



*Rencontres de Moriond EW 2012*  
La Thuile, 3-10 March 2012

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On behalf of the OPERA Collaboration

11 countries, 30 institutions, 160 physicists

**Belgium**  
ULB Brussels



**Italy**  
Bari  
Bologna  
LNF Frascati  
L'Aquila,  
LNGS  
Naples  
Padova  
Rome  
Salerno



**Korea**  
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**Croatia**  
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INR RAS Moscow  
LPI RAS Moscow  
ITEP Moscow  
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JINR Dubna



**France**  
LAPP Annecy  
IPNL Lyon  
IPHC Strasbourg



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Aichi  
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Nagoya  
Utsunomiya



**Switzerland**  
Bern  
ETH Zurich



**Israel**  
Technion Haifa



**Turkey**  
METU Ankara



# Results from OPERA

- $\nu$  oscillation
- $\nu$  time-of-flight

# Goal: direct detection of $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ neutrino oscillation in **appearance** mode

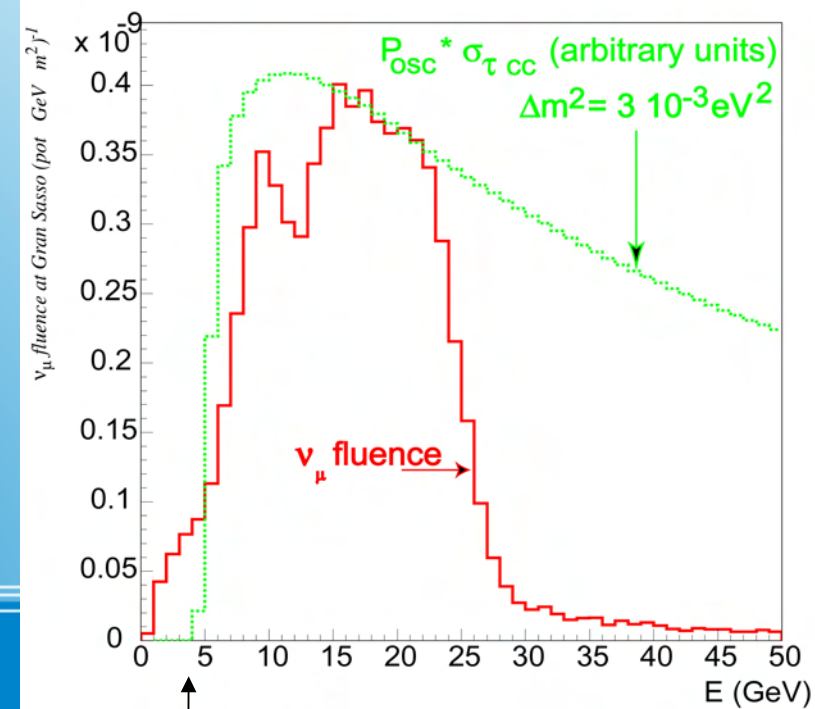
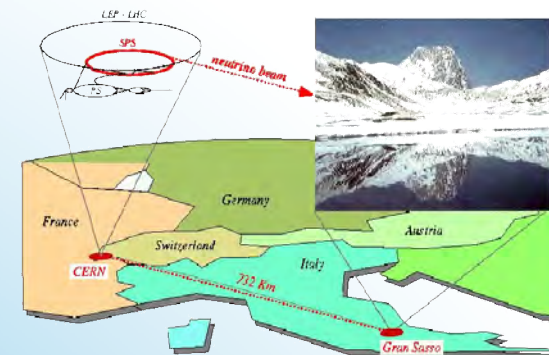
## Requirements:

- 1) long baseline (atmospheric  $\Delta m^2$ )
- 2) high neutrino energy ( $\tau$  cross section)
- 3) high beam intensity ( $L=730$  km) + large mass (1.25 kton)
- 5) exceptional granularity to detect the short lived  $\tau$  leptons

## a major engineering and experimental challenge:

- CNGS beam: **O(10) more energetic** wrt any other LBL
- Emulsion/electronic hybrid detector: **O(100) more massive** than SBL ancestors (i.e. CHORUS)

CERN to Gran Sasso Neutrino Beam

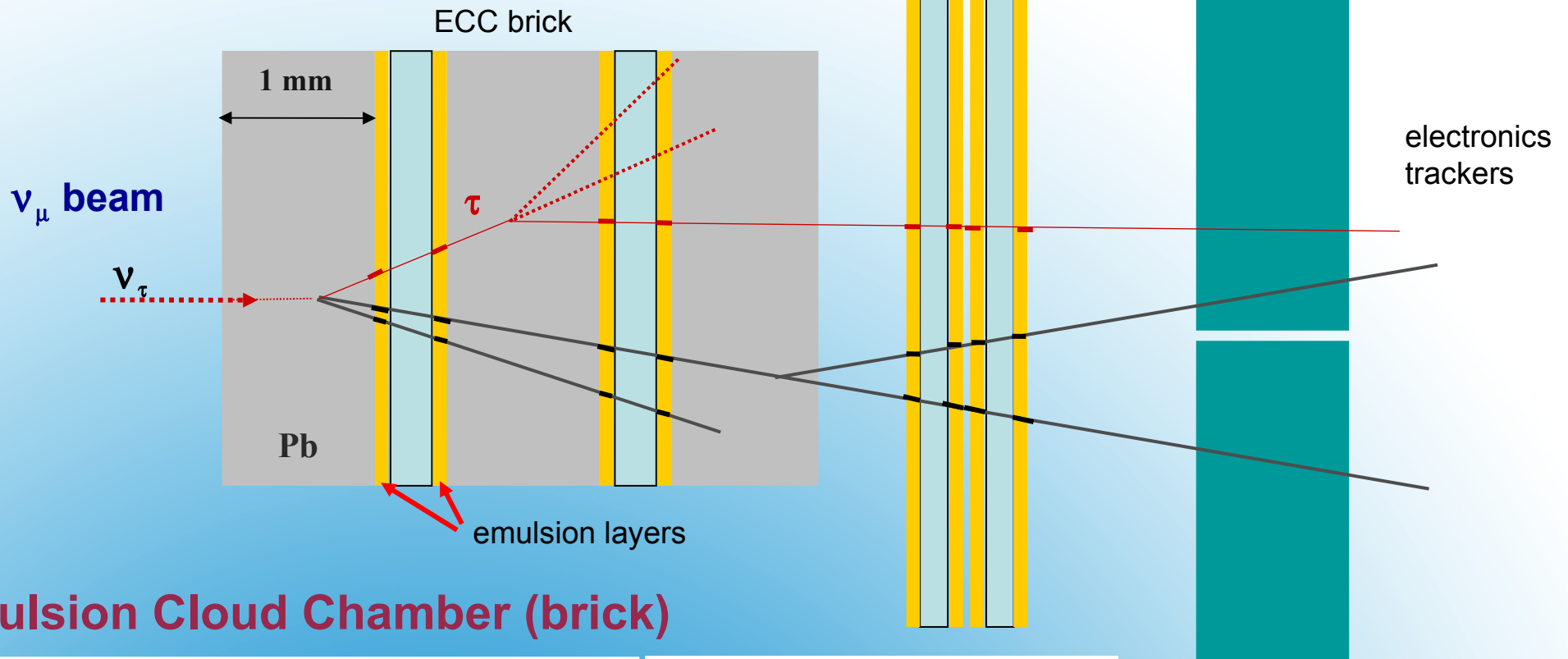


$\tau$  threshold  $\sim 3.5$  GeV, slow rise

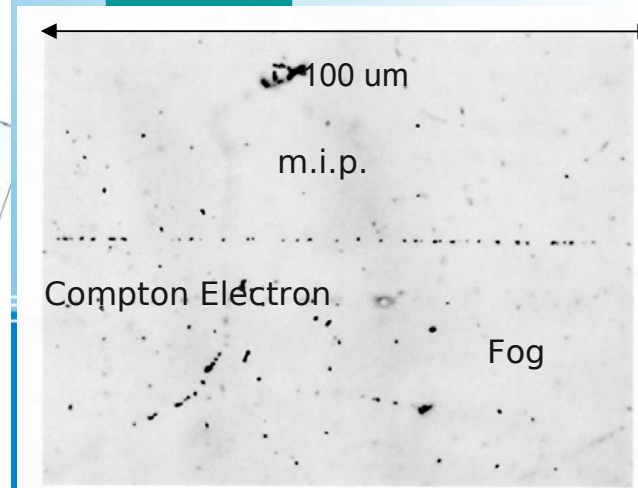
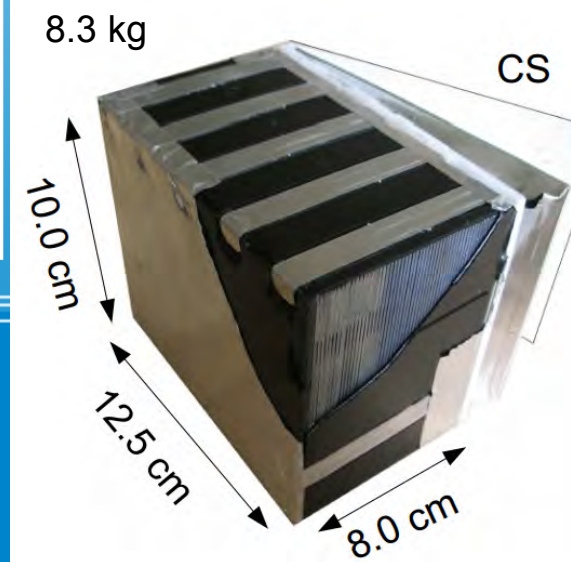
$$[(m_\tau + m_p)^2 - m_p^2] / 2m_p$$

$$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$$

$22.5 \times 10^{19}$  pot  
 $23600 \nu_\mu$  CC+NC  
 $520 \bar{\nu}_\mu$  CC+NC  
 $160 \nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$  CC  
 $115 \nu_\tau$  CC



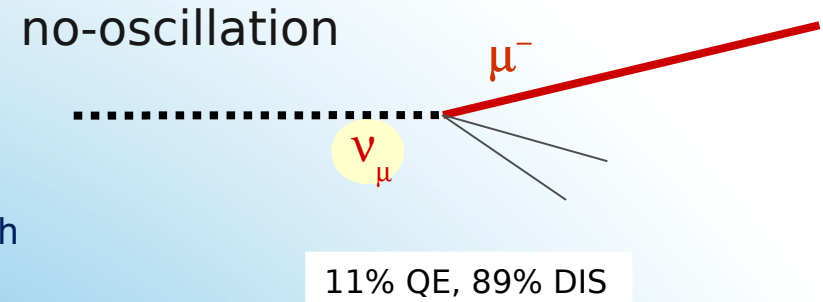
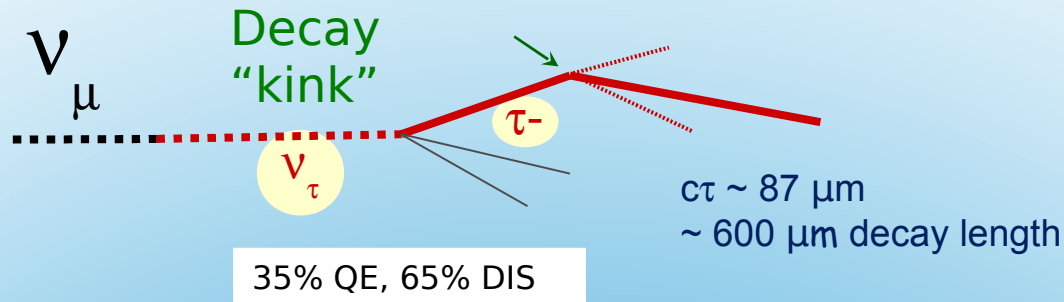
57+56 emulsion films (300um)+lead(1mm) plates  
 External removable films doublet (CS)  
 Position: 1  $\mu$ m, slope: 2 mrad at single film  
 e.m. calorimetry:  $\sigma/E = 40\%/\sqrt{E}$   
 MCS:  $\Delta p/p < 0.2$  after 5  $X^0$  up to 4 GeV



# Conceptual design

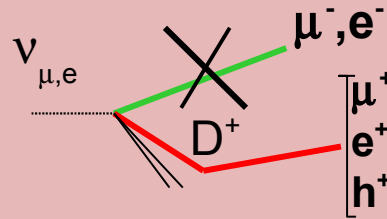
Separation of  $\nu_{\tau}^{CC}$  from the dominant  $\nu_{\mu}$  interactions:

event-by-event identification of the peculiar  $\tau$  decay topology

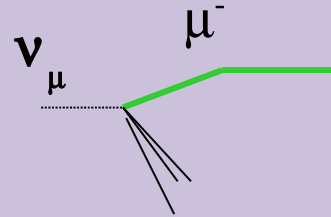


Backgrounds

CC charm production  
 (all decay channels)

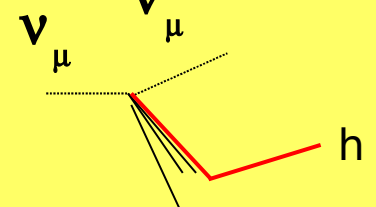


Coulomb large angle  
 scattering of muons in lead  
 Bck. to  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$

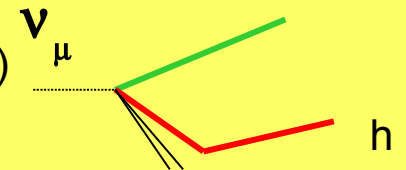


Hadronic interactions

Bck. to  $\tau \rightarrow h$



or to  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$   
 (if hadron misid or  
 mismatched with muon)



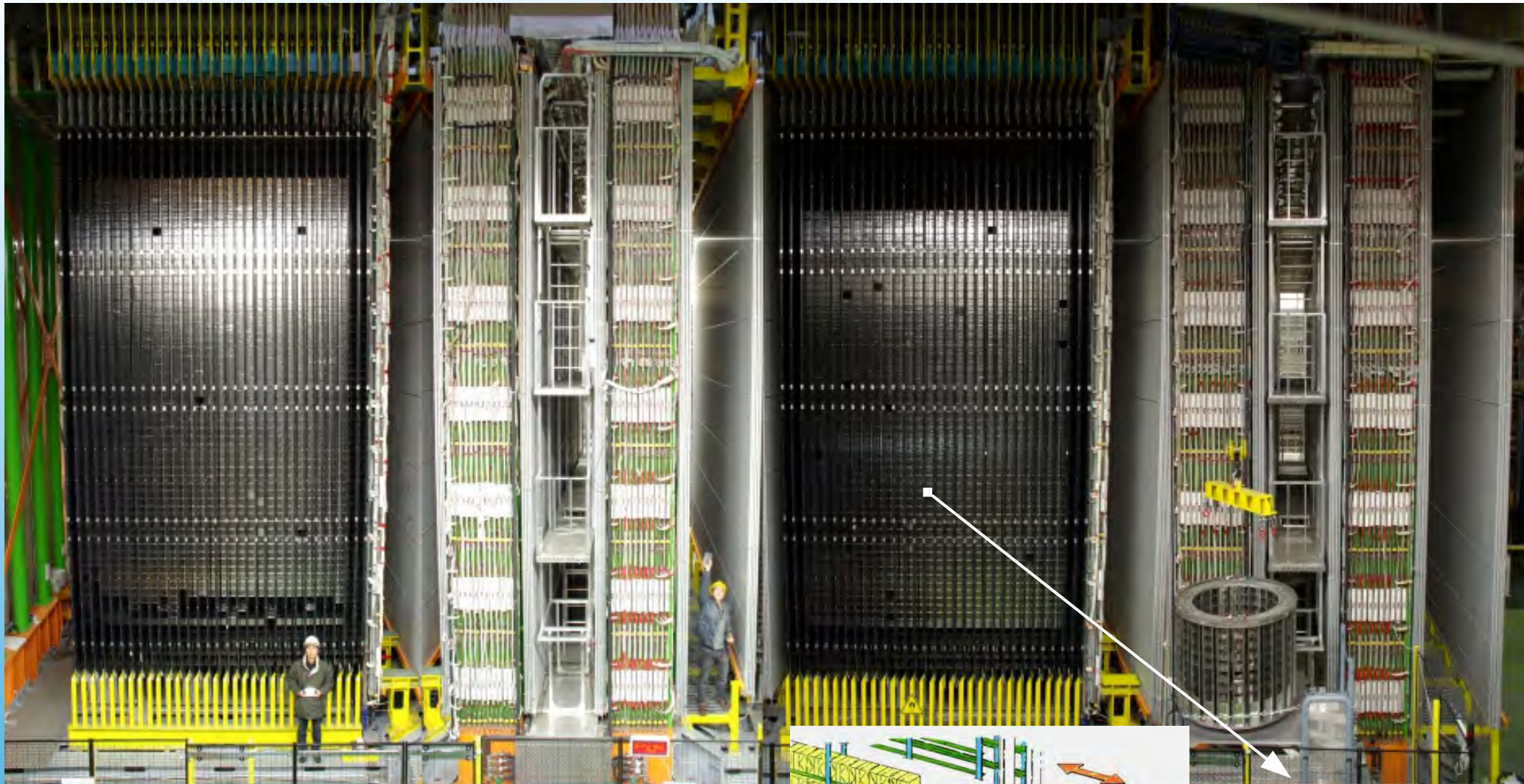
$\nu_{\tau}$  detection





← Super Module 1 →

← Super Module 2 →

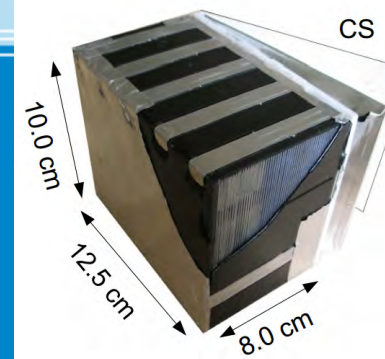
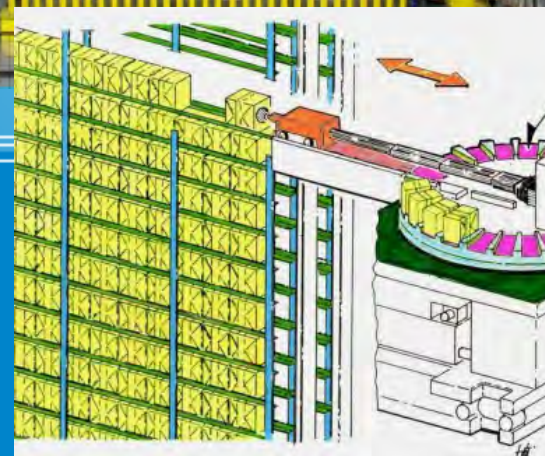


Target area

$\mu$  spectrometer

150000 bricks in total.  $m=1.25$  kton

# The detector





Super Module 1

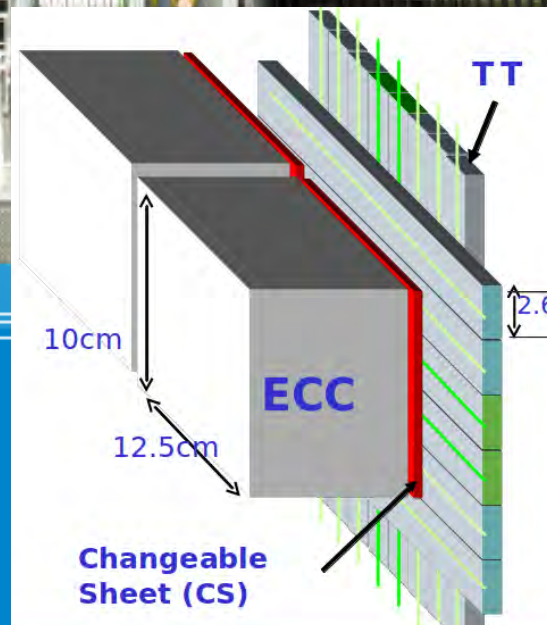
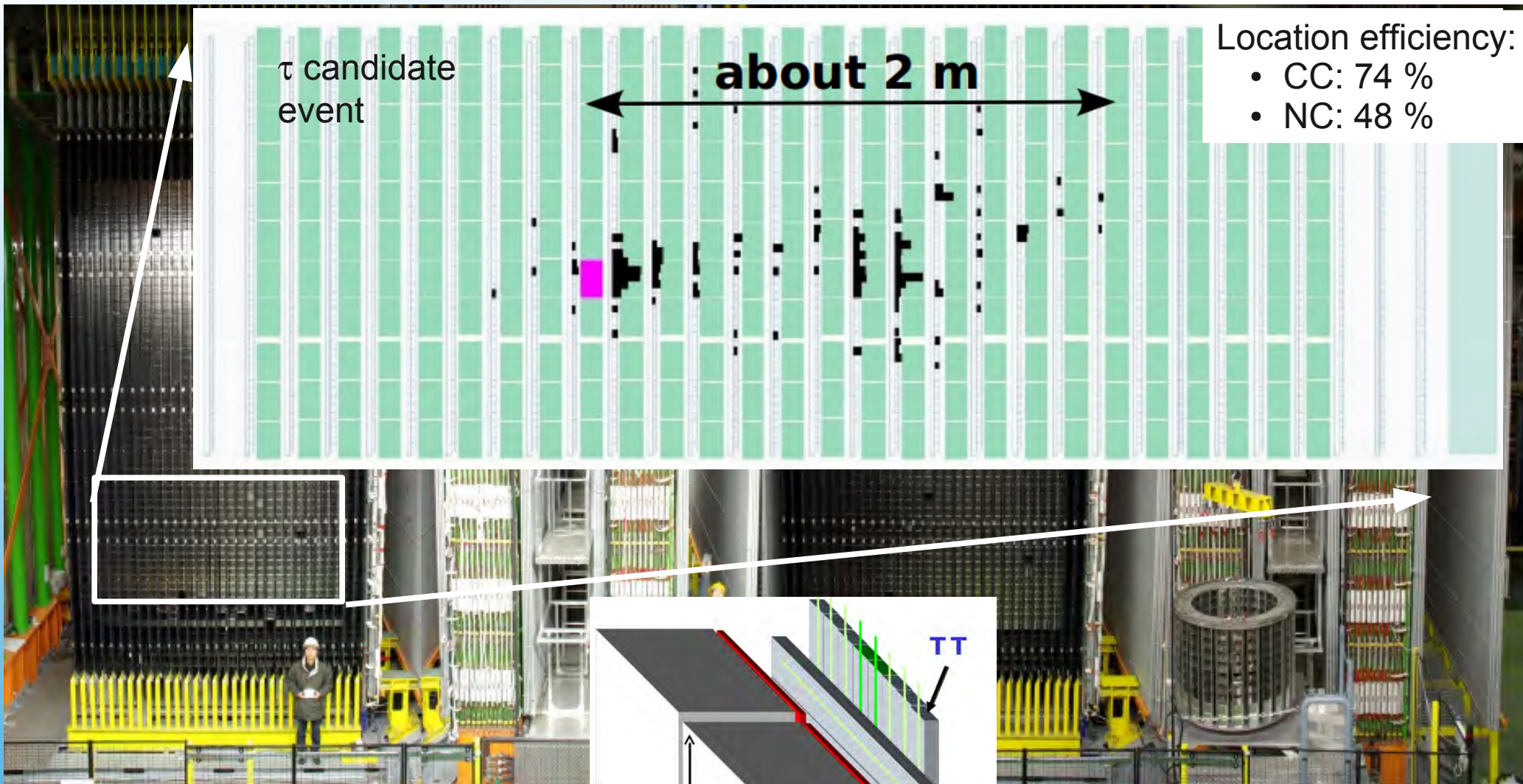
Super Module 2

$\tau$  candidate event

about 2 m

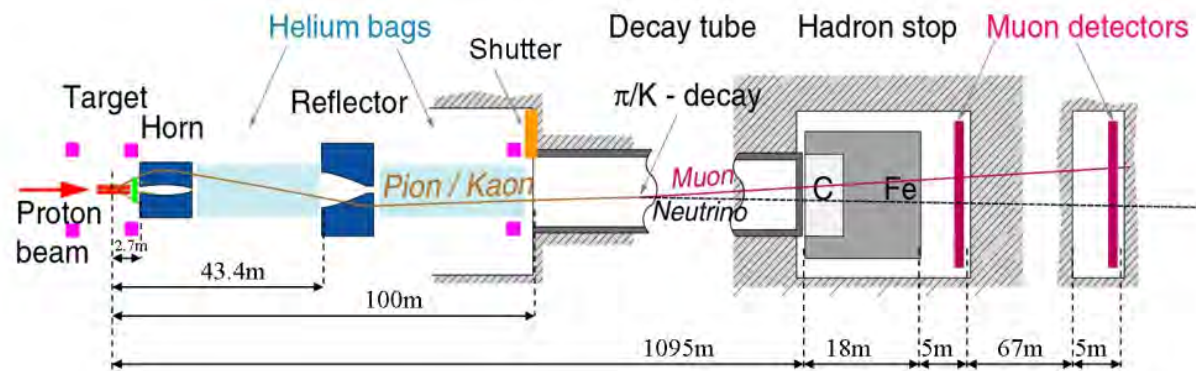
Location efficiency:

- CC: 74 %
- NC: 48 %

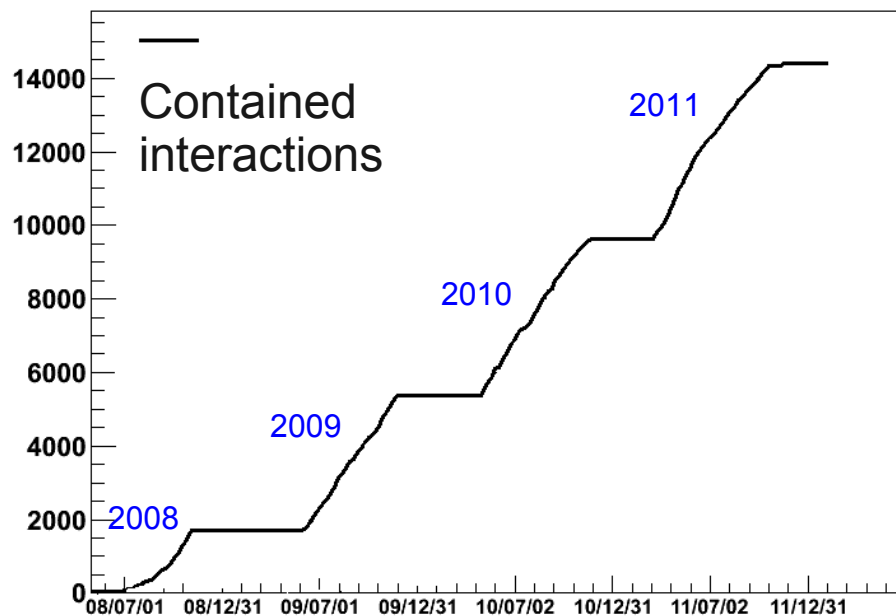


# Brick finding

Accuracy of predictions:  
position: 10 mm  
slope: 23 mrad



Run 2008 → 2011



Year	Days	p.o.t. ( $10^{19}$ )	$\nu$ interactions
2008	123	1.78	1698
2009	155	3.52	3693
2010	187	4.04	4248
2011	244	4.84	4762
<b>tot</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>14.18</b>	<b>14401</b>

At the end of 2012 run (from March) we will hopefully be not to far from the design goal (22.5e19)

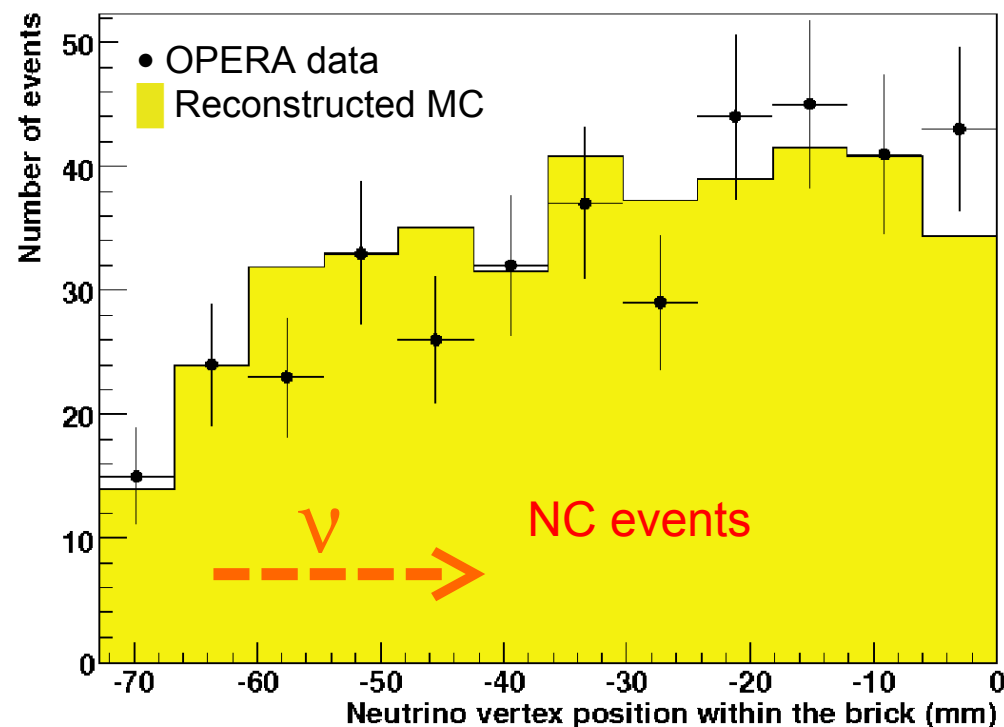
# CNGS beam performance

- 2008-2009 data analysis completed (arXiv:1107.2594v1) Acc. by New Journ. of Phys.
  - $4.8 \times 10^{19}$  pot, 34% of available sample,  $2.6 \times$  more statistics w.r.t.  $\tau$  candidate publication
  - 2738 fully analysed events (decay search). **No new  $\tau$**

## • Analysis improvements

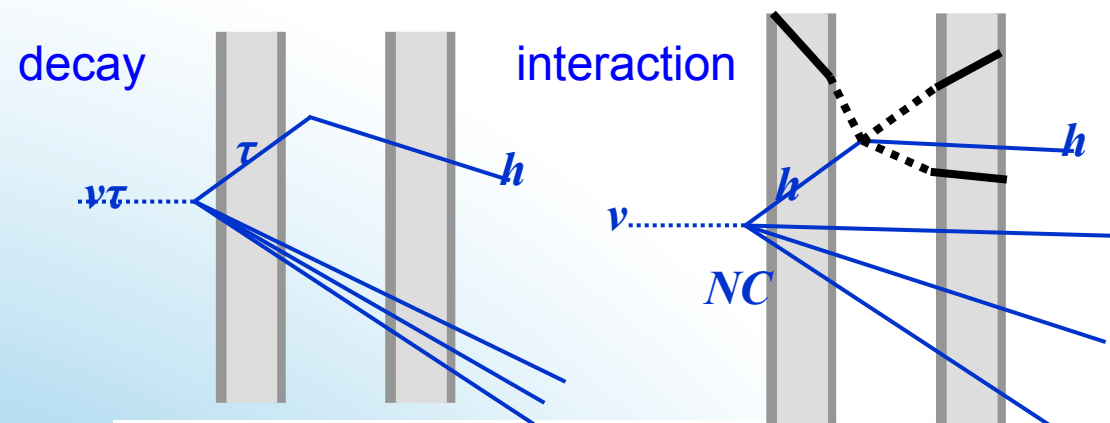
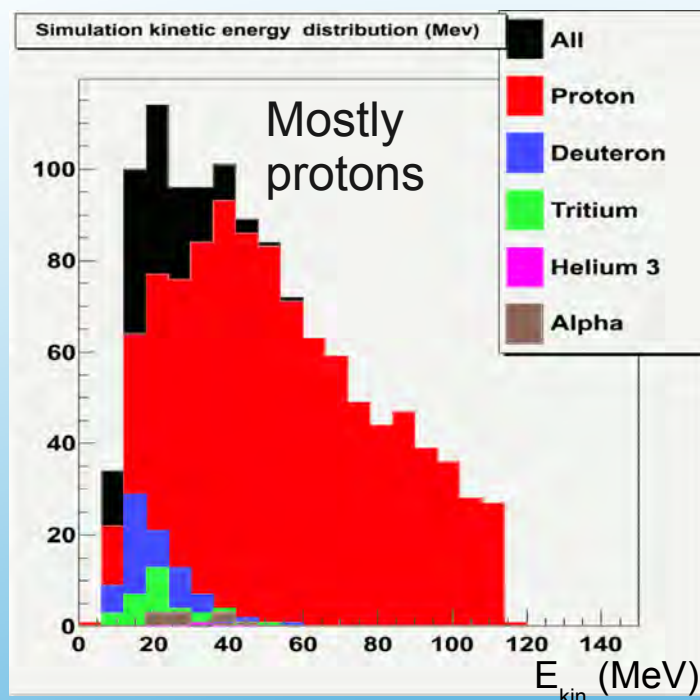
- 1) Search of highly ionizing tracks in **hadronic interactions** ( $\downarrow$  bckg for  $\tau \rightarrow h$ )
- 2) Follow down of vertex tracks in the emulsion  $\rightarrow$  p-range correlations  $\rightarrow$  **increased  $\mu$ -ID efficiency**  $\rightarrow$ 
  - $\downarrow$  charm background
  - $\downarrow$  hadronic bckg from  $\nu_{\mu}^{CC}$  with  $\mu$  misID
- 3) Implementation of state-of-the art **charm cross section** from CHORUS ( $\uparrow \sigma$ )

