Particle Detectors

The 'Real' World of Particles

Interaction of Particles with Matter

Tracking Detectors, Calorimeters, Particle Identification

Detector Systems

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History of Instrumentation \leftrightarrow History of Particle Physics

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ON UNITARY REPRESENTATIONS OF THE INHOMOGENEOUS **LORENTZ GROUP***

By E. WIGNER

(Received December 22, 1937)

 \mathbf{I}^2

of the invariance of the transition probability we have

$$
(1) \qquad \qquad |(\varphi_l, \psi_l)|^2 = |(\varphi_{l'}, \psi_{l'})|
$$

and it can be shown⁴ that the aforementioned constants in the $\varphi_{l'}$ can be chosen in such a way that the φ_i are obtained from the φ_i by a linear unitary operation, depending, of course, on l and l'

$$
\varphi_{l'}=D(l',l)\varphi_l
$$

By going over from a first system of reference l to a second $l' = L_1 l$ and then to a third $l'' = L_2L_1l$ or directly to the third $l'' = (L_2L_1)l$, one must obtain—apart from the above mentioned constant-the same set of wave functions. Hence from

$$
\varphi_{l^{\prime\prime}} = D(l^{\prime\prime}, l^{\prime})D(l^{\prime}, l)\varphi_{l}
$$

$$
\varphi_{l^{\prime\prime}} = D(l^{\prime\prime}, l)\varphi_{l}
$$

it follows

$$
(3) \hspace{1cm} D(l'',l')D(l',l) = \omega D(l'',l)
$$

E. Wigner:

Spin=0,1/2,1,3/2 … Mass ≥ 0

"A particle is an irreducible representation of the inhomogeneous Lorentz group"

W. Riegler:

A particle detector is a classical device, that is collapsing wave functions of quantum mechanical states, which are linear super positions of irreducible representations of the inhomogeneous Lorentz group (Poincare group).

Particle Detector

Solvay Conference 1927, Einstein:

"A radioactive sample emits alpha particles in all directions; these are made visible by the method of the Wilson Cloud Chamber. Now, if one associates a spherical wave with each emission process, how can one understand that the track of each alpha particle appears as a (very nearly) straight line …. "

Born, Heisenberg:

"As soon as such an ionization is shown by the appearance of cloud droplets, in order to describe what happens afterwards one must reduce the wave packet in the immediate vicinity of the drops. One thus obtains a wave packet in the form of a ray, which corresponds to the corpuscular character of the phenomenon."

According to this reasoning the whole process is described in terms of the interaction of a quantum system (the alpha particle) with a classical measurement apparatus (the atoms of the vapour).

Nevill Mott (1929):

Assuming the atoms of the vapour also to be part of the quantum mechanical system, " … it is a little difficult to picture how it is that an outgoing spherical wave can produce a straight track; we think intuitively that it should ionise atoms at random throughout space."

Mott considers and example with and alpha particle at the origin, one hydrogen atom at position a_1 and another hydrogen atom at a_2 , and the two hydrogen atoms only having EM interaction with the alpha particle:

[Mo] Mott N.F., The wave mechanics of α -ray tracks. Proc. R. Soc. Lond. A, 126, 79-84, 1929. Reprinted in: Wheeler J.A., Zurek W., *Quantum Theory and Measurement*, Princeton University Press, 1983.

Main objects of the investigation are periodic solutions $F(R, r_1, r_2)e^{iEt/\hbar}$ of the Schrödinger equation for the three particle system, where $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{r_1}, \mathbf{r_2}$ denote the coordinates of the α -particle and of the two hydrogen atom electrons respectively. The function F (depending parametrically on E) is solution of the stationary Schrödinger equation

$$
-\frac{\hbar^2}{2M}\Delta_R F + \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta_{r_1} - \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{a}_1|}\right)F + \left(-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m}\Delta_{r_2} - \frac{e^2}{|\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{a}_2|}\right)F
$$

$$
-\left(\frac{2e^2}{|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{r}_1|} + \frac{2e^2}{|\mathbf{R} - \mathbf{r}_2|}\right)F = EF
$$
(4.1)

where Δ_x is the laplacian with respect to the coordinate x, M is the mass of the α -particle, m is the mass of the electron, $-e$ is the charge of the electron so that 2e is the charge of the α -particle.

