

The Particle Data Group: From Wallet Cards to Smartphone Apps

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February 24, 2016

4:00 p.m. - Wilson Hall, One West

The Particle Data Group is perhaps unique in all of science. For the past 58 years, it has provided evaluated summaries of particle properties, as well as reviews of most of the critical topics in our field. The earliest editions featured the innovation of “wallet cards”, whereas the latest PDG innovation is a mobile site for smartphones (both fit in your pocket). The PDG is an international collaboration with 206 authors from 140 institutions in 24 countries. In recent years, coverage of searches for hypothetical particles and concepts has grown substantially, as has coverage of related areas of Cosmology and Astrophysics. The review articles cover topics such as: Higgs bosons, supersymmetry, Big Bang nucleosynthesis, probability, statistics, accelerators and detectors. Each edition of the PDG book is requested by 14,000 people and the booklet by 30,000 (many of them students). There are typically about nine million hits on the PDG website each year.