



# Particle Physics Experiments

## **PAP329: Particle Physics Experiments** **A 5 ECTS credit course spring 2025**

<https://www.mv.helsinki.fi/home/osterber/experiments/>

**Lectures Mon 10-12 (Physicum D115)**  
weeks 3-7, 9, 11-16

given by

Prof. Kenneth Österberg,  
room C327, email: [kenneth.osterberg\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:kenneth.osterberg@helsinki.fi)

**Exercise sessions Mon 12-13 (Physicum D116)**  
starting week 5

given by

MSc Anna Milieva,  
room B321, email: [anna.milieva\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:anna.milieva@helsinki.fi)



# Course Content

## Introduction

### Accelerator part

(follows more-or-less E. Wilson: An Introduction to Particle Accelerators)

- Particle Accelerator History & Basics
- Transverse Beam Dynamics & Accelerator Lattice
- Longitudinal Beam Dynamics
- Accelerating Cavities
- Electron Dynamics
- Imperfections & Instabilities
- Colliders & Cooling; The Large Hadron Collider
- Future Colliders & Applications of Accelerator

### Experiment part

- Particle Accelerator History & Basics
- Particle Interaction with Matter
- Tracking, Tracking Detectors & Vertexing
- Scintillation & Photon Detectors
- Energy measurement & Jet Reconstruction
- Particle Identification
- Detector Systems, Trigger and Data Acquisition
- The LHC Experiments
- Applications of Particle Detectors



## Literature

### Text books

- **E. Wilson: An Introduction to Particle Accelerators**, Oxford University Press, 2001.
- **D. Green: The Physics of Particle Detectors**, Cambridge University Press, 2005.
- **C. Grupen and B. Shwartz: Particle Detectors**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Cambridge University Press, 2023.
- **G. Knoll: Radiation Detection and Measurement**, 4th edition, Wiley, 2010.

### Other resources


- **Particle Data Group: Reviews on Experimental Methods and Colliders:** [pdg.lbl.gov](http://pdg.lbl.gov) especially
  - Accelerator physics of colliders
  - Passage of particles through matter
  - Particle detectors at accelerators
- **Proceedings of CERN Accelerator Schools**  
(see links on course home page)

## Course Grading

- **Exercises (7-8 papers) 40 %, oral exam 60 %.**
- **Exercises given Fri, returned next Fri 12.00**  
(first exercise paper will be given next week)



To study structures « wavelength of light  
need something else than (light)microscopes !!



**particle**      **wave:**  $\lambda = h/p$        $h$  = Planck's constant  
 $\lambda$  = wavelength  
 $p$  = particle momentum



Use “particle microscopes” i.e. accelerators

In particle accelerators charged particles accelerated to light velocity in a vacuum chamber (“analog TV”).

Modern particle accelerators usually “colliders” = two particle beams hit each other in controlled positions.





## Natural units



### Natural units:

Special relativity:  $E^2 = \vec{p}^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4$

Have 3 fundamental units: length L, time T and energy E

2 natural constants:  $c = 3.0 \cdot 10^8$  m/s,  $\hbar = 6.6 \cdot 10^{-25}$  GeVs

Set  $c = 1 = [L] / [T] \Rightarrow [T] = [L]$  (applied e.g. in four-vectors)

Also set  $\hbar = 1 = [E] \cdot [T] \Rightarrow [L] = [T] = 1 / [E] (= \text{GeV}^{-1})$

One degree-of-freedom left so choose  $[E] = \text{GeV}$

1 GeV is a tiny portion of energy.  $1 \text{ GeV} = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ J}$



$m_{\text{bee}} = 0.25 \text{ g}$ ;  $v_{\text{bee}} = 3 \text{ m/s}$

$\rightarrow E_{\text{bee}} = m_{\text{bee}} v_{\text{bee}}^2 / 2 = 1.1 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ J} = 7000000 \text{ GeV}$

$\Leftrightarrow E_{\text{LHC}} = 6800 \text{ GeV}$  (2024 LHC proton energy)

To rehabilitate LHC...

Record stored energy/beam in LHC (2024):

$\sim 3.76 \cdot 10^{14}$  protons \* 6800 GeV  $\approx 410 \text{ MJ}$

Corres-  
pondance:



$m_{\text{Pendolino}} = 328 \text{ T}$

$v_{\text{Pendolino}} = 140 \text{ km/h}$

Now  $E^2 = \vec{p}^2 + m^2 \Rightarrow [E] = [p] = [m] = 1 \text{ GeV}$

Define  $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$  ( $0 \leq \beta < 1$ )  $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}}$  ( $1 \leq \gamma < \infty$ )

e.g.  $\beta = p / E$ ,  $\gamma = E / m$ , and  $\langle \text{decay length} \rangle = \beta \cdot \gamma \cdot c \cdot \tau_0$



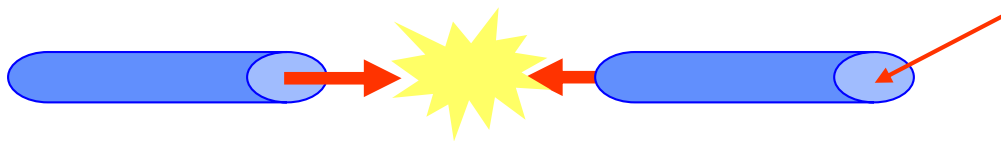
## Cross section



### The concept of cross section

Cross section  $\sigma$  or differential cross section  $d\sigma/d\Omega$  is used to express the probability of interaction between elementary particles.

#### Example 2 colliding particle beams beam spot area $A$



$N_1$   $f$  = collision frequency  $N_2$

What is the interaction rate  $R_{\text{int}}$  ?

$$R_{\text{int}} \propto \underbrace{f N_1 N_2 / A}_{\text{Luminosity } \mathcal{L} [\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}]} = \sigma \cdot \mathcal{L}$$

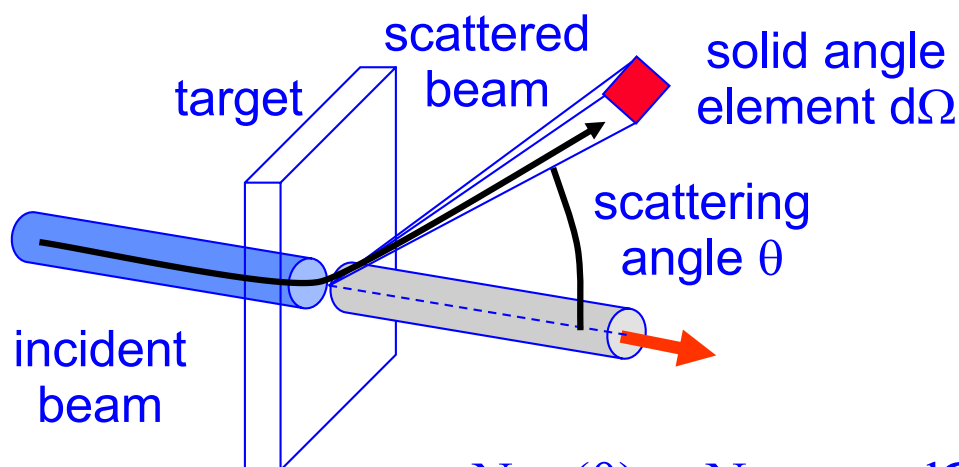
$\sigma$  has dimension area !

Practical unit:

$$1 \text{ barn (b)} = 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2$$

#### Example: Scattering from target

$$N_{\text{int}} = R_{\text{int}} t$$



Integrated luminosity  
 $\int \mathcal{L} dt [\text{cm}^{-2}]$

$n_A$  = area density  
of scattering  
centers in target

$$N_{\text{scat}}(\theta) \propto N_{\text{inc}} \cdot n_A \cdot d\Omega \underbrace{\quad}_{= d\sigma/d\Omega(\theta) \cdot N_{\text{inc}} \cdot n_A \cdot d\Omega}$$



## Luminosity



### Define **luminosity** precisely:

imagine a particle colliding with a particle bunch of cross section area –  $A$ . Probability of collision is: (E.Wilson)

