

# The OPERA Experiment

## Neutrino Oscillation Search – Group Report –

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# Overview



- 1 The OPERA Experiment
- 2 Oscillation Search:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$
- 3 Oscillation Search:  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$
- 4 Performance & Statistics
- 5 Conclusion & Outlook



# The OPERA Experiment

# The OPERA Experiment

## OPERA: Oscillation Project with Emulsion Tracking Apparatus

$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau) \sim \sin^2 2\theta_{23} \sin^2 \left( \Delta m_{23}^2 \frac{L}{4E} \right)$$

### Appearance measurement:

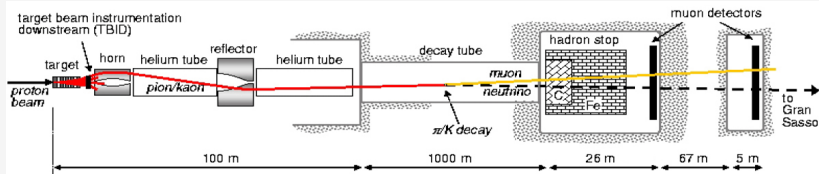
- First direct observation of  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  oscillation
- ▷ Observation of creation & decay of  $\tau$  leptons

### Realisation:

- High-energy long-baseline  $\nu_\mu$  beam
- **Large target mass:**
  - ▷ Instrumentation with electronic detector components (ED)
- **$\mu\text{m}$ -precision:**
  - ▷ Emulsion Cloud Chamber (ECC) nuclear emulsions

# The CNGS $\nu_\mu$ Beam

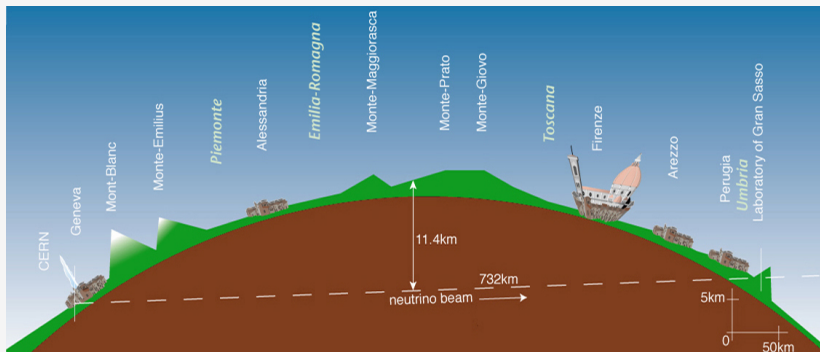
## CNGS: CERN Neutrinos to Gran Sasso



| Year         | p.o.t.                                   | $\nu$ target interactions | $\langle E_p \rangle$   | 400 GeV          |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 2008         | $1.74 \times 10^{19}$                    | 1854                      | $\langle E_\nu \rangle$ | 17 GeV           |
| 2009         | $3.53 \times 10^{19}$                    | 3914                      |                         |                  |
| 2010         | $4.09 \times 10^{19}$                    | 4403                      | $\bar{\nu}_\mu/\nu_\mu$ | CC 2.1 %         |
| 2011         | $4.75 \times 10^{19}$                    | 4956                      | $\nu_e/\nu_\mu$         | CC 0.89 %        |
| 2012         | $3.86 \times 10^{19}$                    | 3814                      | $\bar{\nu}_e/\nu_\mu$   | CC 0.06 %        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b><math>17.97 \times 10^{19}</math></b> | <b>18941</b>              | $\nu_\tau/\nu_\mu$      | CC $< 10^{-4}$ % |

# The CNGS $\nu_\mu$ Beam

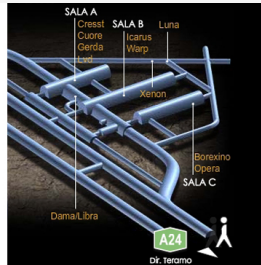
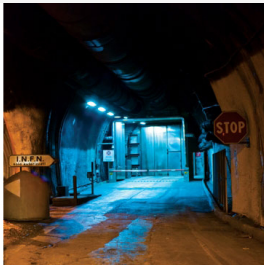
## CNGS: CERN Neutrinos to Gran Sasso



- **Baseline:**  $\sim 730$  km distance from CERN to LNGS

# LNGS

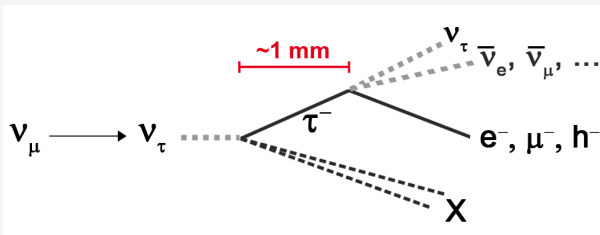
## LNGS: Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso



- **Location:** Below Mt. Corno Grande of Gran Sasso, Italy
- **Vertical rock coverage:** 1 400 m (3 800 m w.e.)
- ▷ **Cosmic  $\mu$  rate:**  $\sim 1 \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ h}^{-1}$

# $\nu_\tau$ Detection

$\nu_\tau$  signal:



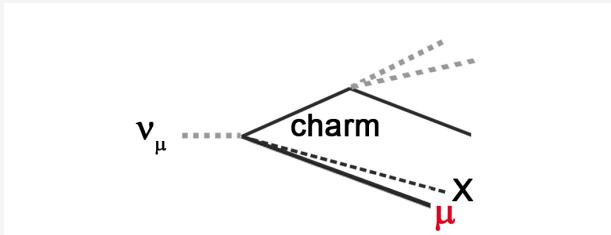
- $\tau^-$  creation in  $\nu_\tau$  CC interactions
- Decay of the  $\tau^-$  lepton after  $\sim 600 \mu\text{m}$

