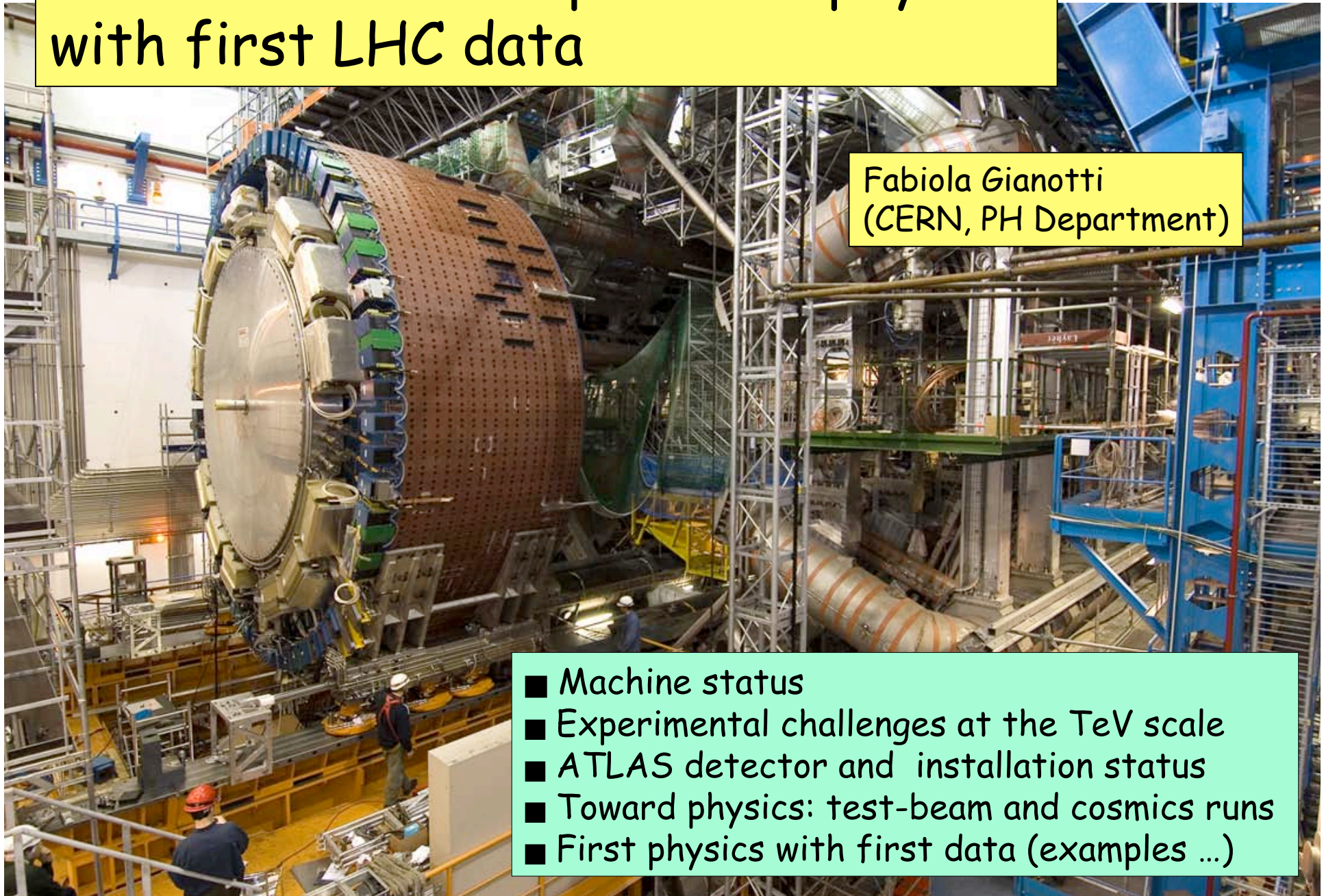


ATLAS status and plans for physics with first LHC data

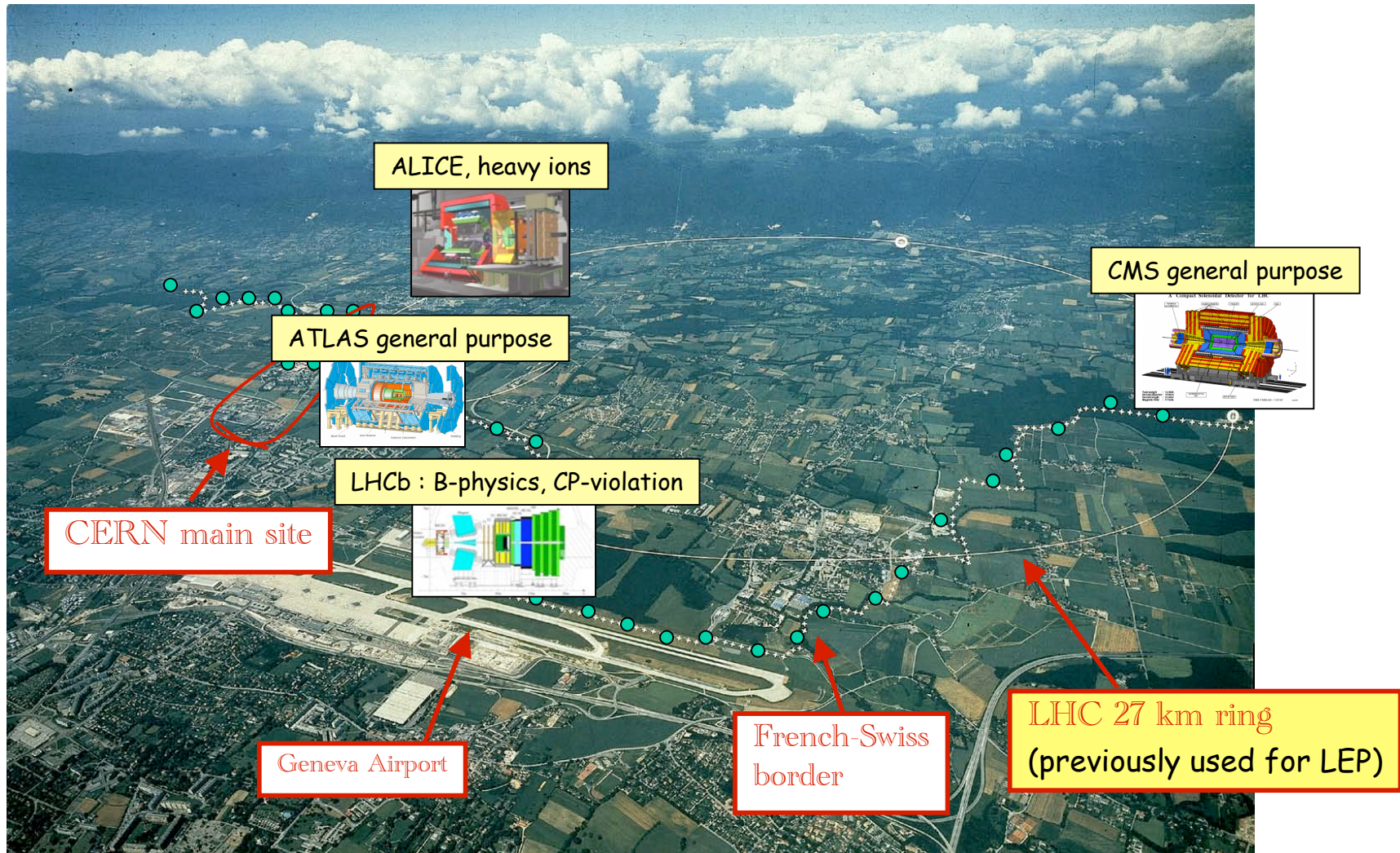
Fabiola Gianotti
(CERN, PH Department)

- Machine status
- Experimental challenges at the TeV scale
- ATLAS detector and installation status
- Toward physics: test-beam and cosmics runs
- First physics with first data (examples ...)



LHC

- pp, $\sqrt{s} = 14 \text{ TeV}$ $L_{\text{design}} = 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (after 2010)
 L_{initial} up to few $\times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ (before 2010)
- Note: \sqrt{s} is x7 Tevatron, L_{design} is x100 Tevatron
- Heavy ions (e.g. Pb-Pb at $\sqrt{s} \sim 1000 \text{ TeV}$)



Machine most challenging component:
1232 high-tech superconducting dipole magnets

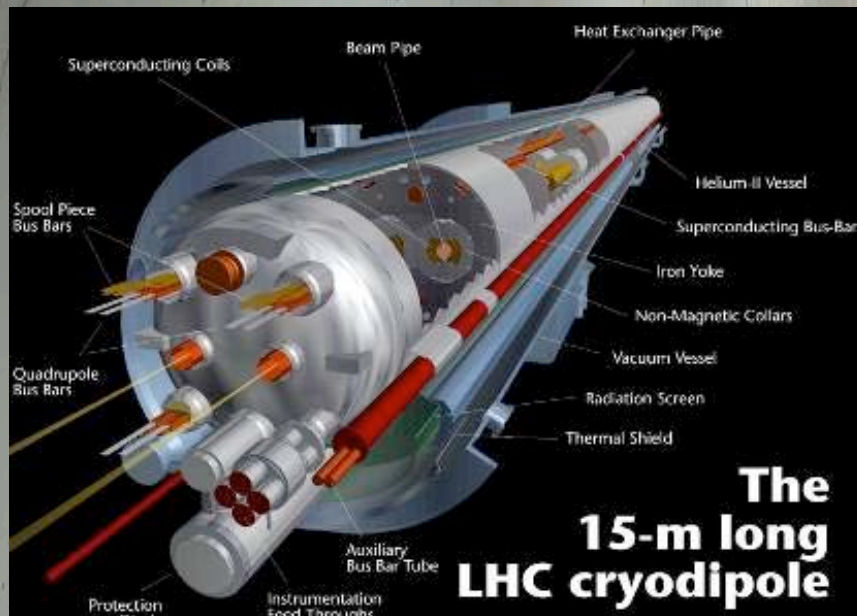
Dipole field: 8.4 T

Operation temperature: 1.9 K

Dipole current: 11700 A

Dipole weight: 34 tons

7600 km of Nb-Ti superconducting cable



Dipole installation completed

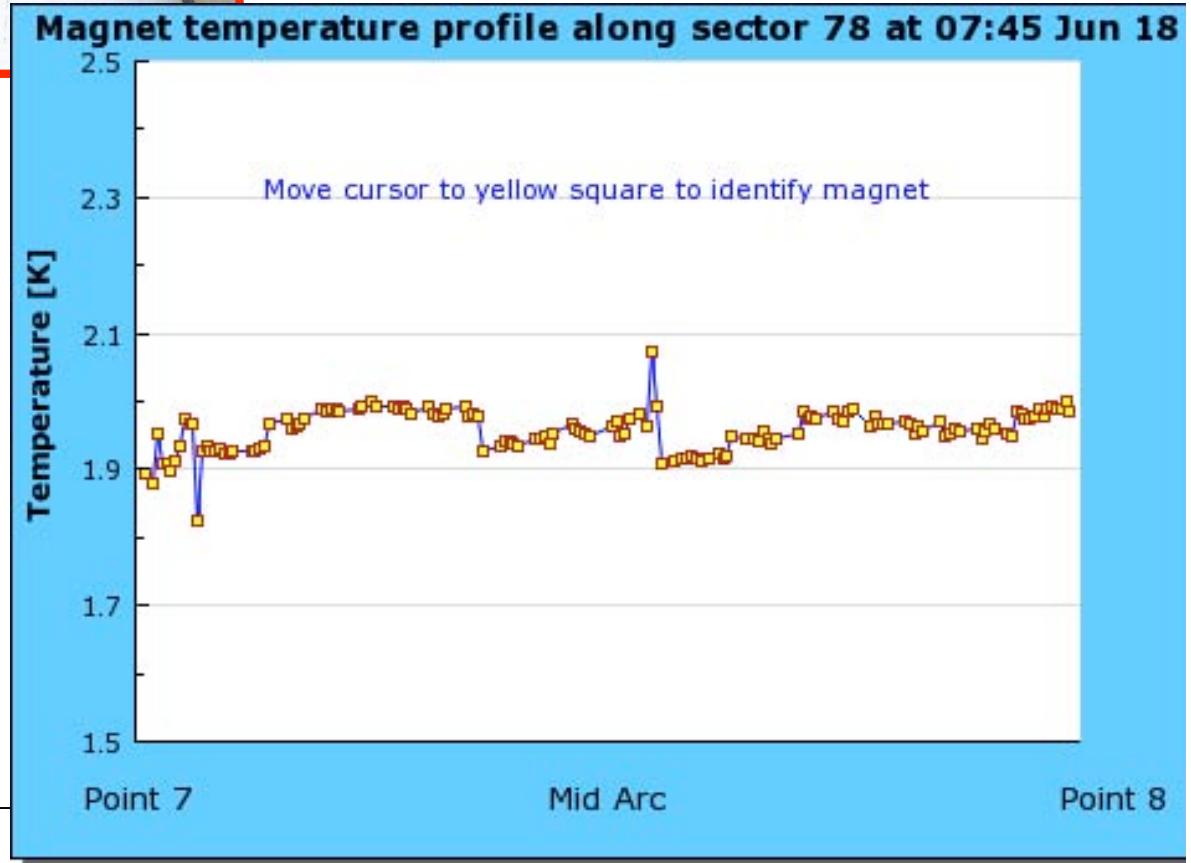


Complex dipole interconnection work is almost finished

Cryogenic line

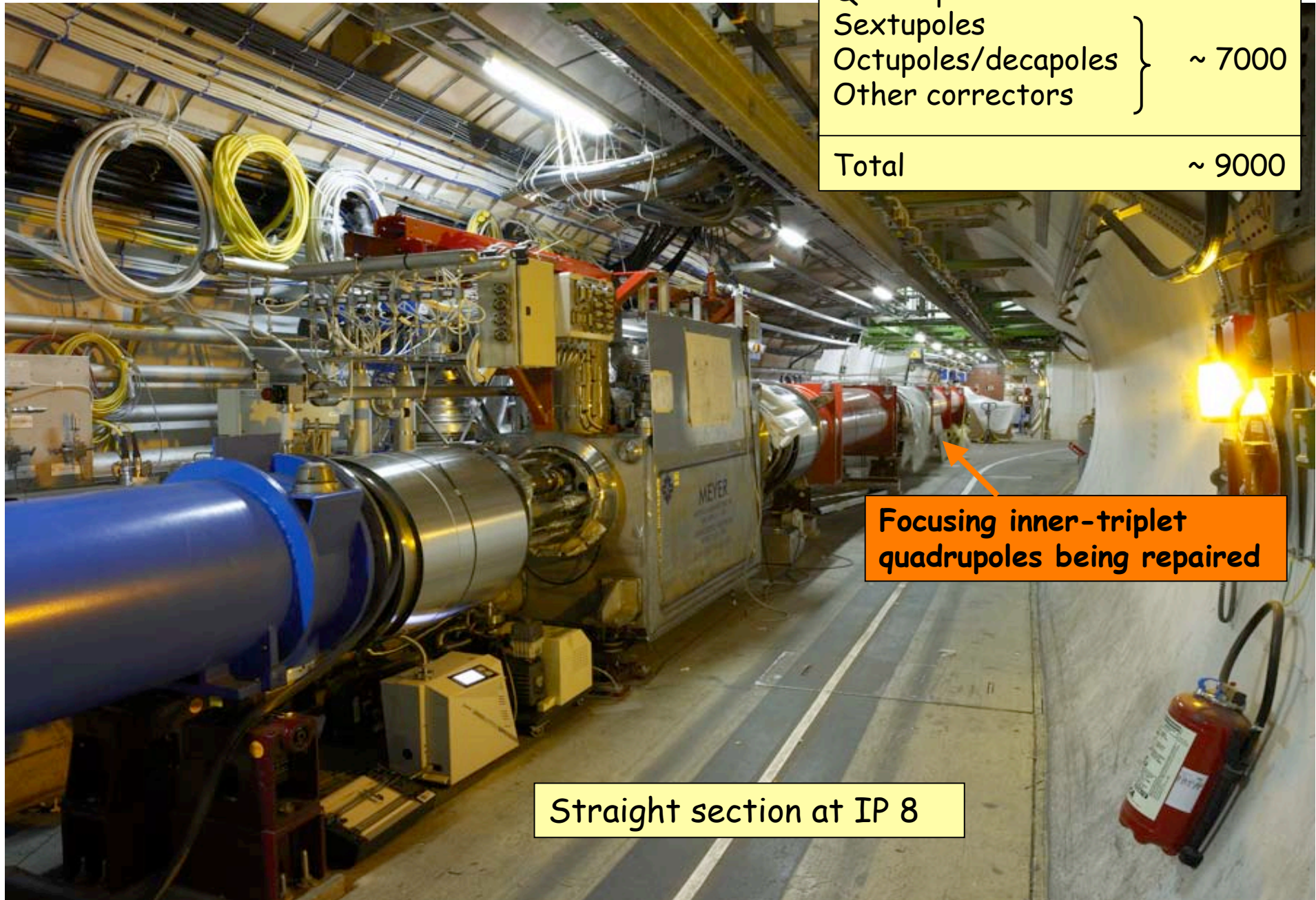
The first one of eight sectors (sector 7-8) was cooled down to 1.9 K in the first half of 2007
Cool-down of sector 4-5 started

One sector: 3.3 km, 154 dipoles



Not only dipoles

Main dipoles	1232
Quadrupoles	~ 400
Sextupoles	} ~ 7000
Octupoles/decapoles	
Other correctors	
Total	~ 9000



Focusing inner-triplet quadrupoles being repaired

Straight section at IP 8

Main parameters of the machine

	Design operation	
Beam energy	7	TeV
Dipole field	8.4	T
Dipole current	11700	A
Instantaneous luminosity L	10^{34}	$\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$
Integrated luminosity/year	~ 100	fb^{-1}
Circulating current/beam	0.53	A
Number of bunches	2808	
Bunch spacing	25	ns
Protons per bunch	10^{11}	
R.m.s. beam radius at IP1/5	16	μm
R.m.s. bunch length	7.5	cm
Stored beam energy	360	MJ
Crossing angle	300	μrad
Number of events per crossing	~ 20	
Luminosity lifetime	10	hours

n. of protons per bunch n. of bunches

$$L = \frac{N^2 k_b f}{4\pi\sigma_x\sigma_y}$$

n. of turns per second

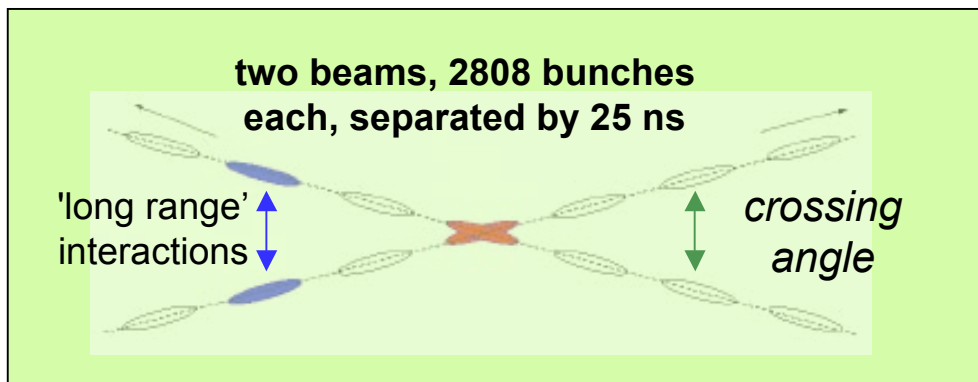
beam size at IP ($\sigma_{x,y} = 16 \mu\text{m}$)

$$N = L \times \sigma (\text{pp} \rightarrow X)$$

x200 Tevatron



Aircraft carrier at 12 knots



General LHC Schedule

- Engineering run originally foreseen at end 2007 now precluded by delays in installation and equipment commissioning.
- 450 GeV operation now part of normal setting up procedure for beam commissioning to high-energy
- General schedule being reassessed, accounting for inner triplet repairs and their impact on sector commissioning
 - All technical systems commissioned to 7 TeV operation, and machine closed April 2008
 - Beam commissioning starts May 2008
 - First collisions at 14 TeV c.m. July 2008
 - Pilot run pushed to 156 bunches for reaching $10^{32} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ by end 2008
- No provision in success-oriented schedule for major mishaps, e.g. additional warm-up/cooldown of sector

The various steps toward design luminosity

Jorg Wenninger
(machine team)

Beam commissioning will proceed in phases with increased complexity:

- ❑ Number of bunches and bunch intensity.
- ❑ Crossing angle (start without crossing angle!).
- ❑ Less focusing at the collision point (larger ' β^* ').
- ❑ It cannot be excluded that initially the LHC will operate at 6 TeV or so due to magnet 'stability'. Experience will tell...

