

Localizing gravity on the triple intersection of 7-branes in 10D

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ABSTRACT: It was recently proposed that our universe could naturally come to be dominated by 3-branes and 7-branes if the universe is ten-dimensional. In this paper, we explicitly demonstrate that gravity can be localized on the intersection of three 7-branes in AdS_{10} to give four-dimensional gravity. We derive the exact relations among the tensions of the branes, and show that they apply independently of the precise distribution of energy within the necessarily thickened branes. We demonstrate this with several technical sections showing a simple formula for the curvature tensor of a diagonal metric with isometries as well as for the curvature at a gravitational singularity. We also demonstrate a subtlety in applying Stoke's Theorem to this set-up.

KEYWORDS: Intersecting branes models, Classical Theories of Gravity.

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1. Introduction

Even though a theory with extra dimensions must allow gravitons to propagate in all directions, four-dimensional gravity can apply even with infinitely large extra dimensions if they are sufficiently warped [7]. There are many ways of understanding this result but from the four-dimensional perspective, the higher-dimensional graviton will appear as a tower or spectrum of four-dimensional graviton fields with different masses, similar to the usual Kaluza-Klein case. The spectrum is gapless and continuous and contains a normalizable zero mode (or almost zero mode) that dominates the gravitational potential. While this mechanism is simplest for a single codimension-one brane, it has been generalized to higher codimension [2, 5, 6]. Such setups are appealing since string theory motivates a ten-dimensional spacetime, which would make the visible universe a codimension-six brane.

It was recently pointed out [1] that a generic ten-dimensional FRW cosmology would be dominated by 3-branes and 7-branes. While a 3-brane in this universe would not generally exhibit 4D gravity, the intersection of three 7-branes might. Each 7-brane is codimension-2

and can localize gravity to itself [2]. Intuitively, then, gravity might be localized to the intersection, as Ref. [5] showed for the codimension-1 case. Moreover, we generically expect three 7-branes to intersect over a four-dimensional spacetime surface in ten dimensions.

In this paper, we focus on the triple 7-brane intersection and show that it can localize four-dimensional gravity. We first construct our solution explicitly and then, using the high degree of symmetry of our construction, demonstrate how to extract the tension relations about the thickened branes in terms of the known external metric and a few parameters of the interior metric of the brane. In particular, we find the necessary tuning relations and show that for a flat four-dimensional universe we do not require an extra tensionful brane at the intersection. We calculate the graviton potential and show that gravity is localized on the intersection. In an appendix, we present the explicit construction for the same setup with AdS_4 or dS_4 on the intersection and calculate the leading cosmological constant (c.c.)-dependent term.

It might seem surprising that we can find exact tension relations for codimension-2 branes and their intersections, given that the codimension-2 branes should be treated as thick branes, and you would expect the tension relation to depend on the precise form of the metric on the interior. However, we will demonstrate that one can apply Stoke's theorem to relate the AdS curvature to the tension on the boundary. Our calculation in fact generalizes the surprising fact already seen in [2–4] that the tension relations depended only on boundary conditions and not on the detailed form of the interior metric of a codimension-2 brane. There is a subtlety in that we also need to take into account an interior contribution which amounts to an internal surface that depends on only a few boundary condition parameters. To apply Stoke's Theorem, we need to account for the curvature at a singularity and we show how to do this in the text.

2. Review of the Gherghetta-Shaposhnikov construction

The authors (GS) of [2] demonstrated that gravity can be localized on a codimension-2 brane. They considered a codimension-2 Minkowski 4-brane embedded in AdS_6 , whereas our construction uses 7-branes in AdS_{10} , each of which individually is codimension-2. In some sense, gravity in the GS construction is localized in only one of the two extra dimensions whereas the second of the two extra directions is compact, although it is finite-sized only because of the AdS space. The precise form of the corrections to Newton's Law depend on the resolution of the singular geometry at infinity [12].

Explicitly, one can write the GS metric as

$$ds^2 = \sigma(\rho)\eta_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu - d\rho^2 - \gamma(\rho)d\theta^2, \tag{2.1}$$

where the 3-brane is located between $\rho = 0$ and $\rho < l$. Inside the 3-brane, the solution is unknown, but outside the 3-brane the solution is

$$ds^2 = e^{-2k\rho}\eta_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu - d\rho^2 - R_0^2 e^{-2k\rho}d\theta^2. \tag{2.2}$$

Since the warping does not depend on the sixth GS dimension, for the purpose of finding a consistent metric, it is best to think of it as an additional flat dimension, rather

than a warping direction. This dimension is distinguished from the four infinite dimensions only by the periodic boundary condition that is imposed. The radius is not a parameter however since the radius at the brane boundary is determined by Einstein's equations.

GS put in $T^\mu_\nu = \text{diag}(f_\nu)$ and found two relations,

$$(\sigma\sigma'\sqrt{\gamma})' = -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{-g} \left(G^\rho_\rho + G^\theta_\theta \right) \tag{2.3}$$

$$(\sigma^2(\sqrt{\gamma})')' = -\sqrt{-g} \left(G^0_0 + \frac{1}{4}G^\rho_\rho - \frac{3}{4}G^\theta_\theta \right). \tag{2.4}$$

This in turn led to tension relations for their string-like solution regardless of details of the brane, since the LHS of both relations above is a total derivative that can be integrated over the brane. The fact that such a trick was possible depended on the terms σ' , γ' arising in G^μ_ν only in certain linear combinations. This apparently remarkable coincidence becomes even more remarkable as the number of extra dimensions increases and similar relations continue to hold. We shall find that such relations are not coincidental but rather are guaranteed to exist by the symmetries of the setup.

3. Holographic interpretation of higher codimension geometries

We will not use the precise form of the holographic description but it is helpful to have a qualitative picture of the holographic interpretation of the AdS theory when the codimension is greater than one in order to understand how these constructions are possible in principle.

