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Analyzing the Hubble tension through hidden sector dynamics in the early Universe

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Collaboration with A. Aboubrahim and P. Nath



Motivation

The 5σ Hubble tension:

- CMB (high z): $H_0 = (67.4 \pm 0.5) \text{ km/s/Mpc}$
[Planck Coll., AA 641 (2020) A6]
- Cepheids/SNe Ia: $H_0 = (73.04 \pm 1.04) \text{ km/s/Mpc}$
[A.G. Riess et al., AJL 934 (2022) 1 L7]

H is related to the total radiation density parameter ($\Omega_i := \rho_i/\rho_c$):

$$\frac{H^2}{H_0^2} = \frac{\Omega_m}{a^3} + \Omega_\Lambda + \frac{\Omega_r}{a^4}$$

Total radiation density below e^+e^- annihilation temperature:

$$\rho_r = \left[1 + \frac{7}{8} \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{\frac{4}{3}} N_{\text{eff}} \right] \rho_\gamma \quad , \quad N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}} \simeq 3.0440 + \Delta N_{\text{eff}}$$

[Y.Y.Y. Wong et al., JCAP 04 (2021) 073]

Proposed solutions (e.g. BSM in equilibrium with neutrinos):

- Majoron [E. Fernandez-Martinez et al., EPJC 81 (2021) 954; Escudero, Witte, EPJC 81 (2021) 515]
- $Z' \rightarrow \nu\nu$ [J. Gehrlein, M. Pierre, JHEP 02 (2020) 068; M. Escudero et al., JHEP 03 (2019) 071]
- ... [E. Di Valentino et al., Class. Quant. Grav. 38 (2021) 153001; N. Schöneberg et al., PR 984 (2022) 1]

Cosmological constraints

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN):

$$N_{\text{eff}} = 2.88 \pm 0.27 \text{ (68% C.L.)} \simeq N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{SM}}$$

[R.H. Cyburt et al., Rev. Mod. Phys. 88 (2016) 015004]

CMB power spectrum:

$$N_{\text{eff}} = 2.99^{+0.34}_{-0.33} \text{ (95% C.L., TT,TE,EE+lowE+lensing+BAO)}$$

[Planck Coll., AA 641 (2020) A6]

Earlier local measurements (R18, R19) and sound horizon problem:

[A.G. Riess et al., AJ 855 (2018) 136; AJ 876 (2019) 85]

$$0.2 \lesssim \Delta N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 0.5 \text{ (CMB+BAO+R18)}$$

$$0.2 \lesssim \Delta N_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 0.4 \text{ (CMB+BAO+Pantheon+R19+BBN)}$$

[O. Seto, Y. Toda, PRD 103 (2021) 123501; 104 (2021) 063019; S. Vagnozzi, PRD 102 (2020) 023518]

or somewhat larger (with new SH0ES data).

Millicharged DM with a Stueckelberg dark photon

K. Cheung, T.C. Yuan, JHEP 03 (2007) 120; D. Feldman, Z. Liu, P. Nath, Phys. Rev. D 75 (2007) 115001

Dark sector:

- Dirac fermion D , dark photon C_μ , scalar S , pseudoscalar ϕ

Lagrangian ($M_2, y_\phi \rightarrow 0$ for simplicity):

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} \supset & -\frac{1}{4} C_{\mu\nu} C^{\mu\nu} + i \bar{D} \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu D - m_D \bar{D} D - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu S \partial^\mu S) \\ & + g x Q x \bar{D} \gamma^\mu D C_\mu + y_\phi \bar{D} \gamma_5 D \phi + y_S D \bar{D} S \\ & - \frac{\delta}{2} C_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \sigma + M_1 C_\mu + M_2 B_\mu)^2 \end{aligned}$$

