
Chameleons Galore

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Outline

1-Scalars and Cosmic Acceleration?

2-Chameleons and Thin Shell effect

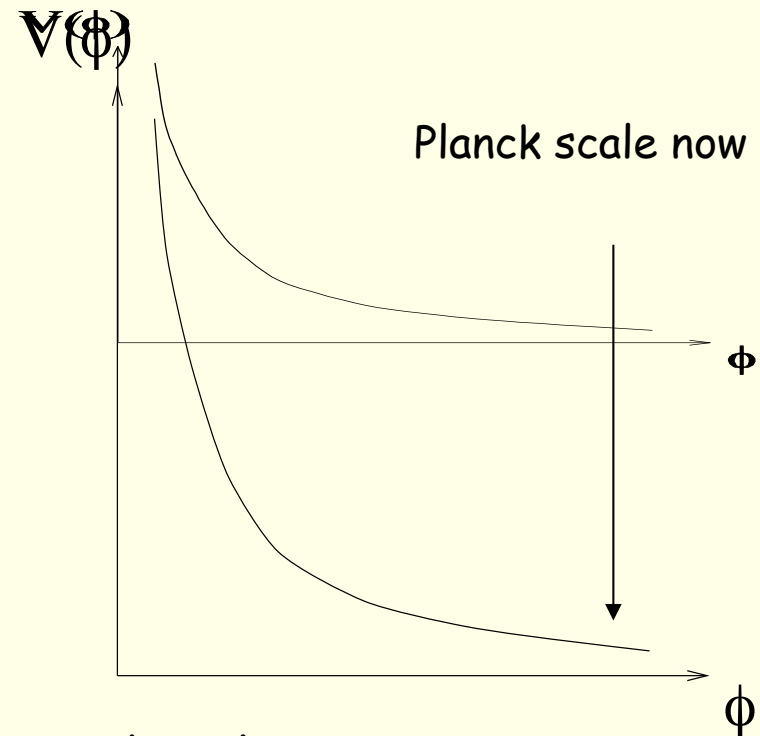
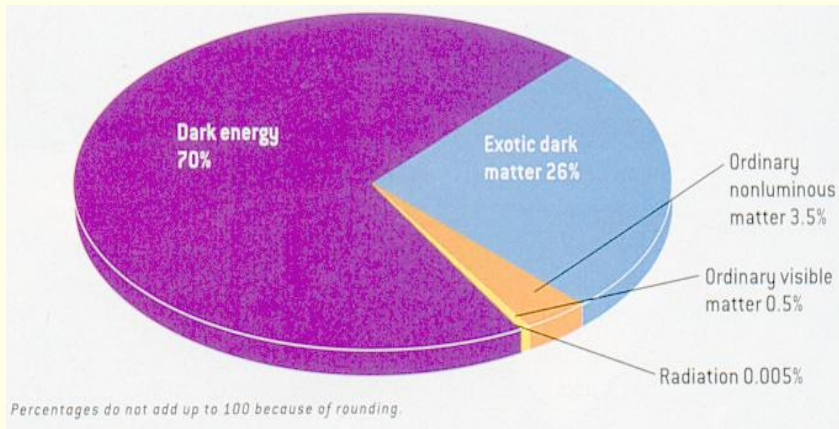
3-The Casimir Effect

4- Chameleon Optics

5-Modifying gravity at low redshift.

Scalars and Dark Energy

Dark Energy



Field rolling down a runaway potential, reaching large values now (Planck scale)

Extremely flat potential for an almost decoupled field

How Flat?

Energy density and pressure:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + V(\phi), \quad p = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 - V(\phi)$$

Runaway fields can be classified according to

$$w = \frac{p}{\rho}$$

$$m \gg H_0$$

very fast roll

$$w \approx 1$$

$$m \ll H_0$$

slow roll

$$w \approx -1 \text{ (inflation)}$$

$$m \approx H_0$$

gentle roll

$$-1 \leq w < -\frac{1}{3} \text{ (dark energy)}$$

$$H_0 \approx 10^{-43} \text{ GeV}$$

strong gravitational constraints

Gravitational Tests

Dark energy theories suffer from the potential presence of a fifth force mediated by the scalar field.

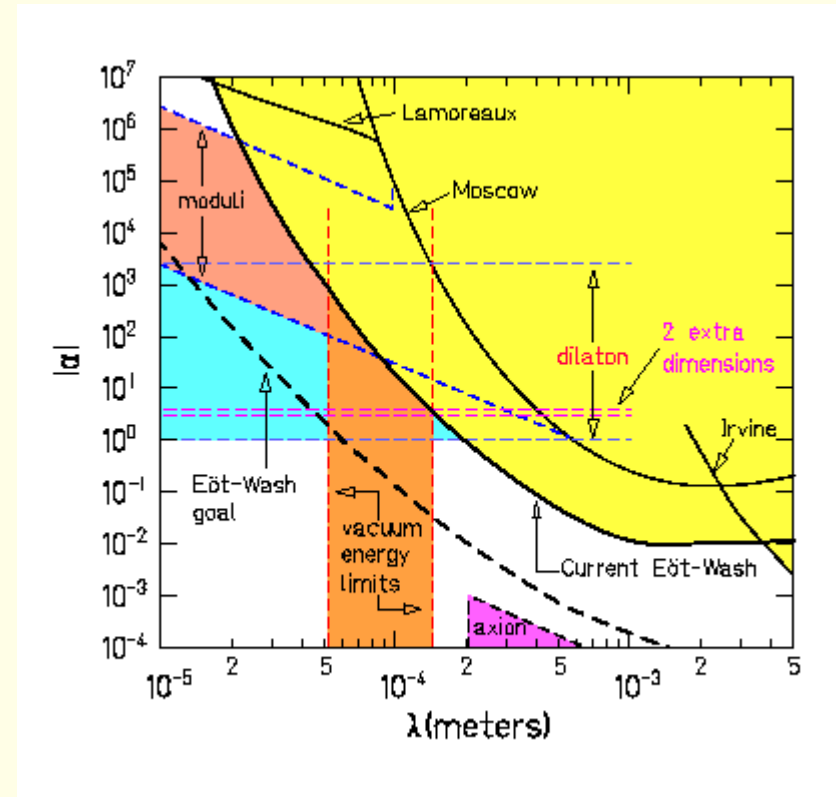
Alternatives:

Non-existent if the scalar field has a mass greater than :

$$m \geq 10^{-3} \text{ eV}$$

If not, strong bound from Cassini experiments on the gravitational coupling:

$$\alpha^2 \leq 10^{-5}$$



Scalar-Tensor Effective Theory

Effective field theories with gravity and scalars:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) + \mathcal{L}_m(\psi_m, A^2(\phi)g_{\mu\nu}) \right)$$

$$\alpha_\phi = m_{\text{Pl}} \frac{d \ln A}{d\phi}$$

Scalars differ from axions (pseudo-scalars) inasmuch as they can couple to matter with non-derivative interactions. All the physics is captured by the function $A(\phi)$.

$$m(\phi) = A(\phi)m_0$$

In the Einstein frame, masses become conformally related to the bare mass.

Gravitational Constraints

- Deviations from Newton's law are tested on macroscopic objects. The gravitational coupling is:

$$\kappa_4 \alpha = \frac{d \ln m_{\text{atom}}}{d\phi_n}$$

- The deviation is essentially given by:

$$\alpha \approx \left[\frac{3m_u + m_d}{2 \Lambda_{QCD}} - \frac{1}{8} \frac{N - Z}{N + Z} \frac{m_u - m_d}{\Lambda_{QCD}} \right] \alpha_\phi$$

An Example: the radion

The distance between branes in the Randall-Sundrum model:

$$A(\phi) = \cosh \frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6}}$$

where

$$R = \frac{1}{k} \ln \tanh \frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6}}$$

Gravitational coupling:

$$\alpha_\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \tanh\left(\frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6}}\right)$$

close branes:

$$A(\phi) = \exp \frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6}}$$

constant coupling constant

$$\alpha_\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}$$

Example: Moduli coupled to the standard model

The Standard Model fermion masses become moduli dependent

$$m_{u,d}(\phi) = \lambda e^{\kappa_4^2 K(\phi)/2} m_{u,d}$$

Scalar-tensor theory

Yukawa

Kahler

$$K = -\frac{n}{\kappa_4^2} \ln \kappa_4(\phi + \bar{\phi})$$

n=1 dilaton, n=3 volume modulus

Gravitational Problems

- Deviations from Newton's law are tested on macroscopic objects. The gravitational coupling is:

$$\kappa_4 \alpha_\phi = \frac{d \ln m}{d\phi_n} \quad \longleftarrow \quad d\phi_n = \sqrt{K_{\phi\phi}} d\phi$$

- For moduli fields: $\kappa_4 \partial_{\phi_n} K = \sqrt{2n}$ Too Large !

f(R) gravity

- o The simplest modification of General Relativity is f(R) gravity:

$$\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R \rightarrow \frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} f(R)$$

- o The function f(R) must be close to R, so $f(R) = R + h(R)$, $h \ll R$ in the solar system.
- o f(R) gravity addresses the dark energy issue for certain choices of h(R).

f(R) vs Scalar-Tensor Theories

f(R) totally equivalent to an **effective field theory** with **gravity** and **scalars**

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{1}{16\pi G_N} R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) + \mathcal{L}_m(\psi_m, e^{2\phi/\sqrt{6}m_{\text{Pl}}} g_{\mu\nu}) \right)$$

The potential V is directly related to $f(R)$.

$$V(\phi) = m_{\text{Pl}}^2 \frac{Rf' - f}{2f'^2}, \quad f' = e^{-2\phi/\sqrt{6}m_{\text{Pl}}}$$

Same problems as dark energy: coincidence problem, cosmological constant value etc...

