Single Top Quark Physics

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Daß ich erkenne, was die Welt
Im Innersten zusammenhält

So that I may perceive whatever holds
The world together in its inmost folds

Faust, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Relax.

What is Mind?

No matter.

What is Matter?

Never mind!

Homer J Simpson

Outline

- *A fundamental question*
- *The standard model of particle physics*
  - *Three generations of elementary particles*
  - *The top quark*
- *The Energy Frontier*
- *Search for Single Top Quark Production*
- *Outlook*
- *Conclusions*

- *Simplified units:*
  c = 1
  - → *Energy, momentum, mass in GeV*

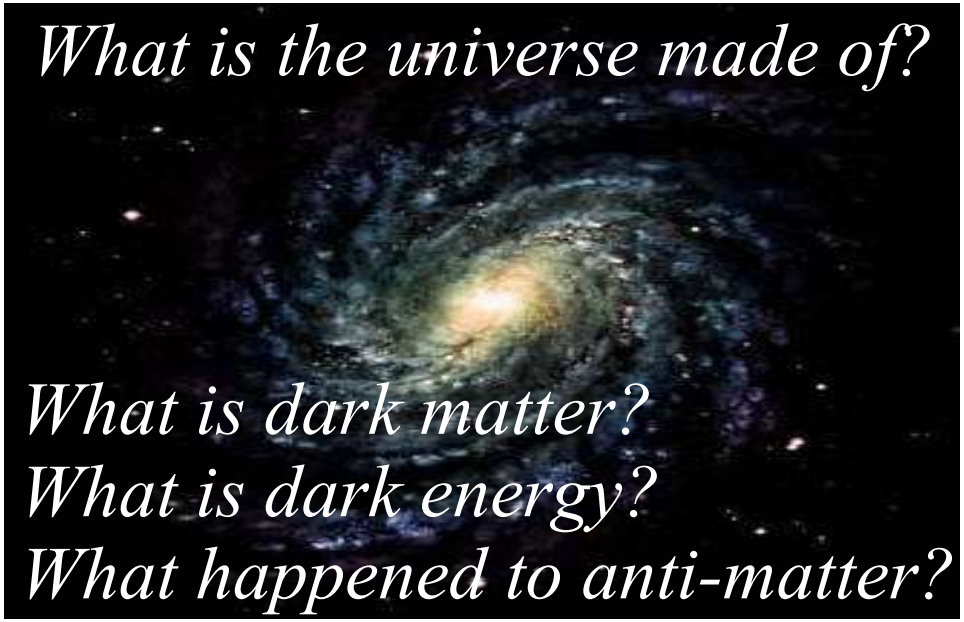
- *Cross section in picobarn*
  (1 barn = 10^{-24} cm^2)
  - *Luminosity in* $\frac{1}{picobarn}$

A fundamental question

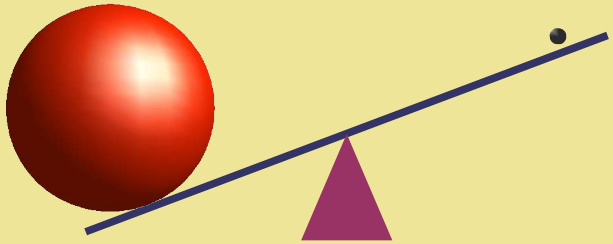
What is the origin of matter?

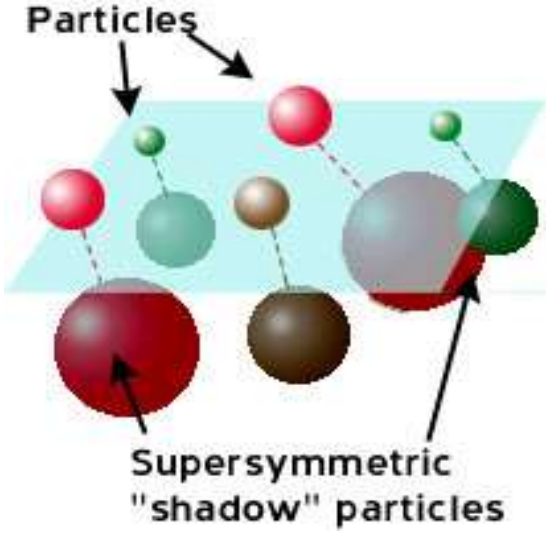
What is the origin of matter?

What gives mass to elementary particles?



What makes quarks so heavy and neutrinos so light?





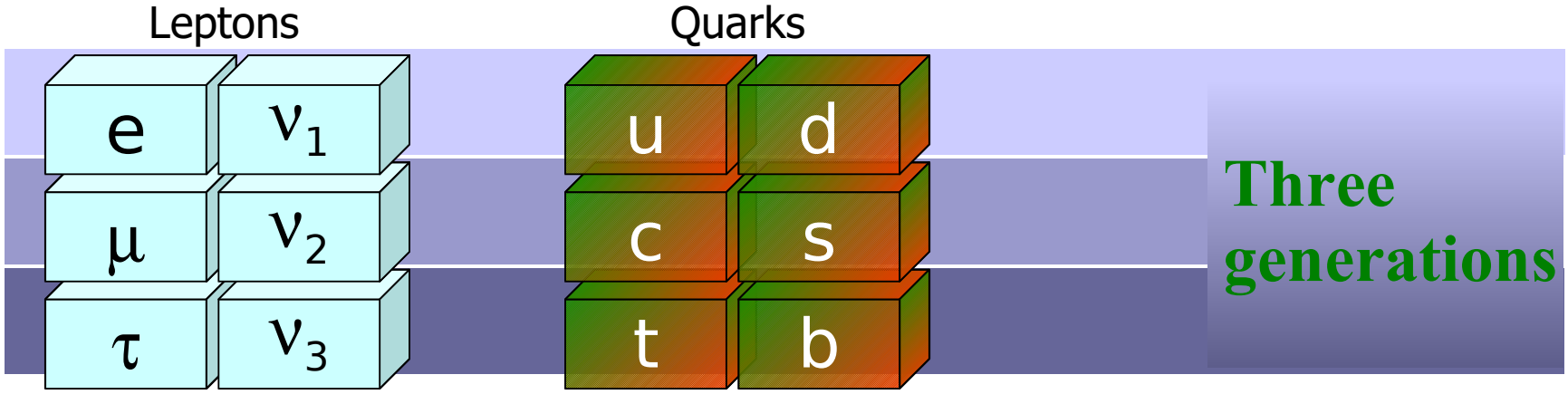
Supersymmetry? Extra spatial dimensions? ...

State of the art

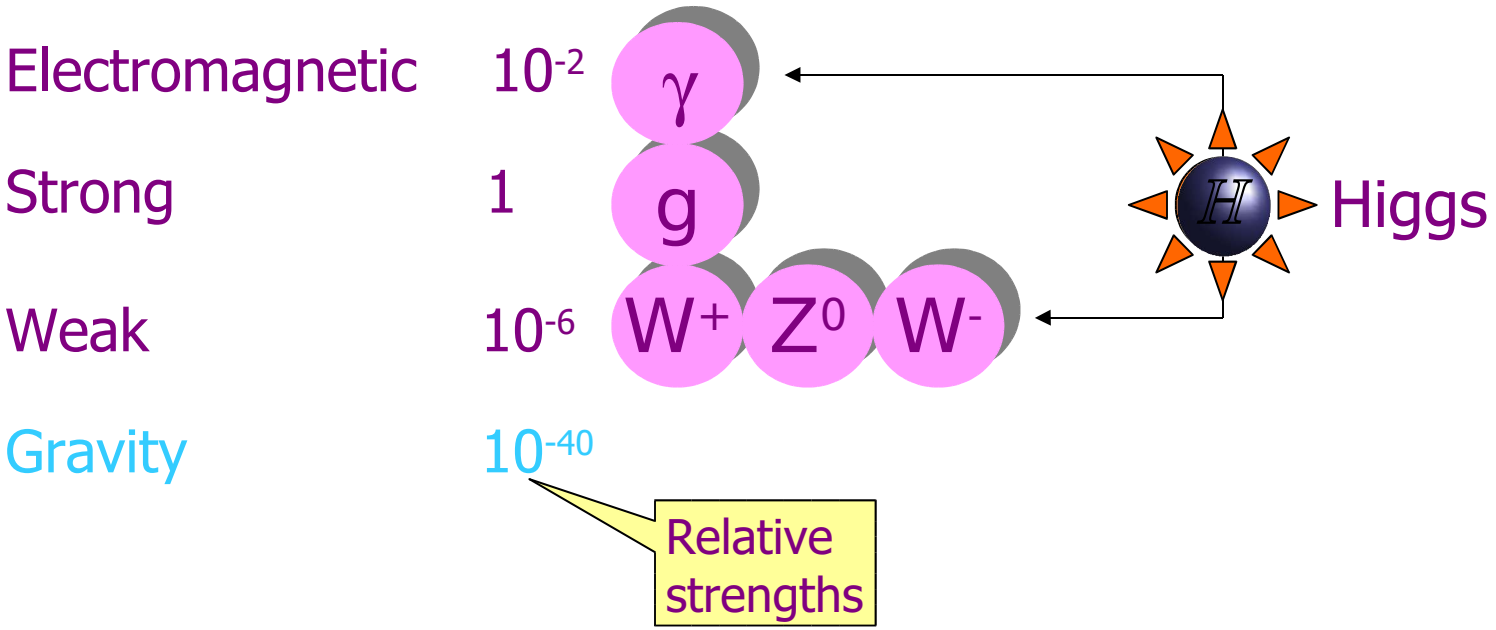
What do we know already?

Standard model of particles and forces

- *A quantum field theory describing point like, spin-½ constituents*

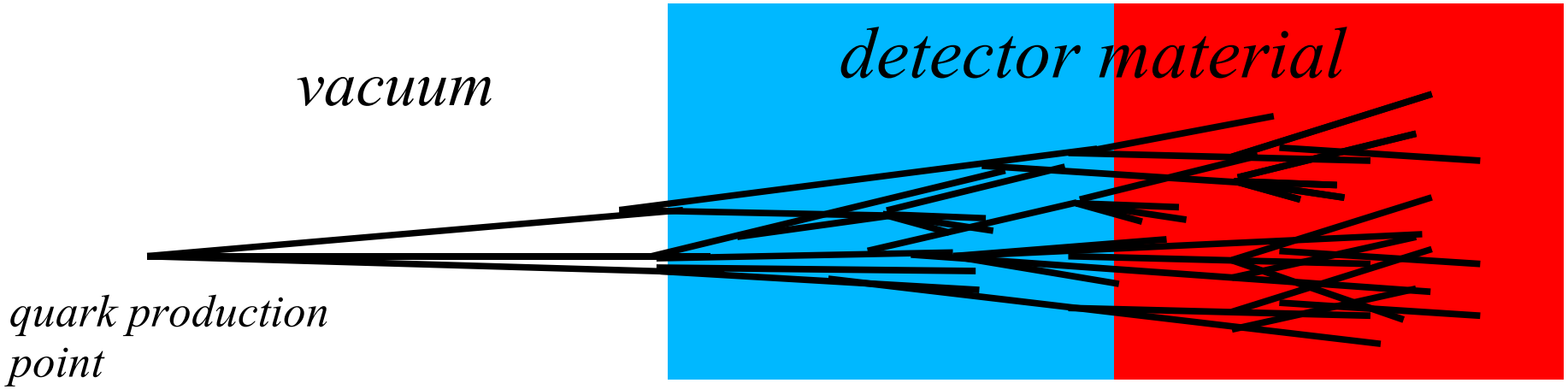


- *Which interact by exchanging spin-1 vector bosons*



The first two generations of quarks

- *up or down or strange or charm quarks:*



Free quarks don't exist (quark confinement)