Scalar potential ($m_\phi = 0 \rightarrow$ thermal bath; $\kappa_S, \kappa_{\phi S} \sim m_{EW}^2/M_{Pl.}$):

$$V \supset \frac{1}{2} m_S^2 S^2 + \frac{\kappa_S}{3} S^3 + \frac{\kappa_{\phi S}}{2} \phi^2 S + \frac{\lambda_S}{4} S^4 + \frac{\lambda_\phi}{4} \phi^4 + \frac{\lambda_{\phi S}}{2} \phi^2 S^2$$

Entropy/energy density and their time dependence

R. Foot, S. Vagnozzi, Phys. Rev. D 91 (2015) 023512; A. Abouabrahim et al., Phys. Rev. D 103 (2021) 075014

Entropy density and its conservation ($s := S/a^3$):

$$s = \frac{2\pi^2}{45} \left(h_{\text{eff}}^h T_h^3 + h_{\text{eff}}^\nu T^3 \right), \quad ds/dt + 3Hs = 0$$

Energy density and its time evolution:

$$\rho = \frac{\pi^2}{30} \left(g_{\text{eff}}^h T_h^4 + g_{\text{eff}}^\nu T^4 \right), \quad \frac{d\rho_h}{dt} + 3H(\rho_h + p_h) = j_h$$

Replace t as independent variable by T_h .

Friedman equation:

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G_N}{3} (\rho_\nu(T) + \rho_h(T_h))$$

Replace ρ by $\zeta := \frac{3}{4}(1 + p/\rho)$ (1 for radiation, $\frac{3}{4}$ for matter).

Visible-hidden sector heat exchange:

$$j_h = \sum_i \left[2Y_i^{\text{eq}}(T)^2 J(i \bar{i} \rightarrow D\bar{D})(T) + Y_i^{\text{eq}}(T)^2 J(i \bar{i} \rightarrow \gamma')(T) \right] s^2 - Y_{\gamma'} J(\gamma' \rightarrow f\bar{f})(T_h) s$$

Visible and hidden degrees of freedom

M. Hindmarsh, O. Philipsen, Phys. Rev. D 71 (2005) 087302; M. Drees, F. Hajkarim, E. Rossi Schmitz, JCAP 06 (2015) 025

Visible energy/entropy d.o.f.:

- Use parameterized (T -dependent) results from LQCD EoS

Hidden energy/entropy d.o.f.:

$$g_{\text{eff}}^h = g_{\text{eff}}^{\gamma'} + \frac{7}{8} g_{\text{eff}}^D + g_\phi + g_S, \quad h_{\text{eff}}^h = h_{\text{eff}}^{\gamma'} + \frac{7}{8} h_{\text{eff}}^D + h_\phi + h_S$$

with $g_\phi = g_S = h_\phi = h_S = 1$ (almost always out of equilibrium).

Dark photons/dark matter (T_h -dependent, reach equilibrium):

$$g_{\text{eff}}^{\gamma'} = \frac{45}{\pi^4} \int_{x_{\gamma'}}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - x_{\gamma'}^2}}{e^x - 1} x^2 dx, \quad h_{\text{eff}}^{\gamma'} = \frac{45}{4\pi^4} \int_{x_{\gamma'}}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - x_{\gamma'}^2}}{e^x - 1} (4x^2 - x_{\gamma'}^2) dx,$$

$$g_{\text{eff}}^D = \frac{60}{\pi^4} \int_{x_D}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - x_D^2}}{e^x + 1} x^2 dx, \quad h_{\text{eff}}^D = \frac{15}{\pi^4} \int_{x_D}^{\infty} \frac{\sqrt{x^2 - x_D^2}}{e^x + 1} (4x^2 - x_D^2) dx.$$

with $x_i = m_i/T_h$. For $x_i \rightarrow 0$, $g_{\text{eff}}^{\gamma'} = h_{\text{eff}}^{\gamma'} \rightarrow 3$ and $g_{\text{eff}}^D = h_{\text{eff}}^D \rightarrow 4$.

