

# THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE Higgs Boson



**Ian Low @ SMU, Sep 6, 2012**

**Argonne/Northwestern/KITP Santa Barbara**

## What is a Higgs boson?

- As is often the case, you go on the internet to find out about things. Without thinking too hard, let's go to [www.higgsboson.com](http://www.higgsboson.com)....

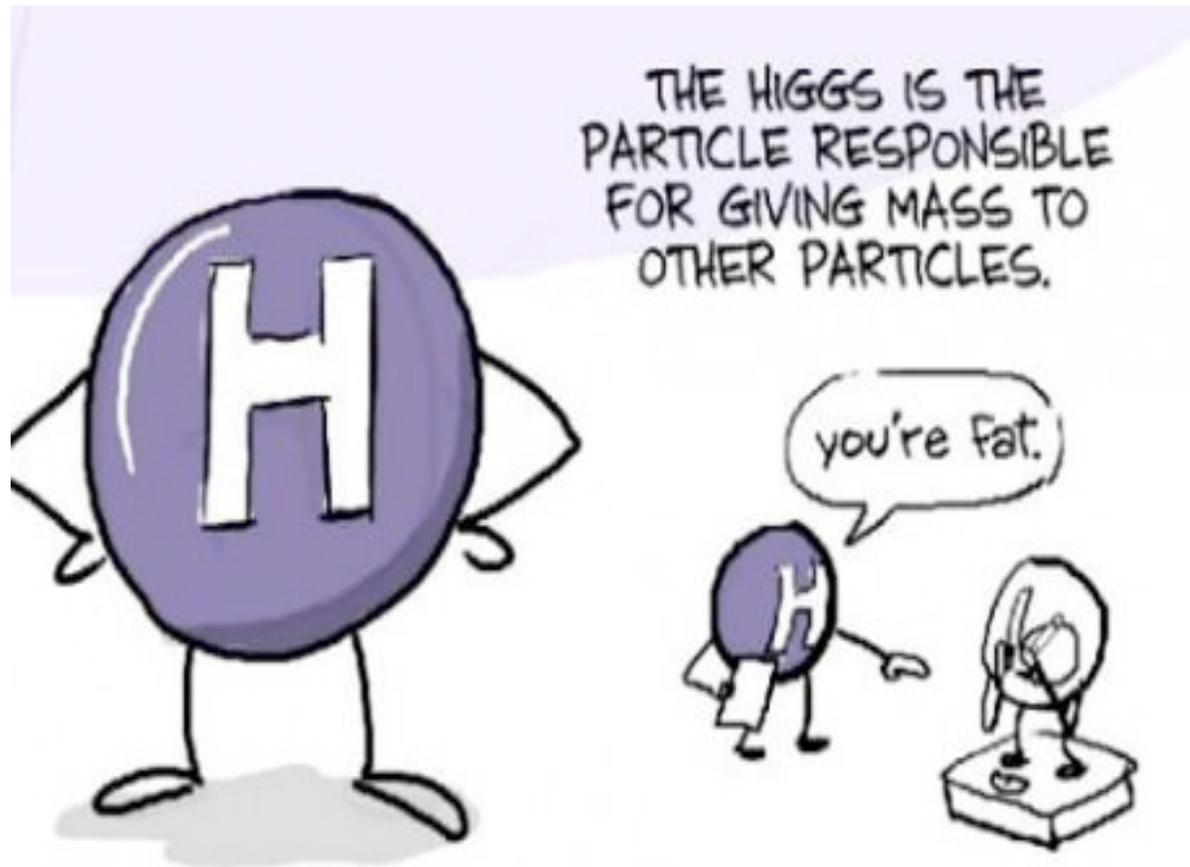
**Here is a pop quiz:**

If you go to [www.higgsboson.com](http://www.higgsboson.com) you will find:

- (a) A passionate, devoted amateur scientist wanting to find the Higgs boson.
- (b) A high-tech startup company commercializing the technology in building accelerators.
- (c) An award winning contemporary jazz pianist whose music is inspired by the Higgs boson.
- (d) A choir group at CERN consisted of amateur singers.

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**So particle physicists really meant that the Higgs is the origin of mass for *almost* all of elementary particles.**

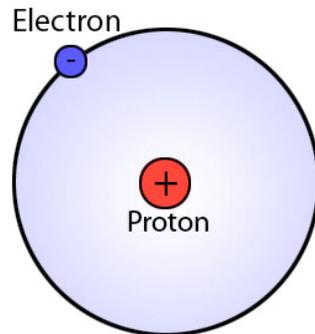
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**Can you imagine a world with a massless electron??**

**Let's consider the hydrogen atom:**



$$r_n = \frac{n^2 h^2}{4\pi^2 e^2 m_e}$$

**So if the electron is massless, the hydrogen atom would not form!**

**Before I tell you how the Higgs boson gives mass to the electron, I need to explain why we need the Higgs at all!**

**It has to do with these two Nobel laureates:**



Chen Ning Yang



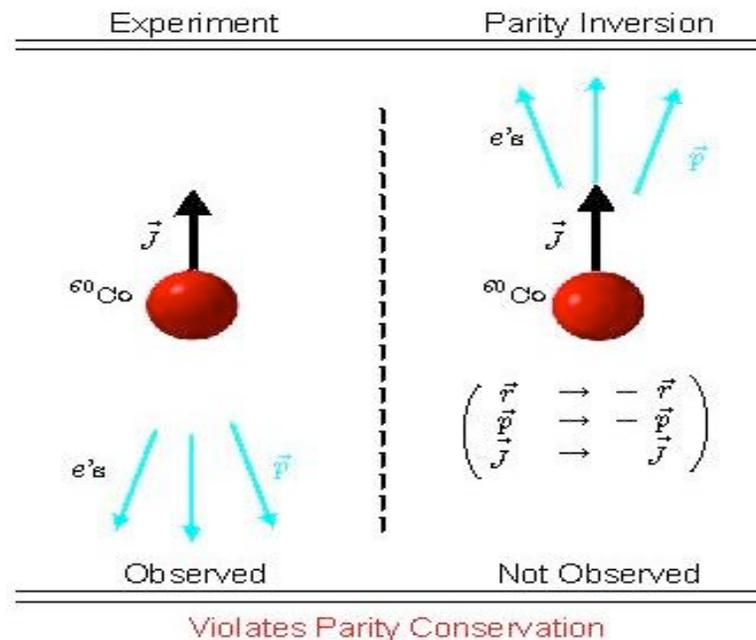
Tsung-Dao (T.D.) Lee

**Lee and Yang suggested in 1956 that parity may be violated in weak interactions!**

**Parity is the operation of space inversion:**

$$P : \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} -x \\ -y \\ -z \end{pmatrix} . \quad \begin{array}{l} \vec{r} \rightarrow -\vec{r} \\ \vec{L} = \vec{r} \times \vec{p} \rightarrow \vec{L} \end{array}$$

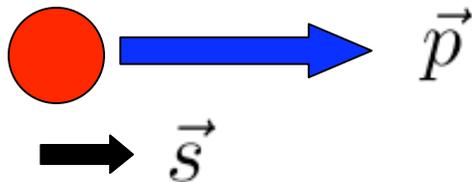
**Physicists used to believe that, if an event occurs in nature, the image of that event under parity must also occur....**



**The fact that parity is broken in nature creates a problem for the mass of the electron....**

**This is because electron's mass implies invariance under parity!**

**There is a simple, albeit somewhat naïve, argument:**

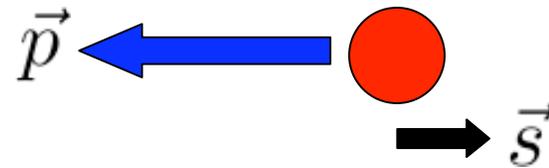


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**Now perform a Lorentz boost  
to a frame where the momentum  
is reversed:**

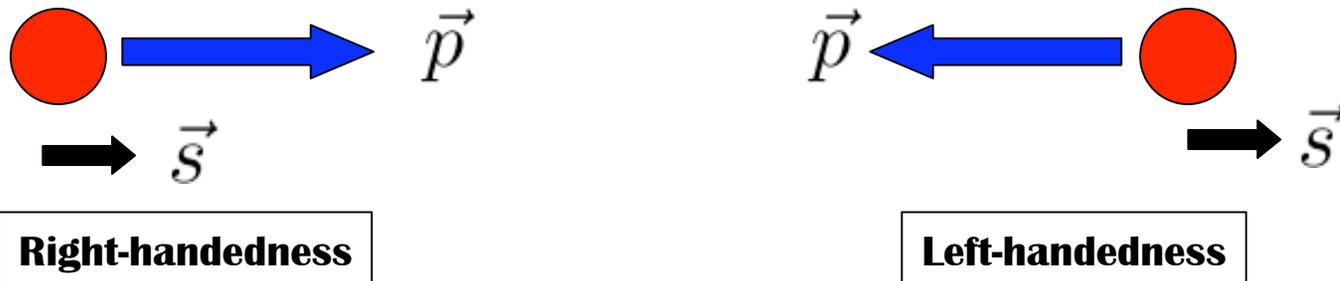


**The fact that parity is broken in nature creates a problem for the mass of the electron....**

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**These two states map into each other under parity!**



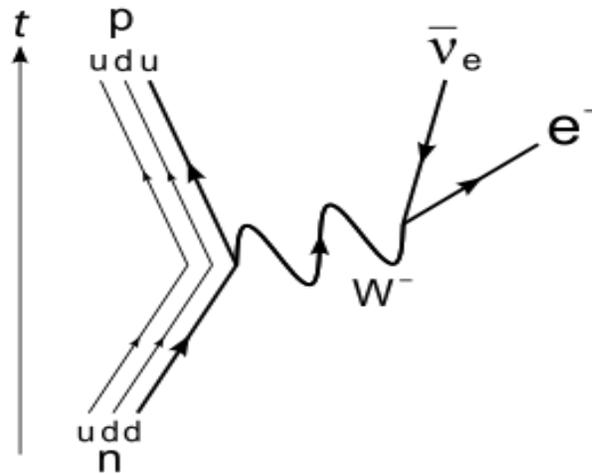
**For a massive particle, both handedness must exist!**

**But if a particle is massless, no Lorentz boost can reverse the direction of the momentum.**

**In other words, a non-zero mass implies states with different handedness are mixed quantum mechanically!**



- **At around 1968, Glashow, Weinberg, and Salam proposed that weak interactions are mediated by spin-1 particles called the W (charged) and Z (neutral) bosons.**



- **Moreover, they proposed that the weak interaction is unified with the electromagnetic interactions at high energies.**  
**-> now called the electroweak interactions, which is based on the symmetry group of SU(2)xU(1)**

- **Recall that photon is the force carrier of electromagnetic force and couples electric charge.**
- **Similarly, W and Z bosons couple to an analog of electric charge in the weak interaction, the *weak isospin* charge.**
- **It turned out that parity is maximally violated in weak interactions!**  
**(only left-handed state carries weak isospin, but not the right-handed state.)**
- **Since states with different handedness carry different quantum number, they cannot mix quantum mechanically.**  
**Therefore a mass term is forbidden in the theory of electroweak interactions!**

**This is where the Higgs mechanism and the Higgs boson come to our rescue!**

**There are actually 6+1 persons deserving the credit for the proposal of Higgs mechanism:**

**6 = Englert, Brout, Higgs, Guralnik, Hagen, and Kibble. They shared the 2010 APS Sakurai Prize**

**1 = Phil Anderson, but he's not a particle physicist....**

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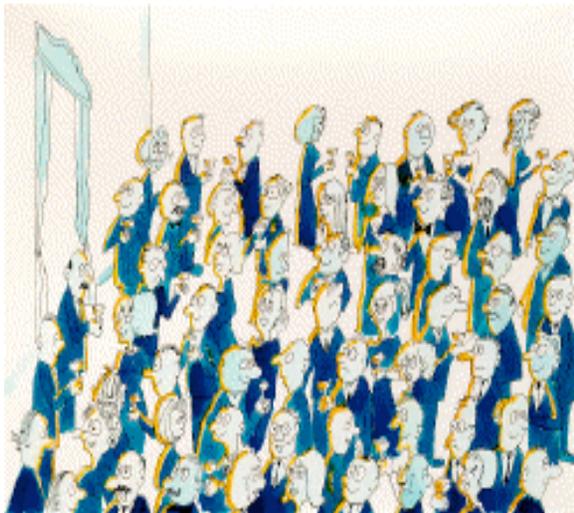
**In plain english, the Higgs mechanism is like going to the swimming pool and immersing yourself in the water. Your body moves at a slower speed when using the same strength.**

