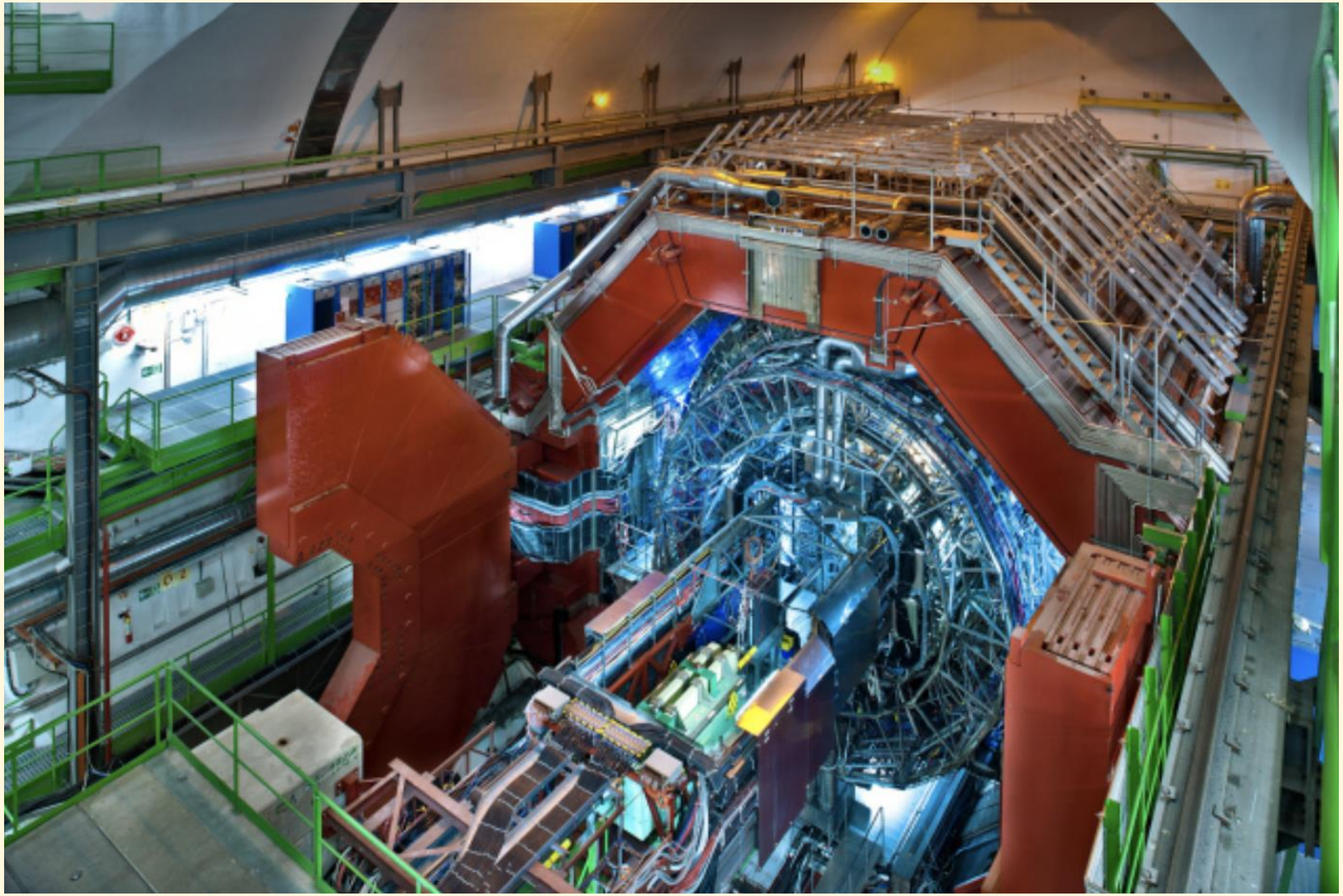
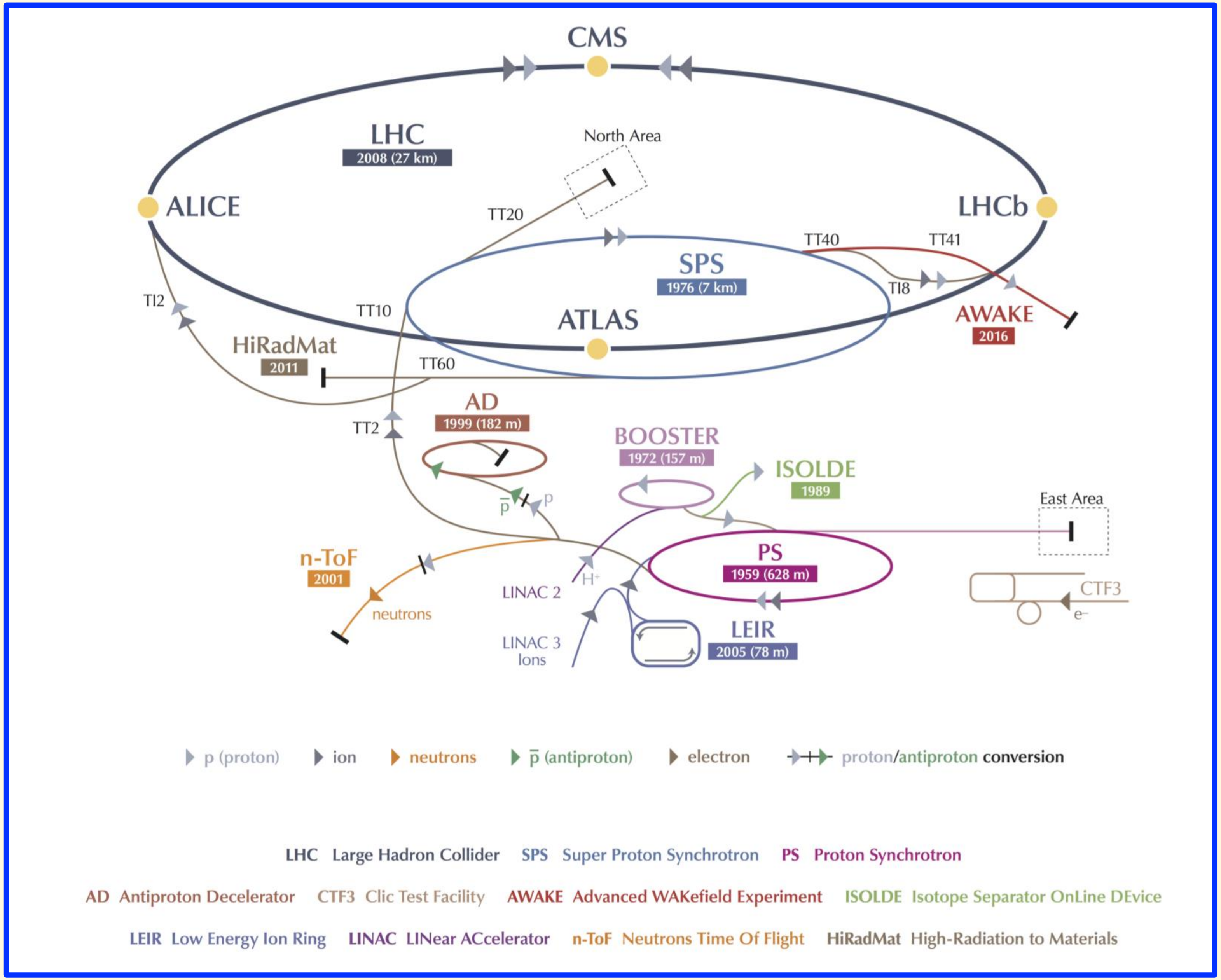
Introduction to heavy-ion physics and the ALICE experiment



Tapan Nayak
23 Feb 2022


CERN
“Science without borders”

CERN Accelerator complex



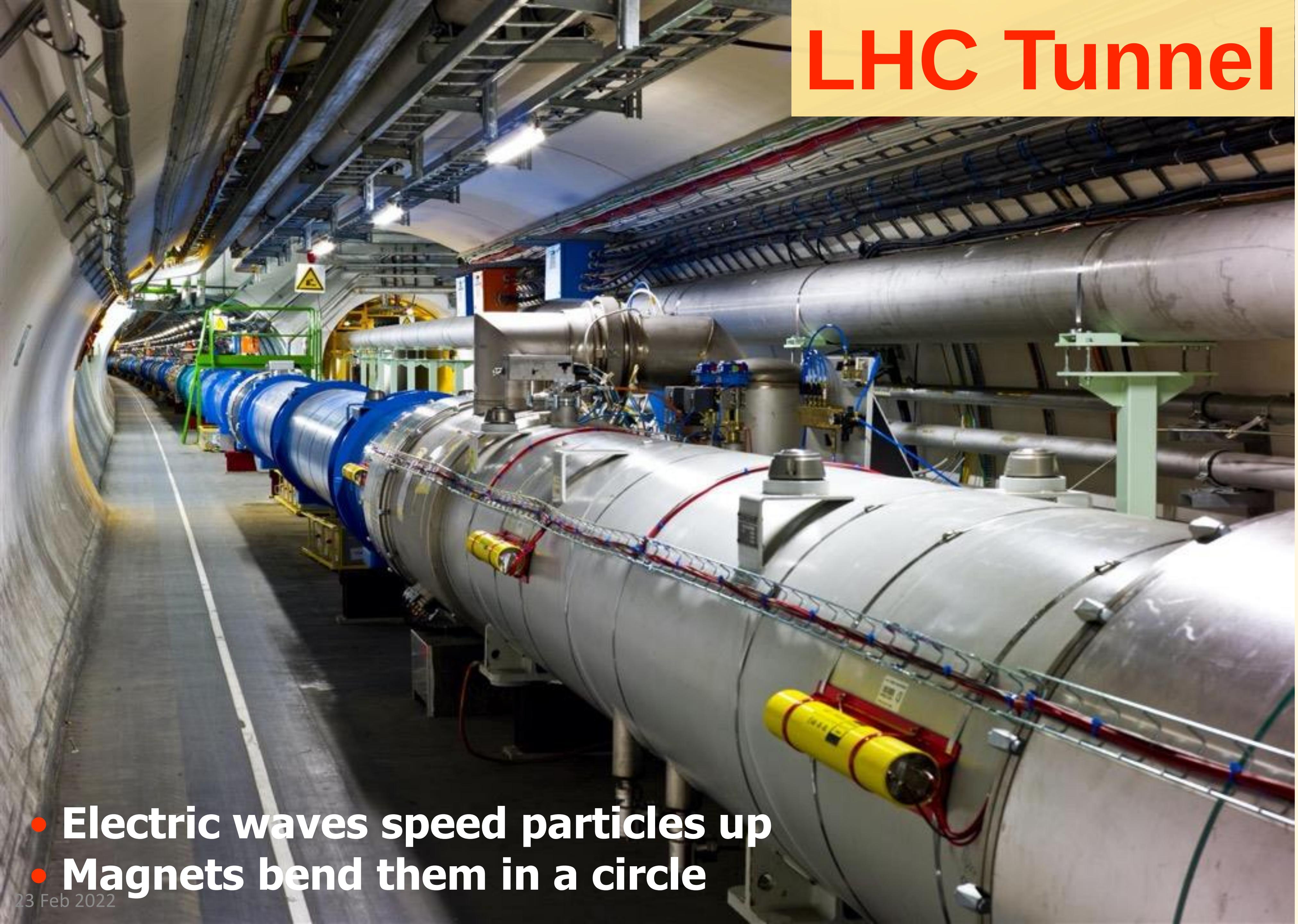
The LHC is the last ring in a complex chain of particle accelerators. The smaller machines are used in a chain to boost the particles to their final energies.

The LHC collides:

- proton on proton
- **Heavy-ions (lead on lead)**
- proton on lead
- ....

Why heavy-ions?

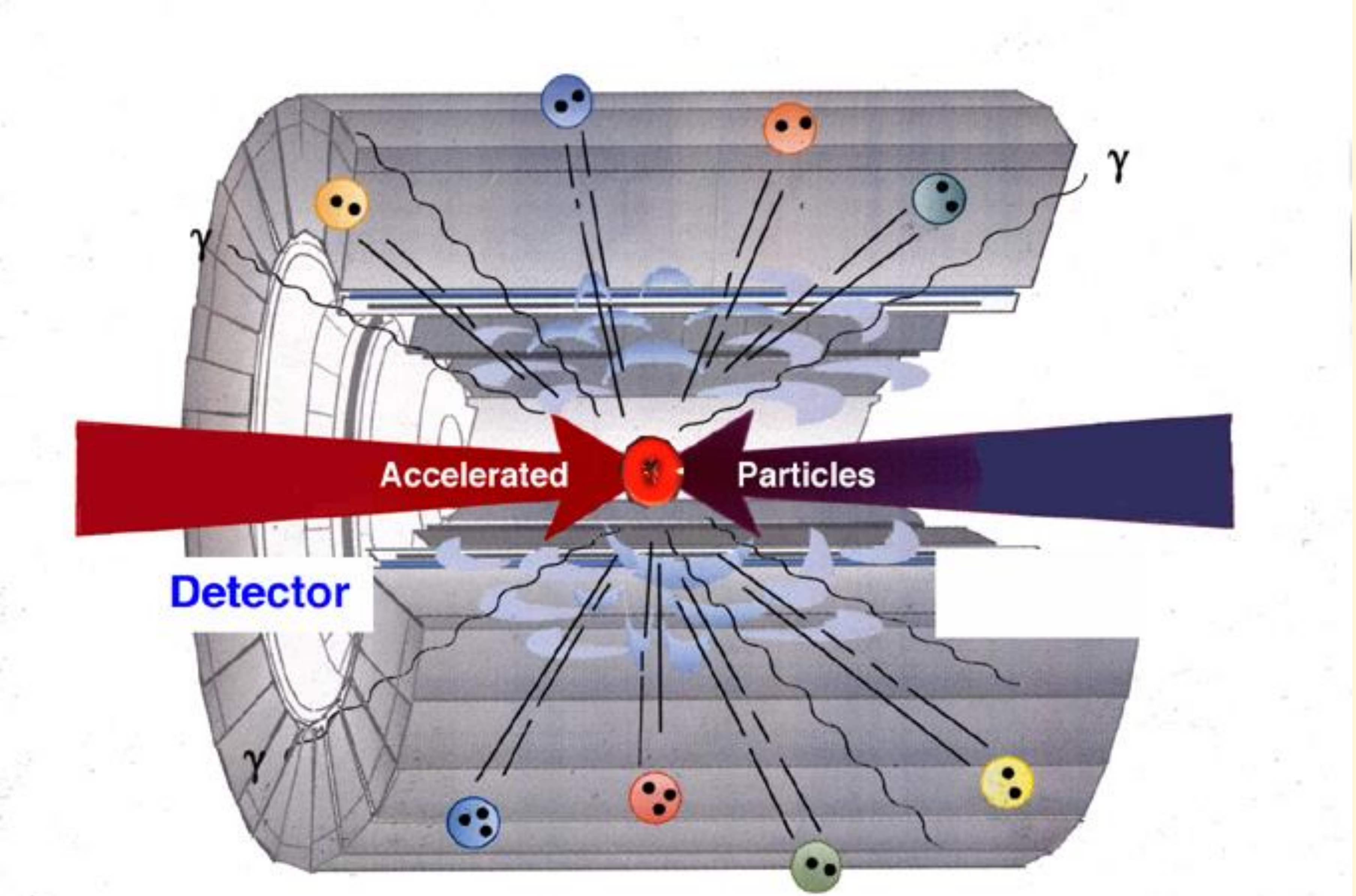
LHC Tunnel



- Electric waves speed particles up
- Magnets bend them in a circle

27km tunnel:

- 50-150m below ground
- Two beams circulating in opposite directions
- Total of 9300 magnets: beams controlled by 1800 superconducting magnets (up to 8T)



High Energy is needed to create new particles

Need High Energy Accelerator:

COLLIDER

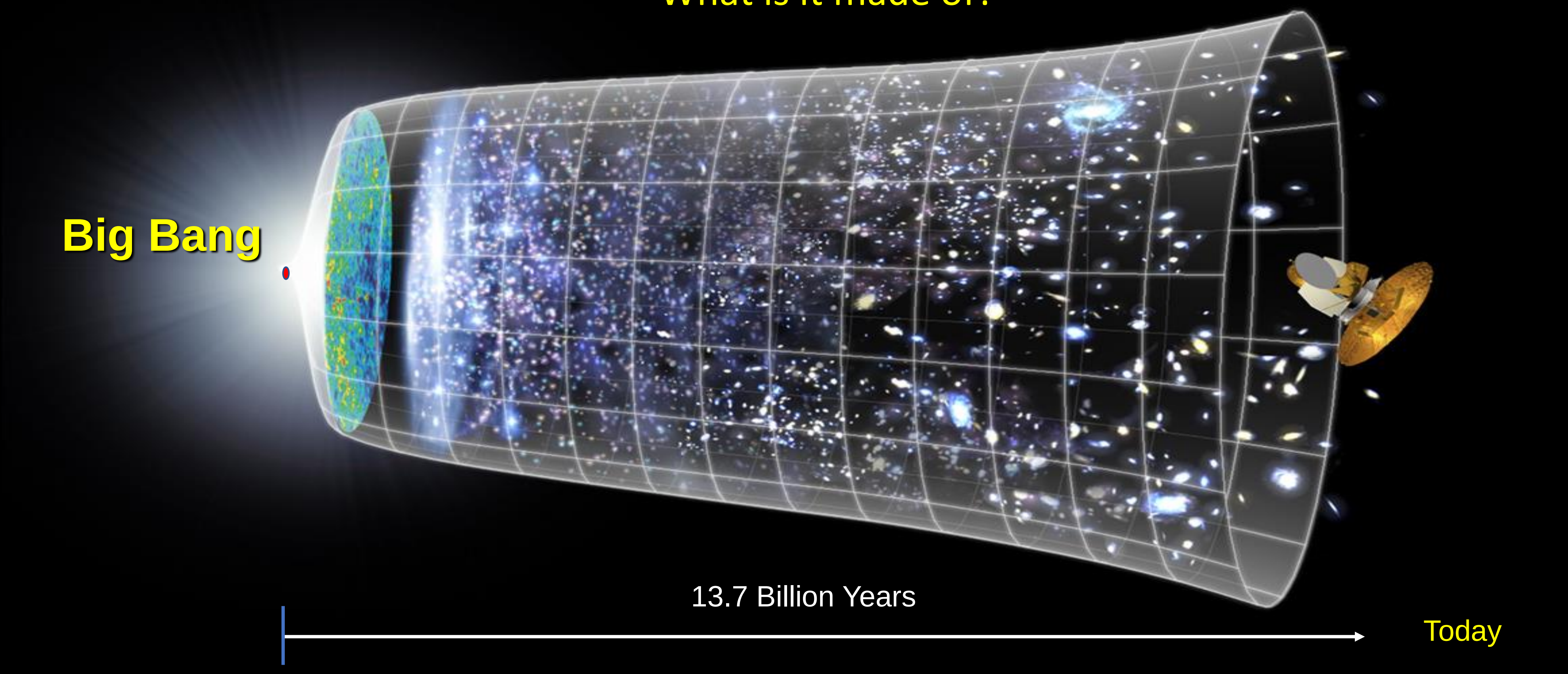
$$E = mc^2$$

EXPERIMENTS


Colliding protons (14 TeV),
Lead ions (5.5 TeV)
World's Most Powerful Accelerator:
The Large Hadron Collider
Jura mountains
Lake Geneva
CMS
LHCb
ALICE
ATLAS

Our Universe ….. How did it start?

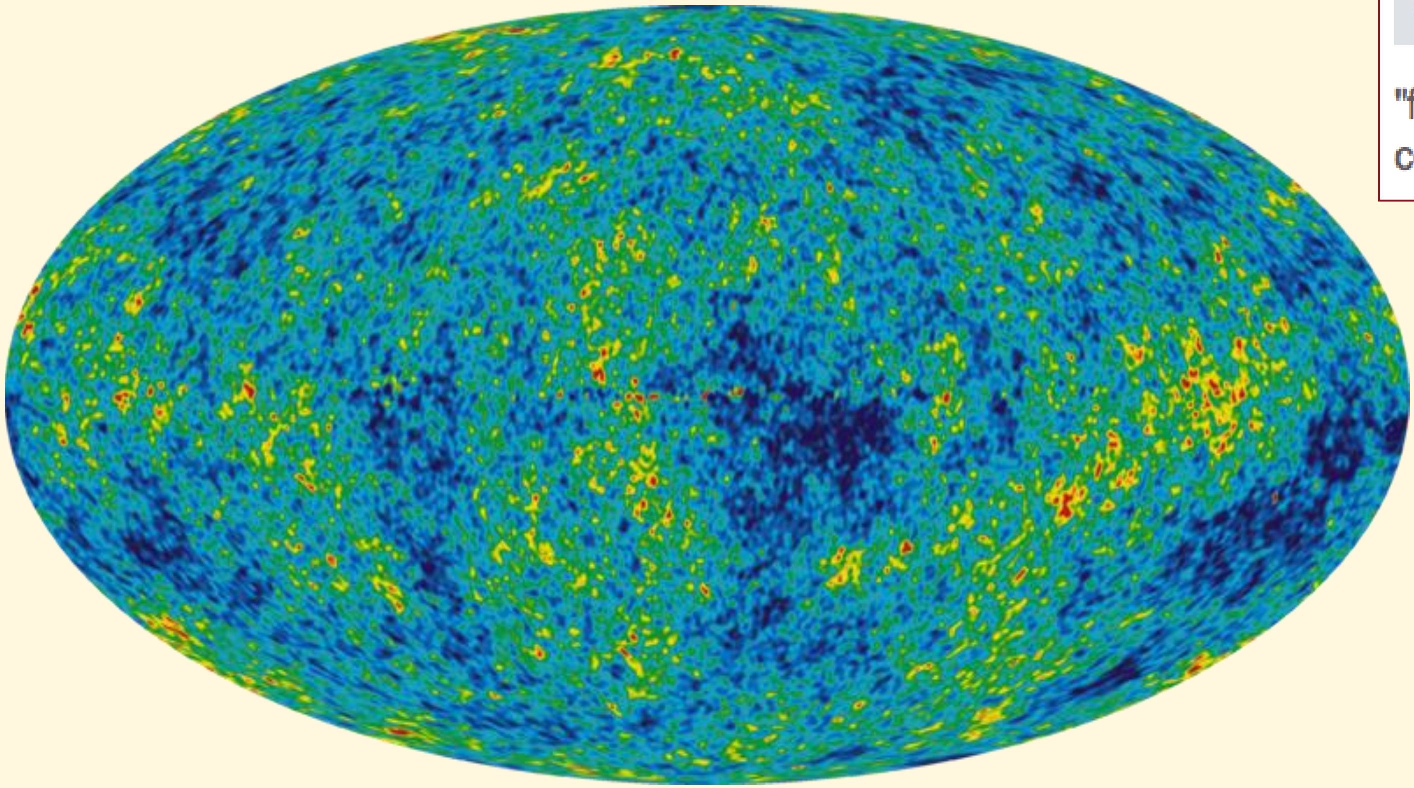
What is it made of?



Astronomical probes

Hubble telescope
James Webb Space Telescope ….

The sky picture of the infant universe created from nine years of [Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe](*WMAP*) *data.*



The Nobel Prize in Physics 2006

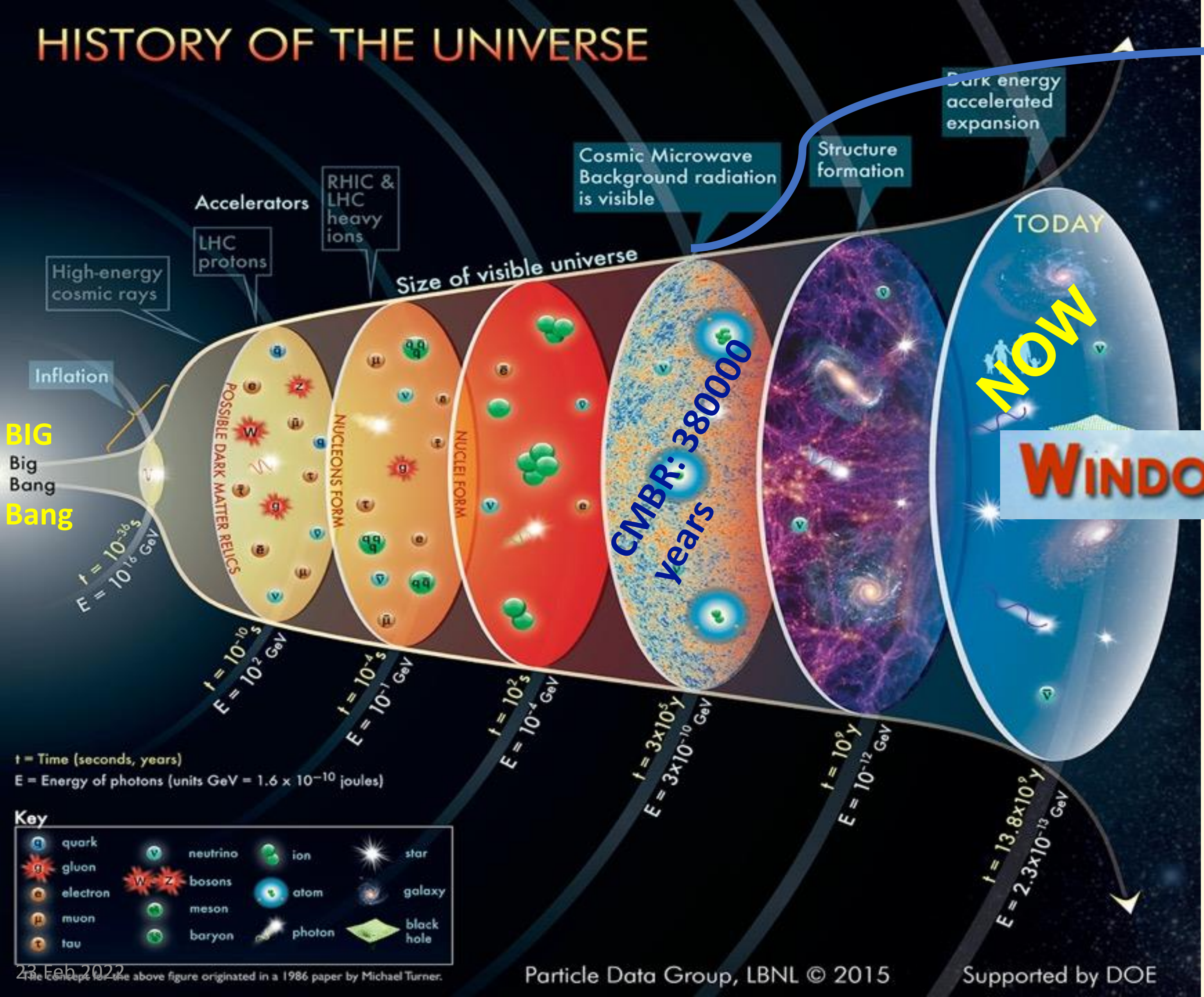
George Smoot & John Mather

"for their discovery of the blackbody form and anisotropy of the cosmic microwave background radiation"

Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation (CMBR)

Using Astronomical Probes: The closest we can go to the Big Bang is 380,000 years from the beginning ….

