## Tau physics at Belle II

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an Alpine Particle Physics Symposium



### Why Taus?

#### The odd one in the charged lepton family!

- heaviest of the charged leptons
  - 3500 times more massive than electron
- shortest lifetime
  - 10<sup>-7</sup> times smaller lifetime than muon
- only lepton that decays into hadrons
  - ~ 250 decay modes!



#### The big question:

- does new physics preferentially couple to the 3rd generation!
- How can we answer this?
  - **precision measurements** of the tau properties
    - tau lepton mass, lifetime, branching ratios
    - deviations from SM: indirect signs of NP
  - searches for **forbidden decays** of tau
    - observation would be direct sign of NP
    - lepton flavor violating (LFV) decays:

• 
$$\tau \rightarrow \ell V^0, \tau \rightarrow \ell \ell \ell, \tau \rightarrow \ell \gamma, \ldots$$

• *τ*→ℓα

#### Tau leptons at B factories

#### • Experimental requirements:

- good missing energy reconstruction
  - clean and well understood initial state
  - hermetic detector
- excellent vertexing and tracking capabilities
- ability to trigger low-multiplicity event

#### • These are all met at B factories!

 tau pair production cross section comparable to that of B pairs

 $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S)) = 1.11 \text{ nb}$  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-) = 0.92 \text{ nb}$ 

⇒ B Factories are also tau factories!



### SuperKEKB and Belle II

#### • SuperKEKB accelerator

- energy-asymmetric e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>−</sup> collider located in Tsukuba, Japan
- running at (and near) m(Υ(4S))=10.58 GeV
- world record inst. lumi of  $4.7 \times 10^{34}$  cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>

#### • Belle II detector

- data collected since 2019: 428 fb<sup>-1</sup>
- currently in long shutdown
- expected to restart by the end 2023



#### Today:

### • Direct searches:

- search for an invisible BSM boson ( $\alpha$ ) :  $\tau$ → $\ell\alpha$
- LFV violating decay of tau:  $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$
- Precision measurement:
  - tau lepton mass



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#### search for BSM boson: $\tau \rightarrow \ell \alpha$



# $\vec{T} = max\left(\sum_{i} \frac{\vec{p_i} \cdot \hat{T}}{|p_i|}\right)$



#### • Motivation:

- $\circ$   $\alpha$  could be any invisible spin-0 boson, light ALP, etc..
- current best limits set by ARGUS (476 pb<sup>-1</sup>)
- Common strategy:
  - split event in two hemispheres based on the thrust axis
  - use 3x1-prong decays (3 track on one side, 1 track on the other)
- tag side:  $\tau \rightarrow \pi \pi \pi \nu$ :
- signal side:  $\tau \rightarrow \ell \alpha$ ,  $\ell = e, \mu$
- Challenge:
  - irreducible background:  $\tau \rightarrow \ell \nu \nu$
  - but we can exploit the <u>shape differences</u>:
     3-body decay vs. 2-body decay of signal

### $\tau \rightarrow l\alpha$ : the "pseudo-rest-frame"



### $\tau \rightarrow \ell \alpha$ : results

- Using 62.8 fb<sup>-1</sup> no signal is observed...
  - 95% CL upper limits are set on  $B(\tau \rightarrow \ell \alpha)/B(\tau \rightarrow \ell \nu \nu)$  using asymptotic CLs method.



⇒ Most stringent limits in these channels to date! (2-14 times more constraining than Argus)





### • Direct searches:

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### search for LFV decay: $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$

- Motivation:
  - highly suppressed in SM (~10<sup>-50</sup>)
  - leptoquark models predict BF of up to 10<sup>-8</sup>-10<sup>-10</sup>
- Challenge:
  - keep signal efficiency high while suppressing the bkg
- Signal side: τ→ℓφ
  - $\ell = e, \mu \text{ and } \phi \rightarrow K^{+}K^{-}$  (~50% BF of  $\phi$ )
- Tag side: inclusive (novel approach)
  - everything except for signal: "Rest of Event" (RoE)
  - RoE and signal kinematics in BDT classifier to suppress the continuum backgrounds
- signal efficiency of 6.1% (6.5%) for  $e(\mu)$  channel
- The trick: no neutrino in the signal tau decay
  - Inv. mass on the signal side (M<sub>sig</sub>) is expected to peak at actual tau mass!
  - $\Delta E_{sig} = E_{sig}^* \sqrt{s/2}$  expected to peak at zero for signal





