

The Standard Model and its open questions





Our current understanding

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Leonardo Benucci - Working Experience Week at CERN - 25-29 March 2024

What is the Universe made of ?

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OLAE UROPAEA





	North Contraction	•		D COVER
	Gravity	Weak (Electro	Electromagnetic weak)	Strong
Carried By	Graviton (not yet observed)	w* w z°	Photon	Gluon
Acts on	All	Quarks and Leptons	Quarks and Charged Leptons and W W	Quarks and Gluons



... and what keeps it together ?

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13.7 billion years ago, there were other things in the Universe...





...and antimatter !

For every type of particle → There is an antiparticle

But, as far as we can tell, there is virtually no anti-matter naturally existing in our Universe.....



Particles and antiparticles have identical mass (and spin) but opposite electric charge







Why different masses ?





Why different masses ?

DLAE UROPAEA





Why different masses ?

You can imagine a flat, untouched snowfield...

...then a **light** particle may come...







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...or a **heavy** particle!



The Higgs mechanism

You can imagine a flat, untouched snowfield... → The **Higgs field** → mediated by the **Higgs boson**

...then a **light** particle may come...



...or a heavy particle!



The Higgs mechanism



...or a heavy particle!



The Higgs mechanism





How does the Higgs look like?

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How does the Higgs look like?

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It decays in other particles after a time around 10⁻²² sec





The Standard Model is a (quantum!) theory that summarizes our current knowledge of the physics of **Fundamental Particles**...



The energy unit in particle physics is the electronvolt (**eV**), the energy gained by one electron when crossing the potential difference of 1 Volt **1 GeV** = $10^9 \text{ eV} = 1.6 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ J}$ Leonardo Benucci - Working Experience Week at CERN - 25-29 March 2024



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	FERMIONS	matter spin =	r constituent 1/2, 3/2, 5/2	s 2,		Spin is always multiple of 1/2
Leptons spin =1/2			Quarks spin =1/2		=1/2	
Flavor	Mass GeV/c ²	Electric charge	Flavor	Approx. Mass GeV/c ²	Electric charge	
𝒱L lightest neutrino*𝔅 electron	(0−2)×10 ^{−9} 0.000511	0 -1	U _{up} d _{down}	0.002 0.005	2/3 1/3	
$\mathcal{V}_{\mathbf{M}}$ middle neutrino* μ muon	(0.009–2)×10 ^{–9} 0.106	0 -1	C charm S strange	1.3 0.1	2/3 1/3	
\mathcal{V}_{H} heaviest neutrino* au tau	(0.05–2)×10 ^{–9} 1.777	0 -1	t top b bottom	173 4.2	2/3 1/3	



The Standard Model is a (quantum!) theory that summarizes our current knowledge of the physics of **Fundamental Particles**...





...and of **Fundamental Interaction** (force between particles or decay of unstable particle)





Properties of the interactions

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Each quark carries 3 types of **"color" charge**. Just as electrical charge interact by exchanging photons, <u>color-charged particles interact by exchanging gluons</u>

In (relativistic) quantum mechanic, all forces are mediated by a particle



















A **neutral Pion** decays in a couple of photons. The neutral Pion is a **meson** composed of $u\bar{u}$ and $d\bar{d}$ quarks.



























- For all the particles we observe and we created, the Standard Model can explain their properties, decay, interaction strength etc.
- In all the measurements performed in particle physics, the agreement with the Standard Model has proved excellent
- → Is the Standard Model our final model of everything ?



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 - > What is this the "dark matter"?
 - > Why the Universe expansion is accelerating ?
 - > Why gravity force does not fit in this model ?





Dark Matter: why we need it?

Astronomers have measured the speed of stars as a function of distance of the galaxy center (and of galaxies in a cluster, as a function of distance from the cluster center)





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Dark Matter exists!

Nowadays, we can compute where dark matter is and how much it is...





Dark Matter exists!

We understood that Dark Matter is around five times more abundant that «luminous» matter ...





Dark Matter: what is made of?

