



*Measurement of the neutrino velocity with
the OPERA detector in the CNGS beam*

SPP Seminar, CEA, Saclay

14 March 2012

Dario Autiero

IPN Lyon

The OPERA Collaboration

160 physicists, 30 institutions, 11 countries



Belgium
IIHE-ULB Brussels



Croatia
IRB Zagreb



France
LAPP Annecy
IPNL Lyon
IPHC Strasbourg



Germany
Hamburg



Israel
Technion Haifa



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



Japan
Aichi
Toho
Kobe
Nagoya
Utsunomiya



Korea
Jinju



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



Switzerland
Bern
ETH Zurich



Turkey
METU Ankara



We profited from the collaboration of individuals and groups that worked with us for the various metrology measurements:

CERN: CNGS, Survey, Timing and PS groups

The geodesy group of the Università Sapienza of Rome

The Swiss Institute of Metrology (METAS)

The German Institute of Metrology (PTB)

Principle of the neutrino velocity measurement

Definition of neutrino velocity:

ratio of precisely measured baseline and time of flight

Time of flight measurement:

tagging of neutrino production time

tagging of neutrino interaction time by a far detector

accurate determination of the baseline (geodesy)

expected small effects: long baseline required

blind analysis: “box” opened after adequate level of systematic errors was reached

Past experimental results

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

high energy ($E_\nu > 30$ GeV) short baseline experiment. Tested deviations down to $|v-c|/c \leq 4 \times 10^{-5}$ (comparison of muon-neutrino and muon velocities).

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

electron (anti) neutrinos, 10 MeV range, 168'000 light years baseline.
 $|v-c|/c \leq 2 \times 10^{-9}$.

Performed with observation of neutrino and light arrival time.

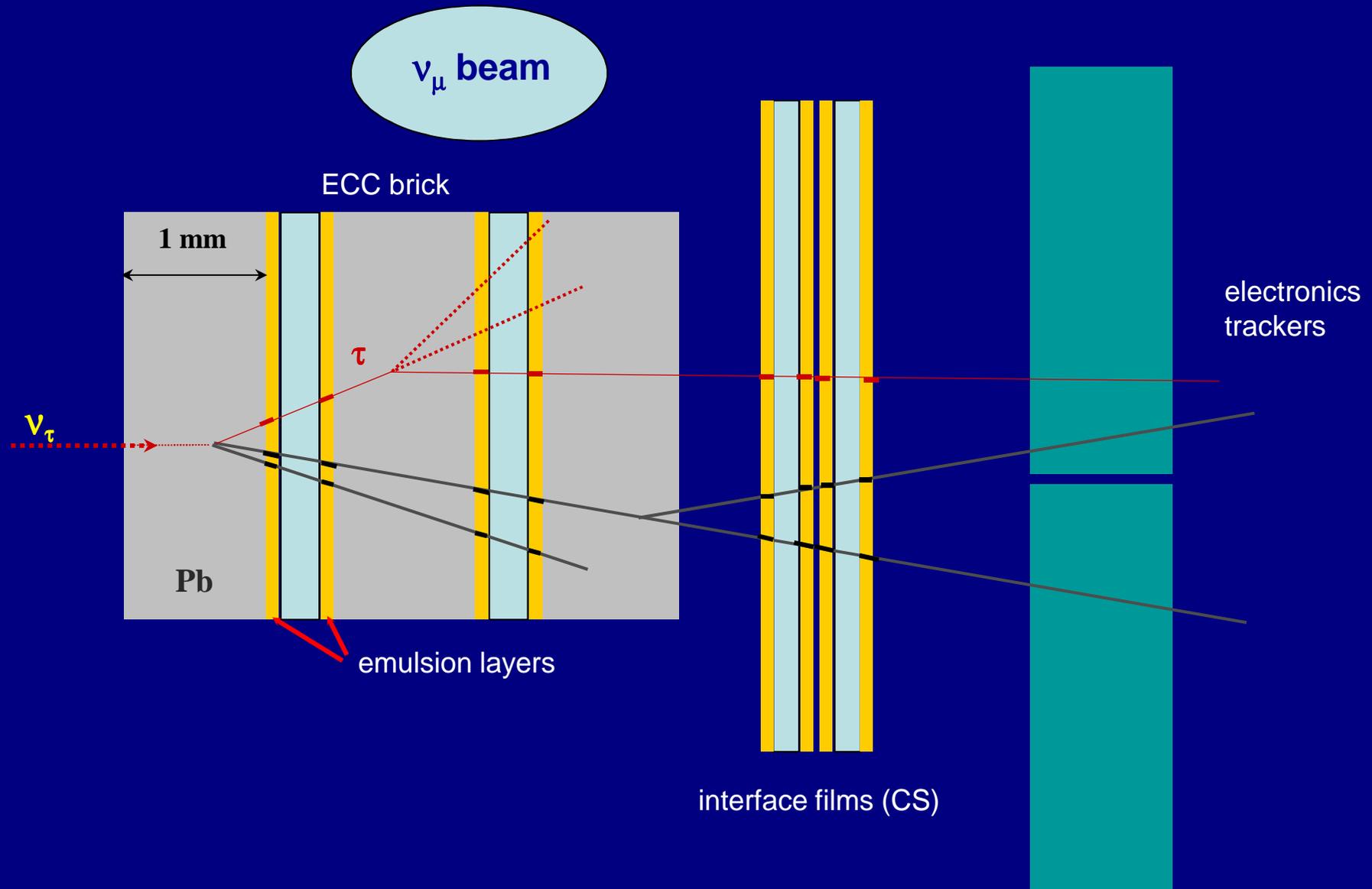
MINOS ([Phys. Rev. D 76 072005 2007](#))

muon neutrinos, 730 km baseline, E_ν peaking at ~ 3 GeV with a tail extending above 100 GeV.

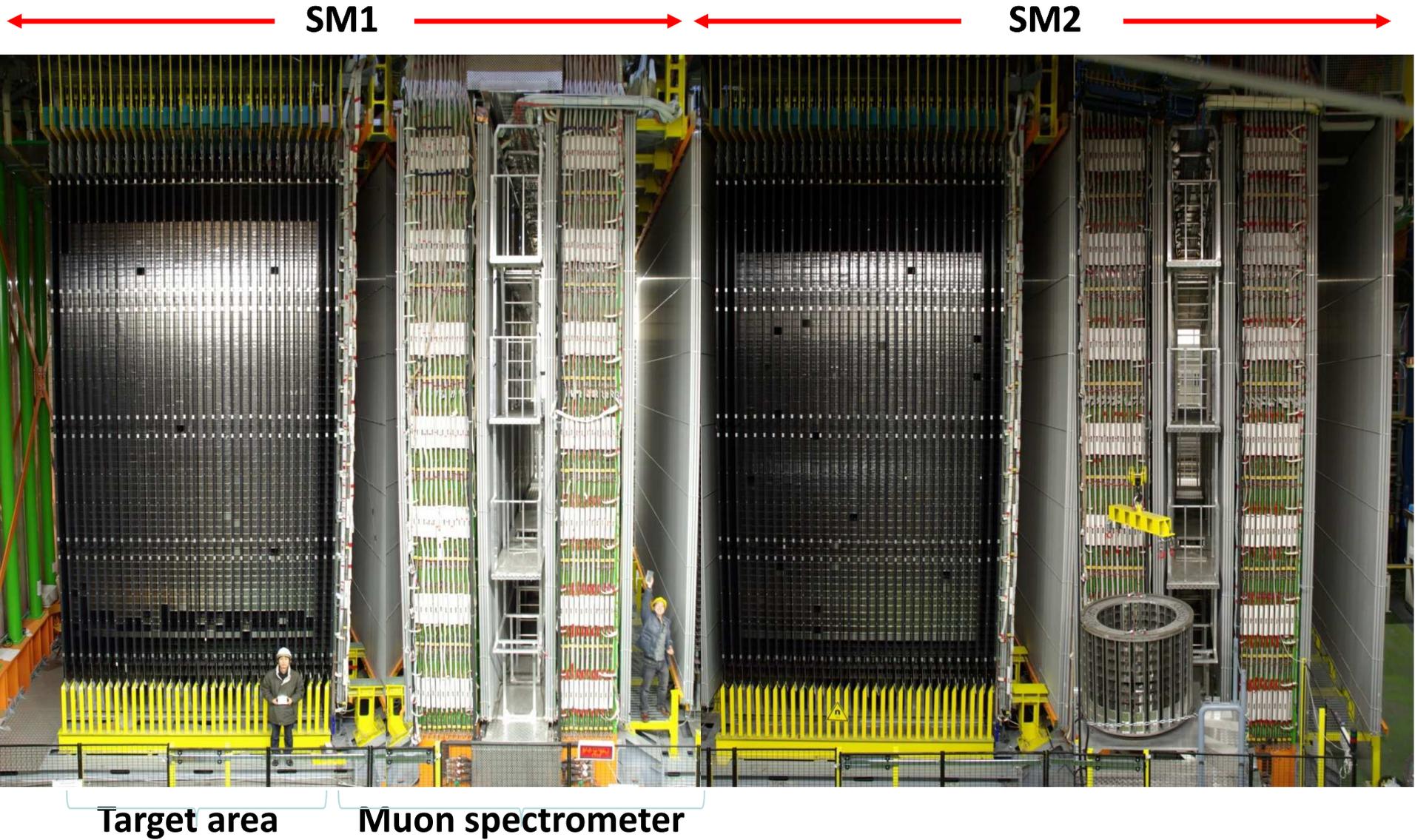
$(v-c)/c = 5.1 \pm 2.9 \times 10^{-5}$ (1.8σ).

THE DESIGN OF THE OPERA EXPERIMENT

ECC BRICKS + ELECTRONIC DETECTORS FOR $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ OSCILLATION STUDIES



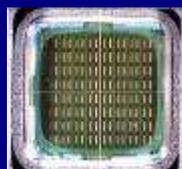
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLE



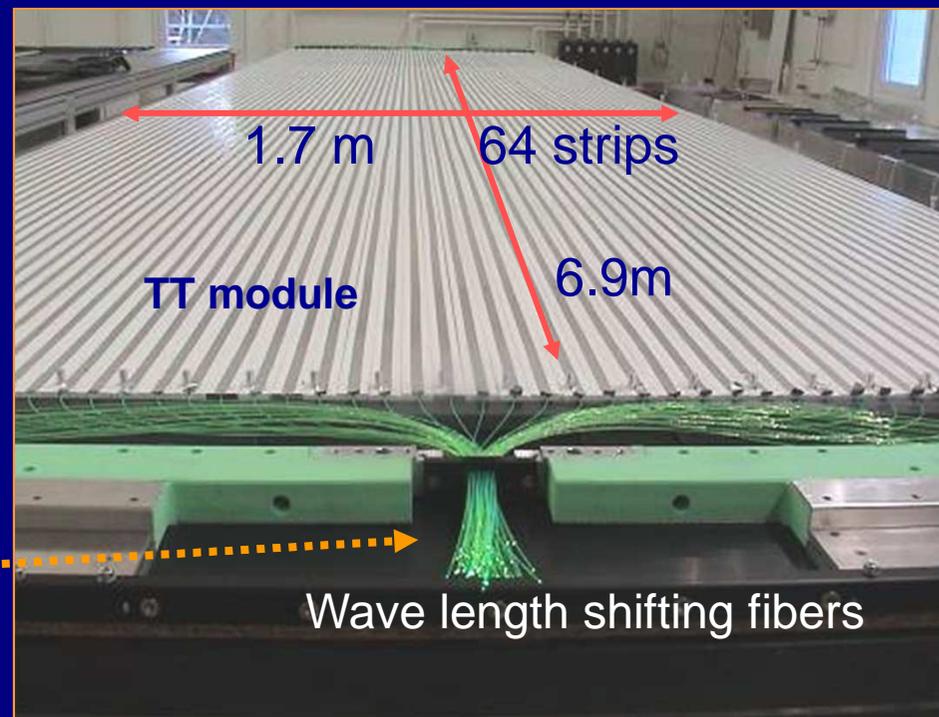
The Target Tracker (TT)

pre-location of neutrino interactions and event timing

- Extruded plastic scintillator strips (2.6 cm width)
- Light collections with WLS fibres
- Fibres read out at either side with multi-anode 64 pixels PMTs (H7546)

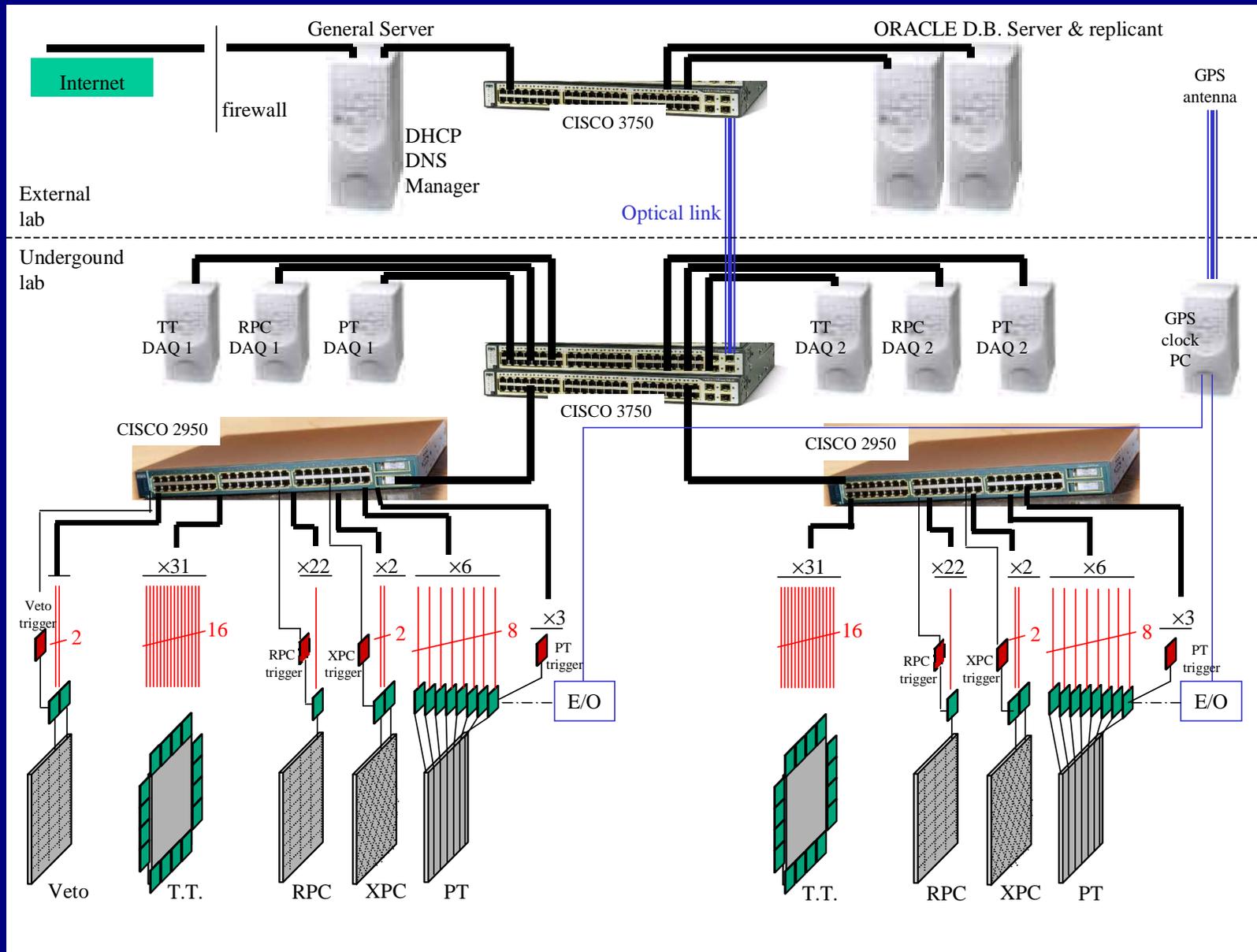


H7546



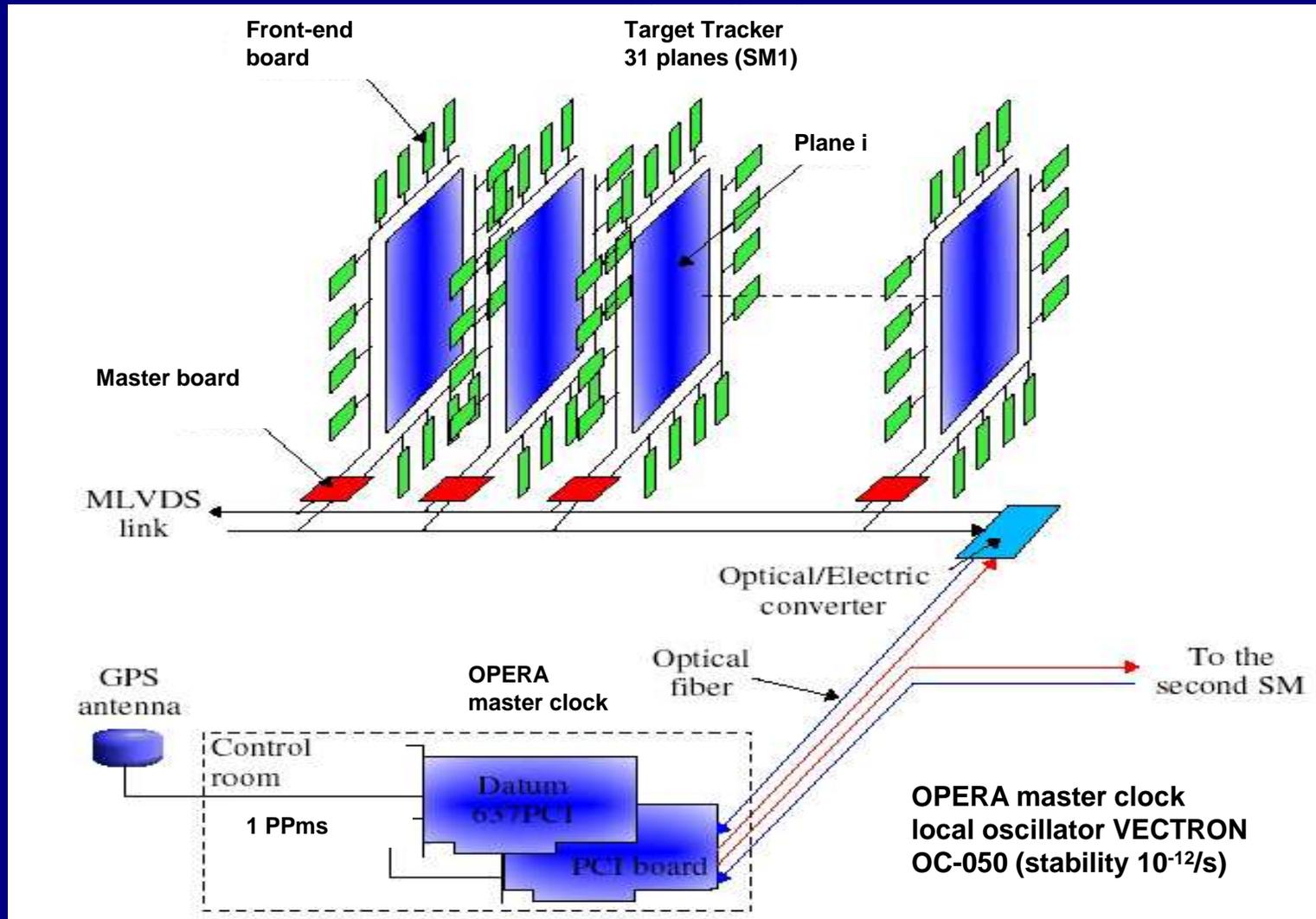
Read out by 1 Front-End DAQ board per side

