

Latest results of OPERA

A.Meregaglia - IN2P3/CNRS - IPHC Strasbourg On behalf of the OPERA collaboration

IIth June 2016 - Capri





OPERA collaboration

IRB Zagreb





Hamburg

OPERA is an international collaboration made of ~ 140 physicists from 26 institutions and 11 countries.

Bari Bologna LNF Frascati LNGS Napoli Padova Roma Salerno



Aichi Toho Kobe Nagoya Nihon



Jinju

Technion Haifa



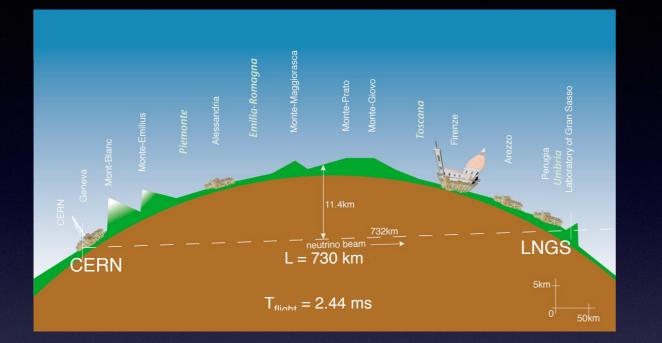


METU Ankara

INR RAS Moscow LPI RAS Moscow SINP MSU Moscow JINR Dubna

OPERA experiment

LNGS underground laboratory

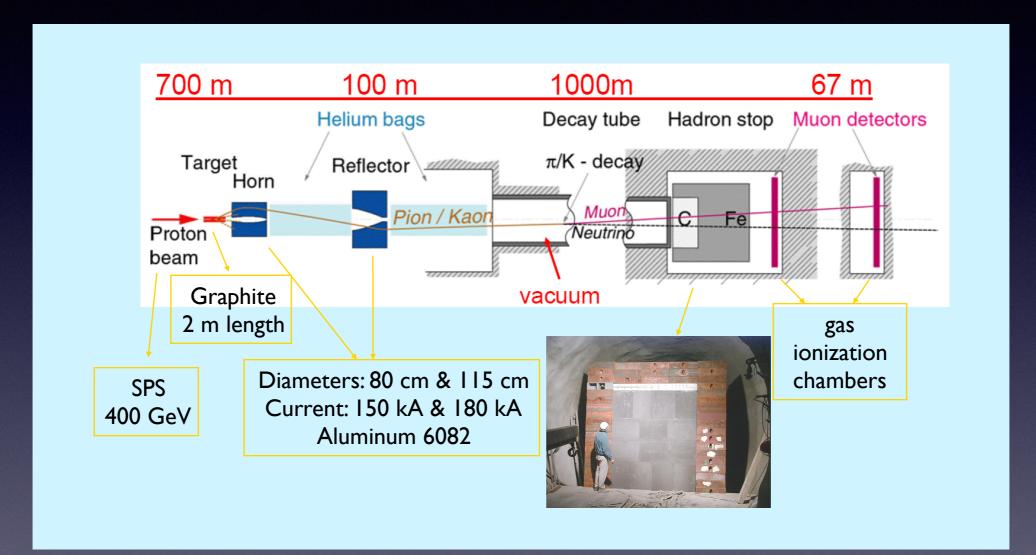




- OPERA (Oscillation Project with Emulsion tRacking Apparatus) is a long baseline neutrino oscillation experiment which took data from 2008 till 2012.
- The "conventional" CNGS (CERN Neutrinos to Gran Sasso) neutrino beam was produced at CERN and reached the OPERA detector at the LNGS laboratory, at a distance of 730 km.
- The goal of the experiment, using an almost pure v_{μ} beam, is the measurement for the first time of the $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ transition detecting the τ lepton created in Charged Current (CC) interactions (neutrino oscillation in an appearance mode).

CNGS beam (I)

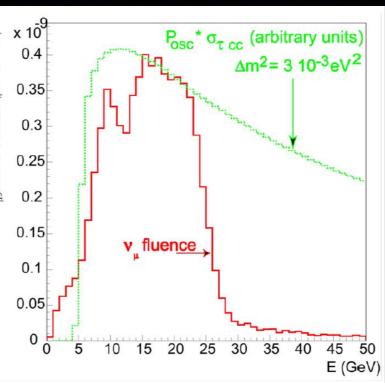
• The CNGS was a conventional neutrino beam: 400 GeV/c protons from the CERN SPS hit a graphite target producing pions and kaons which decayed in flight and produced neutrinos.



- 2 extractions separated by **50 ms**
- Pulse length: **10.5** µs
- Beam nominal intensity: 2.4×10¹³ protons/extraction
- Expected performance: 4.5×10¹⁹ pot/year

CNGS beam (2)

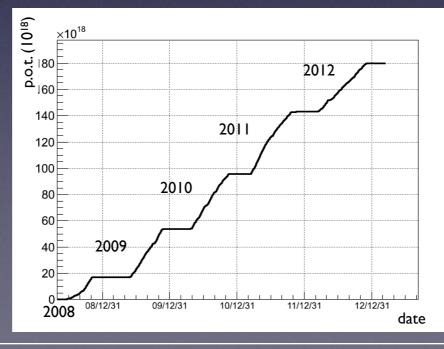
- The beam was optimized for v_{τ} appearance in the atmospheric oscillation region i.e. $\Delta m^2_{23} \approx 2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$ (as measured by SK, K2K and MINOS).
- Although the maximum of oscillation probability at 730 km is at about 1.5 GeV, we need to take into account the v_{τ} CC cross section and the production threshold of 3.5 GeV.



Beam parameters				
<e<sub>vµ > 17 GeV</e<sub>				
$(v_e + \overline{v_e})/v_{\mu}$ 0.87%				
$\overline{\nu_{\mu}}/\nu_{\mu}$ 2.1%				
$v_{ au}$ prompt negligible				
nominal p.o.t./year 4.5×10 ¹⁹				
v_{μ} CC/kton/year ~2900				
v_{τ} CC/kton/year ~18.5				
Contaminations given in terms of				

Contaminations given in terms of interactions in the OPERA detector

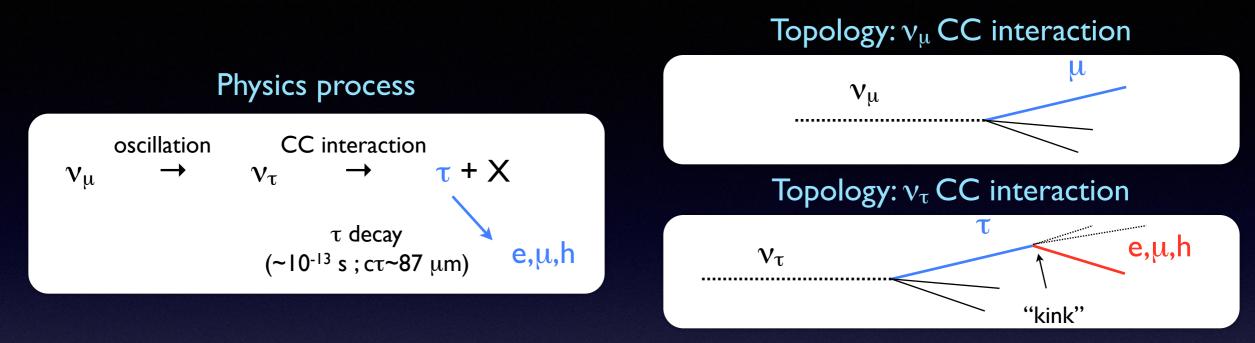
- Best performance obtained in 2011.
- Overall p.o.t. 20% less than the proposal value (22.5 x 10¹⁹).