- ...but we don't know what it is!
- > It should be affected by the **Gravitational Interaction** only
- > Should be **different from all the matter** we know up to know:
 - > New kind of particle ? (or many type of particles?)
 - Compact objects as black holes?
 - Or is it a kind of wave-like disturbance ?
- > Does it live in a «hidden Universe» (Dark Sector), connected to our universe by new forces?





The ATLAS detector (and how to use it)



When a proton meets another proton...







the Inner Detector is installed around the center of the ATLAS, right after the LHC beam pipe. It consists of three different subdetector technologies, all designed to accurately record tracks of charged particles produced at the collision point and moving outwards. Neutral particles (e.g. photons) pass through the Inner Detector unnoticed





the Calorimeters contain heavier materials (e.g. steel, lead), which cause both charged and neutral incoming particles to interact and deposit all of their energy, allowing us to measure it. In particular, the energy of an incoming particle is distributed among a bunch of lighter particles, which appear as a localized particle-shower in the detector





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 - the electromagnetic calorimeters absorb and measure the energy of electrons, positrons and photons. Energetic hadrons penetrate this calorimeter leaving only a fraction of their energy
 - the hadronic calorimeters measure the total energy of hadrons, such as protons and neutrons. They stop almost all particles allowing us to measure their energy





the Muon Spectrometer detects the energetic muons which leave little energy in the other detectors and have the ability to penetrate the entire detector





the Magnet Systems bend charged particles in the Inner Detector and the Muon Spectrometer, allowing for their momenta to be measured accurately from their track curvature





In total :

- > 44 meters in length
- 25 meters in diameter (about the height of a 6 storeys building)
- Overall weight 7 000 tons
- Around 100 million electronic channels
- Around 3 000 km of cables











































Detecting heavy, short-lived particles

The design we saw is optimized to reconstruct particles that:

- are produced at the collision point
- > are **unstable**, decaying almost immediately in particles we can reconstruct
- > are **massive**, so they can produce secondary particles that are energetic enough







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Introduction to long-lived particle





What if long-lived particles exist?

Strong theoretical motivations underpin searches for Long Lived particles (LLPs)

- Dark matter could be part of a larger dark sector, parallel to the Standard Model (SM), with new particles and interactions
- If dark quarks could be produced at the LHC, they would undergo fragmentation and hadronisation in the dark sector resulting in characteristic "dark showers"





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Displaced vertex

- When particles decay to quarks, they undergo a process called hadronisation, which leads to sprays of collimated particles in the ATLAS detector called jets
- If a new, neutral LLP were to decay to quarks in the outer layer of the calorimeter, it would leave behind "displaced" jets
- These would leave to a very unusual signature in the experiment:
 - the jets would have no associated particle trajectories in the tracking detector
 - would be very narrow compared to their Standard Model counterparts, since the spray of particles wouldn't have time to become spatially separated
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How to look for a LLP?

Detecting LLPs at the LHC experiments requires a **paradigm shift** with respect to the usual data-analysis and trigger strategies.

- they could decay anywhere in the detector
- as the layers of the ATLAS experiment are instrumented differently, evidence of LLPs would look different depending on which layer the particle decays in (displaced leptons, displaced jets...)







How to look for a LLP?

Tasks such as the identification of displaced vertices and converted photons are non-trivial, and therefore, complex algorithms (including **machine learning** and **neural networks**) are usually employed.

Background processes can mimic displaced vertexes:

- Standard Model processes where some particle is not properly reconstructed
- interactions of the LHC beam with material from the accelerator itself, or with residual gas
- Cosmic rays interacting with detectors





How can YOU look for an LLP?

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In some cases, distinguish an LLP signature from the background may be easy for a human eye:

- > You will try to perform this classification on a set of **Event Displays**
- > This classification can be useful to **fine-tune the machine-learning algorithms**

The project today consists of three stages:

- Stage 1: you will identify <u>Displaced Vertices</u>, as the signatures of long-lived particles
- Stage 2: you will identify the signatures of known particles (electrons, muons, photons) in the ATLAS detector
- Stage 3a: you will look for a <u>Higgs boson</u> decaying in a pair of photons
- Stage 3b: you will look for long-lived particles decaying far from the beam collision point


How can YOU look for an LLP?

Stage 0: have a break first...

