

Introduction to Beam Physics and Accelerator Technology

Giulio Stancari
Fermilab

University of Ferrara, Italy
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bitbucket.org/gist/apufe22

Experiment design and luminosity

Experiment design: event rates, cross sections, luminosity

The relationship between **event rate**, **detector efficiency**, **cross section**, **luminosity** and **observation time** is one of the **main factors** in the **design and analysis of experiments**, in both **fixed target** and **collider** configurations

How many events do we expect?

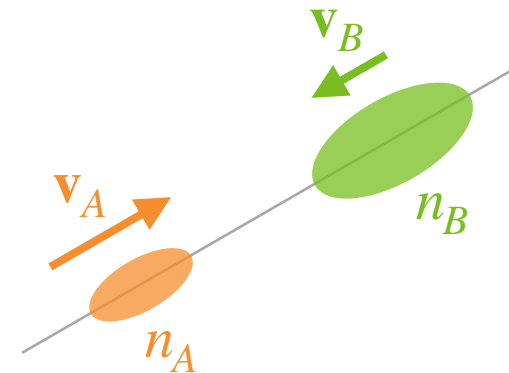
How long will the experiment be?

Will the detector be able to sustain the data rate?

Luminosity quantifies the properties of the interaction: it is the **event rate per unit cross section**

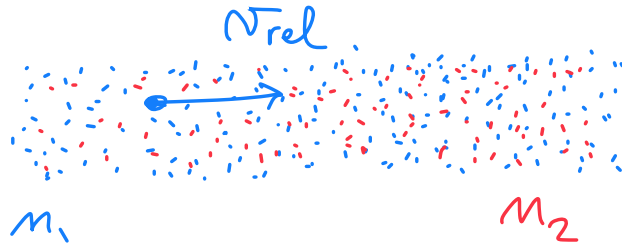
Usually expressed in **$\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$**

Other useful units: **events/ $\mu\text{b/s}$** or **events/fb/yr** etc.



$$1 \text{ b (barn)} = 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2 = 10^{-28} \text{ m}^2$$

Event rates in the lab frame (stationary target)



$$\Delta N = \sigma v_{rel} n_1 n_2 \Delta V \Delta t$$

number of events
cross section of the process (invariant by definition)
relative velocity (invariant by definition: velocity of projectiles in the rest frame of the target)
incoming flux
interaction volume
interaction time
number densities of projectiles and targets

How can we express this relationship in any reference frame?

Particle 4-momenta and relative velocity

4-momenta of particles $p_1^\mu = (E_1, \mathbf{p}_1)$ $p_2^\mu = (E_2, \mathbf{p}_2)$

The **contraction of the two 4-momenta** is **invariant** — it can be **evaluated in the lab frame**, using the definition of relative velocity

$$p_{1\mu} p_2^\mu \equiv E_1 E_2 - \mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{p}_2 = \gamma_1 m_1 m_2 = \frac{m_1 m_2}{\sqrt{1 - \beta_{\text{rel}}^2}}$$

The **relative velocity** can therefore be expressed as

$$\beta_{\text{rel}} \equiv \frac{v_{\text{rel}}}{c} = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{m_1 m_2}{p_{1\mu} p_2^\mu} \right)^2} = \dots = \frac{\sqrt{(\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 - \boldsymbol{\beta}_2)^2 - (\boldsymbol{\beta}_1 \times \boldsymbol{\beta}_2)^2}}{1 - \boldsymbol{\beta}_1 \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}_2}$$

(this step requires some algebra)

General relation, in any reference frame

number of observed events

$$\Delta N = \epsilon \cdot \sigma \cdot \underbrace{v \cdot n_1 \cdot n_2 \cdot \Delta V}_{\text{luminosity}} \cdot \Delta t$$

detector acceptance and efficiency

cross section of the process

number densities

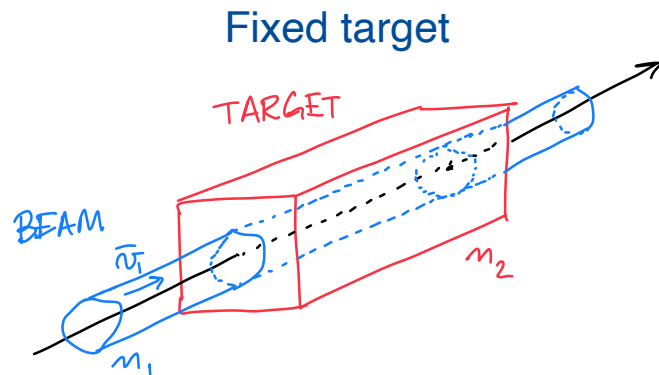
interaction volume

interaction time

kinematic factor

$$v = \sqrt{(\mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2)^2 - (\mathbf{v}_1 \times \mathbf{v}_2/c)^2}$$

