Title: Smash, Bang, Boom: Fundamental Physics at the LHC

Date: Jul 11, 2012 10:15 AM

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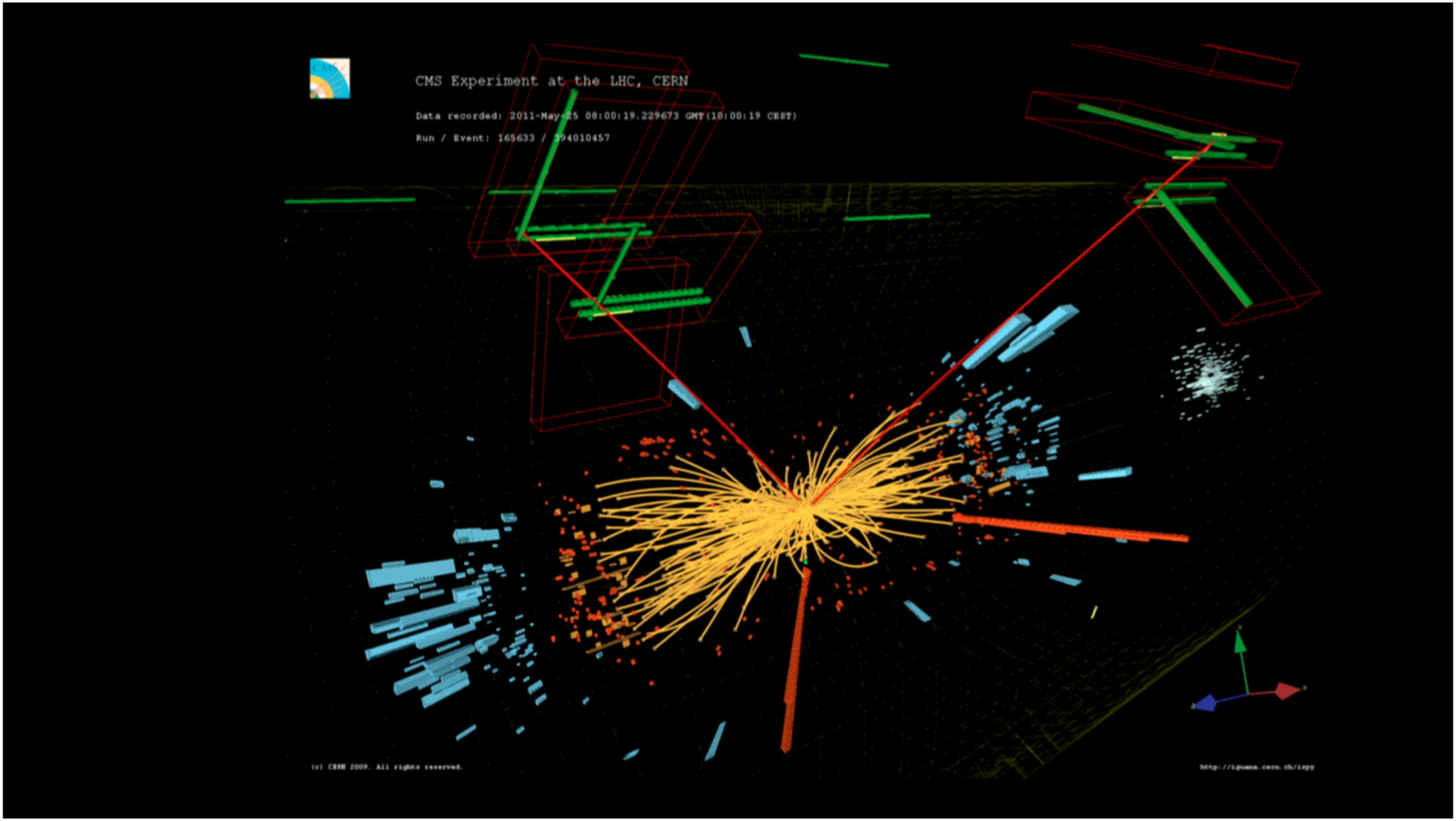
Abstract: The world's most ambitious scientific experiment is buried 100 meters underground, straddling Switzerland and France. A billion times every minute, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) slams together protons, while four giant detectors watch closely. - So how does the Large Hadron Collider work? - Why can slamming tiny particles into each other provide clues about the nature of all space and time? - What mysteries are physicists trying to solve with data from the LHC? - How does the cutting edge of particle physics relate to the world around us, from the patterns of stars in the sky to the fact that they shine at all? Natalia Toro, PI Faculty, works at the intersection of theories and hard data. She will explain how complex collision data from the LHC is being digested and examined right now, and how it may set the course for the science of the future.

Smash, Bang, Boom!

Fundamental Physics at the LHC

Natalia Toro
Perimeter Institute


CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN
Data recorded: 2011-May-25 08:00:19.229673 GMT(10:00:19 CEST)
Run / Event: 165633 / 394010457
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- Why do we care so much about particles?
- How can we learn about them?
- Inside the Higgs discovery

and finally, a look beyond the Higgs


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A World of Particles

ALL observed phenomena can be accommodated by a quantum theory of interacting *particles*!

A World of Particles

ALL observed phenomena can be accommodated by a quantum theory of interacting *particles*!

Don't know **WHY** these particular particles
In some cases, don't know **HOW**, but we have specific theories that work.

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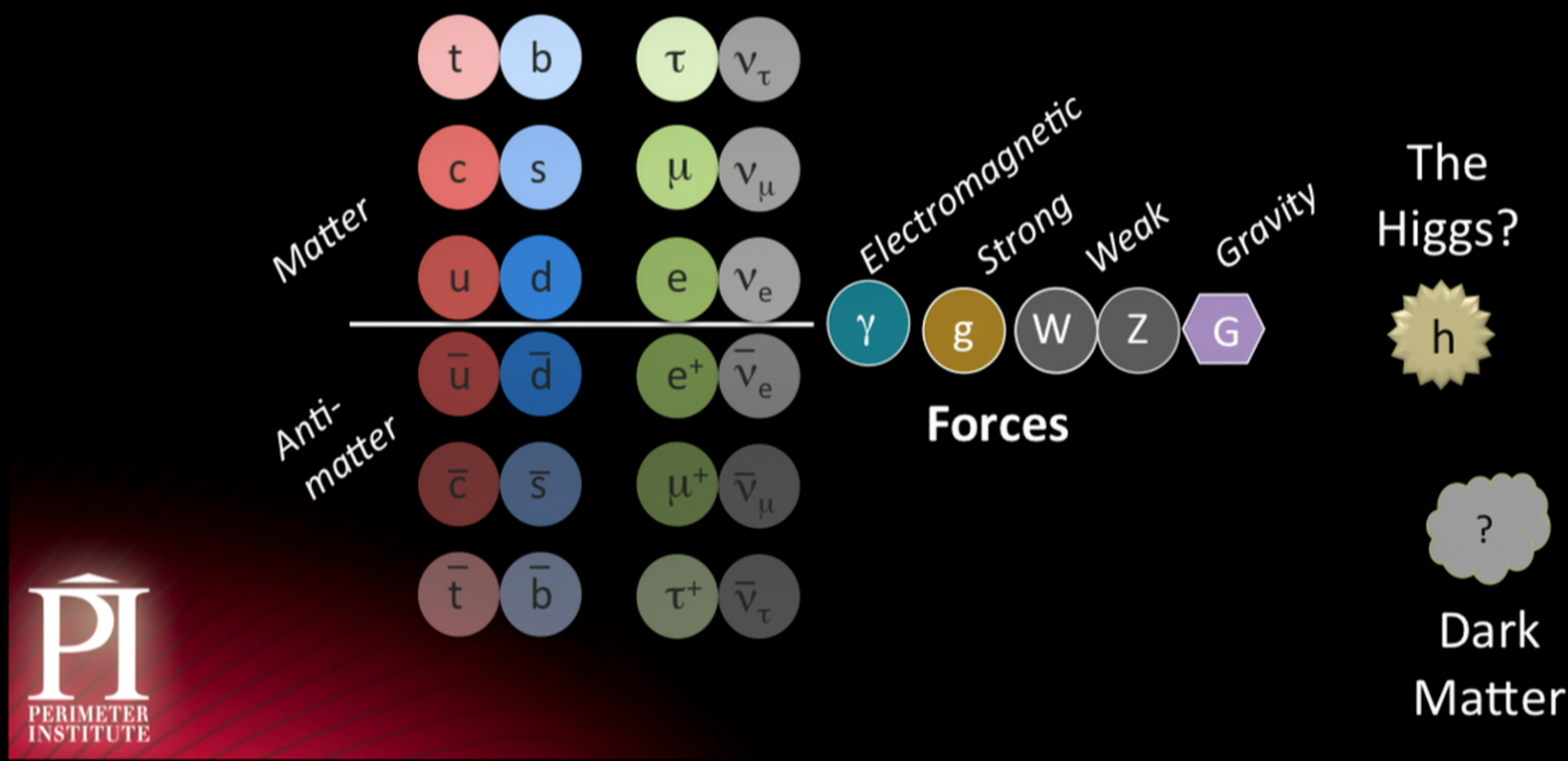
l.limcole@gmail.com

The Standard Model: A New Periodic Table

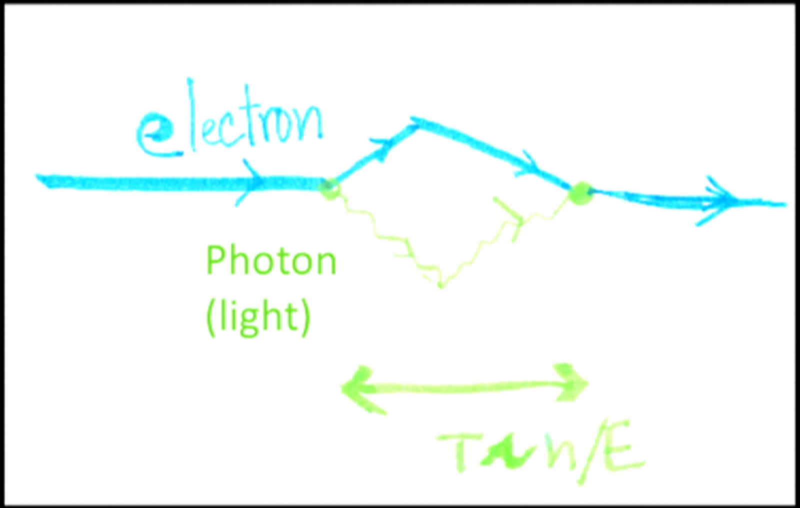


The Uncertainty Principle

$$\Delta p \, \Delta x \geq \hbar/2$$

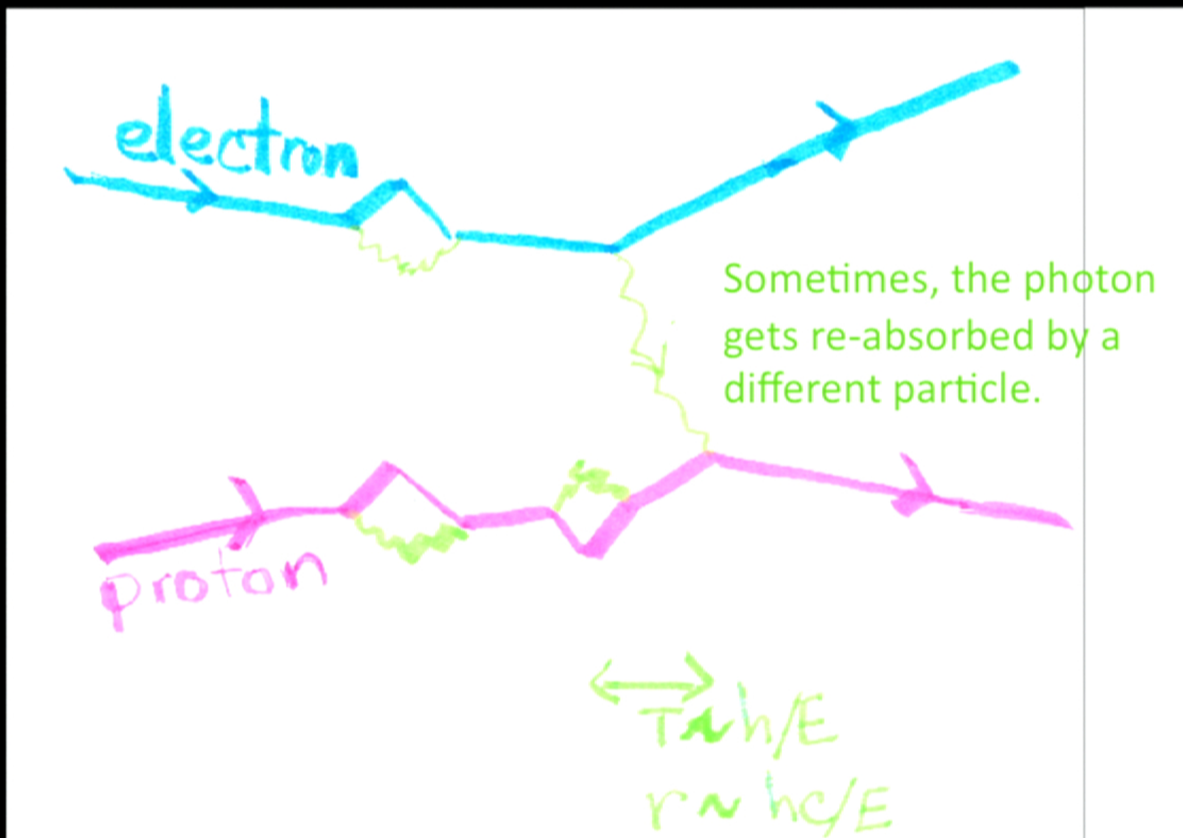
$$\Delta E \, \Delta t \geq \hbar/2$$

Werner
Heisenberg



Can never be sure whether an electron is “just an electron” or accompanied by some photons

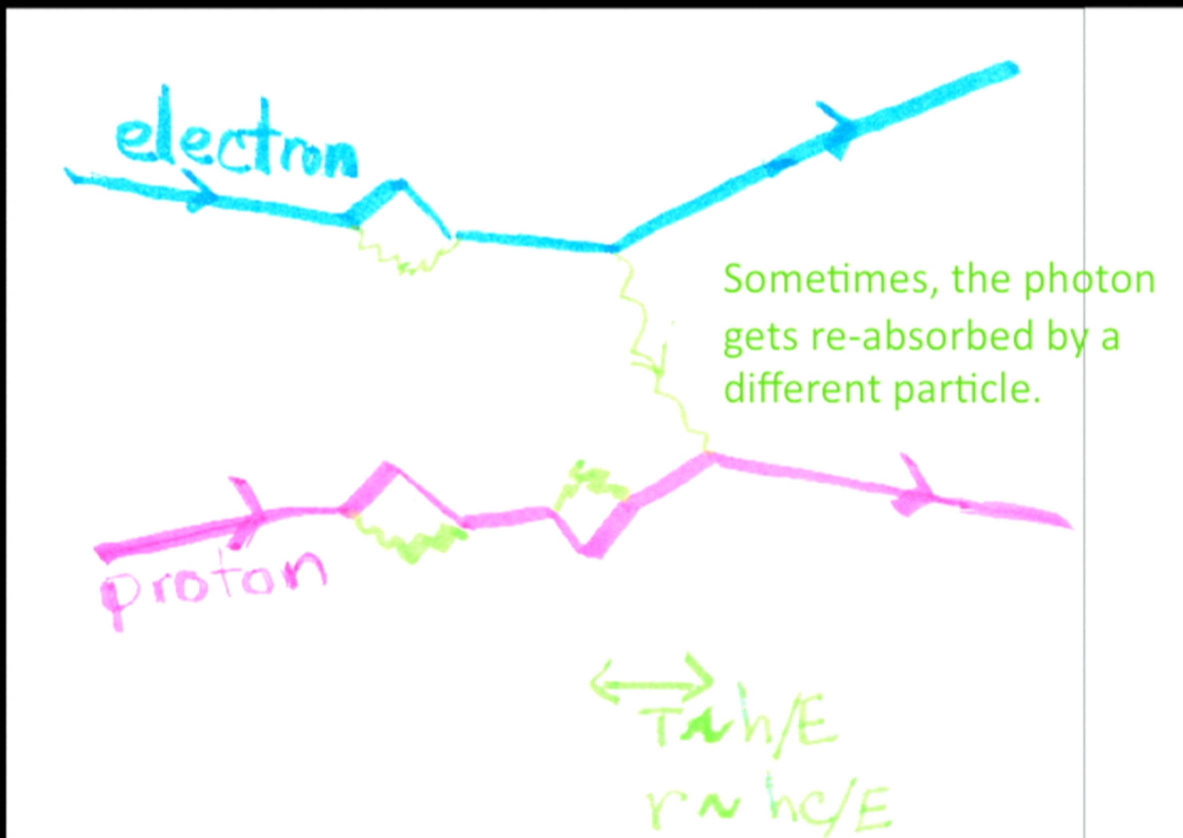
Quantum Particles and Forces



Richard Feynman

This continual absorption and emission of "virtual" photons is one way of understanding an electric force.

