

# A PhD students point of view

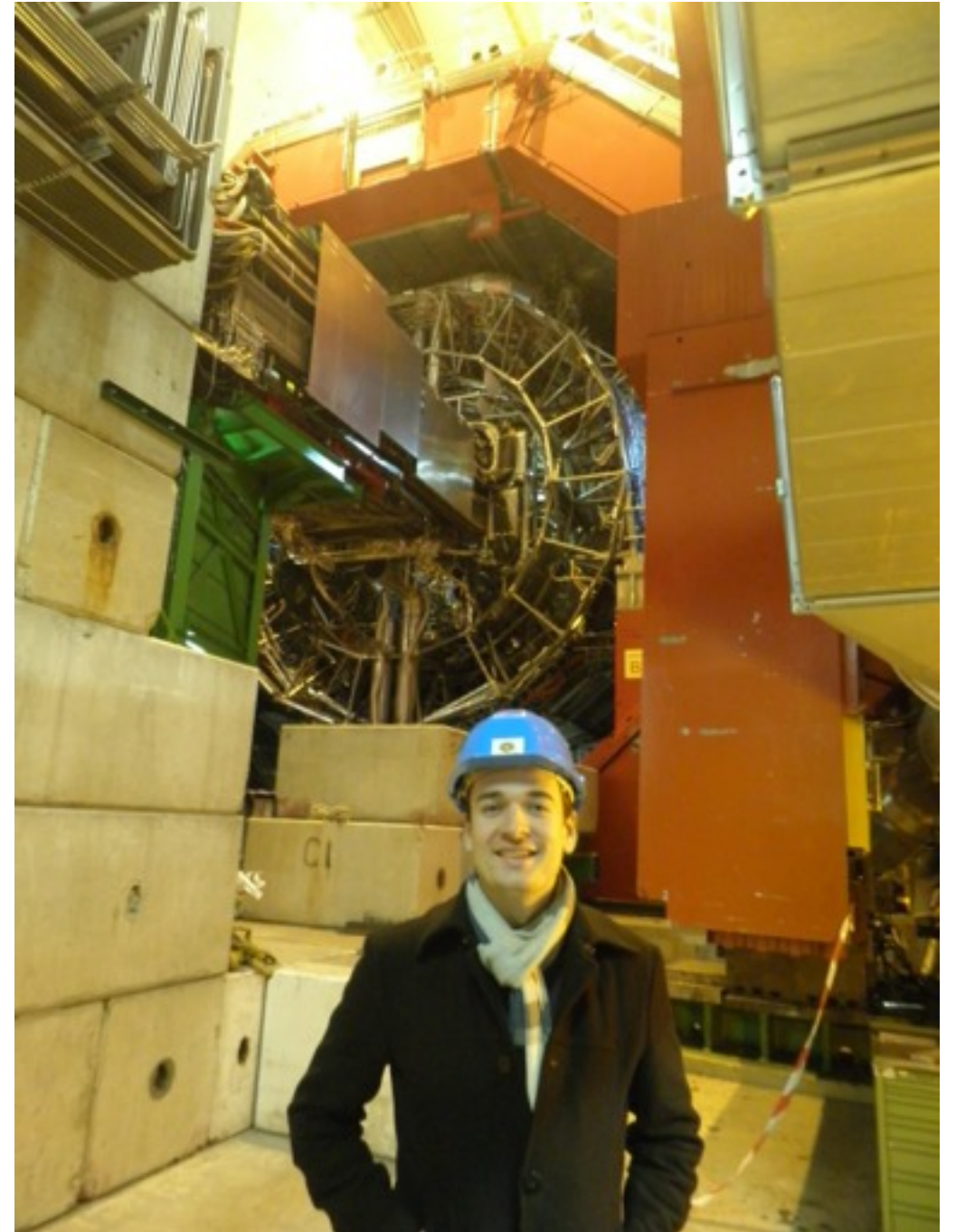
Alexander Hansen, Discovery Center, NBI  
RECFA meeting, May 3 2013



