# What does a Higgs boson eat during the winter ...and other essential details



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#### **CERN**

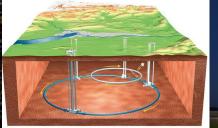
- **# European Laboratory for Particle Physics**
- # 12000 scientists of 99 different nationalities
- **#** Financed by European countries
- # Many other countries participate in various projects
  Canada, United States, Japan, Israel, India, Pakistan etc.

#### **# Common goal: find out what matter is made of**







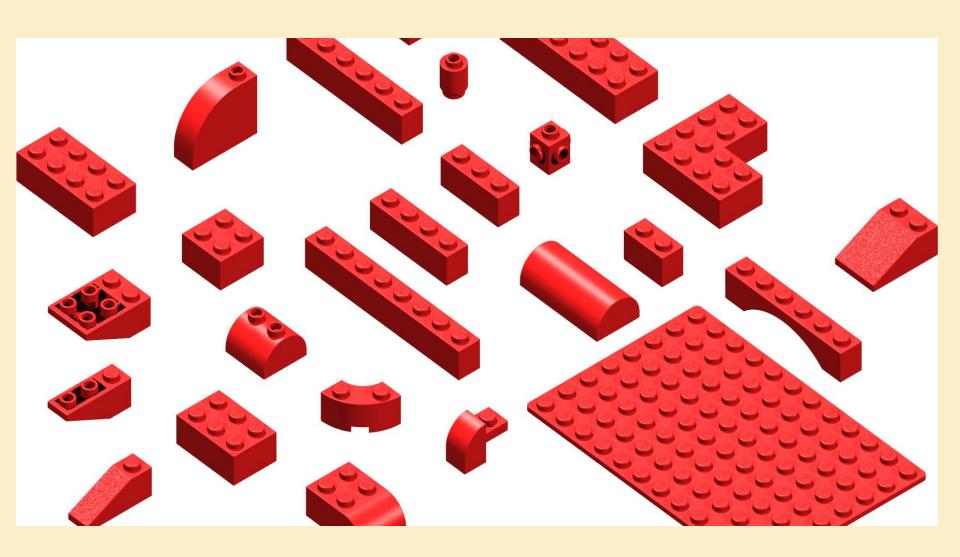




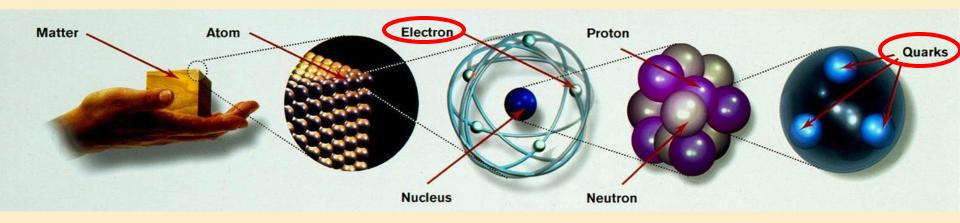
# The Legoland version of Copenhagen



#### At Legoland, here is what fundamental particles look like



#### What are the smallest building blocks of matter?

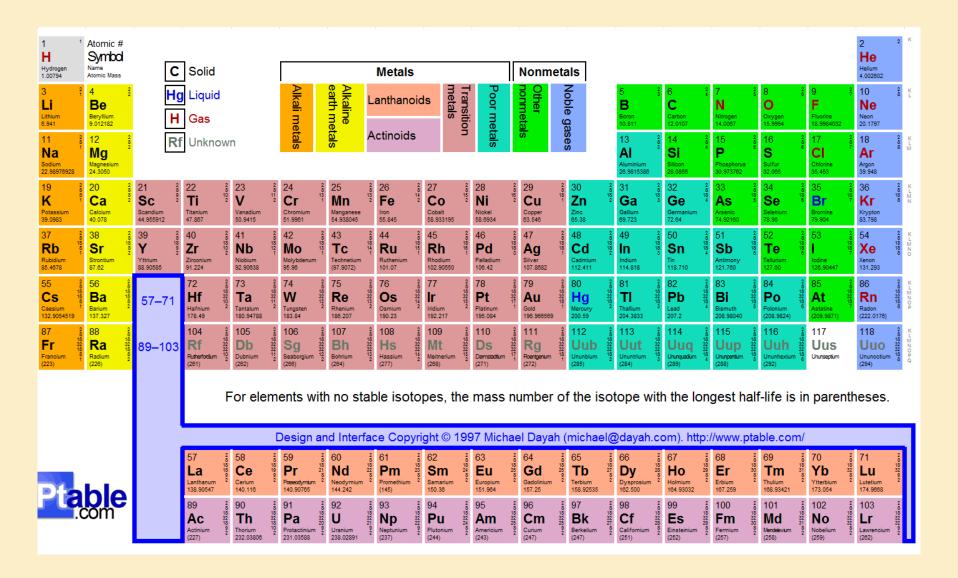


The only fundamental particles here are electrons and quarks

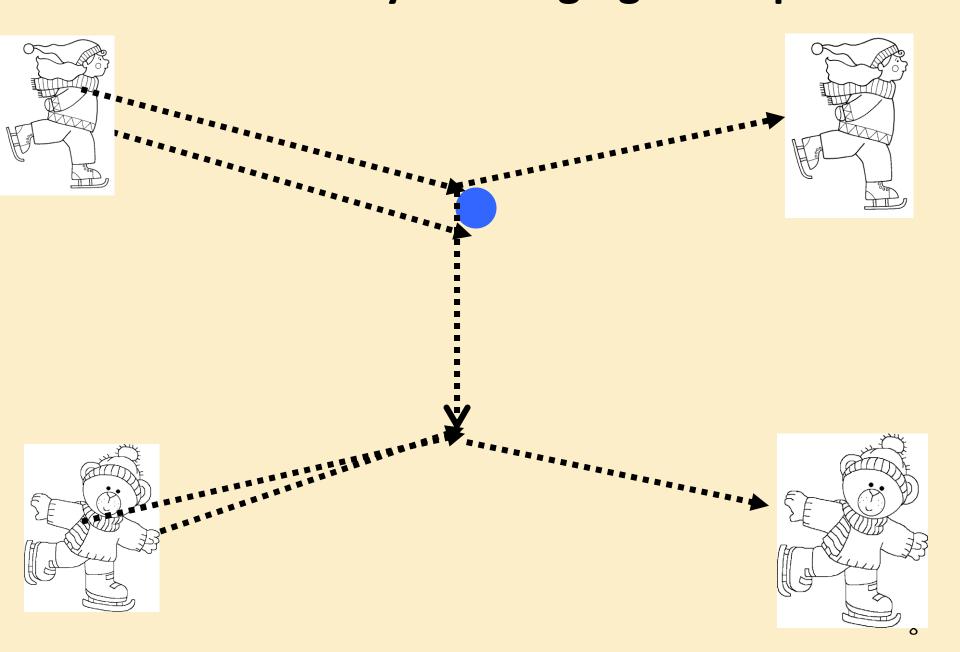
#### Protons and neutrons are made of quarks

Up: 6 (charge +2/3) and down quarks: (charge -1/3)

