## **Triggering Tb/s of data: CMS perspective**

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## **Introduction: how a trigger system works?**

- Data explosion and AI applications: our world needs **higher throughput**  and **real-time computing** capabilities
- LHC provides ideal benchmark to explore real-time data processing technologies
- Only a handful of the collisions contain **interesting physics**
- **Trigger system** decides, in **real time** if a collision is saved or lost forever







### [CERN-LPCC-2019-01]

### **Towards the HL-LHC**

- **Preparing for the big upgrade** of the LHC detectors, starting 2030.
- HL-LHC upgrade offers an **unprecedented opportunity** to explore uncharted lands and achieve scientific progress.
	- 10 times more data to what we will have by the end of Run 3 will facilitate a rich physics program.
- **Extend reach of new physics searches**: unexplored signatures (LLPs, HSCPs… ) or regions of the phasespace will be within reach.
- **Improve current understanding of the SM and Higgs**  sector by improving existing precision measurements and accessing rare decays ( $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$ ) or production modes (HH) previously unseen at the LHC.
- However, this physics program will have to overcome **significant challenges** to succeed.



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## **ThePhase-2 TriggerUpgrade: Strategy**

- **Benefit from the upgrade of the CMS detector**: high granularity information and tracking information
- The system allows a **throughput** of > **+64 Tb/s** using top-of-the-line FPGAs and ultra-fast optical links (25 Gbps).
	- Adapt and evolve as needs of experiment change.
	- Increased bandwidth to **750 kHz** at increased latency of **< 12.5**
- Incorporate **sophisticated algorithms and advanced techniques** to extend CMS physics acceptance



## **Hardware prototypes**

- **Design philosophy**:
	- Custom ATCA-boards. Generic Processing Engines  $\rightarrow$  I/O, FPGA  $\rightarrow$  sophisticated algo, arch flexibility
- **Design evolution**: increased I/O and computing power
	- FPGA : larger A2577 pin package, Xilinx Virtex Ultrascale VU13P
	- Optics : New denser version of on-board fly over Samtec Firefly & QSFP
	- Processors on board running commercial linux for flexible configuration and monitoring





## **Hardware optics and thermal tests**

- **Optical requirements**:
	- Support sufficient signal integrity in both the electrical and optical domains by demonstrating a bit error rate (BER) much better that 10-12
	- Optics should provide sufficient optical margin with a receiver sensitivity better than -6 dBm to ensure operability at end of life (as laser degrades)
	- Tested Samtec Firefly x12 and QSFP (single and double density)
- **Thermal performance** 
	- Integrity of the optics and FPGAs











# **Algorithms fortheLevel-1 trigger**

- Extensive use of tracking to reach near offline performance (sharper efficiency turn-on curves) + reconstruction of Primary Vertex.
- Exploit complementarity of different object flavor:
	- Standalone objects: robust triggers based on independent sub-detectors
	- Track-matched objects: tracking used to confirm standalone Muon and Calo objects, significant improvement with simple design
	- Particle-flow objects: ultimate performance improvement, combine all information to match offline algorithms, require most processing time and resources for calculation





## **Extensive use ofML algorithms**





## **Algorithm into firmware: latency and resource utilization**

- **Firmware design and integration**:
	- Algorithm developed mostly in  $C \rightarrow H$ igh Level Synthesis (HLS). Using Vivado HLS, Vitis HLS
	- Many tools available for Machine Learning inference: hls4ml, Conifer for BDT evaluation
	- New fixed-point arithmetic in C++ [taken from Xilinx libraries]  $\rightarrow$  emulator firmware
	- Continuous integration of the firmware in repository
	- Verify timing, resources utilization & latency: all using less than 50% resources, whole system evaluated to 8.6 μs