**It feels like you pick up a heavier mass in the water!!**

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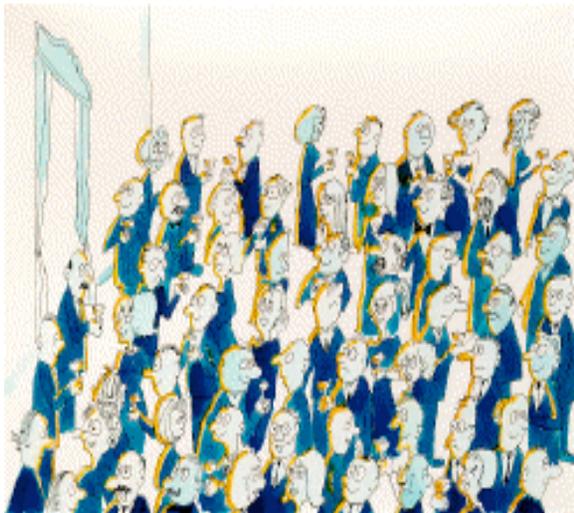
**A cartoon version:**



**A room filled with  
physicists**

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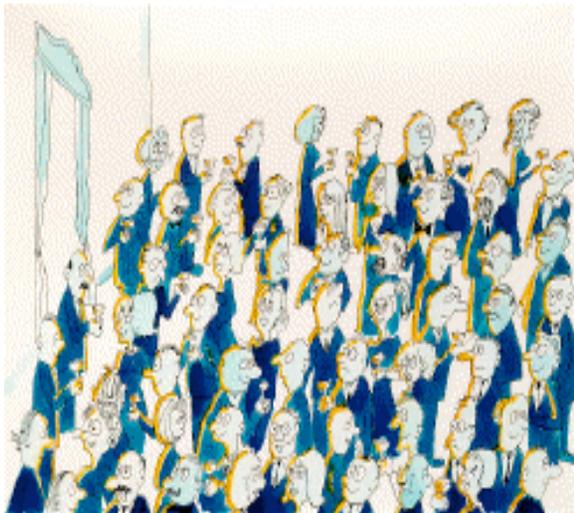
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**A cartoon version:**



**A room filled with physicists**



**Einstein walks into the room**



**He attracts admirers, moves slower, and effectively gains a mass!**

**Quantum-mechanical excitation of the condensate is the Higgs boson:  
boson:**



**If now it's only a rumor  
enters the room:  
There's a two-sigma  
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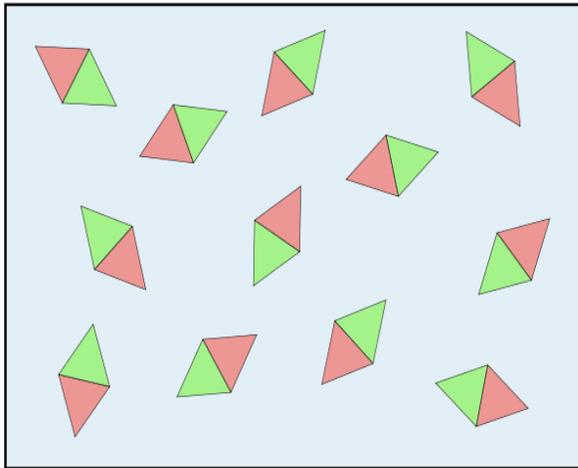
**Then all the theorists are  
excited and got together to  
discuss:  
We only have a cluster among  
the theorists.**

**The Higgs mechanism is closely related to the notion of spontaneously broken symmetry, for which Nambu won the Nobel prize in 2008:**

Yoichiro Nambu  
南部 陽一郎

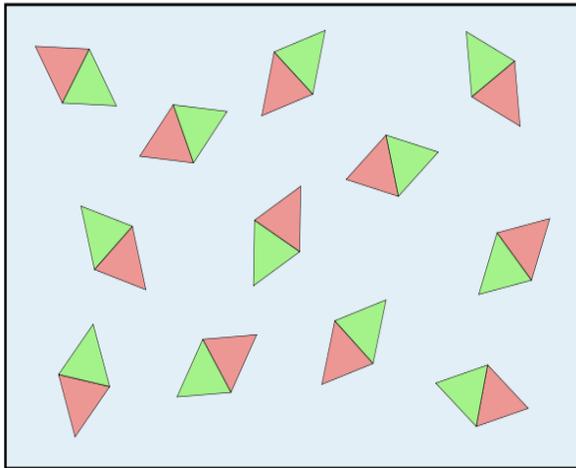


- **Spontaneous symmetry breaking refers to the fact that, although the underlying theory may possess a particular symmetry property, the ground state may not.**
- **This is a phenomenon that is ubiquitous in nature. For example, the theory of ferromagnetism respects rotational invariance:**

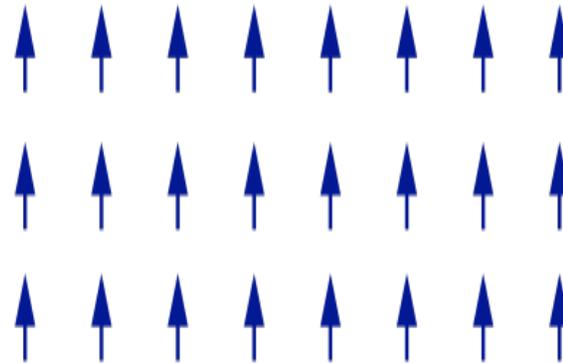


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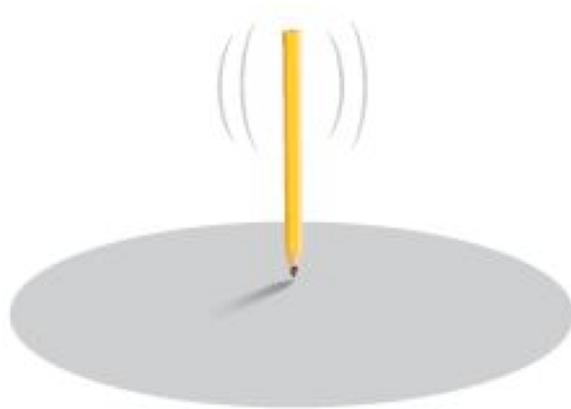
**Below  $T_c$  rotational invariance is spontaneously broken!**

- **A more mundane example is a pencil standing on its tip:**



**The pencil has no preferred direction  
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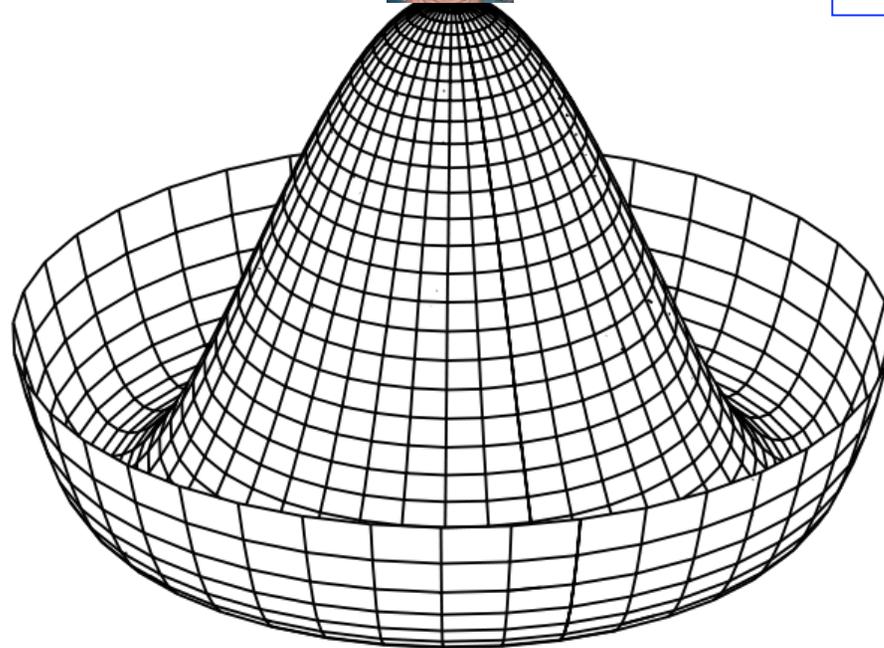


**The pencil has no preferred direction to fall → rotational invariance**



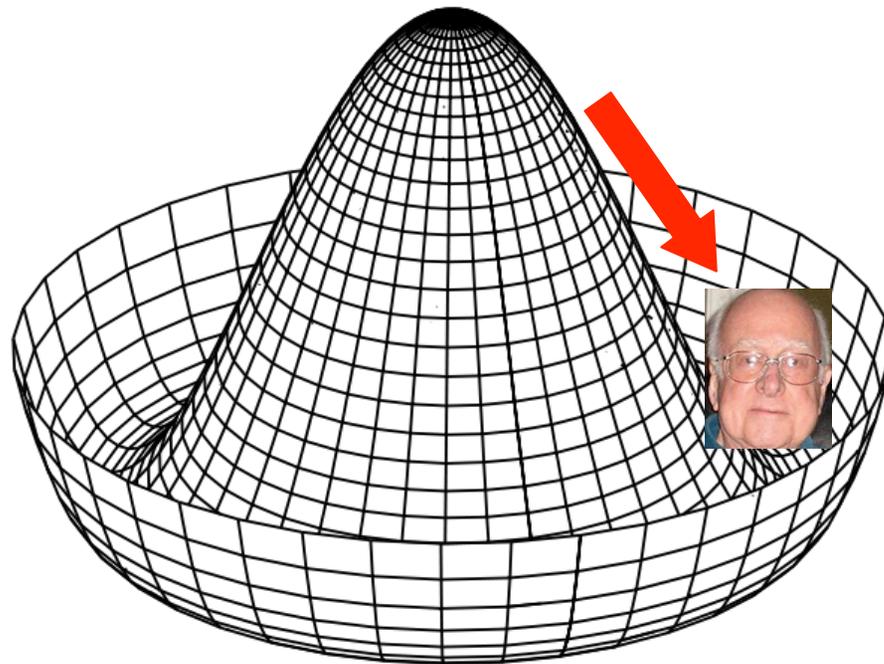
**The configuration is unstable! Once the pencil falls, rotational invariance is broken.**

- **For the Higgs boson, what is being proposed is the following “Mexican hat” potential, which respects the “electroweak symmetry.”**