Quantum Particles and Forces



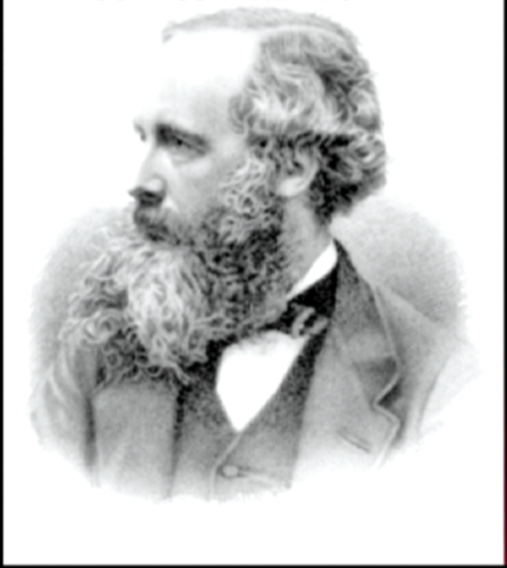
Richard Feynman

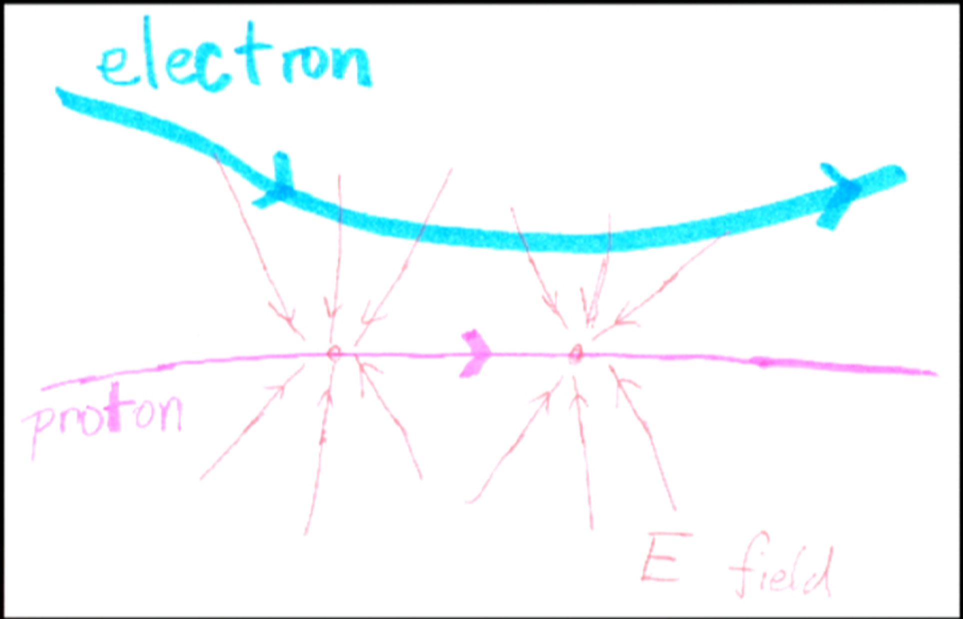
This continual absorption and emission of “virtual” photons is one way of understanding an electric force.

Classical Light and Forces

Proton produces **electric field** in empty space, which in turn bends electron (and vice versa)

James Maxwell





NO Quantum Mechanics Here!

Maxwell + Quantum => Particles

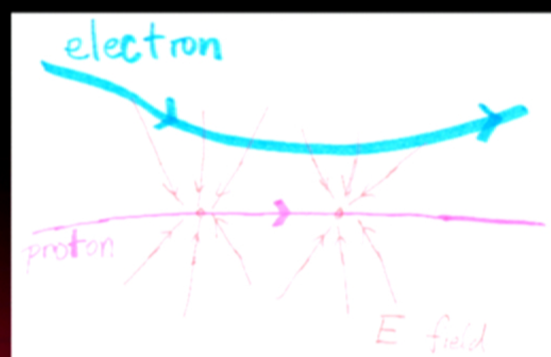
Electromagnetic fields

Electromagnetic waves (light)

A "smallest wave", or particle of light (photon)

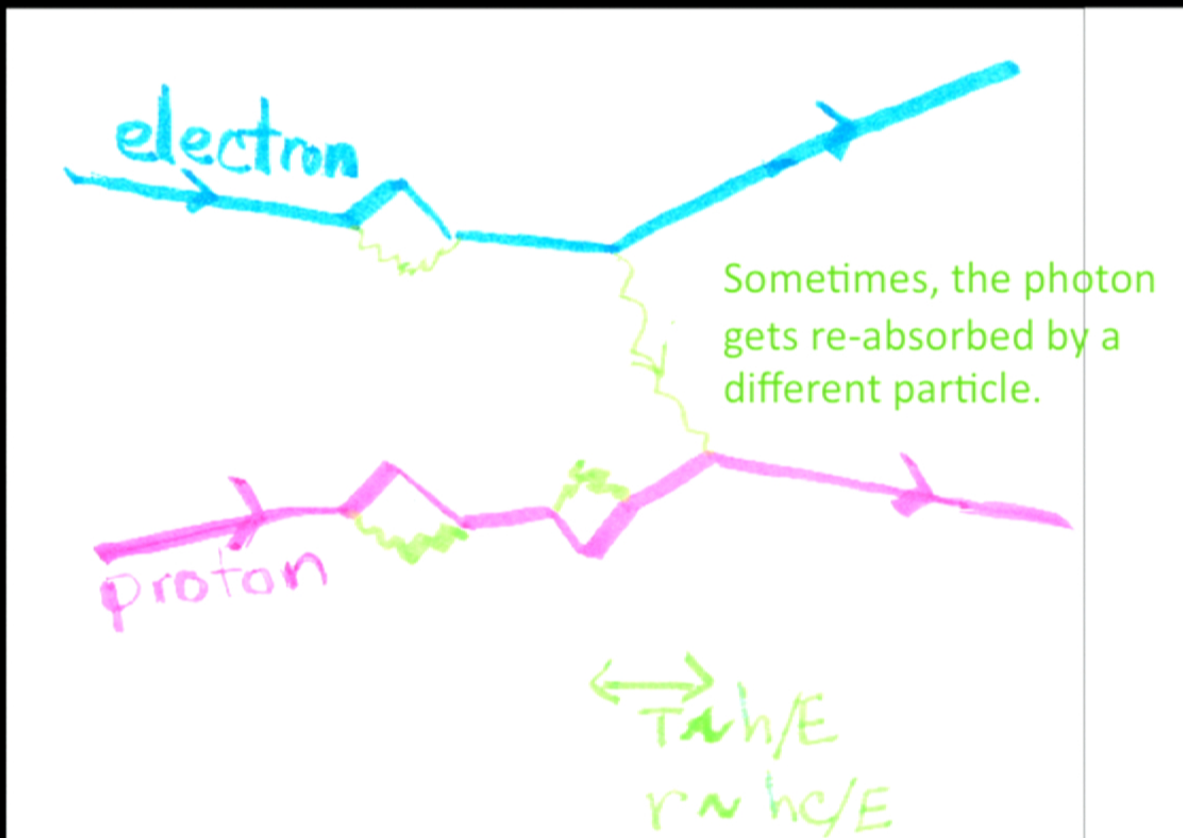
Particles + Quantum + Local Interaction=> Fields

=



The classical field is the effect of quantum exchanges of many photons

Quantum Particles and Forces



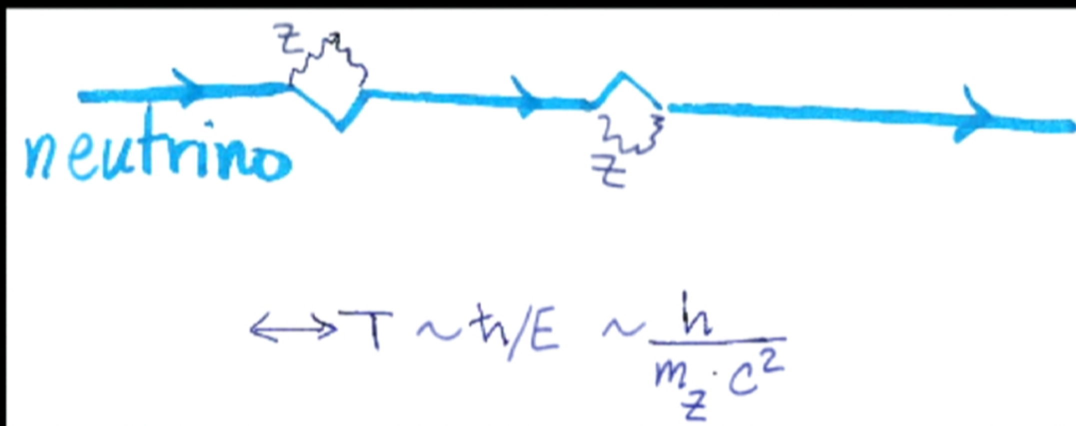
Sometimes, the photon gets re-absorbed by a different particle.

Richard Feynman

This continual absorption and emission of “virtual” photons is one way of understanding an electric force.

Why are Weak Interactions Weak?

Electromagnetism = exchange of photons – they have no mass, no minimum energy
Weak force = exchange of W and Z particles – they are **heavy** (100x the mass of proton)

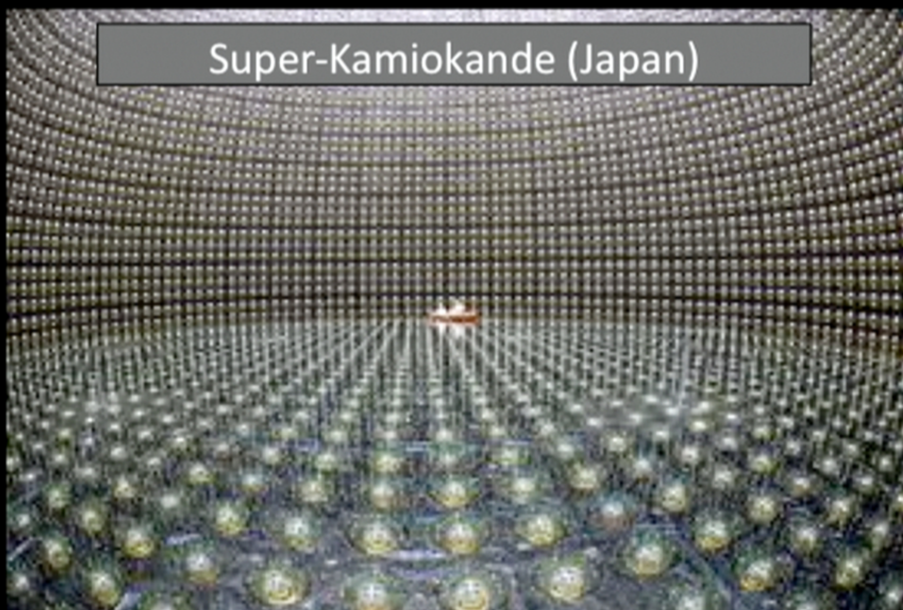


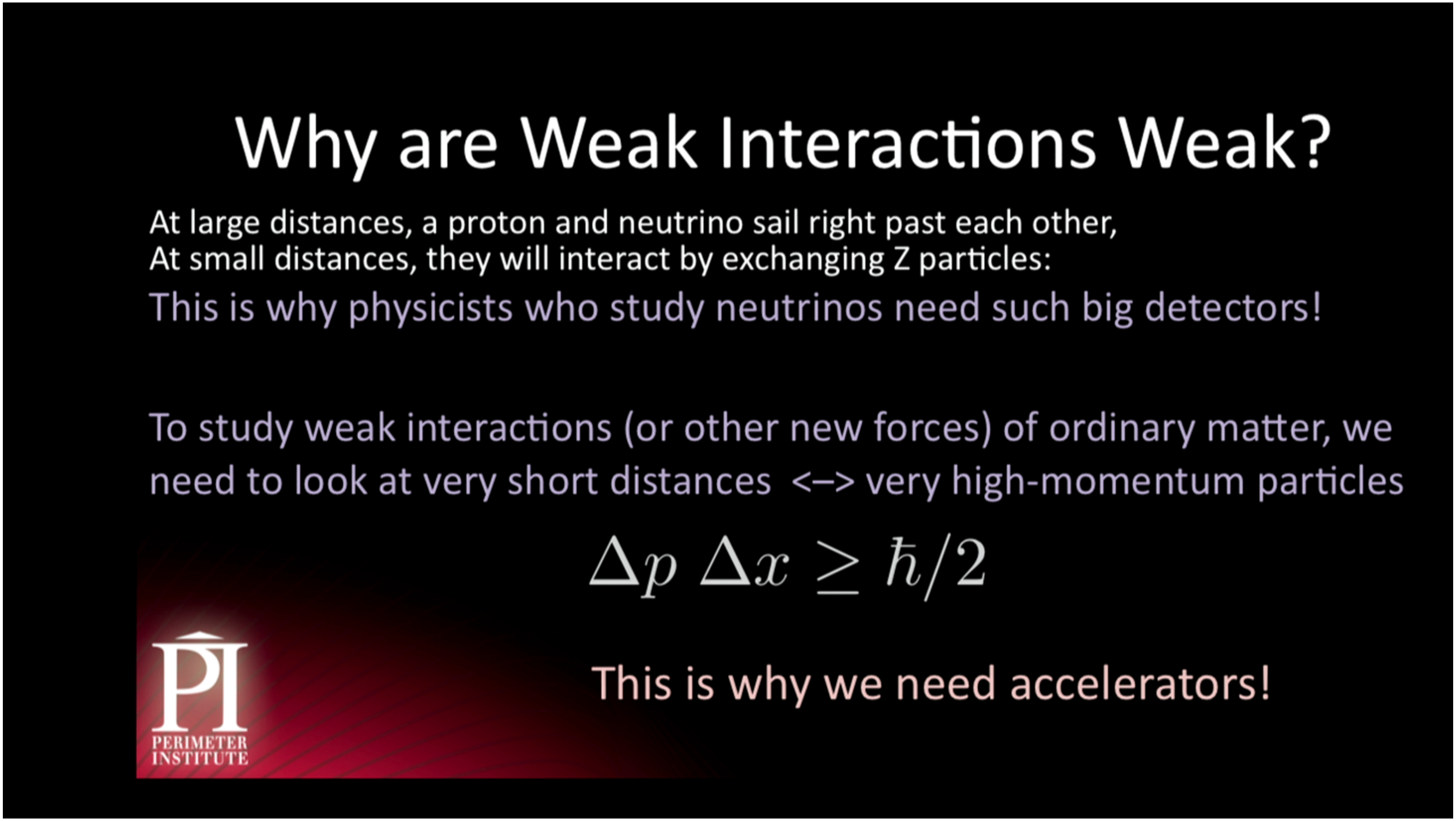
Large Z mass => "virtual" Z's exist for a very long time, and they don't travel very far.

Why are Weak Interactions Weak?

At large distances, a proton and neutrino sail right past each other,
At small distances, they will interact by exchanging Z particles:

This is why physicists who study neutrinos need such big detectors!





Why are Weak Interactions Weak?
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This is why physicists who study neutrinos need such big detectors!
To study weak interactions (or other new forces) of ordinary matter, we need to look at very short distances <–> very high-momentum particles
$\Delta p \, \Delta x \geq \hbar/2$
This is why we need accelerators!
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Where are we now?

- All observed phenomena, matter, and forces can be incorporated in a quantum theory of particles
- Some of these particles mediate long-range forces (e.g. photons)
- Heavy particles mediate short-range forces that are best studied with high-energy accelerators.

Where are we now?

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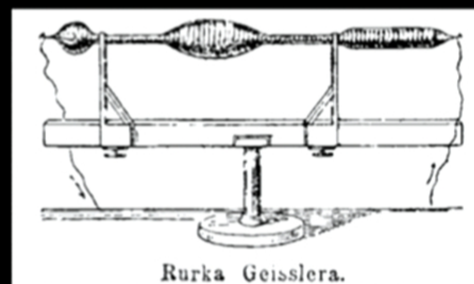
- Heavy particles mediate short-range forces that are best studied with high-energy accelerators.

How did we figure this out?