### That's all you need to form all elements

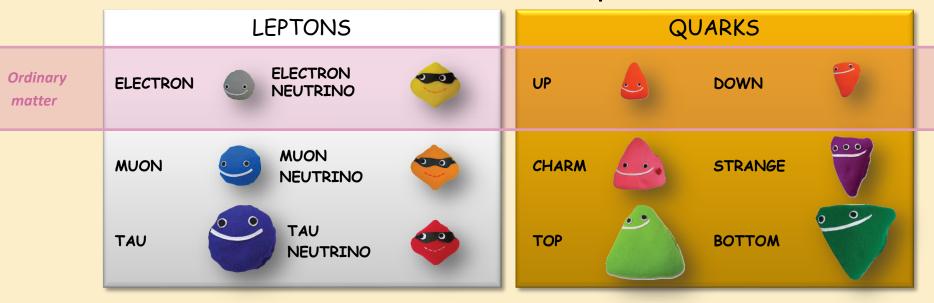


# Particles interact by exchanging other particles



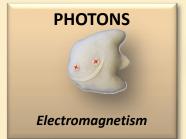
#### **The Standard Model**

1. All matter is made of fundamental particles



2. Exchange particles called bosons are associated to forces











#### Major problem with the equations

The Standard Model only predicted massless particles



But we knew that the W<sup>+</sup>, W<sup>-</sup> and Z<sup>0</sup> bosons had a mass



How could the equations of the Standard Model generate massive particles?

#### Modify the equations of the Standard Model

In 1964, several theorists proposed a mecanism that would explain how particles could acquire mass



Tom Kibble, Gerald Guralnik, Carl Hagen, François Englert, Robert Brout, Peter Higgs

# To generate mass, we need:

#### 1. The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism

A mathematical description

#### 2. The Higgs field

A real physical entity corresponding to this mechanism

#### 3. The Higgs boson

The materialisation or proof of existence of all that

# 1. The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism

Theory predicted 4 massless bosons









The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism breaks this symmetry by remixing everything after injecting 3 fictitious particles



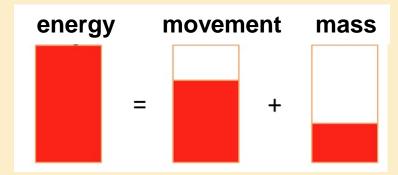
	Mass in GeV	Electric charge
photon	0	0
W <sup>+</sup>	80.4 GeV	+1
W-	80.4 GeV	-1
$Z^0$	91.2 GeV	0

• <u>Mass</u>
In physics, mass is
resistance to movement



<u>E= m c<sup>2</sup></u>
 Energy and Mass are equivalent

Energy conservation
 Energy can take several forms
 but its sum is always conserved

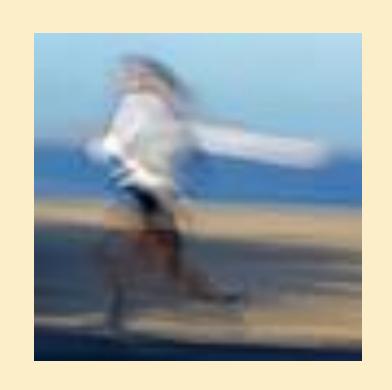


#### 2. The Higgs field

# Running on the beach, light and free like air

# Then running in water

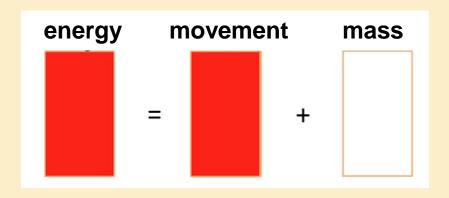
**# You get the impression of getting sluggish** 



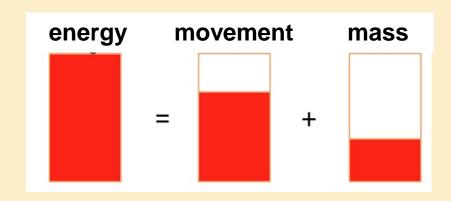
With the Higgs field, it is as if the whole space is viscous

