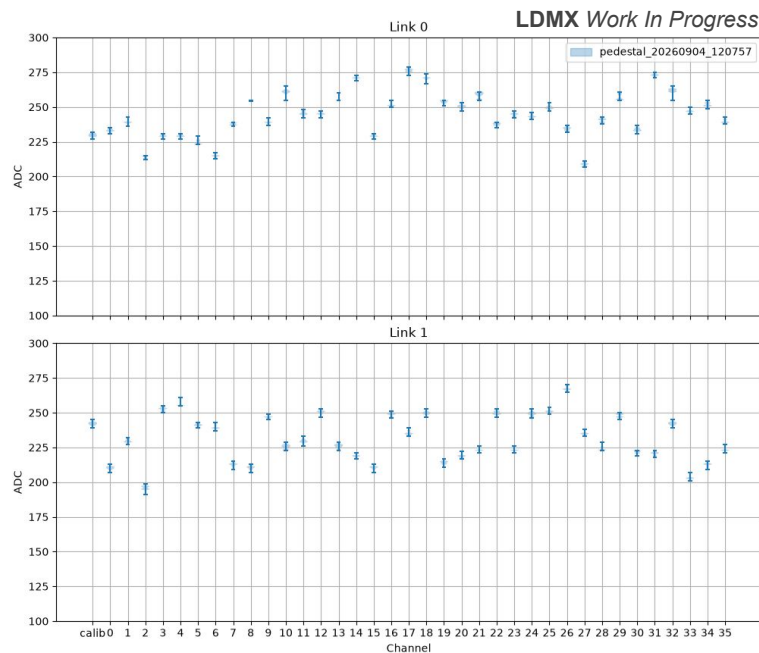


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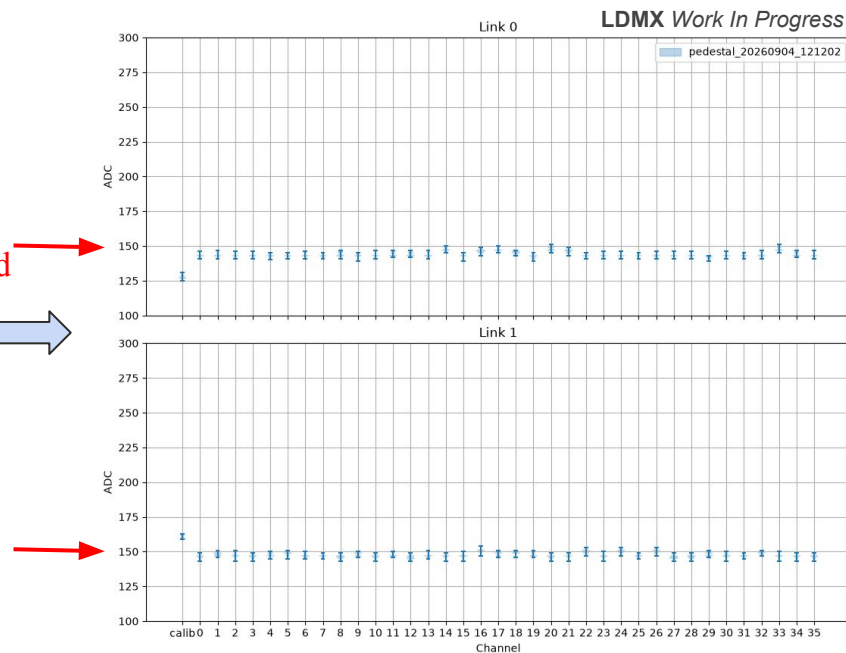
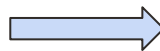
After levelling

