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A closer look at secondary antiproton production in cosmic rays and its impact on dark matter indirect searches

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In recent years, several investigations have pointed towards an excess in the cosmic-ray antiproton data reported by the AMS-02 Collaboration. The interpretation of this result, which could potentially represent a dark matter signal, requires a thorough understanding of the systematic uncertainties associated with it. In this talk I will focus on one of these uncertainties, the one arising from our limited knowledge of the cross section describing the production of secondary antiprotons. In particular, I will illustrate how the modelling of this cross section at very low center-of-mass energies can play an important role in the fit to experimental data, with important consequences on the search for dark matter hints in the antiproton spectrum.

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