

Brane-bulk energy exchange and the Universe as a global attractor ^{*}.

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Abstract

The assumption that our Universe is close to a late time fixed point of the equations of cosmology, leads to a modification of the latter to include energy exchange between the matter and the "dark energy". The brane-world scenario provides a natural set-up for such energy exchange and is analyzed in detail. The role of brane-bulk energy exchange and of an induced gravity term on a single braneworld of negative tension and vanishing effective cosmological constant is studied. It is shown that for the physically interesting cases of dust and radiation a unique global attractor which can realize our present universe (accelerating and $0 < \Omega_{m0} < 1$) exists for a wide range of the parameters of the model. For $\Omega_{m0} = 0.3$, independently of the other parameters, the model predicts that the equation of state for the dark energy today is $w_{DE,0} = -1.4$, while $\Omega_{m0} = 0.03$ leads to $w_{DE,0} = -1.03$. In addition, during its evolution, w_{DE} crosses the $w_{DE} = -1$ line to smaller values.

1 Motivation - Introduction - Conclusions

The use of renormalization group and fixed point ideas in various efforts to understand the symmetries or the parameter values chosen by Nature, is not new [2]. Imagine that the equations of cosmology have a late time fixed point. This means that as long as the Universe is old enough, the values of its observable quantities, simple expressions in terms of the fundamental parameters, should be close to their values at the fixed point. Then, the answer to the coincidence question "why it is that today Ω_{m0} and $\Omega_{DE,0}$ are of the same order of magnitude", instead of relying on a fine-tuning of *initial conditions*, it reduces to an appropriate choice of the *parameters* of the theory, which should not require any serious fine-tuning.

However, as we will now demonstrate, the equations of standard cosmology do not accommodate our Universe as a late-time fixed point. Specifically, I will show that

If the energy density of a perfect fluid with equation of state $w > -1/3$ of any cosmological system is conserved, all fixed points of the system with $\Omega_m \neq 0$ are decelerating. This contradicts the acceleration of our Universe.

Indeed, with ρ the energy density of the perfect fluid, the equations of cosmology are

$$\begin{aligned} H^2 - 2\gamma(\rho + \rho_{DE}) &= 0 \\ \dot{\rho} + 3(1+w)H\rho &= 0 \\ \dot{\rho}_{DE} + 3(1+w_{DE})H\rho_{DE} &= 0 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where $\gamma = 4\pi G_N/3$. The first is the standard Hubble equation. The second is the matter energy conservation. The equation for ρ_{DE} can always be brought into the above form, where

^{*}This talk is based on work with G. Kofinas and Gr. Panotopoulos [1]

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w_{DE} is in general time as well as model dependent. Using (1), it is straightforward to derive $d(\Omega_m/\Omega_{DE})/d\ln a = 3(\Omega_m/\Omega_{DE})(w_{DE}-w)$ and $2q = 1+3(w\Omega_m+w_{DE}\Omega_{DE})$, where $\Omega_m = 2\gamma\rho/H^2$, $\Omega_{DE} = 2\gamma\rho_{DE}/H^2$ and $q = -\ddot{a}/aH^2$. At the fixed point (denoted by $*$) $d(\Omega_m/\Omega_{DE})/d\ln a = 0$. For $\Omega_{m*} \neq 0$ one obtains $w_{DE*} = w$, and consequently, $2q_* = 1+3w > 0$ Q.E.D.

Thus, independently of the cosmological model, the only way our *accelerating* universe with $\Omega_{m*} \neq 0$ can be close to a late time fixed point is by *violating the standard conservation equation of matter*.

Braneworlds are a natural set-up for such matter non-conservation. The observable Universe is represented by a 3-brane embedded in a higher dimensional bulk and the above violation may be the result of energy exchange between the brane and the bulk. In particular in five dimensions, a universe with fixed points characterized by $\Omega_{m*} \neq 0$, $q_* < 0$ was realized in [3] in the context of the Randall-Sundrum braneworld scenario with energy influx from the bulk. However, those fixed points cannot represent the present universe, since they have $\Omega_{m*} > 2$. Here I will present a brane-bulk energy exchange model with induced gravity, whose global attractor *can* represent today's universe. Four-dimensional scenaria with accelerating late time cosmological phase may be found in [4].

