

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# Basic Error Analysis

Physics 401

Fall 2019

Eugene V Colla



[illinois.edu](http://illinois.edu)

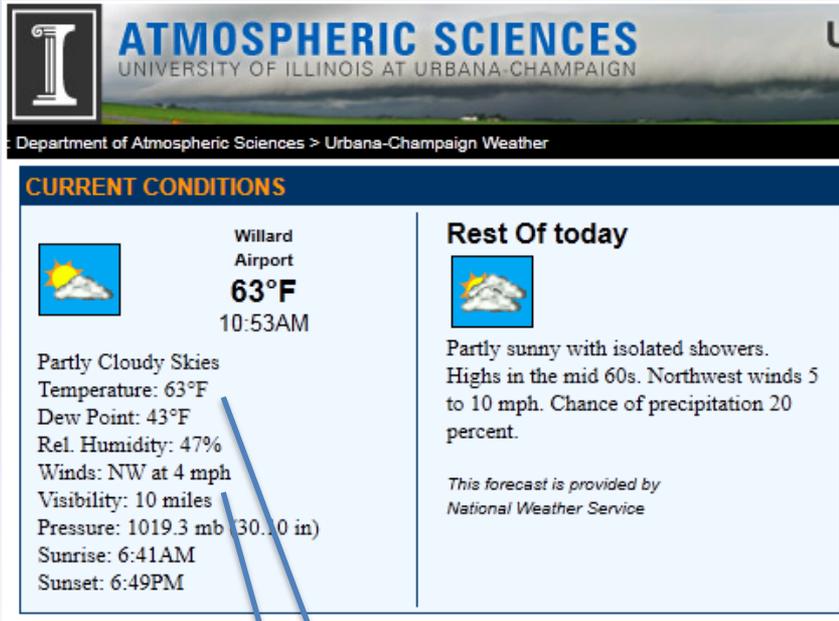


# Agenda

- Errors and uncertainties
- The Reading Error
- Accuracy and precision
- Systematic and statistical errors
- Fitting errors
- Appendix. Working with oil drop data
  - Nonlinear fitting



# What and when we need to know about errors. Everyday life.



**ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Atmospheric Sciences > Urbana-Champaign Weather

### CURRENT CONDITIONS

 Partly Cloudy Skies Temperature: 63°F Dew Point: 43°F Rel. Humidity: 47% Winds: NW at 4 mph Visibility: 10 miles Pressure: 1019.3 mb (30.10 in) Sunrise: 6:41AM Sunset: 6:49PM	<b>Willard Airport</b> <b>63°F</b> 10:53AM	<b>Rest Of today</b>  Partly sunny with isolated showers. Highs in the mid 60s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.  <i>This forecast is provided by National Weather Service</i>
---	--	---

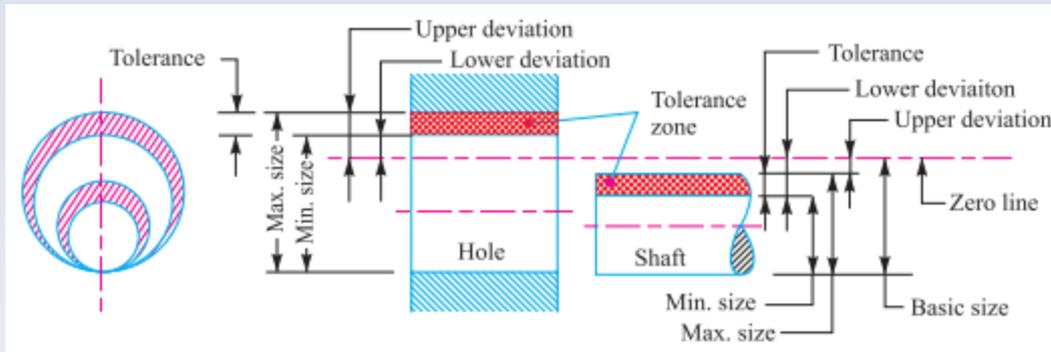


$T = 63^{\circ}\text{F} \pm ?$   $\longrightarrow$  Best guess  $\Delta T \sim 0.5^{\circ}\text{F}$

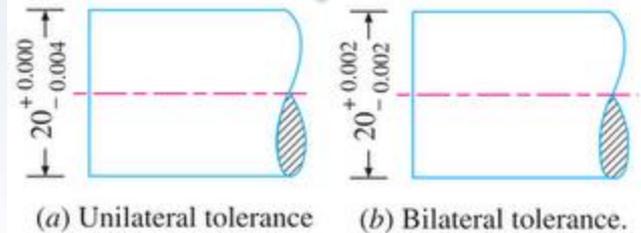
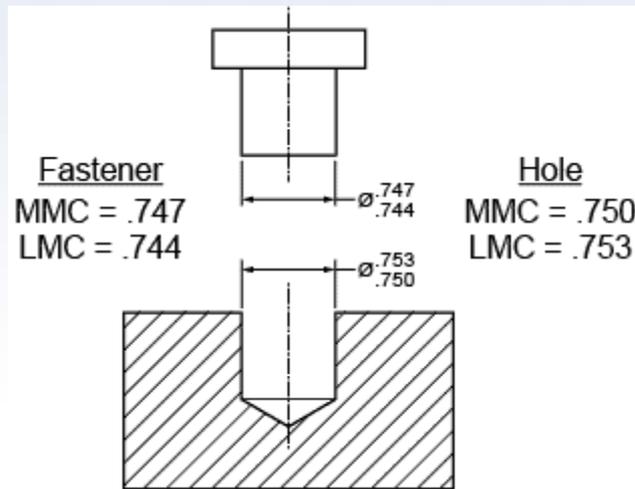
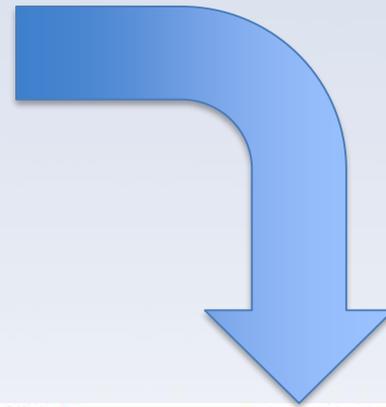
Wind speed  $4\text{mph} \pm ?$   $\longrightarrow$  Best guess  $\pm 0.5\text{mph}$



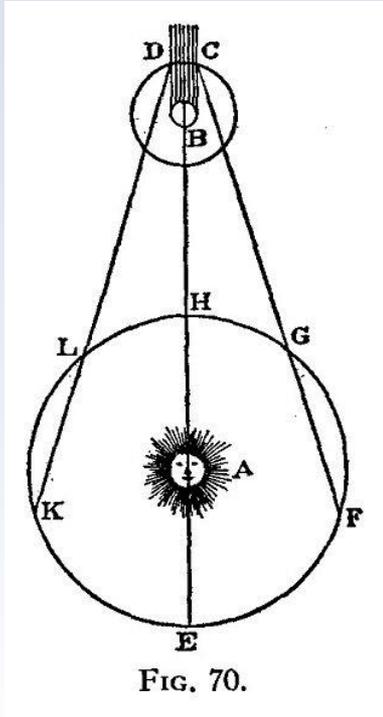
# What and when we need to know about errors. Industry.



Clearance fit



# What and when we need to know about errors. Science.



Measurement of the speed of the light

1675 Ole Roemer: 220,000 Km/sec



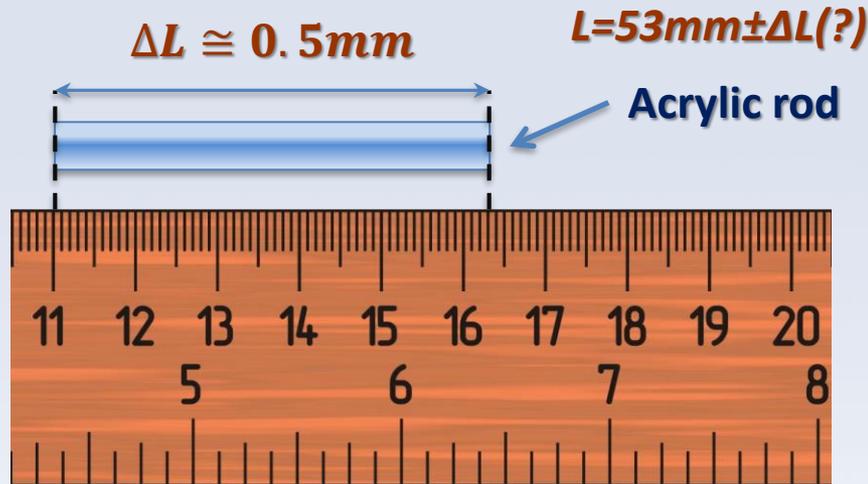
Ole Christensen Rømer  
1644-1710

Does it make sense?  
What is missing?

NIST Bolder Colorado  $c = 299,792,456.2 \pm 1.1$  m/s.



# Reading error



**How far we have to go in reducing the reading error?**

**We do not care about accuracy better than 1mm**

**If ruler is not okay, we need to use digital caliper**

**Probably the natural limit of accuracy can be due to length uncertainty because of temperature expansion. For 53mm  $\Delta L \cong 0.012\text{mm}/K$**



**Reading Error =  $\pm \frac{1}{2}$  (least count or minimum gradation).**

# Reading error. Digital meters.



**Fluke 8845A multimeter**

**Example Vdc (reading)=0.85V**

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta V &= 0.83 \times (1.8 \times 10^{-5}) \\ &+ 1.0 \times (0.7 \times 10^{-5}) \cong 2.2 \times 10^{-5} \\ &= 22\mu V\end{aligned}$$

## *8846A Accuracy*

Accuracy is given as  $\pm$  (% measurement + % of range)

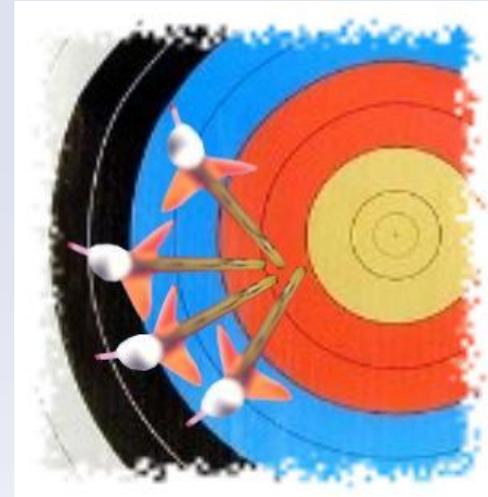
Range	24 Hour (23 $\pm$ 1 $^{\circ}$ C)	90 Days (23 $\pm$ 5 $^{\circ}$ C)	1 Year (23 $\pm$ 5 $^{\circ}$ C)	Temperature Coefficient/ $^{\circ}$ C Outside 18 to 28 $^{\circ}$ C
100 mV	0.0025 + 0.003	0.0025 + 0.0035	0.0037 + 0.0035	0.0005 + 0.0005
1 V	0.0018 + 0.0006	0.0018 + 0.0007	0.0025 + 0.0007	0.0005 + 0.0001
10 V	0.0013 + 0.0004	0.0018 + 0.0005	0.0024 + 0.0005	0.0005 + 0.0001
100 V	0.0018 + 0.0006	0.0027 + 0.0006	0.0038 + 0.0006	0.0005 + 0.0001
1000 V	0.0018 + 0.0006	0.0031 + 0.001	0.0041 + 0.001	0.0005 + 0.0001



# Accuracy and precision



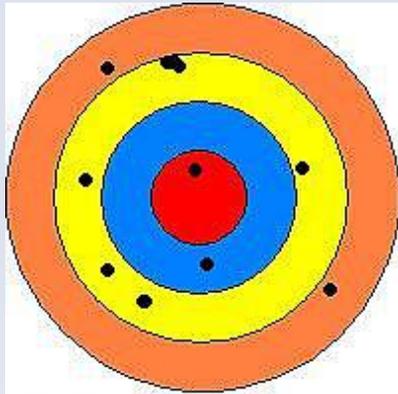
**The accuracy of an experiment is a measure of how close the result of the experiment comes to the true value**



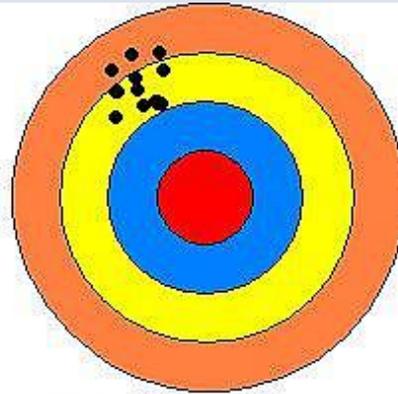
**Precision refers to how closely individual measurements agree with each other**



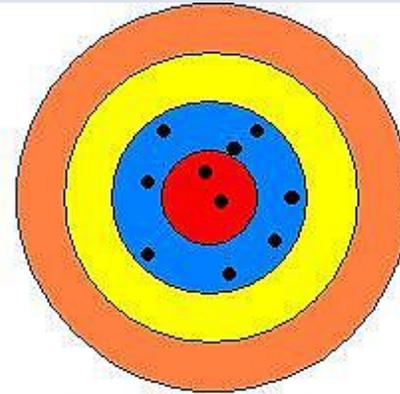
# Accuracy and precision



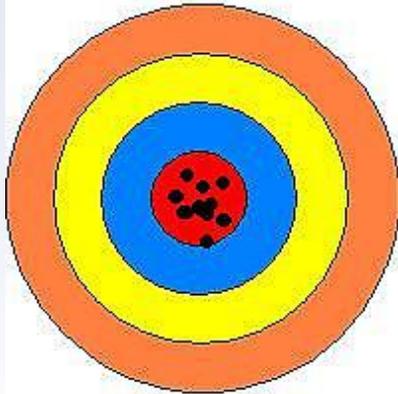
Not Precise, Not Accurate



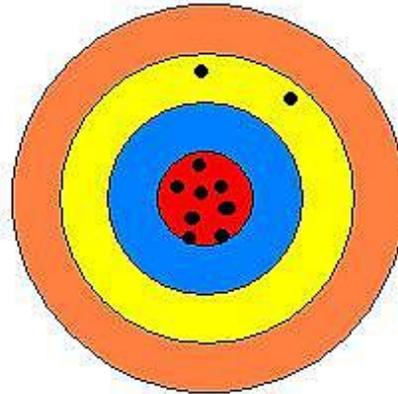
Precise, Not Accurate



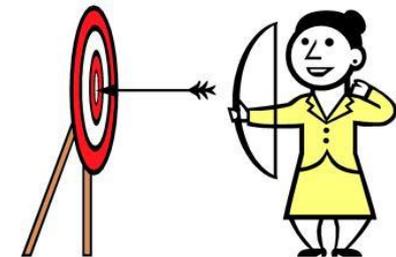
Accurate, Not Precise



Accurate, Precise



Errors



# Systematic and random errors

- **Systematic Error:** reproducible inaccuracy introduced by faulty equipment, calibration or technique.
- **Random errors:** Indefiniteness of results due to finite precision of experiment. Measure of fluctuation in result after repeatable experimentation.

