


# OVERVIEW

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Eric Prebys, UC Davis



USPAS Fundamentals, June 4-15, 2018

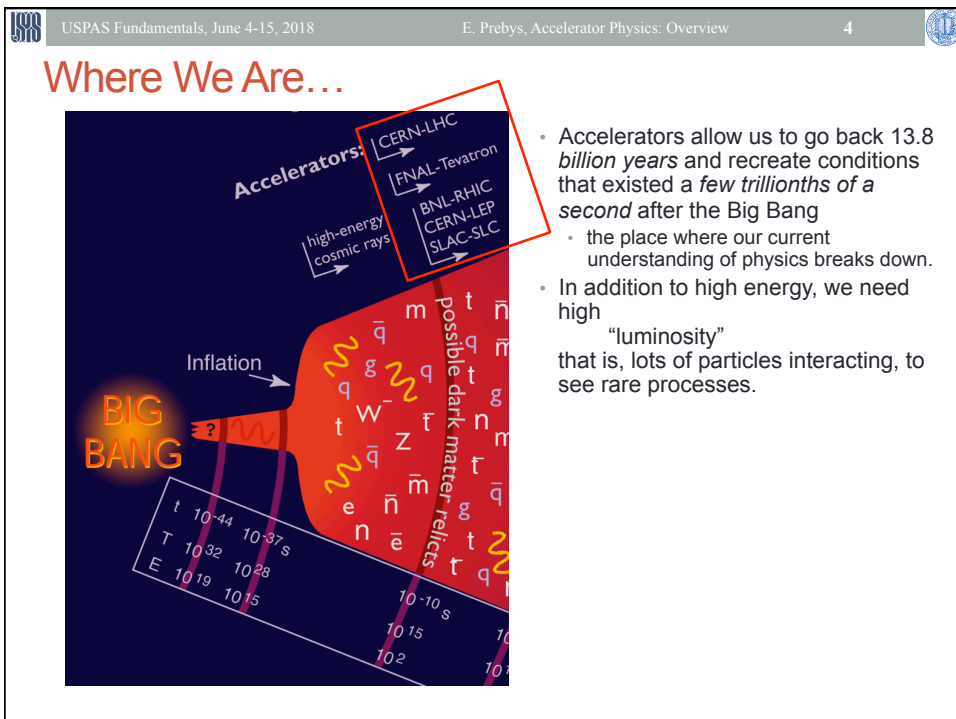
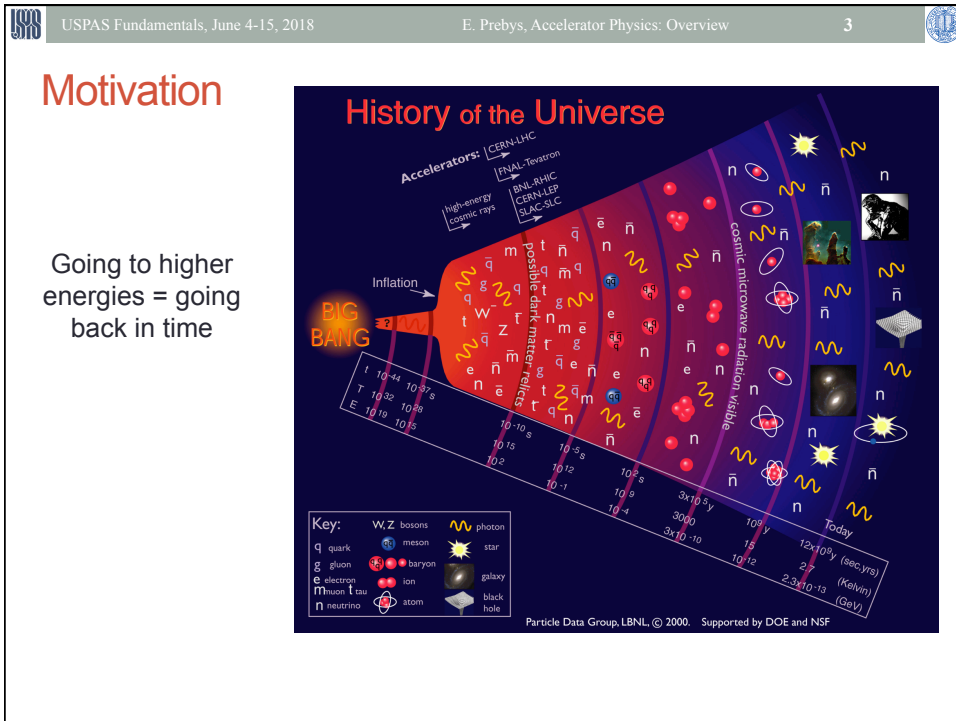
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## Goals of this Lecture

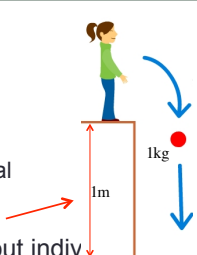
- This talk will serve as an overview of accelerator physics and the history of accelerators
- We'll cover all of these in much greater detail in the days to come, so this will serve as a preview.
  - Don't worry if you don't understand everything right away.



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## Units of energy: Electron Volts

- An “electron-volt” is the energy gained by a particle of unit charge is accelerated over 1V potential
- It is *really small*
  - $1\text{eV} = 1.6 \times 10^{-19}$  (= .00000000000000000016) Joules - our usual unit of energy.
  - A 1 kg weight dropped 1m would have  $6 \times 10^{18}$  eV of energy!
- On the other hand, it's a very useful unit when talking about individual particles
  - If we accelerate a proton using an electrical potential, we know exactly what the energy is.
  - It's also useful when thinking about mass/energy equivalence



$$(\text{proton mass}) \times c^2 = 938,000,000 \text{ eV} \approx 1 \text{ billion eV} = 1 \text{ GeV}$$

$$(\text{electron mass}) \times c^2 = 511,000 \text{ eV} \approx \frac{1}{2} \text{ MeV}$$

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## Another way to look at energy...

- Quantum mechanics tells us all particles have a wavelength

“Planck Constant”  $\rightarrow$

$$\lambda = \frac{h}{p} \approx \frac{(\text{size of a proton})}{\text{Energy (in GeV)}}$$

momentum  $\rightarrow$   $p$   $\rightarrow$  as  $v$  approaches  $c$

- So going to higher energy allows us to probe smaller and smaller scales
- If we put the high equivalent mass and the small scales together, we have...

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## Understanding Energy

- High Energy Physics is based on Einstein's equivalence of Mass and Energy

$$E = mc^2$$


- All reactions involve some mass changing either to or from energy

Chemical Explosion




.00000005% of mass converted to energy.

