

## ABSTRACT

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## CHAPTER ONE

### Basic Particle Physics and CERN

Ever since ancient Greece people have been trying to discover what makes up everything. Back then they said that everything was comprised of four elements: earth, fire, water, and air. Although they use a few more than four elements, scientists today are still trying to categorize the most fundamental element that makes up everything. Democritus, an ancient Greek scientist, proposed that everything if divided enough times could be broken down into atoms their most fundamental object. Although some people were a little ambitious and named something the atom that was not the most fundamental substance scientists are still searching for the atom that Democritus theorized.

In the 19th century John Dalton believed he found the most fundamental particle and named it the atom, but as time passed there was very strong evidence that even atoms had internal components and structure. This was proven when J. J. Thompson in the late 19th century found the electron, which ended up being a component of the atom. This was not only the first fundamental particle discovered, but also the beginning of particle physics as a field of study. While it was an insightful discovery that led to many inventions, there were still many unknown things about the atom. About a decade after Thompson, Robert Millikan finely measured the charge and mass of the electron, but this raised many questions about the atom. It was not until Ernest Rutherford in the early 20th century showed that the atom is mostly empty space with a very dense core called the nucleus which has an opposite charge to that of the electron. He did this by shooting alpha particles, made up of two protons and two neutrons, at gold foil and observing their deflection angle. In this experiment most of the alpha particles passed through unperturbed while a handful

were majorly deflected. From this Rutherford made the conclusion most of the atom was empty space while having a highly dense core called the nucleus.

These discoveries showed there were more things to explore past the atom but in parallel there were equally important theories being made. Quantum mechanics is essential to the study of sub-atomic particles as they no longer behave according to classical mechanics. During this time Max Planck was doing his work in the quantization of energy. This set the ground work for quantum mechanics and also served as a basis to Einstein's work. In 1905 Einstein formulated his theory of special relativity, which had several major impacts on the field of particle physics. One the major ones was quantization of light into particles called photons. Although light had long been thought of as a wave Einstein showed many of its particle like properties leading to the wave-particle duality of light. Eventually De Broglie extended this duality to all particles theorizing that all particles including electrons and other sub-atomic particles could be described using waves or particles.

Einstein's theory of relativity had another major impact on particle physics. Probably the most famous of Einstein's equation,  $E = mc^2$  shows the mass energy relationship. One of the implications of quantum mechanics is that if something can happen it will happen under a certain probability. This means that given the right conditions and enough energy one can simply create mass. There are other conservation laws that need to be followed that are still relevant to particle physics, but conservation of energy is one of the biggest limiters as it says to create more massive particles more energy is needed.

As these theories became more complete, they allowed for the further description of sub-atomic particles, like the states of the electrons in the atoms and the protons and neutrons that make up the nucleus of the atom. Scientist also began to find evidence of fundamental particles not in atoms. In 1932 Carl Anderson found evidence of a Muon from cosmic rays. In addition, as scientists began to probe higher

energies they found evidence of internal structure within protons and neutrons. In 1968 at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center they found evidence of particles within protons and neutrons, which were later called quarks.

The discovery of more and more fundamental particles led to the formulation of the standard model, which is like the periodic table of elements for elementary particles. The two main groups of particles on the standard model are fermions, which have half integer spin and bosons, which have integer spin. The main physical difference this causes is from the Pauli exclusion principle, which allows fermions to build into larger arrangements. Because of this fermions are the building blocks of the macroscopic world as they makeup protons neutrons, and atoms.

A sub category of fermionic particles on the standard model are the quarks, which distinguish themselves from other fermions in their interaction via the strong force. Quarks are divided into three generation and each generation has one quark with a  $+2/3$  charge and one with a  $-1/3$  charge. In addition, quarks also have a color, either red, green, or blue, which serves as the "charge" for the strong force. For each quark there is also a corresponding anti-quark which has the same properties just opposite charge and color. Quarks do not remain in isolation for long, but instead are usually found in groups of two or three. A grouping of three quarks is bound by the strong force and called a baryon, the most common of which are protons and neutrons. The known arrangements of baryons are such that they have integer charge and neutral color. As such, in a baryon formation there is one red, one green, and one blue quark which adds up to a neutral color. This arrangement keeps the quarks tightly bound so it takes a large amount of energy to separate the individual quarks. There are also formations of a quark and anti-quark called mesons.