Quarks produced in interactions hadronize to mesons or hadrons

These typically travel in the same direction → hadronic jet

Quark jet produces a hadronic shower through interactions with nuclei

Detecting quark-jets is a standard tool at the energy frontier

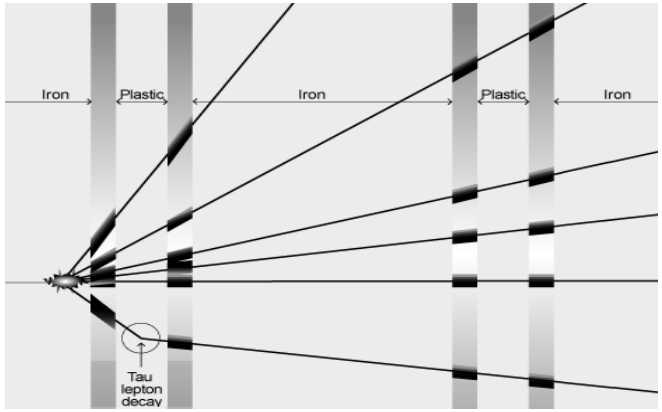
The third generation

Tau lepton

Discovered 1975 at SLAC

Tau neutrino

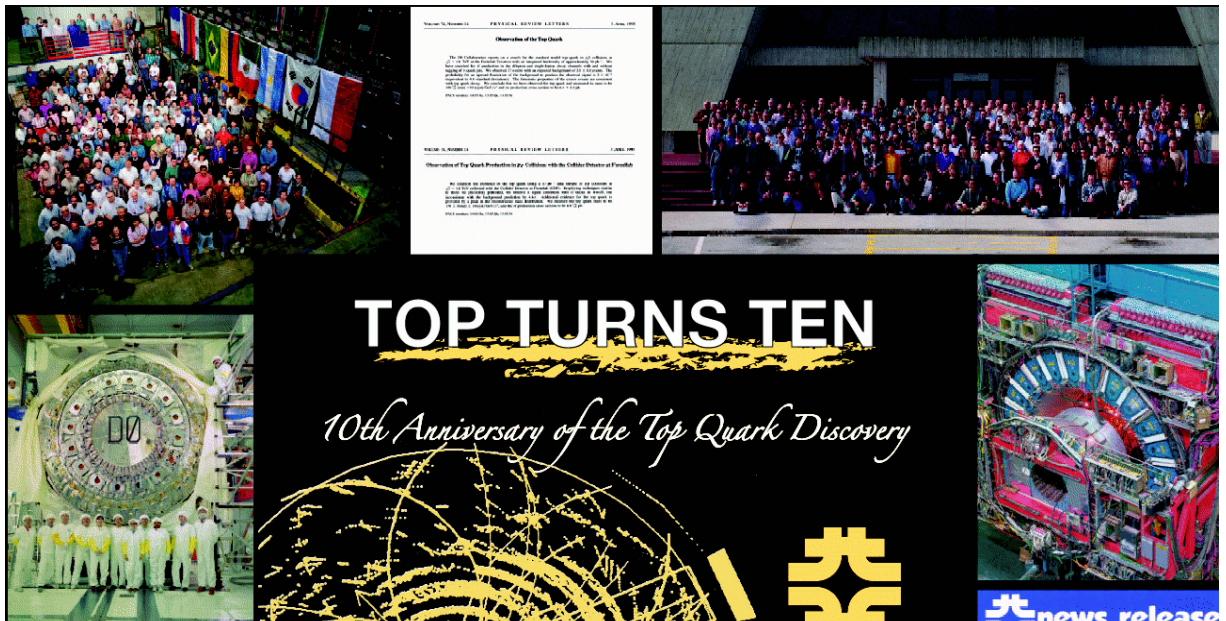
Discovered 2000 at Fermilab



bottom quark

Discovered 1978 at Fermilab

top quark

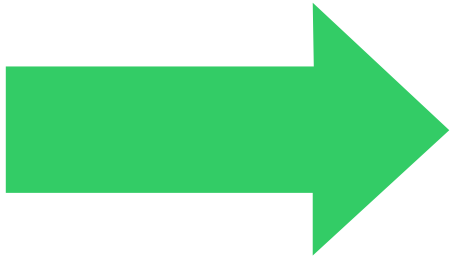


Gauge boson masses in the SM

Gauge bosons

Higgs field

Electroweak symmetry breaking



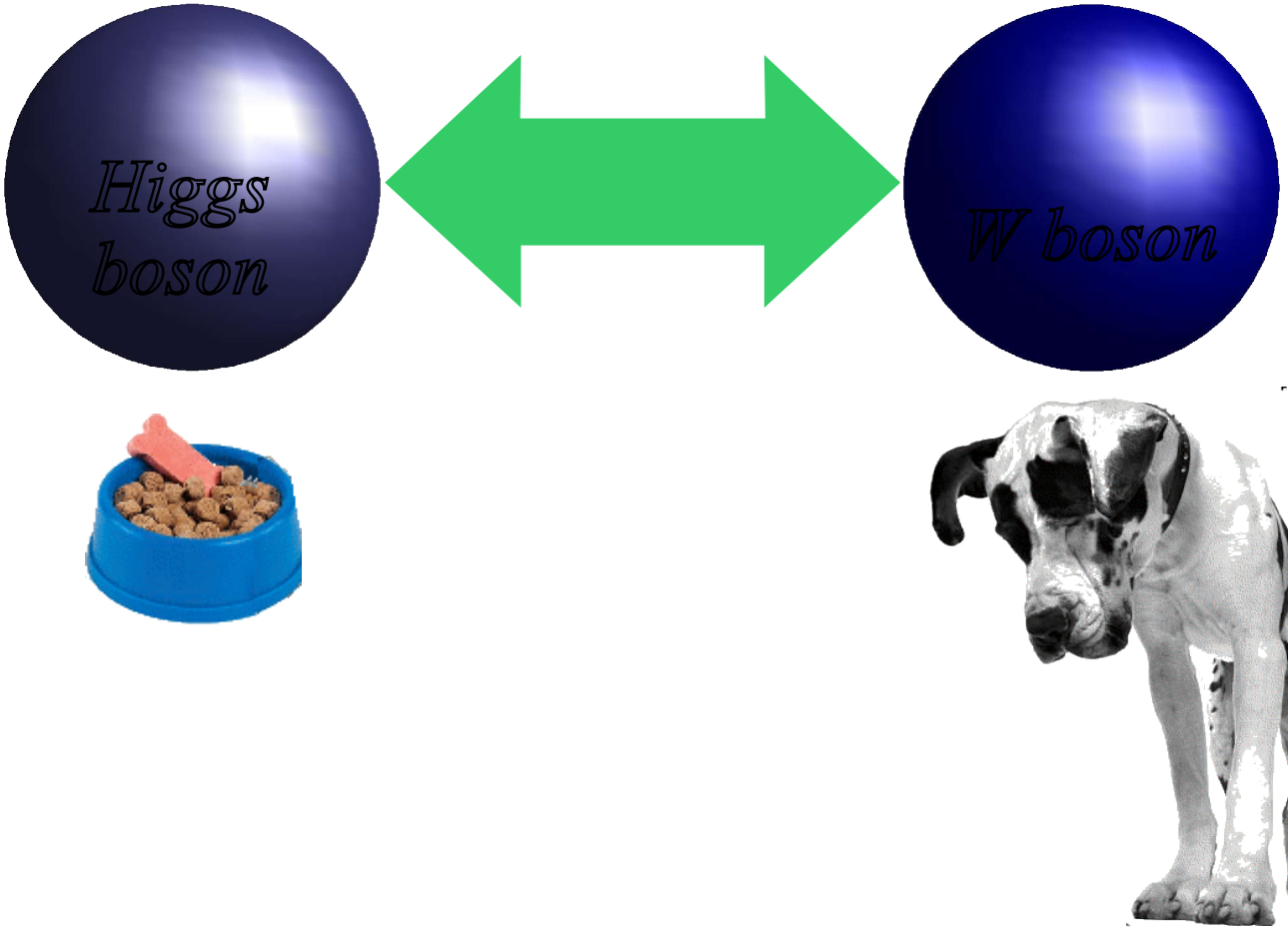
W,Z bosons

Higgs field

photon

Electroweak symmetry breaking

Gauge boson coupling to Higgs field



Electroweak symmetry breaking

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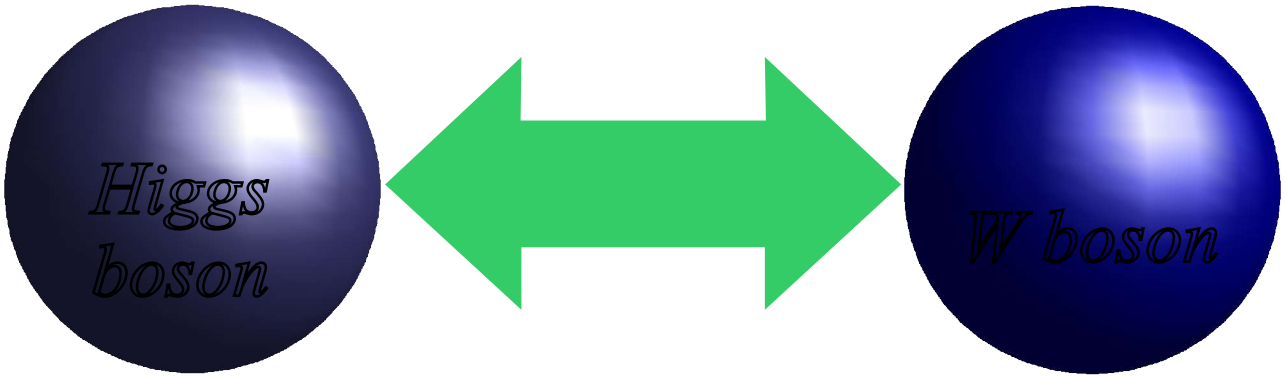
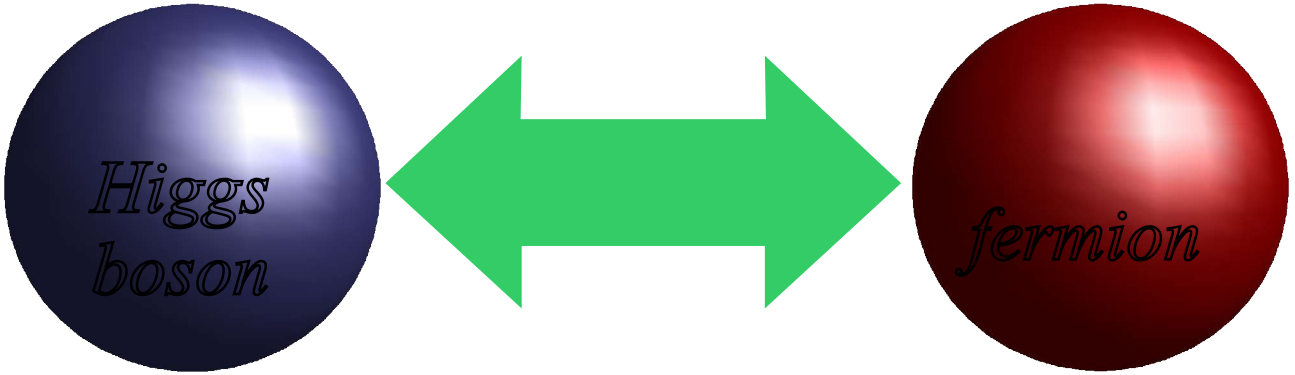
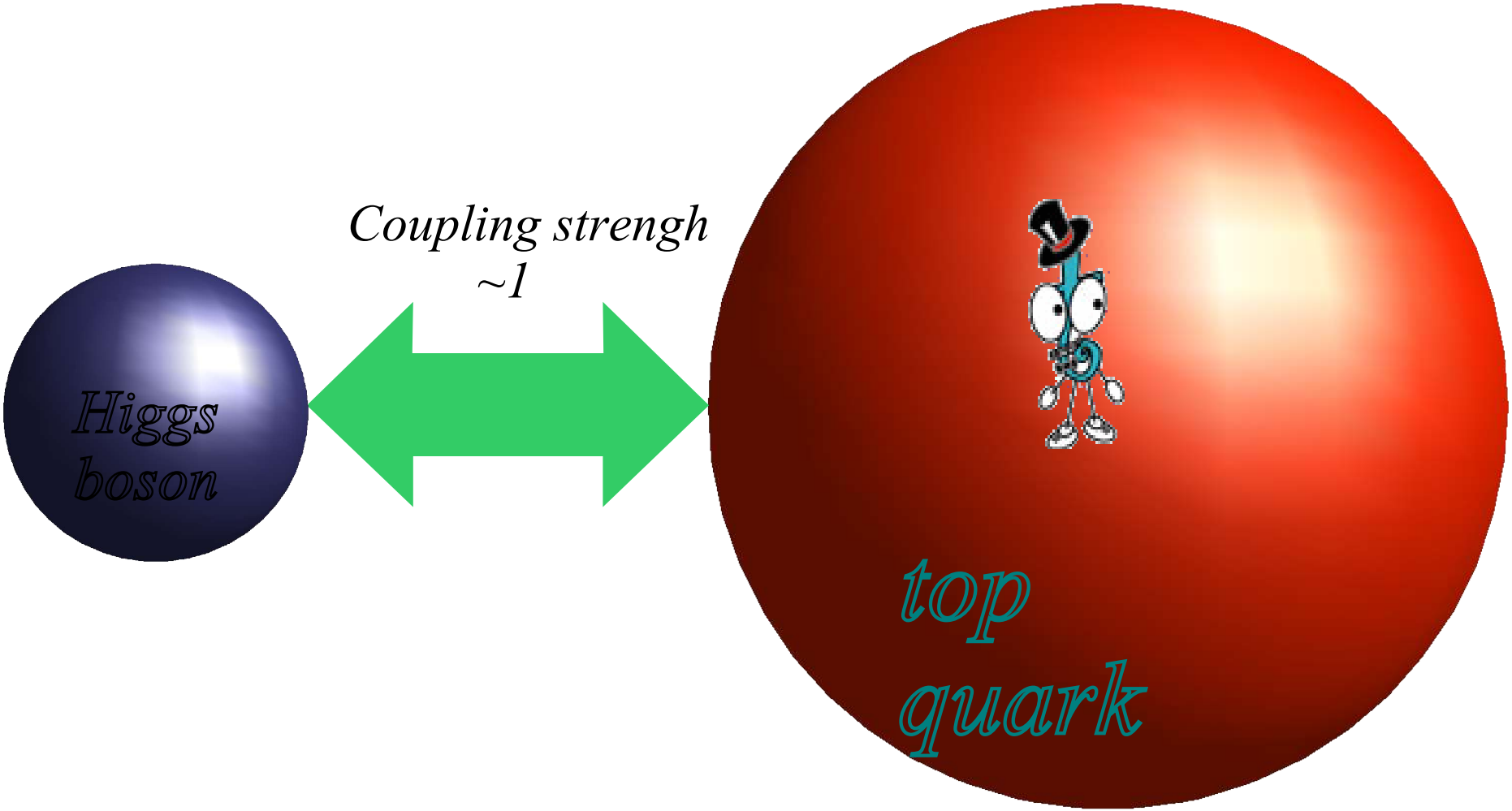


Fermions acquire mass through Higgs coupling



Top quark mass



Top quark mass

Coupling strengh
~1

Higgs boson

top quark

Top quark experimental facts

- *Top quark produced in SM strong interaction*
- *Top quark usually decays to a W boson and b quark*
- *Top quark mass 175 GeV*

We assume but don't actually know:

- *Charge, Spin*
- *Electroweak interactions*
  - *Charged current (W boson)*
    - *Total width*
    - *CKM matrix*
  - *Neutral current (Z boson)*

Really don't know:

- *Coupling to Higgs?*
- *Modified weak coupling?*
- *SUSY? New physics?*

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- *Charge, Spin*
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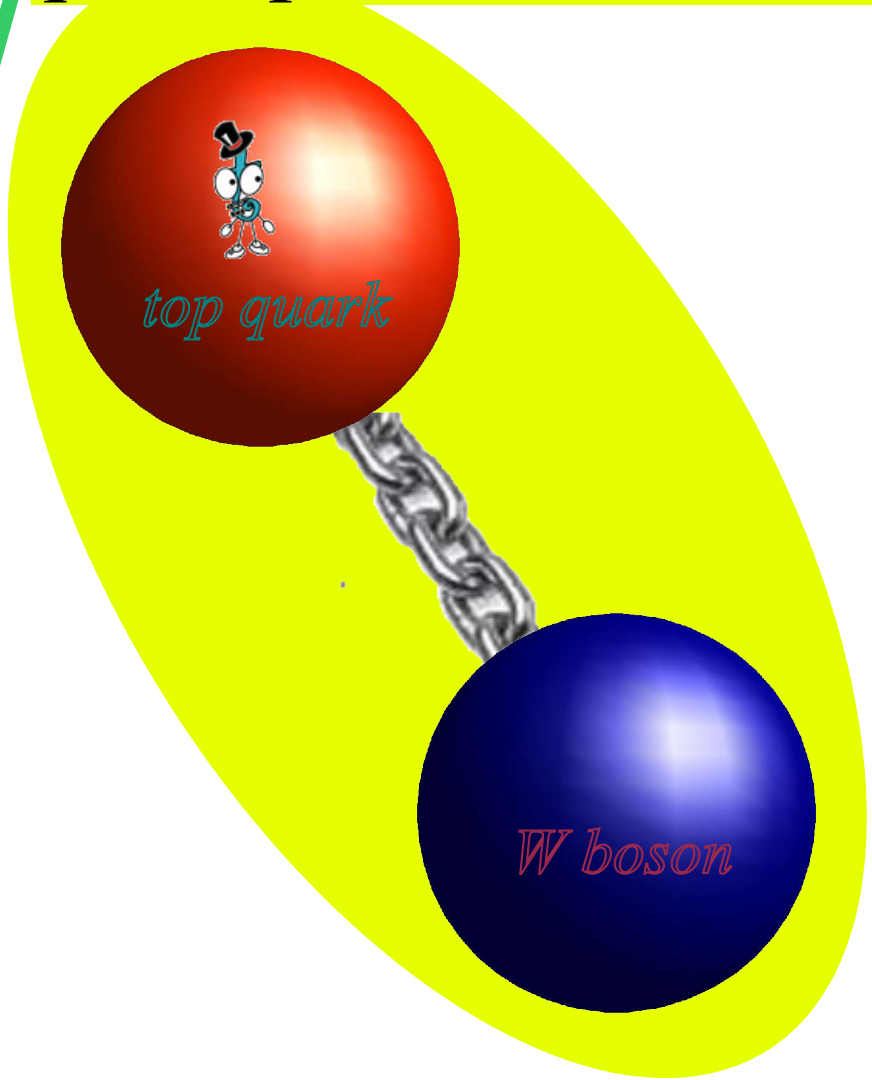
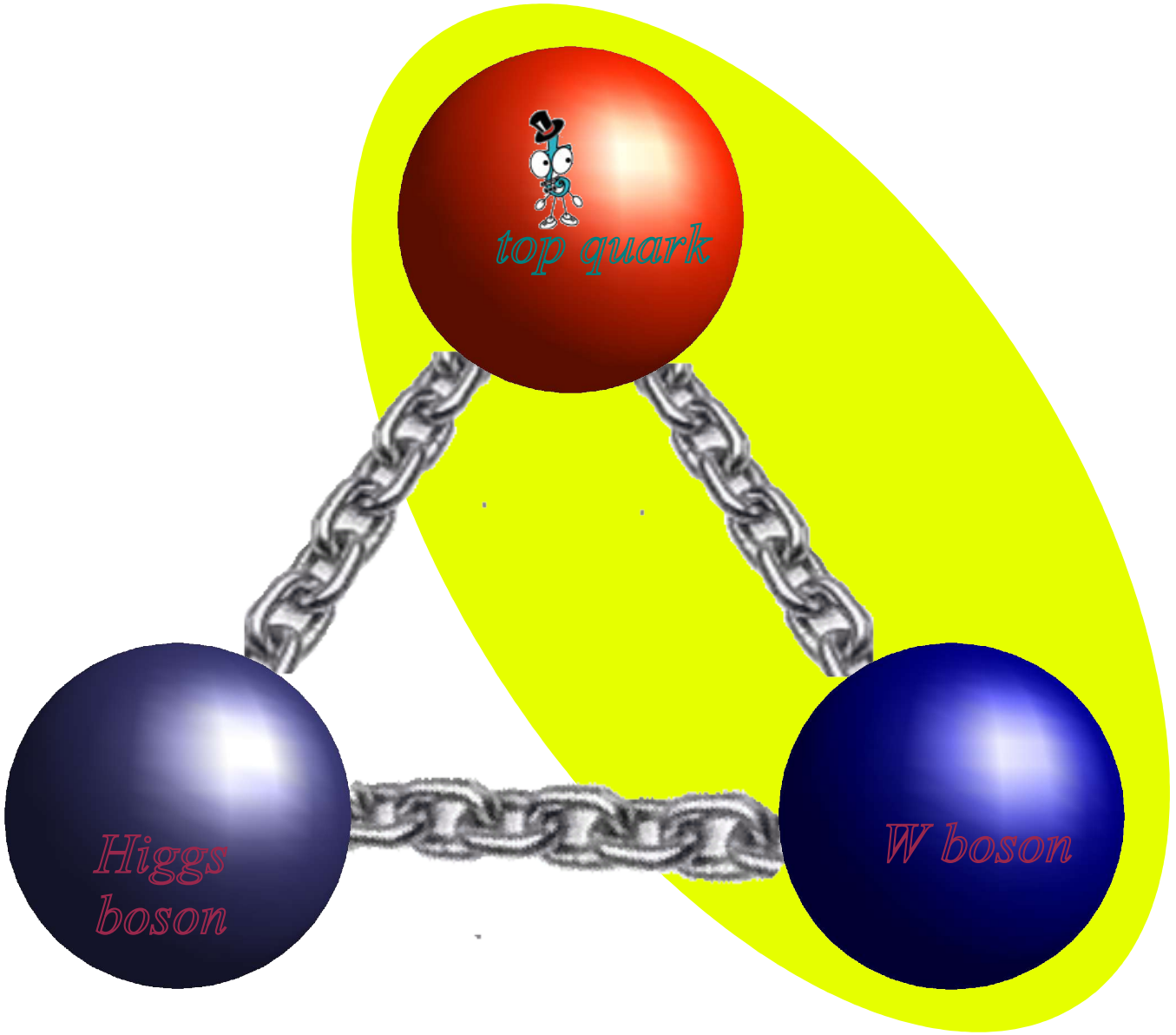
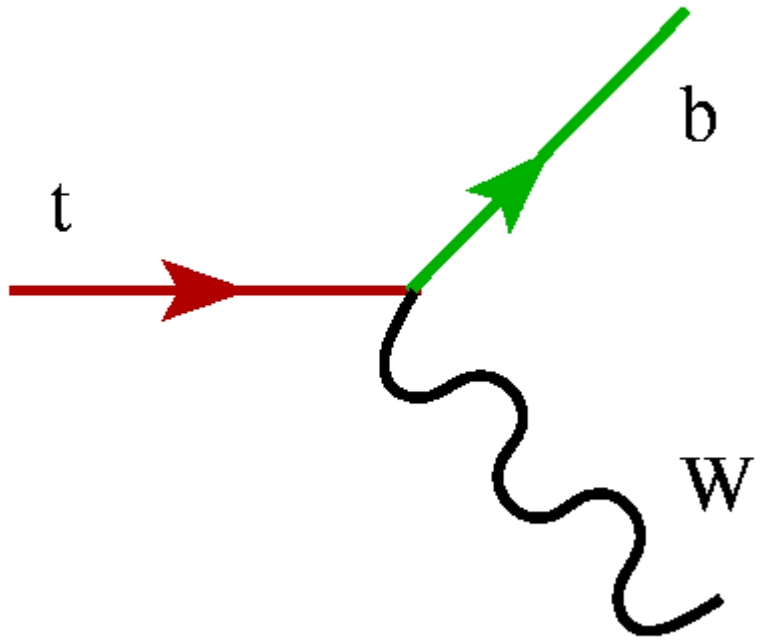
Study in single top quark production