Hydrogen Bomb



~.1% (of just the Hydrogen!) converted.

- If we could convert a kilogram of mass entirely to energy, it would supply all the electricity in the United States for *almost a day*.



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## Kinetic Energy

- A body in motion will have a total energy given by

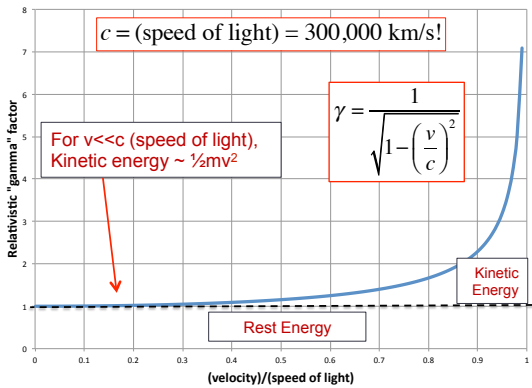
$$E = \frac{mc^2}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}} \equiv \gamma mc^2$$

- The difference between this and  $mc^2$  is called the "kinetic energy"
- Here are some examples of kinetic energy

$c = (\text{speed of light}) = 300,000 \text{ km/s!}$

For  $v \ll c$  (speed of light),  
Kinetic energy  $\sim \frac{1}{2}mv^2$

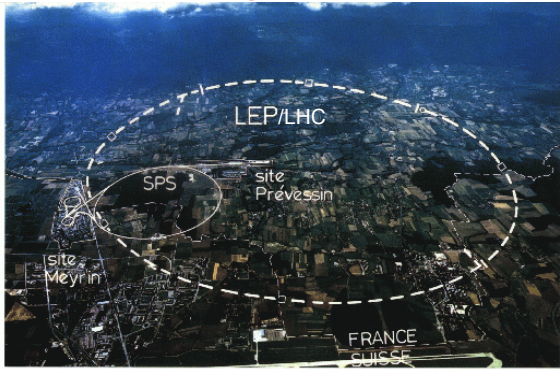
$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}}$





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## State of the Art: Large Hadron Collider (LHC)



- Built at CERN, straddling the French/Swiss border
- 27 km in circumference
- Currently colliding beams of 6.5 TeV/beam
  - Design energy of 7 TeV
- That's where we are. Now let's see how we got here...

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## Relativity and Units

Remember forever!

- Basic Relativity

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c}$$

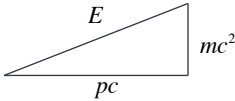
$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$$

momentum  $p = \gamma mv$

total energy  $E = \gamma mc^2$

kinetic energy  $K = E - mc^2$

$$E = \sqrt{(mc^2)^2 + (pc)^2}$$



Some Handy Relationships

$$\beta = \frac{pc}{E}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{E}{mc^2}$$

$$\beta\gamma = \frac{pc}{mc^2}$$

- Units
  - For the most part, we will use SI units, except
    - Energy: eV (keV, MeV, etc) [1 eV = 1.6x10<sup>-19</sup> J]
    - Mass: eV/c<sup>2</sup> [proton = 1.67x10<sup>-27</sup> kg = 938 MeV/c<sup>2</sup>]
    - Momentum: eV/c [proton @ β=.9 = 1.94 GeV/c]
  - In the US and Europe, we normally talk about the kinetic energy ( $K$ ) of a particle beam, although we'll see that momentum really makes more sense

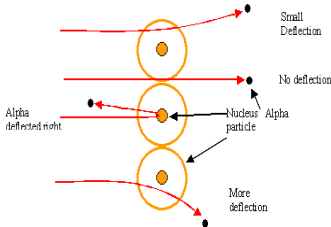

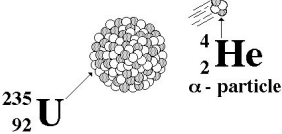
These units make these relationships really easy to calculate

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## Some Pre-History

- The first artificial acceleration of particles was done using “Crookes tubes”, in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - These were used to produce the first X-rays (1875)
  - At the time no one understood what was going on
- The first “particle physics experiment” told Ernest Rutherford the structure of the atom (1911)
  - In this case, the “accelerator” was a naturally decaying  $^{235}\text{U}$  nucleus

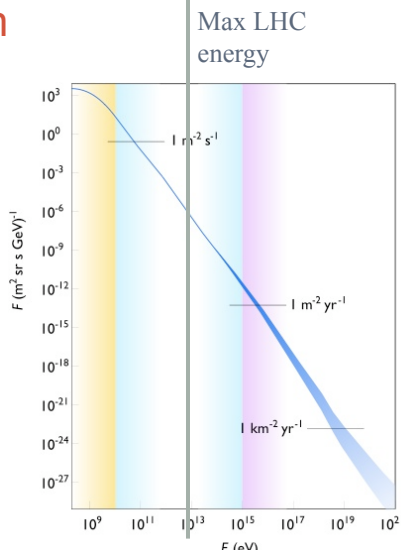
Study the way radioactive particles “scatter” off of atoms

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## Natural Particle Acceleration

- Radioactive sources produce maximum energies of a few million electron volts (MeV)
- Cosmic rays reach energies of  $\sim 1,000,000,000 \times \text{LHC}$  but the rates are too low to be useful as a study tool
  - Not enough “luminosity”
- However, low energy cosmic rays are extremely useful for detector testing, commissioning, etc.

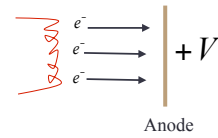




## Man-made Particle Acceleration



The simplest accelerators accelerate charged particles through a *static* electric field. Example: **vacuum tubes** (or CRT TV's)



$$K = eEd = eV$$



Old FNAL Cockcroft-Walton = 750 kV

Limited by magnitude of electric field:

- CRT display ~keV
- X-ray tube ~10's of keV
- Van de Graaf ~MeVs

Solutions:

- Alternate fields to keep particles in accelerating fields -> Radio Frequency (RF) acceleration
- Bend particles so they see the same accelerating field over and over -> cyclotrons, synchrotrons



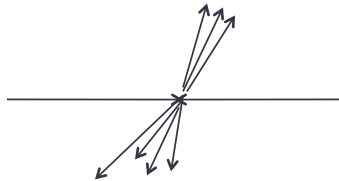
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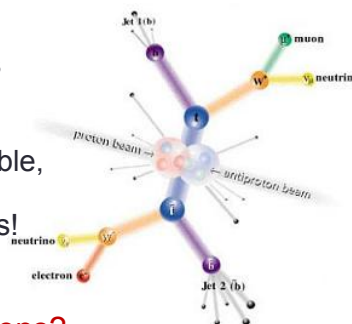


## Interlude: Electrons vs. Protons



- Electrons are point-like
  - Well-defined initial state
  - Full energy available to interaction

- Protons are made of quarks and gluons
  - Interaction take place between these constituents.
  - Only a small fraction of energy available, not well-defined.
  - Rest of particle fragments -> big mess!

