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# Nonsymmetric tensor description of massive spin-2 particles in a curved background

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Massive spin-2 particles have been a subject of great interest in current research. If the graviton has a small mass, the gravitational force at large distances decreases more rapidly, which could contribute to the explanation of the accelerated expansion of the Universe. The massive spin-2 particles are commonly described by the known Fierz-Pauli action which is formulated in terms of a symmetric tensor  $h_{\mu\nu} = h_{\nu\mu}$ . However, the Fierz-Pauli theory is not the only possible description of massive spin-2 particles via a rank-2 tensor. There are other two families of models  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$ , where  $a_1$  and  $c$  are real arbitrary parameters, which describe massive particles of spin-2 in the flat space via a nonsymmetric tensor  $e_{\mu\nu} \neq e_{\nu\mu}$ . In the present work we derive Lagrangian constraints stemming from  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$  in curved backgrounds with nonminimal couplings which are analytic functions of  $m^2$ . We show that the constraints lead to a correct counting of degrees of freedom if nonminimal terms are included with fine-tuned coefficients and the background space is of the Einstein type, very much like the Fierz-Pauli case. We also examine the existence of local symmetries.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Our motivation to work with massive spin-2 particles in a curved background is twofold. On one hand, they can represent massive gravitons at the linearized approximation; on the other hand, they can be understood as elementary massive spin-2 particles in a given gravitational background.

Regarding the motivation for massive gravitons, they lead to a weaker gravitational interaction at large distances, which could contribute to the observed [1,2] accelerated expansion of the Universe at large distances. Although the recent detection of gravitational waves [3] is consistent with massless gravitons, predicted by the usual (massless) general relativity, massive gravitons are not ruled out. The mentioned experiment sets an upper bound of about  $10^{-22}$  eV for the graviton mass [4]. Furthermore, previous theoretical obstacles for massive gravitons like the vDVZ mass discontinuity [5,6] and the existence of ghosts in the nonlinear theory [7] have been tackled by the addition of fine-tuned nonlinear self-interaction terms for the metric fluctuation; see [8] and the bimetric model of [9]. Those models are based on previous ideas of [10] and [11] and have recently led to intense work on massive gravity and related topics; see the review works [12,13].

Regarding elementary massive spin-2 particles, the coupling of higher spin particles to electromagnetic and

gravitational interactions is a longstanding problem. Since any elementary particle must couple to gravity, one first needs to check the gravitational interaction as in [14,15] and [16]. Usually, unitarity [7] and causality [17,18] are lost in interacting theories of higher spin particles. Those particles require the use of higher rank tensors which have too many components. The redundant components must vanish on shell. They work like auxiliary fields. However, when interactions are turned on, some of those auxiliary fields may become dynamic, giving rise to negative contributions to the Hamiltonian (instabilities) and incorrect number of degrees of freedom.

Basically all studies of interacting massive spin-2 particles and the modern massive gravity theories, as [8], start with the paradigmatic free theory suggested by Fierz and Pauli in [19]. It describes massive spin-2 particles via a symmetric and traceful rank-2 tensor  $h_{\mu\nu} = h_{\nu\mu}$ . It is the metric fluctuation in massive gravitational theories,  $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$ . A natural question concerns the independence of the outcome of such studies on the underlying specific massive spin-2 model.

In [20] we started with a rather general second order (in derivatives) Ansatz for a quadratic Lagrangian for a nonsymmetric rank-2 tensor  $e_{\mu\nu}$  and by requiring the existence of only one massive physical pole in the spin-2 sector of the propagator we obtained three families of consistent free theories describing massive spin-2 particles. One of them is the usual Fierz-Pauli (FP) family which includes the FP model written in terms of a symmetric tensor. The other two families require a nonsymmetric tensor. There is no local field redefinition

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relating those families in general. One of the families is given in (1) and the other one in (49). They depend on an arbitrary real constant,  $a_1$  and  $c$ , respectively. See also [21] for the special case  $a_1 = -1/4$ . Here we couple a background gravitational field to those theories by including also nonminimal terms and look for curved space generalization of the tensor, vector, and scalar constraints which are necessary for getting rid of nonphysical degrees of freedom. We require that the coefficients of the nonminimal terms be analytic functions of  $m^2$ . Such a restriction plays a key role in our work and leads us to constrain the gravitational background to Einstein spaces; see further comments in the conclusion. In Sec. II we deal with  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$ , while in Sec. III we study the  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$  case. In Sec. IV we draw our conclusions. In the Appendix we briefly show the technical difficulties in arbitrary backgrounds.

## II. FAMILY OF LAGRANGIANS $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$

### A. Main results in the flat space

In [22] the family of second order Lagrangians  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  has been presented in arbitrary dimensions  $D \geq 3$ , but here we focus on  $D = 4$ . It describes massive ‘‘spin-2’’ particles via a nonsymmetric rank-2 tensor  $e_{\mu\nu} \neq e_{\nu\mu}$  in the flat space<sup>1</sup> for any value of the constant  $a_1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}(a_1) = & -\frac{1}{2}\partial^\mu e^{(\alpha\beta)}\partial_\mu e_{(\alpha\beta)} \\ & + \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\partial^\mu e[\partial_\mu e - 2\partial^\alpha e_{(\alpha\mu)}] \\ & + [\partial^\alpha e_{(\alpha\beta)}]^2 + \left(a_1 - \frac{1}{4}\right)(\partial^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta})^2 \\ & - \frac{m^2}{2}(e_{\mu\nu}e^{\nu\mu} - e^2). \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

We recover the FP theory at  $a_1 = 1/4$  where  $e_{[\mu\nu]}$  becomes nondynamic and it can be neglected. However there is no local field redefinition which takes us from the FP theory to  $a_1 \neq 1/4$ . The massless theory  $\mathcal{L}_{m=0}(a_1)$  is unitary in the ranges  $a_1 \geq 1/4$  and  $a_1 \leq -1/12$ ; it describes massless spin-2 particles plus a scalar field, except at  $a_1 = 1/4$  and  $a_1 = -1/12$  where the scalar field disappears. At  $a_1 = -1/12$  the model  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  intersects the nFP (non-Fierz-Pauli) family of Sec. III at  $c = -1$ ; see (49).

The flat space equations of motion  $E_{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{\delta S(a_1)}{\delta e^{\mu\nu}} = 0$  are given by

<sup>1</sup>Throughout this work we use  $\eta_{\mu\nu} = (-, +, +, +)$ ,  $e_{(\alpha\beta)} = (e_{\alpha\beta} + e_{\beta\alpha})/2$  and  $e_{[\alpha\beta]} = (e_{\alpha\beta} - e_{\beta\alpha})/2$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\mu\nu} = & \square e_{(\mu\nu)} + 2\left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)[\eta_{\mu\nu}(\partial^\alpha\partial^\beta e_{\alpha\beta} - \square e) + \partial_\mu\partial_\nu e] \\ & - \partial_\mu\partial^\alpha e_{(\alpha\nu)} - \partial_\nu\partial^\alpha e_{(\alpha\mu)} - 2\left(a_1 - \frac{1}{4}\right)\partial_\mu\partial^\alpha e_{\alpha\nu} \\ & + m^2(\eta_{\mu\nu}e - e_{\nu\mu}) = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

From  $\partial^\nu E_{\mu\nu} = 0$ , we have the vector constraint:

$$\partial^\alpha e_{\alpha\nu} = \partial_\nu e. \quad (3)$$

Plugging (3) back in  $E_{\mu\nu}$  we have, from  $E_{\mu\nu} - E_{\nu\mu} = 0$ , the tensor constraint:

$$e_{[\mu\nu]} = 0. \quad (4)$$

From (3) and (4) back in  $\eta^{\mu\nu}E_{\mu\nu} = 0$ , we obtain the final scalar constraint:

$$e = 0 \quad (5)$$

and, consequently, from (3) we have the transverse condition:

$$\partial^\alpha e_{\alpha\nu} = 0. \quad (6)$$

The equations of motion  $E_{\mu\nu} = 0$  become the Klein-Gordon equations

$$(\square - m^2)e_{(\mu\nu)} = 0. \quad (7)$$

The FP conditions (4), (5) and (6) guarantee the correct number of 5 degrees of freedom consistent with  $5 = 2s + 1$ , see [23] for a recent derivation of the FP conditions from first principles.