Set of five coupled (stiff) ODEs

A. Aboubrahim, MK, P. Nath, JCAP 04 (2022) 042

Visible/hidden temperature ratio ($\eta := T/T_h \gg 1$):

$$\frac{d\eta}{dT_h} = -\frac{\eta}{T_h} + \left[\frac{\zeta\rho_v + \rho_h(\zeta - \zeta_h) + j_h/(4H)}{\zeta_h\rho_h - j_h/(4H)} \right] \frac{d\rho_h/dT_h}{T_h(d\rho_v/dT)}$$

Boltzmann equations ($Y := n/s$, initially 0):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dY_\phi}{dT_h} &= -\frac{s}{H} \left(\frac{d\rho_h/dT_h}{4\zeta\rho_h - j_h/H} \right) \left[\frac{1}{2} \langle \sigma v \rangle_{D\bar{D} \rightarrow \phi\gamma'}(T_h) \left(Y_D^2 - Y_D^{\text{eq}}(T_h)^2 \frac{Y_\phi Y_{\gamma'}}{Y_\phi^{\text{eq}}(T_h) Y_{\gamma'}^{\text{eq}}(T_h)} \right) + \dots \right] \\ \frac{dY_S}{dT_h} &= -\frac{s}{H} \left(\frac{d\rho_h/dT_h}{4\zeta\rho_h - j_h/H} \right) \left[\frac{1}{2} \langle \sigma v \rangle_{D\bar{D} \rightarrow S\gamma'}(T_h) \left(Y_D^2 - Y_D^{\text{eq}}(T_h)^2 \frac{Y_S Y_{\gamma'}}{Y_S^{\text{eq}}(T_h) Y_{\gamma'}^{\text{eq}}(T_h)} \right) + \dots \right] \\ \frac{dY_{\gamma'}}{dT_h} &= -\frac{s}{H} \left(\frac{d\rho_h/dT_h}{4\zeta\rho_h - j_h/H} \right) \left[-\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\gamma'\gamma' \rightarrow D\bar{D}}(T_h) \left(Y_{\gamma'}^2 - Y_{\gamma'}^{\text{eq}}(T_h)^2 \frac{Y_D^2}{Y_D^{\text{eq}}(T_h)^2} \right) + \dots \right] \\ \frac{dY_D}{dT_h} &= -\frac{s}{H} \left(\frac{d\rho_h/dT_h}{4\zeta\rho_h - j_h/H} \right) \left[\langle \sigma v \rangle_{ii \rightarrow D\bar{D}}(T) Y_D^{\text{eq}}(T)^2 + \dots \right] \end{aligned}$$

D, S chemically decouple from γ' , but remain in thermal bath (T_ϕ).
 Later, D and S decouple also kinetically from ϕ .

Kinetic decoupling

P. Gondolo, J. Hisano, K. Kadota, Phys. Rev. D 86 (2012) 083523

Second moment of Boltzmann equation [$T_{D,S} \ll m_{D,S}$, $\mathcal{O}(p^2/m_{D,S}^2)$]:

$$(\partial_t + 5H)T_{D,S} = 2m_{D,S}\gamma(T_\phi)(T_\phi - T_{D,S})$$

with

$$T_{D,S} = \frac{1}{3m_{D,S}n_{D,S}} \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} p^2 f(p).$$

Momentum transfer rate:

$$\gamma(T_\phi) = \frac{g_\phi}{384\pi^3 m_{D,S}^4 T_\phi} \int dE f^\pm(E) (1 \mp f(E)) \int_{-4k^2}^0 (-t) |\mathcal{M}|^2 dt$$