Beam performance

Year	Beam days	p.o.t (10 ¹⁹)
2008	123	1.74
2009	155	3.53
2010	187	4.09
2011	243	4.75
2012	257	3.86
Total	965	17.97

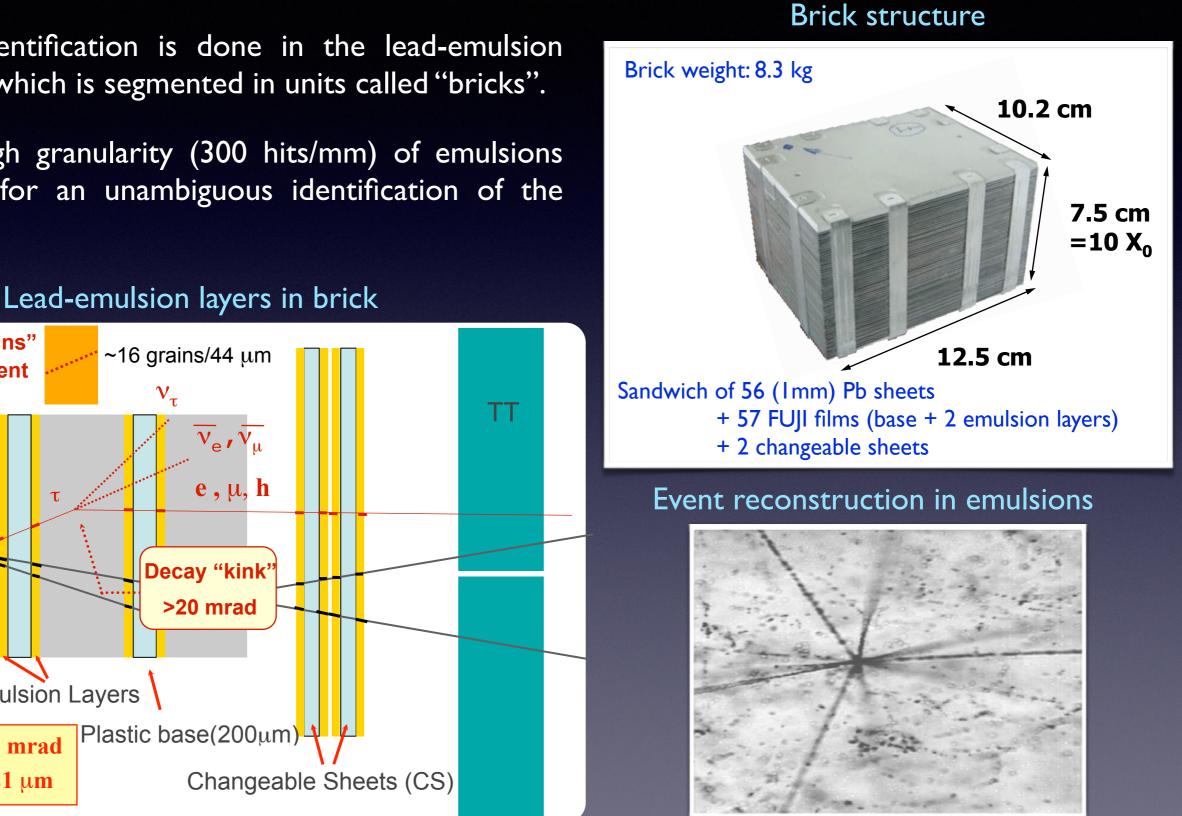
Detection principle



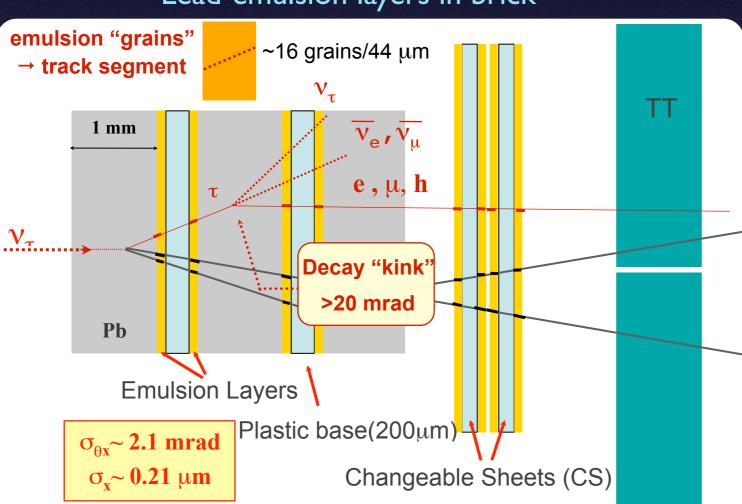
- The detection of the τ lepton requires an identification of the "kink".
- The detector must fulfill the following requirements:
 - I. Large mass due to small CC cross section (lead target).
 - 2. Micrometric resolution to observe the kink (photographic emulsions).
 - 3. Locate neutrino interactions (electronic detectors).
 - 4. Identify muons to reduce charm background (electronic detectors).

OPERA: hybrid detector (emulsions + electronic detectors)

τidentification

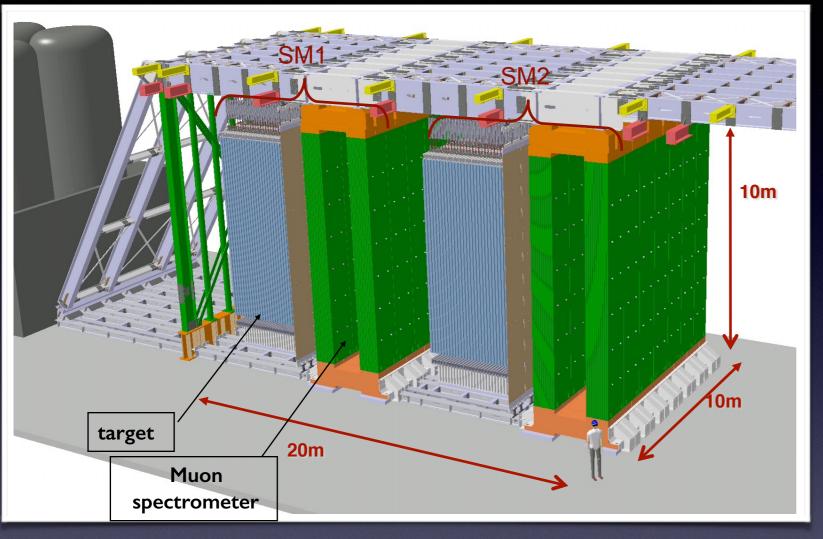


- The identification is done in the lead-emulsion target, which is segmented in units called "bricks".
- The high granularity (300 hits/mm) of emulsions allows for an unambiguous identification of the kink.



