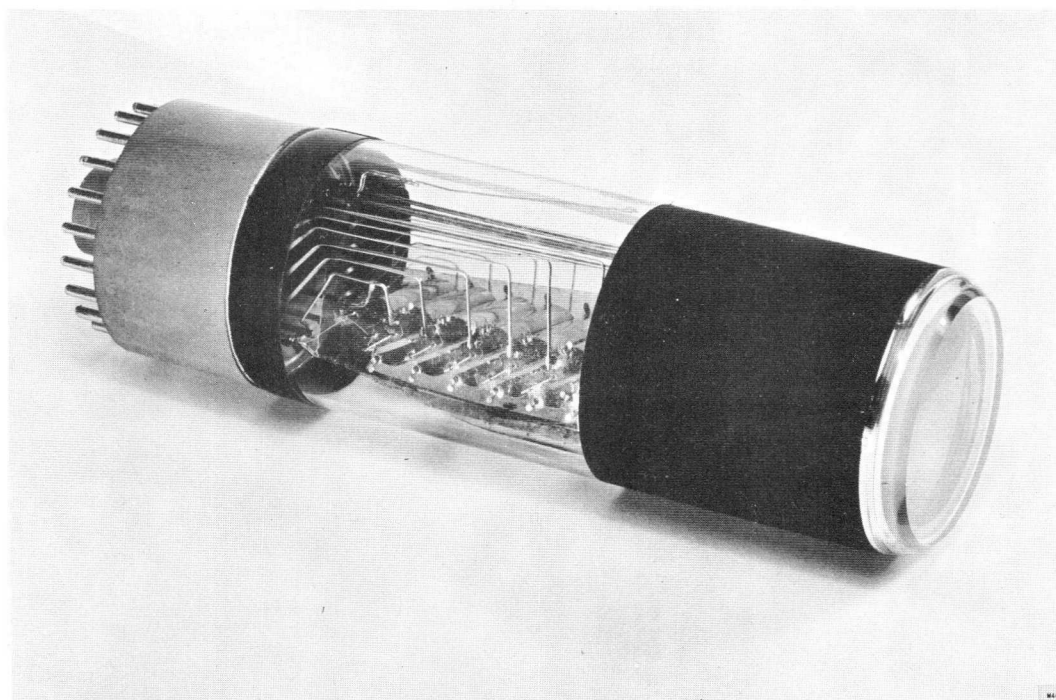


# PHILIPS

## 56 AVP

## 56 UVP

### PHOTOMULTIPLIER



The 56 AVP is 14-stage, very fast, high-gain photomultiplier tube, provided with a caesium-antimony, semi-transparent curved cathode having a diameter of 42 mm. The plane-concave poly-optical window simplifies and improves the optical coupling of scintillator to photocathode. The highly sensitive uniform photocathode has a typical sensitivity of  $60 \mu\text{A}/\text{lm}$  and a spectral response that lies mainly in the visible region, with its maximum at  $4200 \text{ \AA}$ , as shown in Fig.1, curve A.

The 56 UVP is the same type of tube provided with a plane-concave quartz window which extends the spectral response into the ultra-violet range, as shown in Fig.1, curve U.

Both types are intended for use in nuclear physics applications where a high degree of time definition or a high time resolution is required (fast coincidences, life of unstable particles, Cerenkov counters).

The 56 AVP and the 56 UVP are capable of delivering pulses at the anode with a rise time of  $2 \cdot 10^{-9}$  sec, thanks to a well-designed electron-optical system, and with very high peak values (up to 1 A). The transit time difference between electrons emitted from the centre of the cathode and those emitted from the edge is less than  $5 \cdot 10^{-10}$  sec.

