Present and future perspectives in Hadron Physics



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Expanding nuclear and hadron physics horizons with the Gamma Factory

A relativistic beam of partially-stripped ions can be irradiated with a laser whose frequency is tuned to a resonant atomic transition which will subsequently de-excite. This mechanism allows one to obtain a γ -source of an unprecedented brilliance and intensity. The Gamma Factory proposed at the LHC is able to produce up to 10^{18} photons per second (7 orders of magnitude beyond the existing sources) with the energy up to 400 MeV, not accessible for FEL sources. A tunable, 100% polarized γ -source of such intensity will furnish us with a versatile tool to significantly improve our understanding of known phenomena, and to study tiny effects that until now have been prohibitively small. The proof of principle experiment at the SPS@CERN will produce $10^{15} \gamma$ /s with the energy of up to 44 keV for a variety of exciting applications in atomic and nuclear physics, and is in preparation. The same principle can be applied at other facilities, such as future EIC or FAIR. I give an overview of the reach of the Gamma Factory in hadron and nuclear physics.

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