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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

From Raw data to Physics Results (1/3)

Paul Laycock

July 4th 2022

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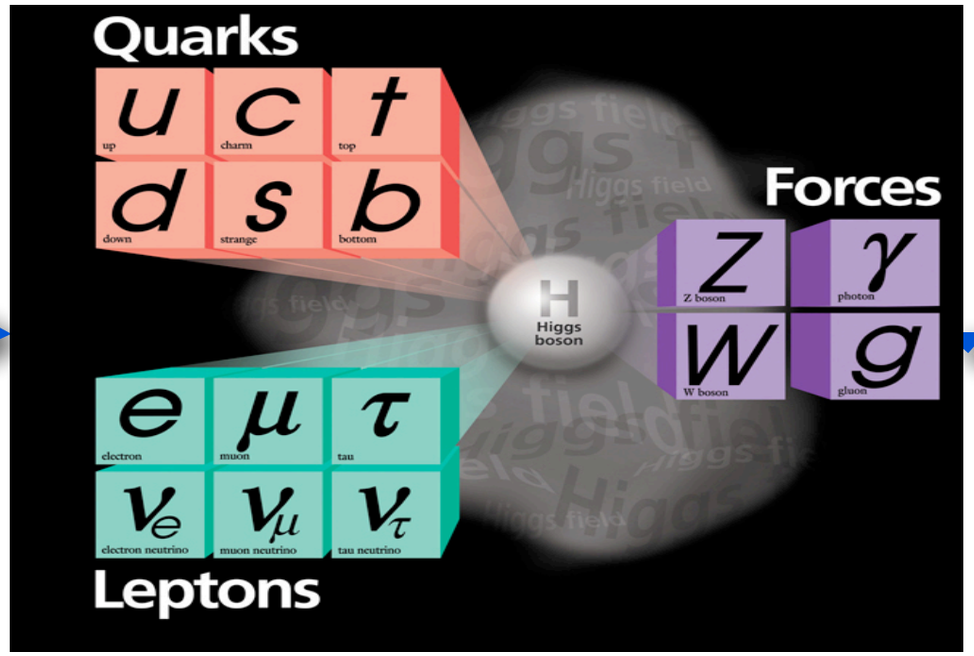
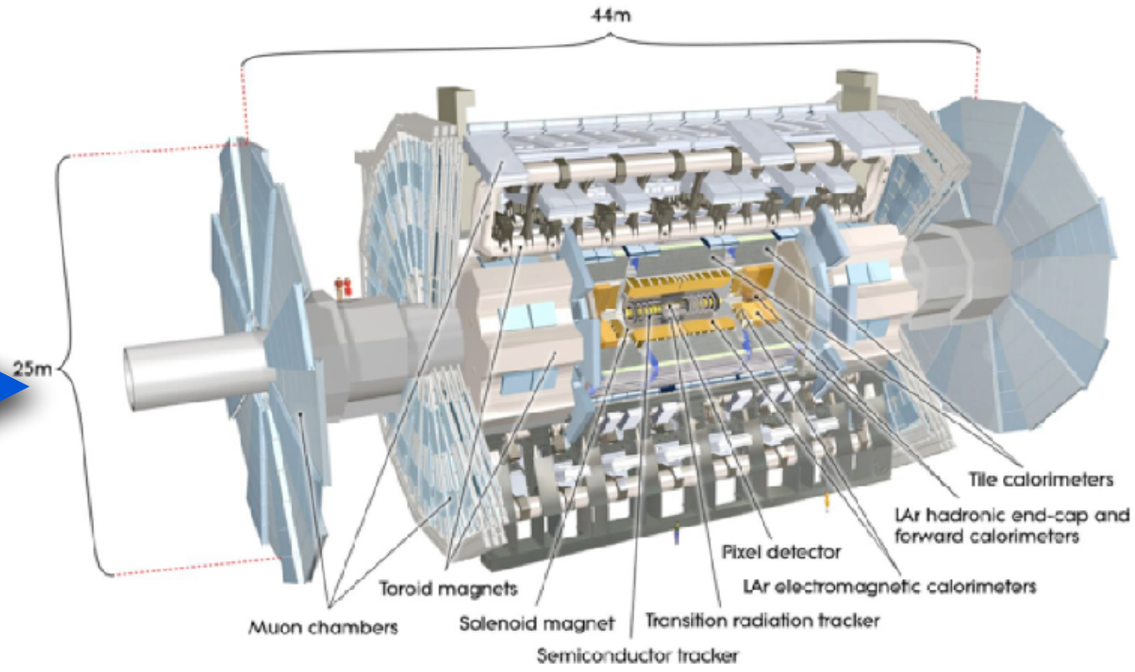
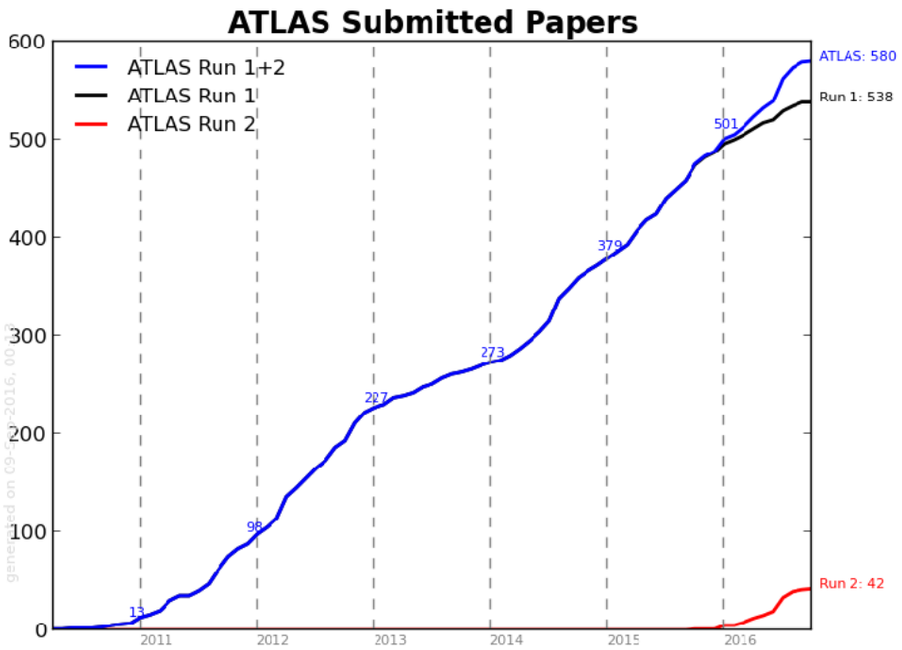
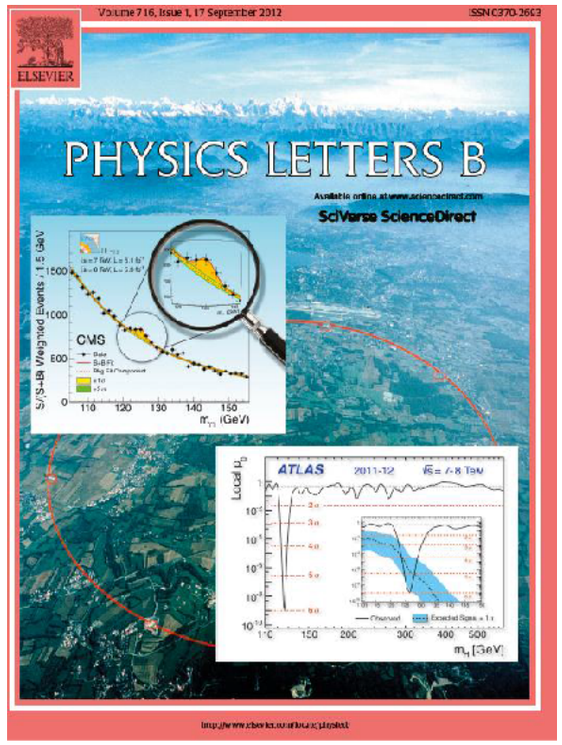
The particle physics cycle





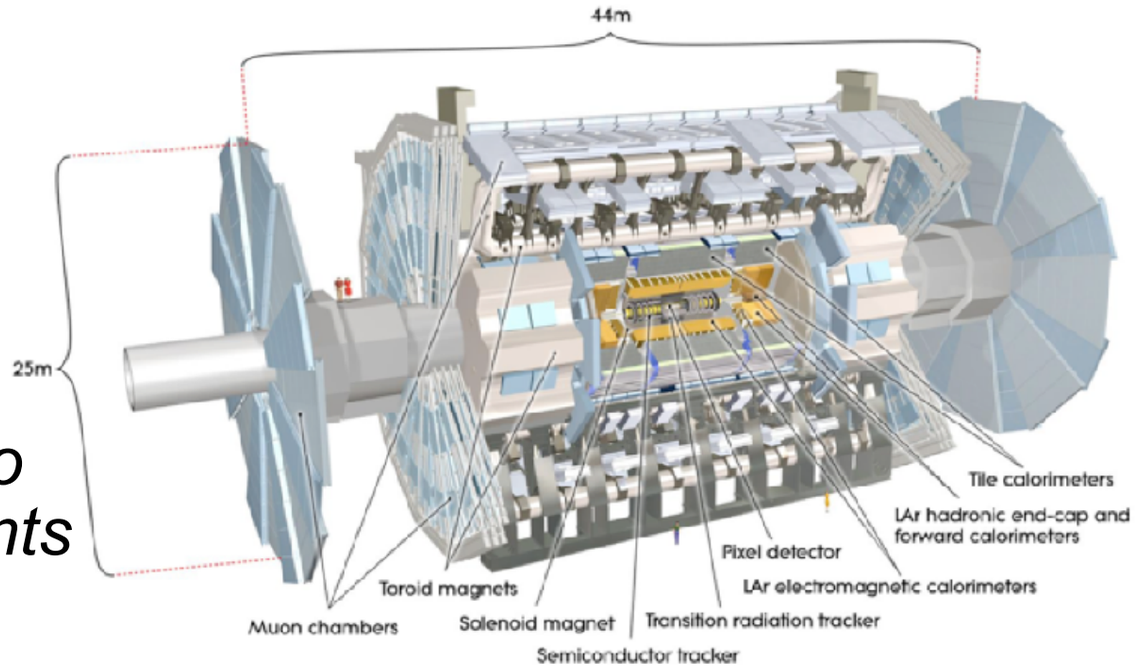




Experimental physics

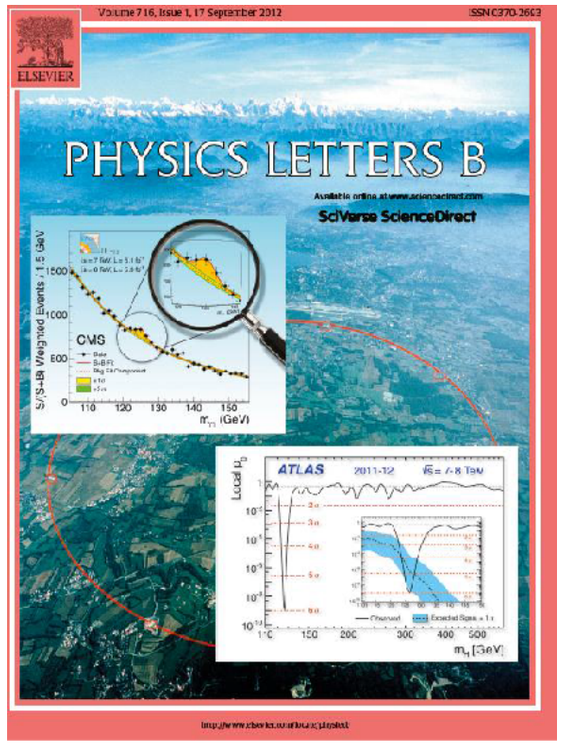
Much of the work of the experimental physicist is running experiments and extracting measurements from them

Note *- Experimental physicists also need to propose, design and build new experiments (see previous slide)*



These lectures are focused on understanding how we turn raw experimental detector data into physics results that we can publish

- Results must be ***accurate***
- with well understood ***precision***
- It's important to understand the difference between these two words, we often confuse them



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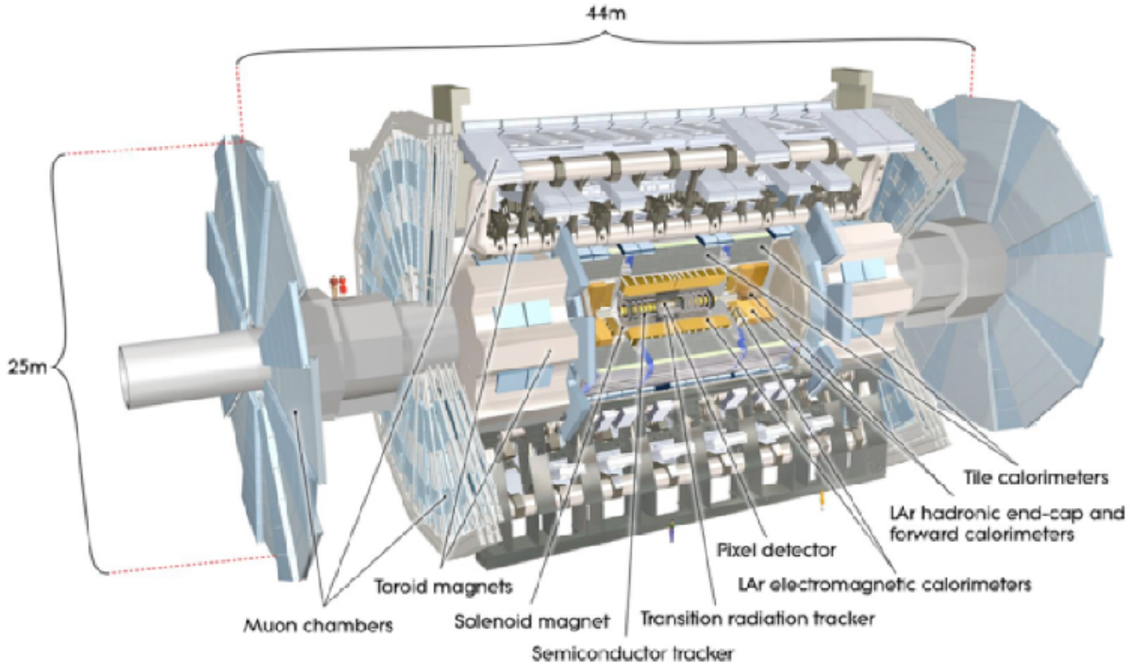
Course outline



Lecture 1

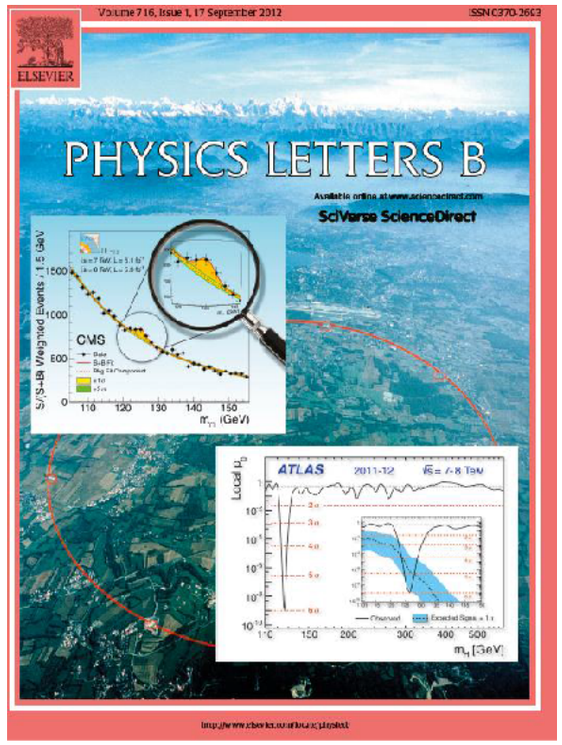
- The journey of raw data from the detector to a publication

Lecture 2

- How we reconstruct fundamental physics processes from raw detector data

Lecture 3

- How we extract our signals from the mountain of data, finding needles in the haystack



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Experiments at CERN

In the 1960s we used Bubble chambers, the one that you can see in the Microcosm was used…