# Calibration procedure: Pedestal alignment



Before levelling

Target threshold



After levelling

# Calibration procedure: Configure the TOA and TOT



# Calibration procedure: Configure the TOA and TOT

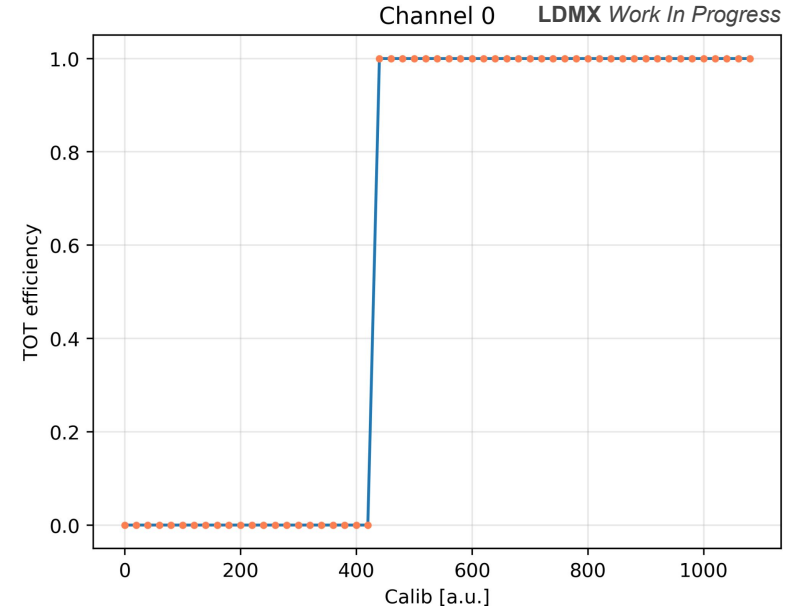
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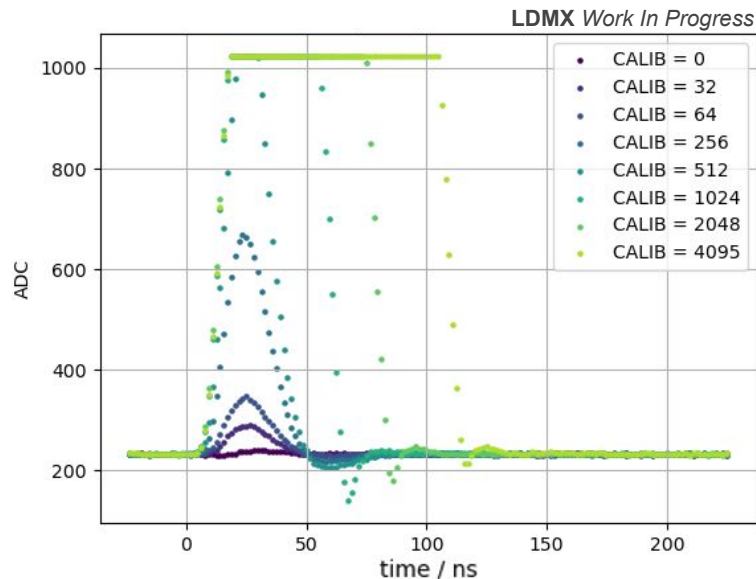


# Data-acquisition: ADC time-scans



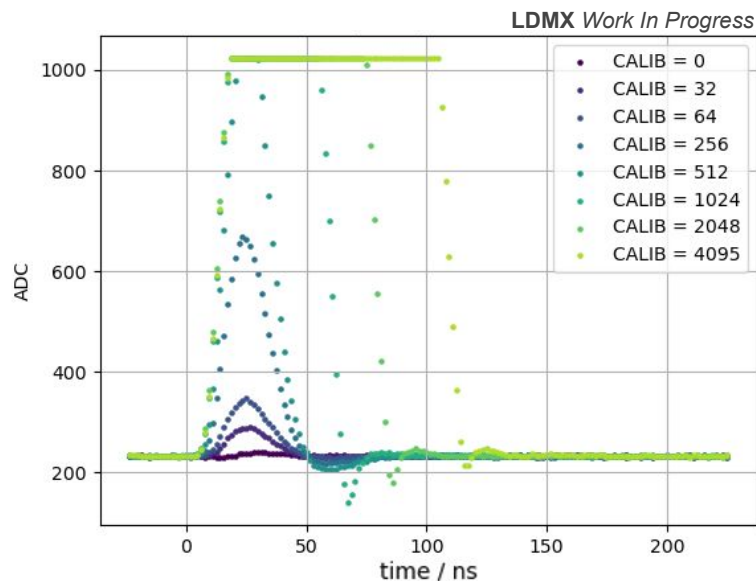
# Data-acquisition: ADC time-scans

ADC values over time for one channel



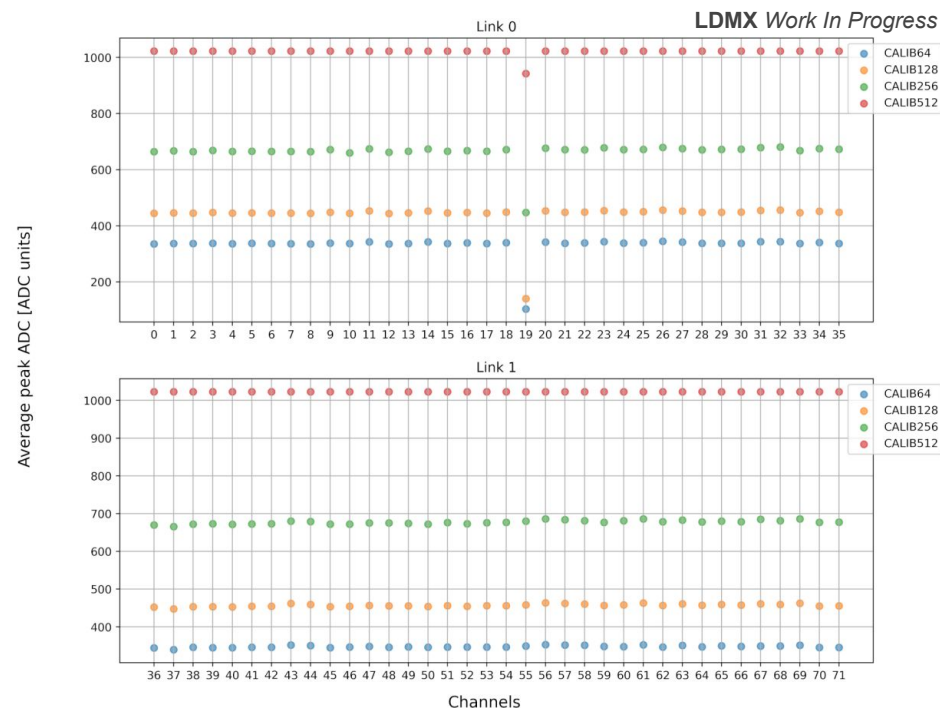
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A. Pettersson, V. Hehl, Partikeldagarna, 2025