An interesting result: Let us, then, generalize the equations of cosmology to allow for violation of matter energy conservation, due to some hypothetical "interaction".

$$\begin{aligned} H^2 - 2\gamma(\rho + \rho_{DE}) &= 0 \\ \dot{\rho} + 3(1+w)H\rho &= -T \\ \dot{\rho}_{DE} + 3(1+w_{DE})H\rho_{DE} &= T \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Given the second equation of (2), the equation governing ρ_{DE} can always be brought into the above form, where w_{DE} is time and model dependent. If, in addition, at the fixed point

$$H_*T_* \neq 0, \quad \dot{\rho} = \dot{\rho}_{DE} = 0, \quad (3)$$

one obtains

$$w_{DE*} = -1 - \frac{1+w}{\Omega_{m*}^{-1} - 1}. \quad (4)$$

A few comments are in order here. (a) Equation (4) is *universal*. It does not depend on the form of T or the function $w_{DE}(t)$. (b) For $\Omega_{m*} < 1$ equation (4) gives $w_{DE*} < -1$. (c) In the phenomenologically interesting case of $w=0$ and $\Omega_{m*} = \Omega_{CDM} = 0.3$, i.e. if we take the present value of matter density to include the cold dark matter, one obtains $w_{DE*} = -1.4$. Finally, (d) assuming that the dark matter is not part of ρ_{matter} , $\Omega_{m*} = \Omega_{bar} = 0.03$, and one obtains $w_{DE*} = -1.03$. It is not surprising that once you allow for influx from the bulk, you may obtain constant acceleration in the observable Universe. After all, this is similar to the steady state universe. What is surprising is that leads to the specific universal prediction for the dark energy equation of state, which in addition, has been favored by some recent analyses of the cosmological data.

A braneworld model with a 3-brane embedded in a 5-dimensional bulk will be presented, whose equations will be explicitly brought into the form of equations (2). For a wide range of parameters they have a late time global attractor, representing an accelerating universe with constant energy density on the brane, sustained by energy influx from the bulk. As we argued above, the fixed point satisfies (3), (4). Moreover, via a numerical integration it will be shown that for a wide range of initial conditions the universe, during its evolution, crosses the $w_{DE} = -1$ line from higher values. Interestingly enough, these features are favored by several model-independent [5] as well as model-dependent [6, 7, 8, 9] analyzes of the astronomical data.

2 The model

We shall assume that we live on a 3-brane embedded in five dimensional AdS space-time. We consider the model described by the gravitational brane-bulk action [10]

$$S = \int d^5x \sqrt{-g} (M^3 R - \Lambda) + \int d^4x \sqrt{-h} (m^2 \hat{R} - V), \quad (5)$$

where R, \hat{R} are the curvature scalars of the bulk metric g_{AB} and the induced metric $h_{AB} = g_{AB} - n_A n_B$ respectively (n^A is the unit vector normal to the brane and $A, B = 0, 1, 2, 3, 5$). The bulk cosmological constant is $\Lambda/2M^3 < 0$, the brane tension is V , and the induced-gravity crossover scale is $r_c = m^2/M^3$.

We assume the cosmological bulk ansatz

$$ds^2 = -n(t, y)^2 dt^2 + a(t, y)^2 \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j + b(t, y)^2 dy^2, \quad (6)$$

where γ_{ij} is a maximally symmetric 3-dimensional metric, parameterized by the spatial curvature $k = -1, 0, 1$. The non-zero components of the five-dimensional Einstein tensor are

$$G_{00} = 3 \left\{ \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a} + \frac{\dot{b}}{b} \right) - \frac{n^2}{b^2} \left[\frac{a''}{a} + \frac{a'}{a} \left(\frac{a'}{a} - \frac{b'}{b} \right) \right] + \frac{kn^2}{a^2} \right\} \quad (7)$$

$$G_{ij} = \frac{a^2}{b^2} \gamma_{ij} \left\{ \frac{a'}{a} \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{2n'}{n} \right) - \frac{b'}{b} \left(\frac{n'}{n} + \frac{2a'}{a} \right) + \frac{2a''}{a} + \frac{n''}{n} \right\} \\ + \frac{a^2}{n^2} \gamma_{ij} \left\{ \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \left(\frac{2\dot{n}}{n} - \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \right) - \frac{2\ddot{a}}{a} + \frac{\dot{b}}{b} \left(\frac{\dot{n}}{n} - \frac{2\dot{a}}{a} \right) - \frac{\ddot{b}}{b} \right\} - k \gamma_{ij} \quad (8)$$

$$G_{05} = 3 \left(\frac{n'}{n} \frac{\dot{a}}{a} + \frac{a'}{a} \frac{\dot{b}}{b} - \frac{\dot{a}'}{a} \right) \quad (9)$$

$$G_{55} = 3 \left\{ \frac{a'}{a} \left(\frac{a'}{a} + \frac{n'}{n} \right) - \frac{b^2}{n^2} \left[\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} + \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a} - \frac{\dot{n}}{n} \right) \right] - \frac{kb^2}{a^2} \right\}, \quad (10)$$

