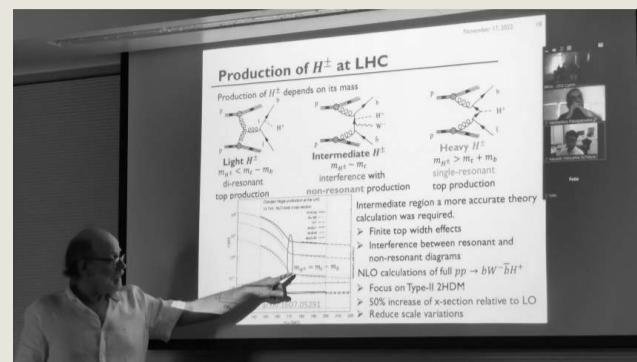


A NEW ERA IN HIGH ENERGY PHYSICS!

Fotios Ptochos Promoted to Professor!

Congratulations to Fotios Ptochos for his promotion to the rank of Full Professor, effective from Thursday 17th November, 2022. This promotion recognizes Prof. Ptochos' achievements in scholarship, teaching in physics and research in high-energy physics (HEP), and his overall service to the CDF and CMS Collaborations. He is a Harvard University PhD in physics graduate (1998) and has been active in HEP-research since 1987. In particular, from 1987 to 1988 he worked in the development of a technique to monitor the purity of Liquid Argon (LAr) for the first ever prototype of the ICARUS detector. From 1989 to 1994 he worked in the characterization of various Tetramethyl liquids as part of a research project to find appropriate warm liquids media for the envisioned calorimeter detectors at the Superconducting Supercollider (SSC). He also worked in the construction, installation and calibration of the Central Muon Extension (CMX) system for the CDF detector. From 1994 to 1996 he developed an algorithm to improve electron identification for the CDF end-plug ECAL based on the information from the calorimeter and hits on the silicon tracker detector. The algorithm led to the development and implementation of the PHOENIX tracker system in the CDF-II detector. In the period of 2000-2003, he was the coordinator of the group responsible for the development, installation, maintenance and performance monitoring of the CDF-II Hadronic Calorimeter (HCAL) timing system. For the entire period of the Tevatron Run-II (2001-2011) he served as the coordinator of the CDF central HCAL calibration (CHA and WHA), maintenance and performance group. Since 2004, when he joined the faculty of the UCY Physics Department, he has been involved in the UCY HEP group activities related to the construction and running of the CMS ECAL at CERN. In 2009, he initiated the involvement of the group in the activities related to the CMS tracking detector. He was also involved in the development of the dual-readout calorimetry concept in a total absorption HCAL for future linear-collider experiments.



Professor Ptochos has led numerous physics analyses, spanning from precision measurements on properties of heavy flavour quark production and their use as probes for searching for the SM and SUSY Higgs bosons, to searches for BSM physics including SUSY, extra dimensions and other exotic processes. He has tremendous experience in heavy flavour tagging techniques and algorithms, tau-lepton identification techniques and new physics model building. He was the first ever recipient of the "Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory Fellowship" and has co-coordinated multiple research program funded primarily by the European Commission (EC) via MARIE SKODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS, the Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) through DIDAKTOR or EXCELLENCE HUBS programs, the European Regional Development Fund, and UCY. Professor Ptochos is the author and co-author of more than 1850 publications in refereed scientific journals and a member of the editorial group in charge for producing the education material for the entire Cyprus Secondary Education. He has been the supervisor of the research activities of 6 postdoctoral fellows, 5 PhD and 11 MSc students, as well as projects of more than 20 undergraduate students.

Physicists Find Elusive Particle Seen as Key to Universe

Results are presented from searches for the standard model Higgs boson in proton-proton collisions at 8 TeV in the Compact Muon Solenoid experiment at the LHC, using data samples corresponding to integrated luminosities of up to 5.1 fb⁻¹ at 7 TeV and 5.3 fb⁻¹ at 8 TeV. The search is performed in five decay modes: $\gamma\gamma$, ZZ, $\tau^+\tau^-$, and $b\bar{b}$. An excess of events is observed above the expected background, with a local significance of 5.0 standard deviations, at a mass near 125 GeV, signalling the production of a new particle. The expected significance for a standard model Higgs boson of that mass is 5.8 standard

deviations. The excess is most significant in the two decay modes with the best mass resolution, $\gamma\gamma$ and ZZ; a fit to these signals gives a mass of $125.3 \pm 0.4(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.5(\text{syst.})$ GeV. The decay to two photons indicates that the new particle is a boson with spin different from one.



CDF publishes multi-muons!