We will first think about the codimension-2 Gherghetta-Shaposhnikov example. That case is rather easy to interpret because one of the dimensions has periodic boundary conditions, making it act essentially like a compact dimension from the perspective of the holographic interpretation. At any given value of z , the radial coordinate, there is only a finite sized circle. Although the circle grows to infinite size in coordinate units, it is always finite size due to the AdS warp factor. This corresponds to what Ponton and Poppitz found [12] when they resolved the singularity. The corrections to Newton's Law were never of the form you would find with two infinite directions, but corresponded instead to the corrections you would find with either one infinite dimension or no infinite dimension at all (when they cut off the singularity). In both cases, they considered the dual interpretation, which was either a lower-dimensional CFT or a CFT with a cut-off.

Although it looks quite different, the case of intersecting branes should behave holographically as well. The point is that one can again choose a single warping direction (in this case, the sum of the directions perpendicular to each brane). Again, at each point along this infinite direction, the cross section is finite in size. This is because one only sees a sector of AdS due to the boundary intersecting branes. Clearly, our example, which combines together these ideas, behaves in the same manner. There is an effectively compact space fibered over a "holographic" direction. The dual theory should be a *broken* conformal field theory, since the transverse space is not a fixed size. It would be interesting to investigate the dual theory to intersecting codimension-1 and codimension-2 branes further, since the theories are distinct from AdS spaces that have already been studied.

4. Metric

We choose conventions such that $\eta_{\mu\nu}$ has signature $(+, -, -, -)$ and

$$R_{AB} - \frac{1}{2}g_{AB}R = g_{AB}\Lambda + \frac{1}{M_{10}^8}T_{AB}. \quad (4.1)$$

For simplicity, we impose a symmetry in the exchange of any two branes, and assume that the setup is azimuthally symmetric around each individual brane. We thus make the ansatz¹

$$ds^2 = \sigma(\vec{z})g_{\mu\nu}^{(4)}dx^\mu dx^\nu - \sum_i (\xi_i(\vec{z})dz_i^2 + \beta_i(\vec{z})dy_i^2) \quad (4.2)$$

where z_i is the direction normal to the i -th brane and y_i is its angular direction.

At this point, we choose to smooth out the string over some arbitrarily small distance ϵ . The metric inside the brane is unknown and depends on the distribution of energy-momentum on the thickened brane. We will be interested in the limit as the thickness of the brane becomes arbitrarily small, but never zero. A brane with truly vanishing thickness must have tension proportional to its induced metric, so in particular $T_{y_i}^{y_i}$ for the i -th brane would vanish. However, a large $T_{y_i}^{y_i}$ component is necessary for the stabilization of the extra dimensions. Thus, we are led to take the thickness of the brane arbitrarily small at the end of our calculations, and not before.

The boundary conditions that avoid a singularity at the center of each thickened brane are [8, 3, 4]

$$\partial_{z_1}\sigma = 0 \quad \sigma(0, z_2, z_3) = A(z_2, z_3) \quad (4.3)$$

$$\partial_{z_1}\xi_1 = 0 \quad \xi_1(0, z_2, z_3) = B(z_2, z_3) \quad (4.4)$$

$$\partial_{z_1}\beta_1 = \sqrt{B(z_2, z_3)} \quad \beta_1(\epsilon, z_2, z_3) \sim \epsilon\sqrt{B(z_2, z_3)} \quad (4.5)$$

and symmetrically for branes 2 and 3. The functions A and B have finite first derivatives and are symmetric in $z_2 \leftrightarrow z_3$, but otherwise generic. To construct solutions in the bulk, we recall the usual procedure of cutting and pasting AdS space along perpendicular codimension-one branes, as in e.g. [5, 9].

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{(k \sum_{i=1}^3 |z_i| + 1)^2} \left(\eta_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu - \sum_{i=1}^3 dz_i^2 \right) \quad (4.6)$$

where z_i is the direction perpendicular to the brane i , respectively, and k is related to the cosmological constant (c.c.) Λ in the bulk. This corresponds to a c.c. in the bulk and a tensionful brane at $z_i = 0$ for each z_i . We would like something similar to this, but

¹More generally, we might want to have $dz_i dz_j$ terms, but this will not affect the following discussion.

with codimension-2 branes. The metric in the bulk from a single codimension-2 brane, from [2], is

$$ds^2 = e^{-2k\rho} \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu - d\rho^2 - R_0^2 e^{-2k\rho} d\theta^2, \quad (4.7)$$

where $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$. With the change of variables $kz + 1 = e^{k\rho}$ and $\theta = y/R_0(kz + 1)$, this takes the form

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{(kz + 1)^2} (\eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu - dz^2 - dy^2), \quad (4.8)$$

where $y \in [0, 2\pi R_0]$. For codimension-2 branes, then, instead of cutting and pasting AdS along the branes as in (4.6), we “wrap” AdS around the branes as in (4.8):

$$ds^2 = \frac{1}{(k \sum_i |z_i| + 1)^2} \left[g_{\mu\nu}^{(4)} dx^\mu dx^\nu - \sum_i (dz_i^2 + dy_i^2) \right]. \quad (4.9)$$

This is conformal to a flat metric ($g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^2 \eta_{\mu\nu}$) with conformal factor $\Omega \equiv 1/(k \sum_i |z_i| + 1)^2$. From the bulk Einstein equations, we find the parameter k is determined from Λ , the c.c. in the bulk, according to $k^2 = -\frac{2}{n(D-1)(D-2)} \Lambda = -\frac{1}{108} \Lambda$, where in this case $D = 10$ and $n = 3$.

The Planck scale M_p on the intersection is

$$\begin{aligned} M_p^2 &= M_{10}^8 \int_{\text{volume}} d^6 x \Omega^{-2} \sqrt{\Omega^{20}} \\ &= M_{10}^8 \int \frac{dz_1 dz_2 dz_3 dy_1 dy_2 dy_3}{(k(|z_1| + |z_2| + |z_3|) + 1)^8} \\ &= M_{10}^8 \frac{(2\pi R_0)^3}{210 k^3}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

We note here that we assume there are three perpendicular codimension-2 branes. In order for this to be a stable configuration, there must be some stabilization mechanism for the angle between the branes. This angle affects the four-dimensional Planck mass on the intersection and thus acts as a Brans-Dicke field. In order to stabilize any given angle, we need interactions between the branes. These will in general also contribute to the tensions and affect the tension relations we will find. This is also an issue for the codimension-1 branes. These are essential issues but we leave them for later and assume stationary, perpendicular, and non-interacting branes.

