Contribution ID: 28 Type: not specified

Searching for Dark Matter Signals from Timing Spectra at Neutrino Experiment

Friday, 11 October 2019 14:00 (30 minutes)

We propose a novel strategy to search for new physics signals in timing spectra, envisioning the situation in which a new particle comes from the decay of its heavier partner with a finite particle width. The timing distribution of events induced by the dark matter particle scattering at the detector may populate in a relatively narrow range, forming a "resonance-like" shape. Due to this structural feature, the signal may be isolated from the backgrounds, in particular when the backgrounds are uniformly distributed in energy and time. We analyze the existing CsI detector data of the COHERENT experiment with a timing cut and an energy cut, and find an excess in the timing distribution which can be explained by dark matter. Our new approach can be generally utilized for searching for new physics such as light dark matter or non-standard neutrino interaction in coherent neutrino scattering experiments including CCM, COHERENT, and JSNS^2.

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Session Classification: Session 13