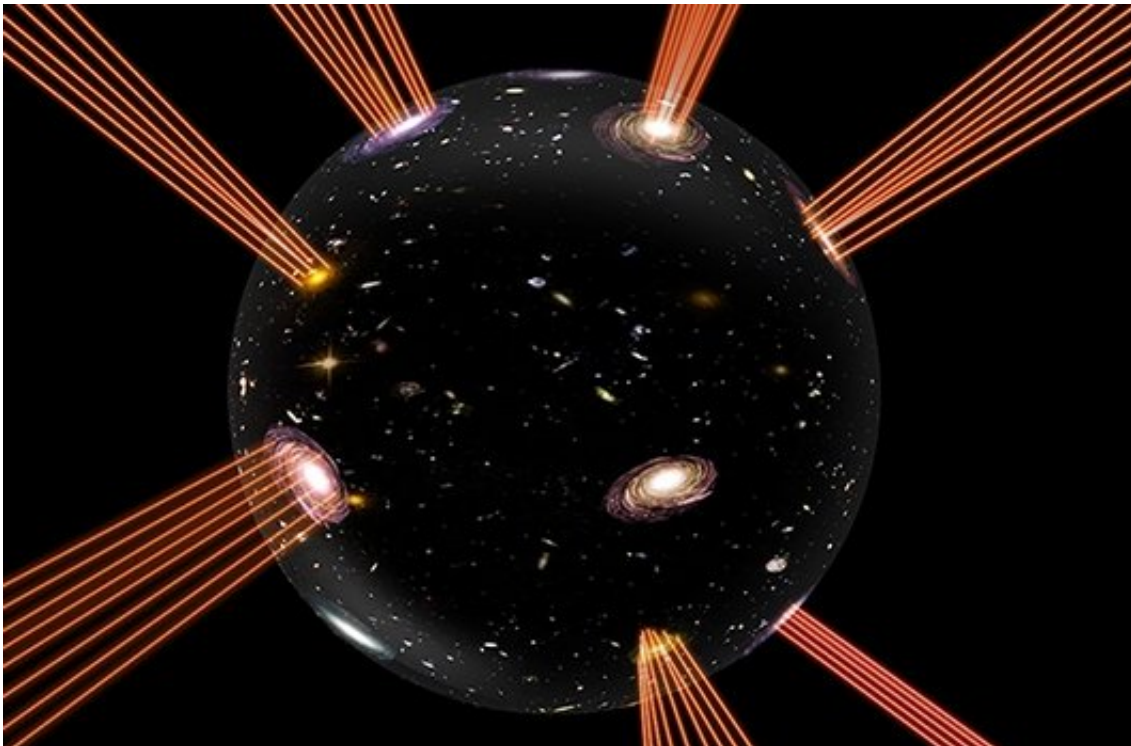


# Our universe: An expanding bubble in an extra dimension

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In their article, the scientists propose a new model with dark energy and our universe riding on an expanding bubble in an extra dimension. Credit: Suvendu Giri

Uppsala University researchers have devised a new model for the universe – one that may solve the enigma of dark energy. Their new article, published in *Physical Review Letters*, proposes a new structural concept, including dark energy, for a universe that rides on an expanding

bubble in an additional dimension.

We have known for the past 20 years that the [universe](#) is expanding at an ever accelerating rate. The explanation is the "dark energy" that permeates it throughout, pushing it to expand. Understanding the nature of this dark energy is one of the paramount enigmas of fundamental physics.

It has long been hoped that string theory will provide the answer. According to string theory, all matter consists of tiny, vibrating "stringlike" entities. The theory also requires there to be more [spatial dimensions](#) than the three that are already part of everyday knowledge. For 15 years, there have been models in string theory that have been thought to give rise to dark energy. However, these have come in for increasingly harsh criticism, and several researchers are now asserting that none of the models proposed to date are workable.

In their article, the scientists propose a [new model](#) with [dark energy](#) and our universe riding on an expanding bubble in an extra dimension. The whole universe is accommodated on the edge of this expanding bubble. All existing matter in the universe corresponds to the ends of strings that extend out into the extra dimension. The researchers also show that expanding bubbles of this kind can come into existence within the framework of string theory. It is conceivable that there are more bubbles than ours, corresponding to other universes.

The Uppsala scientists' model provides a new, different picture of the creation and future fate of the universe, while it may also pave the way for methods of testing [string theory](#).

**More information:** Souvik Banerjee et al. Emergent de Sitter Cosmology from Decaying Anti-de Sitter Space, *Physical Review Letters* (2018). [DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.261301](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.121.261301)

Provided by Uppsala University

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