First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation
Up	Charm	Top
Down	Strange	Bottom

The next group of fermionic particles are the leptons. Like quarks, leptons have half integer spin and are affected by the weak force, but are not affected by the strong force and some are not even governed by the electromagnetic force. Because of this leptons do not form tightly bounded states like the quarks. There are also three generations of leptons each containing a flavor along with its respective neutrino particle. Non-neutrino leptons have a charge of -1 and their respective anti particles have a charge of +1. Neutrinos are a bit odd in that they have no charge and are near mass-less. Because of this neutrinos barely interact with any particles, and there are many neutrinos passing through the earth every second without having any affect.

First Generation	Second Generation	Third Generation
Electron	Muon	Tau
Electron Neutrino	Muon Neutrino	Tau Neutrino

Finally, there are the bosons. Bosons are different from both leptons and quarks in that they have integer spin, but the individual bosons differ in which fundamental force affects them. While leptons and quarks combine together to form complex arrangements such as atoms and all of matter, bosons serve as the force carriers. Whenever there is a interaction through a fundamental force there is a boson that mediates that interaction, although gravity has yet to be explained using the standard model. Although some are basically mass-less, others have masses thousands of times greater and the electron.

Z boson	Weak Force Carrier
W boson	Weak Force Carrier
Photon	Electromagnetic Force Carrier
Gluon	Strong Force Carrier
Higgs Boson	Gives Particles Mass

The standard model essentially serves as a list of known fundamental particles but the road to completing it was not an easy one. The electron is the only particle



on the standard model that is found in isolation at energies used on earth. To find the next particle, the muon, scientist had to look at cosmic rays, which provided the energy needed to create these particles. While neutrinos are plentiful they interact so infrequently scientist are still struggling to create an efficient detector for them. To discover the remaining particles on the standard model they had to use particle colliders. Throughout the last few decades, scientists have built colliders to probe higher and higher energies, to make them capable of discovering more fundamental particles. In 2012, using the Large Hadron Collider at CERN scientists were able to find evidence of the Higgs boson, the final particle on the standard model. However, there are still phenomenon in the universe that cannot be explained using the standard, such as gravity and dark matter. There are several theories beyond the standard model that offer explanations for these, but they also say there are more fundamental particles to be discovered at higher energies. This is one of the main goals of the CERN collaboration.

Fermions and quarks are the building blocks of all of matter. All of the atoms on the periodic table are made up of electronics, and up and down quarks, which make up protons and neutrons. Aside from the neutrinos, the particles in higher generations are extremely similar to the respective particle in the first generation except for being a substantially higher mass. Because of this these particles have very short lifetimes and are only found in high energy interactions. For instance, when cosmic rays hit the earths atmosphere they provide the energy to create muons. To find the particles like the top quark, which is over 1000 times more massive than the muon, the colliders need to collide particles together at even higher energies. The Large Hadron Collider at CERN, is the highest energy collider humans have built to date and has started searching for particles at energies previously not achieved.

## CHAPTER TWO

### Large Hadron Collider and Compact Muon Solenoid

The process the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) uses sounds simple when put into common terms. It accelerated protons to speeds very close to the speed of light and collides them in the center of a detector to see what comes out of these collisions. However actually doing this is not simple at all. The theory of special relativity says that a particle can only approach the speed of light. As the protons in the LHC are traveling close to the speed of light it is more useful to use their energy rather than their speed. In addition, mass is often put into units of energy of the speed of light squared making the mass to energy conversion simple. To start this entire process electrons are stripped off of hydrogen gas supplying the protons for the LHC. After this the protons are put into a series of different accelerator each designed to accelerator to protons to higher and higher energies. The first accelerator is the Linac2 linear accelerator, which gets the protons up to 50 MeV. Then they are sent to the Proton Synchrotron Booster which can push them to 1.4 GeV, after which the Proton Synchrotron ring accelerates the protons to 25 GeV. At this point the protons are sorted to control the frequency at which the collisions will occur. The protons are sorted into bunches such that given a fixed point on the LHC a proton bunch passes by every 25ns. Each bunch has about 100 billion protons in it. After sorted into these bunches the protons are sent to the Super Proton Synchrotron where they achieve an energy of 450 GeV. Finally, the protons are fed into the LHC where they will be accelerated to their highest energy.

