



# Masterthesis: analysis of $B \rightarrow K^* \mu \mu$ decay

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## Abstract

Here comes the abstract

## Introduction

### 1 The LHCb Experiment

The Large Hadron Collider beauty experiment (LHCb) is one of four large experiments based at the CERN laboratory near Geneva in Switzerland. It is part of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a proton-proton accelerator and collider located in a vast underground tunnel with 26.7 km circumference beneath the Swiss-French countryside. The other three experiments are CMS and ATLAS which are dedicated to a wide range of physics and have therefore very large detectors. ALICE investigates quark-gluon plasma and therefore needs heavy ion collisions, instead of proton collisions.

The protons in the LHC have a kinetic energy of 7 TeV, which allows a collision energy, in the LHCb detector, of 13 TeV. In the year 2016 the LHCb had a recorded luminosity of  $1906 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ . For this thesis  $2280 \text{ pb}^{-1}$  of data, collected at LHCb during the years 2011 to 2016 are used. LHCb is dedicated to flavour physics. It therefore investigates rare decays and CP violation in beauty and charm hadrons.

## CERN's Accelerator Complex

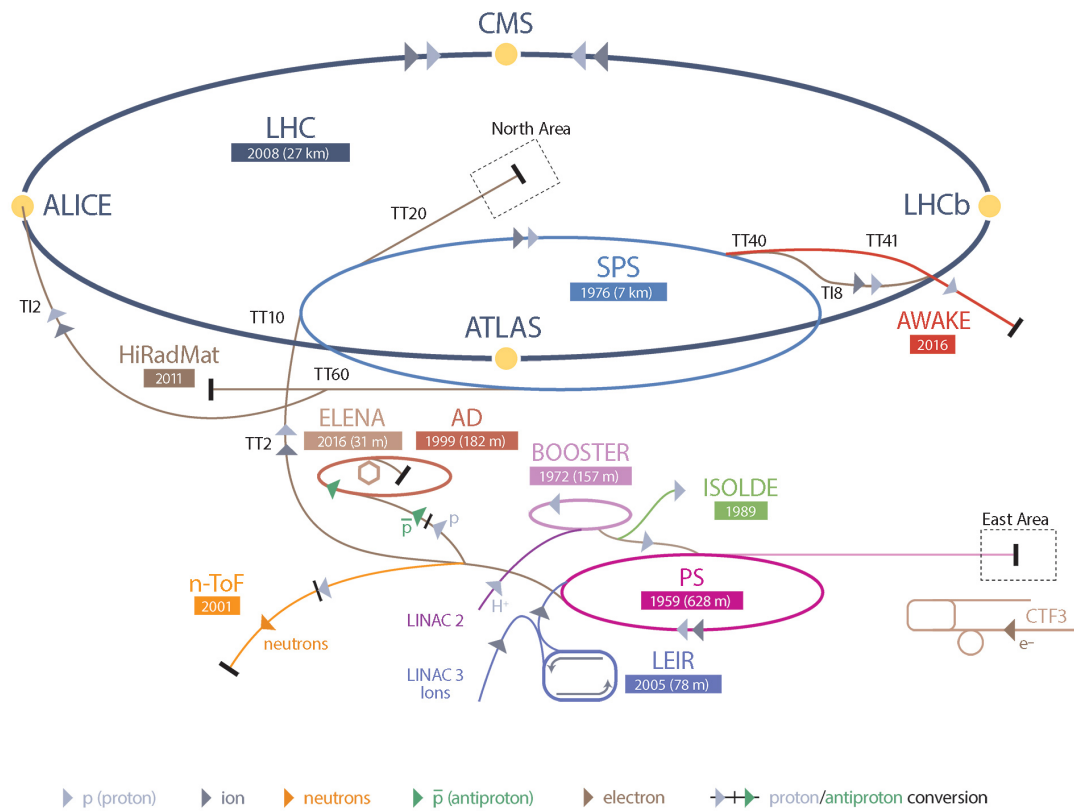


Figure 1: CERN's Accelerator Complex.[1] The protons get injected in the lineare accelerator LINAC2. Then they get pre-accelerated in 3 synchrotrons (BOOSTER,PS,SPS) where the protons reach a kinetic energy of 450 GeV. That is the entering energy of the LHC which accelerates them futher up to 7 TeV, before they collide at the four detectors: CMS, ATLAS, LHCb and ALICE.

