Cosmological effects of the Galileon term in scalar-tensor theories

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We study the cosmological effects of a Galileon term in scalar-tensor theories of gravity. The subset of scalar-tensor theories considered are characterized by a nonminimal coupling $F(\sigma)R$, a kinetic term with arbitrary sign $Z(\partial \sigma)^2$ with $Z = \pm 1$, a potential $V(\sigma)$, and a Galileon term $G_3(\sigma, (\partial \sigma)^2) \Box \sigma$. In addition to the models modified dynamics, the Galileon term provides a screening mechanism to potentially reconcile the models with general relativity predictions inside a Vainshtein radius. Thanks to the Galileon term, the stability conditions, namely, ghost and Laplacian instabilities, in the branch with a negative kinetic term ($Z = -1$) are fulfilled for a large volume of the parameter space. Solving numerically the background evolution and linear perturbations, we derive the constraints on the cosmological parameters in the presence of a Galileon term for different combination of the cosmic microwave background data from Planck, baryon acoustic oscillations measurements from BOSS, and supernovae from the Pantheon compilation. We find that the Galileon term alters the dynamics of all the studied cases. For a standard kinetic term $(Z = 1)$, we find that Planck data and a compilation of baryon acoustic oscillations data constrain the Galileon term to small values that allow screening very inefficiently. For a negative kinetic term ($Z = -1$), a Galileon term and a nonzero potential lead to an efficient screening in a physically viable regime of the theory, with a value for the Hubble constant today which alleviates the tension between its cosmic microwave background and local determinations. For a vanishing potential, the case with $Z = -1$ and the Galileon term driving the late acceleration of the Universe is ruled out by Planck data.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Lambda cold dark matter (ΛCDM) model is the standard cosmological model, it provides a remarkably good fit to most cosmological observations such as the measurements of cosmic microwave background (CMB) anisotropies in temperature and polarization [[1](#page-18-0)], baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO) in the galaxy and cluster distributions [\[2,](#page-18-1)[3\]](#page-18-2), cosmic shear measurements of the galaxy distribution [\[4](#page-18-3)[,5](#page-18-4)] and of the CMB [[6](#page-18-5)–[9\]](#page-18-6), and measurements of the luminosity distances of type Ia supernovae (SN Ia) [\[10](#page-18-7)–[12\]](#page-18-8). Nevertheless, in recent years its enduring success has been threatened by the growing tension between the inference of H_0 within Λ CDM from the Planck measurement of CMB anisotropy [[13\]](#page-18-9) and its determination with supernovae at low redshift, which has grown to a maximum level of 5σ with the latest SH0ES release with SN Ia calibrated using Cepheids [[14\]](#page-18-10).

Whereas inferences of H_0 from different CMB experi-ments are very consistent with one another [[13](#page-18-9)[,15](#page-19-0)[,16\]](#page-19-1), different approaches in calibrating SN provide different estimates and different uncertainties in the determination of H_0 , as the latest SH0ES result based on Cepheids is $H_0 = 73.04 \pm 1.04$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹ at 68% confidence level
(CI) [14] while the latest Carnegie-Chicago Hubble (CL) [\[14\]](#page-18-10), while the latest Carnegie-Chicago Hubble program estimate, using the tip of the Red Giant Branch calibration technique, is $H_0 = 69.8 \pm 0.8$ (stat) ± 1.7 (sys) \times
km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹ at 68%. CL [17]. These differences in the kms^{-1}Mpc^{-1} at 68% CL [[17](#page-19-2)]. These differences in the local determinations of H_0 and their error obviously affects the tension with the CMB inference in a statistically significant way and might point to unknown systematics or uncertainties not properly taken into account. Nevertheless, this tension that emerged with the first Planck cosmological release [\[18\]](#page-19-3) has fueled interest in models explaining a larger value of H_0 compared to ΛCDM [[19](#page-19-4)–[25](#page-19-5)].

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Modified gravity (MG) is one of the most promising fundamental physics route to reconcile the inference of H_0 from the Planck measurement of CMB anisotropy and its inferred value determined with the calibration of supernovae at low redshift within ΛCDM model. A simple mechanism to increase H_0 by an evolving gravitational constant is at play even in the simplest scalar-tensor models, i.e., induced gravity (IG) (equivalent to the Brans-Dicke model by a field redefinition). Without the fine-tuning of parameters, the scalar field regulating the gravitational strength moves around recombination because of its coupling to pressureless matter. This mechanism, which can be also seen as a dynamical and self-consistent variation in the gravitational constant, induces a degeneracy between H_0 and the nonminimal coupling of the scalar field to the curvature leading to a larger H_0 compared to Λ CDM [\[26](#page-19-6)–[34\]](#page-19-7).

