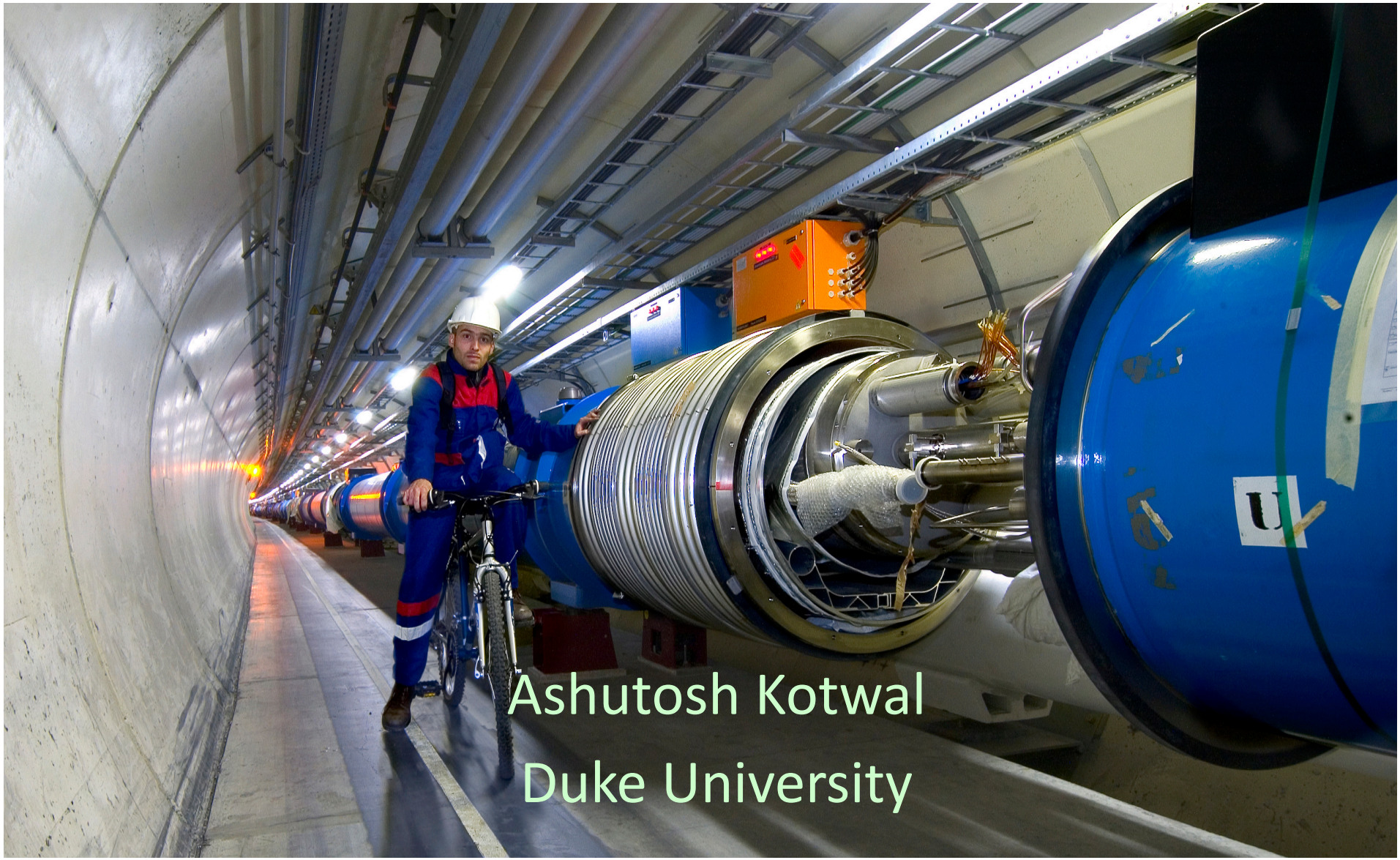
The Higgs Boson, Dark Matter and all that:

Revolutionizing the Laws of the Universe with the LHC

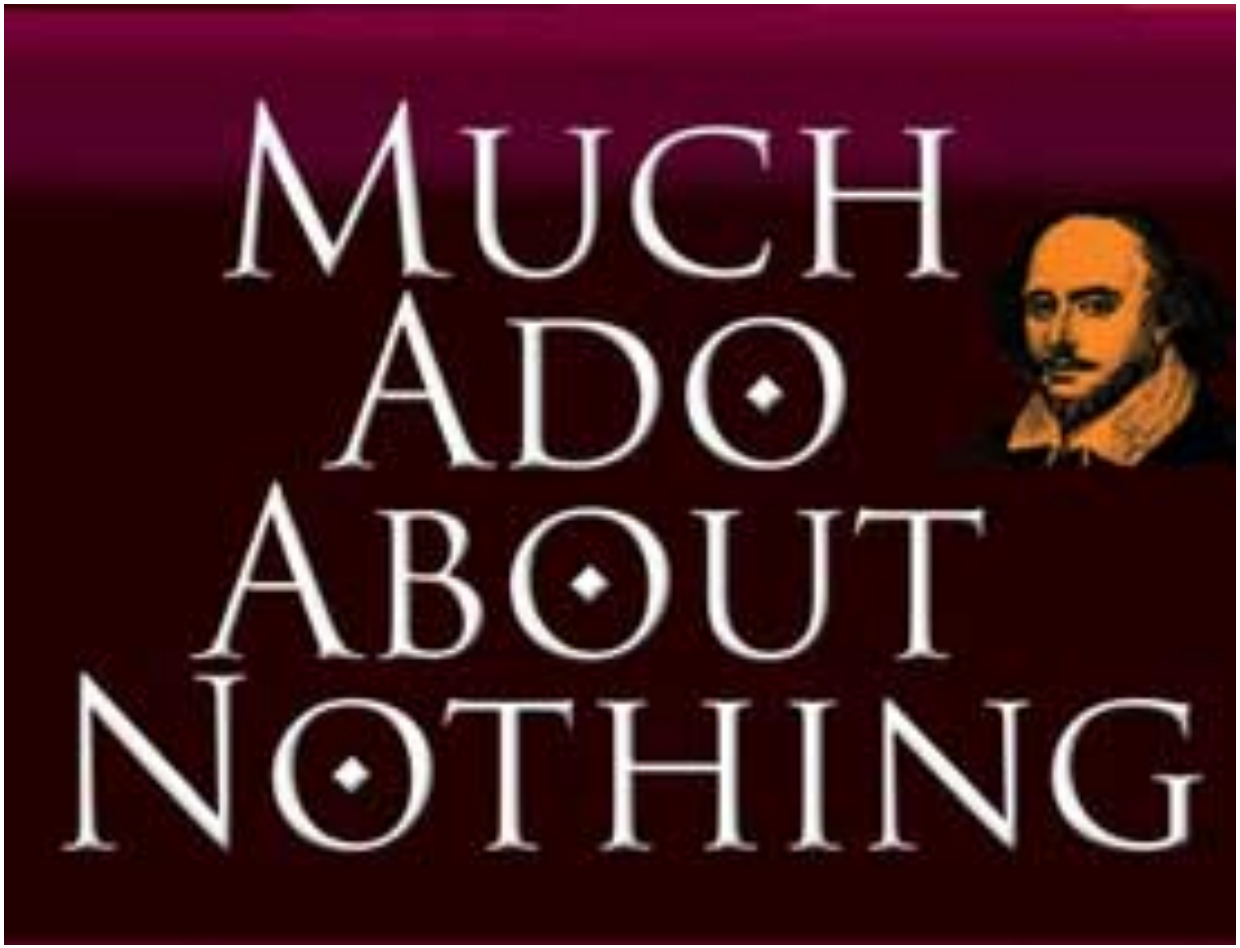


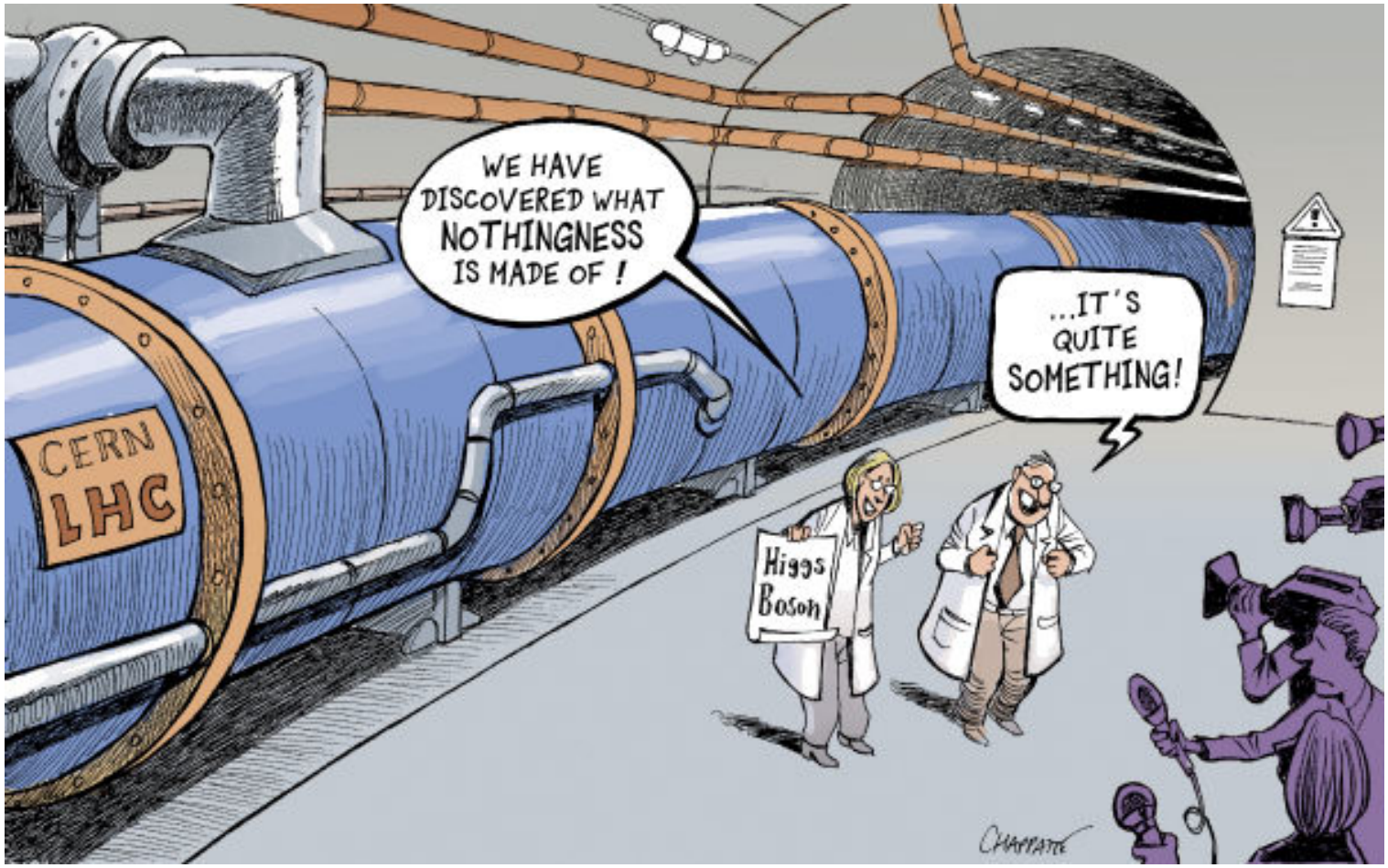
Ashutosh Kotwal

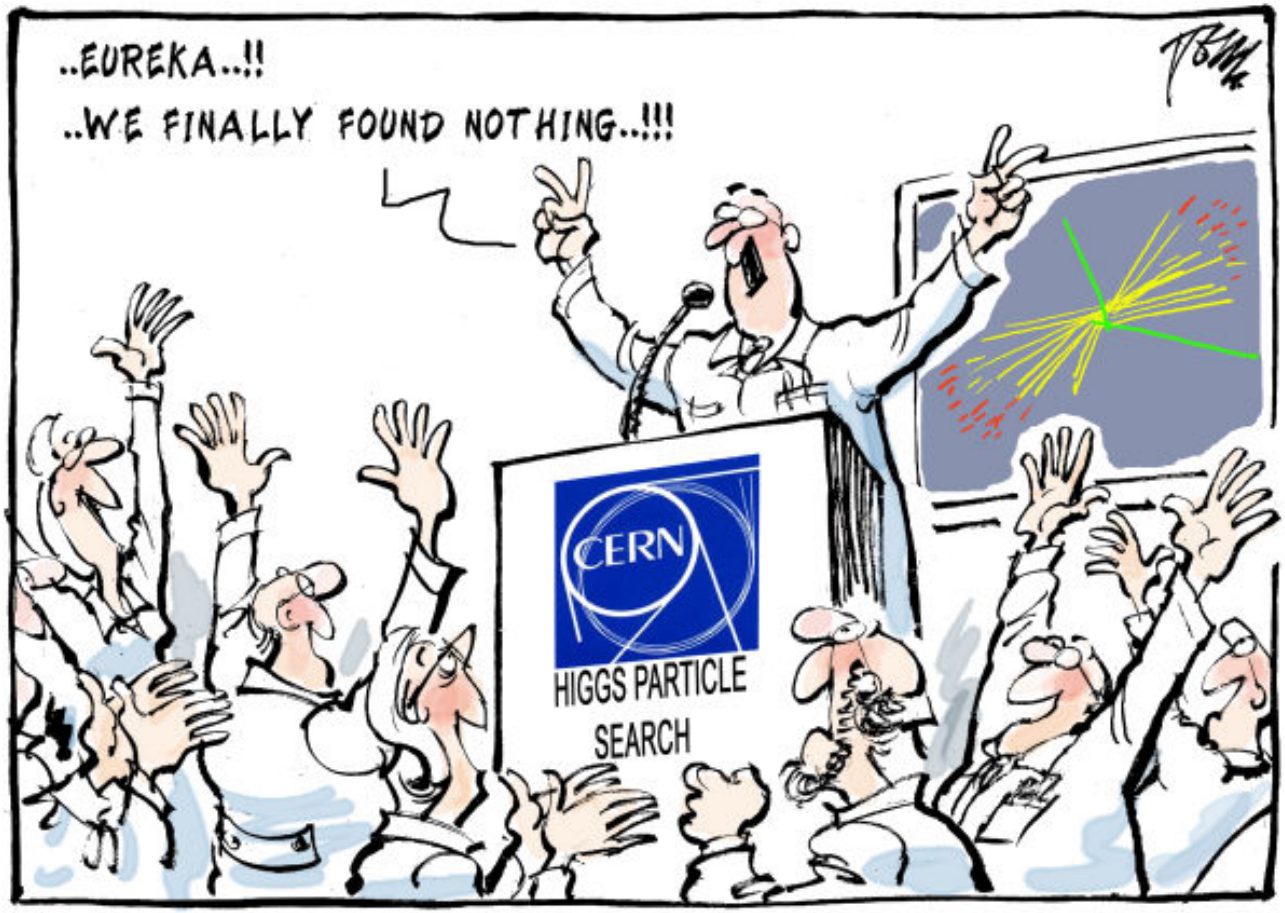
Duke University


SO, WHAT DOES THE LITTLE HADRON COLLIDER SCIENTIST WANT?
THE HIGGS BOSON PARTICLE!

