

INTERNATIONAL MASTERCLASSES HANDS ON PARTICLE PHYSICS



Nantes



A bit of history and present status

1996: Started in UK

2005: Adopted by EPPOG (European Particle Physics Outreach Group) for all Europe
Use data from LEP (the Large Electron Positron collider, CERN, 1989-2000)

OPAL Identifying Particles

DELPHI Hands on CERN

Z⁰ decays / calculation of branching ratios

2006: U.S. joined program

2010: preparing to move to LHC-based Masterclasses

2011: Start using data from LHC

ATLAS W+W⁻ (MINERVA) structure of the proton

ATLAS Z⁰ (HYPATIA) mass, width (+Z' from MC)

CMS J/ψ (in 2011) and W/Z (in 2012)

ALICE Looking for strange particles (V⁰ decays)

ALICE Nuclear modification factor

LHCb Measurement of the D⁰ lifetime

Central organisation TU Dresden (Uta Bilow, Michael Kobel)



International Particle Physics Outreach Group



Home

Participate!

Schedule

My Country

Physics

Local Organisation

In the Media

Teachers and Educators

Archive

Contributors

Contact Us

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International Masterclasses

13th International Masterclasses 2017

Each year more than 10.000 high school students in 46 countries come to one of about 200 nearby universities or research centres for one day in order to unravel the mysteries of particle physics. Lectures from active scientists give insight in topics and methods of basic research at the fundamentals of matter and forces, enabling the students to perform measurements on real data from particle physics experiments themselves. At the end of each day, like in an international research collaboration, the participants join in a video conference for discussion and combination of their results. See [here](#) for media coverage.

International Masterclasses 2017 will take place from 1.3. - 11.4.2017.

Discover the world of Quarks and Leptons with real data



- get out of school for one day and come to a nearby university or research centre
- get insight into topics and methods of basic research at the fundamentals of matter and forces
- perform measurements on real data from particle physics experiments at CERN
- participate in an international video conference for discussion of results

A day of immersion in particle physics for 16-18 year old pupils

Typical day of International Masterclasses

Morning : introductory lectures on

- Particle physics (elementary particles, forces, Standard Model and beyond)
- Detectors – accelerators – experimental methods

Visit of laboratory / experimental site / discussion with scientists and graduate students

Lunch – typically offered by Host Institute

Afternoon : students do physics measurement

They work in groups of 2 per computer and analyse visually (in most cases) data from an LHC experiment

