

“The Standard Model” of Elementary Particles:
What is it?
Where did it come from?
What is it good for?

Kevin McFarland
University of Rochester
STANYS Pre-conference Workshop
November 4, 2001

“The Standard Model”

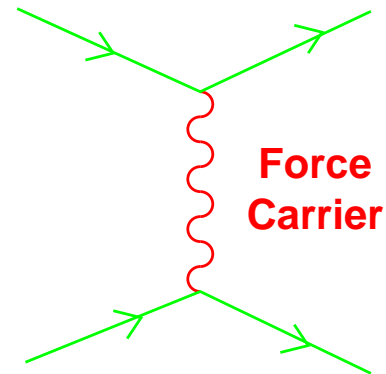
This is the last slide on which you will hear me voluntarily use that phrase. . .

- I don't like the implication that we understand it all!
We don't!
- So what does the phrase usually refer to?
 - ↪ A description of the weak, strong and electromagnetic forces caused by exchanges of fundamental particles
 - ↪ Unification of weak and electromagnetic forces
 - ↪ Proton, neutron, etc. modeled by strongly bound quarks
- What else might be out there?
 - ↪ New forces, particles, “symmetries”?
 - ↪ Explanation for heavy generations?
 - ↪ Unification of strong and electro-weak forces
 - ↪ Gravity?

Four Fundamental Forces

Gravity, Electromagnetism, Strong
and Weak Nuclear Forces

Mediated by Force Carriers



- Gravity

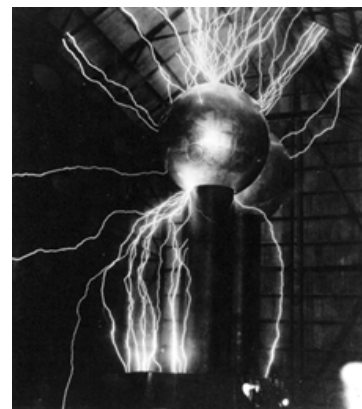


Gravity at Work

- Attractive force between particles with mass or energy
- Long range, macroscopic
- Holds planets, solar systems, galaxies together

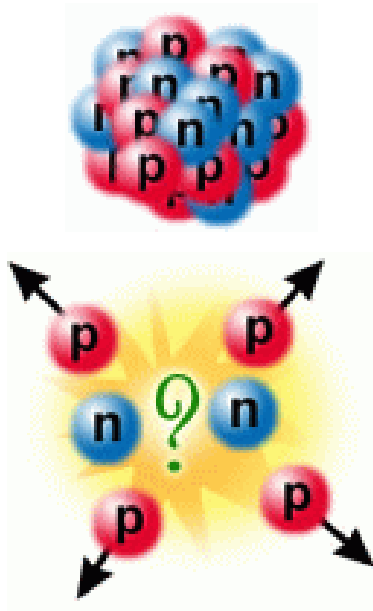
- Electromagnetism

- Attractive or repulsive force between particles with electric charge
- Long range, macroscopic
- Holds atoms together, keeps matter from collapsing under gravity



**Shockingly
Electromagnetic**

Four Fundamental Forces

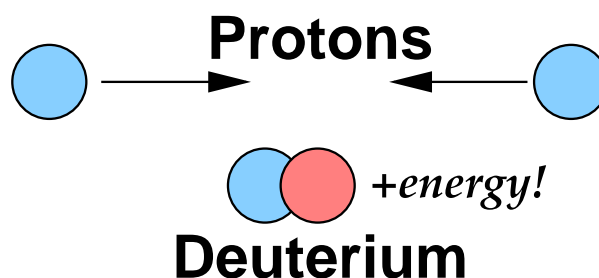
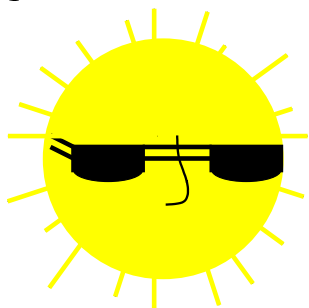


- Strong Nuclear Force

- The nucleus of an atom contains lots of protons that repel each other electromagnetically
- Strong force binds them
- Microscopic *because* it is strong!

- Weak Nuclear Force

- Responsible for β decay... of nuclei
- So who cares?



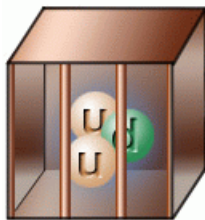
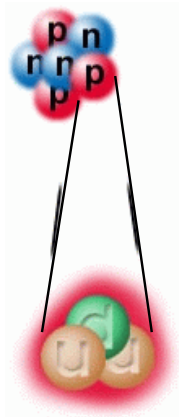
- Fusion requires that a **proton** change into a **neutron**
- This is the inverse process of β decay!

Anti-Matter

Not just for Star Trek anymore. . .

- Every particle we know about has a corresponding anti-particle
 - ↪ Proton has an anti-proton; electron has positron
 - ↪ Photon is its own anti-particle!
- Anti-particle has all the same properties, include same mass, but opposite electric charge
- Matter and anti-matter can be combined to make “pure energy”
 - ↪ Meaning force carriers for a particle physicist
 - ↪ And energy can make pairs of matter and anti-matter particles

Building Protons: Quarks



- Protons (and neutrons) are made up of three quarks

→ “Up” quarks have charge $+2/3$

→ “Down” quarks have charge $-1/3$

→ Proton = uud

→ Neutron = udd

- How can charged “u” be bound to “ud” combination?

→ Strong force is strong as glue!

→ So strong, that free quarks cannot be found



Quarks carry a color



Anti-quarks carry an anti-color



Gluons carry a color and an anti-color







- What quark combinations are found?