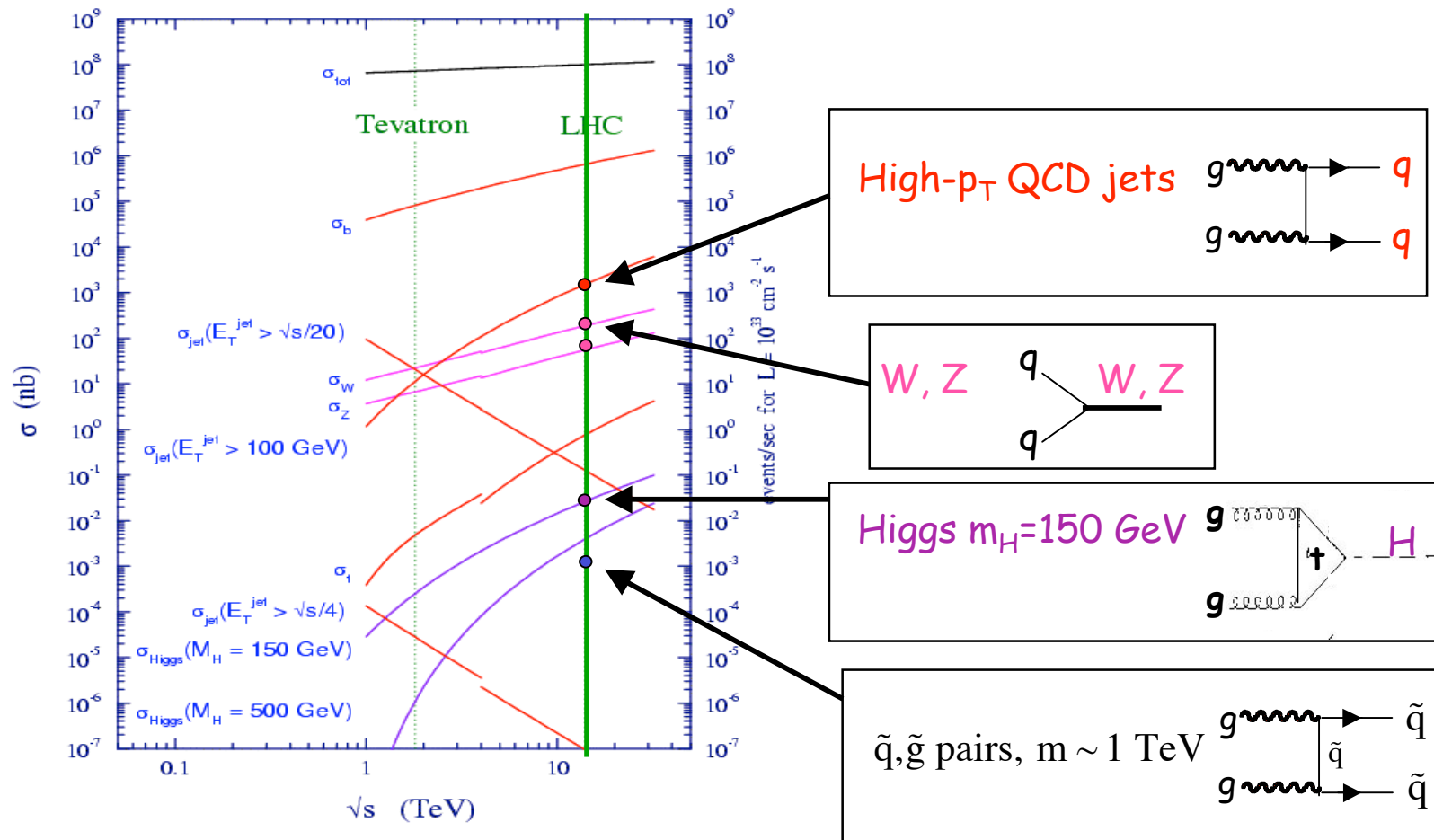
It will most likely take YEARS

My guess: total integrated luminosity
 $\int L dt$ $O(100 \text{ pb}^{-1})$ in 2008 ?
 $\int L dt \sim \text{few fb}^{-1}$ in 2009 ?

Parameter	Phase A	Phase B	Phase C	Nominal
k / no. bunches	43-156	936	2808	2808
Bunch spacing (ns)	2021-566	75	25	25
N (10^{11} protons)	0.4-0.9	0.4-0.9	0.5	1.15
Crossing angle (μrad)	0	250	280	280
$\sqrt{(\beta^*/\beta_{\text{nom}}^*)}$	2	$\sqrt{2}$	1	1
σ^* (μm , IR1&5)	32	22	16	16
L ($\text{cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$)	$6 \times 10^{30} - 10^{32}$	$10^{32} - 10^{33}$	$(1-2) \times 10^{33}$	10^{34}
Year (?)	2008	2009	2009-2010	> 2010

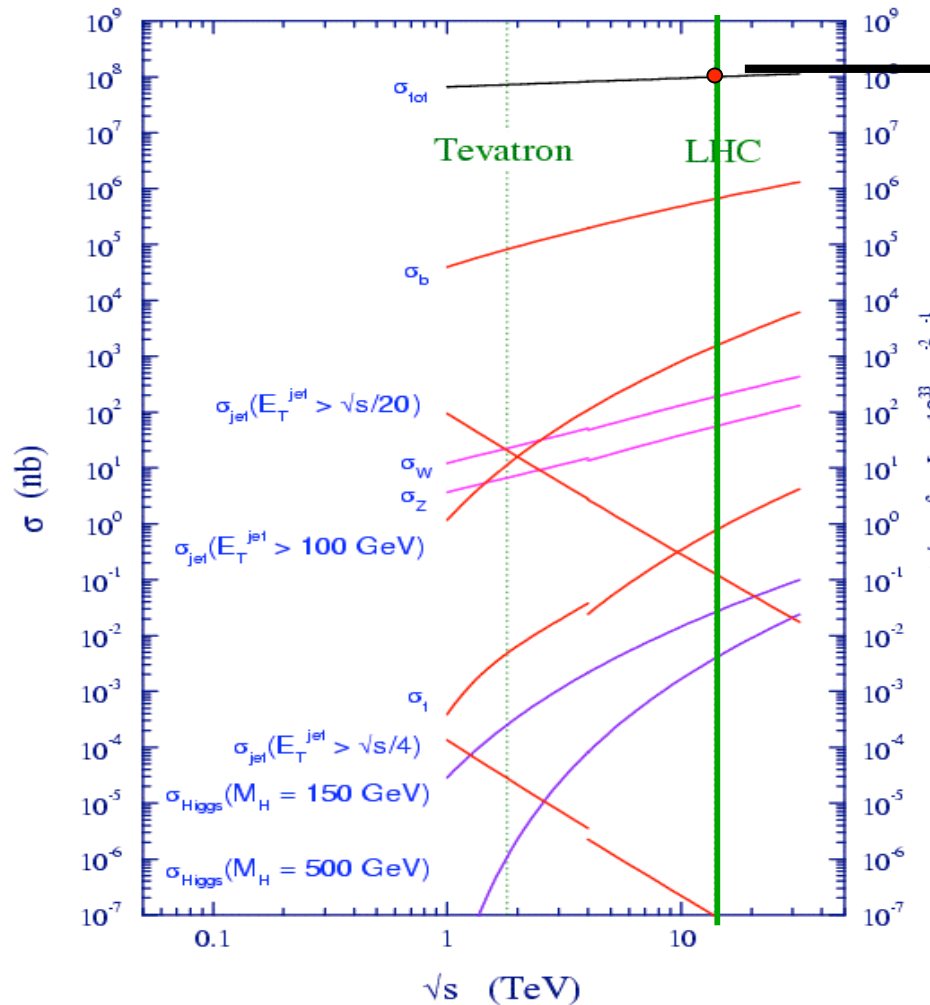
Main experimental challenges
to be faced in order
to explore the TeV scale

① Huge (QCD) backgrounds (consequence of high energy ...)



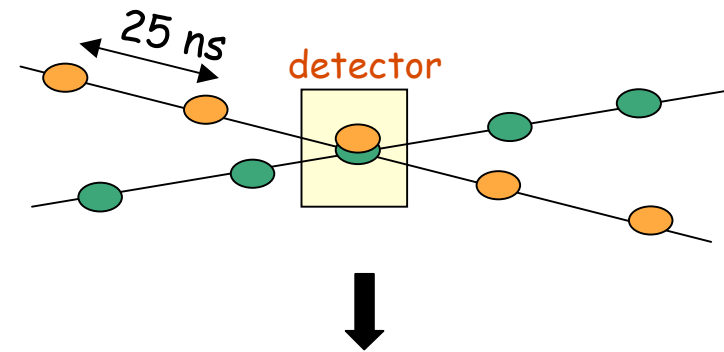
- No hope to observe light objects (W, Z, H?) in fully-hadronic final states \rightarrow rely on l, γ
- Mass resolutions of $\sim 1\%$ (10%) needed for l, γ (jets) to extract tiny signals from backgrounds, and excellent particle identification (e.g. e/jet separation)
- Fully-hadronic final states (e.g. $q^* \rightarrow qq$) can be extracted from backgrounds only with hard $O(100 \text{ GeV})$ p_T cuts \rightarrow works only for heavy objects
- Signal (EW) / Background (QCD) larger at Tevatron than at LHC

② Event rate and pile-up (consequence of machine high luminosity ...)

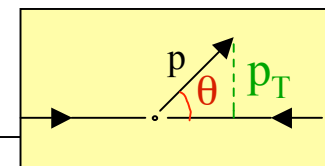


Event rate in ATLAS, CMS :
 $N = L \times \sigma_{\text{inelastic}}(\text{pp}) \approx 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \times 70 \text{ mb}$
 $\approx 10^9 \text{ interactions/s}$

Proton bunch spacing : 25 ns
 Protons per bunch : 10^{11}

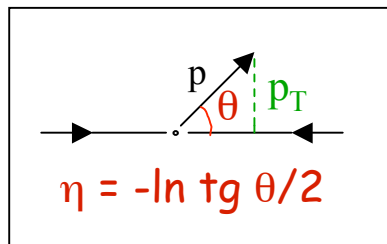


~ 20 inelastic (low- p_T) events ("minimum bias")
 produced simultaneously in the detectors at
 each bunch crossing \rightarrow pile-up



Simulation of
CMS tracking
detector

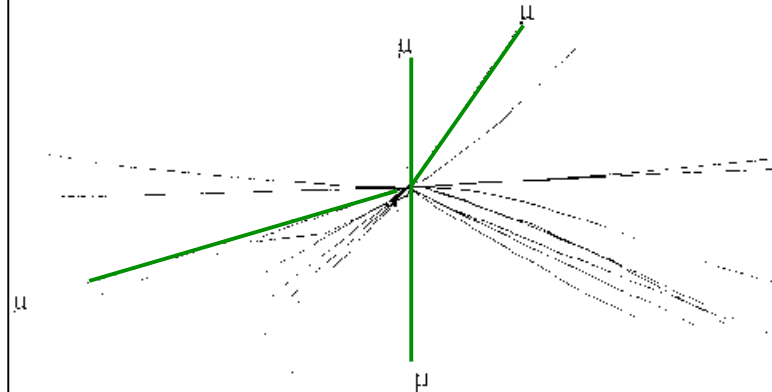
At each crossing : ~ 1000 charged particles
produced over $|\eta| < 2.5$ ($10^\circ < \theta < 170^\circ$)
However : $\langle p_T \rangle \approx 500$ MeV
→ applying p_T cuts allows extraction
of interesting events



30 minimum bias events + $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4\mu$



all charged particles with $|\eta| < 2.5$



reconstructed tracks with $p_T > 2.0$ GeV

Impact of pile-up on detector requirements and performance:

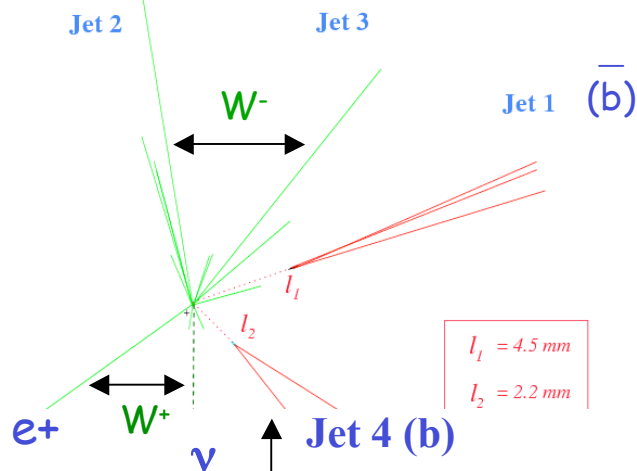
- fast response : ~ 50 ns
- granularity : $> 10^8$ channels
- radiation resistance (up to 10^{16} n/cm²/year in forward calorimeters)
- event reconstruction much more challenging than at previous colliders

③ Powerful high-performance experiments

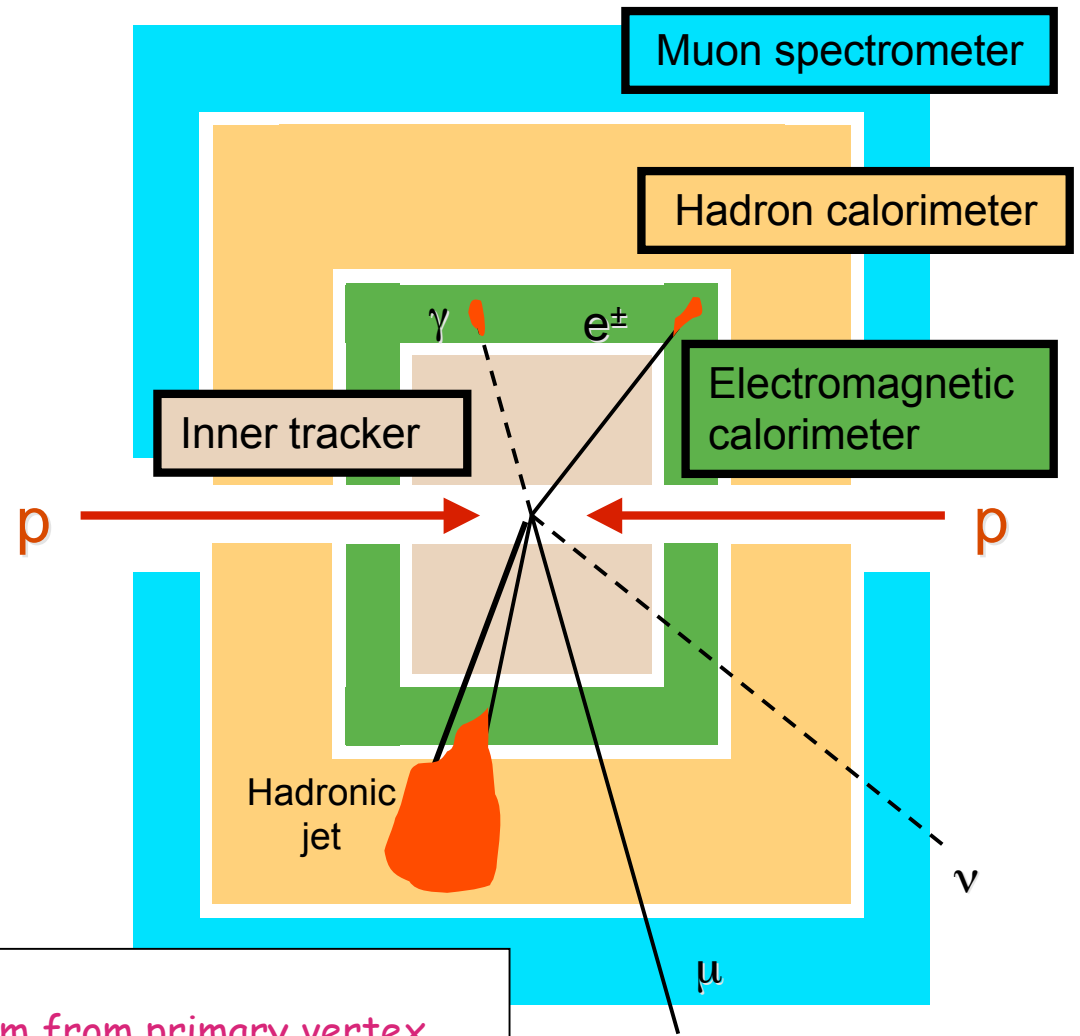
Don't know how New Physics will manifest → detectors must be able to detect as many particles and signatures as possible: $e, \mu, \tau, \nu, \gamma$, jets, b-quarks, ...
 → ATLAS and CMS are general-purpose experiments.

Excellent performance over unprecedented energy range :
few GeV → few TeV

$t\bar{t} \rightarrow bW \bar{b}W \rightarrow bl\nu \bar{b}jj$ event from CDF data



b-tagging (secondary vertices)
 τ (b-hadrons) $\sim 1.5 \text{ ps}$ → decay at few mm from primary vertex
 → detected with high-granularity Si detectors

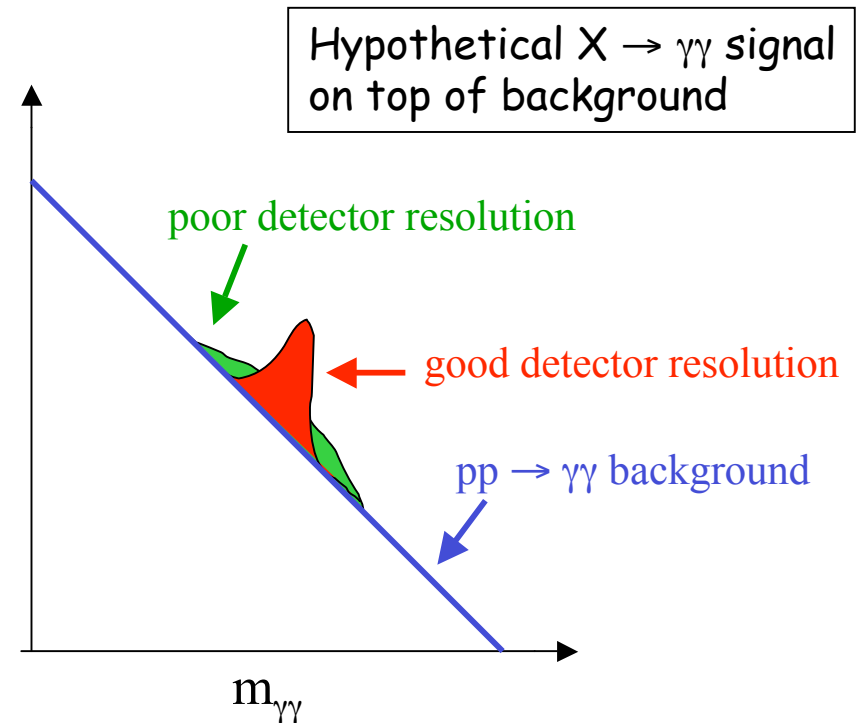


Examples of detector performance requirements:

Lepton measurement: $p_T \approx \text{GeV} \rightarrow 5 \text{ TeV}$ ($b \rightarrow l+X, W'/Z', \dots$)

Mass resolutions:

- $\approx 1\%$ decays into leptons or photons (Higgs, new resonances)
- $\approx 10\%$ $W \rightarrow jj, H \rightarrow bb$ (top physics, Higgs, ...)



