

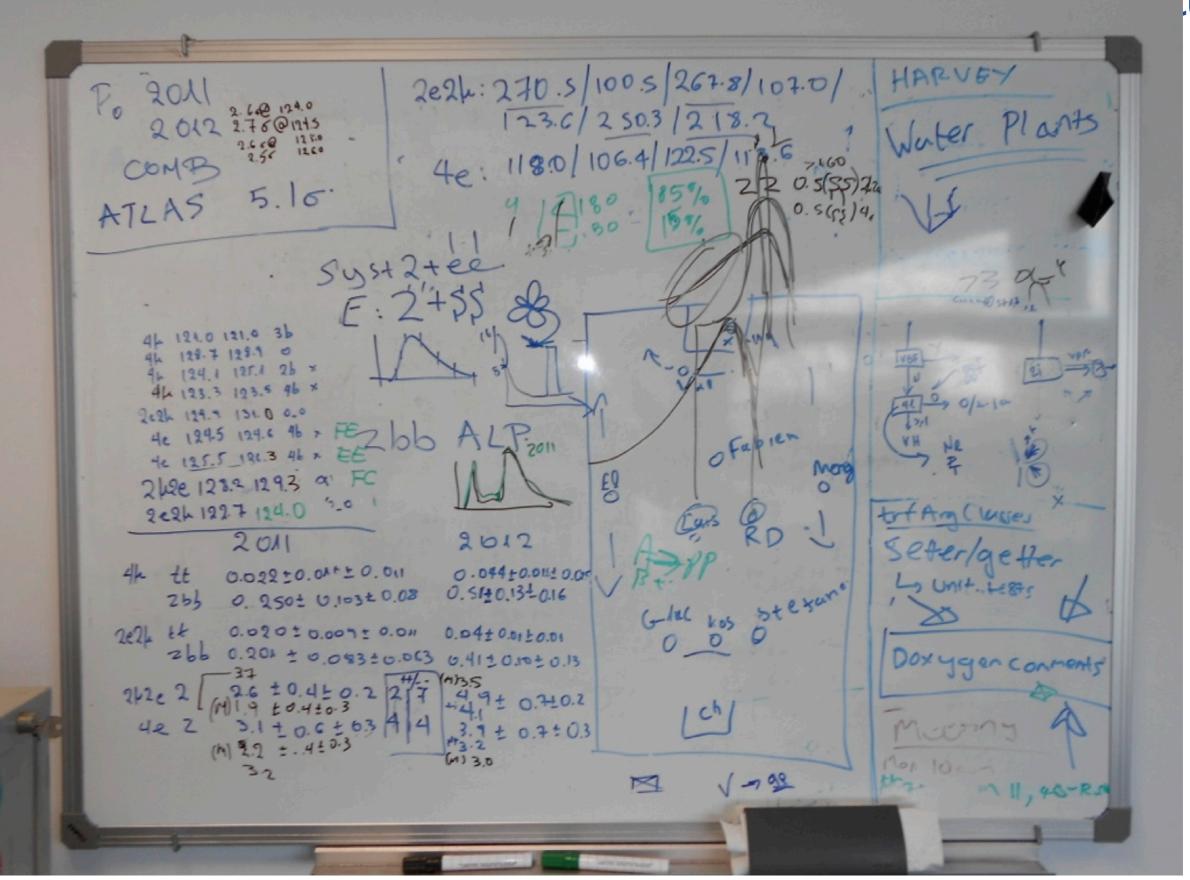


Towards the Higgs discovery, H→ZZ→4l in ATLAS a personal prospective

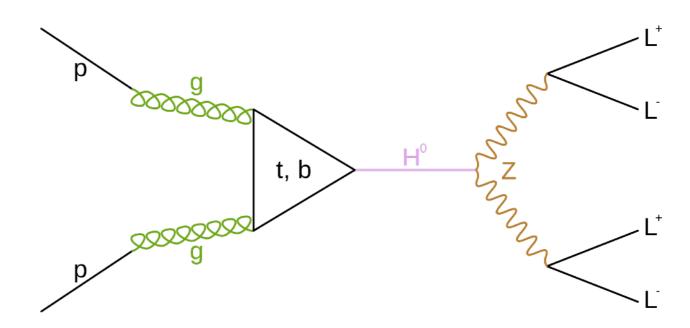
Christos Anastopoulos on behalf of multiple people