**Manifestly symmetric, but unstable!**

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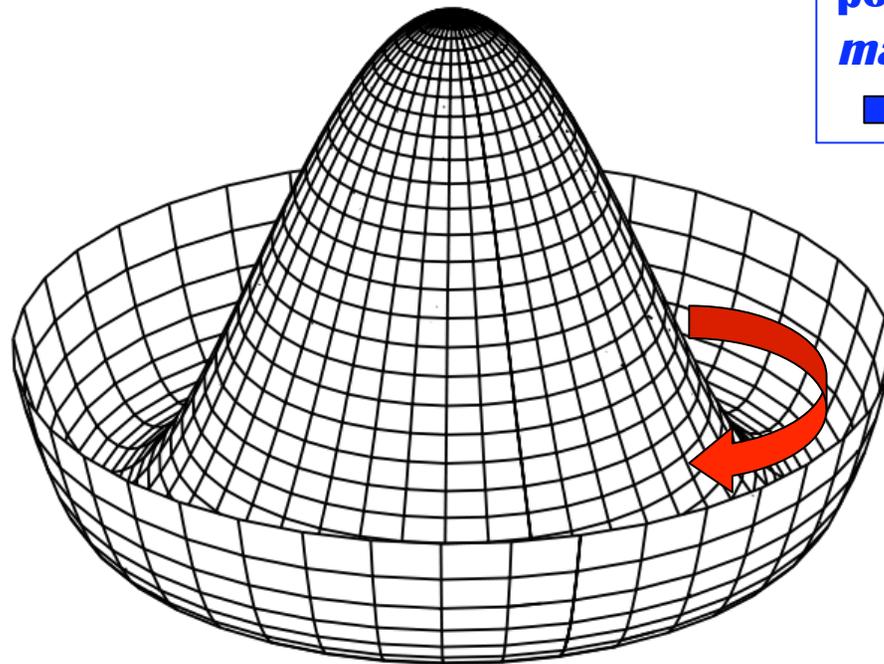


**The ground state, but the symmetry is spontaneously broken!**

**Mathematically, the Higgs receives a VEV (vacuum expectation value):**

$$h \rightarrow v + h$$

- **For the Higgs boson, what is being proposed is the following “Mexican hat” potential, which respects the “electroweak symmetry.”**



**Excitation along the bottom of the potential is “gapless,” implying a *massless* particle**



**the Nambu-Goldstone boson!!**

**So how does the Higgs mechanism and the Higgs boson resolve the difficult of having an electron mass in the “electroweak theory”, which forbids the mass?**

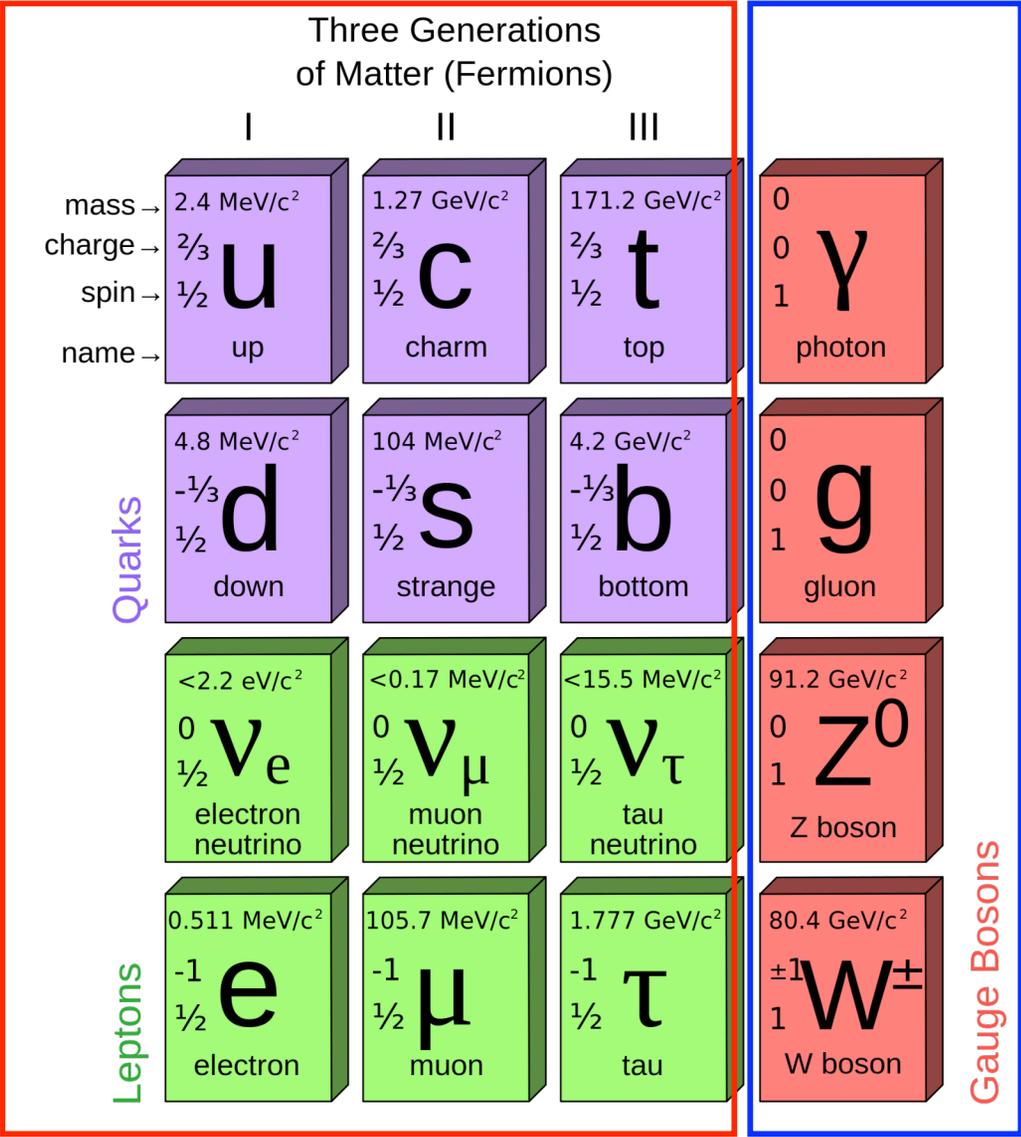
**(A mass is forbidden means it does not conserve the electroweak charges, which are analog of the electric charge.)**

**The way out is the Higgs vacuum expectation value acts like a perfect “dielectric medium.”**

**It absorbs any non-conserving electroweak charges carried by the mass of the electron.**

# This is a pictorial summary of the standard model of particle physics, as we know it last year:

**Fermions have half Integer-spin.**



**Bosons have integer-spin.**

**We believe all massive particles (except neutrinos) below get their masses from the Higgs boson.**

**Fermions have half Integer-spin.**

		Three Generations of Matter (Fermions)				
		I	II	III		
mass →		2.4 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	1.27 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	171.2 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	0	Gauge Bosons
charge →		$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	0	
spin →		$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
name →		<b>u</b> up	<b>c</b> charm	<b>t</b> top	<b>γ</b> photon	
	Quarks	4.8 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	104 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	4.2 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	0	
		$-\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{3}$	$-\frac{1}{3}$	0	
		$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
		<b>d</b> down	<b>s</b> strange	<b>b</b> bottom	<b>g</b> gluon	
	Leptons	<2.2 eV/c <sup>2</sup>	<0.17 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	<15.5 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	91.2 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	
		0	0	0	0	
		$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
		<b>ν<sub>e</sub></b> electron neutrino	<b>ν<sub>μ</sub></b> muon neutrino	<b>ν<sub>τ</sub></b> tau neutrino	<b>Z<sup>0</sup></b> Z boson	
		0.511 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	105.7 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	1.777 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	80.4 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	
		-1	-1	-1	±1	
		$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	
		<b>e</b> electron	<b>μ</b> muon	<b>τ</b> tau	<b>W<sup>±</sup></b> W boson	

**Bosons have integer-spin.**

**To study such an important question,**

***Where does the electron mass come from?***

**\$4 billion euro was spent on building the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Geneva.**

**This is how large it is –  
the beam pipe is 27 km (17 miles) in circumference!**



Lac Léman

Geneva Downtown

Geneva Airport

**LHC is a proton-proton collider @ center-of-mass energy = 14 TeV by design. Currently running at 7 (8) TeV in 2011 (2012)**

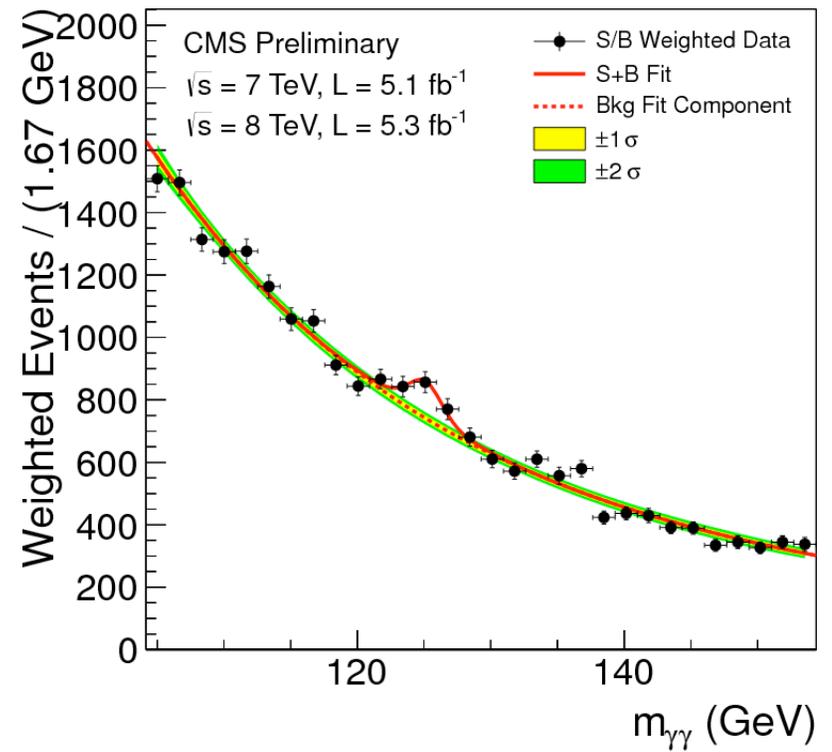
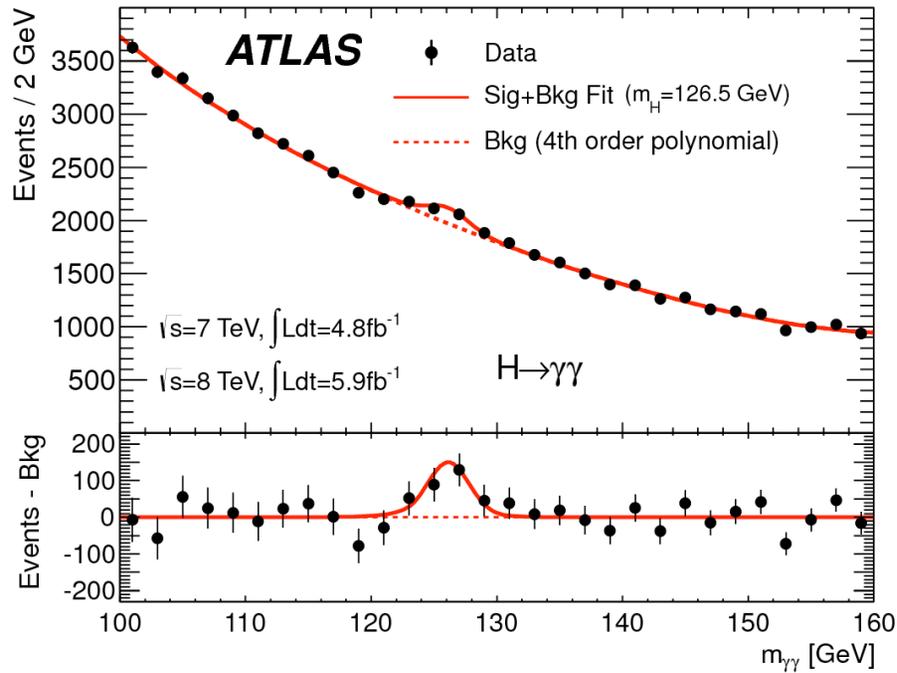
**It has two general detectors: ATLAS and CMS. Their main priority is to hunt down the Higgs boson.**

