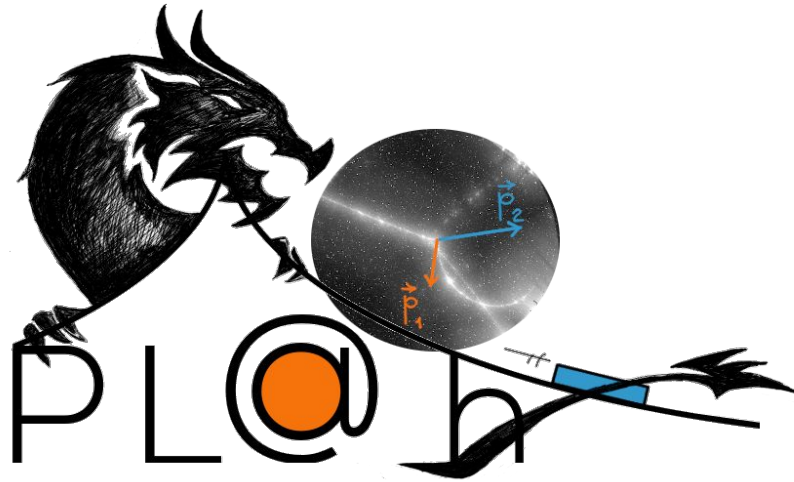


# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.



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Lorenzo Galante<sup>1,2</sup>, Ivan Gnesi<sup>2,3,4</sup>

[lorenzo.galante@polito.it](mailto:lorenzo.galante@polito.it)

1. Politecnico di Torino, Torino, It.
2. Centro Ricerche Enrico Fermi, Rome, It.
3. INFN, Cosenza, It.
4. CERN, Geneva, CH

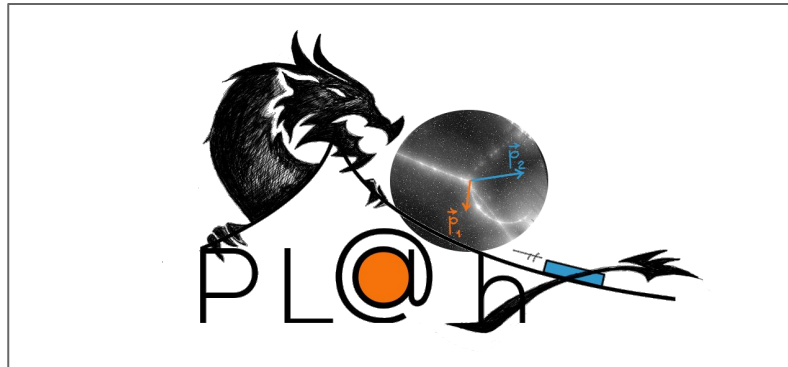


# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.

[lorenzo.galante@polito.it](mailto:lorenzo.galante@polito.it)  
Politecnico di Torino

18-hours course

“From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”





Particle Physics Role-Playing Games  
in introductory Physics Courses.

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Politecnico di Torino

---

“From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”

In-depth course of the Physics I course



## “From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”

( May 2021 )

Distance learning

Role-Playing Game (RPG)



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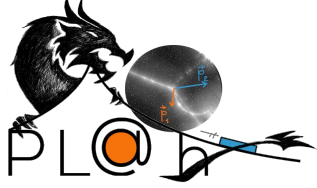
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Experiment with innovative educational methods