Particle identification:

- b/jet separation : $\epsilon (b) \approx 50\%$ $R(\text{jet}) \approx 100$ ($H \rightarrow bb, \text{SUSY}, 3\text{rd generation !!}$)
- τ/jet separation : $\epsilon (\tau) \approx 50\%$ $R(\text{jet}) \approx 100$ ($A/H \rightarrow \tau\tau, \text{SUSY}, 3\text{rd generation !!}$)
- γ/jet separation : $\epsilon (\gamma) \approx 80\%$ $R(\text{jet}) > 10^3$ ($H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$)
- e/jet separation : $\epsilon (e) > 70\%$ $R(\text{jet}) > 10^5$ (inclusive electron sample)

Trigger: one of the biggest challenges

More in S.Dasu's talk

Must reduce rate from 10^9 pp interactions/s (at design luminosity) to ~ 200 Hz (affordable rate to storage)

Must be very selective and efficient: e.g. 1 H \rightarrow 4e event every 10^{13} interactions

\Rightarrow multi-level trigger systems

ATLAS 3-level Trigger/DAQ system

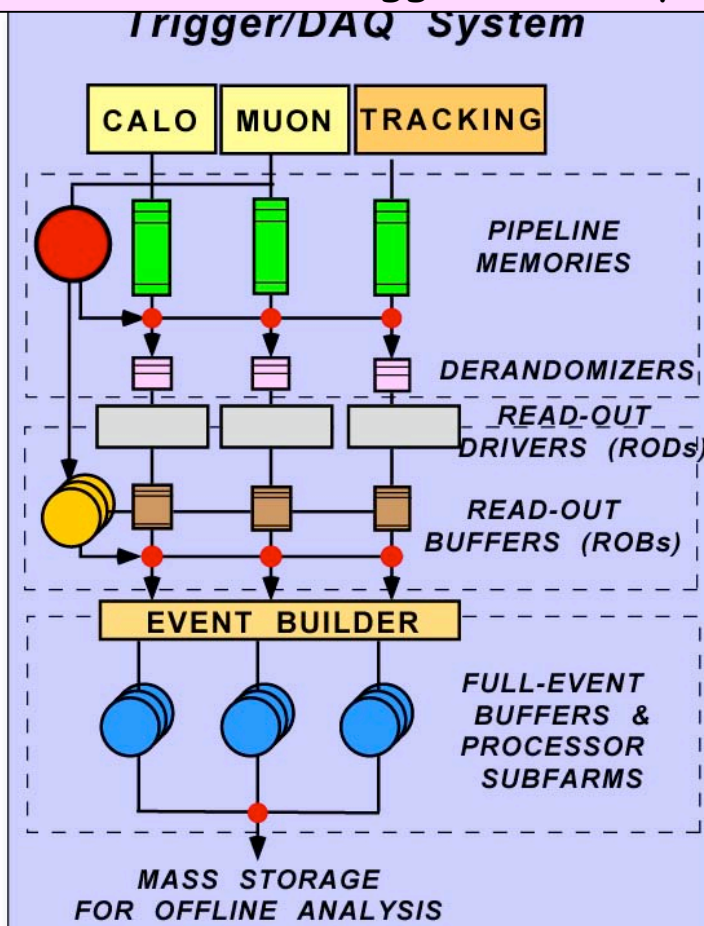
RATES

40 MHz

75 kHz

2 kHz

200 Hz



LEVEL 1 TRIGGER

- Hardware-Based (FPGAs ASICs)
- Coarse granularity from calorimeter & muon systems
- $2 \mu\text{s}$ latency ($2.5 \mu\text{s}$ pipelines)

LEVEL 2 TRIGGER

- Regions-of-Interest “seeds”
- Full granularity for all subdetector systems
- Fast Rejection “steering”
- $O(10 \text{ ms})$ processing time

EVENT FILTER

- “Seeded” by Level 2 result
- Potential full event access
- Offline-like Algorithms
- $O(1 \text{ s})$ processing time

High Level Trigger

Finally, need massive (distributed) computing resources (CPU, storage)

The LHC experiments will produce 10-15 PB of data per year:
corresponds to ~ 20 million CD (a 20 km stack ...)

Data analysis requires computing power equivalent to $\sim 10^5$ today's fastest PC processors

The experiment Collaborations are spread all over the world

→ Computing resources must be distributed.

The Grid provides seamless access to computing power and data storage capacity distributed over the globe.

A map of the worldwide LHC Computing Grid infrastructure provided by EGEE and OSG

~120 computing centers
~ 40 countries



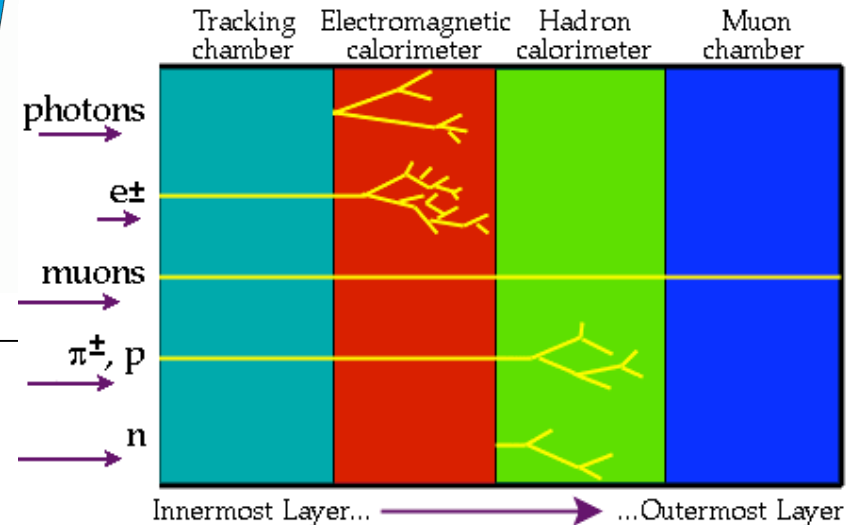
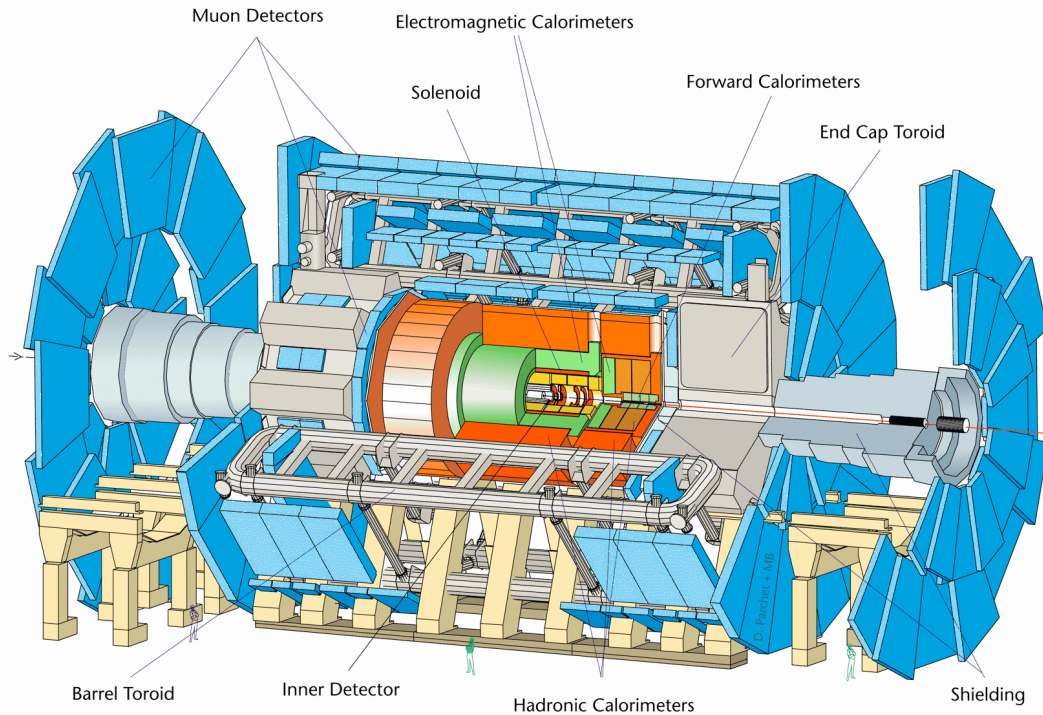
The ATLAS experiment:

- main features of the detector
- installation status

Construction : completed
Installation in underground cavern : almost completed
Commissioning with cosmics : ongoing

ATLAS

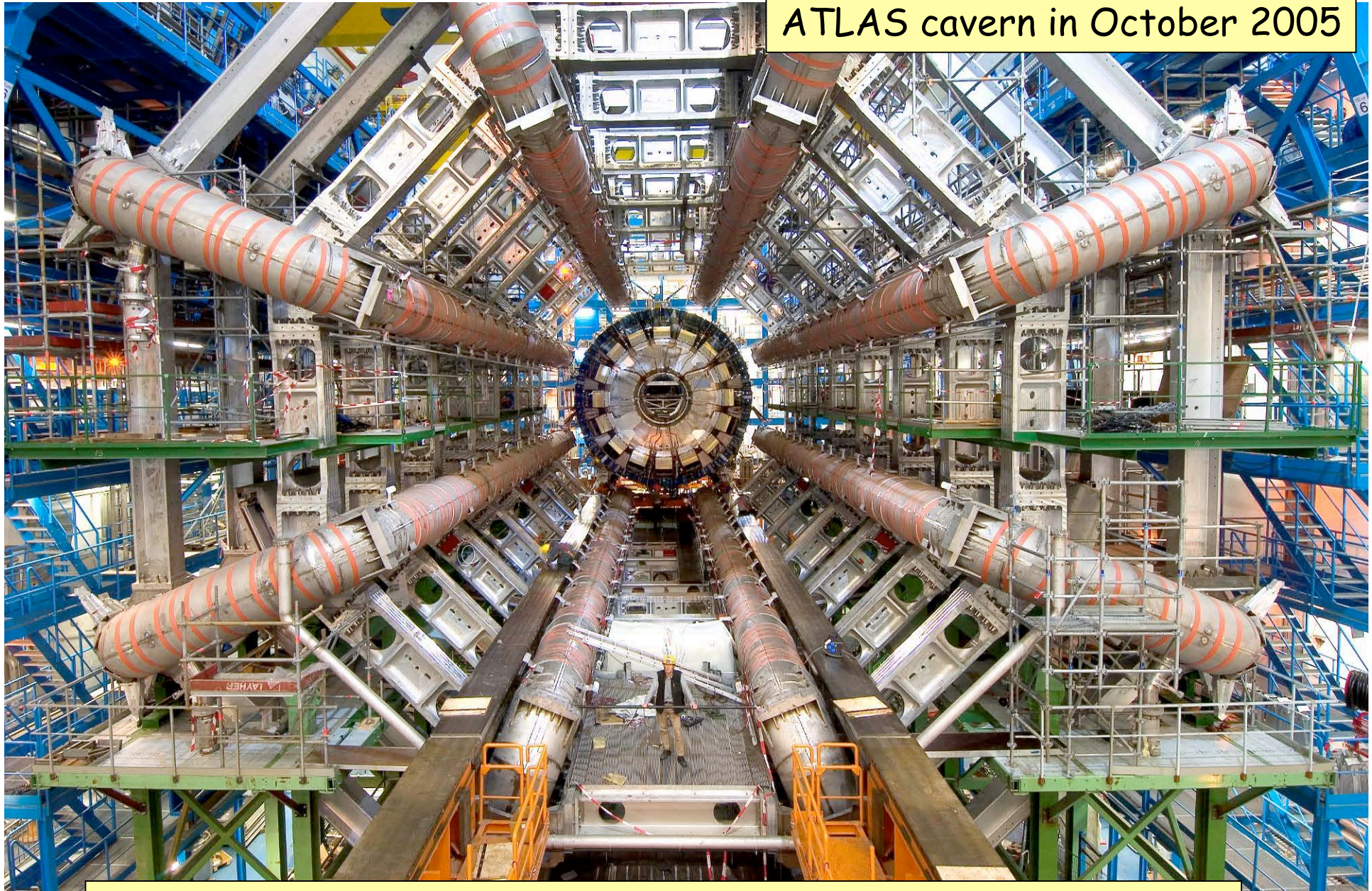
Length : ~ 46 m
 Radius : ~ 12 m
 Weight : ~ 7000 tons
 ~ 10^8 electronic channels
 ~ 3000 km of cables



- **Tracking ($|\eta| < 2.5, B=2T$) :**
 - Si pixels and strips
 - Transition Radiation Detector (e/π separation)
- **Calorimetry ($|\eta| < 5$) :**
 - EM : Pb-LAr
 - HAD: Fe/scintillator (central), Cu/W-LAr (fwd)
- **Muon Spectrometer ($|\eta| < 2.7$) :**
 air-core toroids with muon chambers

And 1900 physicists from
 165 Institutions from 35 countries
 from 5 continents

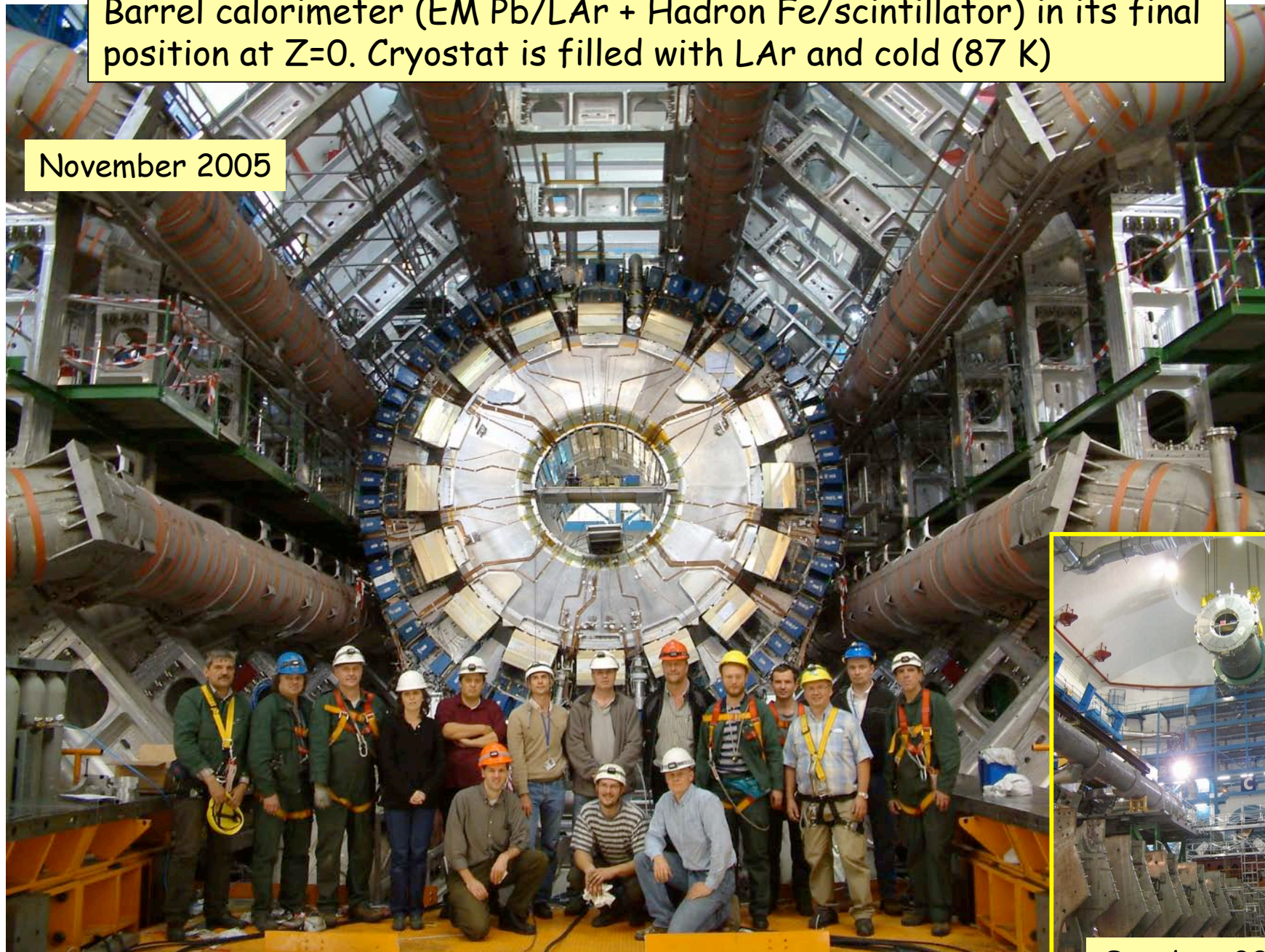
ATLAS cavern in October 2005



Barrel toroid system (eight 25m-long, 100 tons superconducting coils):
tested at full field (20 kA current) in November 2006.