Examples:



Colliding beams with crossing angle

Definitions of luminosity

local luminosity

$$v n_1 n_2 \Delta V$$

luminosity (also: instant luminosity)

$$\mathcal{L}(t) = \int_V v n_1 n_2 dV$$

overlap integral

average luminosity over a specified time interval T

also: **“instantaneous” luminosity** when averaged over a short time typical of the accelerator (revolution period, pulse period, etc.)

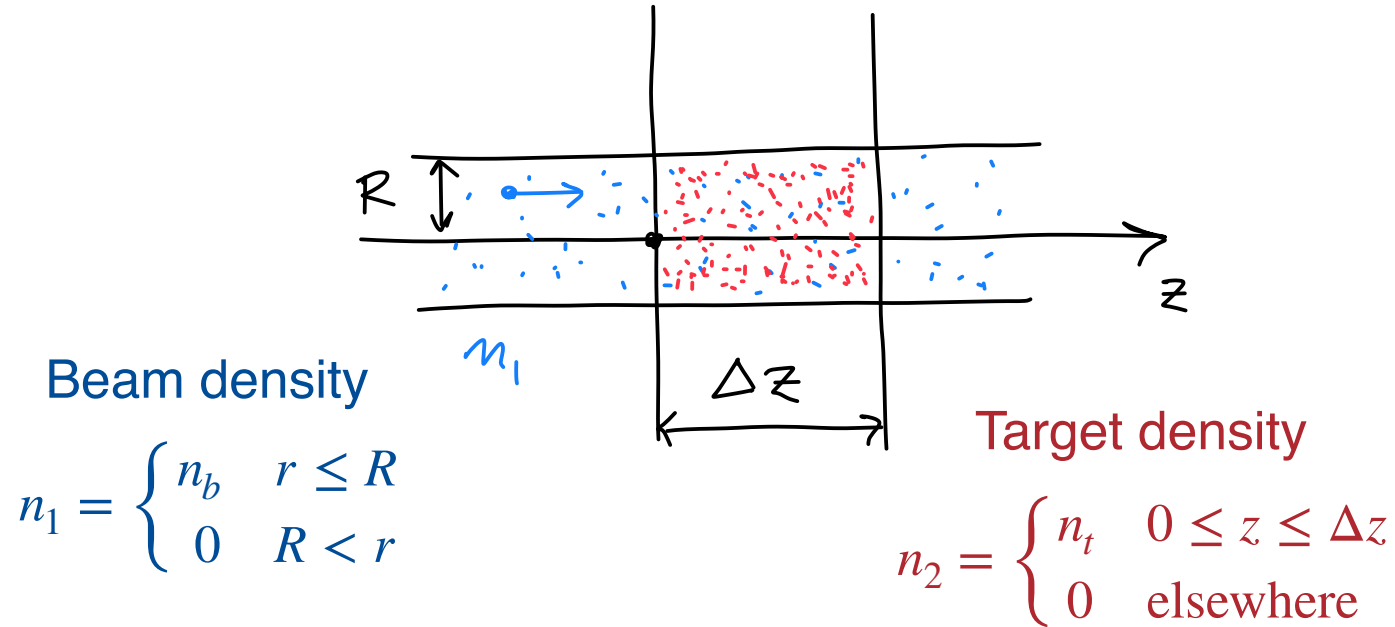
$$\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle_T \equiv \frac{1}{T} \int_T \mathcal{L} dt$$

integrated luminosity over a specified time interval T ,

often a “long” time scale (one operation cycle, one data-taking period, etc.)