$$\sigma \cdot N_{part/bunch} / A$$

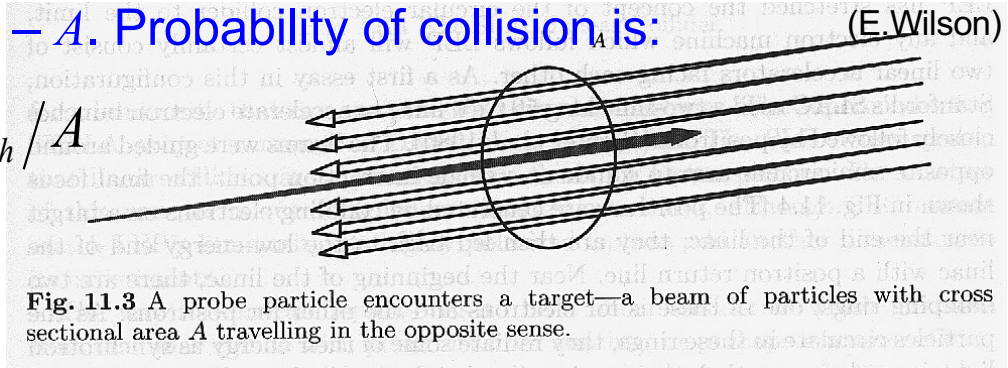


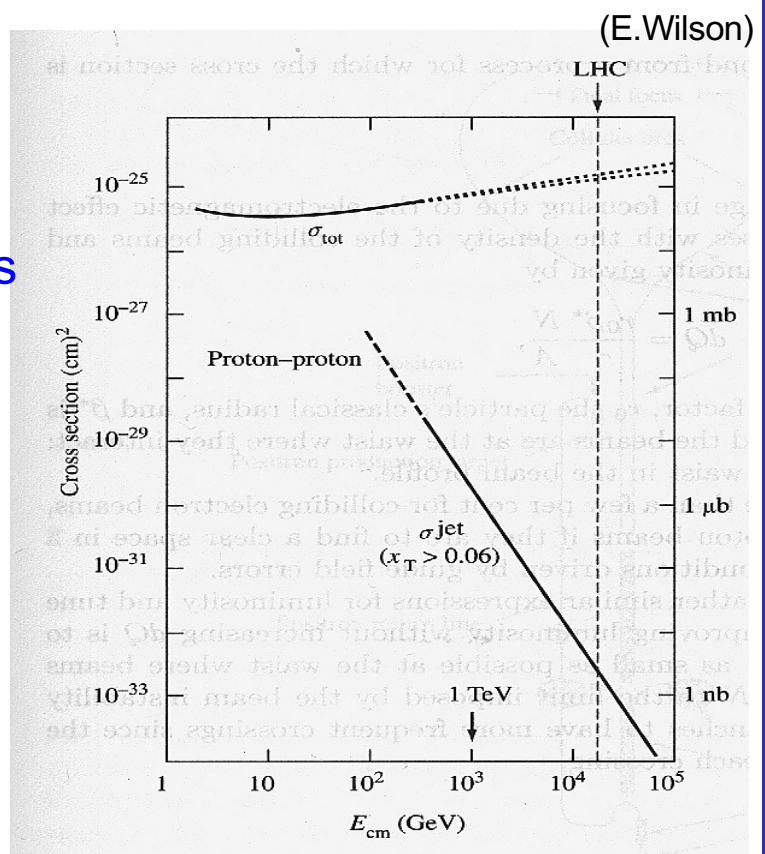
Fig. 11.3 A probe particle encounters a target—a beam of particles with cross sectional area  $A$  travelling in the opposite sense.

for  $N_{part/bunch}$  particles in both beams  $\sigma \cdot N_{part/bunch}^2 / A$

and finally take into account the bunch crossing frequency  $f_b = \#$  of bunches multiplied by the revolution frequency.

Event rate =  $\mathcal{L} \cdot \sigma$ , where  $\mathcal{L} = f_b N_{part/bunch}^2 / A$  (= luminosity)

**Ultimate challenge to high energy colliders:** the production rate of "interesting" interactions fall as  $1/s$  ( $\propto 1/E_{CM}^2$ ), hence need to improve luminosity a factor 100 for each factor 10 energy increase to benefit from energy increase (distances at which structures probed  $\propto 1/\sqrt{s}$ ).





## History of Accelerators:

- need for accelerators
- electrostatic accelerators
- time dependent fields
- betatrons
- linacs
- cyclotrons
- weak focusing
- synchrotrons
- phase stability
- strong focusing
- colliders



## History of accelerators

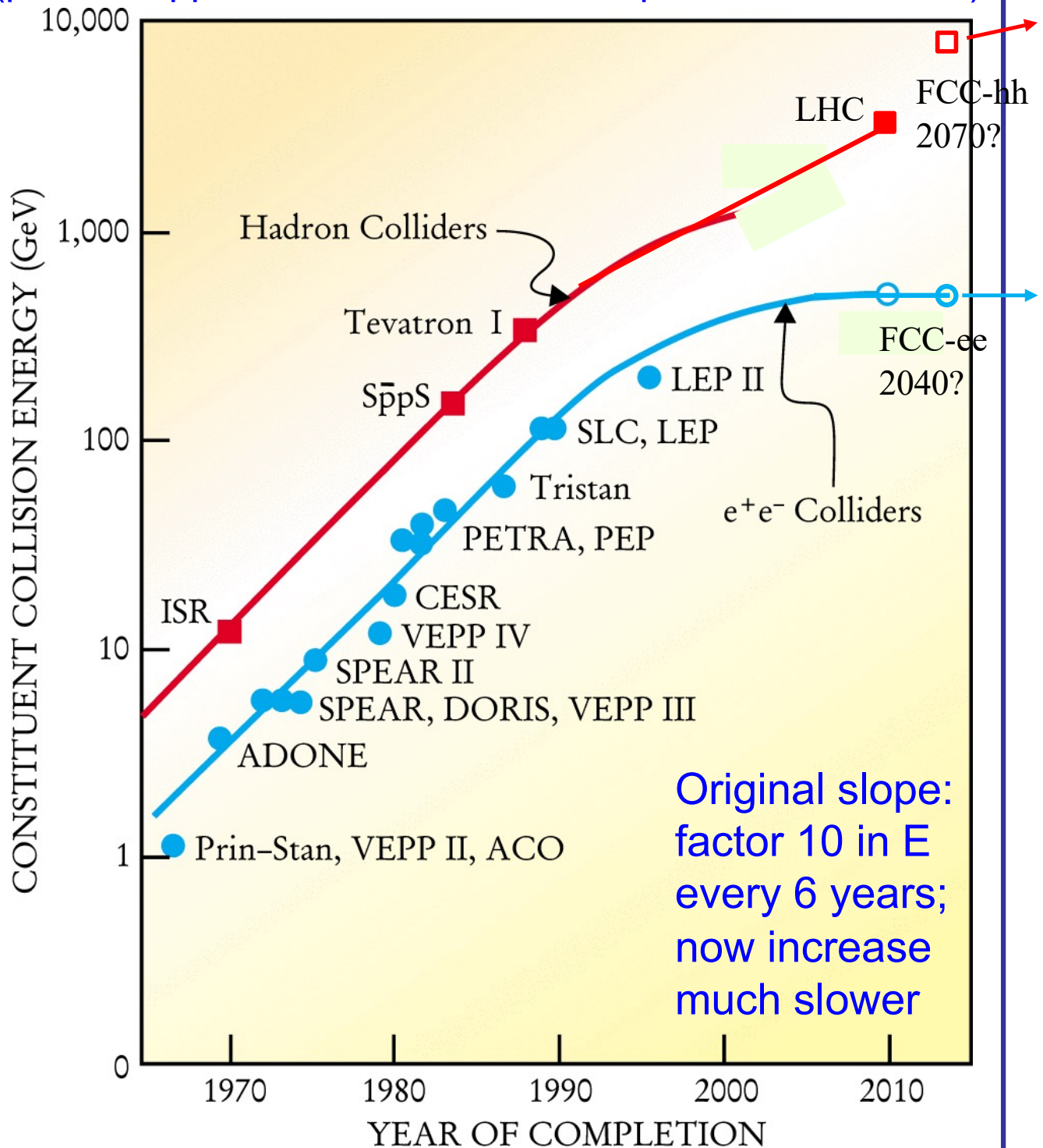


$$\lambda = h / p \quad (1.2 \text{ fm} / p [\text{GeV}]) \quad (\text{de Broglie, 1923})$$

$$E = \gamma mc^2 \quad (\text{Einstein, 1905})$$

### Livingston plot (1954):

(protons approximated as 3 valence quarks with same E)



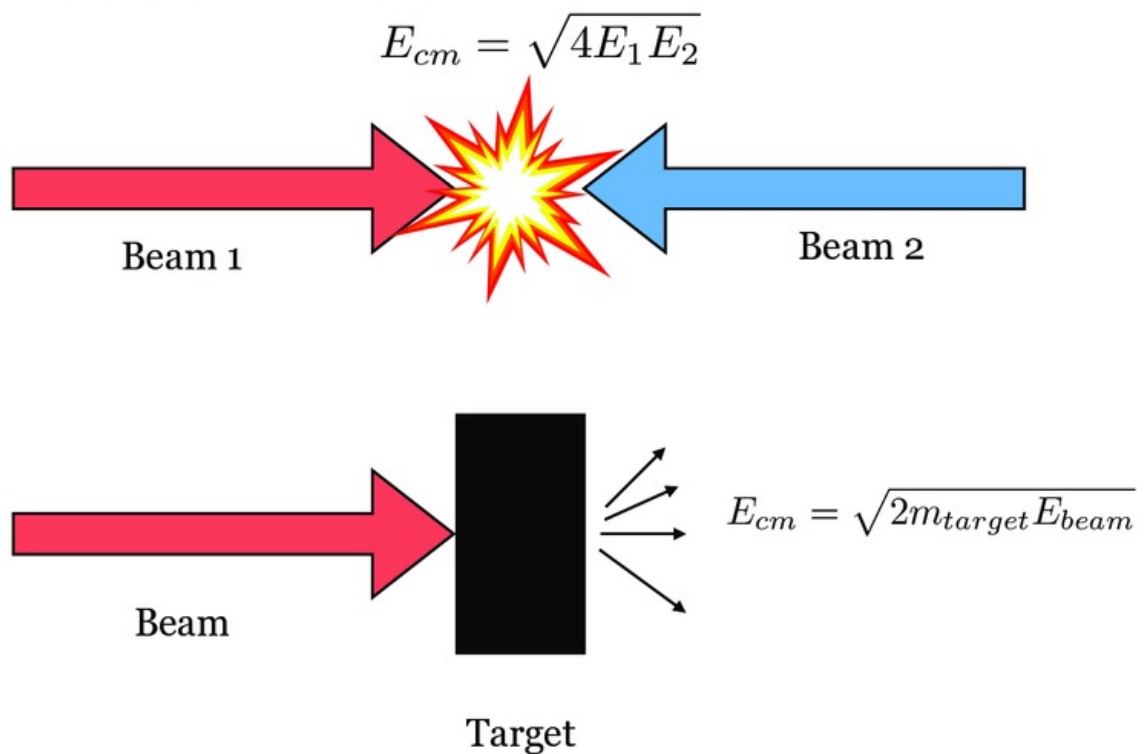




## Colliding beam v. fixed target



Following was known early...



