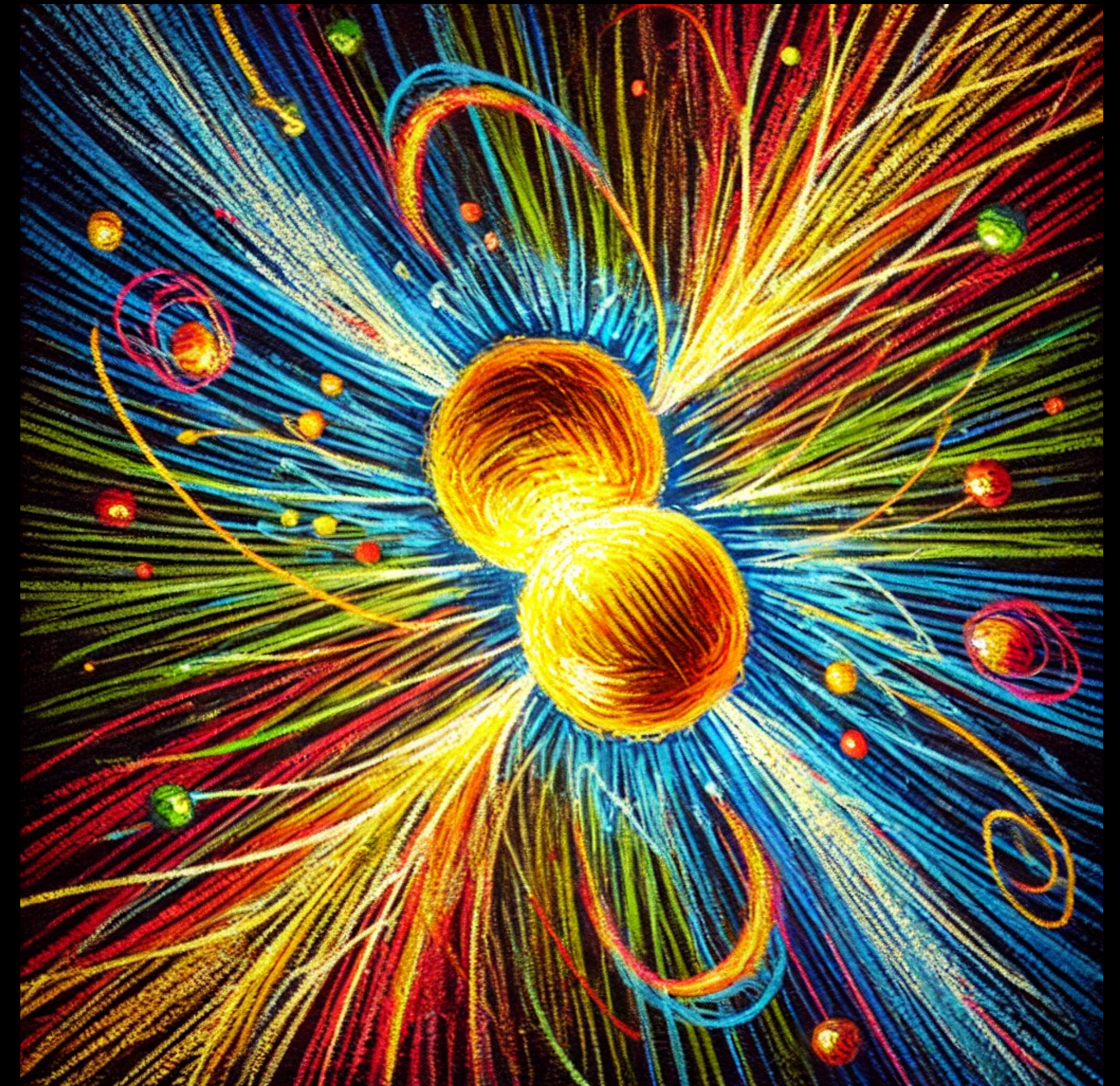


How Huan saved one flailing graduate student

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UCLA

How not to finish grad school on time

2012: I get my master's for theoretical work vaguely related to heavy-ion collisions
(using PNJL model to model dissociation of mesons in hot and dense media)

April 2013: at my grad school visit to UCLA prof. Huang meets me and encourages me to come to UCLA

Sept. 2013: I start grad school at UCLA & promptly decide to do something else than heavy-ions:
1) neutrino experiment? 2) high energy theoretical particle physics?

Sept. 2014: I fail my comprehensive exam; one more chance to pass or it's the end of grad school for me

Sept. 2015: I barely pass my 2nd comprehensive exam; I start working with a professor in the HEP group

mid 2016: I *think* I'm doing well: I have a project and an *almost* running code

Sept. 2016: I still have a bug in my code; my HEP professor calls off my candidacy exam;
unless somebody convinces the department to pay my out-of-state tuition, I'm out

Who would even consider supporting a student like this?!

How to support students

Sept. 2016: Huan tells the Physics Department graduate student advisor that he'll find work for me;
the Department will cover my out-of-state tuition for one more year

Nov. 2016: Huan arranges for a theorist from LBL, Volker Koch, to visit UCLA;
Huan convinces Volker to start working with me;
Huan is my advisor at UCLA, Volker is my collaborator at LBL

Aug. 2017: Huan sends me to CPOD 2017; I meet people in the field *and my future husband*

Jan. 2018: Huan figures out a way for me to be supported as a full-time graduate student at LBL;
I move to Berkeley in June and fully concentrate on my thesis work

Jan. 2021: I am offered a postdoc position at the INT

Sept. 2021: I graduate

Sept. 2022: I get an APS DNP dissertation award

Who would even consider supporting a student like this?! Huan would