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TITLE: Light Paraphotons and Mini-charged Particles in Realistic Extensions of the Standard Model

**ABSTRACT:**

Particles with small, unquantized charge arise naturally in so-called paraphoton models, containing, beyond the usual electromagnetic  $U(1)$  gauge factor, additional hidden-sector  $U(1)$  factors: particles with paracharge get an induced electric charge proportional to some small mixing angle between the kinetic terms of photons and paraphotons. In this talk, we point out that multiple  $U(1)$  factors, kinetic-mixing, and mini-charged particles occur naturally in realistic embeddings of the standard model into string theory. They may lead to observable effects in dedicated laboratory experiments.