The First Particle Accelerators

Faraday, 1838

Geissler, 1857



Crookes 1869-75

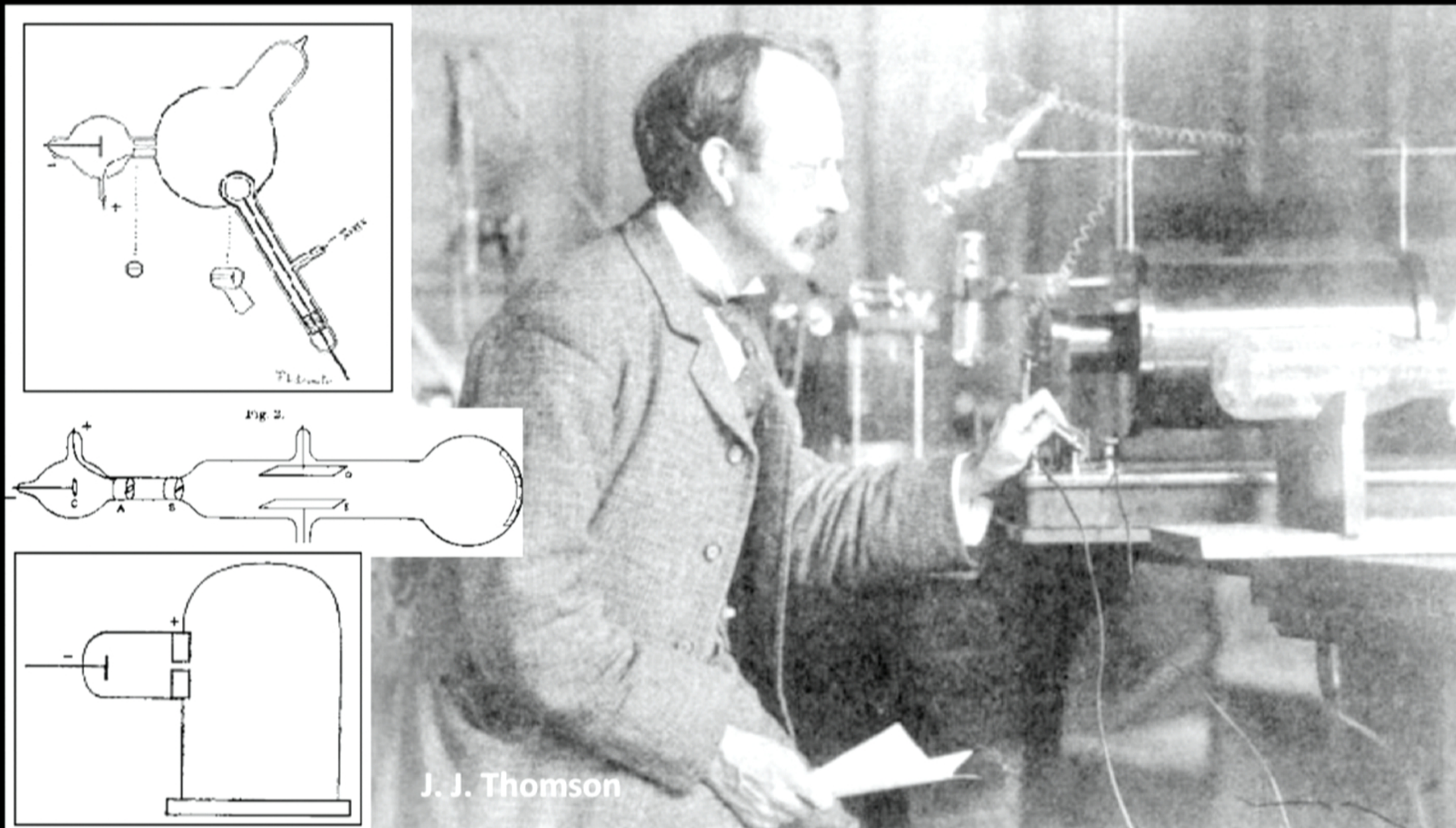


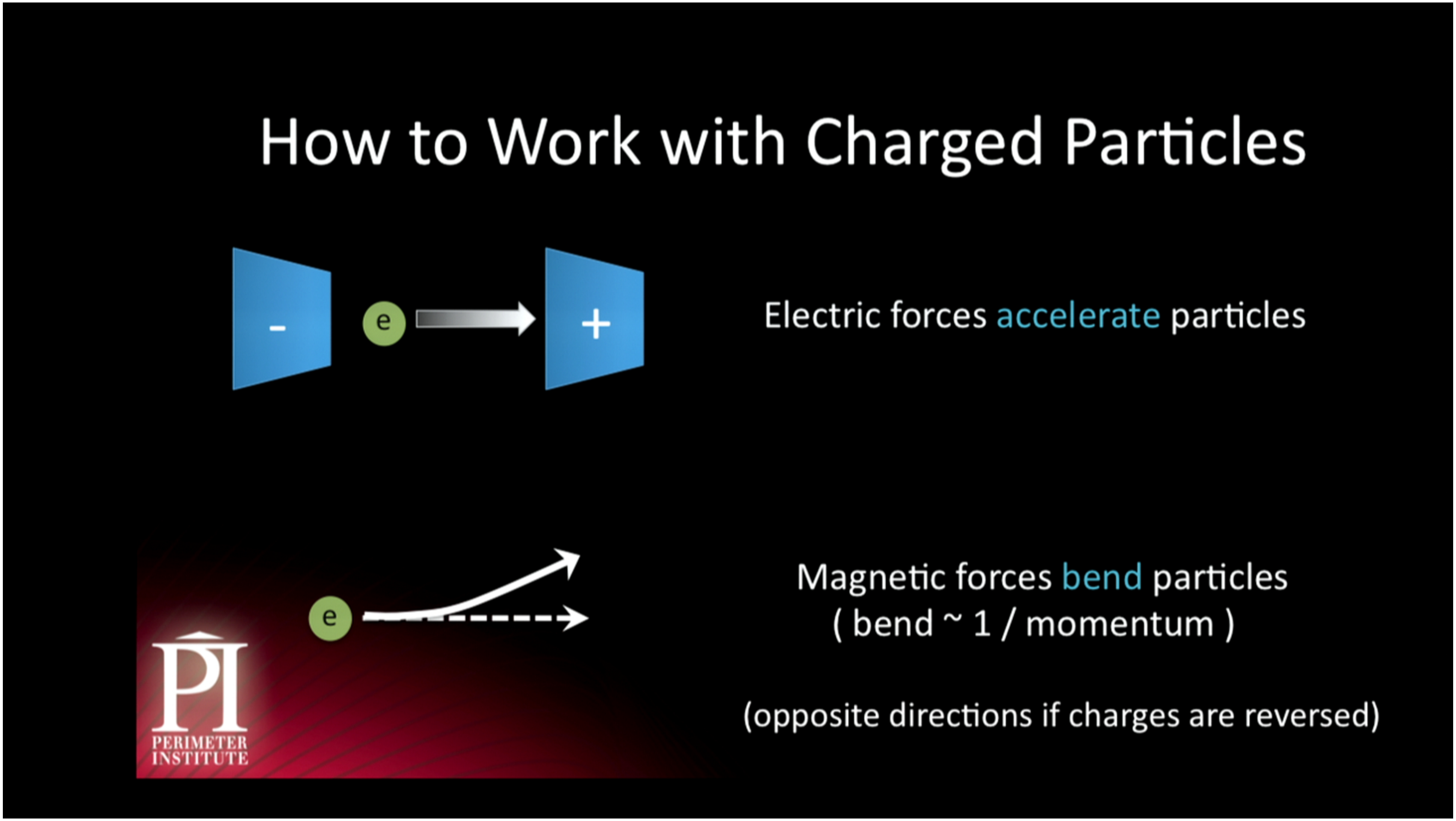
Fig. 2.
J. J. Thomson

How to Work with Charged Particles

Electric forces accelerate particles

Magnetic forces bend particles
(bend ~ 1 / momentum)

(opposite directions if charges are reversed)


How to Work with Charged Particles
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Electric forces accelerate particles
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Magnetic forces bend particles
(bend ~ 1 / momentum)
(opposite directions if charges are reversed)
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Anti-matter

Carl Anderson — 1932

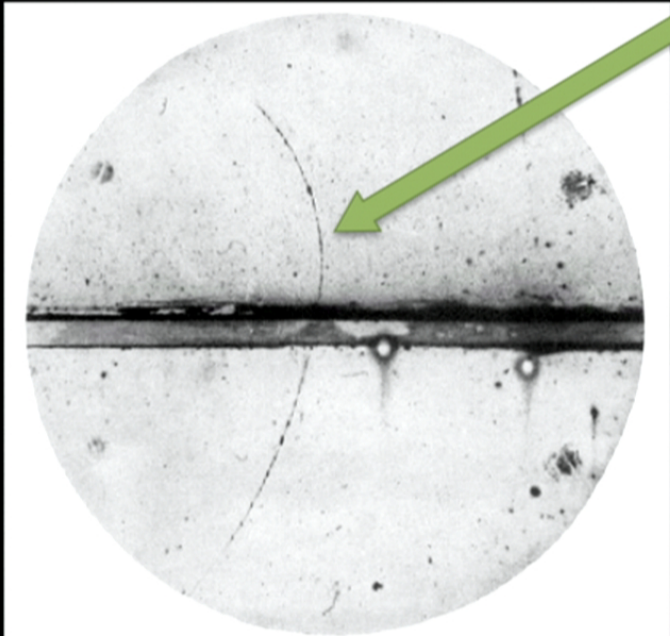
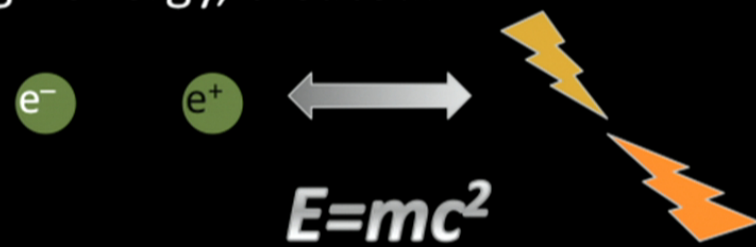


Fig. 1. A 63 million volt positron ($H\rho = 2.1 \times 10^5$ gauss-cm) passing through a 6 mm lead plate and emerging as a 23 million volt positron ($H\rho = 7.5 \times 10^4$ gauss-cm). The length of this latter path is at least ten times greater than the possible length of a proton path of this curvature.

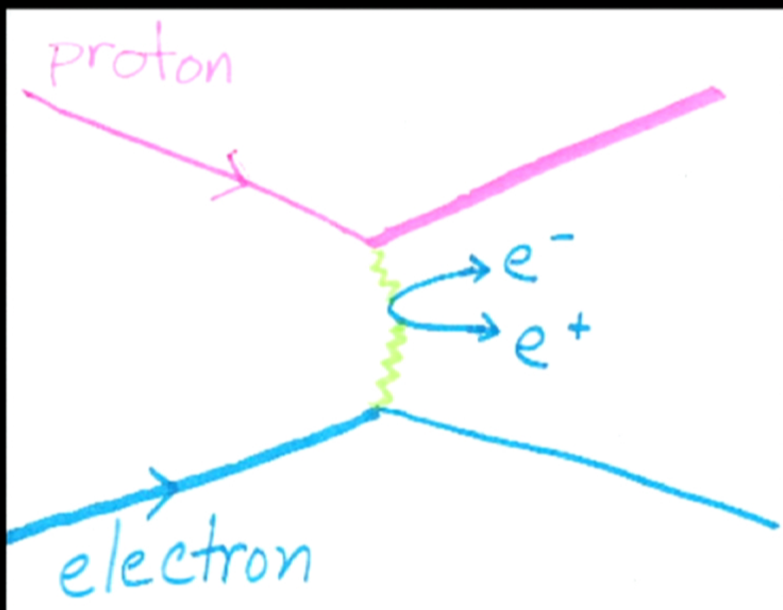
The positron (predicted by Dirac) behaved like an electron, except with the opposite charge.

In Dirac's theory, the electron (or any particle) could be destroyed – or, given enough energy, created:



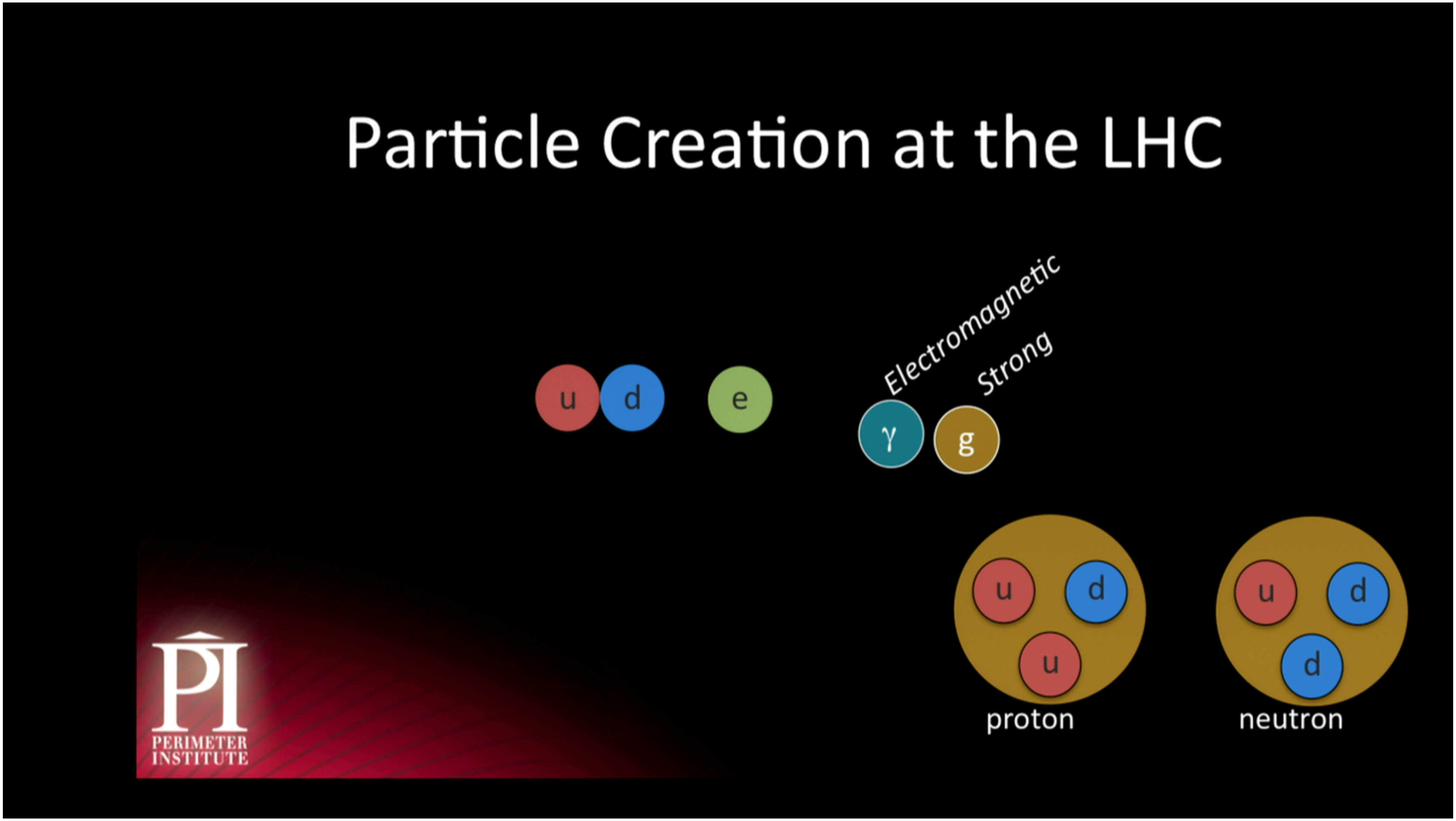
An Example

In a very close collision between an electron and a proton, the electric potential energy $U \sim e^2/r$ at closest approach is bigger than its mass energy $m_e c^2$ – this potential energy can be converted into mass:



In fact every reaction that conserves **energy, momentum, and charge** (and a few other things) will happen some fraction of the time:

"Everything not forbidden is compulsory."