Alternate title of my talk:




WE HAVE DISCOVERED WHAT NOTHINGNESS IS MADE OF !
...IT'S QUITE SOMETHING!
CERN
LHC
Higgs Boson


..EUREKA..!!
..WE FINALLY FOUND NOTHING..!!!
CERN
HIGGS PARTICLE
SEARCH

The Higgs boson and Dark Matter are both intimately connected with properties of empty space…

(or what we thought was “empty space”)

…Making these phenomena unlike any other we have observed in the past

Why have we been hunting for the Higgs for more than half a century?

Search culminating in the construction of the Large Hadron Collider at the CERN Laboratory of Particle Physics in Geneva, Switzerland

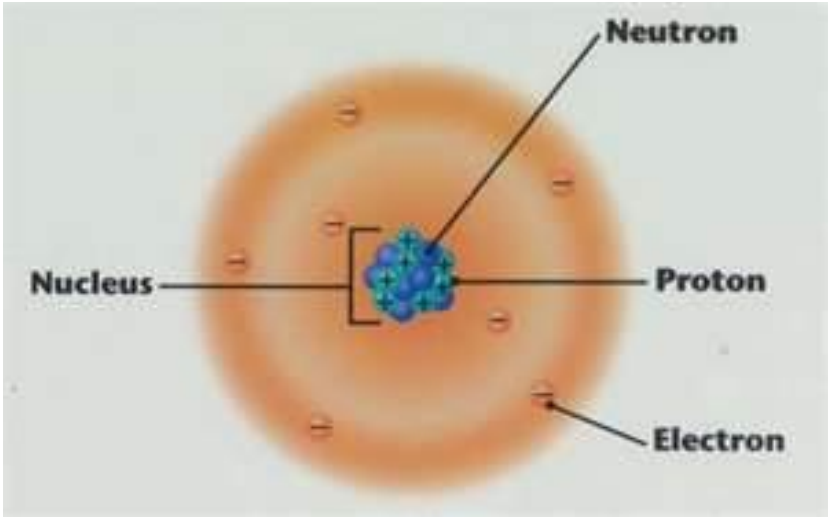
Why have we been hunting for the Higgs for more than half a century?

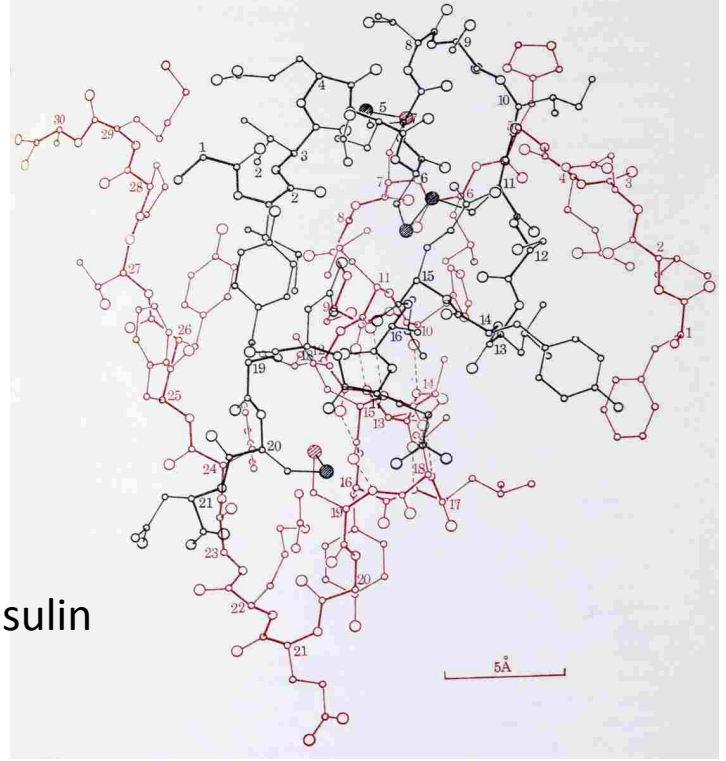
To solve a deep riddle in Quantum Mechanics, the proven theory of the microscopic world

20^{th} Century Built on Quantum Mechanics

- The scientific advances of the 20^{th} century have transformed our lifestyle

- Impact of Quantum Mechanics
  - All electronics devices, computers and communication
  - Nuclear power
  - Atomic and molecular manipulation of materials for chemical and biological applications





Molecule of Insulin

Conceptual Problem in Quantum Mechanics

- In spite of its success, a self-consistent quantum mechanical theory of matter and forces has a huge missing link – the theory requires all fundamental particles to have exactly zero mass

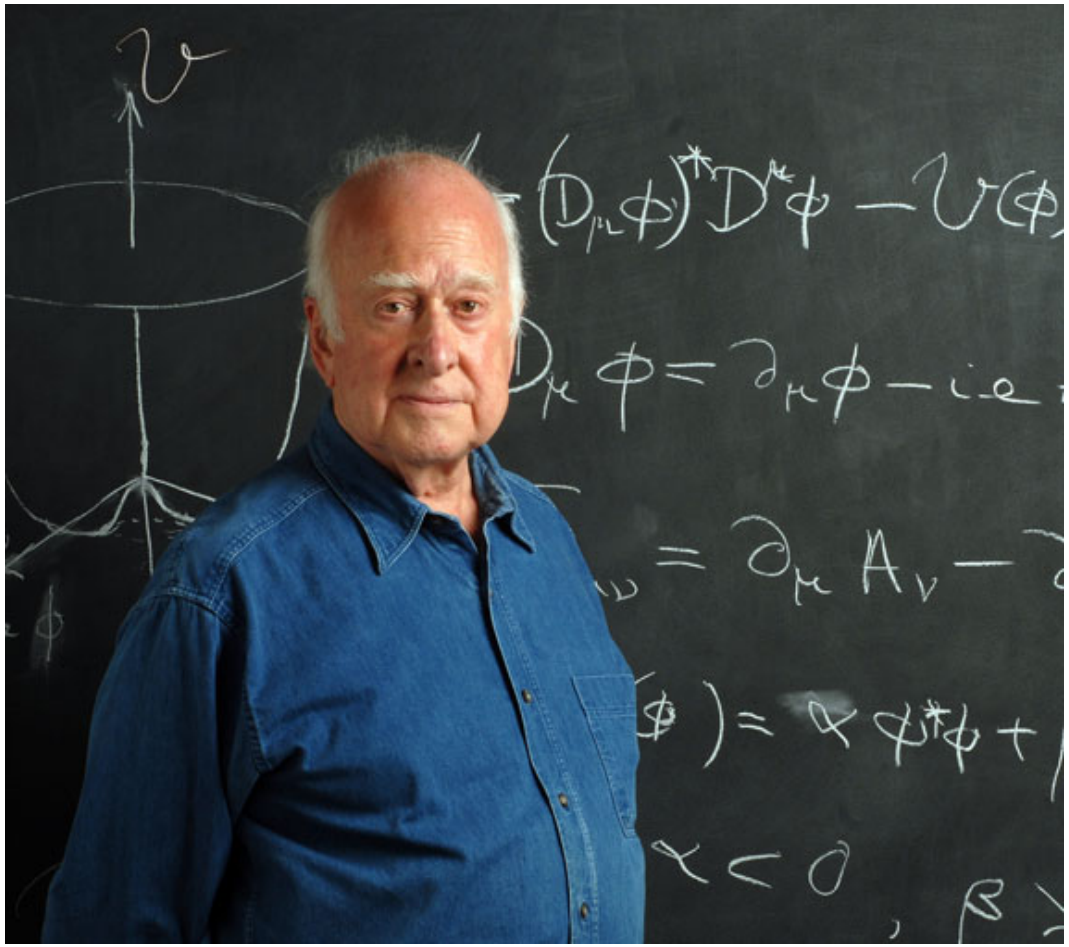
- The non-zero electron mass cannot be understood – and yet the electron mass defines the size of the atom and physical and chemical properties of all substances
- If the electron's mass were zero, the atom would not exist

Knowledge from the LHC

- Why do fundamental particles have mass?
  - the Higgs hypothesis

- The mystery of Dark Matter –
  - Could Dark Matter particles be produced at the LHC?

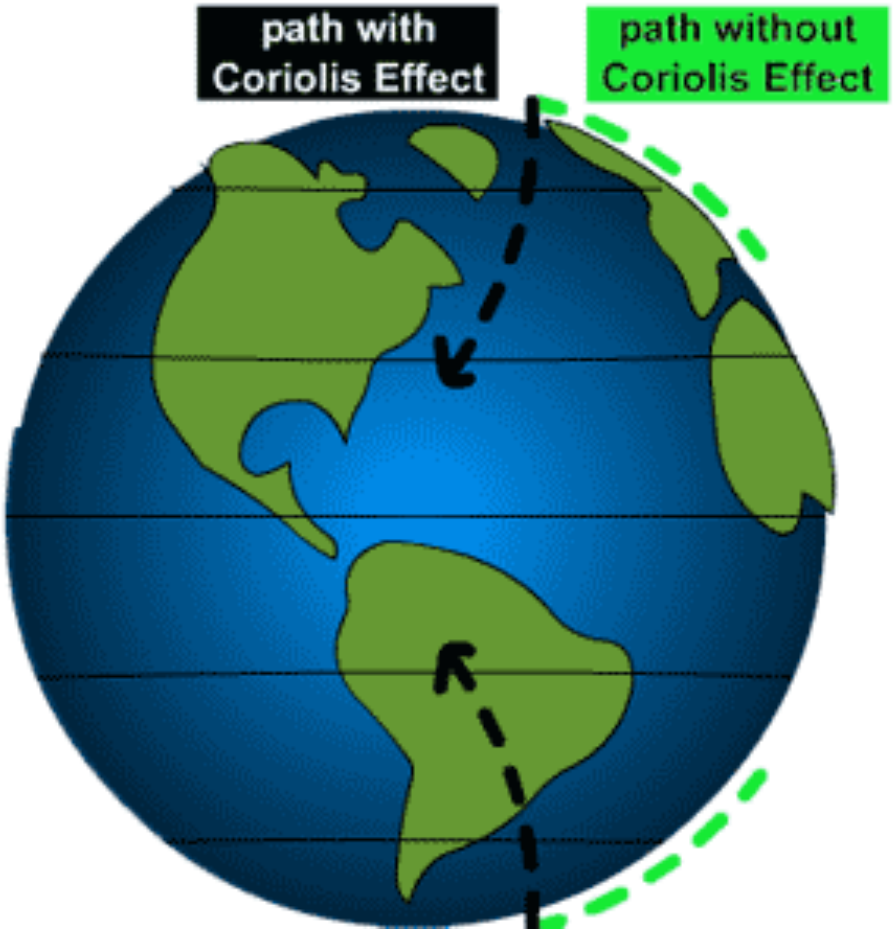
The Higgs Boson



Peter Higgs

Satyendra Nath Bose in 1920's

How to Predict Fundamental Forces



"fictitious" forces observed in accelerating frame of reference

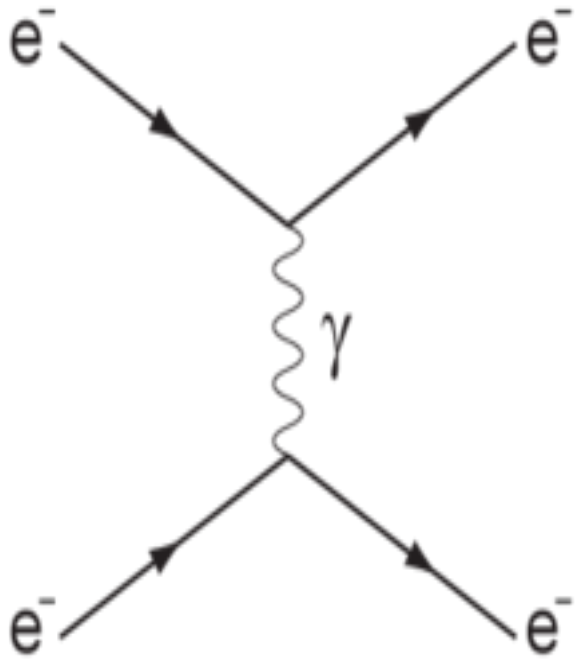
Manifestation of Coriolis Force

Hurricanes appear to rotate in Earth's frame of reference

Quantum Mechanics
force ⇔ particle exchange

Feynman Diagram: Force by Particle Exchange

Richard Feynman



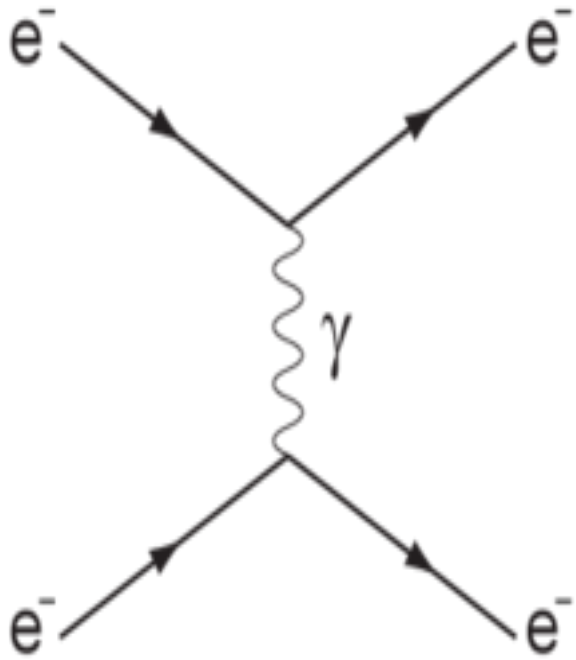
Electromagnetic force between two electrons mediated by "photon" exchange