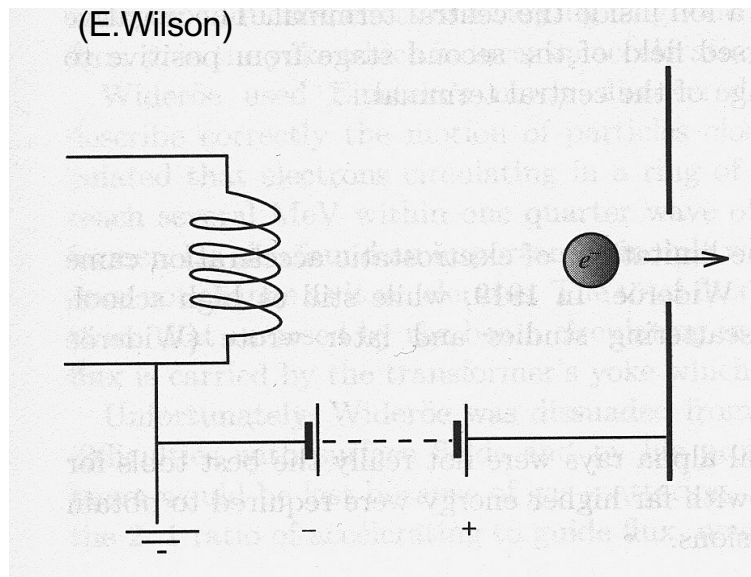
but took a long time to realize sufficiently dense and well-controlled particle beams !!



## Electrostatic accelerators



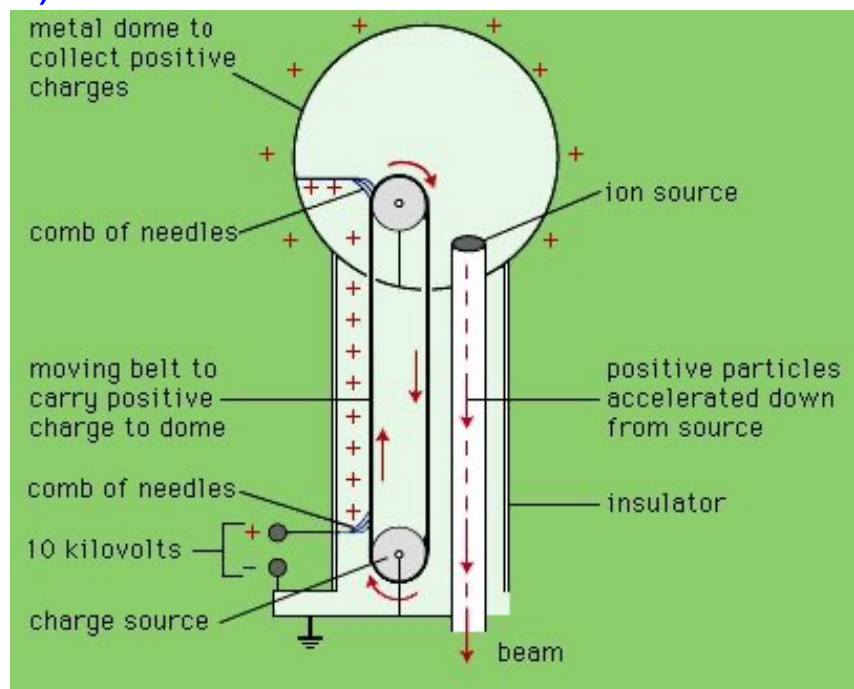
First accelerators electrostatic (like "electron gun" in an old fashion TV), electrons emitted by heated filament in vacuum & accelerated in a static electric potential



limited to ~ a few MeV (even in staged approach) due to electrical breakdown

van de Graaff (1931)

– moving belt charging up a high-voltage terminal (e.g. a metal ball)



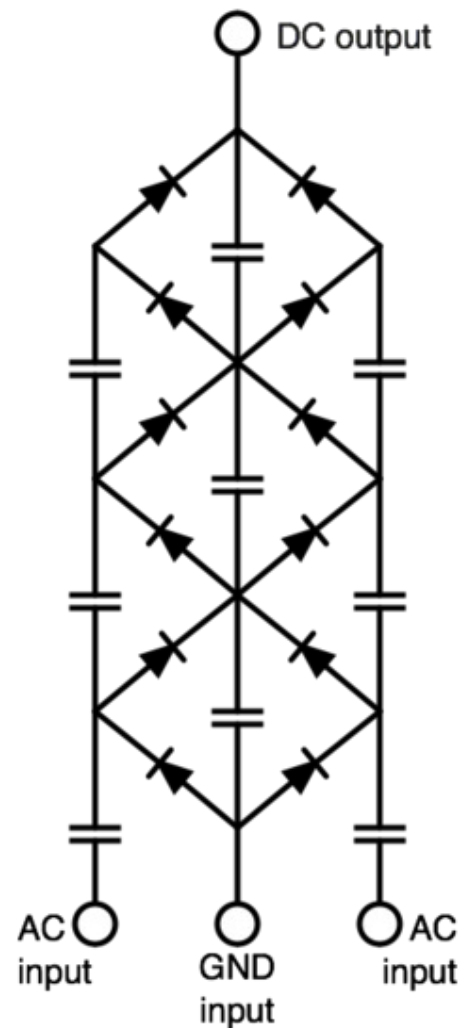


## Electrostatic accelerators



Cockcroft & Walton (1932) –  
ladder of diodes & capacitors

1937 – 1 MeV accelerator



method still commonly  
used for ion sources,  
high voltage power  
supplies, lightning safety  
testing systems ...

used in high voltage  
direct current  
applications



modern 100  
keV equivalent





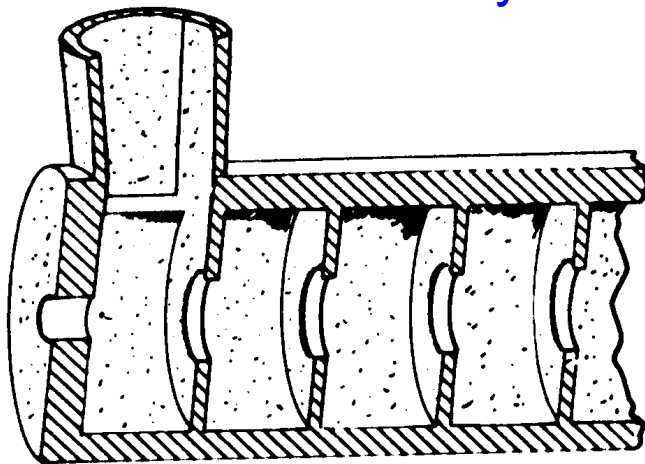
## Time dependent field



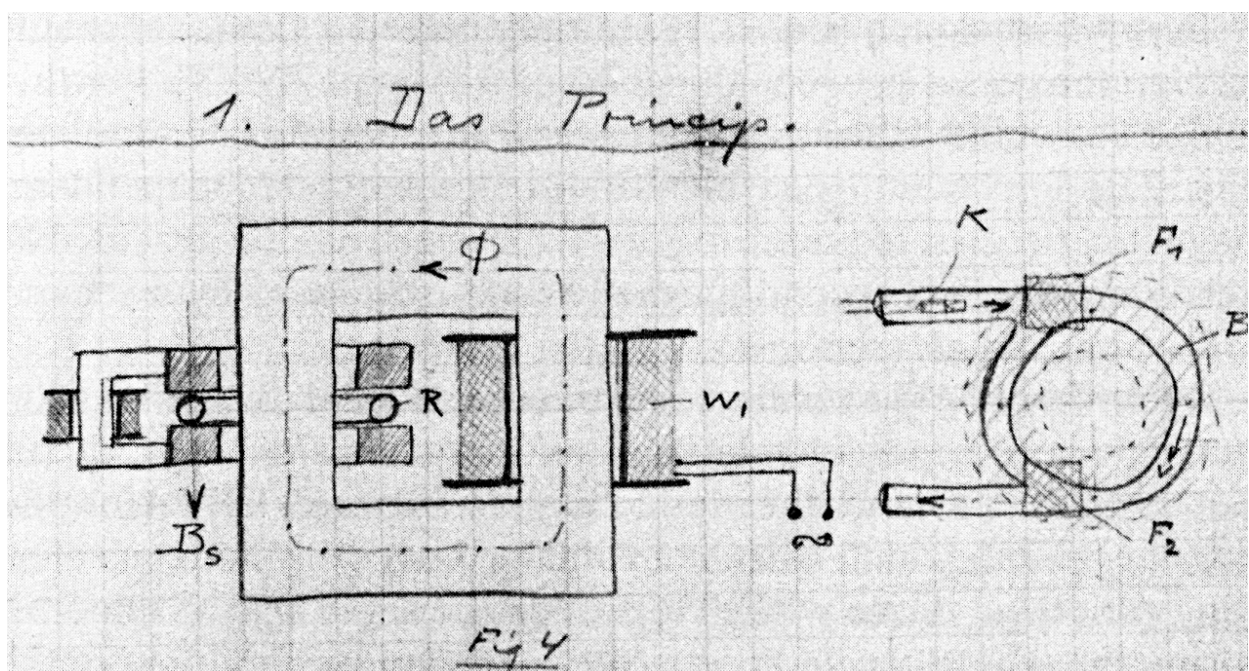
Continuous acceleration through same gap ?  
Maxwell equations  $\rightarrow$  time dependent magnetic field

$$\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{E} = -\frac{d\vec{B}}{dt} \rightarrow \int_{\Gamma} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{s} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_S \vec{B} \cdot \vec{n} da$$

