

Chapter 1 : Quarks: Frontiers in Elementary Particle Physics by Y. Nambu

Frontiers journals are at the top of citation and impact metrics. attempting to elucidate the relations with well-known notions of particle physics such as color.

For the first time, humans have the ability to peer into some of the deepest mysteries in the cosmos – the subatomic particles that make up everything in the known universe. Much of these possibilities are due to particle accelerators: As of Spring , the largest particle accelerator in the world – the Large Hadron Collider or LHC, shown to the left – is ramping up to full operational capacity. The project has already made some stunning discoveries. And who knows what might be next? A Brief History of Particles The concept of elementary particles units of matter which cannot be subdivided has existed since years ago, at least. Thomson discovered subatomic particles the first being the electron, followed by the proton and neutron. Later discoveries have included the muon, pion, delta particles, and bosons. Our understanding of subatomic particles advanced through the early s, as quantum theory was created to explain the orbits of electrons around the nuclei of atoms and as the wave-particle duality of these ultra-small particles was described. There was more going on. The Quark Theory In , Murray Gell-Mann and George Zweig proposed a new model of particle physics based on the existence of quarks, the sub-units that make up protons and neutrons. Over the coming decades, the theory was built out into the standard model, which now includes 6 types of quarks, 6 leptons one of which is the electron , and force-carrier particles like photons which are known as bosons. All known matter in the universe of made up of quarks and leptons, and the interactions between them gravitation, electromagnetism, and the weak and strong nuclear forces are mediated by force-carrier particles. But there is more. The truth is, for all the complexity of the standard model, it has a lot of holes. New discoveries are needed to round out our understanding. The Large Hadron Collider Much of the most advanced particle physics workshop is taking place at the Large Hadron Collider, a ring-shaped tunnel 17 miles in diameter that is buried hundreds of feet below the Swiss and French countryside. The LHC, which is the largest science facility ever built, uses massive electromagnets to accelerate particles to This type of particle collision is used to investigate the existence and properties of the smallest subatomic particles. The project produces around 40 TB of data per day, which must be analyzed using complex mathematical computations. To deal with the strain of these efforts, the LHC is connected via fiber-optic cable to around data centers around the world which process the data. Using distributed computing projects, you can connect to the data to help. What Does the Future Hold? One great mystery in particle physics relates to the quantity of antimatter in the universe. Everything we know so far would lead us to believe that matter and antimatter should exist in the same quantities, but from observations and experiments, matter greatly outnumbers antimatter. No one knows why. Potentially huge discoveries will be made in the future in this field. One hypothesized particle, the neutralino, is the leading candidate for what makes up dark matter. Scientists hope that the graviton may be discovered at the LHC, since higher-energy levels will allow them to unlock rarer, harder-to-find particles – perhaps including this one. No one truly knows what will be discovered next. There is much more to be discovered. With the research happening at the LHC, the next few years should be an exciting time on the frontiers of particle physics. Join the millions of students, teachers, language learners, test-takers, and corporate trainees who are doubling their learning results.

Frontiers in Nuclear and Particle Physics is a book series that brings together scholarly reviews on the physics of nuclear particles and associated theories. The scope of the series includes both.

What is the LHC? The ring is made up of two separate tubes, with high-energy particle beams circling in opposite directions. Superconducting electromagnets accelerate the particles almost to the speed of light, and for those to work they need to be kept extremely cold: Over 1,200 dipole magnets – each 15 m (49 ft) long – help bend the beams to steer the particles around curves. Another 400 quadrupole magnets – a mere 5 to 7 m – at four locations around the accelerator ring, the beams can be directed to cross paths. Just before they do, yet more magnets focus the beams into even finer points to increase the chances of head-on collisions between particles from the two beams. When those particles collide, they produce a shower of other particles, including particularly exotic ones that are normally hard to come by here on Earth or at this point in time. To watch the results of these collisions, particle detectors are set up at each of these four spots, identifying the short-lived new particles by measuring their path, their energy loss, their velocity and mass. What can the LHC teach us? By smashing particles into each other, we can learn the answers to some pretty fundamental questions about the universe. For instance, our current understanding of the Standard Model of particle physics says that quarks and leptons are the smallest components of matter. And yet it was discovered in the early 20th century that atoms are made up of even smaller elementary particles. In the 60s, these were again found to be composed of quarks and leptons. The LHC could help us figure out whether or not the rabbit hole goes deeper, with even tinier particles. Milestones As mentioned, the Large Hadron Collider booted up for the first time on September 10, 2008, successfully circulating protons around the machine. Unfortunately, it suffered a major malfunction just nine days later and required more than a year of repairs, with its first proton collisions not taking place until November 2009. The following year the LHC scientific team smashed lead nuclei together to create a quark-gluon plasma, the form of matter that the whole universe would have taken in the very first moments after the Big Bang. In this hot, sticky state, subatomic particles melt into free-flowing quarks and gluons, before recondensing into a whole range of normal matter. In 2012 the LHC discovered its first new particle. Named χ_{b3P} , the particle is made up of a bottom or beauty quark and its antiquark bound together relatively loosely. The final particle left to fill out the Standard Model, the Higgs boson gives other fundamental particles their mass, and hunting down this elusive beast was one of the main goals of the LHC project. The boson is named after Peter Higgs, one of the physicists who first proposed its existence. Before the 1960s, the Standard Model had a pretty major hole in it – namely, there was no explanation for how fundamental particles gained mass. To fill the gap, scientists suggested the presence of an all-pervasive "Higgs field" made up of Higgs bosons. Basically, as fundamental particles interact with this Higgs field they slow down, thereby gaining mass. Observing a Higgs boson was seen as a Holy Grail of particle physics, and over decades experiments narrowed down the possible range of masses such a particle could have. Originally, the window was extremely wide, covering a range from 18 MeV (mega electronvolts) to more than 1 TeV (tera electronvolts). With a mass of about 125 GeV, it fell right in the expected Higgs range, and exhibited other properties that lined up with predictions by the Standard Model. Still, the scientists were initially cautious about the announcement, calling it a "Higgs-like boson. In the years after the discovery, researchers found that all measurements of the Higgs boson agree with the predictions of the Standard Model, including its spin, parity and interactions with other particles. Just a few months ago, LHC scientists reported observing the Higgs decay into a bottom quark and its antiquark, which the Standard Model says should happen about 58 percent of the time. Confirming the existence of the Higgs boson was just the beginning. CERN scientists say that the particle is a powerful new tool for testing the limits of the Standard Model. New tunnels will need to be excavated, new buildings constructed, and over 100,000 man-hours of work. The upgrade includes adding new magnets to squeeze the particle beam even thinner at the interaction points and boost the chances of collisions. During most of the works, the LHC will continue to operate, but there will be long periods of downtime. That should make it capable of collecting 10 times more data in the 10 years after that. That extra power will be put to work

examining the Higgs boson more closely, as well as investigating physics beyond the Standard Model and looking for the answers to some of the most profound questions in modern science. Are there particles smaller than quarks and leptons? Does every particle have a supersymmetrical partner particle? Does gravity operate, in part, in other dimensions? And could the more powerful collider finally produce particles of the ever-elusive dark matter?

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The field of particle physics is in a peculiar state. The standard model of particle theory successfully describes every fundamental particle and force observed in laboratories, yet fails to explain properties of the universe such as the existence of dark matter, the amount of dark energy, and the preponderance of matter over antimatter.

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