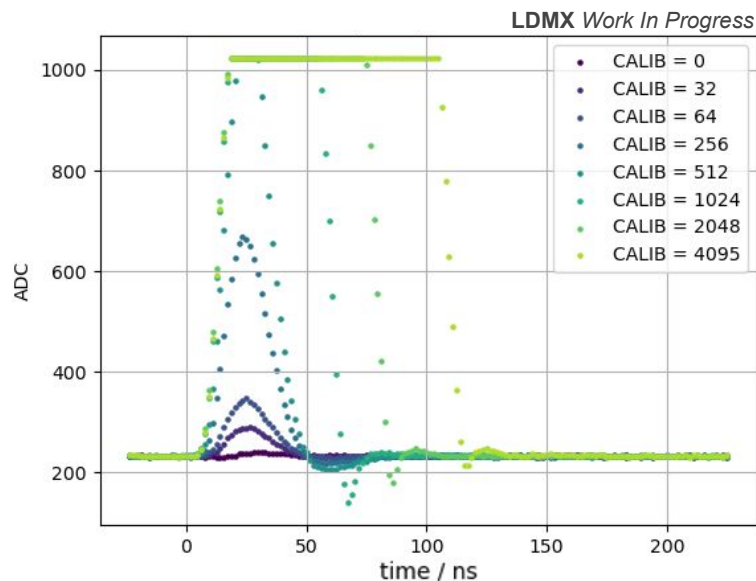
## Average peak ADC over all channels



B. Rozmarynowicz: *LDMX HCal read-out chip board characterization and diagnostics*. Master thesis, 2026.

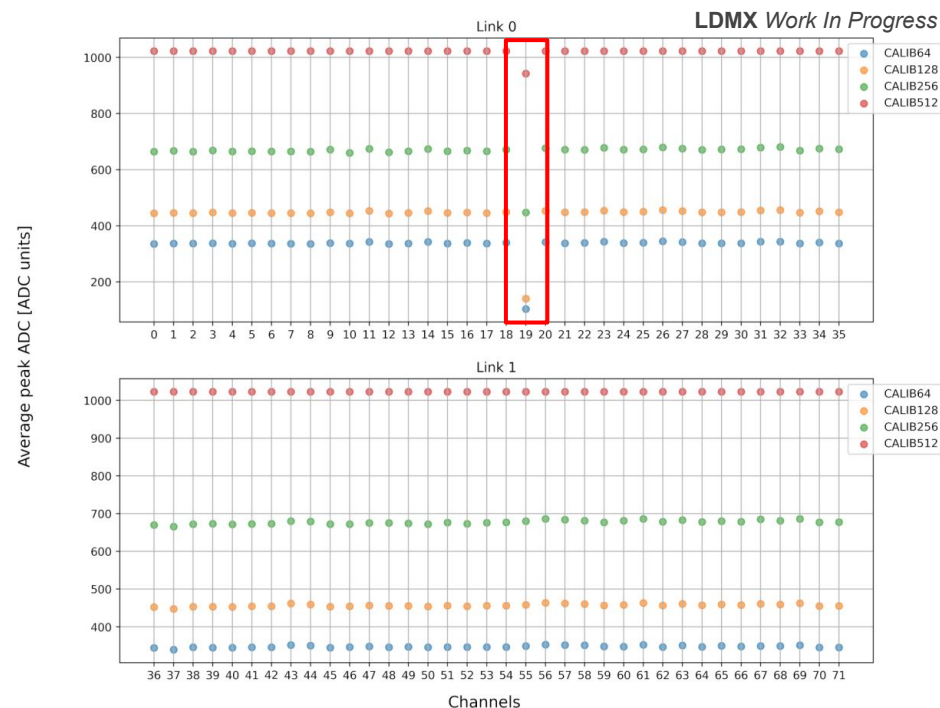
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# Data-acquisition: ADC/TOA/TOT CALIB-scans