Active Learning

Identification with what is being studied

Motivation in the study of introductory Physics



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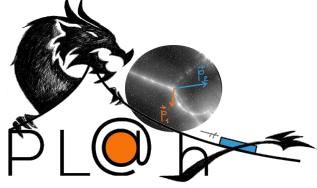
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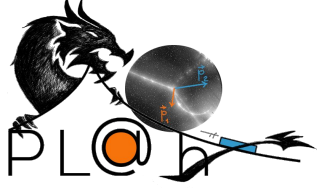
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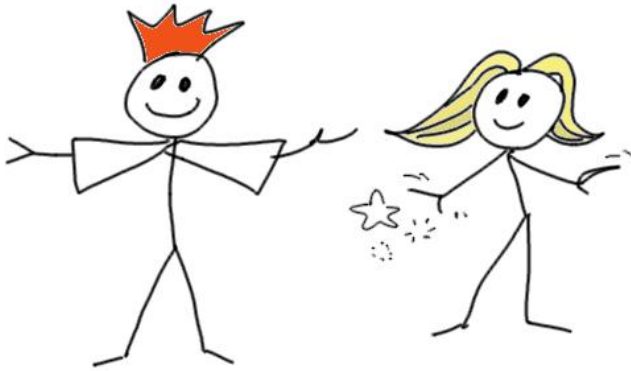
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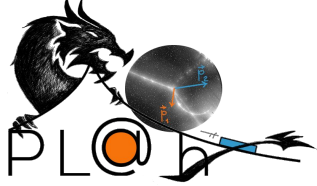
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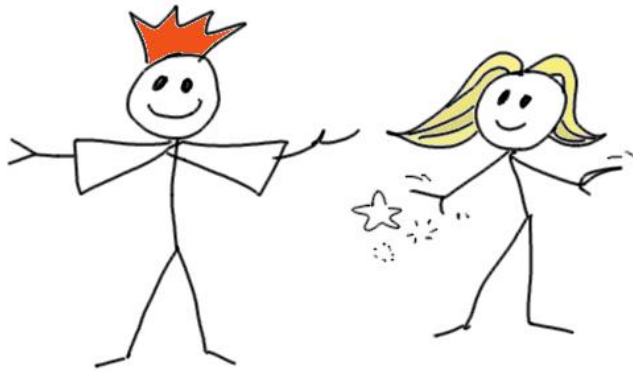
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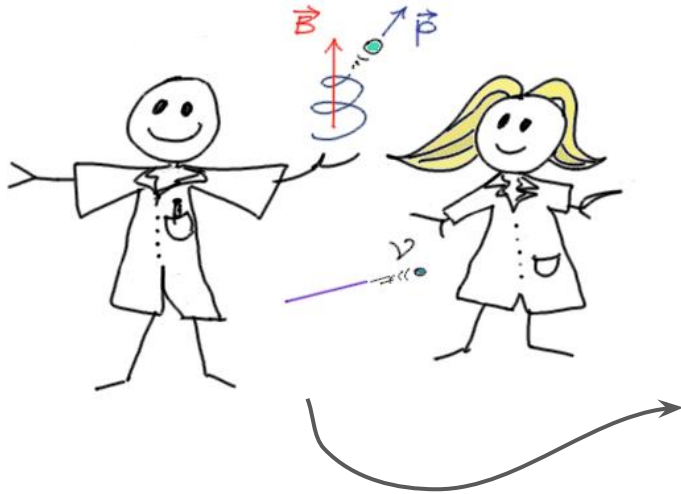
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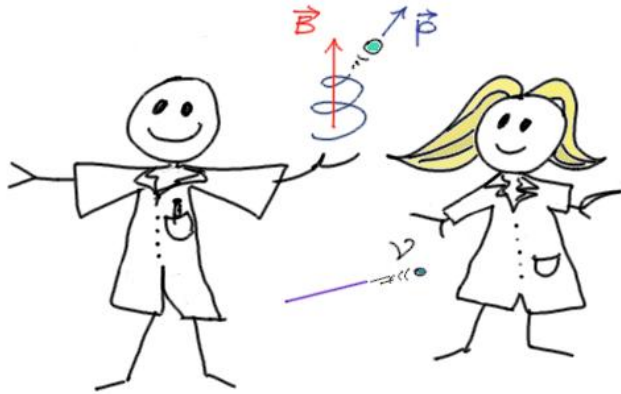
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## Why Role-Playing Games?



STORY

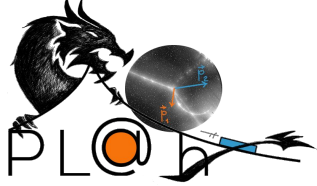
OVERCOME CHALLENGES

GAIN COMPETENCES

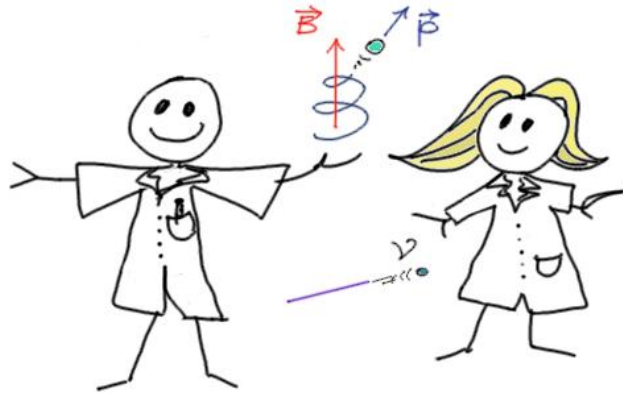
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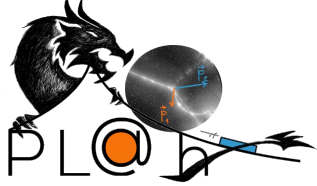
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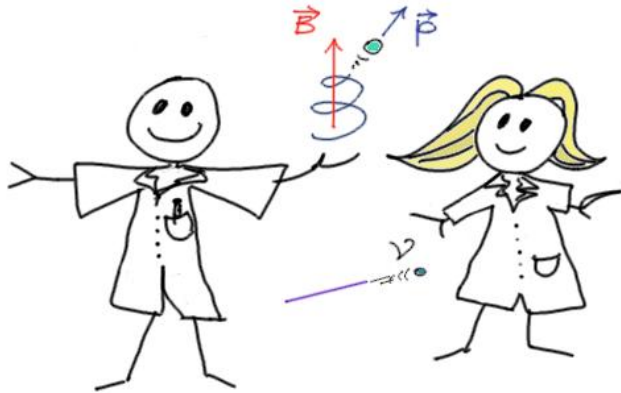
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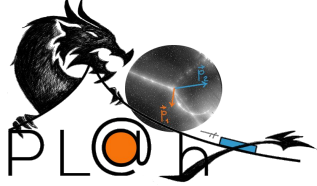
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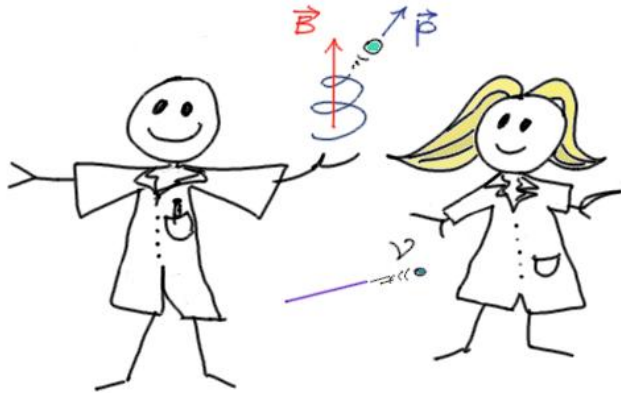
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## Why Role-Playing Games?