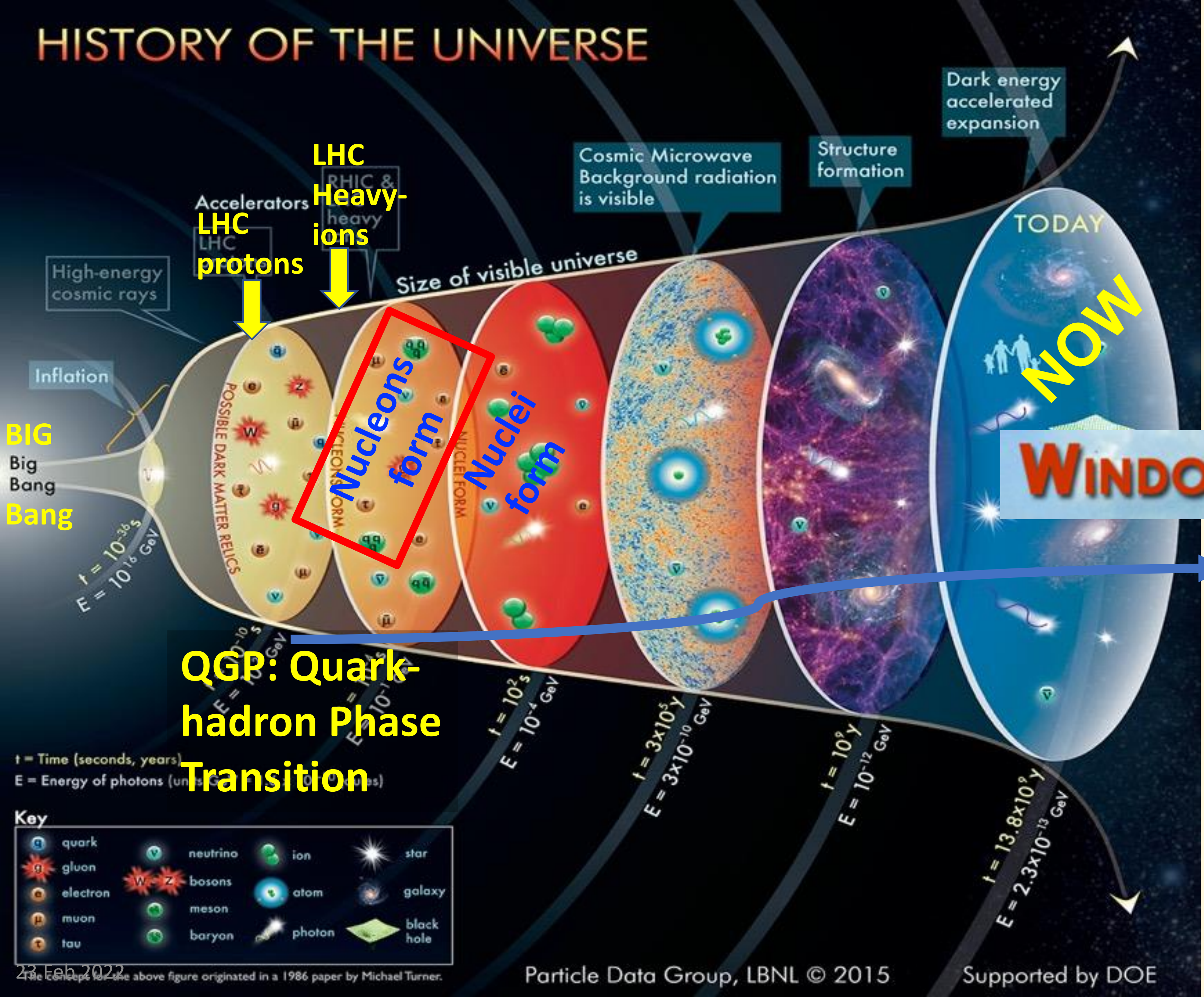
Our Goal: to go to Few millionth of a second from the Big Bang



Astrophysical Probes

Takes us back to 380,000 years after the Big Bang

WINDOWS ON THE UNIVERSE



WINDOWS ON THE UNIVERSE

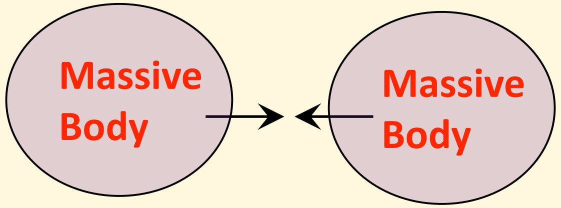
Accelerators (LHC)

Takes us back to within few Microseconds of the Big Bang

- Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP)

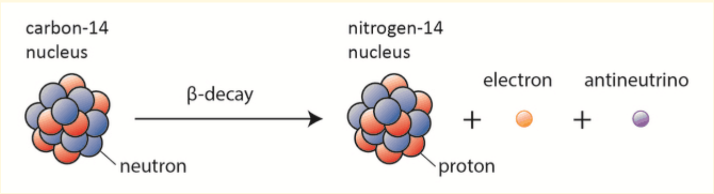
Fundamental forces of nature

Gravitational force



- Attractive
- Between two massive bodies
- Weak in nature (weakest force)
- Very long range (almost infinite)

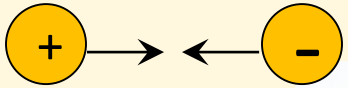
Weak force



Example: beta decay

- Weak in nature
- Short range
- Between fundamental particles

Electromagnetic force



- Between electric or magnetic charges
- stronger force with long range
- Attractive or Repulsive

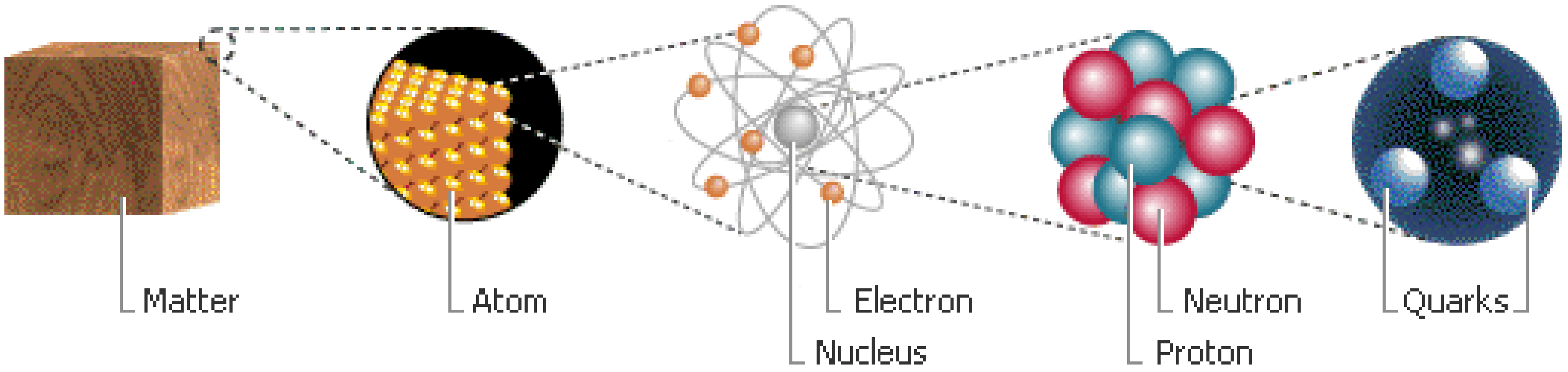
Strong force

Holds the atomic nucleus,

Binds quarks together

- Strongest and short range 10^{-13} cm
- Basically attractive

Structure of matter



MATTER

ATOM

NUCLEUS

Protons/ neutrons

QUARKS

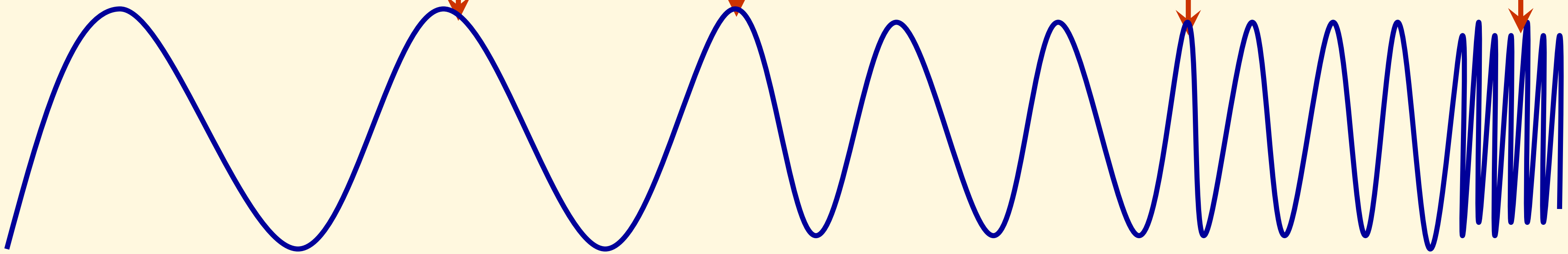
$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p}$$

10^{-8} cm

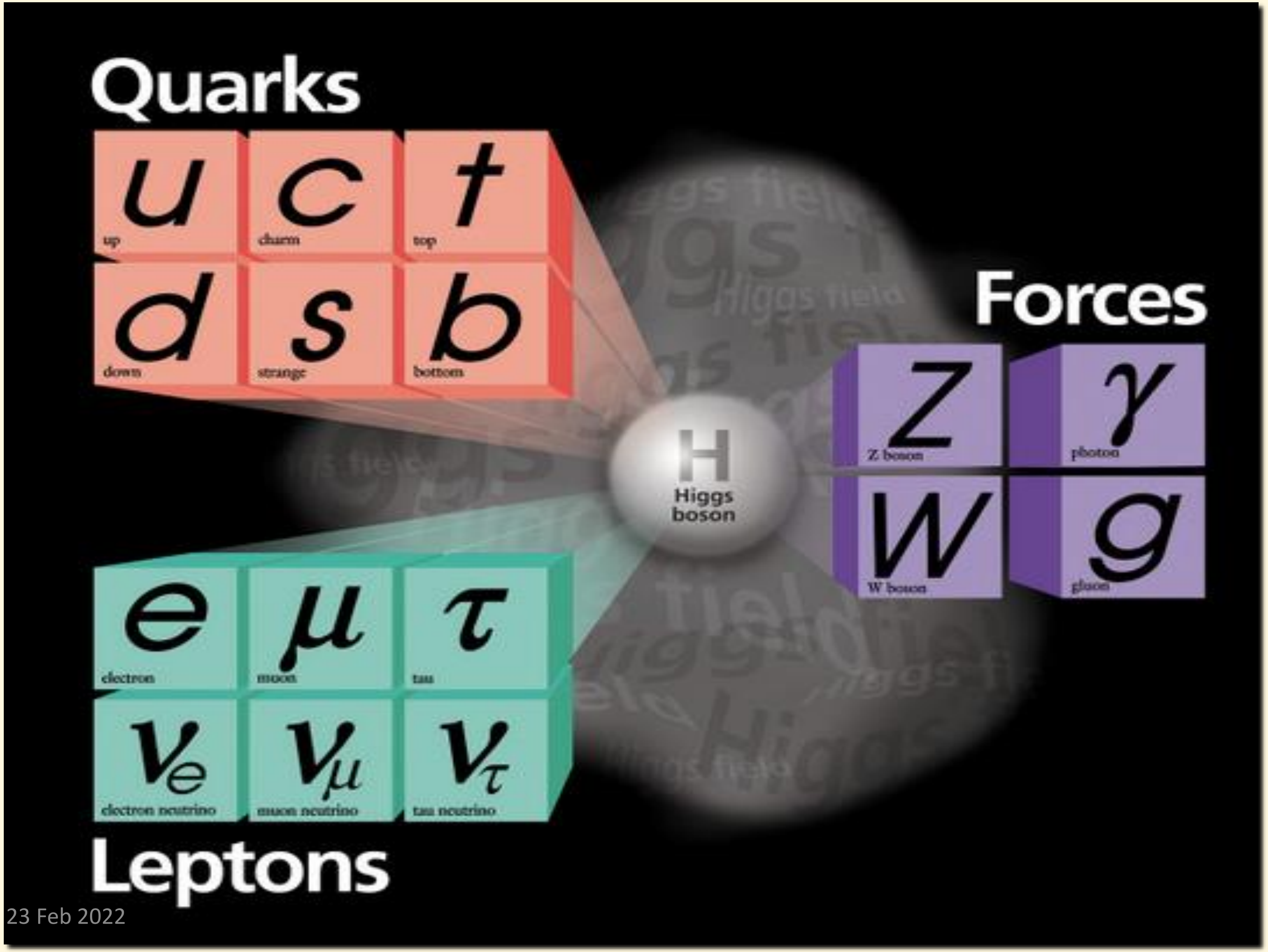
10^{-12}cm

10^{-13} cm

10^{-18} cm



Fundamental constituents of matter



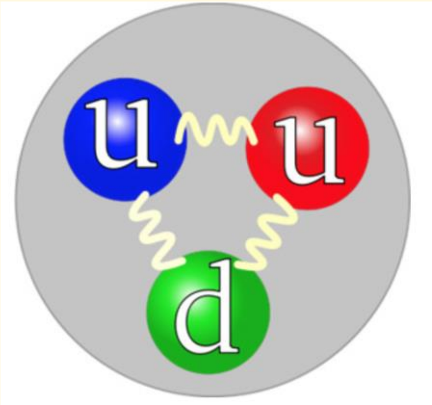
Higgs particle is responsible for **giving mass** to all particles.

Lockdown: Quark confinement

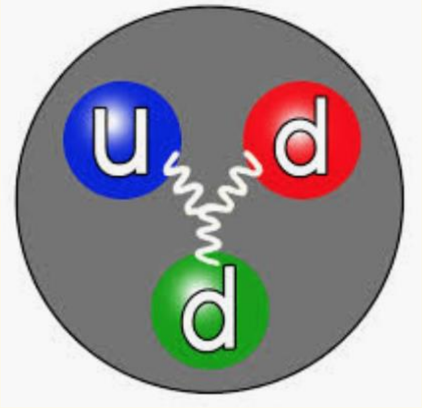
No one has ever seen a free quark

- **Quarks are locked-down within the hadrons**
  =>
  Free quarks seem not to exist, and only colorless hadrons are seen : **confinement**.

Proton



Neutron



Coloured quarks attract one another by exchanging gluon. There are eight types of gluons. Gluons are massless, have spin 1, travel at the speed of light, and carry both a color and a different anti-colour.

Colour force increases with distance, and the energy required to separate them produces quark-antiquark pairs long before they are far enough apart to observe separately.

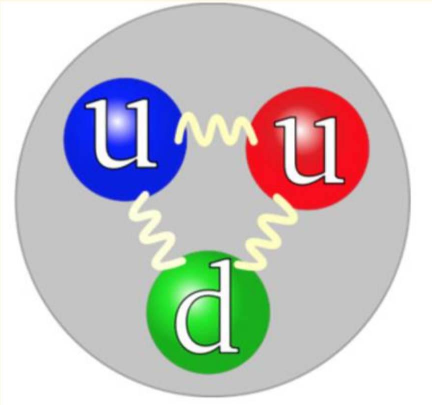
Asymptotic freedom:

No one has ever seen a free quark

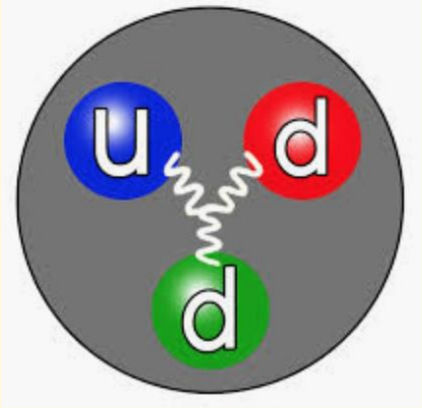
- q-q interactions become weaker as the inter-quark distance becomes shorter.

Quarks interact weakly at high energies. At low energies the interaction becomes strong, leading to the confinement of quarks and gluons within composite hadrons.

Proton



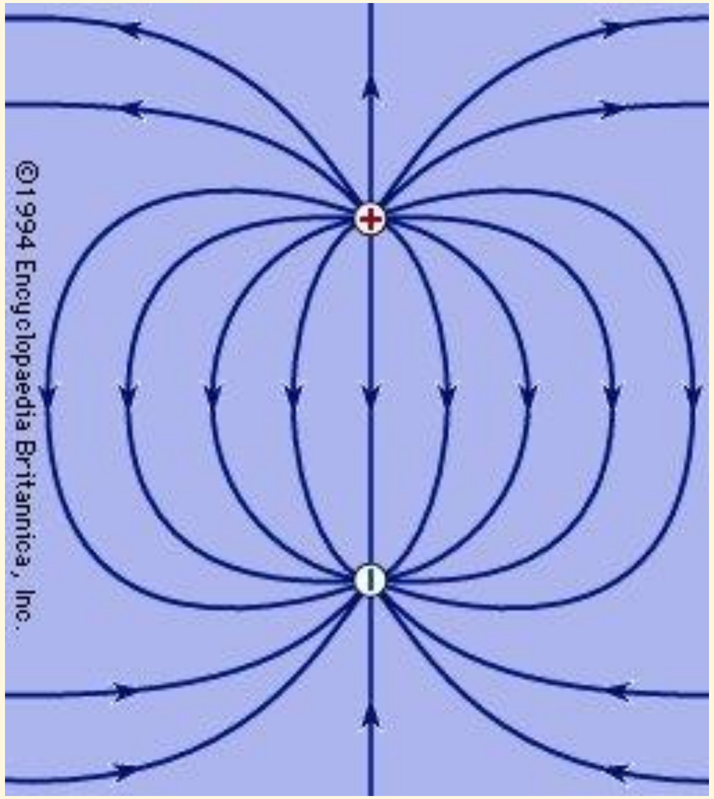
Neutron



Nobel Prize 2004

1973: asymptotic freedom
D.J. Gross, F. Wilczek, H.D. Politzer
1975: asymptotic QCD and deconfinement
N. Cabibbo and G. Parisi; J. Collins and M. Perry

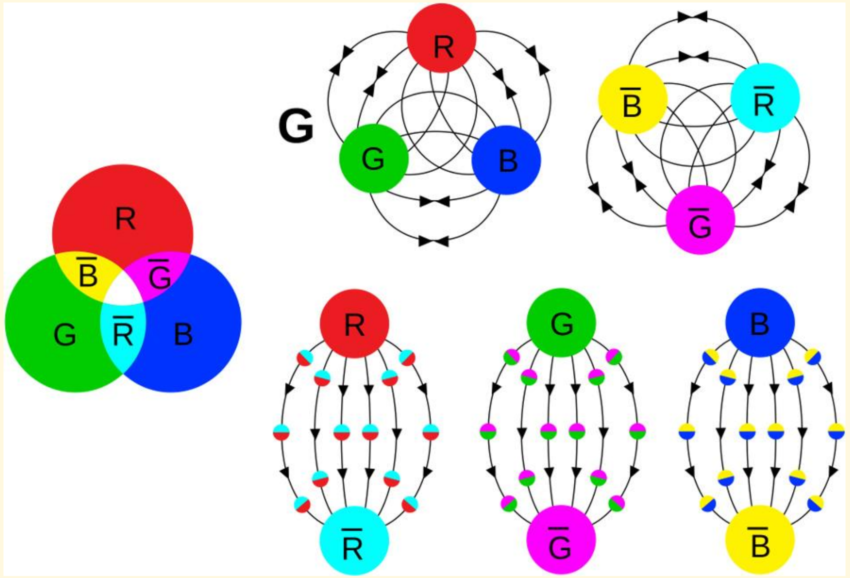
Electromagnetic interaction

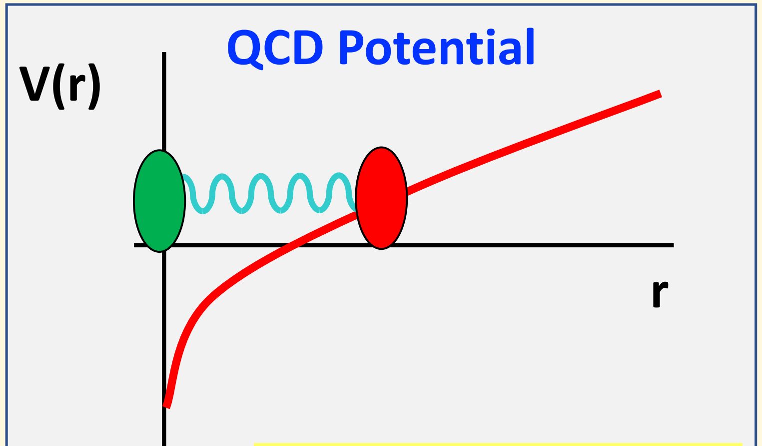


Electric field lines near equal but opposite charges

The electromagnetic force exhibits electromagnetic fields such as electric and magnetic fields.