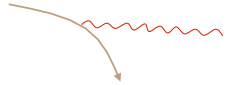


So why not stick to electrons?

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## Synchrotron Radiation

As the trajectory of a charged particle is deflected, it emits "synchrotron radiation"



Radius of curvature  $\rho$  Radiated Power  $\propto \frac{1}{\rho^2} \left( \frac{E}{m} \right)^4$

An electron will radiate about  $10^{13}$  times more power than a proton of the same energy!!!!

- Protons:** Synchrotron radiation does not affect kinematics very much
  - Energy limited by strength of magnetic fields and size of ring
- Electrons:** Synchrotron radiation dominates kinematics
  - To go higher energy, we have to *lower* the magnetic field and go to *huge* rings
  - Eventually, we lose the benefit of a circular accelerator, because we lose all the energy each time around.

Since the beginning, the "energy frontier" has belonged to proton (and/or antiproton) machines, while electrons are used for precision studies and other purposes.

Now, back to the program...

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## The Cyclotron (1930's)

A charged particle in a uniform magnetic field will follow a circular path of radius

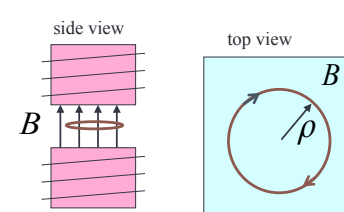
$$\rho = \frac{p}{qB} \approx \frac{mv}{qB} \quad (v \ll c)$$

$$f = \frac{v}{2\pi\rho}$$

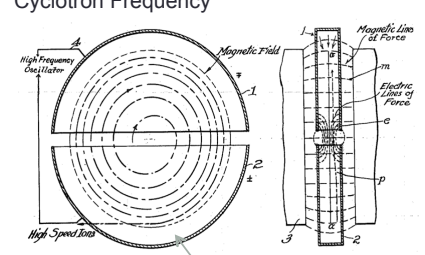
$$= \frac{qB}{2\pi m} \quad (\text{constant!!})$$

$$\Omega_s = 2\pi f = \frac{qB}{m}$$

would not work for electrons!



"Cyclotron Frequency"



For a proton:  $f_c = 15.2 \times B[T]$  MHz  
i.e. "RF" range

Accelerating "DEES": by applying a voltage which oscillates at  $f_c$ , we can accelerator the particle a little bit each time around, allowing us to get to high energies with a relatively small voltage.



## Round and Round We Go: the First Cyclotrons



- ~1930 (Berkeley)
  - Lawrence and Livingston
  - $K=80$  keV
  - Fit in your hand



- 1935 - 60" Cyclotron
  - Lawrence, et al. (LBL)
  - ~19 MeV (D.)
  - Prototype for many

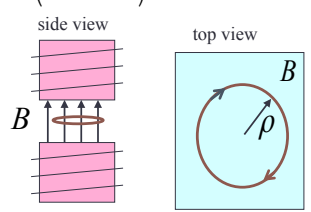


## Onward and Upward!

- Cyclotrons were limited by three problems
  - Constant frequency breaks down at ~10% speed of light
    - Solved with variable frequency "synchro-cyclotrons"
      - ➔ phase stability (more about this later)
    - Later "isochronous cyclotrons" (had to solve stability problems)
  - As energy goes up, magnet gets huge
  - Beams are not well focused and get larger with energy
- Two major advances allowed accelerators to go beyond the energies and intensities possible at cyclotrons
  - "Synchrotron" – in which the magnetic field is increased as the energy increases (proportional to momentum), such that particles continue to follow the same path .
  - "Strong focusing" – a technique in which magnetic gradients (non-uniform fields) are used to focus particles and keep them in a smaller beam pipe than was possible with cyclotrons.
- Note: still plenty of uses for cyclotrons (simple, inexpensive, rapid cycling)
  - Medical treatments
  - Isotope production
  - Nuclear physics

## Understanding Beam Motion: Beam “rigidity”

- The relativistically correct form of Newton’s Laws for a particle in an electromagnetic field is:
 
$$\vec{F} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} = q(\vec{E} + \vec{v} \times \vec{B}); \vec{p} \equiv \gamma m \vec{v}$$
- A particle of unit charge in a uniform magnetic field will move in a circle of radius
 
$$\rho = \frac{p}{eB}$$



$(B\rho) = \frac{p}{e}$  constant for fixed energy!

$(B\rho)c = \frac{pc}{e}$  units of eV in our usual convention

$(B\rho)c = \frac{pc}{e}$  T-m<sup>2</sup>/s = V

Beam “rigidity” = constant at a given momentum (even when B=0!)

$$(B\rho)[T\cdot m] = \frac{p[eV/c]}{c[m/s]} \approx \frac{p[MeV/c]}{300}$$

Remember forever!

If all magnetic fields are scaled with the momentum as particles accelerate, the trajectories remain the same  
 → “synchrotron” [E. McMillan, 1945]

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## Example Beam Parameters

- Compare Fermilab LINAC (K=400 MeV) to LHC (K=7000 GeV)

Parameter	Symbol	Equation	Injection	Extraction
proton mass	m [GeV/c <sup>2</sup> ]			0.938
kinetic energy	K [GeV]		.4	7000
total energy	E [GeV]	$K + mc^2$	1.3382	7000.938
momentum	p [GeV/c]	$\sqrt{E^2 - (mc^2)^2}$	0.95426	7000.938
rel. beta	$\beta$	$(pc)/E$	0.713	0.999999991
rel. gamma	$\gamma$	$E/(mc^2)$	1.426	7461.5
beta-gamma	$\beta\gamma$	$(pc)/(mc^2)$	1.017	7461.5
rigidity	(Bρ) [T·m]	$p[GeV]/(.2997)$	3.18	23353.

This would be the radius of curvature in a 1 T magnetic field or the field in Tesla needed to give a 1 m radius of curvature.



## Weak Focusing

- Cyclotrons relied on the fact that magnetic fields between two pole faces are never perfectly uniform.
- This prevents the particles from spiraling out of the pole gap.
- In early synchrotrons, radial field profiles were optimized to take advantage of this effect, but in any weak focused beams, *the beam size grows with energy.*
- The most famous weak focusing accelerator was the Berkeley Bevatron, which had a kinetic energy of 6.2 GeV
  - High enough to make antiprotons (and win a Nobel Prize)
  - It had an aperture 12"x48"!

