

# The future of particle discoveries

Robert Harlander  
RWTH Aachen University

based on work with  
Jean-Philippe Martinez and Gregor Schiemann

2nd International Conference of the Research Unit  
“The Epistemology of the Large Hadron Collider”  
8-10 December 2022

extended version: <https://indico.desy.de/event/32950/contributions/130153/>

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# The future of “particle” discoveries

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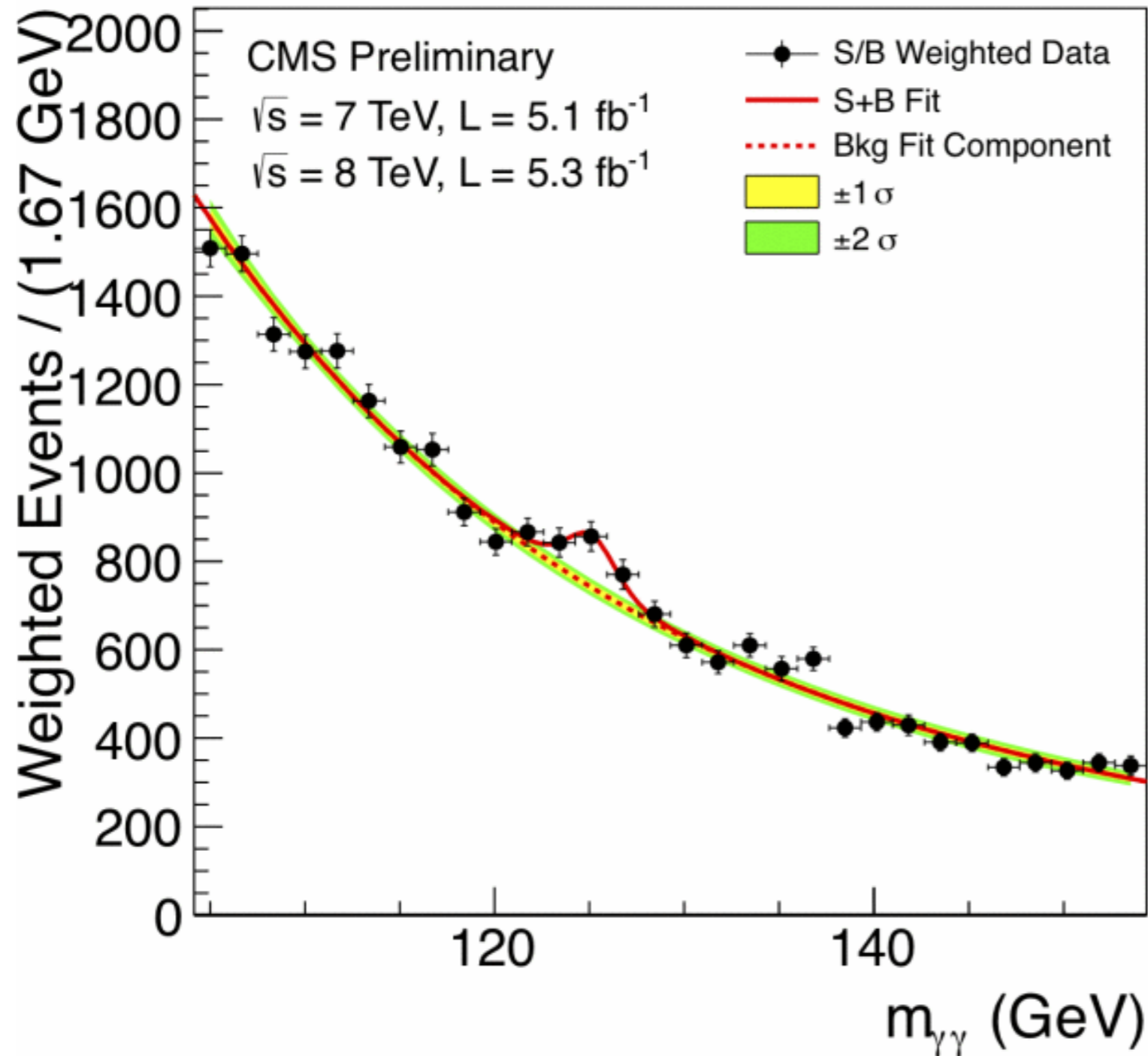
Deutsche  
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**DFG**



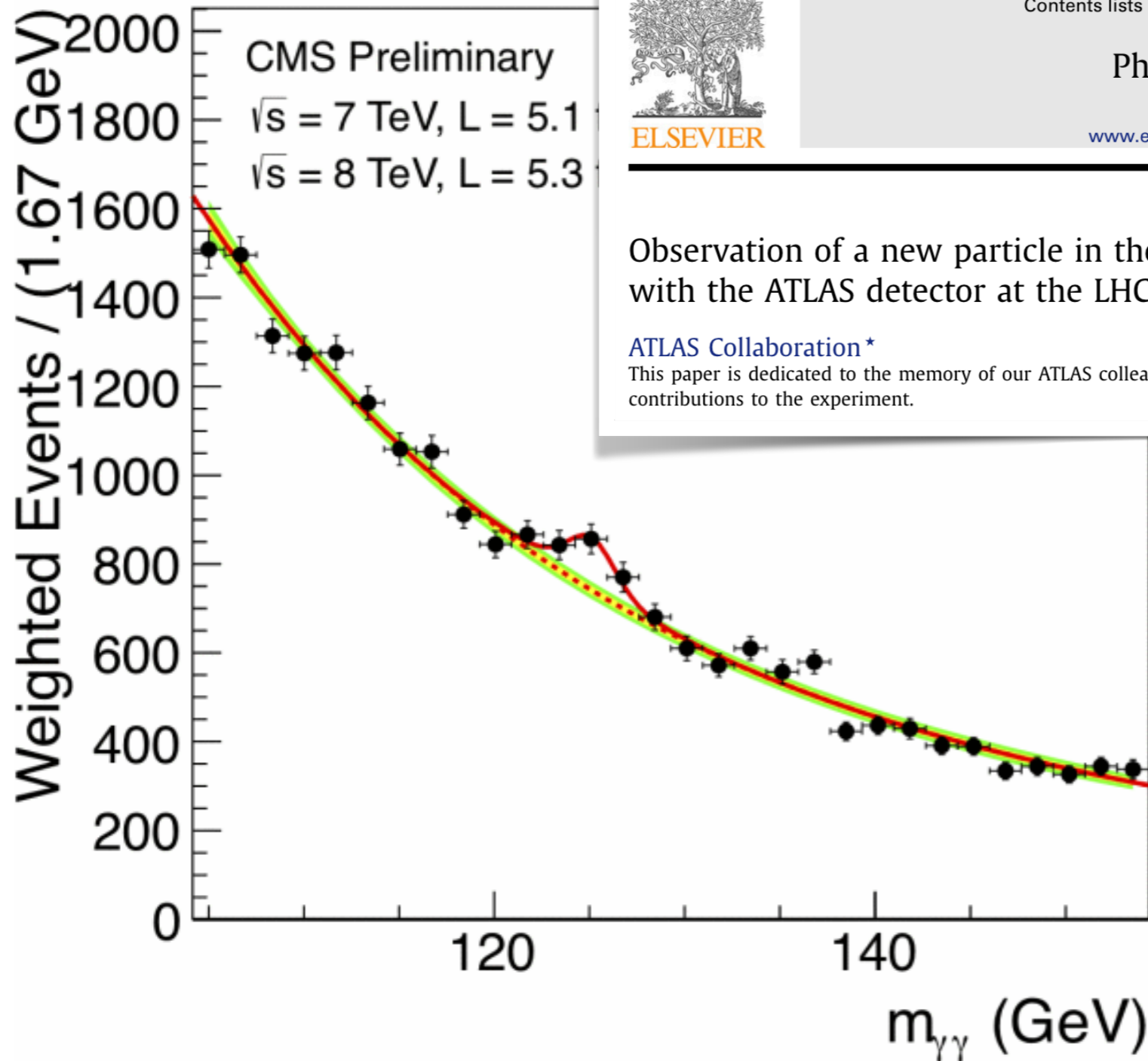
Bundesministerium  
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und Forschung



# Discovering particles today



# Discovering particles today



Physics Letters B 716 (2012) 1–29



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Physics Letters B

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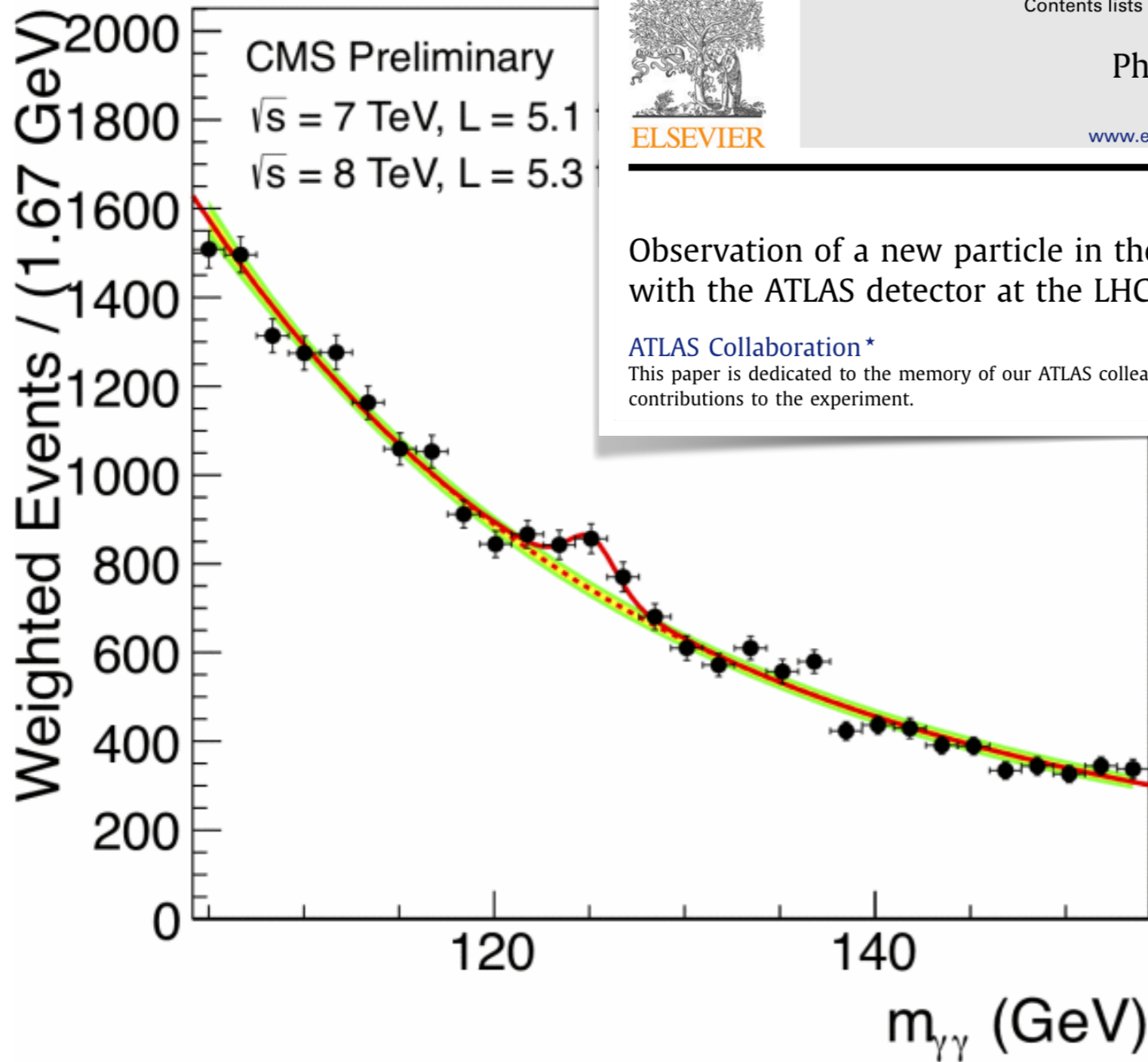


Observation of a new particle in the search for the Standard Model Higgs boson with the ATLAS detector at the LHC <sup>☆</sup>

ATLAS Collaboration <sup>\*</sup>


This paper is dedicated to the memory of our ATLAS colleagues who did not live to see the full impact and significance of their contributions to the experiment.

# Discovering particles today




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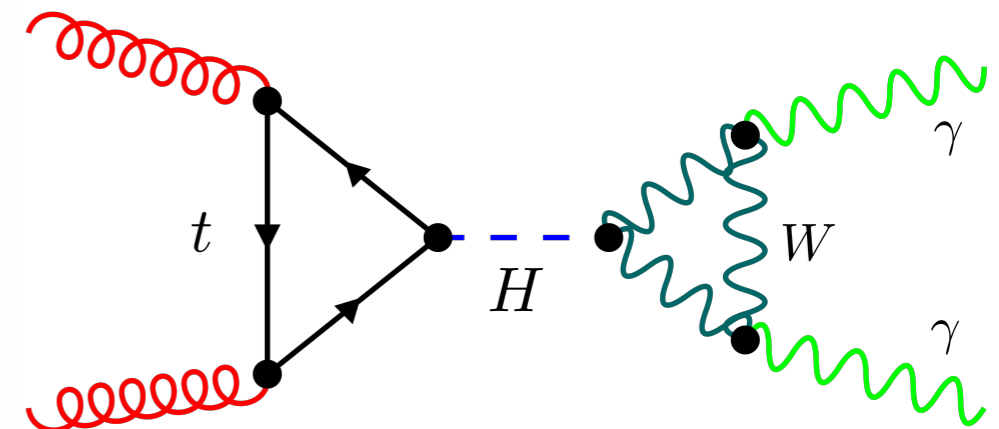
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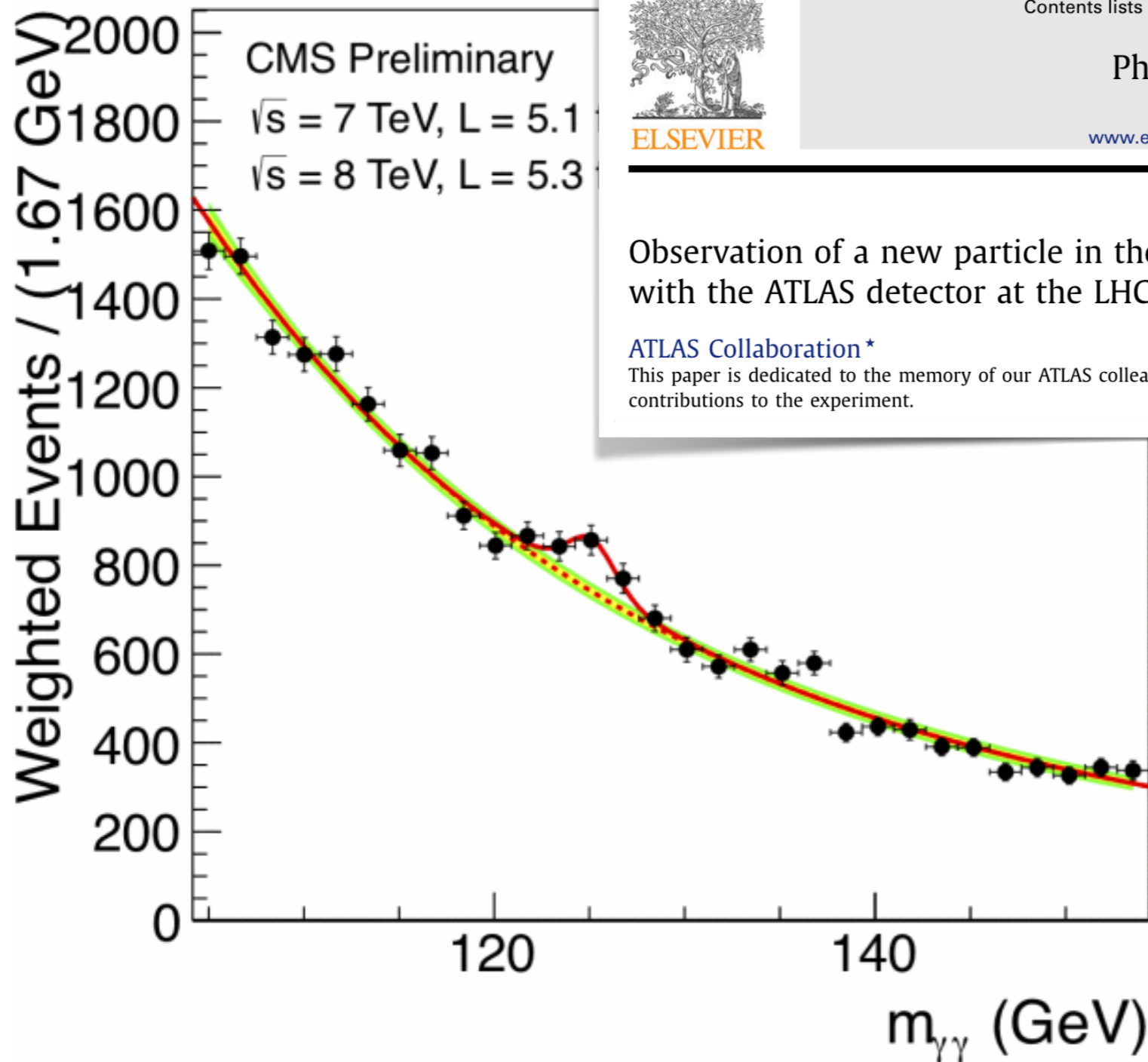


Observation of a new particle in the search for the Standard Model Higgs boson with the ATLAS detector at the LHC ☆

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# Discovering particles today



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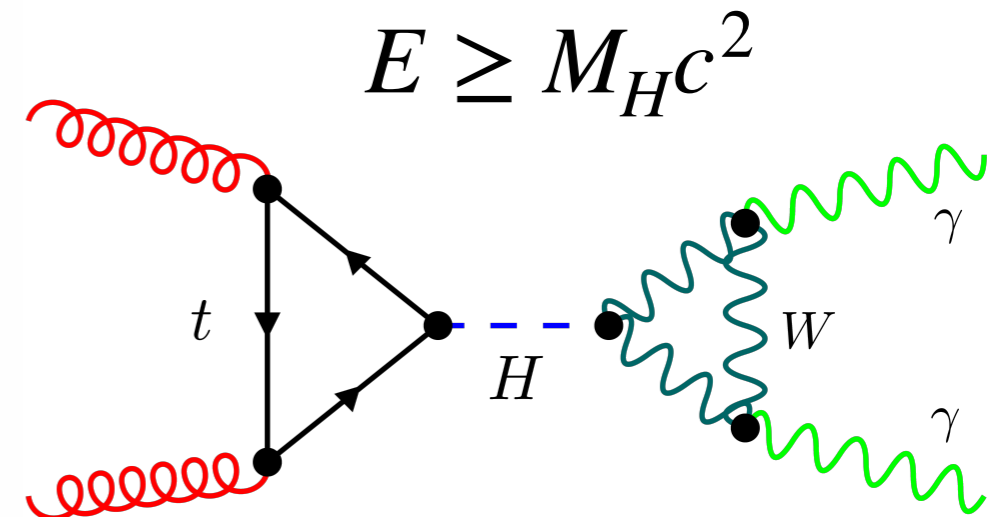
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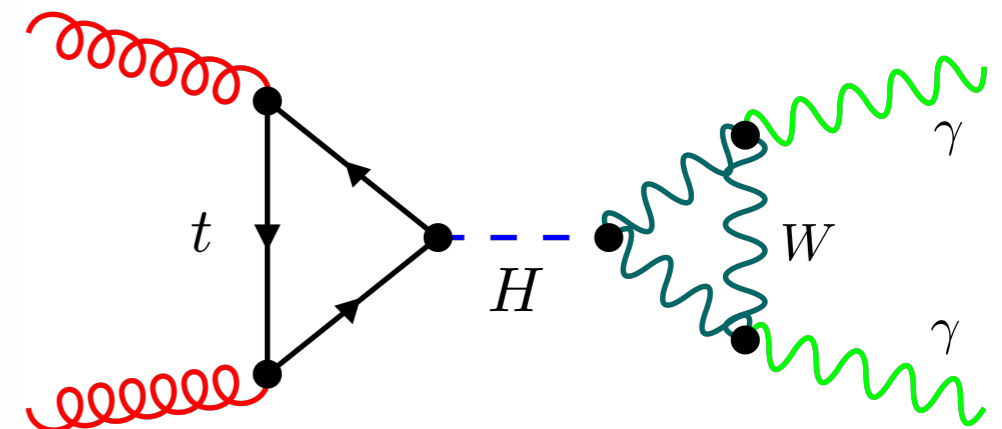
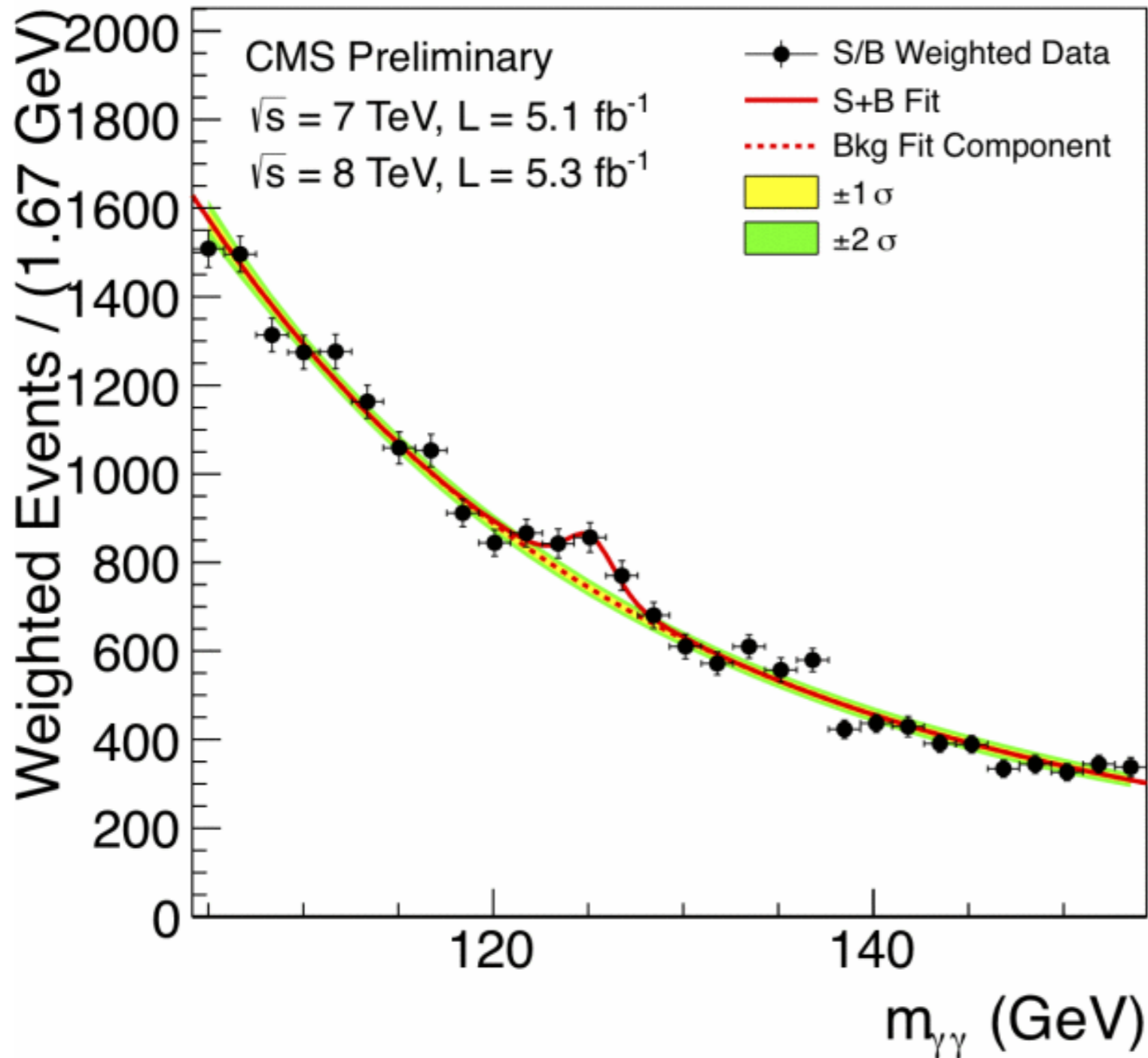
PHYSICS LETTERS B

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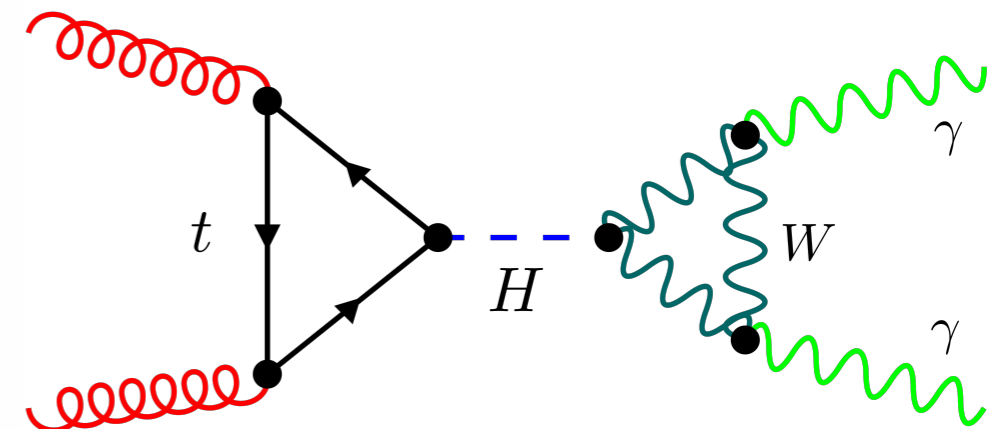
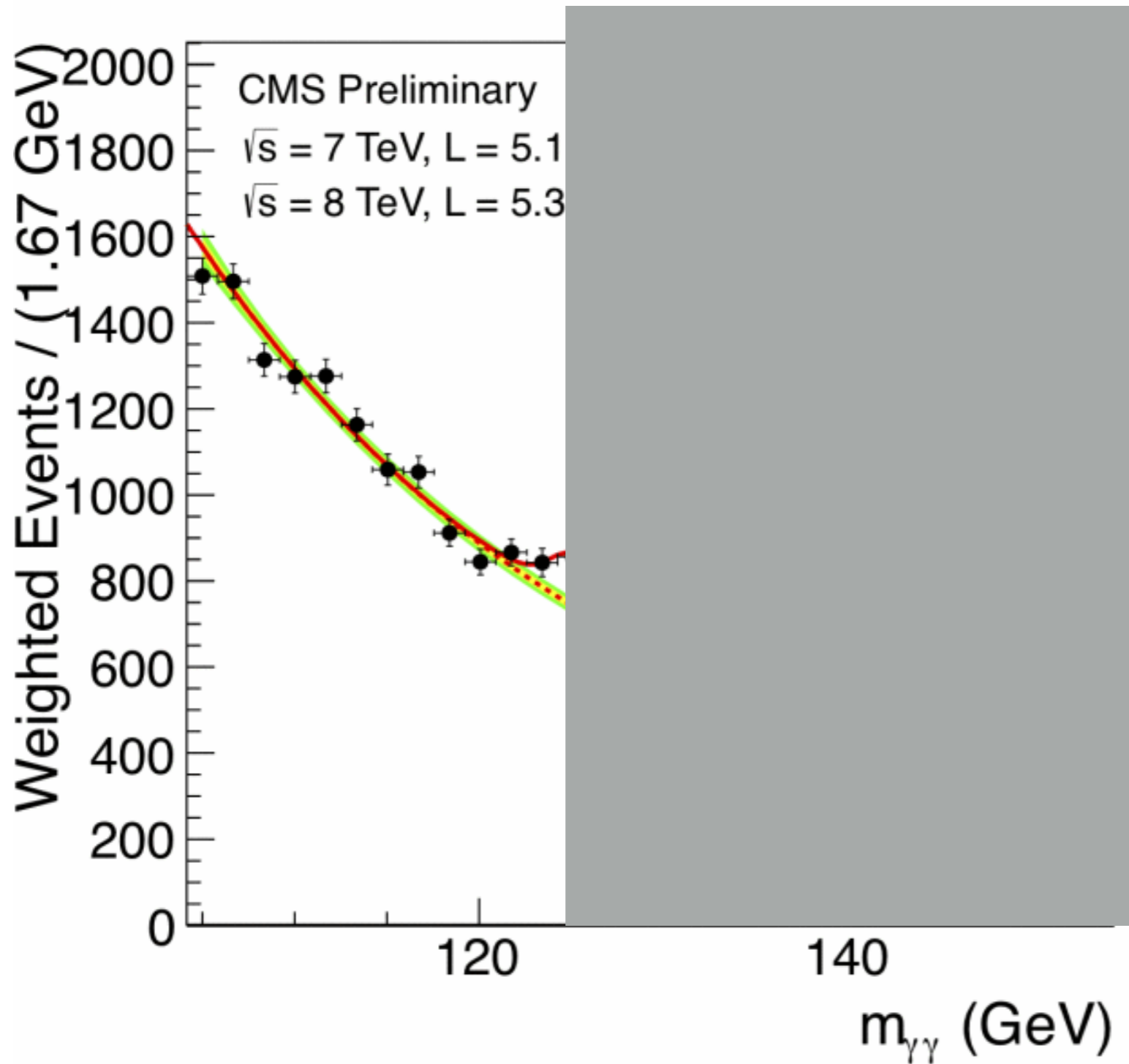
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# Observing particles today

