

*3-rd Korea-Japan workshop on  
dark energy, April, 2016*

# **Cosmology in generalized Proca theories**

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Collaboration with

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Y. Zhang, G. Zhao (arXiv:160305806, 1602.00371)

# There have been many attempts for constructing dark energy models in the framework of scalar-tensor theories.

Most of them belong to the so-called Horndeski theories:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} L$$

Most general scalar-tensor theories  
with second-order equations

$$L = G_2(\phi, X) + G_3(\phi, X)\Box\phi + G_4(\phi, X)R - 2G_{4,X}(\phi, X) [(\Box\phi)^2 - \phi^{;\mu\nu}\phi_{;\mu\nu}] \\ + G_5(\phi, X)G_{\mu\nu}\phi^{;\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{3}G_{5,X}(\phi, X)[(\Box\phi)^3 - 3(\Box\phi)\phi_{;\mu\nu}\phi^{;\mu\nu} + 2\phi_{;\mu\nu}\phi^{;\mu\sigma}\phi^{;\nu}_{;\sigma}]$$

Single scalar field  $\phi$  with  $X = g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu\phi\partial_\nu\phi$

Horndeski (1973)

$R$  and  $G_{\mu\nu}$  are the 4-dimensional Ricci scalar and the Einstein tensors, respectively.

- General Relativity corresponds to  $G_4 = M_{\text{pl}}^2/2$ .
- Horndeski theories accommodate a wide variety of gravitational theories like Brans-Dicke theory,  $f(R)$  gravity, and covariant Galileons.

# What happens if the vector degree of freedom is present?

## (i) Maxwell field (massless)

$$\text{Lagrangian: } \mathcal{L}_F = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}$$

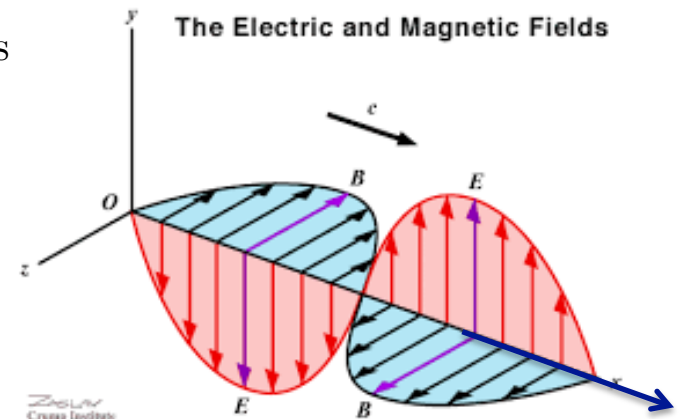
There are two transverse polarizations (electric and magnetic fields).

## (ii) Proca field (massive)

$$\text{Lagrangian: } \mathcal{L}_F = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}m^2 A_\mu A^\mu$$

Introduction of the mass  $m$  of the vector field  $A_\mu$  allows the propagation in the longitudinal direction due to the breaking of  $U(1)$  gauge invariance.

2 transverse and 1 longitudinal  
= 3 DOFs



Longitudinal  
propagation

# Generalized Proca theories

Heisenberg (2014),  
Tasinato (2014)

In a curved background, it is possible to extend the massive Proca theories to those containing three DOFs (besides two tensor polarizations).

## Heisenberg Lagrangian (2014)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_F &= -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}, \\ \mathcal{L}_2 &= G_2(X), \\ \mathcal{L}_3 &= G_3(X)\nabla_\mu A^\mu, \\ \mathcal{L}_4 &= G_4(X)R + G_{4,X}(X) \left[ (\nabla_\mu A^\mu)^2 + c_2 \nabla_\rho A_\sigma \nabla^\rho A^\sigma - (1 + c_2) \nabla_\rho A_\sigma \nabla^\sigma A^\rho \right], \\ \mathcal{L}_5 &= G_5(X)G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\mu A^\nu - \frac{1}{6}G_{5,X}(X) \left[ (\nabla_\mu A^\mu)^3 - 3d_2 \nabla_\mu A^\mu \nabla_\rho A_\sigma \nabla^\rho A^\sigma - 3(1 - d_2) \nabla_\mu A^\mu \nabla_\rho A_\sigma \nabla^\sigma A^\rho \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (2 - 3d_2) \nabla_\rho A_\sigma \nabla^\gamma A^\rho \nabla^\sigma A_\gamma + 3d_2 \nabla_\rho A_\sigma \nabla^\gamma A^\rho \nabla_\gamma A^\sigma \right].\end{aligned}$$

where  $X = -A_\mu A^\mu/2$  and  $F_{\mu\nu} = \nabla_\mu A_\nu - \nabla_\nu A_\mu$ .