Key to electroweak symmetry breaking



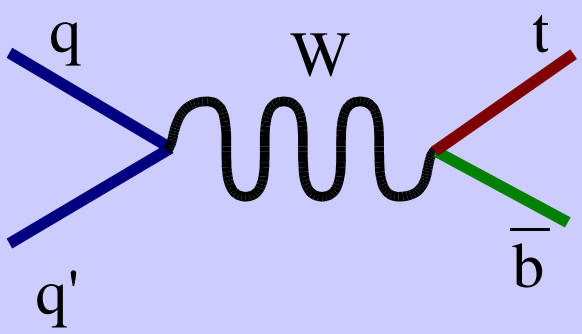
Top quark electroweak charged current interaction



top quark decay

SM single top quark production

s-channel



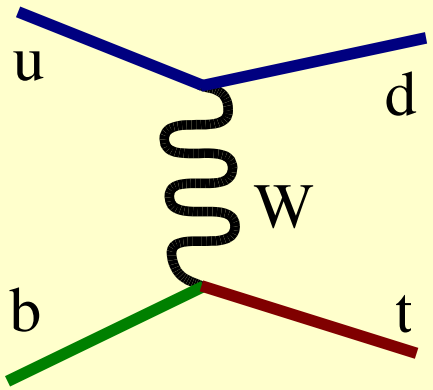
σ_{NLO}

TeV: 0.88 pb

LHC, t: 6.6 pb

LHC, $\bar{t}$: 4.1 pb

t-channel



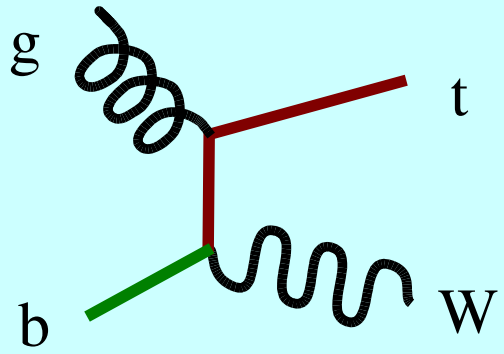
σ_{NLO}

1.98pb

156 pb

91 pb

Associated production



σ_{NLO}

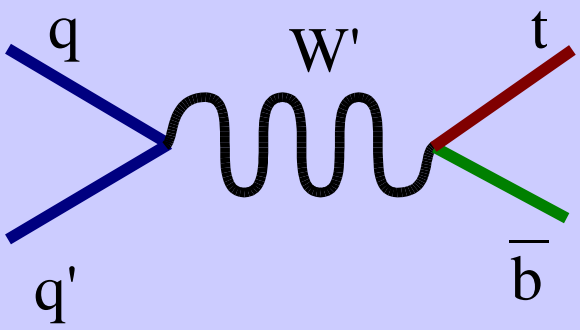
0.14 pb

34 pb

34 pb

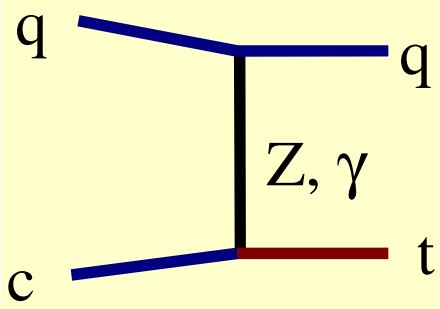
New physics

s-channel



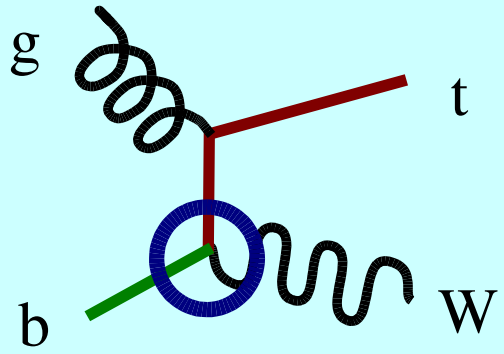
New heavy boson

t-channel



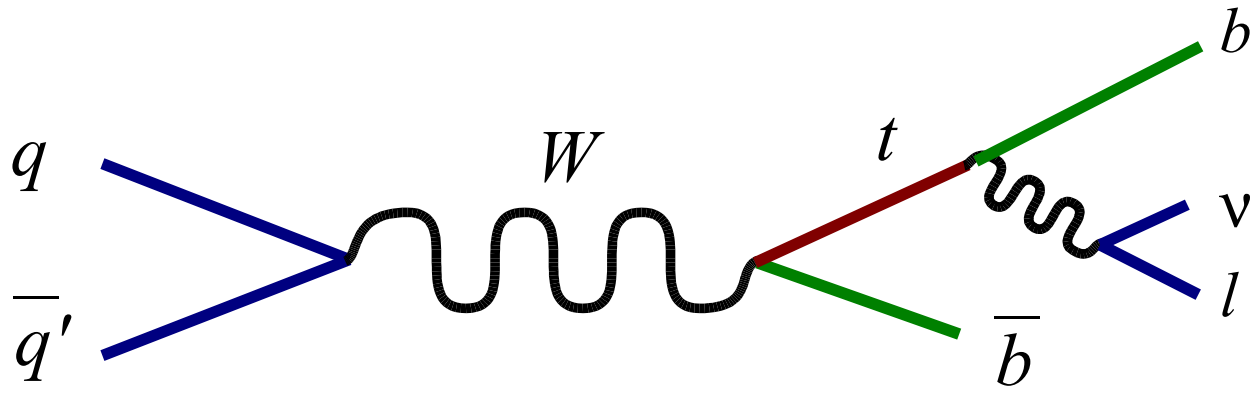
Flavor Changing Neutral Current

Associated production

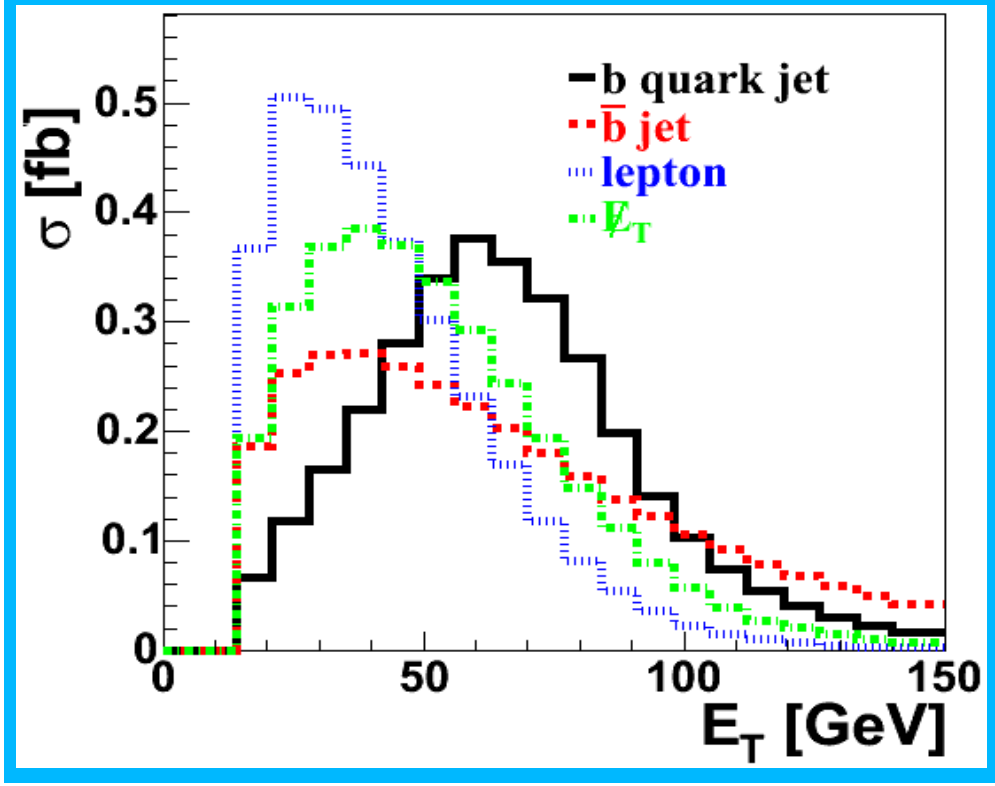


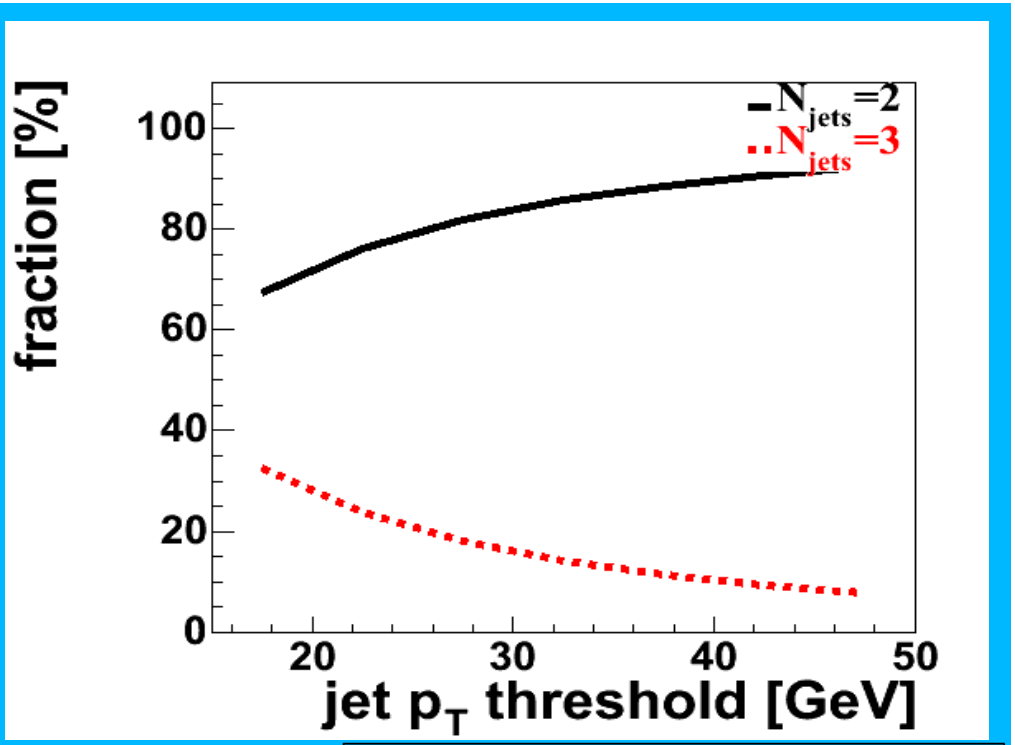
Modified Wtb coupling

Tevatron ***s-channel*** *signature*



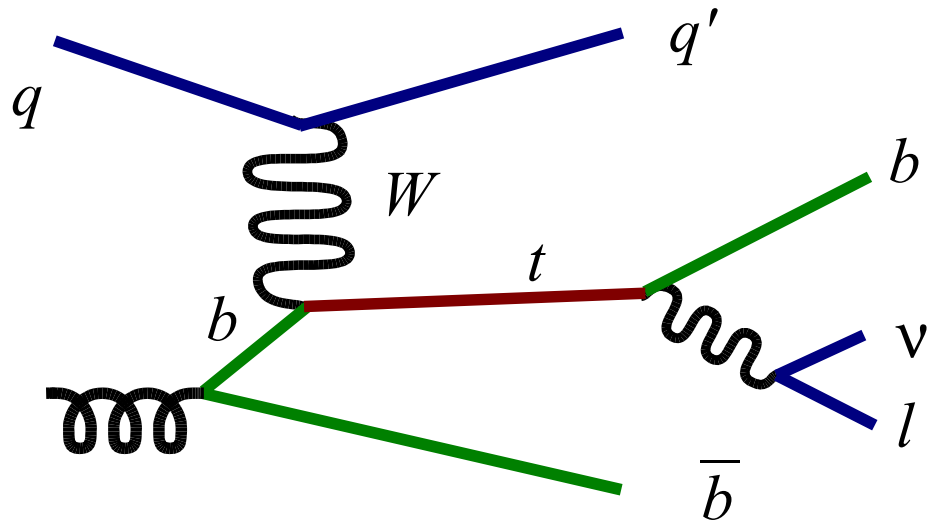
"tb"



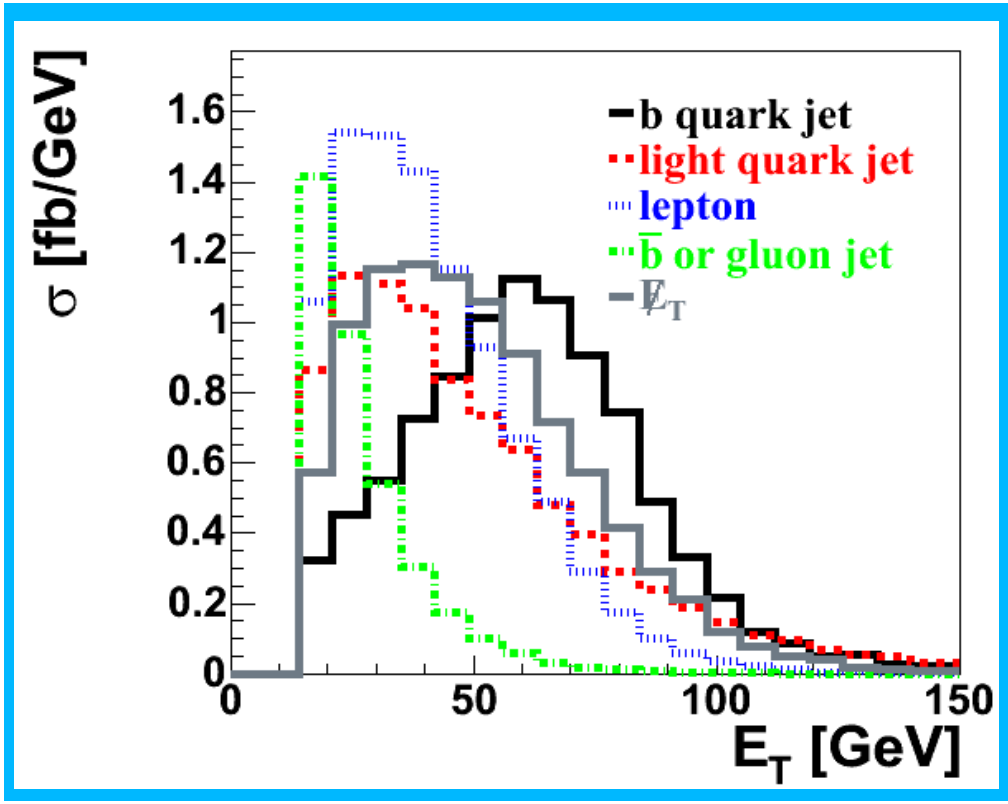


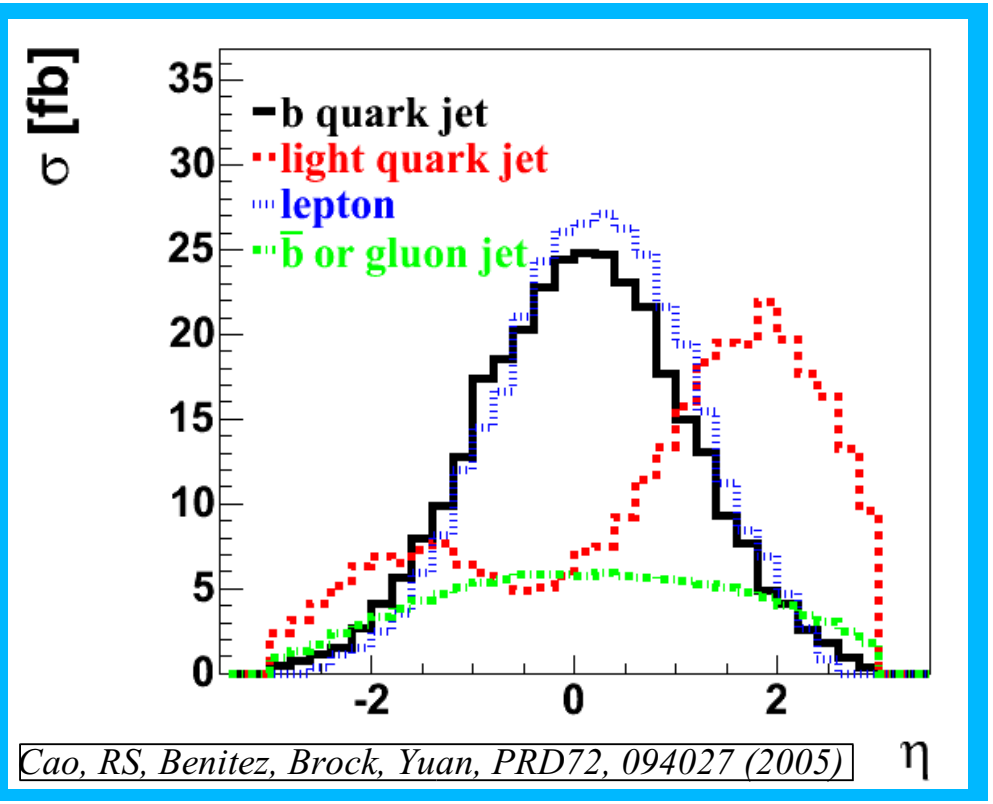
Cao, RS, Yuan PRD71, 054023 (2005)