## B. Generalization of $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$ to curved spaces

### 1. General setup and constraints

If we want to construct a theory of massive spin-2 field in a curved space out of a nonsymmetric rank-2 tensor we should provide the same number of propagating degrees of freedom as in the flat case. They correspond to the curved space version of the 11 Fierz-Pauli conditions (4), (5), (6), namely  $e_{[\mu\nu]} = 0$ ,  $g^{\mu\nu}e_{\mu\nu} = 0$  and  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu} = 0$ . Thus, from the 16 components of  $e_{\mu\nu}$ , we end up with  $16 - 11 = 5$  degrees of freedom. Our calculations focus on the  $D = 4$  case, but it can be generalized to  $D$  dimensions ( $D \geq 3$ ).

Generalizing (1) to curved spacetime we substitute all derivatives by the covariant ones and add nonminimal terms containing the curvature tensor as in the FP case [24]. They also take care of ordering ambiguities. Requiring a quadratic theory in derivatives, consistent with the flat limit (1) and at most linear in curvatures, the most general action has the form<sup>2</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^g(a_1) = & -\frac{1}{4}\nabla^\mu e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4}\nabla^\mu e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e_{\beta\alpha} + a_1\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e^{\mu\beta} + \frac{1}{2}\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e^{\beta\mu} + \frac{1}{4}\nabla^\alpha e_{\beta\alpha}\nabla_\mu e^{\beta\mu} + \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\nabla^\mu e\nabla_\mu e \\ & - \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\nabla^\mu e\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\mu} + -\left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\nabla^\mu e\nabla^\alpha e_{\mu\alpha} - \frac{m^2}{2}(e_{\alpha\beta}e^{\beta\alpha} - e^2) + f_1 R e^{\alpha\beta} e_{\alpha\beta} + f_2 R e^2 \\ & + f_3 R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} e^{\alpha\mu} e^{\beta\nu} + f_4 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\alpha\mu} e^\beta{}_\mu + f_5 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\alpha\beta} e + f_6 R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} e^{\alpha\beta} e^{\mu\nu} + f_7 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\alpha\mu} e_\mu{}^\beta + f_8 R e^{\alpha\beta} e_{\beta\alpha} + f_9 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\mu\alpha} e_\mu{}^\beta \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where  $f_j$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ ) are arbitrary constants for the time being.

Varying the action with respect to  $e^{\rho\sigma}$ , we obtain the equations of motion in curved space:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\rho\sigma} \doteq \frac{\delta S}{\delta e^{\rho\sigma}} = & \frac{1}{2}\square(e_{\rho\sigma} + e_{\sigma\rho}) - 2a_1\nabla_\rho\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\sigma} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_\rho\nabla^\mu e_{\sigma\mu} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_\sigma\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\rho} - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_\sigma\nabla^\mu e_{\rho\mu} \\ & + 2\left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\left[-g_{\rho\sigma}\square e + \nabla_\rho\nabla_\sigma e + g_{\rho\sigma}\frac{\nabla^\mu\nabla^\alpha(e_{\alpha\mu} + e_{\mu\alpha})}{2}\right] + -m^2(e_{\sigma\rho} - e g_{\rho\sigma}) + 2f_1 R e_{\rho\sigma} \\ & + 2f_2 R g_{\rho\sigma} e + 2f_3 R_{\rho\beta\sigma\nu} e^{\beta\nu} + 2f_4 R_{\rho\beta} e^\beta{}_\sigma + f_5 R_{\rho\sigma} e + f_5 R_{\alpha\beta} g_{\rho\sigma} e^{\alpha\beta} + 2f_6 R_{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma} e^{\alpha\beta} + f_7 R_{\alpha\sigma} e^\alpha{}_\rho \\ & + f_7 R_{\rho\alpha} e_\sigma{}^\alpha + 2f_8 R e_{\sigma\rho} + 2f_9 R_{\sigma\beta} e_\rho{}^\beta = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

By applying one derivative on the equations of motion and after several manipulations, one obtains:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_\rho \doteq \nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} = & +(1 - 2f_3 - 2f_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\alpha e^{\lambda\sigma} + (1 + 2f_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\alpha e^{\sigma\lambda} + \left(\frac{1}{2} + f_7\right)R^{\lambda\alpha}\nabla_\alpha e_{\lambda\rho} \\ & + \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2f_9\right)R^{\lambda\alpha}\nabla_\alpha e_{\rho\lambda} + (f_7 - 2a_1)R_{\lambda\rho}\nabla_\mu e^{\mu\lambda} + \left(2f_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right)R_{\lambda\rho}\nabla_\mu e^{\lambda\mu} + 2f_1 R \nabla^\sigma e_{\rho\sigma} \\ & + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2f_1 + f_9\right)e_{\rho\sigma}\nabla^\sigma R + \left(2f_2 + \frac{f_5}{2}\right)e\nabla_\rho R + (m^2 + 2f_2 R)\nabla_\rho e + \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2f_4 + 2f_6\right)e^{\beta\sigma}\nabla_\sigma R_{\rho\beta} \\ & + \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2a_1 + f_5\right)R_{\rho\sigma}\nabla^\sigma e - (1 - 2f_3 - f_5)e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\rho R_{\alpha\beta} + f_5 R_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\rho e^{\alpha\beta} + \\ & - \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2f_3 + 2f_6 - f_7\right)e^{\sigma\alpha}\nabla_\sigma R_{\rho\alpha} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{f_7}{2} + 2f_8\right)e_{\sigma\rho}\nabla^\sigma R + -(m^2 - 2f_8 R)\nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Now, we define the tensor  $\mathcal{C}_{\rho\sigma}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_{\rho\sigma} \doteq E_{\rho\sigma} - E_{\sigma\rho} = & \left(-2a_1 + \frac{1}{2}\right)(\nabla_\rho\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\sigma} - \nabla_\sigma\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\rho}) + [m^2 + 2R(f_1 - f_8)](e_{\rho\sigma} - e_{\sigma\rho}) + 2f_3 R_{\rho\beta\sigma\nu}(e^{\beta\nu} - e^{\nu\beta}) \\ & + 2f_4(R_{\rho\beta}e^\beta{}_\sigma - R_{\sigma\beta}e^\beta{}_\rho) + 4f_6 R_{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma}e^{\alpha\beta} + f_7 R^\alpha{}_\sigma(e_{\alpha\rho} - e_{\rho\alpha}) \\ & + f_7 R_\rho{}^\alpha(e_{\sigma\alpha} - e_{\alpha\sigma}) + 2f_9(R_{\sigma\beta}e_\rho{}^\beta - R_{\rho\beta}e_\sigma{}^\beta). \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

In order to find a scalar constraint we have to consider the most general scalar combination of the equations of motion

$$\mathcal{C} \doteq (b_0 R + b_1 m^2)g^{\rho\sigma}E_{\rho\sigma} + b_2 R^{\rho\sigma}E_{\rho\sigma} + b_3 \nabla^\rho \nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} \quad (12)$$

