



# Contents

<b>1. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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

<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

