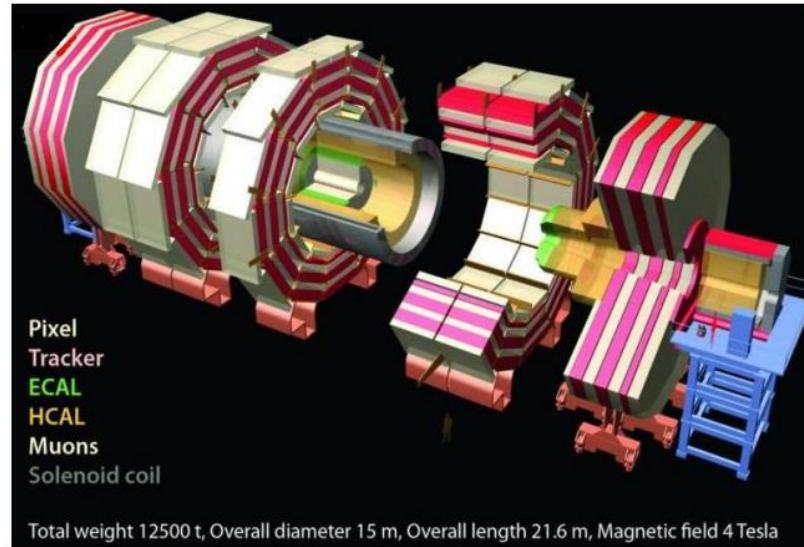
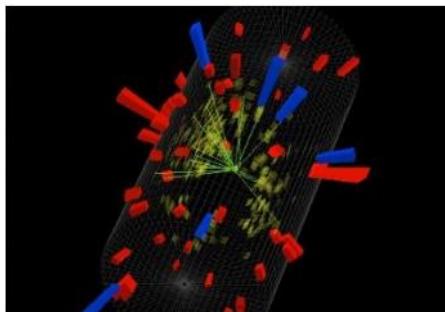


