

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
LECTURE NOTES IN PHYSICS**

**GUTS, SUSY AND SUSYGUTS**

**by  
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West Lafayette, Indiana 47907**

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## Preface

These are the lecture notes for an introductory course in grand unified theories and supersymmetry given at Purdue University during the Spring semester in 1982 and 1983. The purpose of the course was to acquaint the students with the use of symmetries in describing elementary particle interactions. My aim was to present this within the framework of specific examples such as the  $SU(2) \times U(1)$  Glashow Weinberg Salam model. The effort was spent in constructing classically invariant actions given the symmetry transformations of the fields and in determining how the standard model elementary particles fit into these schemes. When highly technical subjects, such as the renormalization group equation, were discussed it was attempted to be done in a fairly self-contained manner. The students were assumed to have only a cultural knowledge of such things as loop calculations in a non-abelian gauge theory, ghosts, renormalization etc. The highly technical machinery necessary to consistently discuss symmetries in a quantum field theory was not introduced or presumed known. Typically upon enrolling in this course our students have had a one semester introduction to perturbative quantum field theory.

Chapter 1 briefly reviews the ingredients of the standard model with more detail being given to the subjects of the spontaneous breakdown of  $SU(2) \times U(1)$  symmetry in section 1.1.2 and the renormalization group equation and effective coupling constants in section 1.2.2. A practical guide to group theory is given while discussing the  $SU(5)$  grand unified theory of Georgi and Glashow in Chapter 2. The recovery of the low energy standard model is discussed along with the running of the various coupling constants and an estimate of the proton lifetime. Chapter 3 begins with a long review of the representations of the

Lorentz group before introducing the supersymmetry algebra in section 3.1. In order to make them more familiar, the superspace tools developed in that section are immediately applied to the simple Wess-Zumino model in 3.2. Finally gauge invariance in supersymmetric theories is discussed in 3.3 with super QED analyzed in section 3.4. The spontaneous breaking of gauge symmetry as well as supersymmetry is discussed in Chapter 4.0. Sections 4.1 and 4.2 introduce the supersymmetric extension of the  $SU(5)$  grand unified theory. The changes in the renormalization group equation  $\beta$  function due to supersymmetry are given in section 4.3 in order to calculate  $\sin^2 \theta_w$ ,  $M_x$ , and  $m_b/m_\tau$ . In section 4.4 the proton lifetime is estimated in the super  $SU(5)$  model.

In attempting to present a limited range of material in detail I, needless to say, have had to omit many important topics from these notes. It is hoped that this omission is overlooked in view of the belief that it is better for the student to learn a little about a few things than nothing about a lot. In general the short list of references should provide any further information desired. I would like to thank my family for their patience while these notes were being written. And finally, I would like to thank Coleen Flanagan, Nancy Schnepp, and Carol Neff for their heroic acts of deciphering and typing my hand written notes.

Thomas E. Clark

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West Lafayette, Indiana

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