

Abstract of thesis entitled

# This is the title of my thesis

Submitted by

**Cheuk Yee LO**

for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
at The University of Hong Kong  
in August 2018

These are the motivations. These are the methods. These are the results.  
These are the discussions. These are the significance.

---

*An abstract of exactly 499 words*

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by

**Cheuk Yee LO**

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for  
the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy  
at The University of Hong Kong.

August 2018

# **Declarations**

I declare that this thesis represents my own work, except where acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this University or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualifications.

Signed .....  
.....

Cheuk Yee LO

# Acknowledgments

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# List of Abbreviations and Symbols

LHC Large Hadron Collider

SUSY Supersymmetry

# Chapter 1

## Theoretical Background

### 1.1 Introduction

Particle physics is a branch of physics that studies the most fundamental particles and their interaction. We believe that all matter and radiation in the universe are made up of these fundamental particles, and their behaviour is described by the theories in particle physics. In 20th century, our understanding about the nature of fundamental particles has had great breakthrough and advance. Also, many particle colliders have been built to give much insight to develop the theories and test the theories. The currently mainstream theory of particle physics is called the Standard Model.

### 1.2 Standard Model

Standard Model(SM) is the current theory to describe the fundamental particles in particle physics. It has already gained huge success in predicting the experimental results, including the prediction of existence of the top quark, the tau neutrino, and the Higgs boson. It has also explained almost all experimental results with high accuracy. It represents our best understanding of how the fundamental particles interact with each other.

Physicists discovered that there are 4 fundamental force in the universe: electromagnetic force, weak force, strong force, and gravitational force. However, SM can only describe 3 of them: electromagnetic, weak and strong interaction, and the gravity cannot be described by SM. Figure 1.1 shows all fundamental particles in SM, and their mass, electric charge and spin. All matter is made up of

# Standard Model of Elementary Particles

three generations of matter (fermions)						
	I	II	III			
QUARKS	mass 2/3 1/2	$\approx 2.4 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ u up	$\approx 1.275 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ c charm	$\approx 172.44 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ t top	0 0 1	gluon
	$\approx 4.8 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ -1/3 1/2	d down	$\approx 95 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ s strange	$\approx 4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ b bottom	0 0 1	Higgs
	$\approx 0.511 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ -1 1/2	e electron	$\approx 105.67 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ μ muon	$\approx 1.7768 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ τ tau	0 1	photon
	$< 2.2 \text{ eV}/c^2$ 0 1/2	$\nu_e$ electron neutrino	$< 1.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ 0 1/2	$< 15.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $\nu_\mu$ muon neutrino	0 1/2	Z boson
						W boson
LEPTONS			GAUGE BOSONS			SCALAR BOSONS

Figure 1.1: The table for all fundamental particles in SM. [1]

fermions (purple and green), which is the first 3 columns in figure 1.1. Fermions are divided into two groups: quarks(purple) and leptons(green). The forces between the fermions are mediated by the force carriers, which is gauge bosons(red). Higgs bosons(yellow) is scalar bosons, which give mass to other massive particles.

## 1.2.1 Matter particles

There are 6 types of quarks: up quarks(u), down quarks(d), charm quarks(c), strange quarks(s), top quarks(t) and bottom quarks(b). Quarks interacts with strong interaction, while leptons does not. There are 3 types of charged leptons: electrons, muons and taus. There are 3 types of neutral leptons: electron neutrinos, muon neutrinos and tau neutrinos. The first column is the first generation, which is the lightest and most stable particles. Hence, normal matter in our daily life is made from the particles in the first generation. The second and third col-

umn are the second and third generation respectively, which is heavier and less stable particles. These particles will finally decay into the particles in the first generation. Due to the phenomenon of neutrino oscillation, neutrinos should have non-zero masses, but their value are still uncertain in our current technology.

### 1.2.2 Forces and carrier particles

Photon is the force carrier for electromagnetic interaction. Gluon is the force carrier for strong interaction. Z and W boson is the force carrier for weak interaction. The effects of these fundamental forces stem from the exchange of the corresponding force carrier. These forces also have different strengths and different ranges. Strong force is the strongest force, while the electromagnetic force is in the middle. The weak force is the weakest force among the three, but it still much much stronger than the gravity. The electromagnetic force has infinite range, while the strong and weak forces have very short ranges at the level of subatomic particles.

For example, a proton is composed of two up quarks and one down quark, and a neutron is composed of one up quark and two down quarks. The forces between quarks inside the proton are mediated by gluons.

### 1.2.3 Feynman diagram

The fundamental interactions among these fundamental particles are described by the allowed fundamental Feynman vertices. All allowed fundamental Feynman vertices in SM are shown in figure 1.2 and 1.3. These fundamental vertices are the basic building blocks for all physical processes, by jointing these vertices together.

## 1.3 Limitation of Standard Model

Although Standard Model can explain almost all experimental results, there still are some phenomena it cannot explain.