We now derive a very useful formula based on the symmetries of our setup. Let us consider the general case of a metric that does not depend on some number of directions X_a . For each direction X_a that the metric does not depend upon, we have a killing vector $K^\mu = (\partial X_a)^\mu$. Its norm is $\sqrt{|K^2|} = \sqrt{|g_{aa}|}$. Further, if the metric is independent of the direction X^a , then the symmetry $X^a \leftrightarrow -X^a$ implies $g_{\mu a} = 0$ for $\mu \neq a$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla^2 \log \sqrt{g_{aa}} &= \frac{1}{2} \nabla_A \nabla^A \log(K^B K_B) \\ &= \nabla^A \left(\frac{K_B \nabla_A K^B}{K^2} \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= -\frac{\nabla^A K^2}{(K^2)^2} (K_B \nabla_A K^B) + \frac{1}{K^2} \nabla^A (K_B \nabla_A K^B) \\
&= -\frac{2(K_B \nabla^A K^B)(K_C \nabla_A K^C)}{(K^2)^2} + \frac{(\nabla^A K_B)(\nabla_A K^B) + K_B \nabla^A \nabla_A K^B}{K^2} \\
&= -\frac{K^A K^B R_{AB}}{K^2} + \frac{1}{(K^2)^2} [(K^2)(\nabla^A K_B)^2 - 2((K_B \nabla^B)K_A)^2], \quad (4.11)
\end{aligned}$$

where in the last step we have used $\nabla_{(A} K_{B)} = 0$ and $\nabla_A \nabla_B K^A = R_{AB} K^A$. Since $K^\mu = (\partial X_a)^\mu = \delta_a^\mu$, the first term is $-R^a_a$ and the bracketed term vanishes. Thus, for each direction X_a that the metric does not depend upon, we have (no implied sum over a)

$$R^a_a = -\nabla^2 \log \sqrt{g_{aa}}. \quad (4.12)$$

Equation (4.12) holds at all points that $K^2 \neq 0$. In the Newtonian limit in a 4D Minkowski background, the case $x^a = x^0 = t$ reduces immediately to $4\pi G\rho = \nabla^2 \Phi$, since $\log \sqrt{g_{00}} \approx \frac{1}{2} h_{00} = -\Phi$. Eq (4.12) is essentially Poisson's equation with the tension T^μ_ν acting as a *linear* source for $\log g_{aa}$. We have not linearized gravity yet; the g_{AB} appearing in equation (4.12) is the full background metric. Thus, by Gauss' law we can extract information about the tension on the brane by knowing about the physics away from the brane. We will use this to our advantage in the following analysis.

We now understand why in the one-brane case it was possible to find tension relations without knowing the detailed distribution of the energy-momentum tensor on the thickened brane. Equation (4.12) depends only on the symmetry of the setup, and is true in general whenever the metric does not depend upon a direction X^a . To show more explicitly how this leads to the relations in [2], we can rewrite equation (4.12) as

$$R^a_a = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \partial_A (\sqrt{-g} g^{AB} \partial_B \log \sqrt{g_{aa}}) \quad (4.13)$$

and the relations (2.4) as

$$-\partial_\rho (\sqrt{-g} g^{\rho\rho} \partial_\rho \log g_{tt}) = 2\sqrt{-g} R^t_t \quad (4.14)$$

$$-\partial_\rho (\sqrt{-g} g^{\rho\rho} \partial_\rho \log \sqrt{g_{\theta\theta}}) = \sqrt{-g} R^\theta_\theta \quad (4.15)$$

5. Finding tension relations with Stokes' theorem

5.1 Tension components

To find the solution to Einstein's equations, we need to find the relationship between the bulk energy momentum tensor and the tensor components on the brane. In the case of codimension-2 branes, this might seem an impossible task since the metric for a string-like defect changes over the string meaning that in general one deals with a thick defect. If you take the infinitely thin string, the metric is discontinuous and physical properties can depend on how the limit is taken [11]. However, we will see that the tension relationships involve only integrated tension as well as a few boundary parameters. This follows from Stoke's theorem applied to our system.

Let us suppose that the branes have some energy-momentum tensor $T^\mu_\nu = \text{diag}(f_i(\vec{z}))$, with $f_0 = \dots = f_3$.

The quantities of interest to us are the tension components, defined as

$$\mu_a \equiv \int d^6x \sqrt{-g} f_a \tag{5.1}$$

integrated over all three branes. We can write this suggestively as

$$\frac{1}{M_{10}^8} \left(\mu_a - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{A=1}^{10} \mu_A \right) = \int d^6x \sqrt{-g} R^a_a \tag{5.2}$$

with no summation over a . Thus, knowledge of a component of R^μ_ν , or even just its integral, gives us a relation among the tension components. Equation (4.12) then gives us four tension relations, one each for $a = t, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3$. In each of those cases, R^a_a is a total derivative, and thus its integral only depends on the metric at the outside boundary of the brane. Thus, we should be able to derive four tension relations. We will see that this is the case, though the tension relations include a constant that depends on the metric at the center of the branes. A similar constant appears in the tension relations in the case of a single codimension-2 brane in six dimensions [2]. However, in that case, the constant was simply the value of the g_{00} component of the metric at the center of the brane, whereas our constant will be an integral along the centers of the branes.

5.2 The centers of the branes

We now encounter a subtlety in applying equation (4.12) to our setup. The essential point is that equation (4.12) only holds when $g_{aa} \neq 0$, so at the center of each brane it fails to be true. At such points, our derivation fails because we divide by $g_{aa} = K^2$ in several places. We would like to know what to replace it with. The RHS, $-\frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 \log K^2$, is easily seen using Gauss' Law to be proportional to $\sum \delta(z_i) \nabla_{z_i} K^2$. The Ricci tensor is more complicated. Consider first a simple example for a thickened string:

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - dz^2 - dr^2 - \beta^2(r) d\phi^2 \tag{5.3}$$

$$\beta(r) = (l/\gamma) \sin(r\gamma/l) \quad r < l, \tag{5.4}$$

where this is matched onto a flat geometry at $r > l$. A quick calculation gives $R^\phi_\phi = \frac{\beta''}{\beta} = -\frac{\gamma^2}{l^2}$ and $\int_0^l dr \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{-g} R^\phi_\phi = 2\pi(\beta'(l) - \beta'(0)) = 2\pi(\cos(\gamma) - 1)$. We could take equation (4.12) literally and convert

$$\int_{r < \epsilon} dr d\phi \sqrt{-g} R^\phi_\phi = - \int_{r < \epsilon} dr d\phi \sqrt{-g} \nabla^2 \log \beta \tag{5.5}$$

into a surface integral at $r = \epsilon$, giving $2\pi \cos(\gamma)$. This clearly conflicts with the correct answer.