$$\alpha_\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}$$

A Few Examples

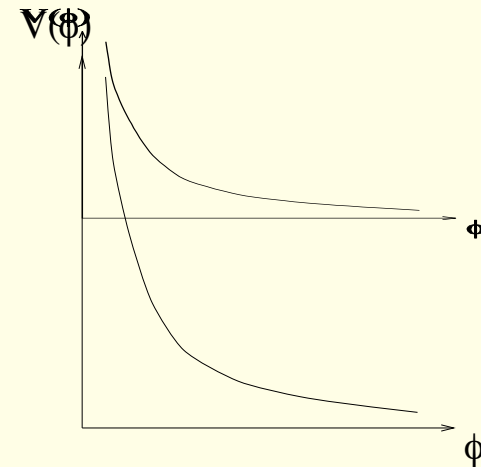
A large class of models is such that $h(R) \rightarrow C$ for large curvatures. This mimics a cosmological constant for large value of ϕ

$$h(R) = \lambda \frac{R}{\frac{\lambda R}{C} + 1}$$

Another class of models leads to a quintessence like behaviour:

$$h(R) \sim \bar{R} \left(\frac{R}{\bar{R}}\right)^{p+1}, \quad V(\phi) \sim \Lambda^4 \left(\frac{\phi}{\Lambda}\right)^{(p+1)/p}$$

Ratra-Peebles ! $n = -(p+1)/p$



Chameleons

Chameleons

Chameleon field: field with a matter dependent mass

A way to reconcile **gravity tests and cosmology:**

Nearly massless field on cosmological scales

Massive field in the laboratory

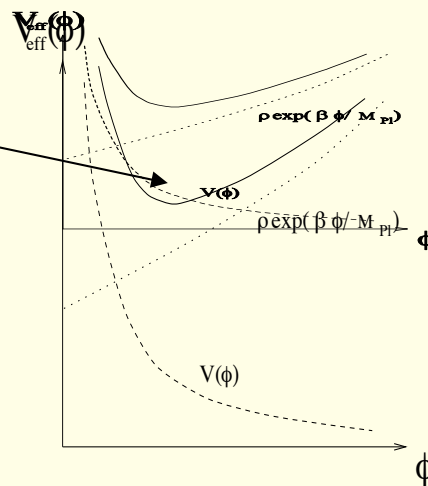


The effect of the environment

When coupled to matter, scalar fields have a matter dependent effective potential

$$V_{eff}(\phi) = V(\phi) + \rho_m A(\phi)$$

Environment
dependent
minimum



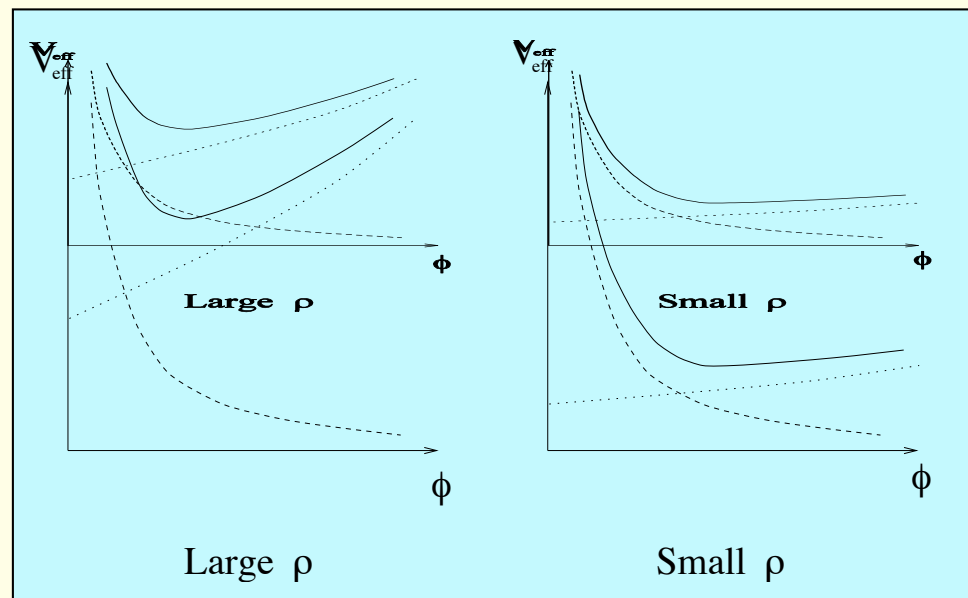
An Example:

Ratra-Peebles potential

$$V(\phi) \sim \frac{\Lambda^{4+n}}{\phi^n}$$

Constant coupling to matter

$$A(\phi) = \exp \beta \frac{\phi}{m_{\text{Pl}}}$$



$$\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \text{ for f(R) theories}$$

What is dense enough?

- The environment dependent mass is enough to hide the fifth force in dense media such as the atmosphere, hence no effect on **Galileo's Pisa tower experiment!**

$$\rho \approx 10^{-4} \text{g/cm}^3$$

- It is not enough to explain why we see no deviations from Newtonian gravity in the **lunar ranging experiment**

$$\rho \approx 10^{-22} \text{g/cm}^3$$

- It is not enough to explain no deviation in **laboratory tests of gravity** carried in "vacuum"

$$\rho \approx 10^{-14} \text{g/cm}^3$$

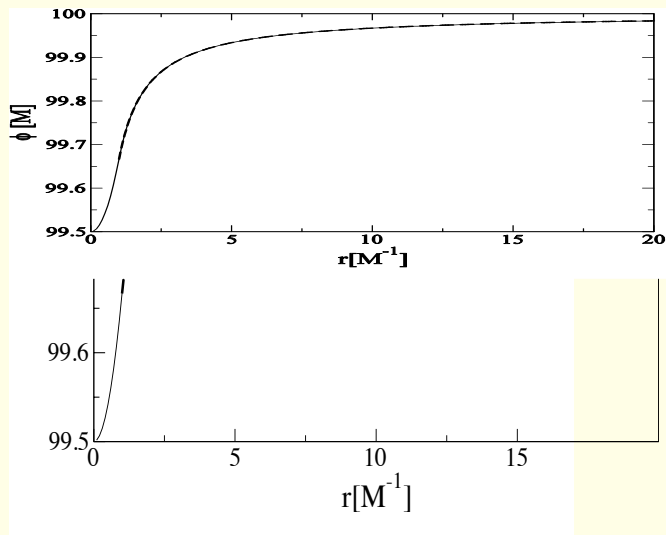
The Thin Shell Effect I

- o The force mediated by the chameleon is:

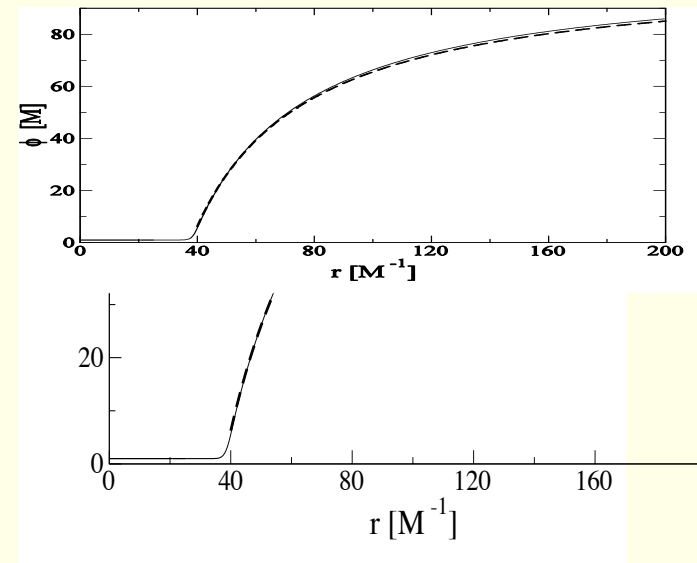
$$F_\phi = -\beta \frac{m}{m_{\text{Pl}}} \nabla \phi, \quad \beta = \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}}{M}$$

- o The force due to a compact body of radius R is generated by the gradient of the chameleon field outside the body.
- o The field outside a compact body of radius R interpolates between the minimum inside and outside the body
- o Inside the solution is nearly constant up to the boundary of the object and jumps over a thin shell ΔR
- o Outside the field is given by:

$$\phi \approx \phi_\infty - \frac{\beta}{m_p} \frac{3\Delta R M_c}{R r}$$



No shell



Thin shell

The Thin Shell Effect II

- o The force on a test particle outside a spherical body is shielded:

$$\alpha_\phi = 3\beta \frac{\Delta R}{R}$$

- o When the shell is thin, the deviation from Newtonian gravity is small.
- o The size of the thin-shell is:

$$\frac{\Delta R}{R} = \frac{\phi_\infty - \phi_c}{6\beta m_p \Phi_N}$$

- o Small for large bodies (sun etc..) when Newton's potential at the surface of the body is large enough.

Laboratory tests

- In a typical experiment, one measures the force between two test objects and compare to Newton's law (this is very crude, more about the Eot-wash experiment later...). The test objects are taken to be small and spherical. They are placed in a vacuum chamber of size L .
- In a vacuum chamber, the chameleon "resonates" and the field value adjusts itself according to:

$$m_{\text{vac}}L \sim 1$$

- The vacuum is not dense enough to lead to a large chameleon mass, hence the need for a **thin shell**.

$$\phi_{\text{vac}} \leq 10^{-28} m_{\text{Pl}}$$

- Typically for masses of order 40 g and radius 1 cm, the thin shell requires for the Ratra-Peebles case:

$$\Lambda \leq 10^{3n/(n+4)} 10^{-12} \text{ GeV}$$

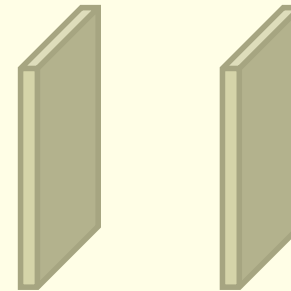
- We will be more precise later....