Summing of results of many groups – Discussion of results

At the end of the day : Video Conference

moderated by two physicists at CERN and connecting up to 5 institutes

presentation / merging/ discussion of results, answering questions, quiz

Video Conference

Often it is the highlights of the day

Presentation of the moderators

Welcome of the participating institutes

General questions from the participating institutes

Presentation of the results of the measurements by institutes

Merging of results by moderators

Comments and discussion

Quiz

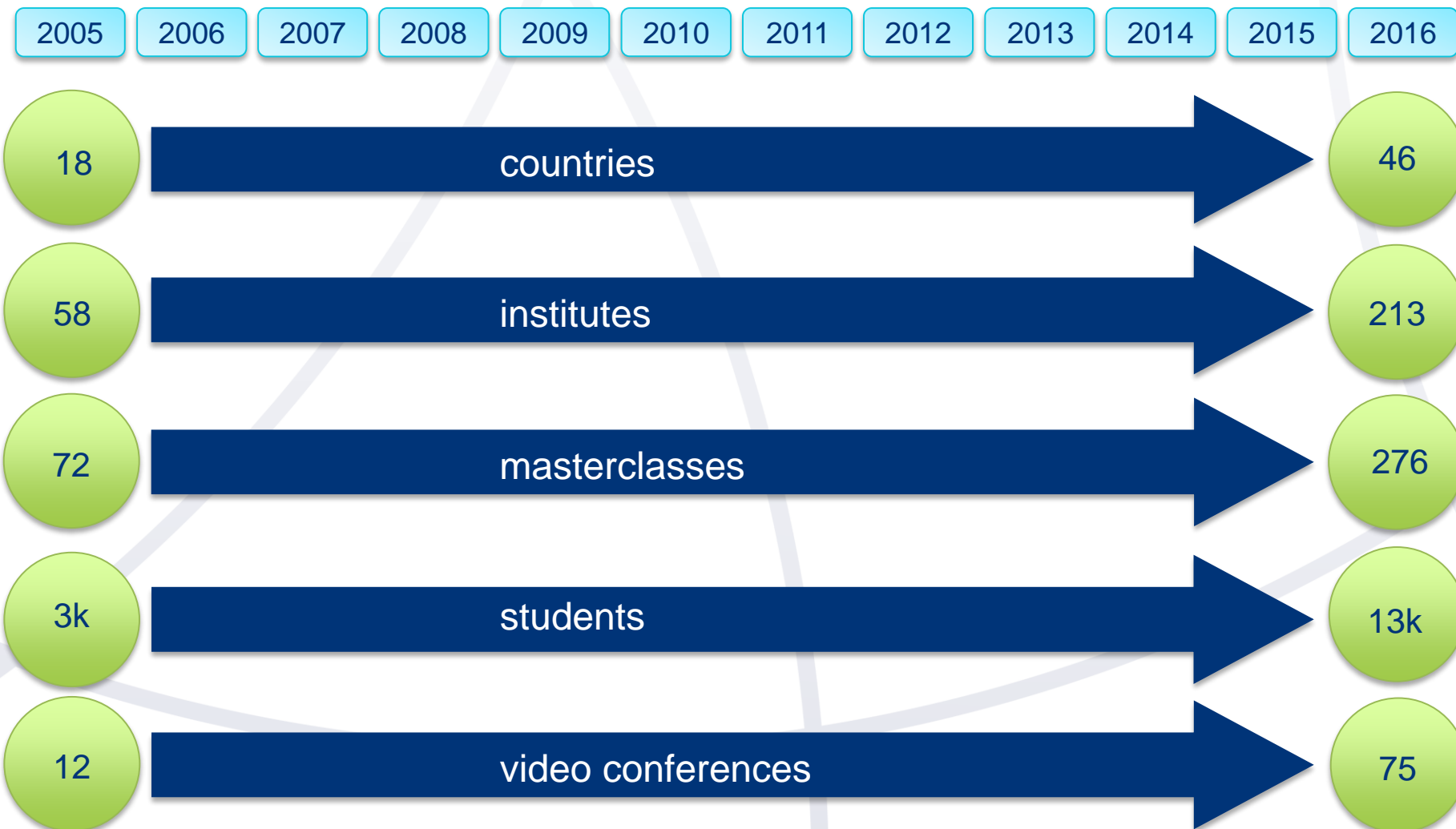
General appreciation of the International Masterclasses

Very positive

More countries participate every year

Statistics International Masterclasses

From Uta Bilow





- 11.2. - 23.3.2016
- 46 countries involved



Coord.: QuarkNet / TU Dresden

- 43 institutes
- 48 Masterclasses
 - 33 CMS
 - 15 ATLAS
- 21 video conf. with Fermilab
- 1,183 students (128 teachers)

- 169 institutes
- 228 Masterclasses
 - 125 ATLAS (42 W, 83 Z)
 - 49 CMS
 - 34 LHCb
 - 20 ALICE
- 54 video conf. with CERN
- 11,777 students (+1,098 teachers)

Some information

International Masterclasses are typically announced in October

In 2017 : 1 March – 11 April

Local organisation can differ from country to country:

In France, whole classes participate in a masterclass

In Greece and Germany : selected students (a few from each class)

Limiting factors :

Computer rooms available at Institutes

Number of institutes per video conference (maximum 5)