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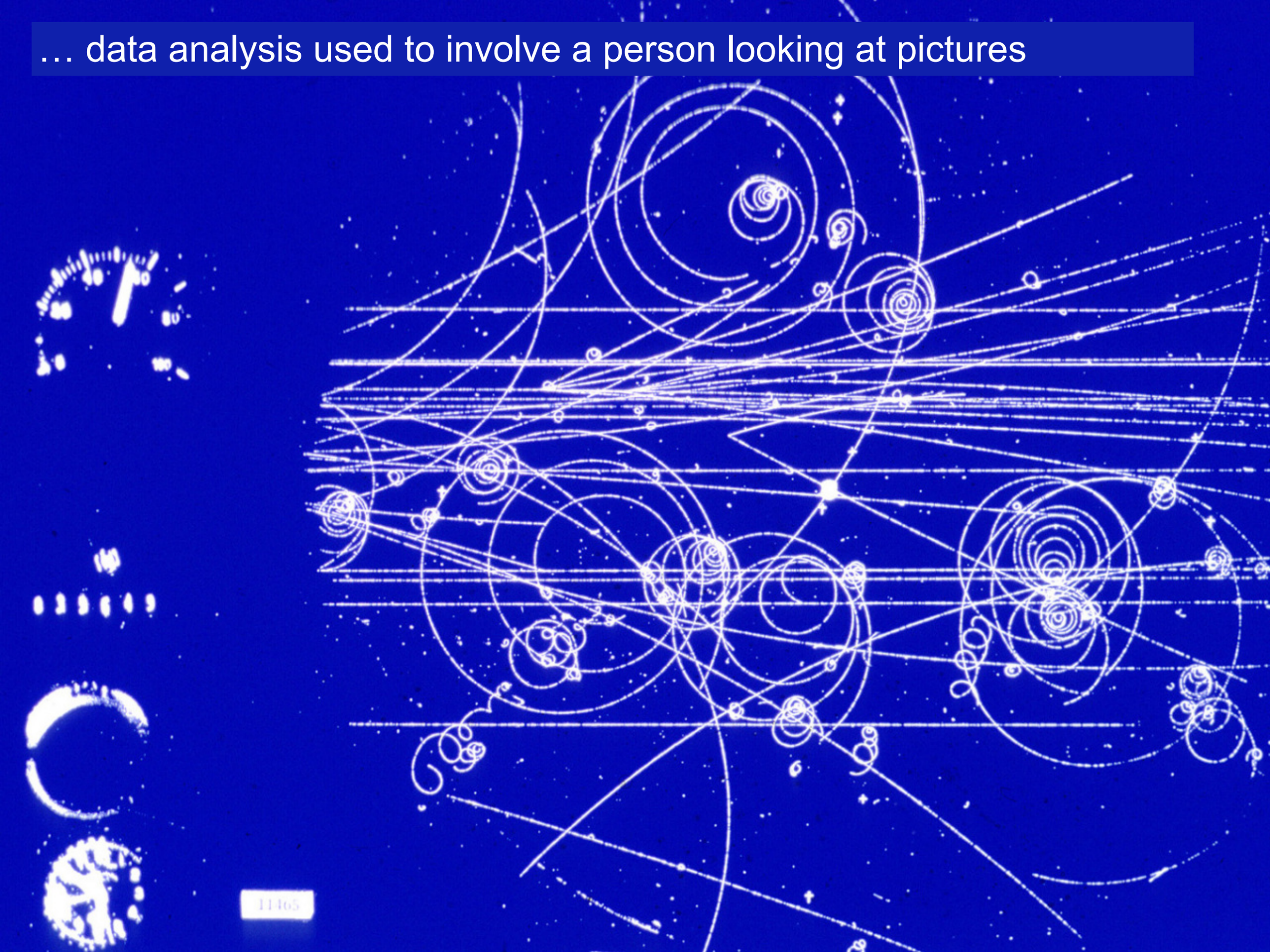
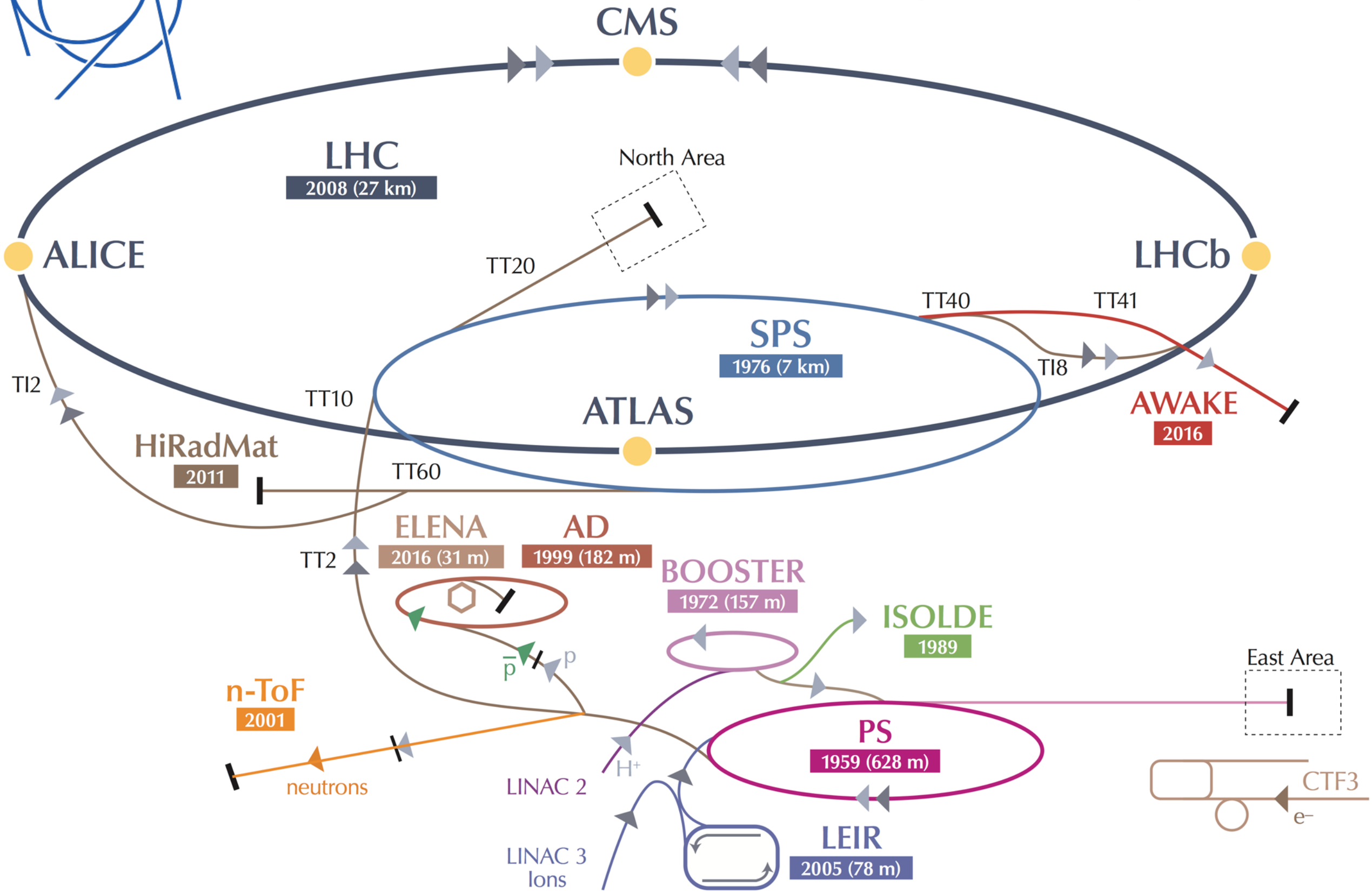
… data analysis used to involve a person looking at pictures



Today @ CERN we have huge rates of collisions so that we can produce very rare events



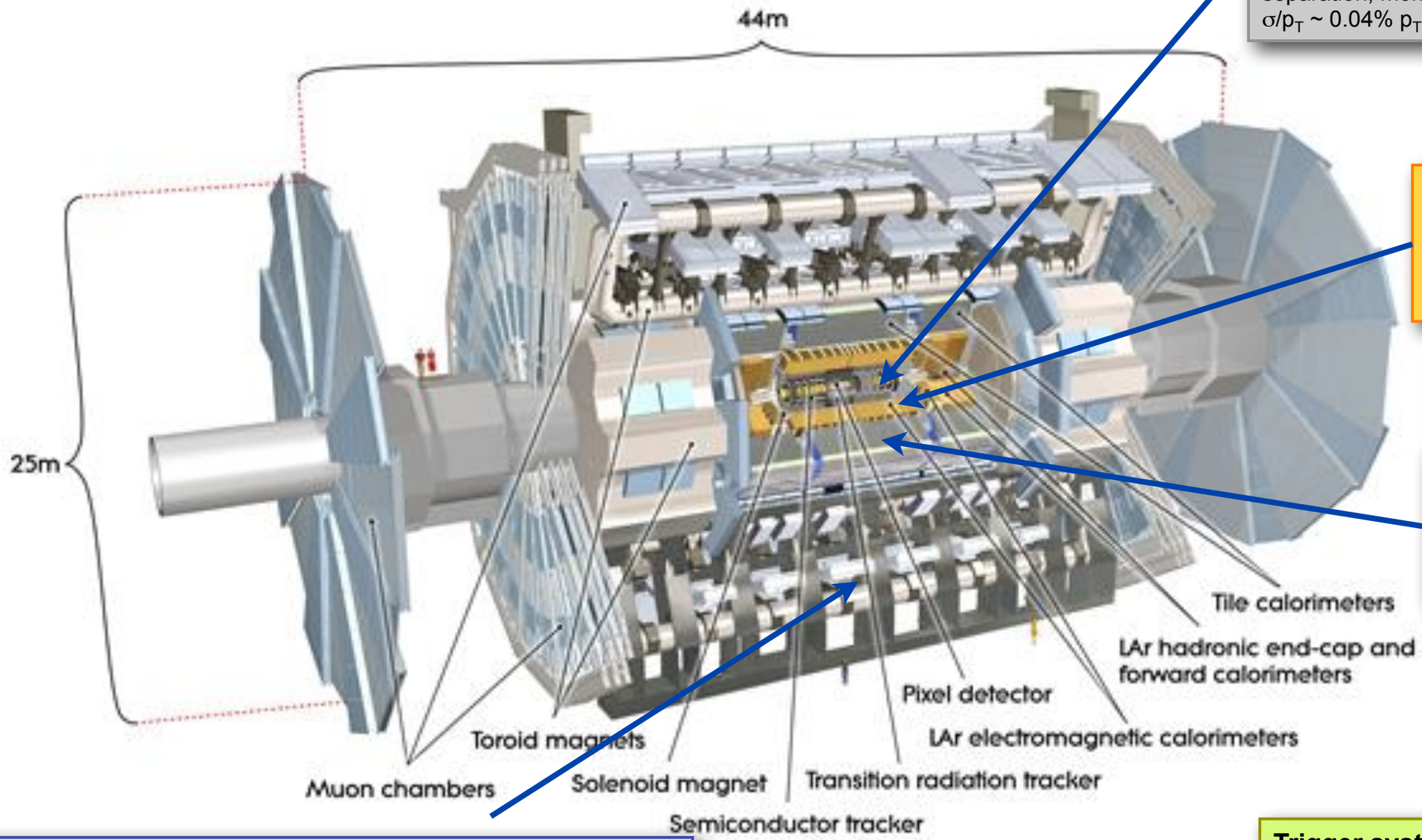
The ATLAS Detector @ LHC

L ~ 46 m, ∅ ~ 22 m, 7000 tons
~10^8 electronic channels

Inner Tracker (|η|<2.5, B=2T): Si Pixels, Si strips, Trans. Rad. Det. Precise tracking and vertexing, e/π separation, momentum resolution: σ/p_T ~ 0.04% p_T (GeV) ⊕ 1.5%

EM calorimeter: Pb-LAr Accordion, e/γ trigger, id. and meas., energy res.: σ/E ~ 10%/√E ⊕ 0.7%

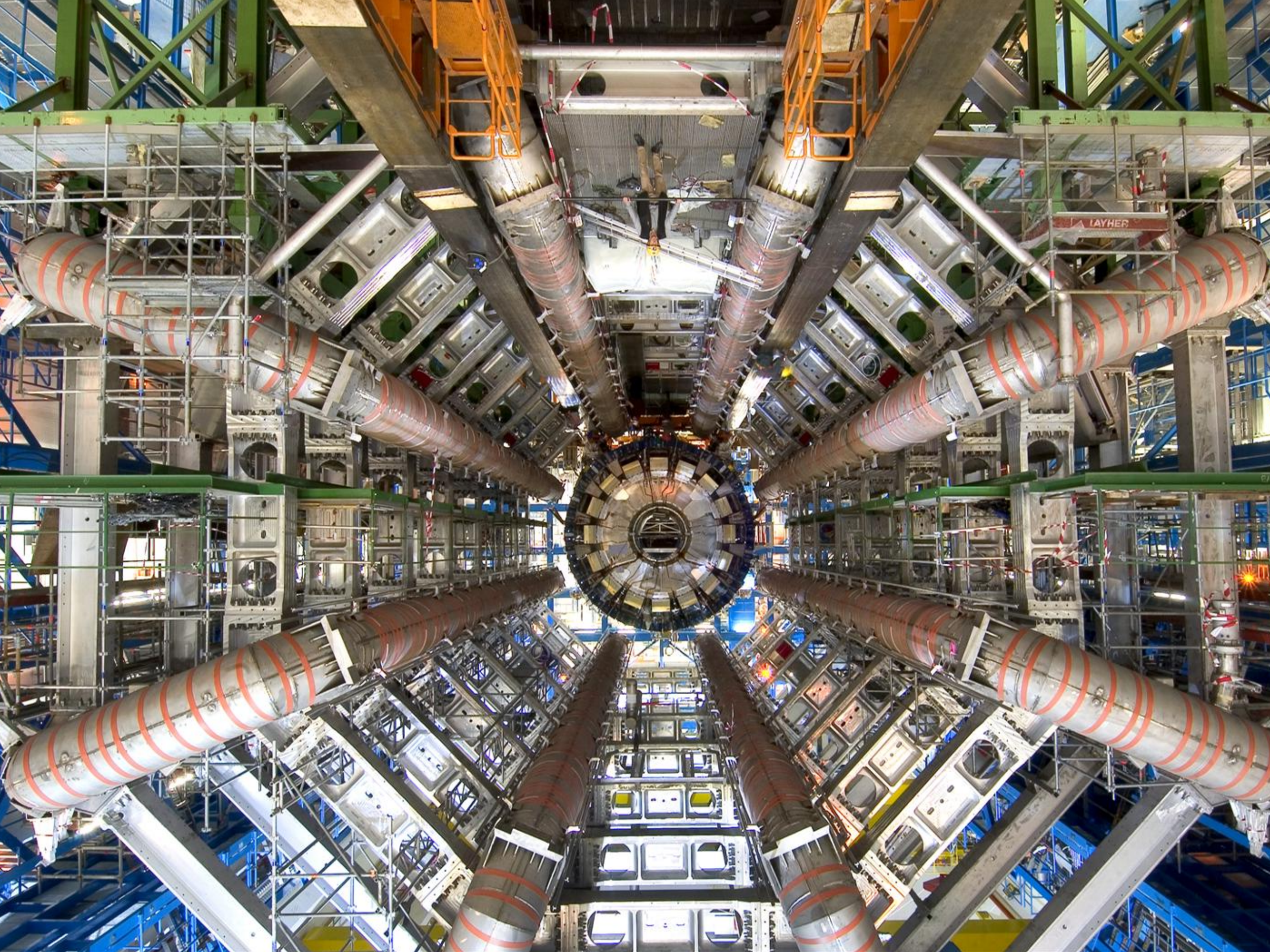
HAD calorimetry (|η|<5): Fe/ scintillator Tiles (cen), Cu/W-LAr (fwd). trigger and meas. of jets and $E_{T,miss}$, energy res.: σ/E ~ 50%/√E ⊕ 3%

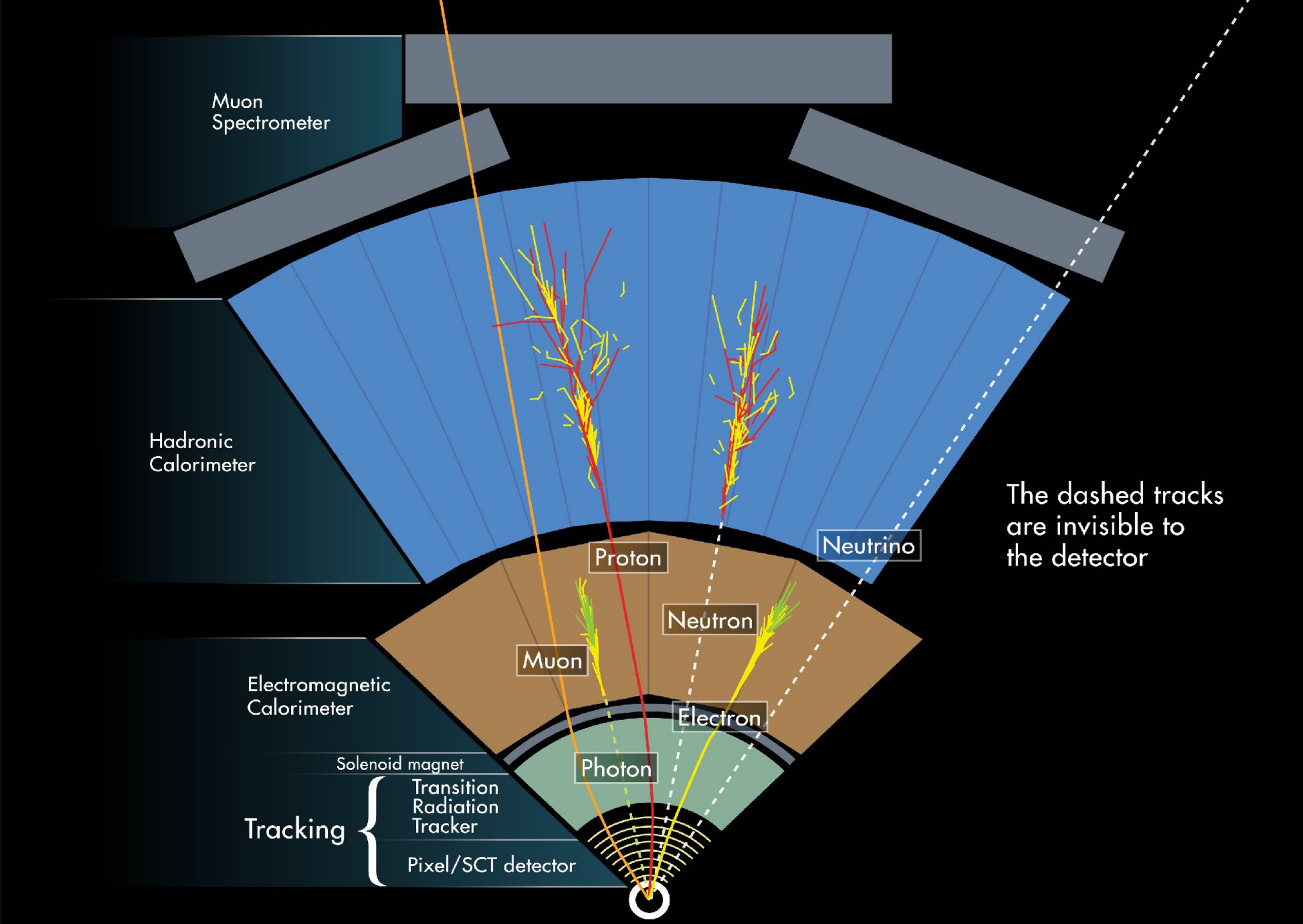


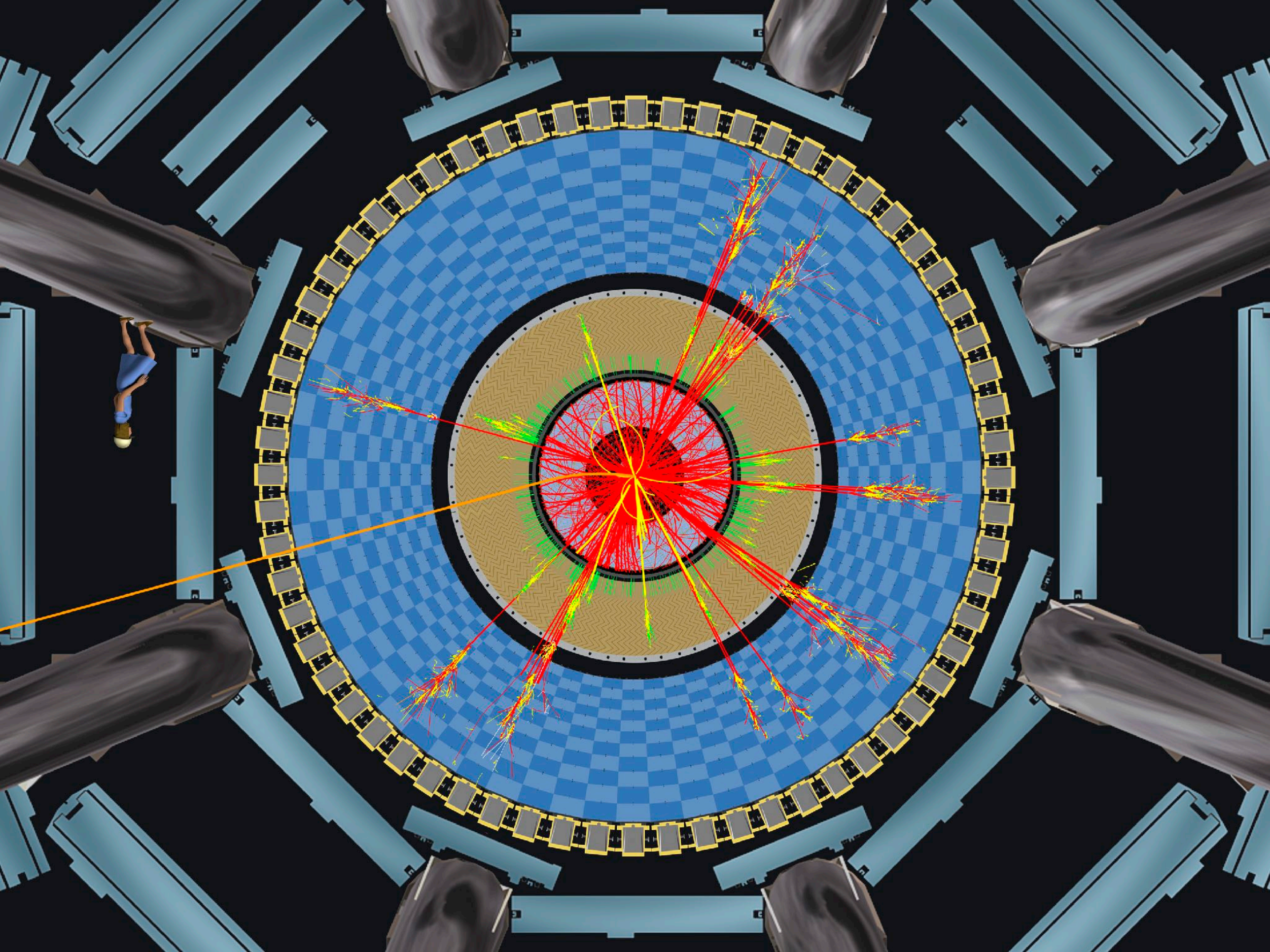
Muon Spectrometer: air-core toroids with gas-based muon chambers. trigger and meas. with momentum resolution < 10% up to E_μ ~ 1 TeV