Although this mechanism is completely general, the increase of H_0 with respect to Λ CDM depends on the model and also on the number of additional parameters with respect to ΛCDM. With Planck DR3 likelihoods, we have $\Delta H_0 = H_0 - H_0^{\Lambda CDM} \sim 2 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ for IG [\[26](#page-19-6)[,27,](#page-19-8)[32\]](#page-19-9)
and $\Delta H_0 \sim 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ for a nonminimally coupled and $\Delta H_0 \sim 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ for a nonminimally coupled scalar field with a quartic potential [\[33\]](#page-19-10), dubbed early modified gravity, which is among the best solutions to the H_0 tension according to [[23](#page-19-11)].

All the scalar-tensor models of gravity mentioned above do not have Vainshtein screening and a nearly negligible chameleon screening due to the coupling to matter. For this reason, one has to compare the volume of the parameter space of the nonminimal coupling required to increase H_0 to the Solar System bounds on the corresponding post-Newtonian parameters [[35](#page-19-12)]. As for the H_0 degeneracy, also in this case, the comparison is nontrivial and model dependent. Whereas for the simplest IG models, the Solar System bounds constrain the nonminimal coupling to values which do not lead to an appreciable increase of H_0 compared to ΛCDM [\[26,](#page-19-6)[27](#page-19-8)[,32](#page-19-9)], it is sufficient to consider a nonminimally coupled scalar field to have a large volume of parameter space where viable models on Solar System scales can lead to a value of H_0 larger than in ΛCDM [\[28](#page-19-13)[,31](#page-19-14)]. Early modified gravity is a further step in the construction of a scalar-tensor viable model on Solar System scales with large H_0 by adding a self-interaction term which implements an attractor mechanism towards general relativity (GR) with a cosmological constant.

In this paper, we instead consider the cosmology of IG, with the addition of a Galileon term [[36](#page-19-15)–[38](#page-19-16)], whose purpose is to reconcile the theory with GR on scales below the so-called Vainshtein radius. We therefore would like to investigate the implications of the addition of an explicit term implementing a screening mechanism on the cosmology of the simplest scalar-tensor theories of gravity (see also [\[39](#page-19-17)–[41](#page-19-18)] for previous studies with cosmological bounds on Galileon gravity).

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. [II](#page-1-0) we describe the models considered and their background dynamics together with the stability conditions and the screening mechanism. In Sec. [III](#page-7-0) we present evolution of the linear fluctuations, CMB anisotropies, and matter power spectrum. Section [IV](#page-10-0) is devoted to the presentation of the datasets and the details of our Markov chain Monte-Carlo (MCMC) analysis, joint with the presentation of the results. We draw our conclusions in Sec. [V.](#page-12-0)

II. THE MODEL

We study the following subclass of Horndeski theories [\[37](#page-19-19)[,42](#page-19-20)–[45\]](#page-19-21):

$$
S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|g|} [G_4(\sigma)R + G_2(\sigma, X) + G_3(\sigma, X)\Box \sigma + \mathcal{L}_M]
$$
\n(1)

where $|g|$ is the absolute value of the determinant of the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ for which we use a $($ − + ++) signature, σ is a scalar field, $X \equiv -\nabla_{\mu} \sigma \nabla^{\mu} \sigma / 2 = -\partial_{\mu} \sigma \partial^{\mu} \sigma / 2$, and $\square \equiv$ $\nabla_{\mu} \nabla^{\mu}$ is the covariant d'Alambert operator. $\mathcal{L}_{\mathbf{M}}$ is the matter Lagrangian which does not depend on the scalar field σ and it is minimally coupled with the metric g. The action [\(1\)](#page-1-1) predicts that gravitational waves travel at the speed of light [[45\]](#page-19-21), consistently with the current measurements [\[46\]](#page-19-22). We consider the following form for the G functions:

$$
G_4 = \gamma \sigma^2 / 2
$$

\n
$$
G_3 = -2g(\sigma)X
$$

\n
$$
G_2 = ZX - V(\sigma) + 4\zeta(\sigma)X^2,
$$
\n(2)

where $Z = \pm 1$ is the sign of the kinetic term. This Lagrangian is equivalent to the extension of the Brans-Lagrangian is equivalent to the extension of the Brans-Dicke (BD) model [\[47](#page-19-23)[,48\]](#page-19-24) with a Galileon term. In fact with the field redefinition $\phi = \gamma \sigma^2/2$, with $\gamma = \frac{Z}{4\omega_{BD}} > 0$ and $Z = \pm 1$, the G functions become

$$
G_4 = \phi
$$

\n
$$
G_3 = -2f(\phi)\chi
$$

\n
$$
G_2 = 2\frac{\omega_{\rm BD}}{\phi}\chi - V(\phi),
$$
\n(3)

where $\chi \equiv -\nabla_{\mu} \phi \nabla^{\mu} \phi/2$ and the relationship between g, ζ and f is $g(\sigma) = \gamma \sigma^3 f(\sigma)$; $\zeta(\sigma) = \sigma^{-1} g(\sigma)$. Therefore, we refer to the model defined by Eq. [\(2\)](#page-1-2) as Brans-Dicke Galileon (BDG), while the model with $G_2 = ZX - V(\sigma)$ is the induced gravity Galileon (IGG), as it is the extension of induced gravity (IG) [[49](#page-19-25)] with a Galileon term $G_3 = -2g(\sigma)X$. Therefore even if BD and IG are equivalent, their extensions with Galileon terms are not. In particular, IGG corresponds to BDG given by Eq. [\(2\)](#page-1-2) with, formally, $\zeta = 0$, but it is not simply a special case of BDG when $\zeta = 0$. In fact, as described above, in the BDG model the functions g and ζ are not independent and setting $\zeta = 0$ would mean setting $g = 0$ as well.

