Tau-neutrino production study in 400 GeV proton interactions

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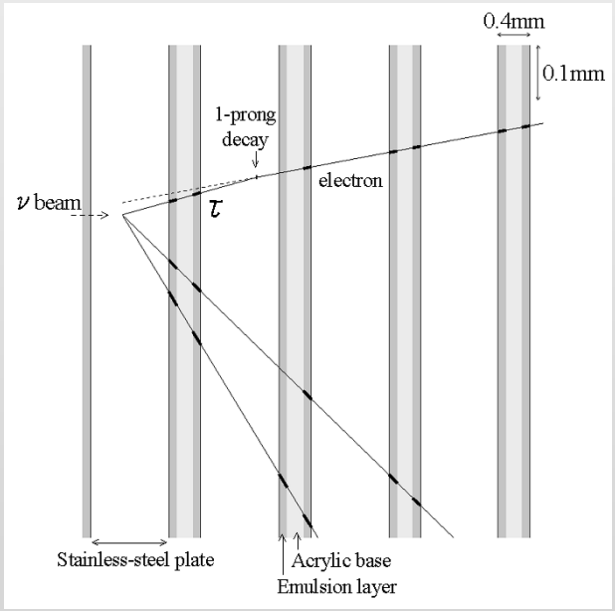
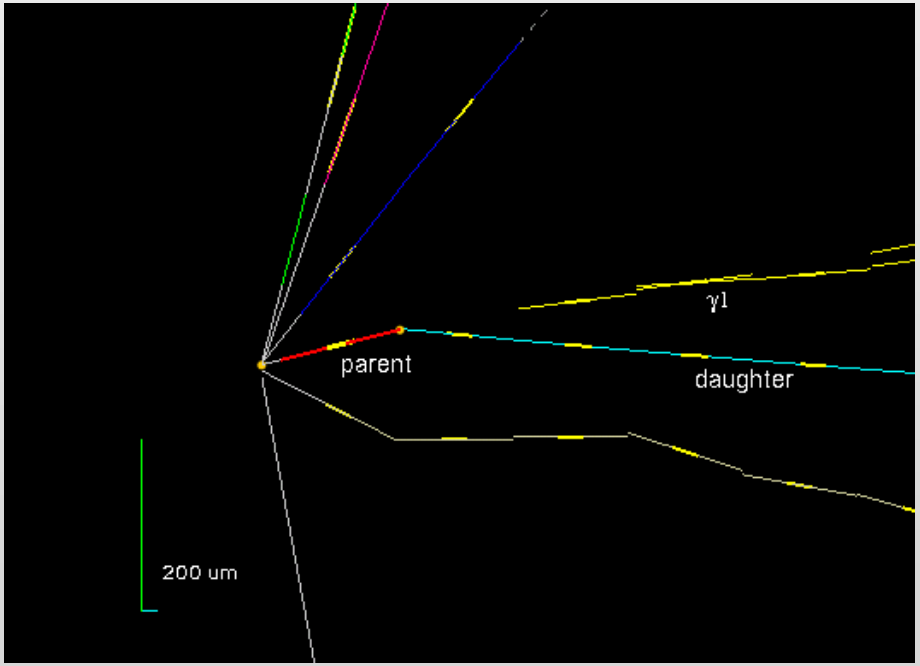
On behalf of the DsTau Collaboration

Physics motivation

- Tau-neutrino: less studied particle in the standard model
  - DONuT: First direct observation of ν_τ interactions (9 ν_τ candidate events observed)
  - OPERA: Discovery of $\nu_\mu \rightarrow \nu_\tau$ oscillations in appearance mode (5 ν_τ candidate events)





- Precise measurement of ν_τ CC cross section would be a test of lepton universality in neutrino CC interactions

Status of neutrino CC cross section measurements

ν_μ : measured by many experiments

Average over 30 - 200 GeV

$$\sigma_{\nu\mu}^{const} = (0.51 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{-38} cm^2 GeV^{-1}$$

~2% error

ν_τ : only the DONuT experiment

ν_τ source is D_S produced in proton interactions:

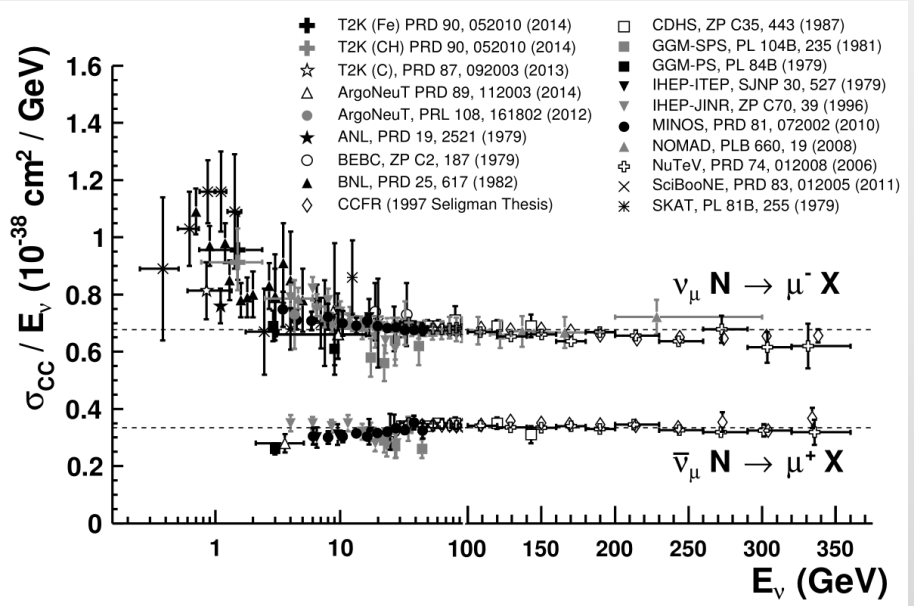
$D_s^+ \rightarrow \tau^+ \nu_\tau \rightarrow X\, \bar{\nu}_\tau\, \nu_\tau$

$D_s^- \rightarrow \tau^- \bar{\nu}_\tau \rightarrow X\, \bar{\nu}_\tau\, \nu_\tau$

No experimental data on the D_s differential production cross section ($d\sigma/dx_F$) in high energy proton interaction

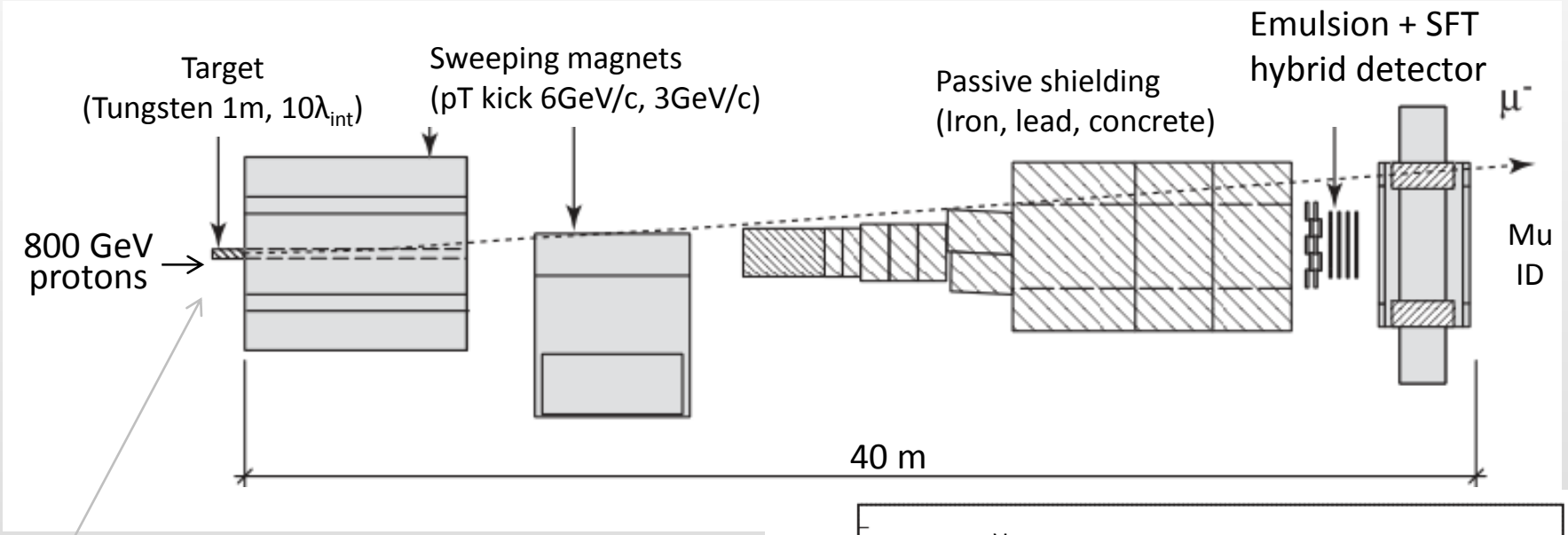
>50% systematic uncertainty in the cross section measurement