### 1.3.1 Dark matter

Dark matter is some unknown matter that does not involve in electromagnetic interaction, but involve in gravitational interaction. It was first discovered in the Milky Way, by studying the speed of the stars orbiting around the center of the Milky Way. Because it does not involve in electromagnetic interaction, it does

## Standard Model Interactions (Forces Mediated by Gauge Bosons)

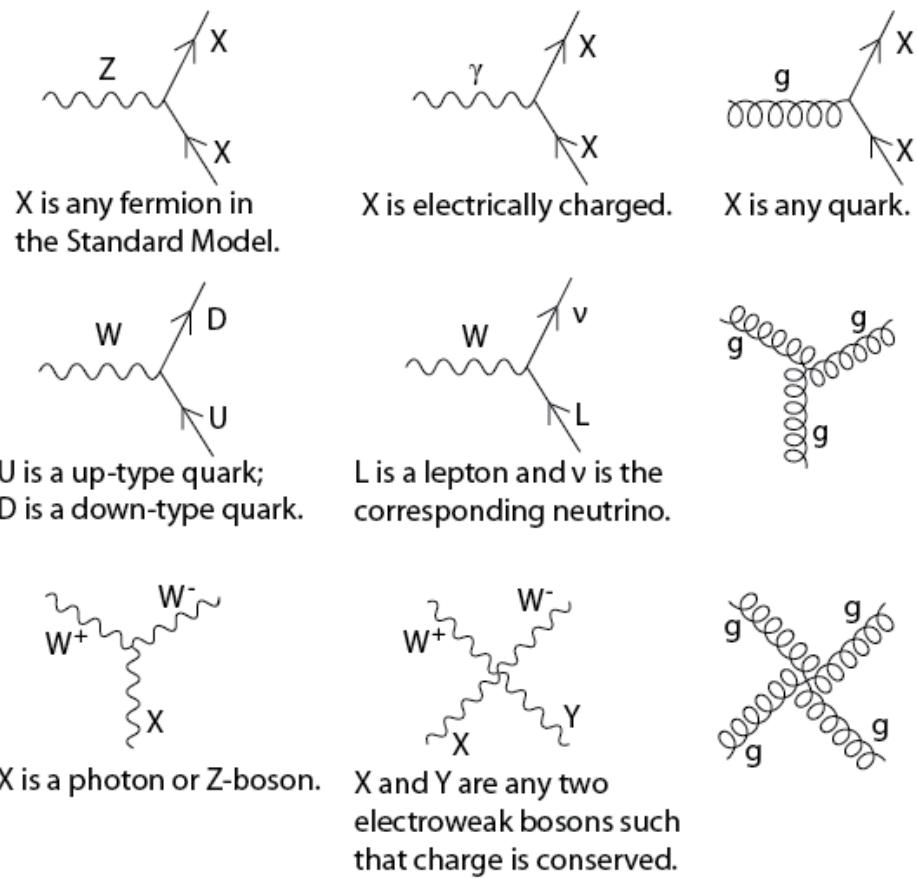


Figure 1.2: All allowed fundamental Feynman vertices in SM, except higgs-related vertices. [2]

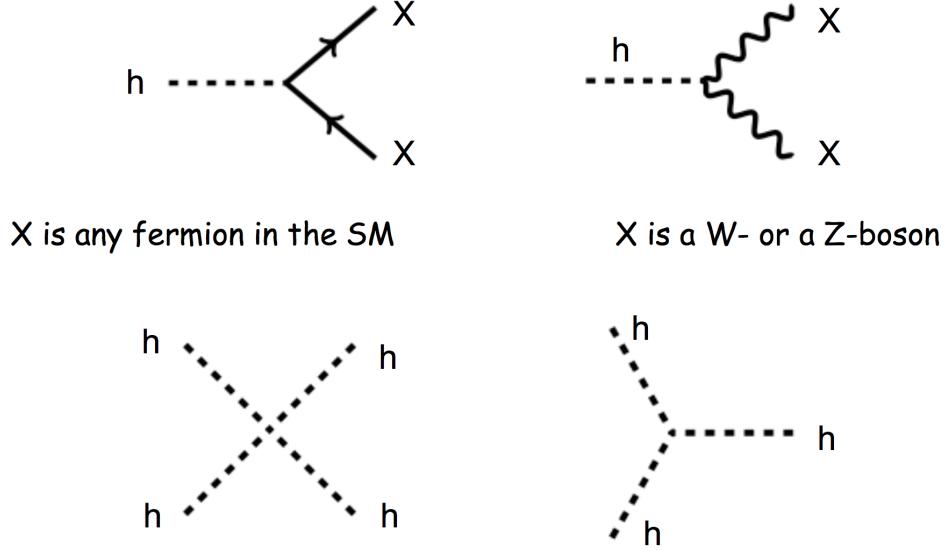


Figure 1.3: All allowed fundamental Higgs-related Feynman vertices in SM.

not emit any electromagnetic radiation, and it cannot be seen by our telescopes. However, SM cannot explain the nature of dark matter, and what dark matter is made of.

### 1.3.2 Hierarchy problem

The hierarchy problem is the question why the weak force is stronger than the gravitational force by  $10^{24}$  times. It is also asked why the mass of Higgs boson ( $\sim 125$  GeV) is much lighter than the Planck mass ( $\sim 10^{19}$  GeV).