Need suitable boundary conditions  $\rightarrow$  iris structure



R. Wideröe 1928: ray transformer -  
varying magnetic field via induction

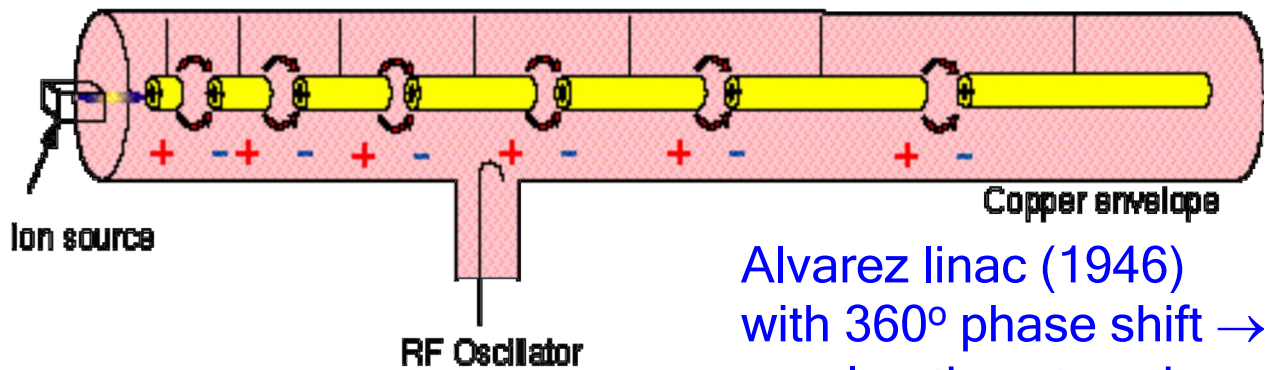




## Linear accelerators

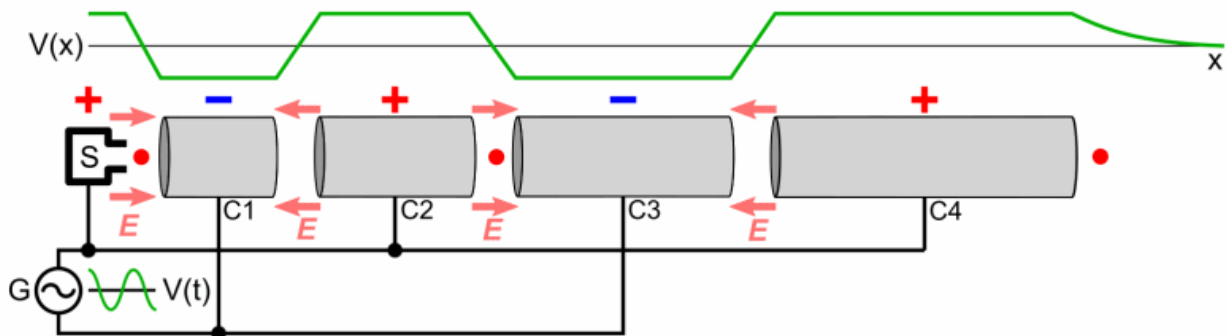


Next : pulsed operation in electrodes ("drift tube linac").  
Realised in mid-40's, high frequency oscillators available.

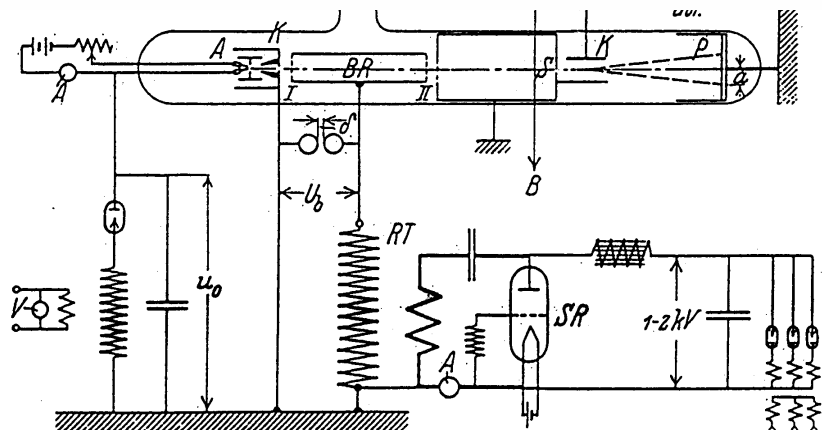


- Particle gains energy at each gap
- Cylinder protects particles from deacceleration
- Lengths of drift tubes follow increasing velocity
- Spacing becomes regular as  $v$  approaches  $c$

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linear\\_particle\\_accelerator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linear_particle_accelerator)



Wideröe's  
thesis work  
1928: a 2-  
stage linac  
with  $180^\circ$   
phase shift