Muon neutrino CC inclusive cross sections (PDG 2014 and 2015 update)

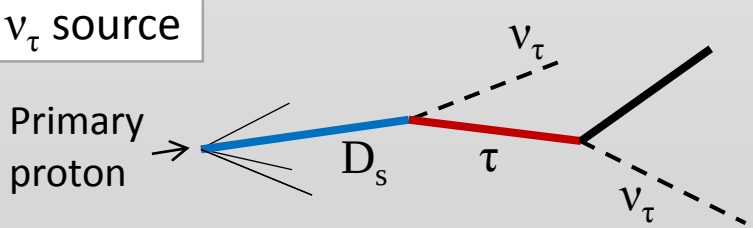


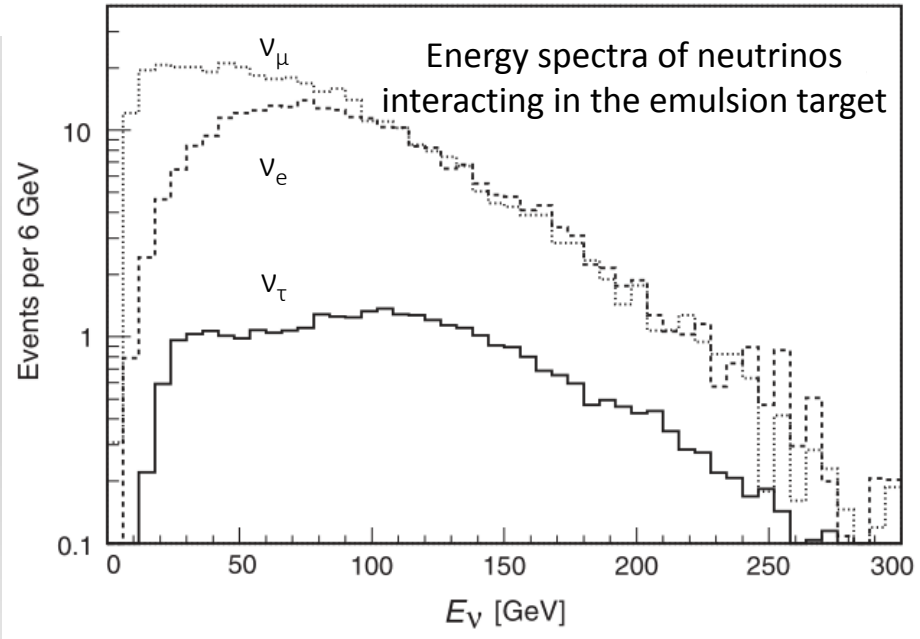
The DONuT experiment (Fermilab E872)

First direct observation of ν_τ interactions (578 ν interactions, 9 ν_τ candidate events observed)



ν_τ source





Cross section measurement in DONuT

ν_τ CC cross section $\sigma_{\nu\tau}(E) = \sigma_{\nu\tau}^{const} \times E_{\nu\tau} \times K_\tau(E)$ (K: kinematic effect due to the lepton mass)

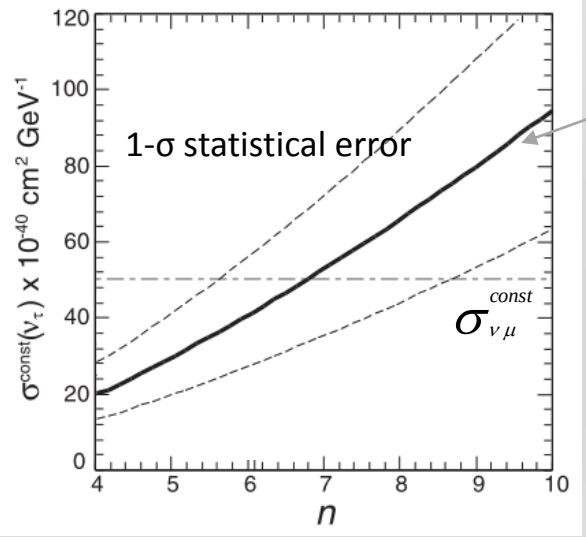
The largest uncertainty in DONuT:
Lack of experimental data on D_s differential cross section in proton interactions
(used to calculate the ν_τ flux)

Phenomenological formula for charm differential cross section

$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dx_F dp_T^2} \propto \underbrace{(1-|x_F|)^n}_{\text{longitudinal dependence}} \underbrace{\exp(-bp_T^2)}_{\text{transverse dependence}}$$

x_F is Feynman x ($x_F = 2p^{CM}_z/\sqrt{s}$) and
p_T is transverse momentum

Parameter-dependent cross section result by DONuT



$$\sigma_{\nu\tau}^{const} = 7.5(0.335n^{1.52}) \times 10^{-40} cm^2 GeV^{-1}$$

"Final tau-neutrino results from the DONuT experiment", Physical Review D 78, 5 (2008)

Main systematic uncertainties	
D_s differential cross section (x_F dependence)	~0.50!?
Charm production cross section	0.17
Decay branching ratio	0.23
Target atomic mass effects (A dependence)	0.14

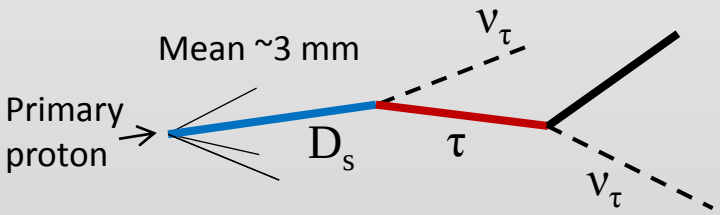
New experiment

The DsTau project: Tau-neutrino production study at the CERN SPS

- **Aim**: Improve knowledge of tau-neutrino production
  - Re-evaluate existing ν_τ cross section (DONUT result): systematic uncertainty >50% → ~10%
  - Provide essential data for future ν_τ experiments, e.g. SHiP
- **Method**: Direct measurement of tau-neutrino production in 400 GeV proton interactions
  - Dominant source (>95%): $D_s \rightarrow \tau\, \nu_\tau \rightarrow X\, \nu_\tau\, \nu_\tau$
  - Detect the double-kink topology within a few mm by emulsion detector
  - Measure x_F distribution (D_s momentum estimation using topological variables)
- **Status**
  - LoI submitted to the CERN-SPSC in Feb 2016 (SPSC-I-245) → positive feedback
  - Prototype test experiment in Nov. 2016

