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Evolution of the ALICE computing model in Run 3

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(for the ALICE collaboration)

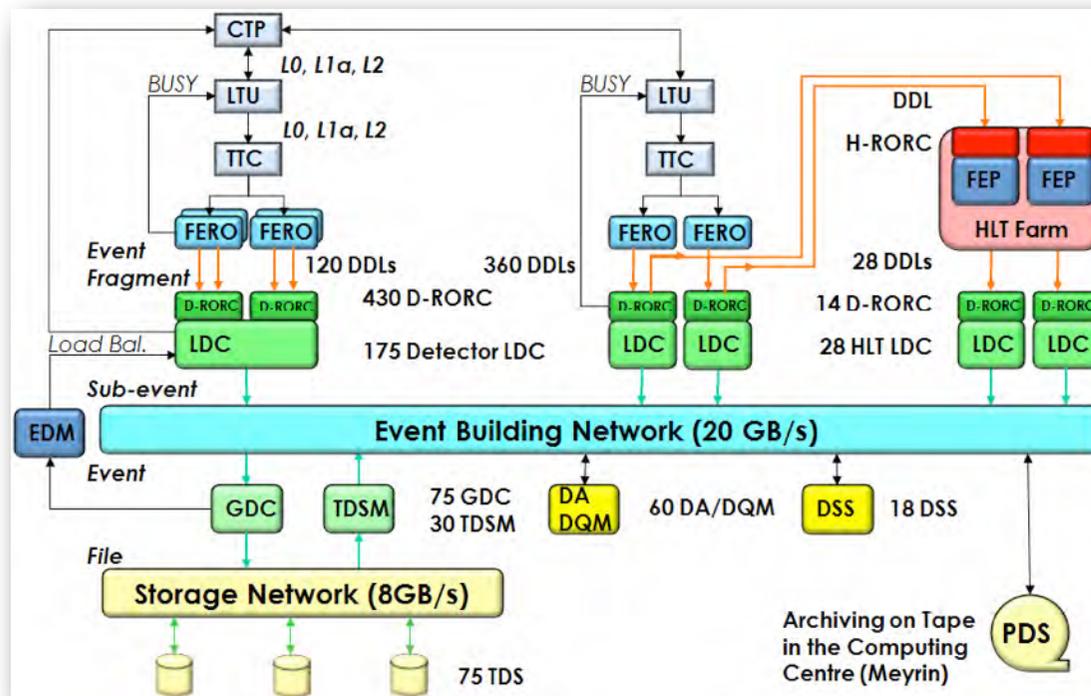
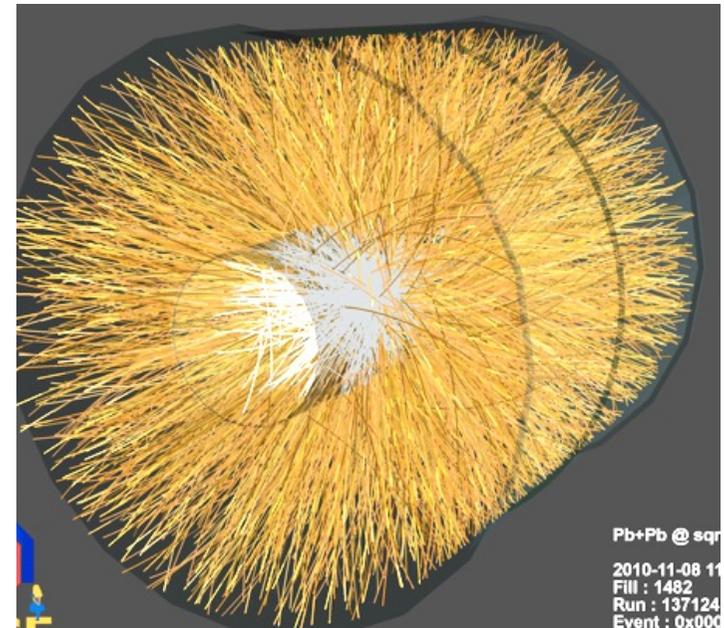
WLCG workshop
April 12, 2015, OIST, Japan

ALICE data collection (current)

Nominal LHC beam crossing at 40 MHz

ALICE:

Multi-level trigger system needed:
40 MHz → a few kHz

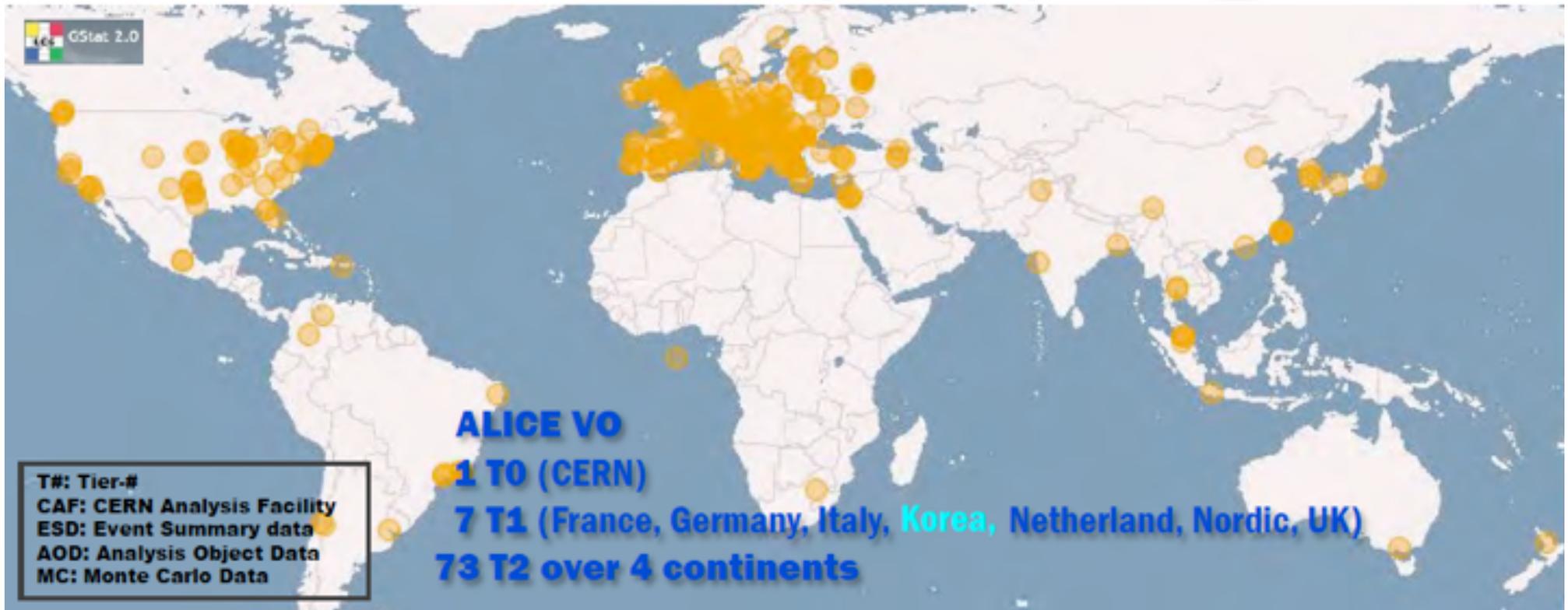


Single Pb-Pb collision events
($\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 2.76$ TeV)

Online:

- 1) Reject background
- 2) Select most interesting interactions
- 3) Custom computer to reduce the total data volume

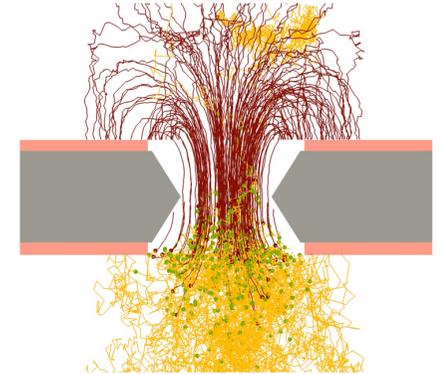
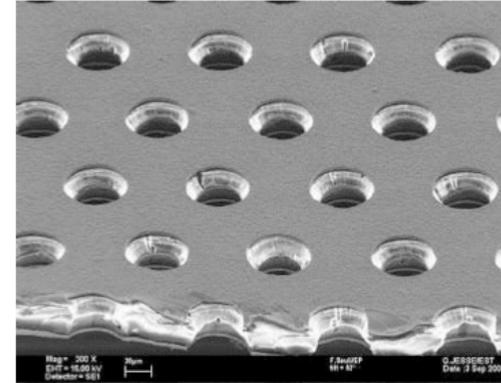
Computing model (Run1 and Run2, -2018)



ALICE upgrade (2018-)

ALICE upgrade; high rate capability

GEM-TPC continuous high rate readout
ITS Silicon high rate readout
DAQ (RCU etc.)



For LHC high luminosity upgrade, Pb-Pb @50kHz

Record all MB events, x100 statistics
(Unique capability in ALICE)

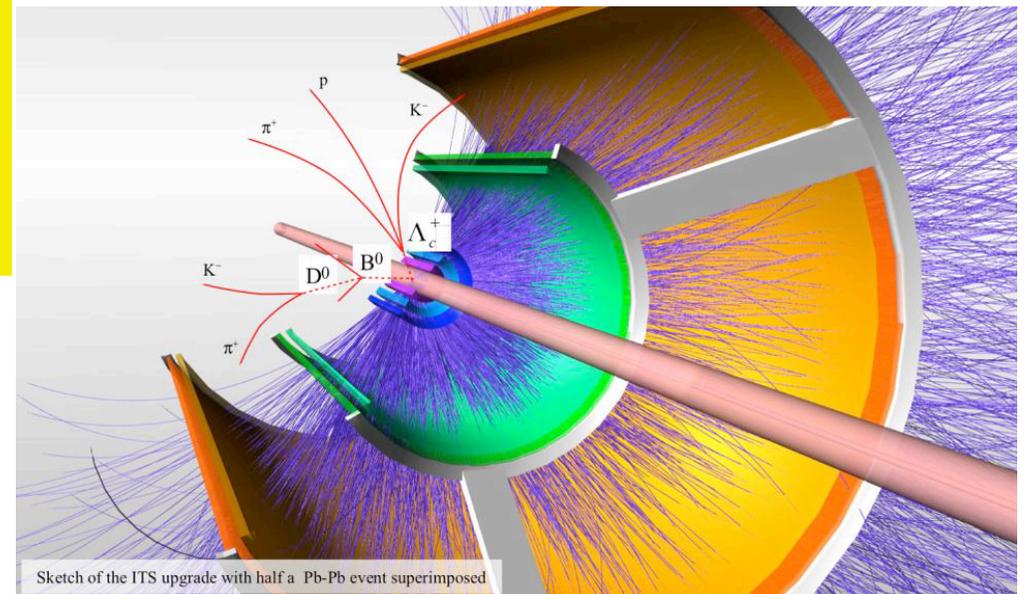
→ **Access to high precision measurements and rare probes**

Standard GEM
Pitch=140 μ m
Hole ϕ =70 μ m

Physics Goals:

Measure

- heavy quarks, photons, lepton pairs
- azimuthal anisotropy
- Jet w/ PID hadron simultaneously