where primes indicate derivatives with respect to y , and dots derivatives with respect to t . The five-dimensional Einstein equations take the usual form

$$G_{AC} = \frac{1}{2M^3} T_{AC}|_{tot}, \quad (11)$$

where

$$T_C^A|_{tot} = T_C^A|_{v,B} + T_C^A|_{m,B} + T_C^A|_{v,b} + T_C^A|_{m,b} + T_C^A|_{ind} \quad (12)$$

is the total energy-momentum tensor,

$$T_C^A|_{v,B} = \text{diag}(-\Lambda, -\Lambda, -\Lambda, -\Lambda, -\Lambda) \quad (13)$$

$$T_C^A|_{v,b} = \text{diag}(-V, -V, -V, -V, 0) \frac{\delta(y)}{b} \quad (14)$$

$$T_C^A|_{m,b} = \text{diag}(-\rho, p, p, p, 0) \frac{\delta(y)}{b}. \quad (15)$$

$T_C^A|_{m,B}$ is any possible additional energy-momentum in the bulk, the brane matter content $T_C^A|_{m,b}$ consists of a perfect fluid with energy density ρ and pressure p , while the contributions arising from the scalar curvature of the brane are given by

$$T_0^0|_{ind} = \frac{6m^2}{n^2} \left(\frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} + \frac{kn^2}{a^2} \right) \frac{\delta(y)}{b} \quad (16)$$

$$T_j^i|_{ind} = \frac{2m^2}{n^2} \left(\frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} - \frac{2\dot{a}\dot{n}}{an} + \frac{2\ddot{a}}{a} + \frac{kn^2}{a^2} \right) \delta_j^i \frac{\delta(y)}{b}. \quad (17)$$

Assuming a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry around the brane, the singular part of equations (11) gives the matching conditions

$$\frac{a'_{o+}}{a_o b_o} = -\frac{\rho+V}{12M^3} + \frac{r_c}{2n_o^2} \left(\frac{\dot{a}_o^2}{a_o^2} + \frac{kn_o^2}{a_o^2} \right) \quad (18)$$

$$\frac{n'_{o+}}{n_o b_o} = \frac{2\rho+3p-V}{12M^3} + \frac{r_c}{2n_o^2} \left(\frac{2\ddot{a}_o}{a_o} - \frac{\dot{a}_o^2}{a_o^2} - \frac{2\dot{a}_o \dot{n}_o}{a_o n_o} - \frac{kn_o^2}{a_o^2} \right) \quad (19)$$

(the subscript o denotes the value on the brane), while from the 05, 55 components of equations (11) we obtain

$$\frac{n'_o \dot{a}_o}{n_o a_o} + \frac{a'_o \dot{b}_o}{a_o b_o} - \frac{\dot{a}'_o}{a_o} = \frac{T_{05}}{6M^3} \quad (20)$$

$$\frac{a'_o}{a_o} \left(\frac{a'_o}{a_o} + \frac{n'_o}{n_o} \right) - \frac{b_o^2}{n_o^2} \left[\frac{\ddot{a}_o}{a_o} + \frac{\dot{a}_o}{a_o} \left(\frac{\dot{a}_o}{a_o} - \frac{\dot{n}_o}{n_o} \right) \right] - \frac{kb_o^2}{a_o^2} = \frac{T_{55} - \Lambda b_o^2}{6M^3}, \quad (21)$$

where T_{05}, T_{55} are the 05 and 55 components of $T_{AC}|_{m,B}$ evaluated on the brane. Substituting the expressions (18), (19) in equations (20), (21), we obtain the semi-conservation law and the Raychaudhuri equation

$$\dot{\rho} + 3\frac{\dot{a}_o}{a_o}(\rho + p) = -\frac{2n_o^2}{b_o} T_5^0 \quad (22)$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \left(H_o^2 + \frac{k}{a_o^2} \right) \left[1 - \frac{r_c^2(\rho+3p-2V)}{24m^2} \right] + \frac{r_c^2(\rho+3p-2V)(\rho+V)}{144m^4} \\ & + \left(\frac{\dot{H}_o}{n_o} + H_o^2 \right) \left[1 - \frac{r_c^2}{2} \left(H_o^2 + \frac{k}{a_o^2} \right) + \frac{r_c^2(\rho+V)}{12m^2} \right] = \frac{\Lambda - T_5^5}{6M^3}, \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

where $H_o = \dot{a}_o/a_o n_o$ is the Hubble parameter of the brane. One can easily check that in the limit $m \rightarrow 0$, equation (23) reduces to the corresponding second order equation of the model without \hat{R} [3]. Energy exchange between the brane and the bulk has also been investigated in [11, 12, 13].