Philip R. Bevington “Data Reduction and Error Analysis for the Physical sciences”, McGraw-Hill, 1969

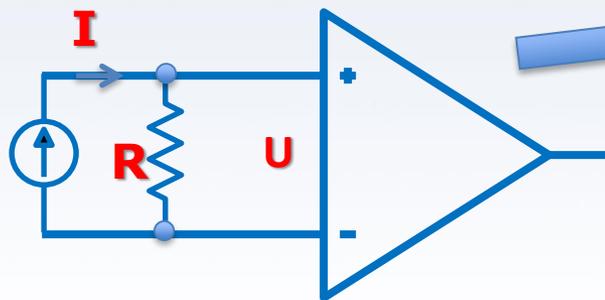


# Systematic errors

**Sources of systematic errors: poor calibration of the equipment, changes of environmental conditions, imperfect method of observation, drift and some offset in readings etc.**

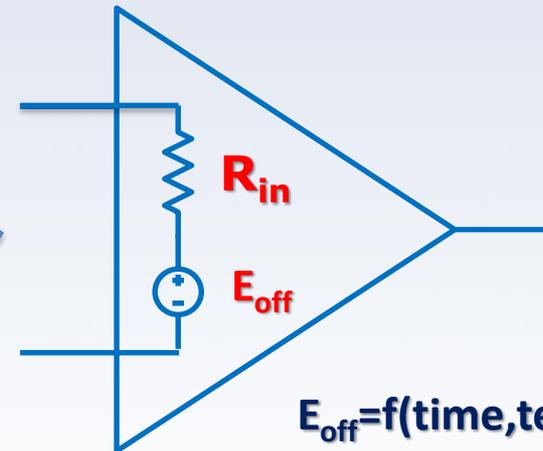
**Example #1: measuring of the DC voltage**

Current source



expectation

$$U = R * I$$



$$E_{\text{off}} = f(\text{time, temperature})$$

actual result

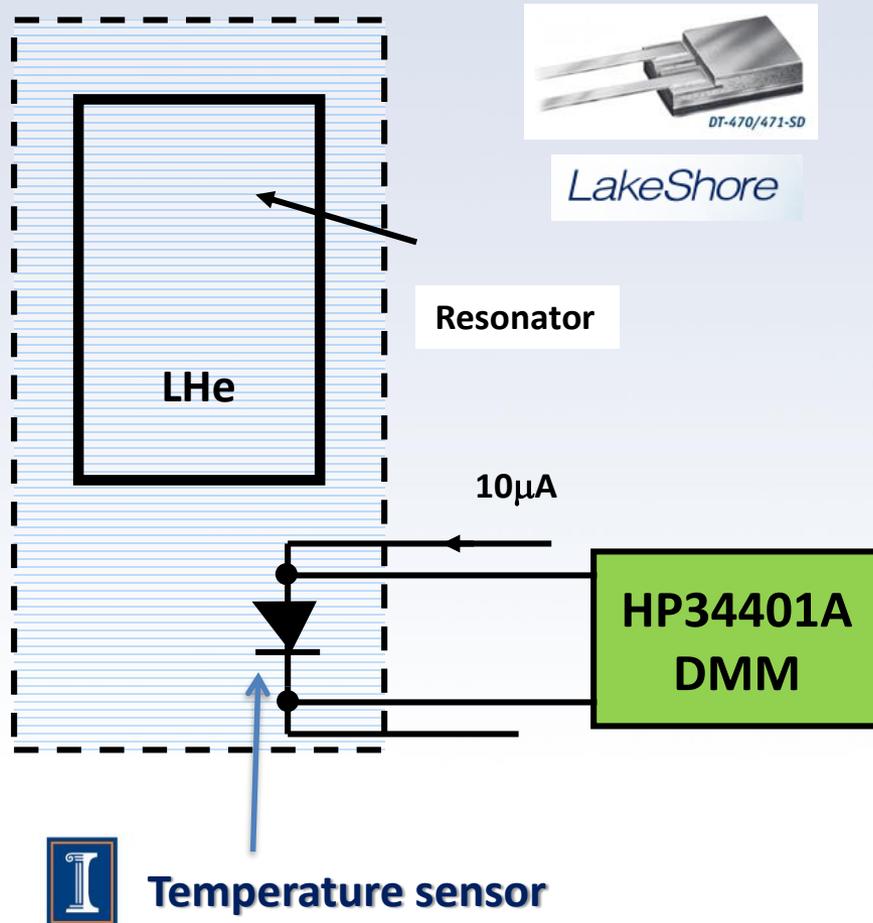
$$U = \frac{R * I - \left(\frac{R}{R_{\text{in}}}\right) E_{\text{off}}}{\left(1 + \frac{R}{R_{\text{in}}}\right)}$$

physics 401

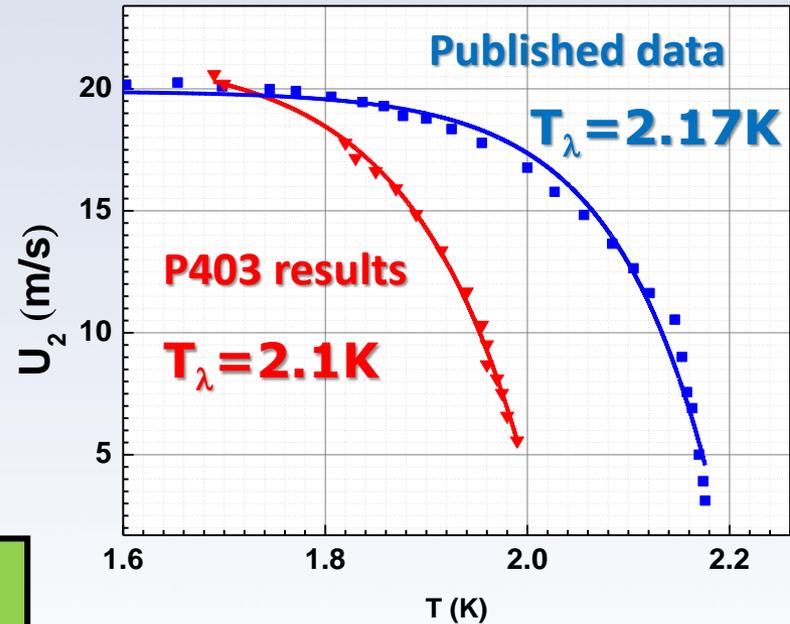


# Systematic errors

## Example #3: poor calibration



## Measuring of the speed of the second sound in superfluid He4



# Random errors

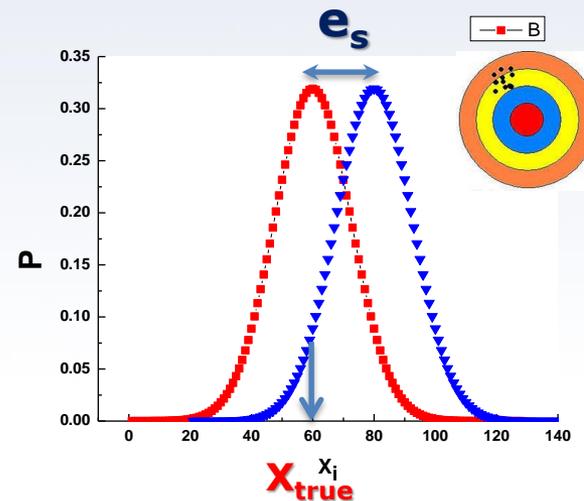
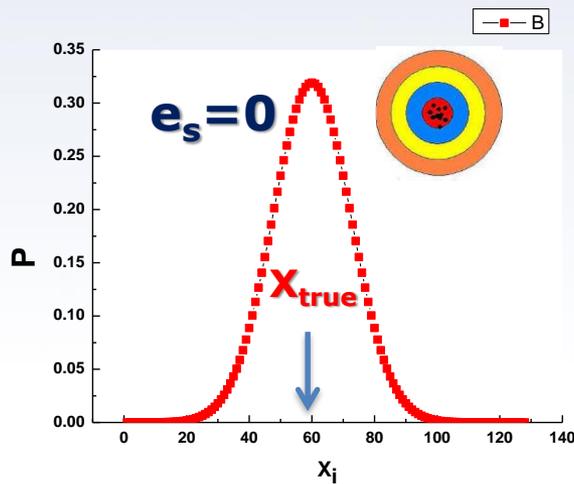
Result of measurement

$$X_{\text{meas}} = X_{\text{true}} + e_s + e_r$$

Correct value

Systematic error

Random error



# Random errors. Poisson distribution

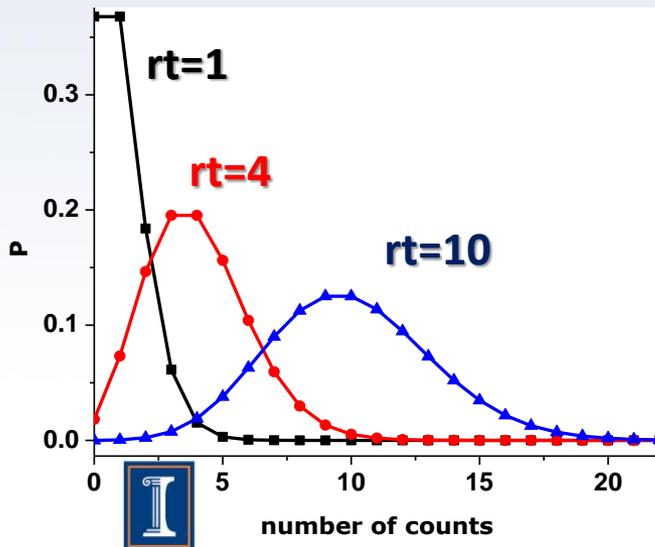


Siméon Denis Poisson  
(1781-1840)

$$P_n(t) = \frac{(rt)^n}{n!} e^{-rt} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$r$ : decay rate [counts/s]  $t$ : time interval [s]

→  $P_n(rt)$  : Probability to have  $n$  decays in time interval  $t$



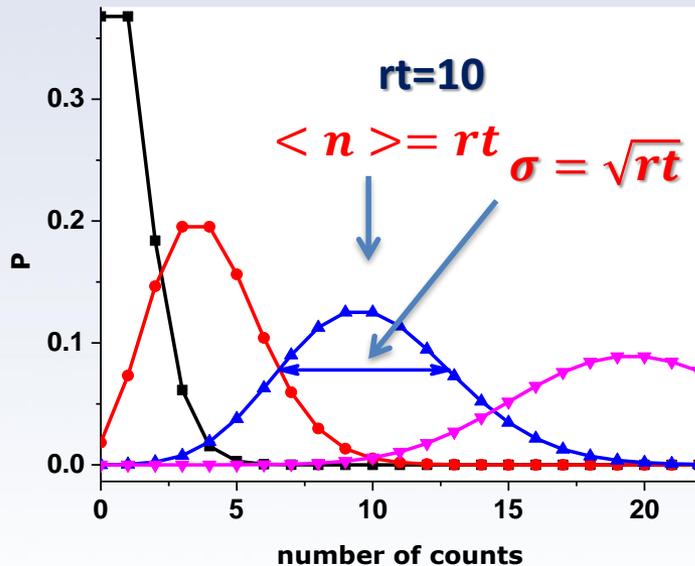
**A statistical process is described through a Poisson Distribution if:**

- **random process** → for a given nucleus probability for a decay to occur is the same in each time interval.
- **universal probability** → the probability to decay in a given time interval is same for all nuclei.
- **no correlation between two instances** (the decay of one nucleus does not change the probability for a second nucleus to decay).