## Full simulation chain with reconstruction in the emulsions

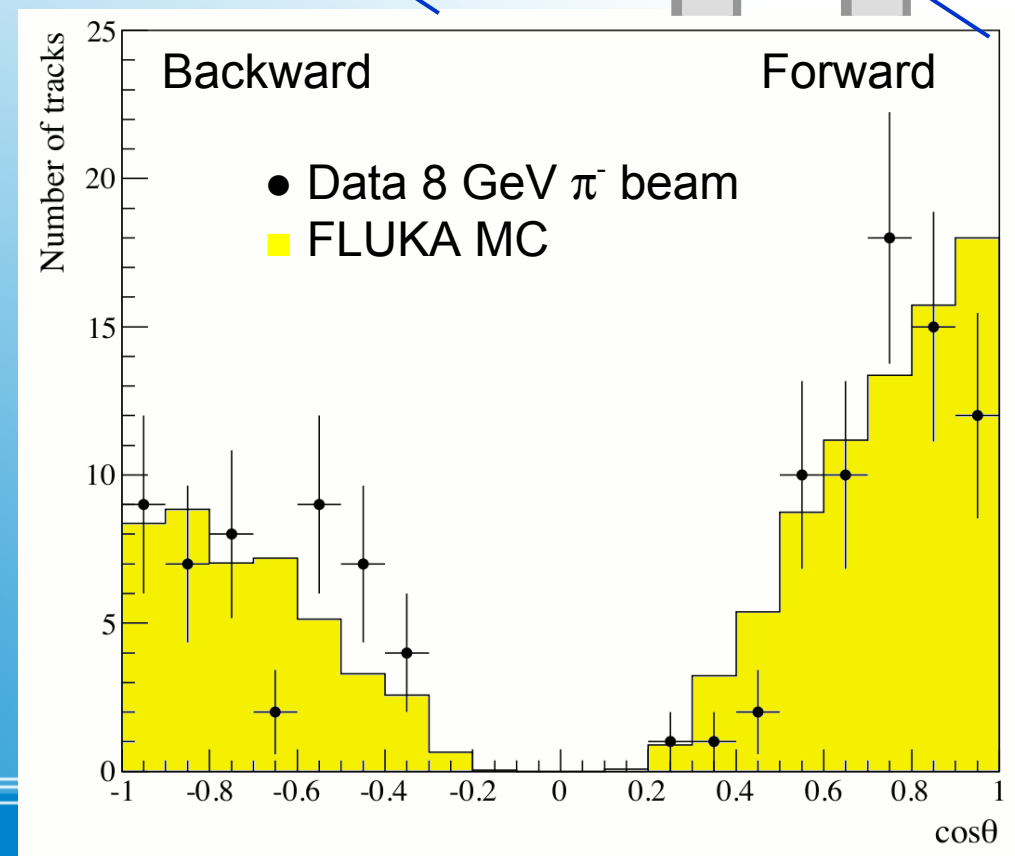


# Statistics update and analysis improvements





Search for "black" tracks in a large field of view  $2.5 \times 2.1 \text{ mm}^2$



	data	FLUKA
$\geq 1$ rec. track	$(57 \pm 7) \%$	53 %
F-B asymmetry	$(0.75 \pm 0.15)$	0.71

# Highly ionizing tracks tagging

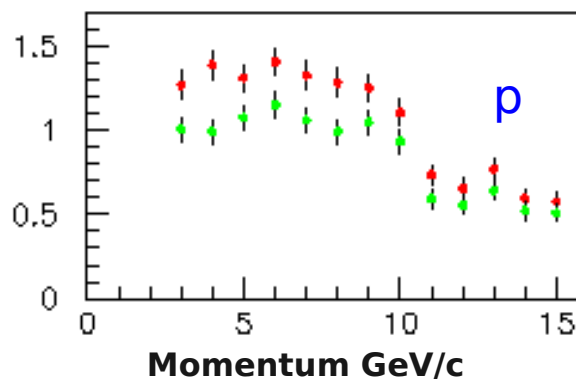
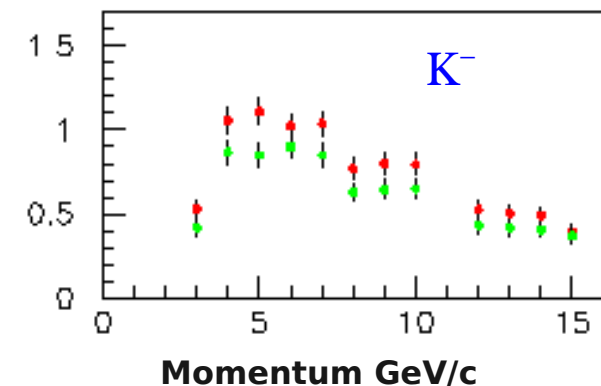
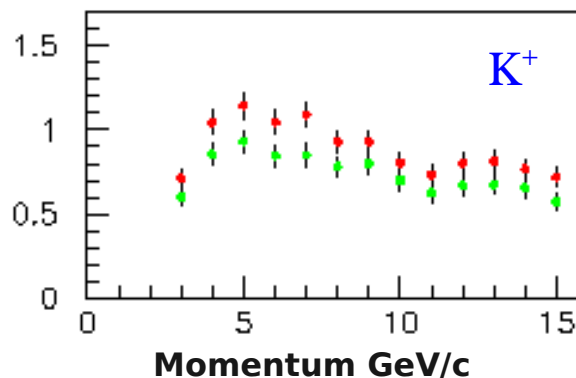
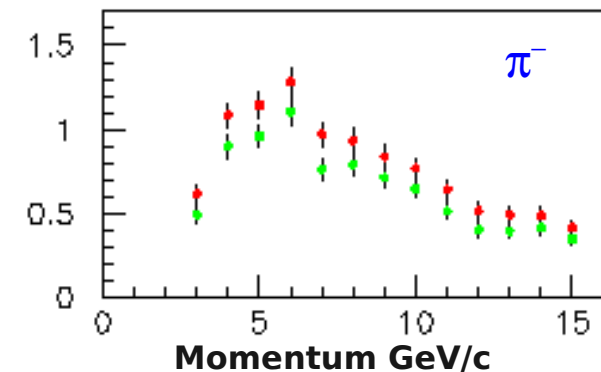
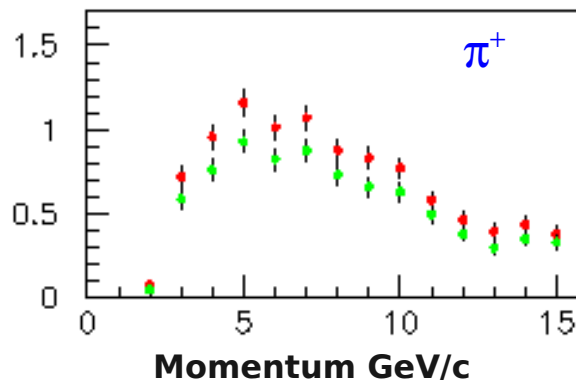
Probability for a  $\pi, K, p$  to undergo a single prong "kink" with

- $p > 2 \text{ GeV/c}$
- $(p_T > 0.6 \text{ GeV/c})$  or  $(p_T > 0.3 \text{ GeV/c} + \gamma)$

over 2 mm of lead

$1.53 \times 10^{-4} / \text{NC}$   
-20% w.r.t. old estimation

Improvements: larger angular acceptance and lower momentum threshold for additional protons and fragments



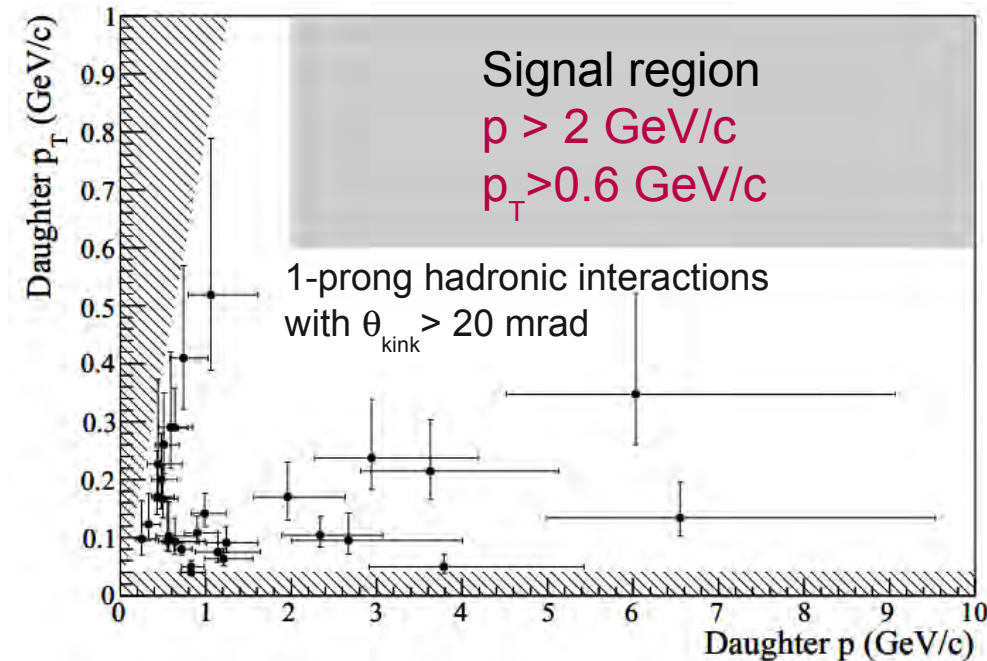
in  $10^{-4}$  units

- **old**
- **new**

**FLUKA**

# Hadronic background MC

## OPERA neutrino interactions



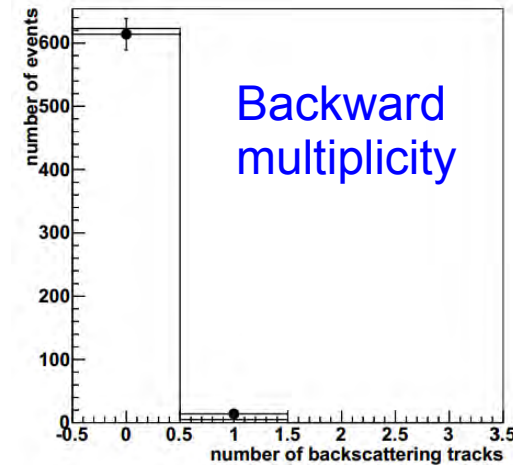
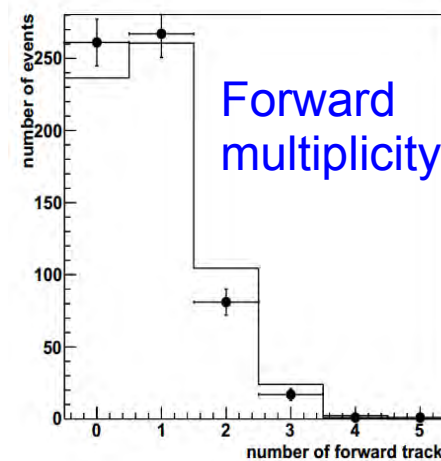
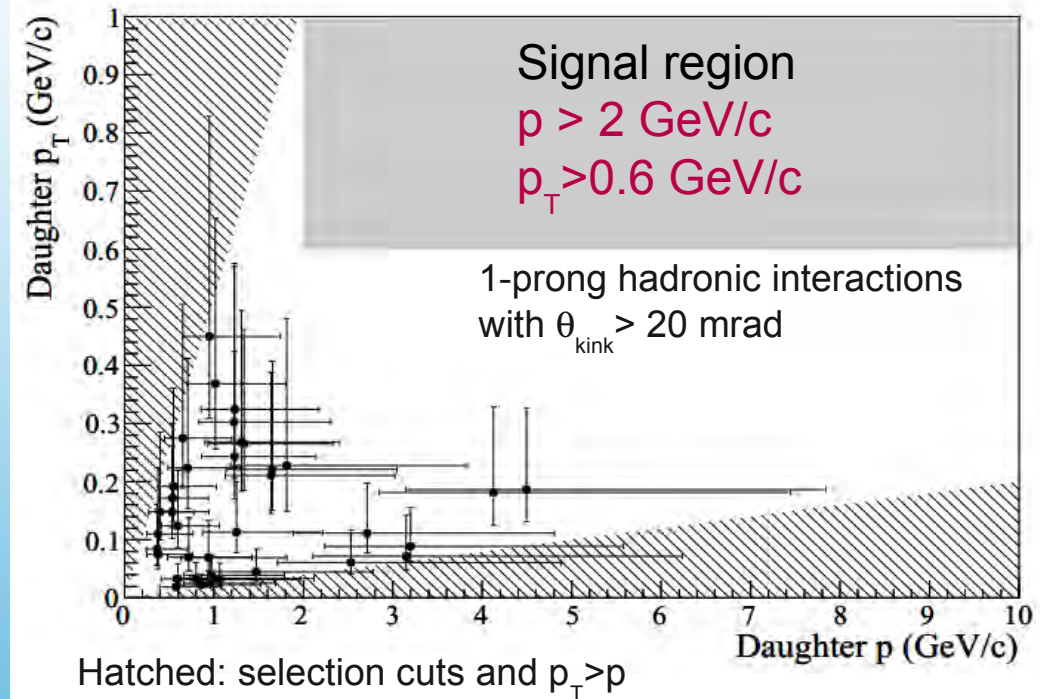
Hadronic track length = 14 m, equivalent to 2300 NC events.

No events in signal region

$p_T > 200$  MeV/c:

observed 10  
expected 10.8

## 4 GeV $\pi$ test beam



# Data driven hadron background constraints



The CHORUS collaboration released an updated analysis based on  $\sim 10^3$  charged charm events. Numbers were rescaled to OPERA energies  $\langle E_\nu \rangle$ :  $27 \rightarrow 17$  GeV

$\langle E_\nu \rangle = 27$  GeV

$\langle E_\nu \rangle = 17$  GeV

	CHORUS [%] arXiv:1107.0613 [hep-ex]	@ OPERA [%]	Former value	
$\sigma(\text{charm}) / \sigma(\nu_\mu^{\text{CC}})$	$5.75 \pm 0.32(\text{stat}) \pm 0.30(\text{sys})$	4.46	$3.3 \pm 0.5$	$\rightarrow +35\%$
$f(D^+)$	$25.3 \pm 4.2$	$21.7 \pm 3.6$	$10 \pm 3$	$\rightarrow 2 \times$
$f(\Lambda_c)$	$19.2 \pm 4.2$	$25.3 \pm 5.5$	$26 \pm 8$	
$f(D_s)$	$11.8 \pm 4.7$	$9.2 \pm 3.7$	$18 \pm 5$	$\rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \times$

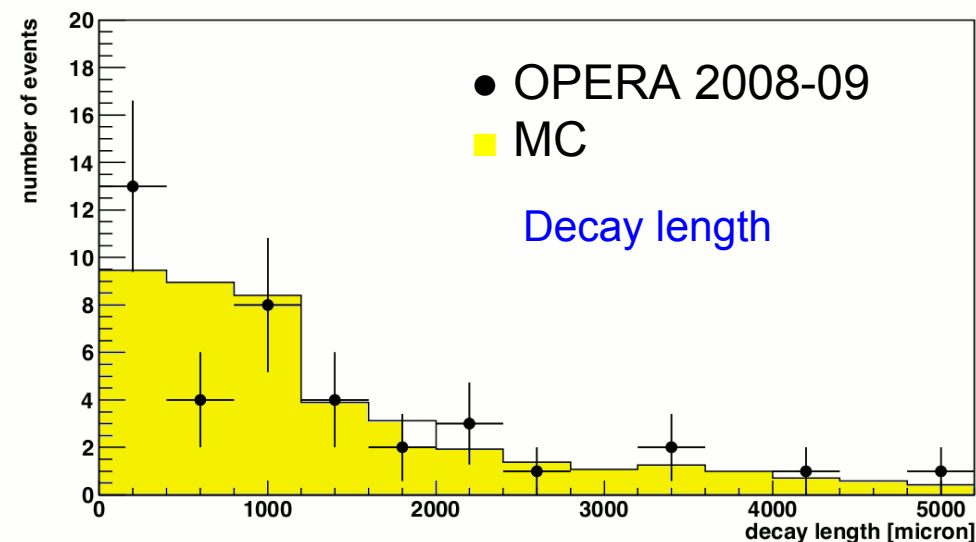
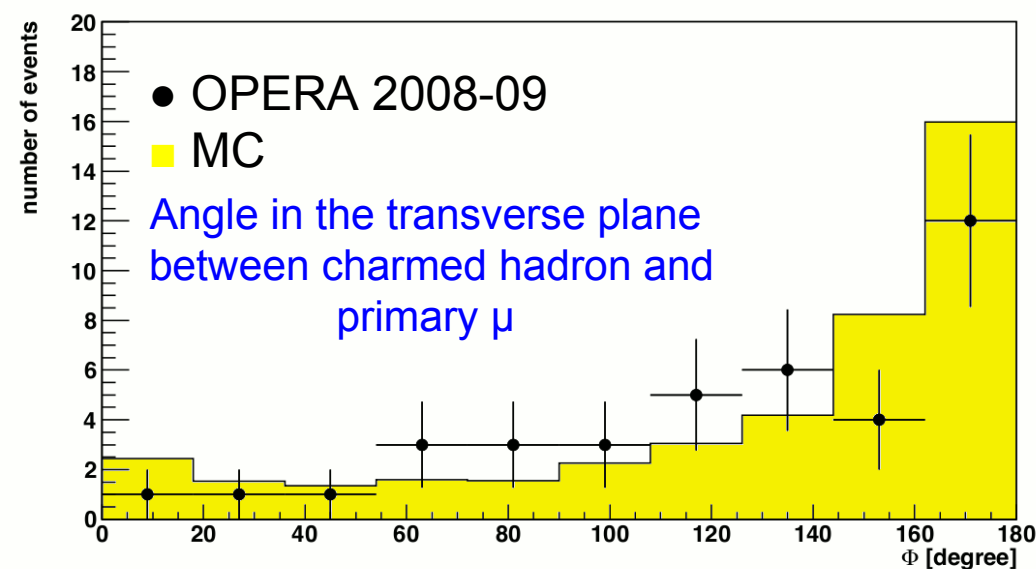
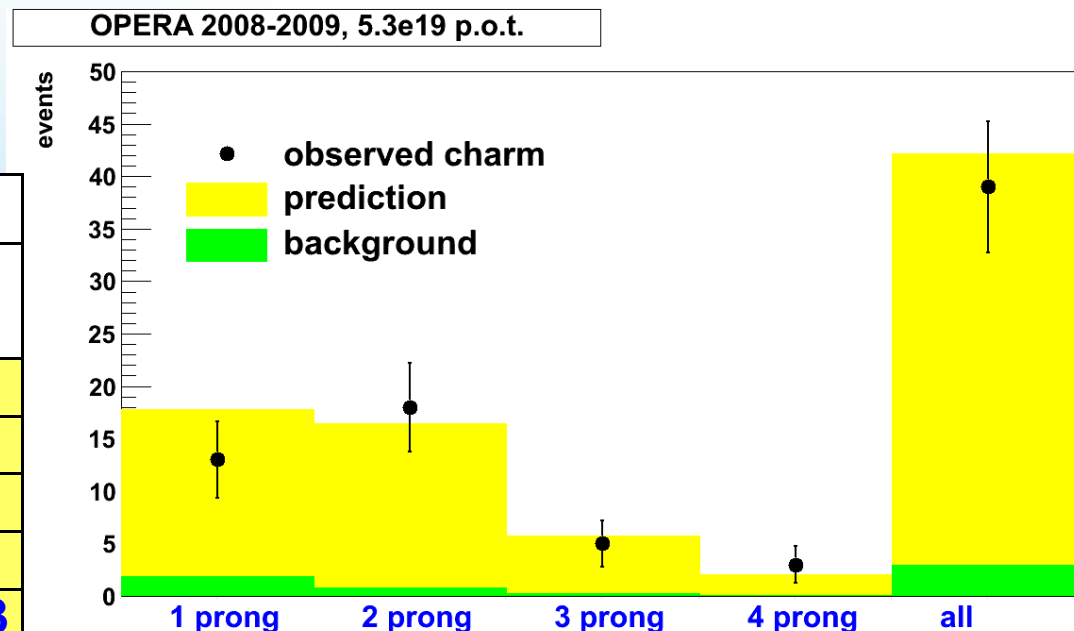
**Increase** of charm background from  $\times 1.6$  to  $\times 2.4$  depending on the channel (h- $\mu$ )

Main contribution from  $D^+$

# Updated charm prediction

The charm sample offers the opportunity to benchmark the  $\tau$  efficiency thanks to the similar topologies

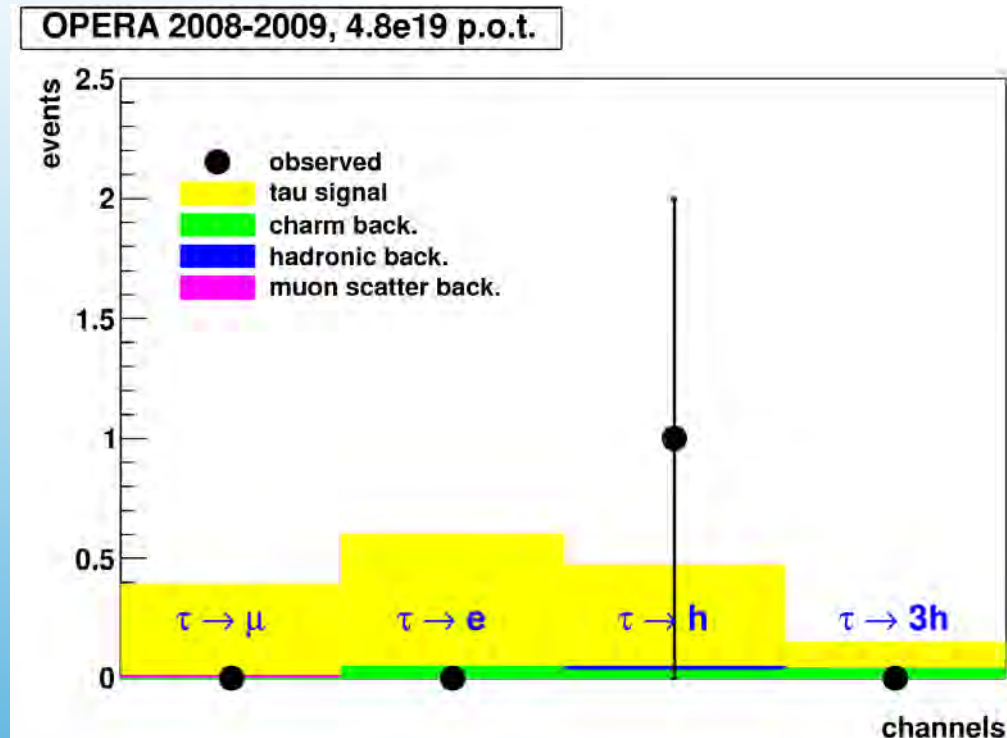
prongs	Obs.	Expected		
		Charm	Backgr.	Total
1	<b>13</b>	15.9	1.9	<b>17.8</b>
2	<b>18</b>	15.7	0.8	<b>16.5</b>
3	<b>5</b>	5.5	0.3	<b>5.8</b>
4	<b>3</b>	2.0	<0.1	<b>2.1</b>
tot	<b>39</b>	$39.1 \pm 7.5$	$3.0 \pm 0.9$	<b><math>42.2 \pm 8.3</math></b>



# 2008-2009 charm sample

## Including all the improvements in the analysis

Decay channel	Expected signal events $\Delta m^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$	
	22.5 $10^{19}$ p.o.t.	4.8 $10^{19}$ p.o.t. (analysed)
$\tau \rightarrow \mu$	1.79	0.39
$\tau \rightarrow e$	2.89	0.63
$\tau \rightarrow h$	2.25	0.49
$\tau \rightarrow 3h$	0.71	0.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.63</b>	<b>1.65</b>



- In the analyzed sample (92% of 08/09 data)
- **one  $\nu_\tau$  observed in the  $\tau \rightarrow h$  channel** compatible with the **expectation of 1.65**
- Expected background in  $\tau \rightarrow h$  :  **$0.05 \pm 0.01$**  events
- Total background (considering all channels):  $0.16 \pm 0.03$  events
- $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  is the **cleanest** channel

# Updated S/B expectations



Phys. Lett. B 691 (2010) 138-145

100  $\mu\text{m}$

primary  
vertex

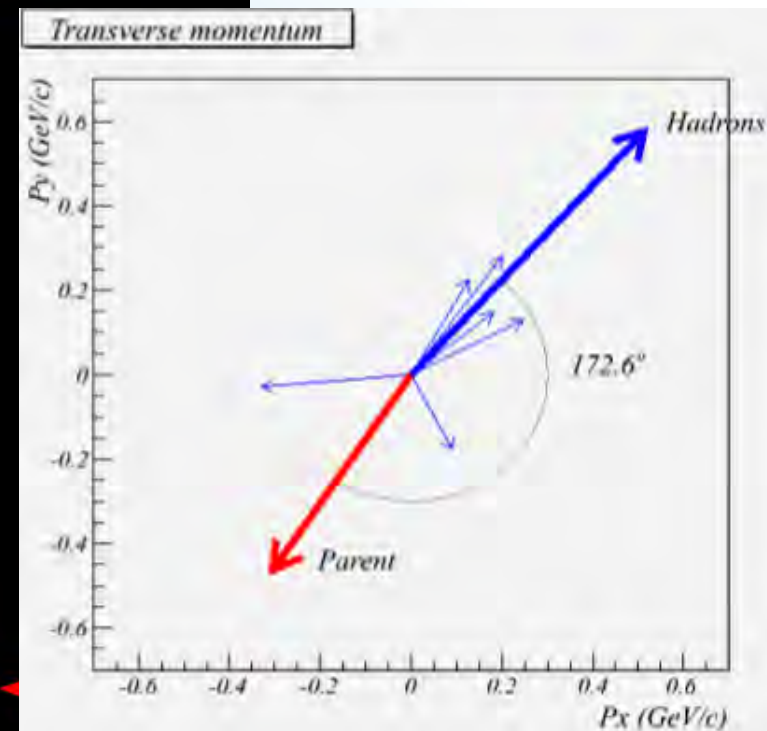
decay  
vertex

daughter

$\gamma_1$

$\tau$

Spring 2010: first  $\nu_\tau$   
candidate based on the  
analysis of 35% of 08/09  
statistics.



Used cuts were defined at the time of  
the experiment proposal (2001) →

$\tau$  candidate

Variable	Cut-off	Value
Missing $P_T$ at primary vertex (GeV/c)	$<1.0$	$0.57^{+0.32}_{-0.17}$
Angle between parent track and primary hadronic shower in the transverse plane (rad)	$> \pi/2$	$3.01 \pm 0.03$
Kink angle (mrad)	$>20$	$41 \pm 2$
Daughter momentum (GeV/c)	$>2$	$12^{+6}_{-3}$
Daughter $P_T$ when $\gamma$ -ray at the decay vertex (GeV/c)	$>0.3$	$0.47^{+0.24}_{-0.12}$
Decay length ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$<2$ lead plates	$1335 \pm 35$



$\tau \rightarrow \rho^- + \nu_\tau$  (B.R.  $\sim 25\%$ )

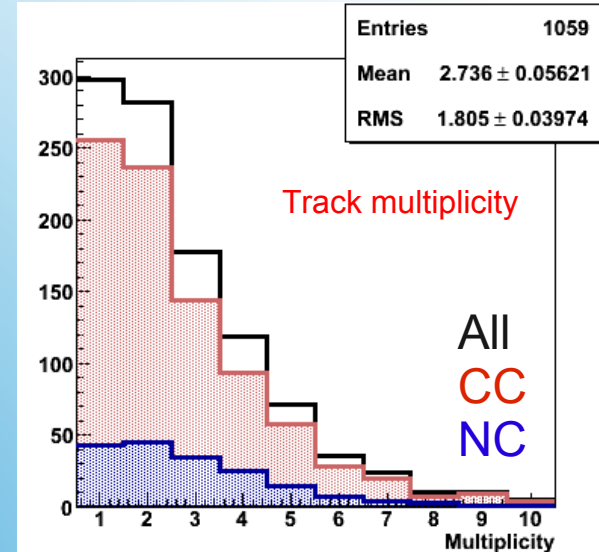
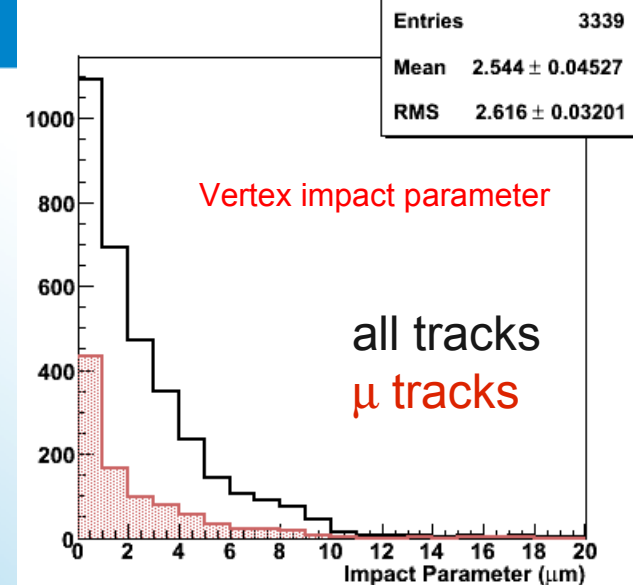
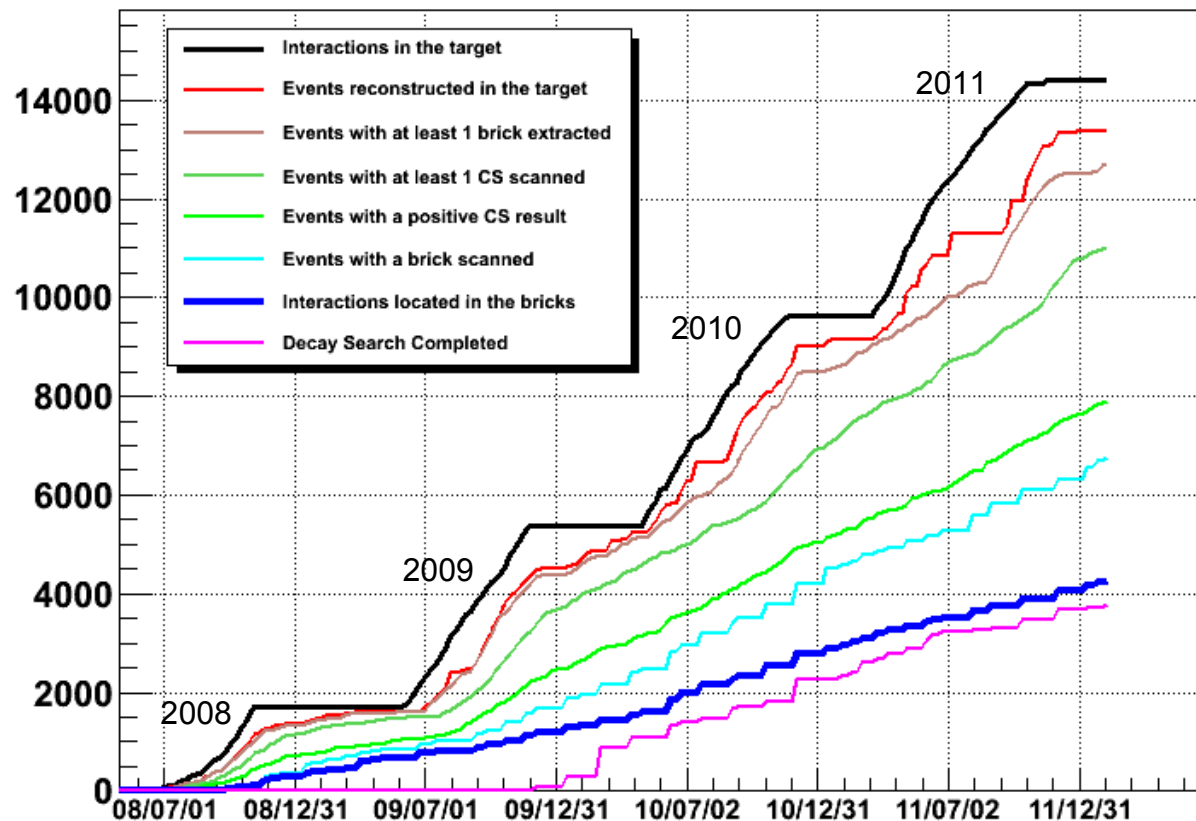
$\rho^- \rightarrow \pi^0 + \pi^-$   $640^{+125}_{-80}$  (stat.)  $^{+100}_{-90}$  (sys.) MeV/c<sup>2</sup>

$\pi^0 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$   $120 \pm 20$ (stat.)  $\pm 35$ (sys.) MeV/c<sup>2</sup>

**$\tau$  candidate**

Variable	Cut-off	Value
Missing $P_T$ at primary vertex (GeV/c)	$<1.0$	$0.57^{+0.32}_{-0.17}$
Angle between parent track and primary hadronic shower in the transverse plane (rad)	$> \pi/2$	$3.01 \pm 0.03$
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Decay length ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	$<2$ lead plates	$1335 \pm 35$

Run 2008 → 2011



Steady progress: 4268  $\nu$  vertices in the emulsions: 55 charm, 24  $\nu_e$

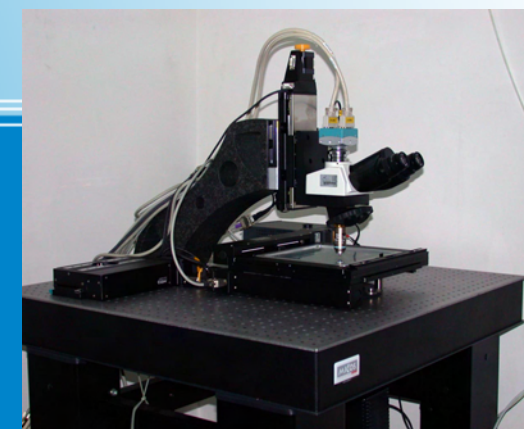
New strategy being followed for 2010/2011 data :

prioritize scanning of  $\tau$  enriched sample (NC-like or  $p_\mu < 15 \text{ GeV}/c$ )

Relevant p.o.t. for  $\tau$  search will scale faster with time wrt the past (inclusive scanning). Detailed report at summer conferences.