# CMS WZH Masterclass

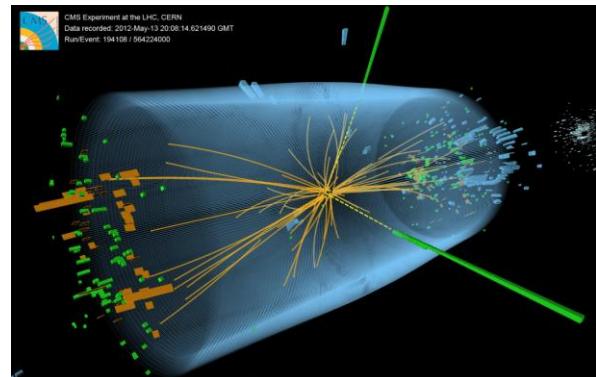


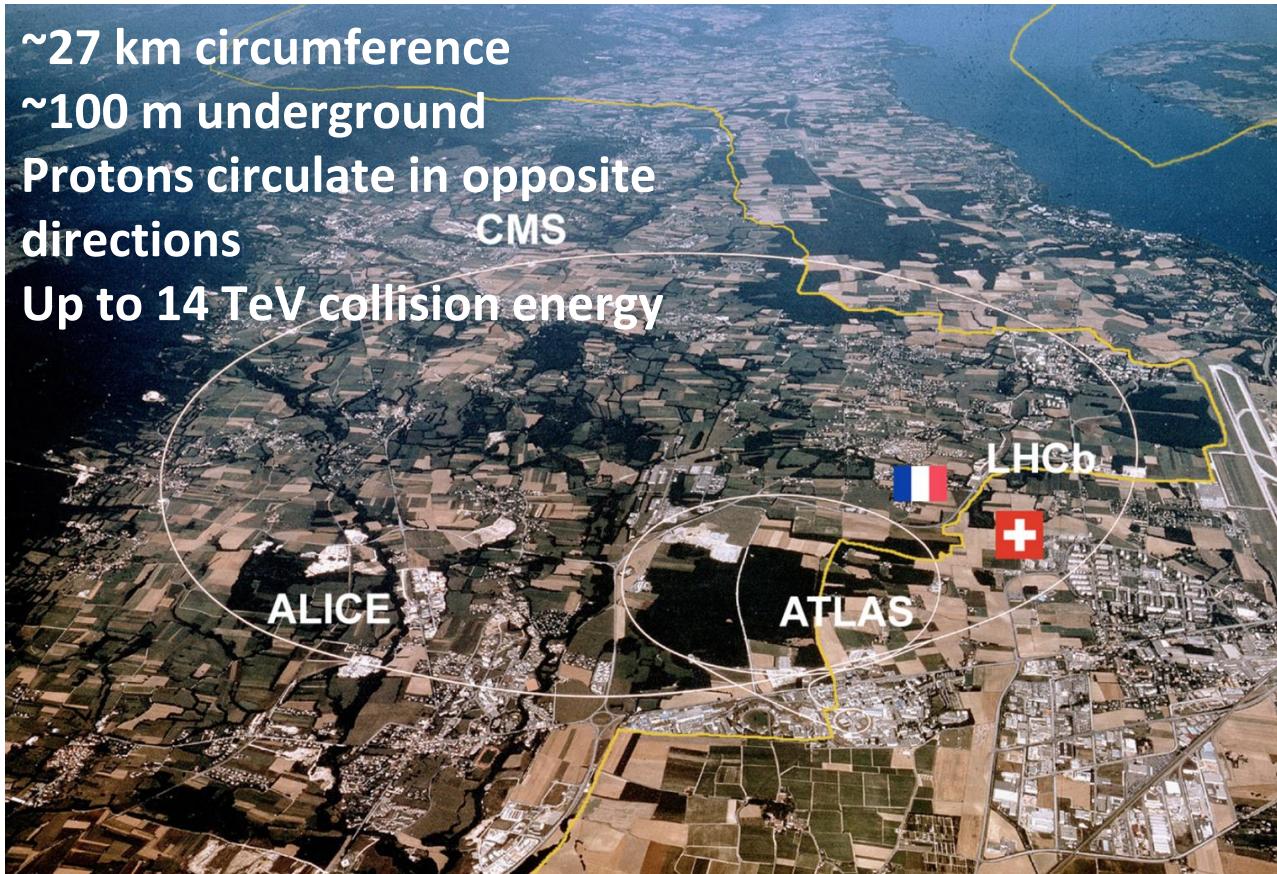
# The LHC and the new physics

*It is a time of exciting new discoveries in particle physics.*

*At CERN, the LHC has had its highest collision rates and energies yet. It is now shutting down for a major upgrade that will produce more data than ever. This will enable physicists to probe new questions even as they anchor the calibration of CMS and the LHC to the highly reliable Standard Model.*

*Let's put this scientific anchor to the test...*





# The LHC and the new physics

## Generic Design

Cylinders wrapped around the beam pipe

From inner to outer . . .