# Poisson distribution

$$P_n(t) = \frac{(rt)^n}{n!} e^{-rt} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

**r**: decay rate [counts/s] **t**: time interval [s]  
 →  $P_n(rt)$ : Probability to have **n** decays in time interval **t**



## Properties of the Poisson distribution:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} P_n(rt) = 1, \text{ probabilities sum to 1}$$

$$\langle n \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \cdot P_n(rt) = rt, \text{ the mean}$$

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (n - \langle n \rangle)^2 P_n(rt)} = \sqrt{rt}, \text{ standard deviation}$$



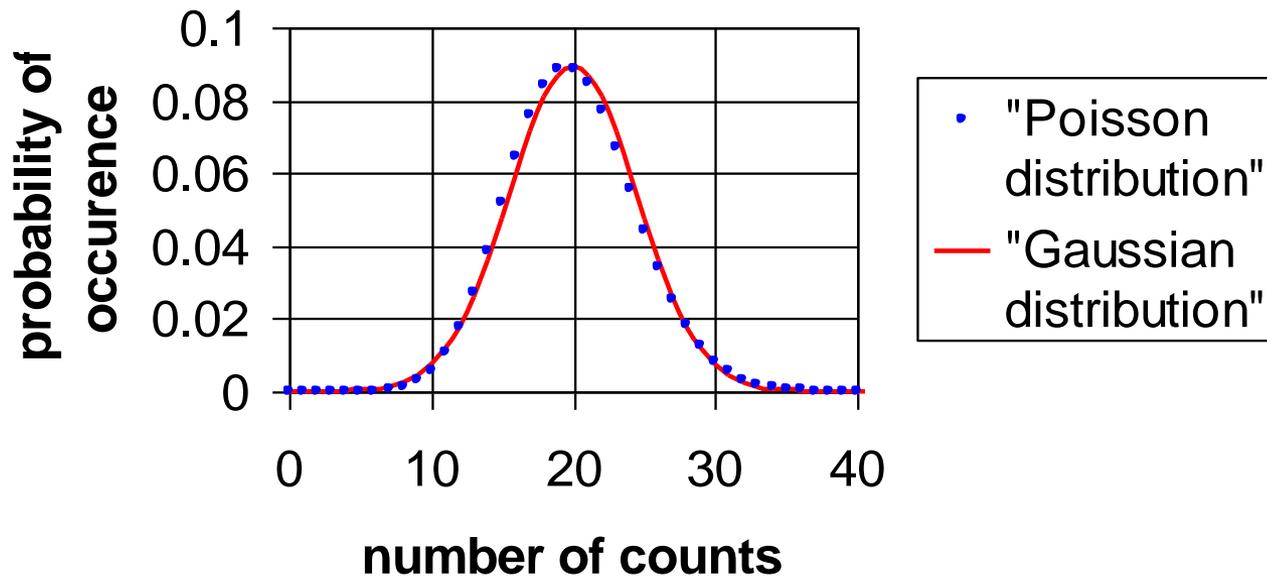
# Poisson distribution at large $rt$

$$P_n(t) = \frac{(rt)^n}{n!} e^{-rt} \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$



**Carl Friedrich Gauss**  
(1777–1855)

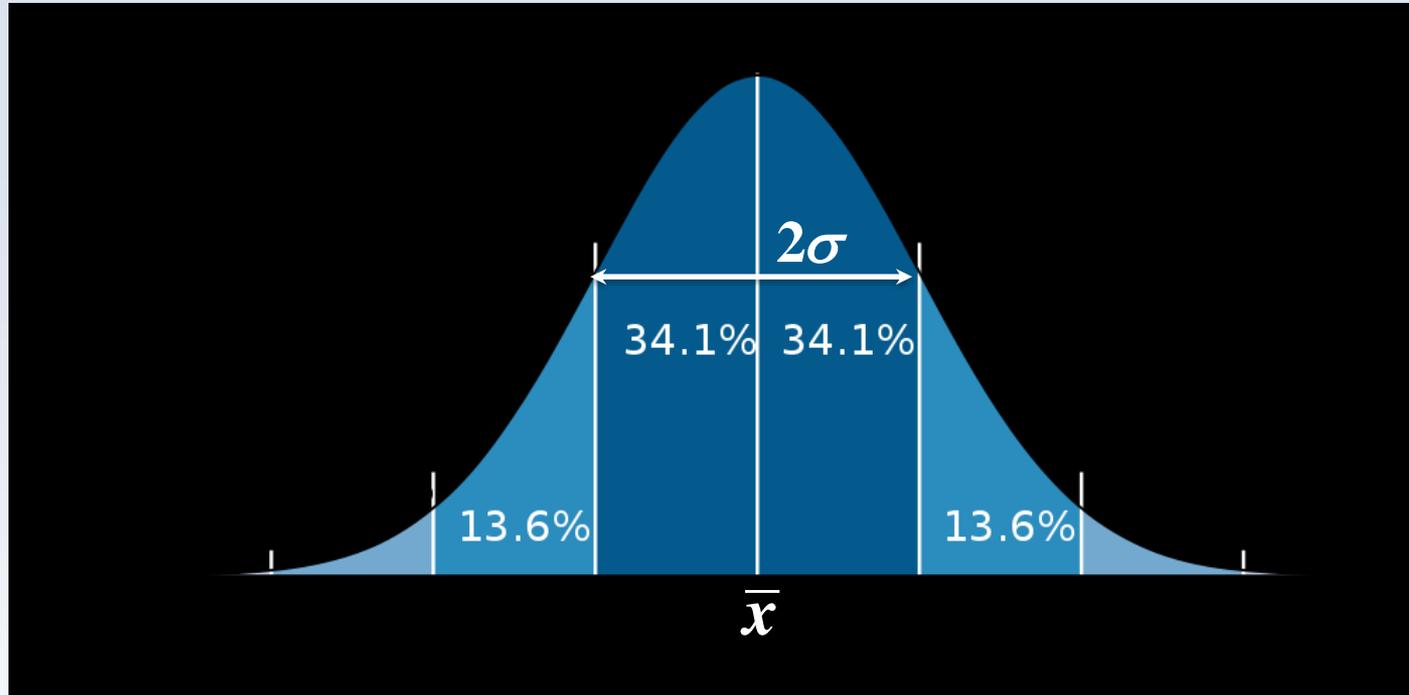
## Poisson and Gaussian distributions



$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\bar{x})^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

**Gaussian distribution:  
continuous**

# Normal (Gaussian) distribution



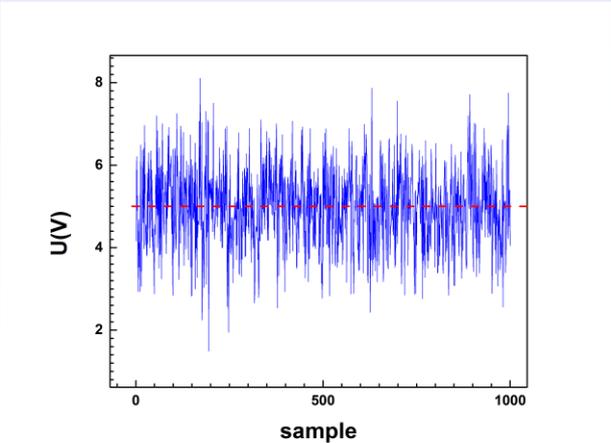
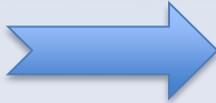
$$P_n(x) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\bar{x})^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

Error in the mean is given as  $\frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{N}}$ ,  
N – number of events



# Measurement in presence of noise

Source of noisy signal



- 4.89855
- 5.25111
- 2.93382
- 4.31753
- 4.67903
- 3.52626
- 4.12001
- 2.93411

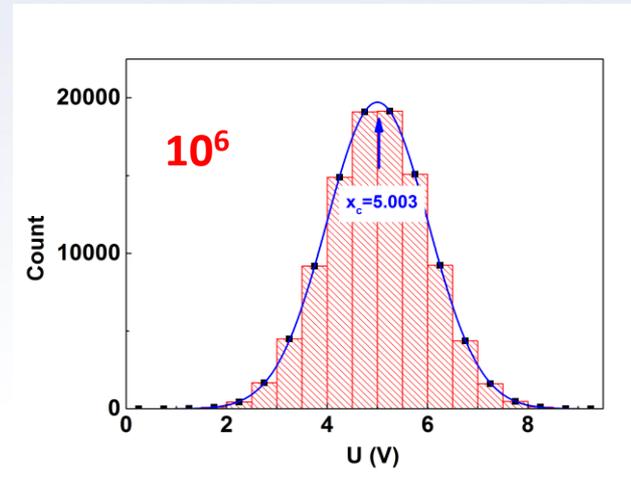
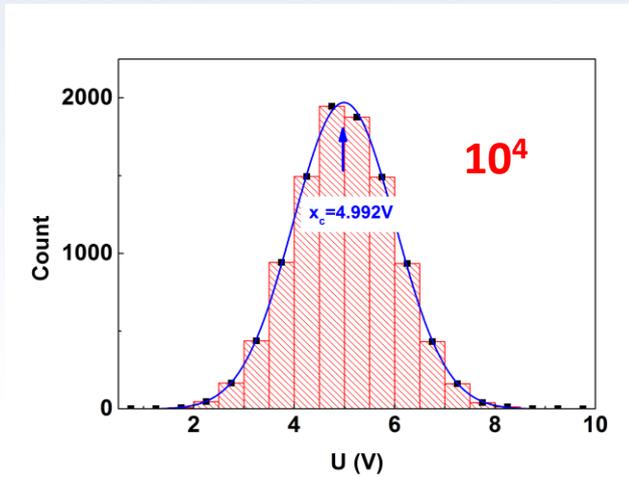
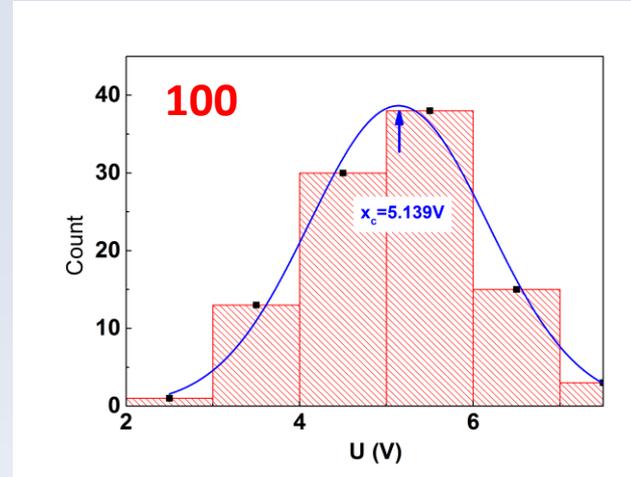
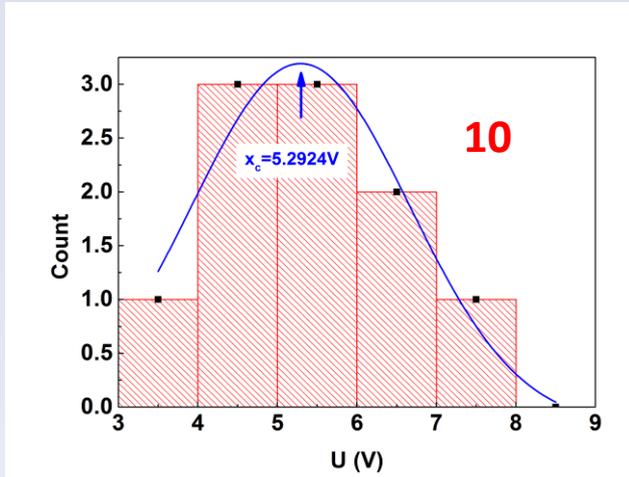
**Expected value 5V**



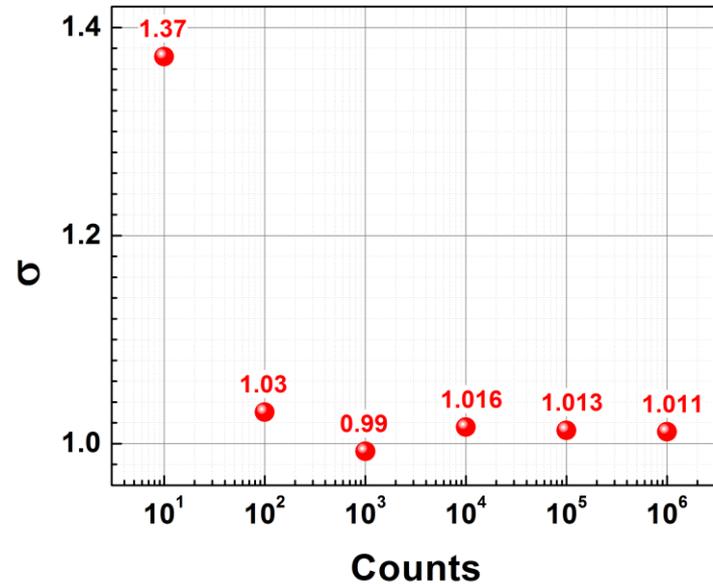
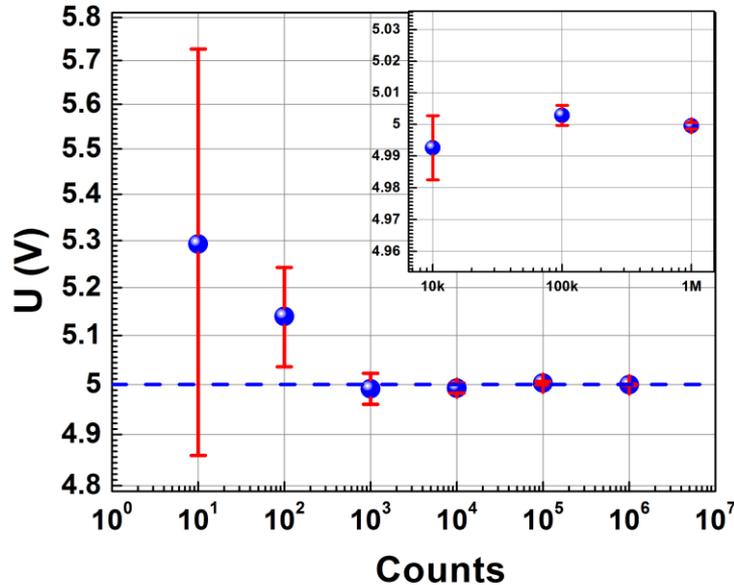
**Actual measured values**



