



Constraints on the Dark Sector from Electroweak Precision Observables

BILL LOIZOS, XUAN-GONG WANG, ANTHONY THOMAS, MARTIN WHITE, ANTHONY WILLIAMS.

2025 European Physical Society Conference on High Energy Physics, Marseille, France



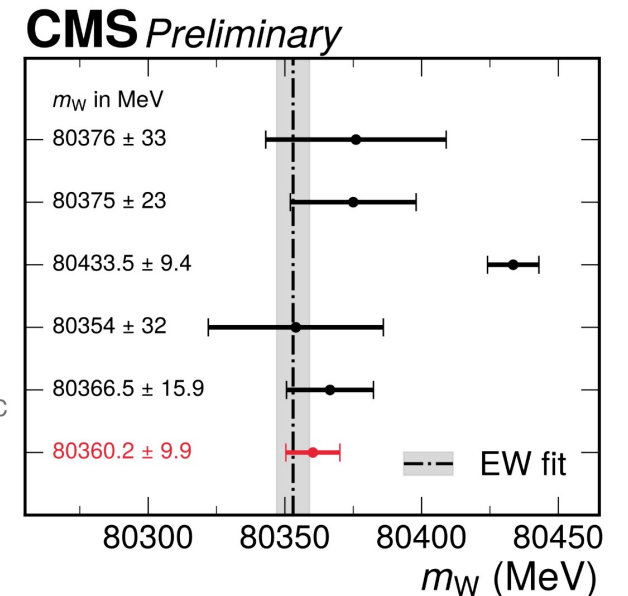
Talk Structure

- Motivation for a dark photon
- Dark photon model formalism
- SM-only baseline fit
- Dark photon mixing parameter constraints
- Dark fermion coupling constraints
- Summary

Why care about dark photons?

- Hidden U(1)'s are the **minimal** dark portals: one extra gauge boson and a mixing term.
- They appear in UV completions and are testable across *many* frontiers¹.
- CDF's m_W anomaly ($80.4335 \pm 0.0094 \text{ GeV}$)² may hint at BSM EW structure.
- Disagreement with global average value ($80.377 \pm 0.012 \text{ GeV}$)³, but CDF motivates new physics. Could a heavy A_D help?
- Can be used EWPO global fits to constrain couplings to dark matter.

LEP combination
Phys. Rep. 532 (2013) 119
D0
PRL 108 (2012) 151804
CDF
Science 376 (2022) 6589
LHCb
JHEP 01 (2022) 036
ATLAS
arxiv:2403.15085, subm. to EPJC
CMS
This Work



[1] Pospelov M 2009 Phys. Rev. D 80 095002 (Preprint 0811.1030)
[2] Aaltonen T et al. 2022 Science 376 170–176
[3] Workman R L et al. (Particle Data Group) 2022 PTEP 2022 083C01