OPERA readout scheme



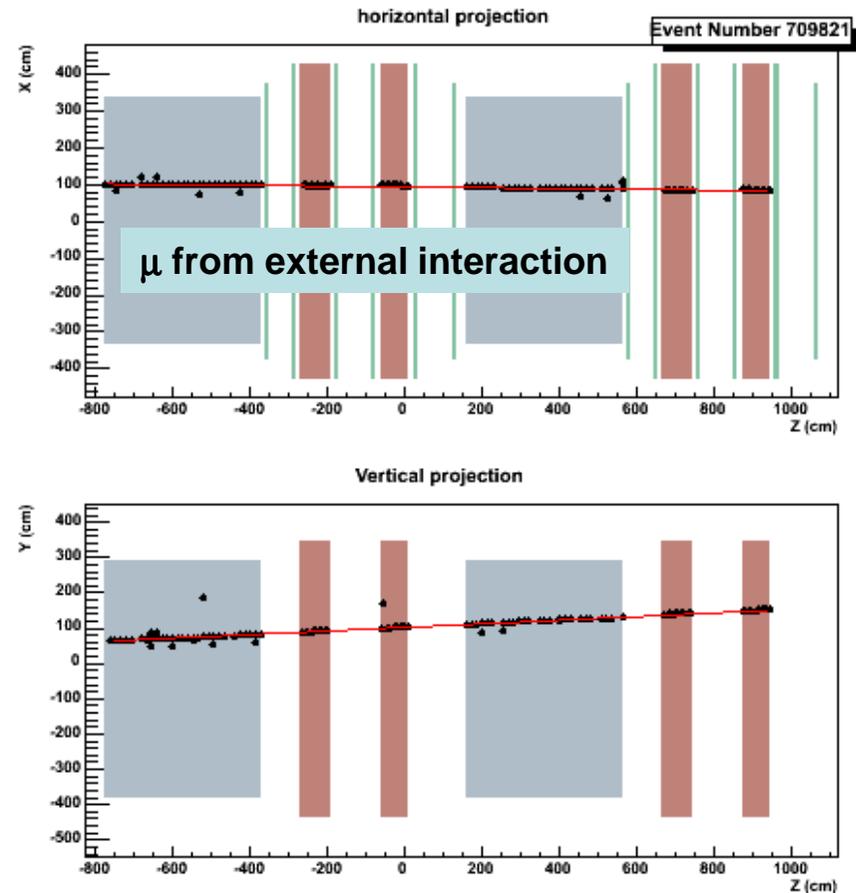
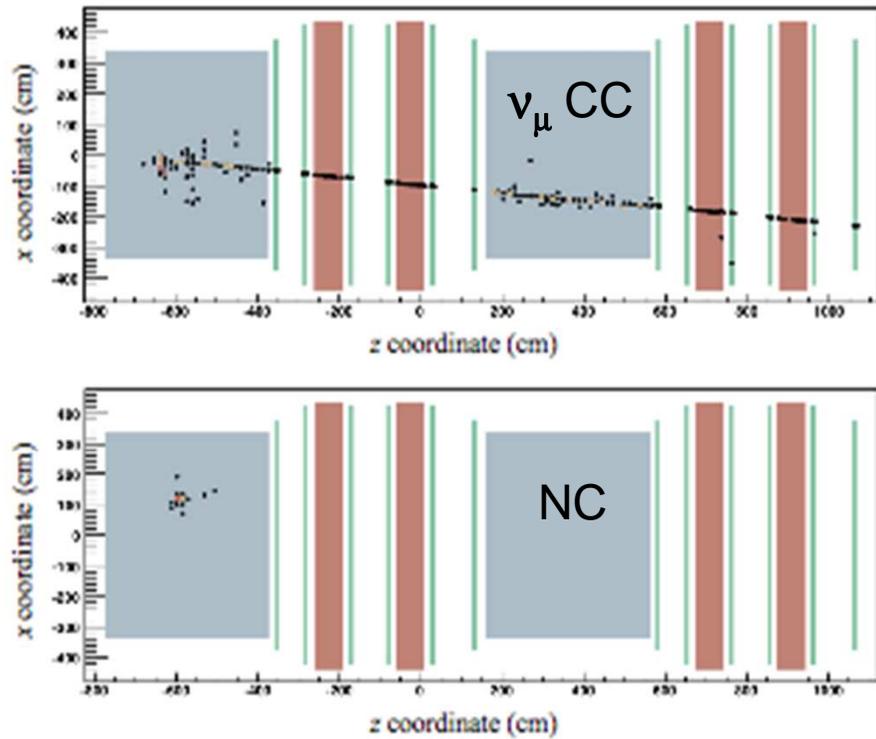
Trigger-less, asynchronous Front-End nodes (1200); Gigabit Ethernet network

Clock distribution system (10 ns UTC event time-stamp granularity)

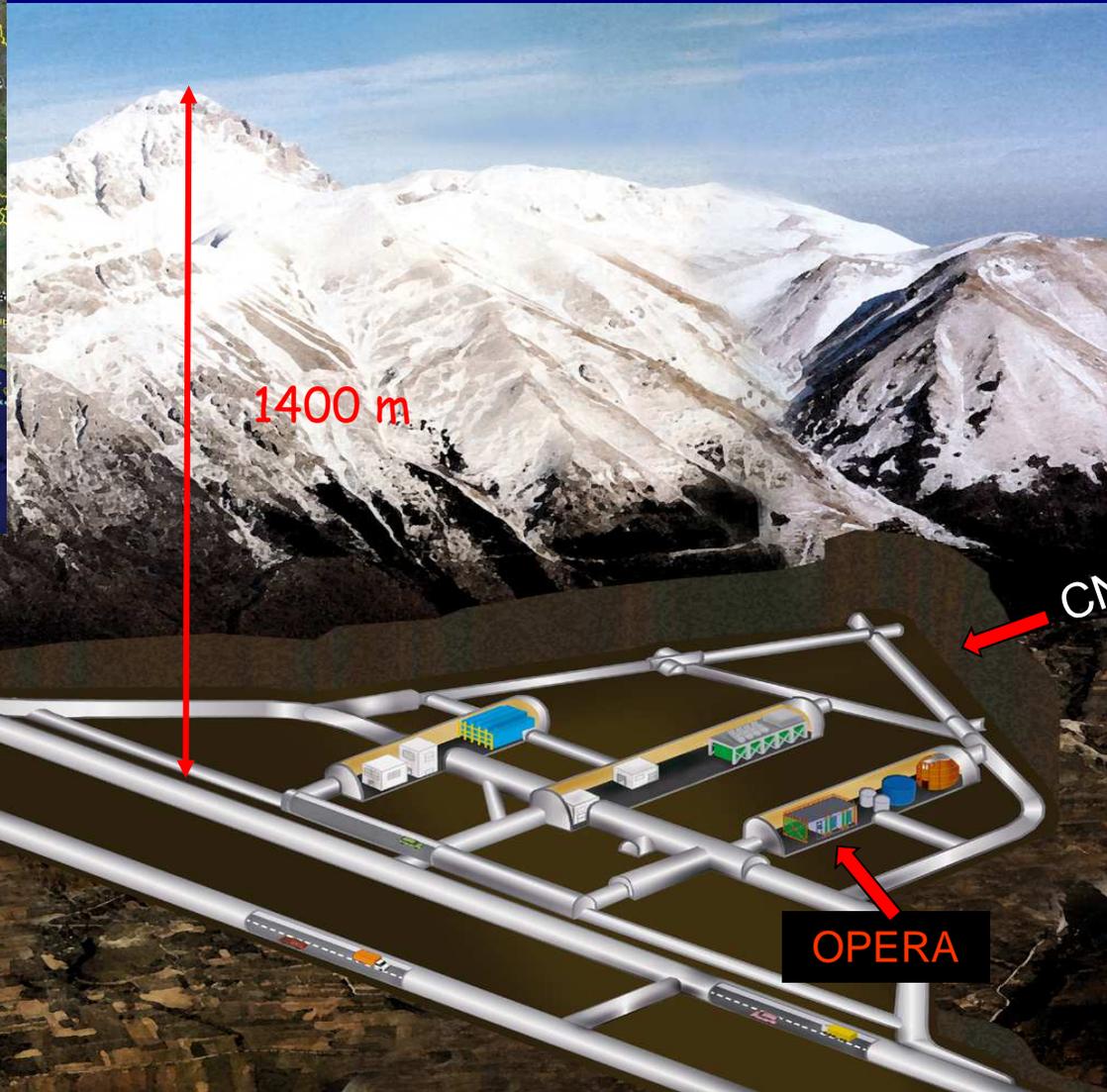


Mezzanine DAQ card common to all sub-detectors Front End nodes:
CPU (embedded LINUX), Memory, FPGA, clock receiver and ethernet

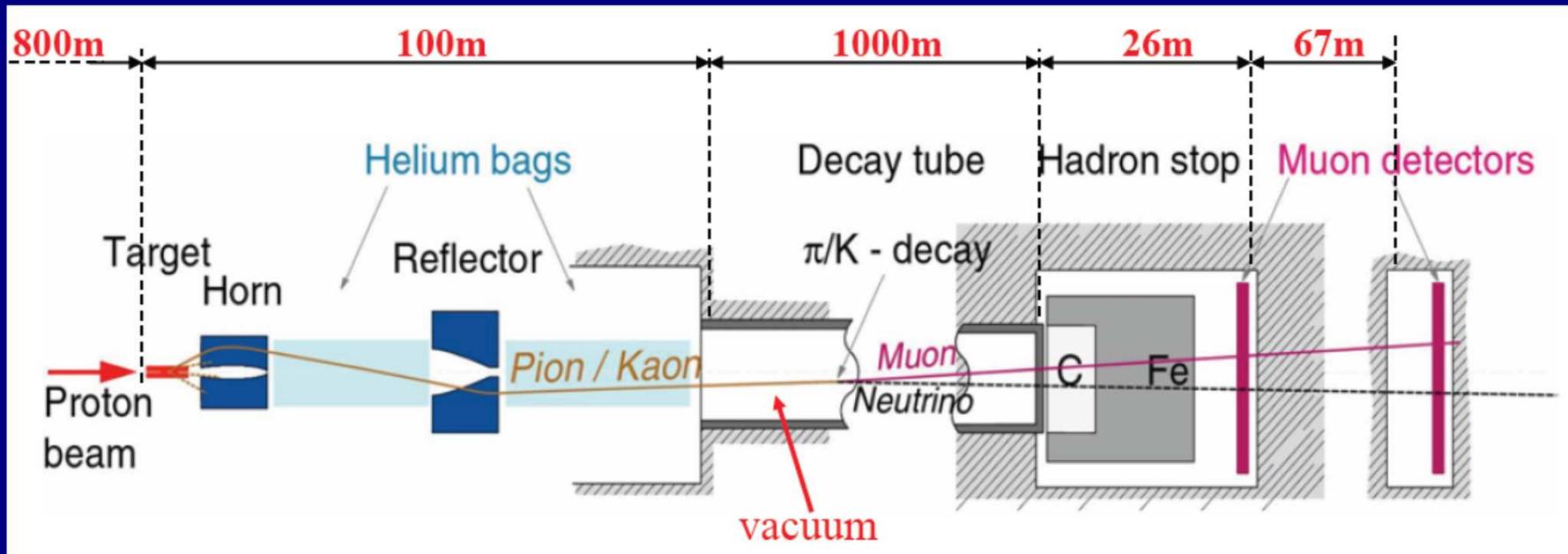
“INTERNAL” and “EXTERNAL” OPERA EVENTS



The LNGS underground physics laboratory

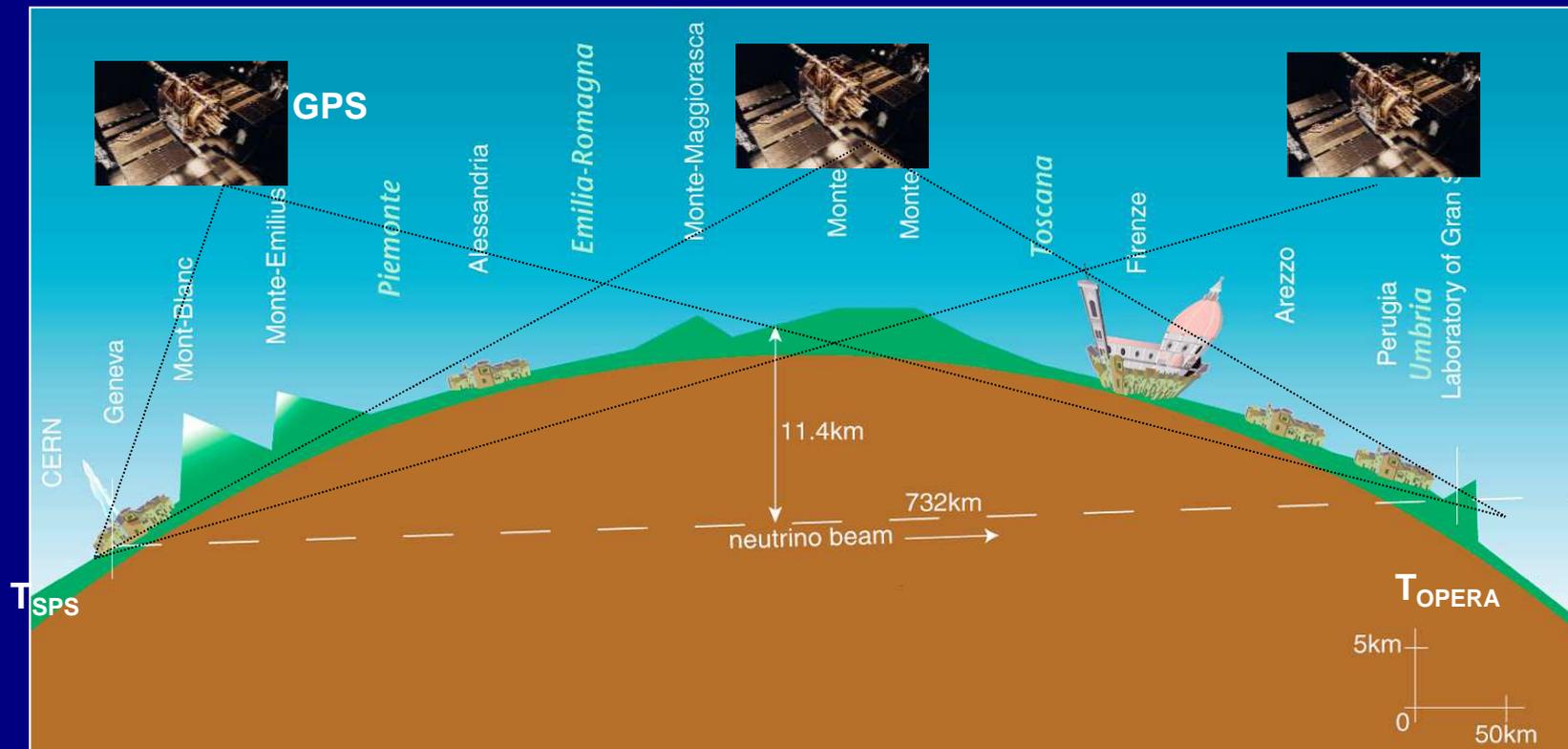


THE CNGS neutrino beam



- SPS protons: 400 GeV/c
- Cycle length: 6 s
- Two 10.5 μ s extractions (by kicker magnet) separated by 50 ms
- Beam intensity: $2.4 \cdot 10^{13}$ proton/extraction
- ~ pure muon neutrino beam ($\langle E \rangle = 17$ GeV) travelling through the Earth's crust

CNGS events selection



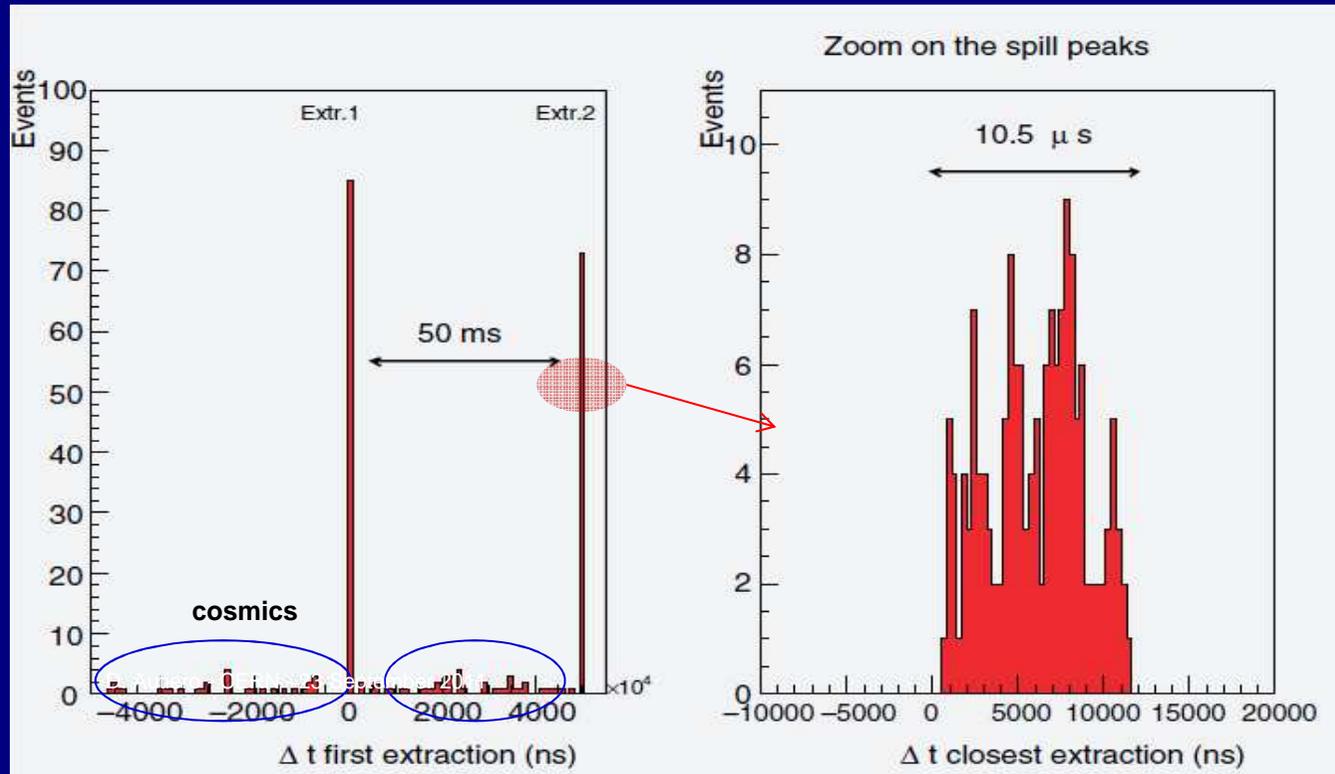
Offline coincidence of SPS proton extractions (kicker time-tag) and OPERA events

$$|T_{\text{OPERA}} - (T_{\text{Kicker}} + \text{TOF}_c)| < 20 \mu\text{s}$$

Synchronisation with standard GPS systems ~100 ns (inadequate for our purposes)

Real time detection of neutrino interactions in target and in the rock surrounding OPERA

CNGS events selection

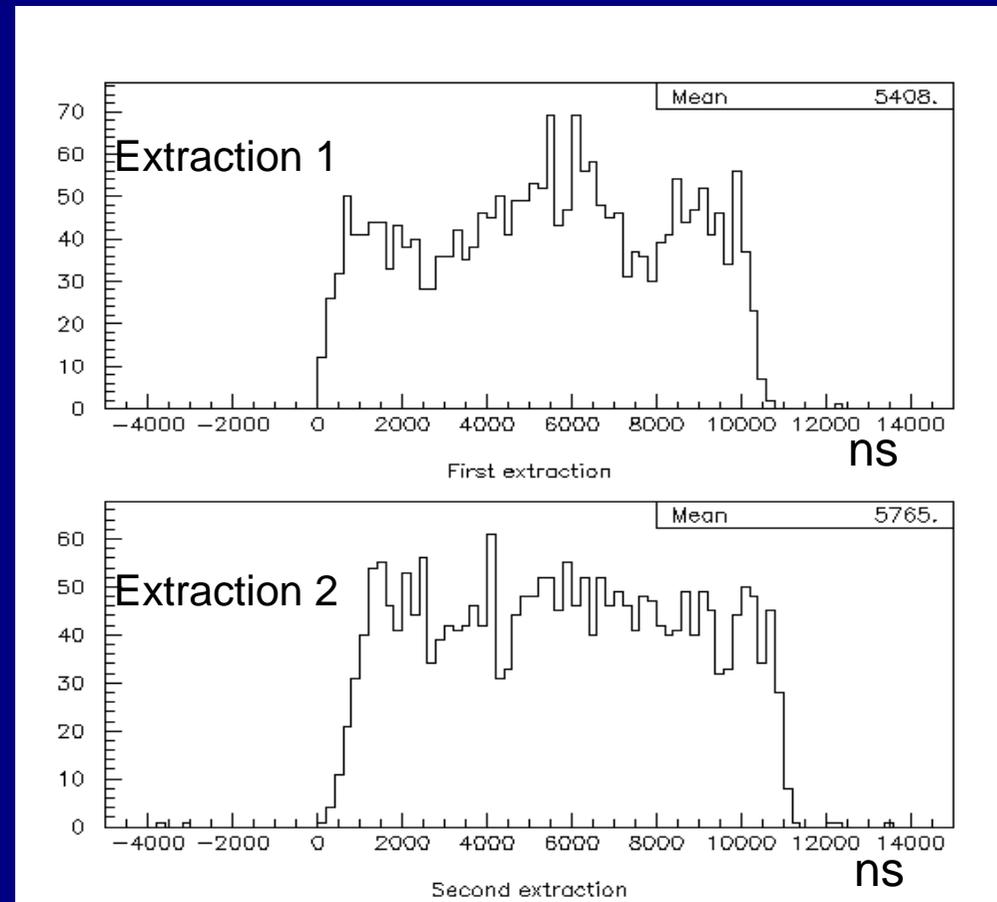


OPERA data: narrow peaks of the order of the spill width (10.5 μ s)

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

Selection procedure kept unchanged since first events in 2006

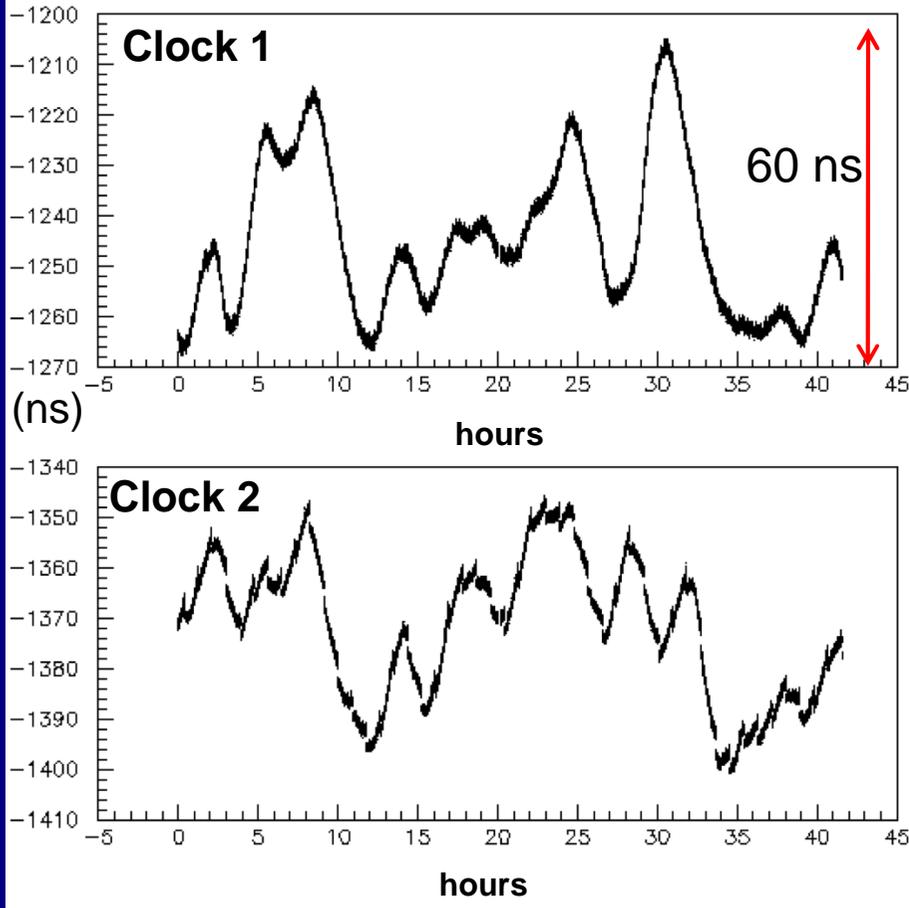
From CNGS event selection to neutrino velocity measurement



