

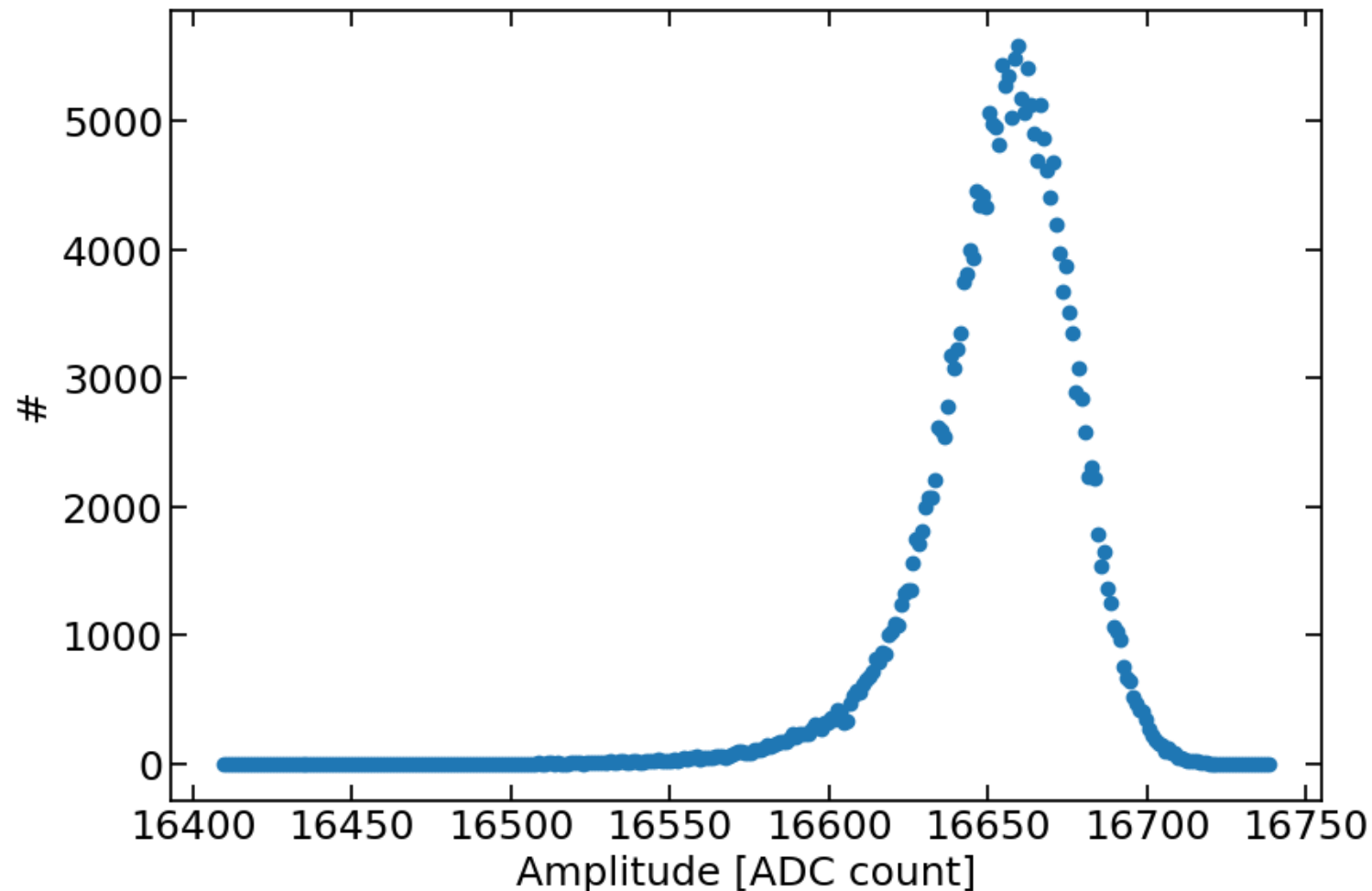
*In situ* fitting of  
instrumental  
uncertainties

Antoine

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# Signal and its uncertainty

Measure button signal amplitude for many, many turns and build distribution



Assumed so far that the per-bin uncertainty followed Poisson:  $\sqrt{n}$

# Poisson vs Binomial

In [probability theory](#) and [statistics](#), the **Poisson distribution** is a [discrete probability distribution](#) that expresses the probability of a given number of events occurring in a fixed interval of time or space if these events occur with a known constant mean rate and [independently](#) of the time since the last event.<sup>[1]</sup> It is named after [French](#) mathematician [Siméon Denis Poisson](#) ([/'pwa:son/](#);

In [probability theory](#) and [statistics](#), the **binomial distribution** with parameters  $n$  and  $p$  is the [discrete probability distribution](#) of the number of successes in a sequence of  $n$  [independent experiments](#), each asking a [yes–no question](#), and each with its own [Boolean-valued outcome](#): *success* (with probability  $p$ ) or *failure* (with probability  $q = 1 - p$ ). A single success/failure experiment is also

