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Pion capture as a probe of new physics

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Light beyond-Standard-Model particles X in the MeV-100 MeV mass range can be produced in the nuclear and hadronic reactions, but would have to decay electromagnetically. We show that the simple and wellunderstood low-energy hadronic processes can be used as a tool to study X production and decay. In particular, the pion capture process can be used in a new experimental set-up to search for anomalies in the angular distribution of the lepton pair, which could signal the appearance of dark photons, axion-like particles and other exotic states. This process can be used to decisively test the hypothesis of a new particle produced in the 7Li+p reaction.

Summary

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