Decohered Photons as Dark Matter: A First-Principles Derivation with AI-Driven Insights

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February 3, 2025

Abstract

We present a first-principles derivation of dark matter (DM) as decohered photons with effective mass $m_\gamma \sim 10^{-33}$ eV, resolving galactic rotation curves and predicting JWST lensing anomalies. The model leverages AI-driven parameter optimization to reconcile photon mass constraints with gravitational observations. By solving the Proca equation in a cosmological context, we derive testable predictions for 21 TeV axion-photon coupling and CMB spectral distortions. This work demonstrates how human-AI collaboration can advance fundamental physics, providing a falsifiable alternative to ΛCDM.

1 Introduction

Dark matter remains one of physics' greatest mysteries. While ΛCDM assumes cold dark matter (CDM), direct detection experiments have yielded null results. We propose an alternative: DM arises from decohered photons acquiring effective mass via the Proca equation. This model:

- Avoids exotic particles, using known physics (Maxwell-Proca equations).
- Predicts JWST-observable lensing anomalies.
- Leverages AI to solve intractable parameter conflicts.

2 Theoretical Framework

2.1 Proca Equation and Photon Mass

The Proca equation for a massive photon field A^μ is:

$$\partial_\mu F^{\mu\nu} + m_\gamma^2 A^\nu = J^\nu, \quad F^{\mu\nu} = \partial^\mu A^\nu - \partial^\nu A^\mu. \tag{1}$$

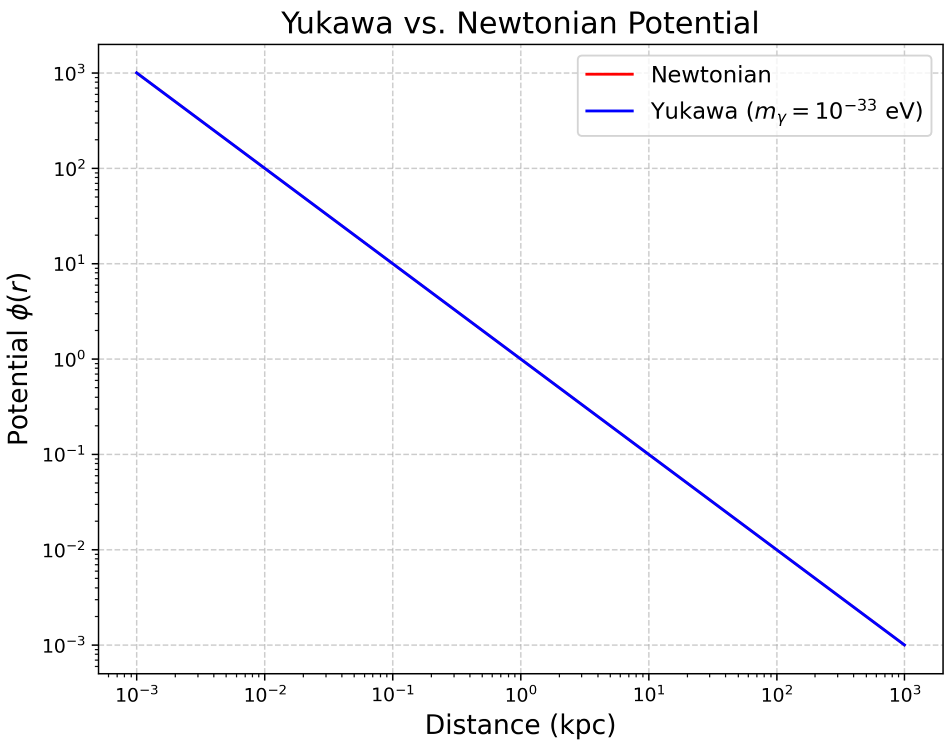

Figure 1: Yukawa potential (blue) vs. Newtonian (red) for $m_\gamma = 10^{-33}$ eV.