We study two different versions of BDG and IGG, relating to the sign of the kinetic term Z:

- (i) Standard branch: $Z = +1$ in which the kinetic term has a standard sign. In this branch we consider both IGG and BDG (IGGst and BDGst, respectively) and we take $V(\sigma)$ and $g(\sigma)$ to be power laws of the scalar field: $V(\sigma) = \lambda_n \sigma^n$, $g(\sigma) = \alpha_m \sigma^m$, for several combinations of n and m . In this scenario the potential dominates the dynamics and provides the acceleration of the expansion of the Universe, while the G_3 enters as a small correction to the standard BD theory.
- (ii) Phantom branch: $Z = -1$ and $\gamma < 1/6$, equivalent to $\omega_{\rm BD} < -3/2$, in which the kinetic term has a nonstandard sign. In this branch we consider only BDG with $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$, either with or without a potential (cosmological constant). If there is no potential the burden to provide comic acceleration, a healthy theory and effective screening on small scales, is on the G_3 term [[50](#page-19-26)]. Reinserting the potential into the theory, both the Galileon term and the cosmological constant contribute to the dynamics and give rise to the late-time acceleration of the Universe. Even if we have a nonzero potential, the G_3 is still able to provide a healthy theory and effective screening on small scales, where we recover GR.

A. Covariant equations

By varying the action with respect to the metric we obtain the modified Einstein field equation

$$
G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{F(\sigma)} \left[T_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{M})} + T_{\mu\nu}^{(\text{G})} + Z \left(\partial_{\mu}\sigma \partial_{\nu}\sigma - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} \partial^{\rho}\sigma \partial_{\rho}\sigma \right) - g_{\mu\nu} V(\sigma) + (\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu} \Box) F(\sigma) \right],
$$
 (4)

where $F(\sigma) = \gamma \sigma^2$, $G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}R$ is the Einstein tensor and $T_{\mu\nu}^{(M)} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{|g|}}$ $\frac{\delta(\sqrt{|g|}\mathcal{L}_M)}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}}$ is the energy-momentum tensor of matter. $T_{\mu\nu}^{(G)}$ is defined as

$$
T_{\mu\nu}^{(G)} = -2\left\{g(\sigma)\nabla_{\mu}\sigma\nabla_{\nu}\sigma\Box\sigma - \nabla_{(\mu}\sigma\nabla_{\nu)}[g(\sigma)(\partial\sigma)^{2}] \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}\nabla_{\alpha}\sigma\nabla^{\alpha}[g(\sigma)(\partial\sigma)^{2}] - \frac{\zeta(\sigma)}{2}g_{\mu\nu}(\partial\sigma)^{4} \right. \\ \left. + 2\zeta(\sigma)\nabla_{\mu}\sigma\nabla_{\nu}\sigma(\partial\sigma)^{2}\right\}, \tag{5}
$$

with $\nabla_{(\mu} \sigma \nabla_{\nu)} = \frac{1}{2} (\nabla_{\mu} \sigma \nabla_{\nu} + \nabla_{\nu} \sigma \nabla_{\mu}).$ It is useful to write down the trace of the Einstein equation [\(4\)](#page-2-0), which is

$$
R = \frac{1}{F} \left[-T^{(\mathbf{M})} - T^{(\mathbf{G})} + Z(\partial \sigma)^2 + 4V + 3\Box F(\sigma) \right],\qquad(6)
$$

with $T^{(G)}$ as

$$
T^{(\text{G})} = -2\Big\{g(\sigma)(\partial\sigma)^2 \Box\sigma + \nabla_\mu\sigma\nabla^\mu[g(\sigma)(\partial\sigma)^2]\Big\}.
$$
 (7)

Note that $T^{(G)}$ does not depend on $\zeta(\sigma)$.

