

# TauFV - $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ and more: a fixed-target flavour-physics experiment at the Beam Dump Facility (BDF)

---

CERN BDF workshop, 2/3/21

G. Wilkinson, University of Oxford

# TauFV - $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ and more: a fixed-target flavour-physics experiment at the Beam Dump Facility (BDF)

---

CERN BDF workshop, 2/3/21

G. Wilkinson, University of Oxford

Work currently ‘on hold’ following outcome of EPPSU. This is a brief reminder of the experiment’s essentials, the work done so far, & the challenges ahead.

# TauFV enthusiasts and (very) helpful friends and colleagues

K. Petridis, University of Bristol; P. Collins, T. Evans and R. Jacobsson, CERN;  
J. Libby, A. Johnson, IITM, Chennai; L. Shchutska, ETHZ;  
A. Golutvin, Imperial College; S. Malde and G. Wilkinson, University of Oxford;  
I. Guz, Protvino;  
I. Bezshyiko, A. Buonaura and N. Serra, University of Zurich.

With many thanks to the BDF team, in particular  
C. Ahdida, M. Calviani, J. P. Canhoto Espadanal, M. Casolino,  
Y. Dutheil, B. Goddard, E. Lopez Sola & A. Milanese.

Also to M. Campbell & J. Buytaert from CERN EP-ESE.

# Physics introduction

Long-standing, and well motivated (particularly since the discovery of neutrino oscillations) programme of searches for charged Lepton Flavour Violation.

Less stringent limits in 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, but here BSM effects may be higher.

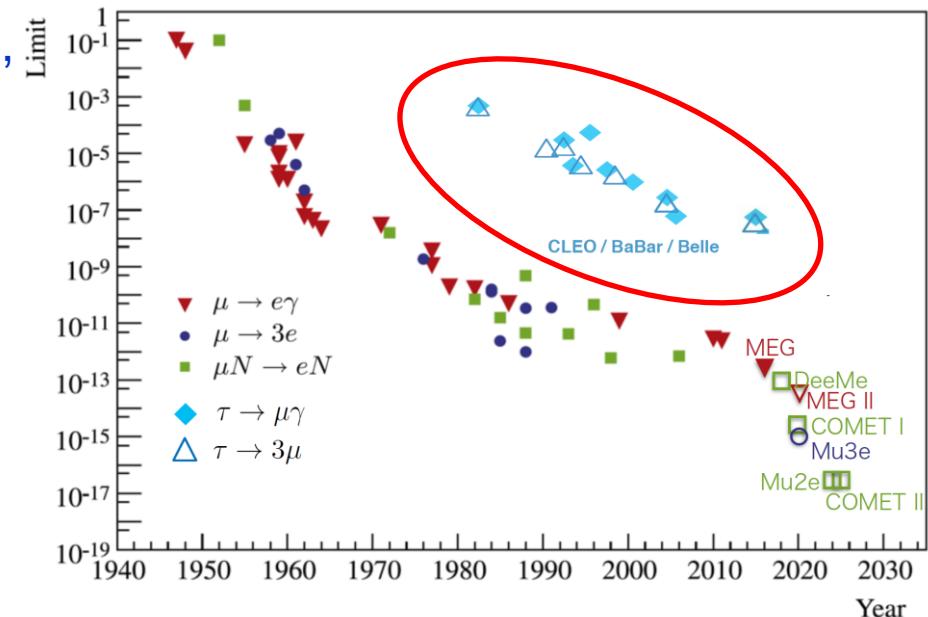


Let's take  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$  as benchmark mode. Current best 90 % CL limits:

Belle  $2.1 \times 10^{-8}$  [PLB 687 (2010) 139]

BaBar  $3.3 \times 10^{-8}$  [PRD 81 (2010) 111101]

LHCb  $4.6 \times 10^{-8}$  [JHEP 02 (2015) 121]



Most improvement in coming decade is expected from Belle II, who can reach  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  [arXiv:1011.0352] and will do even better if they achieve ~zero bckgd [arXiv:1808.10567].

# Added motivation for LFV searches

Charged LFV searches are a sensitive BSM probe & hence are of great intrinsic interest.

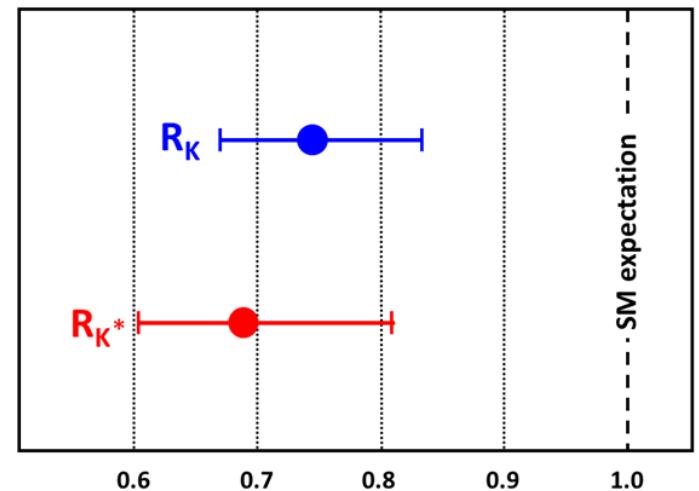
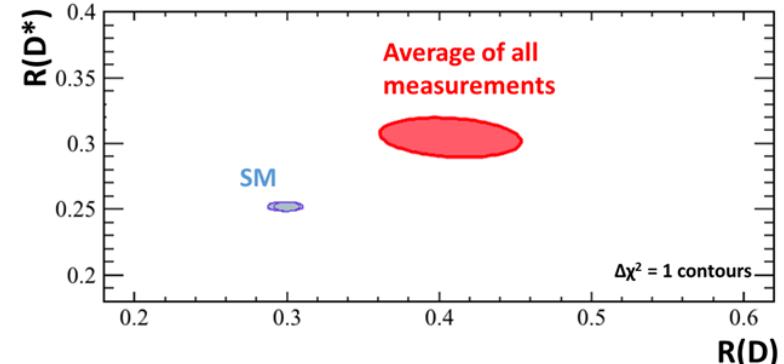
However recent hints of lepton-universality violation (LUV), both in tree level decays ( $R(D)$ ,  $R(D^*)$ ) and in loops ( $R_K$ ,  $R_{K^*}$ ) give additional incentive.

Many commentators agree

$LUV \leftrightarrow LFV !$

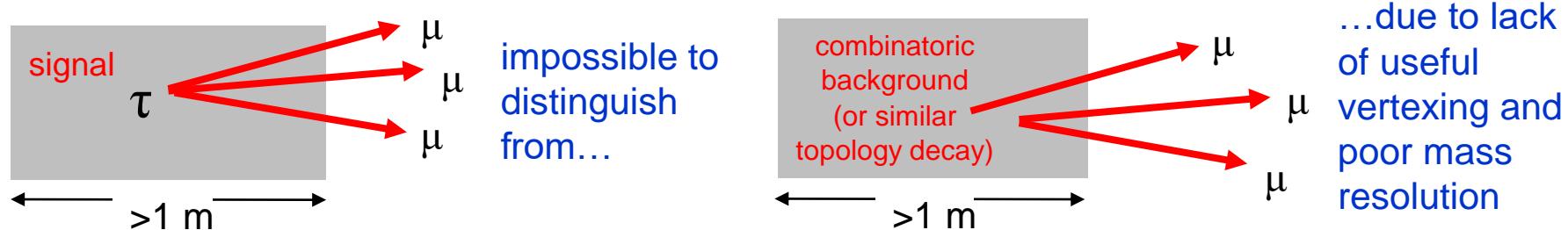
Moreover, many predictions point to  $10^{-10}$  in tau decays as an interesting regime for effects to manifest themselves.

See e.g. Feruglio, Paradisi, Pattori, PRL 118 (2017) 011801; Crivellin *et al.* PRD 92 (2015) 054013; Greljo, Isidori and Marzocca, arXiv:1506.01705; Feruglio, Paradisi and Pattori, JHEP 09 (2017) 061.

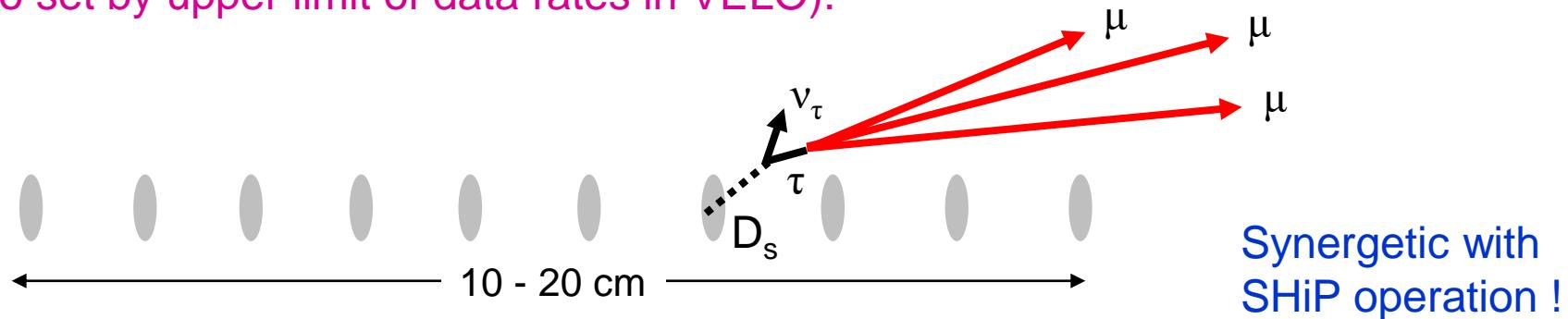


# Physics opportunity: LFV $\tau$ decays at the SPS

Enormous  $\tau$  production rate in SPS beam from  $D_s \rightarrow \tau\nu$  ! Consider possibility of using Beam Dump Facility (BDF) being planned at CERN for SHiP. However SHiP target unsuited for searches for ultra-rare  $\tau$  decays, because of excessive multiple scattering.