## **Testing new ideas during Run 3**

- With almost one and half year to go, Run-3 has already surpassed Run-2 luminosity
	- **Almost 170 pb-1 recorded**
- Successful feedback loop into the current system: the Run-3 system now features new algorithms, optimisation techniques, hardware, inspired from the phase-2 upgrade project:
	- LLPs triggers: displaced muons, muon showers, delayed jets…
	- 40 MHz scouting (real-time data analysis)
	- Inclusion of the first anomaly detection trigger on live data: AXOL1TL and CICADA
- System exceeding original design. **Having a flexible design is an advantage!**









## **Displaced/delayed jets**

- **ECAL** measures arrival time of objects with precision of ~200 ps (for energy deposits >50 GeV). Tau seeding at L1 and trackless jets at HLT
- Use **HCAL** time information at the L1 trigger level to identify delayed jets (>6ns). Prompt veto applied
- High multiplicity at the **muon system** for long-lifetimes









## **ML at L1: Anomaly detection**

- Where's the new physics? To find anything, you need a trigger
	- If we knew what we were looking for, we'd build a trigger for it!
- Cast a wide, model-independent net
	- Learn what an average event looks like, pick things that are rare
	- Autoencoder, trained on random beam events
	- Reconstruction error is a metric for anomalous-ness
- [AXOL1TL](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2876546) & [CICADA](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2879816)
	- Low-level variables (L1T or Calorimeter objects)
	- Outputs an anomaly metric to keep the event or not











## **Triggerless analysis (aka scouting)**

- Storing and analysing events at L1 or HLT (x100 smaller event size)
- Crucial for very low-mass bump-hunt searches, compressed spectra or b-physics





Level-1 Data Scouting rack



# **Impact of trigger design beyond HEP**

- **Impact on society**
	- Massive surge of data and AI applications. The need of processing large amounts of data is an ever-increasing challenge.
	- HEP experiments provide the perfect test bed for advanced AI algorithms developments, real-time data processing and lowpower solutions
- **Developing ideas for CMS trigger and beyond**: NextGen and INTREPID projects
	- Enhance the triggers and the data collection and processing, and thus the scientific potential, of ATLAS and CMS in the HL-LHC phase **beyond the currently projected scope**.



### • **Driving a lot of attention**

- from national and international funding agencies and industrial partnerships (CMS is working with Amazon, Google, Micron...)
- Emerging applications outside HEP: data reduction onboard satellites, quantum control systems, brain implants…
- Custom silicon for Machine Learning is big industry trend acceleration of specific workloads



## **Conclusions**

- The CMS trigger system for HL-LHC will process data at ~64 Tb/s using top-of-the-line FPGAs and high-speed links
- Level-1 Hardware trigger with enhanced capabilities complying with physics requirements using sophisticated ML-based algorithms
- Modular and flexible design to adapt for future ideas using custom ATCA boards
- Hardware demonstration ongoing and some tests in Run-3 data taking
- Future designs are showing exciting prospects, even beyond HEP









# Triggering TB/s of data: The LHCb perspective

Marianna Fontana, on behalf of LHCb CHEP conference, 19-25 October 2025, Krakow







### The LHCb experiment

- Experiment dedicated to flavour physics
- Successfully took 9 fb $^{-1}$  of data during Run 1-2
- Major upgrade of all subtectors for Run 3
- Factor 5 increase in instantaneous luminosity  $\rightarrow$  pile-up of 5 [CERN-LHCC-2012-007](https://cds.cern.ch/record/1443882?ln=en)

- 100% of the readout electronics replaced
- **New data acquisition** system and data center



## The trigger evolution: Run 1





- L0 hardware level for high Et/pt signatures
- HLT1 running tracking (for high-pt) including Kalman filter
- HLT2 almost full event reconstruction
- Much bigger output rate than originally foreseen
	- Inclusive selections for full beauty programme
	- The charm programme initially not foreseen became a reality

## The trigger evolution: Run 2



Disk buffer moved between HLT1 and HLT2  $\rightarrow$  increased number of CPUs and enabled