# Measurement in presence of noise



# Measurement in presence of noise



**Result**



$$U = x_c \pm \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{N}}$$

$\sigma$  - standard deviation  
 $N$  - number of samples

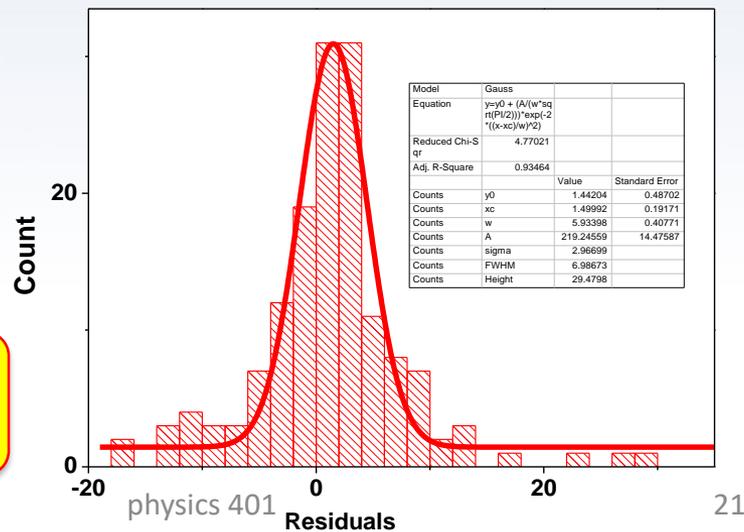
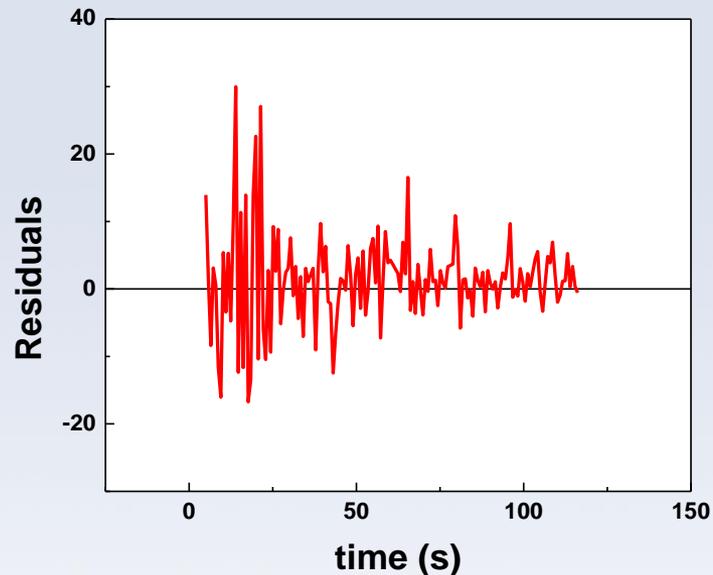
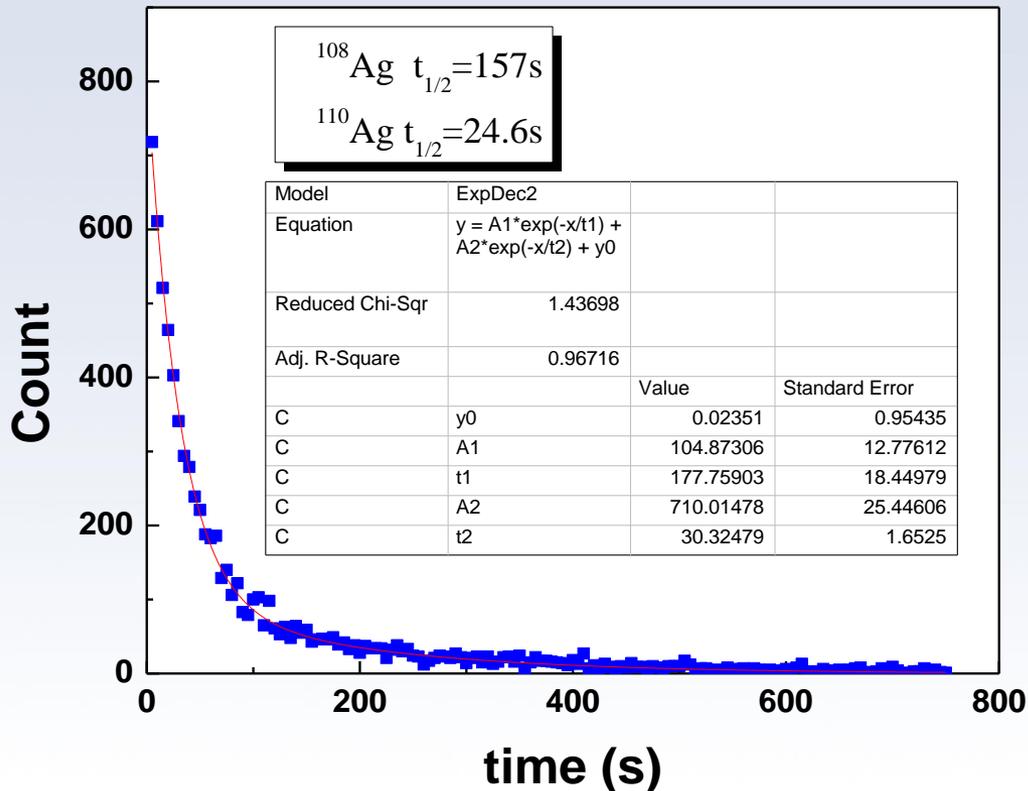
**For  $N=10^6$   $U=4.999 \pm 0.001$**

**0.02% accuracy**



# Fitting errors

## Ag $\beta$ decay

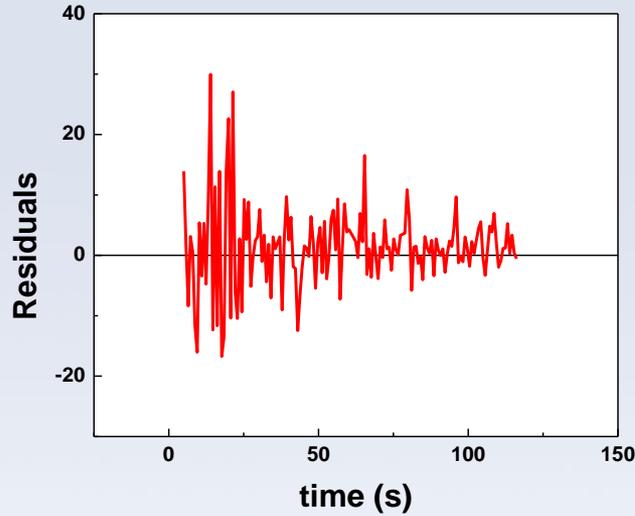


$$y = A1 \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-t}{t_1}\right) + A2 \cdot \exp\left(\frac{-t}{t_2}\right) + y_0$$

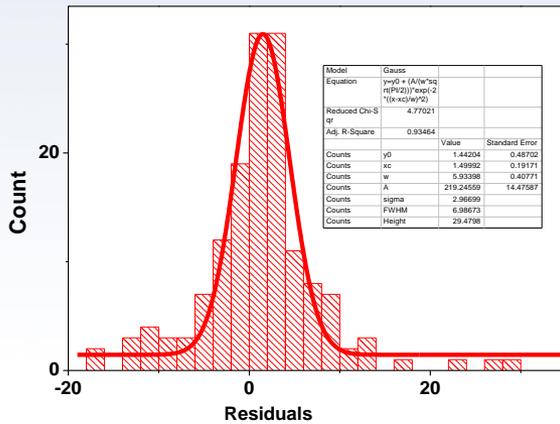
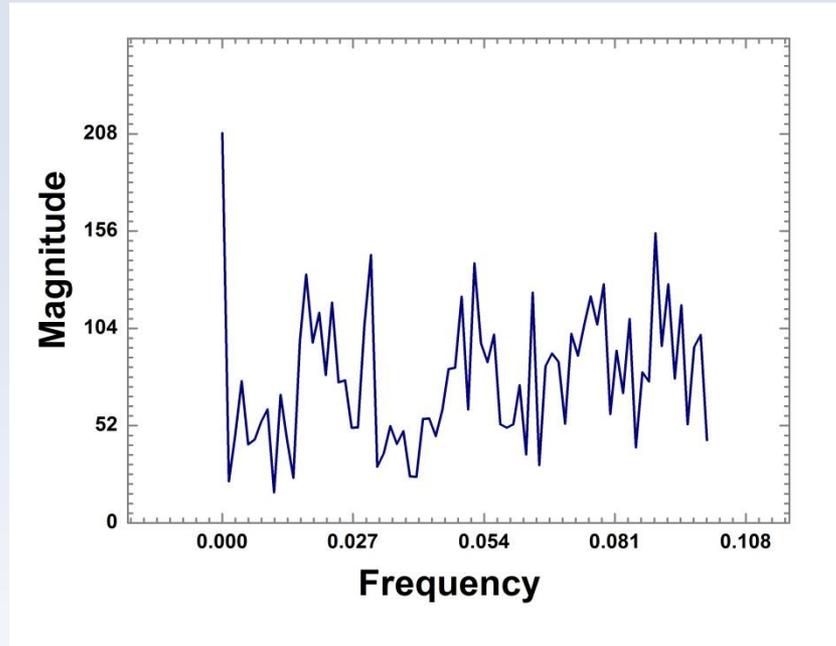


# Fitting. Analysis of the residuals

## Ag $\beta$ decay



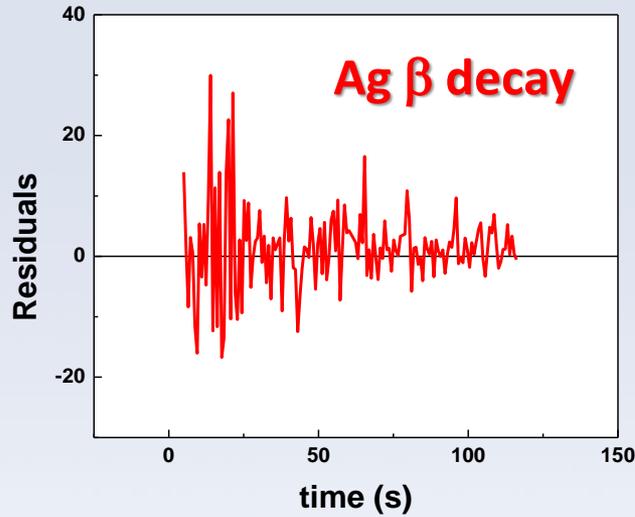
## Test 1. Fourier analysis



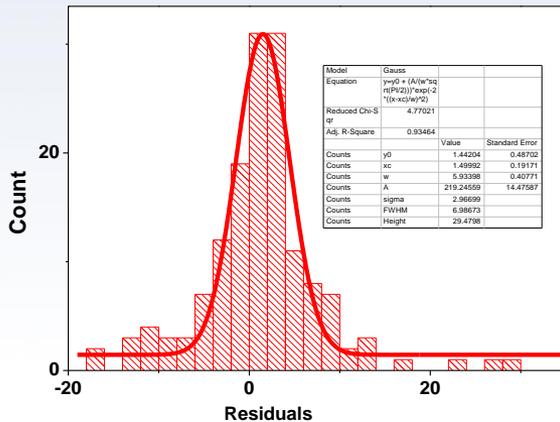
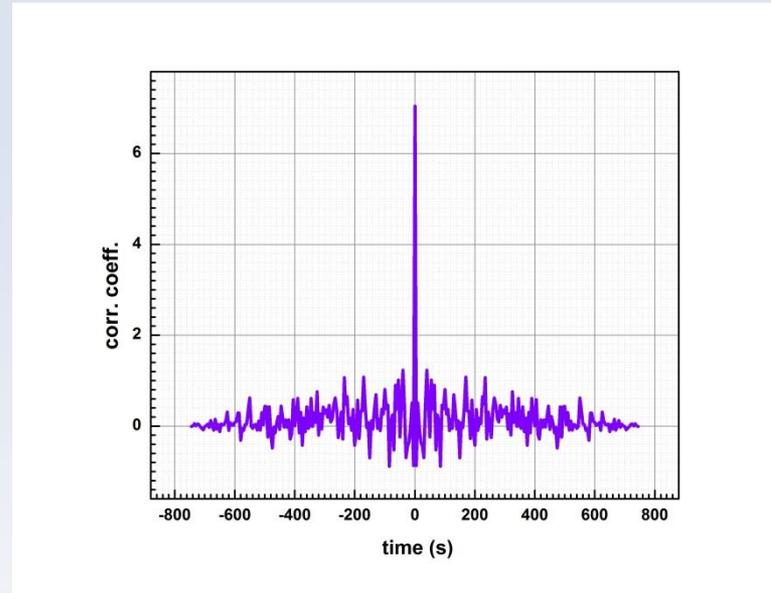
No pronounced frequencies found



