



AIRS

ARIEL AIRS characterization of two infrared engineering grade detectors in the MWIR/LWIR band

Bataillon C., Pichon T., Amiaux J., Berthé M., Cara C., Cossou C., Horeau B., Kaszubiak G., Leguay N., Lortholary M., Provost L., Reboul B., Renaud D., Visticot F.



1. AIRS: ARIEL Infrared Spectrometer

1. ARIEL space mission
2. ARIEL spacecraft
3. AIRS Acquisition chain architecture

2. Test bench at CEA

1. Test bench presentation

3. Detector characterization results

1. Strategy of calibration
2. Detector baseline
3. CDS and readout noise
4. Dark current
5. Readout glow
6. Crosstalk
7. Conversion gain and stability

4. Conclusion & Perspectives

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Atmospheric Remote-Sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-survey

ARIEL is the M4 space mission of ESA to be launched in 2031.

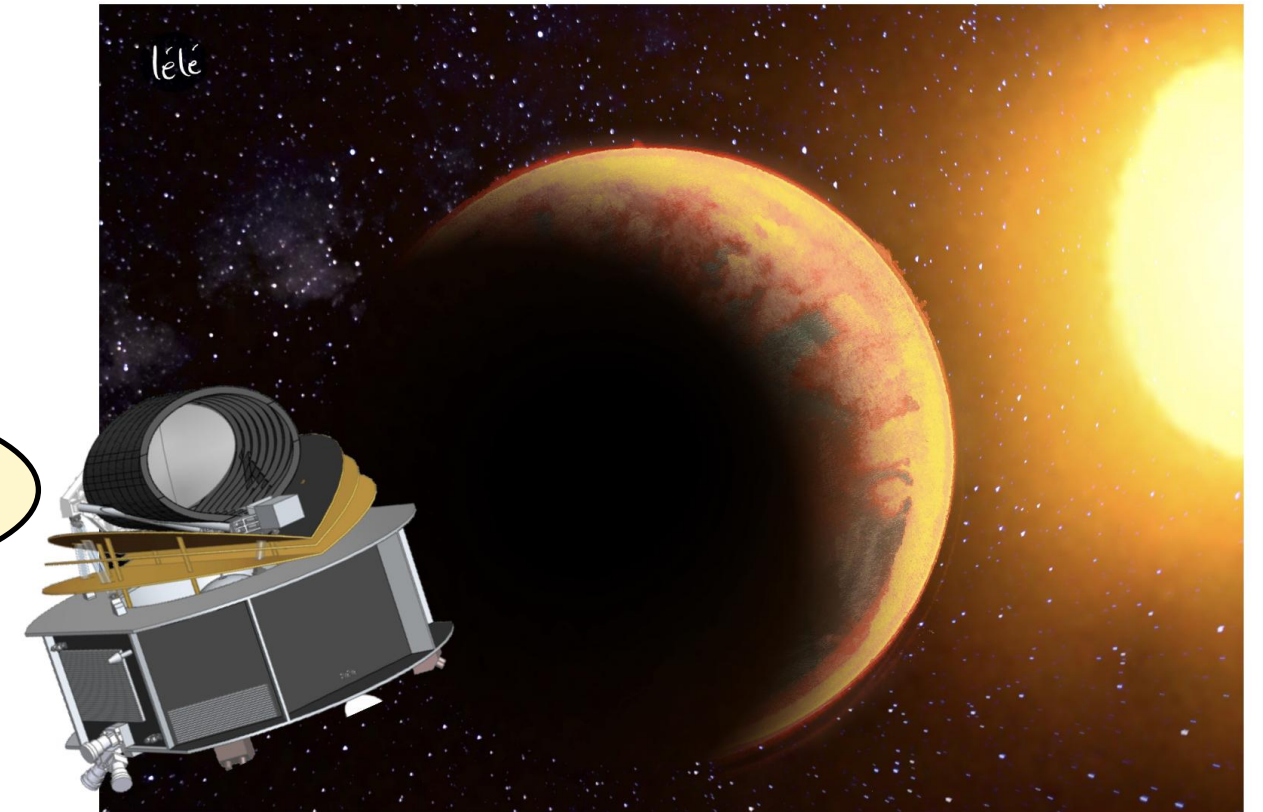
ARIEL main goal is to go from exoplanets detection to exoplanets' atmosphere characterization.

What are the physical processes shaping planetary atmospheres ?

Key questions addressed by ARIEL

What are exoplanets made off ?

How do planets and planetary systems form and evolve ?



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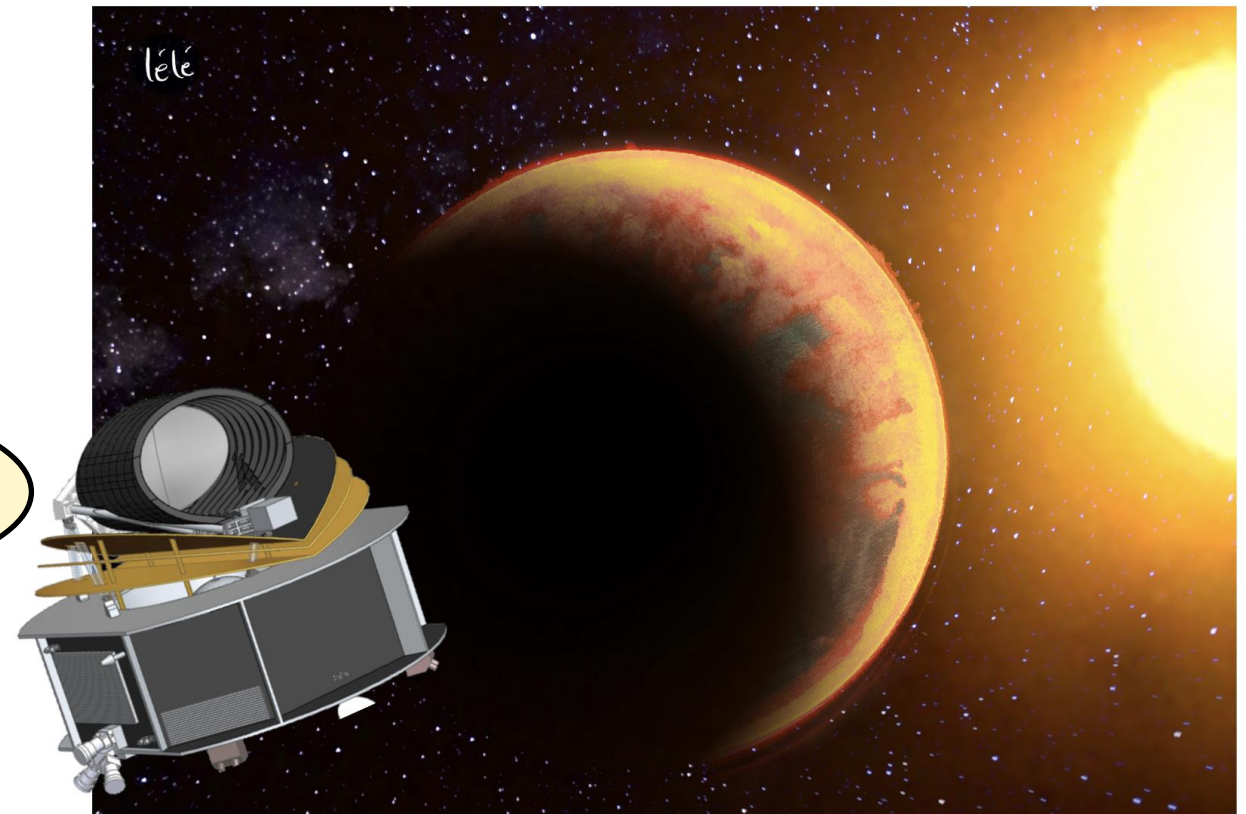
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Key questions addressed by ARIEL

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Strategy:

→ Around 1000 of diverse planets (mainly hot and warm planets) orbiting different types of stars.

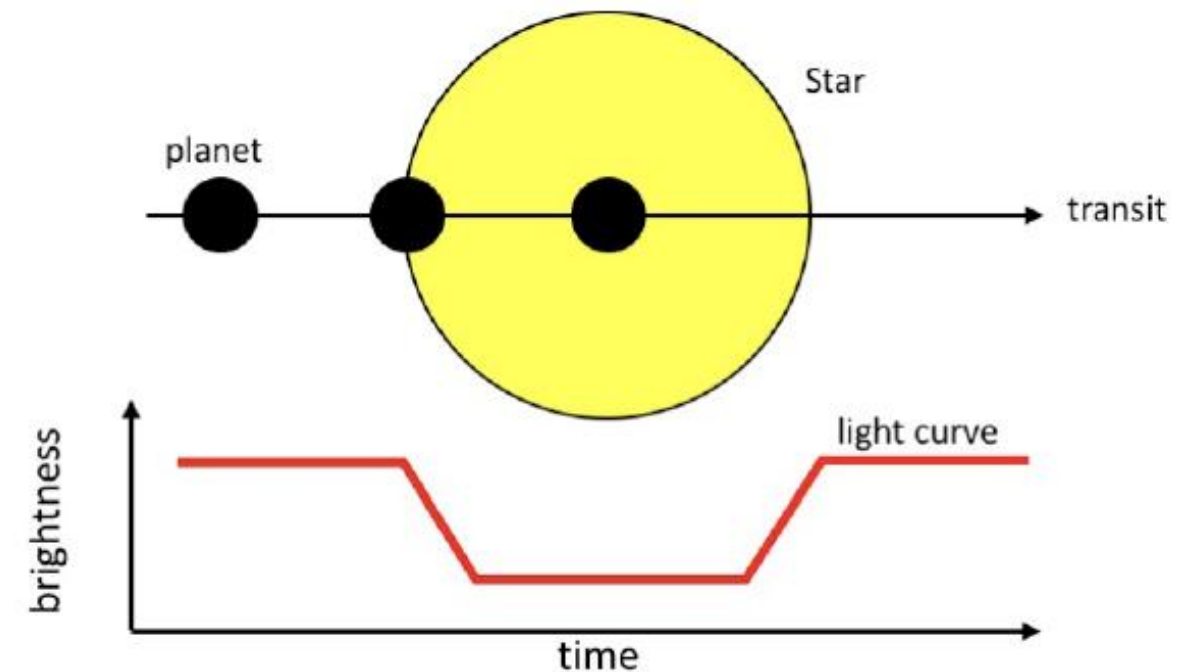
→ Observational strategy : transit, eclipse and phase spectroscopy.

Underlying assumptions:

→ Temporal variations of the measured signal can be attributed to changes in the small signal from the exoplanets and not result from variations of either the **instrument response** or of the **stellar activity**.

Requires extremely good acquisition chain stability

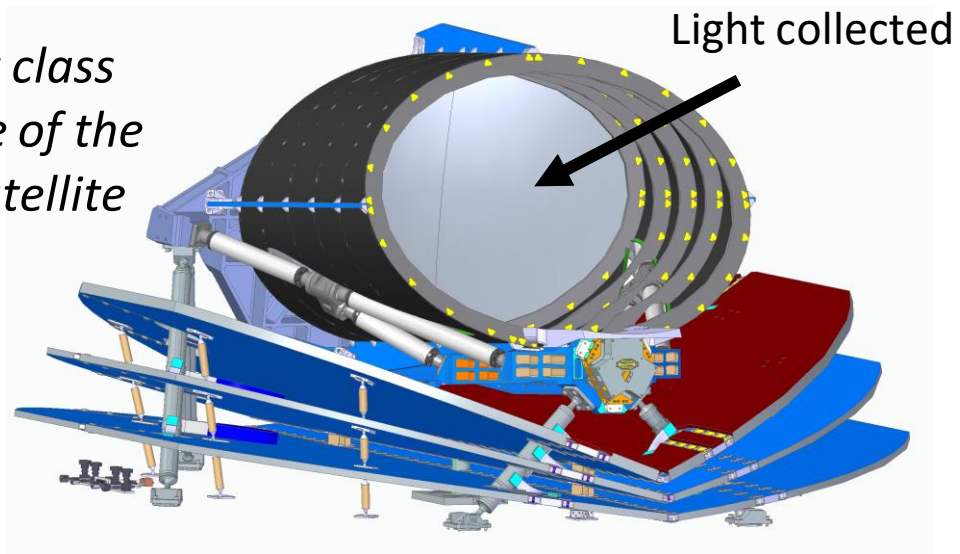
Monitored with visible photometry



Schematic view of transit light curve

1. AIRS: ARIEL Infrared Spectrometer 2. ARIEL spacecraft

1 meter class telescope of the ARIEL satellite

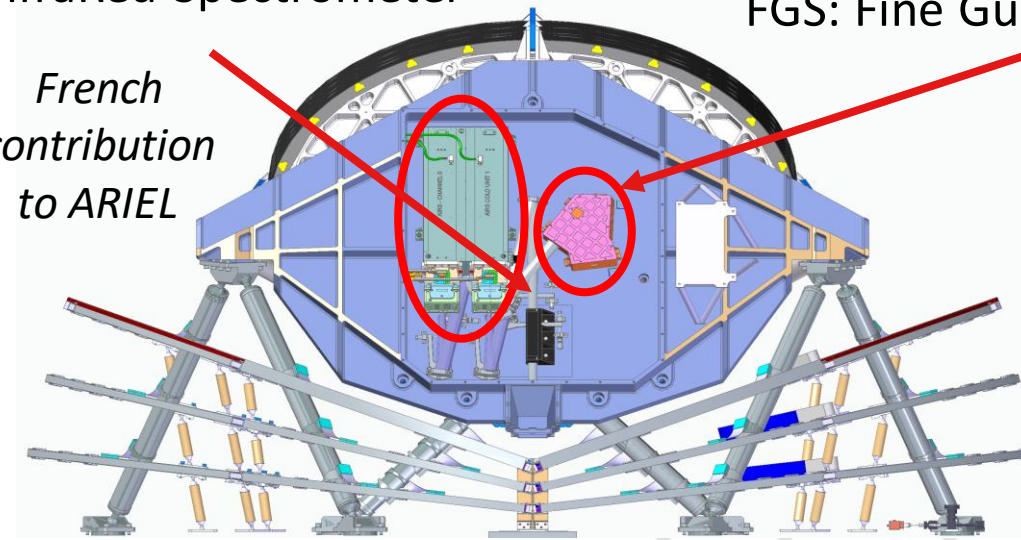


Front view of the PLM

AIRS: ARIEL InfraRed Spectrometer

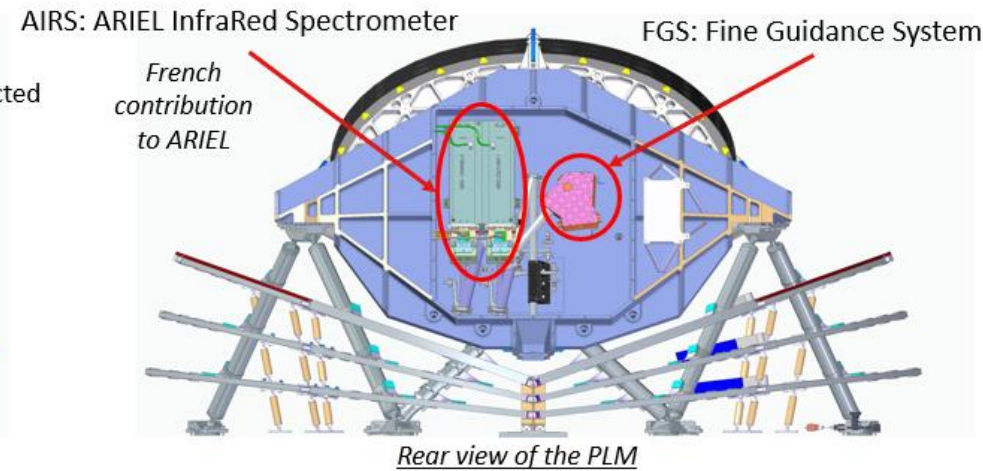
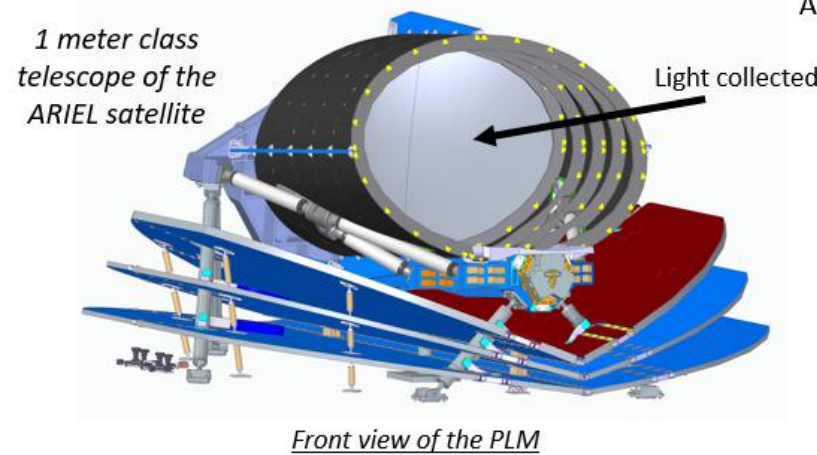
FGS: Fine Guidance System

French contribution to ARIEL

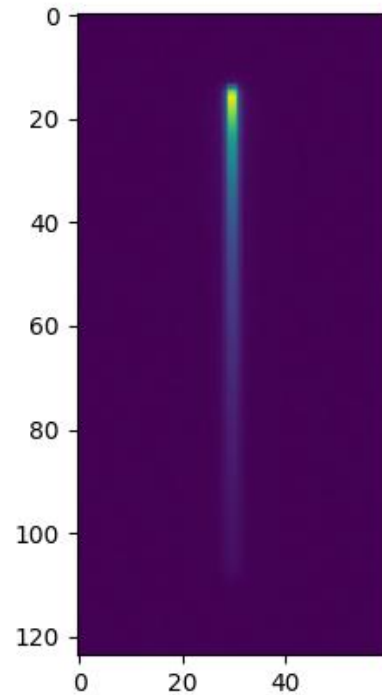


Rear view of the PLM

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2. ARIEL spacecraft

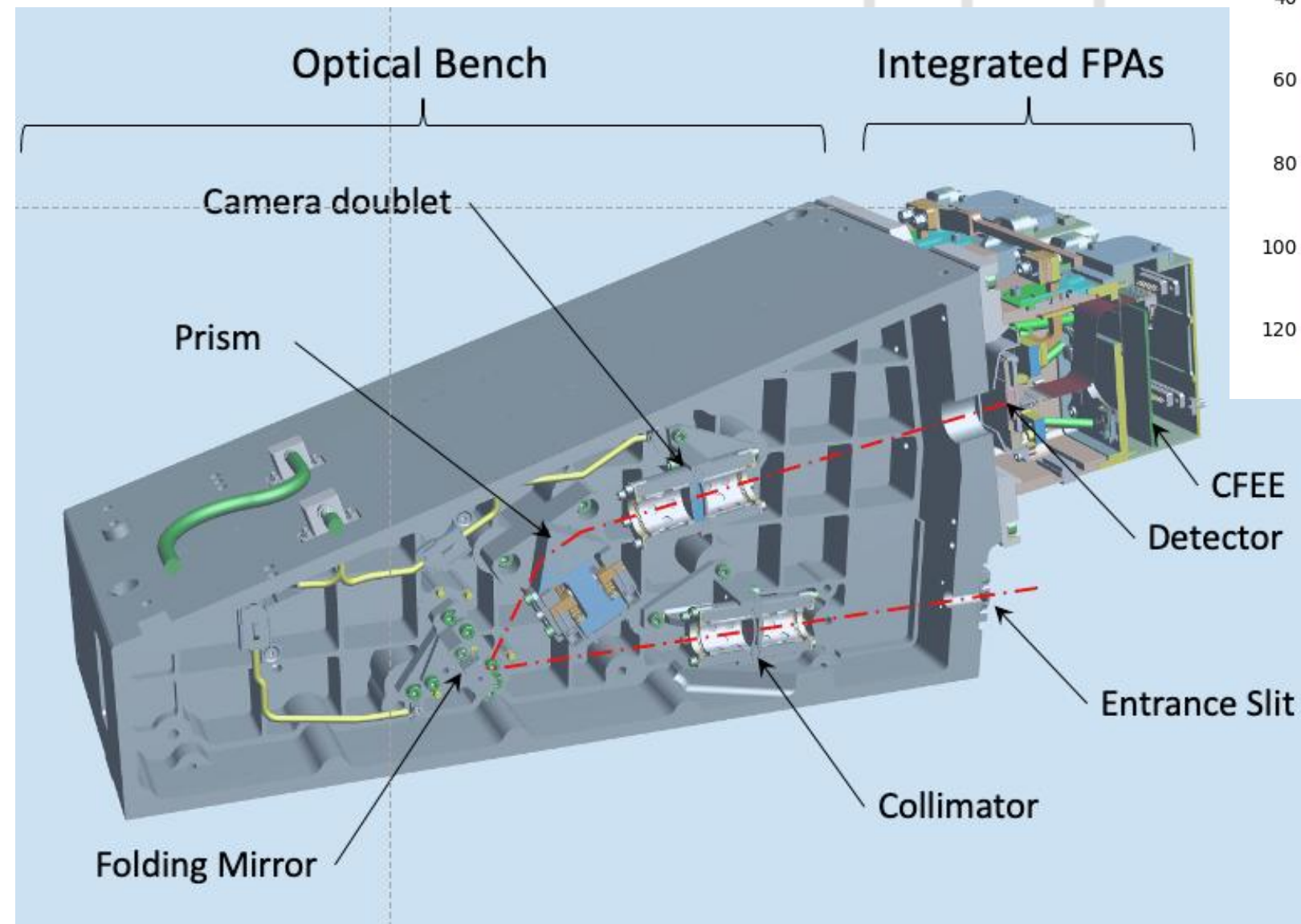


Simulated image acquired with AIRS instrument on the spectral band [3.9 μ m - 7.8 μ m] – CH1



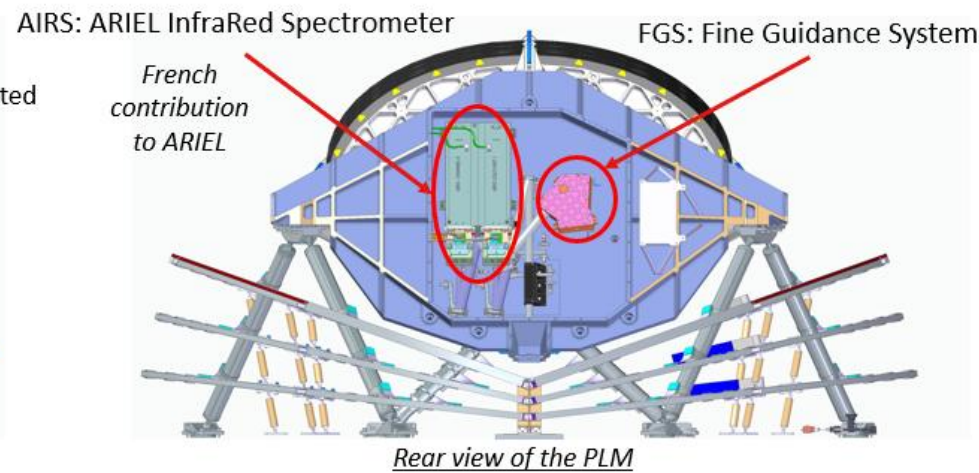
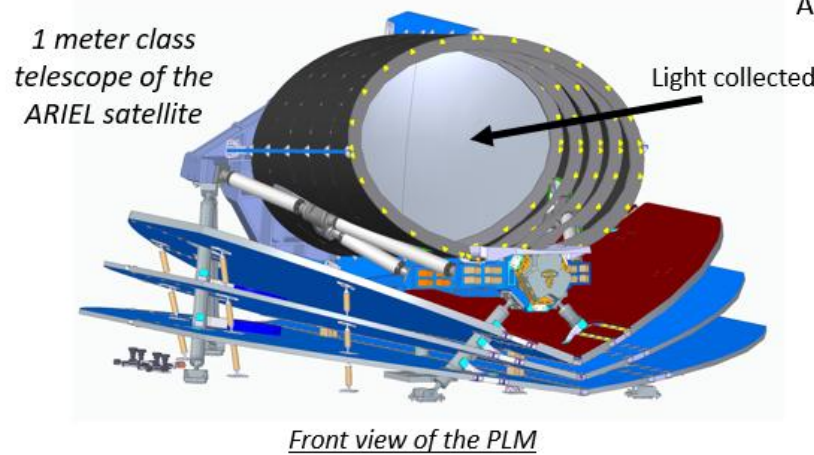
❖ Ariel Infra-Red Spectrometer (AIRS) instrument is composed of:

- Two optical channels with prisms dispersive elements: **CH0** covering the [1,95-3,90] μ m range with $R > 100$ and **CH1** covering the [3,90-7,80] μ m range with $R > 30$
- Two Focal Planes with specific **Teledyne H1RG** detectors adapted to cut-off wavelength for CH0 and CH1
- Two detection chains with Cold Front End Electronics (CFEE) on the PLM and Detector Control Unit (DCU) on the SVM.