Tevatron t-channel signature



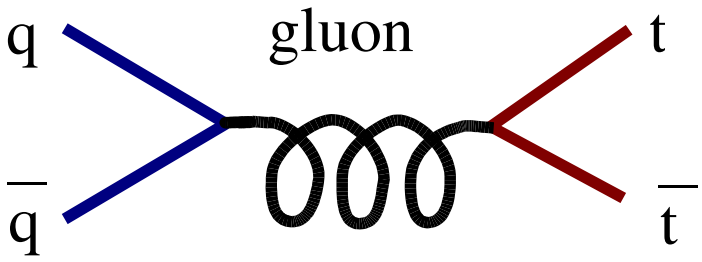
"tqb"





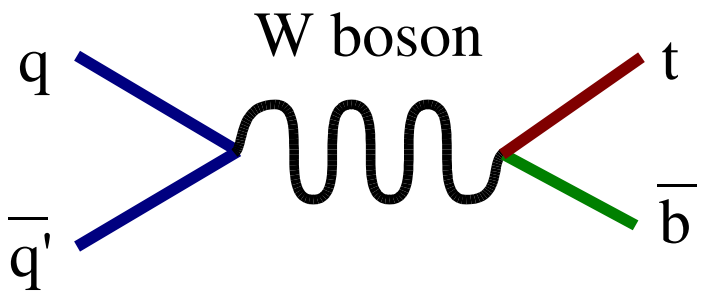
Cao, RS, Benitez, Brock, Yuan, PRD72, 094027 (2005)

Top quark pair production



$\sigma \sim 7$ *pb*

Single top quark production



$\sigma \sim 1$ *pb (s-channel)*

Tevatron single top goals

Production cross sections:	s-channel	t-channel	s+t
NLO calculation:	**0.88pb (±8%)**	**1.98pb (±11%)**	
Run I 95% CL limits, DØ:	< 17pb	< 22pb	
CDF:	< 18pb	< 13pb	< 14pb

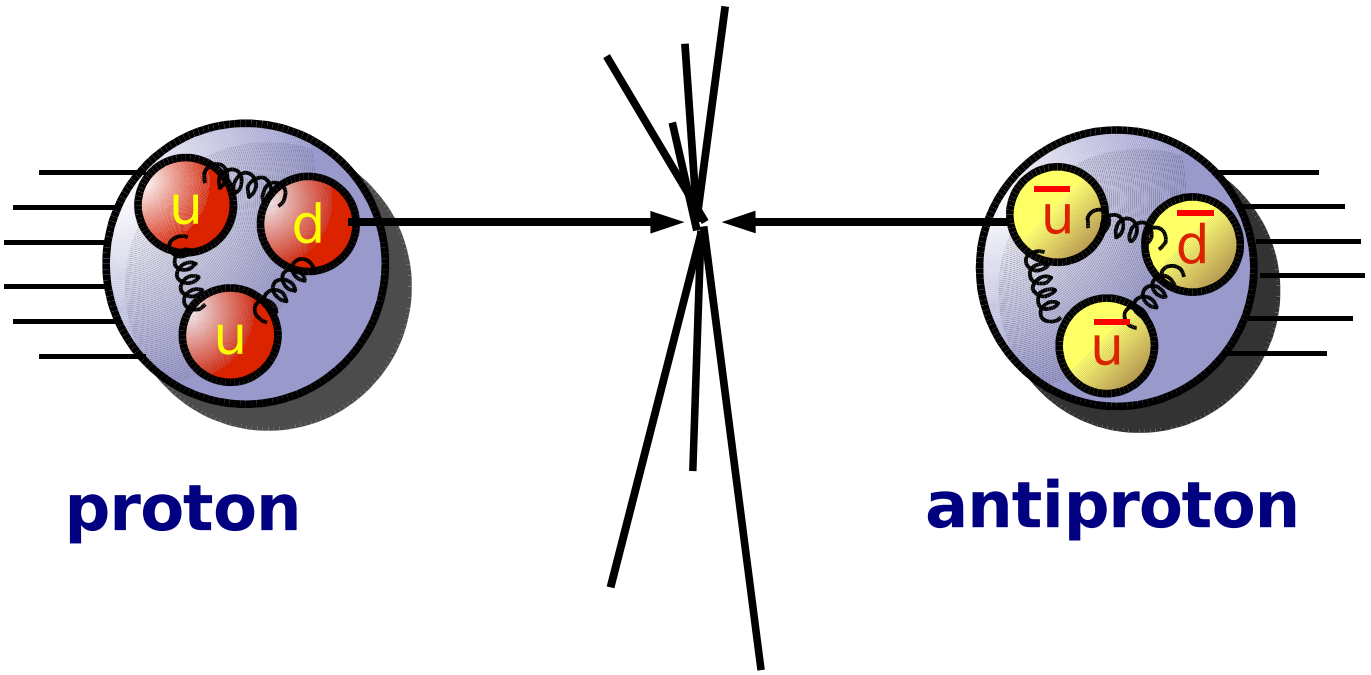
- *Observe single top quark production*
  - *Tevatron discovery!*
- *Measure production cross sections*
  → *CKM quark mixing matrix element* V_{tb}
- *Look for physics beyond the standard model*
  - *Coupled to the heavy top quark*
- *Study top quark spin correlations*
- *Understand as background to many searches*

Experimental procedure

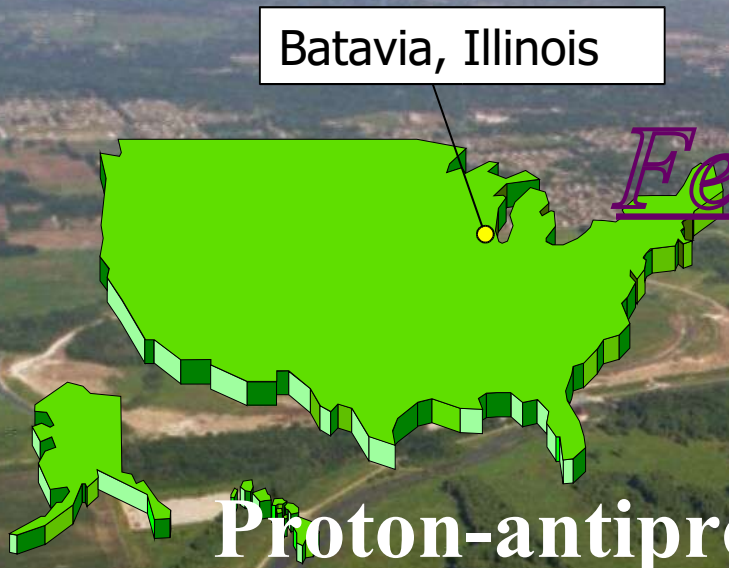
How do we find out?

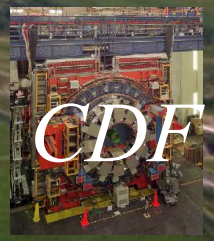
The energy frontier

Probe physics at small distances
by colliding particles at high energy



Experimental setup: Fermilab Tevatron in Run II





Proton-antiproton collider

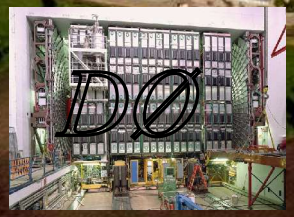
CM energy 1.96TeV

→ *Energy frontier*

Instantaneous luminosity >160E30cm^{-2}s^{-1}

– *~3 interactions per crossing, 1.7M crossing per second*

→ *Luminosity frontier*



Experimental setup: detector configuration

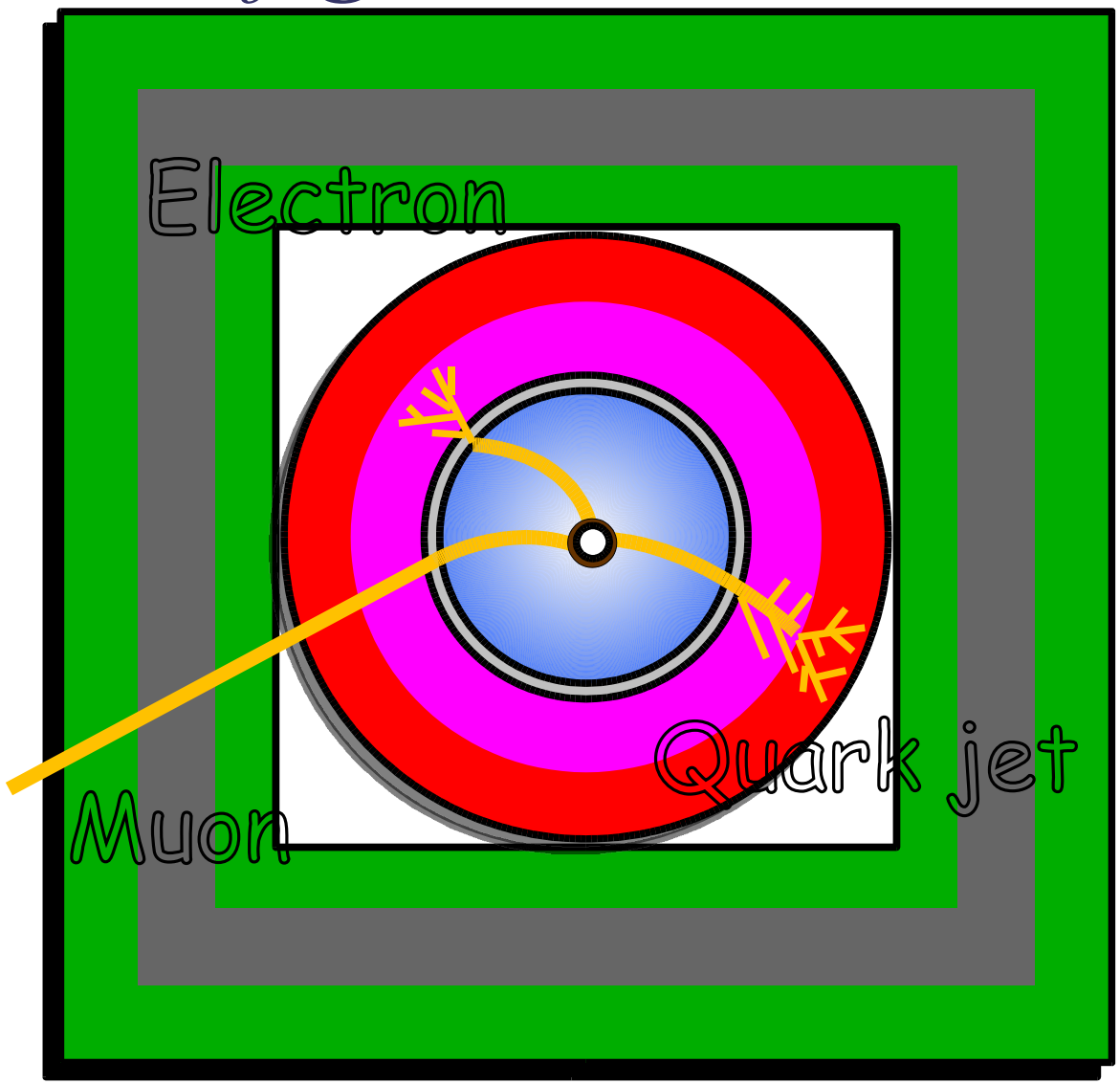
Beam pipe

Tracking detector

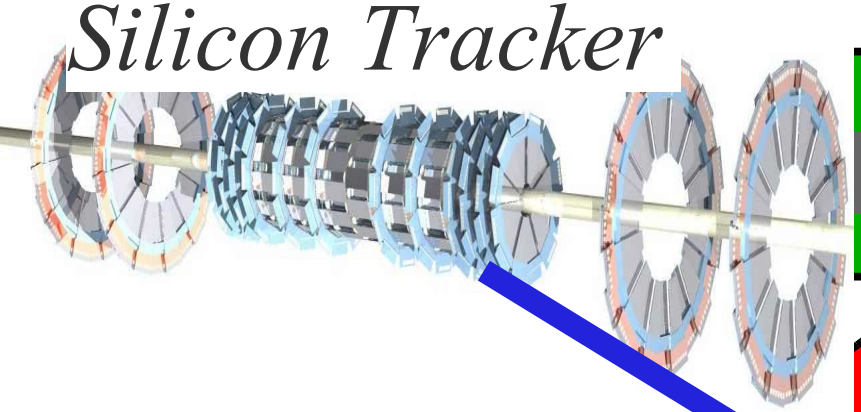
Magnet

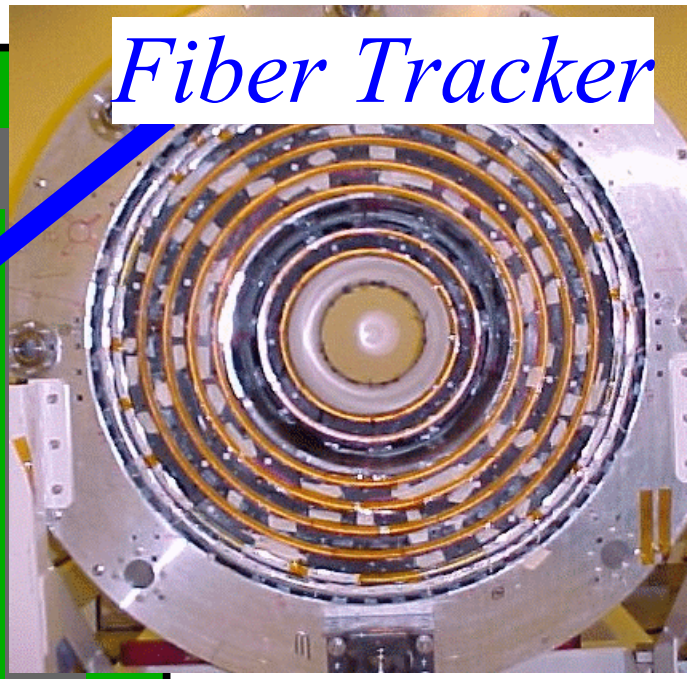
Calorimeter:
EM and hadronic

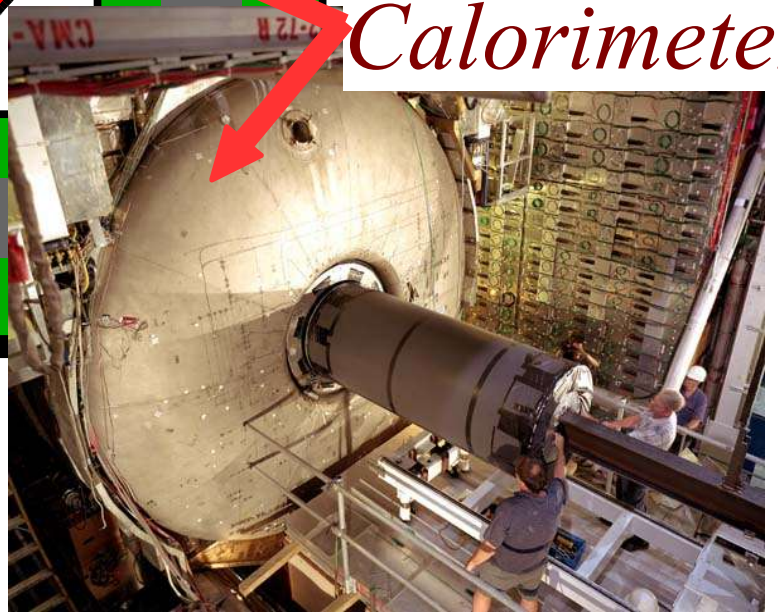
Muon detectors
surrounding
another magnet