Feynman Diagram: Force by Particle Exchange

The most precisely tested theory, ever:

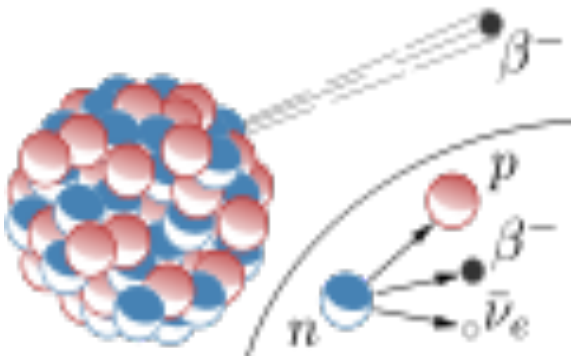
The quantum theory of the electric and magnetic forces, radio waves, light and X-rays:

Measured and predicted magnetic moment of an electron agree within 0.3 parts per trillion accuracy



Electromagnetic force between two electrons mediated by "photon" exchange

Weak Nuclear Decay



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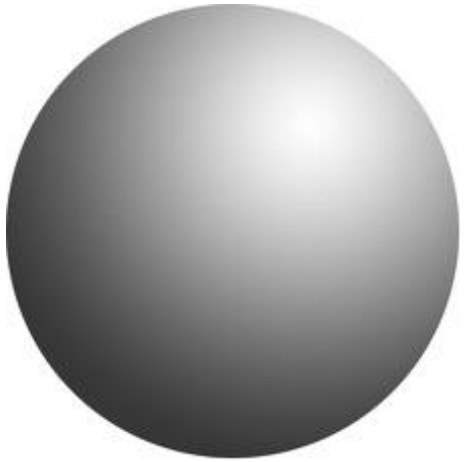

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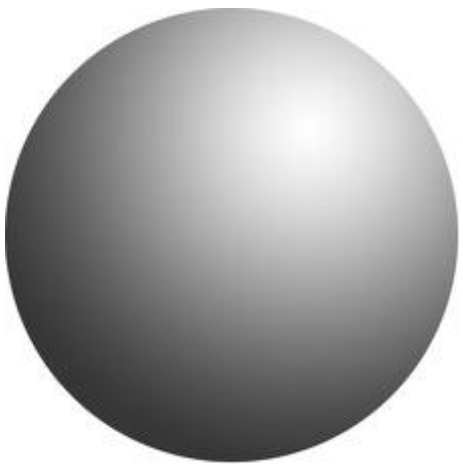
The force causing this interaction is described by particles making transitions on a "mathematical sphere"

ν



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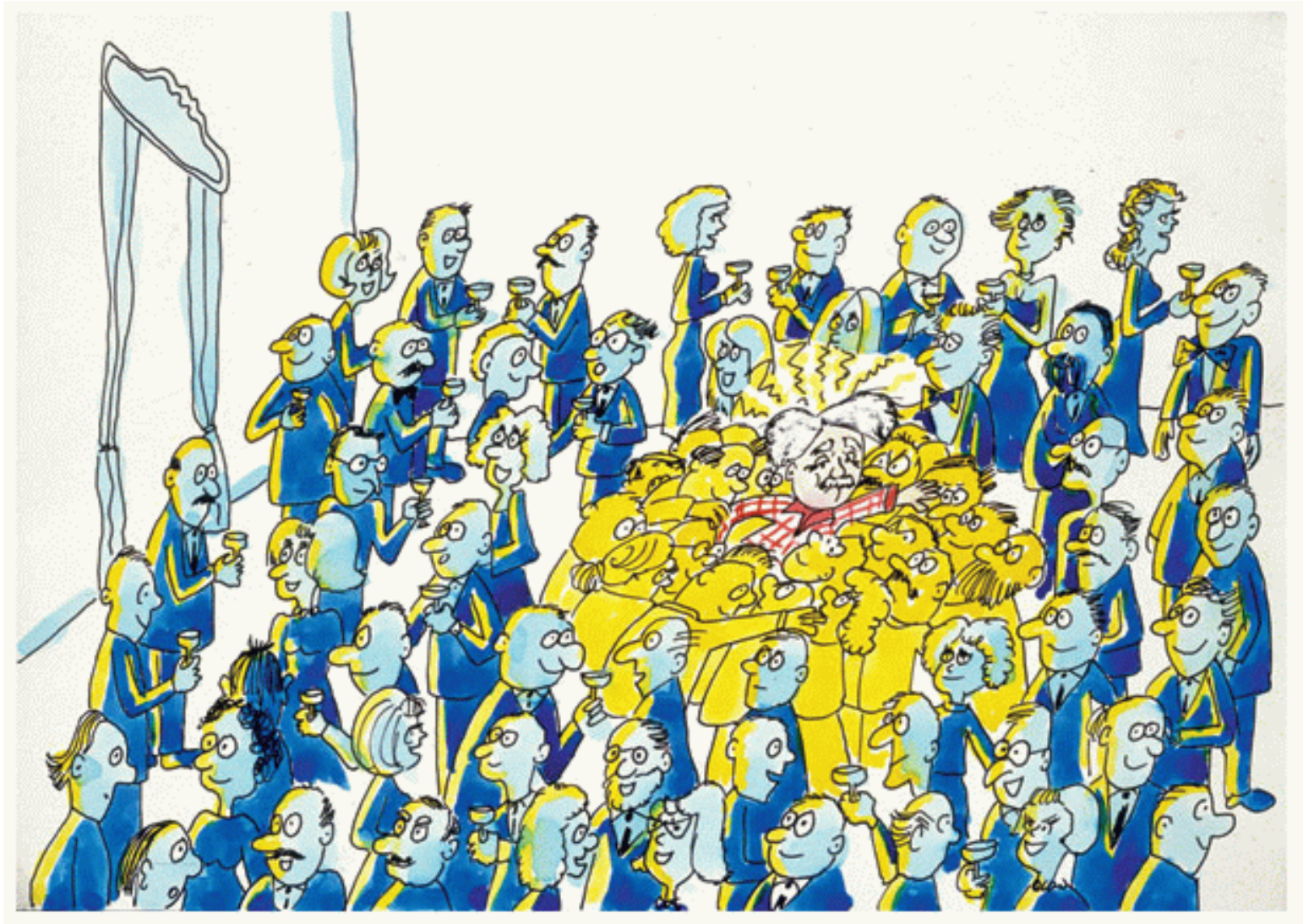
Success and Problem of Quantum Mechanics

- Success: correct mathematical description of all properties of electromagnetic force and the weak nuclear force
- Another prediction: force-mediating particles must be massless
- Correct prediction for photon – mediator particle of electric and magnetic forces and all electromagnetic waves: radio, light, microwave, x-rays described by massless photons
- Problem: for the weak nuclear force causing nuclear beta-decay, the mediator particle, "W boson" is very heavy
- Question: How can we preserve the original theory and simultaneously impart mass to the W boson?

Solution to the Problem of W Boson Mass

- Fill all of space with "Higgs" field
- W boson propagating through "empty space" actually propagating though Higgs field
- Interaction of W boson with Higgs field slows down the W boson ⇔ imparting the property of mass to it

The “Sticky” Higgs Field



Implications of Higgs Hypothesis

- Empty space is not really empty
- Filled with the Higgs
- All fundamental particles interacting with the Higgs field "slow down"
  - appear to be massive

Light versus Heavy Particles –
like moving through water

Streamlined
⇒ Moves fast through water
⇒ analogous to light particle

Not streamlined
⇒ Moves slowly through water
⇒ analogous to heavy particle

Detecting the Higgs

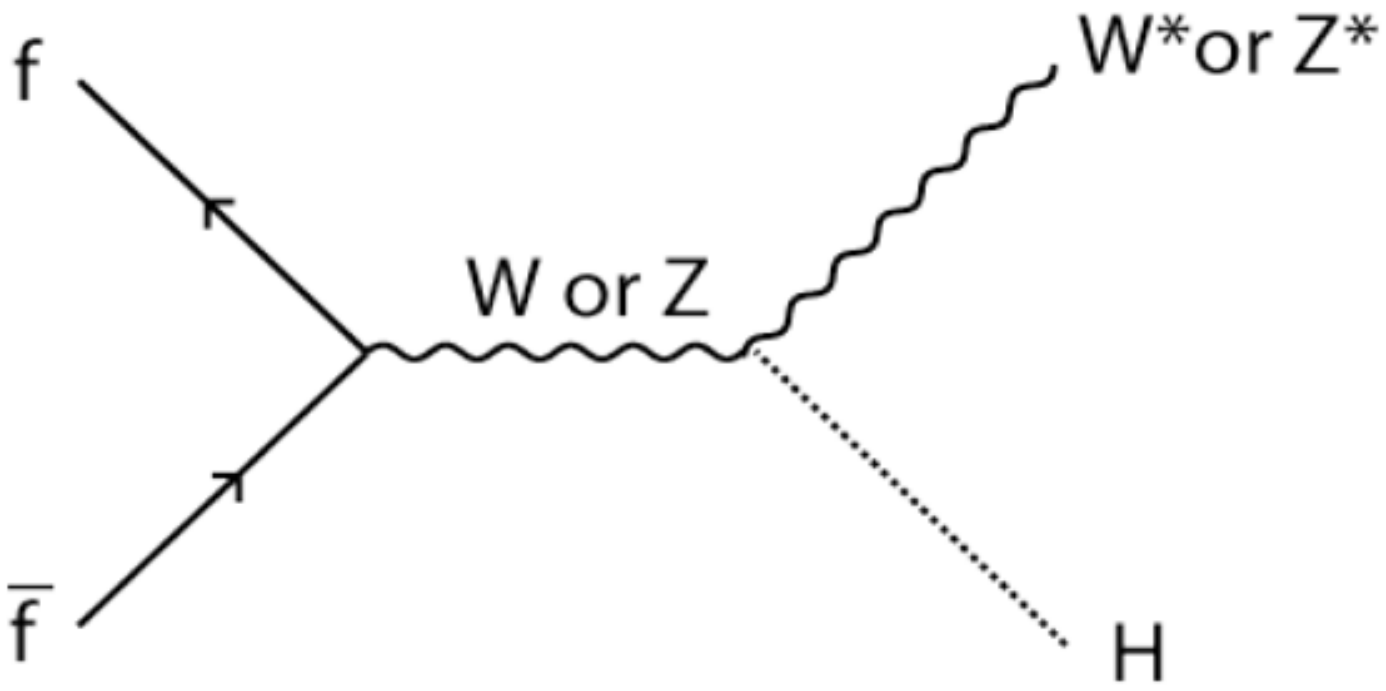
- Why don't we see and feel the Higgs?
- Our senses and instruments detect electrical charge
- Higgs is electrically neutral – has no electric and magnetic interaction!

How can we confirm the existence of the Higgs?