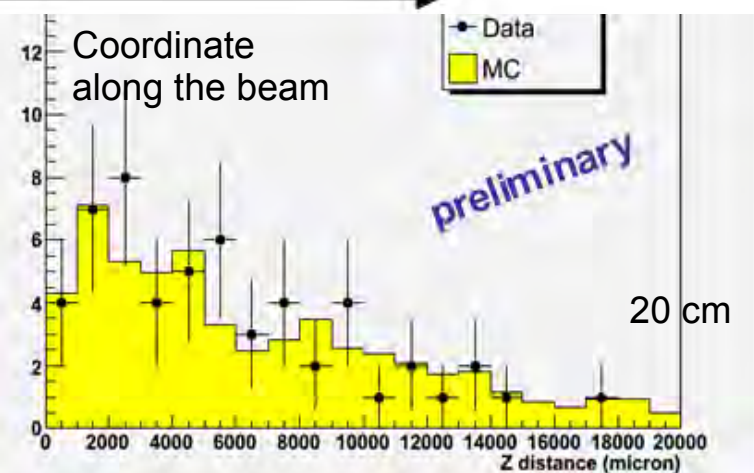
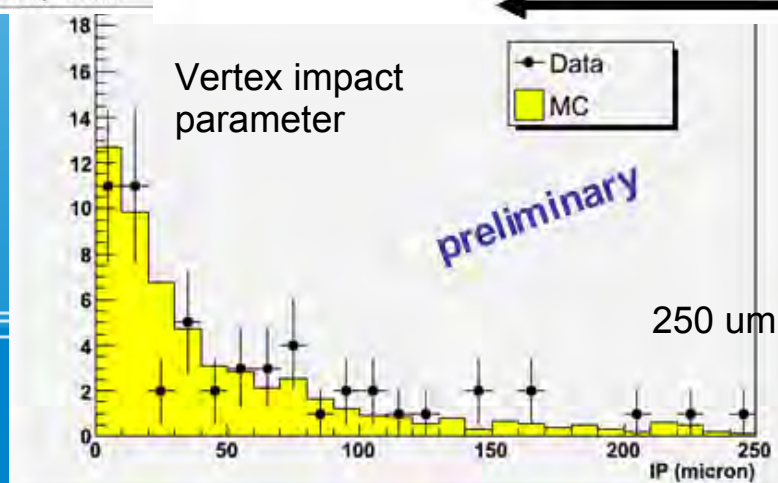
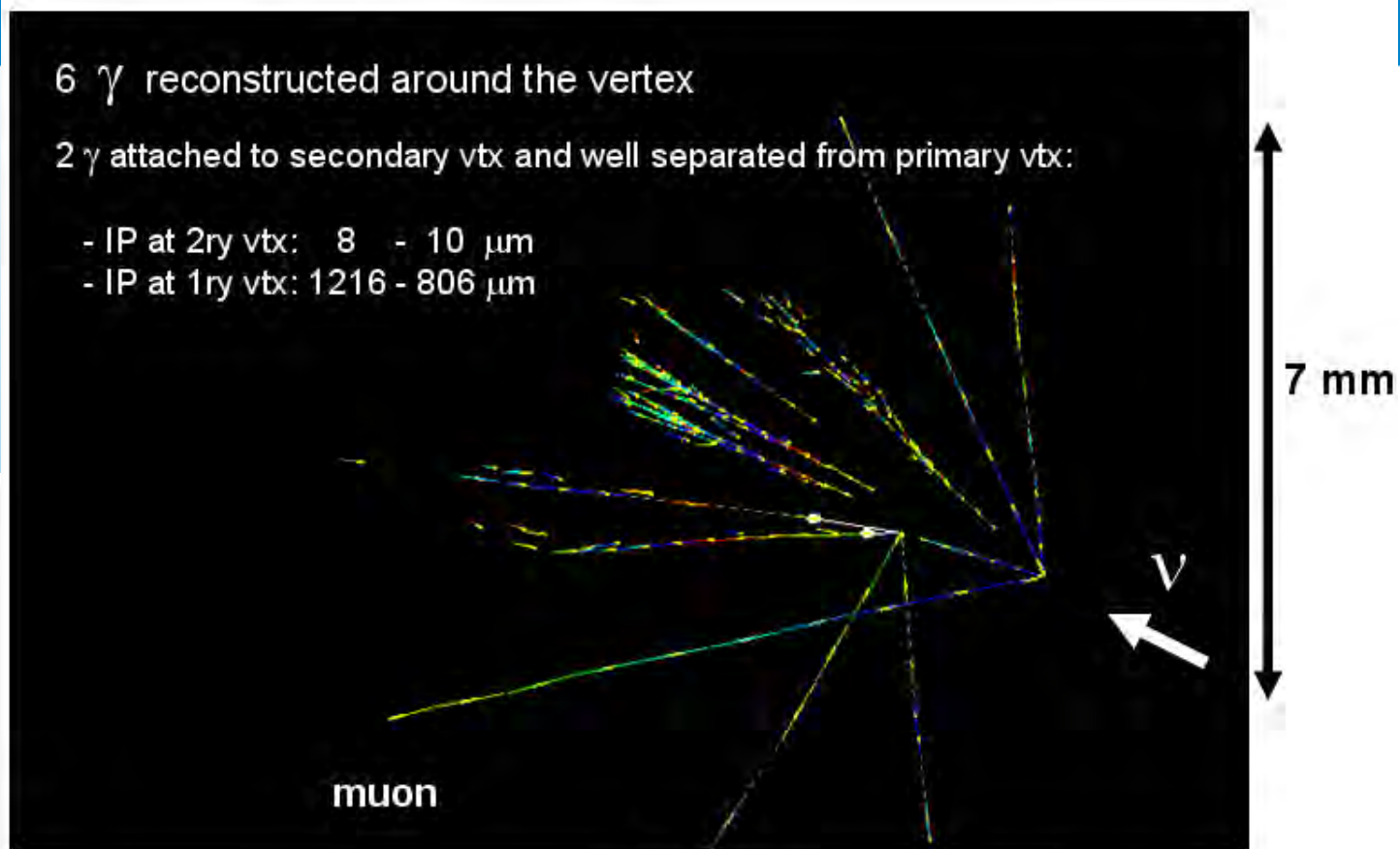
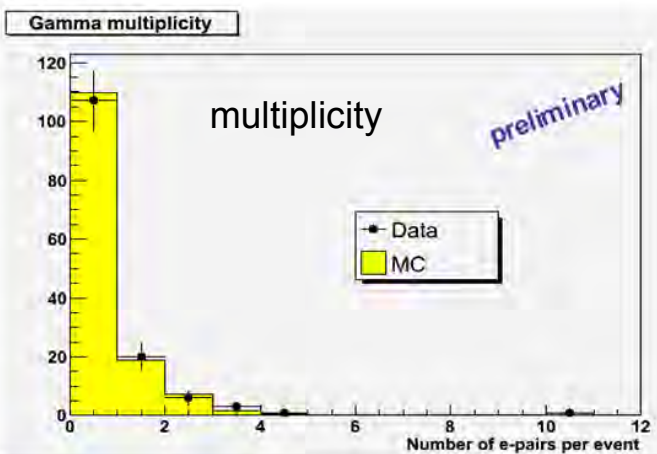
# Scanning progress

One of the scanning microscopes





Scan of 20 plates  $\times 1 \text{ cm}^2$   
downstream of  $\nu$  vertex  
good description by MC



# Reconstruction of $\gamma$

Currently **24  $\nu_e$**  events as the by-product of  $\nu_\tau$  search

- A dedicated strategy using **shower signature in the CS doublet** is being pursued to increase efficiency.

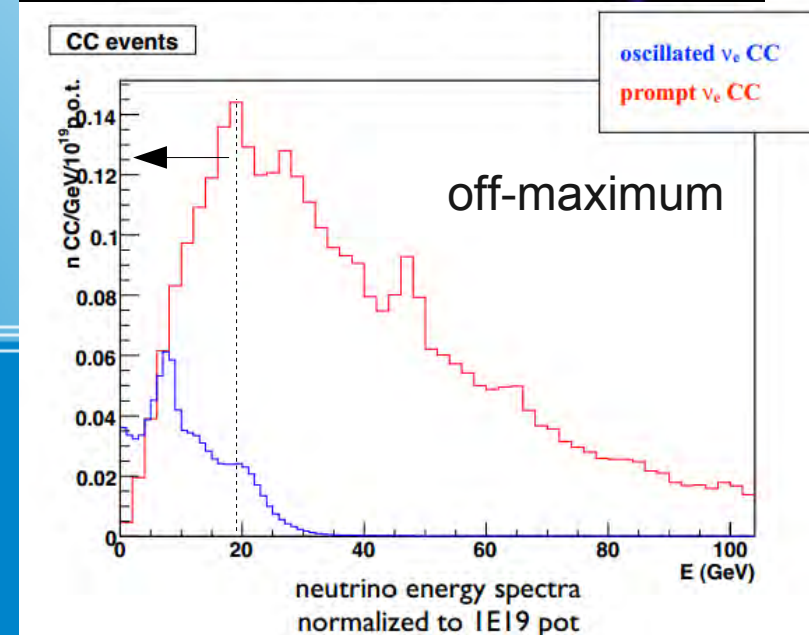
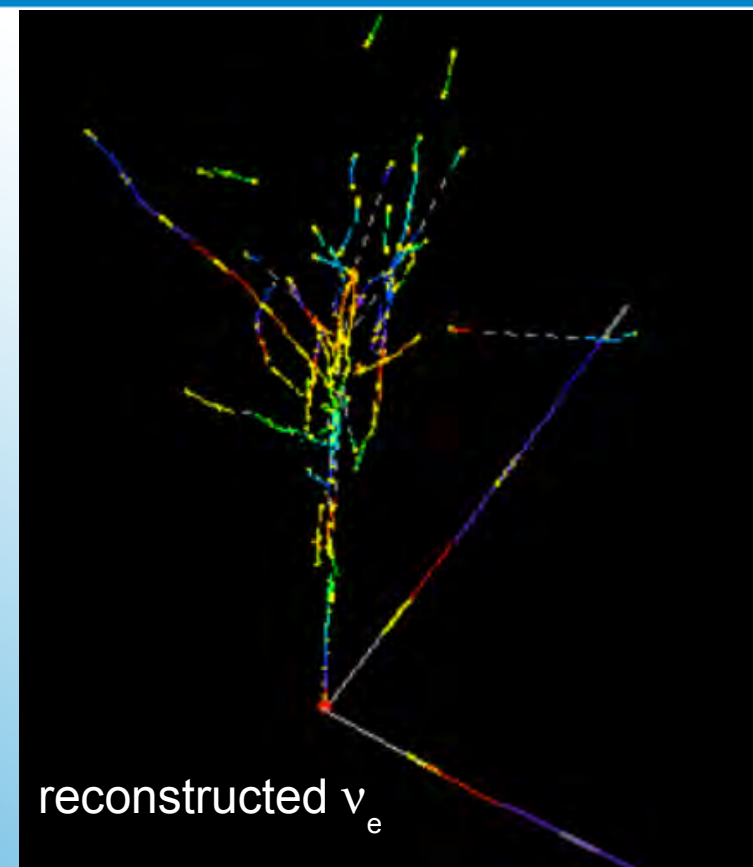
In progress:

- **efficiency** evaluation with complete simulation framework (well advanced)
- **energy reconstruction** tuning
- **backgrounds**: prompt  $\nu_e$  and  $\gamma$  conversions

$E < 20$ GeV	2008-2009 <b>preliminary</b>	22.5e19 <b>estimation</b>
$\nu_e$ (prompt)	2.8	13.1
$(\tau \rightarrow e) + \text{NC}\pi^0$	1.6	7.5
$\sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.11$	<b>1.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>

- Plans for publication of 2008-09 sample in 2012

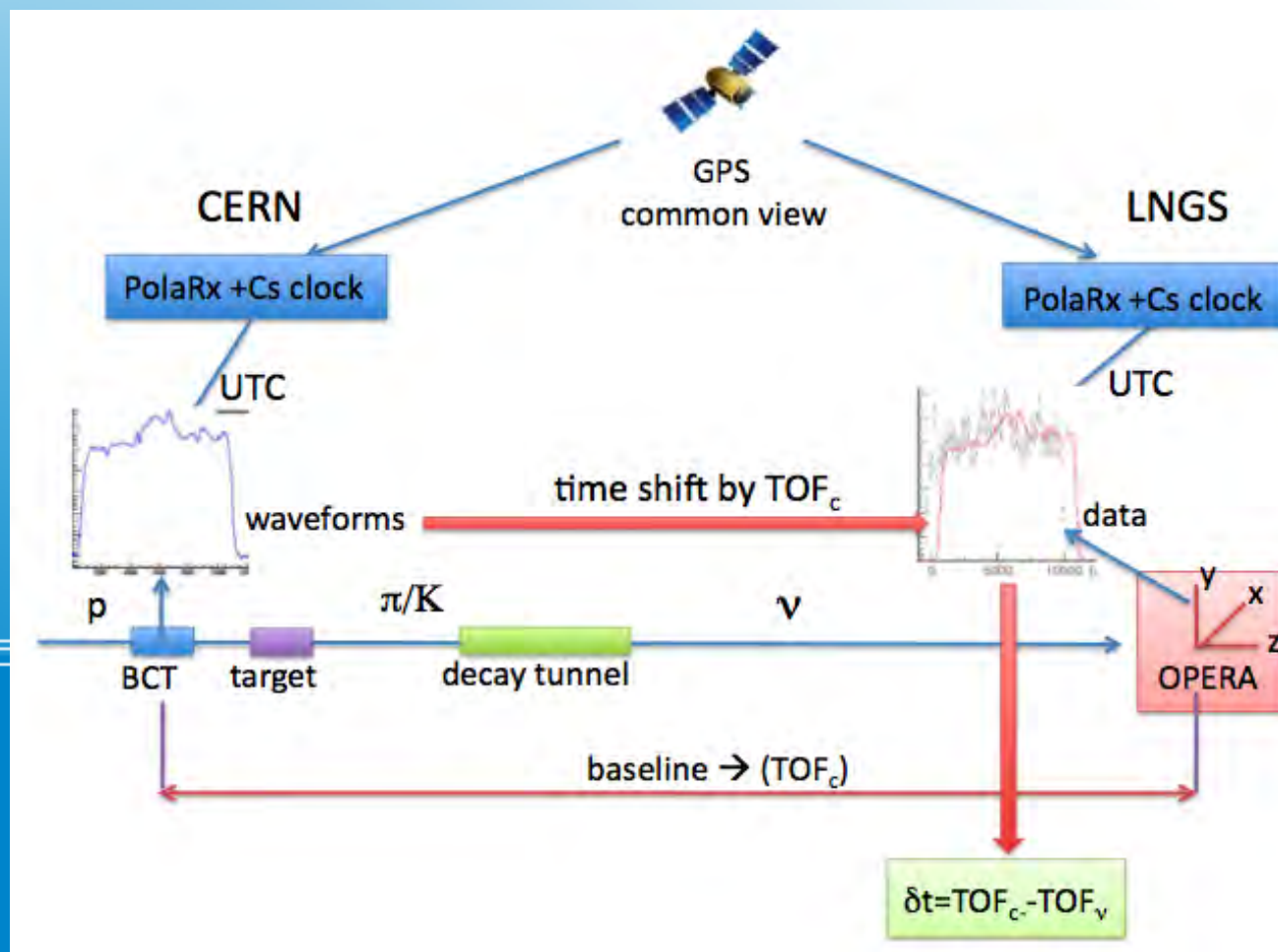
# $\nu_e$ sample



- Basic ingredients\*:
  - CNGS-OPERA synchronization at  $\sim 1\text{ns}$  (**GPS common view mode**)
  - Calibrations of the timing chains at CERN and OPERA
  - $\nu$  time distribution at CERN through **proton waveforms with BCT**
  - High  $\nu$  energy - **high statistics** ( $\sim 15\text{k}$  events) or beam with fine time structure
  - **Geodesy**:  $L = 731278.0 \pm 0.2 \text{ m}$  (error dominated by extrapolation to underground)



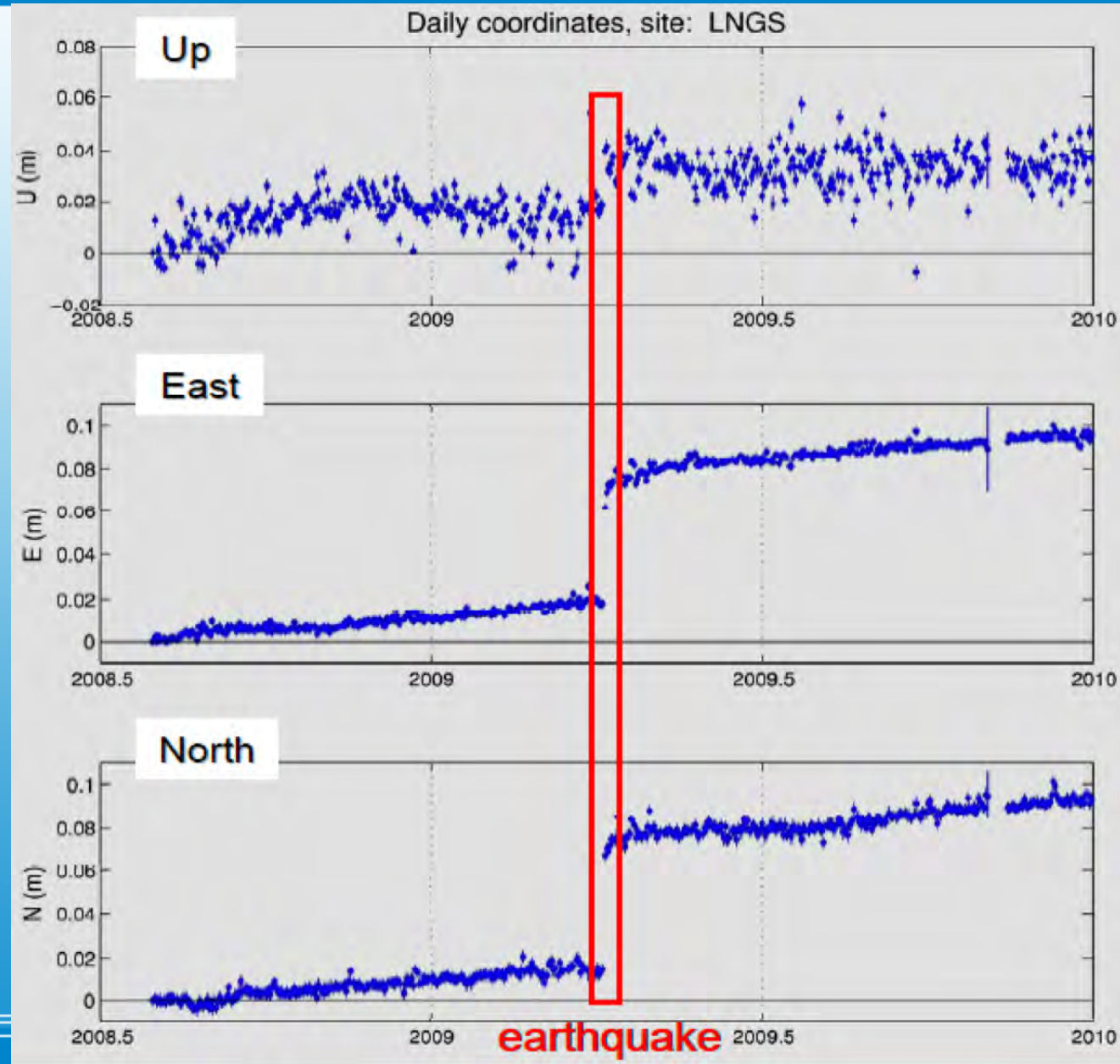
$\nu$ -TOF





Long and short time scale  
phenomena visible:

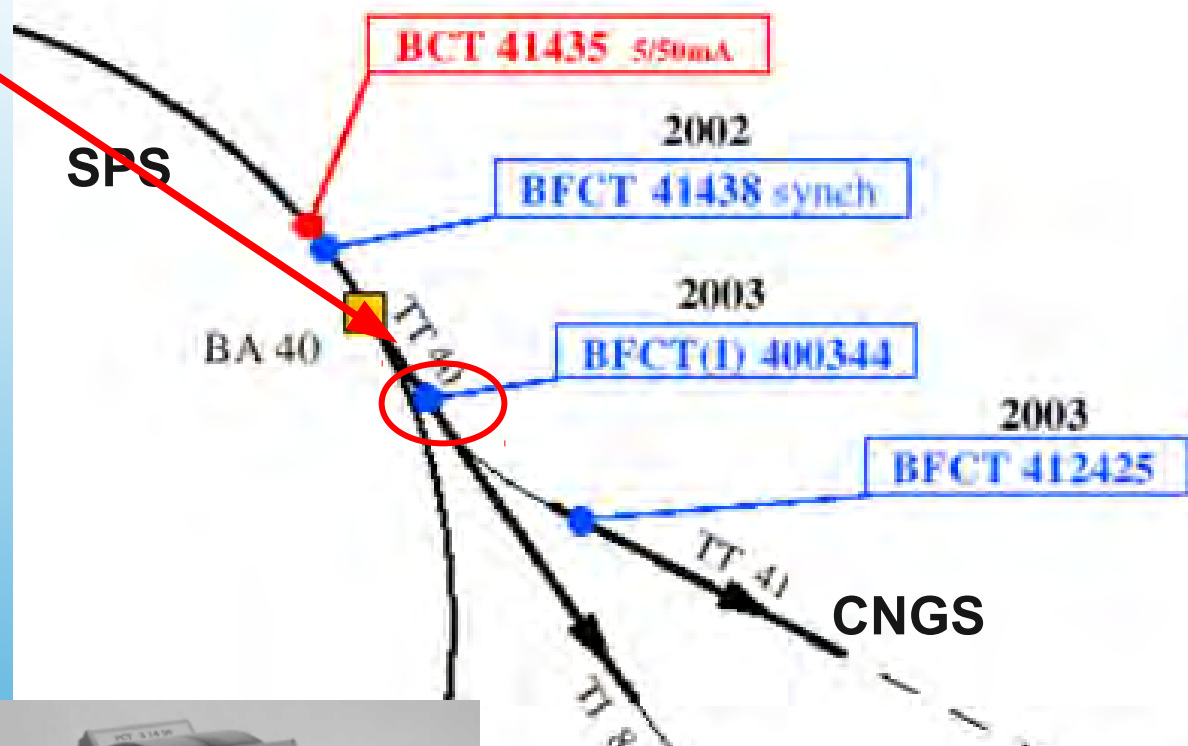
- continental drift
- 2009 L'Aquila earthquake



# LNGS position monitoring

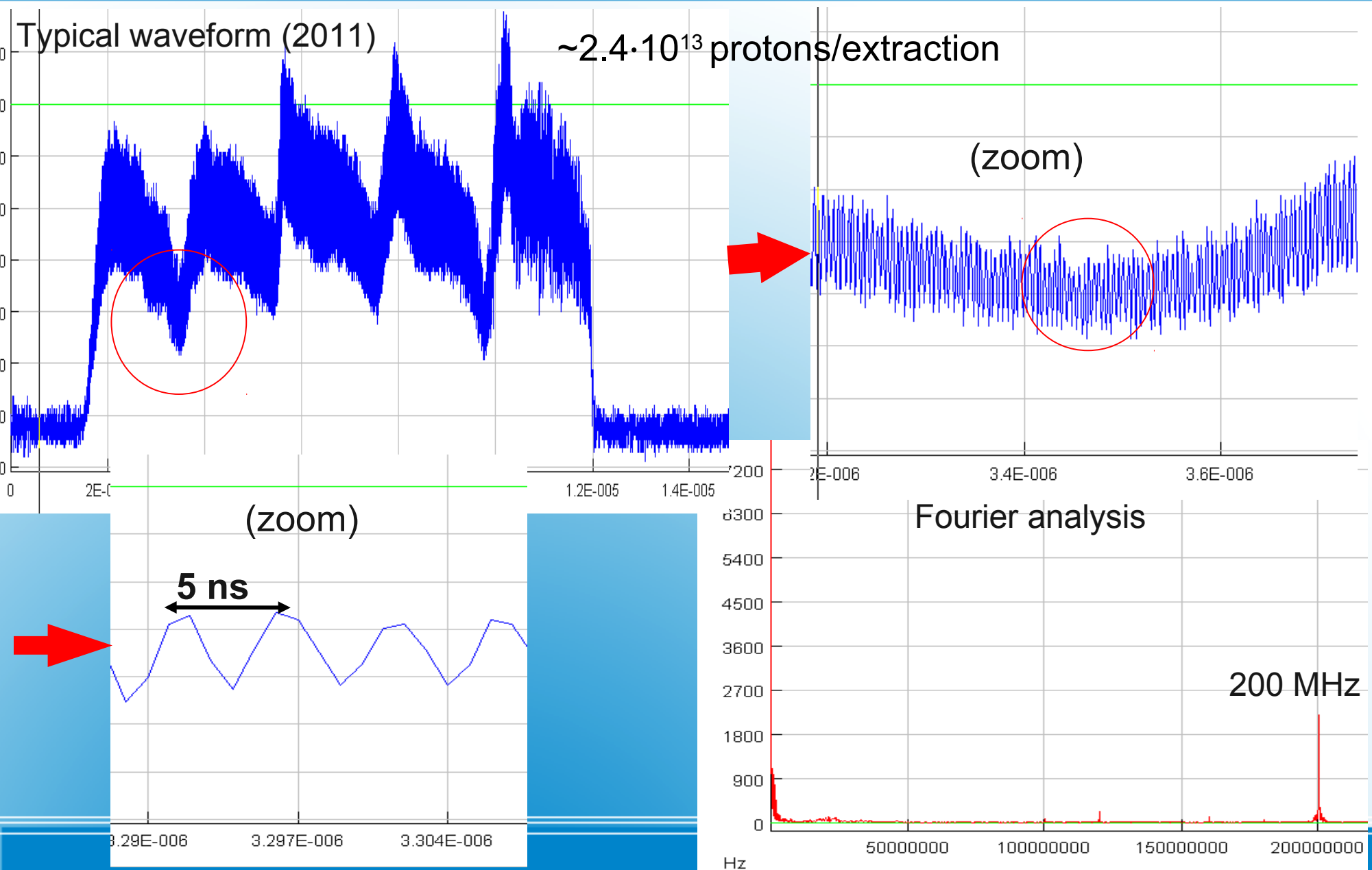
# Fast Beam Current Transformer ("BCT", id 400344) 400 MHz bandwidth

- Proton pulse digitized by a 1GS/s **waveform digitizer** ("WFD", Acqiris DP110)
- WFD triggered by a replica of the kicker signal
- Waveforms are **UTC time-stamped** and stored in CNGS database for offline analysis