Since only the 55 component of $T_{AC}|_{m,B}$ enters equation (23), one can derive a cosmological system that is largely independent of the bulk dynamics, if at the position of the brane the contribution of this component relative to the bulk vacuum energy is much less important than the brane matter relative to the brane vacuum energy, or schematically

$$\left| \frac{T_5^5}{\Lambda} \right| \ll \left| \frac{\rho}{V} \right|. \quad (24)$$

Then, for $|\Lambda|$ not much larger than the Randall-Sundrum value $V^2/12M^3$, the term T_5^5 in equation (23) can be ignored. Alternatively, the term T_5^5 can be ignored in equation (23) if simply

$$\left| \frac{T_5^5}{\Lambda} \right| \ll 1. \quad (25)$$

Note that relations (24) and (25) are only boundary conditions for T_5^5 , which in a realistic description in terms of bulk fields will be translated into boundary conditions on these fields. In the special case where (24), (25) are valid throughout the bulk, the latter remains unperturbed by the exchange of energy with the brane.

One can now check that a first integral of equation (23) is

$$\begin{aligned} H_o^4 - \frac{2H_o^2}{3} \left(\frac{\rho+V}{2m^2} + \frac{6}{r_c^2} - \frac{3k}{a_o^2} \right) + \left(\frac{\rho+V}{6m^2} - \frac{k}{a_o^2} \right)^2 + \\ + \frac{4}{r_c^2} \left(\frac{\Lambda}{12M^3} - \frac{k}{a_o^2} \right) - \frac{\chi}{3r_c^2} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

with χ satisfying

$$\dot{\chi} + 4n_o H_o \chi = \frac{r_c^2 n_o^2 T}{m^2 b_o} \left(H_o^2 - \frac{\rho+V}{6m^2} + \frac{k}{a_o^2} \right), \quad (27)$$

and $T = 2T_5^0$ is the discontinuity across the brane of the 05 component of the bulk energy-momentum tensor. The solution of (26) for H_o is

$$H_o^2 = \frac{\rho+V}{6m^2} + \frac{2}{r_c^2} - \frac{k}{a_o^2} \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}r_c} \left[\frac{2(\rho+V)}{m^2} + \frac{12}{r_c^2} - \frac{\Lambda}{M^3} + \chi \right]^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (28)$$

and equation (27) becomes

$$\dot{\chi} + 4n_o H_o \chi = \frac{2n_o^2 T}{m^2 b_o} \left\{ 1 \pm \frac{r_c}{2\sqrt{3}} \left[\frac{2(\rho+V)}{m^2} + \frac{12}{r_c^2} - \frac{\Lambda}{M^3} + \chi \right]^{\frac{1}{2}} \right\}. \quad (29)$$

At this point we find it convenient to employ a coordinate frame in which $b_o = n_o = 1$ in the above equations. This can be achieved by using Gauss normal coordinates with $b(t, z) = 1$, and by going to the temporal gauge on the brane with $n_o = 1$. It is also convenient to define the parameters

$$\lambda = \frac{2V}{m^2} + \frac{12}{r_c^2} - \frac{\Lambda}{M^3} \quad (30)$$

$$\mu = \frac{V}{6m^2} + \frac{2}{r_c^2} \quad (31)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{12m^2} \quad (32)$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}r_c}. \quad (33)$$

For a perfect fluid on the brane with equation of state $p = w\rho$ the cosmology on the brane is described by equations (22), (28), (29), which simplify to (we omit the subscript o in the following)

$$\dot{\rho} + 3(1+w)H\rho = -T \quad (34)$$

$$H^2 = \mu + 2\gamma\rho \pm \beta\sqrt{\lambda + 24\gamma\rho + \chi} - \frac{k}{a^2} \quad (35)$$

$$\dot{\chi} + 4H\chi = 24\gamma T \left(1 \pm \frac{1}{6\beta}\sqrt{\lambda + 24\gamma\rho + \chi} \right), \quad (36)$$

while the second order equation (23) for the scale factor becomes

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \mu - (1+3w)\gamma\rho \pm \beta \frac{\lambda + 6(1-3w)\gamma\rho}{\sqrt{\lambda + 24\gamma\rho + \chi}}. \quad (37)$$