Particle Creation at the LHC
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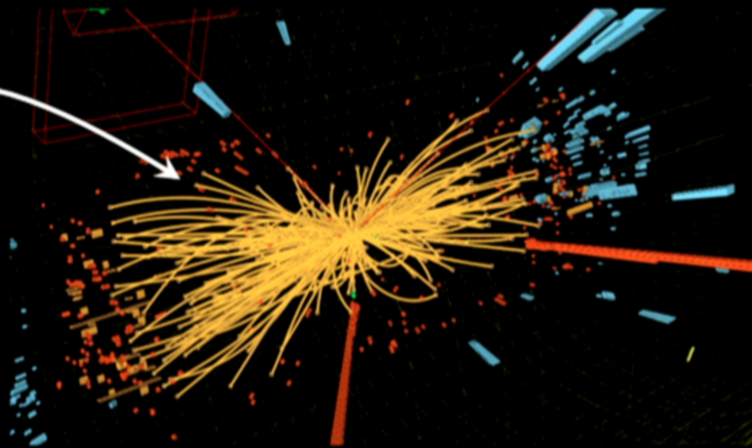
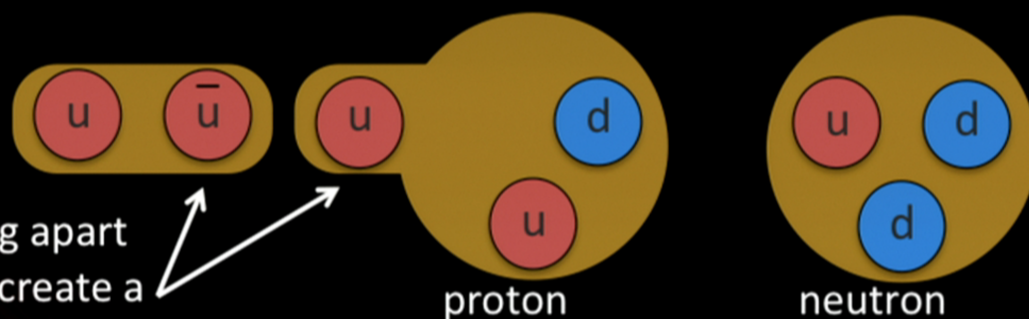
Particle Creation at the LHC



Strong force converting energy into particles



Energy generated by pulling apart charges is large enough to create a quark-anti-quark pair

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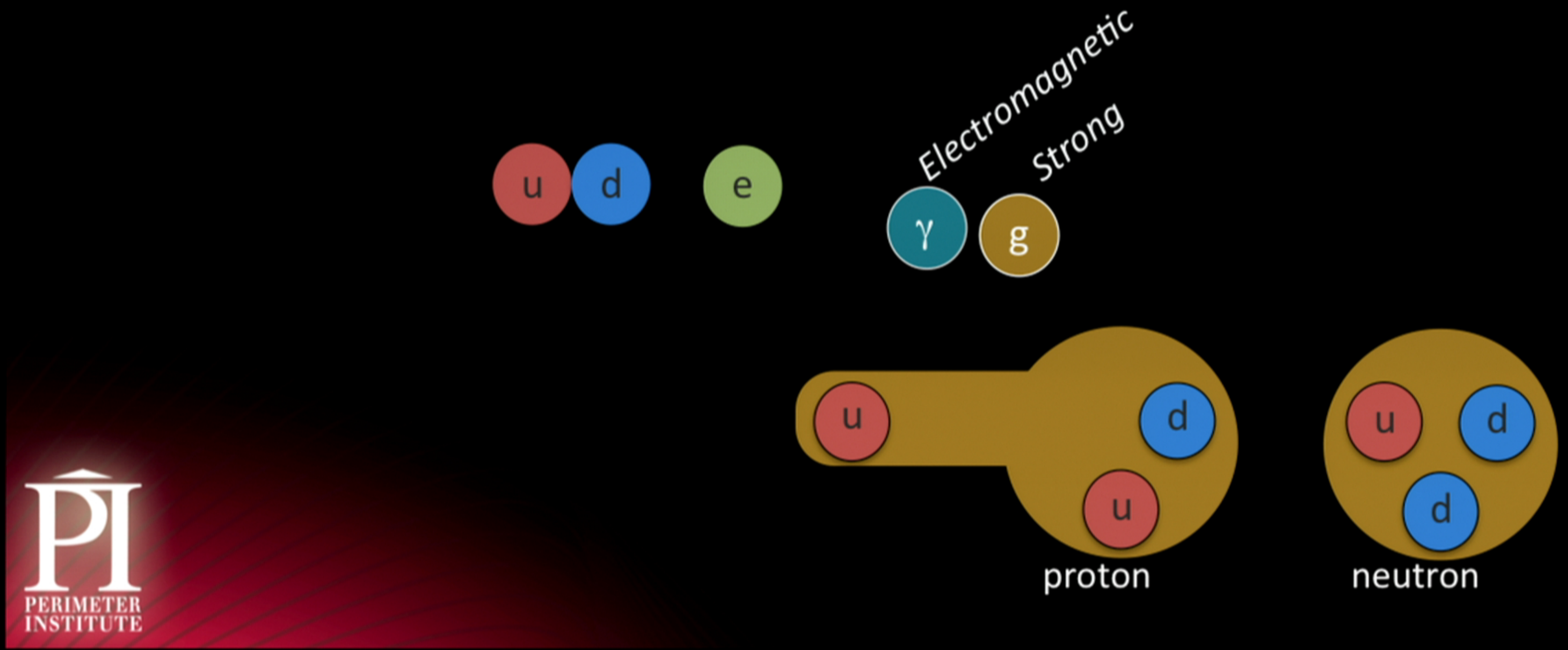
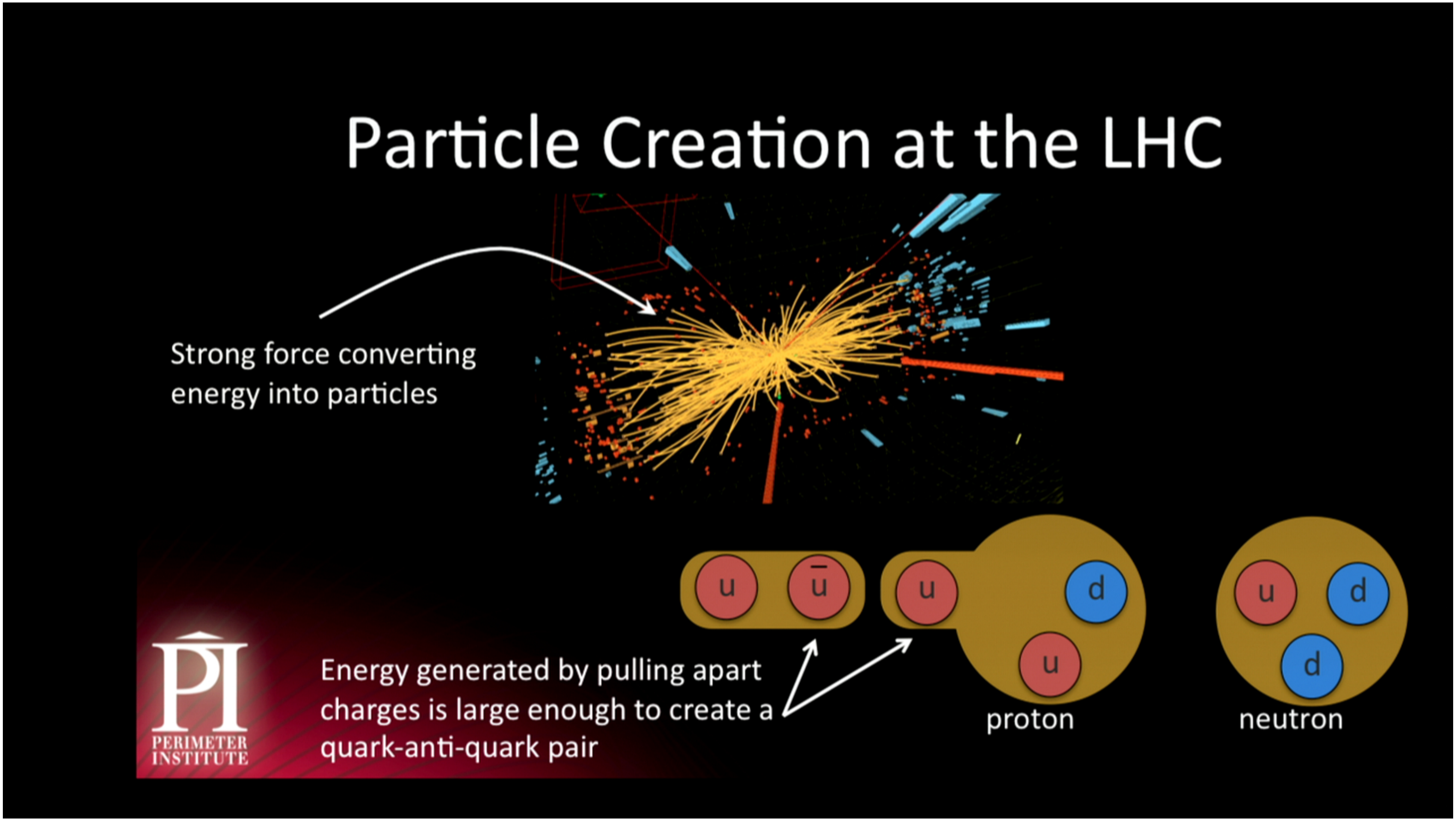
Particle Creation at the LHC




Particle Creation at the LHC
Strong force converting energy into particles
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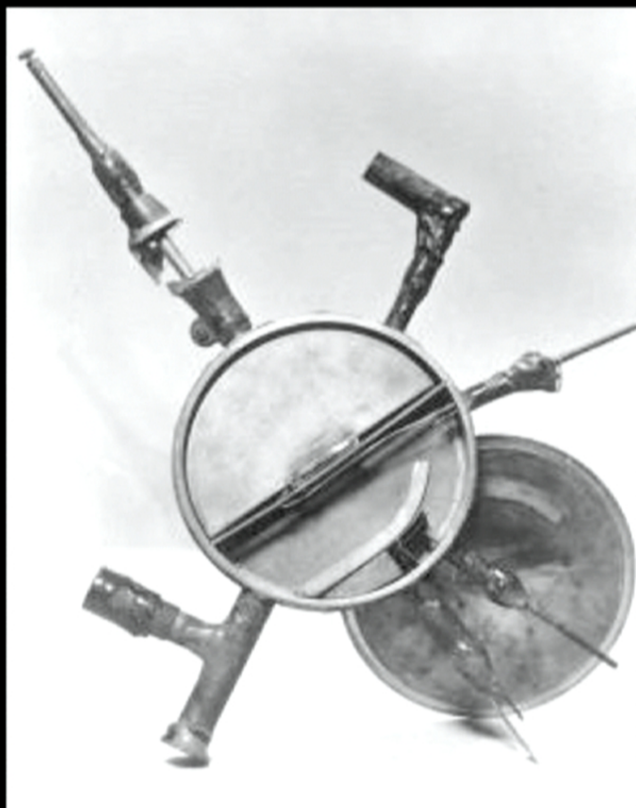
Energy generated by pulling apart charges is large enough to create a quark-anti-quark pair

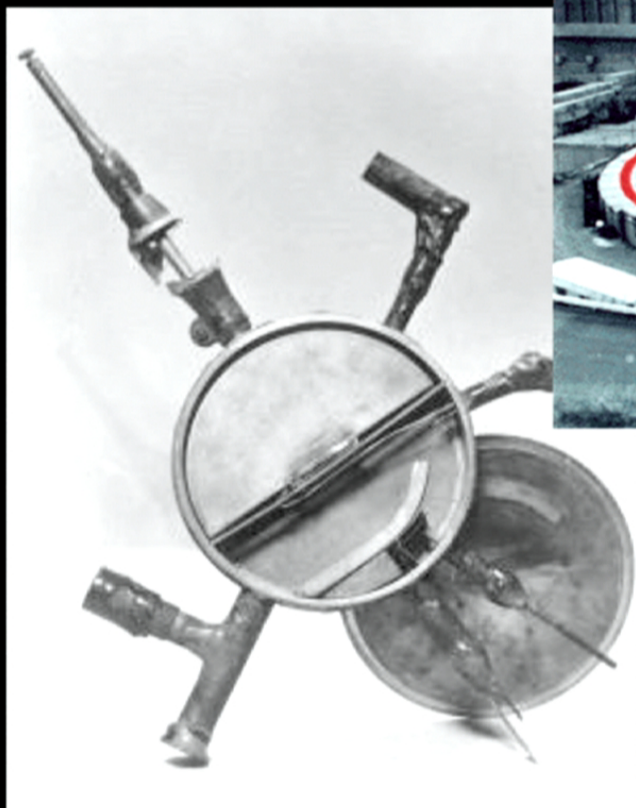
Searching for New Matter

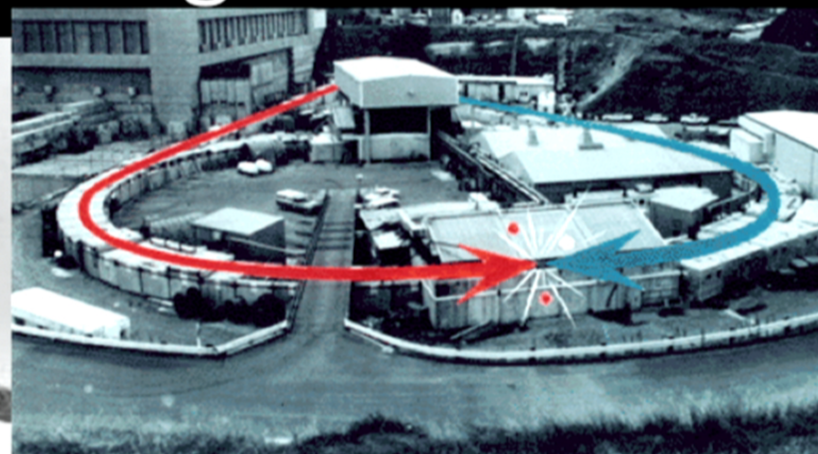


First cyclotron, Berkeley 1931
(Szillard and Lawrence)

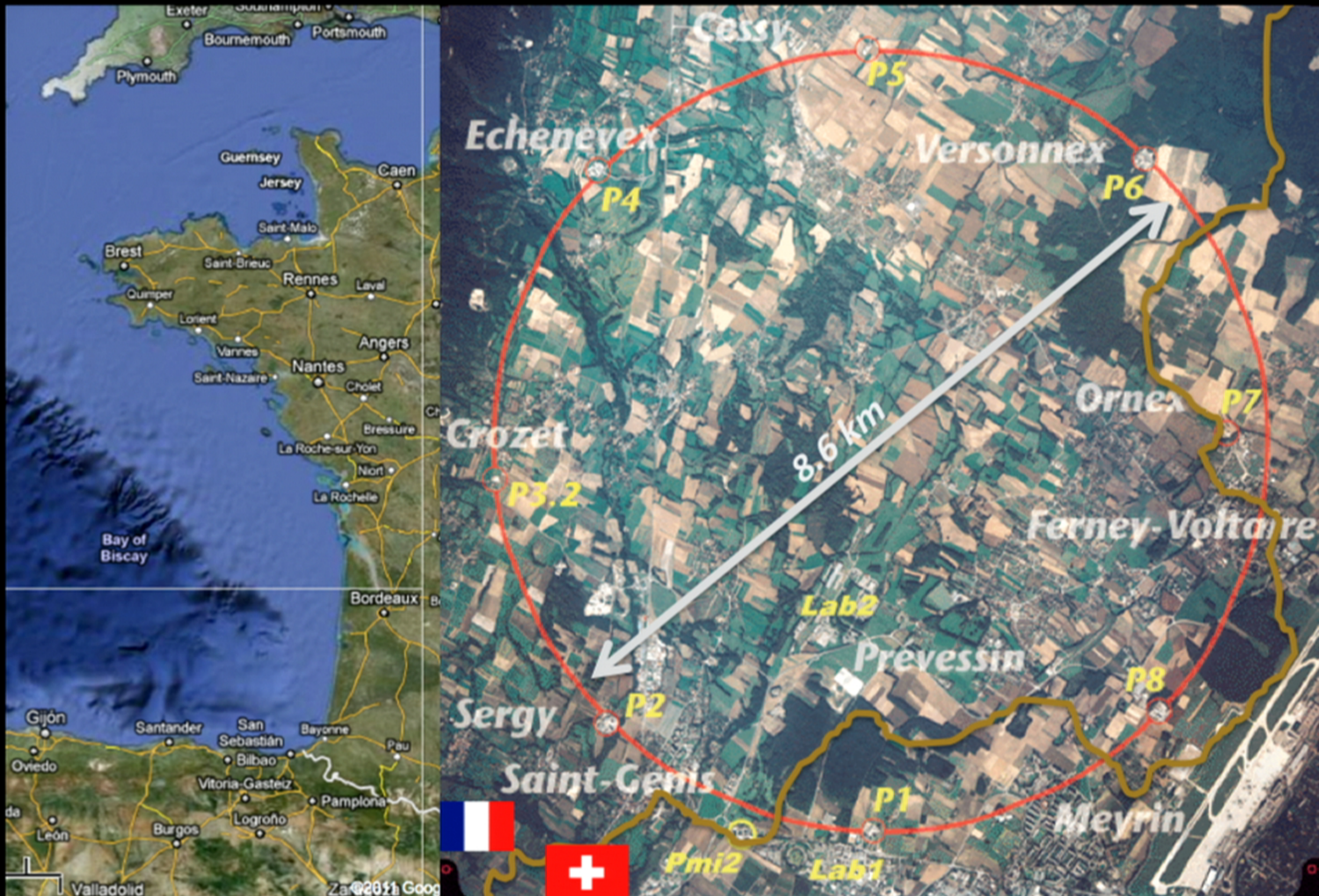
Combined electric force and magnets to reach unprecedented particle energies