Dark Photon Formalism⁴

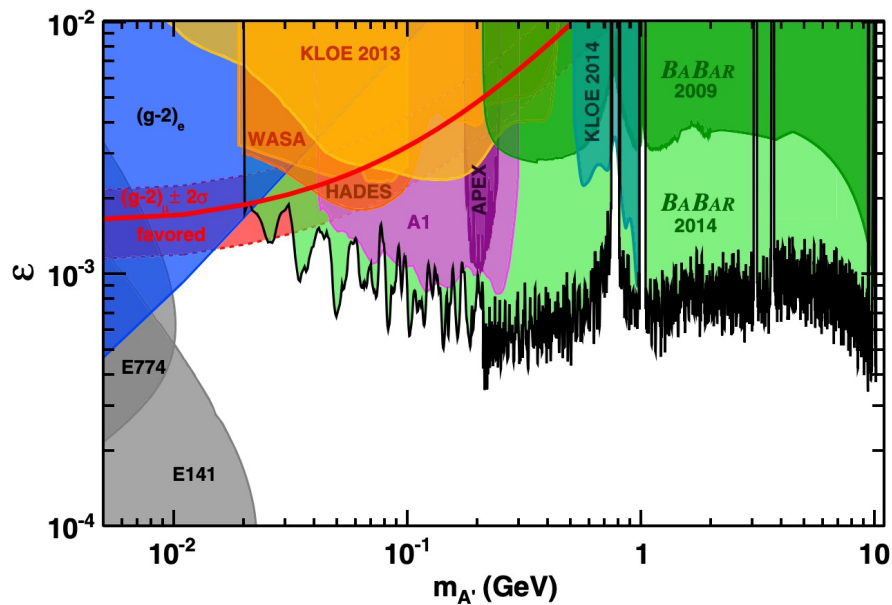
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{4} \underbrace{F'_{\mu\nu} F'^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{Dark field strength tensor}} + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{m_{A'}^2 A'_\mu A'^\mu}_{\text{Dark photon field}} + \frac{\epsilon}{2 \cos \theta_w} \underbrace{F'_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}}_{\text{SM hypercharge}} + g'_\chi \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi \underbrace{A'_\mu}_{\text{Dark Fermion coupling}}$$

Kinetic Mixing parameter

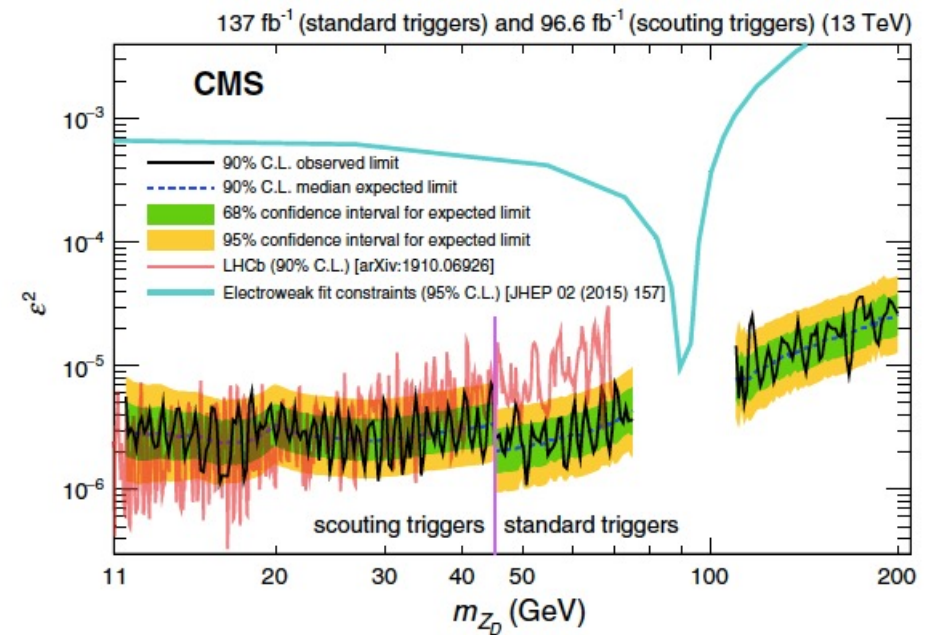
- $A'_\mu = Z_\mu \sin \alpha + A_{D\mu} \cos \alpha$