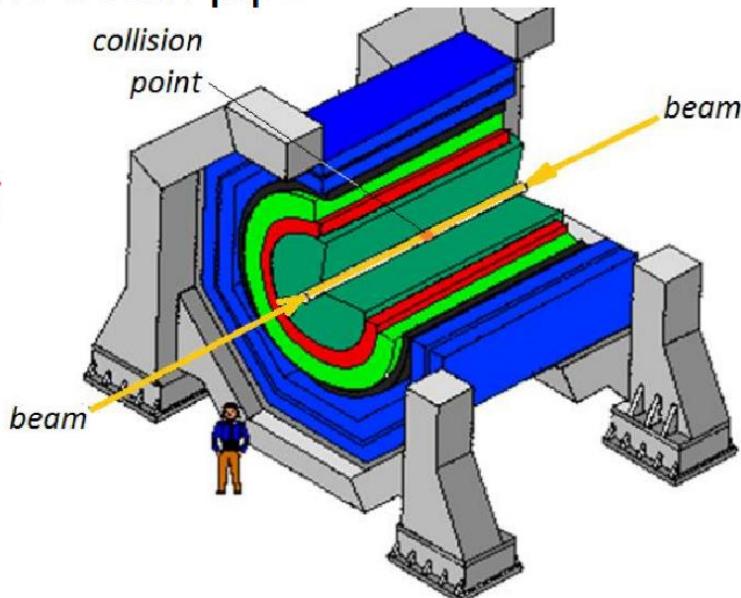
Tracking

Electromagnetic calorimeter

Hadronic calorimeter

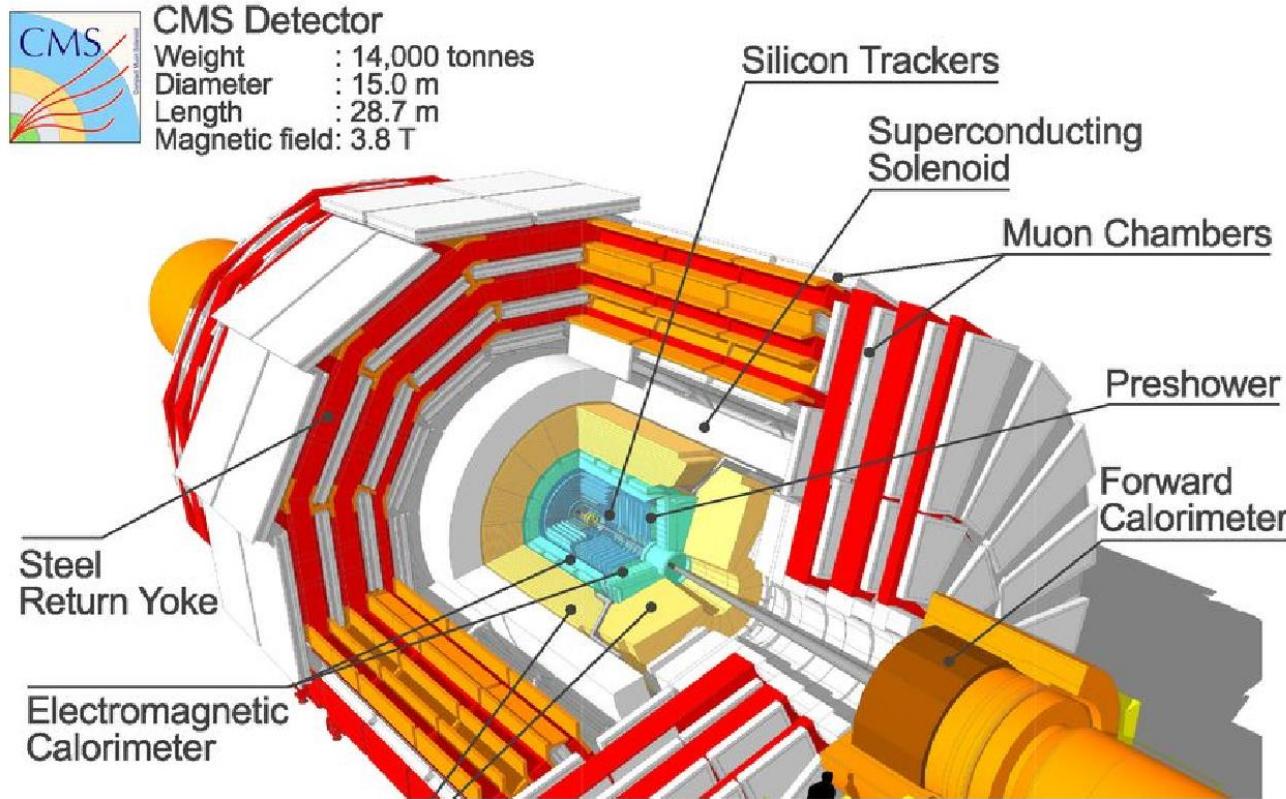
Magnet\*

Muon chamber



\* *location of magnet depends on specific detector design*

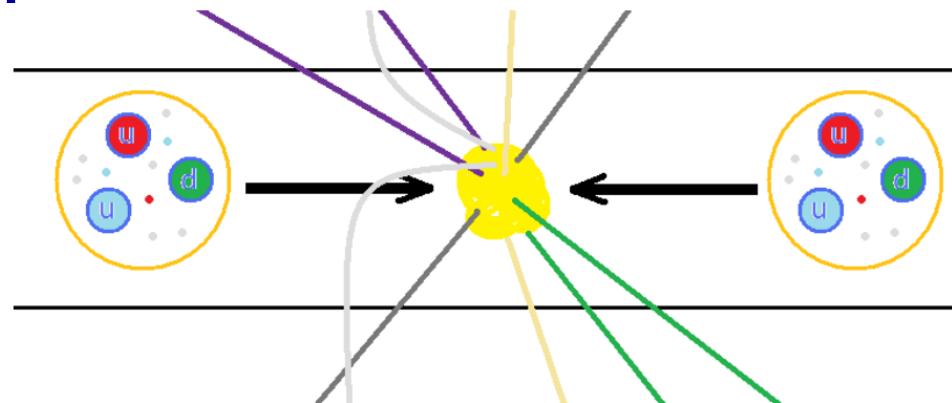
# The Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS)



# Protons collide inside CMS

The LHC accelerates protons to almost 7500 times the energy equivalent of their mass. The protons circulate in opposite directions and collide in the center of CMS.

But protons are not just particles: they are more like bags of quarks and gluons. When protons collide, all sorts of very short-lived particles can be made from all that energy.



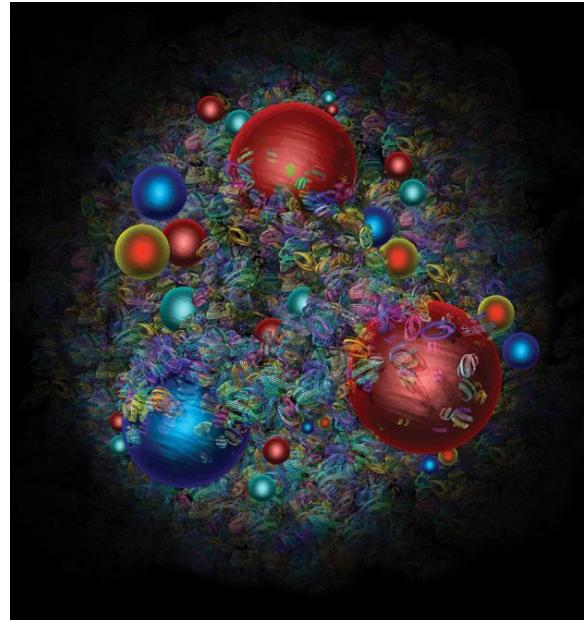
# What do the protons tell us?

**We learn from what proton collisions produce:**

*W bosons* give us clues to the proton structure...and they also present a mystery.

*Z bosons* decay (sort of) like lighter particles but are also needed to sort out Higgs data.

*Higgs bosons*, well, are Higgs bosons, the new kid on the block!