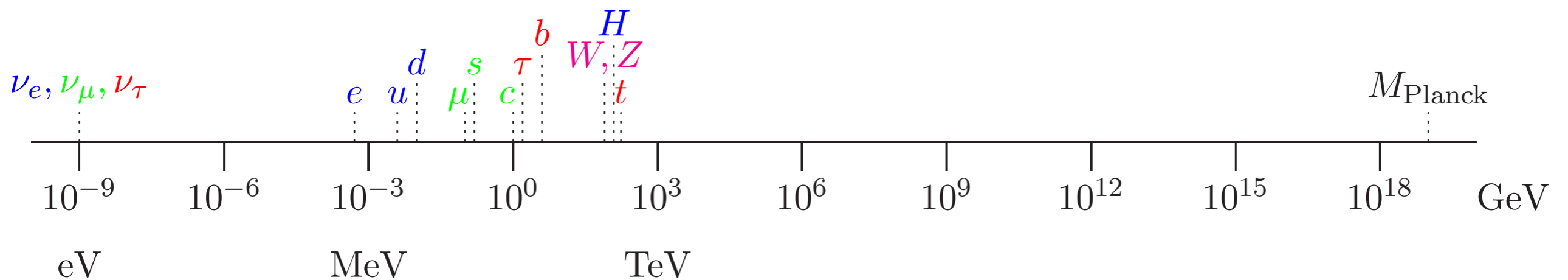


# Observing particles today

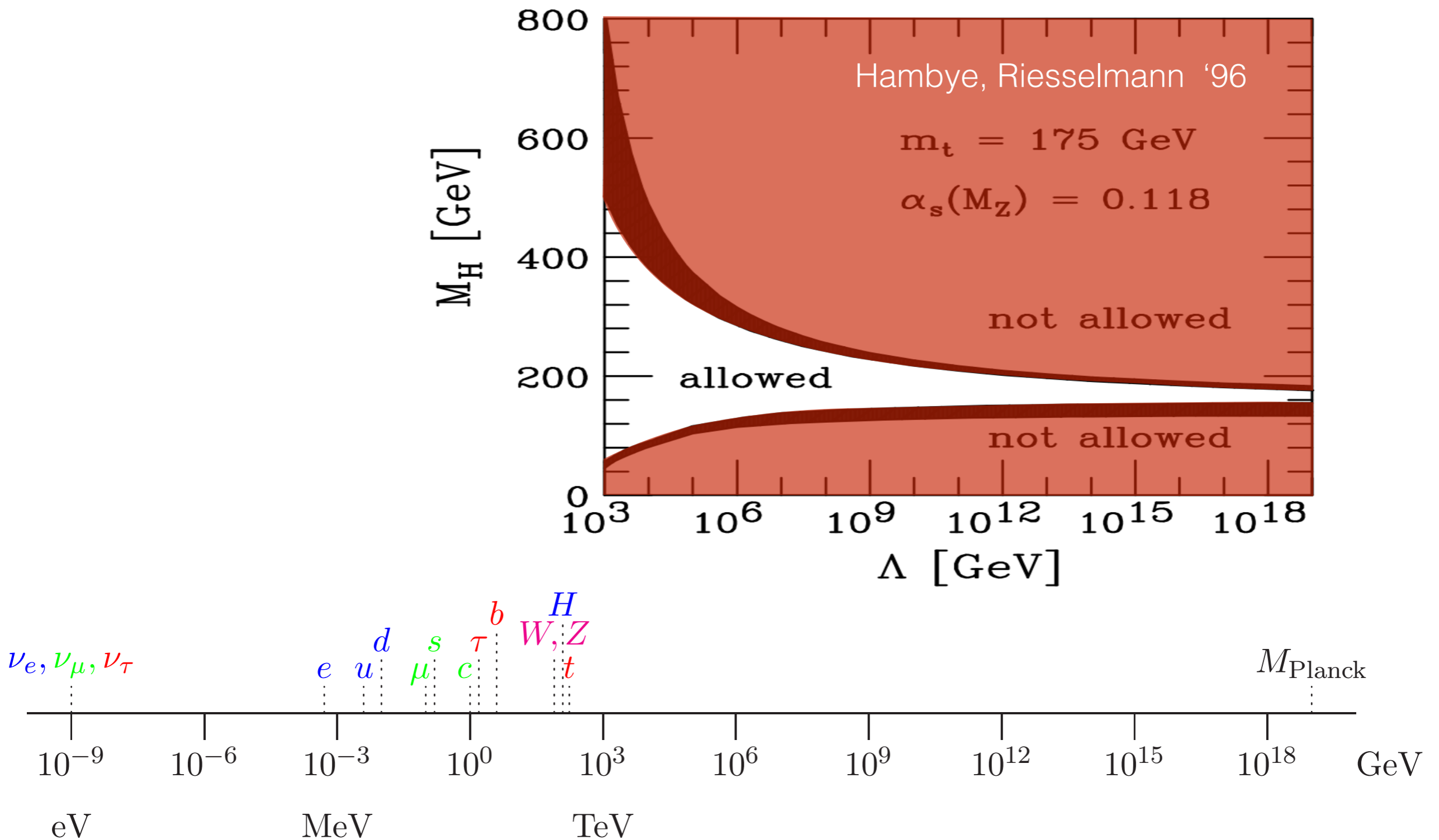




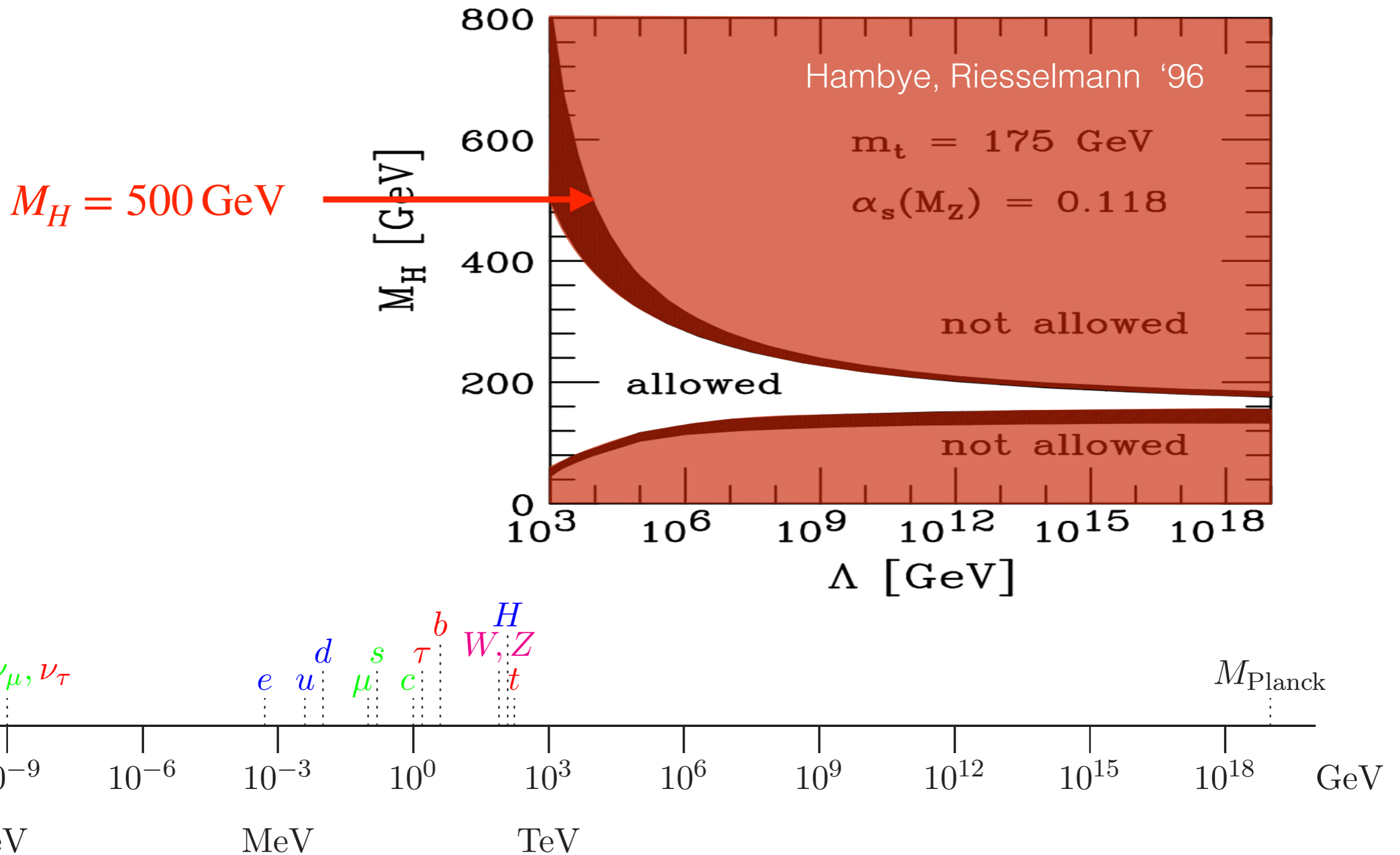
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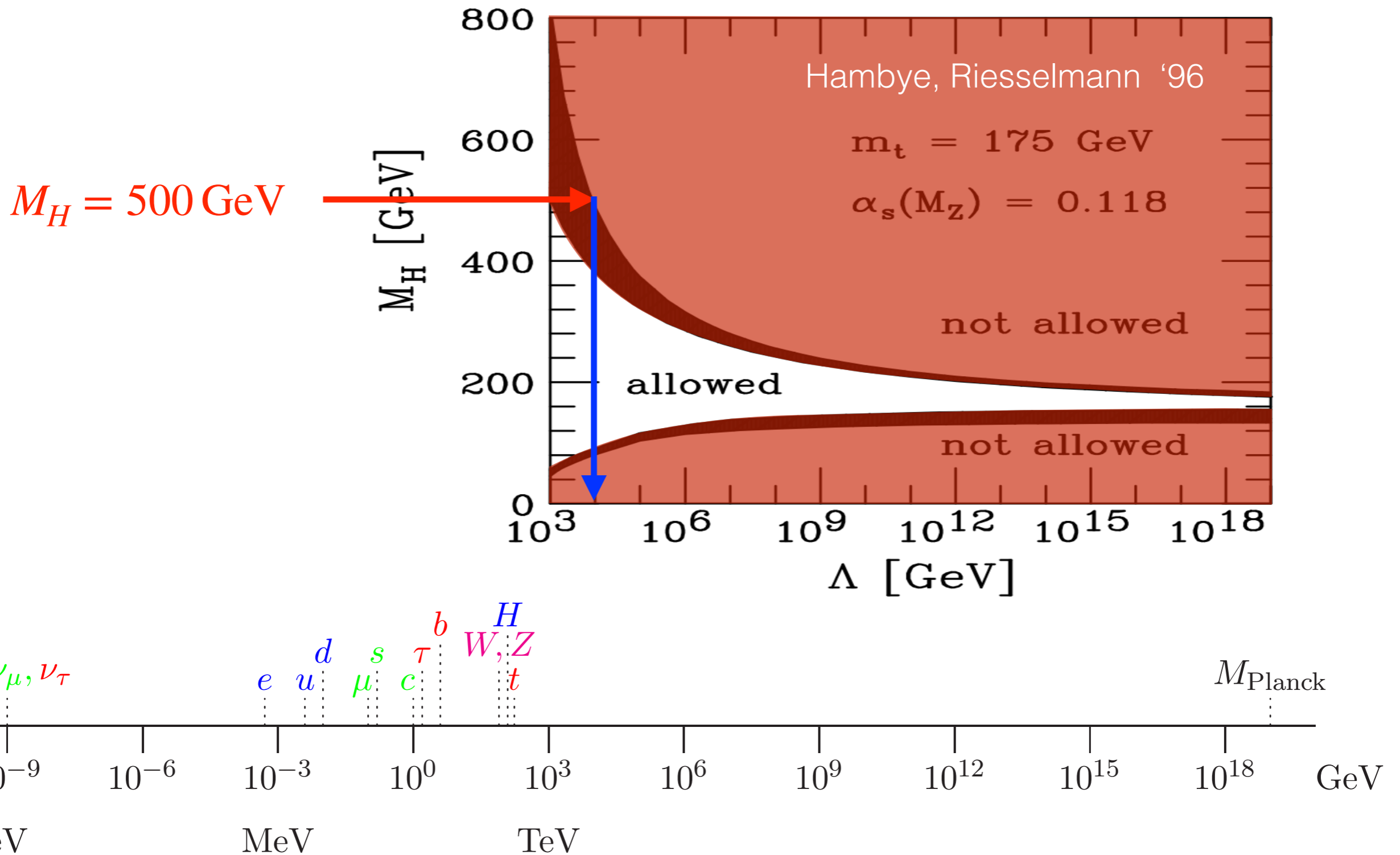
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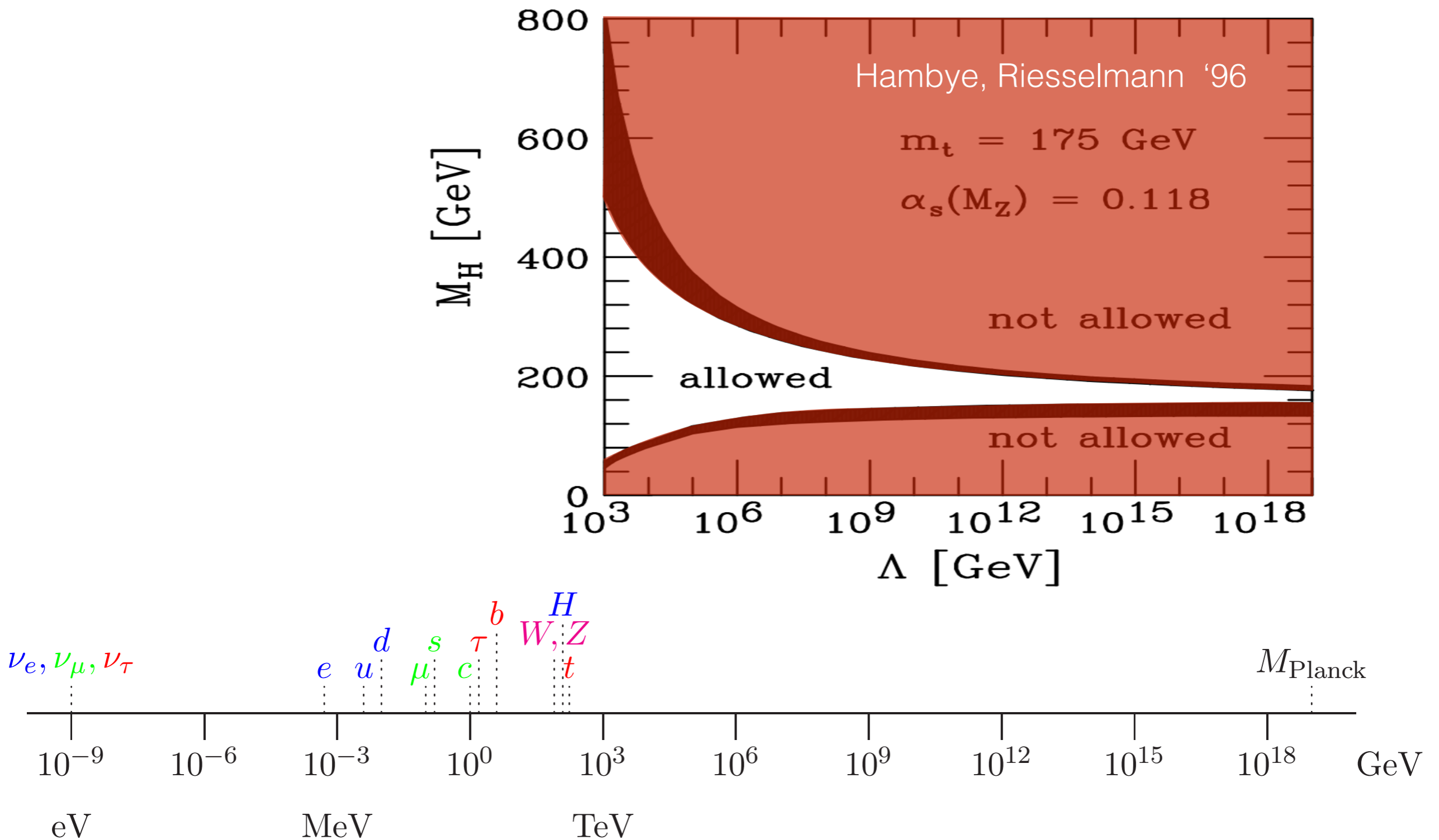
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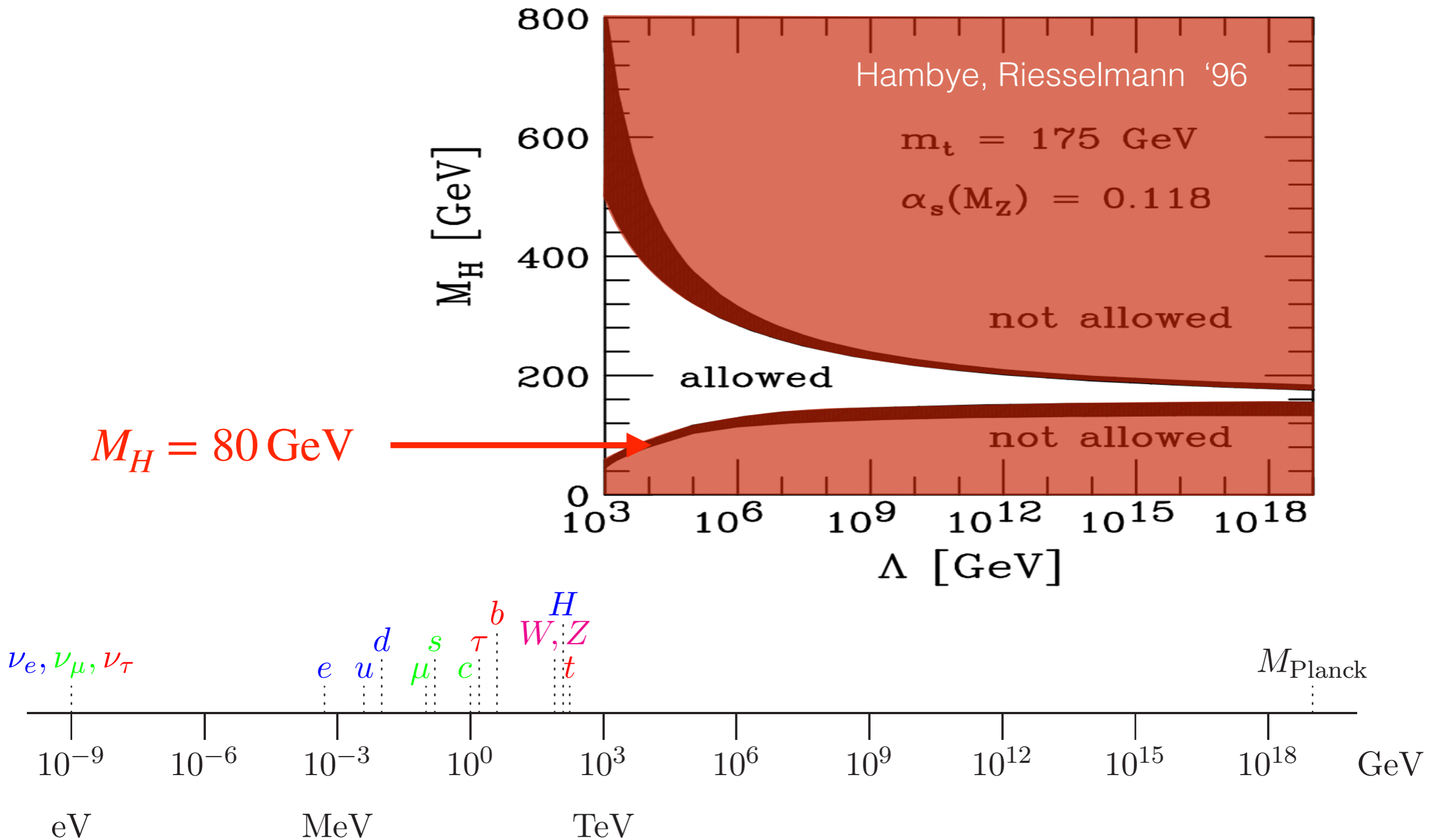
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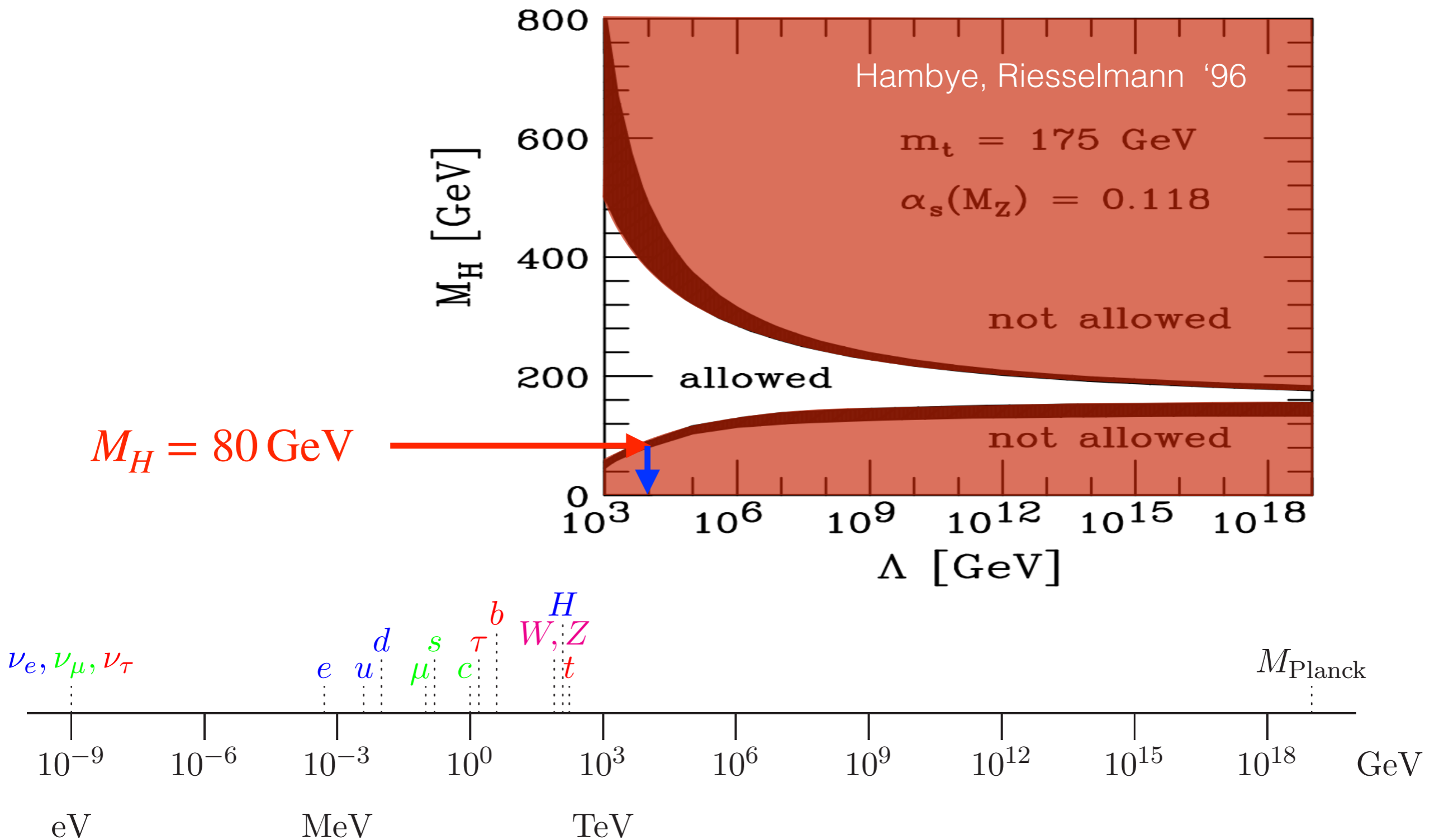
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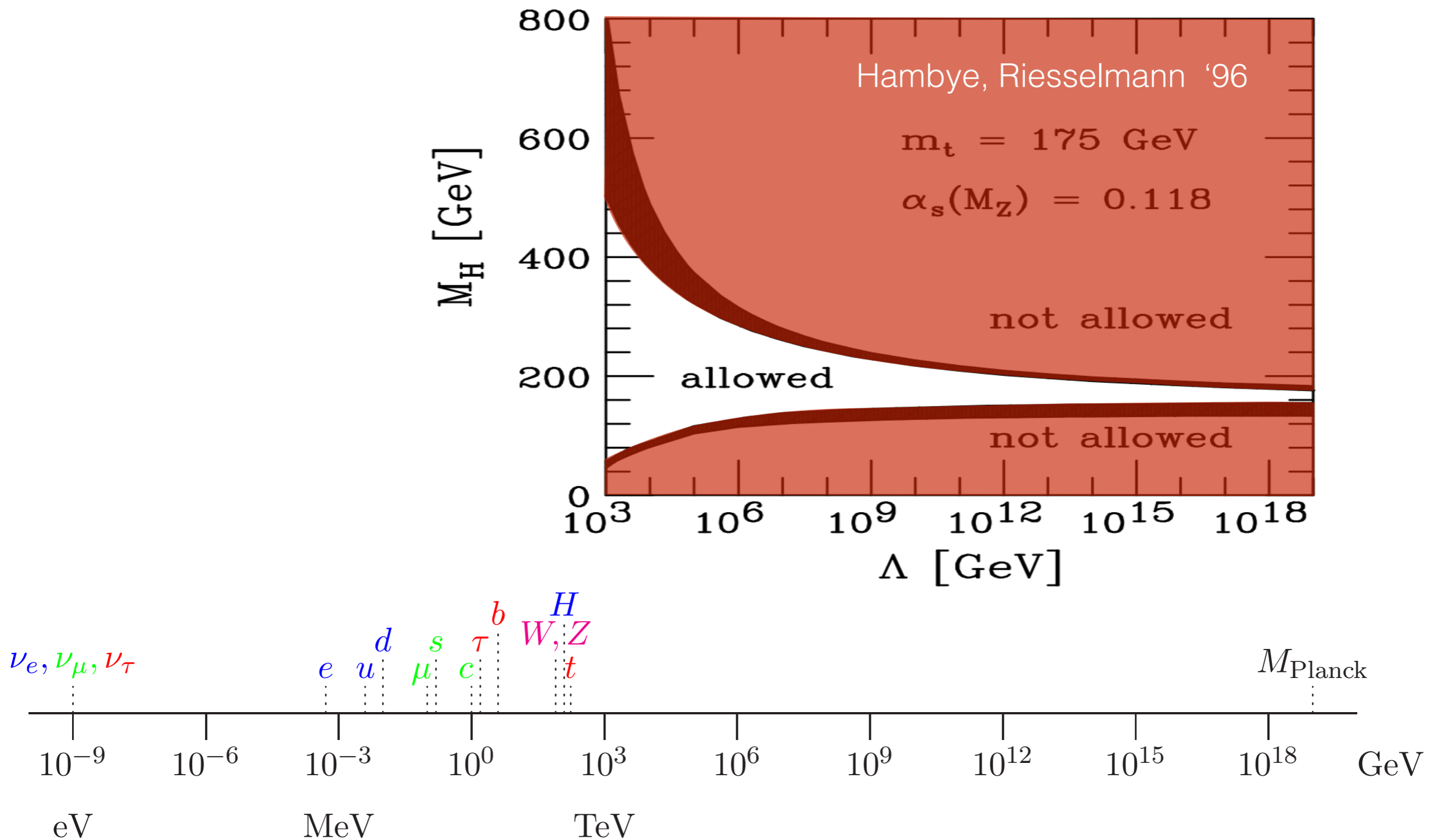
# How far can we go?