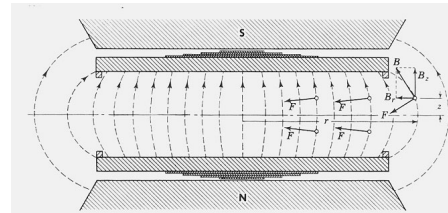
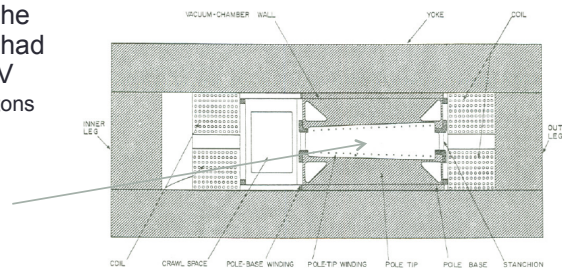


Fig. 6-7. Radially decreasing magnetic field between poles of a cyclotron magnet, showing shims for field correction.



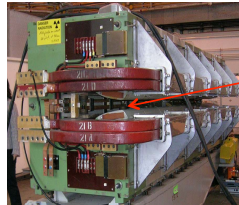
## Strong Focusing

- Strong focusing utilizes alternating magnetic gradients to precisely control the focusing of a beam of particles
  - The principle was first developed in 1949 by Nicholas Christofilos, a Greek-American engineer, who was working for an elevator company in Athens at the time.
  - Rather than publish the idea, he applied for a patent, and it went largely ignored.
  - The idea was independently invented in 1952 by Courant, Livingston and Snyder, who later acknowledged the priority of Christofilos' work.
  - Courant and Snyder wrote a follow-up paper in 1958, which contains the vast majority of the accelerator physics concepts and formalism in use to this day!
- Although the technique was originally formulated in terms of magnetic gradients, it's much easier to understand in terms of the separate functions of dipole and quadrupole magnets.



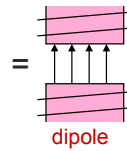
## Combined Function vs. Separated Function

Strong focusing was originally implemented by building magnets with non-parallel pole faces to introduce a linear magnetic gradient



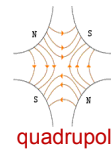
CERN PS (1959, 29 GeV)

$$B_y(x) = B_0 + \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} x$$



dipole

+



quadrupole

Later synchrotrons were built with physically separate dipole and quadrupole magnets. The first "separated function" synchrotron was the Fermilab Main Ring (1972, 400 GeV)



dipole

+



quadrupole



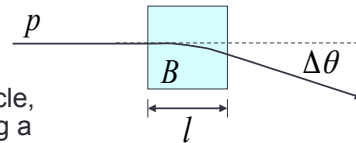
Fermilab

Strong focusing is also much easier to *teach* using separated functions, so we will...



## Thin Lens Approximation and Magnetic "kick"

- If the path length through a transverse magnetic field is short compared to the bend radius of the particle, then we can think of the particle receiving a transverse "kick", which is proportional to the integrated field

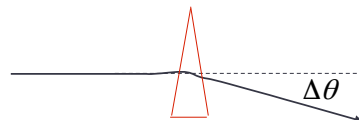


$$p_{\perp} \approx qvBt = qvB(l/v) = qBl$$

and it will be bent through small angle

$$\Delta\theta \approx \frac{p_{\perp}}{p} = \frac{Bl}{(B\rho)}$$

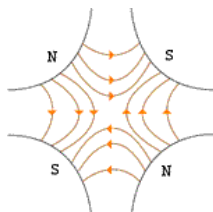
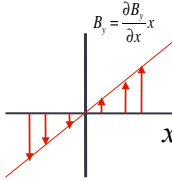
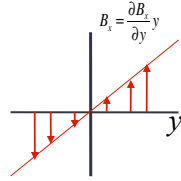
- In this "thin lens approximation", a dipole is the equivalent of a prism in classical optics.





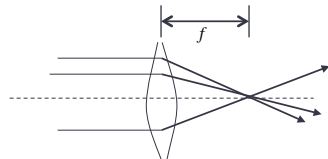
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## Quadrupole Magnets\* as Lenses

Note:  $\vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} = 0 \rightarrow \frac{\partial B_y}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial B_x}{\partial y} = B'$

- A positive particle coming out of the page off center in the horizontal plane will experience a *restoring* kick *proportional to the displacement*

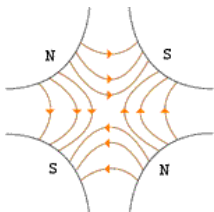
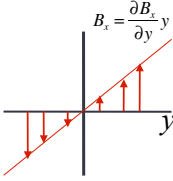
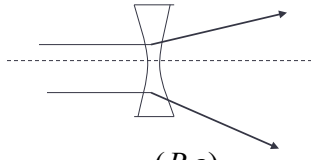
$$\Delta\theta \approx -\frac{B_y l}{(B\rho)} = -\frac{B' l x}{(B\rho)}$$


just like a "thin lens" with focal length  $f = \frac{x}{\Delta\theta} = \frac{(B\rho)}{B' l}$

\*or quadrupole term in a gradient magnet

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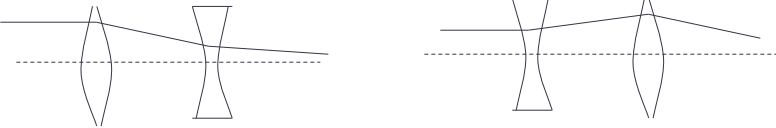
## What About the Other Plane?

$$f = -\frac{(B\rho)}{B' l}$$

Defocusing!

Luckily, if we place equal and opposite pairs of lenses, there will be a net focusing *regardless of the order*.

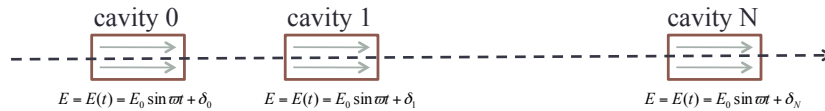


→ pairs give net focusing in *both* planes -> "FODO cell"



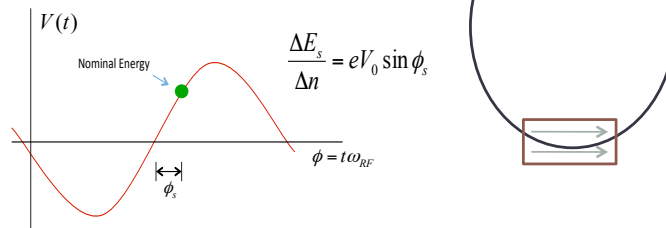
## Longitudinal Motion

- We will generally accelerate particles using structures that generate time-varying electric fields (RF cavities), either in a linear arrangement



or located within a circulating ring

- In both cases, we want to phase the RF so a nominal arriving particle will see the same accelerating voltage and therefore get the same boost in energy