# Fitting. Analysis of the residuals



## Test 1. Autocorrelation function



Correlation function

$$y(m) = \sum_{n=0} f(n)g(n-m)$$

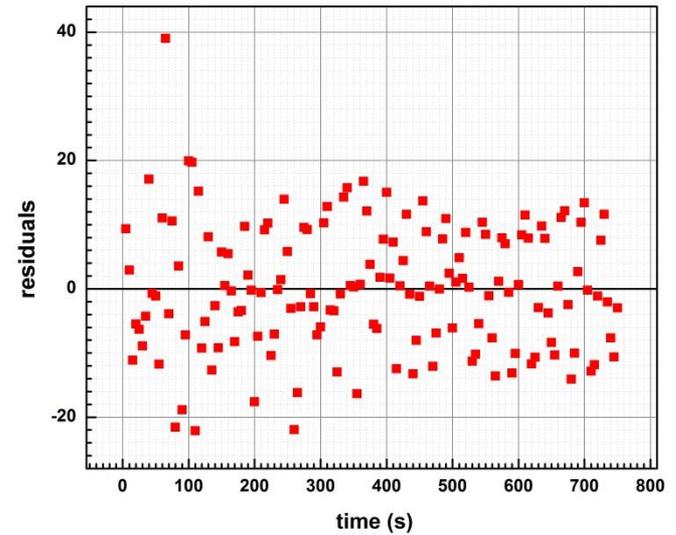
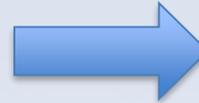
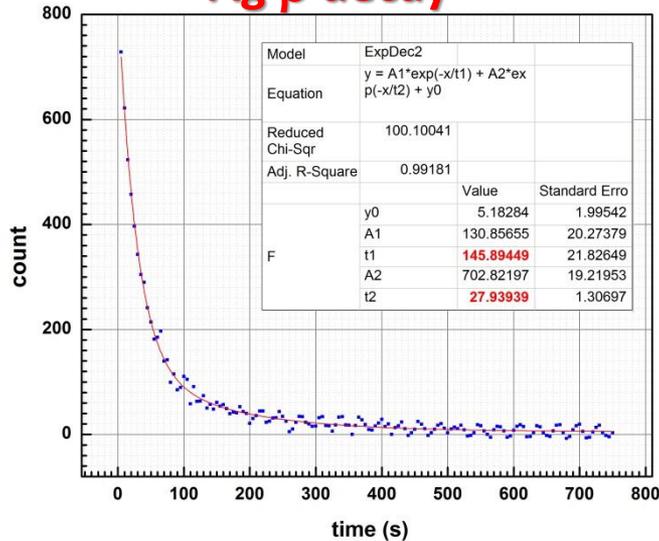
autocorrelation function

$$y(m) = \sum_{n=0}^{M-1} f(n)f(n-m)$$



# Fitting. Analysis of the residuals. Non "ideal" case

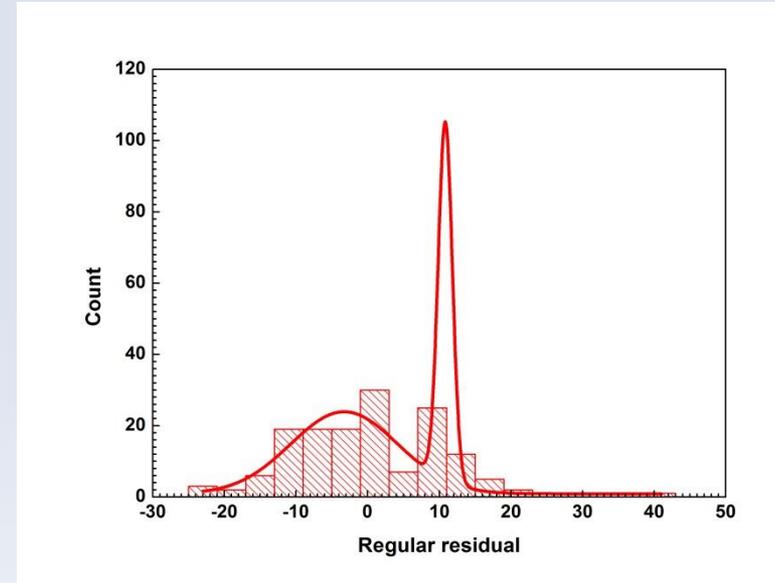
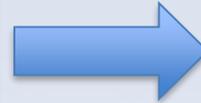
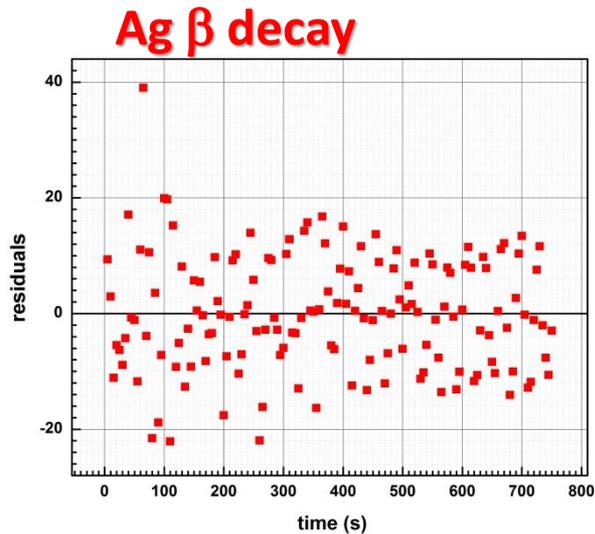
## Ag $\beta$ decay



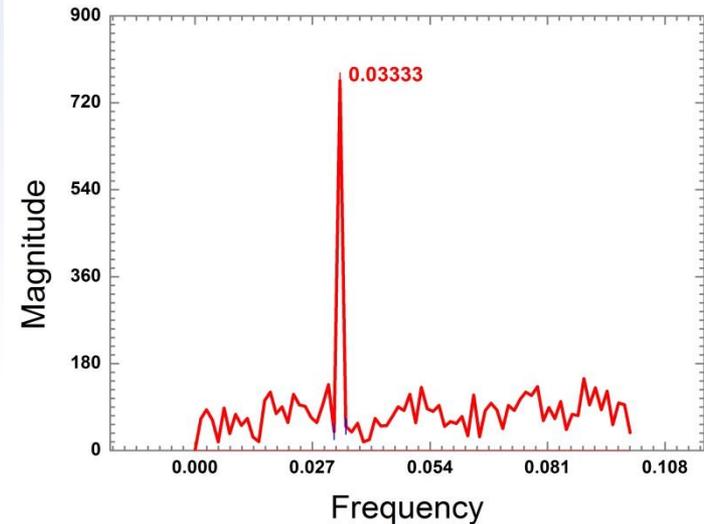
	Clear experiment	Data + "noise"
$t_1(s)$	<b>177.76</b>	<b>145.89</b>
$t_2(s)$	<b>30.32</b>	<b>27.94</b>



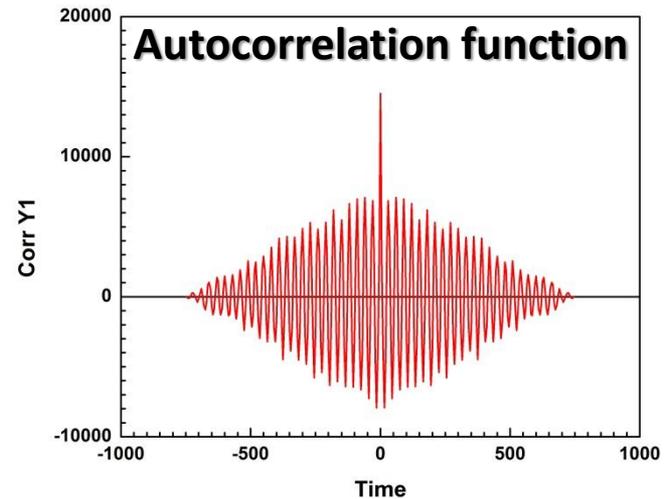
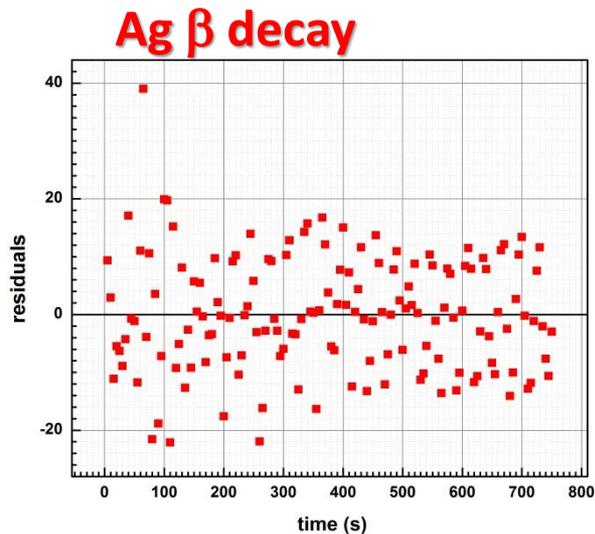
# Fitting. Analysis of the residuals. Non "ideal" case



**Histogram does not follow the normal distribution and there is frequency of 0.333 is present in spectrum**



# Fitting. Analysis of the residuals. Non "ideal" case

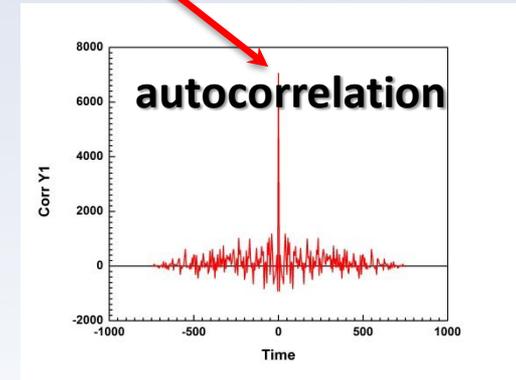
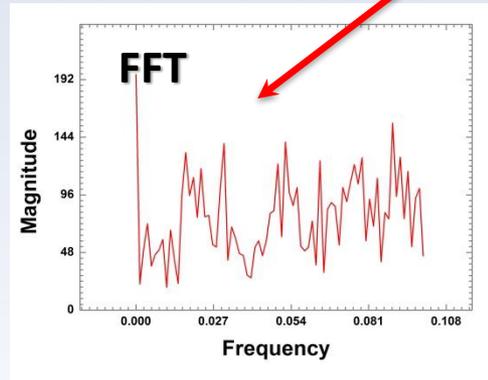
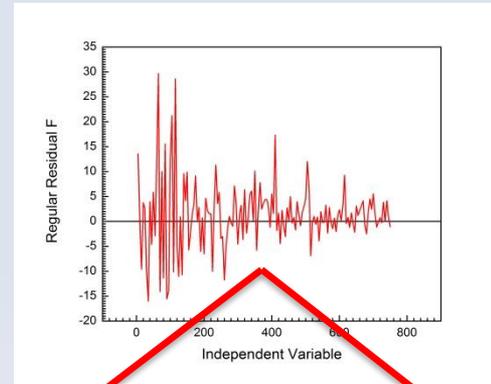
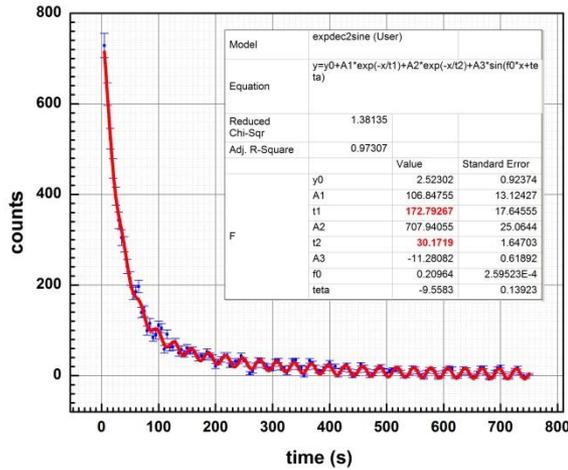


**Conclusion: fitting function should be modified by adding an additional term:**

$$y(t) = y_0 + A_1 \exp\left(\frac{-t}{t_1}\right) + A_2 \exp\left(\frac{-t}{t_2}\right) + A_3 \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$



# Fitting. Analysis of the residuals. Non "ideal" case



	Clear experiment	Data + noise	Modified fitting
$t_1(s)$	<b>177.76</b>	<b>145.89</b>	<b>172.79</b>
$t_2(s)$	<b>30.32</b>	<b>27.94</b>	<b>30.17</b>



# Error Analysis. Millikan oil drop experiment.

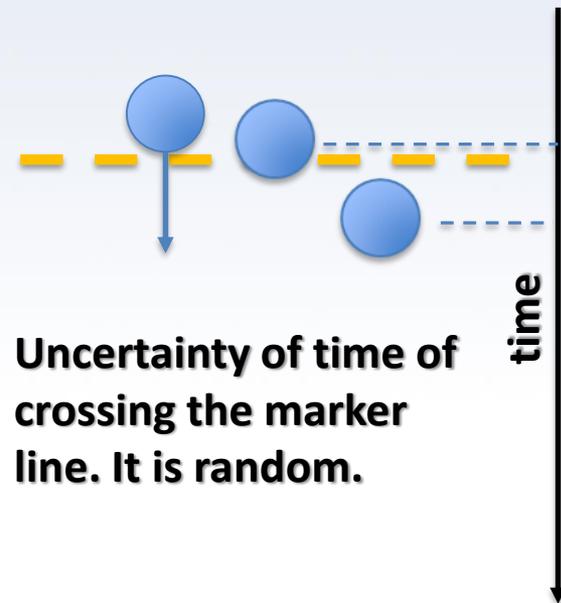
In general we could expect both components of errors

$$Q_{\text{meas}} = Q_{\text{true}} + e_s + e_r$$

$e_s$  - systematic error comes from uncertainties of plates separation distance, applied DC voltage, ambient temperature etc.

$$V = V_{\text{DC}} \pm \Delta V, d = d_0 \pm \Delta d \dots$$

$e_r$  - random errors are related to uncertainty of the knowledge of the actual  $t_g$  and  $t_{\text{rise}}$ .