# AND THEY DID!!

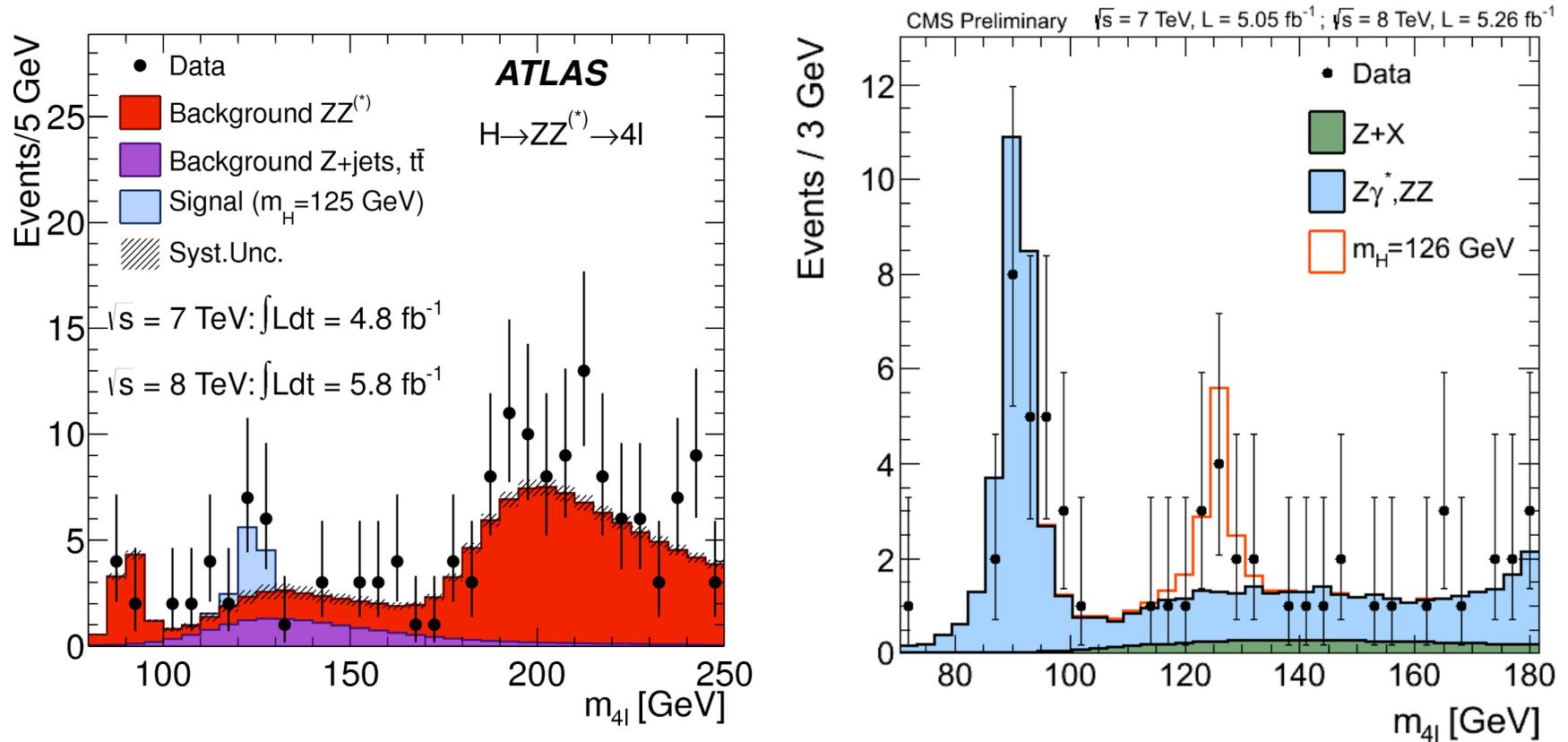
Scenes from the July 4, 2012 announcements:



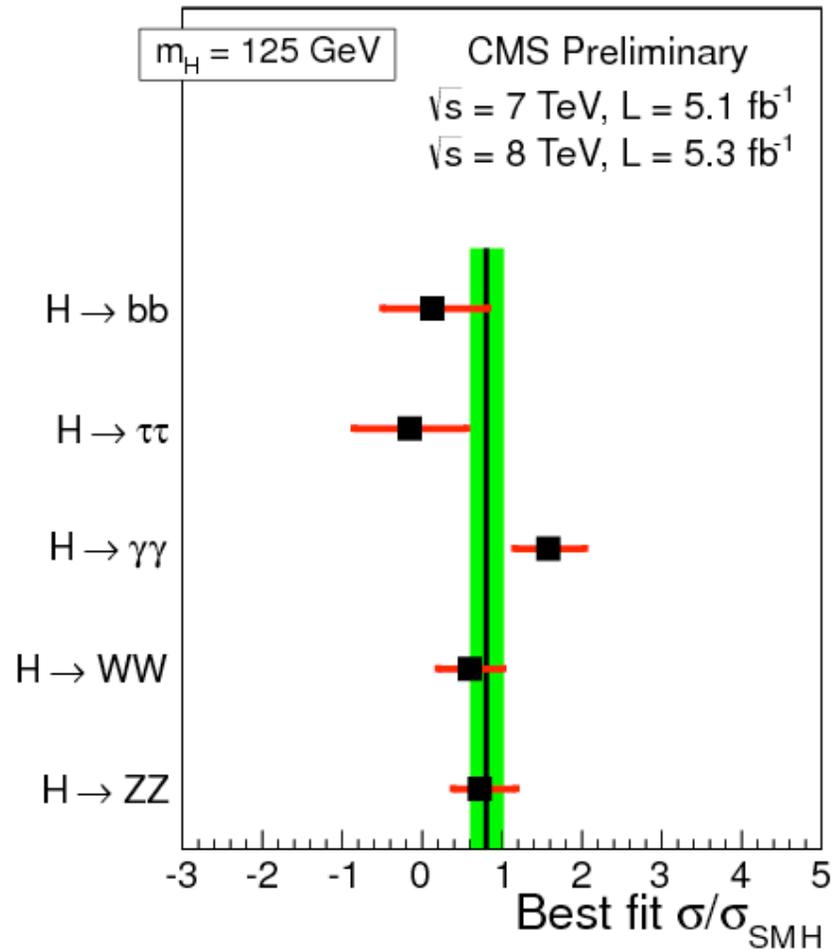
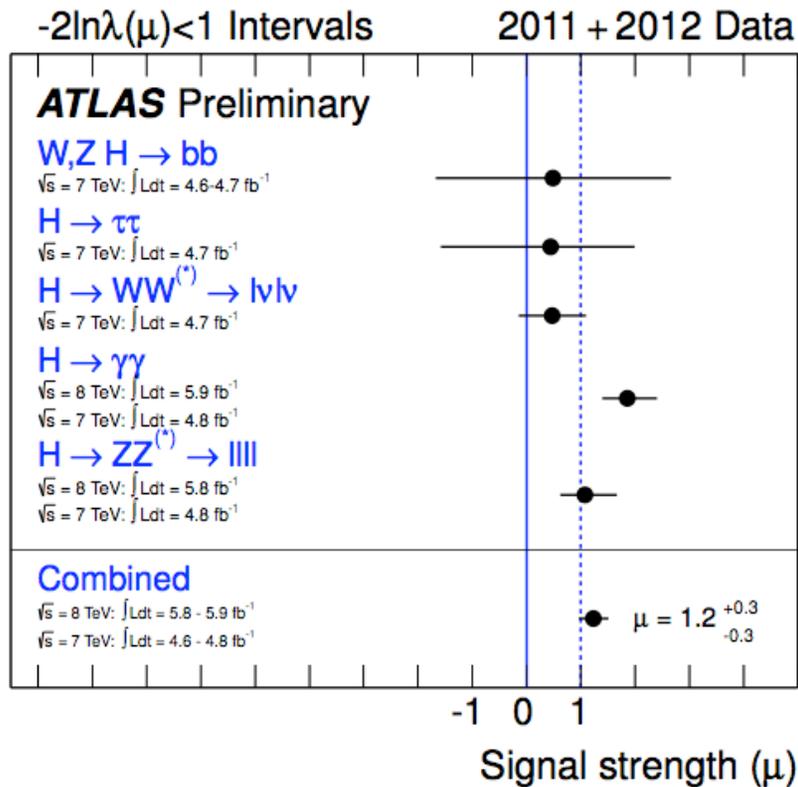
**ATLAS and CMS both see a “new boson” decaying into two photons, with a mass at around 126 GeV:**



**The four-lepton channel also sees a “visual peak”:**



## A summary of current measurements in various channels:



**This is such a historic discovery that it is worth pausing for a moment to reflect what has happened....**

**In 1964 three PRL papers deposited the possibility of the Higgs boson:**

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 16

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

19 OCTOBER 1964

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BROKEN SYMMETRIES AND THE MASSES OF GAUGE BOSONS

Peter W. Higgs

Tait Institute of Mathematical Physics, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland  
(Received 31 August 1964)

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BROKEN SYMMETRY AND THE MASS OF GAUGE VECTOR MESONS\*

F. Englert and R. Brout

Faculté des Sciences, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Bruxelles, Belgium  
(Received 26 June 1964)

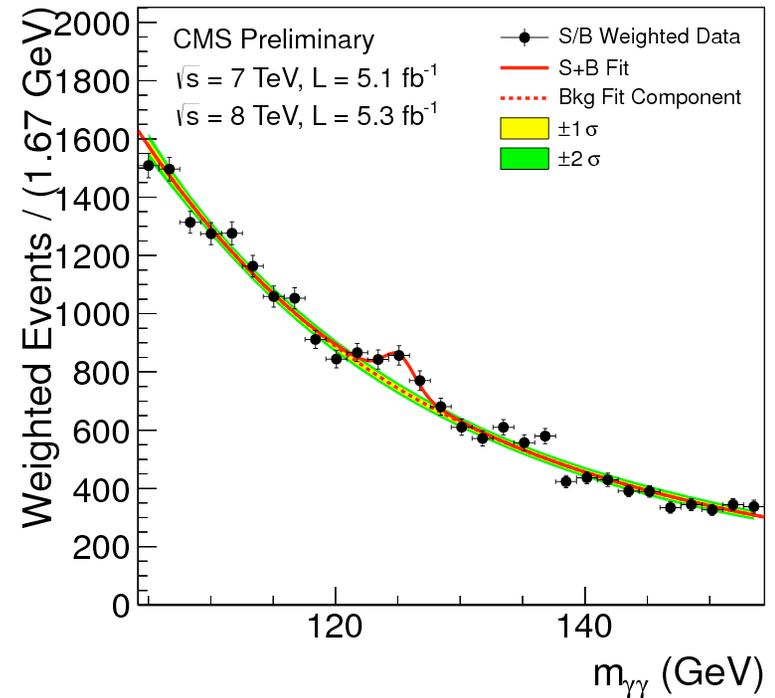
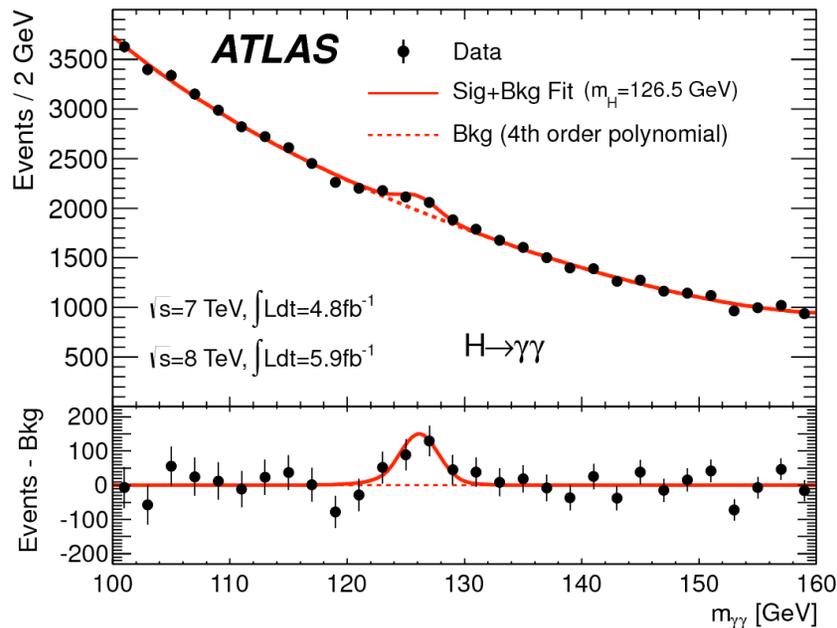
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GLOBAL CONSERVATION LAWS AND MASSLESS PARTICLES\*

G. S. Guralnik,<sup>†</sup> C. R. Hagen,<sup>‡</sup> and T. W. B. Kibble

Department of Physics, Imperial College, London, England  
(Received 12 October 1964)

To start from a pure Human thought process, and arrived 48 years later at



is an extraordinary achievement for both theoretical and experimental physics!