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### search for LFV decay: $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$

- Background estimation
  - using data in the reduced sidebands
  - obtain transfer factor from simulation

Result	Region	Mode		
	Region	$e\phi$	$\mu\phi$	
$N_{\mathrm{exp}}^{\mathrm{backgrou}}$	and SR	$0.23^{+0.55}_{-0.21} { m\ stat}$	$0.36^{+0.39}_{-0.23}~{ m stat}$	
$N_{ m obs}$	$\mathbf{SR}$	$2.0^{+2.6}_{-1.3}  m \ stat$	$0.0^{+1.8}_{-0.0}$ stat	



### $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$ : the results





### • Direct searches:

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### tau lepton mass measurement

- The why:
  - lepton masses are fundamental parameters of SM
    - tau mass uncertainty is ~10<sup>3</sup> worse than m( $\mu$ )
  - tau mass (and lifetime) uncertainties are important for lepton flavor universality (LFU) tests of SM





- energy scan around the tau pair production threshold
- extract the mass from the dependence of cross section on collision energy
- used by BESIII (most precise in the PDG)
- Pseudomass method (used here)

 $\tau \rightarrow \pi \pi \pi \nu$ 

- developed by ARGUS, and used at BaBar, Belle and Belle II
- exploit the kinematics of the  $3\pi$  system in the



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## Pseudomass (M<sub>min</sub>) method

- The challenge:
  - the tau mass cannot be accessed directly due to the presence of the neutrinos...
- The trick:
  - use 3-prong decays of tau:  $\tau \rightarrow \pi \pi \pi \nu$
  - make some simple assumptions:
    - $E_{\tau} \approx \sqrt{s/2}$  (true up to ISR/FSR)
    - neutrinos: massless and
    - collinear with the  $3\pi$  system (this minimizes the tau inv. mass)

$$M_{\min} = \sqrt{M_{3\pi}^2 + 2(\sqrt{s}/2 - E_{3\pi}^*)(E_{3\pi}^* - P_{3\pi}^*)} \le M_{\tau}$$

- The nice part:
  - This variable has a kinematic edge at the tau mass!
- not so nice:
  - there is a large tail from ISR/FSR and detector resolution
  - we need to extract the mass from the threshold position



#### extracting the mass

- The method:
  - Use an empirical fit function to extract the mass:

$$F(M_{\min}) = 1 - P_3 \cdot \arctan\left(\frac{M_{\min} - P_1}{P_2}\right) + P_4(M_{\min} - P_1) + P_5(M_{\min} - P_1)^2$$

- $\circ$  P<sub>1</sub>: depends on the position of threshold
- $P_2$ : the slope of the threshold
- $P_3 P_5$ : the shape away the threshold

#### P<sub>1</sub> is an estimator of tau mass!

- This is a biased estimator of 0.40 MeV, determined from simulation samples, with various generated tau masses
- **~3x smaller bias** compare to Belle and BaBar (they had slightly different parameterizations)
- The bias can also depend on the overall shape of the distribution as well



### A bit of history:

- Historically, the systematics have been dominated by:
  - momentum scale of the tracks
  - beam energy scale

$$M_{\rm min} = \sqrt{|M_{3\pi}|^2 + 2(\sqrt{s/2} - |E_{3\pi}^*|)(E_{3\pi}^* - P_{3\pi}^*|)}$$

#### Belle (414 fb<sup>-1</sup>) <u>arXiv:hep-ex/0608046</u>

TABLE I: Summary of systematic uncertainties

Source of systematics	$\sigma$ , MeV/ $c^2$	
Beam energy and tracking system	0.26	
Edge parameterization	0.18	
Limited MC statistics	0.14	
Fit range	0.04	
Momentum resolution	0.02	
Model of $\tau \to 3\pi\nu_{\tau}$	0.02	
Background	0.01	
Total	0.35	
stat:	0.13	MeV

#### BaBar (423 fb<sup>-1</sup>) arXiv:0909.3562

TABLE VII: Systematic uncertainties in  $M_{\tau}$ .

Source	Uncertainty (MeV)
Momentum Reconstruction	0.39
CM Energy	0.09
MC Modeling	0.05
MC Statistics	0.05
Fit Range	0.05
Parameterization	0.03
Total	0.41
stat:	0.12 MeV

⇒ Challenge for Belle II: improve the understanding of these effects and squeeze the systematics! (also... only 190/fb used here!)

