



An FPGA based track finder at Level 1 for CMS at the High Luminosity LHC



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tracker replacement essential at HL-LHC (post-2025)

- because of radiation damage and high pileup

additionally, Level 1 (hardware) trigger must be substantially upgraded

- $\langle \#interactions \rangle \sim 140 - 200$ (currently $\sim 20-40$)
- 750 kHz max accept rate (currently 100kHz)

Calorimeter Trigger issues

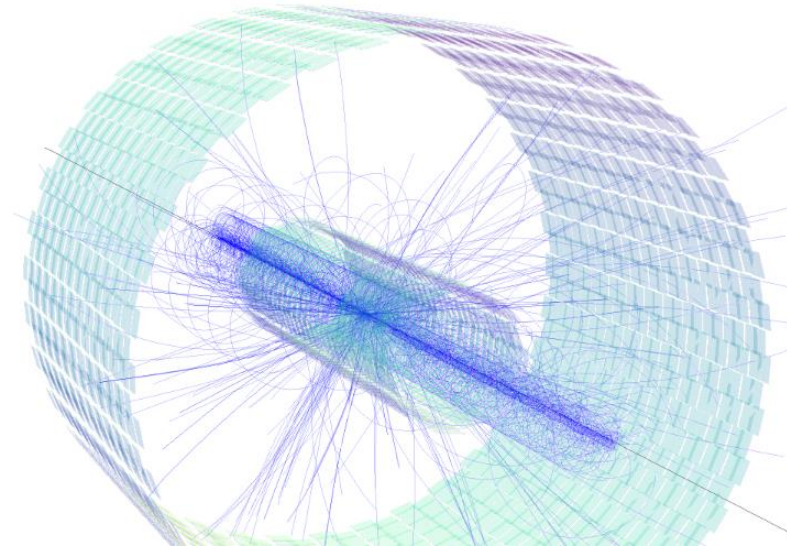
- isolation of $e/\gamma/\tau$ degraded by pileup
- many more jets, which overlap

Muon Trigger issues

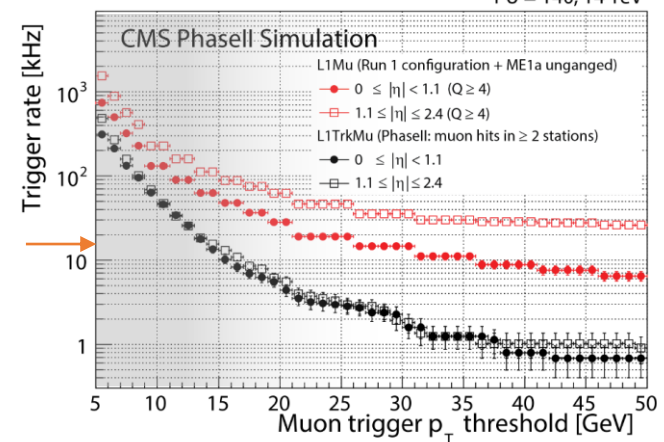
- increased combinatorial fakes, enhanced by multiple scattering

to control much higher rate of L1 trigger only significant new source of data will come from tracker

- CMS must access tracks at L1 to succeed at HL-LHC



muon trigger example

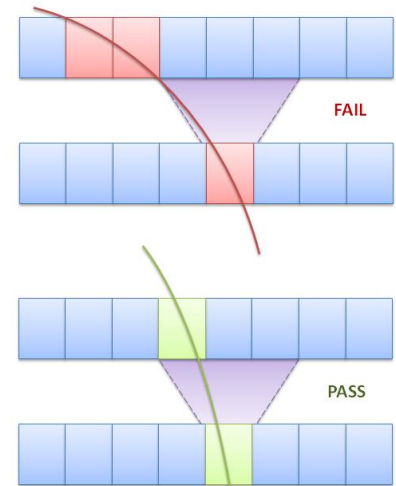
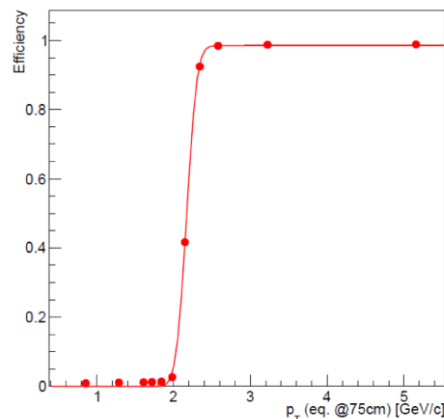
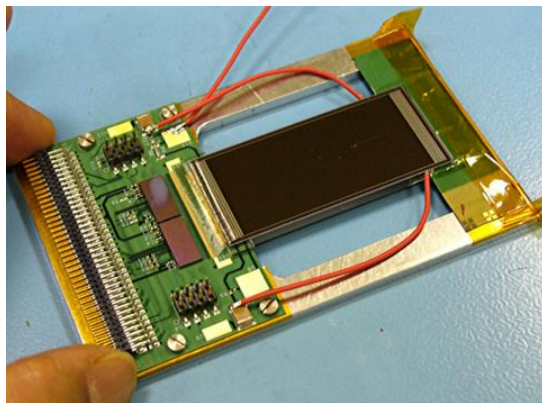
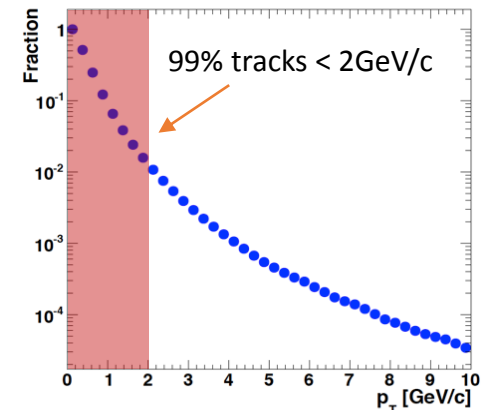


impossible to transfer all data off-detector for decision logic so **on-detector data reduction (or selective readout) essential**

- tracks with transverse momentum $< 2\text{GeV}/c$ not useful for triggering

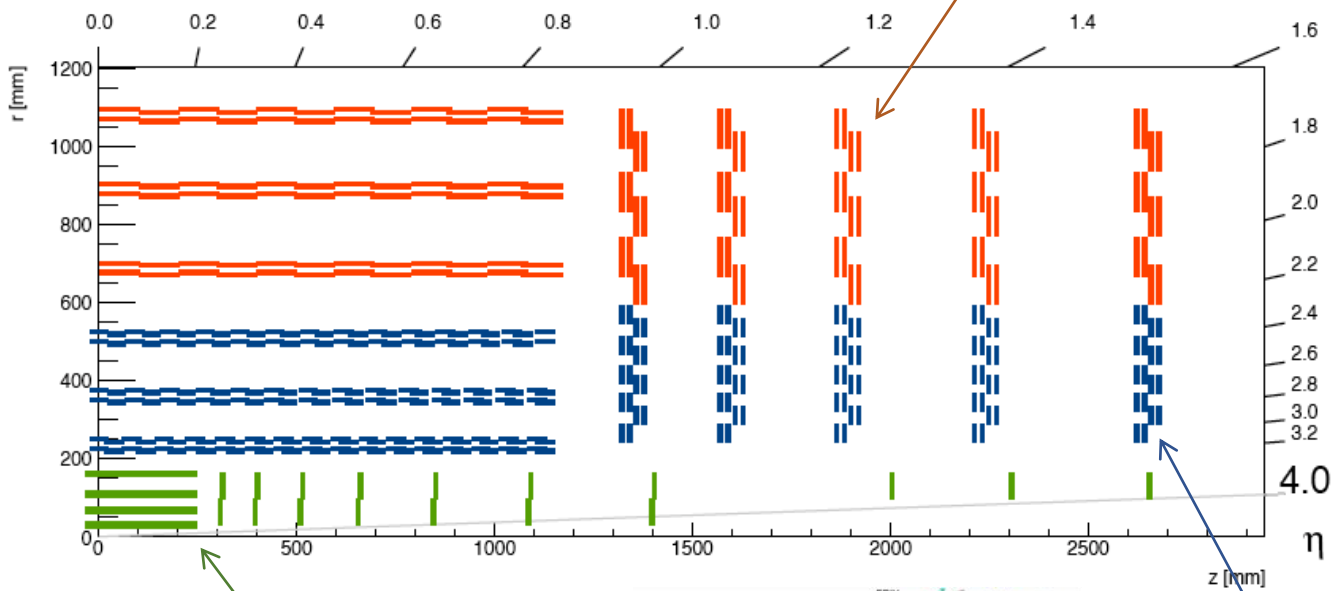
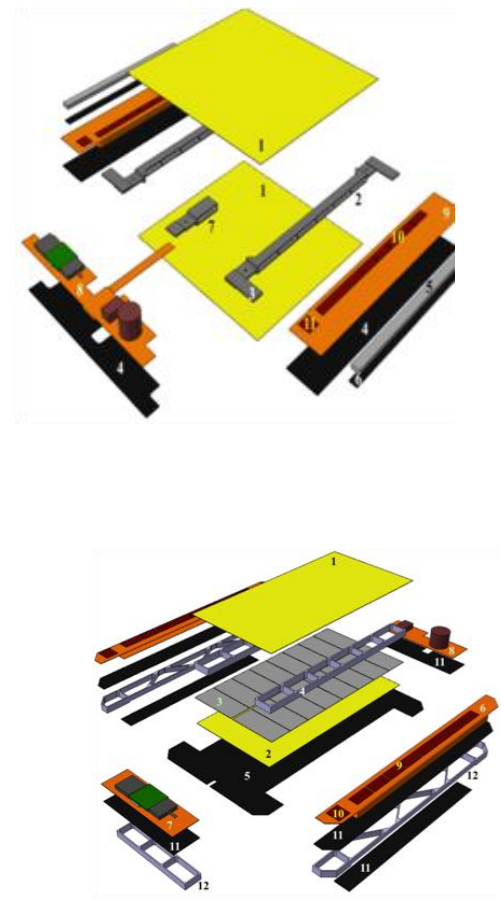
concept of stacked tracking