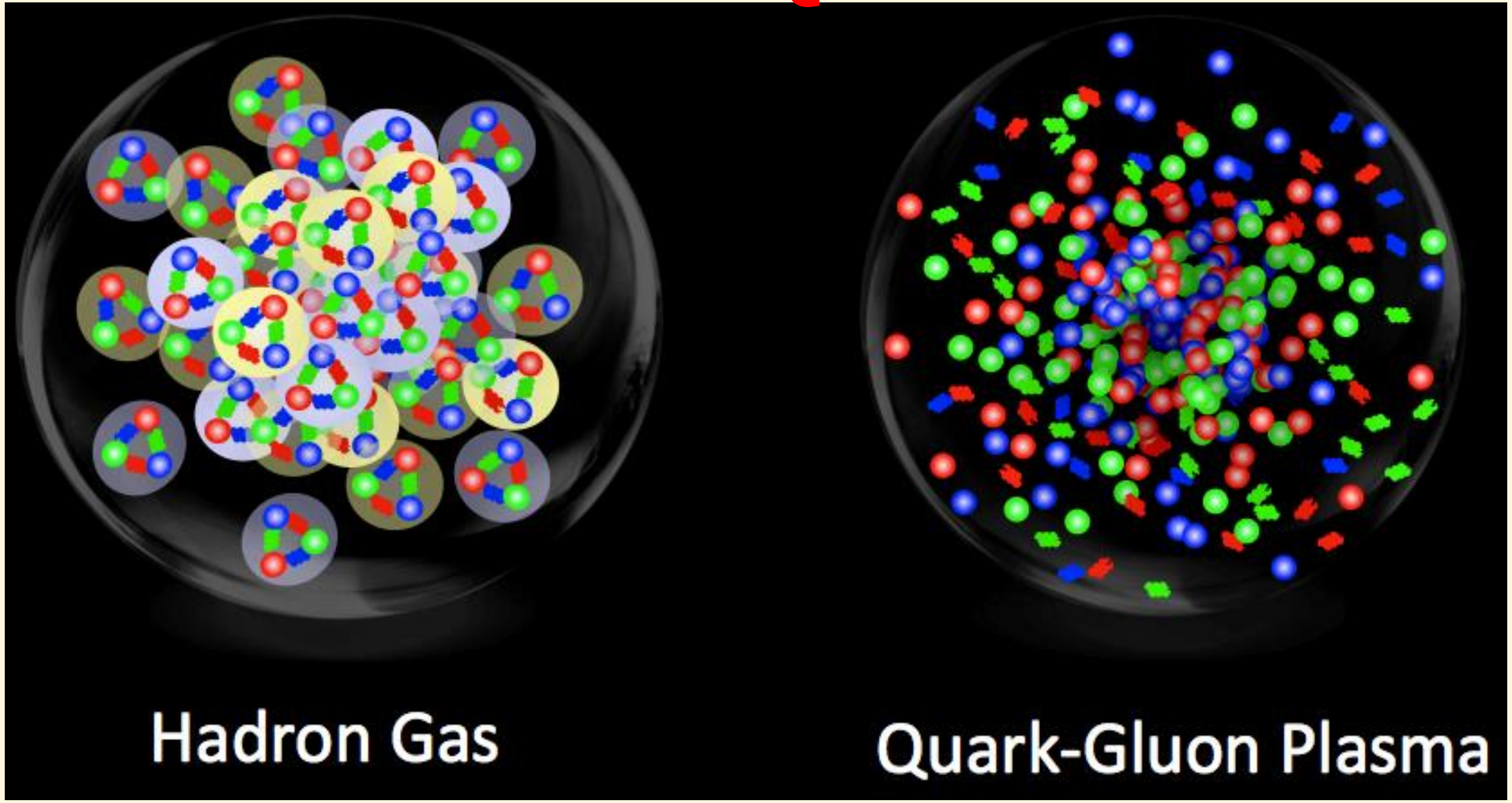
Color force in QCD





$$V(r) = -\frac{4}{3}\frac{\alpha_s}{r} + kr$$

Deconfinement => Quark Gluon Plasma



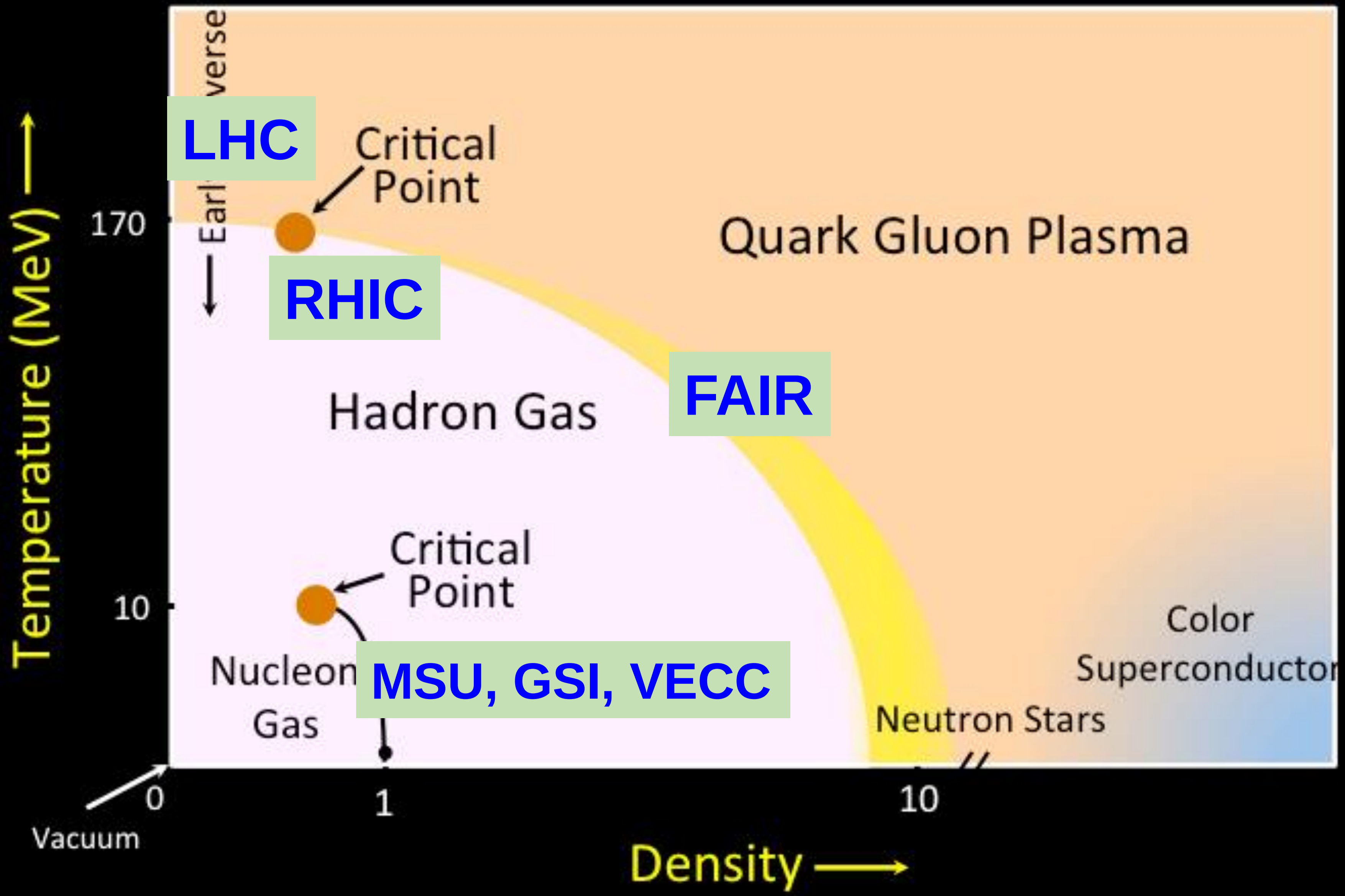
Hadron gas =>

- Heat up to very high temperature
- Apply extremely high pressure

=> the boundaries disappear forming a system of free quarks and gluons

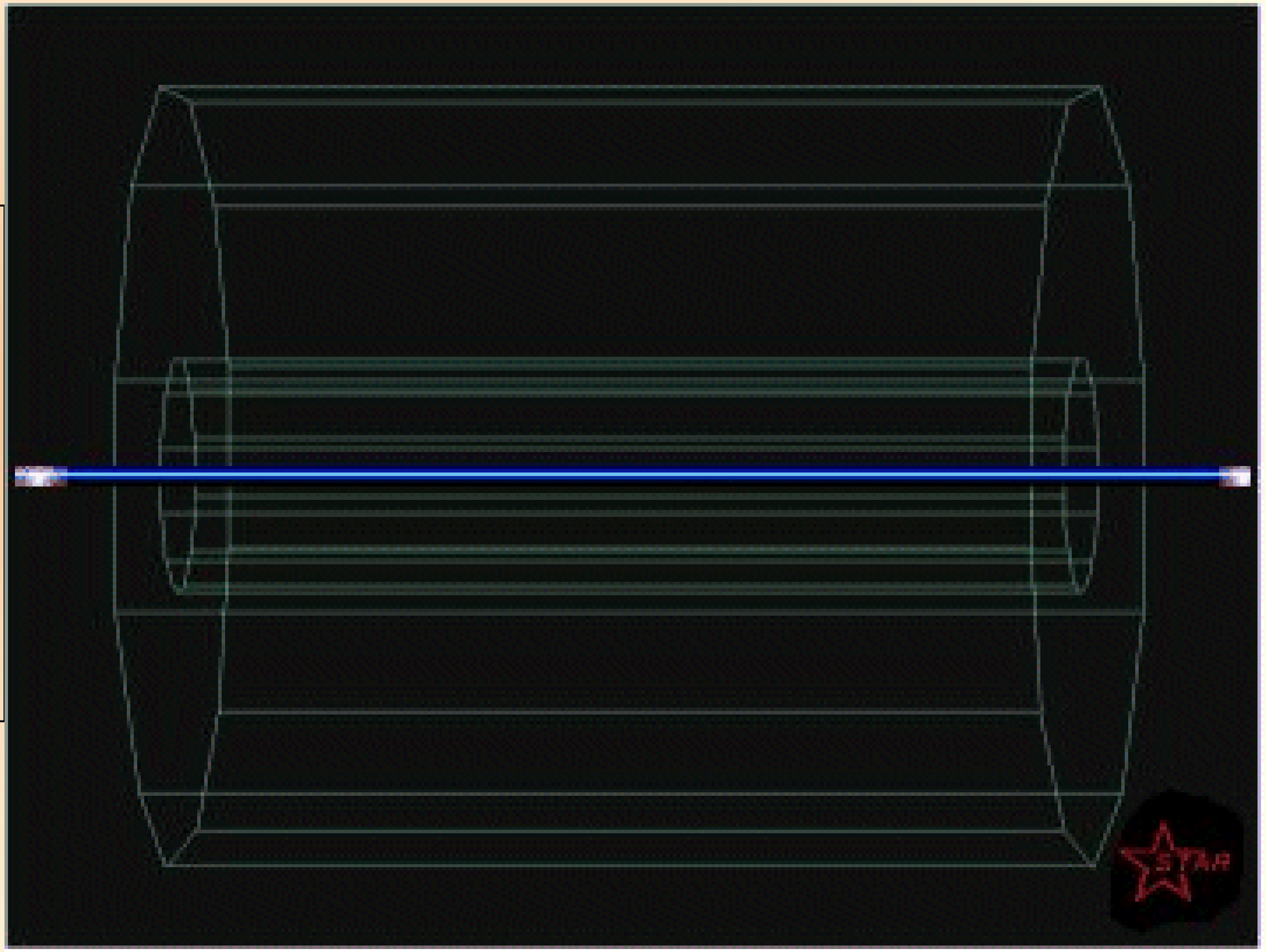
Quark Gluon Plasma (QGP): (locally) thermally equilibrated state of matter in which quarks and gluons are deconfined from hadrons, so that color degrees of freedom become manifest over nuclear, rather than merely nucleonic, volumes.

Phases of Nuclear Matter



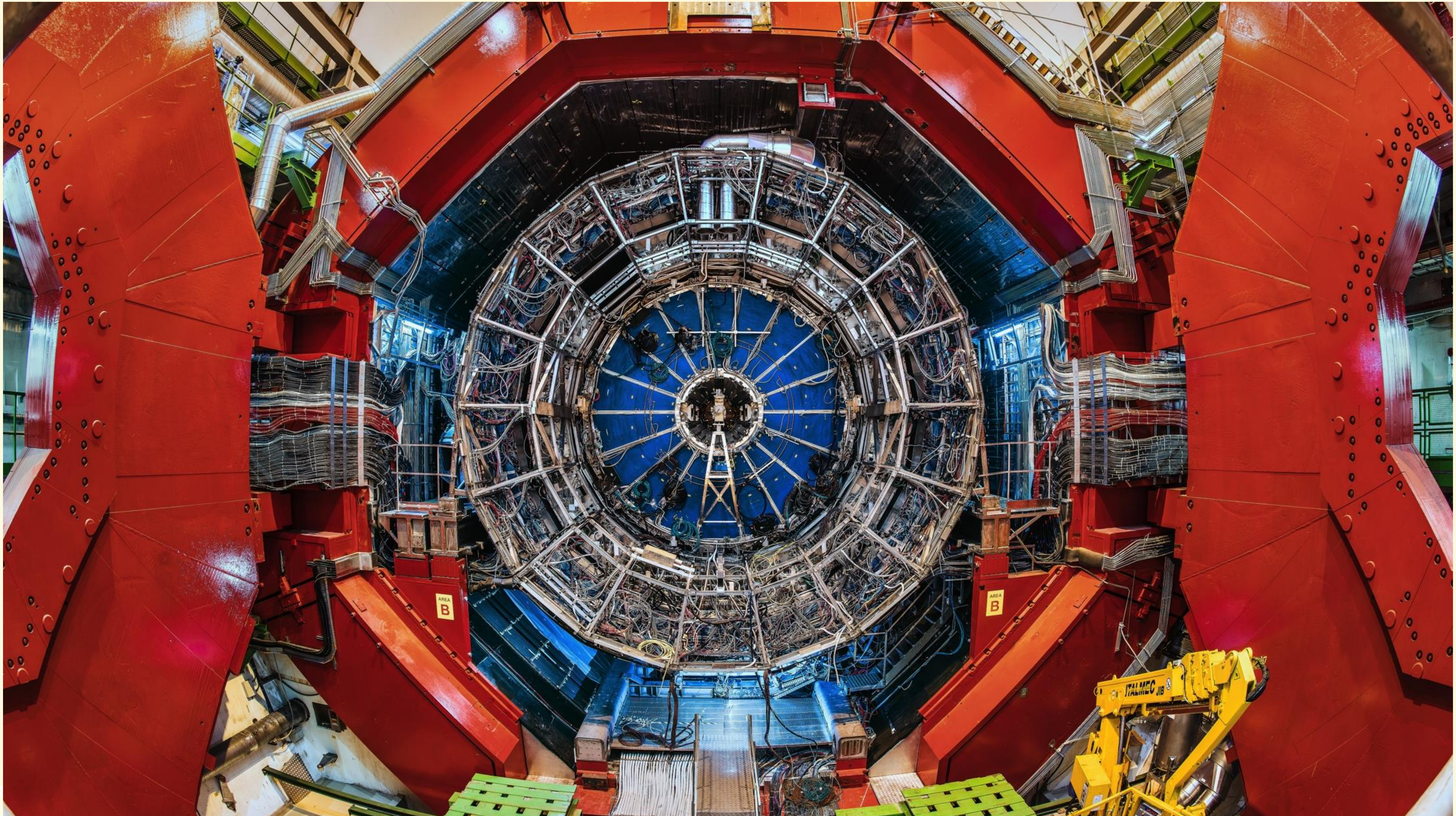
1 eV is roughly 11605 Kelvin

Heavy-ion collisions: Creating the QGP state



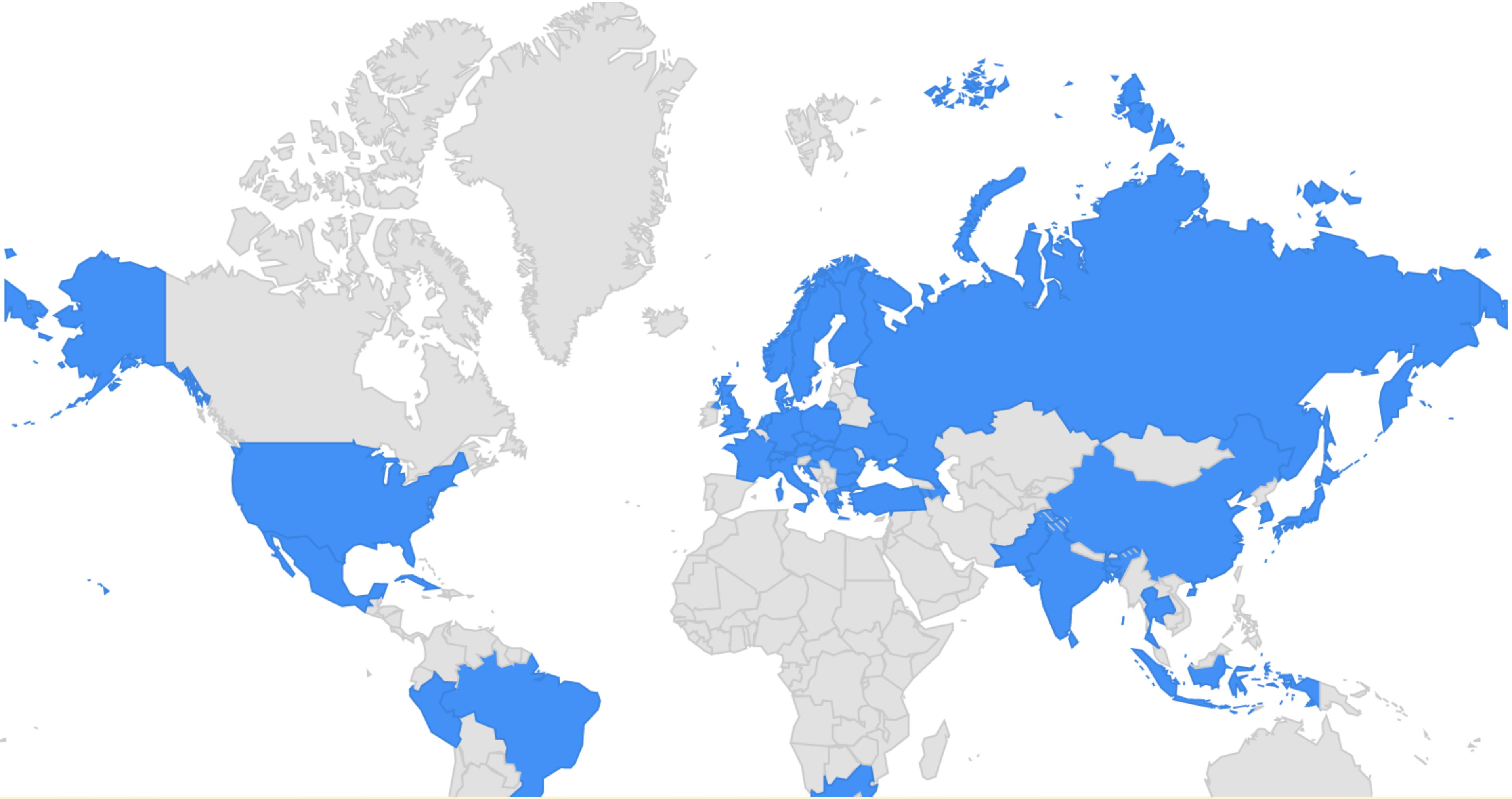
- Take a high-mass atom like Au or Pb
- Take away the electron => Ion (***Heavy-ion***)
- ***Accelerate the Ion*** to almost the speed of light
- ***Collide the Ions => Create the Little Bang***
- Study the aftermath by specialized detector systems which surround the collision point ***=> Experiment***

ALICE at Point-2 of the LHC



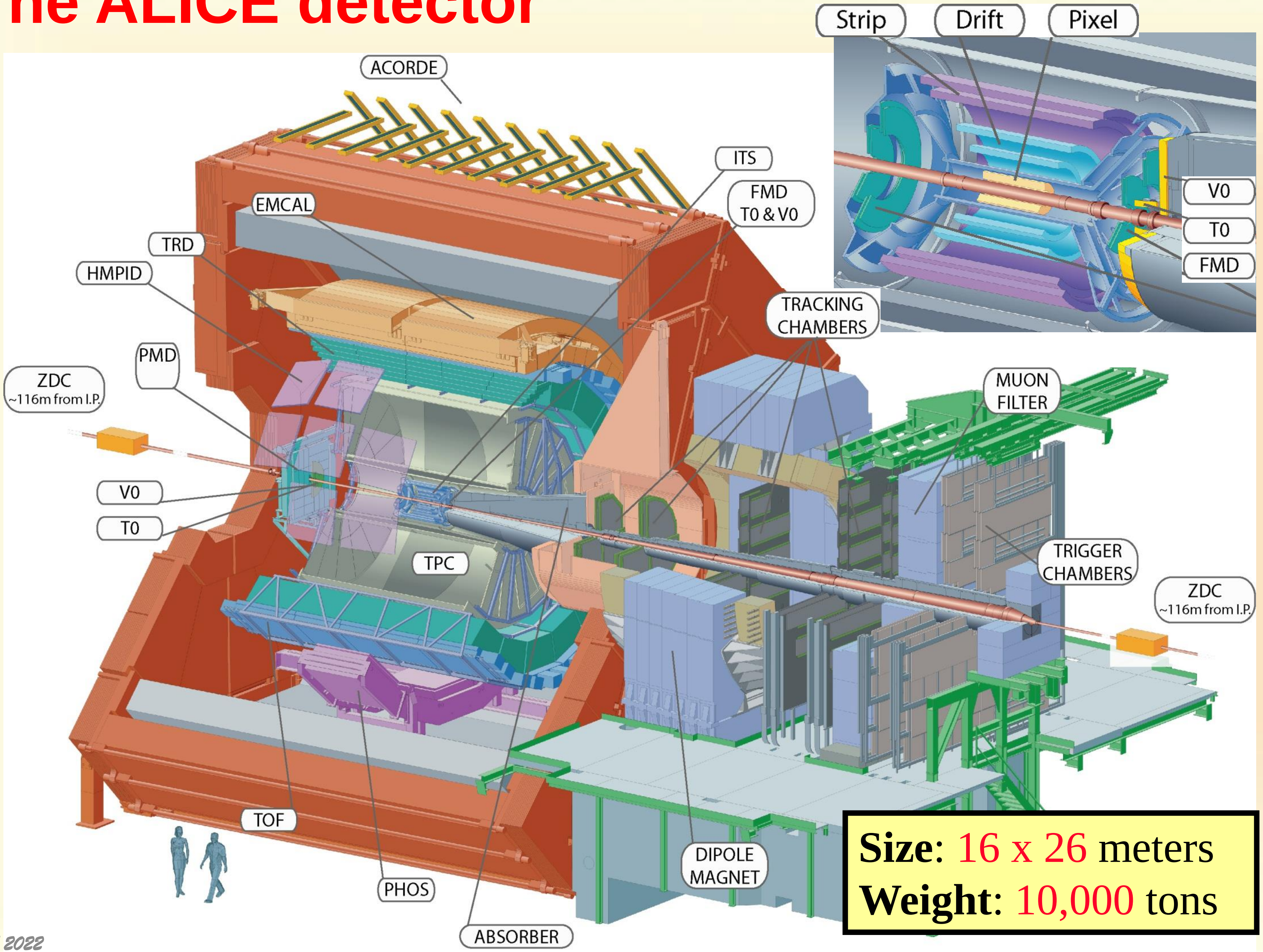
ALICE Collaboration

40 countries, 172 institutes, 1964 members



The ALICE detector

Till 2018



CENTRAL BARREL

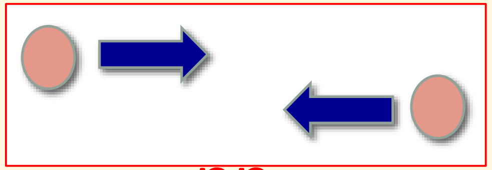
- Acceptance: $|\eta|<0.9$
- B=0.5 T
- **ITS:** High precision vertexing and centrality
- **ITS+TPC+TOF**: charged track reconstruction, PID
- **TRD:** electron ID
- **EMCAL:** calorimeter

Muon Arm:
$-4<\eta<-2.5$

Size: 16 x 26 meters
Weight: 10,000 tons

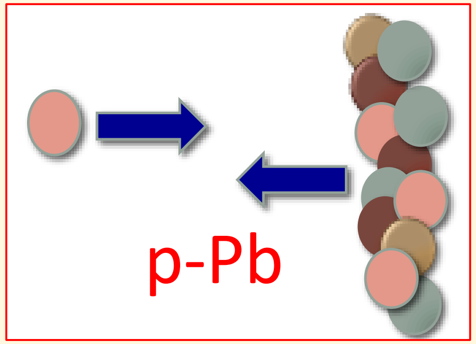
SPECIAL detectors:

- V0
- FMD
- PMD
- ADC
- ZDC

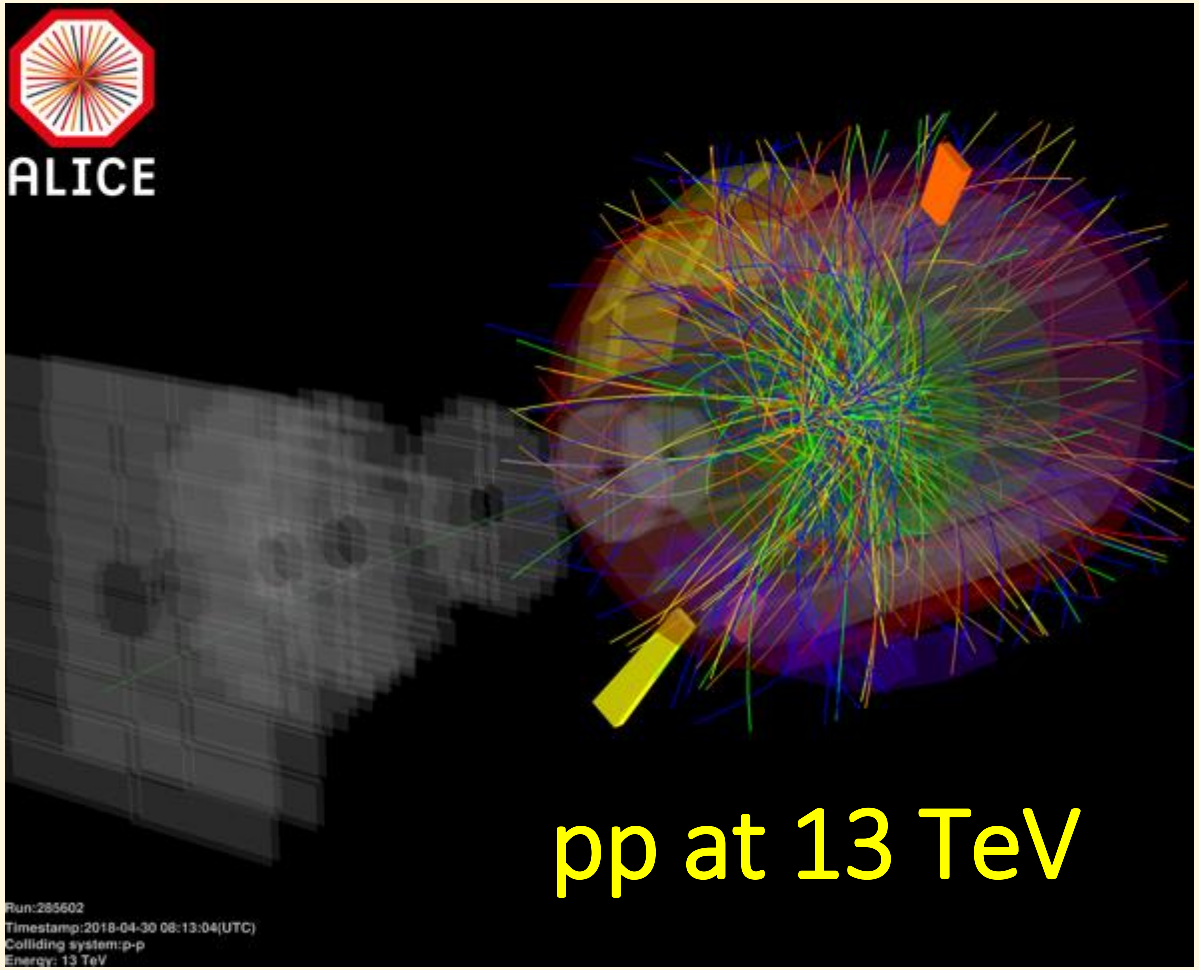


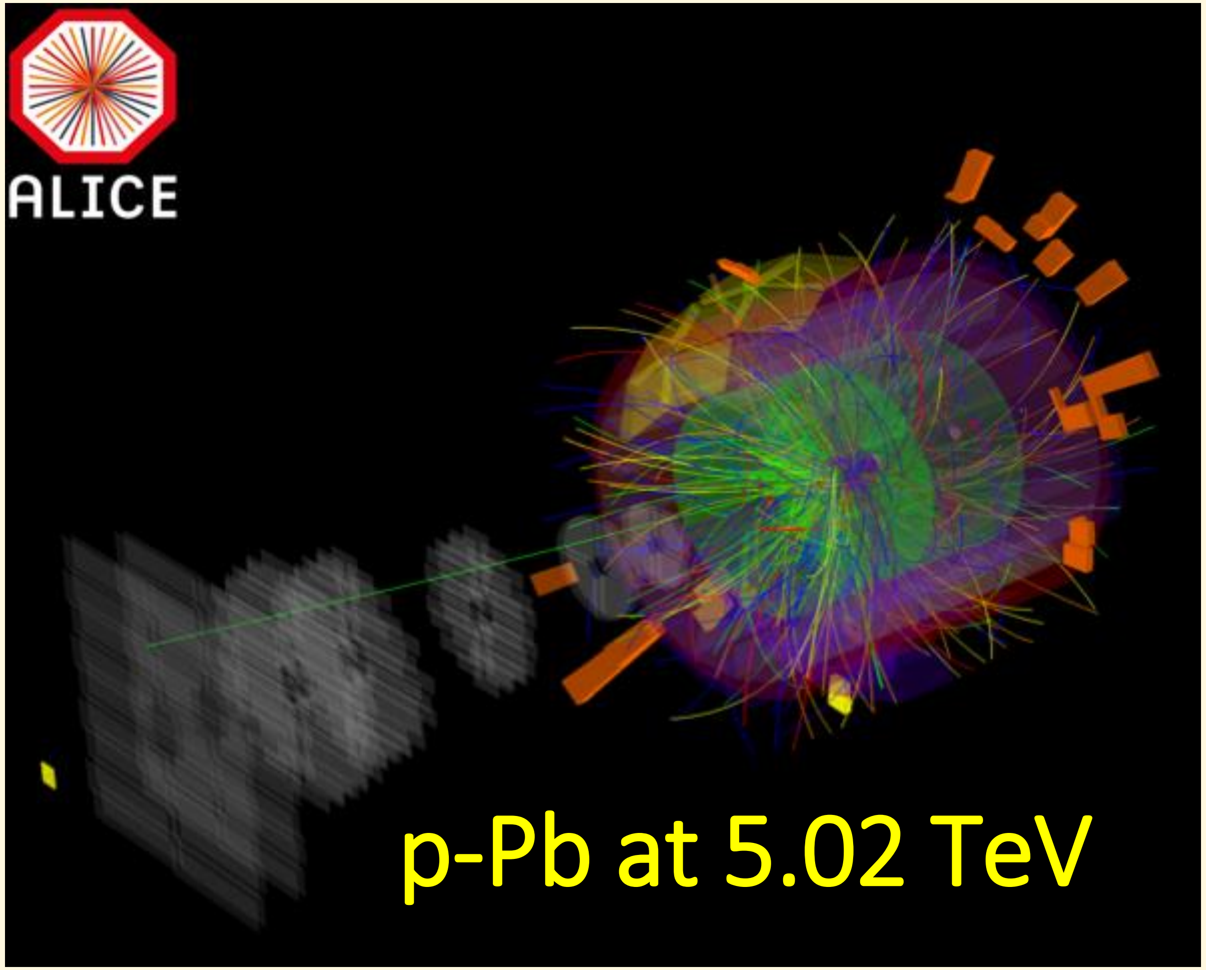
pp

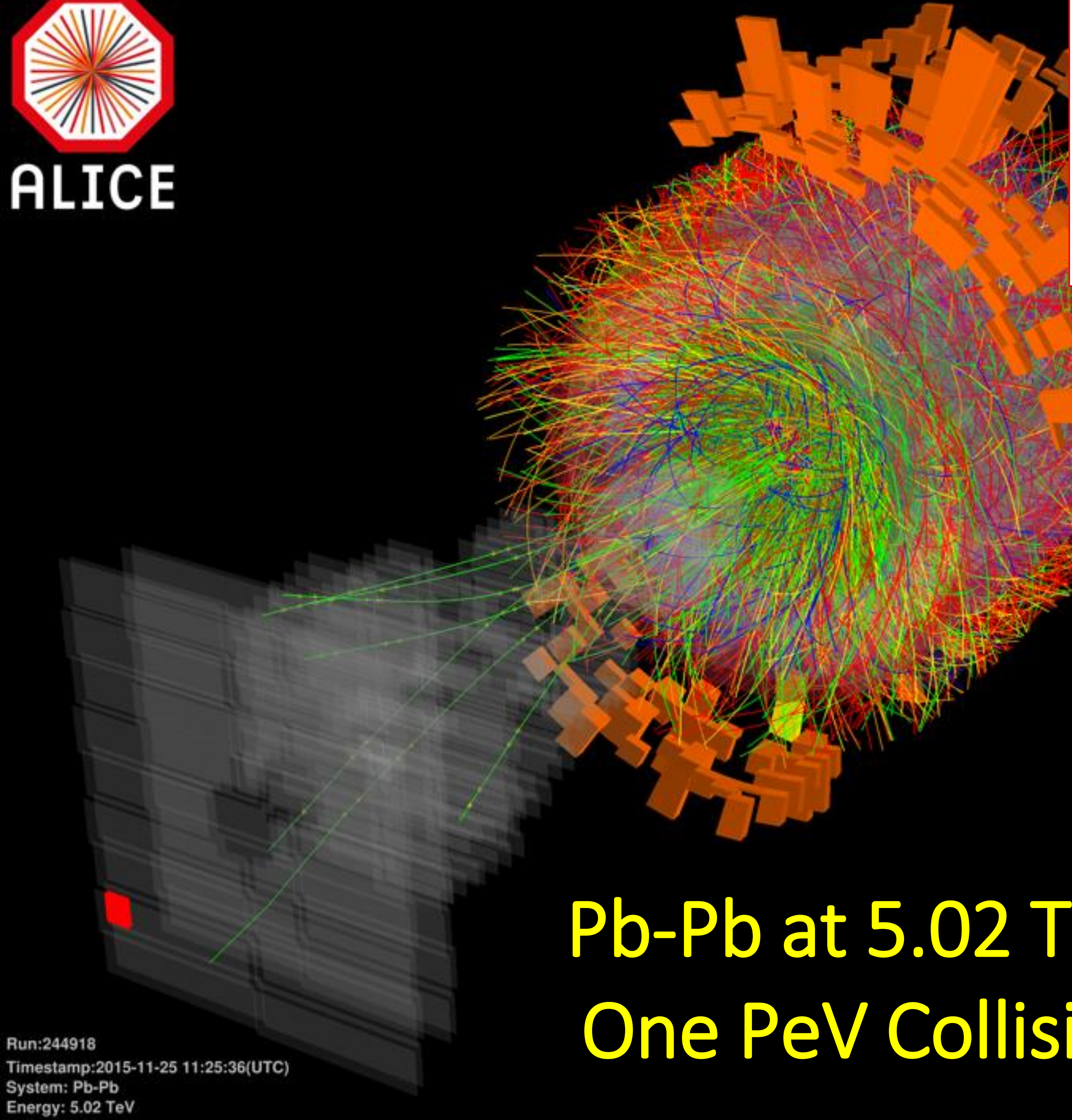
- Test of pQCD calculations from cross section measurements
- Provide reference for p-Pb and Pb-Pb collisions
- High multiplicity pp: what's the behaviour?

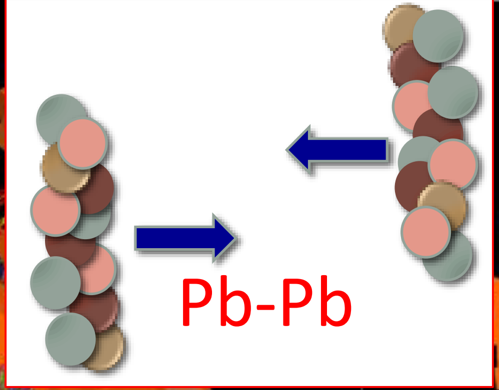


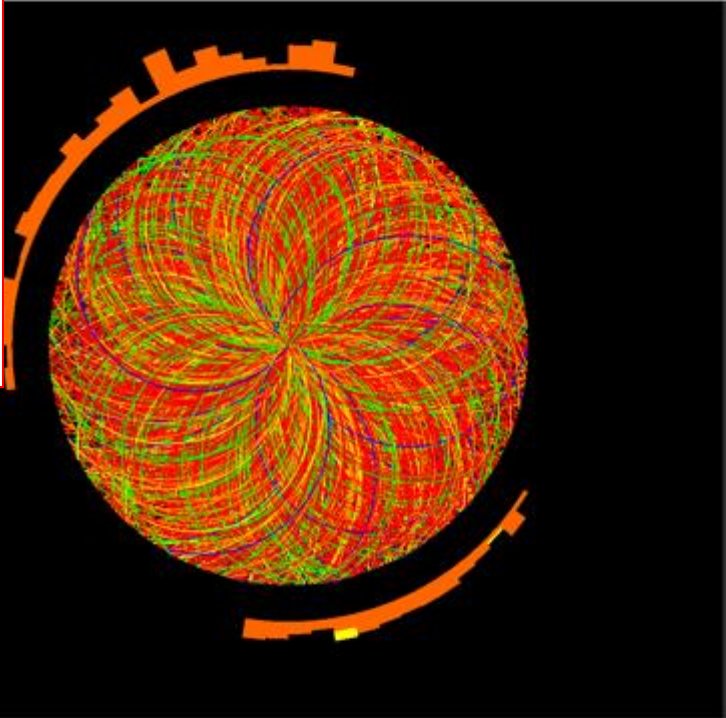
- Intermediary reference
- Address cold nuclear matter effects in initial and final states

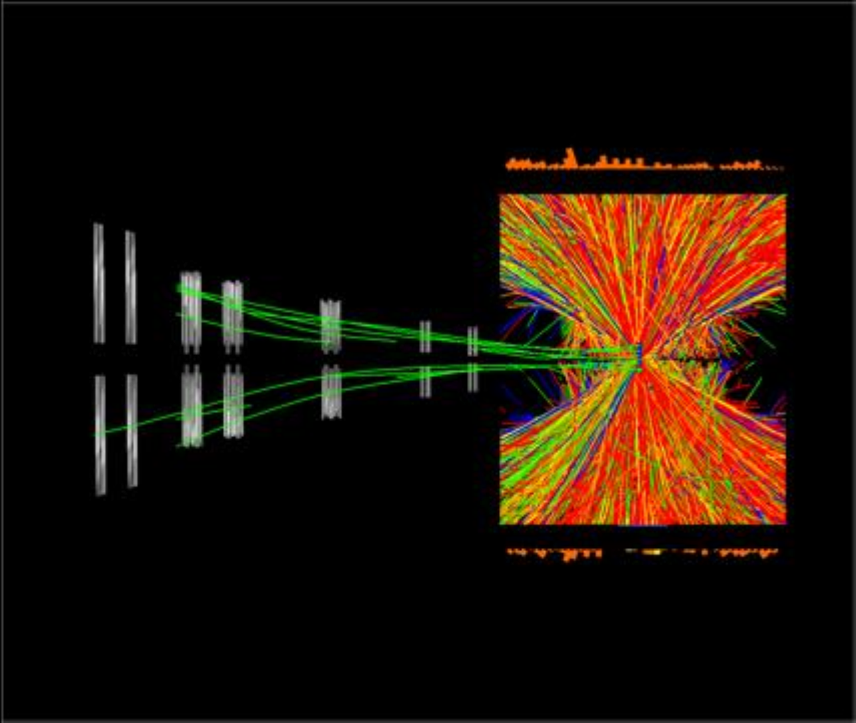






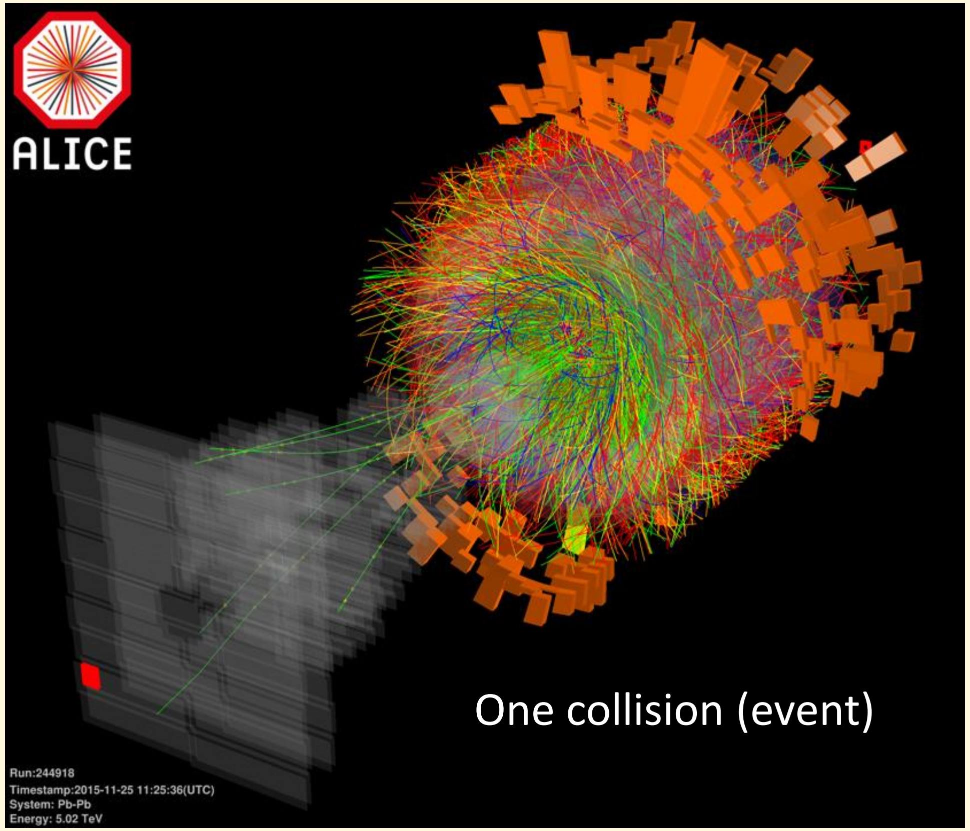






Pb-Pb at 5.02 TeV:
One PeV Collision

Reconstructing the collision



One collision (event)

What has just happened?

- What particles were created?
- Where were they produced?
- What were the parent particles?

=> Online (live):

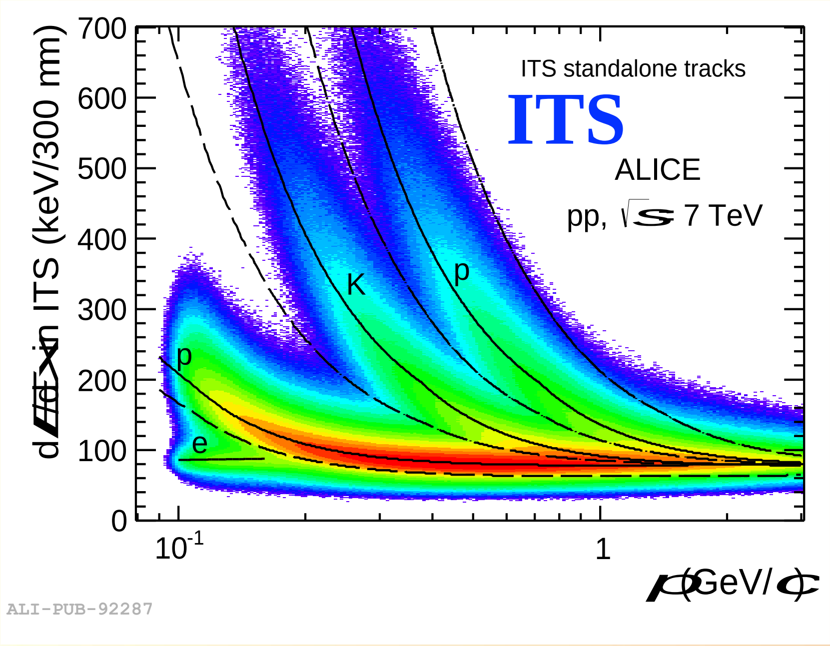
- Online data quality monitoring, calibrations.
- Using Triggers to keep events of interest and sends to storage.

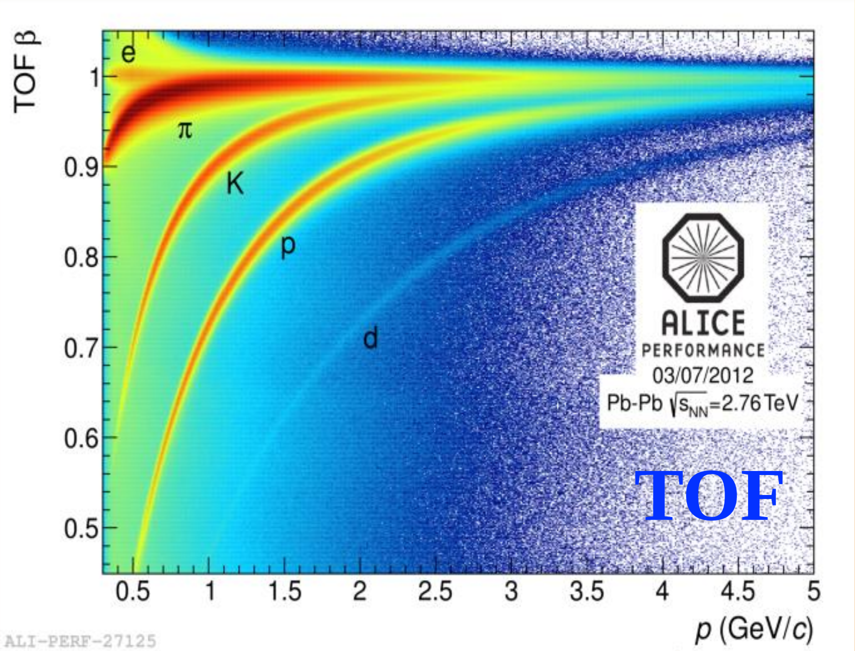
=> Offline: Event reconstruction:

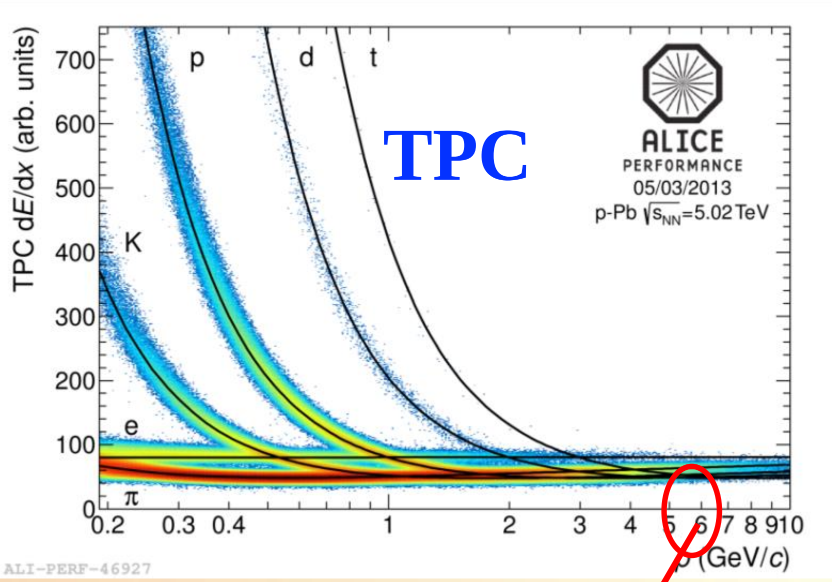
- Vertexing
- Tracking
- Particle identification of each of the tracks

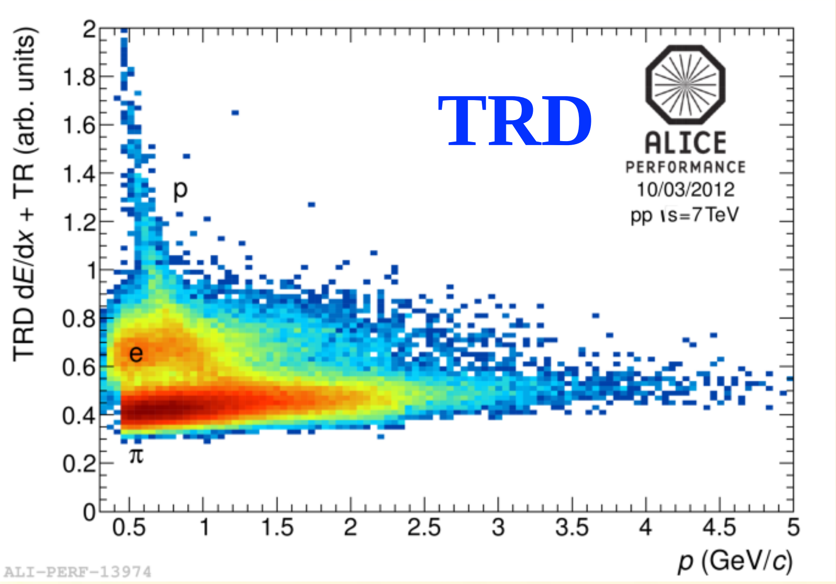
- The data flow from ALICE during Run2 was about 4 GB/second
- The data expected during next run (Run3) will be 3 TB/second

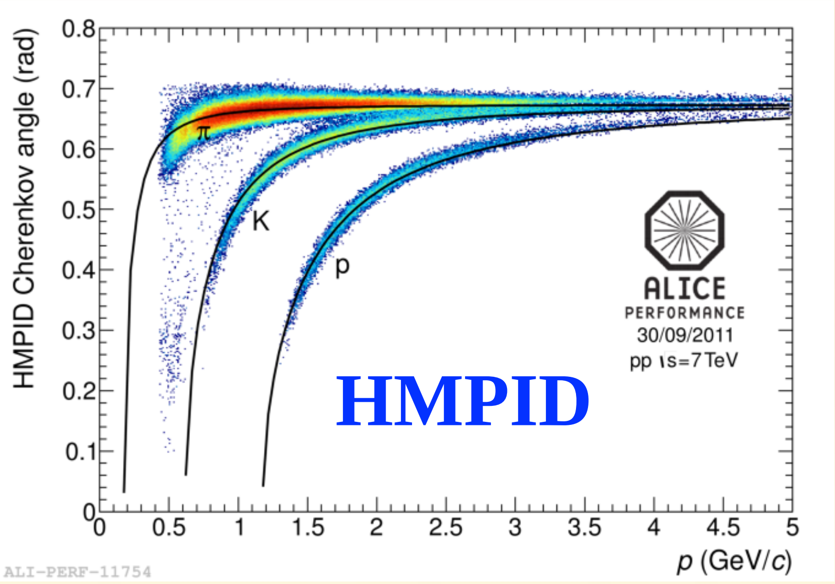
ALICE performance

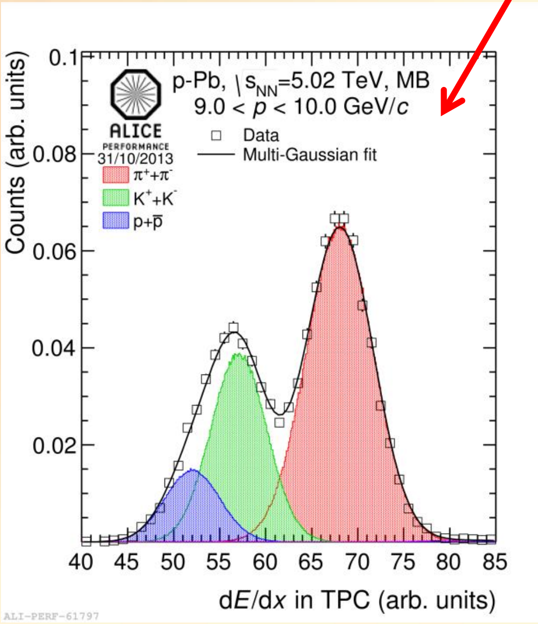




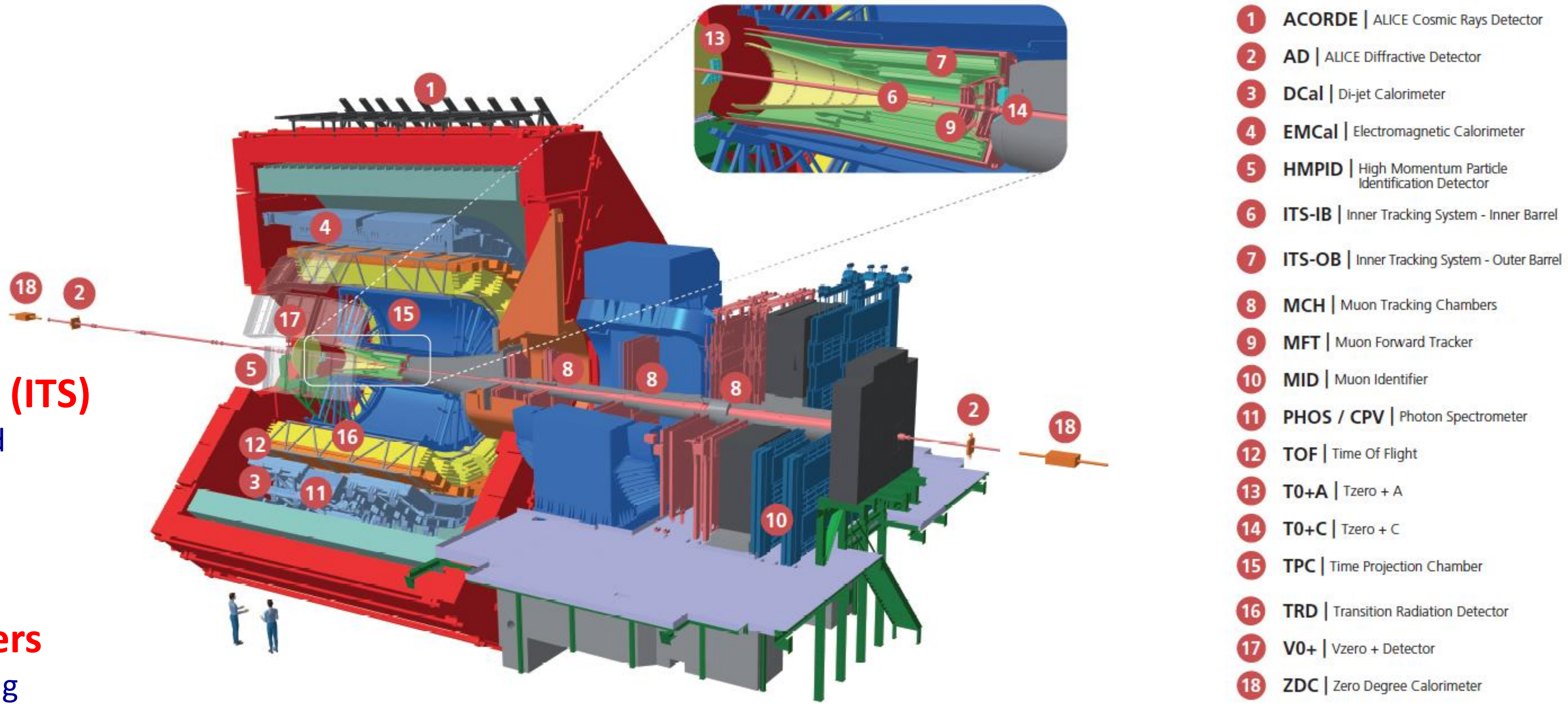








ALICE in (2022)