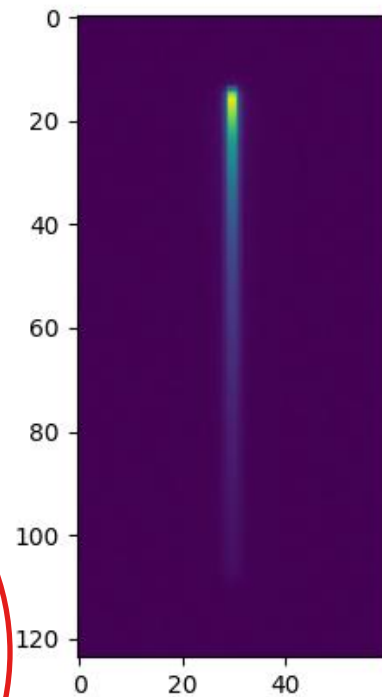


AIRS instrument : Optics Unit

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2. ARIEL spacecraft

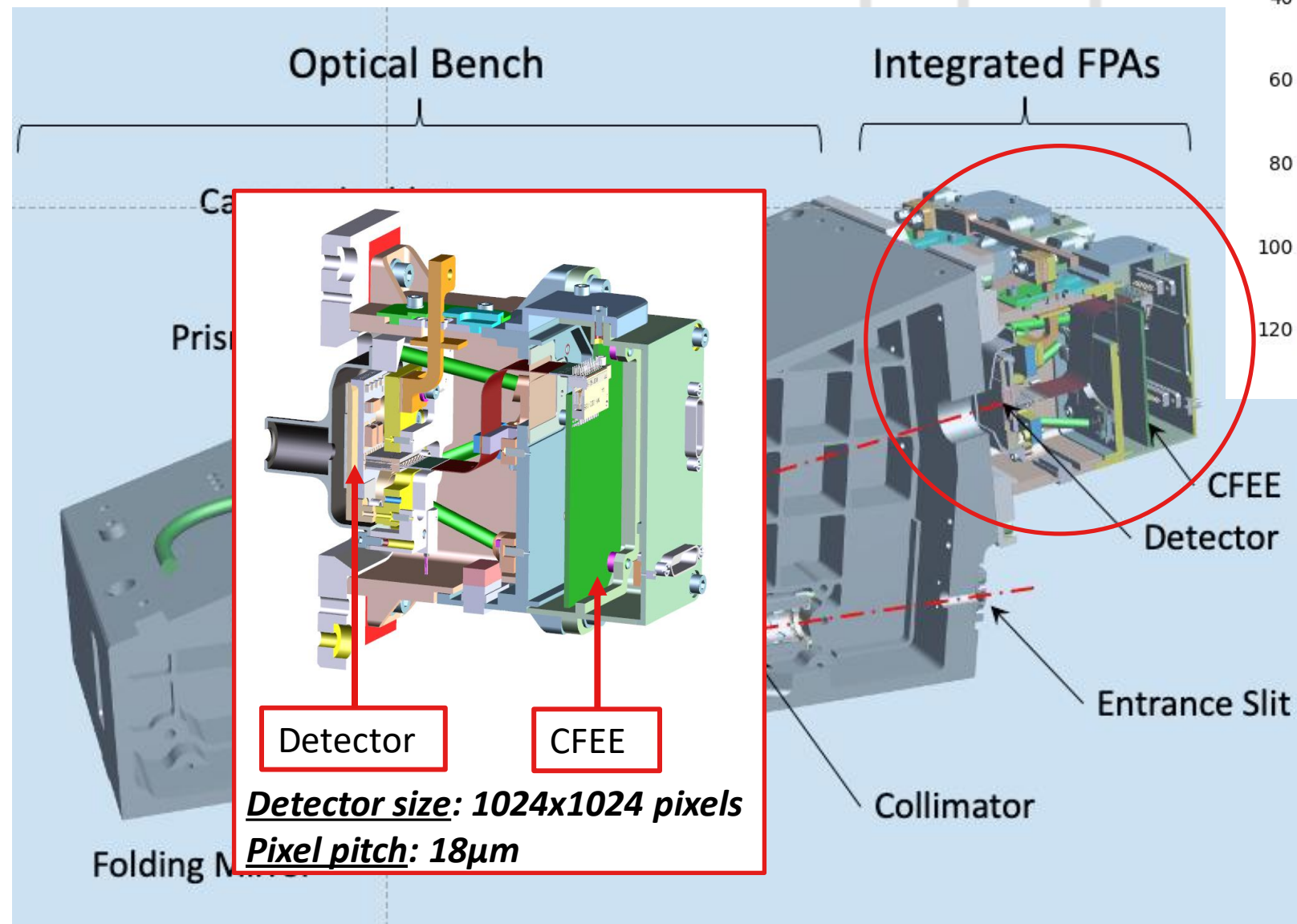


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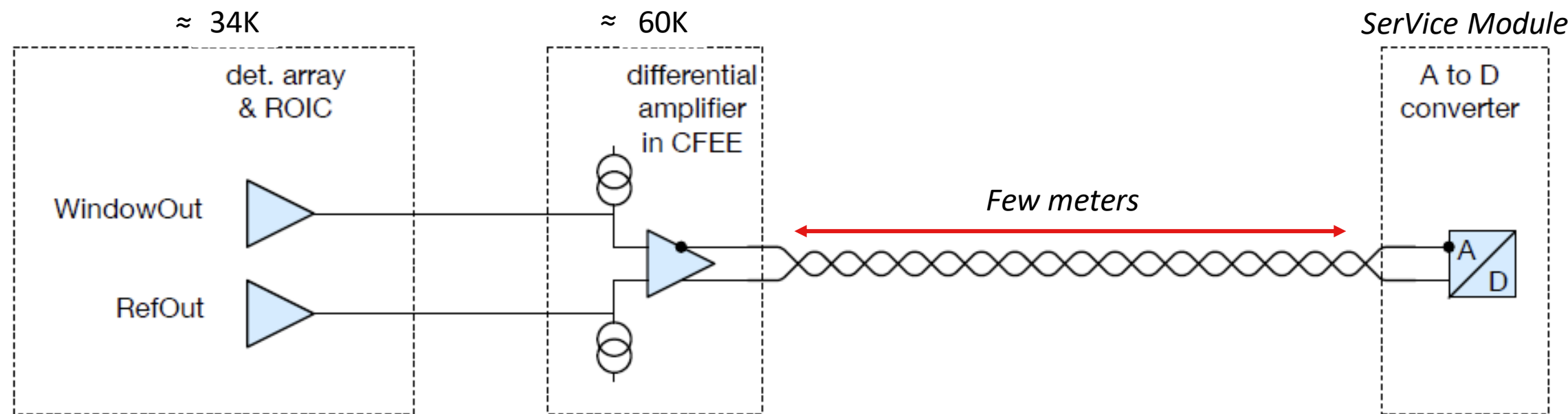
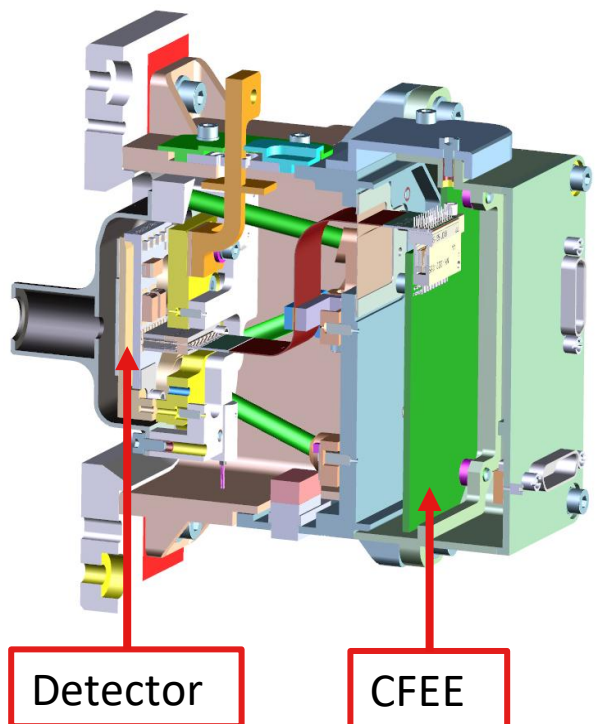
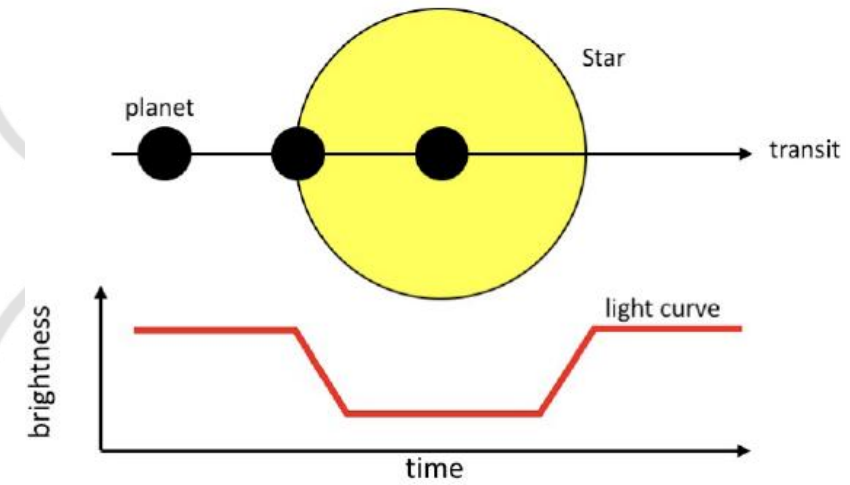
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AIRS instrument : Optics Unit

1. AIRS: ARIEL Infrared Spectrometer
 3. AIRS Acquisition chain architecture

- Minimum SIDECAR operating temperature is incompatible with ARIEL architecture.
 - ➔ No SIDECAR electronic is used (close to the detector)
 - ➔ We had to design the Detector Control Unit
- Observational strategy requires extremely good detector stability (up to 10 hours)
 - ➔ The acquisition chain is designed to be very stable

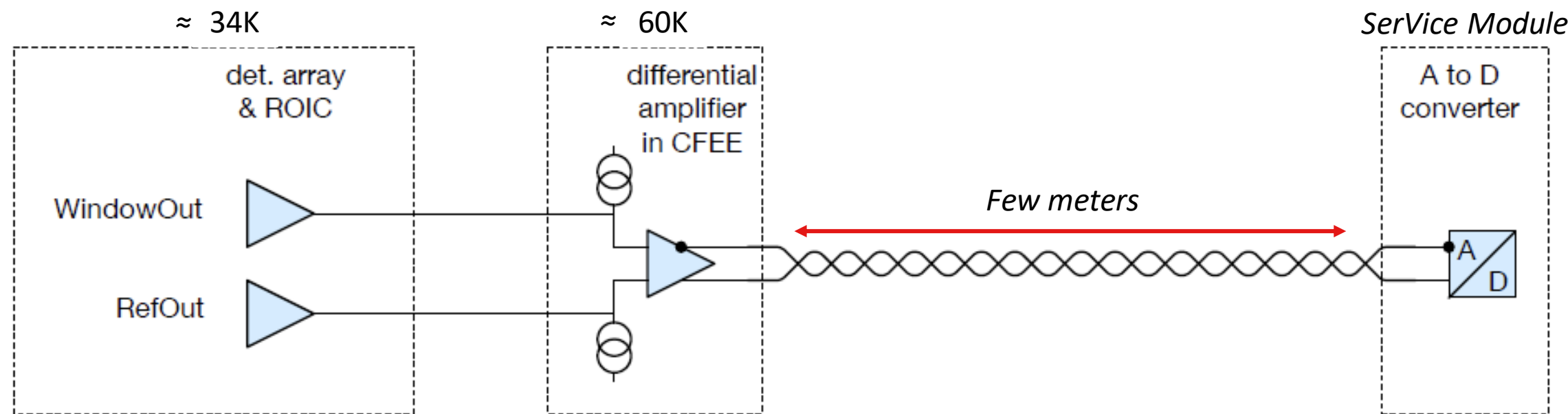
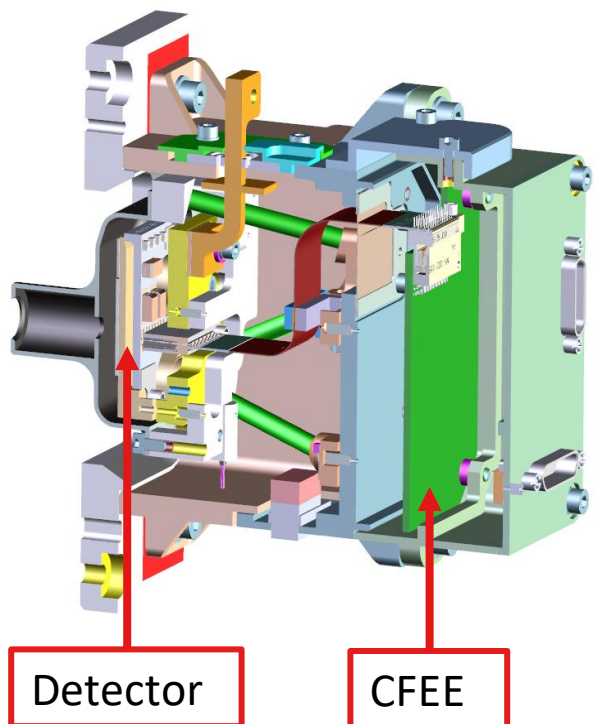
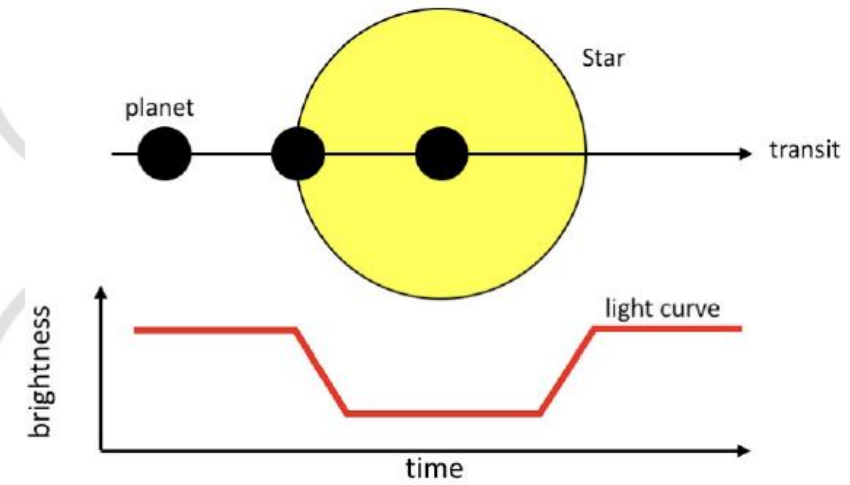


Schematic view of the AIRS acquisition chain

1. AIRS: ARIEL Infrared Spectrometer

3. AIRS Acquisition chain architecture

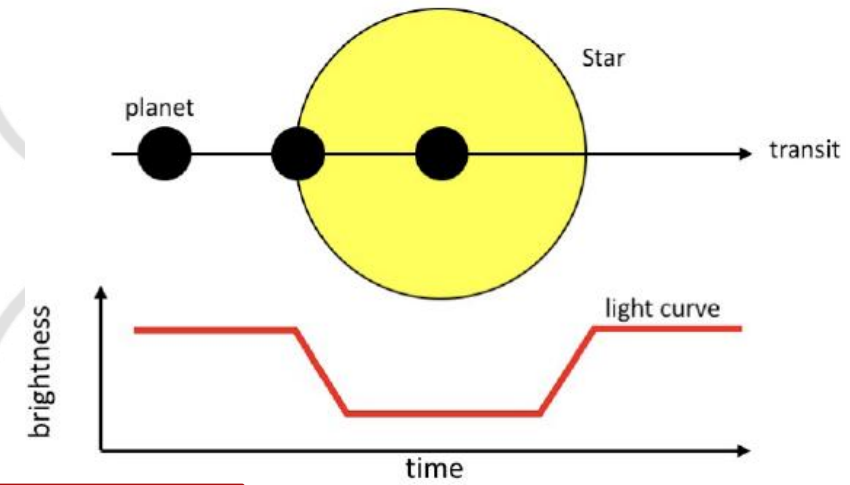
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- General detector operation:
 - Operated in window mode: **355x64 for CH0, 130x64 for CH1**
 - Readout rate 100kpixel/s
 - AIRS acquisition chain operates in fully differential mode ➔ to suppress common-mode noise
 - **Separate reference output** permanently connected to V_{reset} , completely independent output



Schematic view of the AIRS acquisition chain

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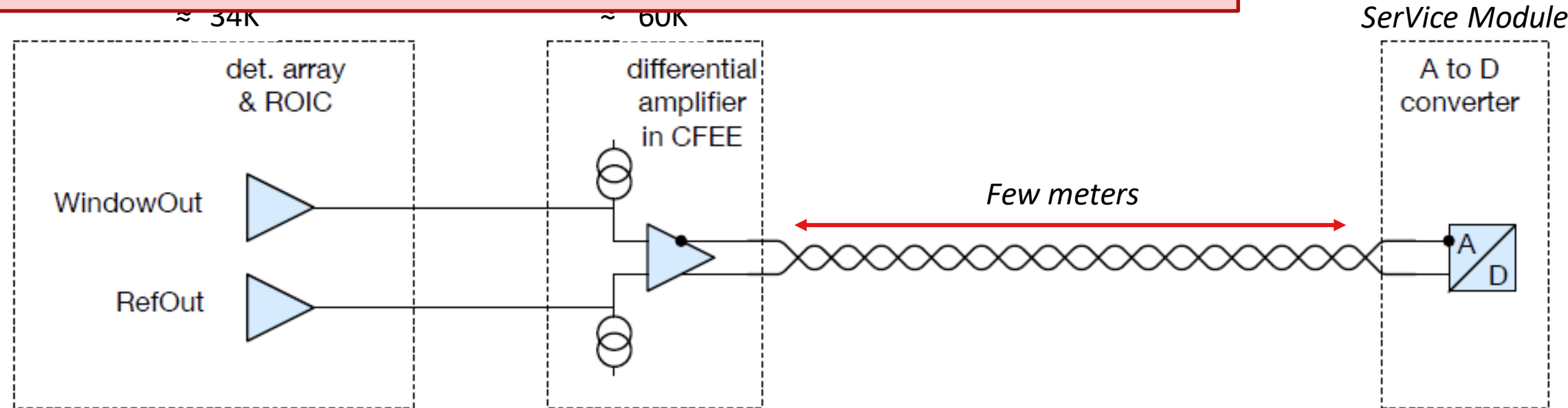
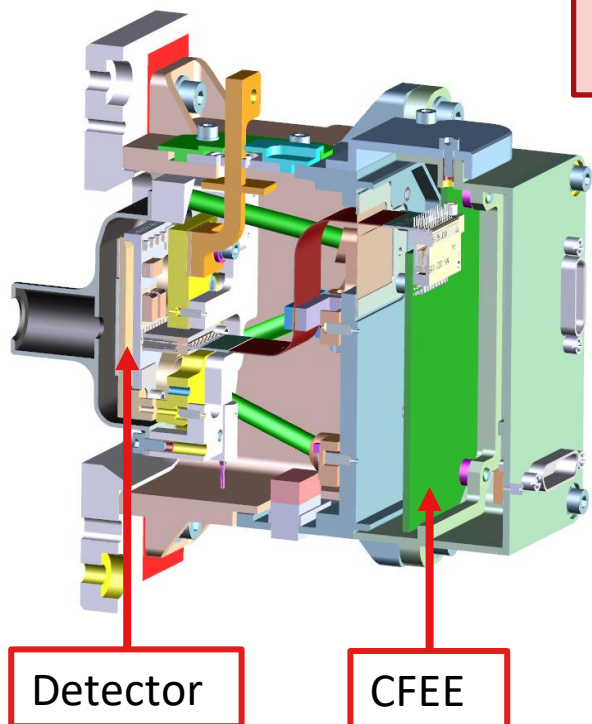
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- General detector characteristics
 - Operated in
 - Readout rate
 - AIRS acquisition
 - Separate readout

Need to characterize and calibrate the detectors to determine its behavior

To disentangle astrophysical effects from detector effects



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Test facilities in a cleanroom to characterize detectors

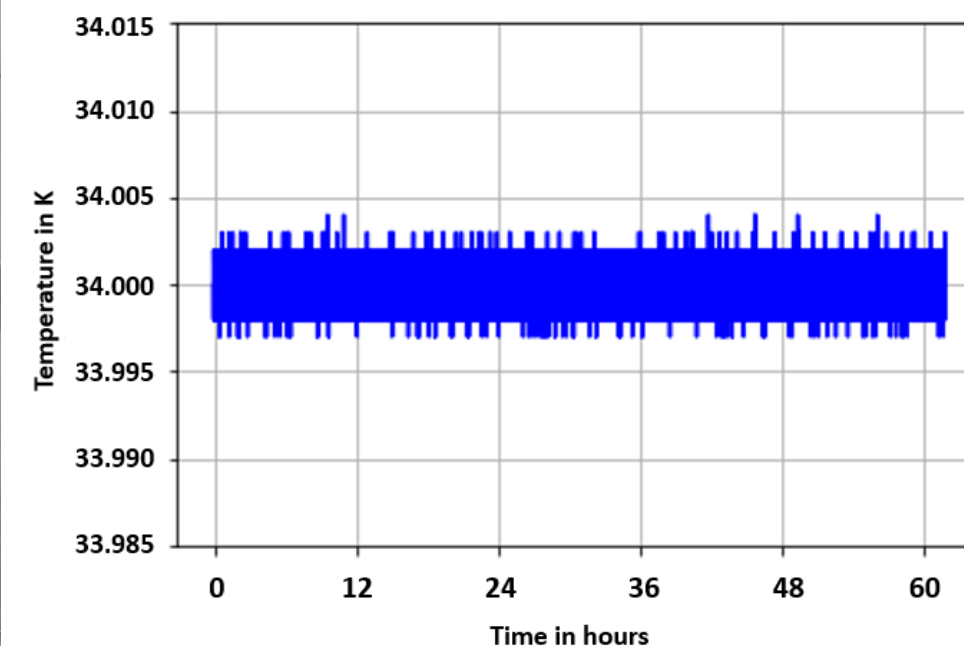
Temperature ranges :

Detector : [32-42K]

CFEE : [55K-65K]

ADCU : 300K

Thermal control of the detector within ± 5 mK for several hours.



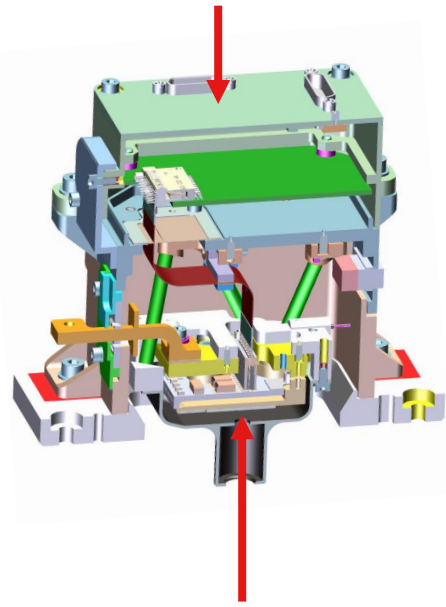
Detector temperature over 60 hours

Fine thermal stabilisation provided by the DCU

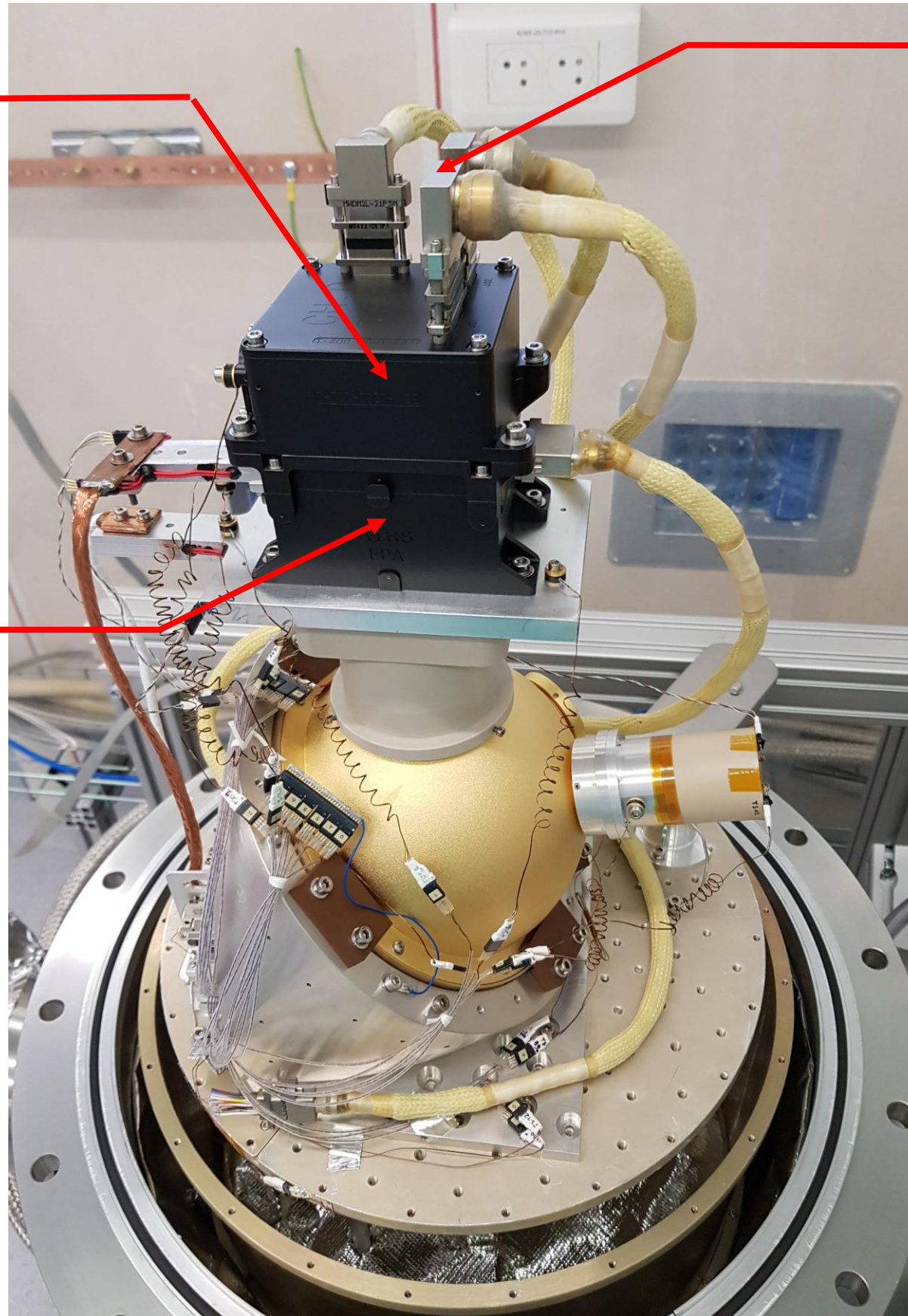
Picture of the test bench at CEA

2. Test mean at CEA
 1. Presentation of the test bench

Cold front end electronics



Detector (Teledyne H1RG detector)



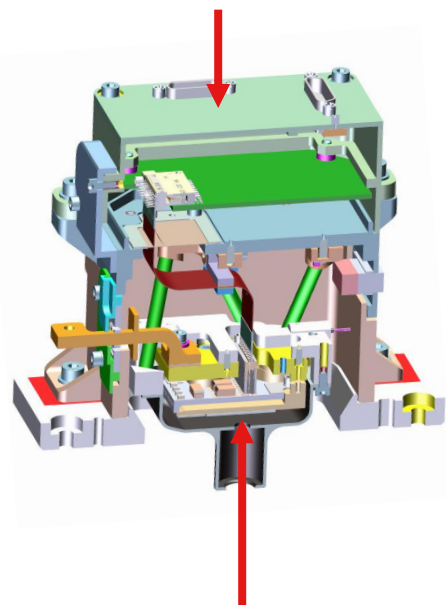
Connecting Harnesses

	EM CH0	EM CH1
Pixel array	1024x1024	1024x1024
Pixel pitch	18 μm	18 μm
Window size	355x64	130x64
λ_c (@ 32K)	4.75 μm	8.09 μm
Readout circuit	SFD (Source Follower Detector)	

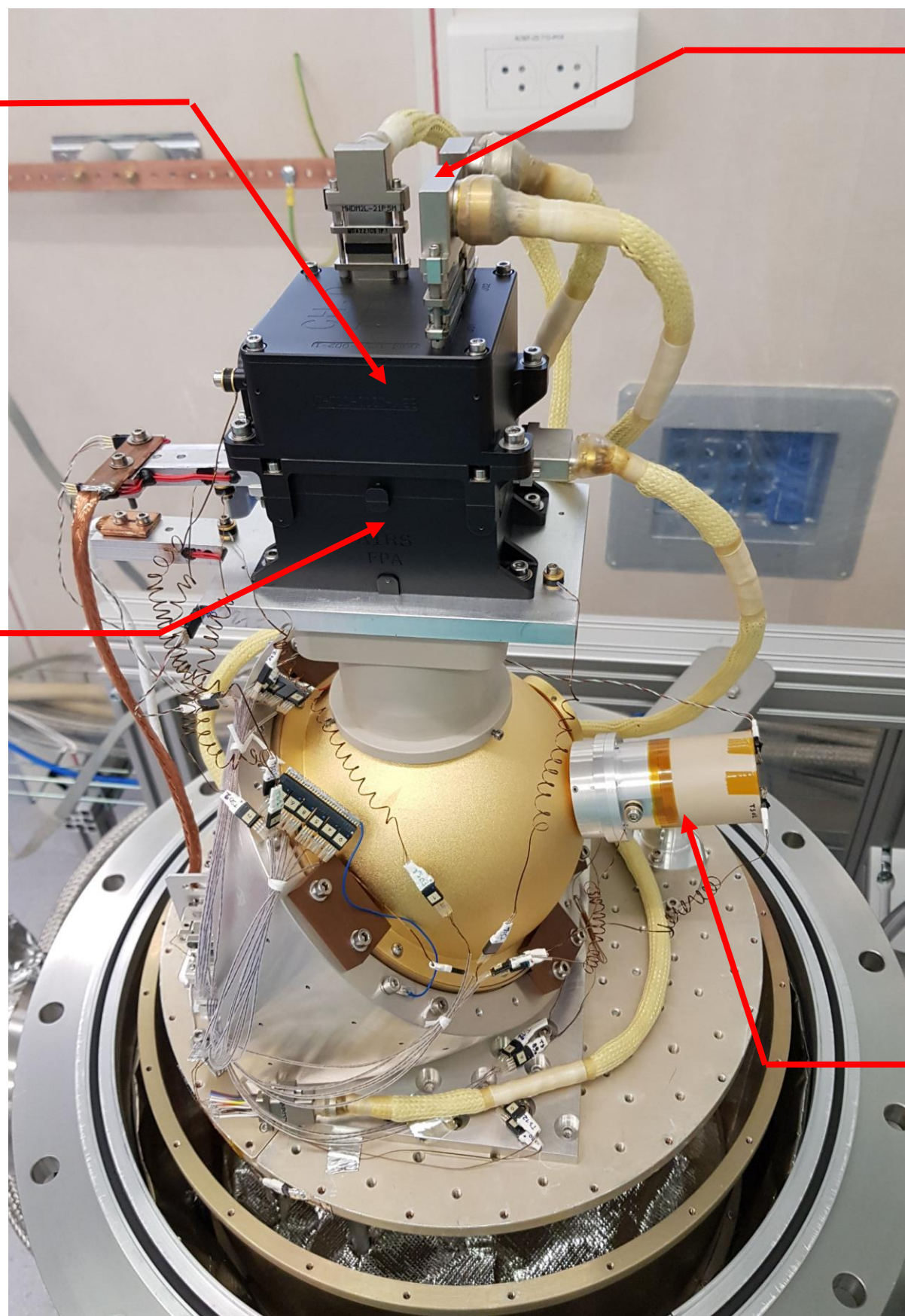
Non-destructive readout

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Connecting Harnesses

Cryogenic black body

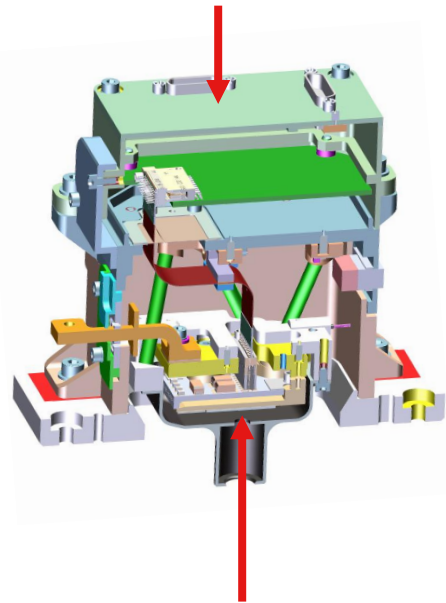
- A filter can be placed in front of the blackbody (transmission characteristic was measured at low temperature at ESA)