- modules made of closely spaced, $O(\text{mm})$ separated, sensors
- ASICs only forward hits detected on each sensor that lie within a pre-determined correlation window
- these **“stubs”** indicate presence of a crossing high p_T track



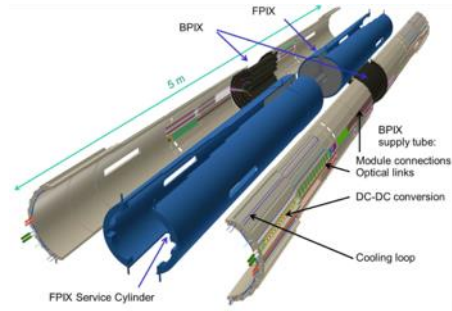
TWEPP2013 [Characterization of the CBC2 readout ASIC for the CMS strip-tracker high-luminosity upgrade](#)

Strip/Strip Modules
90 μm pitch/5 cm length



Strip/Pixel Modules
100 μm pitch/2.5 cm length
100 μm x 1.5 mm “macropixels”

Inner Pixel
Covers up to $\eta=4.0$



L1 trigger will require **quasi-full track reconstruction** for charged particles with transverse momentum $> \sim 2 \text{ GeV}/c$

but full tracking at Level 1 is an incredible technical challenge

- data-rates: **$O(100 \text{ Tbps})$**
- occupancy & combinatorics: up to **20k stubs/event**
- latency: **$\sim 5 \mu\text{s}$** ($\sim 12.5 \mu\text{s}$ for L1 overall)

how to find the tracks in $\sim 5 \mu\text{s}$ with high efficiency and acceptable fake rates?

- **huge architectural & dataflow implications for hardware**

large fraction of hits are not track-related (fake combinations, conversions, secondaries,...)

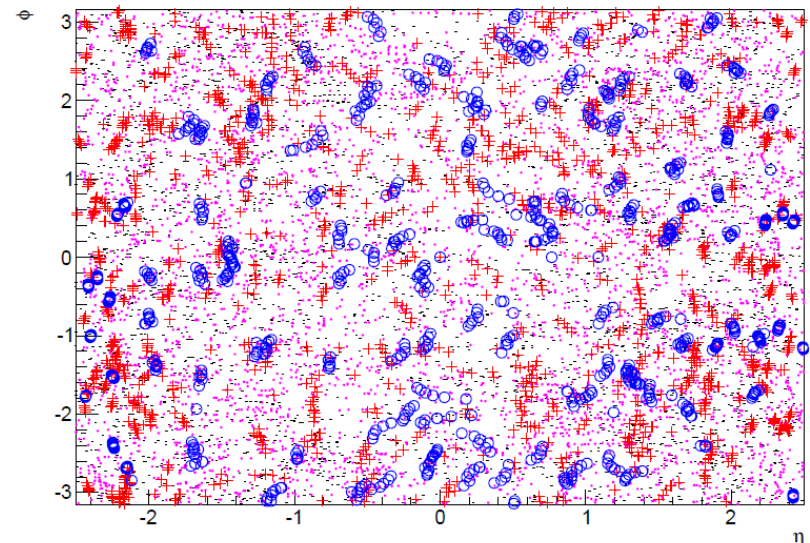
40% combinatorial/v. low energy electrons

40% charged particles, $p_T < 1 \text{ GeV}/c$

13% charged particles, $1 < p_T < 2 \text{ GeV}/c$

7% charged particles, $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}/c$

140 interactions/event, no signal



CMS pursuing three complementary designs to confront the challenge

purely FPGA based:

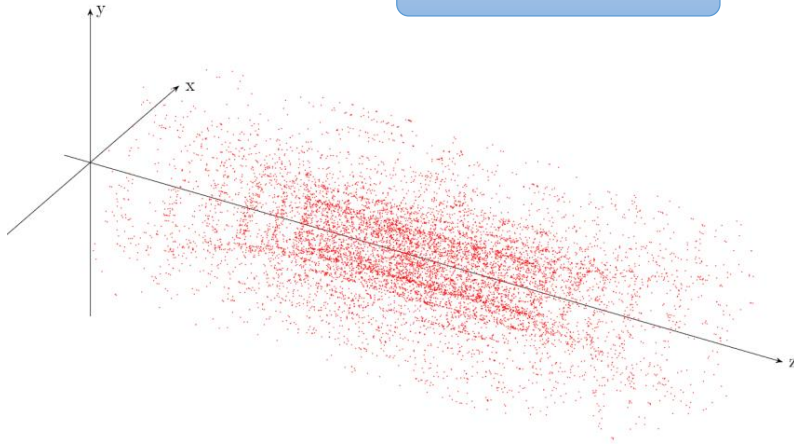
- 1) Hough Transform Track Finder & Combined Filter/Fitter**
- 2) Combined Tracklet Builder & Linearized χ^2 Track Fit**

ASIC assisted:

- 3) Associative Memory Pattern Recognition + FPGA PCA Track Fit**

feasibility demonstrations by December 2016

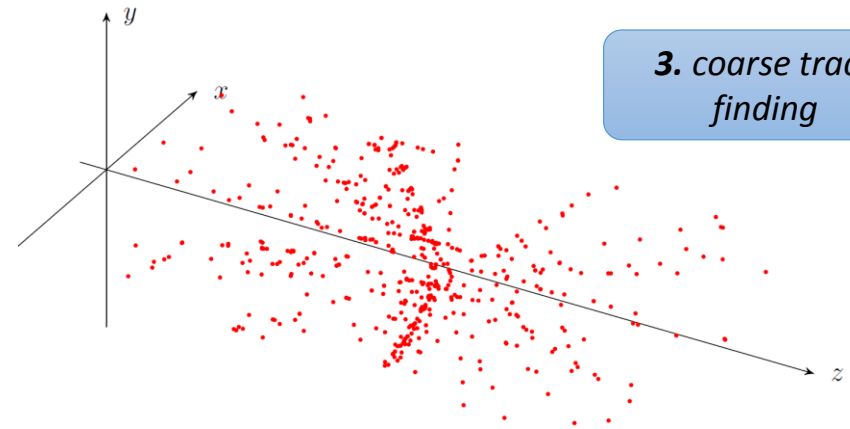
1. tracker stubs



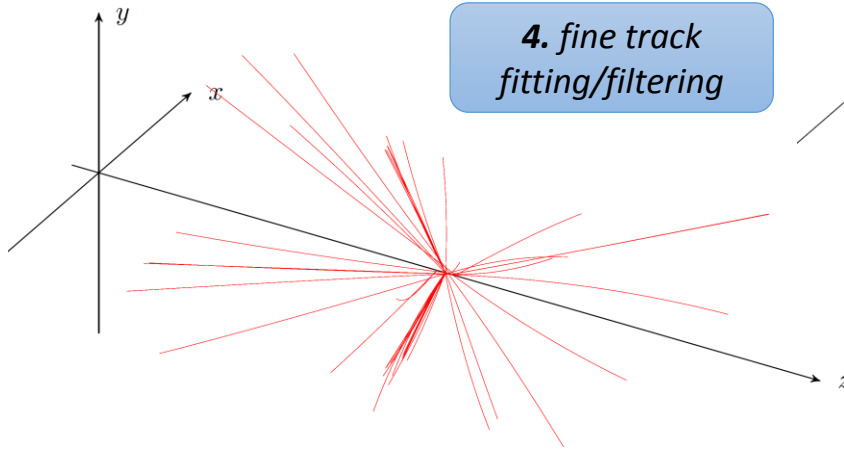
2. detector segmentation



3. coarse track finding



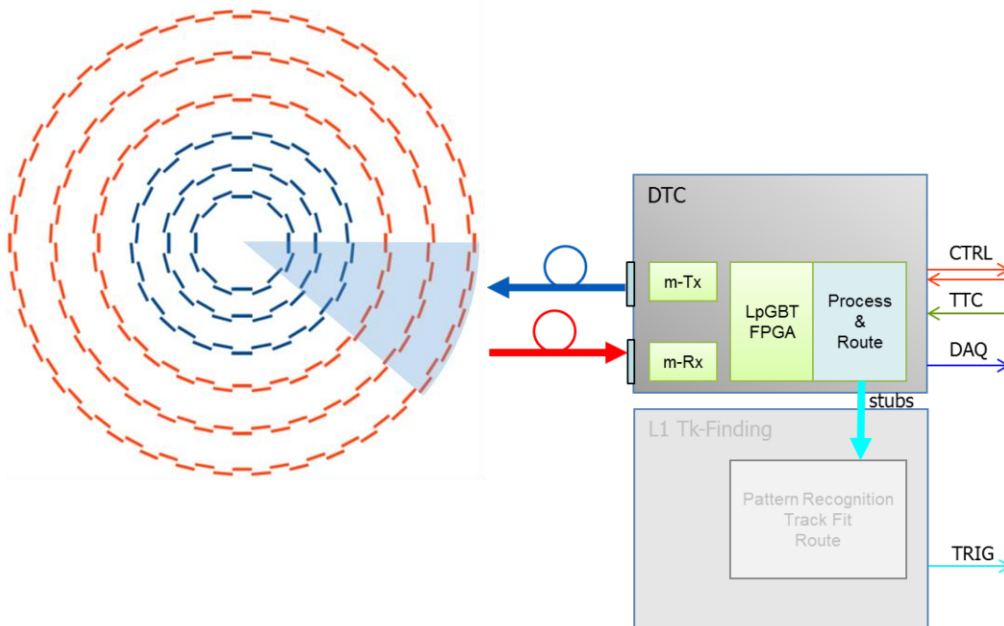
4. fine track fitting/filtering



detector to be interfaced to a first layer of off-detector hardware known as the **Data, Trigger and Control (DTC) system**

DTC to configure and read out tracker modules – including trigger data at 40MHz

total system to comprise **256 boards**



32 DTCs control ~ 1900 modules (in $1/8$ of tracker in ϕ , or **'octants'**)

DTC to also implement low level stub manipulation e.g. global coordinate conversion, duplication, routing to next layer (L1 Track Finder)

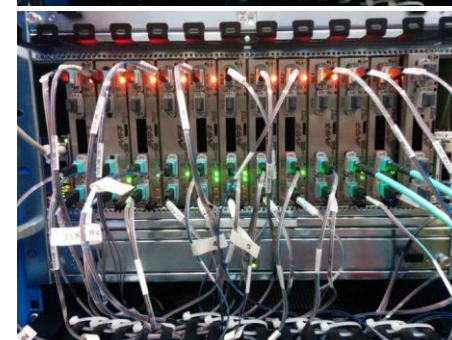
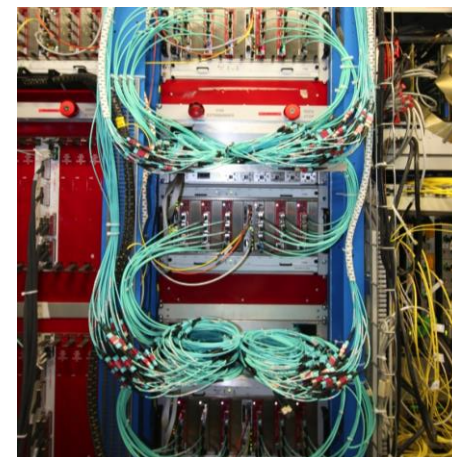
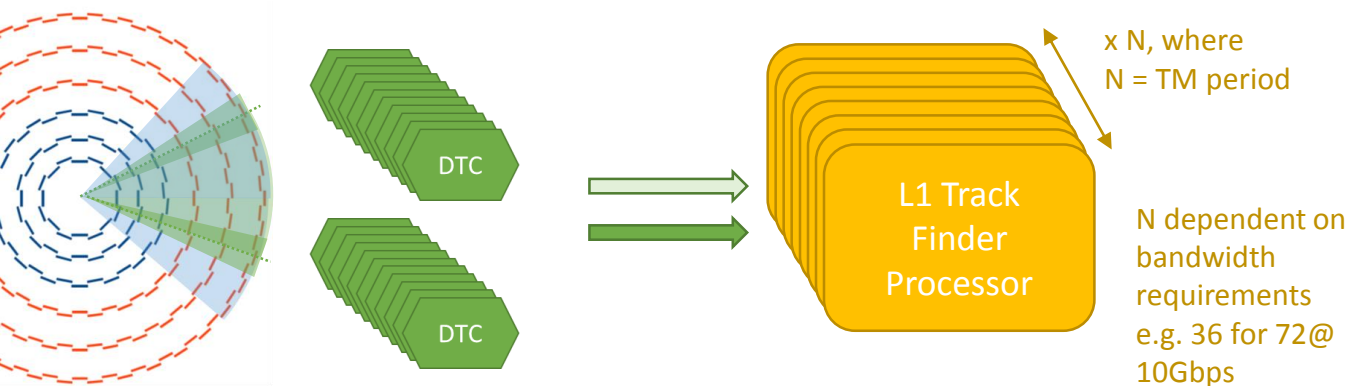
FE -> DTC output latency $\sim 1\mu\text{s}$

as part of routing to next layer, allow DTC to **'time-multiplex'** stubs

one L1 Track Finder Processor handles 1 in N events

keep octant segmentation, with offset to allow DTC to handle duplication across detector cabled boundaries automatically

L1 Track Finder Processor handles all data in event from $2\pi/8$ of tracker over TM period

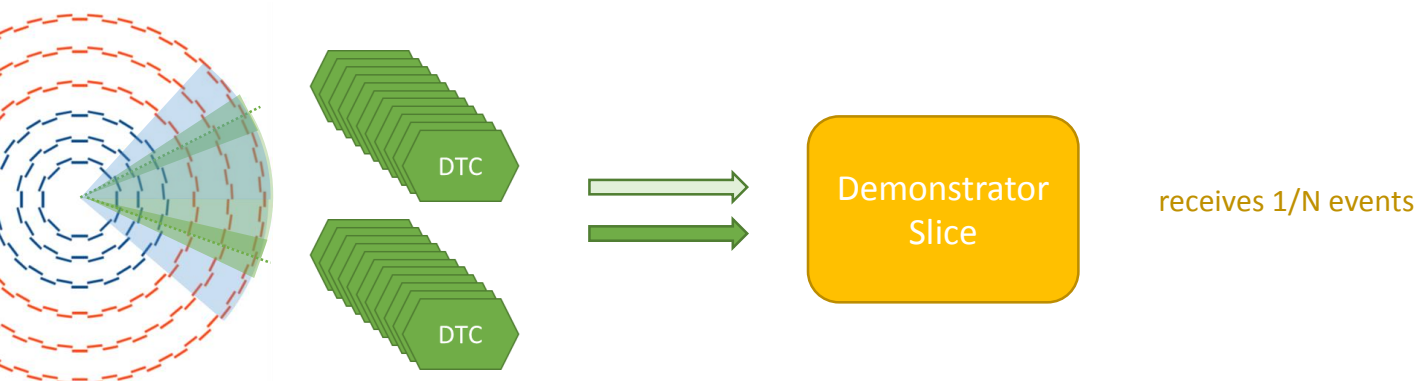


L1 calorimeter trigger (TM=9)

no downstream communication/duplication between regions
required

factorised system, $N \times 8$ **independent and identical processors**

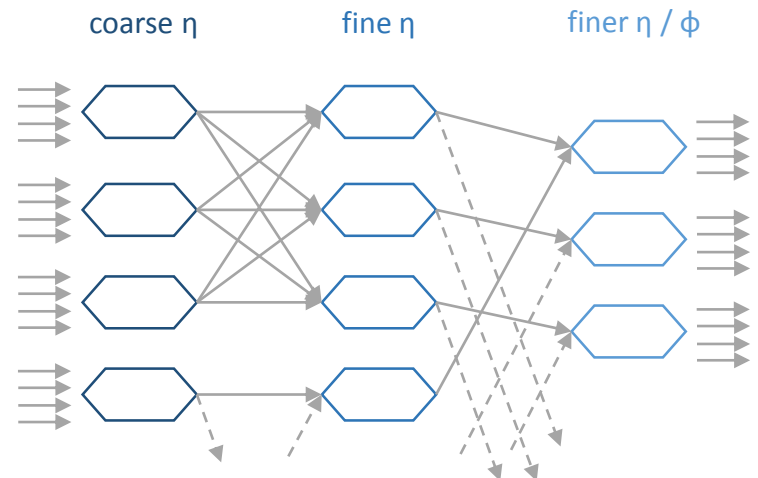
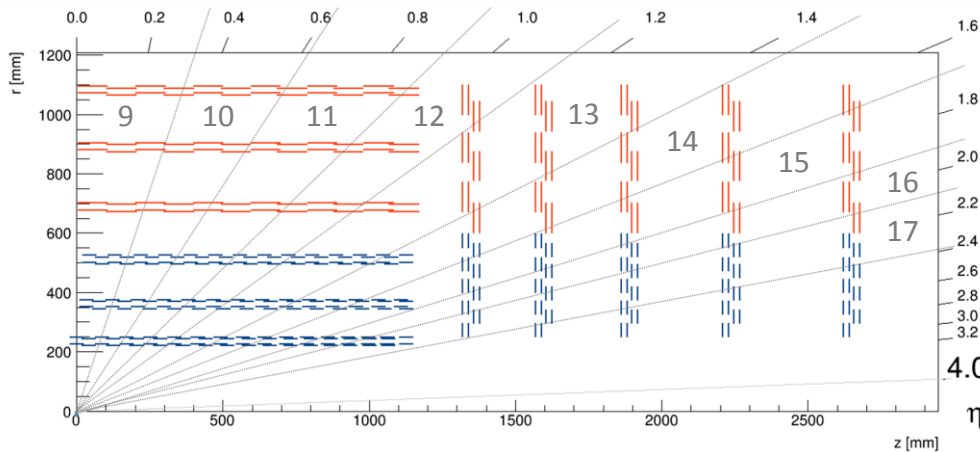
architecture well suited to slice demonstrations



to simplify job of track finding, detector octant is further segmented in L1 processor
 stubs are assigned to segments in η , ϕ according to their coordinates and local bend
 flexibility to choose segmentation depending on track finder requirements