Typical neutrino event time distributions in 2008 w.r.t kicker magnet trigger pulse:

- 1) Not flat
- 2) Different timing for first and second extraction

→ Need to precisely measure the protons spills



GPS clocks at LNGS w.r.t. Cs clock:

- 1) Large oscillations
- 2) Uncertainties on CERN-OPERA synchronisation

→ Need accurate time synchronisation system

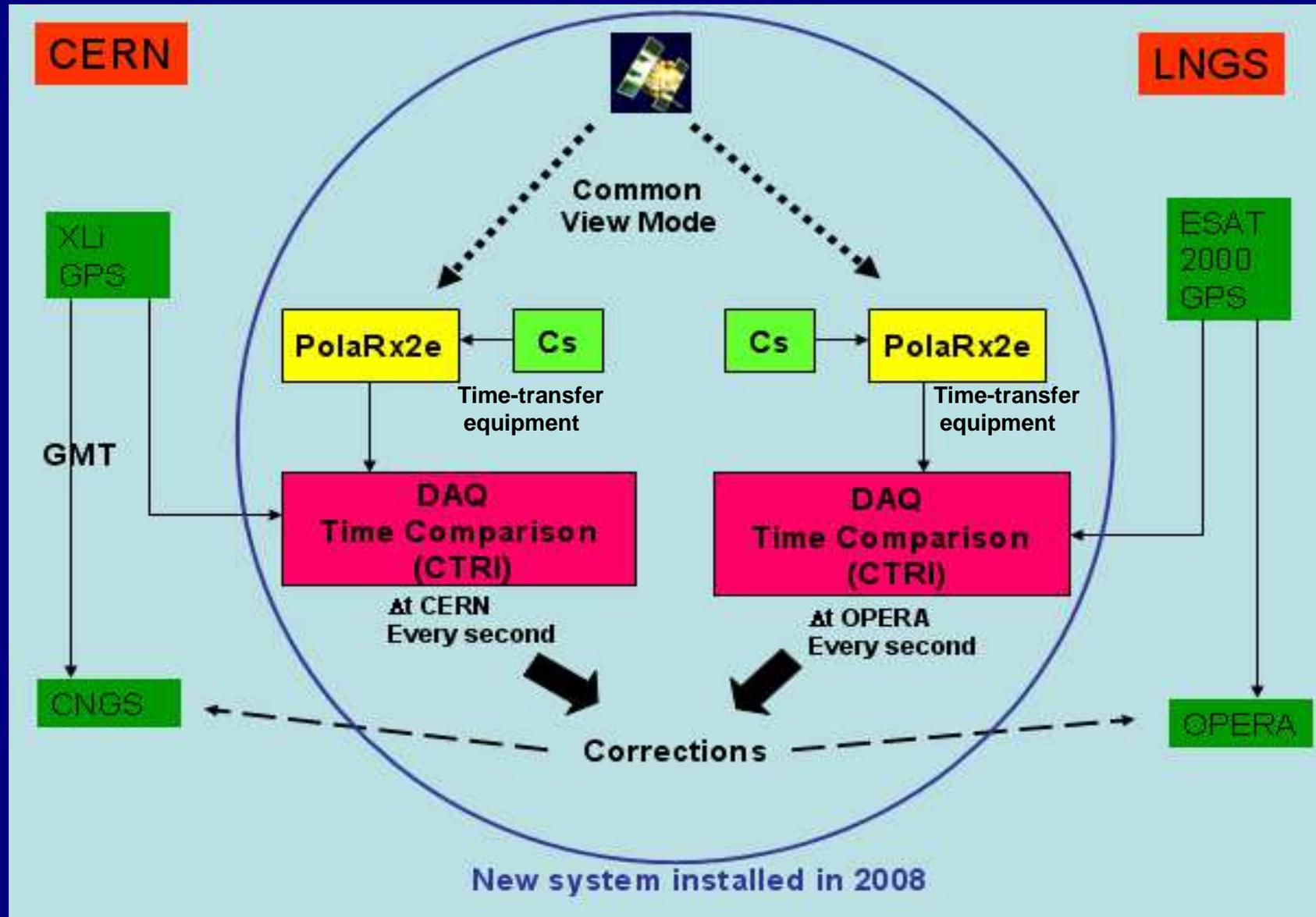
Collaboration with CERN timing team since 2003

Major upgrade in 2008

OPERA sensitivity

- High neutrino energy - high statistics ~15000 events
 - Sophisticated timing system: ~1 ns CNGS-OPERA synchronisation
 - Accurate calibrations of CNGS and OPERA timing chains: ~ 1 ns level
 - Precise measurement of neutrino time distribution at CERN through proton waveforms
 - Measurement of baseline by global geodesy: 20 cm accuracy over 730 km
- Result: ~10 ns overall accuracy on TOF with similar stat. and sys. errors

CNGS-OPERA synchronization



Standard GPS receivers ~100 ns accuracy:

CERN **Symmetricom** XLi (source of General Machine Timing)

LNGS: ESAT 2000

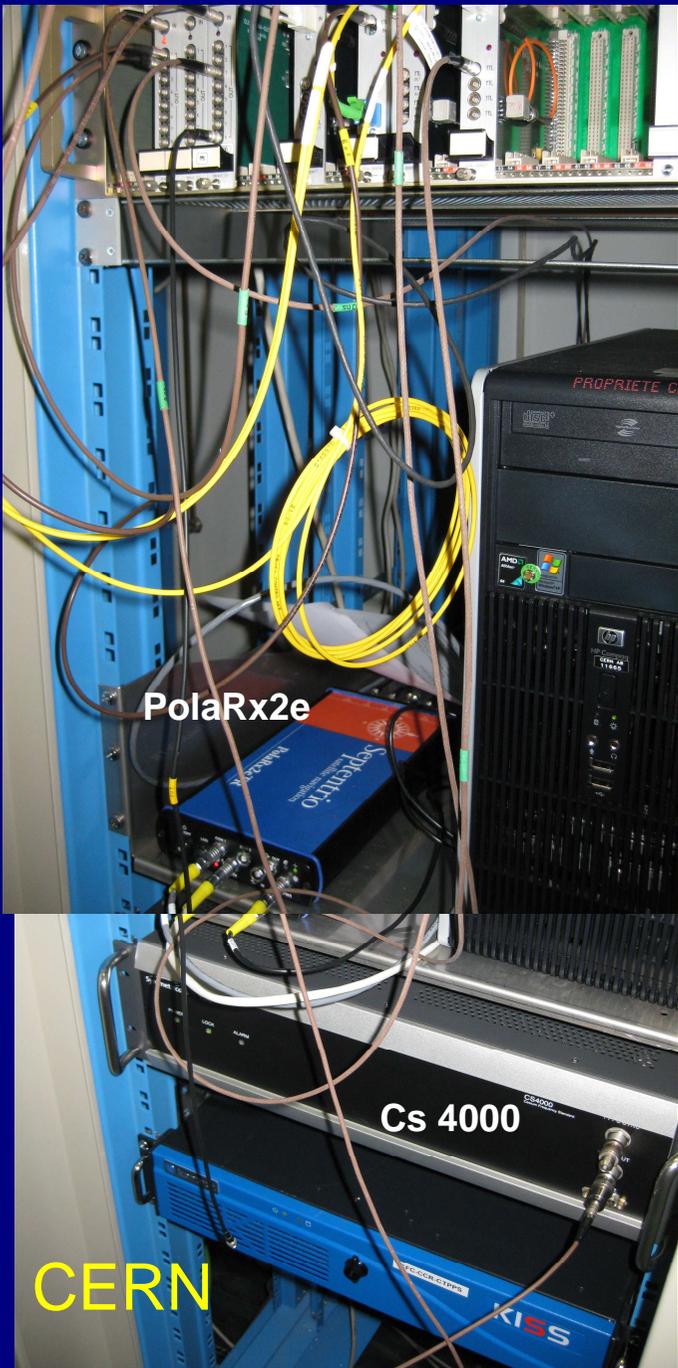
2008: installation of a twin high accuracy system calibrated by METAS (Swiss metrology institute) **Septentrio** GPS PolaRx2e + **Symmetricom** Cs-4000

PolaRx2e:

- frequency reference from Cs clock
- internal time tagging of 1PPS with respect to individual satellite observations
- offline common-view analysis in CGGTTS format
- use ionosphere free P3 code

Standard technique for high accuracy time transfer

Permanent time link (~1 ns) between reference points at CERN and OPERA



GPS common-view mode

Standard GPS operation:

resolves x, y, z, t with ≥ 4 satellite observations

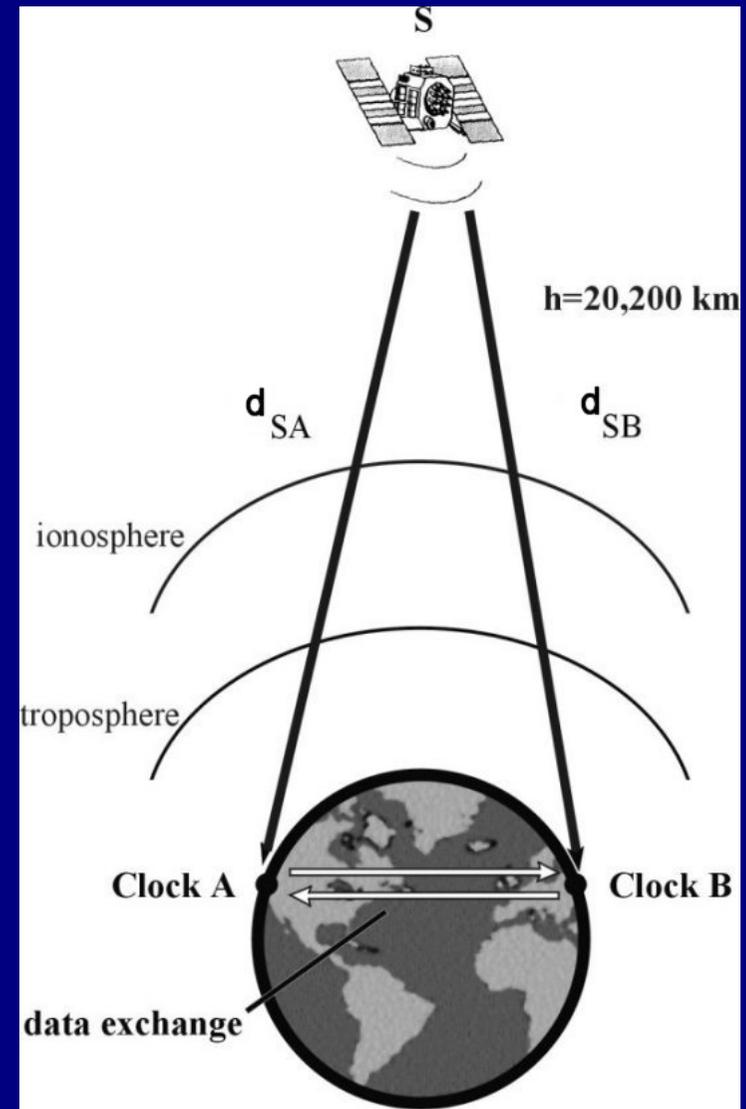
Common-view mode (the same satellite for the two sites, for each comparison):

x, y, z known from former dedicated measurements:
determine time differences of local clocks (both sites) w.r.t. the satellite, by offline data exchange

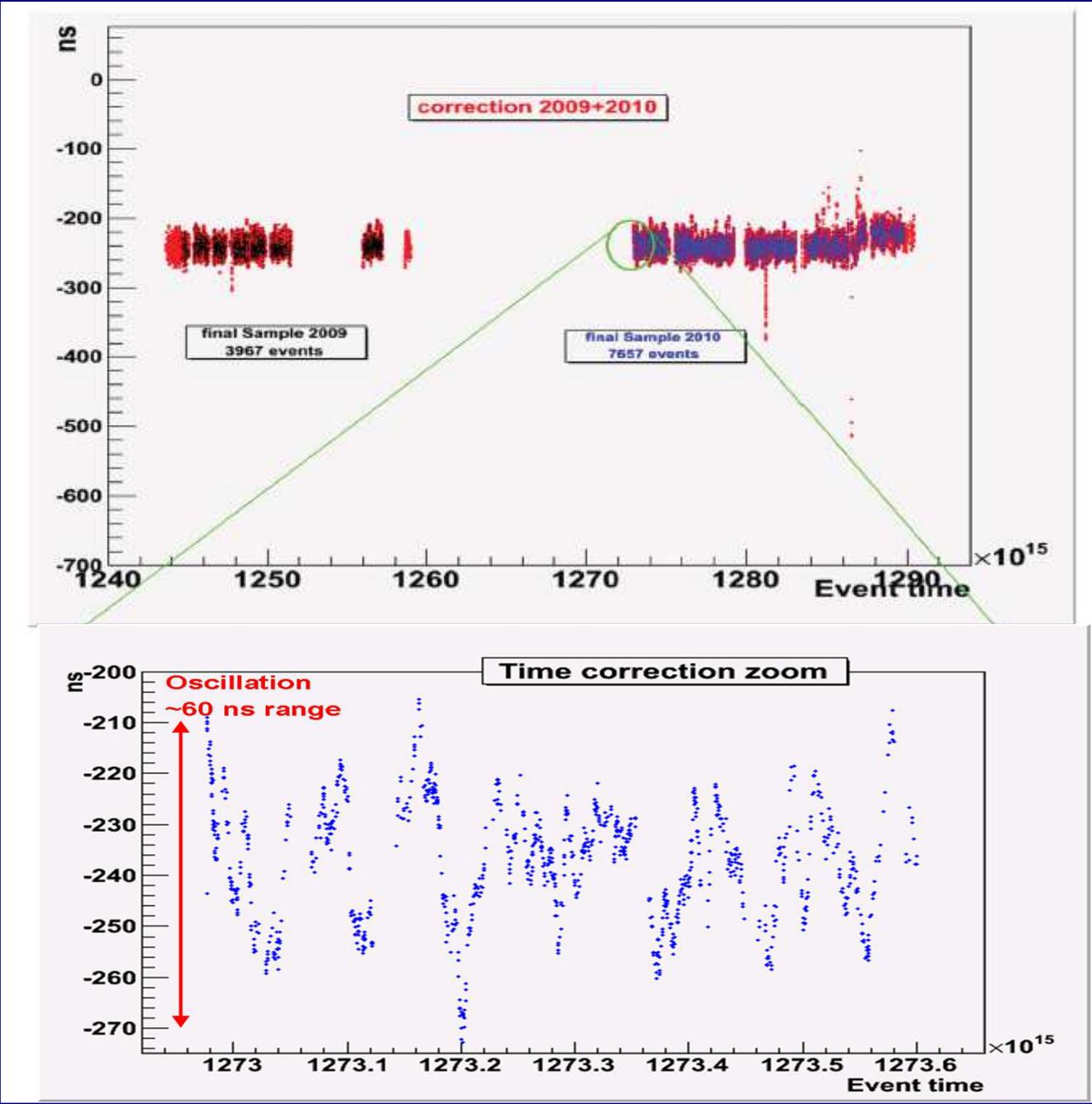
$730 \text{ km} \ll 20000 \text{ km}$ (satellite height) \rightarrow similar paths in ionosphere

Standard technique for high accuracy time transfer
Used in the definition of the TAI by the BIPM

Permanent time link ($\sim 1 \text{ ns}$) between reference points at CERN and OPERA



Result: TOF time-link correction (event by event)

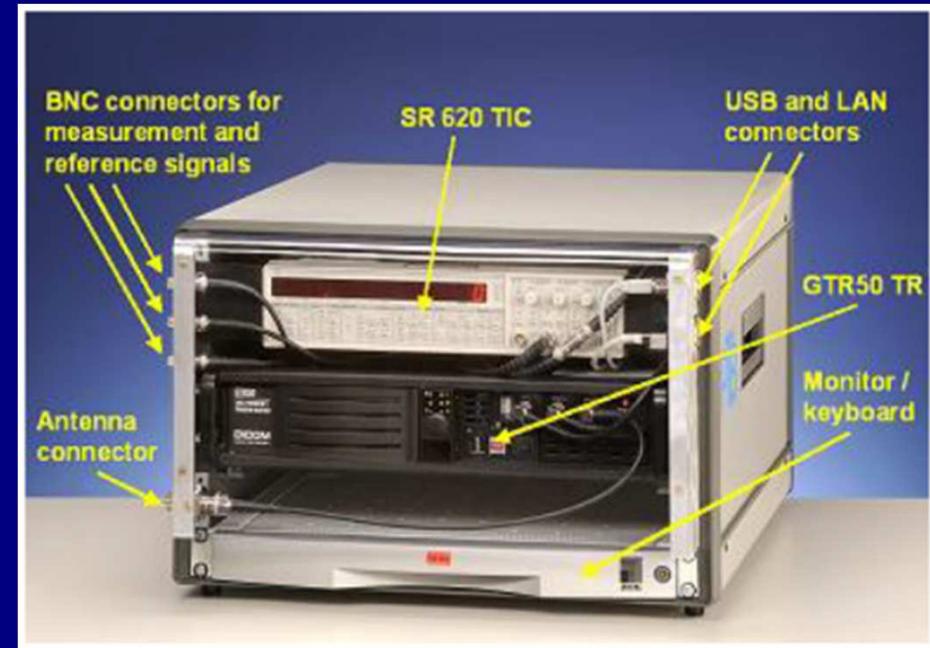
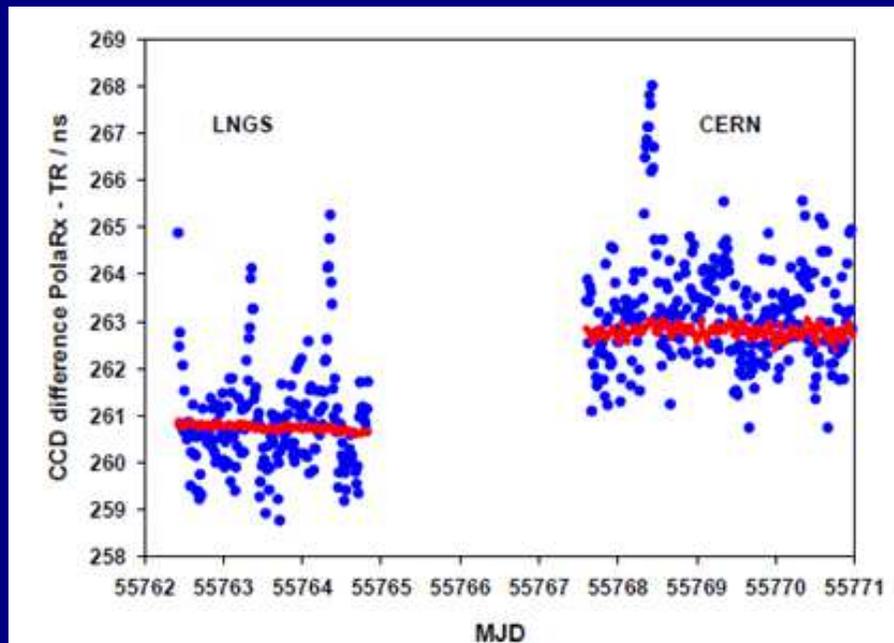