**We should all be screaming out loud:**

**PHYSICS REALLY WORKS!!**

**But this is also a moment to be prudent....**

**Recall that CERN only announced the discovery of a *Higgs-like* boson.**

**After all, extraordinary science requires extraordinary evidence....**

**We don't want to be fooled into thinking it's the long awaited Higgs boson when it is a Higgs imposter.**

**A Higgs boson is a particle that is**

- **Spin-0 (scalar)**
- **Charge and Parity (CP) even**
- **The neutral component of an electroweak doublet**
- **The origin of mass for W/Z bosons as well as the quarks and charged leptons**

**These specifications imply very specific couplings structure to W/Z bosons, the photon, and the fermions!**

**So far we have verified none of the above.**

**This is just the beginning of a challenging program of “Higgs Identification.”**

**In order to confirm the identity of the new particle, we should first establish what it is not.**

**We can already rule out some Higgs imposters given what we know today.**

**Some examples of Higgs imposter are**

- An electroweak singlet scalar**
- A dilaton/radion arising from a nearly conformal sector at high energy scale**
- An electroweak triplet scalar**

IL and Lykken, 1005.0872

IL, Lykken, and Shaughnessy, 1105.4587

IL, Lykken, and Shaughnessy, 1207.1093

**Let's recall what we actually “measure”.**

**In each channel we measure one number –  
the event rate for a particular production mechanism X of the new boson  
Y, which subsequently decays into Y final states:**

$$B\sigma_X(Y) \equiv \sigma(X \rightarrow S) \frac{\Gamma(S \rightarrow Y)}{\Gamma_{\text{tot}}}$$

**At the LHC we are most sensitive to**

- two production mechanisms: the gluon fusion (ggh) and the vector-boson fusion (VBF).**
- Three decay channels: WW, ZZ, and diphoton**

**It turns out that ratios of event rates are powerful model-independent discriminators of Higgs imposters!**

- **Same production but different decay channels:**

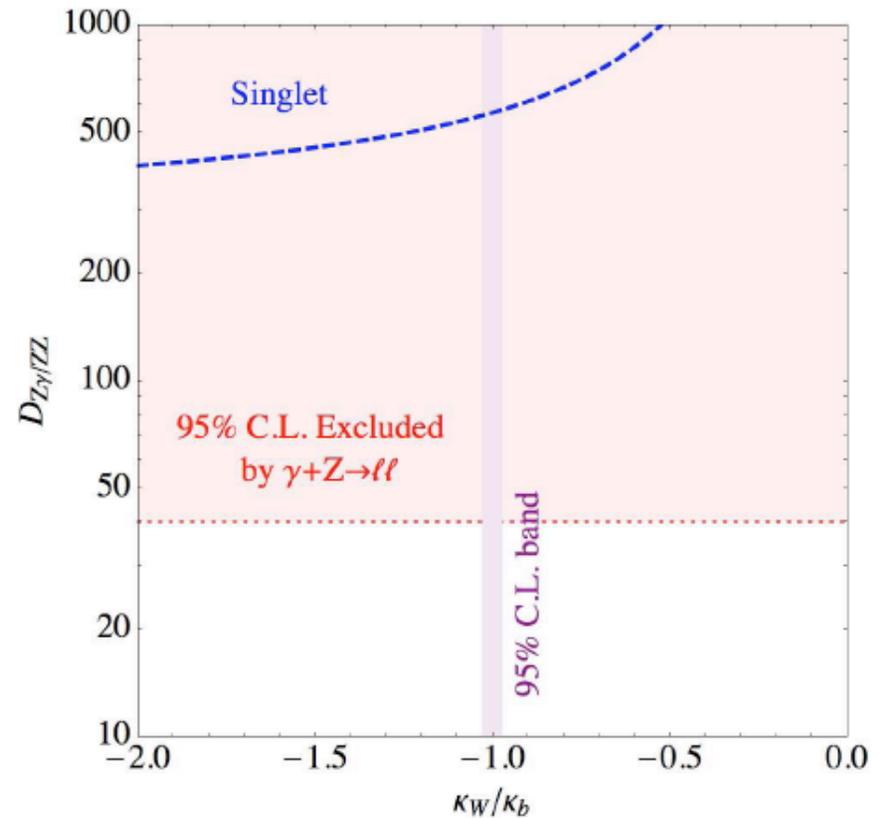
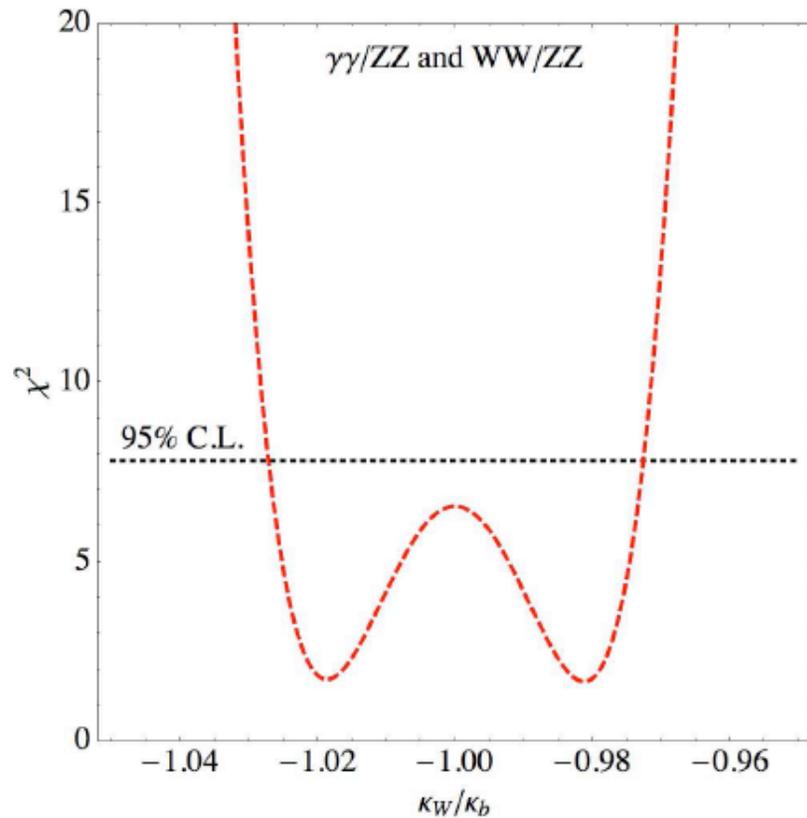
$$D_{W/Z} \equiv \frac{B\sigma_{gg}(WW)}{B\sigma_{gg}(ZZ)} = \frac{\Gamma(S \rightarrow WW)}{\Gamma(S \rightarrow ZZ)} ,$$
$$D_{\gamma/Z} \equiv \frac{B\sigma_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)}{B\sigma_{gg}(ZZ)} = \frac{\Gamma(S \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)}{\Gamma(S \rightarrow ZZ)} ,$$
$$D_{Z\gamma/Z} \equiv \frac{B\sigma_{gg}(Z\gamma)}{B\sigma_{gg}(ZZ)} = \frac{\Gamma(S \rightarrow Z\gamma)}{\Gamma(S \rightarrow ZZ)} .$$

- **Different production but same decay channels:**

$$P_{g/V} \equiv \frac{B\sigma_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)}{B\sigma_{\text{VBF}}(\gamma\gamma)} = \frac{\sigma(gg \rightarrow S)}{\sigma(\text{VBF} \rightarrow S)}$$

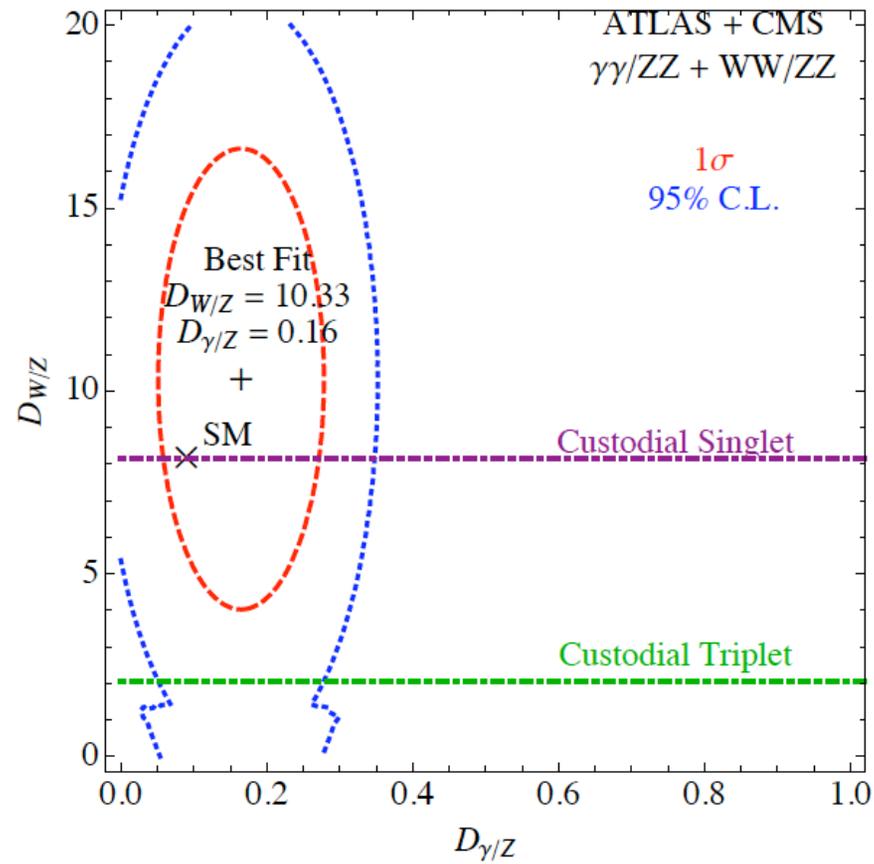
**Ratios have the added advantage that common theoretical uncertainties (eg PDF) and systematic uncertainties should cancel.**

**Fitting the electroweak singlet imposter to WW/ZZ and diphoton/ZZ ratios, the predicted Z+Photon rate is so large that it is ruled out by “standard model” Z+Photon measurements!**