- e.g. 18 in η and 2 ϕ currently

pre-processing of stubs before subsequent track finding stage



*small lightweight address based routing network
 fast – tested to 450MHz on KU115*

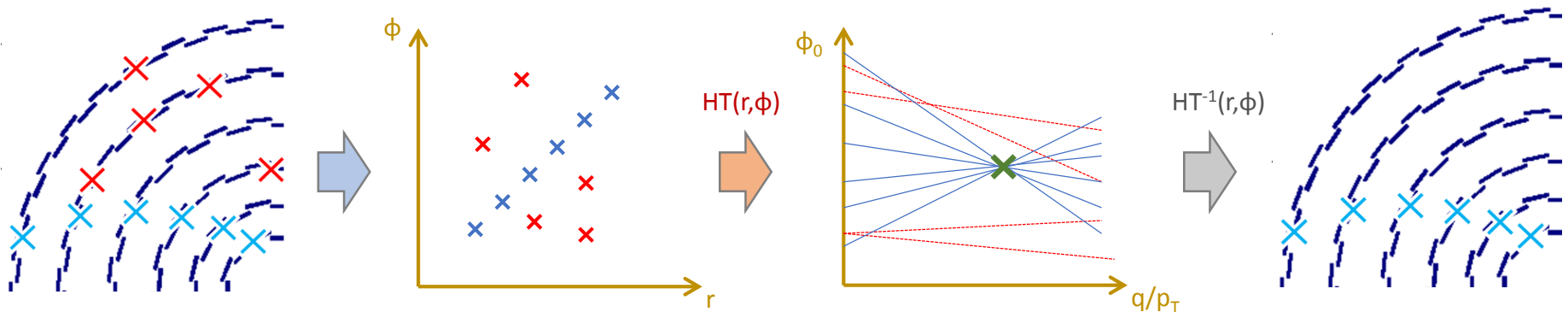
two step track finding approach based on coarse **2D Hough Transform**

well known technique used in image manipulation, including identifying tracks in bubble chamber photographs

the Hough Transform track finder is the workhorse of the design

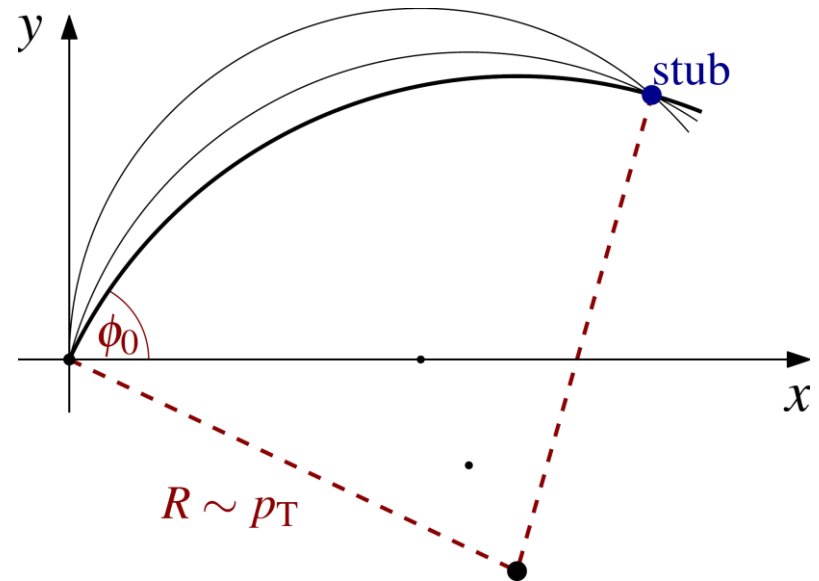
- orders stubs into valid track candidates
- binning of stubs according to projections, determining coarse track parameters

subsequent track fit uses full hit resolution and determines fine grained track parameters, on reduced data volume



search for tracks in the transverse plane in r- ϕ

infinite number of circles with unique (R, ϕ_0) between origin and measured stub position at (r, ϕ)



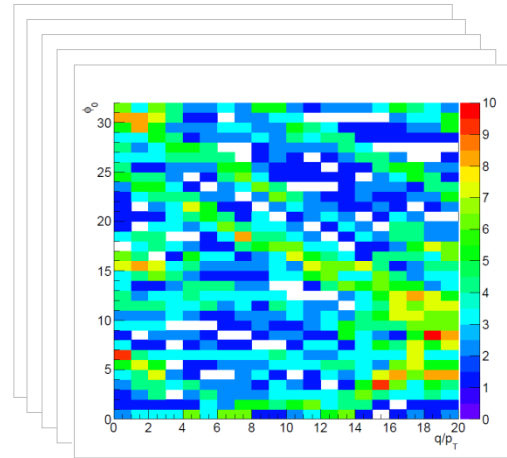
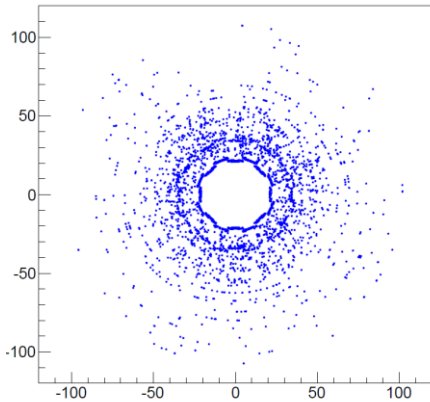
but track parameters are correlated

$$\phi \simeq \frac{q}{p_T} r - \phi_0$$

using small angle approximation

additionally initial coordinate transformation to $r=58\text{cm}$ helps distribution of hits in parameter space

apply Hough Transform in 2D



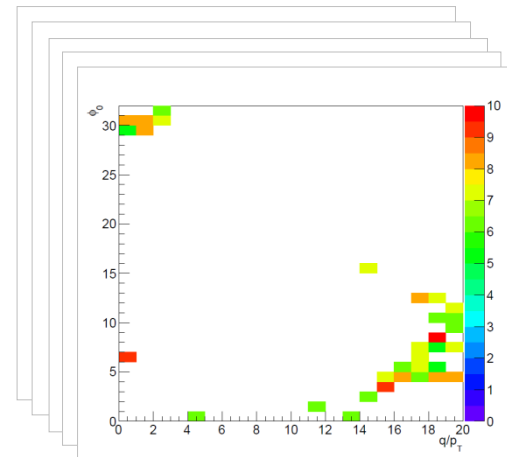
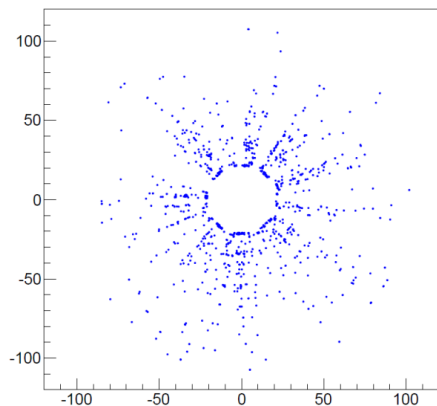
bin stubs in multiple
Hough arrays,
segmented in η, ϕ