The Casimir Effect

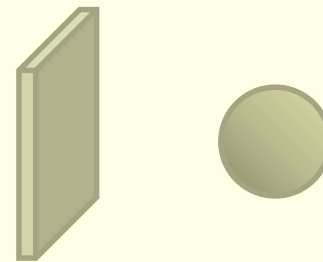
Casimir Force Experiments

- Measure force between

- Two parallel plates



- A plate and a sphere



The Casimir Force

- o The inter-plate force is in fact the contribution from a chameleon to the Casimir effect. The acceleration due to a chameleon is:

$$a_\phi = -\alpha\kappa_4\nabla\phi$$

- o The attractive force per unit surface area is then:

$$\frac{F_\phi}{A} = -\int_{d/2}^{D+d/2} \alpha\kappa_4\rho_c \frac{d\delta\phi}{dx} = V'(\phi_c)\delta\phi_s$$

where

$$\delta\phi_s = \frac{V(\phi_b) - V(\phi_0) - V'(\phi_b)(\phi_b - \phi_0)}{V'(\phi_c)}$$

is the change of the boundary value of the scalar field due to the presence of the second plate.

The Casimir Force

- We focus on the plate-plate interaction in the range:

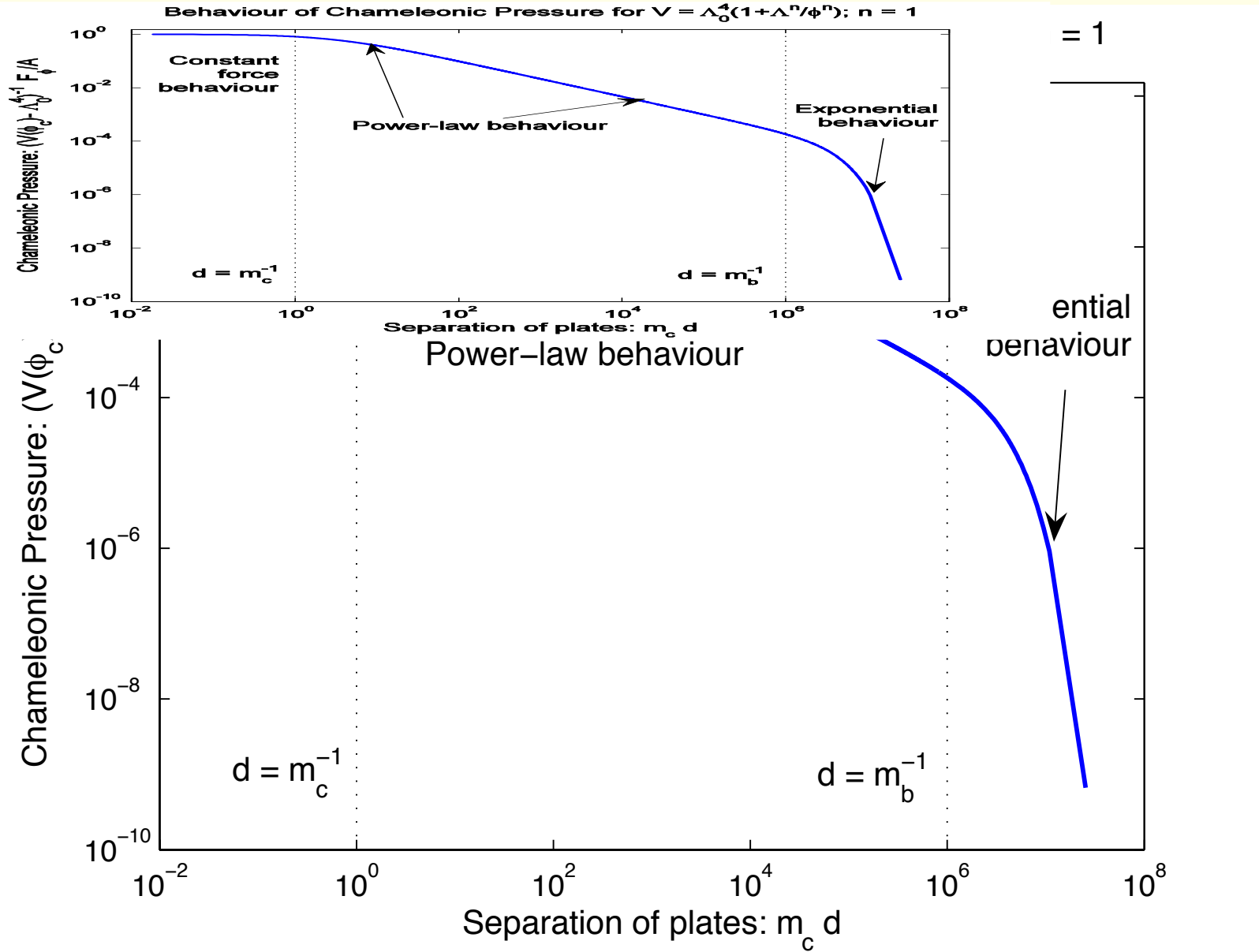
Mass in the plates \longrightarrow $m_c^{-1} \leq d \leq m_b^{-1}$ \longleftarrow Mass in the cavity

- The force is algebraic:

$$\frac{F_\phi}{A} \sim \Lambda^4 (\Lambda d)^{-\frac{2n}{n+2}}$$

- The dark energy scale sets a typical scale:

$$\Lambda^{-1} \sim 82 \mu m$$

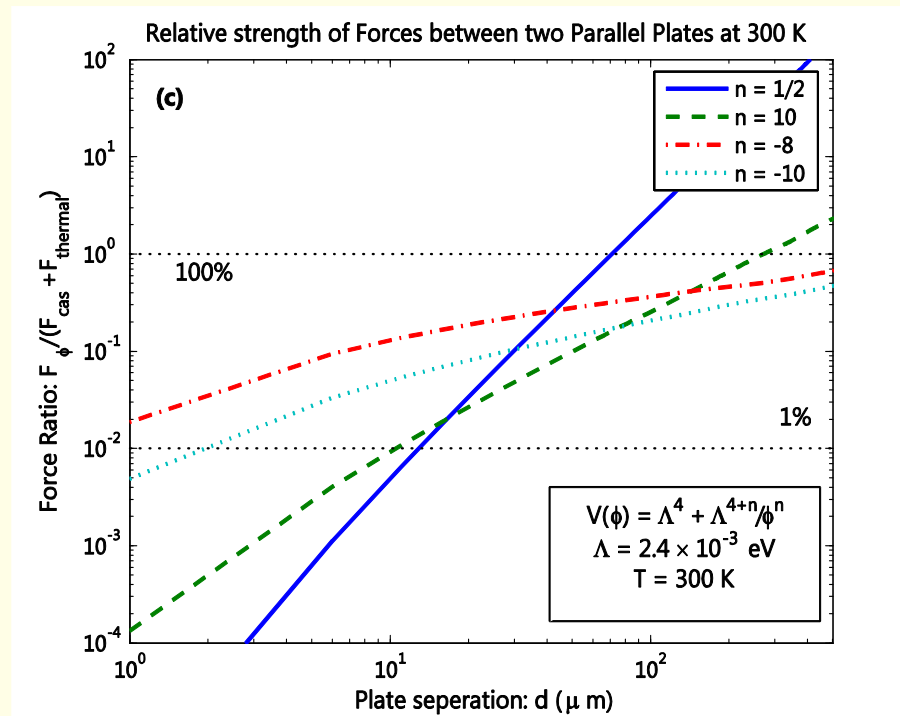


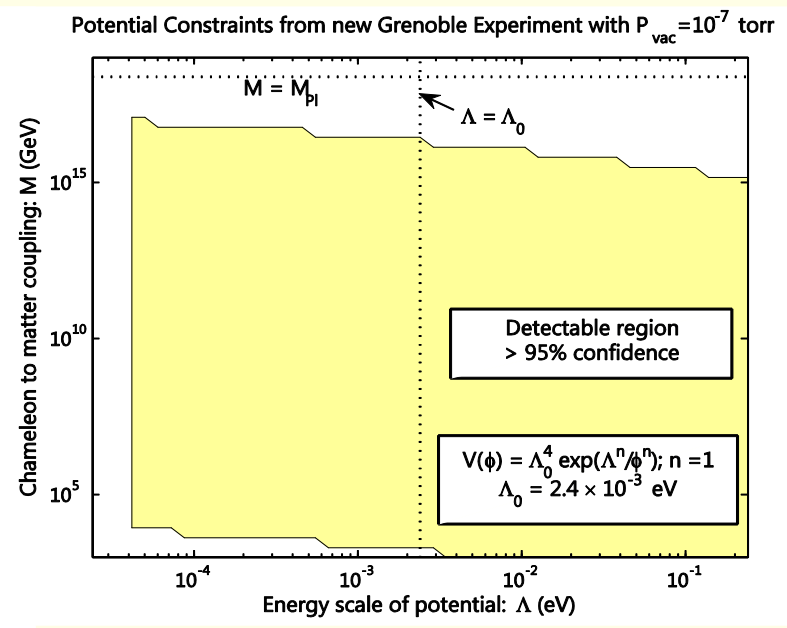
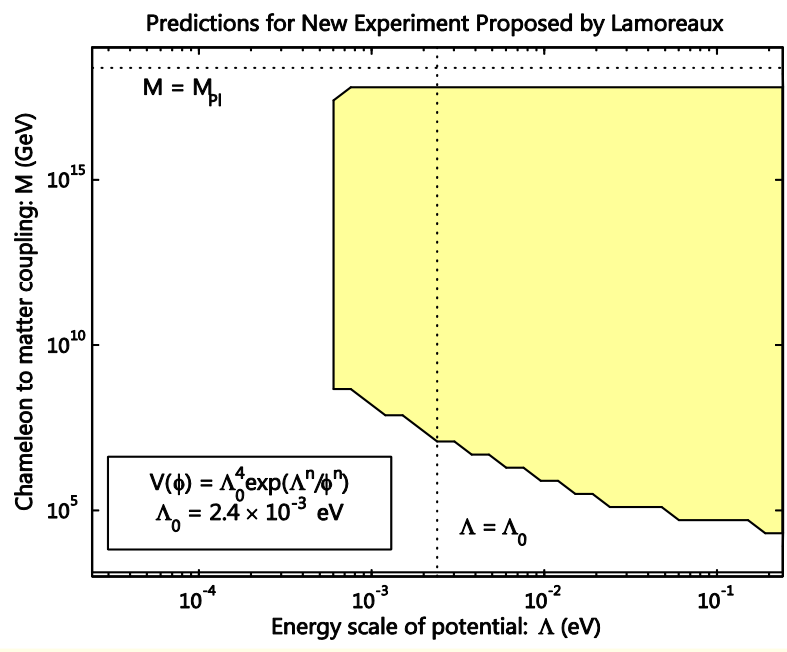
Detectability