The OPERA detector (I)

Detector design

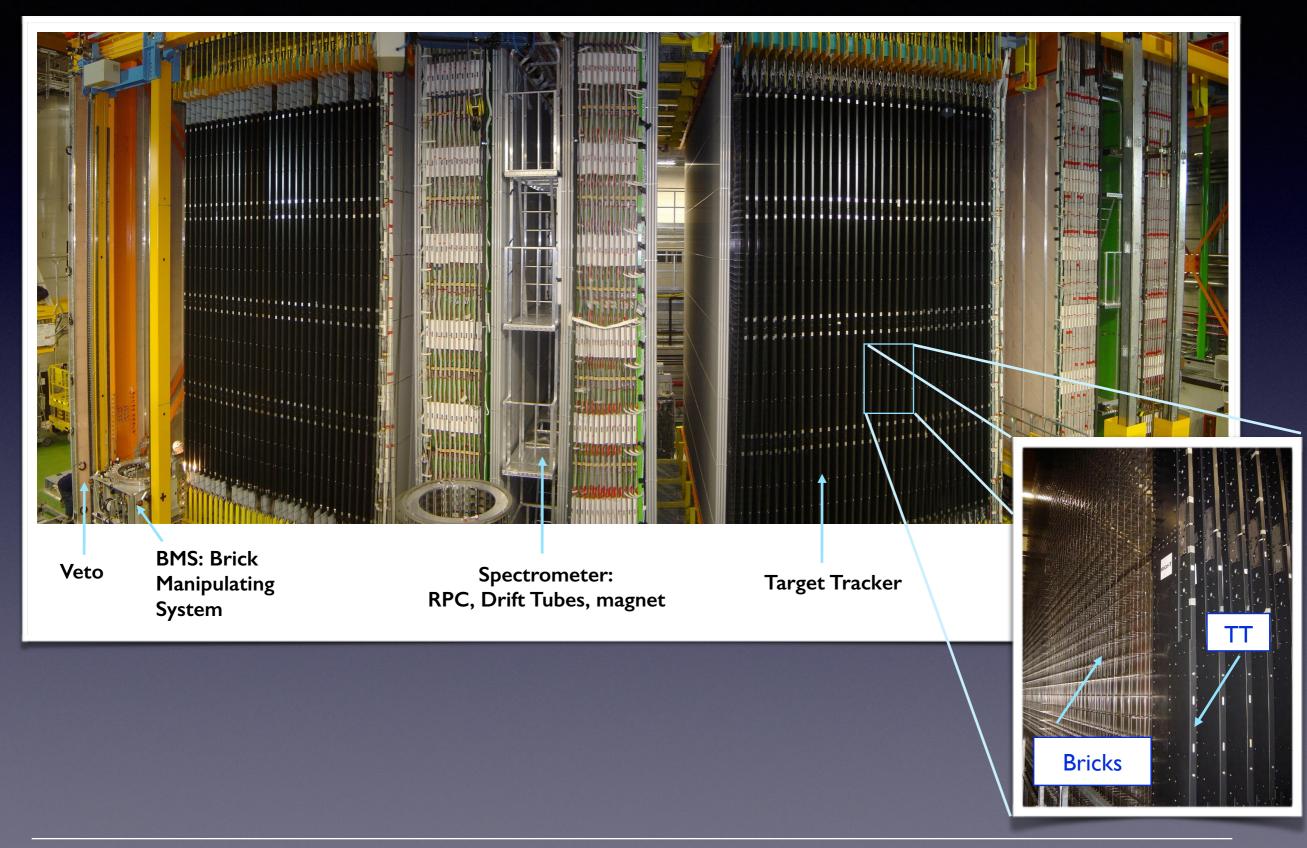


- The total target mass was 1.25 kton (about 150000 bricks).
- Each target consisted of 27 leademulsion brick walls alternated with scintillator planes (Target Tracker) used mainly for the identification of the brick to be extracted.
- The Target Tracker (TT) was made of plastic scintillator + wave length shifting fiber + 64 channel multianode Hamamatsu PM.
- At least 5 p.e. were detected for a mip with a detection efficiency of ~ 99%.
- Each spectrometer consisted of 22 RPC planes in magnetic field (1.5 T) and 6 Drift Tubes planes, to identify muons and measure charge and momentum, in order to reduce charm background.

Δp/p (<50 GeV/c)	~ 20%
μ ID (with TT)	~ 95%



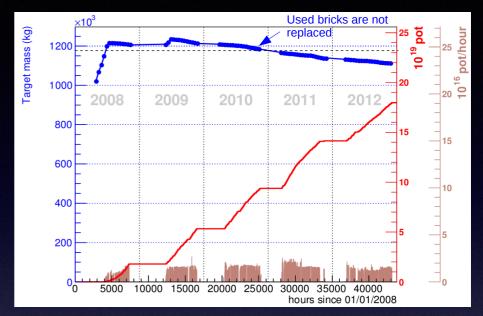
The OPERA detector (2)



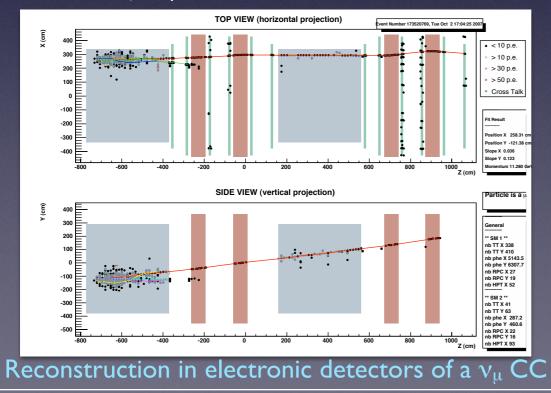
Data collection and analysis

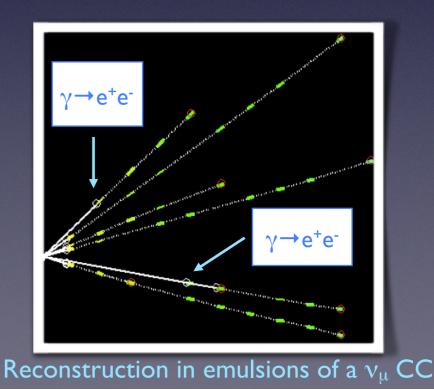
19505 neutrino interactions recorded in the emulsion target.

Year	Beam days	p.o.t (10 ¹⁹)	$\boldsymbol{\nu}$ interactions
2008	123	1.74	1698
2009	155	3.53	3693
2010	187	4.09	4248
2011	243	4.75	5131
2012	257	3.86	3923
Total	965	17.97	19505



• The OPERA analysis chain is not trivial since we have to merge information from the electronic detectors (resolution of order of I cm) and from the emulsions (resolution of order of few μ m) \rightarrow critical role of the CS.



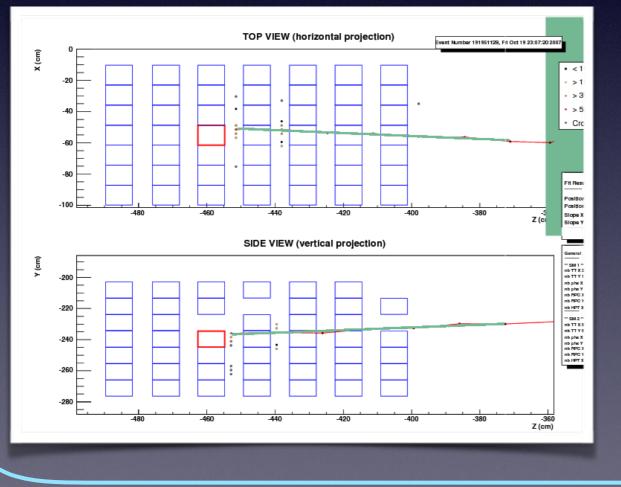


Analysis chain (1)

 The first phase of the analysis consists in the brick selection using electronic detectors and CS information.