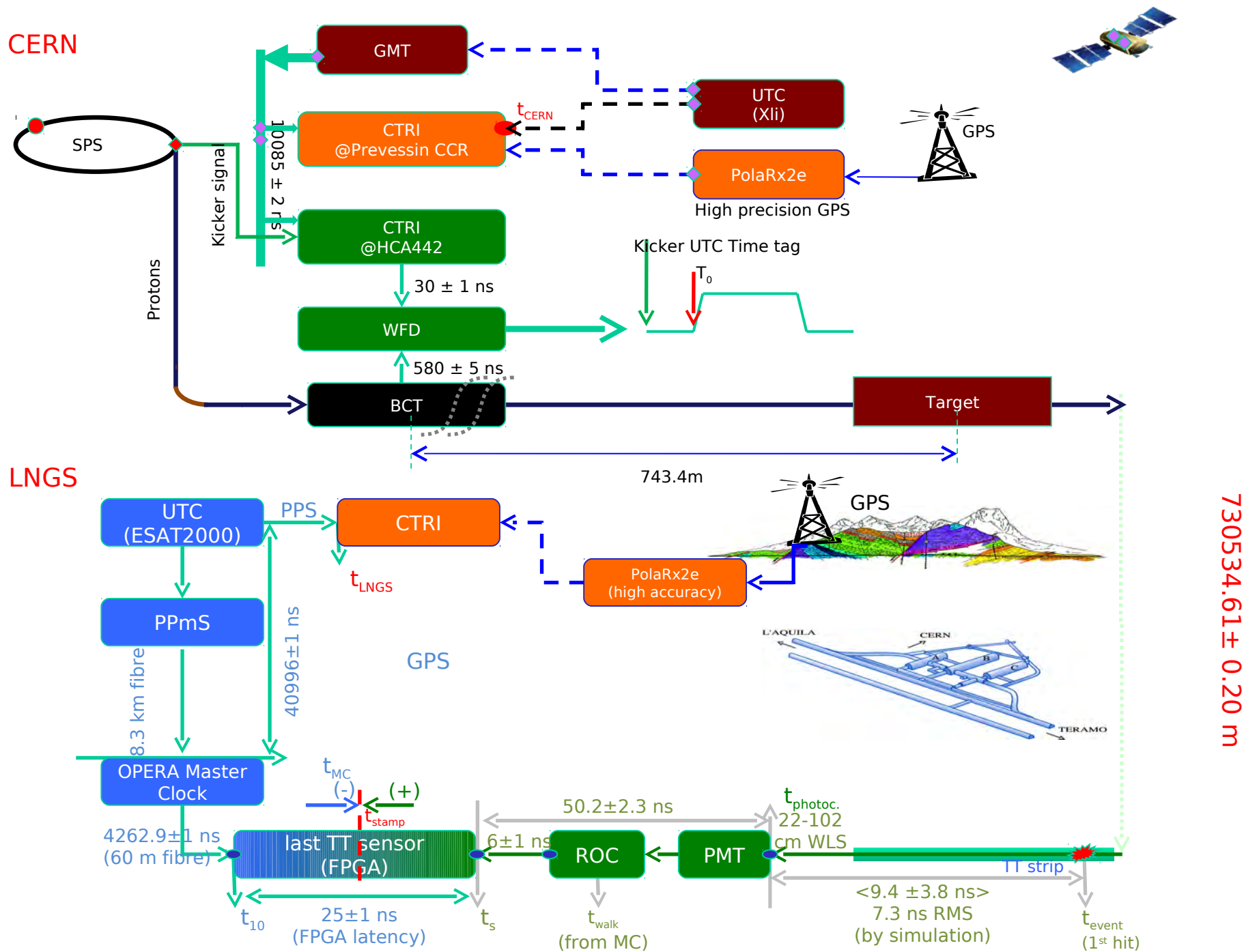
## Accurate p timing

2010 calibration with Cs clock

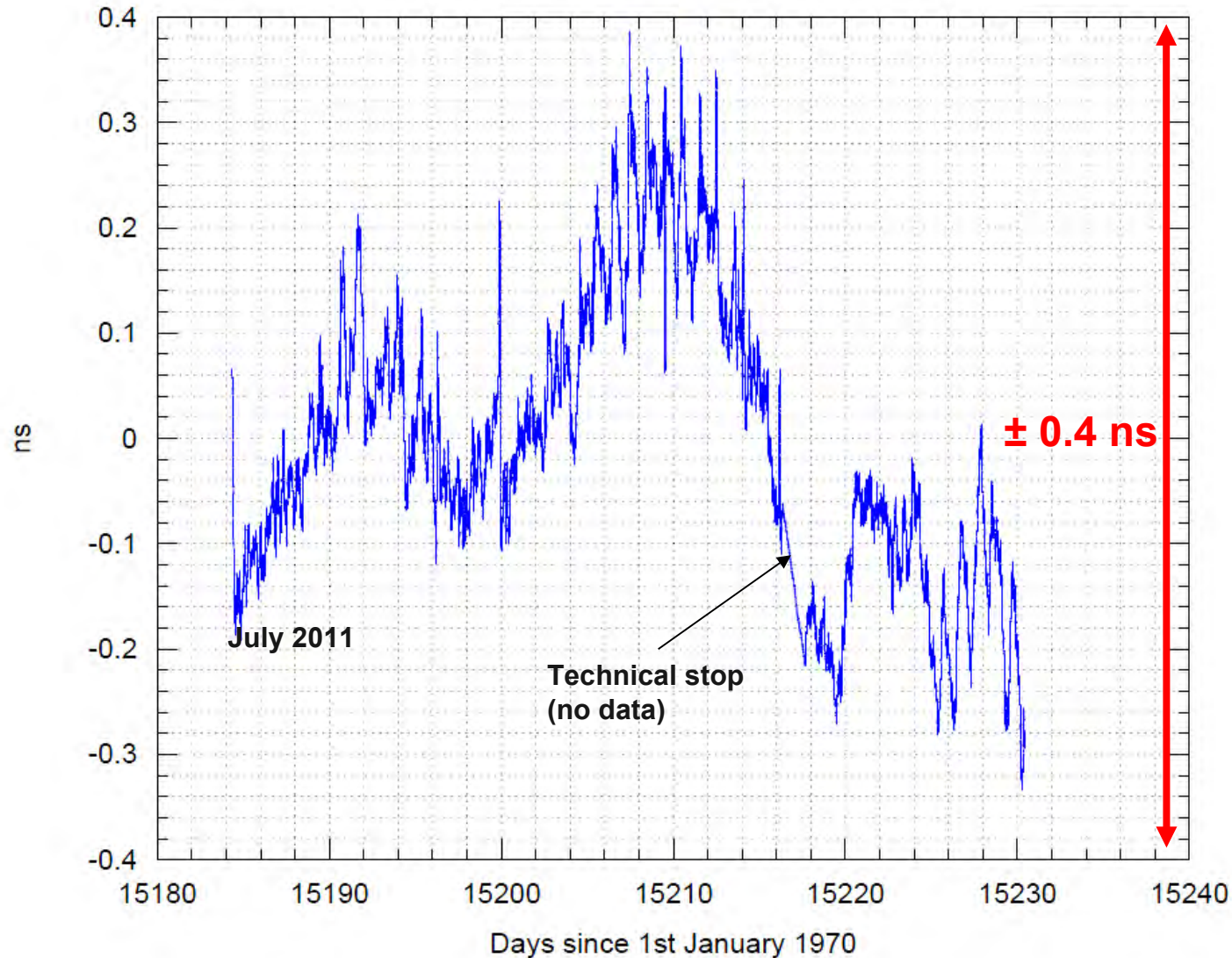


# Single proton wave-form example





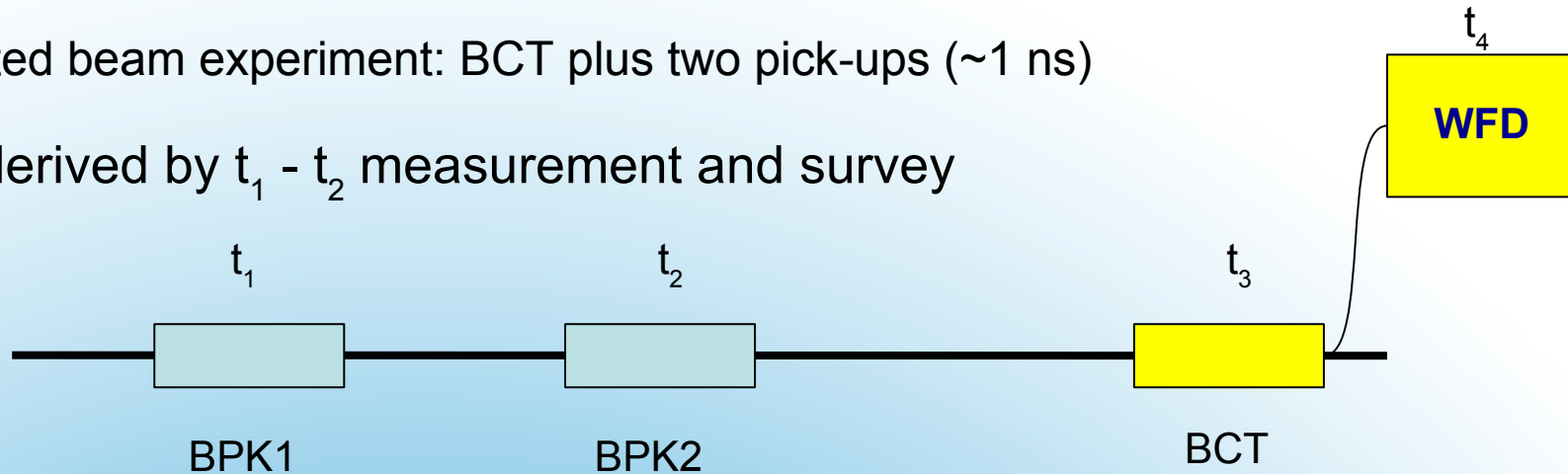
variations w.r.t. nominal



**Continuous two-way measurement of  
UTC delay at CERN**

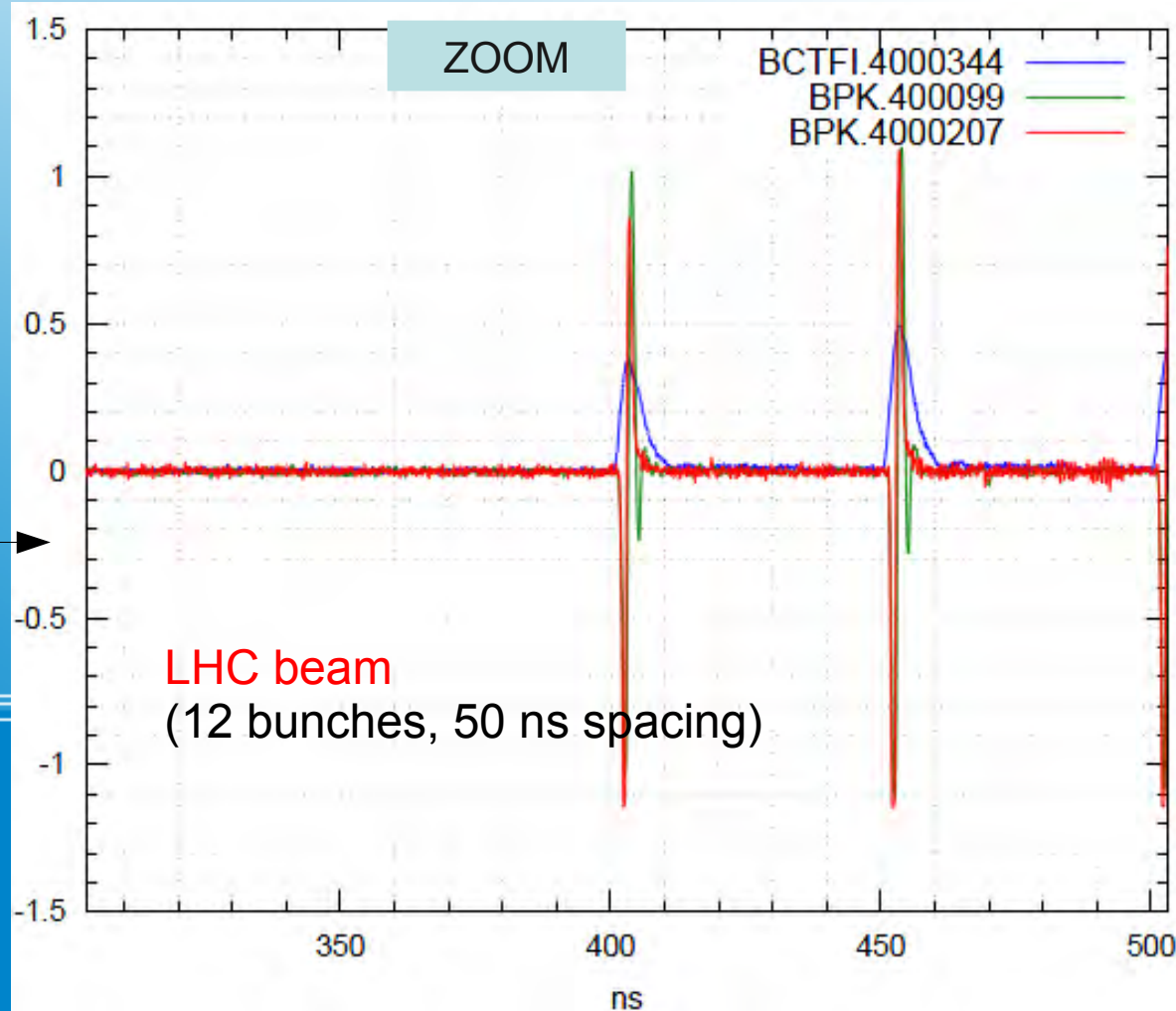
Dedicated beam experiment: BCT plus two pick-ups (~1 ns)

$t_3$  : derived by  $t_1 - t_2$  measurement and survey



$$\Delta t_{\text{BCT}} = t_4 - t_3 = (580 \pm 5) \text{ ns}$$

result: signals comparison after  $\Delta t_{\text{BCT}}$  compensation



# BCT calibration



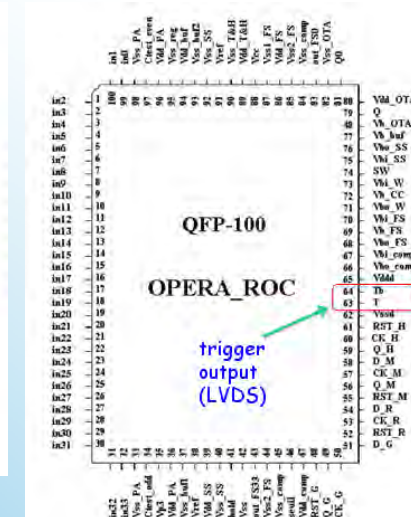
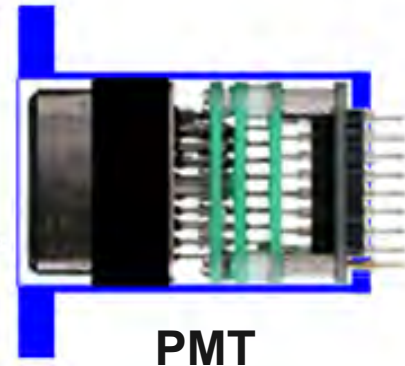
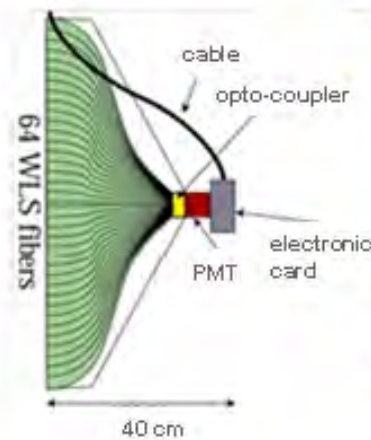
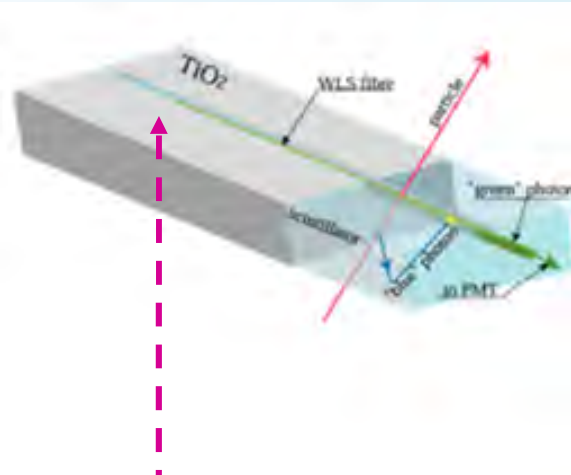
Scintillator + WLS fibers

signal

PMT

analog Front End chip (ROC)

FPGA



Picosecond Injection Laser (PiLas)



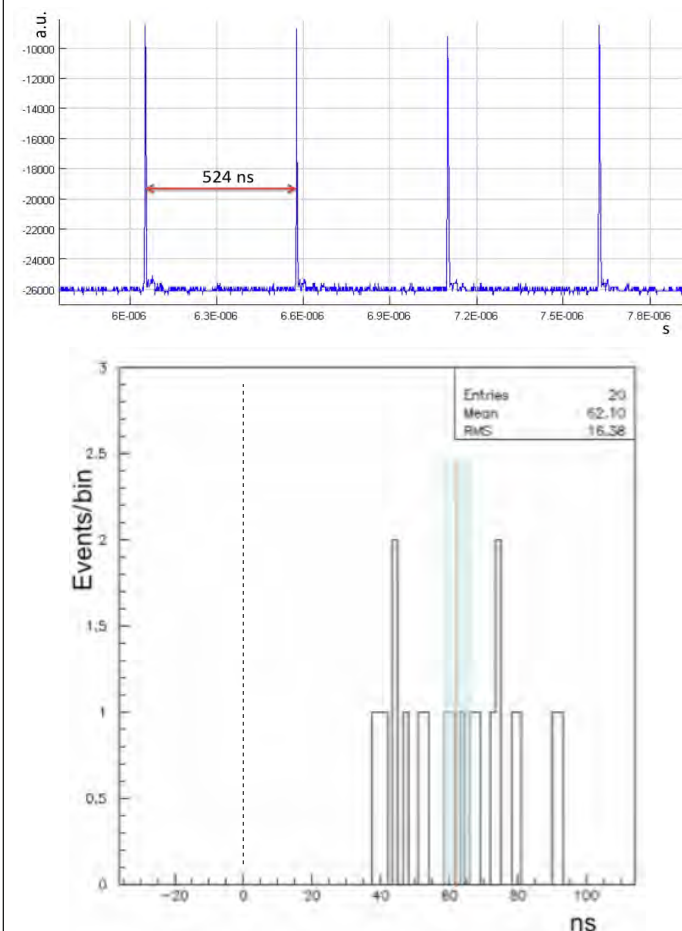
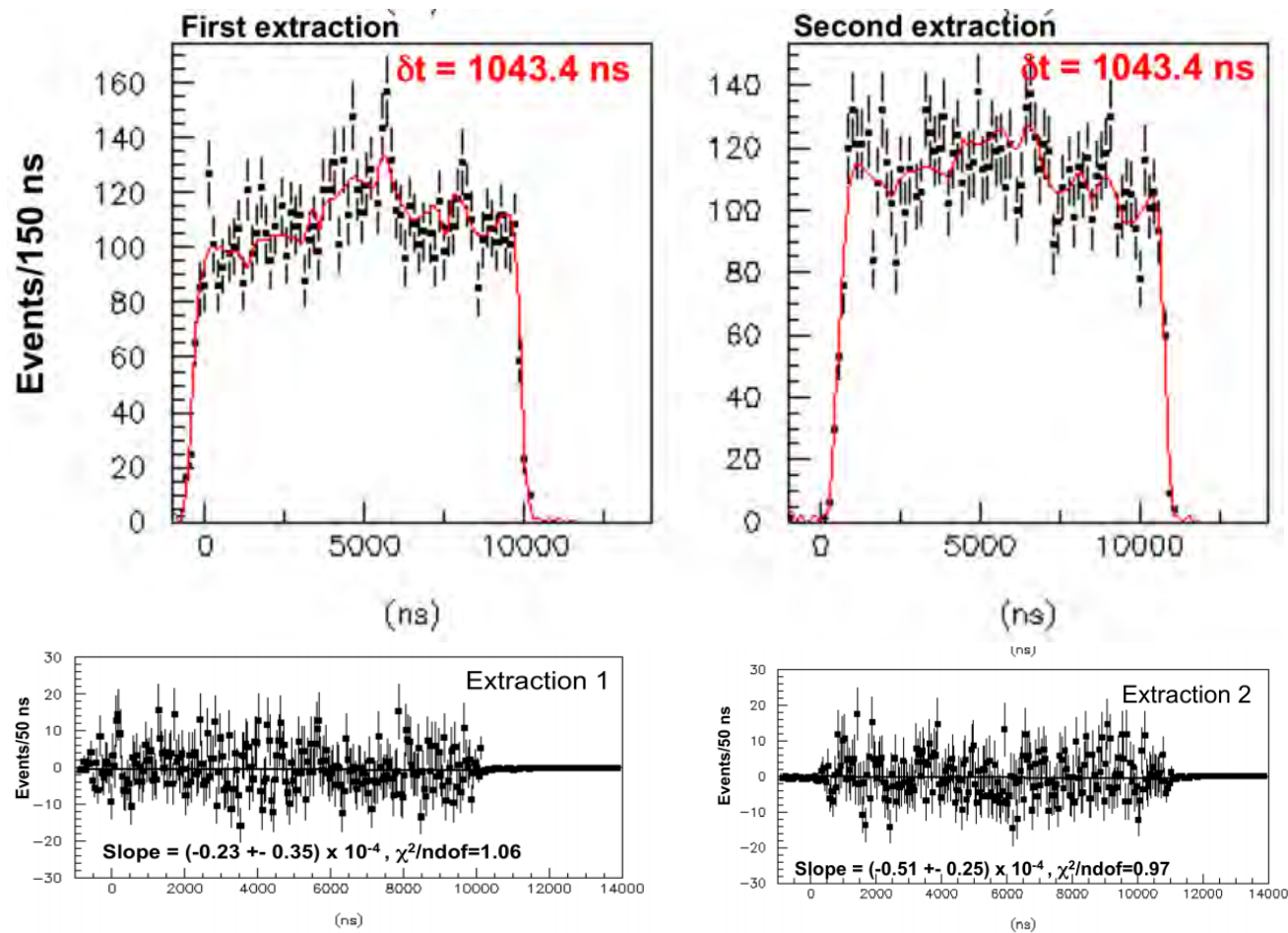
picosecond UV laser excitation:

→ delay from photo-cathode to FPGA input:  $(50.2 \pm 2.3) \text{ ns}$

→ average event time response:  $(59.6 \pm 3.8 \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns}$

including event position, pulse height dependence, ROC time-walk, DAQ quantization effects with simulations

# TT time response measurement



Standard beam (two 10.5 us wide bunches), 3 years.

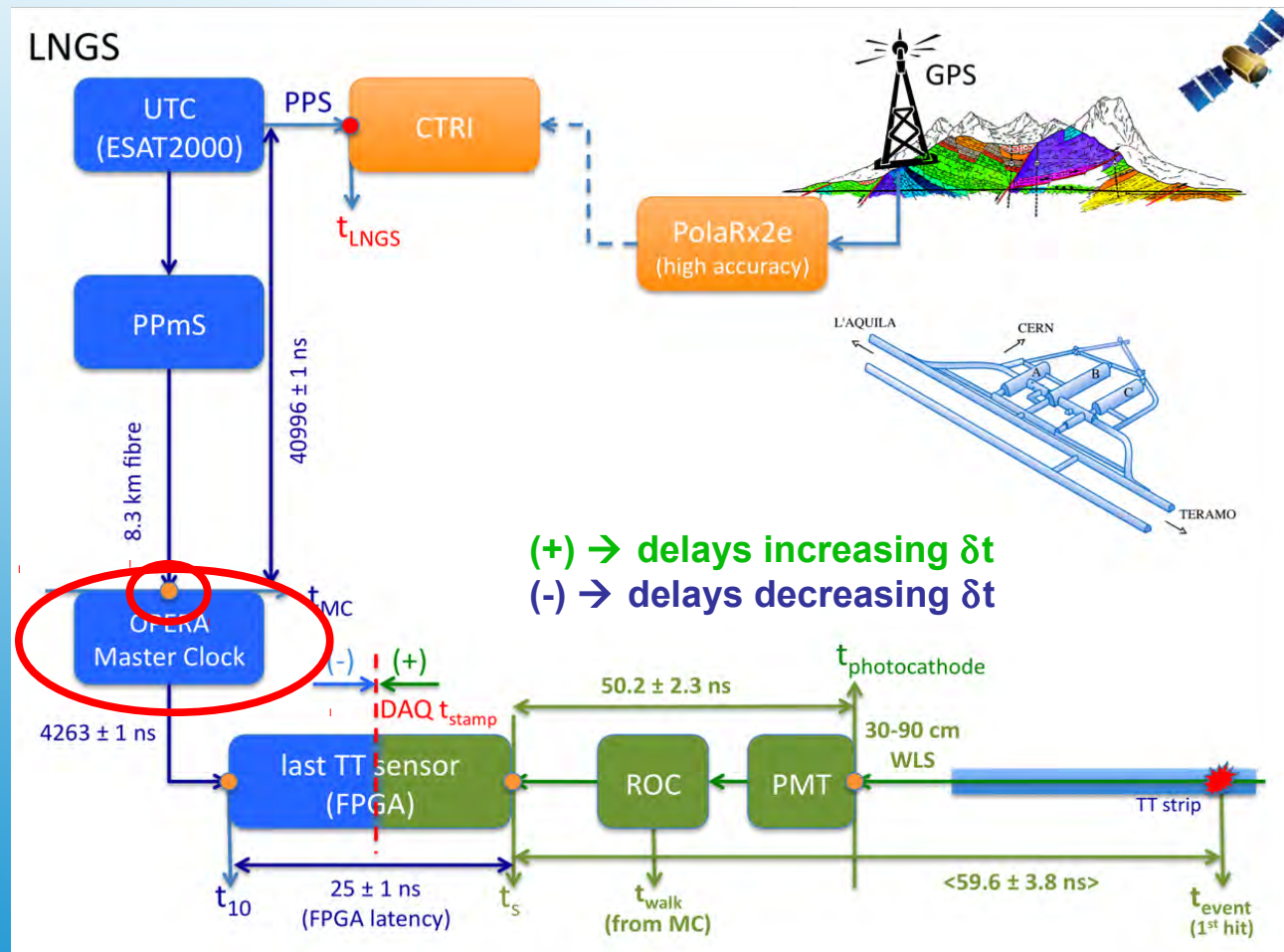
$57.8 \pm 7.8$  (stat.) ns  $^{+8.3}_{-5.9}$  (sys.) unbinned LL with average PDFs

$54.5 \pm 5.0$  (stat.) ns  $^{+9.6}_{-7.2}$  (sys.) unbinned LL with event-by-event PDFs

Bunched beam, 2 weeks in Nov 2011 (confirms robustness of statistical treatment):  $62.1 \pm 3.7$  ns

(Old) results after applying all corrections

These two issues can modify the neutrino time of flight in opposite directions. While continuing our investigations, in order to unambiguously quantify the effect on the observed result, the Collaboration is looking forward to performing a new measurement of the neutrino velocity as soon as a **new bunched beam** will be available in 2012. An extensive report on the above mentioned verifications and results will be shortly made available to the scientific committees and agencies."



# Recent findings



## Oscillation:

- 1  $\nu_\tau$  candidate, with an expectation of 1.65 signal and  $0.05 \pm 0.01$  background events.
- The analyzed sample (2008-2009) corresponds to  $\sim 21\%$  of the overall nominal statistics of which 63 % has been collected so far (14.1e19 pot).
- The 2012 run will hopefully bring us close to nominal statistics (22.5e19 pot with 7.6  $\tau$  expected)
- Improvement in the analysis and (data driven) background control achieved and being pursued further.
- Constant progress in scanned events statistics: a really demanding task!
- Update at summer conferences foreseen with signal expectation significantly  $> 1$ .
- $\nu_e$  appearance results in 2012 on 2008/2009 sample.

## Summary

## **v-TOF:**

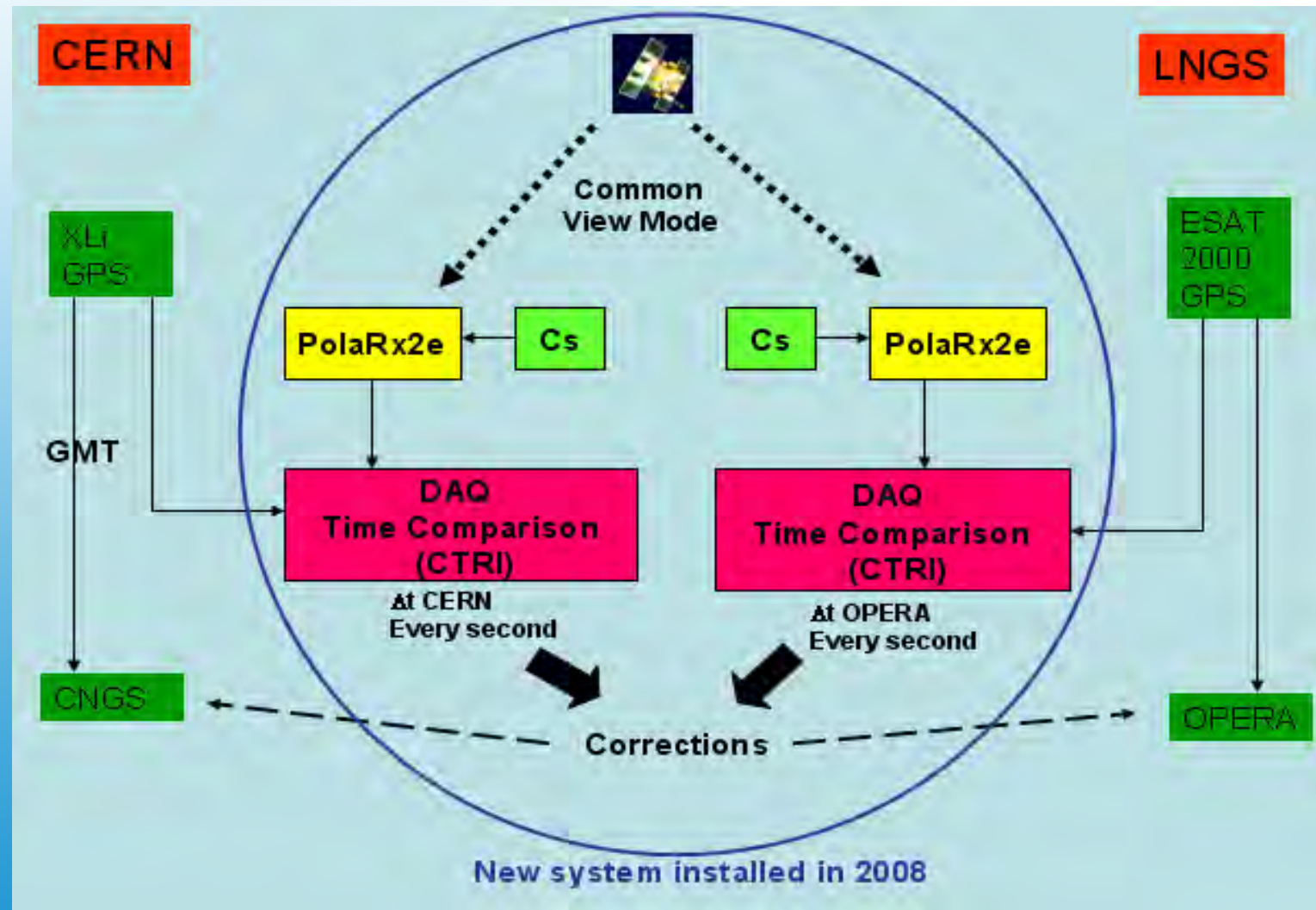
- A very powerful experimental setup and analysis method has been used (only partially reported)
- BUT, two issues that could significantly affect the reported TOF anomaly have been identified recently
- A new bunched beam run in 2012 requested to provide a clarified picture.

# Summary

THANK YOU for  
your attention!

**Back-up slides**





Standard GPS receivers have ~100 ns accuracy:

- XLi (CERN)
- ESAT 2000 (LNGS)

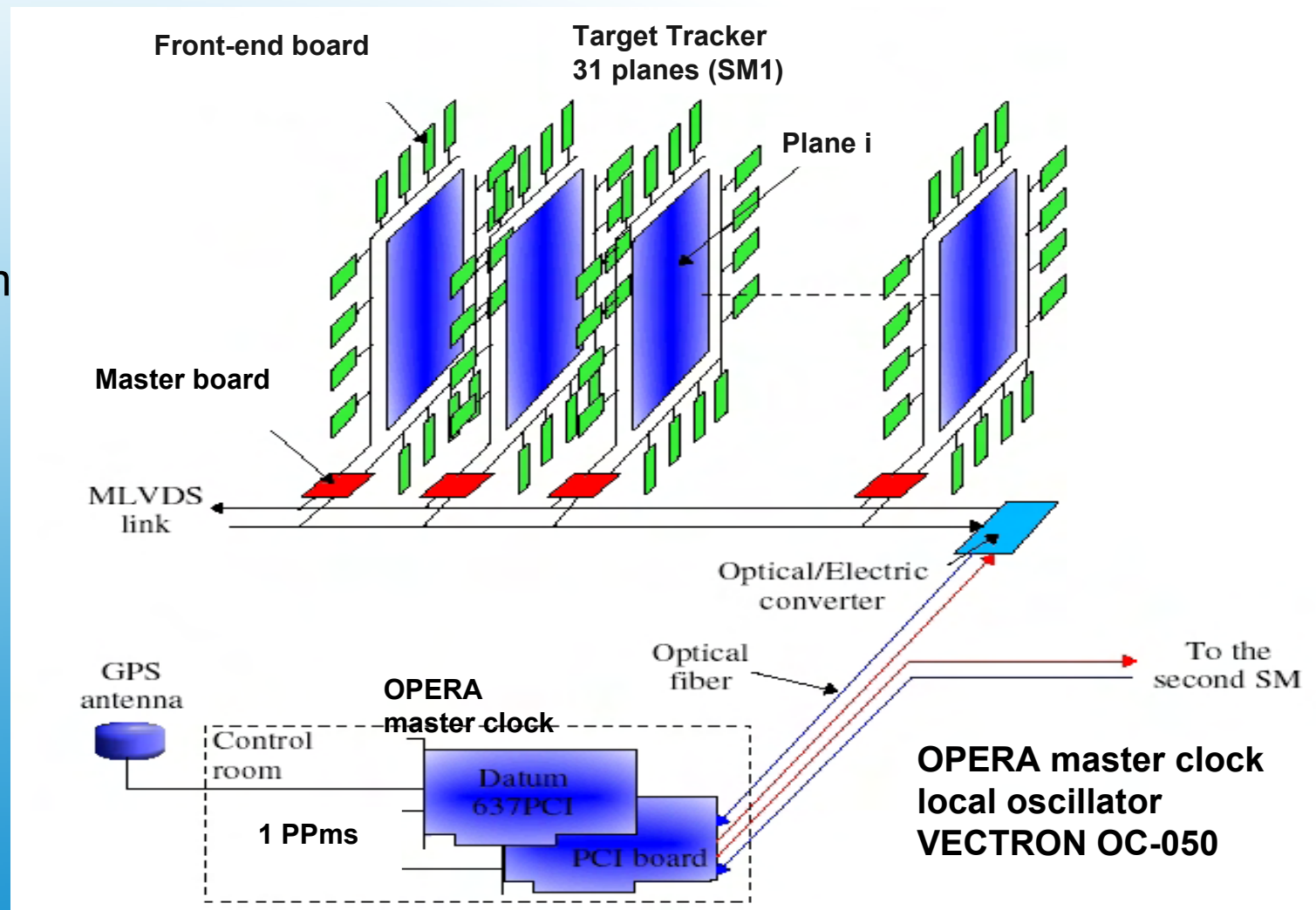
2008: installation of a twin high accuracy system calibrated by METAS (Swiss metrology institute)

- PolaRx2e GPS receiver
- Cs-clock

at CERN and LNGS

# CNGS OPERA synchronization

- 1200 asynchronous **FE-nodes**
- Gigabit ethernet network
- “trigger-less” system
- for each FE node **mezzanine card**: CPU (embedded Linux), memory, FPGA, clock receiver
- 10 ns UTC event time stamp granularity



# OPERA read-out system and clock distribution

**LNGS**

Rome La Sapienza  
Geodesy group

Dedicated measurements:  
July-Sept. 2010

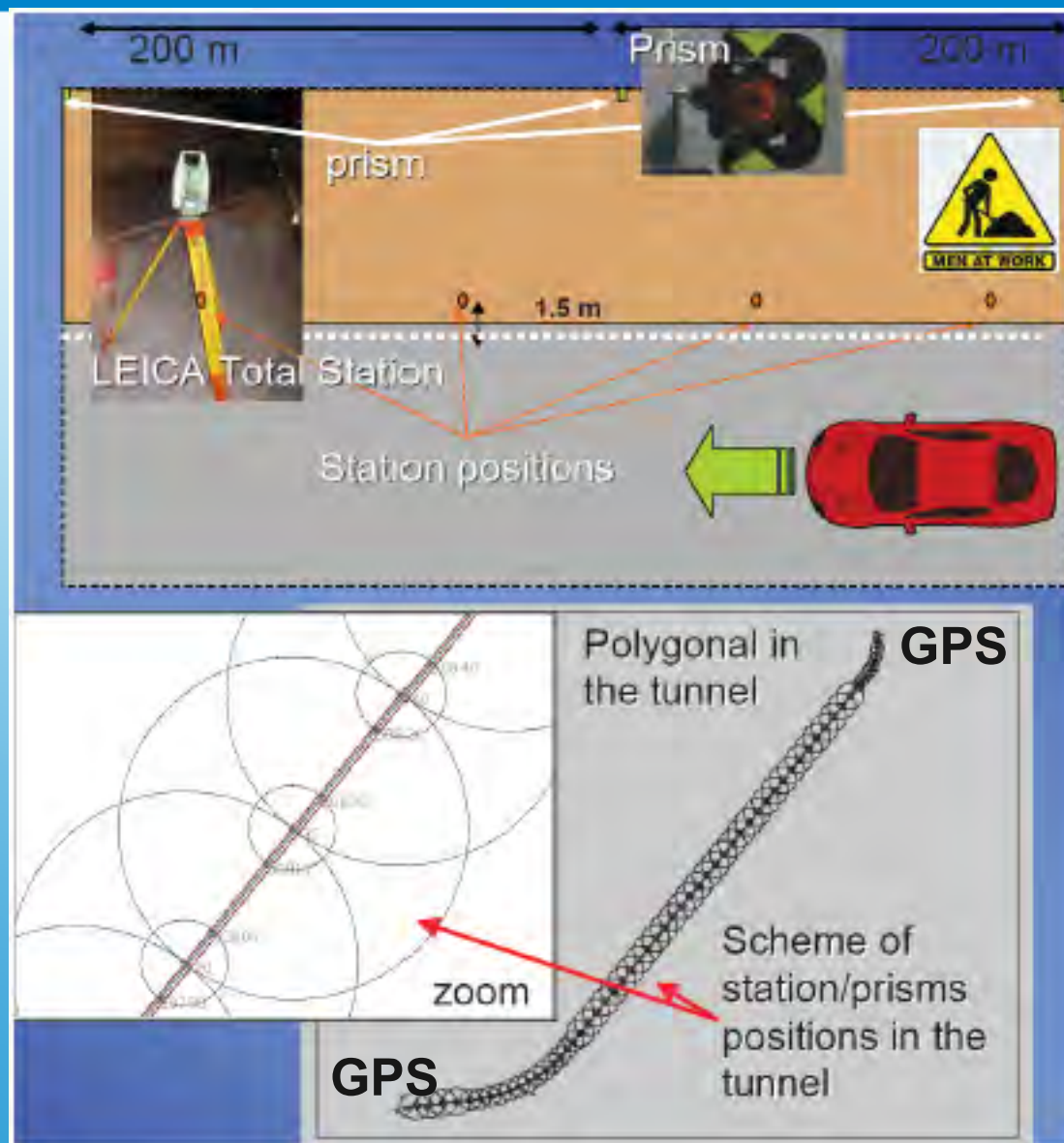
2 new GPS benchmarks on each side  
of the 10 km highway tunnel

GPS measurements ported  
underground to OPERA

CERN survey group

**CERN** measurements  
(taken in different periods) combined in  
the ETRF2000 European Global  
system, accounting for earth dynamics

