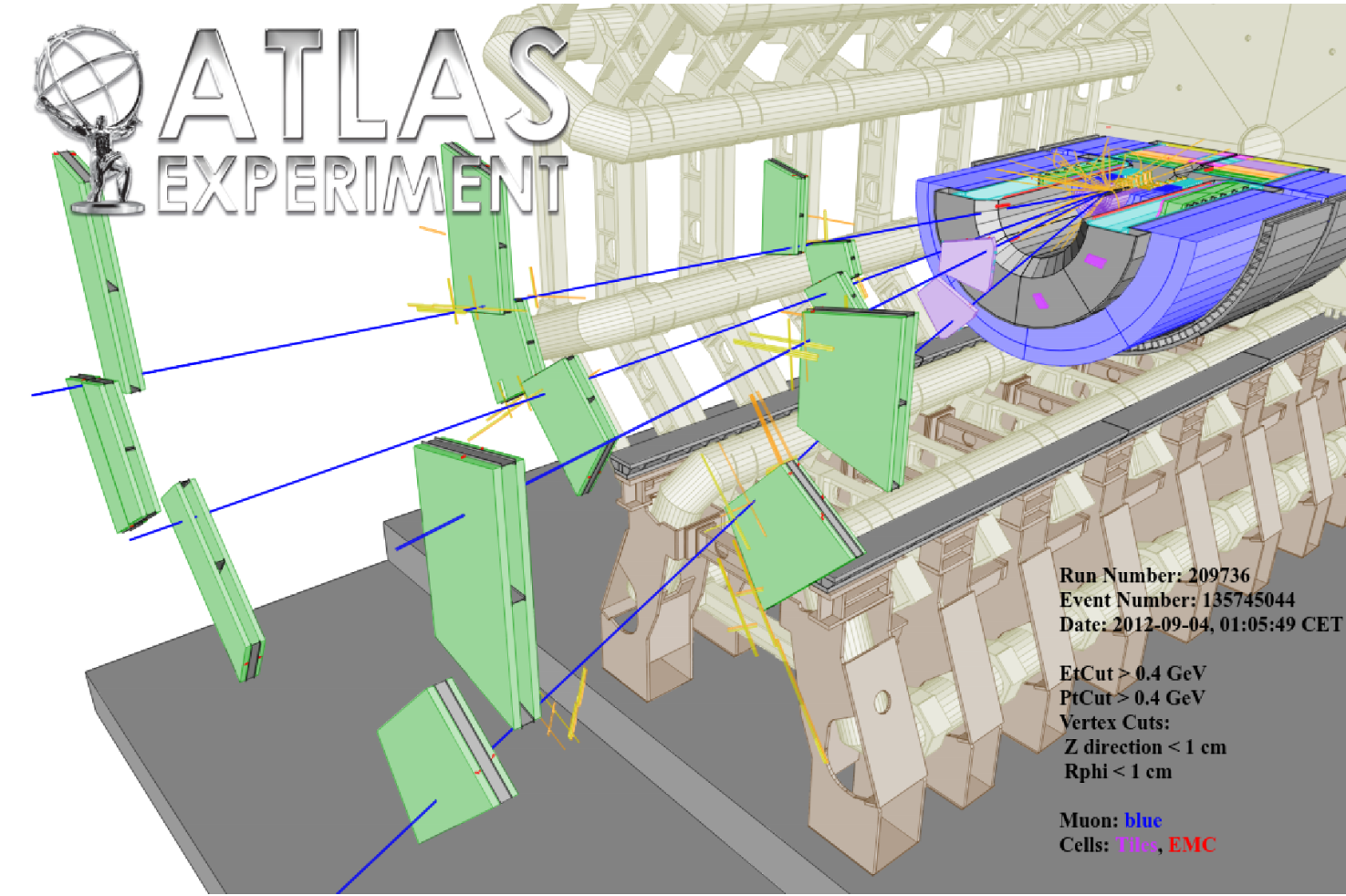




The collaborative statistical modeling tools used to discover the Higgs boson

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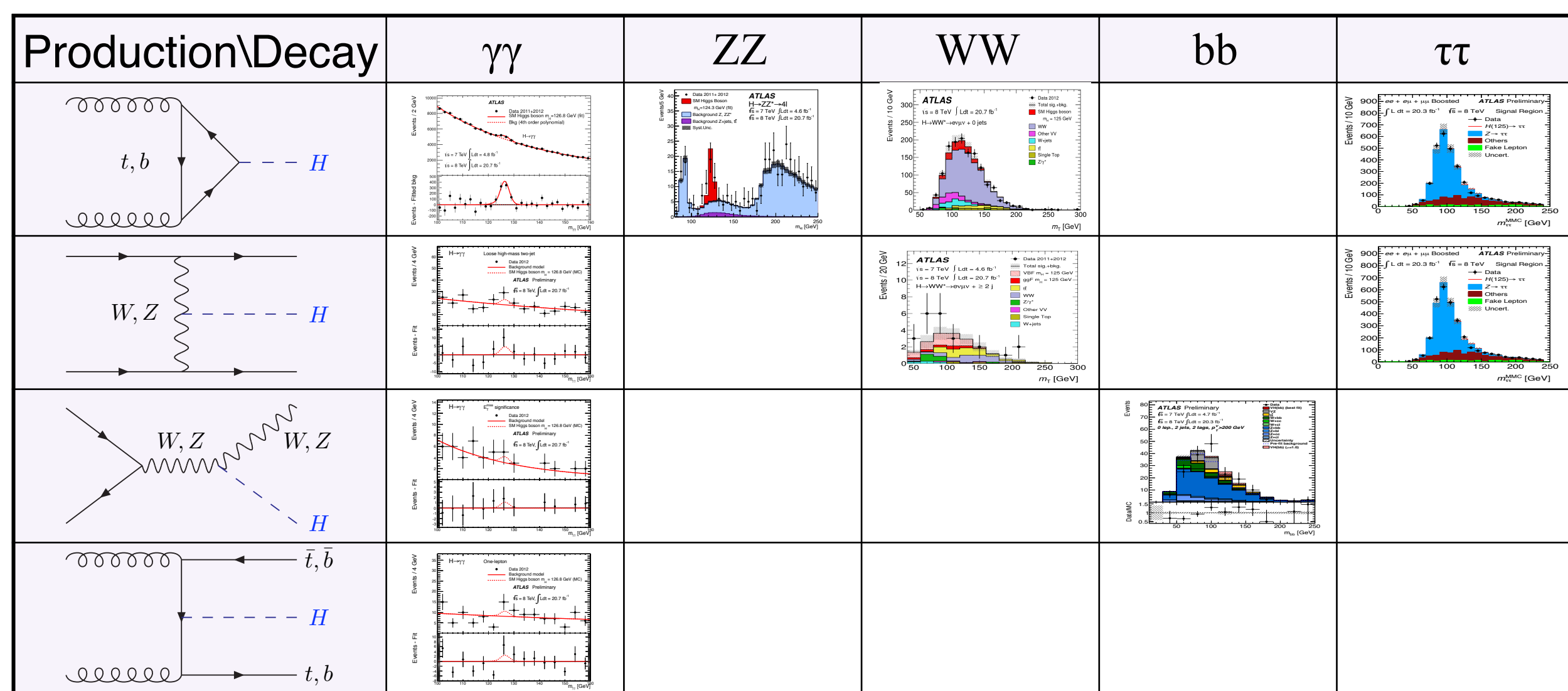


The Data Challenge

- raw data rate > 1 TB / sec
- 10¹⁵ collisions with 2 MB / collision
- can only save 1 in 10⁵ collisions
- still, experiments produce 15 PB / year

Needle in a Haystack

- ~4 billion collisions needed to produce 1 Higgs boson
- classification algorithms designed for each possible production & decay
- ~1 trillion collisions needed to produce a Higgs that passes selection
- depending on production & decay mode, selected events may be:
 - high signal-to-background with sharp feature as in H → ZZ
 - low signal-to-background with sharp feature as in H → γγ
 - intermediate signal-to-background with broad feature as in H → WW
- our theory predicts the expectations in each production & decay