Break typical educational pattern

Study to solve exercises

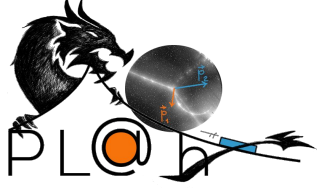
Pass the exam

Active Learning

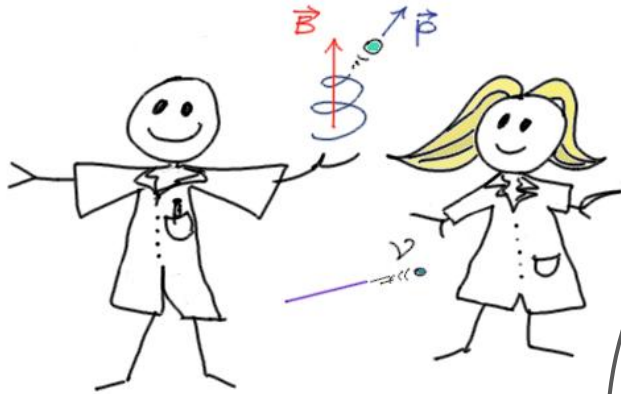
Identification with what is being studied

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## Why Role-Playing Games?



Explore the beauty of what you are studying

Active Learning

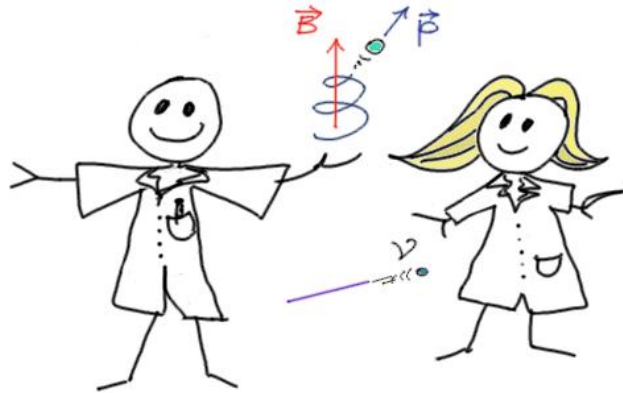
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# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.

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Politecnico di Torino



## “From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”

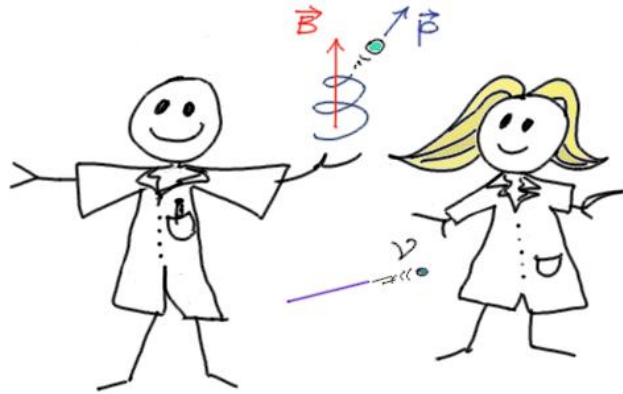
(18 hours)

2 Role-Playing Games



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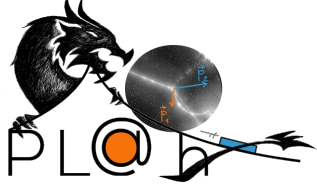


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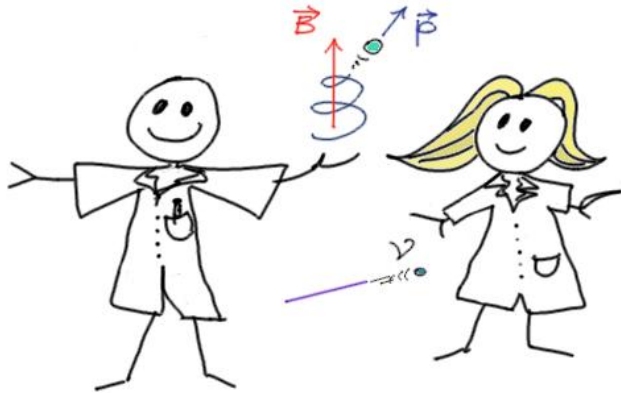
2 Role-Playing Games

1. A case from 20th century physics



## “From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”

(18 hours)

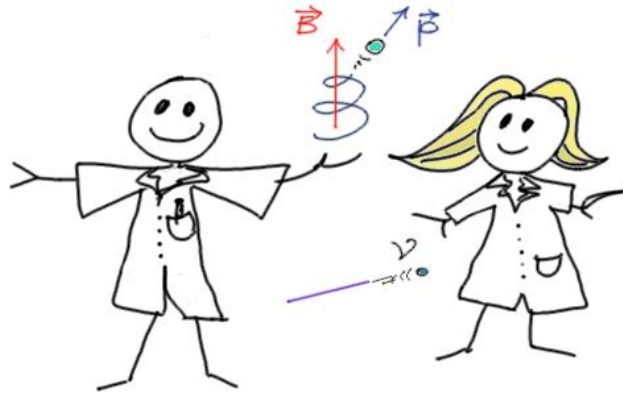
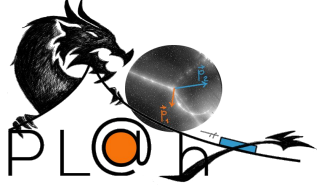


2 Role-Playing Games

1. A case from 20th century physics

Momentum and Energy  
Conservation Laws

The neutrino hypothesis  
(neutron beta decay in the 30s).