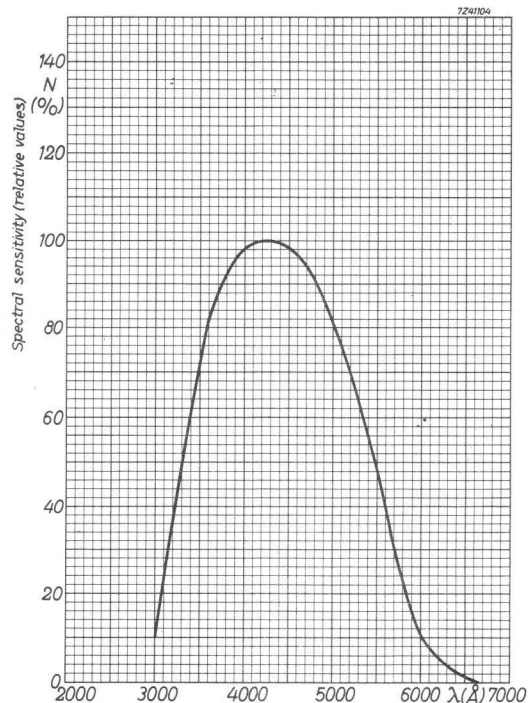


Fig. 1a. Spectral response "A".

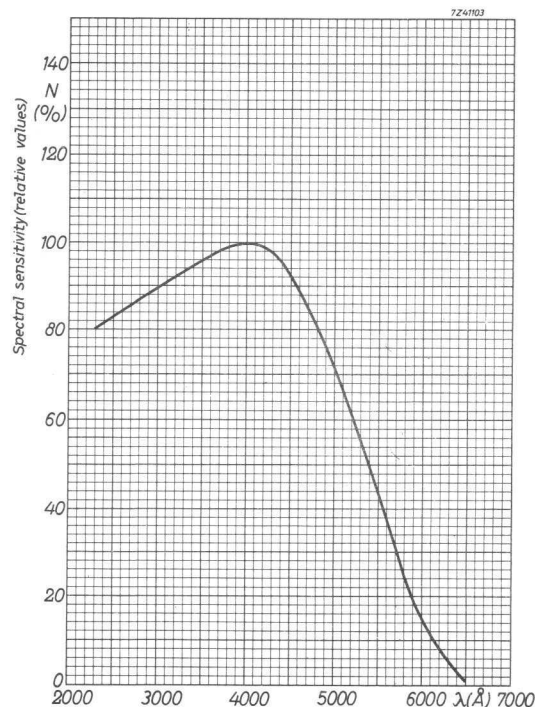


Fig. 1b. Spectral response "U".

## PHOTOCATHODE

semi-transparent, head-on, curved surface  
cathode material

minimum useful diameter

wavelength of maximum response

luminous sensitivity<sup>1)</sup>

average

minimum

radiant sensitivity<sup>2)</sup>

average

dark current

SbCs

42 mm

$4200 \pm 300 \text{ Å}$

$60 \mu\text{A/lm}$

$45 \mu\text{A/lm}$

$50 \text{ mA/V}$

max.  $3.5 \cdot 10^{-15} \text{ A/cm}^2$

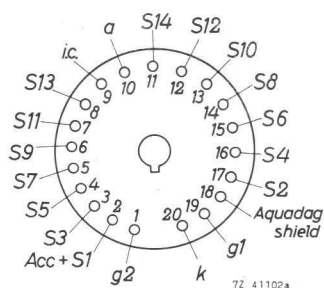
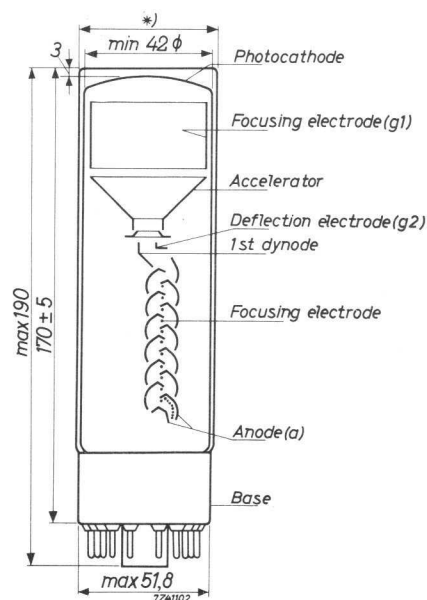


Fig. 2.

20-pin socket

type 40 466

$\mu$  metal screening cylinder type 56 131;  
length  $110 \pm 1 \text{ mm}$ ; diam.  $75^{+1}_{-0} \text{ mm}$ .



