Crossing the cosmological constant line in a dilatonic brane-world model with and without curvature corrections

Mariam Bouhmadi-López\textsuperscript{1} and Antonio Ferrera\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1} Centro Multidisciplinar de Astrofísica-CENTRA, Departamento de Física, Instituto Superior Técnico, Avenida Rovisco Pais 1, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal
\textsuperscript{2} Centro de Física ‘Miguel A Catalán’, Instituto de Física Fundamental, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Serrano 121, 28006 Madrid, Spain
E-mail: mariam.bouhmadi@fisica.ist.utl.pt and a.ferrera.pardo@gmail.com

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Abstract. We construct a new brane-world model composed of a bulk with a dilatonic field, plus a brane with brane tension coupled to the dilaton, cold dark matter and an induced gravity term. It is possible to show that, depending on the nature of the coupling between the brane tension and the dilaton, this model can describe the late time acceleration of the brane expansion (for the normal branch) as it moves within the bulk. The acceleration is produced together with a mimicry of the crossing of the cosmological constant line ($w = -1$) on the brane, although this crossing of the phantom divide is obtained without invoking any phantom matter either on the brane or in the bulk. The role of dark energy is played by the brane tension, which reaches a maximum positive value along the cosmological expansion of the brane. It is precisely at that maximum that the crossing of the phantom divide takes place. We also show that these results remain valid when the induced gravity term on the brane is switched off.

Keywords: dark energy theory, cosmology with extra dimensions, cosmological applications of theories with extra dimensions

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1. Introduction

This is a very exciting time for cosmology with the overwhelming amount of new observational data that theorists try to explain. One of the biggest puzzles that the theoretical community faces is how to explain the recent speed-up in the universe rate of expansion discovered first through observations from distant type Ia supernova a decade ago [1, 2]. This late time acceleration of the universe was later on confirmed by other independent observational probes based for example on measurement of the cosmic microwave background radiation, the clustering of galaxies on very large scales and the baryon acoustic oscillations [3]–[8].

A plethora of different theoretical models have already been proposed for explaining this phenomenon [9], although unfortunately none of the models advanced so far is both completely convincing and well motivated. A cosmological constant corresponding to roughly two thirds of the total energy density of the universe is perhaps the simplest way to explain the late time speed-up of the universe—and in addition would match rather well the observational data. However, the expected theoretical value of the cosmological constant is about 120 orders of magnitude larger than the value needed to fit the data [10].

An alternative approach for explaining the late time acceleration is invoking an infrared modification of general relativity on large scales which, by weakening the gravitational interaction on those scales, allows the recent speed-up of the universal expansion. This approach is also motivated by the fact that we only have precision observations of gravity from sub-millimetre scales up to solar system scales while the Hubble radius, which is the scale relevant for the cosmic acceleration, is many orders of magnitude larger.

A quite promising scheme in this approach is the Dvali, Gabadadze and Porrati (DGP) model [11] which corresponds to a five-dimensional (5D) induced gravity braneworld model [12]–[16], where a low energy modification occurs with respect to general
relativity; i.e. an infrared effect takes place, leading to two branches of solutions: (i) the self-accelerating branch and (ii) the normal branch.

As its name would suggest, the self-accelerating branch solution gives rise to a late time accelerating brane universe. The acceleration of the brane expansion arises naturally, even without invoking the presence of any dark energy on the brane to produce the speed-up. Not surprisingly therefore, this self-accelerated feature of the DGP model has led to considerable research activity [17]. Furthermore, it has been recently shown that by embedding the DGP model in a higher dimensional space-time, the ghost issue present in the original model [18] may be resolved [19] while preserving the existence of a self-accelerating solution [20].

The normal branch also constitutes in itself a very interesting result of the DGP model however, as it can mimic a phantom-like behaviour on the brane by means of the \( \Lambda_{\text{DGP}} \) scenario [14]. In this respect we remind the reader that observational data do not seem incompatible with a phantom-like behaviour [6] and therefore we should keep an open mind about what is producing the recent inflationary era of our universe. On the other hand, this phantom-like behaviour may well be a property acquired only recently by dark energy. This leads to an interest in building models that exhibit the so called crossing of the phantom divide line \( w = -1 \), for example in the context of the brane-world scenario [15,21]. The most important aspect of the \( \Lambda_{\text{DGP}} \) model is that the phantom-like mimicry is obtained without invoking any real phantom matter [22] which is known to violate the null energy condition and induce quantum instabilities\(^3\) [23]. In the DGP scenario it is also possible to obtain a mimicry of the crossing of the phantom divide at the cost of invoking a dynamical dark energy on the brane [15], for example modelled by a quiessence fluid or a (generalized) Chaplygin gas.

In this paper we will show that there is an alternative form for mimicking the crossing the cosmological constant line \( w = -1 \) in the brane-world scenario. More precisely, we consider a 5D dilatonic bulk with a brane endowed with (or without) an induced gravity term, a brane matter content corresponding to cold dark matter, and a brane tension \( \lambda \) that depends on the minimally coupled bulk scalar field. We will show that in this set-up the normal branch expands in an accelerated way due to \( \lambda \) playing the role of dark energy—through its dependence on the bulk scalar field. In addition, it turns out that \( \lambda \) grows with the brane scale factor until it reaches a maximum positive value and then starts decreasing. Therefore, in our model the brane tension mimics crossing the phantom divide. Most importantly, no matter violating the null energy density is invoked in our model.