Instead, design dedicated experiment upstream of SHiP, with thin, distributed targets, to bleed off  $\sim 2\%$  of the beam intended for SHiP  $\rightarrow 2$  mm of tungsten (this value also set by upper limit of data rates in VELO).



# Signal yields, and comparisons with other experiments

With 2 mm of W we expect  $4 \times 10^{18}$  PoT in 5 years of operation.

0.17 % of interactions will produce charm, from this expect:

$$8 \times 10^{13} D_s \rightarrow \tau \nu \text{ decays}$$

Comparing to past and existing flavour experiments:

- $\sim 10^2$  times number produced at LHCb IP in runs 1 & 2;
- $\sim 10^5$  times number of  $\tau^+ \tau^-$  pairs produced during operation of Belle.

Moreover, production is strongly forward peaked, allowing a reasonable detector geometry to collect  $\sim 50\%$  of all  $\tau \rightarrow \mu \mu \mu$  decays. Assuming a total efficiency of 10% for geometrical selection and basic reconstruction cuts, and taking as a benchmark  $\text{BR}(\tau \rightarrow \mu \mu \mu) = 1 \times 10^{-9}$ , then the following yields are expected.

Future experiment	Yield	Extrapolated from
TauFV ( $4 \times 10^{18}$ PoT)	8000	Numbers on this slide
Belle II ( $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$ )	9	PLB 687 (2010) 139
LHCb Upgrade I ( $50 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )	140	JHEP 02 (2015) 121
LHCb Upgrade II ( $300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ )	840	ditto

Clear opportunity to benefit from higher signal yield than at any other facility !

# Charm physics

TauFV has the potential to collect an enormous sample of charm decays (e.g.  $\sim 5 \times 10^{15}$   $D^0$ s produced, which is  $10^5$  times more than at Belle II)  
→ will allow for an extensive programme of CPV studies & rare decay searches

Excellent performance expected in many benchmark studies, similar to LHCb:

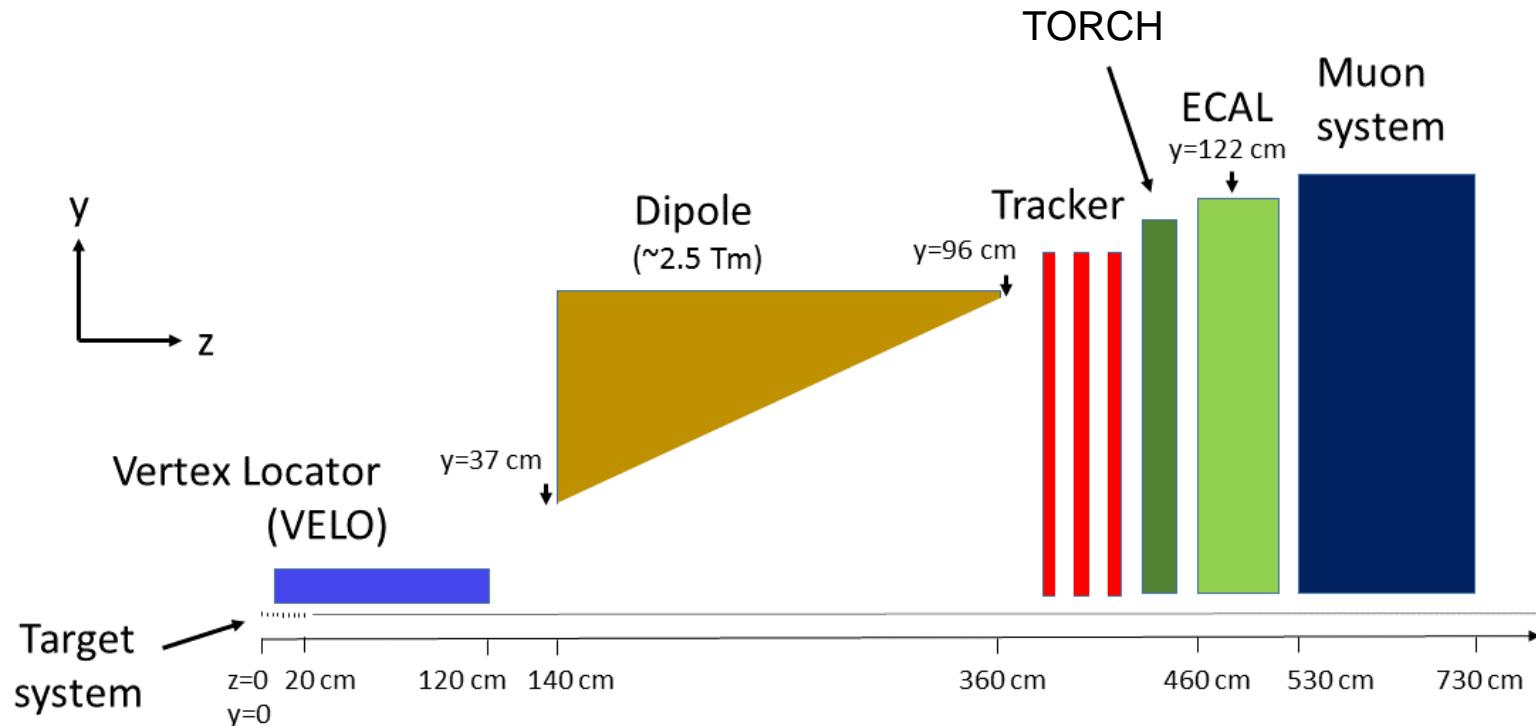
- Direct CPV in charged modes – exploit hadron ID from TORCH
- Rare decays, e.g.  $D^0 \rightarrow \mu\mu$
- Indirect CPV studies

Soft ECAL based physics, complementary to LHCb:

- CPV studies with neutrals, e.g.  $D \rightarrow \pi\pi^0$
- CPV studies with radiative Penguins, e.g.  $D \rightarrow V\gamma$
- Rare decays with neutrals, e.g.  $D \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  ( $10^{-8}$  in SM, which is just beyond Belle II's reach). Feasibility to be evaluated – relies on ECAL fast timing.

# TauFV layout

Half-view schematic of a *possible* TauFV configuration (non bending plane).



Angular acceptance:  $20 \rightarrow 260 \text{ mrad}$  (geometrical efficiency  $\sim 40\%$  for  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ ).

# Work so far / future challenges

## Infrastructure etc.:

Location identified on BDF – seems to be compatible with SHiP operation.

Radiation environment not a show-stopper.

Work on target system, including possibility of helium cooling.

## Detectors:

VELO – requires hybrid pixel sensors.

ECAL – crystal or SPACAL solution.

TORCH – for fast timing and PID.

## Physics studies:

Combinatorial background can be suppressed through good vertexing, use of distributed targets, and fast timing.

More work required to demonstrate suppression of  $D \rightarrow \mu\nu V(\mu\mu\dots)$  background.

- 
- Fast-timing (~10s ps) highly desirable.
  - High flux challenging in terms of data rates & radiation.
  - New generation of ASIC required.
  - Much synergy with LHCb Upgrade II.

# Conclusions

Search for charged LFV in third generation is extremely well motivated, and may become very high priority depending on how current anomalies evolve.

Construction of BDF would offer great opportunities for fixed-target experiment investigating LFV  $\tau$  decays (+ charm, and maybe kaon, physics).

TauFV looks a very promising concept for seizing these opportunities. All initial work looks positive, but many studies remain to be performed.

Detector challenges are significant, but great synergy with those of LHCb Upgrade II, for which R&D is intensifying.

Studies currently on hold, but ready to be resumed if and when direction of physics and political wind changes.

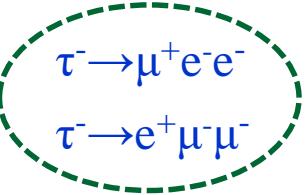
# Backups

# Other LFV/LNV physics

Other LFV tau decays which are natural goals for TauFV

$$\begin{aligned}\tau^- &\rightarrow e^- e^+ e^- \\ \tau^- &\rightarrow \mu^- e^+ e^- \\ \tau^- &\rightarrow e^- \mu^+ \mu^-\end{aligned}$$

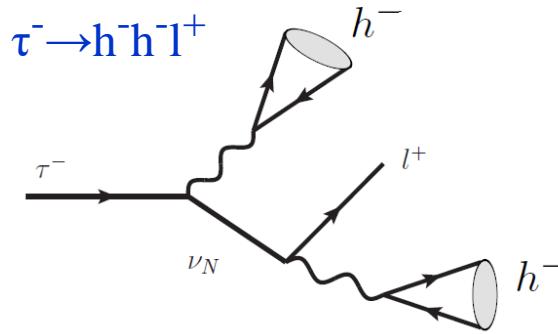
(circled)

$$\begin{aligned}\tau^- &\rightarrow \mu^+ e^- e^- \\ \tau^- &\rightarrow e^+ \mu^- \mu^-\end{aligned}$$


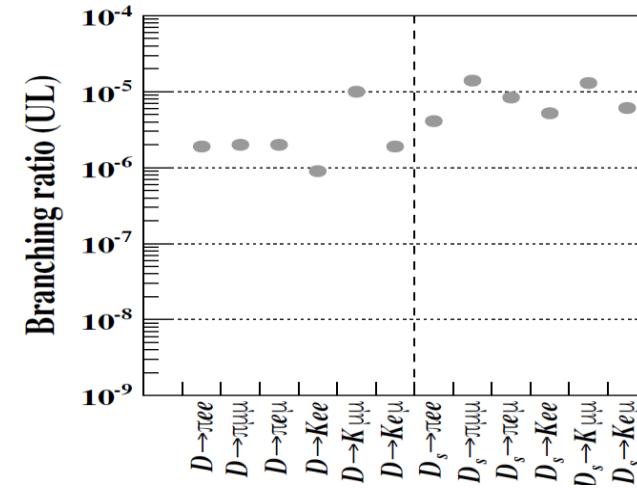
note that these decays have much lower backgrounds, so here extremely high sensitivity expected

In addition, there will be a correspondingly large sample of charm decays.