- Create ripples in the Higgs field

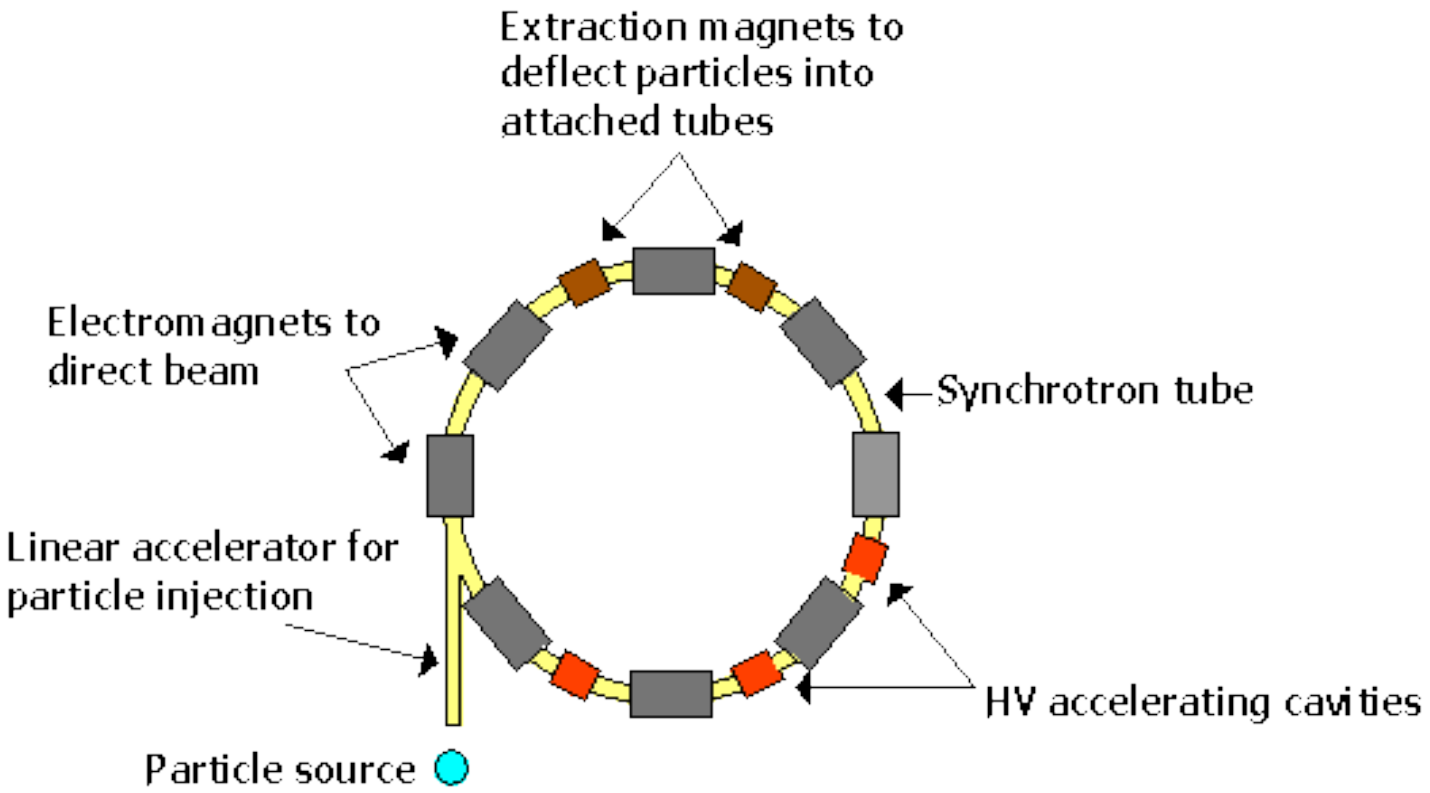
Ripples ⇔ Higgs boson

How to Create the Higgs Boson



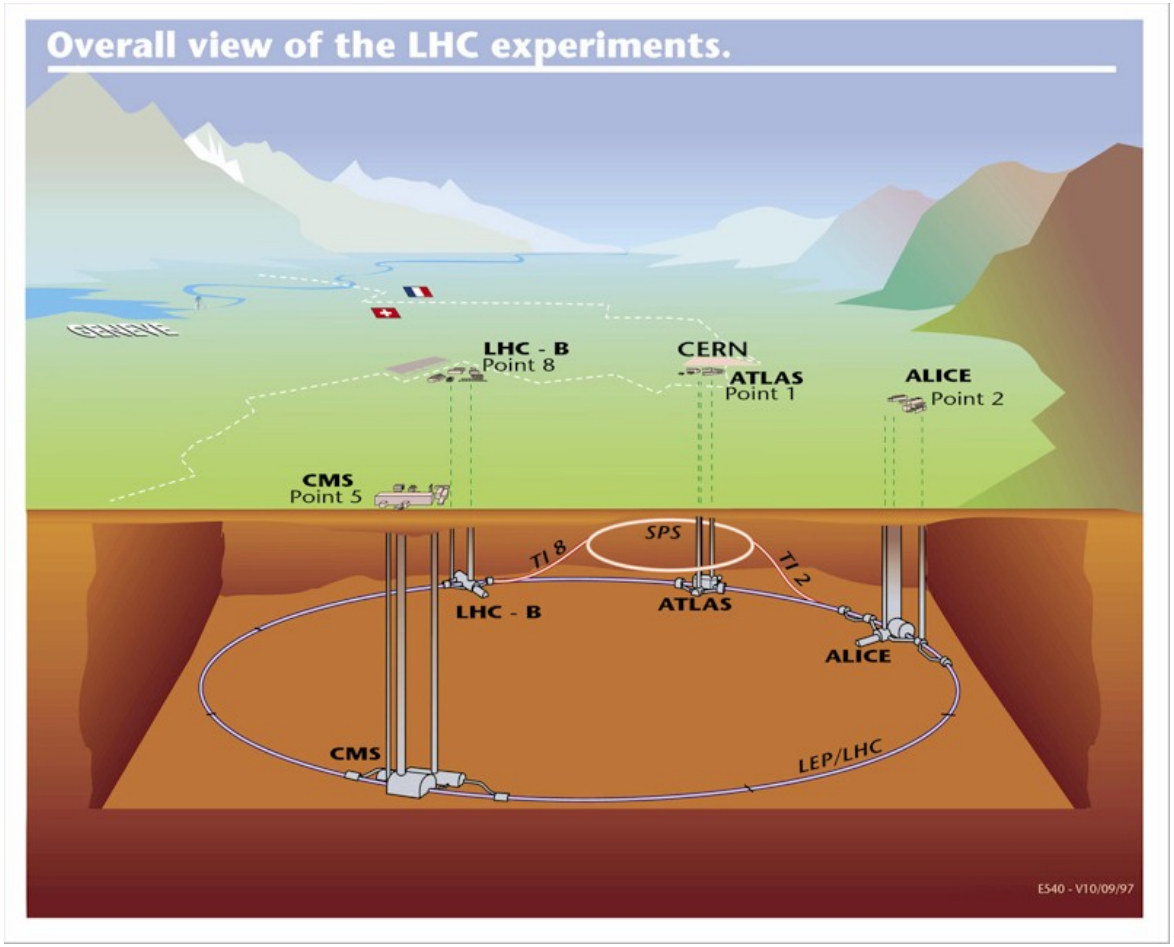
How does LHC work?

How does a particle accelerator work?



Synchrotron Accelerator

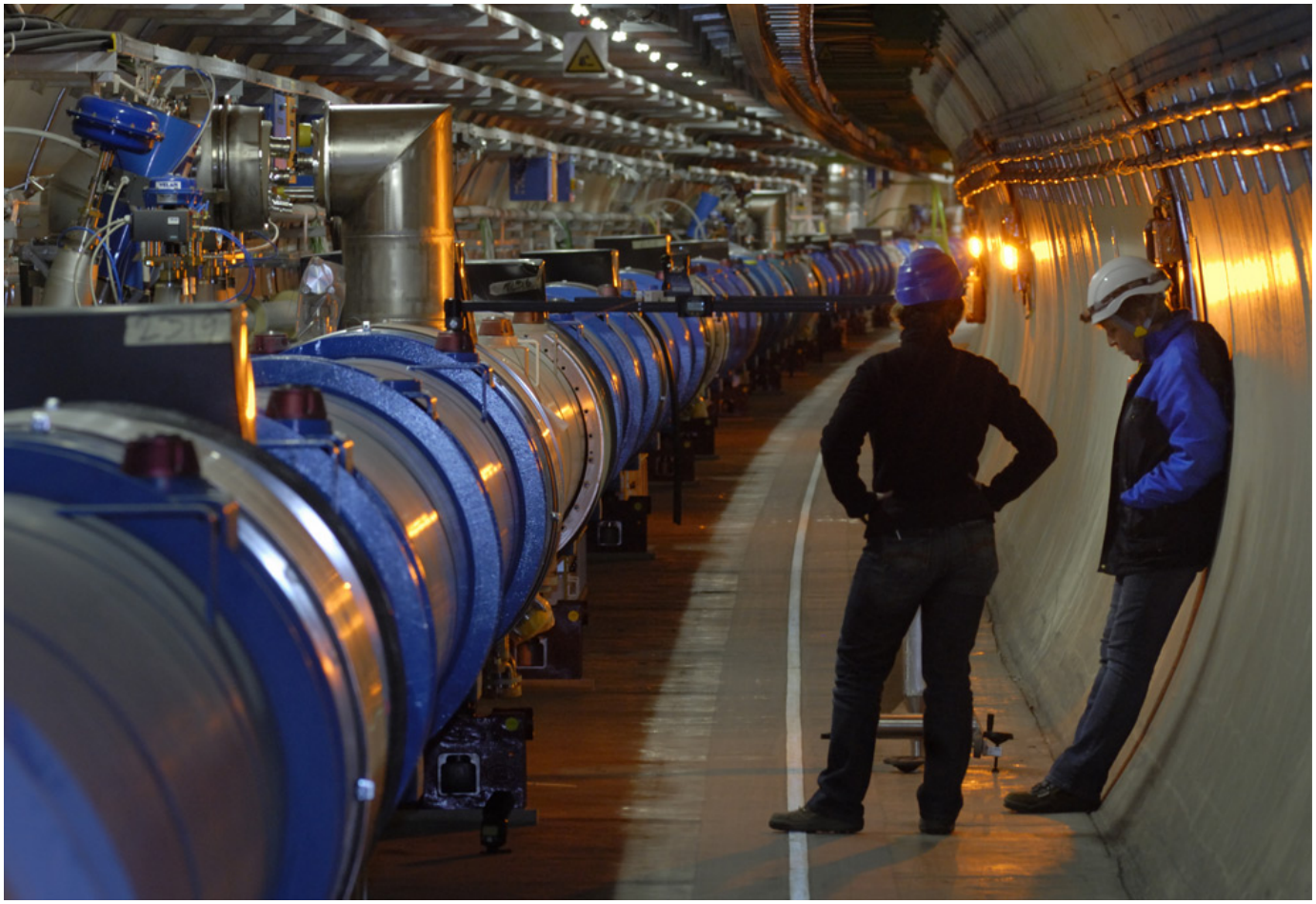
LHC below Geneva, Switzerland



LHC below Geneva, Switzerland

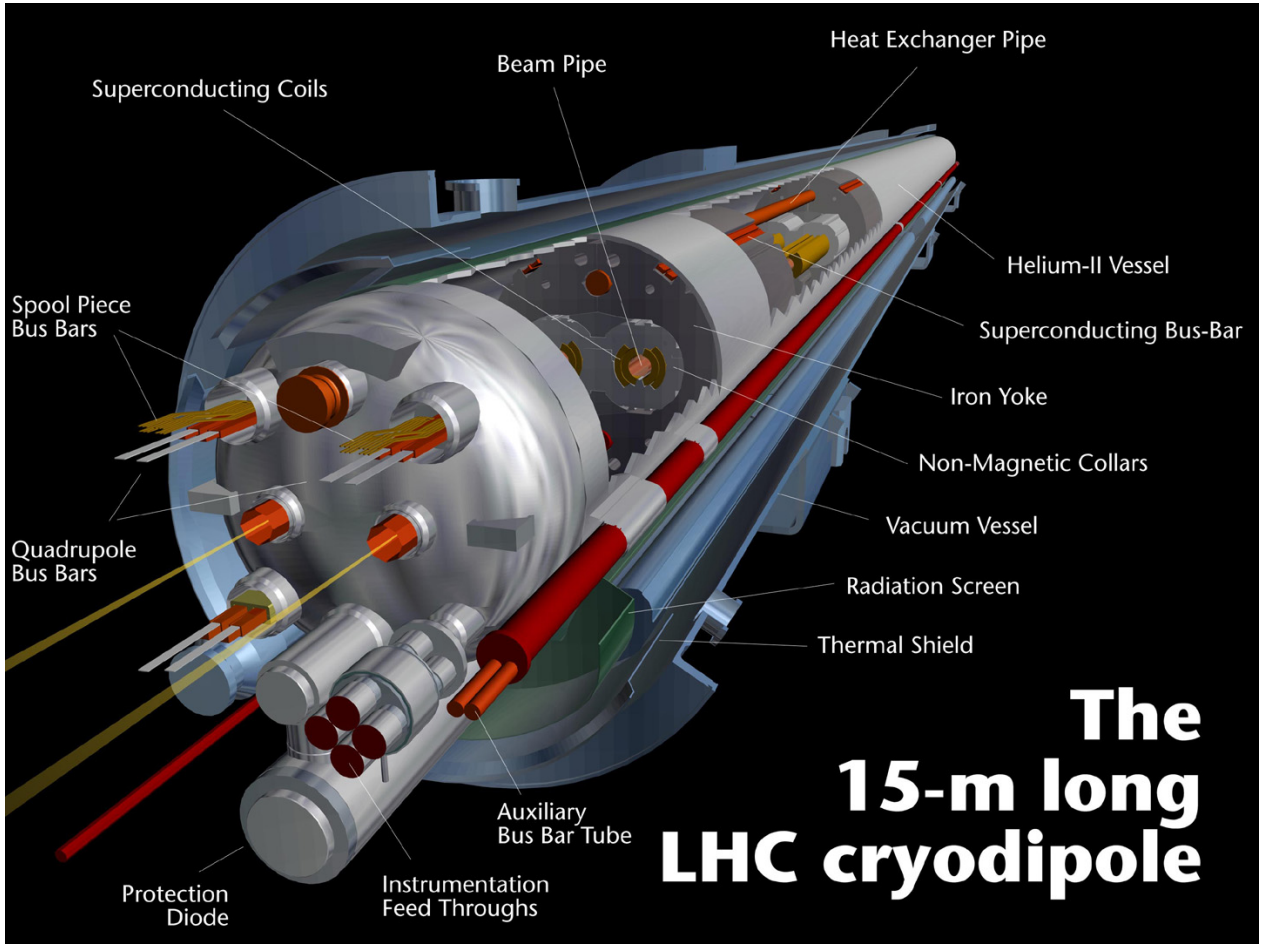
Accelerates and collides proton beams, each 4 micrometers wide