When the LHC has accelerated its particles to its peak energy it collides the particles in the middle of four different detectors. LHCb, ALICE, ATLAS, and CMS are the names of the four detectors on the LHC. The CMS detector is designed to

detector particles coming out of the proton-proton collisions supplied by the LHC. As many different types of particles come out of these collisions the CMS detector is split up into several different sub detectors. Going from the closest to the collision point outward, first is the silicon tracker. This is responsible for measuring the total energy of the particles in the detector which is important for reconstructing the events using conservation of energy. Next is the Electromagnetic Calorimeter which is responsible for detecting a myriad of charged particles such as photon, and electrons. Then there is the Hadron Calorimeter which is responsible for detector hadrons, which are particles made up of quarks, such as protons neutrons and pions. These calorimeters work by covering the possible directions out of the collision with scintillator tiles. When the particles hit these tiles they lose some of their energy depositing light proportional to the energy of the particle. The particle will eventually stop having lost all of its energy giving us a reading on its total energy. Finally, are the muon chambers. Muons are interesting particles because while they are heavy particles that will decay they have long enough lifetimes to make it through the detector. In addition, they tend to not be stopped by the detector like the two prior calorimeters almost always stop the particles they detect. Since there is a magnetic field encompassing the detector and the muons have a charge they will curve as they pass through the muon chambers. While not completely stopping the muons will give a reading in the chambers showing its path of travel. By measuring the curve of this path of travel we can measure the momentum. By combining the the data from all the different sub detectors we can get a picture of almost all of the particles that came out of the collision. There are exceptions such as neutrinos which tend to pass through anything leaving no trace. Nevertheless we are able to use this to recreate what exactly came out of the collision, which allows us to find evidence of particles like the top quark which decays so quickly it does not even make it to the detector.

One of the main jobs of the calorimeter is to measure the energy of the incident particle. When the particle hits the scintillator tile and loses energy it emits photons into the tile proportional to the amount of energy it lost. To measure the energy of the particle we just have to count up the photons it deposited. To do this we put a fiber around the edges of the tile so that any photons deposited will run into this fiber. The fiber is designed so that once it enters the fiber it will have total internal reflection on the edges meaning it will stay inside the fiber. The fiber then runs to a silicon photomultiplier (SiPM). The SiPM is designed to take light signals and convert them to charge signals. The light from the scintillator tiles is shined on what is called the pixel face of the SiPM. This is just a circular array of really small pixels. There are about 33000 pixels on a 3.3 mm diameter pixel face. When an individual photon hits one of the pixels on the pixel face it causes a capacitor to fire off a particular amount of charge. The total output charge of the SiPM is the sum of all of the pixels output charge. Theoretically one just needs to sum up the total amount of output charge of the SiPM and one can count the number of incident photons since each pixel will fire off a set amount of charge. The counting of the number of incident photons will give a measurement of the incident particles energy. There are some things that make the SiPMs reading not so simple. SiPMs are non-linear devices meaning the total output charge of the SiPM does not necessarily increase linearly with the number of incident photons. In fact, experiments have shown that graphing the number of incident photons vs the SiPM output charge it looks more like a square root function rather than a straight line. At low incident photon count on the order of 1000 photons the SiPM is very close to a linear device but as the incident number of photons increases the output charge does not increase at the same rate.

