Status of the PADME Run III data analysis



Mauro Raggi for the PADME collaboration, Sapienza Università di Roma e INFN Roma

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The dark sector paradigm



- Dark sector candidates can explain SM anomalies: (g-2)μ, ⁸Be, proton radius
- The mediator can have a small mass (MeV -100 MeV)
- Due to its small mass the mediator can be produced at low energy accelerators
- It can decay back to ordinary matter "visible" on not "invisible"

The ⁸Be and ⁴He Atomki anomaly



ATOMKI has confirmed the anomalous peak in the angular distribution of internal pair creation in ⁸Be with a similar one in the ⁴He transitions, with different kinematics but at the same invariant mass value.



The ¹²C anomaly and the vector portal

New anomaly observed in ¹²C supports the existence and the vector character of the hypothetical X17 boson



E = 17.23 MeV excited state of ¹²C

TABLE I. X17 branching ratios (B_x) , masses, and confidences derived from the fits.

E_p	B_x	Mass	Confidence				
(MeV)	$\times 10^{-6}$	(MeV/c^2)					
1.50	1.1(6)	16.81(15)	3σ				
1.70	3.3(7)	16.93(8)	7σ				
1.88	3.9(7)	17.13(10)	8σ				
2.10	4.9(21)	17.06(10)	3σ				
Averages	3.6(3)	17.03(11)					
Previous [14]	5.8	16.70(30)					
Previous [31]	5.1	16.94(12)					
Predicted [33]	3.0						

4 different p bombarding energies with high significance



Phys. Rev. C 106, L061601



On the nature of X17

PHYSICAL REVIEW D 102, 036016 (2020)

Dynamical evidence for a fifth force explanation of the ATOMKI nuclear anomalies

Jonathan L. Feng[®],^{*} Tim M. P. Tait[®],[†] and Christopher B. Verhaaren^{®[‡]} Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Irvine, California 92697-4575, USA

J. Feng and collaborators suggested that the X17 should be observed in ¹²C transitions X17 observations in ¹²C will point to a vector or axial vector nature for X17 Pseudo Scalar X17 killed by ¹²C observation now confirmed

TABLE III. Nuclear excited states N_* , their spin-parity $J_*^{P_*}$, and the possibilities for X (scalar, pseudoscalar, vector, axial vector) allowed by angular momentum and parity conservation, along with the operators that mediate the decay and references to the equation numbers where these operators are defined. The operator subscripts label the operator's dimension and the partial wave of the decay, and the superscript labels the X spin. For example, $\mathcal{O}_{4P}^{(0)}$ is a dimension-four operator that mediates a *P*-wave decay to a spin-0 X boson.

N_*	$J^{P_*}_*$	Scalar X	Pseudoscalar X	Vector X	Axial Vector X
⁸ Be(18.15)	1+		$\mathcal{O}_{4P}^{(0)}$ (27)	$\mathcal{O}_{5P}^{(1)}$ (37)	$\mathcal{O}_{3S}^{(1)}$ (29), $\mathcal{O}_{5D}^{(1)}$ (34)
$^{12}C(17.23)$	1-	${\cal O}_{4P}^{(0)}$ (27)		$\mathcal{O}_{3S}^{(1)}$ (29), $\mathcal{O}_{5D}^{(1)}$ (34)	$\mathcal{O}_{5P}^{(1)}$ (37)
⁴ He(21.01)	0-	••••	$\mathcal{O}_{3S}^{(0)}$ (39)		$\mathcal{O}_{4P}^{(1)}$ (40)
⁴ He(20.21)	0^+	$\mathcal{O}_{3S}^{(0)}$ (39)		$\mathcal{O}_{4P}^{(1)}$ (40)	



On the mass of X17



- He (meas.) - $m_{X}=16$ MeV Neutrino Constraints and the ATOMKI X17 Anomaly

Phys. Rev. D 108, 015009

Using angular data only: 11 measurements

An analysis with the angular data alone of 11 different measurements finds that the data is well described by a new particle of mass $\underline{m_X} = 16.85 \pm 0.04$ MeV with an internal goodness-of-fit of 1.8σ calculated from Wilks' theorem at $\chi^2/dof = 17.3/10$. We use only the best fit