Result: The two hydrogen atoms cannot both be excited (or ionized) unless a_1 , a_1 and the origin lie on the same straight line.

(see Also Werner Heisenberg, Chicago lectures 1930)

This example (i.e. moving the boundary between the quantum system and classical measurements device) is also used by S. Coleman in the lecture

Quantum Mechanics in Your Face [1994] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtyNMlXN-sw>

to show how the collapse of the wave function and other 'interpretations of QM' become unnecessary if one removes this boundary and simply considers the entire world (including us) as QM systems.

Renninger's negative-result experiment (1953)

A radioactive atom (emitting and alpha particle) is placed in the center of a detector that consists of two hemispheres and that are 100% efficient to alpha particles.

Considering the second (purple) hemisphere to be very large, the absence of the a signal on the green detector after a given time will indicate that the alpha particle will hit the purple detector.

The QM analysis will come out right, with a given probability for the red or the green part to fire and zero probability that both fire.

The semi-classical analysis is however confusing: The wave-function has collapsed although there was no measurement performed with the green detector ? A non measurement collapses a wave-function ?

W. Riegler:

"…a particle is an object that interacts with your detector such that you can follow it's track,

it interacts also in your readout electronics and will break it after some time,

and if you a silly enough to stand in an intense particle beam for some time you will be dead …"

Elektro-Weak Lagrangian

$$
L_{\text{GSEW}} = L_0 + L_H + \sum_{i} \left\{ \frac{g}{2} \overline{L_i} \gamma_{\mu} \overline{\tau} L_i \overline{A}^{\mu} + g' \left[\overline{R_i} \gamma_{\mu} R_i + \frac{1}{2} \overline{L_i} \gamma_{\mu} L_i \right] B^{\mu} \right\} + \frac{g}{2} \sum_{q} \overline{L_q} \gamma_{\mu} \overline{\tau} L_q \overline{A}^{\mu} +
$$

+ $g' \left\{ \frac{1}{6} \sum_{q} \left[\overline{L_q} \gamma_{\mu} L_q + 4 \overline{R_q} \gamma_{\mu} R_q \right] + \frac{1}{3} \sum_{q'} \overline{R_q} \gamma_{\mu} R_{q'} \right\} B^{\mu}$

$$
L_H = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_{\mu} H)^2 - m_H^2 H^2 - h \lambda H^3 - \frac{h}{4} H^4 +
$$

+ $\frac{g^2}{4} (W_{\mu}^+ W^{\mu} + \frac{1}{2 \cos^2 \theta_{\mu}} Z_{\mu} Z^{\mu}) (\lambda^2 + 2 \lambda H + H^2) +$
+ $\sum_{i,q,q'} \left(\frac{m_i}{\lambda} \overline{l} l + \frac{m_q}{\lambda} \overline{q} q + \frac{m_{q'}}{\lambda} \overline{q}' q' \right) H$

Higgs Particle

$$
p \sim \text{uud}
$$
, ${}^{\circ}$ \overrightarrow{C}
\n $\overrightarrow{n} \sim \text{udd}$
\n $\pi \sim \text{u\ddot{d}}, \overrightarrow{u}\sigma, \overrightarrow{\tau}(\overrightarrow{u}\sigma - \sigma\overrightarrow{d})$
\n $\pi \sim \text{u\ddot{d}}, \overrightarrow{u}\sigma, \overrightarrow{\tau}(\overrightarrow{u}\sigma - \sigma\overrightarrow{d})$
\n $\times \text{u\ddot{s}}, \overrightarrow{d}\sigma, \overrightarrow{d}\sigma, \sigma\overrightarrow{s}$
\n $\pi \sim \text{u\ddot{s}}, \overrightarrow{d}\sigma, \overrightarrow{d}\sigma$
\n $\pi \sim \text{u\ddot{s}}, \overrightarrow{d}\sigma, \overrightarrow{d}\sigma$
\n $\pi \sim \text{u\ddot{s}}$
\n $\pi \sim \text{u\ddot{s}}$