Proton target:
tungsten foil + emulsion tracker

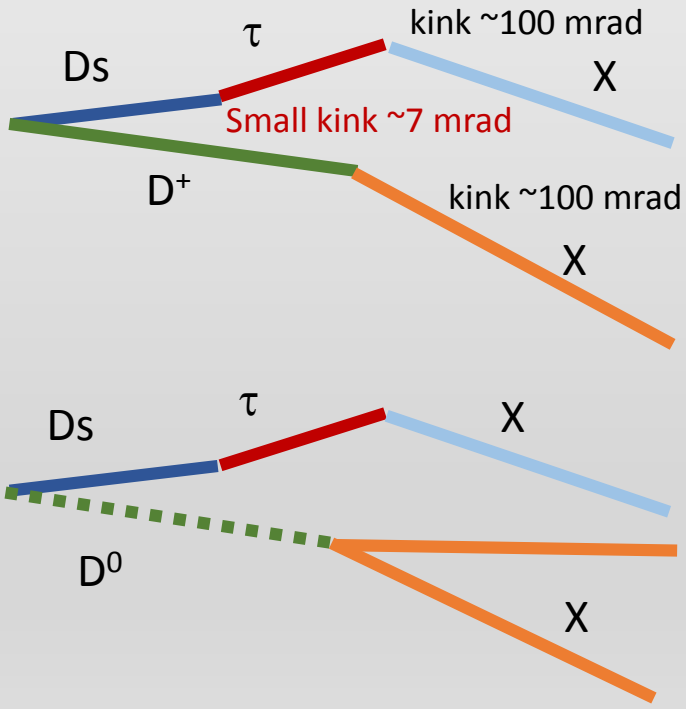
Double-kink topology



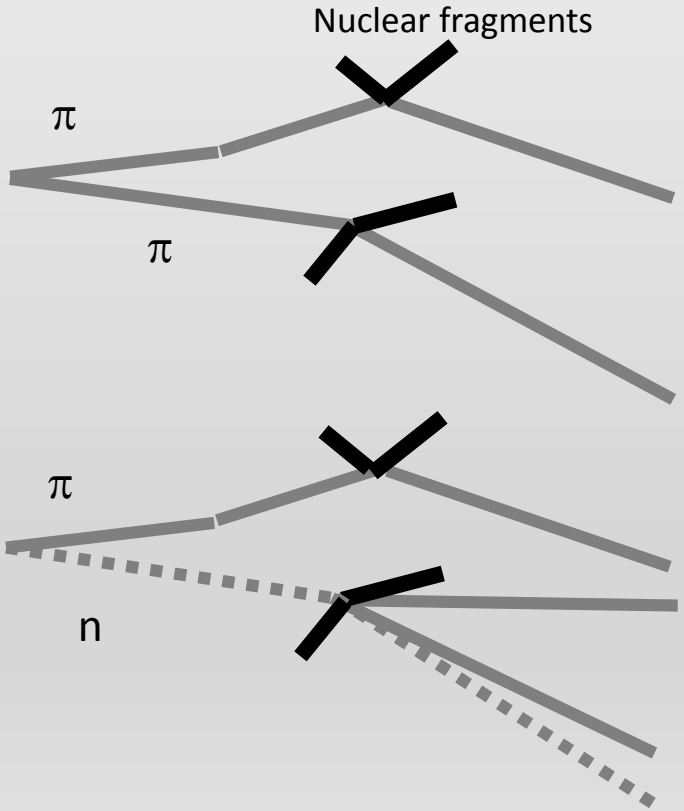
Small kink of $D_s \rightarrow \tau$
Mean 7 mrad