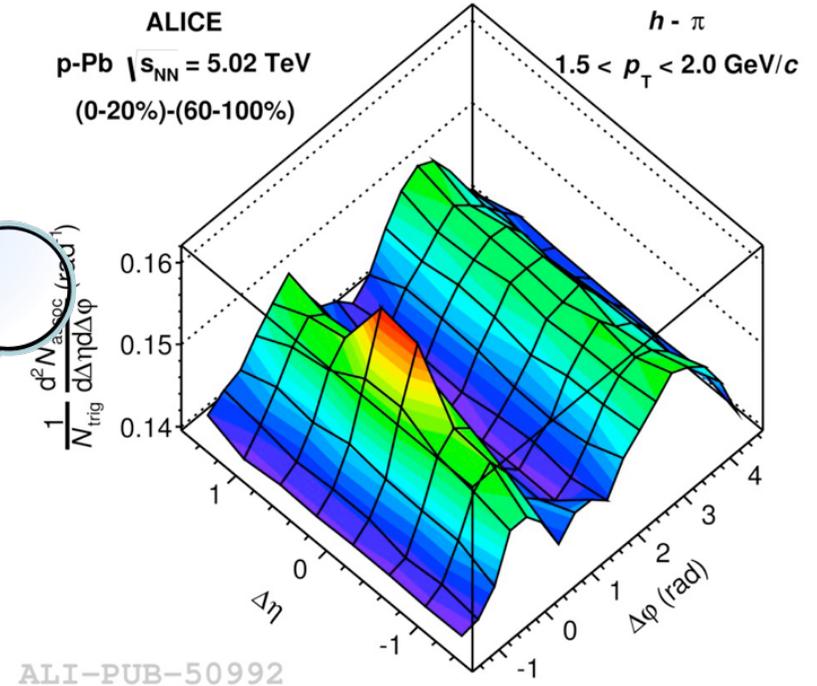
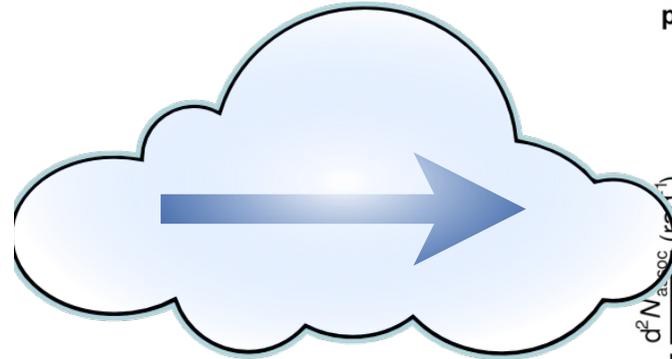
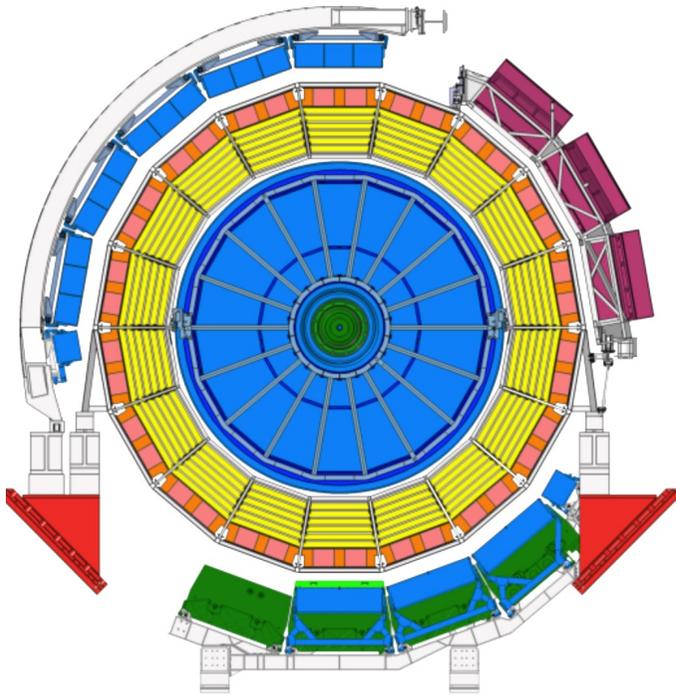
- **Current: reducing the event rate from 40 MHz to ~ 1 kHz**
 - Select the most interesting particle interactions
 - Reduce the data volume to a manageable size
 - **After 2018:**
 - Much more data (**X 100**) because:
 - Higher interaction rate
 - More violent collisions → More particles → More data (1 TB/s)
 - Physics topics require measurements characterized by;
 - Very small signal/background ratio → large statistics
 - Large background → traditional triggering or filtering techniques very inefficient for most physics channels
 - Read out all particle interactions (PbPb) at the anticipated interaction rate of **50 kHz**
 - **No more data selection**
 - Continuous detector read-out
 - Read-out and process all interactions with a standard computer farm.
 - ~1,500 nodes with the computing power expected by then
- ➔ **Total data throughput out of the detectors: 1 TB/s**

Expected data bandwidth (after 2018-)

Detector	Input to Online System (GB/s)	Peak Output to Local Data Storage (GB/s)	Average Output to Computing Center (GB/s)
TPC	1,000	50	8
TRD	81.5	10	1.6
ITS	40	10	1.6
Others	25	12.5	2
TOTAL	1,146.5	82.5	13.2

Note: LHC luminosity variation during fill and efficiency taken into account for average output to computing center

