# The discovery of the W and Z bosons at the CERN proton – antiproton collider

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- Discovery of Neutral Current neutrino interactions
- The proton antiproton collider
- UA1 and UA2 detectors
- Discovery of the W and Z bosons
- Measurement of W and Z properties

The rise of particle physics, Rome, 23-24 September 2024

**1973:** Discovery of neutral – current neutrino interactions

 $\nu_{\mu} + N \rightarrow \nu_{\mu} + hadrons$  $\overline{\nu_{\mu}} + N \rightarrow \overline{\nu_{\mu}} + hadrons$ 

the first experimental evidence for the weak neutral boson Zpredicted by the electro-weak theory.

First measurement of the weak mixing angle  $\theta_{W}$  from the cross-section ratio

$$\frac{\sigma(NC)}{\sigma(CC)} = \frac{\sigma[\nu_{\mu}(\overline{\nu_{\mu}}) + N \to \nu_{\mu}(\overline{\nu_{\mu}}) + hadrons]}{\sigma[\nu_{\mu}(\overline{\nu_{\mu}}) + N \to \mu^{-}(\mu^{+}) + hadrons]}$$

 $\longrightarrow$  first quantitative prediction of the W<sup>±</sup> and Z mass values:

 $m_{\rm W} = 60 - 80 \ {\rm GeV/c^2}$  $m_{\rm Z} = 75 - 95 ~{\rm GeV/c^2}$ 

The ideal machine to produce and study the W and Z bosons: a high-energy  $e^+e^-$  collider

$$e^+e^- \rightarrow Z$$
  $e^+e^- \rightarrow W^+W^-$ 

still far in the future in the 1970's (first operation of LEP in 1989)

In the 1960s, all experiments with neutrino beams had observed events with final states consisting of hadrons only – all interpreted as background from neutrons produced in  $v_{\mu}$  or  $\overline{v}_{\mu}$  CC interactions near the end of the shielding wall, with the  $\mu^{\pm}$  missing the detector.

1964: Gilberto Bernardini reporting in the CERN auditorium results from neutrino experiments presented at the 1963 HEP Conference



True ratio is ~20%

- **1964:** André Lagarrigue (Ecole Polytechnique, Paris) proposes to build a large-volume bubble chamber (named "Gargamelle"), filled with heavy liquid, to be installed on the neutrino beam from the CERN 26 GeV Proton Synchrotron (PS)
- 1965 1970: Construction in Saclay, followed by installation at CERN



During installation



Inside Gargamelle

Cylindrical volume, length 4.8 m, diameter 1.8 m; Horizontal magnetic field of 2 T orthogonal to beam axis; Filled with liquid Freon-13 (CF<sub>3</sub>Br) : density 1.5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, radiation length 11 cm, mean nuclear interaction length 78 cm.

1971: Start data taking with  $v_{\mu}$  and  $\overline{v}_{\mu}$  beams (energy ~ 1 – 10 GeV )

Gargamelle at CERN today



#### The Gargamelle collaboration

Aachen – Brussels – CERN – Ecole Polytechnique, Paris – Milano – Orsay – UC London

# December 1972: observation of an event consisting of a single electron only from data taken with the $\overline{\nu}_{\mu}$ beam



Electron energy  $385 \pm 100 \text{ MeV}$ Electron angle to beam axis  $1.4^{\circ} \pm 1.4^{\circ}$ 

Consistent with  $\overline{\nu}_{\mu} - e^-$  elastic scattering , as expected from the electroweak theory



#### A $\nu_{\mu}$ interaction with only hadrons in the final state



- Clean 3 prong event
- Final state has only identified hadrons
- Total visible energy ~ 6 GeV



Sketch of a neutron background event The neutron is produced by a  $v_{\mu}$  CC interaction with the  $\mu^{-}$  and all other final-state particles missing the detector

Neutron interactions in the detector can be measured by looking at  $v_{\mu}$  CC interactions occurring near the chamber entrance

#### The visible energy from neutron interactions in the detector is mostly < 500 MeV



**Distribution fall-off as expected from neutron mean interaction length**  Events with only hadronic final states Visible energy > 1 GeV