CERN-OPERA inter-calibration cross-check

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

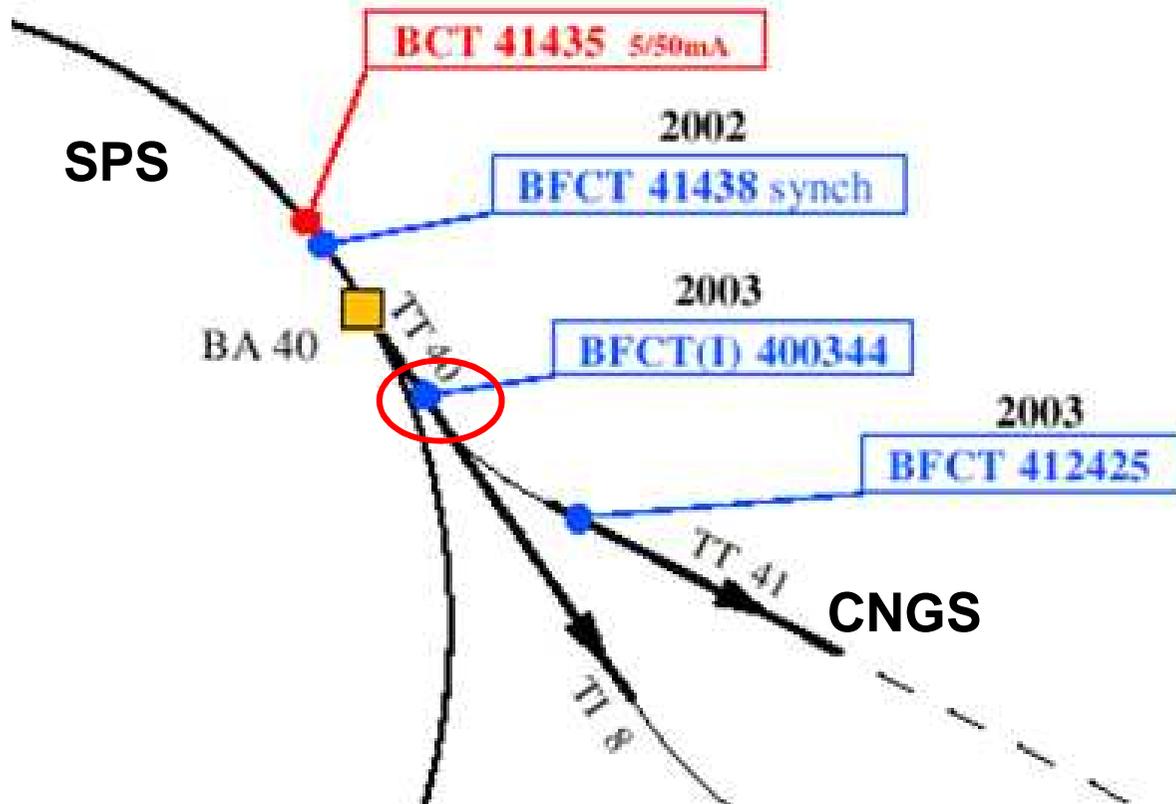


Correction to the time-link:

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

Proton timing by Beam Current Transformer

Fast BCT 400344
(~ 400 MHz)

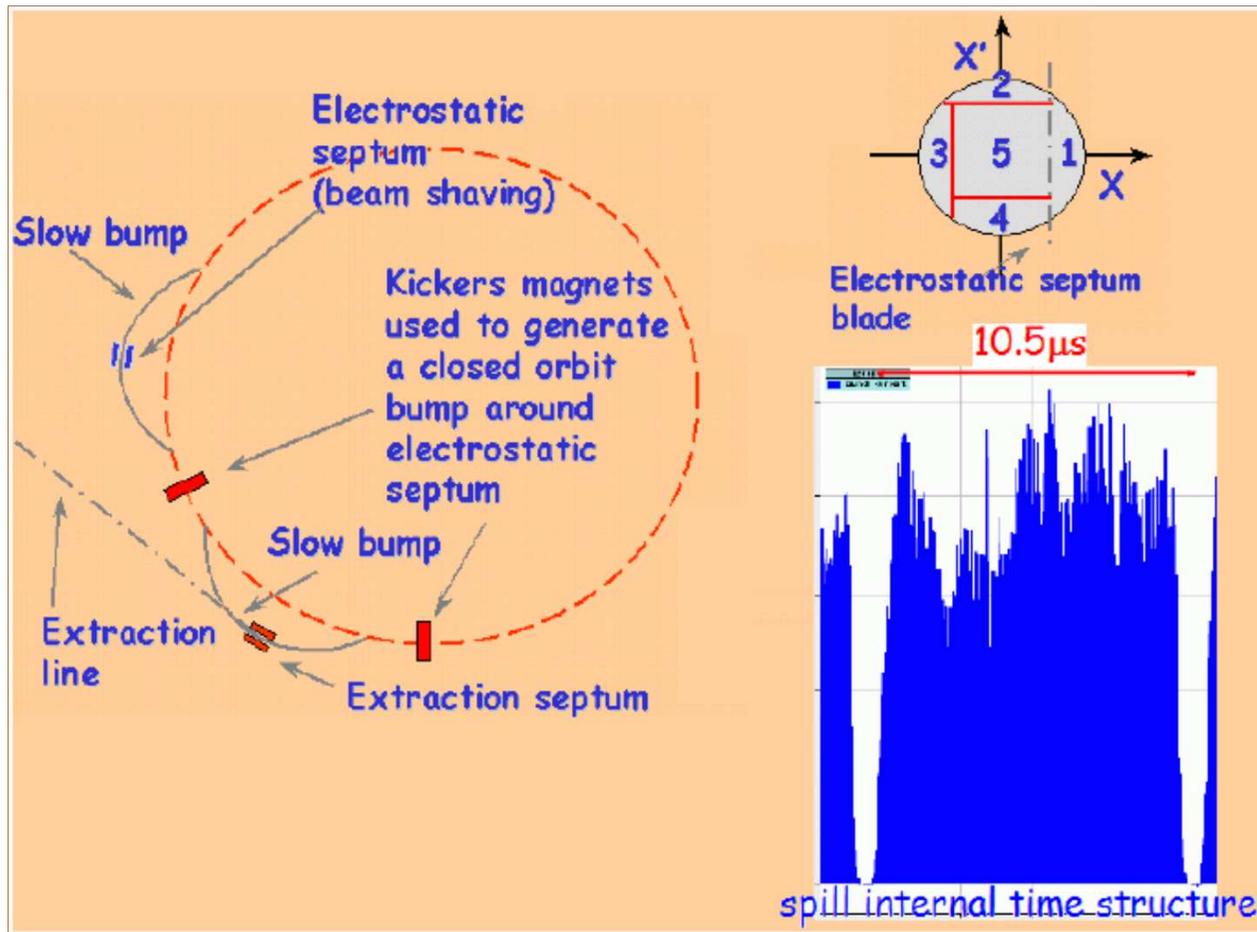


Proton pulse digitization:

- Acqiris DP110 1GS/s waveform digitizer (WFD)
- WFD triggered by a replica of the kicker signal
- Waveforms UTC-stamped and stored in CNGS database for offline analysis



Proton spill shape



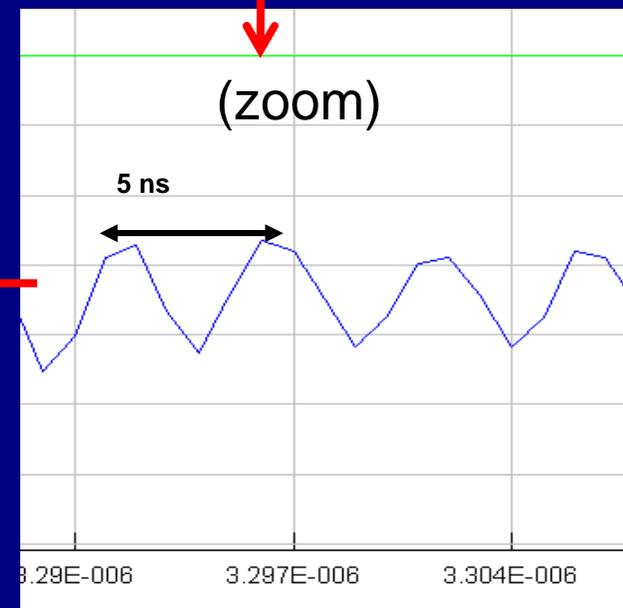
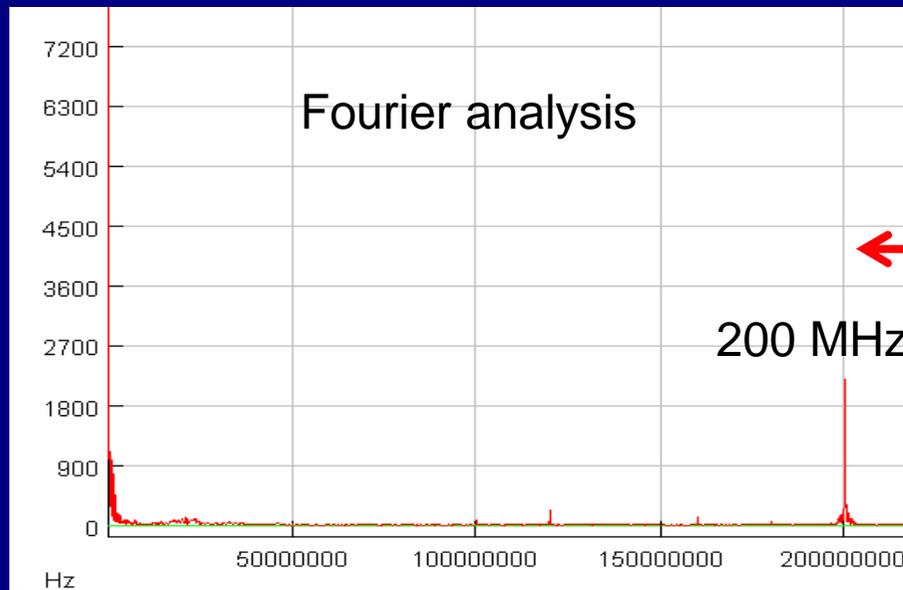
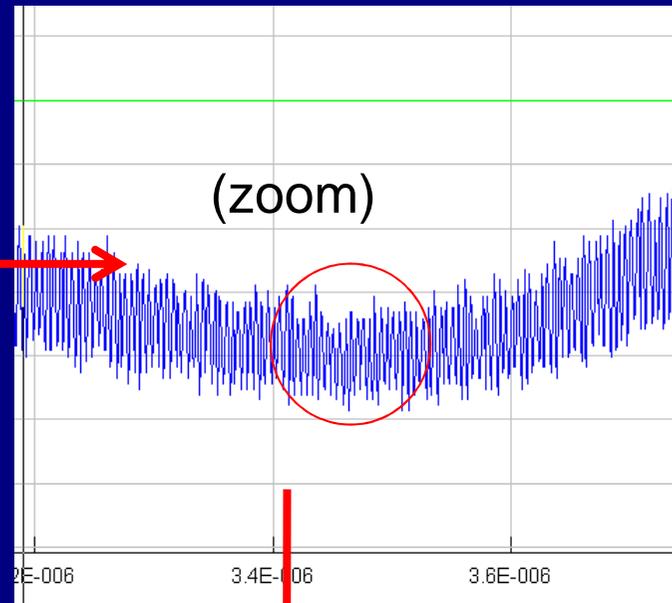
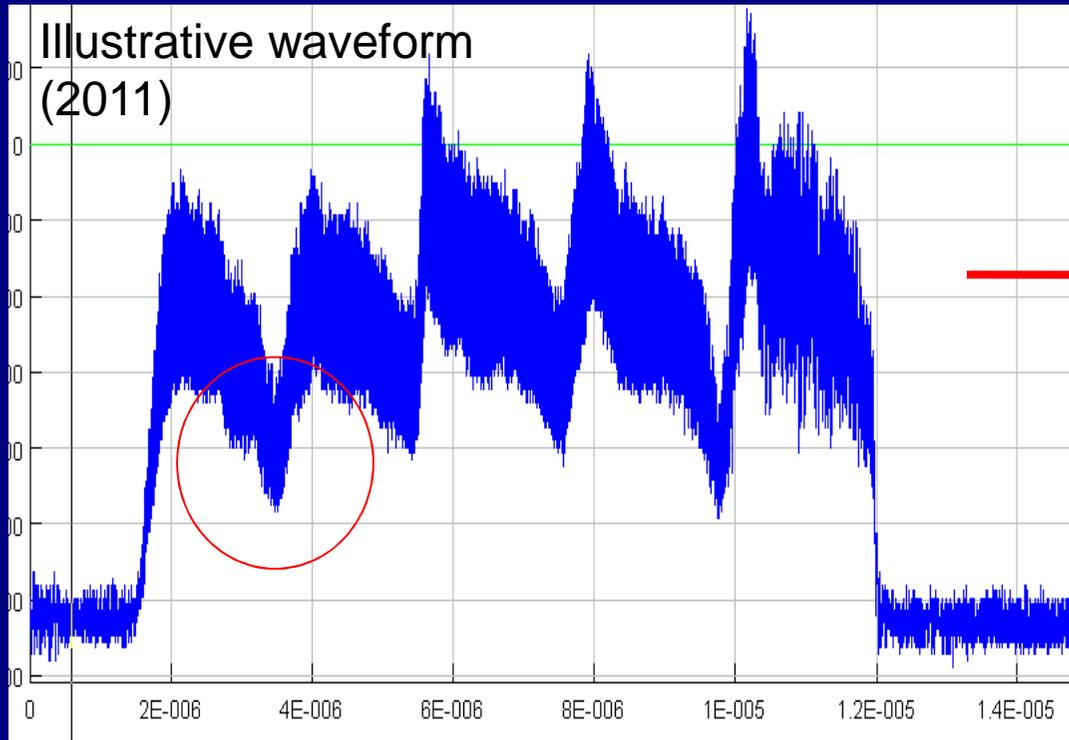
Reminiscence of the Continuous Turn extraction from PS (5 turns)

SPS circumference = 11 x PS circumference: SPS ring filled at 10/11

Shapes varying with time and both extractions

→ Precise accounting with WFD waveforms:

more accurate than: e.g. average neutrino distribution in a near detector

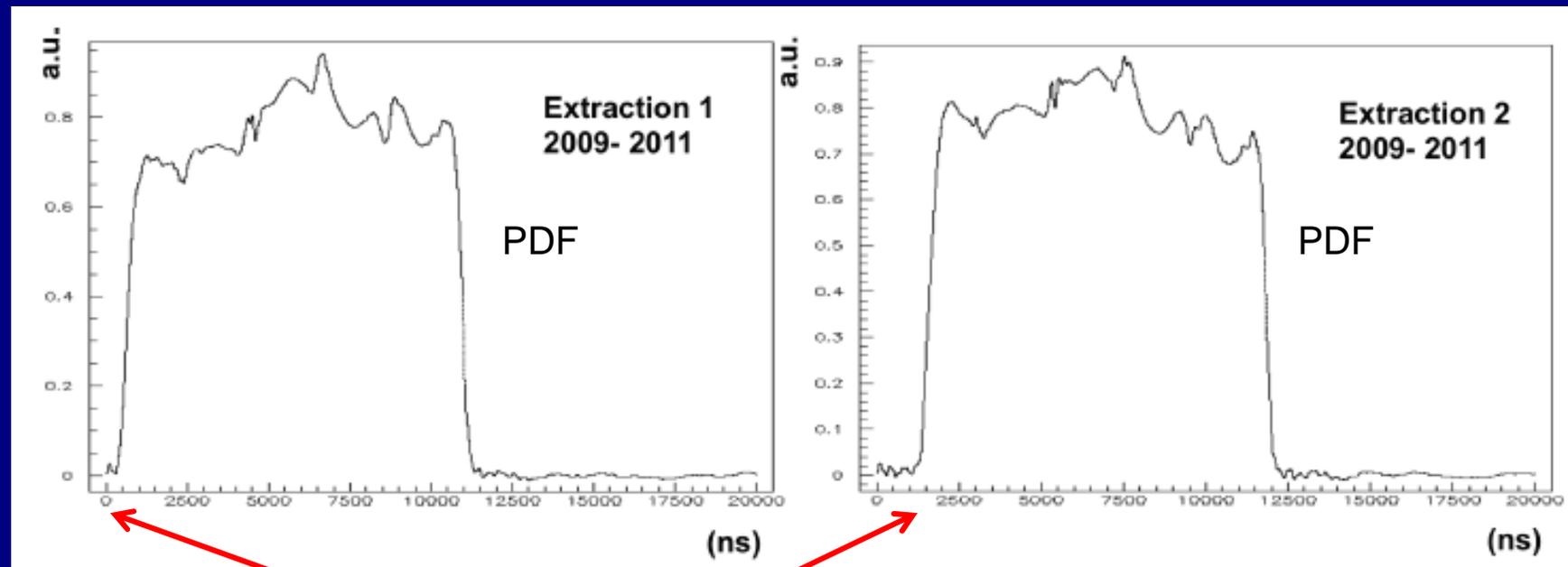


Neutrino event-time distribution PDF

- Each event is associated to its proton spill waveform
- The “parent” proton is unknown within the 10.5 μs extraction time

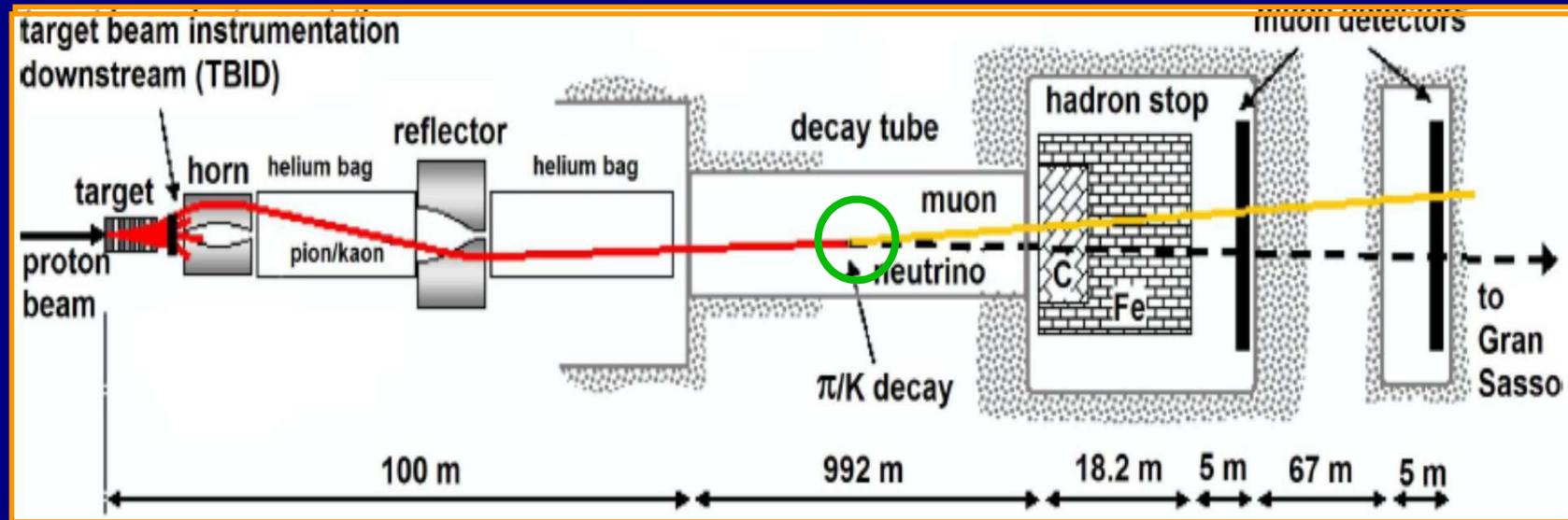
→ normalized waveforms sum: PDF of **predicted** time distribution of neutrino events

→ compare to OPERA **detected** neutrino events



different timing w.r.t. kicker magnet signal

Neutrino production point



Unknown neutrino production point:

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

- 1) accurate UTC time-stamp of protons
- 2) relativistic parent mesons (full FLUKA simulation)

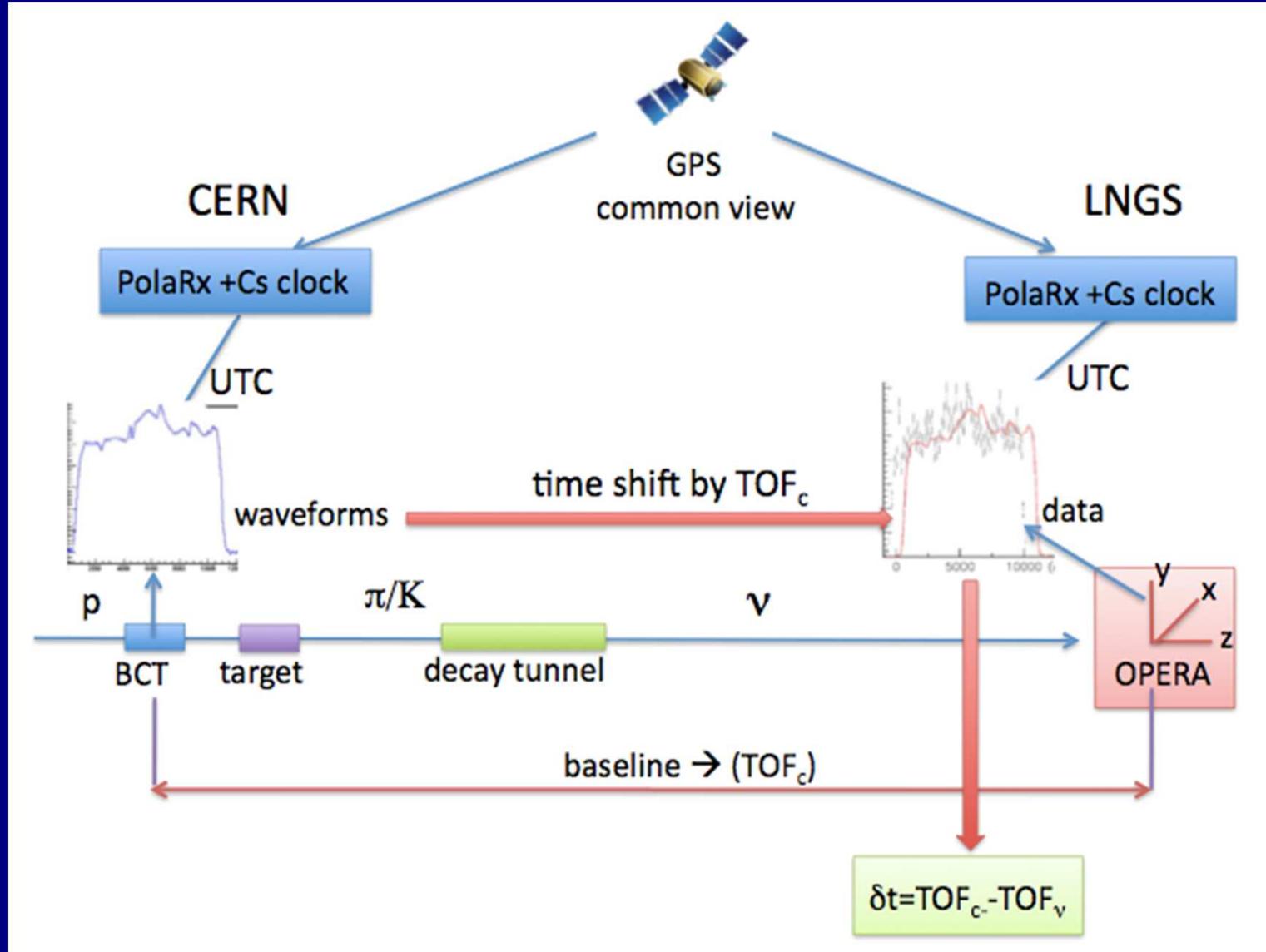
TOF_c = assuming c from BCT to OPERA (2439280.9 ns)