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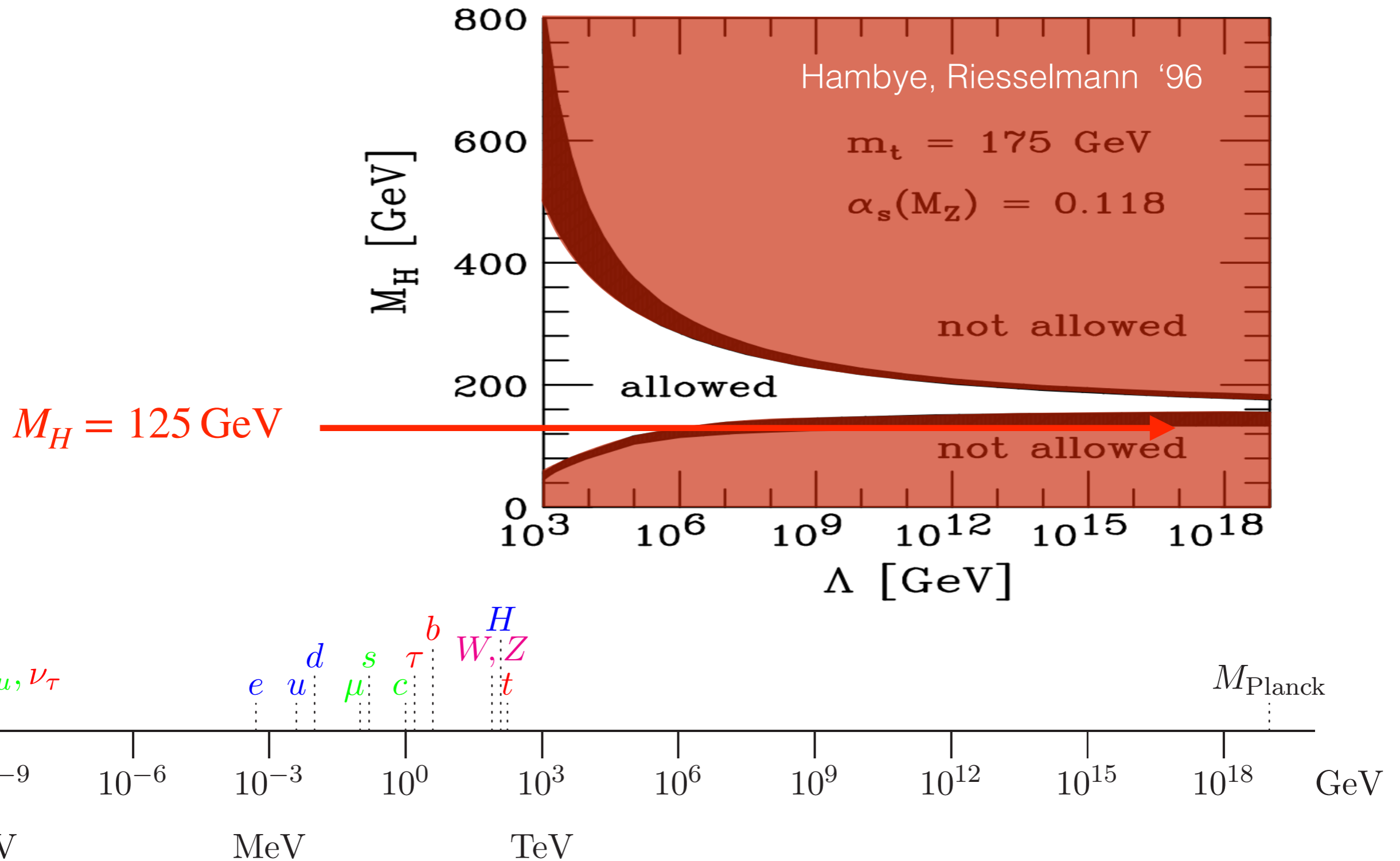


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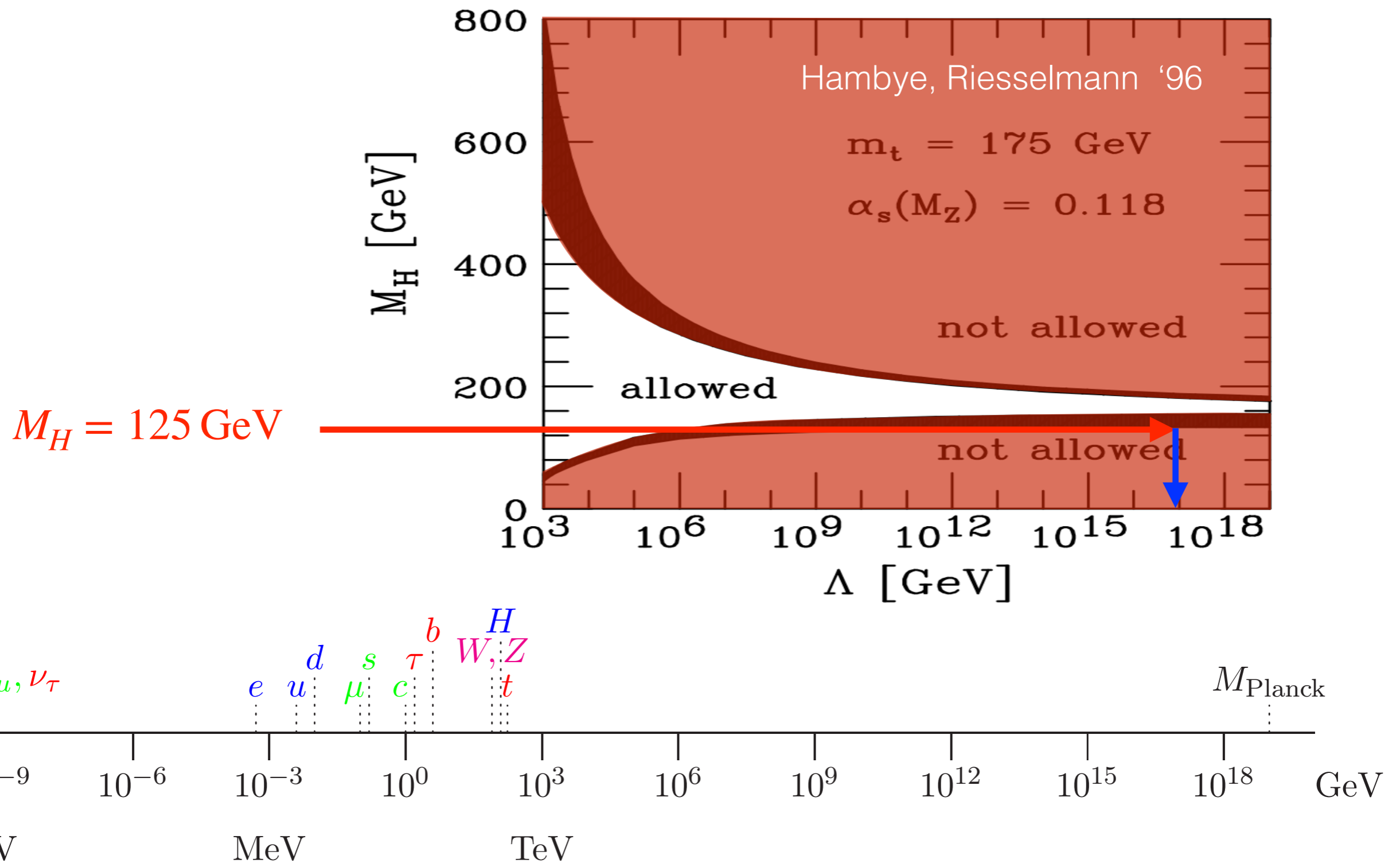




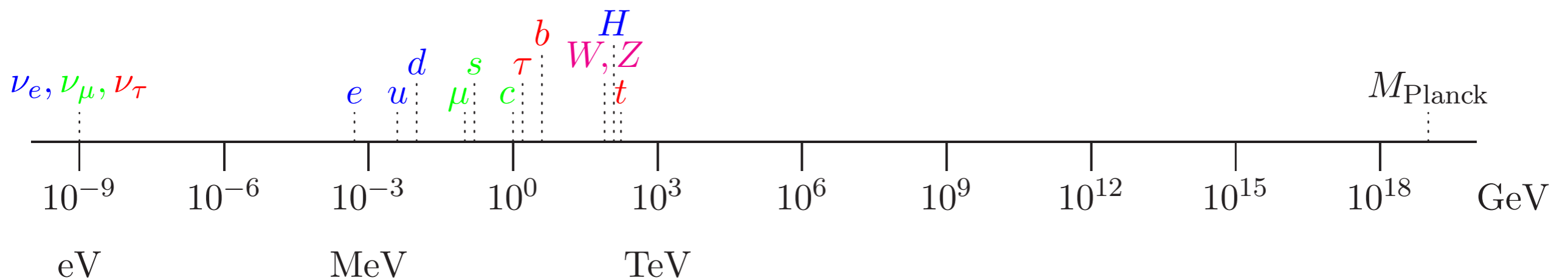
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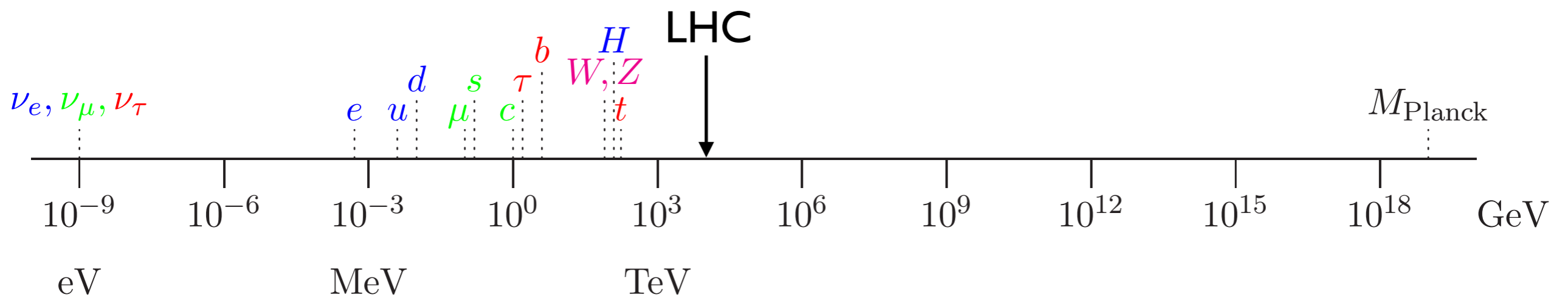
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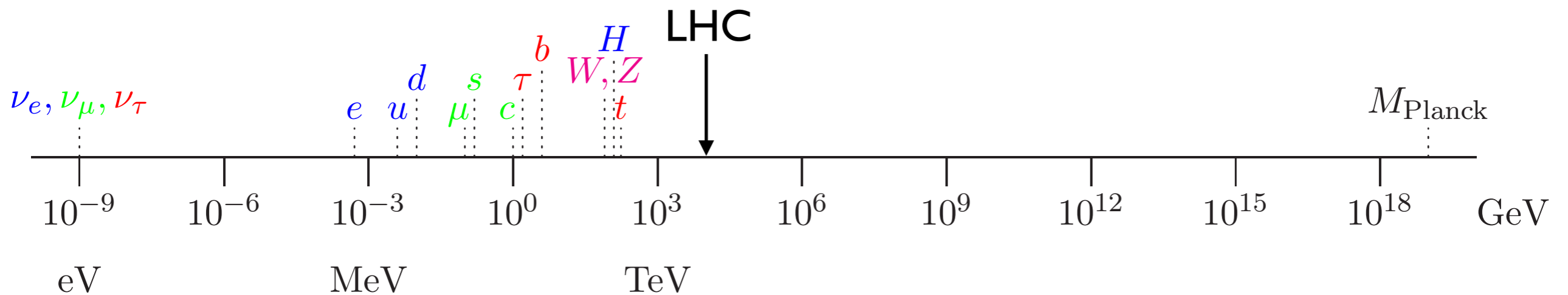
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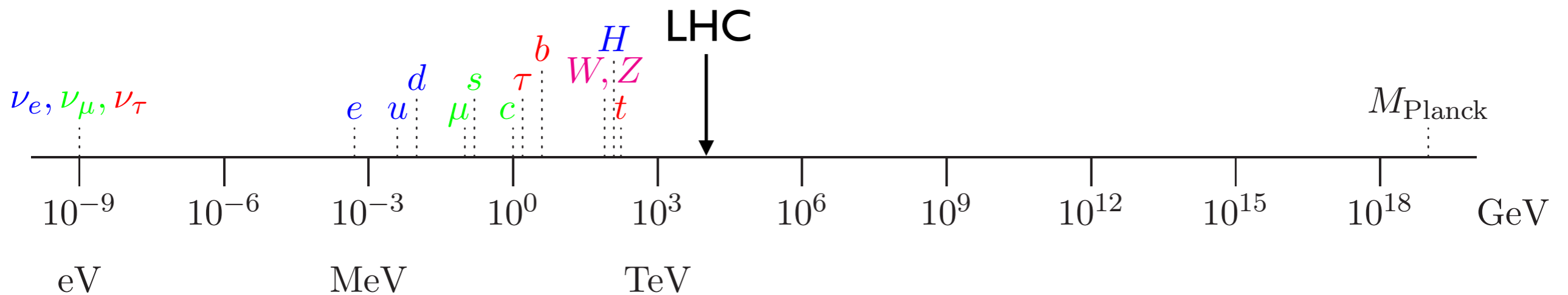
# How far can we go?



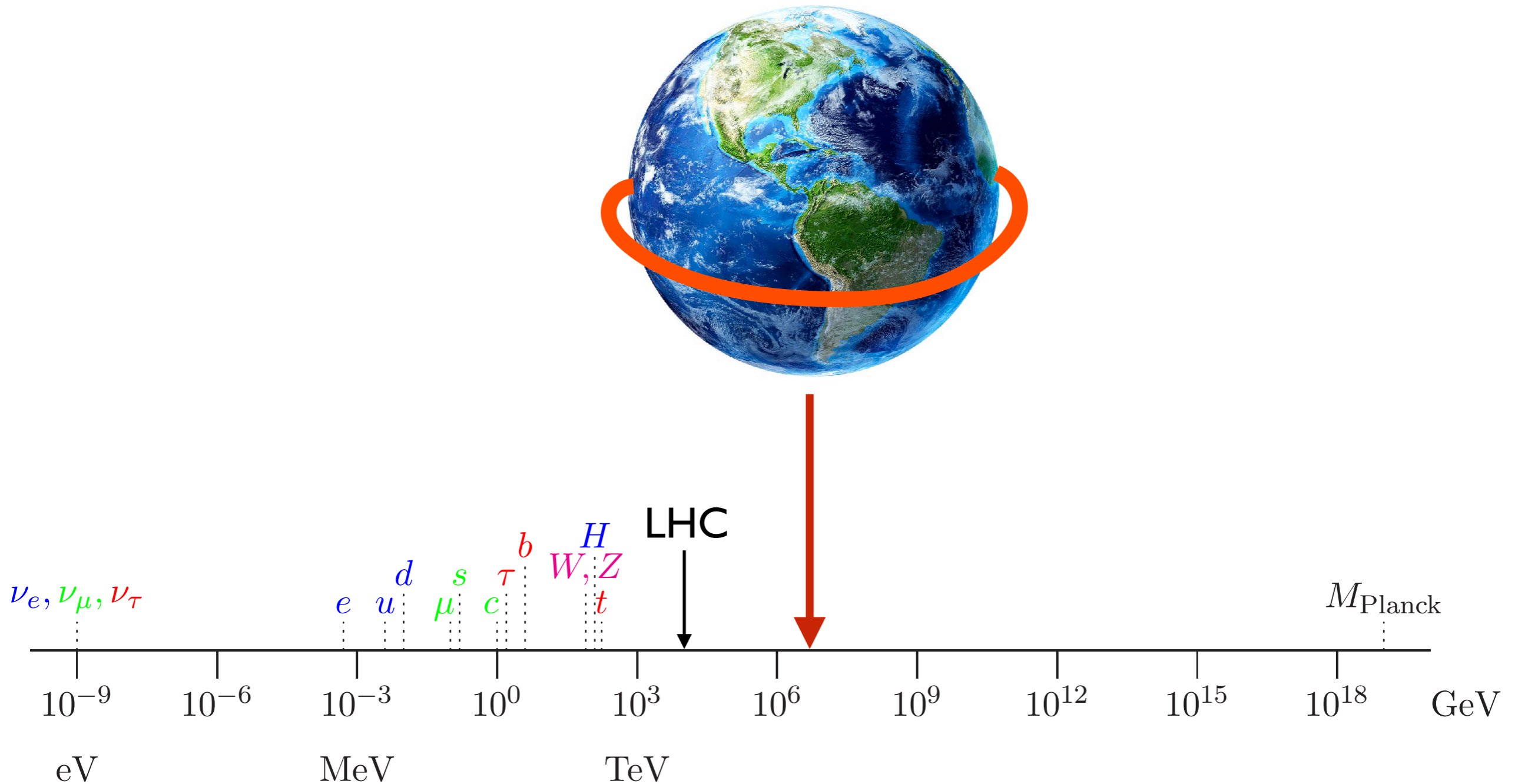
# How far can we go?



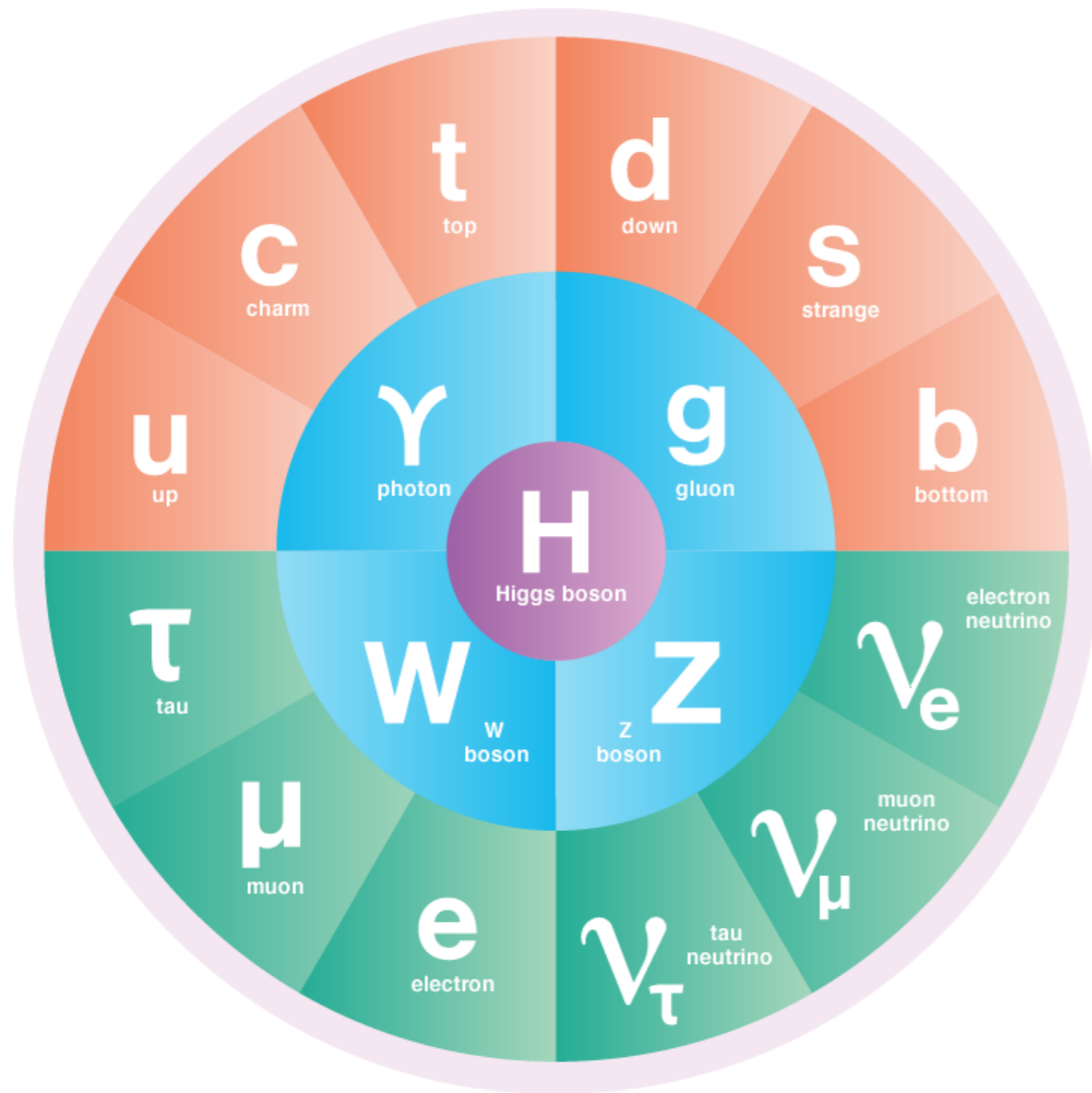
# How far can we go?



# How far can we go?

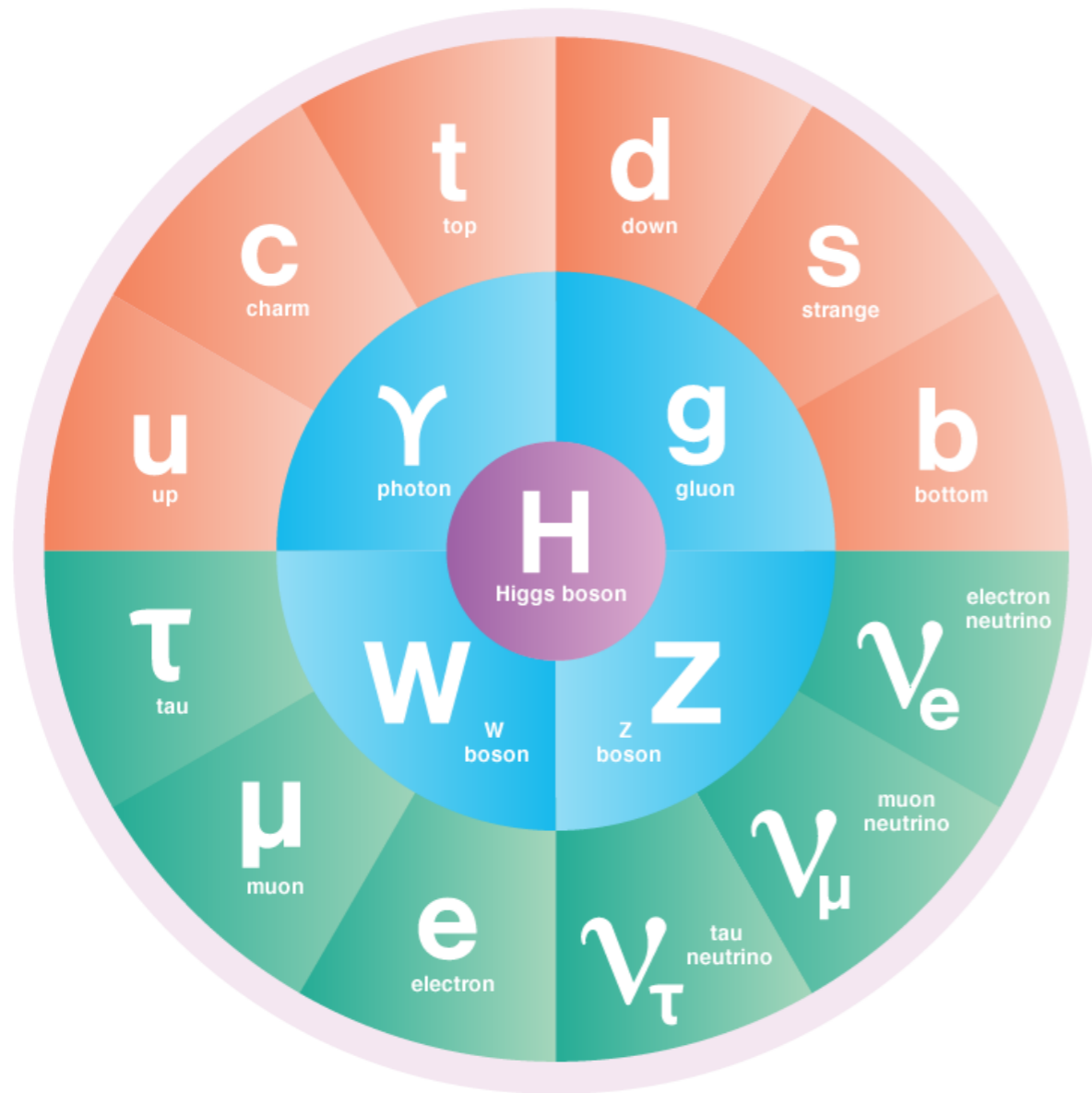


# The future?

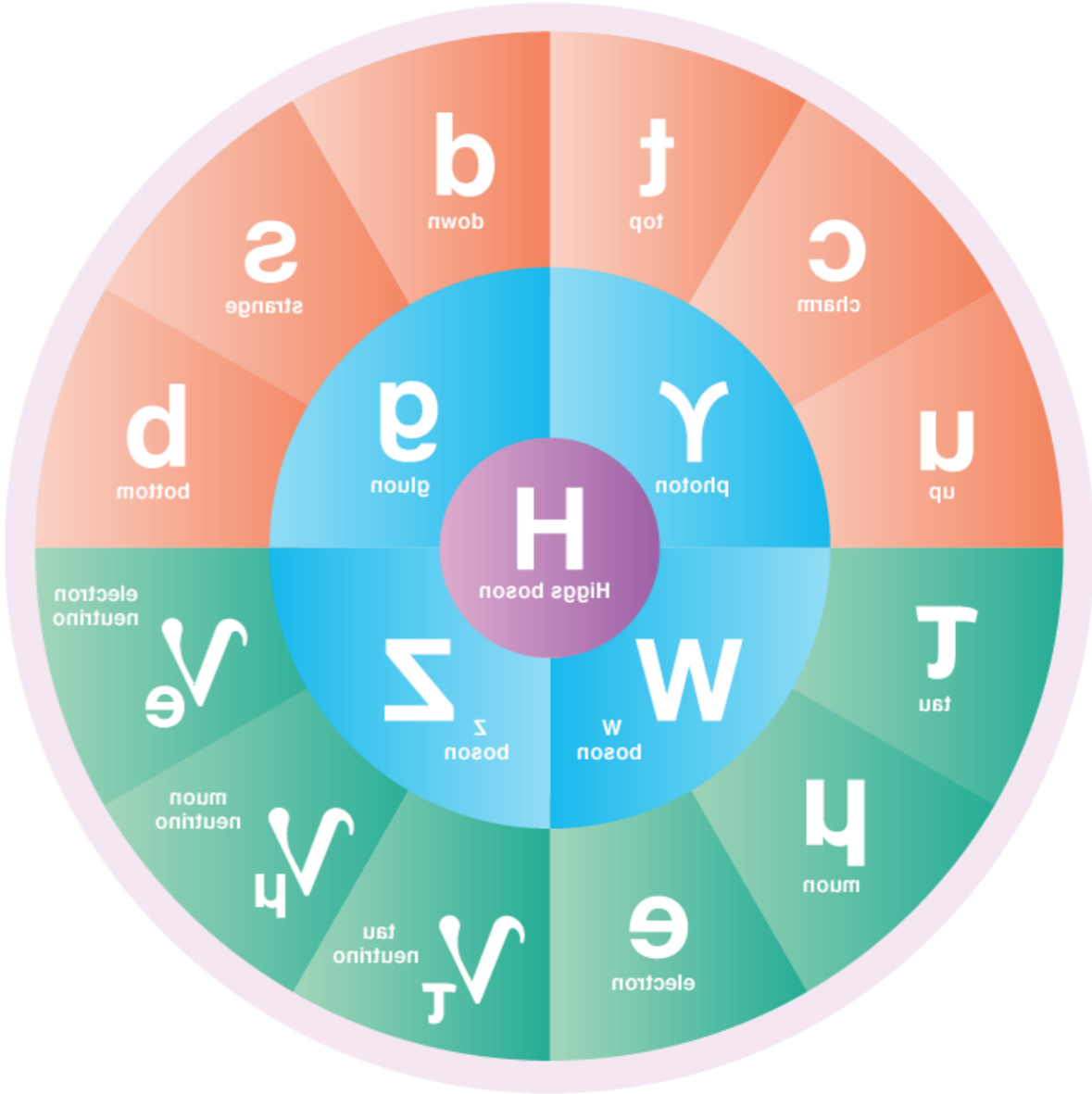
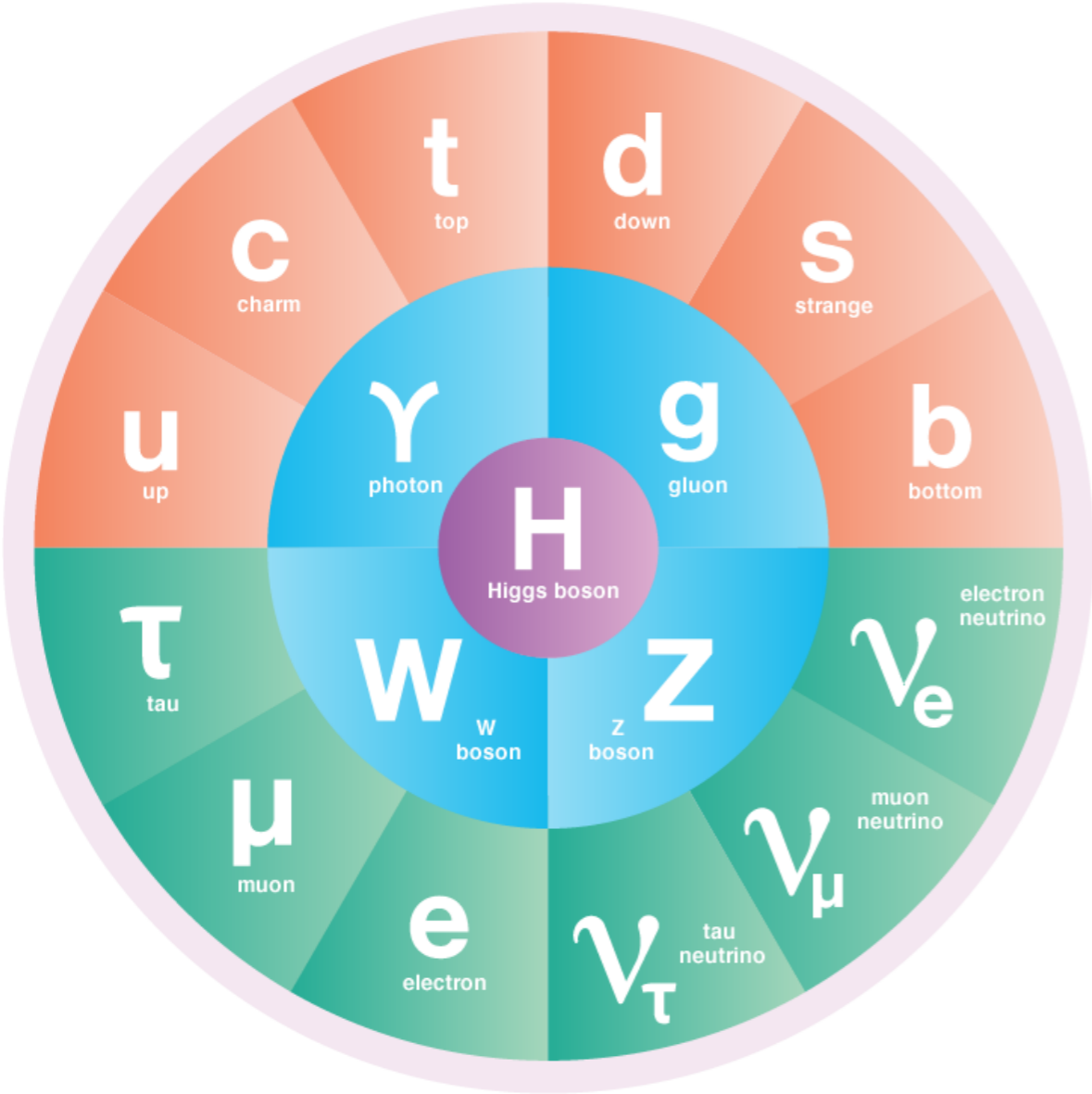