- Real-time alignment and calibration
- Real-time reconstruction with analysis quality reconstruction
- Ability to use trigger output for analysis and discard raw detector information in trigger (Turbo stream) [[J. Phys.: Conf. Ser. 664 082004\]](https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/664/8/082004)
	- System fully commissioned already in 2015 with physics publications. It became the baseline for a good fraction of the Run 2 physics programme
- Adopted as the baseline approach for Run 3





- In Run 1-2 couldn't efficiently trigger on heavy flavour using hardware signatures
- Trigger for many hadronic channels saturated
- 



### The Run 3 data flow

[LHCb-FIGURE-2020-016](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2730181/files/LHCb-FIGURE-2020-016.pdf)



- Detector data  $@30$  MHz received by  $O(500)$  FPGAs
- 2-stage software trigger, HLT1 & HLT2
- Real-time alignment & calibration
- After HLT2, 10 GB/s of data for offline processing

## HLT1 trigger

- Take as input LHCb raw data (4 TB/s) at 30 MHz
- Perform partial event reconstruction & coarse selection to cover the full breadth of LHCb physics
- Reduce the input rate by a factor of 30  $(-1 \text{ MHz})$
- $\sim$  500 GPUs NVIDIA RTX A5000 GPUs installed
	- The baseline TDR design could be achieved with 300 GPUs
	- Extra GPU power used to extend the improvements beyond-TDR

#### The GPU choice matches the DAQ architecture of LHCb

- GPUs can be hosted by the Event Builder Nodes via PCIe slots
- reduced costs due to shared powering and cooling and smaller network

#### HLT1 tasks are suited for parallelisation:

- Events can be treated independently
- Objects of reconstruction (tracks, vertices, ...) are independent





[Comput.Softw.Big Sci. 6 \(2022\) 1, 1](https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.04031)

T track

Long track

Downstream track

## Allen: LHCb HLT1 trigger

#### Partial event reconstruction through

- Track reconstruction for all the track types used in physics analysis (Long and Downstream<sup>\*</sup> tracks) [See talk by [J. Zhuo\]](https://indico.cern.ch/event/1385824/contributions/6180869/attachments/2948380/5181946/2024_Validation_Studies_16_10_2024.pdf)
- Vertex reconstruction
- Electron clustering\* and bremsstrahlung recovery\*
- Muon identification



**VELO** 

VELO track

UT Sci-Fi Upstream track.

\* beyond TDR

## HLT1 performance

- The real-time analysis philosophy proved to be valid
- Significant improvements in trigger efficiencies
- Huge gain a low-pT
	- Beneficial for the charm and strange physics programme
- Large impact for electron channels
- Muon channels gained from the removal of the global event cuts





## Alignment and calibration

- Store data selected in HLT1 in intermediate buffer of  $O(30 \text{ PB})$  for real-time alignment and calibration
- Fully aligned and calibrated detector needed to have offline-quality reconstruction in HLT2
- Online alignment and calibration pioneered in Run 2, crucial in Run 3
- Two types of processes
	- Alignment: VELO, RICH mirrors, UT, SciFi, Muon
	- Calibration: RICH, ECAL, HCAL



#### [LHCb-FIGURE-2024-025](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2909712)

## LHCb HLT2 trigger

- HLT2 runs a full reconstruction and all the necessary selections (inclusive but mostly exclusive) for the wide LHCb physics programme (~3000 lines)
- Given the hard limit on bandwidth (10 GB/s to tape and 3.5 GB/s on disk) and expected signal rate, event size is the only free parameter
- Need to "persist" all the reconstructed objects for offline analysis
- The successful strategy of the Turbo paradigm used at full speed also in Run 3



## HLT2 performance

Achieving TDR performance for vertex resolutions, track reconstruction and PID performance



[LHCb-FIGURE-2024-032](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2898816/)

[LHCb-FIGURE-2024-011](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2898820?ln=en)