Brick selection

- Trigger on event "on time" with CNGS and selection of the brick using electronic detectors information (brick finding algorithm).
- Brick removed by BMS (Brick Manipulating System).



- The CS are developed and tracks confirming the correctness of the brick are searched for.
- If a track matching the TT reconstruction is found in the CS, the brick is exposed to cosmic rays for sheets alignment.
- The brick is disassembled and the emulsion films are developed and sent to scanning labs.

Up to 50 bricks were extracted each day.

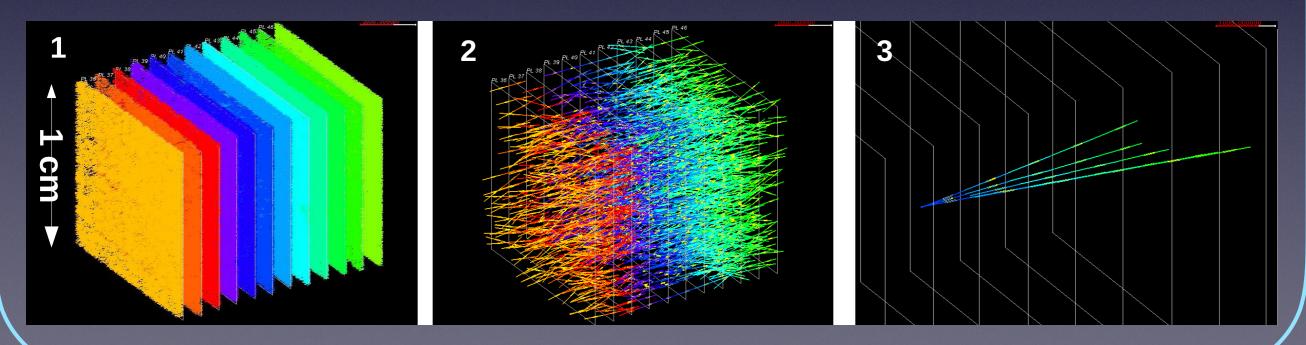
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Analysis chain (2)

• The second phase of the analysis consists in the scanning of the emulsions to reconstruct the interaction vertex, measure particles momentum via multiple scattering and identify possible kinks.

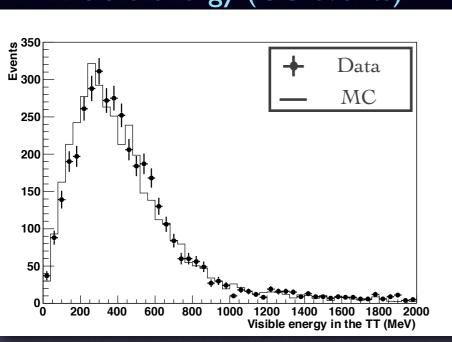
Scanning

- Tracks tagged in the CS films are followed upstream until a stopping point is found.
- Base-tracks in the 12 films of the volume centered in the stopping point are reconstructed.
- Cosmic ray tracks (from a dedicated exposure) are used for the fine alignment of films.
- Passing-through tracks discarded \rightarrow vertexing algorithm.



ED Data / MC comparison

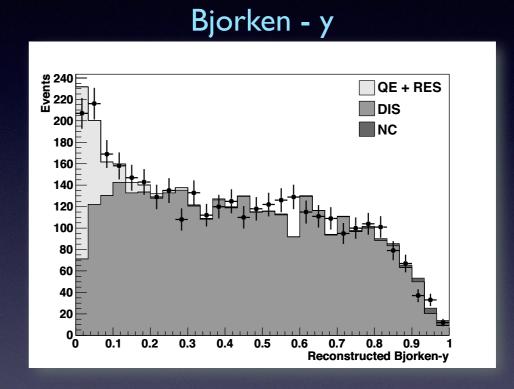
• The electronic detectors (ED) simulation was benchmarked against the large available data, showing a rather good agreement (New J.Phys. 13 (2011) 053051).



Visible energy (CC events)

Muon charge ratio

	μ+/μ-	
Data	(3.92 ± 0.37) %	
MC	(3.63 ± 0.13)%	



NC/CC ratio

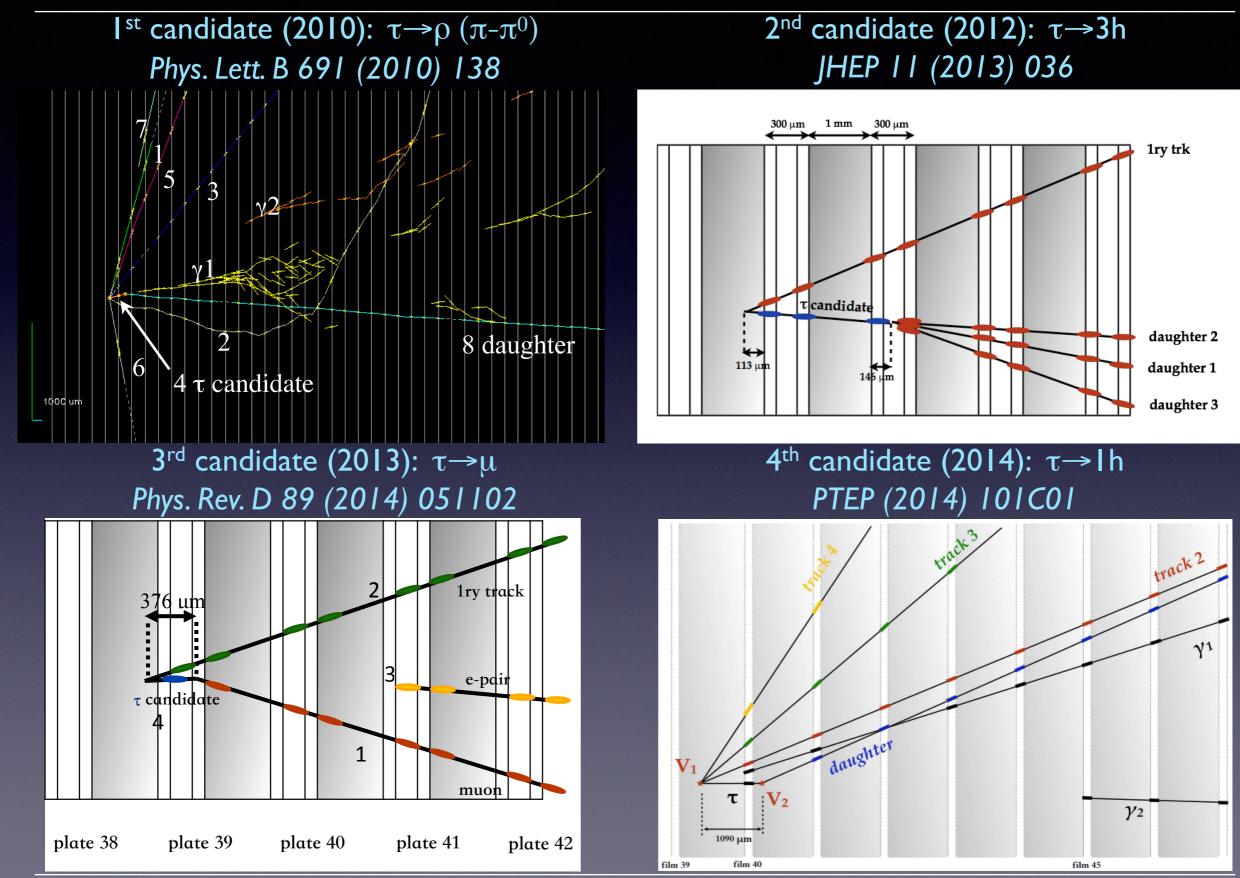
	NC/CC
Data	0.228 ± 0.008
MC	0.257 ± 0.03 l