<sup>2</sup>We disregard nonanalytic functions of  $m^2$  and the term  $R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}e^{\alpha\mu}e^{\nu\beta}$  which is redundant due to the cyclic property  $R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} + R_{\mu\alpha\beta\nu} + R_{\mu\beta\nu\alpha} = 0$ .

where  $b_j$  ( $j = 0, 1, 2, 3$ ) are arbitrary constants for now. By manipulating and simplifying as much as possible, we obtain the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C} = & + [b_3(2f_4 + f_7) - b_2]R^{\lambda\alpha}\nabla_\alpha\nabla^\rho e_{\lambda\rho} + 2b_3(1 - f_3)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\rho\nabla^\alpha e^{\lambda\sigma} + \\
& - \left[ 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right) - b_3\left(\frac{1}{2} - 2a_1 + f_7 + 2f_9\right) \right] R^{\lambda\alpha}\nabla_\alpha\nabla^\rho e_{\rho\lambda} \\
& + \left[ (b_0R + b_1m^2)\left(\frac{1}{2} + 6a_1\right) + 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right)R - b_3(m^2 - 2f_1R - 2f_8R) \right] \nabla^\lambda\nabla^\rho e_{\rho\lambda} + \\
& - \left[ (b_0R + b_1m^2)\left(\frac{1}{2} + 6a_1\right) + 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right)R - b_3(m^2 + 2f_2R) \right] \square e \\
& + (b_2 + b_3f_5)R_{\lambda\rho}\square e^{\lambda\rho} + \left[ b_2 + b_3f_5 + 2\left(a_1 - \frac{1}{4}\right)(b_2 + b_3) + b_3 \right] R_{\lambda\rho}\nabla^\lambda\nabla^\rho e + \mathcal{C}_1
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where  $\mathcal{C}_1$  contains up to first derivatives of  $e_{\rho\sigma}$ . The expression (13) has seven terms with second derivatives of  $e_{\rho\sigma}$ , which must be eliminated in order to become a scalar constraint. In the special case of the FP theory ( $a_1 = 1/4$ ), the last two terms with second derivatives can only be simultaneously cancelled if  $b_2 = b_3 = 0$ . Back in the other terms we need  $b_0R + m^2b_1 = 0$ . However in this case we have no constraint whatsoever. This is in agreement with [24] where the authors have chosen Einstein spaces in order to surmount such difficulty. In the general case  $a_1 \neq 1/4$  we have to find a solution for the system below:

$$b_3(2f_4 + f_7) - b_2 = 0, \tag{14}$$

$$b_3(1 - f_3) = 0, \tag{15}$$

$$2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right) - b_3\left(\frac{1}{2} - 2a_1 + f_7 + 2f_9\right) = 0, \tag{16}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(b_0R + b_1m^2)\left(\frac{1}{2} + 6a_1\right) + 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right)R \\
- b_3(m^2 - 2f_1R - 2f_8R) = 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
(b_0R + b_1m^2)\left(\frac{1}{2} + 6a_1\right) + 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right)R \\
- b_3(m^2 + 2f_2R) = 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

$$b_2 + b_3f_5 = 0, \tag{19}$$

$$2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right) + 2b_3\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1 + \frac{f_5}{2}\right) = 0. \tag{20}$$

Without restrictions in the background, as shown in the Appendix, we have not been able to solve the previous system and get  $e = 0$  from the scalar constraint. So, we are going to restrict the gravitational background to Einstein spaces<sup>3</sup> as in the FP case [12,24],

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \frac{R}{4}g_{\mu\nu}. \tag{21}$$

Now we can rewrite (10), (11) and (13) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C}_\rho \doteq \nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} = (1 - 2f_3 - 2f_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\alpha e^{\lambda\sigma} + (1 + 2f_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\alpha e^{\sigma\lambda} + 2\tilde{f}_1R\nabla^\lambda e_{\rho\lambda} \\
+ \left[ \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{4} - a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_8\right)R - m^2 \right] \nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\rho} + \left[ \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_2\right)R + m^2 \right] \nabla_\rho e = 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{C}_{\rho\sigma} \doteq E_{\rho\sigma} - E_{\sigma\rho} = + \left( -2a_1 + \frac{1}{2} \right) (\nabla_\rho\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\sigma} - \nabla_\sigma\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\rho}) + 2(f_3 + 2f_6)R_{\rho\beta\sigma\nu}(e^{\beta\nu} - e^{\nu\beta}) \\
+ [m^2 + (2\tilde{f}_1 - 2\tilde{f}_8)R](e_{\rho\sigma} - e_{\sigma\rho}) = 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{23}$$

<sup>3</sup>Altogether with Bianchi identities we have  $\nabla^\mu R_{\mu\rho\sigma} = 0$  and  $\nabla^\mu R = \partial^\mu R = 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{C} &\doteq \tilde{b}_1 g^{\rho\sigma} E_{\rho\sigma} + b_3 \nabla^\rho \nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} \\
 &= +2b_3(1-f_3)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha} \nabla^\rho \nabla^\alpha e^{\lambda\sigma} + \left[ -6\tilde{b}_1 \left( a_1 + \frac{1}{12} \right) + \frac{b_3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{4} + a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_2 \right) R + b_3 m^2 \right] \square e \\
 &\quad + \left[ 6\tilde{b}_1 \left( a_1 + \frac{1}{12} \right) + \frac{b_3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{4} - a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_1 + 4\tilde{f}_8 \right) R - b_3 m^2 \right] \nabla^\lambda \nabla^\rho e_{\rho\lambda} \\
 &\quad + \tilde{b}_1 \left[ 3m^2 + \left( 2\tilde{f}_1 + 8\tilde{f}_2 + \frac{f_3}{2} + 2\tilde{f}_8 \right) R \right] e = 0. \tag{24}
 \end{aligned}$$

Motivated by the substitution of (21) back in (8) and (12) we have defined:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tilde{f}_1 &\doteq f_1 + \frac{f_4}{4} + \frac{f_9}{4}, \\
 \tilde{f}_2 &\doteq f_2 + \frac{f_5}{4}, \\
 \tilde{f}_8 &\doteq f_8 + \frac{f_7}{4}, \\
 \tilde{b}_1 &\doteq b_0 R + b_1 m^2 + \frac{b_2 R}{4}. \tag{25}
 \end{aligned}$$

The expression (22) is already a vector constraint since it does not have second derivatives of the field. It corresponds to four constraints, in total. The same does not occur in expressions (23) and (24). First, let us turn (24) into a scalar constraint. We need to solve the system below:

$$\begin{aligned}
 b_3(1-f_3) &= 0, \\
 -6\tilde{b}_1 \left( a_1 + \frac{1}{12} \right) + \frac{b_3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{4} + a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_2 \right) R + b_3 m^2 &= 0, \\
 6\tilde{b}_1 \left( a_1 + \frac{1}{12} \right) + \frac{b_3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{4} - a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_1 + 4\tilde{f}_8 \right) R - b_3 m^2 &= 0. \tag{26}
 \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that the solution of (26) back in (24) leads to the scalar constraint  $e = 0$ , provided the coefficient of  $e$  is different from zero in (24). However, the expression (23) still has terms with second derivatives. For these terms to be cancelled,<sup>4</sup> it is necessary that  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu} = 0$ . We can get this from the vector constraint (22) if an appropriate choice of parameters is made. More specifically, since the solution of (26) requires  $f_3 = 1$ , if we set  $\tilde{f}_1 = 0$  and  $f_6 = -\frac{1}{2}$ , we obtain automatically from (22) that  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu} = 0$  as far as the coefficient of  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu}$  in (22) is non-null. The solution of the system given in (26) with the additional equations  $\tilde{f}_1 = 0$  and  $f_6 = -\frac{1}{2}$  is given by