\*) 52.5 max. 56 AVP  
53.5 max. 56 UVP

## ELECTRON OPTICAL SYSTEM

triode type with high accelerating field  
(for adjustment, see Operational Considerations)

## MULTIPLIER SYSTEM

|                                                   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| number of stages                                  | 14      |
| dynode material                                   | AgMgOCs |
| capacitance anode to final dynode                 | 7 pF    |
| capacitance anode to all other electrodes         | 9.5 pF  |
| capacitance $g_1$ to accelerator and first dynode | 25 pF   |
| capacitance $g_2$ to all other electrodes         | 7 pF    |

## TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS (voltage divider type A)

|                                                                                                        |       |                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| gain at a total voltage of 2000 V                                                                      | min.  | $10^8$                 |
| anode dark current for a gain of $10^8$                                                                | max.  | $5 \mu\text{A}$        |
| transit time fluctuation at 2000 V <sup>3)</sup>                                                       |       |                        |
| anode pulse width at half-height                                                                       |       | $2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ sec  |
| anode pulse rise time                                                                                  |       | $2 \cdot 10^{-9}$ sec  |
| transit time difference between the centre of<br>the photocathode and the edge at 2000 V <sup>4)</sup> | max.  | $5 \cdot 10^{-10}$ sec |
| linearity between anode pulse amplitude and input light flux                                           |       |                        |
| with voltage divider type A                                                                            | up to | 100 mA                 |
| with voltage divider type B                                                                            | up to | 300 mA                 |
| max. peak currents with voltage divider B                                                              |       | 500 mA to 1 A          |

## LIMITING VALUES

|                                                                                   |        |        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| max. total voltage                                                                |        | 2500 V |
| max. anode current at continuous operation<br>(in order not to overload the tube) |        | 2 mA   |
| max. anode dissipation                                                            |        | 1 W    |
| voltage between dynodes                                                           | { min. | 80 V   |
|                                                                                   | { max. | 500 V  |
| voltage between last dynode and anode <sup>1)</sup>                               | { min. | 80 V   |
|                                                                                   | { max. | 500 V  |
| voltage between cathode and $g_1$                                                 | max.   | 100 V  |
| voltage between cathode and $S_1$                                                 | { min. | 250 V  |
|                                                                                   | { max. | 800 V  |
| voltage between $g_2$ and $S_1$                                                   | max.   | 100 V  |

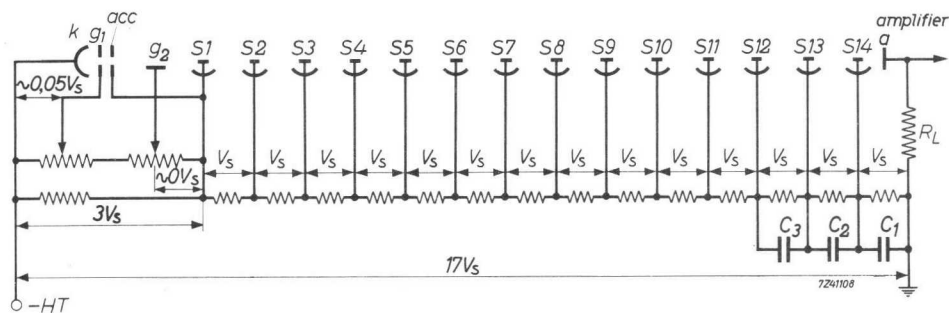
<sup>1)</sup> Measured with a tungsten ribbon lamp, having a colour temperature of 2850 °K.

<sup>2)</sup> At the maximum of the spectral response (4200 Å).

<sup>3)</sup> For an infinitely short light pulse.

<sup>4)</sup> In order to realize the smallest transit time differences, it is necessary to adjust the potential of  $g_1$  such that the useful area of the photocathode only is actually used (see Operational Considerations).

## OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS



voltage divider type A<sup>1)</sup>

$k$  = cathode

$g_1$  = focusing electrode

$acc$  = accelerating electrode

$g_2$  = deflector

$S_n$  = dynode nr.  $n$

$a$  = anode

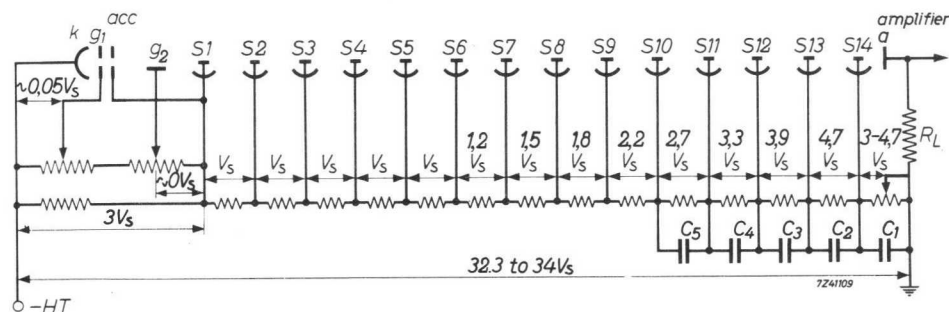
voltage between  $k$  and  $g_1$  to be adjusted at about  $0.05 V_s$

(see Fig. 5)

voltage between  $g_2$  and  $S_1$  to be adjusted at about  $0 V_s$

(see Fig. 6)

decoupling capacitances  $C_1 = 100q/V_s$ ,  $C_2 = 100q/3V_s$ ,  $C_3 = 100q/9V_s$ ,  $C_4 = 100q/27V_s$  etc. with  $q$  = quantity of electricity transported by the anode.



voltage divider type B<sup>1)</sup>

## OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

To achieve a stability of about 1% the ratio of the current through the voltage divider bridge to that through the heaviest loaded stage of the tube should be about 100.

For moderate intensities of radiation a bridge current of about 3 mA will be sufficient.

The last stages must be decoupled by means of capacitances to avoid a serious voltage drop on the dynodes. A practical value for  $C_1$  could be  $2 \cdot 10^{-9}$  F. In the case of high counting rates and large peak power output, and to avoid a high-tension supply of large power, it is possible to supply the first stages with a high tension of small output and the end stages with an average voltage of high output.

A. The electron optical input system consists of four elements:

- the photocathode  $k$ ;
- the focusing electrode  $g_1$ ;
- the accelerating electrode  $acc$ ;
- the deflector  $g_2$ .

<sup>1)</sup> When calculating the anode voltage, the voltage drop in the load resistance should not be overlooked.

To reduce transit-time fluctuations, geometrical time spread, pulse amplitude spread or dark current, this system has the following advantages:

1. the photocathode is curved, though the outer window surface is flat, thus facilitating optical coupling to a scintillator;
2. a high and homogeneous extraction field at the cathode reduces as much as possible the influence of the initial electron velocities. A cathode-to-accelerator (internally connected to the first dynode) voltage of 350 V ensures a field strength of about 40 V/cm. This field is homogenized at the cathode surface by the focusing electrode  $g_1$ . Fig.3 shows the electron path in the input system.

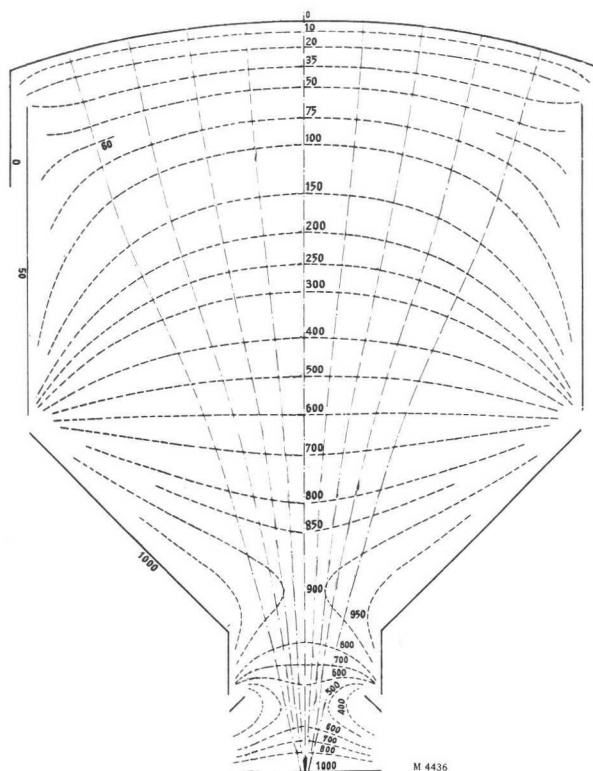


Fig.3. Electron optical input system.