32x64 Hough array size required

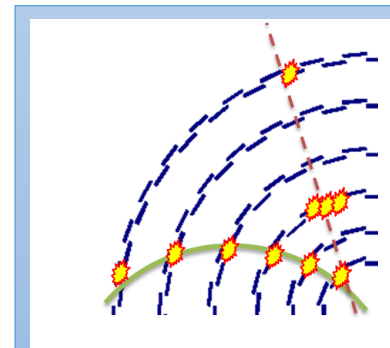
36 segments in ϕ, η per processor

min $p_T = 3$ GeV/c

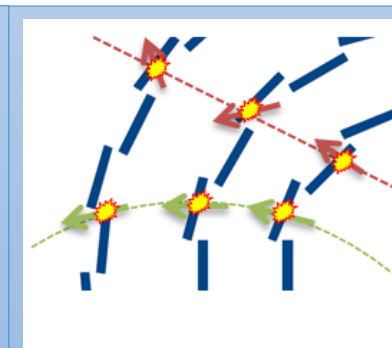
stubs from selected bins form track candidates for next
stage of processing



apply track criteria to accept

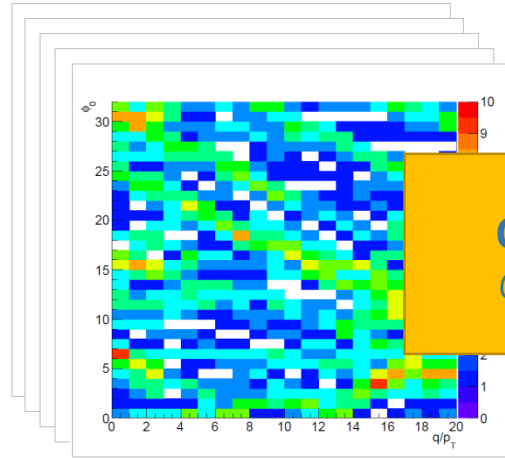
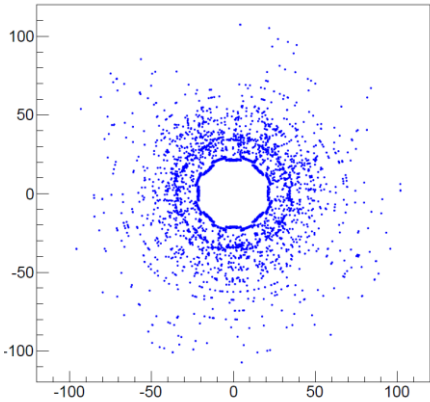


bins with more than 5
stubs at unique radii



bins with stubs that
have compatible local
bend

apply Hough Transform in 2D

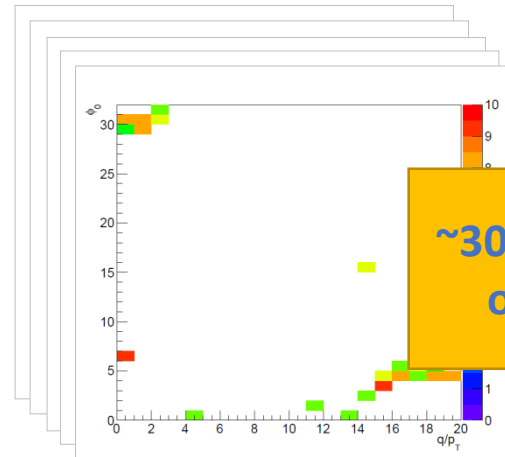
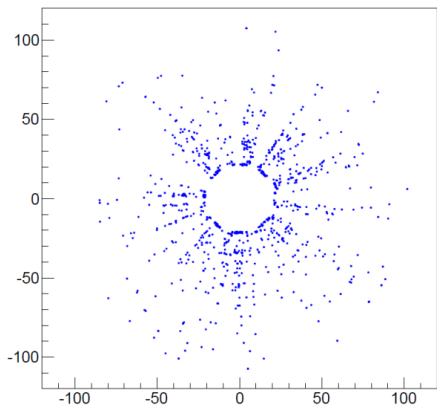


bin stubs in multiple
Hough arrays,
segmented in η, ϕ

$O(20,000)$ stubs
@ $\langle \#_{\text{interactions}} \rangle = 200$



stubs from selected bins form track candidates for next
stage of processing



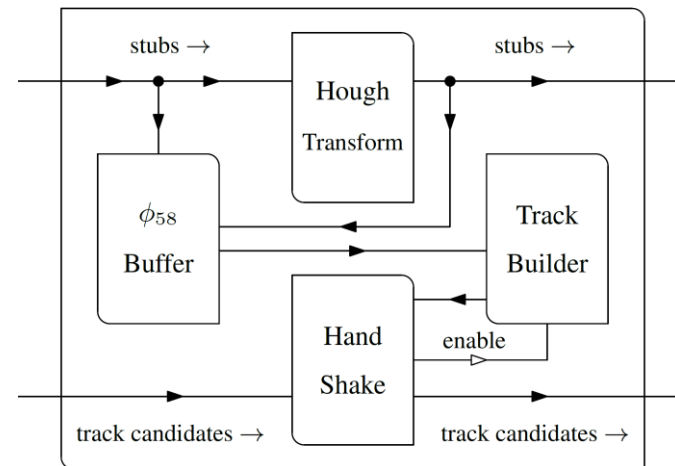
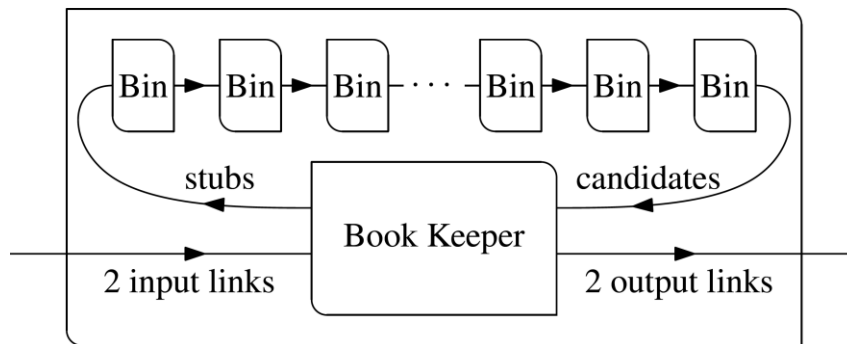
**~ 300 track candidates
or $O(2000)$ stubs**

x10 data reduction

one array per segment

array is implemented as a pipeline, processing one stub per 240MHz clock cycle

first step is to **fill the array**, second step is to **read out the track candidates**



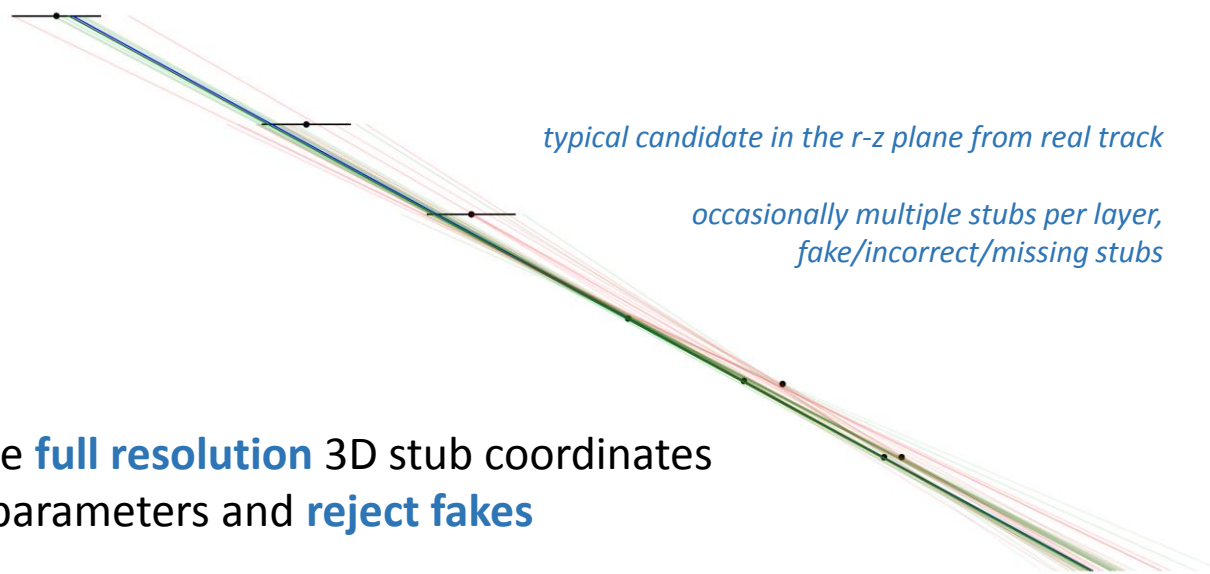
1 bin corresponds to a column in the Hough array

1 paged block RAM per bin implements the 64 rows in the array column

rates out of HT **vastly reduced** and stubs grouped into candidates

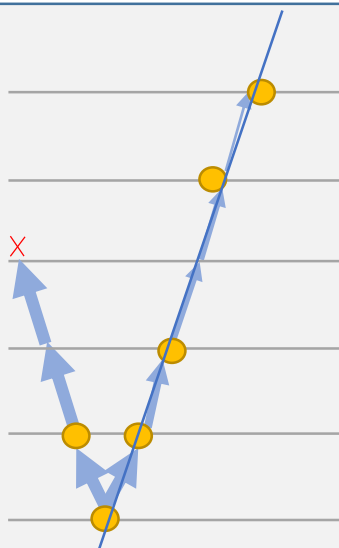
but candidate quality is generally poor

combined fitters/filters to use **full resolution** 3D stub coordinates to reconstruct precise track parameters and **reject fakes**