LHC Accelerator in Tunnel



Vacuum in the beampipe is better than vacuum in outer space

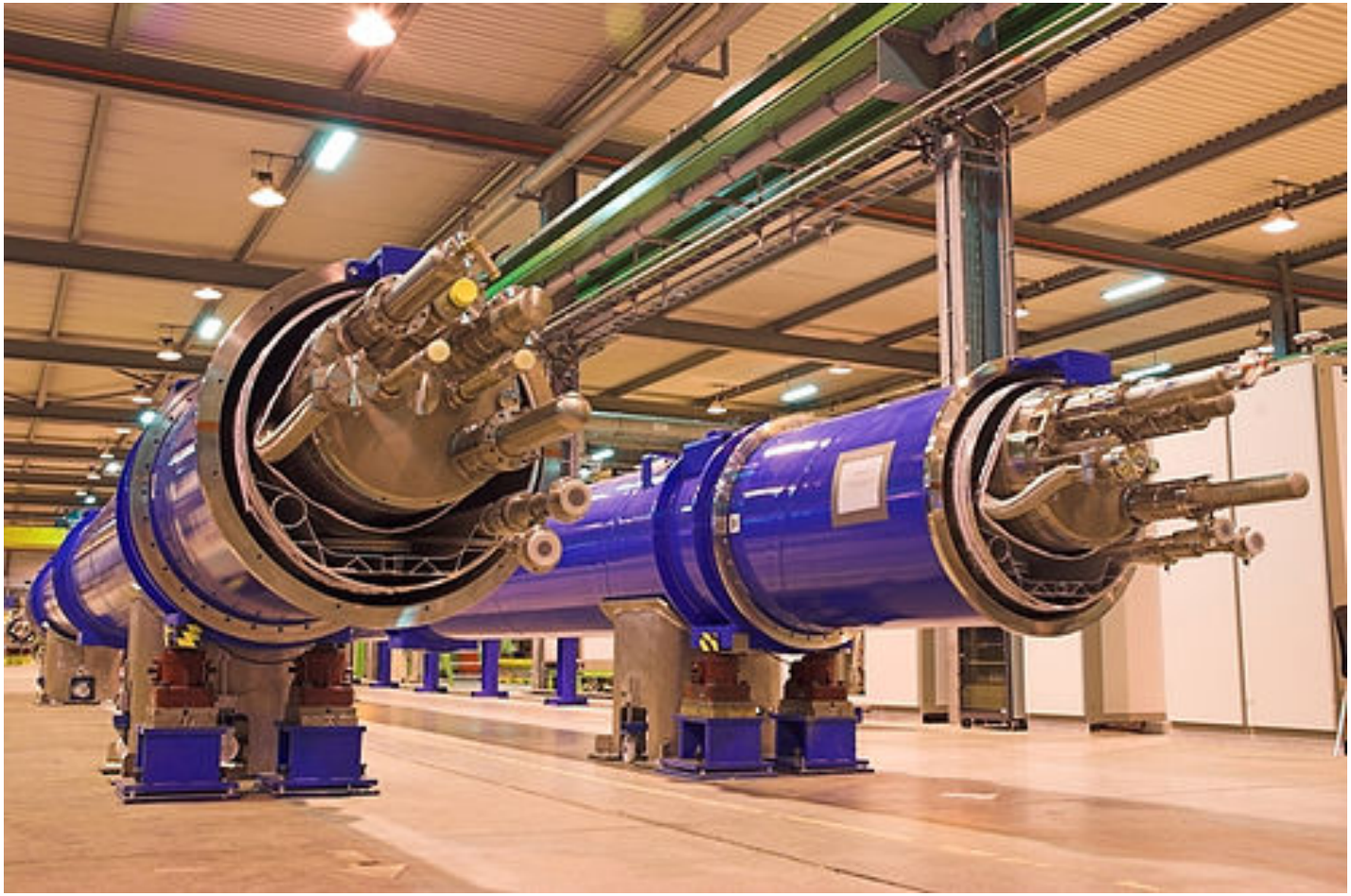
LHC Superconducting Magnet



Weight 35 tons, magnetic field 100,000 times Earth's magnetic field

Magnetic force is thousands of tons

LHC Superconducting Magnet



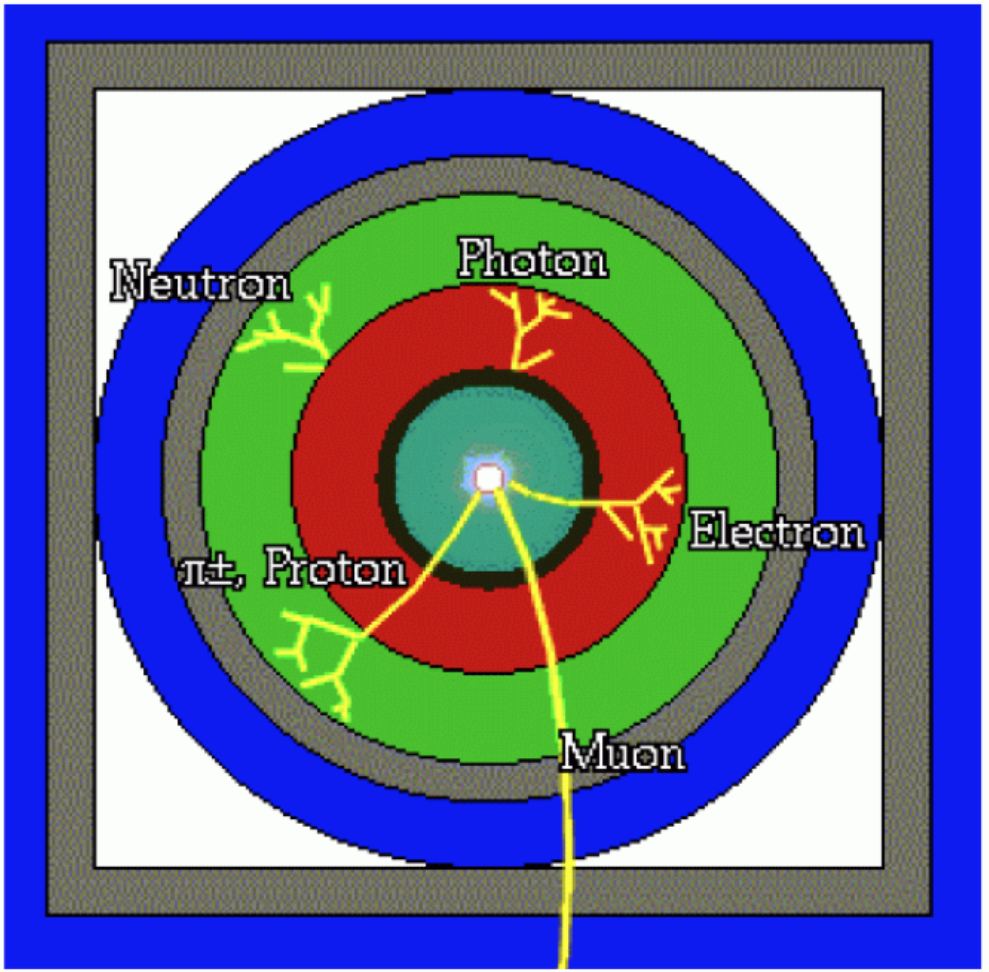
Similar magnet design used in MRI machines

LHC Superconducting Magnet

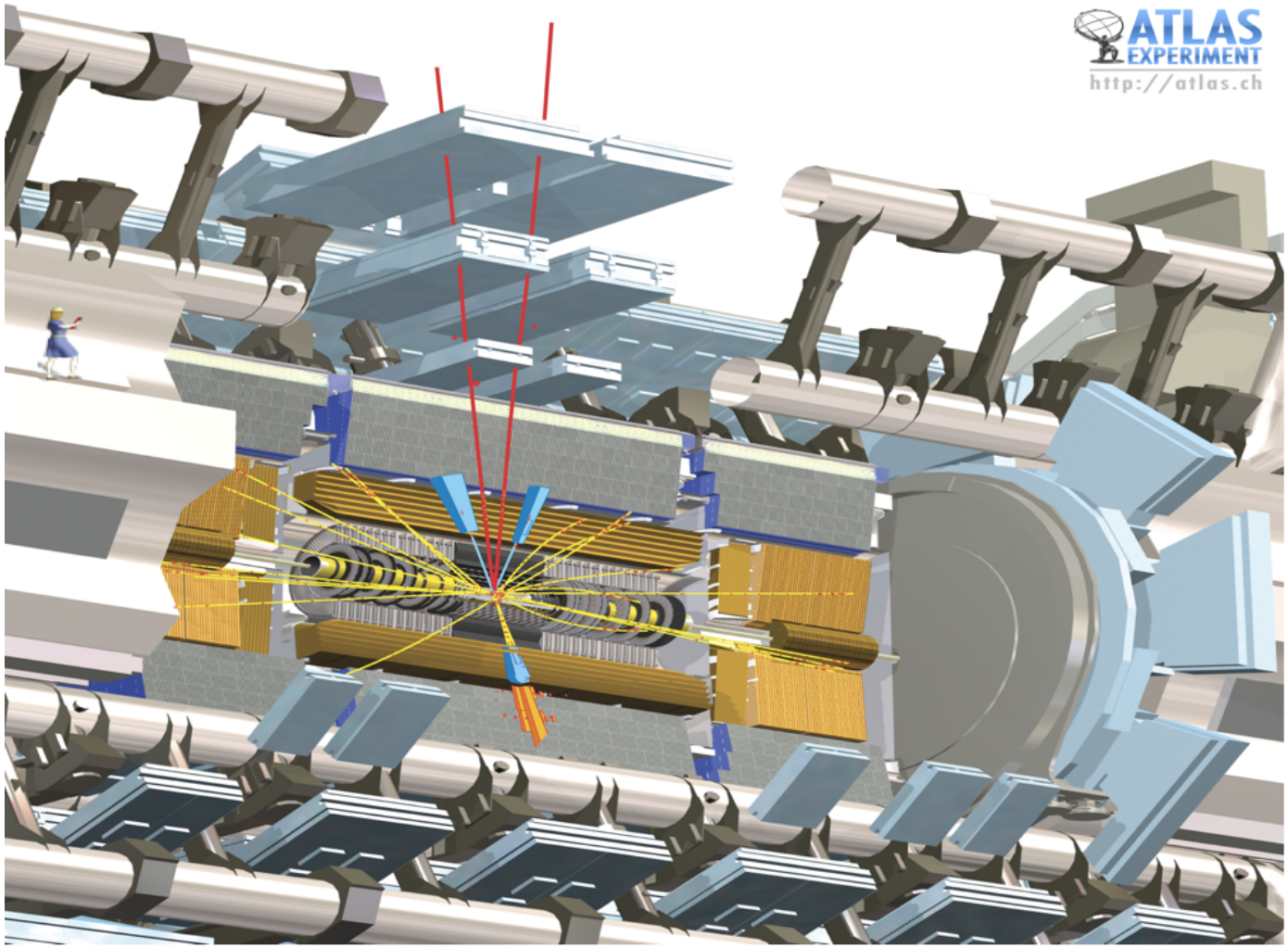
1200 magnets lowered 100 meters down into tunnel, distributed over 27 kilometers

Particle Detector Design

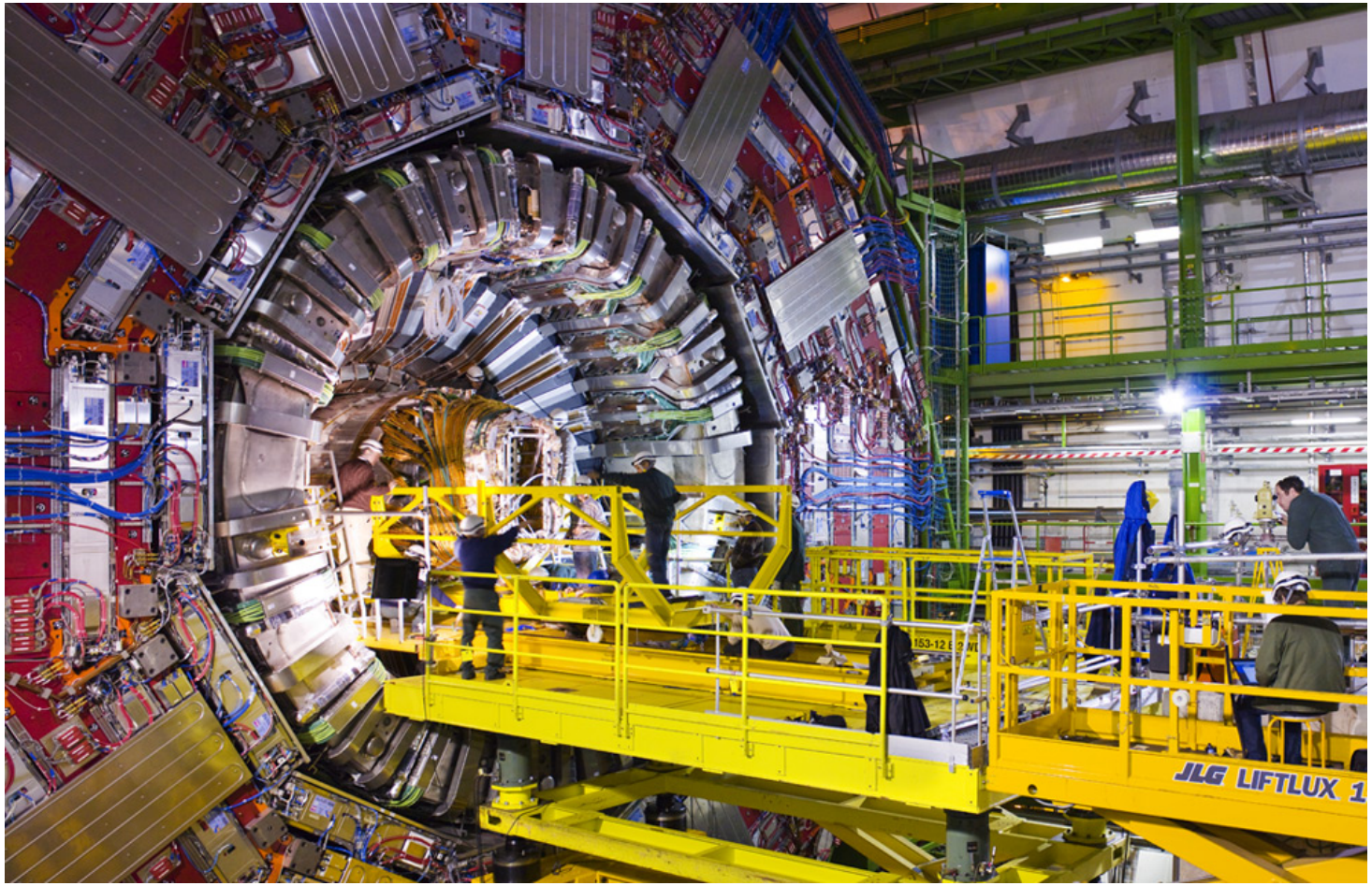
- Concentric cylinders of different kinds of detector technologies
- Decay products of unstable particles identified