Trigger system: 3-levels reducing the IA rate from 40 MHz to ~200 Hz

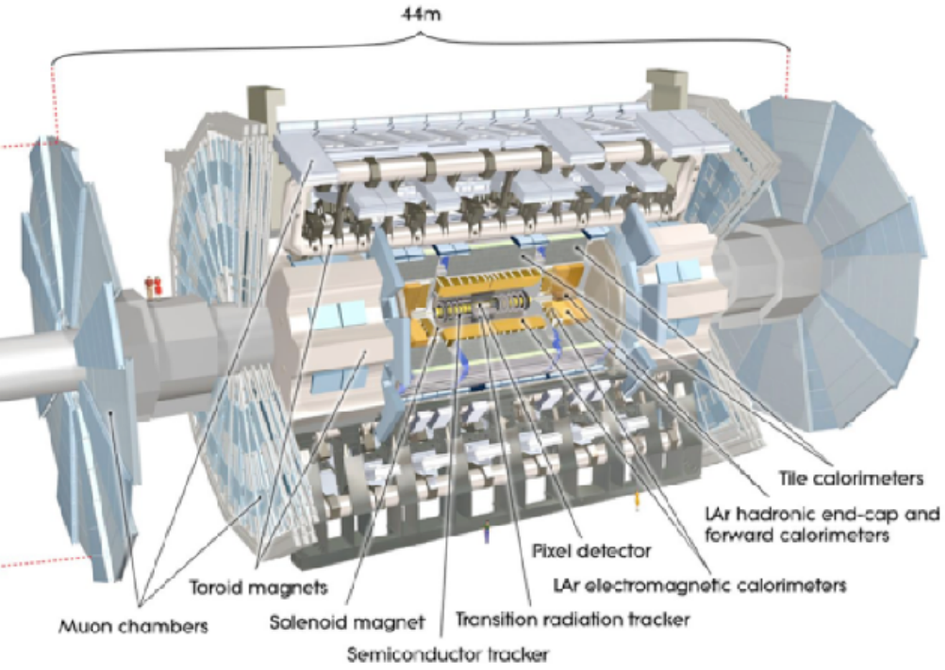
Millions of detector readout channels read out to reconstruct one "event"

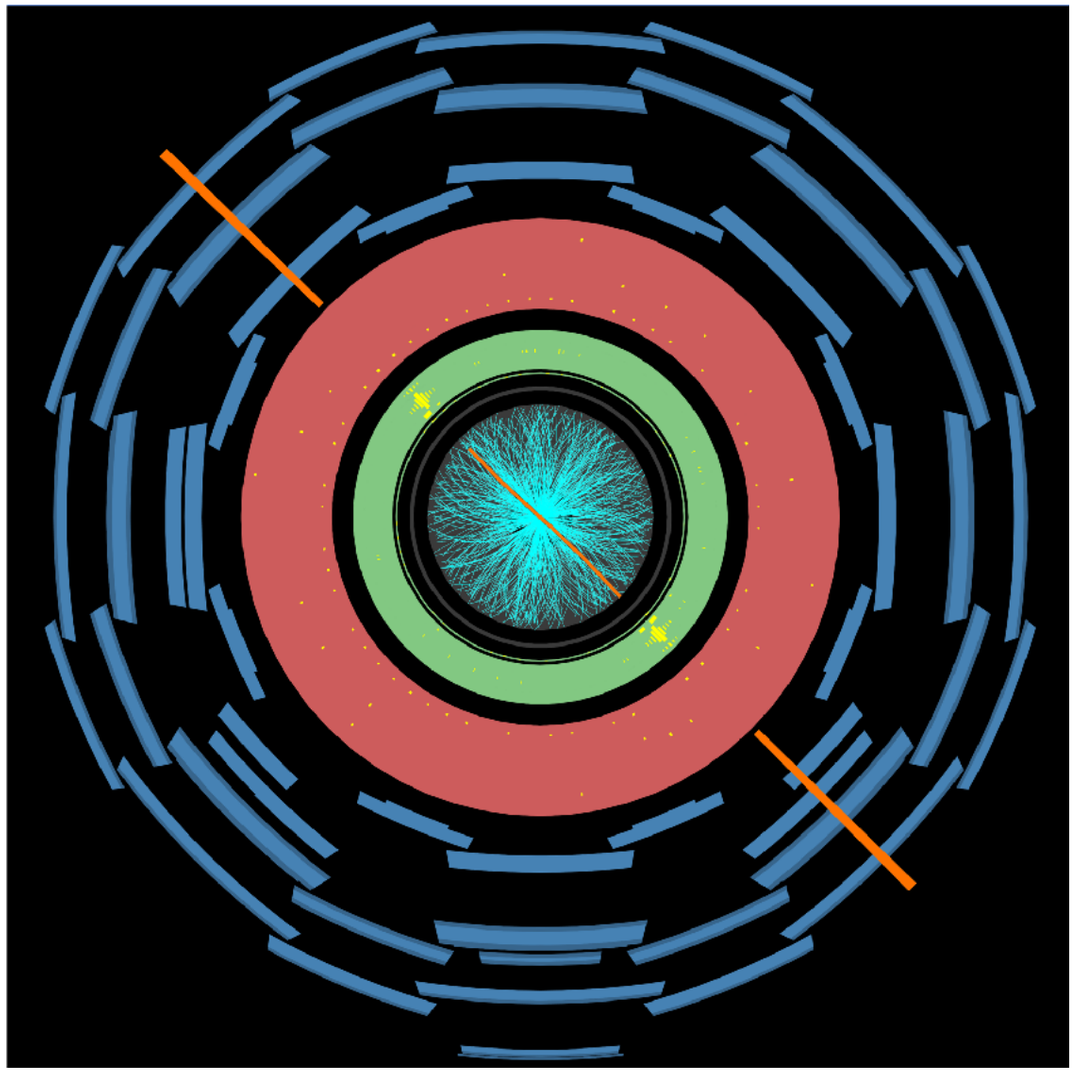

LAYHER


Muon
Spectrometer
Hadronic
Calorimeter
Electromagnetic
Calorimeter
Solenoid magnet
Tracking
Transition
Radiation
Tracker
Pixel/SCT detector
Proton
Neutrino
Neutron
Muon
Electron
Photon
The dashed tracks
are invisible to
the detector



Event displays





Event displays are great ways for us to visualise what happened in a particle collision

In this **ATLAS event display** (*right*) of a real proton collision, we are looking down the beam pipe, so the plane of the display is transverse to the proton beam direction

***Question**: Can you quantify the momentum in this plane **before** the proton collision*

- *What does that tell you about the distribution of momentum **after** the collision?*
- *Can you say which fundamental particle(s) is (are) observed in the event?*

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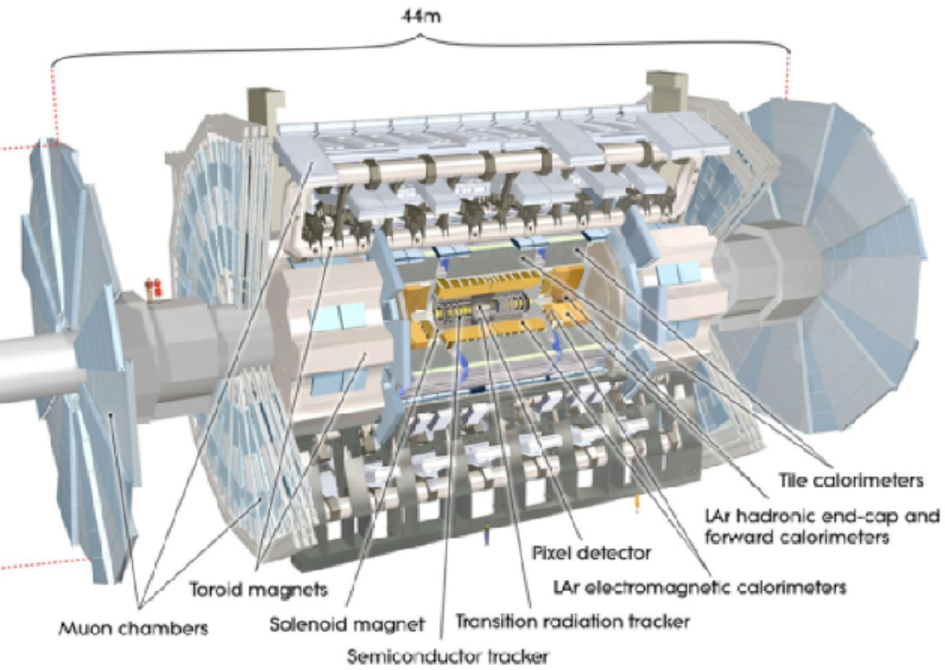
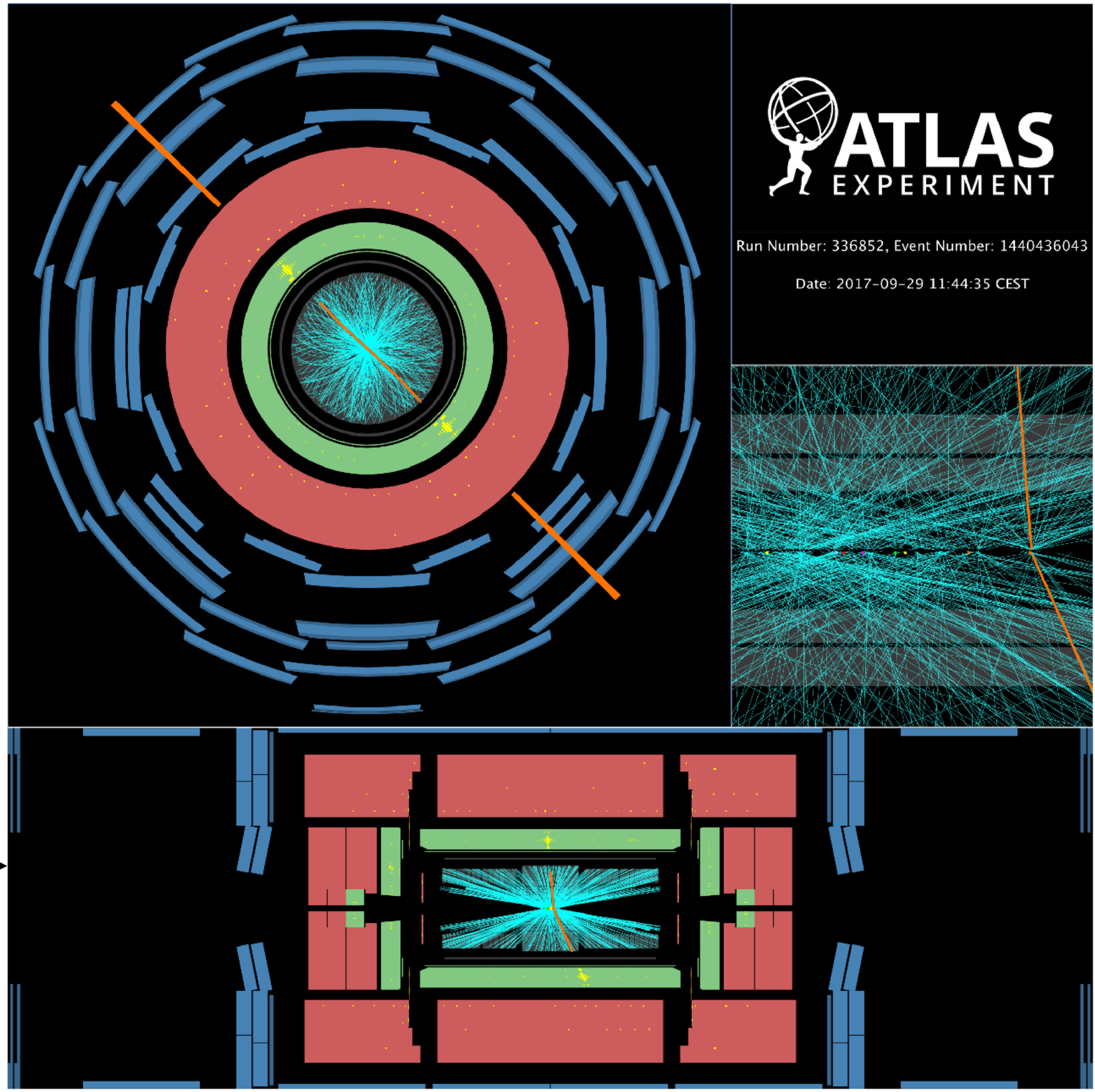
Event displays



This view shows the plane in the proton beam direction

Both **2D** views are often used to provide complementary information



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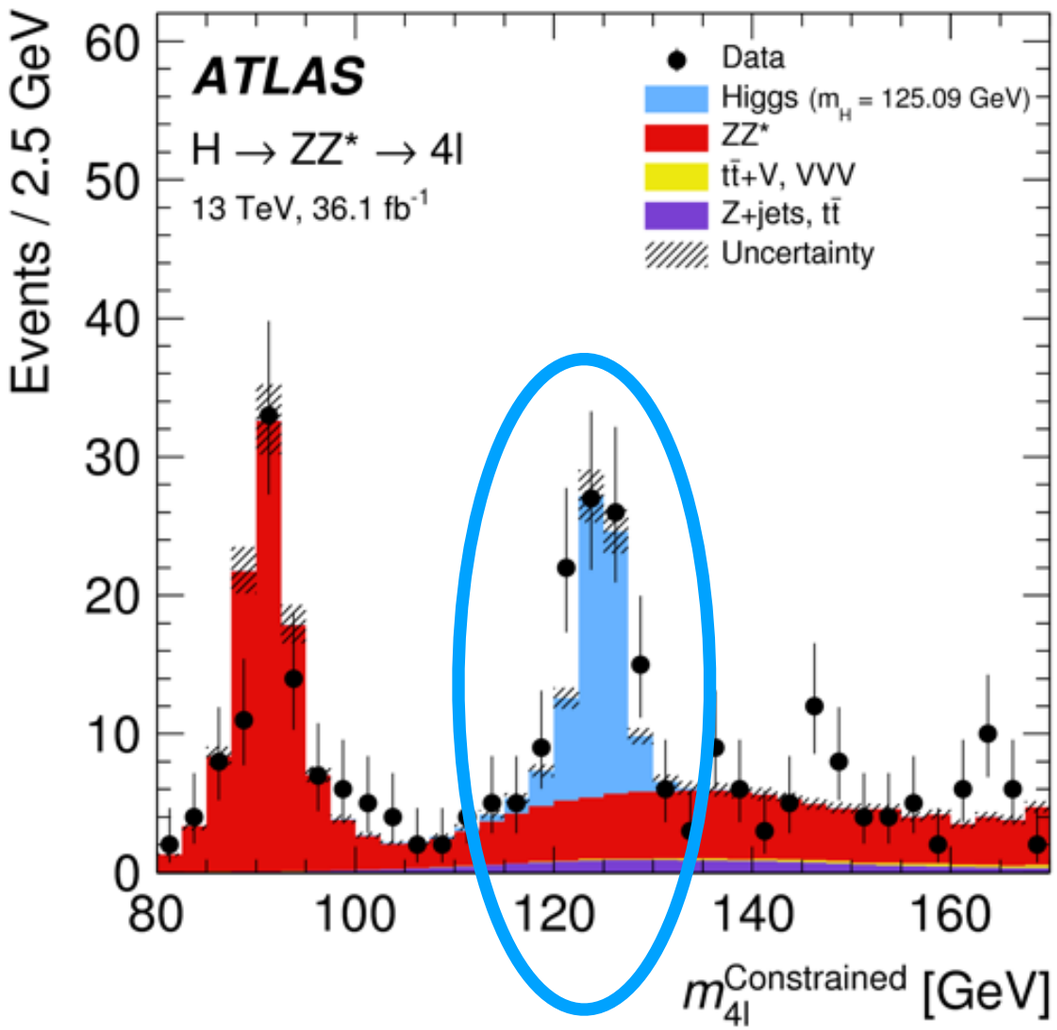
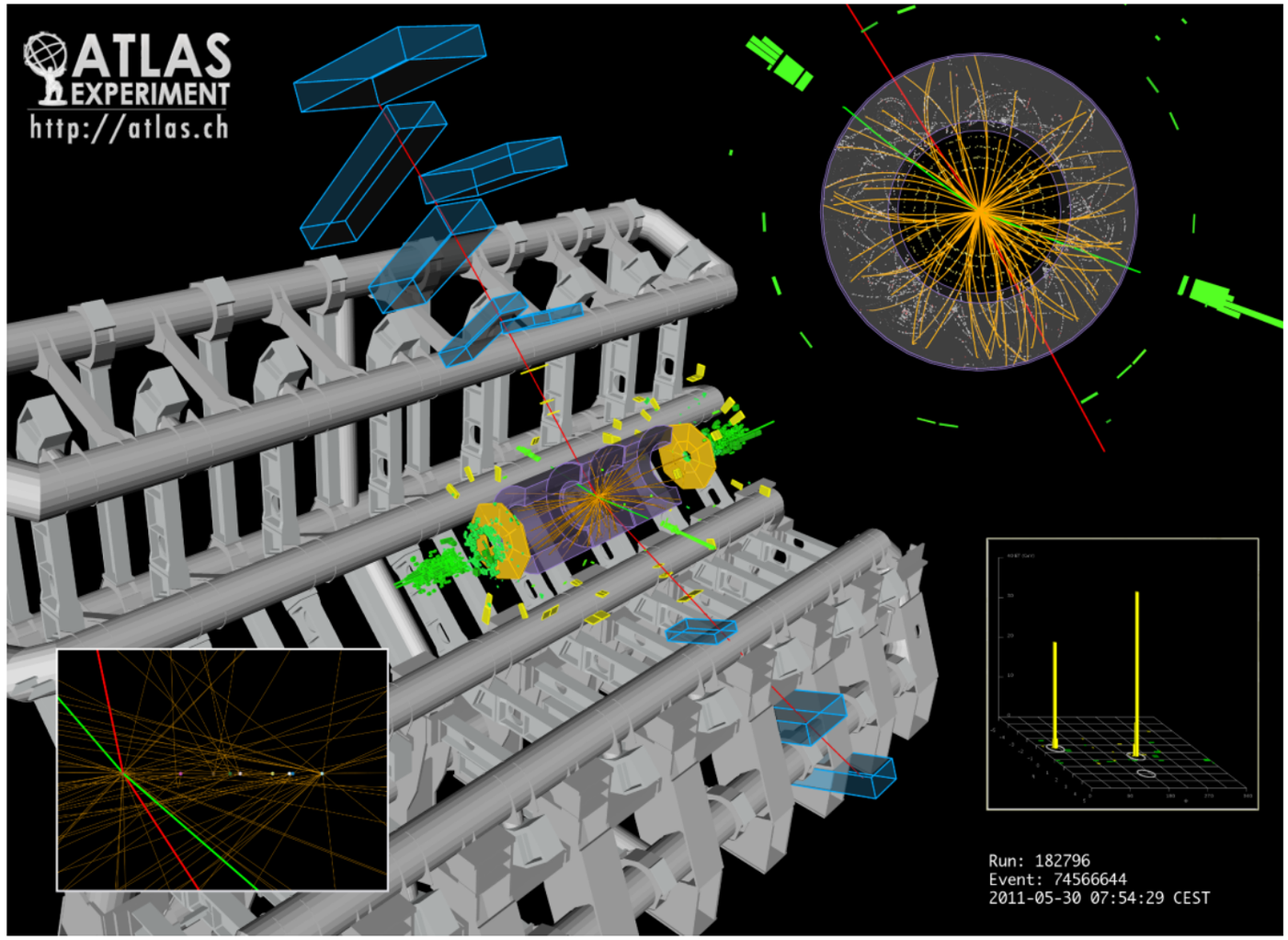
Discovering the Higgs Boson





