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New anomalies in the solar neutrino sector ?

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The solar neutrino sector shows two weak hints of anomalous behavior. First, the value of the mixing angle theta_12 inferred by the solar data is slightly different from that obtained by KamLAND. Second, as evidenced by the recent low-threshold measurements performed by Borexino, Super-Kamiokande and the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, the solar 8B neutrino spectrum shows no sign of the low-energy upturn predicted by the standard MSW mechanism. These findings suggest the possibility that new subdominant dynamical effects may be at play in the matter-enhanced conversion of solar neutrinos. In fact, we show that both anomalies can be explained by new flavor-changing neutrino interactions with strength 0.1 G_F, whose presence is now favored at a non negligible statistical level.

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