The terms proportional to  $c_2$  and  $d_2$  can be expressed in terms of  $F_{\mu\nu}$ , so they correspond to pure vector modes.

The non-minimal derivatives couplings like  $G_4(X)R$  are required to keep the equations of motion up to second order.

# Cosmology in generalized Proca theories

arXiv: 1603.05806

Can we realize a viable cosmology with the late-time acceleration?

Vector field:  $A^\mu = (\phi(t), 0, 0, 0)$  (which does not break spatial isotropy)

Variation of the Heisenberg action with respect to  $g_{\mu\nu}$  on the flat FLRW background leads to

$$\begin{aligned} G_2 - G_{2,X}\phi^2 - 3G_{3,X}H\phi^3 + 6G_4H^2 - 6(2G_{4,X} + G_{4,XX}\phi^2)H^2\phi^2 + G_{5,XX}H^3\phi^5 + 5G_{5,X}H^3\phi^3 &= \rho_M, \\ G_2 - \dot{\phi}\phi^2G_{3,X} + 2G_4(3H^2 + 2\dot{H}) - 2G_{4,X}\phi(3H^2\phi + 2H\dot{\phi} + 2\dot{H}\phi) - 4G_{4,XX}H\dot{\phi}\phi^3 \\ + G_{5,XX}H^2\dot{\phi}\phi^4 + G_{5,X}H\phi^2(2\dot{H}\phi + 2H^2\phi + 3H\dot{\phi}) &= -P_M. \end{aligned}$$

The matter density  $\rho_M$  and the pressure  $P_M$  obey the continuity equation

$$\dot{\rho}_M + 3H(\rho_M + P_M) = 0$$

Variation of the action with respect to  $A^\mu$  leads to

$$\phi(G_{2,X} + 3G_{3,X}H\phi + 6G_{4,X}H^2 + 6G_{4,XX}H^2\phi^2 - 3G_{5,X}H^3\phi - G_{5,XX}H^3\phi^3) = 0.$$

The branch  $\phi \neq 0$  gives the solution where  $\phi$  depends on  $H$  alone, which allows the existence of de Sitter solutions with constant  $\phi$  and  $H$ .

# Vector Galileons

The Lagrangian of vector Galileons which recover the Galilean symmetry in the scalar limit ( $A_\mu \rightarrow \partial_\mu \pi$ ) on the flat space-time is given by

$$G_2(X) = b_2 X, \quad G_3(X) = b_3 X, \quad G_4(X) = \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + b_4 X^2, \quad G_5(X) = b_5 X^2.$$

We substitute these functions into the vector-field equation:

$$G_{2,X} + 3G_{3,X}H\phi + 6G_{4,X}H^2 + 6G_{4,XX}H^2\phi^2 - 3G_{5,X}H^3\phi - G_{5,XX}H^3\phi^3 = 0$$