→ super precise *lepton number violation* studies in both tau and charm decays



$D \rightarrow h^- l^-$   
(and not to forget  
LFV D decays,  
e.g.  $D \rightarrow h \mu^- e^+$ )



Other possibilities under study, e.g.

LFV kaon decays, such as  $K^+$ ,  $K_L \rightarrow \pi \mu e$ , and CPV searches in hyperon decays.

# Charm: a new frontier in flavour physics

Recent discovery of CPV in charm by LHCb opens a new frontier in flavour physics.

Several theorists find the effect larger than expected in SM, e.g. [Chala *et al.*, arXiv:1903.10490].

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **122**, 211803 (2019)

Editors' Suggestion    Featured in Physics

**Observation of  $CP$  Violation in Charm Decays**

R. Aaij *et al.*<sup>\*</sup>  
(LHCb Collaboration)

(Received 21 March 2019; revised manuscript received 2 May 2019; published 29 May 2019)

$$\Delta A_{CP} = (-15.4 \pm 2.9) \times 10^{-4}$$

Whether SM or New Physics, precision studies of CPV in charm now essential !

- Improve precision of existing measurements
- Look for direct CPV in other modes
- Search for indirect CPV (theoretically cleaner)

LHCb upgrades have excellent potential in all these areas, but importance of topic mandates a second experiment to validate findings, & with *complementary* strengths.

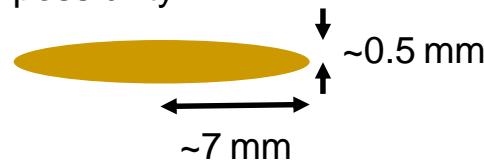
Belle II is *very* unlikely to have necessary stat. precision, e.g.  $\sigma(\Delta A_{CP}) \approx 6 \times 10^{-4}$  with  $50 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  [arXiv:1808.10567]. The *only* experiment which will have is TauFV ! ( $\sim 10^5 \times$  more  $D^0$ 's produced than at Belle II – see backups for more discussion).

# Beam profile and target arrangement

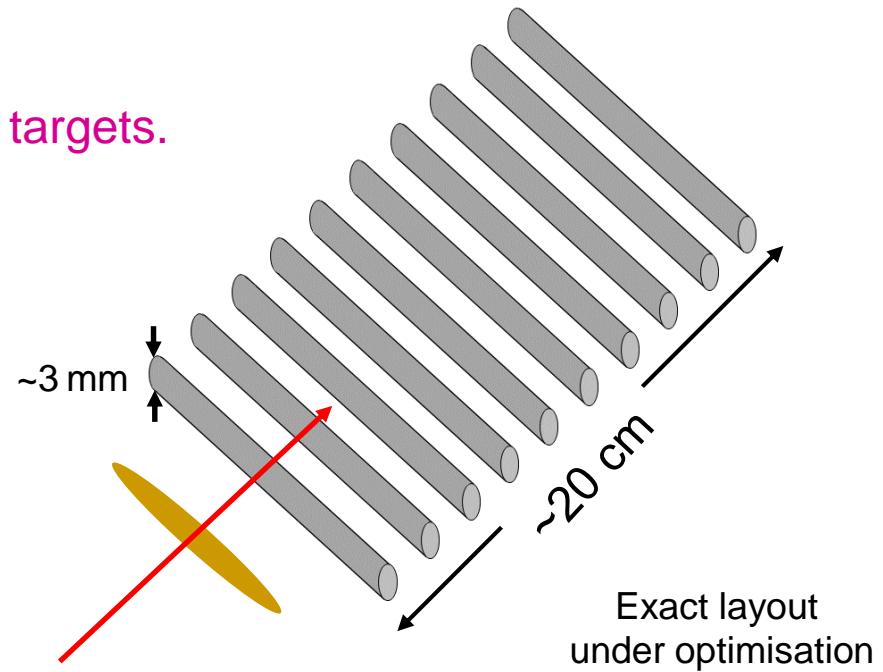
Key idea:

Squeeze beam profile to make compatible with wire (or blade)-like targets.

one possibility



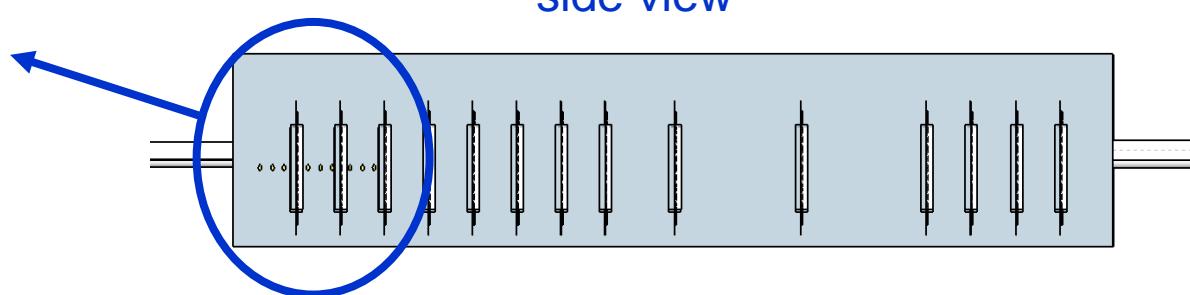
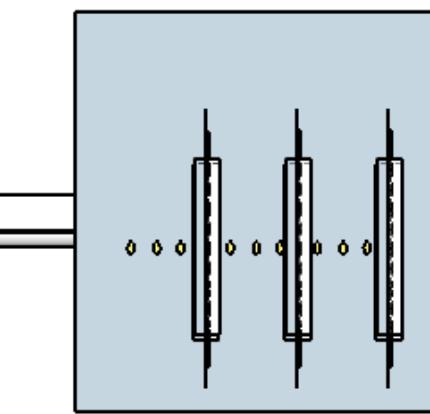
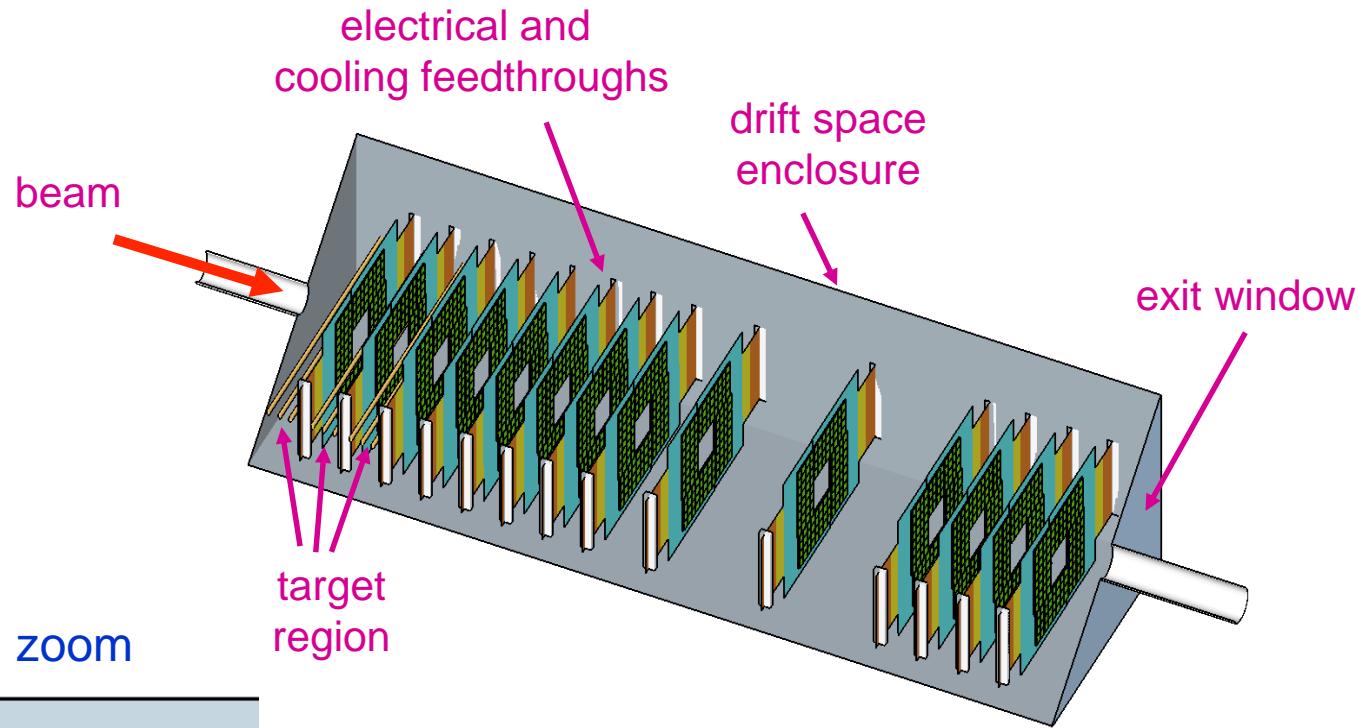
Allows for several wires, with much reduced shadowing effects compared to circular profile and disc-like targets.



Advantages of distributed target system and wide beam in one dimension:

- Separates out interactions → invaluable for combinatoric bckgd suppression.
- Mild benefits for damping peak rates and dose in VELO.