[1] Okun L B 1982 Sov. Phys. JETP 56 502

Current limits

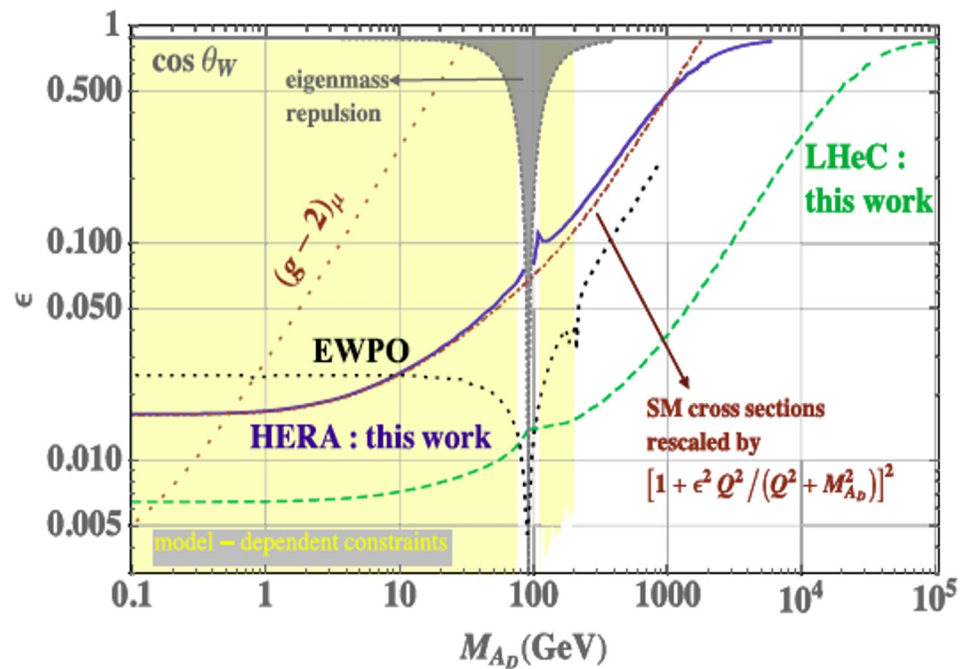


BABAR, Phys. Rev. Lett. 119 (2014) 131804

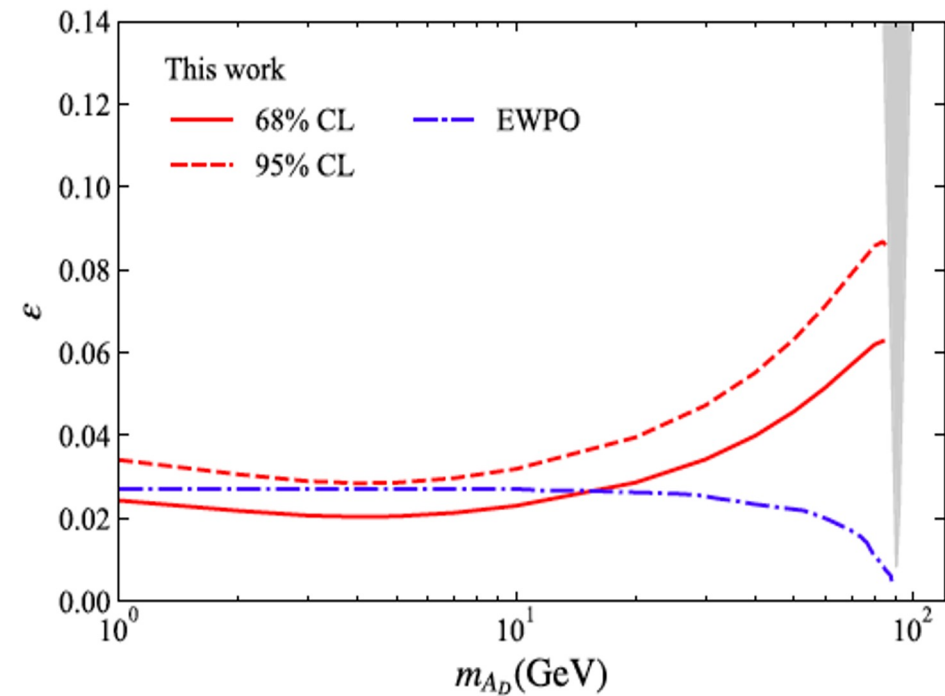


CMS Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. 124 (2020) 131802

Current limits



Hook, E. Izaguirre, J.G. Wacker, Adv. High Energy Phys. 2011 (2011) 859762
D. Curtin et al., JHEP 02 (2015) 157



