ALICE A Large Ion Collider Experiment

Looking for what ?: The 'State of Matter' at the LHC

- Looking back: The making of ALICE 1990-2007
- Looking forward: First physics with pp and Pb-Pb





A Brief History of Hadron Accelerators

Particle Physics: energy doubling time ~ 4 years

Heavy Ion Physics: doubling time ~ 2 years

- ⇒ starting around 1980 at Bevalac/LBNL
 - a few dozen physicists mostly from US, Germany, Japan
- \Rightarrow energy increase by factor 10⁴ in ~ 30 years with LHC in 2008
 - > 2000 physicists active worldwide today

Possible mostly by (re-) using particle physics machines.

Field went from the periphery into a central activity of contemporary Nuclear Physics.



Total center-of-mass energy versus time









the phase transition from lattice QCD

- $\epsilon \sim T^4$ $\epsilon (\tau=1 \text{ fm/c}) \sim dN/dy \sim \ln(\sqrt{s})$
- \Rightarrow T/T_c 0.9 -> 1.1 => factor ~2 in ε => factor ~ 9 in \sqrt{s}

(SPS -> RHIC)

⇒ we <u>need</u> big factors in energy to cover the QCD phase diagram











Assumption: 'QGP' has been produced at RHIC/SPS prior to LHC

- ⇒ **Search** for the 'QGP' is essentially over
- ⇒ **Discovery** of QGP is well under way (with fantastic results & surprises at RHIC)
- ⇒ Measuring QGP parameters has just begun
- pre-RHIC tasks:

'precision' measurements

continue discovery !

- quantitative and systematic study of this state of matter (' LEP after W/Z discovery at SppS')
 - different state (by large factors) in <u>energy density</u>, <u>lifetime</u>, <u>volume</u>
 new signals ('hard probes') : heavy quark states (b,c), jets

post – RHIC result tasks:

- ⇒ confirm interpretations by testing predictions/extrapolation to LHC
- ⇒ transition from strongly coupled QGP -> ideal QGP ?

surprises may still lie ahead <u>more to search for ?</u>

- ⇒ is initial state dominated by yet another new state of matter (dense quantum state) ?
 - Color Glass Condensate ? (QCD in classical Field Theory limit)





BIG Step ahead: SPS x 13 RHIC x 28 LHC

Iong distance QCD is difficult to predict

Predictions are notoriously difficult, in particular if they concern the future...

- ⇒ Theory well known, not so its consequences or manifestation
- HEP@LHC: Theory unknown, but each candidate makes precise predictions

several surprises (both + and -) at SPS and RHIC

- RHIC: large elliptic flow, 'baryon anomaly', very large jet-quenching
 - 'QGP' is not a weakly interacting plasma, but behaves like an 'ideal fluid'
- ⇒ SPS, RHIC: no strong event-by-event fluctuations (for 1st order phase transition)

Iesson when preparing for LHC

⇒ guided by theory and expectations, but stay open minded !

'conventional wisdom'

⇒ **soft physics**: smooth extrapolation of SPS/RHIC

necessary, but boring ???

⇒ hard physics: new domain at LHC





8



Pre-History

- ⇒ early 80's: Large <u>Hadron-Collider</u> pp machine in LEP tunnel (Lausanne WS)
- ⇒ 1986: start of heavy ion physics at SPS & AGS (light ions, ¹⁶O and ³²S)
- ⇒ **1987:** La Thuile WS to choose next CERN project (pp, ep, e⁺e⁻)
 - ✿ first mention of LHC as Large-Hadron Collider (large hadron = ²⁰⁸Pb)

Conceptual Studies

- ⇒ 1990: RHIC approved for construction at BNL; call for experiments LoI
- ⇒ 1990: First ideas developed for HI@LHC (LHC WS, Aachen)
 - Conclusion Theory (Convener H. Satz)

'Heavy Ion Collider best possible tool for statistical QCD.

