# Taming the dark photon production via a non-minimal coupling to gravity

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Response to Capanelli et al., PRL 133 (2024)

# Outline

#### PART 1: THE PROBLEM

- Dark photons with non-minimal couplings
- Runaway production [Capanelli et al. 2024]

#### PART 2: UV COMPLETION

- Unitarity constraints
- Scalar coupling  $(\xi_1)$  & Tensor coupling  $(\xi_2)$
- Universal bound:  $|\xi_i| \ll m_a^2/H^2$

#### PART 3: RESOLUTION

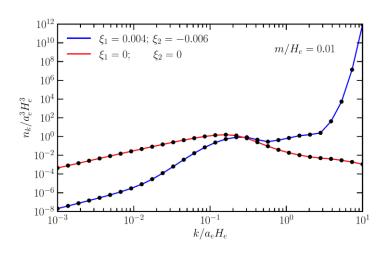
- Numerical analysis with Claude Al
- Runaway = EFT breakdown artifact

#### Dark Photon with Non-Minimal Couplings

• Action: 
$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|g|} \left( -\frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_A^2 g^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu - \frac{1}{2} \xi_1 R g^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu - \frac{1}{2} \xi_2 R^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu \right)$$

- $\xi_1$ ,  $\xi_2$ : Non-minimal couplings (required by EFT)
- Time-dependent effective masses  $m_t^2 = m_A^2 \xi_1 R \frac{1}{2} \xi_2 R 3 \xi_2 H^2$ ,  $m_x^2 = m_A^2 \xi_1 R \frac{1}{6} \xi_2 R + \xi_2 H^2$ .
- → Important for particle production during inflation

#### The Runaway Problem



Capanelli et al., Runaway Gravitational Production of Dark Photons, PRL 133 (2024)

- High-momentum modes: explosive growth
- Tens of orders of magnitude increase
- Ghost, gradient, superluminal instabilities observed

Conclusion: "No obvious solution"

Is this a fundamental problem?

#### Our Approach

- Observation:
- Couplings  $\xi_1$ ,  $\xi_2$  come from effective theory
- → Must examine UV completion
- Strategy:
- Build UV-complete models
- Derive constraints on couplings
- Examine production within the allowed parameter space
- Does runaway persist in fundamental theory?

#### **Unitarity Constraint**

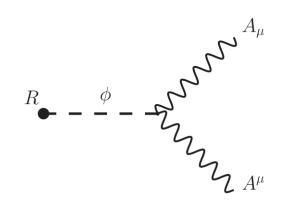
- Process: AA → GG (dark photon → gravitons)
- High-energy amplitude:  $|\mathcal{A}| \propto |\xi_{1,2}| \; \frac{E^4}{m_A^2 M_{\mathrm{Pl}}^2}$
- Perturbative unitarity breaks down at:  $p_{\max} \lesssim \frac{\sqrt{m_A M_{\rm Pl}}}{|\xi_{1,2}|^{1/4}}$
- Critical observation:  $p_max \rightarrow 0$  as  $m_A \rightarrow 0$
- $\Rightarrow \xi_i \rightarrow 0$  (required by gauge invariance!)
- $\Rightarrow \xi_i$  cannot be fundamental constants

# **UV Completion 1: Scalar Coupling**

- Setup:  $\mathcal{L}_{sc} = \overline{D_{\mu}\Phi} D^{\mu}\Phi \frac{1}{2}\xi R |\Phi|^2 V(\Phi)$
- Higgs mechanism:

$$\langle \Phi \rangle = v/\sqrt{2} \rightarrow m_A = gv$$

Physical scalar mass: m\_s

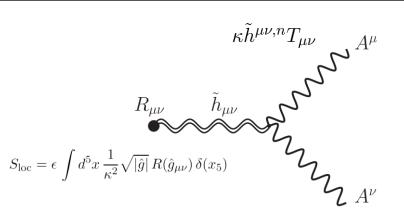


Integrate out heavy scalar (m\_s 
$$\gg$$
 p)  $\Longrightarrow$   $\mathcal{L}_{\xi_1} = -\frac{1}{2}\xi\,\frac{m_A^2}{m_s^2}\,R\,A_\mu A^\mu \;\;,\;\; \xi_1 = \xi\,\frac{m_A^2}{m_s^2}$ 

- Validity conditions:
- Momentum:  $p \ll m_s$
- Curvature:  $|\xi R|/2 \ll m^2_s$
- During inflation (R = -12H²):  $|\xi_1| \ll \frac{1}{6} \frac{m_A^2}{H^2}$

# **UV Completion 2: Tensor Coupling**

- 5D Kaluza-Klein model:  $S = \int d^5x \, \frac{1}{\hat{\kappa}^2} \sqrt{|\hat{g}|} \hat{R} + \int d^5x \sqrt{|\hat{g}|} \, \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{mat}} \, \delta(x_5)$
- Extra dimension compactified (radius r)
- massive KK graviton modes
- Localized gravity term with parameter  $\epsilon$



- Integrate out KK modes  $\Longrightarrow$   $\mathcal{L}_{\xi_2} \simeq -\epsilon \, rac{m_A^2}{m_1^2} \, R_{\mu\nu} A^\mu A^
  u$  ,  $\xi_2 = 2\epsilon \, rac{m_A^2}{m_1^2}$
- Validity: p  $\lesssim$  m<sub>1</sub> (below KK scale)  $p_{
  m max} \lesssim rac{m_A}{\sqrt{|\xi_2|}}$

