



## High Energy Physics Experiments: What? How? Why?

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Before the particle accelerator





- By observing the things around
- Light waves, reflected from a target are detected by our eyes (colors, distance)



- Our brain analyses the information, and tells us if this is a ball
  - (If we have seen a ball before so we build up on previous knowledge too)



## In High Energy Physics



- We need
- 1) A beam of electrons, (anti-)protons, ions
- 2) A target what we want to see and understand
- 3) A detector
  - and often a theory !



E. Rutherford (1909) shot a stream of alpha-particles on a gold foil.



## In High Energy Physics





He expected the particles to go right through



## In High Energy Physics





Found points everywhere around on the screen.

Discovery of the atomic substructure!

The first particle physics experiment ! Principles are still valid.



## **High Energy Physics**









- Mass is measured in  $eV/c^2$  where c = speed of light
  - $-1 \text{ eV/c}^2 = 1.8 \times 10^{-36} \text{ kg}$
  - $m_{proton} = 1 \text{ GeV/c}^2 = 2 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$  $m_{electron} = 0.5 \text{ MeV/c}^2 = 1 \times 10^{-30} \text{ kg}$

  - $-m_{sun} \sim 2 \times 10^{30} \, kg$

We will mostly use the unit "GeV" = Giga electronvolt



- Collide 2 protons with E=3,500 GeV
  - Total energy: E=7,000 GeV
  - Can create particle X with mass  $m_x < 7,000$  GeV/c<sup>2</sup>
    - Actual interactions occur between quarks and gluons that carry part of proton energy
    - Most particles we create live only for a very short fraction of a second and then decay

## A bit of Quantum Mechanics

• de Broglie: the wavelength  $\lambda$  associated with a massive particle is related to its momentum p through the Planck const h:  $\lambda = h/p$ (h = 6.62607004 × 10<sup>-34</sup> m<sup>2</sup> kg/s

or h =  $4.135\ 667\ 662\ x\ 10^{-15}\ eV\ s$ )

- Fundamental relation to "seeing" smaller
- Resolution increases as energy (momentum) goes up
- For examples:
  - − p = 1 GeV/c  $\Rightarrow$  10<sup>-15</sup> m  $\approx$  size of proton
  - $p = 1000 \text{ GeV/c} \Rightarrow 10^{-18} \text{ m} ≈ \text{size of proton sub-structure}$









## Why Colliders?



- Rutherford's experiment is a "fixed target" experiment

   Center of Mass Energy ∝ √(Incoming Energy)
- Not as much energy as when colliding beams of particles: Center of Mass Energy ∝ Incoming Energy
- But you can also miss "target" more easily
- So put them in a ring if you miss it once, you can re-use the same particles again ⇒ Birth of colliders!



Fermilab outside Chicago, p(antip) collision Discovery of Top Quark



CERN, Previously e+e- collision (LEP) Now p-p (LHC), Higgs Boson





1. Electrical Field ( $\rightarrow$  accelerates)





#### 2. Every time ( $\rightarrow$ more energy)



4. Vacuum ( $\rightarrow$  nothing on the way)

### One of the **fastest** racetracks on the planet – the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)



Several thousand billion protons travelling at 99.9999991% of the speed of light will travel round the 27km ring over 11000 times a second!

### The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)



#### Circumference: 27 KM 100 m underground



√s≈7,8,13

ΓeV

(Desi











# The **emptiest** space in the solar system





To accelerate protons to almost the speed of light, we need a vacuum similar to outer space. The pressure in the beam-pipes of the LHC will be about ten times lower than on the moon.



# One of the **coolest** places in the Universe



With a temperature of around -271 degrees Celsius, or 1.9 degrees above absolute zero, the LHC is colder than outer space.





# One of the **hottest** places in the Galaxy





When two beams of protons collide they generate, within a tiny volume and for a tiny fraction of a second, temperatures more than a billion times those in the very heart of the Sun.



## LHC the Accelerator





- 30,000 tons of 8.4T dipole magnets (1232 magnets)
- Cooled to 1.9K with 96 tons of liquid helium
- Energy of beam = 362 MJ
   15 kg of Swiss chocolate

April 26th 2007



### Protons in the Accelerator



With F=qE (Maxwell) and F=ma (Newton) Acceleration: a = qE/m

Magnets are used to steer proton beams in circle using Lorentz Force (F=qvB=mv<sup>2</sup>/r)









## Using the **largest and most complex detectors** ever built





To select and record the signals from the 600 million proton collisions every second, CERN scientists are building huge detectors to measure the tiny particles to an extraordinary precision.

ATLAS detector during construction (see the person there?)



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## QUESTIONS