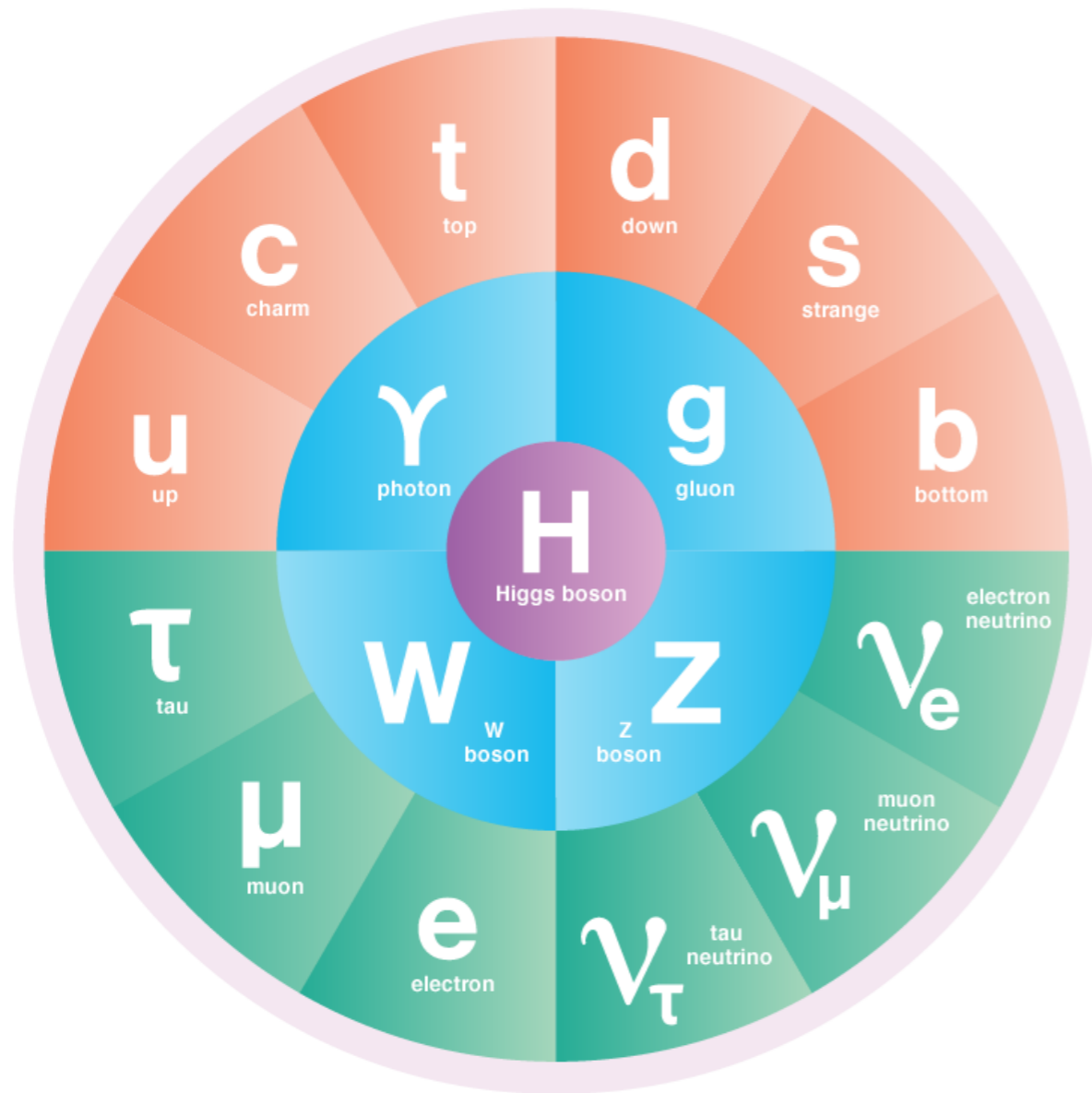
# The future 2010



# The future 2010



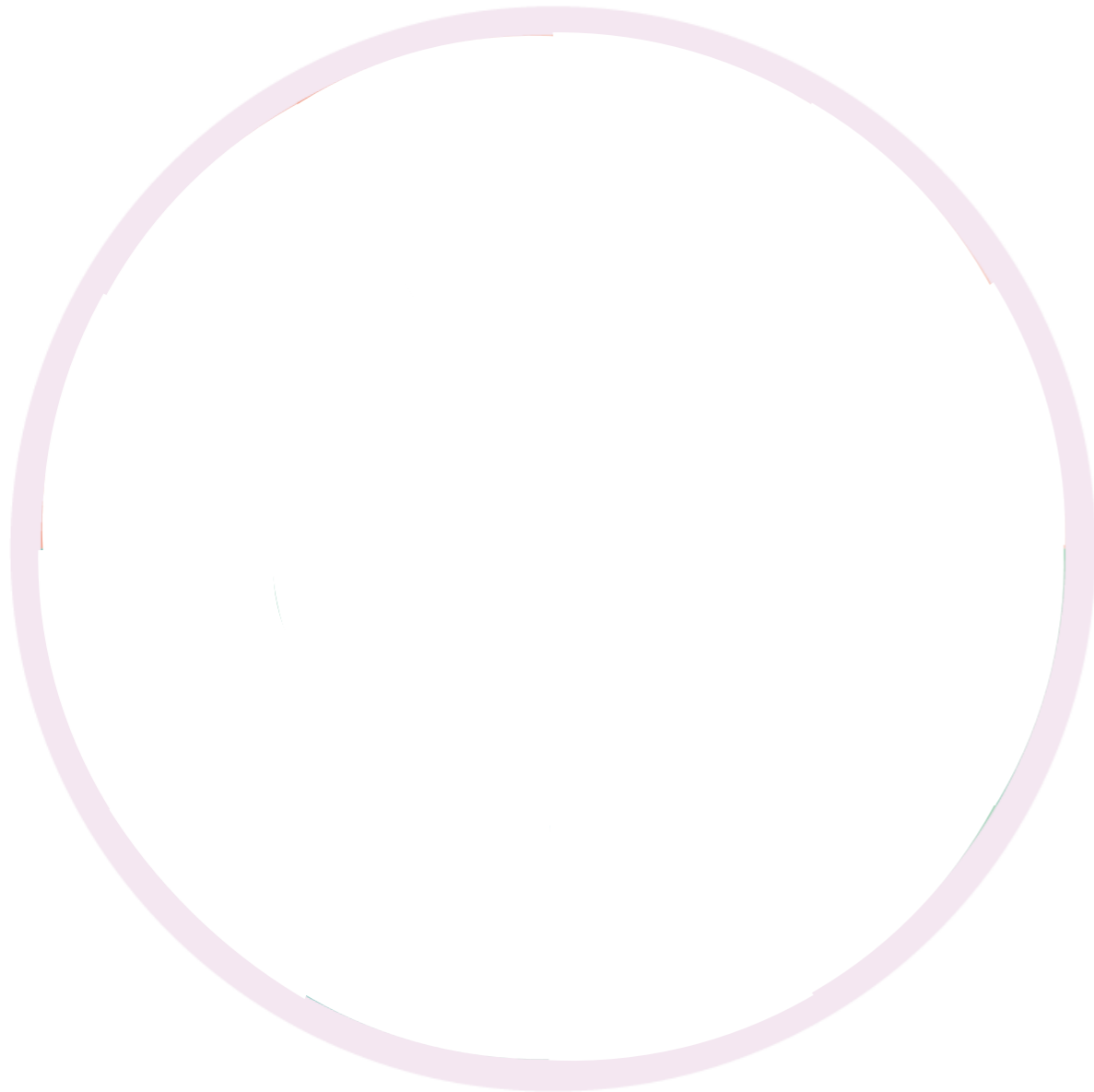
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?

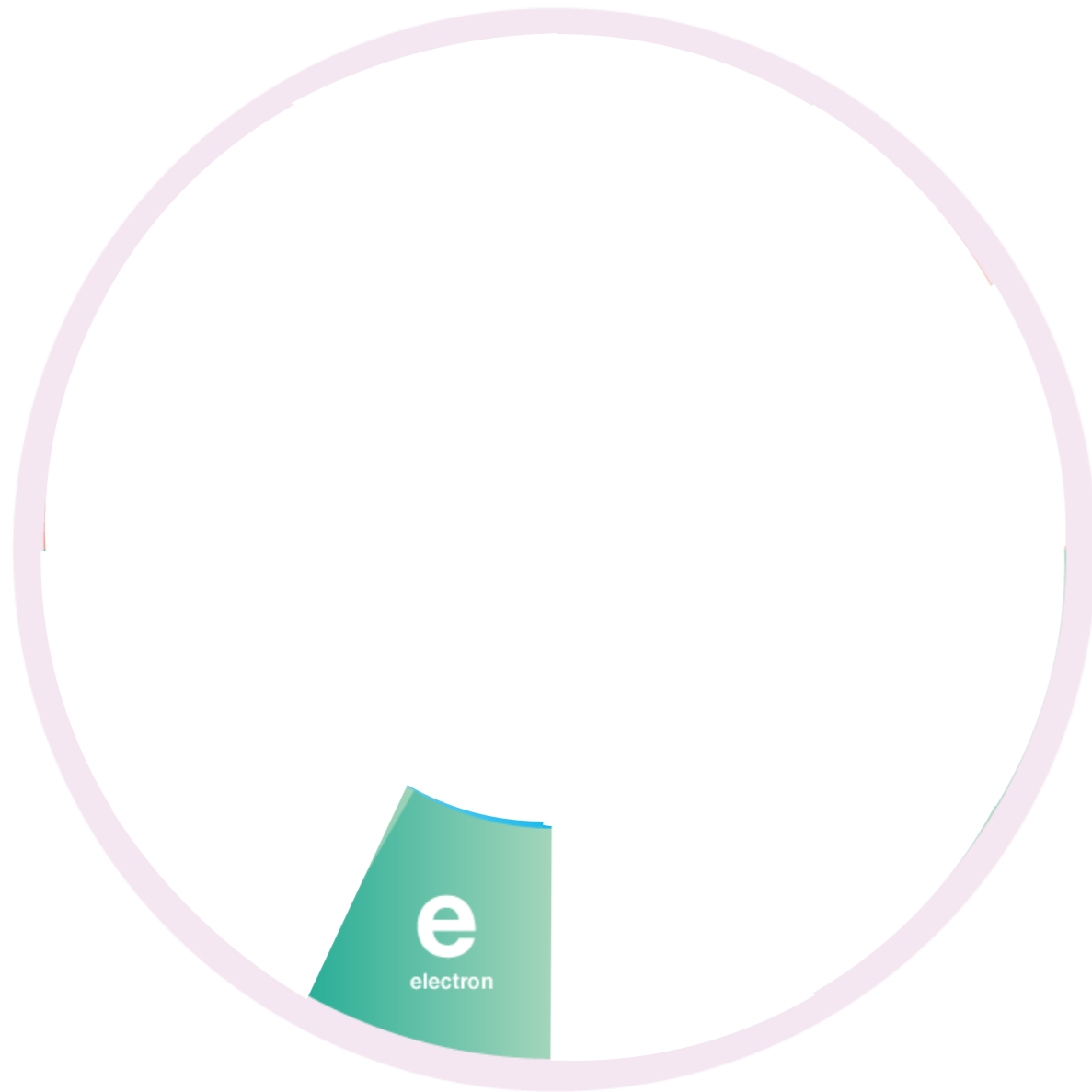
# The past

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# Electron

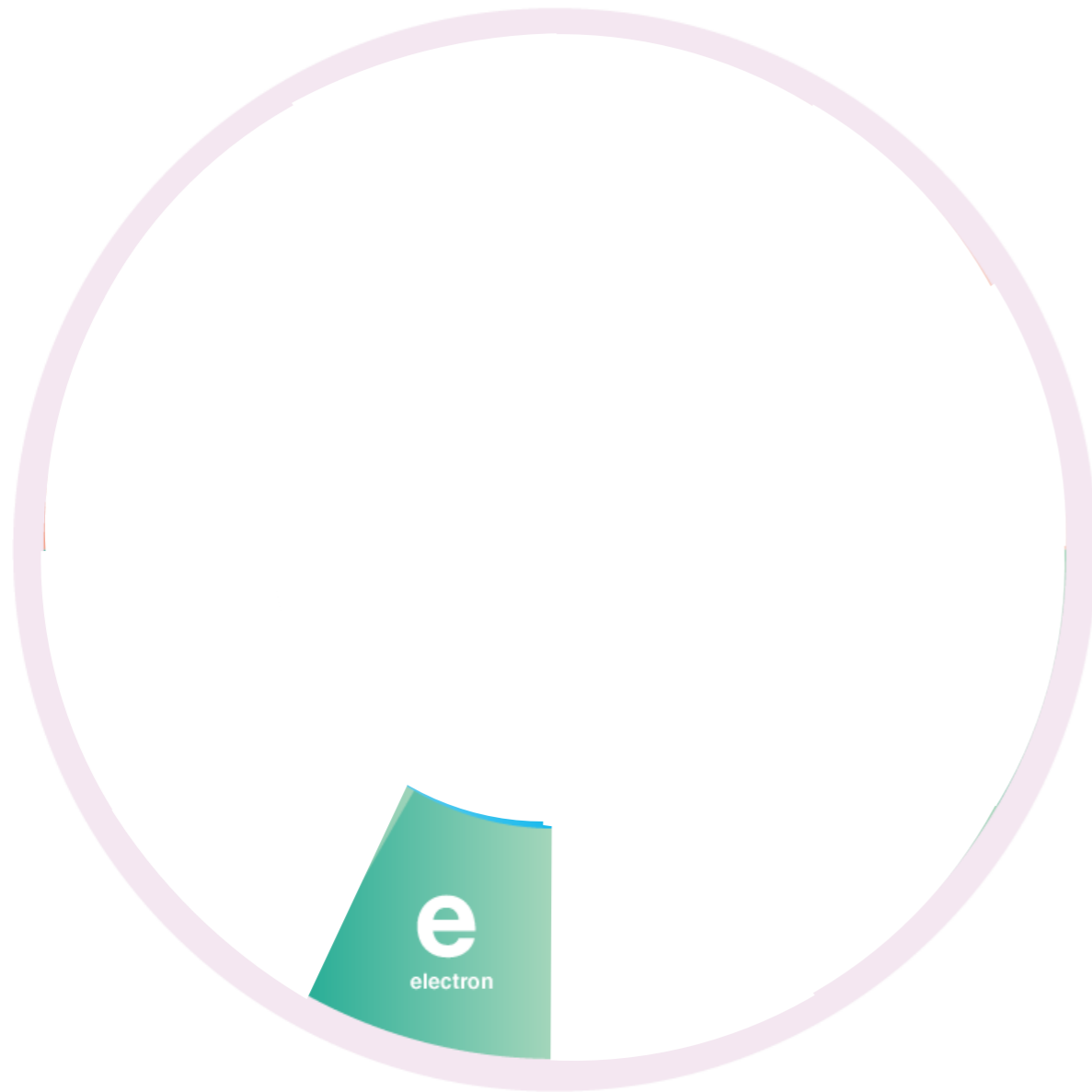
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# Electron

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1897 Thomson



# Electron

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Thomson did not “see” electrons.

# Electron

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Thomson did not “see” electrons.

He **understood** what cathode rays are.

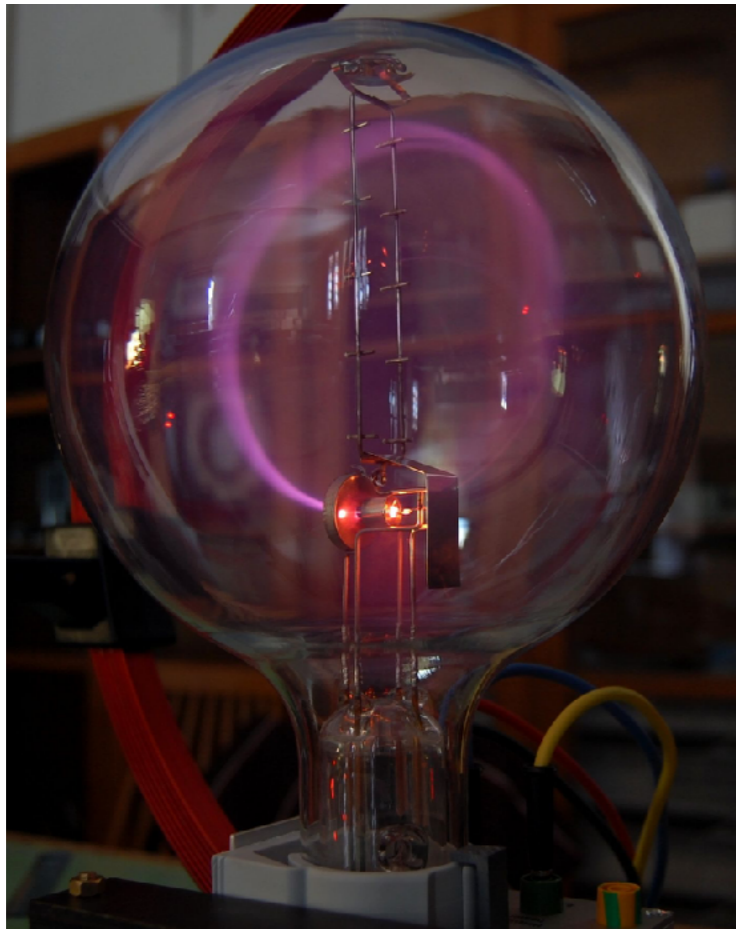




# Electron

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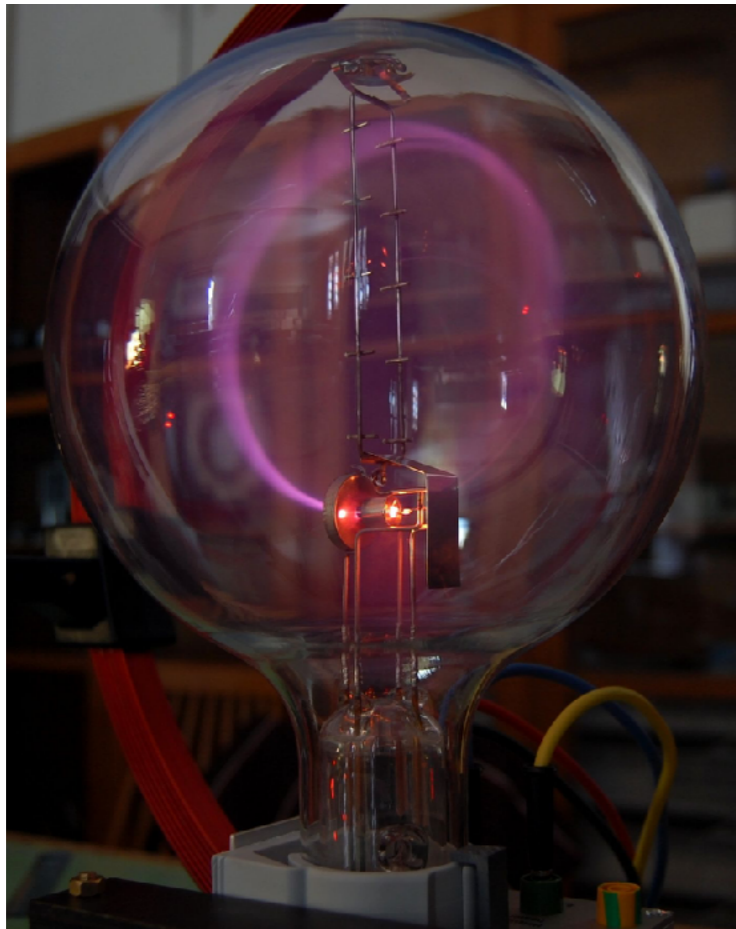


$$\vec{F} = q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$

# Electron

Thomson did not “see” electrons.

He **understood** what cathode rays are.



$$\vec{F} = q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B})$$

As the cathode rays carry a charge of negative electricity, are deflected by an electrostatic force as if they were negatively electrified, and are acted on by a magnetic force in just the way in which this force would act on a negatively electrified body moving along the path of these rays, **I can see no escape from the conclusion that they are charges of negative electricity carried by particles of matter.**

Thomson 1897

# Atoms

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500 BC: Democritus

ca. 1810: Dalton

# Atoms

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500 BC: Democritus

ca. 1810: Dalton

→ classical particle: discrete and localizable

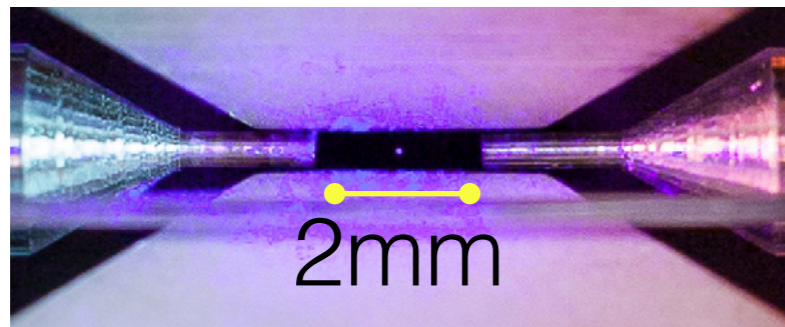
# Atoms

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500 BC: Democritus

ca. 1810: Dalton

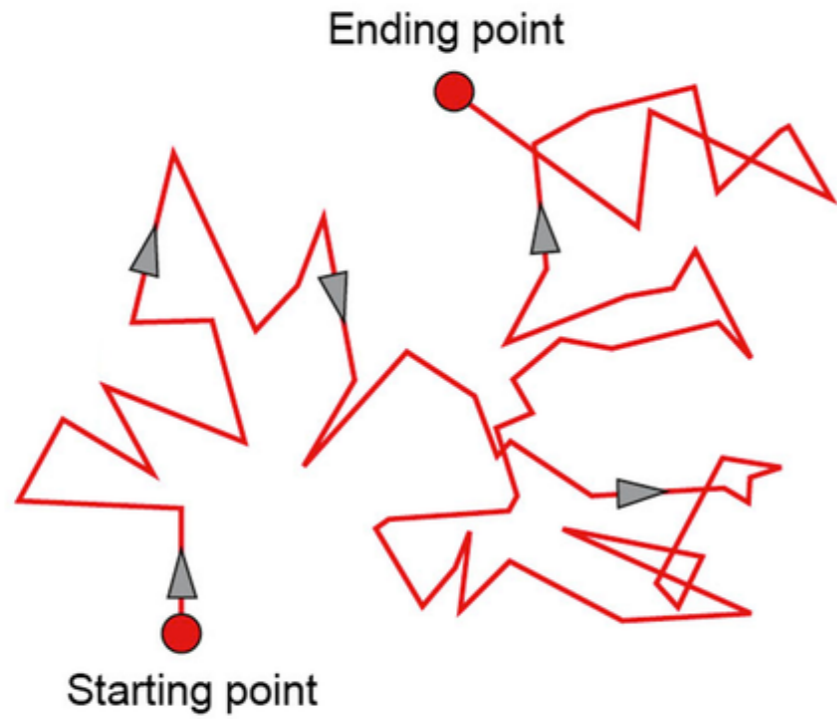
→ classical particle: discrete and localizable



Nadlinger 2018

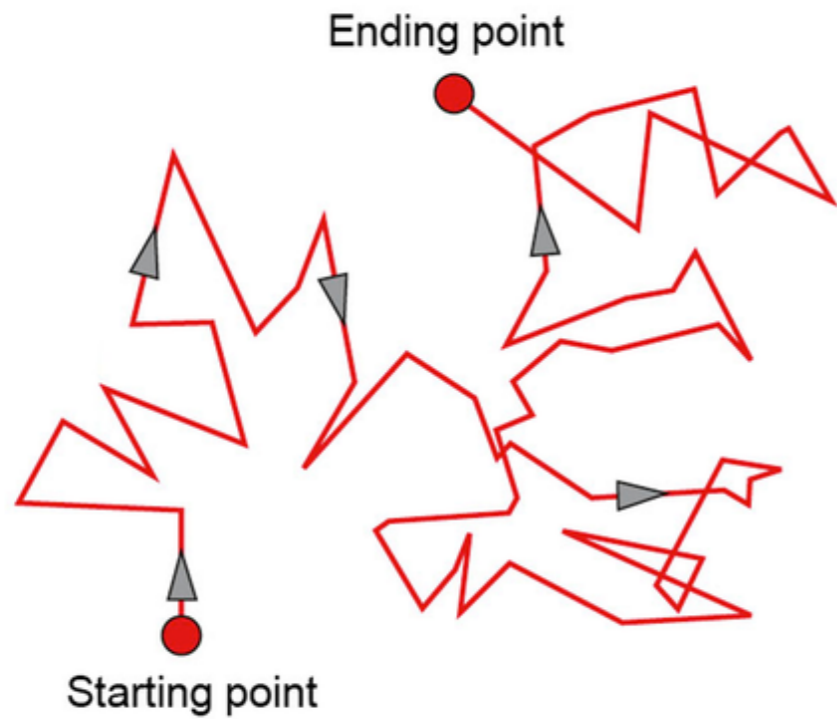
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# Observing atoms

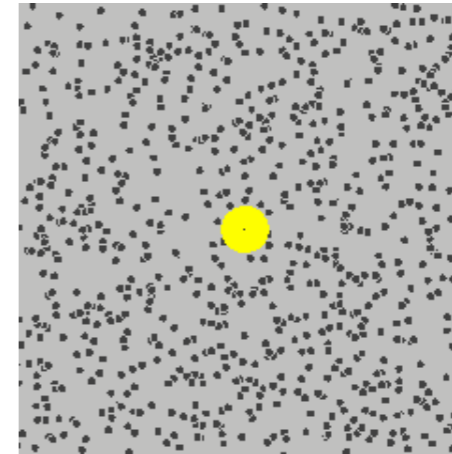


Brown 1827

# Observing atoms

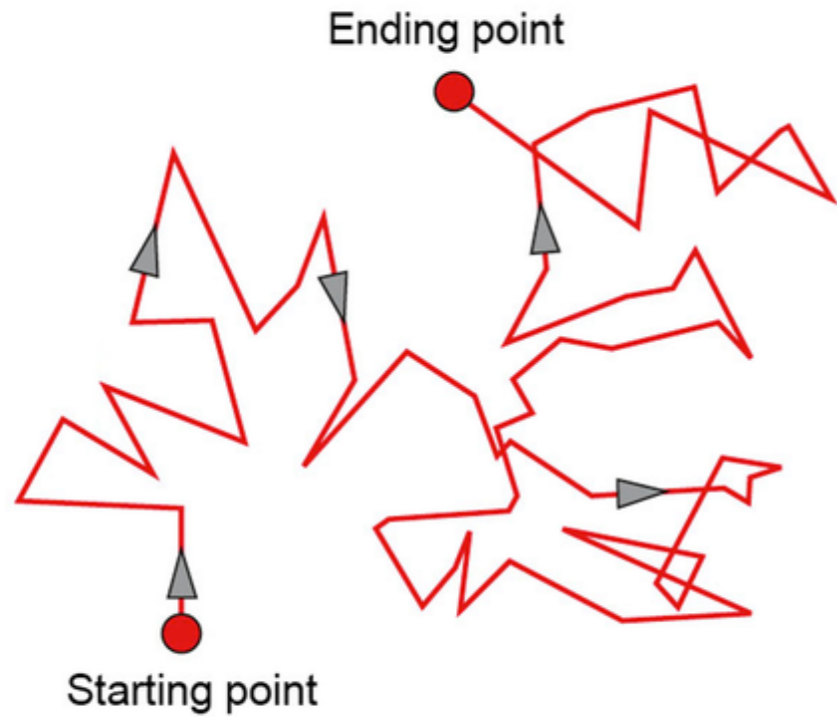


Brown 1827

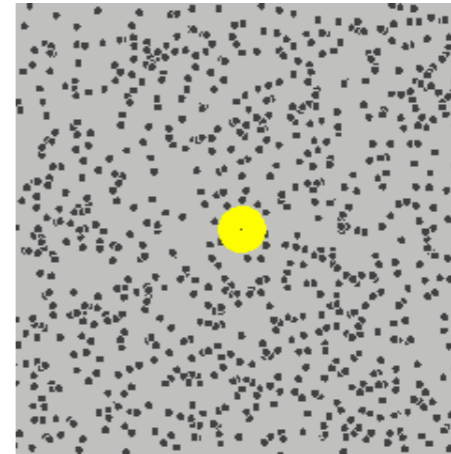


Einstein 1905

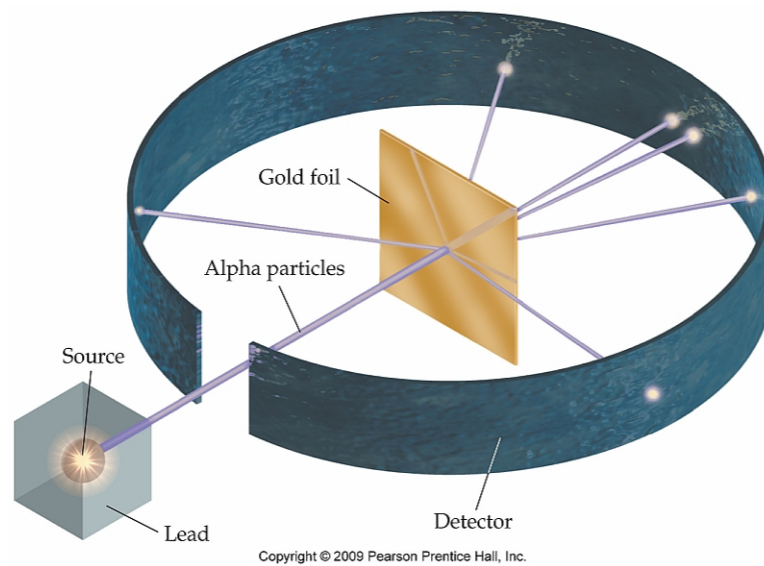
# Observing atoms



Brown 1827



Einstein 1905



Rutherford 1909  
Geiger, Marsden



# Photon

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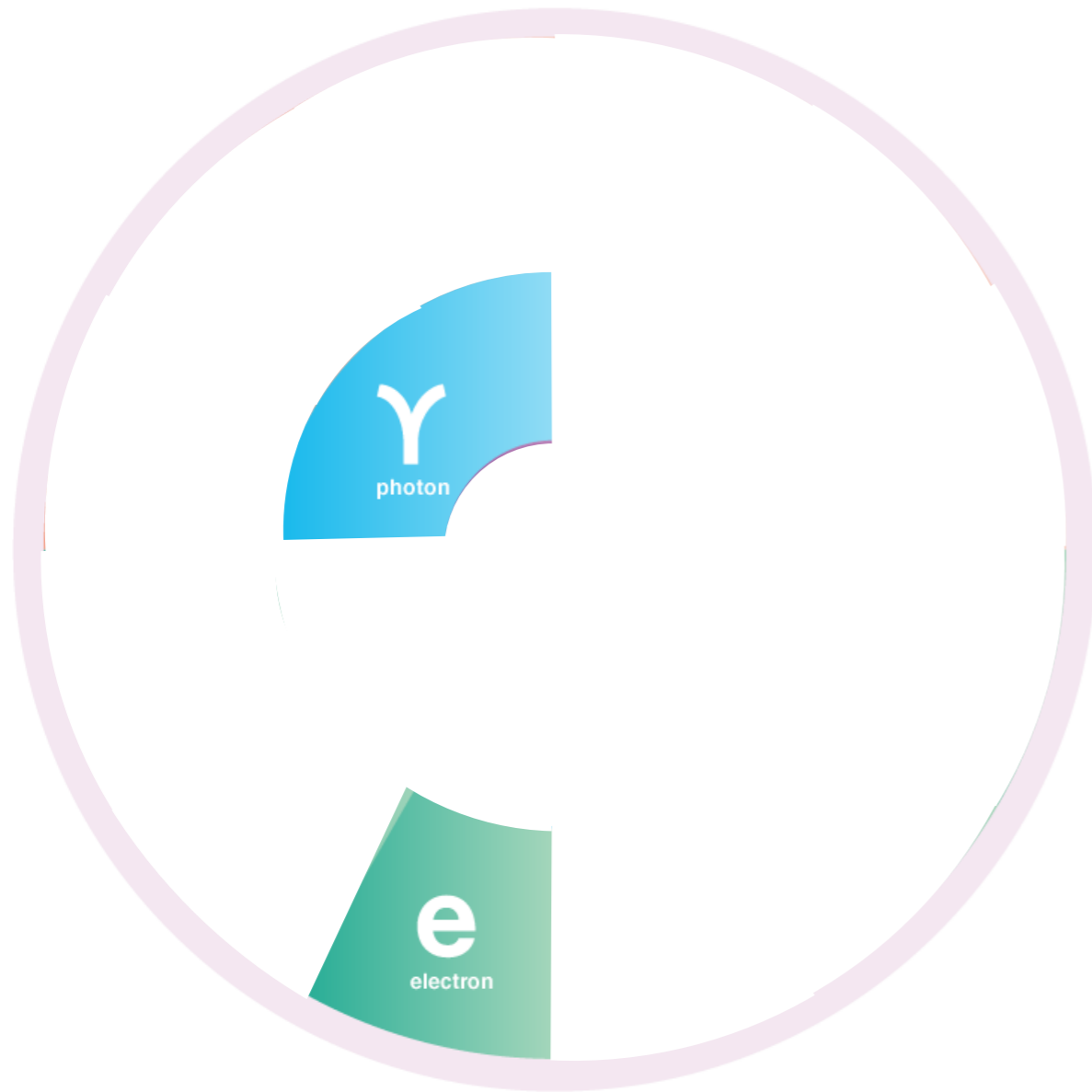
1897