Simulated Higgs Boson Production and Detection at LHC



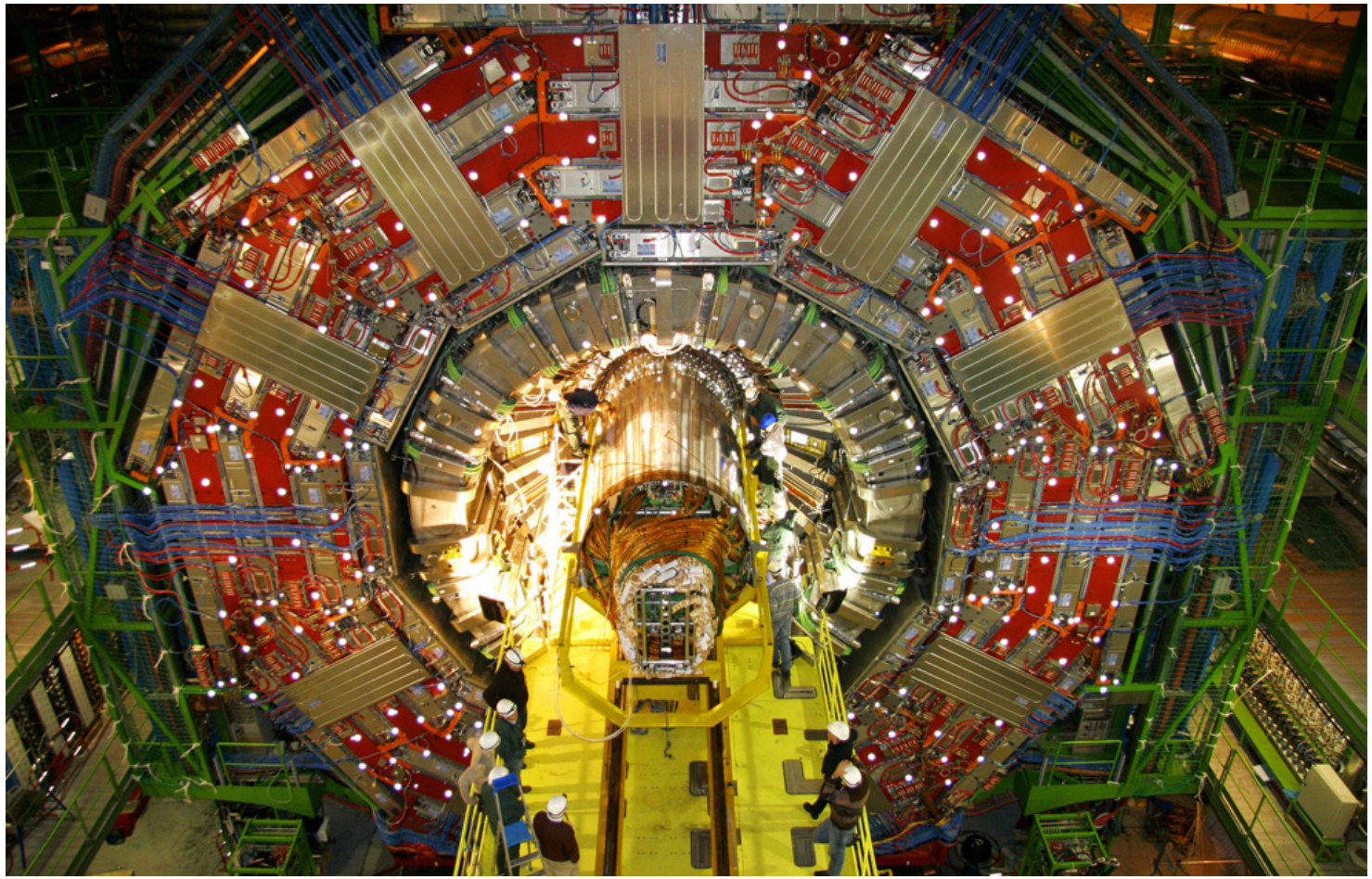
LHC Particle Detector – CMS Experiment



size about 20 meters

weight 12,000 tons (more than Eiffel Tower)

CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) Experiment



Very large, very fast “digital camera”

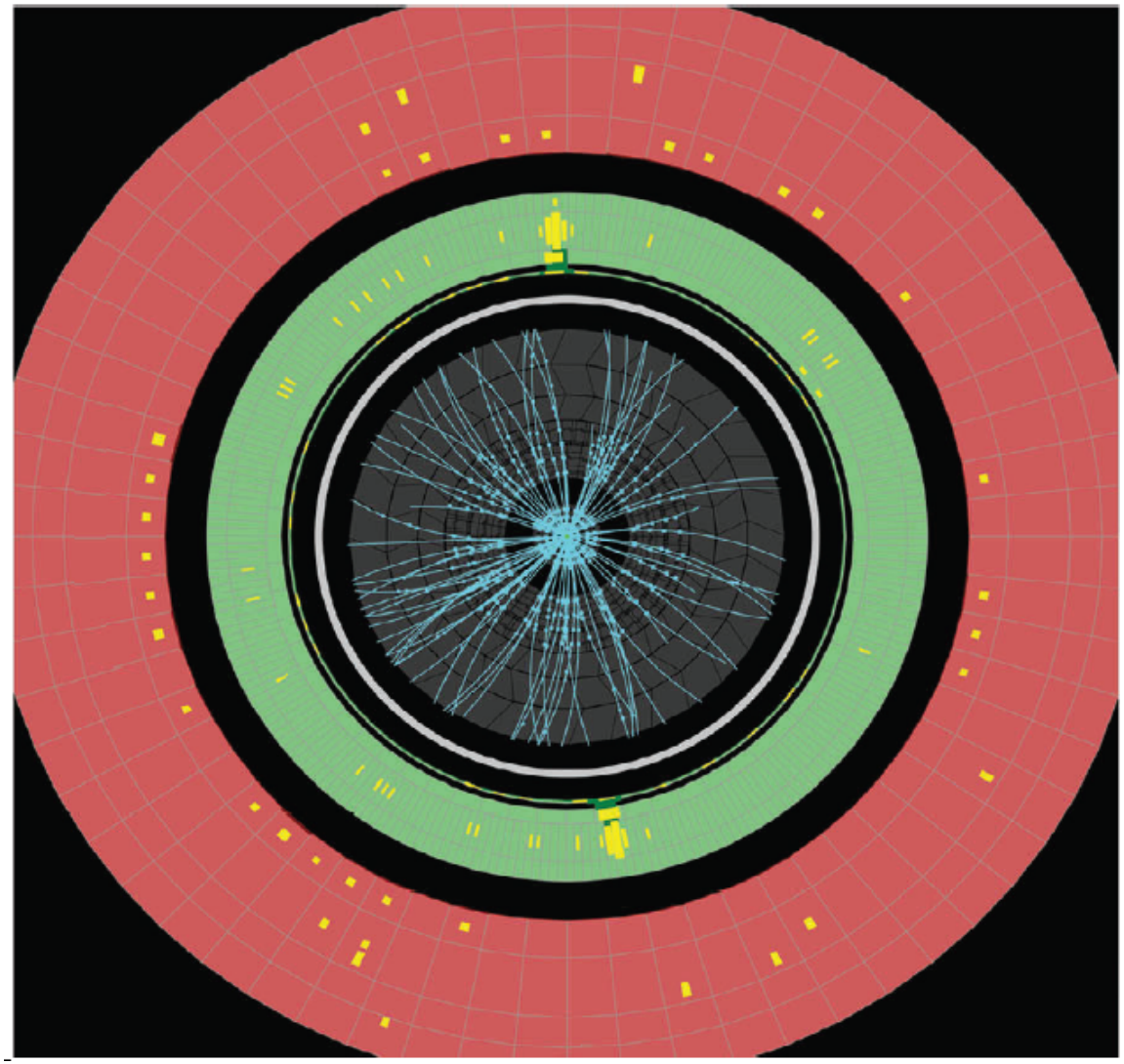
60 million pixels, can take 40 million snapshots per second

Physicists in the Control Room

24 hours x 7 days x 365 days x 10 years operation

Why LHC Works

Evidence of Higgs Boson Production



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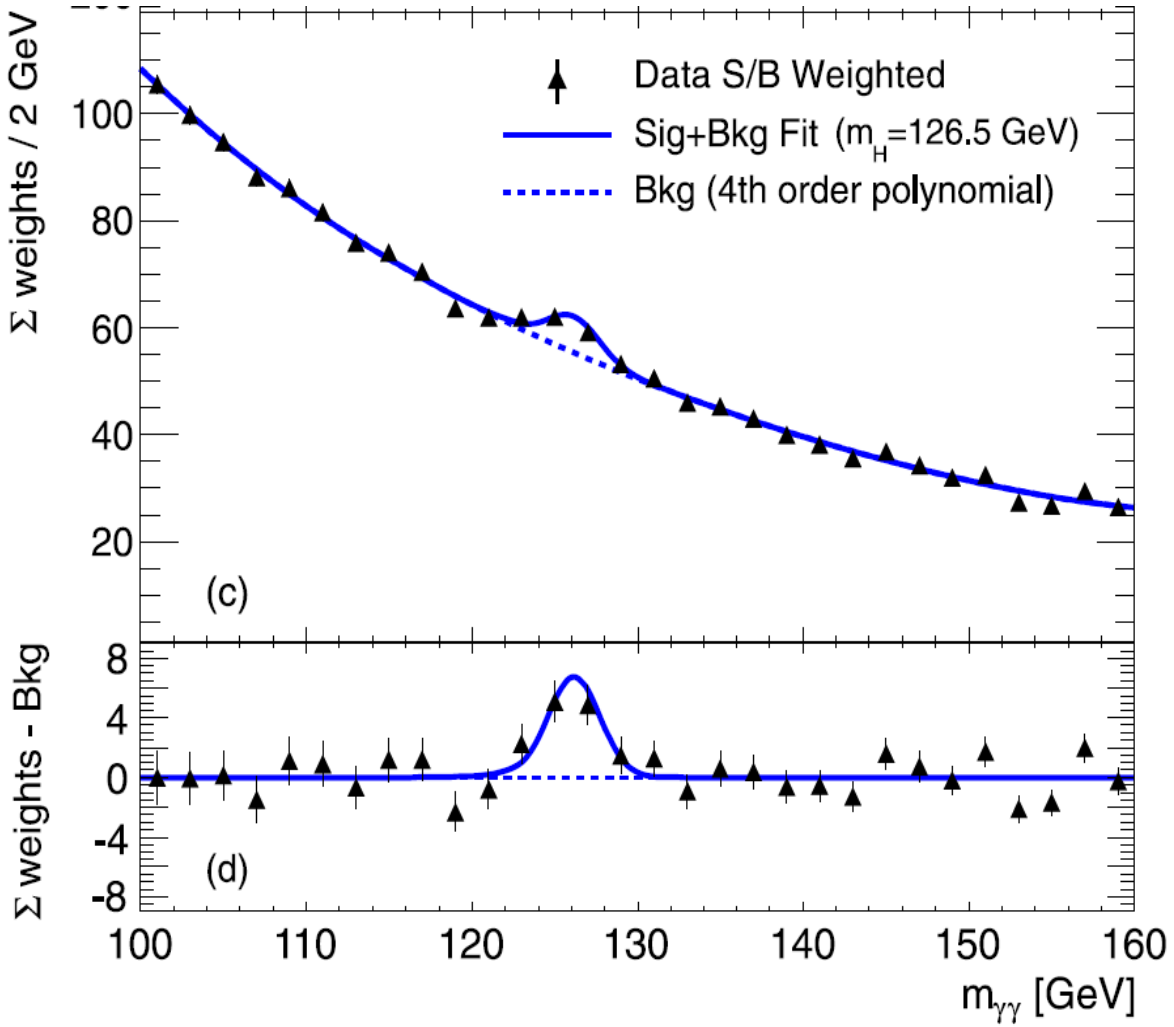


Higgs Discovery Implications

- Provide an understanding of all masses of fundamental particles
- Revolutionizes our understanding of empty space ⇔ filled with Higgs
- Further studies of the properties of the Higgs are of tremendous importance
  - Where did this "Higgs field" stuff come from?
  - Why do different particles interact differently with it?
- We are going to be busy studying the Higgs for a while…