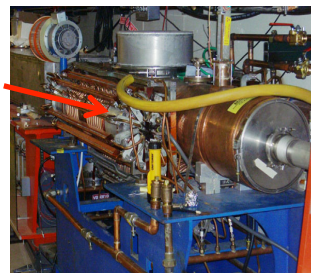
## Examples of Accelerating RF Structures



Fermilab Drift Tube Linac (200MHz): oscillating field uniform along length

37-53MHz Fermilab Booster cavity

Biased ferrite frequency tuner



ILC prototype elliptical cell "π-cavity" (1.3 GHz): field alternates with each cell



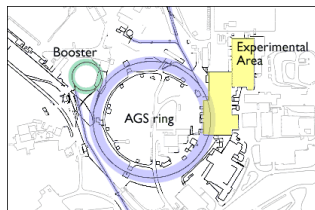
## Some Important Early Synchrotrons



- Berkeley Bevatron,
- 1954 (weak focusing)
  - 6.2 GeV protons
  - Discovered antiproton

### CERN Proton Synchrotron (PS)

- 1959
- 628 m circumference
- 28 GeV protons
- Still used in LHC injector chain!



The Alternating Gradient Synchrotron complex



### Brookhaven Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS)

- 1960
- 808 m circumference
- 33 GeV protons
- Discovered charm quark, CP violation, muon neutrino

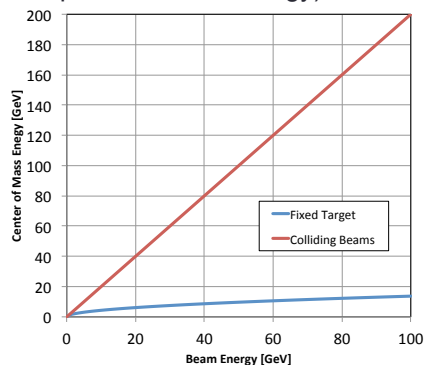


## Getting the Most Energy: The Case for Colliders

- If beam hits a stationary proton, the “center of mass” energy is
- On the other hand, for colliding beams (of equal mass and energy) it's

$$E_{\text{CM}} = \sqrt{2E_{\text{beam}} m_{\text{target}} c^2}$$

$$E_{\text{CM}} = 2E_{\text{beam}}$$



- To get the 14 TeV CM design energy of the LHC with a single beam on a fixed target would require that beam to have an energy of 100,000 TeV!

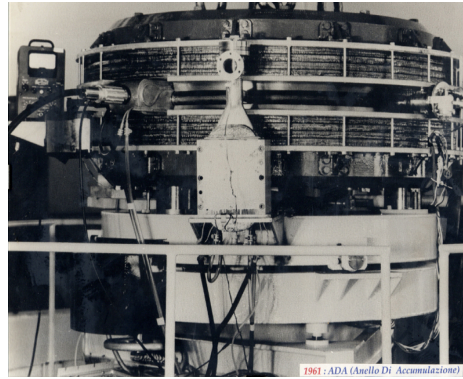
➤ *Would require a ring 10 times the diameter of the Earth!!*

Getting to the highest energies requires colliding beams



## First $e^+e^-$ Collider

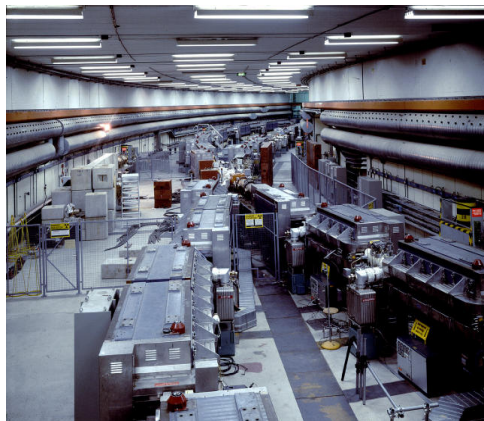
- ADA (Anello Di Accumulazione) at INFN, Frascati, Italy (1961)
  - 250 MeV  $e^+$  x 250 MeV  $e^-$



- It's easier to collide  $e^+e^-$ , because synchrotron radiation naturally "cools" the beam to smaller size.



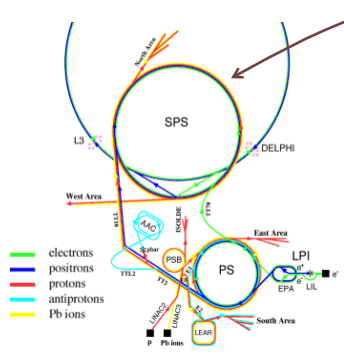
## First Proton Collider: CERN Intersecting Storage Rings (ISR)



- 1971
- 31 GeV + 31 GeV colliding proton beams.
  - Highest CM Energy for 10 years
- Set a luminosity record that was not broken for 28 years!

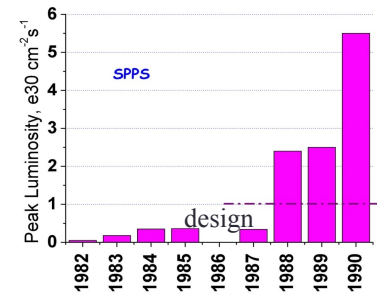
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## SppS: First Proton-Antiproton Collider



- Protons from the SPS were used to produce antiprotons, which were collected
- These were injected in the opposite direction (same beam pipe) and accelerated
- First collisions in 1981
- Discovery of W and Z in 1983
- Nobel Prize for Rubbia and Van der Meer

> Energy initially 270+270 GeV  
 > Raised to 315+315 GeV  
 > Limited by power loss in magnets!




Year	Peak Luminosity (e30 cm <sup>-2</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> )
1982	0.1
1983	0.2
1984	0.3
1985	0.4
1986	0.5
1987	0.6
1988	2.4
1989	2.5
1990	5.5


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## Superconductivity: Enabling Technology

- The maximum SppS energy was limited by the maximum power loss that the conventional magnets could support.
  - LHC made out of such magnets would be roughly the size of Rhode Island!
- Highest energy colliders only possible using superconducting magnets
- Must take the bad with the good
  - Conventional magnets are simple and naturally dissipate energy as they operate



Superconducting magnets are complex and represent a great deal of stored energy which must be handled if something goes wrong



$$E \propto B^2$$

- R&D into superconducting technology is absolutely critical in the quest for the highest energies (made Tevatron and LHC possible!)
- Machine protection is one of the biggest challenges.

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## When is a superconductor not a superconductor?