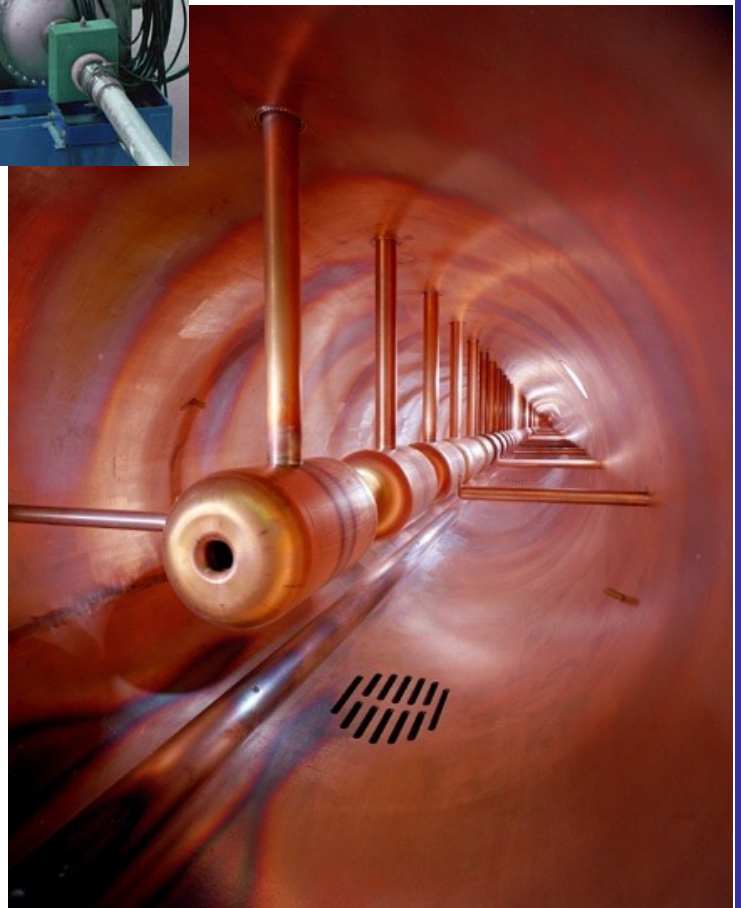


## Modern linacs



a 400 MeV  
linac at  
Fermilab

inside  
Fermilab  
linac





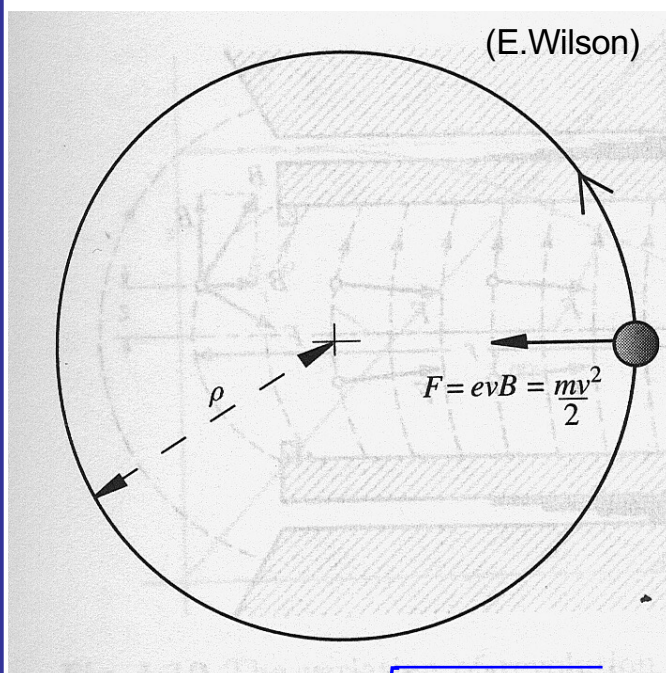
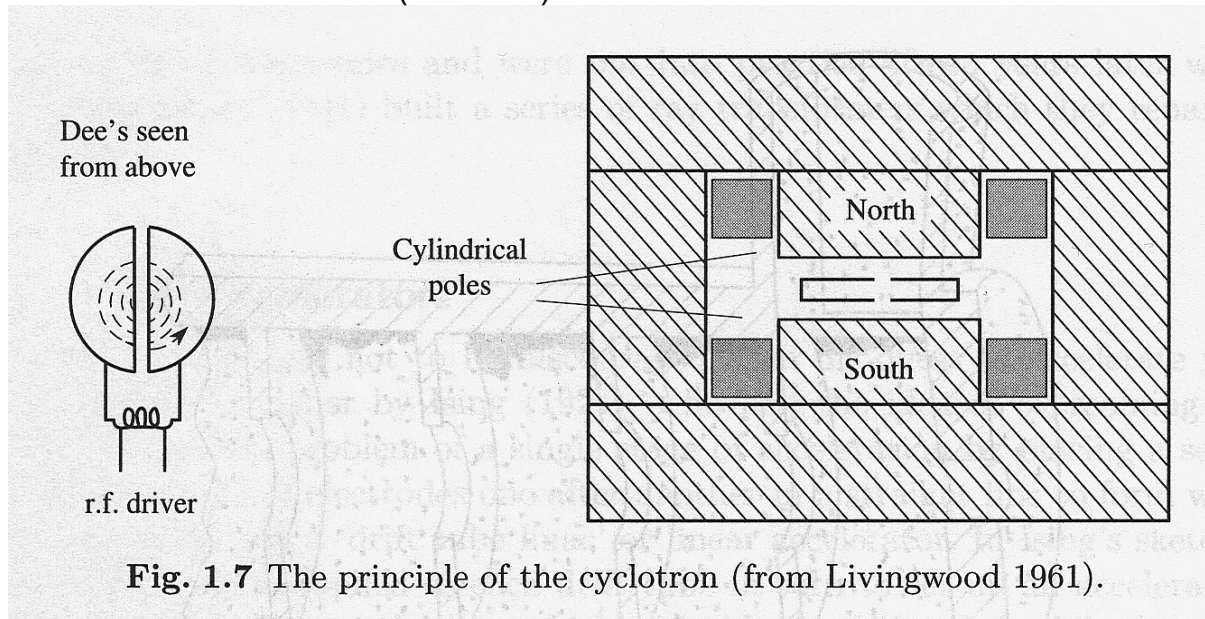
## Cyclotron



Lawrence 1930: make particle follow circular path between two magnetic poles & repeatedly accelerated in same gap

Cyclotron: (rf frequency constant when  $v \ll c$ )

(E. Wilson)



$$e v B = m v^2 / \rho \quad (v \ll c)$$

$$\rightarrow B \rho = p / e$$

(relativistic)

Cyclotron frequency:

$$f = v / 2 \pi \rho = e B / 2 \pi m$$

Used for protons & heavier ions.

$$E_{\text{kinetic}}^{\text{relativistic}} = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2} - m$$

$$E_{\text{kinetic}}^{\text{classical}} = p^2 / 2m$$

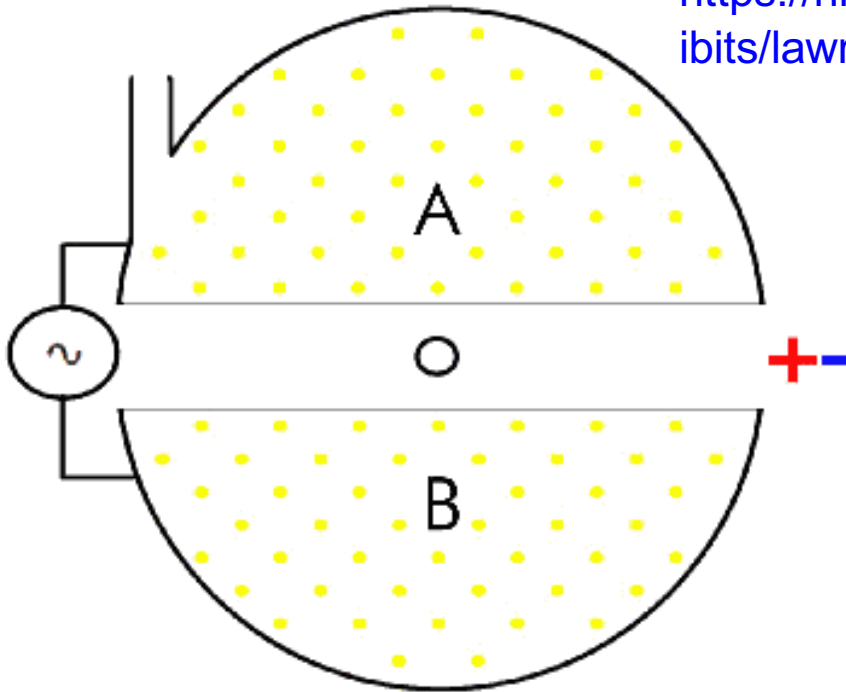




## Cyclotron demo



<https://history.aip.org/exhibits/lawrence/epa.htm>

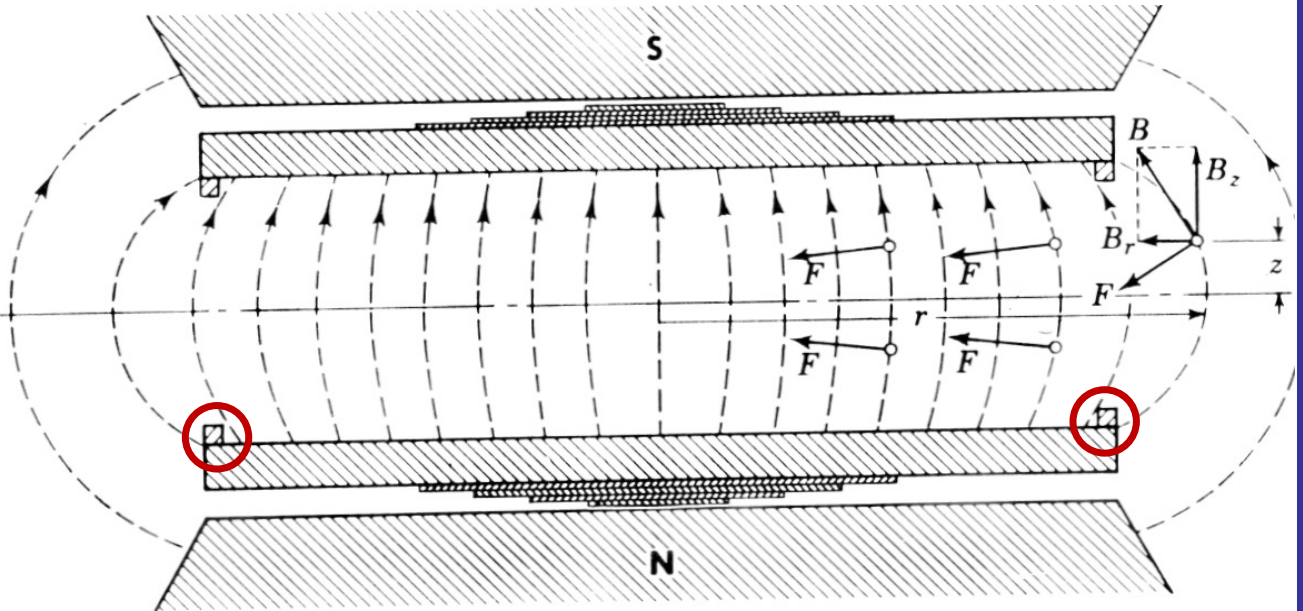


E. Lawrence (right) 1939 at LBL's 60-inch cyclotron





## Weak focusing



- ◆ In beginning people just built cyclotrons
- ◆ Lawrence's student McMillan experimented with shims (= elements put at edges of ring to avoid defocusing field) indicated by ○ in picture → a non-expected result: cyclotron started accelerating much higher currents
- ◆ invented principle of vertical focusing in a cyclotron

### Limitations of cyclotrons:

Need to change either field or frequency ("synchro-cyclotrons") once particle becomes relativistic. With clever solutions several hundred MeVs attained. Cyclotrons still very popular today.