Searching for New Matter





SPEAR (SLAC, near San Francisco) 1972:
Early colliding beam experiment,
Discovery of τ and co-discovery of
charm quark



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Nantes
Saint-Nazaire
Cholet
Bressuire
La Roche-sur-Yon
Niort
La Rochelle
Bay of Biscay
Bordeaux
Gijón
Santander
San Sebastián
Bayonne
Pau
Oviedo
Bilbao
Vitoria-Gasteiz
Pamplona
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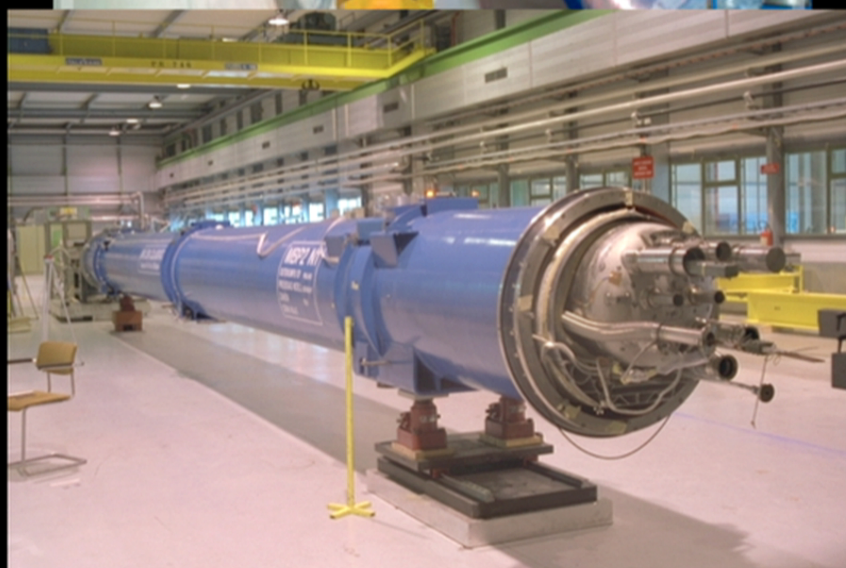

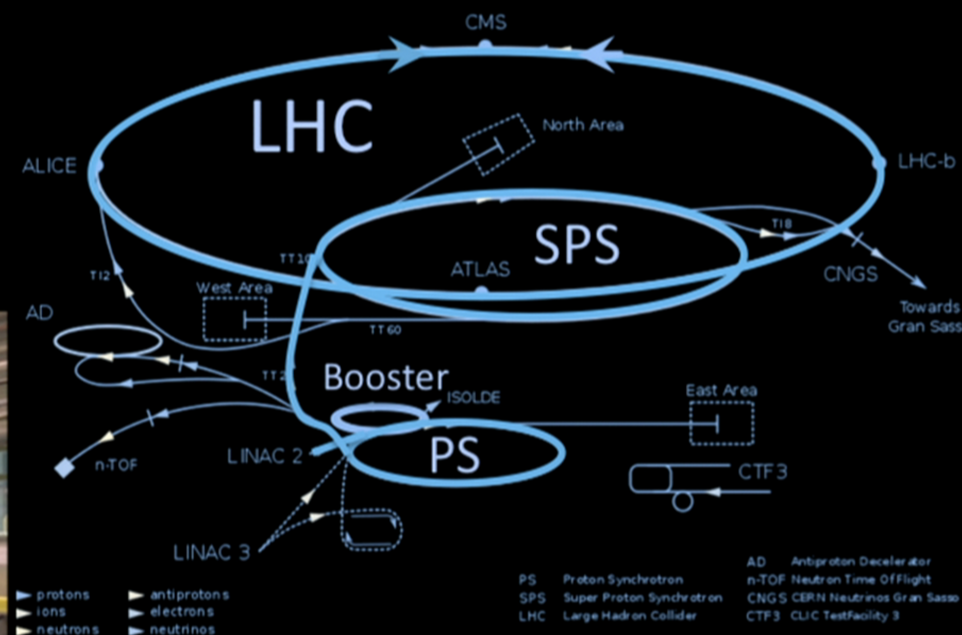
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Towards Gran Sasso
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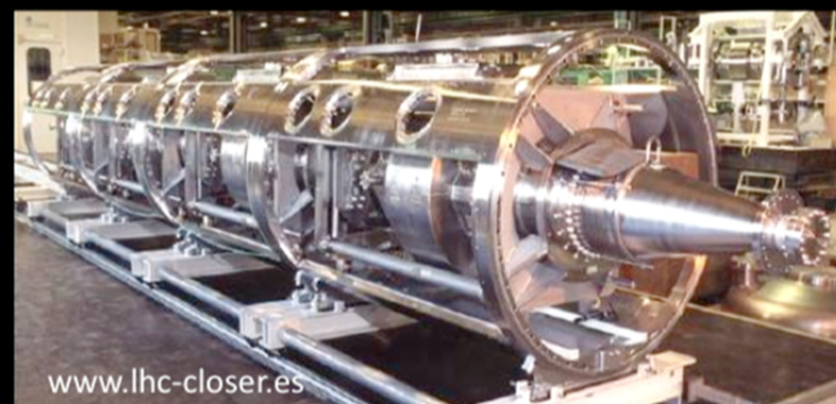
TT2
Booster
ISOLDE
East Area
n-TOF
LINAC 2
PS
CTF3
LINAC 3
protons
ions
neutrons
antiprotons
electrons
neutrinos
PS Proton Synchrotron
SPS Super Proton Synchrotron
LHC Large Hadron Collider
AD Antiproton Decelerator
n-TOF Neutron Time Of Flight
CNGS CERN Neutrinos Gran Sasso
CTF3 CLIC TestFacility 3

Accelerating the Protons

Same principle as the cathode ray tube, on a much larger scale



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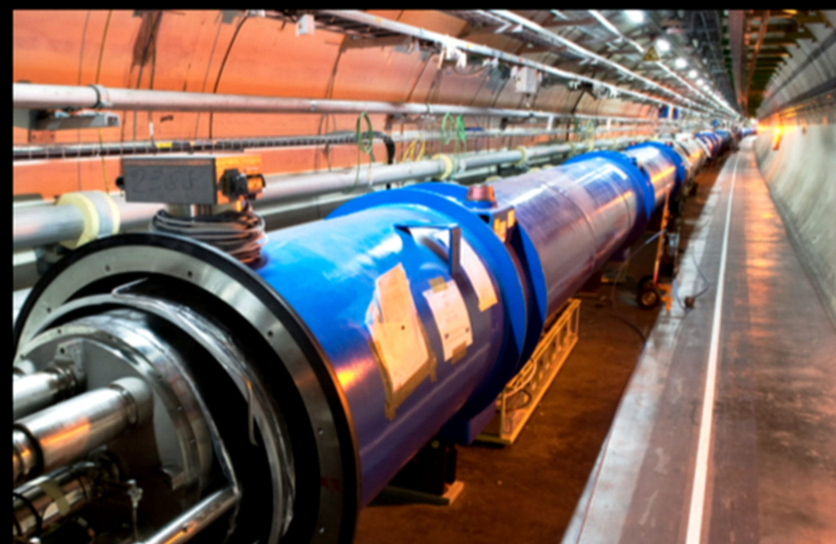
Why is the LHC so large?

Highest energy proton beams (by 4–7x)

At this energy, each magnet can only bend the protons by 7 cm

The LHC is as small as it can possibly be, with protons closing the circle.



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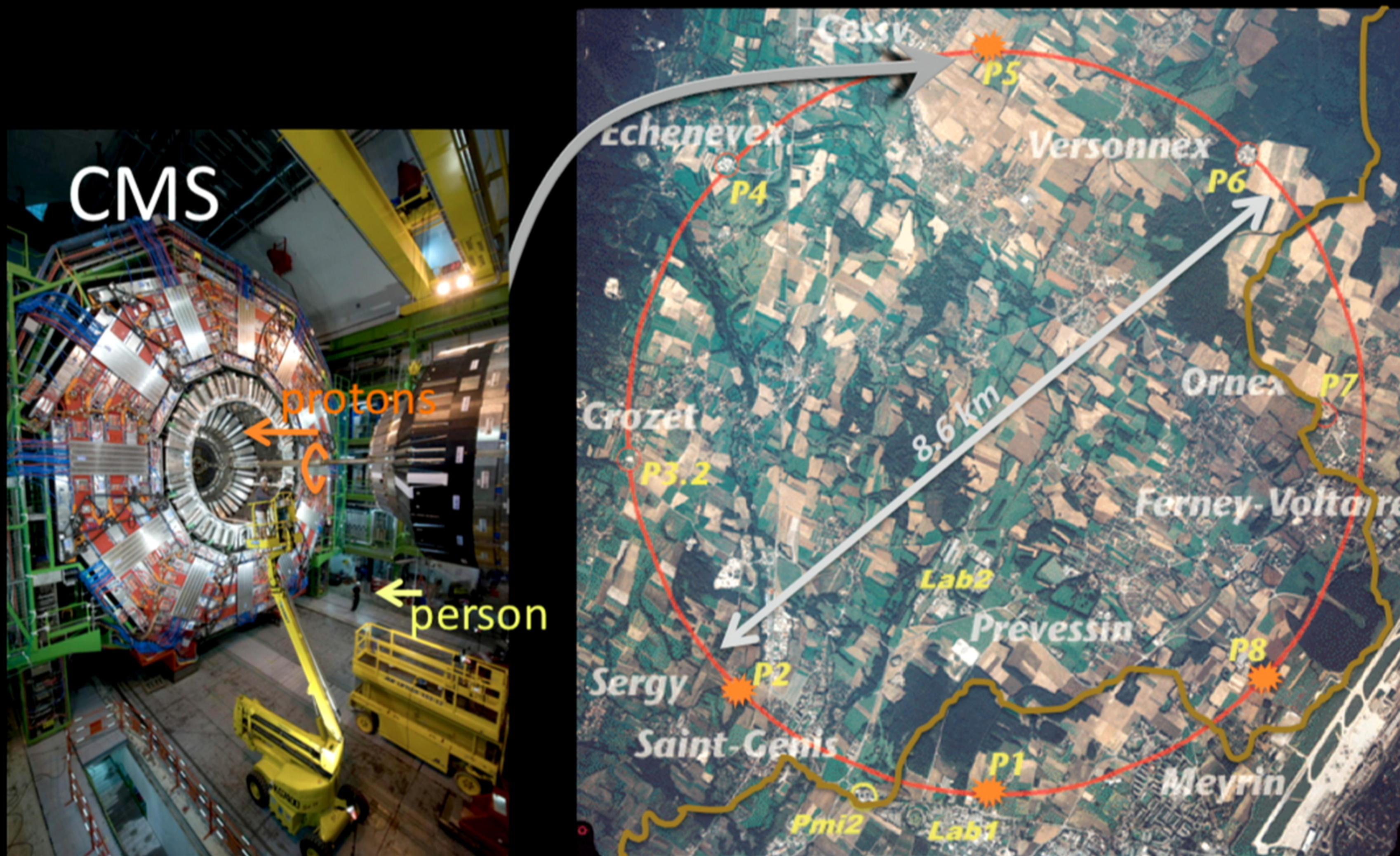
Collision points

At four points around the ring, the clockwise & counter-clockwise beams of protons pass through each other.

Most of the protons don't interact much, and go around again. But at every crossing, ***some*** protons do collide – sometimes spectacularly.


CMS
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P3.2
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Ornex
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Ferney-Voltaire
Lab2
Prevessin
Sergy
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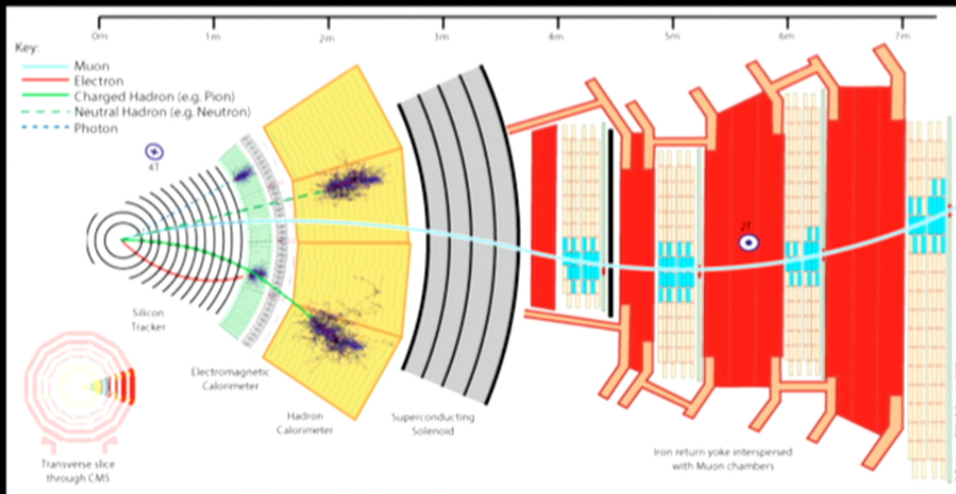
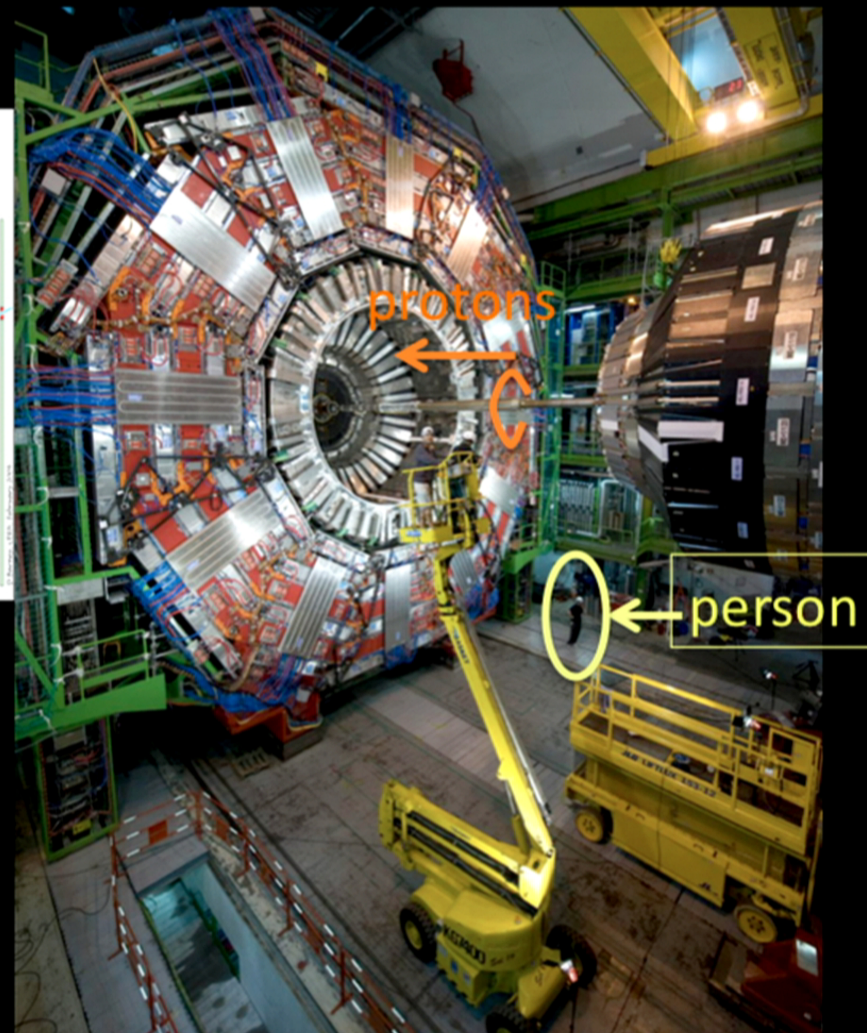
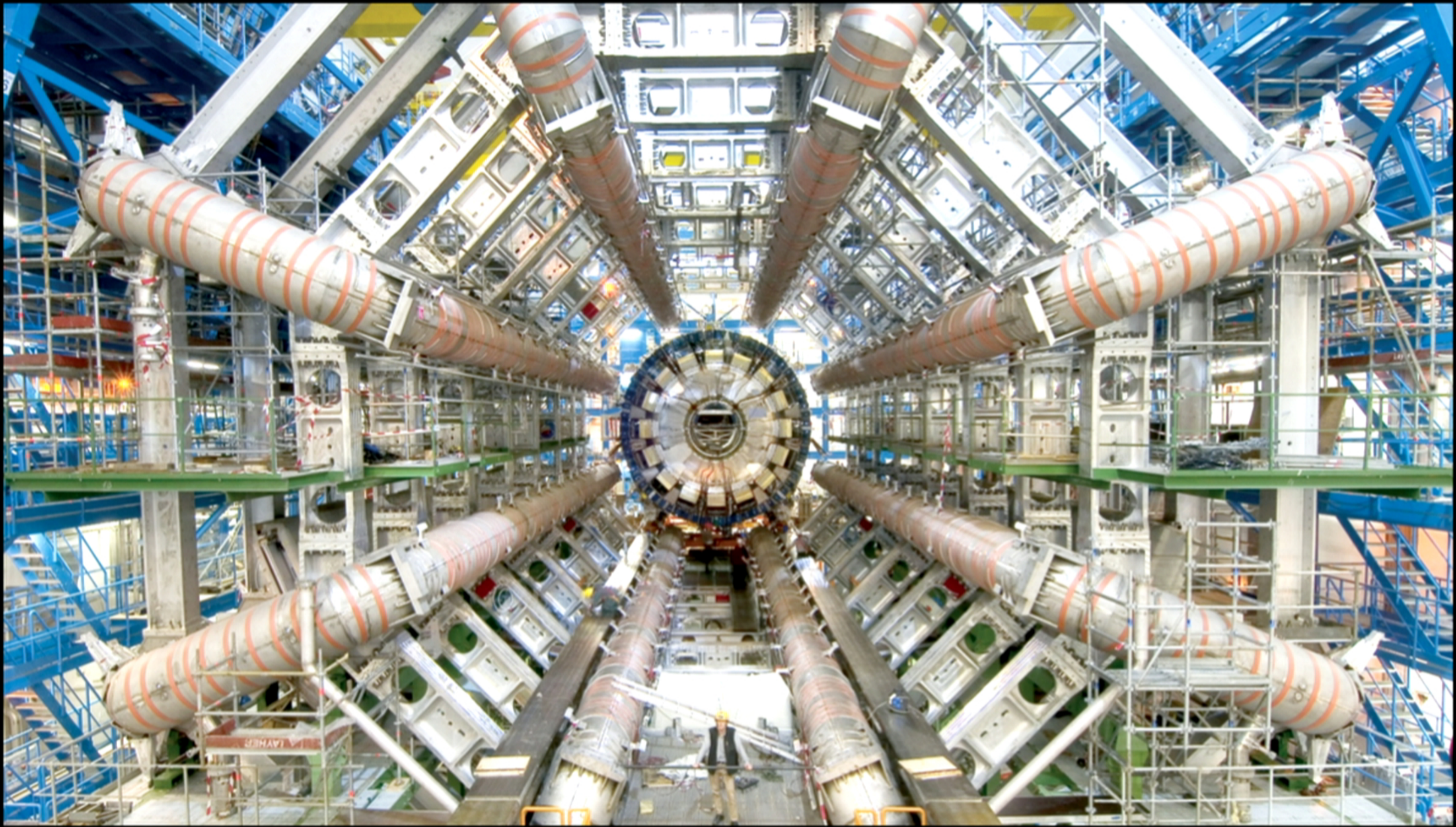
P8
Saint-Genis
P1
Meyrin
Pmi2
Lab1