→ The key is making it “color neutral”

→ Three colors (red, blue, green) combine like light

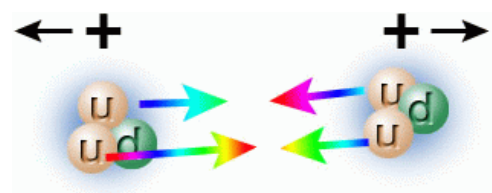
Building with Quarks

- Red+green+blue \Rightarrow colorless
 - These three quark combinations are called “hadrons”
 - Quark+antiquark combinations (“mesons”) are also allowed
- \hookrightarrow Color+anticolor \Rightarrow colorless

			Color
Red	Green	Blue	Quarks
			Anti-Color
Anti-Red	Anti-Green	Anti-Blue	Anti-Quarks

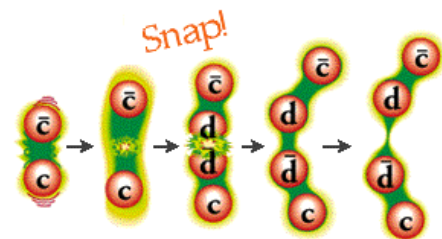
- What holds a nucleus together?
(protons and neutrons are colorless)

- \hookrightarrow Residual strong forces
- \hookrightarrow This is why nucleus is not so much bigger than proton

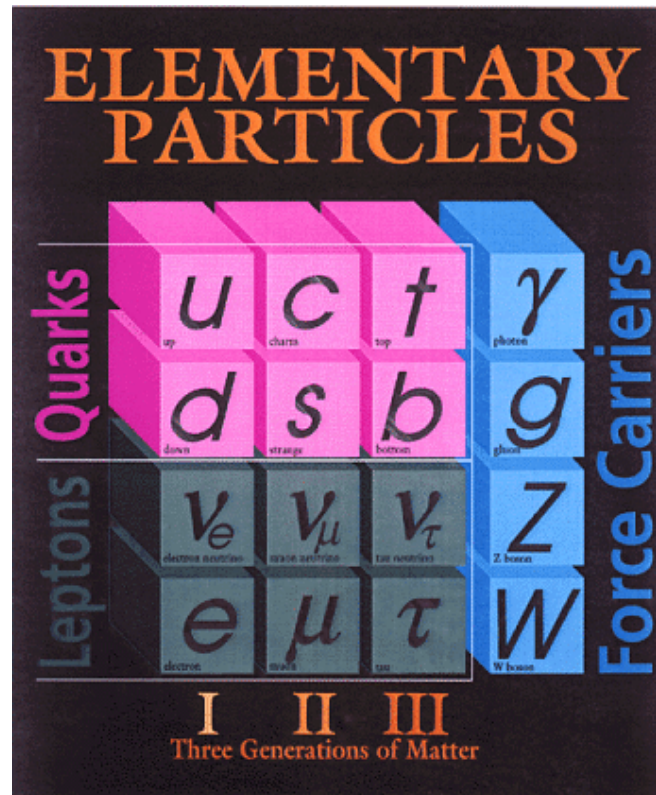


- What happens if you try to defeat confinement?

- \hookrightarrow Convert energy into matter
- \hookrightarrow Like snapping a spring!

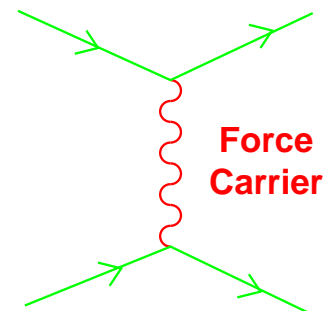


Elementary Particles



What are these things?

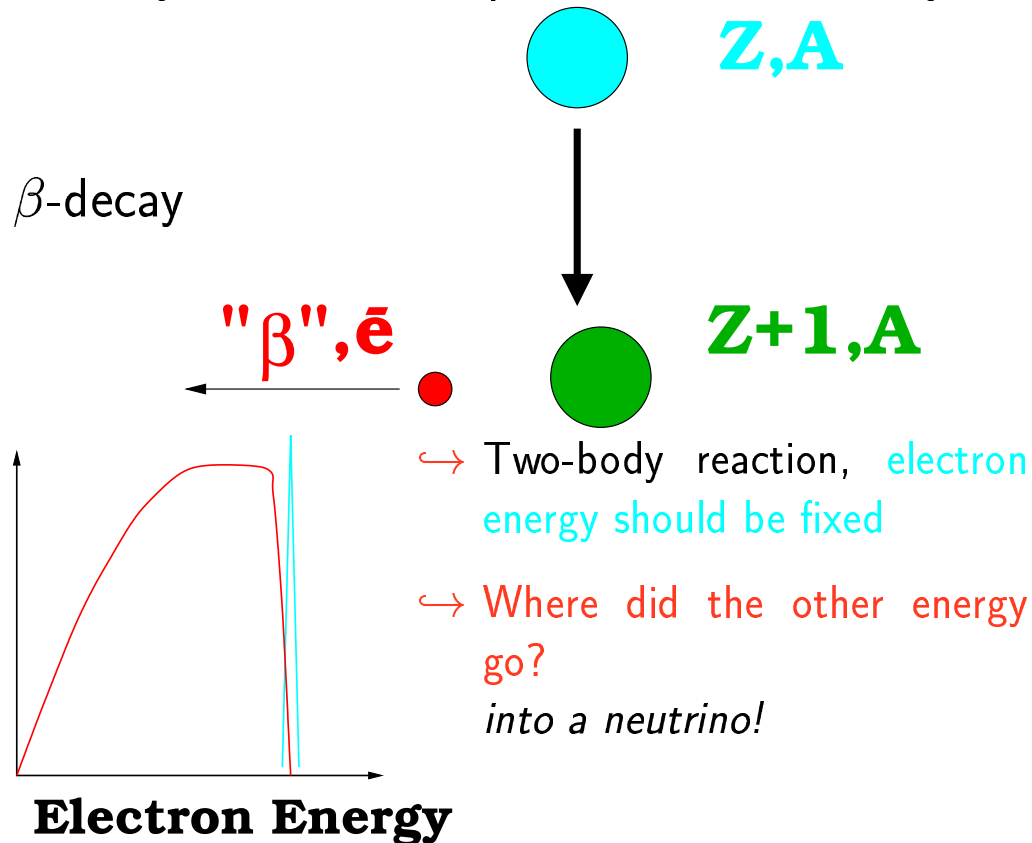
- “Force Carriers” are the particles responsible for creating the four forces



- “Quarks” are the things that make up protons and neutrons and are bound together inside a nucleus
- “Leptons” include the electron and the neutrino

What's a Neutrino?