# Target and VELO region

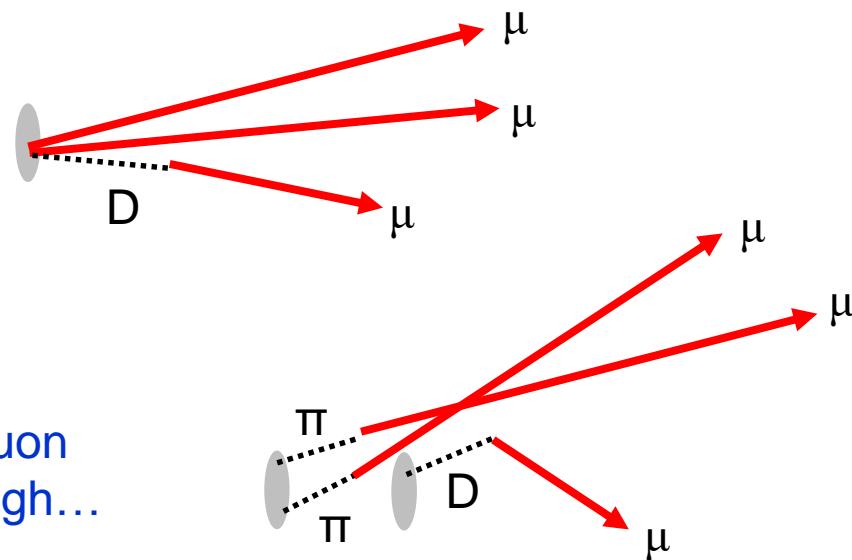


# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : combinatoric background

$\tau$  LFV searches at Belle II will be extremely clean, with very little background (if any), thanks to pair production and double-tag analysis technique. In contrast, TauFV (& hadron collider experiments) must contend with two background sources.

## 1) Combinatorics

e.g. from wrong association  
of EM produced dimuons  
and with muon from D decay...



...or mis-association of genuine muon  
with decays in flight or punch through...

...or random association of three decays in flight etc.

# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : combatting combinatoric background

Suppressing this background relies on usual tools of a flavour-physics experiment, in particular:

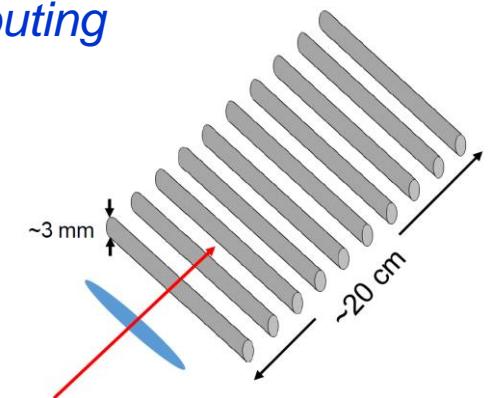
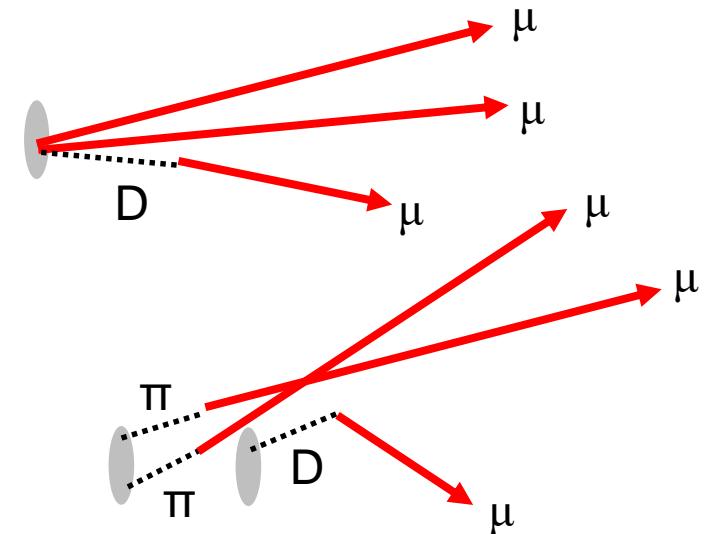
- high performance vertex detector
- good mass resolution

Muon candidates must possess good quality vertex, downstream of target, and tracks must have impact parameter relative to found interaction vertices.

*Distributed target and wide beamspot very helpful in distributing out interactions and reducing fake combinations !*

Also essential is role of *fast timing* provided by VELO, TORCH (~20ps) and ECAL. Spill takes place over ~1s and so precision timing gives *extremely powerful discrimination* between random associations.

Studies assuming ~5 targets, reasonable vertex resolution, and timing resolution as above, indicate this background will be sub-dominant and have very small impact on  $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$  search, even down to BRs of  $1 \times 10^{-10}$  !

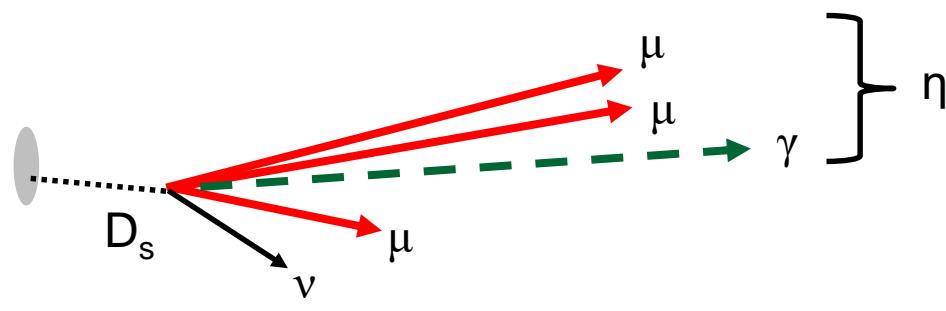


# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : specific charm backgrounds

$\tau$  LFV searches at Belle II will be extremely clean, with very little background (if any), thanks to pair production and double-tag analysis technique. In contrast, TauFV (& hadron collider experiments) must contend with two background sources.

## 2) Specific charm backgrounds

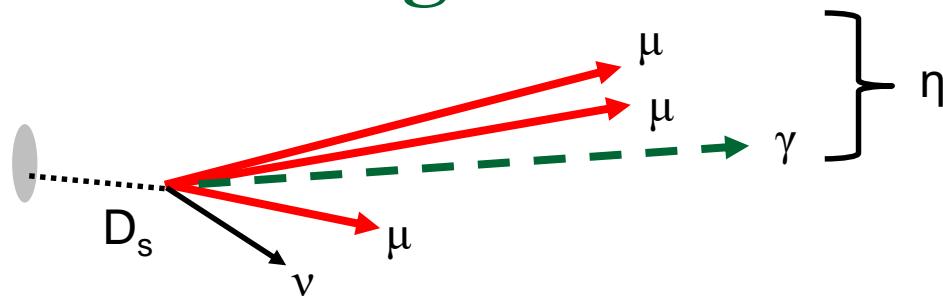
Genuine tri-muon vertices arise from D and  $D_s$  semi-leptonic decays, followed by an EM transitions, e.g.  $D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$



Background modes normalised to  $D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$  (BR  $\sim 10^{-5}$ )

Decay channel	Relative abundance
$D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	1
$D_s \rightarrow \phi(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.87
$D_s \rightarrow \eta'(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \omega(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.06
$D \rightarrow \rho(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.05

# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : combatting charm backgrounds

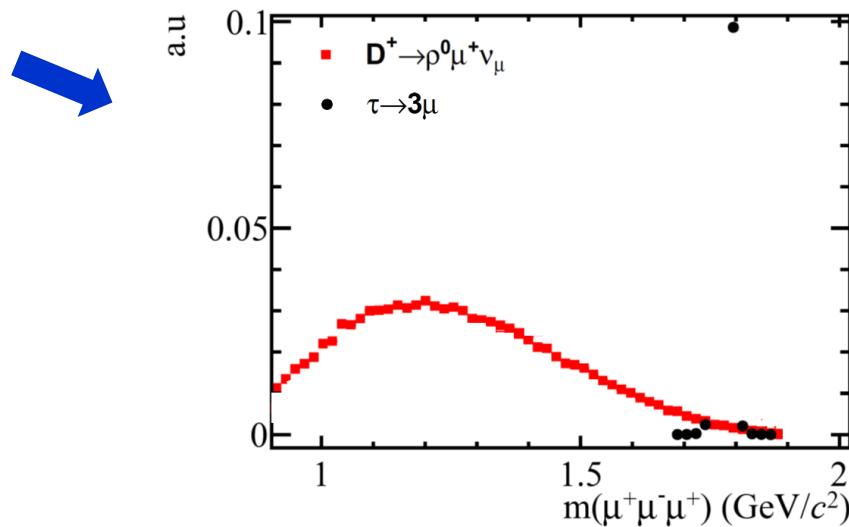


Mode	Relative abundance
$D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	1
$D_s \rightarrow \varphi(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.87
$D_s \rightarrow \eta'(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \omega(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.06
$D \rightarrow \rho(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.05

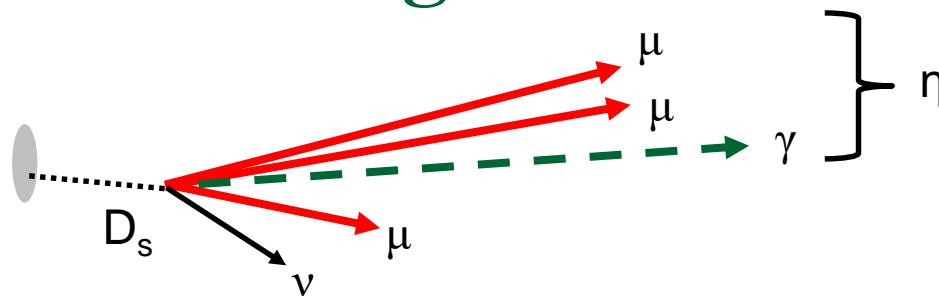
These backgrounds afflict  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\mu^-$  searches in hadronic environment (but are absent for modes such as  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+e^-e^-$ ). Various tools are available.