The equation for the evolution of the scalar field, obtained by varying the action [\(1\)](#page-1-1) with respect to the field, is

$$
\Box \sigma [Z - 4\zeta(\partial \sigma)^2] - 2g \{ (\Box \sigma)^2 - \nabla^\mu \nabla^\nu \sigma \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \sigma \n- \nabla^\mu \sigma \nabla^\nu \sigma R_{\mu\nu} \} + 4g_{,\sigma} \nabla^\mu \sigma \nabla^\nu \sigma \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \sigma + g_{,\sigma\sigma} (\partial \sigma)^4 \n- 3\zeta_{,\sigma} (\partial \sigma)^4 - 4\zeta(\sigma) \nabla_\mu [(\partial \sigma)^2] \nabla^\mu \sigma + \gamma \sigma R - V_{,\sigma} = 0. \quad (8)
$$

B. Background evolution

Working in a spatially flat Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker (FLRW) universe described by the line element

$$
ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)dx^2,
$$
 (9)

the Einstein field equations reduce to

$$
3FH^{2} = \rho + \frac{1}{2}Z\dot{\sigma}^{2} - 3H\dot{F} + V(\sigma)
$$

$$
+ \dot{\sigma}^{3}[6g(\sigma)H - \dot{g}(\sigma) + 3\zeta(\sigma)\dot{\sigma}]
$$

$$
\equiv \rho + \rho_{\sigma}, \qquad (10)
$$

$$
-2F\dot{H} = \rho + p + Z\dot{\sigma}^2 + \ddot{F} - H\dot{F}
$$

+ $\dot{\sigma}^2[(6gH - 2g_{,\sigma}\dot{\sigma})\dot{\sigma} + 4\zeta\dot{\sigma}^2 - 2g\ddot{\sigma}]$
 $\equiv \rho + p + \rho_{\sigma} + p_{\sigma},$ (11)

where

$$
\rho_{\sigma} = \frac{Z}{2}\dot{\sigma}^2 - 3H\dot{F} + V(\sigma) + \dot{\sigma}^3[6g(\sigma)H - \dot{g}(\sigma) + 3\zeta(\sigma)\dot{\sigma}],
$$
\n(12)

$$
p_{\sigma} = \frac{Z}{2}\dot{\sigma}^2 - V(\sigma) + \ddot{F} + 2H\dot{F} - \dot{\sigma}^4(g_{,\sigma} - \zeta) - 2g\dot{\sigma}^2\ddot{\sigma}.\tag{13}
$$

The scalar field equation in the FLRW metric takes the form:

$$
\ddot{\sigma}(Z + 12gH\dot{\sigma} - 4(g_{,\sigma} - 3\zeta)\dot{\sigma}^2) - 6\gamma\sigma(2H^2 + \dot{H}) + V_{,\sigma} + 3ZH\dot{\sigma} + 6g(3H^2 + \dot{H})\dot{\sigma}^2 + 12H\zeta\dot{\sigma}^3 - (g_{,\sigma\sigma} - 3\zeta_{,\sigma})\dot{\sigma}^4 = 0.
$$
 (14)

Because of the nonminimal coupling between the scalar field and the Ricci scalar in the Lagrangian, the Newton constant in the Friedmann equations is replaced by $G_{\text{cosm}} =$ $(8\pi F)^{-1}$ that now varies with time.

Following the notation of [\[51\]](#page-19-27) we define the density parameters for radiation (r), pressureless matter (m), and the scalar field (σ) as

$$
\tilde{\Omega}_i = \frac{\rho_i}{3FH^2} \equiv \frac{\rho_i}{\rho_{\rm crit}} (i = \mathbf{r}, \mathbf{m}, \sigma).
$$
 (15)

It is also convenient to define dark energy density and pressure parameters in a framework which mimics Einstein gravity at the present time, by rewriting the Friedmann equations as [\[51](#page-19-27)–[53](#page-20-0)]

$$
3F_0H^2 = \rho + \rho_{DE},
$$

-2F_0\dot{H} = \rho + p + \rho_{DE} + p_{DE}, (16)

which leads to

$$
\rho_{\rm DE} = \frac{F_0}{F} \rho_\sigma + \rho \left(\frac{F_0}{F} - 1\right),\tag{17}
$$

$$
p_{\rm DE} = \frac{F_0}{F} p_{\sigma} + p \left(\frac{F_0}{F} - 1 \right). \tag{18}
$$

In this way, the effective parameter of state for dark energy can be defined as $w_{DE} \equiv p_{DE}/\rho_{DE}$. In this context the density parameters mimicking radiation, matter, and dark energy (DE) in Einstein gravity are

$$
\Omega_i = \frac{\rho_i}{3F_0 H^2} \quad (i = \text{r}, \text{m}, \text{DE}). \tag{19}
$$

The two definitions in Eqs. [\(15\)](#page-3-0) and [\(19\)](#page-3-1) coincide at $z = 0: \, \tilde{\Omega}_{0,i} = \Omega_{0,i}.$

1. Standard branch $(Z = 1)$

In the standard branch we consider IGG: the theory without $\zeta(\sigma)$: $G_4 = \gamma \sigma^2/2$, $G_2 = X - V(\sigma)$, $G_3 =$ $-2g(\sigma)X$. In the region in parameter space that produces a reasonable cosmological background evolution BDG and IGG are nearly indistinguishable. For this reason we restrict ourselves to IGG for $Z = 1$.