$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\tau}$ analysis

- Different strategies were used in different periods:
 - In the 2008 and 2009 runs analysis a conservative approach was used to get confidence on the detector performance: no kinematical cuts and a slow analysis speed with a signal/noise ratio not optimized.
 - For the 2010 2012 runs kinematical selections were applied: muon momentum of less than 15 GeV, most probable brick analyzed for all events before moving to the other ones and anticipation of the analysis of 0µ events (NC like ones with no muon detected) to optimize the ratio between efficiency and analysis time.
- The decay search procedure was applied to all the 17057 contained events (first and second most probable brick for 2008-2012 data and up to 4th most probable for 2008-2009 data) and 5 candidates were found corresponding to a 5.1 σ significance of non-null observation.

	channel	Expected	Observed	Background	Charm	μ	Hadronic
		signal	signal			scattering	interactions
Ī	$\tau \rightarrow h$	0.52 ± 0.10	3	0.04 ± 0.01	0.017 ± 0.003	-	0.022 ± 0.006
ĺ	$\tau \rightarrow 3h$	0.73 ± 0.14	1	0.17 ± 0.03	0.17 ± 0.03	-	0.003 ± 0.001
	$\tau \to \mu$	0.61 ± 0.12	1	0.004 ± 0.001	0.004 ± 0.001	0.0002 ± 0.0001	-
	$\tau \to e$	0.78 ± 0.15	0	0.03 ± 0.01	0.03 ± 0.01	-	-
	total	2.64 ± 0.53	5	0.25 ± 0.05	0.22 ± 0.04	0.0002 ± 0.0001	0.02 ± 0.01

ν_{τ} candidates

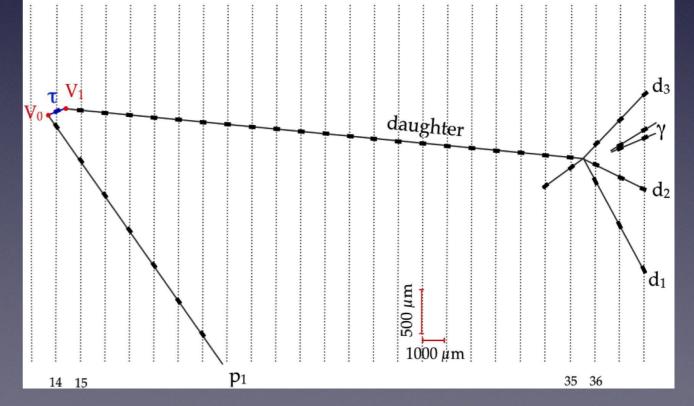


Fifth candidate

- In the decay search of 2012 data we found a fifth v_{τ} candidate (*Phys. Rev. Lett. 115 (2015*) 121802).
- The event passes all selection criteria for the signal and it was classified as a possible decay of a τ into 1 prong hadron.
- Only one additional track attached to the primary vertex, identified as a hadron due to its reinteraction in the downstream brick.
- The daughter was unambiguously identified as a hadron due to its interaction after 22 planes.

Variable	Observed	Cut			
Kink angle (mrad)	90 ± 2	>20			
Decay length (µm)	634 ± 30	< 2 lead plates			
P daughter (GeV/c)	+ 44	>2			
Daughter Pt (MeV/c)	1000 ⁺¹²⁰⁰ -400	>600			
Missing Pt (MeV/c)	300 ± 100	<1000			
Φ angle (deg)	151 ± 1	>90			

Kinematical variables



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Background

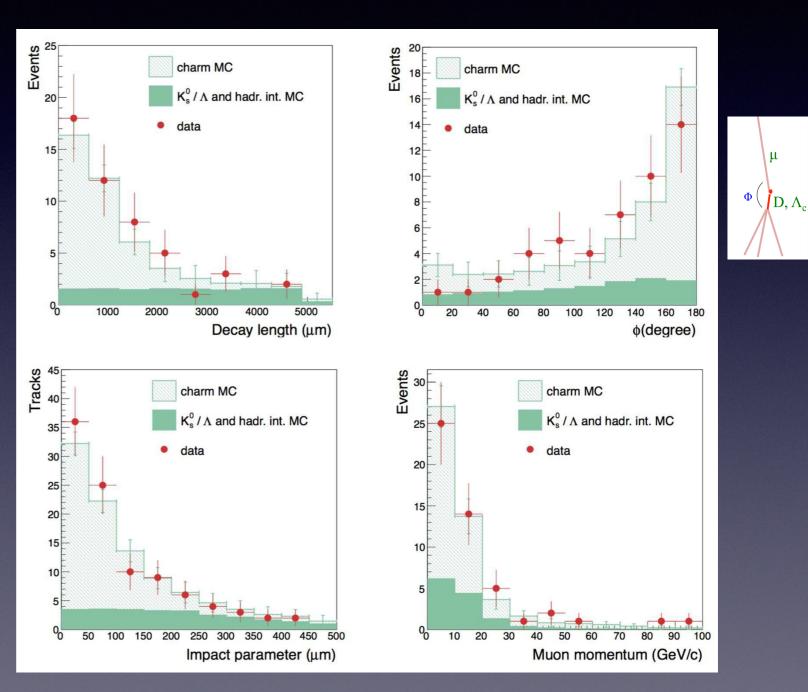
 The MC simulation of the different backgrounds was benchmarked with different control samples.

Type of BG	BG for	Scheme	Benchmark and reduction
CC with Charm production	All channels if primary lepton is not detected and the charge of the daughter is not (or is incorrectly) measured	μ^{-}, e^{-} μ^{+}, e^{+}, h^{+}	MC tuned on CHORUS data (cross section and fragmentation functions), validated with measured OPERA charm events. (<i>Eur. Phys.J. C74 (2014) 2986</i>) Reduced by track follow down and large angle scanning
Hadronic interactions	Background for $\tau \rightarrow h$	$\begin{array}{c} \nu_{\mu} \\ \nu_{\mu} \\ \cdots \\ h \\ h$	FLUKA + pion test beam data. (PTEP9 (2014) 093C01) Reduced by large angle scanning and nuclear fragment search
Large angle muon scattering	Background for $\tau \rightarrow \mu$	ν _μ μ ⁻	Improved knowledge bringing this contribution to a negligible level : GEANT4 simulation benchmarked on real data from the literature. (IEEE Trans. Nucl. Sci. 62,5, 2216-2225)

Charm validation

• The charm lifetime and decay topologies are similar to the ones of the τ lepton.

- Charm events can therefore be used as a control sample to benchmark the τ decay finding efficiency and kinematical variables reconstruction.
- Studying the 2008-2010 data sample 50 charm events where observed against an expectation value of 54 ± 4 (Eur.Phys.J. C74 (2014) no.8, 2986) confirming our understanding of the detector efficiencies.