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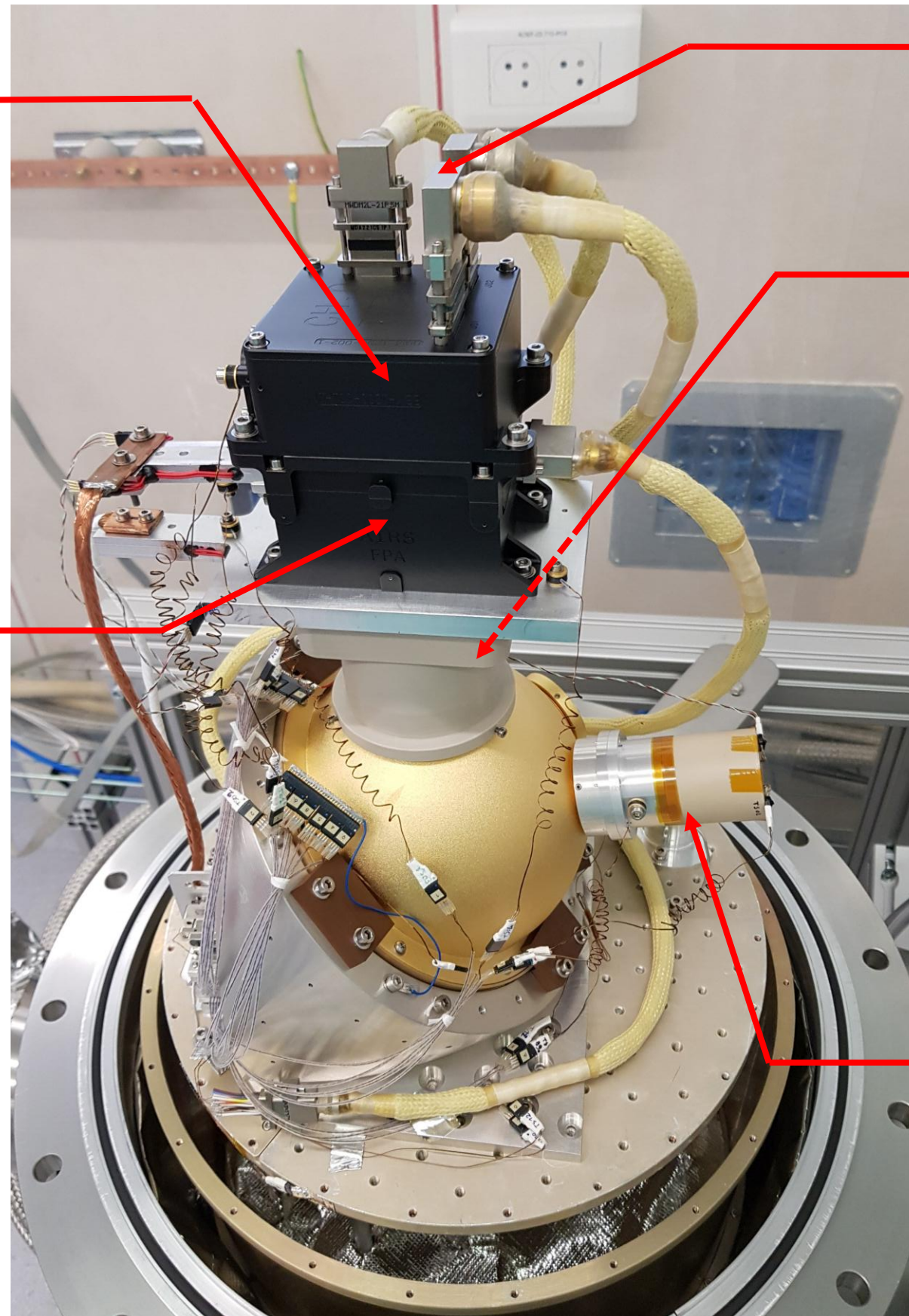
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Connecting Harnesses

Available port for a photodiode

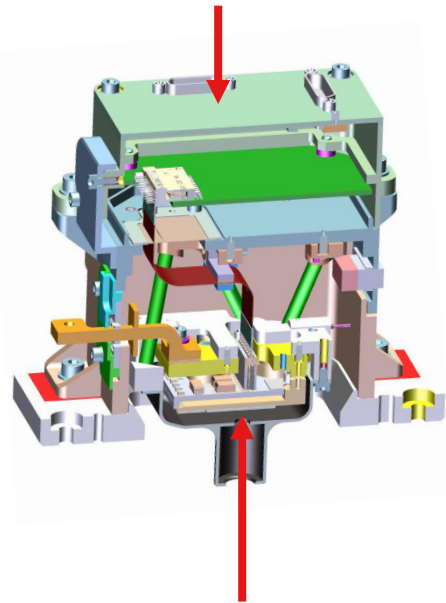
- Photodiode to know the incident flux on the detector

Cryogenic black body

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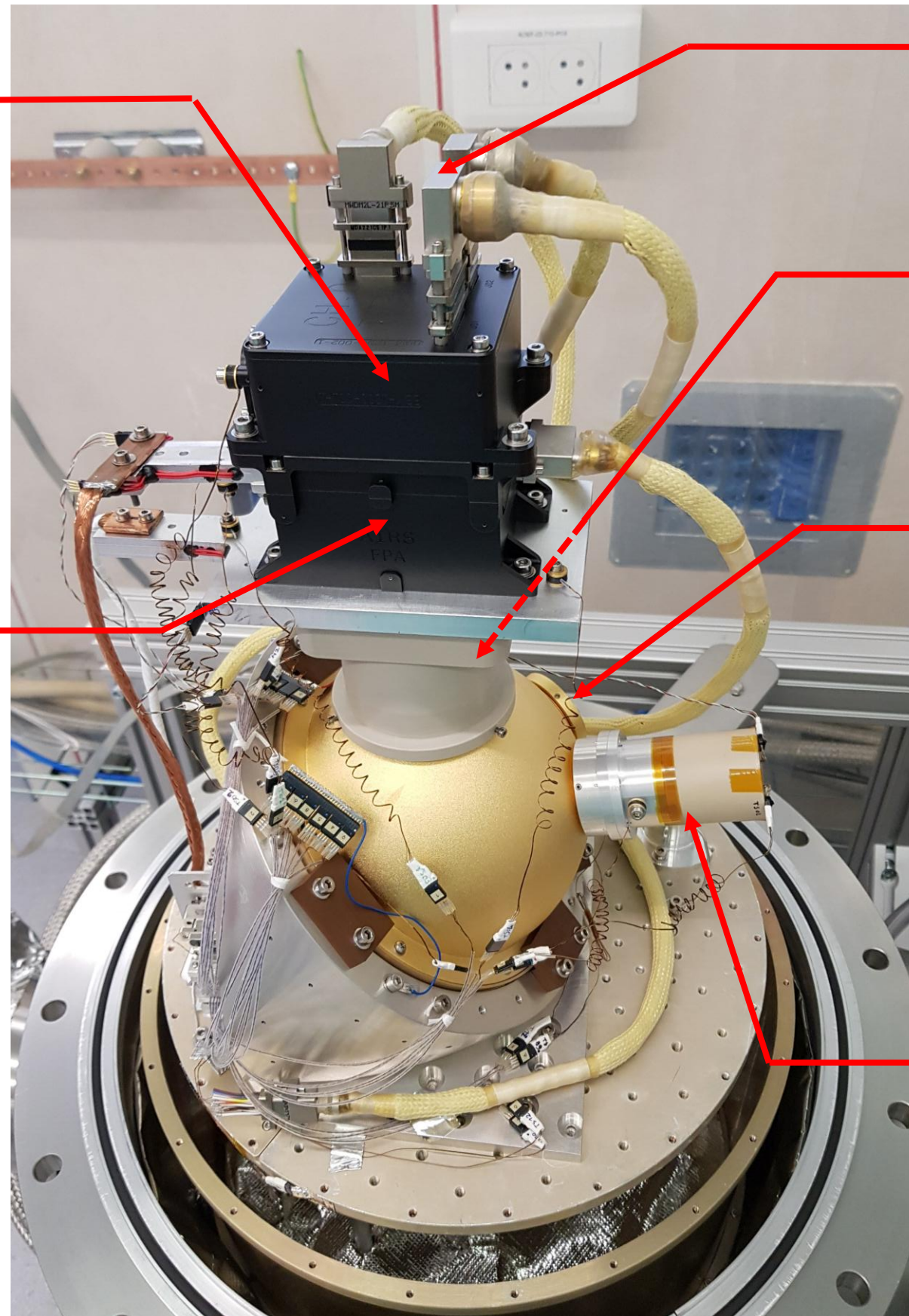
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Non-destructive readout



Connecting Harnesses

Available port for a photodiode

- Photodiode to know the incident flux on the detector

Available port for a LED or optical fiber

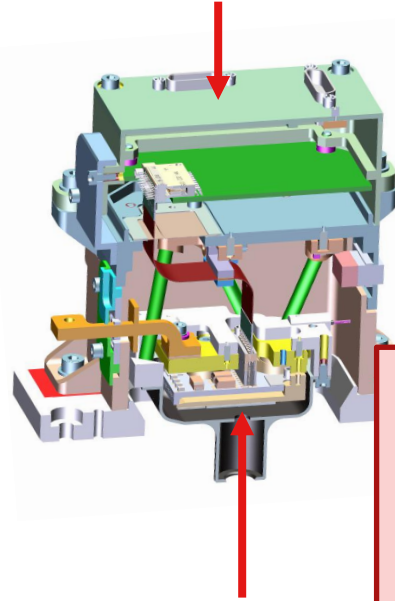
- LED at 3.4 μm for persistence measurement
- 2 optical fibers for CH0 and CH1 detectors (QE spectral measurement)

Cryogenic black body

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2. Test mean at CEA
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Cold front end electronics

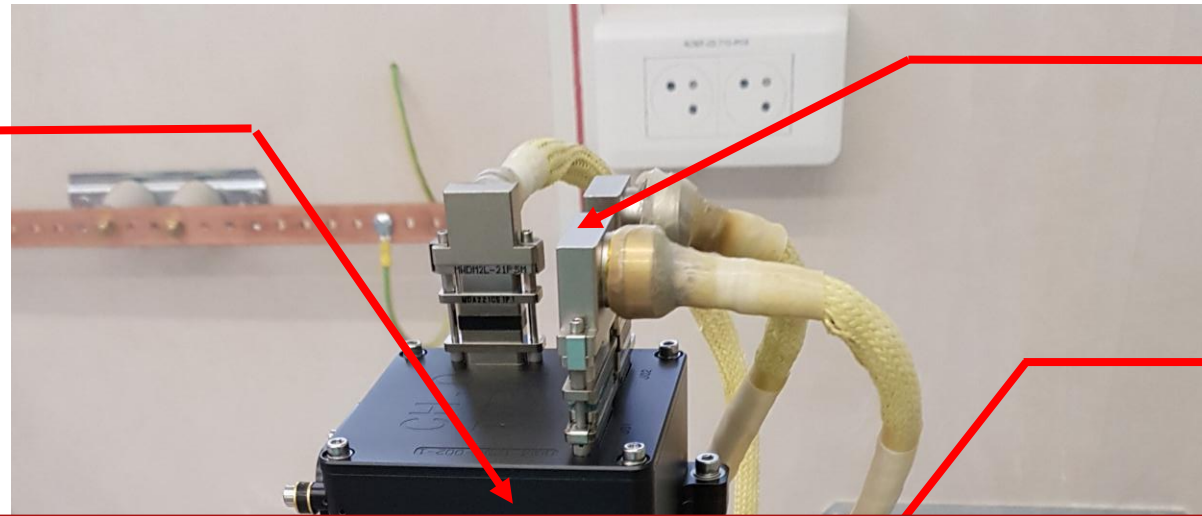


Detector (Teledyne H1RG)

Test bench → to realize several measurements for the characterization of detectors

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Non-destructive readout



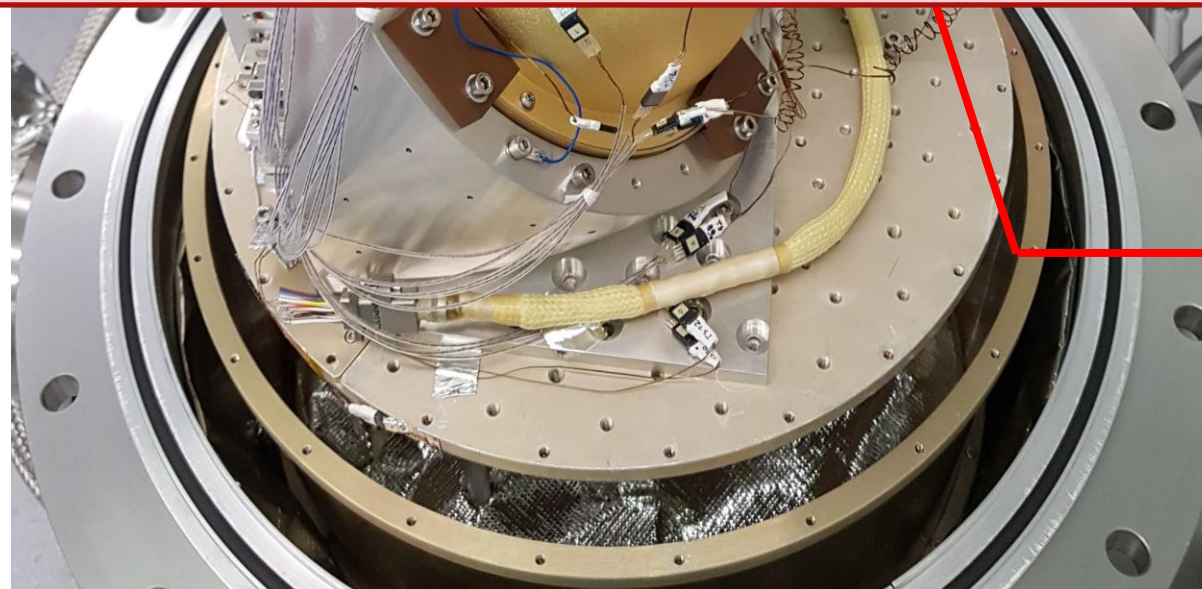
Connecting Harnesses

Available port for a photodiode

- Photodiode to know the incident flux on the detector

port for a LED or optical

- 3.4 μm for persistence measurement
- All fibers for CH0 and CH1
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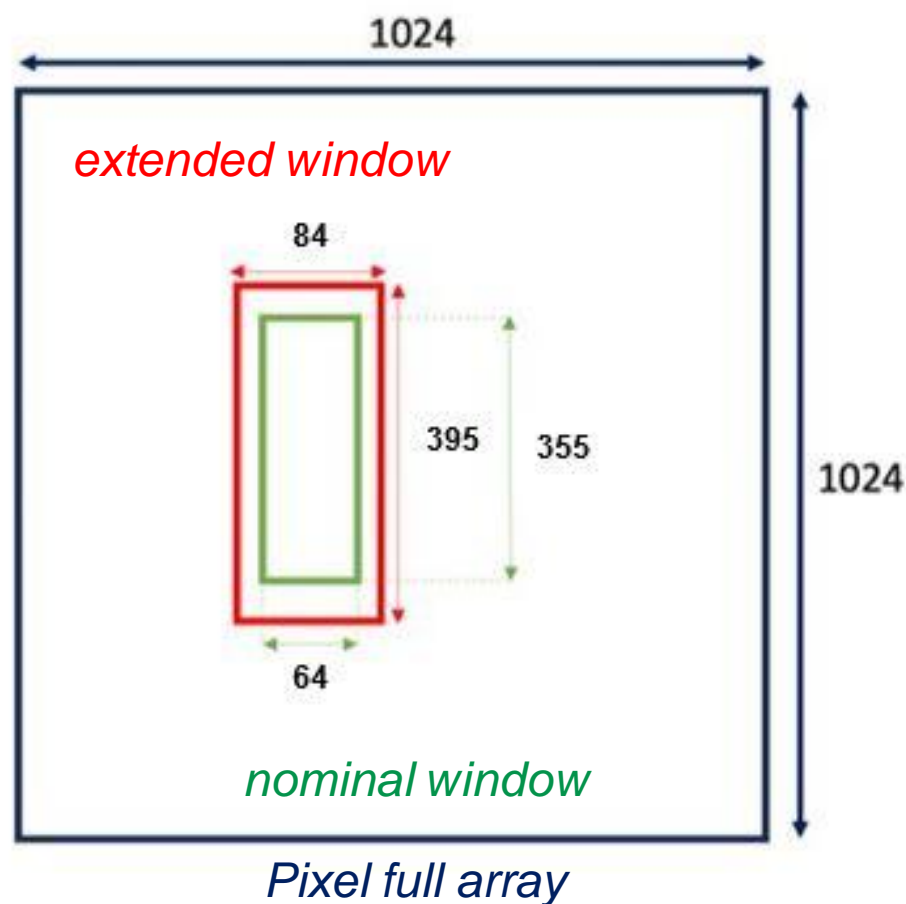
EM CH0 and CH1 detectors

Strategy of Engineering/Flight Model calibration :

- Verification of environment's thermal stability after the cryostat closing
- Testing implementation for optimization of operating point + validation
- Calibration of the detector and Cold Front End Electronics (only, no optical elements)

To take into account mechanical and optical margins:

CH0 detector : Illustration of windows considered throughout the calibration



	CH0	CH1
Nominal window size	355x64	130x64
Extended window size	395x84	170x84

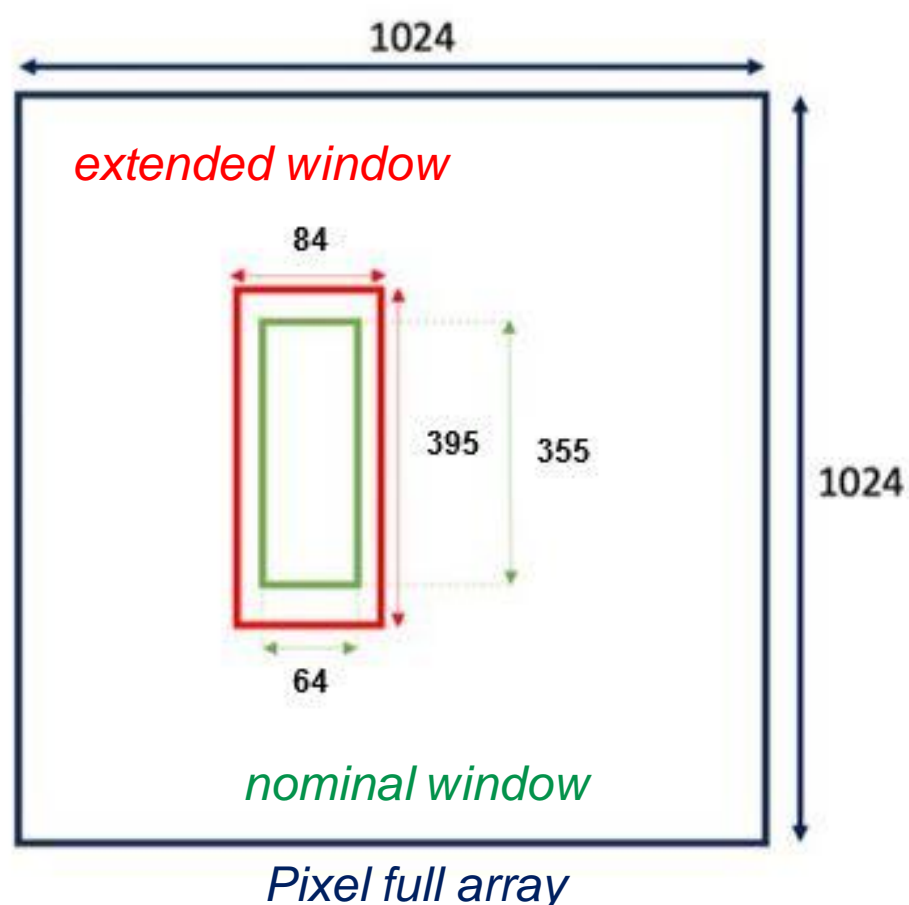
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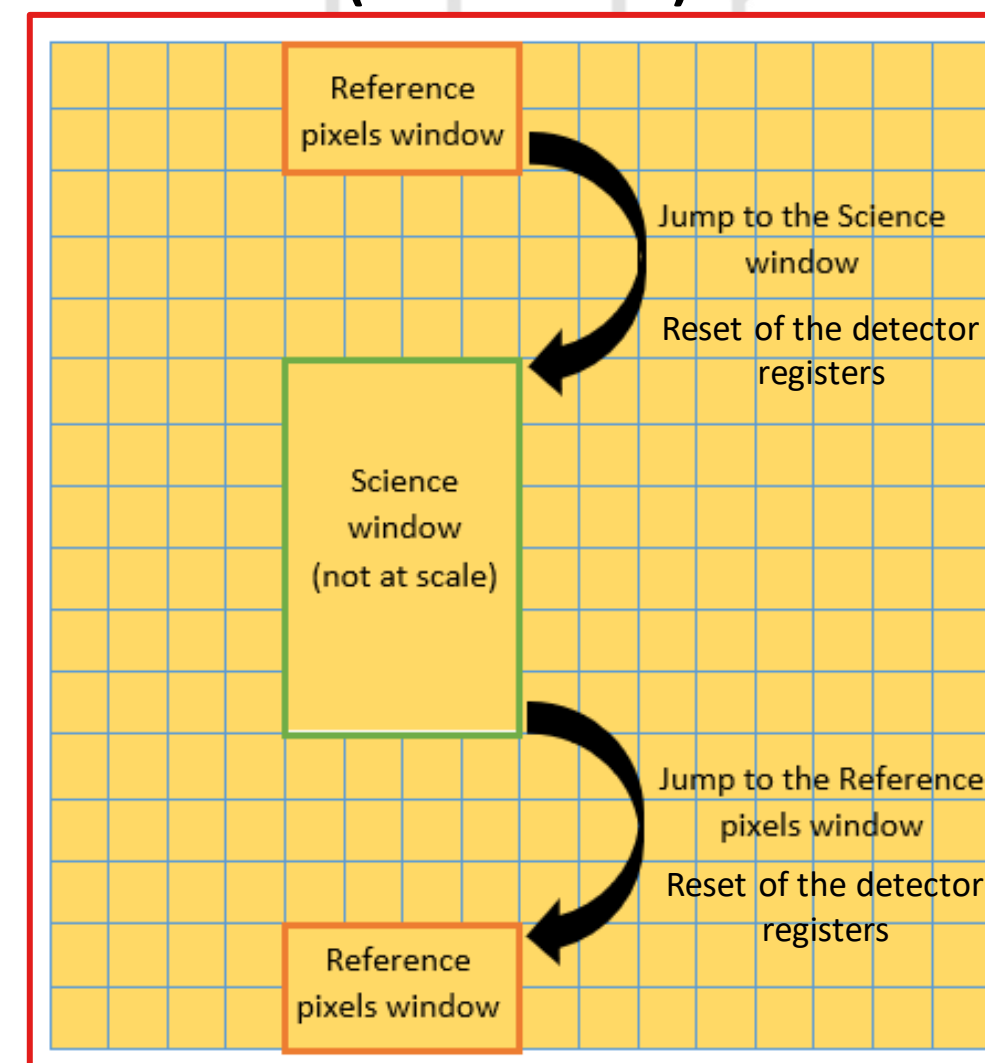
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Schematic view of readout sequence (not at scale)



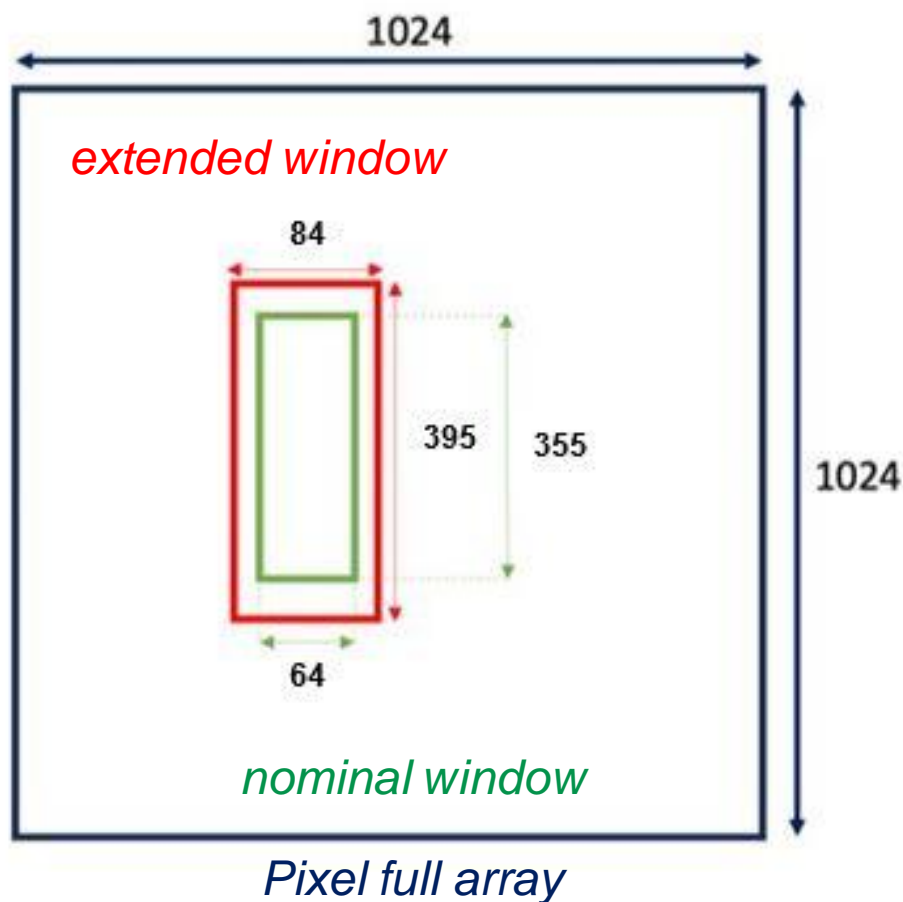
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List of the calibration product as function of detector temperature (32K-42K)