3. The potential of electrode  $g_1$  to the photocathode can be adjusted in order to obtain one of the following characteristics:
  - a. the most satisfactory collection (i.e. for a given luminous flux the largest obtainable anode signal); for this adjustment, see Fig.4; the optimum value of the potential is about 0.05  $V_S$ ;

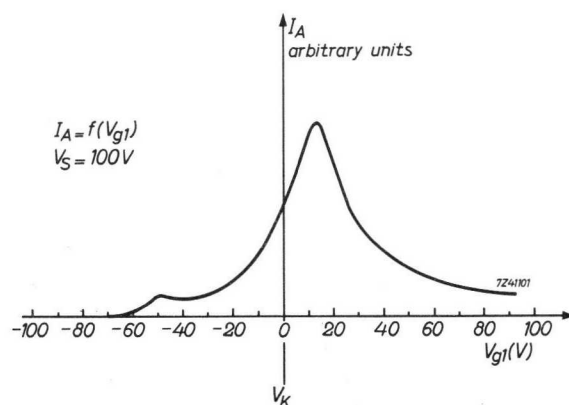


Fig.4. Anode current variation with the adjustment of  $g_1$ .

- b. the slightest transit-time fluctuations (the most homogeneous extraction field);
- c. the most satisfactory uniformity of collection giving the most constant output pulse amplitude;
- d. the useful cathode area can be controlled by giving the electrode  $g_1$  a negative potential with respect to the photocathode, as shown in Fig.5a, b and c; obviously this variable electronic stop has the effect of reducing the dark current since the electrons emitted at the edge of the cathode do not reach the first dynode and consequently do not contribute to the anode current.

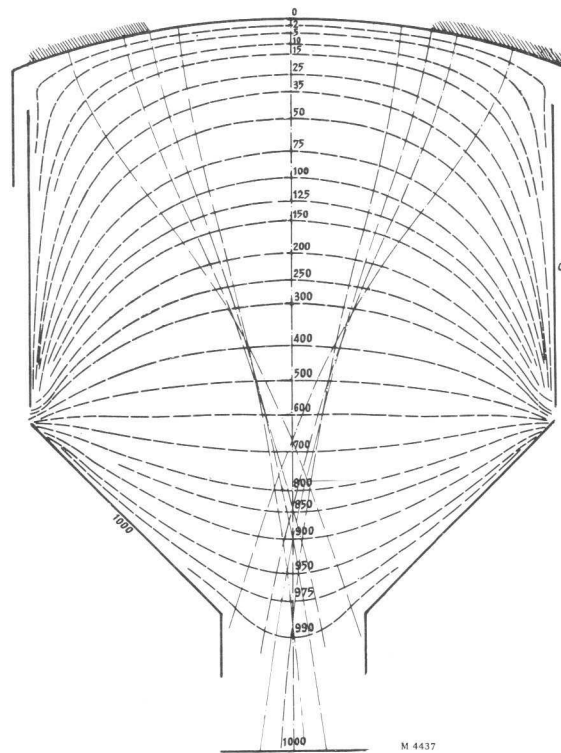


Fig.5a.

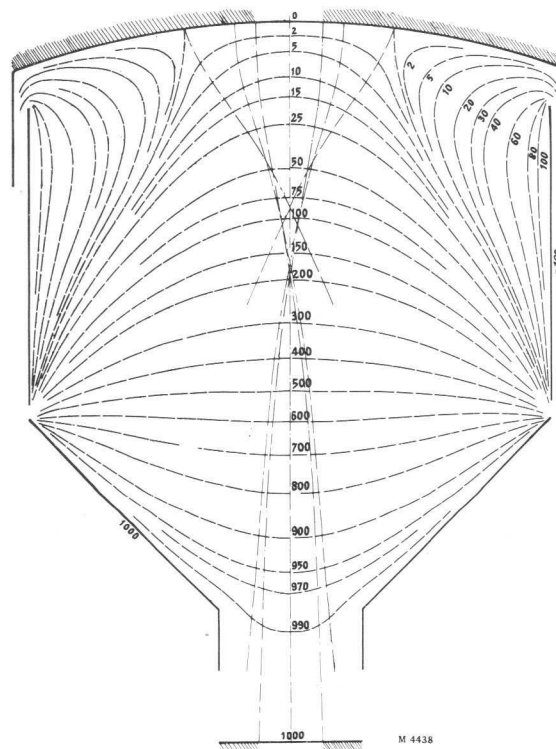


Fig.5b.