The Lagrangian for the interaction term between the fermion Dirac field  $\psi$  and the Higgs field  $h$  (i.e. Yukawa interaction) is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}} = -\lambda \bar{\psi} h \psi \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\lambda$  is the Yukawa coupling constant. The quantum correction to the square of the Higgs mass  $\Delta m_H^2$  is then given by

$$\Delta m_H^2 = -\frac{|\lambda|^2}{16\pi^2} \Lambda^2 + \dots \quad (1.2)$$

where  $\Lambda$  is the energy scale up to which the Standard Model is valid, namely the Planck scale ( $\sim 10^{19}$  GeV). Because  $\Lambda$  is quadratic divergent, the correction to the Higgs mass is in the order of Planck scale. Unless there are very delicate cancellation between the correction terms, the Higgs mass should be in the order

of Planck scale. But, we found that the experimental Higgs mass is in the order of 125 GeV, and this is called the hierarchy problem.

### 1.3.3 Unification of forces

In the 1860s, James Clerk Maxwell wrote down his famous equations Maxwell's equations, which unified two different phenomena: electricity and magnetism. Due to this unification, we now understand that electricity and magnetism are two different manifestations of the same phenomenon, and we now call it electromagnetism.

Similar thing happened in 1970s, physicists developed a theory that unified two fundamental forces: electromagnetic force and weak force. At the energy scale above 246 GeV, these two forces will merge into a single force: electroweak force. This unification predicted the existence of weak neutral current and a force carrier to carry this weak force. This force carrier was later confirmed experimentally in CERN, and it is now called the Z boson.

After that, an effect of strong force was found experimentally that the strong force becomes weaker when the energy is higher. This may indicate that electroweak force and strong force will become a single force at even high energy. However, the energy scale at which these forces are the same is much larger than the energy the particle accelerators can reach. There are some theories beyond the Standard Model that try to unify these force, such as supersymmetry.

## 1.4 Supersymmetry

Supersymmetry(SUSY) is an extension of the Standard Model, and try to answer some questions which the Standard Model cannot explain mentioned in section 1.3. One of the problem SUSY can solve is the hierarchy problem of Higgs mass mentioned in section 1.3.2. We first notice that the negative sign in the equation 1.2 is due to the correction from the fermions. If we can somehow have some symmetry between the fermions and bosons, and add more positive correction terms due to the bosons, the correction terms will cancel with each other and the hierarchy problem can be solved. This new symmetry is called the supersymmetry(SUSY).

#### **1.4.1 Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model**

Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model(MSSM) is the minimal supersymmetrical theory that contain the least number of new particle states and new interactions. It predicts that each particle in the Standard Model has its own partner particle, called the superpartner. The name of the superpartner is by adding a prefix "s", followed by the name of the orginal Standard Model particle. For example, the superpartner of an electron is called selectron. As for the symbol for the superpartner, a tilde will be added above the original symbol. For example, the symbol for selectron is  $\tilde{e}$ . Also, the spin of the superpartner will differ from the Standard Model particle by 1/2. For fermions, the spin of their superpartner is 0, while for bosons, the spin of their superpartner is 1/2. This is the new symmetry between the fermions and bosons, mentioned before. It is also the correction terms from these superpartners to fix the hierarchy problem of the Higgs mass. If MSSM is correct, these supersymmetric particles should be detected in the LHC.

### **1.5 Wh channel**

# Chapter 2

## Experimental Setup

### 2.1 Introduction

Our experimental data was collected from the ATLAS particle detector in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). The following section will introduce LHC and the ATLAS particle detector.

### 2.2 The Large Hadron Collider

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) was built in the border between France and Switzerland by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). It is a circular particle collider under the ground with circumference 27 km. Two beams of protons will be accelerated in opposite directions, and then these two beams will collide with each other at the collision point. The energy of each beam is 6.5 TeV, and hence the center-of-mass energy of the two beams  $\sqrt{s}$  is 13 TeV, which is the energy used in this experiment. This energy is equivalent to the speed that the beam will circulate the ring 11,245 times per second. Figure 2.1 shows the schematic diagram of the CERN accelerator complex, which contains a series of accelerators, from low energy to high energy. The dark blue big circle in figure 2.1 represents the LHC, on which there are 4 particle detectors at 4 different yellow points: ATLAS, CMS, LHCb and ALICE.

Before the beam is injected into LHC, the protons need to be accelerated by a series of accelerators. The journey of the protons starts from a tank of hydrogen gas. The proton and the electron are separated by a electric field. The protons are then accelerated to 50 MeV by Linac2, which is a linear accelerator. The beam

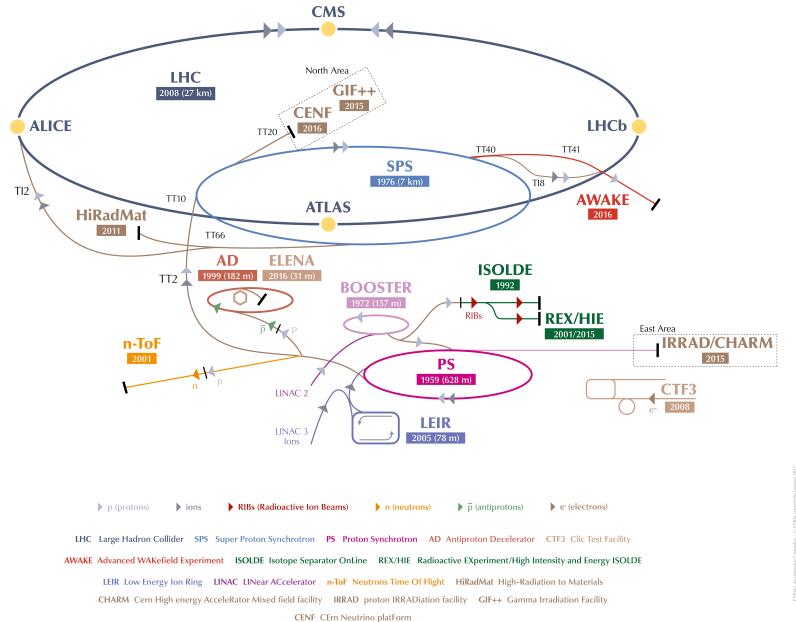


Figure 2.1: The schematic diagram of the CERN accelerator complex, which shows a series of accelerators and facilities. [3]