The ALICE Online-Offline (O2) Project

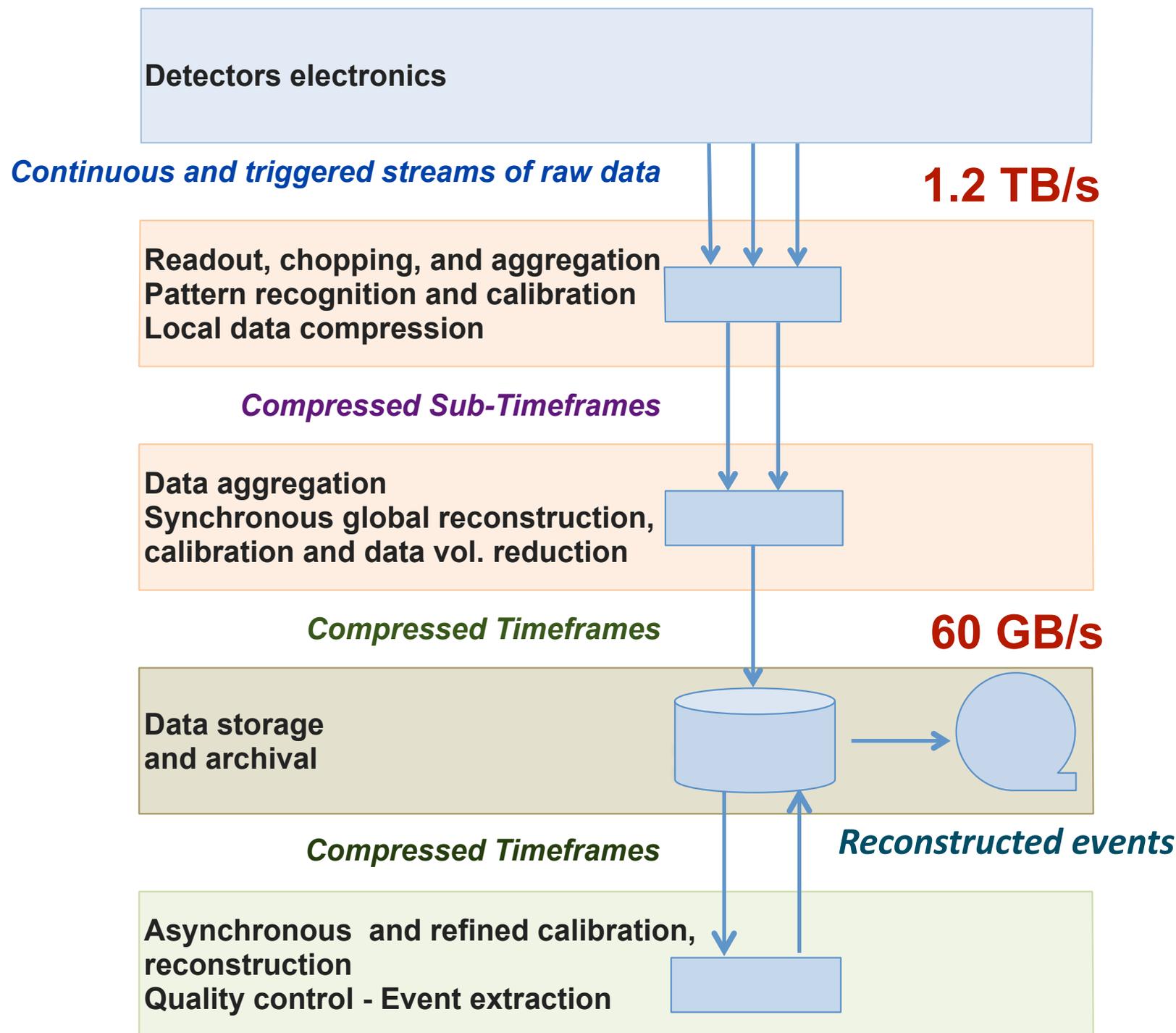


- From Detector Readout to Analysis:
- What is the “optimal” computing architecture?

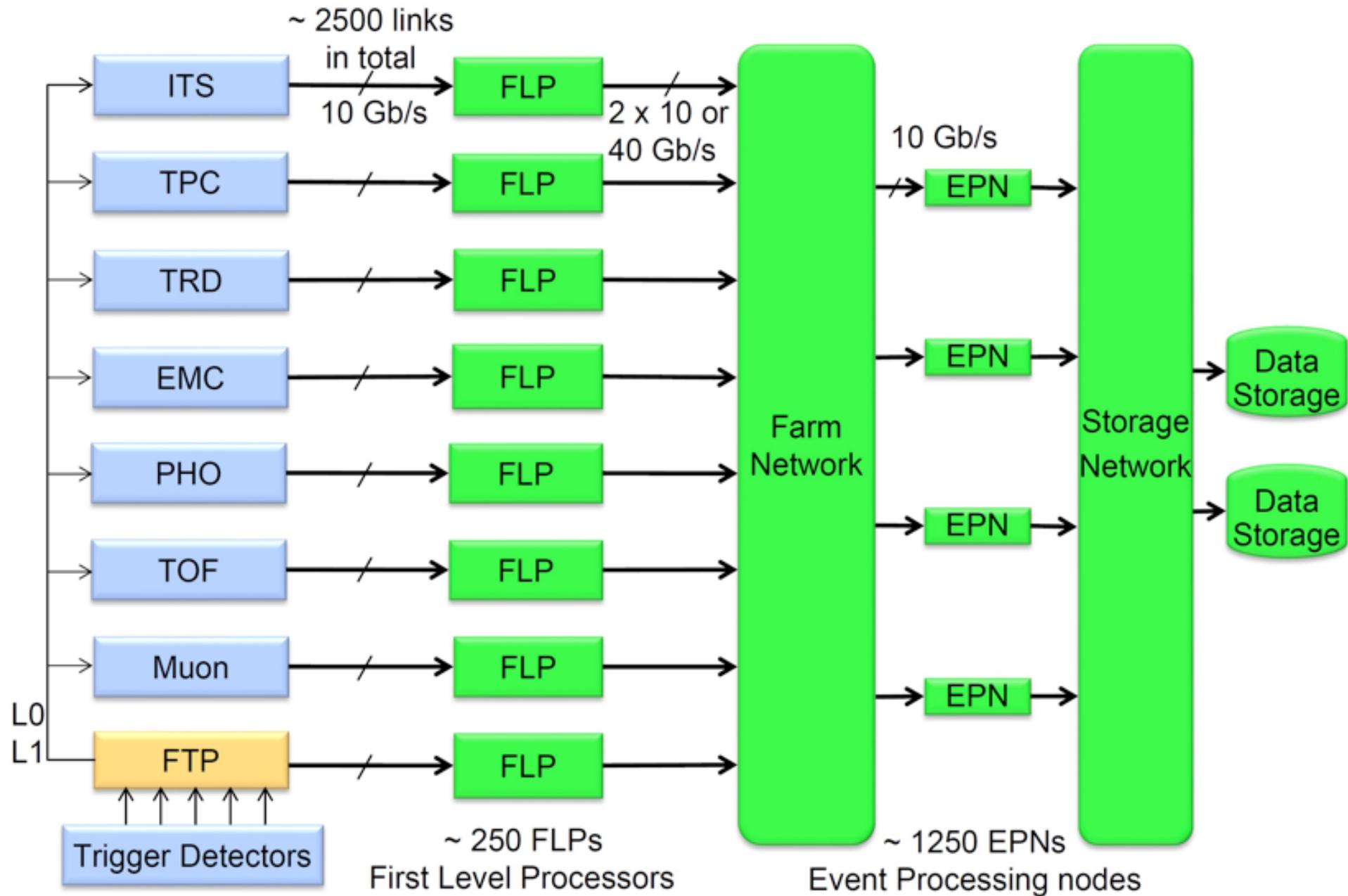
- Handle **>1 T Byte /s** detector input
- Support for continuous readout
- Online reconstruction to reduce data volume
- Common hardware and software system developed by the DAQ, HLT, Offline teams