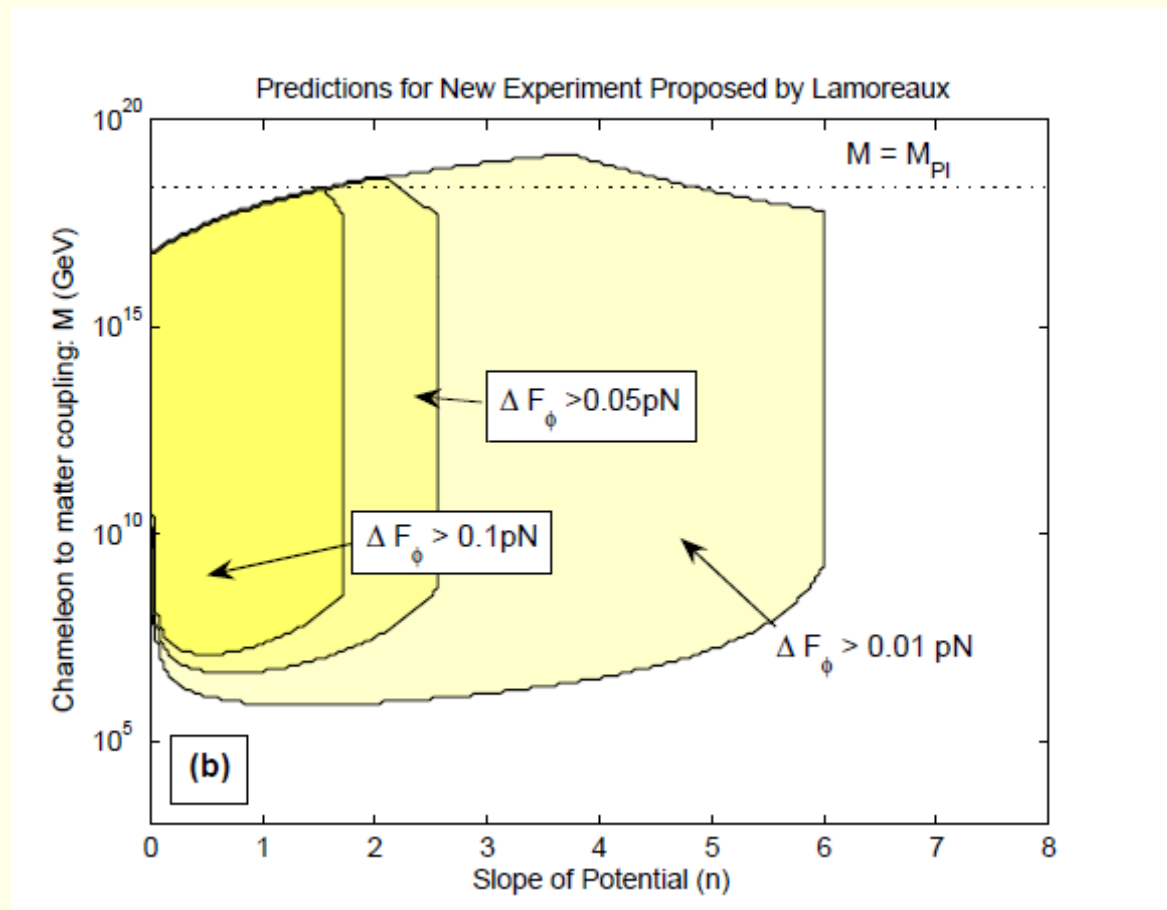
- The Casimir force is also an algebraic law implying:

$$\frac{F_\phi}{F_{\text{Cas}}} \sim \frac{240}{\pi^2} (\Lambda d)^{\frac{2(n+4)}{n+2}}$$

- This can be a few percent when $d=10\mu\text{m}$ and would be 100% for $d=30\mu\text{m}$







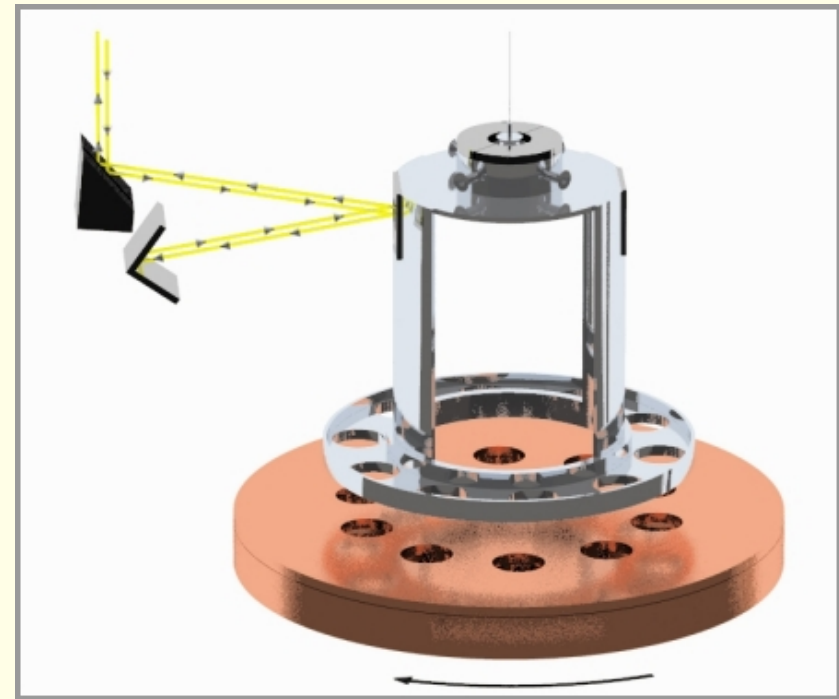
Eot Wash Experiment

- Measurement of the torque between two plaques with holes (no effect for Newtonian forces)
- The potential energy of the system due to a chameleon force between the plates is

$$V_T = A \int_d^\infty \frac{F_\phi}{A} ds$$

- The force per unit surface area can be approximated by the force between two plates, the torque becomes:

$$T \approx a_T \int_d^\infty \frac{F_\phi}{A} ds$$



$$\int_{55\mu\text{m}}^\infty \frac{F_\phi}{A} ds \leq 7.0 \cdot 10^{-37} \text{ GeV}^3$$

$$a_T = \frac{dA}{d\theta}$$

Power Law Example

- o Power law:

$$h(R) \sim \bar{R} \left(\frac{R}{\bar{R}} \right)^{p+1}$$

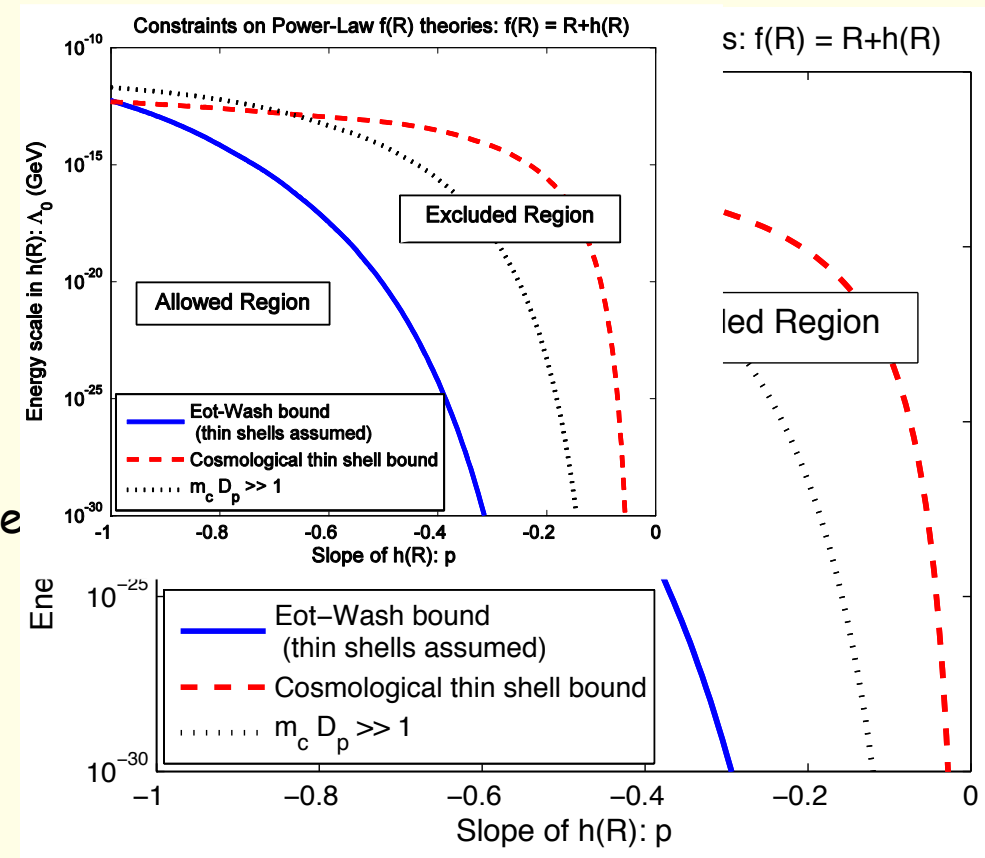
- o Integrating the field equations between the plates:

$$R_0 \sim \bar{R} (\bar{R} d^2)^{\frac{1}{p-1}}$$

- o We find constraints on the scale

$$\bar{R} = \frac{\Lambda_0^4}{m_{\text{Pl}}^2}$$

$$\Lambda^{n+4} \sim \Lambda_0^4 m_{\text{Pl}}^n$$



Chameleon Optics

Induced Coupling

$$L_{\text{eff}} = \frac{e^2}{3(4\pi)^2 M_{\text{matter}}} \phi F_{ab} F^{ab}$$

$$\alpha_\phi = \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}}{M_{\text{matter}}}$$

When the coupling to matter is universal, and heavy fermions are integrated out, a photon coupling is induced.