- The mysterious extra particle in beta decay

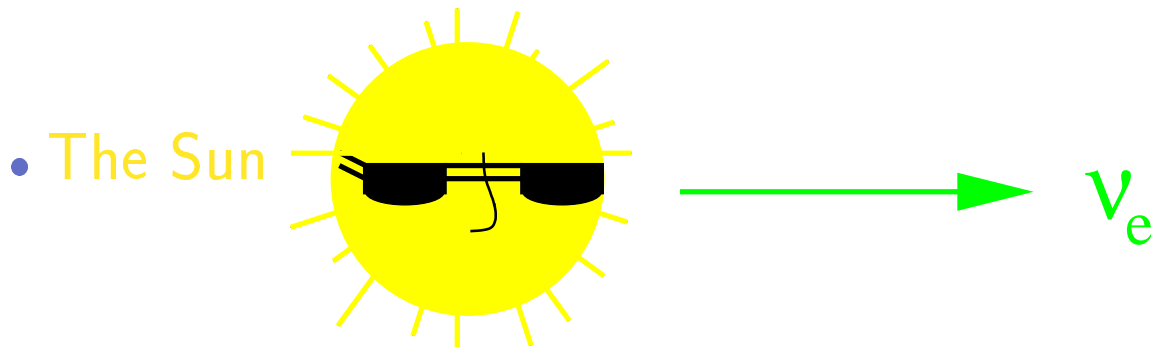


- Has no electric or "color" charge; interacts weakly!

Where do we find neutrinos?

- The Early Universe

- Decays of the heavy generations leave $\sim 100/\text{cc}$ of each type of neutrino behind
- These are, by now, very cold (slow) and hard to detect
- But, if the neutrino has significant mass (10 eV), they would make up most of the mass in the Universe!



- If the sun shines from fusion, energy flux on earth from light and neutrinos are similar
- About 100 billion neutrinos per cm^2 per second rain down on the earth

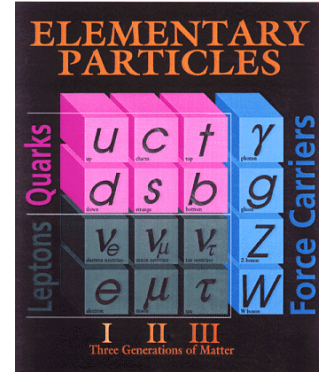
- Natural Radioactivity

- We contain about 20 mg of ^{40}K , which is a radioactive β emitter
 - ★ Each of us emits about 0.3 billion ν/sec
- At the earth's surface, the natural radioactivity in the earth results in 10 million $\nu/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$

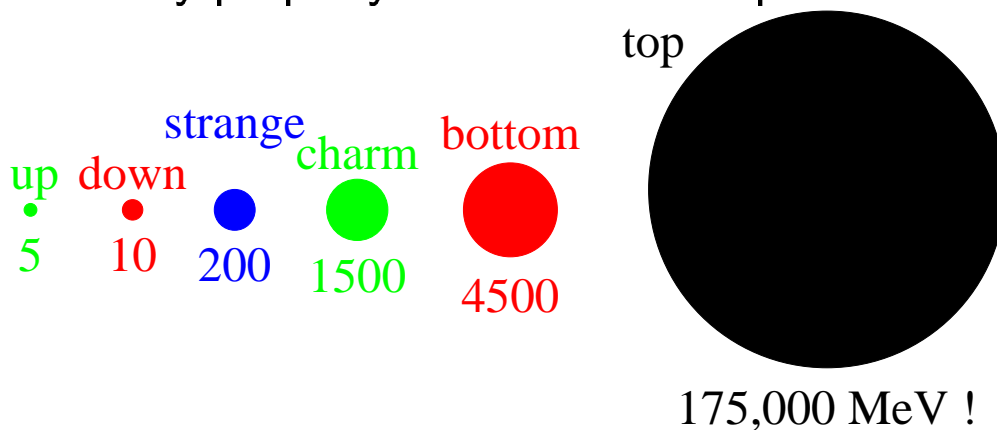
Generations

If ordinary matter around us is made of up and down quarks and electrons...

... what are all those other particles doing there?



