

# **Oliver Witzel**



July 11, 2025



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## **Motivation**

Motivation

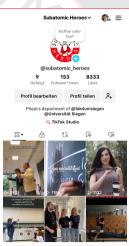
- ▶ Attract students to study physics in Siegen
  - → Low number of Bachelor and Master students
  - → Strong research
  - → Excellent staff-student ratio
- ▶ Spark pupils interest in (particle) physics
  - → Inspire prospective students of tomorrow
  - → Early on reach out to all genders and all backgrounds
- ▶ Education for the general public
  - → Communicate what we are doing and why it is important

Oliver Witzel (University of Siegen)

## **Instagram channel**

- ▶ Channel about physics and life in academia
  - → Academic and outreach events in Siegen
  - → News from conferences and workshops
  - → Physics highlights
- ▶ Target younger generations
  - → (Prospective) students
- ▶ Group of PhD students and PostDocs takes weekly turns in producing new posts
- ▶ 475 followers (before this presentation)
- ▶ New: Bachelor students run a TikTok channel





## **Brochure**

- ▶ Explain particle physics in layman terms
  - → What is the Standard Model?
  - → How do we obtain our knowledge?
  - → Which open questions are driving our research?
- ▶ Expertise of the groups in Siegen
  - → Methods we use to tackle these questions
  - → Advantage of studying physics in Siegen







## Video



- ► Highlight studying/working as physicist/researcher in Siegen
- ▶ Link to the video

## **Podcasts**

- ► Strange & Charming (link to podcasts)
  - → Physicist talk about their experiences
    - Why did they study physics?
    - Which obstacles did they overcome?
    - What is "daily life" of a physicist?
  - → Initiated by Robert Harlander (RWTH Aachen U)
  - → Produced by members of the CRC TRR 257
  - → Languages: English or German
- ➤ University of Siegen science podcast (in German)





## Rent a Prof

- ► Visit primary and high schools in the vicinity of Siegen
- ► Engage with kids from broad social background
- Organized by Thomas Reppel, Faculty IV



 Motivation
 Students
 Pupils
 General Public

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## **High-school students**

#### ▶ Internships

- → Typically 2 weeks for 15 year-old high-school students
- → Visit different groups for 2 days
- → Experience University life, attend a lecture or tutorial
- → MC Integration, complex numbers, academic careers, SRT, particle physics, programming, . . .



#### ▶ Masterclasses

→ Students analyze data from CERN experiments



- → Topical lectures with show elements (age 15+)
- → Fascinate pupils (age 8–12) with lectures and experiments on detectors and particle physics





## **CERN 70** year anniversary

- ► Spark interest of high-school students for the research done at CERN
- ► Create a short video to win 3-day trip to CERN
- ▶ Link to winning videos
  - 1. Das Higgs-Boson
  - 2. Antimaterie
  - 3. Fabiola Gianotti



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- ▶ January 2025: Visiting CERN



ENC Siegen

CERN Geneva

# Physik im Apollo

- ▶ Apollo theater Siegen: 550 seats
- Educate general public on the principles of quantum physics with the help of acrobats and musicians
- ▶ Watch a highlight from 2024





# Physik im Apollo

- ► Apollo theater Siegen: 550 seats
- Educate general public on the principles of quantum physics with the help of acrobats and musicians
- ▶ 2025: Save the dates!



**Urknall Unterwegs (big bang on the road)** 

- ▶ Highly visible exhibition at the Open University
  - → Modules explaining the Universe evolution and the connection to particle physics
- ▶ Organization Netzwerk Teilchenwelt
- ► Activities for kids (of any age)
  - → Make your own (particle) badge (cf. DESY Teilchenzoo)
  - → Stick-on tattoos with SM Lagrangian, colorful Feynman diagrams, . . .
  - → Mechanical scattering experiment, cosmic can
  - → MINT-Rally: motivate guests to visit exhibitions from colleagues



### "Hadronic Ice Cream"

- ► Make the general public approach you to learn about particle physics
- ► Hand out free ice cream: each scoop represents a quark flavor
- ▶ Sprinkles turn a quark into its anti-quark
- ▶ But quarks occur only as confined hadrons: Order mesons or baryons!

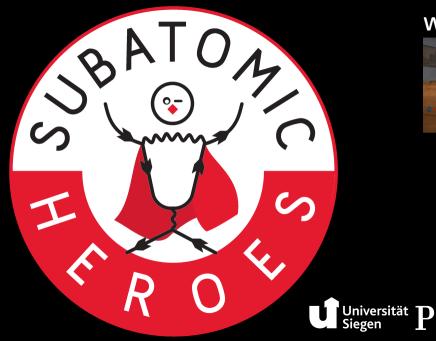


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- ▶ The official menu
  - → Secret menu (PDG)







## Watch the video



### Follow me