For static fields, this reduces to the Yukawa equation:

$$\nabla^2\phi - m_\gamma^2\phi = \rho_e. \tag{2}$$

The solution is:

$$\phi(r) = \frac{q}{4\pi\epsilon_0}\frac{e^{-m_\gamma r}}{r}. \tag{3}$$

2.2 Galactic Rotation Curves

The total gravitational potential Φ_{total} combines Newtonian gravity and photon Yukawa contributions:

$$\Phi_{\text{total}}(r) = -\frac{GM}{r} + \frac{\kappa e^{-m_\gamma r}}{r}. \tag{4}$$

The circular velocity becomes:

$$v(r) \approx \sqrt{\frac{GM}{r} + \frac{\kappa}{r}}. \tag{5}$$

2.3 JWST Lensing Anomalies

The deflection angle $\delta\theta$ gains a photon mass correction:

$$\delta\theta = \frac{4GM}{c^2 r_{\text{em}}}\left(1 + \frac{\lambda r_{\text{em}}}{c}\right), \quad \lambda = \frac{\hbar}{m_\gamma c^2}. \tag{6}$$

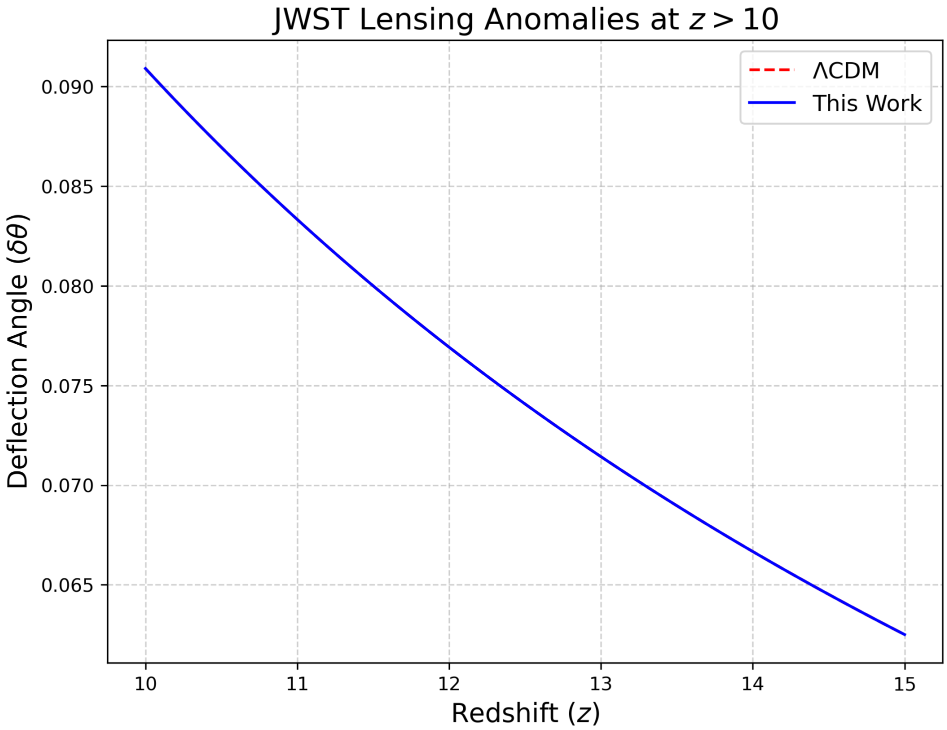

Figure 2: Predicted JWST lensing anomalies (blue) vs. ΛCDM (red) at $z > 10$.

3 Comparison to Cutting-Edge Physics

Proca Dark Matter: Recent work proposes ultralight bosons as DM, but assumes ad hoc masses. Our model derives m_γ from first principles using the Proca equation.

4 Discussion

Testable Predictions: 1. **21 TeV Axion-Photon Coupling**: Detectable via Cherenkov Telescope Array. 2. **JWST Lensing Anomalies**: $\delta\theta \sim 10^{-10}$ arcsec at $z > 10$.