- ✓ Data fully compressed before data storage.
- ✓ Reconstruction with calibrations of better quality.
- ✓ Grid capacity will evolve much slower than the ALICE data volume.
- ✓ Data archival of reconstructed events of the current year to keep Grid networking and data storage within ALICE quota.
- ✓ Needs for local data storage higher than originally anticipated

Basic idea of the O2 system



The ALICE O2 Hardware Architecture

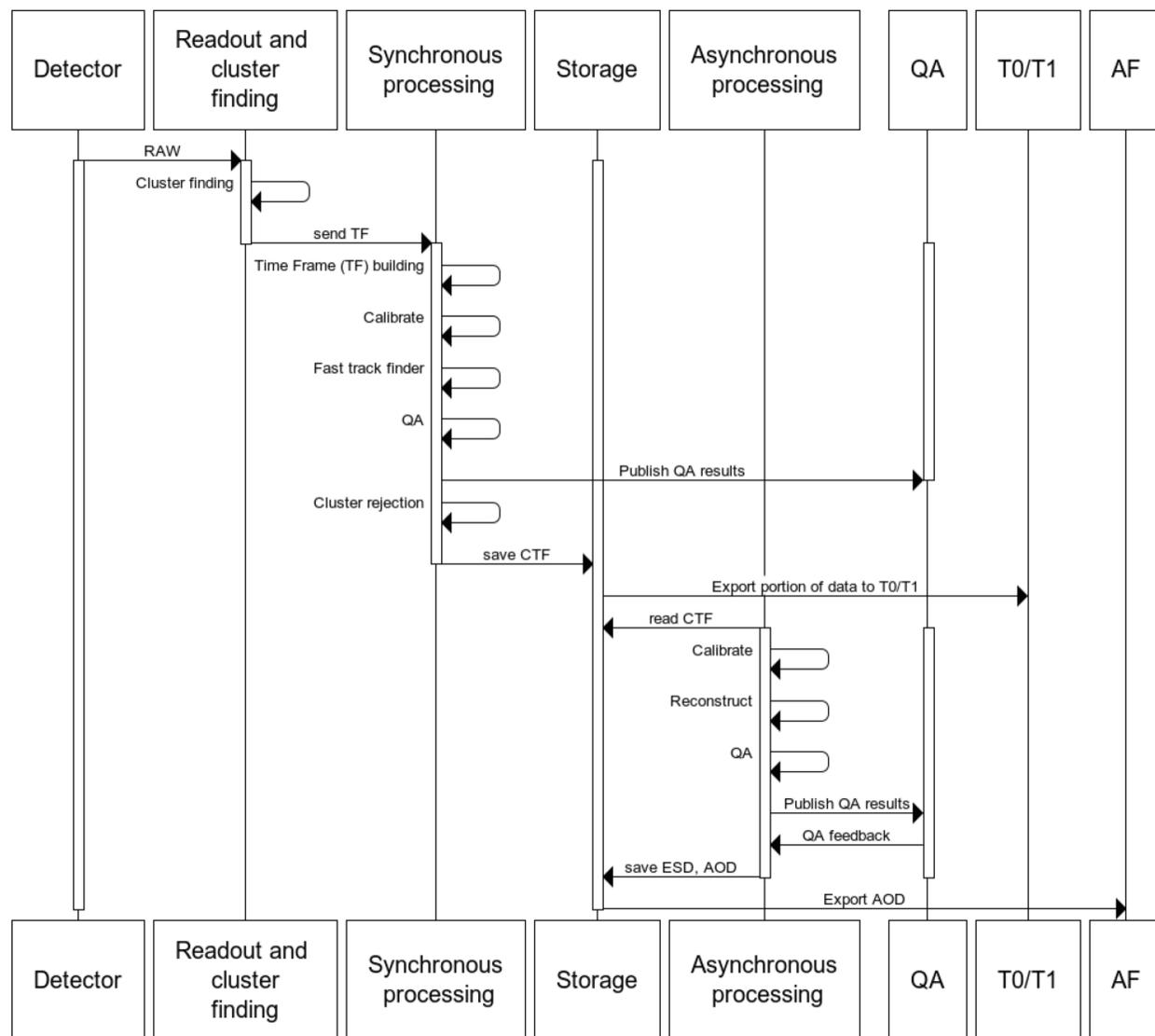


Computing model (Data flow)