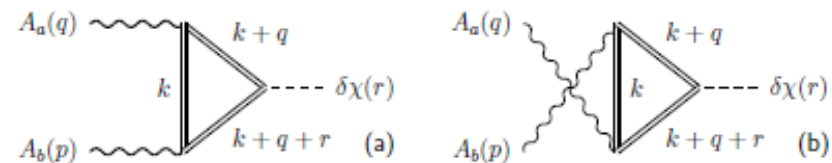
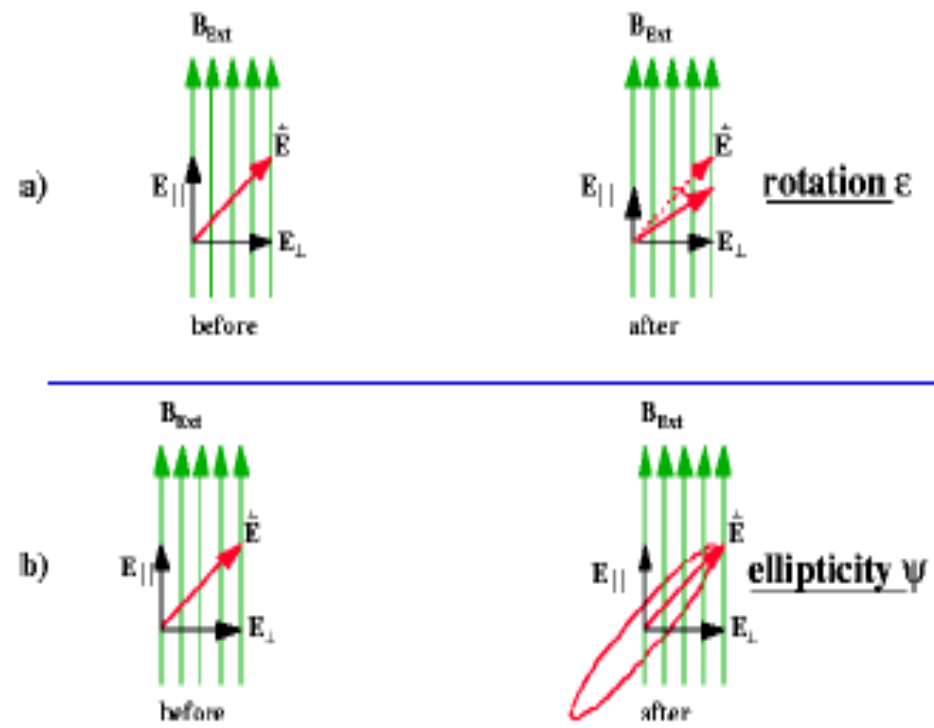


Figure 1. Diagrams contributing to the leading interaction between dark energy and the electroweak gauge bosons, which determine an effective operator acting on $A_a(q)A_b(p)\chi(r)$. Note that the momentum carried by χ is taken to flow into the diagram. Double lines represent a species of heavy fermion charged under $SU(2) \times U(1)$.

$$M_\gamma = \frac{3(4\pi)^2}{e^2} M_{\text{matter}}$$

1. Vacuum Magnetic Dichroism and Birefringence

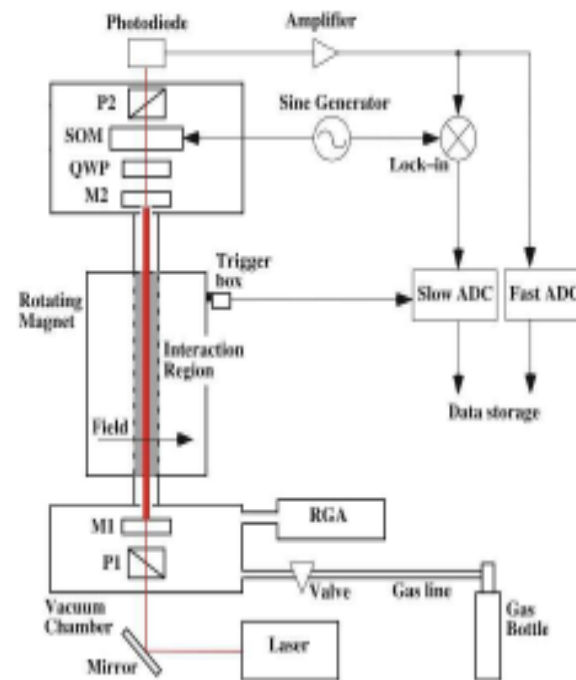
- Send linearly polarized laser beam through transverse magnetic field \Rightarrow measure changes in polarization state:
 - rotation (dichroism)
 - ellipticity (birefringence)



Experimental Setup

PVLAS experiment: [Zavattini,... PRL '06]

$B = 5 \text{ T}$, $\ell = 1 \text{ m}$, $\omega = 1.2 \text{ eV}$, $N_{\text{pass}} = 44000$



name	place	magnet (field length)	laser wavelength power	P_{PVLAS}	photon flux at detector
ALPS	DESY	5 T 4.21 m	1064 nm 200 W cw	$= 10^{-19}$	10/s
BMV	LULI	11 T 0.25 m	1053 nm 500 W 4 pulses/day	$= 10^{-21}$	10/pulse
LIPSS	Jefferson Laboratory	1.7 T 1.0 m	900 nm 10 kW cw	$= 10^{-23.5}$	0.1/s
OSQAR (preliminary phase)	CERN	9.5 T 1.0 m 9.5 T 3.3 m	540 nm 1 kW cw	$= 10^{-20}$	10/s
PVLAS (regeneration)	INFN Legnaro	5 T 1 m 2.2 T 0.5 m	1064 nm 0.8 W cw $N_{\text{pass}} = 5 \times 10^5$	$= 10^{-23}$	10/s CERN Courier

Chameleons Coupled to Photons

- Chameleons may couple to electromagnetism:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{optics}} = \frac{e\phi/M_\gamma}{g^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

- Cavity experiments in the presence of a constant magnetic field may reveal the existence of chameleons. **The chameleon mixes with the polarisation orthogonal to the magnetic field and oscillations occur** (like neutrino oscillations)

- The coherence length $z_{\text{coh}} = \frac{2\omega}{m^2}$

depends on the mass in the optical cavity and therefore becomes pressure and magnetic field dependent:

$$\rho = \rho_m + \frac{B^2}{2}$$

- The mixing angle between chameleons and photons is:

$$\theta = \frac{B\omega}{M_\gamma m^2}$$

Ellipticity and Rotation

- Photons remain N passes in the cavity. The perpendicular photon polarisation after N passes and taking into account the chameleon mixing becomes:

$$\psi(z) = N \left(1 - \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} a_n(z) \right) \cos \left(\omega z + \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \delta_n(z) \right)$$

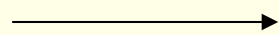
- The phase shifts and attenuations are given by:

$$a_n(z) = 2\theta^2 \sin^2 \frac{m^2(z+nL)}{4\omega}, \quad \delta_n(z) = \frac{m^2\theta^2}{2\omega}(z+nL) - \theta^2 \sin \frac{m^2(z+nL)}{2\omega}$$

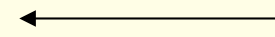
identified with the phase shift and attenuation after one pass of length nL.

- At the end of the cavity z=L, this can be easily identified for commensurate cavities whose lengths corresponds to P coherence lengths

Rotation



$$a_T = \theta^2, \quad \delta_T = \pi \frac{N}{P} \theta^2$$



ellipticity

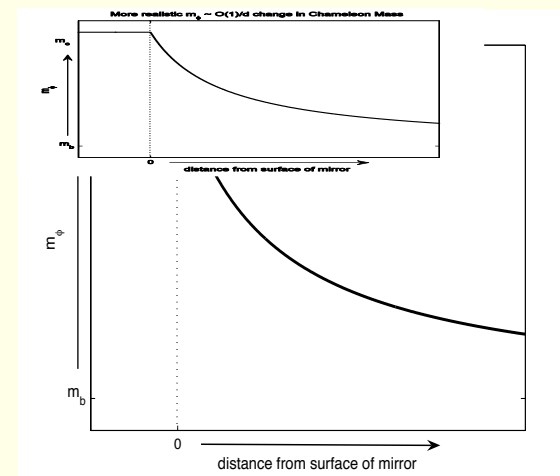
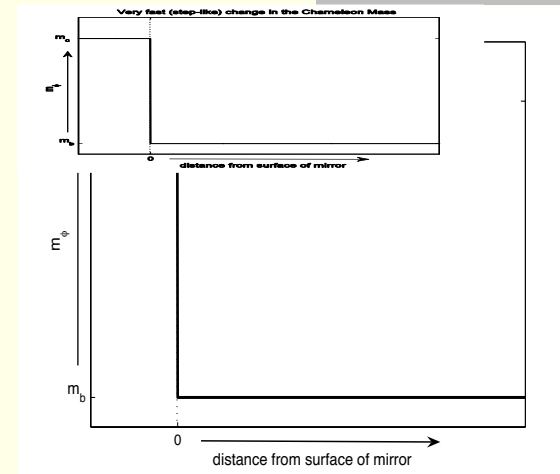
Realistic Chameleon Optics