- Superconductor can change phase back to normal conductor by crossing the “critical surface”

- When this happens, the conductor heats quickly, causing the surrounding conductor to go normal and dumping lots of heat into the liquid Helium → “quench”
  - all of the energy stored in the magnet must be dissipated in some way
- Dealing with quenches is the single biggest issue for any superconducting synchrotron!

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## Quench Example: MRI Magnet\*

\*pulled off the web. We recover our Helium.





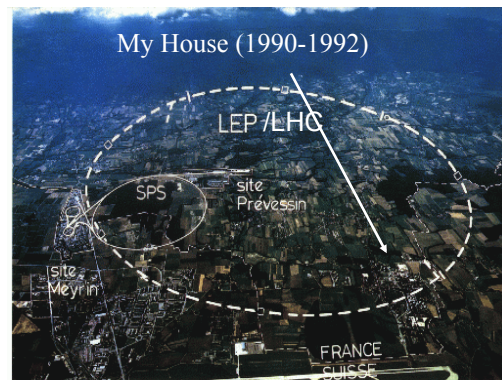
## Tevatron: First Superconducting Synchrotron



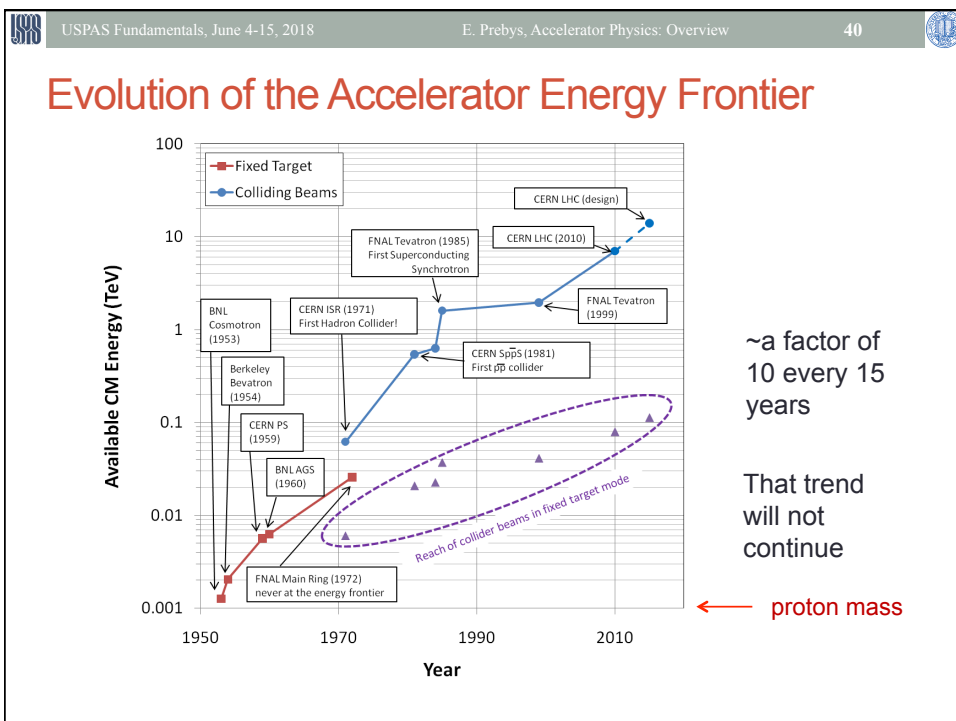
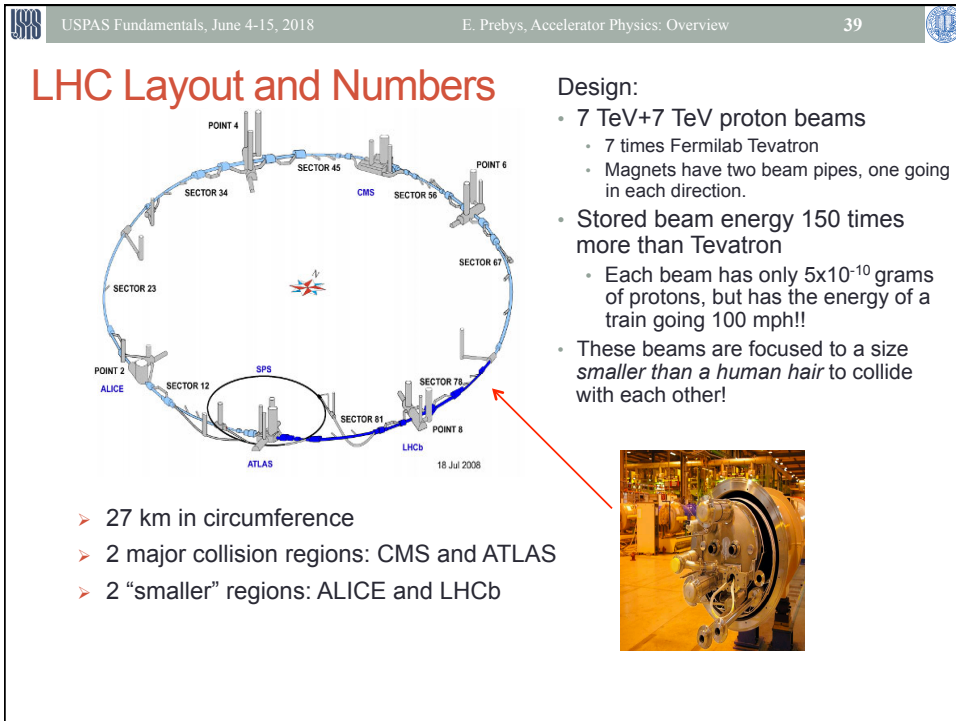
- 1968 – Fermilab Construction Begins
- 1972 – Beam in Main Ring
  - (normal magnets)
- Plans soon began for a superconducting collider to share the ring.
  - Dubbed “Saver Doubler” (later “Tevatron”)
- 1985 – First proton-antiproton collisions in Tevatron
  - Most powerful accelerator in the world *for the next quarter century*
- 1995 – Top quark discovery
- 2011 – Tevatron shut down after successful LHC startup