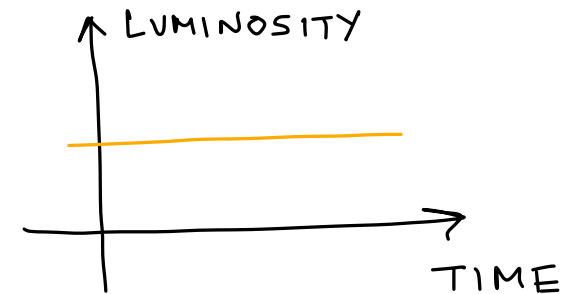
$$L = \int_T \mathcal{L} dt = \int_T \int_V v n_1 n_2 dV dt$$

Example: continuous and homogeneous beam on fixed target



Luminosity

$$\mathcal{L} = \int_V v n_1 n_2 dV = v n_b n_t (\pi R^2) \Delta z$$



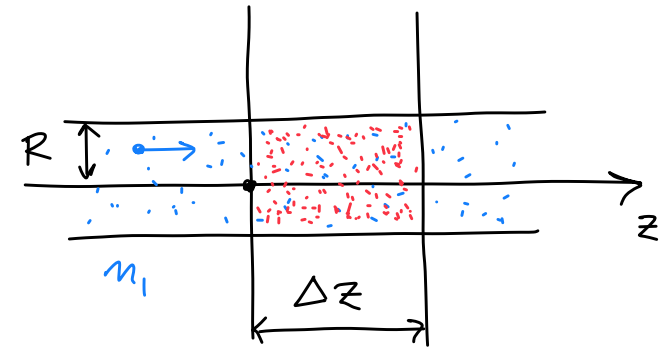
constant in time

Example: continuous and homogeneous beam on fixed target

Numerical example: antiproton-proton collisions in charmonium experiment E-835 at Fermilab. Beam of $N_b = 5 \times 10^{11}$ antiprotons, kinetic energy $T = 5$ GeV distributed approximately uniformly over ring of length $L = 474$ m and transverse beam area A . Gas-jet target with thickness $\Delta z = 0.5$ cm and number density $n_t = 10^{14}$ cm⁻³.

kinematic factor $v = \beta c$

$$\beta = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{m}{T + m} \right)^2} = 0.987$$

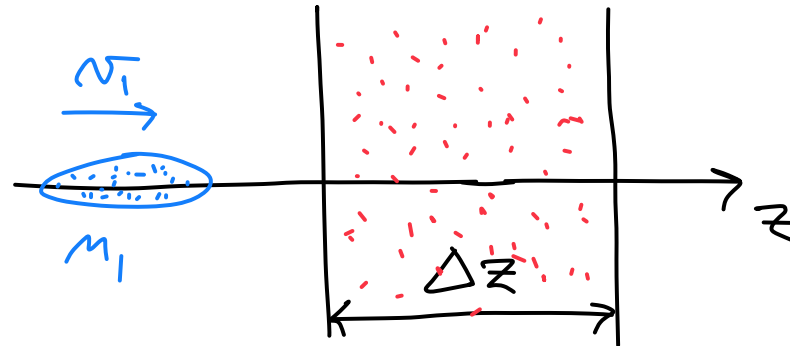


luminosity

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= v n_b n_t A \Delta z = v \frac{N_b}{LA} n_t A \Delta z = \frac{\beta c N_b n_t \Delta z}{L} \\ &= 1.56 \times 10^{31} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} = 15.6 \text{ events}/\mu\text{b/s} \end{aligned}$$

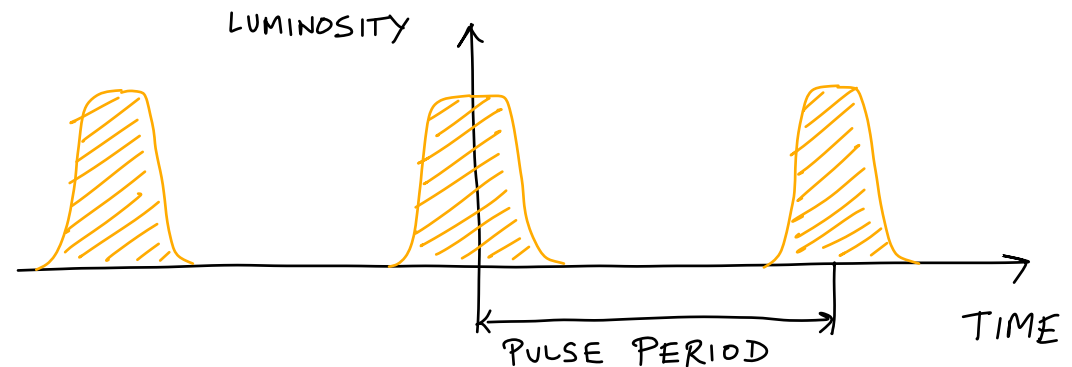
[SageMathCell notebook](#)