Signal and background

- Signal: a double kink + a charmed particle decay



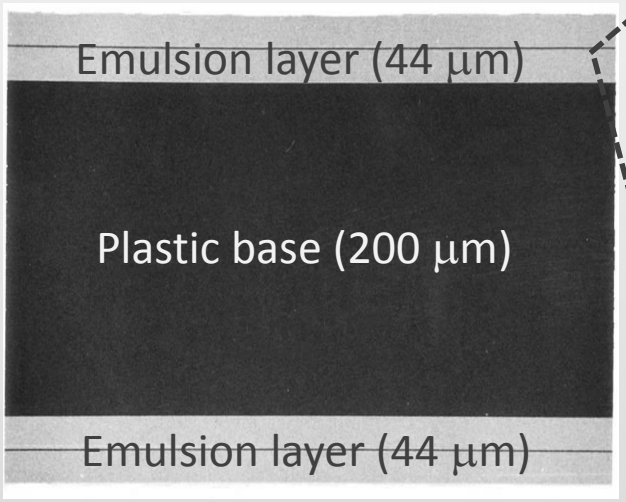
- Main background: hadron interactions



Emulsion detectors: highest position resolution

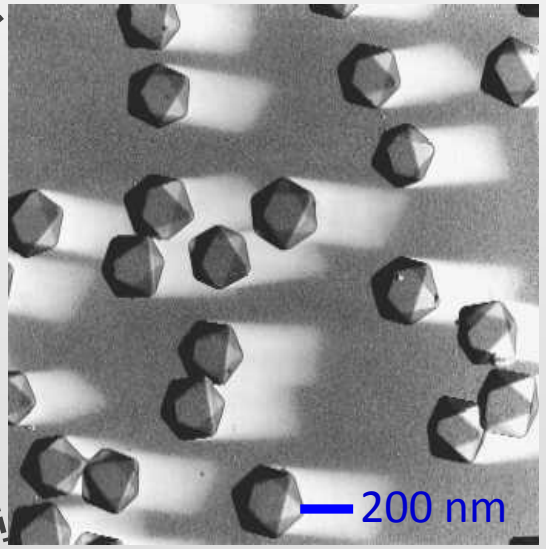
Emulsion film

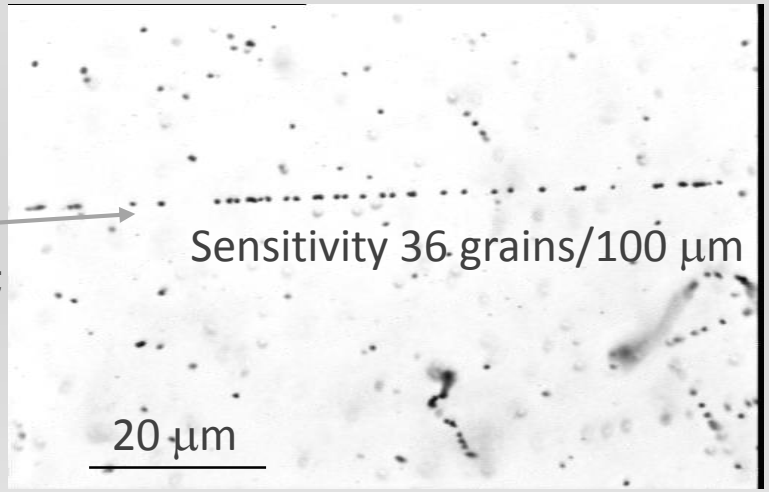
Cross-sectional view



AgBr crystal

10^{14} crystals in a film





3D tracking device
Intrinsic resolution 50 nm

Emulsion research facility in Bern

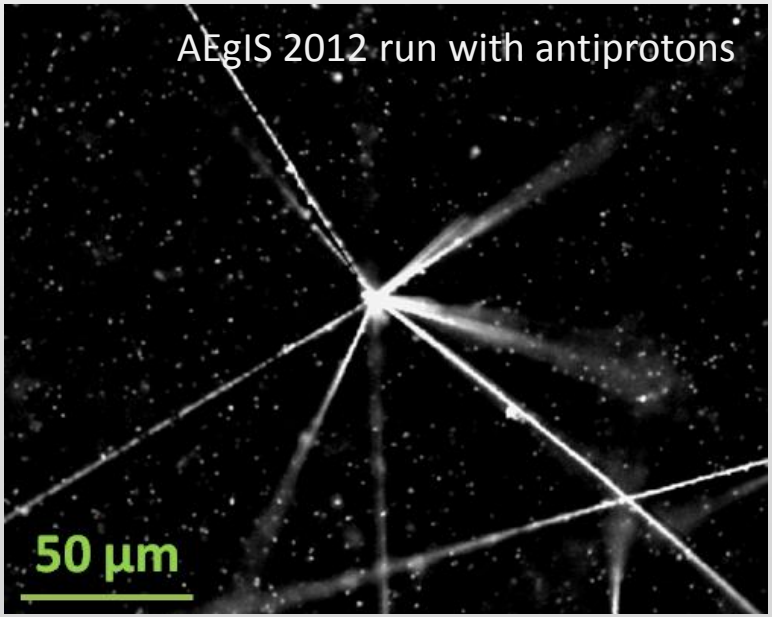
Detector production and R&D

Automated emulsion scanning microscopes

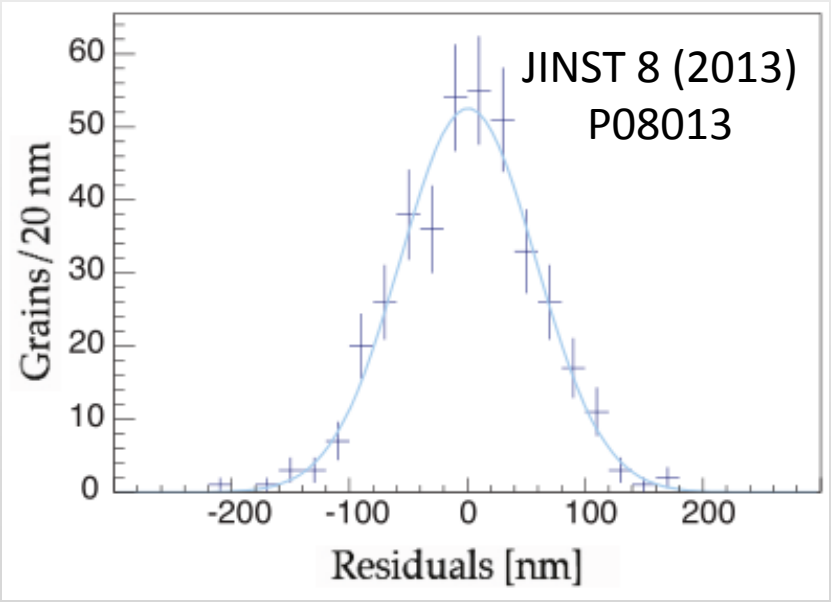
- Dedicated emulsion facility
  - 30 m deep underground lab
  - Detector production chain and photographic development chain
  - Dedicated R&D program for several kinds of special emulsions, collaborating with Nagoya University in Japan
- High speed readout system
  - Fast 4π track recognition based on GPU technology (A. Ariga and T. Ariga, Journal of Instrumentation 9 P04002 (2014))
  - Upgrade ongoing

Intrinsic resolution of emulsion detectors

Emulsion detector produced in Bern using high sensitivity emulsion gel produced in Nagoya University

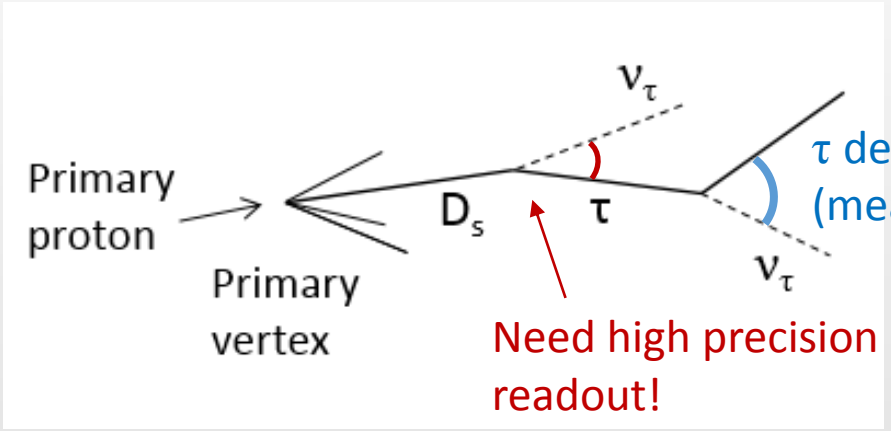


Measured intrinsic resolution



Intrinsic resolution 58 nm →
Angular resolution 0.05µm·√2/200µm = **0.35 mrad**

Detection of $D_s \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow X$ events (double-kink topology)

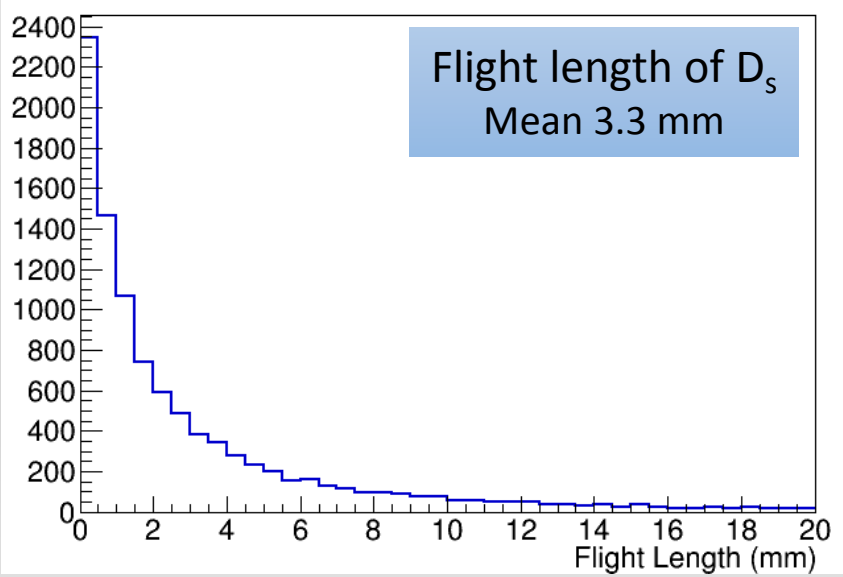


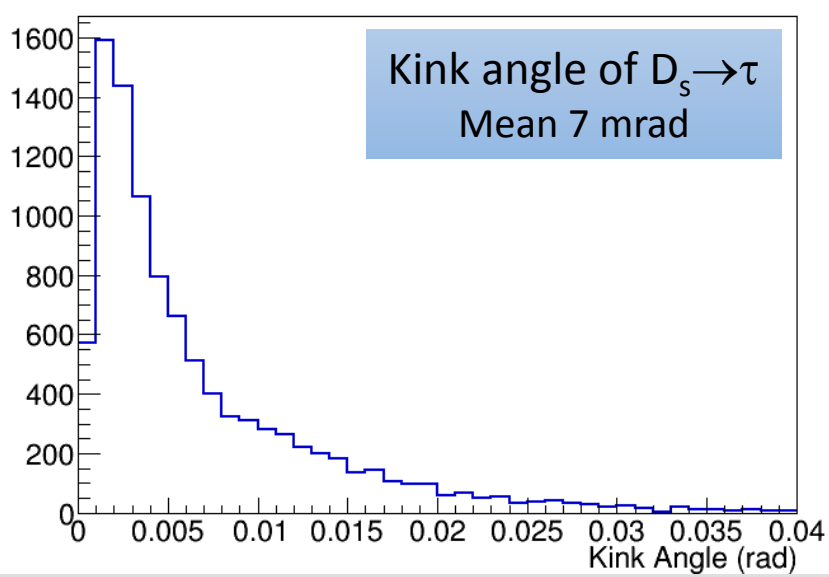
τ decay can be easily detected by standard readout (mean kink angle ~100 mrad)

The analysis chain:

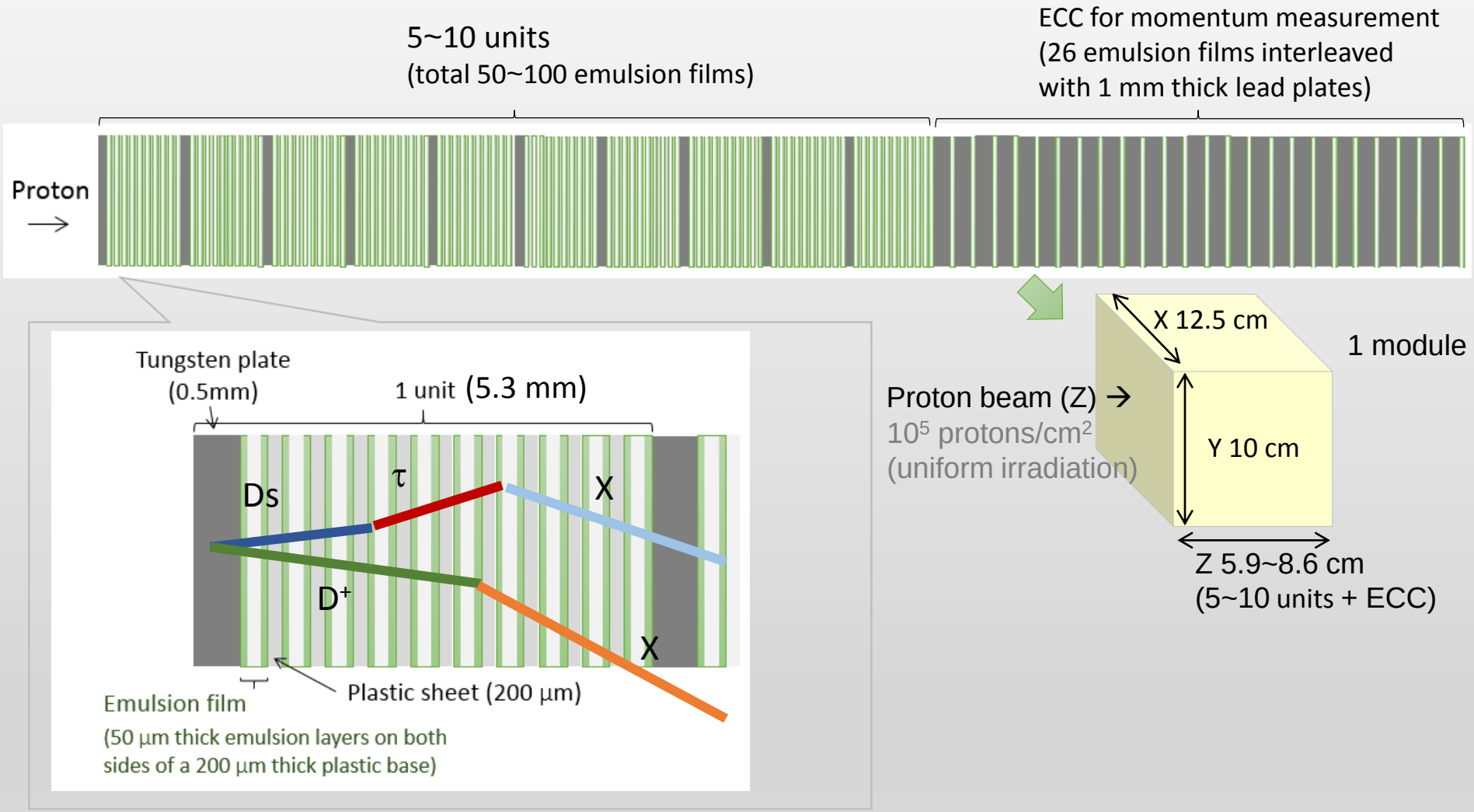
1) Tag $\tau \rightarrow X$ decay

2) Perform high precision measurement to detect $D_s \rightarrow \tau$ decay





Module structure for $D_s \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow X$ measurement



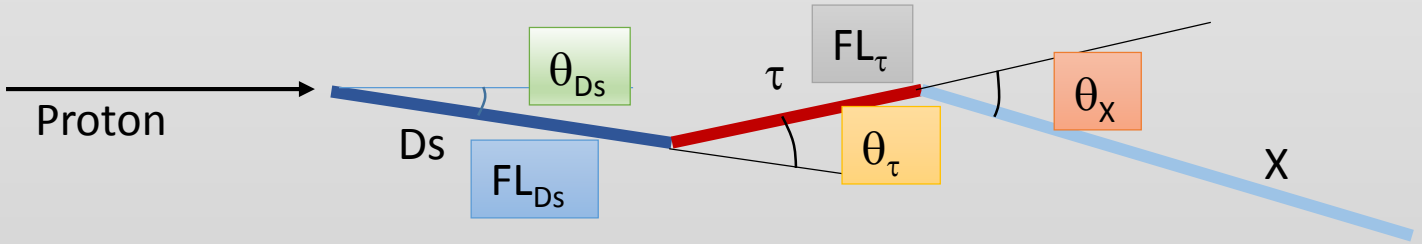
Efficiency estimation with preliminary selection (FL: flight length) :

1 film <FL(D_s)&FL(τ)< 5 mm & Δθ($D_s \rightarrow \tau$)> 2 mrad & Δθ(τ)> 15 mrad & pair charm detection

→ Efficiency 20% (will be further optimized using more careful simulations)

For x_F measurement:
D_s momentum reconstruction from topological variables

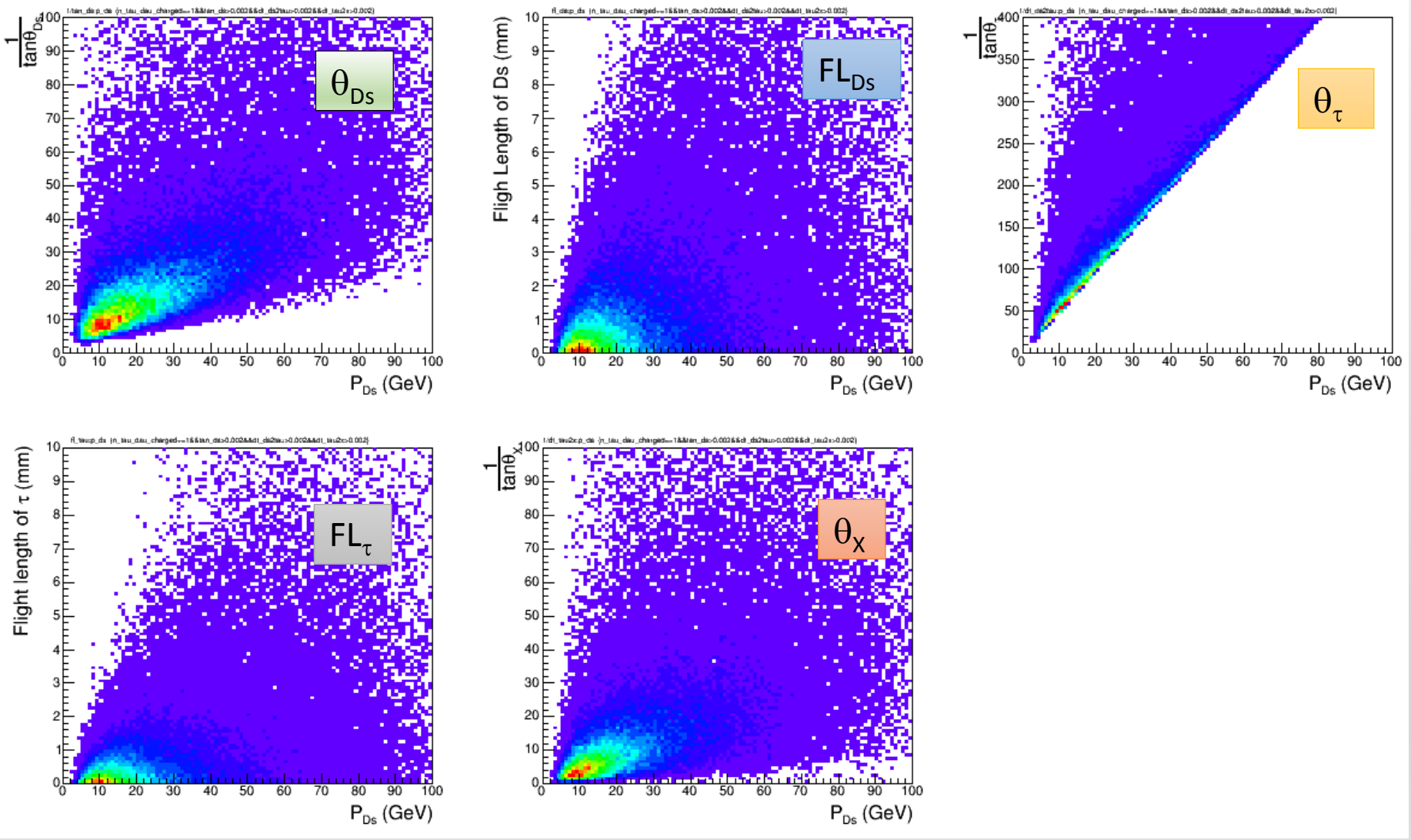
- x_F is a longitudinal profile of Ds: $x_F = 2p_z^{CM}/\sqrt{s} = 2\gamma(p_{Ds}^{Lab}\cos\theta_{Ds} - \beta E_{Ds}^{Lab})/\sqrt{s}$
- D_s decays quickly, unable to measure p directly
- Need a method to estimate P_{Ds} from topological variables