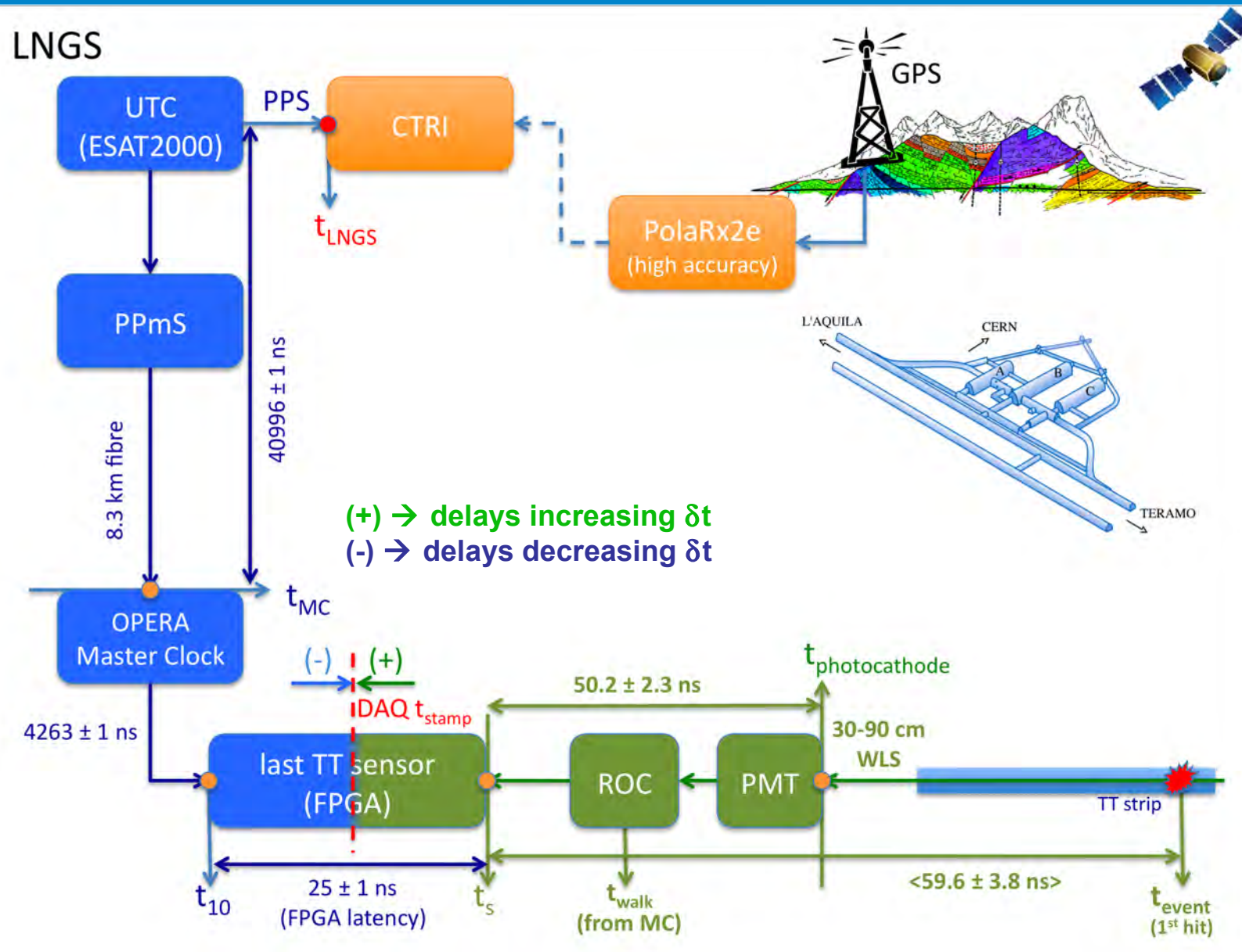
Cross-check in June 2011:  
simultaneous CERN-LNGS  
measurement of GPS benchmarks



# Geodesy

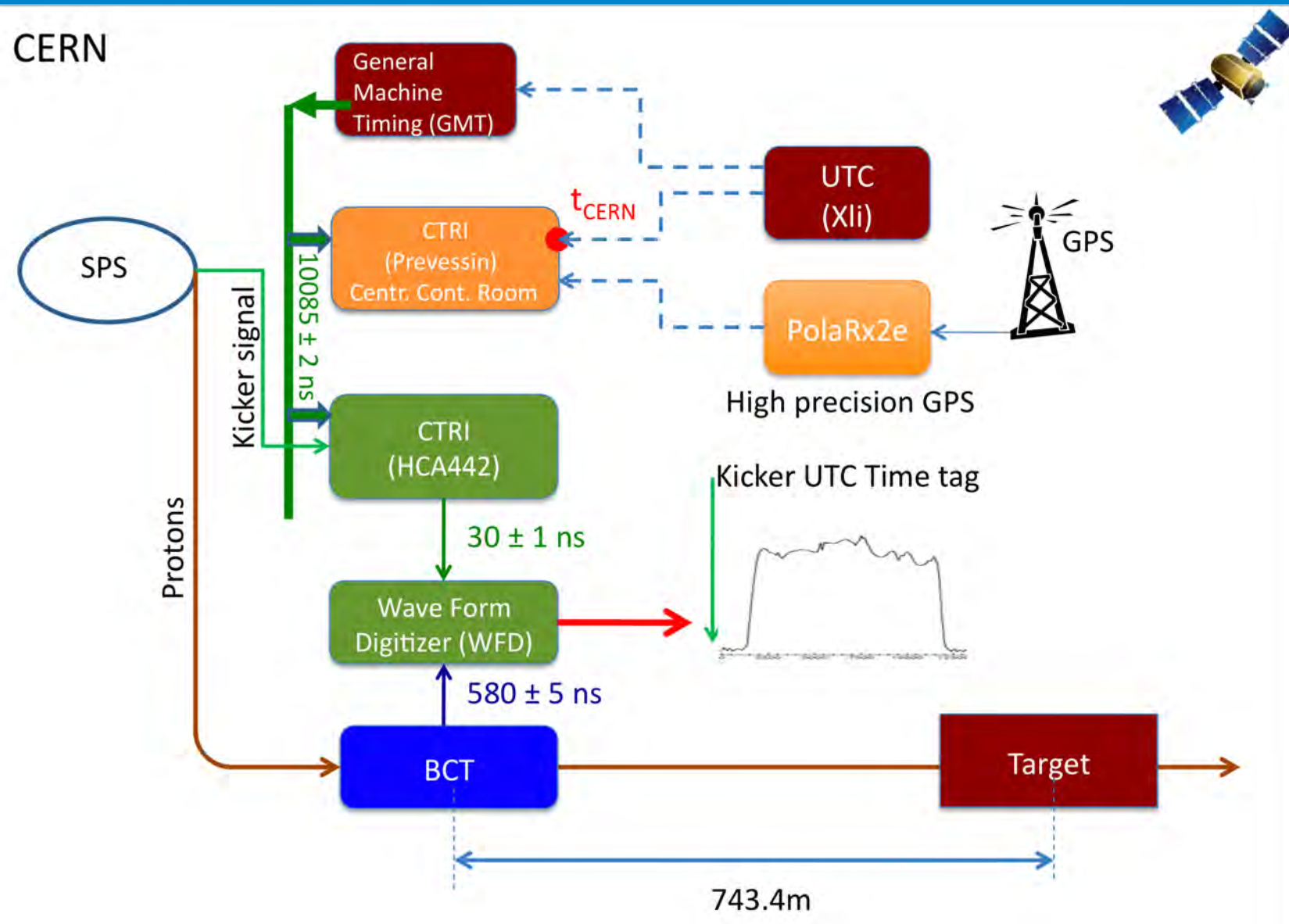
Distance (BCT - OPERA reference frame) =  
 **$(731278.0 \pm 0.2) \text{ m}$**



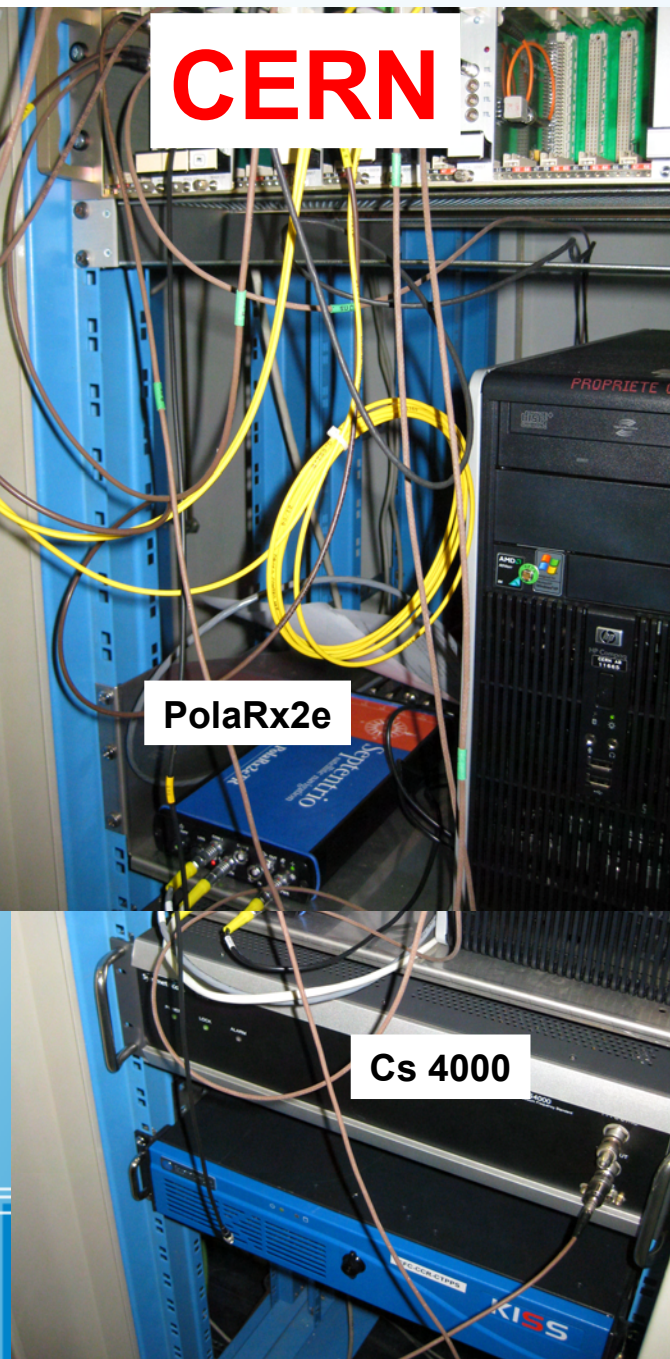


# Delay calibrations: LNGS side

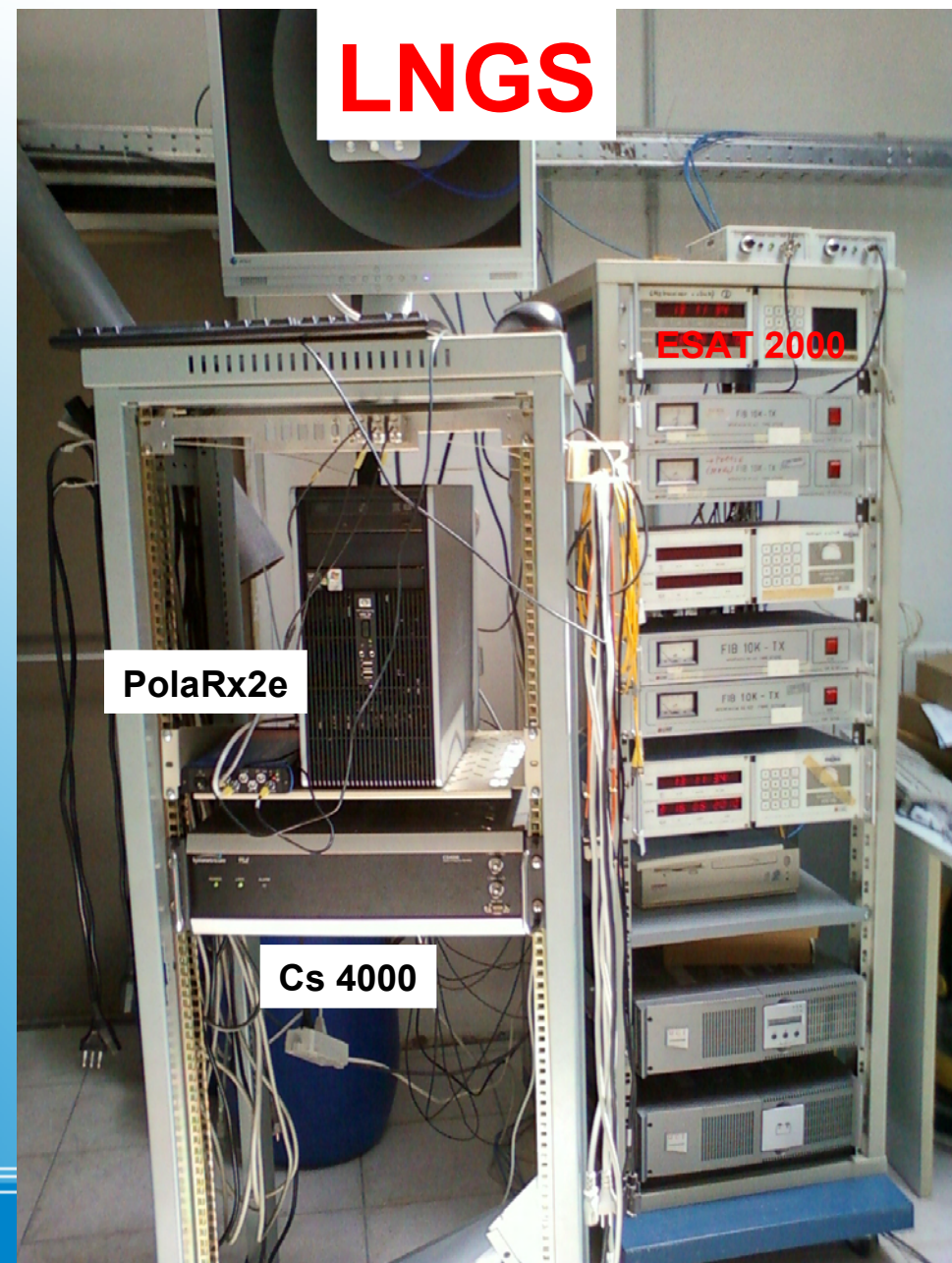




# Delay calibrations: CERN side



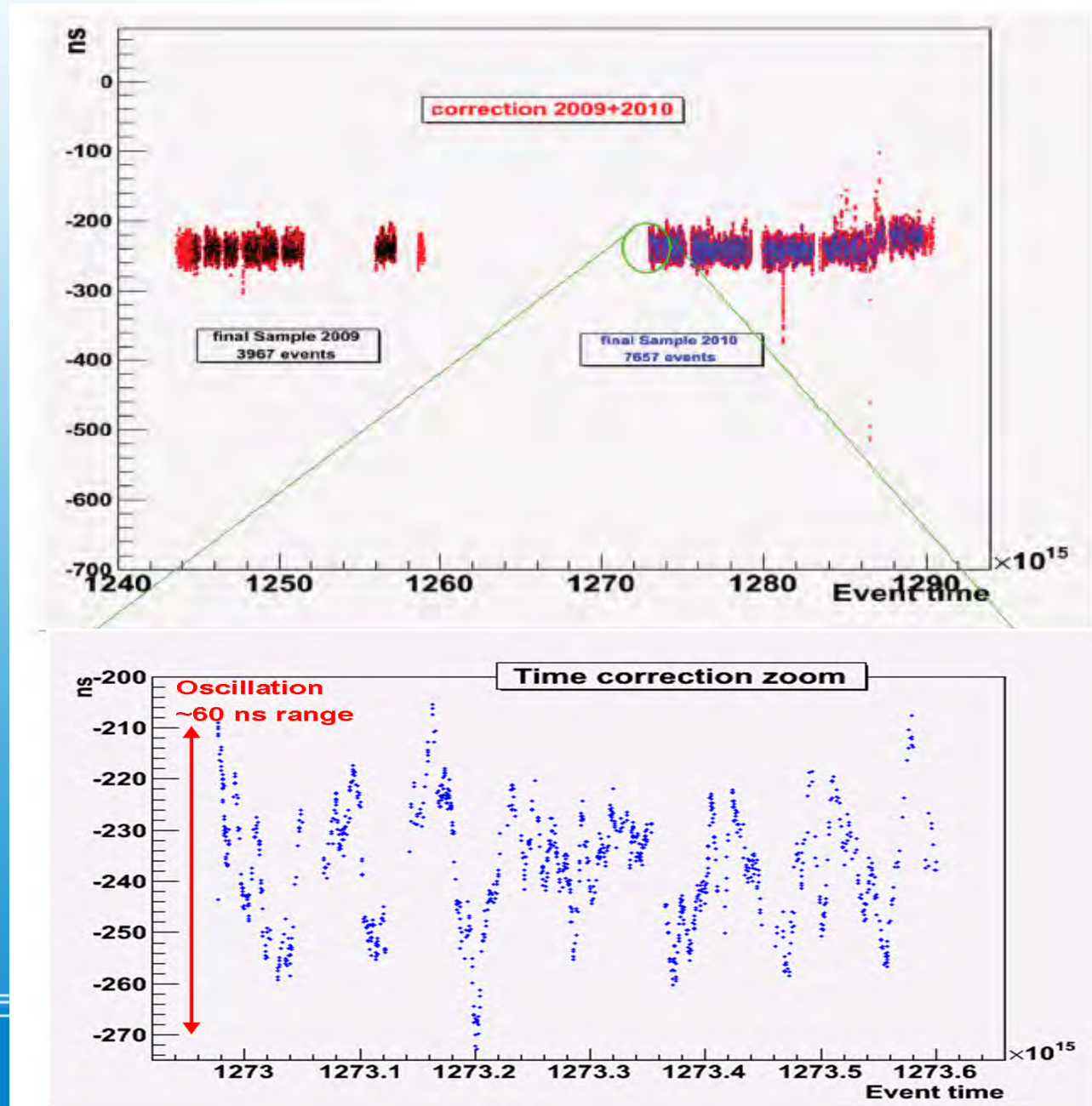
- PolaRx2e :**  
GPS receiver for time-transfer applications:
- frequency reference from Cs clock (**Cs-4000**)
  - internal time tagging of 1PPS with respect to individual satellite observations
  - off-line common-view analysis in CGGTTS format
  - use ionosphere-free code (P3)



# Twin synchronization devices

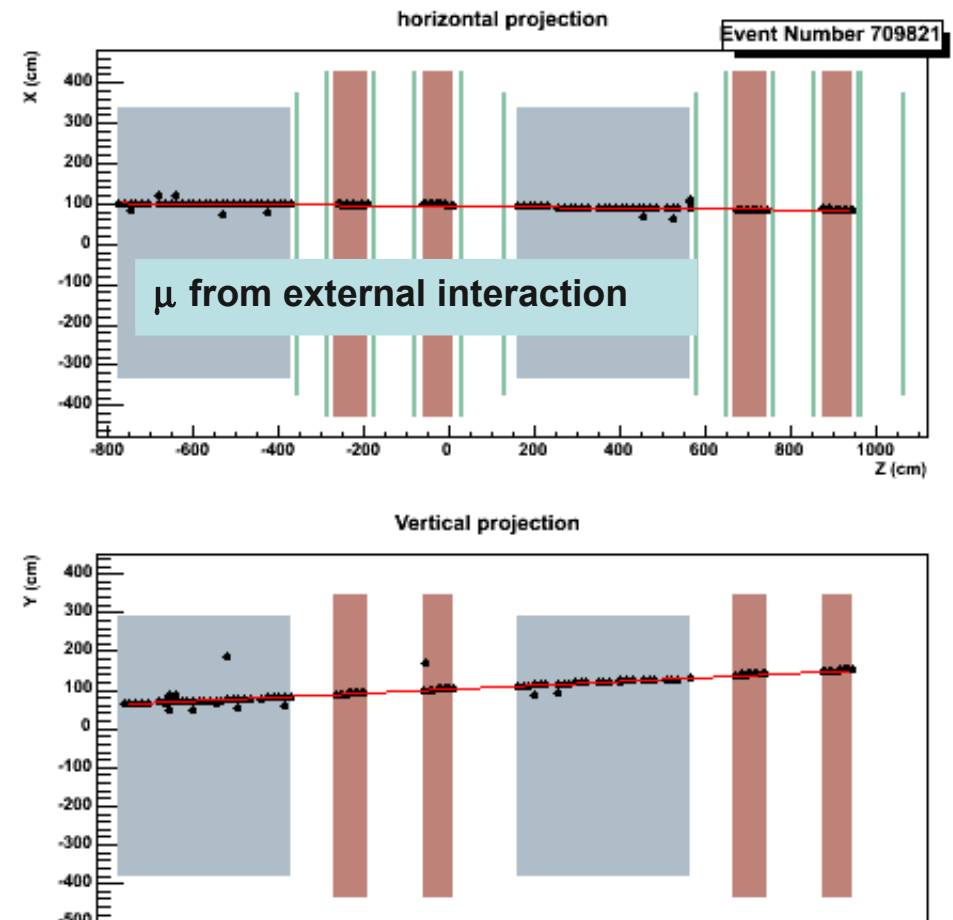
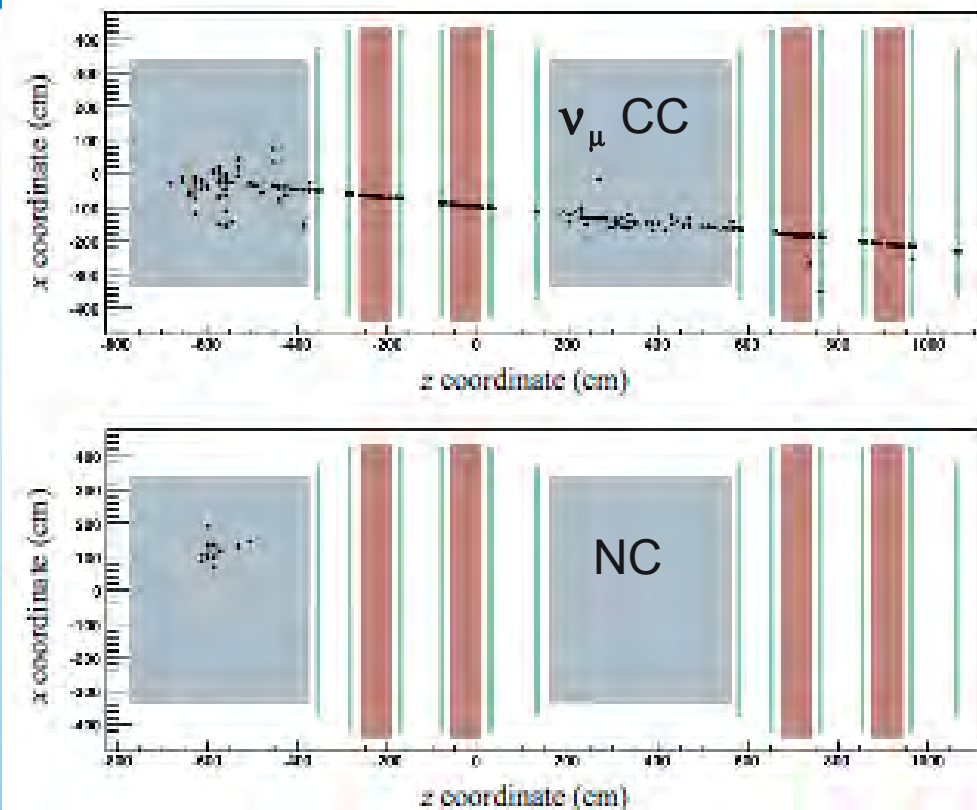


Event-by-event correction  
From the GPS common  
view mode operations



# Result: TOF timelink correction





First TT hit used as "stop"

and translated in time to a common reference point (assuming c)

Internal/External: 7235/7988 events with 2009-2010-2011 CNGS runs ( $\sim 10^{20}$  pot)

External events timing checked with full simulation  $\rightarrow$  2 ns systematic uncertainty

# Internal and external events

$$\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_v$$

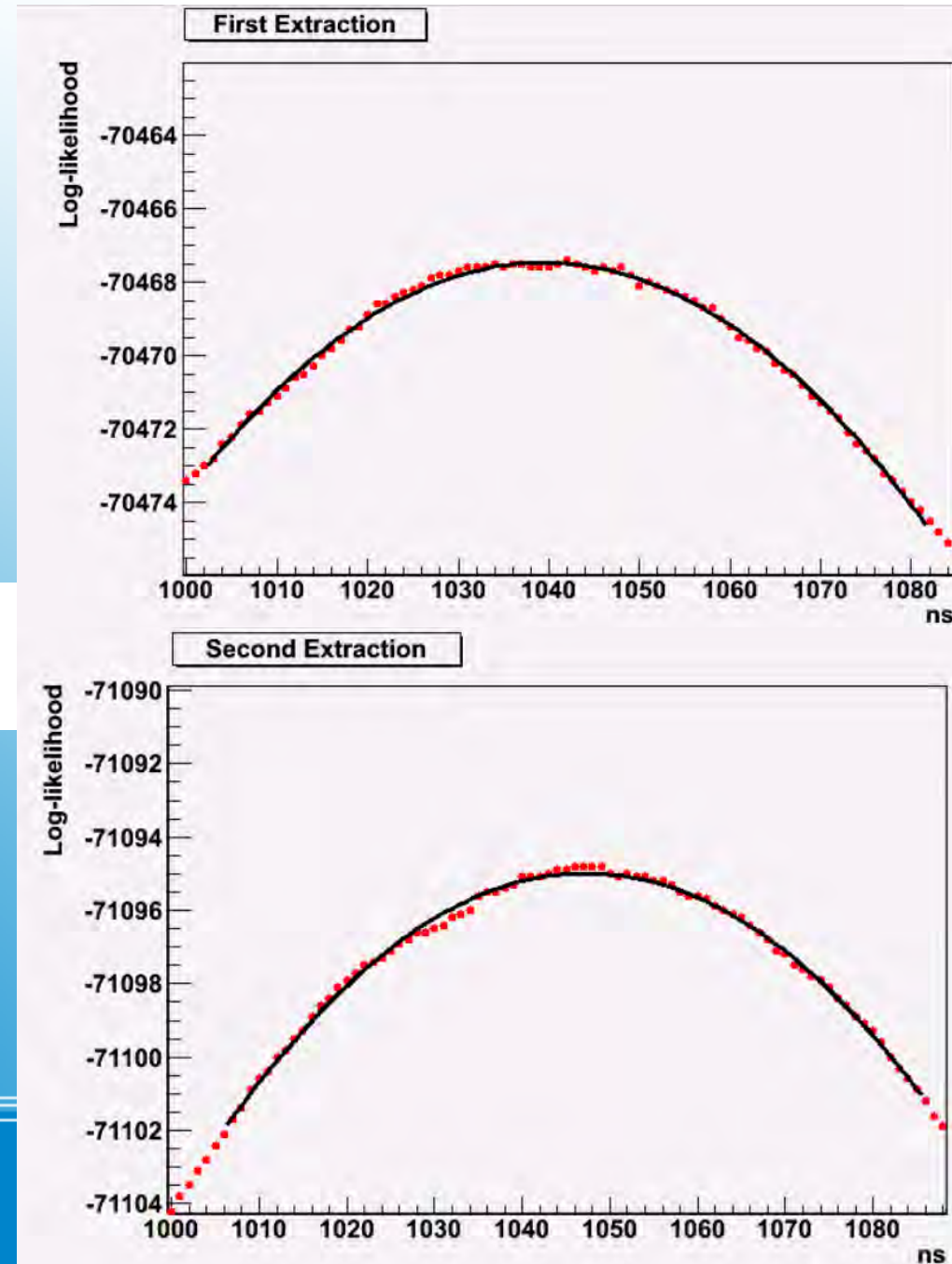
positive (negative)  $\delta t \rightarrow$   
 $v$  arrives earlier (later) than light

Unbinned Log-Likelihood  
 maximised over  $\delta t$ :

$$L_k(\delta t_k) = \prod_j w_k(t_j + \delta t_k) \quad k=1,2 \text{ extractions}$$

Statistical error evaluated from  
 log likelihood curves

# Analysis method



1) Coherence among  
CNGS runs/extractions



2) No hint for day-night

|day-night| =  $16.4 \pm 15.8$  ns

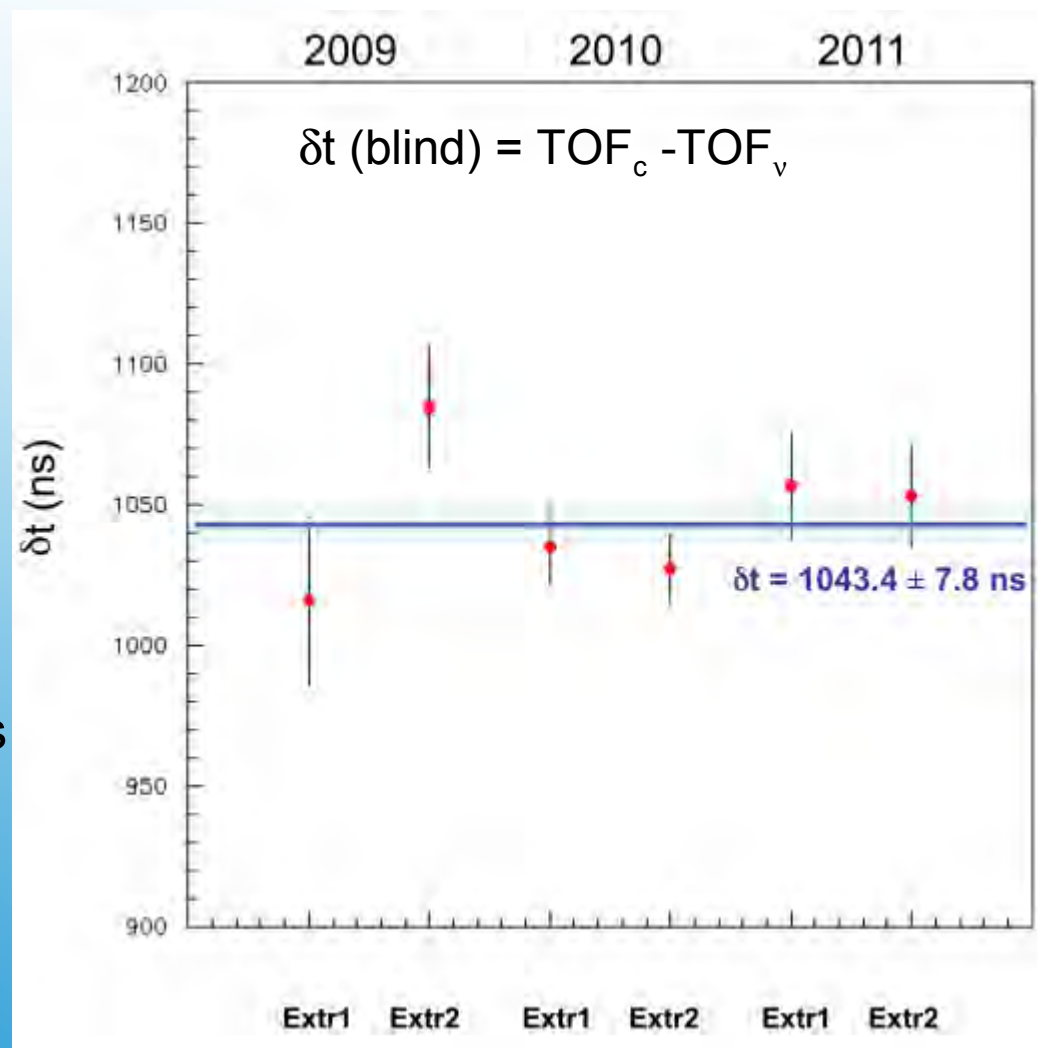
3) or seasonal effects:

| (spring+fall) - summer | =  $15.6 \pm 15.0$  ns

4) Internal vs external events:

All:  $1043.4 \pm 7.8$  ns

Internal:  $1045.1 \pm 11.3$  ns



# Cross-checks

## Timing and baseline corrections

	Blind analysis (ns) 2006	Final analysis (ns) 2011	Correction (ns)
Baseline	2440079.6	2439280.9	
Earth rotation		2.2	
Correction baseline			-796.5
<b>CNGS delays:</b>			
UTC calibration	10092.2	10085.0	
Correction UTC			-7.2
WFD	0	30	
Correction WFD			30
BCT	0	-580	
Correction BCT			-580
<b>OPERA Delays:</b>			
TT response	0	59.6	
FPGA	0	-24.5	
DAQ clock	-4245.2	-4262.9	
Correction OPERA			17.4
<b>GPS Corrections:</b>			
Synchronisation	-353	0	
Time-link	0	-2.3	
Correction GPS			350.7
<b>Total correction</b>			<b>-985.6</b>

## Systematic uncertainties

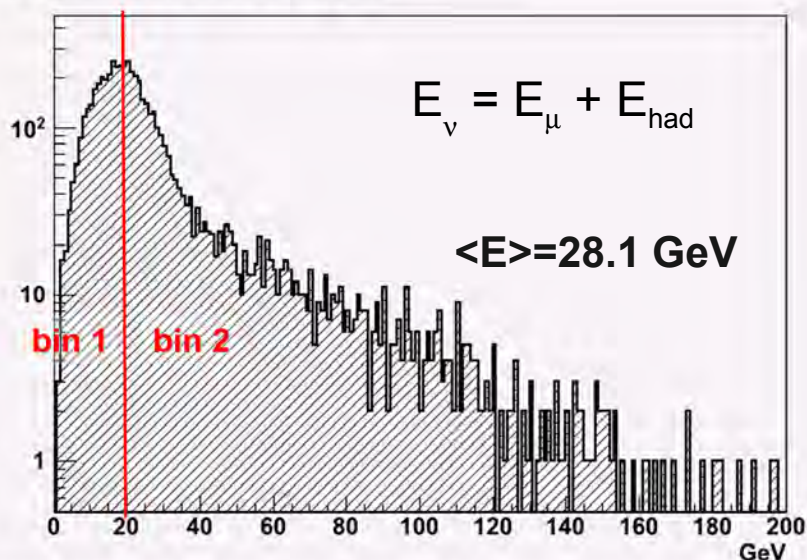
Systematic uncertainties	ns	Error distribution
Baseline (20 cm)	0.67	Gaussian
Decay point	0.2	Exponential (1 side)
Interaction point	2.0	Flat (1 side)
UTC delay	2.0	Gaussian
LNGS fibres	1.0	Gaussian
DAQ clock transmission	1.0	Gaussian
FPGA calibration	1.0	Gaussian
FWD trigger delay	1.0	Gaussian
CNGS-OPERA GPS synchronisation	1.7	Gaussian
MC simulation for TT timing	3.0	Gaussian
TT time response	2.3	Gaussian
BCT calibration	5.0	Gaussian
<b>Total systematic uncertainty</b>	<b>-5.9, +8.3</b>	

$$\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_v = (1043.4 - 985.6) \text{ ns} = (57.8 \pm 7.8 \text{ (stat.)}^{+8.3}_{-5.9} \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns}$$