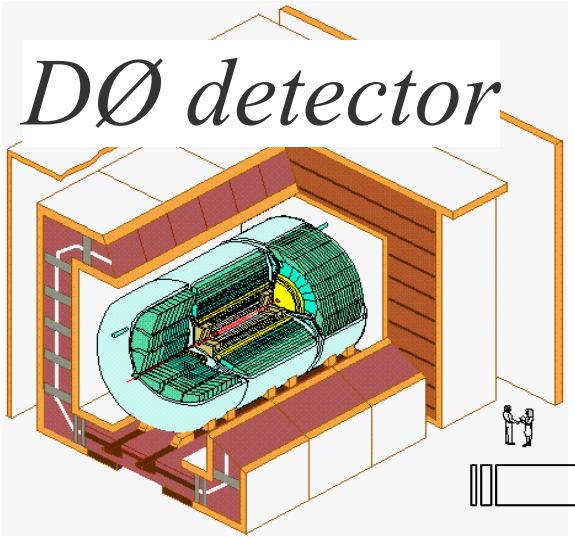
Apparatus: Run II DØ Detector

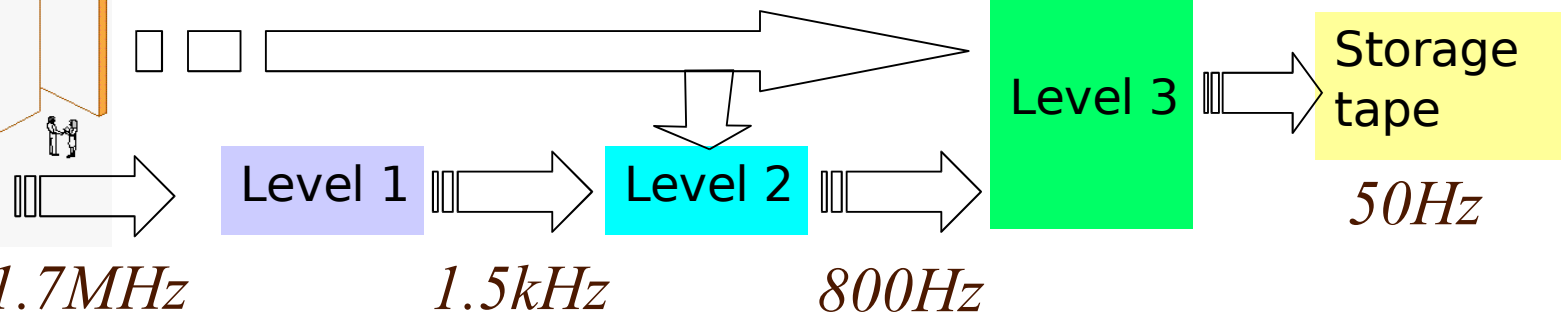






Collecting interesting events: trigger system



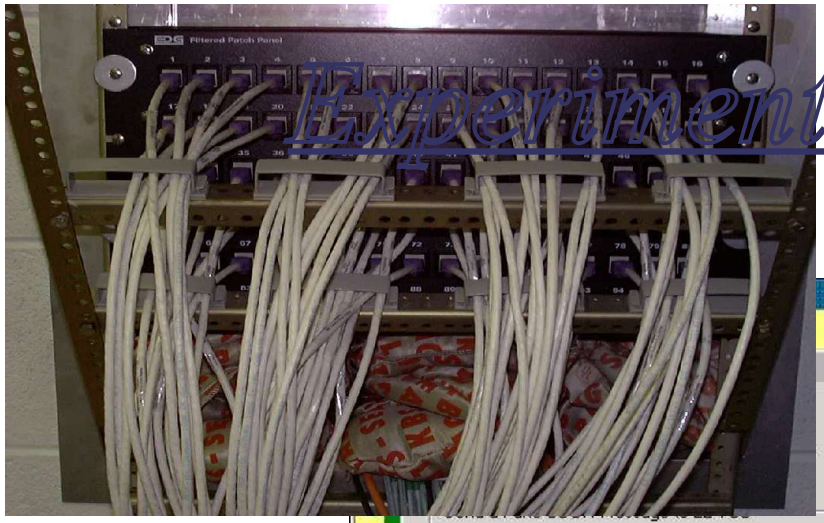


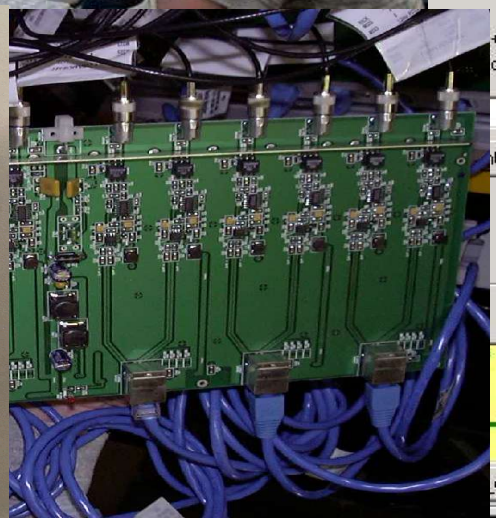
- *Reduce rate of interactions (inelastic collisions) to manageable level that can be stored*
- *Record "interesting" events → trigger system*
  - *Select events containing high-energy final state objects*
    - *Electrons, muons, quark jets*

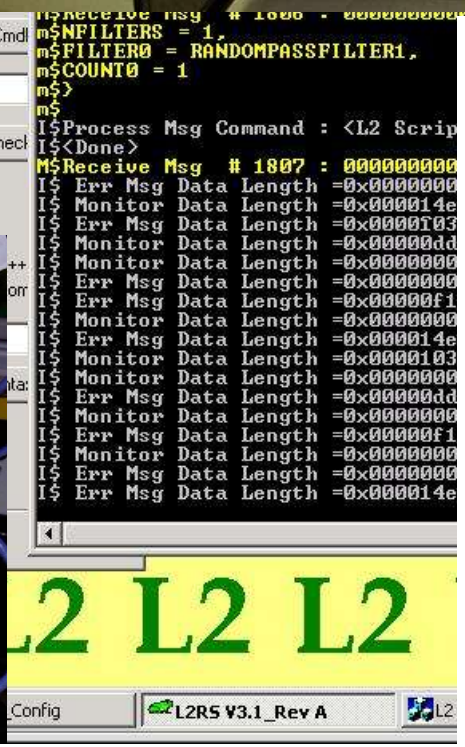
Experimenters

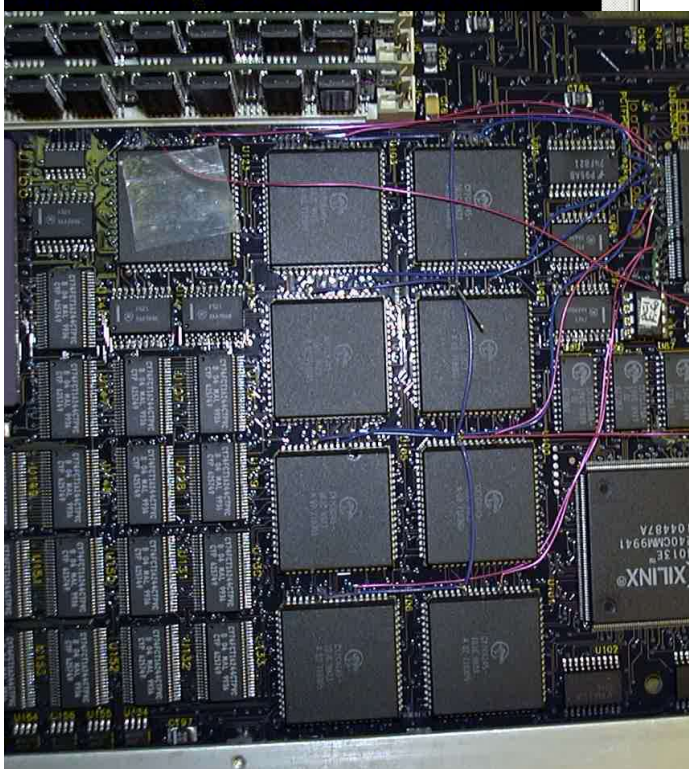
- 19 countries
- 80 institutions
- 670 physicists

Experimental particle physics





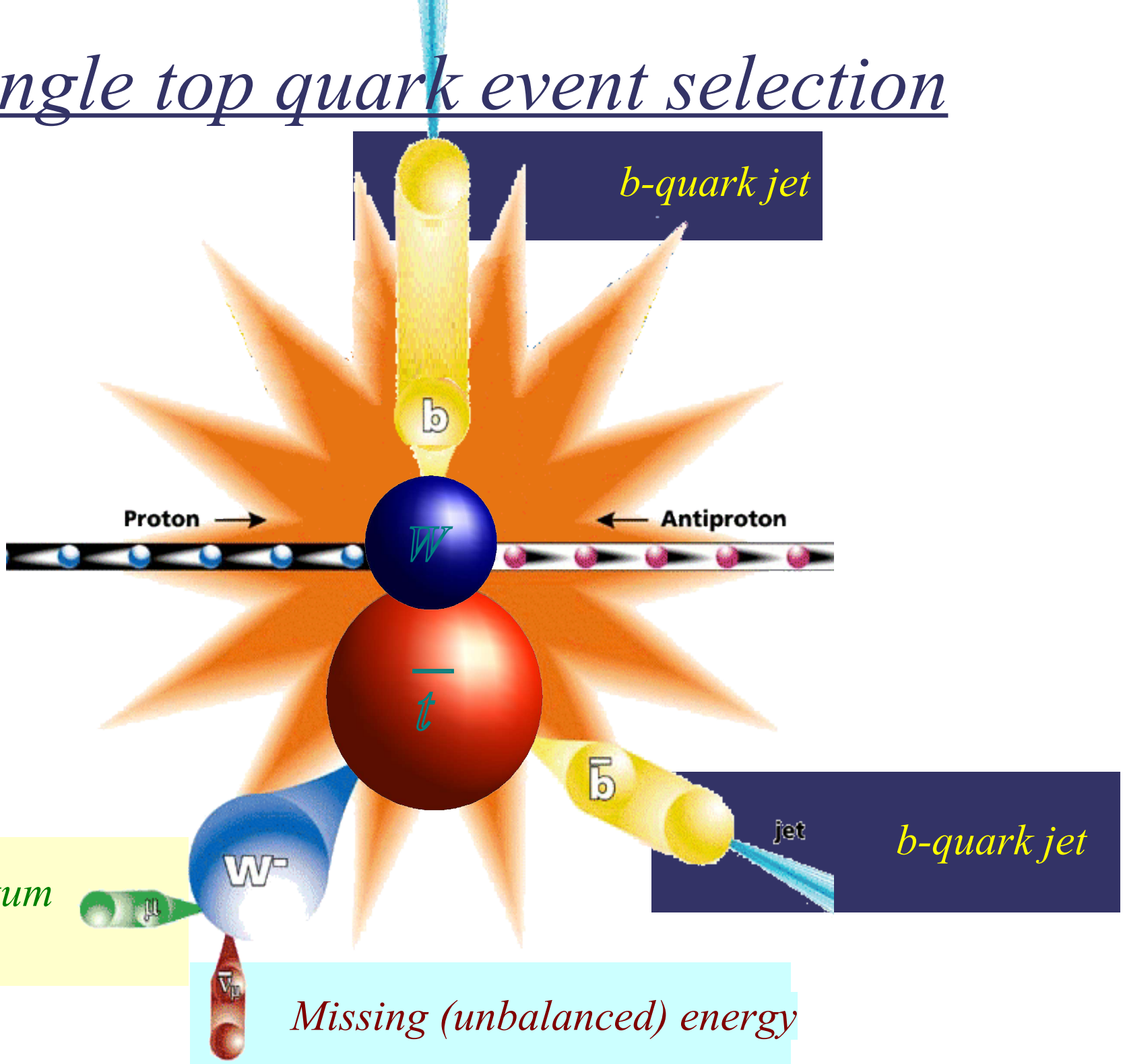




Current Results

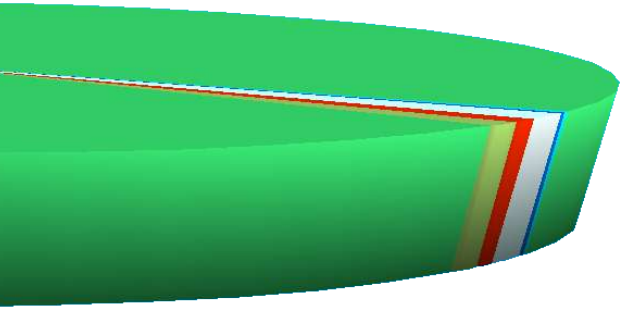
Precious data!

Single top quark event selection

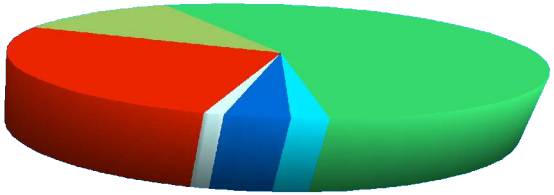


Single top quark events in data ($230pb^{-1}$)

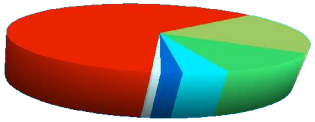
All:
10,000 events



=1 b-tag:
367 events



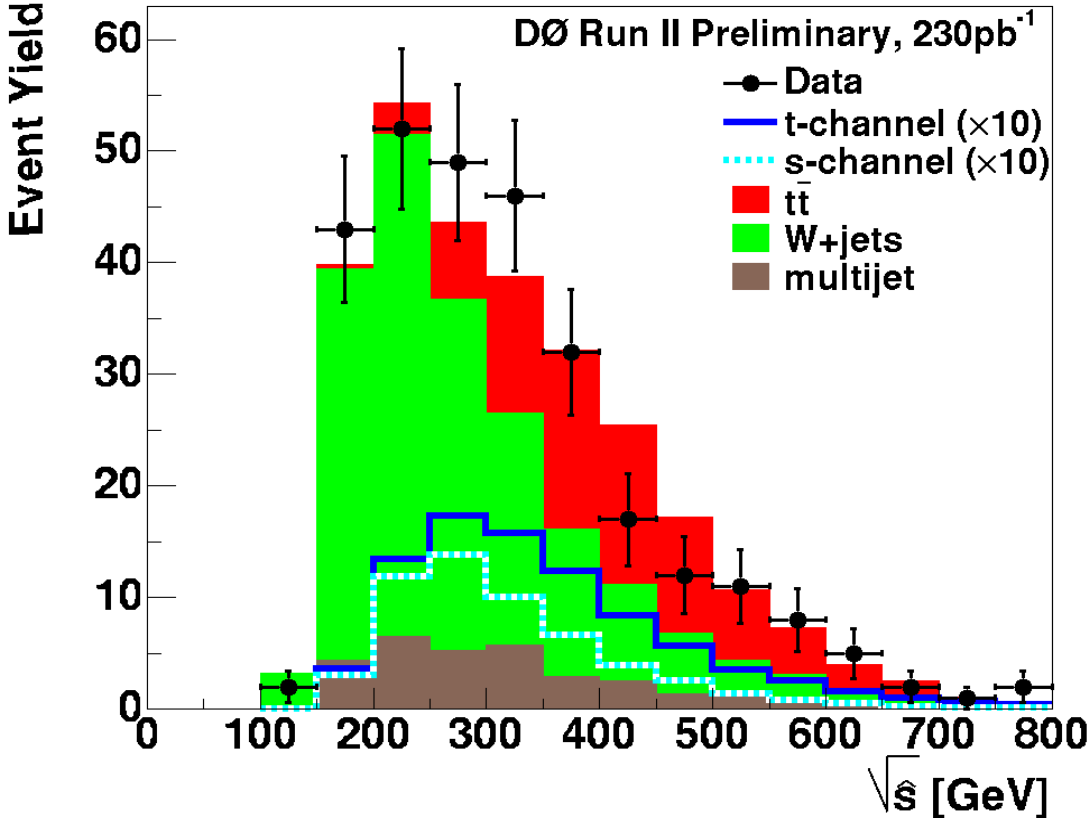
=2 b-tags:
76 events



Top quark pairs

Other Backgrounds

Single top

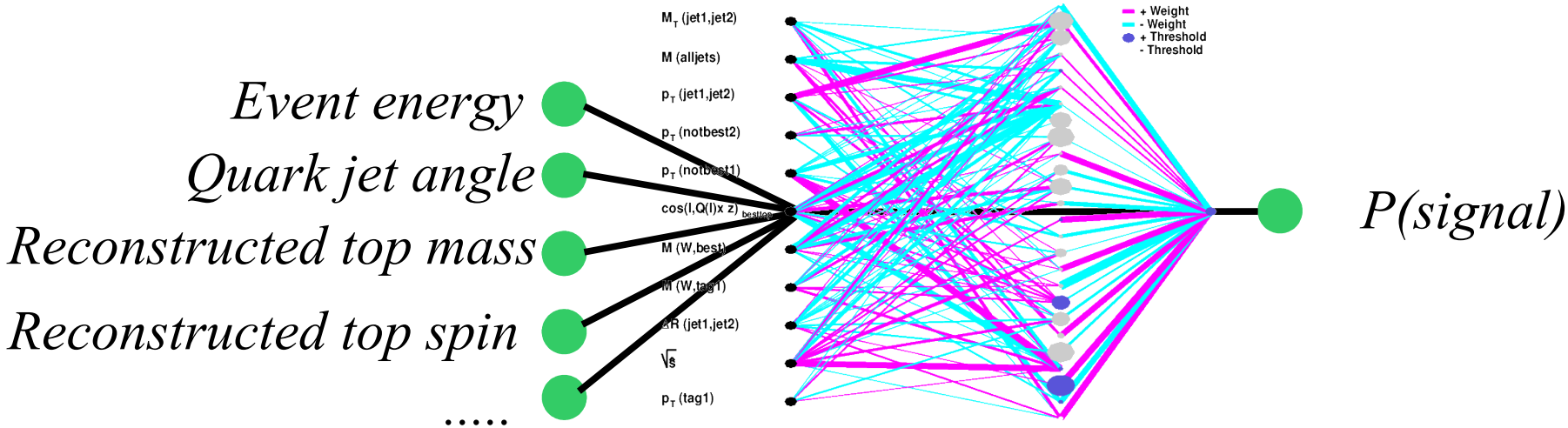


Separating Signal from Backgrounds

- *Optimized event analysis*

Input:	*Method:*	*Output:*
discriminating variables	*multivariate analysis*	*signal probability*

