



Canadian Association
of Physicists

Association canadienne
des physiciens et physiciennes

Contribution ID: 116

Type: **Invited Speaker** / **Conférencier(ère) invité(e)**

(I) New evidence for a dark sector? –Search for the X17 resonance

Wednesday 9 June 2021 15:45 (25 minutes)

Nuclear transitions provide a means to probe light, weakly-coupled new physics and portals into the dark sector. Particularly promising are those transitions that can be accessed through excited nuclear states that are resonantly produced, providing a high-statistics laboratory to search for MeV-scale new physics. In this talk the so-called X-17 anomaly will be discussed, which is a 7σ discrepancy reported by the ATOMKI group in the observation of the decays of excited ^8Be and ^4He nuclei to their ground states via internal $e^+ - e^-$ pair creation. The anomaly can be explained by the emission of a neutral boson with a mass of about 17 MeV/c². The ATOMKI results and their interpretations are discussed, as well as follow-up experiments, among which an ongoing project at the Montreal tandem accelerator facility.

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Session Classification: W3-10 Candidates for Dark matter and Dark sector I (PPD) / Candidats pour matière et secteur sombres I (PPD)

Track Classification: Particle Physics / Physique des particules (PPD)