 $\theta_{ee}^{min} \approx 2 \arcsin\left(\frac{m_{X17}}{m_{N*} - mN}\right)$

Using width for each element: 3 measurements

Next, we add in to the analysis the latest width information from each element and include a prior on ε_p since X needs to couple to protons and/or neutrons on the production size. There is a stronger constraint

see the next section for more information. We find an okay fit to the data at the same mass $m_X = 16.83$ MeV, $\varepsilon_n = \pm 5.8 \times 10^{-3}$, and $\varepsilon_p = \pm 2.4 \times 10^{-3}$, see fig. 2. We note that the signs of ε_n and ε_p must be the same due to the non-trivial degeneracy structure shown clearly in the $\varepsilon_n - \varepsilon_p$ panel of fig. 2. We have confirmed that the

data are consistent and point to M_{X17} =16.85±0.04 MeV



Anomaly on the ⁸Be GDR



Confirmation by Vietnam group



As simple as possible: the resonance search



The mass scan X17 search strategy

PADME, can use resonant X17 production process

- Extremely effective in producing X17 but in a very small mass range
- Scan E_{beam}=260–300 MeV in <1 MeV steps
- Completely data driven no theory or MC input
- Signal should emerge on top of Bhabha BG in one or more points of the scan.
- Background estimated from surrounding bins





Bhabha scattering



PADME Run III on resonance data set



Closer sidebands to explore before the box



PADME Run III modified setup

- Using PADME veto is impossible to reconstruct $e^+ e^-$ mass having no vertex info
- Idea: identify $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$ using the BGO calorimeter only, as for $\gamma\gamma$ events in Run II
- Switch the PADME dipole magnet off
- Both positron and electron will reach the ECal
 - Can measure precisely (3%) electron-positron pair momentum and angles
 - Can reconstruct invariant mass of the pairs precisely (small pile-up)
- Identify clusters in ECal from photons or electrons
 - New detector, plastic scintillators, similar to PADME vetos (Electron tagger, ETag) with vertical segmentation and covering the fiducial region of ECal



Much lower pile-up and better energy resolution



Left/Right ETag bar

1000

0.8

X17 observables at PADME

Several different observables can be used with different systematics

$$\frac{N(e^+e^-)}{N^{PoT}} \text{ VS } \sqrt{\text{S}} \qquad \frac{N(e^-\gamma\gamma)}{N^{PoT}} \text{ VS } \sqrt{\text{S}}$$
Osservabili
$$\frac{N(e^+e^-+\gamma\gamma)}{N^{PoT}} \text{ VS } \sqrt{\text{S}}$$

$$\frac{N(e^+e^-)}{N(\gamma\gamma)} \text{ VS } \sqrt{\text{S}}$$

N(2cl)/NPoT \Rightarrow existence of X17 High statistical significance (small sensitivity loss due to small only 20% $\gamma\gamma$ BG) No ETag related systematic errors

 $N(ee)/N(\gamma\gamma) \Rightarrow$ existence of X17 Lower statistical significance due to smaller $\gamma\gamma$ cross section Do not depend on N_{PoT} (no N_{PoT} systematic) error dominated by tagging efficiency

 $N_{e+e-}/N_{PoT} \Rightarrow$ vector nature of X_{17} Systematic errors due to ETag tagging efficiency stability and N_{PoT} $N_{\gamma\gamma}/N_{PoT} \Rightarrow$ pseudo-scalar nature of X_{17} Systematic errors due to ETag tagging efficiency stability and N_{PoT}



First look at Run III off resonance data set

PADME collected two off resonance data sets:

- Over Resonance: 402 MeV 5 Runs for a total of 1.2E10 POT (1w of October 22)
- Below Resonance: 205-211 MeV 5 energies for a total of 6.5E10 POT (last w of Nov. 22)
- First selection aimed at N(2cl)/NPoT studies:
 - 2 in time clusters in the Dt < 5ns in Ecal
 - Energy and radius cuts, reasonable Centre of Gravity
 - Cluster energy vs angle correlation compatible with a 2 body final state.