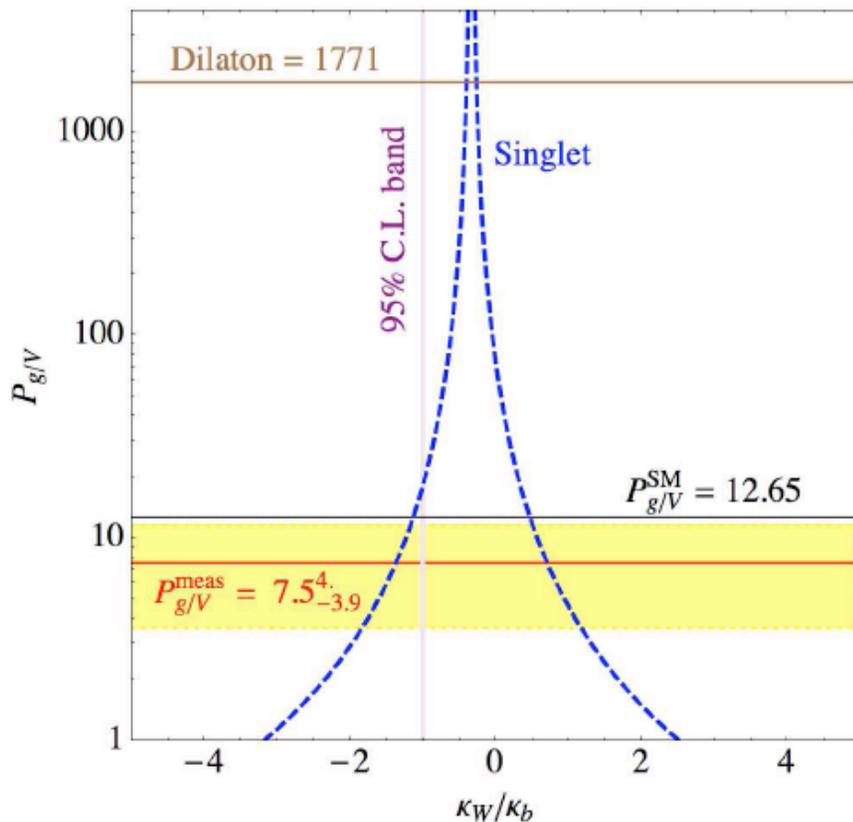


**The predicted Z+Photon/ZZ ratio would be 500, while it is  $\ll 1$  for a Higgs boson!**

**The 2D plot is very useful for discriminating between the Higgs and an electroweak triplet imposter:**



**The ggh over VBF ratio is a useful discriminator for the dilaton/radion imposter:**



$$P_{g/V}^{(D)} = 140 \times P_{g/V}^{(SM)} \sim 1700$$

**Basically as soon as one sees a non-zero VBF, the dilaton is dead.**

**Bu does anyone understand the ratio of gg->h+2j versus VV->h+2j in the VBF-tag bin??**

**I believe no theorists claim to have a solid understanding of that....**

**Overall a Standard Model Higgs boson gives an excellent fit!**

	$\chi^2/\nu$	$p$ -value	$c_g$	$c_V$	$c_\gamma$	$c_b$	$c_\tau$
SM Higgs	1.08	0.63	1	1	6.48	1	1
Higgs Boson	0.74	0.27	$0.92^{+0.30}_{-0.19}$	$1.07^{+0.15}_{-0.17}$	$9.7^{+1.9}_{-1.8}$	$1.1^{+0.5}_{-0.4}$	$< 0.73$
Triplet Imposter	1.34	0.84	$0.37^{+0.08}_{-0.06}$	$0.45^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$	$3.8^{+0.5}_{-0.6}$	–	–

**Although a “generic” Higgs doublet gives a slightly better fit, due to the apparent enhancement in the diphoton channel.**

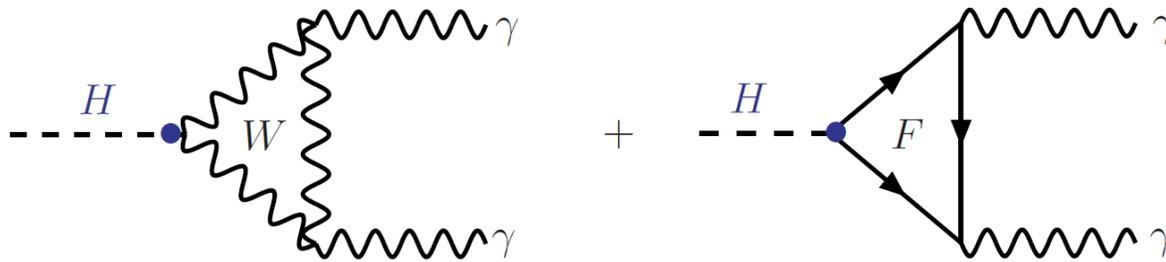
**Enhancements in the diphoton channel were present in last December in both the ATLAS and CMS data already.  
Still there in the July 4, 2012 announcements.**

**The fact that no enhancement in other channel is seen suggests it's coming from the Higgs to diphoton partial decay width (IF we take it seriously....)**

**What are the implications of an enhanced Higgs to diphoton decay width??**

Carena, IL, and Wagner, 1206.1082

**In the standard model Higgs to diphoton width is loop-induced:**



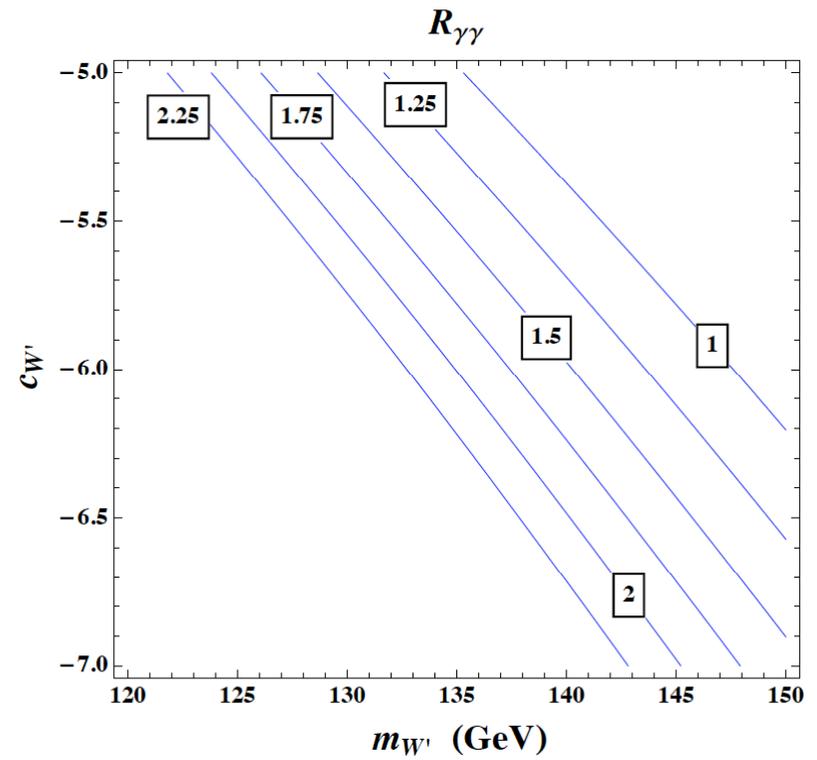
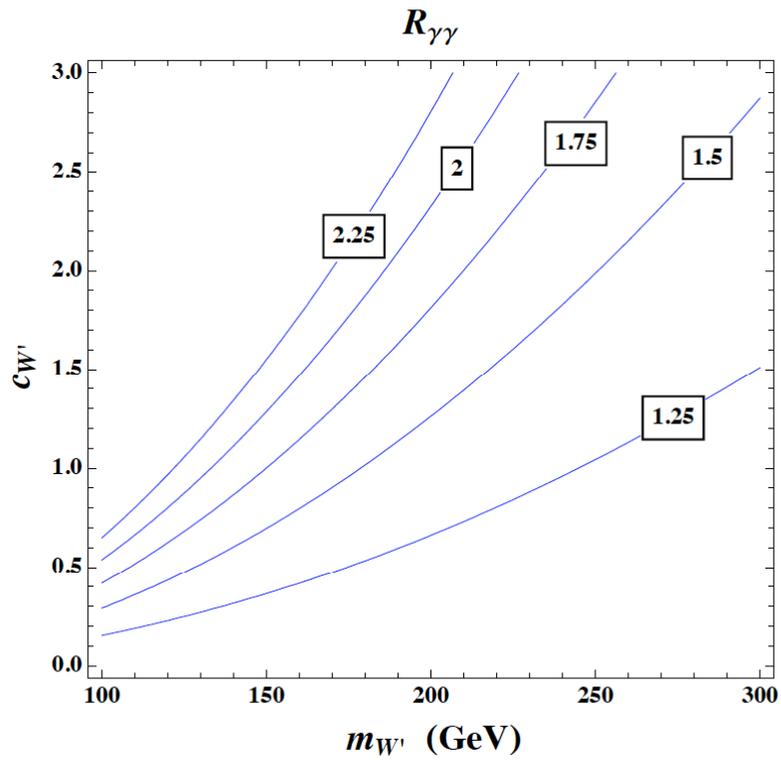
**Moreover, SM W-loop is the dominant contribution and has the opposite to the SM top loop.**

**To modify the Higgs to diphoton width, one could add new charged particles with a significant coupling to the Higgs.**

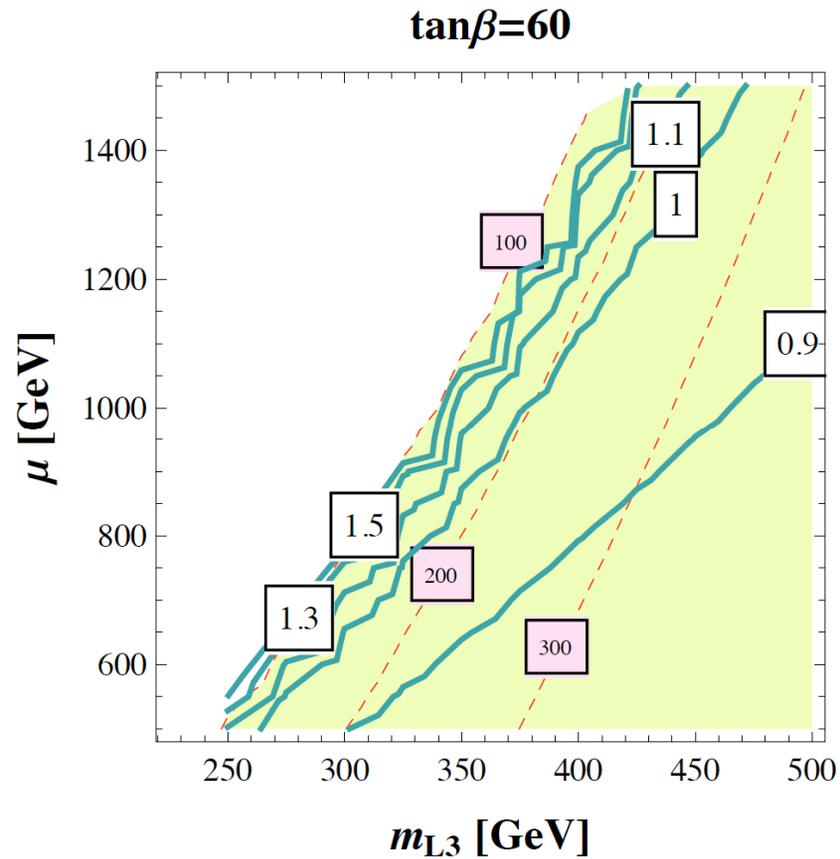
- **A new W-prime boson:**

$$m_{W'}(v)^2 = m_{W0}^2 + c_{W'} m_W^2$$

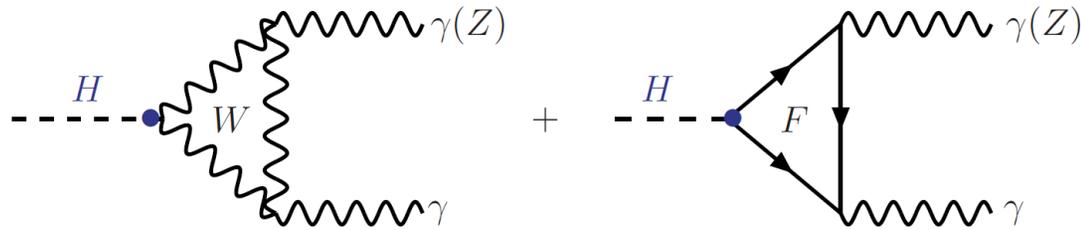
$$\mathcal{O}_{W'} = \frac{1}{2} c_{W'} g^2 H^\dagger H W'^{\prime +} W'^{\prime - \mu}$$