LHC is unique in many respects'

Conclusion Experiment (Convener H.J. Specht)

'A general purpose detector for all observables seemed impossible at LHC. Actually, such a **detector** concept **could be developed**'

- ⇒ 1992: Expression of Interest (Evian)
 - O 1) re-use of modified LEP experiment (Delphi): impossible
 - 2) use of pp experiment (CMS): seemed possible for selected hard signals (μμ)
- 3) dedicated general purpose HI detector => ALICE



Evian Workshop 1992





29/11/2007 CERN J. Schukraft



The Making of ALICE



Design and R&D

- ⇒ 1993: Letter of Intent (central detector) 230 people, 42 Inst.
 - LHCC requests to add dimuon spectrometer
- ⇒ 1995: Technical Proposal <u>ALICE approved in 1997</u>
 - 1996 TP Addendum 1: add muon spectrometer
 - 1999 TP Addendum 2: add electron-spectrometer (TRD)
 - ✿ 2006 TP Addendum 3: add jet calorimeter (EMCAL)
 - !! ALICE upgrades underway continuously since 1996 !!
- ⇒ 1998 2005: Technical Design Reports

Construction

- ⇒ 2000 2007: Bulk of construction
 - finished by 2010/11 (EMCAL)
- Installation, commissioning
 - ⇒ **2002-2005:** mechanical structures, magnets
 - ⇒ 2006 early 2008: detectors, services, cables
 - ⇒ 2007 first beam: detector commissioning in situ











Experimental Constraints

⇒ extreme particle density

$$(dN_{ch}/d\eta \sim 2000 - 8000)$$

(< 1/1000 of pp@10³⁴)

- x 500 compared to pp@LHC; x 30 compared to ³²S@SPS
- \Rightarrow large dynamic range in p_t:
 - from very soft (0.1 GeV) to fairly hard (100 GeV)
- ⇒ both partons & hadrons matter: hadrons are part of the signal, not of the problem
 - secondary vertices, lepton ID, hadron ID
- ➡ modest Luminosity and interaction rates
 - 10 kHZ (Pb-Pb) to 300 kHZ (pp)

Experimental Solutions

- \Rightarrow dN_{ch}/d η : high granularity, 3D detectors, large distance to vertex
 - emcal at 4.5 m (typical is 1-2 m !)
- ⇒ p_t coverage: thin det, modest field (low p_t), large lever arm + resolution (large p_t)
 ⇒ ALICE: < 10%X₀ in r < 2.5 m (typical is 50-100%X₀), B= 0.5T, BL² ~ like CMS !
- ⇒ possible magnet configurations: 1) open 2) small and very thin 3) very large
- ⇒ **PID**: use of essentially all known technologies
 - dE/dx, Cherenkov & transition rad., TOF, calorimeters, muon filter, topological,
- 11 ⇒ rate: allows slow detectors (TPC, SDD), moderate radiation hardness 29/11/2007 CERN J. Schukraft





Challenges for the Heavy Ion community in early '90's

- ⇒ huge extrapolation from SPS to LHC
 - x 7 in mass, x 300 in energy
 - Sector large uncertainties in what to expect
- ⇒ limited experience in building large detectors
 - 'pilot' detectors (1986- 1990) assembled largely from existing detectors

NA10 -> NA38, Omega spectrometer -> WA85

ISR calorimeters -> NA34, NA9 streamer chamber + NA24 +UA1 -> NA35

 no previous example of a truly 'general pur
 AGS/SPS/RHIC: handful of complementa
 significant conceptual (& sociological) cha all observables & people in a si
 resources (money and people) incredibly s
 ongoing data analysis of SPS light ion pro
 building 2nd generation experiments for S
 RHIC approved in 1990, dedicated to HI,
 little left for LHC preparations...

 NA35 64 TeV
 ³²S+Au

(³²S at 20 GeV -> ²⁰⁸Pb at 5500 GeV)

(3 GeV Adone -> 1 TeV ILC)



Early ALICE Designs







Lol Detector (1993)











2 muon arms + assorted forward detectors (later outsourced to 'Felix' proposal)

ALICE WITH MUON ARM LAYOUT











ALICE Collaboration



29/11/2007 CERN J. Schukraft



The Life of Collider Experiments





Paper and Committee work..