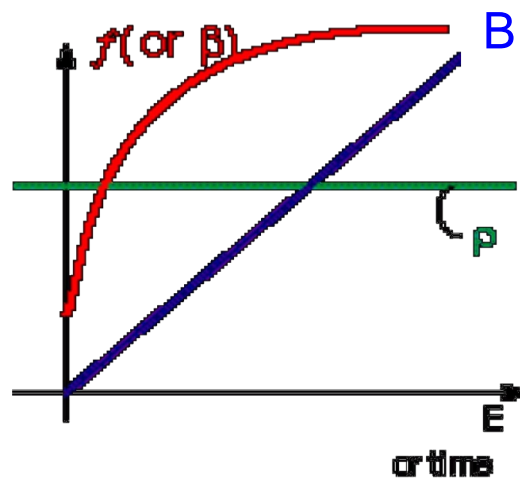


## Synchrotron

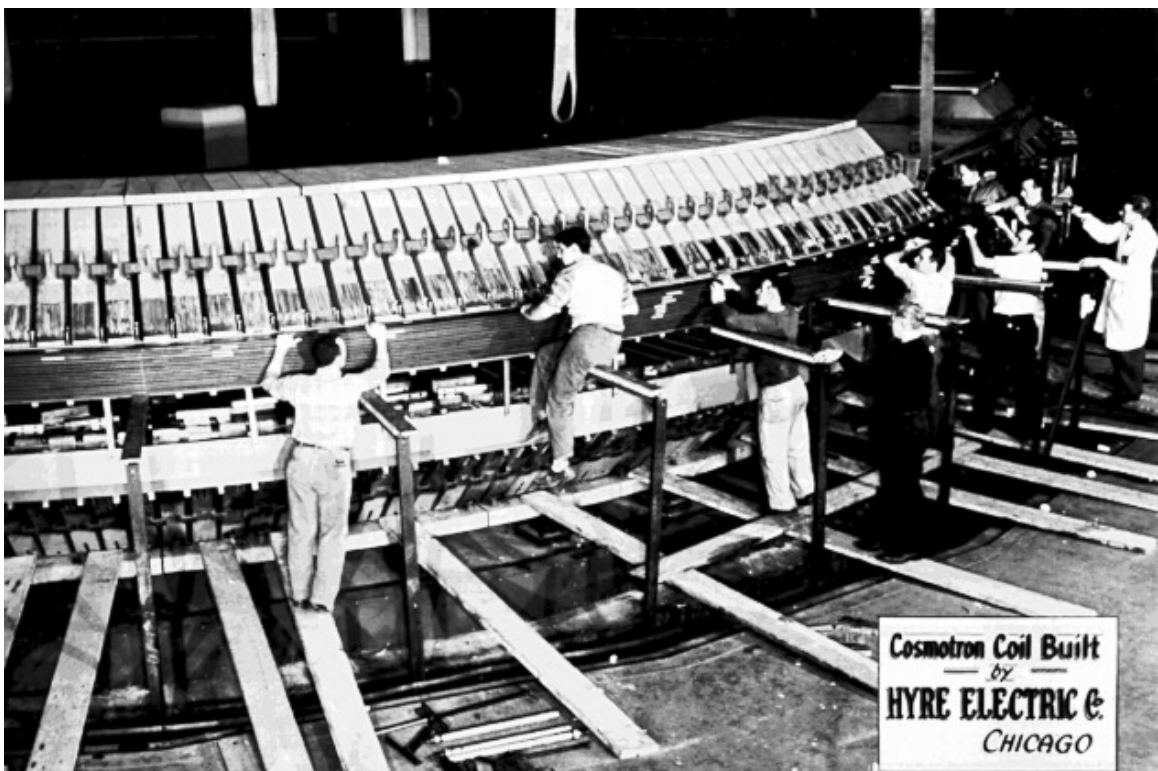


Veksler 1944 / McMillan 1945: vary both frequency & magnetic field + fix particle trajectory to circle while accelerating.

Synchrotron: frequency and magnetic field vs  $E$



The 3 GeV Cosmotron at Brookhaven 1952





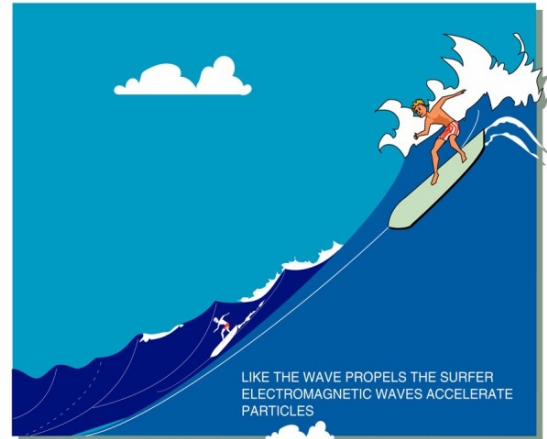


## Acceleration principles

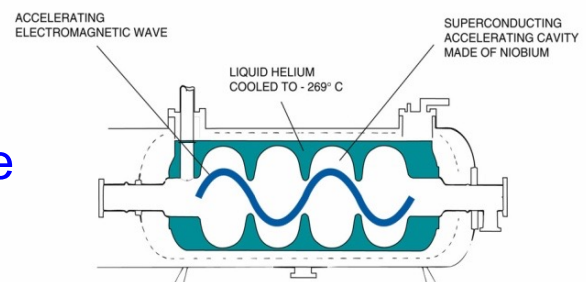


- electric fields accelerate charged particles
- most efficient electric field source: electromagnetic wave
- use Radio Frequencies to match velocity of particles:  
e.g. LHC  $2\pi R = 27 \text{ km}$ ;  $v = c$ ;  
frequency =  $c / 2\pi R = 11 \text{ kHz}$
- in RF cavity longitudinal component of E field moves in phase with beam
- particles continuously accelerated as long as phase relationship maintained

### THE SUPRACONDUCTIVITY

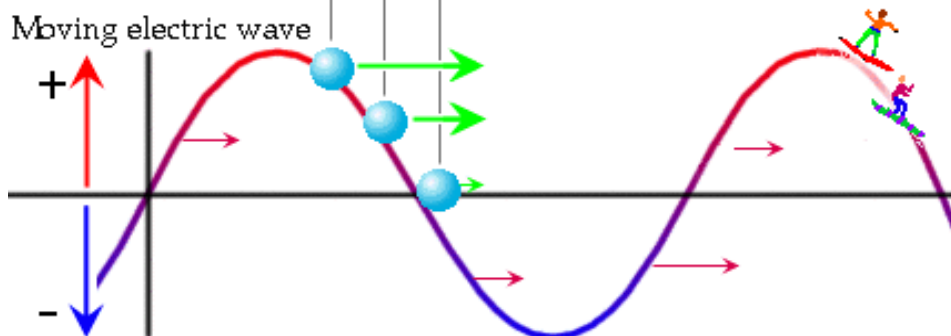
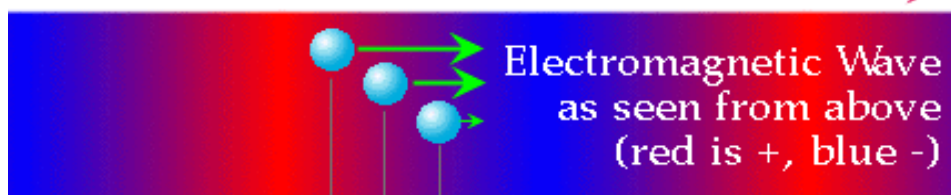


THE USE OF SUPRACONDUCTIVITY TO INCREASE PERFORMANCES AND CONSIDERABLY REDUCE ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION



CERN AC \_Z31 VA\_V12/8/1997

Electromagnetic wave is traveling, pushing particles along with it



Positively charged particles (●) close to the crest of the E-M wave experience the most force forward; those closer to the center experience less of a force. The result is that the particles tend to move together with the wave.

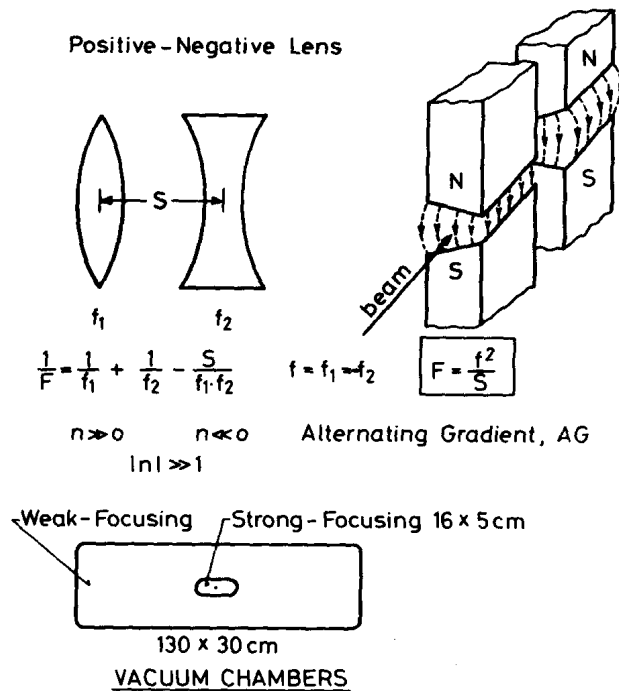
Principle of phase stability (particles lagging behind accelerated more than average & vice versa)  
- Veksler & McMillan 1945