$v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ + sterile neutrinos (1)

Appro

 $P_{\mu\tau} = -$

+

+

+

- The appearance probability is modified by one possible extra (sterile) state (3+1 scheme).
- This could result into an increase or decrease of the number of expected tau neutrinos observed.

Full oscillation probability

$$P_{\mu\tau} = -4\sum_{j=1}^{4}\sum_{i>j}^{4} \Re\left(U_{\mu i}^{*}U_{\tau i}U_{\mu j}U_{\tau j}^{*}\right)\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\Delta m_{ij}^{2}L}{4E}\right) + 2\sum_{j=1}^{4}\sum_{i>j}^{4} \Im\left(U_{\mu i}^{*}U_{\tau i}U_{\mu j}U_{\tau j}^{*}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{ij}^{2}L}{2E}\right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta m_{21}^2 &\ll \Delta m_{31}^2 \ll \Delta m_{41}^2 \\ \Delta m_{31}^2 &\approx \Delta m_{32}^2 \\ \Delta m_{41}^2 &\approx \Delta m_{42}^2 \approx \Delta m_{43}^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$P_{\mu\tau} = -4 \Re \left(U_{\mu 2}^* U_{\tau 2} U_{\mu 1} U_{\tau 1}^* \right) \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{4E} \right) \\ + 2 \Im \left(U_{\mu 2}^* U_{\tau 2} U_{\mu 1} U_{\tau 1}^* \right) \sin \left(\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2 L}{2E} \right) \\ + 4 |U_{\mu 3}|^2 |U_{\tau 3}|^2 \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E} \right) \\ + 4 \Re \left(U_{\mu 3}^* U_{\tau 3} U_{\mu 4} U_{\tau 4}^* \right) \sin^2 \left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E} \right) \end{aligned}$$

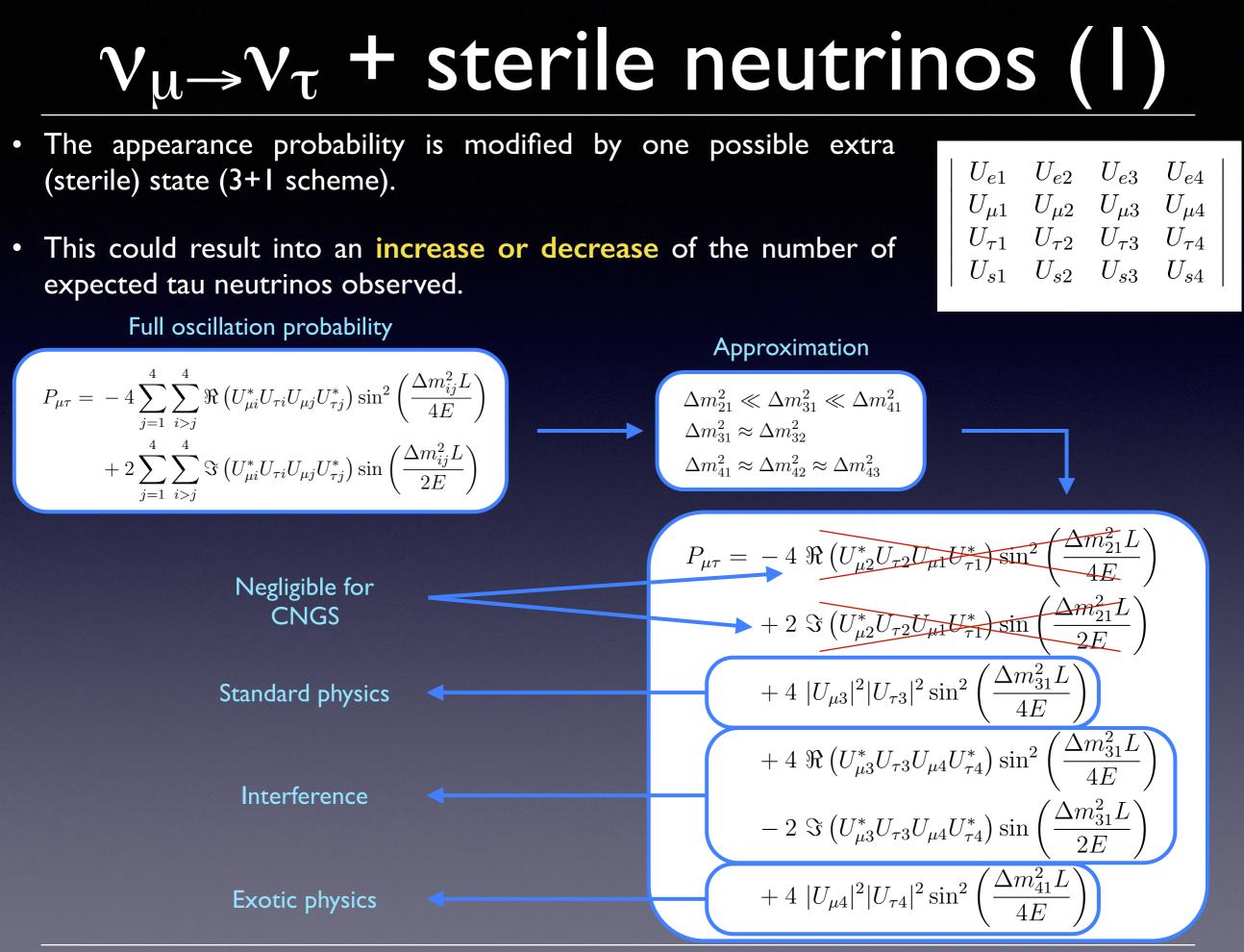
 U_{e1} U_{e2} U_{e3} U_{e4}

 $U_{\mu 1}$ $U_{\mu 2}$ $U_{\mu 3}$ $U_{\mu 4}$

 $U_{\tau 1}$ $U_{\tau 2}$ $U_{\tau 3}$ $U_{\tau 4}$

 U_{s1} U_{s2} U_{s3} U_{s4}

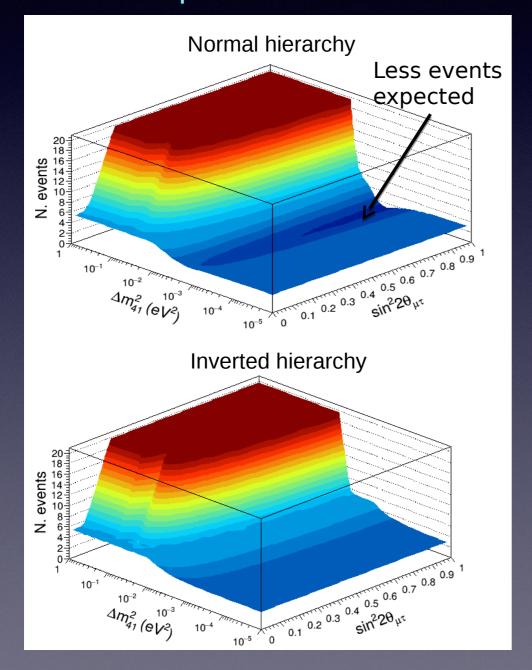
$$-2\Im\left(U_{\mu3}^{*}U_{\tau3}U_{\mu4}U_{\tau4}^{*}\right)\sin\left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^{2}L}{2E}\right)$$
$$+4|U_{\mu4}|^{2}|U_{\tau4}|^{2}\sin^{2}\left(\frac{\Delta m_{41}^{2}L}{4E}\right)$$