# Systematic component. Error propagation. Millikan oil drop experiment.

$$\mathbf{X}_{\text{meas}} = \mathbf{X}_{\text{true}} + \mathbf{e}_s + \mathbf{e}_r \quad \text{Systematic error}$$

$$Q = F \cdot S \cdot T = \left( \frac{1}{f_c^{3/2}} \right) \frac{9\pi d}{V} \sqrt{\frac{2\eta^3 x^3}{g\rho}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{t_g}} \left( \frac{1}{t_g} + \frac{1}{t_{\text{rise}}} \right)$$

$$F = \frac{1}{f_c^{3/2}} \approx 1 - \left( \frac{t_g}{\tau_g} \right)^2$$

$$S = \frac{9\pi d}{V} \sqrt{\frac{2\eta^3 x^3}{g\rho}}$$

$$T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t_g}} \left( \frac{1}{t_g} + \frac{1}{t_{\text{rise}}} \right)$$

$$\Delta Q = \sqrt{\left( \frac{dQ}{dF} \right)^2 (\Delta F)^2 + \left( \frac{dQ}{dS} \right)^2 (\Delta S)^2 + \left( \frac{dQ}{dT} \right)^2 (\Delta T)^2} \approx \sqrt{\left( \frac{dQ}{dS} \right)^2 (\Delta S)^2 + \left( \frac{dQ}{dT} \right)^2 (\Delta T)^2}$$

$$= \sqrt{(FT)^2 (\Delta S)^2 + (FS)^2 (\Delta T)^2} = Q \sqrt{\left( \frac{\Delta S}{S} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\Delta T}{T} \right)^2}$$



# Systematic component. Error propagation. Millikan oil drop experiment.

**Systematic error**

$$\mathbf{X}_{\text{meas}} = \mathbf{X}_{\text{true}} + \mathbf{e}_s + \mathbf{e}_r$$

$$\Delta Q \approx Q \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta S}{S}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta T}{T}\right)^2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta S}{S} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta d}{d}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta V}{V}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta x}{x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta \eta}{\eta}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta \rho}{\rho}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta g}{g}\right)^2} \approx \sqrt{\left(\frac{\Delta d}{d}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{3}{2} \frac{\Delta x}{x}\right)^2}$$

$$\Delta T = \sqrt{\left(\frac{3/2}{t_g^{5/2}} + \frac{1/2}{t_g^{3/2}} \frac{1}{t_{\text{rise}}}\right)^2 \Delta t_g^2 + \left(\frac{1}{t_g^{1/2}} \frac{1}{t_{\text{rise}}^2}\right)^2 \Delta t_{\text{rise}}^2}$$



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Step 1. Origin Project For Raw Data :

\\engr-file-03\PHYINST\APL Courses\PHYCS401\Students\2. Millikan Raw Data

 Data Analysis for Millikan Oil Drop Experi...	2/22/2008 9:36 AM	Adobe Acrobat D...	59 KB
 Millikan_raw data.opj	10/5/2017 4:50 PM	OPJ File	15 KB
 Millikan_raw data1.opj	9/25/2018 1:38 PM	OPJ File	14 KB
 Millikan1_calc.opj	9/26/2018 1:36 PM	OPJ File	95 KB
 Millikan1_no_calc.opj	9/25/2017 2:03 PM	OPJ File	66 KB
 T measurement.opj	9/26/2018 1:36 PM	OPJ File	316 KB

**All these projects with raw data should be stored in:**

**\\engr-file-03\PHYINST\APL Courses\PHYCS401\Students\2. Millikan Raw Data**

*Here should only the files with **raw data** but not **other files** which you using for calculations. All other files you can save in your personal folder*



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

The “raw data” area is common place and please remove from there the files which have no relation to the experimental results!

Name	Date modified	Type	Size
important	9/25/2018 3:52 PM	File folder	
Origin Folder.Ink	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	File folder	
Origin Samples Folder.Ink	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	File folder	
A1A2B1B2.bmp	2016 9:52 AM	BMP File	2 KB
AppsTabs.xml	9/25/2018 3:52 PM	XML Document	1 KB
Backup.opj	10/4/2017 5:09 PM	OPJ File	317 KB
Custom.ogs	4/19/2015 4:16 PM	OGS File	1 KB
excel.otw	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	Origin Worksheet ...	21 KB
Filter.ini	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
MRFiles.ini	9/25/2018 1:29 PM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
NLSF.ini	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	Configuration sett...	10 KB
NLSFOide.ini	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	Configuration sett...	7 KB
NLSFwiz OPS.bmp	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	BMP File	3 KB
NLSFwizard.ini	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
Olbtdit.ini	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	Configuration sett...	7 KB
Origin.ini	9/25/2018 3:53 PM	Configuration sett...	19 KB
Origin94.INI	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
OUBtn.ini	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
Oubtn2.ini	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
OubtnA1A2B1B2.ini	9/25/2018 1:28 PM	Configuration sett...	1 KB
Template.ini	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	Configuration sett...	2 KB
Userdef.bmp	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	BMP File	2 KB
userdef2.bmp	11/9/2016 9:52 AM	BMP File	3 KB



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Step 2. Working on personal Origin project

Make a copy of the Millikan1 project to your personal folder and open it

	A(L)	D(L)	B(X)	F(Y)	G(Y)	C(Y)	E(Y)	H(Y)
Long Name	Parameter names	parameter label	Par	tg	tr	rc	tau_g	F
Units				s	s	m		
Comments				your data	your data	$r_c[m] = \frac{6.18 \times 10^{-5}}{\rho[mmHg]}$	$\tau_g = \frac{2\eta x}{\rho g r_c^2}$	$F = \frac{1}{f_c^{3/2}} \approx 1$
1	Viscosity of air(kg/ms) (25oC)	$\eta$	1.8478E-5	7.455	7.91327			
2	Temperature coefficient of viscosity	$\Delta\eta/\Delta T$	4.8E-8	15.56521	16.7815			
3	Density of oil (kg/m^3)	$\rho_1$	886	23.07825	31.8955			
4	Density of air (kg/m^3)	$\rho_2$	1.29	20.14243	11.70129			
5	Density difference (kg/m^3)	$\rho_1 - \rho_2$	884.71	26.97377	22.47531			
6	acceleration due to gravity (m/s^2)	g	9.801	16.34362	16.44208			
7	ambient pressure (mmHg)	p	765	25.93429	25.02886			
8	fall/rise distance (m)	x	0.00145	15.34338	9.27446			
9	plate separation (m)	d	0.00317	29.3815	19.6161			
10	Voltage across the plates (V)	V	500	26.0786	24.3434			
11	Air temperature (oC)	Ta	20	--	--			
12	Actual air viscosity		1.8478E-5	--	--			
13				--	--			

Prepare equations calculations of data in next columns (Set column values...). Switch Recalculate in Auto mode

Paste these 5 parameters and raw data from Section L1-L4.opj projects

Calculate manually the actual air viscosity



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Millikan oil drop experiment

### Step 3. Histogram graph

First use the data from the column with drop charges and plot the histogram

The screenshot shows a spreadsheet application with a menu open. The 'Plot' menu is selected, and the 'Statistics' sub-menu is also open, with 'Histogram' highlighted. The spreadsheet data is visible in the background, showing columns for 'Long Name', 'Units', and 'Comments'.

Long Name	Units	Comments
drop char	C/1e-19	
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		
34		
35		
36		
37		
38		
39		
40		
41		
42		
43		
44		
45	1.40294	0.87575
46	1.41492	0.88322
47	1.41510	0.88358



# Appendix. Analyzing of the statistical data.

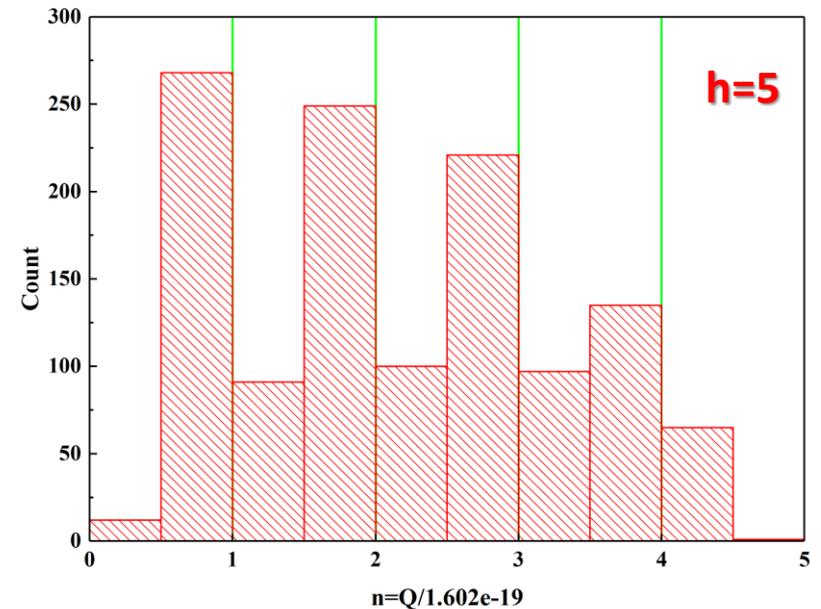
## Millikan oil drop experiment

### Step 4. Histogram. Bin size

Origin will automatically but not optimally adjust the bin size  $h$ . In this page figure  $h=0.5$ . There are several theoretical approaches how to find the optimal bin size.

$$h = \frac{3.5\sigma}{n^{1/3}}$$

$\sigma$  is the sample standard deviation and  $n$  is total number of observation. For presented in Fig.1 results good value of  $h \sim 0.1$

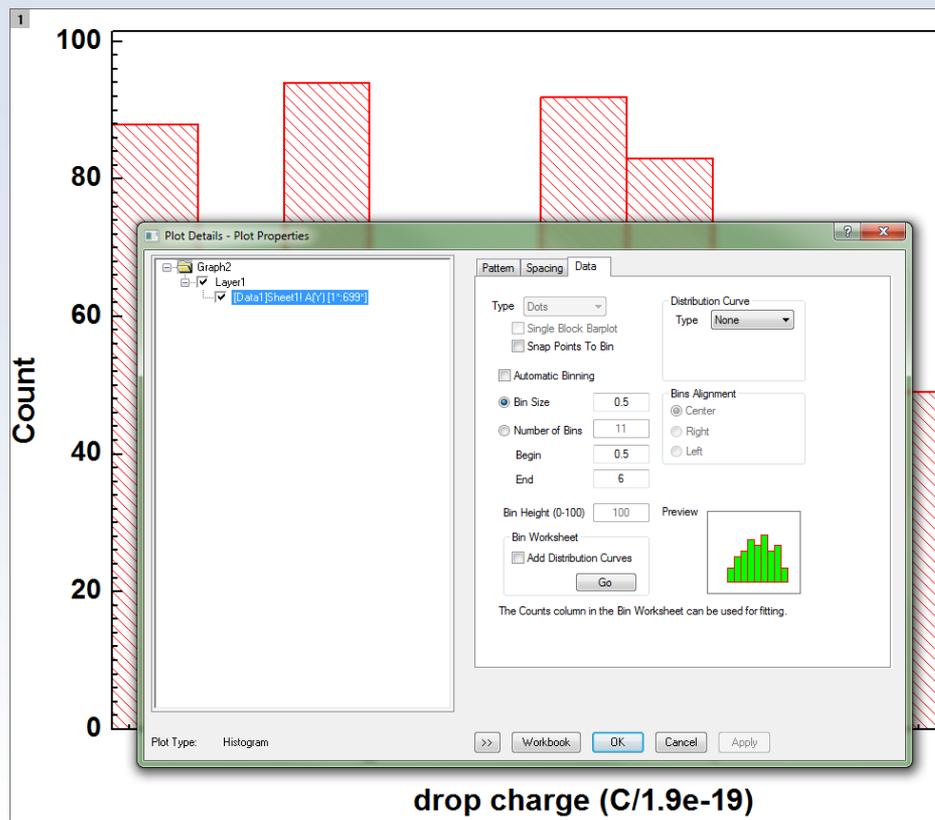
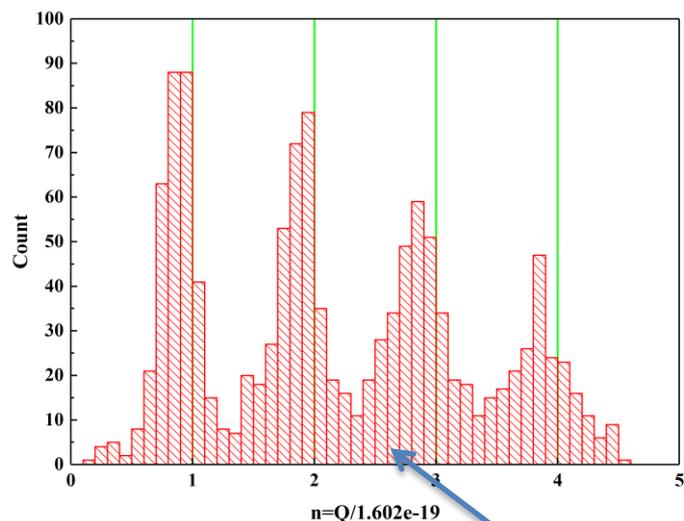


# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Millikan oil drop experiment

### Step 4. Histogram. Bin size

To change the bin size click on graph and unplug the “**Automatic Binning**” option



Bin size in this histogram is 0.1

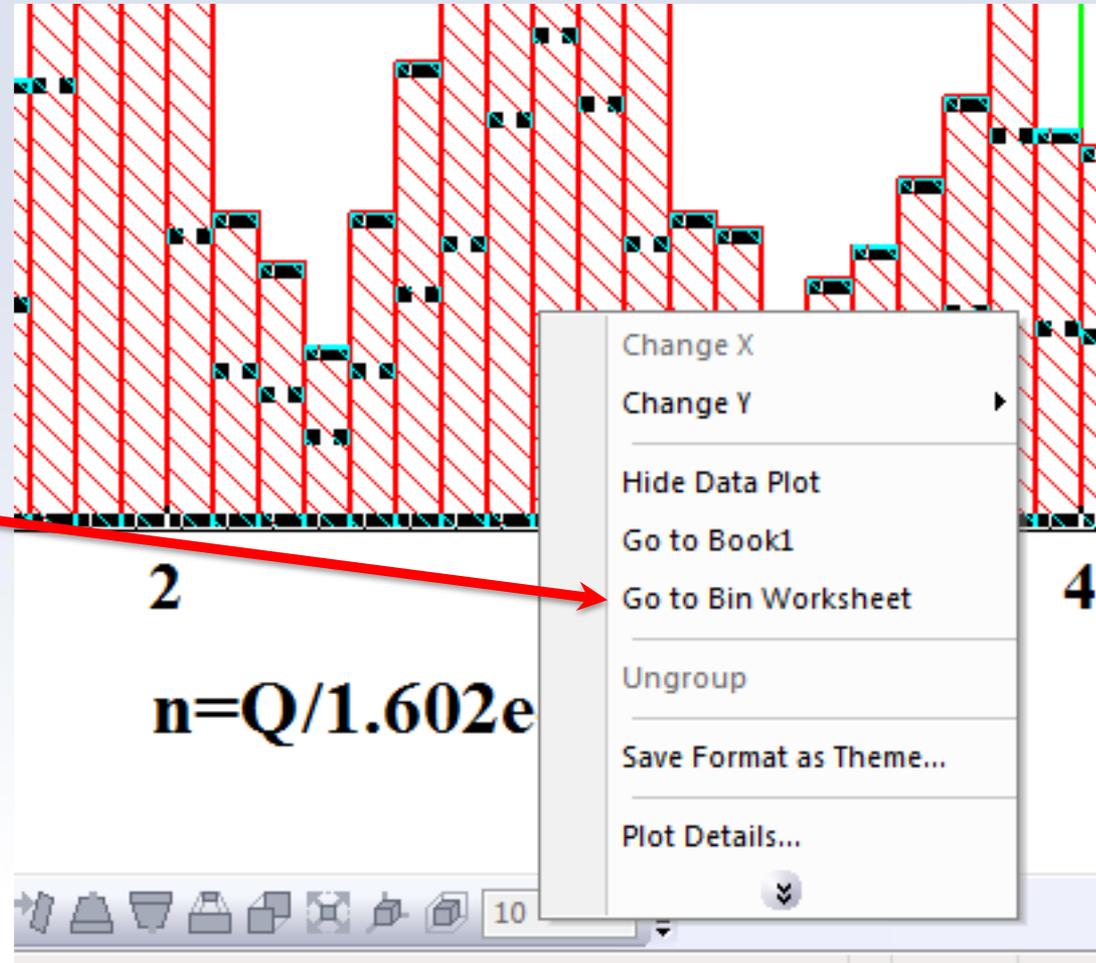


# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Step 4. Find the bin Worksheet

## Millikan oil drop experiment

Right click on histogram and choose "Go to Bin Worksheet".



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Step 5. Add Counts vs bin plot

The screenshot shows a software interface with a histogram in the background and a 'Plot Setup: Configure Data Plots in Layer' dialog box in the foreground. The histogram has a y-axis with labels 80 and 90, and a single red hatched bar. The dialog box contains the following sections:

**Available Data:**

Long Name	Sheet	Cols	Rows	File Name	File Date	Created	Modified
Book1	Sheet1	1	1260			10/6/2008 12:43:53	10/2/2017 14:...
Book1	Book1_B Bins	4	60			10/6/2008 12:43:53	10/2/2017 14:...

**Plot Type:**

- Line
- Scatter
- Line + Symbol
- Column / Bar
- Area
- Stacked Area
- Fill Area
- High - Low - Close
- Floating Column
- XYAM Vector
- XXYY Vector
- Bubble
- Color Mapped
- Bubble + Color Mapped

**Show(S) [Book1]"Book1\_B Bins"**

X	xEr	Y	yEr	L	Column	Long Name	Comments	Sampling Interval
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<autoX>	From/Step=		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	A	Bin Centers	Bins	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Counts	Bins	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	C	Cumulative Sum	Bins	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	Cumulative Percent	Bins	

**Plot List:** Drag entries in 1st column to reorder or to move between layers. Right click for other options.

Plot	Range	Show	Plot Type	Legend
Layer 1		<input type="checkbox"/> Rescale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
[Book1]Sheet1! B(Y)	[1*:1241*]	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Histogram	B
[Book1]Book1_B Bins! "Bin Centers"(X), "Counts"(Y)	[1*:50*] 0.05 < X < 4.95, 0 < Y < 88	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scatter	Bins

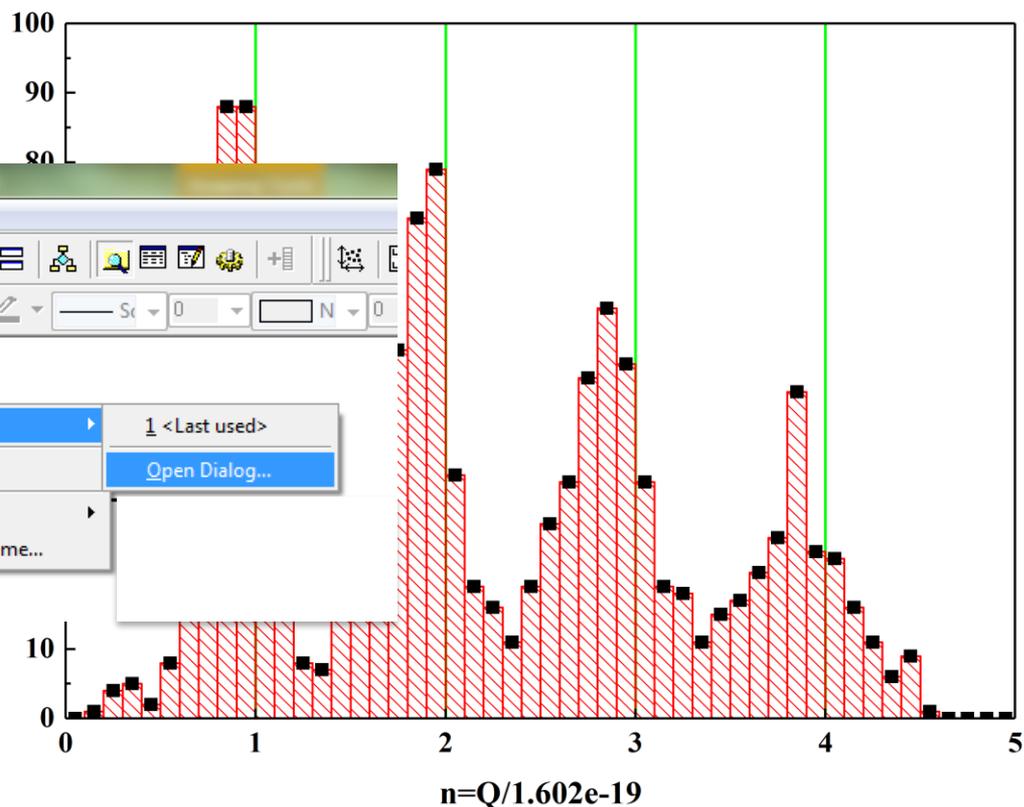
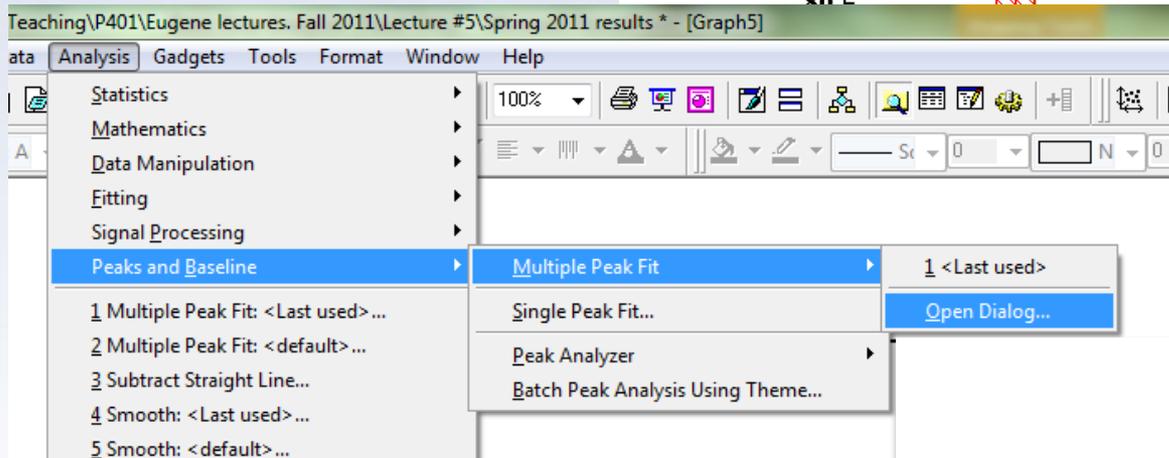


# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Millikan oil drop experiment

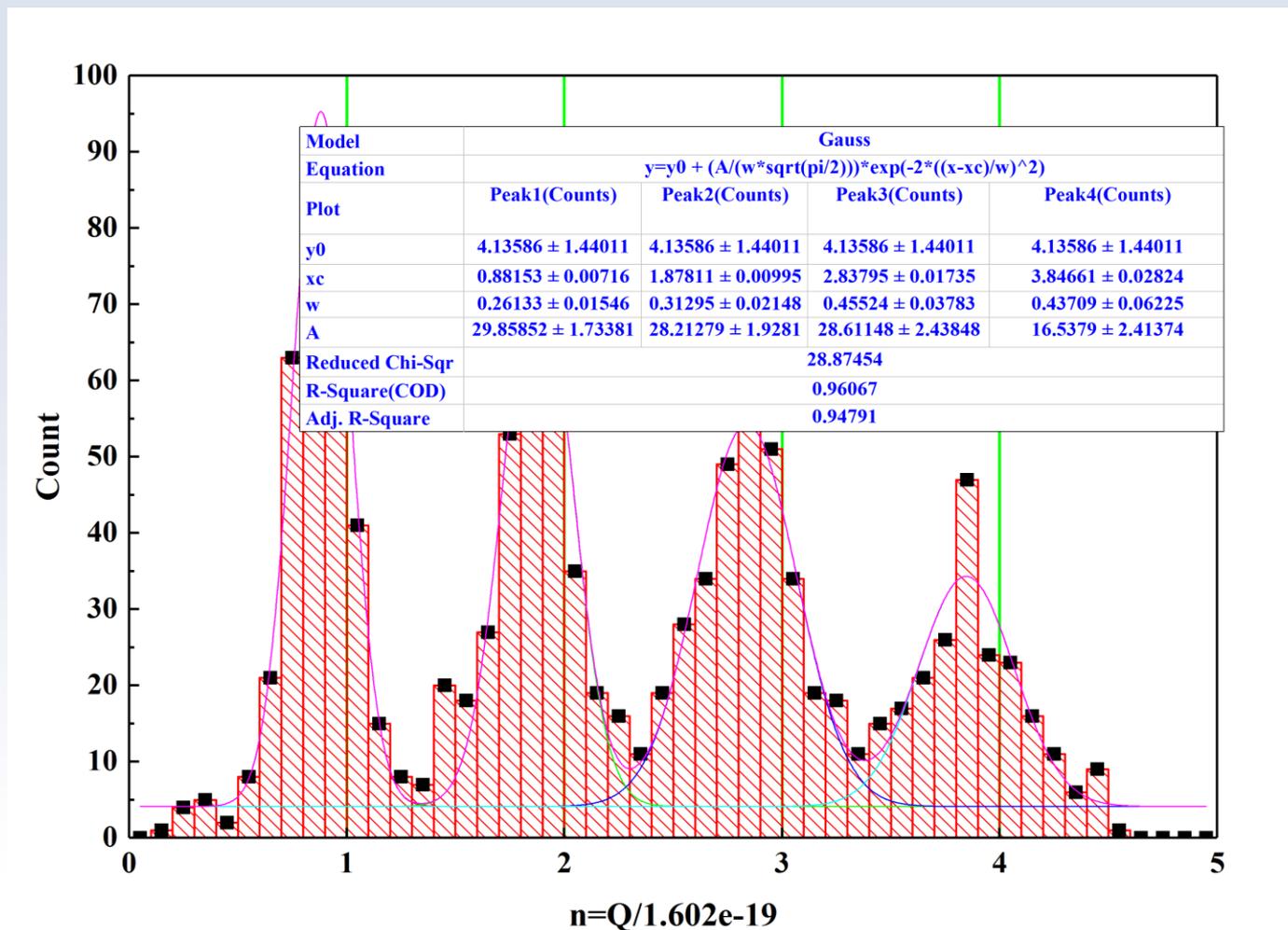
### Step 5. Multipeak Gaussian fitting

This plot can be used for peak fitting.