• Same constraint: 
$$|\xi_{1,2}| \ll rac{m_A^2}{H^2}$$

$$M_{\rm Pl}^2/2 = r/\hat{\kappa}^2 + \epsilon/\kappa^2$$

$$\hat{g}_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu} + \dots$$

$$h_{\mu\nu}(x, x_5) = \sum_n h_{\mu\nu}^n(x) \exp\left(i\frac{2\pi n x_5}{r}\right)$$

$$m_n = 2\pi n/r$$

#### **Universal Pattern**

- Form-factor behavior in ANY UV completion:  $\xi_i \propto \frac{m_A^2}{p^2-M^2+\mathcal{O}(H^2)}$  where M = mass of integrated-out state
- High-energy behavior:  $\xi_i(p) \rightarrow m^2 A/p^2$  (NOT constant!)
- Universal Constraint: for  $\xi_i$  constant from p = 0 to  $p \sim H$ :  $\rightarrow$  Require  $M \gg H$
- $|\xi_i| \ll m_A^2/H^2$
- This is STRONGER than unitarity bound!

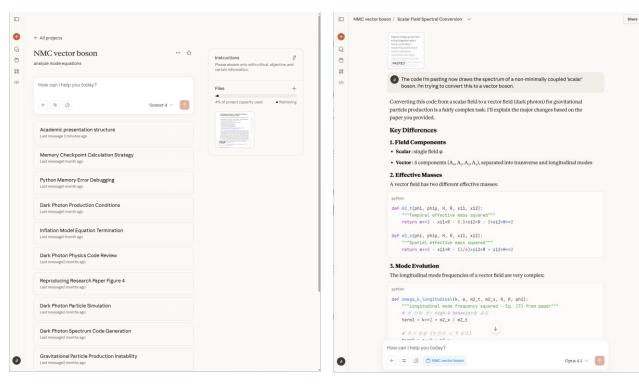
#### **Numerical Verification**

- Reproduce the known results + EFT validity boundary
- Modern computational tools:
- Al-assisted development
- High-performance computing
- Leveraging state-of-the-art technology

#### **Al-Assisted Programming**

- Large Language Models (LLMs):
- Conversational AI trained on code and text
- (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini)
- Key capability: Natural language ← Code translation
- We used Claude AI by Anthropic

### **Conversational Programming**



• Starting point:

"The code I'm pasting now draws the spectrum of a non-minimally coupled 'scalar' boson. I'm trying to convert this to a vector boson."

- → Equation modifications
- → Implementation guidance
- → Working solver
- Physics problem → Code through dialogue

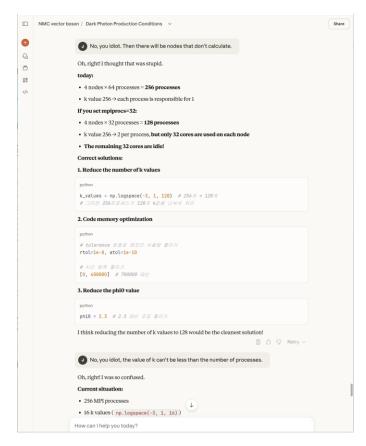
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#### **Iterative Refinement**

• Process: Problem  $\rightarrow$  Al suggestion  $\rightarrow$  Test  $\rightarrow$  Refine  $\rightarrow$  Problem ..( $\times$ 100s)







#### **Caveats**

• Important notes:

Al has randomness and makes mistakes

Physics understanding required

1 Tool to accelerate, not replace thinking

Critical thinking + AI = Efficient workflow

#### **High-Performance Computing**

- the use of supercomputers and computer clusters to solve advanced problems (wikipedia)
- Independent equations for each k
- → All solved simultaneously
- High-resolution spectrum efficiently
- ruche cluster (Paris-Saclay), Nurion (KISTI), ...

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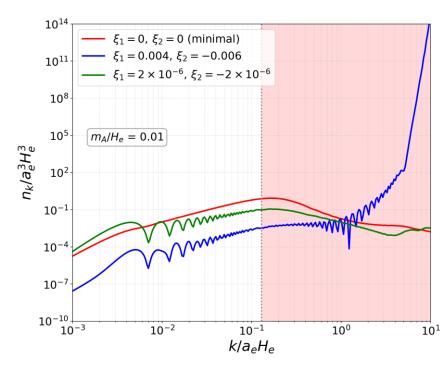
#### **Numerical Results**

• Reproduced Capanelli et al. ( $\xi_1$ =0.004,  $\xi_2$ =-0.006): Runaway confirmed

Our addition - EFT validity boundary:

$$p > m_A/\sqrt{|\xi_2|} \simeq 0.1 H_e$$

→ Runaway occurs OUTSIDE valid regime!



#### Physical Interpretation

- What's really happening?
- Effective theory approach:
- Assume  $\xi_i$  = constant
- Extrapolate to high k
- Find runaway production

- UV-complete theory:
- $\xi_i$ (k)  $\propto$  1/k<sup>2</sup> (form-factor)
- Already decreasing at high k
- Runaway suppressed

- ⇒ The runaway is an ARTIFACT
- ⇒ Not real physics, but EFT breakdown signal

#### Conclusions

- Key insight: Non-minimal couplings must come from UV completion
- $\rightarrow$  Form-factor behavior  $\xi_i(k) \propto 1/k^2$
- Universal constraint:  $|\xi_i| \ll m^2 A/H^2$
- Runaway appears only where EFT breaks down
- Dark photon production with non-minimal couplings is theoretically consistent