Niels Bohr Institutet

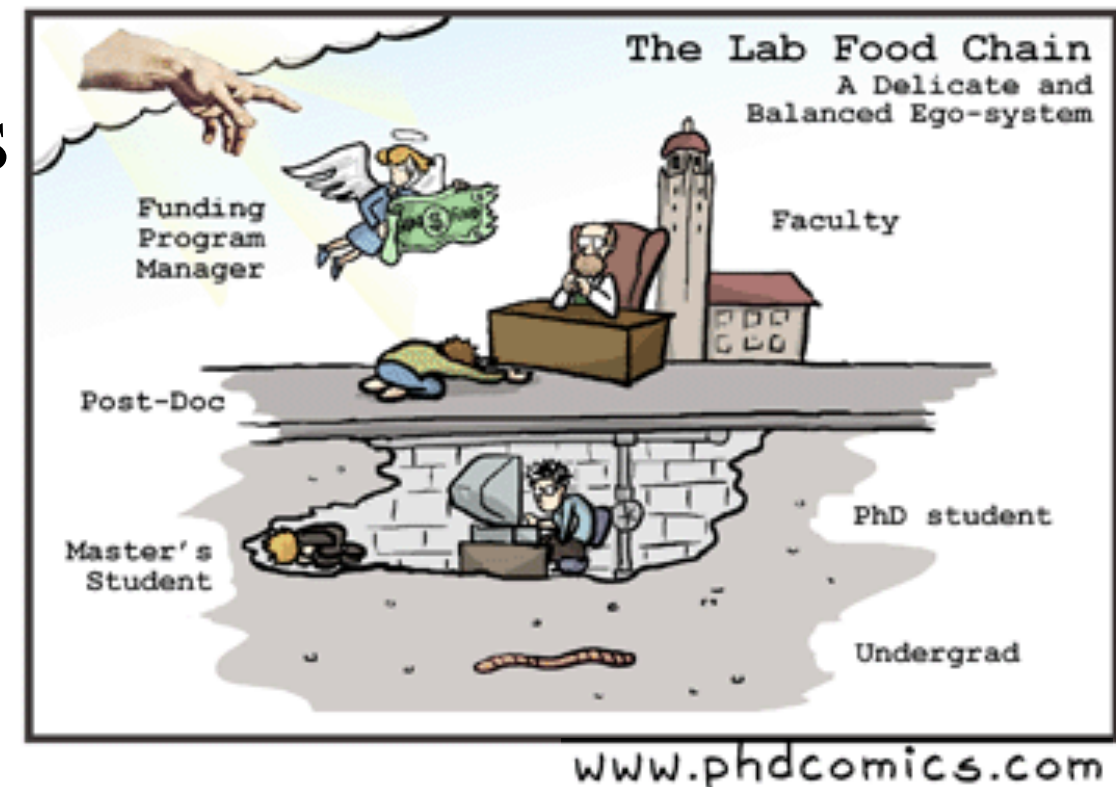
# About me

- PhD student in the Discovery Center, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen
- Halfway through 3 year PhD
- Part of the ALICE collaboration
- Also did my master's degree at NBI
- 26 years old



# The numbers

- PhD duration: 3 years (with 4+4 y and 3+5 y alternative entries)
- Employment: As an academic employed by the state having a master's degree
- Am payed: €3500 before taxes  
Around €2200 after taxes
- Age: Typically in the late 20's