#### 2. How does the Higgs field generate mass

Empty space, without a Higgs field B



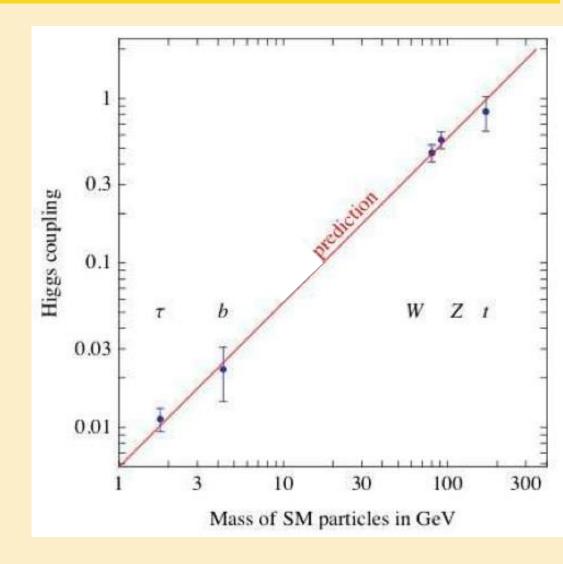




# The Higgs field gives mass without dissipating energy

#### **How much mass?**

The more a particle interacts with the Higgs field, the more mass it gets



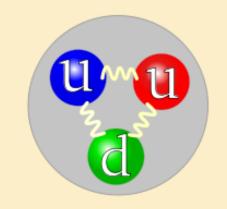


photon

#### The mass in matter

# Quarks mass: 11 MeV

# Proton mass: 938 MeV



99% of the proton mass comes from the binding energy given by the gluons



# To summarize, there are 3 aspects:

#### 1. A mathematical tool:

The Brout-Englert-Higgs mechanism:

Z<sup>0</sup> and W<sup>±</sup> get a mass but not photons



#### 2. A physical entity:

The Higgs field filled all space shortly after the Big Bang



#### 3. An excitation of the field:

The Higgs boson



# 3. The Higgs boson

The Higgs field → the surface of the ocean

The Higgs boson → a wave

Waves are excitations of the ocean surface We can create Higgs bosons by exciting the Higgs field

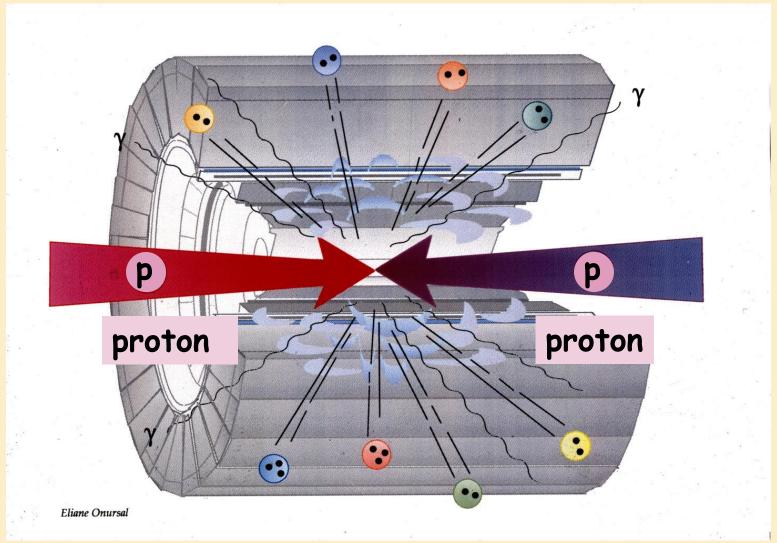
# How can we create a Higgs boson?

We need to concentrate a huge amount of energy in a small point in space – that's the role of the LHC





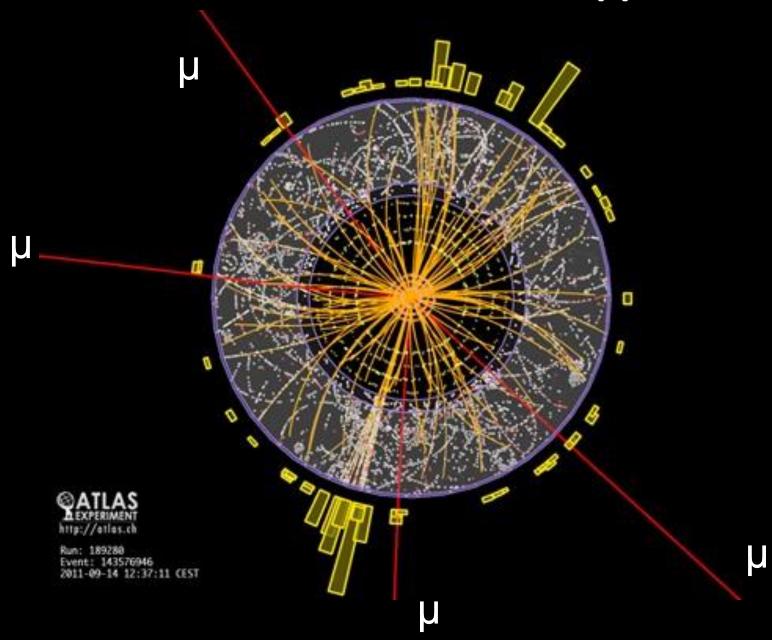
# The energy released during the collisions materialises to create particles: E=mc<sup>2</sup>