## Towards the future

#### LHCb planning Upgrade II for LS4

- **[FTDR](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2776420/files/LHCB-TDR-023.pdf) approved in March '22 and [Scoping](http://ilcdoc.cern.ch/record/2903094?ln=it)** [document](http://ilcdoc.cern.ch/record/2903094?ln=it) in preparation
- Luminosity:  $(2 \times 10^{33} \rightarrow 1.5 \times 10^{34})$  cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>
- Pile-up:  $5 \rightarrow 40$
- Exciting challenges in trigger and DAQ
	- 200 TB/s of data, to be processed in real time and reduced by ∼4 orders of magnitude before sending to permanent storage
	- data processing will be based around pile-up suppression
	- 4D reconstruction: timing added to tracking and ECAL detectors to better isolate signals



#### The biggest data challenge in HEP!



## The trigger evolution: Run 5

- Triggerless design philosophy will remain correct and scalable
- Partial and full detector reconstruction (and selections?) both on GPUs
- Complementary R&D activities focusing on two main areas
	- Building subdetector primitives, for example tracks or calorimeter clusters, on FPGAs [\[LHCb-PUB-2024-001](https://cds.cern.ch/record/2888549?ln=en)]
	- Exploiting other architectures such as the IPU or even more exotic hardware



See talk by [F. Lazzari](https://indico.cern.ch/event/1338689/timetable/?view=standard#533-real-time-pattern-recognit)

139.52 kHz hlt1 pp matching (without RetinaDWT) 171.17 kHz hlt1 pp matching (with RetinaDWT Axial) **LHCb Simulation** 186.16 kHz hlt1\_pp\_matching (with RetinaDWT Axial + Stereo) upgrade DC19 01 MinBiasMD retinacluster.mdf 200 400 600 800 2200

Throughput in RTX A5000 (kHz)

### **Conclusion**

- LHCb underwent its first major upgrade in order to increase its instantaneous luminosity by x5
- Major changes in the trigger strategy:
	- at 30 MHz
	- First level trigger run on GPUs
- $HCD$  underwent its first major upgrade in order to<br>
crease its instantaneous luminosity by x5<br>
lajor changes in the trigger strategy:<br>  $\circ$  Remove L0 hardware trigger, read-out full detector<br>
at 30 MHz<br>  $\circ$  First level t The new trigger system has been successfully commissioned at nominal luminosity, even going beyond-expectations
- About  $9.5$  fb<sup>-1</sup> of data have been taken and currently being analysed for a great physics outcome
- The LHCb Upgrade II is becoming a reality and this will pose very interesting challenges



### Thanks a lot for your attention!

## **Introduction: the CMS Trigger System**

Data is selected for offline analysis 2-tiered trigger system

### **Level 1 Trigger (L1T)**

- Hardware system run on FPGAs
- Designed to reduced rate from 40 MHz to 110 kHz
- Fixed latency of 4 μs



### **High Level Trigger (HLT)**

- Software system run on CPU/GPU farm
- Designed to further reduce rate to 1-5 kHz
- Latency: 200-300 ms





## **Global event reconstruction (Particle-Flow) at Level-1**

- Availability of tracks & high-granularity calorimetry
	- Implement global event reco @L1 and pileup mitigation
- **Challenge: can we run full PF+PUPPI at L1? YES!**
- Demonstrated a working PF+PUPPI algorithm:
	- Hugely reduces the event complexity and allows for a lot of flexibility in downstream design
	- L1 Algorithms looks like offline reconstruction
	- PF+PUPPI developed with Vivado HLS (*written by physicists + engineers*)









## **Recent development highlights (with ML)**

- **NN Vertex Finding:**
	- Combination of dense BDTs and CNN to perform Vertex Finding and Track-to-Vertex association
	- Firmware quantised and pruned to fit within FPGA
	- *Improved performance wrt to baseline (reduction in the tails of the residual by 50%)*
- **b-tagging**:
	- Training NN to ID jets from b-quarks
	- Runs on PUPPI particles within each jet and discriminate between b-quark jets and those from light quarks and gluons