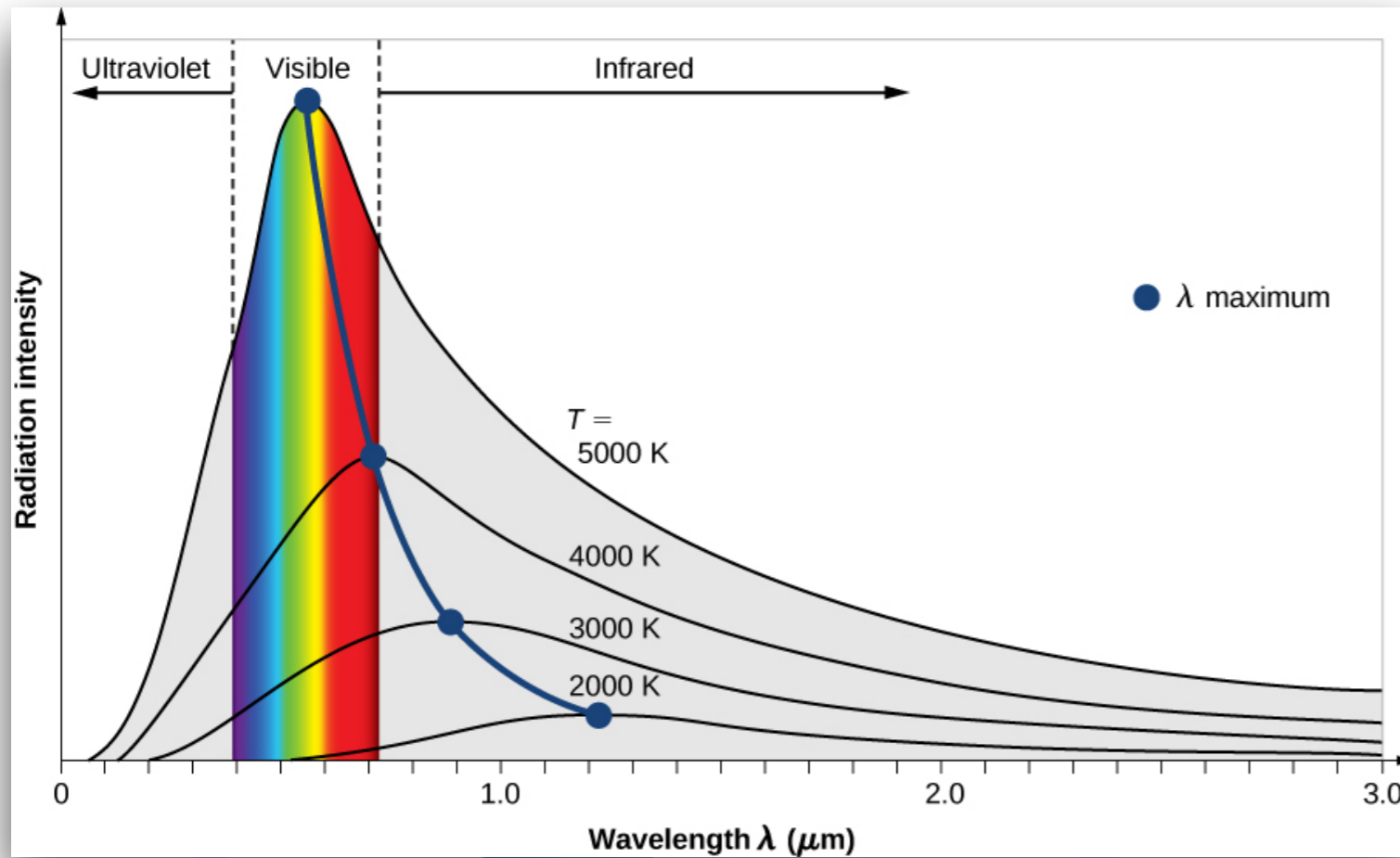
# Photon

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1897

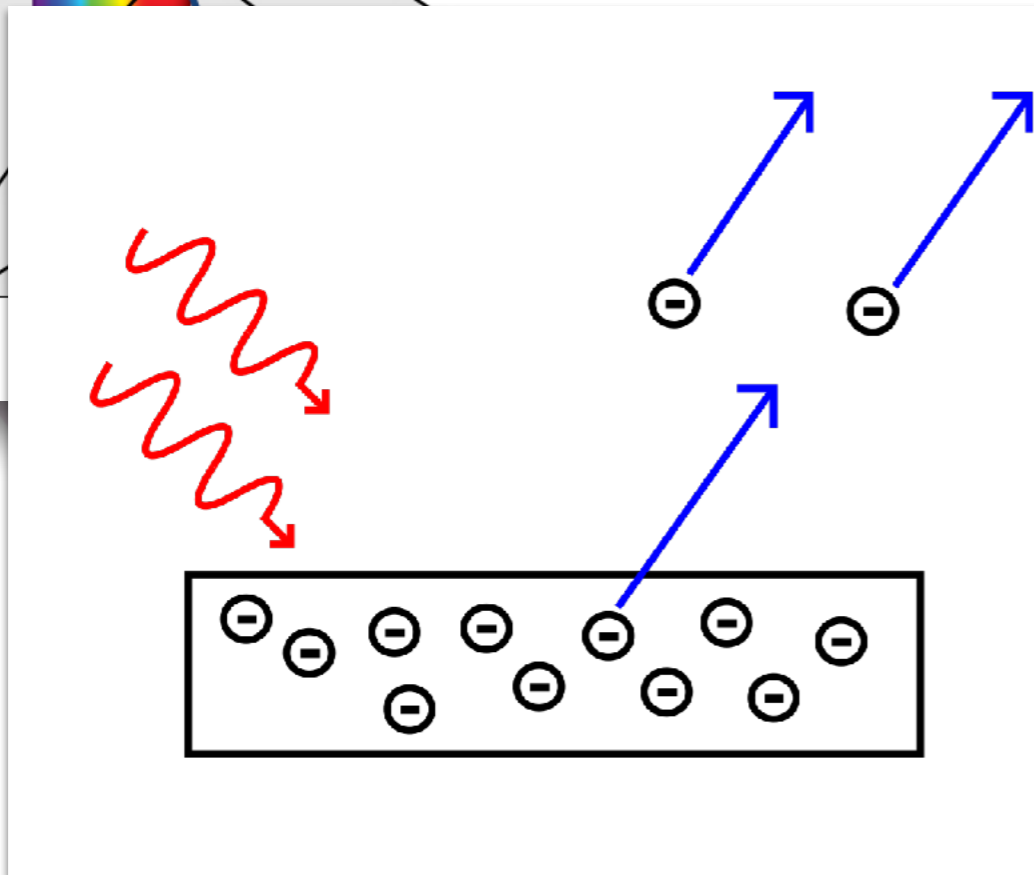
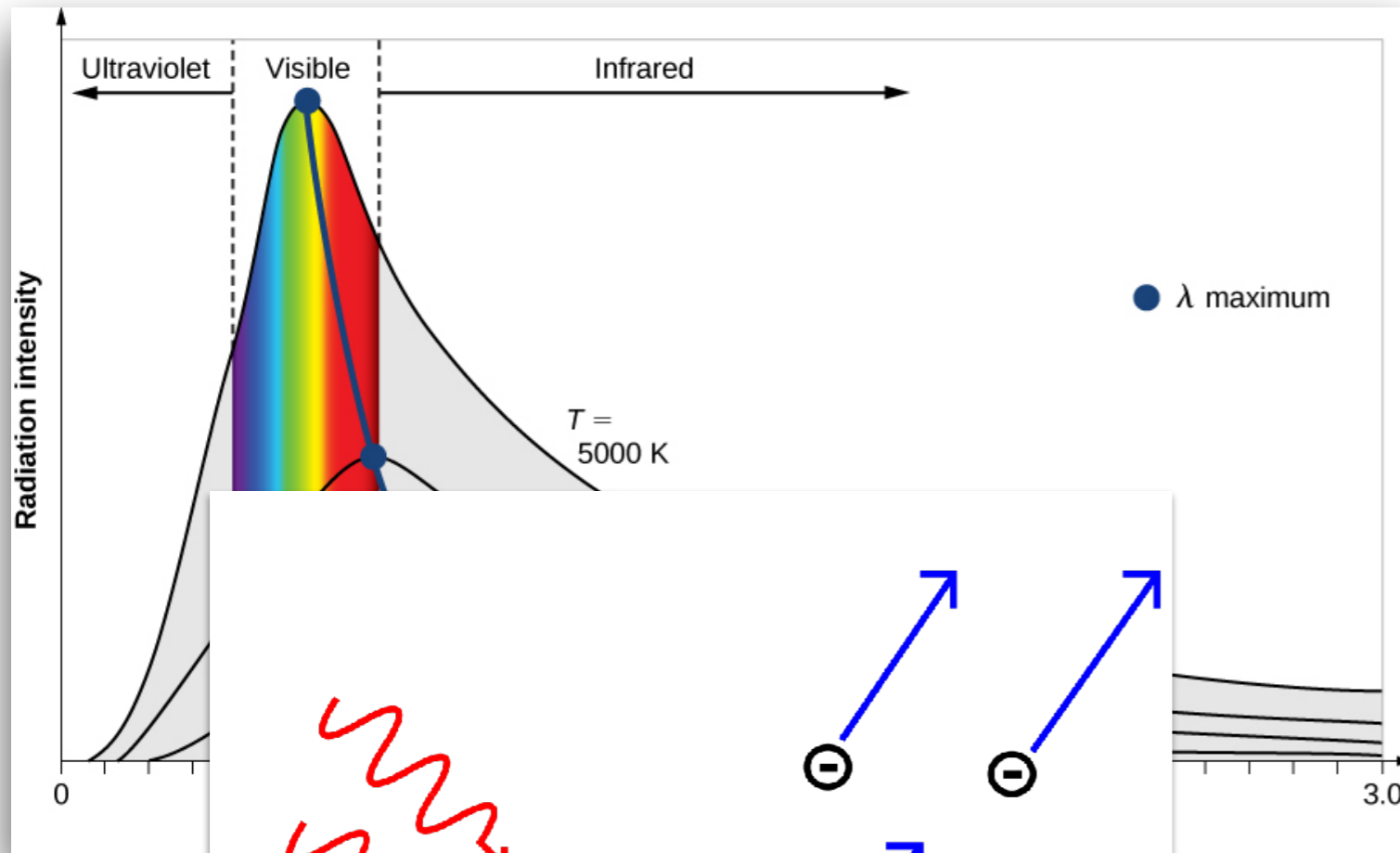


# Photon



1897  
1900 Planck

# Photon

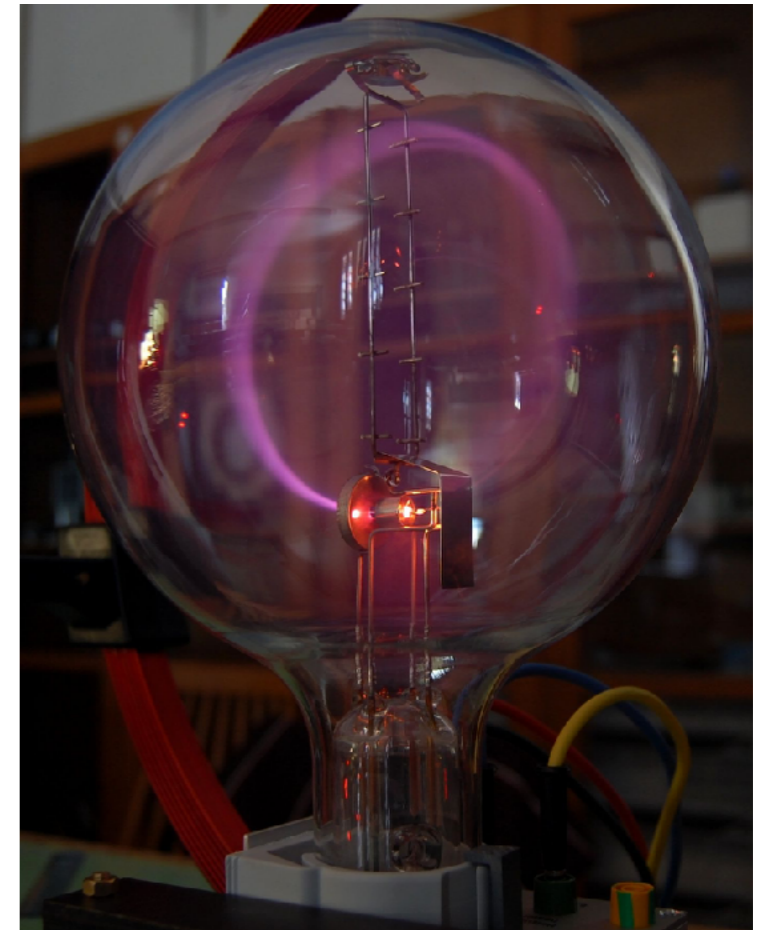
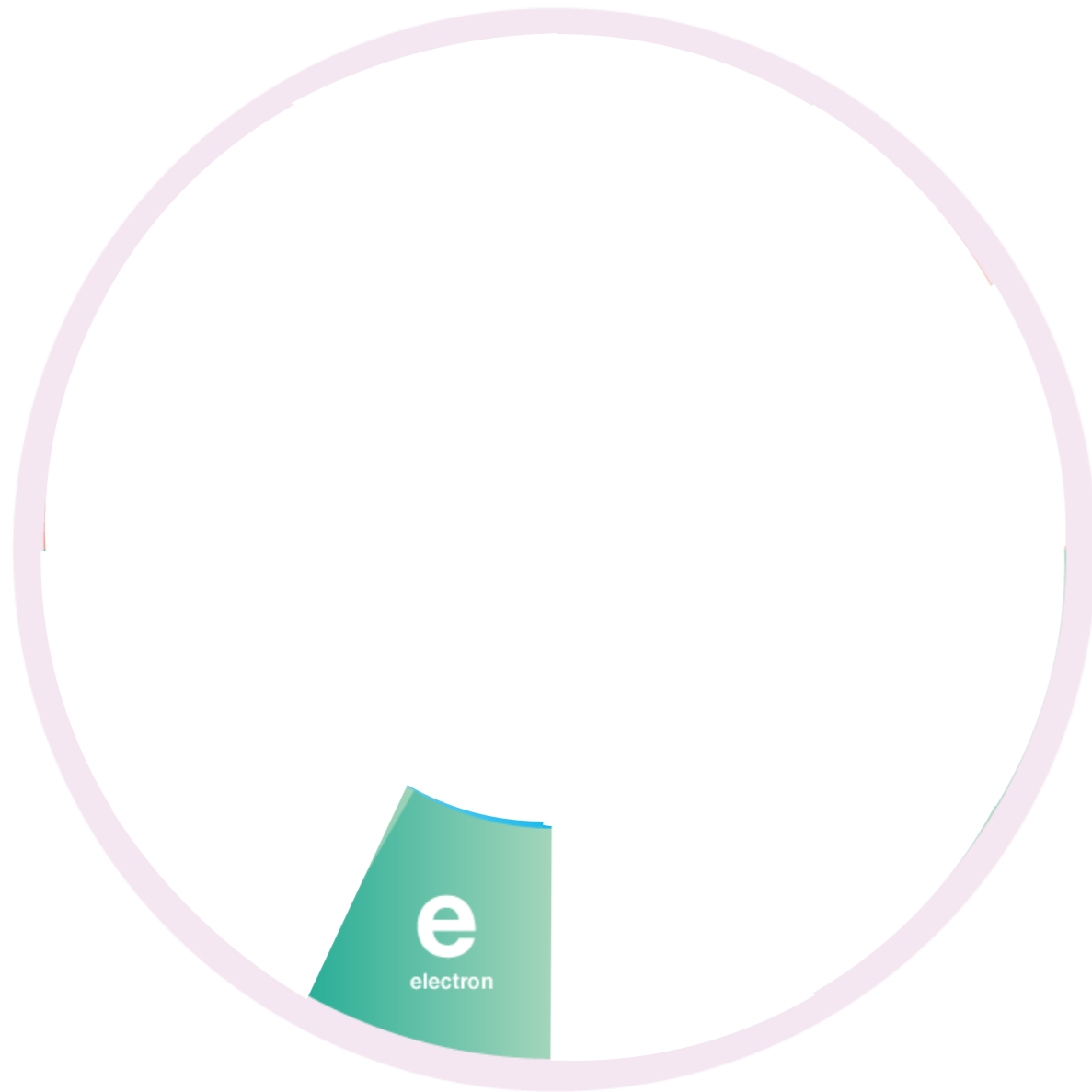


1897  
1900  
1905

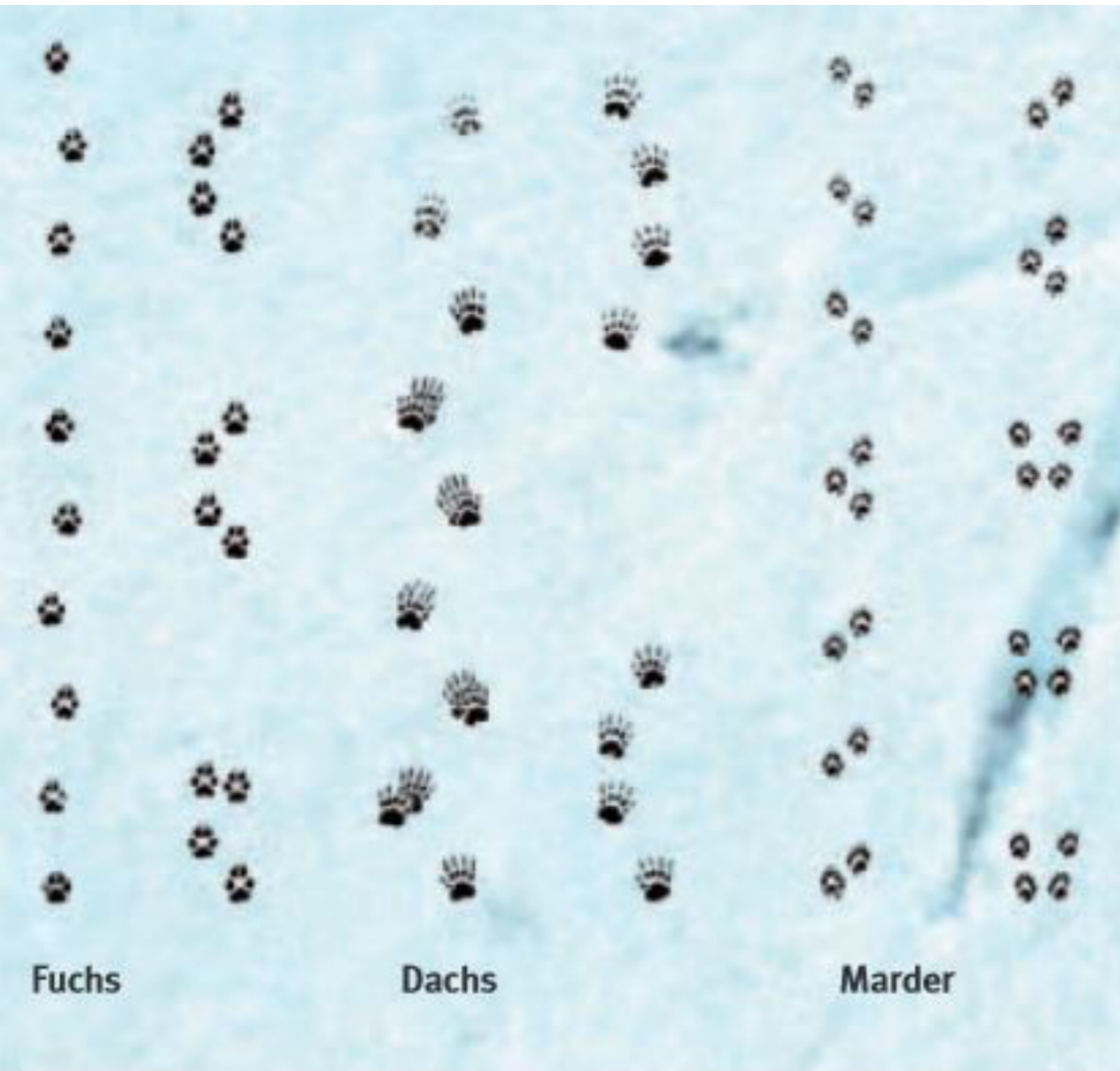
Planck  
Einstein

# Electron

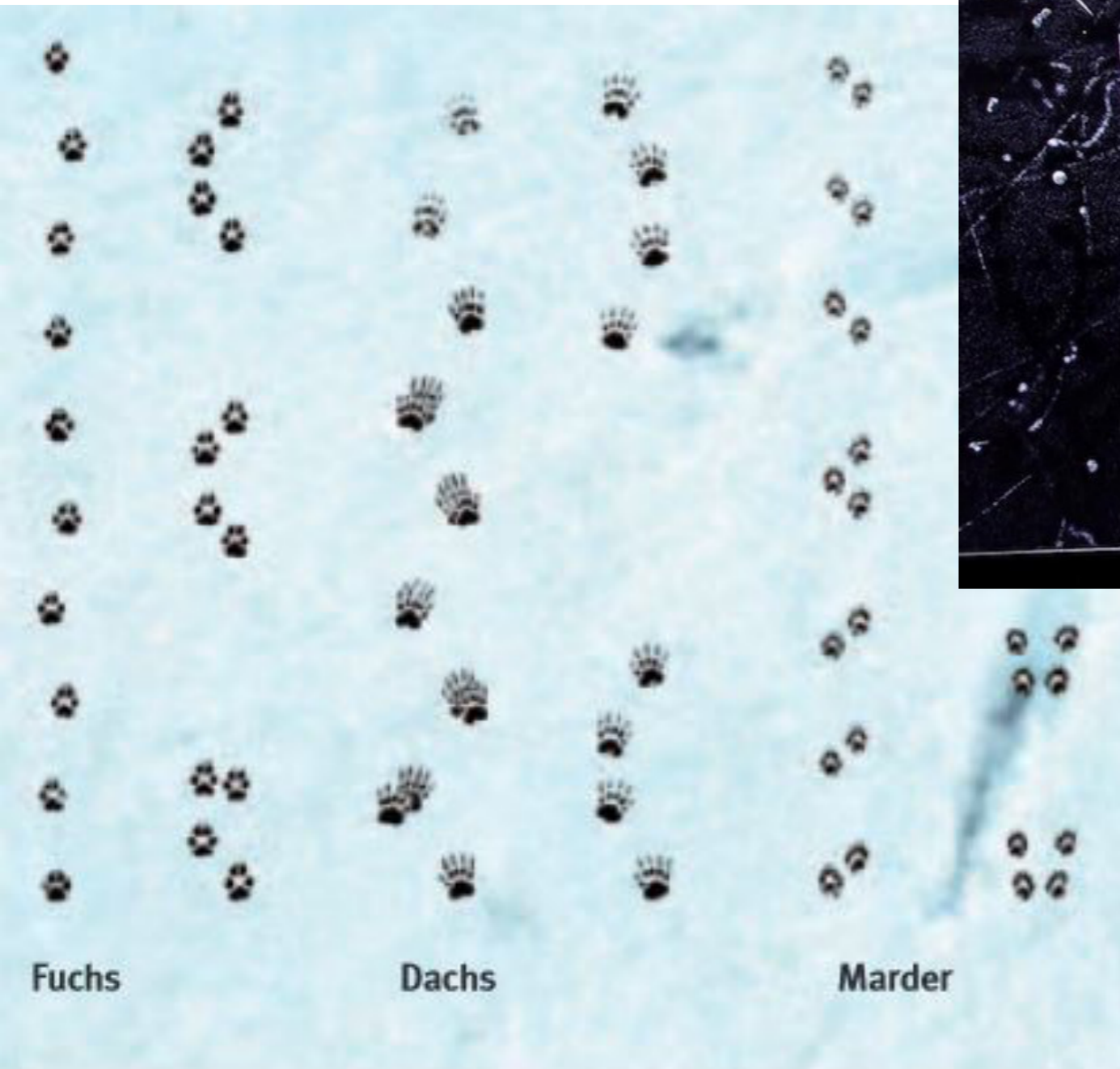
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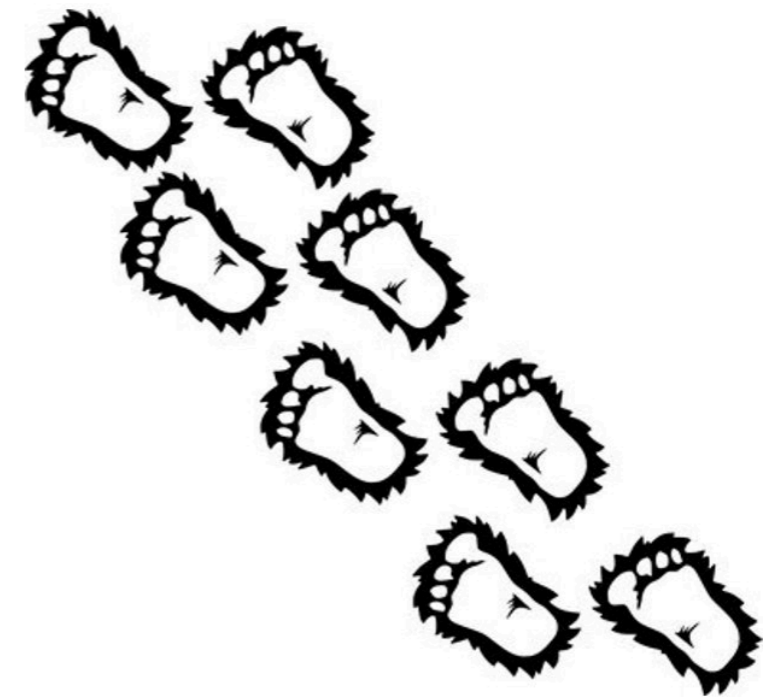
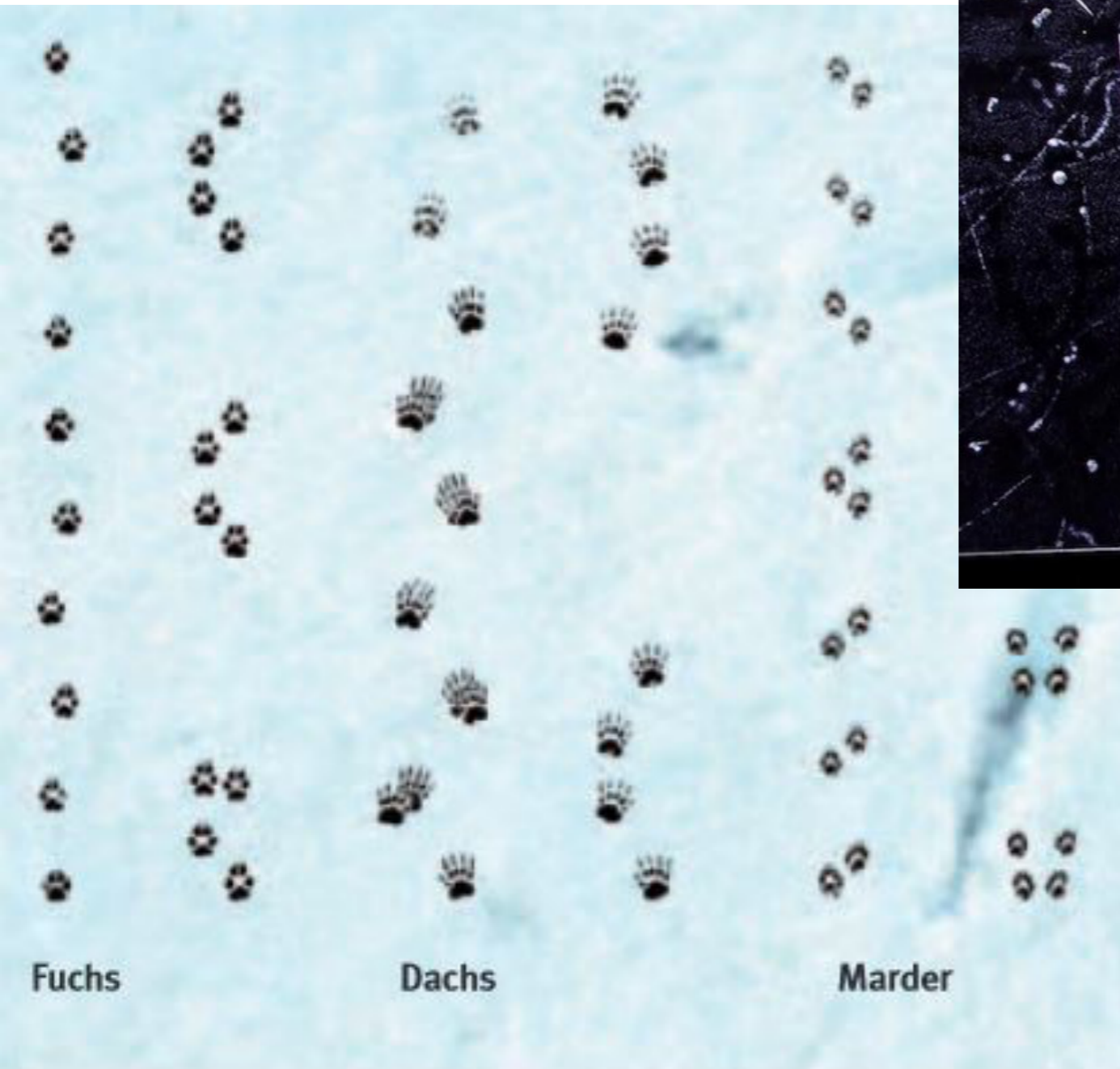
# Tracks