- Invariant mass of candidate

Provides suppression factor of up to 100, depending on mode.



# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : combatting charm backgrounds



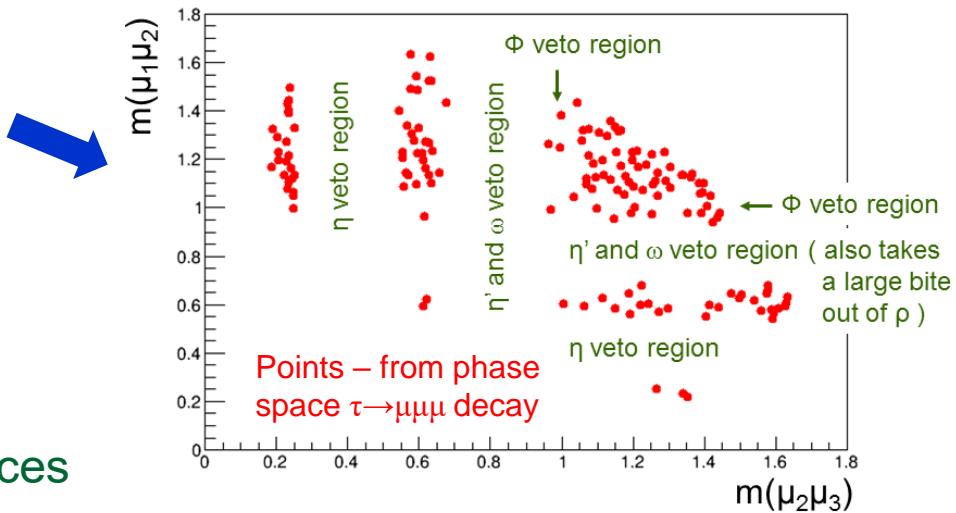
Mode	Relative abundance
$D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	1
$D_s \rightarrow \varphi(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.87
$D_s \rightarrow \eta'(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \omega(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.06
$D \rightarrow \rho(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.05

These backgrounds afflict  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \mu^-$  searches in hadronic environment (but are absent for modes such as  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+ e^- e^-$ ). Various tools are available.

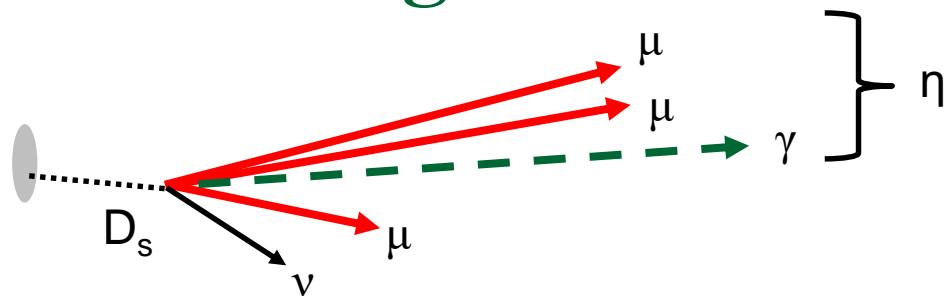
- Invariant mass of candidate
- Invariant mass of dimuon pairs

Can essentially eliminate *all* backgrounds (apart from wide  $\rho$ ), whilst retaining 25% of signal, assuming phase space decay.

But this a ‘blunt weapon’ as introduces model-dependence into result.



# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : combatting charm backgrounds

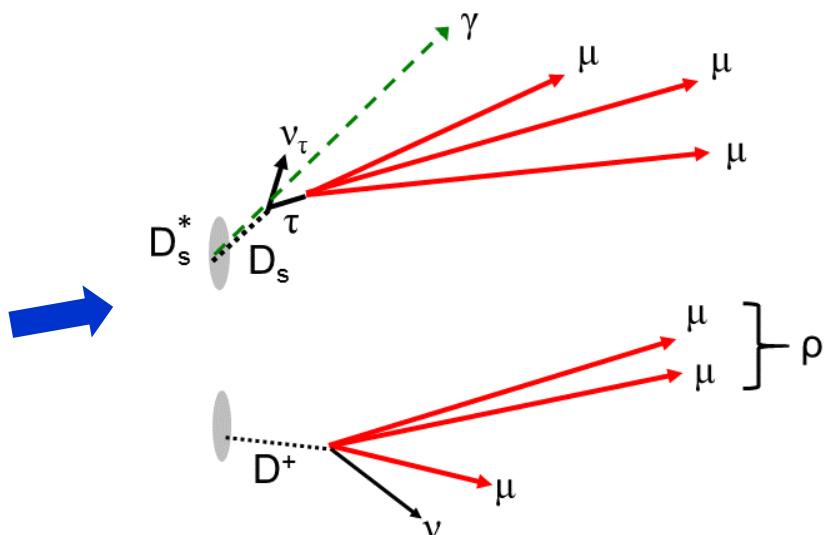


Mode	Relative abundance
$D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	1
$D_s \rightarrow \varphi(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.87
$D_s \rightarrow \eta'(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \omega(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.06
$D \rightarrow \rho(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.05

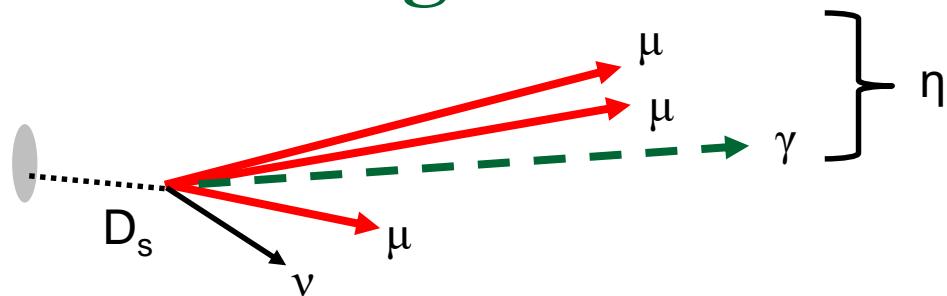
These backgrounds afflict  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \mu^-$  searches in hadronic environment (but are absent for modes such as  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+ e^- e^-$ ). Various tools are available.

- Invariant mass of candidate
- Invariant mass of dimuon pairs
- Photon veto for  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  modes
- Photon tag to select  $D_s^* \rightarrow D_s(\rightarrow \tau v)\gamma$

Suppresses all non- $D_s$  backgrounds;  
useful for combatting dangerous  
 $D^+ \rightarrow \rho(\rightarrow \mu\mu)\mu\nu$  contamination.



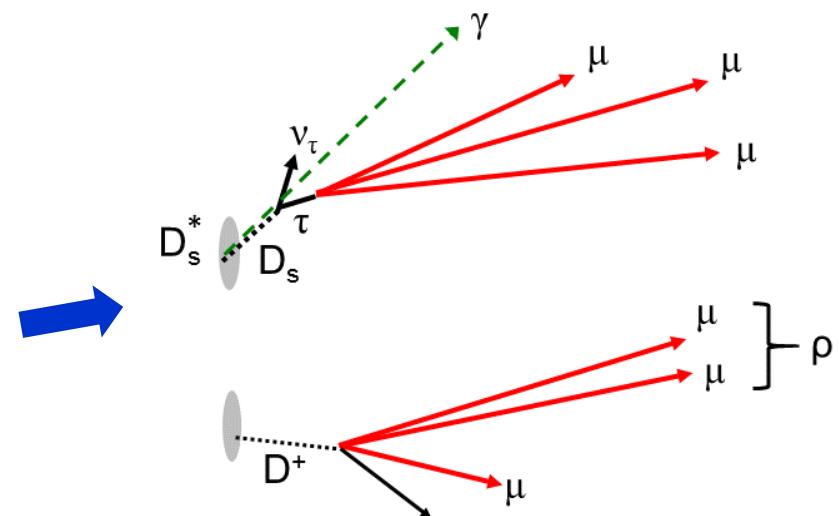
# $\tau \rightarrow \mu\mu\mu$ : combatting charm backgrounds



Mode	Relative abundance
$D_s \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	1
$D_s \rightarrow \varphi(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.87
$D_s \rightarrow \eta'(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \eta(\mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$	0.13
$D \rightarrow \omega(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.06
$D \rightarrow \rho(\mu\mu)\mu\nu$	0.05

These backgrounds afflict  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^- \mu^-$  searches in hadronic environment (but are absent for modes such as  $\tau \rightarrow \mu^+ e^- e^-$ ). Various tools are available.