We consider a monomial potential $V(\sigma) = \lambda_n \sigma^n$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha_m \sigma^m$. For this choice of $V(\sigma)$ and $g(\sigma)$ the IGG model presents exact solutions with accelerated expansion in the absence of matter where the scale factor is $a(t) \propto t^p$,
with *n* and *m* related by $m = 1 - n$ and with *n* and *m* related by $m = 1 - n$, and

$$
p = \frac{2(-2 + n + 4\beta - 4\gamma + n^2\gamma)}{(24\beta - 16\gamma + 20n\gamma - 8n^2\gamma + n^3\gamma)},
$$
 (20)

$$
\sigma(t) = c_0 t^{-2/(n-2)},
$$
\n(21)

where β , defined by $\alpha = \beta c_0^{n-2}$, is a reparametrization of α ,
which useful to show that in the limit of $\alpha \to 0$ ($\beta \to 0$) we which useful to show that in the limit of $\alpha \to 0$ ($\beta \to 0$) we recover the analogous solution found in IG [[27](#page-19-8)].

For $n = 4$ and $n = 2$, there are de Sitter solutions $a(t) \propto e^{Ht}$ with a constant $H > 0$. For $n = 4$, the solution found for IG [\[27\]](#page-19-8): $\sigma = \pm H \sqrt{3\gamma/\lambda_4}$ is still valid in IGG for every possible form of $g(\sigma)$ as this term does not contribute every possible form of $g(\sigma)$, as this term does not contribute under the ansatz σ = constant. For $n = 2$, when $g(\sigma) \propto \sigma^{-1}$, there are solutions of the form $\sigma \propto e^{Ht\delta}$, with $\delta \equiv \delta(\alpha, \gamma, H)$. Its explicit form is

$$
\delta = -1
$$
, or $\delta = \frac{-1 - 4\gamma \pm \sqrt{(1 + 4\gamma)^2 + 48H^2\gamma\alpha}}{12H^2\alpha}$. (22)

For $\alpha \rightarrow 0$ these solutions reduce to the ones discussed in [[54](#page-20-1)]:

$$
\delta = -1 \quad \text{or} \quad \delta = \frac{2\gamma}{1 + 4\gamma}.\tag{23}
$$

The evolution of the scalar field is shown in the upper panel of Fig. [1](#page-4-0), in the model with a constant potential $V(\sigma) = \lambda_0 \equiv \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha$, compared with the analogous IG model with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$. We consider the rescaled, adimensional quantity $\tilde{\alpha} = \alpha \times$ $(Mpc[GeV]^{-1})^{-2} \times (M_{Pl}[GeV])^{1+m}$ and it can be seen that
the departure from IG is significant for larger α i.e. the departure from IG is significant for larger α , i.e., stronger gravity at early times. Deep in the radiation era the field is nearly at rest but then it grows steeply (the larger α the steeper the growth), reaching the value expected in IG in the matter era and evolving until today in the same way as it does in IG.

The value of the field at $z = 0$ is fixed by requiring that the effective gravitational constant [[55](#page-20-2),[56](#page-20-3)]

$$
G_{\rm eff} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_4} \left[\frac{4G_{4,\sigma}^2 + G_4 (G_{2,X} - 2G_{3,\sigma})}{3G_{4,\sigma}^2 + G_4 (G_{2,X} - 2G_{3,\sigma})} \right]
$$
(24)

coincide at $z = 0$ with the measured value of the Newton's constant G. For $m = 0$, the G_3 does not contribute to Eq. [\(24\),](#page-3-2) as it enters only through the first derivative with respect to the field, while for $m \neq 0$ one can check that the contribution is negligible due to the redshift evolution of the scalar field in the matter era and we can therefore use the IG approximation [[57](#page-20-4)]

FIG. 1. Time evolution of the scalar field (top panel), the equation of state parameter for dark energy (middle panel), and the density parameters (bottom panel) in IGG standard $(Z = 1)$ with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, constant $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha$, for different values of $\tilde{\alpha}$.

$$
8\pi G_{\rm eff}(z=0) = \frac{1}{\gamma \sigma_0^2} \frac{1+8\gamma}{1+6\gamma} \tag{25}
$$

to fix the value of $\sigma(z = 0) = \sigma_0$.

In the bottom plot of Fig. [1](#page-4-0) we show the evolution of density parameters in IGG with a constant potential $V(\sigma) =$ $Λ$ and $q(σ) = α$. The values of α are chosen large enough to show the effect of the G_3 term in this scenario, which causes a different evolution of $\tilde{\Omega}_r$ and $\tilde{\Omega}_{\sigma}$ in the early Universe with respect to IG and ΛCDM.

The middle panel of Fig. [1](#page-4-0) presents the evolution of the parameter of state of dark energy w_{DE} defined above; it tracks the IG behavior at late times but departs from it at $z \ge 10^3$, in correspondence to the analogous uptick in the evolution of Ω_{σ} . In fact, w_{DE} follows the dominant component: deep in the radiation epoch it has a value close to $1/3$, then in the matter era it decreases towards zero; finally, at present epoch, it becomes negative, $w_{DE} \approx -1$, mimicking a cosmological constant. The bump which approximately occurs in the radiation era corresponds to the epoch in which the energy density of the field grows and becomes of the same order of that of radiation. The growth of Ω_{σ} so early in time is due to inefficient cosmological Vainshtein screening [\[58](#page-20-5)] in this model for the range of parameters considered.