<sup>4</sup>If  $a_1 = \frac{1}{4}$ , those terms would be eliminated, but this specific value for  $a_1$  represents the FP case and it is not of our interest here.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_3 &= 1, \\
 \tilde{f}_8 &= -\frac{1}{8} - \tilde{f}_2, \\
 \tilde{b}_1 &= \frac{b_3}{1 + 12a_1} \left[ 2m^2 + \left( \frac{1}{4} + a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_2 \right) R \right]. \tag{27}
 \end{aligned}$$

Returning this solution in (22), (23) and (24) we finally get all necessary constraints. More specifically, from (24) we obtain the scalar constraint:

$$e = 0. \tag{28}$$

Using (27) and the result  $e = 0$  in (22), we have the vector constraint:

$$\nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho} = 0. \tag{29}$$

Finally, using (27) and the results (28) and (29) in (23), we achieve the tensor constraint:

$$e_{[\rho\sigma]} = 0 \tag{30}$$

once its coefficient in (23) is nonvanishing too. Summarizing, we have found all the FP constraints:

$$e = 0, \tag{31}$$

$$\nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho} = 0, \tag{32}$$

$$e_{[\rho\sigma]} = 0, \tag{33}$$

if the restrictions below are respected

$$b_3 \tilde{m}^2 \left[ 2\tilde{m}^2 + \left( -\frac{1}{4} + a_1 \right) R \right] \left[ 3\tilde{m}^2 - \frac{R}{2} \right] \neq 0, \tag{34}$$

$$\tilde{m}^2 \equiv m^2 + \left( \frac{1}{4} + 2\tilde{f}_2 \right) R, \tag{35}$$

while the equations of motion become

$$E_{\rho\sigma} = (\square - \tilde{m}^2) e_{\rho\sigma} + 2R_{\rho\alpha\sigma\beta} e^{\alpha\beta}. \tag{36}$$

Therefore, we end up with  $16 - 11 = 5$  degrees of freedom, which is the correct count for a massive spin-2

particle ( $5 = 2s + 1$ ). The final curved space theory still contains 2 free parameters:  $\tilde{f}_2$  and  $a_1$ , with the restriction (34) and  $(a_1 + 1/12)(a_1 - 1/4) \neq 0$ .

For the sake of comparison with [21] we focus now on a special subcase of Einstein spaces, namely the maximally symmetric spaces:

$$R_{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma} = \frac{R}{12}(g_{\alpha\rho}g_{\beta\sigma} - g_{\alpha\sigma}g_{\beta\rho}). \quad (37)$$

All the results from the previous section can be brought consistently to the maximally symmetric spaces (37). Using (25) and (27), the Lagrangian (8) in a maximally symmetric background becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{(\text{MSS})}(a_1) = & -\frac{1}{4}\nabla^\mu e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4}\nabla^\mu e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e_{\beta\alpha} + a_1\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e^{\mu\beta} + \frac{1}{2}\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e^{\beta\mu} \\ & + \frac{1}{4}\nabla^\alpha e_{\beta\alpha}\nabla_\mu e^{\beta\mu} + \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\nabla^\mu e\nabla_\mu e - \left(a_1 + \frac{1}{4}\right)\nabla^\mu e(\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\mu} + \nabla^\alpha e_{\mu\alpha}) + \\ & - \frac{m^2}{2}(e_{\alpha\beta}e^{\beta\alpha} - e^2) - \frac{1}{24}Re^{\alpha\beta}e_{\alpha\beta} + \left(\tilde{f}_2 + \frac{1}{12}\right)Re^2 + -\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{11}{12} + a_1 + 4\tilde{f}_2\right)Re^{\alpha\beta}e_{\beta\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

On the other hand, it has been presented in [21] a model for massive spin-2 particles also with a nonsymmetric tensor  $e_{\mu\nu} \neq e_{\nu\mu}$  minimally coupled to maximally symmetric background.

The Lagrangian is known as dual massive gravity and is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{(\text{dual})} = & \frac{1}{2}\nabla_\rho e_{\nu\sigma}(-\nabla^\rho e^{\nu\sigma} - \nabla^\nu e^{\rho\sigma} + \nabla^\nu e^{\sigma\rho} - \nabla^\rho e^{\sigma\nu}) \\ & + \nabla^\sigma e^{\rho\nu} + \nabla^\sigma e^{\nu\rho}) - m^2(e_{\mu\nu}e^{\nu\mu} - e^2). \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

As already discussed in [20], the model presented in [21] is recovered from  $\mathcal{L}^{(\text{MSS})}(a_1)$  in the flat space when  $a_1 = -1/4$ . However, it is important to notice that the assumption of  $a_1 = -1/4$  does not require a maximally symmetric space as we have shown here.

The relation between  $\mathcal{L}^{(\text{dual})}$  and  $\mathcal{L}^{(\text{MSS})}(a_1)$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}^{(\text{MSS})}(a_1 = -1/4) \\ = \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}^{(\text{dual})} - \left[\frac{1}{24} + \tilde{f}_2\right]R(e^{\alpha\beta}e_{\beta\alpha} - e^2). \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

Thus, the model of [21] is a subcase of  $\mathcal{L}^{(\text{MSS})}(a_1 = -1/4)$  where

$$\tilde{f}_2 = -\frac{1}{24}. \quad (41)$$

With the above value of  $\tilde{f}_2$ , the restrictions (34) lead to two forbidden values for the scalar curvature, namely,  $R \neq -6m^2$  and  $R \neq 12m^2$ . The first value differs by a sign from the restriction obtained in [21] while the second one has not been mentioned. It is important to

emphasize, however, that  $\tilde{f}_2$  is a free parameter in the  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$  model, so the inequality (34) restricts the possible values of  $\tilde{f}_2$ , not of the curvature  $R$ . This happens because our original Lagrangian is more general than (39). In MSS there are no forbidden values for the scalar curvature in the  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$  model for any value of  $a_1$ , including  $a_1 = -1/4$ .

## 2. Local symmetries of $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$

In the previous sections, we have found all the constraints of the  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$  model. The form of (22) and (24) suggests that some local symmetries of  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$  may exist even in the massive case. For example, if the expression obtained for the vector constraint  $\nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma}$  given in (22) becomes identically null, instead of a vector constraint we would have four identities  $\nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} \equiv 0$  and, consequently, the theory acquires the vector symmetry

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma} = \nabla_\sigma A_\rho \quad (42)$$

since, up to a surface term,

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_A S = & \int d^4x \frac{\delta S}{\delta e^{\rho\sigma}} \delta e^{\rho\sigma} = \int d^4x E_{\rho\sigma} \nabla^\sigma A^\rho \\ = & - \int d^4x (\nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma}) A_\rho = 0. \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

In order that  $\nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} = 0$  holds identically, see (22), we need the conditions:



$$\begin{aligned}
 f_3 &= 1, \\
 \tilde{f}_1 &= 0, \\
 \tilde{f}_8 &= -\frac{1}{8} - \tilde{f}_2, \\
 f_6 &= -\frac{1}{2}, \\
 R &= -\frac{8m^2}{1 + 4a_1 + 16\tilde{f}_2}. \tag{44}
 \end{aligned}$$

We have checked explicitly that (42) is indeed a symmetry of  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$  if we use (44).