Of course, the reason for the conflicting answer is that we have integrated equation (4.12) over a region including the point $r = 0$. At this point, $g_{\phi\phi} = 0$. The correct way to apply (4.12) to the LHS of (5.5) is to evaluate the contributions from the point

$r = 0$ and from the points $0 < r < \epsilon$ separately. We can correctly use (4.12) to turn $\int_{0 < r < \epsilon} dr d\phi \sqrt{-g} R^\phi_\phi$ into a surface integral. This surface integral is now over the two boundaries ($r = 0$ and $r = \epsilon$) of the region $0 < r < \epsilon$. The contribution from the interior boundary is -2π , exactly the term missing earlier. We still should include the contribution from the point $r = 0$, but this is trivial; its contribution is zero. The reason is that the metric (5.3) avoids a δ -function singularity at the center of the thickened string as long as β satisfies the boundary condition $\beta'(0) = 1^2$.

The above example contains the essential idea behind the procedure we will apply to our thickened 7-branes. We chose our boundary conditions (4.3)-(4.5) specifically to avoid a singularity at the center. Of course, generic boundary conditions at the center of the branes will give rise to singularities. In section 6, we derive the form of such singularities in order to demonstrate that our boundary conditions do indeed set them to zero. Physically, these boundary conditions correspond to the fact that we are dealing with thickened branes, so that the tension is smeared out over a small but finite length. Thus, equation (4.12) holds everywhere except for $r = 0$, where the LHS is finite but the RHS is singular.

5.3 Tension relations

In light of the previous discussion, the proper procedure should now be clear. We are interested in the integral of R^a_a over the entire brane. We split this integral up into two regions, M_{center} and M , where M_{center} is an arbitrarily small open set around $r = 0$. M covers the rest of the brane. We have argued that the integral over the M_{center} vanishes since our boundary conditions set R to be regular. M now contains all points on any of the branes except for their centers. The boundary ∂M of M therefore contains both an outer surface ∂M_{outer} and an inner surface ∂M_{inner} . We will use Stokes' theorem to convert the volume integral over M into a surface integral over ∂M . We will find that the surface integral over ∂M_{inner} does not vanish in all cases³. Take γ to be the induced metric on ∂M , and n^A the unit outward normal vector to ∂M . Integrating both sides of Einstein's equations over M gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{M_{10}^8} (\mu_a - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{A=1}^{10} \mu_A) &= - \int_M d^6x \sqrt{-g} \nabla^A \nabla_A \log \sqrt{g_{aa}} \\ &= - \int_{\partial M} d^5x \sqrt{-\gamma} n^A \nabla_A \log \sqrt{g_{aa}} \\ &= -3 \frac{(2\pi R_0)^3}{56k} - 3(2\pi R_0)^3 \int dz_2 dz_3 \left[\frac{\sqrt{-\gamma}}{\sqrt{B(z_2, z_3)}} \frac{\partial_{z_1} \sqrt{g_{aa}}}{\sqrt{g_{aa}}} \right]_{z_1=0}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.6}$$

For convenience, we define $\mathcal{D}_a \equiv \int dz_2 dz_3 \left[\frac{\sqrt{-\gamma}}{\sqrt{B(z_2, z_3)}} \frac{\partial_{z_1} \sqrt{g_{aa}}}{\sqrt{g_{aa}}} \right]_{z_1=0}$, the surface integral over

²If $\beta'(0) = 1$, the metric is locally Minkowski space near $r = 0$.

³This is a distinctly different integral from the volume integral over M_{center} . The integral over M_{center} is a volume integral and only has contributions from the tension inside M_{center} . The integral over ∂M_{inner} , however, is an integral of the flux through a surface and gets contributions from the tension on the entire brane.

∂M_{inner} inside the first brane. The boundary conditions (4.3)-(4.5) imply that $\mathcal{D}_0 = 0$. This leaves us with only one unknown integral, $D_{\theta_1} = D_{\theta_2} = D_{\theta_3} \equiv D_\theta$.

After some simplification, (5.6) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\mu_{\theta_1} = \mu_{\theta_2} = \mu_{\theta_3} \equiv \mu_\theta \quad (5.7)$$

$$\mu_0 = \mu_\theta + 3(2\pi R_0)^3 \mathcal{D}_\theta \quad (5.8)$$

$$\frac{1}{M_{10}^8} \left(\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 - \frac{3}{8} \mu_\theta - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^3 \mu_{z_i} \right) = -3 \frac{(2\pi R_0)^3}{56k} \quad (5.9)$$

The compactification scale R_0 is determined from the components of the tension according to eq (5.9). Eq (5.8) indicates a tuning-condition of the tension components. Notice that this depends only on the metric at the center and exterior surface of the brane, but not on the metric in between. This is similar to the well-known behavior of the potential outside a distribution of electric charge. In GR, though, there can be different tensions on a codimension-2 brane which correspond to the same solution outside the brane (see [11] for a thorough discussion). The above relations among those tensions, however, do not suffer from the same ambiguous behavior.