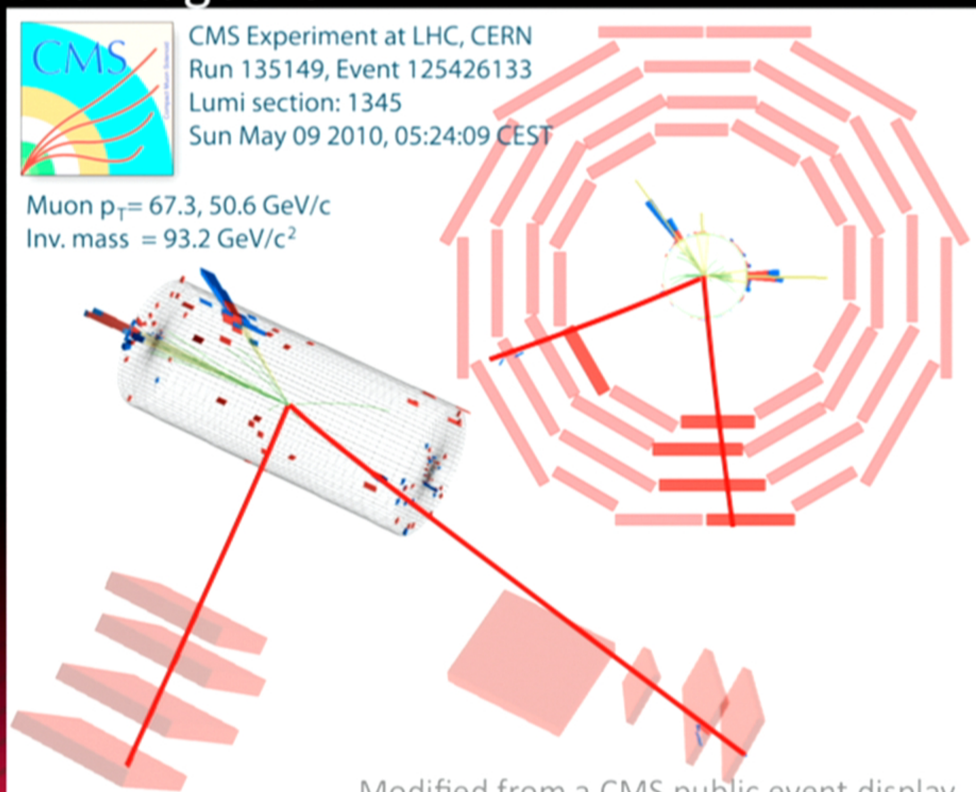
Each layer responds differently to particles:







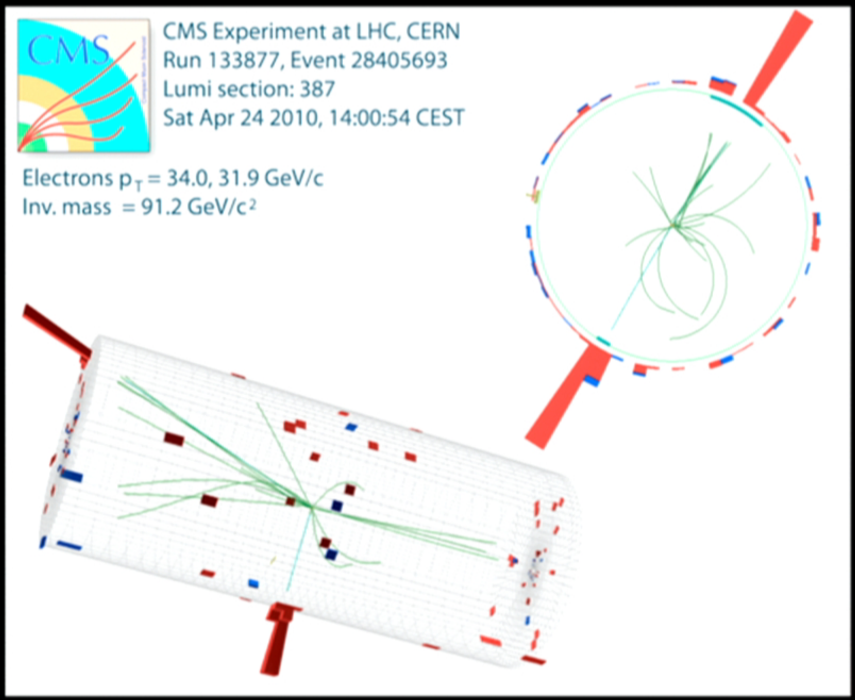
Many of the particles we want to study decay almost instantly – The detectors take "pictures" of the decay products, which can be pieced back together.



The red lines are signals of a muon and anti-muon – ***probably*** produced by a decaying Z particle

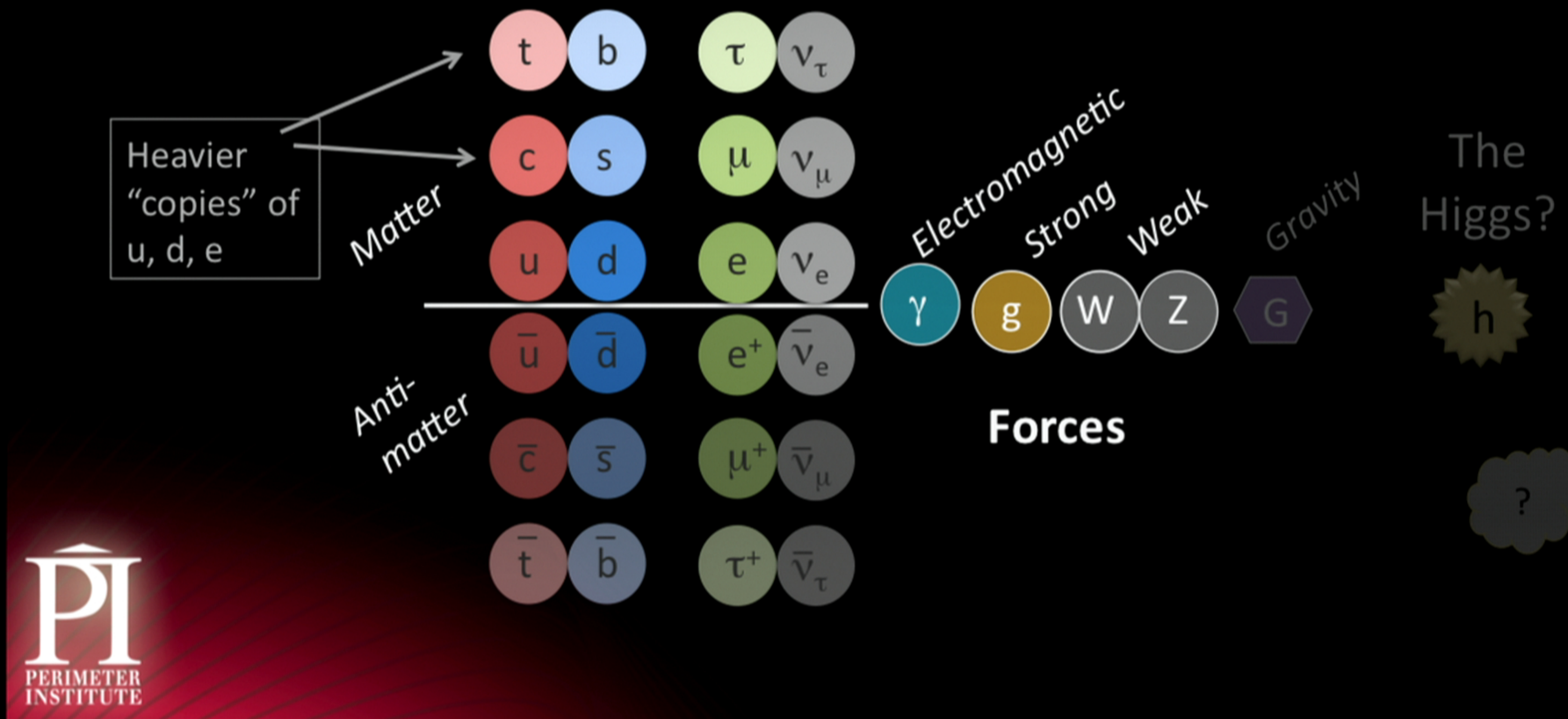
Just remember: everything that is allowed will happen some of the time, but we can't predict when!

We can't predict when a Z is produced, or how it decays



We can only calculate the probability of each type of decay, and compare it to the fraction of collision events where it actually happens.

Particles “seen” as of July 3, 2012



The Weak-Force Conundrums

A thought experiment:

Can calculate the **probability** that these W's scatter under electric and weak forces.

For very high-energy Ws, the probability we calculate exceeds 100%

(this problem only arises because the W has mass)

Nonsense – the theory **must** be incomplete!

The Weak-Force Conundrums

What can solve them?

There must be a new force that changes how W's interact

– it must be carried by one or more new particles:

the Higgs particle(s)

Its couplings to the W and Z must be precisely related to their masses, to fix the scattering calculation.

In fact, the necessary couplings to **all** the "fundamental" particles are **proportional to their masses**

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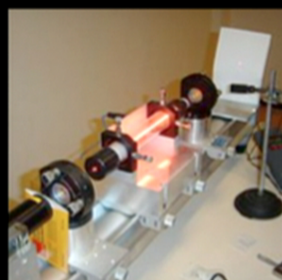
Solving the Weak-Force Conundrums

Every force in nature has both particles and fields:



Electromagnetic
Particles
(light)

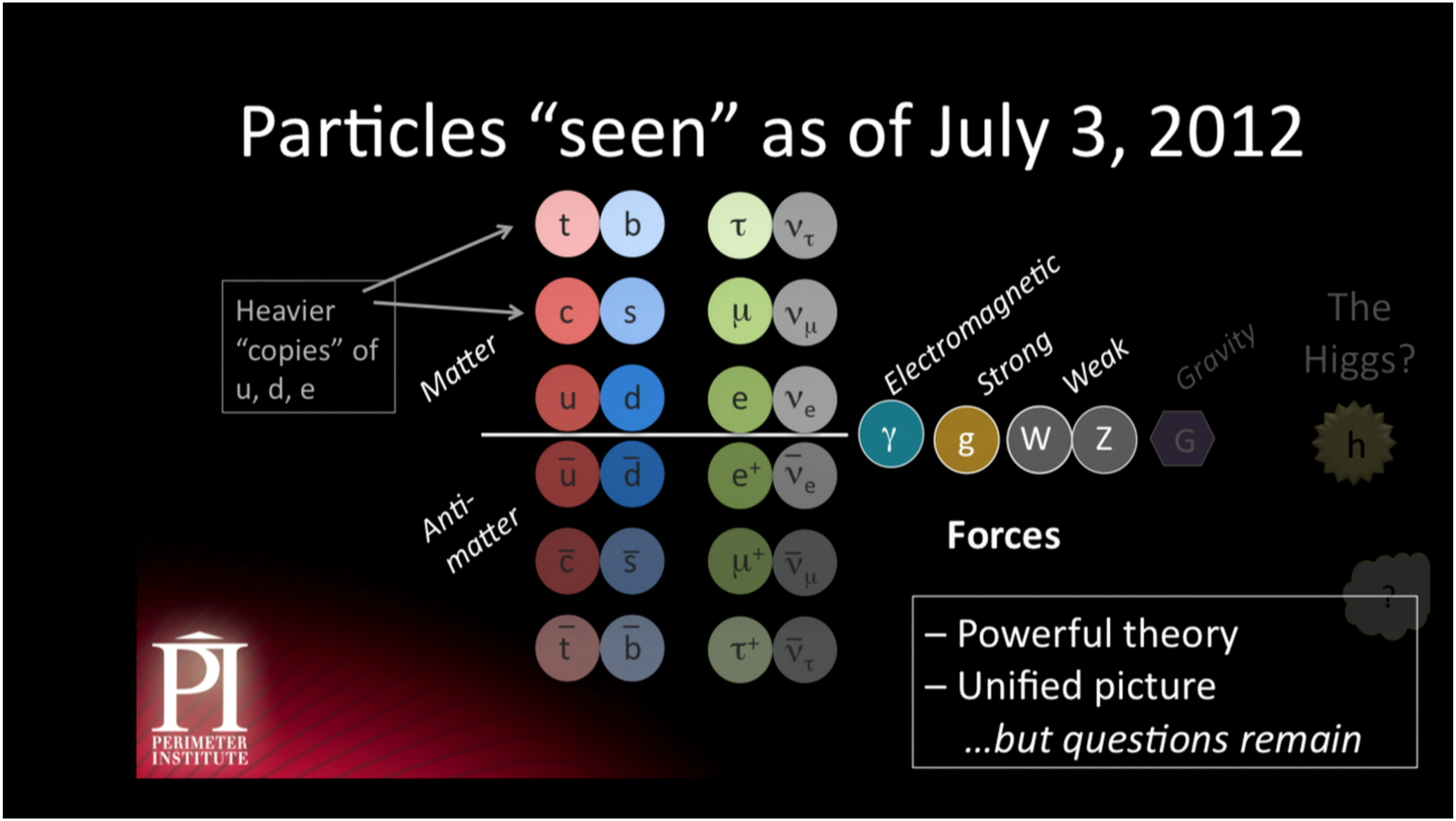
Electromagnetic
Fields

Electric fields can accelerate,

Magnetic fields can bend,

but Higgs fields can **give** inertia, or mass

All of the fundamental particle masses seem to comes from (one or more) Higgs field filling all of space.


Particles "seen" as of July 3, 2012
Heavier "copies" of u, d, e
Matter
Anti-matter
t b τ ντ
c s μ νμ
u d e νe
ū d̄ e+ ν̄e
c̄ s̄ μ+ ν̄μ
t̄ b̄ τ+ ν̄τ
Electromagnetic
Strong
Weak
Gravity
The Higgs?
γ g W Z G h
Forces
– Powerful theory
– Unified picture
...but questions remain
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This makes the Higgs field **very** important!