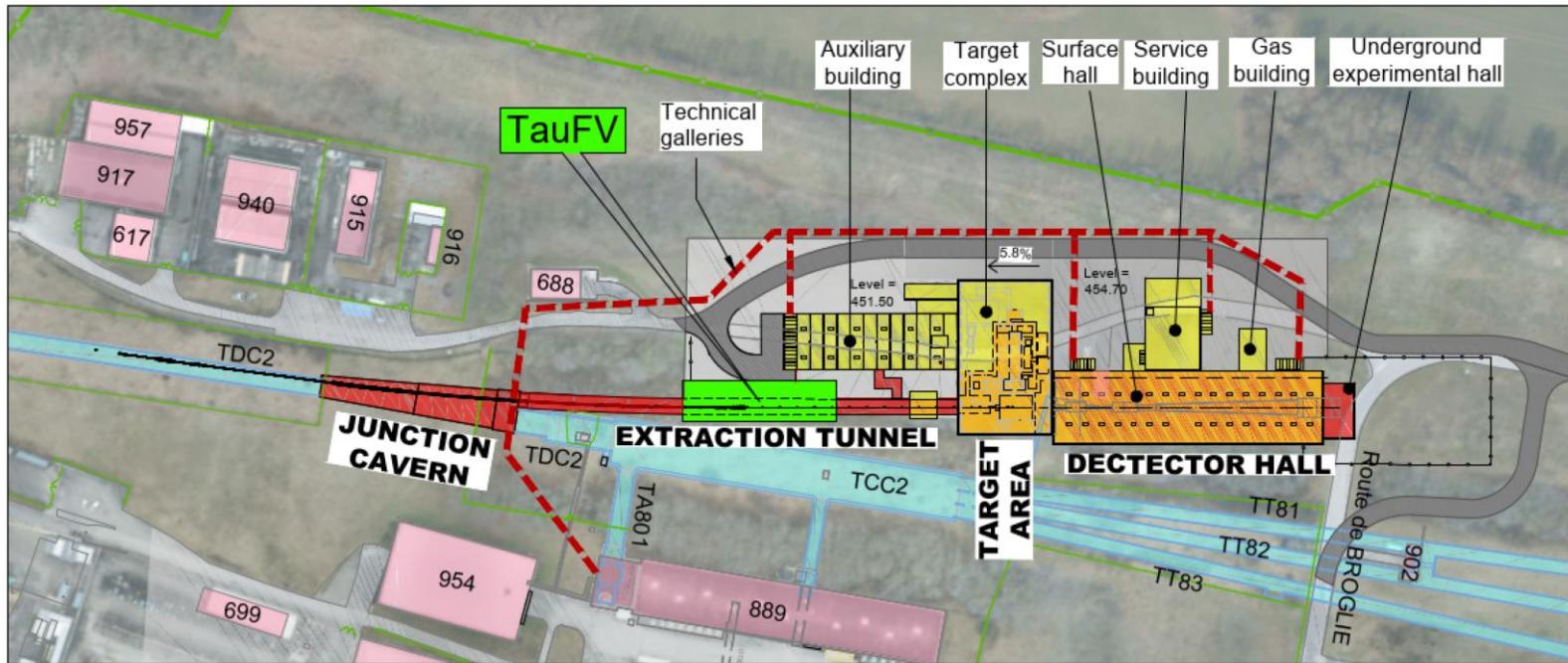
- Invariant mass of candidate
- Invariant mass of dimuon pairs
- Photon veto for  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  modes
- Photon tag to select  $D_s^* \rightarrow D_s(\rightarrow \tau\nu)\gamma$
- Kinematics relating interaction and decay vertices



Cut-based studies in progress (full power will come from MVA approach), but we are confident that sensitivities to BRs of a few  $10^{-10}$  are attainable.

# Location, beam and environment studies

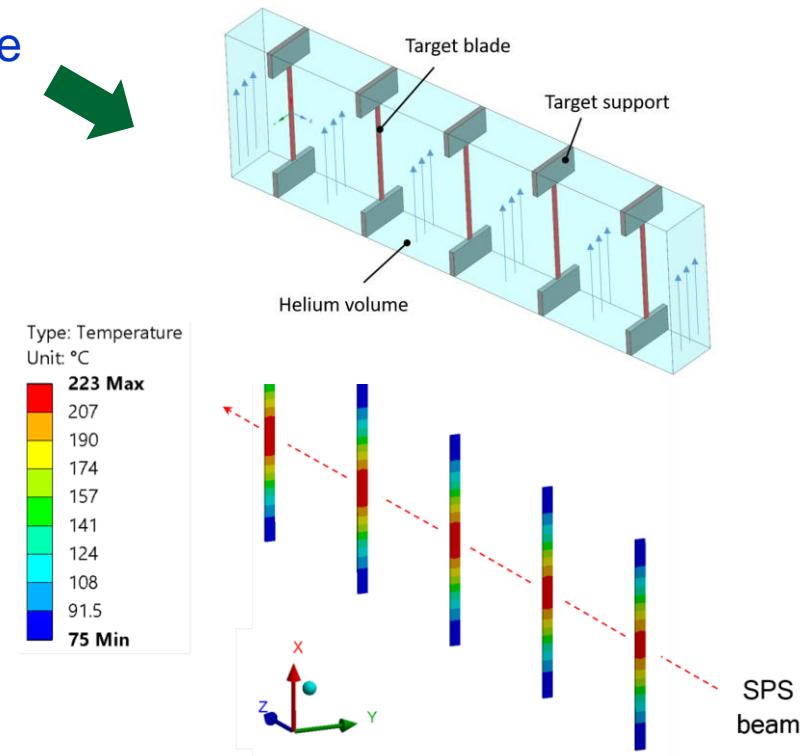
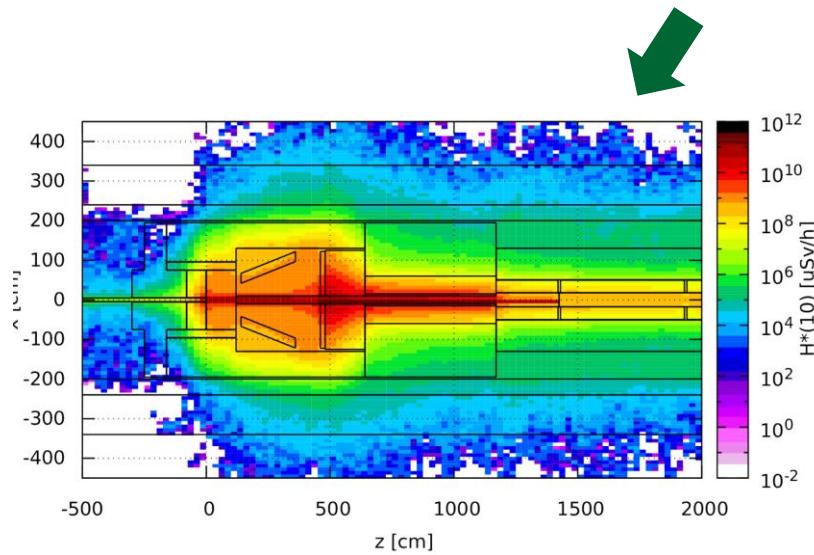
Several candidate locations have been identified in BDF, the most promising of which is around 100 m upstream of SHiP target bunker. This would provide adequate ‘drift space’ for experiment between beam line elements, and also appears suitable from point of view of shielding, access, services etc.



# Location, beam and environment studies

Enormous effort from the BDF team and associated experts at CERN.  
Preliminary studies on a wide range of issues. Those checked for far:

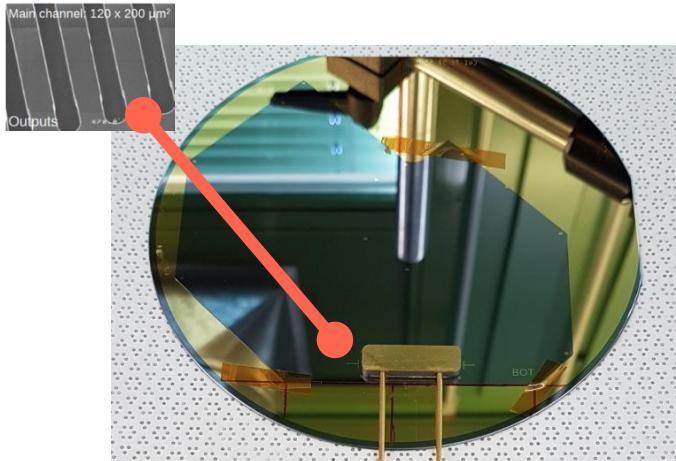
- TauFV dipole compatible with beam optics for SHiP (but compensator needed)
- ‘Squashed’ beam profile achievable
- Dipole polarity inversion possible (for systematic checks and CPV studies)
- Helium cooled target system looks feasible
- Radiation environment for beamline OK



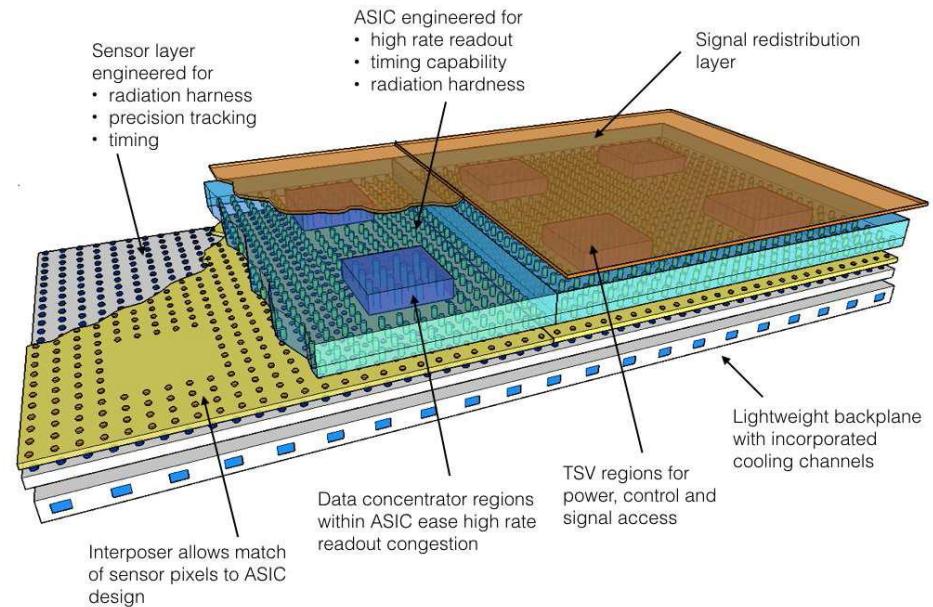
# VELO stations

For each VELO station we intend to use modules constructed of hybrid pixel sensors, very similar in design to those being installed in LHCb Upgrade I.

Lightweight and compact, e.g.  
benefiting from state-of-the-art  
microchannel  $\text{CO}_2$  cooling.