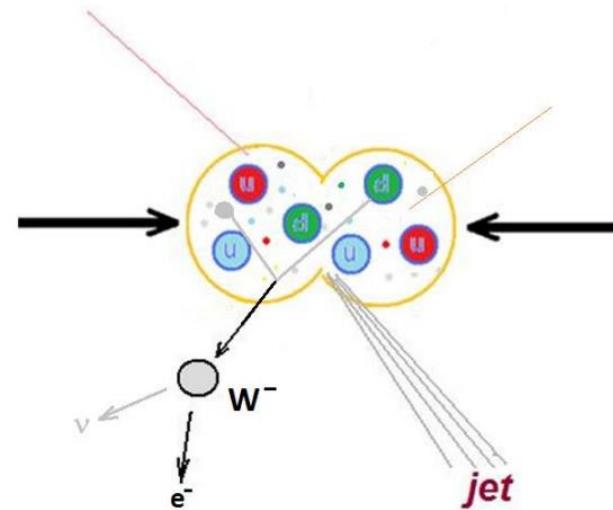


Artist's image of a proton from CERN Courier. [Learn more here](#) and [even more here](#).

# One-lepton events

The + or - charged W boson enables radioactive decay by transforming neutrons into protons.

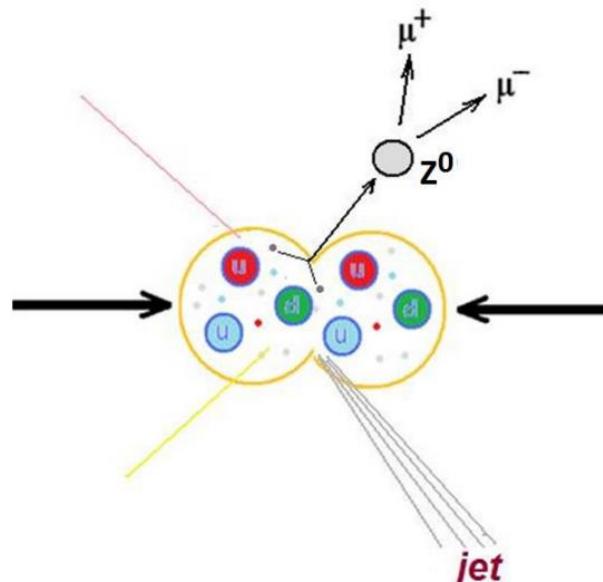
It decays into a neutrino and another lepton. Since CMS cannot detect the neutrino directly, we can call this a one-lepton event.



# Two-lepton events

The Z boson is a neutral cousin of the W. It enables the “weak neutral current”.

It decays into two leptons of the same type but opposite charge – electron and positron or muon and antimuon. It has other decay paths but we are not looking for these.

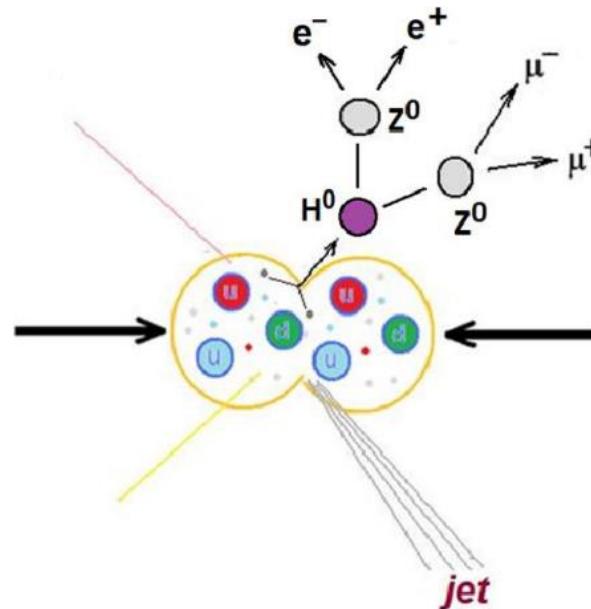


# Four-lepton events

The Higgs boson is an expression of the field that gives other particles mass.

One decay mode of the Higgs is into two Z bosons, which themselves promptly decay.

Thus we can get 2 muons and 2 electrons or 4 muons or 4 electrons.

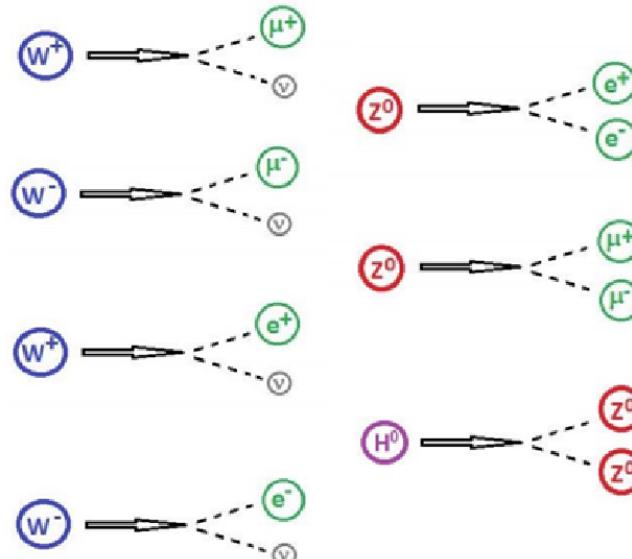


# Decay summary

Because bosons only travel a tiny distance before decaying, CMS does not “see” them directly.