# Tracks



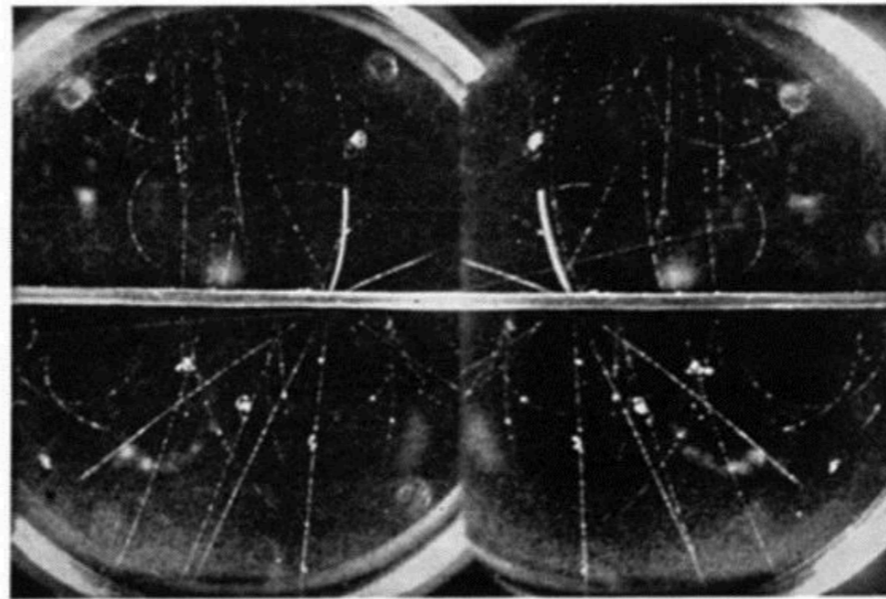
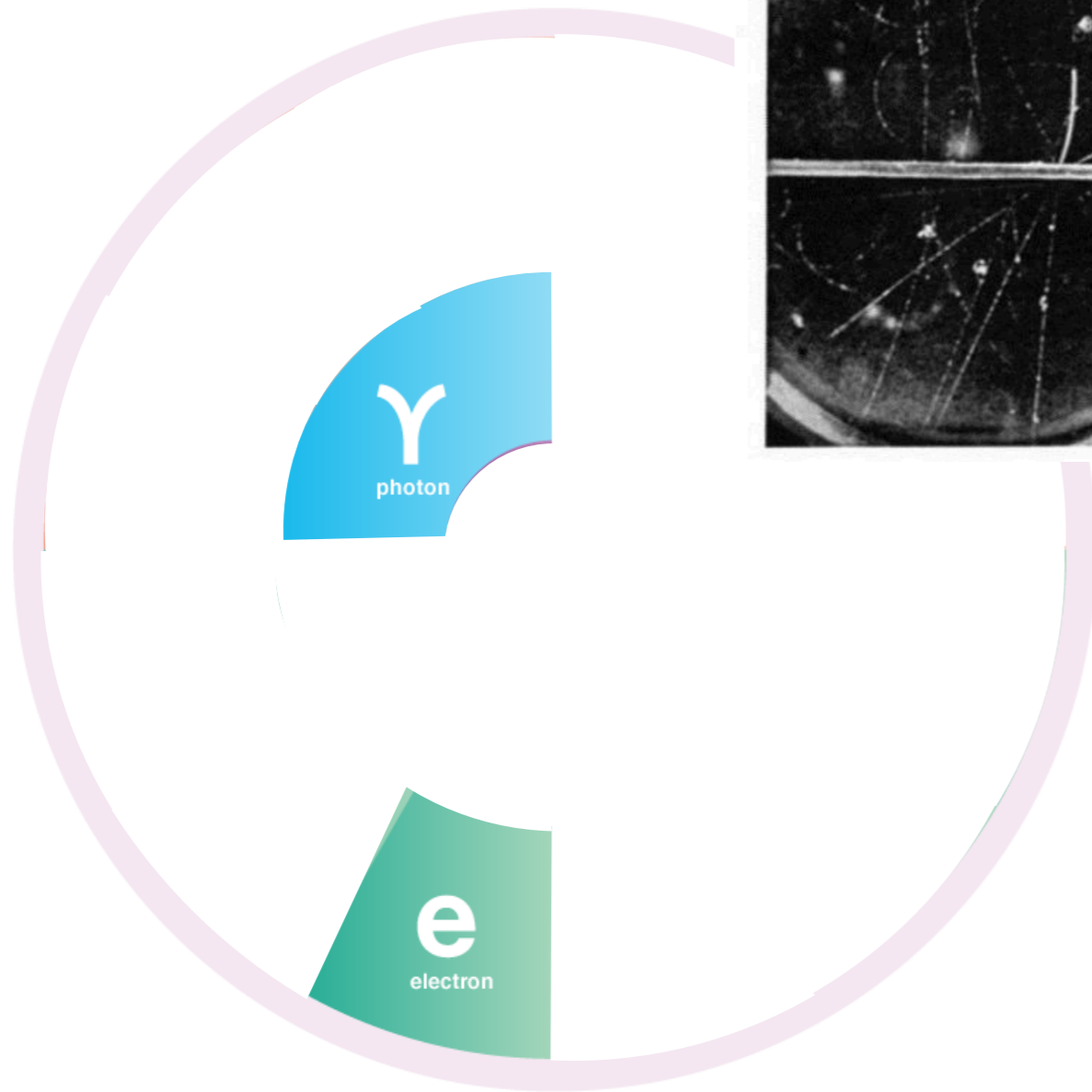
# Tracks





# Muon

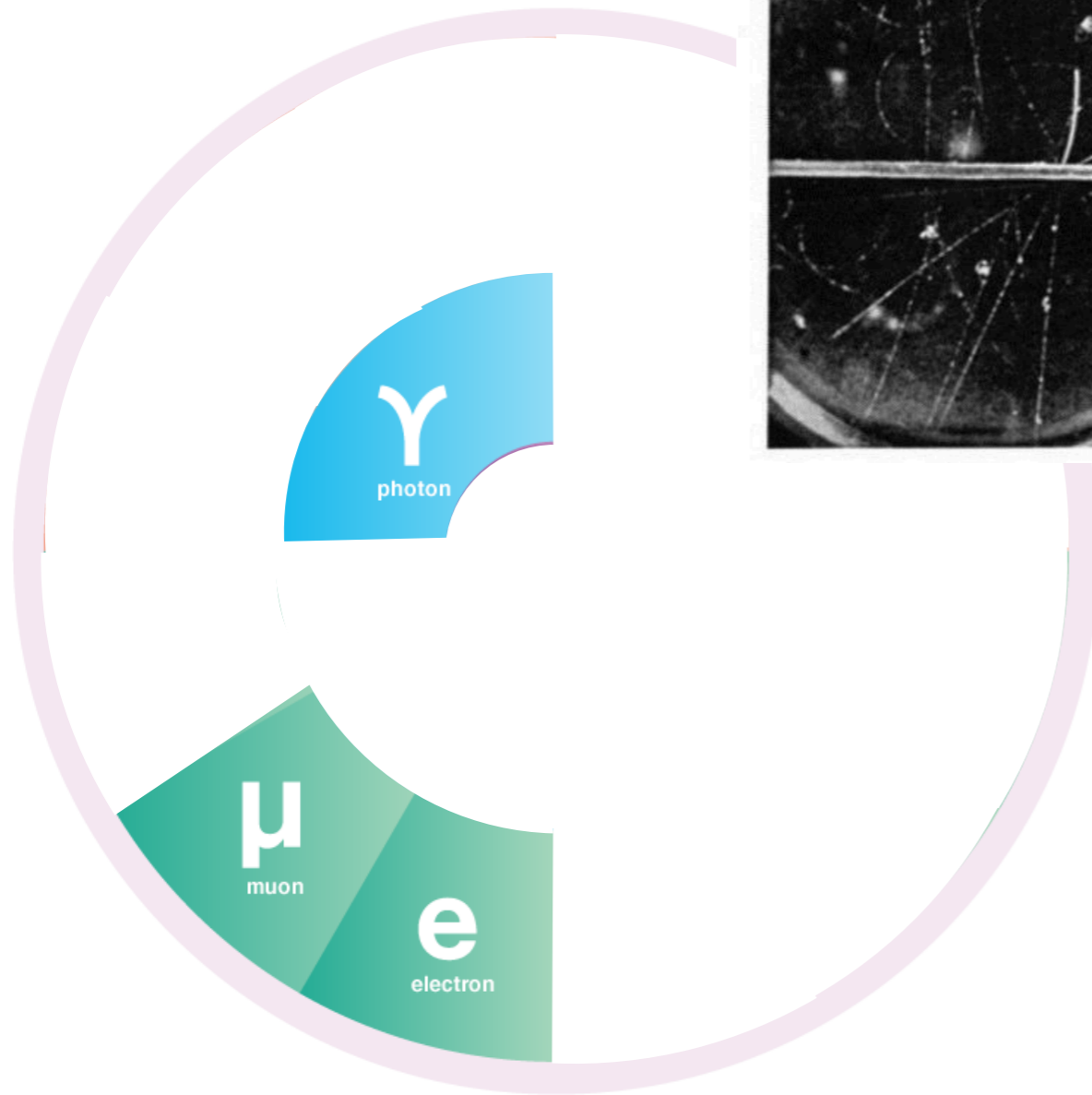
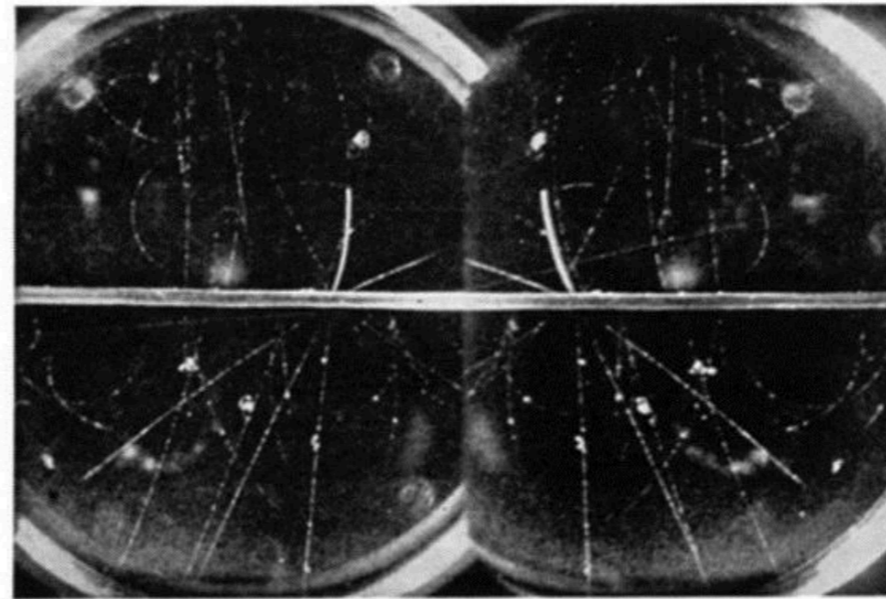
Unusual tracks



1897  
1900

# Muon

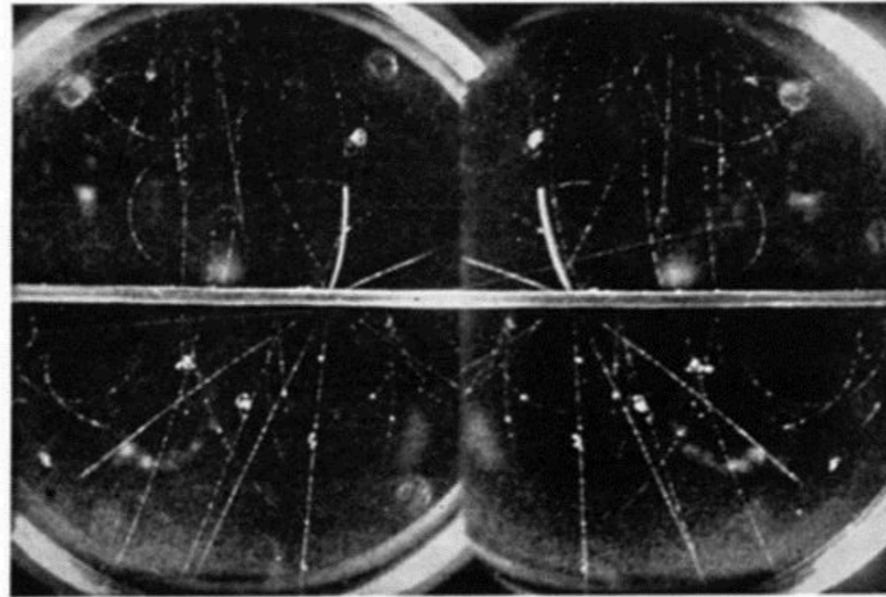
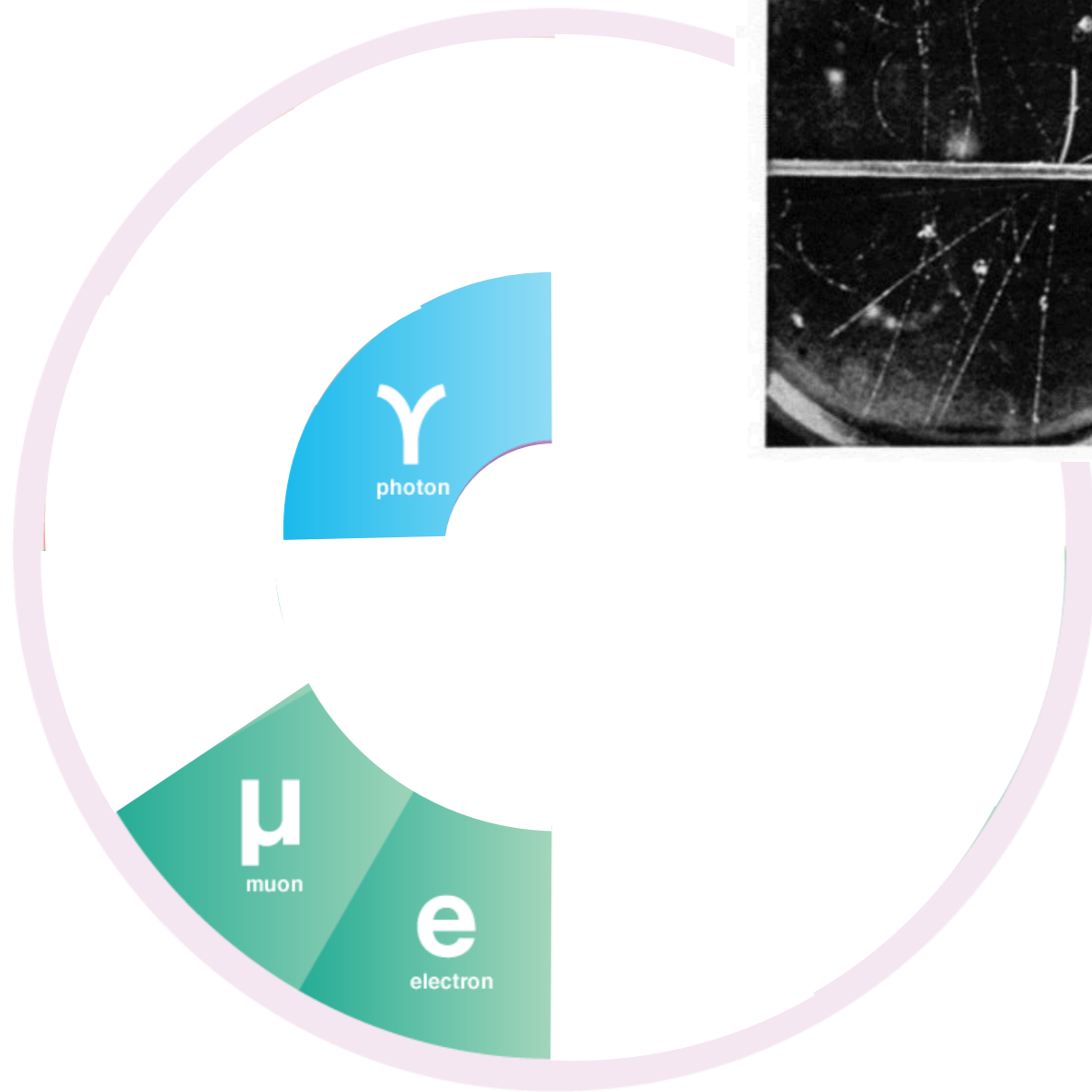
Unusual tracks



1897  
1900

# Muon

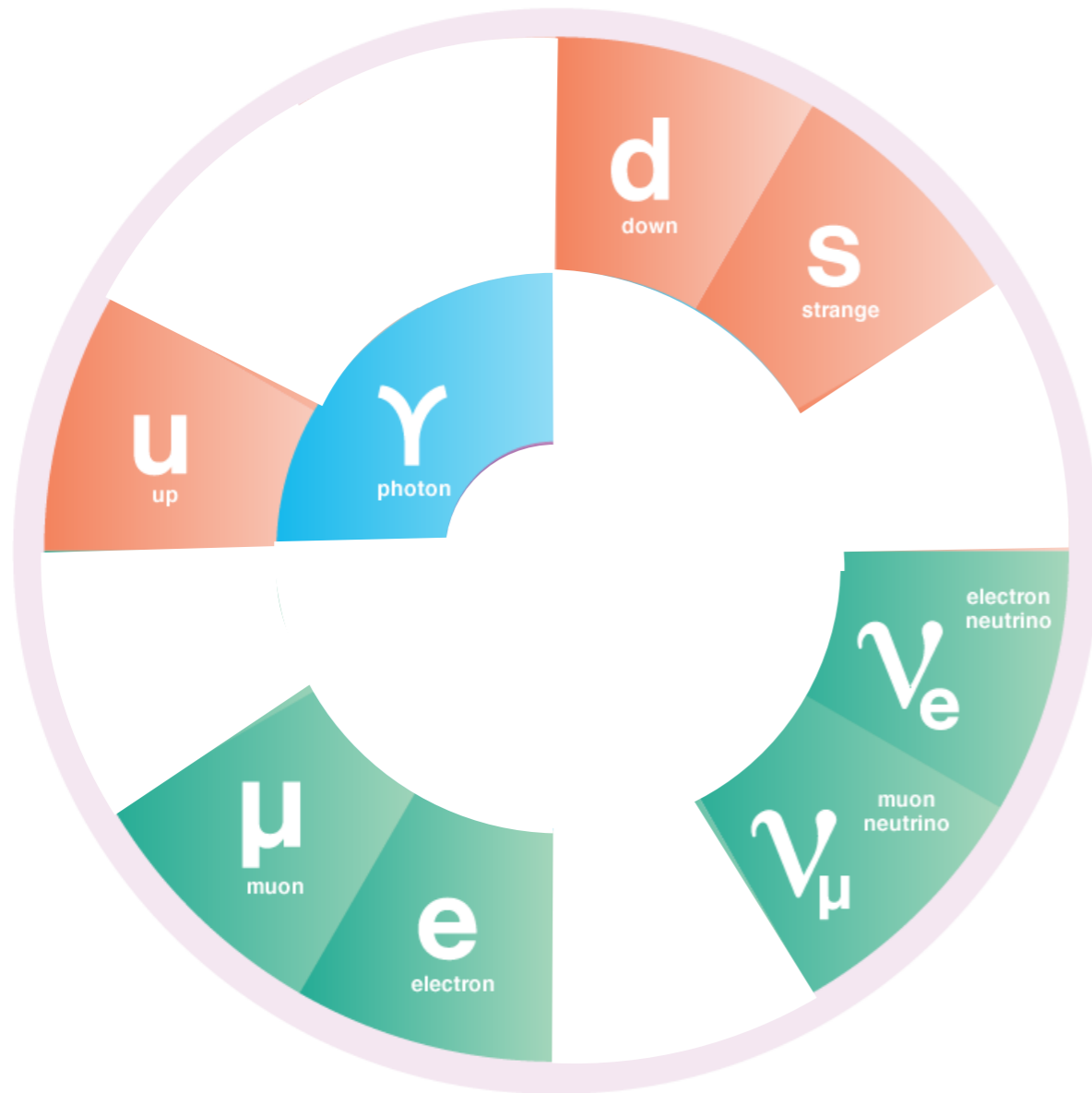
## Unusual tracks



1897  
1900

1937 Neddermeyer  
+ Anderson

# Quarks

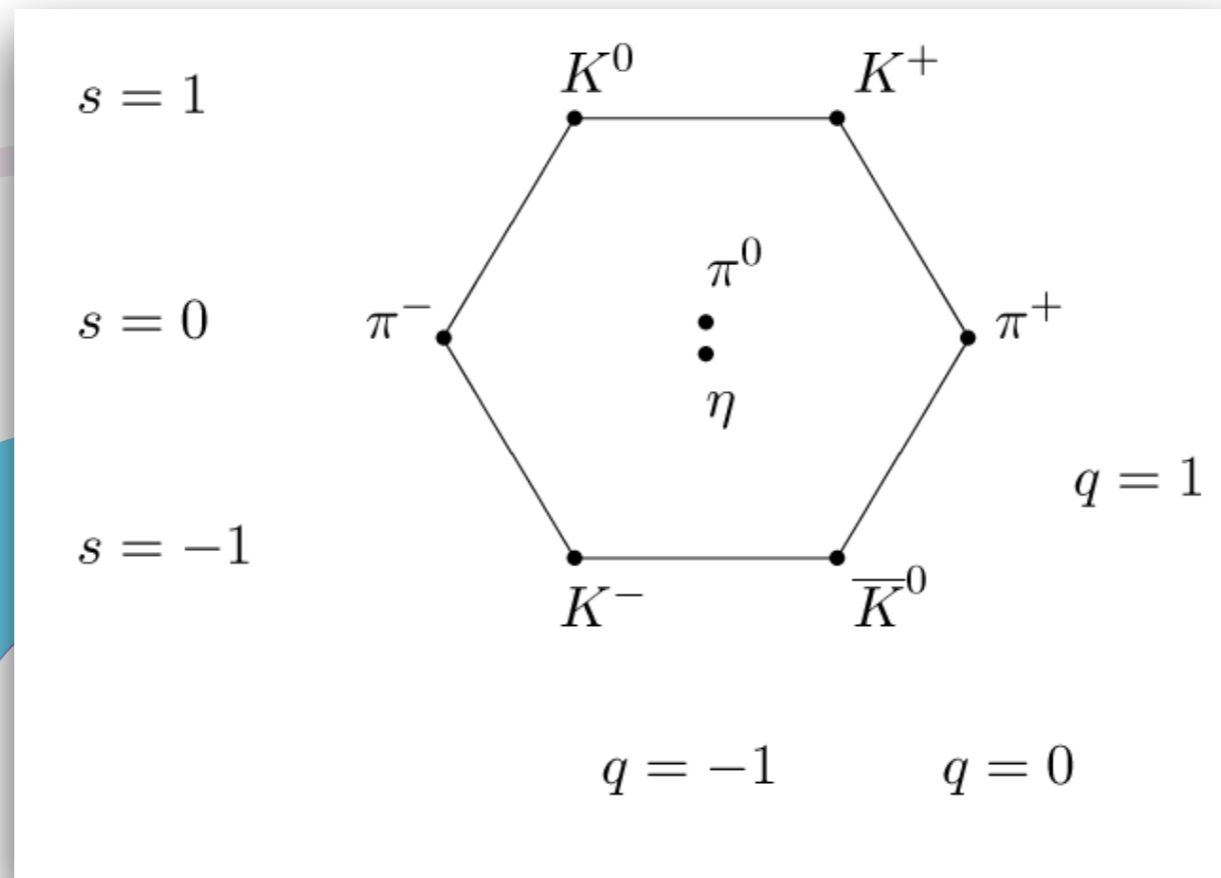
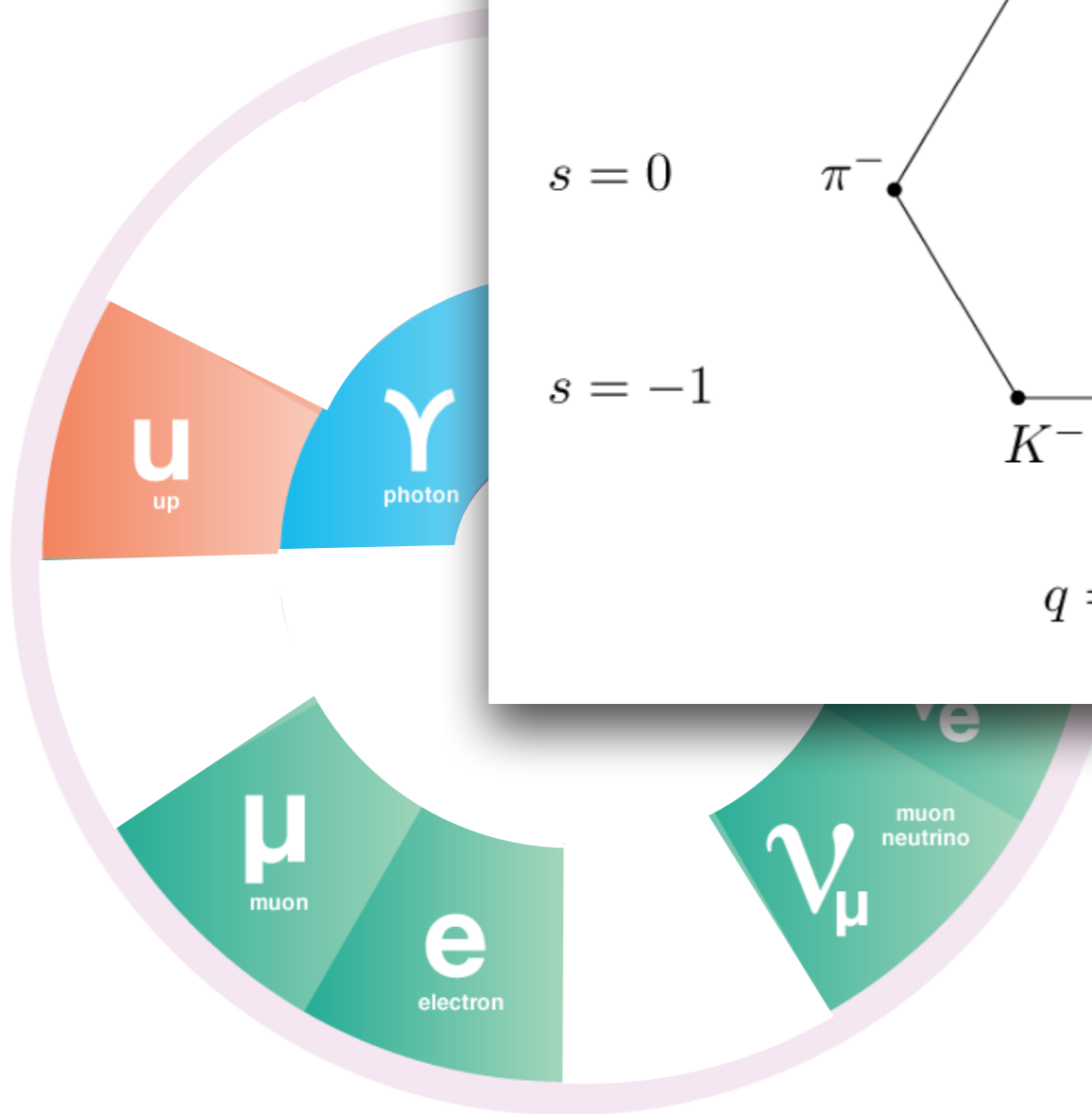


