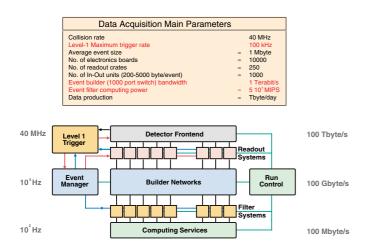
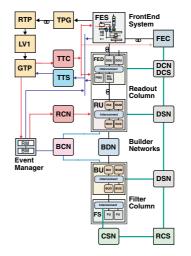


Trigger and data acquisition





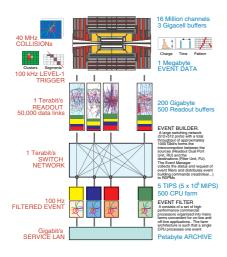


Trigger and Data Acquisition baseline structure

Computing and Communication main subsystems

At the LHC, the proton beams cross each other 40,000,000 times each second. At the highest LHC beam intensities, there will be roughly 25 proton-proton collisions for each crossing. Recording all the information from these collisions in the CMS experiment, requires, for every second of operation, the equivalent of 10,000 Encyclopaedia Britannica

The task of the Trigger and Data Acquisition System is to select, out of these millions of events, the most interesting 100 or so per second, and then store them for further analysis. An event has to pass two independent sets of tests, or Trigger Levels, in order to pass the TriDAS examination. The tests range from simple and of short duration (Level-1) to sophisticated ones requiring significantly more time to run (High Levels 2, 3, ...)

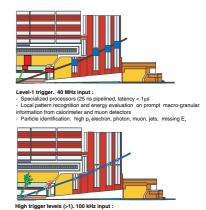


At Level-1 (LV1), the selection is carried out by special hardware processors seeking simple signs of an interesting event, e.g. a group of calorimeter cells with a lot of energy in them or muon chamber hits lying on given paths. The LV1 Trigger is very fast: it runs for less than one millionth of a second and selects the best 100,000 events each second. After Level-1 accepts an event, the data for that event is stored in 500 independent memories (RDPMs), each one connected to a different part of the CMS detector

The next test, "Level-2" uses information from more than one piece of the detector. The next step is therefore to assemble the data corresponding to the various pieces of the CMS detector in a single location, a task referred to as "event building". In CMS, there will be a large switch that will connect all 500 RDPMs to a farm of computers. The latter are ready to accept data and run the Level-2 and Level-3 tests

Level-2, running on commercial processors, has more time and information to make a decision: it can take roughly thousandths of a second to decide, and the detector information available is more detailed

Finally, at Level-3, the full event has been assembled, and one can run very sophisticated physics algorithms looking for complex signatures. This is where particle tracks are matched to hits in the muon chambers, and where a photon is identified as a cell with high electromagnetic energy and no track pointing to it! Throughout this process, the DAQ system monitors the CMS detector and corrects for any malfunction



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