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#### ATLAS H→41 ~1999

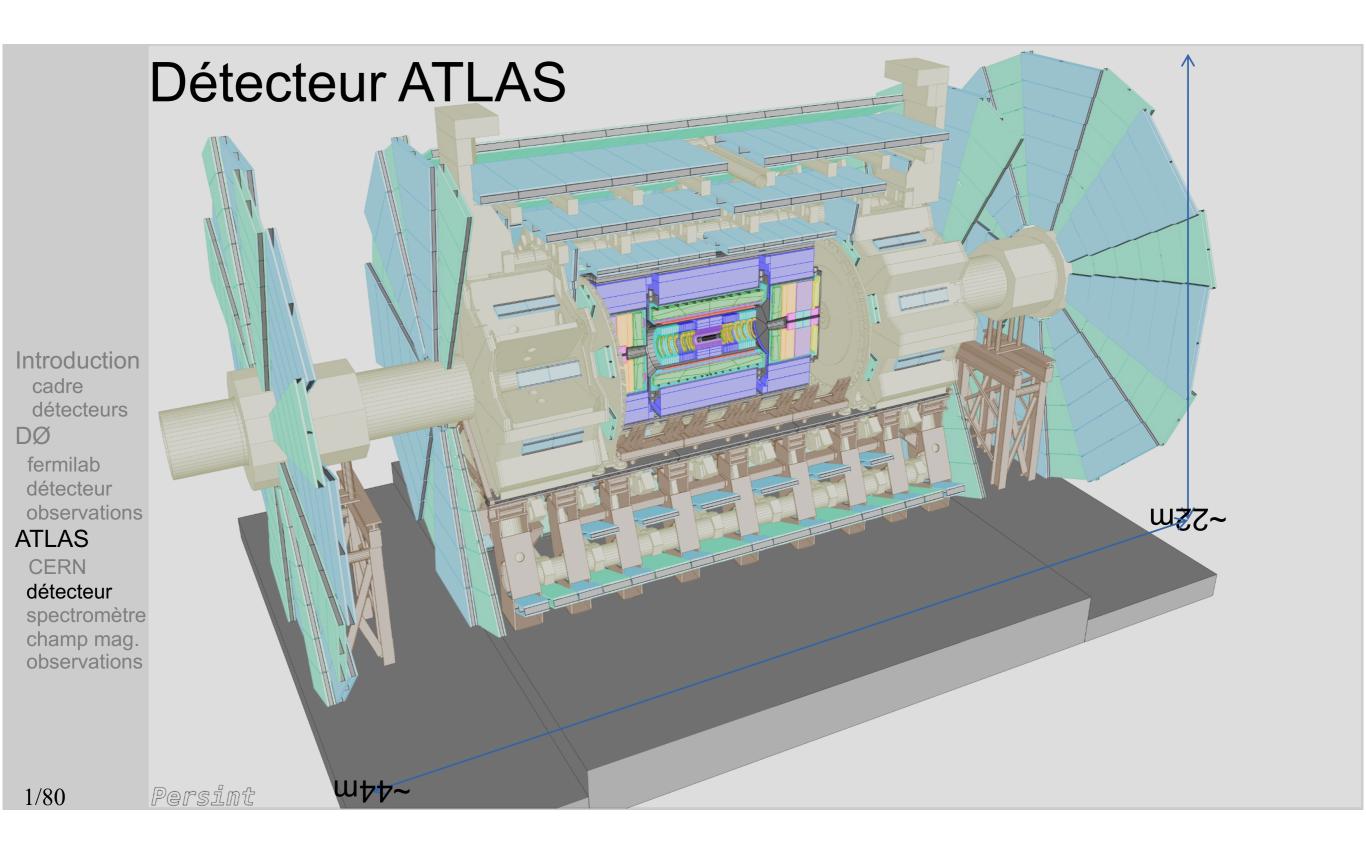


#### ATLAS TDR

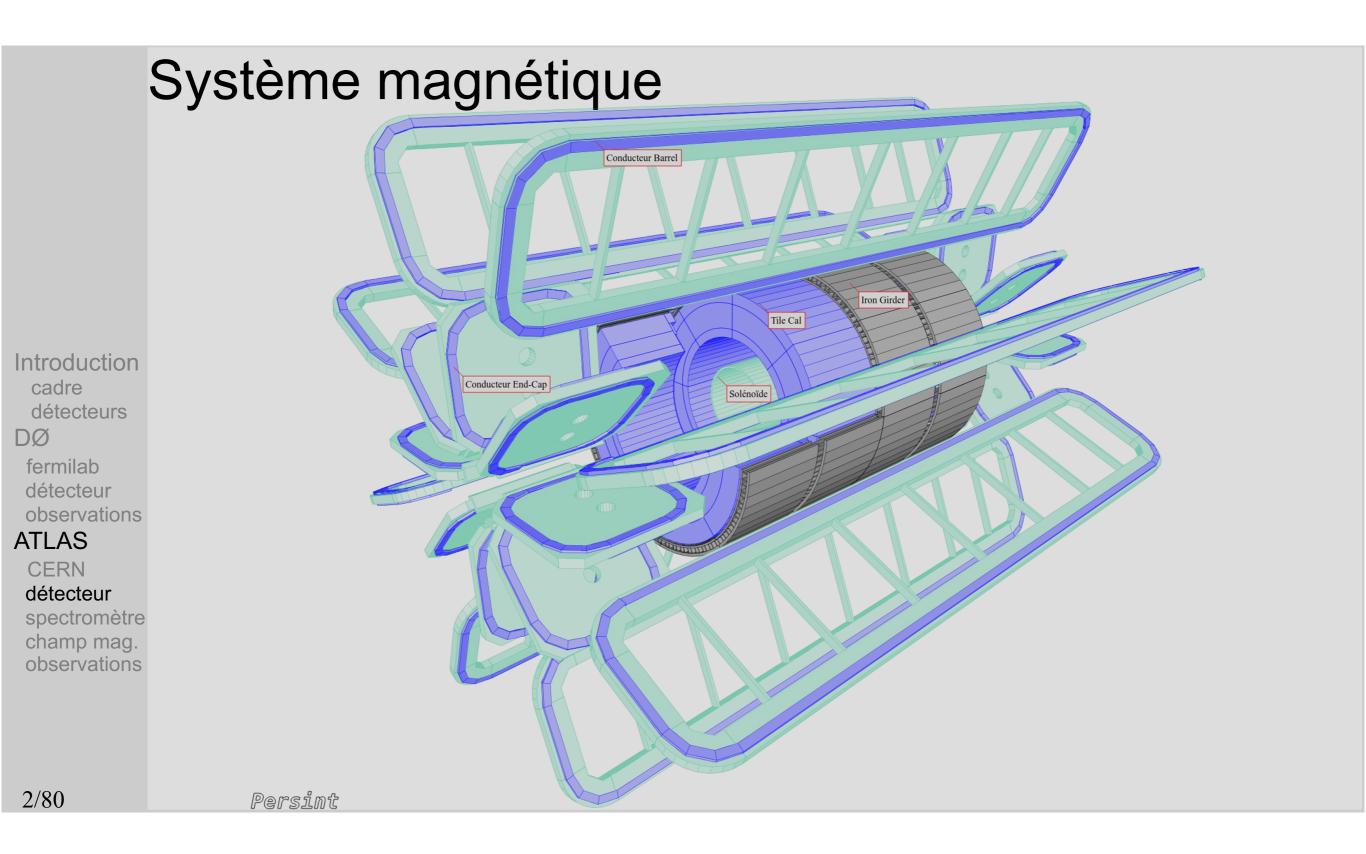
#### 19.2.5 $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4I$

The decay channel  $H \to ZZ^* \to 4l$  provides a rather clean signature in the mass range between ~120 GeV and 2  $m_Z$ , above which the gold-plated channel with two real Z bosons in the final state opens up. The branching ratio is larger than for the  $\gamma\gamma$  channel and increases with increasing  $m_H$  up to  $m_H$  ~ 150 GeV. A pronounced dip appears, however, for 150 <  $m_H$  < 180 GeV, because of the opening of the  $H \to WW$  channel. In addition to the irreducible background from

This is close to the time I started my undergraduate degree in Aristotle University....







