

A detectable antihelium flux from dark matter annihilation

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Recent observations by the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer (AMS-02) have tentatively detected a handful of cosmic-ray antihelium events. Such events have long been considered as smoking-gun evidence for new physics, because astrophysical antihelium production is expected to be negligible. However, the dark-matter-induced antihelium flux is also expected to fall below current sensitivities, particularly in light of existing antiproton constraints. Here, we demonstrate that a previously neglected standard model process – the production of antihelium through the displaced-vertex decay of bottom-baryons – can significantly boost the dark matter induced antihelium flux. This process can triple the standard prompt-production of antihelium, and more importantly, entirely dominate the production of the high-energy antihelium nuclei reported by AMS-02.

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Theoretical Results

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