Preface

When editing this material, most of which dates from 2013, we felt that it was not the aim of this predominantly theoretical text to update the experimental data to the very latest results. After all, what endures at the core of this material are the principles of the Standard Model of particle physics, which Prof. Altarelli so skillfully elucidates. Up-to-date results and values can easily be looked up in the open-access literature which is now inherently part of high-energy physics.

Yet, the devil being typically in the details, we were confronted with plots included by Prof. Altarelli of quite various degrees of "publishability". Sometimes they were taken from internal notes or unpublished proceedings. In those cases, and depending most of the time on the preferences of the authors, they could be published as such, had to be removed altogether, or had to be replaced by more up-to-date figures, such as was the case with a few figures labelled "preliminary" by the large collaborations.

In short, we would like to draw to the reader's attention the fact that the references to experimental data mostly form a snapshot in time as selected by Prof. Altarelli in 2013. Above all, we opted for a minimalistic upgrade in referencing so as to make this exceptional material formally publishable with all permissions required in the first place.

Last but not least, we gratefully acknowledge the support by Monica Pepe-Altarelli for releasing this material and CERN for sponsoring the publication as an open-access book. We further thank Stephen Lyle for the technical editing of the manuscript.

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http://www.springer.com/978-3-319-51919-7

Collider Physics within the Standard Model
A Primer
Altarelli, G. - Wells, J.D. (Ed.)
2017, XIV, 173 p. 60 illus., 34 illus. in color., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-319-51919-7