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Is D0 More Sensitive Than CDF?

”The Two Experiments Have Comparable Sensitivity”
(quote from a draft of the DPF Electroweak Working Group report.)

Well, I don't know. Starting with the leadership, I think that Mel and Bill are certainly as sensitive as Mont and Paul, though Mont can be teased more easily than Bill, perhaps. *A priori* it's certainly reasonable that the collaborations have comparable sensitivity, as it's unlikely that two collections of more than 400 people each would select very differently on sensitivity. There are fluctuations- we on CDF have a few hyper-sensitive people, and there are a few who are insensitive. But by-and-large it's a collection of typical physicists: sensitive to those things that affect them directly, and oblivious to much else going on in the collaboration.

One could consciously work to increase the sensitivity of one of the experiments- a type of 'sensitivity training', to use a phrase from another, more sensitive, context. It might not be hard: one could add one tape to the videotapes Dee Hahn uses for safety training, for example. I'm just not sure the goal is worth the effort, and it could lead to a 'sensitivity race', wherein each experiment invests substantial effort in increasing its sensitivity. But as long as neither achieves 'incomparable sensitivity', unlikely given the opportunities that are being thrown away by the Lab, it's not unreasonable that the two experiments will have comparable sensitivity for a long long time.

(Note added June, 1999: Five years have gone by since I wrote this, and Run II is still a long ways away. The 'long long time' of no beam when 'sensitivity' is just wishful thinking still looks long.)