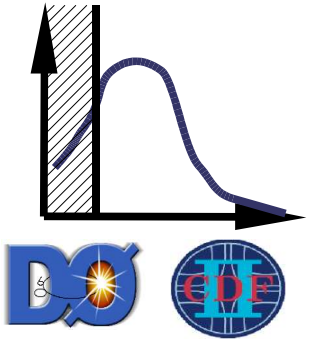
Neural Networks,
Decision Trees, etc



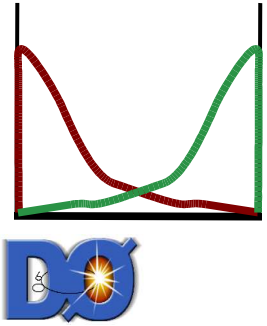
Event Analysis

- Advanced analysis techniques

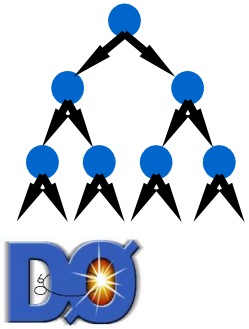
Cut-Based



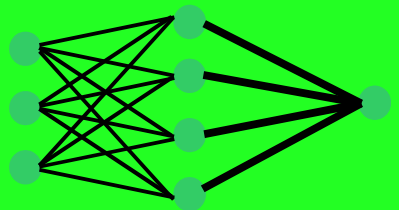
Likelihoods



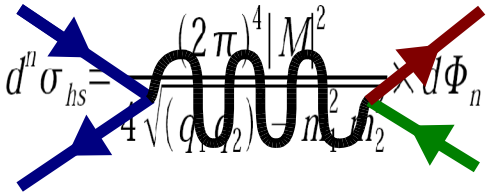
Decision Trees



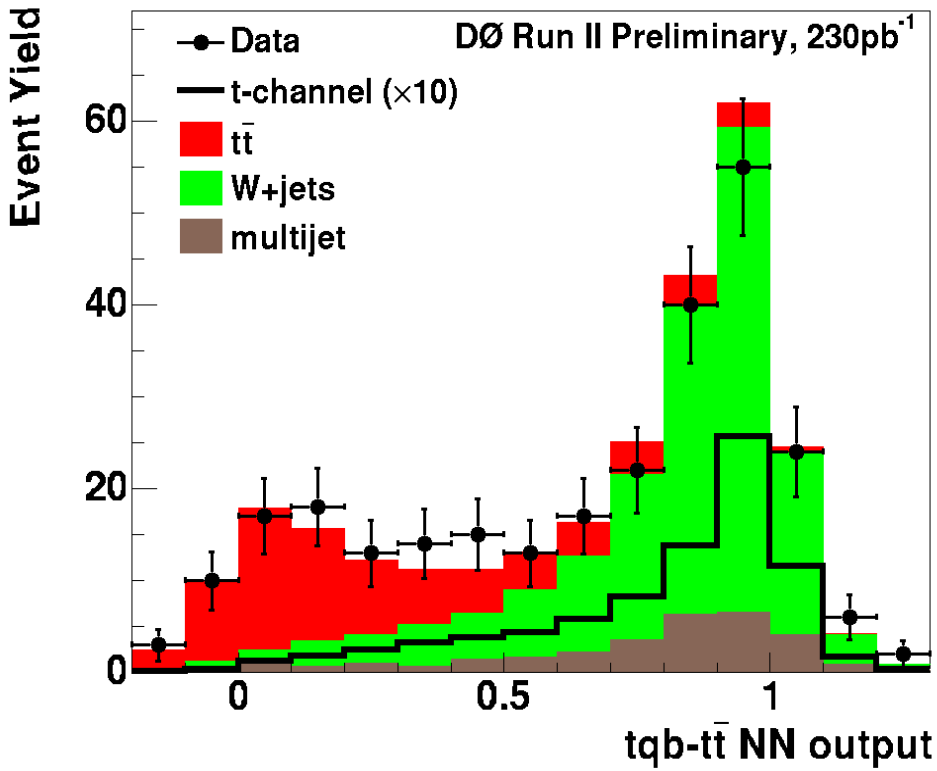
Neural Networks



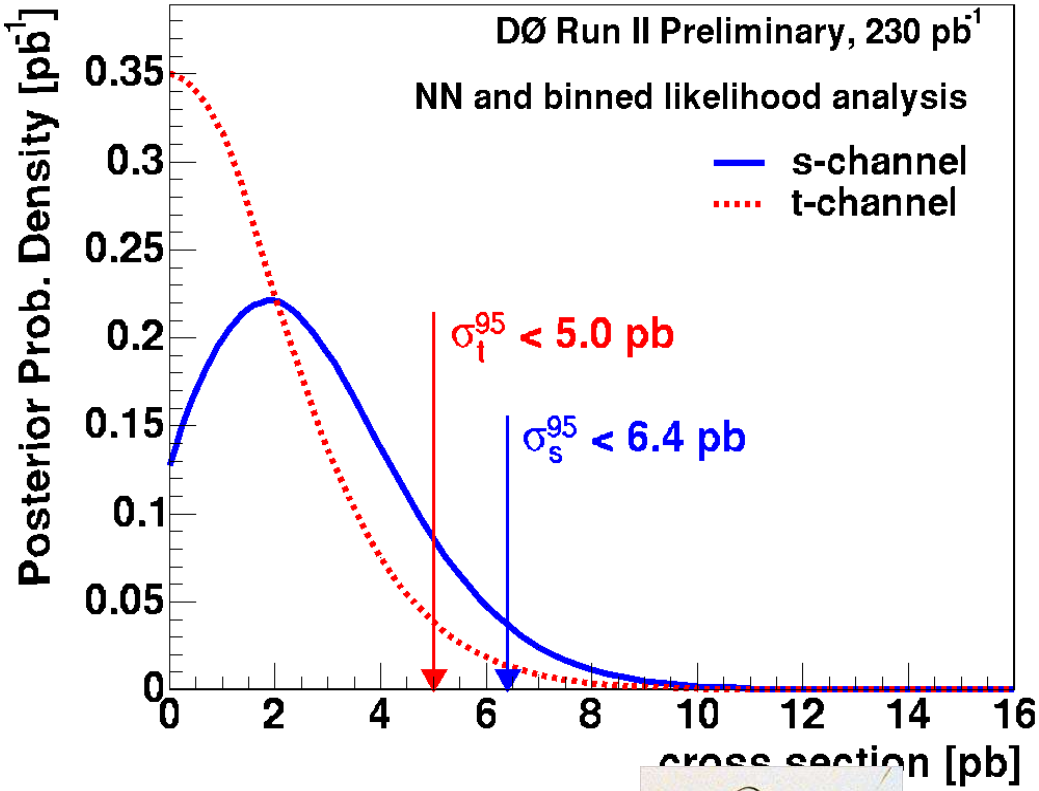
Matrix Elements



Result



- *Bayesian statistical analysis*
- *Systematic uncertainty ~20%*



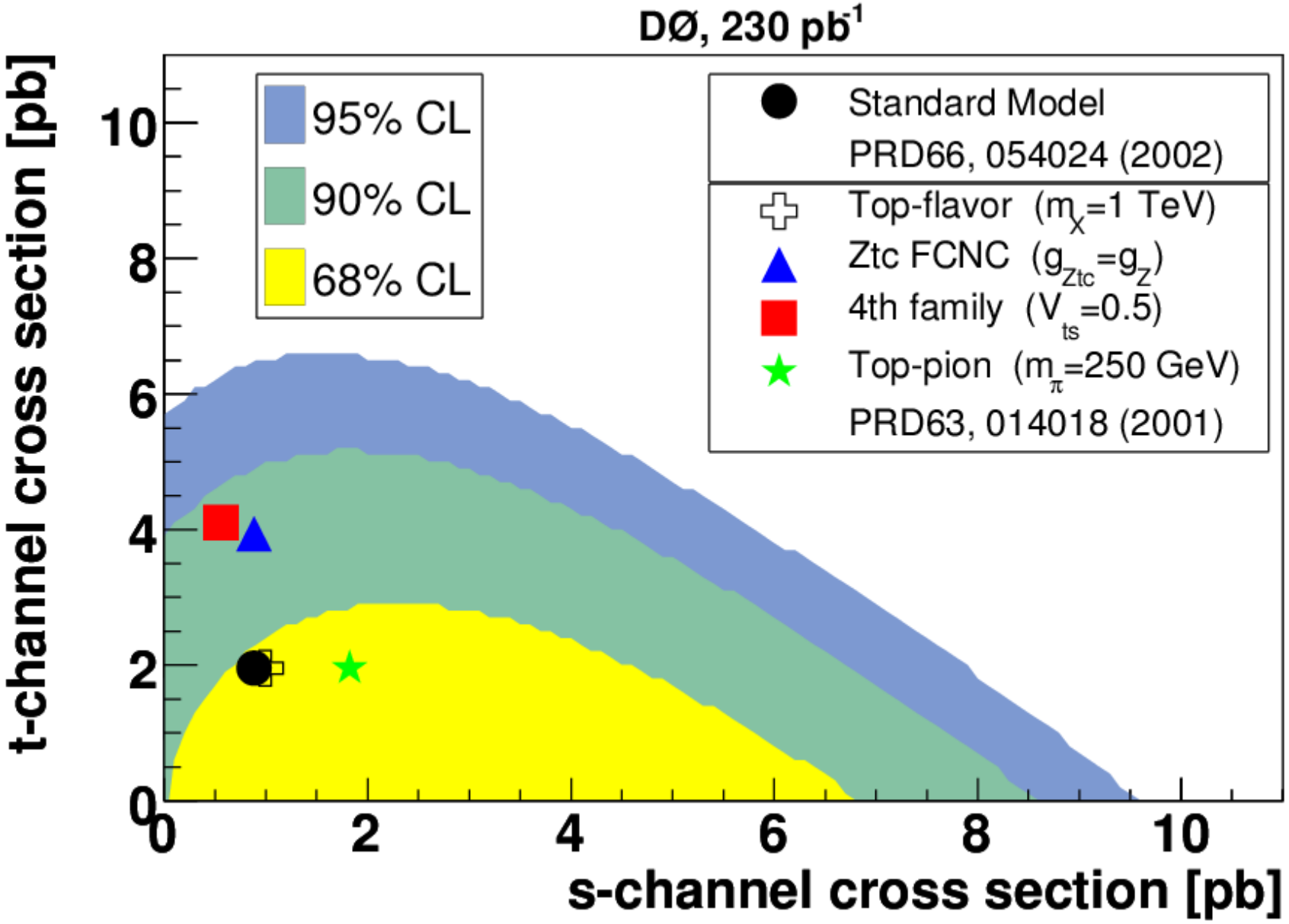
Expected/Observed limit:

σ_s < 4.5 / 6.4 pb

σ_t < 5.8 / 5.0 pb

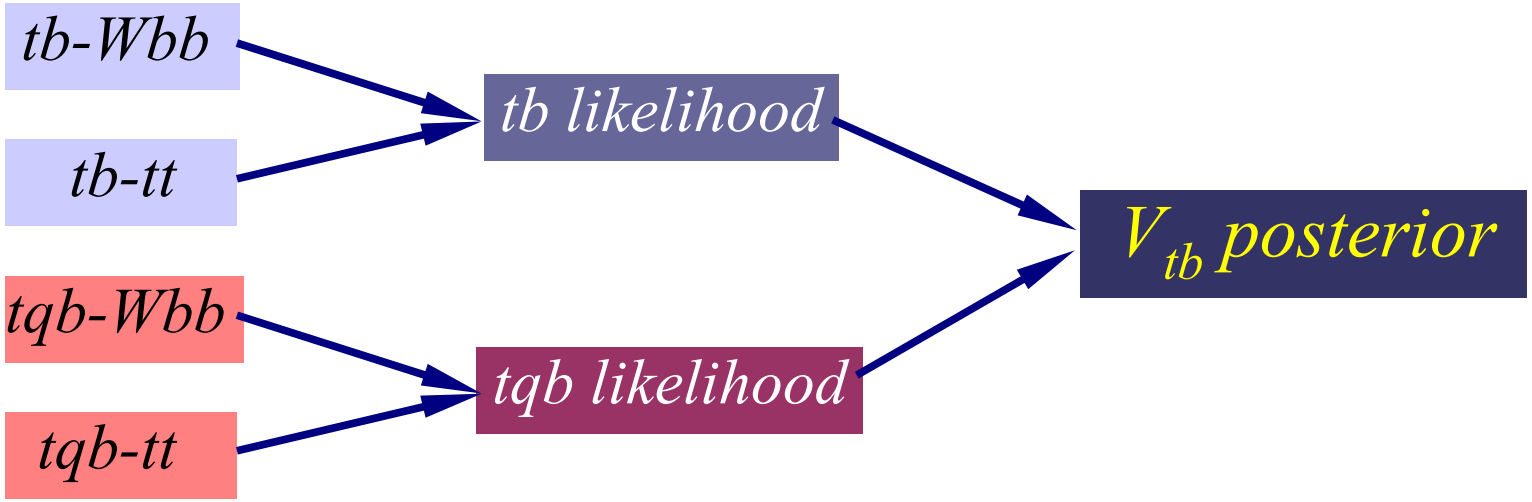
Published in PLB 622, 265 (2005)

Sensitivity to non-SM Single Top



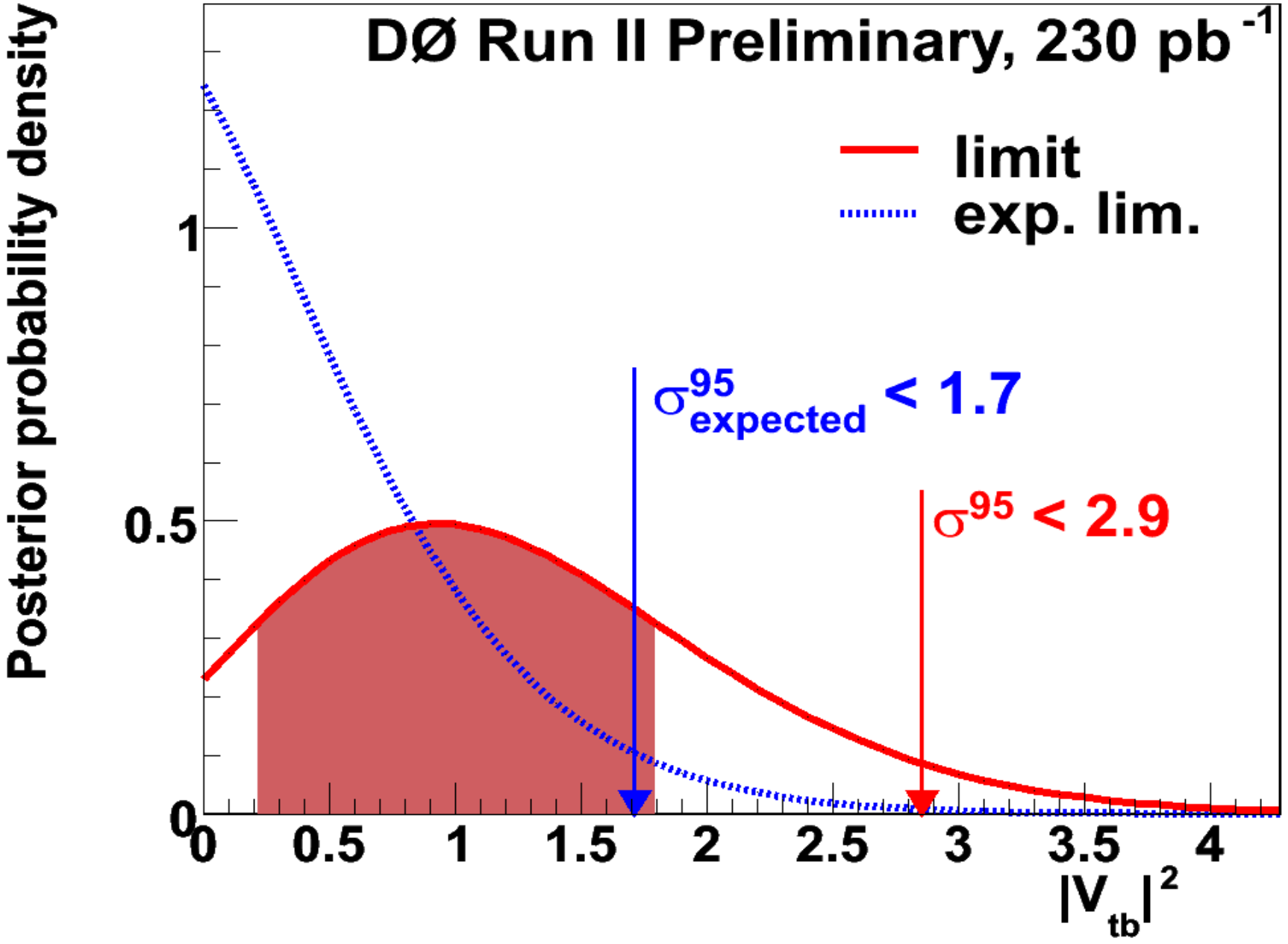
V_{tb} Coupling Limit

- *Both the s-channel and t-channel cross sections are proportional to* $|V_{tb}|^2$
  - *Combine neural networks in a 2d likelihood function*