ALICE R&D



1990-1998:Strong, well organized, well funded R&D activity



R&D: Time of Flight Detectors



aim: state-of-the-art TOF at ~1/10 current price !

- \Rightarrow requirements: area > 150 m², channels ~ 150,000, resolution σ < 100 ps
- ⇒ existing solution: scintillator + PM, cost > 150 MSF !
 - R&D on cheaper fast PM's failed

gas TOF counters + VLSI FEE

▷ Pestov Spark Counter (PSC) HIGH TEC

- ${\odot}$ 100 μm gap, > 5 kV HV, 12 bar, sophisticated gas
- σ < 50 ps, but only (!) ~ 1/5 cost
- technology & materials VERY challenging
- ⇒ Parallel Plate Chamber (PPC) LOW TEC
 - 1.2 mm gap, 1 bar, simple gas & materials
 - 1/10 cost, but only σ = 250 ps
 - unstable operation, small signal
- ⇒ Multigap Resistive Plate Chambers (MRPC)
 - breakthrough end 1998 after > 5 years of R&D !
 - many small gaps (10x250 μm), 1 bar, simple gas & materials
 - $\circ \sim 1/10 \text{ cost}, \sigma < 100 \text{ ps}$, simple construction & operation,...

<u>found immediate wide use:</u> HARP, STAR,PHENIX, HADES/CBM@GSI,.. option for time-stamping at ILC/CLIC







R&D: Muon Absorber



Muon Absorber:

- ⇒ minimize punchthrough & multiple scattering for muons
 - 'standard' task, well known and simulated
- ⇒ <u>crucial</u>: minimize side leakage into TPC/muon chambers
 - involves low energy processes (*n* transport, (n, γ) , nuclear reactions..)
- ⇒ engineering challenges (heavy & long, cantilever support, contains fragile beampipe, ..)

Design effort 1994 - 2002: 2 teams (CERN, Sarov)

- ⇒ 3 independent simulation programs (FLUKA, GEANT, C90)
- ⇒ 2 beamtests (p, Pb) to validate simulation & chamber response





Muon Ak Aluminum from Armenia

Steel cone from Finland

Concrete from **France**, Engineering & Supervision by **CERN** Design by **Russia** (Sarov/ISTC)

Graphite & Steel from India





ALICE in Pictures













Prototyping

➡ Infrastructure/Supports/Magnets

Detector Construction

Detectors

➡ TPC, …





































RICH proto-2: Sabbatical at RHIC







Full Size Prototypes











ALICE in Pictures







Production Start in 2000







Tracking Challenge





FPC – at the Heart of ALICE



Iargest TPC

 I = 5 m, Ø = 5.6m, ~90 m³, ~ 20 tons 570 k channels, 500 x 10⁶ space-time pixels up to 80 Mbyte/event (after 0 suppression)
 Field cage
 readout chamber
 readout chamber
 readout chamber
 y very thin & lightweight FC ~3% X₀

○ ~3 mm Al, only 5x more than the drift gas !

- very delicate & fragile
- ⇒ high track density & small space charge
 - o drift gas, chamber lay-out, field strips, ...
 - HV=100 kV (400V/cm), temperature sensitive $\Delta t < 0.1^{\circ}$ C
- ⇒ novel digital electronics (ALTRO)
 - highly integrated, digital shaping + many other features

drift gas Ne - CO₂ – N₂ (86/9/5)





TPC Field Cage










TPC Chambers







FEE installation









First TPC Tracks













2002: FEE production problems ~ 1 year several ALICE/Alas chips in 0.25 µ rad hard technology

Worries & Mishaps .. 🏈





2002: Corrosion in L3 cooling circuits endoscope picture



2003: Transport of µ-magnet iron delayed by 10 months ! (transport > construction)