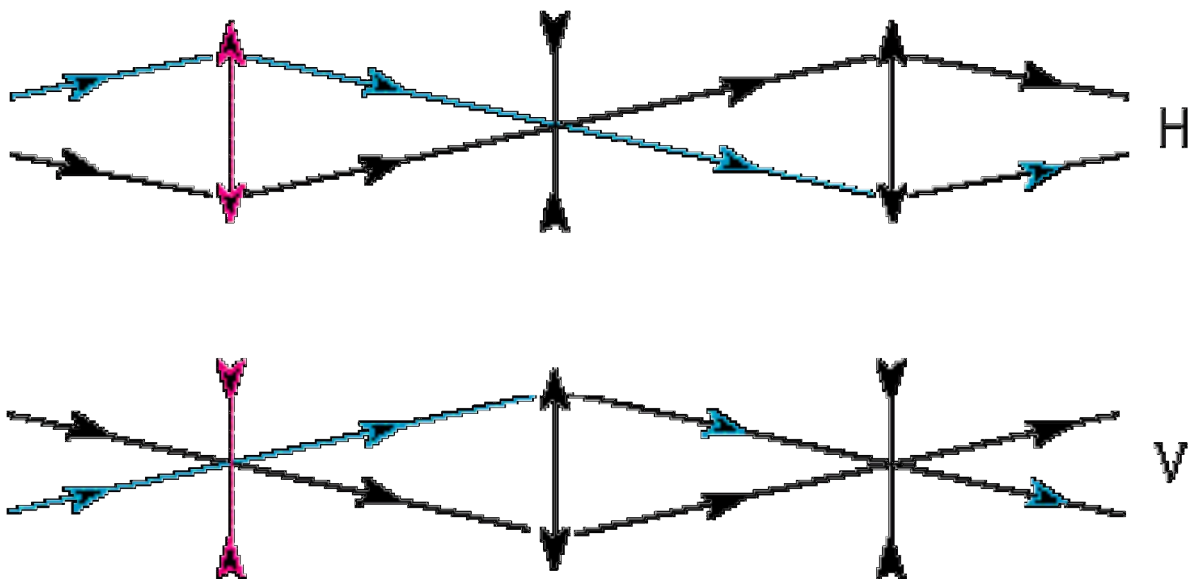
## Colliders



1950's strong focusing ("alternating-gradient"): particles focused by alternating convex/concave lenses through the centres of (de)focusing lenses. Focusing improved significantly.



Strong focusing  
at the  
Cosmotron –  
Courant,  
Livingston &  
Snyder 1958



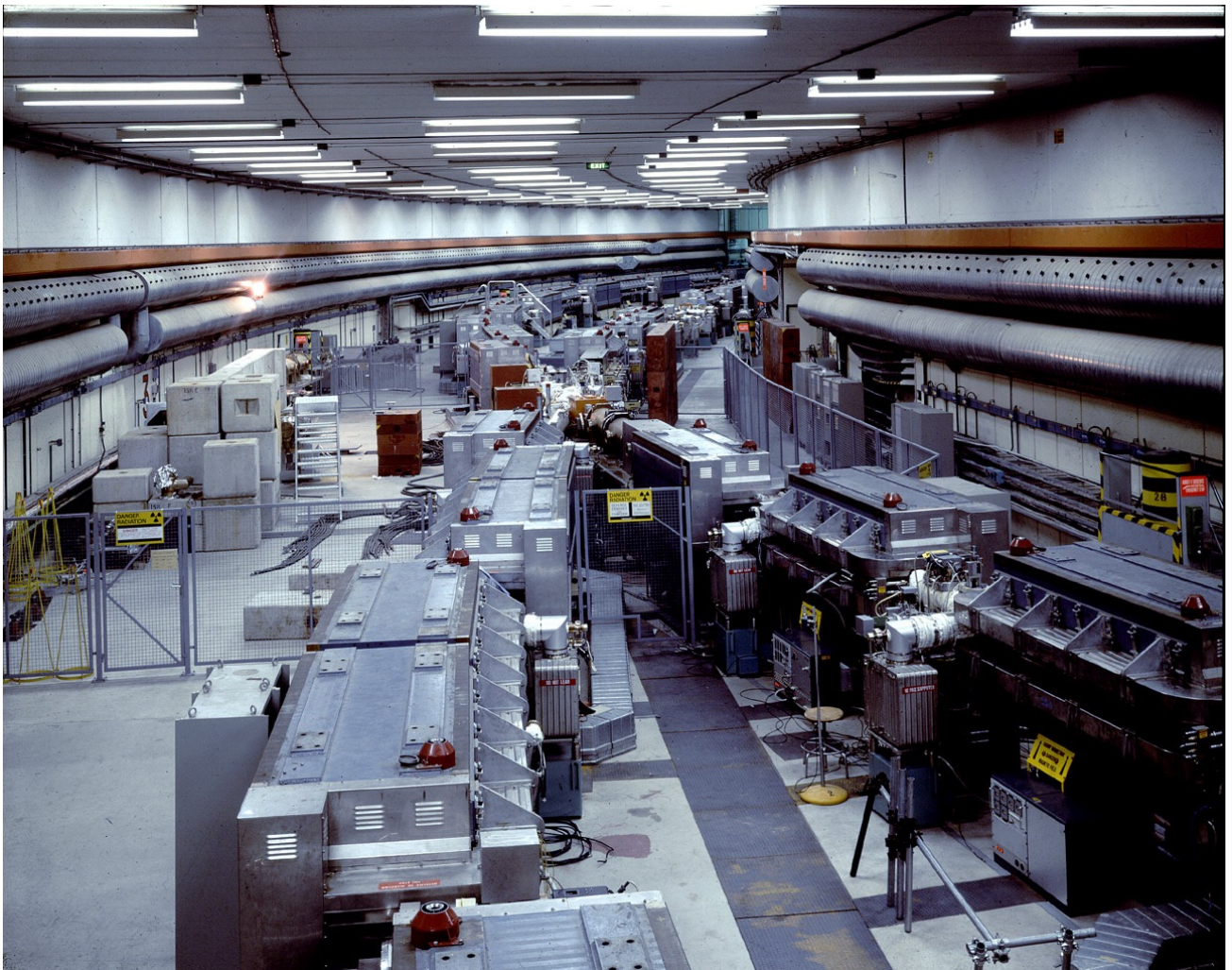


## Colliders



very focused particle beams → colliders

Intersecting Storage Ring (ISR) @ CERN (1971-84)



two ring collider providing either proton-proton  
– like LHC – or proton-antiproton collisions

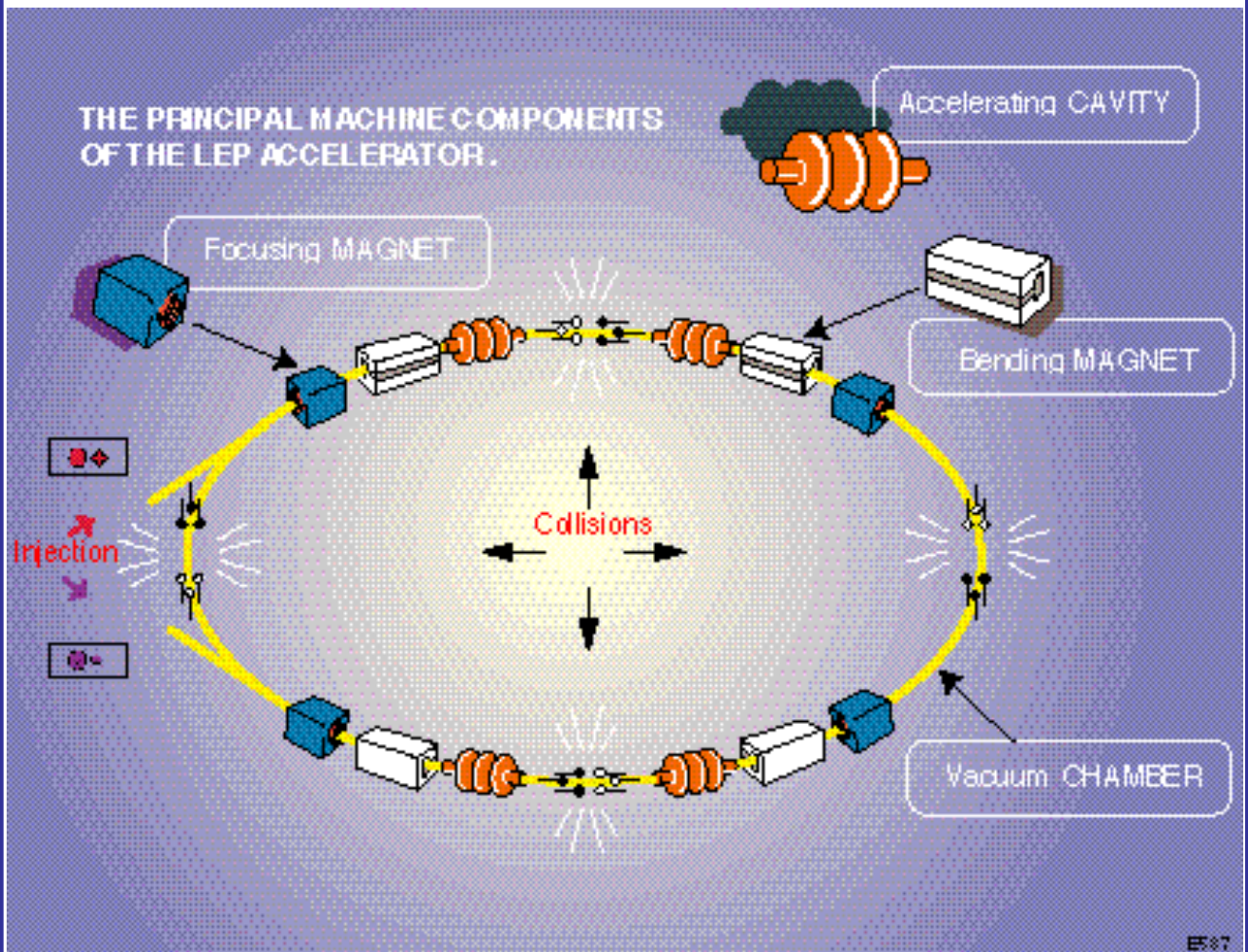




## Colliders



### principal components of a particle accelerator



- accelerating cavities
- bending magnets
- focusing magnets
- vacuum chamber



## Proton-antiproton colliders



### Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS) @ CERN (1976-91)



proton-antiproton collider upgrade 1981: protons & antiprotons circulating opposite ways in same tube

stochastic cooling (for sufficient antiproton luminosity)

discovery of W & Z – 1983

Tevatron @ Fermilab (1983-2011): 1.8-1.96 TeV  
proton-antiproton collider similar to  $\text{SP}\bar{\text{P}}\text{S}$ .