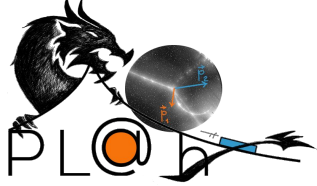
## “From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”

(18 hours)

2 Role-Playing Games

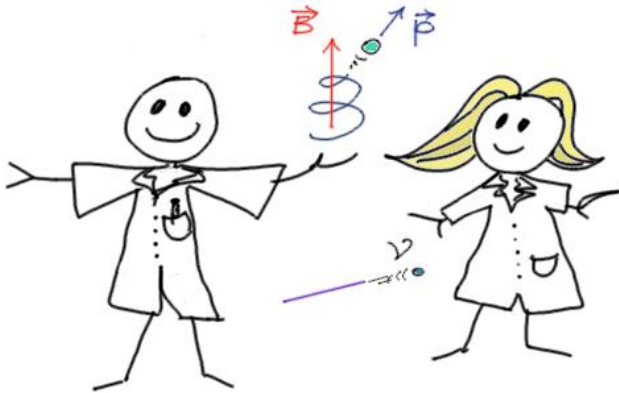


2. Nuclear Collisions



## “From Conservation Laws to Scientific Discovery”

(18 hours)



Momentum and Energy  
Conservation Laws

Discover the undetected particle  
emitted in a ( $\pi$  - He) collision

2 Role-Playing Games

2.

Nuclear Collisions

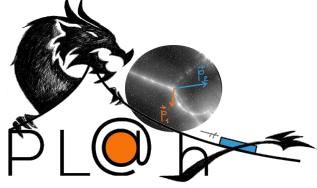


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Politecnico di Torino

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Distance Learning Supporting Technology



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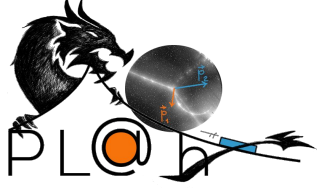
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## Distance Learning Supporting Technology

1. **Zoom** Meetings



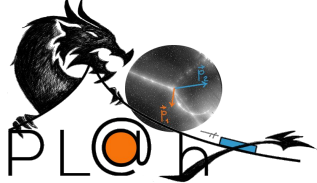


## Distance Learning Supporting Technology

1. **Zoom** Meetings

2. Interactive supporting site





# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.

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Politecnico di Torino

Interactive  
supporting site



Home > [Dalle leggi di Conservazione...](#)

## Categoria: Dalle leggi di Conservazione...

“Dalle leggi di Conservazione alla Scoperta scientifica” è un corso sull'importanza delle leggi di Conservazione nelle scoperte scientifiche. Si parte dalle conoscenze acquisite nel corso di Fisica I e, attraverso attività di Problem Solving, esperimenti e giochi di ruolo, si porta lo studente a tu per tu con situazioni sperimentali provenienti dalla Fisica delle Particelle. A loro il compito di interpretare la situazione sperimentale, provare a risolverla e il brivido di giungere a “piccole” scoperte scientifiche. Nella parte finale un collegamento multidisciplinare con l'Intelligenza Artificiale. Grazie a un codice scritto in Python, condiviso sulla piattaforma Google Colab, gli studenti potranno addestrare una rete neurale alla classificazione di eventi di urto tra particelle analoghi a quelli su cui hanno lavorato durante il corso.

Il Metodo Didattico.

Il corso è progettato per far sì che lo studente sia parte attiva del processo di apprendimento.

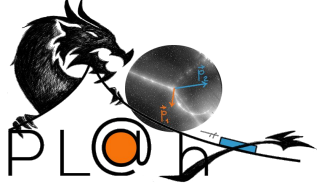
Esercizi Svolti ( Fisica I )



Segui

Scrivi qui





# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.

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Interactive  
supporting site

One page for each  
session of the  
Game

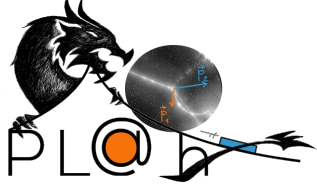
7 pages in total

The screenshot displays a grid of four article cards, each with a header image of particle tracks and the text "Dalle leggi di Conservazione alla Scoperta Scientifica." Below each card is a blue button with the text "Dalle leggi di Conservazione...".

- Top-left card: **Un caso dalla Fisica del '900 (2)**, by Lorenzo Galante, 25 Marzo 2021.
- Top-right card: **Collisioni nucleari (1)**, by Lorenzo Galante, 25 Marzo 2021.
- Bottom-left card: **Collisioni nucleari (2)**, by Lorenzo Galante, 25 Marzo 2021.
- Bottom-right card: **Collisioni nucleari (3)**, by Lorenzo Galante, 25 Marzo 2021.

The right sidebar contains the following sections:

- Esercizi Svolti ( Fisica I )**: A red button with a play icon and the text "Segui".
- Search**: A search bar with the placeholder text "Scrivi qui" and a magnifying glass icon.
- Articoli recenti**: A list of recent articles:
  - La Strumentazione di CosmoPoliTO
  - CERN per ingegneri
  - Le trasformazioni di Lorentz
  - Reti Neurali
  - Cilindro su Piano Inclinato



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Interactive  
supporting site

The site is full of  
interactive  
sections

## Applicazione interattiva per la misura

Questa è l'**applicazione** interattiva introdotta nei video tutorial, da adesso in poi sarà il tuo ambiente di lavoro.