Barrel calorimeter (EM Pb/LAr + Hadron Fe/scintillator) in its final position at $Z=0$. Cryostat is filled with LAr and cold (87 K)

November 2005



October 2004

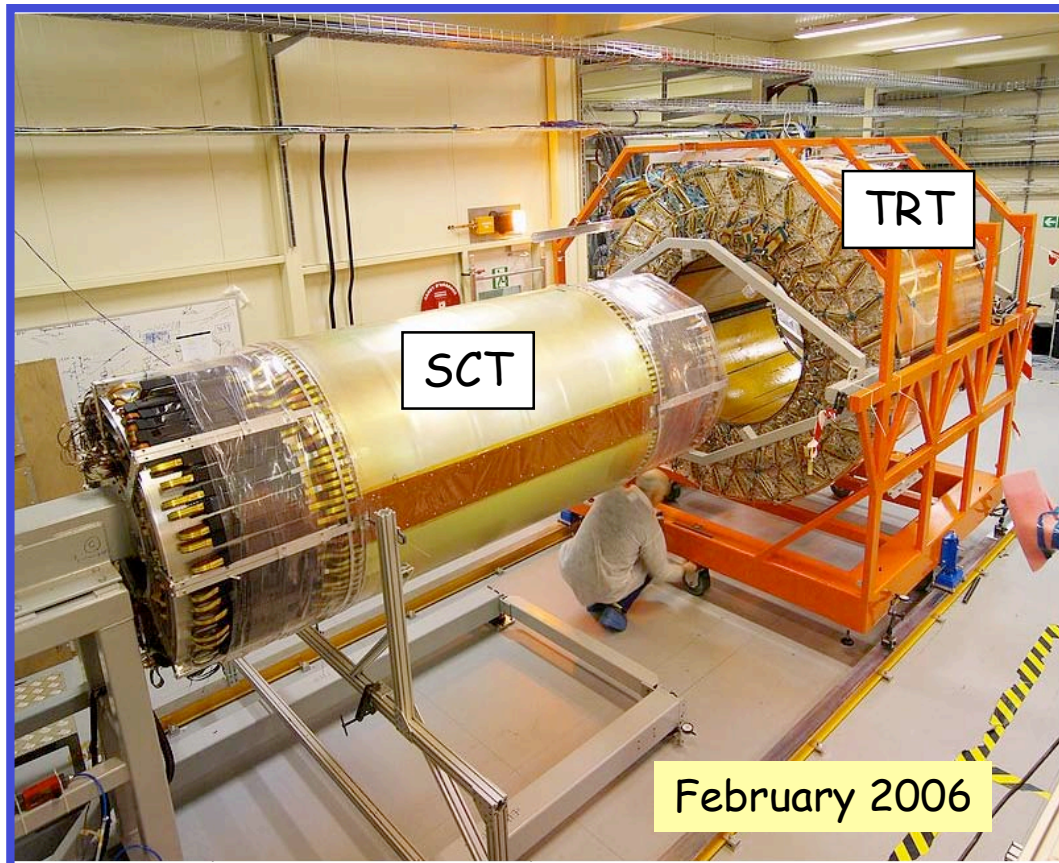
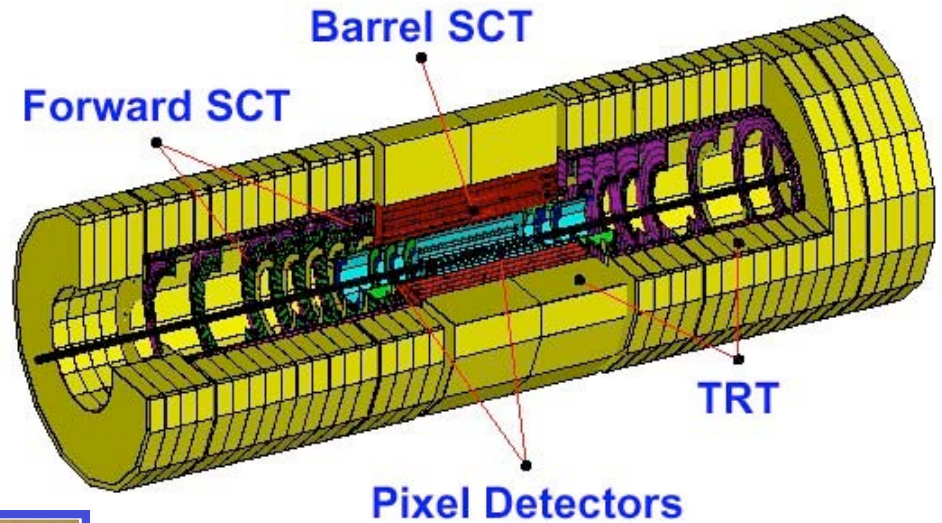
Inner tracker

3 sub-systems:

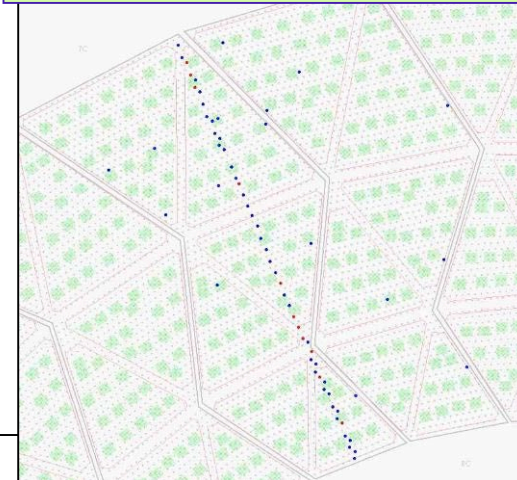
Silicon pixels : $0.8 \cdot 10^8$ channels

Silicon strips (SCT) : $6 \cdot 10^6$ channels

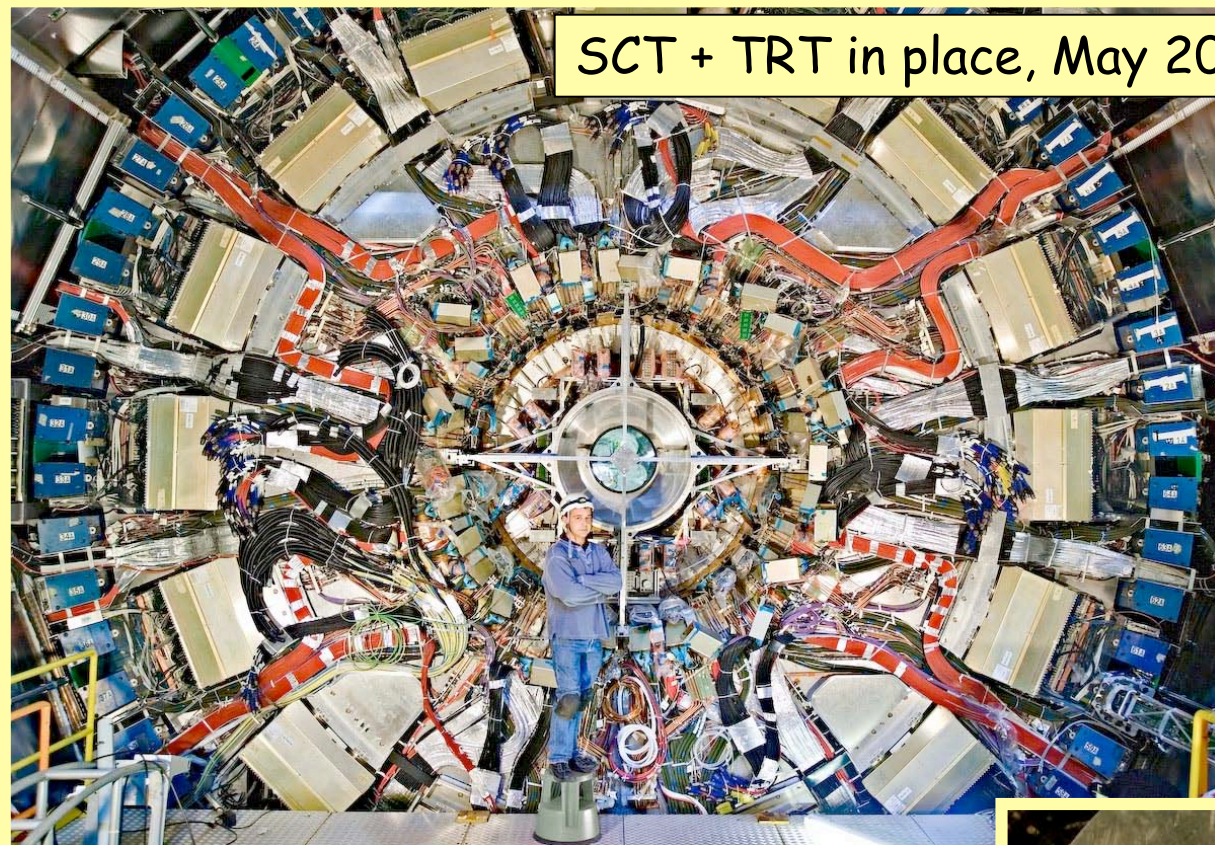
Transition Radiation Tracker (TRT) :
straw tubes filled with gas, $4 \cdot 10^5$ channels



Cosmic muon recorded
in the barrel TRT (in the
assembly surface room)



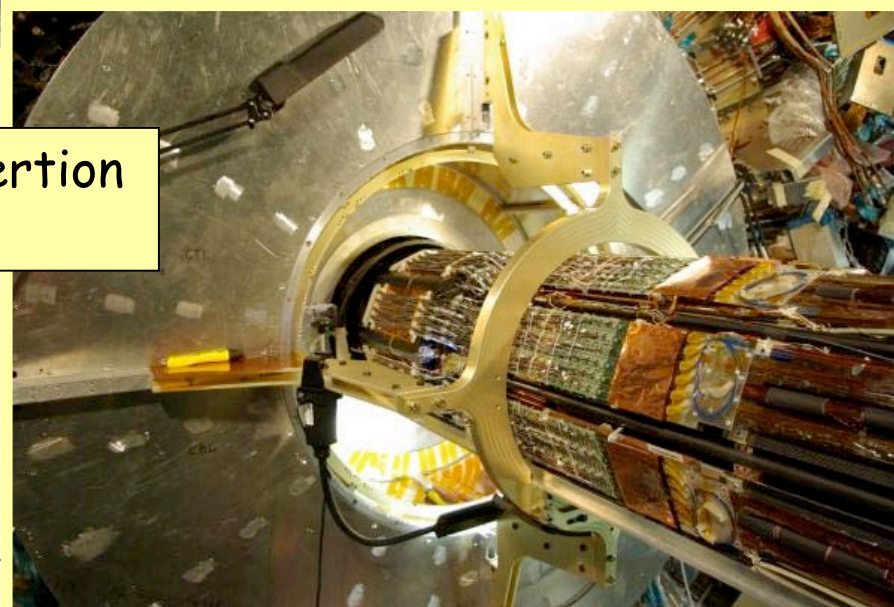
SCT + TRT in place, May 2007

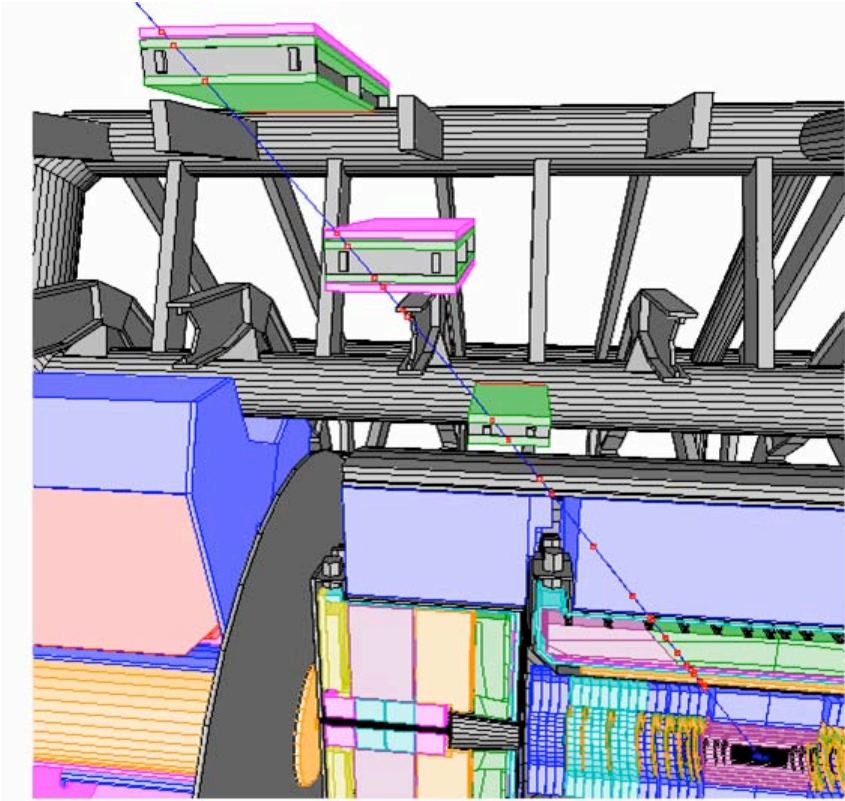


Inner Detector installation
in underground cavern
completed

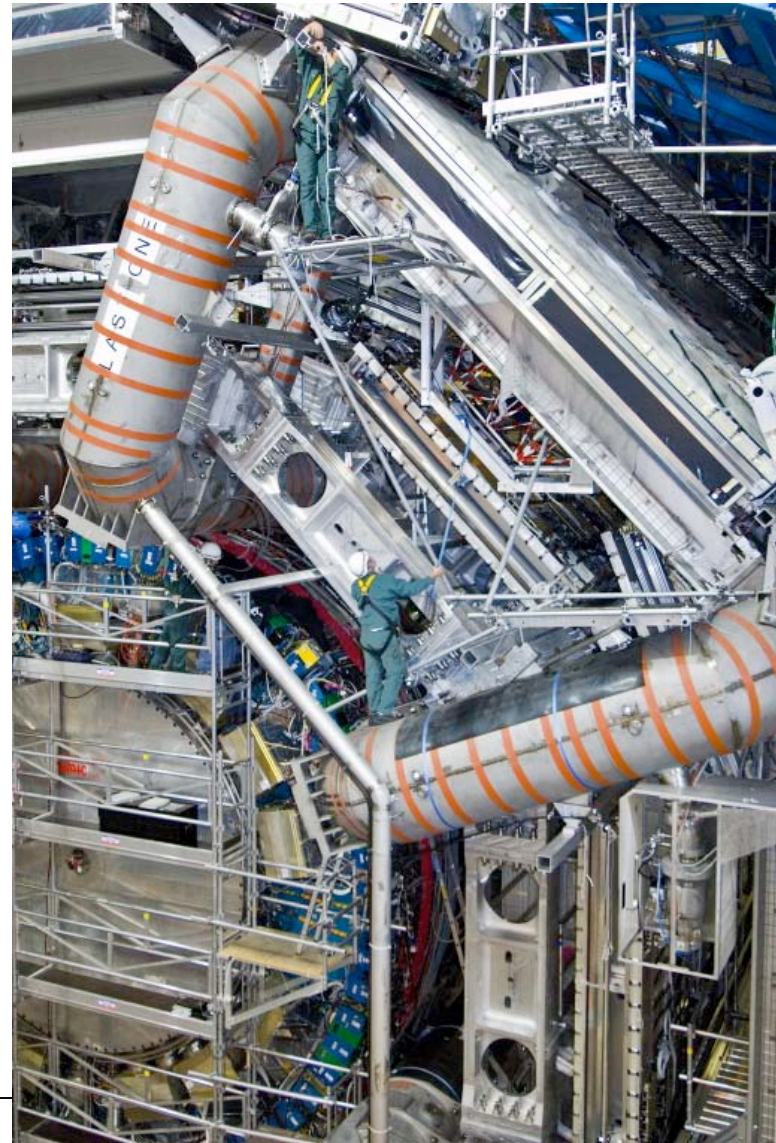
Pixels (+ beam pipe) insertion
June 2007

Made of ~ 80 million high-tech Si pixels
50 μ m wide, 400 μ m long, 250 μ m thick

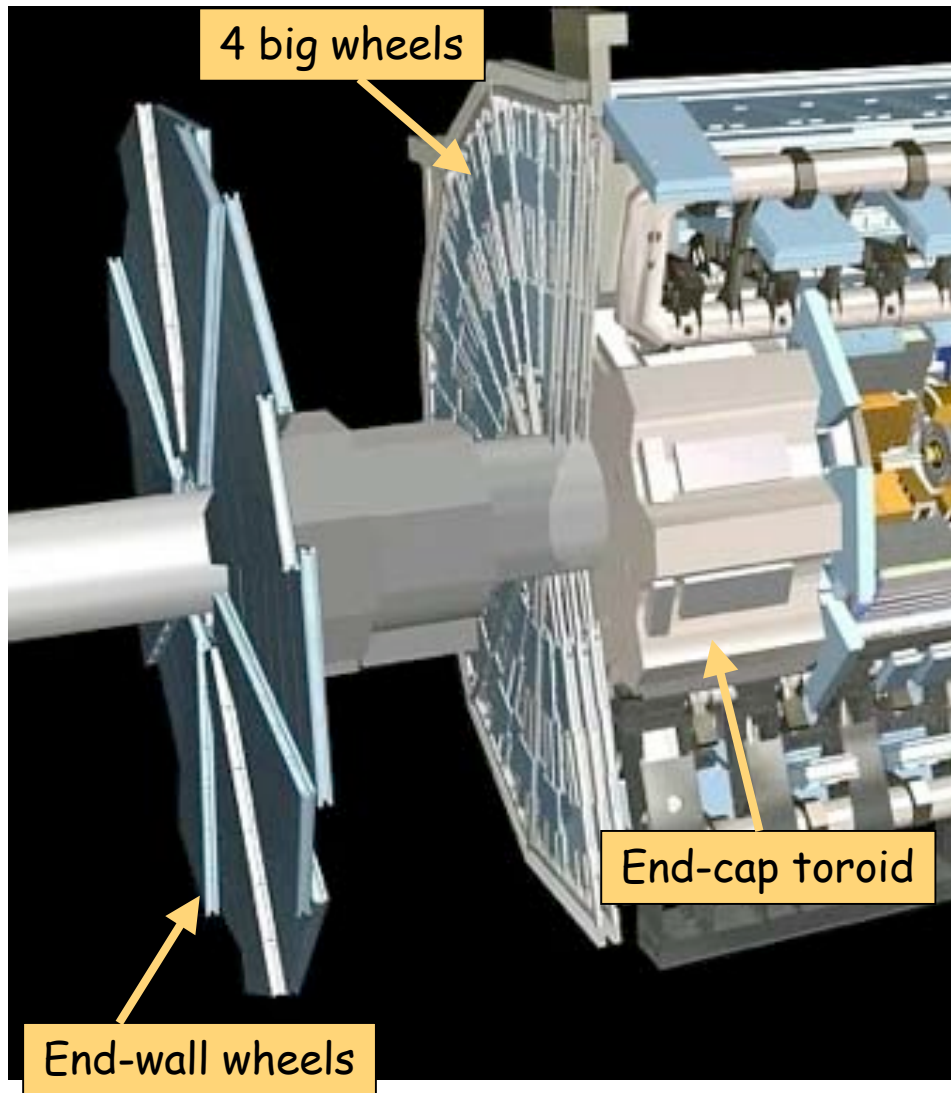


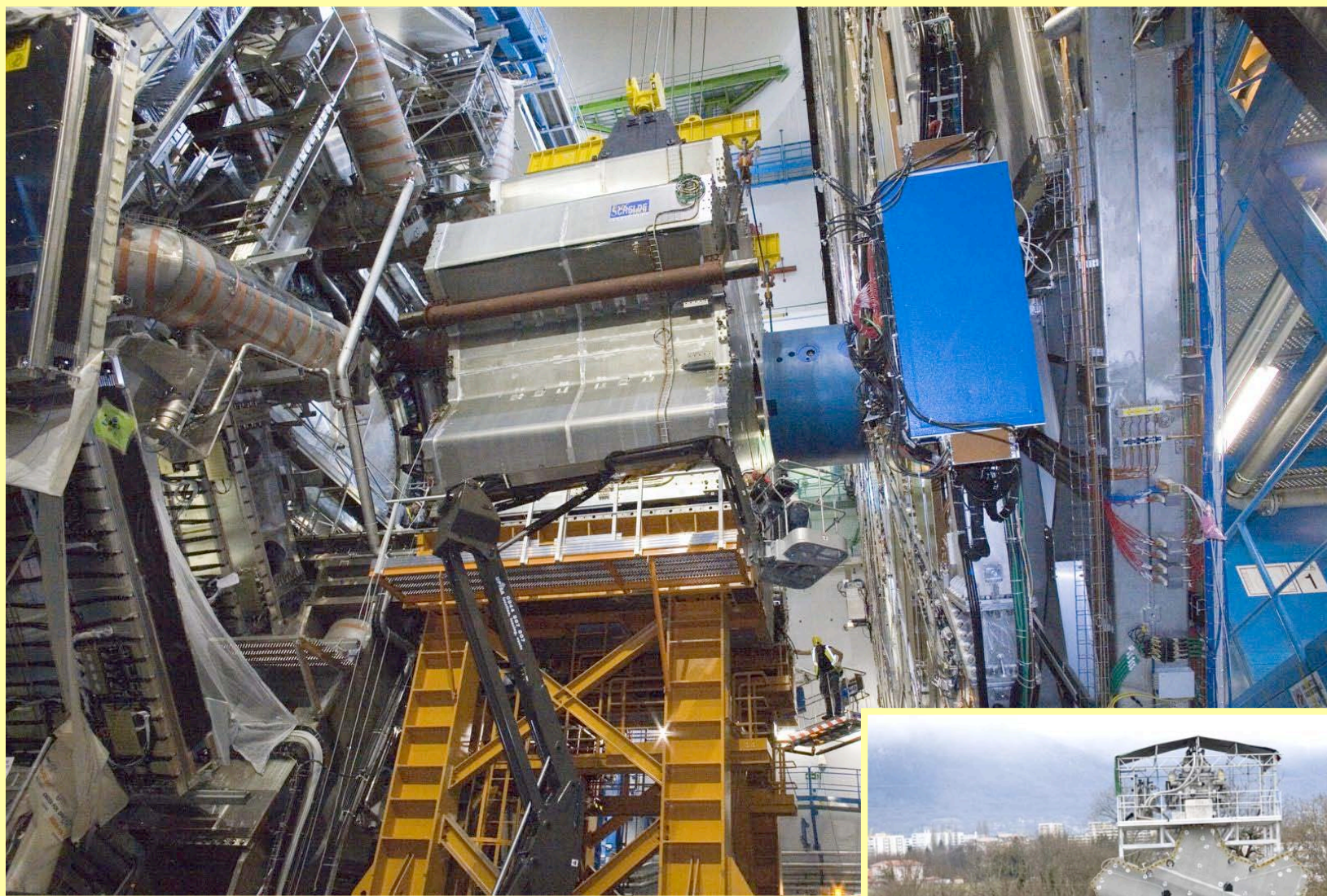


Installation of barrel muon chambers (~ 700 stations) started in December 2005 and is ~ completed.