is then injected to the second accelerator called the Proton Synchrotron Booster (PSB), which accelerates the beam to 1.4 GeV. The beam is then injected to the third accelerator called the Proton Synchrotron (PS), which pushes the beam to 25 GeV. The beam is then injected to the fourth accelerator called the Super Proton Synchrotron (SPS), which further pushes the beam to 450 GeV. Finally, the beam is injected to the two beam pipes of the LHC. One of the beam moves in clockwise direction, while another beam moves in anti-clockwise direction. Two beams will be collided at the collision point inside the ATLAS detector. [10]

The circular path of the proton beam is maintained by many superconducting electromagnets along the LHC tunnel. There are 1232 main magnetic dipoles, and each of them generates a large magnetic field of 8.3 T. In order to generate such a high magnetic field, the coils need to have very high current of 11,080 A, and hence superconducting coil need to be used, to reduce the heat loss due to the electrical resistance. The material of superconducting coil is niobium-titanium (NbTi). To reach the condition for superconductivity, the electromagnets operate at a very low temperature of 1.9 K. There are also 392 magnetic quadrupole to make the beam narrower, and the chance of proton-proton collision will be higher. [11, 12]

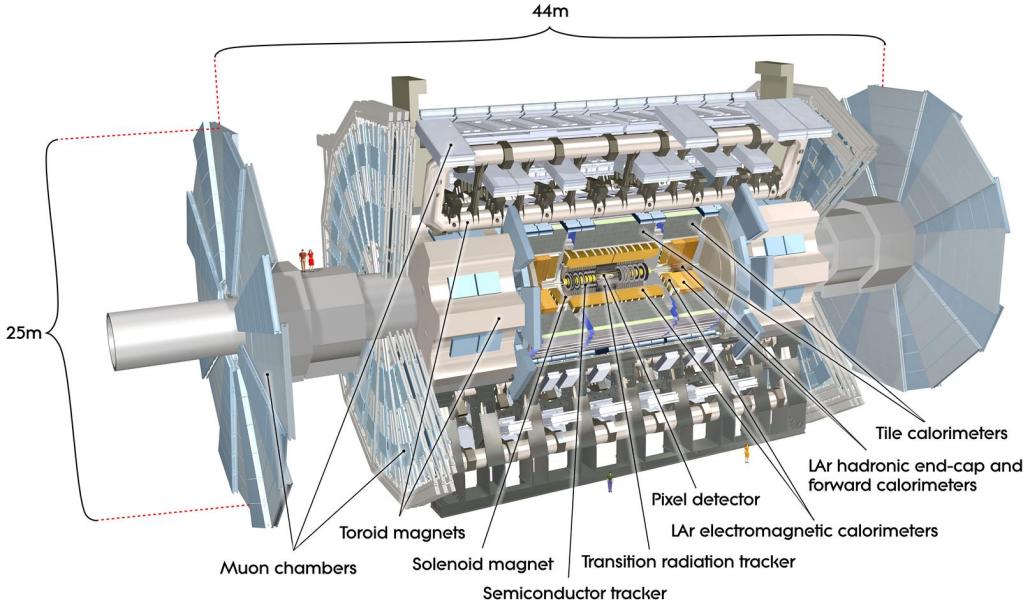


Figure 2.2: The cut-away view of the ATLAS detector. It is 25m high and 44m long. [4]

The protons in the beam are grouped into different bunches, and there are about  $10^{11}$  protons in each bunch. The time-spacing between two adjacent bunches is 25ns (or 50 ns in the old configuration). This means that in each 25 ns, two bunches are collided at the collision point. For each bunch collision, there are about 10 to 50 proton-proton interaction.

The interacting rate for a physics process  $\frac{dN}{dt}$  is the product of the cross section of that physics process  $\sigma$  and the instantaneous luminosity  $\mathcal{L}$ .

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = \sigma \mathcal{L} \quad (2.1)$$

The instantaneous luminosity  $\mathcal{L}$  is a measure of the interacting rate of two protons at the collision point, which is related to the density of the protons and the speed of the protons. The instantaneous luminosity in this experiment is about  $10^{34}$  cm $^{-2}$  s $^{-1}$  (or 10 nb $^{-1}$  s $^{-1}$ ).