RECOILING HELIUM - Green Circle Radius (gGU) = 0.759      RECOILING HELIUM Momentum 0

PION IN - Blue Circle Radius (gGU) = 3.002                      PION IN Momentum 0

PION OUT - Orange Circle Radius (gGU) = 1.687              PION OUT Momentum 0

SCATTERED  $\pi^-$        SHOW He Circle      B = 0.690 T

SHOW PION IN Circle

SHOW PION OUT Circle

SHOW TOTAL INITIAL MOMENTUM

SHOW SCATTERED PART. MOMENTA

SHOW TOTAL FINAL MOMENTUM

SHOW MISSING MOMENTUM

RECOILING  ${}^4\text{He}$       INCOMING  $\pi^-$

CD (gGU) = 8.431      CD = 0.60 m

Data from: PAINUC Experiment  
[lorenzo.galante@polito.it](mailto:lorenzo.galante@polito.it)

## Esercizi Svolti ( Fisica I )



Scrivi qui



## Articoli recenti

La Strumentazione di CosmoPoliTO

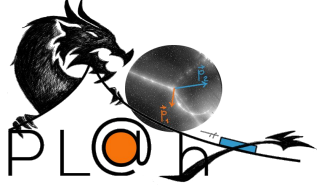
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Active Learning

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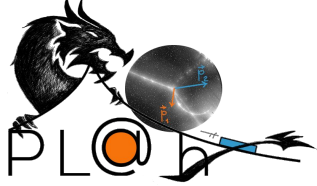
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Interactive  
supporting site

The site is full of  
interactive  
sections

Scorgi qualche problema nei dati sperimentali raccolti a riguardo del decadimento proposto per la particella d? \*

- Si
- No
- Non saprei

Sapresti descrivere brevemente il perché della risposta che hai dato alla domanda precedente? \*

Your answer

Proponi una possibile spiegazione all'eventuale problema che hai riscontrato. (Qui scrivi la spiegazione che trovi più convincente e motivata. Nella Presentazione che preparerai cita anche le ipotesi scartate e il perché le hai scartate) \*

Your answer

Submit

Clear form

## Esercizi Svolti ( Fisica I )



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Scrivi qui



## Articoli recenti

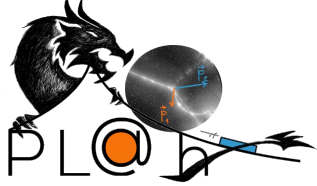
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Interactive  
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The site is full of  
interactive  
sections

FORMS TO COLLECT &  
EVALUATE THEIR ACTIONS

Scorgi qualche problema nei dati sperimentali raccolti a riguardo del decadimento proposto per la particella d? \*

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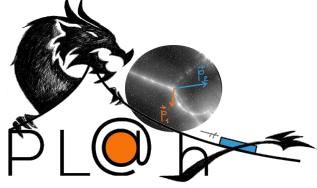
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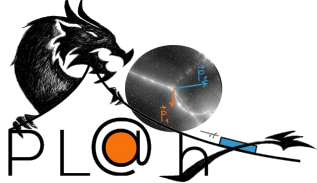


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Assessment of  
Game Sessions





# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.


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Politecnico di Torino

## Assessment of Game Sessions

Players gain  
experiences

Converted in  
Experience  
Points

Table of  
Experience Points

		CORSO 1 - Galileo Ferraris - Lunedì : Vene										P.ti Esp	LIVELLO*
Nome del Team		n°	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII			
		(Form)	(Elaborati)	sura Impul	(Pr.Solv1)	Pr. Solv.	Article Hunt	ANN					
TEAM 1	Perseverance	4	90	85	80	90	95	98	95		633	5	
TEAM 2	Fermioni	4	95	105	100	100	100	95	90		685	5	
TEAM 3	I figli di Lussardi	4	90	85	85	100	110	98	85		653	5	
TEAM 4	Tony Manero	4	90	95	95	100	100	100	100		680	5	
TEAM 5	Saturn V	4	90	80	85	90	105	100	95		645	5	
TEAM 6	Non è molto ma è un lavoro onesto	4	100	80	80	100	105	95	85		645	5	
TEAM 7	SRnl(ntraprendenti)	4	100	80	80	100	90	100	100		650	5	
TEAM 8	Little Einsteins	4	100	80	80	100	110	100	95		665	5	
TEAM 9	Vogliamo andare in presenza	4	90	85	85	100	105	100	97		662	5	
TEAM 10	Team Neon(ati)	4	100	80	85	100	105	98	95		663	5	
TEAM 11	Regola di Hund-ici	5	85	80	80	100	95	100	98		638	5	
TEAM 12	C'era una Volt	5	95	80	85	85	95	98	85		623	5	
TEAM 13	Apollo 13	5	100	85	95	90	100	95	100		665	5	
TEAM 14	Carbonio 14	5	60	85	85	100	100	100	98		628	5	
TEAM 15	Maffe	5	85	80	85	90	95	100	93		628	5	
TEAM 16	I bosoni pigri	5	100	80	85	95	95	95	85		635	5	
TEAM 17	The Big Bang Team	5	100	80	80	100	95	93	95		643	5	
TEAM 18	18, accetta?	5	85	80	80	100	95	100	90		630	5	
TEAM 19	Fisici bestiali	5	100	100	95	100	95	95	95		680	5	
TEAM 20	I 20 cosmici	4	100	100	100	100	100	95	100		695	5	

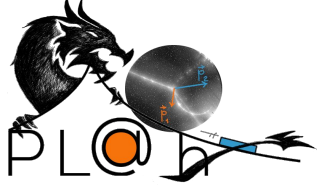


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Politecnico di Torino

## How a Game session works

1. Students are divided in Teams
2. The **instructor** asks the students to play the role
3. The **instructor** describes the settings and tells a story



