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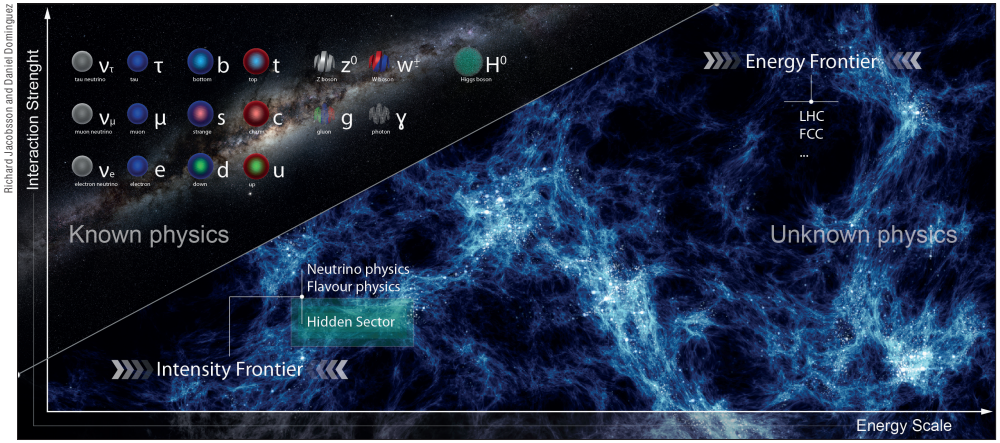
Introduction to the 7th SHiP Collaboration Meeting

News: SHiP is in CERN courier

Richard Jacobsson and Daniel Dominguez



SHiP is a new experiment at the intensity frontier aimed at exploring the hidden sector.

SHiP sets a new course in intensity-frontier exploration

SHiP (Search for Hidden Particles) is a newly proposed experiment for CERN's Super Proton Synchrotron accelerator. Its challenging goals include the direct search for hidden non-Standard Model particles.

A Golutvin, Imperial College London/CERN, and **R Jacobsson**, CERN, on behalf of SHiP.

SHiP is an experiment aimed at exploring the domain of very weakly interacting particles and studying the properties of tau neutrinos. It is designed to be installed downstream of a new beam-dump facility at the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS). The CERN SPS and PS experiments Committee (SPSC) has recently completed a review of the SHiP Technical and Physics Proposal, and it recommended that the SHiP collaboration proceed towards preparing a Comprehensive Design Report, which will provide input into the next update of the European Strategy for Particle Physics, in 2018/2019.

Why is the SHiP physics programme so timely and attractive? We have now observed all the particles of the Standard Model, however it is clear that it is not the ultimate theory. Some yet unknown particles or interactions are required to explain a number of observed phenomena in particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology, the so-called beyond-the-Standard Model (BSM) problems, such as dark matter, neutrino masses and oscillations, baryon asymmetry, and the expansion of the universe.

While these phenomena are well-established observationally, they give no indication about the energy scale of the new physics. The analysis of new LHC data collected at $\sqrt{} = 13$ TeV will soon have directly probed the TeV scale for new particles with couplings at O(%) level. The experimental effort in flavour physics, and searches for charged lepton flavour violation and electric dipole moments, will continue the quest for specific flavour symmetries to complement direct exploration of the TeV scale.

However, it is possible that we have not observed some of the particles responsible for the BSM problems due to their extremely feeble interactions, rather than due to their heavy masses. Even in the scenarios in which BSM physics is related to high-mass scales, many models contain degrees of freedom with suppressed couplings that stay relevant at much lower energies.

Given the small couplings and mixings, and hence typically long lifetimes, these hidden particles have not been significantly ▷

Recommendation from the SPSC committee

The SPSC **supports** the updated SHiP schedule, which takes into account the HL-LHC preparation constraints during LS2, and defers any significant civil engineering investments for SHiP to the period following full approval of SHiP. The SPSC **notes** that, in this updated schedule, the time scale for the SHiP comprehensive design study, required for a final decision, coincides with the expected revision of the EU HEP strategy. The Committee **also notes** the plans of the incoming CERN Management to set up a working group to prepare the future of the CERN Fixed Target programme after LS2, as input to the next EU strategy update. In this context the SPSC **recommends** that the SHiP proponents proceed with the preparation of a Comprehensive Design Report (CDR), and that this preparation be made in close contact with the planned Fixed Target working group.

Preparation of the CDR should include further optimisation of the beam dump facility in the direction of a multipurpose area, test beams of detector prototypes where needed, detailed simulations of the detector response to all signal and background signatures, further theoretical studies of expected signals and comparisons with alternative search programmes. The Committee **encourages** the proponents to define a programme of measurements concerning production of charm in a SHiP-like target, important for normalisation purposes. The SPSC **also encourages** the proponents to further explore the potential benefit of inputs from the ongoing NA62 experiment to strengthen the experimental evaluation of SHiP backgrounds and systematics. The resources needed for the preparation of the SHiP CDR in the coming years should be secured within a MoU between CERN and the SHiP proponents' institutes.

Brief overview of the agenda

Today: *News from theory*
Detector session 1
CRB meeting

Thursday (Febr. 11)

morning: *Detector session 2*
afternoon: *Software tutorial*
Social event

Friday (Febr. 12)

morning: *Organization of future work*
Physics performance
Report of the CRB chair
Concluding remarks