Over Resonance: 402 MeV



Below Resonance: 205 MeV



150

Cluster Angle rad 2000 Cluster Angle rad

0.06

0.05

0.04

0.03

0.02 LL 50

100

First look out of resonance data sets

Over resonance 402 MeV



- RMS ~0.7% over the 5 runs
 - compatible with pure statistic
- Constant fit has a good χ²
 - No significant systematic errors
- Vertical scale arbitrary:
 - No acceptance correction applied

Below resonance



- RMS <1% over the 5 energies</p>
 - computed on residuals wrt the fit
- Good χ² of the linear fit
 - Trend due to acceptance
 - Trend is reproduced by MC
- Vertical scale arbitrary:
 - No acceptance correction applied



PADME expected limits: June 2022

L. Darmé, M. Mancini, E. Nardi, M. Raggi Darmé et al. Phys. Rev. D 106,115036

Vector X17

Pseudo scalar X17



- BG from SM Bhabha scattering under control down to ε = few 10⁻⁴
- Challenge is to achieve an extremely precise luminosity measurement and systematic errors control (<1%)
- ~1E10 POT per each energy point
- PADME maximum sensitivity in the vector case
- What can we really achieve with PADME Run III data set.

Sensitivity Update: the technique

- Updated are based on the following new information
 - Actual number of POT and energy point from Run III (real data)
 - MC simulations of the energy resolution energy by energy (full Geant4)
 - MC driven estimates of the total background and acceptance (ToyMC)



- Toy MC and full Geant4 simulation comparison on the below resonance energy region show reasonable agreement
 - Used ToyMC for the predictions of signal acceptance and BG.



Updated sensitivity estimates: theory



- Based on the following input from PADME experiment:
 - Actual number of POTs and energy points from Run III data set
 - MC driven total background and acceptance estimates
 - Conservative estimate of the beam energy spread σ_E=0.3%

Systematic errors check theory



- The main systematic effect is expected to come from beam energy spread
 - Standard values used in the plots is 0.3%, 0.25% dotted, 0.35% dashed
 - MC simulations suggest that the actual value is below 0.25% and precisely known

$$N_{X_{17}}^{perPoT} \simeq \frac{g_{V_e}^2}{2m_e} \ell_{tar} \frac{N_A \rho Z}{A} f(E_{res}, E_{beam})$$

- Energy scale changes the scan position on the mass by negligible amonunt
 - MC simulations indicate a beam energy scale accuracy of ~1.5 MeV
 - ~(20-30) KeV in the mass scale and it is barely visible

The dark photon: theory prediction



- The PADME exclusion limit will provide also the best constraint on general Dark Photon visible decays scenario in the 17 MeV region
 - NA48/2 limit using π0->γe⁺e⁻ points extracted from HEPData: <u>https://www.hepdata.net/record/ins1357601</u>



What about a PADME run in 2024?

- If a significant fluctuation is observed in the 17 MeV region on Run III data;
 - **Repeat the mass scan** in a limited region around the fluctuation
- If no significant excess is observed in PADME Run III data set:
 - Established a very sensitive technique to search for visible decays of dark sector candidates
 - Keep exploring visible decays scenario in the region from 14-23 MeV



A new TPC tracker for PADME?



- General idea TPC based on MicroMega technology :
 - need a light detector with tracking capability (material budget: few % of X₀)
 - 60 cm x 60 cm active area, drift gap of 5 cm
- Micro Mega with pad read-out system: 1x1 cm² pads
- Data Acquisition system:
 - APV based -> acquisition window of ~700ns
 - Fast gas mixture Ar:CF4:Iso (88:10:2)





Publication strategy: 2 papers

- "Characterization of the PADME beam for the X17 run" in preparation
 - Describes the measurements and simulations of the beam parameters
- "Status of X17 search at PADME" in preparation
 - Provides: analysis strategy, PADME sensitivity in off resonance regions, and projected sensitivity in the signal regions.
- Both papers are a synergic effort of the PADME collaboration, LNF Theory division, and BTF staff and will be signed by all people that have contributed to the Run III effort.