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### Tau mass systematics: momentum scale

- Momentum of the  $3\pi$ 's is an important ingredient in the  $M_{min}$ !
- We use  $D^0 \rightarrow K\pi$  as a standard candle!
  - get scale factors (SF) for K and  $\pi$  based on difference in peak position and PDG value of D<sup>0</sup>
    - phase-space dependent SFs: as a function of charge and cos(θ) of the tracks
  - various systematic effects included for the SF's:
    - m(D<sup>0</sup>) PDG uncertainty
    - peak position modelling
    - additional kinematical dependence
    - detector misalignment
- Use other mass peaks as cross check:  $D^0 \rightarrow K\pi\pi\pi$ ,  $J/\psi \rightarrow \mu\mu$ ,  $K_s^0 \rightarrow \pi\pi$ ,  $D^{\pm} \rightarrow K\pi\pi_{\Gamma}^1$

$$M_{\min} = \sqrt{M_{3\pi}^2 + 2(\sqrt{s/2} - E_{3\pi}^*)(E_{3\pi}^* - P_{3\pi}^*)}$$



⇒ impact on tau mass: 0.06 MeV

### Tau mass systematics: energy scale



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#### Tau mass measurement: results

Source	$\frac{\text{Uncertainty}}{[\text{ MeV}/c^2]}$
Knowledge of the colliding beams:	
Beam energy correction	0.07
Boost vector	$\leq 0.01$
Reconstruction of charged particles:	
Charged particle momentum correction	0.06
Detector misalignment	0.03
Fitting procedure:	
Estimator bias	0.03
Choice of the fit function	0.02
Mass dependence of the bias	$\leq 0.01$
Imperfections of the simulation:	
Detector material budget	0.03
Modeling of ISR and FSR	0.02
Momentum resolution	$\leq 0.01$
Neutral particle reconstruction efficiency	$\leq 0.01$
Tracking efficiency correction	$\leq 0.01$
Trigger efficiency	$\leq 0.01$
Background processes	$\leq 0.01$
Total	0.11

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⇒ With less than half data size as Belle and BaBar we have better statistical precision!

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#### Tau mass measurement: results



⇒ With less than half data size as Belle and BaBar we have better statistical precision! PDG Average (2022) 1776.86 ± 0.12



tau lepton mass!

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#### Summary

#### • Tau physics can provide a window into new physics

- directly via searches for forbidden/highly suppressed decay modes
- indirectly via precision measurements of tau properties
- Belle II and superKEKB provide a near-ideal environment for studying the tau leptons!
- Direct searches for new physics signature already getting competitive or better than previous results!
  - search for a new scalar:  $\tau \rightarrow \ell \alpha$ 
    - world's most stringents limit
  - search for LFV decay:  $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$ 
    - successful application of inclusive tagging, with only half of the on-tape data
- World's most precise measurement for the tau lepton mass!
  - Precision measurement capabilities are proven!

## Thank You!



Al's (DALL-E's) interpretation of "doing physics in the ALPS"

### BACKUP

### **Trigger performance**

#### • essential for dark-sector and tau physics

- typical signatures include low-multiplicity of tracks, and energy deposits in EM calorimeter
- large background from radiative Bhabha and two-photon processes

#### • some of the dedicated low-multiplicity triggers:

- single muon
  - combine drift chamber and muon detector information
- single track:
  - neural-net based hardware trigger
- single photon:
  - high efficiency for E(γ) > 1 GeV



### $\tau \rightarrow \ell \alpha$ : comparison with ARGUS



#### ⇒ Most stringent limits in these channels to date!

### $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$ : the results

TABLE I: 90% confidence level upper limits on  $\tau \to \ell \phi$  branching fractions obtained by BaBar (451 fb<sup>-1</sup>) and Belle (854 fb<sup>-1</sup>) [4, 5].