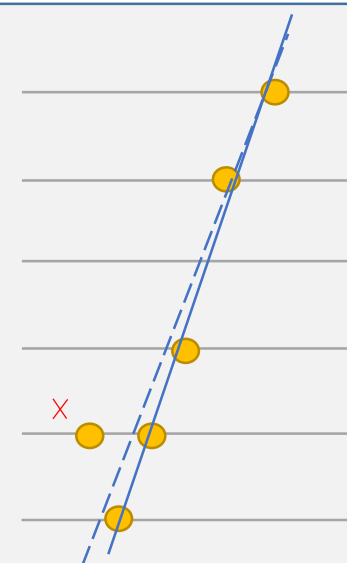
Kalman Filter

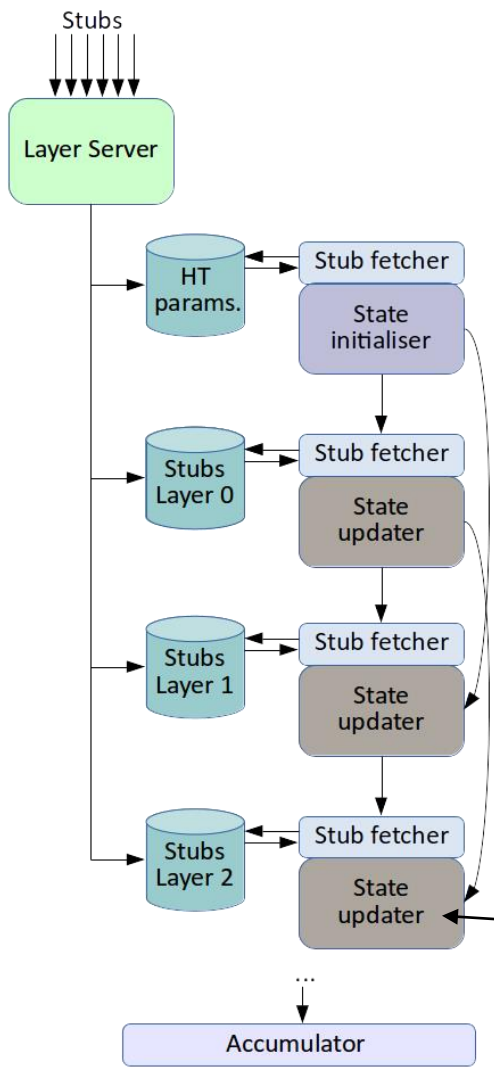
- default offline fit
- uses full information
- incorrect trajectories rejected
- allows for scattering, 5 or 4 parameter fits
- mathematically heavy



Linear Regression

- tracks are essentially straight lines
- residuals are minimised
- worst residual stubs are rejected iteratively
- simple & potentially fast
- non-linear effects not modelled





4 parameter fit to begin with, $(q/pT, \phi_0, z_0, \eta)$

propagate track parameters inside-out, **using HT parameters and segment to seed state**

use stubs to update track parameters

hits incompatible with the measurement & propagation errors are **rejected at each step (layer)**

multiple stubs per layer split into new candidates

implemented with High Level Language (MaxJ) – see talk from S. Summers

$$x_k^{k-1} = F_{k-1} x_{k-1}$$

$$C_k^{k-1} = F_{k-1} C_{k-1} F_{k-1}^T + Q_{k-1}$$

$$r_k^{k-1} = m_k - H_k x_k^{k-1}$$

$$R_k^{k-1} = V_k + H_k C_k^{k-1} H_k^T$$

$$K_k = C_k^{k-1} H_k^T (R_k^{k-1})^{-1}$$

$$x_k = x_k^{k-1} + K_k r_k^{k-1}$$

$$C_k = (I - K_k H_k) C_k^{k-1}$$

$$\chi_+^2 = r_k^{k-1T} (R_k^{k-1})^{-1} r_k^{k-1}$$

$$\chi_k^2 = \chi_{k-1}^2 + \chi_+^2$$

- k-1, k: previous layer, current layer
- x: track helix parameters
- C: their covariance matrix
- m: a measurement (stub)
- F: forecast matrix
- H: measurement matrix
- K: the Kalman gain

also a 4 parameter fit

assumes that:

- i) tracks are **straight lines** in each projection
- ii) initial candidates are of **reasonable quality**

at each step, track is progressively cleaned by fitting then **removing hit with worst residual**

filter criteria vary depending on track quality at each step

$r-\phi$ plane

$$m = \frac{\overline{nr\phi} - \overline{r}\overline{\phi}}{\text{denom}}$$

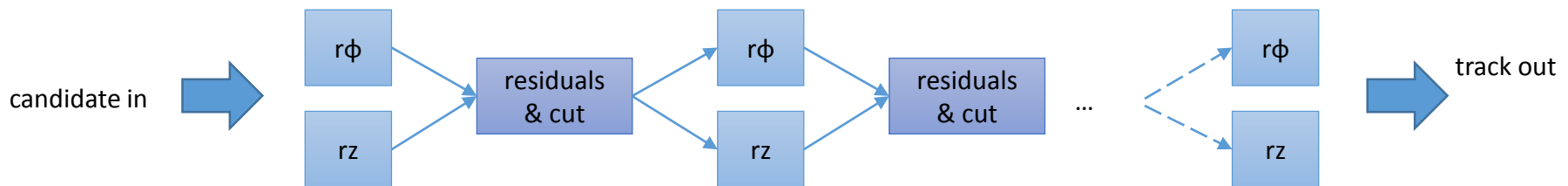
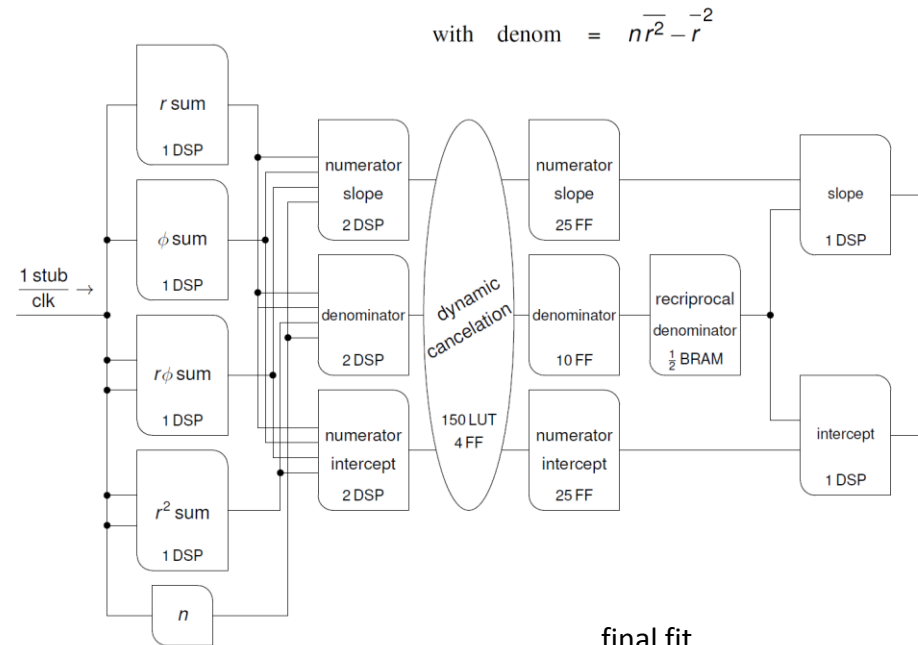
$$c = \frac{\overline{r^2\phi} - \overline{r}r\overline{\phi}}{\text{denom}}$$

$r-z$ plane

$$m = \frac{\overline{nrz} - \overline{r}\overline{z}}{\text{denom}}$$

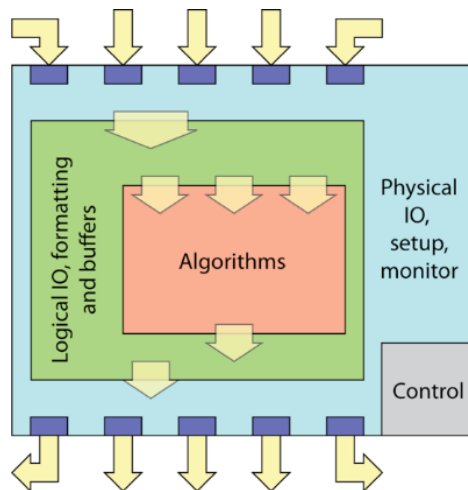
$$c = \frac{\overline{r^2z} - \overline{r}r\overline{z}}{\text{denom}}$$