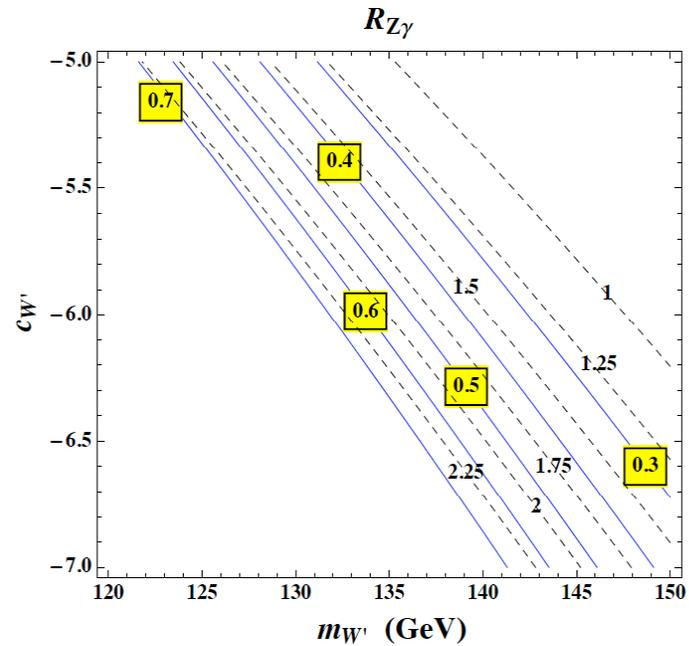
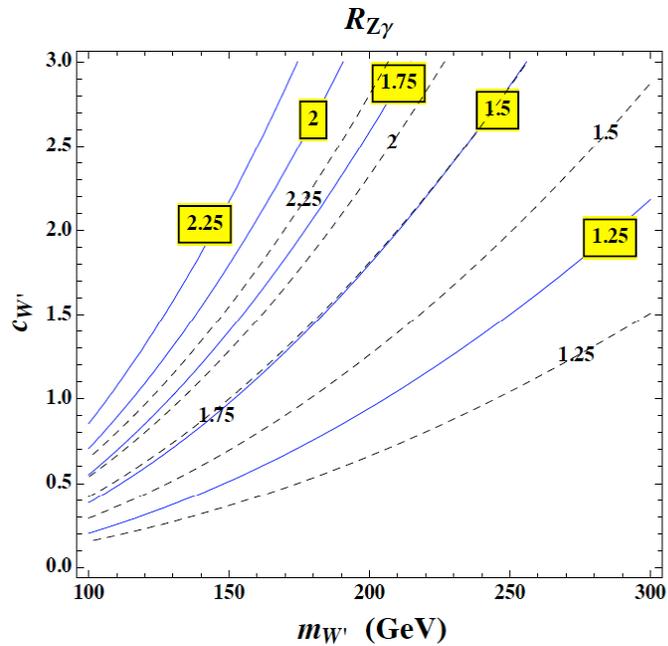
**Could play this game with charged scalars and charged fermions as well. For example, in MSSM one could have very light staus, close to the LEP limit of 100 GeV.**



Interestingly there're correlations between the  $h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  partial width and  $h \rightarrow Z\gamma$  partial width:



W-prime model again:



**So where do we go from here?**

**So where do we go from here?**

**“Higgs Identification” –**

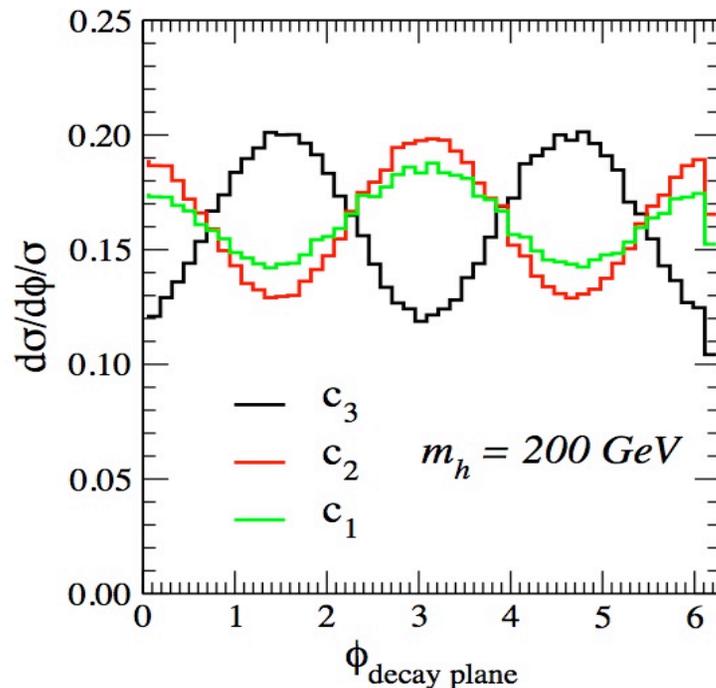
**Infrared Identity:**

- **Spin-0 (scalar)**
- **Charge and Parity (CP) even**
- **The neutral component of an electroweak doublet**
- **The origin of mass for W/Z bosons as well as the quarks and charged leptons**

**Ultraviolet Identity:**

- **Hints of more dynamic and symmetry principles? Supersymmetry? Compositeness?**
- **Does the naturalness principle work? Do we have to live with Anthropic principle and multiverse?**
- **Are there more new particles out there? Those enhancing the diphoton width? Those cancelling the Higgs quadratic divergences?**

**For the IR identity, we need to measure the angular correlations, especially in the four-lepton channel.**



$$\frac{1}{2} m_S S \left( c_1 Z^\nu Z_\nu + \frac{1}{2} \frac{c_2}{m_S^2} Z^{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{4} \frac{c_3}{m_S^2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} Z^{\mu\nu} Z^{\rho\sigma} \right)$$

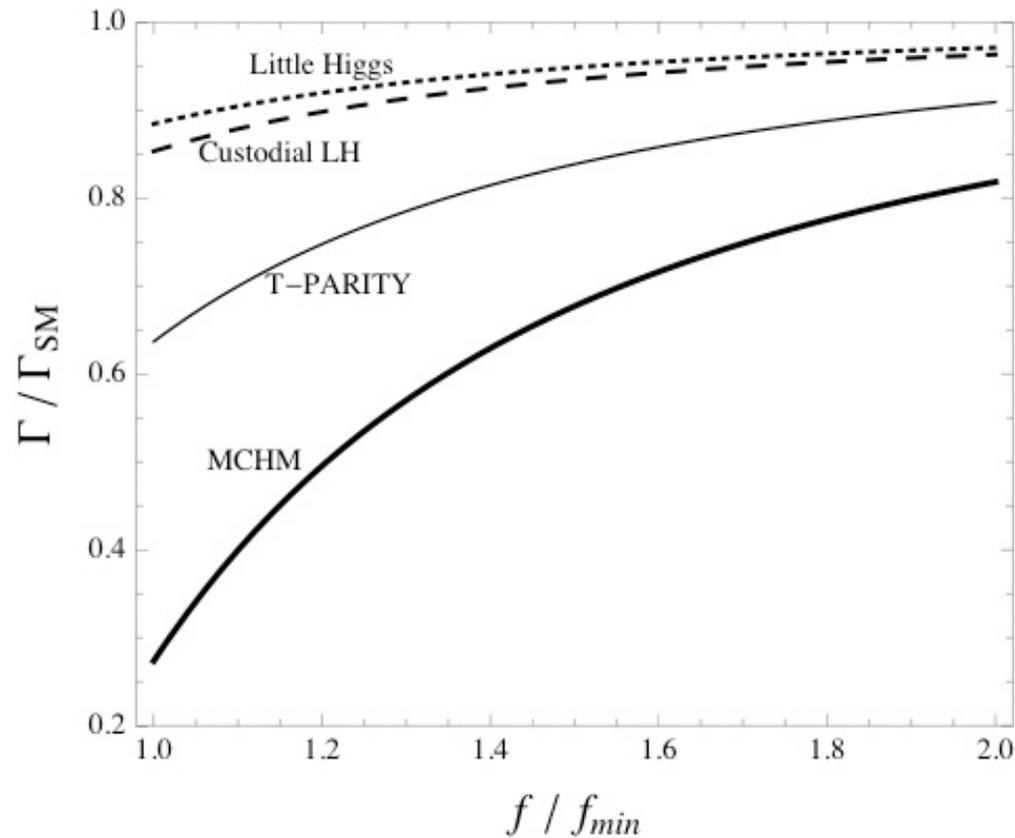
**Azimuthal angular correlation between the two decay planes is a particularly useful single-variable observable for spin, CP, and coupling structure.**

Cao, Jackson, Keung, IL, Shu:0911.3398

**We also need to measure decays into all four pairs of electroweak gauge bosons, including Z+Photon!**

Gainer, Keung, IL, Schwaller:1112.1405

**For the UV Identity, one particularly useful quantity is the Higgs coupling to two gluons:**



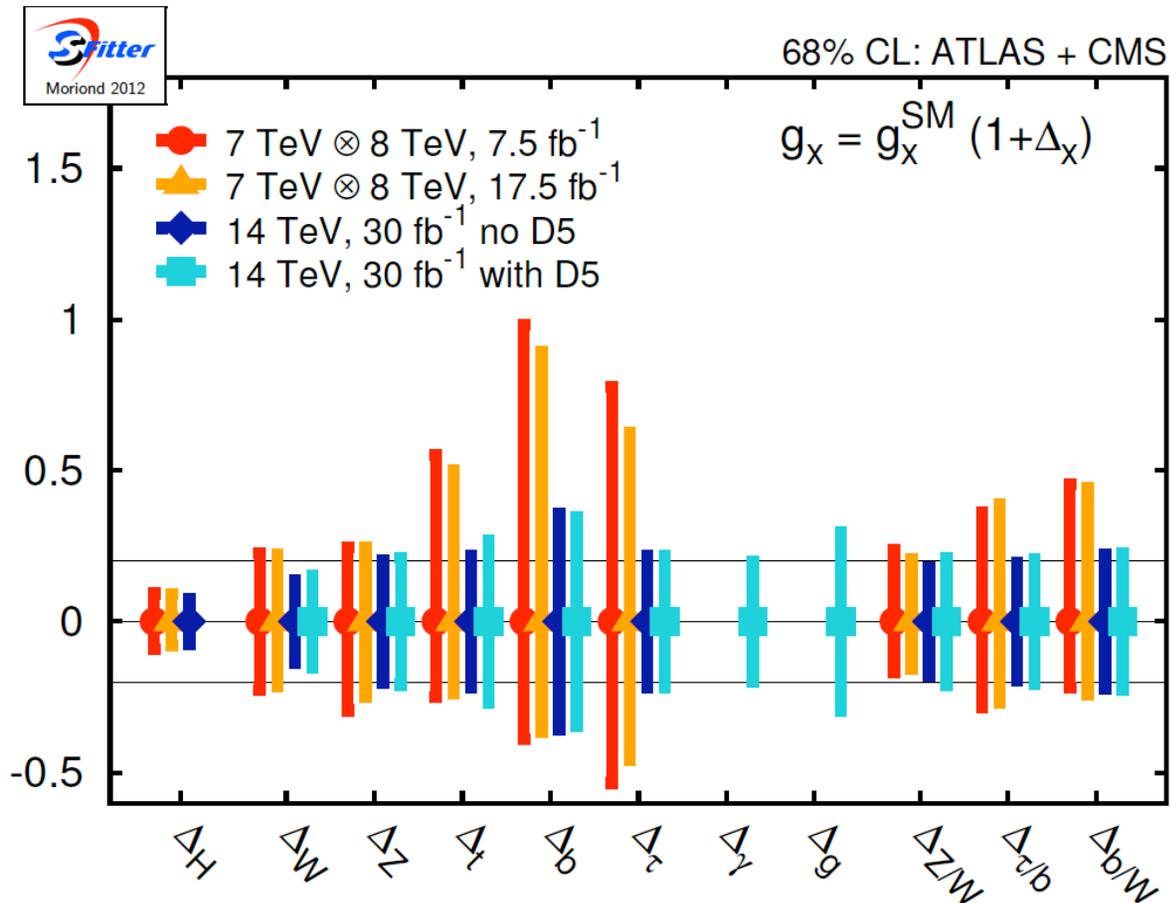
**In composite Higgs models  
this coupling is always  
suppressed!**