ALICE

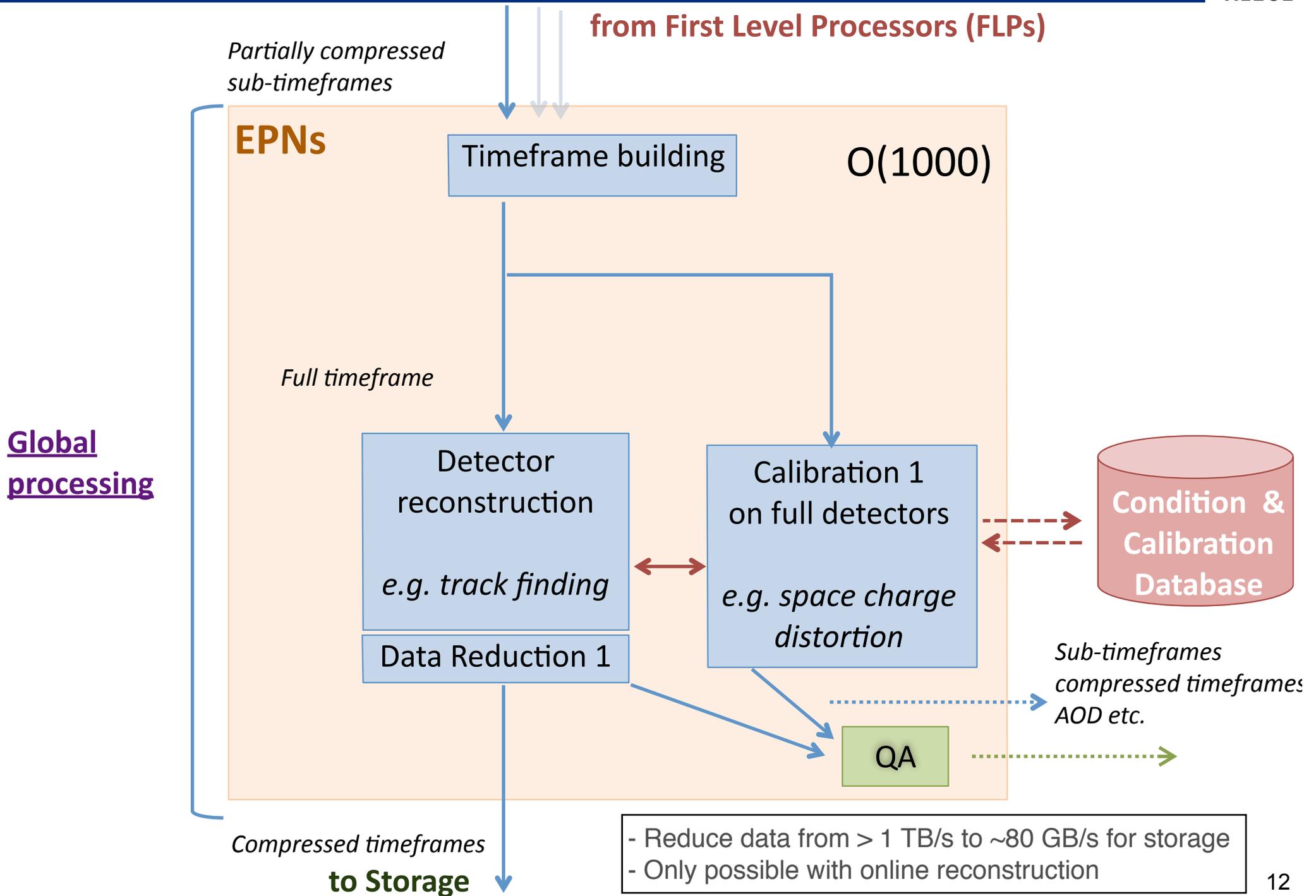
Acronym	Description
RAW	Raw data as it comes from the detector.
CTF	Compressed Time Frame containing the history of OM(100 ms) of detector readout information in the form of identified clusters that belong to identified tracks.
ESD	Event Summary Data.
AOD	Analysis Object Data for physics analysis.
HISTO	The subset of AOD information specific for a given analysis.
MC	Montecarlo simulation



by Pierre Vande Vyvre

The ALICE O2: Data Reduction (I)

by Pierre Vande Vyvre (modified)



The ALICE O2: Data Reduction (II)



	Dataflow Stage	Data Reduction Factor	Event Size (MByte)
	Raw Data	1	700
FEE →	Zero Suppression	35	20
High Level Trigger	Clustering & Compression	5 – 7	~ 3
	Remove clusters not associated to relevant tracks	2	1.5
	Data Format Optimization	2 – 3	< 1

The ALICE O2: Data Reduction (III)



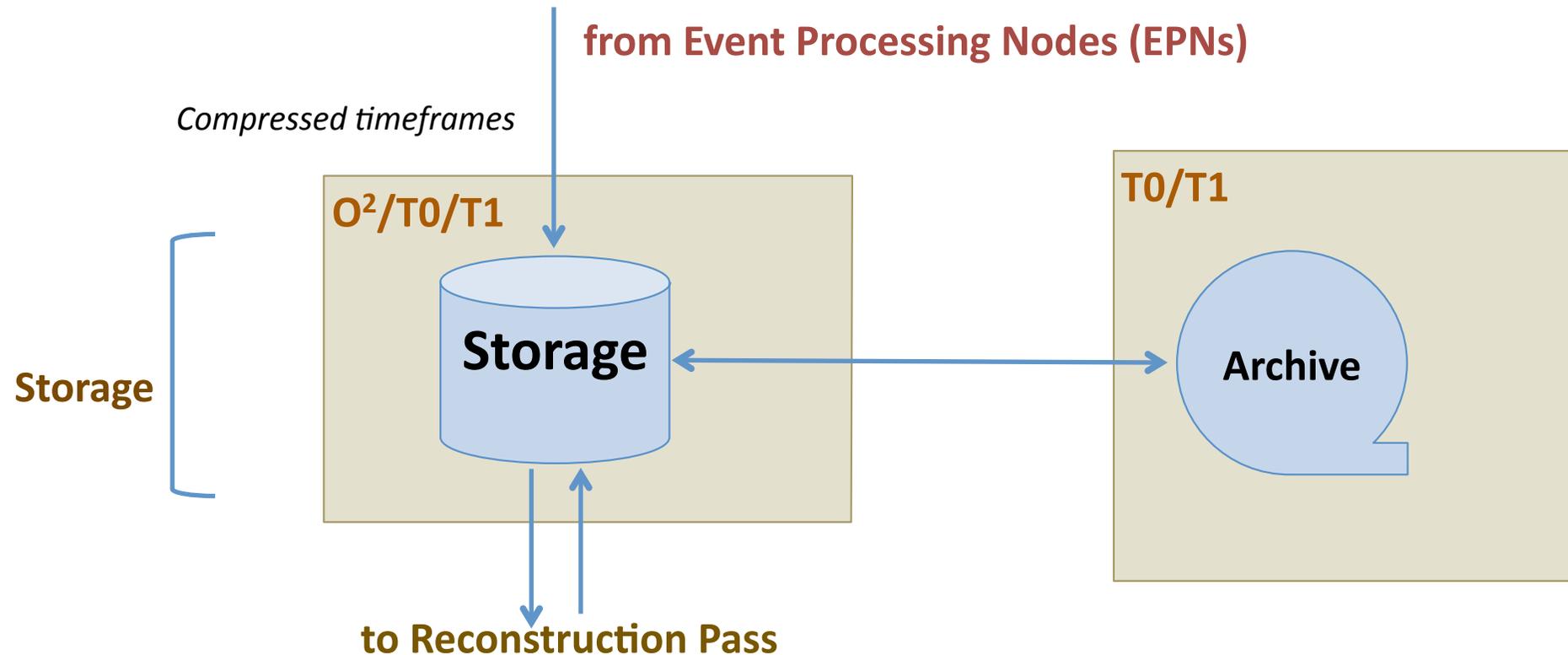
Detector	Event Size (MByte)	
	After Zero Suppression	After Data Compression
TPC	20.0	1.0
TRD	1.6	0.2
ITS	0.8	0.2
Others	0.5	0.25
TOTAL	22.9	1.65

