Dark Forces at Accelerators



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APEX: A Prime EXperiment

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APEX is a fixed target experiment at Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility (JLab) in Virginia, USA, that searches for a new gauge boson (A') with sub-GeV mass and coupling to ordinary matter of g' ~ (10⁻² - 10⁻⁶) e. Electrons impinge upon a fixed target of high-Z material to produce an A' via a process analogous to photon bremsstrahlung, which then decays to an e+ e- pair that is detected by the JLab Hall A High Resolution Spectrometers. A test run was held in July of 2010, covering an A' mass range from 175 to 250 MeV and couplings g'/e > 10⁻³. A full run is approved and will cover m_A' ~ 65 to 525 MeV and g'/e > 2.3x10⁻⁴. I will present the results of the test run and report on the current status of preparations for the full run.

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