CMS *can* detect :

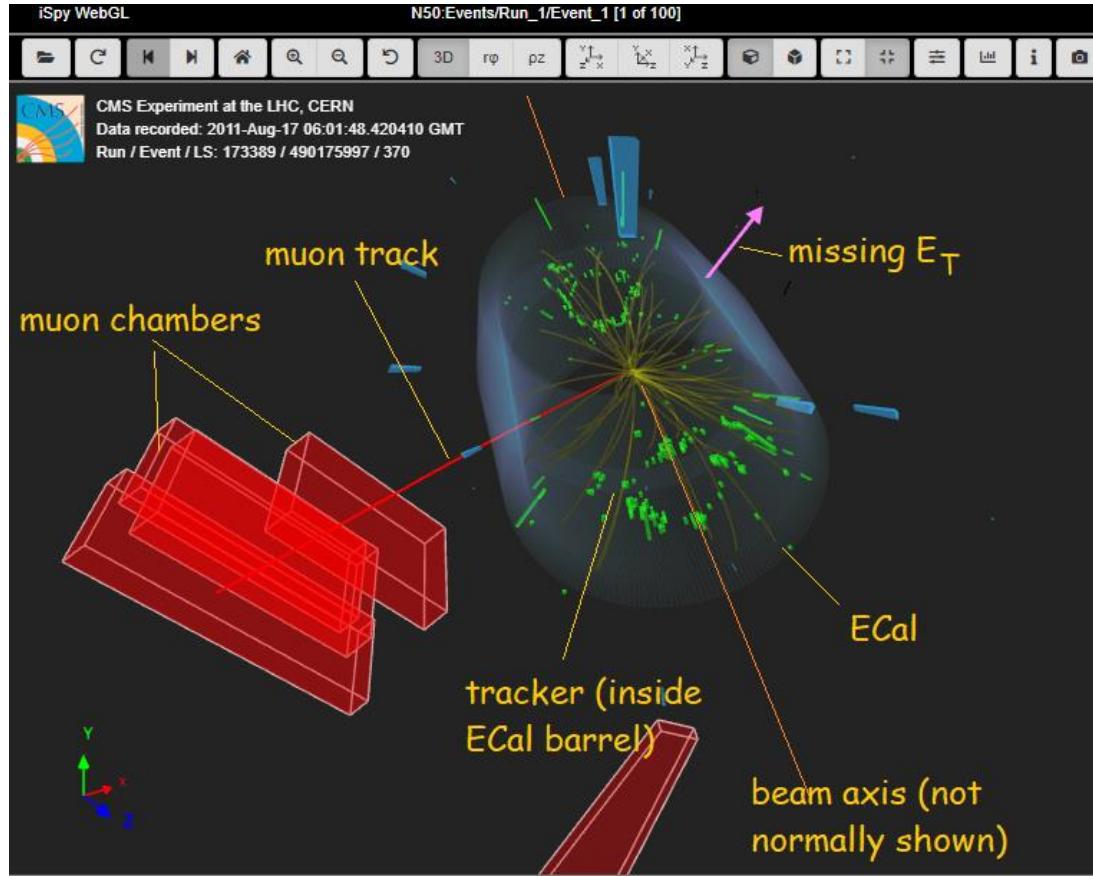
- electrons
- muons
- photons



CMS can infer:

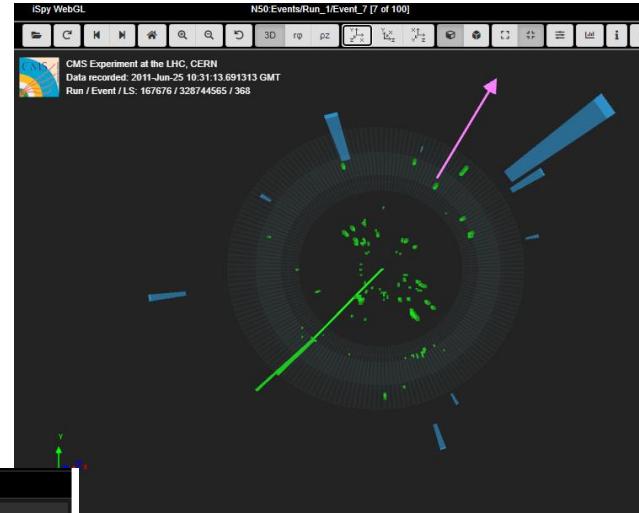
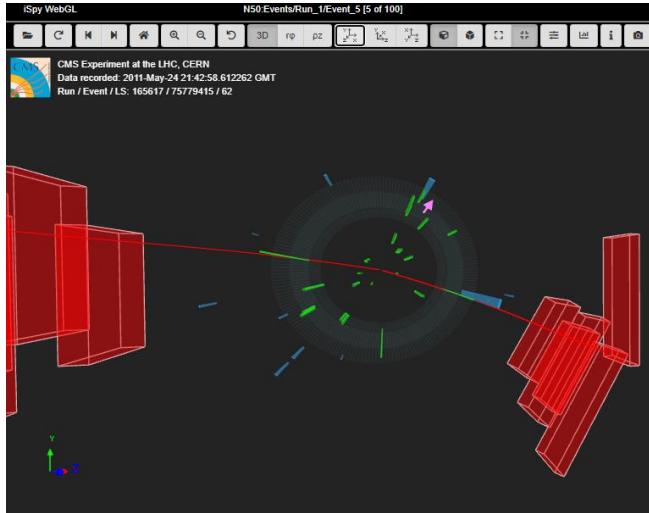
- neutrinos from “missing energy”