ID	TITLE
R-ACAL-010	Ground Pixel Operability
R-ACAL-020	Ground calibration of Full Well Dynamics
R-ACAL-030	Ground Acquisition Chain Gain
R-ACAL-040	Non-Linearity
R-ACAL-060	Dark current
R-ACAL-070	Relative QE
R-ACAL-095	SuperBias
R-ACAL-100	Persistence
R-ACAL-120	Ground Read Out noise

EM CH0 and CH1 detectors

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Optimization of the operating point

Bias	EM CH0	EM CH1
VDD	3.3V	3.3V
VDDA	3.3V	3.3V
VBIASGATE	2.3V	2.285V
VBIASPOWER	3.3V	3.3V
DETECTOR BIAS	250mV	250mV
VRESET	150mV	250mV
CELLDRAIN	0V	0V

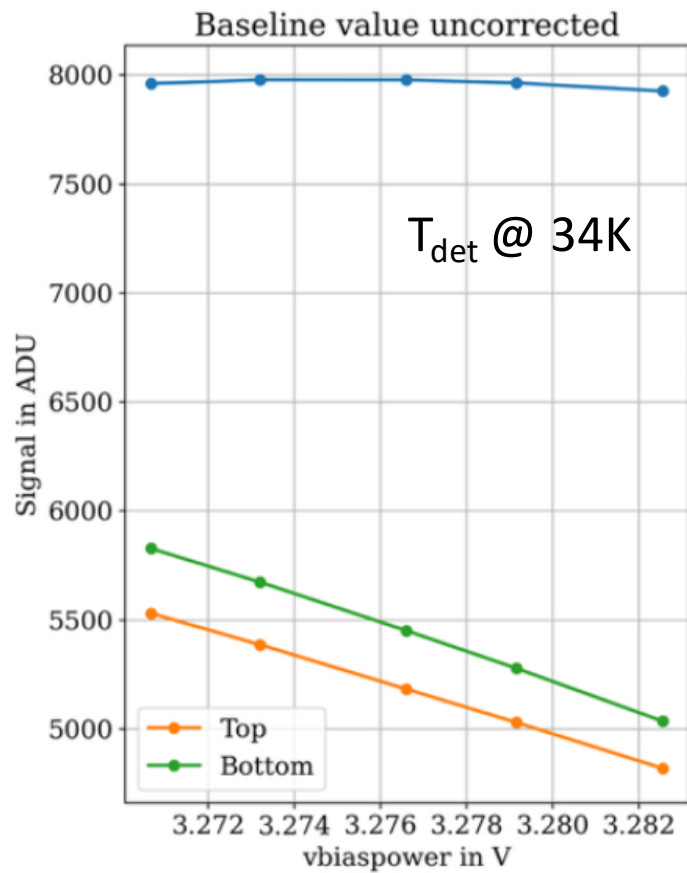
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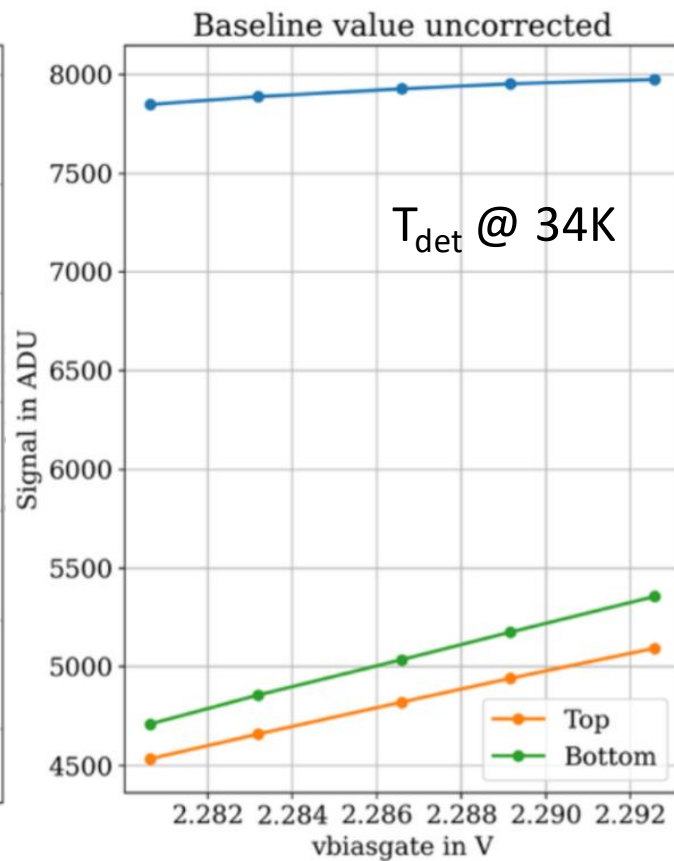
Series of 400 images in 200 integrations

MWIR EM CH0

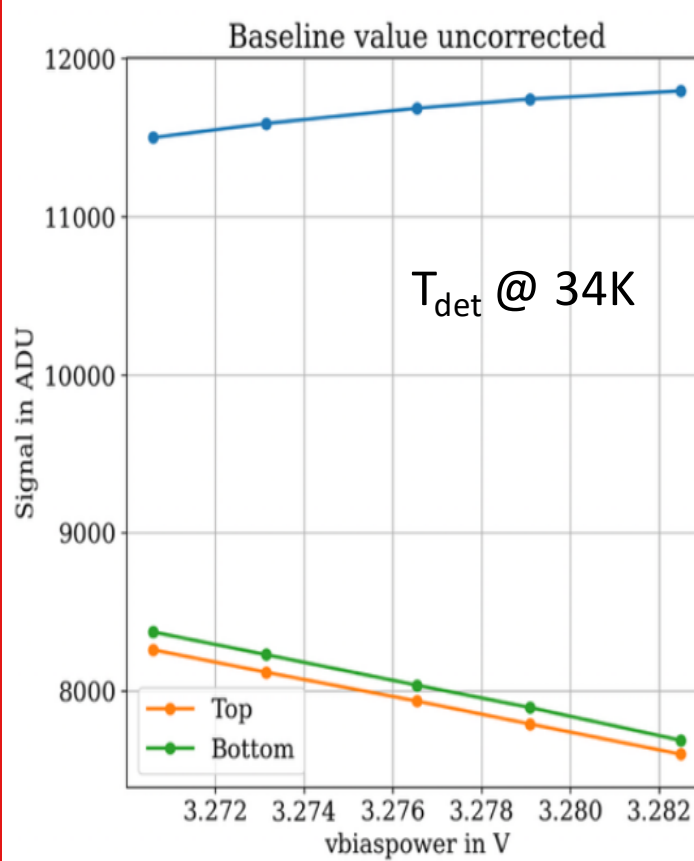
LWIR EM CH1



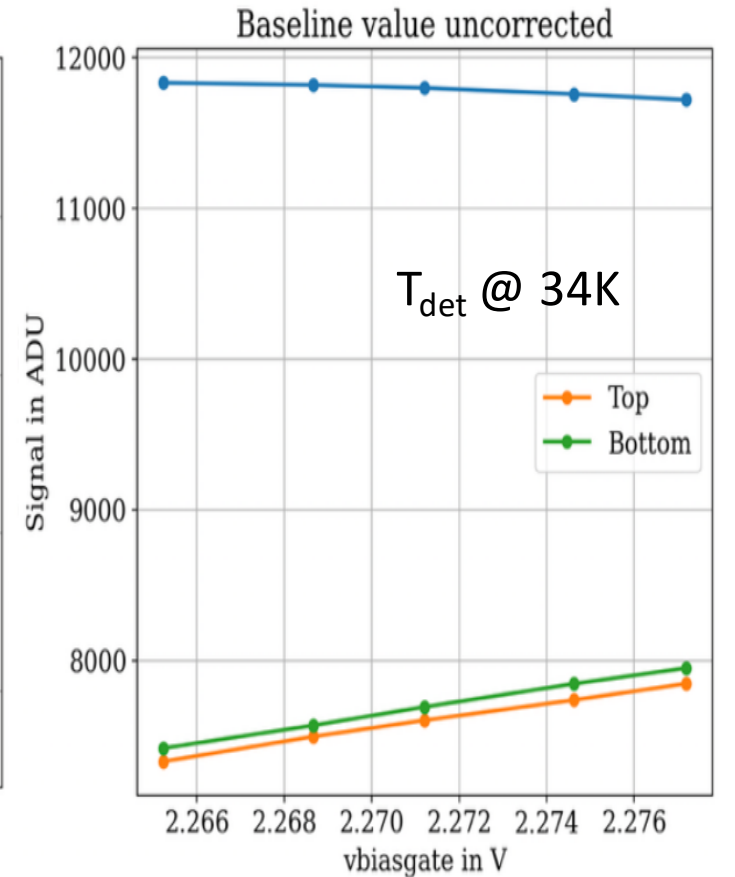
VBIASPOWER



VBIASGATE



VBIASPOWER



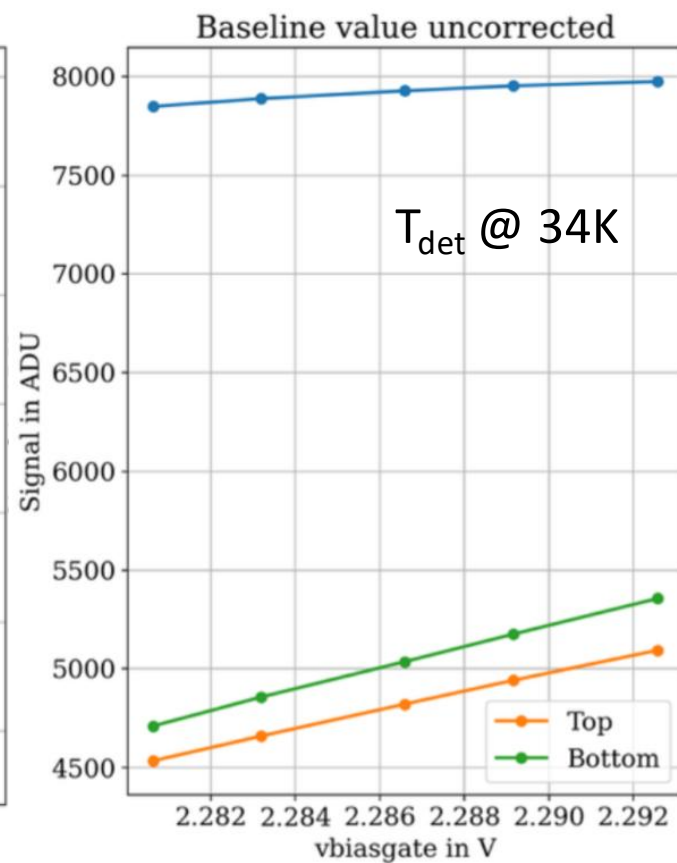
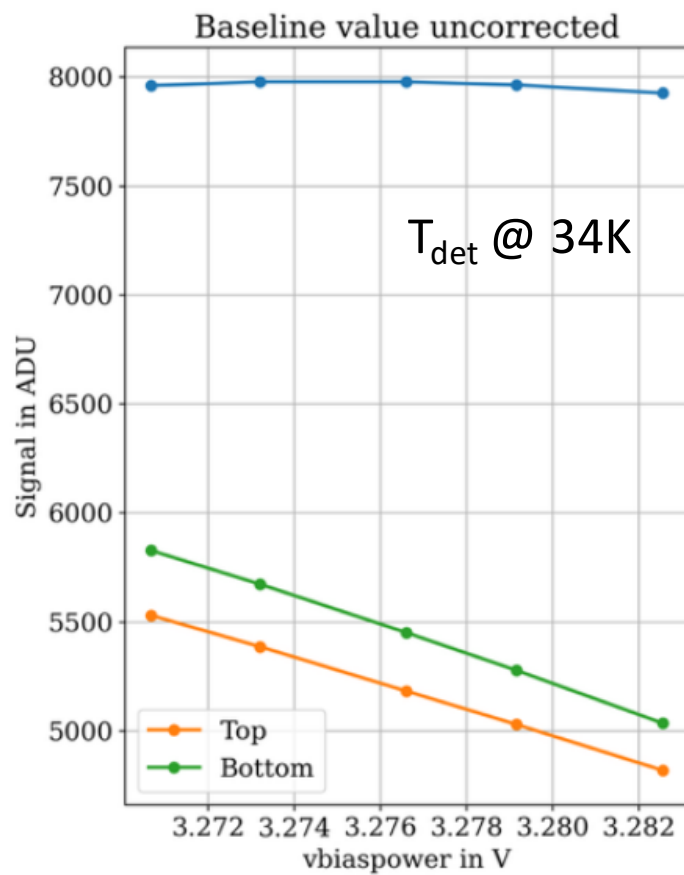
VBIASGATE

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CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain

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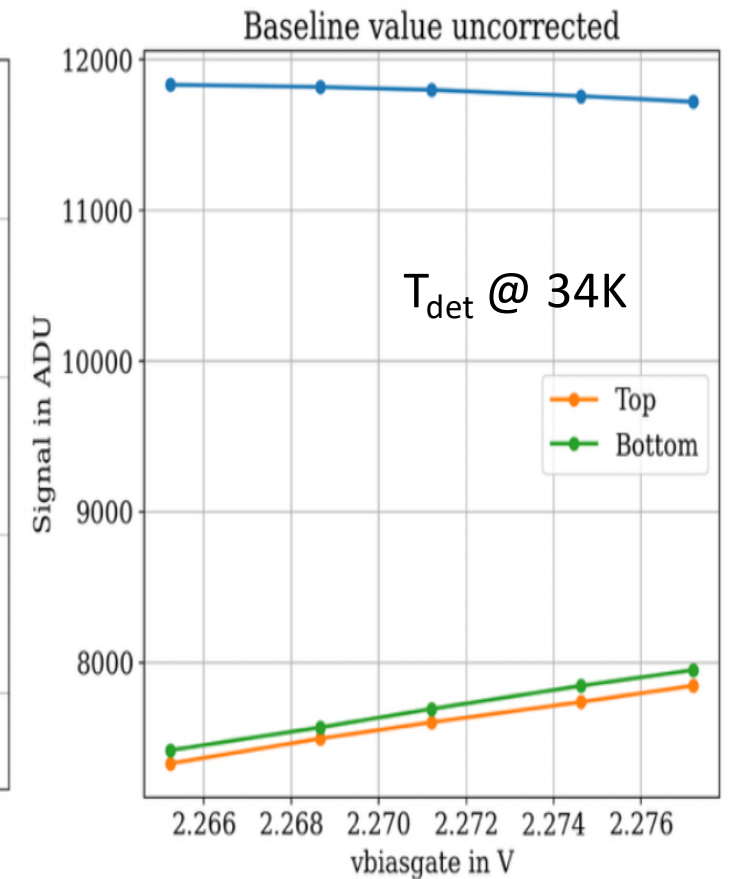
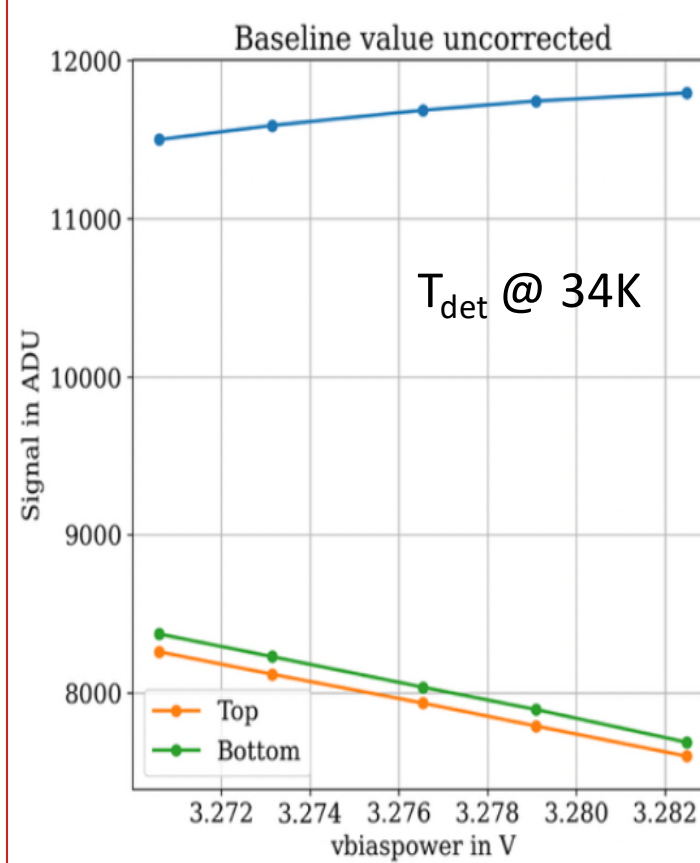
MWIR EM CH0

LWIR EM CH1



VBIASPOWER

VBIASGATE



VBIASPOWER

VBIASGATE

Difference in evolution of the baseline as function of biases for active pixels and reference pixels

Variations more important for reference pixels

Unexpected results, investigation on going

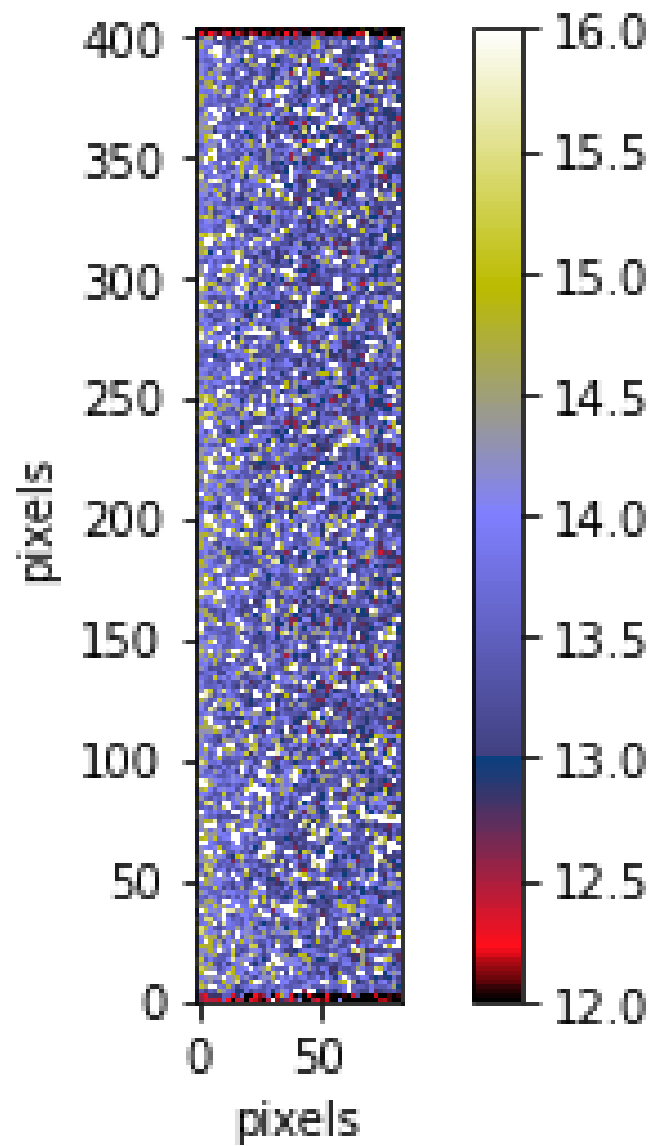
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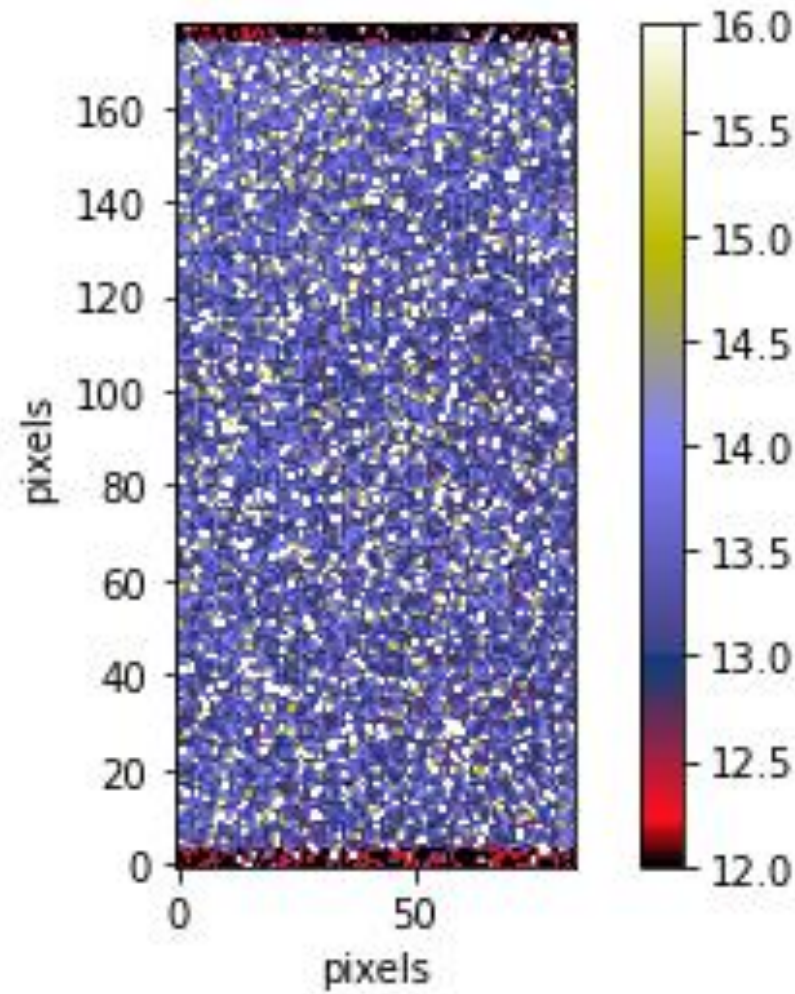
Series of 180 CDS images

- CDS images calculated
- Standard deviation computed for each pixel

MWIR EM CH0



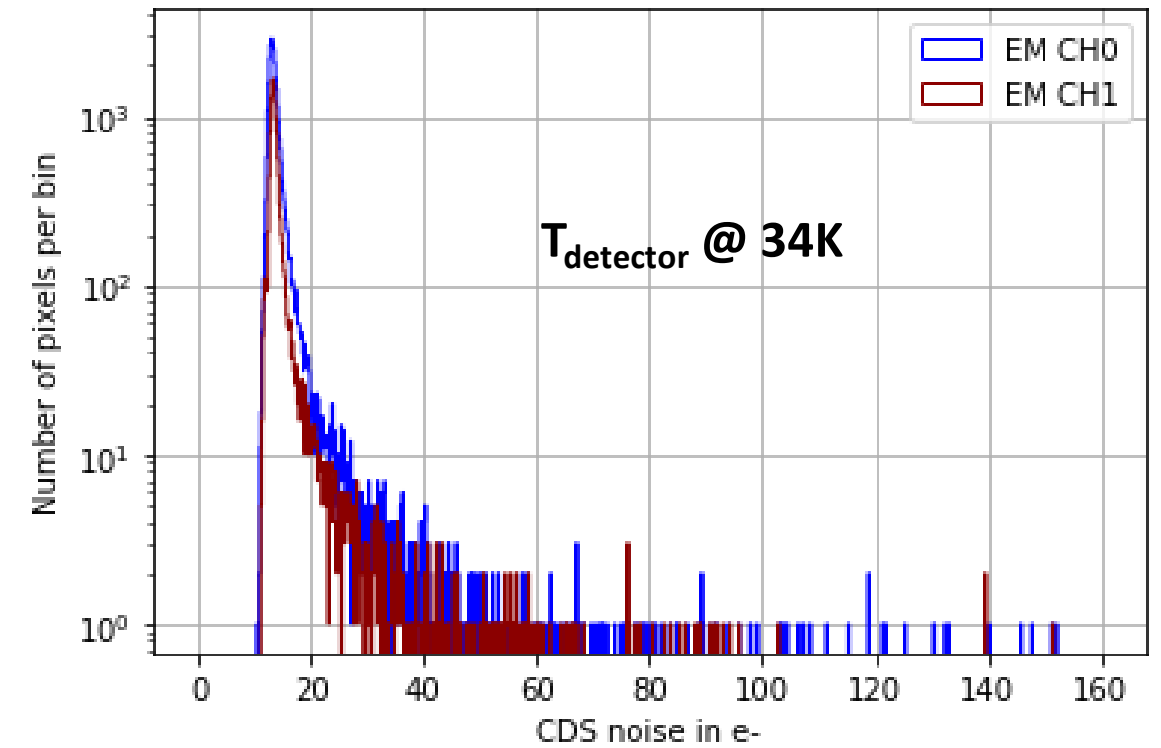
LWIR EM CH1



CDS noise		
	CH0	CH1
	MWIR	LWIR
Median	13.25	13.37
5%	12.22	12.47
95%	17.33	18.16

Results in e^-

CDS noise - EM CH0 VS EM CH1



Median gain conversion : **2.22 e^-/ADU** (CH0) and **2.18 e^-/ADU** (CH1)