The paper can be outlined as follows. In section 2 we describe the general bulk plus brane scenario; in section 3 we then analyse the vacuum (i.e., \( \rho_m = 0 \)) solution to prepare the ground for the analysis carried out in section 4. There we show that, under some assumptions on the nature of the coupling parameters between \( \lambda \) and \( \phi \), \( 1 + w_{\text{eff}} \) changes sign as the brane evolves, with \( w_{\text{eff}} \) the effective equation of state for the brane tension. In section 5 we show that the presence of the induced gravity term is not a necessary ingredient for mimicking the crossing of the phantom divide line in this context. Our conclusions are presented in section 6. Finally, in the appendix we present an analytical proof for the mimicry of the crossing of the phantom divide in the model presented in section 2.

\(^3\) We are referring here to a phantom energy component described through a minimally coupled scalar field with the wrong kinetic term.
2. The set-up

We consider a brane, described by a 4D hypersurface \((h, \text{metric } g)\), embedded in a 5D bulk space–time \((\mathcal{B}, \text{metric } g^{(5)})\), whose action is given by

\[
S = \frac{1}{\kappa_5^2} \int_{\mathcal{B}} d^5X \sqrt{-g^{(5)}} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} R[g^{(5)}] + L_5 \right\} + \int_{h} d^4X \sqrt{-g} \left\{ \frac{1}{\kappa_5^2} K + L_4 \right\},
\]

where \(\kappa_5^2\) is the 5D gravitational constant, \(R[g^{(5)}]\) is the scalar curvature in the bulk and \(K\) the extrinsic curvature of the brane in the higher dimensional bulk, corresponding to the York–Gibbons–Hawking boundary term.

We consider a dilaton field \(\phi\) living on the bulk \([24,29]\) and choose \(\phi\) to be dimensionless. Then, the 5D Lagrangian \(L_5\) can be written as

\[
L_5 = -\frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 - V(\phi).
\]

The 4D Lagrangian \(L_4\) corresponds to

\[
L_4 = \alpha R[g] - \lambda(\phi) + \Omega^4 L_m(\Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu}).
\]

The first term on the right-hand side (rhs) of the previous equation corresponds to an induced gravity term \([11]–[14]\), where \(R[g]\) is the scalar curvature of the induced metric on the brane and \(\alpha\) is a positive parameter which measures the strength of the induced gravity term and has dimensions of mass squared. The term \(L_m\) in equation (3) describes the matter content of the brane and \(\lambda(\phi)\) is the brane tension, and we will restrict ourselves to the case where they are homogeneous and isotropic on the brane. We allow the brane matter content to be non-minimally coupled on the (5D) Einstein frame but to be minimally coupled with respect to a conformal metric \(\tilde{g}^{(5)}_{AB} = \Omega^{-2} g^{(5)}_{AB}\), where \(\Omega = \Omega(\phi) [24]\). Notice that for reasons of mathematical simplicity we have not included a similar coupling to the induced gravity term.

We are mainly interested in the cosmology of this system. It is known that for an expanding FLRW brane the unique bulk space–time in Einstein gravity (in vacuum) is a 5D Schwarzschild–anti-de Sitter space–time \([25,26]\). This property in principle cannot be extended to a 5D dilatonic bulk. On the other hand, we stress that the presence of an induced gravity term in the brane-world scenario affects only the dynamics of the brane, through the junction conditions at the brane, and does not affect the bulk field equations. Consequently, in order to study the effect of an induced gravity term in a brane-world dilatonic model, it is possible to consider a bulk corresponding to a dilatonic 5D space–time and later on impose the junction conditions at the brane location. The junction conditions will then determine the dynamics of the brane and constrain the brane tension. This is the approach that we will follow.

From now on, we consider a 5D dilatonic solution obtained by Feinstein et al \([27,28]\) without an induced gravity term on the brane. The 5D dilatonic solution reads \([28]\)

\[
ds_5^2 = \frac{1}{\xi^2 r^{2/3(k^2-3)}} dr^2 + r^2 (-dt^2 + \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j),
\]

where \(\gamma_{ij}\) is a 3D spatially flat metric. The bulk potential corresponds to

\[
V(\phi) = \Lambda \exp[-(2/3)k\phi].
\]
The parameters $k$ and $\xi$ in equation (4) measure the magnitude of the 5D cosmological constant $\Lambda$
\[ \Lambda = \frac{1}{2}(k^2 - 12)\xi^2. \]

The 5D scalar field scales logarithmically with the radial coordinate $r$ [28]
\[ \phi = k \log(r). \]

Now, we consider a FLRW brane filled only with cold dark matter (CDM), i.e. pressureless matter, and the brane tension $\lambda(\phi)$. As we will next show, the late time acceleration of the brane is driven by the brane tension through its dependence on the scalar field. On the other hand, the brane is considered to be embedded in the previous 5D dilatonic solution and its trajectory in the bulk is described by the following parametrization:
\[ t = t(\tau), \quad r = a(\tau), \quad x_i = \text{constant}, \quad i = 1 \ldots 3. \]