Event distribution uniform along the beam direction as expected for neutrino interactions

# **1976: the shortcut to W and Z production** (presented at the Neutrino 76 conference in Aachen)

## PRODUCING MASSIVE NEUTRAL INTERMEDIATE VECTOR BOSONS WITH EXISTING ACCELERATORS\*)

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Presented by C. Rubbia

Abstract: We outline a scheme of searching for the massive weak boson ( $M = 50 - 200 \text{ GeV/c}^2$ ). An antiproton source is added either to the Fermilab or the CERN SPS machines to transform a conventional 400 GeV accelerator into a  $p\overline{p}$  colliding beam facility with 800 GeV in the center of mass ( $E_{eq} = 320,000 \text{ GeV}$ ). Reliable estimates of production cross sections along with a high luminosity make the scheme feasible.



**Dominant W and Z production processes at a proton – antiproton collider:** 

 $u + \overline{d} \to W^+$   $\overline{u} + d \to W^-$  Cross-sections calculable from  $u + \overline{u} \to Z$   $d + \overline{d} \to Z$  electroweak theory + know proton structure functions

electroweak theory + knowledge of

### Energy requirements:

proton (antiproton) momentum at high energies is carried by gluons (~ 50%) and valence quarks (antiquarks) (~ 50%)

**On average:** quark momentum  $\approx \frac{1}{6}$  (proton momentum)

**collider energy**  $\approx$  6 x boson mass  $\approx$  500 – 600 GeV

#### Luminosity requirements:

Inclusive cross-section for  $\overline{p} + p \rightarrow Z + anything at \sim 600$  GeV:  $\sigma \approx 1.6$  nb Branching ratio for  $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^- \text{decay} \approx 3\%$ 

$$\sigma(\overline{p}p \rightarrow Z \rightarrow e^+e^-) \approx 50 \text{ pb} = 5 \times 10^{-35} \text{ cm}^2$$

Event rate =  $L \sigma [s^{-1}]$  ( $L \equiv$  luminosity)

1 event / day  $\Rightarrow$  L  $\approx$  2.5 x 10<sup>29</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

## **CERN accelerators in 1976**

- 26 GeV proton synchrotron (PS) in operation since 1959
- 450 GeV proton synchrotron (SPS) just starting operation



A view of the CERN SPS

To achieve luminosities  $\geq 10^{29}$  cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> need an antiproton source capable of delivering once per day  $3 \times 10^{10}$  p distributed into few (3 – 6) tightly collimated bunches within the angular and momentum acceptance of the SPS

## **Antiproton production:**



Number of antiprotons / PS cycle OK but phase space volume too large by a factor  $\geq 10^8$  to fit into SPS acceptance even after acceleration to the injection energy of 26 GeV



must increase the antiproton phase space density by  $\geq 10^8$  before sending them to the SPS ("cooling")

## "Stochastic" cooling

#### (invented at CERN by Simon van der Meer in 1972)

#### **Example:** cooling of the horizontal motion



In practice, the pick-up system measures the average distance from central orbit of a group of particles (depending on frequency response)

#### **Independent pick-up – kicker systems to cool:**

- horizontal motion
- vertical motion
- longitudinal motion (decrease of Δp/p) (signal from pick-up system proportional to Δp)

#### A few initial recommendations by the CERN Research Board

November 1976: Recommendation to carry out an experiment on proton cooling:Initial Cooling Experiment (ICE)Test cooling of 2 GeV protons in a storage ring built from componentsof a dismantled ring used to measure the muon g-2

May 1978 : The ICE group reports the achievement of successful stochastic cooling Recommendation to go ahead with p̄p beams in the SPS (Sp̄pS)

June 1978: Approval of proposal P92, becoming the UA1 experiment (UA1 : Underground Area 1)

Concern that the inclusion of a second underground area at another intersection region may not be possible due to budgetary limitations

December 1978: Resources for a second underground area are found Approval of proposal P93, becoming UA2

## **The CERN Antiproton Accumulator (AA)** 3.5 Gev/c large-aperture ring for antiproton storage and cooling



(during construction)



