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LHC Operation with Heavy Ions

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Pre-requisites for switching from p-p to Pb-Pb operation of the LHC (optics, controls, vacuum, instrumentation, etc.). Plan for commissioning the main rings with lead ions. Differences from p-p operation (RF, vacuum requirements, beam instrumentation, separation and optics in collision). Evolution of beam intensity, emittance and luminosity; effect of vacuum, the number of experiments illuminated, length of fills and any reduction in beam energy. Elucidation of performance limits (quenches from Pb⁸¹⁺, collimation) in the “Early Ion Scheme” and evolution to nominal luminosity.

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