1 | beneath the surface of things

1.1 | scale

1.1.1 | wood seems solid, but is mostly empty space (atoms). Quantum effects are noticable on even smaller scales

Atoms are like Propeller analogy: easy for something small and fast to get through, but hard for something large and slow.

1.2 | unintuitive

Small (quantum mechanics) and fast (special relativity) things behave unintuitively

1.3 | particle history

1.3.1 | electron and proton

known to exist in 1926

1.3.2 | photon

no mass, created/detsroyed easily, was thought of as a funky ’almost particle’ until it was discovered that they behave similarly to electrons and that electrons can be created/destroyed easily too

1.4 | fundamental discoveries in 1924-1928

1.4.1 | matter has wave properties

1.4.2 | fundamental laws are probabliistic

1.4.3 | heisenburg uncertainty

1.4.4 | discrete electron spin

1.4.5 | every particle has an antiparticle

1.4.6 | multiple momentums simultaneously

1.4.7 | no two electrons can be in the same state of motion at the same time?

1.5 | unlike classical mechanics, properties and actions are not as distinct in the quantum world

1.6 | quantum mechanics won't follow common sense, which is to be expected because common sense is based on much larger things

1.7 | subatomic vs fundamental particles

1.7.1 | hundreds of subatomic particles, but only a few are fundamental

1.7.2 | most are composite

1.7.3 | just like how there are hundreds of atoms but they are all composed of electrons, protons, neutrons

1.7.4 | there are 24 fundamental particles excluding the higgs boson, graviton (which is not yet proven), and antiparticles.

2 | how small is small? How fast is fast? (scale)

2.1 | convienent units

2.1.1 | femtometer (fm, $10^{-15}m$)

1. roughly a proton diameter
2. 6 miles is geometrically centered between the smallest particle probe and the radius of the known universe.
3. smallest prob is 10^{-18} meters. The plank length is 10^{-35} meters

2.1.2 | speed of light (c, $3 \times 10^{8} m/s^{2}$)

1. not as sped as distances are small
2. atoms and molecules vibrate roughly $10^{-5}c$ or $10^{-6}c$

3. the lighter something is, the faster it can go, so its likely that the rest-massless photon is the fastest
4. some theoretical tachyon business which can maybe go faster

2.1.3 | **time**

1. humans
   (a) image flashed for a hundreth of a second (10 ms) can be precieved but not a thousandth
   (b) average human reaction time is 150-300ms
2. time to cross diameter of a proton at sped of light = $10^{-23}s$
3. particles that live long enough to leave trails in the detector live roughly 10^{-10} to 10^{-6}
4. longest living is proton for 15 min (10^3)

2.1.4 | **mass**

1. mass is inertia, measured by how hard it is to accelerate them (change their motion)
2. often measured as energy via $E = mc^2$
   (a) proton = 938MeV is easier to say than $1.67 \times 10^{-27}kg$

2.1.5 | **electron volt (eV, energy auired by an electron being accelerated through an electric potential of 1 volt)**

1. roughly a photon of red light
2. particle accelerators are made to create high energy particles that can then be converted to mass
3. modern accelerators go to roughly 1TeV, while protons move with only 1eV on the surface of the sun and weigh almost 1GeV.

2.1.6 | **charge ($e, 1.6 \times 10^{-19}C$)**

1. protons and electrons have the same magnitude of charge, deemed one unit. quarks have fractional charges
2. open questions
   (a) why is charge quantized/descrete
   (b) what happens near charged particles? inf charge as dist zero
   (c) if particles are physically sized, why dont parts of the particle repel itself

2.1.7 | **spin**

1. two types: spin and orbital motion
2. measured with angular momentum
3. fundamental particles don't have a descernible spin but do have an angular momentum

4. $\hbar = \frac{h}{2\pi} = 1.05 \times 10^{-34} kgm^2/s$
5. orbital angular momentum must be a multiple of $\hbar$ and spin angular momentum can be a multiple of $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$?
6. a particle type can have many spins, but the change in spin is often so drastic that they are considered two different particles

2.1.8 | fundamental constants

1. most units are chosen arbitrarily based on earths size or something, but there are two fundamental ones
2. plank's constant h defines the quantum scale… larger h would make the universe 'lumpier' or 'more pixelated'
3. the speed of light c is the fastest speed, or something.
4. there is expceted to be a third constant to form a complete basis, but we haven't found one yet
   (a) it would be a length or a time

3 | meet the leptons

3.1 | types (flavor) electron, muon, tau

3.2 | conserve {charge, flavor, energy, momentum}

3.3 | neutrinos are like the soul of its particle - tiny mass but same flavor

3.4 | they have multiples of half unit spins or something

3.5 | any particles can be created as long as everything is conserved

4 | the rest of the extended family

4.1 | quarks

4.1.1 | six of them in groups of three

4.1.2 | they group up in the wild to make up other composite particles

4.1.3 | particles have integer charge, but quarks come in one-third multiples of charge

4.1.4 | baryon number

1. another type of 'charge' that is also conserved
2. protons and neutrons are both baryonic (meaning they have baryon number?)
3. like leptons, the lightest baryon cannot decay because there is nothing to decay into (the proton)
4. quarks have one-third baryon number also

4.1.5 | antiquarks

1. makes up meson with another singular quark (For a total baryon number of 0)
2. antiquark particles are unstable