Equivalently, setting $\psi \equiv \sqrt{\lambda + 24\gamma\rho + \chi}$, equations (35), (36), (37) take the form

$$H^2 = \mu + 2\gamma\rho \pm \beta\psi - \frac{k}{a^2} \quad (38)$$

$$\dot{\psi} + 2H\left(\psi - \frac{\lambda + 6(1-3w)\gamma\rho}{\psi}\right) = \pm \frac{2\gamma T}{\beta} \quad (39)$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \mu - (1+3w)\gamma\rho \pm \beta \frac{\lambda + 6(1-3w)\gamma\rho}{\psi}. \quad (40)$$

Throughout, we will assume $T(\rho) = A\rho^\nu$, with $\nu > 0$, A constant parameters [3, 14]. Notice that the system of equations (34)-(36) has the influx-outflow symmetry $T \rightarrow -T$, $H \rightarrow -H$, $t \rightarrow -t$. For $T = 0$ the system reduces to the cosmology studied in [15].

We will be referring to the upper (lower) \pm solution as Branch A (Branch B). We shall be interested in a model that reduces to the Randall-Sundrum vacuum in the absence of matter, i.e. it has vanishing effective cosmological constant. This is achieved for $\mu = \mp\beta\sqrt{\lambda}$, which, given that $m^2V + 12M^6$ is negative (positive) for branches A (B), is equivalent to the fine-tuning $\Lambda = -V^2/12M^3$. Notice that for Branch A, V is necessarily negative. Cosmologies with negative brane tension in the induced gravity scenario have also been discussed in [16].

Consider the case $k = 0$. The system possesses the obvious fixed point $(\rho_*, H_*, \psi_*) = (0, 0, \sqrt{\lambda})$. However, for $\text{sgn}(H)T < 0$ there are non-trivial fixed points, which are found by setting $\dot{\rho} = \dot{\psi} = 0$ in equations (34), (39). For $w \leq 1/3$ these are:

$$\frac{2T(\rho_*)^2}{9(1+w)^2\rho_*^2} = 2\mu + (1-3w)\gamma\rho_* \pm \sqrt{9(1+w)^2\gamma^2\rho_*^2 + 4\beta^2[\lambda + 6(1-3w)\gamma\rho_*]} \quad (41)$$

$$H_* = -\frac{T(\rho_*)}{3(1+w)\rho_*} \quad (42)$$

$$\psi_*^2 \pm \frac{3(1+w)}{\beta}\gamma\rho_*\psi_* - [\lambda + 6(1-3w)\gamma\rho_*] = 0. \quad (43)$$

Equation (40) gives

$$\left(\frac{\ddot{a}}{a}\right)_* = \frac{T(\rho_*)^2}{9(1+w)^2\rho_*^2}, \quad (44)$$

which is positive, and also, it has the same form (as a function of ρ_*) as in the absence of \hat{R} . The deceleration parameter is found to have the value

$$q_* = -1, \quad (45)$$

which means $\dot{H}_* = 0$. Furthermore, at this fixed point we find

$$\Omega_{m*} \equiv \frac{2\gamma\rho_*}{H_*^2} = \frac{18(1+w)^2}{A^2}\gamma\rho_*^{3-2\nu}. \quad (46)$$

Equation (41), when expressed in terms of Ω_{m*} , has only one root for each branch

$$\rho_* = \frac{\beta}{2\gamma} \frac{6(1-3w)\beta \pm \sqrt{\lambda}(1-3w-4\Omega_{m*}^{-1})}{(2\Omega_{m*}^{-1}+1+3w)(\Omega_{m*}^{-1}-1)}. \quad (47)$$

However, it can be seen from (47) that for $-1 \leq w \leq 1/3$ and $\Omega_{m*} < 1$ the Branch B is inconsistent with equation (41). On the contrary, Branch A with $-1 \leq w \leq 1/3$ and $\Omega_{m*} < 1$ is consistent for $0 < 6(1-3w)\beta + \sqrt{\lambda}(1-3w-4\Omega_{m*}^{-1}) < 3\sqrt{4(1-3w)^2\beta^2 - (1+w)^2\lambda}$. Thus, since we are interested in realizing the present universe as a fixed point, Branch B should be rejected, and from now on we will only consider Branch A. So, we have seen until now that *for negative brane tension, we can have a fixed point of our model with acceleration and $0 < \Omega_{m*} < 1$* . This behavior is qualitatively different from the one obtained in the context of the model presented in [3] (for $-1/3 \leq w \leq 1/3$), where for positive brane tension we have $\Omega_{m*} > 2$, while for negative brane tension the universe necessarily exhibited deceleration; therefore, in that model the idea that the present universe is close to a fixed point could not be realized.