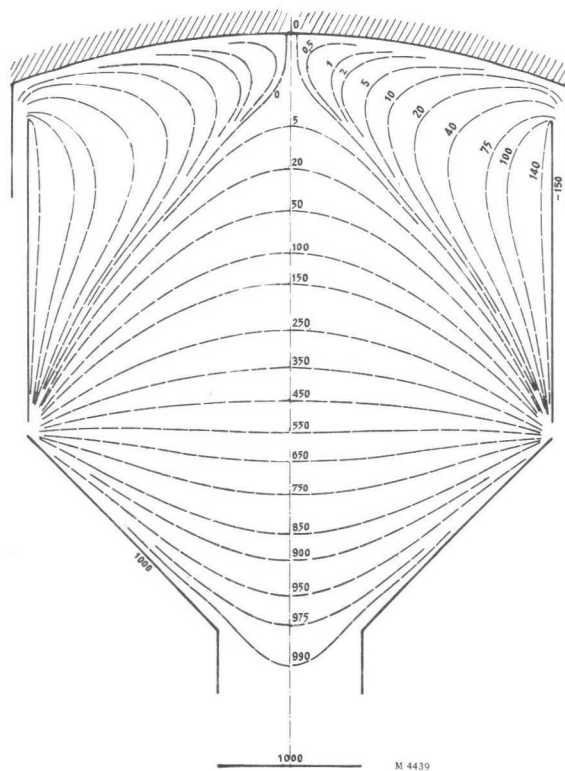


Fig. 5c.

4. Because the first dynode cannot be placed parallel to the photocathode, the beam of primary electrons is deflected by the electrode  $g_2$  to make it impinge at right angles to the first dynode surface. The deflector controls the point of impact on the first dynode and, since not the entire area of the dynode is active, the anode current is influenced by the potential of  $g_2$ . For adjustment see Fig. 6.

B. The multiplier system consists of 14 stages, providing a total current amplification of  $10^8$  at about 2000 V (see Fig. 7).

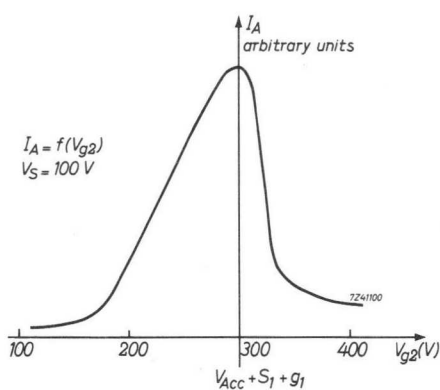


Fig. 6. Anode current variation with the adjustment of  $g_2$ .

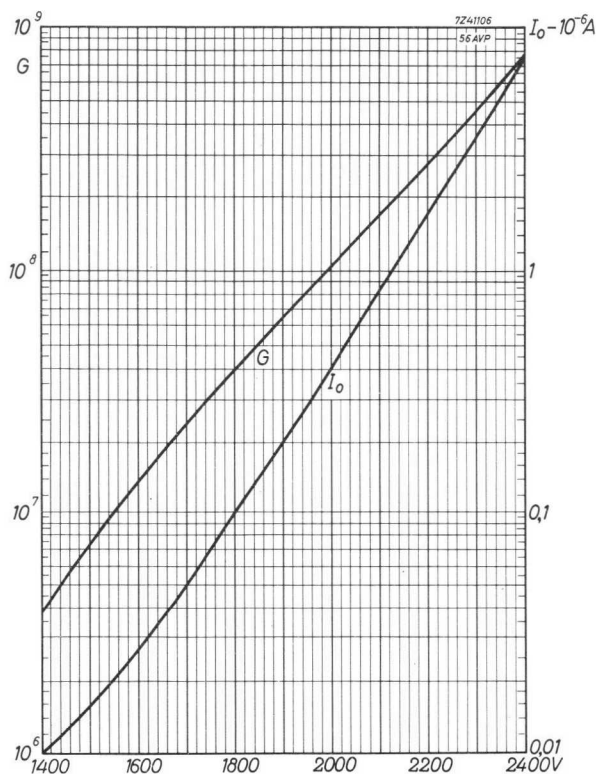


Fig. 7. Gain ( $G$ ) and dark current ( $I_a$ ) as a function of the total voltage (voltage divider A).