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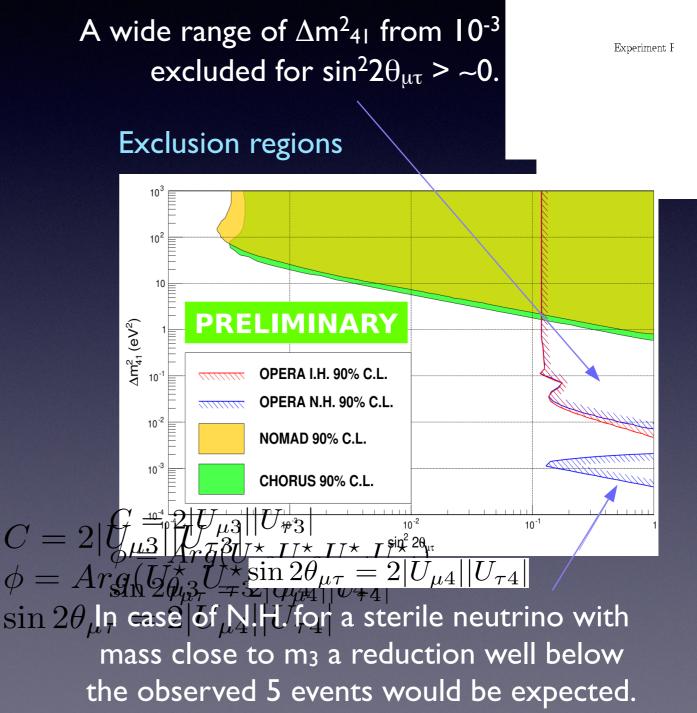
$v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ + sterile neutrinos

• Event rate only analysis was performed.



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Expected v_{τ} events





An appearance experin $\nu_{\mu} \leftrightarrow \nu_{\tau}$ oscillations in

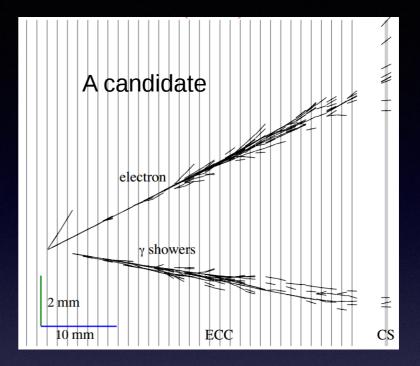
SPSC/P318 LNGS P25/2 July 12, 2000

 $egin{array}{c} \mathbf{An} \ \mathbf{appear} \ \mathbf{v}_{\mu} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{v}_{ au} \ \mathbf{os} \ \mathbf{v}_{\mu} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{v}_{ au} \ \mathbf{os} \end{array}$

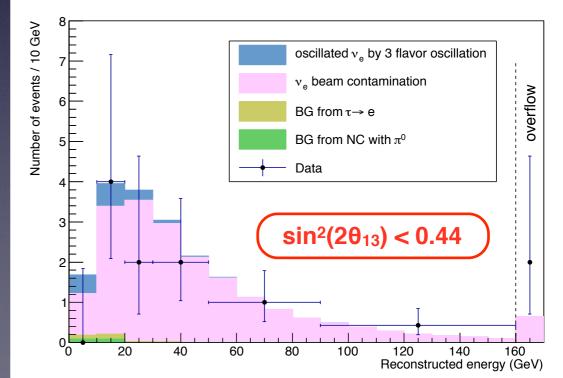
21

$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$ analysis (1)

- Thanks to the dense brick structure and the high granularity provided by the nuclear emulsions, the OPERA detector is also suited for electron and γ detection.
- Despite OPERA was not meant to observe the $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ transition, given the "large" value of θ_{13} an excess of v_{e} could be observed.
- In the 2008 and 2009 runs a dedicated ν_{e} search was performed.
- Out of 505 neutrino events without muon 19 v_e candidates were found.
- In the standard 3 flavour scenario, the observation is compatible with a background-only hypothesis.



Standard scenario



$\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$ analysis (2)

• Assuming a new sterile neutrino state and working in one mass scale dominance approximation, the new oscillation probability can be written as:

 $P \stackrel{\text{vpeam contamination}}{=} Sin^{\text{contamination}}(2\theta_{new}) \underset{\overline{b}}{\underline{s}} in^2 (1.27 \Delta m_{new}^2 L[km]/E[GeV])$

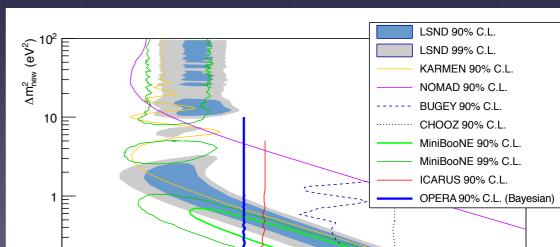
- A specific analysis for non-standard oscillation at large Δm^2 resulted in a competitive limit (JHEP 1307 (2013) 085).
- Full statistics analysis is ongoing (factor of 2.5 increase) and a rigorous treatment of the 3+1 scheme will be applied.

10

10

10⁻³

Energy cut		$20 \mathrm{GeV}$	$30 {\rm GeV}$	No cut
BG common to	BG (a) from π^0	0.2	0.2	0.2
both analyses	BG (b) from $\tau \to e$	0.2	0.3	0.3
	ν_e beam contamination	4.2	7.7	19.4
Total expected BG in 3-flavour oscillation analysis		4.6	8.2	19.8
BG to non-standard	ν_e via 3-flavour oscillation	1.0	1.3	1.4
oscillation analysis only				
Total expected BG in no	5.6	9.4	21.3	
Data		4	6	19



10⁻²

10

Non-standard oscillations

 $sin^{2}(2\theta_{new})$

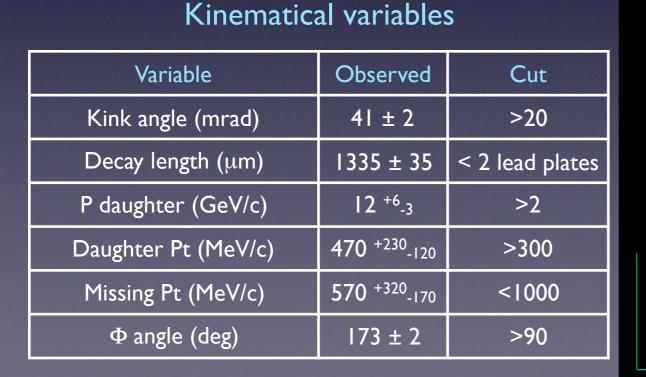
Conclusions

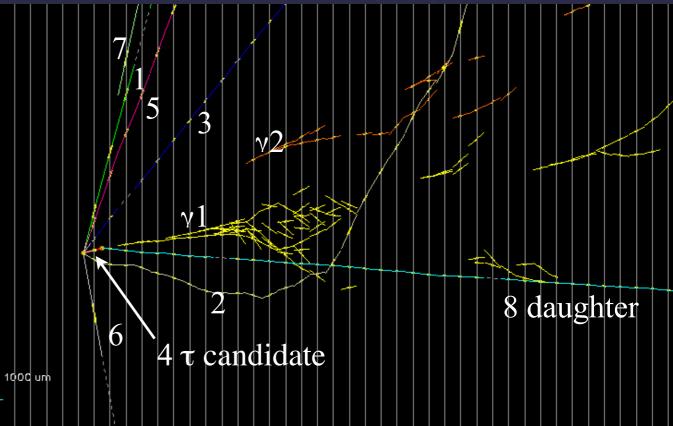
- OPERA took data from 2008 till 2012 and the $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{\tau}$ oscillation was observed with a confidence level of 5.1 σ outreaching the proposal expectations and allowing to claim discovery of v_{τ} appearance.
- Searches for anomalies in $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{e}$ and $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\tau}$ channels are ongoing.
- First preliminary limits on $|U_{\mu4}|^2 |U_{\tau4}|^2$ were computed from direct measurement of v_{τ} .
- Results on $v_{\mu} \rightarrow v_{e}$ with full statistics and correct treatment of the 3+1 scheme soon.
- Despite the experiment is currently being dismounted, scanning and analysis is still ongoing to study marginal events (failing the cut based selection) with still a significant v_{τ} purity.