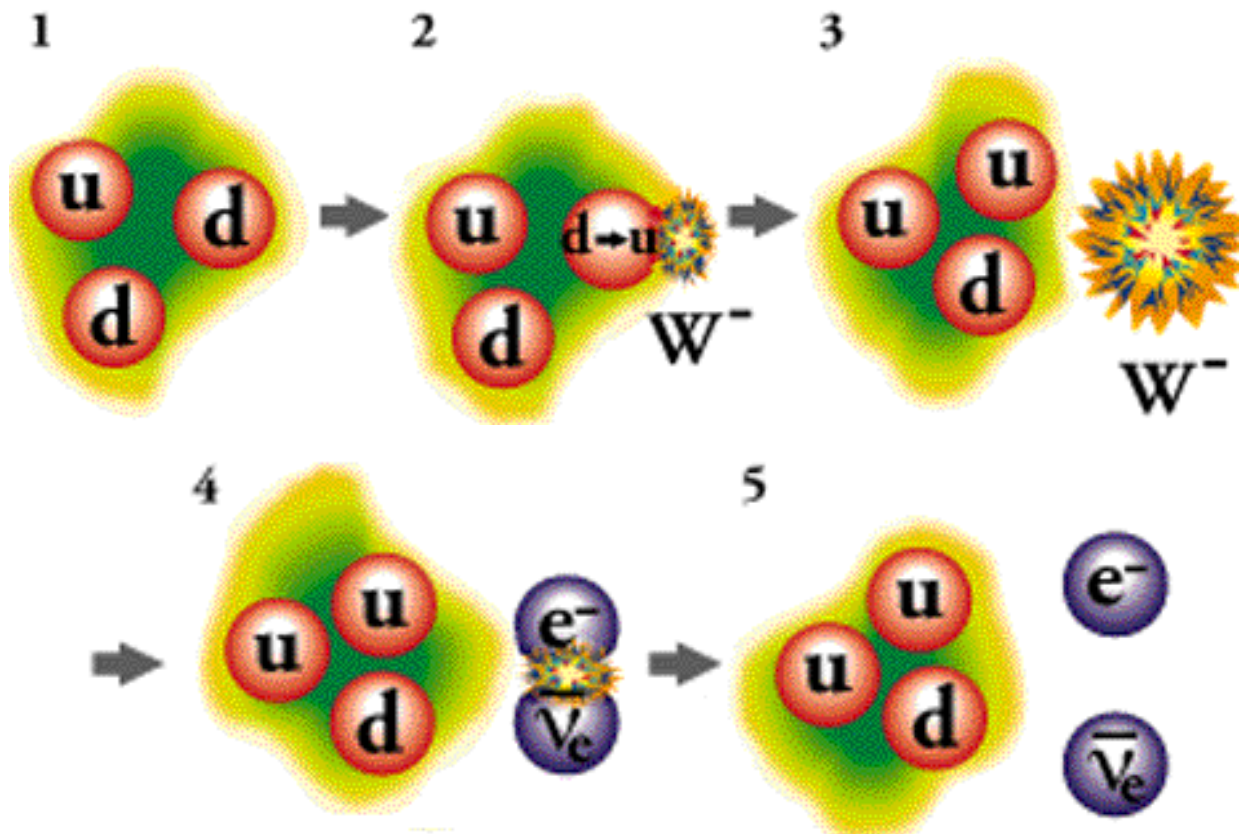
- Good question!
- There appear to be three copies of each of the “light” particles that make up ordinary matter
- Particle physicists call these “generations”
- The only property that seems to separate them is mass



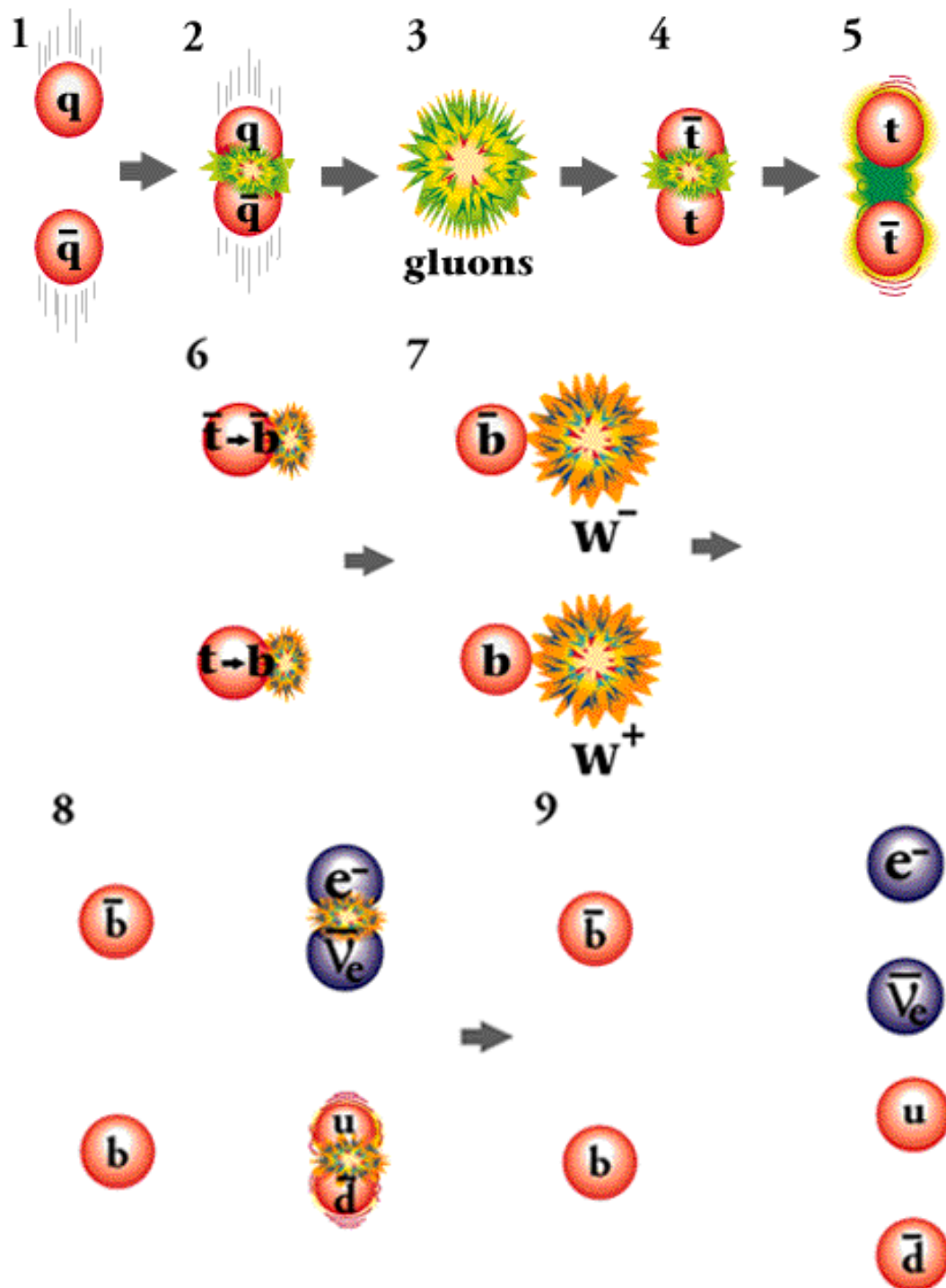
- And the only way for particles of one generation to change into another is...