Strategy for this channel (there are several) - we look for events with **two Z bosons** that have decayed to **four leptons**, e.g. two electrons and two muons in the event on the right

If the **two Z bosons** were produced by the **decay of a Higgs boson**, when we reconstruct the invariant mass of the system we should see a **peak** at the **Higgs boson mass**

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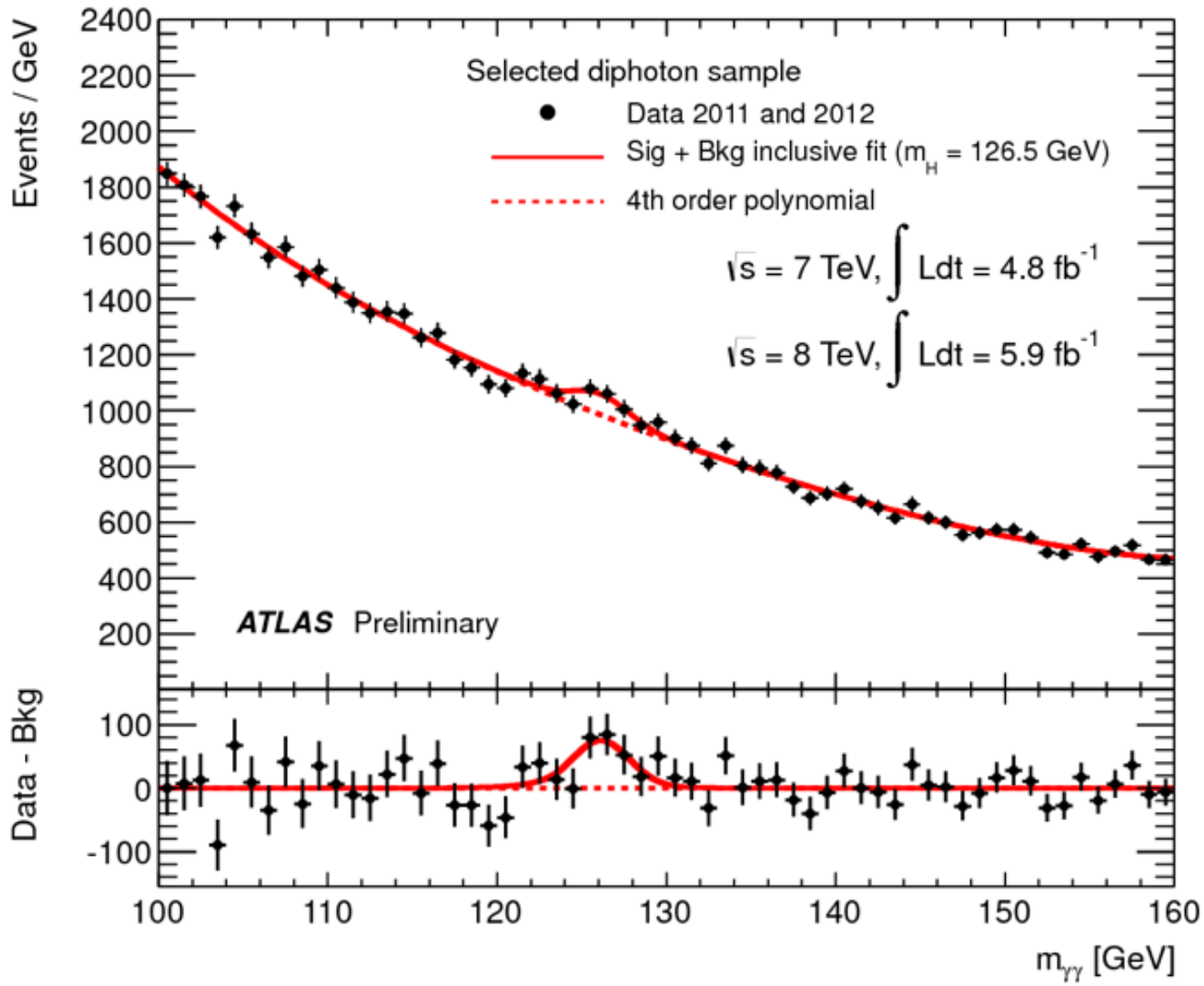
Needles in haystacks

- There are billions of events and the ones we are really interested in are ***very rare***
- Often the interesting events are also ***very difficult to distinguish*** from background
  - Requires ***high precision detectors***, which means ***lots of data*** for each event
- The data are structured but each event is different - ***unique data science challenge***



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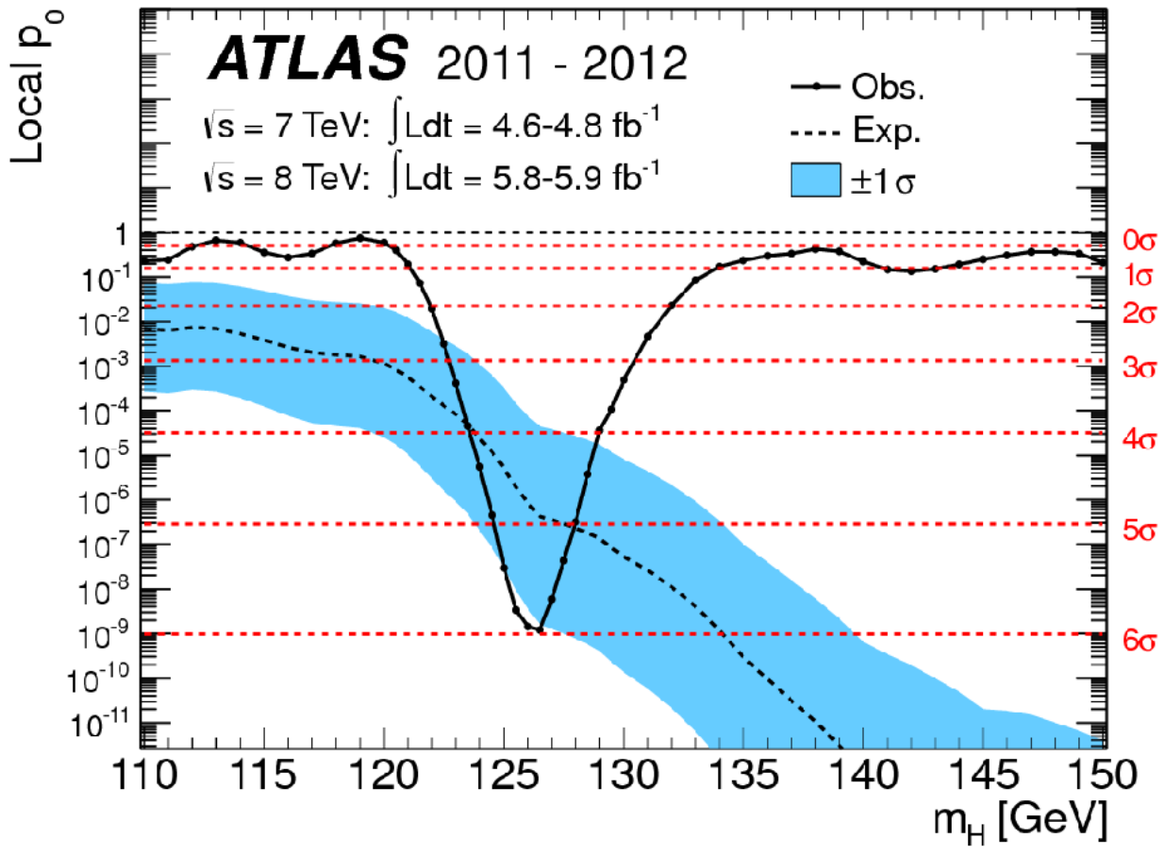
Higgs discovery on July 4th 2012



In 2012 the number of observed events (**6σ**) was consistent with, and in excess of the number of events expected for a standard model Higgs (**5σ**)

Question *- Imagine we had several more Large Hadron Colliders, with a total of 9 independent measurements possible. Roughly how many measurements would you expect to lie* ***outside*** *the ±1σ blue band?*

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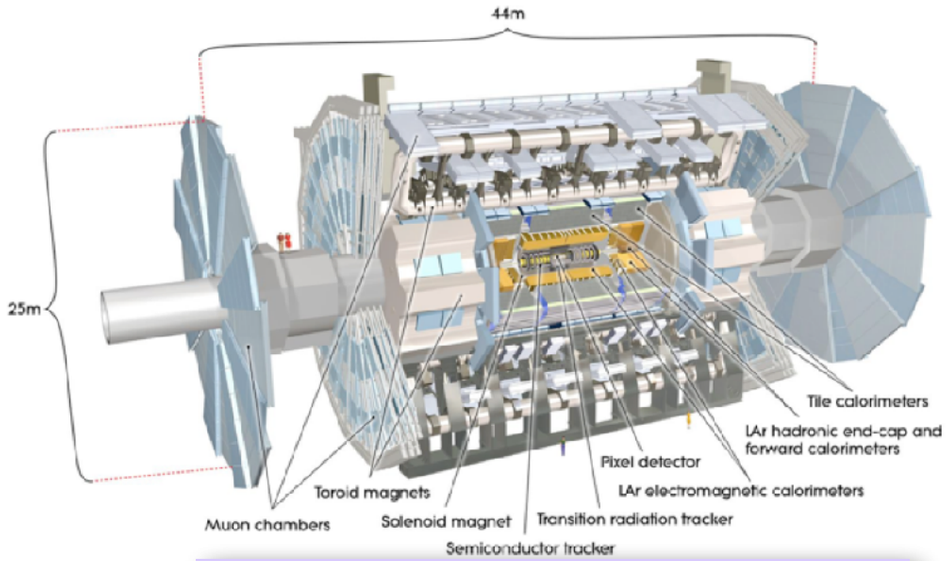
Exabyte-scale physics analysis



Exabytes of Data

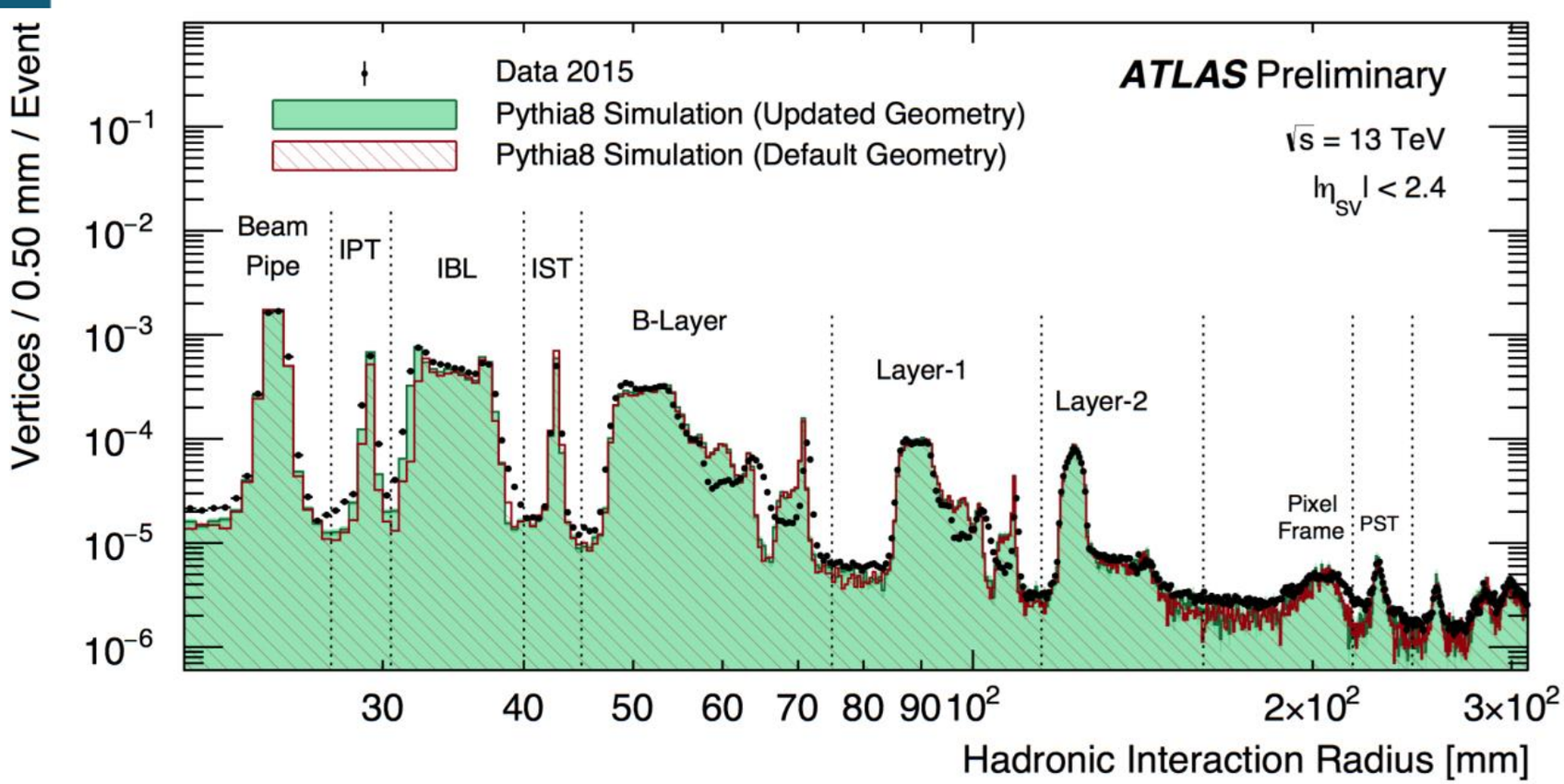
Simulation and understanding detectors

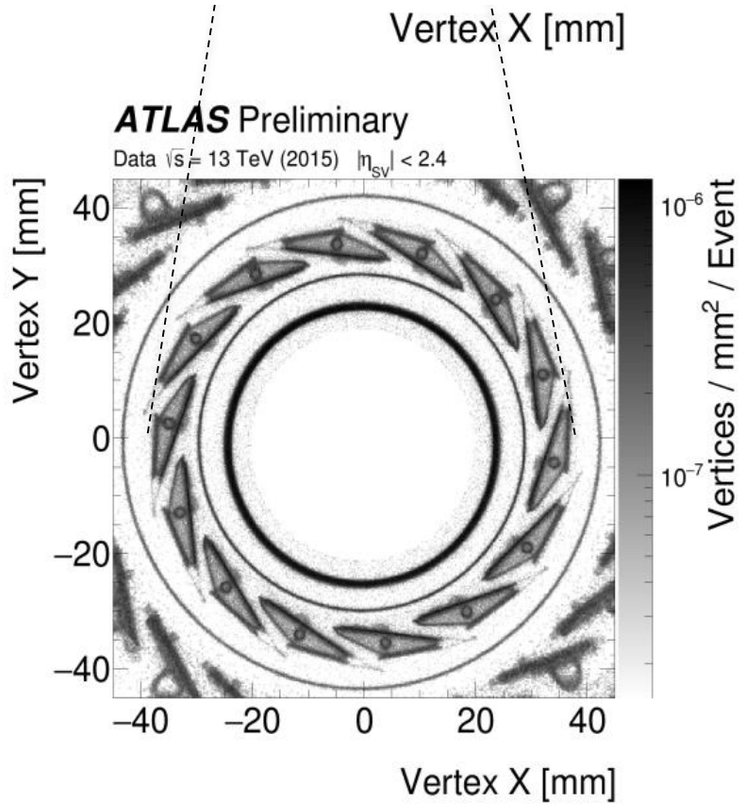
We use **simulations** to model the detector as **accurately** and **precisely** as possible

We then ***test*** that our simulations are accurate ***using real data***

We correct our simulations if necessary

Once our simulation is an ***accurate model*** of our detector, we can use it to ***correct the data for detector response***





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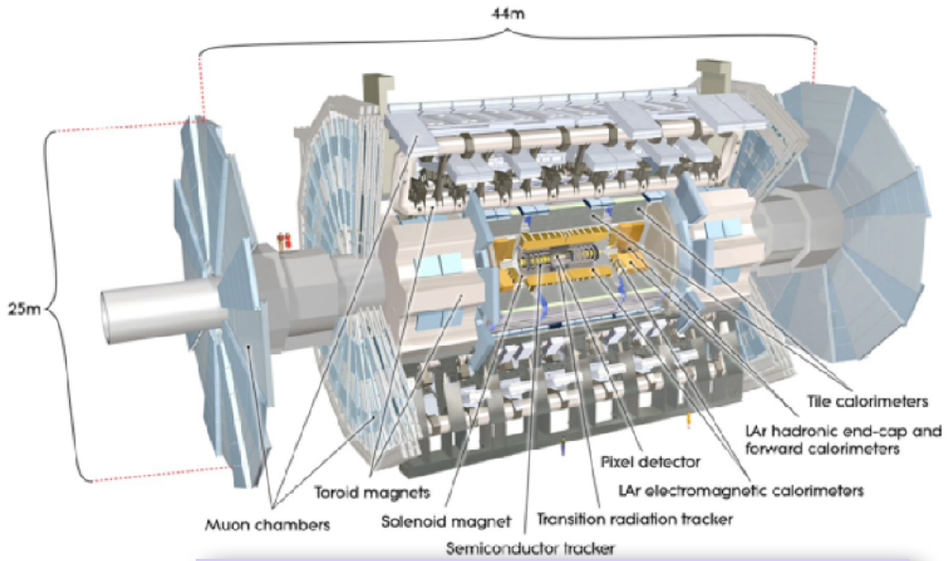
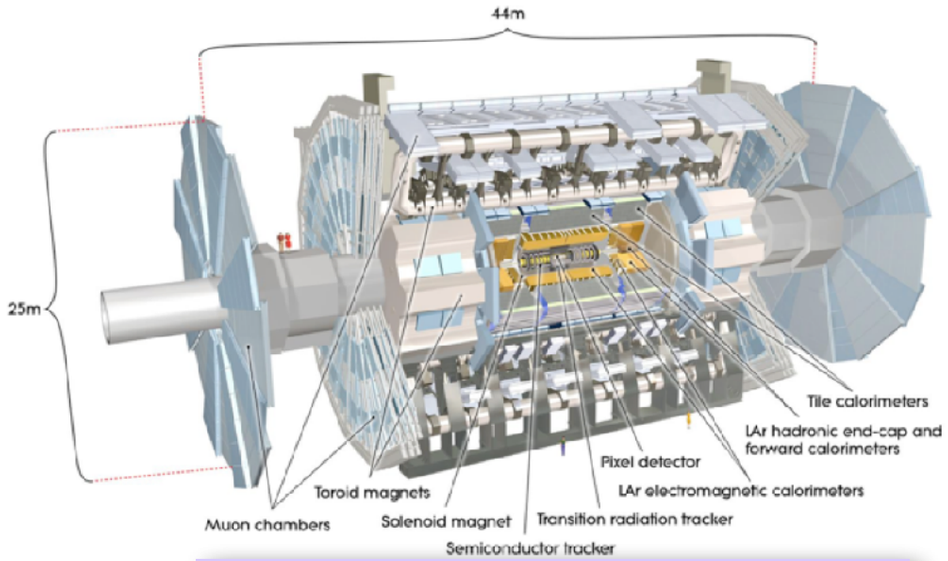
Exabyte-scale physics analysis