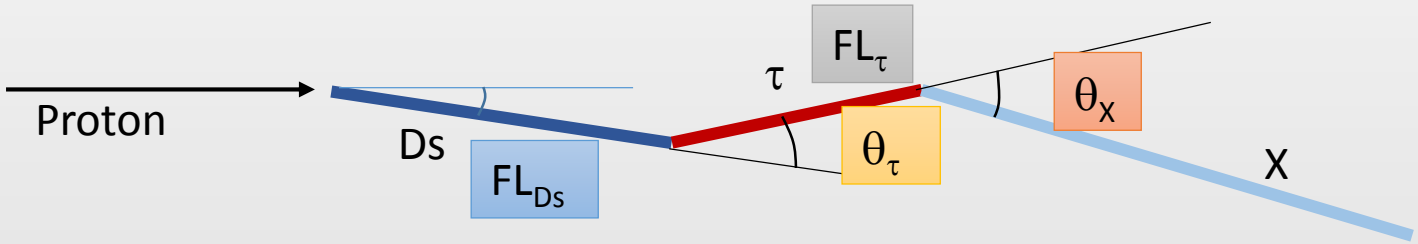
FL: flight length

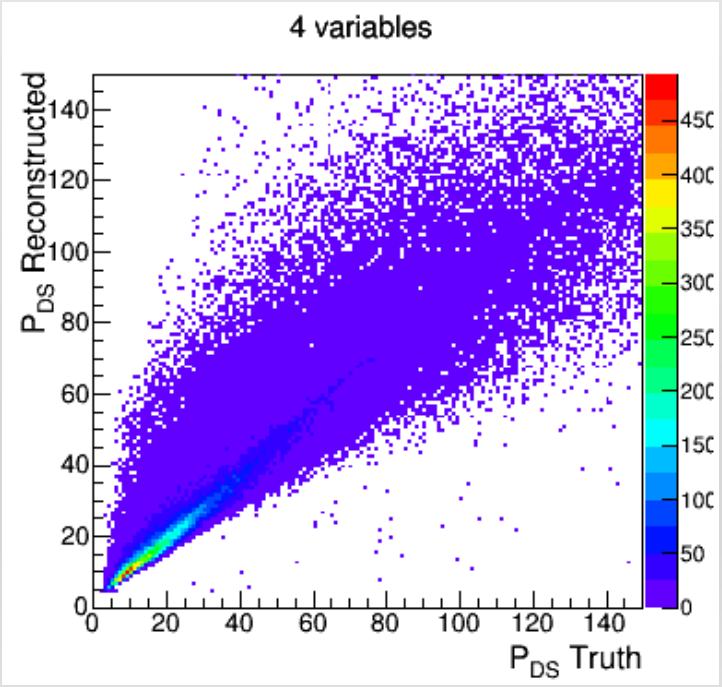
Topological variables: correlation with P_{Ds}

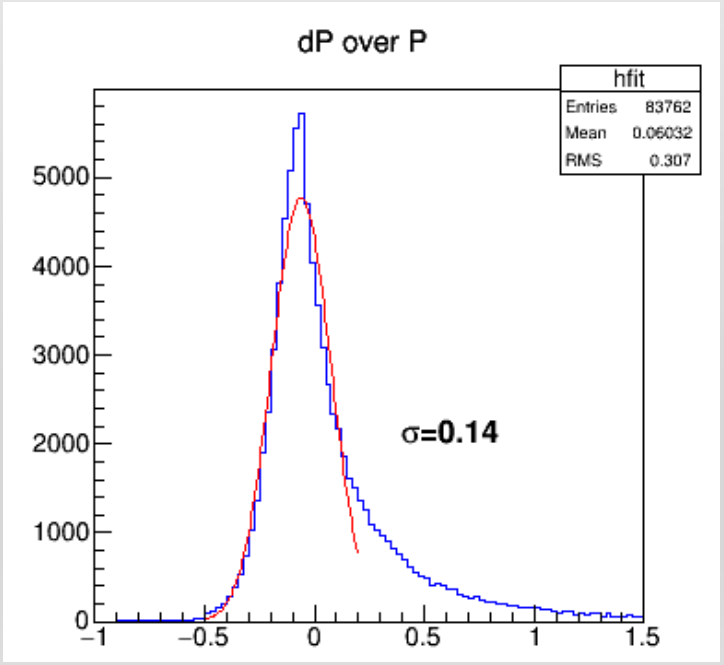
Sample: tau single prong decay



Ds momentum reconstruction
by Artificial Neural Network (ANN) using 4 variables





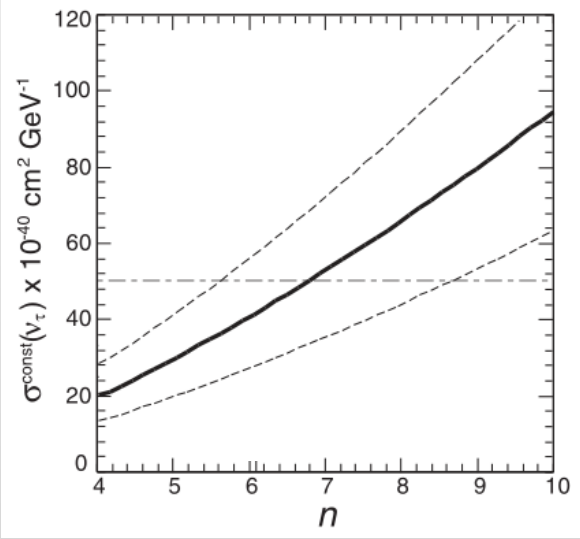


Expected precision for the cross section measurement

Systematic uncertainties

	DONuT	With DsTau
D_s differential cross section (x_F dependence)	~0.50!?	~0.10
Charm production cross section	0.17	~0.03
Decay branching ratio	0.23	
Target atomic mass effects (A dependence)	0.14	

ν_τ CC cross section measured by DONUT as a function of the parameter n



To reach ~10% precision on the cross section,
the parameter n is to be measured with a precision of ~0.3

→ ~1000 D_s events needed

How many interactions to be analyzed?

