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Search for an invisible vector boson from pi0 decays at NA62

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The high-intensity setup, trigger system flexibility and detector performance make the NA62 experiment at CERN particularly suitable to perform direct searches for long-lived hidden-sector particles, such as dark photons, dark scalars, axion-like particles, and heavy neutral leptons, using kaon and pion decays as well as operating the experiment in dump mode.

Results from NA62 will be presented on a search for pi0 decays to one photon and an invisible massive dark photon. From about 400 million pi0 decays, no signal is observed beyond the expected fluctuation of the background and limits are set in the plane of the dark photon coupling to ordinary photon vs the dark photon mass. The analysis has been also interpreted in terms of the branching ratio BR for the electroweak decay pi0 to gamma nu nu-bar: the null result implies a limit on the BR at the level of 2×10^{-7} .

Summary

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