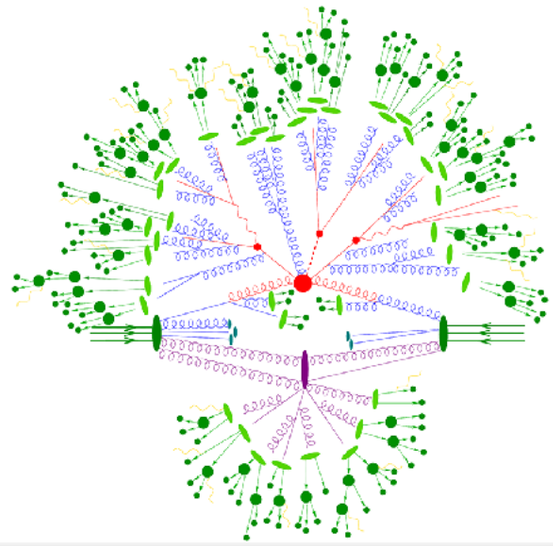


Exabytes of Data

Exabyte-scale physics analysis

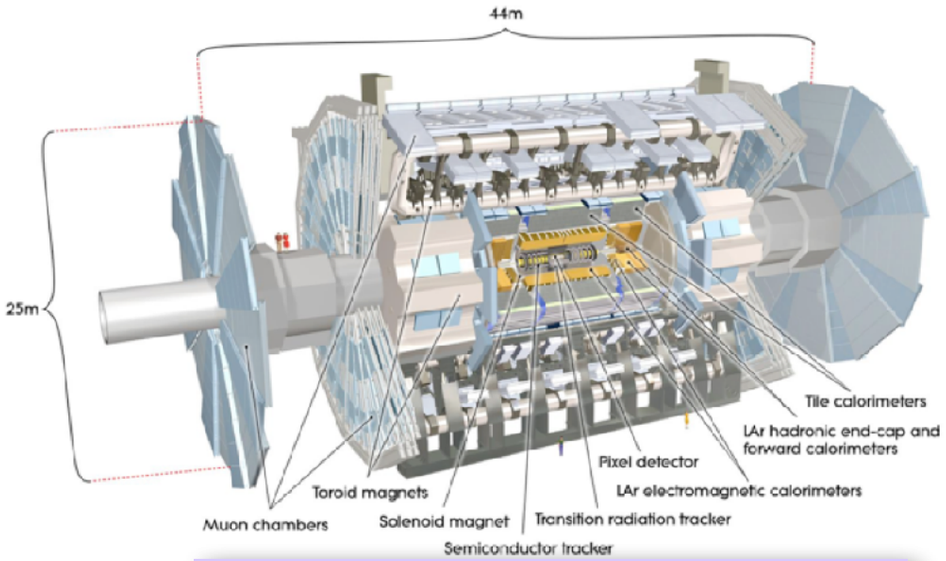


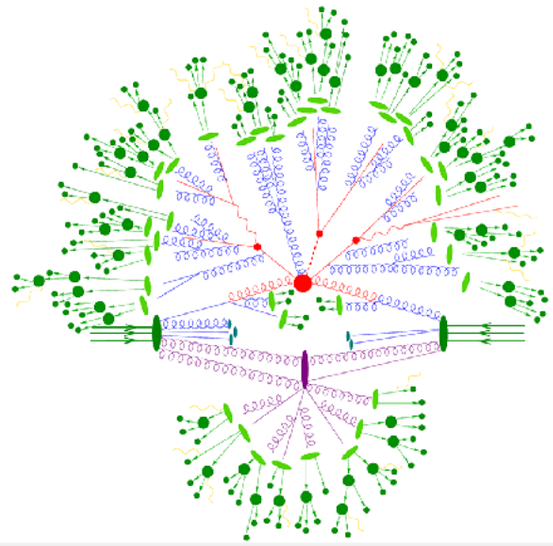
Exabytes of Data



Exabytes of Simulation

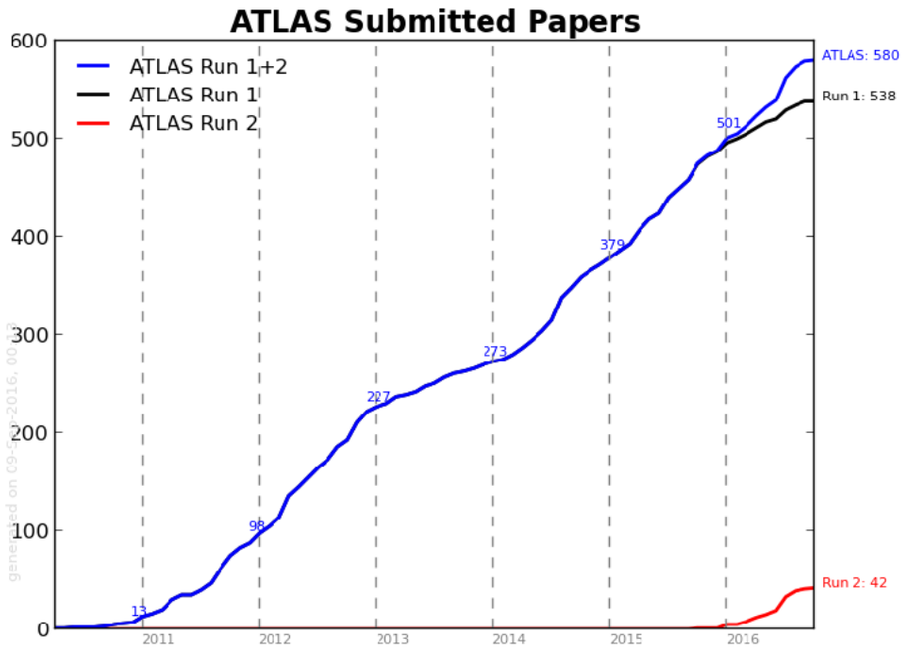
Exabyte-scale physics analysis





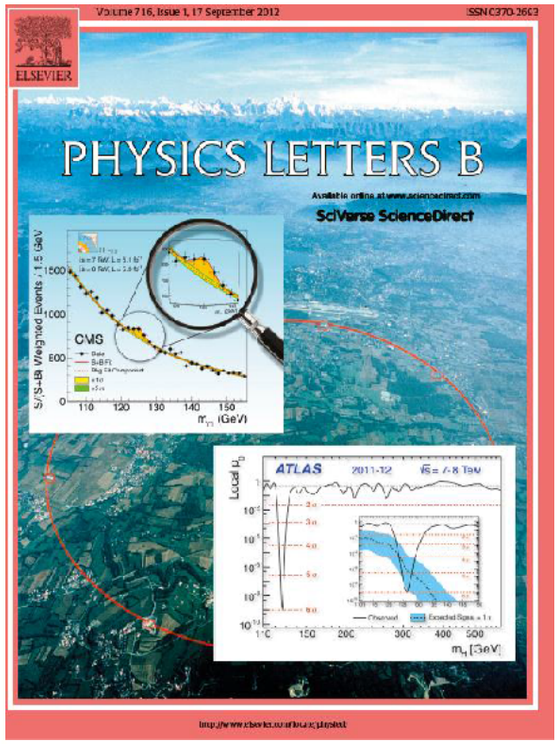
Exabytes of Data

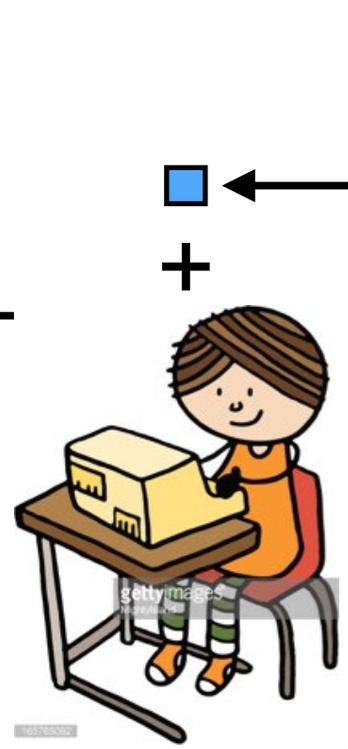
Exabytes of Simulation

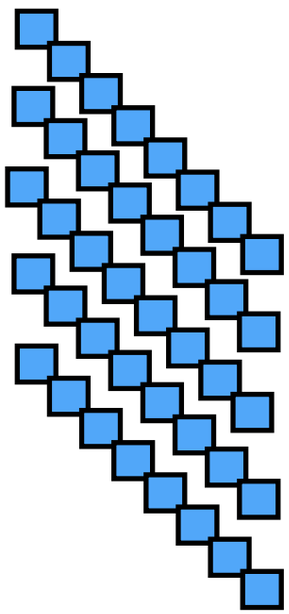


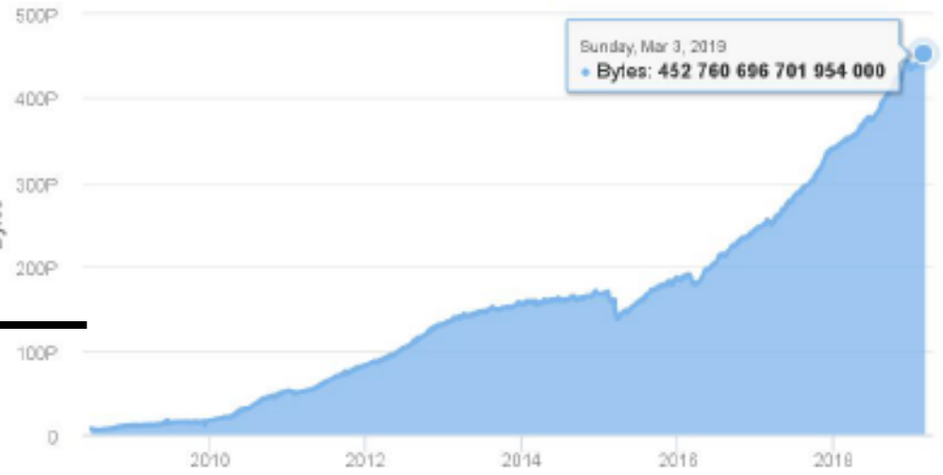
Publish!

Data analysis









Analysis is performed on only a fraction of the data

How?

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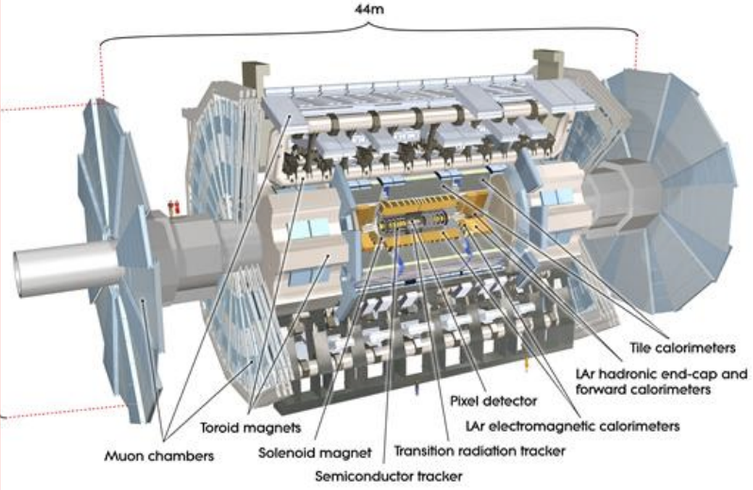
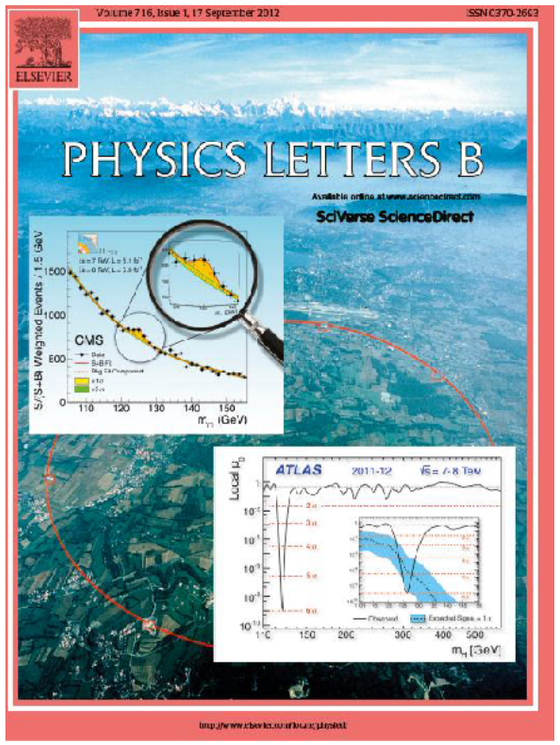
Data's journey