Taking note that  $X = \phi^2/2$ , the background EOM admits the solution

$$\phi H = \text{constant}.$$

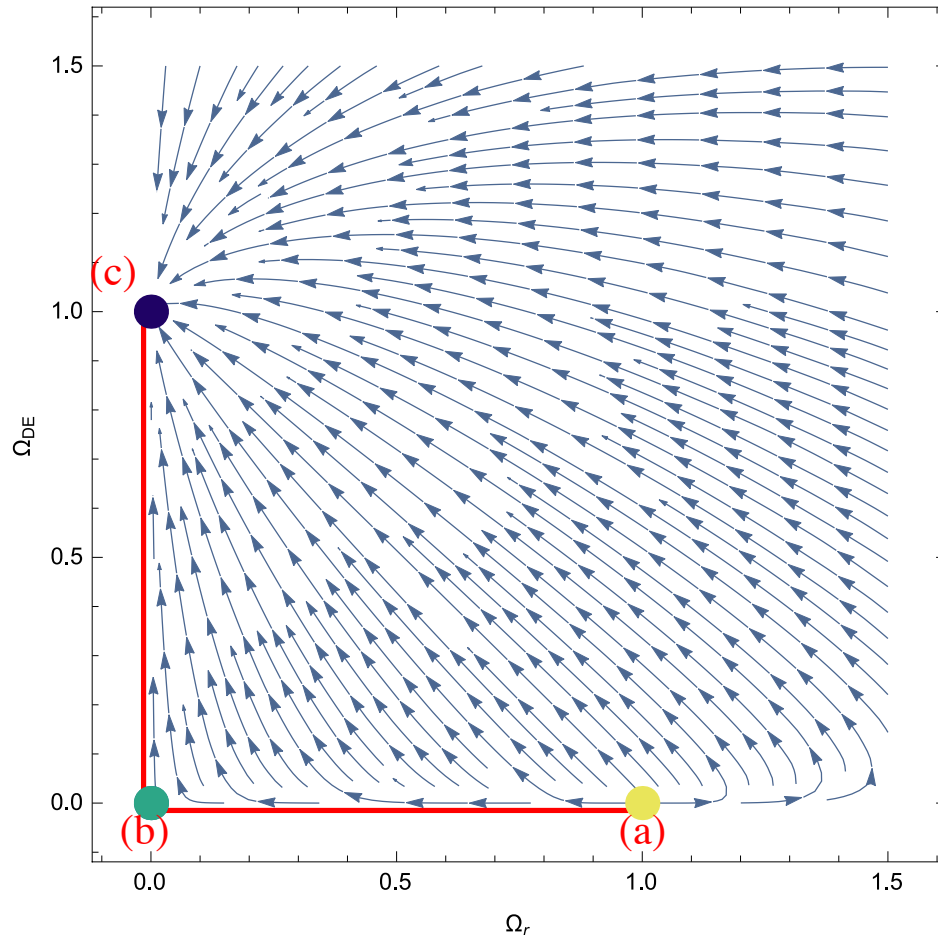


The temporal component  $\phi$  is small in the early cosmological epoch, but it grows with the decrease of  $H$ .

The solution finally approaches the de Sitter attractor characterized by

$$\phi = \text{constant}, \quad H = \text{constant}.$$

# Phase-space trajectories for vector Galileons



- (a) Radiation point
- (b) Matter point
- (c) De Sitter point

The de Sitter fixed point (c) is always stable against homogeneous perturbations, so it corresponds to the late-time attractor.

The dark energy equation of state  $w_{DE}$  is  $-2$  during the matter era.



This behavior is the same as a tracker solution of scalar Galileons, which is in tension with the observational data (Nesseris, De Felice, ST, 2010).

# Generalizations of vector Galileons

Let us consider the case in which  $\phi$  is related with  $H$  according to

$$\phi^p \propto H^{-1} \quad (p > 0)$$

This solution can be realized for

$$G_2(X) = b_2 X^{p_2}, \quad G_3(X) = b_3 X^{p_3}, \quad G_4(X) = \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + b_4 X^{p_4}, \quad G_5(X) = b_5 X^{p_5},$$

where

$$p_3 = \frac{1}{2}(p + 2p_2 - 1), \quad p_4 = p + p_2, \quad p_5 = \frac{1}{2}(3p + 2p_2 - 1).$$



The vector Galileon corresponds to  $p_2 = p = 1$ .

The dark energy and radiation density parameters obey

$$\Omega'_{\text{DE}} = \frac{(1+s)\Omega_{\text{DE}}(3+\Omega_r-3\Omega_{\text{DE}})}{1+s\Omega_{\text{DE}}},$$

$$\Omega'_r = -\frac{\Omega_r[1-\Omega_r+(3+4s)\Omega_{\text{DE}}]}{1+s\Omega_{\text{DE}}},$$



There are 3 fixed points:

- (a)  $(\Omega_{\text{DE}}, \Omega_r) = (0, 1)$
- (b)  $(\Omega_{\text{DE}}, \Omega_r) = (0, 0)$
- (c)  $(\Omega_{\text{DE}}, \Omega_r) = (1, 0)$

where  $s \equiv \frac{p_2}{p}.$



# The dark energy equation of state

$$w_{\text{DE}} = -\frac{3(1+s) + s\Omega_r}{3(1+s\Omega_{\text{DE}})}.$$



- (a)  $w_{\text{DE}} = -1 - 4s/3$  in the radiation era,
- (b)  $w_{\text{DE}} = -1 - s$  in the matter era,
- (c)  $w_{\text{DE}} = -1$  in the de Sitter era