# Opening the box: result



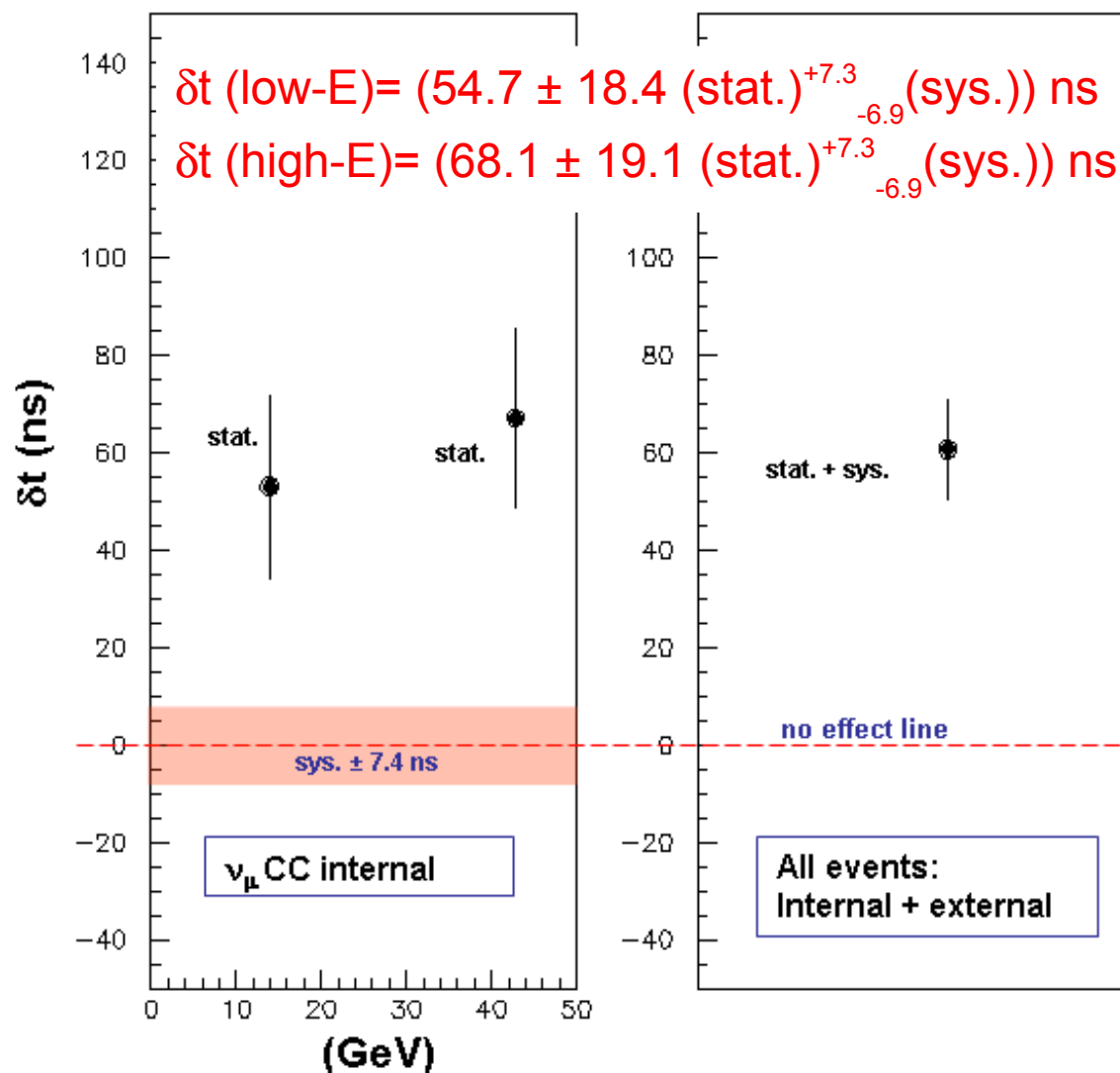
# Reconstructed Event Energy



Only internal muon-neutrino CC events used (5199 events)

$$\delta t = (61.1 \pm 13.2 \text{ (stat.)}^{+7.3}_{-6.9} \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns}$$

No indication for energy dependence within the present sensitivity in the explored energy domain



# Energy dependence

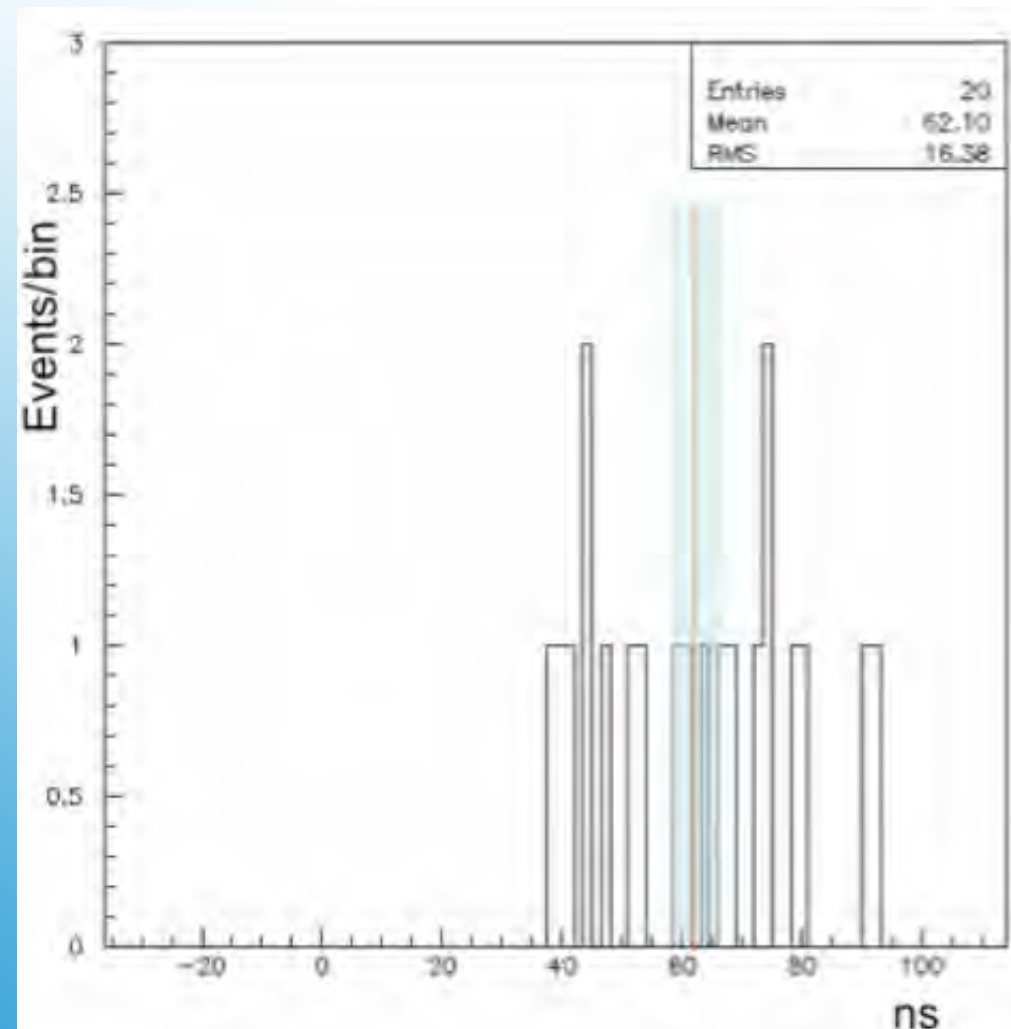
$$\delta t = (62.1 \pm 3.7) \text{ ns}$$

with original beam timing :  $57.8 \pm 7.8 \text{ ns}$

Main contributions to the RMS (16.4 ns):

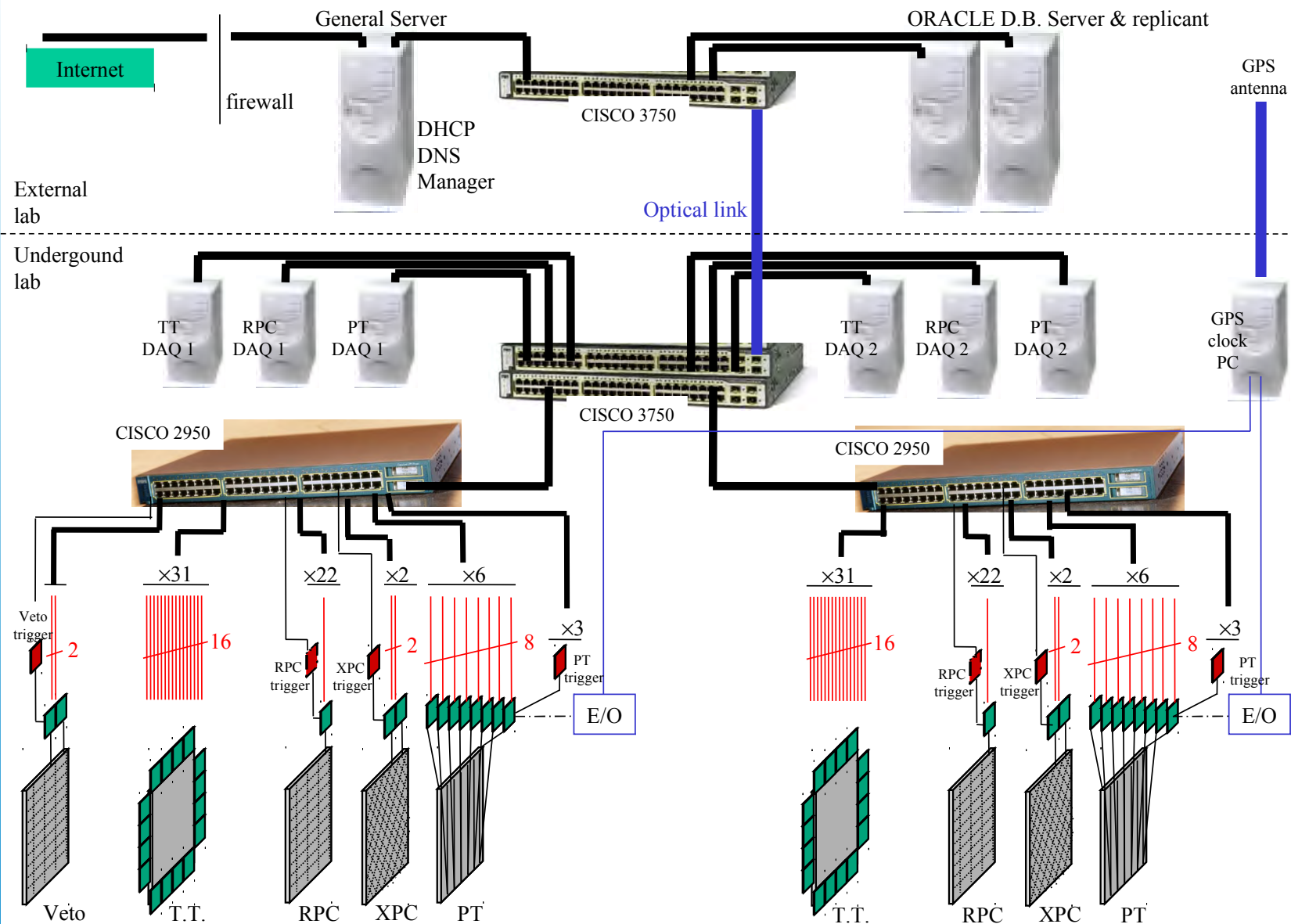
- TT response (7.3 ns)
  - DAQ time granularity (10 ns full width)
  - $\pm 25 \text{ ns}$  flat jitter
- The dominant  $\pm 25 \text{ ns}$  term is related to the tagging of the GPS signal by the 20 MHz OPERA master clock (RMS =  $50 \text{ ns}/\sqrt{12} = 14.4 \text{ ns}$ ).

The statistical accuracy on the average  $\delta t$  is already as small as 3.7 ns with only 20 events (collected in 15 days).



# Bunched-beam result

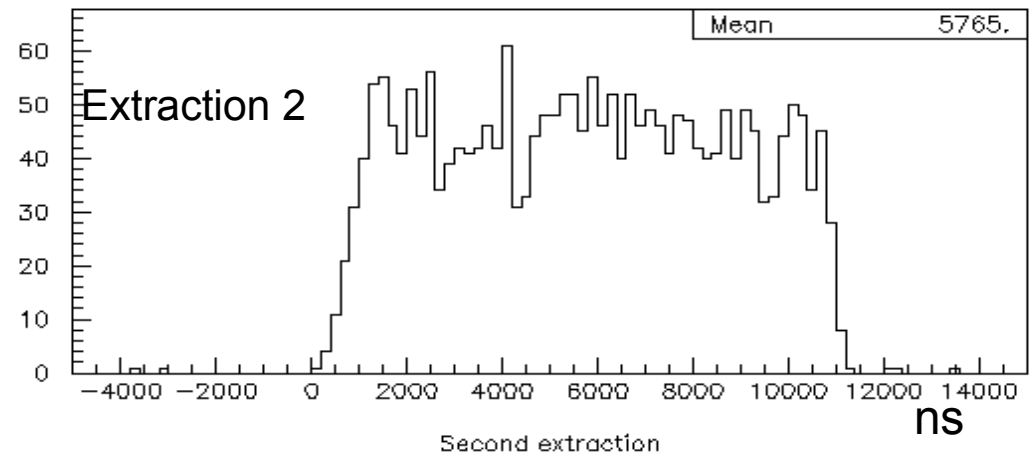
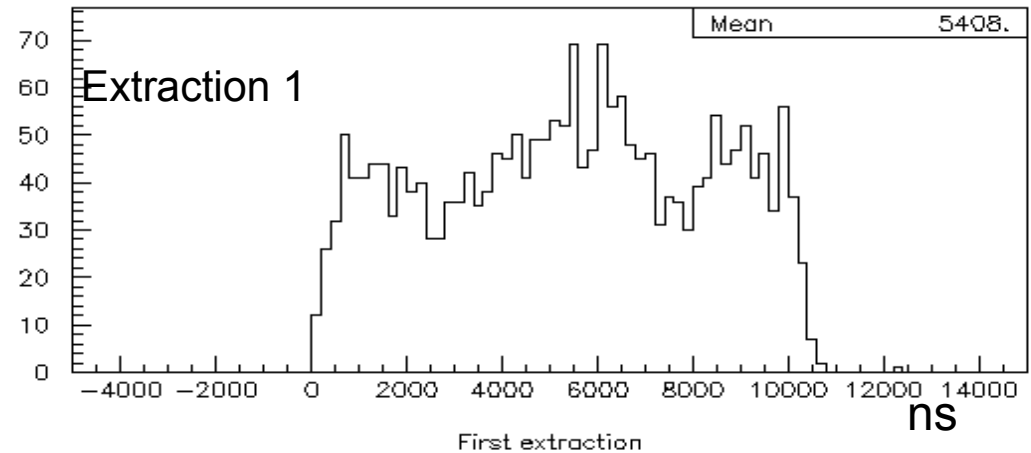
- Trigger-less
- 1200 asynchronous FE nodes
- Gigabit ethernet network



# OPERA read-out scheme

Typical neutrino event time distributions w.r.t kicker magnet trigger pulse =>

- Not flat
- Different timing for the two extractions



→ Need to measure precisely the proton spills

# From selection to the velocity measurement<sup>47</sup>



- FNAL experiment ([Phys. Rev. Lett. 43 \(1979\) 1361](#))

$\nu_\mu$  ( $E_\nu > 30$  GeV) short baseline experiment.

$$|v-c|/c \leq 4 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ (comparison of } \nu_\mu \text{ and } \mu \text{ velocities).}$$

- Supernova SN1987A (e.g. [Phys. Lett. B 201 \(1988\) 353](#))

electron (anti)  $\nu$ ,  $E \sim 10$  MeV, 168.000 light years baseline.

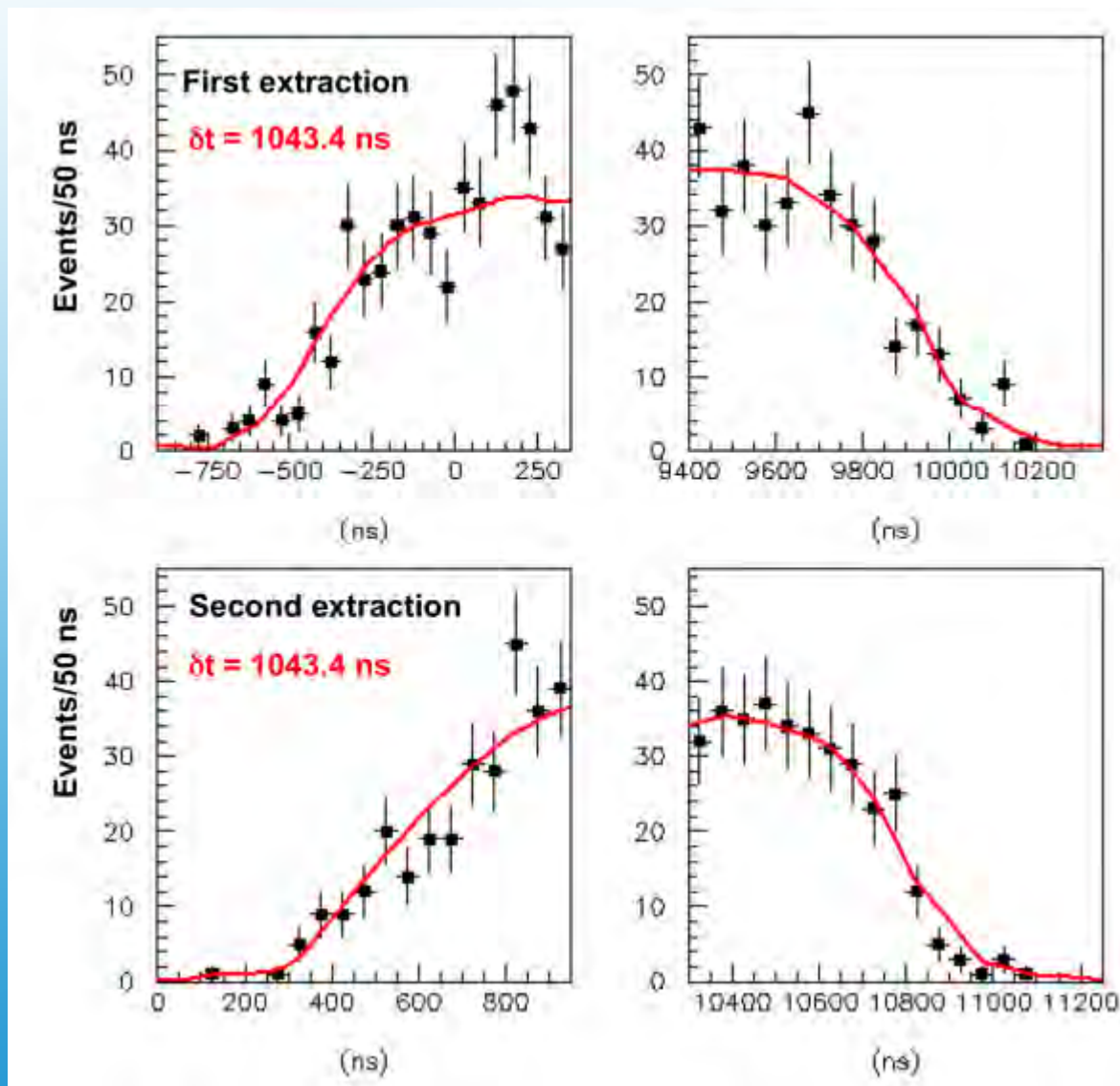
$$|v-c|/c \leq 2 \cdot 10^{-9} \text{ (}\nu \text{ and light arrival time).}$$

- MINOS ([Phys. Rev. D 76 072005 2007](#))

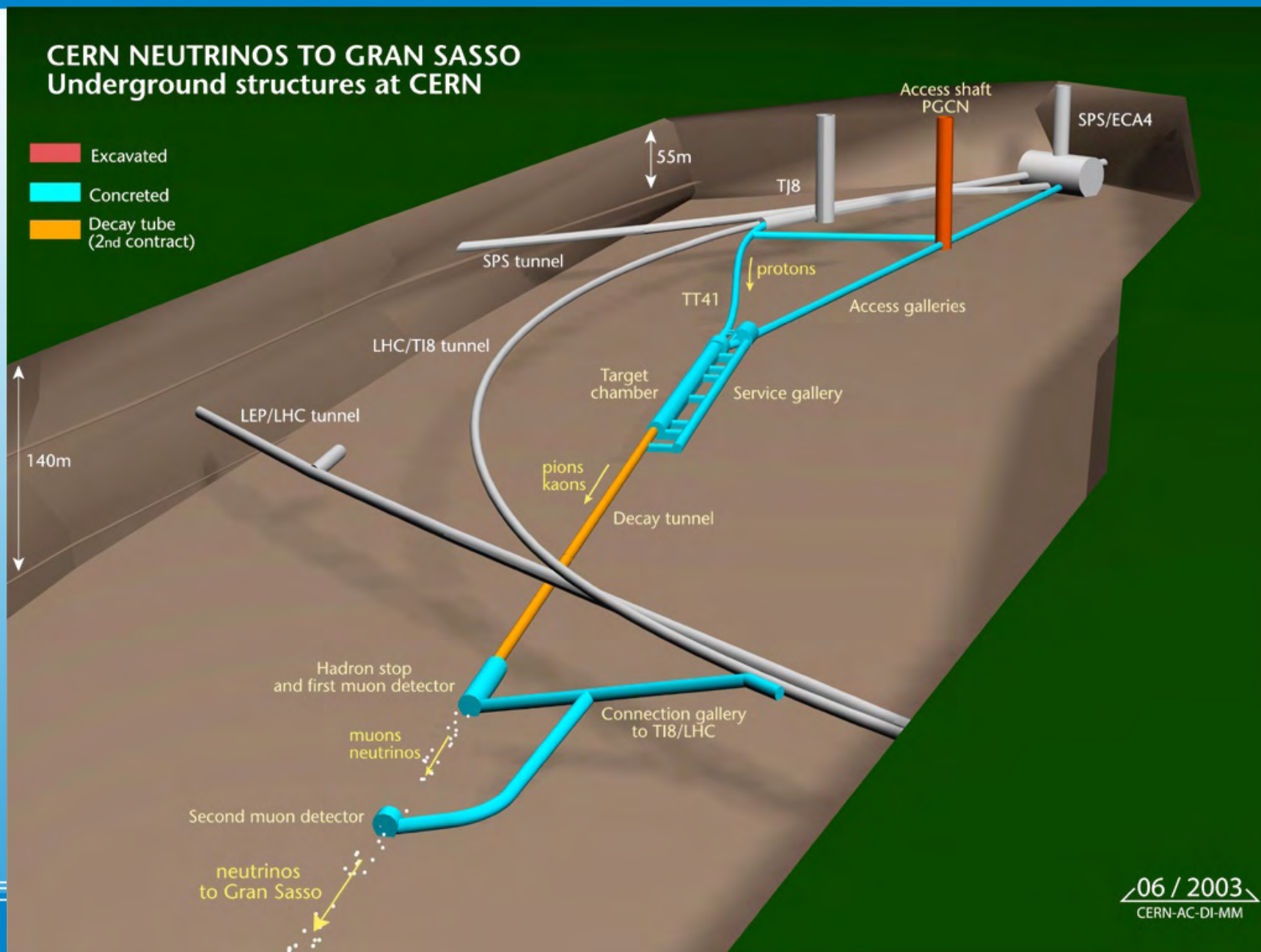
$\nu_\mu$ ,  $E_\nu \sim 3$  GeV with a tail above 100 GeV. 730 km baseline.

$$(v-c)/c = (5.1 \pm 2.9) 10^{-5}, 1.8 \sigma, (\nu_\mu \text{ at near and far site})$$

# Previous $\nu$ –velocity measurements



# Edge regions



# CNGS

CERN-LNGS measurements (different periods) combined in the ETRF2000 European Global system, accounting for earth dynamics (collaboration with CERN survey group)

LNGS benchmarks  
In ETRF2000

Benchmark	X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
GPS1	4579518.745	1108193.650	4285874.215
GPS2	4579537.618	1108238.881	4285843.959
GPS3	4585824.371	1102829.275	4280651.125
GPS4	4585839.629	1102751.612	4280651.236

Cross-check done in June 2011: simultaneous CERN-LNGS measurement of GPS benchmarks

Distance (BCT - OPERA reference frame) = **(731278.0 ± 0.2) m**

# Combination with CERN geodesy



$$L(\delta t) = \prod_j w_j(t_j + \delta t)$$

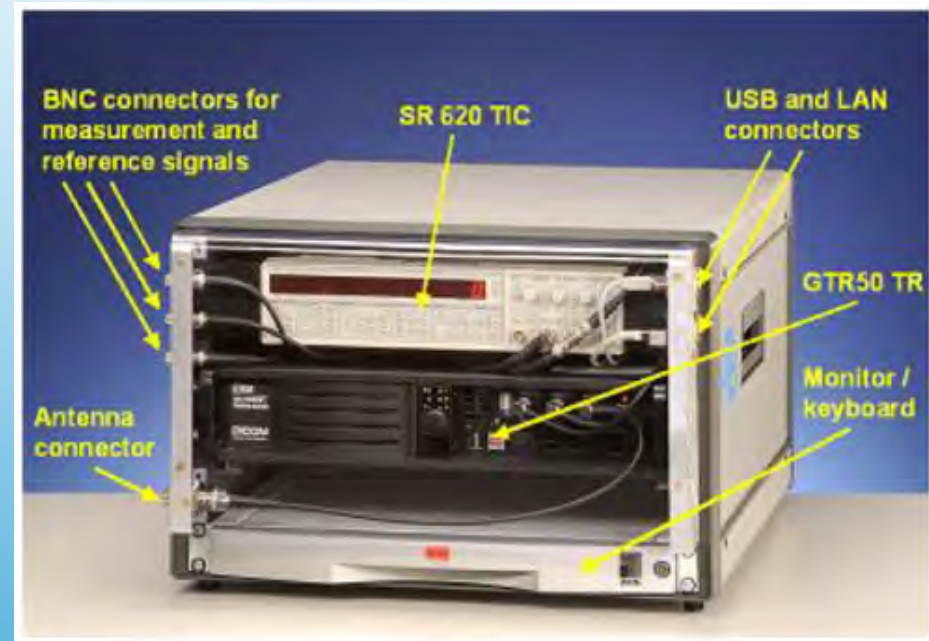
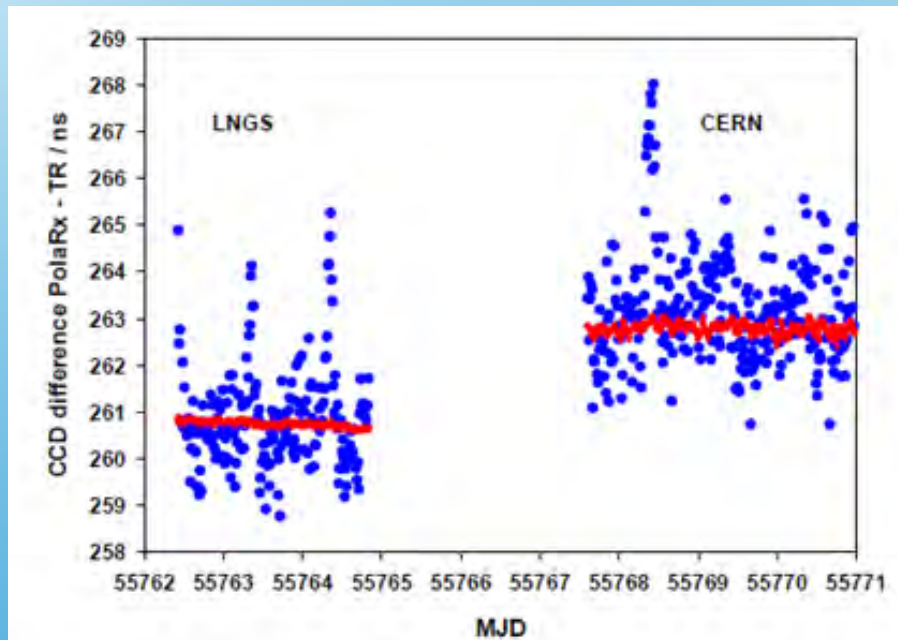
$$\delta t = (54.5 \pm 5.0 \text{ (stat.) } {}^{+9.6}_{-7.2} \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns}$$

# Event-by-event PDFs

## Independent twin-system calibration by the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt

High accuracy/stability portable time-transfer setup @ CERN and LNGS

GTR50 GPS receiver, thermalised, external Cs frequency source, embedded Time Interval Counter



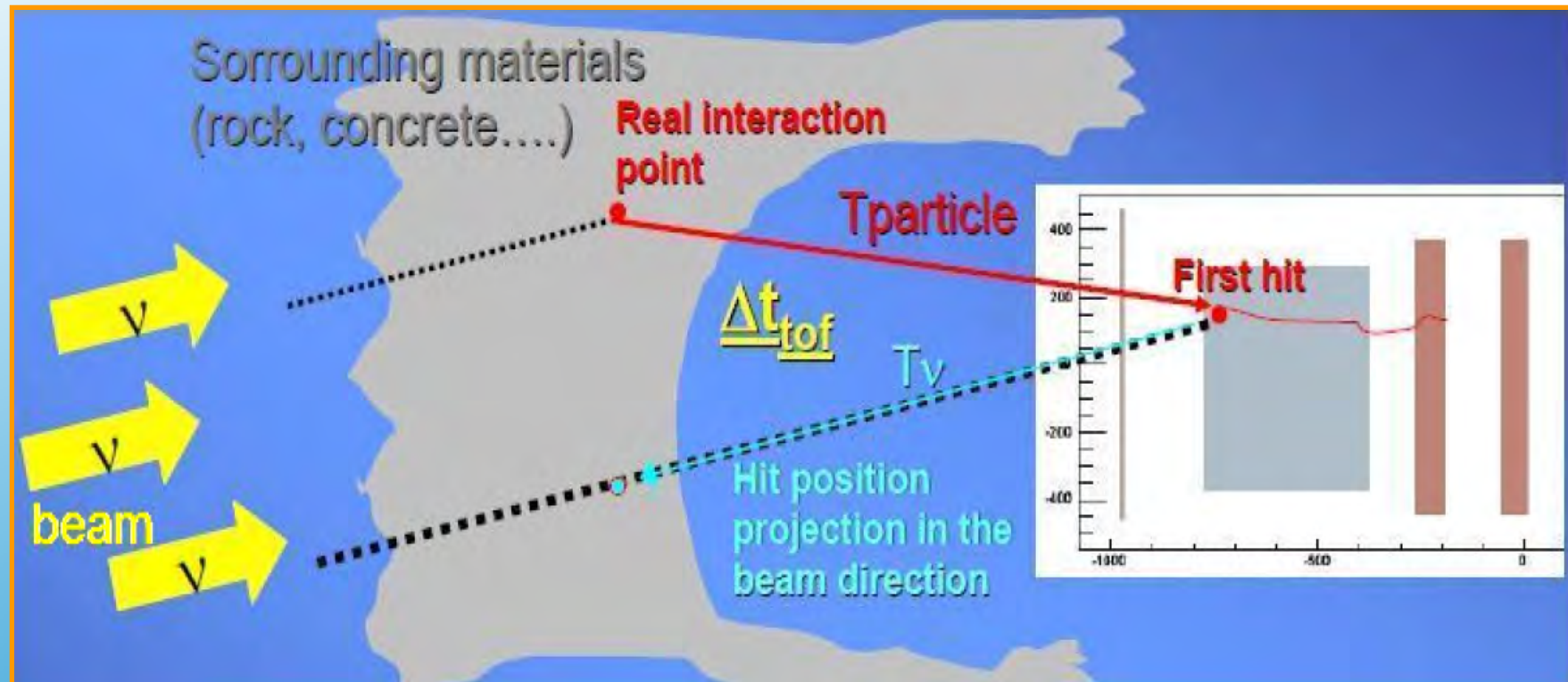
Correction to the time-link:

$$t_{\text{CERN}} - t_{\text{OPERA}} = (2.3 \pm 0.9) \text{ ns}$$

# CERN-OPERA intercalibration cross check

Item	Result	Method
CERN UTC distribution (GMT)	$10085 \pm 2$ ns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portable Cs</li> <li>• Two-ways</li> </ul>
WFD trigger	$30 \pm 1$ ns	Scope
BTC delay	$580 \pm 5$ ns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portable Cs</li> <li>• Dedicated beam experiment</li> </ul>
LNGS UTC distribution (fibers)	$40996 \pm 1$ ns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-ways</li> <li>• Portable Cs</li> </ul>
OPERA master clock distribution	$4262.9 \pm 1$ ns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-ways</li> <li>• Portable Cs</li> </ul>
FPGA latency, quantization curve	$24.5 \pm 1$ ns	Scope vs DAQ delay scan (0.5 ns steps)
Target Tracker delay (Photocathode to FPGA)	$50.2 \pm 2.3$ ns	UV picosecond laser
Target Tracker response (Scintillator-Photocathode, trigger time-walk, quantisation)	$9.4 \pm 3$ ns	UV laser, time walk and photon arrival time parametrizations, full detector simulation
CERN-LNGS intercalibration	$2.3 \pm 1.7$ ns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• METAS PolaRx calibration</li> <li>• PTB direct measurement</li> </ul>