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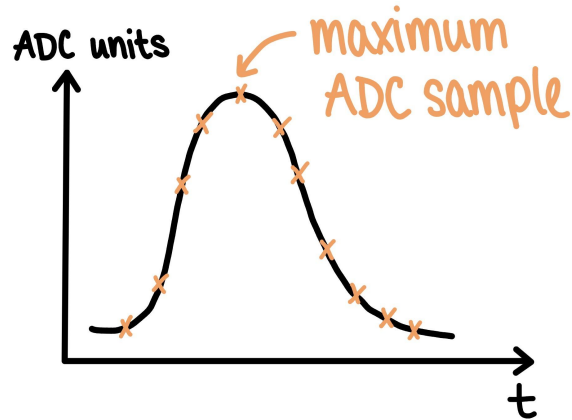
Expectation:



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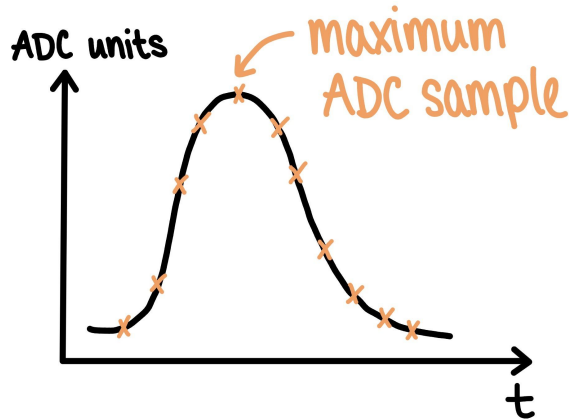
- Peak ADC against CALIB: linear



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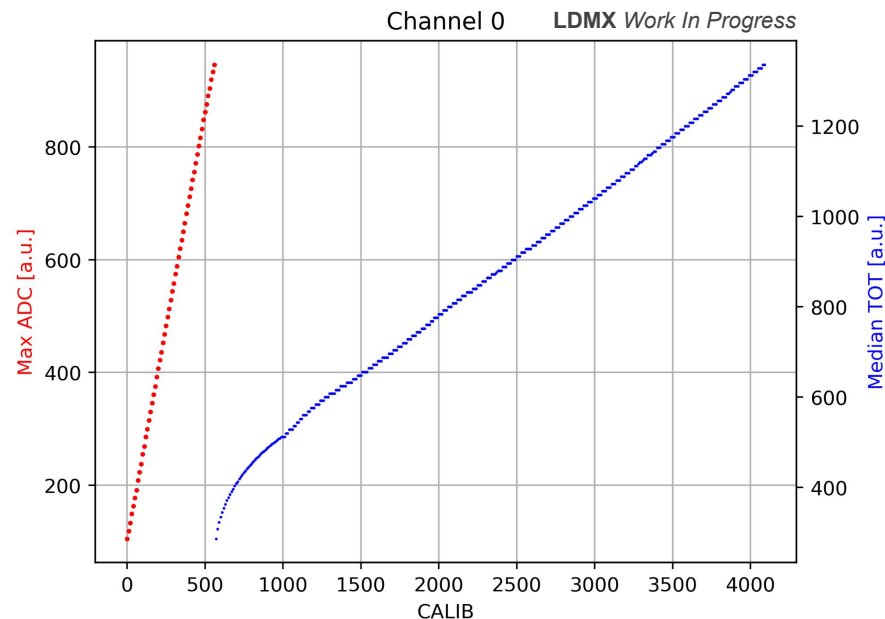
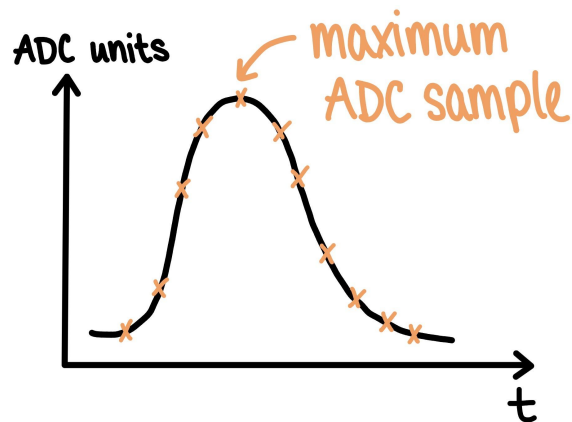
- Peak ADC against CALIB: linear
- TOT against CALIB: linear for higher charges



# Data-acquisition: ADC/TOA/TOT CALIB-scans

Expectation:

- Peak ADC against CALIB: linear
- TOT against CALIB: linear for higher charges



# External LED flashing



# Testing of CMBs and quadbars via LED flashing



# Testing of CMBs and quadbars via LED flashing

- 4 LEDs on each CMB



Front panel with SiPMs visible

# Testing of CMBs and quadbars via LED flashing

- 4 LEDs on each CMB
- CMB enclosed in light-tight box



Front panel with SiPMs visible



# Testing of CMBs and quadbars via LED flashing

- 4 LEDs on each CMB
- CMB enclosed in light-tight box
- Flash LEDs into SiPMs



Front panel with SiPMs visible



# LED flashing

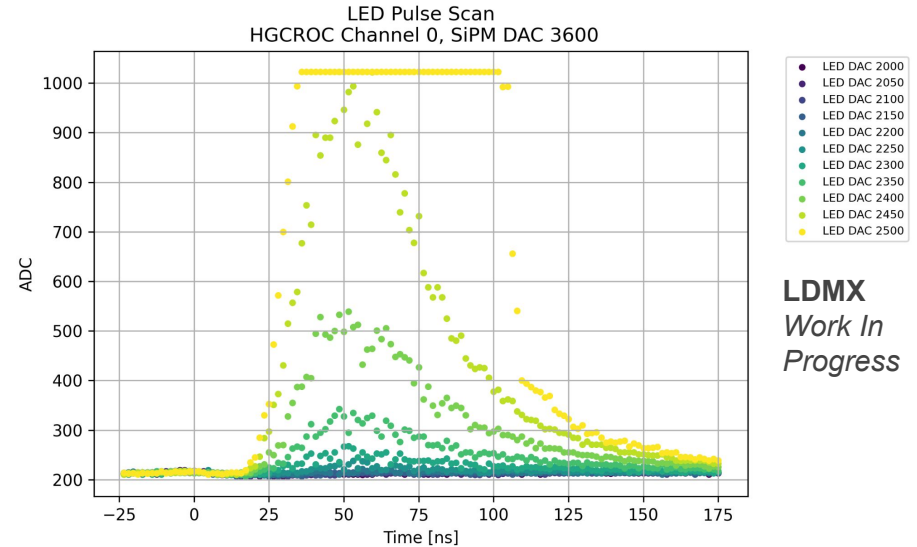


# LED flashing

- Varying applied voltage flashes LEDs

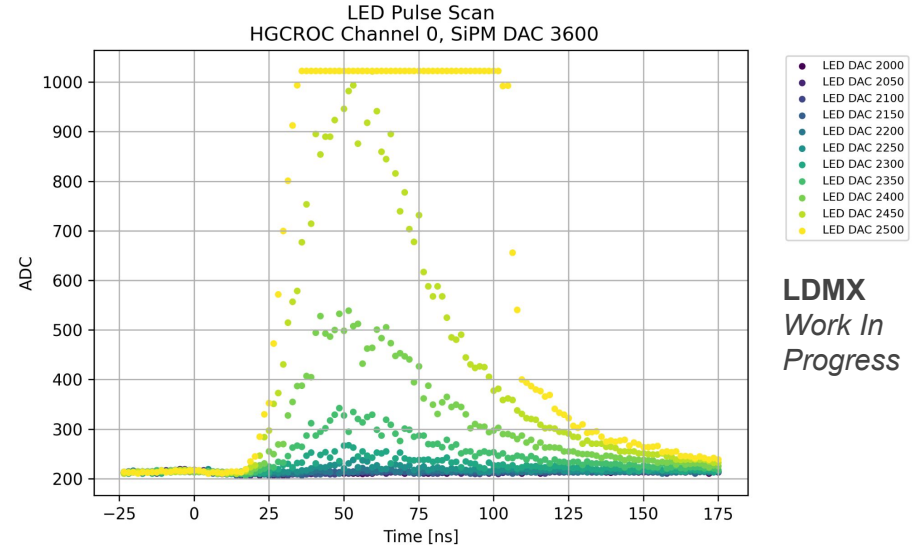
# LED flashing

- Varying applied voltage flashes LEDs
- Timescan of the pulses



# LED flashing

- Varying applied voltage flashes LEDs
- Timescan of the pulses
- Outlook: What happens if we connect CMB to the scintillator bar?



# Summary and Outlook



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- Created standardized calibration and data acquisition procedure
- 20 manufactured boards - 10 boards were tested with this procedure
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- Coming soon: LED flashing tests

**Thank you for your attention!**



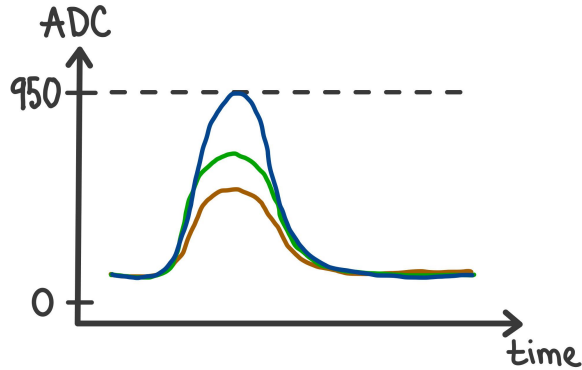
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# Backup slides