## Matière inerte du spectromètre

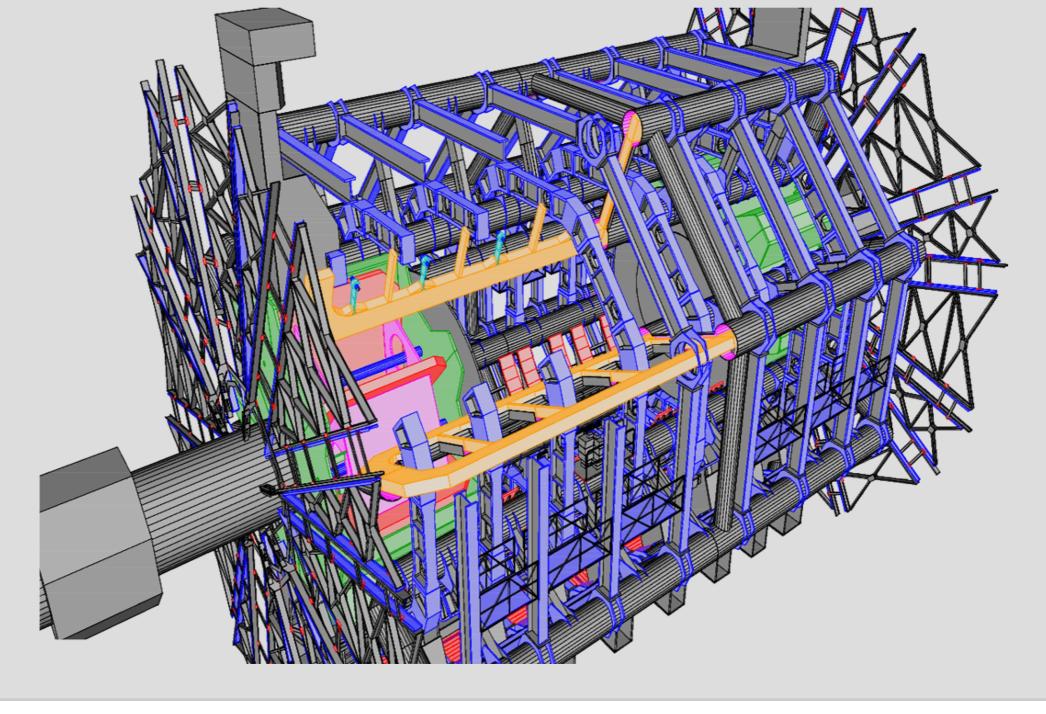
Introduction cadre détecteurs DØ

fermilab détecteur observations

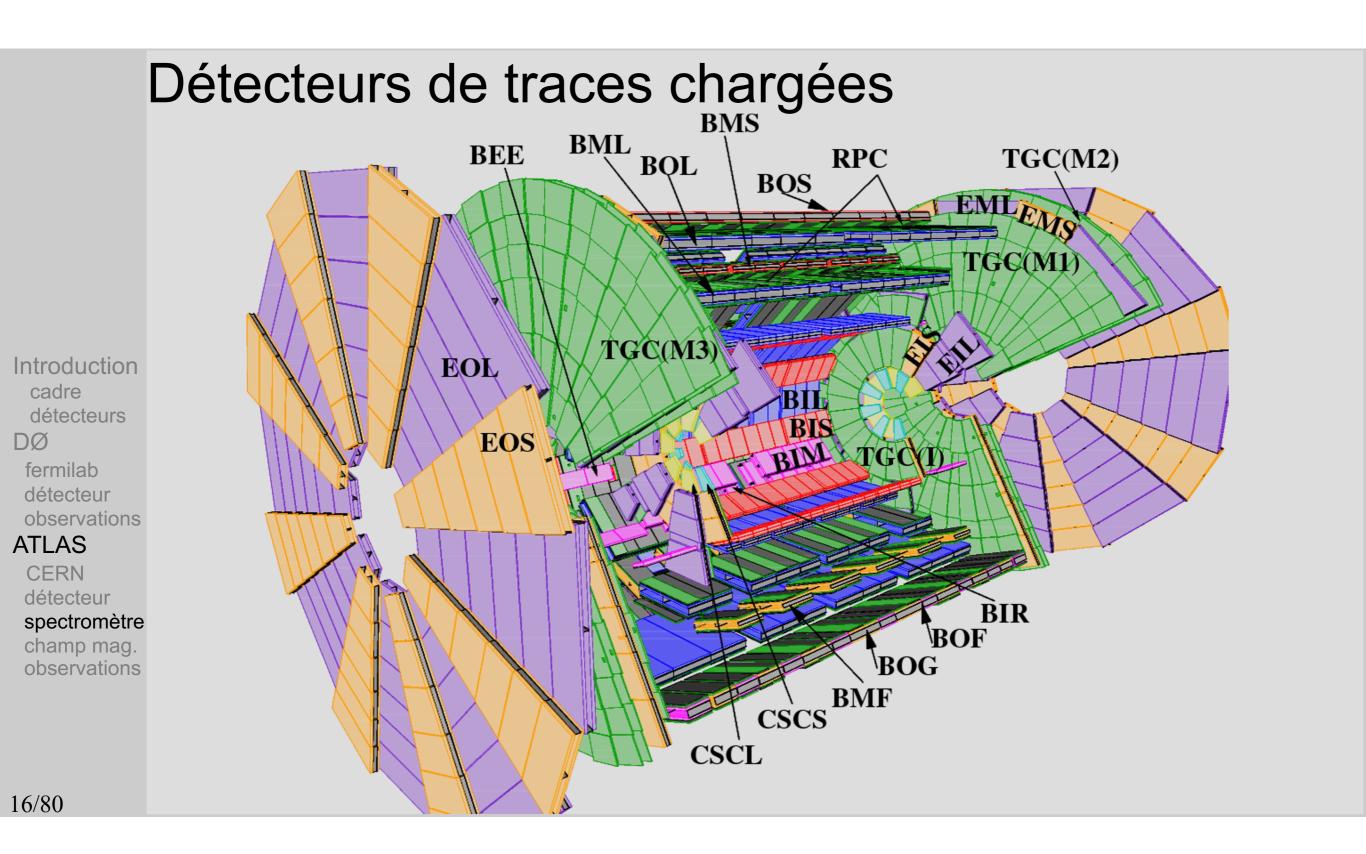
#### **ATLAS**

CERN détecteur

spectromètre champ mag. observations



17/80



#### ATLAS H→4I ~ 2008

Jumping ~ 10 years to the ATLAS CSC book : CERN-OPEN-2008-020

#### **Search for the Standard Model** $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4l$

#### **Abstract**

The Standard Model Higgs boson discovery potential through its observation in the 4-lepton (electron and muon) final state using the ATLAS detector is investigated. Fully simulated signal and background samples were produced with the latest simulation of the ATLAS detector. The samples were subsequently digitized and reconstructed using the ATLAS offline software. The analysis performance dependence on kinematic, lepton reconstruction and isolation cuts is studied for Higgs boson masses ranging from 120 to 600 GeV. The statistical and systematic uncertainties on the background estimation are evaluated and their impact on the Higgs boson discovery potential and exclusion limits is discussed.

At the time undertaking a PhD in Sheffield.

#### ATLAS H→4I ~ 2008-2009

Jumping ~ 10 years to the ATLAS CSC book: CERN-OPEN-2008-020

The general principles of the analysis strategy were put into place at that time.

Event Preselection	Four leptons: LooseElectrons or muons.
	$p_T > 7$ GeV and $ \eta  < 2.5$ , at least two with $p_T > 20$ GeV
Event Selection	
Kinematic Cuts	Lepton quality: 2 pairs of same flavour opposite charge leptons.
	Electrons must be <i>MediumElectrons</i> satisfying the <i>CaloIso</i> criterion.
	For H masses of 200 GeV and higher, four LooseElectrons are required instead.
	Z, Z* and Higgs boson reconstruction: single quadruplet with
	$ m_{ll1}-m_Z <\Delta m_{12} \text{ GeV}, m_{ll2}>m_{34}.$
Isolation and	Muon Calorimetric isolation ( $\Sigma E_T/p_T < 0.23$ ).
vertexing cuts	Lepton Inner detector track isolation ( $\Sigma p_T/p_T < 0.15$ ).
	Cut on maximum lepton impact parameter
	$(d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 3.5 \text{ for muons, } d_0/\sigma_{d_0} < 6.0 \text{ for electrons).}$

Table 5: Summary of the analysis cuts for the  $H \rightarrow 4\ell$  analysis. The two lepton pairs are denoted as  $m_{ll1}$  and  $m_{ll2}$ . The values of the mass window  $\Delta m_{12}$  and of the cut  $m_{34}$  are defined in Table 6.

The analysis was and has remained relatively simple.

#### ATLAS H→4I ~ 2008-2009

Jumping ~ 10 years to the ATLAS CSC book: CERN-OPEN-2008-020

The general principles of the analysis strategy were put into place at that time.

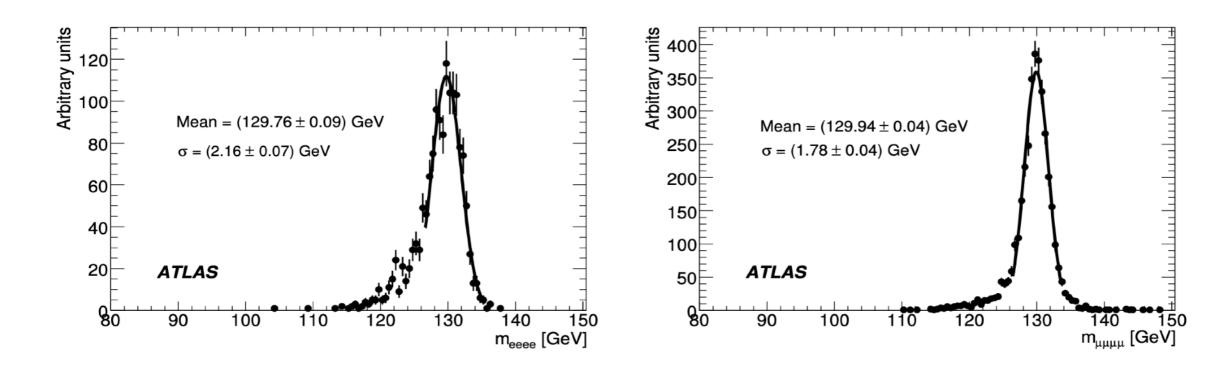
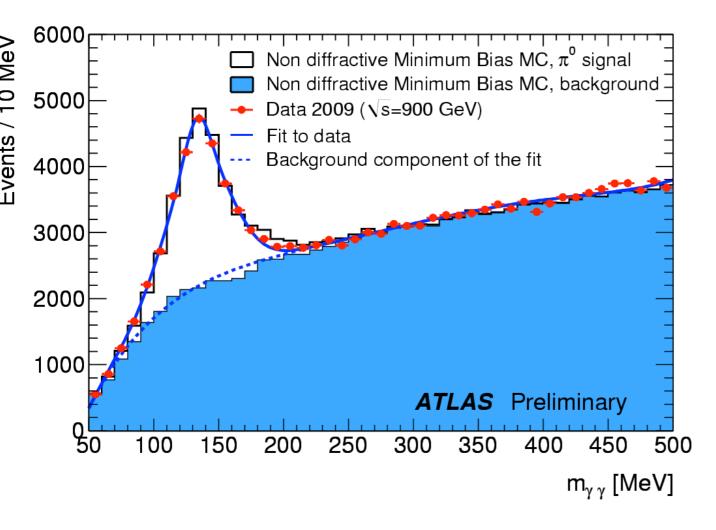


Figure 18: Reconstructed H(130 GeV) $\rightarrow$  4e mass Figure 19: Reconstructed H(130 GeV) $\rightarrow$  4 $\mu$  mass after application of the Z-mass constraint fit.