# Delay calibrations summary

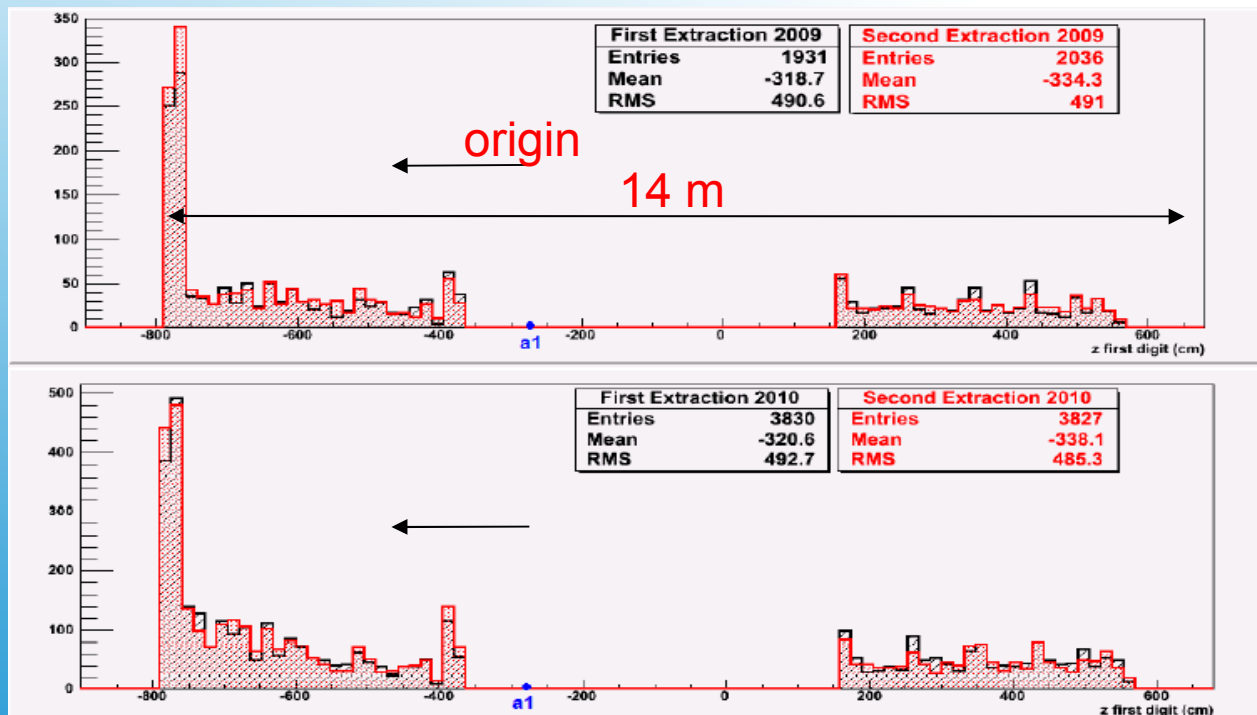


# External events



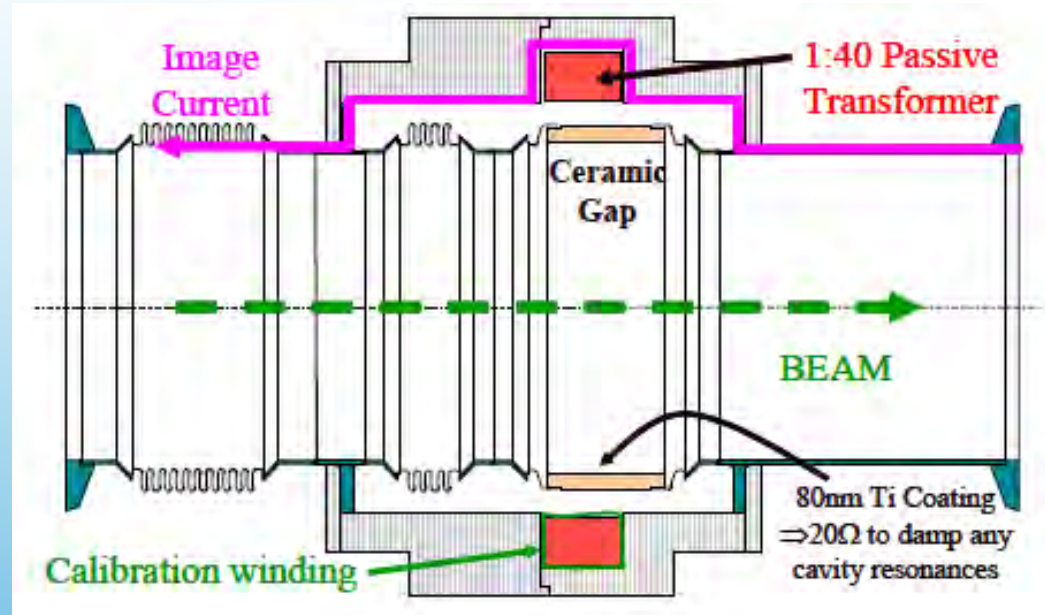
Correction due to the earliest hit position

Average correction: 140 cm  
(4.7 ns)



# Z correction

BFCTI400344



Raw BCT signal used, no integration  
 <1% linearity  
 Large bandwidth 400 MHz  
 Low droop <0.1%/μs



# Fast beam current transformer

## GPS standard operation

resolves  $(x, y, z, t)$  with  $\geq 4$  satellite observations

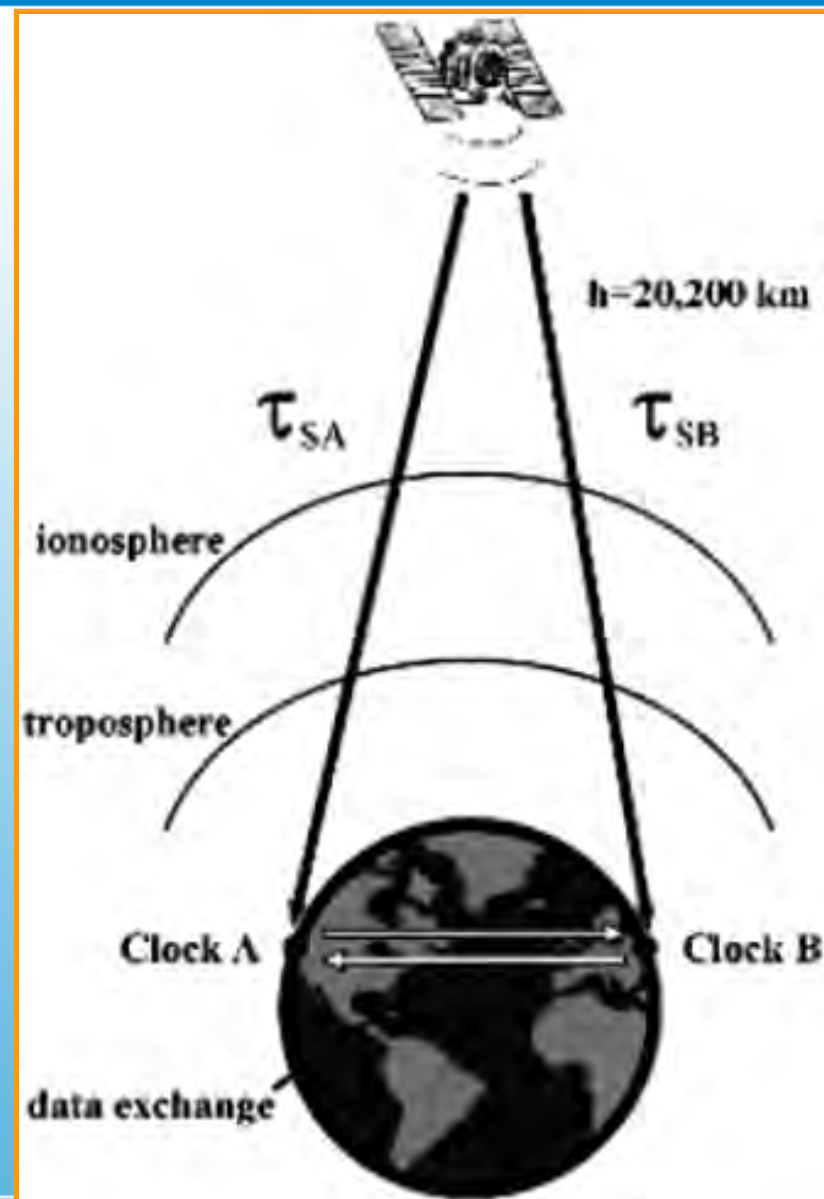
## GPS “common-view” mode

same satellite visible from two sites

Knowing  $(x, y, z)$  of the sites from former dedicated measurements  $\rightarrow$  determine time differences of local clocks w.r.t. the satellite, by off-line data exchange

Advantage:  $730 \text{ km} \ll 20000 \text{ km}$  (satellite height)  $\rightarrow$  similar paths in ionosphere  $\rightarrow$  error cancellation

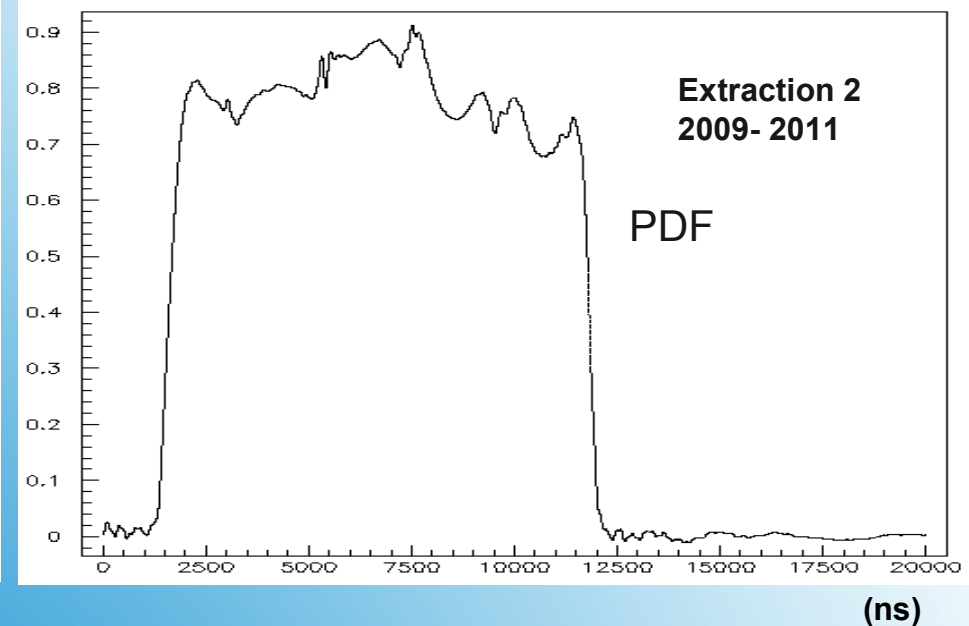
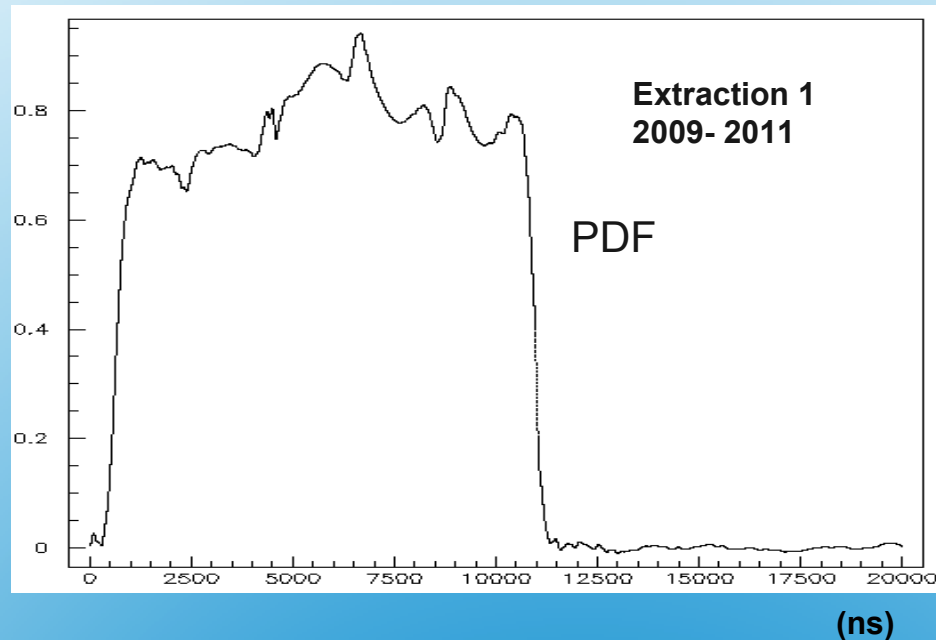
Standard technique for high accuracy t-transfer  
Permanent time link ( $\sim 1 \text{ ns}$ ) between reference points at CERN and OPERA



# GPS common view mode

- Each event is associated to its proton spill waveform
- The “parent” proton is unknown within the 10.5  $\mu\text{s}$  extraction time  
→ normalize each waveform and sum:

Average Probability Density Function (PDF) of the predicted t-distribution of  $\nu$  events



Another approach:

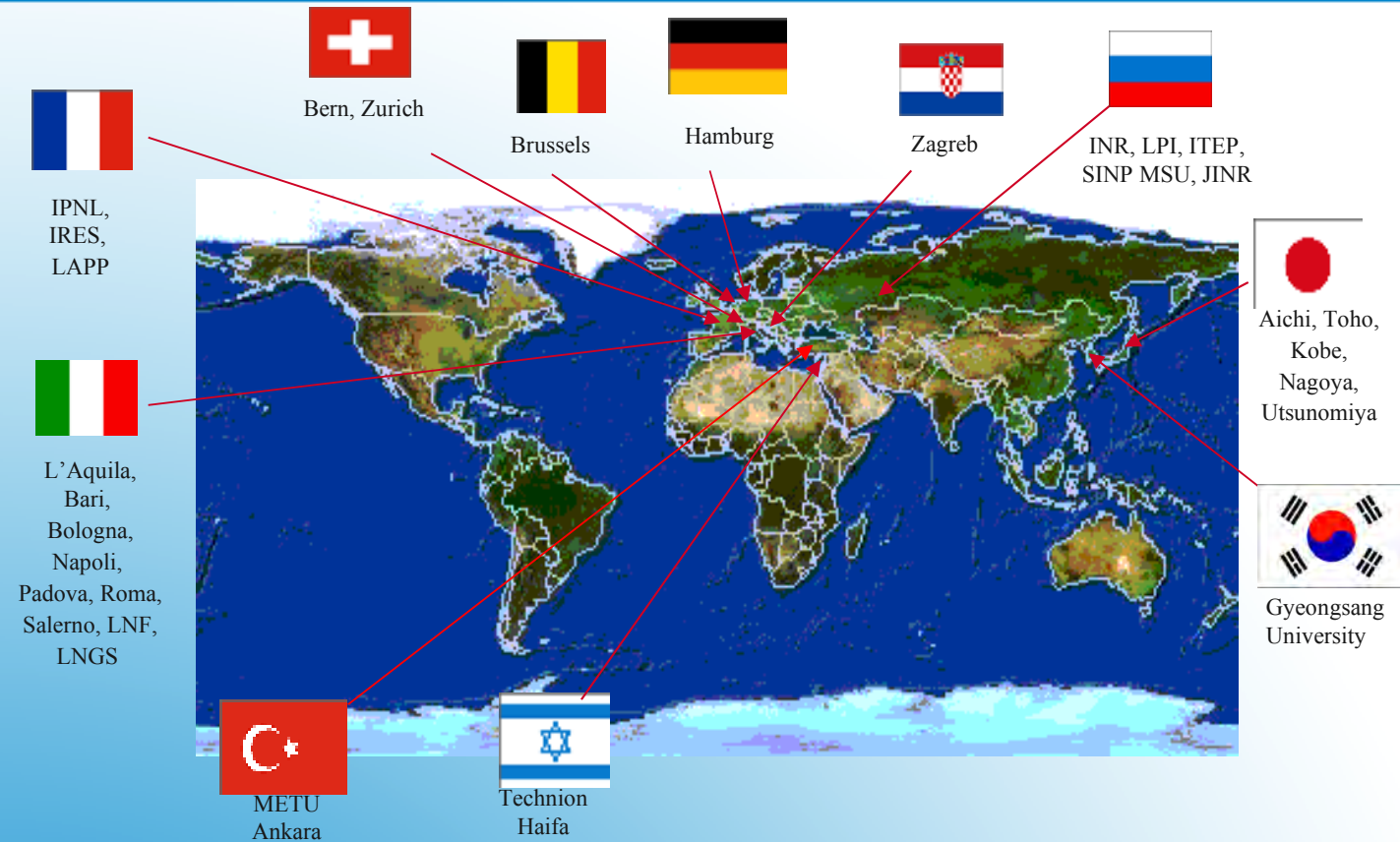
- normalize each waveform and use a different PDF for each  $\nu$  event

# Neutrino event-time PDF



# OPERA Coll.

- 11 countries
- 30 institutions
- 160 physicists



## Collaborators

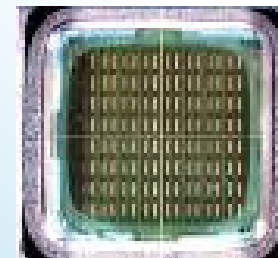
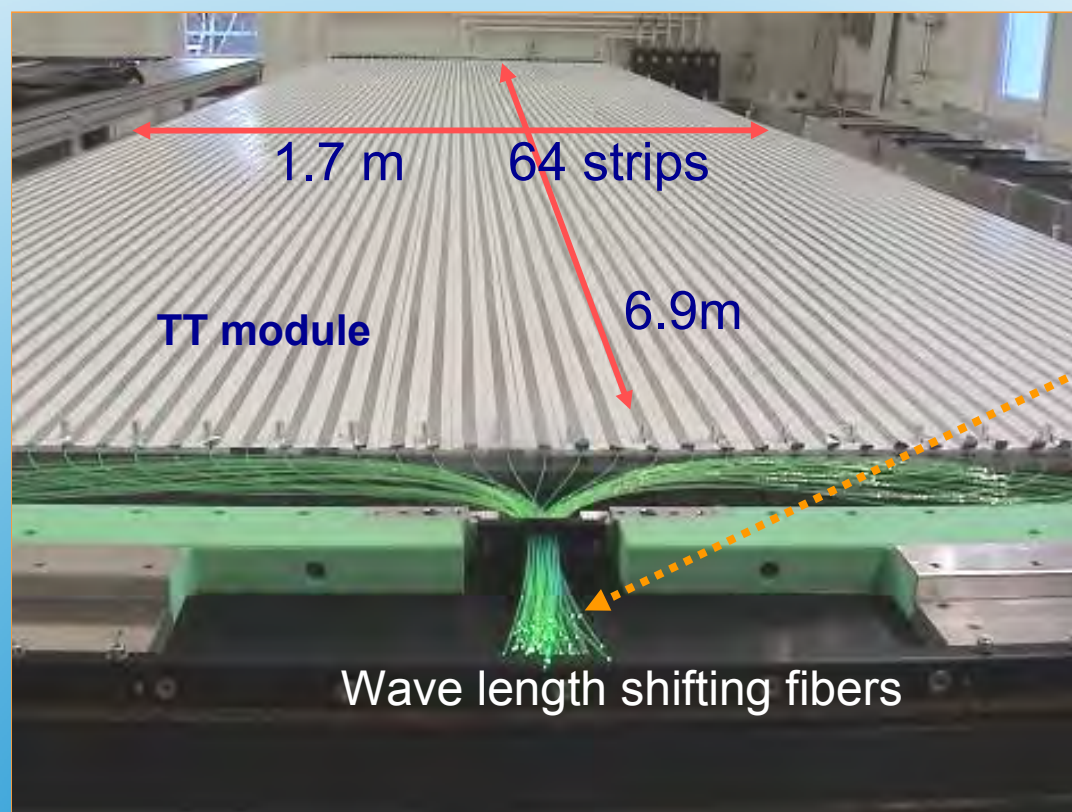
- CERN groups: CNGS beam, survey, timing and PS
- Geodesy group of the Università Sapienza of Rome
- Swiss Institute of Metrology (METAS)
- German Institute of Metrology (PTB)

<http://arxiv.org/pdf/1109.4897v2>

# OPERA and collaborating groups

Tasks: **location of the ECC** containing the  $\nu$  interactions and **event timing**

- extruded **plastic scintillator** strips (2.6 cm width)
- light collections with wave length shifting fibers (WLS)
- fibers read-out at either side with multi-anode 64 pixels PMTs (H7546)

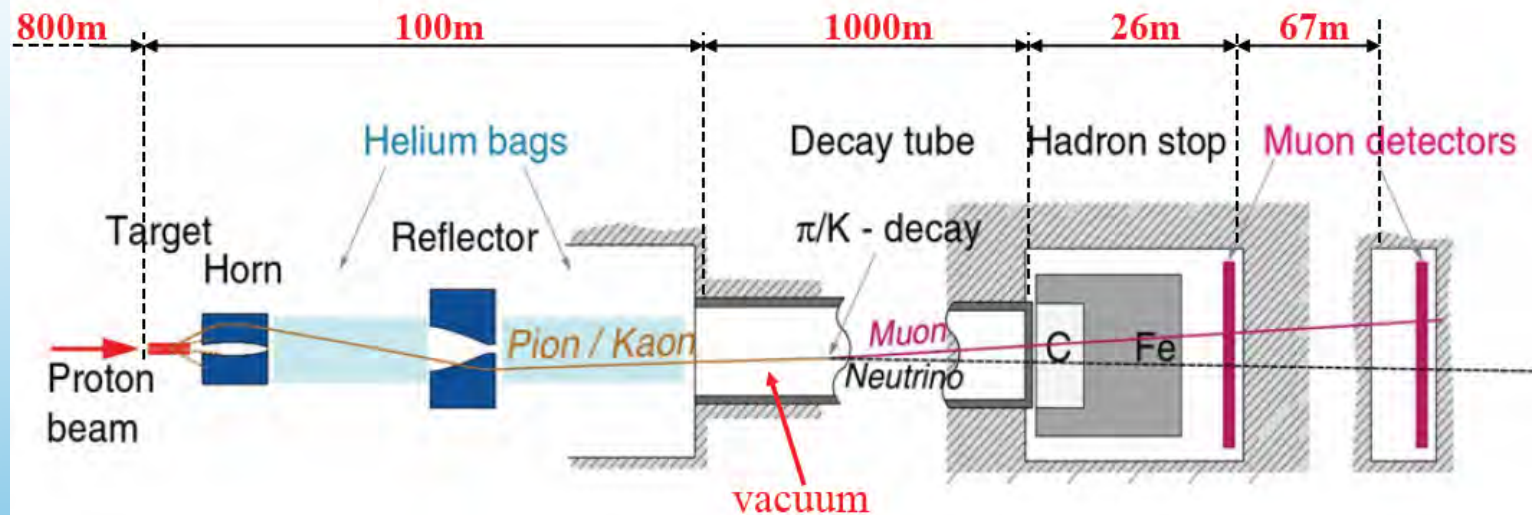


H7546  
photomultiplier

one front-end DAQ board per side

# The target tracker

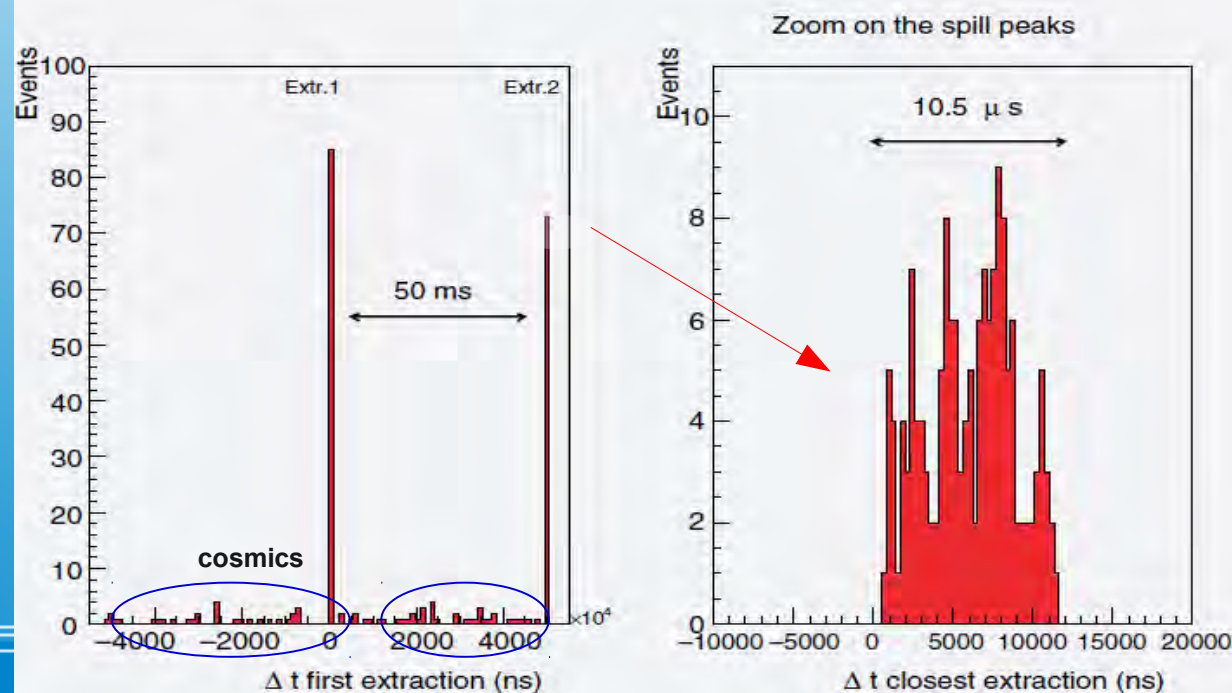
- SPS p: 400 GeV/c
- 6 s cycle
- $\sim$  pure  $\nu_\mu$
- $\langle E_\nu \rangle = 17$  GeV  
traveling through  
the Earth's crust



- Two  $10.5 \mu\text{s}$  extractions (by kicker magnet) separated by 50 ms

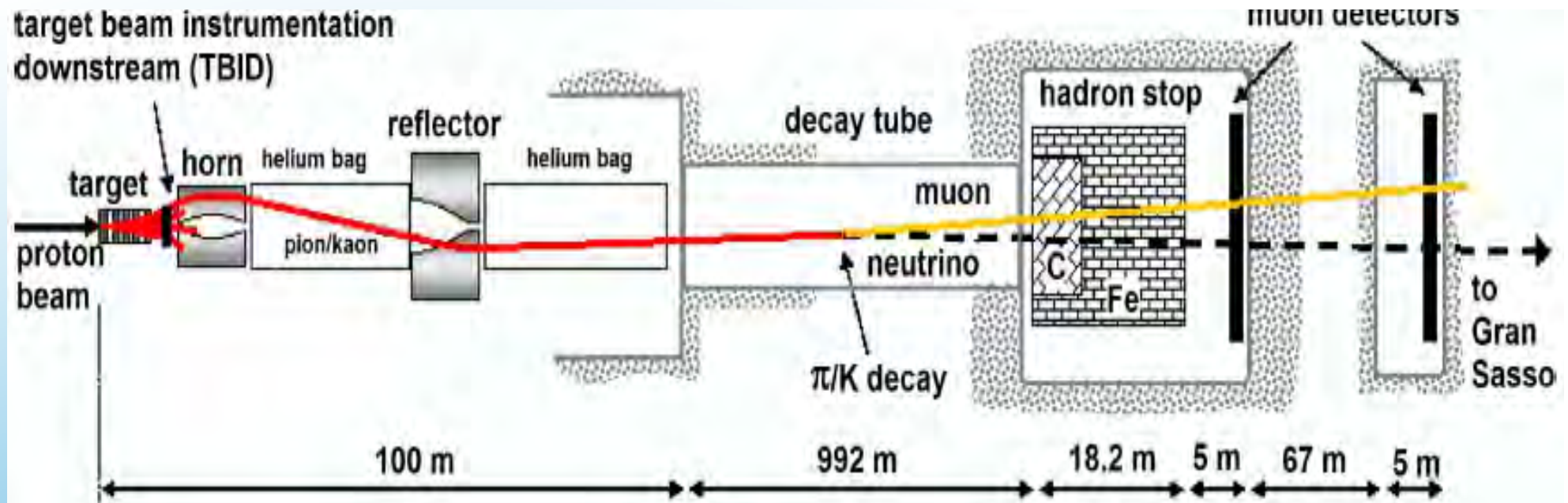
$2.4 \cdot 10^{13}$  protons/extraction

Negligible cosmic-ray  
background:  $O(10^{-4})$



# The CNGS neutrino beam





- $\nu$  production point is not known but:

- accurate UTC time-stamp of protons
- relativistic parent mesons

$\text{TOF}_c$  = assuming  $c$  from BCT to OPERA (2439280.9 ns)

$\text{TOF}_{\text{true}}$  = accounting for speed of mesons down to decay point

$$\Delta t = \frac{z}{\beta c} - \frac{z}{c} = \frac{z}{c} \left( \frac{1}{\beta} - 1 \right) \approx \frac{z}{c} \frac{1}{2\gamma^2}$$

$$\langle \Delta t \rangle = \text{TOF}_{\text{true}} - \text{TOF}_c = 14 \text{ ps} \quad \text{full FLUKA simulation}$$

# Neutrino production point



## Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (the largest underground lab)



2912 m

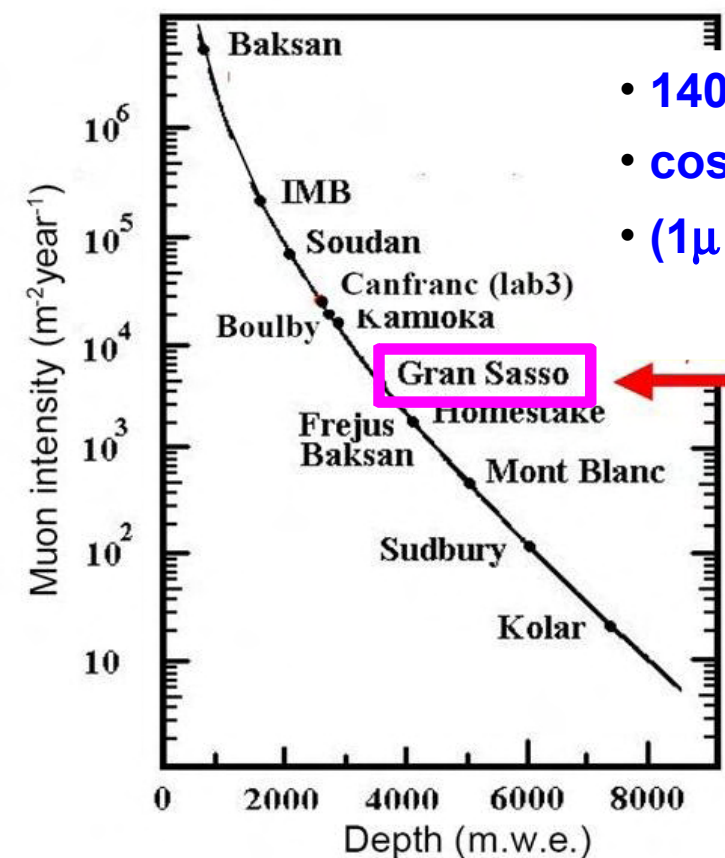
- $\nu$  phys. ( $\beta\beta 0\nu$  solar- $\nu$ , atm.- $\nu$ , LB  $\nu$ -osc.)