## Key differences:

Poisson statistics is for “**self-occurring**” event, Binomial is for triggered **events**

Poisson variance = **n**,

Binomial variance = **npq**

# Multinomial

Each bin in our distribution represent a Binomial statistics, thus the entire distribution follow a multinomial statistics

Let  $k$  be a fixed finite number. Mathematically, we have  $k$  possible mutually exclusive outcomes, with corresponding probabilities  $p_1, \dots, p_k$ , and  $n$  independent trials. Since the  $k$  outcomes are mutually exclusive and one must occur we have  $p_i \geq 0$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  and

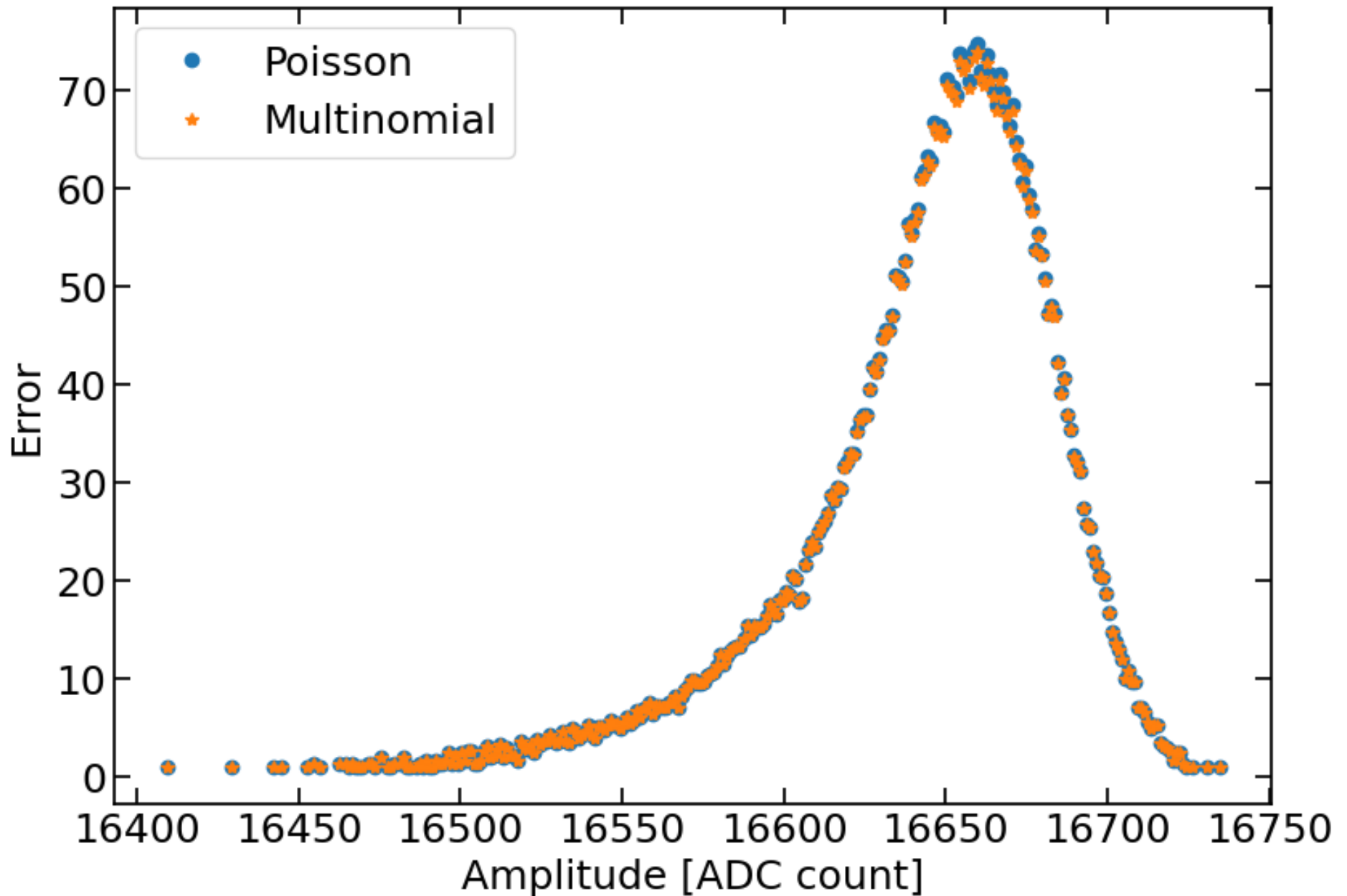
$\sum_{i=1}^k p_i = 1$ . Then if the random variables  $X_i$  indicate the number of times outcome number  $i$  is observed over the  $n$  trials, the vector  $X = (X_1, \dots, X_k)$  follows a multinomial distribution with parameters  $n$  and  $\mathbf{p}$ , where  $\mathbf{p} = (p_1, \dots, p_k)$ . While the trials are independent, their outcomes  $X_i$  are dependent because they must be summed to  $n$ .