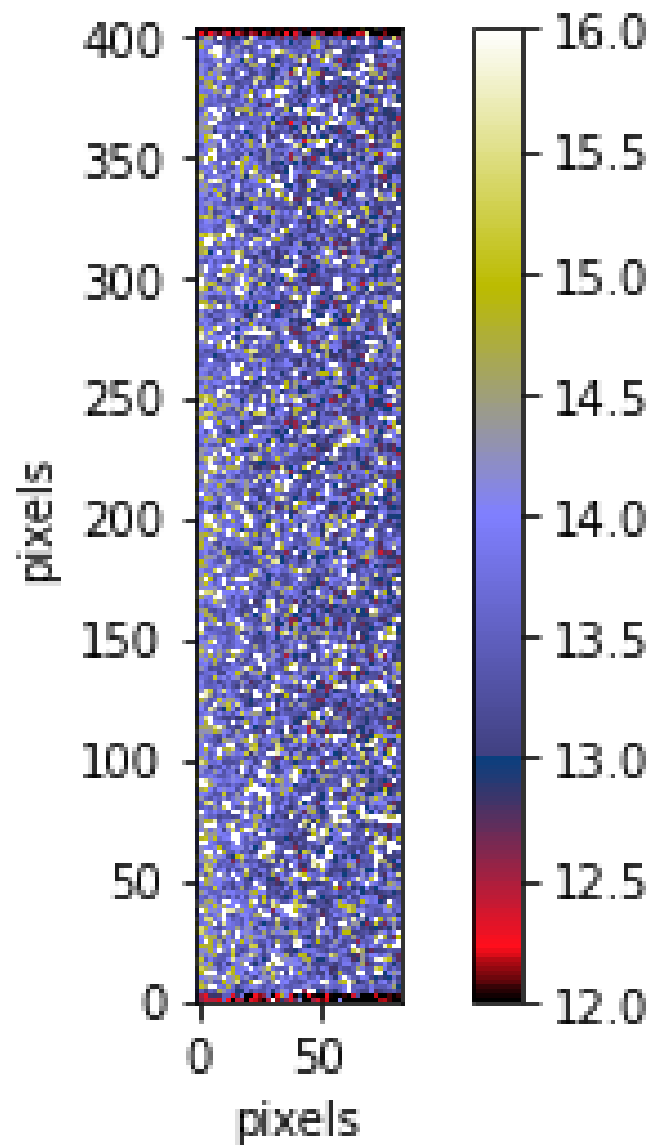
3. Characterization results

3. CDS and readout noise

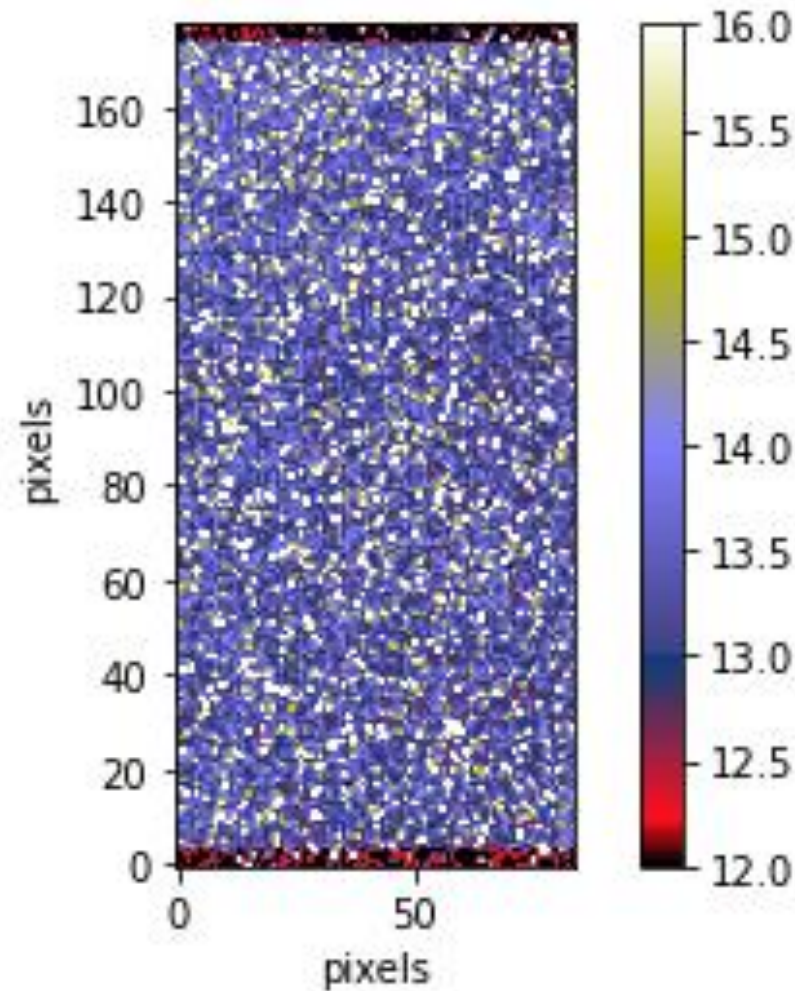
Series of 180 CDS images

- CDS images calculated
- Standard deviation computed for each pixel

MWIR EM CH0



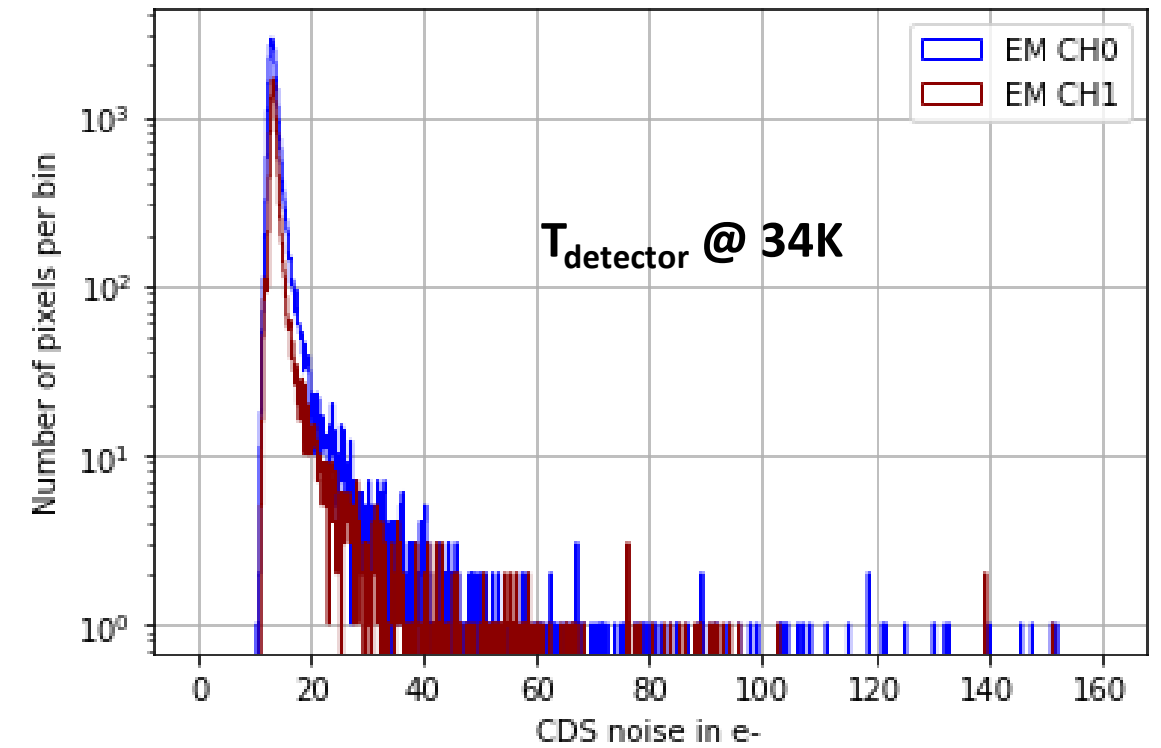
LWIR EM CH1



CDS noise		
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Results in e⁻

CDS noise - EM CH0 VS EM CH1

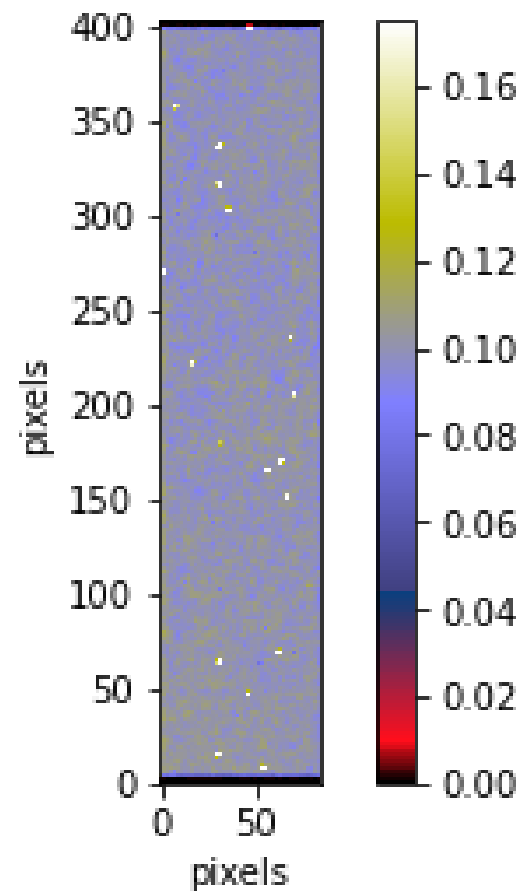
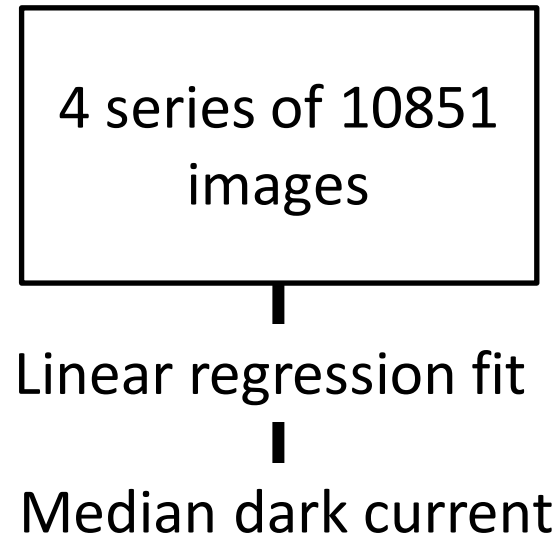


Median gain conversion : **2.22 e⁻/ADU** (CH0) and **2.18 e⁻/ADU** (CH1)

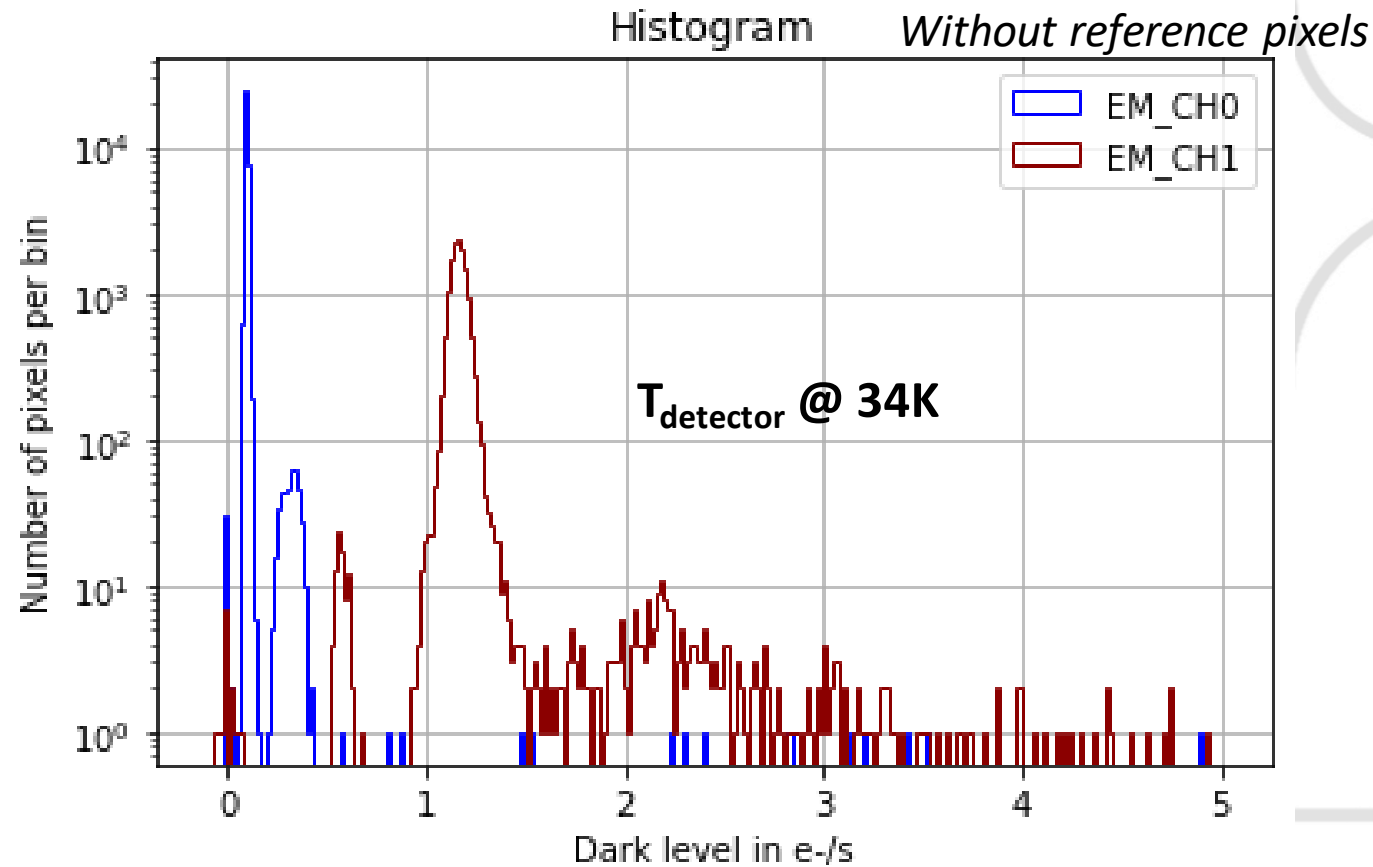
Compliant with AIRS specifications

Dark current measurements : 5 hours

MWIR EM CH0



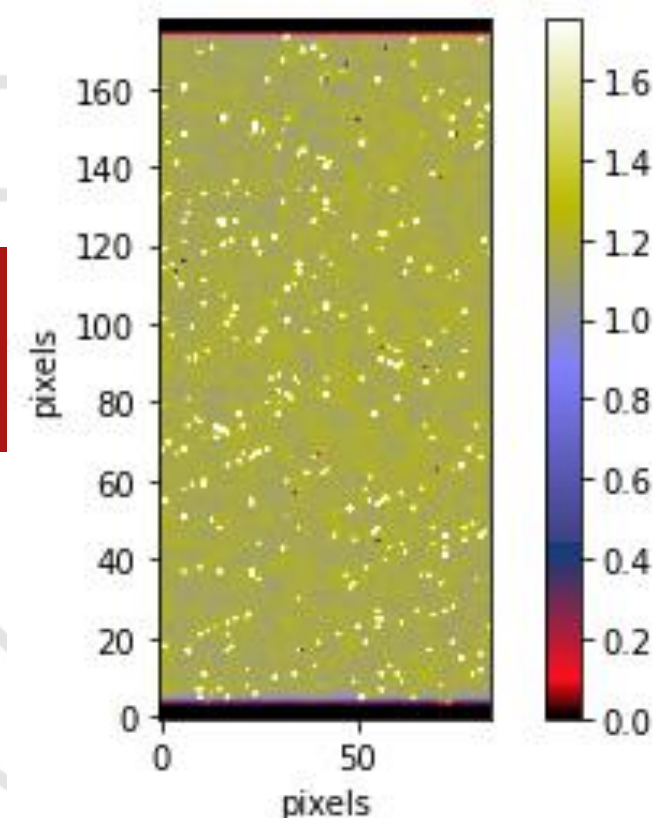
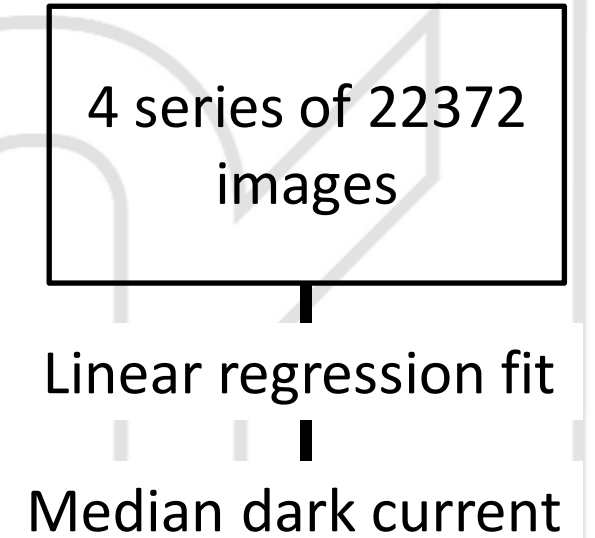
Number of outliers (>5σ) = 58 (0.2%)



in e ⁻ /s/pix	EM CH0	EM CH1
Mean	0.104	1.195
Median	0.10	1.166
Min	-0.010	-0.104
Max	5.177	10.361
5%	0.090	1.099
25%	0.096	1.138
75%	0.104	1.195
95%	0.111	1.259

Number of outliers (>5σ) = 321 (2.2%)

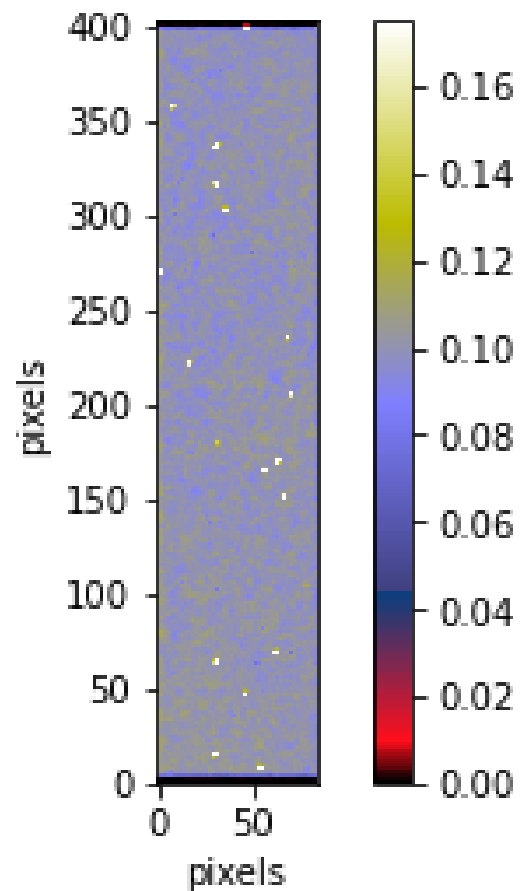
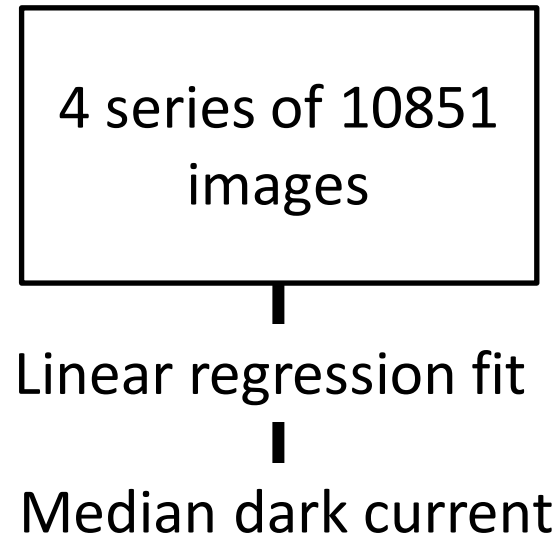
LWIR EM CH1



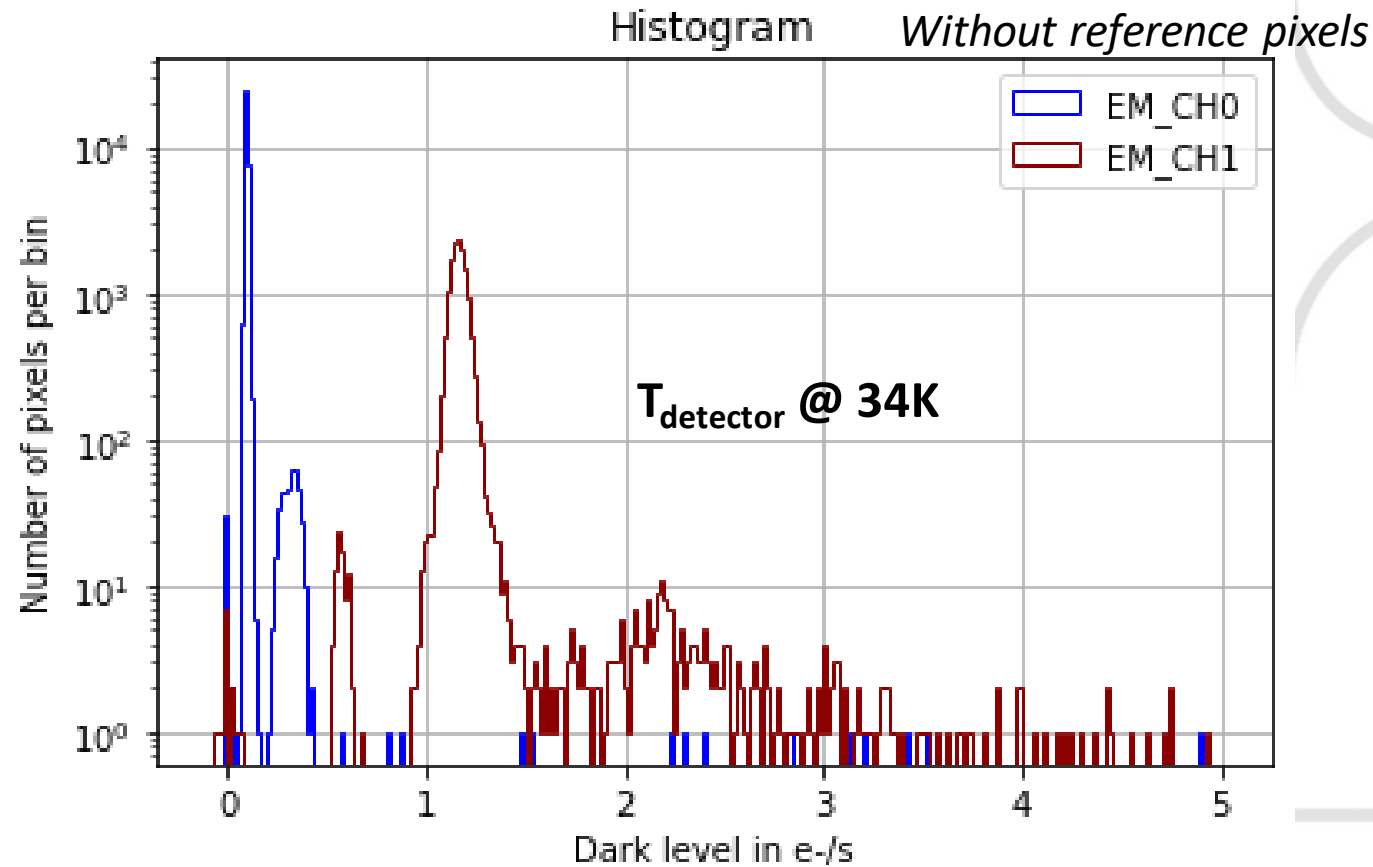
Detector baseline
CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain

Dark current measurements : 5 hours

MWIR EM CH0



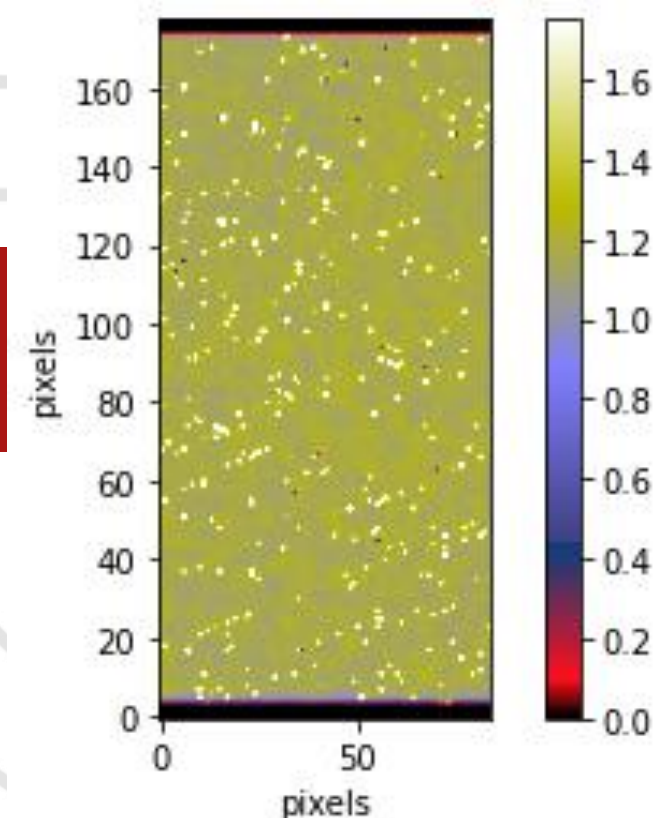
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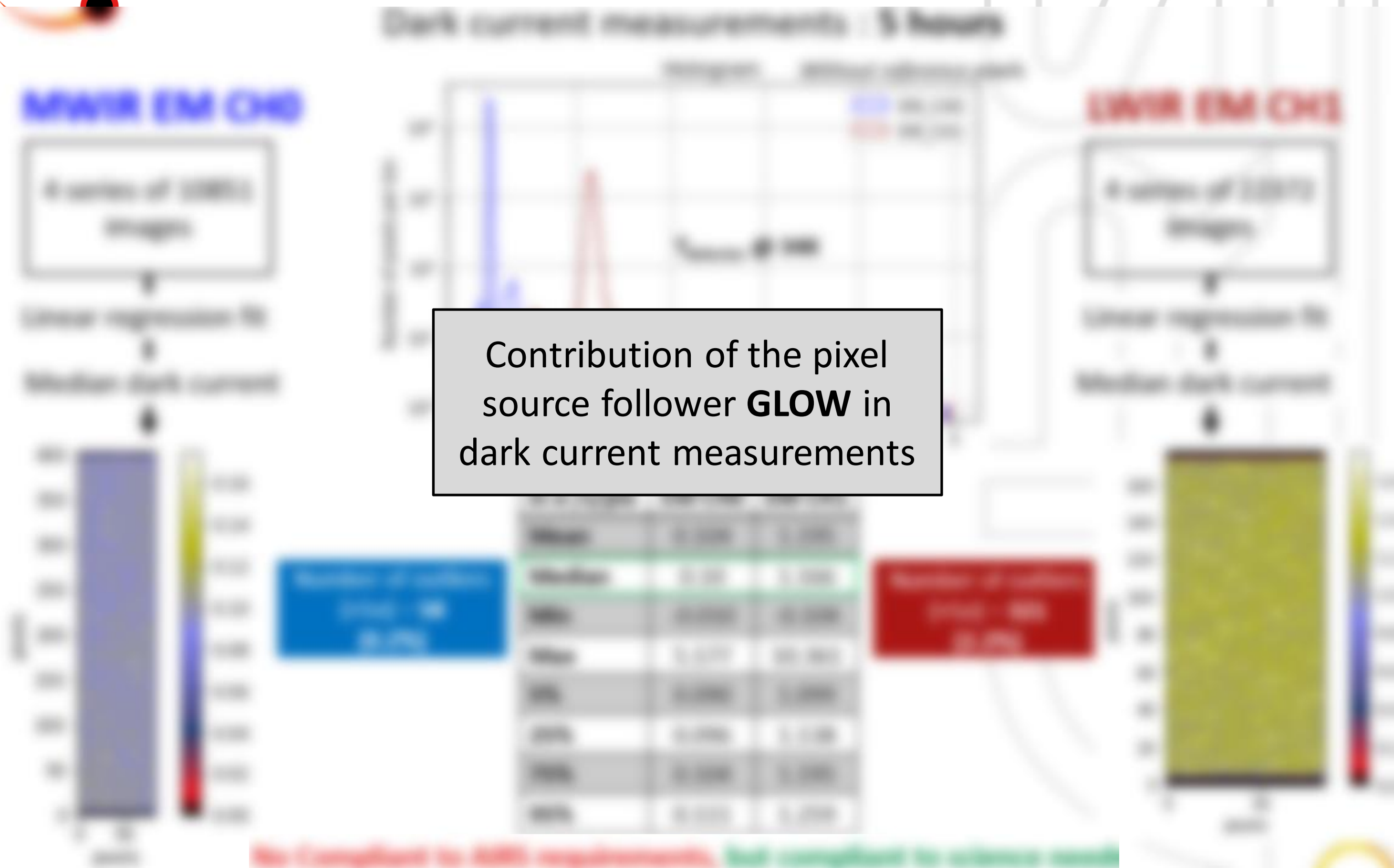
LWIR EM CH1



No Compliant to AIRS requirements, but compliant to science needs

3. Characterization results
4. Dark current

Detector baseline
CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain



Contribution of the pixel source follower **GLOW** in dark current measurements

3. Characterization results
5. Study of readout glow

MWIR EM CH0 Detector

T_{detector} @ 34K

	Measurement	T _{det}	Light source	Readout mode	Line	Col	Frame time	Measurement duration	t _{int}	N _{ramps}	N _{groups}
1.0	Glow t _f	T ₁	None	FUR	355	64	0.227	1800	1800	1	7920
1.1	Glow t _f + 1.0	T ₁	None	FUR	355	64	1.227	1800	1800	1	1467
1.2	Glow t _f + 2.0	T ₁	None	FUR	355	64	2.227	1800	1800	1	808

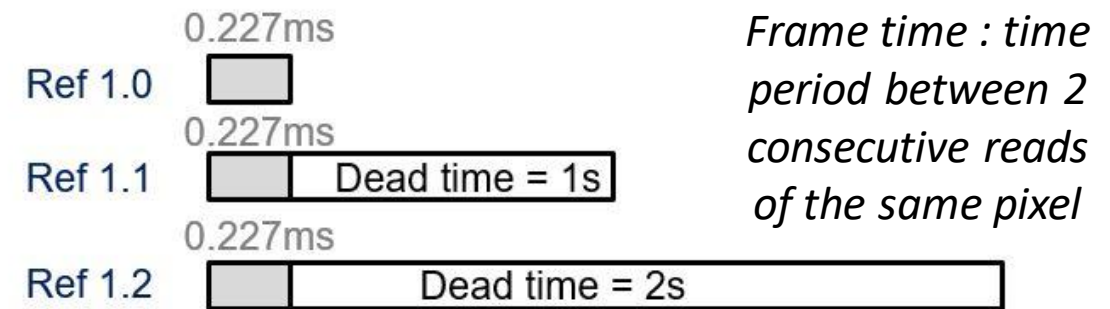
$$S_{Dark} = I_{Dark} + \frac{F}{dt} \quad (2)$$