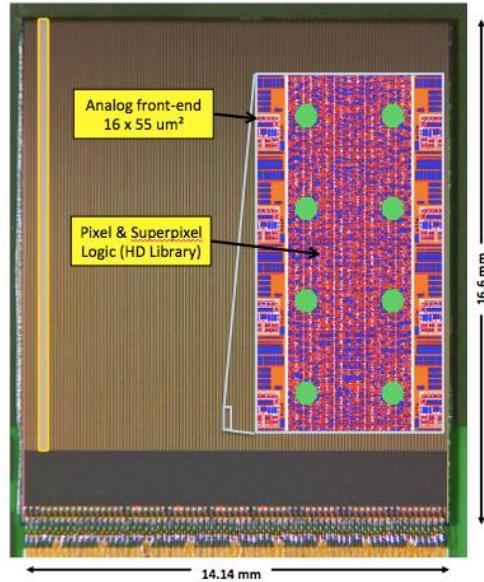
Innovations required for TauFV very  
similar to those required for LHCb  
Upgrade II. Aim for ~50 ps timing.



Sensor-cooler-ASIC assembly.  
Principal challenge: ASIC (see backups)

# VELO ASIC

Thinking underway on requirements and possibility for frontend ASIC of VELO.



the VeloPix

	VeloPix (2016)	Timepix4 (imminent)	PicoPix ? (2025)
Technology	130 nm	65 nm	28 nm
Pixel Size	55 x 55 μm	55 x 55 μm	55 x 55 μm
Pixel arrangement	3-side buttable 256 x 256	4-side buttable 512 x 448	4-side buttable 256 x 256
Sensitive area	1.98 cm²	6.94 cm²	1.98 cm²
Event packet	24 bit	64-bit	32-bit
Max rate	~400 Mhits/cm²/s	178.8 Mhits/cm²/s	~12000 Mhits/cm²/s
Best time resolution	25 ns	~200ps	~50 ps
Readout bandwidth	19.2 Gb/s	81.92 Gb/s	~600 Gb/s

Fruitful collaboration with the Medipix group has yielded the VeloPix ASIC for the LHCb Upgrade I. A new generation chip, the Timepix4, with impressive fast timing capabilities is scheduled to appear soon. Our requirements are more demanding still – working title the ‘PicoPix’ (still at conceptual stage)

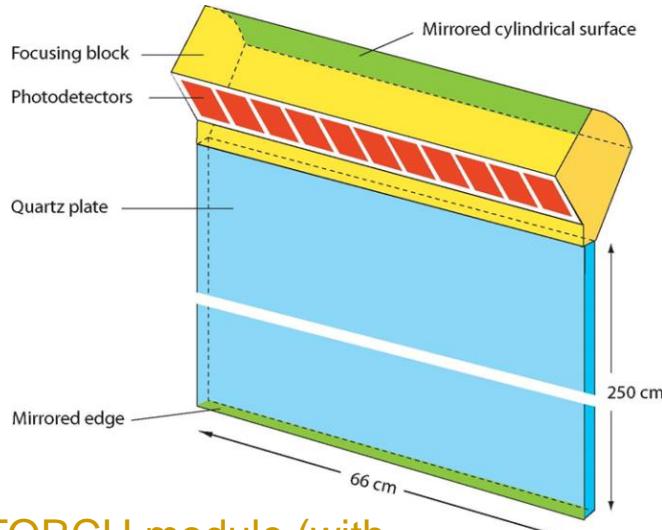
# TORCH: Timing of Internally Reflected Cherenkov light

TORCH can provide ultra-precise time-of-flight measurements over large area. [NIM A639 (2011) 173, arXiv:1009.3793]. Attractive for fast-timing measurements and low-momentum particle identification. Under evaluation for future LHCb Upgrades.

Following on from an original ERC grant, R&D is continuing as standalone project involving CERN, Oxford, industry (PHOTEX), Bristol, Warwick, Edinburgh & Bath.

- Goal is to achieve 70 ps resolution per photon, which gives 10-15 ps per track.
- Demonstrator module has achieved ~80 ps [NIM A908 (2018) 256; arXiv:1805.04849].

A large-scale prototype now exists, which recently collected data in CERN beam test.



TORCH module (with LHCb-suitable dimensions)

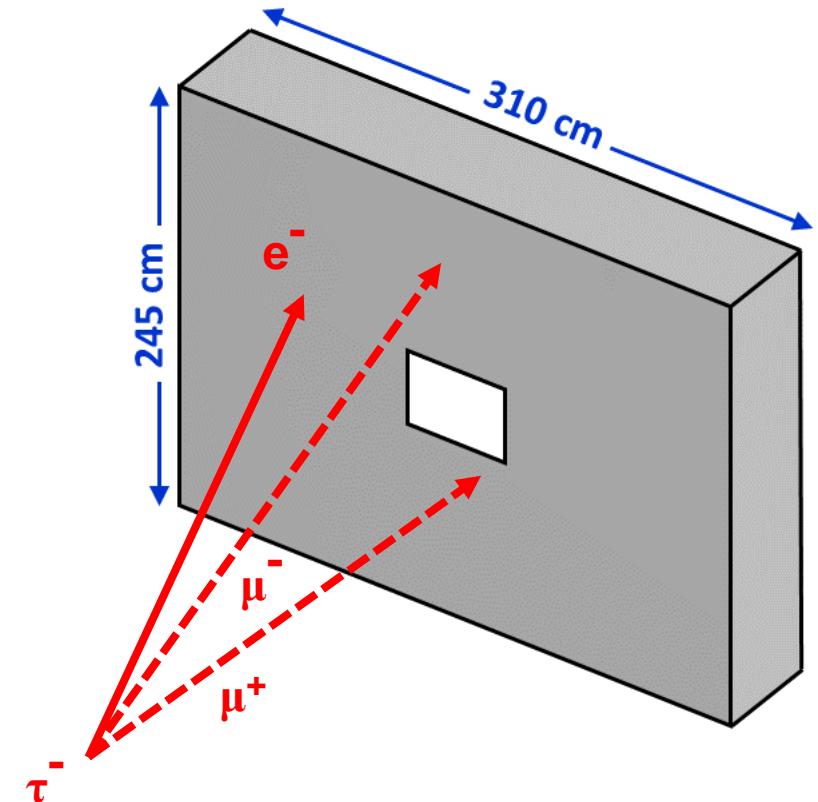


Quartz plate for prototype at CERN  
(half height w.r.t. LHCb requirements)

# Calorimeter

Electromagnetic calorimeter will serve various purposes in experiment:

- Select forbidden tau and D decays with electrons;
- Tag  $D_s^* \rightarrow D_s(\rightarrow \tau\nu)\gamma$  decays;
- Veto D &  $D_s$  decays with photons, e.g.  $D_s \rightarrow \eta(\rightarrow \mu\mu\gamma)\mu\nu$ ;
- Select CPV and rare D decays involving photons,  $\pi^0$  and  $\eta$  mesons.



Studies are ongoing to establish precise requirements in terms of energy resolution, longitudinal shower sampling, and spatial and pointing resolution. Also require fast timing resolution (< 100 ps) & high radiation tolerance (>100 Mrad).

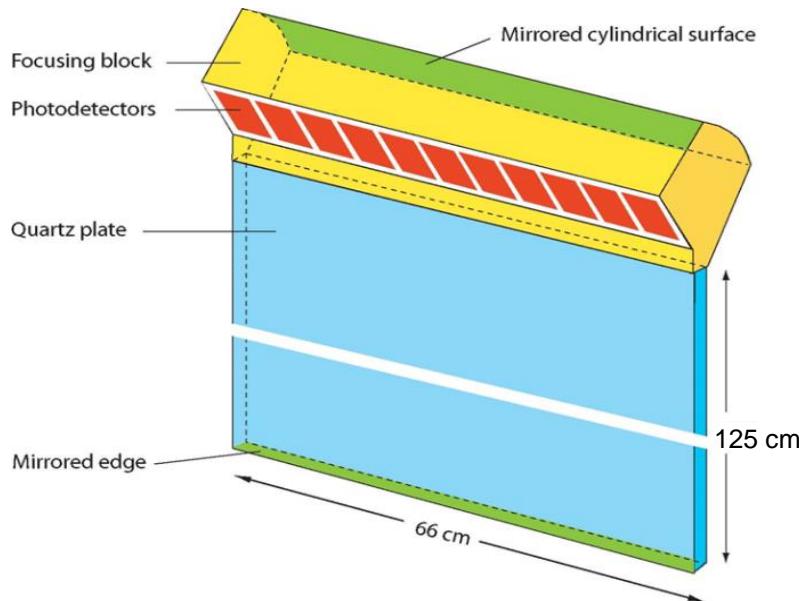
Many of these goals are common with requirements of LHCb Upgrade II, and a common R&D programme is now underway (see backups).