the weak interaction (“ β -decay”)

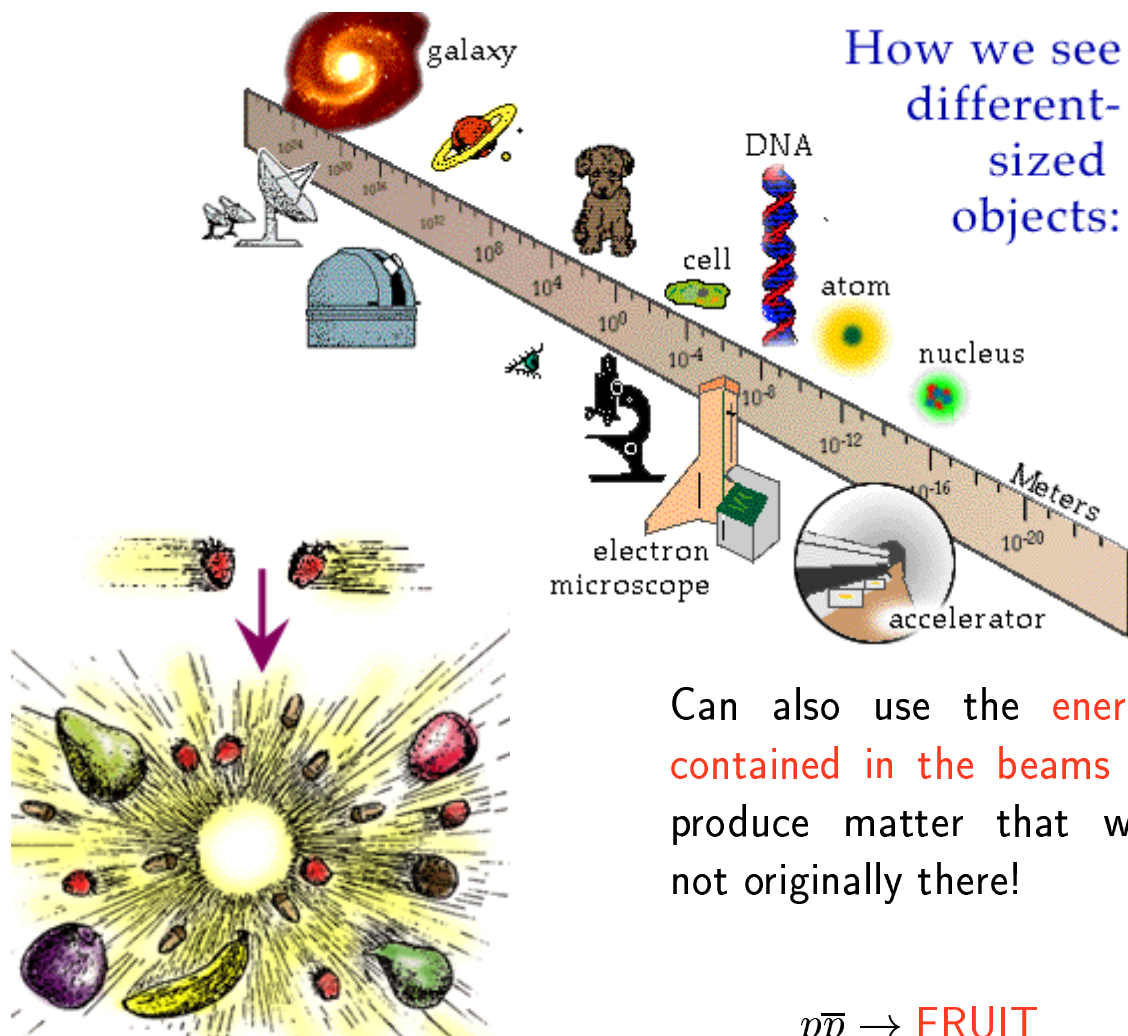
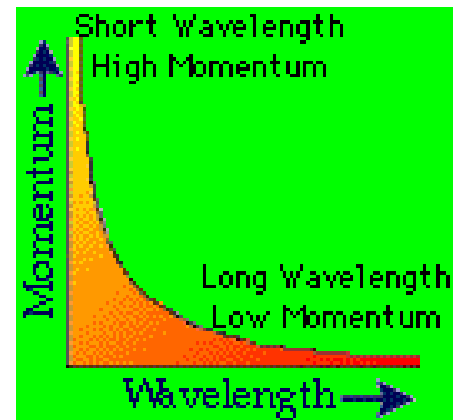
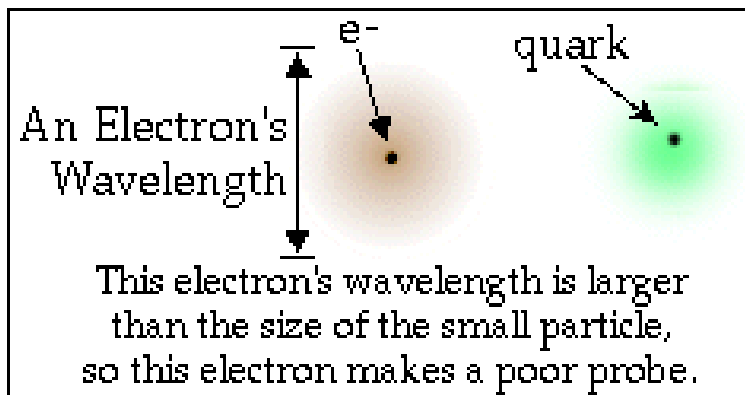
Radioactive Beta Decay