New Inner Tacking System (ITS)

- MAPS technology: improved resolution
- Less material,
- Faster readout

New TPC Readout Chambers

- New readout chambers using 4-GEM technology
- New electronics for continuous readout (SAMPA)

New Forward Muon Tracker (MFT)

- Vertex tracker at forward rapidity

Muon Arm

- New electronics (SAMPA)
- New electronics for Muon Trigger

Online Offline (O2) system

- new computing facility
- on line tracking & data compression
- 50kHz Pb-Pb event rate

Common Projects:

Common Readout Unit (CRU)
SAMPA common FE chip

New Trigger Detectors (FIT, AD)

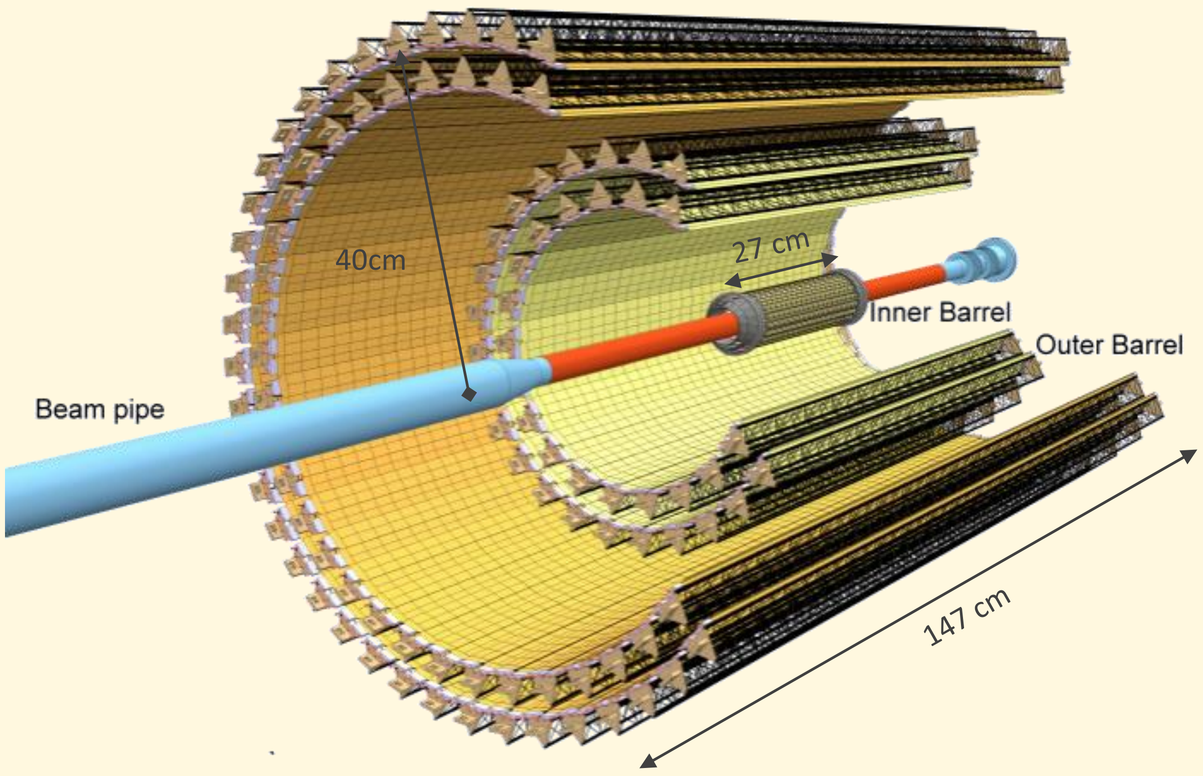
- + centrality, event plane

New Central Trigger Processor (CTP)

Upgraded readout for TOF, TRD, PHOS, EMCAL, CPV, HMPID

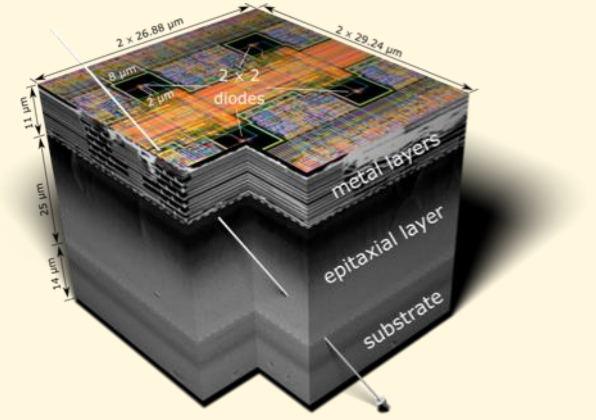

ALICE:
what you
will see
today

New Inner Tracking System (ITS)



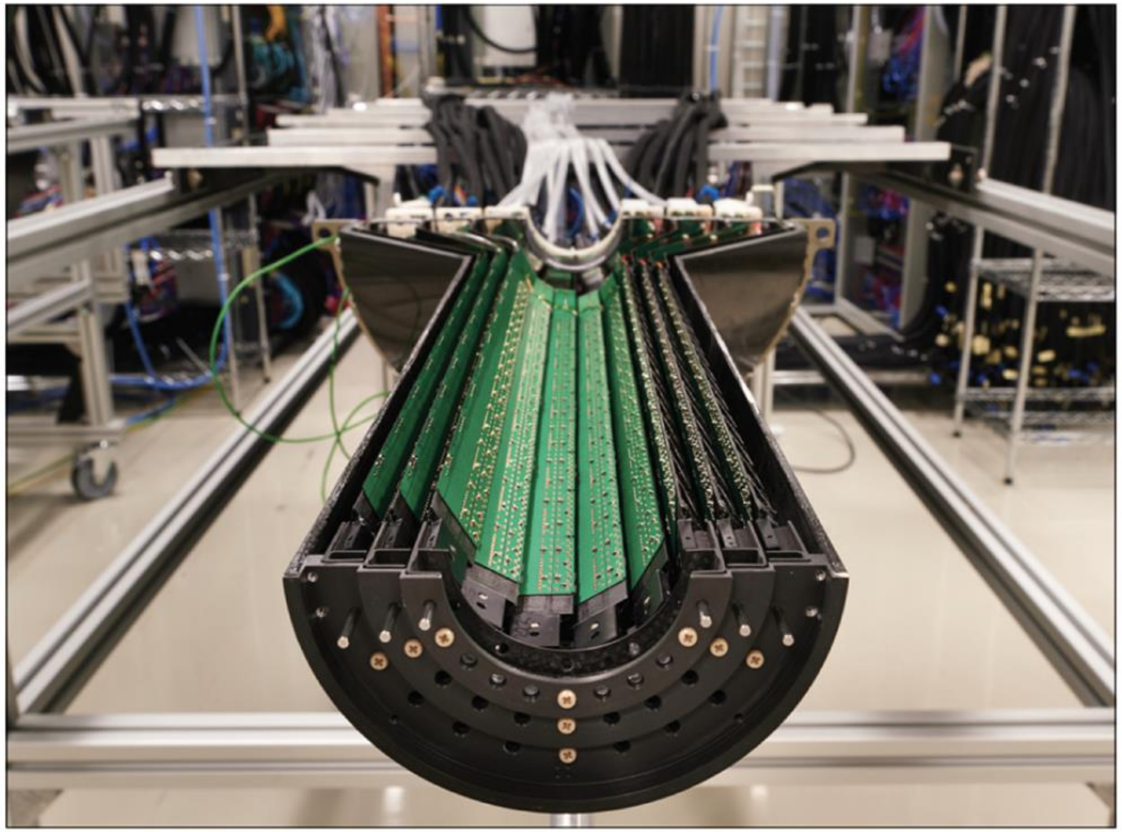
- 7-layer geometry (23 – 400mm), $|\eta| \leq 1.5$)
- 10 m^2 active silicon area (**12.5 G-pixels**)
- Pixel pitch 28 x 28 μm^2
- Spatial resolution ~5μm
- Power density < 40mW / cm^2
- Material thickness: ~0.3% / layer (IB)
- Maximum particle rate: 100 MHz / cm^2

Based on CMOS Monolithic Active Pixel Sensors (MAPS)

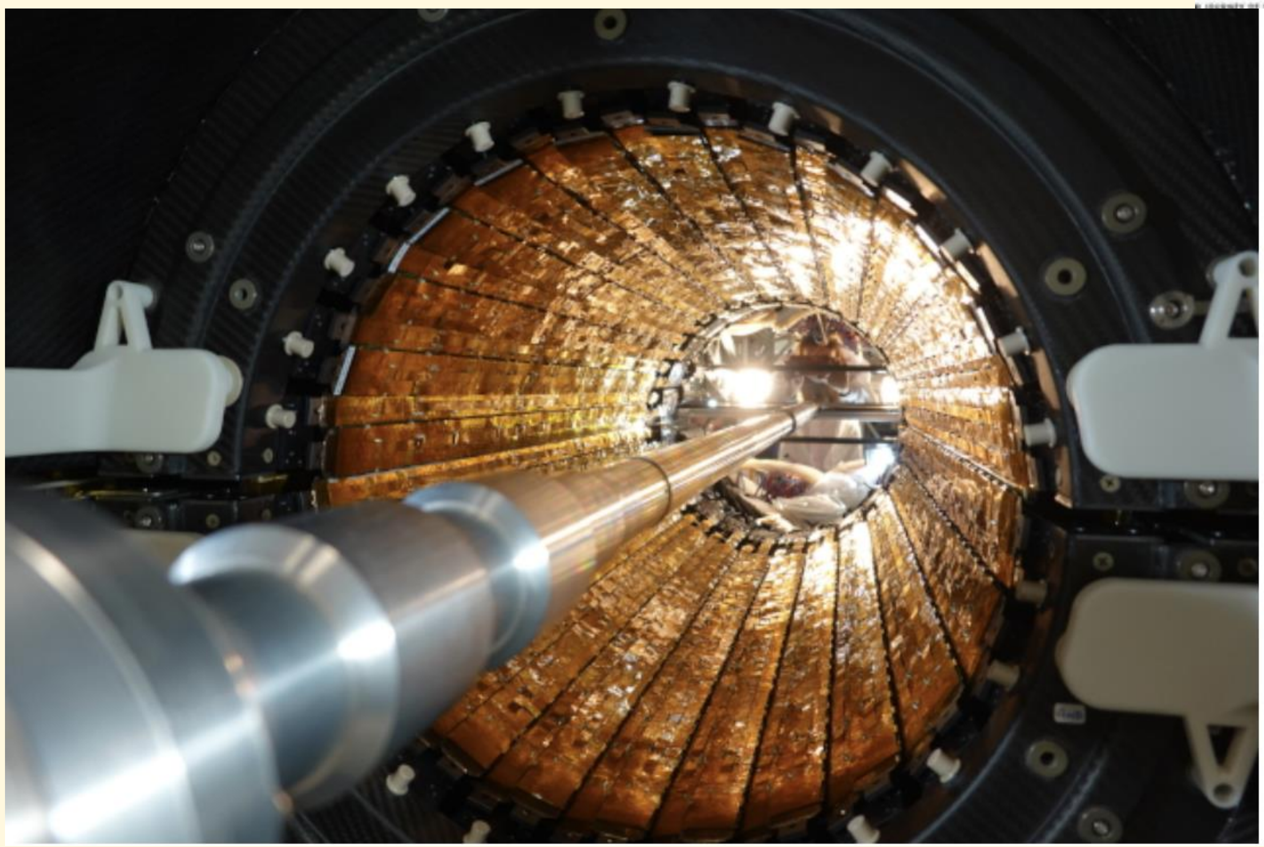


10 m^2 active silicon area (**12.5 G-pixels**)

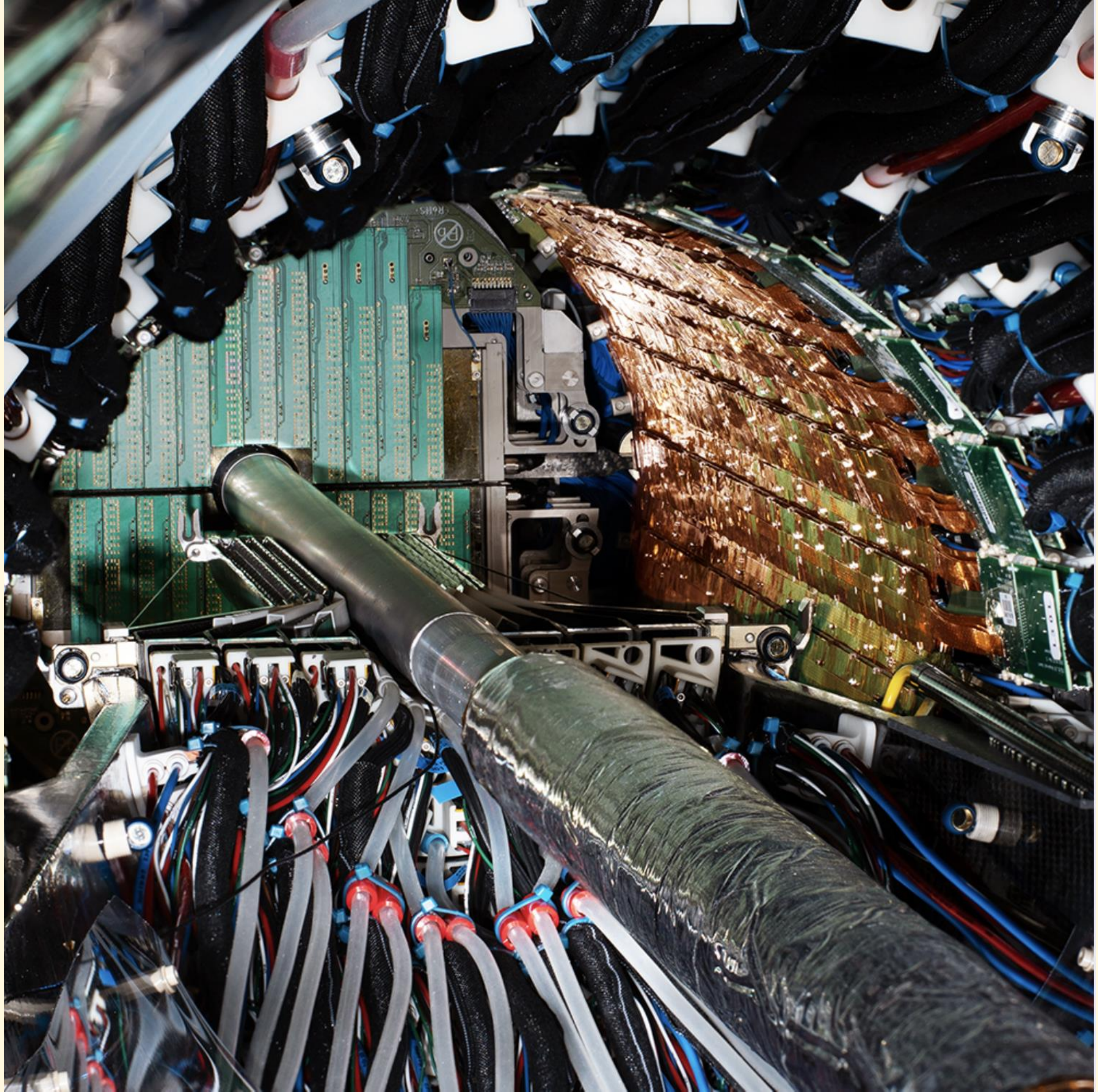
ITS inner



ITS outer



- In recent years, CMOS image pixel sensors have been widely used in digital cameras and smartphones. The ALICE ITS uses the same technology for detecting particles.
- In contrast to consumer applications, it is significantly larger: 10m^2 surface area (more than the sensors of 25000 cameras), and contains 12.5 billion pixels, a thousand times more than most consumer devices.
- On top of it, it takes 50000 pictures a second.

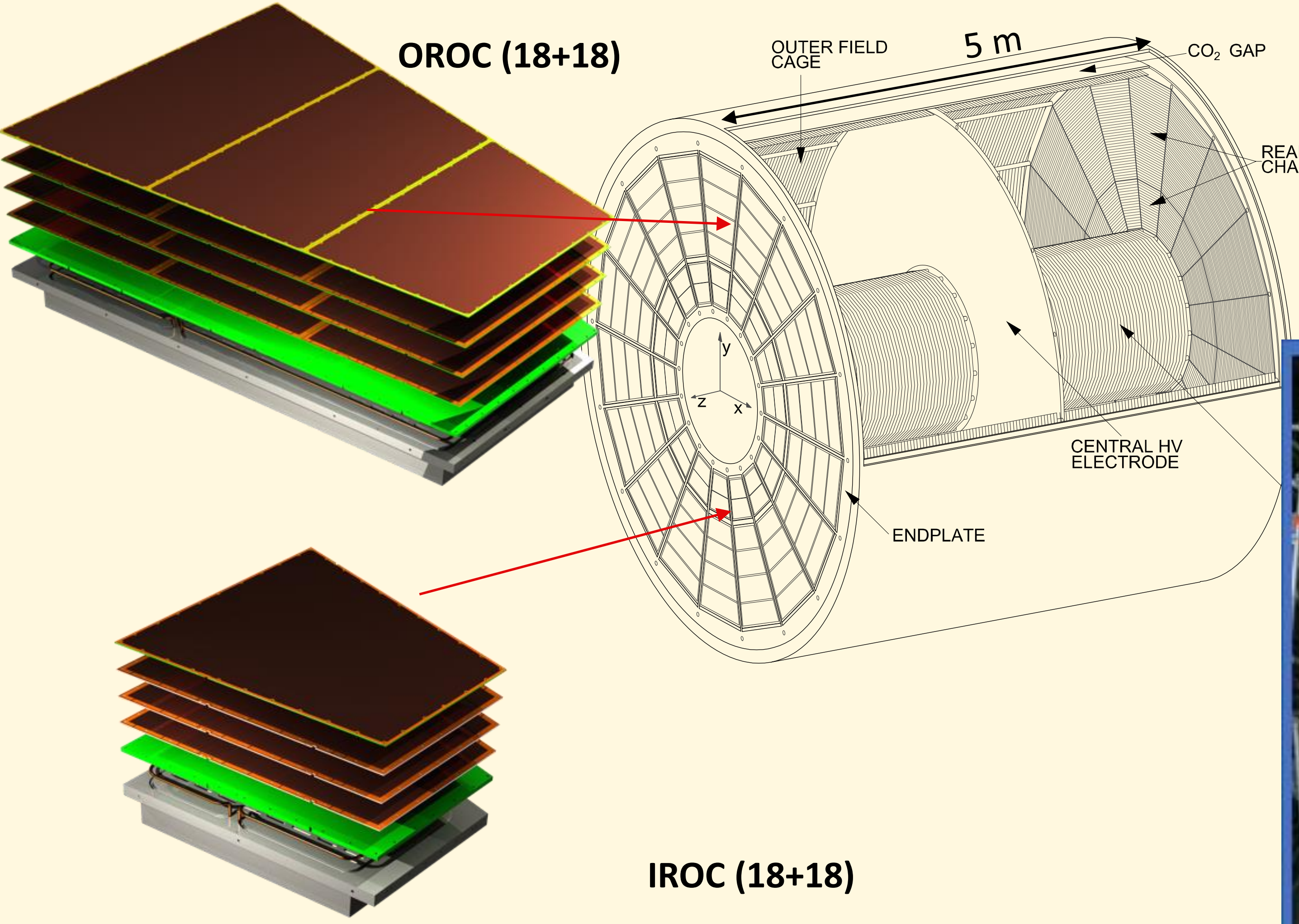


The inner (left, middle) and outer (gold colour) barrels of ALICE’s state-of-the-art **Inner Tracking system (ITS)** along with the new **Muon Forward Tracker (MFT)** (green panel).

https://cerncourier.com/a/alice-tracks-new-territory/

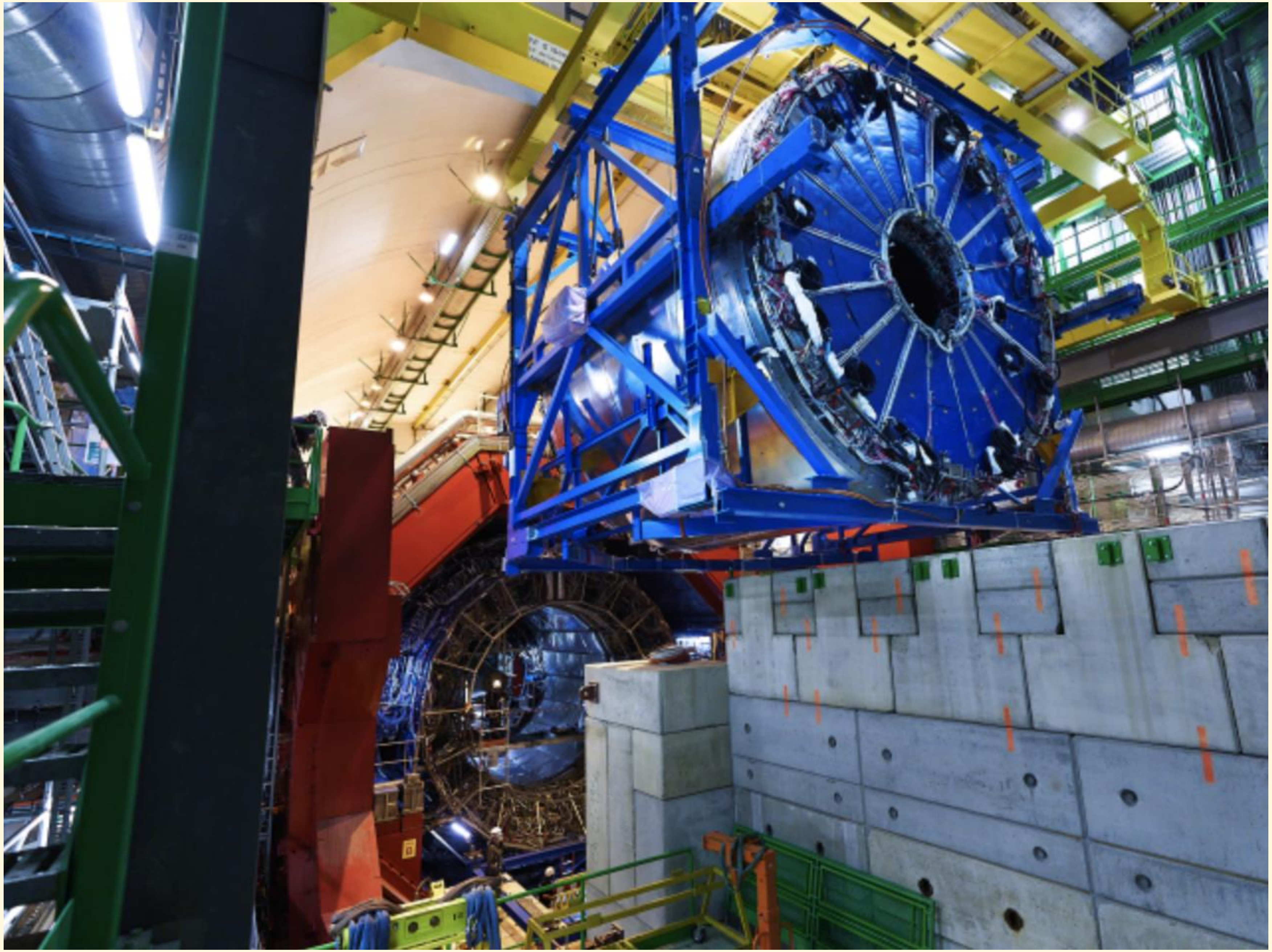
Time Projection Chamber (TPC) with GEM detectors