Analogously, we could find scalar symmetries for  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$ . The action is invariant under the transformation

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma}^{(1)} = \nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \lambda \tag{45}$$

where  $\lambda$  is an arbitrary scalar, provided the conditions below are satisfied:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_3 &= 1, \\
 \tilde{f}_8 &= -\frac{1}{8} - \tilde{f}_1 - \tilde{f}_2, \\
 R &= -\frac{8m^2}{1 + 4a_1 + 16\tilde{f}_2}. \tag{46}
 \end{aligned}$$

In addition, there is another possible scalar symmetry which is

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma}^{(2)} = 12\nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \lambda + Rg_{\rho\sigma}\lambda \tag{47}$$

where  $\lambda$  is an arbitrary scalar and the conditions below are required:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_3 &= 1, \\
 \tilde{f}_8 &= -\frac{1}{8} - \tilde{f}_1 - \tilde{f}_2, \\
 R &= -\frac{12m^2}{1 + 24\tilde{f}_2}. \tag{48}
 \end{aligned}$$

We leave for a future work a detailed study of the special cases (44), (46) and (48). The appearance of vector and scalar symmetries are usually connected with massless and partially massless theories, respectively.

### III. FAMILY OF LAGRANGIANS $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$

#### A. Main results in the flat space

Analogously to the  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  case, in [22] we can find another family of second order Lagrangians  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$  which describes massive spin-2 particles via a nonsymmetric rank-2 tensor in  $D = 4$  flat spaces<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup>The model  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$  can be generalized to arbitrary  $D \geq 3$ ; see [22].

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c) &= -\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu e^{(\alpha\beta)} \partial_\mu e_{(\alpha\beta)} + \frac{1}{6} \partial_\mu e [\partial^\mu e - 2\partial_\nu e^{(\nu\mu)}] \\
 &\quad + [\partial^\alpha e_{(\alpha\beta)}]^2 - \frac{1}{3} [\partial_\mu e^{\mu\nu}]^2 - \frac{m^2}{2} (e_{\mu\nu} e^{\nu\mu} + ce^2). \tag{49}
 \end{aligned}$$

The real constant  $c$  is arbitrary and nFP stands for ‘‘non-Fierz-Pauli’’ since we do not need to have  $c = -1$ . In such a special case, however, the model  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c = -1)$  coincides with  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  at  $a_1 = -\frac{1}{12}$ . The massless case  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}^{m=0}(c)$  first appeared in [25] and describes massless spin-2 particles. If  $c \neq -\frac{1}{4}$  the FP conditions can be derived from the equations of motion as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_{\mu\nu} &= \square e_{(\mu\nu)} + \frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}}{3} (\partial^\alpha \partial^\beta e_{\alpha\beta} - \square e) + \frac{1}{3} \partial_\mu \partial_\nu e - \partial_\mu \partial^\alpha e_{(\nu\alpha)} + \\
 &\quad - \partial_\nu \partial^\alpha e_{(\alpha\mu)} + \frac{2}{3} \partial_\mu \partial^\alpha e_{\alpha\nu} - m^2 (e_{\nu\mu} + c\eta_{\mu\nu} e) = 0. \tag{50}
 \end{aligned}$$

From  $\partial^\nu E_{\mu\nu} = 0$ , we have

$$\partial^\nu e_{\nu\mu} + c\partial_\mu e = 0. \tag{51}$$

Back in (50), we obtain from  $E_{\mu\nu} - E_{\nu\mu} = 0$ :

$$e_{[\mu\nu]} = 0. \tag{52}$$

From  $\eta^{\mu\nu} E_{\mu\nu} = 0$ , we have

$$m^2 \left( c + \frac{1}{4} \right) e = 0 \Rightarrow e = 0 \tag{53}$$

and, consequently, from (51) now we have

$$\partial^\alpha e_{\alpha\nu} = 0. \tag{54}$$

Thus, the equations of motion given in (50) become the Klein-Gordon equations:

$$(\square - m^2) e_{(\mu\nu)} = 0. \tag{55}$$

If  $c = -\frac{1}{4}$  the model  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$  is invariant under Weyl transformations:  $\delta_W e_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} \phi$ . We can fix the gauge  $e = 0$  and obtain all the FP conditions (52), (53) and (54) and the Klein-Gordon equations (55).

#### B. Generalization of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$ to curved spaces

##### 1. General setup and constraints

For  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$  the procedure was analogous to that used for  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$ . The most general expression for  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}(c)$  is the following one:



$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}^g(c) = & -\frac{1}{4}\nabla^\mu e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4}\nabla^\mu e^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu e_{\beta\alpha} - \frac{1}{12}\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\lambda e^{\lambda\beta} + \frac{1}{2}\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\lambda e^{\beta\lambda} \\
& + \frac{1}{4}\nabla^\alpha e_{\beta\alpha}\nabla_\lambda e^{\beta\lambda} + \frac{1}{6}\nabla^\mu\nabla_\mu e - \frac{1}{3}\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta}\nabla^\beta e - \frac{m^2}{2}(e_{\alpha\beta}e^{\beta\alpha} + ce^2) \\
& + d_1 R e^{\alpha\beta} e_{\alpha\beta} + d_2 R e^2 + d_3 R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} e^{\alpha\mu} e^{\beta\nu} + d_4 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\alpha\mu} e^\beta{}_\mu + d_5 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\alpha\beta} e \\
& + d_6 R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} e^{\alpha\beta} e^{\mu\nu} + d_7 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\alpha\mu} e_\mu{}^\beta + d_8 R e^{\alpha\beta} e_{\beta\alpha} + d_9 R_{\alpha\beta} e^{\mu\alpha} e_\mu{}^\beta
\end{aligned} \tag{56}$$

where  $d_j$  ( $j = 1, 2, \dots, 9$ ) are arbitrary constants for now. The equations of motion are

$$\begin{aligned}
E_{\rho\sigma} \doteq \frac{\delta S_{\text{nFP}}^g(c)}{\delta e^{\rho\sigma}} = & \frac{1}{2}\square(e_{\rho\sigma} + e_{\sigma\rho}) + \frac{1}{6}\nabla_\rho\nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\sigma} - \frac{1}{2}(\nabla_\rho\nabla^\lambda e_{\sigma\lambda} + \nabla_\sigma\nabla^\lambda e_{\rho\lambda}) - \frac{1}{2}\nabla_\sigma\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\rho} + \\
& -\frac{1}{3}g_{\rho\sigma}\square e + \frac{1}{3}\nabla_\rho\nabla_\sigma e + \frac{1}{3}g_{\rho\sigma}\nabla^\beta\nabla^\alpha e_{\alpha\beta} - m^2(e_{\sigma\rho} + ce_{\sigma\rho}) + 2d_1 R e_{\rho\sigma} \\
& + 2d_2 R e g_{\rho\sigma} + 2d_3 R_{\rho\beta\sigma\nu} e^{\beta\nu} + 2d_4 R_{\rho\beta} e^\beta{}_\sigma + d_5 R_{\rho\sigma} e + d_5 g_{\rho\sigma} R^{\alpha\beta} e_{\alpha\beta} \\
& + 2d_6 R_{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma} e^{\alpha\beta} + d_7 R^\alpha{}_\sigma e_{\alpha\rho} + d_7 R_\rho{}^\alpha e_{\sigma\alpha} + 2d_8 R e_{\sigma\rho} + 2d_9 R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\rho\beta} = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{57}$$