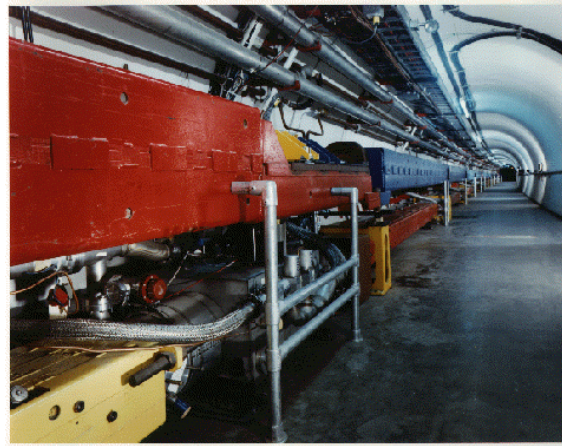
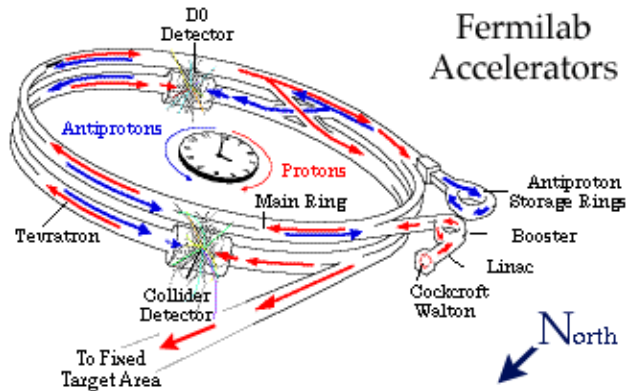
Producing Top Quarks



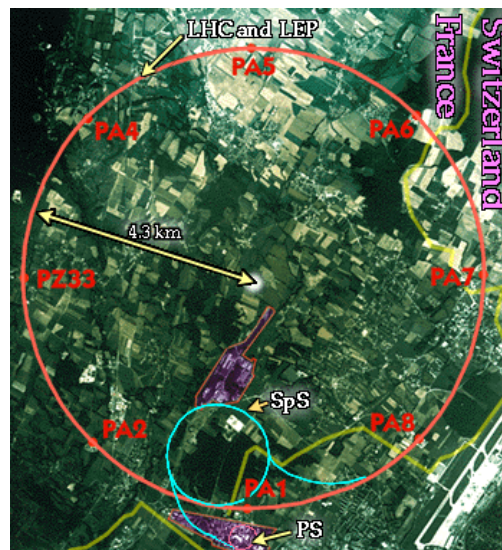
What Are Particle Accelerators For?



Some Accelerators in the World

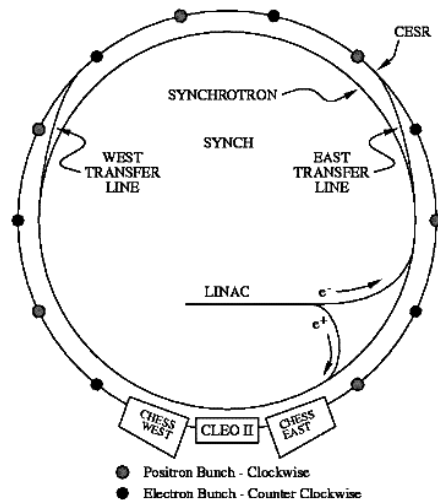
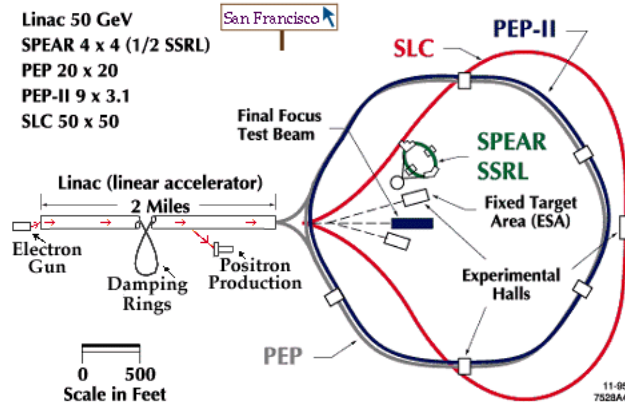