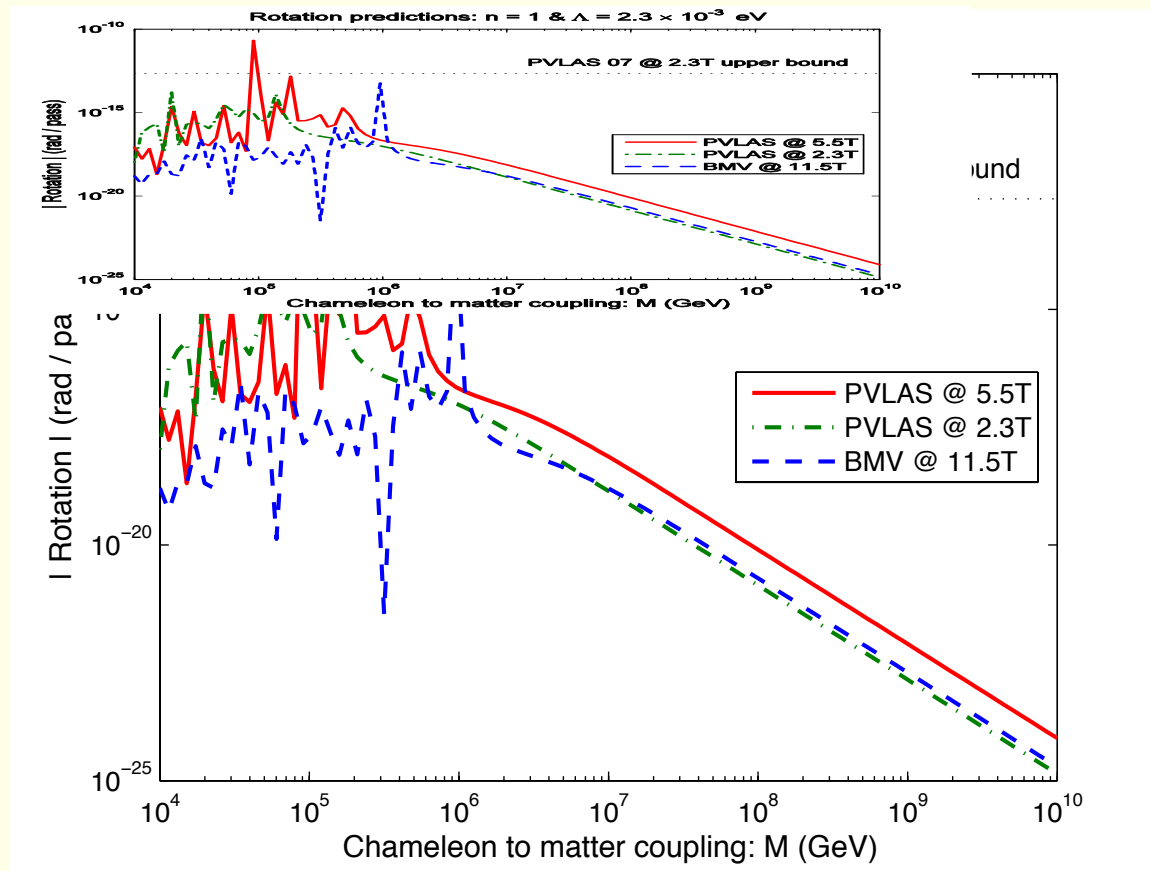
- Must take other effects into account.
- Chameleons never leave the cavity (outside mass too large, no tunnelling)
- Chameleons do not reflect simultaneously with photons.

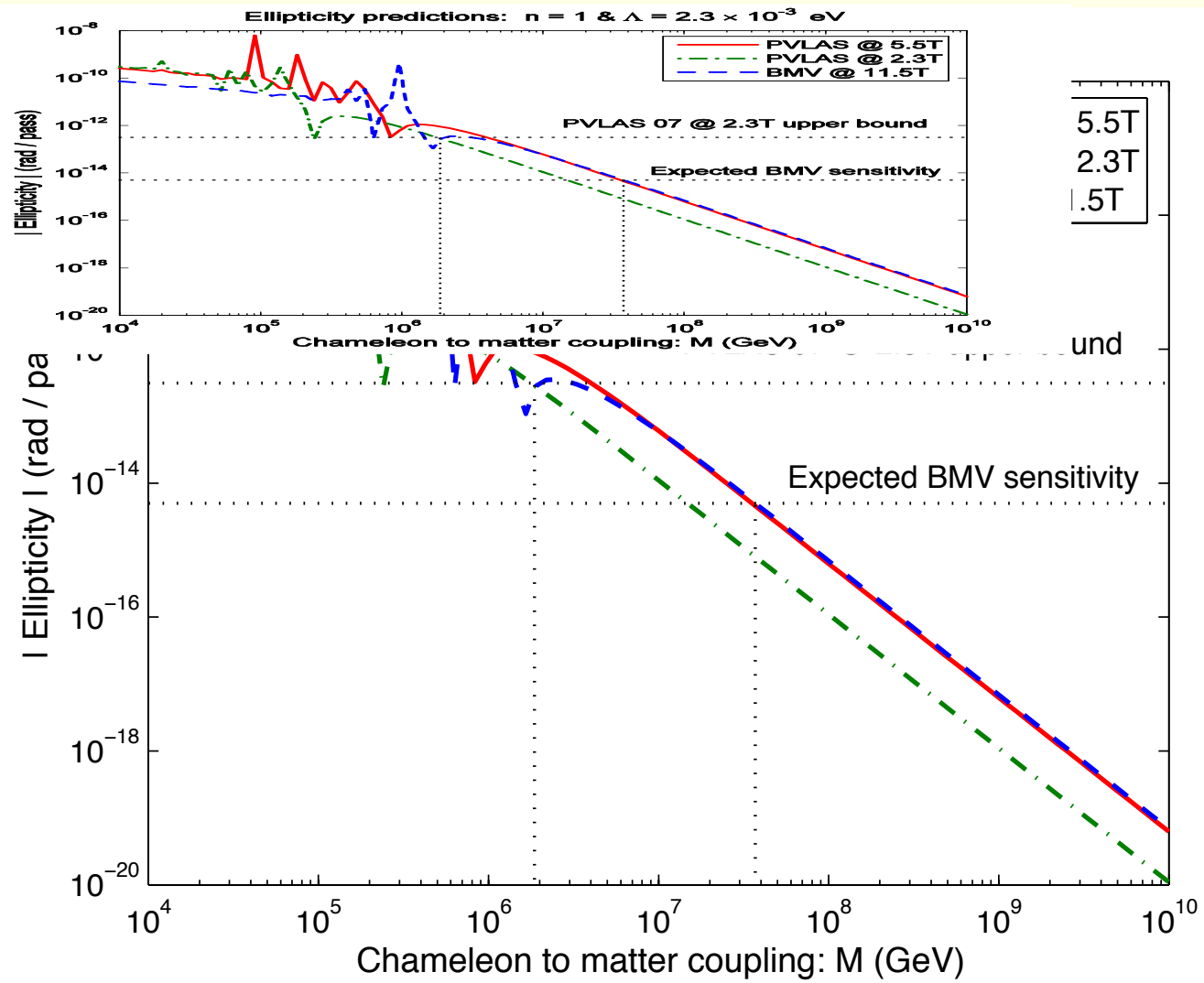
$$\Delta_r = \frac{\pi n}{n + 2}$$

- Chameleons propagate slower in the no-field zone within the cavity

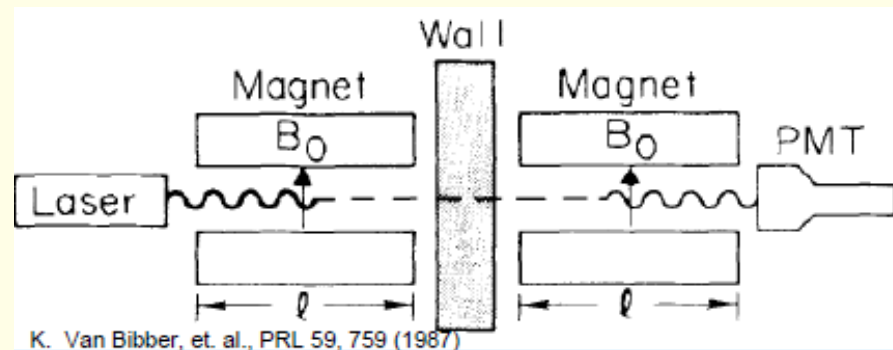
$$\Delta_d = \frac{m_\phi^2 d}{\omega}$$





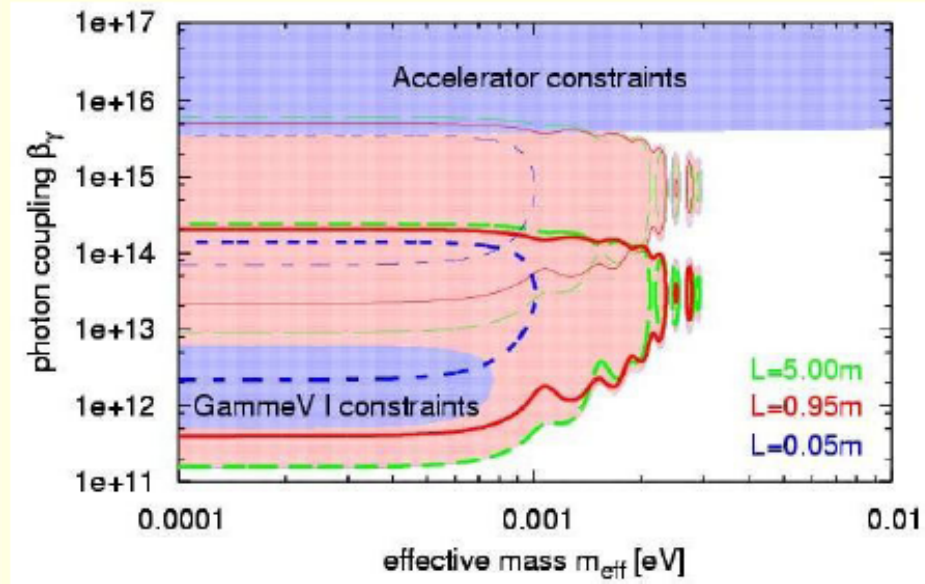


Light Shining through a Wall



Axion-like particles, once generated can go through the wall and then regenerate photons on the other side.