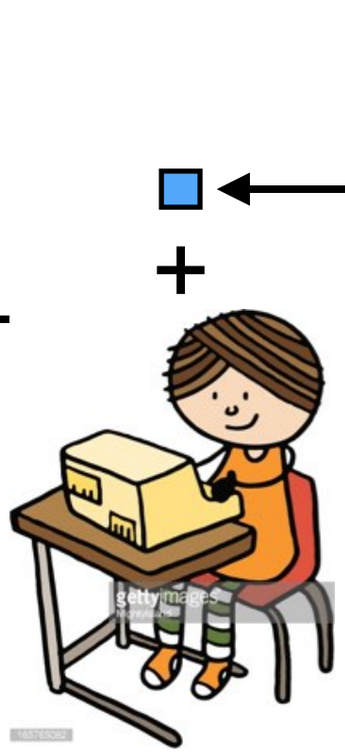


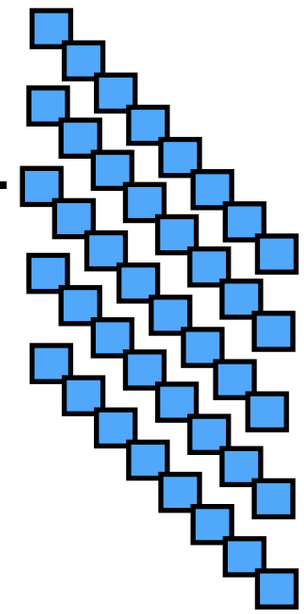
Trigger/DAQ

Data Preparation

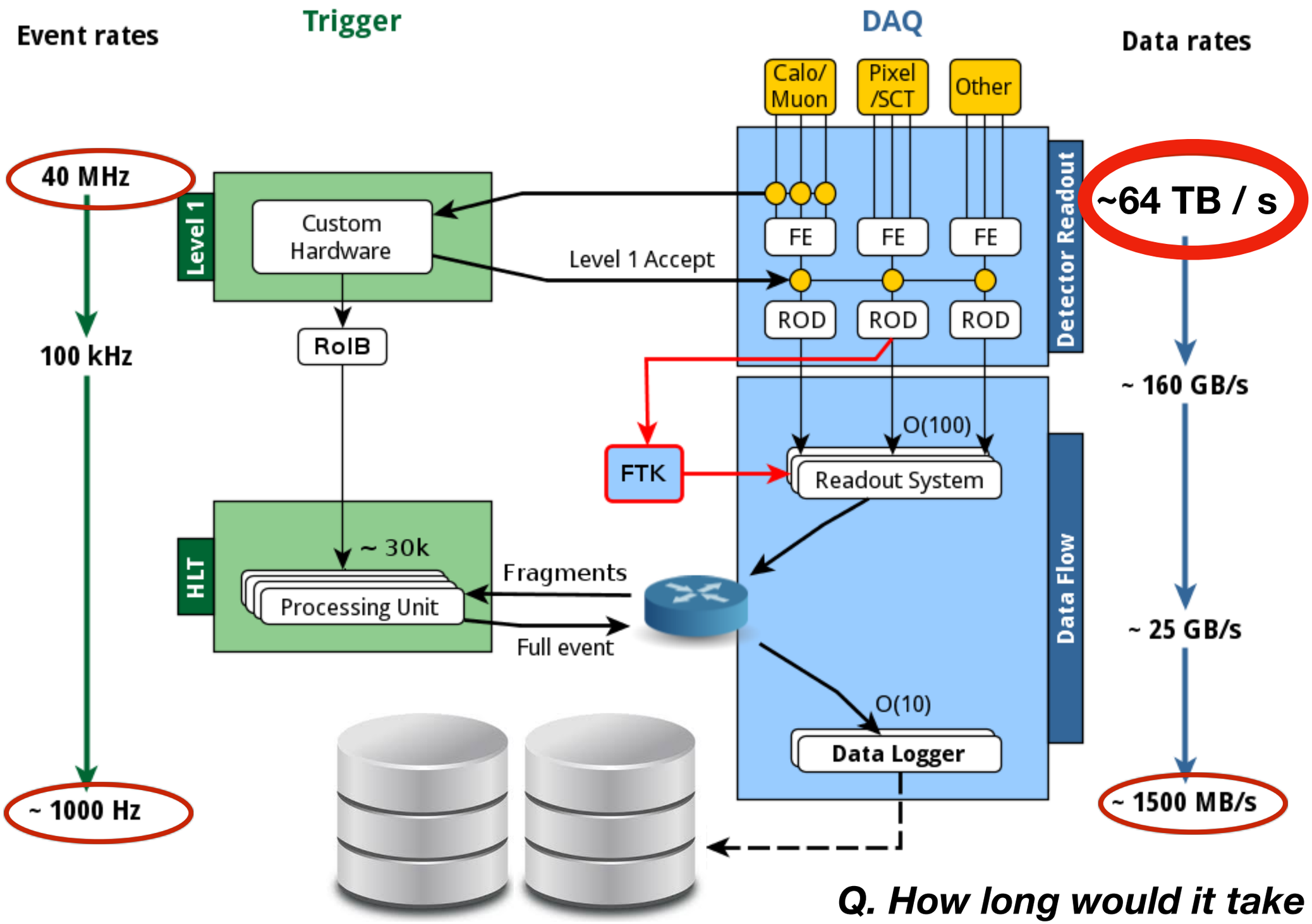
Distributed computing





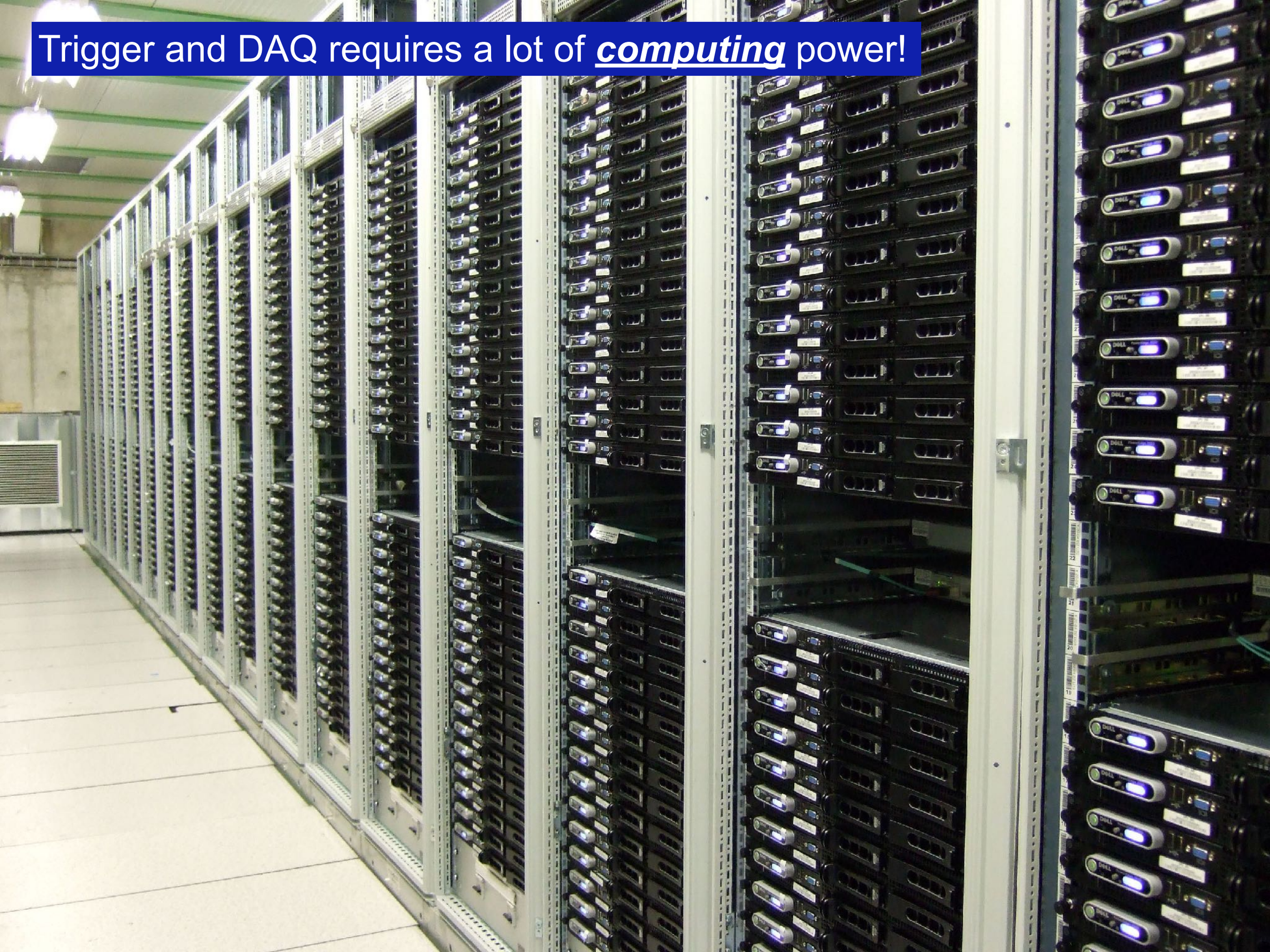


The Atlas Trigger and DAQ

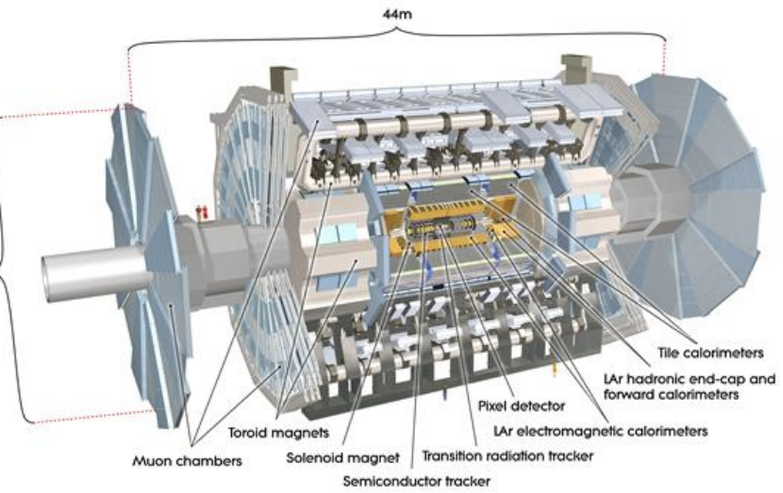


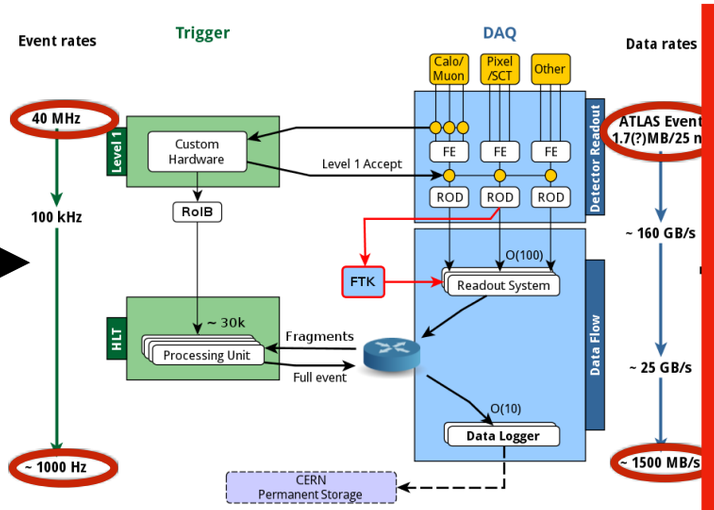
Q. How long would it take to generate 500PB of data if there were no Trigger?

Trigger and DAQ requires a lot of ***computing*** power!

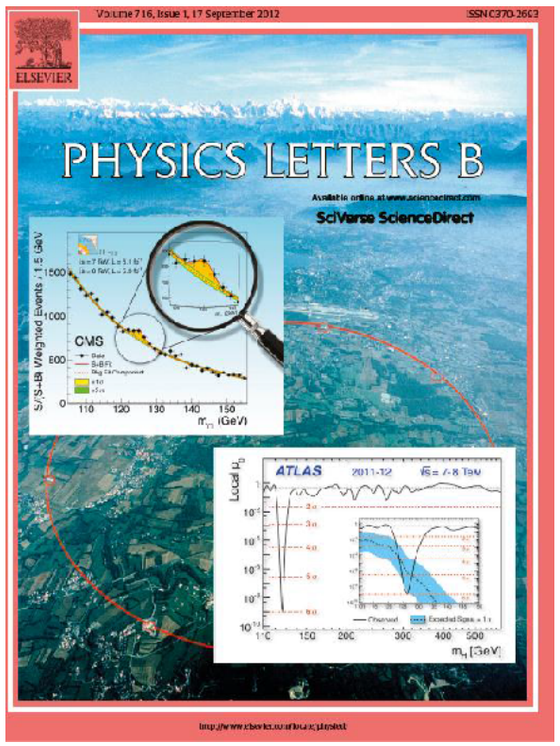


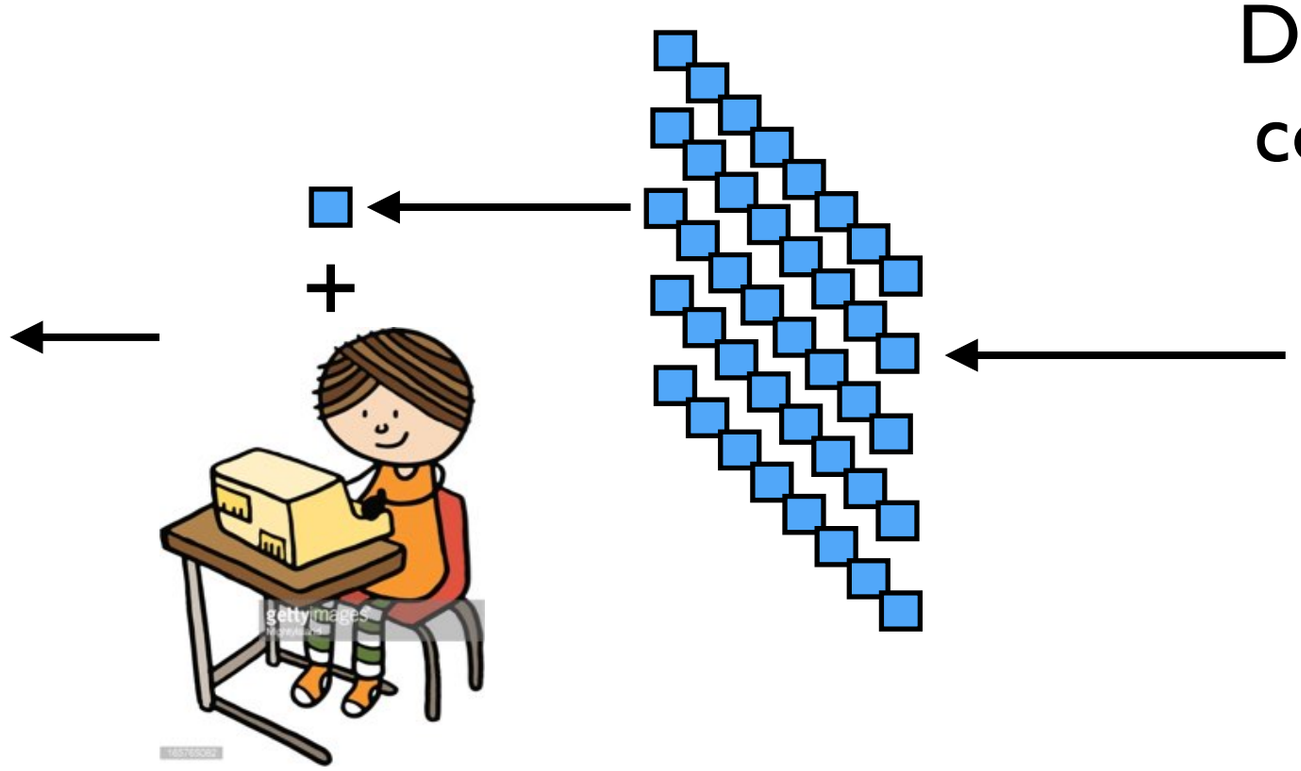
Data's journey





Data Preparation





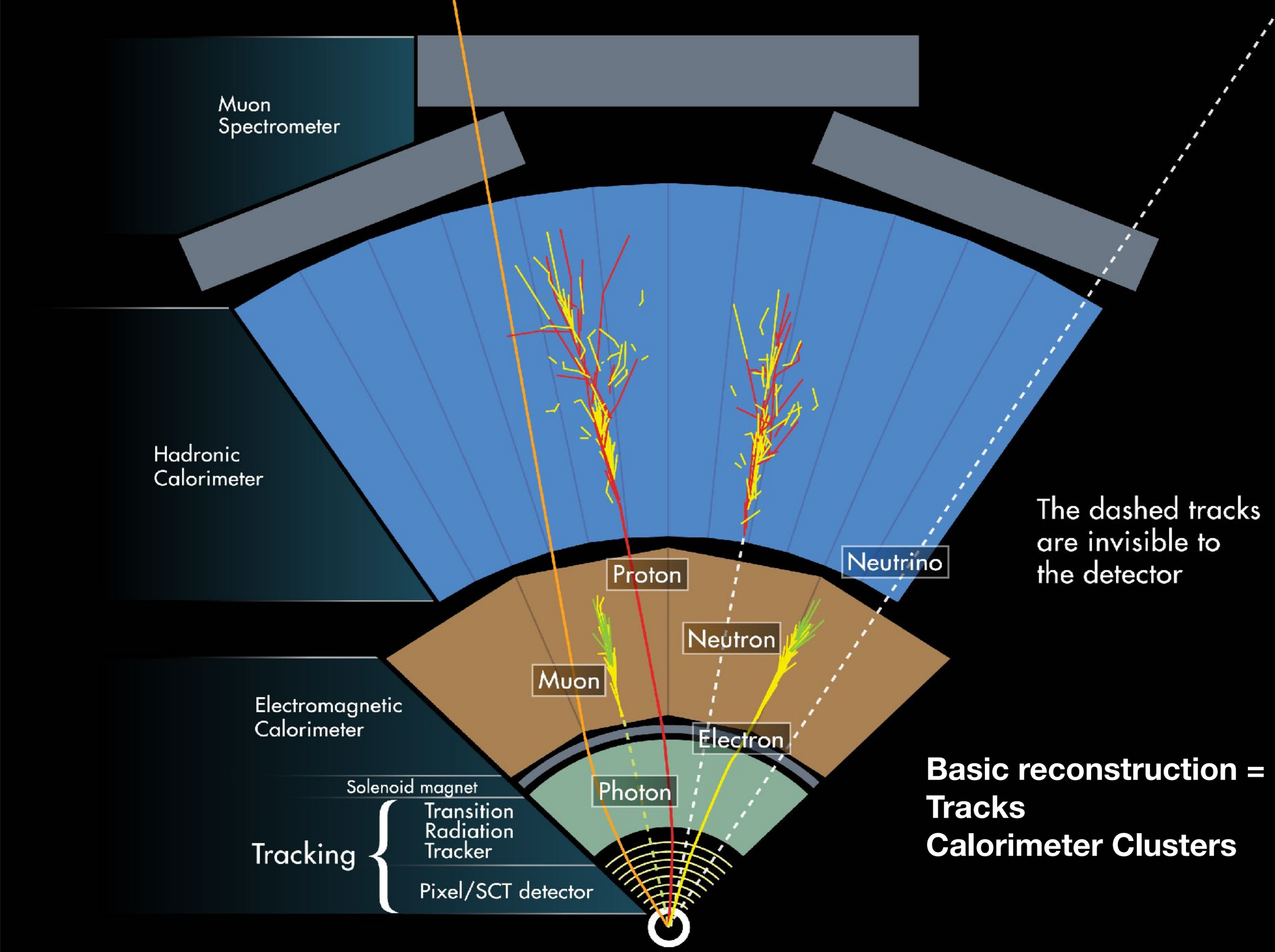
Distributed computing

Data Preparation

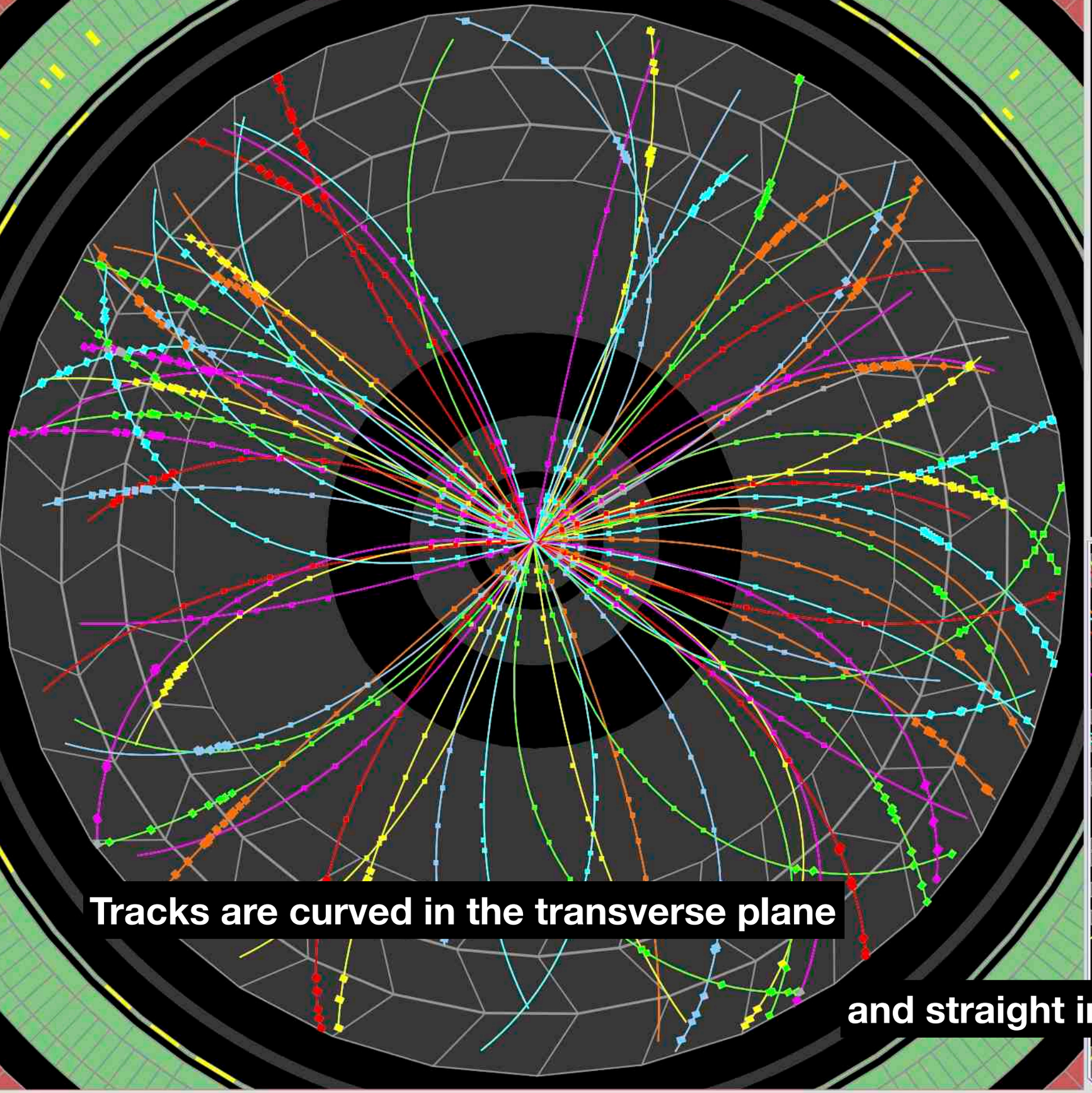
Three major steps to **prepare data for physics analysis** and achieve

- reliable, high quality data (yes, we ***reject*** low quality data)
- the ***best performance*** from our detectors
- readiness for ***physics analysis***

1. **Reconstruct physics signals** from the data
   - Produce information like how many muons does the event have?