Here $\tau$ corresponds to the brane proper time. Then the brane metric reads
\[ ds^2_5 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = -d\tau^2 + a^2(\tau) \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j. \]

For an induced gravity brane-world model [12,16], there are two physical ways of embedding the brane in the bulk when a $\mathbb{Z}_2$-symmetry across the brane is assumed. Here, we are interested in the cosmology of the brane-world whose geometry directly generalizes that of the normal DGP branch\(^4\) because this geometrical construction allows a mimicry of the crossing of the cosmological constant line. Then, the location of the brane $r = a(\tau)$ is such that
\[ ds^2_5 = \frac{1}{\xi^2} r^{2/3(k^2-3)} dr^2 + r^2(-d\tau^2 + \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j), \quad r < a(\tau). \]

For simplicity, we will consider that the matter content of the brane is minimally coupled with respect to the conformal metric $g_{AB}^{(5)} = \exp(2b\phi) g_{AB}^{(5)}$; i.e. $\Omega = \exp(b\phi)$, where $b$ is a constant. We will also consider only the case\(^6\) $k > 0$; i.e. the scalar field is a growing function of the coordinate $r$. Then, the Israel junction condition at the brane [29] describes the cosmological evolution of the brane through the modified Friedmann equation, which in our case reads
\[ \sqrt{\xi^2 a^{-(2/3)k^2}} + H^2 = \frac{\kappa_5^2}{6} \left[ \lambda(\phi) + \rho_m - 6\alpha H^2 \right]. \]

This equation will be crucial for proving the non-super-acceleration of the brane; i.e. the Hubble rate decreases as the brane expands and moves in the bulk. The brane Friedmann equation can be more conveniently expressed as
\[ H^2 = \frac{1}{6\alpha} \left\{ \lambda + \rho_m + \frac{3}{\kappa_5^2\alpha} \left[ 1 - \sqrt{1 + 4\kappa_5^2\alpha^2 \xi^2 a^{-2k^2/3} + \frac{2}{3} \kappa_5^4\alpha^2(\lambda + \rho_m) } \right] \right\}, \]

where $\lambda$ is the brane tension and $\rho_m$ is the energy density of CDM. On the other hand, as

\(^4\) We will refer to the normal DGP branch also as the non-self-accelerating DGP branch.
\(^5\) Notice that the brane is moving in the bulk away from the bulk naked singularity located at $r = 0$ [16].
\(^6\) The main conclusions of the paper depend not on the sign of $k$ but on the sign of the parameter $kb$. Therefore, we can always describe the same physical situation on the brane for $k < 0$ by changing the sign of $b$. 
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is usual in a dilatonic brane-world scenario, matter on the brane—in this case CDM—is not conserved due to the coupling $\Omega$ (see equation (3)). In fact, we have

$$
\dot{\rho}_m = -3H(1 - kb)\rho_m,
$$

where a dot stands for derivatives with respect to the brane cosmic time $\tau$. Therefore, CDM on the brane scales as

$$
\rho_m = \rho_0 a^{-3+kb}.
$$

Finally, the junction condition of the scalar field at the brane [29] constrains the brane tension $\lambda(\phi)$. In our model this is given by

$$
a d\lambda da = -kb\rho_m - \frac{2k^2}{\kappa_5^2} \sqrt{\xi^2 a^{-(2/3)k^2} + H^2},
$$

where for convenience we have rewritten the scalar field (valued at the brane) in terms of the scale factor of the brane. In this respect we remind the reader that at the brane $\phi = k \log(a)$.

Notice that for $kb > 0$ the left-hand side (lhs) term in equation (15) is always negative and therefore it always tends to decrease the brane tension. Therefore, a necessary condition for the brane tension to mimic a crossing of the phantom divide is that $kb < 0$. This condition implies that CDM on the brane has to redshift faster than in the standard case, i.e. CDM on the brane has to decay faster than $a^{-3}$ (see equation (14)). In order to see what happens in this case it is useful to analyse first the vacuum case, i.e. when $\rho_m = 0$.

3. Vacuum solution

For a vacuum brane, i.e. for $\rho_m = 0$, the brane tension is a decreasing function of the scalar field or equivalently of the scale factor of the brane7 (see equation (15)). For small values of the scale factor, the brane tension reaches infinite positive values. On the other hand, for very large value of the scale factor the brane tension vanishes.

The Hubble parameter is a decreasing function of the scale factor, i.e. the brane is never super-accelerating. In fact,

$$
\dot{H} = -\frac{k^2 H^2}{\kappa_5^2 \alpha (\lambda - 6\alpha H^2) + 3},
$$

while the Israel junction condition (11) implies that the denominator of the previous equation has to be positive (see also footnote 7); therefore $\dot{H} < 0$. At high energy, $H$ reaches a constant positive value. Consequently, in the vacuum brane there is no big bang singularity on the brane; indeed, the brane is asymptotically de Sitter. On the other hand, at very large values of the scale factor, the Hubble parameter vanishes (the brane is asymptotically Minkowski in the future). Although the brane never super-accelerates, the brane always undergoes an inflationary period.