## 2.3 ATLAS detector

A Toroidal LHC ApparatuS (ATLAS) is the particle detector used in this experiment [7]. Figure 2.2 shows the main components of the ATLAS detector. The ATLAS detector is a general purpose particle detector, which is consisted of 3

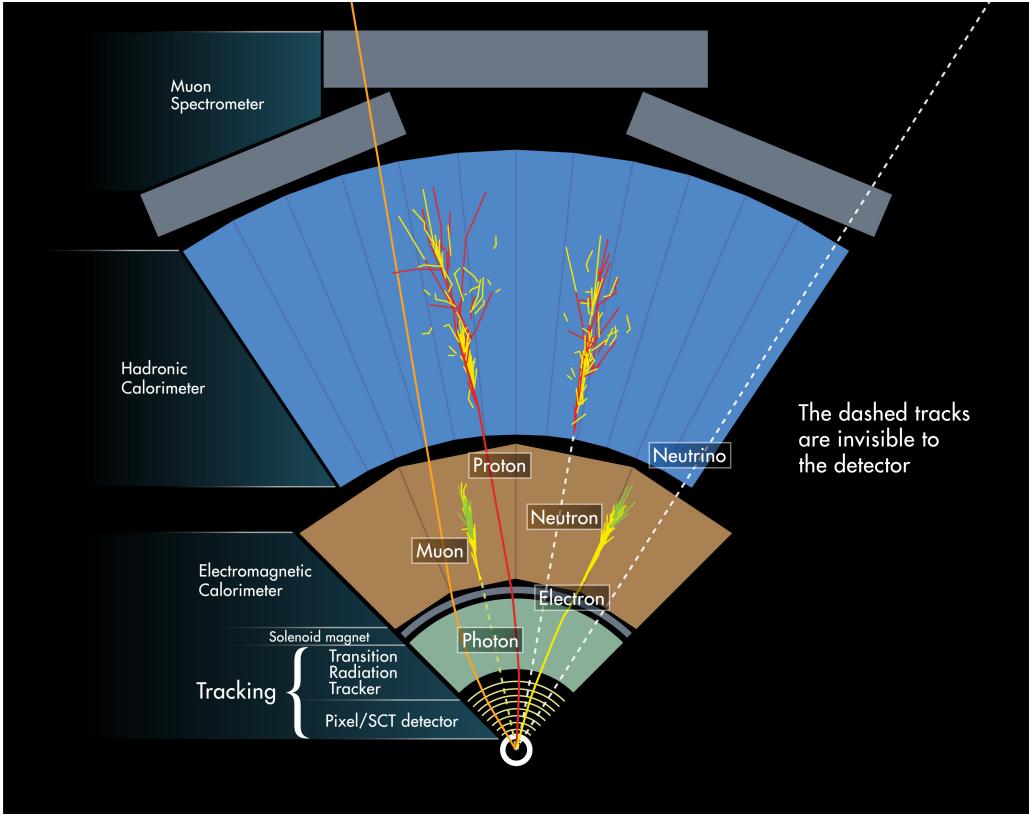


Figure 2.3: The cross section of the ATLAS detector. This shows different components of the ALTAS and how ATLAS detect different types of particles [5]

main components: the inner detector, the calorimeter and the muon spectrometer. Figure 2.3 shows how the ATLAS distinguishes different types of particle. The inner detector can detect the paths of the charged particles. Photons and electrons will deposit most of their energy in the electromagnetic calorimeter, and finally stop by it. Hadrons(including protons and neutrons) and mesons will similarly stop by the hadronic calorimeter. Only muons and the neutrinos can reach the outermost muon spectrometer, but only muons can be detected by the muon spectrometer. Nearly all neutrinos will escape the whole ATLAS detector, which leads to some missing energy. In this design, different particles can be identified due to their signature in different parts of ATLAS.

### 2.3.1 coordinate system

The nominal collision point is defined as the origin of the coordinate system. The z-axis is along the beam dirention. The positive x-asix is pointing to the centre of the LHC ring. The positive y-asix is in the upward direction. The azimuthal

angle  $\phi$  and the polar angle  $\theta$  are defined as usual in the spherical coordinate system. The pseudorapidity  $\eta$  is defined as:

$$\eta = -\ln \left( \tan \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \quad (2.2)$$

The distance  $\Delta R$  in the pseudorapidity-azimuthal angle space is defined as:

$$\Delta R = \sqrt{(\Delta\phi)^2 + (\Delta\eta)^2} \quad (2.3)$$

The ATLAS detector has a reflection symmetry about the x-y plane.

### 2.3.2 magnetic system

There is a thin superconducting solenoid magnet around the inner detector, which generates a 2 T magnetic field inside the inner detector. There are also 3 large superconducting toroids around the calorimeter: one for barrel and two for end-caps. All these magnets are shown in figure 2.2.

### 2.3.3 The inner detector

The inner detector is a particle tracker. It mainly detects the tracks of charged particles and has good performance for measuring the momentum of the charged particles and locating the position of the vertices. Figure 2.4 shows the whole structure of the inner detector. The inner detector consists of 3 sub-detectors from inner to outer: the pixel detector, the silicon microstrip tracker (SCT) and the transition radiation tracker (TRT). Each part further divides into two parts: the barrel region with smaller  $|\eta|$  and the end-cap region with larger  $|\eta|$ . Figure 2.5 shows the distances  $R$  from the beam for the 3 sub-detectors, and figure 2.6 shows the shapes and the orientations of each sensor and the  $\eta$  coverage, in both the barrel and the end-cap regions. The  $\eta$  coverage for the inner detector is  $|\eta| < 2.5$ . The shapes and the orientations of the sensors are different in the barrel and the end-cap regions. In the barrel region, the shape and the orientation of the sensors is concentric cylinder shells around the beam axis, while in the end-cap region, they are disks perpendicular to the beam axis.