▷ **Topology:** Characteristic 'kink'



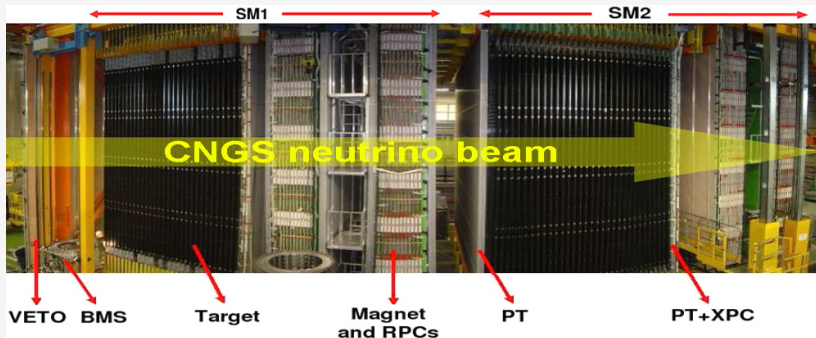
# $\nu_\tau$ Detection

## Background processes:



- $\nu_\mu$  CC interactions with charm production & undetected 1ry  $\mu$
- Hadronic re-interactions in lead
- Large-angle  $\mu$  scattering

# The OPERA Hybrid Detector

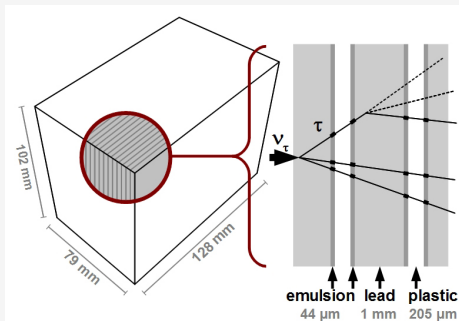


2 identical Super Modules (SM), each consisting of:

- Target area (ECC + ED)
- Magnetic spectrometer (ED)

$\mu$  VETO system upstream of the detector

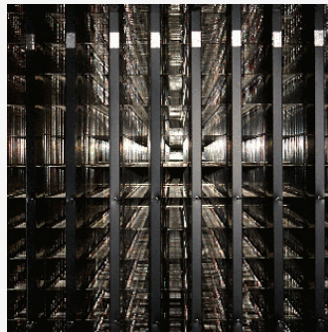
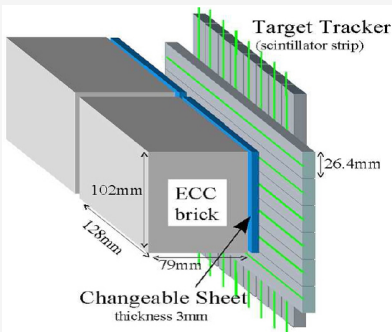
# Target Area



## Emulsion Cloud Chamber (ECC) bricks:

- **Per brick:**  $57 \times 2$  nuclear emulsions on plastic bases, 56 lead plates (altogether corresponding to  $\sim 10 X_0$ )
- **Total:**  $\sim 150\,000$  bricks of 8.3 kg each ( $\sim 1.25$  kt total target mass)
- **Spatial/angular resolution:**  $\sim 1\ \mu\text{m}$  /  $\sim 2$  mrad

# Target Area



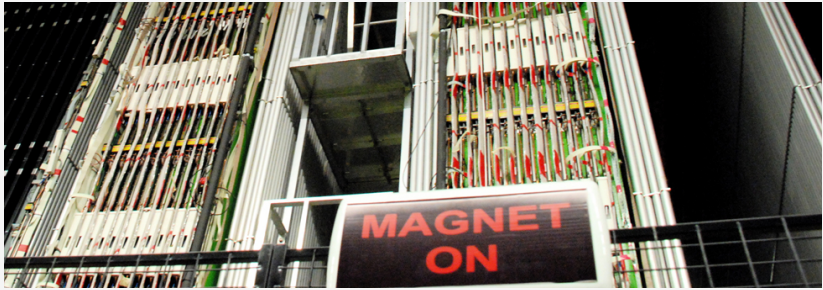
## Changeable Sheets (CS):

- Per brick: 2 extra emulsion sheets

## Target Tracker (TT) detectors:

- Per SM: 31 walls of plastic scintillator strips (horizontal & vertical)

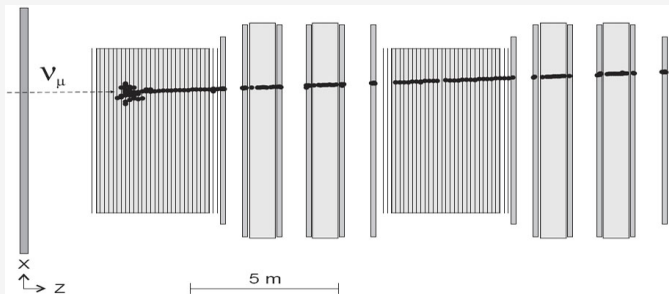
# Magnetic Spectrometer



## Magnetic Spectrometer:

- Per SM: Downstream of each target area
- Dipole magnets:  $\sim 1.53\text{ T}$
- Resistive Plate Chamber (RPC & XPC) detectors
- Precision Tracker (PT) drift tubes