OROC (18+18)



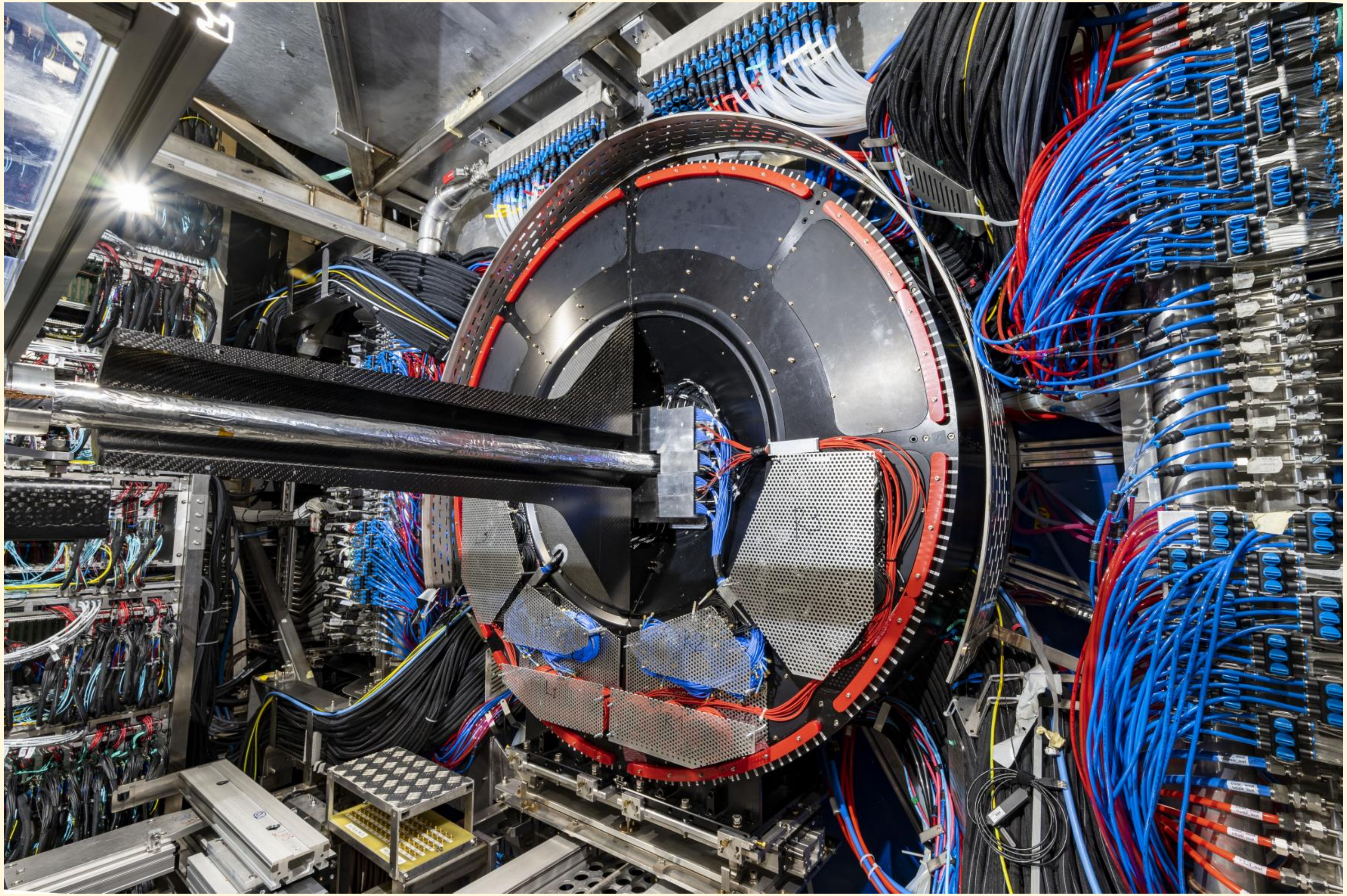
IROC (18+18)

TPC installation



https://videos.cern.ch/record/2729677

Fast Interaction Trigger (FIT)



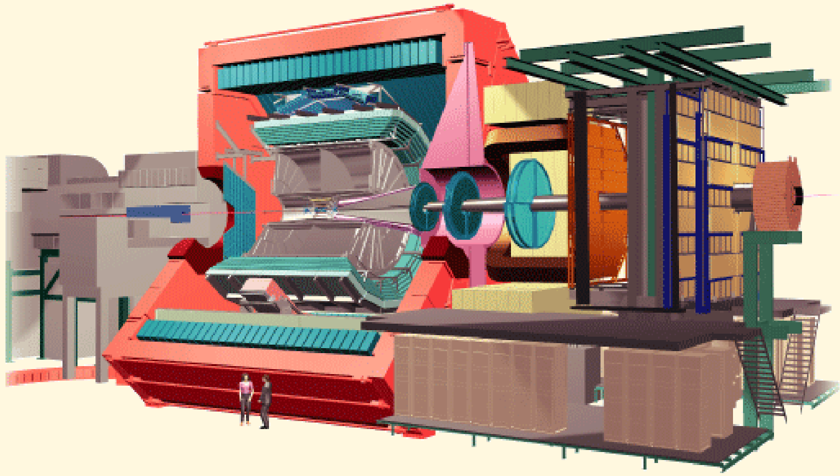
FIT is the

- fastest trigger,
- Online luminometer,
- initial indicator of the vertex position, and
- The forward multiplicity counter for ALICE.

Read-out Architecture

	Before LS2	RUN3
Luminosity	10^{27} cm^{-2} s^{-1}	**6 x 10^{27} cm^{-2} s^{-1}**
Collision rate	8 kHz (PbPb)	**50 kHz (PbPb)**
Max Readout rate	500 Hz (PbPb)	**PbPb: 50 kHz** **pp & pPb: 200 kHz**

- Several detectors will have continuous readout to address pileup and avoid trigger-generated dead-time.
- Online/Offline (O2) Facility: to reduce recorded data volume by doing the online reconstruction.
- Common Readout Unit (CRU) of O2: tasked to perform data concentration, reconstruction and multiplexing.



50 kHz (70 MB/event)
3.3 TB/s

Online
Offline
(O2)

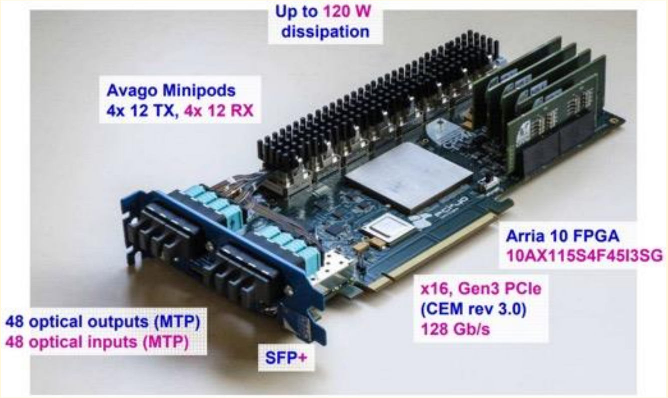
CRU

50 kHz (1.5 MB/event)

Storage

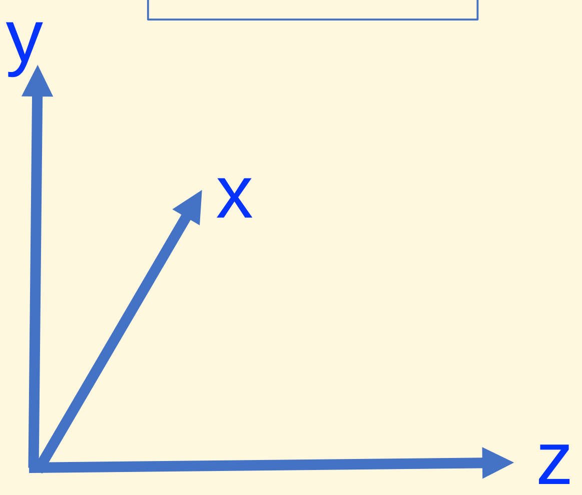
90 GB/s (peak)

CRU FPGA Board:

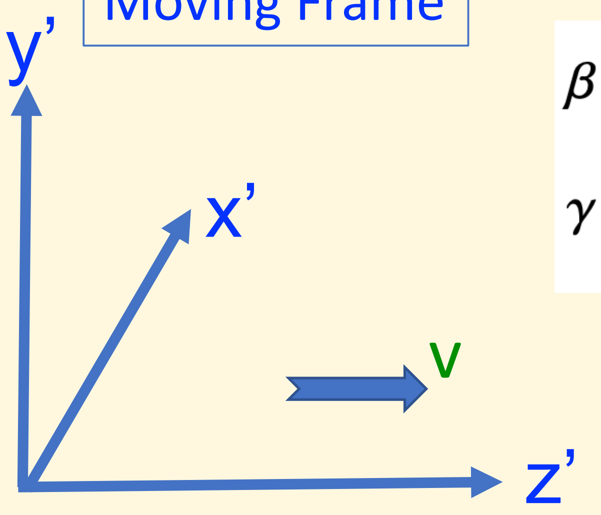


Special theory of Relativity: Lorentz Transformation

Fixed Frame



Moving Frame



$$\beta = \frac{v}{c}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$$

$$x' = x$$

$$y' = y$$

$$z' = \gamma \cdot (z - vt)$$

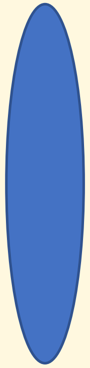
$$t' = \gamma \cdot (t - \frac{vz}{c^2})$$

Transformation with velocity, v, along the z-axis.

- In moving frame an object has always the same length (it is invariant !)
- From fixed frame moving objects appear contracted by a factor γ (Lorentz contraction)

Radius of Pb ion: L
(~ 7fm)

Pb ion Moving with velocity, v



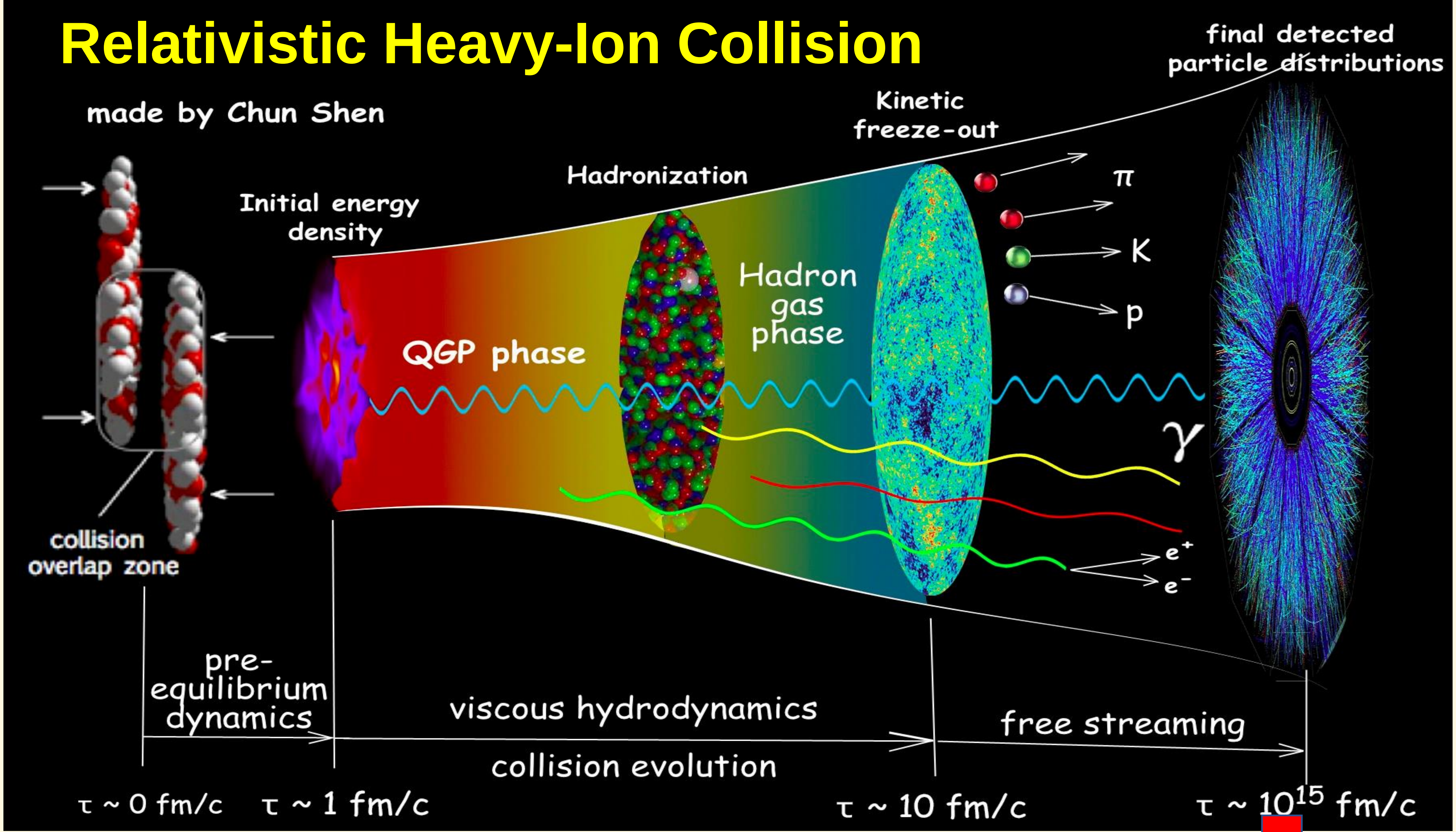
$L' = \gamma L$

$L = L'/\gamma$

For v = 0.999999991 c
$\gamma = 7453.$

Length (radius) along z-axis appear contracted by 7453 times.
Only the longitudinal direction gets contracted – not the transverse ones.

Relativistic Heavy-Ion Collision



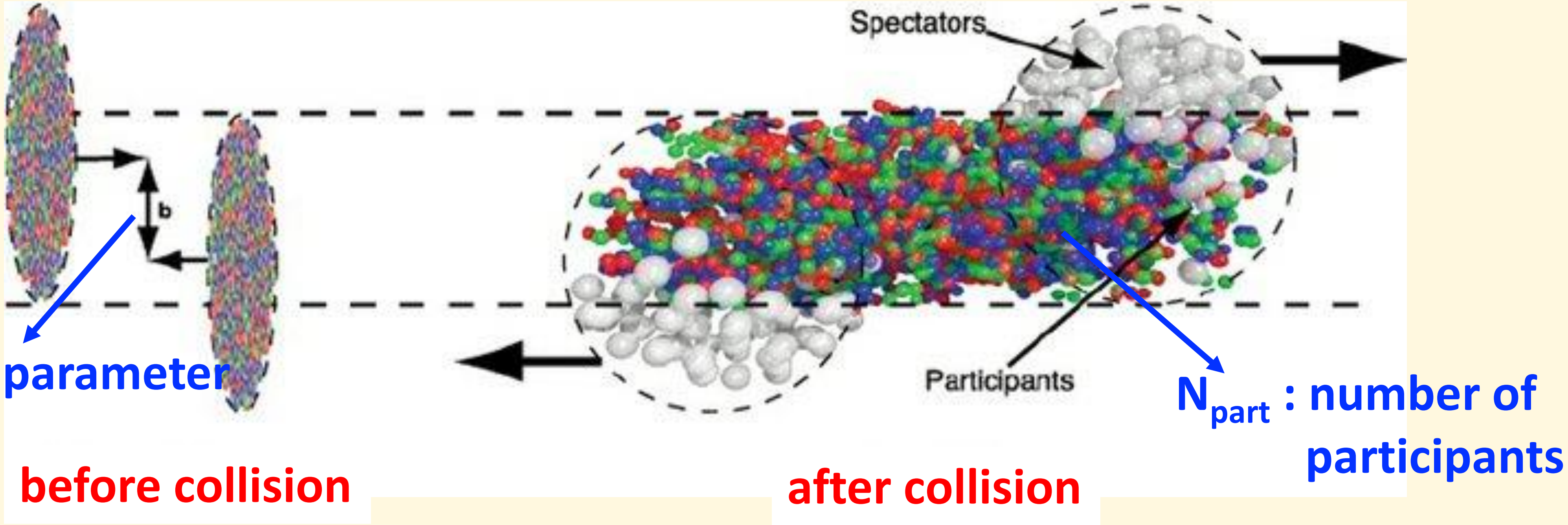
Initial State Fluctuations

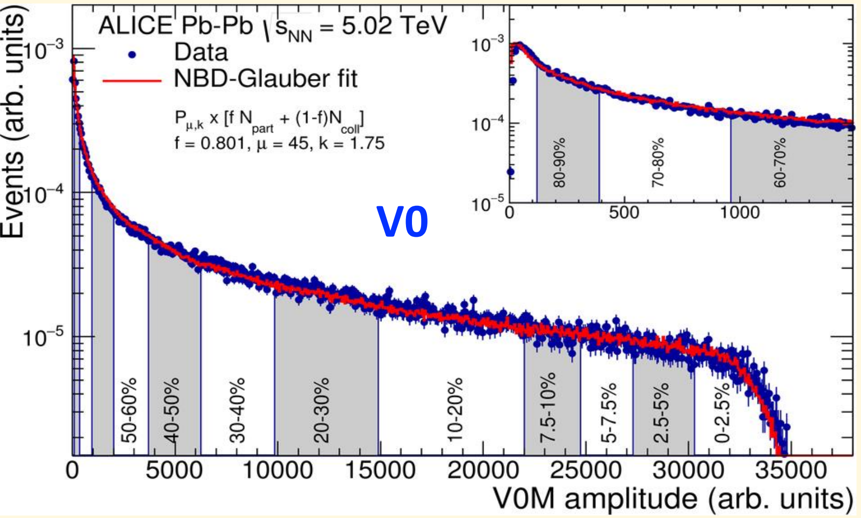
Thermal Fluctuations

Hadronization

Measurement

Centrality in heavy-ion collisions:



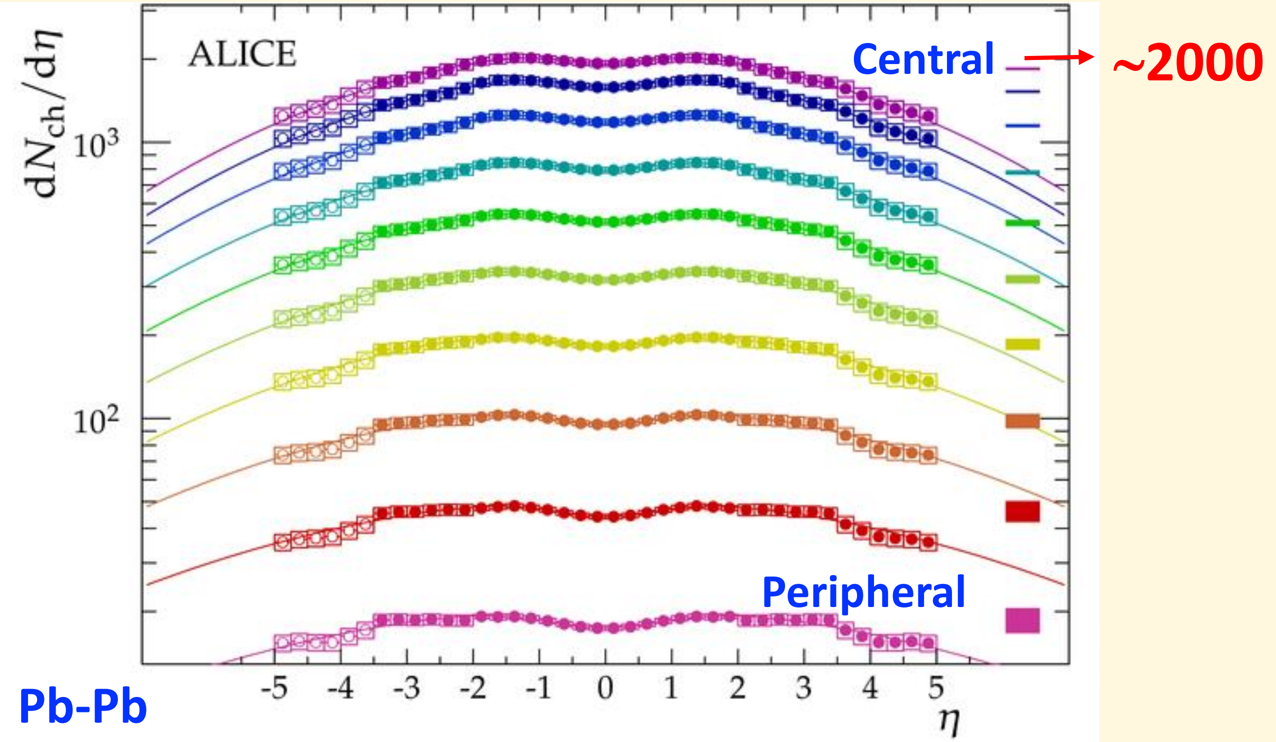


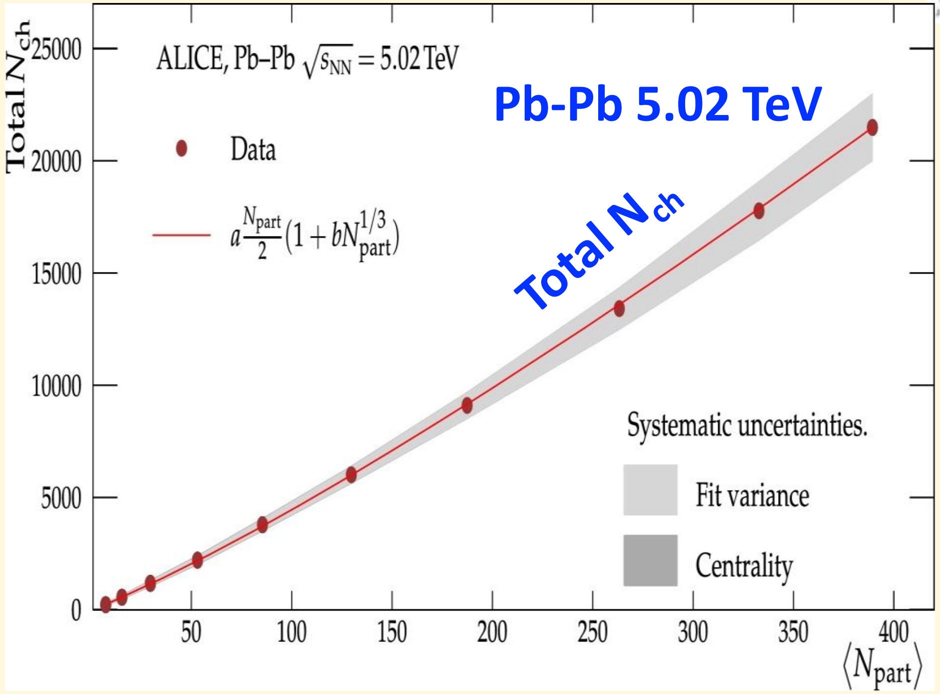
b: impact parameter, For Pb-Pb collisions, maximum of b ~ 14 fm

Central collision, b ~ 0

Peripheral collision: b > 10 fm

Charged particle multiplicity





Number of charged particles in one collision:

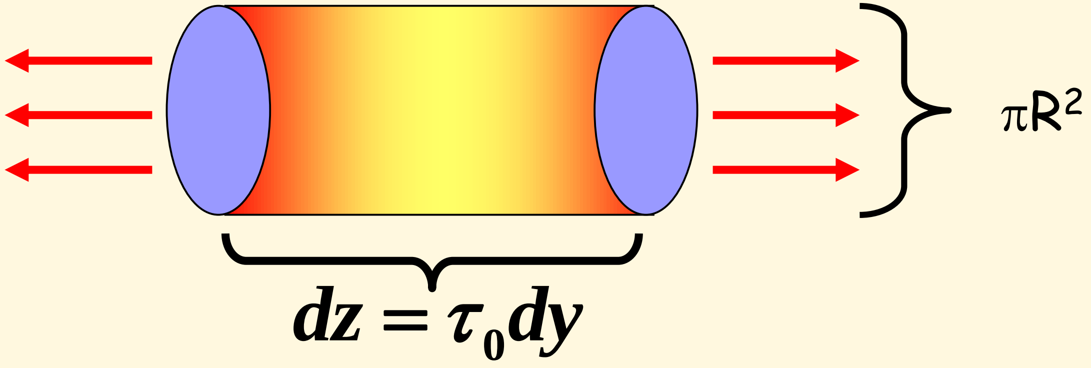
- Central collisions: 21400 ± 1300
- Peripheral collisions: 230 ± 38

Phys.Lett. B 772 (2017) 567577
Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 222302