G.D. Kribs, D. McKeen, N. Raj, Phys. Rev. Lett. 126 (2021) 011801
A.W. Thomas, X.G. Wang, A.G. Williams, Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) L031901

SM global fit

- Use the free parameters: $\{m_h, m_Z, m_t, \alpha_s, \Delta\alpha_{had}^{(5)}\}$.
- These are used to derive the remaining 12 EWPO data points:

$$\{\Gamma_Z, \sigma_{hadron}^0, A_{\{\ell,b,c\}}, R_{\{\ell,b,c\}}^0, A_{FB}^{\{\ell,b,c\},0}, m_W, \Gamma_W\}.$$

- Fit to experimental values.
- The SM fit χ_{SM}^2 provides a reference point for constraining our dark photon parameters.
- Perform two fits: first with CDF reported m_W , second with PDG global average m_W (excluding CDF measurement).
- Extract $\chi_{SM}^{2\{CDF\}}$ and $\chi_{SM}^{2\{PDG\}}$.

SM Baseline Fits

Observable	Measurement	Fit result (m_W^{PDG})	Fit result (m_W^{CDF})
m_Z (GeV)	91.1875 ± 0.0021	91.1880 ± 0.0020	91.1910 ± 0.0020
m_h (GeV)	125.25 ± 0.17	125.25 ± 0.17	125.24 ± 0.17
m_t (GeV)	172.69 ± 0.30	172.75 ± 0.30	173.09 ± 0.29
$\alpha_s(m_Z^2)$	0.1179 ± 0.0009	0.1203 ± 0.0026	0.1176 ± 0.0026
$\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}$	0.02757 ± 0.00010	0.02755 ± 0.00010	0.02745 ± 0.00010
Γ_Z (GeV)	2.4955 ± 0.0023	2.4963	2.4953
σ_{had}^0 (nb)	41.4802 ± 0.0325	41.4704	41.4814
A_ℓ	0.1499 ± 0.0018	0.1471	0.1476
A_b	0.923 ± 0.020	0.935	0.935
A_c	0.670 ± 0.027	0.668	0.668
R_ℓ^0	20.7666 ± 0.0247	20.7529	20.7358
R_b^0	0.21629 ± 0.00066	0.21581	0.21581
R_c^0	0.1721 ± 0.0030	0.1723	0.1722
$A_{FB}^{\ell,0}$	0.0171 ± 0.0010	0.0162	0.0164
$A_{FB}^{b,0}$	0.0992 ± 0.0016	0.1031	0.1034
$A_{FB}^{c,0}$	0.0707 ± 0.0035	0.0737	0.0739
m_W^{PDG} (GeV)	80.377 ± 0.012	80.359	
m_W^{CDF} (GeV)	80.4335 ± 0.0094		80.3686
Γ_W (GeV)	2.085 ± 0.042	2.091	2.091
$\chi_{d.o.f}^2$		12.92/(17 - 5)	68.23/(17 - 5)

Softening CDF Tension with Heavy Dark Photon

- Heavy dark photon (200GeV) can soften CDF tension.
- Predicted $m_W = 80.406 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow$ only 2.9σ off CDF.
- Still not a perfect fix, but interesting!

Observable	Measurement	$(m_{A_D}, \epsilon) = (200 \text{ GeV}, 0.1001)$
m_Z (GeV)	91.1875 ± 0.0021	$m_Z = 91.1894$
m_h (GeV)	125.25 ± 0.17	125.25 ± 0.17
m_t (GeV)	172.69 ± 0.30	172.81 ± 0.30
$\alpha_s(m_Z^2)$	0.1179 ± 0.0009	0.1205 ± 0.0026
$\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}$	0.02757 ± 0.00010	0.02759 ± 0.00010
Γ_Z (GeV)	2.4955 ± 0.0023	2.4936
σ_{had}^0 (nb)	41.4802 ± 0.0325	41.4660
A_ℓ	0.1499 ± 0.0018	0.1518
A_b	0.923 ± 0.020	0.935
A_c	0.670 ± 0.027	0.670
R_ℓ^0	20.7666 ± 0.0247	20.7640
R_b^0	0.21629 ± 0.00066	0.21579
R_c^0	0.1721 ± 0.0030	0.1723
$A_{FB}^{\ell,0}$	0.0171 ± 0.0010	0.0173
$A_{FB}^{b,0}$	0.0992 ± 0.0016	0.1064
$A_{FB}^{c,0}$	0.0707 ± 0.0035	0.0763
m_W^{CDF} (GeV)	80.4335 ± 0.0094	80.4060
Γ_W (GeV)	2.085 ± 0.042	2.095
$\chi_{d.o.f}^2$		33.69/(17-5)