The metric on the intersection of the branes does not have to be Minkowski space, and we can ask how the above relations change if the intersection is dS_4 or AdS_4 space with a four-dimensional Λ_{phys} . Λ_{phys} is defined by $R^{(4)}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g^{(4)}_{\mu\nu}R^{(4)} = g^{(4)}_{\mu\nu}\Lambda_{phys}$. Λ_{phys} can be tuned to zero by tuning the tensions and R_0 to satisfy equation (5.9). Instead of tuning Λ_{phys} to be zero, we can allow it to be small but non-zero, in which case the metric will have a more complicated dependence on \vec{z} . In appendix B, we produce the appropriate metric and calculate the modification to (5.6), but in fact it can be deduced by dimensional arguments. As Λ_{phys} approaches zero, we must recover (5.6) above. Furthermore, Λ_{phys} has units of $(mass)^2$, and the only other dimensionful quantities around are k and R_0 . By azimuthal symmetry, the new contribution must have the same factor of $(2\pi R_0)^3$. The only modification in the tension relations is in equation (5.9):

$$\frac{1}{M_{10}^8} \left(\frac{1}{2} \mu_0 - \frac{3}{8} \mu_\theta - \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^3 \mu_{z_i} \right) = -3 \frac{(2\pi R_0)^3}{56k} \left(1 - c_\Lambda \frac{\Lambda_{phys}}{k^2} \right) \quad (5.10)$$

where c_Λ is some constant $\sim \mathcal{O}(1)$.

5.4 Tensions at the intersection of branes

We can now ask, in the limit of arbitrarily thin branes, what equation (4.12) tells us about the tensions where two or more branes intersect. We make the replacement

$$f_A(\vec{z}) \rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^3 \mu^{(i)} \delta_\epsilon(z_i) + \sum_{i \neq j} \mu_A^{(ij)} \delta_\epsilon(z_i) \delta_\epsilon(z_j) + \mu_A^{(123)} \delta_\epsilon(z_1) \delta_\epsilon(z_2) \delta_\epsilon(z_3) \quad (5.11)$$

where we are leaving open for the moment the possibility that there is some tension associated with the intersections of the branes. The δ_ϵ functions are, of course, not true

δ -functions, but are smeared out over the brane thickness ϵ , which we take to be arbitrarily small.

We will see that, for local branes with $\mu_{zz} = 0$, the tensions of the intersection will vanish. One might expect this *a priori*. In [9], the author studied two intersecting codim-1 branes and found that the tension on the intersection vanished precisely when the branes met at right angles. To see this explicitly for our case, we again use Gauss' law but this time with two (three) of the radial directions z_i at an arbitrarily small distance ϵ to study the intersection of two (three) branes.

To study the intersection between two branes, begin by taking a small six-dimensional volume around branes 1 and 2 defined by

$$V \equiv \{x^\mu \in M \mid |z_1| + |z_2| < \epsilon\} \tag{5.12}$$

$$\Sigma \equiv \partial V = \{x^\mu \in M \mid |z_1| + |z_2| = \epsilon\}. \tag{5.13}$$

Define coordinates $\{x_\mu, w, z_3, y_i\}$ on Σ with $w = z_2 - z_1$. Then, on Σ , $z_1 = \epsilon - z_2 = \frac{\epsilon-w}{2}$, $z_2 = \frac{w+\epsilon}{2}$. Since $\gamma_{ij} = \frac{\partial x^\mu}{\partial y^i} \frac{\partial x^\nu}{\partial y^j} g_{\mu\nu}$, where γ is the induced metric on Σ , we have $\gamma_{AB} = g_{AB}$ component by component and $\gamma_{ww} = \frac{1}{4}(\xi_1 + \xi_2)$. The normal vector to Σ is $n^A = \frac{(\partial_{z_1})^A + (\partial_{z_2})^A}{\sqrt{\xi_1 + \xi_2}}$ and thus the integral of $R^y_{y_1}$ over V is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_V d^6x \sqrt{g} R^y_{y_1} &= - \int dz_3 \Omega^6 \frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}} (\partial_{z_1} \Omega + \partial_{z_2} \Omega) (2\pi R_0)^3 \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} dw \\ &+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \int dz_3 A^2 B^2 \sqrt{\xi_3} \beta_3 \epsilon \int_{-\epsilon}^{\epsilon} dw \\ &\xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} 0 \end{aligned} \tag{5.14}$$

So $R^y_{y_1}$ contains no product of δ_ϵ -functions. R^0_0 vanishes similarly, and the integrals over the triple intersection vanish even more quickly since the volume shrinks faster. We would expect this situation to change if we added a stabilizing potential or interactions between the branes. Perhaps the least complicated correction to this is that, when the branes form oblique angles with each other, the metric should have explicit factors of $\cos(y_i)$. These have implicit jumps at $z_i = 0$, thereby introducing δ -functions under the integral of eq (5.14).

The vanishing of (5.14) implies further that the tension on the triple intersection vanishes. We already know that by conservation of energy, $\mu_{z_i}^{(123)}$ is zero. Thus, the analogues of eq's (5.8) and (5.9) imply $\mu_0^{(123)} = \mu_\theta^{(123)} = 0$.

6. Curvature at singularities

We will now derive a formula for δ -function singularities at the origin for spacetimes with rotational symmetry. We want to know the value of R^a_a where one of the radial coordinates z vanishes. At such a point, the metric is degenerate and all values of y correspond to the same point in space-time. At a non-degenerate point, the Riemann tensor depends on the change in a vector as it is parallel transported around a loop with four sides, as in figure 1.

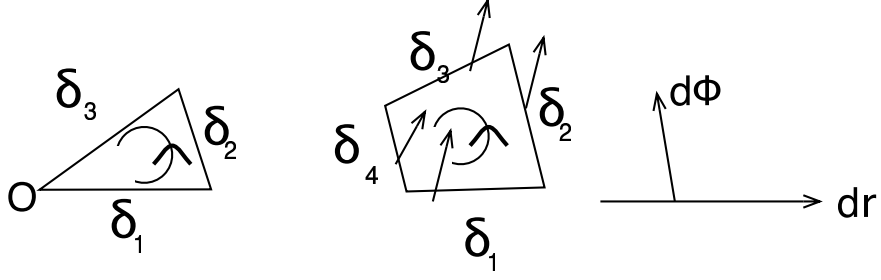


Figure 1: A vector v^a is parallel transported around a closed loop. Usually, the loop will have four sides, two for constant r and two for constant ϕ , but at the origin there are only three sides.