First candidate

- In the decay search of 2008 and 2009 data we found a v_{τ} candidate (*Phys. Lett. B 691 (2010) 138*).
- The event passes all selection criteria for the signal and it is classified as a possible decay of a τ into I prong hadron.
- The decay mode is compatible with $\tau \rightarrow \rho (\pi \pi^0) v_{\tau}$ which has a branching ratio of 25%.



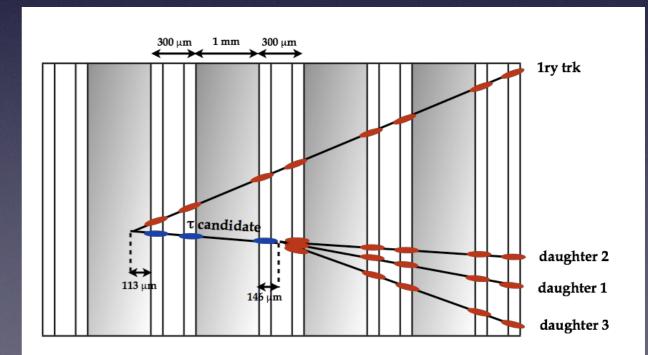


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Second candidate

- In the decay search of 2011 data we found a second v_{τ} candidate (JHEP 11 (2013) 036).
- The event passes all selection criteria for the signal and it is classified as a possible decay of a τ into 3 prong hadrons (branching ratio of 15%).
- The decay point is in the plastic base and no nuclear fragment is observed.

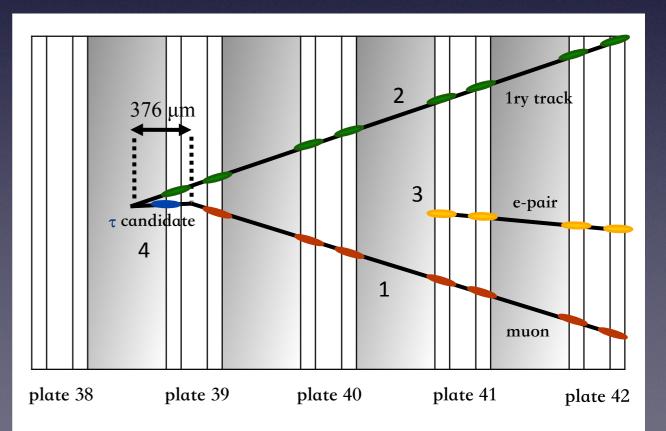
Variable	Observed	Cut
Kink angle (mrad)	87.4 ± 1.5	>20 & <500
Decay length (μm)	1540	< 2 lead plates
P daughter (GeV/c)	8.4 ± 1.7	>3
Min. invariant mass (MeV/c²)	960 ± 130	>500 & <2000
Invariant mass(MeV/c²)	800 ± 120	>500 & <2000
Missing Pt (MeV/c)	310 ± 110	<1000
Φ angle (deg)	167.8 ± 1.1	>90



Third candidate

- In the decay search of 2012 data we found a third v_{τ} candidate (*Phys. Rev. D* 89 (2014) 051102).
- The event passes all selection criteria for the signal and it is classified as a possible decay of a τ into μ (branching ratio of 17.7%).
- The γ attachment to the decay vertex is excluded.
- The momentum/range correlation is inconsistent with track 2 being a muon, and the muon (track I) charge is negative at 5.6 sigmas.

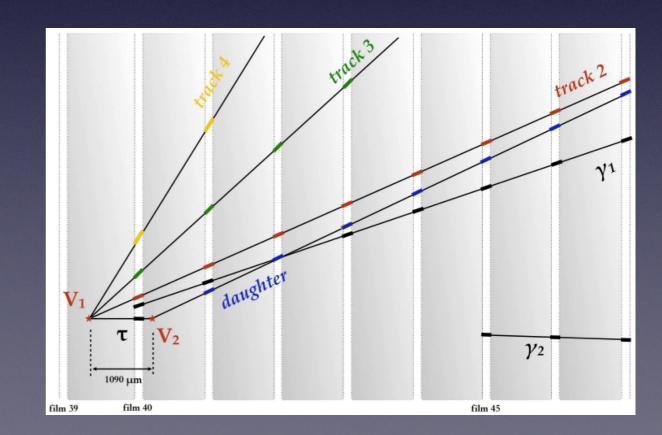
Variable	Observed	Cut
Kink angle (mrad)	245 ± 5	>20 & <500
Decay length (μm)	376 ± 10	< 2 lead plates
Pμ(GeV/c)	2.8 ± 0.2	<15
Daughter Pt (MeV/c)	690 ± 50	>250
Φ angle (deg)	154.5 ± 1.5	>90



Forth candidate

- In the decay search of 2012 data we found a forth v_{τ} candidate (PTEP (2014) 101C01).
- The event passes all selection criteria for the signal and it is classified as a possible decay of a τ into 1 prong hadron.
- Three additional tracks are attached to the primary vertex are reconstructed as hadrons for their reinteraction or for the momentum/range correlation.
- A γ attached to the primary vertex is also seen.

Variable	Observed	Cut
Kink angle (mrad)	137 ± 4	>20
Decay length (μm)	1090 ± 30	< 2 lead plates
P daughter (GeV/c)	6 ^{+2.2} -1.2	>2
Daughter Pt (MeV/c)	820 +300-160	>600
Missing Pt (MeV/c)	550 ⁺³⁰⁰ -200	<1000
Φ angle (deg)	166 ⁺² -31	>90



Fifth candidate

- In the decay search of 2012 data we found a fifth v_{τ} candidate (*Phys. Rev. Lett. 115 (2015*) 121802).
- The event passes all selection criteria for the signal and it is classified as a possible decay of a τ into I prong hadron.
- Only one additional track attached to the primary vertex, identified as a hadron due to its reinteraction in the downstream brick.
- The daughter is unambiguously identified as a hadron due to its interaction after 22 planes.

Variable	Observed	Cut	
Kink angle (mrad)	90 ± 2	>20	
Decay length (μm)	634 ± 30	< 2 lead plates	
P daughter (GeV/c)	+ 44	>2	
Daughter Pt (MeV/c)	1000 ⁺¹²⁰⁰ -400	>600	
Missing Pt (MeV/c)	300 ± 100	<1000	
Φ angle (deg)	5 ±	>90	