discovery of top quark - 1995





## $e^+e^-/e^+p$ colliders



Z factory ( $e^+e^-$  collider at  $\sqrt{s} = m_Z$ )  $\rightarrow$  LEP (1989-2000) – 27 km circumference (same tunnel as LHC)



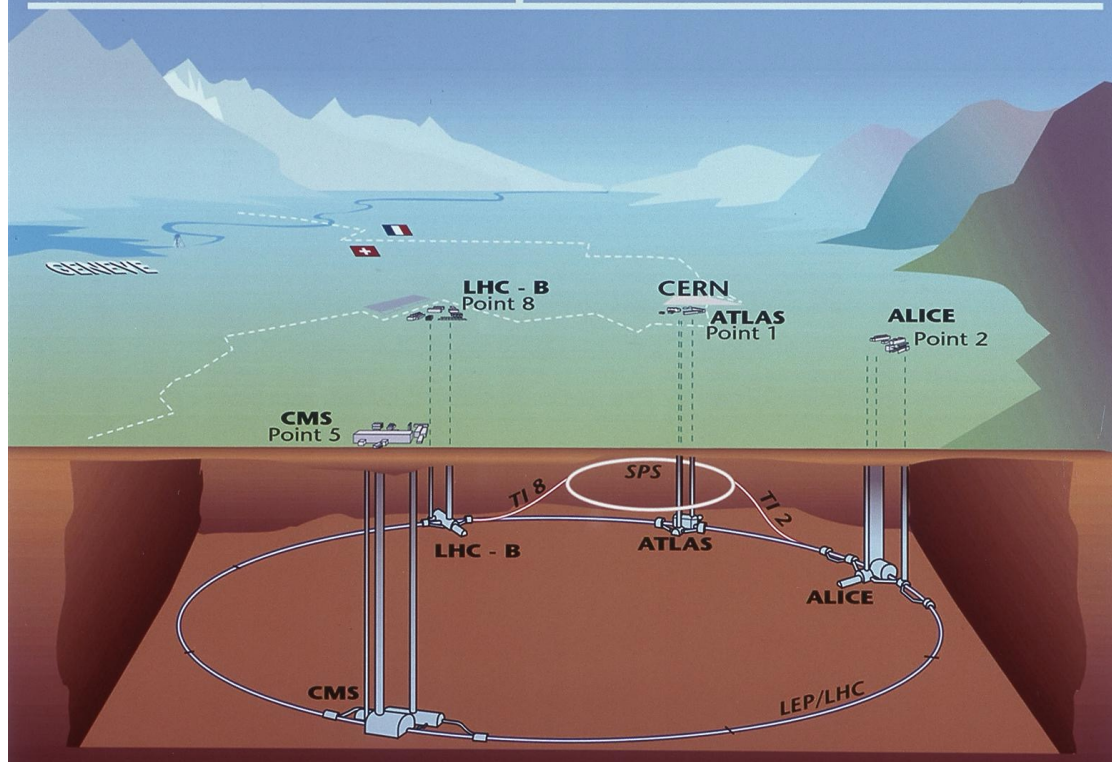
electron (positron) against proton  $\rightarrow$   
HERA @ DESY, Hamburg (1992-2007)



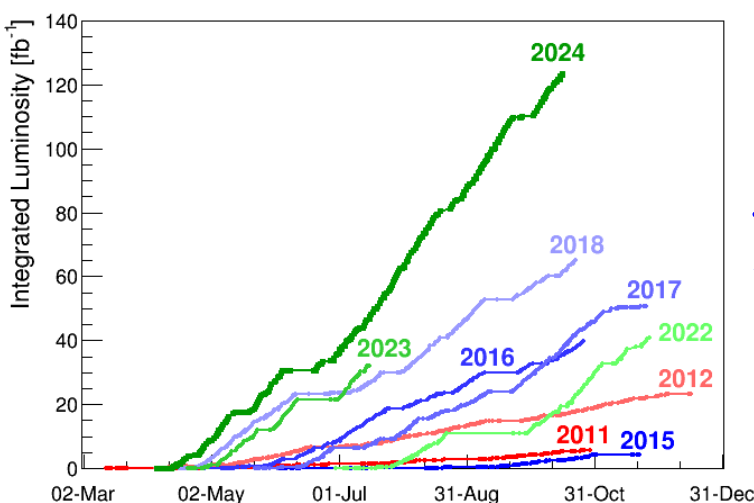
## Large Hadron Collider



### Overall view of the LHC experiments.



Successfully started Nov 2009, proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 7\text{-}8\text{ TeV}$  (2010–12, Run1),  $13\text{ TeV}$  (2015–18, Run2) &  $13.6\text{ TeV}$  (2022–26, Run3). 2030–:  $14\text{ TeV}$  expected, Run4



$\sqrt{s} = 13.6\text{ (13, 8, 7) TeV}$ ;  
For "big" experiments  
(ATLAS & CMS) so far  
 $\int \mathcal{L} dt \sim 180\text{ (}\sim 140, \sim 23, \sim 6\text{) fb}^{-1}$  on disk

$\mathcal{L} > 2 \cdot 10^{34}\text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$  @  
best; (exceeding original  
aim of  $\sim 10^{34}\text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ )

**Highlight: ATLAS & CMS  
Higgs boson discovery 2012**

Now: Run3 (2022–26)  
aim:  $\int \mathcal{L} dt > 300\text{ fb}^{-1}$  at  
 $\sqrt{s} = 13.6\text{ TeV}$





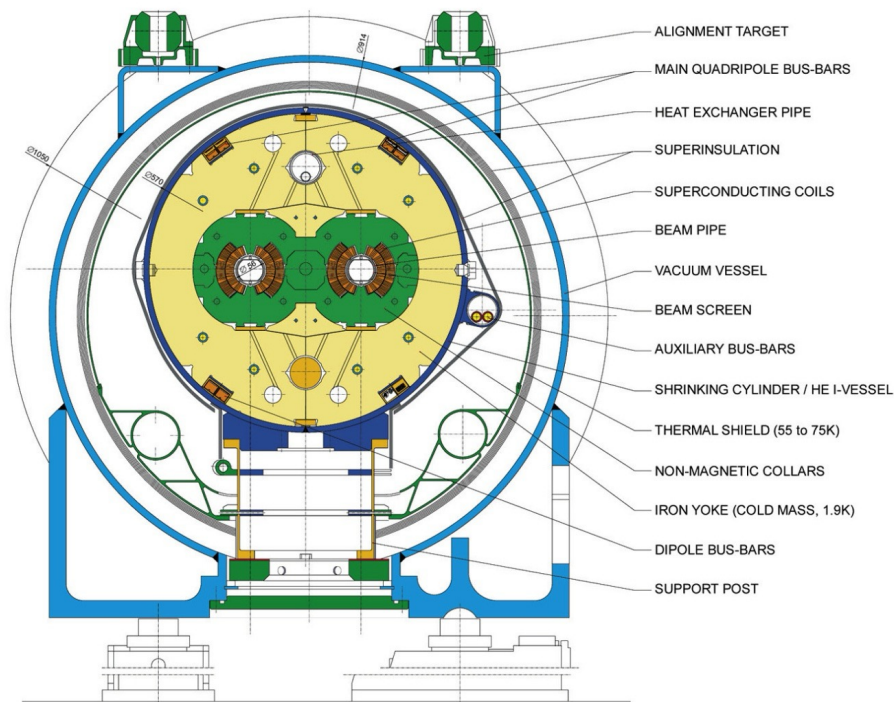
## Future colliders



bending power limit for conventional magnets at 2 T  
→ superconducting dipole magnets 7-8 T @ LHC

### LHC DIPOLE : STANDARD CROSS-SECTION

CERN AC/CD/MM - HE107 - 30.04.1999



### What next?

- High luminosity upgrade of LHC ( $5-7 \cdot 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ ) to discover new physics beyond standard model
- High-precision collider to determine exact nature of Higgs boson discovered at LHC. Synchrotron radiation limit for electron-positron colliders → high-intensity linear / large circular (FCC) collider
- Larger circular collider (FCC,  $\sim 90 \text{ km}$  circumference) to discover new physics beyond standard model

alternative approach?

muon colliders / plasma wake field acceleration / ...