7 The constraint equation (15) (after substituting the Hubble rate given in equation (12)) can be solved analytically in this case [16] and it can be explicitly shown that the brane tension decreases as the brane expands. In the same way a parametric expression can be found for the Hubble rate and its cosmic derivative.
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The brane behaves in two different ways depending on the value taken by \( k^2 \). Thus, for \( k^2 \leq 3 \) the brane is eternally inflating. A similar behaviour was found in [28]. On the other hand, for \( k^2 > 3 \) the brane undergoes an initial stage of inflation and later on it starts decelerating. This second behaviour contrasts with the results in [28] for a vacuum brane without an induced gravity term on the brane. Then, the inclusion of an induced gravity term on a dilatonic brane-world model with an exponential potential in the bulk allows for the normal branch to inflate in a region of parameter space where the vacuum dilatonic brane alone would not inflate. This behaviour has some similarity with steep inflation [30], where high energy corrections to the Friedmann equation in RS scenario [31,32] permit an inflationary evolution of the brane with potentials too steep to sustain it in the standard 4D case, although the inflationary scenario introduced by Copeland et al in [30] is supported by an inflaton confined in the brane, while in our model, inflation on the brane is induced by a dilaton field on the bulk.

The important thing that we have learnt from the vacuum solution for our next step of model building is that the brane is eternally inflating if \( k^2 \leq 3 \). We will next show that if this condition holds in a brane filled with CDM (together with others conditions that we will next enumerate), the brane tension will mimic a crossing of the cosmological constant line.

4. Crossing the phantom divide

We now address the main point of the paper: is it possible to mimic a crossing of the phantom divide in particular in the model introduced in section 2? Unlike for the vacuum case—which can be solved analytically [16]—in this case we cannot exactly solve the constraint (15). Nevertheless, we can answer the previous question on the basis of some physical and reasonable assumptions and as well as on numerical methods. For technical details of the analytical proof we refer the reader to the appendix section. These are assumptions that we make.

1. We assume that CDM dominates over the vacuum term \( (a^{-2/3}k^2) \) at early times on the brane. This implies that the parameter \( \beta_0 \) introduced in equation (A.1) (see the appendix) must satisfy \( \beta_0 > 1 \). On the other hand, the brane tension will play the role of dark energy (through its dependence on the scalar field) in our model. This first assumption assumes that dark matter dominates over dark energy at high redshift which is a natural assumption to make.

2. We also assume that CDM redshifts away a bit faster than usual; i.e. \( bk < 0 \) or \( \beta_2 \) introduced in equation (A.1) is such that \( \beta_2 > 1 \). This lost energy will be used to increase the value of the scalar field \( \phi(a) \) on the brane—that is, to push the brane to higher values of \( a \).

3. Finally, we also assume that \( \beta_2 < 2\beta_0(\beta_2 - 1) \). This condition, together with \( \beta_0, \beta_2 > 1 \), is sufficient to prove the non-existence of a local minimum of the brane tension during the cosmological evolution of the brane. In fact, as we show in the appendix, the existence of a unique maximum can be proven for an even larger set of parameters \( \beta_0 > 1/2, \beta_2 > 1 \) and \( \beta_2 < 2\beta_0(\beta_2 - 1) \). Therefore, the set of allowed parameters \( k \)
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Figure 1. The figure shows the effective equation of state of the brane tension defined in equation (18) against the variable $x$ defined in equation (A.1). Notice that $x$ grows as the brane expands and therefore $dx/d\tau > 0$ where $\tau$ corresponds to the cosmic time of the brane. This illustrative numerical solution has been obtained for $b = -1$, $k = 1$ and $\beta_1 = 1$. The last parameter is defined in equation (A.1). In order to impose the right initial condition, we started the integration well in the past where CDM dominated over the scalar field on the brane and we took as a good approximated solution the dark matter solution given in equation (A.3).

and $b$ that fulfil the last three inequalities are such that

$$k < \min \left\{ -3b, \frac{3}{2} \left[ -b + \sqrt{b^2 + 4} \right] \right\} = -3b,$$

(17)

where $b$ is positive.

Under these three assumptions, it can be shown that the brane tension has a local maximum which must be positive (we refer the reader again to the appendix section for this proof). In fact, what happens under these conditions is that the brane tension increases until it reaches its maximum positive value and then it starts decreasing. It is precisely at this maximum that the brane tension mimics crossing the phantom divide. Around the local maximum of the brane tension we can always define an effective equation of state in analogy with the standard 4D relativistic case:

$$1 + w_{\text{eff}} = -\frac{1}{3H} \frac{1}{\lambda} \frac{d\lambda}{d\tau}.$$

(18)

As we mentioned earlier, the constraint equation (15) cannot be solved analytically and therefore we have to resort to numerical methods. We show in figure 1 an example of our numerical results where it can be seen clearly that $1 + w_{\text{eff}}$ changes sign. It is precisely at that moment that the crossing takes place.