The precision tracking detectors (pixels and SCT) has high resolution in space by using discrete space-points to detect the track of a charged particle, with the cutting-edge technology, in order to achieve the good performance of the inner detector. When the particle moves inside the inner detector, there are, in

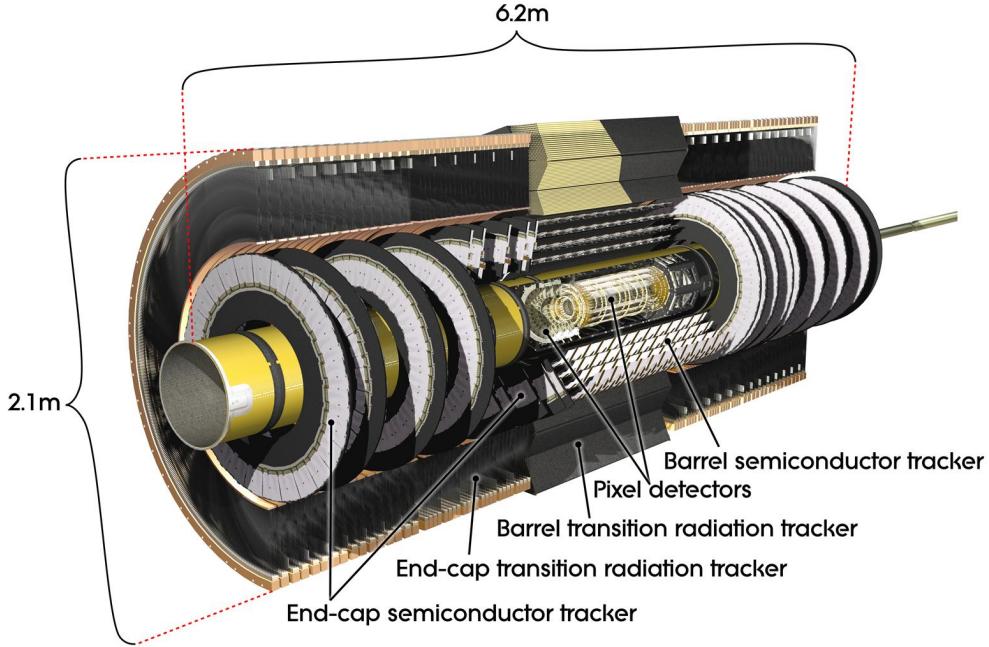


Figure 2.4: The whole structure of the ATLAS inner detector. [6]

average, 36 hits per one track. By recording the positions of these hits, the path of the particle can be reconstructed. The whole inner detector is immersed in a 2 T magnetic field generated by the solenoid magnet, and hence the path of any charged particles will be bent. By measuring the curvature of the path, the charge and momentum of the particle can be measured. The equation for the circular path is

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = q(\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (2.4)$$

where the relativistic momentum  $\mathbf{p} = \gamma m \mathbf{v}$ .

$$\frac{d\mathbf{p}}{dt} = q\left(\frac{\mathbf{p}}{\gamma m} \times \mathbf{B}\right) \quad (2.5)$$