# iSpy event display for CMS



# 1, 2, or 4 leptons?

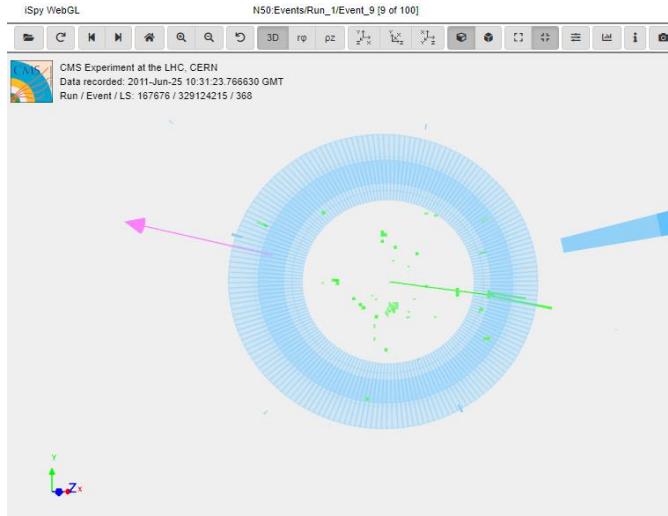
Which of these events has 1, 2, or 4 charged leptons?  
 Which flavors of leptons? What else do you see?



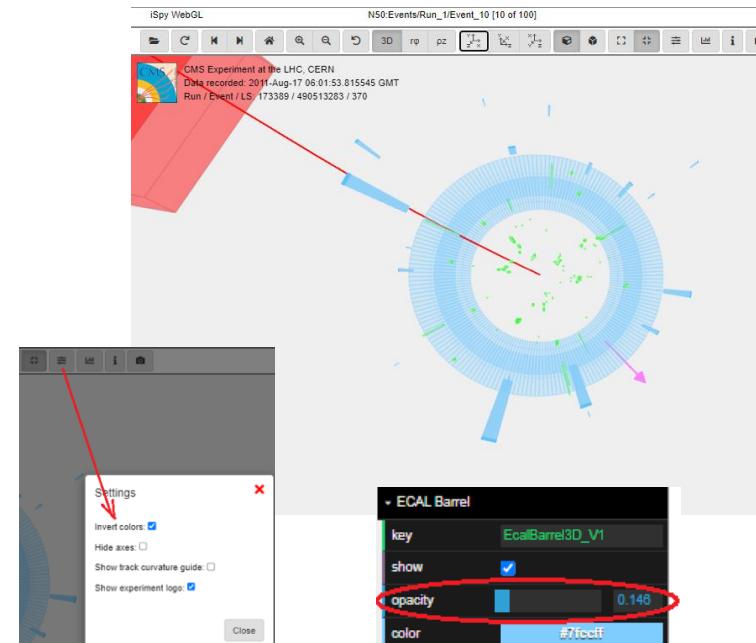
Note Tracks (reco) turned OFF. →

# 1, 2, or 4 leptons?

Which of these events has 1, 2, or 4 charged leptons?  
 Which flavors of leptons? What else do you see?

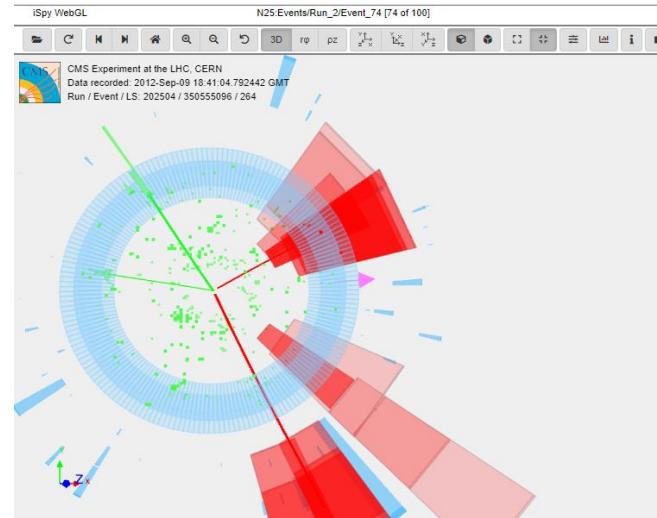
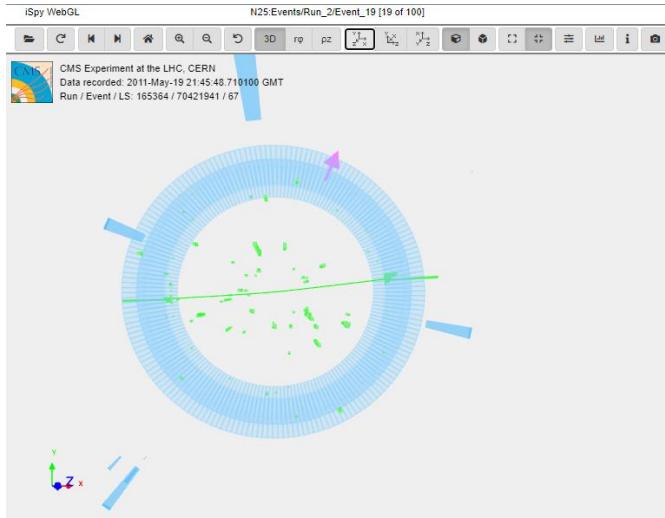


Note Inverted Colors and  
 increased ECal Barrel opacity.