We report a study of multi-muon events produced at the Fermilab Tevatron collider and recorded by the CDF II detector. In a data set acquired with a dedicated dimuon trigger and corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 2100 pb⁻¹, we isolate a significant sample of events in which at least one of the muon candidates is produced outside of the beam pipe of radius 1.5 cm. The production cross section and kinematics of events in which both muon candidates are produced inside the beam pipe are successfully modeled by known QCD pro-

Master of Masterclasses

Another particle physics masterclass was organized at the University of Cyprus by Professor Fotios Ptochos for the 8th year in a row. It took within the framework of the IPPOG effort, with the aim of informing young students about the research being carried out at CERN and the wider field of Particle Physics. Department of Physics. The event took place on Saturday 07 March 2020 at the University of Cyprus Campus between 9:00 - 17:00. It included lectures about the world of elementary particles, detection methods, and the technology developed starting with basic research in both this and related fields of physics. Students had a unique opportunity to an-

alyze data from proton-proton collisions, as recorded by the CMS detector at CERN's LHC. They discussed their findings with students from other countries as well as scientists at CERN through a video conference.



Multi-Muons In CDF: The Mystery Continues

We present a phenomenological conjecture of new physics that is suggested by the topology and kinematic properties of the multi-muon events recently reported by the CDF collaboration. We show that the salient features of the data can be accounted for by postulating the pair

production of three new states h_1 , h_2 , and h_3 with masses in the range of 15, 7.3, and 3.6 GeV/c², respectively. The heavier states cascade-decay into the lighter ones, whereas the lightest state decays into a τ pair with a lifetime of the order of 20 ps.

Top Quark, Last Piece of Matter, Appears to Be in Place

We establish the existence of the top quark using a 67 pb^{-1} data sample of pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8 \text{ TeV}$ collected with the Collider Detector at Fermilab (CDF). Employing techniques similar to those we previously published, we observe a signal consistent with $t\bar{t}$ decay to WW/bb , but inconsistent with the background prediction by 4.8σ . Additional evidence for the top quark is provided by a peak in the reconstructed mass

distribution. We measure the top quark mass to be $176 \pm 8(\text{stat.}) \pm 10(\text{syst.})$ GeV/c², and the $t\bar{t}$ production cross section to be $6.8^{+3.6}_{-2.4}$ pb.



Measurement of the $t\bar{t}$ production cross section using heavy flavor tags in $W + \geq 3$ jet events in $p\bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8 \text{ TeV}$

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Spooky Multi-Muon Events Puzzle Physicists

CDF recently submitted a paper that helped to explain several long standing puzzles associated with the production of bottom quarks at the Tevatron. And in addition to solving these problems, researchers observed something perhaps even more interesting, a new, bigger puzzle.

The work begins with a recent CDF measurement of the rate at which bottom and antibottom quarks are produced at the Tevatron. The analysis uses muons produced in the decay of bottom quarks to identify the signal events. Although previous measurements showed deviations from the predicted production rates, this newer, more precise measurement was found to agree well with the theoretical expecta-

tion. Interestingly, CDF found that the previous measurements could be explained by a source of background events that had not been previously identified.



The source of these background events, whimsically called "ghost events", is the new puzzle. The properties of this background are quite different than background sources that had been previously identified. In particular, the ghost events contain more muons than are expected from known background sources.

Search for charged Higgs bosons!

A search for charged Higgs bosons (H^\pm) decaying into a top and a bottom quark in the all-jet final state is presented. The analysis uses LHC proton-proton collision data recorded with the CMS detector in 2016 at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 35.9 fb^{-1} . No significant excess is observed above the expected background. Model-independent upper limits at 95% confidence level are set on the product of the H^\pm production cross section and branching fraction in two scenarios. For production in association with a top quark, limits of 21.3 to 0.007 pb are obtained for H^\pm masses in the range of 0.2 to 3 TeV . Combining this with a search in leptonic final states results in improved limits of 9.25 to 0.005 pb . The complementary s-channel production of an H^\pm is investigated in the mass range of 0.8 to 3 TeV and the corresponding upper limits are 4.5 to 0.023 pb . These results are interpreted using different minimal supersymmetric extensions of the standard model.

New search for charged Higgs bosons in forgotten channels

A search for a charged Higgs boson H^\pm decaying into a heavy neutral Higgs boson H and a W boson is presented. The analysis targets the W decay into a pair of tau leptons with at least one of them decaying hadronically and with an additional electron or muon present in the event. The search is based on proton-proton collision data recorded by the CMS experiment during 2016–2018 at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$, corresponding to an integrated luminosity of 138 fb^{-1} . The data are consistent with

standard model background expectations. Upper limits at 95% confidence level are set on the product of the cross section and branching fraction for an H^\pm in the mass range of 300 – 700 GeV , assuming an H with a mass of 200 GeV . The observed limits range from 0.085 pb for an H^\pm mass of 300 GeV to 0.019 pb for a mass of 700 GeV . These are the first limits on H^\pm production in the $H^\pm \rightarrow HW^\pm$ decay channel at the LHC.