



Contribution ID: 7

Type: **Talk**

Effects of atomic electron momentum distribution on resonant dark sector production

Friday, 21 June 2024 11:20 (30 minutes)

Experiments using positron beams impinging on fixed targets offer unique capabilities for probing new light dark particles feebly coupled to $e^+ e^-$ pairs, that can be resonantly produced from positron annihilation on target atomic electrons. In this talk, I will discuss the impact of correctly accounting for the momentum distribution of the atomic electrons that shifts the center of mass energy of the annihilating $e^+ e^-$ pairs, and that must be taken into account in the determination of the number of signal events. After discussing how to reliably compute the cross section for the process, I will show how to obtain the bound electron momentum distribution for different target materials from theoretical computations or experimental data. Finally, I will apply these results to the search for the hypothetical X17 particle focusing on the expected reach of the PADME experiment.

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Session Classification: Session 14