ALICE in Pictures











Installation of Large Structures



2002: Modifying L3 doors











Transport & Heavy Handling











Muon Magnet Coils





Sept 2003: Arrival of Dipole Coils after 'Tour de France'



Muon Tracking Chambers (July 06)







HMPID (Sept '06)





First TRD supermodule (Oct '06)





Russian Dolls I: Moving of the ITS over the SPD





Russian Dolls II: Moving of theTPC over ITS/ SPD









Commissioning



individual (groups of) detectors 'in situ' from the ACR

- 1) individual detector operation (LV, HV, gas, cooling, FEE)
- 2) integration with online systems (DAQ/HLT/Trigger/DCS/ECS)
- 3) operation of several detectors together
- 'global commissioning' with cosmics
 - ⇒ 10-21 Dec, 4 weeks in February, April -> first beam

includes detector calibration and alignment





Looking Forward to Physics



expected start-up configuration mid 2008

• complete: ITS, TPC, TOF, HMPID, muons, PMD, V0, T0, ZDC, Acorde,... partially complete: TRD (25%), EMCAL (0%), DAQ/HLT (30%), PHOS(60%) ⇒ complete ALICE: TRD (2009), DAQ/HLT(2009), PHOS (2010), EMCAL (2010/11)

Physics of the first 'year'...

 \Rightarrow 'day 1' physics in 2008 with pp: requiring only subset of detectors, few 10,000 events \Rightarrow 'early pp physics' 2008/2009:

⇒ first heavy ion run



global event properties (0.9/14 TeV)

detailed studies of pp

'at the end of the first long pp run'



QCD at 14 TeV



ALICE physics with pp

- ➡ Taking 'comparison data' for the heavy ion program
 - ${\rm o}$ eg: J/ ${\rm \Psi}$ suppression in AA requires measuring J/ ${\rm \Psi}$ production in pp
- ⇒ Survey and characterization of typical ('Minimum Bias') events
 - multiplicity, p_t distribution, particle composition,
 - Sector States => tuning of Monte Carlo generators (which differ widely)
 - => evaluate background & detect. performance
- ⇒ Specific QCD measurements for which ALICE is particularly well suited
 - signals involving **PID** eg 'baryon transport: how are the beam protons decelerated'
 - O low x-physics, charm & beauty production at low pt,...





Heavy Ions: 'The First 3 Minutes'

0.08

0.06

0.04

0.02

- Minimum Statistics needed:
 - ⇒ 6366 MB (382 central) events
 - ⇒ few seconds at 1% design L

• RHIC in 2000: first collisions June 12

- \Rightarrow 1st paper July 19, dNch/d η , excluding 90% of predictions
 - O 2nd: Aug 24, 22k MB events, flow surprise (v₂)
- ⇒ ~ 3 weeks run, very low L, > 10 PRL's within < 1 year
 - RHIC was commissioned with HI !

• SPS in 1986

⇒ first spectrum 1 week before start of HI run !

- LHC: first short run at very low Lum
 - global properties & hadronic observables particle ratios & spectra, HBT, flow,
 - Thermodynamics & Hydrodynamics












Common Questions

⇒ generation of mass

- elementary particles => Higgs
- composite particles => QGP
- ⇒ broken symmetries
 - **SuperSymmetry**: matter <=> forces
 - ChiralSymmetry: matter <=> QCD vacuum
 - **CP Symmetry:** matter <=> antimatter

Different Approaches

- 'Concentrated Energy' => new high mass particles

⇒ 'Borrowed Energy'

=> indirect effects of virtual high mass particles





Summary



LHC is the ultimate machine for Heavy Ion Collisions

- ⇒ very significant step beyond RHIC
- ⇒ excellent conditions for experiment & theory (QCD)

ALICE is getting ready

- ⇒ first truly general purpose HI experiment
 - addresses most relevant observables: from super-soft to ultra-hard
- ⇒ many evolutionary developments
 - SSD, SDD, TPC, em cal, ...
- ⇒ some big advances in technology
 - electronics, pixels, TOF, computing

ALICE is looking forward to exploit this unique combination .. In 2008 !!