VERY LARGE NUMBER OF PRODUCED PARTICLES

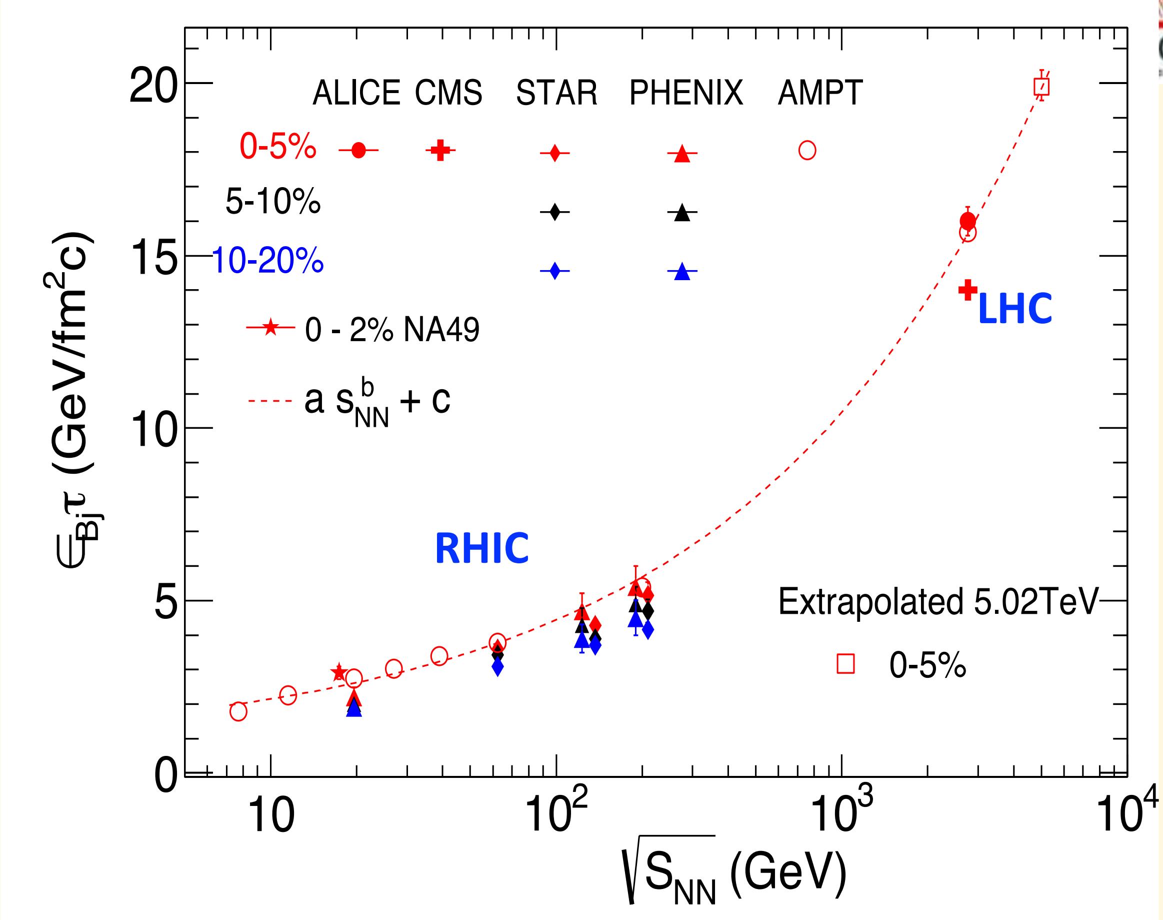
Particle density & Energy density

J. D. Bjorken, Phys. Rev. D 27, 140 (1983).



$$\varepsilon_{Bj}(\tau) = \frac{1}{\pi R^2 \tau}\frac{dE_T}{dy}$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{\pi R^2 \tau} < m_T > \frac{3}{2}\frac{dN_{ch}}{d\eta}$$



ε.τ ~ 16 GeV/fm²c

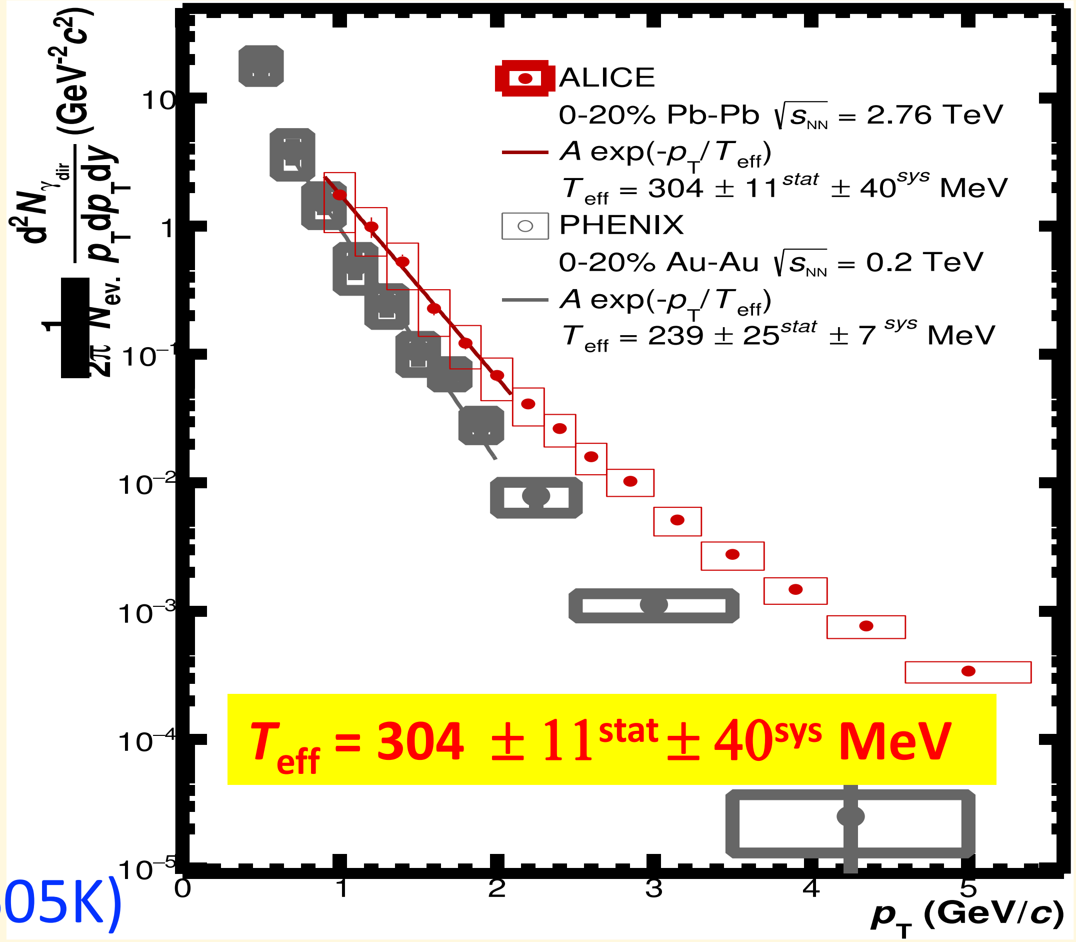
LARGEST ENERGY DENSITIES EVER ACHIEVED ….

S. Basu et al. PRC 93 (2016) 064902
R. Sahoo et al. Adv. in HEP, Vol. 2015

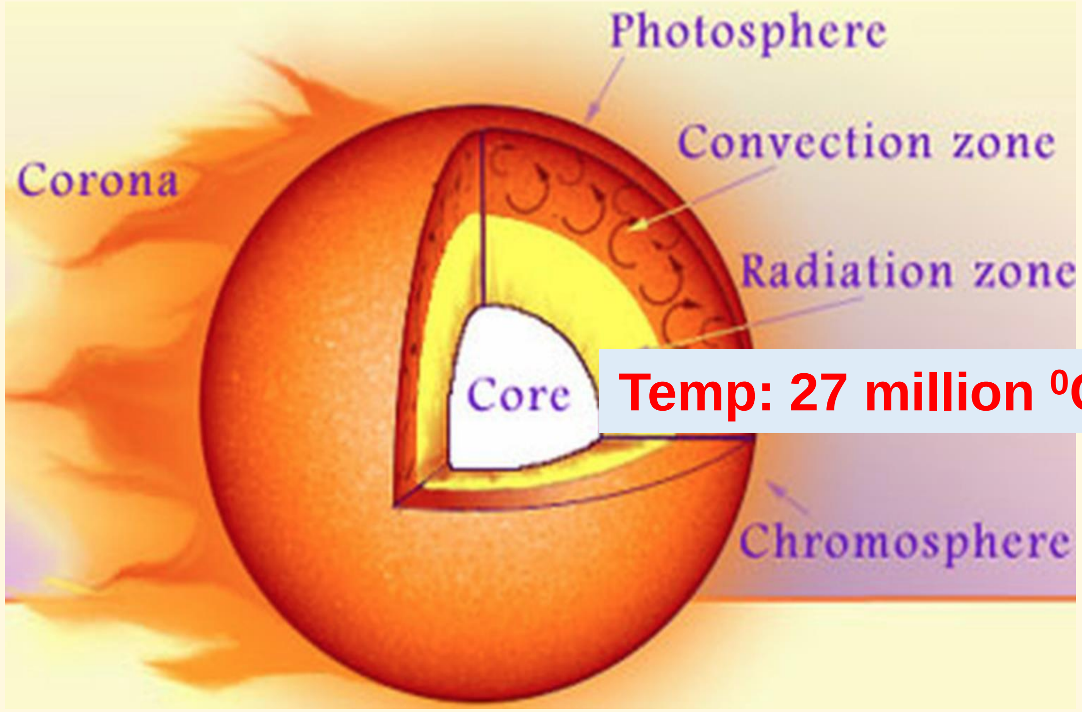
Photon Spectra and QGP temperature

- Photons do not interact via the nuclear force → transparent to the medium
- Photons are emitted in all stages and are unaffected by the medium.

[Phys. Lett. B 754 (2016) 235-248](#)



Core of the Sun:



Temp: 27 million ^{0}C

(1eV=11605K)

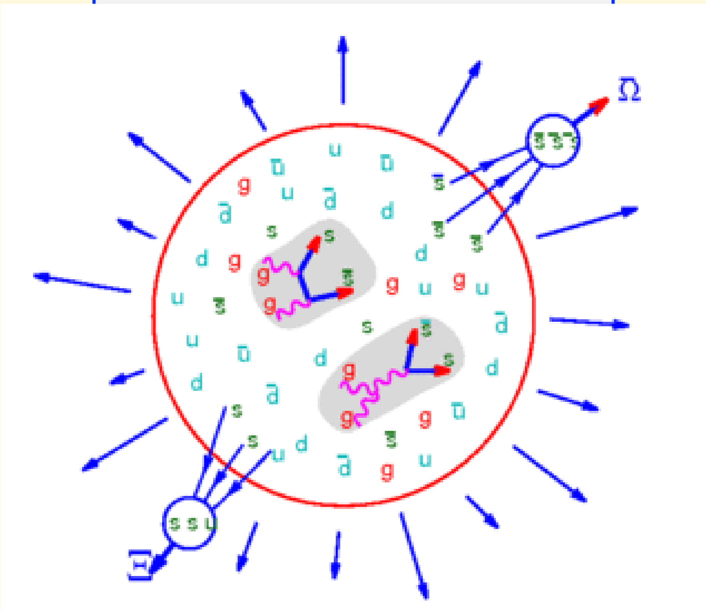
T_{eff} = 3,527,920 million deg

LARGEST EVER TEMPERATURE REACHED IN THE LAB ….

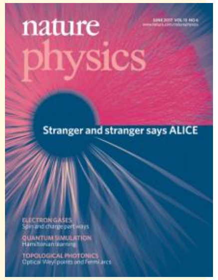
Strangeness enhancement

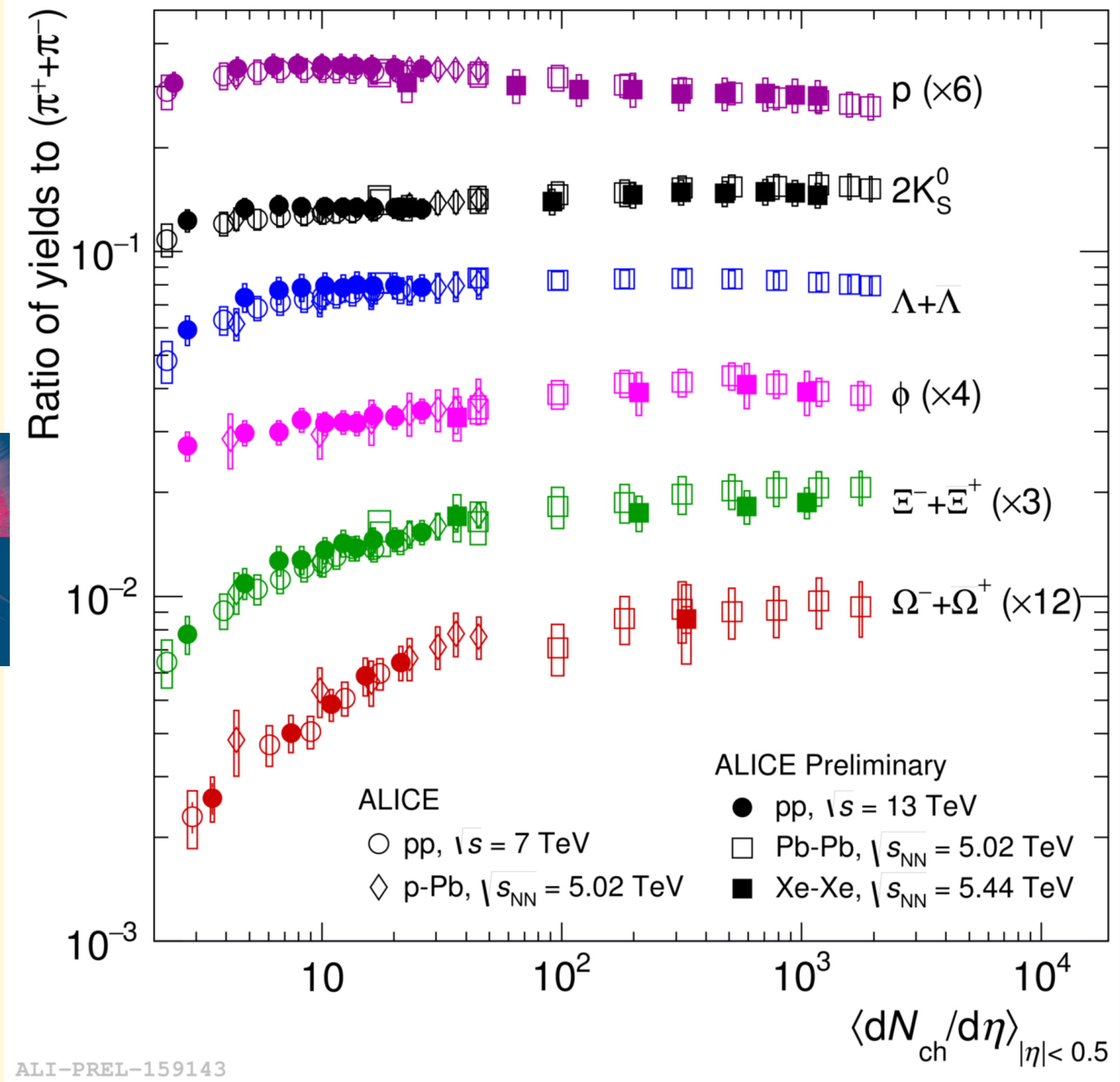
Ordinary nuclear matter is composed of *u*, *d* quarks. Strange quarks are produced in the collision

$$m_{u,d,s} < \Lambda_{QCD} < m_{c,b,t}$$



J. Rafelski and B. Müller, PRL48, 1066 (1982)
P. Koch, B. Müller, J. Rafelski, Phys. Rep. 142, 167 (1986)

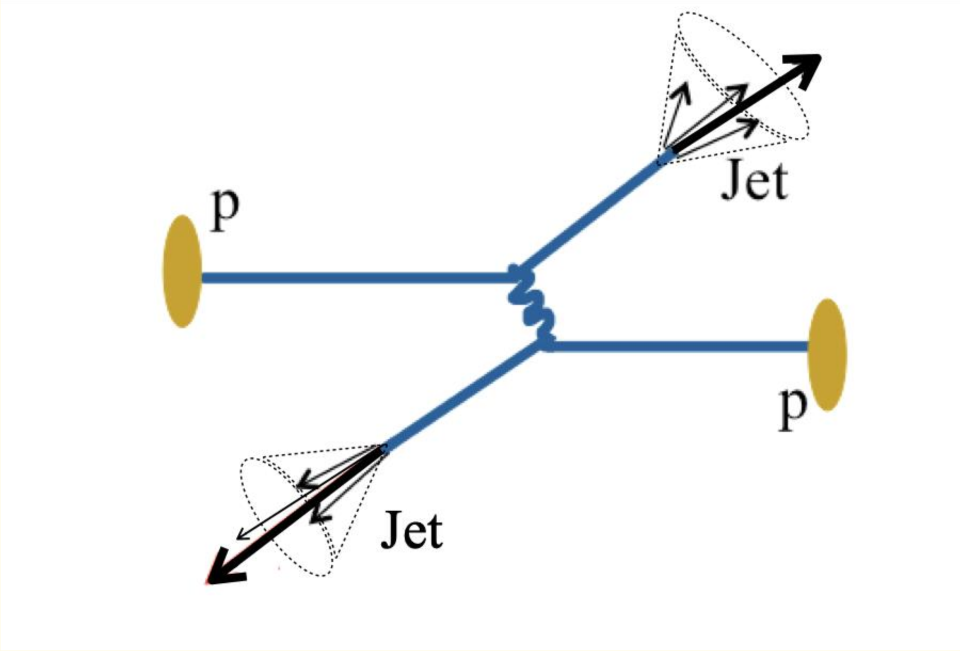




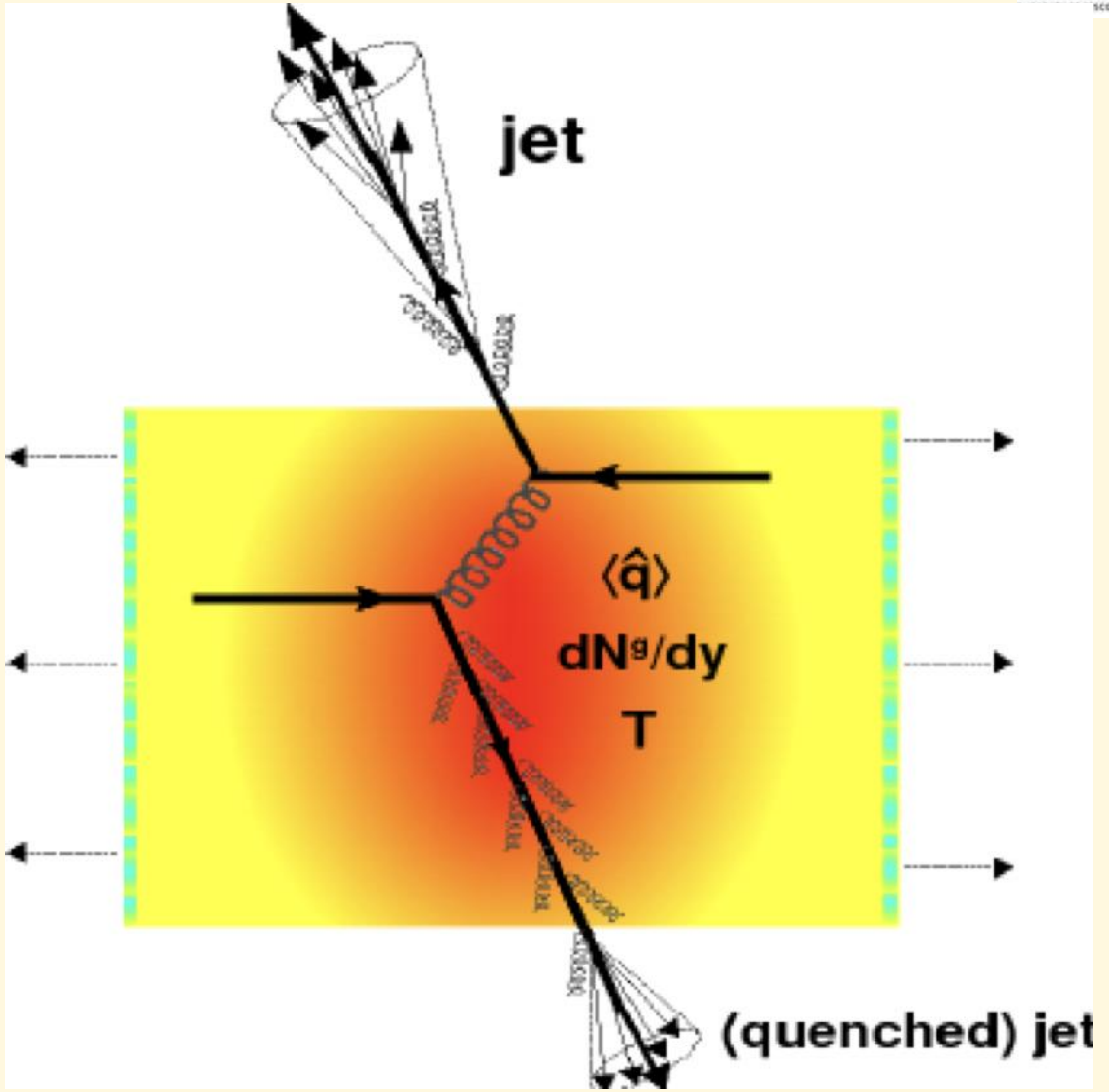
The enhanced production of strangeness relative to u and d quarks => formation of QGP matter.

Jet-quenching in Quark Gluon Plasma

Jet is a collimated spay of hadrons fragmented from a high energetic parton.



Back-to-back jets in p+p collision (vacuum)



Jet-quenching: Consequence of parton energy loss in the QGP (due to gluon radiation)

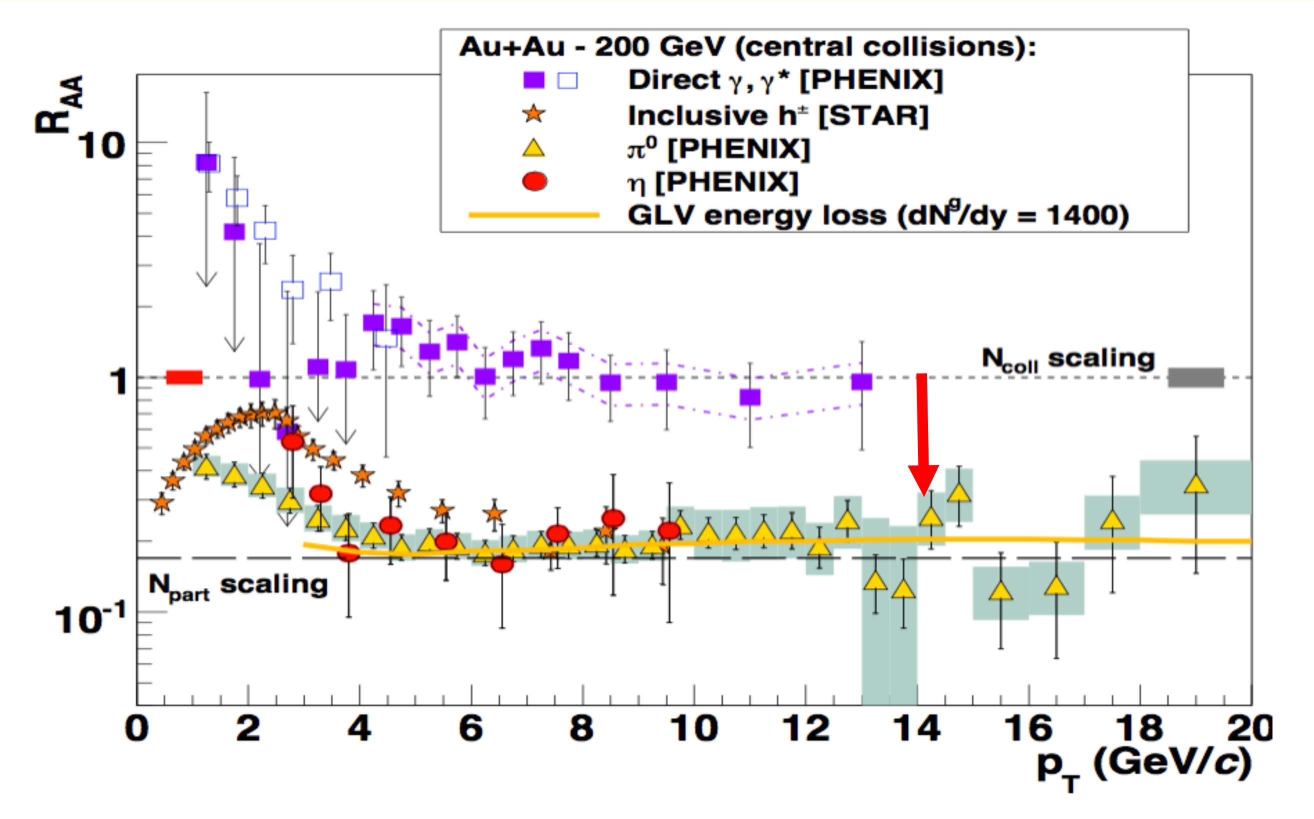
Evidence of Jet-quenching

$$R_{AA} = \frac{\text{Yield in A + A}}{\text{Normalized Yield in p + p}}$$

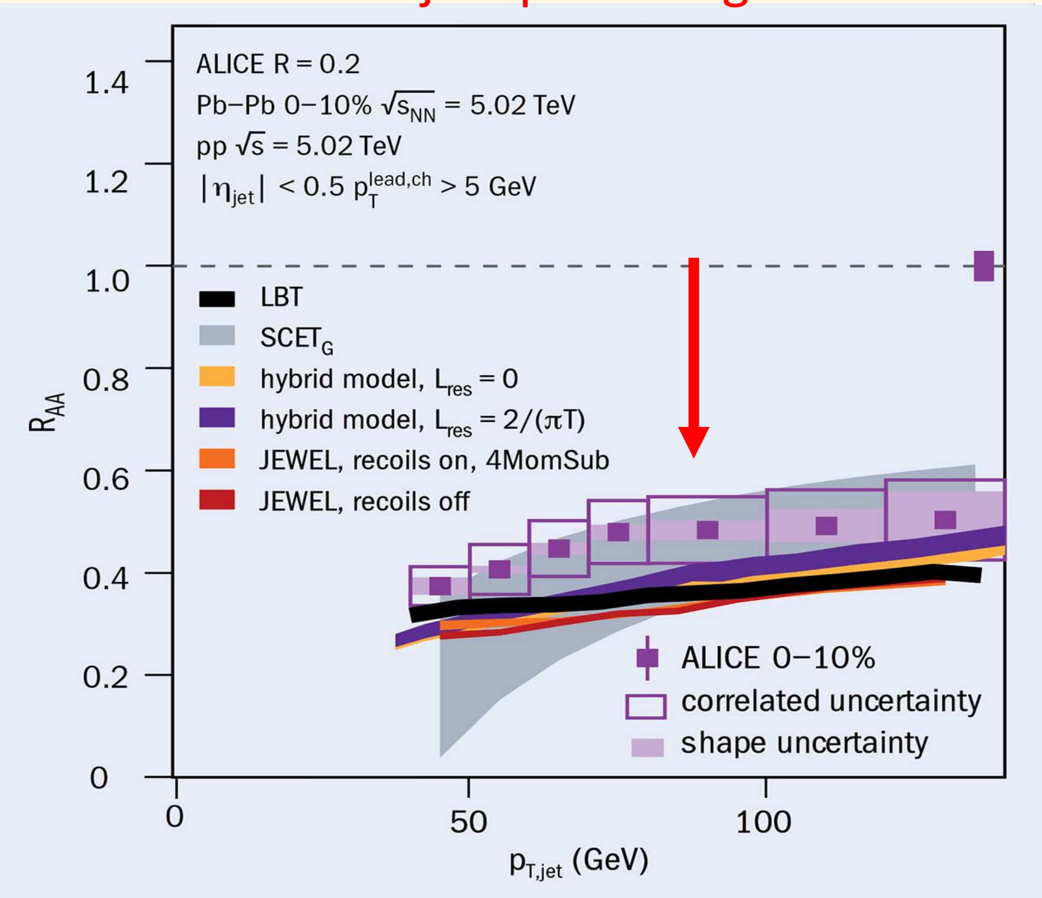
$R_{AA} = 1$: No jet suppression jet-quenching

