PARTICLE PHYSICS: FORCES AND PARTICLES

Prof. Stephen Sekula (4/15/2010) Supplementary Material for PHY 3305 (Modern Physics) Harris, Ch. 12.1-12.3

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- Review
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- Meet the families







www.privatehand.com/flash/elements.html

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SUBATOMIC PARTICLES

- Electron
 - . J. J. Thompson (1896): identified electrons as unique particles
- . Photon
 - . Hertz/Einstein (1887,1905): photoelectric effect and explanation
- Proton
 - Rutherford (1919): recognized fundamental nature of hydrogen nucleus
- Neutron
 - Chadwick (1932): distinguished this neutral radiation from photons and identified them as unique particles

THE PARTICLE EXPLOSION

- "Nuclear Era"
 - Yukawa predicts carrier of strong force in 1935 the "mesons"
 - Muon (mu-meson *misnomer*): (Anderson, 1936) discovered in cosmic ray radiation. Mistaken for carrier of nuclear force.
 - Pion (pi-meson): (Powell, Lattes, Occhialini, 1947) identified in photographs of cosmic rays
 - Kaon (K-meson): (1947-1953) Required a new quantum property, deemed "strangeness," to explain their contrast to the behavior of pions and protons.

 π 7 π π ${}^{\scriptscriptstyle (a}\pi_{\scriptscriptstyle 2}^+)$ π^+ π μ^+ π^{t} Bubble chamber image from CERN, c.a. 1970 10 7

PARTICLE EXPLOSION

- The Particle Explosion
 - . Rho mesons, omega mesons, ...
 - Lambda baryons, sigma baryon, delta baryons, ...
- . Many attempts to explain
 - after decades, a winner emerged: the quark hypothesis
 - mesons and baryons can be explained as pairs or triplets of "quarks"
 - Like varying Z and N in a nucleus to change the isotope, varying quark number and type creates the "particle explosion."











http://atlas.web.cern.ch/Atlas/public/EVTDISPLAY/events.html









NEXT TIME

- Fundamental Particles and Interactions
 - Harris: 12.5-12.7
- In-class presentations all next week
- We have just 2 lecture left
 - the next will be new material
 - the last lecture (Apr. 29) will be a review and discussion of the final exam