# Event Reconstruction

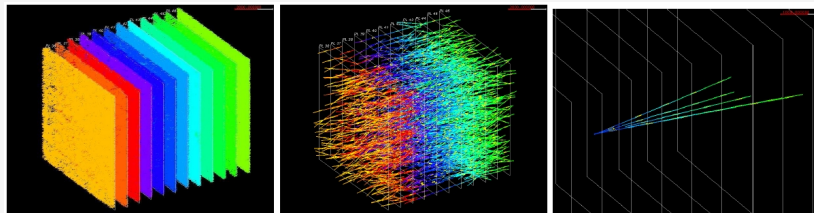


## ED event reconstruction:

- High-accuracy time resolution
- $\nu$  interaction vertex localisation
- $\mu$  identification (CC/NC separation) & momentum measurement
- Hadronic shower energy estimation

▷ **Trigger:** ECC event reconstruction

# Event Reconstruction



## ECC event reconstruction:

- Emulsion scanning by automatic microscopes
- Track &  $\nu$  interaction vertex reconstruction
- Kinematical analysis

## $\tau$ decay search procedure:

- In-track kink search
- Search for extra tracks



# Oscillation Search:

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





# The 1st $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

## ECC reconstruction:

- **1ry vertex:** 7 tracks
- **Red/cyan track(s):** Kink after 1.35 mm
- ▷ **Decay channel:**  $\tau \rightarrow h$  ( $\tau^- \rightarrow \rho^-(\pi^-\pi^0)\nu_\tau$ )



# The 2nd $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

## ECC reconstruction:

- **1ry vertex:** 2 tracks
- **Red track:** 3-prong decay after 1.54 mm
- ▷ **Decay channel:**  $\tau \rightarrow 3h$



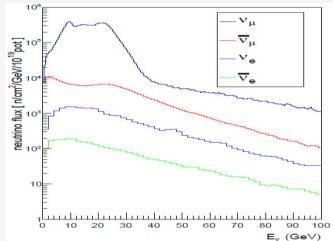
# Oscillation Search:

$$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$$

# Oscillation Search: $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$

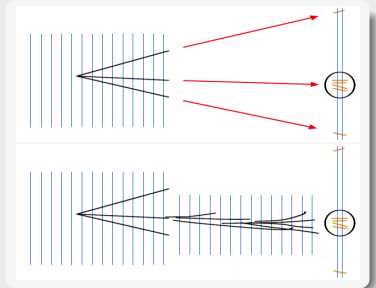
## Challenges:

- $\nu_e$  beam contamination:  
( $\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$ )/ $\nu_\mu \lesssim 1\%$
- No OPERA near detector
- ▷ **Reliable MC required**  
(rates & efficiencies)



## Event selection:

- **ED:** NC-like events
- **ECC:** Track follow-down
- **CS:** em shower hints
- ▷ Expanded scan volume
- ▷ Extraction & analysis of downstream bricks





# A $\nu_e$ Event

## ECC reconstruction:

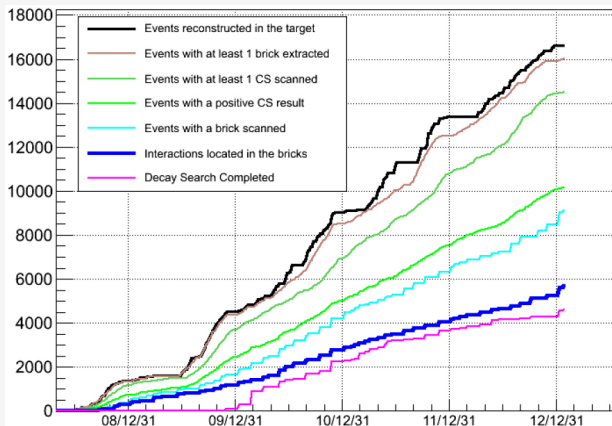
- **2008 + 2009 data sample:** 19  $\nu_e$  candidate events
- **Separation of beam cont.  $\nu_e$  and oscillated  $\nu_e$  :** Cuts on  $E_{\nu,rec}$ 
  - ▷  $E_{\nu,rec} < 20 \text{ GeV}$ : 4  $\nu_e$  candidate events remaining



# Performance & Statistics

# Event Statistics

## Analysis status January 2013 (run years 2008 – 2012)



- **Vertex located:** 5 675 events
- **Decay search performed:** 4 584 events

# OPERA Expected Performance

## Target interactions expected\*:

- $\nu_\mu$  CC + NC interactions:  $\sim 23600$  (80%:  $\sim 18800$ )
- $\nu_e + \bar{\nu}_e$  CC interactions:  $\sim 160$  (80%:  $\sim 130$ )
- $\nu_\tau$  CC interactions:  $\sim 115$  (80%:  $\sim 90$ )

## Detected signal and BG events expected\*:

| $\tau$ decay channel       | BR [%] | Number of signal events | Number of BG events               |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| $\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^-$ | 17.7   | 1.79                    | $0.09 \pm 0.04$                   |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow e^-$   | 17.8   | 2.89                    | $0.22 \pm 0.05$                   |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow h^-$   | 49.5   | 2.25                    | $0.24 \pm 0.06$                   |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow 3h$    | 15.0   | 0.71                    | $0.18 \pm 0.04$                   |
| <b>Total</b>               |        | <b>7.63</b>             | <b><math>0.73 \pm 0.15</math></b> |

\*) Assuming  $\Delta m_{23}^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ ,  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23} = 1$ , and  $22.5 \times 10^{19}$  p.o.t.