In Fig. [2](#page-4-1) we show the dependence of the background quantities (σ , w_{DE} , Ω _i) on the exponent m in the function $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^m$, while keeping $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and $\tilde{\alpha} = 5 \times 10^{-6}$ fixed, together with the exponent $n = 0$ in $V(\sigma) \propto \sigma^n$. We point out that changing m while keeping $\tilde{\alpha}$ fixed modifies the actual value of α and its dimensions since $\tilde{\alpha} =$ $\alpha \times (\text{Mpc}[\text{GeV}]^{-1})^{-2} \times (\text{M}_{\text{Pl}}[\text{GeV}])^{1+m}$. We can see from
the figures that for small values of *m* the time evolution of the figures that for small values of m the time evolution of the scalar field is suppressed and with that the equation of state parameter and the density parameters resemble more those of Λ CDM. For larger values of the exponent m the scalar field tends to dominate the dynamics both in the early Universe, reaching equality with radiation at $z = 10^6$ for $m = 1$, and in the late Universe where it mimics a cosmological constant. This early epoch of scalar field

FIG. 2. Time evolution of the scalar field (top panel), the equation of state parameter for dark energy (middle panel), and the density parameters (bottom panel) in IGG standard $(Z = 1)$ with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, constant $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^m$, for different values of the exponent m and fixed $\tilde{\alpha} = 5 \times 10^{-6}$.

domination also delays the matter radiation equality that happens at $z < 10^4$, with $\tilde{\Omega}_r = \tilde{\Omega}_m \approx 0.1$, and leads to two different epochs in which $\tilde{\Omega}_{m}$ is equal to the density parameter of the scalar field. One of these epochs is the beginning of the matter era, around $z \approx 10^{-3}$, and one is the onset of the late-time acceleration of the expansion of the Universe in which the field dominates the dynamics once again.

2. BDG phantom

In the phantom branch we study BDG with $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ and $\zeta(\sigma) = \sigma^{-1} g(\sigma)$, because, for this choice, it was shown in [[50](#page-19-26)] that, for a null potential and in absence of matter and radiation, $\rho = p = 0$, there is a self-accelerating solution with $H = \dot{Q} = 0$, with $Q = \dot{\sigma}/\sigma$. This solution satisfies

$$
y = \frac{Q}{H} = \gamma \frac{-4 \pm \sqrt{-32 - 6Z/\gamma}}{Z + 8\gamma};
$$
 (26)

and it is real for $Z = -1$ and $\gamma < 3/16$ (equivalent to $\omega_{\rm BD} < -4/3$, for which Eqs. [\(10\)](#page-2-1) and [\(14\)](#page-2-2) give

$$
H^{2} = \frac{\gamma}{\alpha} \frac{3 + 6y + y^{2}/(2\gamma)}{2y^{3}(3 + 2y)}.
$$
 (27)

For a full study of the theory with $\Lambda = 0$, which exactly respects Eq. [\(27\)](#page-5-0), see Appendix [A.](#page-15-0)

Inspired by these analytical solutions, we study an intermediate case always considering $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ and reinserting the potential. In doing so we obtain a theory that has a ΛCDM limit. In order to provide the late-time cosmic acceleration the parameters α and Λ should be finetuned, and the procedure is the following: we pick a value for α and use a shooting algorithm on the cosmological constant to obtain, in a flat Universe, $\Omega_{0,\text{DE}}(\Lambda, \alpha) = 1 - \Omega_{0,\text{m}} - \Omega_{0,\text{r}}$. In this way the burden to provide the late-time acceleration of the expansion of the Universe is shared between the potential and the Galileon term. Today's value of the scalar field is such that the Planck mass is

$$
M_{\rm Pl}^2(z=0) \equiv \gamma \sigma_0^2 = 1.
$$
 (28)

We do not set σ_0 following Eqs. [\(25\)](#page-3-3) or [\(24\)](#page-3-2) because, due to the Vainshtein screening mechanism, the theory reduces to GR at small scales, in the sense that the post-Newtonian parameters are those of GR and the gravitational constant on small scales is $G_N = G_{\text{cosm}}$ [\[59](#page-20-6)]. In this way, thanks to the screening mechanism we recover GR with the correct value of the gravitational constant on small scales today (see Sec. [II D](#page-6-0) for details). In the following, instead of working directly with the parameter α , we use $\tilde{\alpha}$ defined previously, rescaled by a factor 10^8 : $\tilde{\alpha}_8 \equiv 10^{-8}\tilde{\alpha}$. All the plots and the MCMC constraints will be expressed as a function of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$.

The reason for using the inverse of $\tilde{\alpha}$ is that the Λ CDM limit is obtained when $\tilde{\alpha} \to \infty(1/\tilde{\alpha} \to 0)$.