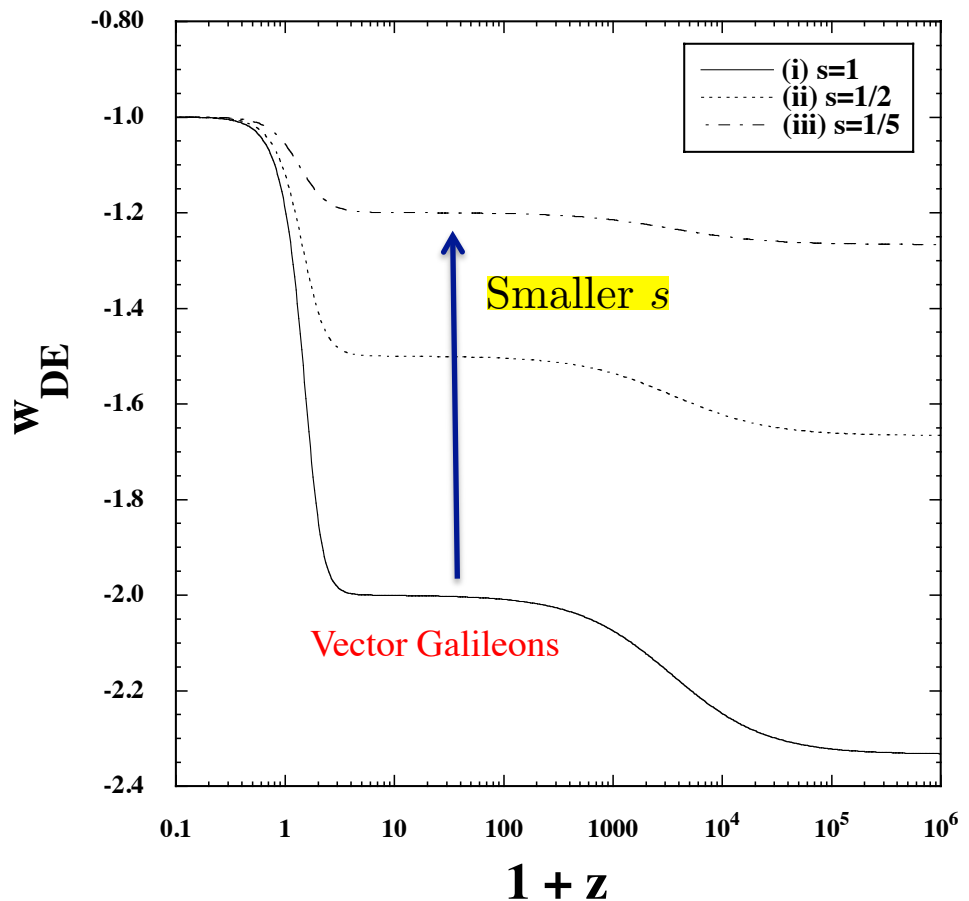
For smaller  $s = p_2/p$  close to 0,  $w_{\text{DE}} = -1 - s$  approaches  $-1$ .

The joint data analysis of SNIa, CMB, and BAO give the bound

$$0 \leq s \leq 0.36 \quad (95\% \text{CL})$$

(De Felice and ST, 2012)

For larger  $p$  the field  $\phi$  evolves more slowly as  $\phi \propto H^{-1/p}$ , so  $w_{\text{DE}}$  approaches  $-1$ .



# Cosmological perturbations in generalized Proca theories

We need to study perturbations on the flat FLRW background to study

- (i) Conditions for avoiding ghosts and instabilities,
- (ii) Observational signatures for the matter distribution in the Universe.

In doing so, let us consider the perturbed metric in flat gauge:

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\alpha) dt^2 + 2 (\partial_i \chi + V_i) dt dx^i + a^2(t) (\delta_{ij} + h_{ij}) dx^i dx^j ,$$

where  $\alpha, \chi$  are scalar perturbations,  $V_i$  and  $h_{ij}$  are the vector and tensor perturbations, respectively, obeying

$$\begin{aligned} \partial^i V_i &= 0, \\ \partial^i h_{ij} &= 0, \quad h_i{}^i = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We also consider the perturbations of the vector field, as

$$\begin{aligned} A^0 &= \phi(t) + \delta\phi, \\ A^i &= \frac{1}{a^2} \delta^{ij} (\partial_j \chi_V + E_j) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\delta\phi$  and  $\chi_V$  are scalar perturbations, while  $E_j$  is the vector perturbation obeying  $\partial^j E_j = 0$ .