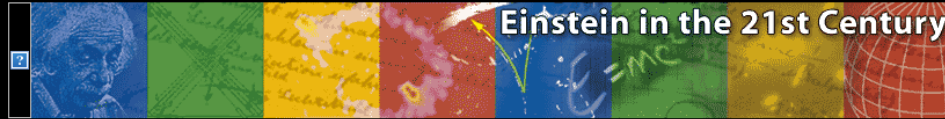
In Sweden : Masterclasses in Uppsala – Lund – Stockholm (in 2013) **ATLAS measurements**

IPPOG <http://ippog.web.cern.ch/>

International Masterclasses <http://physicsmasterclasses.org/>

This year :LHC World Wide Data Day launched – pilot run

<http://quarknet.i2u2.org/page/lhc-world-wide-data-day>



Main Menu

- [Installation](#)
- [Support Material](#)
- [Students section](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Instructions for the Institutes](#)
- [Description of Exercises](#)
 - [English](#)
 - [.doc](#)
 - [.pdf](#)
 - [Deutsch](#)
 - [.doc](#)
 - [.pdf](#)
 - [Français](#)
 - [.doc](#)
 - [.pdf](#)
 - [Italiano](#)
 - [.doc](#)
 - [.pdf](#)
 - [Czech](#)
 - [.doc](#)
 - [.pdf](#)
 - [Portugese](#)
 - [.doc](#)
 - [.pdf](#)

Looking for strange particles in ALICE

1. Overview

The exercise proposed here consists of a search for strange particles, produced from collisions at LHC and recorded by the ALICE experiment. It is based on the recognition of their V0-decays, such as $K_S^0 \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-$, $\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^-$ and cascades, such as $\Xi^- \rightarrow \Lambda + \pi^-$ ($\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^-$). The identification of the strange particles is based on the topology of their decay combined with the identification of the decay products; the information from the tracks is used to calculate the invariant mass of the decaying particle, as an additional confirmation of the particle species.

In what follows the ALICE experiment and its physics goals are first presented briefly, then the physics motivation for this analysis. The method used for the identification of strange particles as well as the tools are described in detail; then all the steps of the exercise are explained followed by the presentation of the results; then all the steps of the exercise are explained followed by the presentation of the results as well as the method of collecting and merging all results. In the end the large scale analysis is presented.

2. Introduction.

ALICE (A Large Ion Collider Experiment), one of the four large experiments at the CERN Large Hadron Collider, has been designed to study heavy ion collisions. It also studies proton proton collisions, which primarily provide reference data for the heavy ion collisions. In addition, the proton collision data allow for a number of genuine proton proton physics studies. The ALICE detector has been designed to cope with the highest particle multiplicities anticipated for collisions of lead nuclei at the extreme energies of the LHC.

3. The ALICE Physics

Quarks are bound together into protons and neutrons by a force known as the strong interaction, mediated by the exchange of force carrier particles called gluons. The strong interaction is also responsible for binding together the protons and neutrons inside atomic nuclei.

Even though we know that quarks are elementary particles that build up all known hadrons, no quark has ever been observed in isolation: the quarks, as well as the gluons, seem to be bound permanently together and confined inside composite particles, such as protons and neutrons. This is known as confinement. The exact mechanism that causes it remains unknown.

Although much of the physics of strong interaction is, today, well understood, two very basic issues remain unresolved: the origin of confinement and the mechanism of the generation of mass. Both are thought to arise from the way the properties of the vacuum are modified by strong interaction.

The current theory of the strong interaction (called Quantum Chromo-Dynamics) predicts that at very high temperatures and very high densities, quarks and gluons should no longer be confined inside composite particles. Instead they should exist freely in a new state of matter known as quark-gluon plasma.

<https://indico.cern.ch/event/579011/> : here you can find 4 short videos explaining the aim of the exercise and the use of the software tools for the first and second part

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