Status of X_{17} search at PADME

PADME Collaboration, LNF Theory Group & BTF Staf

Abstract

During the last years, evidences for anomalies in the angular distribution of e^+e^- pairs emitted in unclear transitions of Pbs, 9Hz and 10° excited status periord by the ATOMK collaboration, have keep growing both in number and statistical significance. These anomalies are not statistical fluctuations, and around be explained in the framework of standard nuclear through CNM collaboration that a new boson X_i with $n\sim 17\,\rm MeV$ mass is smitted in the transitions, and promptly improve by the information of the simulation of the dimension of the simulation of the simulation of the dimension of the simulation of the dimension of the dimensio

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Characterization of the PADME beam for the X17 run

PADME Collaboration, LNF Theory Group & BTF Staff

Abstract

In this paper we will explain how the beam provided by BTF to the PADME experiment during Run III has been precisely characterized in order to update experiment sensitivity projections. We will demonstrate how absolute momentum scale, beam energy spread, and beam luminosity have been measured combining data driven and Monte Carlo techniques. Precision on the momentum scale to the level of 1 MeV, few percent precision on the beam energy spread, and sub percent precision on the luminosity measurement have been achieved.

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Conclusions

- PADME Run III at the X₁₇ CoME, successfully terminated
 - 47 different energy points collected + side bands
 - High quality data collected for 16.35 MeV <M_{X17}<17.5 MeV</p>
 - Beam and BhaBha backgrounds are under control
- Stability of the ratio #2Clusters/N_{Pot} on off resonance data <1%</p>
- Next steps towards final result:
 - Move into the closer sidebands (M_{X17}>17.25 MeV ?)
 - Improve data/MC agreement
- Analysis strategy papers in preparation (expected by mid Dec.)
- Expect a result on the X17 signal region by summer 2024







We would like to thank for outstanding efficiency and quality of machine operation during PADME Run III, the LINAC-BTF team, and the Accelerator Division.

We plan to continue exploring visible dark sector scenarios BTF beam line in the near future. Stay tuned!



Beam background estimates

- No target data set is used to measure the beam background contamination in the data samples
 - The set contains data collected at different beam energies.
- Running the same selection code on the no target data we can get the contamination from beam halo background in the signal selection
 - #2Cl(Data)/#2Cl(noTarget) = 3E-6/1E-8 is a few permille
 - Background level seems stable.





Experimental approaches

- Electron beam experiments production
 - Just A'-strahlung
- Positron based experiments
 - A'-strahlung
 - Associated production $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'(\gamma)$
 - Resonant production $e^+e^- \rightarrow e^+e^-$
- Visible decays: $A' \rightarrow e^+e^- A' \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$
 - Thick target electrons/protons beam is absorbed (NA64, old dump exp.)
 - Thin target searching for bumps in e⁺e[−] invariant mass
- Invisible searches: $A' \rightarrow \chi \chi$
 - Missing energy/momentum: A' produced in the interaction of an electron beam with thick/thin target (NA64/LDMX)
 - Missing mass: $e^+e^- \rightarrow A'(\gamma)$ search for invisible particle using kinematics (Belle II, PADME)









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heavy dark matter

→ DECAY INTO SM PARTICLES

dark matter mass mom

→ DECAY TO SM SUPPRESSED

PADME Run I and Run II setup

- Positron beam of ~0.5 GeV/c
 - LINAC repetition rate 50 Hz
 - Macro-bunches maximum length $\Delta t \leq 300$ ns
- Number of annihilations proportional to:

 $N_{beam}^{e^+} \times N_{target}^{e^-}$

- Limited intensity, due to pile-up, ~3.104 pot/pulse
- Dipole magnet in order to
 - Sweep away non-interacting positrons
 - Tag positrons losing energy by Bremsstrahlung
- Scintillating bar veto detectors placed inside vacuum vessel
 - Positron and electron detectors inside the magnet gap
 - Additional veto for e⁺ irradiating soft photons at beam exit



BGO calorimeter (ECAL)



PADME data taking periods 2018-20



- Two physics runs Run I Oct. 2018 Feb. 19 and Run II Set-Dec 2020
 - Hard simulation work to understand BG in between Run I and Run II.
- Run II wrt Run I
 - Slightly lower beam momentum in Run II, 430 MeV/c, wrt to Run I, 490 MeV/c
 - Improved vacuum separation between experiment and beamline
 - Less beam-induced background with primary wrt secondary beam
- During Run II itself
 - Improved bunch length and structure