with $\text{denom} = n\overline{r^2} - \overline{r}^2$



based on the **Imperial MP7**

- Virtex 7 690
- 72 optical I/O up to 12.5Gbps
- MTCA, total optical b/w 0.9Tbps



segregated infrastructure and algorithm payload
firmware regions

links augmented with buffer RAMs

integrated build system & firmware management

infrastructure supported as part of CMS L1 trigger

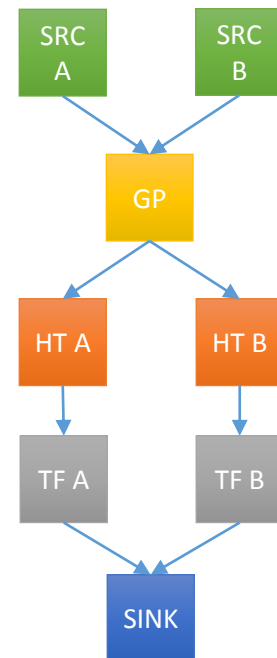
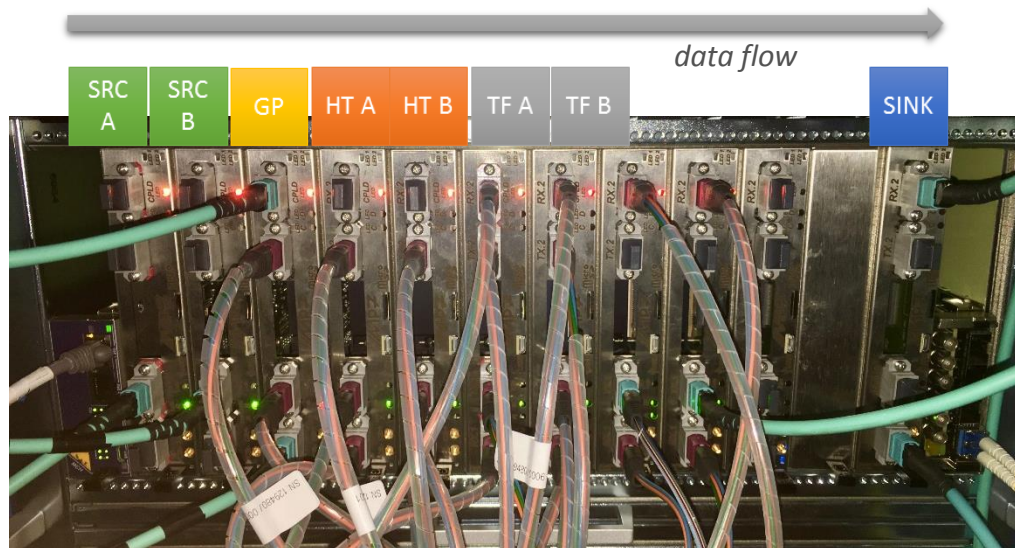
- **maximise reuse of existing technology and lower barrier to entry for algorithm development & testing**

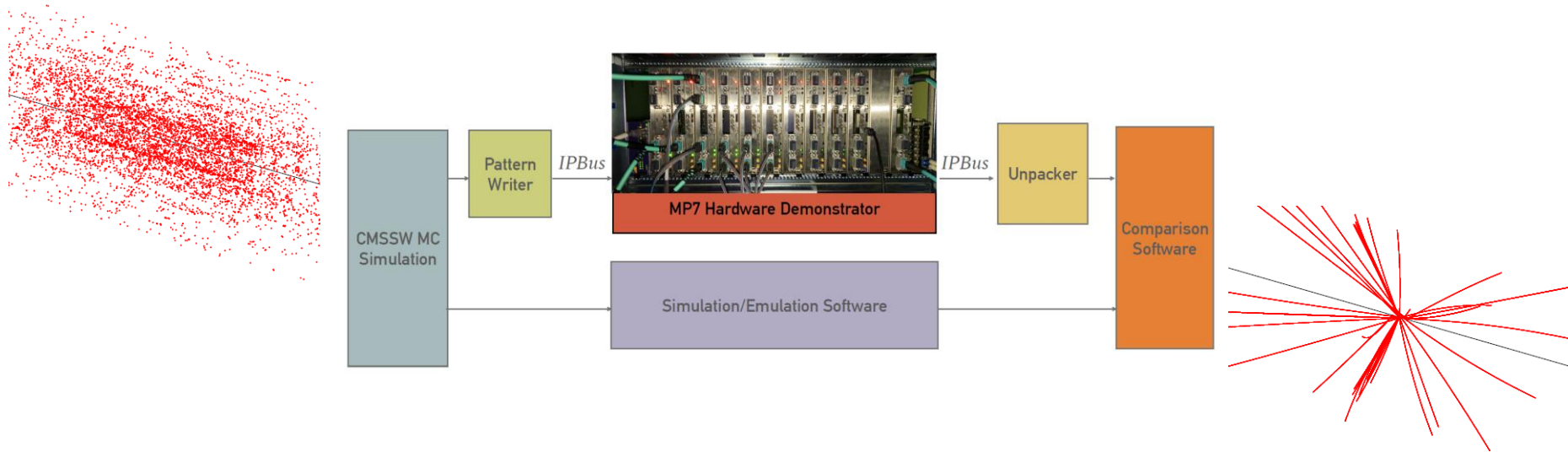
demonstrator is divided into **logical elements**, each on separate MP7 boards

- 1/36 event time-multiplexing period

simplifies division of labour and testing (algorithms tested **individually** or **in chain**)

present-day FPGA resources not a limit to the scale/performance of system





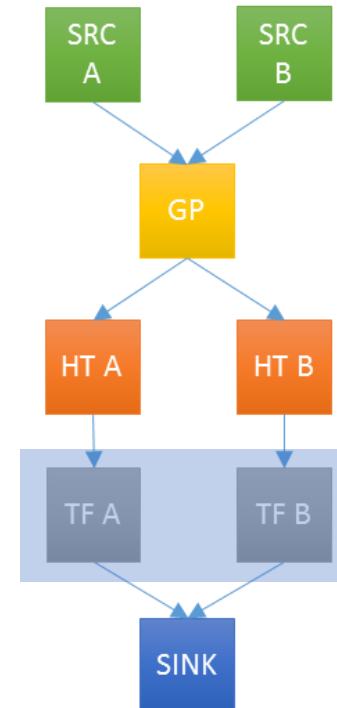
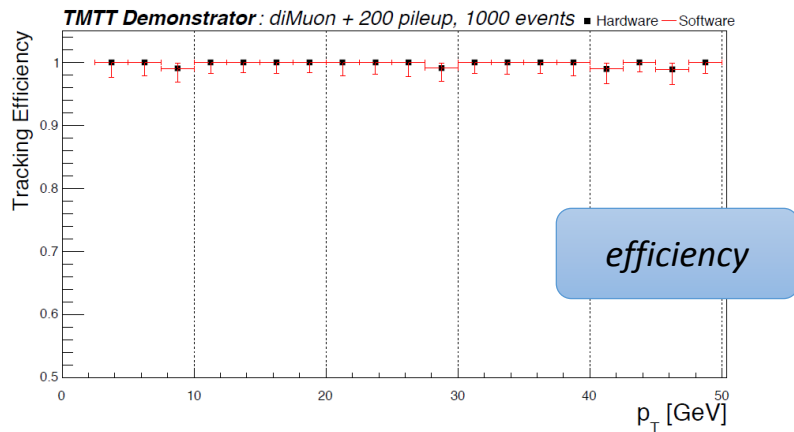
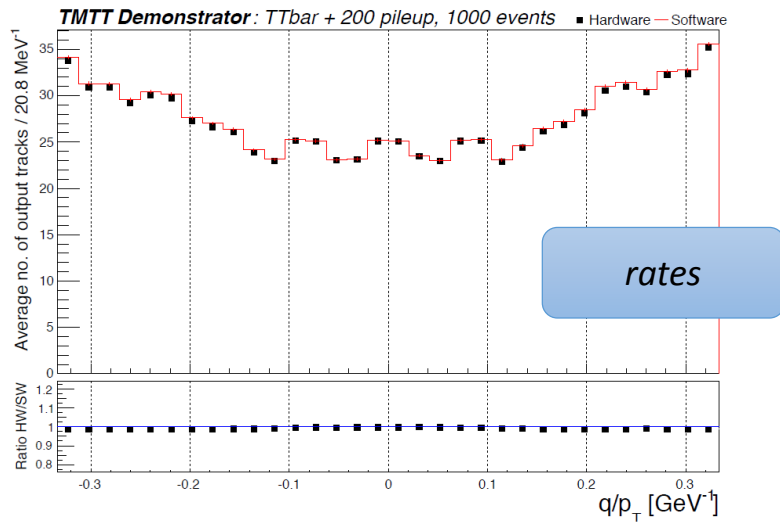
stub data (from simulation) **loaded into RAM buffers** in source boards and **played through demonstrator**

1/8 of tracker at a time, 30 events per run

track candidates or tracks for each event are extracted from the sink

hardware output compared with C++ simulation/emulation software

track finding on full tracker is demonstrated, latency can be measured



fitting stage not yet included

rates match expectation for worst case scenarios at output of HT

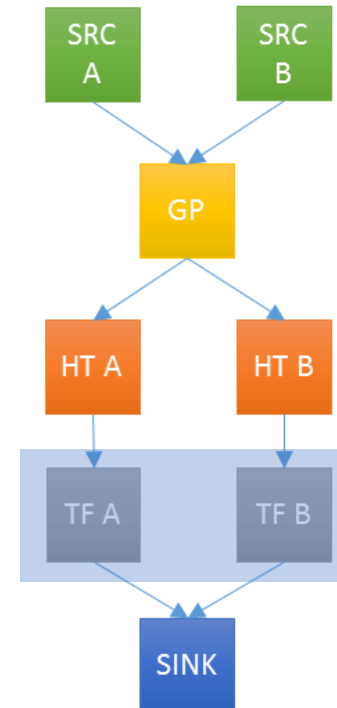
high track finding efficiency down to 3 GeV/c