# Conclusion & Outlook



# Conclusion & Outlook

## Conclusion:

- **CNGS beam concluded:** 2008 – 2012
  - ▷  $17.97 \times 10^{19}$  p.o.t.
  - ▷ 18941 ontime  $\nu$  target interactions
- **Confirmed  $\nu_\tau$  candidate events:** 2
- **Confirmed  $\nu_e$  candidate events:** 19 (2008 + 2009 data)

## Outlook

- **Extraction of  $\nu$  candidate bricks:** Until  $\sim$  2014
- **Scanning & analysis of  $\nu$  candidate interactions:** Until  $\gtrsim$  2015
- Improvement of BG rejection
- Improvement of efficiencies (location, decay search...)
- Improvement of statistical treatment



# Conclusion & Outlook

## Outlook: $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ oscillation search

- **New paper:** Analysis of 2008 + 2009 data (unbiased), 2010 + 2011 data (predefined selection)
- **Further  $\nu_\tau$  candidate events:** To be confirmed

## Outlook: $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$ oscillation search

- **New paper:** Analysis of 2008 + 2009 data (unbiased)
- **Search for  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  oscillations:** 3-flavour formalism
- **Limits on  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  oscillations:** W.r.t. sterile  $\nu$

## Other research topics:

- $\nu$  velocity measurement
- Atmospheric  $\nu$  oscillation search
- Atmospheric  $\mu$  charge ratio measurement

# Thank you for your attention!



# The OPERA Collaboration



11 countries, 29 institutes, ~ 150 physicists:

## Belgium:

- IIHE-ULB Brussels

## Croatia:

- IRB Zagreb

## France:

- LAPP Annecy
- IPHC Strasbourg

## Germany:

- Hamburg University

## Israel:

- Technion Haifa

## Italy:

- INFN-LNGS Assergi
- University & INFN Bari
- University & INFN Bologna
- University & INFN-LNF Frascati
- University & INFN l'Aquila
- University & INFN Naples
- University & INFN Padova
- University & INFN Rome
- University & INFN Salerno

## Japan:

- University Aichi
- University Toho
- University Kobe
- University Nagoya
- University Tsunomiya

## Korea:

- University Jinju

## Russia:

- JINR Dubna
- ITEP Moscow
- INR-RAS Moscow
- LPI-RAS Moscow
- SINP-MSU Moscow

## Switzerland:

- LHEP Bern
- ETH Zurich

## Turkey:

- METU Ankara



# Backup Slides

# 3-Flavour Oscillation Formalism

Neutrino mixing of mass and flavour eigenstates:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nu_e \\ \nu_\mu \\ \nu_\tau \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{e1} & U_{e2} & U_{e3} \\ U_{\mu1} & U_{\mu2} & U_{\mu3} \\ U_{\tau1} & U_{\tau2} & U_{\tau3} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} \nu_1 \\ \nu_2 \\ \nu_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$U$

Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata (PMNS) matrix:

$$U = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\epsilon_1/2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\epsilon_2/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_{23} & s_{23} \\ 0 & -s_{23} & c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} c_{13} & 0 & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -s_{13}e^{i\delta} & 0 & c_{13} \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} c_{12} & s_{12} & 0 \\ -s_{12} & c_{12} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\epsilon_1/2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\epsilon_2/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Atmospheric terms  
SuperKamiokande  
MINOS, OPERA

Unknown terms  
DoubleChooz, T2K

Solar terms  
KamLAND

Majorana terms

with  $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$  and  $c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$

# 3-Flavour Oscillation Formalism

## Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata (PMNS) matrix:

$$\begin{pmatrix}
 c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\
 -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\
 s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13}
 \end{pmatrix}$$

with  $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$  and  $c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$

## $\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta$ oscillation probability in vacuum:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\nu_\alpha \rightarrow \nu_\beta) &= |\langle \nu_\alpha | \nu_\beta(t) \rangle|^2 \\
 &= \delta_{\alpha\beta} - 4 \sum_{i>j} \Re(U_{\alpha i}^* U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^*) \sin^2 \left( \Delta m_{ij}^2 \frac{L}{2E} \right) \\
 &\quad + 2 \sum_{i>j} \Im(U_{\alpha i}^* U_{\beta i} U_{\alpha j} U_{\beta j}^*) \sin \left( \Delta m_{ij}^2 \frac{L}{4E} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

with  $\Delta m_{ij}^2 = m_i^2 - m_j^2$



# Oscillation Parameters

## State of knowledge:

| Oscillation parameter  | Current best fit                                     |
|------------------------|--|
| $ \Delta m_{32}^2 $    | $(2.32^{+0.12}_{-0.08}) \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ |
| $\Delta m_{21}^2$      | $(7.50 \pm 0.020) \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2$       |
| $\sin^2(2\theta_{23})$ | $> 0.95$   |
| $\sin^2(2\theta_{12})$ | $0.857 \pm 0.024$                                    |
| $\sin^2(2\theta_{13})$ | $0.098 \pm 0.013$                                    |
| $\delta$               | ?  |

## Future:

- T2K, MINOS, DoubleCHOOZ, DayaBay: Large value of  $\theta_{13}$
- ▷  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  appearance measurement with OPERA
- ▷ Measurement of the mass hierarchy
- ▷ Measurement of  $\delta_{CP}$

# $\nu_\tau$ Detection

## $\tau$ creation in $\nu_\tau$ CC interactions:

$$\nu_\tau + N \rightarrow \tau^- + X$$

## $\tau$ decay modes (1-prong):

- **Muonic:**  $\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^- + \nu_\tau + \bar{\nu}_\mu$  (BR 17.7%)
- **Electronic:**  $\tau^- \rightarrow e^- + \nu_\tau + \bar{\nu}_e$  (BR 17.8%)
- **Hadronic:**  $\tau^- \rightarrow h^- + \nu_\tau + X^0$  (BR 49.5%)

## $\tau$ decay modes (3-prong):

- **Hadronic:**  $\tau \rightarrow 2h^- + h^+ + \nu_\tau + X^0$  (BR 15.0%)