## **Recent development highlights (with ML)**

#### • **Electron-ID**

- New Composite-ID, combines information about tracks and clusters in the HGCAL into a single model for matching and identification
- A single BDT model: controlling the identification of track and calorimeter deposit and the tightness of the matching. ‣ 10% more efficiency for the same rate



#### • **Tau reconstruction: Tauminator**

TauMinator - Barrel TauMinator - Endcap

Calo Tau - Barrel Calo Tau - Endcap

> $140$  $p_T^{\text{Gen},\tau}$  [GeV]

 $40$ 60 80

- Training dedicated CNN to reconstruct and identify Tau-induced signal in calorimeters (5x9)
- Elegant way to deal with different geometries in Barrel (Crystals) and EndCap (HGCAL 3D clusters).





## **Recent development highlights (with ML)**

#### • **SeededConeJets:**

- Jet finding based on PF candidates
- Iterative approach computing distance between each particle and jet radius (SC4 or 8), compute jet axis and energy.

 $\mathsf{CMS}$  Phase 2 Simulation Preliminary

• Jet matching anti-kt jets

#### • **Continual learning**:

- Elegant way to deal with changing detector conditions (ageing, noise, LHC interfill, etc.)
- Train a model with a continuous stream of data. Learns from a sequence of partial experiences rather than all the data at once.
- Update model to changing conditions without large MC production.
- Method tested on Vtx reconstruction



14 TeV, 200 PL





### **HL-LHC: challenges**



- **Expected pileup** (PU): ~140 (nominal HL-LHC lumi)
- Motivates/requires:
	- Improved granularity wherever possible
	- Novel approaches to in-time Pile Up mitigation: Precision Timing detectors (30ps)
	- A complete renovation of the Trigger and DAQ systems for better selectiveness, despite the high PU.



- **Radiation damage / accumulated dose** in detectors and on-board electronics may result in a progressive degradation of the performance.
- Maintain detector performance in harsh conditions:
	- The complete replacement of the Tracker and Endcap Calorimeter systems.
	- Major electronics overhaul and consolidation of the Barrel Calorimeters and Muon systems



### **From ML to FPGA**

### **high level synthesis for machine learning**





## **The Phase-2 Trigger Upgrade: Physics case**

Improve precision of SM tests (*i.e.* Higgs couplings,  $m_W$ )

Target unobserved SM processes (*i.e.*  $H \rightarrow HH; H \rightarrow cc$ )

Search for deviations at high momenta (*i.e. Effective Field Theories*)

Probe new phase space (*i.e. Long-lived particles*)



## **Run 3 at a glimpse**

- With almost one and half year to go, Run-3 has already surpassed Run-2 luminosity
	- **Almost 170 pb-1 recorded**
- **New strategies** have been deployed both at L1T and HLT
- Excellent opportunity to extend physics reach and try new ideas to guide our path in the future
	- New capabilities to trigger on long-lived particles
	- Anomaly detection
	- Triggerless readout (scouting)
	- Increased GPUs usage
	- Extensive use of ML techniques







## **ML at HLT**

- Tau @HLT
	- Reconstruction: Hadron plus strip
	- DeepTau identification: CNN+DNN based tagger
- ParticleNet b-jet tagger @HLT. GNN-based
	- Jets treated as a permutation-invariant point cloud
	- Performance gain, especially for HH processes









# **Long-lived particle triggers**

- Many models predict the existence of **long-lived particles**  (LLPs)
	- Many Exotic scenarios not envisioned when the trigger system was being designed!
- LLPs transit layers at later times, timing information
- LLPs decay far from the interaction point and show displaced signatures
	- Dedicated trigger paths exploiting unique features
	- Displaced jets in the tracker, calorimeters, or muon systems
- Strategies adopted mainly at HLT for Run 3
	- Some ideas already at L1
- Run 3 is the perfect benchmark for "crazy" ideas for HL-LHC