Another important question to address is whether the brane is accelerating at the time that the crossing takes place. We know that the vacuum term dominates at late times (see the first assumption). Thus, at that point the brane tension will be adequately...
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Figure 2. The figure shows the deceleration parameter \( q = -\ddot{a}/\dot{a}^2 \) against the variable \( x \) defined in equation (A.1). The brane is accelerating in the future when \( q \) is negative. Notice that \( x \) grows as the brane expands and therefore \( dx/d\tau > 0 \) where \( \tau \) corresponds to the cosmic time of the brane. This numerical example has been obtained for \( b = -1, k = 1 \) and \( \beta_1 = 1 \). The last parameter is defined in equation (A.1). Again in order to impose the right initial condition, we started the integration well in the past where CDM dominated over the scalar field on the brane and we can take as a good approximated solution the dark matter solution given in equation (A.3).

described by the vacuum solution. From the results in the previous section then we can conclude that the brane will be speeding up at late times as long as \( k^2 \leq 3 \). On the other hand, it can be checked numerically that the brane can be accelerating at the crossing as figure 2 shows.

5. Is induced gravity a necessary ingredient in this sort of model building?

We analyse next the same physical situation of section 4 but now assuming that \( \alpha = 0 \); i.e. we assume the dilatonic brane-world model introduced in [28] where matter corresponds to CDM. Unlike a vacuum brane and a radiation filled brane, the CDM filled brane was not analysed in detail in [28].

The Friedmann equation can be retrieved by setting \( \alpha \to 0 \) in equation (12). This limit is well defined for the normal branch that we have analysed previously. Then, the Hubble rate decreases as the brane expands and moves in the bulk such that

\[
H^2 = \frac{\kappa_5^4}{36} (\lambda(\phi) + \rho_m)^2 - \xi^2 a^{-(2/3)k^2}, \tag{19}
\]

where the CDM redshifts as in equation (14). The reason why CDM (and any matter in general) redshifts as in the case of induced gravity is because we have assumed in section 2 that the induced gravity term in the brane action is not coupled to the bulk scalar field, i.e. \( \alpha \) is constant.
Now, by using equations (11) and (15) and setting $\alpha \to 0$, we recover the constraint that must satisfy the brane tension in this particular case [28]

$$a \frac{d\lambda}{da} = -kb\rho_m - \frac{k^2}{3}(\lambda + \rho_m).$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

The Israel junction condition imposes that $\lambda + \rho_m$ has to be positive\(^8\); cf equation (11) with $\alpha = 0$. Therefore, if $kb > 0$ the constraint (20) implies that the brane tension decreases as the brane expands. So, a necessary condition for the brane tension to mimic a crossing of the phantom divide is $kb < 0$. This is the same condition that we reached in section 2 for the induced gravity set-up. Having $kb < 0$ corresponds to the fact that matter on the brane redshifts faster than in the standard relativistic case.

Notice that if the brane tension constraint is written in terms of energy densities defined on the brane, i.e. $\lambda$, $\rho_m$ and the vacuum energy density proportional to $a^{-(2/3)k^2}$, then the constraint for the induced gravity case involves the vacuum energy density (cf equation (15)) while in the absence of the induced gravity term on the brane this energy density is absent in the constraint equation (cf equation (20)). This feature implies that the constraint given in equation (20) can be solved analytically [28]:

$$\lambda(a) = \lambda_0a^{-(k^2/3)} - \left(\frac{k(k + 3b)}{k^2 + 3kb - 9}\right)\rho_0a^{-3+kb}, \quad \lambda_0, \rho_0 = \text{positive constant}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

Now, it is much easier to impose the three assumptions assumed in the previous sections:

1. We assume that the second term on the rhs of equation (21) dominates over the first term at early time, i.e. the early time evolution of the brane tension is driven by the CDM confined on the brane while the late time evolution of the brane is driven by the vacuum term. This translates also into the fact that the early time evolution is CDM dominated while it is the vacuum which drives the late time evolution (cf equation (19)). This condition translates into a constraint in $\beta_0$, introduced in equation (A.1), $\beta_0 > 1/2$ which implies

$$k^2 < 9 - 3kb.$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

Our first assumption also implies

$$\kappa_5^4\lambda_0^2 - 36\xi^2 > 0,$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)

so the square of the Hubble parameter is well defined at late time (large $a$). On the other hand, our first assumption also implies that the Hubble parameter cannot vanish at any finite value of the radius of the brane; i.e. the whole evolution of the brane is Lorentzian.

2. We also assume that CDM redshifts away a bit faster than usual; i.e. $bk < 0$ or $\beta_2$ introduced in equation (A.1) is such that $\beta_2 > 1$.

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\(^8\) This is related to the way of embedding the brane in the bulk. In this particular case, if we use Gaussian normal coordinates, it turns out that the warping of the geometry is such that the warp factor acquires its maximum at the location of the brane. In this sense, we would have a sort of geometry similar to the Randall and Sundrum (RS) model [31]. We remind the reader that the brane tension is positive in the RS model and in particular for a vacuum brane, i.e. for $\rho = 0$. 

Finally, we assume that the brane tension is initially negative. This last condition and equations (21) and (22) imply
\[ k < -3b. \]  
(24)

Even though the brane tension is initially negative, the sum of the CDM energy density plus the brane tension is always positive. Therefore, the Israel junction condition of equation (11) with \( \alpha = 0 \) is never violated.

