# **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**

 $v_{\mu}+N \rightarrow v_{\mu}+hadrons$  $\overline{v_u} + N \rightarrow \overline{v_u} + hadrons$ 

 **the first experimental evidence for the weak neutral boson** *Z* **predicted by the electro-weak theory.**

**First measurement of the weak mixing angle**  $\theta_W$  **from the cross-section ratio**

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

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

 $m_{\text{W}} = 60 - 80 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  $m<sub>z</sub>$  = 75 – 95 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

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

$$
e^+e^- \to Z \qquad \qquad e^+e^- \to W^+W^-
$$

**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  $\sim 20\%$ 

- **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 ( $CF_3Br$ ) : 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  $\sim$  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**  $\overline{v}_{\mu}$  **beam**



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

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



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



- Clean  $3$  prong event
- § Final state has only identified hadrons
- Total visible energy  $\sim 6 \text{ GeV}$



Sketch of a neutron background event The neutron is produced by a  $v_{\mu}$  CC interaction with the µ**<sup>−</sup>** 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  $p\bar{p}$ colliding beam facility with 800 GeV in the center of mass ( $E_{eq}$  = 320,000 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:**

 $u + \overline{d} \rightarrow W^{+} \hspace{1cm} \overline{u} + d \rightarrow W^{-} \hspace{1cm}$  Cross-sections calculable from  $u + \overline{u} \rightarrow Z$   $d + \overline{d} \rightarrow Z$ 

**electroweak theory + knowledge of proton structure functions**

## § **Energy requirements:**

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

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

**collider energy**  $\approx 6$  **<b>x** boson mass  $\approx 500 - 600$  GeV

### § **Luminosity requirements:**

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

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

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

**1** event / day  $\Rightarrow$  L  $\approx$  2.5 **x**  $10^{29}$  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**  $3 \times 10^{10}$  $\overline{p}$  **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**  $\Delta p/p$ **)** (signal from pick-up system proportional to  $\Delta p$ )

#### **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 components of 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 pp beams in the SPS (SppS)** 

**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 Example 3** 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  $7 \times 10^6$  p has been injected

Precooling reduces momentum spread

First pulse is moved to the stack region where cooling continues

Injection of  $2<sup>nd</sup>$   $\bar{p}$  pulse 2.4 s later

After precooling 2nd pulse is also stacked

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

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**  $\overline{p}$  **pulses**  $(7 \times 10^7 \bar{p} / \text{pulse} \implies \text{~tenfold increase of stacking rate})$ 



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



**1991: end of collider operation**

# **UA1 detector**





# **UA1 detector during assembly**



# **UA2 Detector 1981 - 85**



**Central region: tracking detector ("vertex detector");<br>"pre-shower" detector (tungsten cylinder 1.5**  $X_0$  **thick + MWPC) "pre-shower" detector (tungsten cylinder 1.5**  $X_0$  **thick + MWPC) electromagnetic and hadronic calorimeters (** $\Delta\theta$  **=10<sup>O</sup>,**  $\Delta\phi$ **=15<sup>O</sup>) 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) CENTRAL<br>CALORIMETER **GeV** C<sub>5</sub> CONVERTER PROP-DRIFT 2 DRIFT 1 10 cm  $10 \text{ cm}$ 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 ⇒ search for leptonic decays:** 

 $W^+ \rightarrow e^+ + v_e$   $W^+ \rightarrow \mu^+ + v_\mu$  (and charge-conjugate decays) (UA1, UA2) (UA1 only)

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

- large transverse momentum (p<sub>T</sub>) isolated electron
- $\blacksquare$  **p**<sub>T</sub> distribution peaks at  $m_W/2$  ("Jacobian peak")
- § **large 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**  $\overrightarrow{(p_T}^{\text{miss}})$

- **Associate momentum vector**  $\overrightarrow{p}$  **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**  $W \rightarrow e \vee$  **decay** (result announced at a CERN seminar on January 20, 1983)

### $Two UAI W \rightarrow e V events$



EVENT 2958. 1279.