Forward muon spectrometer: 6 out of 8 big wheels installed in the cavern





The two end-cap toroid magnets installed in June-July 2007

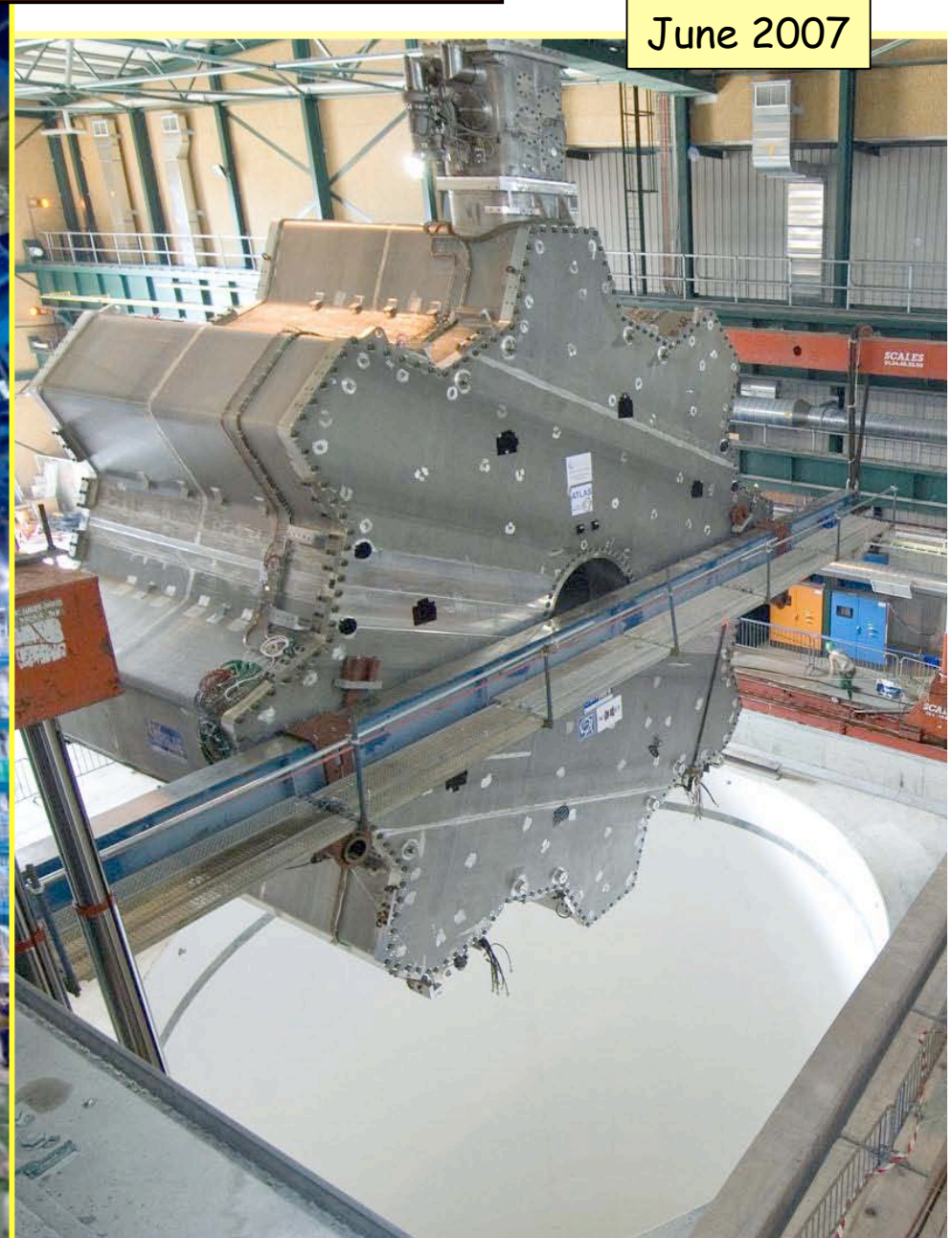


Spectacular operations ...

October 2004



June 2007

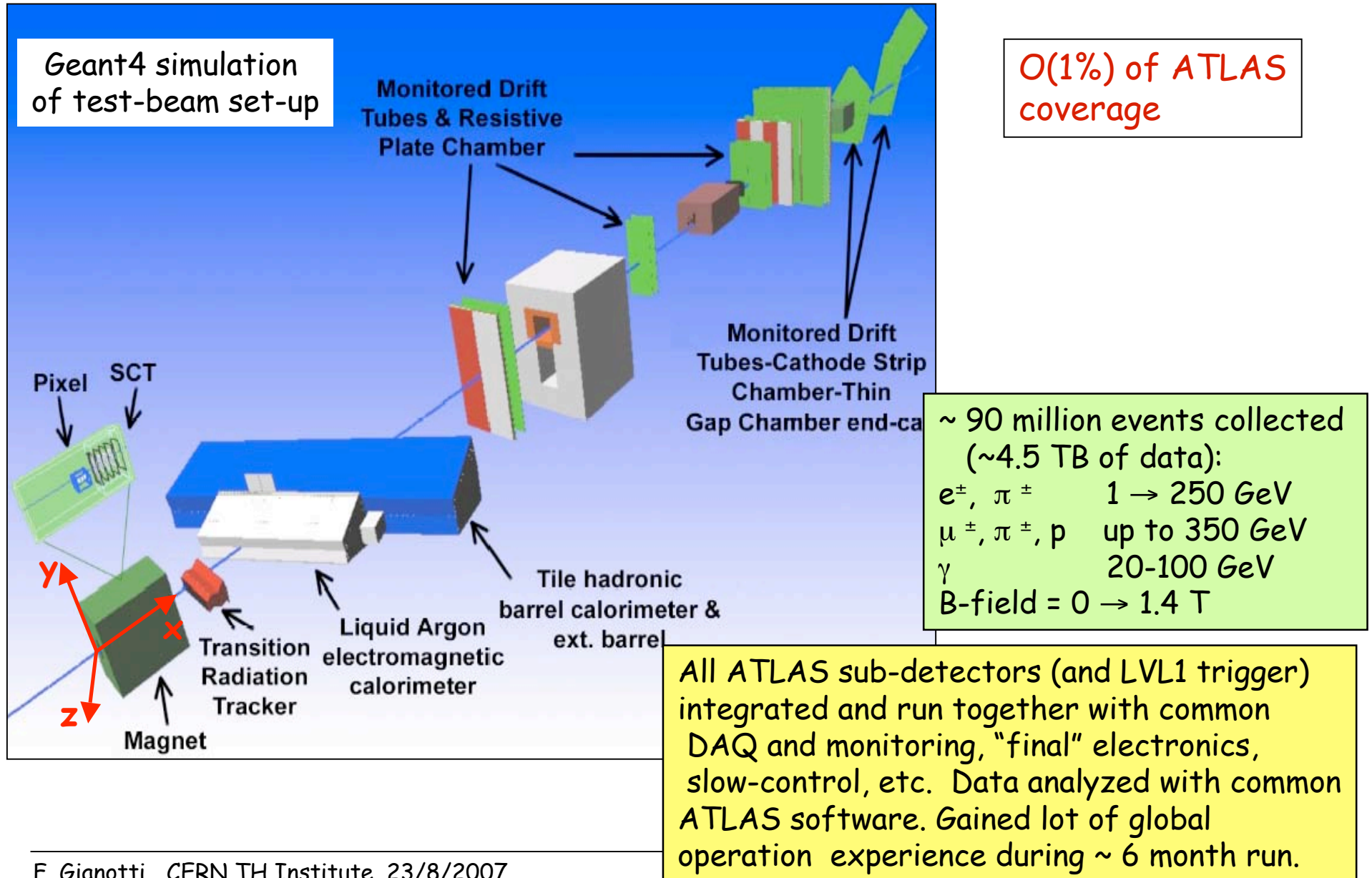


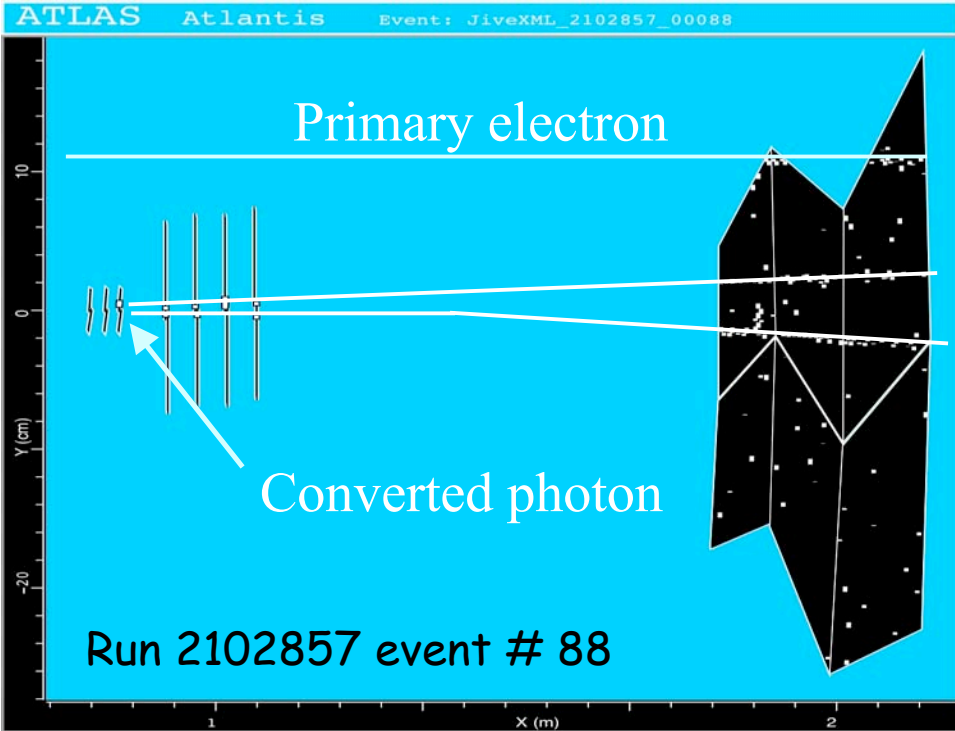
Toward first physics:

- test-beam activities
- commissioning with cosmics
- expected performance

Towards Physics (1) : the 2004 ATLAS combined test beam

Full "vertical slice" of ATLAS tested on CERN H8 beam line May-November 2004

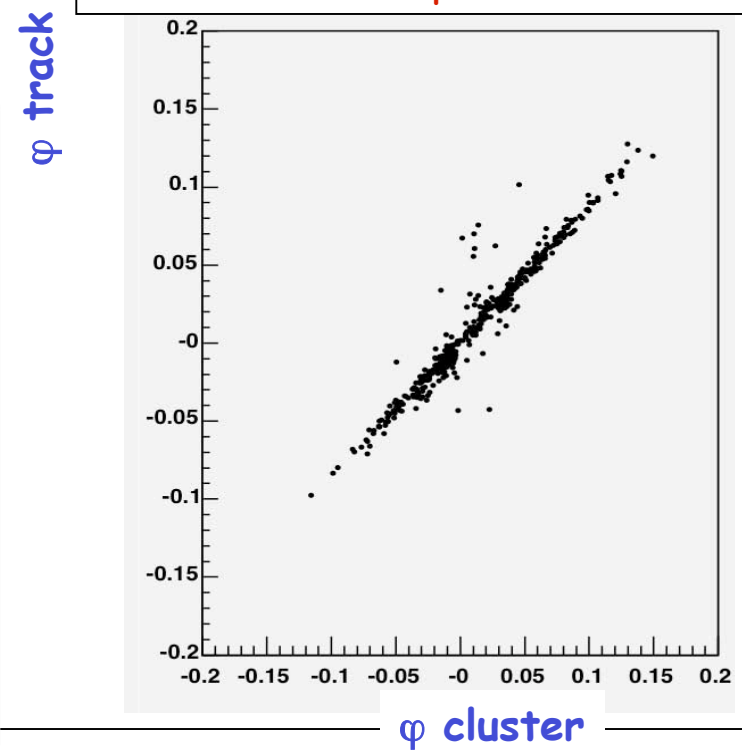
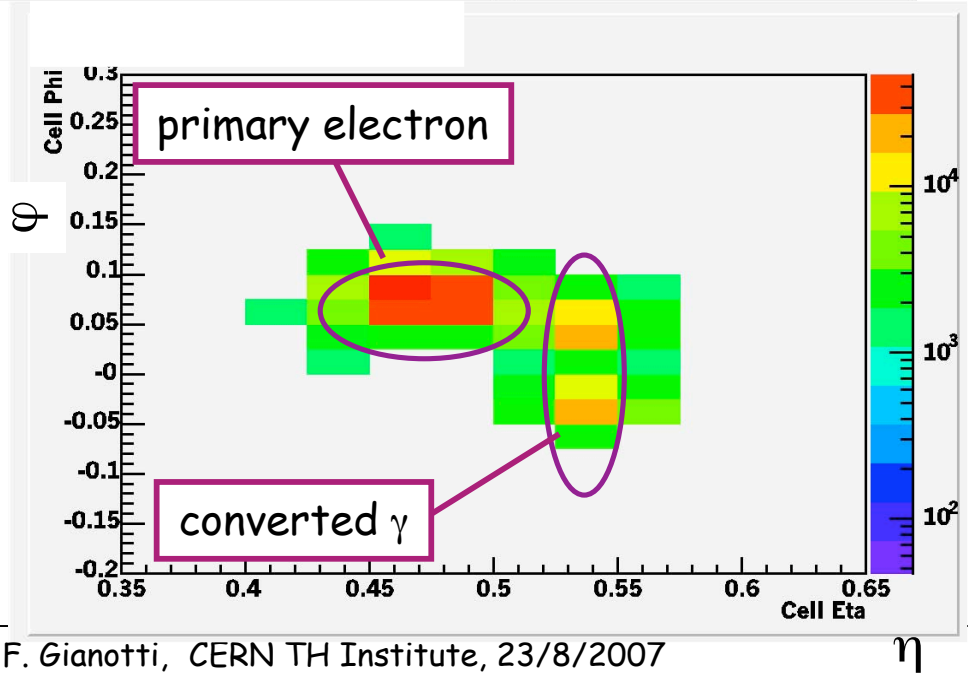




ATLAS preliminary

> 50% of (possible) $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ events will have at least one converted photon $\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$ in the tracker material \rightarrow important to develop (and validate!) efficient reconstruction tools

Inner Detector tracks extrapolated to ECAL and compared to calo clusters



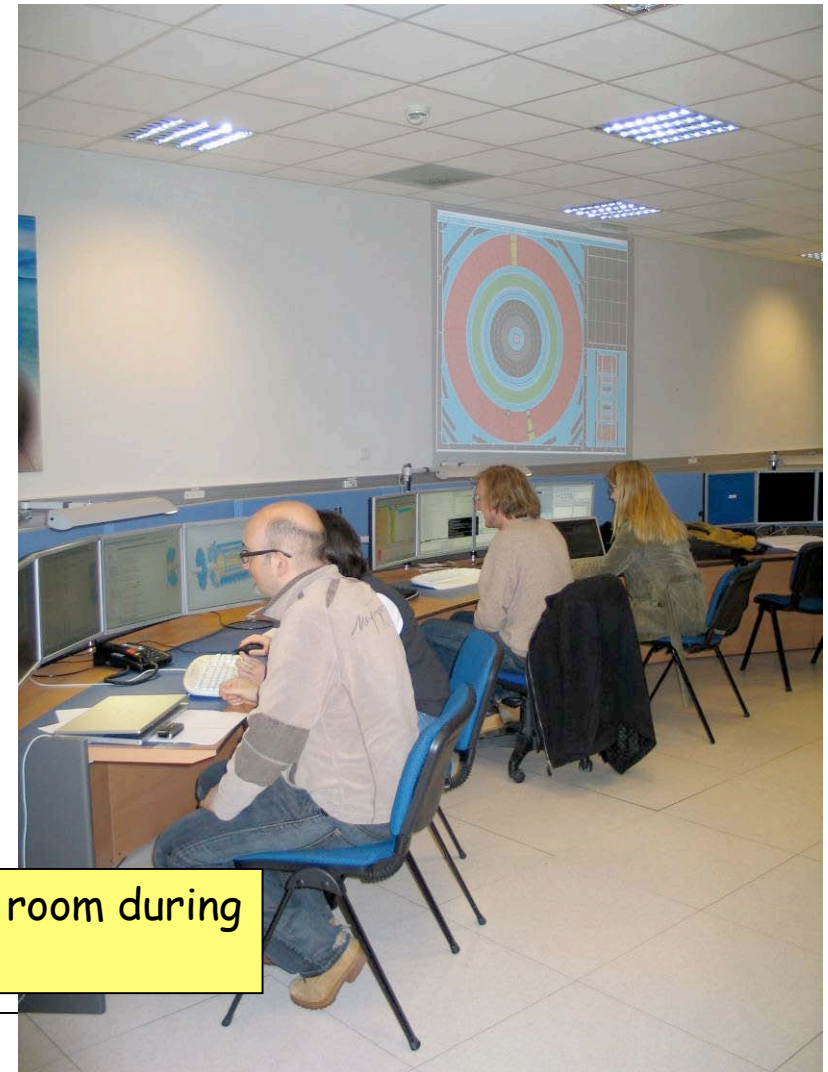
Towards Physics (2) : detector commissioning with cosmics in the underground cavern (the first real data in situ !)