FNAL $p\bar{p}$ $\sqrt{s} = 2$ TeV



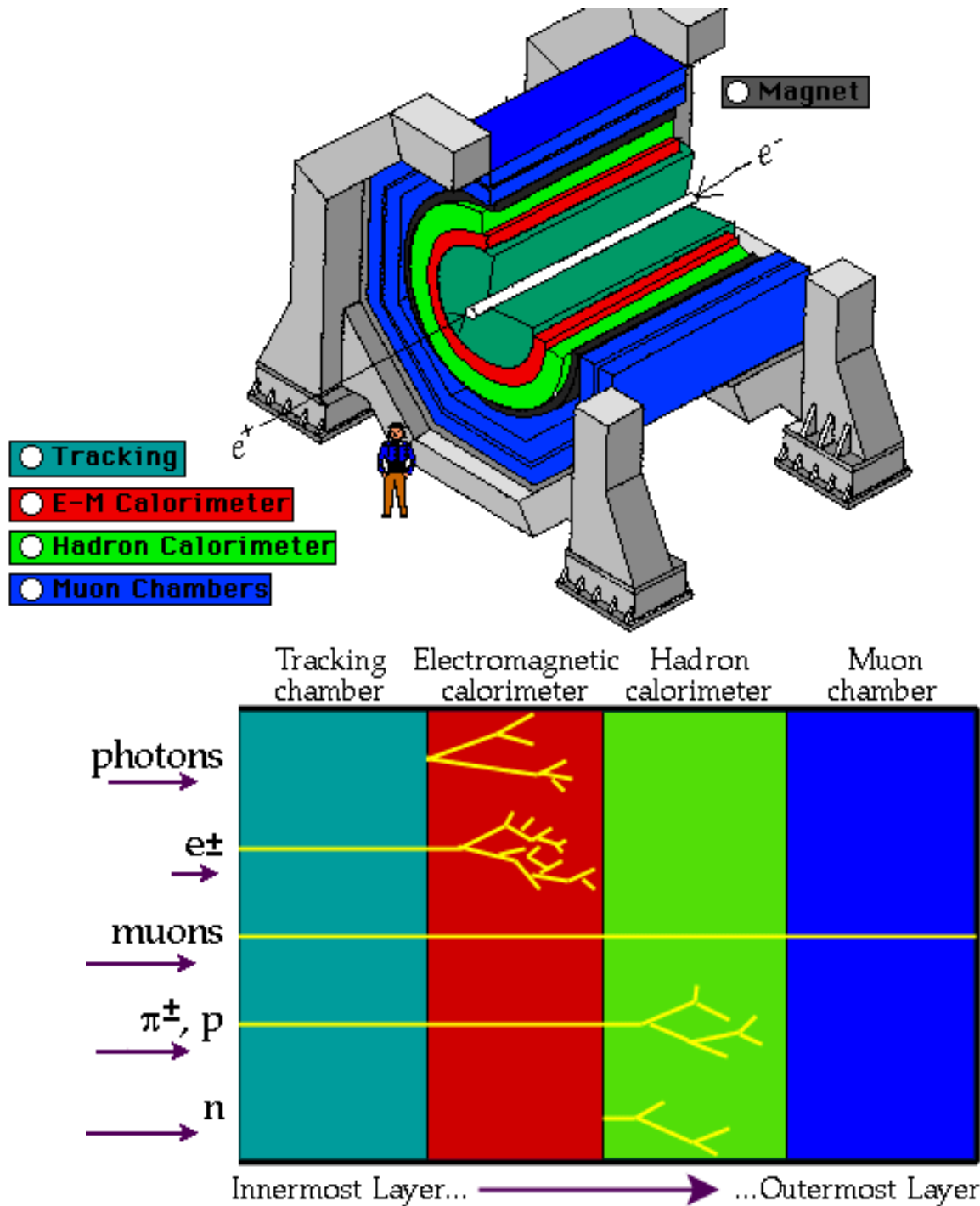
LHC pp
 $\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV

Experimental Areas at SLAC



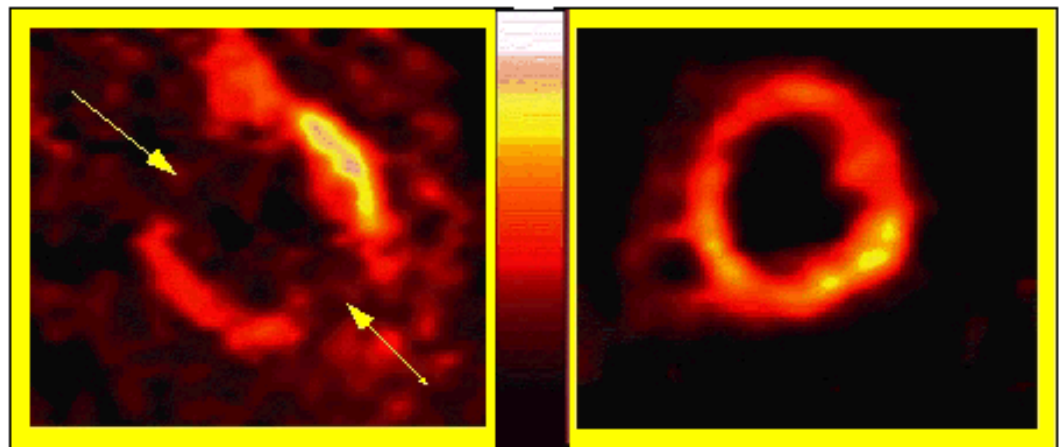
Particle Detectors

Collider Detectors: Surround the Interaction



Of What Use is all this Technology?

- Particle physics technology is the backbone of medical imaging!
 - ↪ X-rays, MRI, PET, etc.
- Example: Positron Emission Tomography (PET)
 - ↪ Doctors inject patient with a radioactive material that decays and emits anti-matter electrons (positrons)
 - ↪ Positrons combine with electrons in body to emit pure energy (photons)
 - ↪ Doctor detects photons (gamma rays)
 - ↪ Radioactive material embedded in *biologically active compounds*!
 - ★ E.g., into sugar to feed healthy tissue

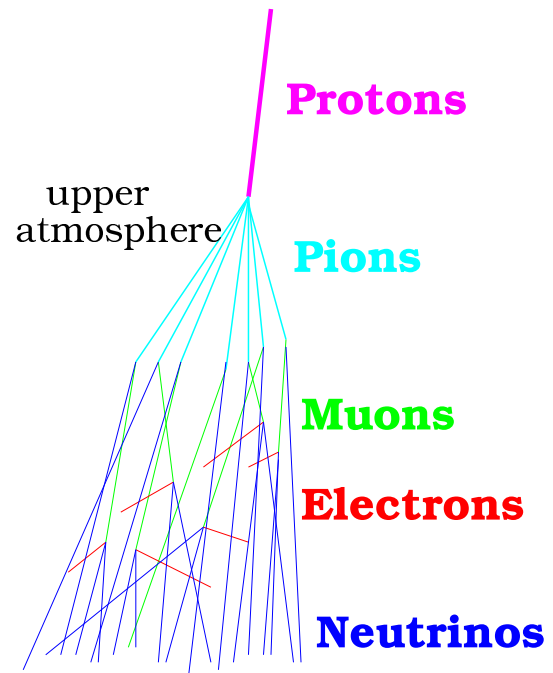


Left: Heart w/ dead Myocardial Tissue; Right: Healthy Heart

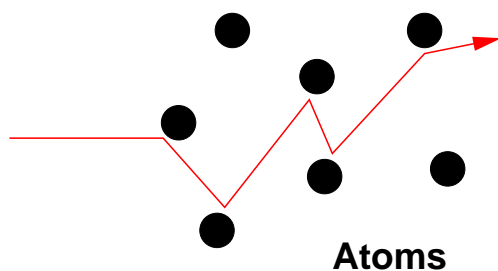
Cosmic Rays

• Cosmic Rays

- Cosmic Rays from galaxy interact
- Create weakly decaying particles
- Muons, Electrons, Neutrinos