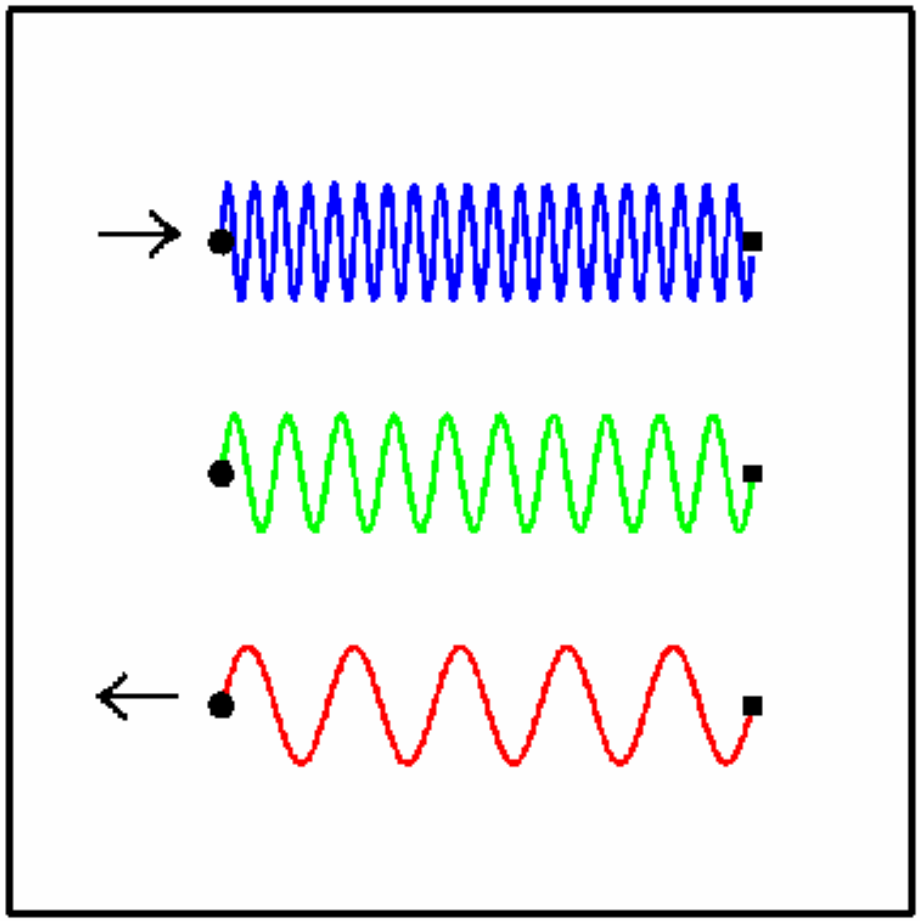
The Mystery of Dark Matter

Centripetal Force

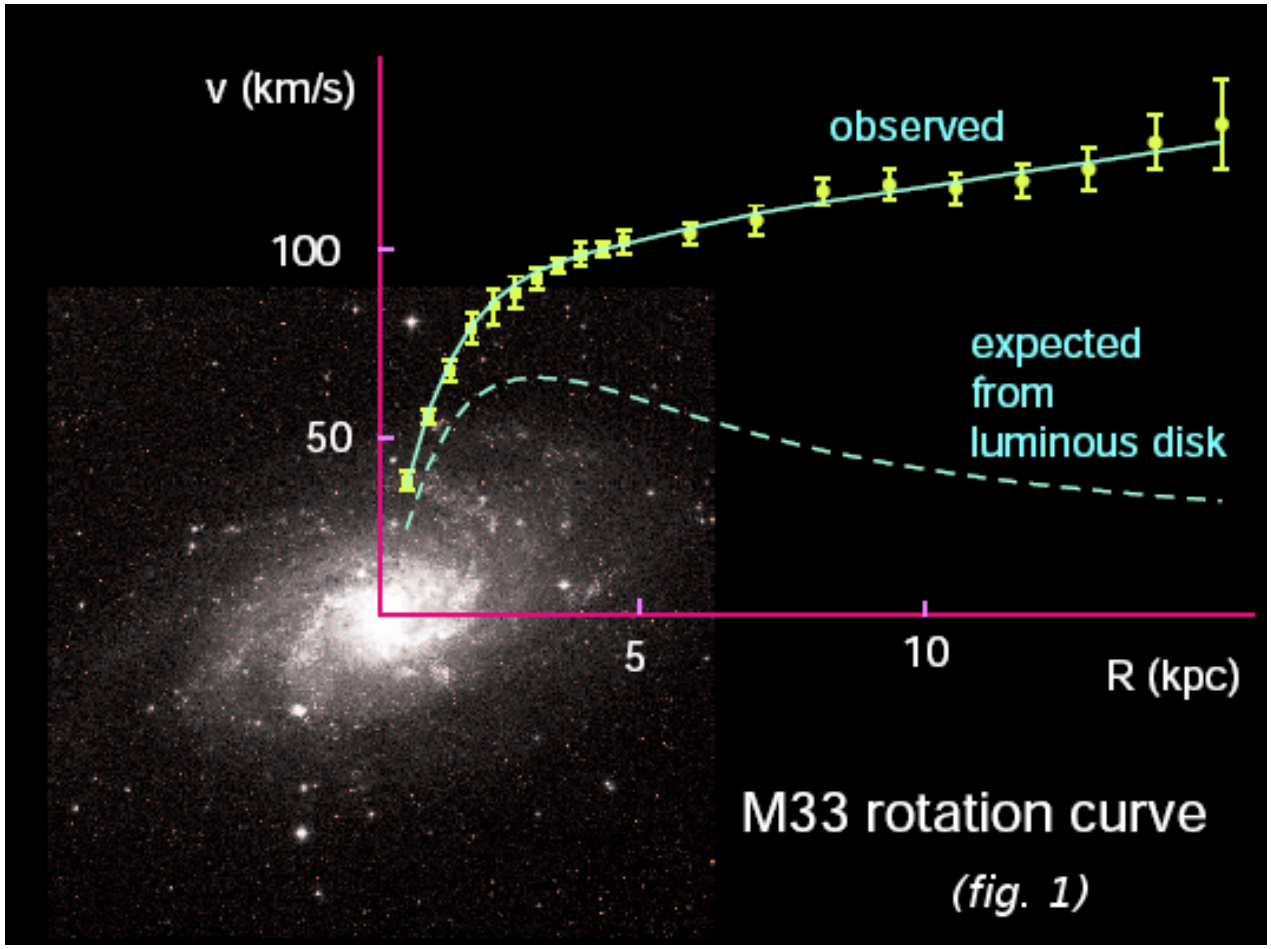
Stars Orbiting a Galaxy

Gravity provides the centripetal force

Measuring Velocity with Doppler Shift of Starlight

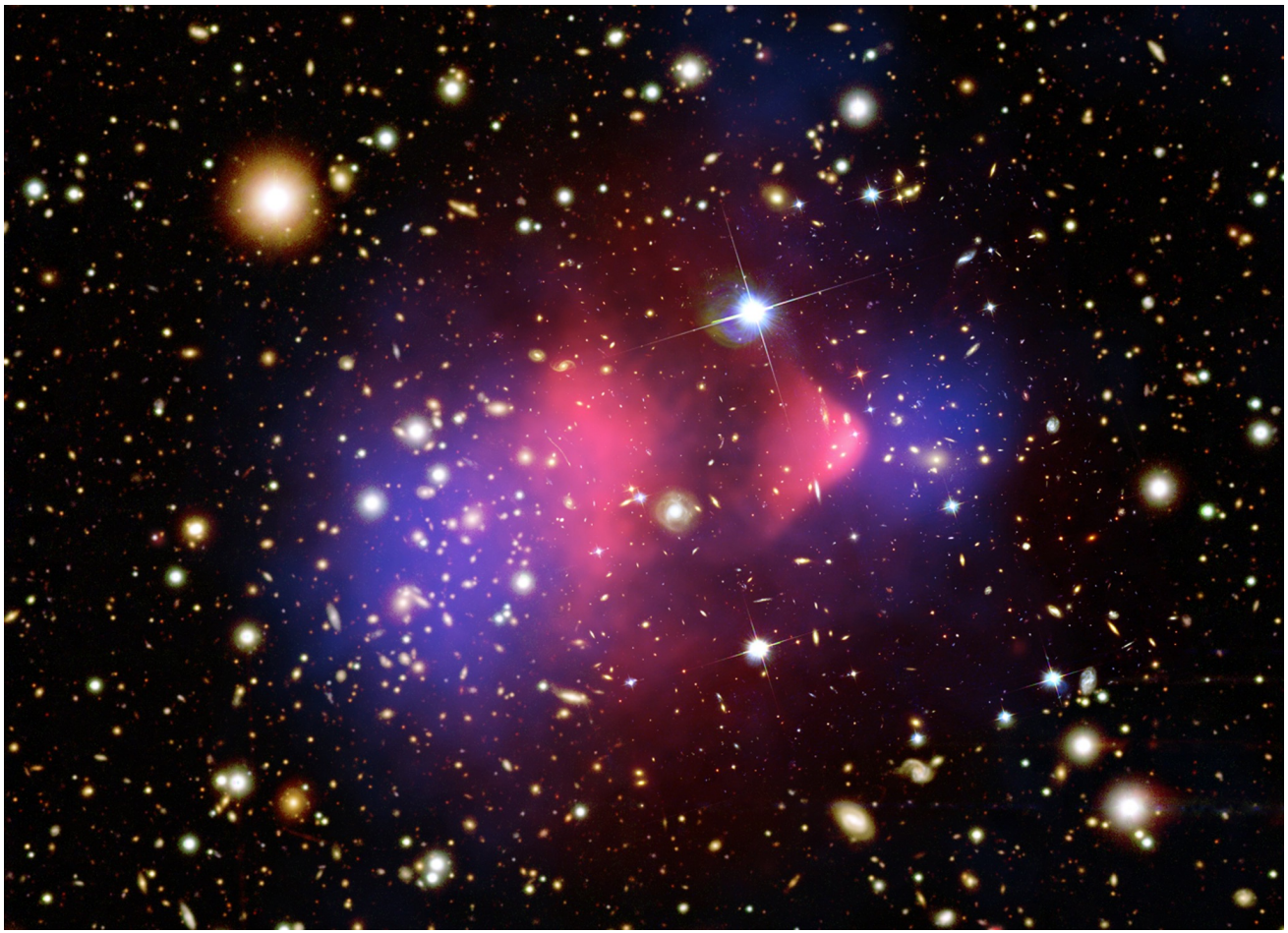


Galactic Rotation Curve



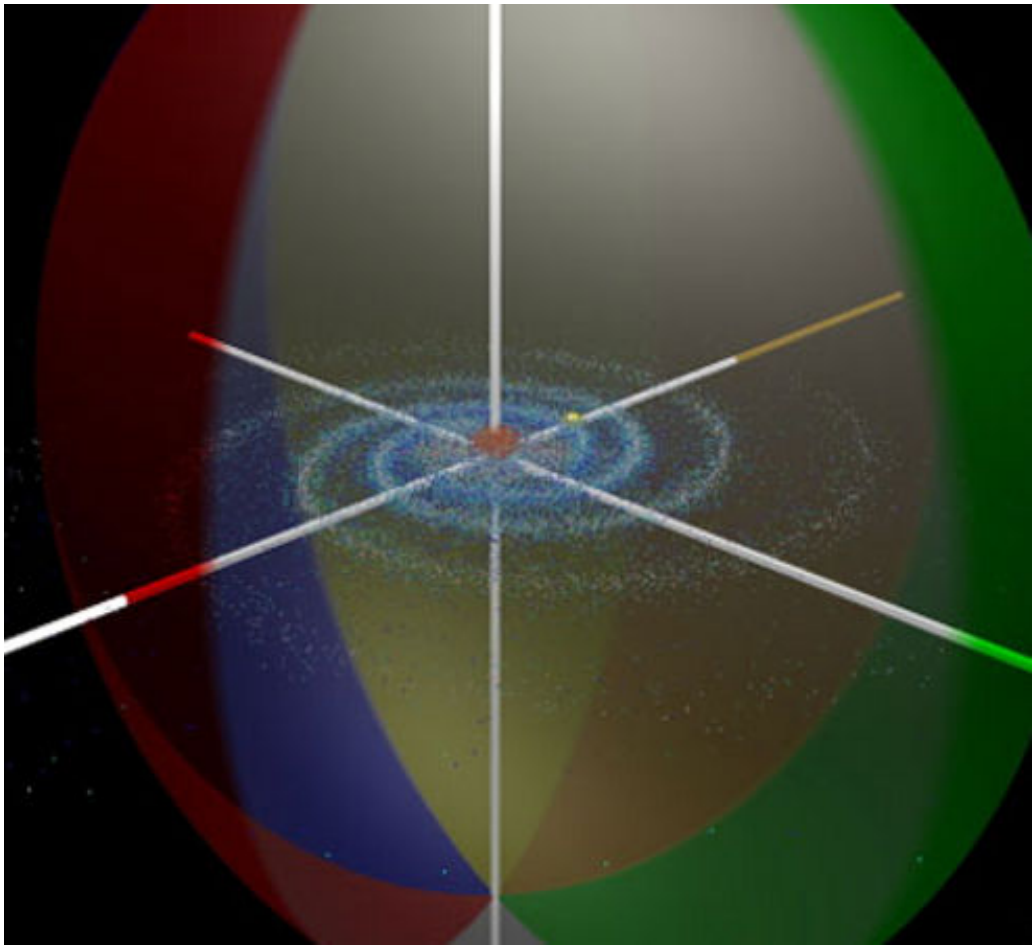
Stars' orbit speed too high ⇔ too much centripetal force

Collision of Galaxy Clusters



Luminous Matter (emitting X-rays) separated from total Mass ⇔ confirms Dark Matter hypothesis

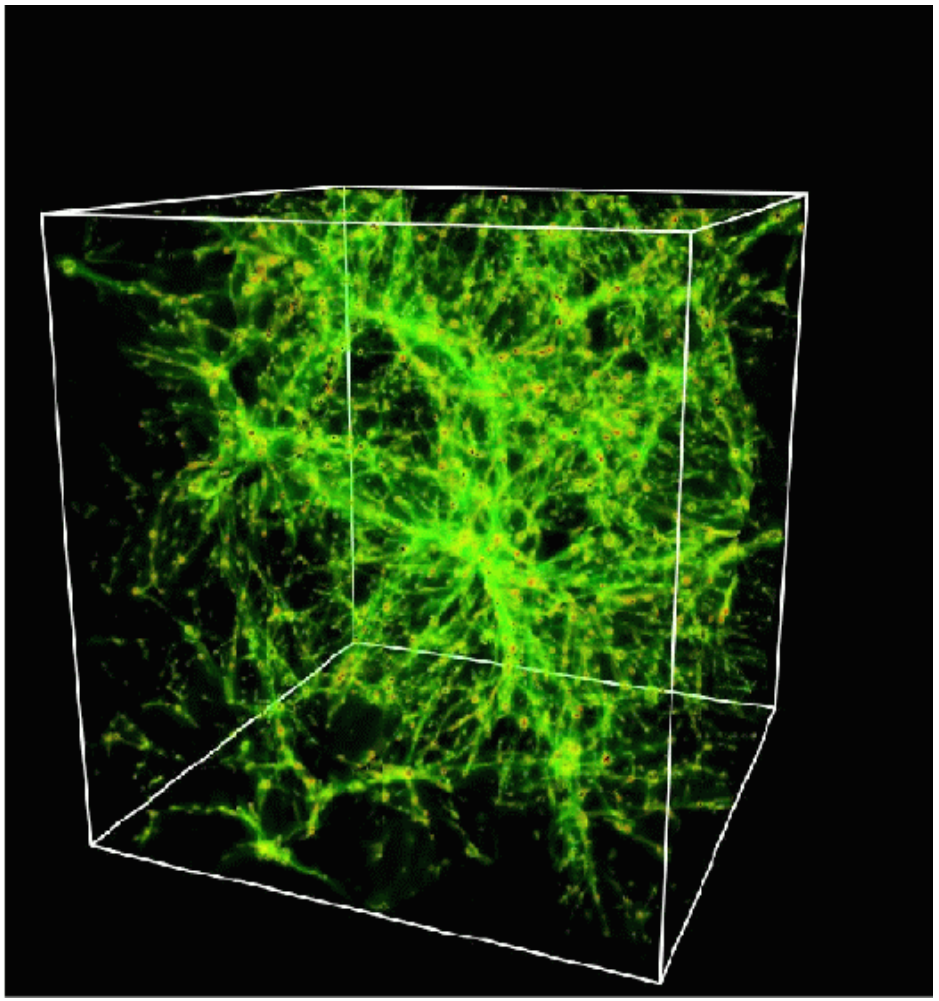
Halo of Invisible Dark Matter around Galaxies