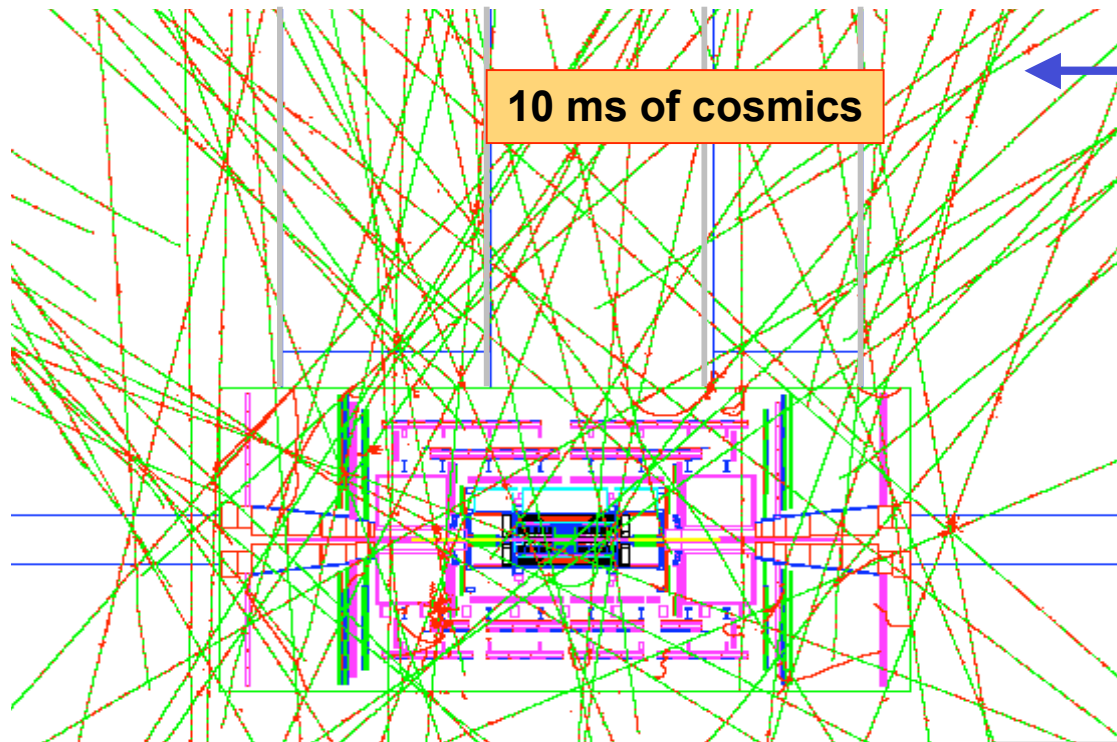
Very useful to:

- Run an increasingly more complete detector with final trigger, data acquisition and monitoring systems. Data analyzed with final software
- Shake-down and debug the experiment in its final position → fix problems
- Gain global operation experience in situ before collisions start



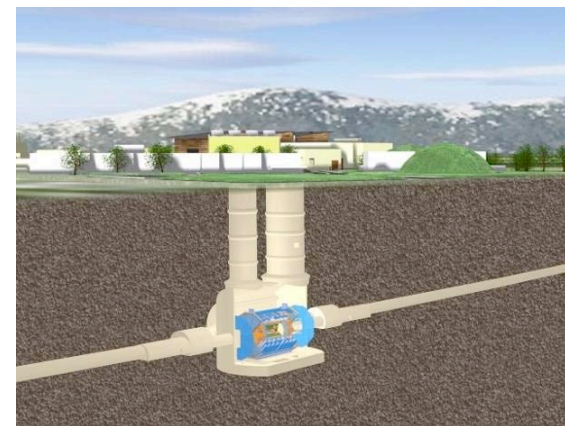
The ATLAS control room during a cosmics run





10 ms of cosmics

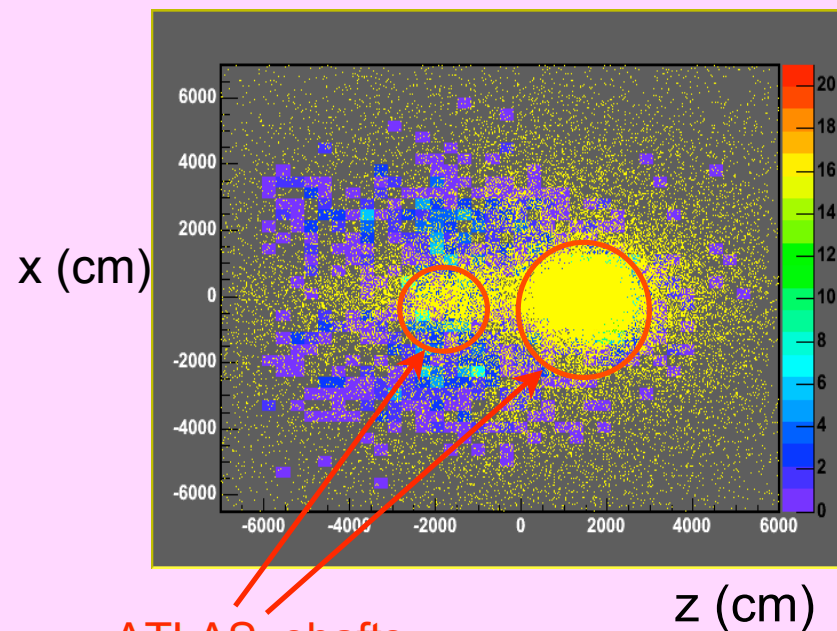
Simulated cosmic flux
in the ATLAS cavern



Cosmics data: →

muon impact points extrapolated
to surface as measured by
Muon Trigger chambers (RPC)

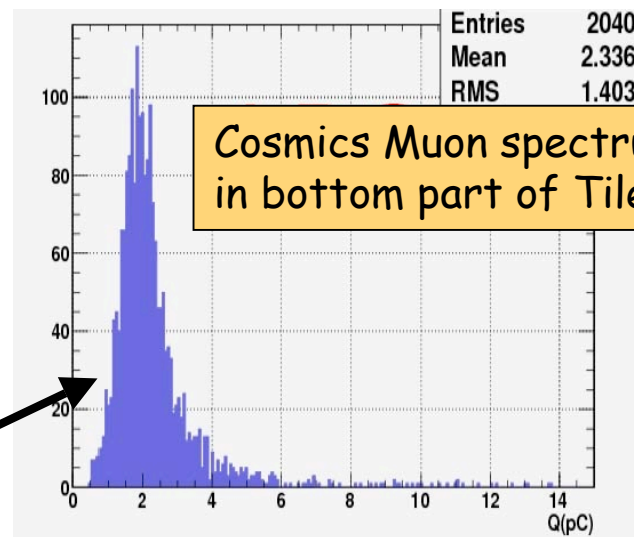
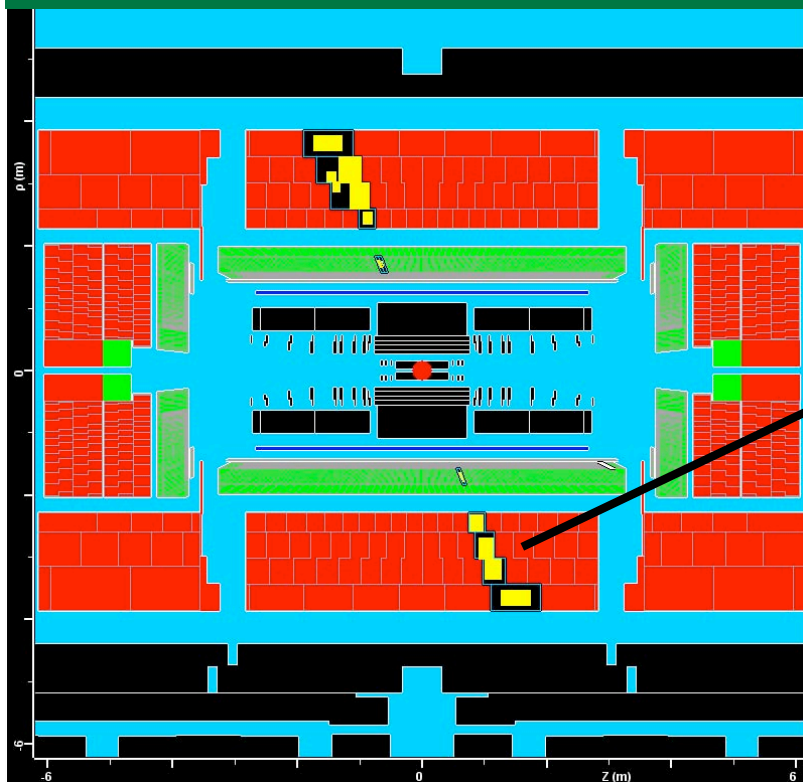
Rate ~100 m below ground: ~ $O(10 \text{ Hz})$



ATLAS shafts

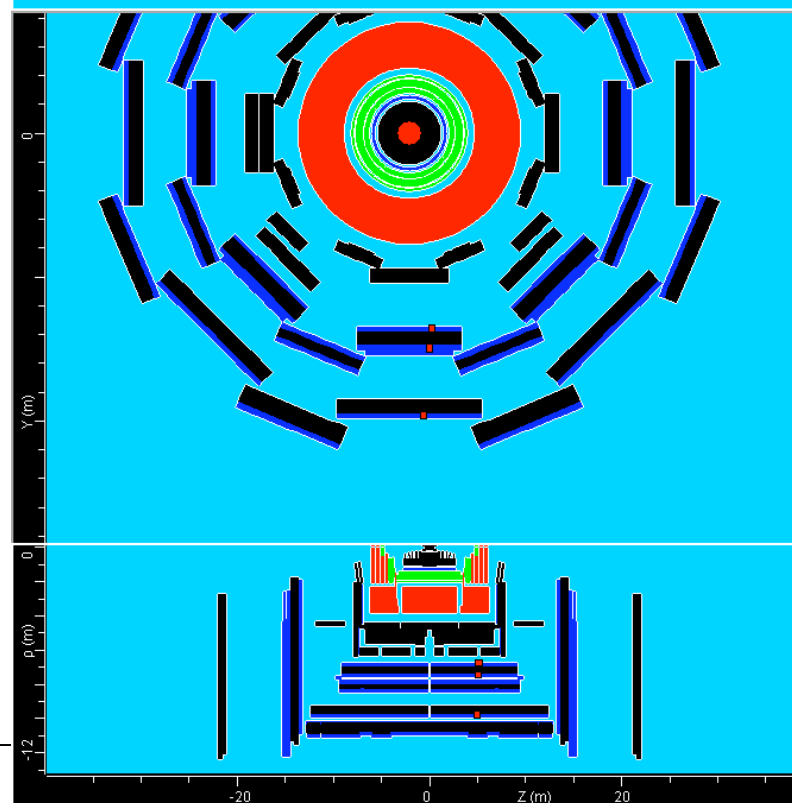
z (cm)

A cosmic muon in LAr EM calorimeter and Tile calorimeter



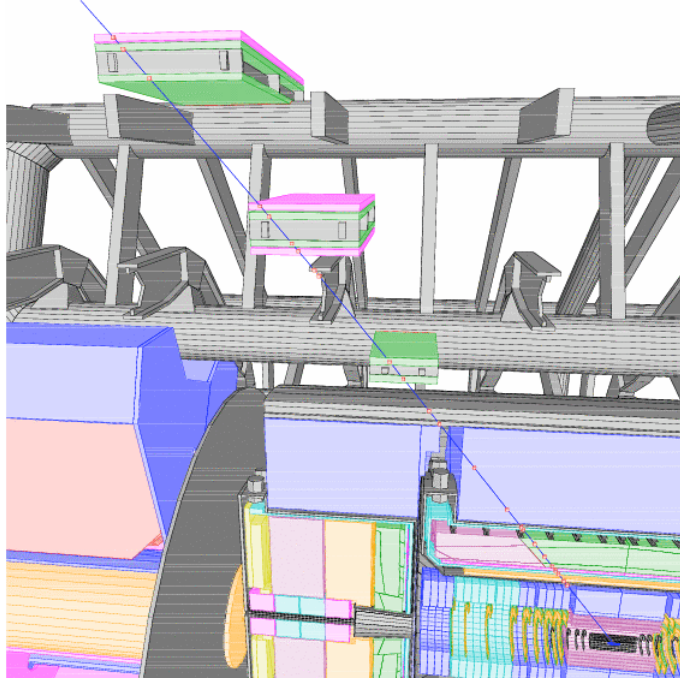
Cosmics Muon spectrum in bottom part of Tilecal

A cosmic muon in Muon Spectrometer



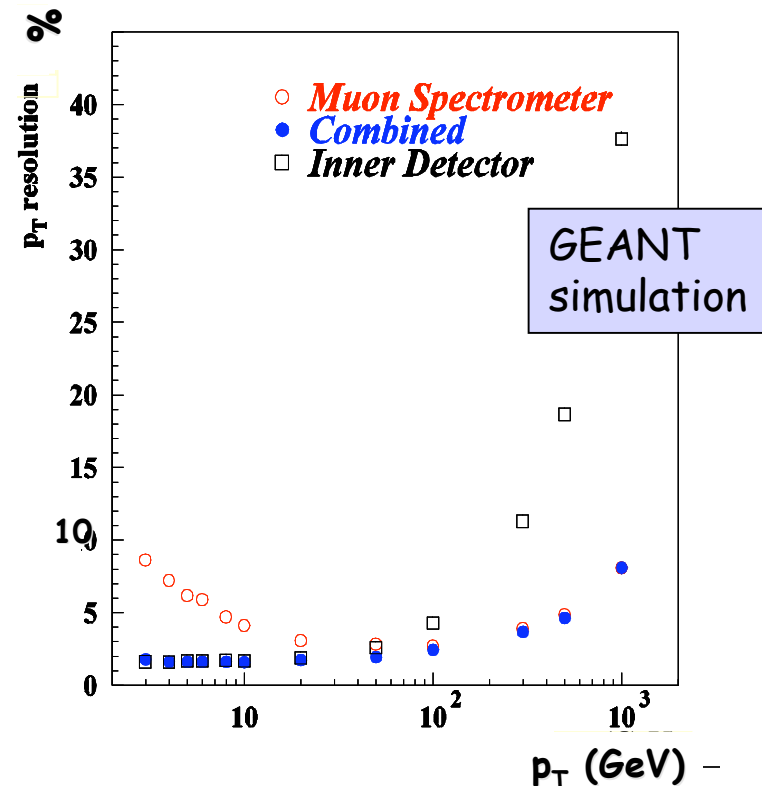
Expected performance: muon measurement

Combining the information from Inner Detector and Muon Spectrometer

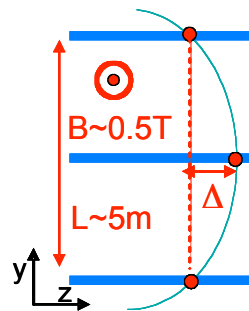


$\sigma/p < 10\%$ for $E_\mu \sim \text{TeV}$ needed to observe a possible new resonance $X \rightarrow \mu\mu$ as "narrow" peak

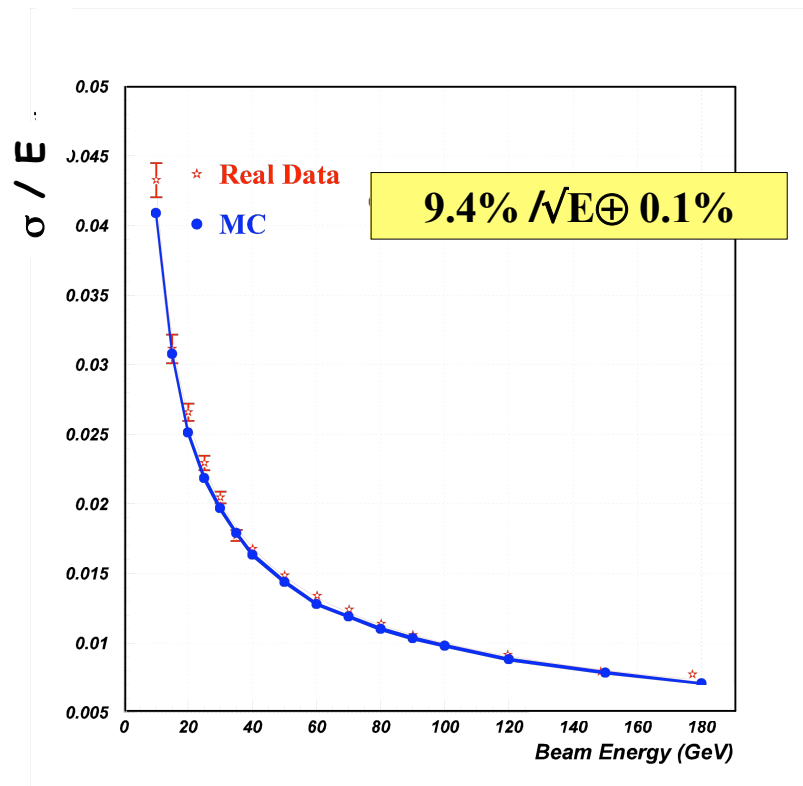
ATLAS Muon momentum resolution



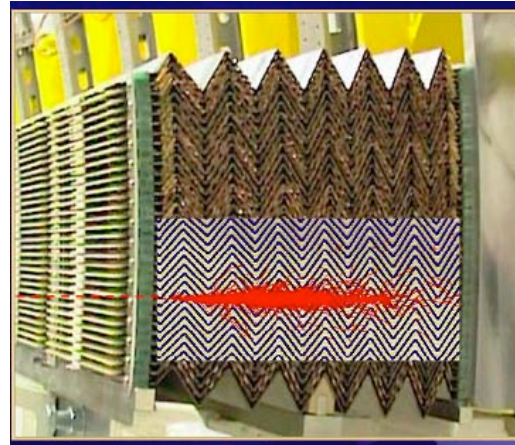
ATLAS Muon Spectrometer:
 $E_\mu \sim 1 \text{ TeV} \Rightarrow \Delta \sim 500 \mu\text{m}$
 \downarrow
 - $\sigma/p \sim 10\% \Rightarrow \delta\Delta \sim 50 \mu\text{m}$
 - alignment accuracy to $\sim 20 \mu\text{m}$



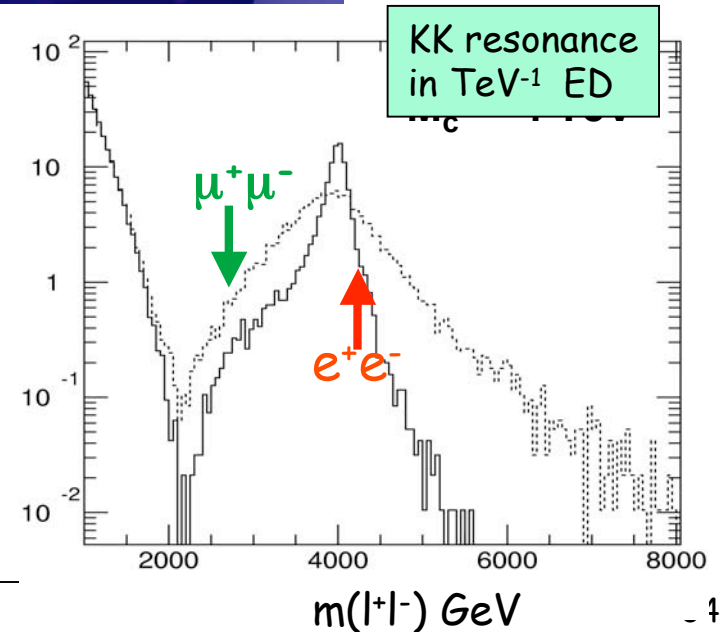
Expected performance: electron measurement



Electron E-resolution measured in beam tests of the ATLAS EM calorimeter (Pb/LAr)



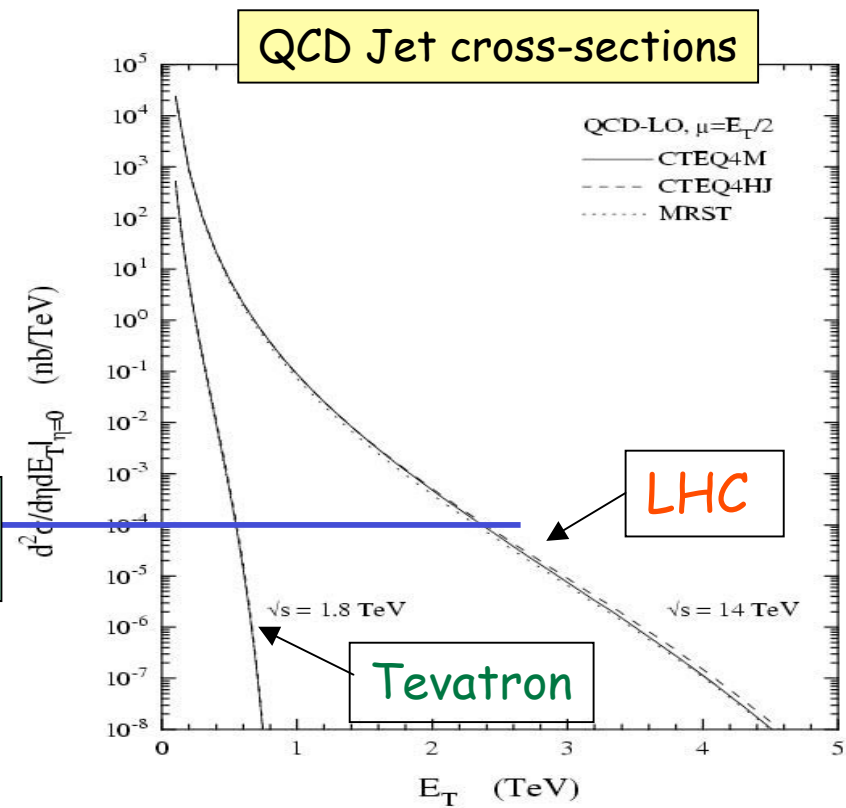
1 TeV e^\pm : $\sigma(E)/E \sim 0.5\%$
 1 TeV μ^\pm : $\sigma(p)/p \sim 5\%$
 → heavy narrow resonances will likely be observed first in the $X \rightarrow ee$ channel



First physics with first data a few examples ...

