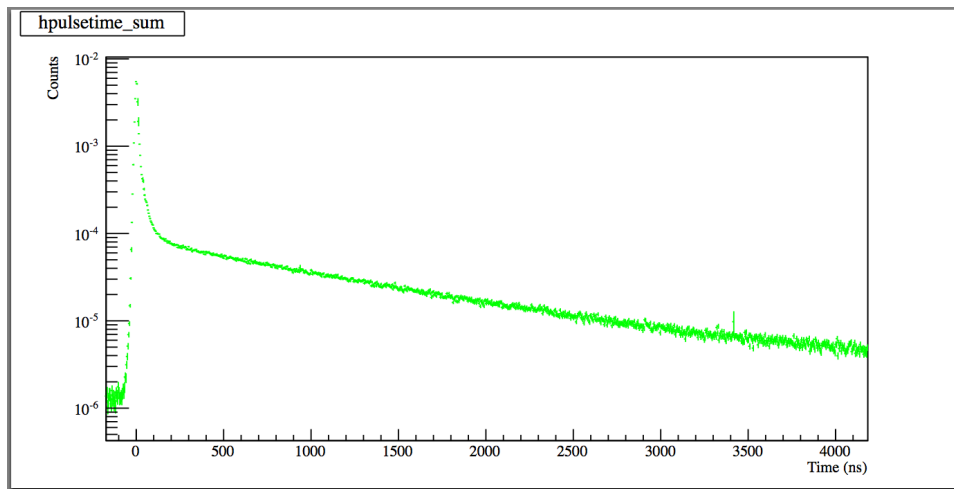


The MiniCLEAN detector is presently under assembly at SNOLAB and the collaboration has begun a commissioning phase with the detector filled with purified argon gas. This gas-phase allows a complete exercise of the photomultiplier tubes, electronics and data acquisition systems whilst the final hardware is installed and safety reviews are completed for operations in the liquid phase. The attached figure shows "first light" from the Mini CLEAN detector. An ultimate goal of the MiniCLEAN program with liquid argon is a high statistics measurement of pulse-shape discrimination capability using a "spike" of radioactive  $^{39}\text{Ar}$ . Scientists from Physics and Nuclear Chemistry Divisions have extracted this unique calibration source in a "hot-cell". The source has undergone an initial purification procedure and plans are underway to determine the  $^{39}\text{Ar}$  activity extracted.



The characteristic prompt scintillation light and long triplet tail extracted from "first light" in MiniCLEAN operating with an argon gas-fill in the CryoPit at SNOLAB.