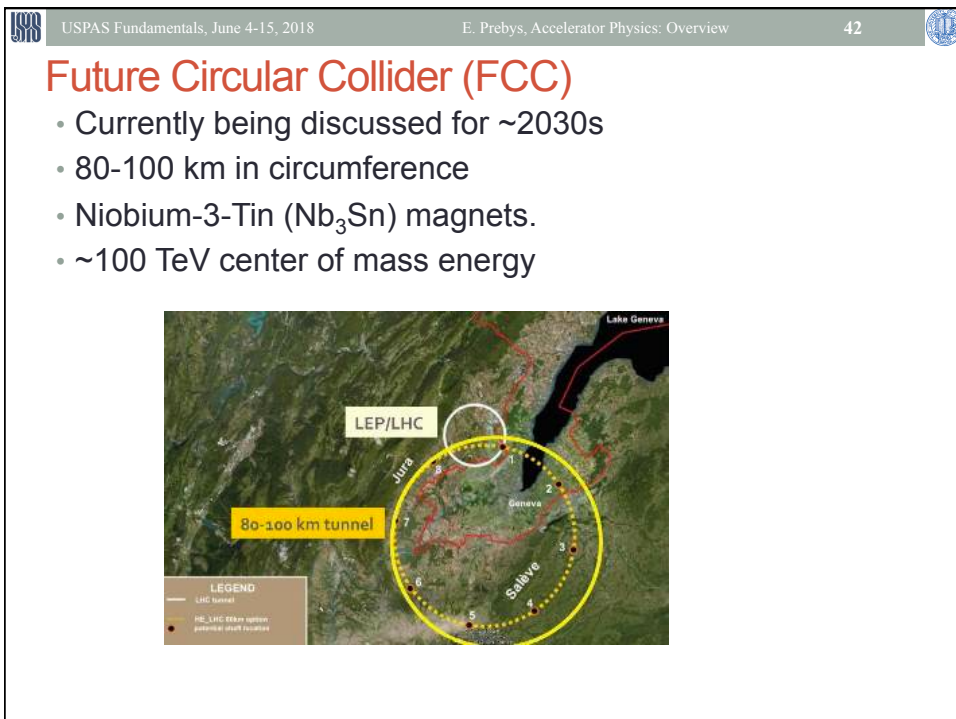
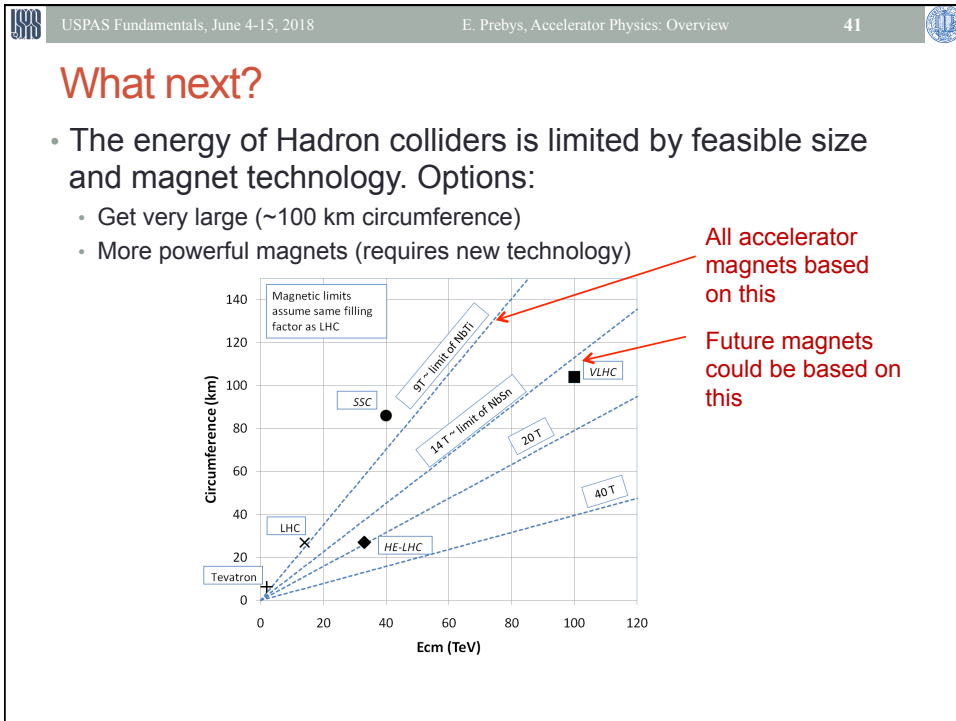
## Back the present: Large Hadron Collider



- Straddles French/Swiss border near Geneva, Switzerland
- Tunnel originally dug for LEP
  - Built in 1980's as an electron positron collider
  - Max 100 GeV/beam, but 27 km in circumference!!



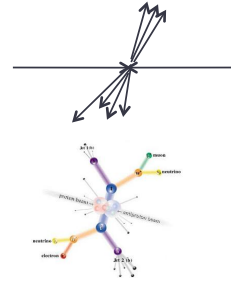






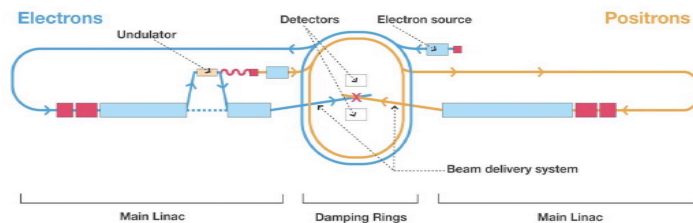
## Other Paths to the Energy Frontier

- Leptons vs. Hadrons revisited
  - Because 100% of the beam energy is available to the reaction, a lepton collider is competitive with a hadron collider of ~5-10 times the beam energy (depending on the physics).
  - A lepton collider of >1 TeV/beam could compete with the discovery potential of the LHC
    - A lower energy lepton collider could be very useful for precision tests, but I'm talking about direct *energy frontier* discoveries.
  - Unfortunately, building such a collider is VERY, VERY hard
    - Eventually, circular  $e^+e^-$  colliders will radiate away all of their energy each turn
      - LEP reached 100 GeV/beam with a 27 km circumference synchrotron!
- Next  $e^+e^-$  collider will be linear



## International Linear Collider (ILC)

- LEP was the limit of circular  $e^+e^-$  colliders
  - Next step must be linear collider
  - Proposed ILC 30 km long, 250 x 250 GeV  $e^+e^-$  (NOT energy frontier)

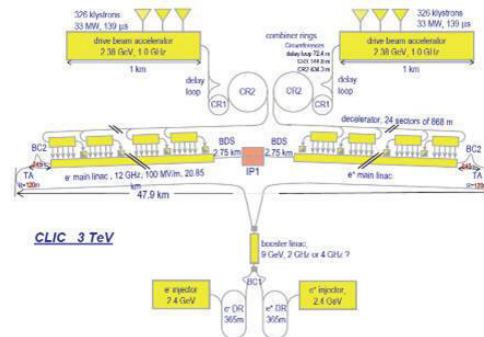


- We don't yet know whether that's high enough energy to be interesting
  - Need to wait for LHC results
  - What if we need more?