TOF_{true} = accounting for speed of mesons down to decay point

$$\Delta t = TOF_{true} - TOF_c$$

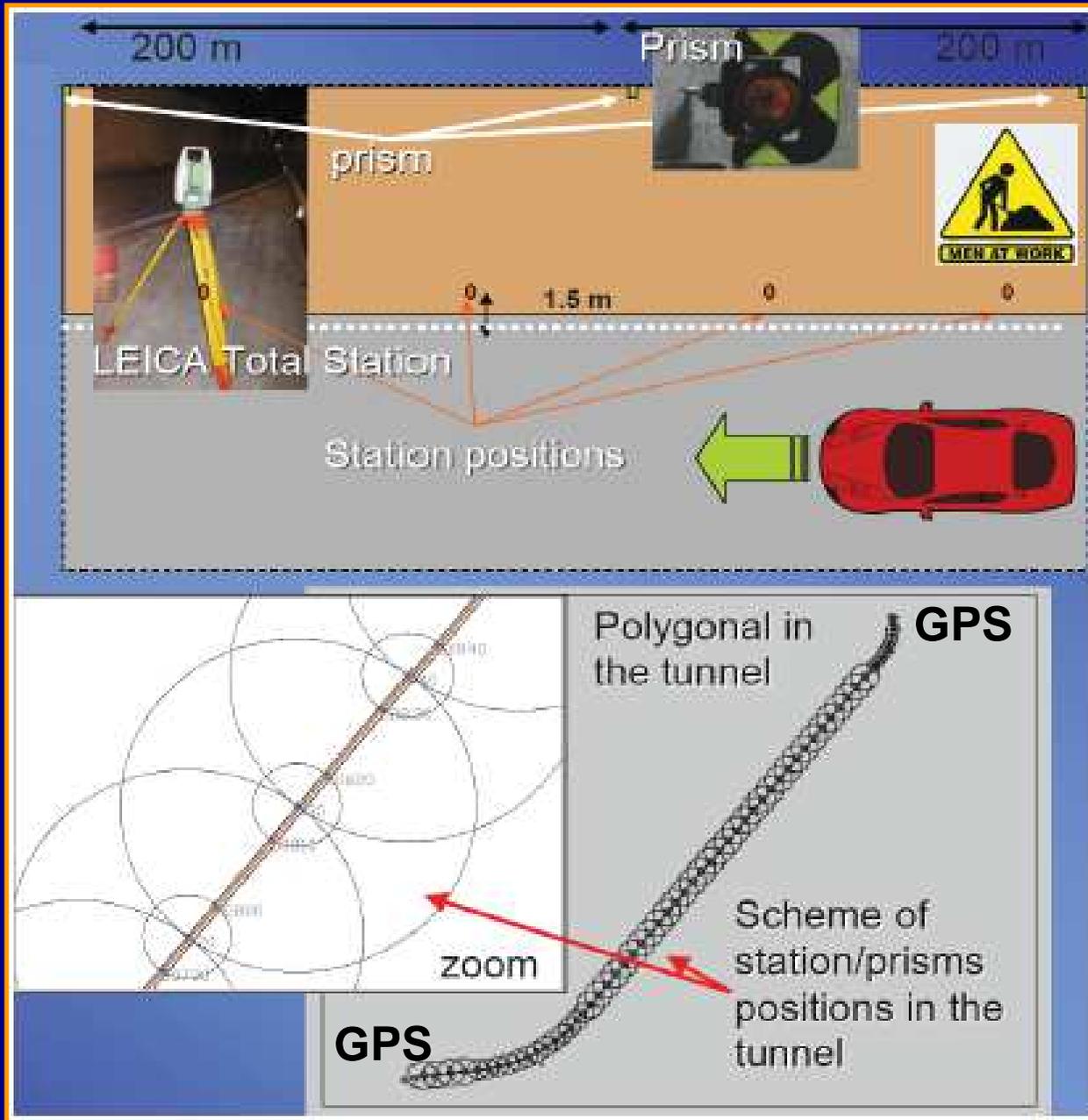
$$\langle \Delta t \rangle = 1.4 \times 10^{-2} \text{ ns}$$

Summary of the principle for the TOF measurement



Measure $\delta t = TOF_c - TOF_v$

Geodesy at LNGS



Dedicated measurements at LNGS: July-Sept. 2010 (Rome Sapienza Geodesy group)

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

GPS measurements ported underground to OPERA

Combination with CERN geodesy

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

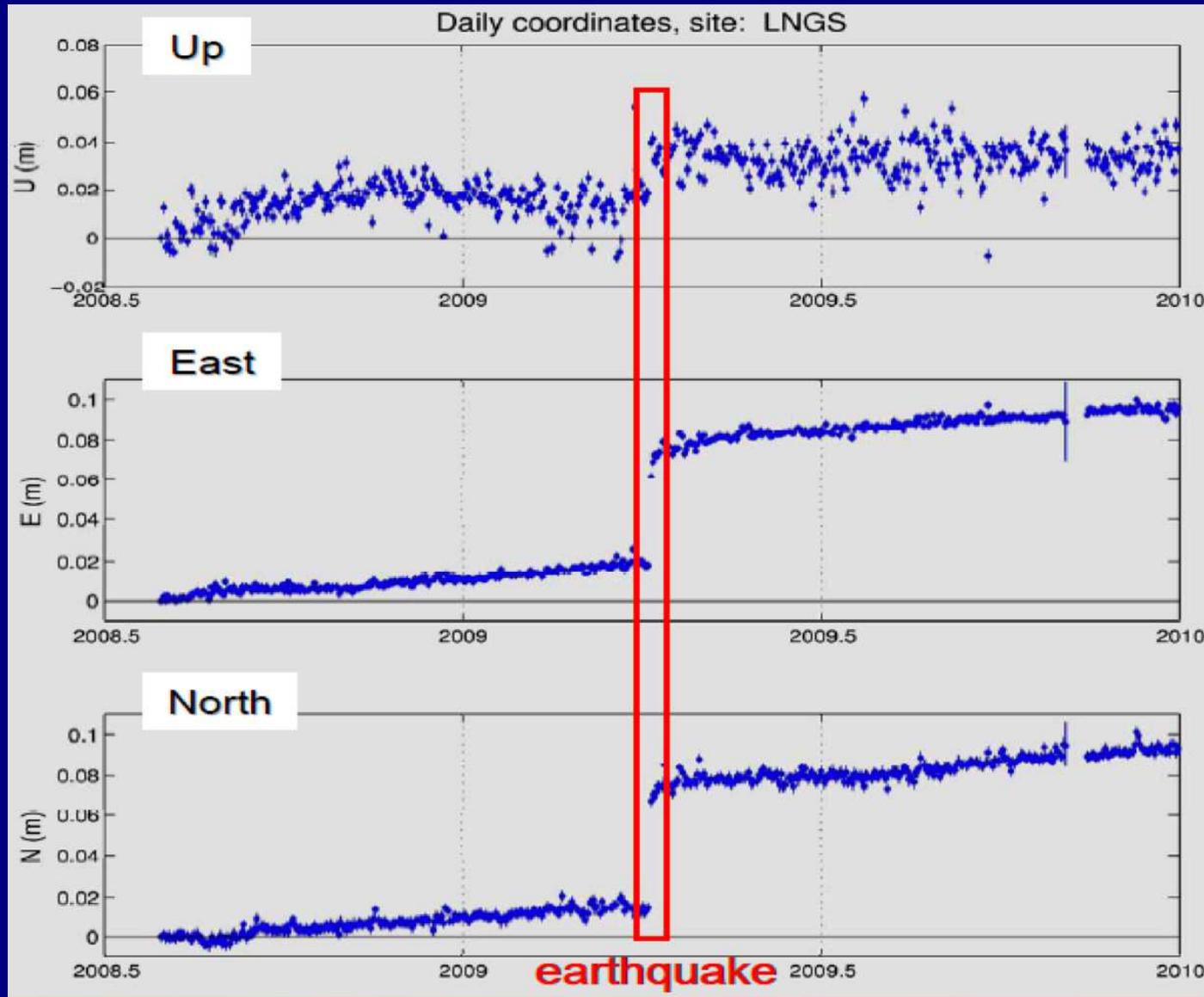
Benchmark	X (m)	Y (m)	Z (m)
GPS1	4579518.745	1108193.650	4285874.215
GPS2	4579537.618	1108238.881	4285843.959
GPS3	4585824.371	1102829.275	4280651.125
GPS4	4585839.629	1102751.612	4280651.236

LNGS benchmarks
In ETRF2000

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

**Resulting distance (BCT – OPERA reference frame)
(731278.0 ± 0.2) m**

LNGS position monitoring



Monitor continent drift and important geological events (e.g. 2009 earthquake)

Geodesy: Tidal effects

Tidal effects were automatically compensated in the GPS measurements by the analysis software → measurements at different epochs directly comparable

The effects can go up to a max of ~2 cm.

→ Integration of the effects by the same software on the 3 periods of data taking in order to precisely evaluate the average effect (negligible)

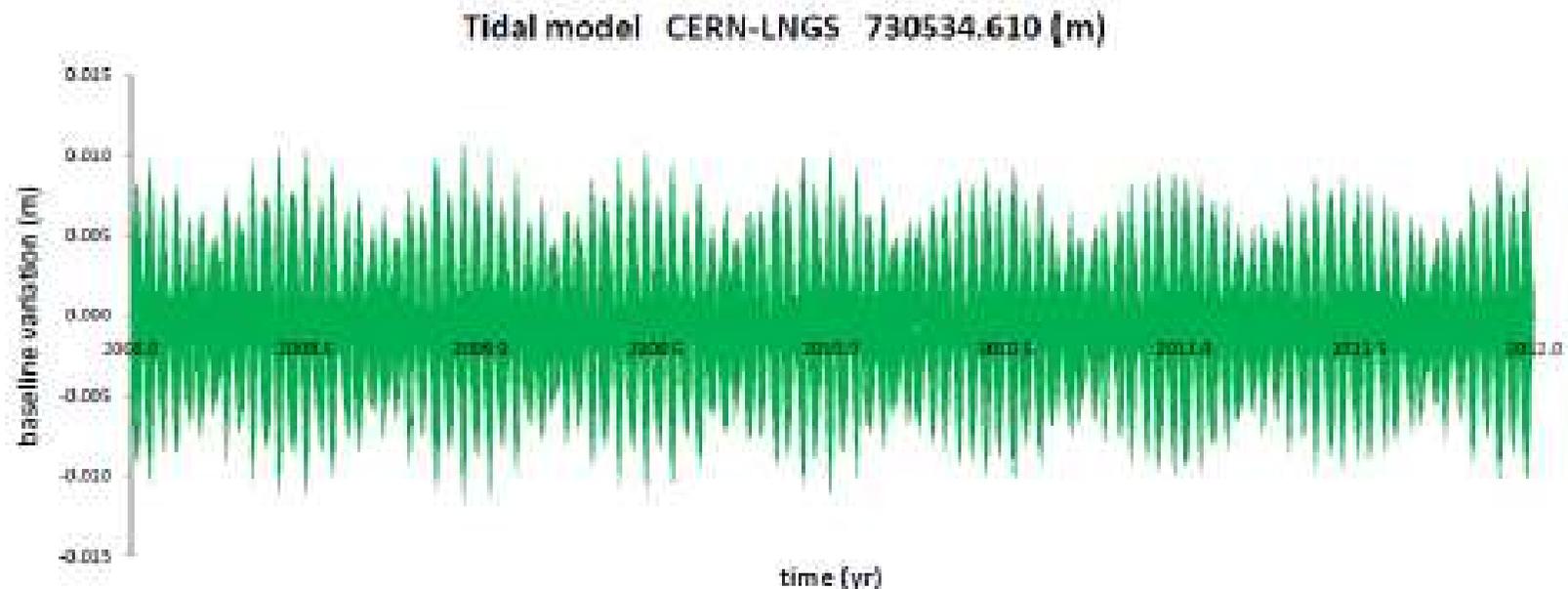
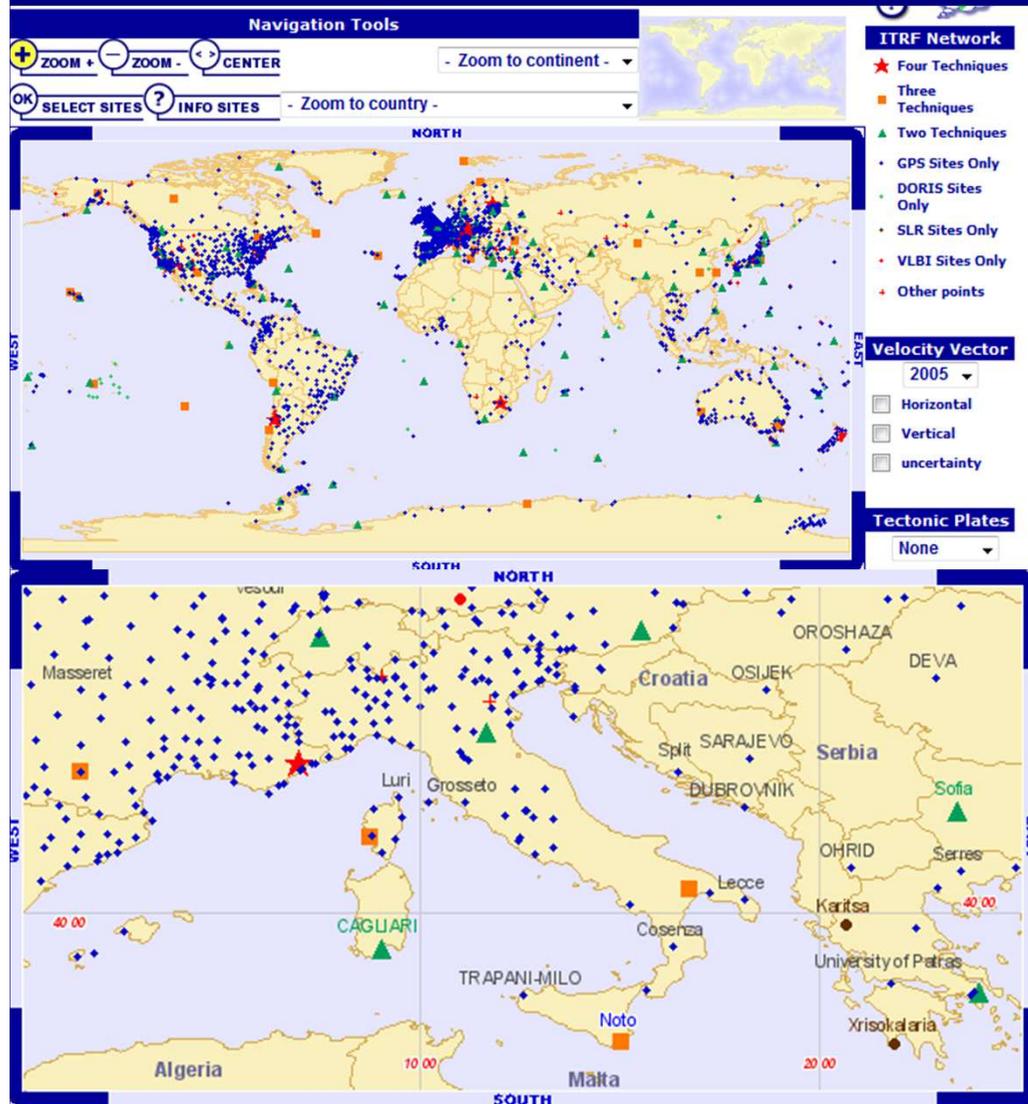


Figure 6: Tidal variations of the baseline CERN-LNGS

GPS scale



The GPS distance scale is cross-checked with the ones of other space geodesy techniques

- VLBI: Signals from Quasars
- SLR: Optical and near-infrared signals

Overall the scale consistency of the ETRF is at level of 1 part per 10^{-9}

Time calibration techniques



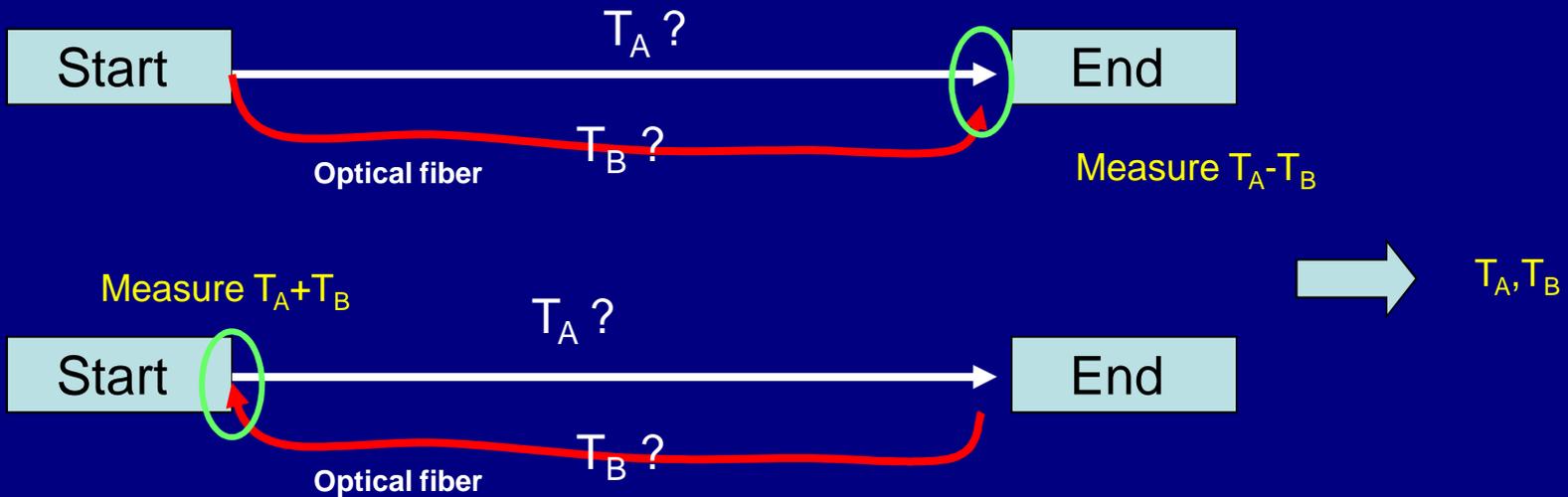
- **Portable Cs-4000:**

Comparison: time-tags vs 1PPS signal (Cs clock) at the start- and end-point of a timing chain



- **Double path fibers measurement:**

by swapping Tx and Rx component of the opto-chain

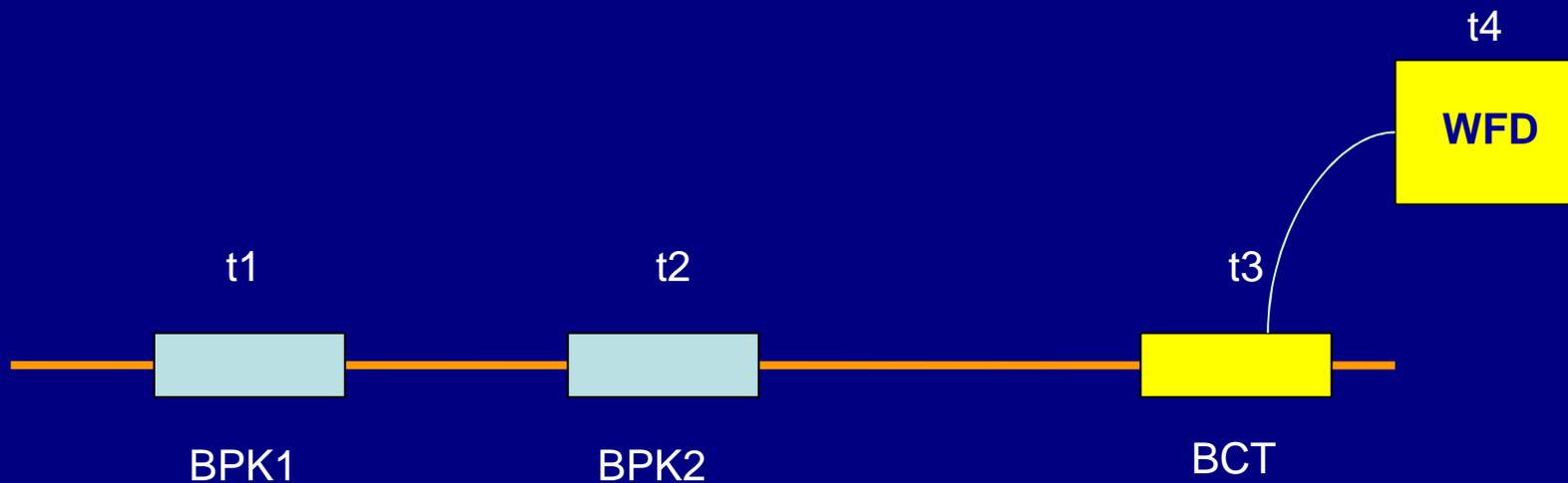


BCT calibration (1)