(Instantaneous) decoupling temperature:

$$\gamma(T_\phi) = H(T_\phi) \Big|_{T_\phi = T_{\text{kd}}}$$

Reheating of the dark sector prior to recombination

A. Aboubrahim, MK, P. Nath, JCAP 04 (2022) 042

Dark scalar decay ($S \rightarrow \phi\phi$):

$$\Gamma_S = \frac{\kappa_\phi^2 s}{32\pi m_S}$$

Boltzmann equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\rho_S}{dt} + 3H\rho_S &= -\Gamma_S \rho_S \quad , \quad \frac{d\rho_D}{dt} + 3H\rho_D = 0, \\ \frac{d\rho_\phi}{dt} + 4H\rho_\phi &= \Gamma_S \rho_S \quad , \quad \frac{d\rho_\gamma}{dt} + 4H\rho_\gamma = 0 \end{aligned}$$

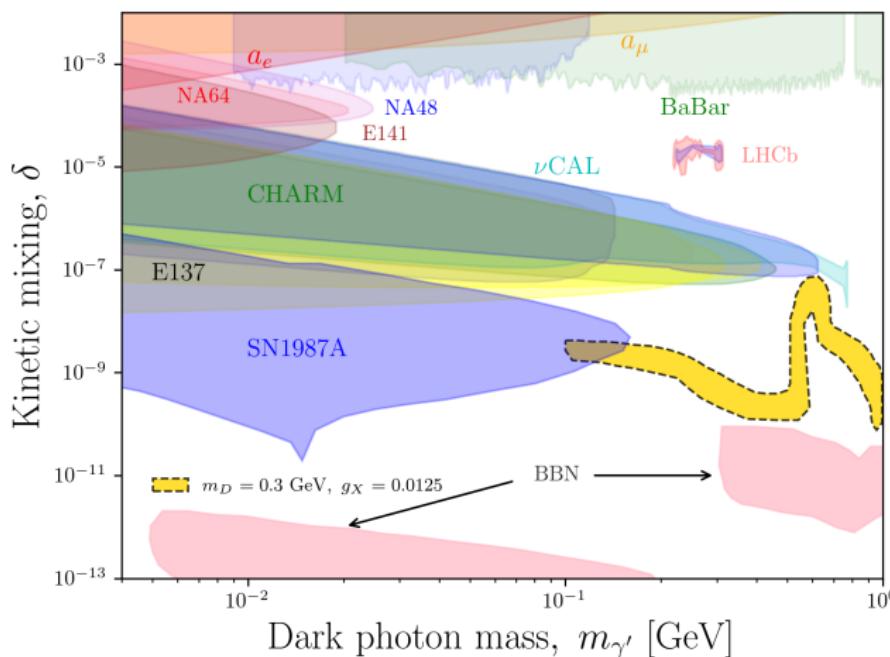
ϕ is the only remaining relativistic d.o.f.:

$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = \frac{8}{7} \left(\frac{11}{4} \right)^{4/3} \frac{\rho_\phi(T_\phi)}{\rho_\gamma(T_\gamma)}$$

Dark photon mass and kinetic mixing angle

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Fixed target/collider experiments + SN1987A + BBN:



Resonance at $m_{\gamma'} = 2m_D$ requires larger mixing angle for correct Ωh^2 .

Further constraints and benchmark points

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Cosmology:

- $\Delta N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{BBN}} < 10^{-2}$
- $T_{\text{kd}} < T_{\text{cd}}$
- No free-streaming ($\not\rightarrow$ phase shift in CMB and BAO peaks):

$$H(T_\phi) \leq n_\phi(T_\phi) \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\phi\phi \rightarrow \phi\phi} = \frac{9x\lambda_\phi^2}{64\pi^2} T_\phi \quad \text{with } x = n_\phi/n_\phi^{\text{eq}}$$