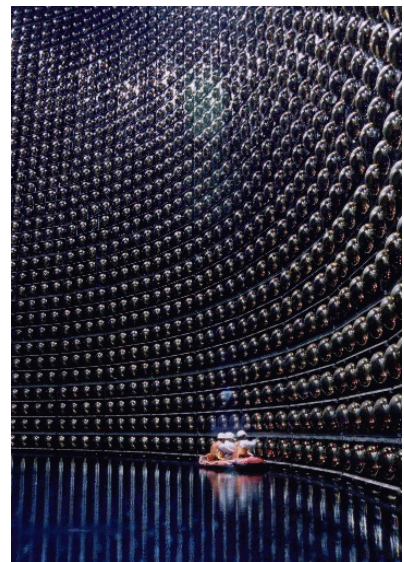


Electrons Stop...



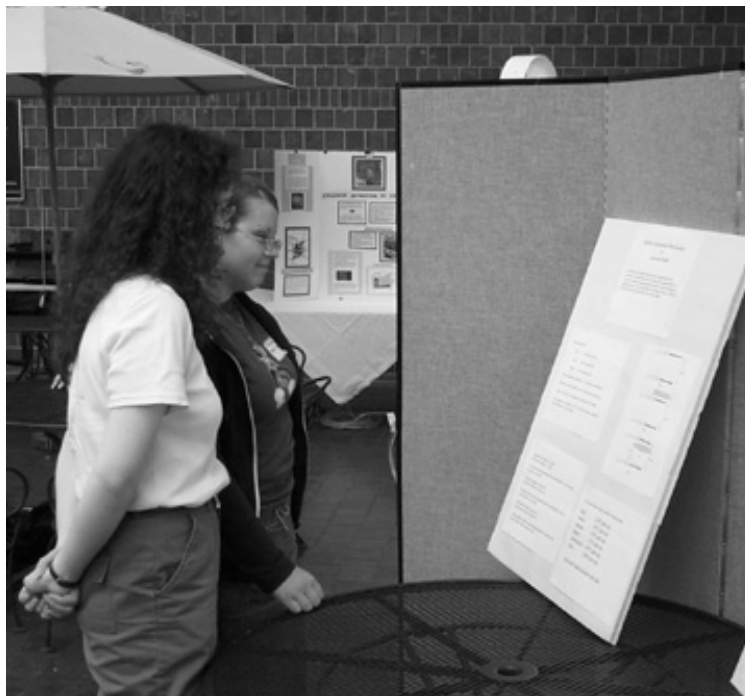
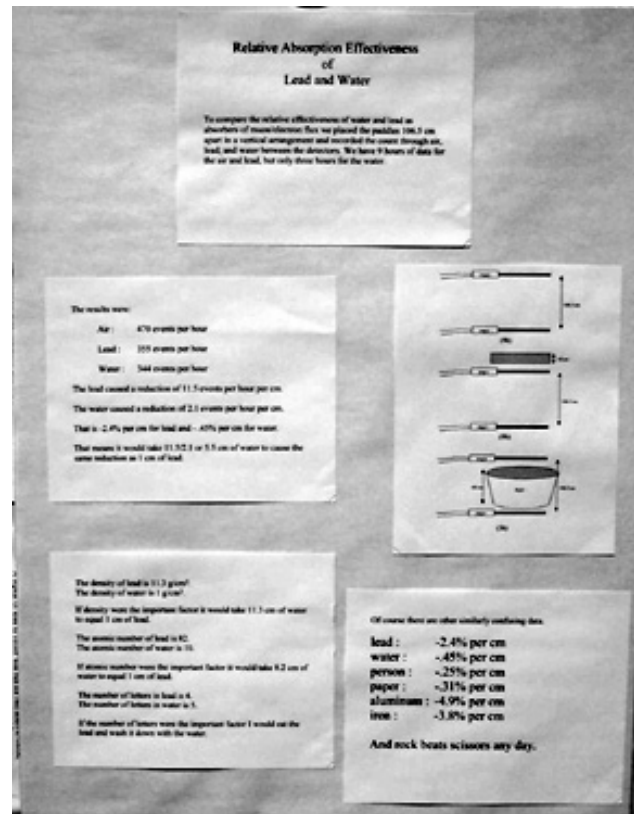
... Neutrinos are hard to see

Building a Detector
to observe neutrinos



But Muons are just right...

Cosmic Rays and the Classroom



Where to go to Learn More?

- On the web

Particle Adventure <http://particleadventure.org/>

Fermilab <http://www.fnal.gov/>

Brookhaven <http://www.bnl.gov/>

Cornell <http://www.lns.cornell.edu/>

CERN <http://www.cern.ch/>

PARTICLE <http://www.pas.rochester.edu/particle/>

- Books

→ “The God Particle” by Leon Lederman

→ “The Charm of Strange Quarks”, Barnett, Muehry, Quinn

- To tour

→ Cornell Electron Storage Ring, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

→ Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, NY

→ TeVatron Collider, Fermilab, Batavia, Illinois