Including for example techniques like the "Z-mass constraint fit"

## A personal intermezzo

The two "data analysis" I did for my PhD ....



Entries / 0.1 GeV ATLAS Preliminary Data 2010, (√s=7 TeV) 80 CB fit 70 60 50 40 30 20 2.5 3 3.5 m<sub>ee</sub> [GeV]

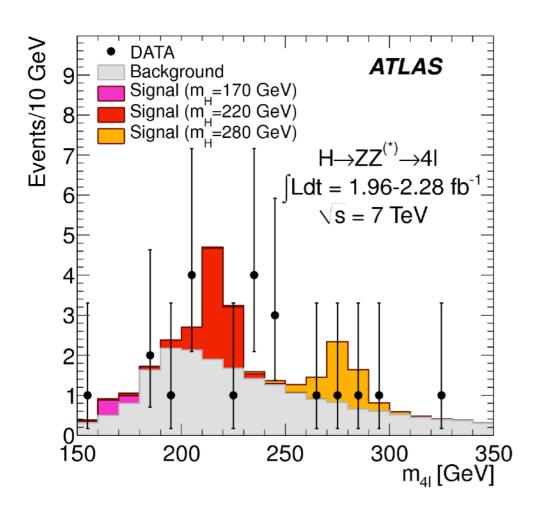
Topological seeded photons

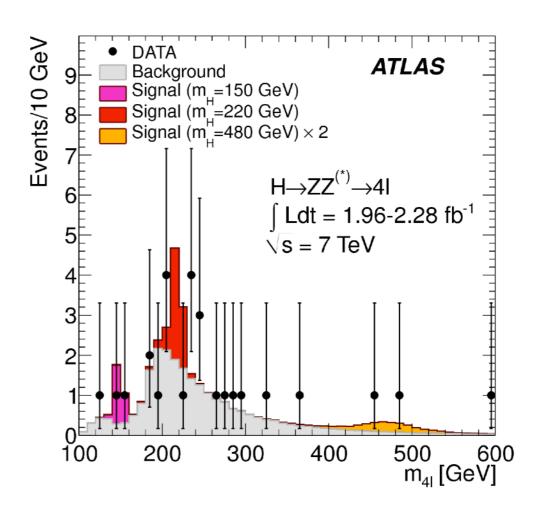
First use of **GSF** in ATLAS for analysis

The point perhaps being that the 4l ATLAS team was mainly consisting by people having strong involvement in muon or e/γ performance ...

## The first paper ...

https://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/PHYSICS/PAPERS/HIGG-2011-05/





Where the interesting point perhaps is the absence of a zoomed in plot in the mass range 100-150 .... One did not know what was not know.

## The first workshop ...

#### ATLAS HSG2 meeting in Athens



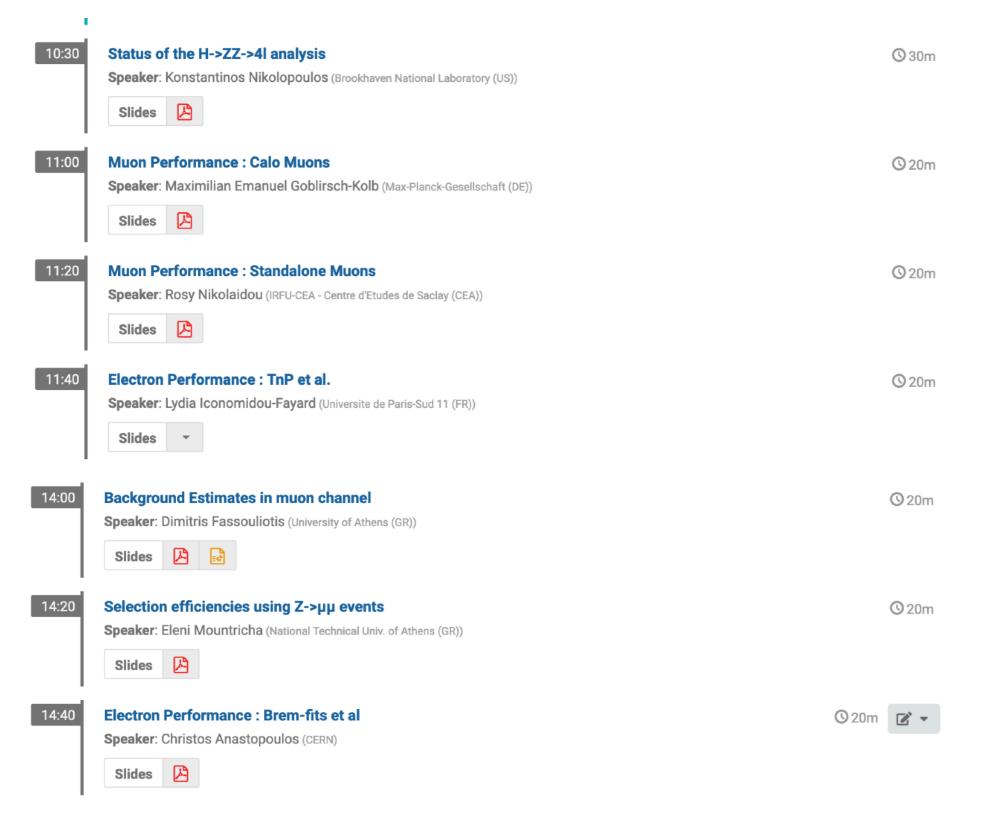
the 1/fb expected by the time of EPS conference and the  $\sim$ 2/fb expected by the end of summer will profoundly change the landscape in SM Higgs searches,

and will force us to re-think about the prospects and priorities for the rest of 2011.

for this reason we would like to hold a meeting in Athens between September 7 and 9 [Wed - Fri], where the current status of the analyses in our group and the planning for the rest of the year will be reviewed.

## The first workshop ...

#### Quite a lot of focus on performance, efficiencies, backgrounds



## The next paper ...

https://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/PHYSICS/PAPERS/HIGG-2012-01/

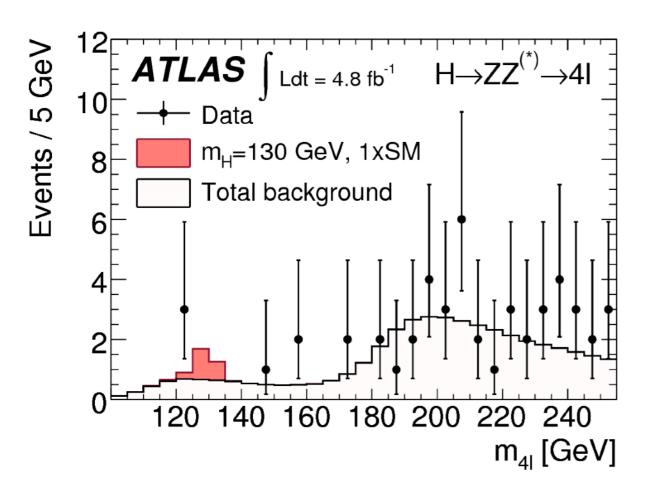
The  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV pp collision data were recorded during 2011 with the ATLAS detector at the LHC and correspond to an integrated luminosity of 4.8 fb<sup>-1</sup> [14, 15]. This analysis is using more than twice the integrated luminosity of Ref. [9], including the data therein. The electron identification efficiency has been improved; furthermore the electron tracks have been refitted using a Gaussian-sum filter [16], which corrects for energy losses due to bremsstrahlung. The analysis also

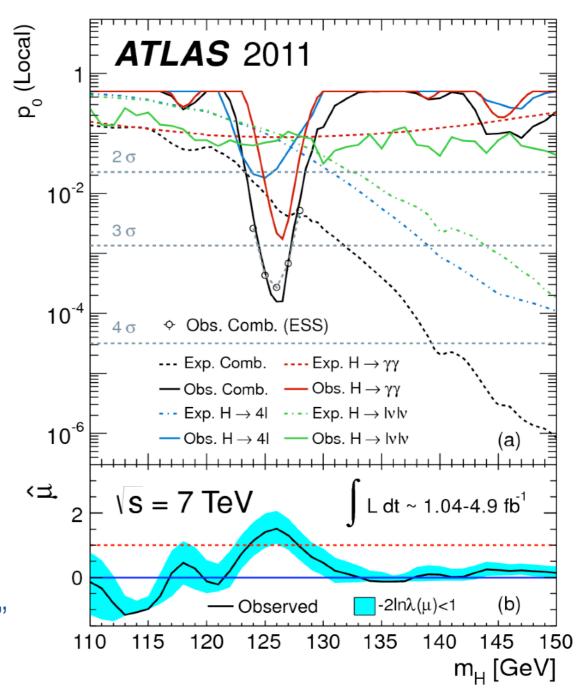
At the time leading to this paper we had a "mini-crisis" in ATLAS concerning electron efficiency....