## Tensor perturbations : 2 Dofs

There are two polarization modes  $h_+$  and  $h_\times$  for the tensor perturbation:

$$h_{ij} = h_+ e_{ij}^+ + h_\times e_{ij}^\times$$

Expanding the Heisenberg action up to second order in tensor perturbations, the resulting second-order action is given by

$$S_T^{(2)} = \sum_{\lambda=+, \times} \int dt d^3x a^3 \frac{q_T}{8} \left[ \dot{h}_\lambda^2 - \frac{c_T^2}{a^2} (\partial h_\lambda)^2 \right],$$

where

$$q_T = 2G_4 - 2\phi^2 G_{4,X} + H\phi^3 G_{5,X},$$

$$c_T^2 = \frac{2G_4 + \phi^2 \dot{\phi} G_{5,X}}{q_T}.$$

The tensor perturbation obeys (in Fourier space)

$$\ddot{h}_\lambda + \left( 3H + \frac{\dot{q}_T}{q_T} \right) \dot{h}_\lambda + c_T^2 \frac{k^2}{a^2} h_\lambda = 0$$

The ghost and instability can be avoided for

$$q_T > 0, \quad c_T^2 > 0$$

# Vector perturbations : 2 Dofs

Besides the vector field, we take into account a single perfect fluid described by the Schutz-Sorkin action:

$$S_M = - \int d^4x \left[ \sqrt{-g} \rho_M(n) + \underbrace{J^\mu (\partial_\mu \ell)}_{\text{Scalar part}} + \underbrace{\mathcal{A}_1 \partial_\mu \mathcal{B}_1 + \mathcal{A}_2 \partial_\mu \mathcal{B}_2}_{\text{Vector part}} \right]$$

Related with the number density, as

$$n = \sqrt{J^\alpha J^\beta g_{\alpha\beta} / g}$$

Scalar part

Vector part

After integrating out the matter action, introducing the combination  $Z_i = E_i + \phi(t)V_i$ , and finally taking the small-scale limit, the resulting vector action (for two dofs  $Z_1, Z_2$ ) reads

$$S_V^{(2)} \simeq \sum_{i=1}^2 \int dt d^3x \frac{aq_V}{2} \left( \dot{Z}_i^2 + \frac{k^2}{a^2} c_V^2 Z_i^2 \right),$$

where

$$q_V = 1 - 2c_2 G_{4,X} - 2d_2 H \phi G_{5,X},$$

$$c_V^2 = 1 + \frac{\phi^2 (2G_{4,X} - G_{5,X} H \phi)^2}{2q_T q_V} + \frac{d_2 G_{5,X} (H \phi - \dot{\phi})}{q_V}.$$

# Scalar perturbations : 2 Dofs (1 scalar +1 matter)

The second-order Lagrangian for scalar perturbations is given by

$$L_S^{(2)} = a^3 \left( \dot{\vec{\chi}}^t \mathbf{K} \dot{\vec{\chi}} + \frac{k^2}{a^2} \vec{\chi}^t \mathbf{G} \vec{\chi} - \vec{\chi}^t \mathbf{M} \vec{\chi} - \vec{\chi}^t \mathbf{B} \dot{\vec{\chi}} \right), \quad \vec{\chi}^t = (\psi, \delta\rho_M).$$

where  $\psi = \chi_V + \phi(t)\chi$  and  $\delta\rho_M$  is the matter perturbation.

If the two eigenvalues of the  $2 \times 2$  matrix  $\mathbf{K}$  are positive, the ghosts are absent. One of them is  $\rho_M + P_M > 0$ , and another is

$$Q_S = \frac{a^3 H^2 q_T (3w_1^2 + 4q_T w_4)}{\phi^2 (w_1 - 2w_2)^2} > 0$$

In the small-scale limit, the dispersion relation is given by

$$\det \left( \omega^2 \mathbf{K} - \frac{k^2}{a^2} \mathbf{G} \right) = 0$$

One of the solutions is the matter propagation speed squared, while another one is

$$c_S^2 = \frac{1}{\Delta} \left\{ 2w_2^2 w_3 (\rho_M + P_M) - w_3 (w_1 - 2w_2) [w_1 w_2 + \phi (w_1 - 2w_2) w_6] \left( \dot{\phi}/\phi - H \right) - w_3 (2w_2^2 \dot{w}_1 - w_1^2 \dot{w}_2) \right. \\ \left. + \phi (w_1 - 2w_2)^2 [w_3 \dot{w}_6 + \phi (2w_3 w_7 + w_6^2)] + w_1 w_2 [w_1 w_2 + (w_1 - 2w_2) (2\phi w_6 - w_3 \dot{\phi}/\phi)] \right\},$$

