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Hadronic interactions and extensive air showers

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Thanks to new data from LHC and fixed-target experiments and an improved understanding of the phenomenology of extensive air showers, significant progress has been made in predicting composition-relevant observables. The current status of predictions for air showers is reviewed and discussed on the basis of general features of hadronic multiparticle production. Implications for the interpretation of cosmic ray data are presented and open questions and possible ways of addressing them are pointed out.

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