In retrospect this was an "obvious" improvement.

#### End of 2011 combination ...

https://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/GROUPS/PHYSICS/PAPERS/HIGG-2012-03/





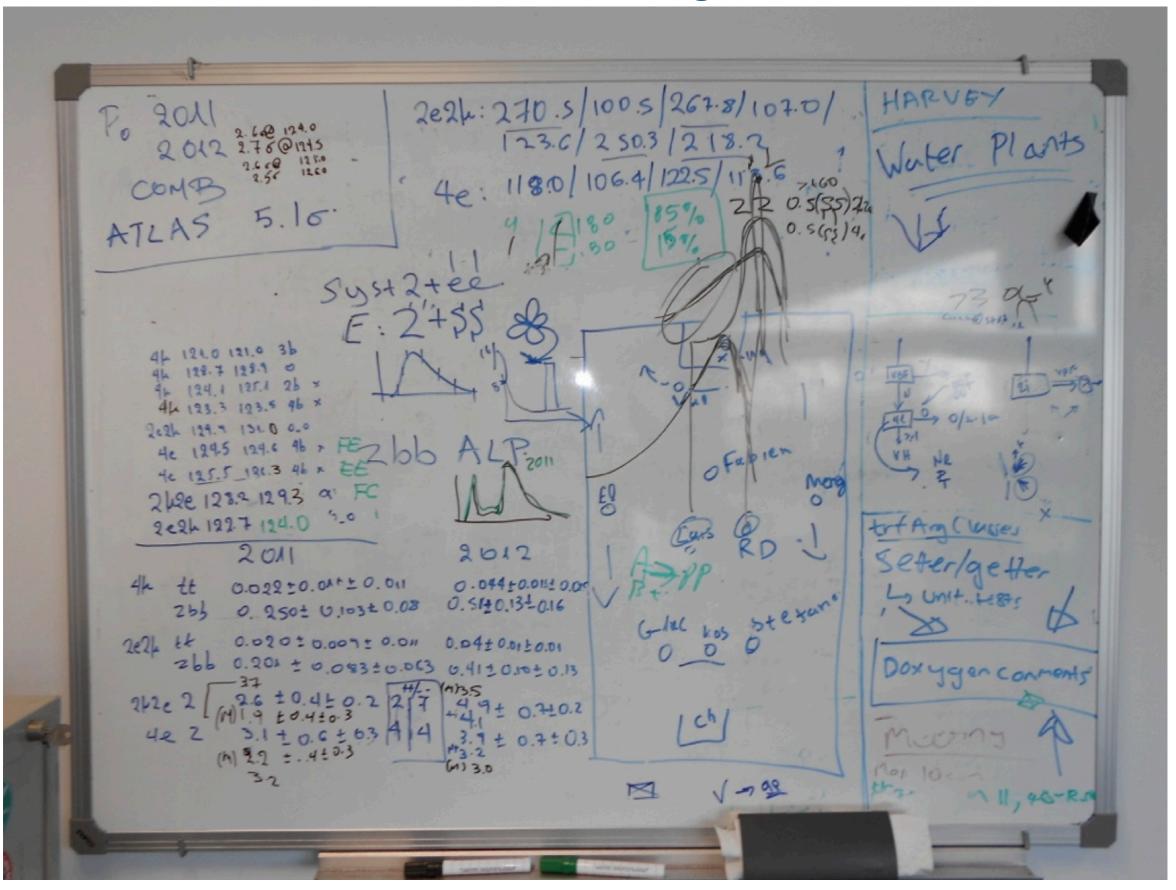
Bill Murray "Poisson statistics is not an insult"

## The "long wait ...."

#### The next few months were an "interesting" period

- Analysis selections and performance improvement put into stone
- Signal region was blinded
- A lot of effort on back ground estimations.
- Setting up the statistical framework.
- And making sure there is not something missing
- Other than that waiting for data to be collected, knowing that we will see only a hand full of events.

## Unblinding

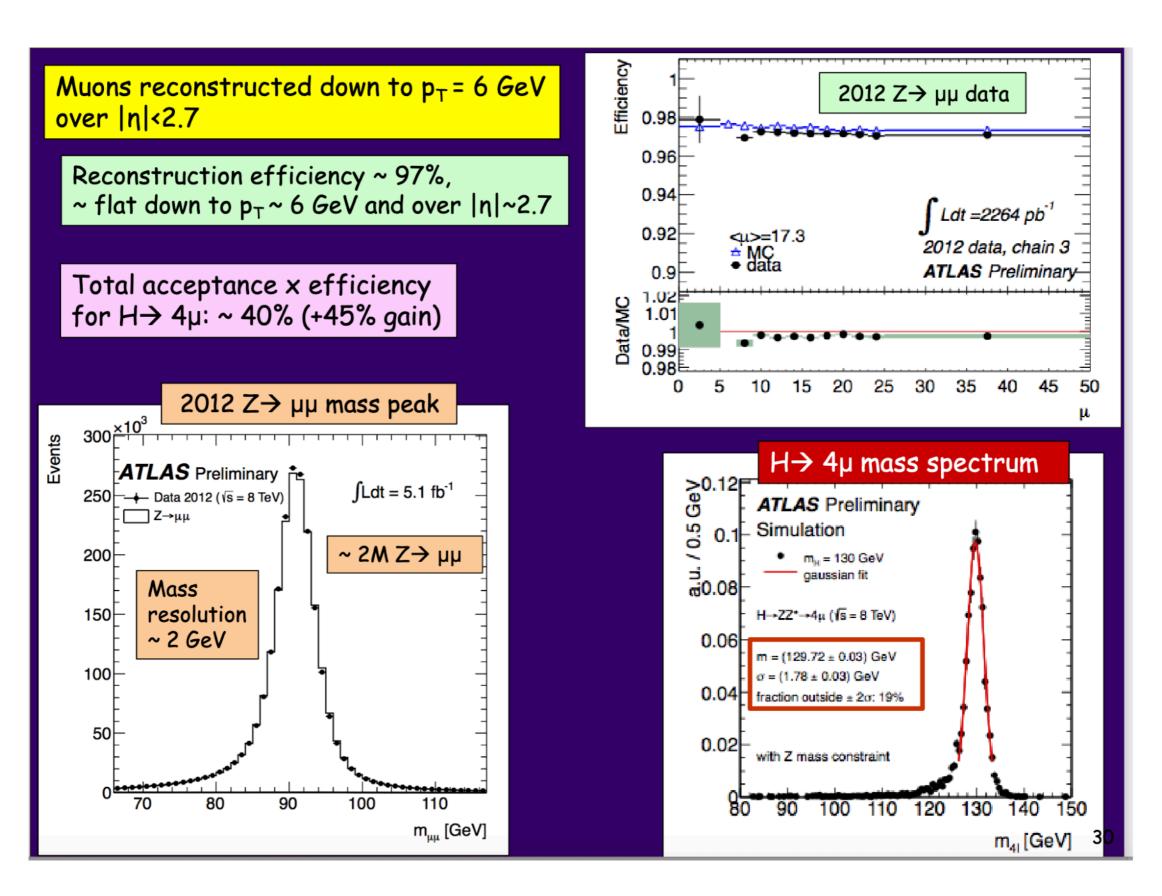


Bill Murray "Poisson statistics is not a compliment" ...