### 1.1 The LHCb Detector

The LHCb Detector has a fix target geometry, because beauty hadrons are manily produced at small angeles with respect to the beam pipe.

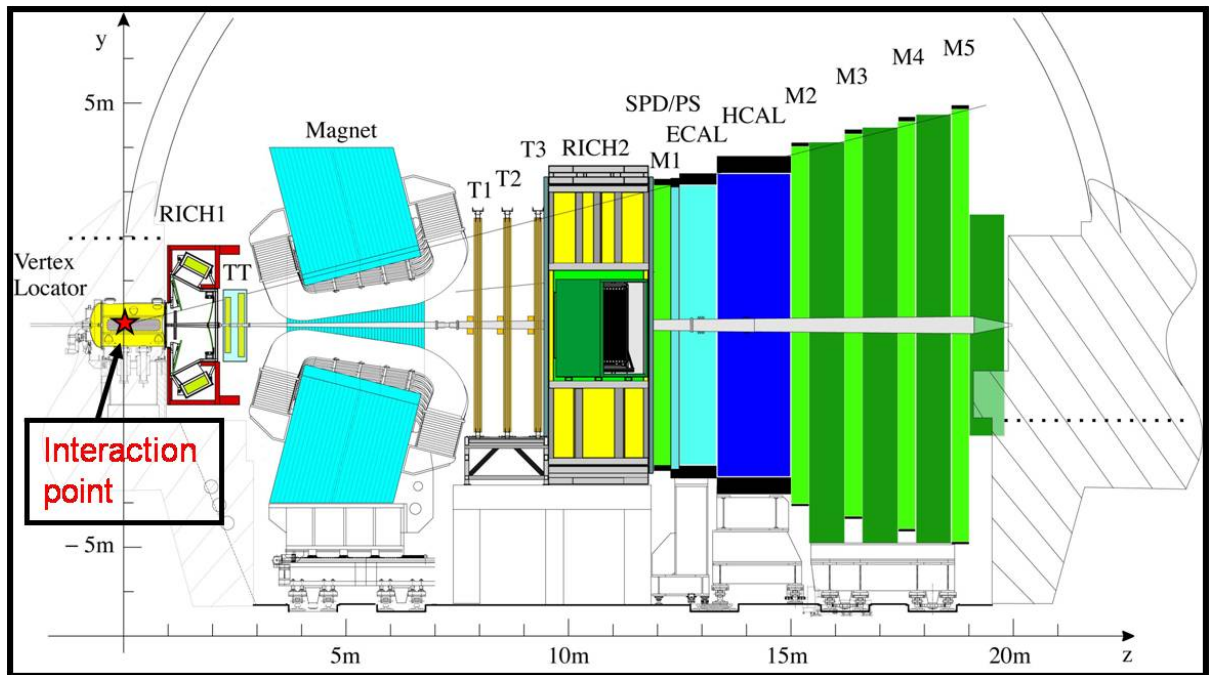


Figure 2: Basic layout of the LHCb detector [2]. The interaction point is inside the vertex detector and the beam pipe passes through the center. The different subdetectors are the two Ring Imaging Cherenkov Detectors (RICH1 and RICH2), the tracking stations (TT and T1 to T3), the scintillator pad detector (SPD), the preshower electromagnetic calorimeter (ECAL), the hadronic calorimeter (HCAL) and the muon stations (M1-M5).

**Vertex Locator (VELO) [3] :** Velo picks out B mesons from the multitude of other particles produced. This is a complex task since B mesons have very short lifetimes spent close to the beam. The VELO's silicon detector elements must be placed at a distance of just five millimetres to the interaction point. To prevent damage to the detector during beam injection and stabilization it is mechanically moved to a safe distance. Velo measures B mesons indirectly by detecting its decay particles, nevertheless it has a resolution of 10 microns. .