## **First Run 3 search: displaced dimuons at 13.6 TeV**

The CMS collaboration at CERN presents its latest search for new exotic particles



The CMS experiment has presented its first search for new physics using data from Run 3 of the Large Hadron Collider. The new study looks at the possibility of "dark photon" production in the decay of Higgs bosons in the detector. Dark photons are exotic long-lived particles: "long-lived" because they have an average lifetime of more than a tenth of a billionth of a second - a very long lifetime in terms of particles produced in the LHC - and "exotic" because they

[https://home.cern/news/news/physics/cms-collaboration](https://home.cern/news/news/physics/cms-collaboration-cern-presents-its-latest-search-new-exotic-particles)[cern-presents-its-latest-search-new-exotic-particles](https://home.cern/news/news/physics/cms-collaboration-cern-presents-its-latest-search-new-exotic-particles) <https://cms.cern/news/long-lived-particles-light-lhc-run-3-data> With a strong Spanish contribution:



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**From EA: Escalante @ICTEA Seminar** 28

## **Displaced dimuons at 13.6 TeV. New triggers**

- Use the 2022 dataset (36.7 fb<sup>-1</sup>) recorded with new LLP triggers with thresholds down to  $p_T(\mu)$  > 10 GeV
	- Re-optimized L1 triggers, including  $p_T$  without beam spot constraint, and new reconstruction algorithms.
	- Use  $d_{xy}$  information at trigger level to control the background rate.
- **Factor 2-4 more signal efficiency**
- Despite **2.5 smaller dataset**, comparable (or better) sensitivity w.r.t. 13 TeV result.





 $c\tau$  [cm]

 $10<sup>5</sup>$ 

 $10^6$ 

 $10<sup>4</sup>$ 

## **Multithreadingand GPUs**

- Multithreading (MT) is key to fully exploit HLT farm computational power
	- inter-event, intra-event, in-algorithm parallelism;
	- usage of "data handles" to define the data dependency among modules;
	- lower memory usage
- CMS HLT farm heterogeneous since 2022 (AMD CPU + Nvidia T4):
	- 40% of HLT reconstruction ported to GPU
		- Pixel local reconstruction
		- Pixel tracking and vertexes
		- ECAL local reconstruction
		- HCAL local reconstruction













- Considering AI accelerators (AI Xilinx Versal Chip)
- 
- Improve muon trigger reconstruction with advance techniques based on machine learning: Graph Neural Network
	- Work already started with the overlap muon track-finder, first version of the network, using every detector layer as a nodes

INnovativeTRiggEr techniques for beyond the standard model PhysIcs Discovery at the LHC



and  $\Delta\varphi$  and  $\Delta\eta$  as edge parameters





### **The Next-Generation Trigger Project**

Innovative computing technologies for data acquisition and processing for the HL-LHC and beyond

- Enhance the triggers and the data collection and processing, and thus the scientific potential, of ATLAS and CMS in the HL-LHC phase **beyond the currently projected scope**.
	- Accelerate the evaluation and introduction of novel computing, engineering and scientific ideas already with demonstrators for Run3, but with main focus on HL-LHC
	- Provide a major push to the work already ongoing in the experiments, by enabling lines of research **currently not feasible within existing financial, human and technology constraints**
	- Provide **critical insight to develop data flows** for the even more ambitious objectives of a future collider, such as the Future Circular Collider (FCC) currently in its Feasibility Study phase
- CERN involvement to **ensure that other current & future CERN experiments benefit from the results** in terms of computing frameworks and theoretical modelling.
- All project results (IP) will belong to CERN and will be released under a valid open policy and IP generated will be released under appropriate open licenses in compliance with the **CERN Open Science Policy**.



<https://nextgentriggers.web.cern.ch/>