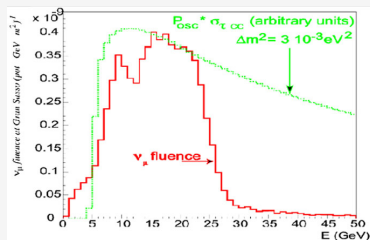
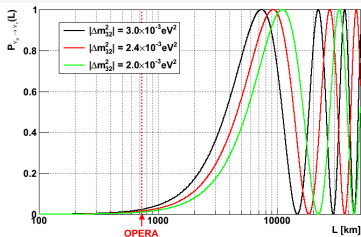
## $\tau$ decay length:

- $\sim 600 \mu\text{m}$

# Beam Characteristics at LNGS

$\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  oscillation probability (2-flavour approximation):

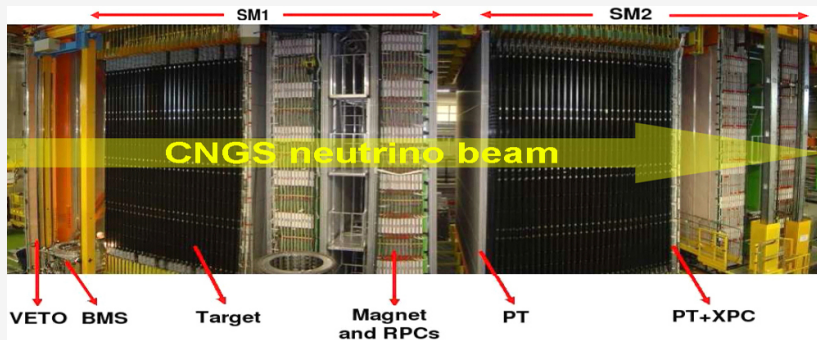
$$P(\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau) \sim \sin^2 2\theta_{23} \sin^2 \left( \Delta m_{23}^2 \frac{L}{4E} \right)$$



- $\nu_\mu$  beam energy: Optimised for  $\tau$  detection
- Location: OPERA detector @off-peak\* position

\*) Longer baseline: Increase in  $\nu_\tau$  flux cancelled by  $\nu_\mu$  beam divergence

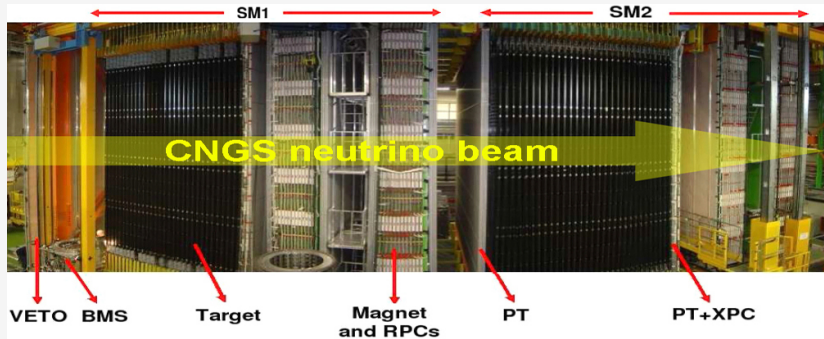
# The OPERA Hybrid Detector



## $\mu$ VETO system:

- 2 planes of glass Resistive Plate Chambers (RPC) in front of the detector
- ▷ Rejection of upstream  $\nu$  interactions

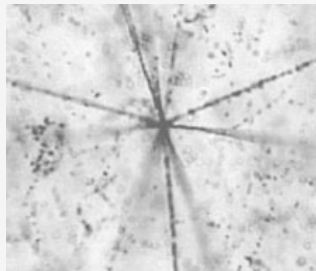
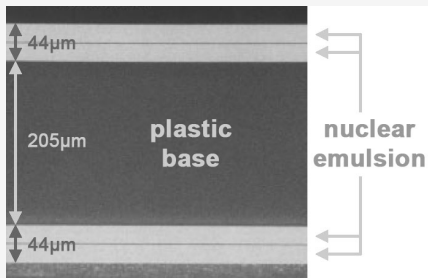
# The OPERA Hybrid Detector



## Brick Manipulator System (BMS):

- 1 automatic robot per semi-wall, working in parallel to CNGS data taking
- **Brick extraction speed:**  $\sim 25 \nu$  interaction bricks per 8 h

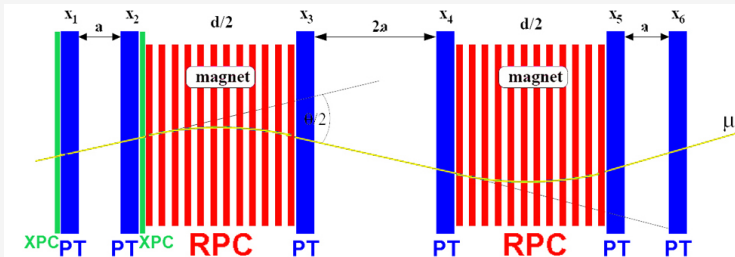
# Target Area



## Emulsion Cloud Chamber (ECC) nuclear emulsions:

- **Basic detector elements:** AgBr crystals (0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ )
- ▷ **Intrinsic resolution:** 50 nm
- **Hadronic momentum measurement:** Via MCS
- **$\pi/\mu$  separation:** Via  $dE/dx$  (at low energies)
- e identification, em shower energy estimation

# Magnetic Spectrometer



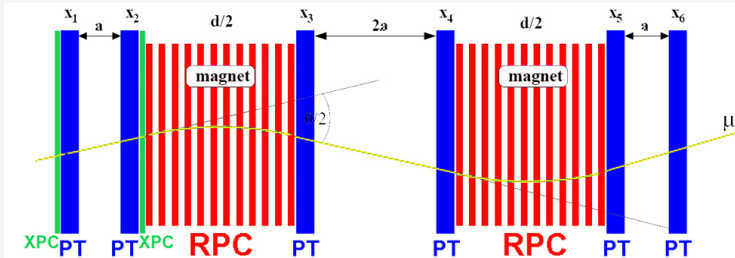
## Dipole magnets:

- Per SM: 2 copper coils with 12 iron slabs each

## Resistive Plate Chamber (RPC & XPC) detectors:

- Per SM: 24 planes of bakelite RPC within each magnet (horizontal & vertical: RPC)
- Per SM: 2 extra planes upstream of each magnet (rotated by  $42.6^\circ$ : XPC)

# Magnetic Spectrometer



## Precision Tracker (PT) detectors:

- **Per SM:** 6 walls of vertical drift tubes
- **Spatial resolution:**  $\sim 250 \mu\text{m}$
- **Momentum resolution:**  $\sim 20\%$  (for  $p < 30 \text{ GeV}/c$ )
- Precise measurement of the angular deflection of charged particles

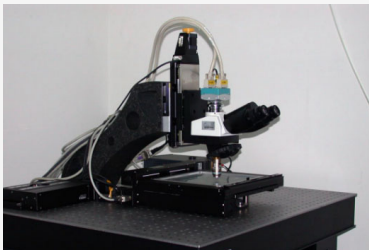




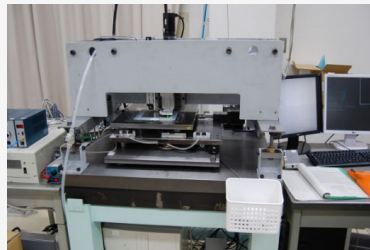
# Event Reconstruction



## Europe:



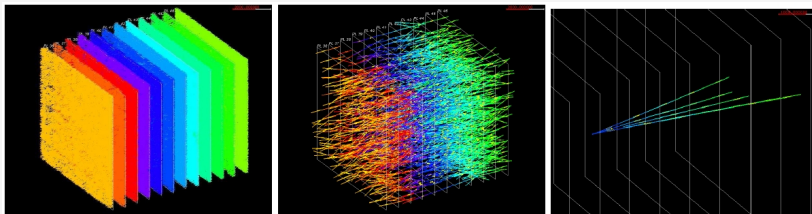
## Japan:



## ECC scanning and alignment:

- **CS & ECC brick scanning:** Conducted by automatic microscopes (scanning labs in Europe & Japan)
- **CS & ECC brick alignment:** Via X-rays and cosmic ray tracks

# Event Reconstruction

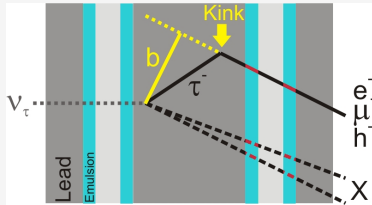


## ECC event reconstruction:

- Reconstruction of 3D track segments
- Rejection of passing-through and low-energy tracks
- Scanback of tracks found in CS
- **Vertex reconstruction:** Track scanback,  $1 \text{ cm}^3$  volume scan around stopping point
- **Kinematical analysis:** Momentum measurement via MCS, em shower energy reconstruction

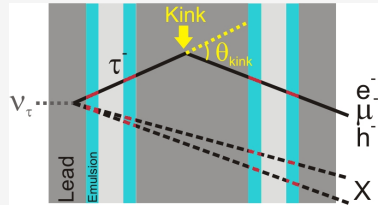
# Decay Search Procedure

## Short decay:



- Impact parameter  $b$

## Long decay:



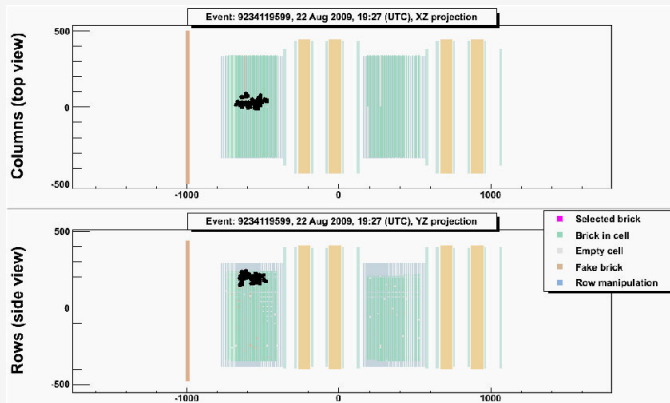
- Kink angle  $\theta_{kink}$

## Decay search procedure:

- In-track decay search
- Search for extra tracks
- ▷ Measurement of kink angle  $\theta_{kink}$  or impact parameter  $b$

# The 1st $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

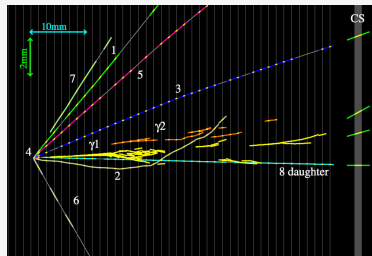
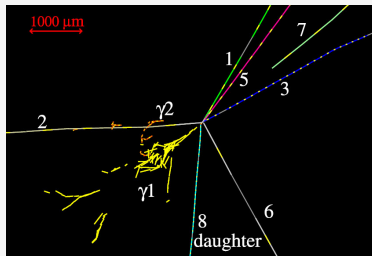
## ED view:



- 2009-08-22, 19:27h (UTC)
- $0-\mu$  event 9234119599

# The 1st $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

## ECC reconstruction:



## Kinematical cuts (1-prong hadronic $\tau$ decay channel):

| Variable  |                   | Value                  |   | Selection cut |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|---|---------------|
| Missing $p_T$ @1ry vertex                                   | [GeV/c]           | $0.57^{+0.32}_{-0.17}$ | < | 1.0           |
| Transverse angle between parent track & 1ry hadronic shower | [rad]             | $3.01 \pm 0.03$        | > | $\pi/2$       |
| Kink angle  | [mrad]            | $41 \pm 2$             | > | 20            |
| Daughter particle momentum                                  | [GeV/c]           | $12^{+6}_{-3}$         | > | 2             |
| Daughter $p_T$ for $\gamma$ @decay vertex                   | [GeV/c]           | $0.47^{+0.24}_{-0.12}$ | > | 0.3           |
| Decay length  | [ $\mu\text{m}$ ] | $1335 \pm 35$          | < | 2 Pb plates   |

# The 1st $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

## Daughter particle:

- 2-prong decay 7 walls downstream of the production vertex
- **Momentum:**  $p = 12_{-3}^{+6}$  GeV
- ▷ **Hypothesis:**  $\pi^-$

## Invariant mass of the $\gamma\gamma$ system:

- $(120 \pm 20(\text{stat.}) \pm 35(\text{syst.})) \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- ▷ **Consistent with  $\pi^0$  mass:**  $m_{\pi^0} = 135 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

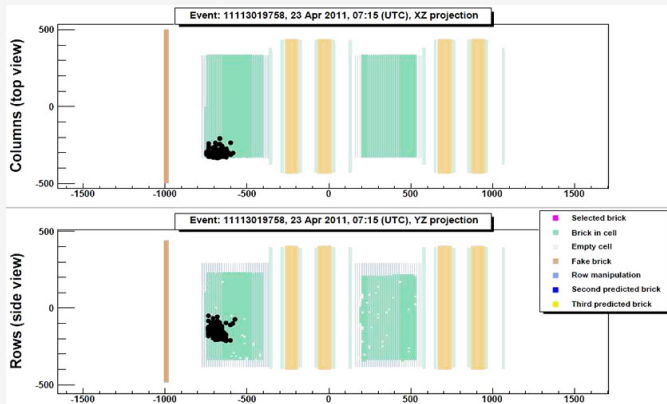
## Invariant mass of the $\pi^-\gamma\gamma$ system:

- $(640_{-80}^{+125}(\text{stat.})_{-90}^{+100}(\text{syst.})) \text{ MeV}/c^2$
- ▷ **Consistent with  $\rho^-(770)$  mass\*:**  $m_{\rho^-} = 775 \text{ MeV}/c^2$

\*)  $\rho^-(770)$  are created in 25% of  $\tau^-$  decays:  $\tau^- \rightarrow \rho^-(\pi^-\pi^0)\nu_\tau$

# The 2nd $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

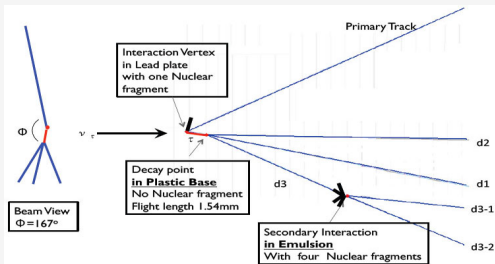
## ED view:



- 2011-04-23, 07:15h (UTC)
- $0-\mu$  event 11113019758

# The 2nd $\nu_\tau$ Candidate Event

## Schematic view:



## Kinematical cuts (3-prong hadronic $\tau$ decay channel):

| Variable  |                       | Value           | Selection cut |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Transverse angle between parent track & 1ry hadronic shower | [ $^\circ$ ]          | $167.8 \pm 1.1$ | $> 90$        |
| Average kink angle  | [mrad]                | $87.4 \pm 1.5$  | $< 500$       |
| Total momentum @decay vertex                                | [GeV/c]               | $8.4 \pm 1.7$   | $> 3.0$       |
| Min. invariant mass   | [GeV/c <sup>2</sup> ] | $0.96 \pm 0.13$ | $0.5, < 2.0$  |
| Invariant mass  | [GeV/c <sup>2</sup> ] | $0.80 \pm 0.12$ | $0.5, < 2.0$  |
| Transverse momentum @1ry vertex                             | [GeV/c]               | $0.31 \pm 0.11$ | $< 1.0$       |



# Significance of $\nu_\tau$ Observation [paper2]

## Analysed sample of 2008 + 2009 data:

- $2978 \pm 75$  events expected (incl. efficiencies)
- **2738 decay-searched events, corresponding to  $4.88 \times 10^{19}$  p.o.t.**  
(92 % of the total 2008 + 2009 data)
- **1 signal event (1-prong hadronic  $\tau$  decay channel)**

## Signal expectation\* (1-prong hadronic $\tau$ decay channel):

- $\nu_\tau$  CC:  $0.49 \pm 0.12(\text{syst.})$  events

## Signal expectation\* (all $\tau$ decay channels):

- $\nu_\tau$  CC:  $1.65 \pm 0.41(\text{syst.})$  events

\*) Assuming  $\Delta m_{23}^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$  and  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23} = 1$

# Significance of $\nu_\tau$ Observation [paper2]

## BG expectation (1-prong hadronic $\tau$ decay channel):

- **Total:**  $0.05 \pm 0.01(\text{syst.})$  events
- ▷ **p-value (BG-only):** 5 %
- ▷ **Significance of  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  observation:** 95 %

## BG expectation (all $\tau$ decay modes):

- **Total:**  $0.16 \pm 0.03(\text{syst.})$  events
- ▷ **p-value (BG-only):** 15 %
- ▷ **Significance of  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  observation:** 85 %