## How a Game session works

4. **Teams** are asked to face a challenge concerning a specific problem of the setting “in which they act”
5. The **Teams** are given a certain amount of time to play the game. They work inside a **Zoom Breakout room**
6. The **Teams** have to report their actions and conclusions in a **form** or a **pdf** which is collected by the **instructor**



## How a Game session works

7. Plenary discussion ( **Instructor** + **Teams** ) about the actions and conclusions each team have performed
8. The **Instructor** assesses the reports of all the Teams and refreshes the table of the Experience Points of all the participants



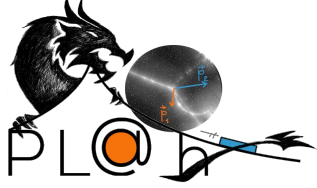
Particle Physics Role-Playing Games  
in introductory Physics Courses.

[lorenzo.galante@polito.it](mailto:lorenzo.galante@polito.it)  
Politecnico di Torino

## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### The Physics of the Game



## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

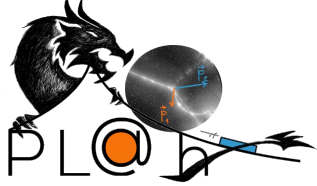
### The Physics of the Game

#### PART 1

Preparatory meeting for  
the Role-Playing game

#### PART 2

The Game



## A case from 20th century physics

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### The Physics of the Game

#### PART 1

Preparatory meeting for  
the Role-Playing game

Simple situations in which Conservation Laws hold.

Focus on:

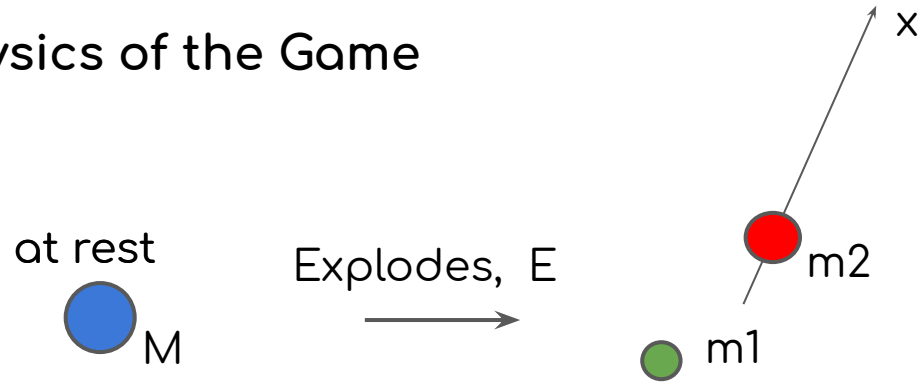
1. the number equations from Conservation Laws
2. The number of unknowns



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Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

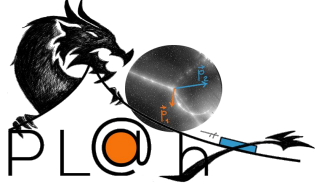
The Physics of the Game

PART 1  
Preparatory meeting for  
the Role-Playing game



- Write the equations
- The momenta are uniquely determined
- Explain why?





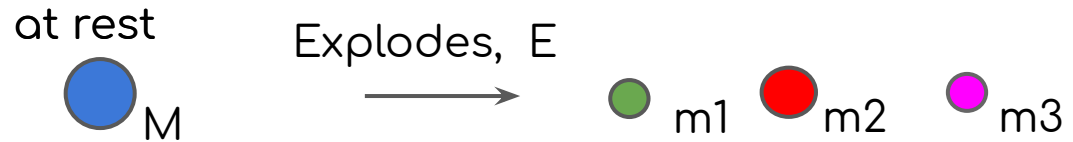
## A case from 20th century physics

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### The Physics of the Game

#### PART 1

Preparatory meeting for  
the Role-Playing game



- Write the equations
- Can you tell something about how momenta are disposed in space?
- Explain why?



## A case from 20th century physics

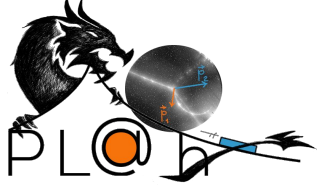
Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### The Physics of the Game

#### PART 1

Preparatory meeting for  
the Role-Playing game

TEAMWORK / PROBLEM SOLVING



A case from 20th century physics  
Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

