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$f(R, T) = f(R) + \lambda T$ gravity models as alternatives to cosmic acceleration

This article presents cosmological models that arise in a subclass of $f(R, T) = f(R) + f(T)$ gravity models, with different $f(R)$ functions and fixed T -dependence. That is, the gravitational lagrangian is considered as $f(R, T) = f(R) + \lambda T$, with constant λ . Here R and T represent the Ricci scalar and trace of the stress-energy tensor, respectively. The modified gravitational field equations are obtained through the metric formalism for the Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker metric with signature $(+, -, -, -)$. We work with $f(R) = R + \alpha R^2 - \frac{\mu^4}{R}$, $f(R) = R + k \ln(\gamma R)$ and $f(R) = R + m e^{[-nR]}$, with $\alpha, \mu, k, \gamma, m$ and n all free parameters, which lead to three different cosmological models for our Universe. For the choice of $\lambda = 0$, this reduces to widely discussed $f(R)$ gravity models. This manuscript clearly describes the effects of adding the trace of the energy-momentum tensor in the $f(R)$ lagrangian. The exact solution of the modified field equations are obtained under the hybrid expansion law. Also we present the Om diagnostic analysis for the discussed models.

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