 $\Rightarrow$  not yet competitive with Belle/BaBar, but a successful first application of inclusive tagging at Belle II

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### $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$ : signal region and side bands

![](_page_29_Figure_1.jpeg)

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### $\tau \rightarrow \ell \phi$ : yields

Result	Region	Mode		
		$e\phi$	$\mu\phi$	
Signal efficiency $\varepsilon_{\ell\phi}$	$\mathbf{SR}$	$(6.1\pm0.9~{ m sys})\%$	$(6.5\pm0.6~{ m sys})\%$	
$r_{ m MC}$	SR / RSB	$0.23^{+0.16}_{-0.10} { m \ stat}$	$0.12^{+0.07}_{-0.04}~{ m stat}$	
$N_{ m data}$	RSB	$1.0^{+2.3}_{-0.8} { m \ stat}$	$3.0^{+2.9}_{-1.6}  m \ stat$	
$N_{ m exp}$	$\operatorname{SR}$	$0.23^{+0.55}_{-0.21} { m\ stat}$	$0.36^{+0.39}_{-0.23}~{ m stat}$	
$N_{ m obs}$	$\mathbf{SR}$	$2.0^{+2.6}_{-1.3}  m \ stat$	$0.0^{+1.8}_{-0.0}$ stat	

#### tau mass uncertainties at Belle II

#### • Statistical precision with 190fb<sup>-1</sup>: 0.08 MeV

- even with roughly half the data as Belle and BaBar (0.13 MeV), we have better precision!
  - inclusive tagging (Belle and BaBar use the leptonic tag only)
- Improved tracking resolution also helps!
  - better resolution => steeper threshold
     => more precise determination of mass
- the dominant systematics: momentum and energy scales!
  - Various other effects are also considered:
    - detector misalignments
    - uncertainty in the bias, fit function, fit window
    - mismodeling of material budget
    - generator mismodellings

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### Let's get the mass....

• Use conservation of momentum and energy in the  $T \rightarrow v 3\pi$  decay and solve for m<sub>r</sub>:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\tau}^{2} = (\mathcal{P}_{\nu} + \mathcal{P}_{3\pi})^{2}$$
  

$$\Rightarrow m_{\tau}^{2} = m_{\nu}^{2} + m_{3\pi}^{2} + 2(E_{\nu} \ E_{3\pi} - \vec{p_{\nu}} \cdot \vec{p_{3\pi}}) \qquad (1)$$
  

$$= m_{\nu}^{2} + m_{3\pi}^{2} + 2(E_{\nu} \ E_{3\pi} - p_{\nu}p_{3\pi}\cos\theta)$$

![](_page_32_Picture_3.jpeg)

$$E_{\nu} = E_{\tau} - E_{3\pi}, and$$
  

$$p_{\nu} = \sqrt{E_{\nu}^2 - m_{\nu}^2} = E_{\nu} = E_{\tau} - E_{3\pi}$$
(2)

To get:

- What are the knowns?
- What are the unknowns?
- Which unknowns can we maybe "sweep under the rug"?

$$m_{\tau}^{2} = m_{3\pi}^{2} + 2\left( (E_{\tau} - E_{3\pi}) \ E_{3\pi} - (E_{\tau} - E_{3\pi}) p_{3\pi} \cos \theta_{\nu,3\pi} \right)$$
(3)  
=  $m_{3\pi}^{2} + 2(E_{\tau} - E_{3\pi})(E_{3\pi} - p_{3\pi} \cos \theta_{\nu,3\pi})$ 

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#### ...the pseudomass....

$$M_{\tau}^{2} = M_{3\pi}^{2} + 2(E_{\tau} - E_{3\pi})(E_{3\pi} - P_{3\pi}\cos\theta_{\nu,3\pi})$$
(4)

In the center of mass frame:

$$E_{\tau} = E_{beam} = \sqrt{s/2} \tag{5}$$

Also the equation will have a minimum when  $\cos \theta_{\nu,3\pi} = 1$ .

if we set  $\cos \theta_{\nu,3\pi} = 1$ , then we can write:

$$M_{3\pi}^2 + 2(E_{beam} - E_{3\pi})(E_{3\pi} - P_{3\pi}) \le M_{\tau}^2$$

So then we can define a new variable:

$$M_{min} = \sqrt{M_{3\pi}^2 + 2(E_{beam} - E_{3\pi})(E_{3\pi} - P_{3\pi})} \le M_{\tau} \quad (7)$$

#### This is called the <u>pseudomass</u>

- defined in this way, the distribution has a kinematic edge around the tau mass
- the edge can be exploited to extract the mass
- first used by ARGUS in 1992, later by Opal, Belle and now by Bellell

![](_page_33_Figure_13.jpeg)

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(6)

### Tau mass measurement: threshold production

- exploit dependance of xsec on CM energy (near the tau pair production threshold)
- use a likelihood fit to extract the mass
- laser + optical system to accurately measure the beam energy

![](_page_34_Figure_4.jpeg)

positron

6.0m

HPGe

1.5m

o.