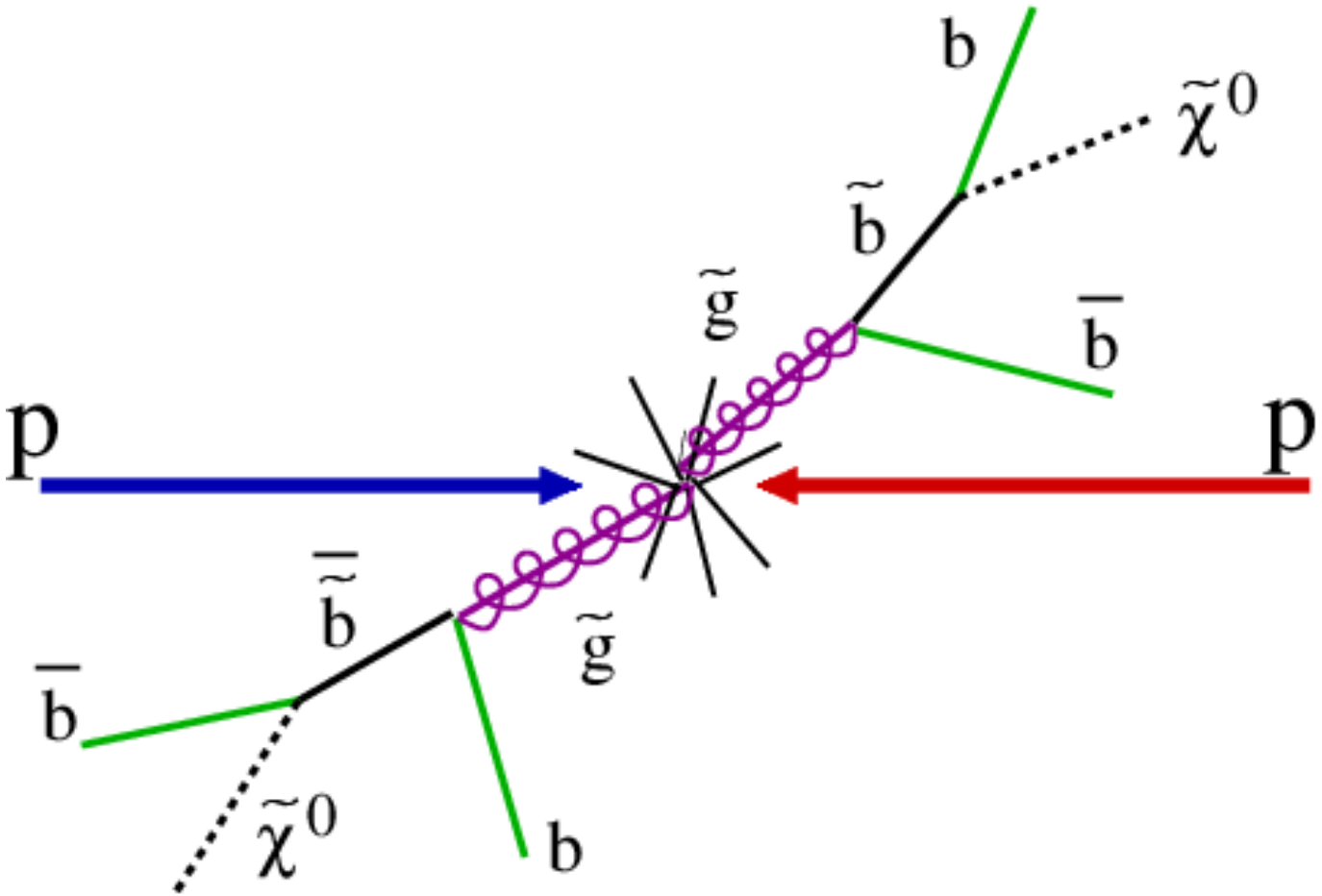
Four times as much dark matter as visible matter

Mapping out the Dark Matter

- *A lot* of dark matter is required to hold galaxies together
- It cannot all be made of protons
- It must be neutral, stable, heavy
- It must be some new form of matter – new fundamental particles



Feynman Diagram depicting Production of Dark Matter Particles at LHC



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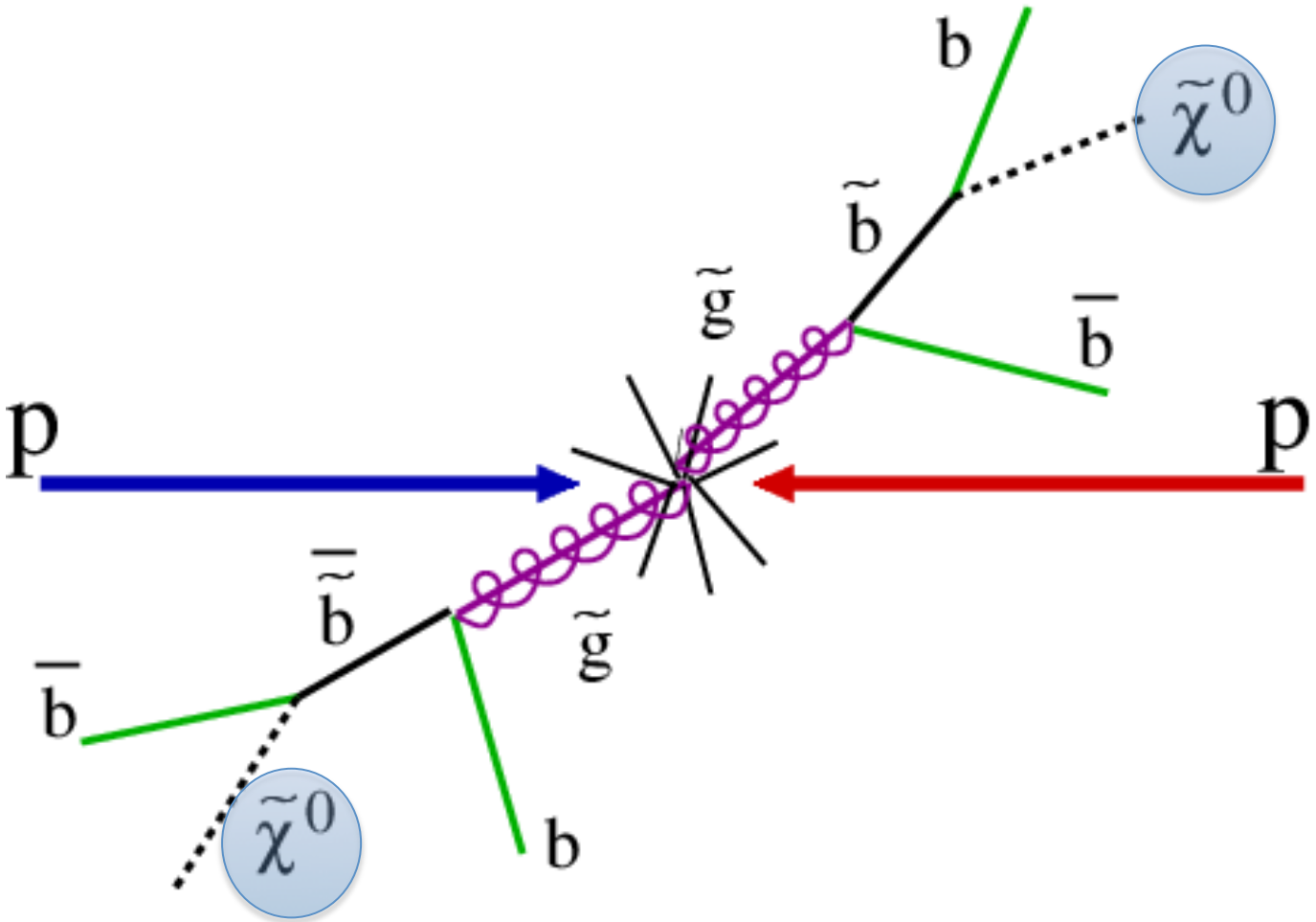
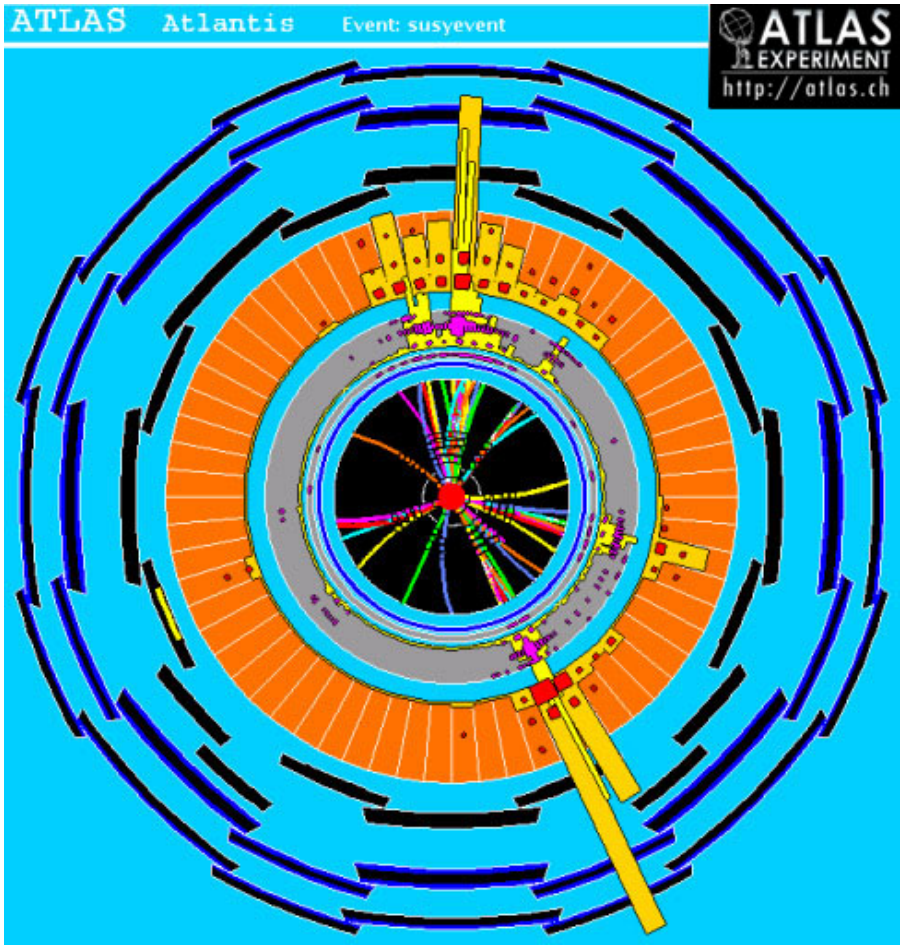


Simulated Dark Matter Particle Production at LHC



Dark Matter Particles

- Bridge between cosmology, astrophysics and particle physics
- “Supersymmetry” theory predicts dark matter particles
- Supersymmetry ⇔ quantum properties of space ⇔ dawn of a “new quantum mechanics”

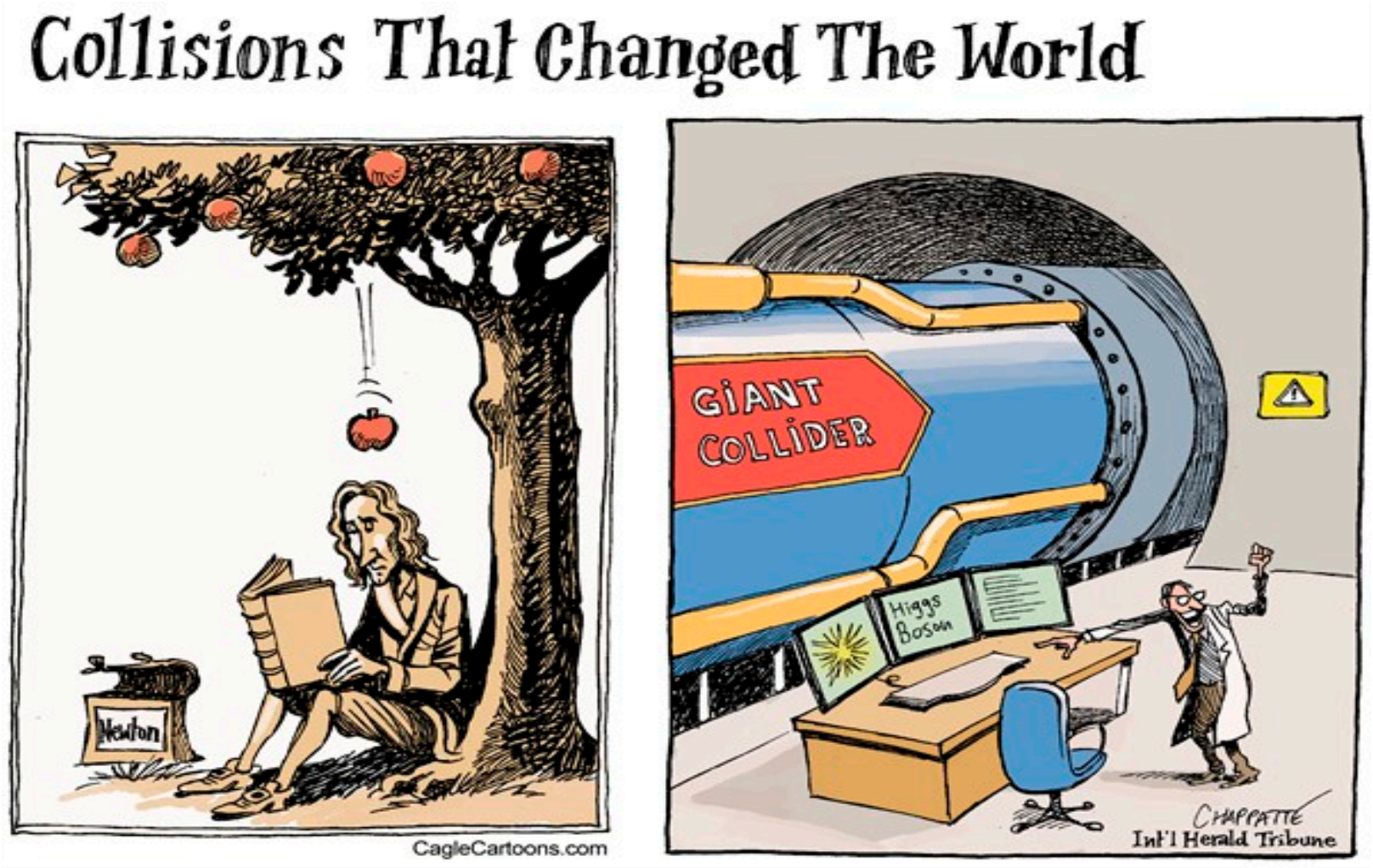
Conclusion

- LHC is operating successfully – a great achievement of science and engineering and of international cooperation

- Higgs boson discovery confirms theory of massive particles
  - Vacuum is actually permeated with the Higgs field

- Discovering other Higgs properties could start a new revolution in physics
  - As grand as the revolution started by quantum mechanics and theories of relativity a century ago

Thank You!


Collisions That Changed The World
Newton
CagleCartoons.com
GIANT COLLIDER
Higgs Boson
CHAPPATTE
Int'l Herald Tribune

Thank You!


HIGGS BOSON
H
Higgs boson
The HIGGS BOSON is the theoretical particle of the Higgs mechanism, which physicists believe will reveal how all matter in the universe get its mass. Many scientists hope that the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva, Switzerland will detect the elusive Higgs Boson when it begins colliding particles at 99.99% the speed of light.
Wool felt with gravel fill for maximum mass.
LIGHT
HEAVY
$9.75 PLUS SHIPPING
GLUON PHOTON NEUTRINO TACHYON ELECTRON UP QUARK DOWN QUARK TAU NEUTRINO MUON UP
NEUTRON DOWN QUARK TAU GLUON HIGGS BOSON NEUTRINO TACHYON ELECTRON UP QUARK DOWN
NEUTRINO MUON UP QUARK PROTON NEUTRON DOWN QUARK TAU GLUON PHOTON NEUTRINO TACHY
The PARTICLE ZOO