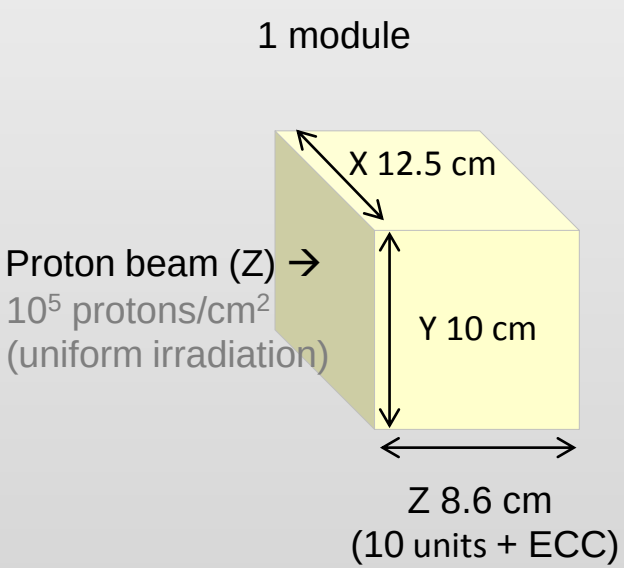
- To detect 1000 $D_s \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow X$ events
  - Efficiency ~20%, BR($D_s \rightarrow \tau$) = 5.55%
  - 8.2×10^4 D_s to be produced
  - D_s production cross section in Tungsten target ~4×10^{-4} @400GeV

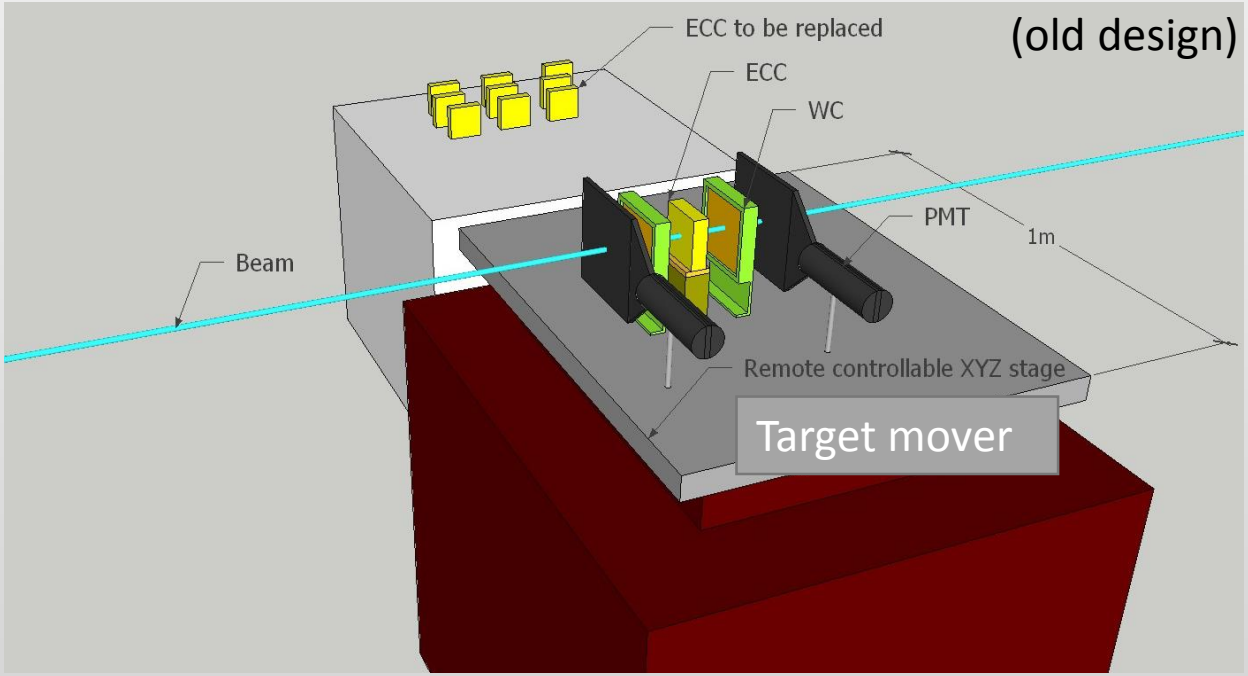
→ **2×10^8 proton interactions to be analyzed!**

→ 4×10^9 pot needed (0.5 mm tungsten x 10 units)

The expected setup of the experiment

To expose 4×10^9 pot with the density 10^5 tracks/cm^2
→ detector surface 4×10^4 cm^2 (400 modules)





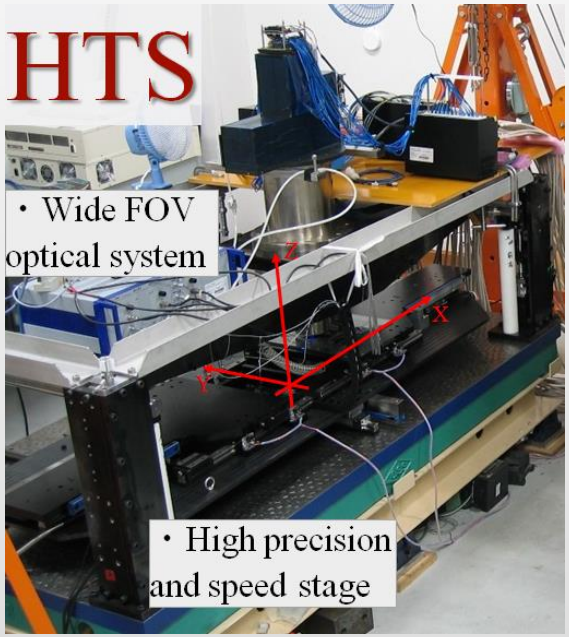
Beam time

- Assuming 10^5 protons/spill and the beam spot 1 cm^2,

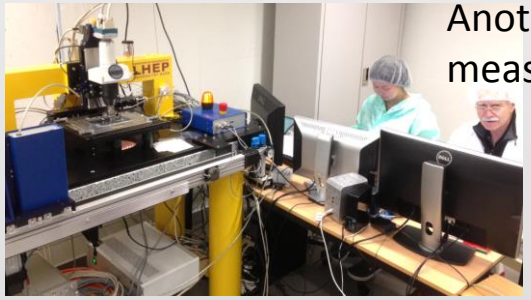
detector surface 4×10^4 (cm^2) x 30 (sec/cm^2) = ~2 weeks.

- Module exchange time: 10 min x 400 modules = ~ half week.

Readout of emulsion data



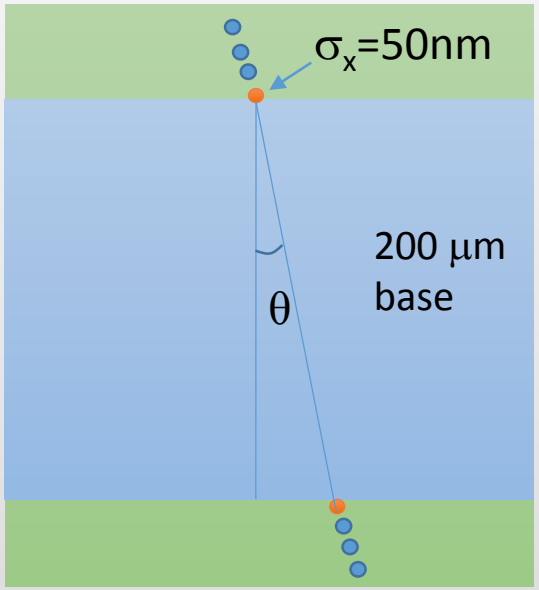
← New scanning system being developed in Nagoya, aiming at the speed of 9000 cm^2/h (22 m^2/day)



Another system dedicated to high precision measurements to be developed in Bern

Emulsion surface	~500 m^2 (x2sides)
Readout time	Standard readout of the whole volume 4 months to 1 year
	High precision readout for the selected events ~4 month

High precision measurement system



- Intrinsic resolution of each grain = 50 nm
  - Two grains on top and bottom of 200 μm base → **0.35 mrad**
- Conventional systems spoil it due to mechanical vibration of Z axis (about 0.2μm, corresponding to 1.5 mrad)
- → Need high precision Z-axis
- Piezo objective scanner under testing → Z axis systematics to be kept below 60 μrad (0.06 mrad)
- By fitting a series of grains, the angular resolution would reach **0.2 mrad**

- Angular alignment between films to be done by using dense 400 GeV proton tracks
  - 400 GeV proton scatters 2 μrad between emulsion trackers
  - 10^5 tracks/cm^2 = 100 tracks in each microscope view