1.8m

R2IAMB

but this wouldn't work in Bellell ...

**R1IAMB** 

### Tau lifetime, teaser

#### • at Belle:

- the 3x3 tau decays
- o 700/fb

#### • at Bellell:

- Factor 5 gain in stat. by using 3x1 instead of 3x3
- With 200/fb already statistically compatible with Belle results
- Systematics still to be studied... but, proper time resolution already 2x better than Belle!

![](_page_35_Figure_8.jpeg)

![](_page_35_Figure_9.jpeg)

### Physics at Belle II

- Not *just* a B-factory!
  - $\tau$ , c, and b pairs have similar cross sections at  $\sqrt{s} = 10.58$  GeV

 $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \Upsilon(4S)) = 1.11 \text{ nb}$   $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow c\overline{c}) = 1.3 \text{ nb}$  $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-) = 0.92 \text{ nb}$ 

- Wide physics program
  - precision measurements of time-dependent CPV and CKM parameters
  - searches for lepton flavor/universality/number violations
  - dark-sector searches
  - and many more

![](_page_36_Figure_9.jpeg)

#### **SuperKEKB**

• energy-asymmetric e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider in Tsukuba, Japan

- collision energy (mostly) at  $\Upsilon$ (4S)  $\sqrt{s}$  =10.58 GeV
- target:

KEKB e<sup>+</sup>/e<sup>-</sup>

E (GeV): 3.5/8.0

- instantaneous lumi: 6x10<sup>35</sup>cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>
   30 larger than KEKB
- improvement achieved via the nanobeam scheme (20x smaller beam spot) and higher beam current

![](_page_37_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_7.jpeg)

### SuperKEKB and the Bellell detector

#### • SuperKEKB

- energy-asymmetric e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> collider in Tsukuba, Japan
- center-of-mass energy at (and near)  $m(\Upsilon(4S))=10.58 \text{ GeV}$
- Target:
  - instantaneous lumi of 6x10<sup>35</sup>cm<sup>-2</sup>s<sup>-1</sup> (30 larger than KEKB)
  - integrated lumi: 50 ab<sup>-1</sup> (50 times larger than KEKB)
- improvement achieved via the nanobeam scheme

#### Bellell detector

- upgraded Belle for higher luminosities (and its challenges)
- inner track detectors system (VXD) fully replaced
  - 2 (currently 1+2/12) new layers of DEPFET pixel detector (PXD)
  - 4 layers of double-sided silicon strip detector
- new drift chamber (CDC) within the 1.5 T magnet
- upgraded electronic readouts for the EM calorimeter (ECL)
- Cherenkov detectors for particle ID (PID) (TOP and ARICH)
- K<sub>L</sub> and muon detector (KLM)

![](_page_38_Picture_17.jpeg)

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#### SuperKEKB designed machine parameters

2017/September/1	LER	HER	unit	
E	4.000	7.007	GeV	
I	3.6	2.6	А	
Number of bunches	2,5	2,500		
Bunch Current	1.44	1.04	mA	
Circumference	3,016.315		m	
ε <sub>x</sub> /ε <sub>y</sub>	3.2(1.9)/8.64(2.8)	4.6(4.4)/12.9(1.5)	nm/pm	():zero current
Coupling	0.27	0.28		includes beam-beam
βx*/βy*	32/0.27	25/0.30	mm	
Crossing angle	83		mrad	
α <sub>p</sub>	3.20x10 <sup>-4</sup>	4.55x10 <sup>-4</sup>		
σδ	7.92(7.53)x10 <sup>-4</sup>	6.37(6.30)x10 <sup>-4</sup>		():zero current
Vc	9.4	15.0	MV	
σz	6(4.7)	5(4.9)	mm	():zero current
Vs	-0.0245	-0.0280		
$v_x/v_y$	44.53/46.57	45.53/43.57		
Uo	1.76	2.43	MeV	
τ <sub>x,y</sub> /τ <sub>s</sub>	45.7/22.8	58.0/29.0	msec	
ξ <sub>×</sub> /ξ <sub>γ</sub>	0.0028/0.0881	0.0012/0.0807		
Luminosity	8×10 <sup>35</sup>		cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	

#### **Machine Parameters**