Dedicated beam experiment:

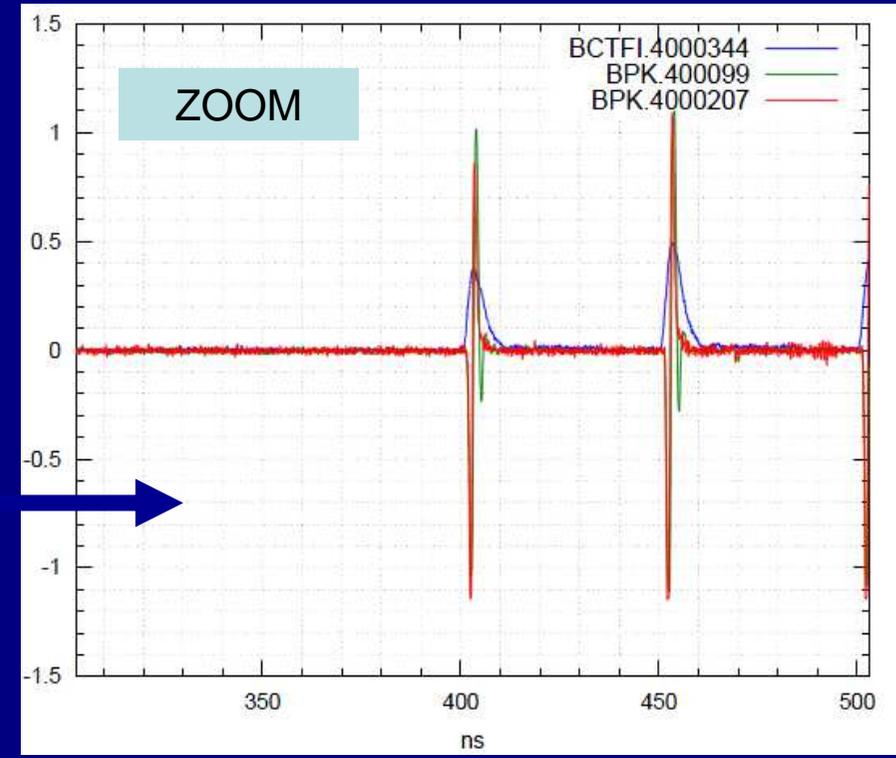
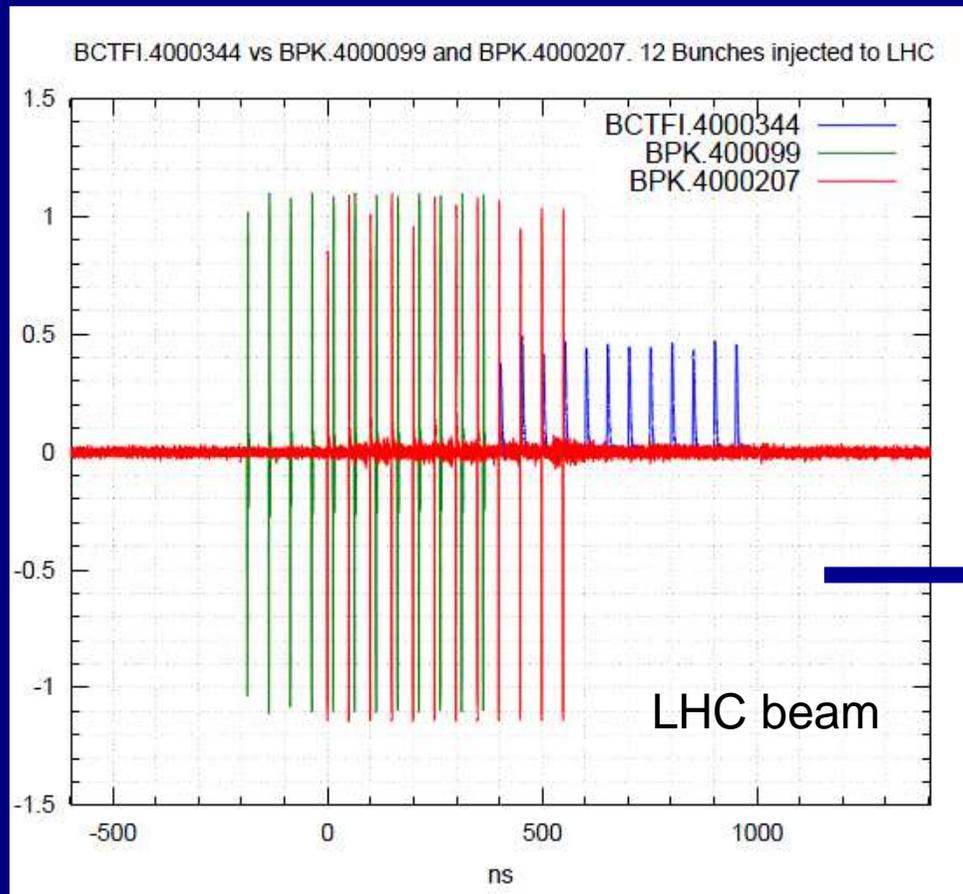
BCT plus two pick-ups (~1 ns) with LHC beam (12 bunches, 50 ns spacing)

$$\Delta t_{\text{BCT}} = t4 - t3 = (580 \pm 5) \text{ ns}$$



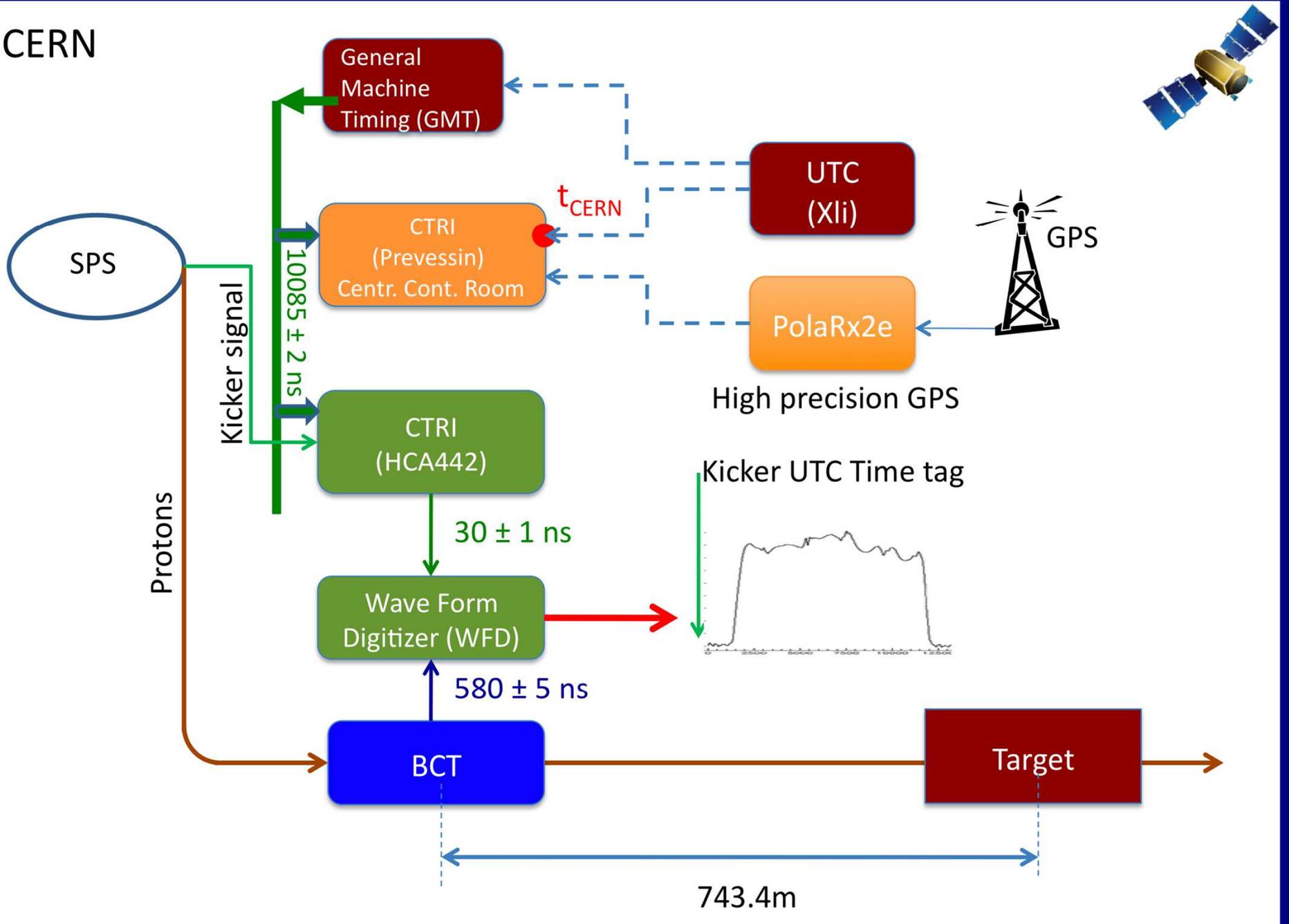
t3 : derived by t1 - t2 measurement and survey

BCT calibration (2)

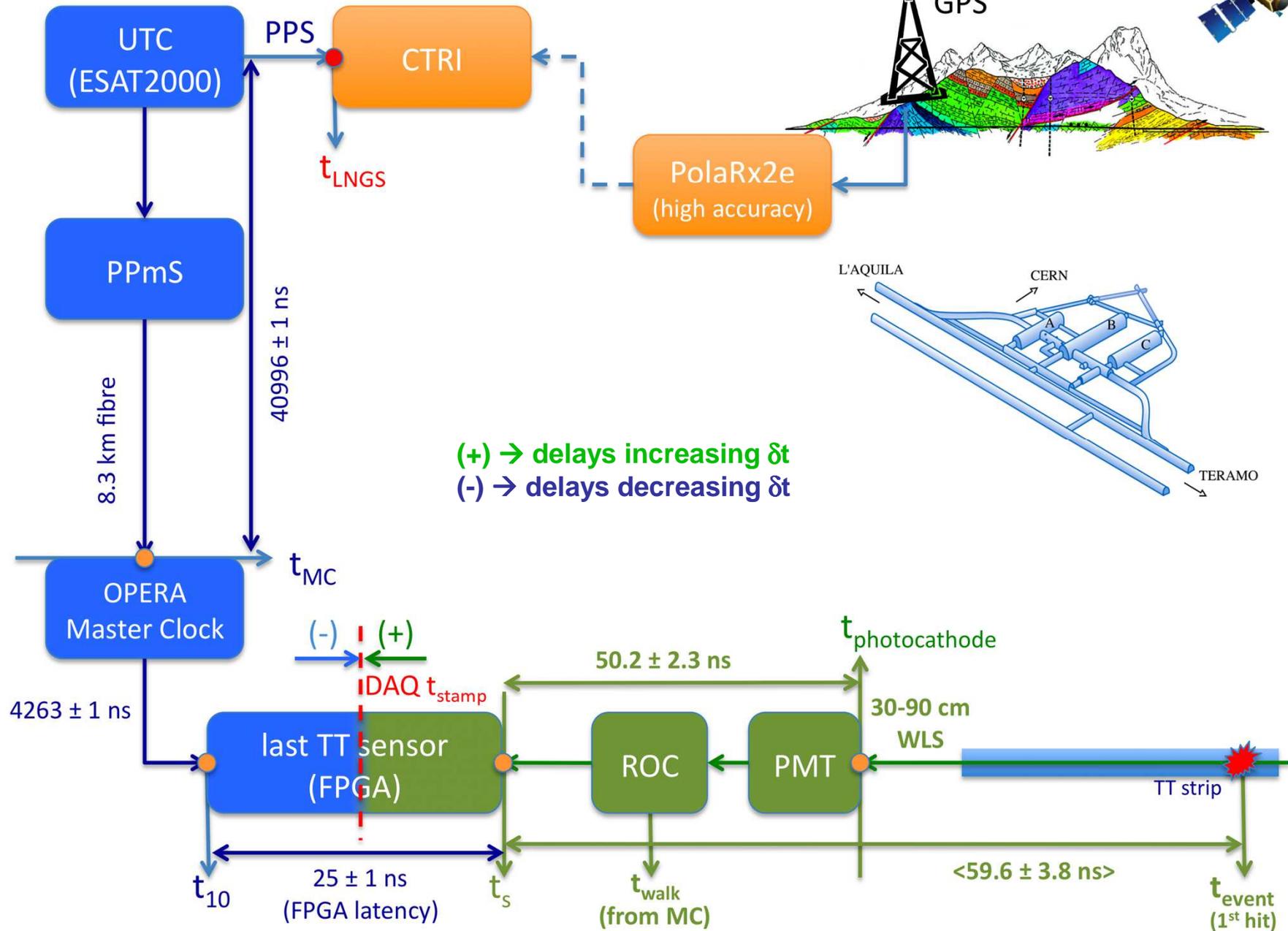


result: signals comparison after Δ_{BCT} compensation

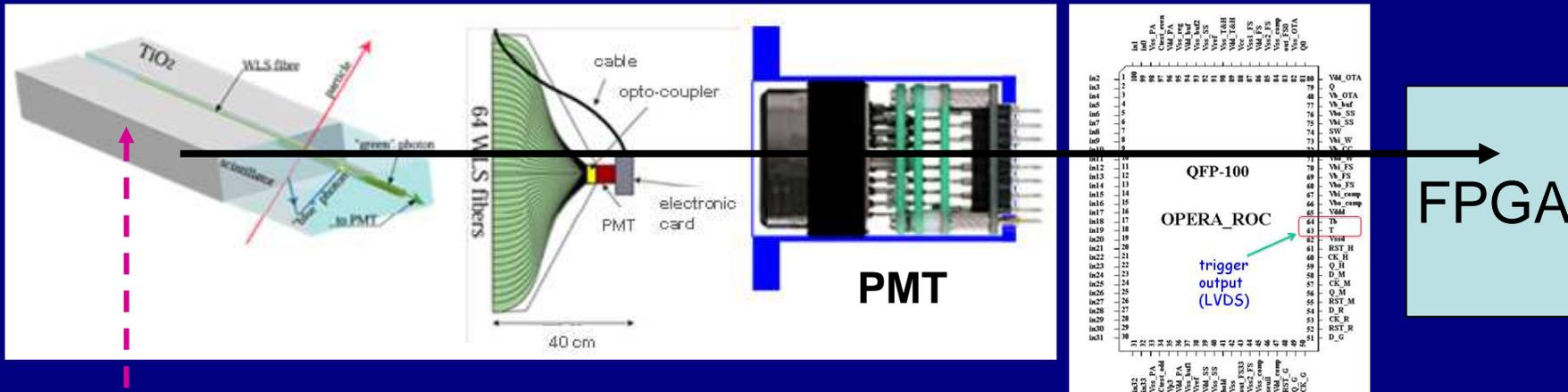
CERN



LNGS



TT time response measurement



Scintillator, WLS fibers, PMT, analog FE chip (ROC) up to FPGA trigger input

UV laser excitation:

→ delay from photo-cathode to FPGA input: 50.2 ± 2.3 ns

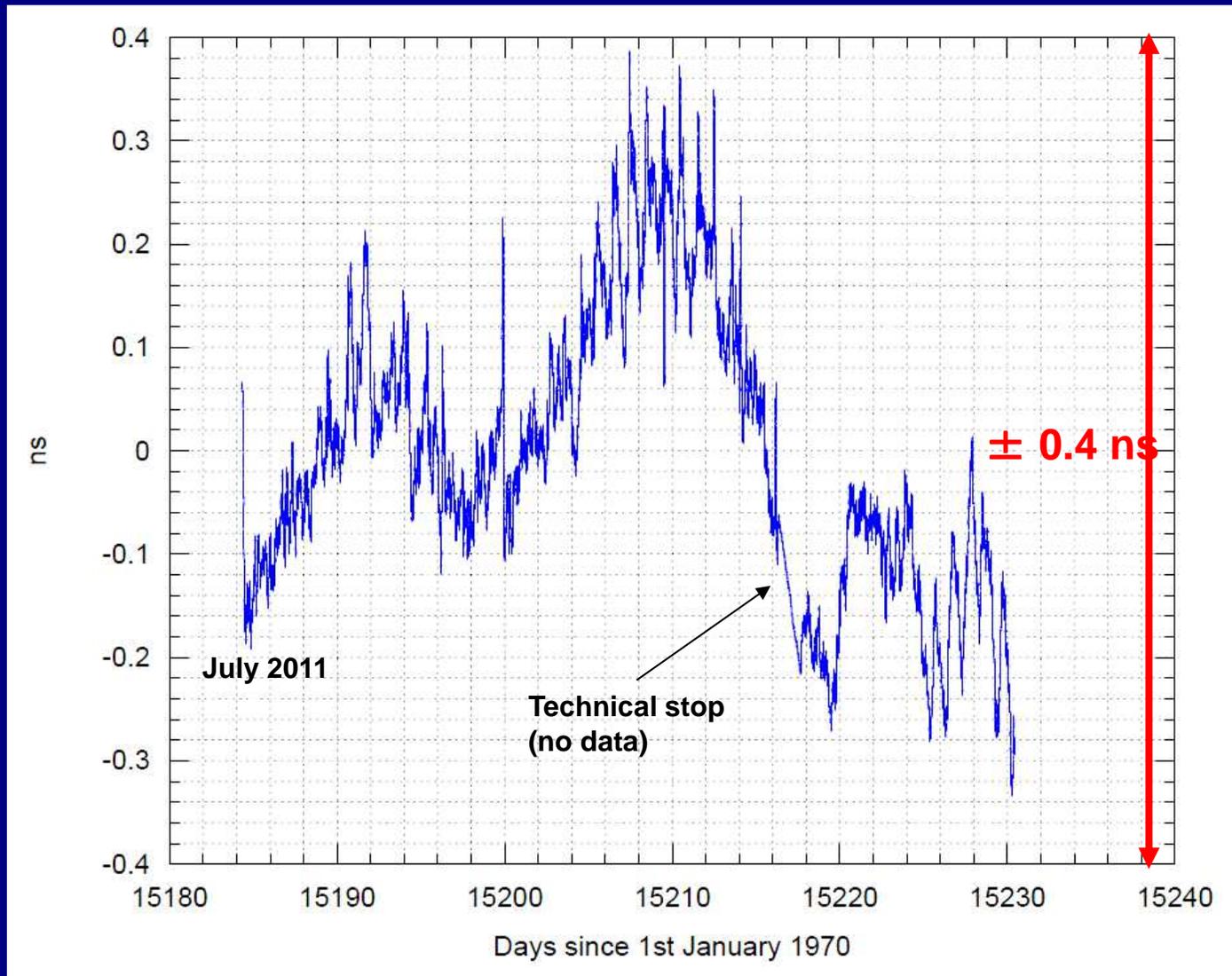
Average event time response: 59.6 ± 3.8 ns (sys)

(including position and p.h. dependence, ROC time-walk, DAQ quantization effects accounted by simulations)

Delay calibrations summary

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

Continuous two-way measurement of UTC delay at CERN (variations w.r.t. nominal)



Event selection (earliest TT hit of the event as “stop”)

Statistics: 2009-2010-2011 CNGS runs ($\sim 10^{20}$ pot)

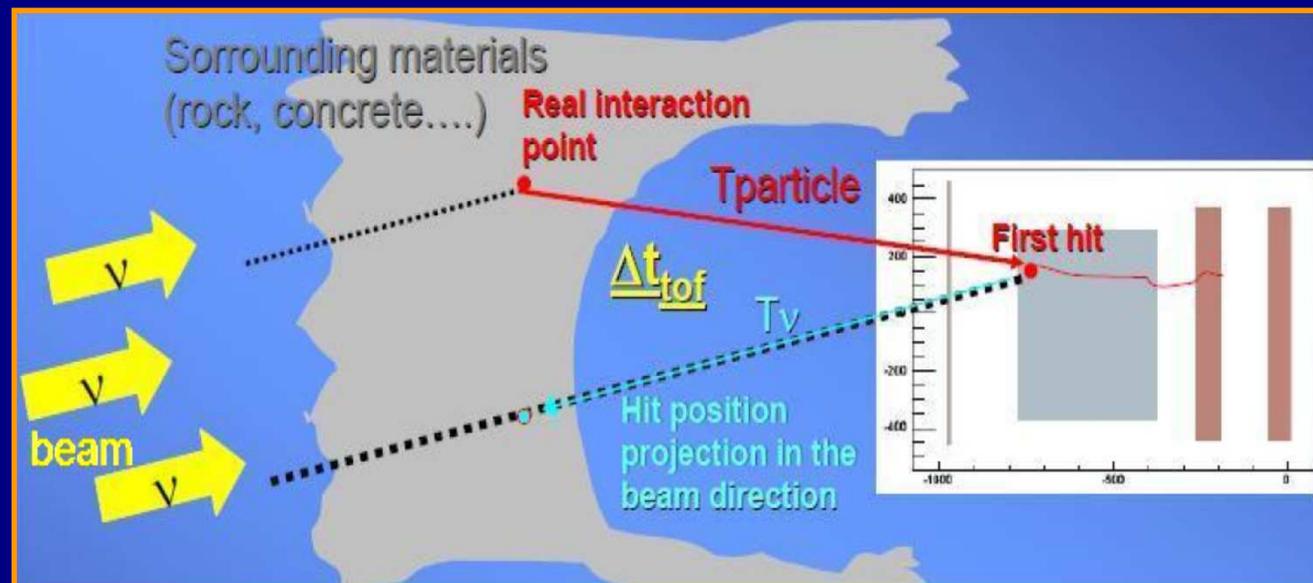
Internal events:

Same selection procedure as for oscillation searches: **7235 events**

External events:

Rock interaction \rightarrow require muon 3D track: **7988 events**

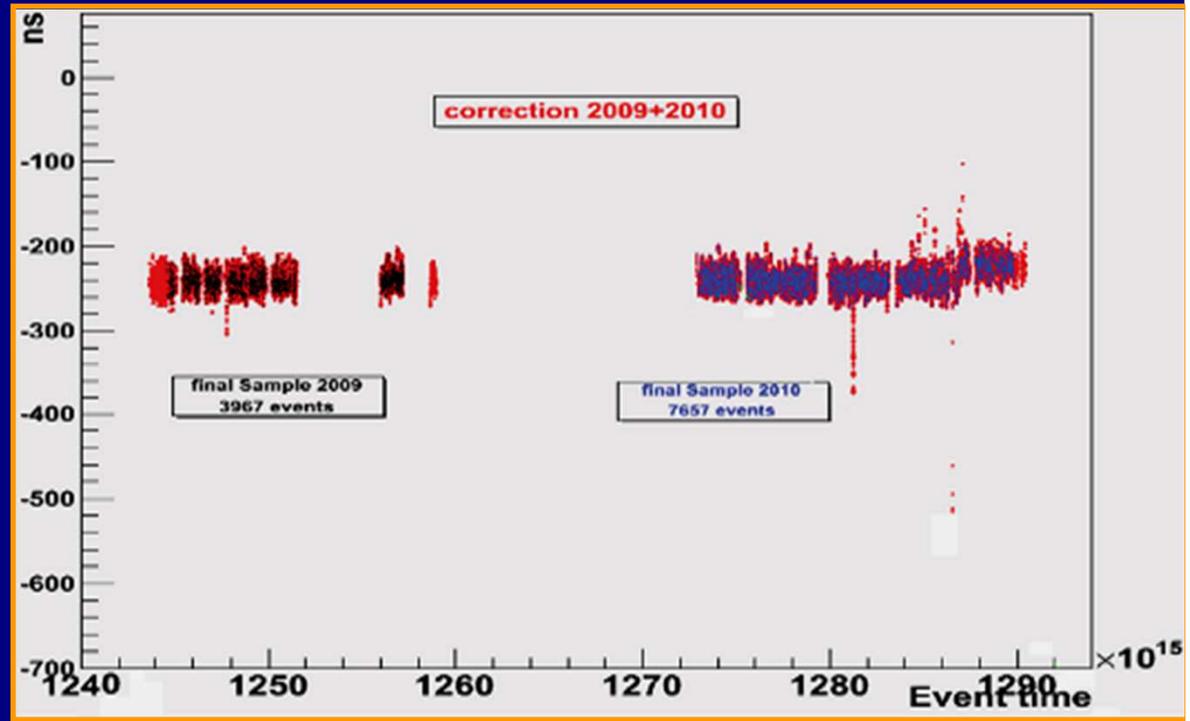
(Timing checked with full simulation, 2 ns systematic uncertainty by adding external events)



Data/MC agree for 1st hit timing (within systematics)

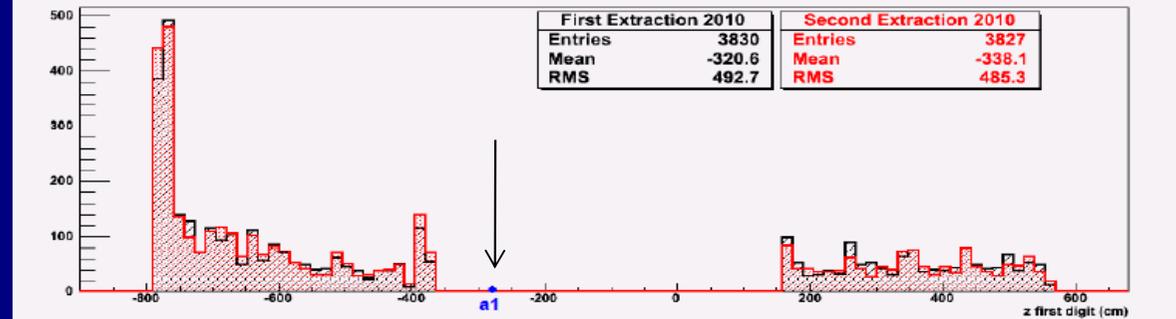
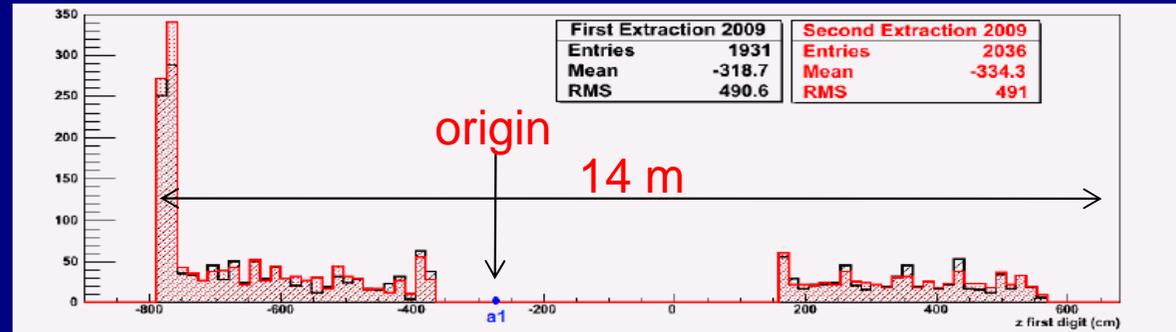
Event time corrections

Time-link correction (blue points)



Correction due to the earliest hit position

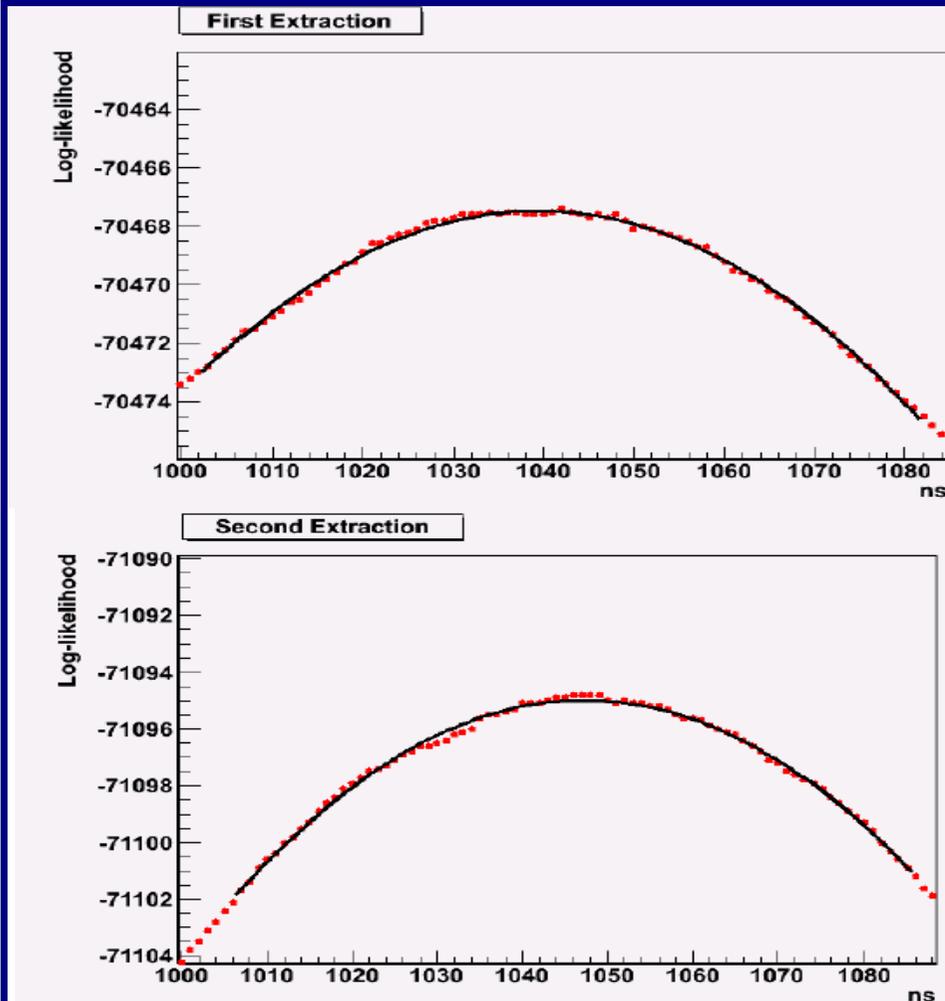
average correction: 140 cm
(4.7 ns)



Analysis method

For each neutrino event in OPERA → proton extraction waveform

Sum up and normalise: → PDF $w(t)$ → separate likelihood for each extraction



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

Maximised versus δt :

$$\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_\nu$$

Positive (negative) δt → neutrinos arrive earlier (later) than light

statistical error evaluated from log likelihood curves

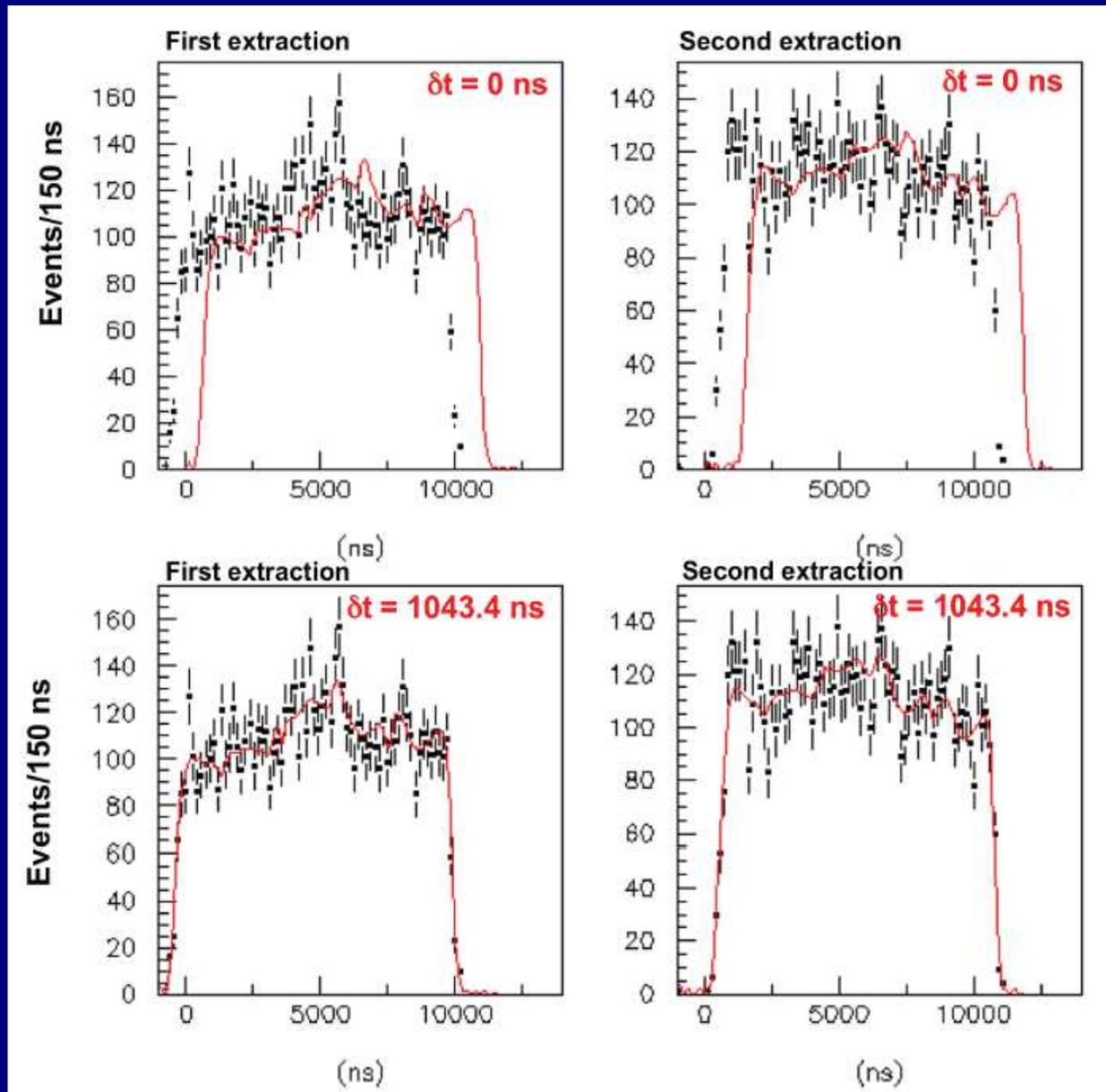
Blind analysis

Analysis deliberately conducted by referring to the obsolete timing of 2006:

- 1) Wrong baseline, referred to an upstream BCT in the SPS, ignoring accurate geodesy
- 2) Ignoring TT and DAQ time response in OPERA
- 3) Using old GPS inter-calibration prior to the time-link
- 4) Ignoring the BCT and WFD delays
- 5) Ignoring UTC calibrations at CERN

- Resulting δt by construction much larger than individual calibration contributions ~ 1000 ns
- “Box” opened once all correction contributions reached satisfactory accuracy

Data vs PDF: before and after likelihood result

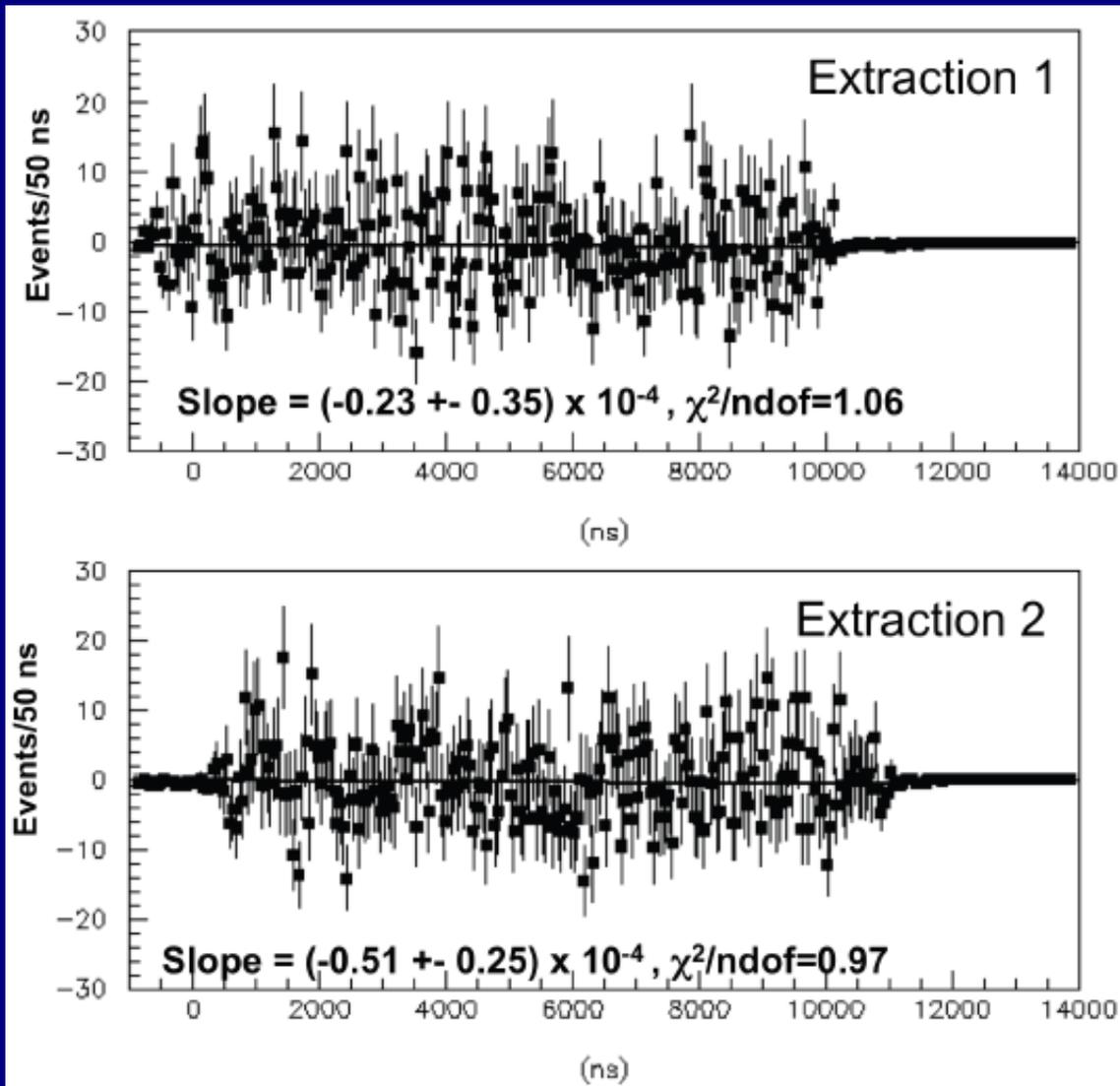


(BLIND) $\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_v =$
(1043.4 \pm 7.8) ns (stat)

χ^2 / ndof :

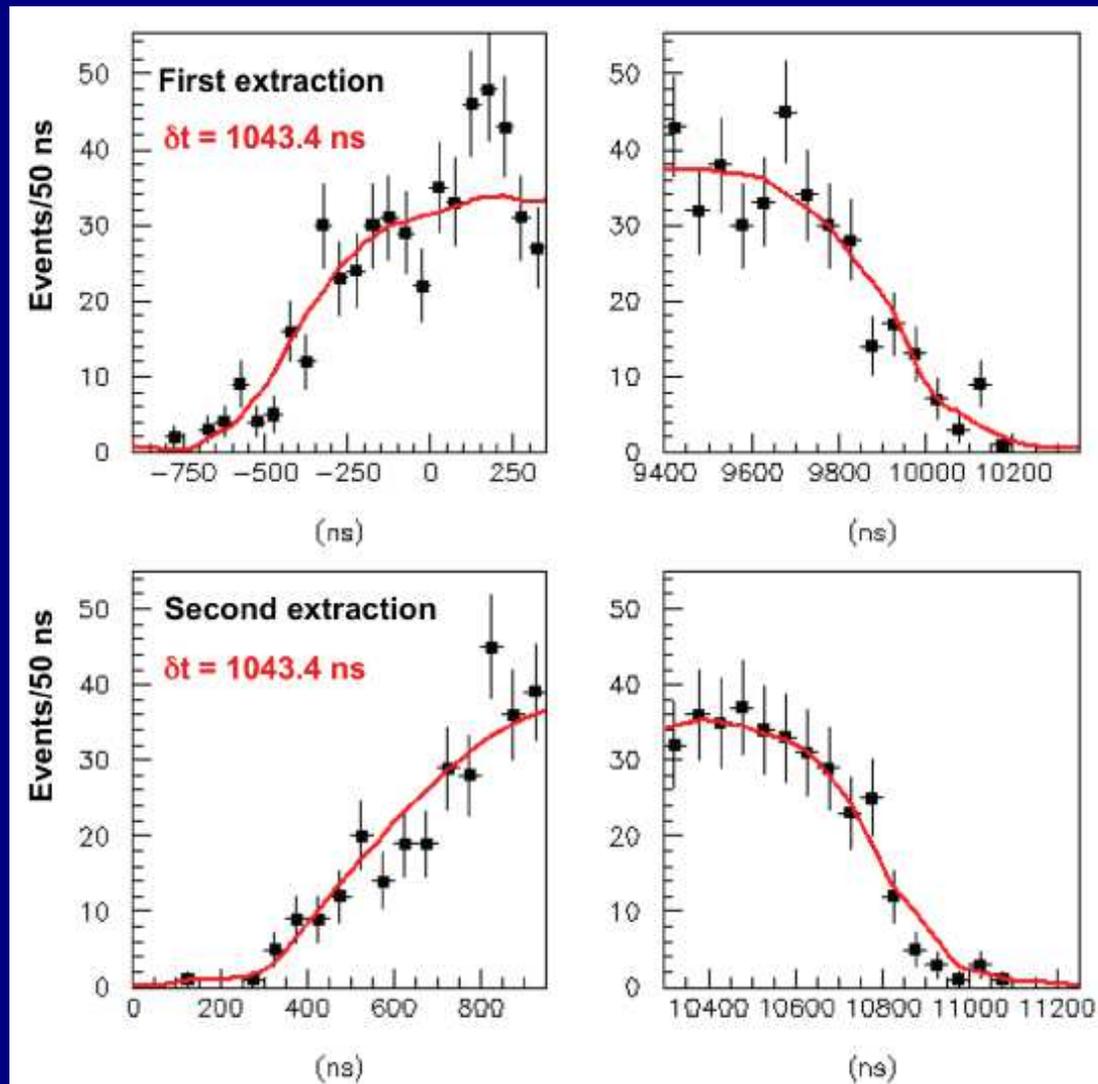
first extraction: 1.1
second extraction: 1.0

Data vs PDF after likelihood result (residuals w.r.t. PDF)



- Kolmogorov-Smirnov test
 - 1st extraction: Prob=61.4%
 - 2nd extraction: Prob=99.0%
- Anderson-Darling test
 - 1st extraction: Prob=38%
 - 2nd extraction: Prob=51%