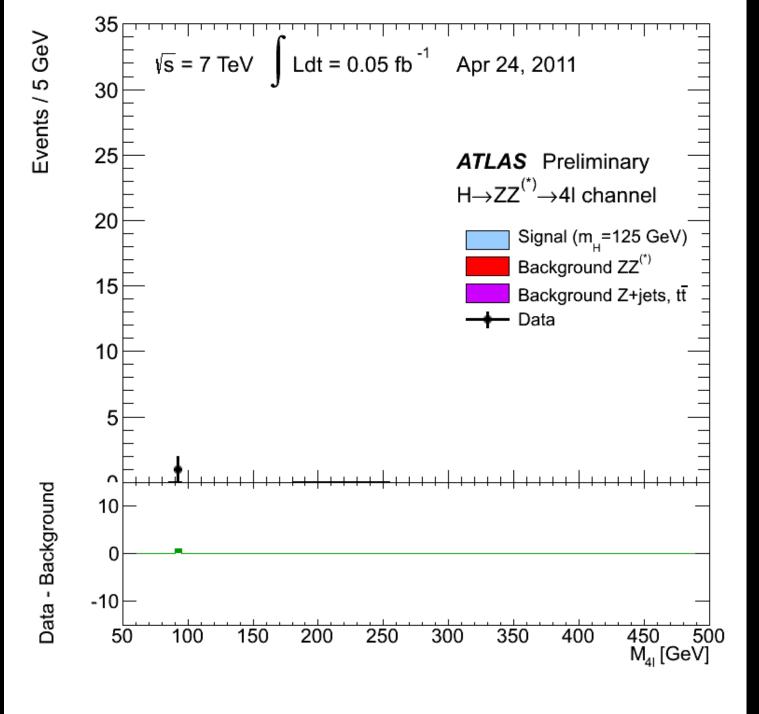


# Decay of a Higgs boson

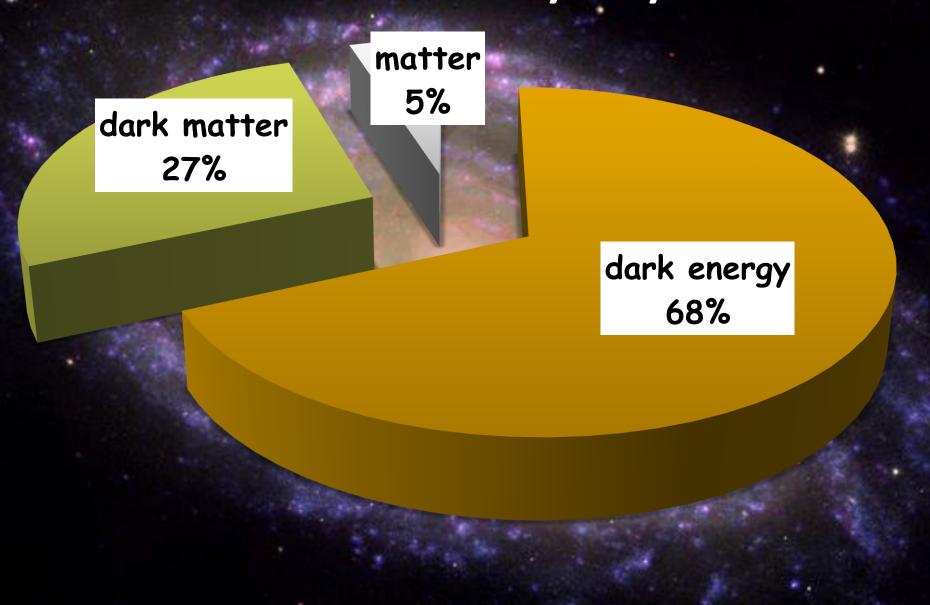


 $H \rightarrow ZZ$  or ZZ? Each  $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$ 