**Ring Imaging Cherenkov (RICH) detectors [4] :** The RICH detectors measure the emission of Cherenkov radiation, which happens when a charged particle passes through a medium faster than light does. It is a similar effect like the sonic boom an aircraft produces by breaking the sound barrier. The shape of the light cone depends on the particle's velocity, enabling the detector to determine its speed.

**Magnet [5] :** The big magnet of the LHCb experiment weighs 27 tonnes and is mounted inside a 1,450 tonne steel frame. This powerful magnet forces all charged particles to change their trajectory. By examining the curvature of the path one can calculate its momentum.

**Trackers [6] :** The LHCb's tracking system consists of a series of four large rectangular stations, each covering an area of  $40 \text{ m}^2$ . While flying through this area charged particles will leave a trace, therefore one can estimate the trajectory of a particle. The trajectory is used to link the signals left in other detector elements to the corresponding particle. In LHCb two different tracker technologies are used: The silicon tracker placed close to the beam pipe, uses silicon microstrips. If a charged particle passes such a stripe it collides with the silicon atoms, liberating electrons and creating an electric current, which is then recorded. The outer tracker situated further from the beam pipe consists of gas-filled tubes. The gas ionizes when a charged particle hits a gas molecule, producing electrons. These reach an anode wire situated in the centre of each tube. The position of the track is found by timing how long it takes

electrons to reach it.

**Calorimeters [7] :** Calorimeters stop particles as they pass through, measuring the amount of energy lost. In LHCb there are two different types: The electromagnetic calorimeter responsible for light particles like electrons and photons and the hadronic calorimeter responsible for heavier particles containing quarks. Both have a sandwich-like structure, with alternating layers of metal and plastic plates. If a particle hits a metal plate it produces a shower of secondary particles. These will excite polystyrene molecules in the plastic plates, which then emit ultraviolet light. The energy lost by the particle in the metal plate is proportional to the amount of UV light produced in the plastic plates.

**Muon System [8] :** The muon system consists of 5 rectangular stations, which cover an area of  $435 \text{ m}^2$ . Each station has chambers filled with three gases: carbon dioxide, argon and tetrafluoromethane. Passing muons react with the mixture and electrodes detect the result.

## 1.2 The LHCb trigger system

The rate of events at the LHCb interaction point is 40 MHz. But the rate to have a B meson contained in the detector is 15 kHz. But the offline computing power just allows 2 kHz to be recorded. The LHCb trigger system aims to 'fill' this 2 kHz with interesting B decays and important control decays like  $J/\psi$  decays. The trigger has two levels:

The **Level Zero (L0)** trigger reduces the beginning 40 MHz to 1 MHz. To get this high rate it can only rely on fast sub-detectors as the calorimeters and the muon system. The L0 trigger looks for events with high transverse momentum with respect to the particle beam axis (pT), because particles from a B decay have this attribute, since B Mesons are always produced almost parallel to the beam axis. In addition the L0 trigger performs a simplified vertex reconstruction with the signal of two silicon layers of the VELO to identify events with multiple proton-proton collisions. They are rejected because for this kind of events it's much more difficult to reconstruct B meson decays, since it is harder to distinguish primary and secondary vertex of the B decay.

The **High Level Trigger (HLT)** is an algorithm that runs on a farm of 1000 16-core computers. It has two stages: HLT1 which reduces the event rate to a few tens of kHz and HLT2 which reduces the rate to the 2 kHz which are recorded. HLT1 gets all the candidates of the L0 trigger and uses the full detector information on them to search for particles with a high impact parameter with respect to the proton-proton collision. These particles are most likely decay products from B mesons, because of its relatively long life-time. They typically fly 1 cm away from the collision before decaying resulting in a high impact parameter for the decay products. HLT2 does a complete reconstruction of the events. It starts with the track of the VELO and connects them to the tracks in the other sub-detectors. Most important are displaced vertices, since they are a strong indicator for B decays. The selection is divided into two parts. The inclusive selection searches for resonance decays like  $D^*$  or  $J/\psi$ . The exclusive selection is designed to provide the highest possible efficiency to fully reconstruct B decays of interest. It therefore uses all information available such as mass and vertex quality and intermediate resonances.

## References

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