3 Critical point analysis

We shall restrict ourselves to the flat case $k=0$. In order to study the dynamics of the system, it is convenient to use (dimensionless) flatness parameters such that the state space is compact [17]. Defining

$$\omega_m = \frac{2\gamma\rho}{D^2}, \quad \omega_\psi = \frac{\beta\psi}{D^2}, \quad Z = \frac{H}{D}, \quad (48)$$

where $D = \sqrt{H^2 - \mu}$, we obtain the equations

$$\omega_m + \omega_\psi = 1 \quad (49)$$

$$\omega'_m = \omega_m \left[(1+3w)(\omega_m-1)Z - \frac{A}{\sqrt{|\mu|}} \left(\frac{|\mu|\omega_m}{2\gamma} \right)^{\nu-1} (1-Z^2)^{\frac{3}{2}-\nu} - 2Z(1-Z^2) \frac{1-Z^2-3(1-3w)\beta^2\mu^{-1}\omega_m}{1-\omega_m} \right] \quad (50)$$

$$Z' = (1-Z^2) \left[(1-Z^2) \frac{1-Z^2-3(1-3w)\beta^2\mu^{-1}\omega_m}{1-\omega_m} - 1 - \frac{1+3w}{2}\omega_m \right], \quad (51)$$

with $' = d/d\tau = D^{-1}d/dt$. Note that $-1 \leq Z \leq 1$, while both ω 's satisfy $0 \leq \omega \leq 1$. The deceleration parameter is given by

$$q = \frac{1}{Z^2} \left[\frac{1+3w}{2}\omega_m - (1-Z^2) \frac{\omega_m - Z^2 - 3(1-3w)\beta^2\mu^{-1}\omega_m}{1-\omega_m} \right] \quad (52)$$

and $H' = -HZ(q+1)$. The system of equations (50)-(51) inherits from equations (34)-(36) the symmetry $A \rightarrow -A$, $Z \rightarrow -Z$, $\tau \rightarrow -\tau$. The system written in the new variables contains only three parameters. However, going back to the physical quantities H , ρ one will need specific values of two more parameters.

It is obvious that the points with $|Z| = 1$ have $H = \infty$. Therefore, from (38) it arises that the infinite density $\rho = \infty$ big bang (big crunch) singularity, when it appears, is represented by one of the points with $Z = 1$ ($Z = -1$). The points with $\omega_m = 1$, $|Z| \neq 1, 0$ have $\omega'_m = \infty$, $Z' = \infty$ and finite ρ , H ; for $w \leq 1/3$, one has in addition $\ddot{a}/a = +\infty$, i.e. divergent 4D curvature scalar on the brane.

The system possesses, generically, the fixed point (a) $(\omega_{m*}, \omega_{\psi*}, Z_*) = (0, 1, 0)$, which corresponds to the fixed point $(\rho_*, H_*, \psi_*) = (0, 0, \sqrt{\lambda})$ discussed above. For $\nu \leq 3/2$ there are in addition the fixed points (b) $(\omega_{m*}, \omega_{\psi*}, Z_*) = (0, 1, 1)$ and (c) $(\omega_{m*}, \omega_{\psi*}, Z_*) = (0, 1, -1)$. All these critical points are either non-hyperbolic, or their characteristic matrix is not defined at all; thus, their stability cannot be studied by first order perturbation analysis. In cases like these, one can find non-conventional behaviors (such as saddle-nodes and cusps [18]) of the flow-chart near the critical points. There are two more candidate fixed points (d) $(\omega_{m*}, \omega_{\psi*}, Z_*) = (1, 0, 1)$ and (e) $(\omega_{m*}, \omega_{\psi*}, Z_*) = (1, 0, -1)$, whose existence cannot be confirmed directly from the dynamical system, since they make equations (50), (51) undetermined. Apart from the above, there are other critical points given by

$$\frac{A}{\sqrt{|\mu|}} \left(\frac{|\mu|\omega_{m*}}{2\gamma} \right)^{\nu-1} = - \frac{3(1+w)Z_*}{(1-Z_*^2)^{\frac{3}{2}-\nu}} \quad (53)$$

$$(1+3w)\omega_{m*}^2 + (1-3w) \left[1 - \frac{6\beta^2}{\mu}(1-Z_*^2) \right] \omega_{m*} - 2[1 - (1-Z_*^2)^2] = 0. \quad (54)$$