- Without a Higgs field, the electron would have no mass, and there would be no stable atoms
- The W and Z bosons would be (almost) massless – radioactive decay would be much faster
- The proton would be heavier than the neutron, and would decay into it (instead of the other way around)

So it's well worth our time to understand how it works… by looking for the Higgs particle!

The Weak-Force Conundrums

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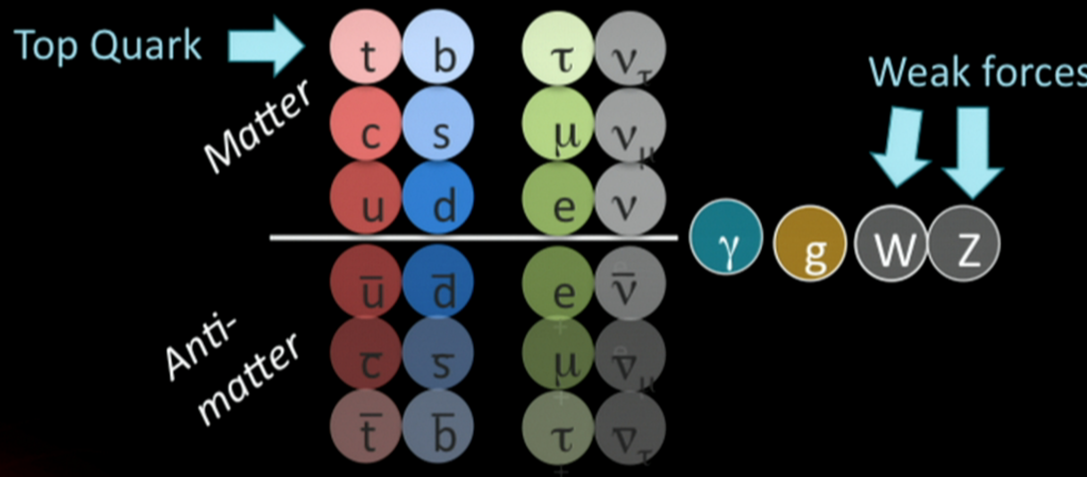
Tools for Higgs-Hunting

Heavy particles have **strongest** Higgs-charges – but decay fast.



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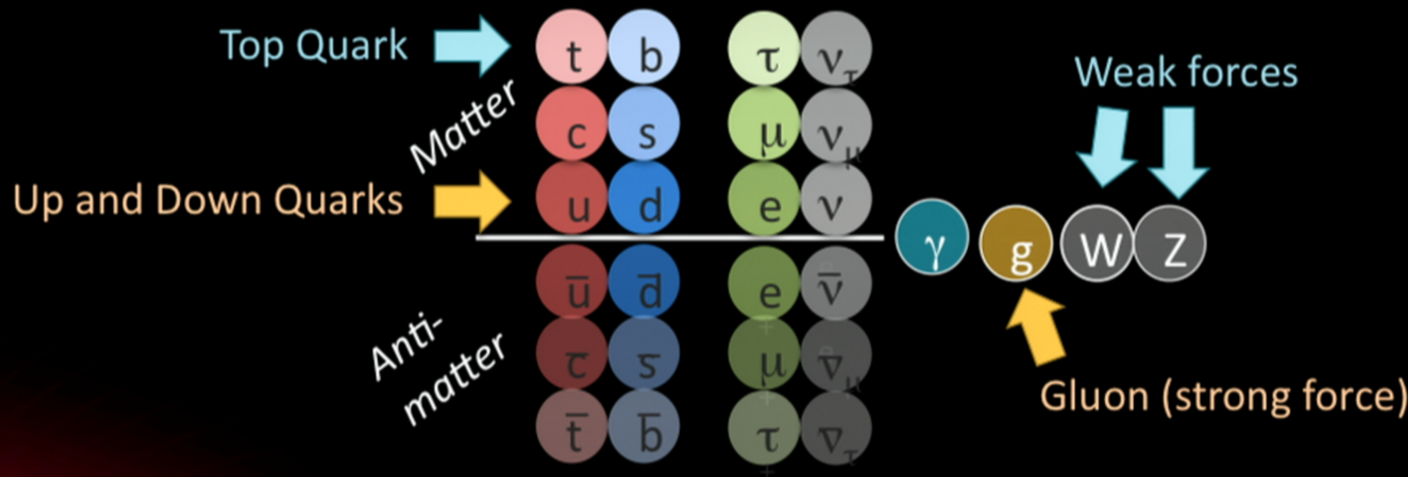
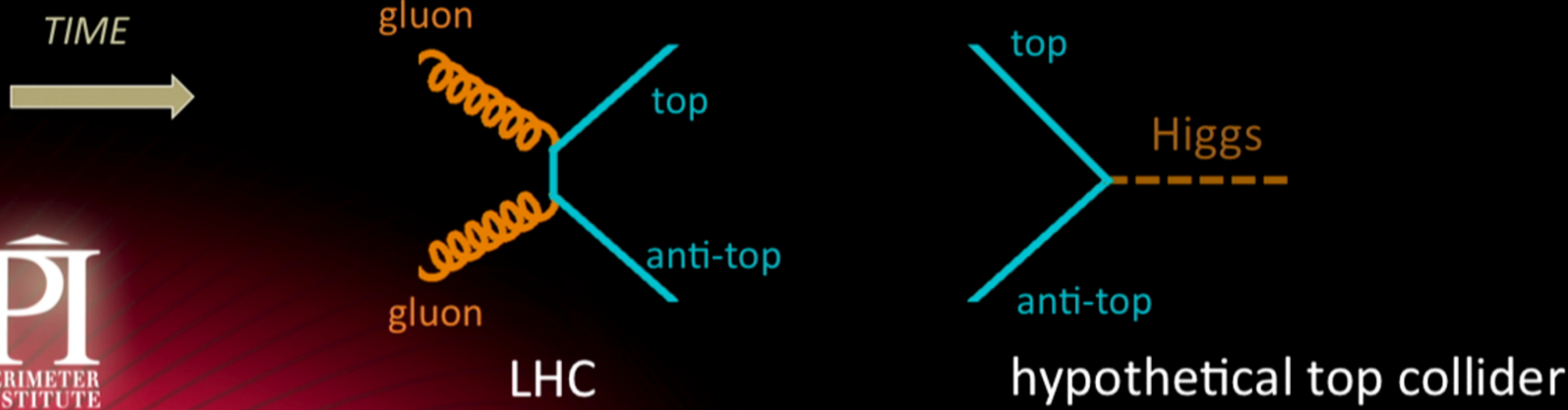


Ordinary matter made of **light particles** with **weakest** Higgs-charges (u,d charge about 0.00003)

Higgses through Quantum Mechanics

Although the gluons inside the proton have no Higgs-charge, they talk to top quarks which have a **HUGE** Higgs charge!



Production rates

W boson (any decay)	**150 every second**
Top quark pair	Every two seconds
Light higgs boson	Five per minute
Light higgs (decay to photons)	Once every 3 hours

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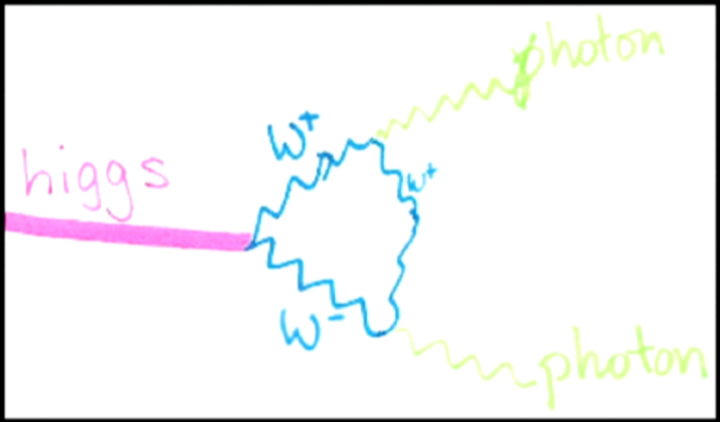
The preferred decay modes of the Higgs depend on its mass – so one has to look for it in many different places…

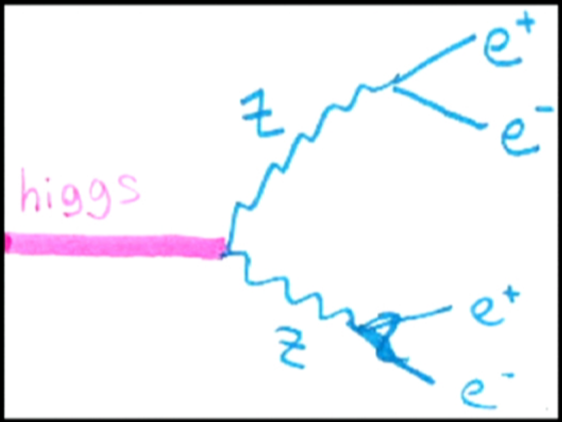
What does a Higgs look like?

The two most visible kinds of decay are into two photons, or four leptons (electrons or muons)

Both are predicted from the expected interaction of Higgs with weak bosons (W and Z)

+ the known interactions of particles





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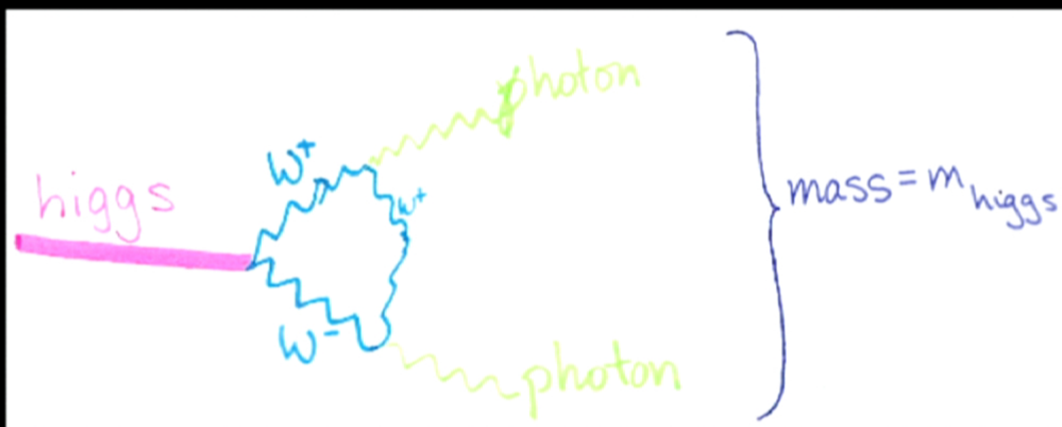

$$E_h^2 = (p_h c)^2 + (m_h c^2)^2$$

$$\rightarrow m_h = \sqrt{E_h{}^2/c^4 - p_h{}^2/c^2}$$

Conservation of energy & momentum:

$$E_h = E_1 + E_2$$

$$p_h = p_1 + p_2$$

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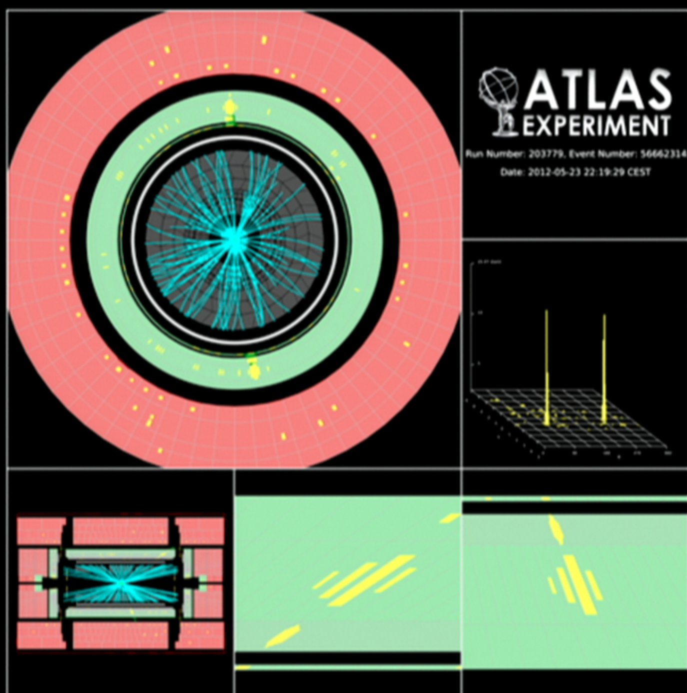
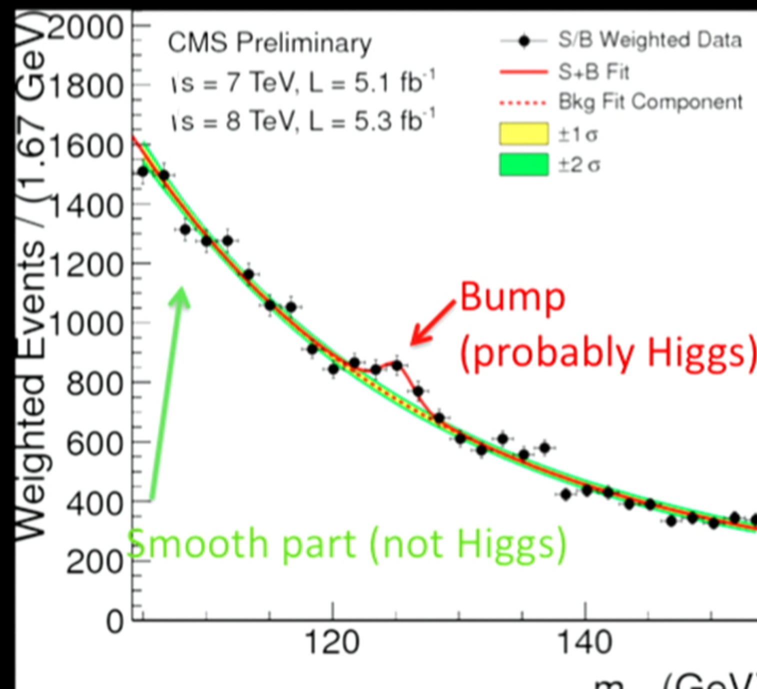
How do we know they're from a Higgs?

Looking for a Higgs

A Two-Photon Event

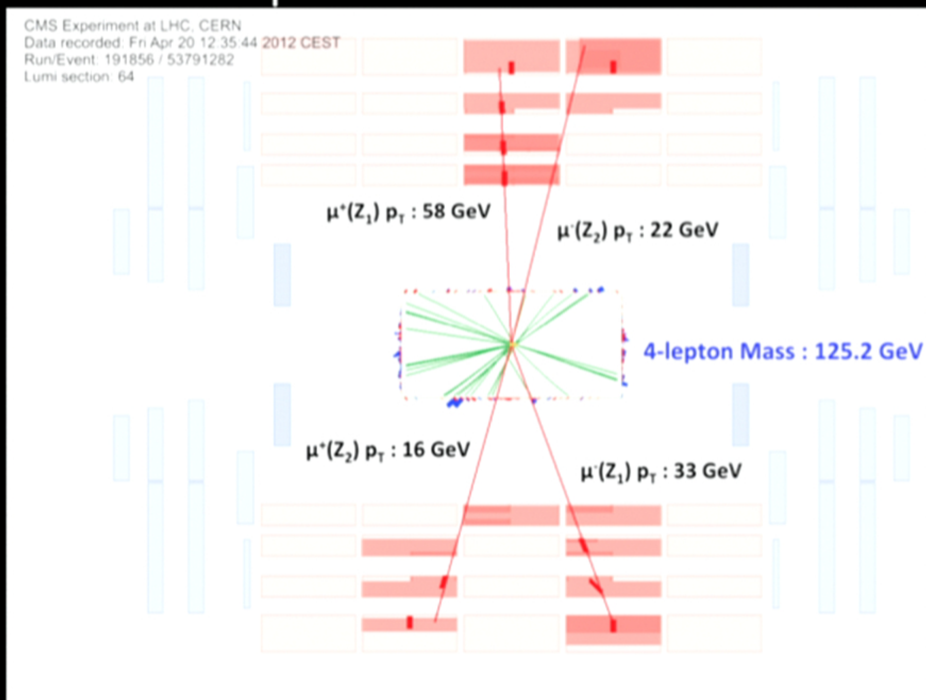


A year's wroth of two-photon masses



Is it really a Higgs?