Effective dark current ← S_{Dark}

Real dark current ← I_{Dark}

← $\frac{F}{dt}$ ← Glow per frame

← dt ← Frame time



The global frame time is higher, the dark current is lower

(2) M. W. Regan, L. E. Bergeron, "Zero dark current in H2RG detectors: it is all multiplexer glow", J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst. 6(1), 016001 (2020)

3. Characterization results
5. Study of readout glow

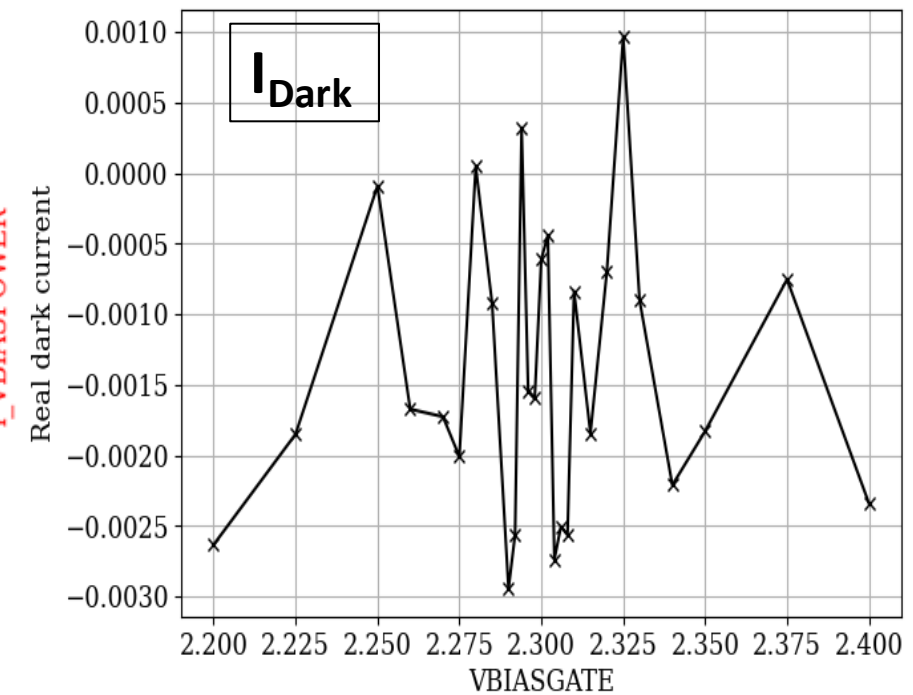
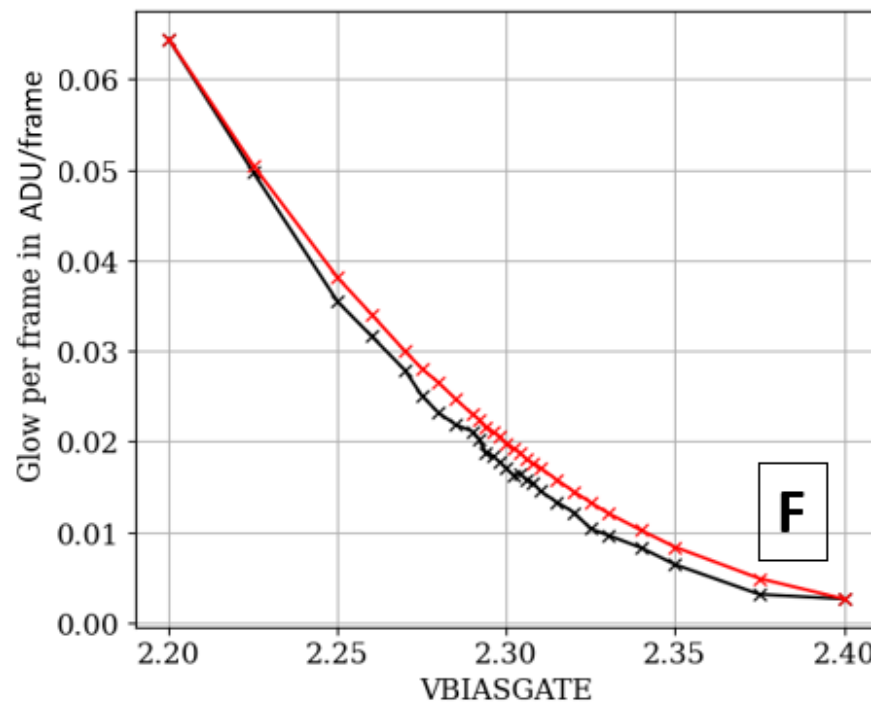
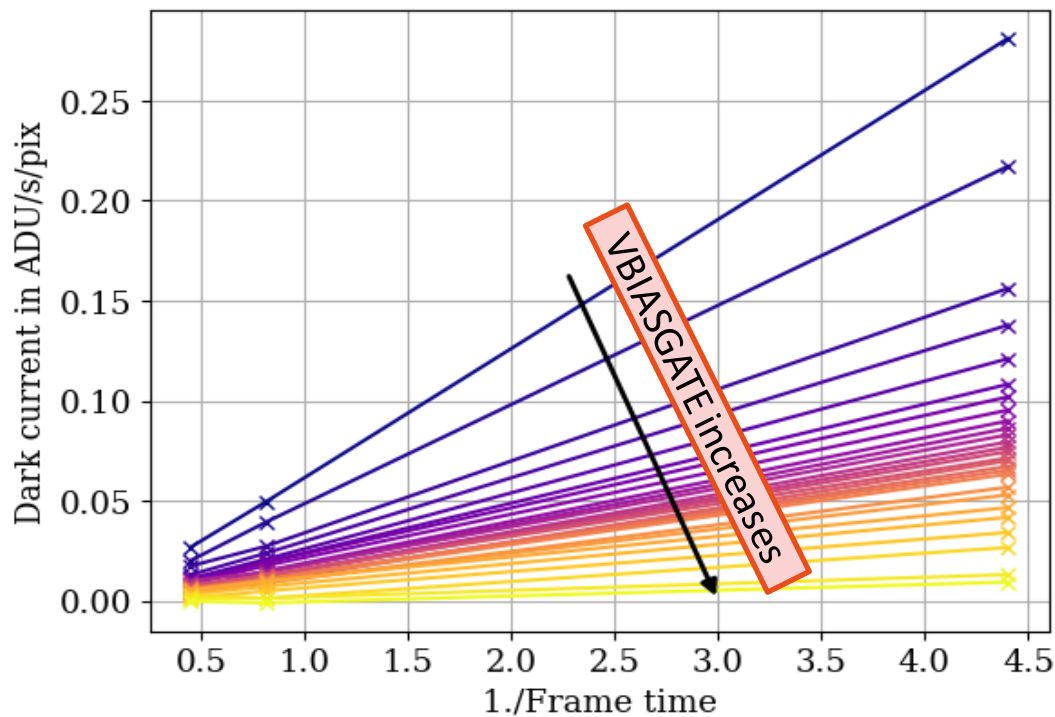
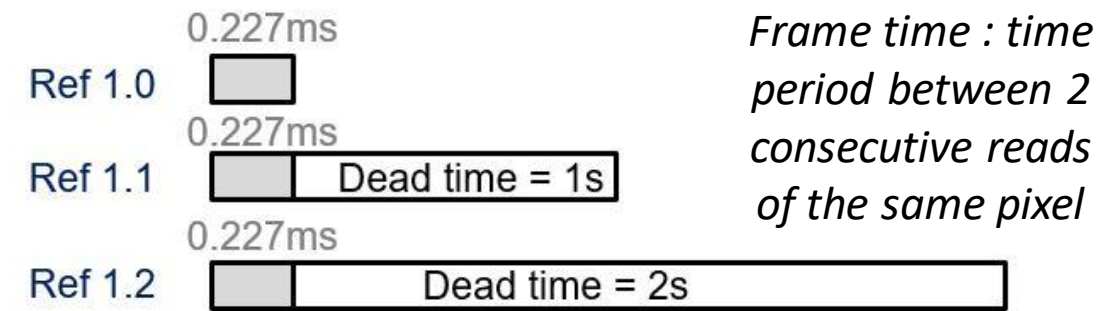
MWIR EM CH0 Detector

$T_{\text{detector}} @ 34\text{K}$

	Measurement	T_{det}	Light source	Readout mode	Line	Col	Frame time	Measurement duration	t_{int}	N_{ramps}	N_{groups}
1.0	Glow t_f	T_1	None	FUR	355	64	0.227	1800	1800	1	7920
1.1	Glow $t_f + 1.0$	T_1	None	FUR	355	64	1.227	1800	1800	1	1467
1.2	Glow $t_f + 2.0$	T_1	None	FUR	355	64	2.227	1800	1800	1	808

$$S_{\text{Dark}} = I_{\text{Dark}} + \frac{F}{dt} \quad (2)$$

Effective dark current \leftarrow S_{Dark} \leftarrow I_{Dark} (Real dark current) \leftarrow $\frac{F}{dt}$ (Glow per frame / Frame time)



$F \searrow$ when VBIASGATE \nearrow (less current in the MOS of the pixel)

I_{Dark} close to 0 ADU/s

Strong correlation between F and VBIASPOWER current : The greater the current in the MOS, the greater the contribution of the glow

(2) M. W. Regan, L. E. Bergeron, "Zero dark current in H2RG detectors: it is all multiplexer glow", J. Astron. Telesc. Instrum. Syst. 6(1), 016001 (2020)

3. Characterization results
5. Study of readout glow

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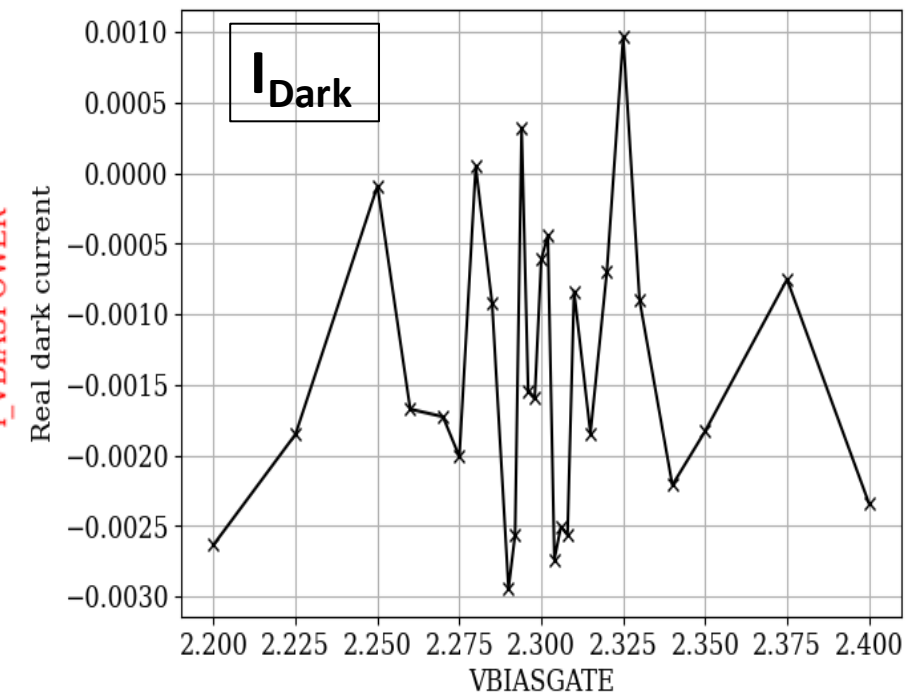
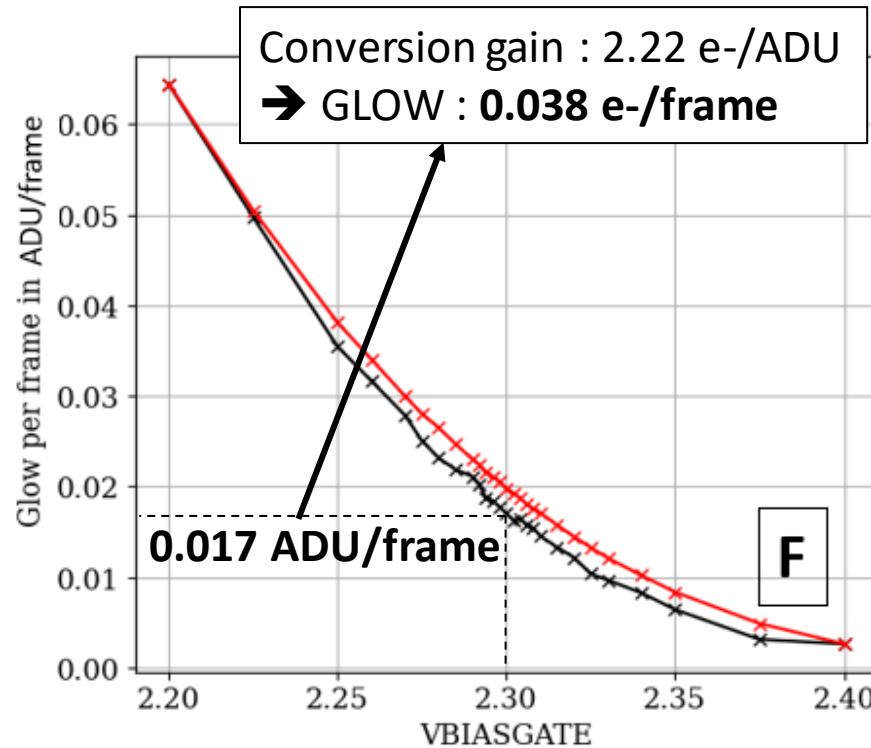
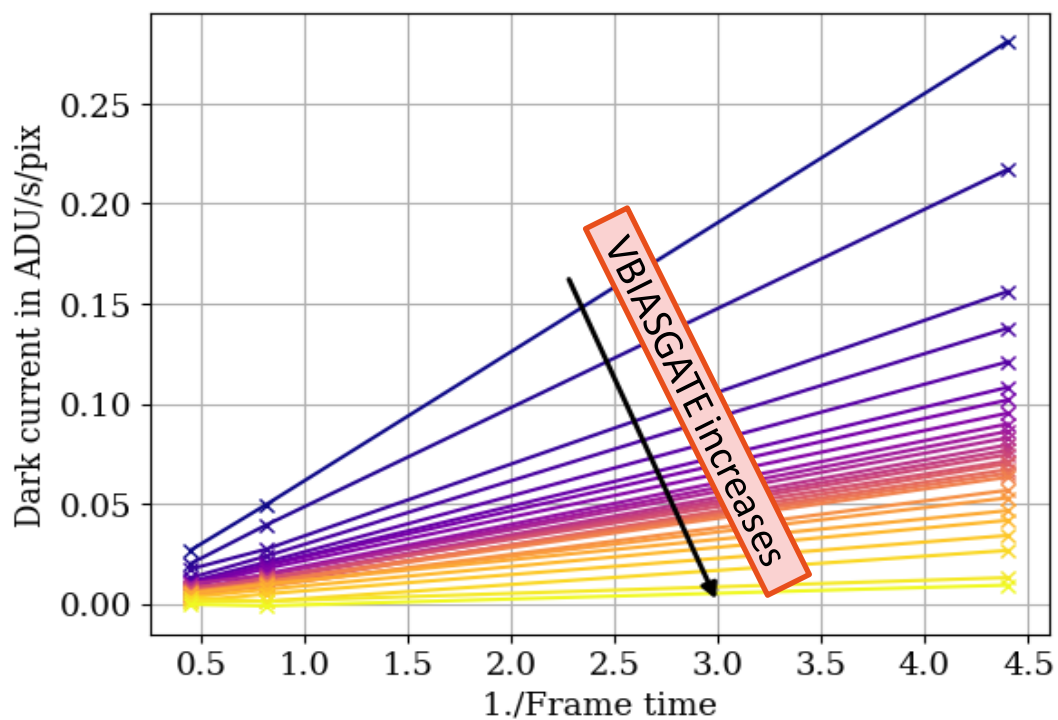
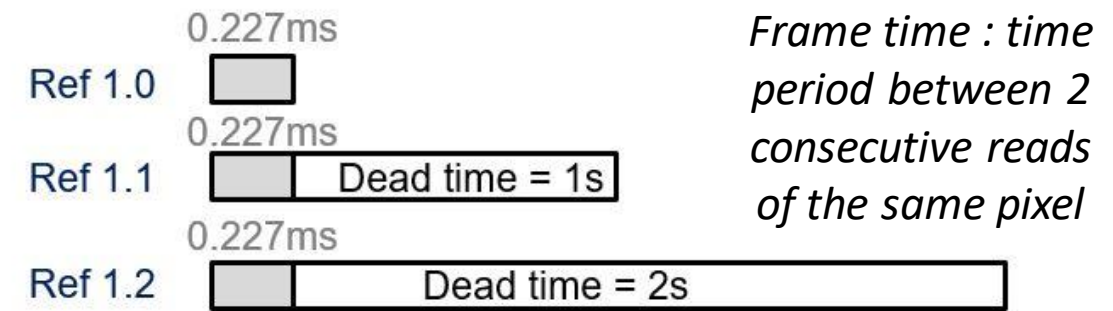
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Effective dark current \leftarrow S_{Dark}

I_{Dark} \leftarrow Real dark current

$\frac{F}{dt}$ \leftarrow Frame time

F \leftarrow Glow per frame



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3. Characterization results
5. Study of readout glow

Detector baseline
CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain

	EM CH0	EM CH1
Wavelength range	[0.4-4.75] μm	[0.4-8.09] μm
Glow per frame	0.038 e ⁻ /frame	0.131 e ⁻ /frame

Range ratio : 1.8
Glow per frame ratio : 3.4

Measurement realized in the dark. To estimate the crosstalk, the following steps are applied:

- Consider pixels with a high dark current (but not saturating)
- Keep only isolated hot pixels (5 pixels distance from other hot pixels)
- Compute the crosstalk coefficient α and the crosstalk kernel

$$\alpha_{CH0} = \frac{\langle N \rangle - B_{median}}{C + 4 \langle N \rangle - 5B_{median}}$$

C : signal of the central pixel

$\langle N \rangle$: mean signal of the 4 nearest neighbours

B_{median} : background signal of the pixels in the ROI

Detector baseline
CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain

3. Characterization results

5. Crosstalk estimation with hot pixels

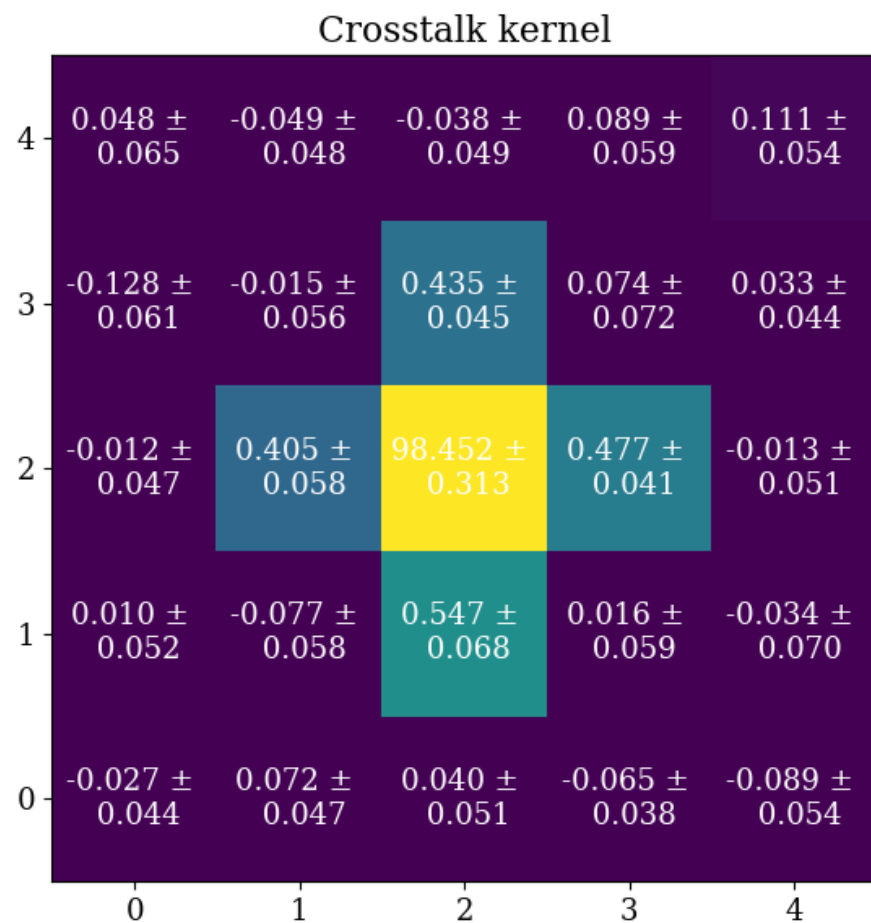
Measurement realized in the dark. To estimate the crosstalk, the following steps are applied:

- ❑ Consider pixels with a high dark current (but not saturating)
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- ❑ Compute the crosstalk coefficient α and the crosstalk kernel

$$\alpha_{CHO} = \frac{\langle N \rangle - B_{median}}{C + 4 \langle N \rangle - 5B_{median}}$$

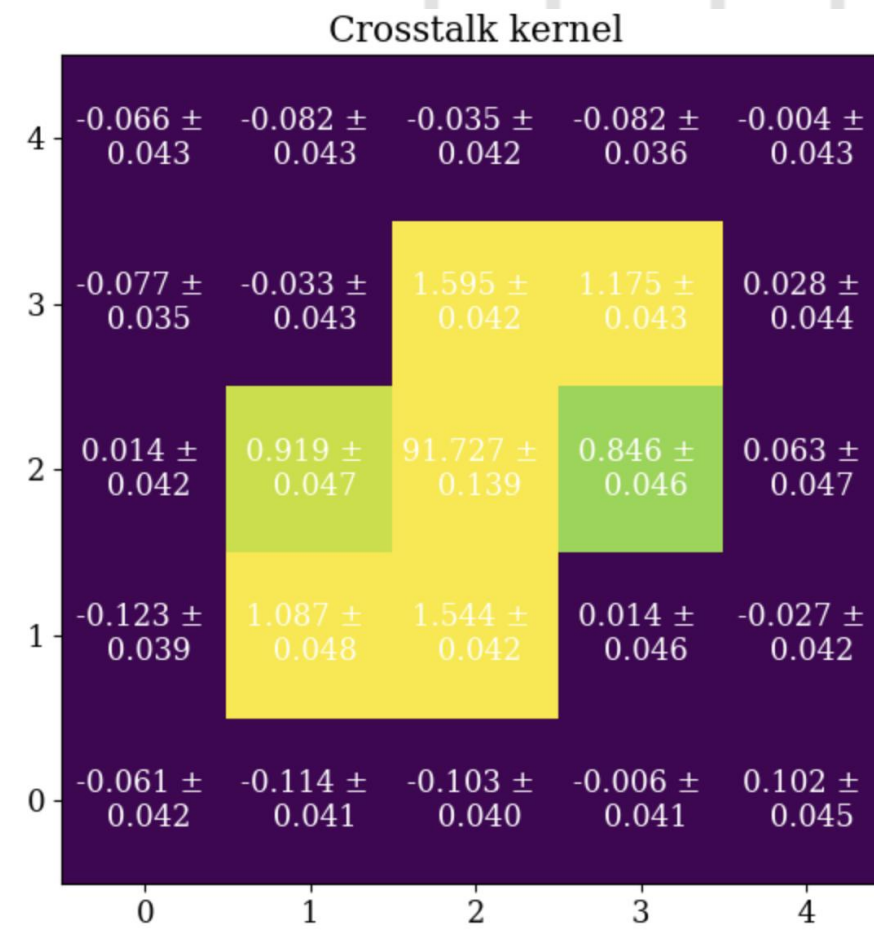
C : signal of the central pixel
 $\langle N \rangle$: mean signal of the 4 nearest neighbours
 B_{median} : background signal of the pixels in the ROI

Crosstalk kernel CH0



$\alpha_{CHO} = 0.5\%$

Crosstalk kernel CH1



$\alpha_{CHO} = 1\%$

unexpected

Dataset : 100 different integration times considered, 100 ramps acquired for each integration time

Conversion gain measured with PTC technique:

Processing steps:

- CDS images built from these ramps, taking the difference between the first and the last frame
- For each signal level, the mean and variance are computed for each pixel
- Perform chi-squared minimization to estimate the fitting parameter. A 3rd order polynomial function has been used to fit the PTC.
- The conversion gain (in e-/ADU) is taken as the inverse of 1st order coefficient of the fit

Detector baseline
CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain

3. Characterization results

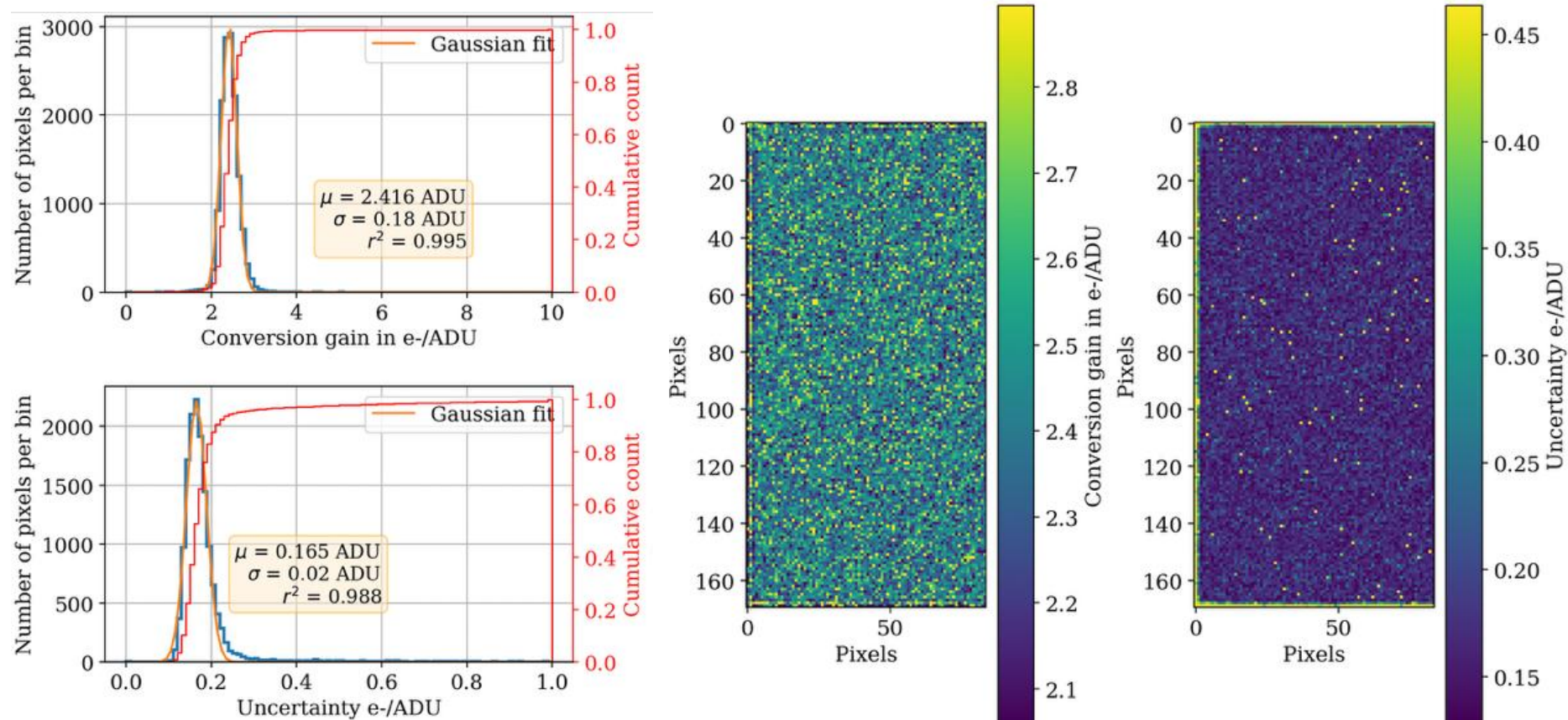
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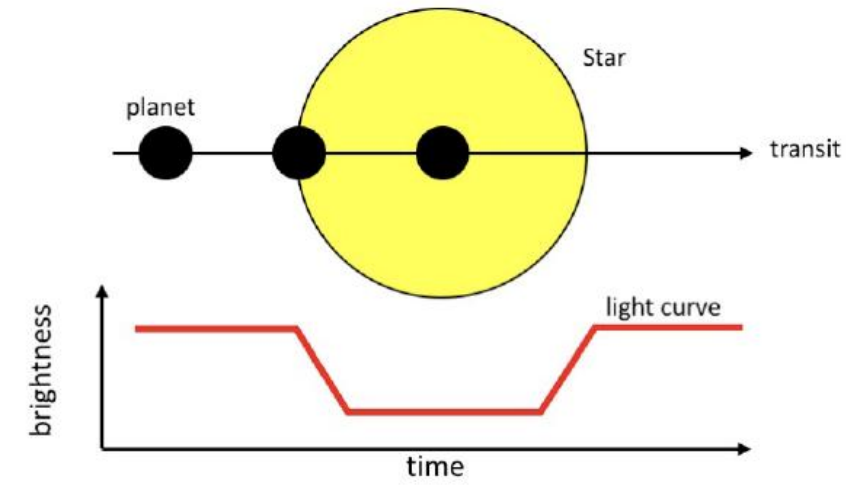
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CH1: The conversion gain (not corrected for IPC) is equal to $g = 2.42 \pm 0.17 e^-/ADU$.
 And **2.18 e-/ADU** when corrected by IPC.
CH0: 2.22 e-/ADU