The vector constraint is the following expression

$$\begin{aligned}
C_\rho \doteq \nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} = & (1 - 2d_3 - 2d_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\alpha e^{\lambda\sigma} + (1 + 2d_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha}\nabla^\alpha e^{\sigma\lambda} + d_5 R_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\rho e^{\alpha\beta} \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2d_3 - 2d_6 + d_7\right)e^{\lambda\sigma}\nabla_\lambda R_{\sigma\rho} + (-1 + 2d_3 + d_5)e^{\lambda\sigma}\nabla_\rho R_{\sigma\lambda} \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2d_4 + 2d_6\right)e^{\sigma\lambda}\nabla_\lambda R_{\sigma\rho} + \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2d_9\right)R^{\lambda\mu}\nabla_\mu e_{\rho\lambda} + 2d_1 R \nabla^\sigma e_{\rho\sigma} \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{2} + d_7\right)R^{\lambda\alpha}\nabla_\alpha e_{\lambda\rho} + \left(\frac{1}{6} + d_7\right)R_{\lambda\rho}\nabla_\mu e^{\mu\lambda} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2d_1 + d_9\right)e_{\rho\sigma}\nabla^\sigma R \\
& + \left(2d_4 - \frac{1}{2}\right)R_{\lambda\rho}\nabla_\mu e^{\lambda\mu} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{d_7}{2} + 2d_8\right)e_{\lambda\rho}\nabla^\lambda R + (2d_8 R - m^2)\nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho} \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{3} + d_5\right)R_{\alpha\rho}\nabla^\alpha e + (2d_2 R - m^2 c)\nabla_\rho e + \left(2d_2 + \frac{d_5}{2}\right)e\nabla_\rho R = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{58}$$

The tensor constraint will be obtained from the expression below:

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{\rho\sigma} \doteq E_{\rho\sigma} - E_{\sigma\rho} = & \frac{2}{3}(\nabla_\rho\nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\sigma} - \nabla_\sigma\nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\rho}) + (m^2 + 2(d_1 - d_8)R)(e_{\rho\sigma} - e_{\sigma\rho}) \\
& + 2(2d_6 + d_3)R_{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}e^{\alpha\beta} + (2d_4 - d_7)(R_\rho{}^\beta e_{\beta\sigma} - R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\beta\rho}) + (d_7 - 2d_9)(R_\rho{}^\beta e_{\sigma\beta} - R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\rho\beta}) = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{59}$$

Regarding the scalar constraint, due to the Weyl symmetry of the kinetic terms in  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}^g(c)$  we do not need to add second derivatives of equations of motion in order to produce a constraint as in (24). We can simply have

$$\begin{aligned}
C \doteq g^{\rho\sigma} E_{\rho\sigma} \\
= & [-m^2(1 + 4c) + (2d_1 + 8d_2 + d_5 + 2d_8)R]e + 2(d_3 + d_4 + 2d_5 + d_7 + d_9)R_{\sigma\beta}e^{\sigma\beta} = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{60}$$

Thus, we have a scalar constraint in arbitrary gravitational backgrounds. In the Appendix we show that although it is possible to get  $e = 0$  from (60) in arbitrary backgrounds, we are not able to have a curved space version of the tensor constraint without restricting the background space. Henceforth we assume Einstein spaces (21). Let us rewrite (58), (59) and (60) as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} C_\rho \doteq \nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} &= (1 - 2d_3 - 2d_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\mu}\nabla^\mu e^{\lambda\sigma} + (1 + 2d_6)R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\mu}\nabla^\mu e^{\sigma\lambda} + \tilde{d}_1 R \nabla^\sigma e_{\rho\sigma} \\ &+ \left[ \left( \frac{1}{6} + 2\tilde{d}_8 \right) R - m^2 \right] \nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho} + \left[ \left( \frac{1}{12} + 2\tilde{d}_2 \right) R - m^2 c \right] \nabla_\rho e = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

$$C_{\rho\sigma} \doteq E_{\rho\sigma} - E_{\sigma\rho} = \frac{2}{3} (\nabla_\rho \nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\sigma} - \nabla_\sigma \nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\rho}) + 2(d_3 + 2d_6)R_{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}e^{\alpha\beta} + \left[ m^2 + \left( 2\tilde{d}_1 - 2\tilde{d}_8 + \frac{d_9}{2} \right) R \right] (e_{\rho\sigma} - e_{\sigma\rho}) = 0, \quad (62)$$

$$C \doteq g^{\rho\sigma} E_{\rho\sigma} = \left[ -m^2(1 + 4c) + \left( 2\tilde{d}_1 + 8\tilde{d}_2 + \frac{d_3}{2} + 2\tilde{d}_8 \right) R \right] e = 0, \quad (63)$$

where we have defined

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{d}_1 &\doteq d_1 + \frac{d_4}{4} + \frac{d_9}{4}, \\ \tilde{d}_2 &\doteq d_2 + \frac{d_5}{4}, \\ \tilde{d}_8 &\doteq d_8 + \frac{d_7}{4}. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

Therefore, (63) leads to the scalar constraint  $e = 0$ , provided the coefficient of  $e$  is different from zero. On the other hand, (62) still has terms with second derivatives. In order to solve this, we need  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu} = 0$ . We can get this automatically from the vector constraint (61) by setting

$$\tilde{d}_1 = 0, \quad d_3 = 1, \quad d_6 = -\frac{1}{2} \quad (65)$$

as far as the coefficient of  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu}$  does not vanish.

Back in the tensor constraint (62) we obtain  $e_{[\mu\nu]} = 0$  as far as its coefficient is nonvanishing too. In summary, all 11 Fierz-Pauli constraints (31), (32) and (33) are confirmed if

$$\tilde{m}^2 \left( \tilde{m}^2 - \frac{R}{6} \right) \left\{ (1 + 4c)\tilde{m}^2 + \left[ 8(c\tilde{d}_8 - \tilde{d}_2) - \frac{1}{2} \right] R \right\} \neq 0, \quad (66)$$

$$\tilde{m}^2 \equiv m^2 - 2\tilde{d}_8 R \quad (67)$$

while the equations of motion become

$$E_{\rho\sigma} = (\square - \tilde{m}^2)e_{\rho\sigma} + 2R_{\rho\alpha\sigma\beta}e^{\alpha\beta} \quad (68)$$

where the free parameters  $\tilde{d}_2$  and  $\tilde{d}_8$  must satisfy the conditions (66).

## 2. Local symmetries of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}^g(c)$

The model  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}^g(c)$  also presents vector and scalar symmetries. There is one vector symmetry which comes from the transformation

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma} = \nabla_\sigma A_\rho \quad (69)$$

where  $A_\rho$  is an arbitrary vector. We need a nonvanishing scalar curvature ( $R \neq 0$ ) and the following conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{d}_1 &= 0; & d_6 &= -\frac{1}{2}; & d_3 &= 1; \\ \tilde{m}^2 &= \frac{R}{6}, \\ \tilde{d}_2 &= -\frac{1}{24} + \frac{c}{12} + \tilde{d}_8 c. \end{aligned} \quad (70)$$

Such conditions imply that the vector constraint (61) be identically null, i.e.,  $\nabla^\sigma E_{\rho\sigma} \equiv 0$ .

On the other hand, starting from the general scalar transformation

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma} = A_1 \nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \lambda + A_2 g_{\rho\sigma} \lambda + A_3 g_{\rho\sigma} \square \lambda \quad (71)$$

where  $\lambda$  is an arbitrary field and  $A_j$  ( $j = 1, 2, 3$ ) are arbitrary constants, we have found three scalar symmetries for  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{nFP}}^g(c)$ .