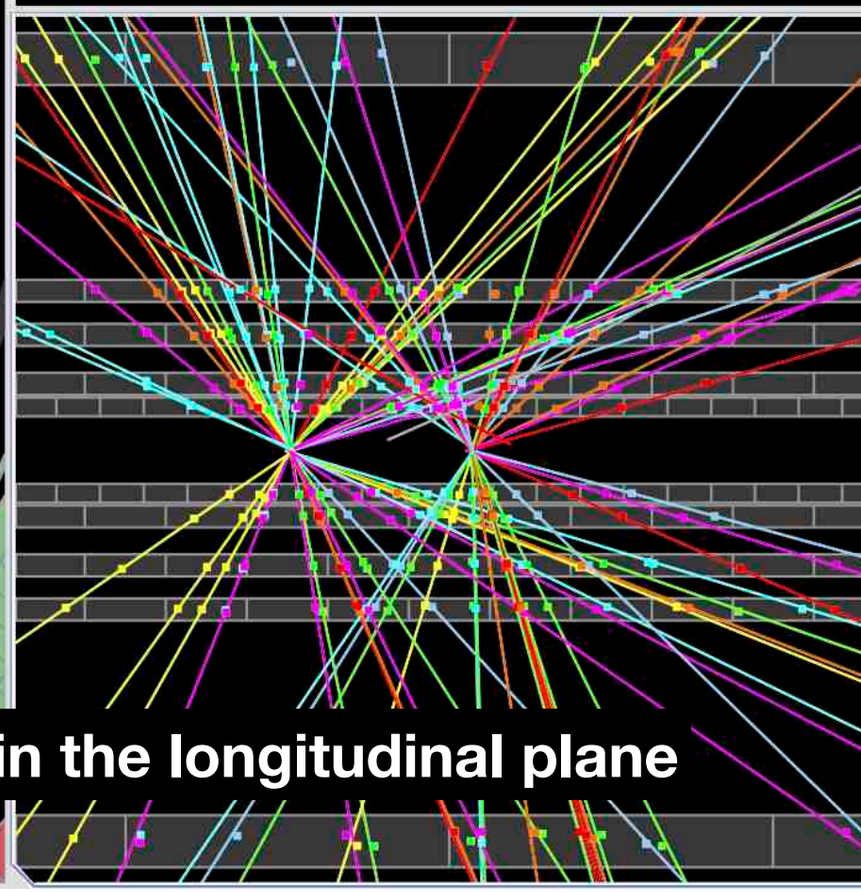
Basic reconstruction =
Tracks
Calorimeter Clusters



ATLAS EXPERIMENT

Run Number: 265545, Event Number: 5720351

Date: 2015-05-21 10:39:54 CEST

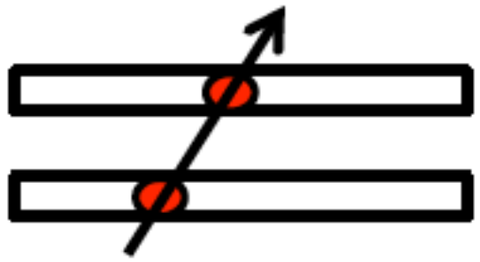


Tracks are curved in the transverse plane

and straight in the longitudinal plane

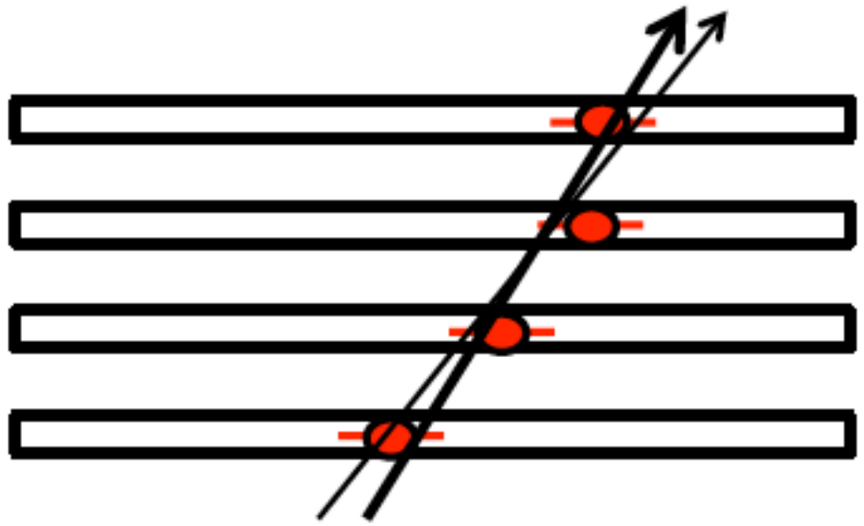
Track fitting

- Perfect measurement – ideal



- Imperfect measurement – reality

- Small errors and more points help to constrain the possibilities



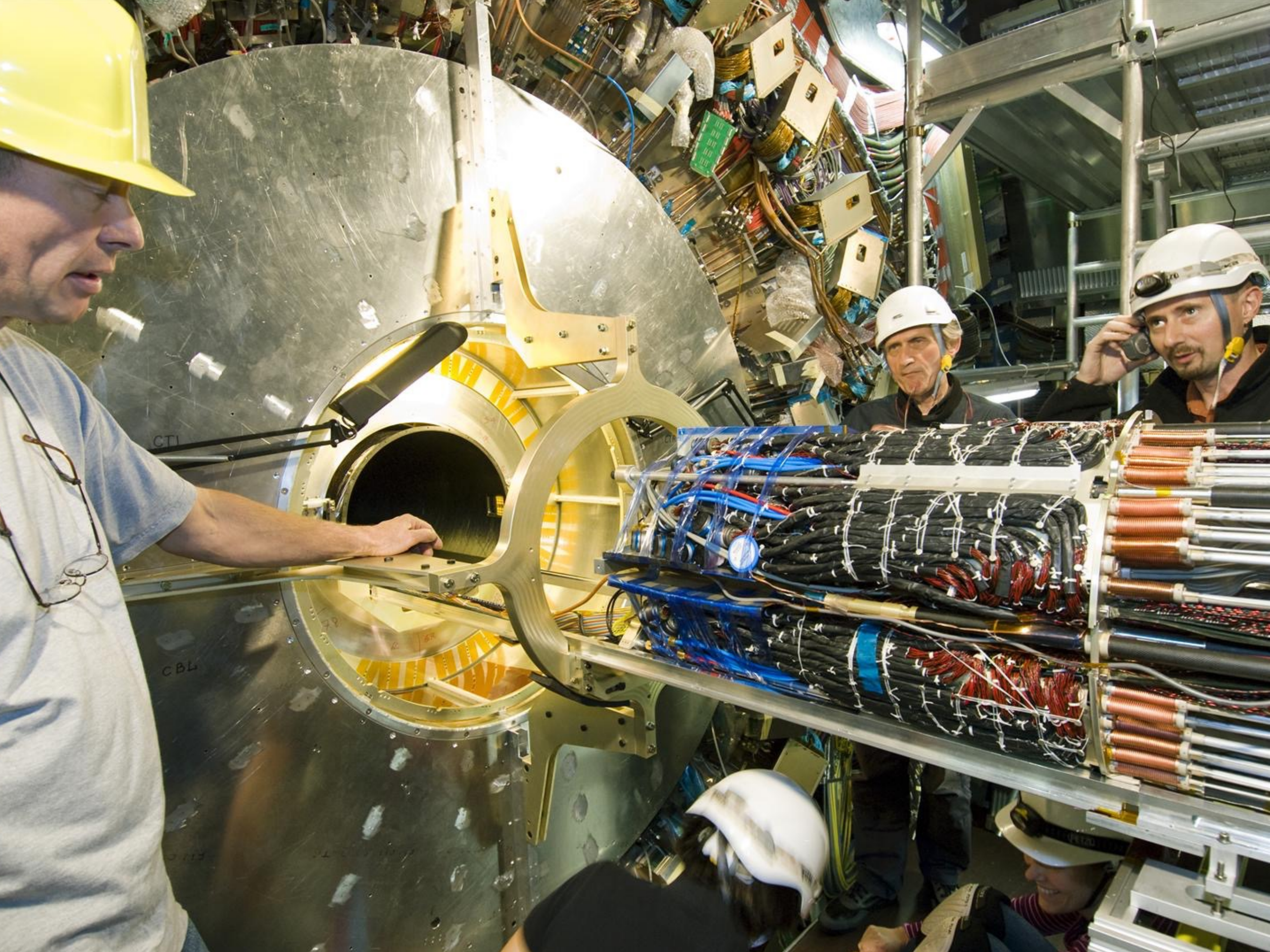
- **Quantitatively:**
  - Parameterize the track;
  - Find parameters by Least-Squares-Minimization;
  - Obtain also uncertainties on the track parameters.

Data Preparation

Three major steps to **prepare data for physics analysis** and achieve

- reliable, high quality data (yes, we ***reject*** low quality data)
- the ***best performance*** from our detectors
- readiness for ***physics analysis***

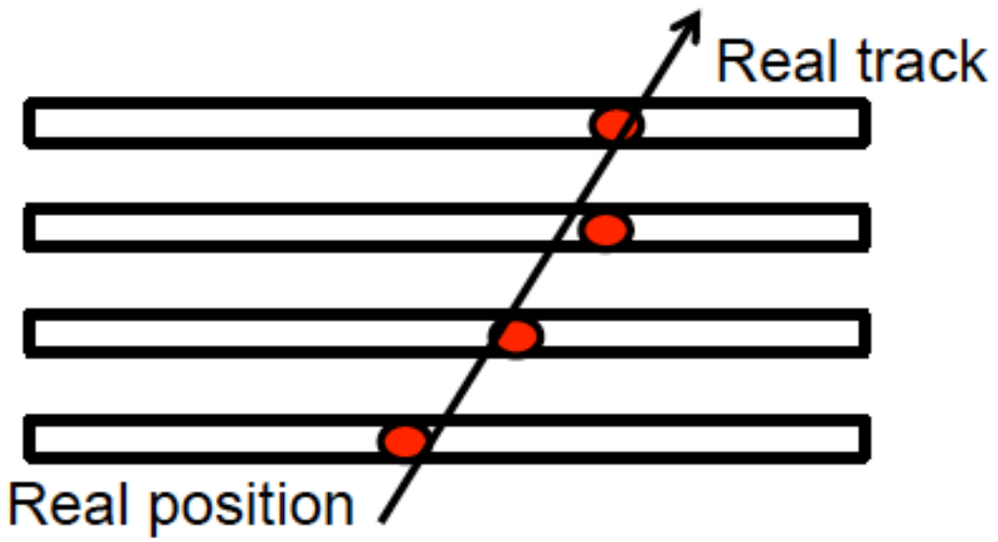
1. **Reconstruct physics signals** from the data 
   - Produce information like how many muons does the event have?
2. **Calibrate** the detectors
   - Correct imperfections, account for changes over time…



Real detector effects

- **Presence of Material**
  - Coulomb scattering off the core of atoms
  - Energy loss due to ionization
  - Bremsstrahlung
  - Hadronic interaction

- **Misalignment**
  - Detector elements not positioned in space with perfect accuracy.
  - Alignment corrections derived from data and applied in track reconstruction.



Correcting detector effects - calibration

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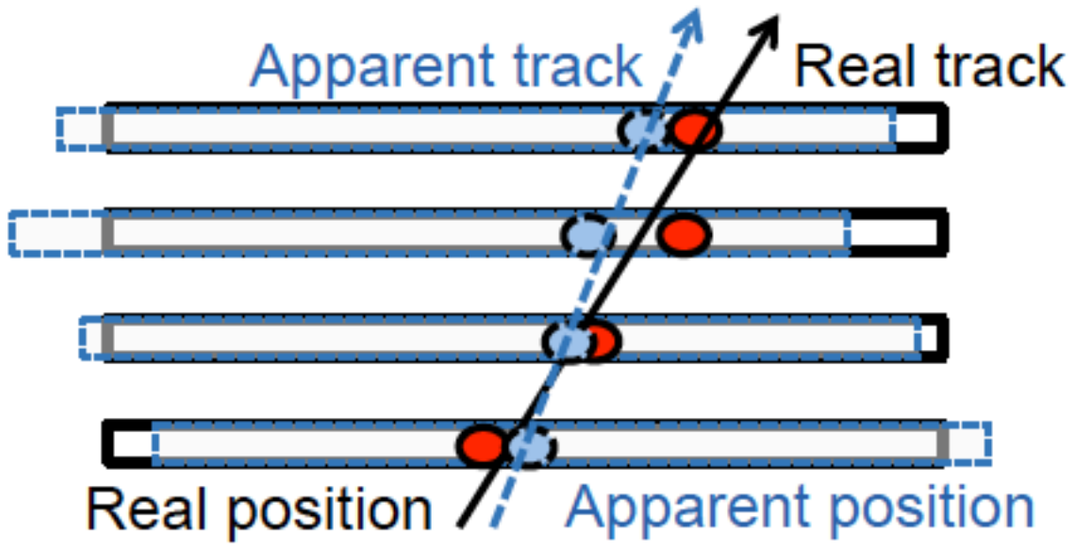

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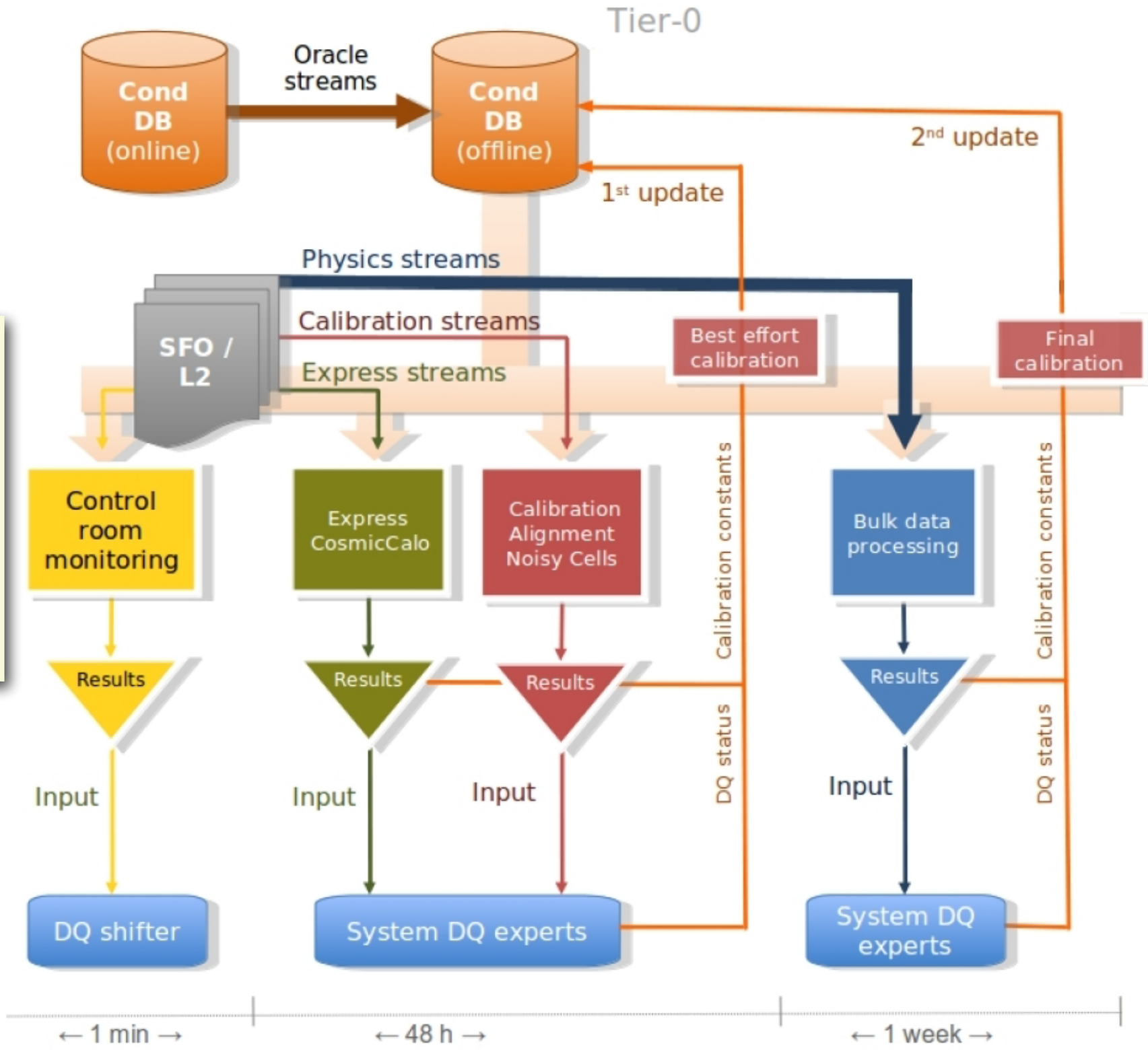
   - Maximise the amount of useful data

Data Quality

Check during data taking

Check a fraction of the data with a quick calibration

Check all of the data with the best calibration - publish this data !!



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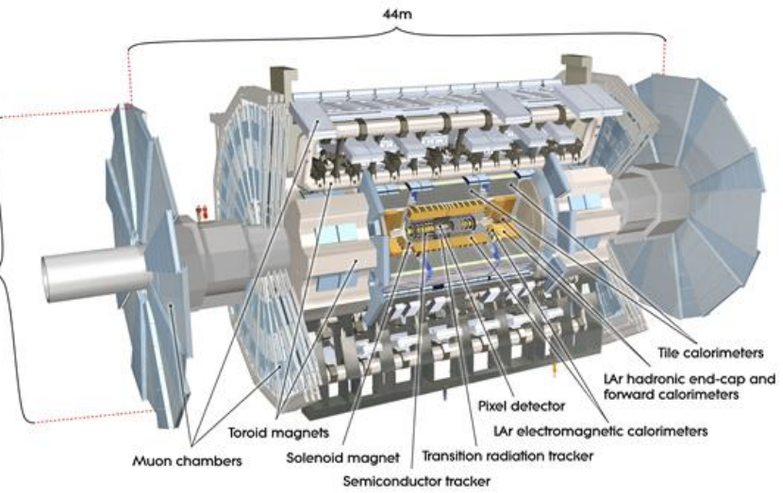
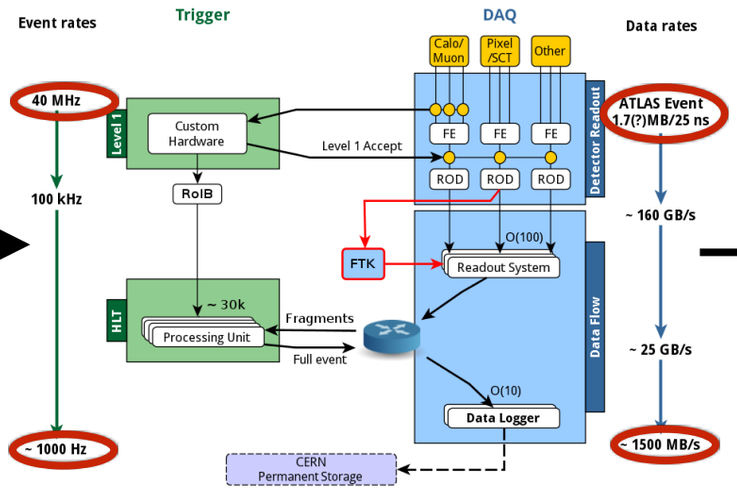
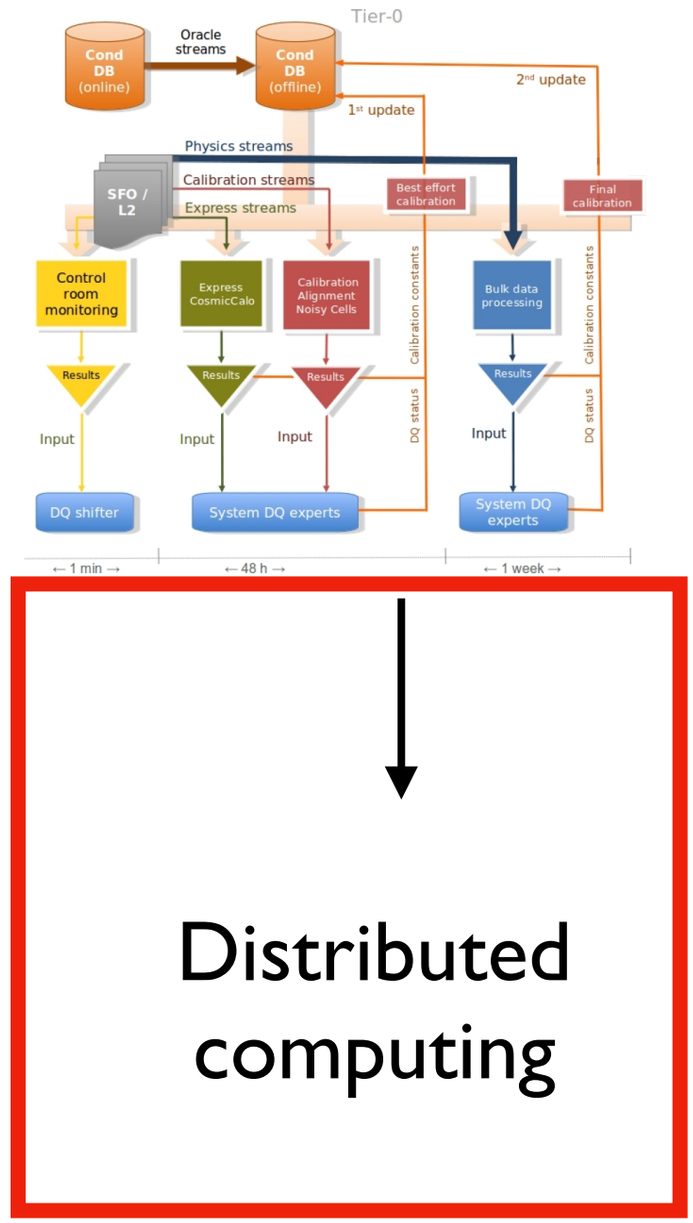
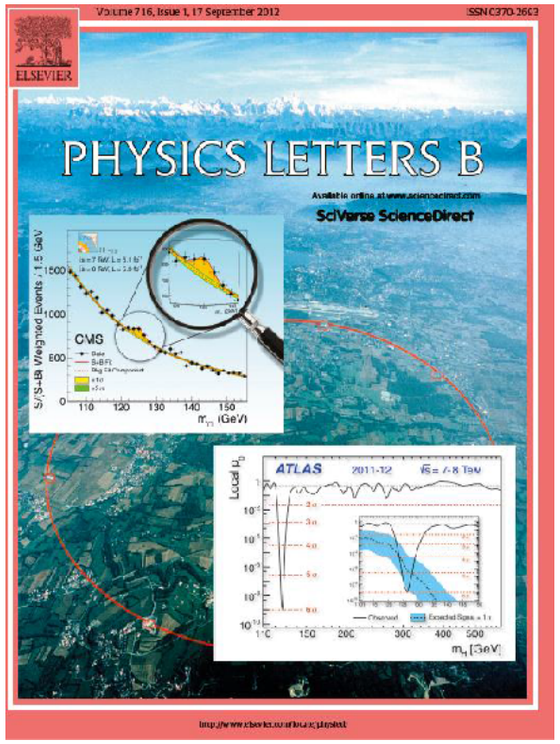
Data's journey