In summary, under the three conditions enumerated above we have that for a given parameter \( b \) the set of allowed values of \( k \) are constrained to satisfy (cf equations (22), (24) and \( kb < 0 \))
\[ 0 < k < \min \left\{ -3b, \frac{3}{2} \left[ -b + \sqrt{b^2 + 4} \right] \right\} = -3b, \]  
(25)

and more importantly, this condition implies that the brane tension mimics a crossing of the phantom divide as we next show. We recall that an effective equation of state related to the brane tension can be defined as in equation (18) or equivalently as
\[ a \frac{d\lambda}{da} = -3(1 + w_{\text{eff}})\lambda. \]  
(26)

The crossing of the cosmological constant line happens when the rhs of equation (26) vanishes and \( \lambda \neq 0 \). On combining the constraint satisfied by the brane tension (20) and equation (26), such a crossing takes place at the scale factor \( a_{\text{cross}} \) where
\[ a_{\text{cross}} = \left[ \frac{\lambda_0}{\rho_0} \frac{k(k^2 + 3kb - 9)}{3(3 - kb)(k + 3b)} \right]^{3/(k^2 - 9 + 3kb)}. \]  
(27)

As can be checked, this scale factor is well defined if the parameter \( k \)—related to the slope of the bulk scalar field—is within the range (25). On the other hand, the brane tension is positive at the crossing because (see for example equations (20) and (26)) in such an event
\[ \lambda = -\frac{1}{k} (3b + k) \rho_m. \]  
(28)

and by virtue of the previous three assumptions the rhs term of the last equation is positive, and therefore the brane tension at the crossing. This means that ever after the brane tension becomes positive, \( \lambda \) has a phantom-like behaviour. Then, for scale factors larger than \( a_{\text{cross}} \)—where the crossing takes place—\( \lambda \) has a quintessence-like behaviour. The larger the amount of CDM, i.e. the larger \( \rho_0 \), the larger the scale factor for which the crossing takes place (cf equation (27)). The effect of \( \lambda_0 \) is the opposite, i.e. the larger \( \lambda_0 \), the smaller the scale factor at which the crossing takes place.

In summary, it is possible to have a crossing of the phantom divide in this sort of brane-world model without an induced gravity term on the brane action. It remains to be checked whether the brane is accelerating when the crossing takes place with model parameters that are consistent with the constraints coming from the big bang nucleosynthesis [28] and the CDM equation of state [33].

The second derivative of the scale factor with respect to the cosmic time reads
\[ \ddot{a} = A_0 a^{1-(2/3)k^2} + A_1 a^{-2-(k^2/3)+kb} + A_2 a^{-5+2kb}, \]  
(29)
where

\[ A_0 = \left( \frac{\kappa_4^4 \lambda_0^2}{36} - \xi^2 \right) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} k^2 \right), \quad A_1 = \frac{1}{4} \kappa_4^4 \lambda_0 \rho_0 \frac{1 - k b + (k^2/3)}{k^2 + 3 k b - 9}, \]

\[ A_2 = \frac{9}{4} \kappa_4^4 \rho_0^2 \frac{-2 + k b}{(k^2 + 3 k b - 9)^2}. \]

At large scale factors and under the assumptions that we have made, the second derivative of the scale factor is dominated by the first term on the rhs of equation (29). Therefore, the brane is accelerating for large scale factor as long as \( k^2 < 3 \). Of course, this is not surprising and it is a consequence of the fact that the brane is vacuum dominated at late time, and for a vacuum brane it was shown in [28] that the brane is eternally inflating if \( k^2 < 3 \). On the other hand, at early time the expansion of the brane is dominated by the last term on the rhs, i.e. by CDM on the brane, and therefore the brane is decelerating initially. So, in summary the brane transits from a decelerating regime at early time to an accelerating regime at late time for \( k^2 < 3 \). On the other hand, an observational consistency of such brane-world models after the epoch of nucleosynthesis requires that the quadratic term in the energy density is negligible with respect to the linear term in the energy density (after the time of nucleosynthesis) [28] (for a review see for example [32]). We will assume that this is the case and therefore the last term in equation (29) is negligible with respect to the second one on the rhs. Consequently, the brane will start accelerating from a scale factor \( a_{acc} \) onward where

\[ a_{acc} \approx \frac{A_1}{A_0} \left( \frac{k b - k^2}{9 - 3 k b - k^2} \right)^{3/(9 - 3 k b - k^2)}. \]

Therefore, as long as \( a_{acc} \) is of the order of \( a_{cross} \), the starting speed-up of the brane and the crossing of the phantom divide by the brane tension will be more or less at the same epoch. In practice, this will require a fine-tuning of the parameters of the model as we next show.

We will consider that the current scale factor is set to 1. Then, we combine the following observational constraints.