The tube is capable of producing very strong peak currents (up to 1 A). Actually, the time constant at the output of the multiplier must be very small. Therefore it is necessary, taking into account the parasitic capacitances, to use a low-load resistance. It is advisable to use a resistance-matched coaxial cable (e.g. 75 or 100  $\Omega$ ). With this load the tube easily delivers pulses of tens of volts, so that an amplifier is rendered superfluous.

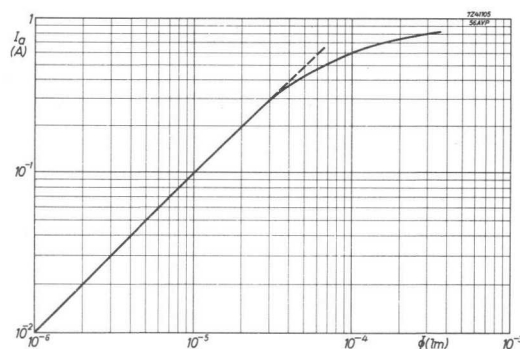


Fig. 8. Linearity between anode pulse amplitude and input light flux (voltage divider B).

It should be noted that in a number of applications it is not necessary for the current to be proportional to the incident luminous flux. As a matter of fact such short pulses are needed for time measurements only, so not for spectrography purposes. If at the same time it is required, however, to determine the energy of the incident radiation, it is possible to select from one of the dynodes a signal proportional to the incident flux. In fact, when ascending the dynodes progressively, starting from the anode, the current is divided at each stage by  $d-1$ ,  $d$  representing the secondary-emission coefficient of each stage ( $d \approx 3.5$ ). It is therefore possible to locate a dynode, the current of which is lower than, or equal to, the saturation limit of the dynodes.

Fig. 8 illustrates the variation of the anode current as a function of the incident flux, the voltage divider being of type B. The anode current is then linear up to 300 mA.

Care should be taken that the anode voltage is adjusted to its optimum value. In Fig. 9 the anode current variation is plotted against anode-to-final-dynode voltage.

It should be noted that for equal high tension the gain of the tube is smaller for voltage divider type B than for one according to type A. In practice, therefore, it will be preferable to use the A type distribution, or a distribution between A and B (e.g. starting with  $1.2 V_s$  between  $S_8$  and  $S_9$ ,  $1.5 V_s$  between  $S_9$  and  $S_{10}$  and so on, maintaining the same progression).

It is advisable to screen the tube with a mu-metal cylinder against magnetic-field influences.

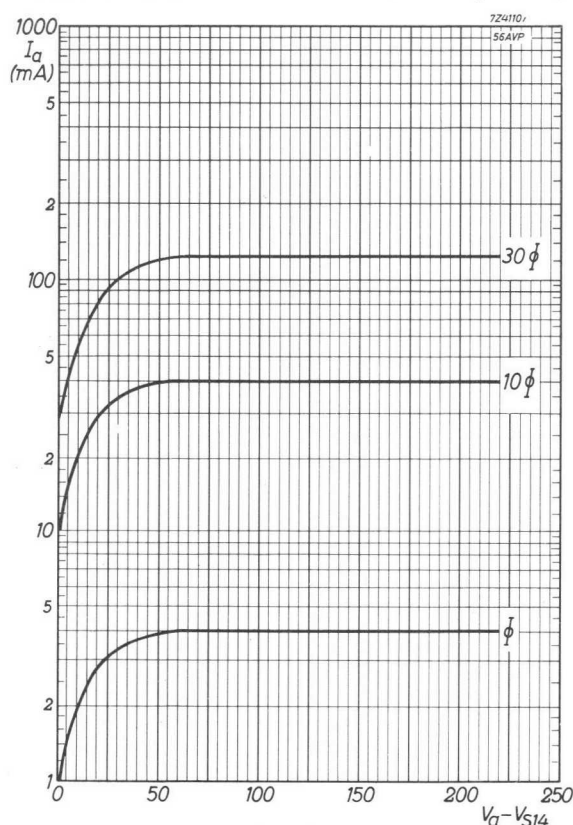


Fig. 9. Anode current variation as a function of the voltage between last dynode and anode.