# **AA operation**

The first pulse of  $7 \times 10^6 \ \bar{p}$  has been injected

Precooling reduces momentum spread

First pulse is moved to the stack region where cooling continues

Injection of  $2^{nd} \bar{p}$  pulse 2.4 s later

After precooling 2<sup>nd</sup> pulse is also stacked

After 15 pulses the stack contains  $10^8 \,\overline{p}$ 

After one hour a dense core has formed inside the stack

After one day the core contains enough  $\bar{p}$ 's for transfer to the SPS

The remaining  $\bar{p}$ 's are used for next day accumulation

#### Sketch of the CERN accelerators in the early 1980's



1986 – 90: add another ring ("Antiproton Collector" AC) around the AA – larger acceptance for single p̄ pulses (7 x 10<sup>7</sup> p̄ / pulse ⇒ ~ tenfold increase of stacking rate)



## **Proton – antiproton collider operation, 1981 - 90**

Year	Collision Energy (GeV)	Peak luminosity (cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )	Integrated luminosity (cm <sup>-2</sup> )	
1981	546	~10 <sup>27</sup>	2.0 x 10 <sup>32</sup>	
1982	546	5 x 10 <sup>28</sup>	<b>2.8 x</b> 10 <sup>34</sup>	- W discovery
1983	546	1.7 x 10 <sup>29</sup>	1.5 x 10 <sup>35</sup>	<b>—</b> Z discovery
1984-85	630	3.9 x 10 <sup>29</sup>	1.0 x 10 <sup>36</sup>	
1987-90	630	~2 x 10 <sup>30</sup>	1.6 x 10 <sup>37</sup>	]

**1991: end of collider operation** 

## **UA1 detector**





## **UA1 detector during assembly**



# **UA2 Detector 1981 - 85**



Central region: tracking detector ("vertex detector"); "pre-shower" detector (tungsten cylinder 1.5 X<sub>0</sub> thick + MWPC) electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters ( $\Delta \theta = 10^{\circ}, \Delta \phi = 15^{\circ}$ ) no magnetic field

20° – 40° regions : toroidal magnetic field; tracking detectors; "pre-shower" detector + electromagnetic calorimeter.

No muon detector

## **UA2 detector during assembly**



#### **Electron identification**

Calorimeter requirements (UA1, UA2) : energy deposition consistent with an isolated electron (fraction of energy deposited in the electromagnetic calorimeter > 90%, limited shower lateral size).

- UA1, UA2: isolated track pointing to the calorimeter energy cluster.
- UA1: track momentum consistent with energy deposition.
- UA2: "preshower" detector in front of the e.m. calorimeter to measure the track – associated energy in a MWPC located after a high-Z converter.

## Muons (UA1 only)

- Tracks with energy deposition in calorimeters consistent with energy loss by ionization, detected in muon chambers.
- Track momentum measurement from curvature in magnetic field; momentum measurement ~10 times less precise than electron energy measurement in calorimeter.



a) 46.2 GeV CENTRAL CALORIMETER 46.2 GEV CALORIMETER PROP4 CONVERTER PROP4 PROP3 PROP3 10 cm P VERTEX

**UA2** 

Electron from Z  $\rightarrow e^+e^-$  decay

Most likely, conversion of a high-energy photon in the preshower converter

# W discovery

Dominant decay mode (~70%)  $W \rightarrow q \overline{q}' \rightarrow two$  hadronic jets ovewhelmed by two-jet background from QCD processes  $\Rightarrow$  search for leptonic decays:

**Expected signal from W**  $\rightarrow$  e v decay:

- Iarge transverse momentum (p<sub>T</sub>) isolated electron
- $p_T$  distribution peaks at  $m_W/2$  ("Jacobian peak")
- Iarge missing transverse momentum from the undetected neutrino

(W produced by quark-antiquark annihilation, e.g.  $u + d \rightarrow W^+$ , is almost collinear with beam axis; decay electron and neutrino emitted at large angles to beam axis have large  $p_T$ )

#### **NOTE**

Missing longitudinal momentum cannot be measured at hadron colliders because of large number of high-energy secondary particles emitted at very small angles inside the machine vacuum pipe

