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前言

As this is being written, particle physics stands on the threshold of a new era, with the commissioning of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) not even two years away. In writing this book, I hope to help prepare graduate students and postdoctoral researchers for what will hopefully be a period rich in new data and surprising phenomena. The Standard Model has reigned triumphant for three decades. For just as long, theorists and experimentalists have speculated about what might lie beyond. Manyof these speculations point to a particular energy scale, the teraelectronvolt (TeV) scale which will be probed for the first time at the LHC. The stimulus for thesestudies arises from the most mysterious - and still missing - piece of the StandardModel: the Higgs boson. Precision electroweak measurements strongly suggest that this particle is elementary (in that any structure is likely far smaller than its Comptonwavelength), and that it should be in a mass range where it will be discovered at the LHC. But the existence of fundamental scalars is puzzling in quantum field theory, and strongly suggests new physics at the TeV scale. Among the most prominent proposals for this physics is a hypothetical new symmetry of nature, supersymmetry, which is the focus of much of this text. Others, such as technicolor, and large orwarped extra Even as they await evidence for such new phenomena, physicists have dimensions, are also treated here. becomemore ambitious, attacking fundamental problems of quantum gravity, and specu-lating on possible final formulations of the laws of nature. This ambition has beenfueled by string theol., which seems to provide a complete framework for thequantum mechanics of gauge theory and gravity. Such a structure is necessary togive a framework to many speculations about beyond the Standard Model physics. Most models of supersymmetry breaking, theories of large extra dimensions, andwarped spaces cannot be discussed in a consistent way otherwise.

内容概要

The Standard Model has reigned triumphant for three decades. For just as long, theorists and experimentalists have speculated about what might lie beyond. Manyof these speculations point to a particular energy scale, the teraelectronvolt (TeV) scale which will be probed for the first time at the LHC. The stimulus for thesestudies arises from the most mysterious - and still missing - piece of the StandardModel : the Higgs boson. Precision electroweak measurements strongly suggest thatthis particle is elementary (in that any structure is likely far smaller than its Comptonwavelength), and that it should be in a mass range where it will be discovered at theLHC. But the existence of fundamental scalars is puzzling in quantum field theory, and strongly suggests new physics at the TeV scale. Among the most prominentproposals for this physics is a hypothetical new symmetry of nature, supersymmetry, which is the focus of much of this text. Others, such as technicolor, and large orwarped extra dimensions, are also treated here.





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书籍目录

PrefaceA note on choice of metricText websitePart 1 Effective field theory : the Standard Model, supersymmetry , unification 1 Before the Standard Model Suggested reading 2 The Standard Model 2.1 Yan9-Mills theory 2.2 Realizations of symmetry in quantum field theory 2.3 The quantization of Yan9-Mills theories 2.4 The particles and fields of the Standard Model 2.5 The gauge boson masses 2.6 Quark and lepton masses Suggested reading Exercises 3 Phenomenology of the Standard Model 3.1 The weak interactions 3.2 The guark and lepton mass matrices 3.3 The strong interactions 3.4 The renormalization group 3.5 Calculating the beta function 3.6 The strong interactions and dimensional transmutation 3.7 Confinement and lattice gauge theory 3.8 Strong interaction processes at high momentum transfer. Suggested reading Exercises 4 The Standard Model as an effective field theory 4.1 Lepton and baryon number violation ' 4.2 Challenges for the Standard Model 4.3 The hierarchy problem 4.4 Dark 4.5 Summary : successes and limitations of the Standard Model Suggested reading matter and dark energy 5 Anomalies, instantons and the strong CP problem 5.1 The chiral anomaly 5.2 A two-dimensional 5.3 Real QCD 5.4 The strong CP problem 5.5 Possible solutions of the strong CP problem detour Suggested reading Exercises 6 Grand unification 6.1 Cancellation of anomalies 6.2 Renormalization of 6.3 Breaking to $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ 6.4 SU(2) \times U(1)breaking 6.5 Charge quantization couplings 6.6 Proton decay and magnetic monopoles 6.7 Other groups Suggested reading Exercises 7 7.1 Solitons in 1+1 dimensions 7.2 Solitons in 2+1 dimensions Magnetic monopoles and solitons : strings or vortices 7.3 Magnetic monopoles 7.4 The BPS limit ' 7.5 Collective coordinates for the monopole solution 7.6 The Witten effect : the electric charge in the presence of 7.7 Electric-magnetic duality Suggested reading Exercises 8 Technicolor : a first attempt to explain hierarchies 8.1 QCD in a world without Higgs fields 8.2 Fermion masses : extended technicolorPart 2 SupersymmetryPart 3 String theoryPart 4 The appendicesReferencesIndex

章节摘录

插图: The strong interactions, as their name implies, are characterized by strong cou-pling. As a result, perturbative methods are not suitable for most questions. Incomparing theory and experiment, it is necessary to focus on a few phenomenawhich are accessible to theoretical analysis. By itself, this is not particularly dis-turbing. A parallel with the quantum mechanics of electrons interacting with nucleiis perhaps helpful. We can understand simple atoms in detail; atoms with verylarge Z can be treated by Hartree-Fock or other methods. But atoms with inter-mediate Z can be dealt with, at best, by detailed numerical analysis accompanied by educated guesswork. Molecules are even more problematic, not to mentionsolids. But we are able to make detailed tests of the theory (and its extensionin quantum electrodynamics) from the simpler systems, and develop qualitative understanding of the more complicated systems. In many cases, we can do quanti-tative analysis of the small fluctuations about the ground states of the complicated system. In the theory of strong interactions, as we will see, many problems are hopelesslycomplicated. Low-lying spectra are hard; detailed exclusive cross sections in high-energy scattering essentially impossible. But there are many que~stions we cananswer. Rates for many inclusive questions at very high energy and momentum transfer can be calculated with high precision. Qualitative features of the low lyingspectrum of hadrons and their interactions at low energies can be understood in aqualitative (and sometimes quantitative) fashion by symmetry arguments. Recently, progress in lattice gauge theory has made it possible to perform calculations which previously seemed impossible, for features of spectra and even for interaction rates important for understanding the weak interactions.



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