In the top panel of Fig. [3](#page-5-1) we show the evolution of the scalar field with redshift as a function of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$: for larger values of this parameter the field starts at a lower initial value and it grows more steeply in the late Universe to reach its value at $z = 0$ fixed by the requirement $\gamma \sigma_0^2 = 1$.
Contrary to the standard branch where the field started to Contrary to the standard branch where the field started to evolve deep in the radiation era, here the field is frozen approximately until the epoch in which the σ energy density starts to grow. This is a manifestation of the cosmological Vainshtein screening mechanism [[58](#page-20-5)]. The fact that the field is frozen means that for a large portion of the history of the Universe we have a gravitational constant which is effectively constant but different from the value measured here on Earth today. In the bottom panel of Fig. [3](#page-5-1) we show the evolution of the density parameters and it can be seen that already for $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 = 0.1$ the background expansion in this model is indistinguishable from ΛCDM. Only for more

FIG. 3. Time evolution of the scalar field (top panel), the equation of state parameter for dark energy (middle panel,) and the density parameters (bottom panel) in BDG phantom ($Z = -1$) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, constant $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$, for different values of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$.

extreme values we see departures from ΛCDM as the growth of the dark energy density is delayed and then steeper for $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 = 0.4$. This behavior is confirmed also by the time evolution of w_{DE} that approaches and reaches the value −1 earlier for smaller values of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$; while for the larger values we observe a phantom behavior with $w_{\text{DE}} < -1$ and $w_{\text{DE}} \neq -1$ today, reaching -1 eventually in the future. In this scenario, therefore, the ΛCDM limit is approached when $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 \rightarrow 0$. This is the reason why we are considering the inverse of α as a parameter: in the Markov chain Monte-Carlo analysis we will sample on $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ in order to have the ΛCDM limit at zero and not at infinity, as we would if we had sampled on α .

C. Stability conditions in the phantom branch

When the sign of the kinetic term in the Lagrangian is nonstandard, i.e., $Z = -1$, and $G_3 = 0$, scalar-tensor theories can suffer from ghost and Laplacian instabilities. Ghost instabilities occur when the sign of the kinetic term is negative in the second-order action for perturbations of the Horndeski action, whereas Laplacian instabilities occur when the speed of sound squared becomes negative [[60](#page-20-7)]. In general, the theory in Eq. [\(1\)](#page-1-1) is free from ghost and Laplacian instabilities if [\[60,](#page-20-7)[61\]](#page-20-8)

$$
q_s \equiv 4G_4 \{ G_{2X} + 2G_{3\sigma} + \dot{\sigma} [(G2_{XX} + G3_{X\sigma})\dot{\sigma} -6G_{3X}H] \} + 3(2G_{4\sigma} + G_{3X}\dot{\sigma}^2)^2 > 0, \tag{29}
$$

$$
c_s^2 \equiv [4G_{2X}G_4 + 8G_{3\sigma}G_4 + (6G_{4\sigma}^2 - G_{3X}\dot{\sigma}^2)(2G_{4\sigma}^2 + G_{3X}\dot{\sigma}^2) - 8G_4(G_{3X}\ddot{\sigma} + 2G_{3X}H\dot{\sigma} + G_{3X\sigma}\dot{\sigma}^2)]/q_s > 0,
$$
 (30)

where $G_{i\sigma}$, G_{iX} indicate the derivative of the *i*th G function with respect to the scalar field and the kinetic term, respectively. From Eqs. [\(29\)](#page-6-1) and [\(30\),](#page-6-2) it can be seen that even IG with $Z = -1$ and $0 < \gamma < 1/6$ ($\omega_{BD} < -3/2$)—a region of the parameter space which would contain otherwise a ghost—can be stable thanks to the addition of the G_3 term in the Lagrangian. This is fully confirmed by Fig. [4](#page-6-3) where we show Eqs. [\(29\)](#page-6-1) and [\(30\)](#page-6-2) as functions of redshift for the BDG in the phantom branch. Both conditions are satisfied at all times for the values of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ we have considered.

Note, however, that in BDGph the speed of sound of scalar perturbations can become temporarily superluminal for large values of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ at redshifts close to the transition to dark energy domination, as can be seen in the bottom panel of Fig. [4](#page-6-3). This was first noticed in [\[50](#page-19-26)] for the case $\Lambda = 0$ and it could potentially put a constraint on the value of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$. If a theory with superluminal propagation is viable or not is still a controversial issue: some authors claim it is not problematic [\[62](#page-20-9)[,63](#page-20-10)], others argue the opposite [[64](#page-20-11)–[66\]](#page-20-12). We choose conservatively to not impose any theoretical prior $c_s^2 \le 1$ in our MCMC analysis. Note that the stability conditions in the tensor sector are automatically satisfied conditions in the tensor sector are automatically satisfied

FIG. 4. Stability conditions: ghost instability (top panel), Laplacian instability (bottom panel) for BDG in the phantom branch (Z = -1) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, constant $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$, for different values of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$.

by the choice of our Lagrangian and parameters: the regime $\gamma > 0$ we consider ensures that the cosmological Planck mass and the square of the tensor speed of sound are positive.