#### Missing transverse momentum ( $\vec{p}_{T}^{miss}$ )

- Associate momentum vector  $\vec{p}$  to each calorimeter cell with energy deposition > 0
- Direction of  $\overrightarrow{p}$  from event vertex to cell centre
- $|\vec{p}|$  = energy deposited in cell
- Definition:



#### UA1: correlation between electron $p_T$ and missing $p_T$



Six events with large  $p_T$  electron and large missing  $p_T$ opposite to electron  $p_T$  consistent with  $W \rightarrow e \nu$  decay (result announced at a CERN seminar on January 20, 1983)

### **Two UA1 W** $\rightarrow$ e v events



#### **Measurement of the missing transverse momentum**

Before the analysis of the first  $\overline{p}$  p collider data (1981 – 82), the importance of measuring the missing transverse momentum ( $p_T^{miss}$ ) had not been fully acknowledged. The lack of full calorimeter coverage in the UA2 detector could introduce unknown systematic errors in the  $p_T^{miss}$  measurement.

UA1 – UA2 comparison of  $p_T^{miss}$  distributions in events containing  $p_T > 15$  GeV/c electrons (from all data collected until 1985)



The effect of the incomplete UA2 calorimeter coverage is evident

UA2 : Six events containing an electron with  $p_T > 15 \text{ GeV/c}$ 



Result announced at a CERN seminar on January 21, 1983

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#### EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATION OF ISOLATED LARGE TRANSVERSE ENERGY ELECTRONS WITH ASSOCIATED MISSING ENERGY AT $\sqrt{s}$ = 540 GeV

UA1 Collaboration, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

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#### OBSERVATION OF SINGLE ISOLATED ELECTRONS OF HIGH TRANSVERSE MOMENTUM IN EVENTS WITH MISSING TRANSVERSE ENERGY AT THE CERN pp COLLIDER

The UA2 Collaboration

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## **UA1: observation of** $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$

(May 1983)



Two energy clusters ( $p_T > 25$  GeV) in electromagnetic calorimeters; energy leakage in hadronic calorimeters consistent with electrons

Isolated track with  $p_T > 7$  GeV pointing to at least one cluster

Isolated track with  $p_T > 7$  GeV pointing to <u>both</u> clusters

## UA1 Z $\rightarrow$ e<sup>+</sup> e<sup>-</sup> event



EVENT 6500. 222.



Invariant Mass of Lepton pair (GeV/c<sup>2</sup>)

## <u>UA2: observation of $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ </u> (June 1983)



(stat) (syst)

One of the 8 events : a Z  $\rightarrow$  e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> $\gamma$  decay with a hard photon (24 GeV) well separated from the nearer electron.

Estimated probability from radiative corrections:  $\sim 1/200 \text{ Z} \rightarrow e^+e^-(\gamma)$  decays.

Nevertheless, several theoretical papers were published interpreting this event in terms of new physics beyond the Standard Model.

At the end of UA2 (1990), the final  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^$ decay sample consisted of ~250 events with no other  $e^+e^-\gamma$  event with non-collinear, hard photons.

**BEWARE OF STATISTICAL FLUCTUATIONS !** 





#### PHYSICS LETTERS

#### EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATION OF LEPTON PAIRS OF INVARIANT MASS AROUND 95 GeV/ $c^2$ AT THE CERN SPS COLLIDER

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#### EVIDENCE FOR $Z^0 \rightarrow e^+e^-$ AT THE CERN $\overline{p}p$ COLLIDER

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## $W \rightarrow e_V$ : results from 1982 – 85 data "transverse mass" (m<sub>T</sub>) distribution

 $m_T$ : invariant mass calculated using electron and neutrino momentum components orthogonal to beam axis ( $m_T$  does not depend on W  $p_T$ )



UA2: m<sub>w</sub> = 80.2 ± 0.8(stat) ± 1.3(syst) GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

Charge asymmetry in  $W \rightarrow e \nu$  decay



In the W rest frame:



**Electron (positron) angular distribution:** 

$$\frac{dn}{d\cos\theta^*} \propto \left(1 + q\cos\theta^*\right)^2$$

q = +1 for positrons; q = -1 for electrons  $\theta^* = 0$  along antiproton direction