Improving production rates

- We need higher production cross section!
- Can move from associated to resonant production
 b) Radiative annihilation O(α²)

$$\sigma_{nr} = \frac{8\pi\alpha^2}{s} \left[\left(\frac{s - m_{A'}^2}{2s} + \frac{m_{A'}^2}{s - m_{A'}^2} \right) \log \frac{s}{m_e^2} - \frac{s - m_{A'}^2}{2s} \right]$$

 \diamond c) Resonant annihilation $O(\alpha)$

$$\sigma_{\rm res}(E_e) = \sigma_{\rm peak} \frac{\Gamma_{A'}^2/4}{(\sqrt{s} - m_{A'})^2 + \Gamma_{A'}^2/4} \qquad \sigma_{\rm peak} = 12\pi/m_{A'}^2$$

Positron beams

$$e^+$$
 A'
 (b) $e^ A'$
 (c) e^+ A'

Resonant: Profit for a higher production in a tiny mass region

$$\mathcal{N}_{X_{17}}^{\text{Vect.}} \simeq 1.8 \cdot 10^{-7} \times \left(\frac{g_{ve}}{2 \cdot 10^{-4}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1 \text{ MeV}}{\sigma_E}\right)$$

$$\mathcal{N}_{X_{17}}^{\text{ALP}} \simeq 5.8 \cdot 10^{-7} \times \left(\frac{g_{ae}}{\text{GeV}^{-1}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{1 \text{ MeV}}{\sigma_E}\right)_{\underline{\text{Darmé et al. Phys. Rev. D 106,11503 e}}{Darmé et al. Phys. Rev. D 106,11503 e} 10^4$$

$$\bullet \text{ Thousands of events with just 1E10 Pot}$$

Summary on X17 constraints

To summarize this section, a model with a vector mediator explaining the ATOMKI anomaly at a minimum needs to fulfill the following requirements:

- feature a vector mediator with mass $m_X \approx 17 \text{ MeV}$,
- X needs to couple to neutrons with strength $|\varepsilon_n| \approx 0.0058$,
- X needs to couple to protons with strength $|\varepsilon_p| \approx 0.0024,$
- the product of neutron and proton couplings of X need to fulfill $\varepsilon_n \varepsilon_p > 0$,
- the coupling of X to electrons needs to be either $|\varepsilon_e| \in [0.63, 1.2] \times 10^{-3}$ or $|\varepsilon_e| < 10^{-12}$ for BR $(X \to e^+e^-) = 1$, and
- the coupling of X to electron neutrinos needs to be smaller than $|\varepsilon_{\nu_e}| < 3 \times 10^{-6}$.

Finally, a new mediator that explains the ATOMKI anomaly is only required to couple to first generation fermions; if it also couples to the other generation potentially more constraints need to be taken into account.



Obtaining energy steps and resolution



Use the first dipole magnet and collimators to select energy

dp \propto collimator aperture.

Change the first dipole magnet current to change the energy

Correct the trajectory using second dipole to put the beam back on axis at PADME

Measure the displacement at the target and timePix to measure the energy step performed



Current constraints on X17 from leptons



X17 as a vector particle:

- LKB (g-2)_e bound weaker for vector and model dependent
- NA48/2 bound not valid for "protophobic" X17
- Still a lot of free parameter space for vector X17

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X17 as pseudo scalar particle:

- (g-2)_e bound stronger for pseudo scalars
- Still model dependent and with big data uncertainties
- Almost unconstrained parameter space for X17

g-2e anomaly

- Significant discrepancy in the last two results on the α determination
- Produce a modified (g-2)_e exclusion which allows a region of existence of X17



 $\alpha^{-1} = 137.035999206(11).$



https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2964-7

experimental measurement $a_{e,exp}$ (ref. ⁹) gives $\delta a_e = a_{e,exp} - a_e(\alpha_{LKB2020})$ = (4.8 ± 3.0) × 10⁻¹³ (+1.6 σ), whereas comparison with caesium recoil measurements gives $\delta' a_e = a_{e,exp} - a_e(\alpha_{Berkeley}) = (-8.8 \pm 3.6) \times 10^{-13} (-2.4\sigma)$. The uncertainty on δa_e is dominated by $a_{e,exp}$.