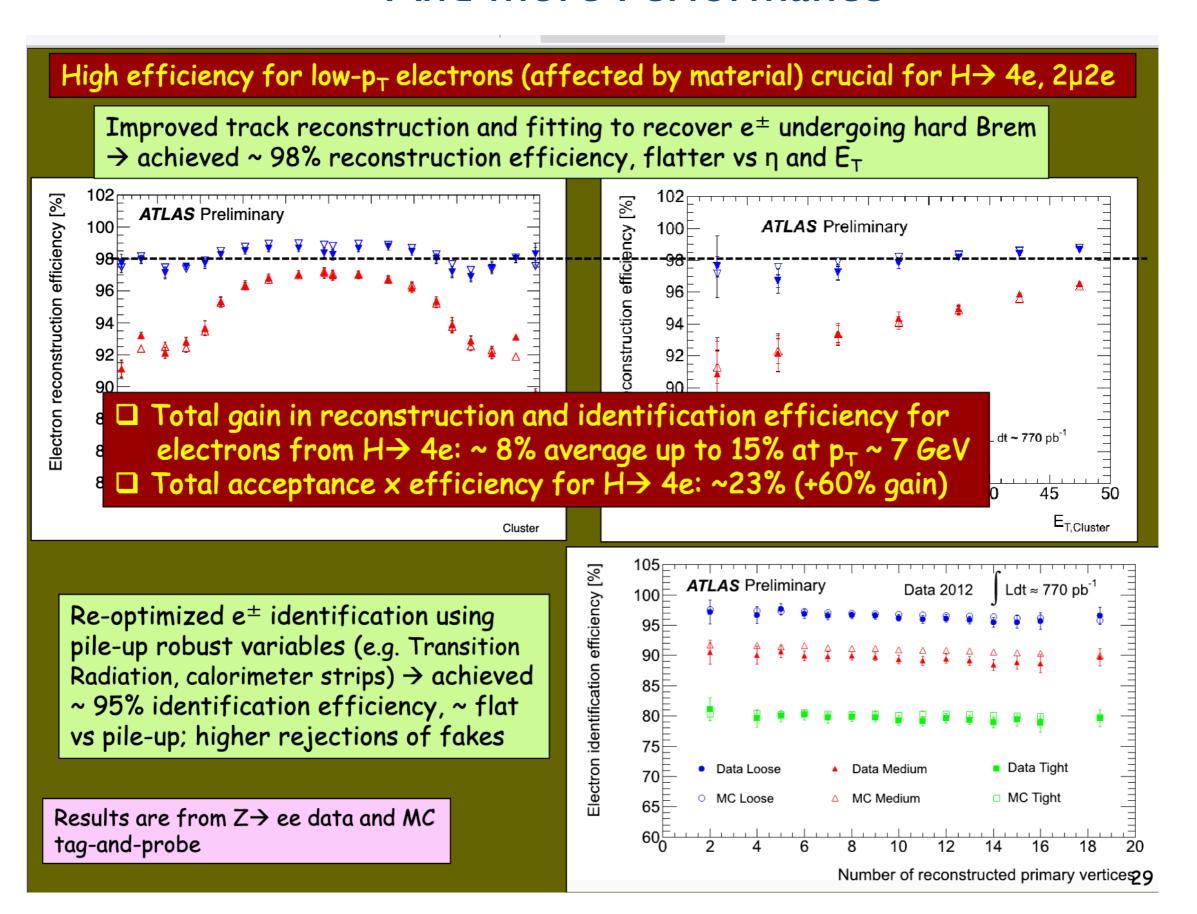
# Seminar https://indico.cern.ch/event/197461/

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110 < m<sub>H</sub> < 600 GeV
 H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4I (4e, 4µ, 2e2µ)
 \sigma \times BR \sim 2.5 \text{ fb} m<sub>H</sub> ~ 126 GeV
☐ Tiny rate, BUT:
    -- mass can be fully reconstructed \rightarrow events should cluster in a (narrow) peak
    -- pure: S/B ~ 1
\Box 4 leptons: p_{T}^{1,2,3,4} > 20,15,10,7-6 (e-\mu) GeV; 50 < m_{12} < 106 GeV; m_{34} > 17.5-50 GeV (vs m_{H})
■ Main backgrounds:
   -- ZZ(*): irreducible
   -- low-mass region m_H < 2m_Z: Zbb, Z+jets, tt with two leptons from b-jets or q-jets \rightarrow 1
> Suppressed with isolation and impact parameter cuts on two softest leptons
Crucial experimental aspects:
\square High lepton acceptance, reconstruction & identification efficiency down to lowest p_{\tau}
☐ Good lepton energy/momentum resolution
☐ Good control of reducible backgrounds (Zbb, Z+jets, tt) in low-mass region:
   \rightarrow cannot rely on MC alone (theoretical uncertainties, b/q-jet \rightarrow 1 modeling, ..)
   > need to validate MC with data in background-enriched control regions
Main improvements in new analysis:
\square kinematic cuts (e.g. on m_{12}) optimized/relaxed to increase signal sensitivity at low mass
\Box increased e<sup>±</sup> reconstruction and identification efficiency at low p<sub>T</sub>, increased
   pile-up robustness, with negligible increase in the reducible backgrounds
\rightarrow Gain 20% (4\mu) to 30% (4e) in sensitivity compared to previous analysis
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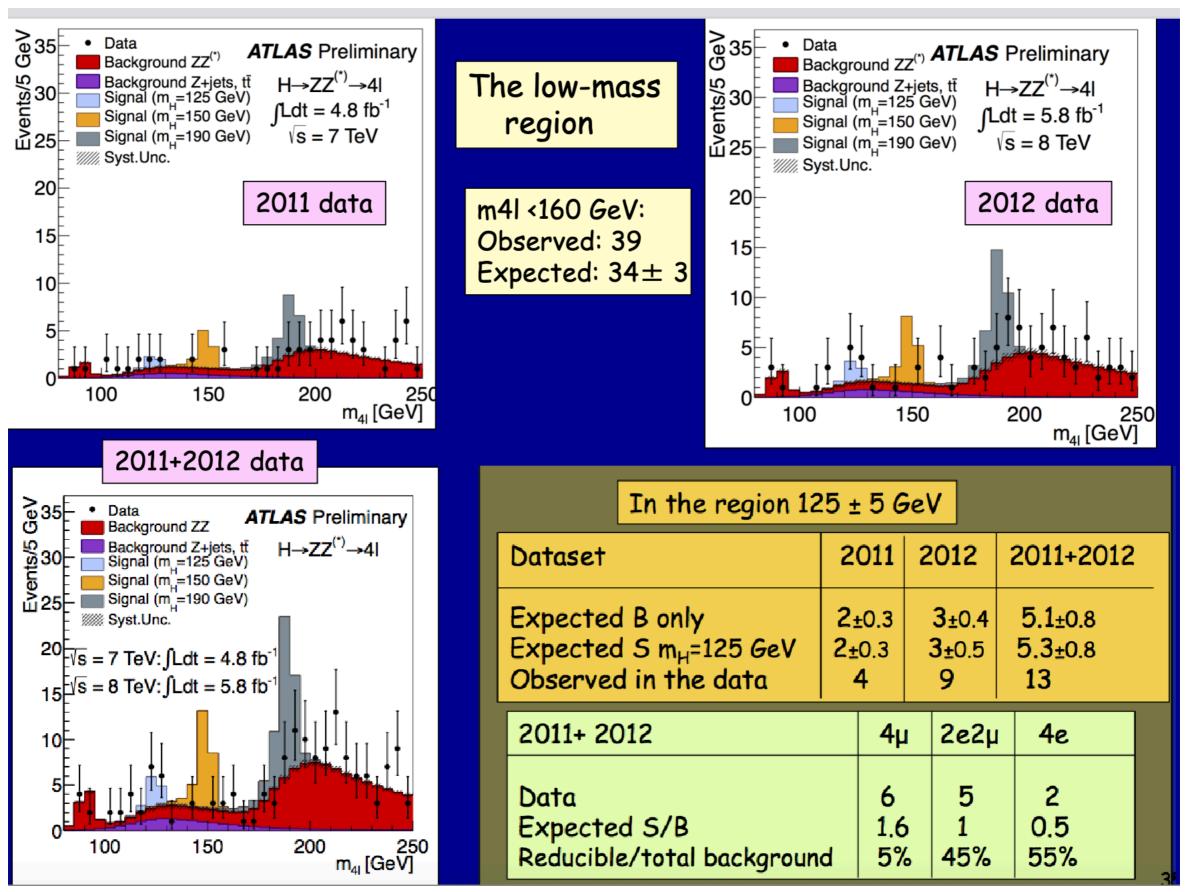
#### Performance

