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Status of the BELLE II experiment and early physics program

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The Belle II experiment is a substantial upgrade of Belle detector and will operate at the SuperKEKB energy-asymmetric e^+e^- collider. The accelerator has successfully completed the first phase of commissioning; collisions will start early April 2018. The design luminosity is $8 \times 10^{35} \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ and the Belle II experiment aims to record 50 ab^{-1} of data, a factor of 50 more than the Belle experiment. This large data set will be accumulated with low backgrounds and high trigger efficiency in a clean e^+e^- environment; it will allow to probe New Physics scales that are well beyond the reach of direct production at the LHC, and will complement the searches through indirect effects that are currently ongoing or planned. This talk will review the detector upgrade, and present the early physics program, centered on bottomonium studies..

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