

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

20: The Standard Model

In this chapter we learn about the most fundamental known particles of the universe, and how they act as building blocks for everything that we know. The theory describing this scheme is called the *standard model*. Speculations exist about possible, more fundamental structures in the universe, such as the constructs of string theory. However, with the standard model we have reached the frontier of what is known with any degree of certainty.

[20.1: Hadrons and Leptons](#)

[20.2: Quantum Chromodynamics](#)

[20.3: The Electroweak Theory](#)

[20.4: Grand Unification?](#)

[20.5: Problems](#)

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