Research statement

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My research interests lie in the phenomenology of a broad range of models beyond the standard model (SM) of particle physics. In spite of the great success of the SM, there remain many problems that cannot be solved within the SM. These problems include, for example, the existence of the dark matter (DM), naturalness of the electroweak (EW) scale, structure of the gauge symmetries, and origin of the quark and lepton families. To answer one or several of them, many models are proposed such as the minimally supersymmetric standard model (MSSM), grand unified theory (GUT), flavor symmetry, and so on. They often lead to some interesting phenomenology that can be used to distinguish them from the SM. I seek ways to test them using both a top-down approach where a model or its parameter space is constrained from theoretical consideration, and a bottom-up approach where the experimental search probes a new particle contained in a model.

Achievements so far

Since we now live in the EW vacuum, the requirement of the (meta-)stability of the vacuum can be used to test and constrain models in a top-down approach. This approach is powerful because it can probe new particles that are too heavy to be accessed using any ongoing or planned experiment. Also, this approach is applicable to many models that contain some additional fields and/or couplings to the SM Higgs boson. During the last few years, I have been developing the next-to-leading order calculation of the decay rate of the EW vacuum ([1,8,9] of my publication list). My treatment filled a gap of existing calculations and enabled us to precisely evaluate the decay rate with error estimations. I analyzed not only the SM but also models with new particles that couple to Higgs and obtained severe constraints on their couplings and masses.

It is also important to use the collider experiments as an example of the bottom-up

approach. In particular, recent hadron colliders provide a huge amount of data, under which a hint of the new physics may be buried. To fully use the data, it is necessary to develop a proper physics quantity or a wise way to extract the signal of a new particle. I have adopted several ways to tackle this difficult problem. So far, I focused on the search for massive particles with EW charges (EWIMPs) [3–5] that are good DM candidates appearing in many well-known models such as the MSSM. When the charged component of an EWIMP is long-lived, the disappearing track search is useful to reduce background events. I collaborated with several experimentalists and seeked a possibility of using track information to fully reconstruct the event kinematics and to determine the EWIMP mass. (* gluino? *) On the other hand, for some EWIMPs such as the Higgsino-like state in the MSSM, the charged component is short-lived and the track information is not available. To handle this case, I developed a way to use the signal shape to reduce the systematic uncertainties and obtained the best limit so far for Higgsino. (* Property measurement *) (* Future collider *)

It is another interesting way of research to build a new physics model. All problems in the SM are hints of the theory of everything, which is our ultimate goal. By providing simple solutions to them, we can enrich our knowledge about what could be there beyond the SM. In several works, I focused on discrete flavor symmetry [2,6,7] and GUT models [10,11] that provide a unified description of SM fermion families and gauge symmetries, respectively. In models in which discrete symmetry is spontaneously broken, domain walls may be formed that will eventually dominate the energy of our universe. To avoid this problem, I constructed several models with discrete flavor symmetry in which cosmological dynamics does not lead to the formation of the stable domain wall and the most recent observation of the neutrino mixing angles are correctly predicted. In some popular GUT models, several Yukawa couplings in the SM are described by just one term in the Lagrangian and the unification of the Yukawa coupling constants is predicted. I focused on the model with supersymmetry and SU(5) gauge symmetry and looked for the parameter space in which the unification is achieved. I also considered the effect of extra matter fields by calculating their contribution to the renormalization group equations.

Future plans

Now it is an exciting time with many ongoing and future planned experiments that provide a huge number of hints of the new physics. The results of these experiments will guide future theoretical works. At the same time, a great deal of effort is devoted to developing new approaches to the problems of the SM and new techniques to extract the information from experimental results. As a young researcher at this time, I am eager to engage in fields of great progress and to keep seeking a trace of the new physics.

Recently, we have made significant progress in developing techniques that enable us to systematically analyze the collider data. These include, for example, the effective field theory (EFT) and machine learning. One possible way is to consider how to use them to enlarge the reach of the collider experiments. I will also try to evaluate the event rate in DM direct detection experiments for a broad range of DM mass with the EFT technique and to suggest new experiments. Another possibility is to extend my works in a top-down approach. Calculation of the EW vacuum decay rate in complex models with several scalar fields involved in the bounce will be particularly important due to its broad applicability.