1897  
1900

1937

1956  
1962

# Quarks



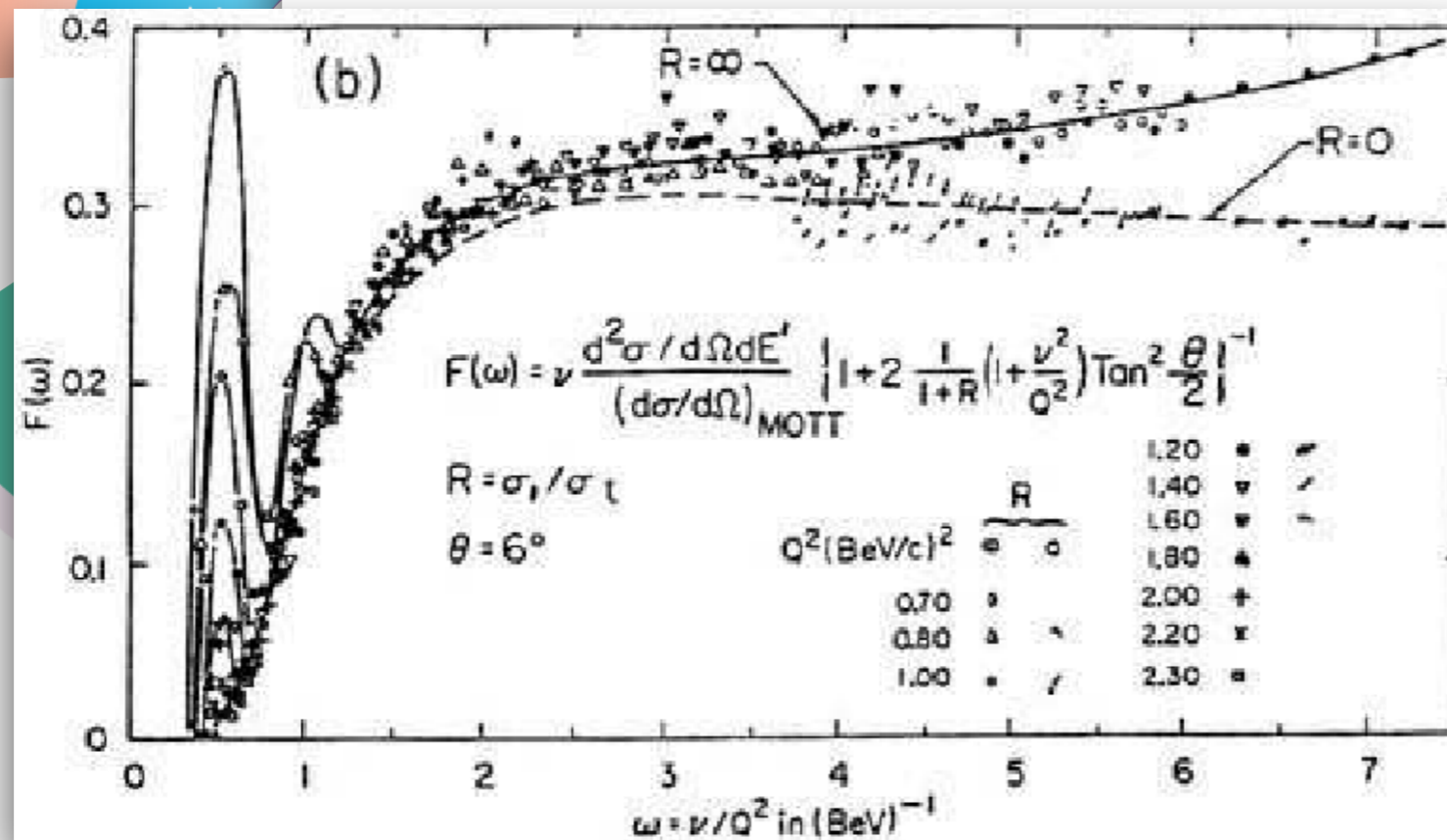
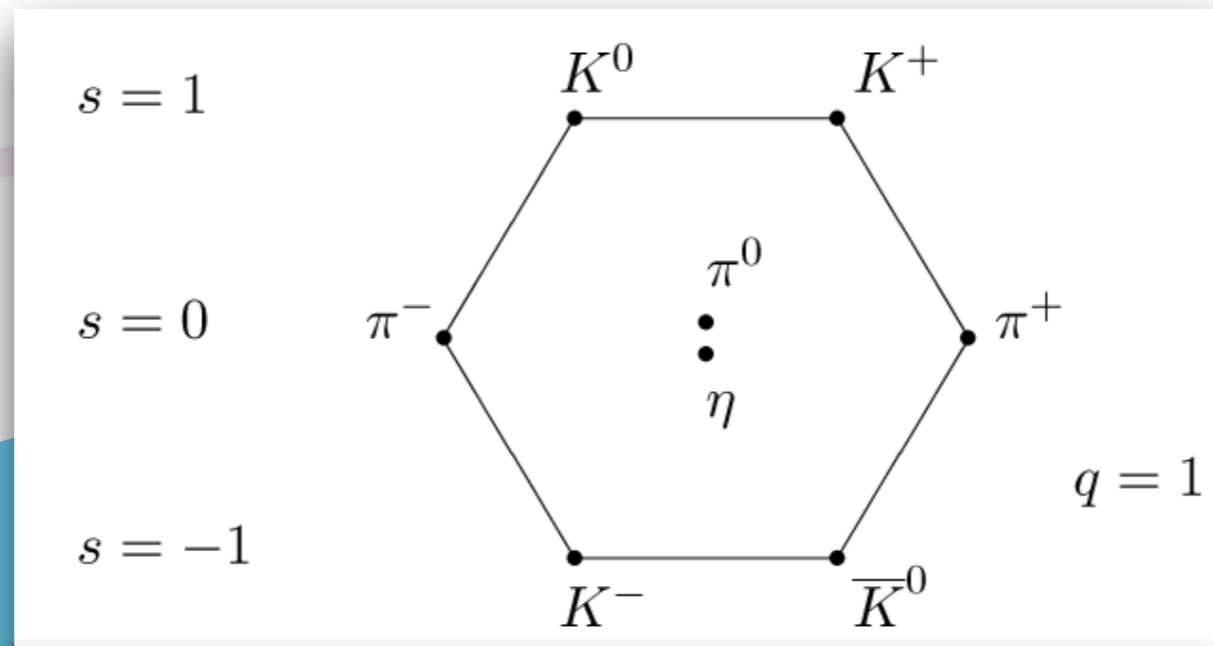
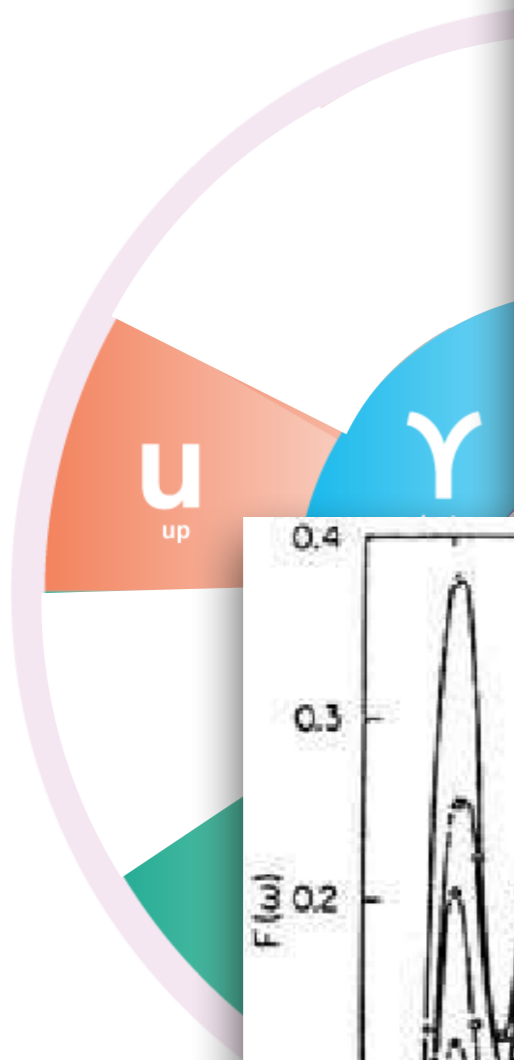
1897  
1900

1937

1956  
1962

1964 Gell-Mann  
Zweig

# Quarks

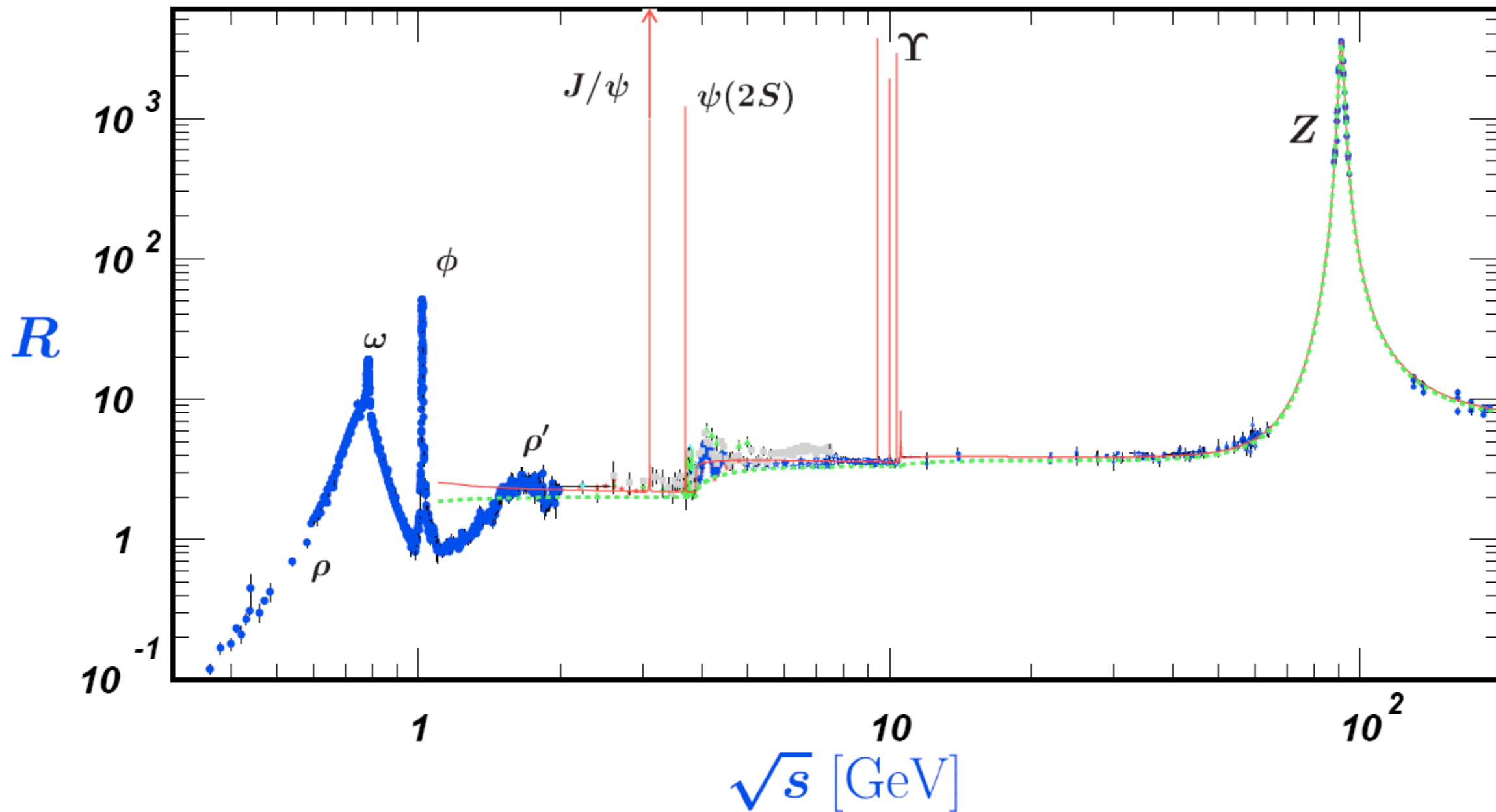


1897  
1900

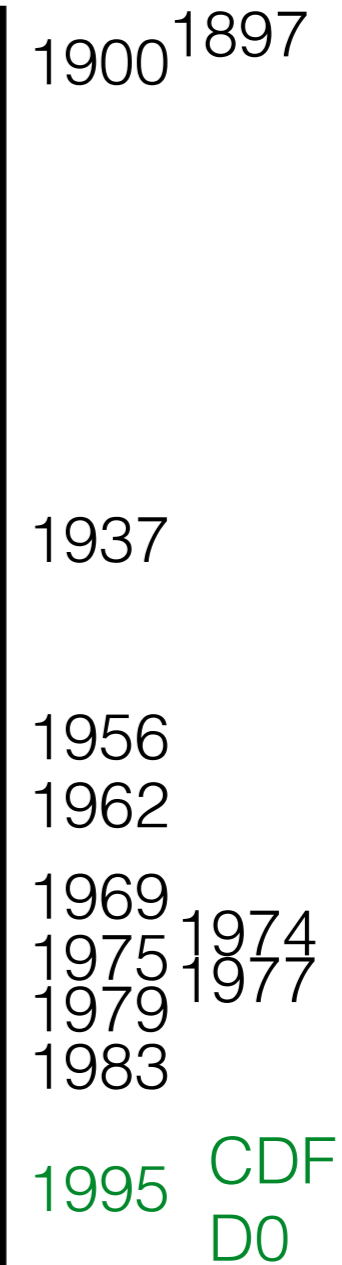
1937

1956  
1962  
1964 Gell-Mann  
Zweig  
1969 Bjorken  
Feynman

# Resonances

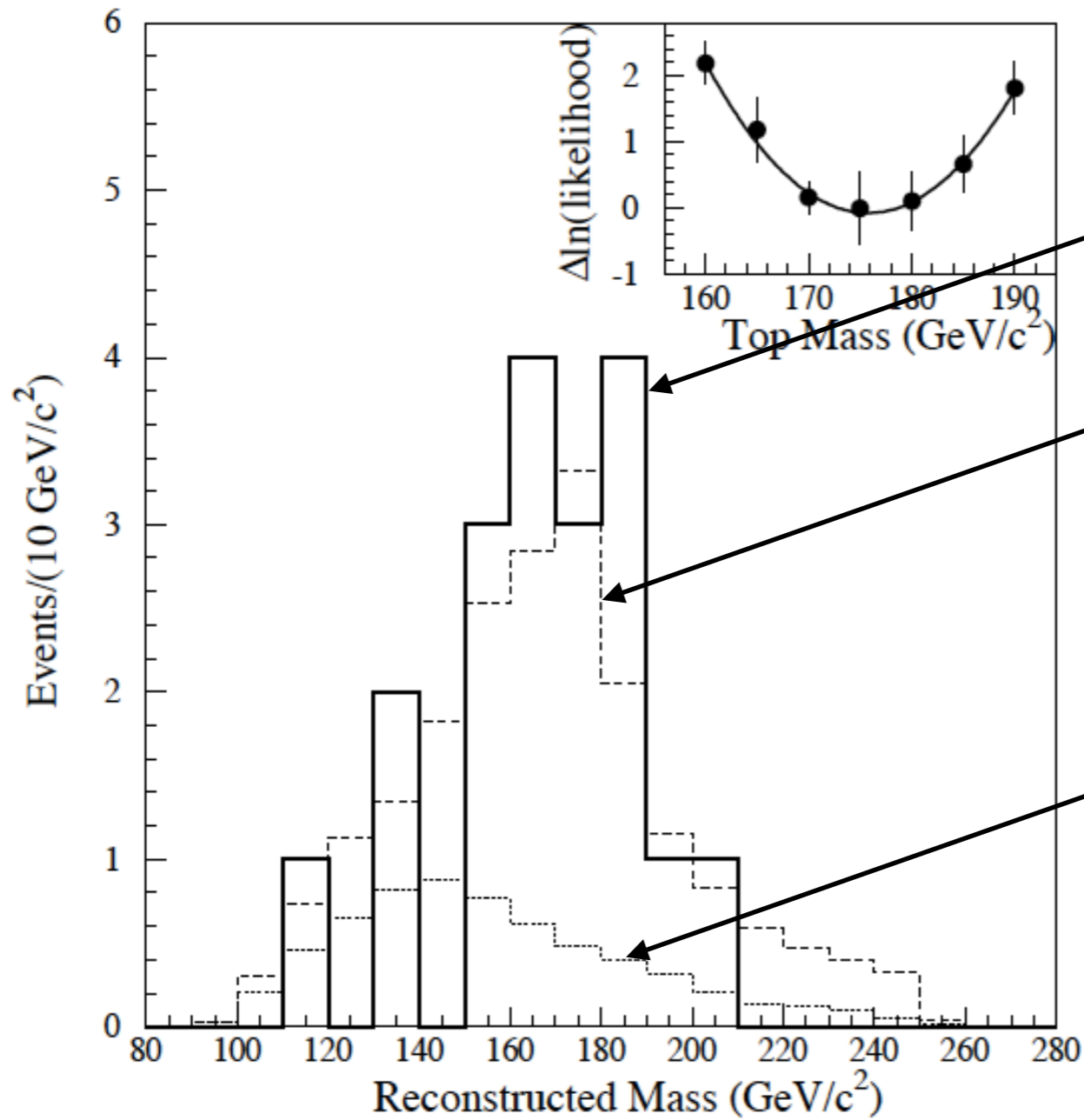


# Top quark





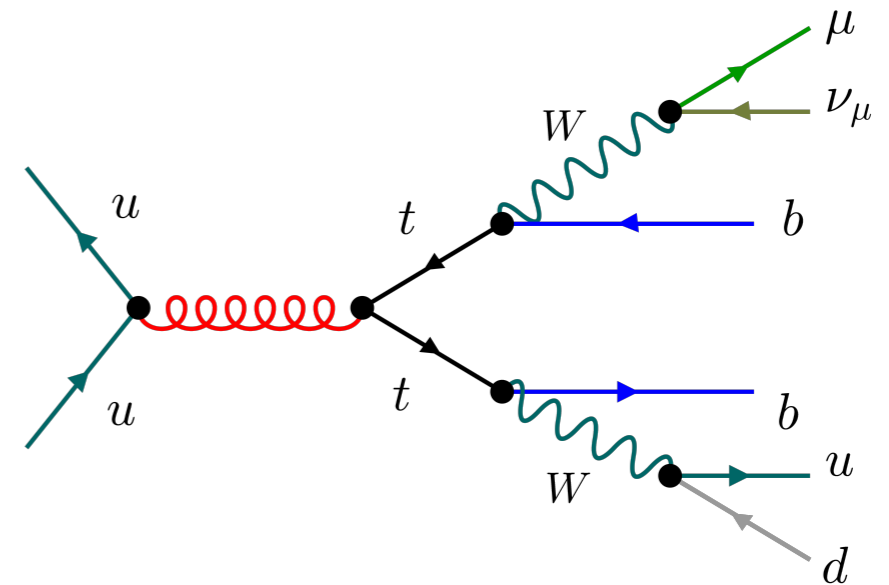
# Top quark



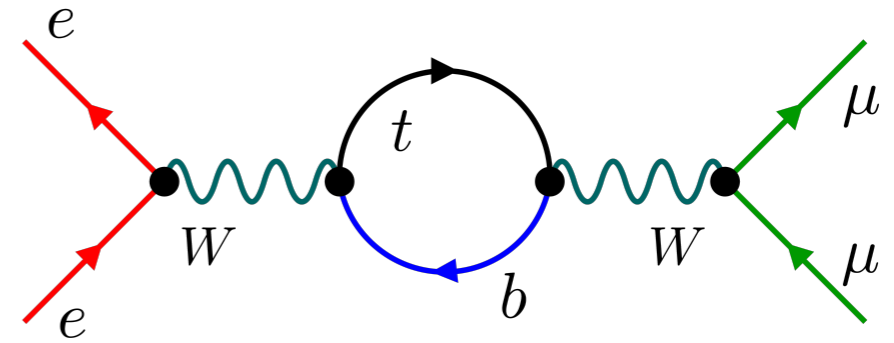
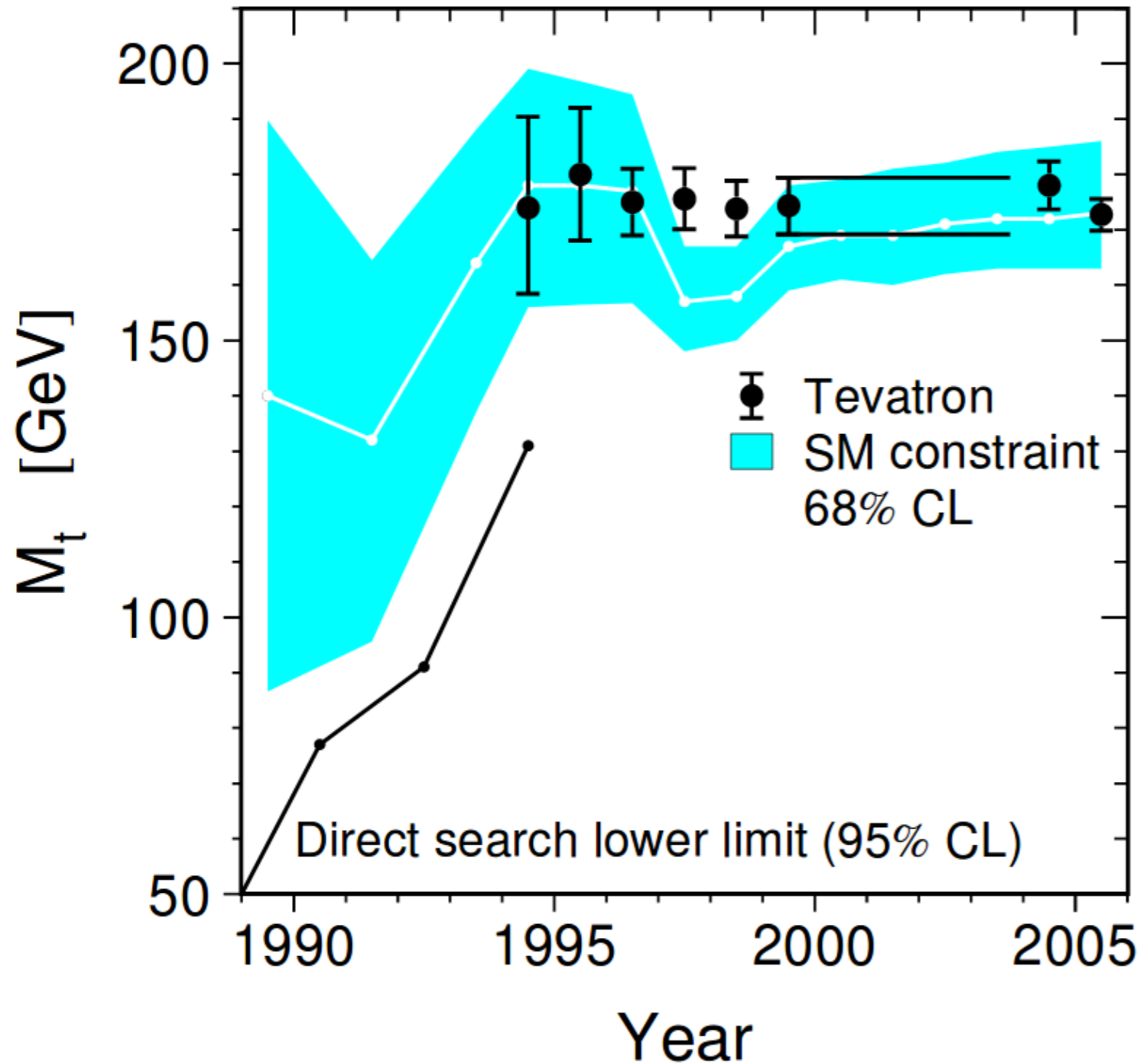
“observation”

expected BG  
+ signal

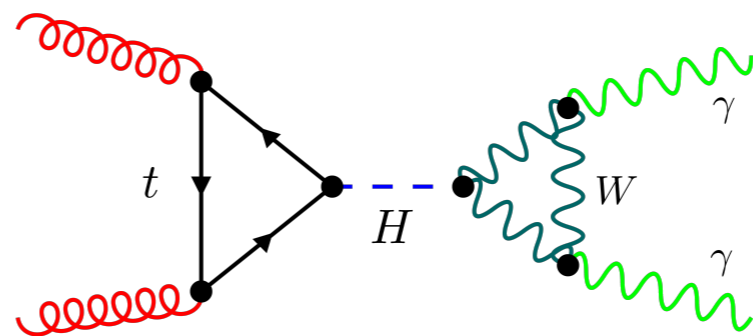
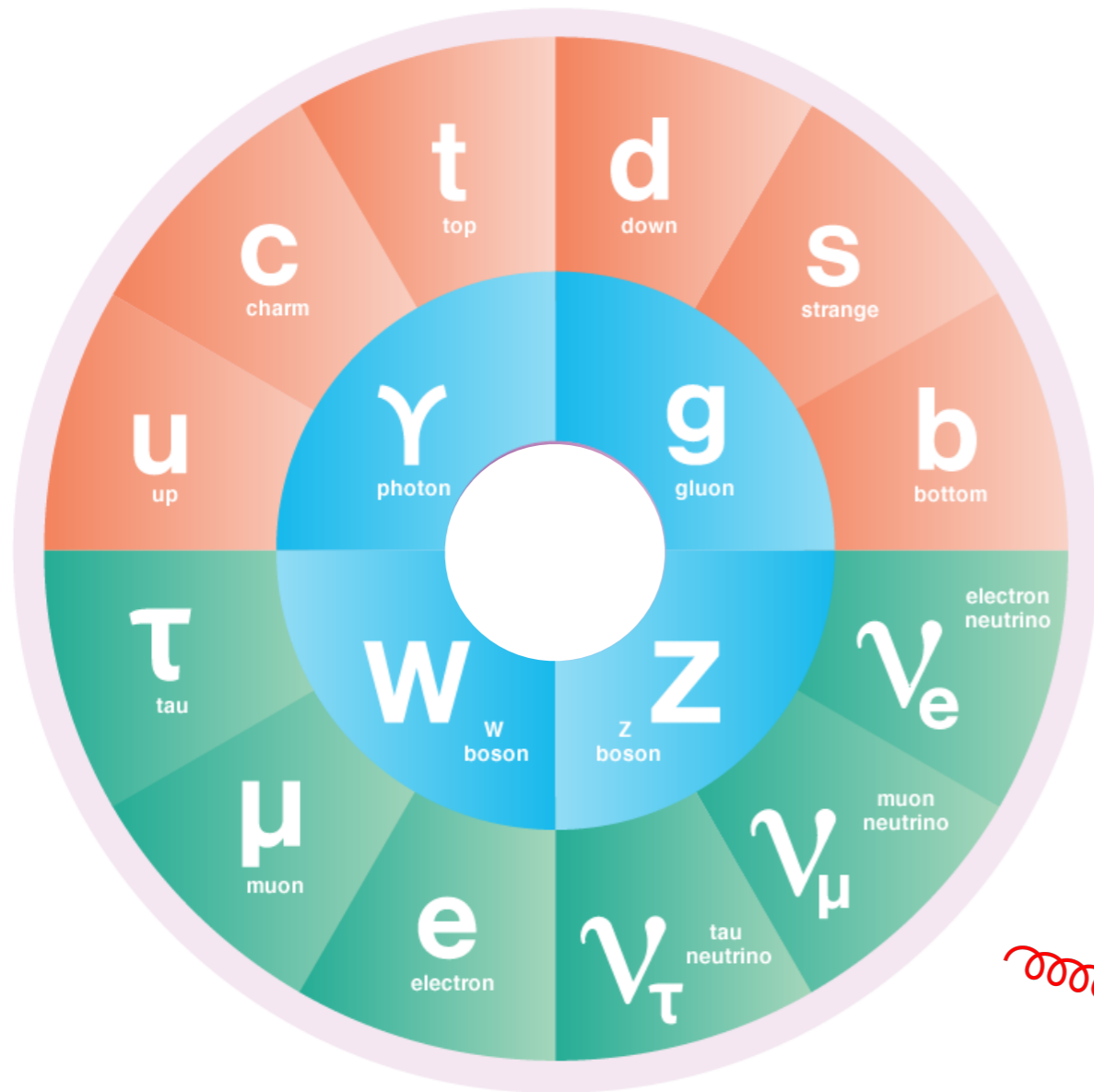
background



# Top quark

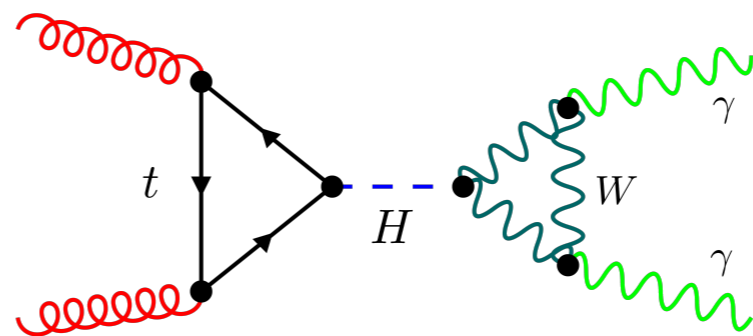
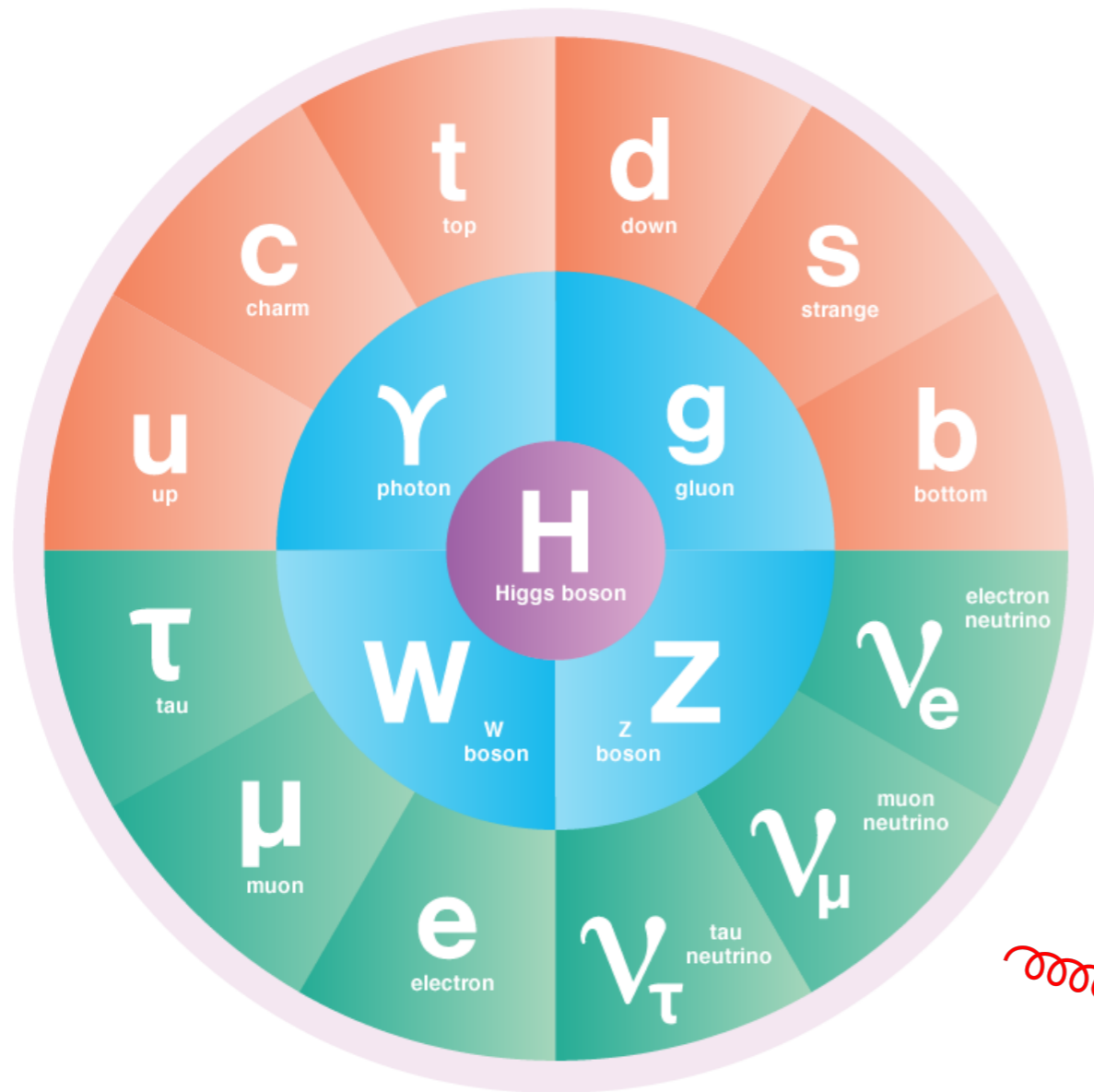