1. The equation of state of dark matter is constrained in such a way that it does not deviate too much from the equation of state of a pressureless fluid in the standard 4D relativistic case (for recent bounds on the equation of state of dark matter see [33]).
   As an estimate we consider the (strongest) constraint obtained in [33] which implies that
   \[ |k b| < 10^{-6}. \]

2. The quadratic term in the energy density is negligible after the epoch of nucleosynthesis [28]:
   \[ \rho_0 \ll 2 \left( 1 - \frac{1}{3} k b - k^2 \right) a_{nucl}^{-3-kb-(1/3)k^2}. \]

3. In addition, as is usual in dilatonic models, the effective gravitational constant on the brane is not constant. This also implies a constraint on the parameter \( k \) such
that the effective gravitational constant has not varied too much since the epoch of nucleosynthesis\(^9\) [28]:

\[
k^2 \leq 0.04.
\] (34)

(4) The amount of dark energy is about three times the amount of CDM [5], i.e. \(\Omega_{\text{de}} \simeq 0.75\), and

\[
\frac{\Omega_{\text{de}}}{\Omega_{\text{cdm}}} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{3}k b - \frac{1}{9}k^2\right) \frac{\kappa_5^4\lambda_0^2 - 36\xi^2}{2\kappa_5^4\lambda_0 \rho_0} \simeq 3.
\] (35)

Therefore, constraints 1 and 3 imply that \(|kb|\) and \(k\) have to be very small. This fact combined with the conditions 2 and 4 implies

\[
\frac{\rho_0}{\lambda_0} \ll 10^{-30}, \quad \kappa_5^4\lambda_0^2 - 36\xi^2 \simeq 6\kappa_5^4\lambda_0 \rho_0,
\] (36)

where we have roughly estimated the size (radius) of the universe at the time of nucleosynthesis, \(a_{\text{nucl}}\), to be \(10^{-10}\) smaller than today. Then we can conclude that the brane starts accelerating when it has half of its present size (cf equation (31)):

\[
a_{\text{acc}} \sim 0.55,
\] (37)

or at a redshift \(z_{\text{acc}} \sim 0.8\). On the other hand, the constraint on the ratio \(\rho_0/\lambda_0\) (see equation (36)) translates into a constraint

\[
\left|\frac{k}{b}\right| \simeq \frac{\rho_0}{\lambda_0} \ll 10^{-30},
\] (38)

for the crossing of the phantom divide by the brane tension to take place roughly at the same time as the brane starts speeding up. This strong fine-tuning is inherited from imposing that the model is consistent since the epoch of nucleosynthesis. Notice that (i) if this fine-tuning is relaxed then the crossing of the phantom divide would take place in the past of the brane—i.e. the brane tension would be currently decreasing as the brane expands and would have a quintessence behaviour at present; and (ii) if the fine-tuning is made stronger, then the brane tension would be still growing as the brane expands and the crossing of the phantom divide would take place in the future evolution of the brane.

6. Conclusions

In this paper we have shown the existence of a mechanism that mimics the crossing of the cosmological constant line \(w = -1\) in the brane-world scenario, and which is different from the one introduced in [14, 15]. More precisely, we have shown that if we have a 5D dilatonic bulk with or without an induced gravity term on the brane (normal branch), a brane tension \(\lambda\) which depends on the minimally coupled bulk scalar field, and a brane matter content corresponding only to cold dark matter, then under certain conditions the brane tension grows with the brane scale factor until it reaches a maximum positive value at which it mimics crossing the phantom divide, and then starts decreasing. Most importantly, no matter violating the null energy condition is invoked in our model.

\(^9\) We take \(h = 0.72\) from the latest WMAP result [8].
Despite the transitory phantom-like behaviour of the brane tension, no big rip singularity is encountered during the brane evolution.

In the model with an induced gravity term on the brane (normal branch or non-self-accelerating branch), the constraint equation fulfilled by the brane tension is too complicated to be solved analytically (see equations (12) and (15)). However, we have shown that under certain physical and mathematical conditions cold dark matter dominates at higher redshifts and it dilutes a bit faster than dust during the brane expansion, as well as showing a mathematical condition that guarantees the non-existence of a local minimum of the brane tension—it is possible for the brane tension to cross the cosmological constant line. The analytical proof (see the appendix) has been confirmed by numerical solutions. Furthermore, we have shown that for some values of the parameters the normal branch inflates eternally to the future due to the brane tension $\lambda$ playing the role of dark energy through its dependence on the bulk scalar field.

On the other hand, in the model without an induced gravity term, things are much easier to analyse, as it is possible to get an analytical solution for the brane tension [28]. For the analytical solution and under the same physical and mathematical conditions as were assumed in the model with an induced gravity effect, we have shown that the brane tension grows until it reaches its maximum positive value and then it starts decreasing, driving the late time acceleration of the brane. It is precisely at that maximum value that the brane tension mimics the crossing of the phantom divide, as its effective equation of state parameter $w_{\text{eff}}$ is such that $1 + w_{\text{eff}}$ changes its sign in a smooth way. We have also imposed observational bounds from the dark matter equation of state [33] and the big bang nucleosynthesis [28] that constrains the modified Friedmann equation, and the effective gravitational constant of the brane to constrain the parameters of the model.

In summary, in the model presented here the mimicry of the phantom divide crossing is based on the interaction between the brane and the bulk through a brane tension that depends explicitly on the scalar field that lives in the bulk. We have also shown that the brane undergoes a late time acceleration epoch.