A Four-Lepton Event



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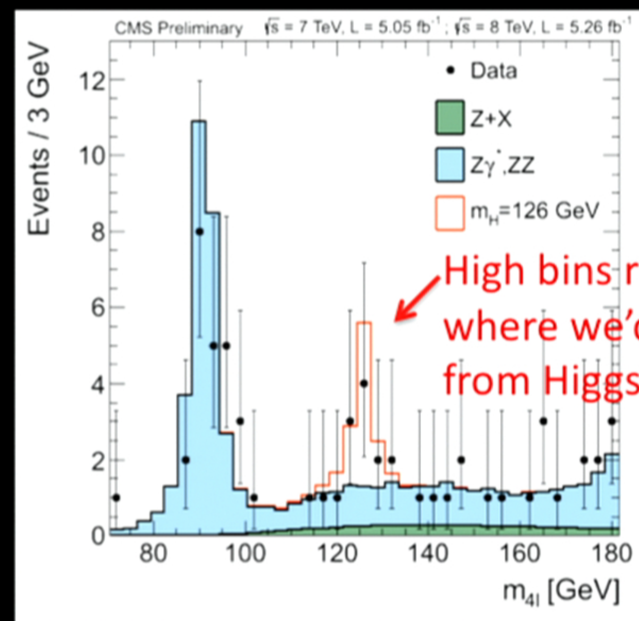


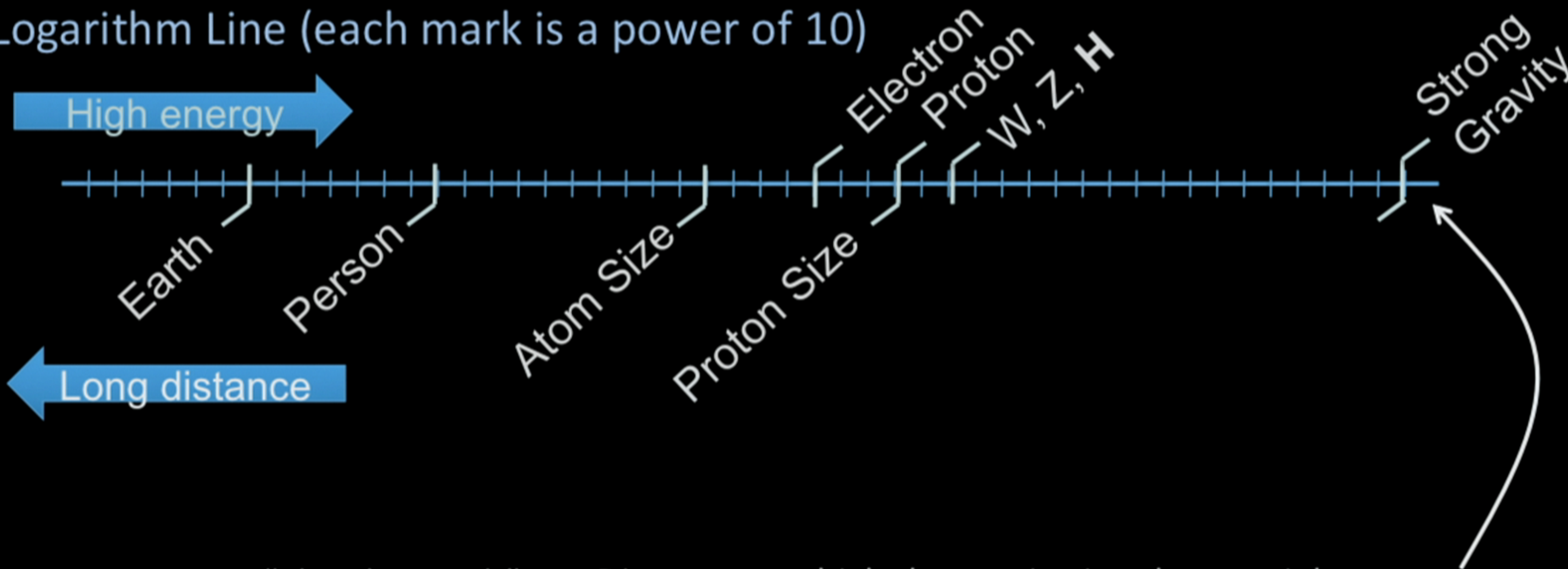
High bins right where we'd expect from Higgs!

Success…and a puzzle!

- Predicted a Higgs particle based on consistency of quantum theory with W and Z
- A particle matching the predictions (so far) is showing up in data!
- Explains why W & Z have mass while photon & gluons do not – electric, weak, and strong forces all on same footing
  - So…what's the big puzzle??

The Puzzle of Scales

Logarithm Line (each mark is a power of 10)



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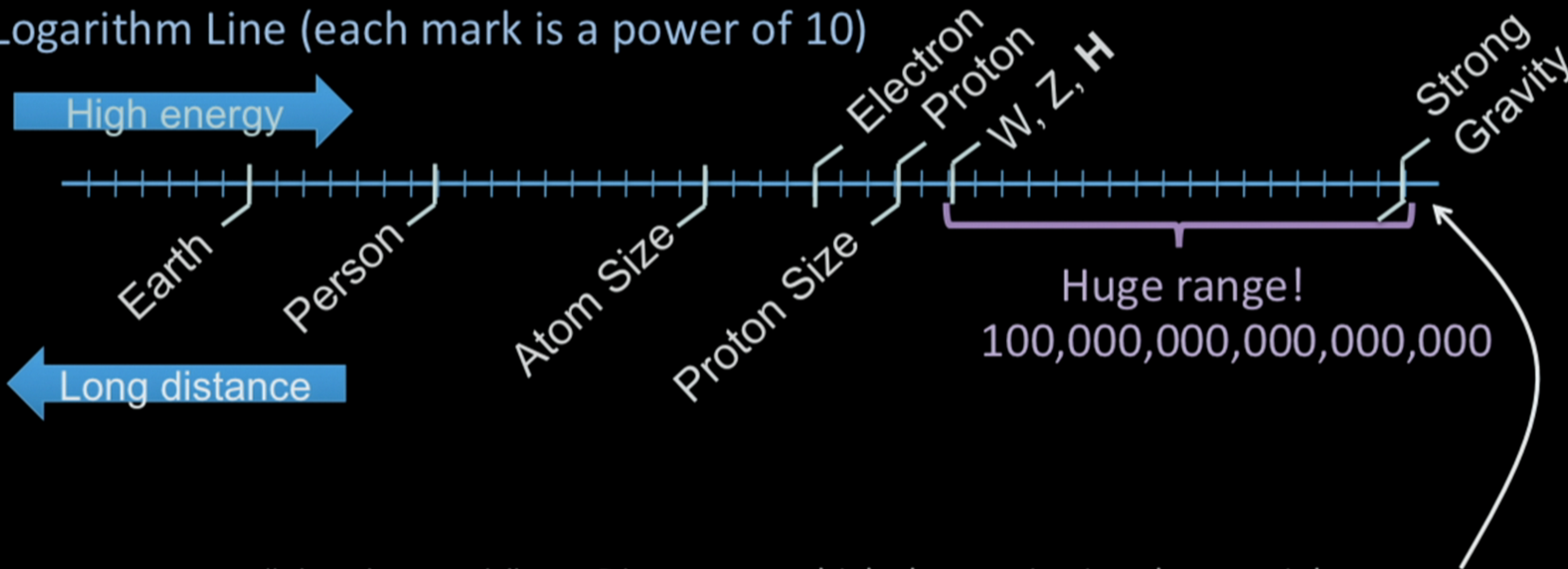

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↑

100,000,000,000,000,000x W mass?

$$M_{quantum} = -\ 128{,}236{,}158{,}903{,}735{,}437$$
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Seems crazy! The closer $M_{largest}$ is to W mass, the less we need a crazy accident to explain our universe.

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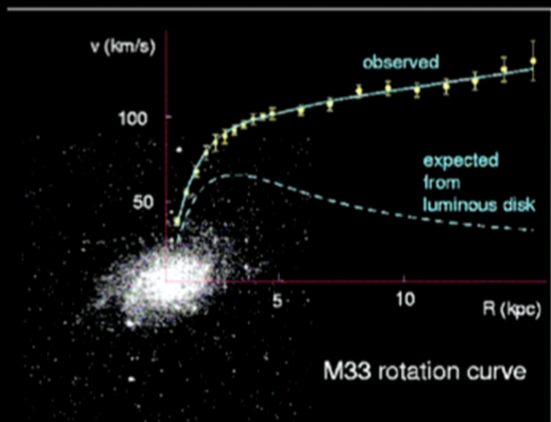
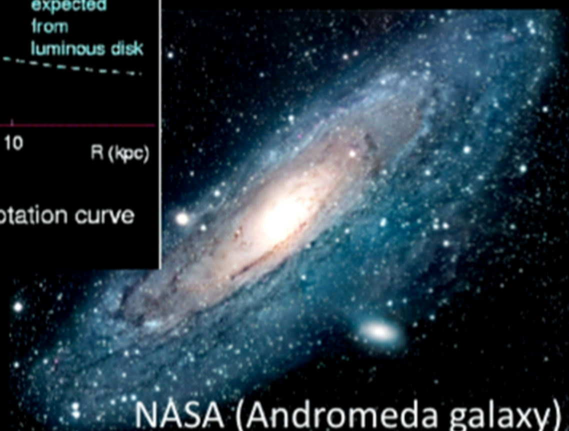
Is one of these particles the dark matter?




NASA (Andromeda galaxy)

Galaxies appear heavier when "weighed" by the rotation of stars than we'd expect from the matter we see.

The other (dark) matter must be built out of a new particle that we haven't seen yet. Dark matter particles ***may*** be produced at the LHC.

The LHC in the Future

Whatever new particles we find at the LHC, there will be three important questions to answer:

1. What is it produced with? How does it decay?
2. What rules/principles can explain this behavior?
3. Can the new particle(s) shed light on dark matter, or the problems of weak interactions and scales?

The rules at work at the LHC are the same ones that govern physics in the stars and here in this room.

What do we expect?

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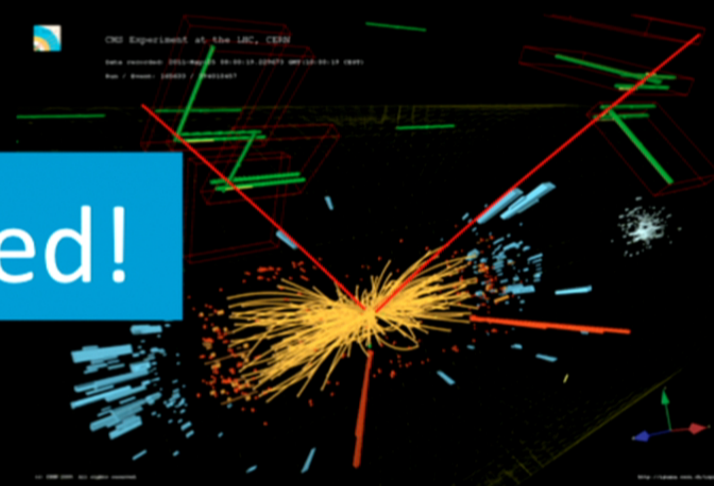
Studying the things we **don’t** understand has consistently broadened our understanding…often in more ways than we had expected

What do we expect?

We have **cause** to expect new discoveries – hopefully answers to some of our questions, and surprises more fascinating than any of us can imagine.

Stay Tuned!



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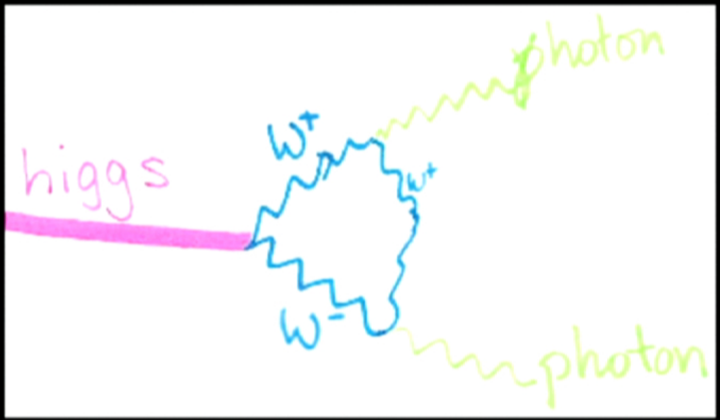

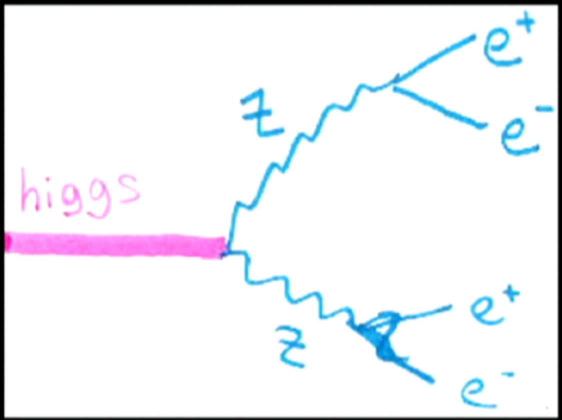

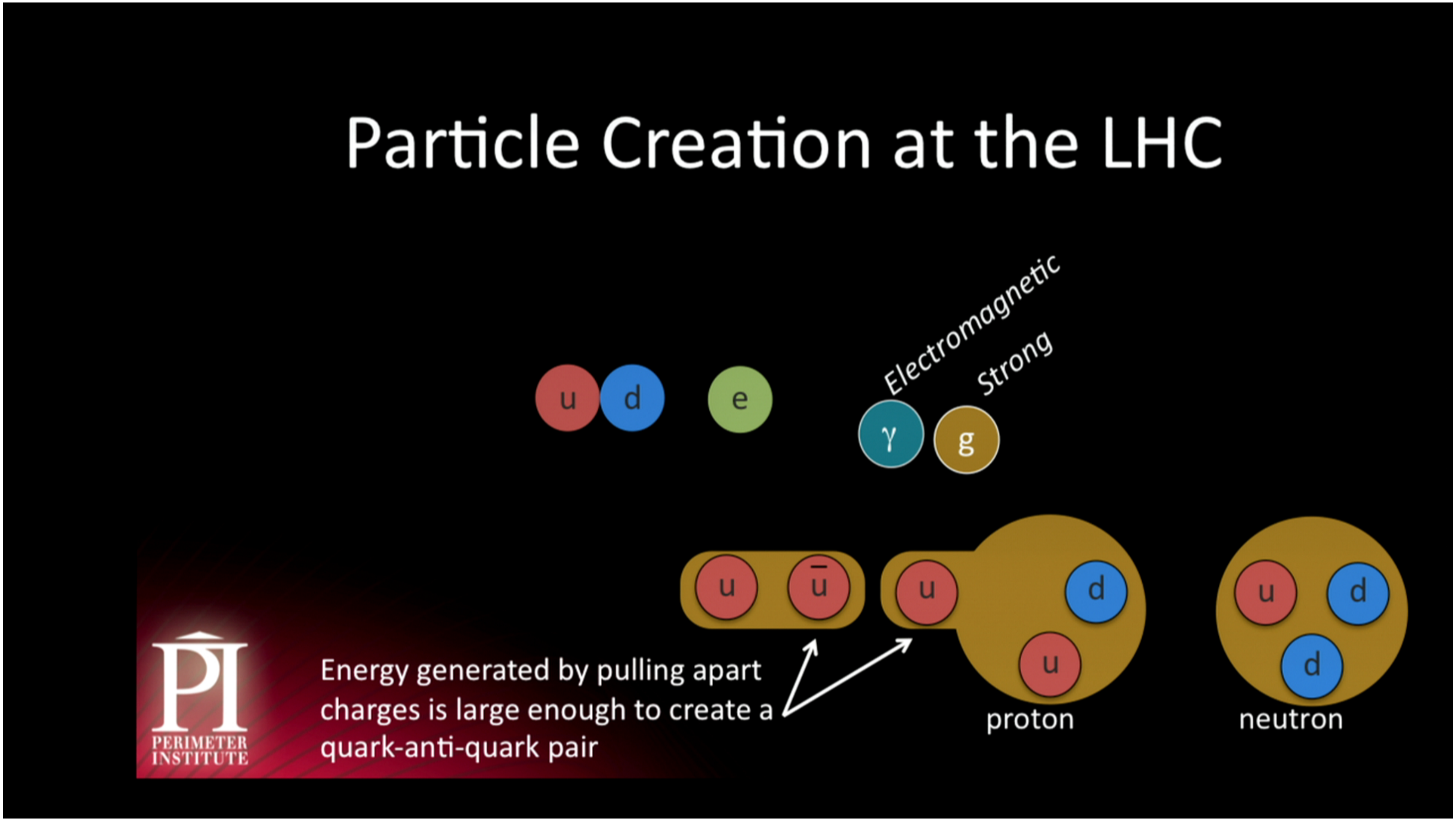
Particle Creation at the LHC
Electromagnetic
Strong
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γ
g
u
ū
u
d
u
proton
u
d
d
neutron
Energy generated by pulling apart charges is large enough to create a quark-anti-quark pair
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Dark Matter And Something Else