There are several factors that contribute to SiPM non-linearity but the two main ones are cross talk and saturation. Cross talk is when a pixel is activated by a photon there is a chance that this activated pixel could activate some of its neighboring

pixels artificially increase the output charge of the SiPM. When the photon hits a pixel it excites an electron causing an electron cascade and charge to flow. This excited electron has a chance to emit an IR photon which could go in any direction. If it hits one of the neighboring pixels it could activate it just like an incident photon. Saturation is when a pixel is hit in rapid succession by multiple photons. When a pixel is hit by a photon it discharges its capacitor which is the source of its output charge. After it fires it needs some time on the order of 10 nanoseconds to recharge its capacitor. If the pixel is hit it simply fires off whatever charge it has in its capacitor at the time which could be reduced from its normal charge. Given that the SiPM has about 33000 pixels on its pixel face when the number of incident is on the order of 1000 this effect is insignificant but particles can produce much more photons where this effect can be much more significant. The non-linear properties of the SiPM makes it a bit harder to get accurate measurements, but there are ways to study them which will allow us to compensate for these affects.

SiPMs are one of the main features of new electronics that are being installed in the CMS detector. These new readout modules main function is to take the signals from the detector, the light signals from incident particles and convert them to digitized charge signals which can be later stored and analyzed. There are several new features with these new readout modules such as new charge integrator and encoder (QIE) chips, but the main subject of my work was the SiPMs. The main way the SiPM non-linearity and other things about the new readout modules are being study is with a test beam. The test beam is a linear particle beam that comes from the SPS accelerator when it does not feed into the LHC. The particles from this beam are not at the energies of the protons in the LHC but they are much easier to make and control. There are several different experiments that use this beam but the HCAL has a mock test stand that can be moved into the path of the beam when experiments need to be run. The CMS detector is 100 meters underground and is

in a cavern that due to radiation and tight enclosures makes the detector difficult to access. Though modifications and maintenance can be during shutdowns this is not the ideal way to run tests on new electronics. The test stand at the test beam location called H2 can be easily accessed observed and is on ground level. In addition the energy and particle type of the beam can be easily controlled. The test stand is designed to be similar to a portion of the HCAL on CMS. As such when we shoot particles from the test beam at the test stand with the new electronics on it we can measure its response to experiment like conditions. Using this test beam we can shoot particles like pions at the test stand which has the new readout module installed and look at the response. We can vary the energy of the pions which should increase the number of incident photons on the SiPMs in the readout modules and measure their response to this. In this way we can find the non-linearity of the SiPMs and create a correction curve based on this.

Because we are looking for statistical in the data we need to take a lot of data. This means we take runs with several thousand events or particle hitting the test stand and take several of these runs to ensure high statistics. On the other hand this means we want to minimize the amount of information stores per event so we can store a lot of them. One of the key systems that helps this is the trigger system. In the path of the beam before the test stand we put scintillator tiles not designed to stop the particle entire but rather to send a generic signal to the control room. A total of four tiles were placed in the path of the beam. When we saw signals from these tiles we know that a particle is coming from the beam. This serves as our trigger signal. The trigger signal then goes to the back-end electronics that stores the data from the detector. In this way we only store data coming during the short amount of time on the order of 25 nanoseconds when we know there is relevant information coming. There is also a ready signal that goes from the back-end electronics to the trigger. Since a particle may come before the back-end electronics are finished storing

the relevant data a trigger signal that comes without the ready signal will simply be ignored.

In addition to studying the new electronics with the test beam, we also did a SiPM simulation which could use theoretical signal from the detector and give the SiPMs response to them. When the light from the detector goes to the SiPM a Y11 light mixer is used so that the light is spread across the pixel face. The light mixer has a unique shape in which it shines the light onto the pixel face. Using a mathematical representation of this pulse shape we can simulate how light is shined on the pixel face. We can then create a virtual pixel face that has accurate geometric representation of the pixel face. Each of these virtual pixels could be activated by the incoming Y11 light pulse and would respond by firing off a set amount of charge just like an actual SiPM would. When these pixels are activated they also have a certain probability to activate a neighboring pixel which will simulate the cross talk of the SiPM. Each pixel also has a recharge rate so if it is hit in rapid succession it will fire with a reduced amount of charge emulating the saturation effect. Using this simulation we easily adjust the number of input photons and get very good details of the SiPM response. We can also easily turn different things off to see how significant individual effects are.