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Appendix. Proof of the existence of a mimicry of the crossing in the induced gravity scenario

In this appendix we prove the existence of a mimicry of crossing the phantom divide modelled through the brane tension. For the proof it is useful to introduce the following dimensionless quantities:

\begin{align}
\bar{\lambda} &\equiv \frac{2}{3}\kappa_5^4\alpha\lambda, \\
\bar{x} &\equiv \frac{2}{k}\phi - \ln d, \\
d &\equiv 4\alpha^2\kappa_5^4\xi^2, \\
m &\equiv 3 - kb, \\
\beta_0 &\equiv \frac{9\beta_2}{2k^2}, \\
\beta_1 &\equiv \frac{2\kappa_4^2\alpha}{m}\rho_0d^{-\beta_0}, \\
\beta_2 &\equiv \frac{m}{3}. 
\end{align} \quad (A.1)
In terms of these new variables, the constraint given in equation (15) reads
\[ \frac{d\bar{\lambda}}{dx} = 1 - \beta_0 \beta_1 (1 - \beta_2) e^{-\beta_0 x} - \sqrt{1 + \bar{\lambda} + e^{-x} + \beta_1 \beta_2 e^{-\beta_0 x}}. \] (A.2)

If \( \beta_0 > 1 \), i.e. if we assume that the CDM energy density (proportional to \( \exp(-\beta_0 x) \)) dominates at early time over the vacuum term (the term \( \exp(-x) \) is due to the bulk scalar field), then it can be shown that the brane tension scales at that epoch as
\[ \bar{\lambda} \sim \beta_1 (1 - \beta_2) e^{-\beta_0 x} + O(e^{-\beta_0 x/2}). \] (A.3)
The same asymptotic behaviour is found for \( 1/2 < \beta_0 < 1 \):
\[ \bar{\lambda} \sim \beta_1 (1 - \beta_2) e^{-\beta_0 x} + O(e^{-x/2}), \] (A.4)
the subleading term being different.

Furthermore, if we assume in addition that the parameter \( \beta_2 > 1 \), i.e. CDM redshifts faster than in the 4D standard relativistic case, then the brane tension is negative at early times and it is an increasing function of the scale factor (cf equations (A.3) and (A.4)).

On the other hand, the condition \( \beta_0 > 1 \) implies also that the vacuum term due to the scalar field will dominate over the CDM term at late time and it can be proven that at large values of \( x \) (or equivalently large values of the scale factor)
\[ \bar{\lambda} \sim C \exp(-x/2) + \cdots, \quad C = \text{constant} > 0. \] (A.5)
The constant \( C \) is positive because for the vacuum solution the brane tension is always positive [16]. Again, if \( 1/2 < \beta_0 < 1 \) it can be proven that the asymptotic behaviour of the dimensionless tension \( \bar{\lambda} \) for \( 1 < x \) is the same as for \( 1 < \beta_0 \) given in equation (A.5). Therefore, at very late time the brane tension decreases as the brane expands (see equation (A.5)).

Now, since (i) \( \bar{\lambda} \) is negative and an increasing function of \( x \) at \( \tau \ll 1 \), and (ii) \( \bar{\lambda} \) is a positive valued, decreasing function of \( x \) at \( \tau \gg 1 \), then the brane tension must have at least a local positive maximum (we remind the reader that the brane tension is a smooth analytical function of \( x \)). It is precisely at this maximum that the mimicry of crossing the phantom divide takes place.

One can go a step further and ask the following question: is there a local minimum such that \( \beta_0, \beta_2 > 1 \), and \( \beta_2 < 2\beta_0(\beta_2 - 1) \)? The answer is no. This can be proven using a *reductio ad absurdum*. We start by assuming the existence of a local minimum of \( \bar{\lambda} \) at \( x_0 \); then at the minimum
\[ \frac{d^2\bar{\lambda}}{dx^2} \bigg|_{x_0} = \frac{e^{-x_0} - 2\beta_0^3 \beta_1^2 (1 - \beta_2)^2 e^{-2\beta_0 x_0} + \beta_0 \beta_1 (\beta_2 + 2\beta_0 (1 - \beta_2)) e^{-\beta_0 x_0}}{2 [1 - \beta_0 \beta_1 (1 - \beta_2) e^{-\beta_0 x_0}]} . \] (A.6)
The denominator of the previous equation is positive because \( \beta_2 > 1 \). On the other hand, (i) as the expression
\[ \beta_0 \beta_1 (\beta_2 + 2\beta_0 (1 - \beta_2)) e^{-\beta_0 x_0} < 0, \] (A.7)
because we have assumed \( \beta_2 < 2\beta_0(\beta_2 - 1) < 0 \), and (ii) the expression
\[ e^{-x_0} - 2\beta_0^3 \beta_1^2 (1 - \beta_2)^2 e^{-2\beta_0 x_0} < 0, \] (A.8)
because the square of the Hubble parameter is positive at $x_0$ and $1/2 < \beta_0$, then it turns out that the second derivative given in equation (A.6) is negative; i.e. at $x_0$ the dimensionless brane tension has no local minimum.

Therefore, under these conditions $(1/2 < \beta_0, 1 < \beta_2$ and $\beta_2 \leq 2\beta_0(\beta_2 - 1))$, we know that the local maximum whose existence we have just proven is the unique extremum of $\lambda$. This fact is confirmed by our numerical results.

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