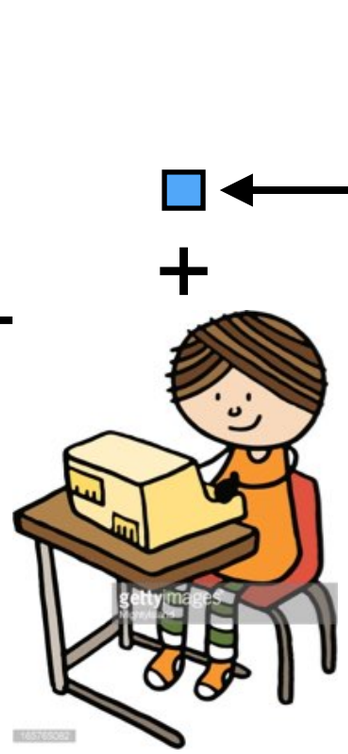


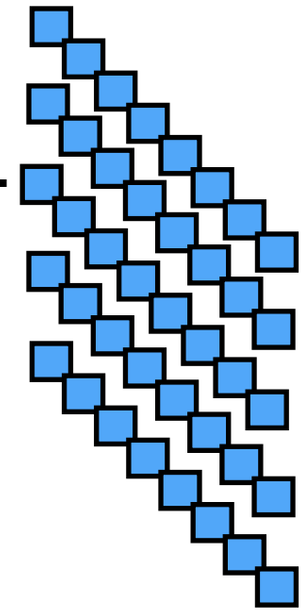




Distributed computing







The Worldwide LHC Computing Grid

- Now the data has been ***prepared for physics analysis***, it's time to extract our favourite physics signal!

- Many experiments, particularly those at the **LHC**, use computing sites all over the world via **the grid** to
  - harness all of that ***computing power***
  - enable collaborators ***worldwide*** to access the data

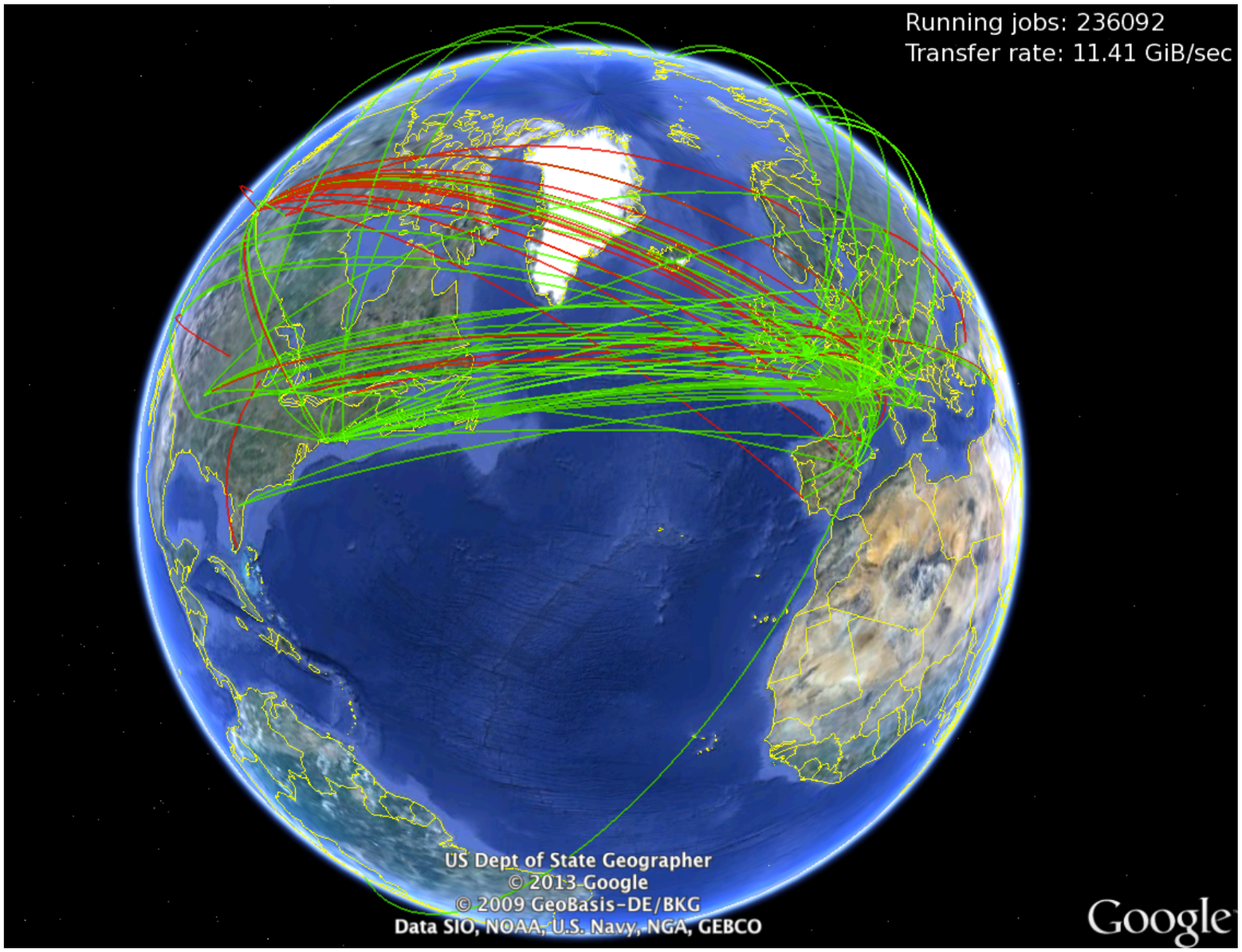


Image taken from the **WLCG** GoogleEarth Dashboard

- http://wlcg.web.cern.ch/wlcg-google-earth-dashboard

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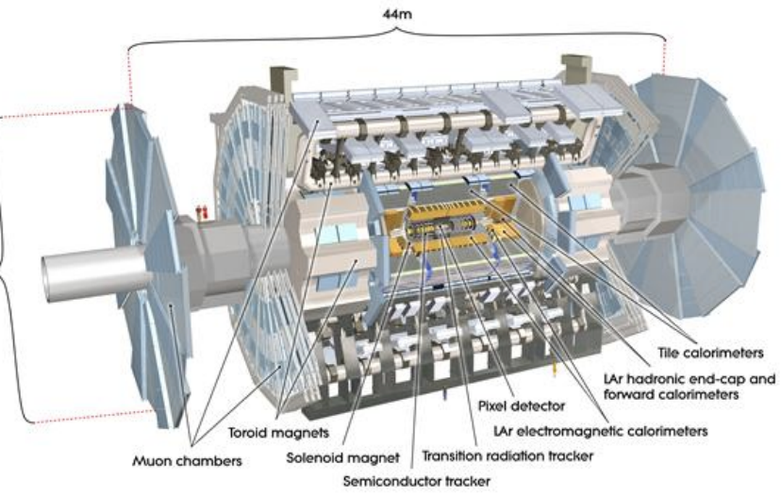
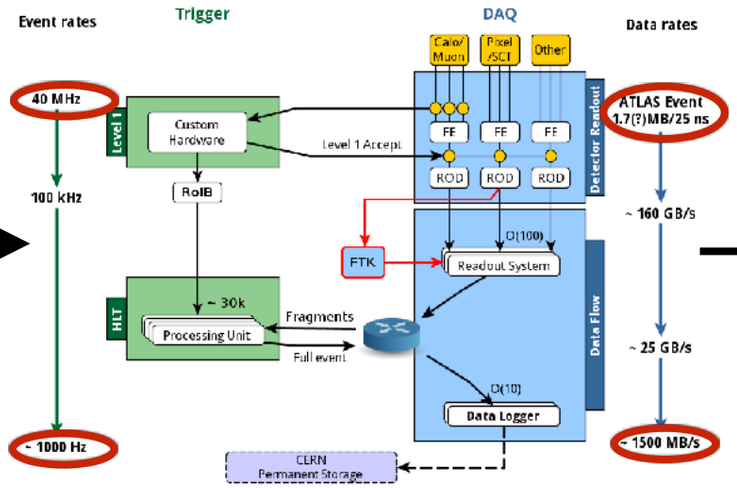
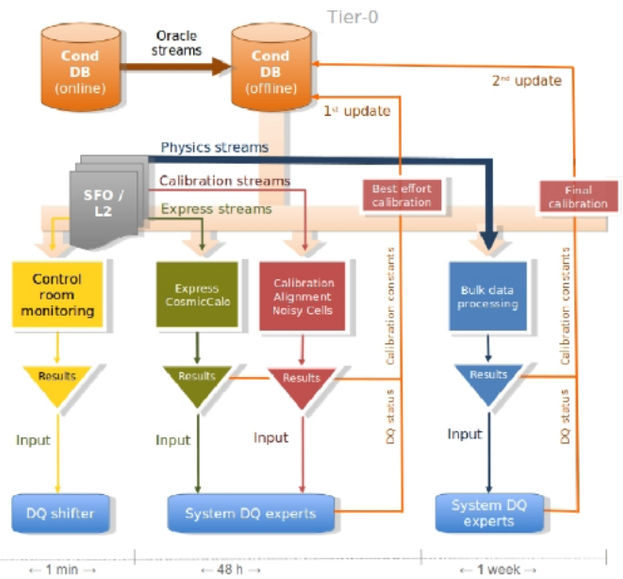
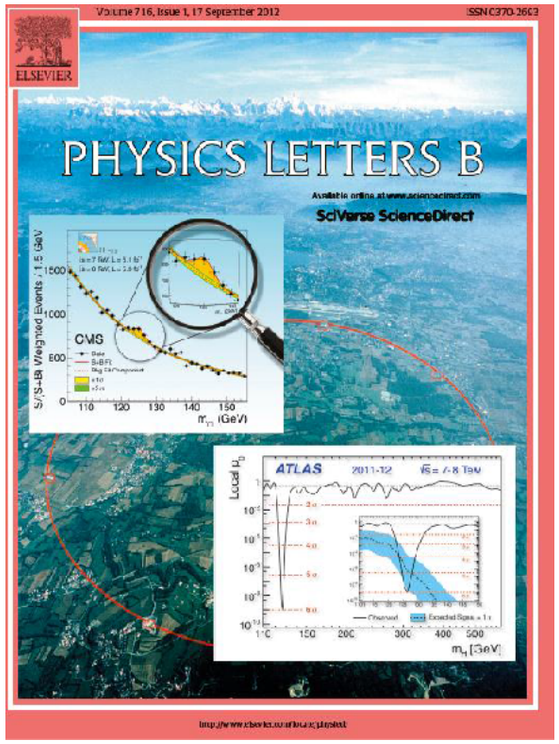
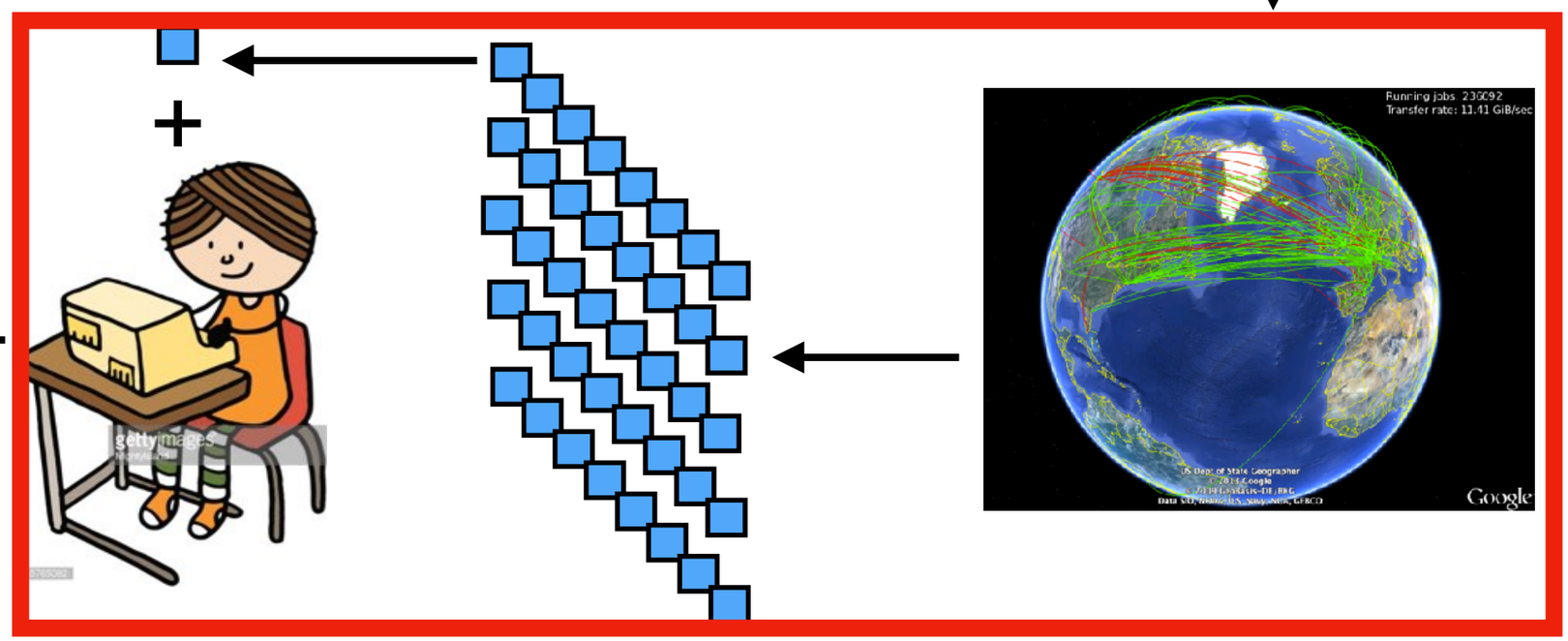
Data's journey











We did it !

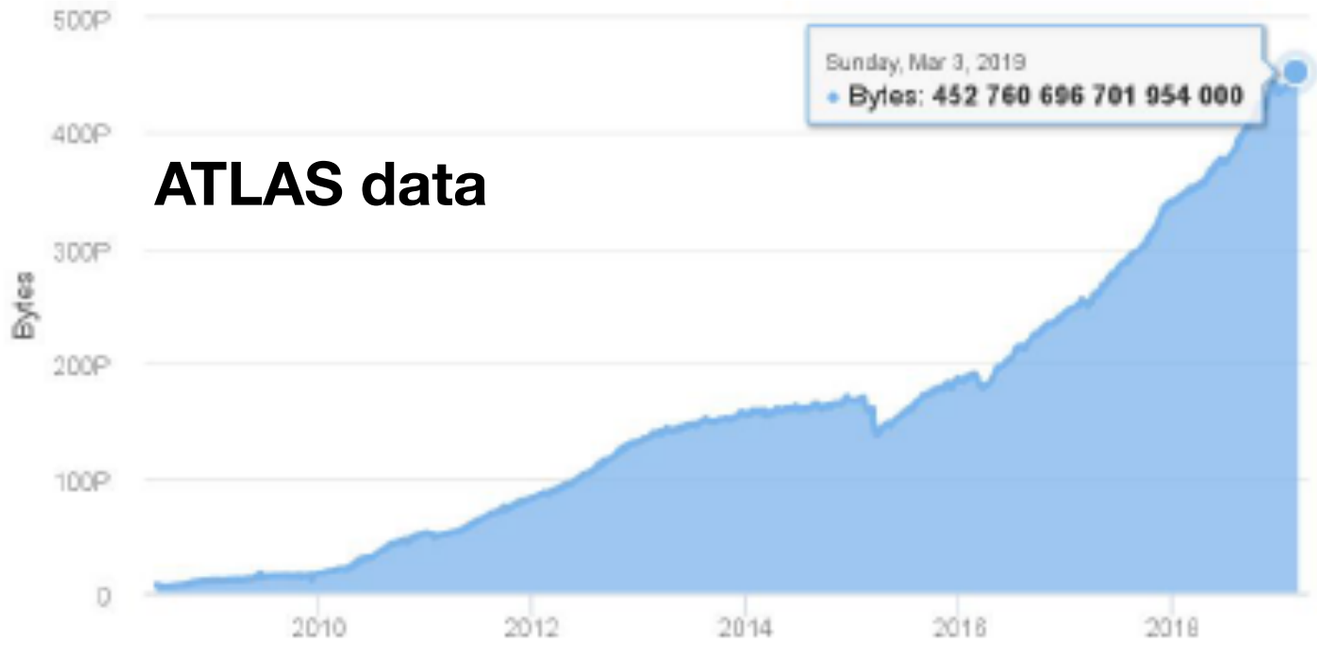
Our data is calibrated and with good data quality
and we've reconstructed the physics objects in the data

- ***it is reliable, accurate and ready for physics analysis***

More detail on these topics in Lecture 2

Now we can extract our measurements in Lecture 3

***Question**: How long would it take to read all of the ATLAS data? (Assume for simplicity you have off-the-shelf SSDs with read speed ~500MB/s)*



Brookhaven National Laboratory

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