# Higgs



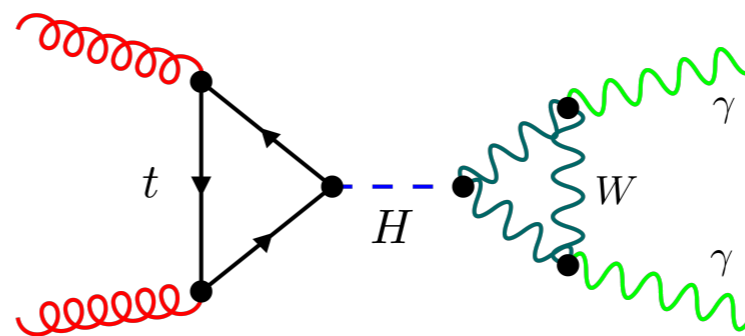
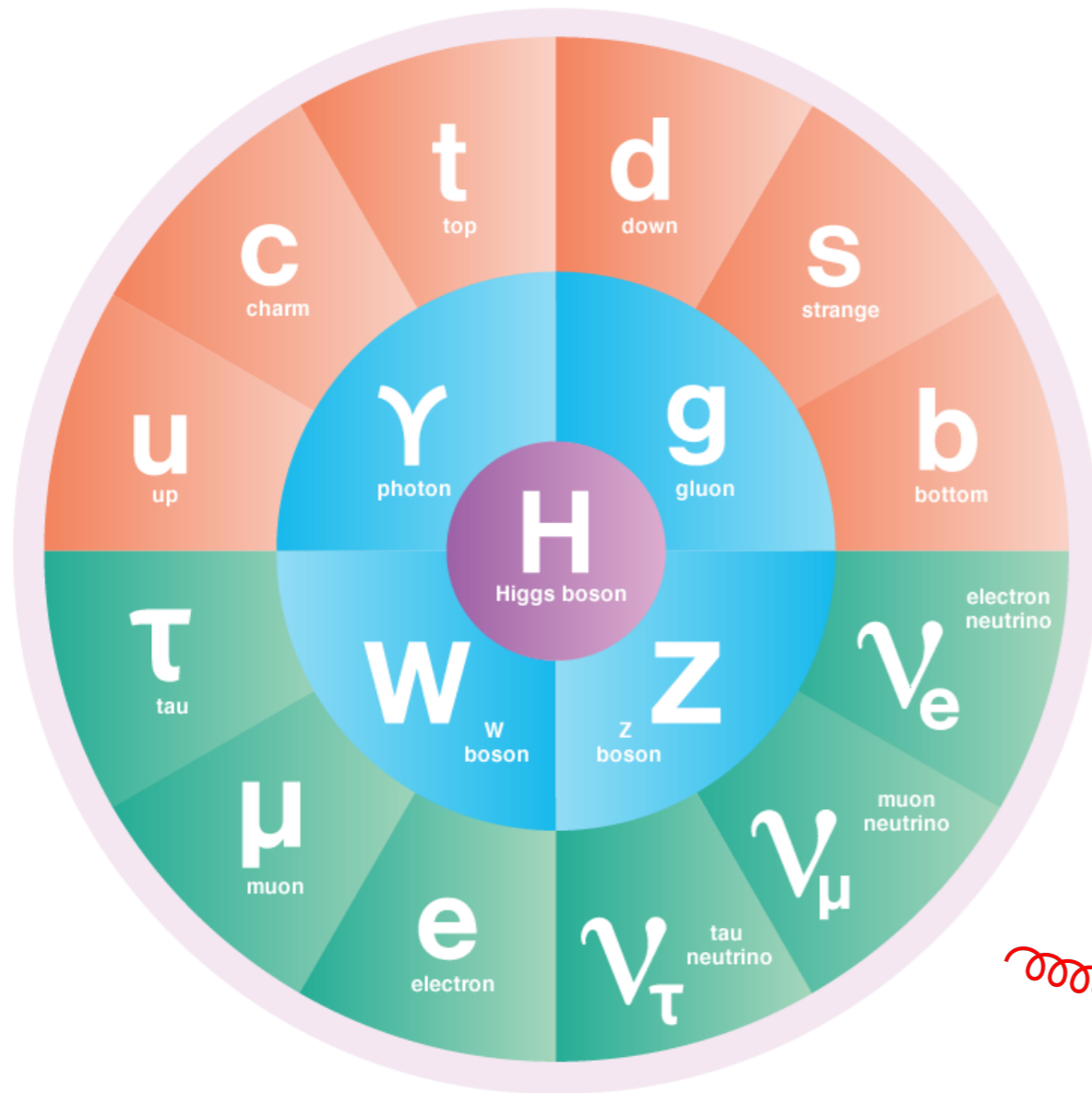
1897  
1900  
1937  
1956  
1962  
1969  
1974  
1975  
1977  
1979  
1983  
1995

# Higgs



1897  
1900  
1937  
1956  
1962  
1969  
1974  
1975  
1977  
1979  
1983  
1995

# Higgs



1900<sup>1897</sup>

1937 Higgs  
Brout+Englert  
Gouralnik,  
+Hagen+Kibble

1956

1962 1964

1969

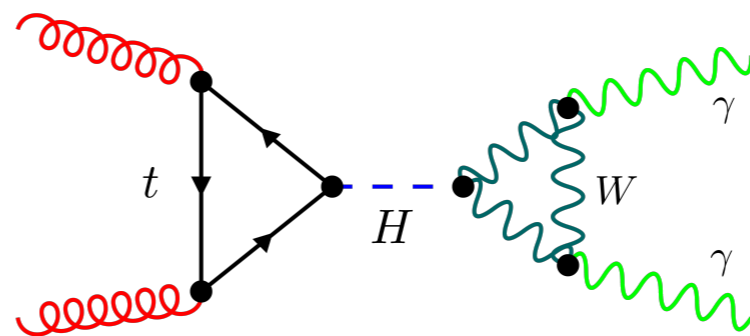
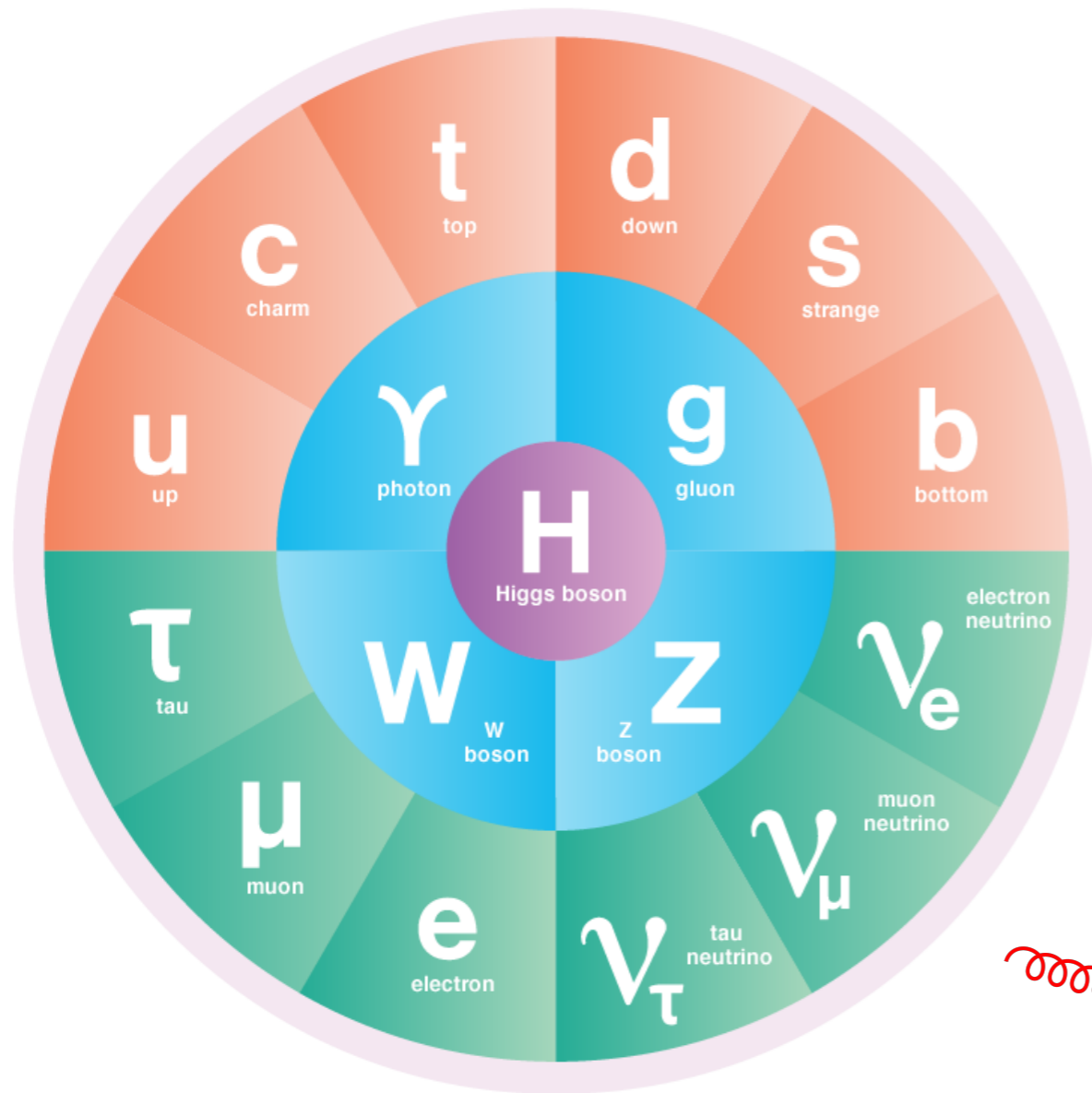
1975 1974

1979 1977

1983

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# Higgs



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1956

1962 1964

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1975 1974  
1977

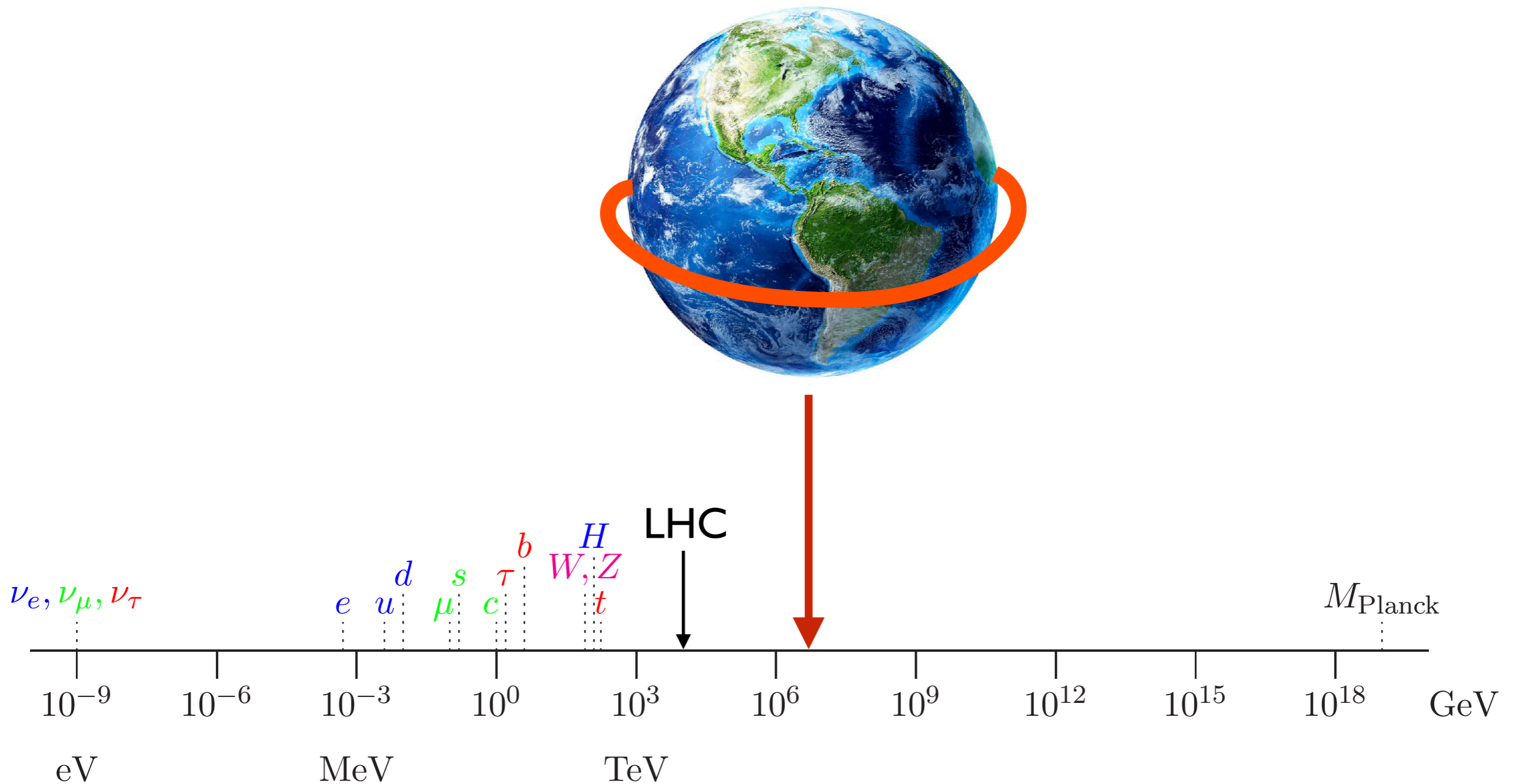
1979

1983

1995

2012 ATLAS  
+CMS

# How far can we go?



# The past, the present, and the future

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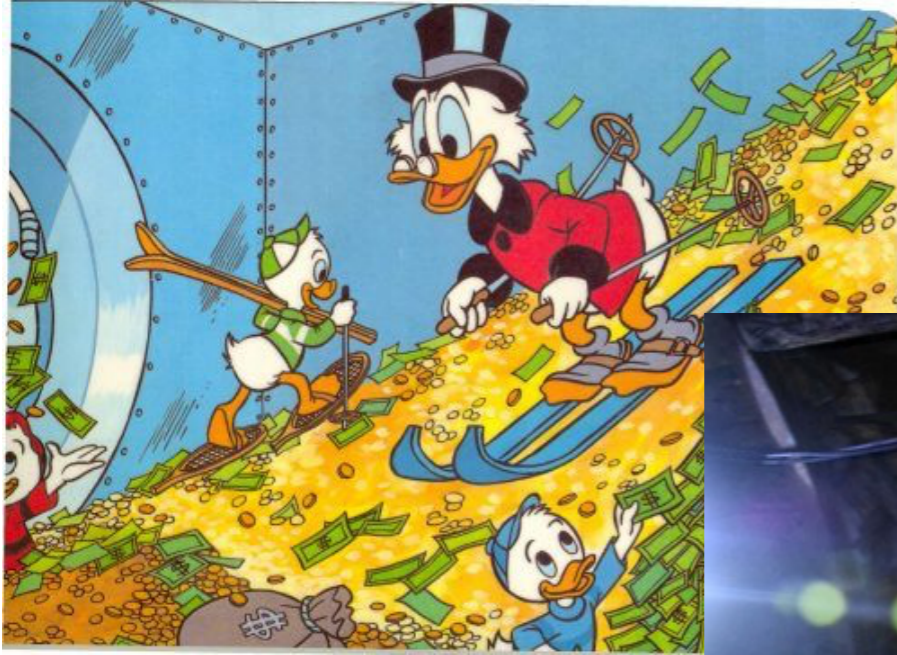


# The past, the present, and the future



The past...

# The past, the present, and the future



The past...



... the present ...

# The past, the present, and the future



The past...



... the present ...



... the future?

# The future

---

On-shell production of particles may belong to the past.

Not required for discovery.

“Observation” has evolved: we keep learning.

# The future

---

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# The future

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On-shell production of particles may belong to the past.

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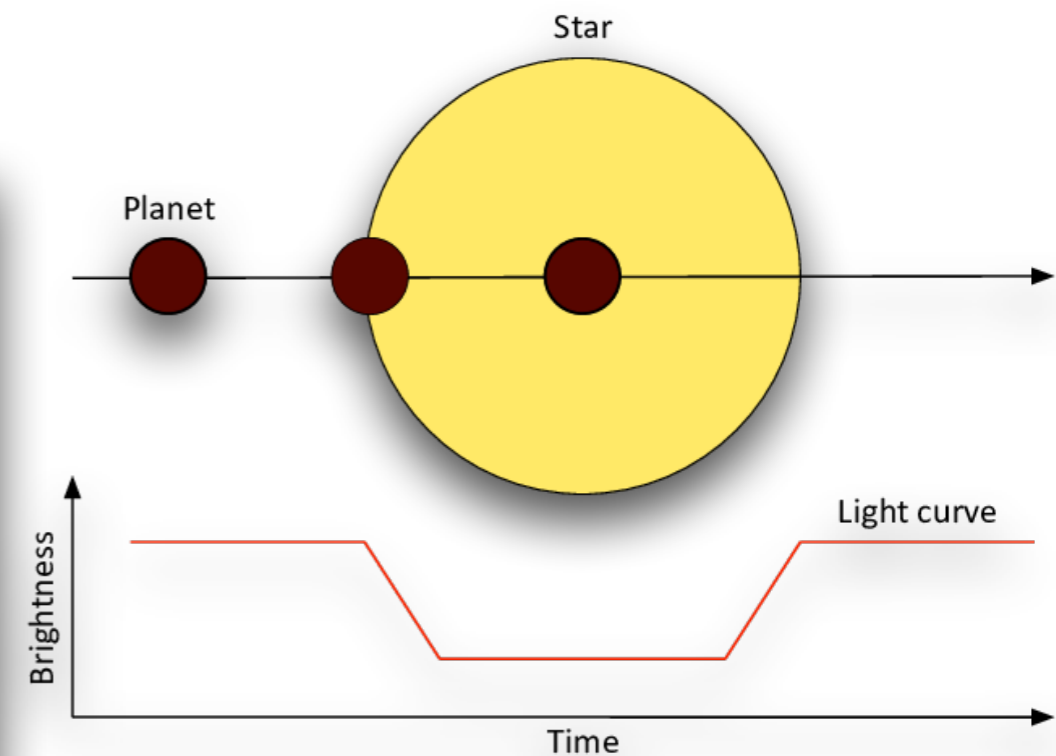
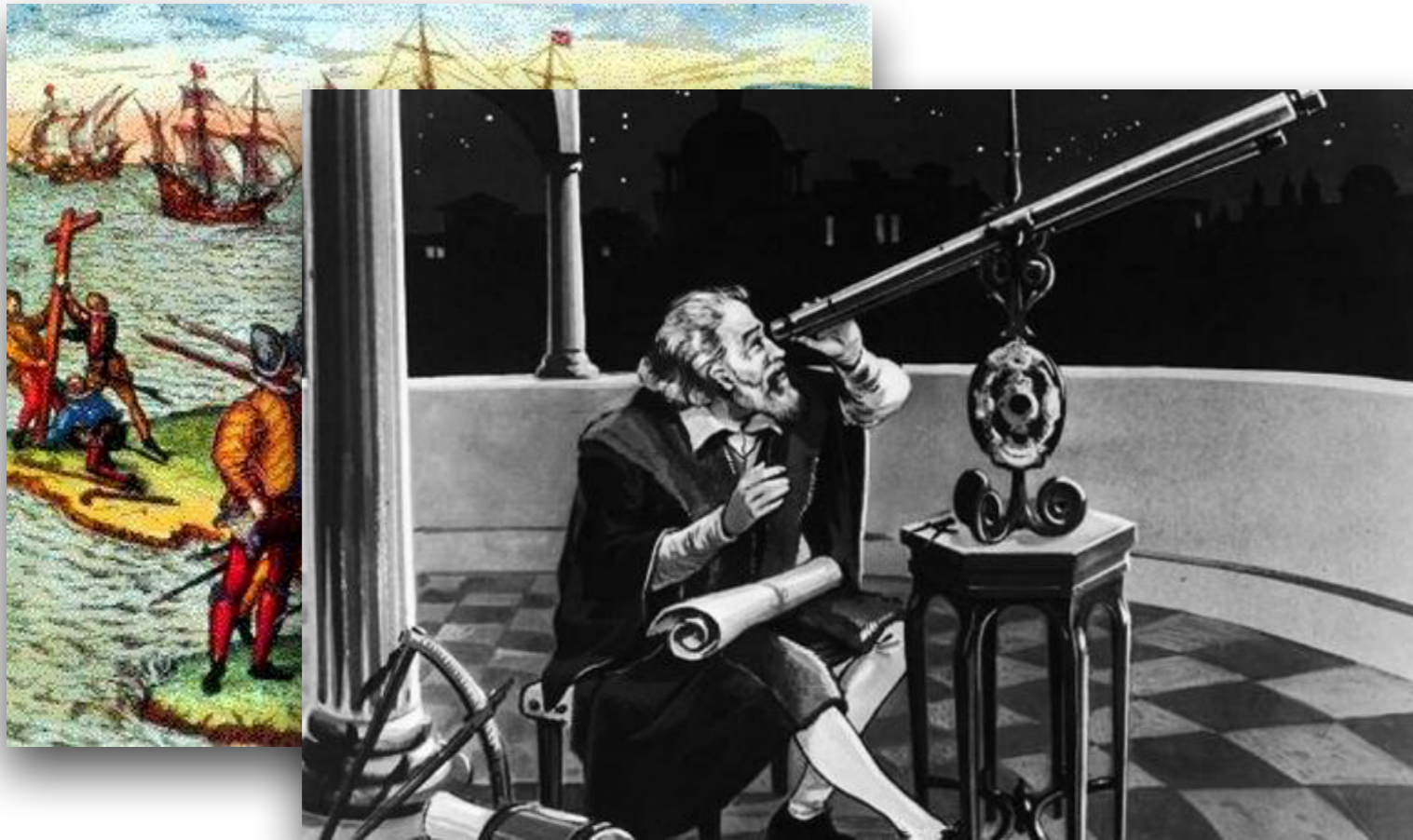


# The future

On-shell production of particles may belong to the past.

Not required for discovery.

“Observation” has evolved: we keep learning.



# The evolution of the particle concept

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# The evolution of the particle concept

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Classical particle: discrete and localizable

# The evolution of the particle concept

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Classical particle: discrete and localizable

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Classical particle: discrete and localizable

But: these properties are not essential for observation/discovery!

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- kinematics (cathode rays)
- interaction with matter (tracks)
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- confinement (gluons)

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But: these properties are not essential for observation/discovery!

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- resonances (quarks)
- confinement (gluons)
- Feynman diagrams (Z, W, Higgs, ...)
- ???

Four-quark operators (11)

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_{qq}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu q_j)(\bar{q}_k \gamma_\mu q_l), \\
 O_{qq}^{3(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu \tau^I q_j)(\bar{q}_k \gamma_\mu \tau^I q_l), \\
 O_{qu}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu q_j)(\bar{u}_k \gamma_\mu u_l), \\
 O_{qu}^{8(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu T^A q_j)(\bar{u}_k \gamma_\mu T^A u_l), \\
 O_{qd}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu q_j)(\bar{d}_k \gamma_\mu d_l), \\
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 O_{quqd}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i u_j) \varepsilon (\bar{q}_k d_l), \\
 O_{quqd}^{8(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}_i T^A u_j) \varepsilon (\bar{q}_k T^A d_l),
 \end{aligned}$$

+  $ijkl$  generation index assignments

$q, l$ : left-handed doublets  
 $u, d, e$ : right-h. singlets

Two-quark operators (9)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{O}_{u\varphi}^{(ij)} &= \bar{q}_i u_j \tilde{\varphi} (\varphi^\dagger \varphi), \\
 O_{\varphi q}^{1(ij)} &= (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu \varphi)(\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu q_j), \\
 O_{\varphi q}^{3(ij)} &= (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu^I \varphi)(\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu \tau^I q_j), \\
 O_{\varphi u}^{(ij)} &= (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu \varphi)(\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu u_j), \\
 \mathcal{O}_{\varphi ud}^{(ij)} &= (\tilde{\varphi}^\dagger i D_\mu \varphi)(\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu d_j), \\
 \mathcal{O}_{uW}^{(ij)} &= (\bar{q}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \tau^I u_j) \tilde{\varphi} W_{\mu\nu}^I, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{dW}^{(ij)} &= (\bar{q}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \tau^I d_j) \varphi W_{\mu\nu}^I, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{uB}^{(ij)} &= (\bar{q}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_j) \tilde{\varphi} B_{\mu\nu}, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{uG}^{(ij)} &= (\bar{q}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} T^A u_j) \tilde{\varphi} G_{\mu\nu}^A,
 \end{aligned}$$

Two-quark-two-lepton operators (8)

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_{lq}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{l}_j \gamma^\mu l_j)(\bar{q}_k \gamma^\mu q_l), \\
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 O_{lu}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{l}_j \gamma^\mu l_j)(\bar{u}_k \gamma^\mu u_l), \\
 O_{eq}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{e}_j \gamma^\mu e_j)(\bar{q}_k \gamma^\mu q_l), \\
 O_{eu}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{e}_j \gamma^\mu e_j)(\bar{u}_k \gamma^\mu u_l), \\
 \mathcal{O}_{lequ}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{l}_i e_j) \varepsilon (\bar{q}_k u_l), \\
 \mathcal{O}_{lequ}^{3(ijkl)} &= (\bar{l}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} e_j) \varepsilon (\bar{q}_k \sigma_{\mu\nu} u_l), \\
 \mathcal{O}_{ledq}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{l}_i e_j)(\bar{d}_k q_l),
 \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{B}$  and  $\mathcal{L}$  operators (5)

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{O}_{duq}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{d}^c_{i\alpha} u_{j\beta})(\bar{q}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{quq}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}^c_{i\alpha} \varepsilon q_{j\beta})(\bar{u}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{qqq}^{1(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}^c_{i\alpha} \varepsilon q_{j\beta})(\bar{q}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{qqq}^{3(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}^c_{i\alpha} \tau^I \varepsilon q_{j\beta})(\bar{q}^c_{k\gamma} \tau^I \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 \mathcal{O}_{duu}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{d}^c_{i\alpha} u_{j\beta})(\bar{u}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}.
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Slide from J. Royo

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 O_{(ij)} &= (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu \varphi)(\bar{q}_i \gamma^\mu q_j)
 \end{aligned}$$



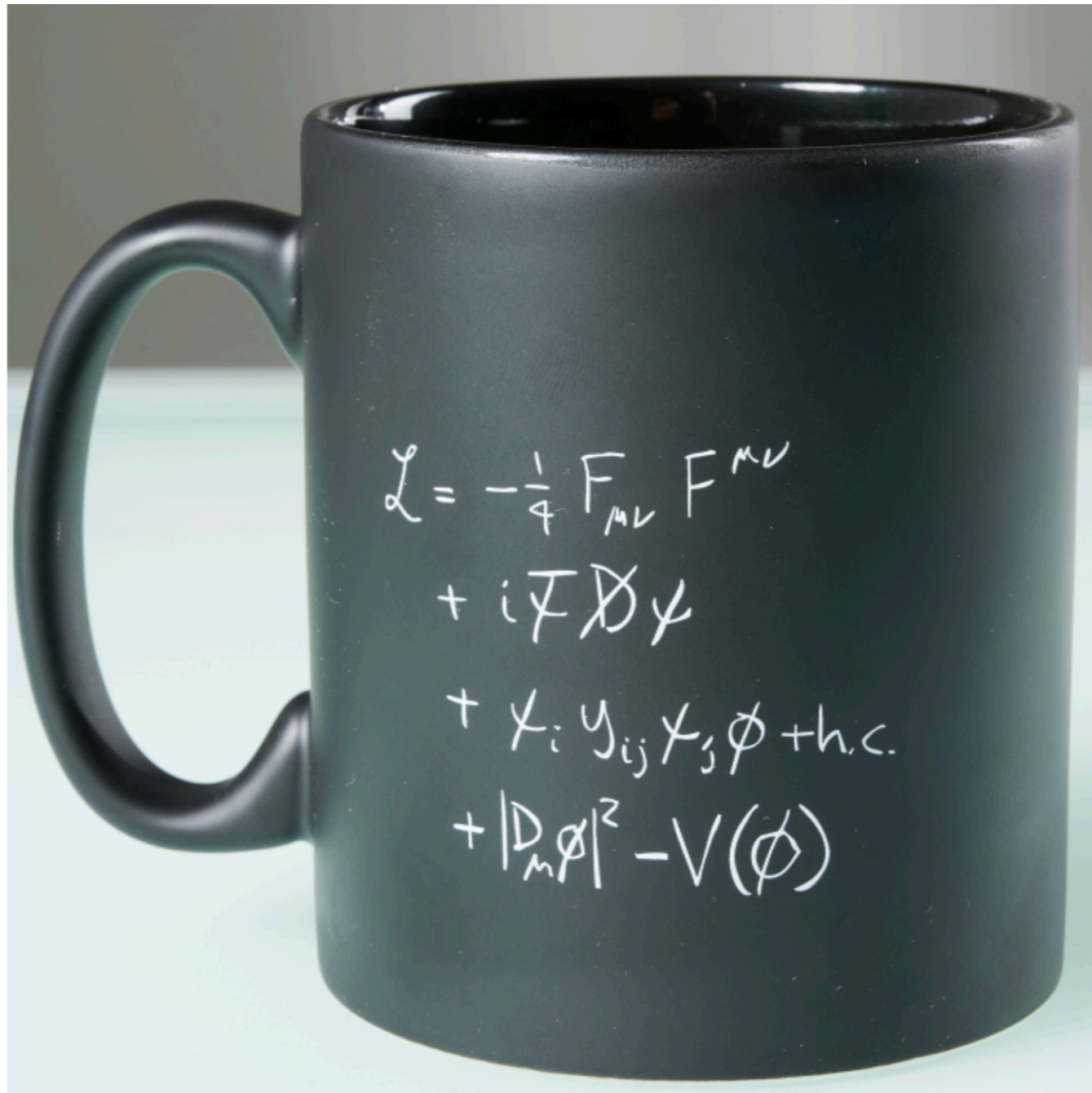
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 &= (\bar{l}_i e_j) \varepsilon (\bar{q}_k u_l), \\
 &= (\bar{l}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} e_j) \varepsilon (\bar{q}_k \sigma_{\mu\nu} u_l), \\
 &= (\bar{l}_i e_j)(\bar{d}_k q_l),
 \end{aligned}$$

Lepton operators (5)

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_{qqq}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{d}^c_{i\alpha} u_{j\beta})(\bar{q}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 &= (\bar{q}^c_{i\alpha} \varepsilon q_{j\beta})(\bar{u}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 O_{qqq}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}^c_{i\alpha} \varepsilon q_{j\beta})(\bar{q}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 O_{qqq}^{3(ijkl)} &= (\bar{q}^c_{i\alpha} \tau^l \varepsilon q_{j\beta})(\bar{q}^c_{k\gamma} \tau^l \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}, \\
 O_{duu}^{(ijkl)} &= (\bar{d}^c_{i\alpha} u_{j\beta})(\bar{u}^c_{k\gamma} \varepsilon l_l) \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta\gamma}.
 \end{aligned}$$

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It's a quantum **field** theory.

Thank you!