$$\rightarrow \lambda_\phi \geq 10^{-12}$$

- $\Omega h^2 = \frac{m_D Y_D^\infty s_0 h^2}{\rho_c} \sim 0.1 - 0.125$

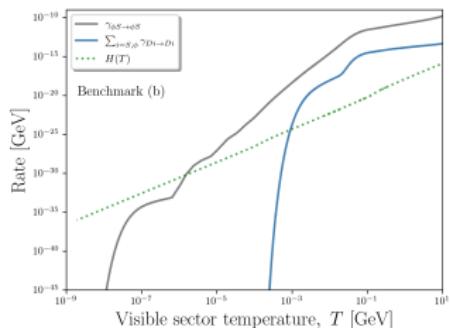
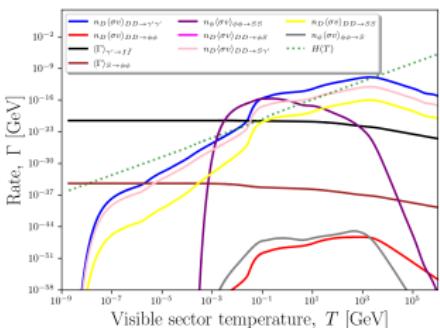
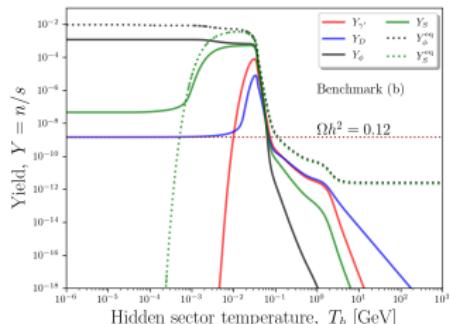
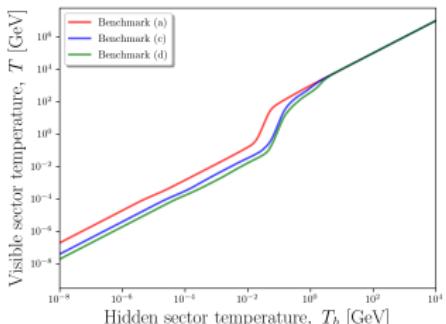
Benchmark points:

Model	m_D	$m_{\gamma'}$	m_S	δ	y_S	$\kappa_{\phi S}$ [GeV]	$\lambda_{\phi S}$	$\Delta N_{\text{eff}}^{\text{CMB}}$
(a)	0.1	0.9	10^{-2}	4.6×10^{-11}	3.0×10^{-3}	1.9×10^{-18}	1.0×10^{-7}	0.43
(b)	0.3	0.2	10^{-2}	1.6×10^{-9}	1.0×10^{-3}	6.0×10^{-18}	5.0×10^{-6}	0.55
(c)	0.6	0.5	10^{-3}	6.0×10^{-10}	3.0×10^{-3}	3.3×10^{-19}	5.0×10^{-7}	0.36
(d)	1.0	0.3	10^{-2}	1.7×10^{-9}	5.0×10^{-3}	8.5×10^{-19}	1.0×10^{-8}	0.54

All masses are in GeV. Fixed parameters: $gx = 0.0125$, $\kappa_S = 10^{-18}$ GeV.