$$= \frac{q}{\gamma m}(\mathbf{p} \times \mathbf{B}) \quad (2.6)$$

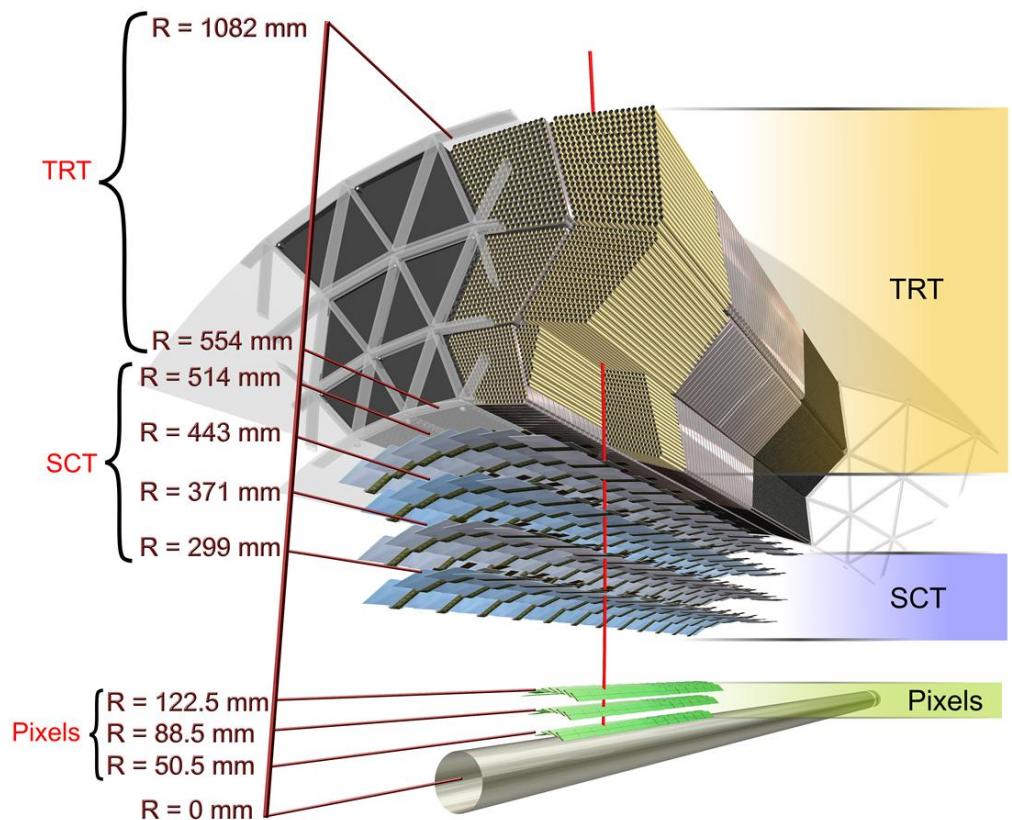


Figure 2.5: The distances  $R$  from the beam for the 3 components: pixel, SCT and TRT. [6]

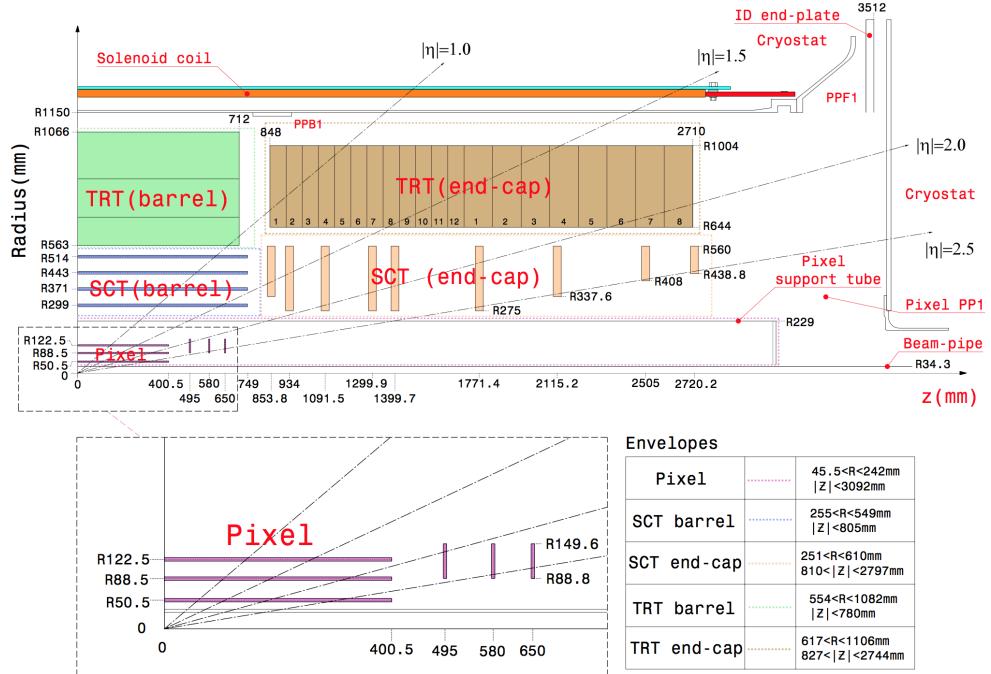


Figure 2.6: The shapes, the orientations and the  $\eta$  coverage for each sensor. [7]

From this equation, we can get the angular frequency  $\omega$ ,

$$\omega = \frac{qB}{\gamma m} \quad (2.7)$$

$$\frac{v}{r} = \frac{qB}{\gamma m} \quad (2.8)$$

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{qB}{\gamma mv} \quad (2.9)$$

$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{qB}{p} \quad (2.10)$$

$$p = rqB \quad (2.11)$$

By this equation, we can calculate the momentum of the particle, from the curvature of track  $1/r$ , the charge and the magnetic field strength.

### 2.3.3.1 Pixel detector

As shown in figure 2.6, there are 3 layers of cylinder in the barrel region, and 3 layers of disk for each end-cap region. There are in total 1744 modules in the pixel detectors. Each module is identical, and has the size of  $19\text{mm} \times 63\text{mm}$ , and  $250\ \mu\text{m}$  thick. The module has 47232 pixels, which has size of  $50\mu\text{m} \times 400\mu\text{m}$ , and hence there are in total 80 million pixels for the whole pixel detector. Each pixel has the accuracy of  $10\mu\text{m} \times 115\mu\text{m}$ . The sensor is using planar n<sup>+</sup>-in-n type of