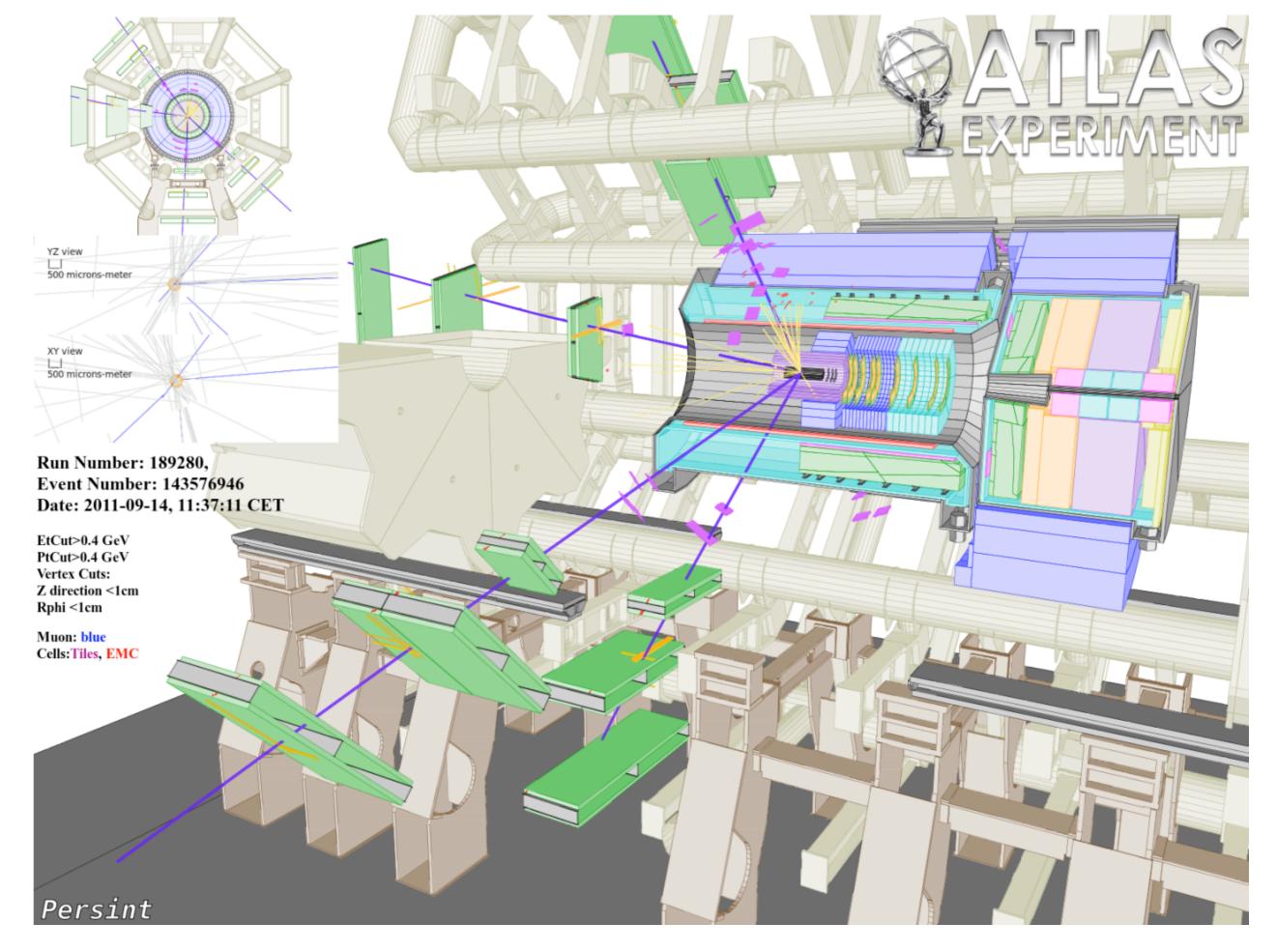


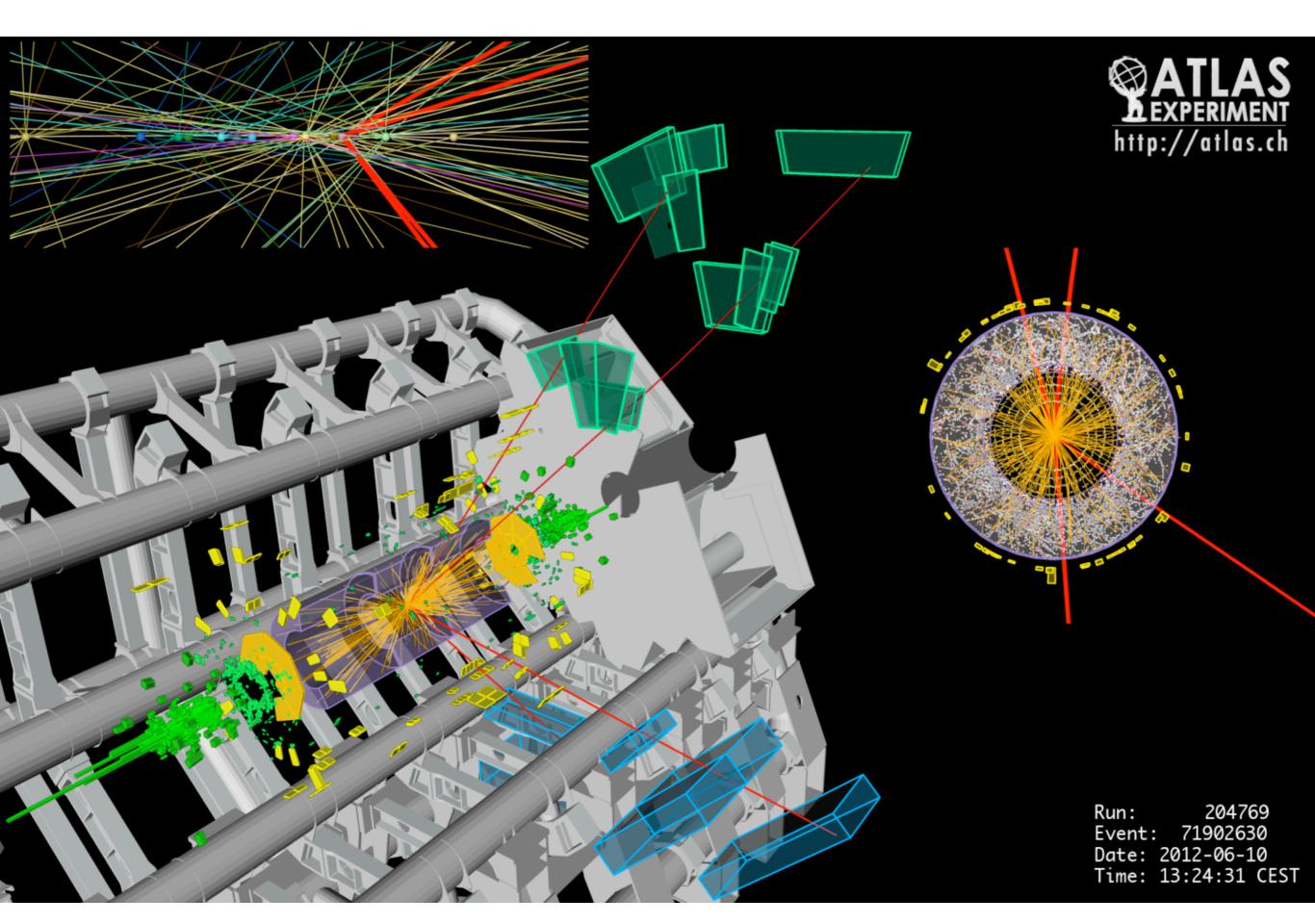
#### And more Performance

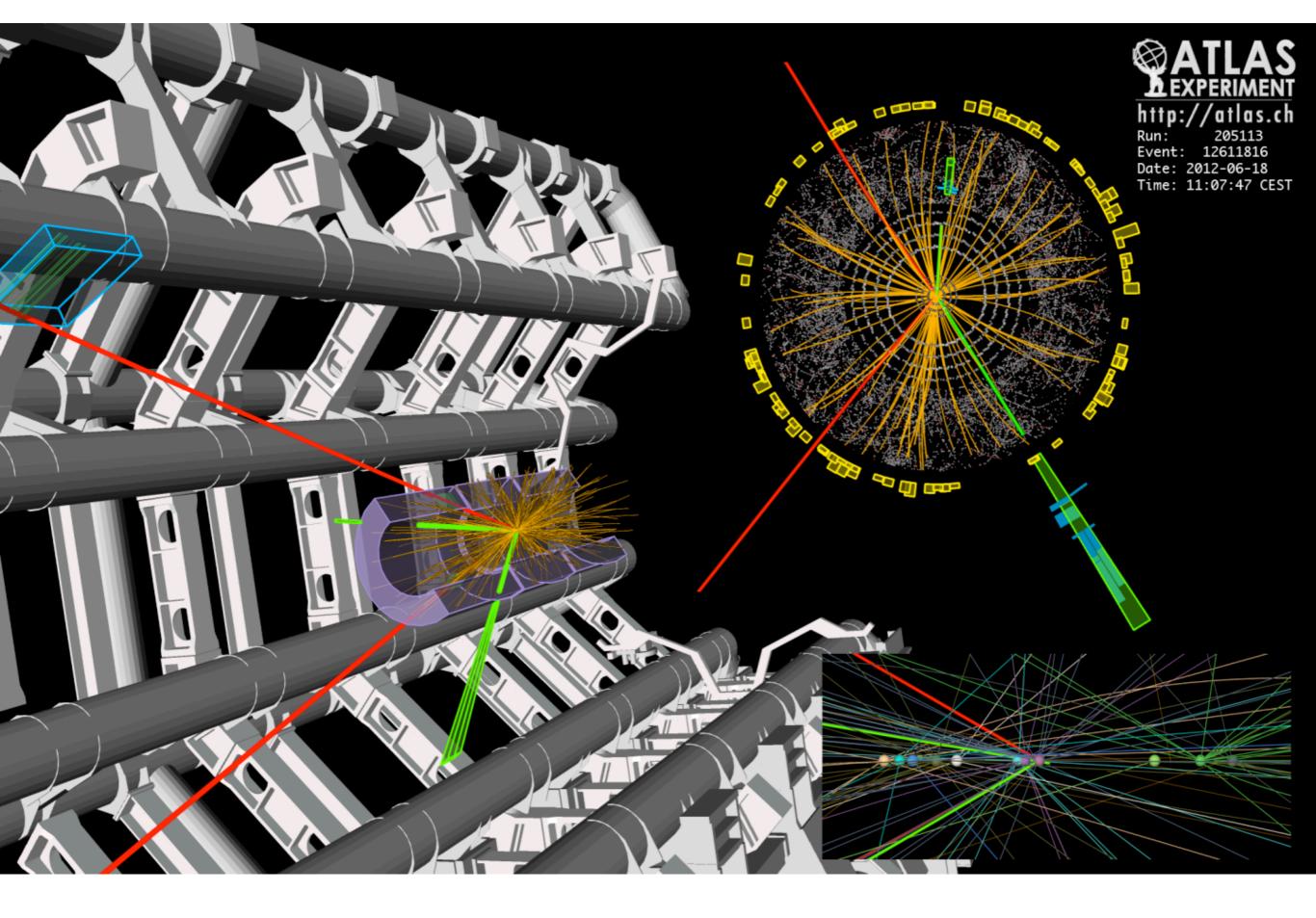


#### Plots that were made and re-made ... until final











## Observation of a New Particle in the Search for the Standard Model Higgs Boson with the ATLAS Detector at the LHC

The ATLAS Collaboration

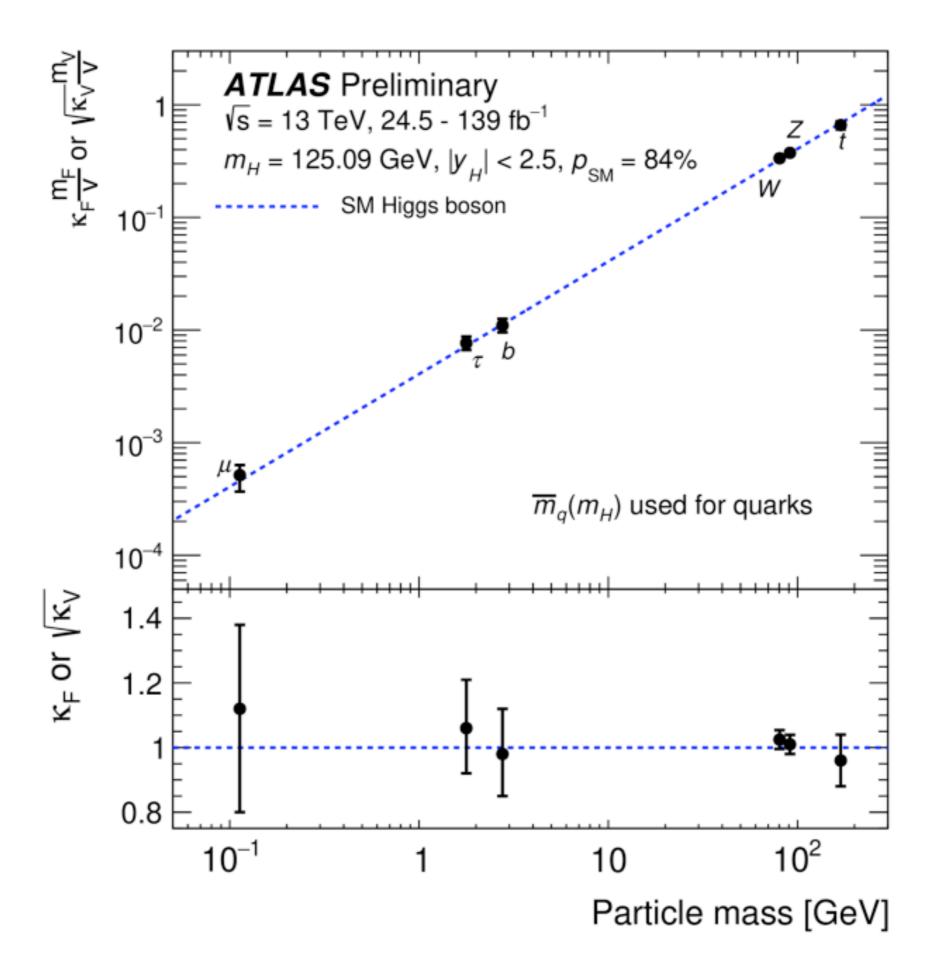
This paper is dedicated to the memory of our ATLAS colleagues who did not live to see the full impact and significance of their contributions to the experiment.

## Measurements of Higgs boson production and couplings in diboson final states with the ATLAS detector at the LHC

The ATLAS Collaboration

# Evidence for the spin-0 nature of the Higgs boson using ATLAS data

The ATLAS Collaboration





## Τέλος

- The discovery of the Higgs boson was made possible by carefully designed experiments and the hard work of many people in the respective collaborations.
- It is interesting that the Higgs discovery came quite early on the LHC running.
- Very close in time where we were still establishing the detector performance that played a crucial role in this discovery.
- It was both a enjoy full and stress full time for a young Post Doc like me.
- It will be hard for something else to replicate that experience.
- Last and not least a lot of very strong friendships were developed at the time