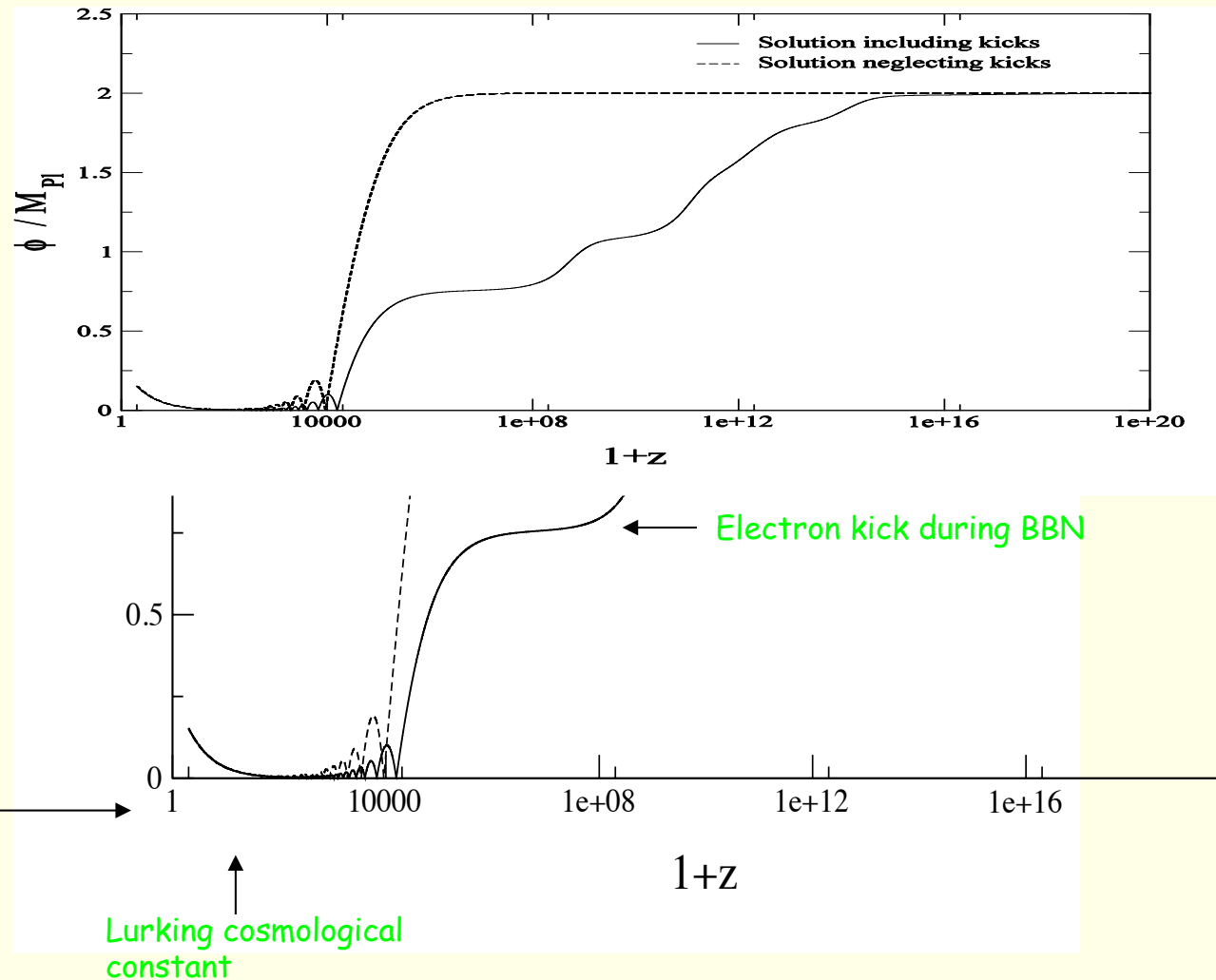
Chameleons cannot go through but can stay in a jar once the laser has been turned off and then regenerate photons.



GammeV (Fermilab) and ADMX (Seattle) will cover a large part of the parameter space.

Modifying gravity at low z

Chameleon Cosmology



Modified Gravity at low z ?

- Gravity is well tested in the solar system. For larger scales, gravity may be modified. A test of modified gravity can be obtained by studying the growth of structures at low redshift (in the linear regime):

$$ds^2 = -a^2(1 + 2\psi)d\tau^2 + a^2(1 - 2\phi_N)dx^2$$

- This is most sensitive to the behaviour of the growth factor on sub-horizon scales and the ratio of the Newton potentials

$$f = \frac{d \ln \delta}{d \ln a} \quad \gamma = \frac{d \ln f}{d \ln \Omega_m} \quad \eta = \frac{\phi_N}{\psi}$$

- In general relativity, the slip function and the growth index are known to be:

$$\gamma \approx 0.55, \quad \eta = 1$$

- Recently, Rachel Bean found some « evidence » in favour of a modification of gravity at low redshift.
- When scalars couple to matter, not a unique definition of « a » slip function.

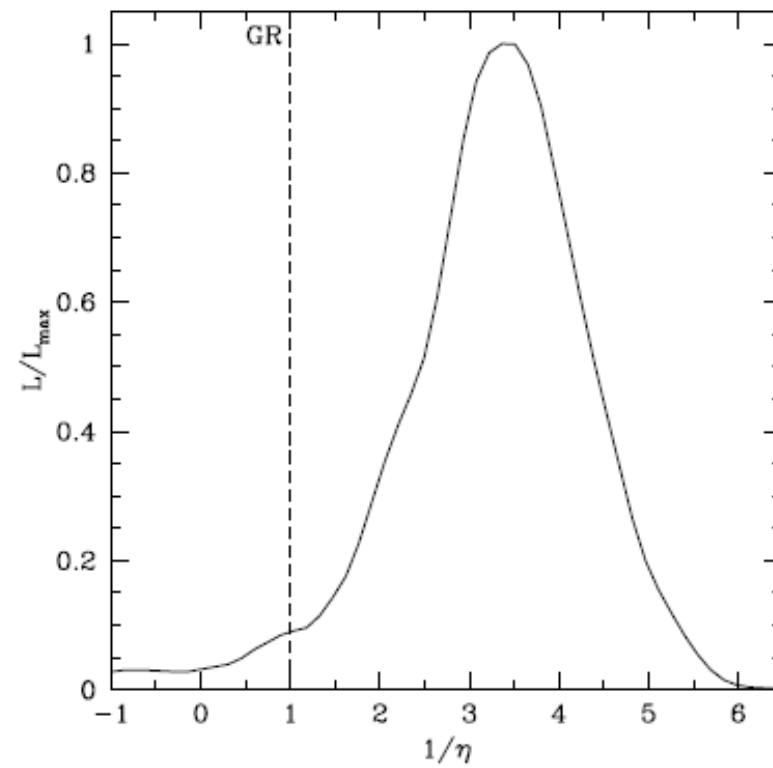


FIG. 1: 1D marginalized constraints for $1/\eta$ for the scenarios in which $1/\eta$ can vary at $1 < z < 2$. The results disfavor GR (the dashed line) at the 98% significance level (p -value=0.02).

Linear Growth factor

At the perturbation level, the growth factor evolves like:

$$\delta'' + \mathcal{H}\delta' - \frac{3}{2}H^2\left(1 + \frac{2\beta^2}{1 + \frac{m^2 a^2}{k^2}}\right)\delta = 0$$

The new factor in the brackets is due to a modification of gravity depending on the comoving scale k . Here the coupling is constant.

Everything depends on the comoving **Compton length**:

$$\lambda_c = \frac{1}{ma}$$


Gravity acts in an usual way for scales larger than the Compton length

$$\delta \sim a$$


Gravity is modified inside the Compton length with a growth:

$$\delta \sim a^{\frac{\nu}{2}}, \quad \nu = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{1 + 24(1 + 2\beta^2)}}{2}$$

Everything depends on the time dependence of $m(a)$. If m is a constant then the **Compton length diminishes** with time. So a scale inside the Compton length will eventually leave the Compton length

Modified gravity  General Relativity
 $z=z^*$

On the other hand, for chameleons the **Compton length increases** implying that scales enter the Compton length.

General Relativity  Modified gravity
 $z=z^*$

General Framework

We will generalise the previous models and work with a **different coupling for each species**. The Einstein equation and the Bianchi identity are satisfied with:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \sum_A e^{\beta_A \chi / m_{\text{Pl}}} \rho_A u_{\mu}^{(A)} u_{\nu}^{(A)} + D_{\mu} \chi D_{\nu} \chi - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} ((D\chi)^2 + m^2 \chi^2)$$

The Klein-Gordon equation becomes:

$$D^2 \chi = m^2 \chi + \sum_A \beta_A \frac{\rho_A}{m_{\text{Pl}}} e^{\beta_A \chi / m_{\text{Pl}}}$$

The metric is specified by two potentials:

$$ds^2 = -a^2(\tau)(1 + 2\psi)d\tau^2 + a^2(\tau)(1 - 2\phi_N)dx^2$$

At late times, in the absence of anisotropic stress, the Poisson equation is satisfied:

$$\psi = \phi_N, \quad \Delta \phi_N = 4\pi G a^2 \sum_A \rho_A \delta_A$$

Growth of structures

The density contrast of each species satisfies:

$$\delta_A'' + \mathcal{H}\delta_A' - \frac{3}{2}\mathcal{H}^2 \sum_B \Omega_B \delta_B (1 + \alpha_{AB}(x)) = 0$$

Gravity is modified because the coupling constants depend on time:

$$\alpha_{AB}(x) = \frac{2\beta_A\beta_B}{1+x^2}, \quad x = \frac{am}{k}$$

In the following: **A=baryons, B=CDM**. As long as a scale does not cross the Compton length:

$$\delta_A = (1 + \xi(x))\delta_B, \quad 1 + \xi(x) = \frac{1 + \alpha_{AB}(x)}{1 + \alpha_{BB}(x)}$$