3. Characterization results
6. Conversion Gain Stability

We are looking for very faint flux variation induced by transit over 10 hours (max), hence the conversion gain has to be stable.
 → estimation of gain sensitivity in relation to detector temperature and biases applied to the detector (on going work)

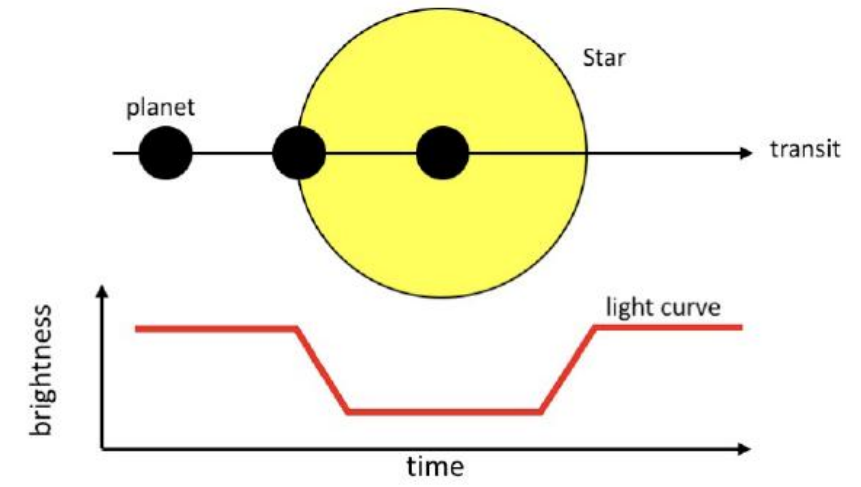


Detector baseline
CDS and readout noise
Dark current
Readout glow
Crosstalk
Conversion gain

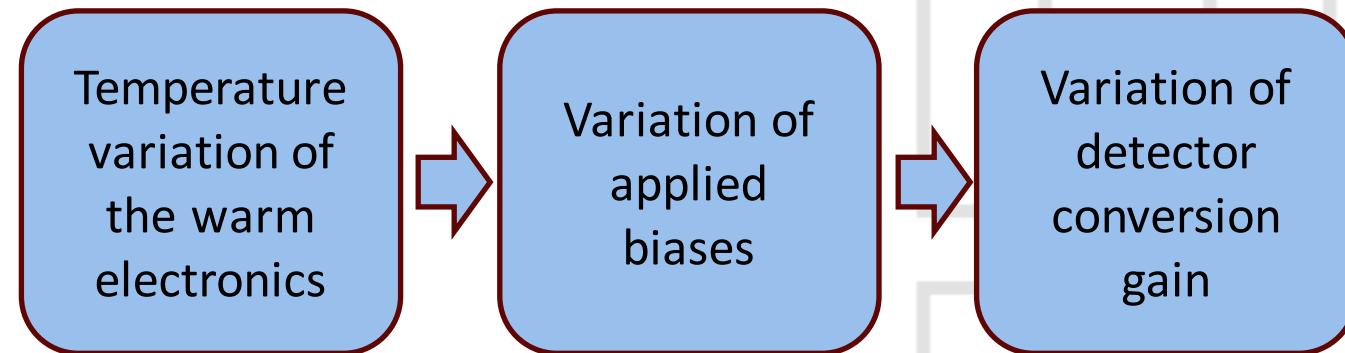
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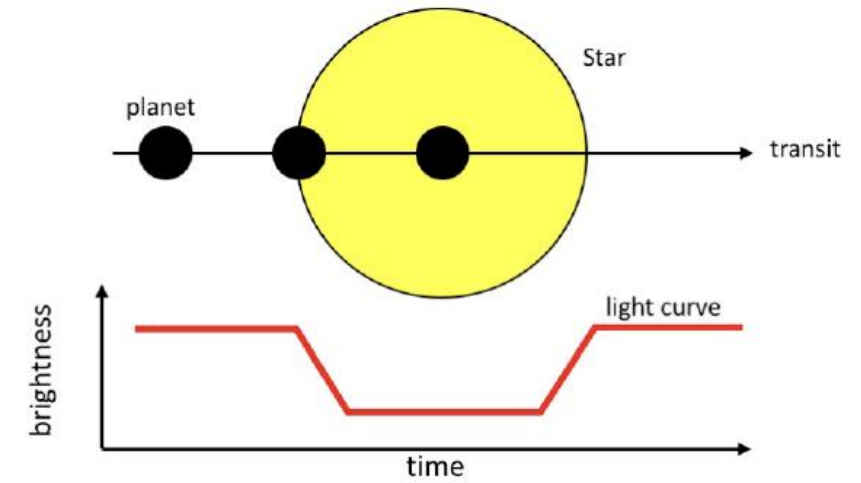
Conversion gain instabilities may arise from temperature variation of the warm electronics (Detector Control Unit)



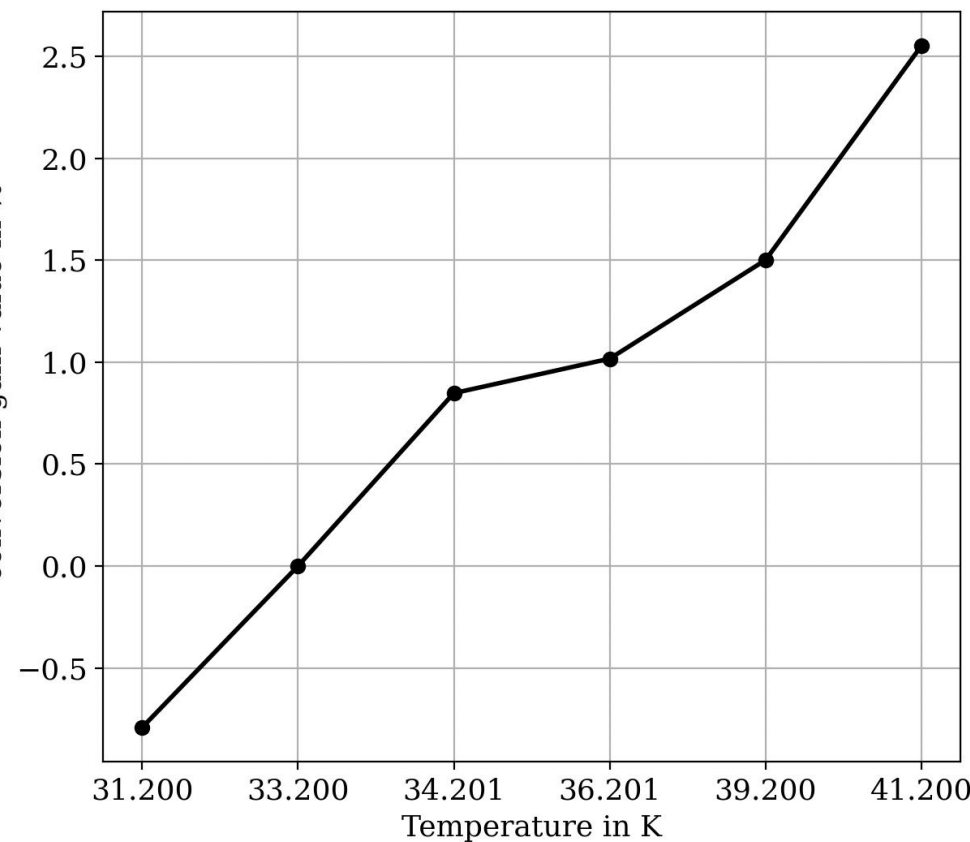
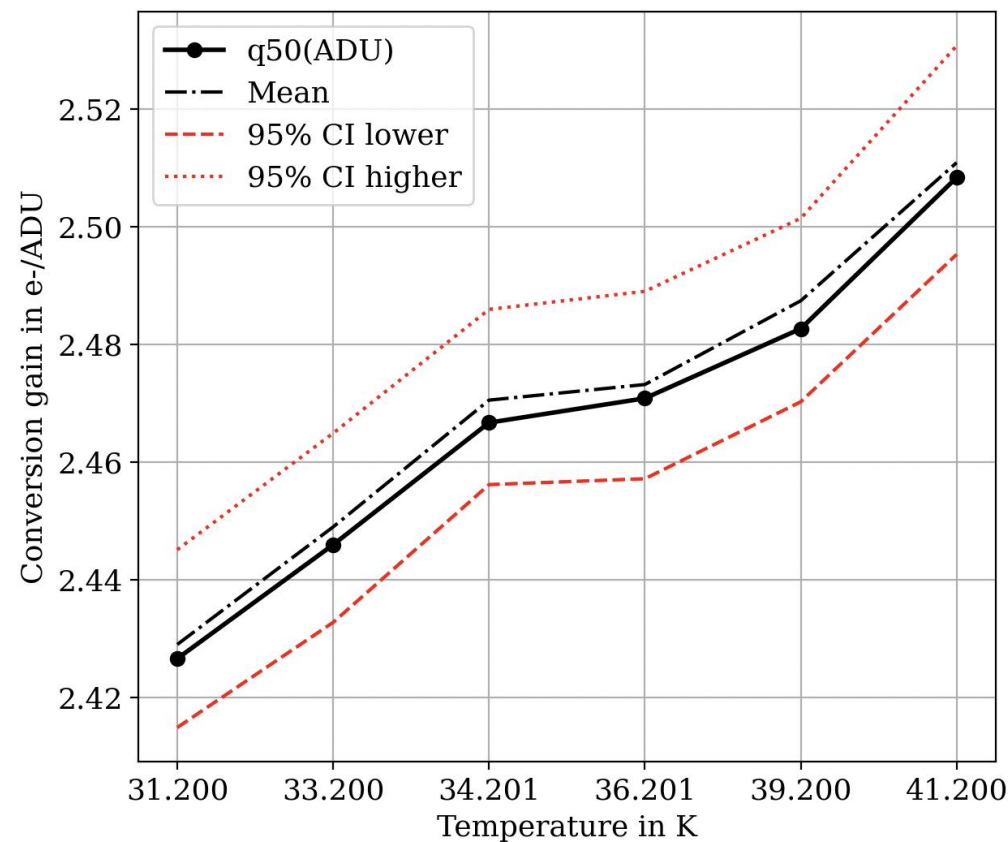
3. Characterization results

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Evolution of the conversion gain as a function of CH1 detector temperature



Conversion gain variation:
 □ 3.2 ppm/mK (for CH1)
 □ 5 ppm/mK (for CH0)

With a ±5mK thermal regulation, we ended up with a **25 ppm of variation** induced by the detector temperature variation (*for now, we have no physical explanation for this evolution*)

- Detector baseline
- CDS and readout noise
- Dark current
- Readout glow
- Crosstalk
- Conversion gain

1. AIRS: ARIEL Infrared Spectrometer

1. ARIEL space mission
2. ARIEL spacecraft
3. AIRS Acquisition chain architecture

2. Test bench at CEA

1. Test bench presentation

3. Detector characterization results

1. Strategy of calibration
2. Detector baseline
3. CDS and readout noise
4. Dark current
5. Readout glow
6. Crosstalk
7. Conversion gain and stability

4. Conclusion & Perspectives

- AIRS instrument composed of :
 - ❑ EM CH0 : [1.95-3.90] μm → MWIR band
 - ❑ EM CH1 : [3.90-7.80] μm → LWIR band

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- CDS noise : **13.25 electrons** (CH0) and **13.37 electrons** (CH1)
 - Compliant with AIRS specifications
- Dark current : **0.1 e⁻/s/pix** (CH0) and **1.17 e⁻/s/pix** (CH1)
 - Compliant to science needs
- Readout Glow : **0.038 e⁻/frame** (CH0) and **0.131 e⁻/frame** (CH1) → variation with λ_c
- Median gain conversion : **2.22 e⁻/ADU** (CH0) and **2.18 e⁻/ADU** (CH1)
- Crosstalk : 0.5% (CH0) and 1% (CH1)

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Unexpected Results :

- Difference in evolution of the baseline as function of biases for active pixels and reference pixels → **problem for reference pixel correction**
- EM CH1 : Kernel Crosstalk → diagonal variation observed
- Increase of the conversion gain with the detector temperature

- AIRS instrument composed of :
 - ❑ EM CH0 : [1.95-3.90] μm \rightarrow MWIR band
 - ❑ EM CH1 : [3.90-7.80] μm \rightarrow LWIR band

Results :

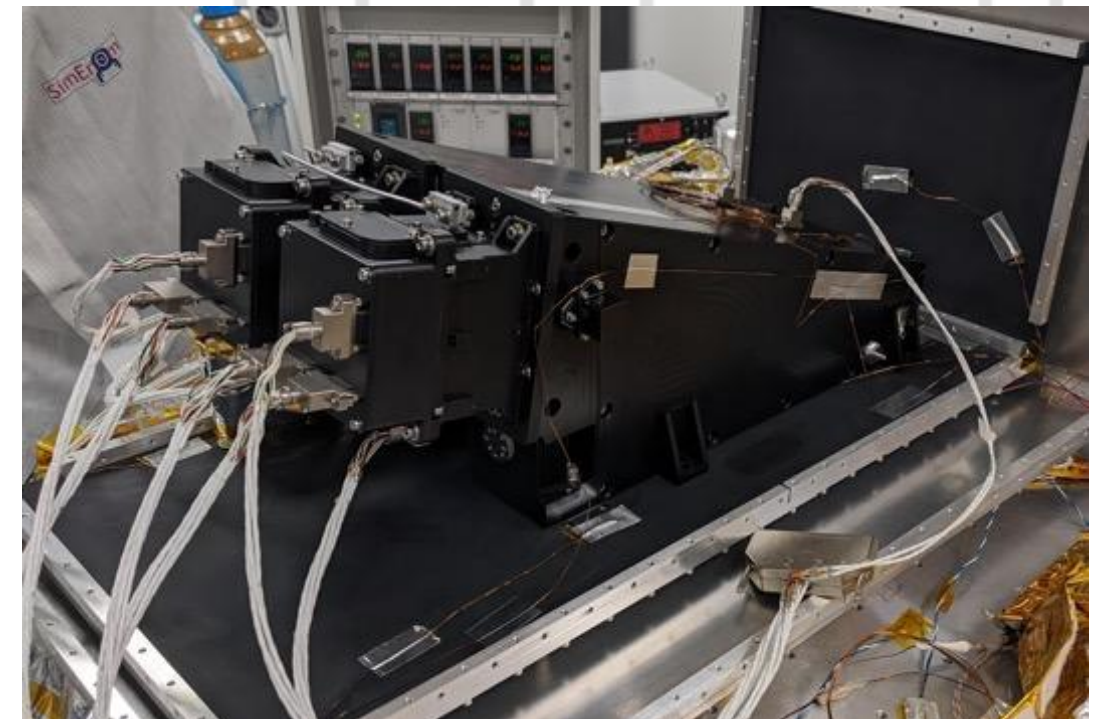
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Test campaign during 1 year:
4.7 TB of data

Test campaign @ LIRA, Meudon
Calibration of AIRS instrument



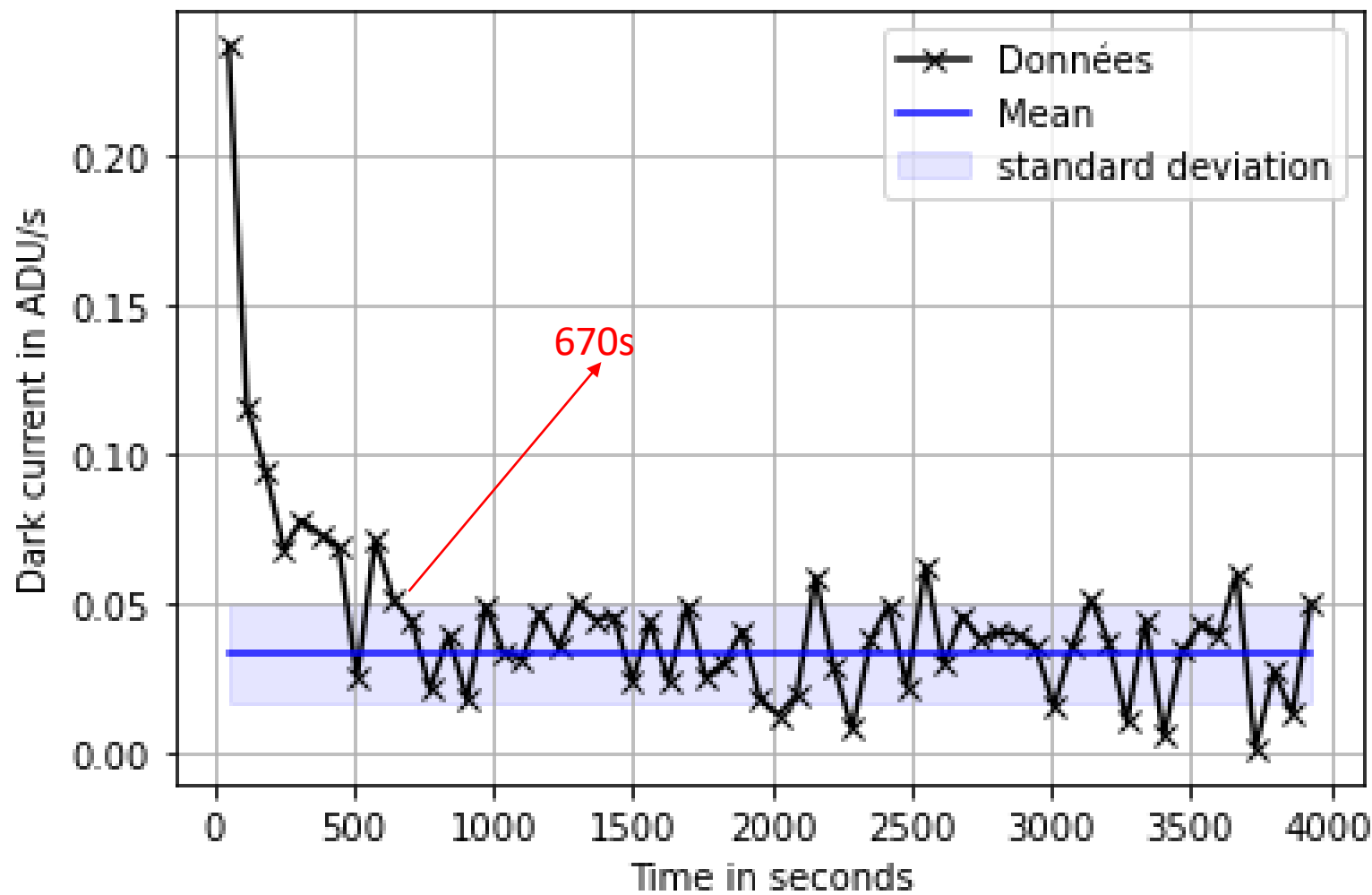


AIRS is a joint development by :

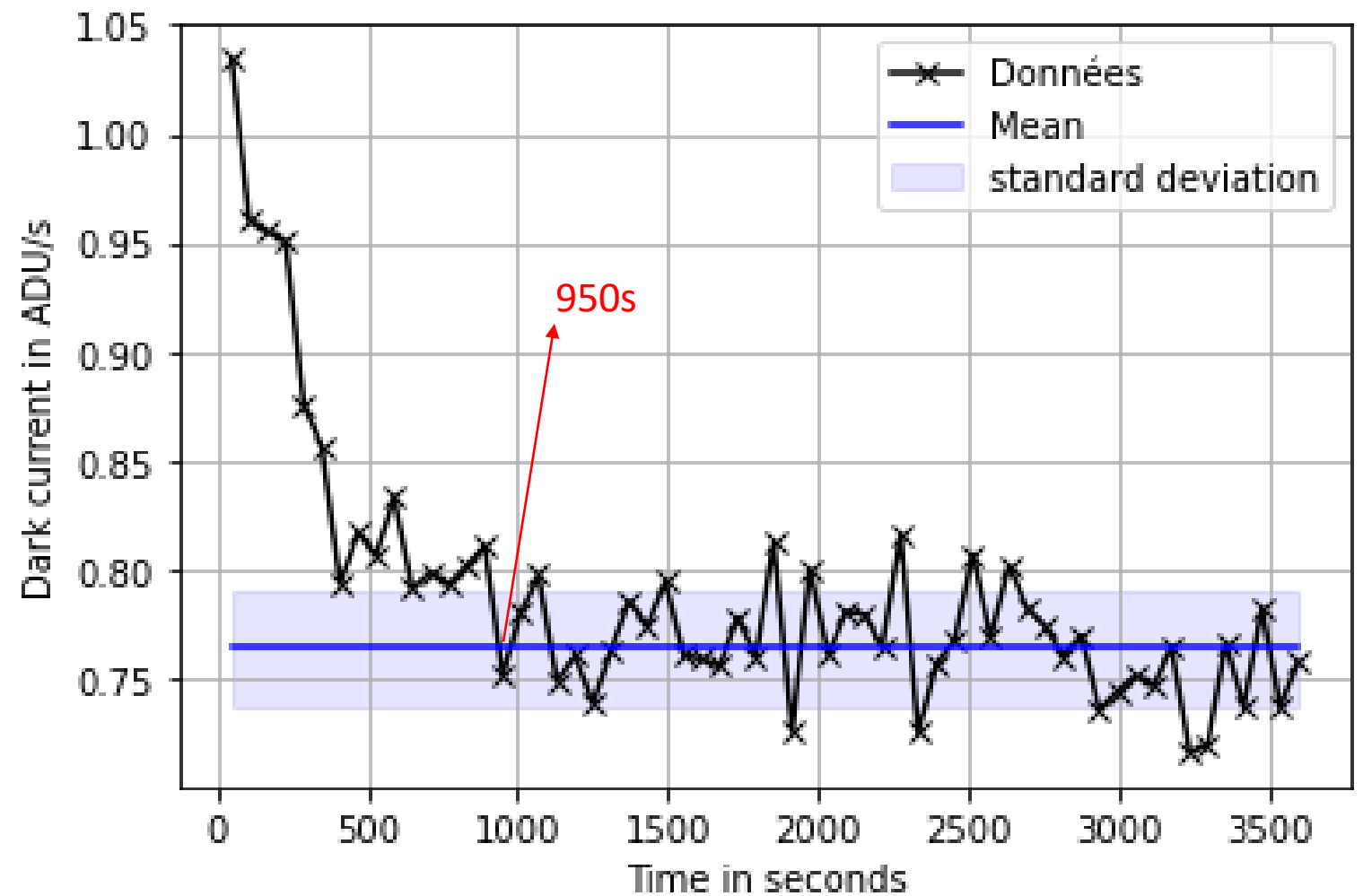


1 hour-measurement in dark conditions → 60 ramps of 60 seconds
 1 hour-measurement under flux (1 ke-/s/pixel) → 60 ramps of 60 seconds
 1 hour-measurement in dark conditions → 60 ramps of 60 seconds

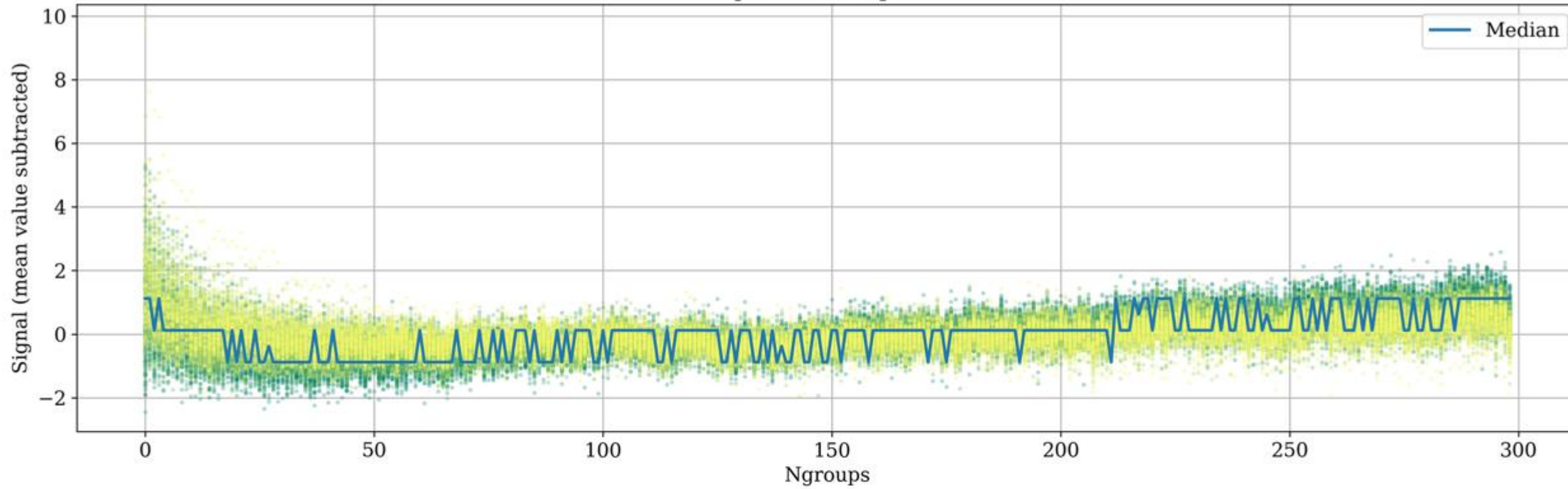
EM CH0



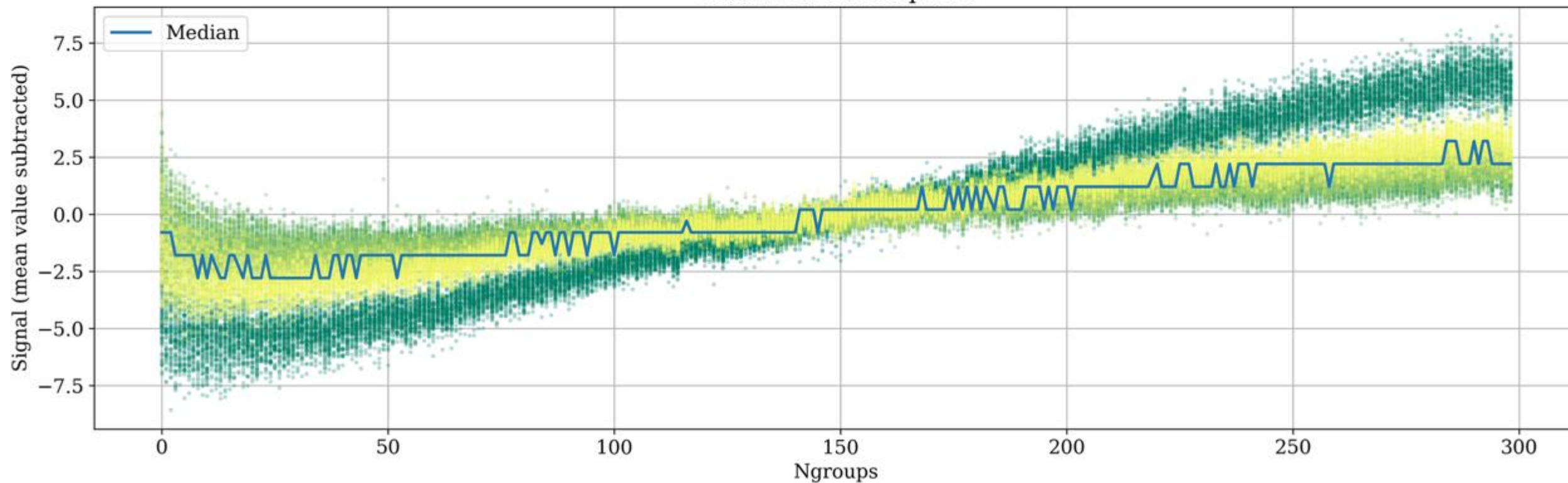
EM CH1



Top reference pixels



Bottom reference pixels



Reference pixels (top)