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

Before the analysis of the first  $\bar{p}$  p collider data (1981 – 82), the importance of measuring the missing transverse momentum  $(p_T^{\text{miss}})$  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  $p_T^{\text{miss}}$  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

PHYSICS LETTERS

#### **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 <sub>Pp</sub> COLLIDER

The UA2 Collaboration

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

**(May 1983)**



Two energy clusters  $(p_T > 25 \text{ GeV})$ **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**  $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$ **pointing to both clusters**

## $UA1 Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$  event



EVENT 6500, 222.



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

## **UA2: observation of**  $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ **(June 1983)**



(stat) (syst)

#### **One of the 8 events : a**  $Z \rightarrow e^+e^- \gamma$  **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.**



**BEWARE OF STATISTICAL FLUCTUATIONS !**





#### PHYSICS LETTERS

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

UA1 Collaboration, CERN, Geneva, Switzerland

Aachen  $a$  -Annecy (LAPP)  $b$  -Birmingham  $c$  -CERN  $d$  -Helsinki  $e$  -Queen Mary College, London  $f$  -Paris (Coll. de France)  $g - R$ iverside  $h - R$ ome  $i - R$ utherford Appleton Lab.  $j - Saclav$  (CEN)  $k - V$ ienna  $h$  Collaboration

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

The UA2 Collaboration

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## **W** → **e v** : results from 1982 – 85 data **"transverse mass" (m<sub>T</sub>) distribution**

**m<sub>T</sub>**: invariant mass calculated using electron and neutrino momentum components orthogonal to beam axis ( $m<sub>T</sub>$  does not depend on W  $p<sub>T</sub>$ )



**UA2:**  $m_w = 80.2 \pm 0.8$ (stat)  $\pm 1.3$ (syst) GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

**Charge asymmetry in**  $W \rightarrow e \vee$  **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 q\* **= 0 along antiproton direction** 

**W± polarization along antiproton direction**  (consequence of  $V - A$  coupling)



# **W** transverse momentum  $(\vec{p}_T^W)$

 $\mathbf{p}_T^W \neq 0$  because of initial-state gluon **radiation**

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

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

**•**  $p_T$ <sup>W</sup> distribution can be predicted from QCD



#### **Z** à **e+ e− : UA1 results, 1982 – 85 data**



**Z** →  $e^+ e^-$  **:**  $m_z$  = 93.1 ± 1.0(stat) ± 3.1(syst) GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

#### **Z** à **e<sup>+</sup> e<sup>−</sup> : UA2 results, 1982 – 85 data**



 $m_z$  **= 91.5 ± 1.2**(stat) **± 1.7**(syst) GeV/c<sup>2</sup>

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

$$
\sigma_W B(W \to ev) = 0.60 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.09 \text{ nb} \quad \text{(UA1)}
$$
  
0.59 \pm 0.05 \pm 0.07 \text{ nb} \quad \text{(UA2)}  
stat. syst.  
Theory : 0.45<sup>+0.14</sup> 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:  $51^{+16}_{-10} \text{ pb}$ 

### **UA2 detector 1987 – 90**



- § **Tenfold increase of collider luminosity**
- **Full calorimetry down to**  $\sim$ **5°**  $\Rightarrow$  improved measurement of missing  $p_T$
- § **No magnetic field, no muon detectors**

#### **UA2 detector 1987 – 90**



#### $p_T^{\text{miss}}$ **miss distribution in the UA2' detector**



Events containing an electron with  $p_T > 15$  GeV/c

Events containg an electron with  $p_T < 11$  GeV/c (mostly events without outgoing neutrinos )

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

**(mass ratio has no uncertainty**

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

#### **Distribution of "transverse mass"**  $m_T$

( $m_T$ : 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  $m<sub>W</sub>$  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<sup>±</sup> and Z detection and studies (tests of the electroweak theory)**
- $\blacksquare$  study of hadronic jets and photons at high  $p_T$  (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  $\bar{p}$  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":**

- $\blacksquare$  hadronic jets at large  $p_T$  (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**