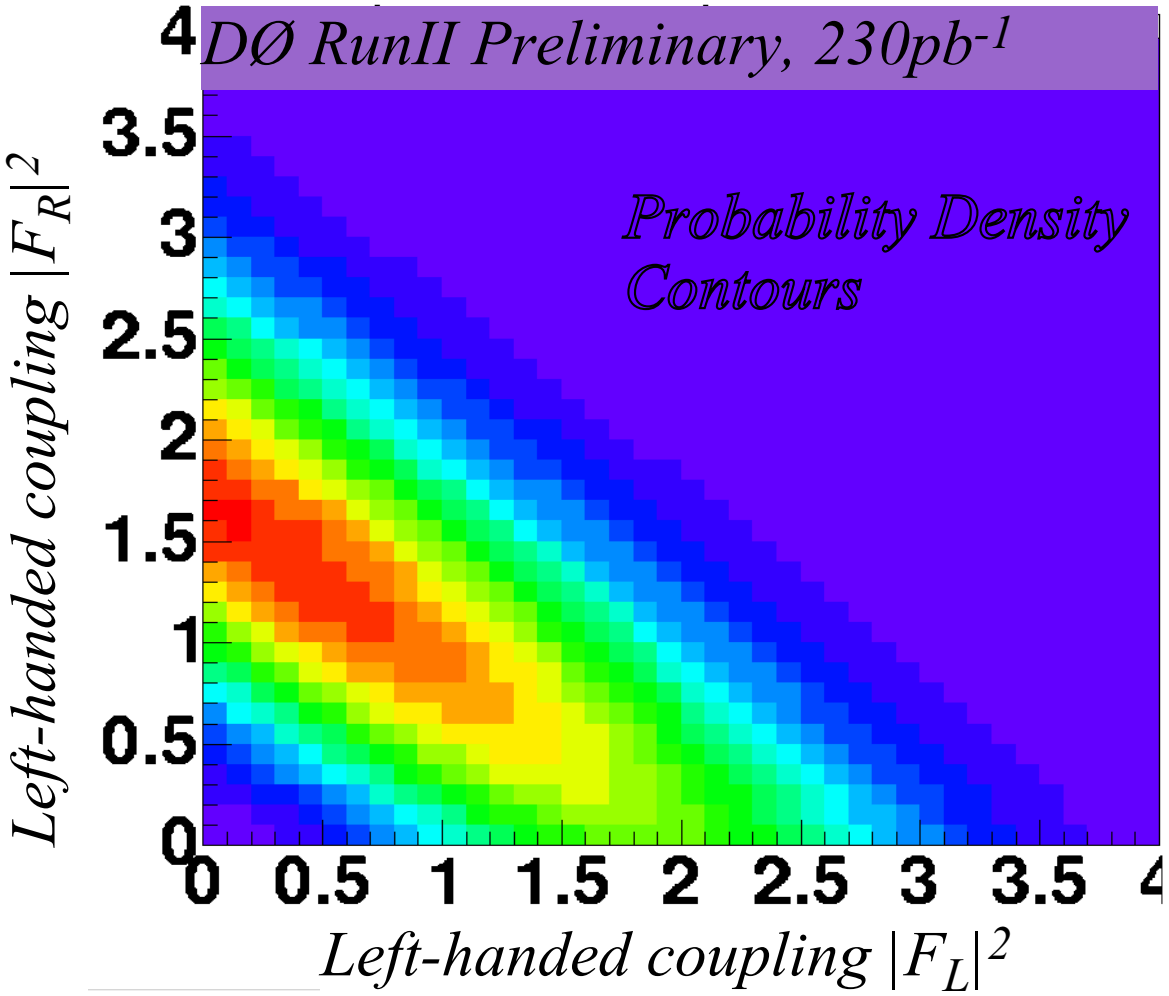
  - *Need to assume SM ratio of cross sections*

Probability density for $|V_{tb}|^2$

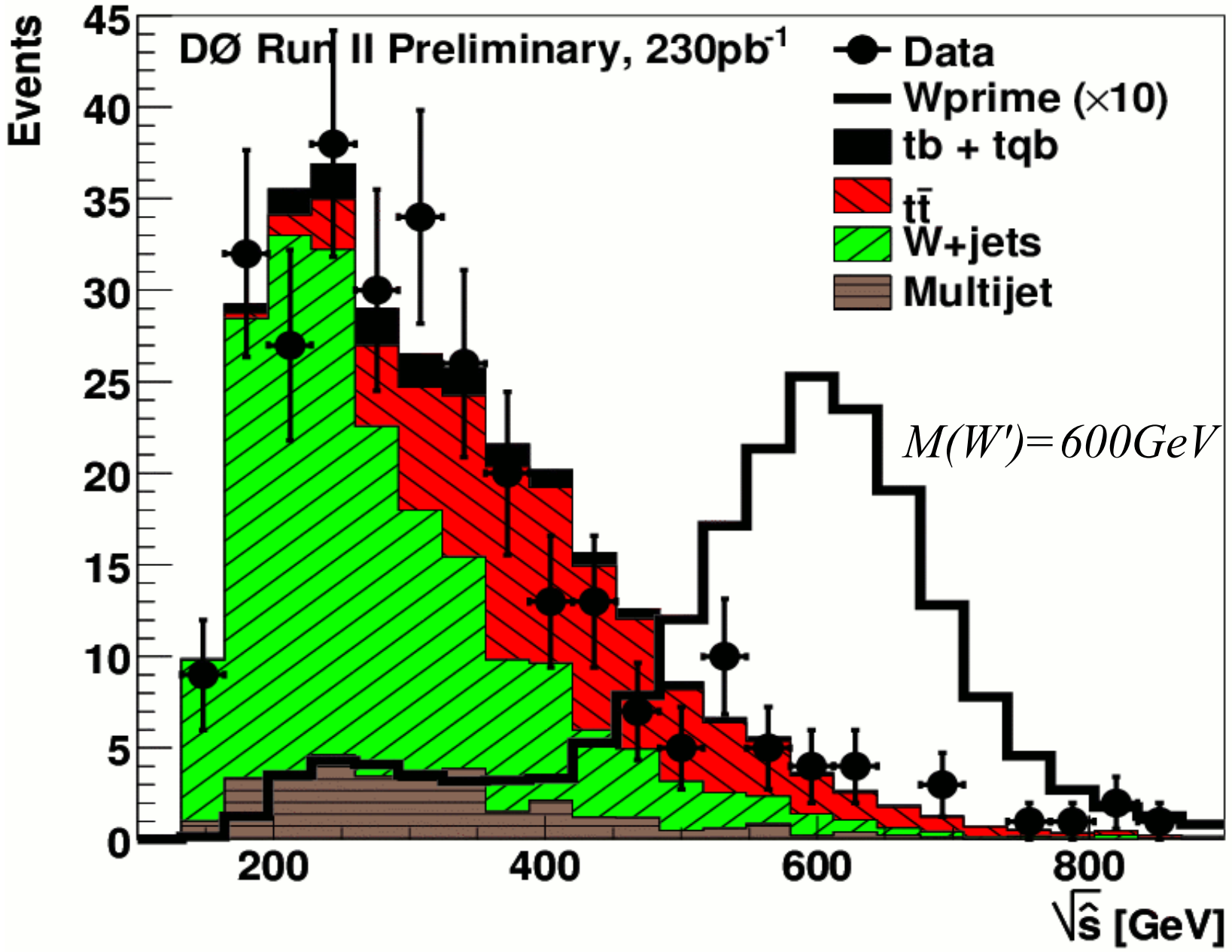


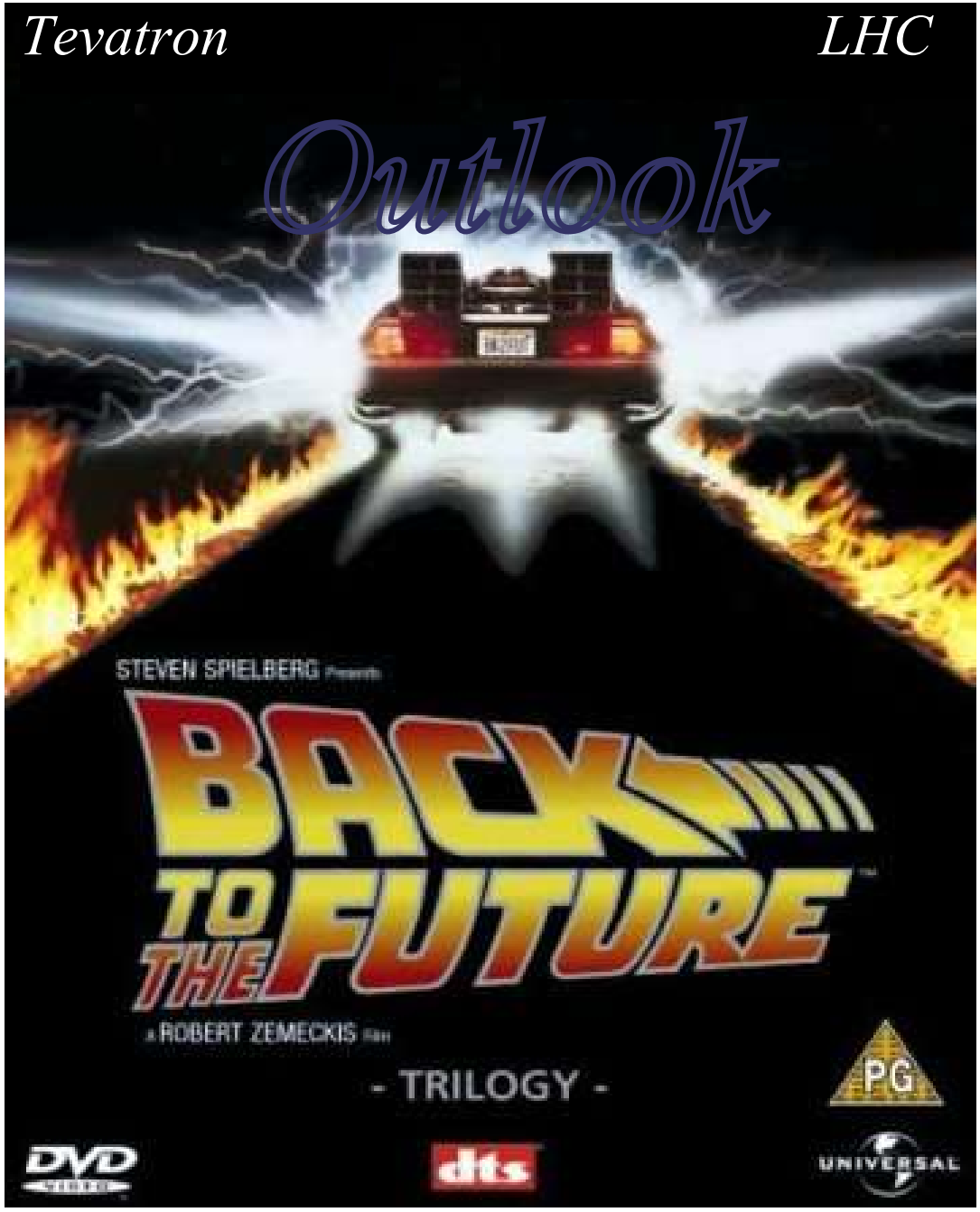
Left-handed or right-handed W coupling?

- *Extremely preliminary*
  - *No systematic uncertainties, no full MC simulation*



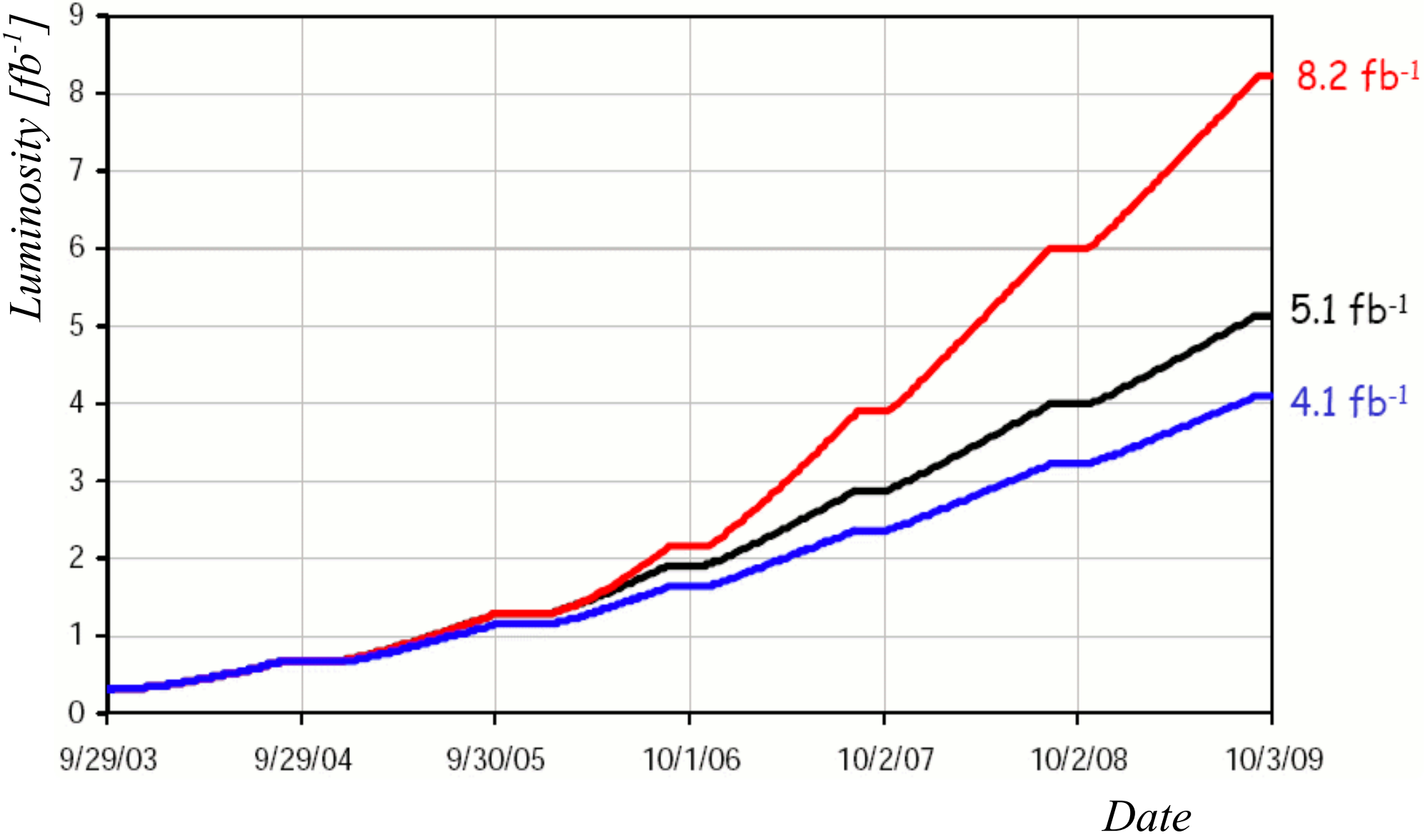
New heavy boson W'?