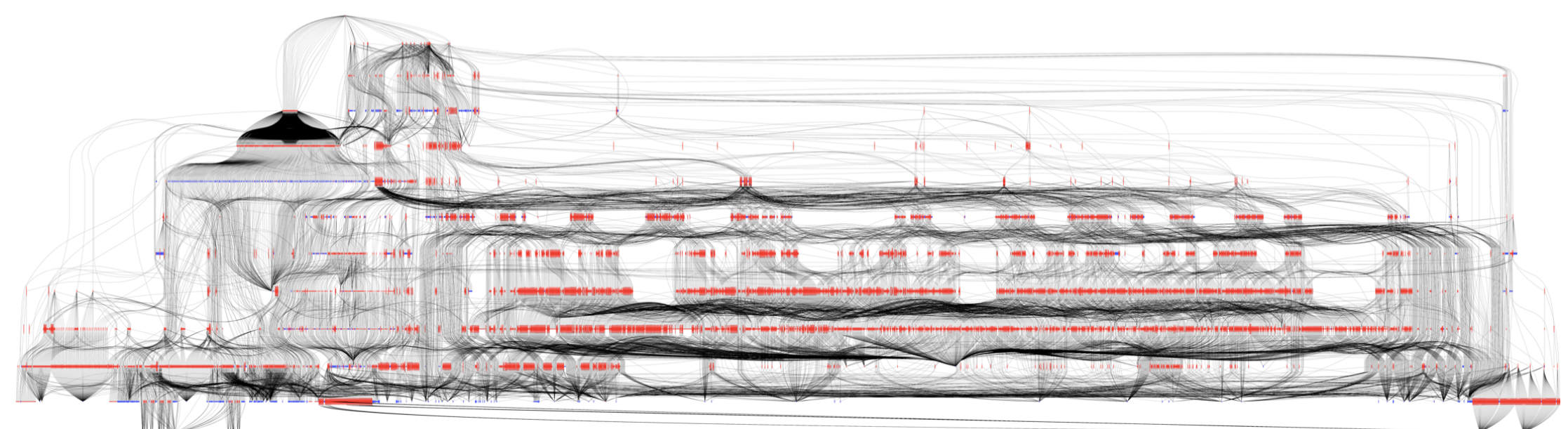
From Big Data to Big Models

- teams of 20-200 scientists address each of the production & decay modes
- they use theory and a detailed detector simulation to model the data
- modeling approaches range from parametric to non-parametric techniques
- systematic uncertainties of our complicated detectors must be modeled, too

Finally, we combine the statistical models for these different categories of events into a coherent and comprehensive statistical model (see figure).

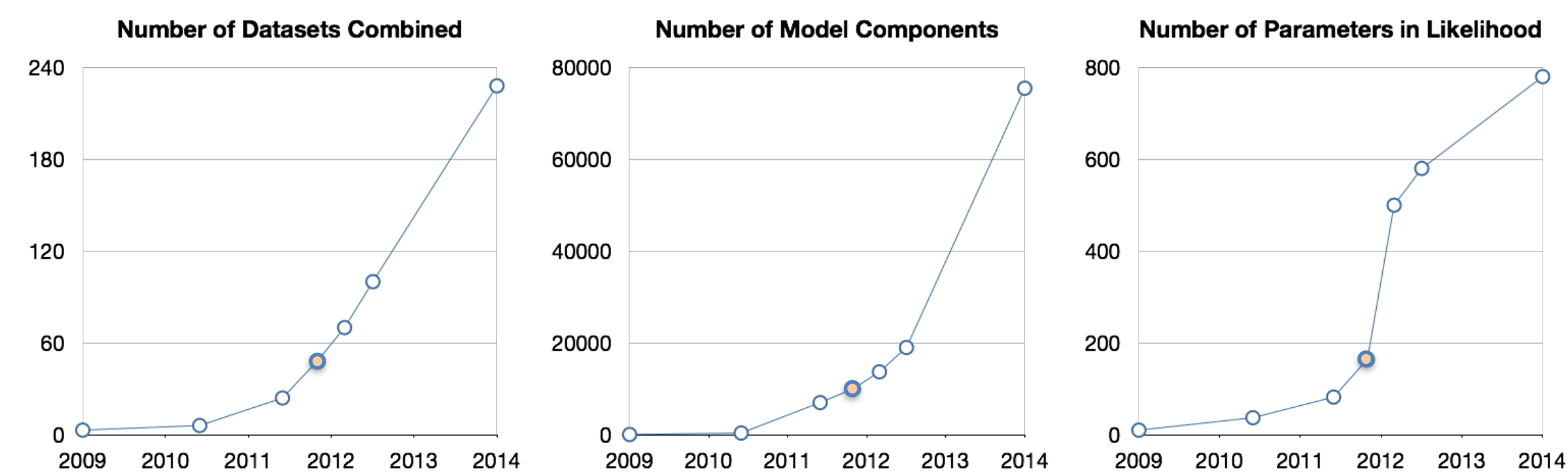
- because we use the same detector for each of the individual searches, we must take special care of correlated systematic uncertainties

Visualization of Combined Statistical Model (Nov. 2011)



Since introducing the RooFit/RooStats collaborative statistical modeling tools, the growth of model complexity has grown roughly exponentially in several metrics.

- model complexity leading to new statistical and computational challenges



Digitally Published Statistical Models

This technology allows for unprecedented ability to publish complex statistical models; enabling reproducibility and a broader range of reuse by the community.

Simplified forms of the ATLAS Higgs likelihoods have been published, assigned DOIs, and are now being used and cited by others.



These published likelihoods have vastly improved the ability for theorists outside of the collaborations to reproduce our high-level inference on the properties of this particle and enhanced the scientific discourse around profound discovery.

