

# Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>The <math>\tau</math> Lepton and the Third Family</b>	1
1.1	The Discovery of the $\tau$	1
1.2	A Member of a New Family?	3
1.3	Direct Observation	8
<b>2.</b>	<b>Experimental Aspects</b>	11
2.1	Overview of Experiments	11
2.2	Kinematics	12
2.3	Event Displays	20
2.4	Selection of $\tau$ Pairs	21
2.5	Identification of the Decays	28
2.6	Monte Carlo Simulation	38
<b>3.</b>	<b>The Static Properties of the <math>\tau</math></b>	45
3.1	The Mass	45
3.2	The Lifetime	53
3.3	Form Factors of the Electromagnetic and Weak Currents	64
3.4	Branching Ratios	72
<b>4.</b>	<b>Electroweak Physics at the <math>Z^0</math> Pole</b>	95
4.1	Precision Tests of the Standard Model	95
4.2	$\tau$ Production at the $Z^0$ Pole	97
4.3	Cross Sections and Asymmetries	102
4.4	Electroweak Physics at the SLC	105
4.5	Analyzing the Spin of a $\tau$ Lepton	108
4.6	$\tau$ Polarization	120
4.7	Results	132
<b>5.</b>	<b>Strong Interactions in <math>\tau</math> Decays</b>	137
5.1	Selection Rules	137
5.2	Theoretical Description of Hadronic $\tau$ Decays	143
5.3	Experimental Studies	163
5.4	Inclusive Decays	173

## VIII Contents

<b>6. <math>\tau</math> Physics at Hadron Colliders .....</b>	195
6.1 Identification of $\tau$ Leptons .....	195
6.2 The $\tau$ and the Top Quark .....	197
6.3 Searches.....	199
6.4 W Decays .....	201
<b>7. The <math>\tau</math> Neutrino.....</b>	203
7.1 The Mass .....	203
7.2 The Helicity .....	212
7.3 Electromagnetic Moments .....	217
<b>8. The Lorentz Structure of the Charged Current .....</b>	223
8.1 Generalization of the Weak Current.....	223
8.2 Hadronic Decays .....	235
8.3 Spin-Dependent Terms .....	237
8.4 The Current Experimental Situation .....	246
<b>9. Searching for <math>\mathcal{CP}</math> Violation .....</b>	253
9.1 $\mathcal{CP}$ Violation in $\tau$ Production .....	253
9.2 $\mathcal{CP}$ Violation in $\tau$ Decays .....	264
<b>10. Rare and Forbidden Decays.....</b>	269
10.1 Second-Class Currents .....	269
10.2 Forbidden $\tau$ Decays.....	272
10.3 Flavor-Changing Neutral Currents .....	277
10.4 Excited Leptons .....	279
10.5 New Heavy Leptons .....	283
<b>11. Summary and Outlook.....</b>	285
<b>References .....</b>	287
<b>Index .....</b>	311