- Data compression factors ranging from 2 to 20 according to the detector
- TPC still accounts for 60% of the total event size

slide by A. Uras (IC3INA 2013)

The ALICE O2: Data Storage

by Pierre Vande Vyvre (modified)



- **Data in “intermediate” formats (not directly usable for physics analysis):**

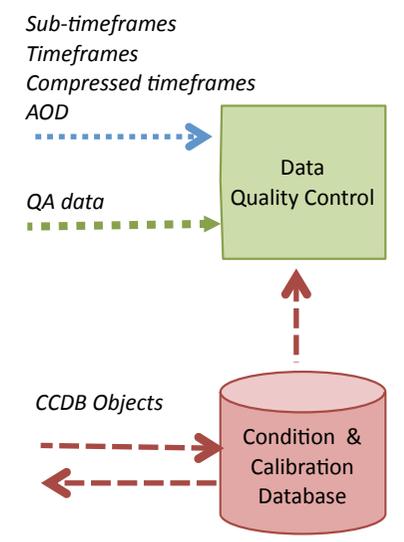
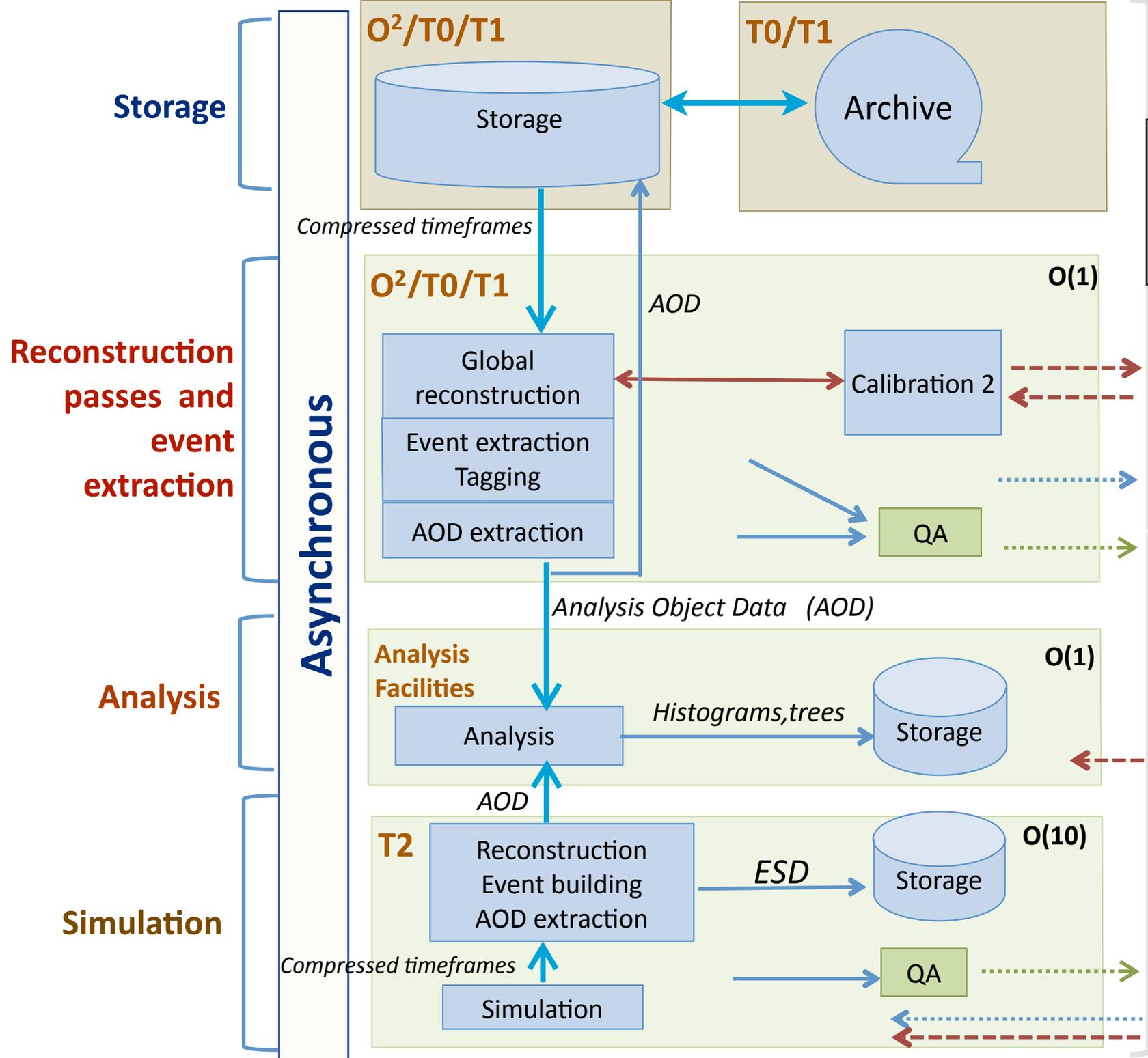
- 80 GByte/s peaks to be handled, distributed over ~1,250 nodes
- Average load of 15 GByte/s
- Local storage in O2 system
- Permanent storage in computing center