After crossing the Compton length, the relation changes:

$$\delta_A = (1 + \xi_{\text{eff}})\delta_B$$

Growth index

Modified gravity implies that the growth is altered:

$$f(\ln a, k) = (1 + g_B(\ln a))f_0(\ln a), \quad f_0 \sim \Omega_m^{0.55}$$

The deformation is a slowly varying function:

$$g_B \approx -\frac{5}{4} + \sqrt{\frac{25}{16} + \frac{3}{2}\alpha_{BB}(x)}$$

B=CDM
A=baryons

$$\alpha_{BB}(x) = \frac{2\beta_B^2}{1 + \frac{m^2 a^2}{k^2}}$$

Slip function I

Weak lensing which is sensitive to the total Newton potential

$$\psi + \phi_N \equiv 2\phi_N$$

Reconstructing the effective Newton potential from the Poisson law assuming that baryons track CDM as in General Relativity leads to:

$$\Delta\phi_A \approx 4\pi G\rho_B\delta_A \approx (1 + \xi_{eff})\Delta\phi_N$$

Our first slip function compares this potential to weak lensing:

$$1 + \eta_\delta^{-1} = \frac{\phi_N + \psi}{\phi_A}$$

Slip function II

Another slip function can be obtained by correlating the ISW effect and galaxies:

$$1 + \eta_I^{-1} = \frac{\dot{\phi}_N + \dot{\psi}}{\dot{\phi}_A}$$

This one is sensitive to the growth index and differs from one even if the couplings are equal:

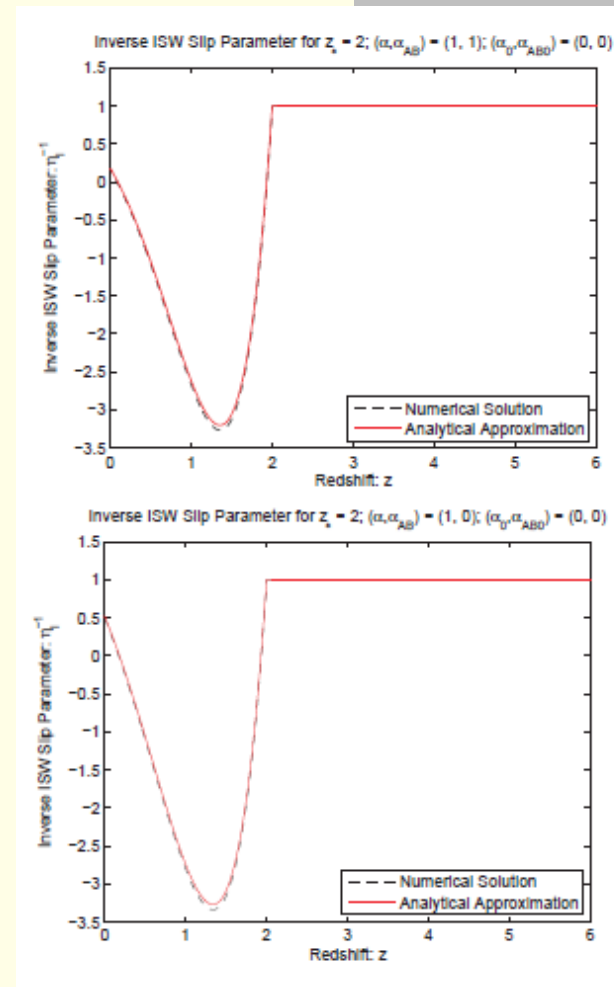
$$1 + \eta_I^{-1} = (1 + \eta_\delta^{-1}) \left(\frac{\Omega_m^{\gamma_B} - 1}{\Omega_m^{0.55} - 1} \right)$$

ISW slip function

Despite the large uncertainty, this slip function gives the tightest constraints on the couplings when no coupling to baryons is present.

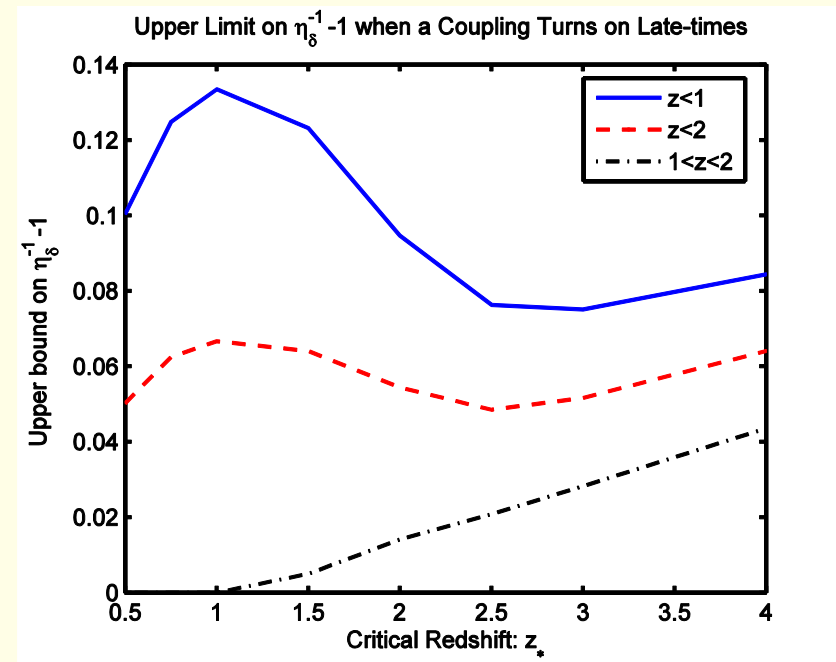
Coupling Turns On			
$\beta_A = \beta_B$		$\beta_A = 0$	
z_*	α_{\max}	z_*	α_{\max}
1	1.58	1	1.61
2	0.26	2	0.28
3	0.13	3	0.13
4	0.10	4	0.11
16	0.083	8	0.090

When the coupling is universal, this is equivalent to the baryonic growth index.



Combining the slip functions

If the crossing of the Compton length is around $z^*=4$, one could expect at most and at the 1-sigma level a discrepancy with General Relativity to be of order 0.13. If the crossing is at $z^*=2$, this reduces to 0.067.



The Dilaton

String theory in the strong coupling regime suggests that the dilaton has a potential:

$$V(\phi) = V_0 e^{-\phi} + \dots$$

Damour and Polyakov suggested that the coupling should have a minimum:

$$A(\phi) \approx 1 + \frac{A_2}{2} (\phi - \phi_0)^2 + \dots$$

The coupling to matter becomes:

$$\alpha_\phi \approx A_2 (\phi - \phi_0)$$

In the presence of matter, the minimum plays the role of an attractor:

$$\phi - \phi_0 \approx \frac{1}{1 + A_2 \frac{\rho}{V_0}}$$

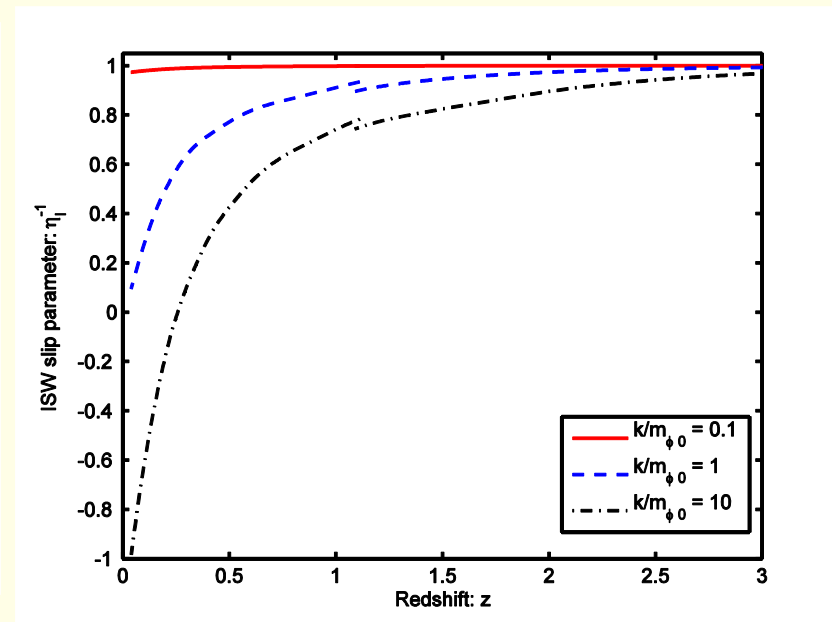
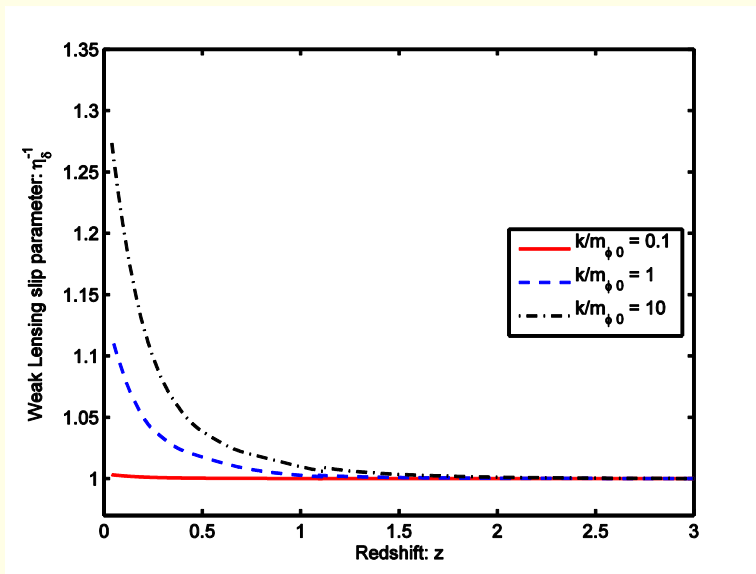
The coupling becomes:

$$\alpha_\phi \approx \frac{A_2}{1 + A_2 \frac{\rho}{V_0}}$$

Three regimes:

- i) early in the universe, large density: small coupling.
- ii) recent cosmological past: large scale modification of gravity.
- iii) collapsed objects: small coupling.

The Dilatonic case



Conclusions

- Chameleons could be around if scalar fields are the reason behind cosmic acceleration
- Light scalars are under experimental scrutiny (Casimir, optics)
- Weak lensing surveys could give a hint about late time deviations from General Relativity