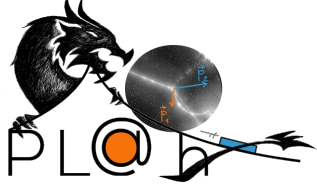
The Physics of the Game

PART 2

The Game



$$d \rightarrow e^{-} + f^{+}$$

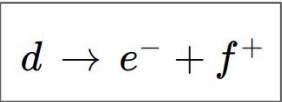
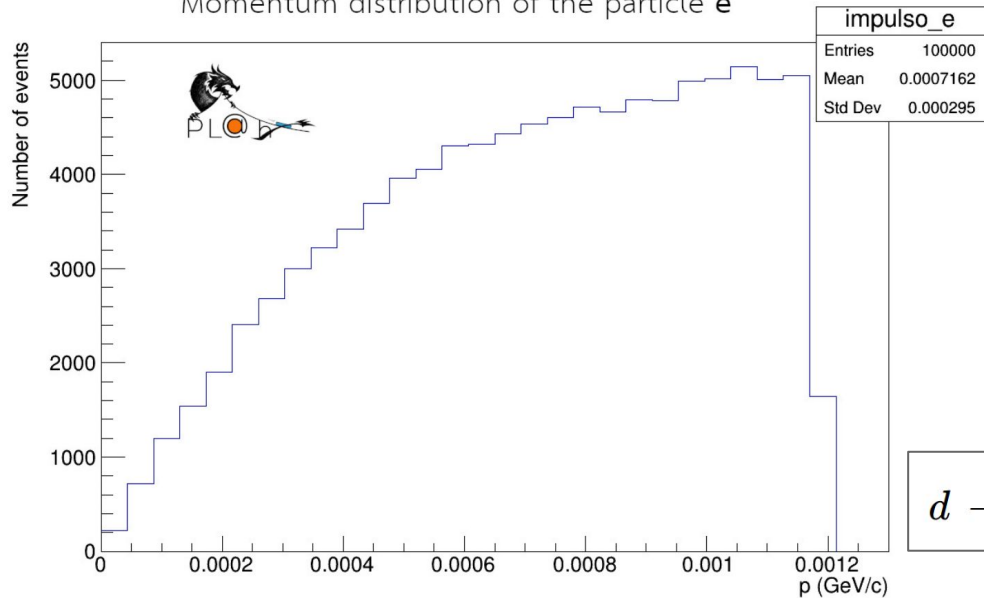


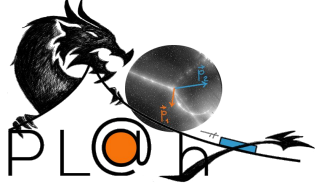
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### The Physics of the Game

PART 2  
The Game

Momentum distribution of the particle e



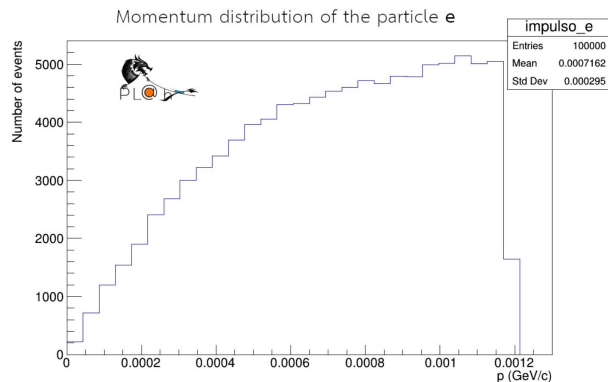


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Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

## The Physics of the Game

### PART 2

### The Game

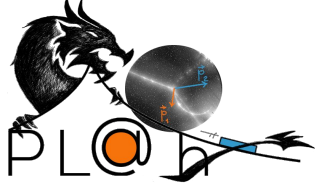


$$d \rightarrow e^- + f^+$$

Interpret the  
experimental data.

Discover if there is any  
problem in the  
experimental data

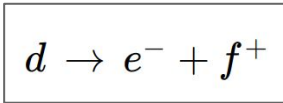
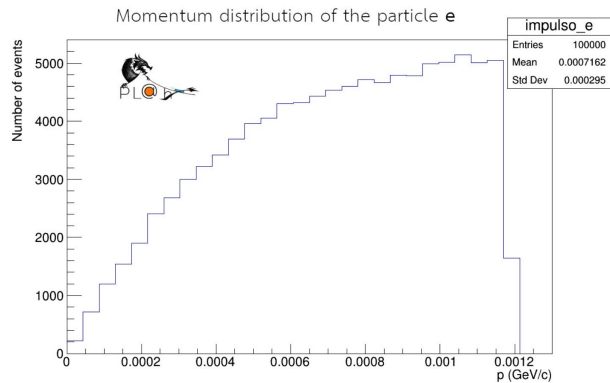
If any, discuss possible  
solutions



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The Physics of the Game

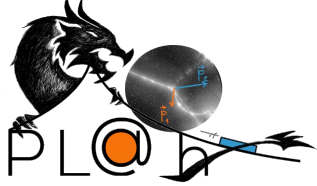
PART 2  
The Game



Special Powers:

Physics I course

Preparatory meeting  
(Part 1)



## A case from 20th century physics

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### The Physics of the Game

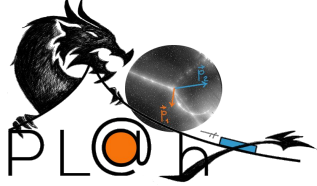
#### PART 2

#### The Game

Preparatory meeting.

Explosion in two fragments

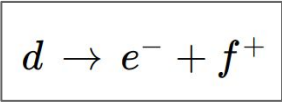
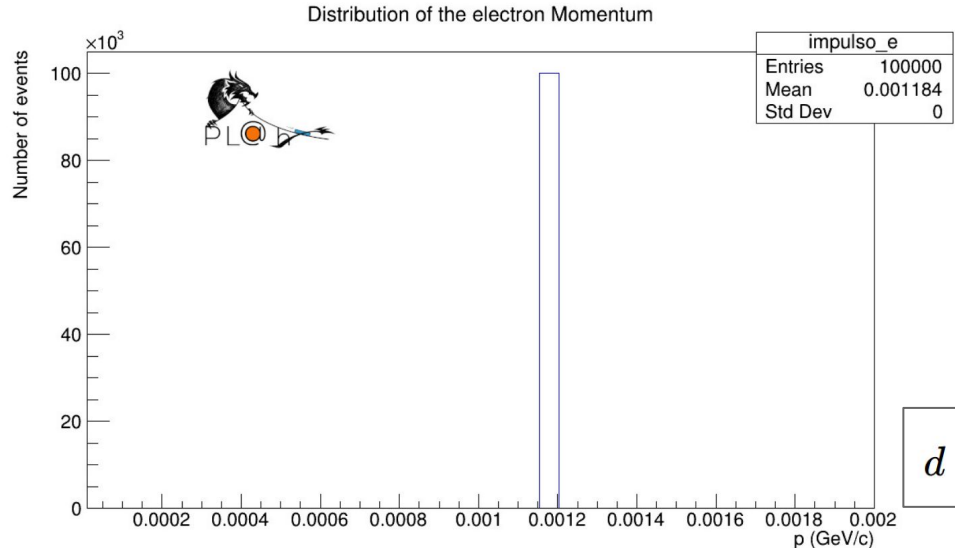
The momenta of the two  
parts are uniquely  
determined



