CMS and the Higgs boson



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Jim Hirschauer Fermilab



What are particles?

Electrons, **protons**, and **neutrons** make up the matter we experience daily.

Protons and **neutrons** are made up of smaller particles called **quarks**.

Our current theories describe particles as excitations of a corresponding "field".



What are the four forces?

Electromagnetic force binds electron+nucleus.
 Exchange of photons -- particles of light.

2) Weak nuclear force causes nuclear decay. Exchange of W bosons.

3) **Strong nuclear force** binds quarks in the nucleus.

4) Gravitation binds planets, stars, galaxies, etc.





All the particles we know about

• Up and down quarks make up protons and neutrons.

- **electron** surrounds the nucleus.
- muon is heavy "cousin" of electron.



- W and Z both "carry" weak force
- gluon carries strong force





Particle mass

Mass of W boson = Mass of 80 protons = Mass of 15,000 electrons



Mass of **photon** = **0**

(It zips around at the speed of light, and won't even sit in the scale!)

The **photon** and the **W** boson both "carry" forces.

Why is the **W** boson very heavy and the **photon** massless?

The Higgs field gives mass to particles.

The universe is filled with the **Higgs field**.

Heavy particles () interact strongly with the Higgs field.
Light particles () interact weakly with the Higgs field.
Massless particles (photon, γ) do NOT interact with the Higgs field.

The **Higgs boson** is a vibration of the **Higgs field**.



Famous physicist = heavy particle

How do we "see" the Higgs boson?

Higgs bosons are created in proton collisions – only 1 Higgs boson every several billion collisions.

The Higgs boson is unstable and **immediately decays** to other particles.

Sometimes the Higgs boson decays to 2 photons, other times it decays to 4 electrons.

We look at ALL the 2-photon and 4-electron combinations in our data to see if anything looks interesting.



Large Hadron Collider



LHC

ALICE

Center-of-mass energy7-14 TeVProton bunches / beam~3500Protons / bunch~1.5 x 10^{11}Bunch crossing frequency40 MHzProton collisions / bunch crossing~40

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SPS

Particle

Top quark Higgs boson Dark matter

HCD

600/minute 30/minute

Rate

?









CMS Detector









CMS Experiment at LHC, CERM Data recorded: Mon May 28-01:16:20 2012 CE91 Run/Event: 195099-35438125 Lumi section: 65 Oxbit/Crossing: 16992111 12295

Pile-up





CMS Experiment at the LHC, CERN Data recorded: 2012-May-13 20:08:14.621490 GMT Run/Event: 194108 / 564224000



V2 Higgs boson decaying to 2 photons

 $\vdash \rightarrow \lor \lor$



Masses of all pairs of photons in data



