

General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology

Expanding universes in the conformal frame of $f(R)$ gravity

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The late time evolution of Friedmann-Robertson-Walker (FRW) models with a perfect fluid matter source is studied in the conformal frame of $f(R)$ gravity. We assume that the corresponding scalar field, nonminimally coupled to matter, has an arbitrary non-negative potential function $V(\phi)$. We prove that equilibria corresponding to non-negative local minima for V are asymptotically stable. We investigate all cases where one of the matter components eventually dominates. The results are valid for a large class of non-negative potentials without any particular assumptions about the behavior of the potential at infinity. In particular for a nondegenerate minimum of the potential with zero critical value we show that if γ , the parameter of the equation of state is larger than one, then there is a transfer of energy from the fluid to the scalar field and the later eventually dominates.

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