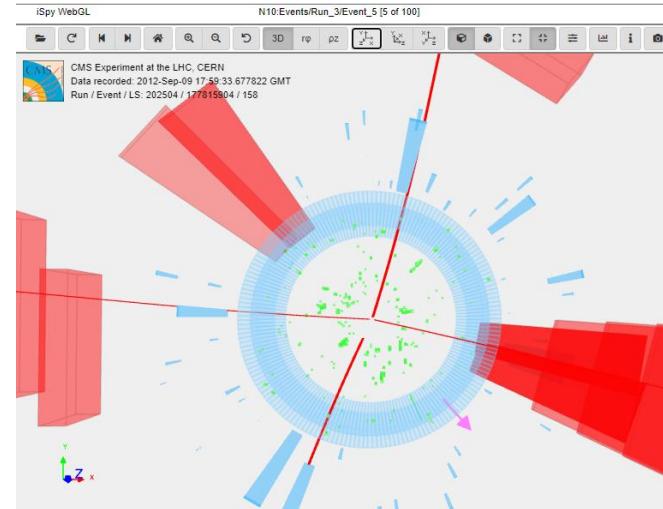
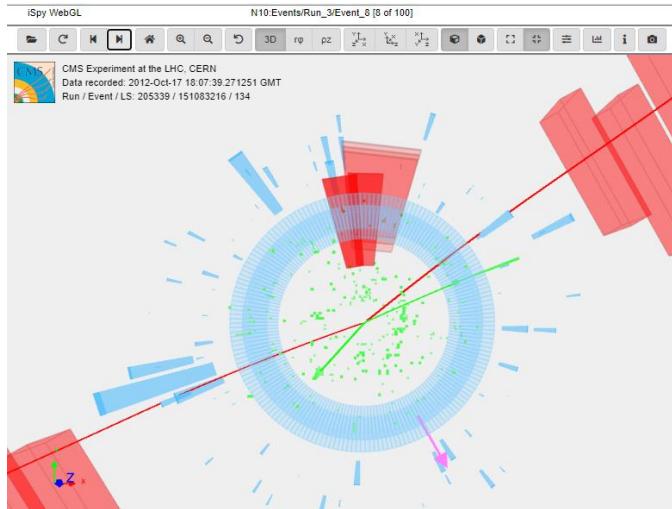
# 1, 2, or 4 leptons?

**Which of these events has 1, 2, or 4 charged leptons?  
Which flavors of leptons? What else do you see?**



# 1, 2, or 4 leptons?

Which of these events has 1, 2, or 4 charged leptons?  
Which flavors of leptons? What else do you see?



## Enter data on each event in the Google Sheet:

CMS Masterclass Spreadsheet Example-29Dec2025

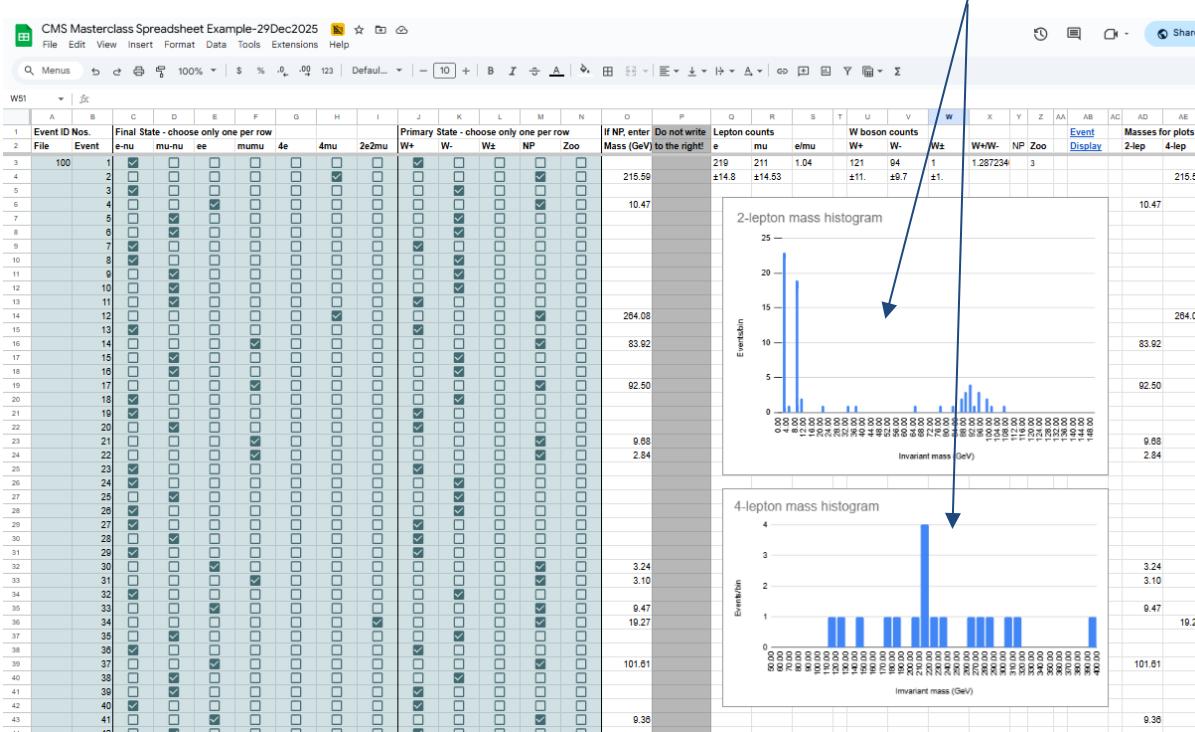
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