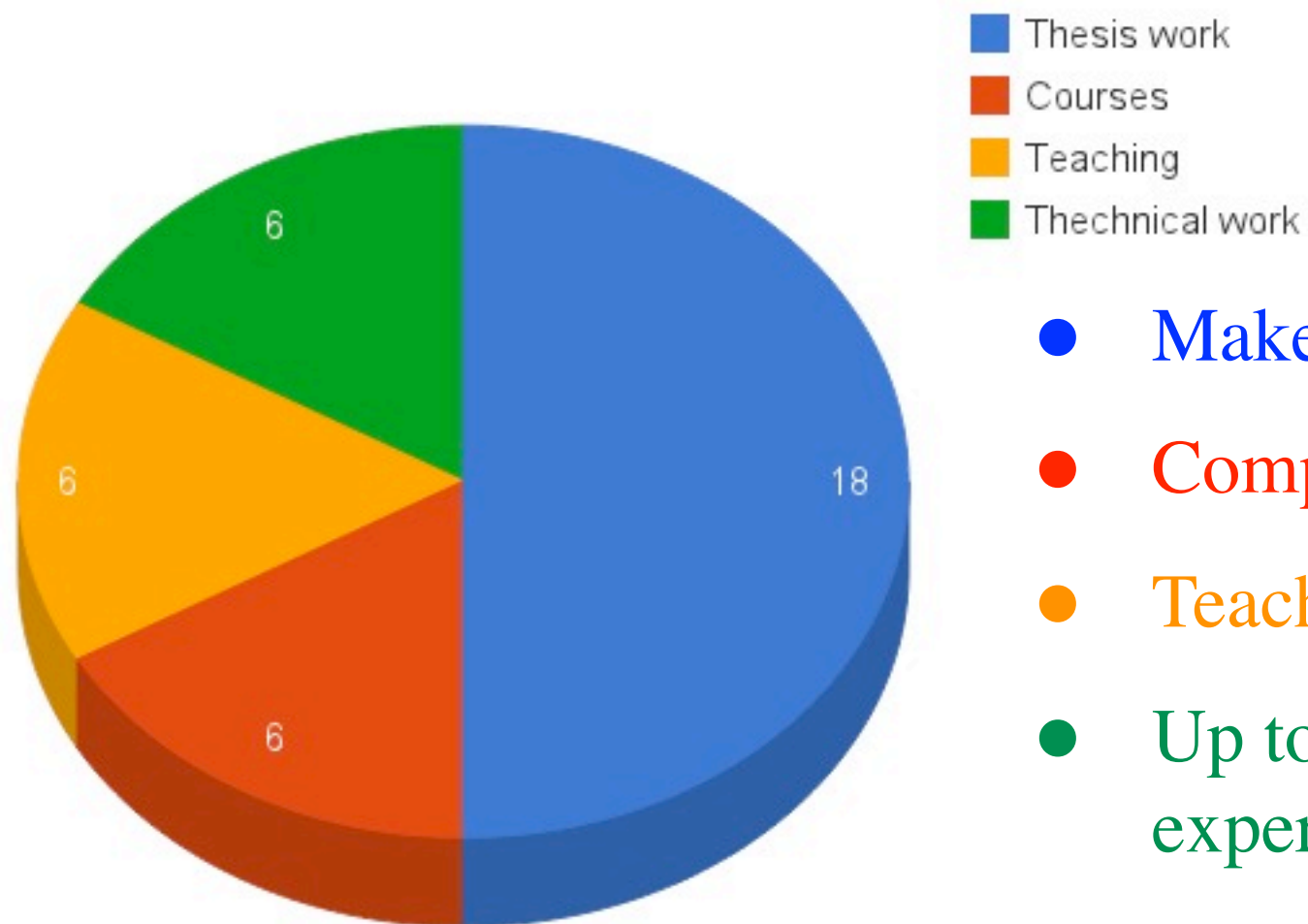
# Required tasks

- Make a thesis(!)
- Complete PhD courses totaling 30 ECTS
- Teach 3x7.5 ECTS courses (in lab/class)
- Up to 6 months technical work for experiment
- 3-6 month visit to research environment outside of DK



# Task distribution

Months of work during 3 year PhD



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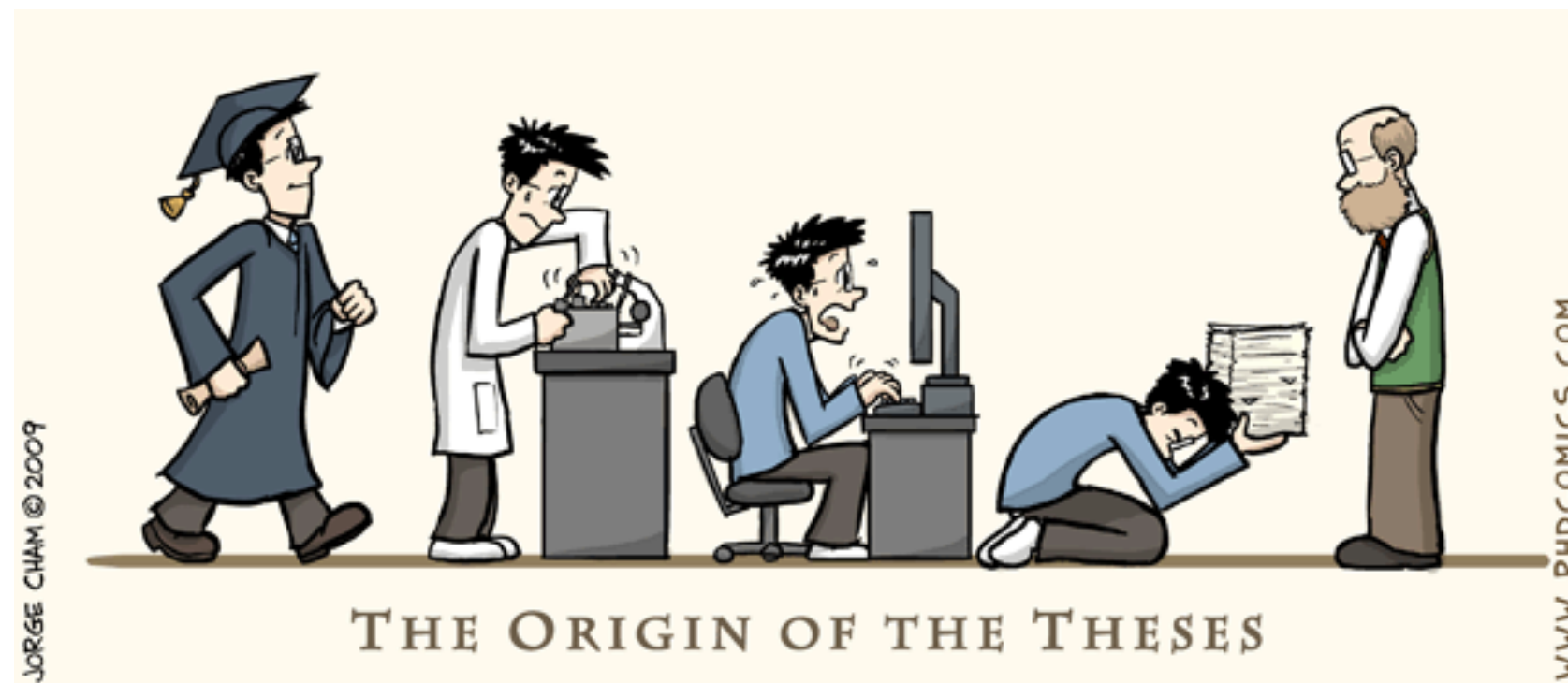
Don't eat all the  
pie :)



