Particle Physics

- Book: Nuclear and Particle Physics (Walet)

Particle physics (also high energy physics) is the branch of physics that studies the nature of the particles that constitute matter and radiation. Although the word "particle" can refer to various types of very small objects (e.g. protons, gas particles, or even household dust), "particle physics" usually investigates the irreducibly smallest detectable particles and the fundamental interactions necessary to explain their behavior.
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Thumbnail: A Feynman diagram showing the radiation of a gluon when an electron and positron are annihilated. Image used with permission (CC BY-SA 3.0; Joel Holdsworth).