Example: fixed-target experiment with pulsed Gaussian beam

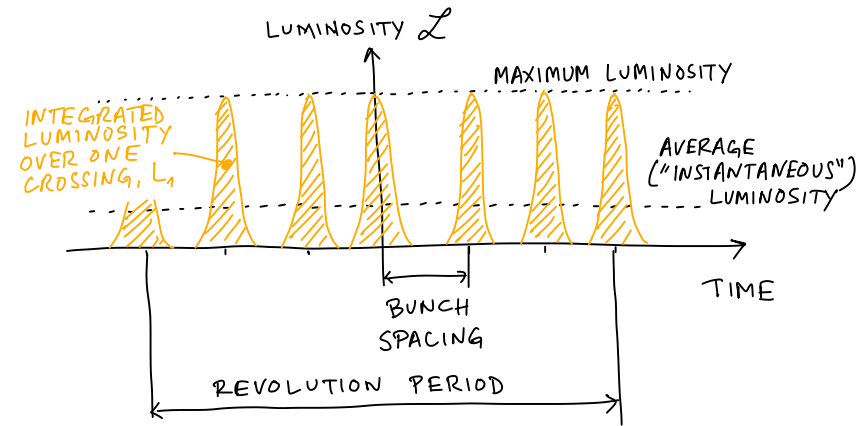
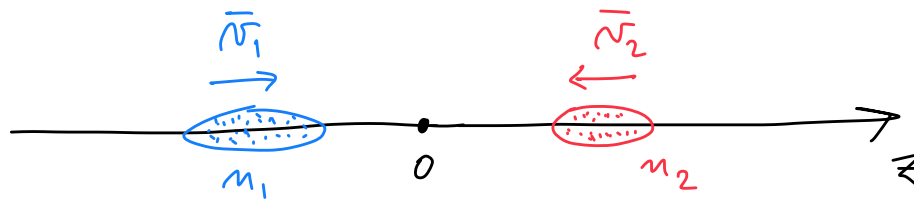


What is the integrated luminosity over one crossing?

What is the average luminosity over many pulses?



Head-on collisions of Gaussian bunches



Counter-propagating Gaussian packets with equal transverse and longitudinal dimensions

$$n_1(x, y, z, t) = \frac{N_1}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sigma_x \sigma_y \sigma_z} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma_y^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{(z - vt)^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right)$$

$$n_2(x, y, z, t) = \frac{N_2}{(2\pi)^{3/2} \sigma_x \sigma_y \sigma_z} \exp\left(-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma_x^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{y^2}{2\sigma_y^2}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{(z + vt)^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right)$$

Peak luminosity at maximum overlap ($t = 0$)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(0) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 2v n_1(t=0) n_2(t=0) dx dy dz \\ &= \frac{2v N_1 N_2 \pi^{3/2} \sigma_x \sigma_y \sigma_z}{(2\pi)^3 \sigma_x^2 \sigma_y^2 \sigma_z^2} = \frac{v N_1 N_2}{4\pi^{3/2} \sigma_x \sigma_y \sigma_z} \end{aligned}$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/2\sigma^2} dx = \sqrt{2\pi} \sigma$$

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2/\sigma^2} dx = \sqrt{\pi} \sigma$$