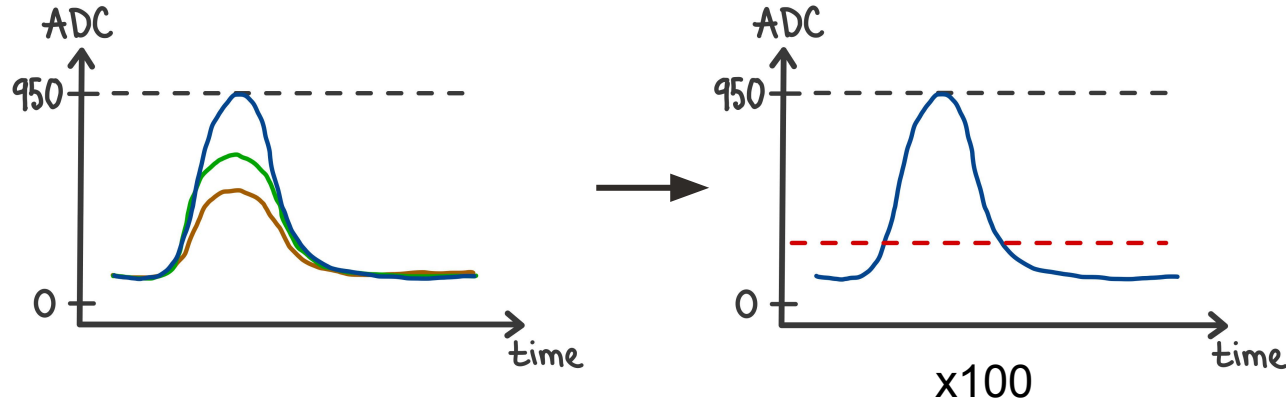
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# Calibration: How to set the TOT threshold