At a degenerate point, however, there are only three sides. We can take $\phi = y/R_0$, so that $\phi \in [0, 2\pi]$. Parallel transporting a vector v^a around such a loop gives, with

$$\delta v^d = \delta_3 + \delta_1 + \delta_2 \quad (6.1)$$

$$= - \left(dz \partial_z v^d \right)_{(dz/2, d\phi)} + \left(dz \partial_z v^d \right)_{(dz/2, 0)} + \left(d\phi \partial_\phi v^d \right)_{(dz, d\phi/2)} \quad (6.2)$$

$$= \left[\left(dz \Gamma_{zb}^d v^b \right)_{(dz/2, d\phi)} + \left(-dz \Gamma_{zb}^d v^b \right)_{(dz/2, 0)} \right] + \left(-d\phi \Gamma_{\phi b}^d v^b \right)_{(dz, d\phi/2)} \quad (6.3)$$

$$= \left[dz d\phi \partial_\phi \left(\Gamma_{zb}^d v^b \right)_{(dz/2, d\phi/2)} \right] - \left(d\phi \Gamma_{\phi b}^d v^b \right)_{(0, d\phi/2)} - d\phi dz \partial_z \left(\Gamma_{\phi b}^d v^b \right)_{(dz/2, d\phi/2)} \quad (6.4)$$

$$= dz d\phi \left(\partial_\phi \Gamma_{zb}^d - \partial_z \Gamma_{\phi b}^d + \Gamma_{\phi e}^d \Gamma_{zb}^e - \Gamma_{ze}^d \Gamma_{\phi b}^e \right) v^b - dz d\phi \delta(z) \Gamma_{\phi b}^d v^b \quad (6.5)$$

Thus, the Riemann tensor is

$$R_{z\phi b}{}^d = \left(\partial_\phi \Gamma_{zb}^d - \partial_z \Gamma_{\phi b}^d + \Gamma_{\phi e}^d \Gamma_{zb}^e - \Gamma_{ze}^d \Gamma_{\phi b}^e \right) - \delta(z) \Gamma_{\phi b}^d + \Delta_b{}^d \quad (6.6)$$

The term $\Delta_b{}^d$, which we derive below, is required in order to rotate the basis vectors $(\partial_z)^a$ and $(\partial_\phi)^a$ back to their original position.

A passive clockwise rotation, to undo the rotation along δ_2 , will take

$$\frac{(\partial_z)^a}{\sqrt{|\partial_z|^2}} \rightarrow \cos(d\phi) \frac{(\partial_z)^a}{\sqrt{|\partial_z|^2}} + \sin(d\phi) \frac{(\partial_\phi)^a}{\sqrt{|\partial_\phi|^2}} \quad (6.7)$$

$$\frac{(\partial_\phi)^a}{\sqrt{|\partial_\phi|^2}} \rightarrow \cos(d\phi) \frac{(\partial_\phi)^a}{\sqrt{|\partial_\phi|^2}} - \sin(d\phi) \frac{(\partial_z)^a}{\sqrt{|\partial_z|^2}} \quad (6.8)$$

Thus, $v^a = \frac{1}{g_{zz}} ((\partial_z)_b v^b) (\partial_z)^a + \frac{1}{g_{\phi\phi}} ((\partial_\phi)_b v^b) (\partial_\phi)^a$ will go to

$$\begin{aligned} v^a + \delta v^a &= \frac{1}{g_{zz}} \left((\partial_z)_b v^b \right) \left((\partial_z)^a + d\phi (\partial_\phi)^a \sqrt{\frac{g_{zz}}{g_{\phi\phi}}} \right) \\ &+ \frac{1}{g_{\phi\phi}} \left((\partial_\phi)_b v^b \right) \left((\partial_\phi)^a - d\phi (\partial_z)^a \sqrt{\frac{g_{\phi\phi}}{g_{zz}}} \right) \\ &= v^a - d\phi \frac{1}{\sqrt{g_{\phi\phi} g_{zz}}} \left\{ \left[(\partial_\phi)_b v^b \right] (\partial_z)^a - \left[(\partial_z)_b v^b \right] (\partial_\phi)^a \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (6.9)$$

which in turn implies

$$\delta v^a = dzd\phi\delta(z)\frac{1}{\sqrt{g_{\phi\phi}g_{zz}}}v^b\{g_{zb}\delta_\phi^a - g_{\phi b}\delta_z^a\} \quad (6.10)$$

$$\stackrel{def}{=} dzd\phi v^b \Delta_b^a \quad (6.11)$$

Thus, the full Riemann tensor is

$$R_{z\phi b}^d = \left(\partial_\phi\Gamma_{zb}^d - \partial_z\Gamma_{\phi b}^d + \Gamma_{\phi e}^d\Gamma_{zb}^e - \Gamma_{ze}^d\Gamma_{\phi b}^e\right) - \delta(z)\Gamma_{\phi b}^d - \delta(z)\frac{1}{\sqrt{g_{\phi\phi}g_{zz}}}\{g_{\phi b}\delta_z^d - g_{zb}\delta_\phi^d\} \quad (6.12)$$

In an appendix, we apply this to the straight string metric

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - dz^2 - dr^2 - \beta^2(r)d\phi^2 \quad (6.13)$$

and we find that the contribution at $r = 0$ is

$$\int d\phi\sqrt{-g}R_\phi^\phi = 2\pi\delta(r)(\beta' - 1) \quad (6.14)$$

Now, we can say more precisely why we cut out the center of the thickened branes. Equation (4.12) is true except at the center of each brane, where the singular part of the LHS can be calculated from equation (4.12). The singular pieces of the LHS and of the RHS of (4.12) will not in general be equal. Thus, in order to take advantage of Stokes' theorem, we divided up the brane into two parts: away from the center, where (4.12) applies, and at the center, where it does not. We then evaluated the integral over the former piece using Stokes' theorem and over the latter piece using equation (6.12). We claimed that the contribution from the latter piece should vanish in our case. We can now see this explicitly.

$$R_{z_1 y_1 z_1}^{y_1} = -\delta(z_1)\left[\Gamma_{z_1 y_1}^{y_1} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{g_{y_1 y_1}g_{z_1 z_1}}}(-g_{z_1 z_1})\right] \quad (6.15)$$

so

$$\sqrt{-g}R_{z_1}^{z_1} = -\delta(z_1)\beta_2\beta_3\sigma^2\sqrt{\xi_2\xi_3/\xi_1}\left[\partial_{z_1}\beta_1 - \sqrt{\xi}\right] \quad (6.16)$$

which vanishes under the boundary conditions (4.3)-(4.5). The other components of R^μ_ν vanish similarly.