They exist only for $AZ_* < 0$ and correspond to the ones given by equations (41)-(43). For the physically interesting case $w = 0$ with influx we scanned the parameter space and were convinced that for $\nu \neq 3/2$ there is always only one fixed point; for $\nu < 3/2$ this is an attractor (A), while for $\nu > 3/2$ this is a saddle (S). For $w = 0$, $\nu = 3/2$ there is either one fixed point (attractor) or no fixed points, depending on the parameters. For the other characteristic value $w = 1/3$, we concluded that for $\nu < 3/2$ there is only one fixed point (attractor), for $\nu > 2$ there is only one fixed point (saddle), while for $3/2 < \nu < 2$ there are either two fixed points (one attractor and one saddle) or no fixed points at all, depending on the parameters. For $w = 1/3$, $\nu = 3/2$ there

is either one fixed point (attractor) or no fixed points. Finally, for $w=1/3$, $\nu=2$ there is either one fixed point (saddle) or no fixed points. These results were obtained numerically for a wide range of parameters and are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

	$\nu < 3/2$	$\nu = 3/2$	$\nu > 3/2$
No. of F.P.	1	0 or 1	1
Nature	A	A	S

Table 1: The fixed points for $w=0$, influx

	$\nu < 3/2$	$\nu = 3/2$	$3/2 < \nu < 2$	$\nu = 2$	$\nu > 2$
No. of F.P.	1	0 or 1	0 or 2	0 or 1	1
Nature	A	A	A,S	S	S

Table 2: The fixed points for $w=1/3$, influx

The approach to an attractor described by the linear approximation of (50)-(51) is exponential in τ and takes infinite time τ for the universe to reach it. Given that near this fixed point the relation between the cosmic time t and the time τ is linear, we conclude that it also takes infinite cosmic time to reach the attractor.

Defining $\epsilon = \text{sgn}(H)$, we see from (50)-(51) that the lines $Z = \epsilon$ ($\nu \leq 3/2$), $\omega_m = 0$ are orbits of the system. Furthermore, the family of solutions with $Z \approx \epsilon$ and $dZ/d\omega_m = Z'/\omega'_m \approx 0$ is approximately described for $\nu < 3/2$ by $\omega'_m = \epsilon(1+3w)\omega_m(\omega_m - 1)$, and thus, they move away from the point $(\omega_{m*}, Z_*) = (1, 1)$, while they approach the point $(\omega_{m*}, Z_*) = (1, -1)$. In addition, the solution of this equation is $\omega_m = [1 + ce^{\epsilon(1+3w)\tau}]^{-1}$, with $c > 0$ an integration constant. Using this solution in equation $H'/H = -Z(q+1)$ we find that for $w = 1/3$, $H/H_o = \sqrt{\omega_m}/(1 - \omega_m)$, where H_o is another integration constant. Then, the equation for $\omega_m(t)$ becomes $d\omega_m/dt = -2\epsilon\omega_m\sqrt{H_o^2\omega_m - \mu(1 - \omega_m)^2}$, and can be integrated giving t as a function of ω_m or H . Therefore, in the region of the big bang/big crunch singularity one obtains $a(t) \sim \sqrt{\epsilon t}$, $\rho(t) \sim t^{-2}$, as in the standard radiation dominated big-bang scenario. This means that for $\nu < 3/2$ the energy exchange has no observable effects close to the big bang/big crunch singularity.

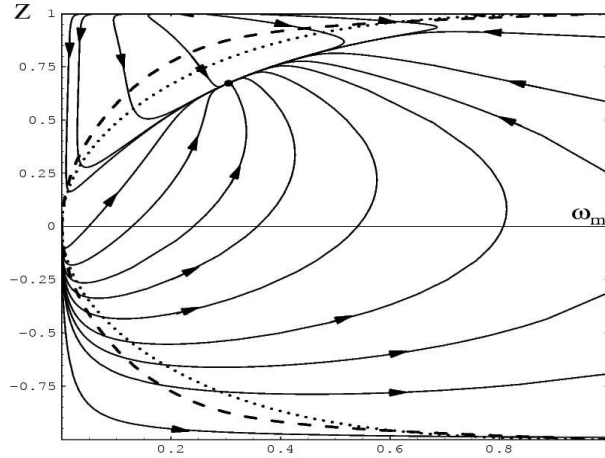


Figure 1: Influx, $w=0$, $\nu < 3/2$. The arrows show the direction of increasing cosmic time. The dotted line corresponds to $w_{DE} = -1$. The region inside (outside) the dashed line corresponds to acceleration (deceleration). The region with $Z > 0$ represents expansion, while $Z < 0$ represents collapse. The present universe is supposed to be close to the global attractor.