Evolution of T vs. T_h , DS build-up, chem./kin. decoupling

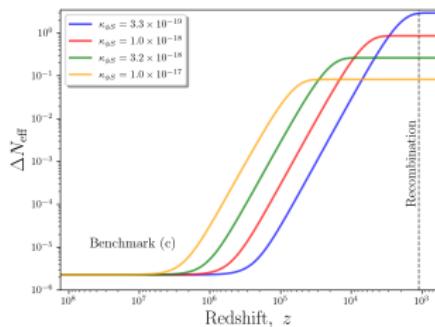
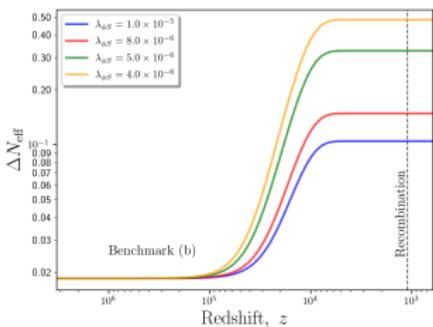
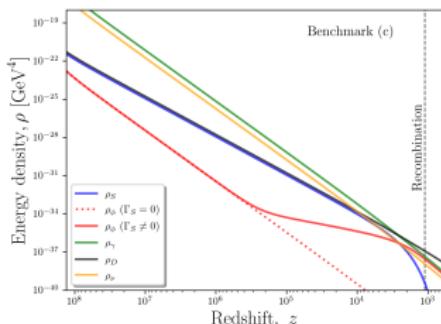
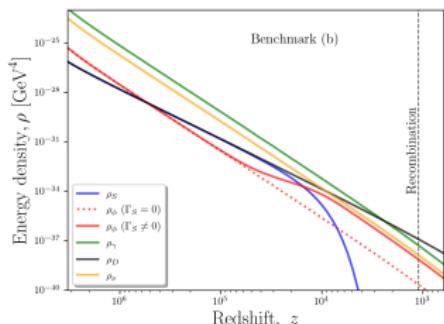
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Lyman- α limit for late kinetic decoupling: $T_{kd} > 100$ eV.

ρ and ΔN_{eff} from BBN to recombination

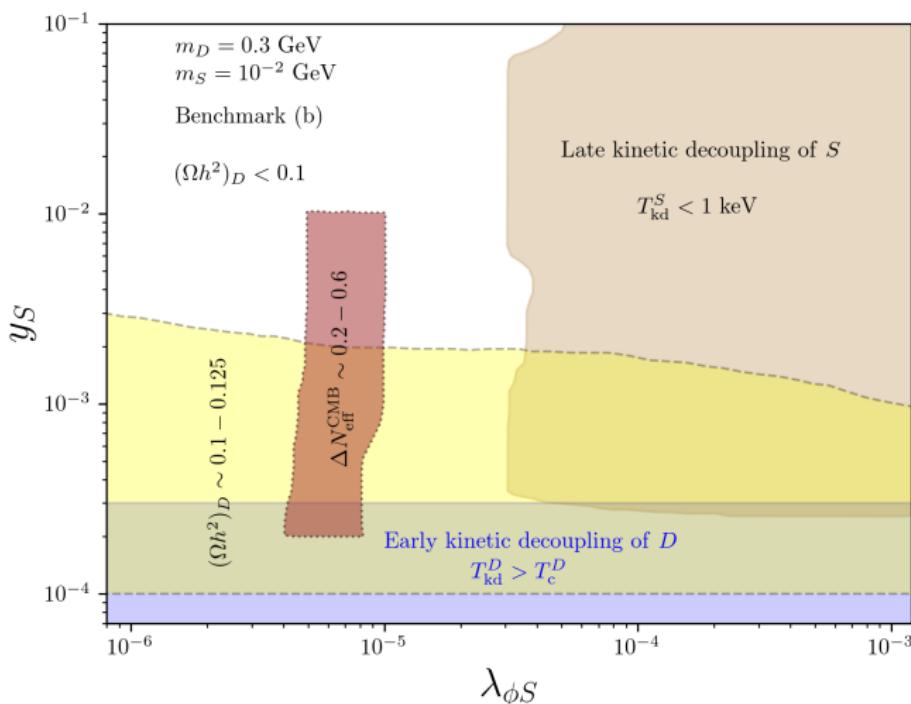
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Note: ρ_ϕ increases towards ρ_γ , as S decays away.

Viable parameter space for ΔN_{eff}

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Conclusion

- Hubble tension between CMB and SNe Ia now 5σ
- Proposed solutions: Dark radiation, dark energy, inflation, ...
- Our model: Visible sector + dark sector (initially empty)
- Build-up of fermionic dark matter via dark photons
- DM generates light scalars and pseudoscalars (heat bath)
- DM freeze-out generates Ωh^2
- Late decay of scalars generates ΔN_{eff} at CMB
- No contribution at BBN time
- Requires solution of five coupled stiff ODEs
- Respects cosmological and dark photon constraints