Constraints on the dark photon



Constraints on the dark photon

$$\frac{\epsilon}{2 \cos \theta_w} F'_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$$

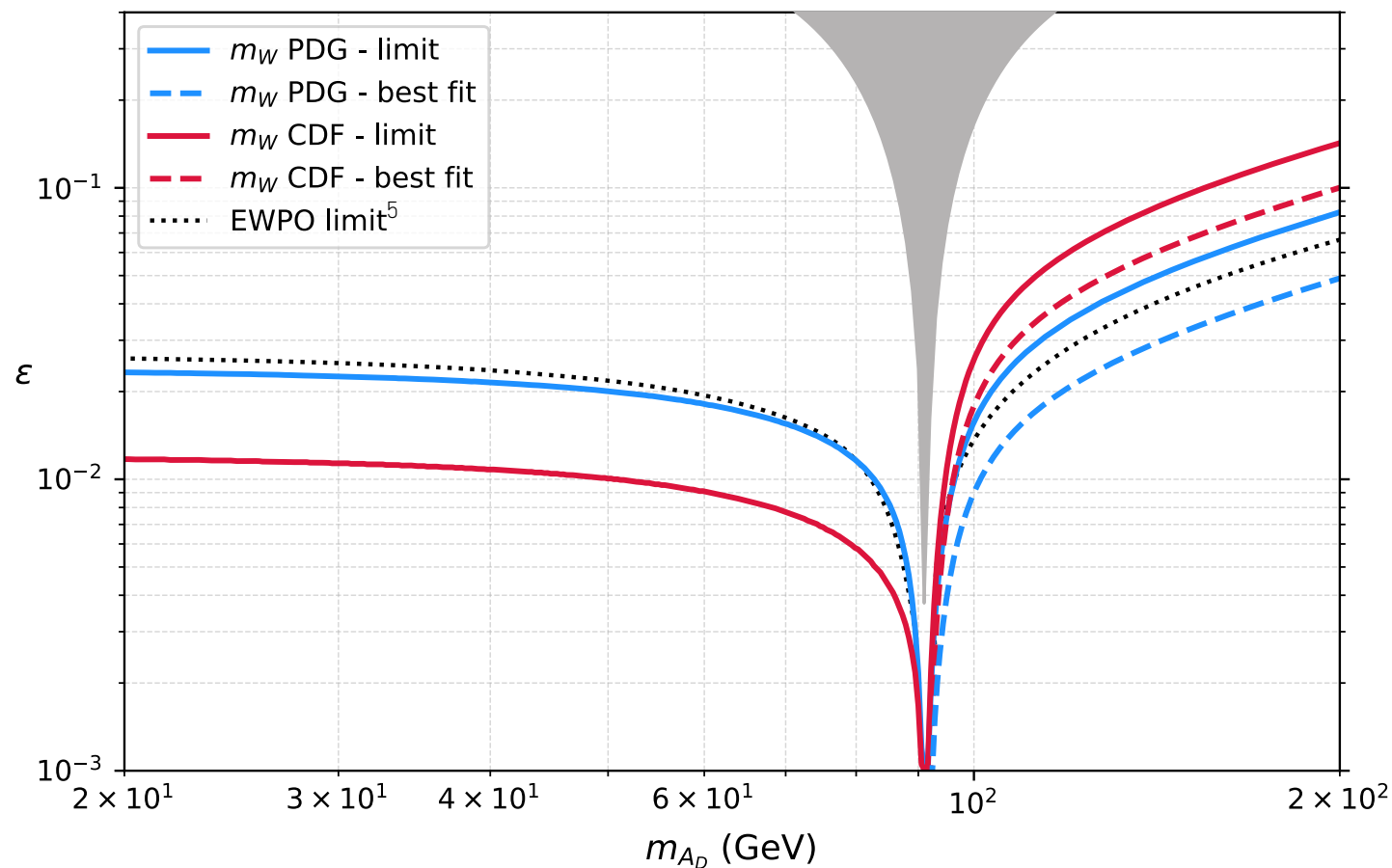
- Set limits on kinetic mixing parameter ϵ , given its mass m_{A_D} .
- For each mass m_{A_D} , we scan over ϵ from 0 to 1.
- For each ϵ we vary $\{m_h, m_Z, m_t, \alpha_s, \Delta\alpha_{had}^{(5)}\}$ until a χ^2 minimum is found.
- The minimum χ^2 obtainable is dependent upon ϵ , and the 95% excluded region on ϵ is defined such that:

