

The Data Preservation and Long Term Analysis in HEP

Thursday, March 26, 2009 10:00 AM (30 minutes)

The high energy physics experiments collect data over long periods of time and exploit this data to produce physics publications. The scientific potential of an experiment is in principle defined and exhausted during the collaboration lifetime. However, the continuous improvement of the scientific grounds like the theory, experiment, simulation, new ideas or unexpected discoveries may lead to the need to re-analyse the old data. Relevant examples of such analyses exist and are likely to become more frequent in the future. Indeed, while the experimental complexity and the associated costs have continuously increased, many of the present experiments, in particular the ones related to colliders, will provide unique data sets, not likely to be further improved in the near future. The physics motivation and the technological and strategical aspects of the data preservation will be discussed. A review of the present status will be presented, together with a recent collaborative effort towards the data preservation in high energy physics.

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Session Classification: Plenary

Track Classification: Plenary