The first one is

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma}^{(1)} = g_{\rho\sigma} \lambda \quad (72)$$

where we must have

$$(1 + 4c)\tilde{m}^2 = R \left[ \frac{1}{2} + 8(\tilde{d}_2 - c\tilde{d}_8) \right]. \quad (73)$$

The second scalar symmetry is

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma}^{(2)} = -4\nabla_\rho\nabla_\sigma\lambda + g_{\rho\sigma}\square\lambda \quad (74)$$

where the relations below must hold:

$$\begin{aligned} d_3 &= 1, \\ \tilde{m}^2 &= (1 + 12\tilde{d}_1)\frac{R}{6}. \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

Finally, the last scalar symmetry is given by

$$\delta e_{\rho\sigma}^{(3)} = \nabla_\rho\nabla_\sigma\lambda \quad (76)$$

where the conditions below must be obeyed:

$$\begin{aligned} d_3 &= 1, \\ \tilde{d}_2 &= -\frac{1}{24} + \frac{c}{12} + c(\tilde{d}_1 + \tilde{d}_8), \\ \tilde{m}^2 &= (1 + 12\tilde{d}_1)\frac{R}{6}. \end{aligned} \quad (77)$$

The symmetry (76) and conditions (77) follow from the previous scalar symmetries (72) and (74).

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Here we have studied massive spin-2 models via a nonsymmetric rank-2 tensor in a curved background. As in the usual Fierz-Pauli (FP) case with a symmetric tensor, nonminimal couplings are necessary. The work here is a preliminary one and parallels the work [24] on the FP model. As in that case we have assumed that the Ansätze (8) and (56) are linear on curvatures and their coefficients are analytic functions of  $m^2$ . Although there seems to be slightly more freedom now in choosing the background metric than in the FP case, we have selected, for simplicity, background spaces of the Einstein type as in [24]. We have succeeded in finding nontrivial solutions for the coefficients of our Ansätze by getting rid of second derivatives in the tensor, vector, and scalar constraints. In particular, we have generalized from maximally symmetric spaces to Einstein spaces a previous work in the literature [21] carried out for a massive spin-2 theory with nonsymmetric tensor  $e_{\mu\nu} \neq e_{\nu\mu}$ , which corresponds to the model  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  of Sec. II at the specific point  $a_1 = -1/4$ . Regarding the model  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$ , due to the Weyl symmetry of the kinetic terms, the scalar constraint has easily led to the traceless condition  $e = 0$  but now the problem has moved to the tensor constraint and once again we have found it convenient to choose Einstein spaces.

Comparing the results obtained here in Einstein spaces for  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$  with the ones obtained in [24] for the usual FP model, the main difference is that, besides

the scalar and vector constraint, we now have a tensor constraint  $C_{\rho\mu} = 0$ ; see (11) and (23). However, due to the vector constraint  $\nabla^\mu e_{\mu\nu} = 0$ , the constraint  $C_{\rho\mu} = 0$  amounts to  $e_{\mu\nu} - e_{\nu\mu} = 0$  without further restriction in the background. So there seems to be no fundamental difference to the usual FP case in curved space. Since in the FP case there is no restriction on the background metric when we allow the coefficients to be nonanalytic functions of  $m^2$ , we would like to address that point also in the case of our nonsymmetric models. This is under investigation now.

Moreover, in both cases of  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$ , we believe that less restrictive conditions on the coefficients can be obtained by getting rid of second order derivatives of time only; this is under study. We are also analyzing the special points in the parameters space where the local symmetries mentioned in the previous sections show up. They indicate massless and partially massless theories even if  $m^2 \neq 0$ . The truly massless cases  $m = 0$  in both  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$  theories are also worth investigating in curved space. Especially in the second case where, at least in the flat space, we have massless spin-2 particles just like in the massless version of the FP model.

As a final comment, we notice that the ghost free massive gravity theories, see [8] and [9], accommodate massive gravitons propagating in any gravitational background, see [26–28]. Those results agree with earlier perturbative (in powers of  $1/m^2$ ) calculations. Thus, if we obtain correct Lagrangian constraints for the models discussed here, in the case of nonanalytic coefficients, we would be prompted to search for nonlinear (self-interacting) versions of  $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}(c)$ .

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#### APPENDIX: CONSTRAINTS IN A GENERAL BACKGROUND

##### 1. $\mathcal{L}(a_1)$

We are looking for a solution of the system (14)–(20) without imposing restrictions on the background space. Since  $f_i$  ( $i = 1, \dots, 9$ ) and  $b_j$  ( $j = 0, \dots, 3$ ) are constants, we demand that the coefficients of  $R$  in Eqs. (17) and (18) are null, i.e.,

$$b_0\left(\frac{1}{2} + 6a_1\right) + 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right) + 2b_3(f_1 + f_8) = 0, \quad (A1)$$

$$b_0\left(\frac{1}{2} + 6a_1\right) + 2b_2\left(\frac{1}{4} + a_1\right) - 2b_3f_2 = 0. \quad (A2)$$

The solution, singular at  $a_1 = 1/4$  as expected, is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_3 = 1, \quad f_4 = \frac{1}{2} + f_9, \quad f_5 = \frac{(1 + 4a_1)}{(-1 + 4a_1)}, \quad f_7 = -\frac{8a_1}{(-1 + 4a_1)} - 2f_9, \quad f_2 = -\frac{1 + 8a_1(1 + 2a_1)}{4(-1 + 4a_1)} + \frac{b_0}{2b_1}, \\
 f_1 = \frac{1 + 8a_1(1 + 2a_1)}{4(-1 + 4a_1)} - \frac{b_0}{2b_1} - f_8, \quad b_3 = \frac{1}{2}b_1(1 + 12a_1), \quad b_2 = -\frac{b_1(1 + 12a_1)(1 + 4a_1)}{2(-1 + 4a_1)}. \quad (A3)
 \end{aligned}$$

Plugging this solution back into (13), we obtain a scalar constraint in a general background:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_1 = & \frac{(1 + 12a_1)}{(-1 + 4a_1)} \left\{ -\frac{b_1(1 + 4a_1)^2}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} R^{\rho\sigma} R_{\rho\sigma} e + \frac{b_1(1 - 12a_1)}{2} \nabla^\lambda R^{\sigma\rho} \nabla_\rho e_{\lambda\sigma} \right. \\
 & + 4b_1 a_1 e_{\lambda\sigma} \square R^{\lambda\sigma} + \frac{b_1(1 + 12a_1)}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} \nabla_\rho R^{\lambda\sigma} \nabla^\rho e_{\lambda\sigma} - \frac{b_1(1 + 4a_1)}{2} \nabla^\sigma R^{\lambda\alpha} \nabla_\alpha e_{\lambda\sigma} \left. \right\} \\
 & + \frac{b_1(1 + 12a_1)}{2} \left\{ \left[ -\frac{b_0}{b_1} + \frac{1 + 8a_1(1 + 2a_1)}{4(-1 + 4a_1)} \right] \nabla^\lambda R \nabla^\rho e_{\rho\lambda} + \right. \\
 & - \left. \left[ \frac{b_0}{b_1} + \frac{1 - 2a_1(-1 + 4a_1)}{-1 + 4a_1} - 2f_9 \right] \nabla^\lambda R \nabla^\rho e_{\lambda\rho} \right\} \\
 & + \frac{(1 + 12a_1)}{(-1 + 4a_1)} \left\{ (b_0 R + b_1 m^2) + \frac{b_1(1 + 4a_1)}{2} \left[ m^2 + \frac{b_0 R}{b_1} - \frac{[16a_1(1 + a_1) + 3]R}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} \right] \right\} R^{\rho\sigma} e_{\rho\sigma} \\
 & + b_1(1 + 12a_1) R^{\rho\sigma} R_{\rho\beta\sigma\nu} e^{\beta\nu} + \frac{(1 + 12a_1)}{(-1 + 4a_1)} \left[ \frac{b_1(1 + 12a_1)(1 + 4a_1)}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} - 8b_1 a_1 \right] R^{\rho\sigma} R_{\rho\beta} e^\beta{}_\sigma \\
 & + \frac{b_1(1 + 12a_1)}{2} \left\{ \left[ \frac{2b_0}{b_1} - \frac{1 + 16a_1(1 + 3a_1)}{4(-1 + 4a_1)} \right] \nabla_\lambda R \nabla^\lambda e + \left[ \frac{b_0}{b_1} - \frac{2a_1(1 + 4a_1)}{(-1 + 4a_1)} \right] (\square R) e \right\} \\
 & + \left\{ (b_0 R + b_1 m^2) \left[ 3m^2 - \frac{1 + 16a_1(1 + 3a_1)}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} R + \frac{3b_0 R}{b_1} \right] + \right. \\
 & - \left. \frac{b_1(1 + 12a_1)(1 + 4a_1)}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} \left[ m^2 + \frac{b_0 R}{b_1} - \frac{[1 + 8a_1(1 + 2a_1)]R}{2(-1 + 4a_1)} \right] R \right\} e. \quad (A4)
 \end{aligned}$$

