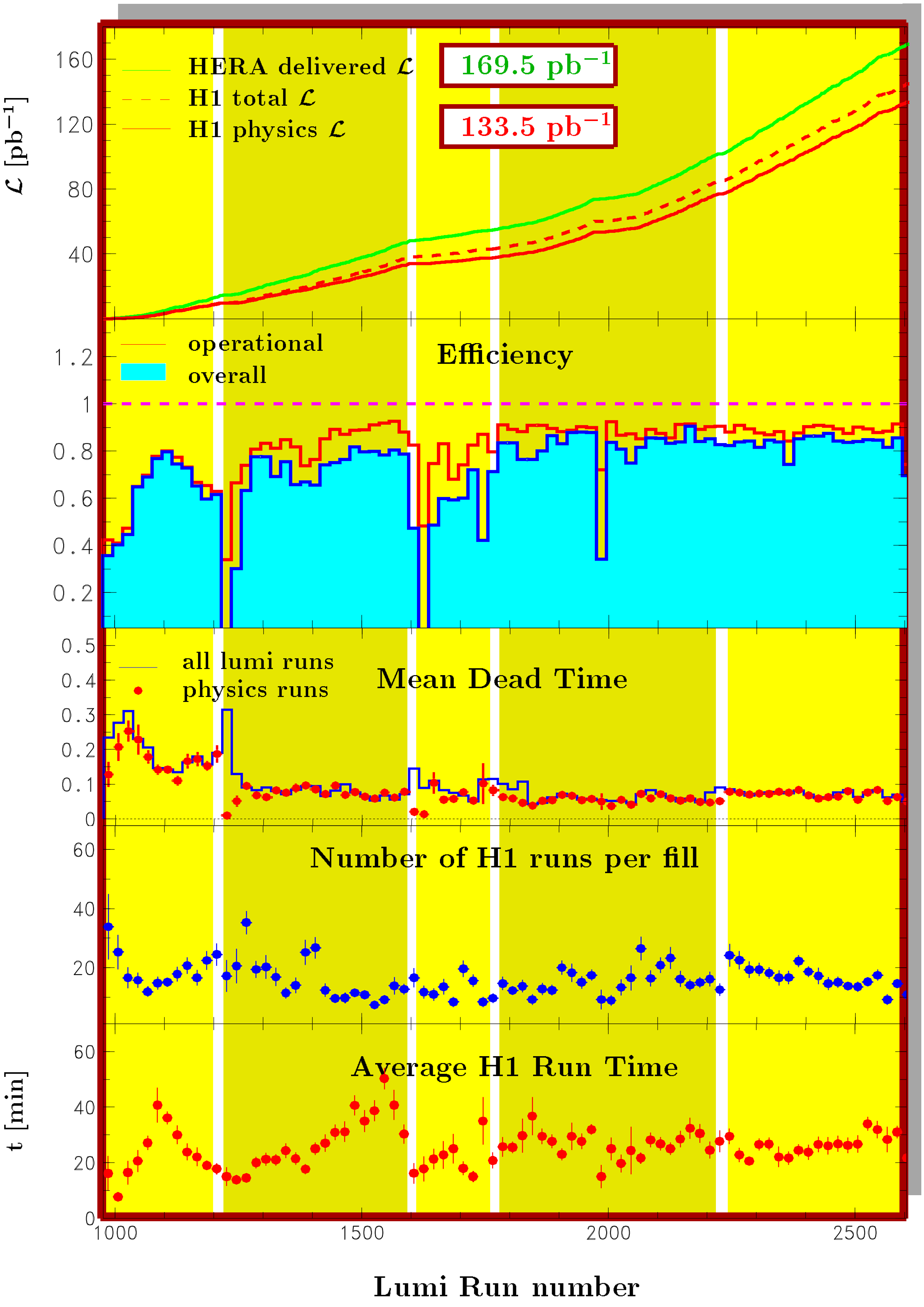H1 performance in 1996-2000