# TORCH: Timing of Internally Reflected Cherenkov light

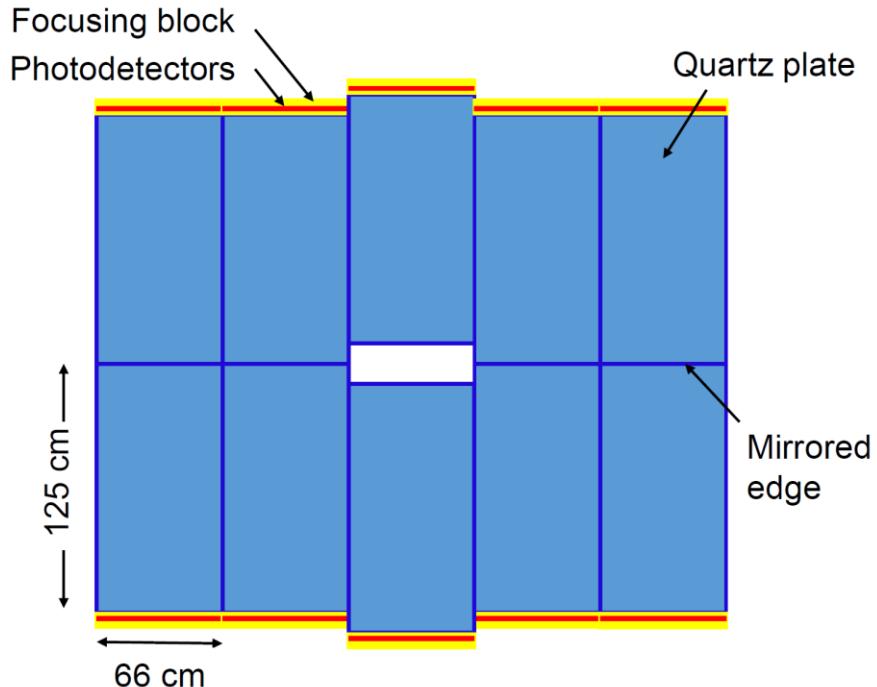
TORCH a very attractive technology for TauFV:

- Fast timing will be invaluable in combinatoric suppression;
- Particle identification will enable charm physics CPV studies;
- Very compact and intrinsically radiation hard.

TORCH module of TauFV-suitable dimensions – identical to prototype !



TORCH system in TauFV, comprising 10 modules

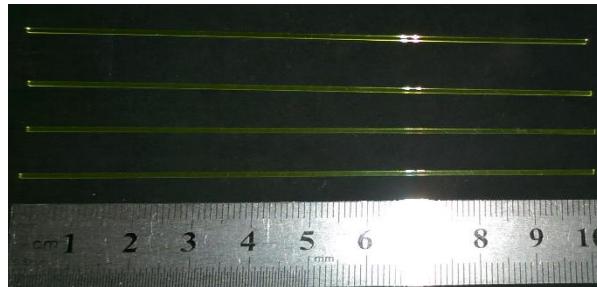


# Calorimeter: possible technologies

## Sampling calorimeter, e.g. SPACAL

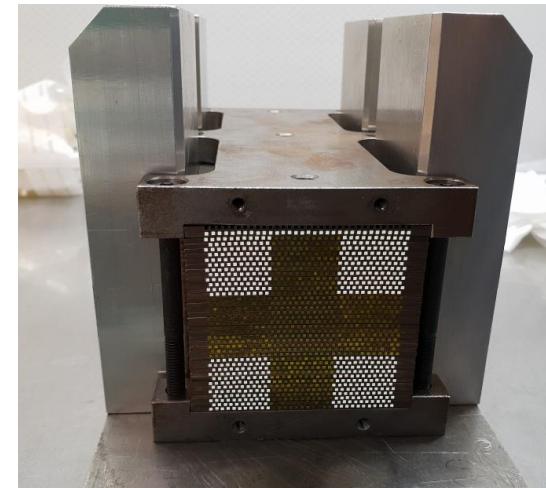
- No need for WLS fibres, instead radiation hard GAGG fibre can both produce and transport the scintillation light.
- Tungsten or tungsten alloy absorber results in extremely compact shower – very well suited to high particle flux at TauFV.

Prototype module constructed and evaluated in beam test at CERN.



GAGG fibres

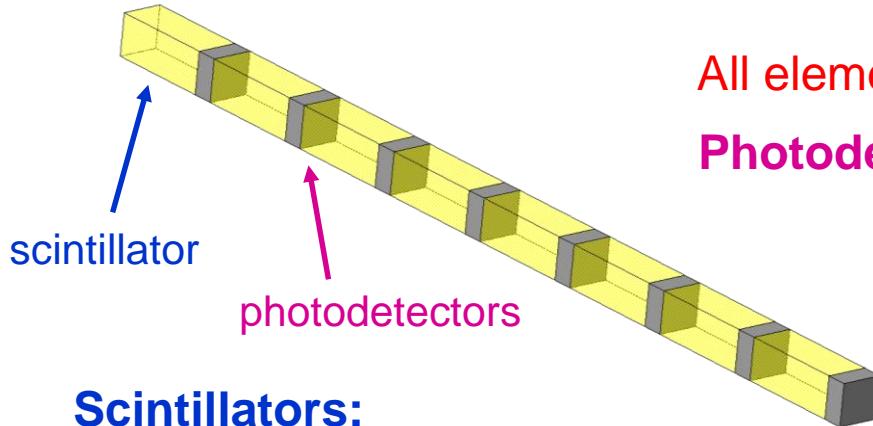
Analysis underway, but preliminary results indicate for energy resolution a sampling term of  $5\text{-}10\%/\sqrt{E}$  [GeV] is achievable, & time resolution of  $\sim 30$  ps.



Prototype module containing cells made with variety of fibre materials, incld. GAGG.

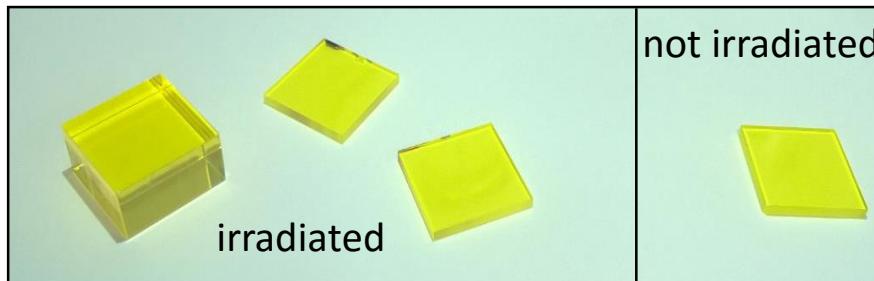
# Calorimeter: possible technologies

## Homogenous crystal module (with longitudinal readout as an option)



### Scintillators:

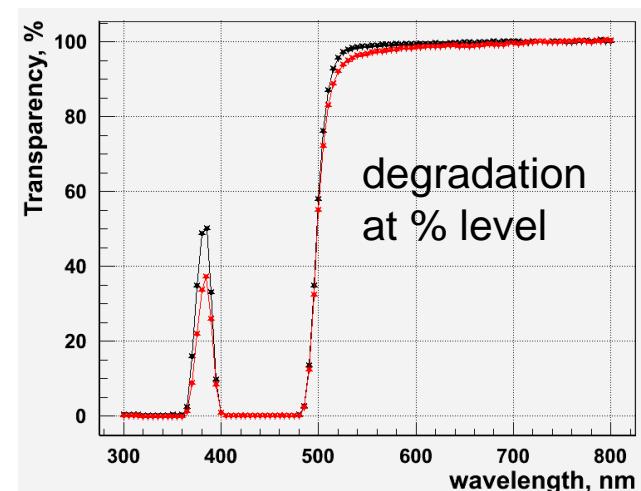
Crystals with orthosilicate & garnet structure (e.g. YAG and GAGG) have high light yield. We are studying their radiation hardness and time response with different dopings.



All elements must be very rad hard

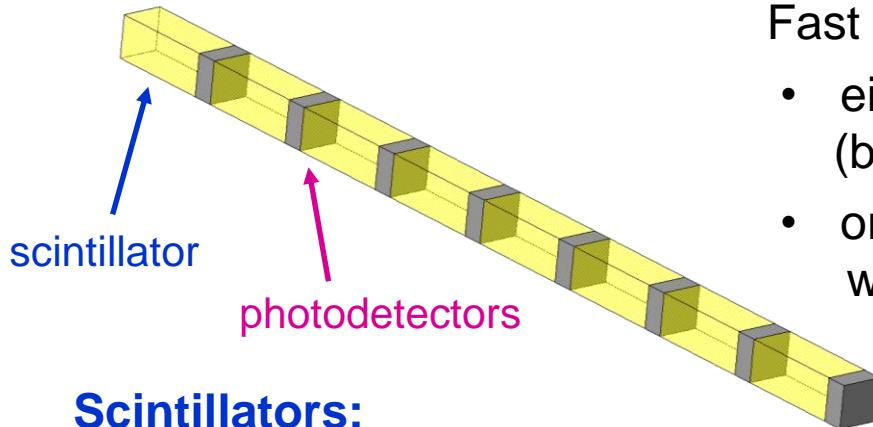
**Photodetectors:** GaAs photo diodes may be a good option – under evaluation.

Study of transparency of 1 cm sample **before** and **after** ~100 Mrad irradiation.



# Calorimeter: possible technologies

## Homogenous crystal module (with longitudinal readout as an option)

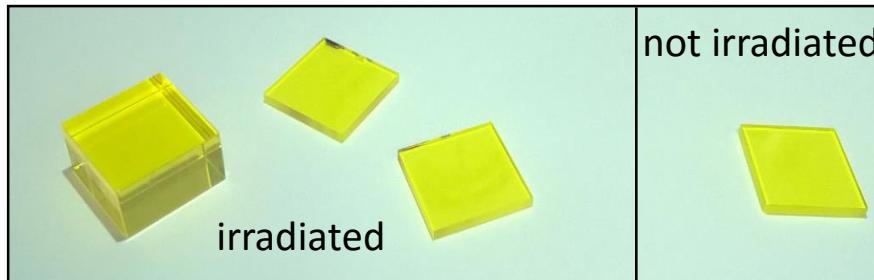


Fast timing to be provided by:

- either, leading edge of light pulse  
(beam tests underway)
- or, silicon pads in pre-shower detector, which  
would also yield precise pointing information  
(~mrad resolution helpful in bckgd rejection)

## Scintillators:

Crystals with orthosilicate & garnet structure  
(e.g. YAG and GAGG) have high light yield.  
We are studying their radiation hardness  
and time response with different dopings.



Study of transparency of 1 cm sample  
**before** and **after** ~100 Mrad irradiation.