	LUTs	FFs	BRAM36	DSP48
GP	145k	273k	318	1488
HT	260k	288k	1584	126

resources

SRC -> GP	146 ns
GP -> HT	292 ns
HT -> SINK	1221 ns
TM period	900 ns

latency

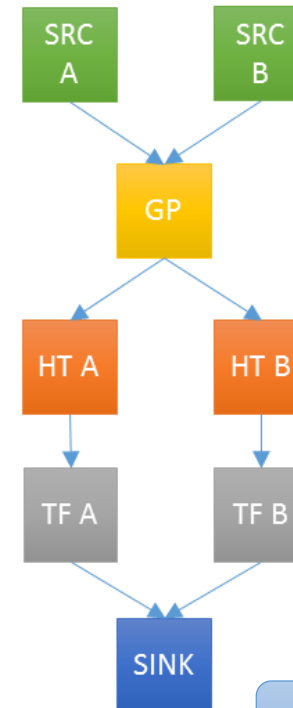
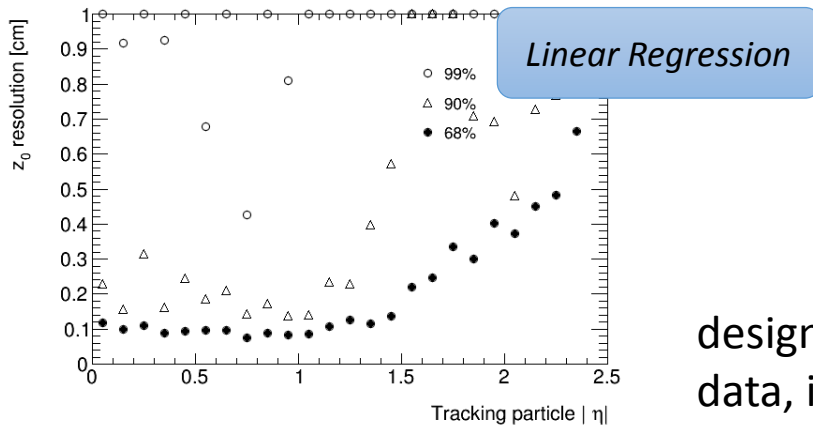
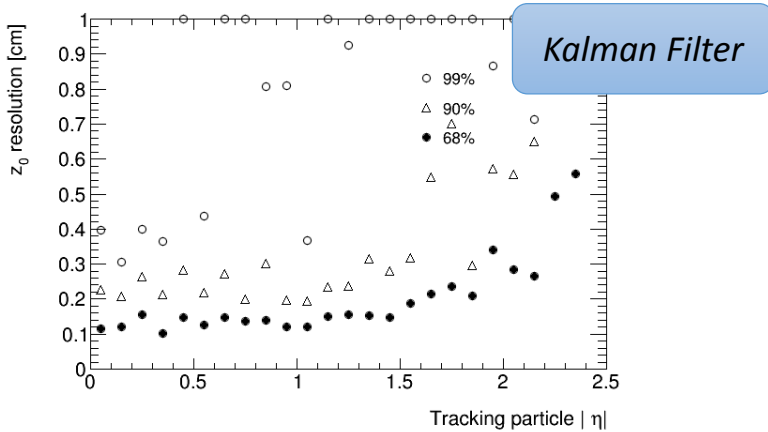


fitting stage not yet included

remaining latency budget 1.44μs

ready for integration of track fitters

tracking performance is **close to offline**, Linear Regression fitter is performance competitive



resources – first look

	LUTs	FFs	BRAM36	DSP48
Kalman	160k	270k	393	1836

design now requires dataflow validation with realistic data, including latency measurement

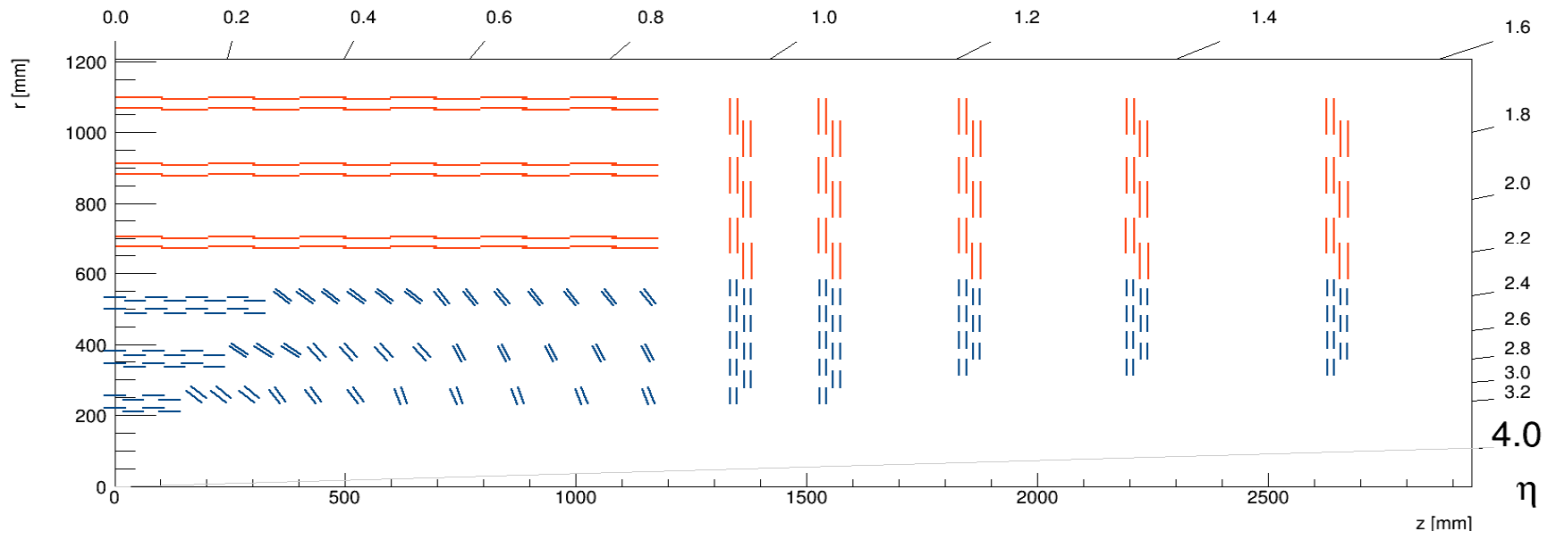
at HL-LHC new Level 1 (hardware) trigger must ensure tracks can be reconstructed within $5\mu\text{s}$

Hough Transform based demonstrator using MP7 hardware in operation, reconstructing track candidates within $\sim 1.5\mu\text{s}$, reducing input rate by order of magnitude

- excellent performance, efficiency and matching with simulation so far

track fitting stages currently under test and results to be extracted in next months

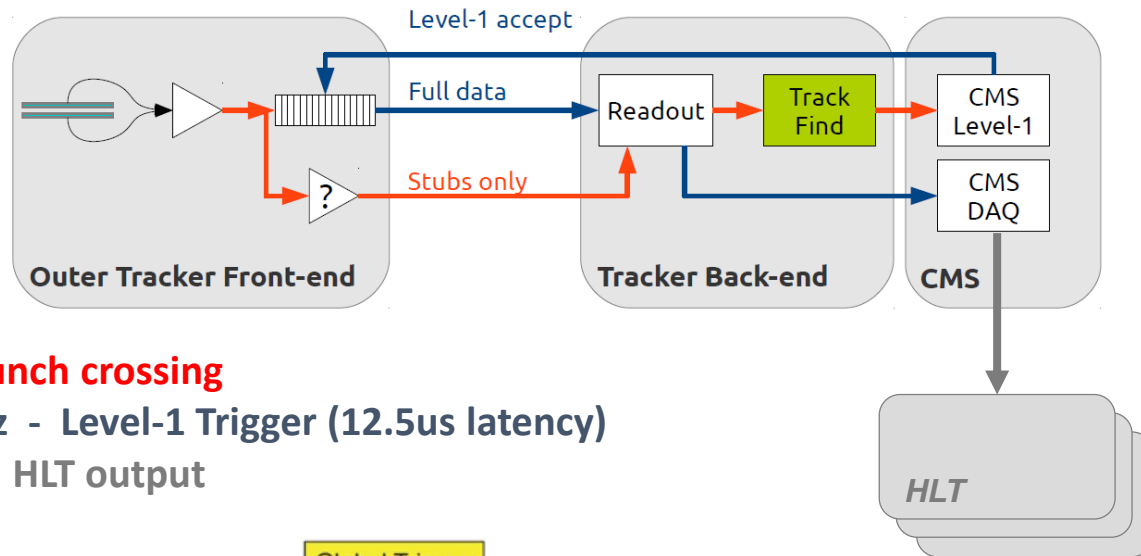
further performance studies to be carried out in parallel, e.g. robustness to dead modules, coping with higher rates or lower p_T thresholds, alternative beam profiles, impact of tilted barrel geometry



less material

fewer modules

improves trigger efficiency at high eta, and reduces #hits in inner barrel layers



@ 40 MHz - Bunch crossing

@ 0.5-0.75 MHz - Level-1 Trigger (12.5us latency)

@ 100-500 Hz - HLT output