1. Find the correct  
CALIB

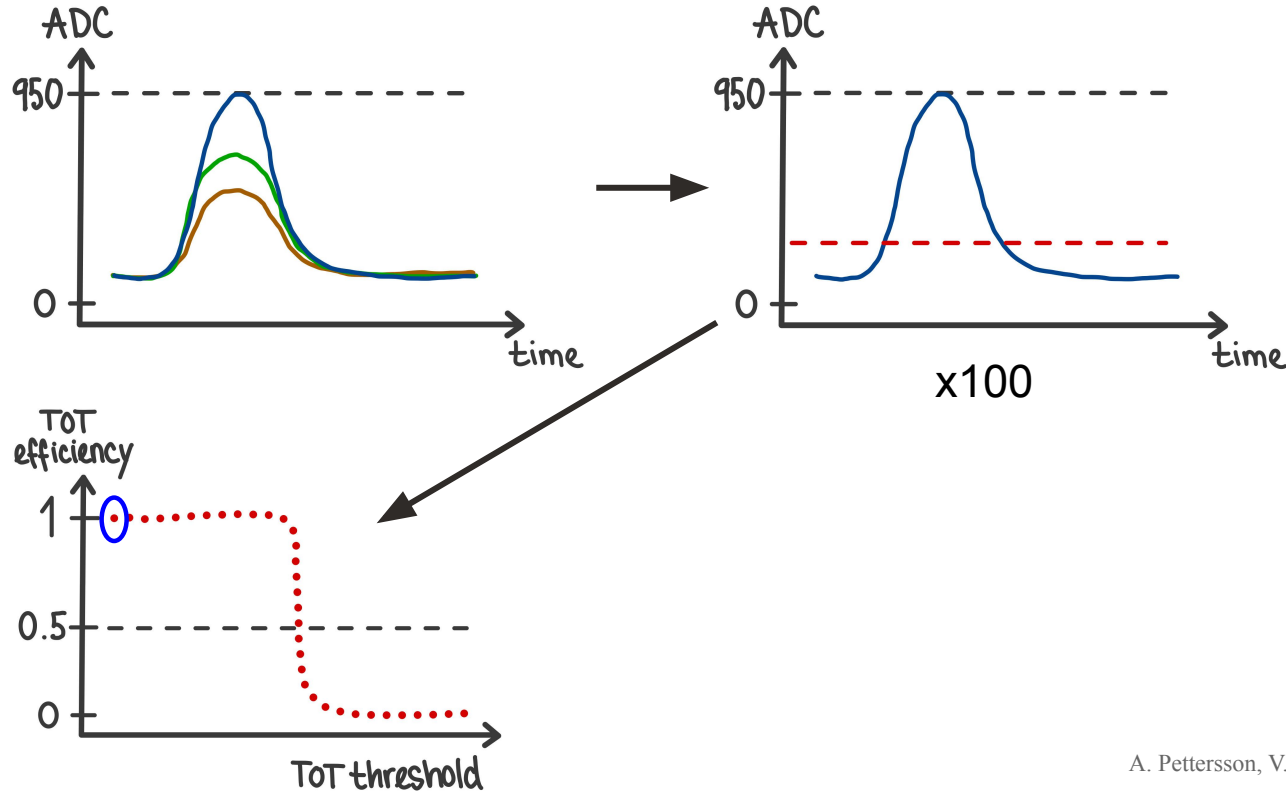
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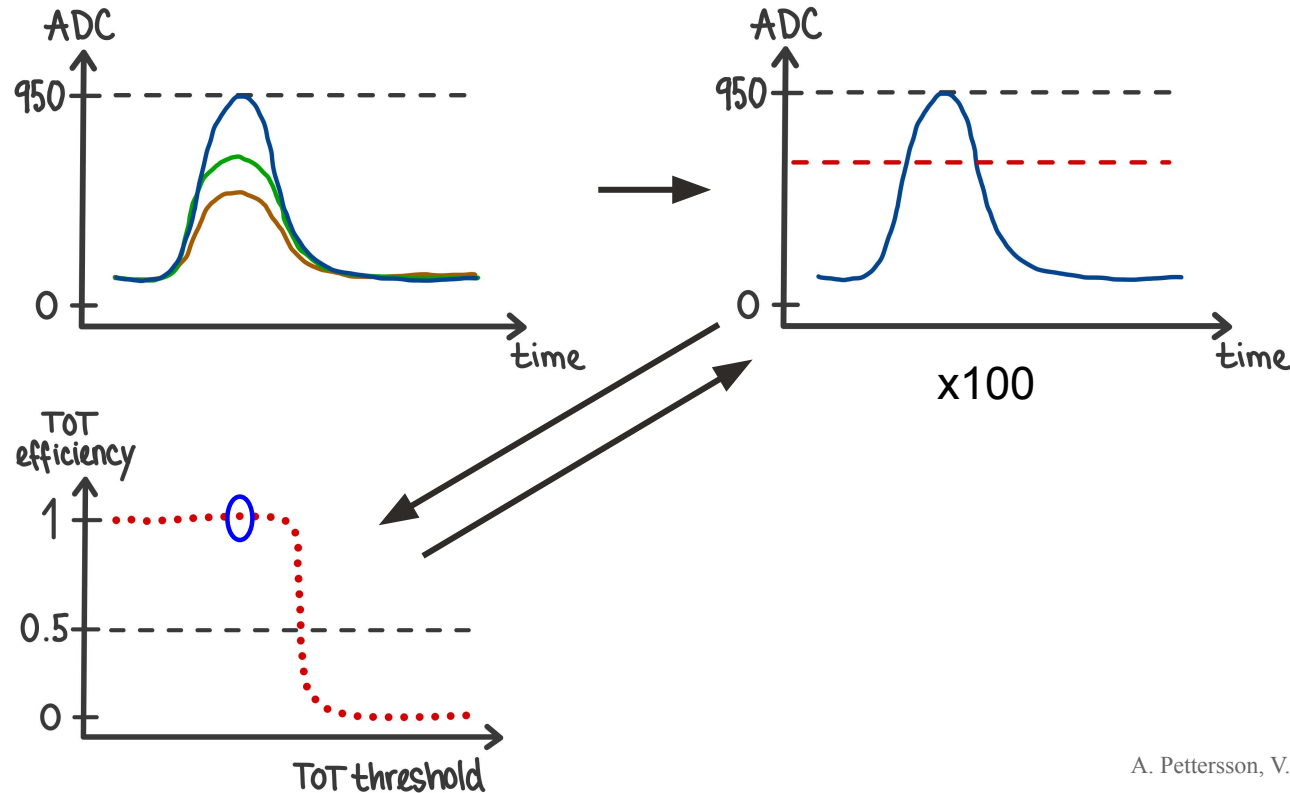
2. Scan TOT threshold  
parameter.