 $\frac{1}{\omega}\left(\frac{e}{\gamma_{e}}\right)\left(\frac{\mu_{e}}{\gamma_{m}}\right)\left(\frac{\gamma}{\gamma_{3}}\right)\frac{2}{3}\left(\frac{\omega}{\Delta}\right)\left(\frac{e}{\Sigma}\right)\left(\frac{1}{\Sigma}\right)$ $\begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ 2 \\ 2 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ \frac{5}{3} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$ Weak Interaction W[±], 2° Electronographic Interaction p-Photon Neutral Current: $\overline{e} + \overline{y}_{m} \rightarrow \overline{e} + \overline{y}_{m}$ Scattering: $\frac{e}{2r}$ $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$ Moon Decay: $\overbrace{\mu}^{\overbrace{\nu}}$, $\overbrace{\mu}^{\overbrace{\nu}}$, $\overbrace{\mu}^{\overbrace{\nu}}$, $\overbrace{\mu}^{\overbrace{\nu}}$, $\overbrace{\mu}^{\overbrace{\nu}}$, $\overbrace{\nu}$, $\overline{\nu}$ Anihilation: $\sum_{e^{-}}^{e^{+}} \frac{\eta_{e^{+}}}{\eta_{e^{-}}}$ $e^{+} \cdot e^{-} \rightarrow \mu^{+} \cdot \mu^{-}$ $M_{initial}$ e^{t} \sim $\frac{e^{t}}{c}$ $\frac{e^{t}}{c^{2}}$ $\frac{e^{t}}{c^{2}}$ $\frac{e^{t}}{c^{2}}$ e^{t} e^{-} \approx $\frac{e^{t}}{c^{2}}$ $\frac{e^{t}}{c^{2}}$ Neutron Decay: $\frac{1}{n}$ $\left\{\n\begin{array}{ccc}\n\frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} \\
\frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} \\
\frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a} & \frac{1}{a}\n\end{array}\n\right\}$ $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \overline{y}e$ Brenssholding: $\frac{1}{e^{-\frac{1}{x}}\sqrt{e^{-\frac{1}{x}}}}$ $e^{+\frac{1}{e^{+\frac{1}{x}}}}$ $e^{+\frac{1}{e^{+\frac{1}{x}}}}$ H Prodution: $\frac{e^{2}}{2}$ Pair Production: musiciain p+ Abon = e+ e+ Atom W. Riegler/CERN 10

 $\frac{7}{8}$ $\binom{e}{x_e}$ $\binom{\alpha}{x_w}$ $\binom{\alpha}{x_s}$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\binom{\alpha}{\underline{a}}$ $\binom{\underline{c}}{\underline{b}}$ $\binom{\underline{t}}{\underline{b}}$ Strong Interaction of Gluons $\frac{1}{4}$ Proton Self Interoction \leftarrow q orrano q -> " Confinement" $rac{9}{9}$ $rac{4}{9}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ Jet 1 γ $Jef2$

 e^+ + $e^ \rightarrow$ jets in Detector Hodrois $e⁺$ e^{-}

e.g. Two jets of Hostons ore 'spraying'

Over the Lost century this Standard nodel of Fundanental Physics was discovered by sludying Rodioactivity Cosmic Rays Porticle Collisions (Accelerators)

A lorge variety of Detectors and experimental techniques have been developed during this time.

Molerial Culture of Porticle Physics"

 $E = ma^2$ $E = m b^2$ $m(eckon) = 9.1 \cdot 10^{-31} kg$ $m_e c^2$ - 8.19.10⁻¹⁴ J $= 0.511$ MeV

 $E = mc^2$ \leq $E_{nery} \geq$ Mess

= 510 999 Electron Volt (eV)

1 Electron Volt = e_0 . 1V = 1.603.10⁻¹⁹ J

 $E = e_0 \cdot \mathcal{1}V$

1 Electron Volt - Exergy on Electron goins as it travarses e Polectiel Difference of 1V

Build your own Accelerator

Build your own Accelerator

Scales

Visible Light: λ =500mm, $h\nu$ =2.5 eV Excited Stoles in Alors: 1-100 keV "X-Rays" Nuclear Physics: 1-50 MeV E.g. $\frac{90}{39}$ \rightarrow $\beta^ \rightarrow$ e with E_a = 2.283 MeV $E_{r} = m_{e}c^{2}(\gamma - 1)$ $m_{e}c^{2} - 0.511$ MeV $\gamma = \frac{E_k}{\ln c^2} + 1 \approx 5.5$ $\beta \cdot \frac{x}{c} \cdot 1 - (\frac{m_ec^2}{E + hc})^2 \sim 0.98 \rightarrow Highby Relohivistic$ E_{kin} =mc² \rightarrow mc²(γ -1)=mc² $\rightarrow \gamma$ =2 \rightarrow β =0.87 E_{g} : $\frac{241}{35}A_{m} \rightarrow d$ with E_{k} = 5.486 MeV, m.c. = 3.756V $m \sim 1.0015$ $3 \sim 0.054 \rightarrow 16.2 \cdot 10^{6}$ m/s Particle Physics: 1-1000 GeV (LHC 14TeV) Higher Measures Energy: 10²⁰ eV (Casnic Rays)