Head-on collision of Gaussian bunches

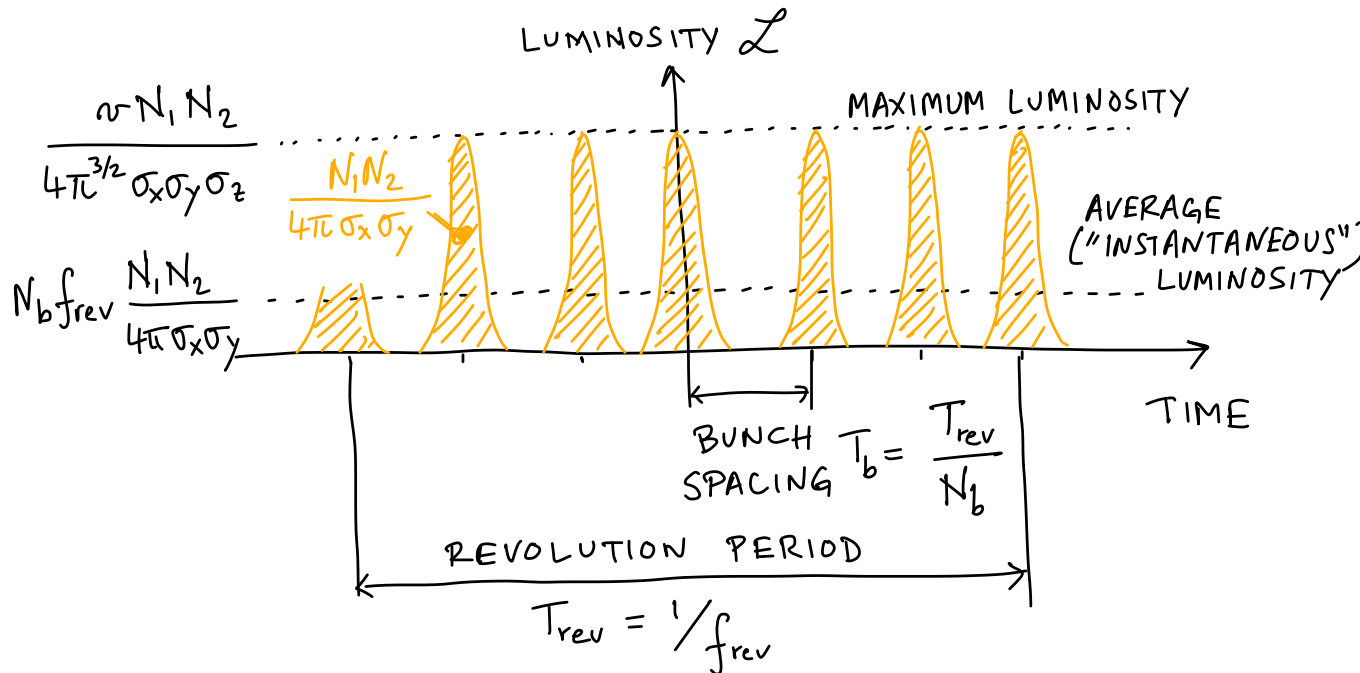
Integrated luminosity over one crossing

$$L_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} 2v n_1 n_2 dx dy dz dt = \dots = \frac{N_1 N_2}{4\pi \sigma_x \sigma_y}$$

Average (“instantaneous”) luminosity

over one revolution

$$\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle = N_b f_{\text{rev}} \frac{N_1 N_2}{4\pi \sigma_x \sigma_y}$$



Maximizing collider luminosity

The **average** (“instantaneous”) **luminosity** in a collider is **maximized** by

*increasing the
number of bunches*

*maximizing bunch
populations*

$$\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle = N_b f_{\text{rev}} \frac{N_1 N_2}{4\pi \sigma_x \sigma_y}$$

*reducing
beam sizes*

*if possible, increasing the
revolution frequency (determined
by orbit length and particle speed)*

Luminosity optimization gives rise to some of the **challenges** we discussed

Collider luminosity: numerical example

LHC parameters (from the 2021 Review of Particle Properties)

$$C = 26.659 \text{ km} \quad \beta = 1 \quad \implies f_{\text{rev}} = ?$$

$$N_1 = N_2 = 1.1 \times 10^{11} \text{ protons/bunch}$$

$$N_b = 2556 \text{ bunches}$$

$$\sigma_x = \sigma_y = 9.5 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$$

(neglect the crossing angle)