$R_{AA} < 1$: jet-quenching

First evidence of jet-quenching at RHIC



Confirmation of jet-quenching at LHC

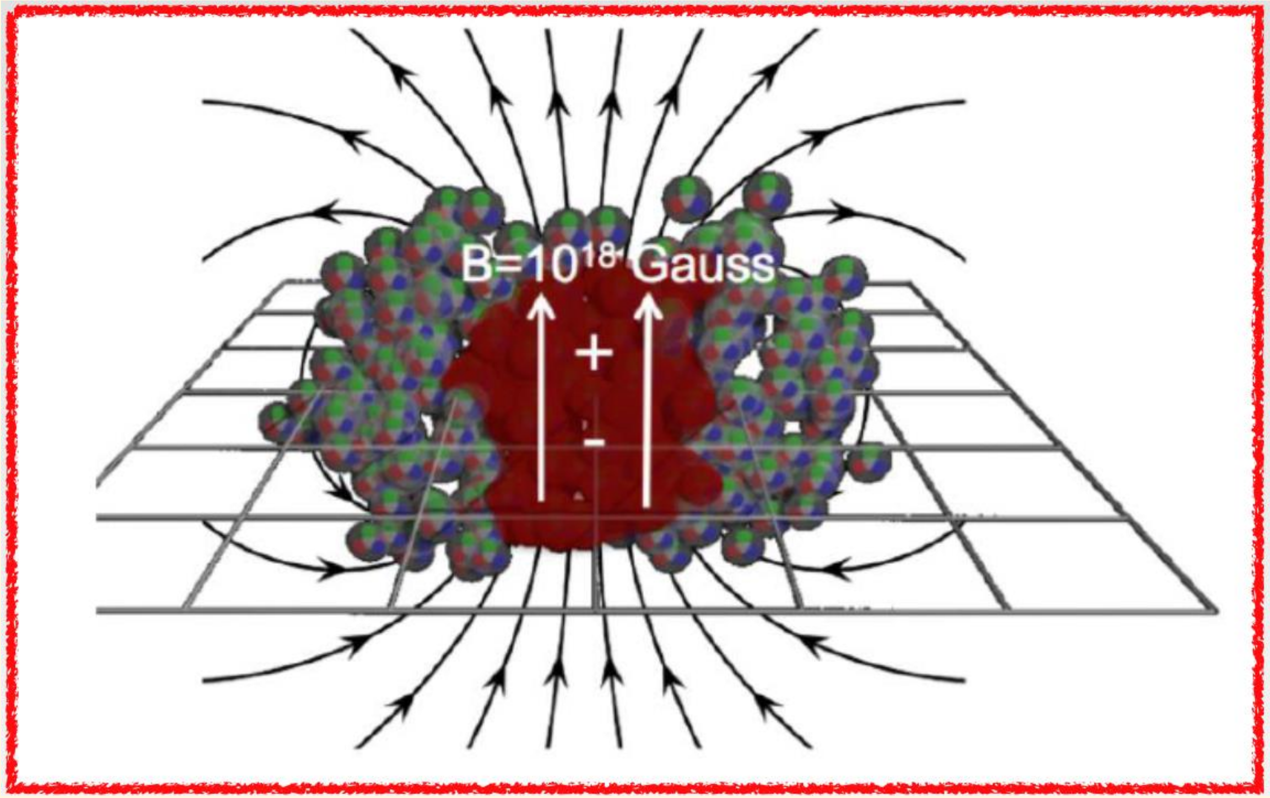


Jet-quenching => QGP formation

ALICE Collab. 2020 *Phys. Rev. C* **101** 034911.

Generation of enormous magnetic field: 10^{14} Tesla

Two colliding nuclei generate two electric currents in opposite directions, and produce a magnetic field perpendicular to the reaction plane. The non-central collisions generate enormous magnetic field of 10^{14} Tesla by the movement of the spectator protons.

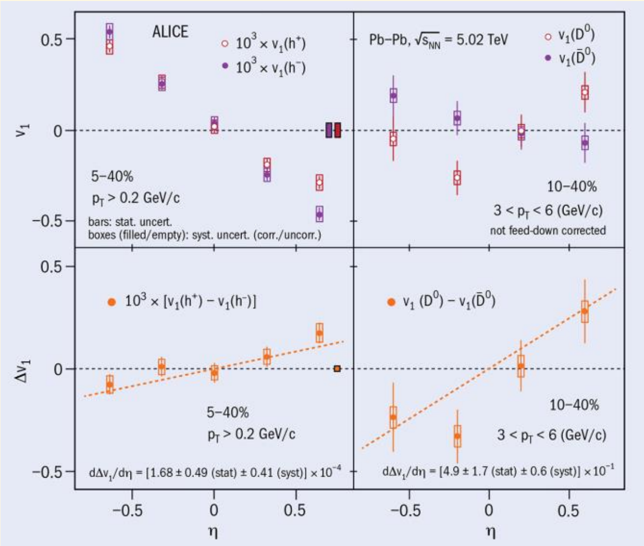


Earth's magnetic field: 10^{-5} Tesla.
LHC magnets: 8.3 Tesla
Magnestar (type of neutron star): 10^{10} Tesla

Probing the extreme electromagnetic fields:

The strong magnetic field affects the evolution of the QGP. Chiral phenomena such as the chiral magnetic effect gets induced by the strong fields.

=> Compare the directed flow of charged particles (u,d quarks) to D mesons (charm quarks)



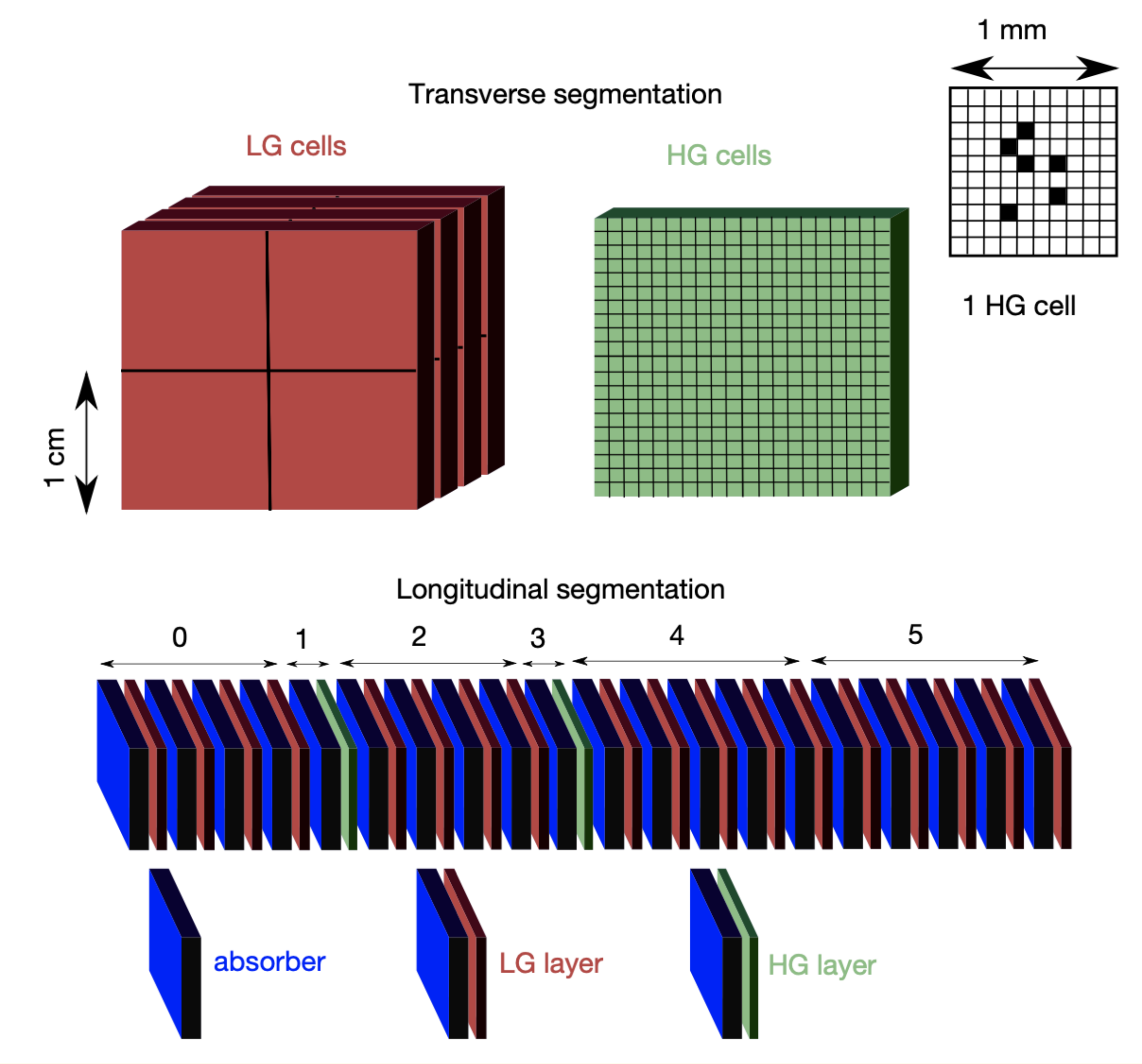
https://cerncourier.com/a/alice-probes-extreme-electromagnetic-fields/

Large Hadron Collider: Schedule (Jan 2022)

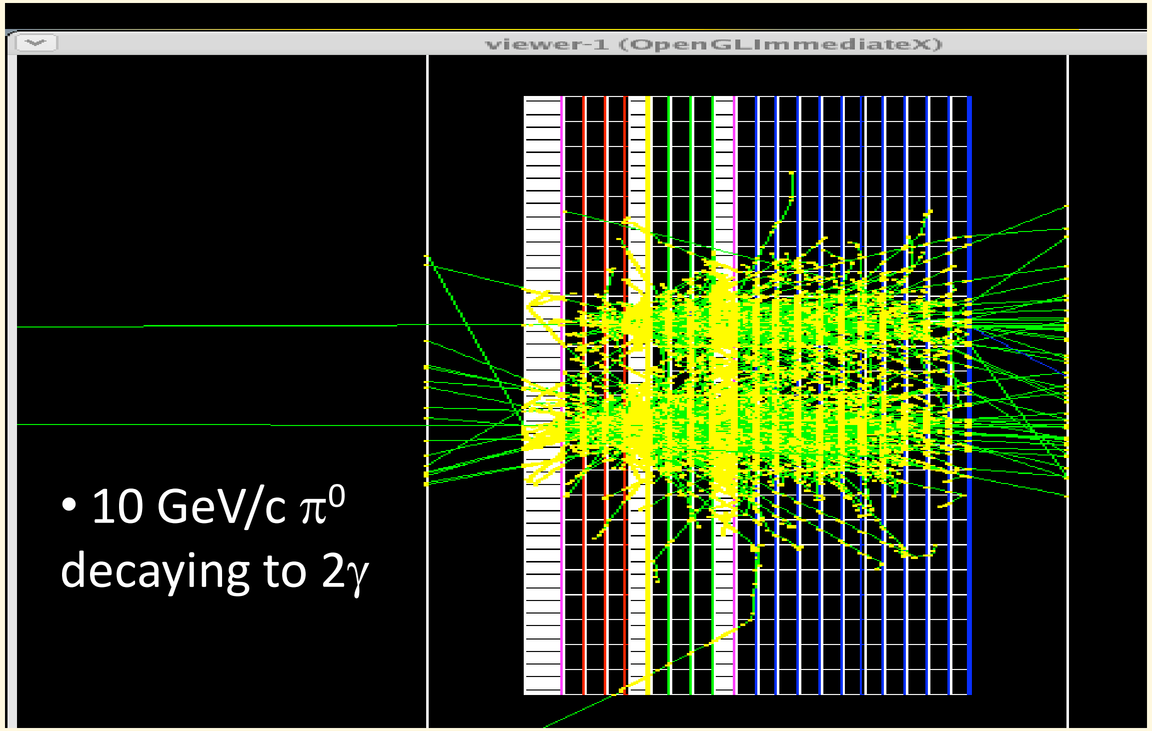
In January 2022, the schedule was updated with long shutdown 3 (LS3) to start in 2026 and to last for 3 years.

A Forward Calorimeter (FoCal) for LHC Run 4

(2029 onwards ….)



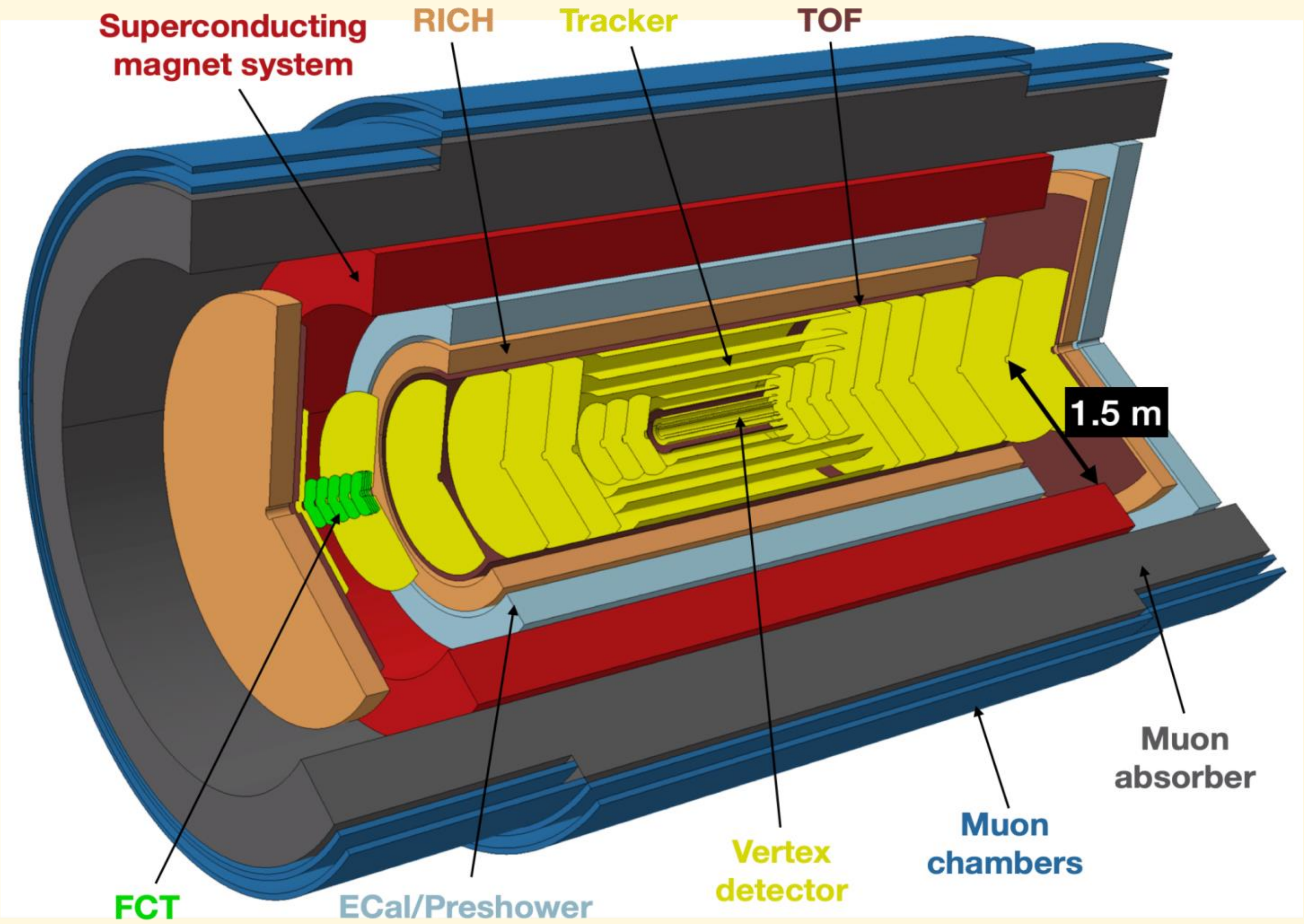
- ✓ Sensivite Medium:
  - Silicon Pad: 1 cm^2
  - Silicon Pixel: 1 mm^2
- ✓ Absorber: Tungsten



A “New ALICE 3” for LHC Run-5

https://arxiv.org/abs/1902.01211

(2035 onwards ….)



CMOS imaging technologies: high-precision spatial and time resolution

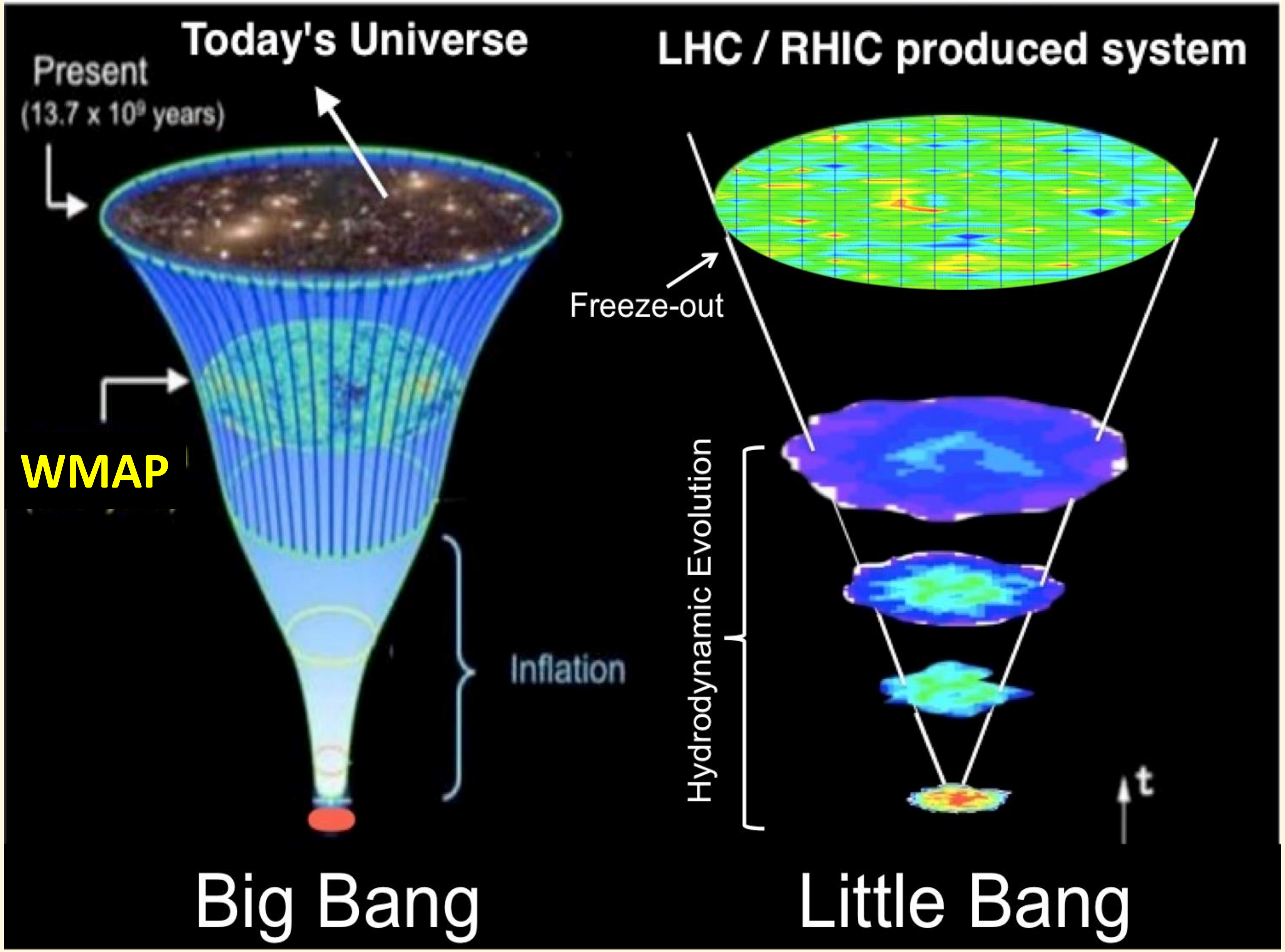
LHC Run-5:

- Tracker: ~10 tracking barrel layers
- Hadron ID: TOF with outer silicon layers
- Electron ID: pre-shower
- Conversion photons

Low p_T down to ~20 MeV/c

Extended rapidity coverage: up to 8 rapidity units + FoCal (Forward Calorimeters)

The Big Bang and Little Bangs

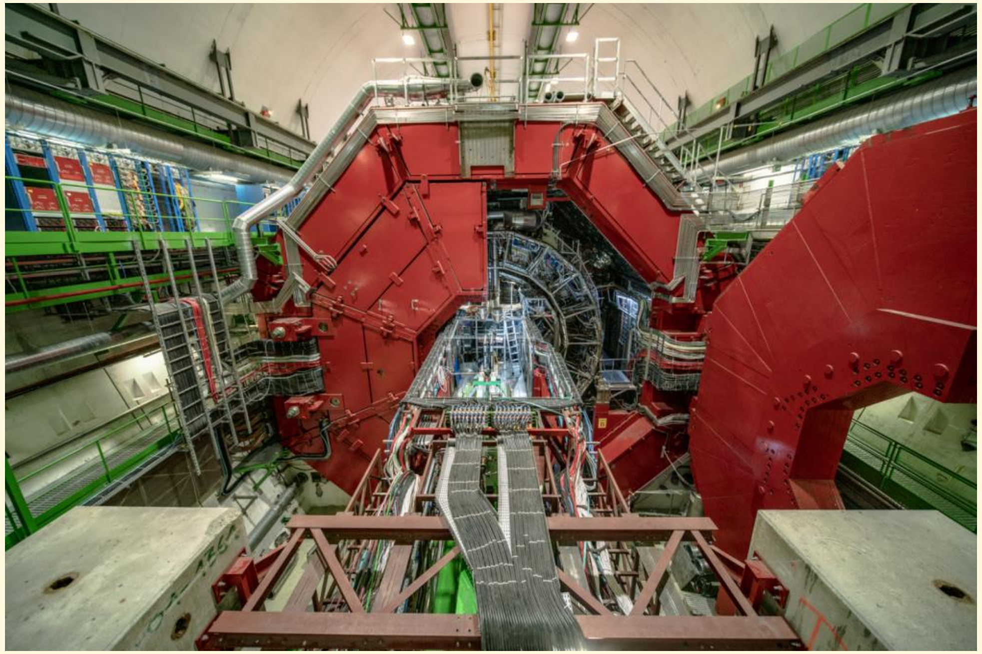


High Energy Accelerator:

Heavy-ion Collisions:
Billions of Events (Little Bangs)

Event-by-event Fluctuations

One HUGE Event



Recreating the Big Bang conditions at the LHC