Lorentz Boost

Loverte Boost:

$$
\mu^{-} \to e^{-} + \bar{\nu}_{e} + \gamma_{\mu} \qquad y - 2.2 \cdot 10^{-6} s
$$

E.g. Produced by Cosmic Rays (p, He, Li...) colliding with oir in the upper Almosphere ~ 10km $S = 0.3 - C.3 - 660$ m But we see Muors here or Earth $E_n \sim 2 \text{GeV}$, $m_n c^2$ -105 MeV -> $\gamma \sim 19$ Relativity: \overline{y} = $y \cdot \gamma$ $S = C \cdot \overline{Y} = 12.5 \text{ km}$ = Earth Pions: π^{+} , π^{-} $\gamma \sim 2.6 \cdot 10^{-8}$ s, $m_{\pi}c^{2}$ - 135 MeV $2 GeV \rightarrow s = 115m$ Pions whose discovered in Emulsions exposes to Cosmic Rays on high Mour tains.

LHCb B decay

16539692
933
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pp
collision point

Basics:

Two Body Decay

Basics: Three Body Decay

1920in: S Rodiocclivity $Nvd_1 \rightarrow Nvel_2 + e'$ Visible But: e shows a continuous Exergy Spectrum -> W. Porti proposed on invisible Particle -> >

 $n \rightarrow p + e^- + \overline{\gamma}_e$

For > 2 Body decay, the Exergy Spectrum of the decay porticles depends on the Noture of the Interaction. Kinemotics close Avesn't define the Exergies.

Two Body and Three Body Decay

Stopping Pions and measuring
the decay electron Spectrum:

"Shorp" Exergy (2 Body Decay)

Invariant Mass

Invariant Mass

<u>Borics</u>

E.g: Discovery of V. Porticles

 $\Lambda^{\circ} \rightarrow p^{+} + \pi^{-}$

"If 1 is a Proton and 2 is a Pion the Mass of the V° particle is "

I Seelifiction is the Experised by looking of the sponific Ionisotion.... $(see *l*_o*l*_v)$

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 $P(t) = \frac{1}{3}e^{-\frac{t}{3}}$ y . "Life line" The Probotility that it Deceys et time
t after storting to measure it (instepedent of what
hoppered before) is $P(t) - \frac{1}{2}e^{-\frac{t}{2}}$

Probability p that it decays within the time interval dt after starting to measure = $p=P(0)$ dt = c_1 dt.

Lifetime of a Particle → Exponential distribution

What is the probability P(t)dt that the muon will decay between time t and t+dt after starting to measure it – independently of how long it lived before ?

Probability that is does NOT decay in n time intervals dt but the $(n+1)$ st time interval $= (1-p)^n p \approx exp(-np) p$ with $p = c_1 dt$.

n time intervals of dt means a time of $t = n dt$ \rightarrow

Probability that the particle decays between time t and $t+dt = Exp($ c_1 t) c_1 dt = P(t) dt !

 $\Rightarrow \frac{P(1) = c_1 e^{-c_1 t}}{3!} \Rightarrow Expacld relative

$$
3 = \int_{0}^{\infty} t c_1 e^{-c_1 t} = \frac{1}{c_1} \qquad Average \qquad Lj \qquad Lj \qquad
$$$ "A Portile has a Lifetime s" means:

Known Particles

h ttp://pdg.lbl.gov

\sim 180 Selectes Particles

 $\pi, W^{\frac{t}{2}}$, $\frac{2}{9}$, e_1 , $\mu, \frac{3}{9}$, e_1 , μ, γ_y , $\pi^{\frac{t}{2}}, \pi^{\circ}, \eta$, $\frac{1}{4}e^{(660)}, \frac{9}{3}$ $\omega(783), \eta'(158), \phi(980), Q_0(980), \phi(1020), h_1(1170), b_1(1235),$ a_1 (1260), f_1 (1270), f_1 (1285), η (1295), π (1300), a_2 (1320), \int_0 (1370), \int_1 (1420), w (1420), n (1440), a_o (1450), g (1450), \mathcal{A}_{0} (1500), \mathcal{A}_{2} (1525), ω (1650), ω_{3} (1670), π_{2} (1670), ϕ (1680), Q_3 (1690), $Q(1700)$, $f_0(1710)$, π (1800), ϕ_3 (1850), f_3 (2010), α_{4} (2040), \int_{4} (2050), \int_{2} (2300), \int_{2} (2340), K^{2} , K^{0} , K^{0} , K^{0} , K^{*} (892), K_1 (1270), K_1 (1400), $K^*(1410)$, $K_0^*(1430)$, $K_2^*(1430)$, $K^*(1680)$, $K_2(1770)$, $K_3^*(1780)$, $K_2(1820)$, $K_4^*(2045)$, D^2 , D^0 , $D^*(2007)$ \mathbb{D}^{*} $(2010)^{2}$, \mathbb{D}_{q} $(2420)^{6}$, \mathbb{D}_{q}^{*} $(2460)^{6}$, \mathbb{D}_{q}^{*} $(2460)^{7}$, \mathbb{D}_{q}^{*} , \mathbb{D}_{s}^{*} , D_{s_1} (2536)^t, D_{s_2} (2573)^t, B^t , B^o , B^s , B_s^o , B_c^t , η_c (15), J/ψ (15), $\chi_{co}(4P), \chi_{co}(4P), \chi_{co}(4P), \psi(25), \psi(3770), \psi(4040), \psi(4460),$ ψ (4415), γ (15), χ_{bo} (1P), χ_{ba} (1P), χ_{ba} (1P), γ (25), χ_{ba} (2P), $\chi_{32}(2P)$, Υ (35), Υ (45), Υ (10860), Υ (11020), p , p , N (1440), $N(1520)$, $N(1535)$, $N(1650)$, $N(1675)$, $N(1680)$, $N(1700)$, $N(1710)$, $N(1720)$, $N(2730)$, $N(2220)$, $N(2250)$, $N(2600)$, \triangle (1232), \triangle (1600), $\Delta(1620), \Delta(1700), \Delta(1905), \Delta(1910), \Delta(1920), \Delta(1930), \Delta(1950),$ $\triangle(2420)$, \triangle , $\triangle(1405)$, $\triangle(1520)$, $\triangle(1600)$, $\triangle(1670)$, $\triangle(1690)$, Λ (1800), Λ (1810), Λ (1820), Λ (1830), Λ (1890), Λ (2100), Λ (2110), Λ (2350), Σ ⁺, Σ ^o, Σ , Σ (1385), Σ (1660), Σ (1670), \sum (1750), \sum (1775), \sum (1915), \sum (1940), \sum (2030), \sum (2250), \sum °, \sum , Ξ (1530), Ξ (1690), Ξ (1820), Ξ (1950), Ξ (2030), Ω , Ω (2250), $\Lambda_{c}^{\dagger}, \Lambda_{c}^{\dagger}, \Sigma_{c}$ (2455), Σ_{c} (2520), $\Xi_{c}^{\dagger}, \Xi_{c}^{\circ}, \Xi_{c}^{\prime\prime}, \Xi_{c}^{\circ}$, $\Xi(2645)$ $\Sigma_c(2780), \Sigma_c(2875), \Omega_c^o, \Lambda_b^o, \Sigma_b^o, \Sigma_b^o, t\bar{t}$

There are Many move

All known particles that can leave a track in the detector

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Task of a Detector

From the 'hundreds' of Particles Liske by the PDG there are only ~27 with a life time cx > ~ 1 um i.e. they can be seen as 'tracks' in a Detector.

~ 13 of the 27 have $cx < 500 \mu m$ i.e. only-mm range at Gev Eurgies. -> "short" luochs measures with Emulsions or Verlex Detectors.

From the ~ 14 remaining porticles $e^{\pm}, \mu^{\pm}, \gamma, \pi^{\pm}, k^{\pm}, k^{\circ}, p^{\pm}, n$

are by far the most frequent ones

A porticle Delector nur be able to identify and measure Exergy and Momental of these 8 porticles.