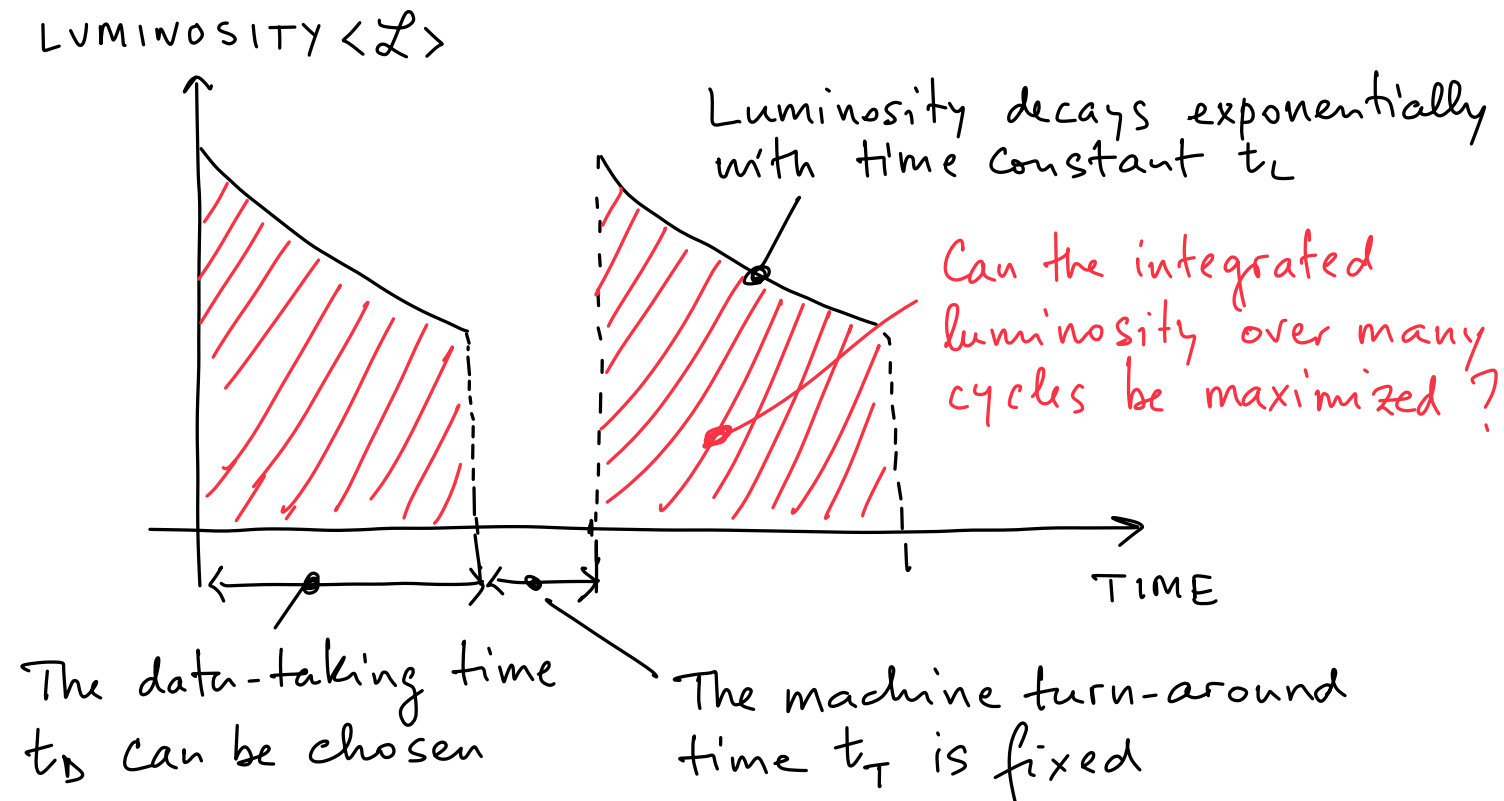
$$\langle \mathcal{L} \rangle = 3.1 \times 10^{34} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} = 31 \text{ events/nb/s}$$

[SageMathCell notebook](#)

Optimization of integrated luminosity

Problem: **maximize integrated luminosity** taking into account **luminosity lifetime** and machine **turn-around time**.

What is the **optimal data-taking duration**?



Observations

Experiment design

What is the optimal spatial distribution of events?

What is the ideal time structure of events?
Constant? Pulsed?

Factors affecting luminosity

emittance dilution

crossing angle

misalignments of the beams

non-zero dispersion

hourglass effect

Measurement of luminosity

absolute vs. relative
known cross sections
van der Meer scans
beam imaging

Grafström and Kozanecki, Luminosity determination at proton colliders,
[Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys. 81, 97 \(2015\)](#)