# Calibration: How to set the TOT threshold



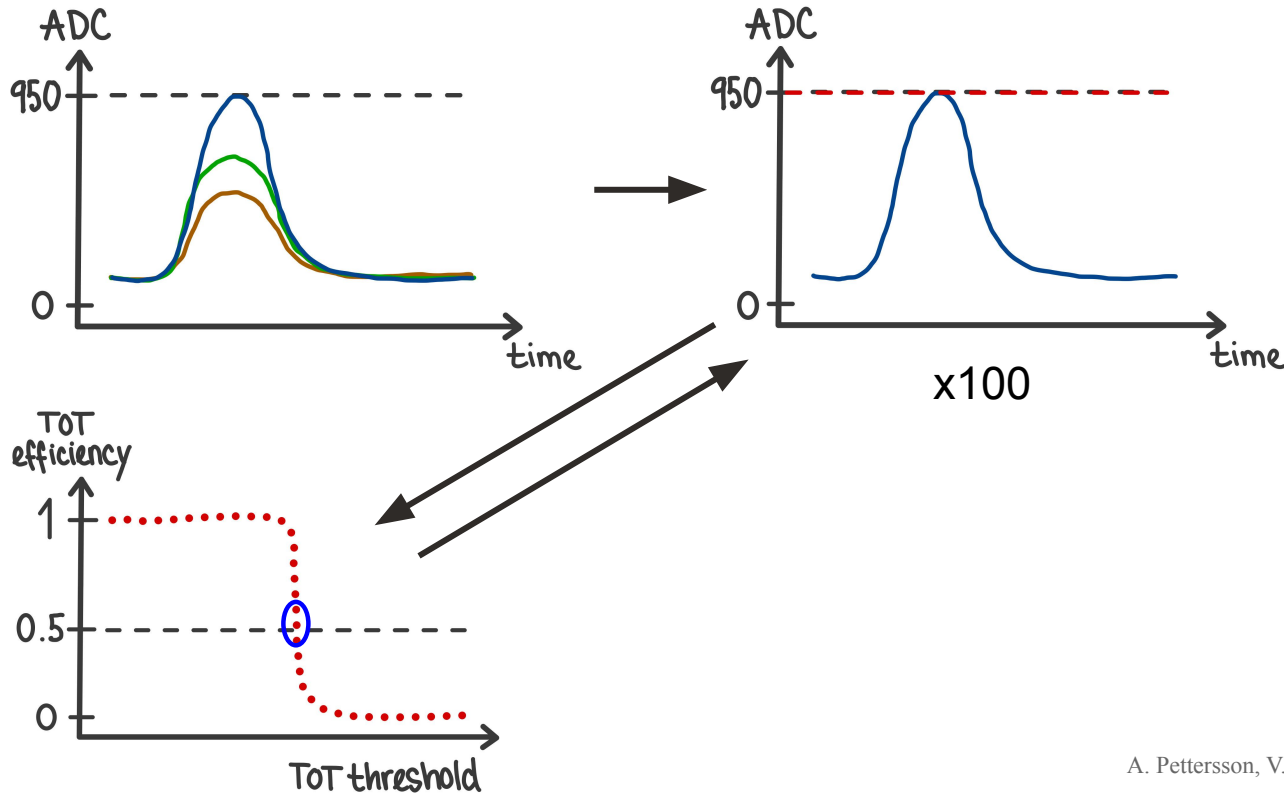
1. Find the correct CALIB
2. Scan TOT threshold parameter.
3. Calculate the TOT efficiency.

# Calibration: How to set the TOT threshold



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4. Iterate steps 2 & 3 until a TOT threshold with 50% efficiency is found.

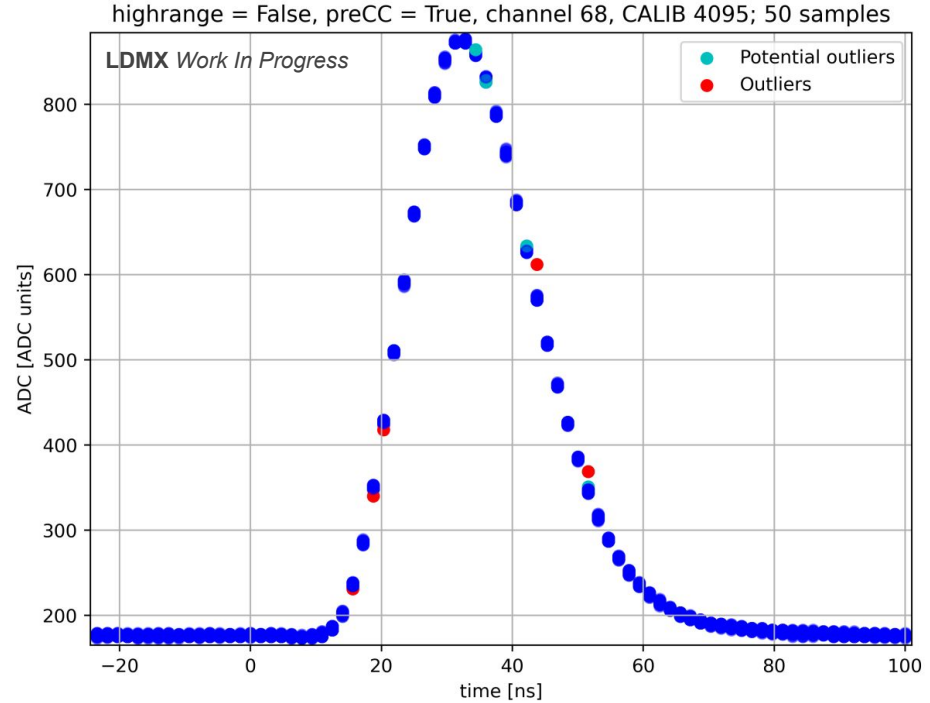
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# Sample-clustering Identification Algorithm

- Aforementioned and other metrics did not always spot e.g. “outliers”
- Outliers = Samples that lie outside expected pulse shape



B. Rozmarynowicz: *LDMX HCal read-out chip board characterization and diagnostics*. Master thesis, 2026.

# Sample-clustering Identification Algorithm