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# The day-to-day work





# Meetings

- Typically 3+ meetings a week:
  - Local meetings in research group
  - Collaboration analysis/working groups
- International environment: All meetings in english
- Collaboration meetings:
  - Video conferencing most of the time. Otherwise, you go to CERN!...



# Travels



- Many reasons for traveling:
  - Taking shifts for the experiment
  - Attending meetings
  - Attending schools
  - Giving talks at conferences/workshops
- ... doing a PhD in high energy physics means traveling a lot!
- Both good and bad:
  - Many people like the opportunity to visit the world
  - Many people start a family while doing their PhD



# After the PhD



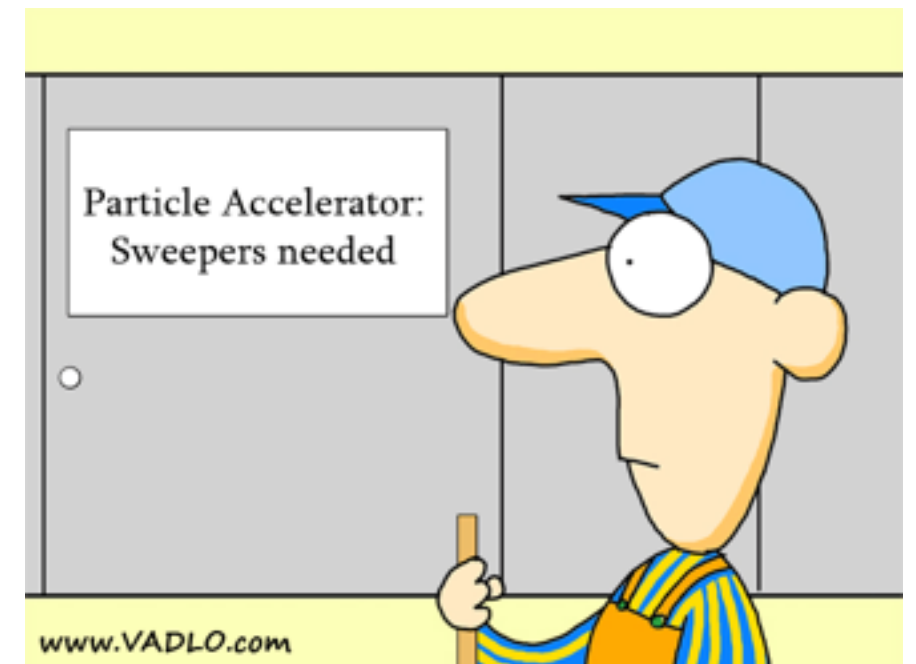
# Getting the next job...

- Continuing in (high energy) physics:

- CERN fellowship

- Post-Doc abroad

- Post-Doc at current institute



➡ Need good network from local institute/CERN

- In DK: More PhD positions than Post-Doc positions



# Getting the next job...

- Many will look to the private sector, where our competencies are highly sought after:
  - Large-scale data analysis
  - Strong mathematical skills
  - Strong computer programming skills
- Many end up in engineering industry, banking or consulting
- Currently only little help from local universities/CERN to provide this connection



# Thank you for your time





# Thank you for your time

## Please remember:



Don't eat all the pie...



... and help us connect!

