P/SS Department Colloquium

Searching for an Ambidextrous Universe at the LHC

Dr. Jeremiah Mans

Associate Professor of Physics University of Minnesota

Friday, November 15, 2013 OPS 140 4:00pm-5:00pm



At the dinner table, on the pitcher's mound, and even in biochemistry, we are familiar with the difference between left-handers and right-handers. Up until 1957, physics felt that it was free of such a arbitrary distinction of handedness or parity. Surely the laws of physics did not depend on the choice of a coordinate system! However, the observation of maximal parity violation in beta decay broken this assumption for the weak decays. Since that year, the lefthanded nature of the weak interaction has been a core aspect of the Standard Model, despite its increasing un-naturalness in the presence of neutrino mass. I will discuss the history of the parity symmetry and the ongoing efforts at the LHC to search for right-handed weak sector which would restore symmetry to the Standard Model.