Since our proposal relies on the existence of an attractor, we shall restrict ourselves to the case $\nu < 3/2$. It is convenient to discuss the four possible cases separately:

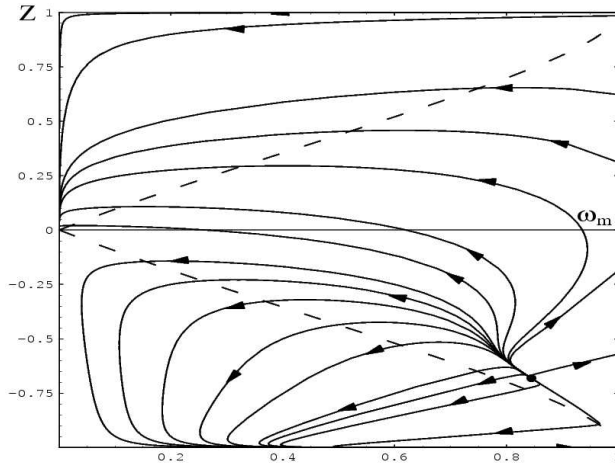


Figure 2: Outflow, $w=1/3$, $\nu < 3/2$. The arrows show the direction of increasing cosmic time. The region inside (outside) the dashed line corresponds to acceleration (deceleration). The region with $Z > 0$ represents expansion, while $Z < 0$ represents collapse.

(i) $w=0$ with influx. The generic behavior of the solutions of equations (50)-(51) is shown in Figure 1. We see that all the expanding solutions approach the global attractor. Furthermore, there is a class of collapsing solutions which bounce to expanding ones. Finally, there are solutions which collapse all during their lifetime to a state with finite ρ and H . The physically interesting solutions are those in the upper part of the diagram emanating from the big bang $(\omega, Z) \approx (1, 1)$. These solutions start with a period of deceleration. The subsequent evolution depends on the value of $3\beta^2/|\mu|$, which determines the relative position of the dashed and dotted lines. Specifically, for $3\beta^2/|\mu| > 1$ (the case of Figure 1) one distinguishes two possible classes of universe evolution. In the first, the universe crosses the dashed line entering the acceleration era still with $w_{DE} > -1$, and finally it crosses the dotted line to $w_{DE} < -1$ approaching the attractor. In the second, while in the deceleration era, it first crosses the dotted line to $w_{DE} < -1$, and then the dashed line entering the eternally accelerating era. For $3\beta^2/|\mu| \leq 1$, the dotted line lies above the dashed line, and, consequently, only the second class of trajectories exists. To connect with the discussion in the introduction, notice that the Friedmann equation (38) can be written in the form (1) with dark energy $\rho_{DE} = (\beta\psi + \mu)/2\gamma$. Using (39), the equation for ρ_{DE} takes the form (2) with

$$w_{DE} = \frac{-1}{3(1-\omega_m)} \left[2Z^2 - \omega_m - 1 - 6(1-3w) \frac{\beta^2}{\mu} \frac{\omega_m(1-Z^2)}{Z^2 - \omega_m} \right]. \quad (55)$$

The global attractor (41)-(43) satisfies relations (3) and consequently, w_{DE} evolves to the value w_{DE*} given by (4). As for the bouncing solutions, they approach the attractor after they cross the line $Z^2 = \omega_m$, where w_{DE} jumps from $+\infty$ to $-\infty$; however, the evolution of the observable quantities is regular.

(ii) $w=0$ with outflow. The generic behavior in this case is obtained from Figure 1 by the substitution $Z \rightarrow -Z$ and $\tau \rightarrow -\tau$, which reflects the diagram with respect to the ω_m axis and converts attractors to repellers.

(iii) $w=1/3$ with outflow. Figure 2 depicts the flow diagram of this case. Even though in the case of radiation in general $w_{DE} > -1/3$ from equation (55), there are both acceleration and deceleration regions. Furthermore, from equation (4) it is $\Omega_{m*} > 1$.

(iv) $w=1/3$ with influx. This arises like in (ii) by reflection of Figure 2 and resembles Figure 1.

4 Open questions

There is a number of features of the present scenario, which require further analysis. (a) One is the question of stability of the negative tension brane. In a fixed flat background, such a brane would be obviously unstable, by the formation of wild ripples on the brane. Such wild fluctuations increase the area of the brane and, with negative tension, have energy unbounded from below. However, here the situation is different, since the brane is in an AdS background and the effective cosmological constant on it is zero. The stability analysis of our scenario is currently under study. (b) It would be interesting to investigate if the partial success of the present scenario persists after one tries to fit the supernova data, the detailed CMB spectrum [19] and nucleosynthesis. (c) Finally, the construction of the complete higher dimensional theory, the specification of the nature of the content of the bulk and of the mechanism of energy exchange with the brane is another set of crucial open questions, which we hope to deal with in the not too distant future.

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