## “Compact” (ha ha) Linear Collider (CLIC)?

- Use low energy, high current electron beams to drive high energy accelerating structures

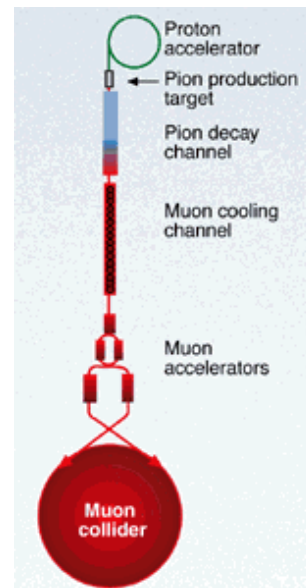


- Up to 1.5 x 1.5 TeV, but VERY, VERY hard



## Muon colliders?

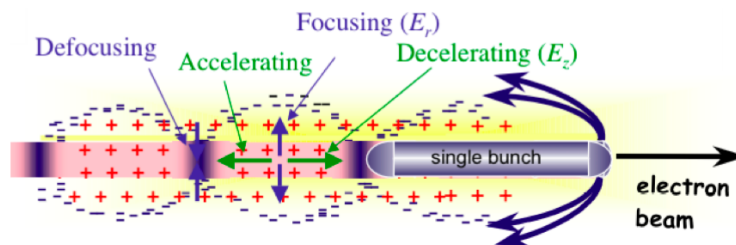
- Muons are pointlike, like electrons, but because they're heavier, synchrotron radiation is much less of a problem.
- Unfortunately, muons are unstable, so you have to produce them, cool them, and collide them, before they decay.





## Wakefield accelerators?

- Many advances have been made in exploiting the huge fields that are produced in plasma oscillations.



- Potential for accelerating gradients many orders of magnitude beyond RF cavities.
- Still a long way to go for a practical accelerator.



## Some other important accelerators (past):

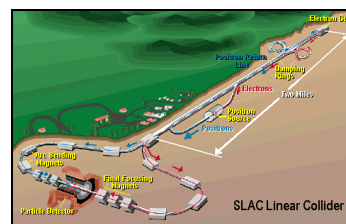


LEP (at CERN):

- 27 km in circumference
- $e^+e^-$
- Primarily at  $2E=M_Z$  (90 GeV)
- Pushed to  $E_{CM}=200\text{ GeV}$
- $L = 2E31$
- **Tunnel now houses LHC**

SLC (at SLAC):

- 2 km long LINAC accelerated electrons AND positrons on opposite phases.
- $2E=M_Z$  (90 GeV)
- polarized
- $L = 3E30$
- **Proof of principle for linear collider**



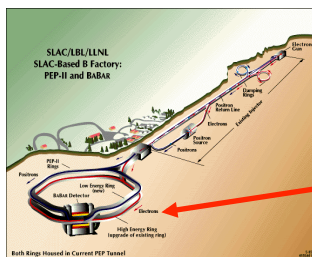


## B-Factories

- B-Factories collide  $e^+e^-$  at  $E_{CM} = M(Y(4S))$ .
- Asymmetric beam energy (moving center of mass) allows for time-dependent measurement of B-decays to study CP violation.

### KEKB (Belle Experiment):

- Located at KEK (Japan)
- 8 GeV  $e^-$  x 3.5 GeV  $e^+$
- Peak luminosity  $> 10^{34}$



### PEP-II (BaBar Experiment)

- Located at SLAC (USA)
- 9 GeV  $e^-$  x 3.1 GeV  $e^+$
- Peak luminosity  $> 10^{34}$



## Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC)




- Located at Brookhaven:
- Can collide protons (at 28.1 GeV) and many types of ions up to Gold (at 11 GeV/amu).
- Luminosity:  $2 \times 10^{26}$  for Gold
- **Goal: heavy ion physics, quark-gluon plasma, ??**

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## Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF)

Jlab, the aerial view



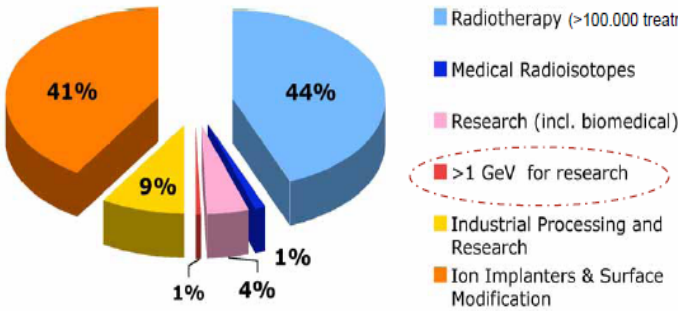
Kees de Jager Bernhard Mecking Rolf Ent

- Locate at Jefferson Laboratory, Newport News, VA
- 12GeV e<sup>-</sup> at 200 uA continuous current
- Nuclear physics, precision spectroscopy, etc

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## Research Machines: Just the Tip of the Iceberg

Number of accelerators worldwide  
~ 26,000



44% 41% 9% 1% 4% 1%

- Radiotherapy (>100,000 treatments/yr)\*
- Medical Radioisotopes
- Research (incl. biomedical)
- >1 GeV for research
- Industrial Processing and Research
- Ion Implanters & Surface Modification

Annual growth is several percent  
Sales >3.5 B\$/yr  
Value of treated good > 50 B\$/yr \*\*





## Example: Spallation Neutron Source (Oak Ridge, TN)

A 1 GeV Linac loads  $1.5 \times 10^{14}$  protons into a non-accelerating synchrotron ring.



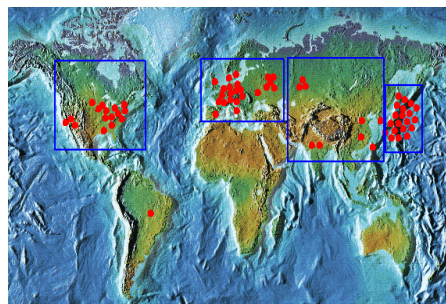
These are fast extracted onto a Mercury target

This happens at  
60 Hz  $\rightarrow$  1.4 MW

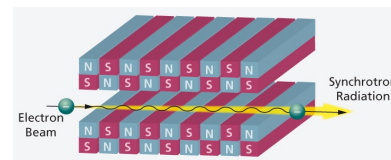
Neutrons are used for biophysics, materials science, industry, etc...



## Light sources: too many to count



- Put circulating electron beam through an “undulator” to create synchrotron radiation (typically X-ray)
- Many applications in biophysics, materials science, industry.
- New proposed machines will use very short bunches to create coherent light.





## Other uses of accelerators

- Radioisotope production
- Medical treatment
- Electron welding
- Food sterilization
- Catalyzed polymerization
- Even art...



In a “Lichtenberg figure”, a low energy electron linac is used to implant a layer of charge in a sheet of lucite. This charge can remain for weeks until it is discharged by a mechanical disruption.