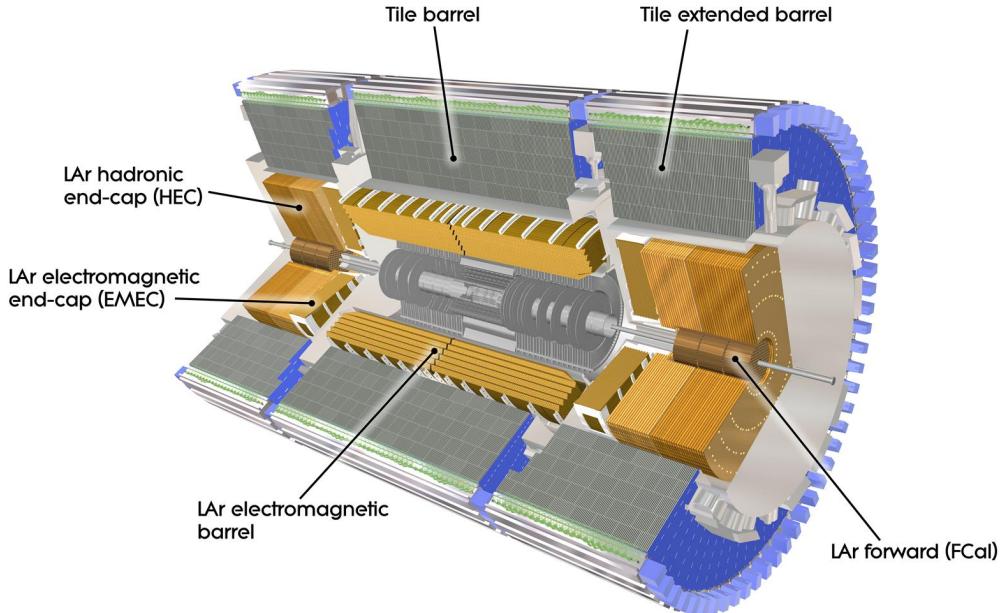


Figure 2.7: whole calorimeter [8]

silicon, with  $n^+$ -type at the readout side and n-type at another side.

### 2.3.3.2 SCT

As shown in figure 2.6, there are 4 layers of cylinder in the barrel region, and 9 layers of disk for each end-cap region. There are in total 4088 modules in the SCT, with the thickness of  $285\ \mu m$ . There are in total 6.3 million pixels for the SCT. Each pixel has the accuracy of  $17\mu m \times 580\mu m$ . The sensor is using planar p-in-n type of silicon.

### 2.3.3.3 TRT

136 TRT modules. TRT in the outer part is to produce and detect the transition radiation from the particle. TRT comprises many layers of gaseous straw tube elements interleaved with transition radiation material. Each pixel has the accuracy of  $130\mu m$ .

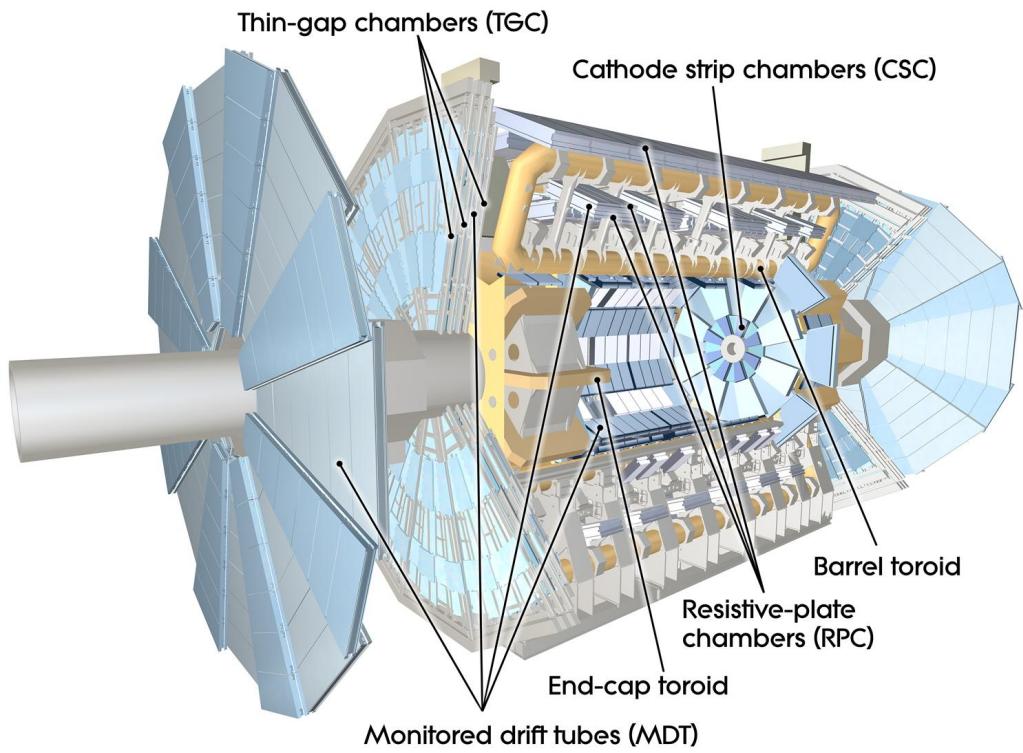


Figure 2.8: muon spectrometer [9]

### 2.3.4 Calorimeter

#### 2.3.4.1 Electromagnetic calorimeter

#### 2.3.4.2 Hardronic calorimeter

### 2.3.5 Muon Spectrometer

# **Chapter 3**

## **Pre-selection**

**3.1 Trigger selection**

**3.2 Event selection**

**3.3 Object definitions**

3.3.1 electrons and muons

3.3.2 jets

3.3.3 Missing transverse energy

## **Chapter 4**

# **Signal Region**

## Chapter 5

# Background estimation

5.1 charge flip background

5.2 fake lepton background

## Chapter 6

### Validation regions



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