Jump immediately into
a new territory ...

10 events
with 100 pb^{-1}



With the first physics data in 2008

1 fb⁻¹ (100 pb⁻¹) ≡ 6 months (few days) at L = 10³² cm⁻²s⁻¹
 with 50% data-taking efficiency
 → may collect O(100 pb⁻¹) per experiment by end 2008

Channels (<u>examples</u> ...)	Events to tape for 100 pb ⁻¹ (ATLAS)	Total statistics from some of previous Colliders
W → μ ν	~ 10 ⁶	~ 10 ⁴ LEP, ~ 10 ⁶ Tevatron
Z → μ μ	~ 10 ⁵	~ 10 ⁶ LEP, ~ 10 ⁵ Tevatron
tt → W b W b → μ ν + X	~ 10 ⁴	~ 10 ⁴ Tevatron
QCD jets p _T > 1 TeV	> 10 ³	---
$\tilde{g}\tilde{g}$ m = 1 TeV	~ 50	---

With these data:

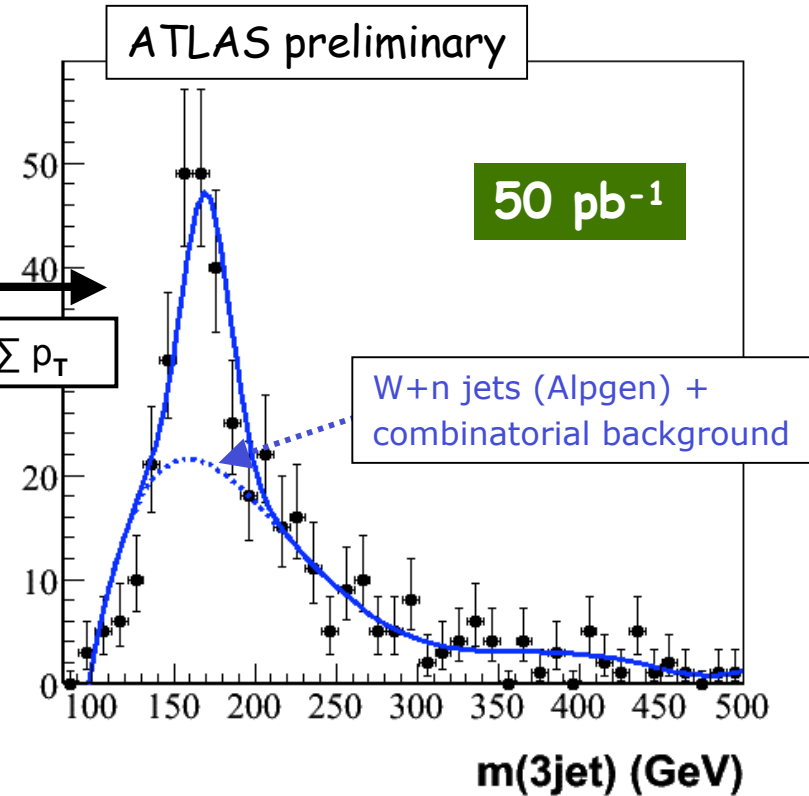
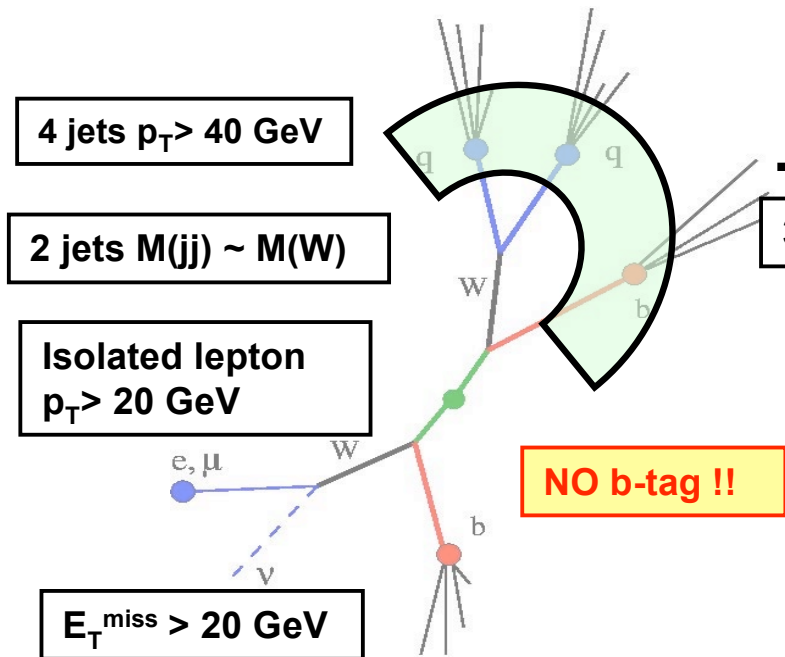
- Understand and calibrate detectors in situ using well-known physics samples
 e.g. - Z → ee, μμ tracker, ECAL, Muon chambers calibration and alignment, etc.
 - tt → blν bjj jet scale from W → jj, b-tag performance, etc.
- “Rediscover” and measure SM physics at $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV : W, Z, tt, QCD jets ...
 (also because omnipresent backgrounds to New Physics)

→ prepare the road to discoveries it will take time ...

Example of initial measurement: the first top quarks in Europe ...

A top signal can be observed quickly, even with limited detector performance and simple analysis ... and then used to "calibrate" the detector and understand physics

$\sigma_{tt} \approx 250 \text{ pb}$ for $tt \rightarrow bW bW \rightarrow bl\nu bj\bar{j}$



Top signal observable in early days with no b-tagging and simple analysis (100 ± 20 evts for 50 pb^{-1}) \rightarrow with $\sim 100 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ measure σ_{tt} to 20%, m_t to 10 GeV ? Note: ultimate LHC precision on m_t is $\sim 1 \text{ GeV}$
 In addition, excellent sample to:

- understand detector performance for $e, \mu, \text{jets}, b\text{-jets}, \text{missing } E_T, \dots$
- understand / constrain theory and MC generators using e.g. p_T spectra

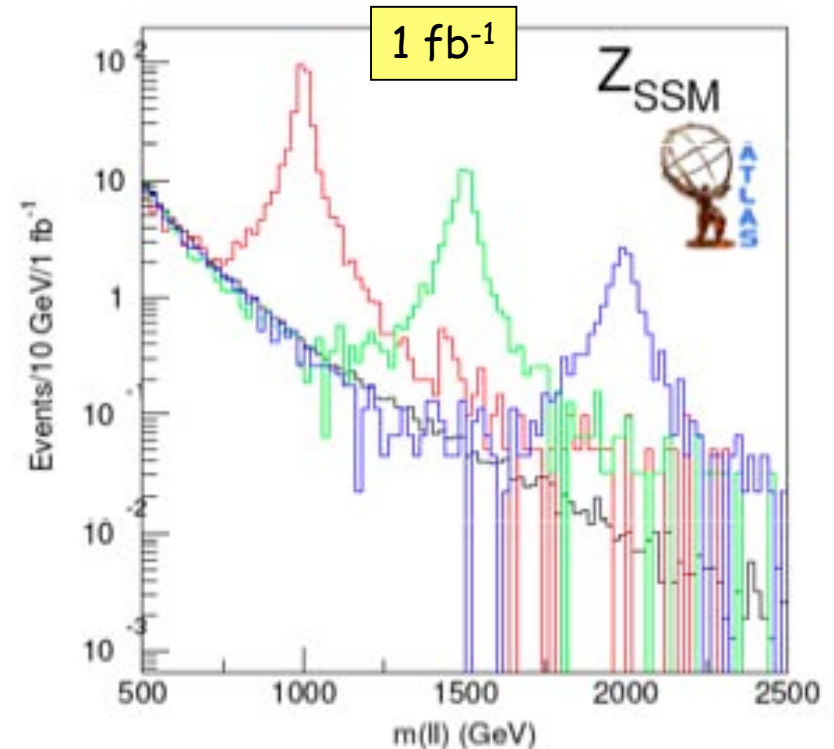
One of the best candidates for an early discovery :
a narrow resonance with mass ~ 1 TeV decaying into e^+e^-

$Z' \rightarrow e^+e^-$ with SM-like couplings (Z_{SSM})

Mass	Expected events for 1 fb^{-1} (after all analysis cuts)	Integrated luminosity needed for discovery (corresponds to 10 observed evts)
1 TeV	~ 160	$\sim 70 \text{ pb}^{-1}$
1.5 TeV	~ 30	$\sim 300 \text{ pb}^{-1}$
2 TeV	~ 7	$\sim 1.5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$

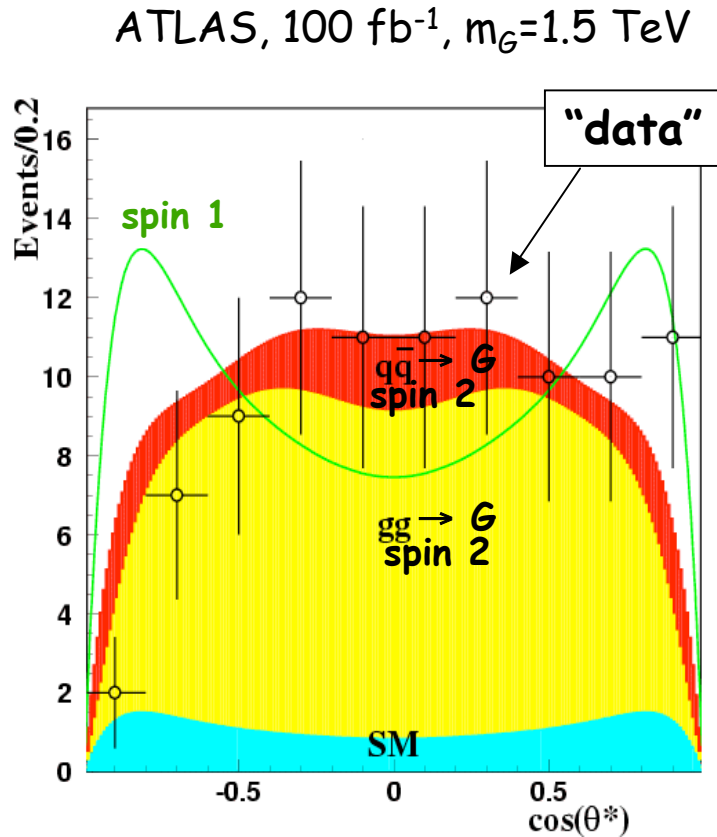
- large enough signal for discovery with $\sim 100 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ up to $m > 1 \text{ TeV}$
- small well-known SM background (Drell-Yan)
- signal is (narrow) mass peak on top of background

Ultimate ATLAS reach for Z' (300 fb^{-1}):
 $\sim 5 \text{ TeV}$



Is it a Z' or a Randall-Sundrum Graviton ?

Look at e^\pm angular distributions to disentangle G ($s=2$) from Z' ($S=1$)
Need more integrated luminosity ...



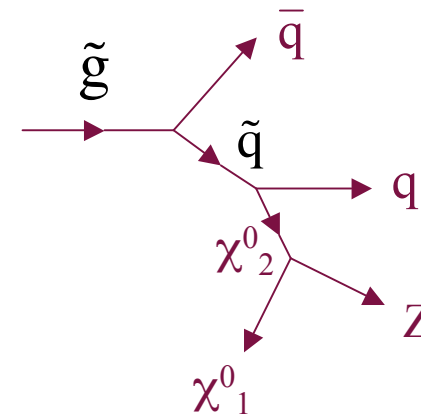
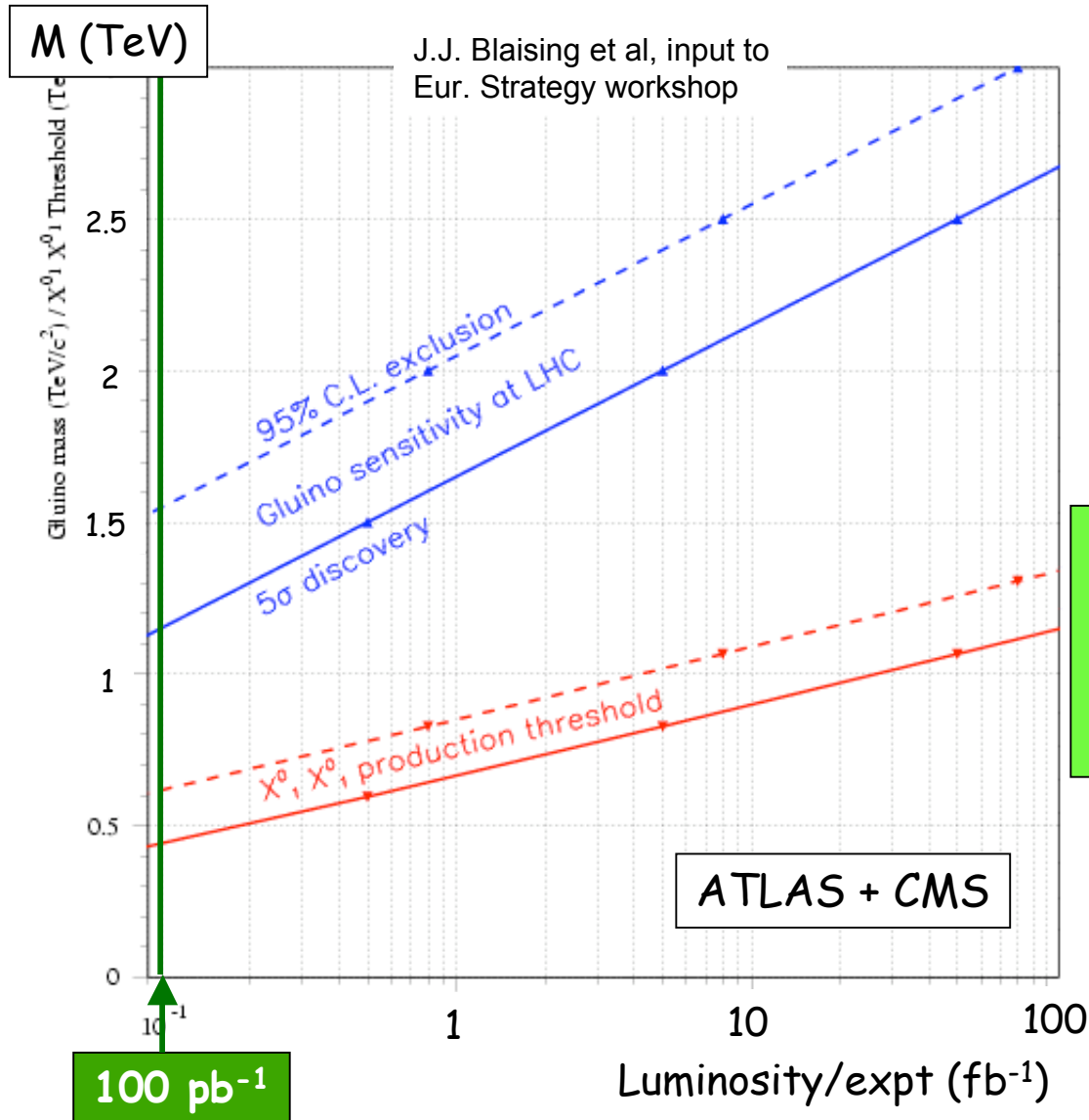
Allanach et al., JHEP 0009 (2000) 019

Another possible "early" discovery: Supersymmetry

If SUSY at TeV scale \rightarrow could be found "quickly" thanks to:

- large \tilde{q}, \tilde{g} cross-section $\rightarrow \approx 10$ events/day at 10^{32} for
- spectacular signatures (many jets, leptons, missing E_T)

$$m(\tilde{q}, \tilde{g}) \sim 1 \text{ TeV}$$



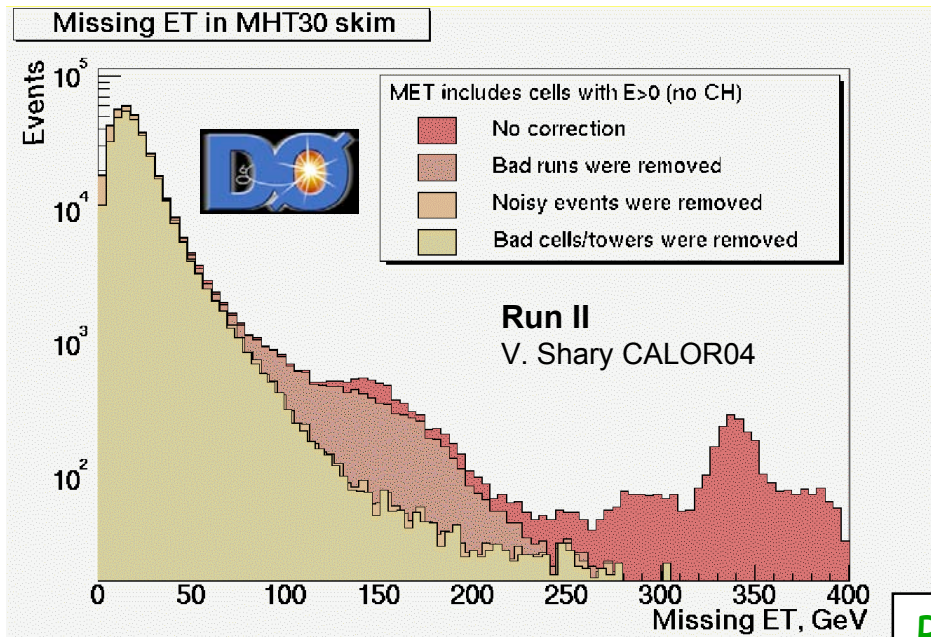
Our field, and planning for future facilities, will benefit a lot from quick determination of scale of New Physics. E.g. with 100 good pb⁻¹ LHC could say if SUSY accessible to a ≤ 1 TeV ILC

BUT: understanding E_T^{miss} spectrum (and tails from instrumental effects) is one of the most crucial and difficult experimental issue for SUSY searches at hadron colliders.