Interactions of the 8 particles

 $e^{\frac{t}{2}}$ m_e = 0.511 MeV
 μ^{\pm} m_m = 105.7 MeV ~ 200 me γ m_{γ} = 0, Q = 0 π^r m_{π} = 139.6 MeV ~ 270 me FM, Strong K^{\pm} m_k = 493.7 MeV ~ 1000 me ~ 3.5 m_m p^{\pm} mp = 938.3 MeV ~ 2000 me K^o m_{xo} = 497.7 NeV Q=0

n m_n = 939.6 MeV Q=0

The Difference in The Mass, Charge, Interection is the key to the Identification

Task of a Particle Detector

- · Electrons lonite and show Bremsstrating ove to the small mess
- · Photons dark journe but show Peir Production in high Z Molevial. From then on equal to e^{\pm}
- · Chorged Hostons ionite and show Hadron Shower in derse holerial.
- · Neutral Hostors don't ionize and show Hadron Shower in Clease Moterial
- Myons jorise and don't shower

CMS Detector

Detector characteristics

Width: 22m

ALEPH detector (LEP 1988 - 2000)

Verlex Delector Inner Tracking Chanter
Time Projection Chanter
Electromagnetic Caloninum
Hadron Calorineter Muon Detectors

Vertex Detector

Inner Track Chamber

Time Projection Chamber

Electromagnetic
Calorimeter

Superconducting
Magnet Coil

Hadron
Calorimeter

Muon Detection Chambers

Luminosity
Monitors

ALEPH detector (LEP 1988 - 2000)

Fig. 1 - The ALEPH Detector

 r, e^{\pm} , π^{1}, k^{\pm}
K^o, p, n, μ^{\pm}

ALEPH detector (LEP 1988 - 2000)

$Z \rightarrow e^+e^-$

Two high momentum charged particles depositing energy in the Electro Magnetic Calorimeter

$Z \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$

Two high momentum charged particles traversing all calorimeters and leaving a signal in the muon chambers**.**

Run=15995 Evt=835

$Z \rightarrow q\overline{q}$

Two jets of particles

$Z \rightarrow q \overline{q} g$

Three jets of particles

Interaction of Particles with Matter

Any device that is to detect a particle must interact with it in some way \rightarrow almost ...

In many experiments neutrinos are measured by missing transverse momentum.

E.g. e^+e^- collider. $P_{tot}=0$,

If the Σ p_i of all collision products is $\neq 0 \rightarrow$ neutrino escaped.

"Did you see it?" "No nothing." "Then it was a neutrino!"

$W^+W^- \rightarrow e + \overline{A} + k_0^2 + k_2^2$ **Single Electron, single Muon, Missing Momentum**

2010 ATLAS W, Z candidates !

Two secondary vertices with characteristic decay particles giving invariant masses of known particles.

Bubble chamber like – a single event tells what is happening. Negligible background.

Discovery of 'new' Particles

Discovery of Ω ⁻ at the Brookhaven National Laboratory 80 inch hydrogen bubble chamber in 1964. Discovery claimed by a single event – 'background free'

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Candidate Higgs Events

Candidate Higgs \rightarrow 4e Candidate Higgs \rightarrow 4µ

Candidate Higgs \rightarrow 2µ2e Candidate Higgs \rightarrow 2 photons

Signal and Background

Particles are typically seen as an excess of events above an irreducible (i.e. indistinguishable) background.

Only a few of the numerous known particles have lifetimes that are long enough to leave tracks in a detector.

Some short lived particles (b,c –particles) reach lifetimes in the laboratory system that are sufficient to leave short tracks before decaying \rightarrow identification by measurement of short tracks.

Most of the particles are measured though the decay products and their kinematic relations (invariant mass). Most particles are only seen as an excess over an irreducible background.

In addition to this, detectors are built to measure the 8 particles.

$$
e^{\pm}, \mu^{\pm}, \gamma, \pi^{\pm}, k^{\pm}, k^{\circ}, p^{\pm}, n
$$

Their difference in mass, charge and interaction is the key to their identification.

Conclusion

A particle detector is an (almost) irreducible representation of the properties of these 8 particles

 $e^{\pm}, \mu^{\pm}, \gamma, \pi^{\pm}, k^{\pm}, k^{\circ}, p^{\pm}, n$

Conclusion