HM $\beta\beta$ , MACRO, GNO, **BOREXINO**, OPERA, ICARUS, **CUORICINO**, COBRA, CUORE, GERDA

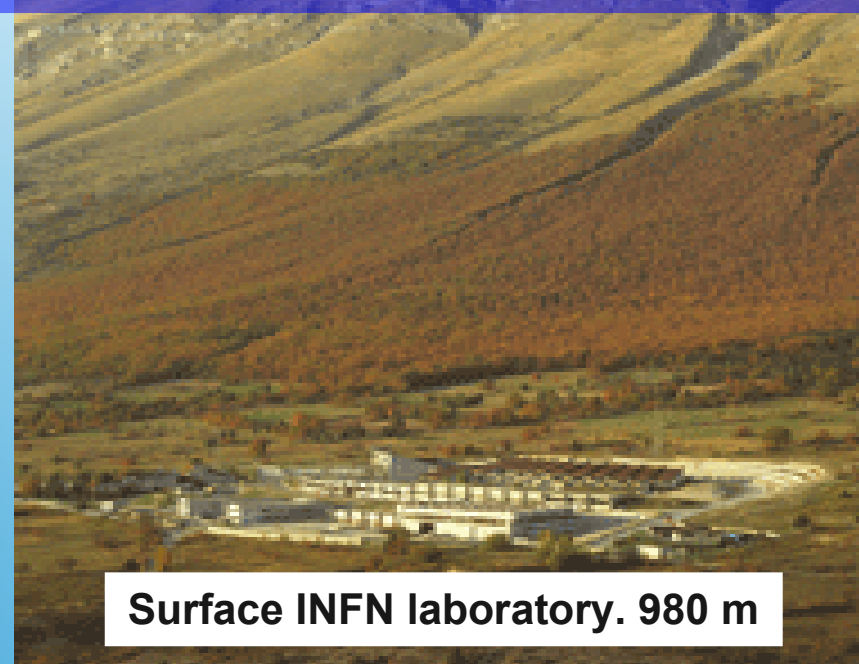
- DM - **CRESST**, DAMA, LIBRA, HDMS, GENIUS-TF, XENON, WARP

- Particle & nuclear astrophysics - EASTOP, LVD, LUNA, VIP

- Gravitational waves - LISA / Geophys., seismology - **ERMES**, UNDERSEIS, TELLUS, GIGS, Biology - ZOO, CRYO-STEM



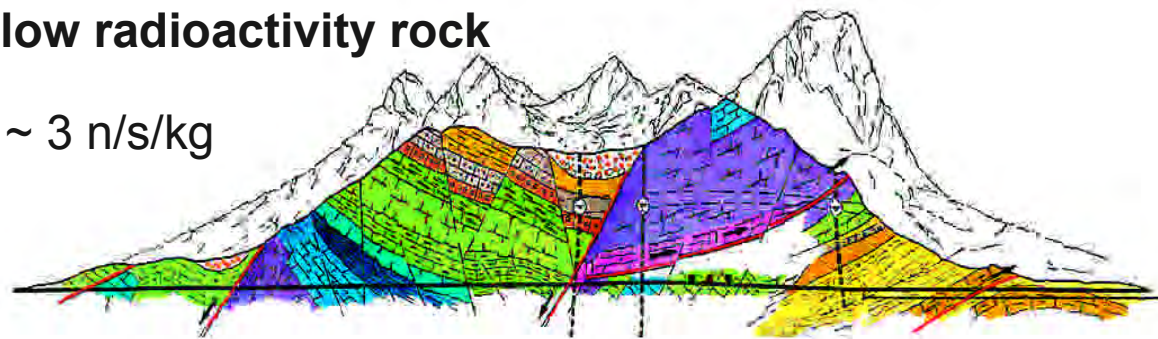
- 1400 m rock overburden
- cosmic  $\mu$  reduction  $\sim 10^6$
- ( $1\mu$  /m²/h)



Surface INFN laboratory. 980 m

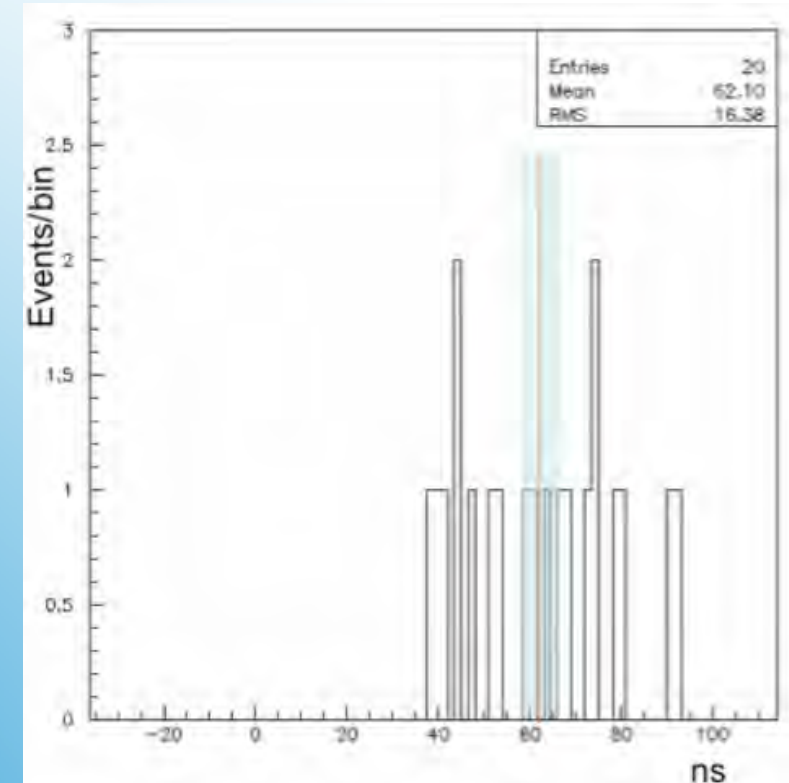
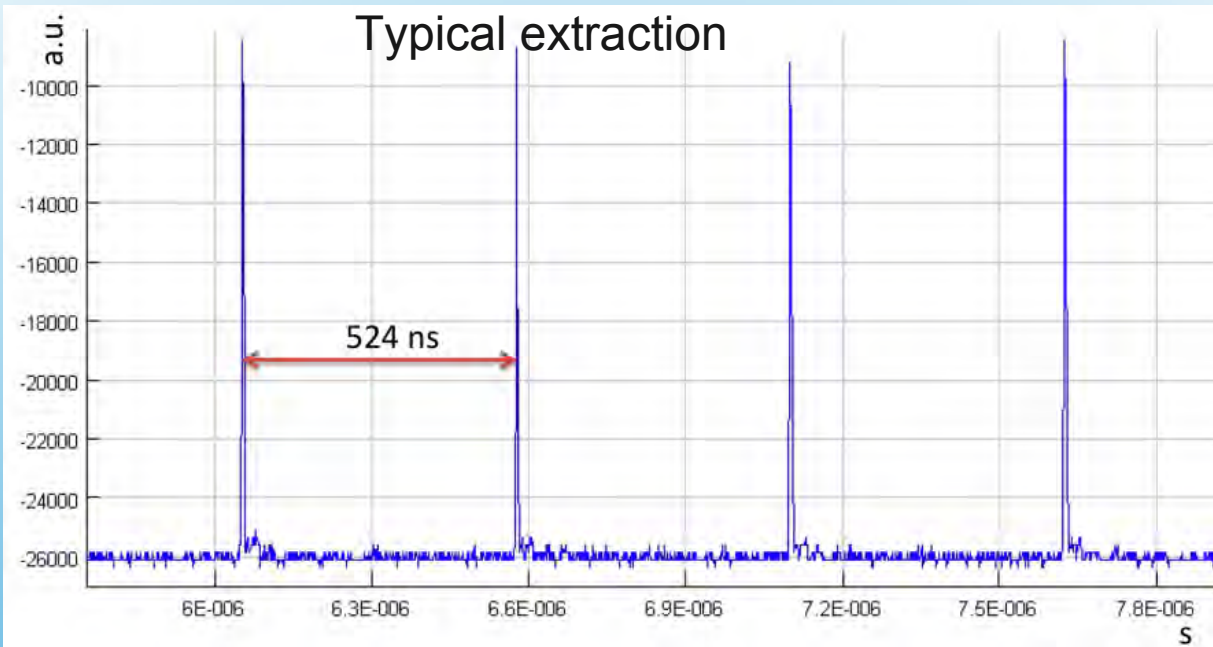
low radioactivity rock

$\sim 3$  n/s/kg



November 2011, bunched beam:

The robustness of statistical treatment is confirmed and anomaly persists  $(62.1 \pm 3.7) \text{ ns}$

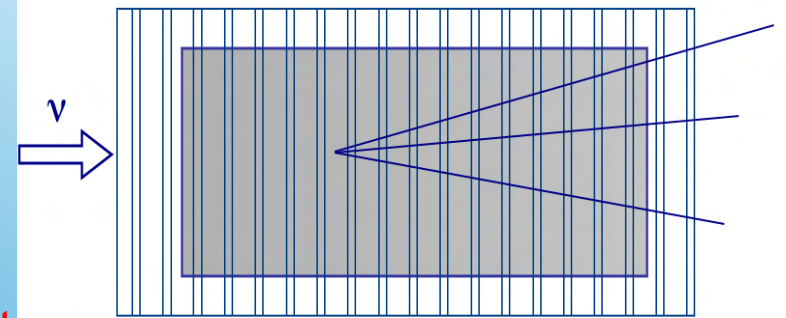
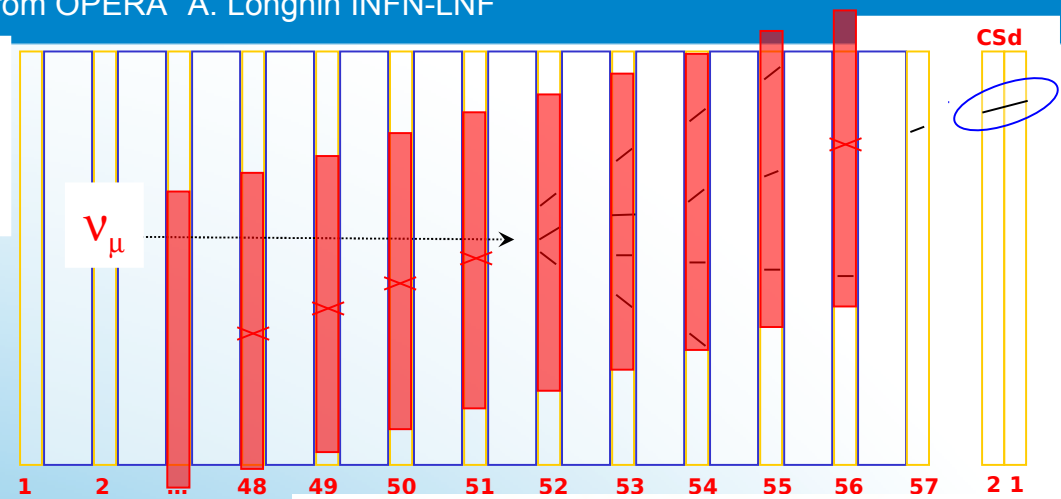
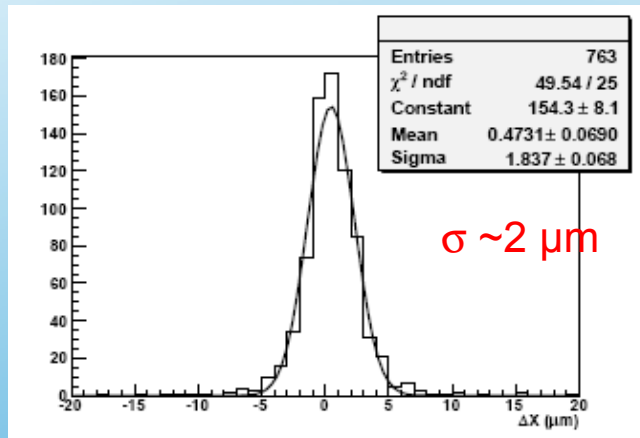


October 22 to November 6, 2011

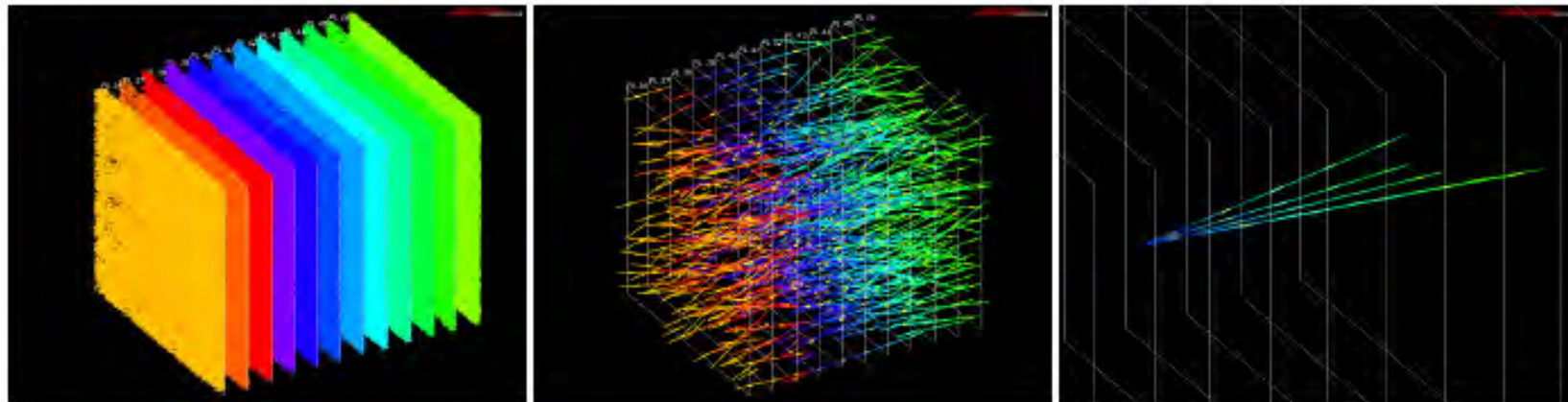
# Analysis with a "bunched-beam"

## Track follow-up film by film:

- alignment using cosmic ray tracks
- definition of the stopping point



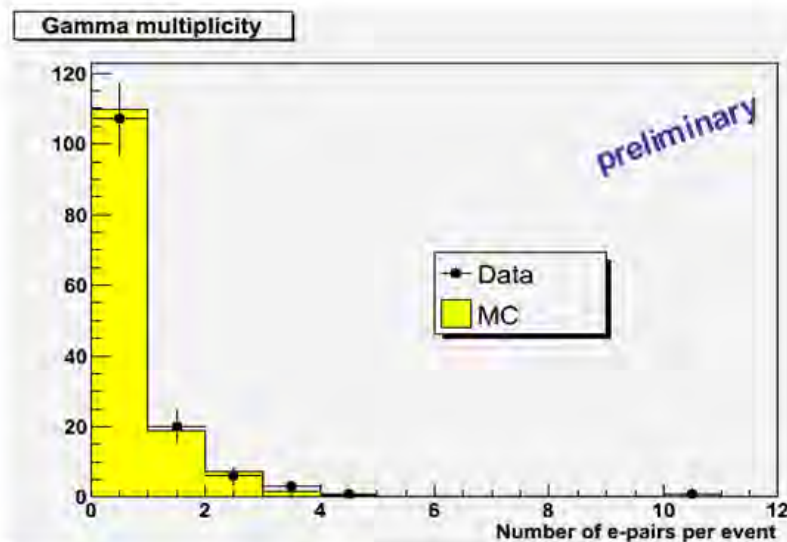
Volume scanning ( $\sim 2 \text{ cm}^3$ ) around the stopping point



JINST 4 (2009) P06020

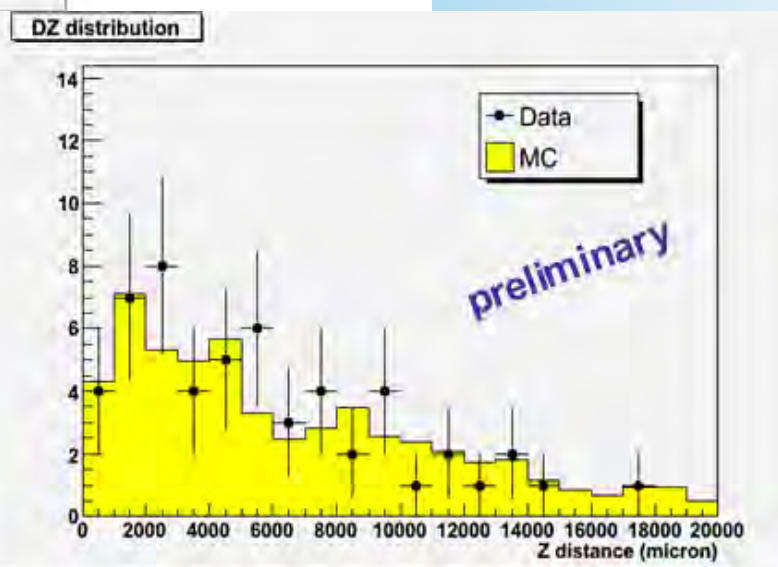
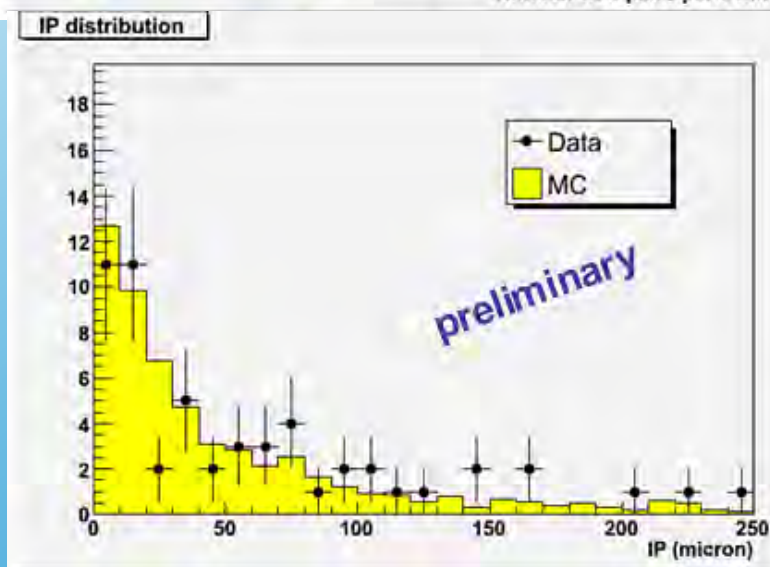
# Vertex finding





Comparison data/MC for the Gamma multiplicity in  $\nu_\mu$  CC+NC events

Volume scan of 20 plates  $\times$  1 cm<sup>2</sup> downstream of  $\nu$  vertex  
good description



**$\gamma$  conversions: data/MC**



Decay channel	Number of background events for:							
	22.5×10 <sup>19</sup> p.o.t.				Analysed sample			
	Charm	Hadr.	Muon	Total	Charm	Hadr.	Muon	Total
$t \rightarrow \mu$	0.025	0.00	0.07	$0.09 \pm 0.04$	0.00	0.00	0.02	$0.02 \pm 0.01$
$t \rightarrow e$	0.22			$0.22 \pm 0.05$	0.05			$0.05 \pm 0.01$
$t \rightarrow h$	0.14	0.11		$0.24 \pm 0.06$	0.03	0.02		$0.05 \pm 0.01$
$t \rightarrow 3h$	0.18			$0.18 \pm 0.04$	0.04			$0.04 \pm 0.01$
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.11</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b><math>0.73 \pm 0.15</math></b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b><math>0.16 \pm 0.03</math></b>

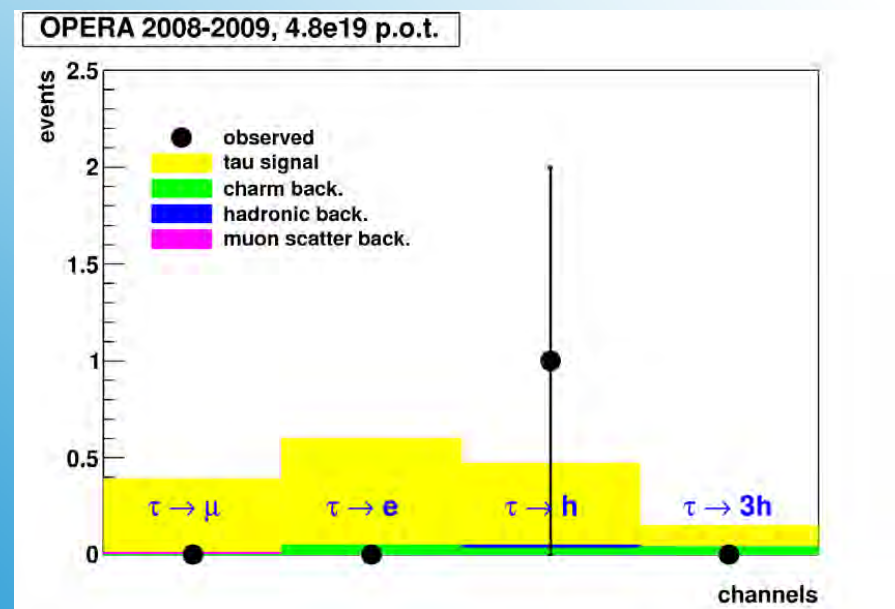
$\tau \rightarrow \mu$  is very clean

Expected background in  $t \rightarrow h$  :  $0.05 \pm 0.01$

Probability of a background fluctuation up to at least one event is 5%

Total background:  $0.16 \pm 0.03$

Probability background fluctuation 15%

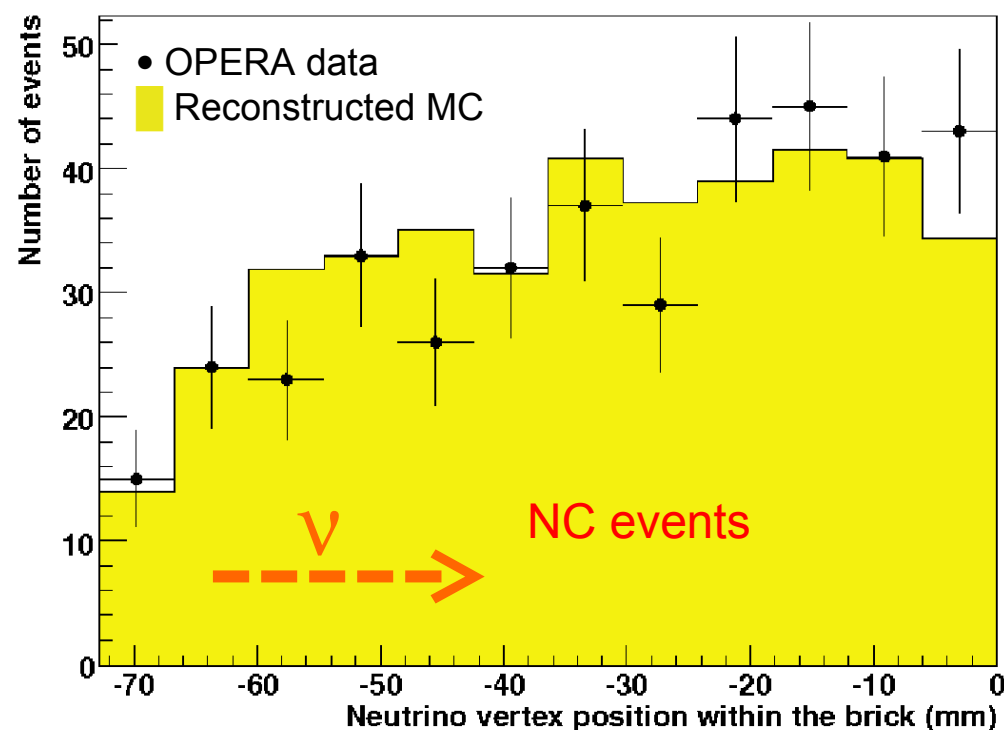


# Summary of backgrounds

	0 mu	1 mu	All
Triggered (CNGS on-time)			31576
predicted by the target tracker	1503	3752	5255
located in dead material	54	245	299
located in the ECC	519	2280	2799
decay search performed	494	2244	2738

85% are events induced by neutrino interaction outside OPERA target

→ 92% of the expected sample that could be decay searched ( $2978 \pm 75$ )



Location efficiency:

- CC: 74 %
- NC: 48 %

Full simulation chain including newly developed off-line emulsion reconstruction software

# 2008-2009 sample

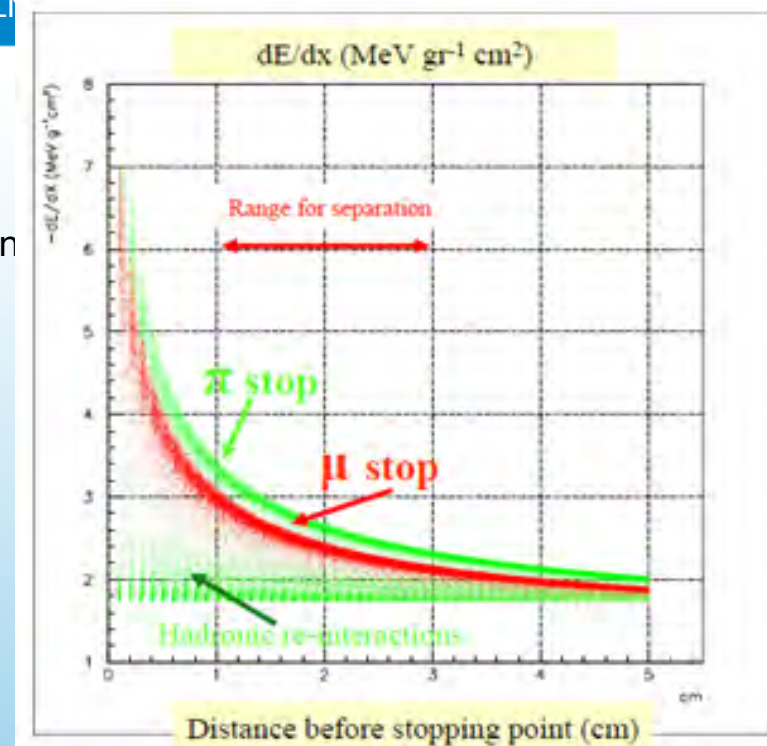
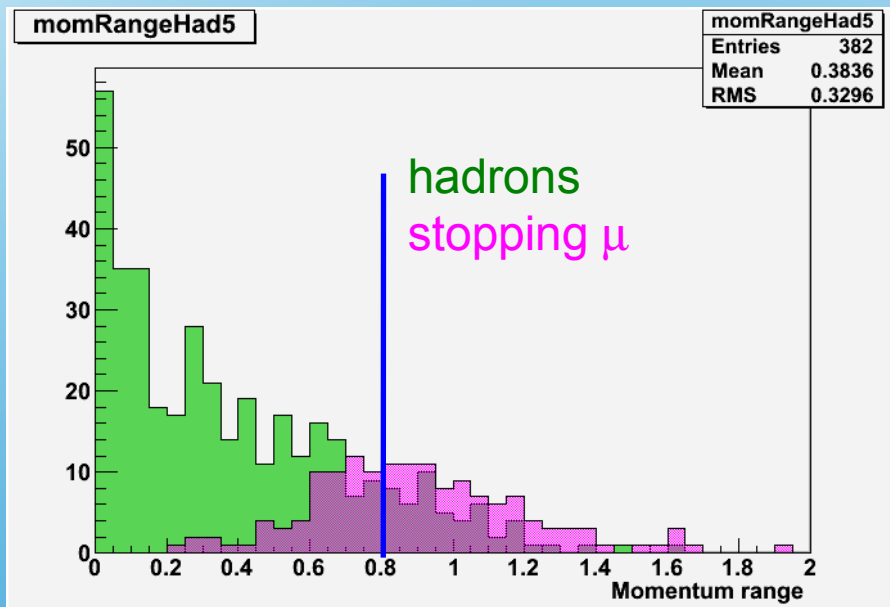
## Tracks classification:

- visible interaction in the brick
- $dE/dx$  at end point (  $\pi/\mu$  separation )
- Momentum/range correlation

$L$  = track length  
 $R_{lead} = \mu$  range in  
 $p$  = momentum  
 measured  
 in the emulsion

Discriminating variable

$$D = \frac{L}{R_{lead}(p)} \frac{\rho_{lead}}{\rho_{average}}$$



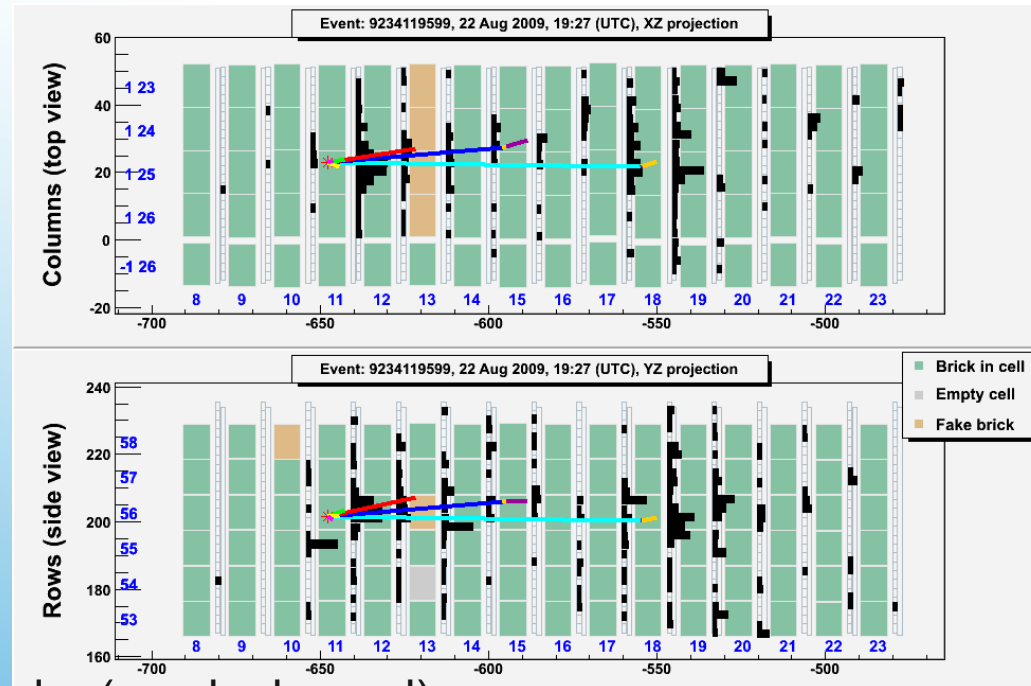
- 34% reduction of  $\mu$  mis-ID in charm events (3.28%)
- 2 orders of magnitude reduction for the hadronic background to  $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  due to  $\mu$  mismatch in CC and NC events

# Track Follow Down

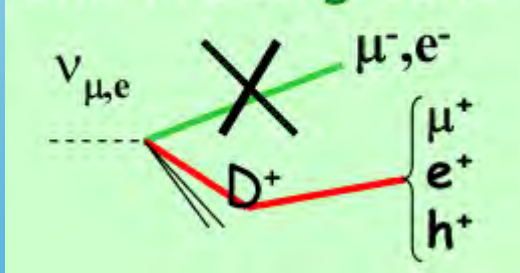
- For the first  $\nu_\tau$  candidate we followed down all the tracks to search for possible muon not identified by the electronic detectors

We can suppress backgrounds due to

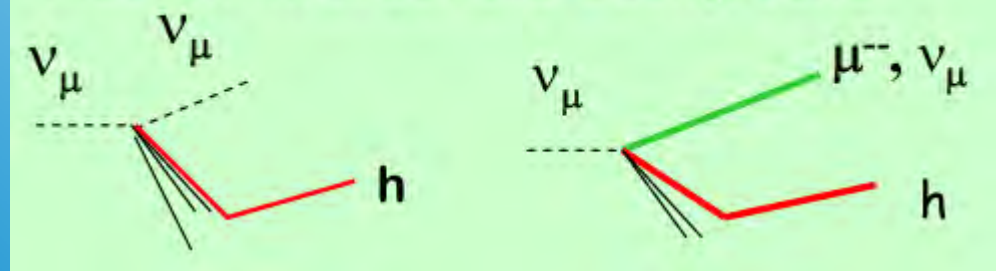
- Charm
- Hadron interactions in  $\nu\mu$  CC with misidentified  $\mu$  ( $\tau \rightarrow h$  channel)
- Hadron interactions in  $\nu\mu$  CC and NC ( $\tau \rightarrow \mu$  channel)



### Charm background

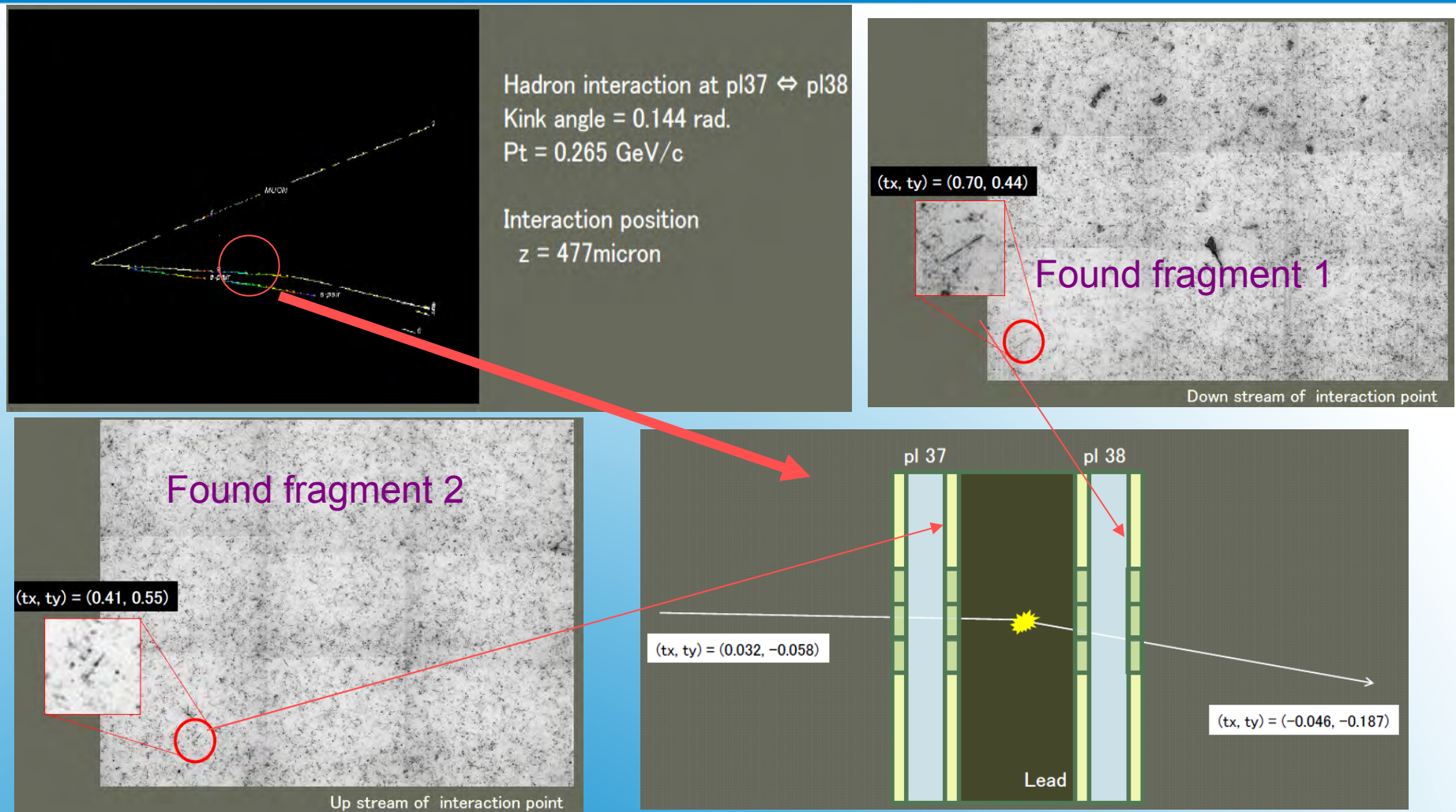


### Hadron interactions background



# Track Follow Down





Intra-nuclear interactions and nuclear evaporation  $\rightarrow$  p and nuclear fragments emission  
High-efficiency tagging to reduce the hadronic background

# Tagging of highly ionizing particles in hadron interactions