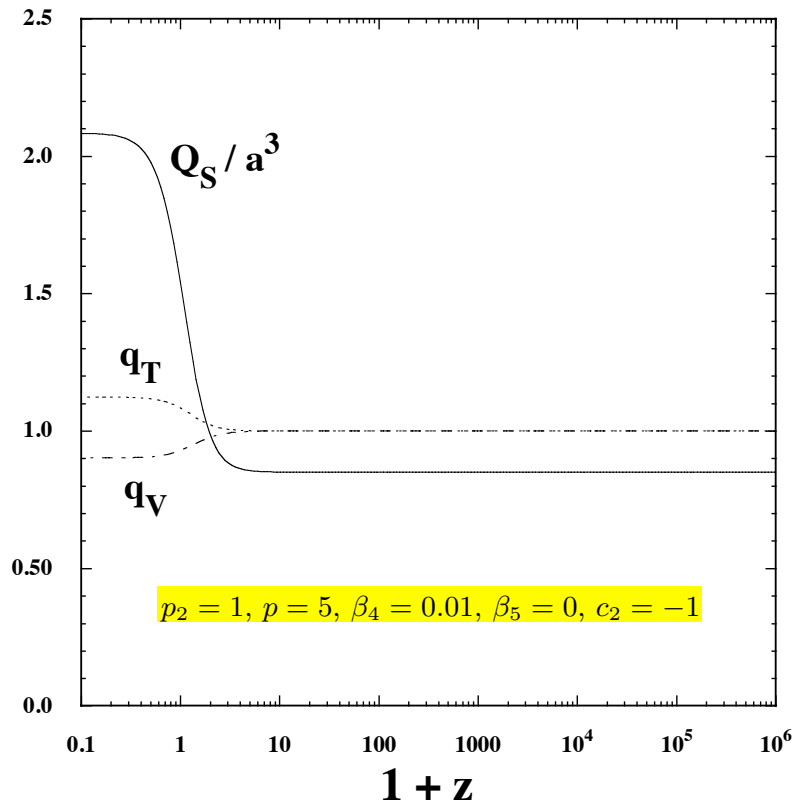
where  $\Delta = 8H^2 \phi^2 q_T q_V q_S$ , and  $w_1$  etc are the known from the background.

# A model consistent with no-ghost and stability conditions

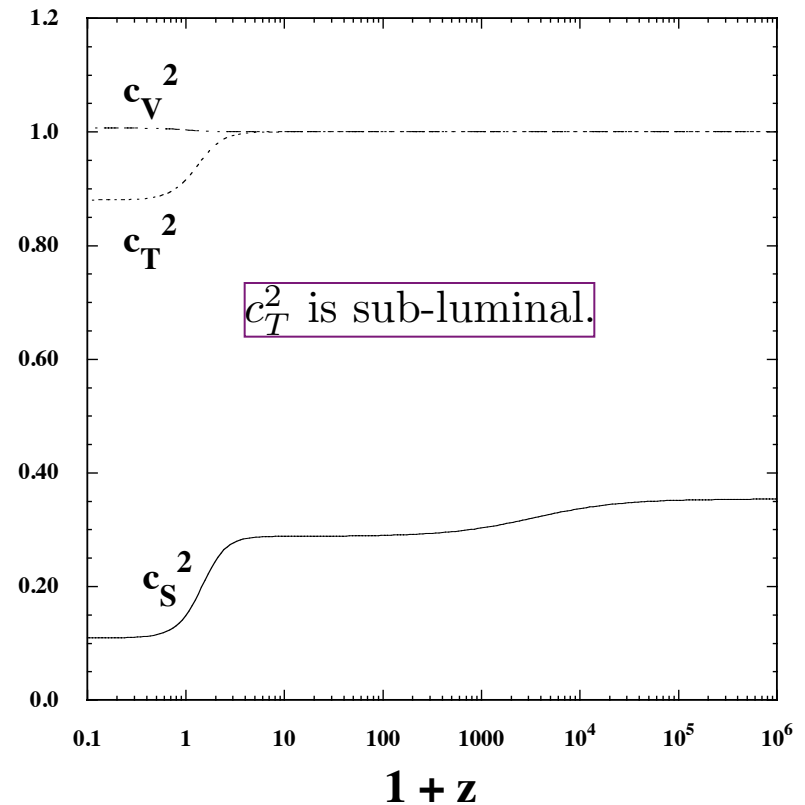
$$G_2(X) = b_2 X, \quad G_3(X) = b_3 X^{p_3}, \quad G_4(X) = \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + b_4 X^{p_4}, \quad G_5(X) = 0.$$