We have so far only discussed calculating the singularity of R^μ_ν at the origin for the purpose of setting it to zero, but it is useful more generally. For instance, consider the infinitely thin, straight string. It gives rise to a geometry that is locally flat except for a deficit angle. In this case, there is an actual singularity at $r = 0$, and the interpretation of R^μ_ν at $r = 0$ is quite different. Rather than enforcing some boundary conditions, the singularity is the actual distributional energy-momentum tensor of the string. Explicitly, take the metric (5.3) with

$$\beta(r) = (1 - 4G\mu)r \quad (6.17)$$

This corresponds to a deficit angle $\Delta = 8\pi G\mu$ and an energy-momentum tensor $T^\rho_\sigma = \mu\delta(r)diag(1, 1, 0, 0)$. For this simple example, we can linearize gravity to calculate $R^\mu_\nu = -8\pi G\mu\delta(r)(0, 0, 1, 1)$ explicitly [13]. In this case, equation (6.14) gives $R_\phi^\phi = -8\pi G\mu\delta(r)$, as it must.

7. Localization

In order to check that our construction localizes gravity to the 4-dimensional intersection of the branes, we need to consider the spectrum of graviton modes. We can find the effective potential for the graviton $h_{\mu\nu}$ in the usual way, by plugging $h_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^{-(D-2)/2}(\vec{z})e^{ip \cdot x}\tilde{h}_{\mu\nu}(\vec{z})$ into

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{g}}\partial_A(\sqrt{g}g^{AB}\partial_B h_{\mu\nu}) = 0 \quad (7.1)$$

to get a Schrodinger wave equation for the graviton:

$$(\partial^2 + m^2 - V(\vec{z}))\tilde{h} = 0, \quad (7.2)$$

where $V(\vec{z}) = 12\frac{(\partial_z\Omega)^2}{\Omega^2} + 4\frac{\partial_z^2\Omega}{\Omega}$ in the bulk, and we are using \tilde{h} to represent any of its components. Now, in the bulk $\partial_{z_i}\Omega$ and $\partial_{z_i}^2\Omega$ are trivially $-k\Omega^2$ and $2k^2\Omega^3$, respectively. The value of $\partial_z^2\Omega$ at the branes is a little more subtle, since

$$\frac{\partial^2|z_i|}{\partial z_i^2} = 2\pi R_0\delta(z_i) \quad (7.3)$$

To see this, compare the straightforward expansion $\nabla^2\Omega = -3k^2D\Omega + k\sum_{i=1}^3\frac{\partial^2|z_i|}{\partial z_i^2}$ with a routine Gauss' Law computation of the integral of $\nabla^2\Omega$:

$$\int_{|z_1|=\epsilon}\sqrt{g}\nabla^A\nabla_A\Omega dz_1 dy_1 = \int_{|z_1|=\epsilon}\sqrt{\gamma}n^A\nabla_A\Omega dy_1 = -\Omega^{D-1}\frac{1}{\Omega}(-\Omega^2k)\frac{\partial|z_1|}{\partial z_1}2\pi R_0 \xrightarrow{\epsilon\rightarrow 0} 2\pi R_0k$$

and thus

$$V(\vec{z}) = \frac{60k^2}{(k(\sum_i|z_i|) + 1)^2} - \frac{8\pi R_0k}{k\sum_i|z_i| + 1}\sum_i\delta(z_i) \quad (7.4)$$

This is a volcano potential along each of the branes. The form of the volcano potential is itself enough to indicate 4-D gravity on the intersection. Qualitatively, the potential is nearly flat in the bulk, rises sharply as it approaches any of the branes, and turns and falls into an infinitely deep potential well at the brane itself. This potential well is enough to support our single bound graviton mode. All the light modes will be exponentially damped as they tunnel through the potential barrier around the branes, leaving gravity essentially four-dimensional at low energies. The more energetic the mode, the less tunneling it takes to reach the brane, and at high enough energy (roughly, at about $7.7k$, the peak of the potential) an observer would see ten-dimensional gravity recovered. The δ -functions are merely enforcing a boundary condition. To derive this boundary condition, we can isolate the δ -function type terms in $\partial_z^2\tilde{h} = \frac{\partial^2|z|}{\partial z^2}\partial_{|z|}\tilde{h} + \frac{\partial|z|}{\partial z}\partial_{|z|}^2\tilde{h}(|z|) = 2\pi R_0\delta^{(2)}(z)\partial_{|z|}\tilde{h} + \partial_{|z|}^2\tilde{h}(|z|)$. The boundary condition is therefore

$$-4\frac{k}{k(|z_2| + |z_3|) + 1}\tilde{h}|_{z_1=0} = \partial_{|z_1|}\tilde{h}|_{z_1=0} \quad (7.5)$$

and symmetrically for z_2, z_3 . We note that the zero mode $\tilde{h}_0 = \Omega^4(\vec{z})$ identically satisfies these boundary conditions. This matching is trivial from the fact that \tilde{h}_0 corresponds to $h_{\mu\nu} = const$, which clearly satisfies eq (7.1).

8. Conclusion

In this paper, we have constructed 4D gravity in ten dimensions out of 7-branes, essentially as the intersection between three copies of RSII. Due to the symmetry of the setup, we can generalize previous methods of relating the brane tension to the curvature of spacetime outside the branes (e.g. [2, 4]) to extract information about the brane intersections. As usual, there is a volcano potential with an exactly solvable zero mode, as well as a continuum of massive modes.

In the course of our analysis we have derived some interesting features of Einstein's equations. We found that whenever the metric does not depend on a coordinate x , the corresponding component of the Ricci tensor R^x_x is a total derivative $-\frac{1}{2}\nabla^2 \log |g_{xx}|$. We also found a formula for curvature singularities arising from the origin in polar coordinates.

We note that although we will demonstrate that gravity can be localized on the intersection of 7-branes, the filling fraction of the intersection will not in general be the most likely place for our universe to form if the branes forming it are infinite in extent. However, it could be competitive if they loop around and form loops or some similar configuration, since such a setup would act like a 3-brane on larger scales. This requires further study which we leave to further work. Here we show only that the scenario of ref. [1] can consistently include four-dimensional gravity, even when no dimensions are compactified.

