

# 1 | The Quantum World

- Atoms are small, and the quantum world concern itself with sub-atomic particles.
- In the 1920s, Protons and Electrons are known to be the two things that are subatomic
  - Protons are hitting earth frequently, creating the "primary cosmic radiation"
- Photons also exist, but it has no mass
  - Photons were not given article status until later, when electrons are recognized also as being able to be created, annihilated
- The 1920s brought a bunch of things
  - Matter, not just light, have wave-like properties
  - Fundamental laws of nature are on a probability curve
  - Electron spin was discovered
  - Antiparticle was discovered
- Importantly, the properties vs the action of the particles often get mixed up
- The known particles are mostly built from combination of smaller fundamental particles
- Standard model for Subatomic Particles
  - 24 subatomic particles

Femtometer ( $10^{-15}$  m) is the common unit of length. Speed of light,  $3 \times 10^8$  = c is the common unit for speed. e- charge as the common unit as charge. eV, voltage of electron, is the common unit for energy.

A Tachyon *may* be able to travel faster than the speed of light. It is theoretical, may go faster than light, and could break causality in some reference frames. No one has found it.

- Gluon => Glue for particles within nucleus
- Pion => nuclear collisions driven particle

## 1.1 | Absolutes

- Shortest distance:  $10^{-18}$  m
- Shortest time  $10^{-26}$  s
- Longest time: 13.7 billion years

Mass: measure of how hard it is to set a stationary object into motion, deflect, or stop a moving object. So, to measure a particle's mass, we boink it around in a magnetic field and measure its path.

#ask Kinetic energy + mass energy ( $E=mc^2$ ) = energy?

"Mass energy is proportional to mass". Mass represents a highly concentrated form of energy; a little mass yields lots of energy, meaning that a lot of energy is needed to make mass.

Humans have done this: if you take two protons and go kaboom by slamming them together, you put a lot of energy in, you make new mass!

Energy and mass are typically measured in the same unit => the Electron Volt. And... MeV, is "million electron volts."

Like charges repel; but how does the nucleus stay together? Gluons — gluons serve as the glue to glue particles together. But, heavy elements have very high electrical force from charge that cause things to fly away, so gluons work... to a point. This is why uranium+ atoms don't exist in nature

Charge is measured in Coulomb => charge through a 100 watt light bulb in a second

Rotation around center: spin

Rotation around object: orbital motion

Both are measured by angular momentum => angular momentum is quantized by  $\hbar$  (Planck's constant/2 $\pi$ ). Meaning particles could only have angular momentum 0,  $\hbar$ ,  $2\hbar$ ,  $3\hbar$ , etc.

In theory, you spinning is also quantized like this, but you don't notice it because... scales.

Natural constant: Planck's Constant ( $\hbar$ ) & the speed of light ( $c$ ).