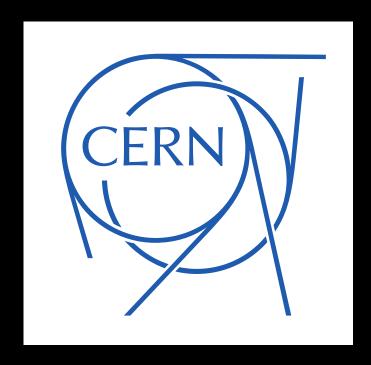


# **Dark matter mystery**



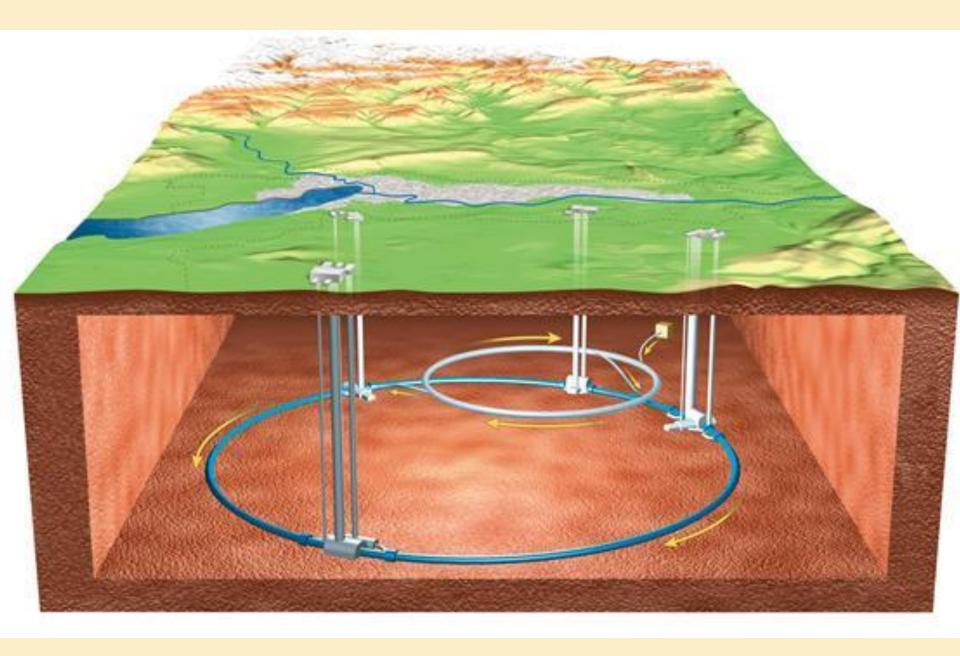


# Thank you for your visit

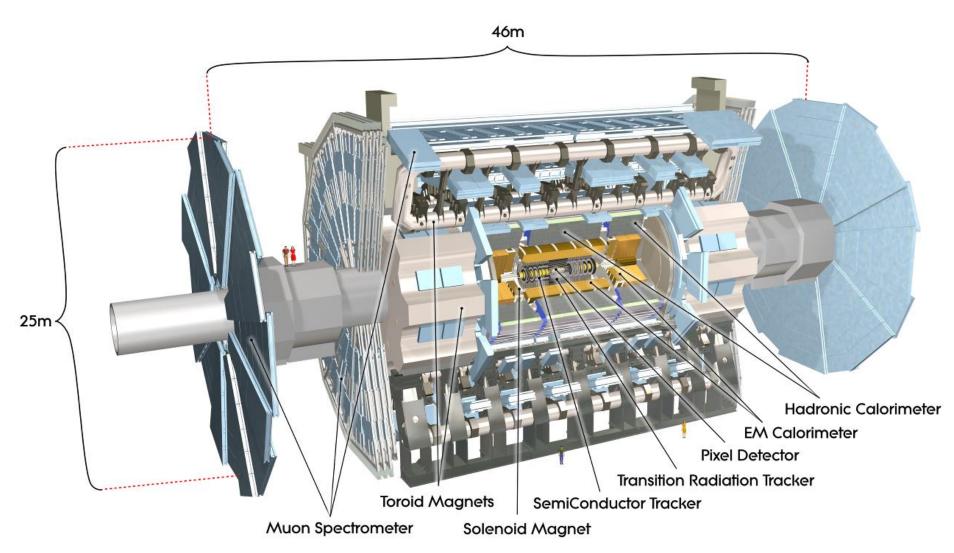


**Blogs on Quantum Diaries** 

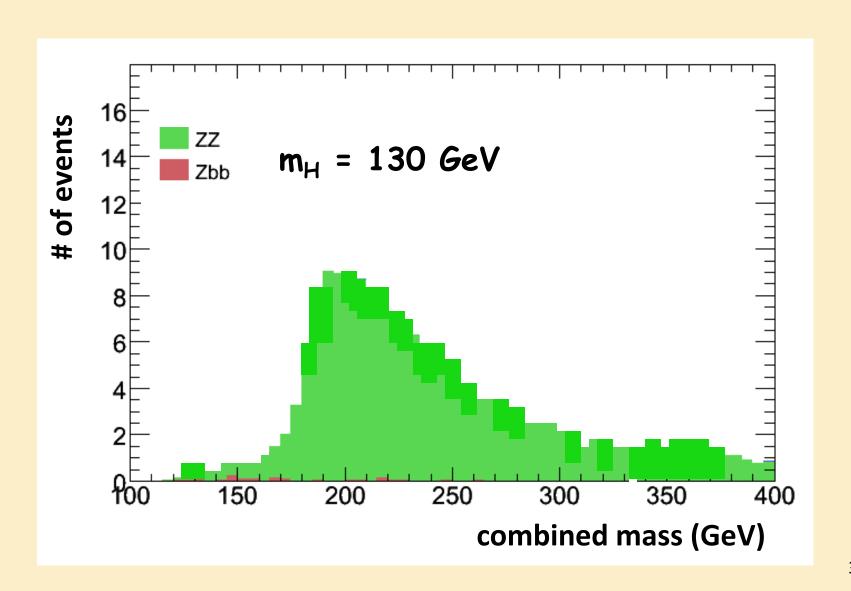
Pauline.Gagnon@cern.ch



# The ATLAS detector: a giant camera



# How to distinguish an event containing a Higgs boson from all other events?

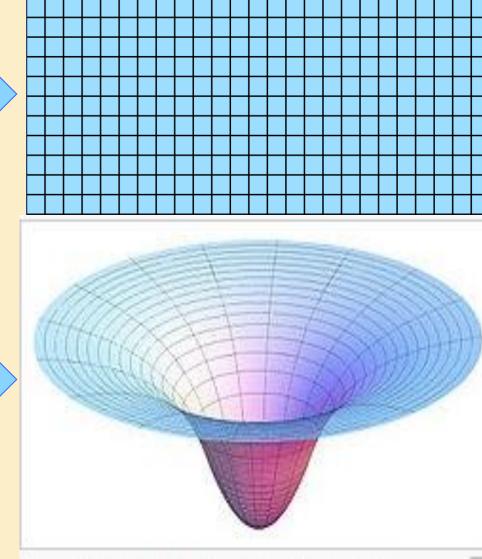


# **Example: The gravitational field**

#### In empty space:

- space-time is uniform
- light travels on a straight line

We do not see the gravitational fied but it affects everything, including light, passing near by



## **Great discovery**