$$\chi_{A_D}^2(\epsilon) - \chi_{SM}^2 \geq 3.8,$$

- $\chi_{SM}^{2\{CDF\}} = 68.23$, $\chi_{SM}^{2\{PDG\}} = 12.92$

Dark Photon Exclusion Limits

$$\chi_{A_D}^2(\epsilon) - \chi_{SM}^2 \geq 3.8$$



B. M. Loizos, X. G. Wang, A. W. Thomas, M. J. White, and A. G. Williams, J. Phys. G 51, 075002 (2024), arXiv:2306.13408 [hep-ph].

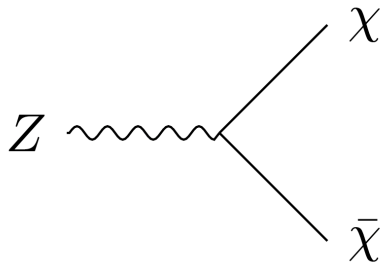
Constraints on dark fermions



Constraints on dark fermions χ

$$g'_\chi \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi A'_\mu$$

- Constraints have been placed on the parameter $y = \frac{\epsilon^2 g_\chi^2}{4\pi} \left(\frac{m_\chi}{m_{A'}} \right)^4$ through relic density and direct detection.
- But we can place constraints on g_χ directly using EWPOs.
- Z boson decay width receives extra contribution from $\chi\bar{\chi}$ final states for $m_\chi < \frac{m_Z}{2}$:

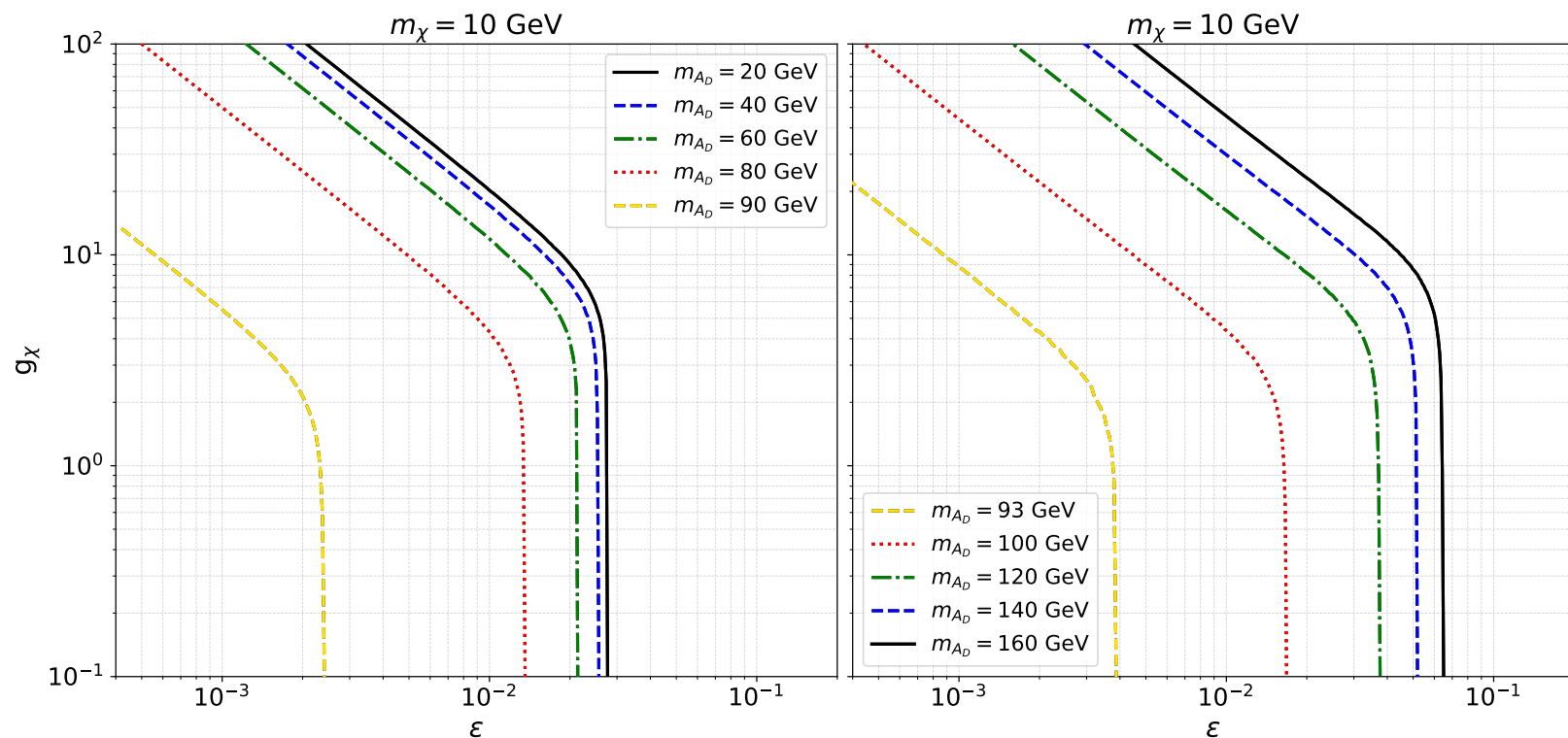


$$\Gamma_Z = \Gamma_{had} + \Gamma_e + \Gamma_\mu + \Gamma_\tau + 3\Gamma_\nu + \Gamma_\chi,$$

$$\Gamma_\chi = \frac{m_Z C_{Z,\chi\bar{\chi}}^2}{12\pi} \left(1 + \frac{2m_\chi^2}{m_Z^2} \right) \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{m_Z^2}}$$

Dark Fermion Exclusion Limits

$$\chi^2_{A_D}(\epsilon, g_\chi) - \chi^2_{SM} \geq 5.99$$



B. M. Loizos, X. G. Wang, A. W. Thomas, M. J. White, and A. G. Williams, J. Phys. G 51, 075002 (2024), arXiv:2306.13408 [hep-ph].

Summary

- Revisited constraints on the dark photon from electroweak precision observables, including the latest CDF m_W measurement and its impacts on the mixing parameter ϵ .
- Upper bounds for ϵ tighten for $m_{A_d} < m_Z$ and weakened for $m_{A_d} > m_Z$.
- Introduced couplings between the dark photon and fermionic dark matter, g_χ .
- Using EWPO, set exclusion limits on g_χ for massive dark fermions.
- Upper bounds for g_χ tighten as $m_{A_d} \rightarrow m_Z$, and weakens as m_χ increases.