## In simple terms:

x the probability  $p_i$  in a given bin  $i$  is its number of entries divided by the total number of entries in the distribution

x Variance =  $\mathbf{np_iq}$

# Poisson vs Multinomial

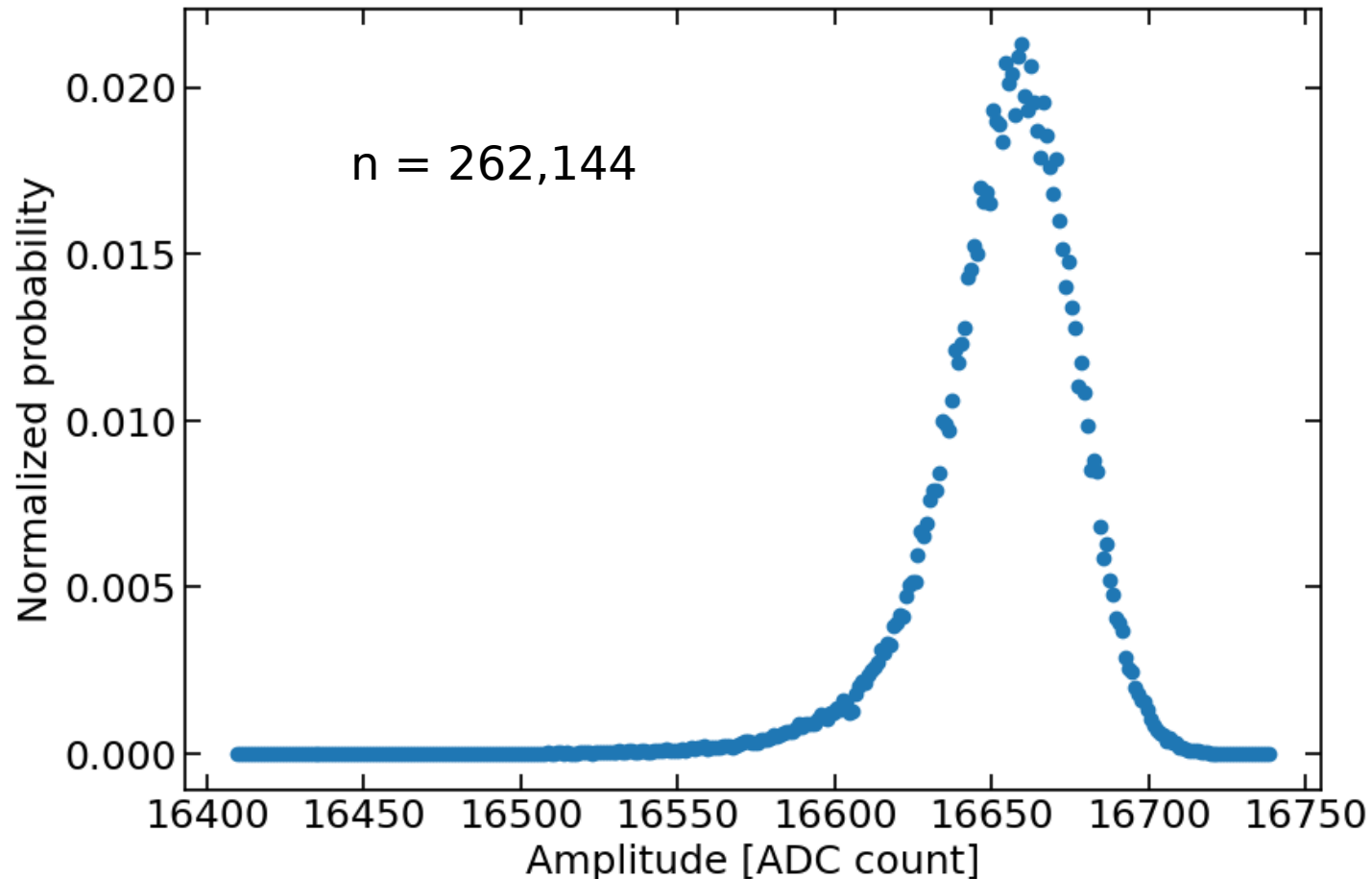


# Poisson $\approx$ Multinomial

Turns out that yes Poisson is approximating well the Multinomial statistics

The Poisson distribution can be derived as a limiting case to the **binomial** distribution as the number of trials goes to infinity and the **expected** number of successes remains fixed — see [law of rare events](#) below. Therefore, it can be used as an approximation of the **binomial** distribution if  $n$  is sufficiently large and  $p$  is sufficiently small. The Poisson distribution is a good approximation of the **binomial** distribution if  $n$  is at least 20 and  $p$  is smaller than or equal to 0.05, and an excellent approximation if  $n \geq 100$  and  $np \leq 10$ .<sup>[28]</sup>

$$F_{\text{Binomial}}(k; n, p) \approx F_{\text{Poisson}}(k; \lambda = np)$$



Additional materials