Share K

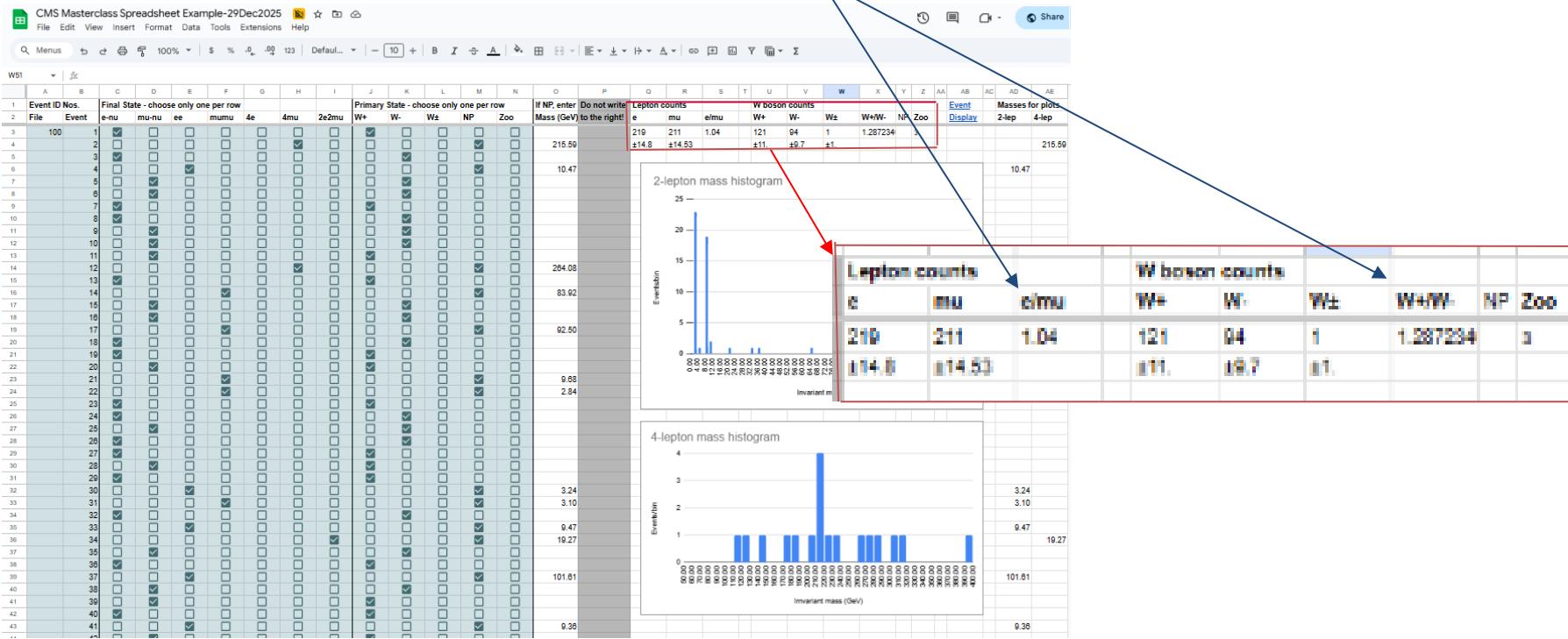
S307

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	Event ID Nos.		Final State - choose only one per row						Primary State - choose only one per row						If NP, enter	Do not write	Lepton counts			W boson counts		
2	File	Event	e-nu	mu-nu	ee	mumu	4e	4mu	2e2mu	W+	W-	W $\pm$	NP	Zoo	Mass (GeV)	to the right!	e	mu	e/mu	W+	W-	V
298		96	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
299		97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
300		98	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
301		99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
302		100	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
303	4	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	143.70							
304		2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
305		3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
306		4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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308		6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>								

## Your spreadsheet makes mass histograms automatically:



## It also tabulates data for key ratios:



## Parting words...

“Science is nothing but developed perception, interpreted intent, common sense rounded out and minutely articulated.” *George Santayana*

- Indirect observations and imaginative, critical, logical thinking can lead to reliable and valid inferences.
- Therefore: work together, think (sometimes outside the box), and be critical of each other’s results to figure out what is happening.

**Form teams of two. Each team analyzes 100 events.**

**Talk with physicists about interpreting events. Pool results.**