# Oscillation Search: $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$

## Detected $\tau$ signal events expected\*:

| $\tau$ decay channel       | Vertex localisation efficiency | Global $\tau$ detection efficiency | Number of signal events for  |                              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                            |                                |                                    | $22.5 \times 10^{19}$ p.o.t. | $4.88 \times 10^{19}$ p.o.t. |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^-$ | 0.54                           | 0.09                               | 1.79                         | 0.39                         |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow e^-$   | 0.59                           | 0.14                               | 2.89                         | 0.63                         |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow h^-$   | 0.59                           | 0.04                               | 2.25                         | 0.49                         |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow 3h$    | 0.64                           | 0.04                               | 0.71                         | 0.15                         |
| <b>Total</b>               | 0.59                           | 0.07                               | 7.63                         | 1.65                         |

## Detected $\nu_\tau$ BG events expected:

| $\tau$ decay channel       | Number of BG events for      |          |       |                 |                              |          |       |                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|------------------------------|----------|-------|-----------------|
|                            | $22.5 \times 10^{19}$ p.o.t. |          |       |                 | $4.88 \times 10^{19}$ p.o.t. |          |       |                 |
|                            | <i>charm</i>                 | <i>h</i> | $\mu$ | Total           | <i>charm</i>                 | <i>h</i> | $\mu$ | Total           |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow \mu^-$ | 0.025                        | 0.00     | 0.07  | $0.09 \pm 0.04$ | 0.00                         | 0.00     | 0.02  | $0.02 \pm 0.01$ |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow e^-$   | 0.22                         | 0.00     | 0.00  | $0.22 \pm 0.05$ | 0.05                         | 0.00     | 0.00  | $0.05 \pm 0.01$ |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow h^-$   | 0.14                         | 0.11     | 0.00  | $0.24 \pm 0.06$ | 0.03                         | 0.02     | 0.00  | $0.05 \pm 0.01$ |
| $\tau^- \rightarrow 3h$    | 0.18                         | 0.00     | 0.00  | $0.18 \pm 0.04$ | 0.04                         | 0.00     | 0.00  | $0.04 \pm 0.01$ |
| <b>Total</b>               | 0.55                         | 0.11     | 0.07  | $0.73 \pm 0.15$ | 0.12                         | 0.02     | 0.02  | $0.16 \pm 0.03$ |

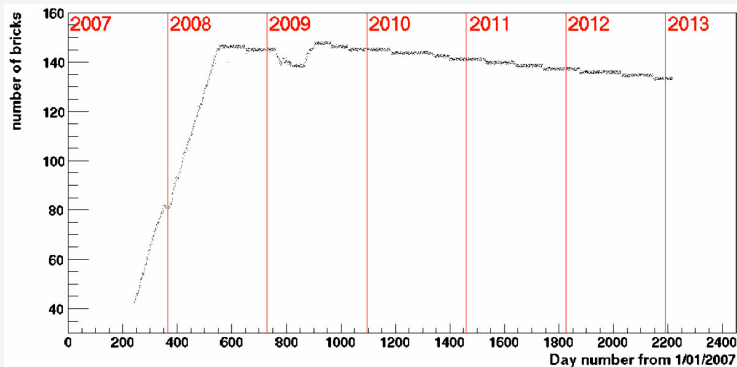
## Detected charm and charm BG events:

| Topology        | Expected events |               |                | Observed <i>charm</i> candidate events |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|--|
|                 | <i>charm</i>    | BG            | Total          |  |
| 1-prong charged | 15.9            | 1.9           | 17.8           | 13                                     |
| 2-prong neutral | 15.7            | 0.8           | 16.5           | 18                                     |
| 3-prong charged | 5.5             | 0.3           | 5.8            | 5                                      |
| 4-prong neutral | 2.0             | < 0.1         | 2.1            | 3                                      |
| <b>Total</b>    | $39.1 \pm 7.5$  | $3.0 \pm 0.9$ | $42.2 \pm 8.3$ | 39                                     |

\*) Assuming  $\Delta m_{23}^2 = 2.5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$  and  $\sin^2 2\theta_{23} = 1$

# Target Mass Decrease

## OPERA target mass decrease:



- 2008-07-16: 146398 bricks
- 2013-01-28: 133751 bricks
- ▷ **Loss of target mass:** 105 t (12647 bricks)

# Publications



## OPERA publications of note:

- T. Adam *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *Measurement of the neutrino velocity with the OPERA detector in the CNGS beam using the 2012 dedicated data*, JHEP **01** (2013) 153
- T. Adam *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *Measurement of the neutrino velocity with the OPERA detector in the CNGS beam*, JHEP **10** (2012) 093
- N. Agafonova *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *Search for  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  oscillation with the OPERA experiment in the CNGS beam*, New J. Phys. **14** (2012) 033017
- N. Agafonova *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *Study of neutrino interactions with the electronic detectors of the OPERA experiment*, New J. Phys. **13** (2011) 053051
- N. Agafonova *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *Observation of a first  $\nu_\tau$  candidate event in the OPERA experiment in the CNGS beam*, Phys. Lett. B **691** (2010) 138-145
- N. Agafonova *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *Measurement of the atmospheric muon charge ratio with the OPERA detector*, Eur. Phys. J. C **67** (2010) 25-37
- N. Agafonova *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *The detection of neutrino interactions in the emulsion/lead target of the OPERA experiment*, JINST **4** (2009) P06020
- R. Acquafredda *et al.* [OPERA Collaboration], *The OPERA experiment in the CERN to Gran Sasso neutrino beam*, JINST **4** (2009) P04018
- R. Zimmermann *et al.*, *The precision tracker of the OPERA detector*, NIMA **555** (2005) 435

## Soon to come:

- *Search for  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_e$  oscillation with the OPERA experiment in the CNGS beam* (2008 – 2009 data)
- *New results on  $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$  appearance with the OPERA experiment at the CNGS neutrino beam* (2008 – 2011 data)