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A. $\delta(r)$ Contributions to curvature

We can calculate the singularity from equation (6.12) for straight string metrics:

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - dz^2 - dr^2 - \beta^2(r)d\phi^2 \tag{A.1}$$

The non-vanishing Christoffel symbols are

$$\Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r = -\beta\beta' \tag{A.2}$$

$$\Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi = \beta'/\beta \tag{A.3}$$

The curvature is thus

$$R_{rr} = R_{r\phi r}^\phi \tag{A.4}$$

$$= -\delta(r) \left(\Gamma_{\phi r}^\phi + \frac{1}{\beta} (-g_{rr}) \right) \tag{A.5}$$

$$= -\delta(r) \left(\frac{\beta'}{\beta} - \frac{1}{\beta} \right) \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$R_{\phi\phi} = -R_{r\phi\phi}{}^r \quad (\text{A.7})$$

$$= \delta(r) \left(\Gamma_{\phi\phi}^r + \frac{1}{\beta} (\beta^2) \right) \quad (\text{A.8})$$

$$= \delta(r) (-\beta\beta' + \beta) \quad (\text{A.9})$$

and thus

$$\int d\phi \sqrt{-g} R^r{}_r = 2\pi\delta(r) (\beta' - 1) \quad (\text{A.10})$$

$$\int d\phi \sqrt{-g} R^\phi{}_\phi = 2\pi\delta(r) (\beta' - 1) \quad (\text{A.11})$$

This is what one finds integrating R explicitly over a thickened string with $\beta' = 1$ at the center of the string and β' above being the value at the edge of the thickened string. Notice that the above terms vanish for minkowski space, $\beta(r) = r$, as they must.

B. $\Lambda_{phys} \neq 0$ Contribution to tension relations

The metric for n intersecting codimension-two branes in AdS_{4+2n} with AdS_4 on the intersection is

$$ds^2 = \frac{L^2}{(c(\sum_i z_i) + L)^2} \left(\Delta(\vec{z}) g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu - \sum_i dz_i^2 + \sum_{ij} \frac{|\Lambda_{phys}| z_i z_j dz_i dz_j}{\Delta(\vec{z})} - \sum_i \left(1 - \frac{L|\Lambda_{phys}| \sum_j z_j}{c} \pm a_n \frac{L|\Lambda_{phys}| (nz_i - \sum_j z_j)}{c} \right)^2 dy_i^2 \right) \quad (\text{B.1})$$

$$\Delta(\vec{z}) = 1 + |\Lambda_{phys}| \sum_j z_j^2 \quad (\text{B.2})$$

$$a_n = \sqrt{1 + \frac{nc^2}{|\Lambda_{phys}| L^2}} \quad (\text{B.3})$$

The c.c. on the intersection is $-|\Lambda_{phys}|$ and the c.c. in the bulk is $\Lambda = -\frac{1}{2}(D-1)(D-2)(n\frac{c^2}{L^2} + |\Lambda_{phys}|)$. The warp factor for the 4D metric and for the angular directions have been normalized to unity on the intersection. In the limit $\Lambda_{phys} \rightarrow 0$, we recover the Minkowski solution (4.9). To calculate the modified tension relations, we once again use (4.12), as follows. The induced metric γ on the hyper-cylinder surrounding the first brane is diagonal except for the block with the normal directions z_i . This block has eigenvalues $\{1, 1, \dots, 1, \frac{1+z_1^2|\Lambda_{phys}|}{1+|\Lambda_{phys}|\sum_i z_i^2}\}$, so we can easily evaluate $\det(-\gamma)$. Taking $n = 3$,

$$\begin{aligned} \int d^6x \sqrt{-g} R^0{}_0 &= -(2\pi R_0)^3 \int_0^\infty dz_2 dz_3 \sqrt{-\gamma} n^{z_1} \partial_{z_1} \log \sqrt{g_{00}} \\ &= -(2\pi R_0)^3 \frac{c}{L} \int_0^\infty dz_2 dz_3 \left(\frac{L}{c(z_2 + z_3) + L} \right)^9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \times (1 + |\Lambda_{phys}|(z_2^2 + z_3^2))^{3/2} \\
& \times \left(1 - \frac{L}{c}|\Lambda_{phys}|\frac{z_2 + z_3}{3} \pm a_n \frac{L}{c}|\Lambda_{phys}|\frac{-z_2 - z_3}{3}\right) \\
& \times \left(1 - \frac{L}{c}|\Lambda_{phys}|\frac{z_2 + z_3}{3} \pm a_n \frac{L}{c}|\Lambda_{phys}|\frac{2z_2 - z_3}{3}\right) \\
& \times \left(1 - \frac{L}{c}|\Lambda_{phys}|\frac{z_2 + z_3}{3} \pm a_n \frac{L}{c}|\Lambda_{phys}|\frac{-z_2 + 2z_3}{3}\right) \tag{B.4}
\end{aligned}$$

The large- z_i contribution to the integral is negligible since the integrand drops faster than $\frac{1}{(z_2+z_3)^2}$. Thus, in the small- Λ_{phys} -limit, we can neglect terms of order $\mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{phys}^2)$. Then, (B.4) is

$$\int_{brane\ 1} d^6x \sqrt{-g} R^0_0 = -(2\pi R_0)^3 \left(\frac{1}{56k} - \frac{|\Lambda_{phys}|}{420k^3}\right) \tag{B.5}$$

and $c_\Lambda = 2/15$ in eq (5.10).

There is another way that one might expect Λ_{phys} to enter the tuning relations. Aside from the solution in the bulk depending implicitly on Λ_{phys} , the metric on the brane $g_{\mu\nu}^{(4)}$ certainly depends on Λ_{phys} . Consequently, $R^{(4)\mu}_\nu - \frac{1}{2}\delta^\mu_\nu R^{(4)} = \Lambda_{phys}\delta^\mu_\nu$ will contribute to the total $R^A_B - \frac{1}{2}\delta^A_B R$. However, when we turn to our tension relations, everything is integrated over the branes, whose thickness is only ϵ . The tension components f_μ are inversely proportional to ϵ whereas Λ_{phys} is not. Since ϵ is very small, this particular contribution from Λ_{phys} will be negligible.

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