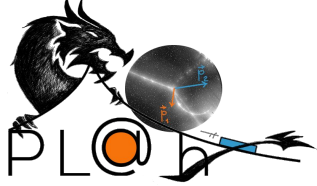
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The Physics of the Game

PART 2  
The Game



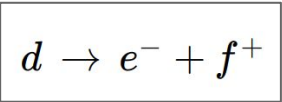
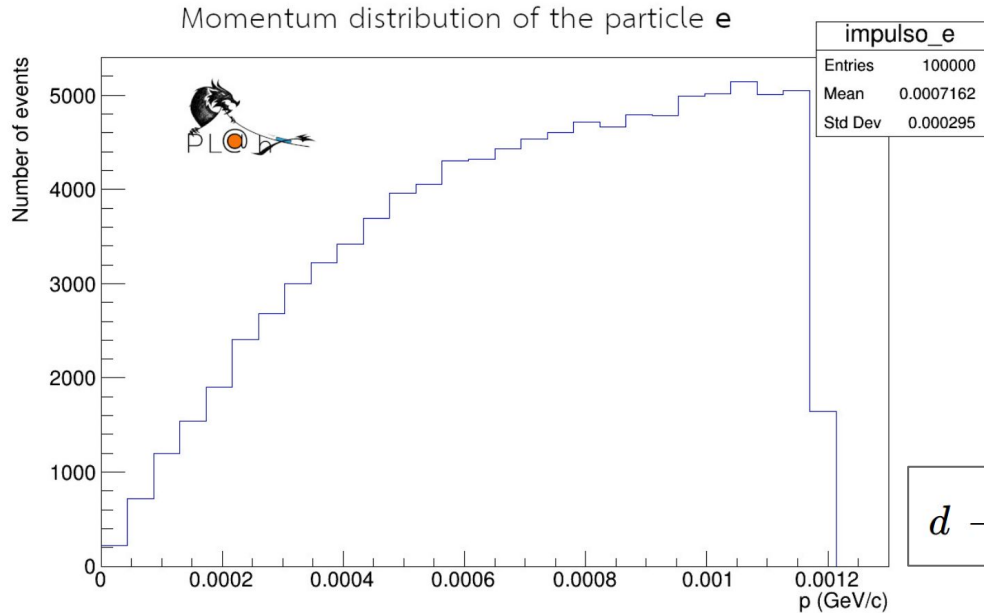




A case from 20th century physics  
Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### The Physics of the Game

PART 2  
The Game





# Particle Physics Role-Playing Games in introductory Physics Courses.

[lorenzo.galante@polito.it](mailto:lorenzo.galante@polito.it)  
Politecnico di Torino

## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### Results of the Game

48 Teams    ~ 200 Students

98% of the Teams reported something  
was wrong in the experimental  
distribution.



## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### Results of the Game

33% of the Teams realised that, in the case of a 2-particle decay, the distribution should have been centered on a single value

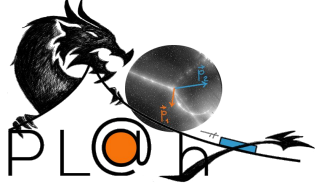


## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### Results of the Game

33% of the Teams proposed, as a possible solution to the problem, the existence of an undetected neutral particle.



## A case from 20th century physics

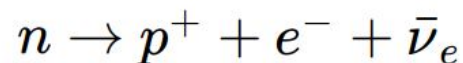
Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

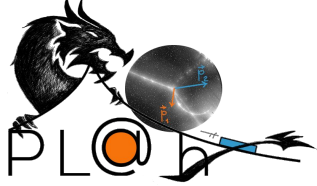
### The Physics of the Game

Post-Game Discussion

‘Nothing venture, nothing win. And the gravity of the situation with regard to the continuous beta spectrum ... ’

Pauli





## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### Student's feedback

Please rate on a scale of 1-5 your appreciation of the first part of the course "A Case from 20th Century Physics".

Esprimi in una scala da 1 a 5 il tuo apprezzamento per la prima parte del Corso "Un caso dalla Fisica del '900".

[Altri dettagli](#)

99

Risposte



4.40

Valutazione media 4.40



## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### Student's feedback

What do you think about using a role-playing game for a physics course?

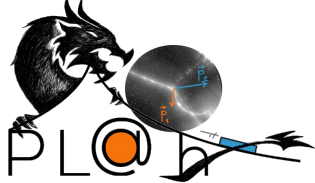
99 Answers

All with a positive feedback

“ It made everything more exciting ”

“ I think it is very useful to push for deeper thinking. ”

“ It appeared to be a very 'light' and engaging way of approaching complex topics. ”



## A case from 20th century physics

Physics Role-Playing Game on the neutrino hypothesis

### Student's feedback

How much did you enjoy working with the team?

Quanto hai gradito il lavoro in Team?

[Altri dettagli](#)

99

Risposte



Valutazione media 4.45