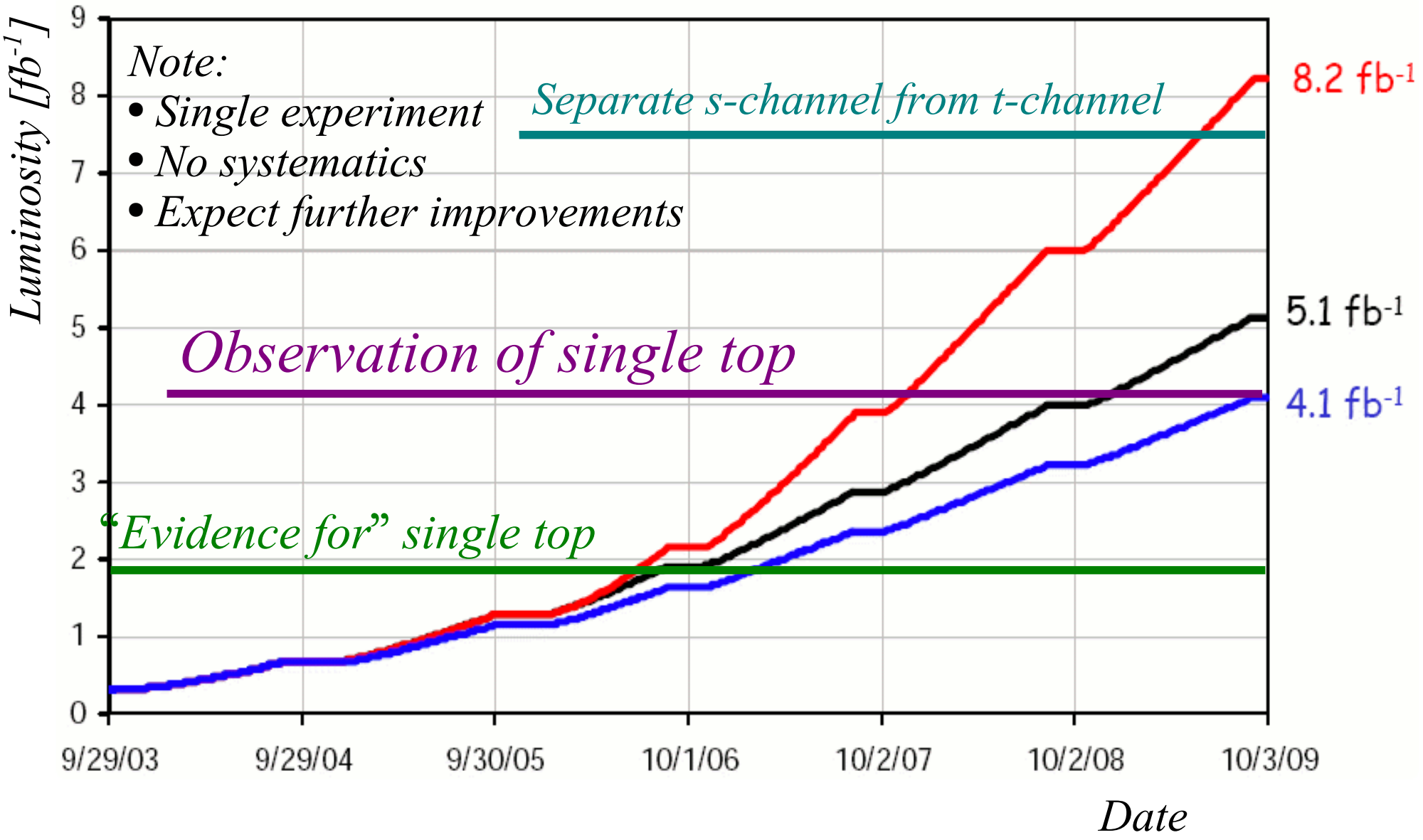


I never think of the future. It comes soon enough.
Albert Einstein

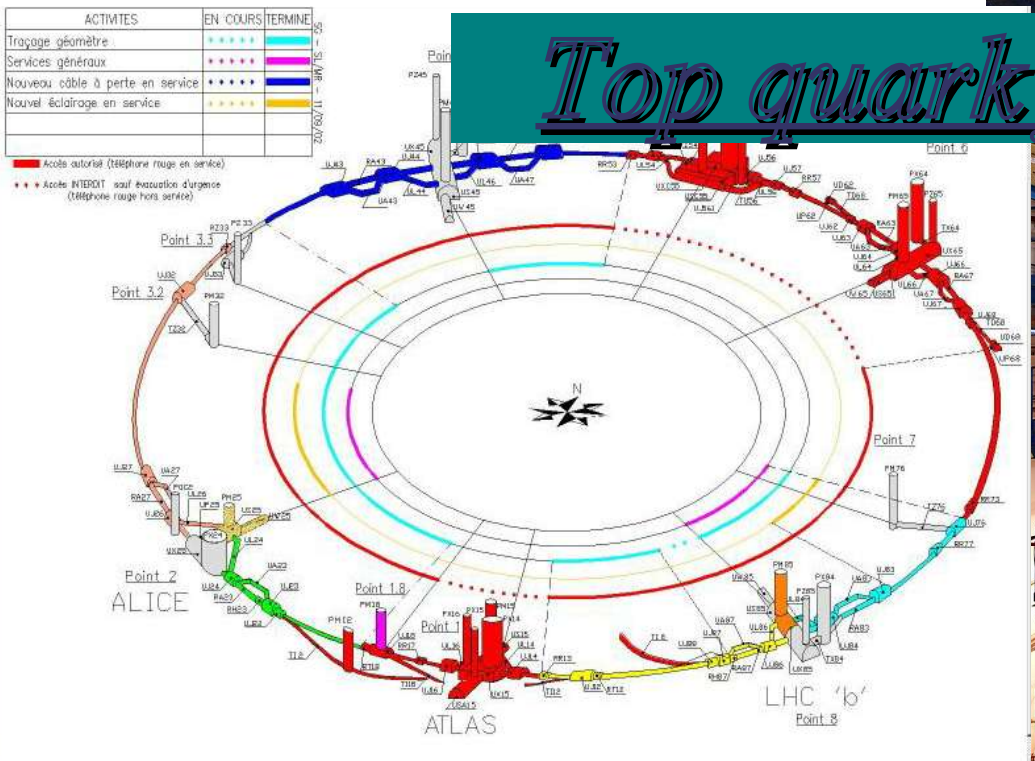
Tevatron luminosity projection

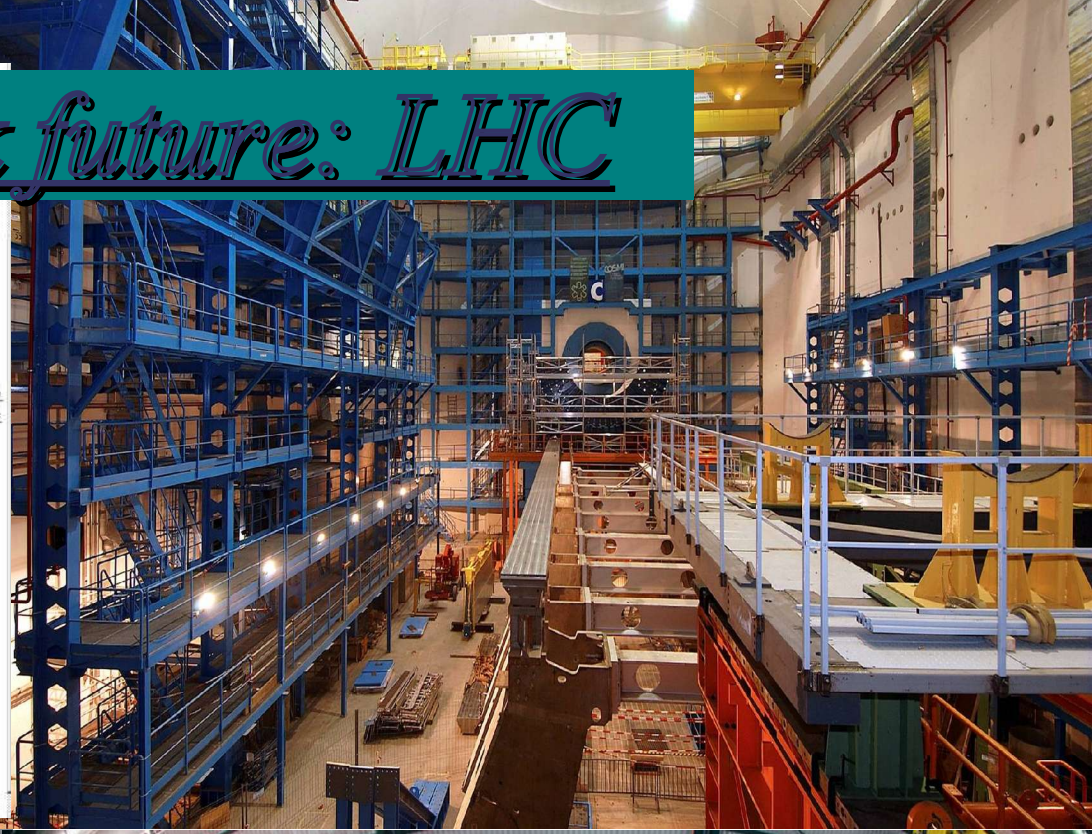


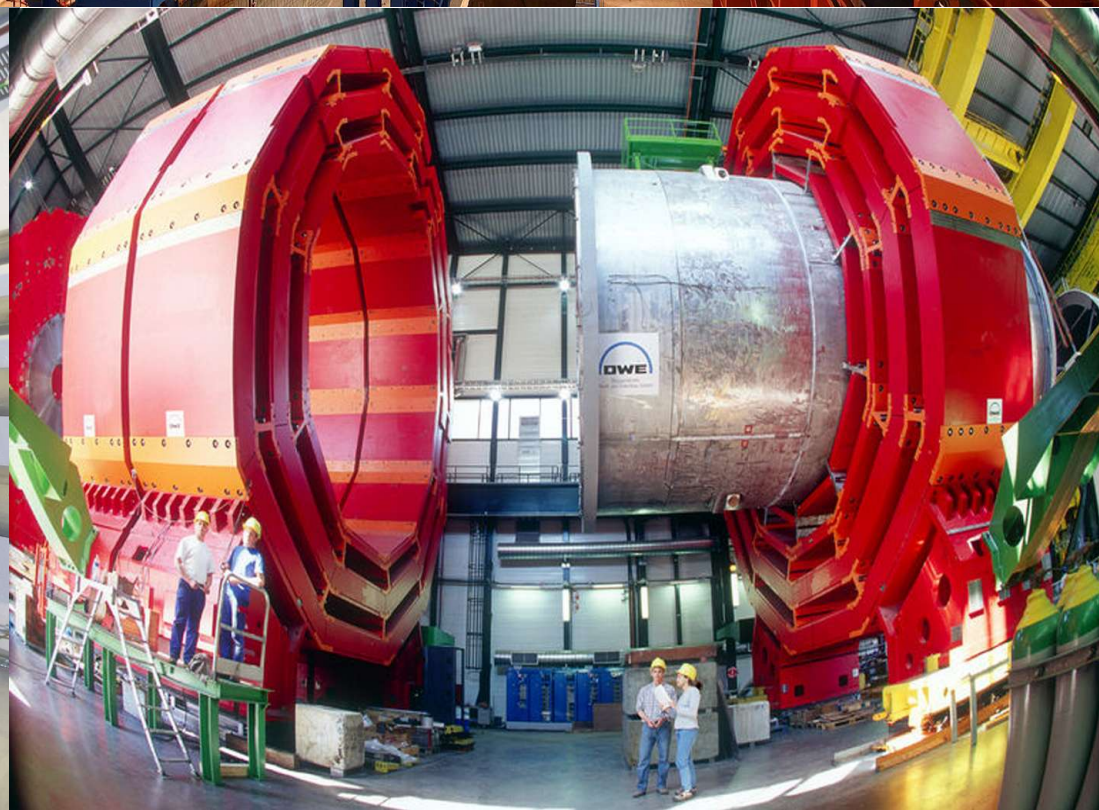
Tevatron luminosity projection



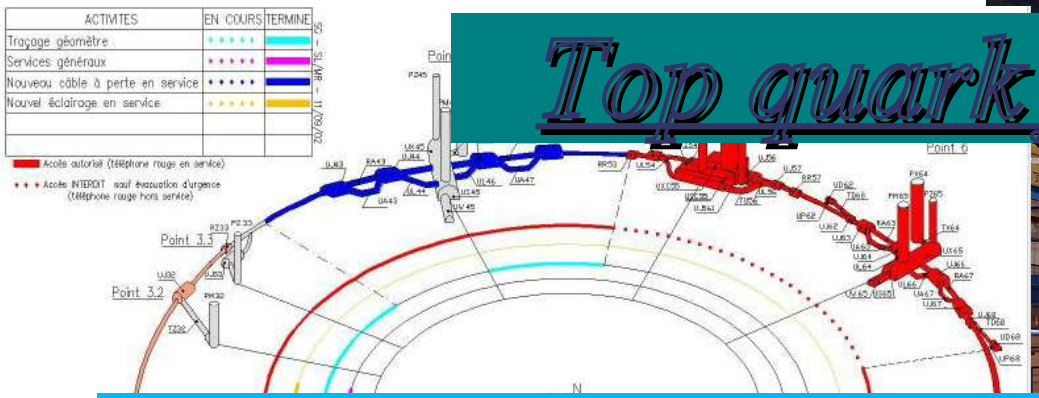
Top quark future: LHC



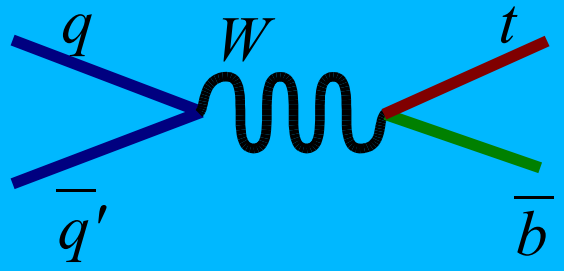




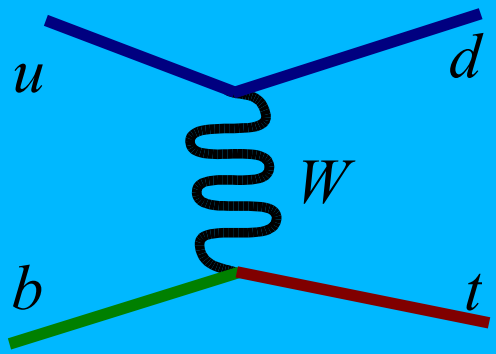
Top quark future: LHC



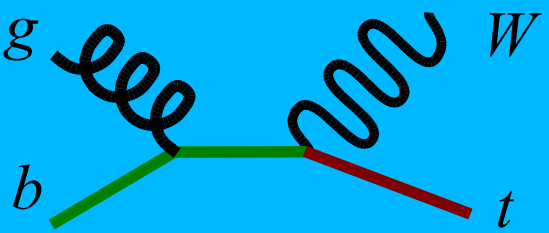
s-channel



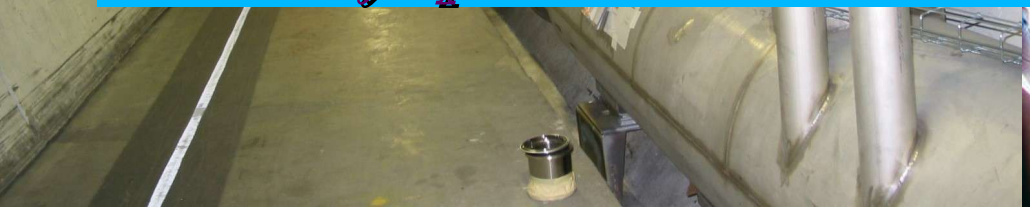
t-channel



associated production



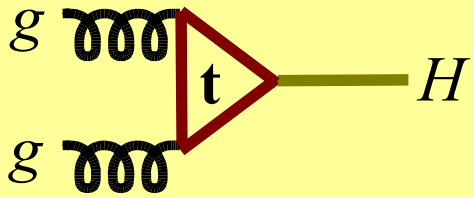
- *Observe three single top production modes separately*
  - *t-channel: easy* *s-channel and assoc. prod: harder*
- *Observe new physics (if it can be seen)*
- *Measure V_{tb} to few %*
- *Study spin correlations*



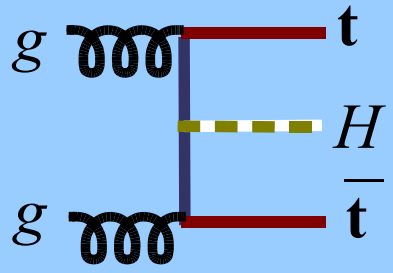
Top as the gateway to Higgs

Neutral Higgs

Higgs production mechanism at the LHC:



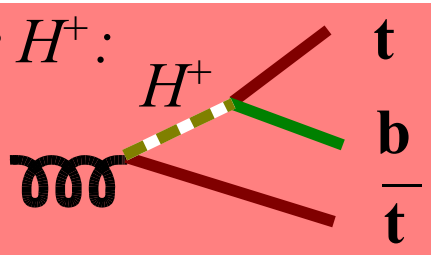
Top-Higgs Yukawa coupling measurement



Discover with ~30fb^{-1}

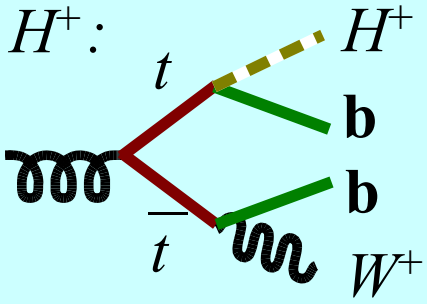
Supersymmetry: Charged Higgs

Heavy H^+:



Discovery possible with ~30fb^{-1}

Light H^+:



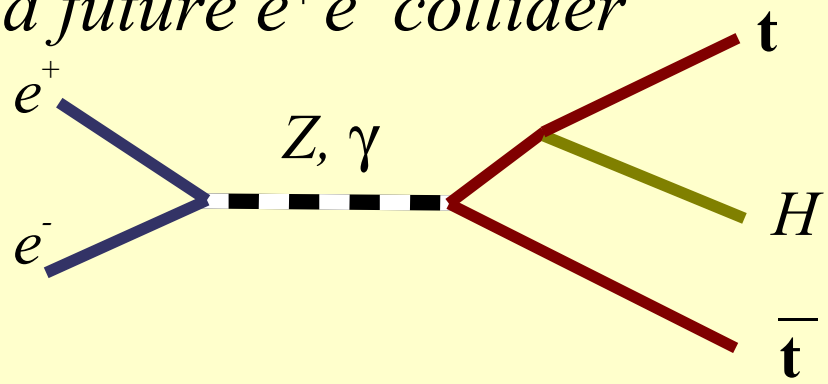
Discover with ~30fb^{-1}

High precision top quark physics

top quark

Higgs boson, new physics?

Precision coupling measurement at a future e^+e^- collider



International Linear Collider

Conclusions

- *We are on a quest to reveal the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking and particle mass*
- *Understanding the top quark is an important step*
  - *In particular electroweak interaction*
- *The top quark is a central focus at the Tevatron*
  - *Run II is now producing many results*
  - *Single top quark search is close to SM sensitivity*
- *This is just the beginning*
  - *Analyzing ×4 dataset now*
  - *LHC is just around the corner*

Dawn of Discoveries