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of the statistical data.

## Step 5. Multipeak Gaussian Fitting

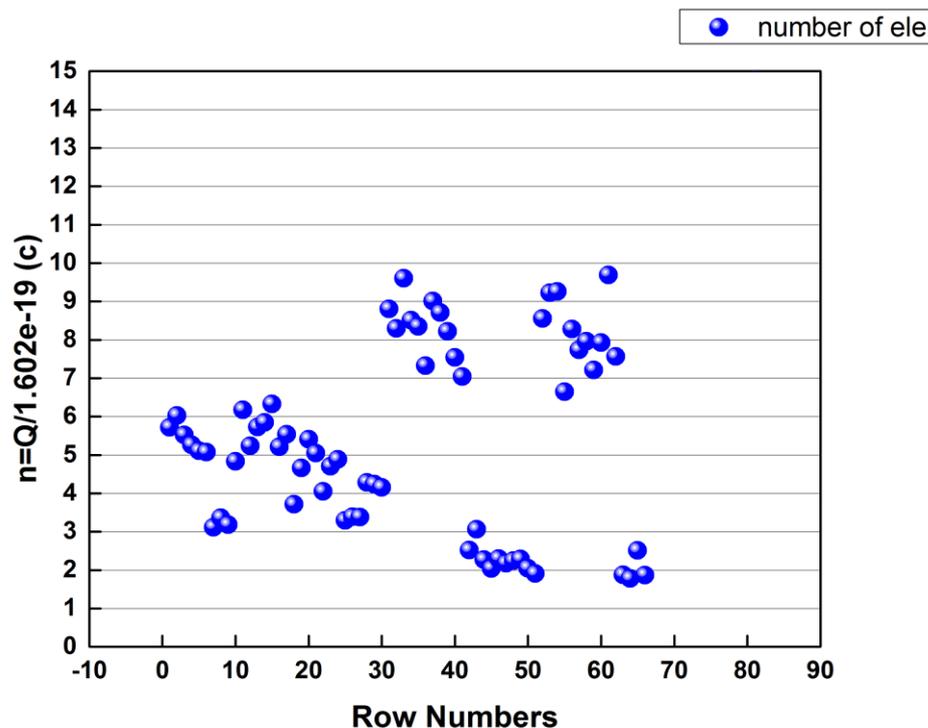
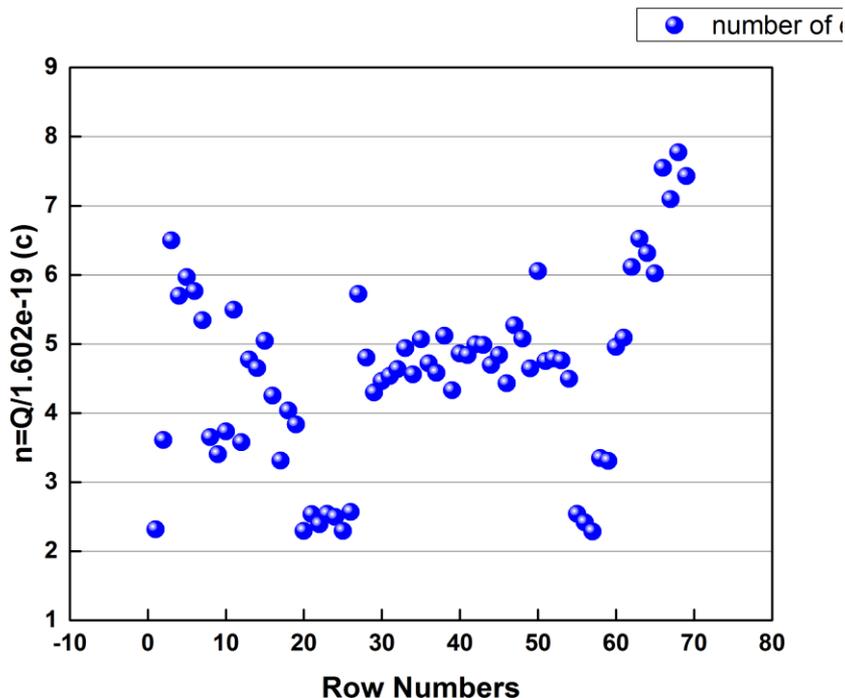


For 1<sup>st</sup> peak  $x_c \sim 0.882 \pm 0.007$



# Appendix #1. oil Drop Data Issue.

Be careful with data selection obtained by different teams!



For more details how to create the histogram plot and do the analysis see  
***“Working with Histogram Graph. Millikan Oil Drop Experiment”***



# Appendix #1. Analyzing of Oil Drop experiment Errors . How to Increase the Accuracy of the Experiment.

$$Q_{\text{meas}} = Q_{\text{true}} + e_s + e_r$$

$e_s$  – systematic error: can be reduced by more accurate knowledge of parameters of the experiment like  $x$ ,  $d$ ,  $V$ , temperature etc. (usually it is limited to the existing measuring equipment)

$e_r$  – random or statistical error: can be reduced by only by increasing of the number raw data point (no limits)



## Appendix #2. Fitting. Main Idea.

$(x_i, y_i)$  is an experimental data array.  $x_i$  is an independent variable and  $y_i$  - dependent

$f(x, \beta)$  is a model function and  $\beta$  is the vector of fitting (adjustable) parameters

The goal of the fitting procedure is to find the set of parameters which will generate the function  $f$  closest to the experimental points.

To reach this goal we will try to minimize the sum of squared deviation function ( $S$ ):

$$S(\beta) = \sum_{i=1}^m [y_i - f(x_i, \beta)]^2$$



# Appendix #2. Fitting. The Choice of Parameters.

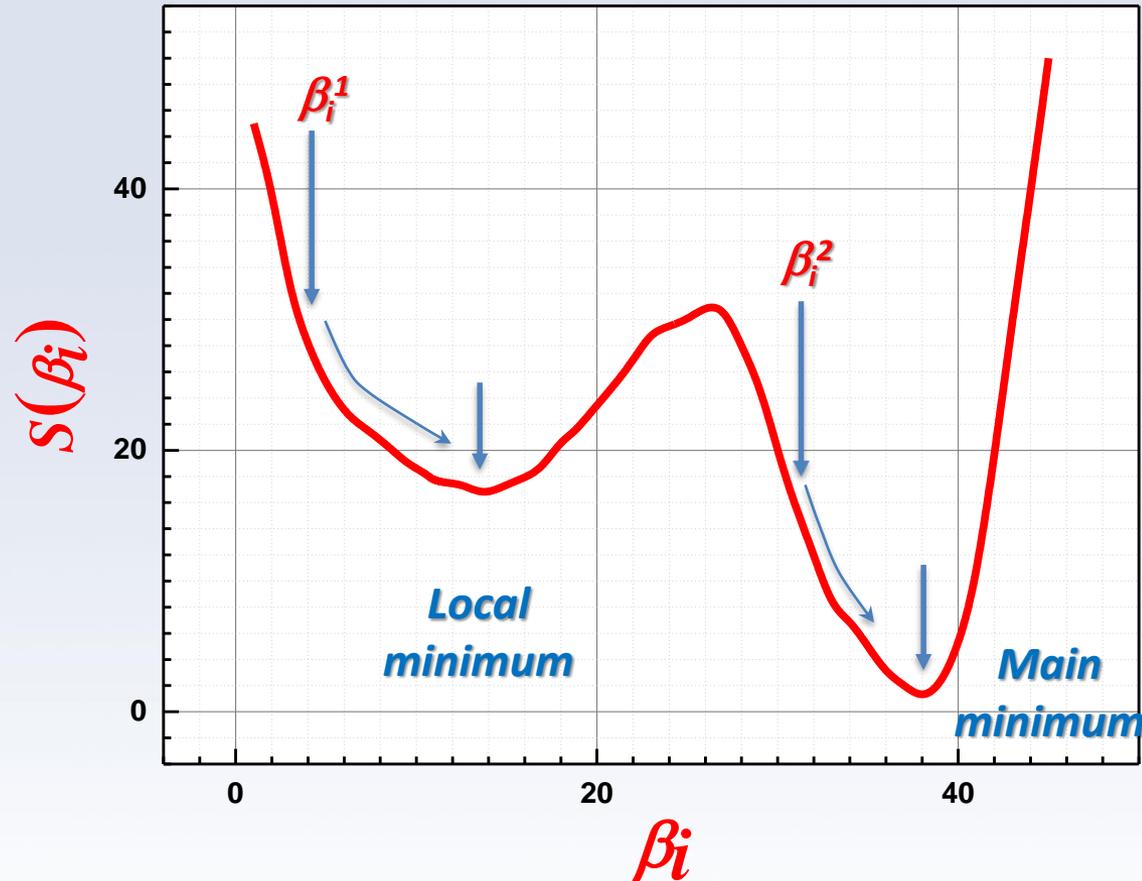
The goal of fitting is not only to find the curve best matching the experimental data but also to find the corresponding parameters which in majority cases are the important physical parameters

There are several known mathematical algorithms for optimizing these parameters but in general the fitting procedure could have not only unique solution and the choice of initial parameters is very important issue

$$S(\beta) = \sum_{i=1}^m [y_i - f(x_i, \beta)]^2$$



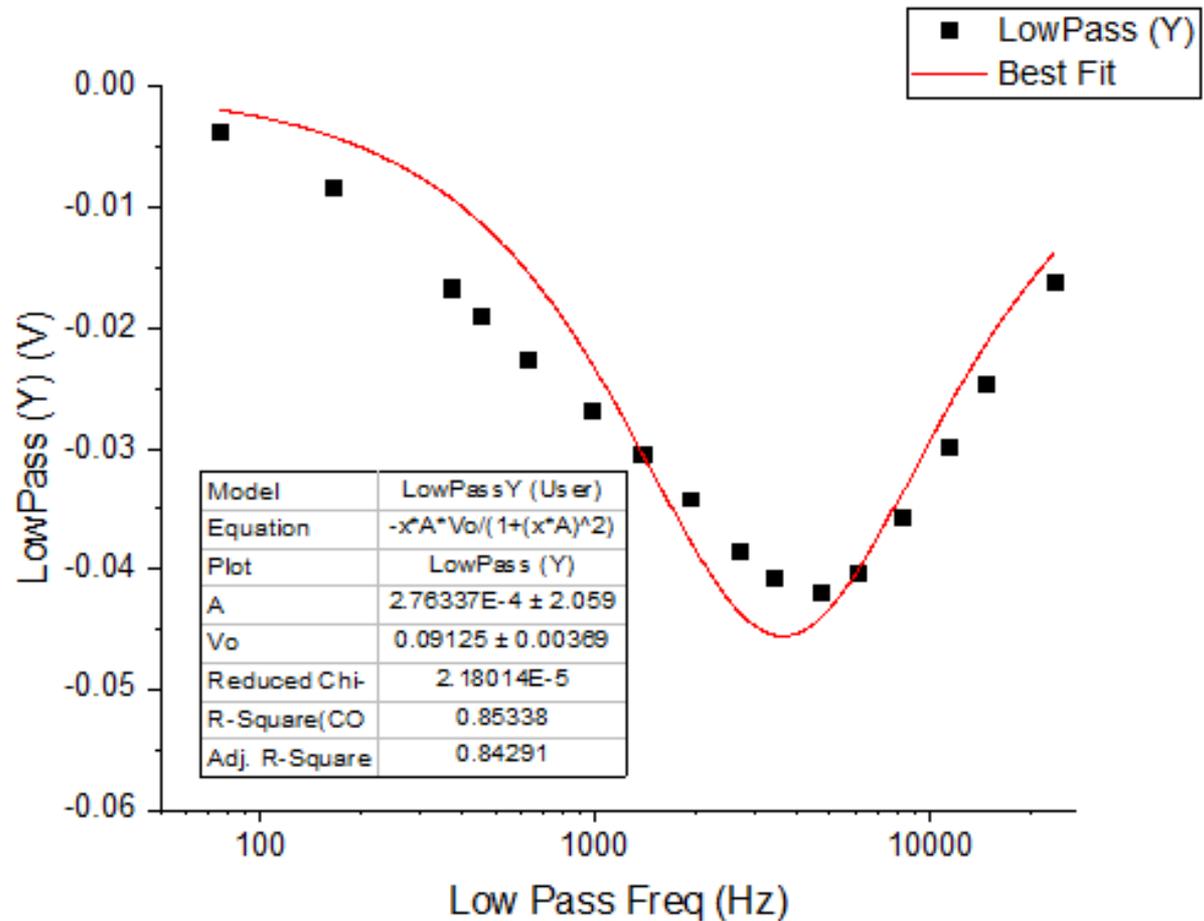
# Appendix #2. Fitting. The Choice of Parameters.



Let us have the  $S$  function dependent on parameter  $\beta_i$  as shown on this graph



# Appendix #2. Fitting. The Choice of Parameters.



**An example of not great results of the fitting procedure**



# Appendix #3. Reports submission.

- 1. Submit the reports to the section folder and only to your section folder***
- 2. No necessary to submit both \*.doc and \*.pdf versions***
- 3. Please add your name to the report filename***
- 4. Do not forget to show your name and only your name in the list of authors on the title page of the report***