Zoom on the extractions leading and trailing edges



Fitting separately different parts of the WF does not change the result

Analysis cross-checks

1) Coherence among
CNGS
runs/extractions



2) No hint for e.g. day-night
or seasonal effects:

|d-n|: (16.4 ± 15.8) ns

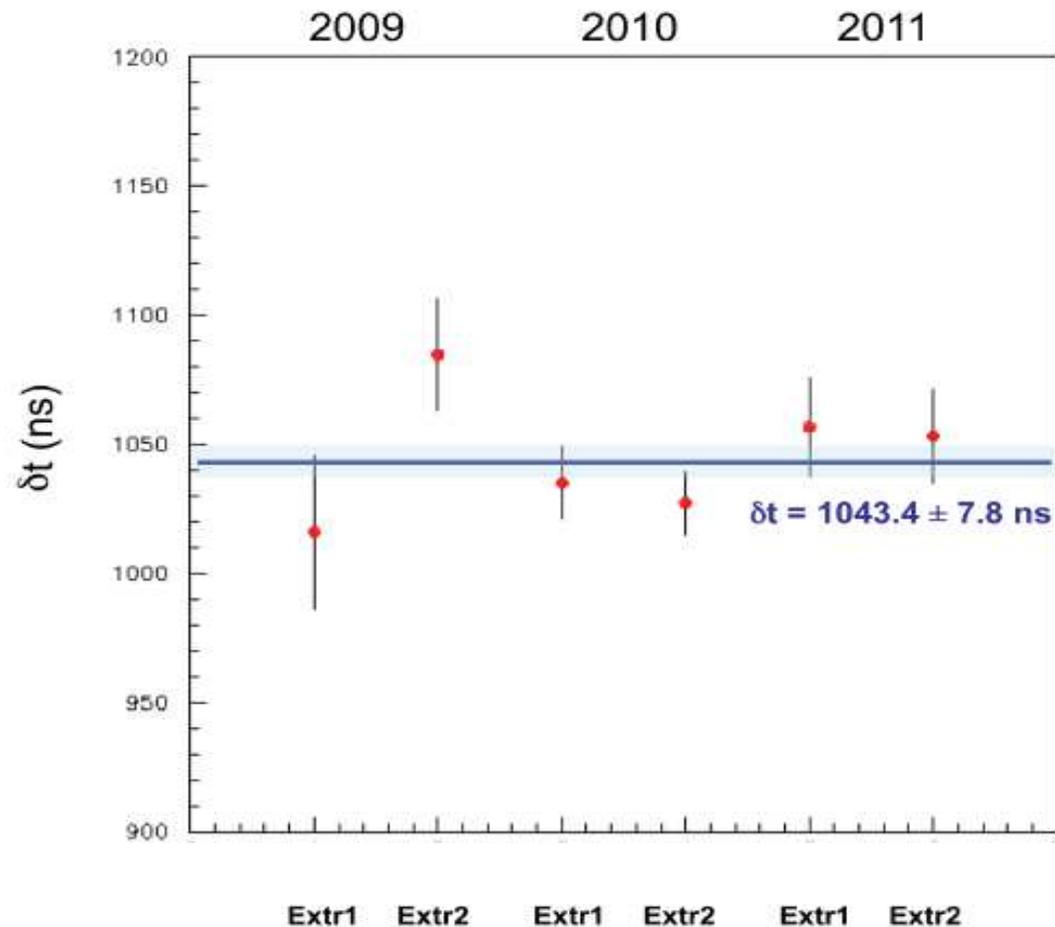
|(spring+fall) – summer|:
 (15.6 ± 15.0) ns

|High – Low Beam Intensity|:
 (6.8 ± 16.6) ns

3) Internal vs external events:

All events: δt (blind) = $\text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_v = (1043.4 \pm 7.8 \text{ (stat.)})$
ns

Internal events only: $(1045.1 \pm 11.3 \text{ (stat.)})$ ns



Opening the box

timing and baseline corrections

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

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
Total systematic uncertainty	-5.9, +8.3	

Results on the statistical analysis

For CNGS ν_μ beam, $\langle E \rangle = 17$ GeV:

$$\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_\nu =$$

$$(1043.4 \pm 7.8 \text{ (stat.)}) \text{ ns} - 985.6 \text{ ns} = (57.8 \pm 7.8 \text{ (stat.)} -5.9 +8.3 \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns}$$

$$* (54.5 \pm 5.0 \text{ (stat.)} -7.2 +9.6 \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns with individual PDF/event}$$

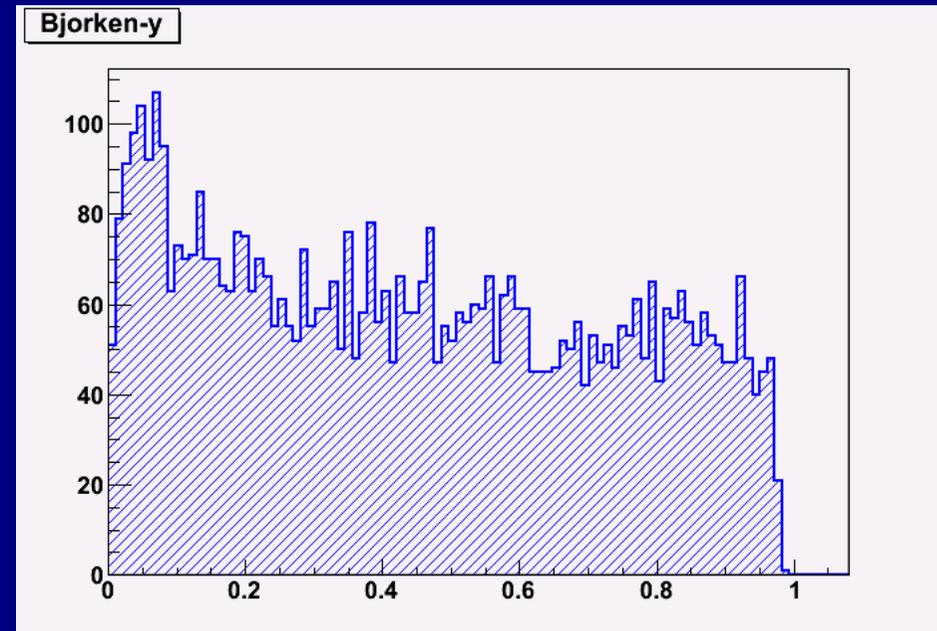
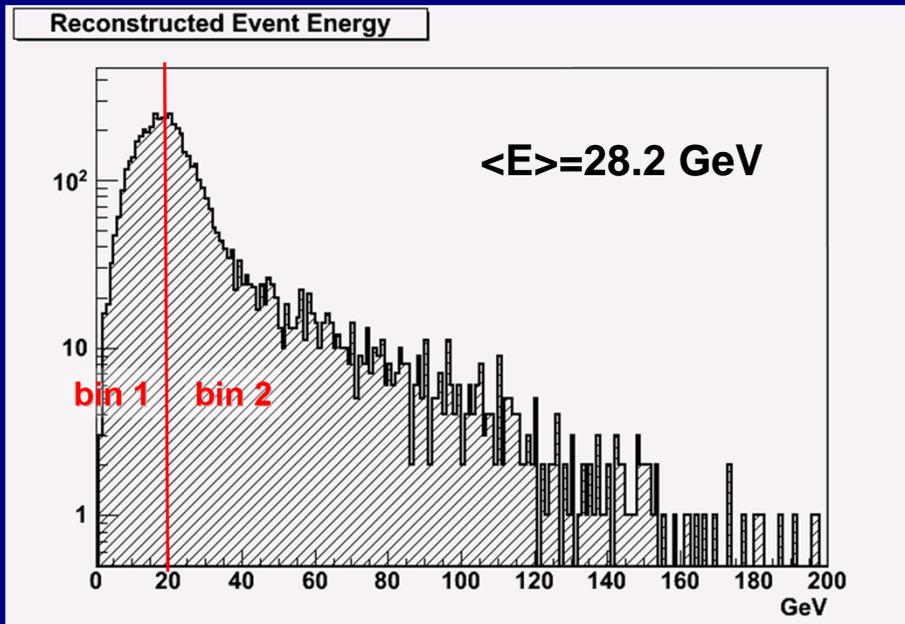
relative difference of neutrino velocity w.r.t. c :

$$(v-c)/c = \delta t / (\text{TOF}_c - \delta t) = (2.37 \pm 0.32 \text{ (stat.)} -0.24 + 0.34 \text{ (sys.)}) \times 10^{-5}$$

(730085 m used as neutrino baseline from parent mesons average decay point)

6.2 σ significance

Study of the energy dependence



- Only internal muon-neutrino CC events used for energy measurement (5489 events)

$$(E = E_{\mu} + E_{\text{had}})$$

- Full MC simulation: no energy bias in detector time response ($<1 \text{ ns}$)
→ systematic errors cancel out

$$\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_v = (61.1 \pm 13.2 \text{ (stat.)} - 6.9 + 7.3 \text{ (sys.)}) \text{ ns for } \langle E_{\nu} \rangle = 28.2 \text{ GeV}$$

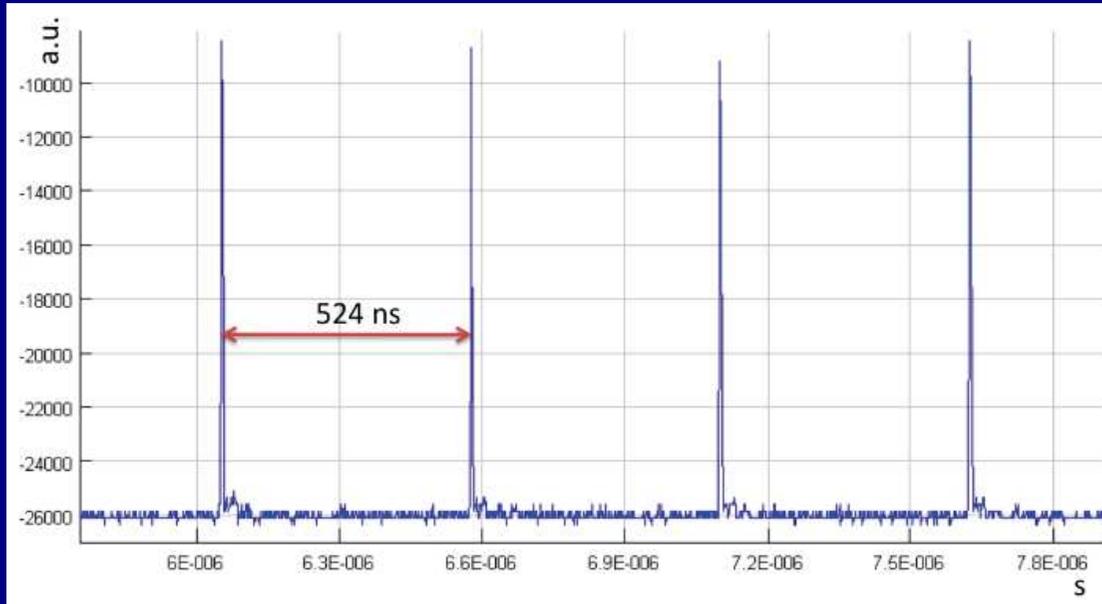
(result limited to events with measured energy)

Energy dependence

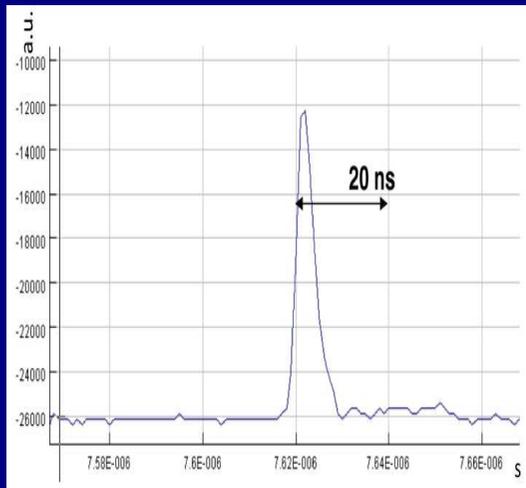
- The data have been split in two energy bins
- Bin 1 with $\langle E_\nu \rangle = 13.8$ GeV
 - $\delta t = (54.7 \pm 18.4 \text{ (stat.) } ^{+7.3}_{-6.9} \text{ (sys.)})$ ns
- Bin 2 with $\langle E_\nu \rangle = 40.7$ GeV
 - $\delta t = (68.1 \pm 19.1 \text{ (stat.) } ^{+7.3}_{-6.9} \text{ (sys.)})$ ns

No clues for energy dependence within the present sensitivity
in the energy domain explored by the measurement

Test with a short-bunch wide-spacing beam



- 22/10-6/11 2011
- 1 extraction/CNGS cycle
- 4 bunches/extraction ~ 3 ns
- 524 ns gaps
- 1.1×10^{12} pot/cycle
- ~ 60 less intensity than standard CNGS



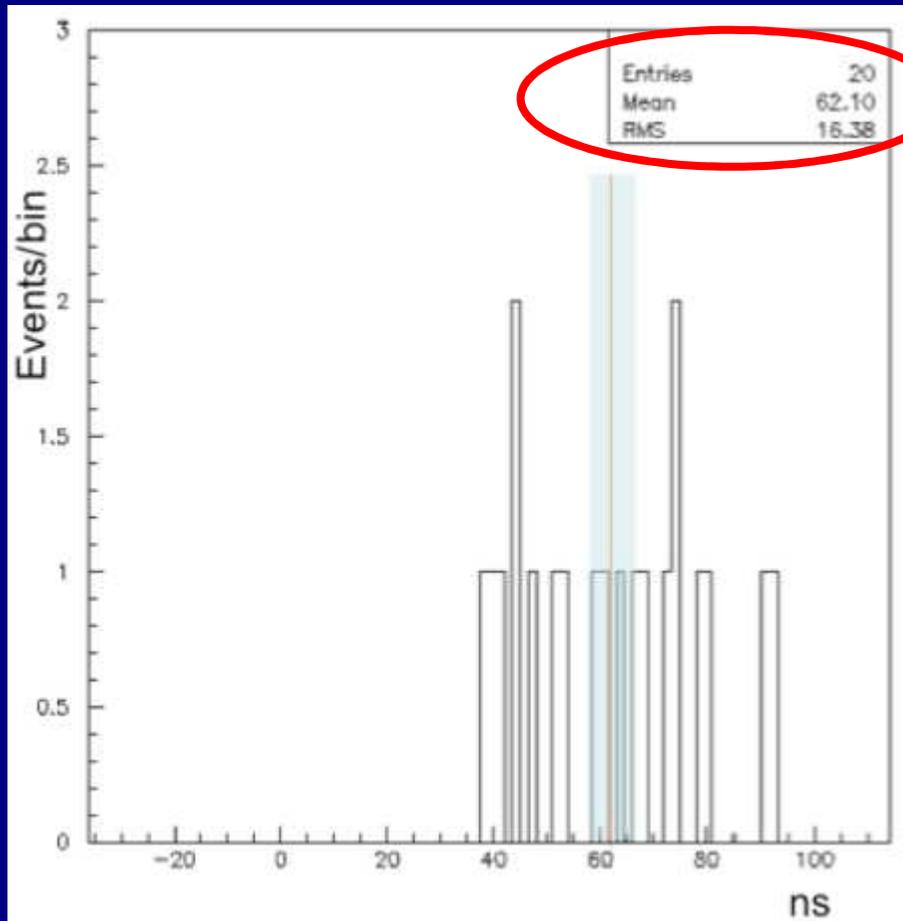
Unambiguous attribution of events to single peaks

Event by event analysis (no cumulative PDF), no treatment of waveforms

Exclude possible sys. related to long pulses
Target, horns, aiming accuracy

Less critical measurement of waveforms/ BCT response

Results with a short-bunch wide-spacing beam



20 events exploitable for TOF measurement

Individual TOF measurement/event

4 bunches/extraction ~ 3 ns

62.1 ns average TOF, 16.4 ns RMS

RMS dominated by instrumental resolution in relating the DAQ clock 20 MHz to GPS sync signal (± 25 ns jitter)

This result excludes overall biases affecting the PDF based analysis

$$\delta t = \text{TOF}_c - \text{TOF}_v = (62.1 \pm 3.7 \text{ (stat.)}) \text{ ns}$$

Statistical analysis based on PDF: $\delta t = (57.8 \pm 7.8 \text{ (stat.)}) \text{ ns}$

Comparable or smaller systematics than statistical measurement

(Historical: September seminar + Bunched beam results
→ Paper submitted to JHEP on November 17th 2011)

Conclusions

- A possible δt energy dependence was also investigated. In the energy domain covered by the CNGS beam and within the statistical accuracy of the measurement we do not observe any significant effect.
- A dedicated CNGS beam was generated by a purposely setup SPS proton beam. It consisted of a single extraction including four bunches about 3 ns long (FWHM) separated by 524 ns. 20 events were retained, leading to a value of δt measured from the average of the distribution of (62.1 ± 3.7) ns, in agreement with the value of (57.8 ± 7.8) ns obtained with the main analysis.
- Despite the large significance of the measurement reported here and the stability of the analysis, the potentially great impact of the result motivates the continuation of our studies in order to identify any still unknown systematic effect.
- We do not attempt any theoretical or phenomenological interpretation of the results.

Recent developments (since the end of November 2011)

- Discussion of a new bunched beam campaign (indicative date May 2012) with improved beam performance (100 ns bunch spacing, a factor 3 more intensity). Include other LNGS experiments in the measurement. Finer study for possible energy dependence and measurement with anti-neutrinos.
- Development of a new time-transfer system at CERN and LNGS based on the white-rabbit protocol (self-calibrating continuous delay measurement)
- Developments for DAQ upgrade for May 2012 bunched beam run by including TDCs at the level of the Master clock (± 25 ns jitter) and FE sensors (± 5 ns jitter)
- Additional checks on the Geodesy at CERN on the underground transport of external GPS measurements
- Additional checks on timing with a two-way satellite transfer measurement and possible time transfer via optical fibers
- Additional measurements at LNGS (winter shutdown) → two sources of bias identified

21 February 2012 (OPERA communication to FA and committees)

The OPERA Collaboration, by continuing its campaign of verifications on the neutrino velocity measurement, has identified two issues that could significantly affect the reported result.

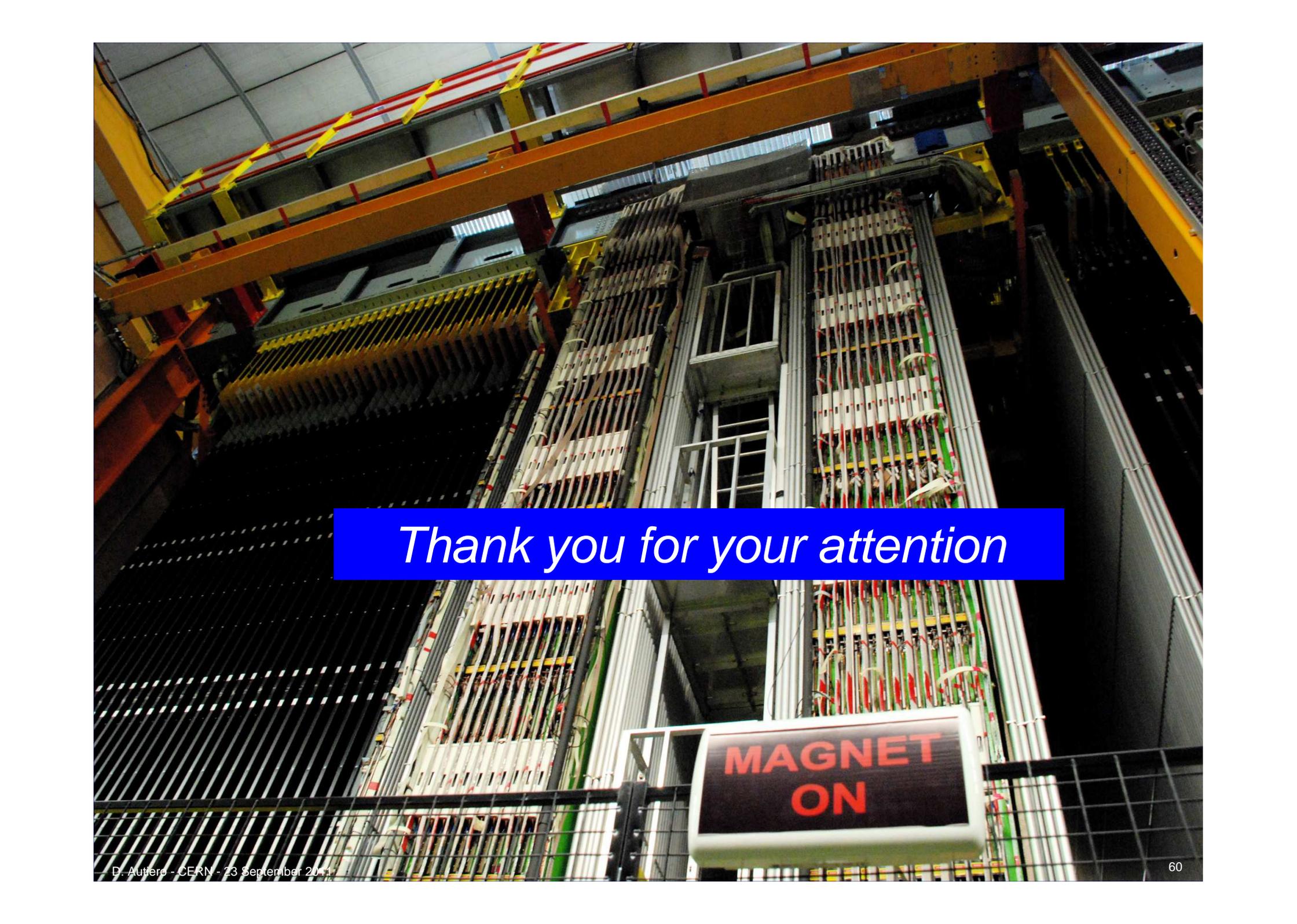
The first one is linked to the oscillator used to produce the events time-stamps in between the GPS synchronizations.

The second point is related to the connection of the optical fiber bringing the external GPS signal to the OPERA master clock.

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.

→ Ask JHEP to put the paper in stand-by

→ Request to check the overall bias with a bunched beam measurement asap



Thank you for your attention