- **Data in “final” formats (usable for physics analysis):**

- GRID storage, accessible by experiment's users

O2 system (2)

Asynchronous data flow and processing



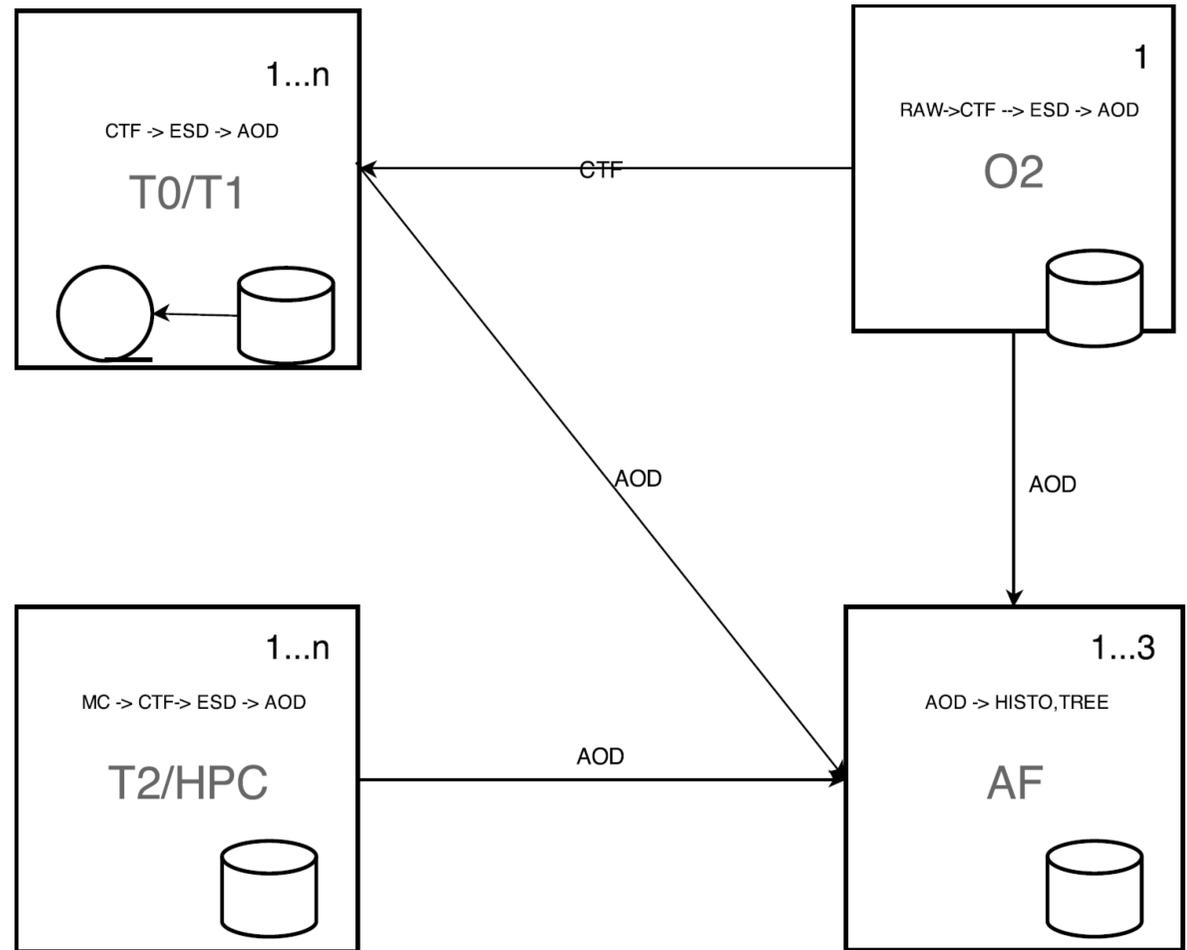
by Pierre Vande Vyvre (modified)

Computing model (O2 processing flow)



ALICE

Facility	Function
O2	ALICE Online-Offline Facility at LHC Point 2. Online reconstruction during the run. Provides data storage capacity. After data taking: runs the calibration and reconstruction tasks.
T0	CERN Computer Center facility providing CPU, storage and archiving resources.
T1	Grid site connected to T0 with high bandwidth network links (100+ Gb) providing CPU, storage and archiving resources. Reconstruction and calibration tasks
T2	Regular grid site with good network connectivity (10+ Gb); running simulation jobs .
AF	Dedicated Analysis Facility of HPC type that collects and stores AODs produced elsewhere and runs the organized analysis activity .



- Maintain the advantages of the Grid and the analysis trains
- Make it more open and more effective

- **2015-2017:**

- LHC Run2 data taking, x2 more heavy ion data.
- Data analysis on Run-2 (+Run-1)
- Almost no change from Run-1 scheme. Due to data larger data volume, network traffic will increase, at least x2.

- **2018- beyond:**

- LHC Run-3 data taking, x100 more data.
- Architecture change (O2) applied.
 - O2, AF, and T0/T1/T2 scheme.
- Significant data reductions, reconstruction in O2 mainly, and analysis → reduce data volume.
- 1. Can keep the similar network traffic as Run-2?
- 2. Or if we have **AF (using HPC)**, then it will need more network traffic than that in Run-2 → Accelerate local physics analysis.

- **ALICE computing upgrades on online-offline for the data taking after 2018 is ongoing.**
 - Continuous minimum bias event readout at **50 kHz in Pb-Pb collisions**.
 - **1 TB/s raw data** from detector, need a significant data reduction down to 80 GB/s to storage, and make a physics outputs timely.
 - O2 Scheme: Online reconstruction and calibration by O2 (near ALICE) & T0/T1, organized analysis at Analysis Farm (AF), and simulation at T2.
- Designing based on physics requirements is completed.
- Intensive works on modeling, technologies (processing platform & network), O2 prototyping.
- Technical Design Report (TDR) is progressing. It will be submitted to LHCC in April 2015.