Provided that  $0 < \beta_4 < 1/[6(2p + 1)]$ , there exists the parameter space in which all the theoretically consistent conditions are satisfied.

$$q_T > 0, q_V > 0, Q_S > 0$$



$$c_T^2 > 0, c_V^2 > 0, c_S^2 > 0$$



# A model with a super-luminal tensor propagation speed

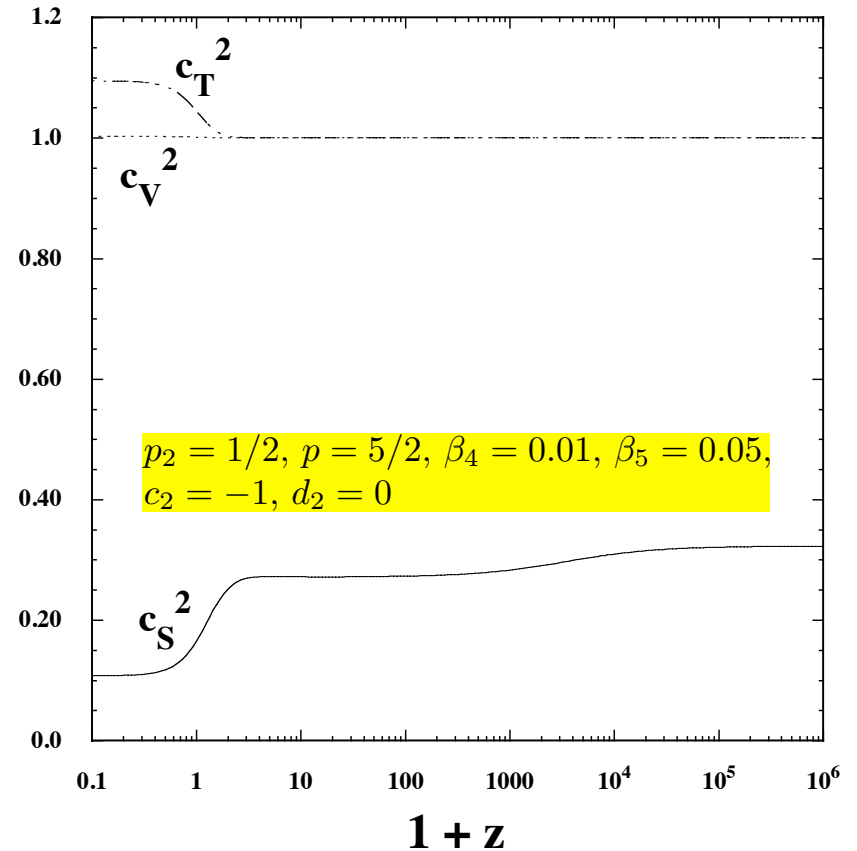
From the Cherenkov radiation, the sub-luminal tensor propagation speed is constrained to be

$$1 - c_T < 2 \times 10^{-15}$$



In the previous model, this puts tight constraints on  $b_4$ .

In the presence of the Lagrangian  $L_5$ , it is possible to avoid the Cherenkov radiation constraint with  $c_T^2 > 1$ .



It remains to see to find viable parameter spaces in which all the theoretical and observational constraints are satisfied.