W<sup>±</sup> polarization along antiproton direction (consequence of V – A coupling)



## W transverse momentum $(\vec{p}_{T}^{W})$

■  $p_T^W \neq 0$  because of initial-state gluon radiation

*p*<sub>T</sub><sup>W</sup> equal and opposite to total transverse momentum carried by all hadrons produced in the same collision:

$$\vec{p}_T^W = -\sum_{hadrons} \vec{p}_T$$

•  $p_{\rm T}^{\rm W}$  distribution can be predicted from QCD



 $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ : UA1 results, 1982 – 85 data



 $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^- : m_z = 93.1 \pm 1.0$ (stat)  $\pm 3.1$ (syst) GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

#### $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ : UA2 results, 1982 – 85 data



*m*<sub>z</sub> = 91.5 ± 1.2(stat) ± 1.7(syst) GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

#### **Production cross-section** X decay branching ratio at $\sqrt{s} = 630$ GeV

$$\sigma_W B(W \to e\nu) = 0.60 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.09 \text{ nb} \quad (\text{UA1})$$
  

$$0.59 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.07 \text{ nb} \quad (\text{UA2})$$
  
stat. syst.  
Theory :  $0.45^{+0.14}_{-0.08} \text{ nb}$ 

$$\sigma_Z B(Z \to e^+ e^-) = 73 \pm 14 \pm 11 \text{ pb}$$
 (UA1)  
 $73 \pm 15 \pm 10 \text{ pb}$  (UA2)  
stat. syst.  
Theory :  $51^{+16}_{-10} \text{ pb}$ 

### <u>UA2 detector 1987 – 90</u>



- Tenfold increase of collider luminosity
- Full calorimetry down to  $\sim 5^{\circ} \Rightarrow$  improved measurement of missing  $p_T$
- No magnetic field, no muon detectors

#### <u>UA2 detector 1987 – 90</u>



## **p**<sub>T</sub><sup>miss</sup> distribution in the UA2' detector



Events containing an electron with  $p_T > 15 \text{ GeV/c}$ 

Events containg an electron
 with p<sub>T</sub> < 11 GeV/c (mostly events without outgoing neutrinos )</li>

# UA2: precise measurement of $\frac{m_{\rm W}}{m_{\rm Z}}$

(mass ratio has no uncertainty from calorimeter calibration)

2065 W  $\rightarrow$  e v events with the electron in the central calorimeter ( $\theta = 90^\circ \pm 50^\circ$ )

#### Distribution of "transverse mass" m<sub>T</sub>

( $m_T$ : invariant mass using only the e and v momentum components normal to beam axis – the longitudinal component of the v momentum cannot be measured at hadron colliders )



Fit of the distribution with  $m_W$  as fitting parameter:

 $m_W = 80.84 \pm 0.22 \text{ GeV/c}^2$ 



# **CONCLUSIONS**

#### **The CERN Proton – Antiproton Collider:**

initially conceived as an experiment to detect the  $W^{\pm}$  and Z bosons; in the end, a general – purpose accelerator facility exploring hadron collisions at centre-of-mass energies an order of magnitude larger than those previously available.

#### Among the main physics results:

- $W^{\pm}$  and Z detection and studies (tests of the electroweak theory)
- study of hadronic jets and photons at high p<sub>T</sub> (tests of perturbative QCD)
- heavy flavour physics (first indirect evidence of  $B^{\circ} \overline{B}^{\circ}$  mixing by UA1)

The prevailing opinion before the first operation of the CERN **p** p Collider: proton – proton (and antiproton – proton) collisions are "DIRTY", "COMPLICATED" and "DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET"

The physics results (and those from the Fermilab  $\overline{p}$  p collider at 1.8 TeV) have shown that this pessimistic view is wrong if the experiments are designed to look at the basic "physics building blocks":

- hadronic jets at large p<sub>T</sub> (representing quarks, antiquarks, gluons)
- leptons
- photons
- missing transverse momentum (neutrinos, other possible weakly interacting particles)

#### THE SUCCESS OF THE CERN PROTON – ANTIPROTON COLLIDER HAS OPENED THE ROAD TO THE LHC