Piezo objective scanner

Prototype test experiment in 2016

- Proton beam test in Nov. 2016
  - 5 days of beam time at the H4 beam line
  - 20 m^2 emulsion surface (1:20 of the final setup)

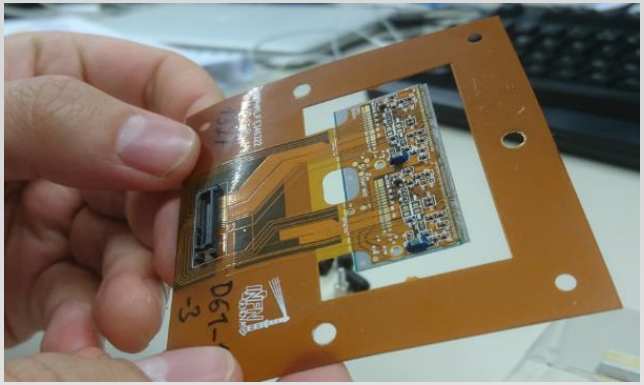
- Aims
  - Test of tuning the beam size
    - Larger beam spot → reduce beam time
  - Optimization of the setup
    - Track density: 10^4 / cm^2, 10^5 / cm^2, 10^6 / cm^2
    - Longitudinal thickness 5, 10, 20 units (50, 100, 200 films)
  - Proof of principle of the experiment
    - Angular resolution
  - Start-up of physics analysis
    - ~10^7 proton interactions, ~30 $D_s \rightarrow \tau$ detection

Preparation in progress

- Emulsion film production in Bern using the gel from Japan
  - Total 20 m^2 double-side coated films (1600 small-size films)
  - Plan: 0.15 m^2 / table x 9 pouring tables x 4 production batches / day →10 m^2/week

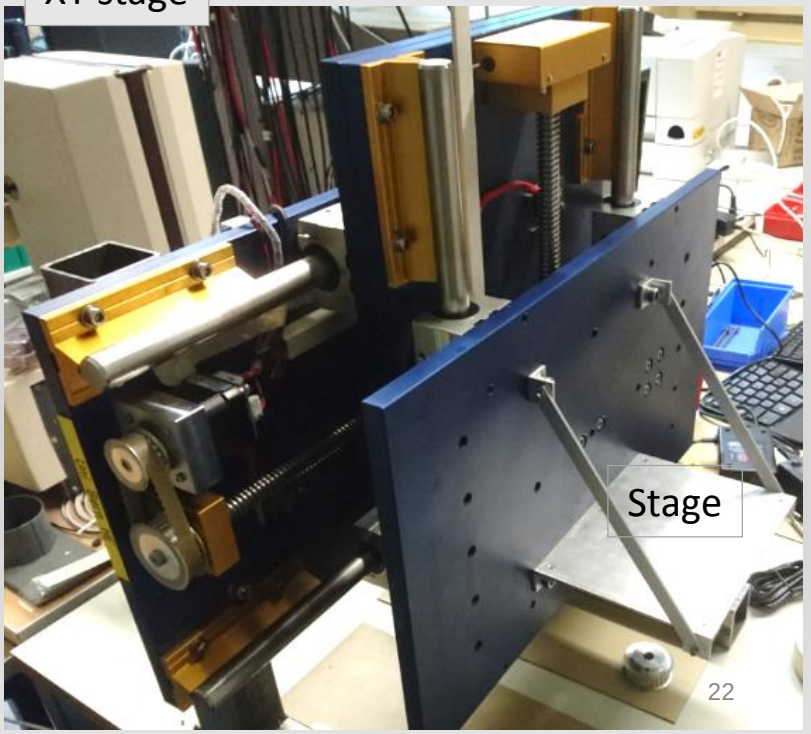
- Target mover
  - XY stage and remote control

- Beam profile monitor with silicon pixel sensors (~4cmx4cm)

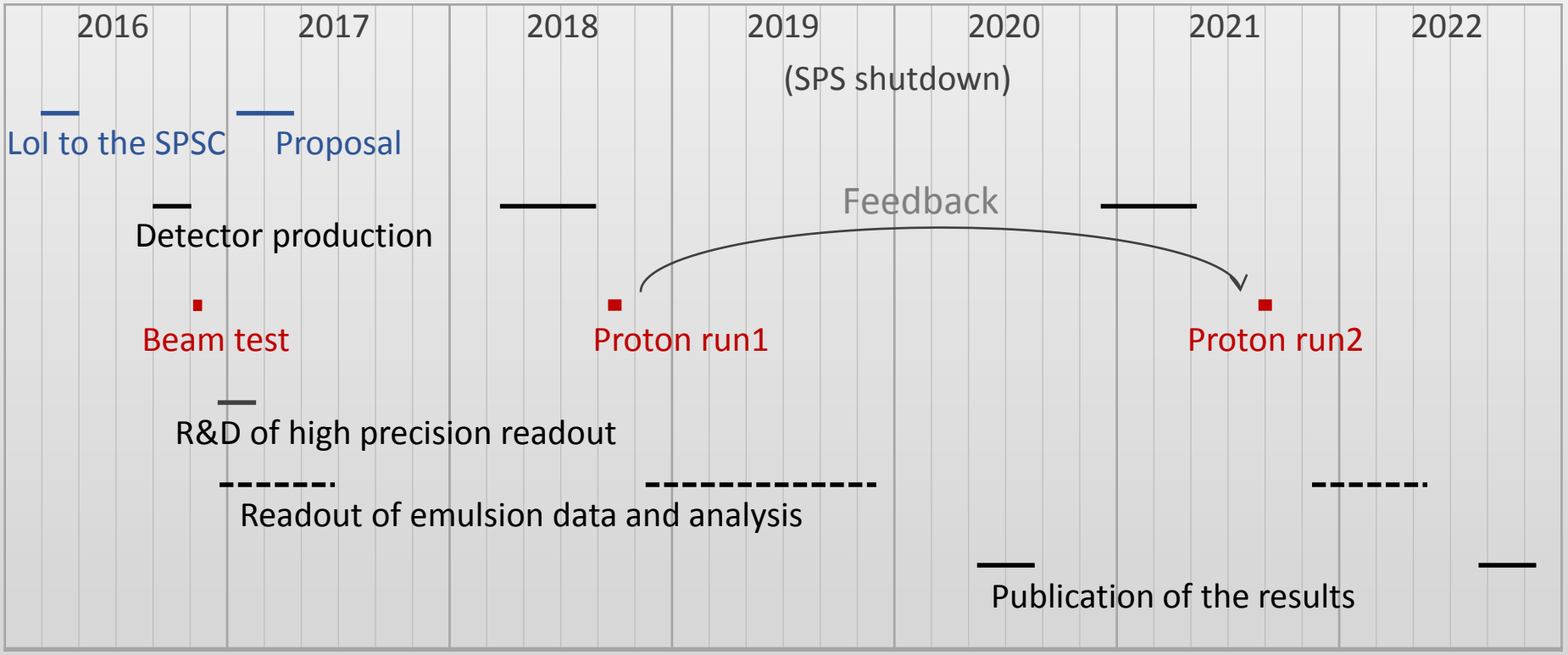


Establishing the film production facility equipped with 9 gel pouring tables

XY stage



Timetable of the whole project



Summary and prospects

- ν_τ CC cross section measurement could be a test of lepton universality
  - ν_τ cross section measurement have been reported only by DONUT
  - The DONUT results suffer from large systematic error (>50%), not only statistical error (30%)
  - The main systematic error is how D_s were produced at beam source

DsTau project

- $D_s \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow X$ precision measurement in high energy proton interactions is essential input toward precise evaluation of ν_τ cross section
- 2×10^8 proton interactions are to be obtained to analyze 1000 $D_s \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow X$ events

- Prototype test experiment in Nov. 2016
- Aiming to realize the experiment hopefully in 2018 before the SPS shutdown

The collaboration

Japan:
Aichi
Kobe
Nagoya

Romania:
Bucharest

Russia:
Dubna

Switzerland:
Bern

Turkey:
Ankara