Active pixels



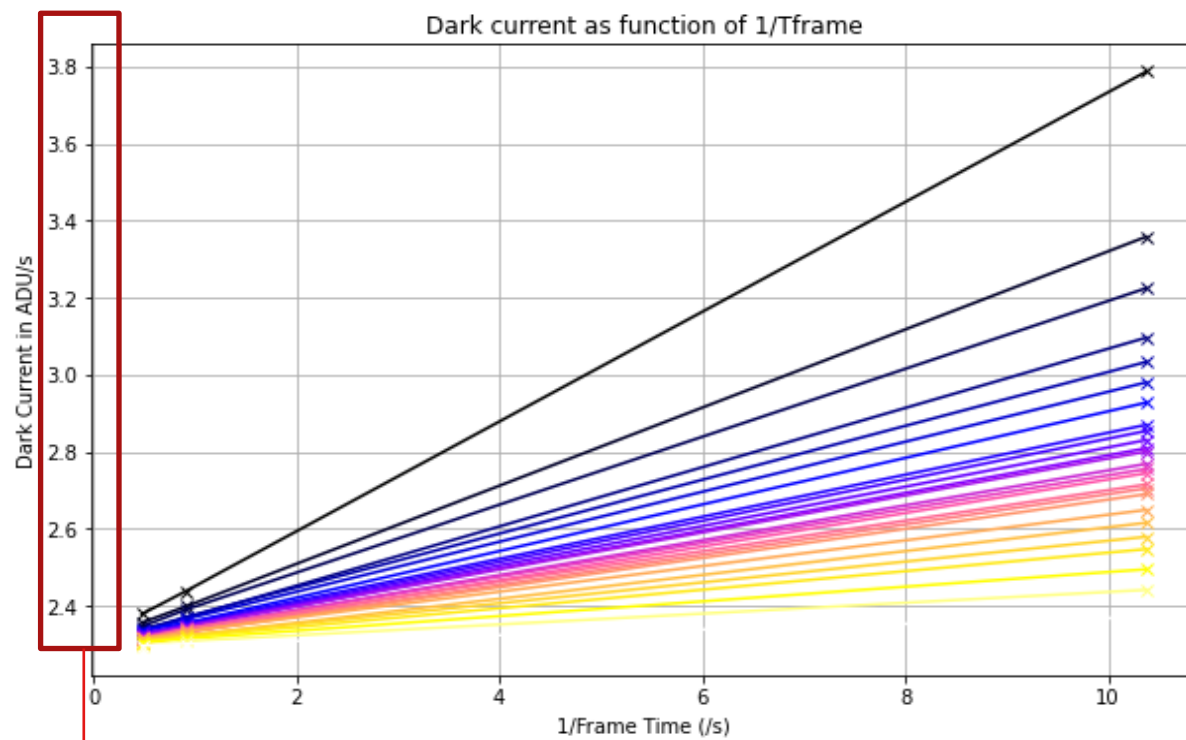
Reference pixels (bottom)



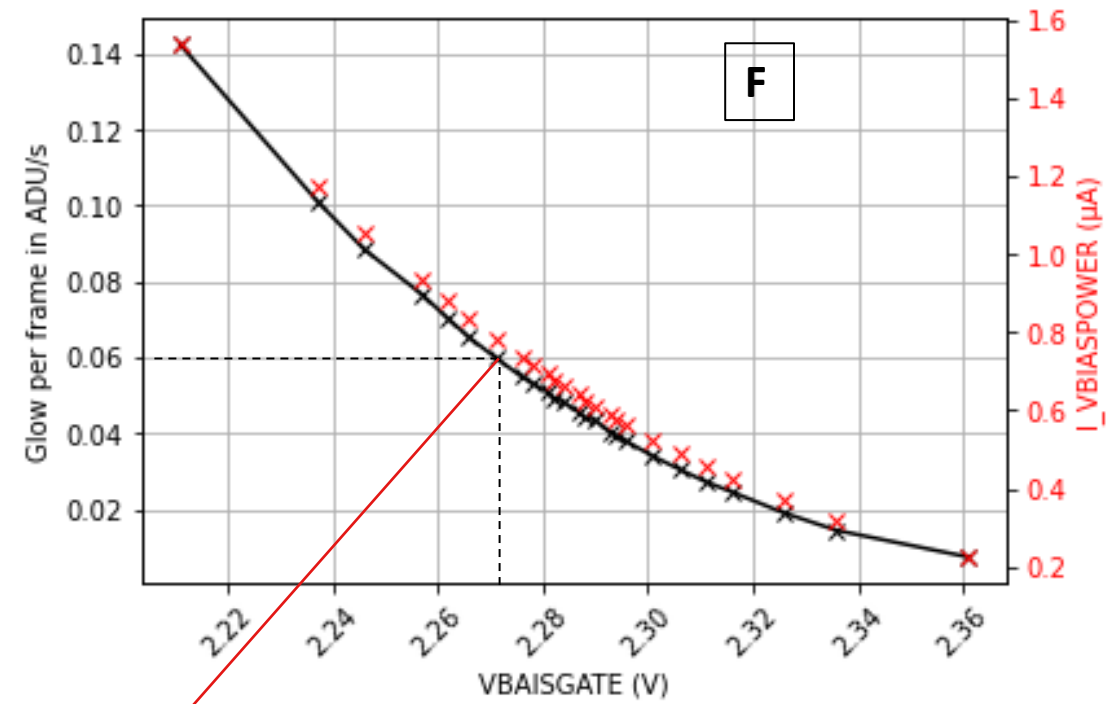
$T_{\text{detector}} @ 34\text{K}$

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1.1	Glow $t_f + 1.0$	T_1	None	FUR	134	64	1.9738	1800	1800	1	1640
1.2	Glow $t_f + 2.0$	T_1	None	FUR	134	64	2.9738	1800	1800	1	858

VBIASGATE

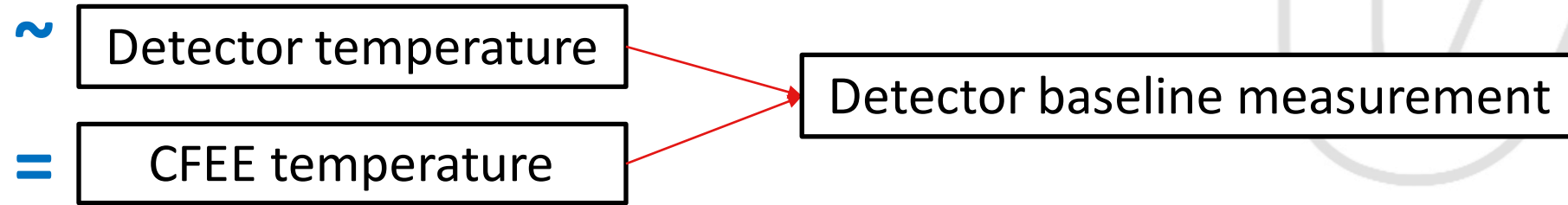


Light leak during the measurement

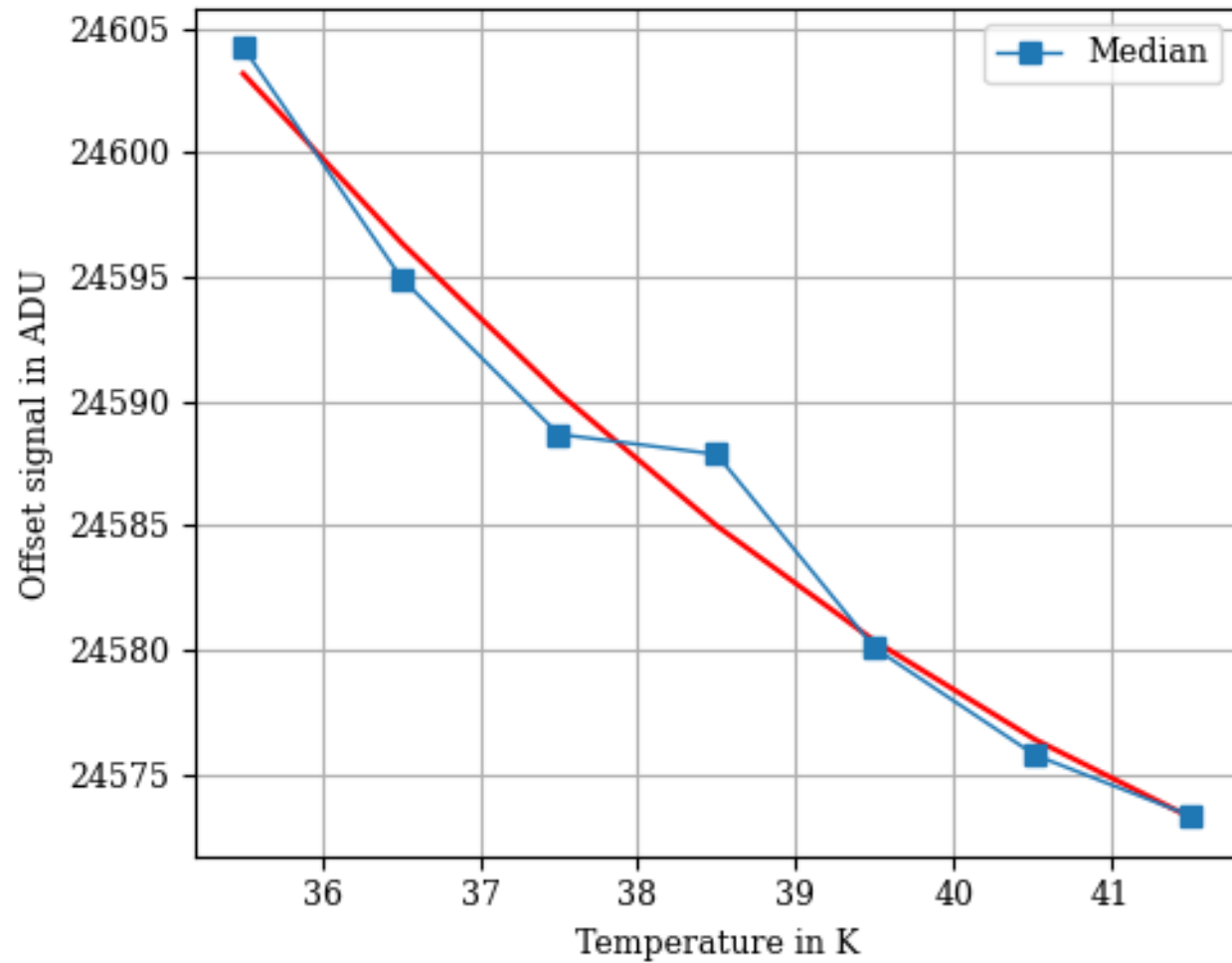


GLOW : $0.06 \times 2.23 = 0.131 \text{ e-/frame}$

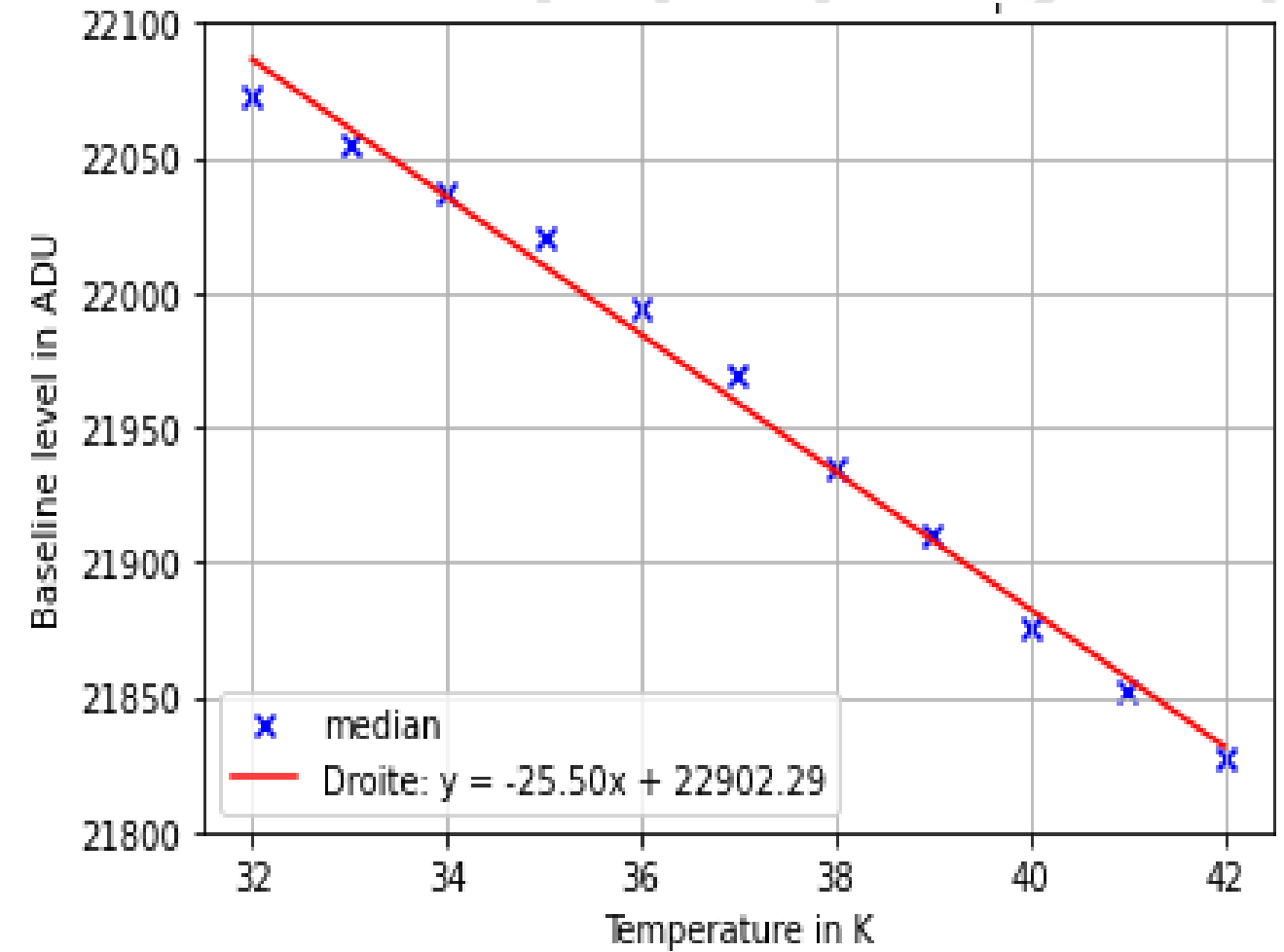
Results consistent with T. Pichon and L.Boucher, « Pixel source follower glow in HxRG detector”, Astronomische Nachrichten 344(8-9), e20230102 (2023)



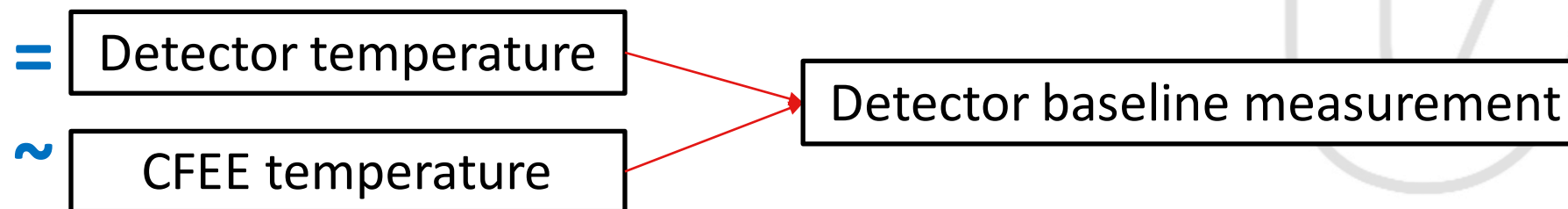
EM CH0



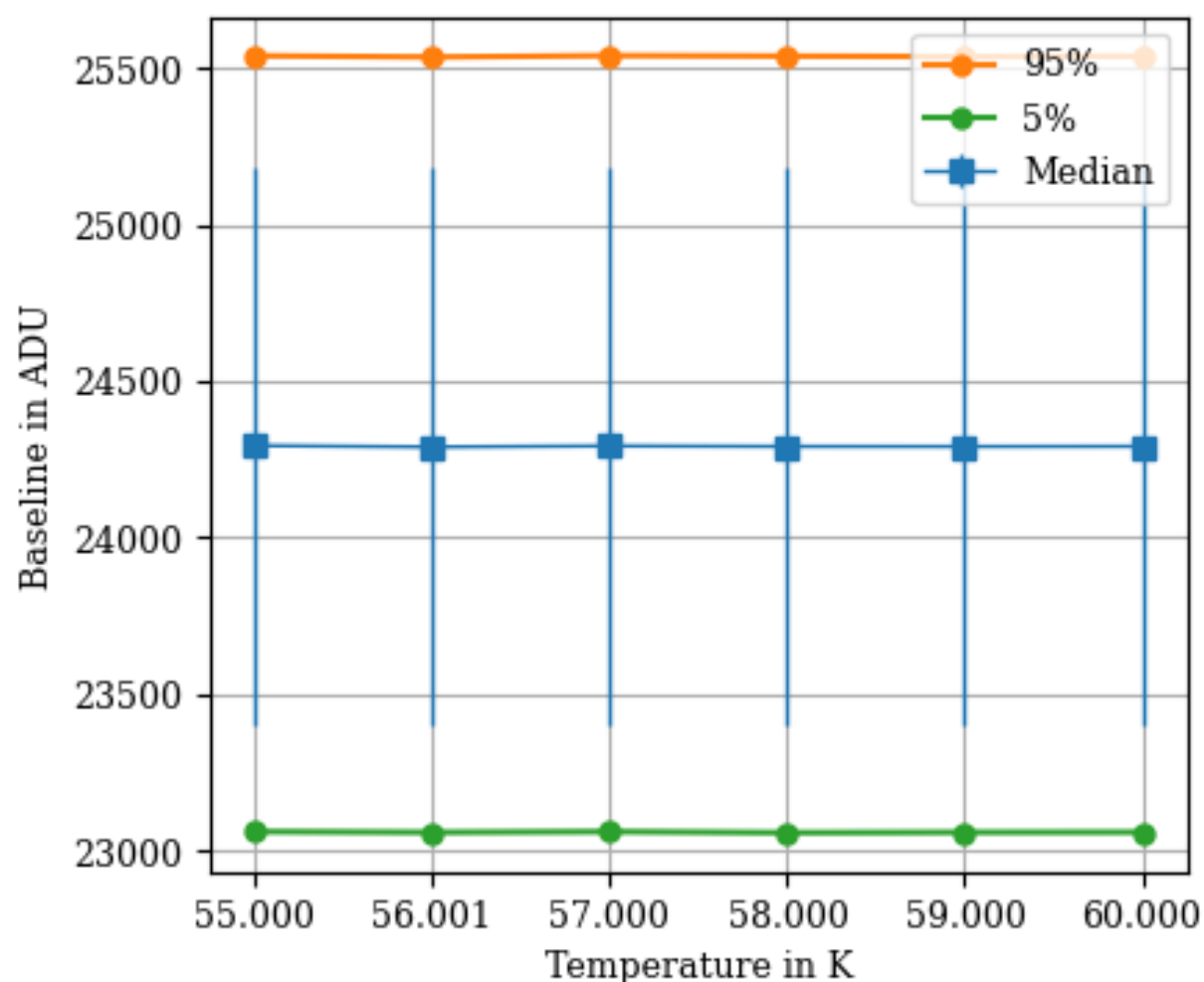
EM CH1



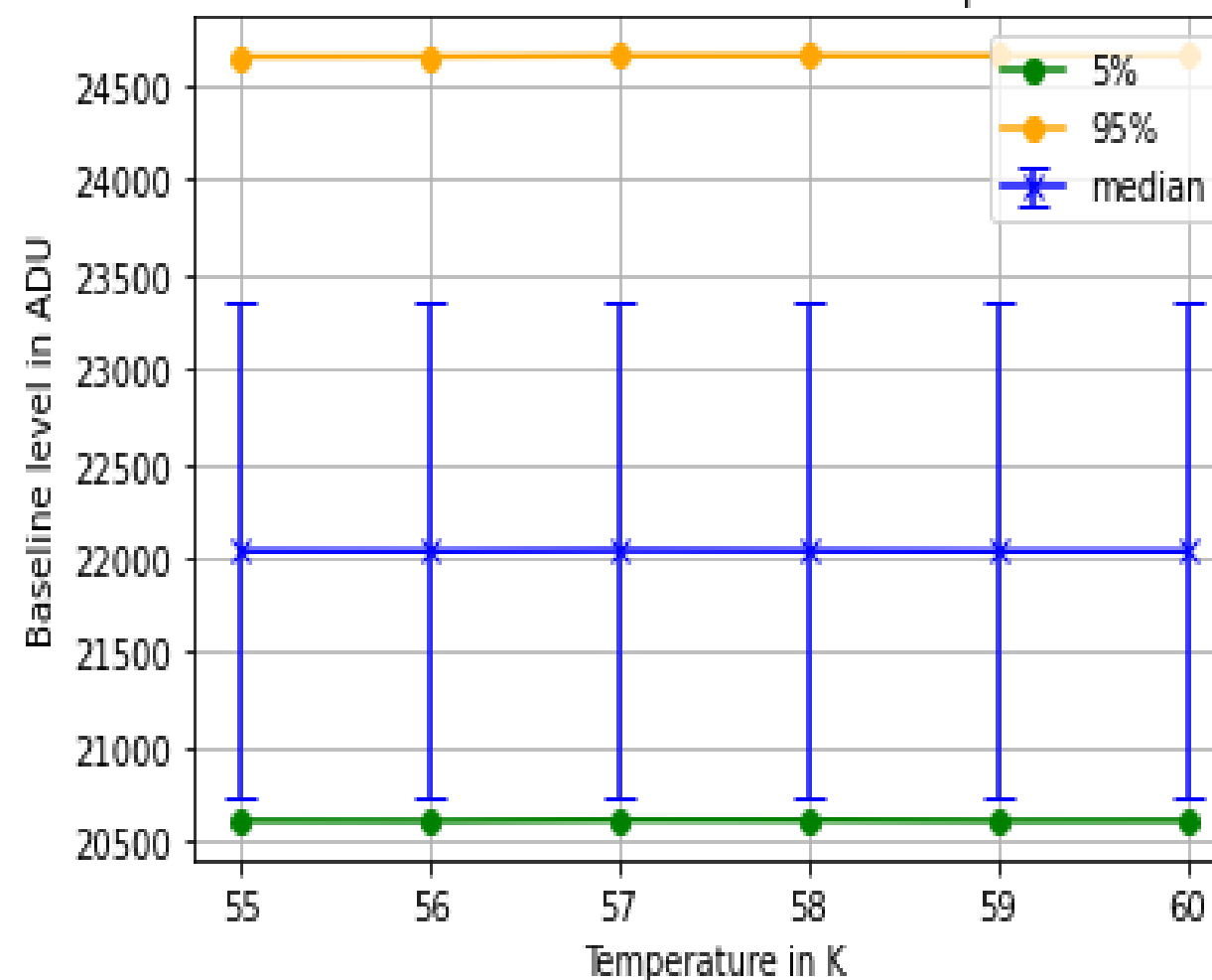
Small variation of the detector baseline with the detector temperature



EM CH0



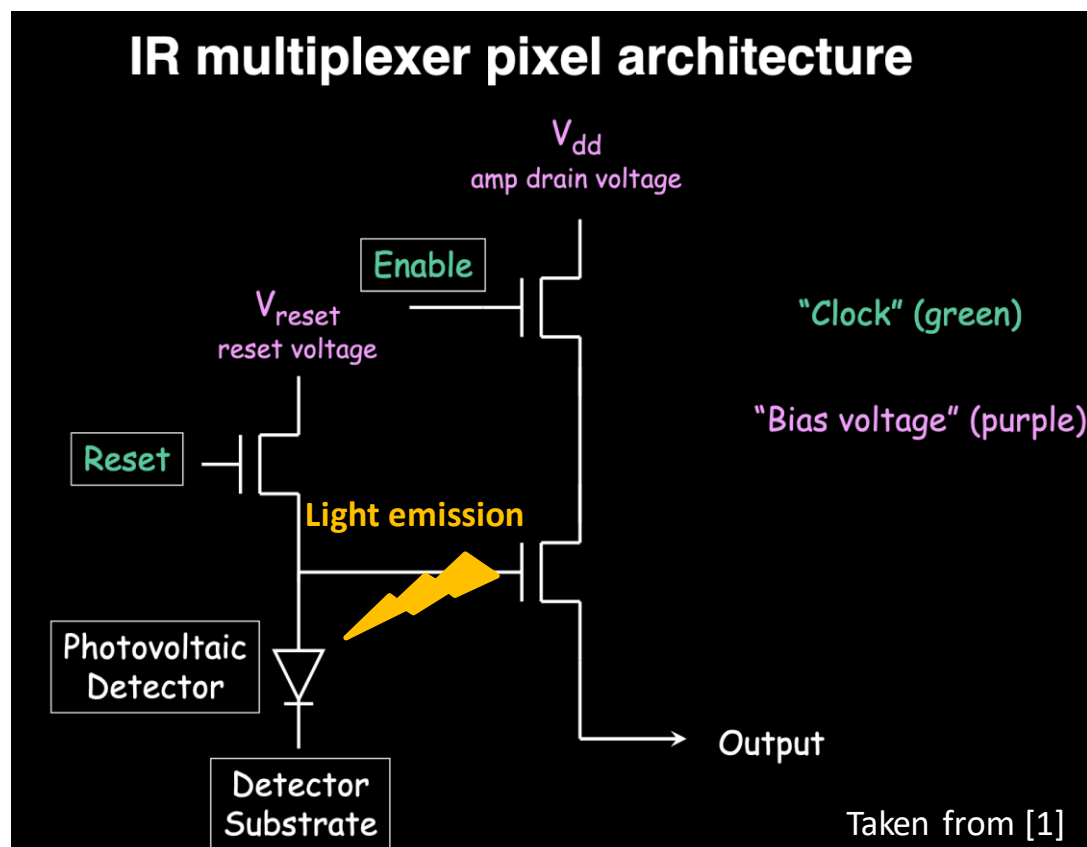
EM CH1



No influence of the CFE temperature on the detector baseline

Excess of dark current from the collection by the photosensitive layer of the light emitted by the source follower transistor of a pixel

Light emission from the pixel SFD: **electroluminescence**



Light emission by a MOSFET

$$N_{ph} = N_{e^-} \times P_{\text{emission}}$$

$$N_{ph} \propto A \frac{I_s}{q} \times (V_{ds} - V_{th}) \exp \left[\frac{B}{V_{ds} - V_{th}} \right] [2]$$

- I_s is the source current
- A , B account for MOSFET dimension, light extraction efficiency
- V_{th} threshold voltage

Two main options to reduce the glow:

1. Reduce the current flowing the SF transistor canal
2. Increase V_{ds} voltage (drain-source voltage) → reduction of the electric field inside the detector's structure.

Each time the pixel is selected for read, light is emitted and adds up to real dark current.

The more the pixel is selected, the greater the glow per frame.

[1] J.W. Beletic and L. Loose "Short Course detector for astronomy", (2009)

[2] F. Stellari, "Tools for non-invasive optical characterization of CMOS circuits", *IEDM Tech. Dig.*, 1999, pp. 487–490