We have not been able to derive  $e = 0$  from (A4) without restrictions on the background space.

## 2. $\mathcal{L}_{nFP}$

For arbitrary backgrounds if we choose  $d_9 = -d_3 - d_4 - 2d_5 - d_7$  and  $d_2 = -(2d_1 + d_5 + 2d_8)/8$  and assume  $c \neq -1/4$ , the scalar constraint (60) becomes simply  $e = 0$ . Putting those results back into (58) and (59), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{C}_\rho = & (1 - 2d_3 - 2d_6) R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha} \nabla^\alpha e^{\lambda\sigma} + (1 + 2d_6) R_{\rho\lambda\sigma\alpha} \nabla^\alpha e^{\sigma\lambda} + d_5 R_{\alpha\beta} \nabla_\rho e^{\alpha\beta} \\
 & + \left( \frac{1}{2} - 2d_3 - 2d_6 + d_7 \right) e^{\lambda\sigma} \nabla_\lambda R_{\sigma\rho} + (-1 + 2d_3 + d_5) e^{\lambda\sigma} \nabla_\rho R_{\sigma\lambda} \\
 & + \left( \frac{1}{2} + 2d_4 + 2d_6 \right) e^{\sigma\lambda} \nabla_\lambda R_{\sigma\rho} + \left( \frac{1}{2} - 2d_3 - 2d_4 - 4d_5 - 2d_7 \right) R^{\lambda\mu} \nabla_\mu e_{\rho\lambda} \\
 & + 2d_1 R \nabla^\sigma e_{\rho\sigma} + \left( \frac{1}{4} + 2d_1 - d_3 - d_4 - 2d_5 - d_7 \right) e_{\rho\sigma} \nabla^\sigma R \\
 & + \left( 2d_4 - \frac{1}{2} \right) R_{\lambda\rho} \nabla_\mu e^{\lambda\mu} + \left( \frac{1}{4} + \frac{d_7}{2} + 2d_8 \right) e_{\lambda\rho} \nabla^\lambda R + (2d_8 R - m^2) \nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho} \\
 & + \left( \frac{1}{2} + d_7 \right) R^{\lambda\alpha} \nabla_\alpha e_{\lambda\rho} + \left( \frac{1}{6} + d_7 \right) R_{\lambda\rho} \nabla_\mu e^{\mu\lambda}, \quad (A5)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{\rho\sigma} = & \frac{2}{3}(\nabla_\rho \nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\sigma} - \nabla_\sigma \nabla^\lambda e_{\lambda\rho}) + \left(m^2 + 2(d_1 - d_8)R\right)(e_{\rho\sigma} - e_{\sigma\rho}) \\
& + 2(2d_6 + d_3)R_{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}e^{\alpha\beta} + (2d_4 - d_7)(R_\rho{}^\beta e_{\beta\sigma} - R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\beta\rho}) \\
& + (2d_3 + 2d_4 + 4d_5 + 3d_7)(R_\rho{}^\beta e_{\sigma\beta} - R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\rho\beta}) = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{A6}$$

There are still second derivatives in  $C_{\rho\sigma}$ . We could think of determining  $\nabla^\sigma e_{\sigma\rho}$  as a function of the remaining terms in (A5) at  $d_8 = 0$  and plugging it back in (A6) which leads to

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{\rho\sigma} = & \frac{4}{3m^2} \left[ (1 - 2d_3 - 2d_6)R_{[\sigma\lambda\beta\mu}\nabla_{\rho]} \nabla^\mu e^{\lambda\beta} + (1 + 2d_6)R_{[\sigma\lambda\beta\mu}\nabla_{\rho]} \nabla^\mu e^{\beta\lambda} \right. \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2d_3 - 2d_4 - 4d_5 - 2d_7\right)R^{\lambda\mu}\nabla_{[\rho}\nabla_{\mu}e_{\sigma]\lambda} + \left(\frac{1}{2} + d_7\right)R^{\lambda\mu}\nabla_{[\rho}\nabla_{\mu}e_{\lambda\sigma]} \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{6} + d_7\right)R_{\mu[\sigma}\nabla_{\rho]}\nabla_\lambda e^{\lambda\mu} + \left(-\frac{1}{2} + 2d_4\right)R_{\mu[\sigma}\nabla_{\rho]}\nabla_\lambda e^{\mu\lambda} + d_5R_{\alpha\beta}\nabla_{[\rho}\nabla_{\sigma]}e^{\alpha\beta} \\
& \left. + 2d_1R\nabla_{[\rho}\nabla^{\beta}e_{\sigma]\beta} + \nabla_{[\rho}\mathcal{F}_{\sigma]} \right] + (m^2 + 2(d_1 - d_8)R)(e_{\rho\sigma} - e_{\sigma\rho}) \\
& + 2(2d_6 + d_3)R_{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}e^{\alpha\beta} + (2d_4 - d_7)(R_\rho{}^\beta e_{\beta\sigma} - R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\beta\rho}) \\
& + (2d_3 + 2d_4 + 4d_5 + 3d_7)(R_\rho{}^\beta e_{\sigma\beta} - R_\sigma{}^\beta e_{\rho\beta})
\end{aligned} \tag{A7}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}_\alpha$  does not contain any derivative of  $e_{\rho\sigma}$  and is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{F}_\alpha \doteq & \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2d_3 - 2d_6 + d_7\right)e^{\lambda\mu}\nabla_\lambda R_{\mu\alpha} + (-1 + 2d_3 + d_5)e^{\lambda\mu}\nabla_\alpha R_{\mu\lambda} \\
& + \left(\frac{1}{2} + 2d_4 + 2d_6\right)e^{\mu\lambda}\nabla_\lambda R_{\mu\alpha} + \left(\frac{1}{4} + 2d_1 - d_3 - d_4 - 2d_5 - d_7\right)e_{\alpha\lambda}\nabla^\lambda R + \left(\frac{1}{4} + \frac{d_7}{2}\right)e_{\lambda\alpha}\nabla^\lambda R.
\end{aligned} \tag{A8}$$

Unfortunately, without any restriction on the background space we have not been able to avoid second derivatives of  $e_{\mu\nu}$  in the tensor constraint (A7). Therefore, just like the  $\mathcal{L}^g(a_1)$  case, we are led to Einstein spaces  $R_{\mu\nu} = \frac{R}{4}g_{\mu\nu}$  once again.

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