# Effective gravitational couplings associated with the cosmic growth

Under the quasi-static approximation on sub-horizon scales, the matter perturbation obeys

$$\ddot{\delta}_M + 2H\dot{\delta}_M - 4\pi G_{\text{eff}}\rho_M\delta_M \simeq 0$$

where the effective gravitational coupling is

$$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\xi_2 + \xi_3}{\xi_1}$$

$$\xi_1 = 4\pi\phi^2 (w_2 + 2Hq_T)^2 ,$$

$$\xi_2 = [H (w_2 + 2Hq_T) - \dot{w}_1 + 2\dot{w}_2 + \rho_M] \phi^2 - \frac{w_2^2}{q_V} ,$$

$$\xi_3 = \frac{1}{8H^2\phi^2 q_S^3 q_T c_S^2} \left[ 2\phi^2 \{q_S[w_2\dot{w}_1 - (w_2 - 2Hq_T)\dot{w}_2] + \rho_M w_2[3w_2(w_2 + 2Hq_T) - q_S]\} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{q_S}{q_V} w_2 \{w_6\phi(w_2 + 2Hq_T) - w_2(w_2 - 2Hq_T)\} \right]^2 .$$

$\xi_3$  is positive under the no-ghost and stability conditions (which enhances the gravitational attraction).

For smaller  $q_V$  close to 0, there is a tendency that  $G_{\text{eff}}$  decreases.



# Additional contribution to the Heisenberg Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_6 = G_6(X) L^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \nabla_\mu A_\nu \nabla_\alpha A_\beta + \frac{1}{2} G_{6,X}(X) \tilde{F}^{\alpha\beta} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\alpha A_\mu \nabla_\beta A_\nu$$

Horndeski, 1976

Jimenez and Heisenberg, 2016

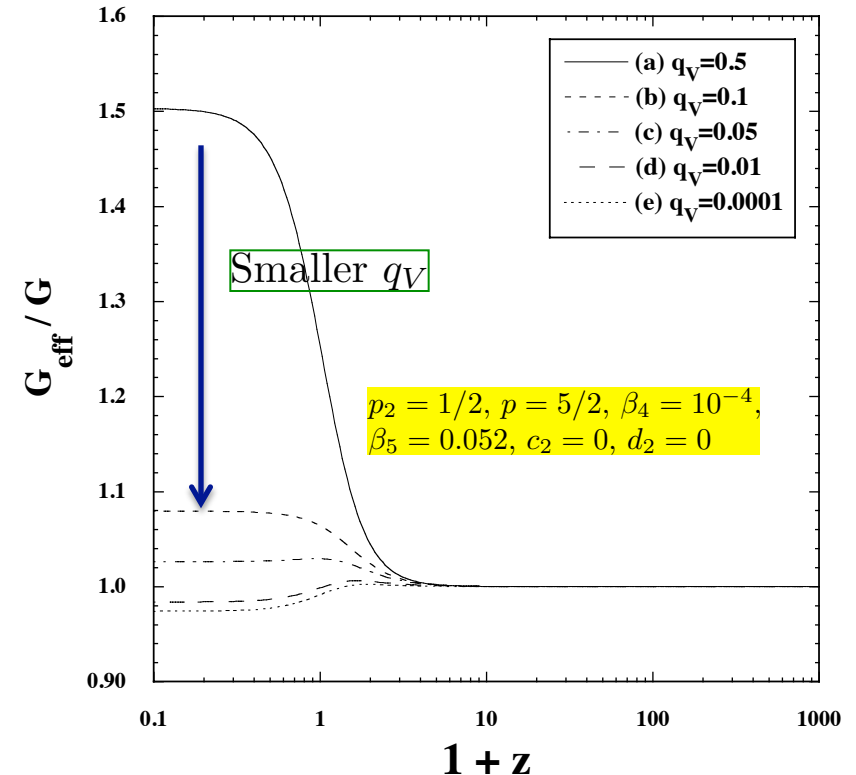
$G_{\text{eff}}$  is modified only through the change of  $q_V$  :

$$q_V = 1 - 2c_2 G_{4,X} - 2d_2 H \phi G_{5,X} + 2G_6 H^2 + 2G_{6,X} H^2 \phi^2$$

The term  $G_6$  can decrease  $q_V$ .

For smaller  $q_V$  approaching 0, the effect of the vector field tends to reduce the gravitational attraction.

It is possible to distinguish the models with  $G_6 = 0$  and  $G_6 \neq 0$  observationally.



## Conclusions and outlook

1. Generalized Proca theories give rise to interesting cosmological solutions with a late-time de Sitter attractor.
2. We derived 6 no-ghost and stability conditions associated with tensor, vector, and scalar perturbations for the consistency of the theory.
3. We constructed a class of models in which all the theoretically consistent conditions are satisfied during the cosmic expansion history.
4. We also derived the effective gravitational coupling that can be used to put observational constraints on the models.

It will be of interest to put observational constraints on the models in the framework of generalized Proca theories.