IL, Rattazzi, Vichi:0907.5413  
IL and Vichi:1010.2753

**We also need to look for new particles, in particular those with significant couplings to the Higgs boson.**

**These searches could tell us whether something is out there “enhancing” the diphoton width or “cancelling” the quadratic divergences in the Higgs mass.**

# Last but not least: a Higgs factory for precision measurements of Higgs properties!



SFitter, March 2012

**A hadron machine is messy: Higgs coupling measurements can be done only with large uncertainties in 0(20-50 %)...**

## **A moment of truth:**

**“The LHC can never claim the discovery a SM Higgs boson; at best the LHC can claim *the discovery of a SM-like Higgs boson.*”**

**-- Quote from Howie Haber at “The Next Stretch of the Higgs Magnificent Mile” workshop**

**In contrast, it is possible to rule out a SM Higgs boson at the LHC.**

**Precision measurements require intensity.**

**Is a Higgs factory one of the most compelling physics scenarios for intensity frontier?**

## Higgs Factory Options

- Different energies of interest for Higgs factory
  - Minimum energy (i.e.  $O(250\text{GeV})$  for  $e^+e^-$ )
  - Some propose to combine top threshold and Higgs run
  - Energies for triple Higgs coupling
- Options discussed are
  - Linear collider (ILC, CLIC)
  - Muon collider
  - Ring-based electron-positron collider
    - LEP3
    - Large electron-positron ring (SuperTristan, DLEP)
  - Gamma-gamma collider (e.g. CLICHE)

**The Higgs factory is a very important subject,  
because I have a bet is with Ryszard:**



The decision  
to build AILC at  
Fermilab will be /  
not be made before 2019

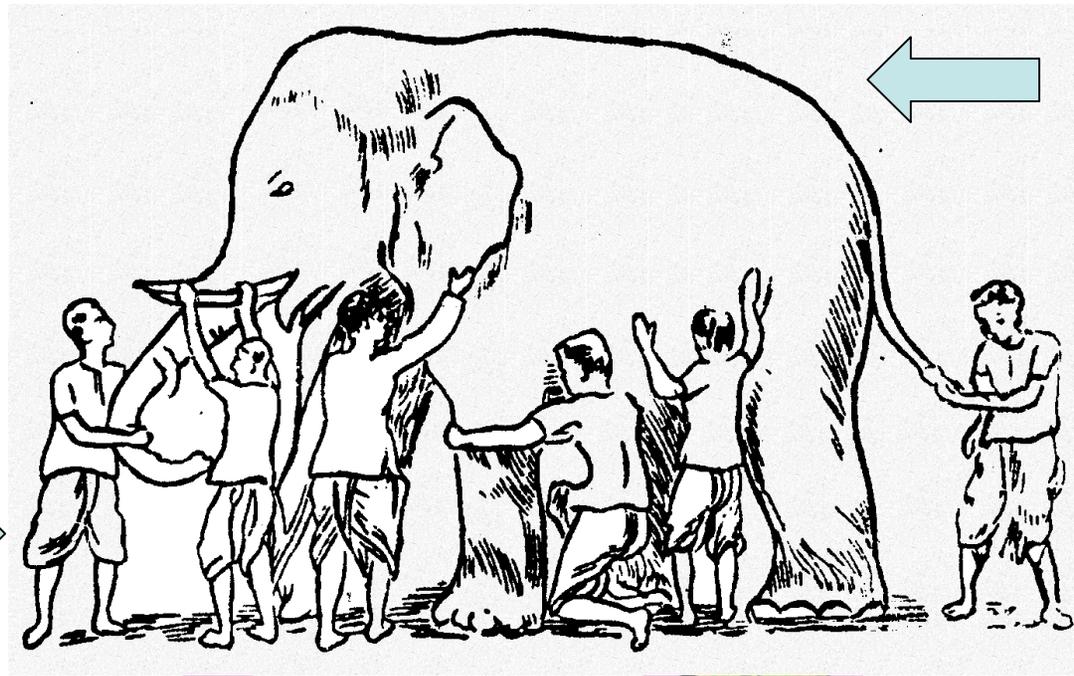
be: Ryszard  
with: Ida

April 5, 2012

## **Concluding remarks:**

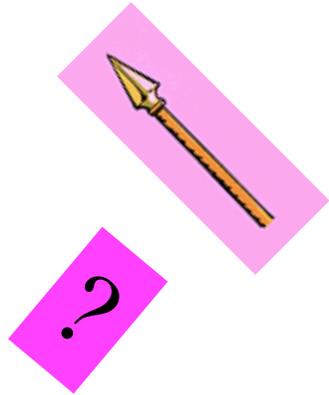
- **The field is at a critical juncture; Higgs physics is the only area of LHC program that shows any remote sign of something going on!**
- **We live in a unique moment in history; I gave a very different talk here five months ago!**
- **Higgs boson is our gateway to physics at a higher energy scale. Let's proceed with an open mind; we are the blind men and the Higgs is the elephant....**

# Particle physicists and the Higgs boson

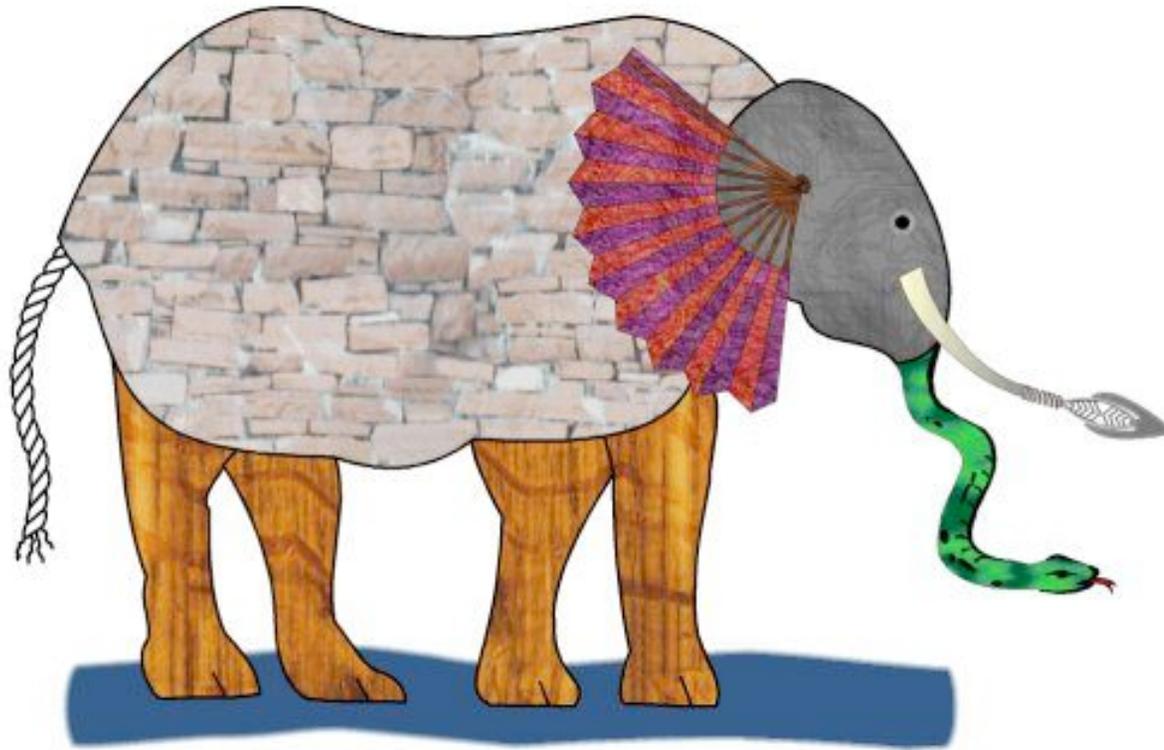


Higgs boson??

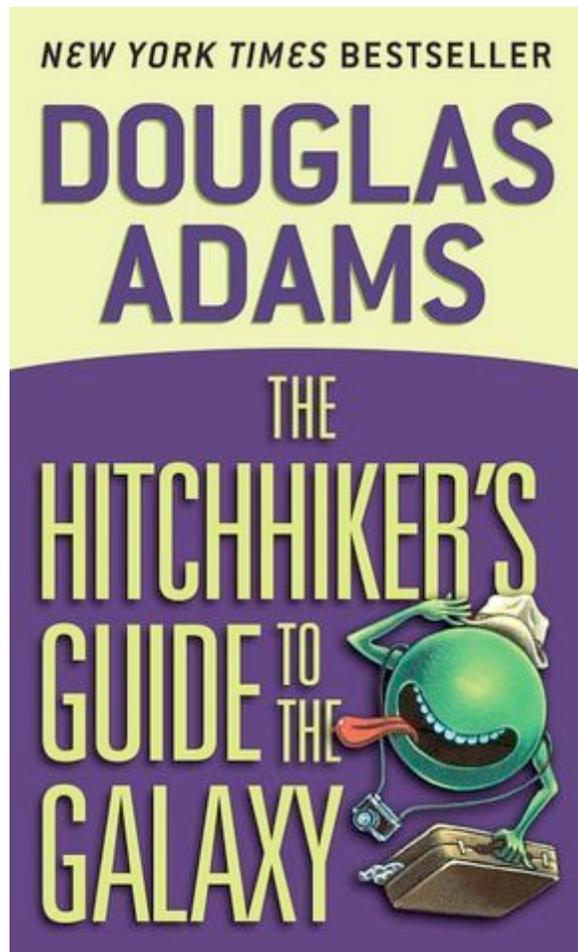
This is us??



Let's not discover an elephant like this:



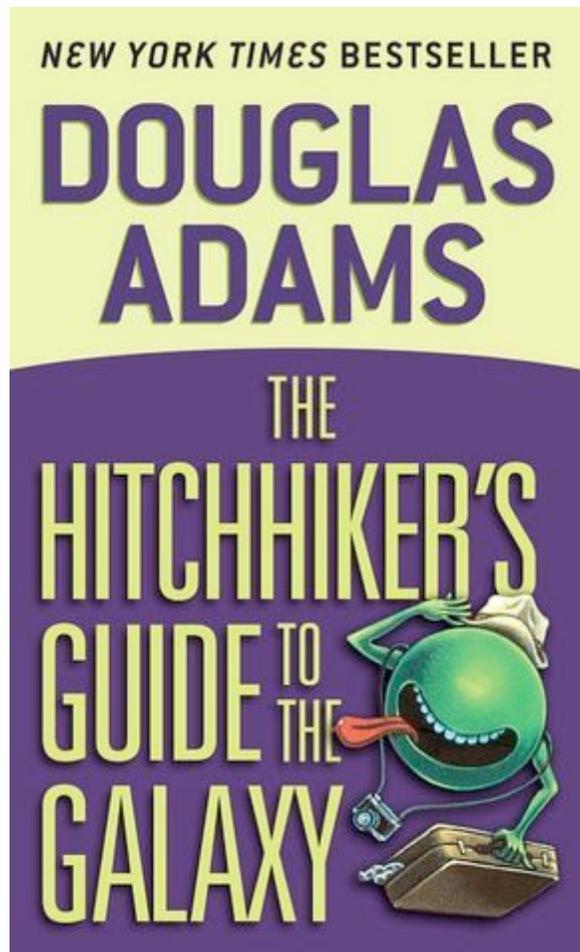
**Finally, in the original “the Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy” by Douglas Adams:**



**There is a computer “Deep Thought” which knows the answer to “Life, the Universe, and Everything” after 7.5 millions years of pondering.**

**And the answer is.....**

**Finally, in the original “the Hitchhiker’s guide to the galaxy” by Douglas Adams:**



**42**

**Forty-two is the answer to “Life, the Universe, and Everything”**

**So is the Higgs boson the answer to “Life, the Universe, and Everything”?**

**So is the Higgs boson the answer to “Life, the Universe, and Everything”?  
a British philosopher came up with this:**