Main backgrounds to SUSY searches in jets + E_T^{miss} topology

(one of the most "dirty" signatures ...)

- W/Z + jets with $Z \rightarrow \nu\nu$, $W \rightarrow \tau\nu$; $t\bar{t}$; etc.
- QCD multijet events with fake E_T^{miss} from jet mis-measurements (calorimeter resolution and non-compensation, cracks, ...)
- cosmics, beam-halo, detector problems overlapped with high- p_T triggers, ...

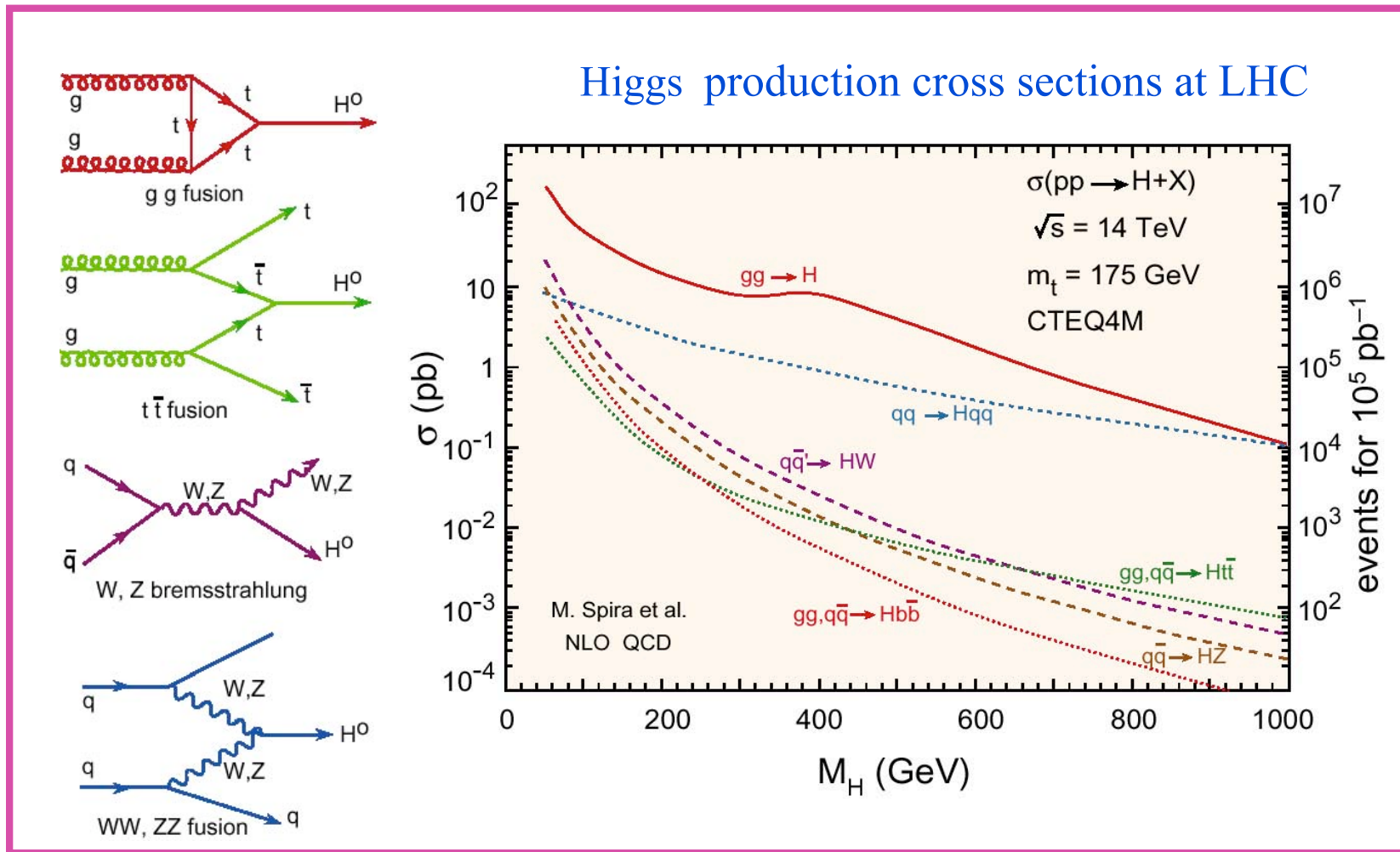


Understanding E_T^{miss} spectrum (and tails from instrumental effects) is one of most crucial and difficult experimental issues for SUSY searches at hadron colliders.
Note: can also use final states with leptons (cleaner ...)

Estimate backgrounds using as much as possible data (control samples) and MC

Background process (examples ...)	Control samples (examples ...)
$Z (\rightarrow \nu\nu) + \text{jets}$ $W (\rightarrow \tau\nu) + \text{jets}$ $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{t}b\bar{t}j$ QCD multijets	$Z (\rightarrow ee, \mu\mu) + \text{jets}$ $W (\rightarrow e\nu, \mu\nu) + \text{jets}$ $t\bar{t} \rightarrow b\bar{t}b\bar{t}$ lower E_T sample

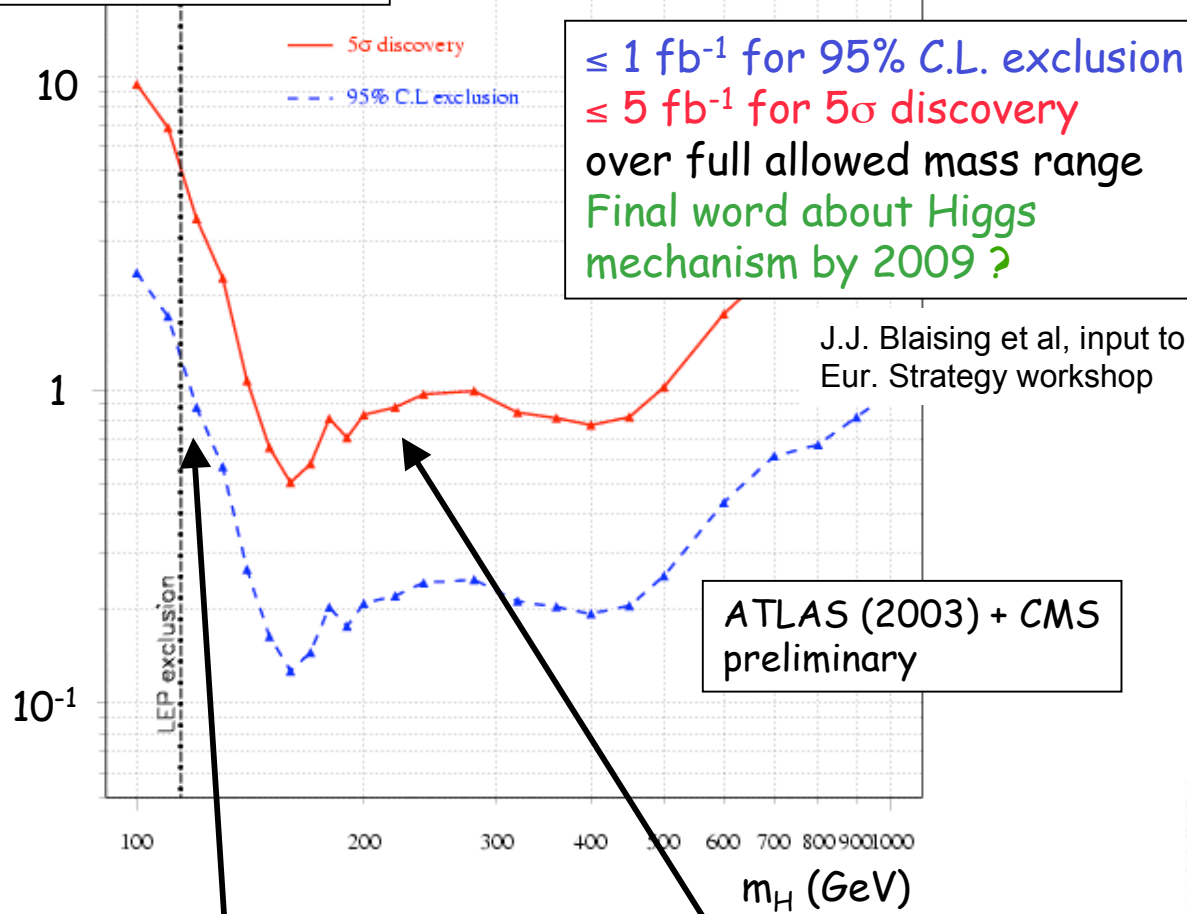
A more difficult case: a light Higgs ($m_H \sim 115-150$ GeV) ...



$m_H < 130$ GeV : $H \rightarrow bb, \tau\tau$ dominate
 → best search channels at the LHC : $qqH \rightarrow qq \tau\tau, H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma, ttH \rightarrow lbbX$
 $m_H > 130$ GeV : $H \rightarrow WW^{(*)}, ZZ^{(*)}$ dominate
 → best search channels at the LHC : $H \rightarrow ZZ^{(*)} \rightarrow 4l$ (gold-plated)
 $H \rightarrow WW^{(*)} \rightarrow l\nu l\nu$

Summary of Higgs discovery potential

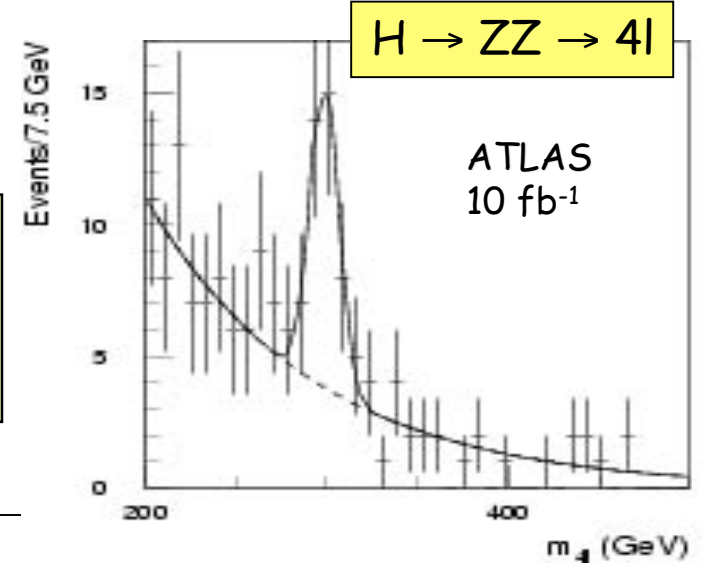
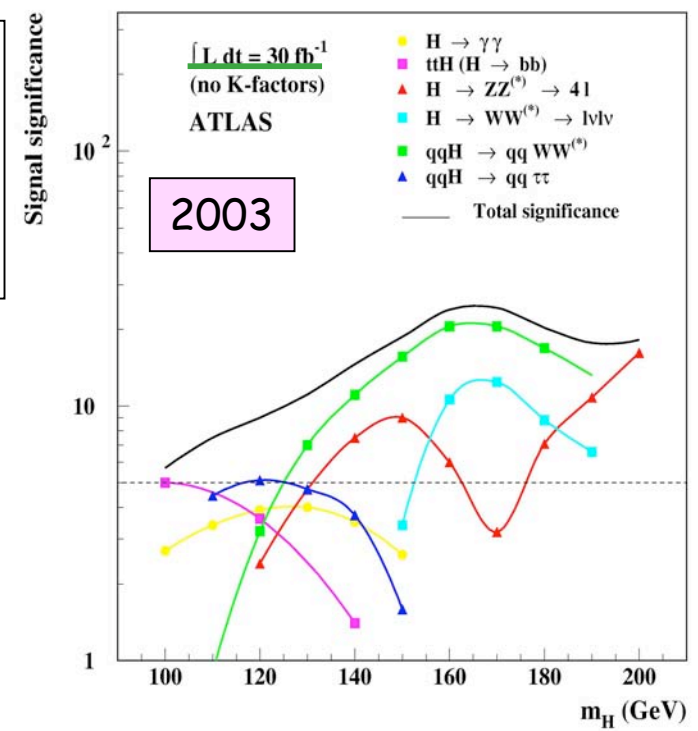
Needed $\int L dt$ (fb^{-1}) per experiment



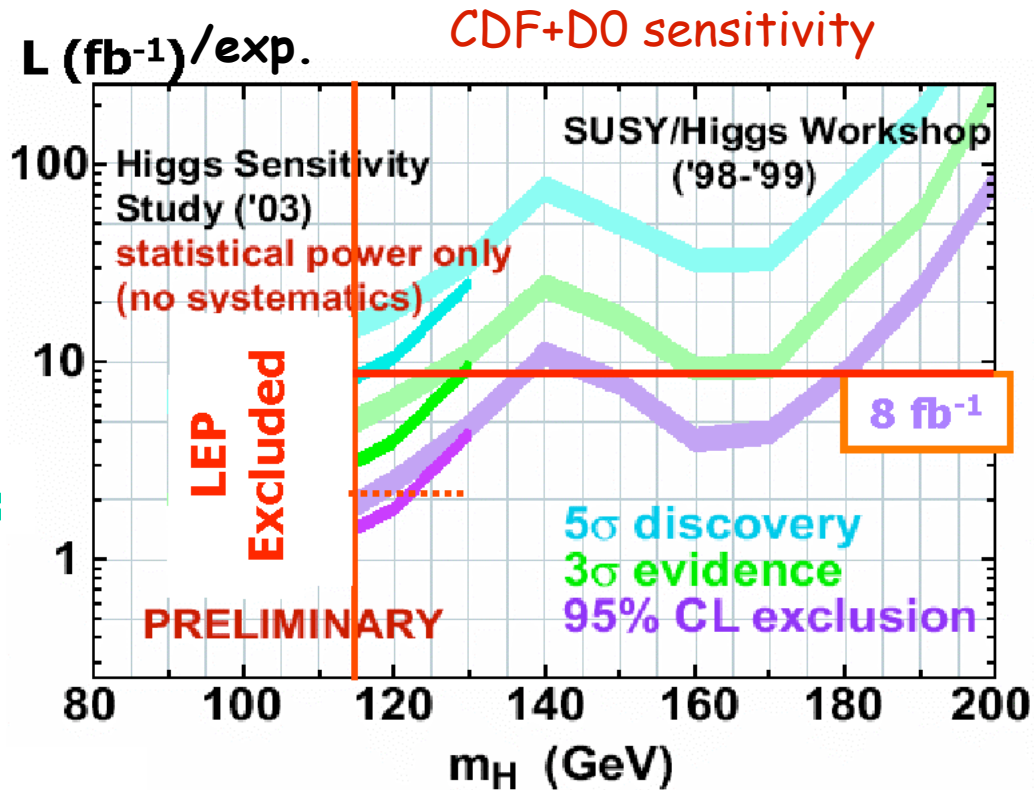
Most difficult region: need to combined many channels with small S/B

Here discovery easier with gold-plated $H \rightarrow ZZ \rightarrow 4l$ narrow mass peak, small background

If Higgs found, mass can be measured to 0.1%, couplings to $\sim 10\text{-}20\%$ \rightarrow useful insight into EWSB



What about the Tevatron ?



Today : ~ 3 fb⁻¹ /experiment
 2009: expect 6-7 fb⁻¹ /experiment
 Tevatron operation in 2010 being discussed

With 4 (8) fb⁻¹:
 ~no 5σ sensitivity
 3σ evidence up to 120 (130) GeV
 95% C.L. exclusion up to ~ 130 (180) GeV

competition between Tevatron and LHC
 in 2009 if m_H < 130 GeV ?

Conclusions

- Impressive achievements on the machine side over last months:
e.g. magnet installation completed, one full sector cooled down to 1.9 K,
many components tested, inner triplets repair progressing,
machine commissioning and operation plans better understood, etc.
- Revised LHC schedule foresees first collisions at 14 TeV in Summer 2008
- Luminosity projections: $6 \times 10^{30} - 10^{32}$ in 2008 $\rightarrow O(100 \text{ pb}^{-1})$?
 $10^{32} - 10^{33}$ in 2009 $\rightarrow \text{few fb}^{-1}$?



- **ATLAS detector installation in the underground cavern is almost completed → ATLAS ready to close the beam pipe in April 2008 (as requested by the LHC schedule)**
- **An intense test-beam campaign over the last decade has demonstrated that the detector behaves as expected.
These studies have also allowed validation and improvements of the software tools (simulation, reconstruction, etc.) with real data**
- **Cosmics data taking has started with the detector in its final position in the underground cavern → this commissioning effort will allow us to save time when first collisions will become available.**
- **A re-evaluation of the experiment's physics potential will be completed by the end of the year and documented in ATLAS notes.
The huge number of channels and scenarios studied demonstrate the detector sensitivity to many signatures → robustness, ability to cope with unexpected scenarios**

With the first collision data (1-100 pb⁻¹) at 14 TeV

Understand ATLAS detector performance in situ in the LHC environment, and perform first physics measurements:

- Measure particle multiplicity in minimum bias (a few hours of data taking ...)
- Measure QCD jet cross-section to ~ 30% ?
(Expect $>10^3$ events with $E_T(j) > 1$ TeV with 100 pb⁻¹)
- Measure W, Z cross-sections to 10% with 100 pb⁻¹?
- Observe a top signal with ~ 30 pb⁻¹
- Measure tt cross-section to 20% and m(top) to 10 GeV with 100 pb⁻¹ ?
- Improve knowledge of PDF (low-x gluons !) with W/Z with O(100) pb⁻¹ ?
- First tuning of MC (minimum-bias, underlying event, tt, W/Z+jets, QCD jets,...)

And, more ambitiously:

- Discover SUSY up to gluino masses of ~ 1.3 TeV ?
- Discover a Z' up to masses of ~ 1.3 TeV ?
- Surprises ?

With more time and more data

The LHC will explore in detail the highly-motivated TeV-scale with a direct discovery potential up to $m \approx 5-6$ TeV

- if New Physics is there, the LHC should find it
- it will say the final word about the SM Higgs mechanism and many TeV-scale predictions
- it may add crucial pieces to our knowledge of fundamental physics → impact also on astroparticle physics and cosmology
- most importantly: it will likely tell us which are the right questions to ask, and how to go on

This will be the best reward for 20 years of efforts to conceive and build a machine and detectors of unprecedented performance, complexity and technology