

Antimatter Mysteries

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Rolf Landua

Research physicist

CERN

The story line of ...







BESTSELLING AUTHOR

VINCI CODE

What's true ? What's false ?

The story line of ...





Detective story about a secret society which ...



ING AUTHOR

What's true ? What's false ?

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The story line of ...





Detective story about a secret society which ...



... steals 1 g of antimatter from a physicist at the 'LHC' in a place called "CERN" ...



What's true ? What's false ?

Antimatter Mysteries

The story line of ...





Detective story about a secret society which ...



... steals 1 g of antimatter from a physicist at the 'LHC' in a place called "CERN" ...



... to blow up the Vatican, an old "enemy of science and CERN".



What's true ? What's false ?

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Antimatter Mysteries

Angels + Demons: The Cast @ CERN



Antimatter Mysteries

Before making 'Angels and Demons', director Ron Howard came to CERN to take a course on "antimatter" and the "LHC".



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This is what Dan Brown understands about antimatter

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What is antimatter

Antimatter Mysteries

What is antimatter

Where is antimatter made

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The mystery of antimatter

Antimatter Mysteries

What is antimatter

Where is antimatter made

How is antimatter made

The mystery of antimatter Antimatter in our daily life ?

Antimatter Mysteries

Antimatter Mysteries



Everything is made of matter (We, animals, plants, rocks)

Matter is made of particles

Electrons
Protons
Neutrons

Quarks

The whole (visible) Universe can be explained with 4 building blocks:

Up-quark, down-quark Electron, neutrino

Antimatter Mysteries

Particles have specific masses and charges

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Name	Electric Charge [e]	Mass [GeV*]	
Electron	- 1	0.0005	
Proton	+ 1	0.938	
Neutron	0	0.941	

*GeV = Giga-Electron Volt = $1.8 \cdot 10^{-27}$ kg

Antimatter Mysteries

Anti-Particles have the **same mass**, but **opposite charge**



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Neutron	0	0-941	0	Antineutron	
Particles				Anti-Particle	S

Antimatter Mysteries

Particles and antiparticles are always **created in pairs** ...

Antimatter Mysteries

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Energy to mass:

Antimatter Mysteries

Particles and antiparticles are always created in pairs ...



Energy to mass:

... and they can also **annihilate** each other

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Mass to energy:

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What is an anti-particle?



Anti-Particles are as real as particles



Metaphores



Antimatter Mysteries

What is an anti-particle?



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Metaphores



A world made of antiparticles could exist and it would look the same as our world.

Careful with "antimatter E.T." !



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Antiparticles are produced using accelerators

The largest accelerator laboratory in the world is CERN in Geneva (CH)

CERN = 'Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire'



10,055 physicists from 105 countries

(1618 physicists from US)

Antimatter Mysteries





New particles will be created that only existed shortly after the Big Bang

Dark Matter ? The "Higgs" particle ? Mini-Black holes ?

$E = mc^2$

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Energy is converted to mass

Energy is converted to mass



Mass of electron and positron



New particles and antiparticles are created in collisions

Antiproton Decelerator at CERN



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Antimatter Mysteries

The Universe started 13 700 million years ago

~ 10⁷² Joule

Size (x 100) of the visible Universe at the 'Planck' time

Space and time came into existence. The space expanded, while the energy converted into mass (50 % matter, 50 % antimatter)



All the antimatter disappeared less than I sec after the Big Bang

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It looks as if there was a giant 'annihilation battle' shortly after the Big Bang.

Most of the matter and antimatter disappeared and produced lots of light (still visible).

Only little matter was left = all stars, planets, us!

Why did 'our' matter survive? Why is there 'something' and not 'nothing'?

Without this tiny asymmetry, we would not exist! That is why we study antimatter.

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5 Energy source? Weapon? Star Trek?







Antimatter Mysteries

Dan Brown: Antimatter is the energy source of the future.

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No

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Antimatter production **requires energy**

1,000,000,000 times more energy invested than released by annihilation

Antimatter Mysteries



20 kt TNT = $8.4 \cdot 10^{13}$ J 0.5 g antimatter + 0.5 g matter

Dan Brown is right: only 0.5 g antimatter makes an 'anti-atomic bomb'

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Delivery time ~ 1 000 000 000 years

Positron Emission Tomography !

Add **positron** emitting isotopes (e.g. F-18) to glucose molecule and inject into blood stream



Positron Emission Tomography !

2-fluoro-



Antimatter Mysteries

Positron Emission Tomography !

2-fluoro-

2-deoxy-D-glucose

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annihilations

Use detector to reconstruct place of positron annihilation

Antimatter Mysteries

Positron Emission Tomography

Antimatter annihilations help to understand how the brain works



Back to Ron Howard ...

What did Ron Howard say after his visit to CERN?

Back to Ron Howard ...



What did Ron Howard say after his visit to CERN?

Thank you for your attention.