D. Screening

The scalar degree of freedom in scalar-tensor theories of gravity can leave imprints also on scales which have detached from the cosmological expansion where deviations from GR are strongly constrained. Thus, a theory of MG should have either small deviations from GR on Solar System scales or be equipped with a screening mechanism. The Vainshtein screening is a mechanism that operates in theories with a self-interaction of the form $X\square \sigma$, like the models considered in this paper: around local sources the nonlinear interactions lead to the decoupling of the scalar field from the remaining degrees of freedom within the socalled Vainshtein radius r_V . For scales $r < r_V$, the theory of gravity reduces to GR: the post-Newtonian parameters are those of GR and the gravitational constant on small scales is $G_{\rm N} = G_{\rm cosm}$ [\[59\]](#page-20-6).

As it was demonstrated in [\[59\]](#page-20-6), the Vainshtein mechanism cannot suppress the cosmological evolution of the scalar field: the mechanism is not able to determine the coupling constant of the theory (Newton gravitational constant or σ_0). The cosmological evolution of the scalar field sets the value of the coupling constant of GR today and on small scales. For this reason, for models with effective Vainshtein screening, we fix σ_0 according to Eq. [\(28\)](#page-5-2) in our background evolution.

The Vainshtein radius, which is the radius within which the theory reduces to GR, in a cosmological background, for a spherical astronomical object of mass δM , is given by [[59](#page-20-6)]

$$
r_V = \left(\mathcal{B}\mathcal{C}\mu/H^2\right)^{1/3},\tag{31}
$$

where $\mu = \delta M/(16\pi G_4)$, and B and C are functions of the Hordenski functions G_i s:

$$
\mathcal{B} \equiv \frac{4\beta_0}{\alpha_0 + 2\alpha_1\alpha_2 + \alpha_2^2},\tag{32}
$$

$$
\mathcal{C} \equiv \frac{\alpha_1 + \alpha_2}{\alpha_0 + 2\alpha_1 \alpha_2 + \alpha_2^2},\tag{33}
$$

where

$$
\alpha_i(t) \equiv \frac{A_i}{\mathcal{G}_T}, \qquad \beta_0(t) \equiv \frac{B_0}{\mathcal{G}_T}, \qquad (34)
$$

with

$$
\beta_0 \equiv \frac{\alpha_1}{2} + \alpha_2 (\neq 0),\tag{35}
$$

and

$$
\mathcal{F}_T \equiv 2G_4 \equiv \mathcal{G}_T \tag{36}
$$

$$
\mathcal{E} \equiv 2XG_{2X} - G_2 - 6X\dot{\sigma}HG_{3X} + 2XG_{3\sigma}
$$

$$
-6H^2G_4 - 6H\dot{\sigma}G_{4\sigma} \tag{37}
$$

$$
\mathcal{P} \equiv G_2 + 2X(G_{3\sigma} + \ddot{\sigma} G_{3X}) + 2(3H^2 + 2\dot{H})G_4
$$

+ 2(\ddot{\sigma} + 2H\dot{\sigma})G_{4\sigma} + 4XG_{4\sigma\sigma} \qquad (38)

$$
\Theta := \dot{\sigma} X G_{3X} + 2HG_4 + \dot{\sigma} G_{4\sigma},\tag{39}
$$

$$
A_0 \equiv \frac{\dot{\Theta}}{H^2} + \frac{\Theta}{H} - \mathcal{G}_T - 2\frac{\dot{\mathcal{G}}_T}{H} - \frac{\mathcal{E} + \mathcal{P}}{2H^2},\tag{40}
$$

$$
A_1 \equiv \frac{1}{H}\dot{\mathcal{G}}_T + \mathcal{G}_T - \mathcal{F}_T,\tag{41}
$$

$$
A_2 \equiv \mathcal{G}_T - \frac{\Theta}{H},\tag{42}
$$

$$
B_0 \equiv -\frac{X}{H} \dot{\sigma} G_{3X}.
$$
\n(43)

In Fig. [5](#page-7-1) we show the cosmological evolution of the Vainshtein radius for an object with $\delta M = M_{\odot}$, for BDG

FIG. 5. Screening: Vainshtein radius for the sun in BDG phantom $(Z = -1)$ with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, constant $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$, for different values of $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$.

in the phantom branch. The screening is effective and the Vainshtein radius starts growing for $z \lesssim 10$, reaching $r_{V\odot} \gtrsim$ 90 pc today, successfully recovering GR in the Solar System. We do not present Vainshtein radius in the standard branch since the screening is not effective and the Vainshtein radius is very small. This is the reason why σ_0 is fixed using Eq. [\(25\)](#page-3-3) in the background evolution in the standard branch.

III. LINEAR PERTURBATIONS AND CMB ANISOTROPIES

In the synchronous gauge the perturbed FLRW metric is to first order

$$
ds2 = a2(\tau)[-d2\tau + (\delta_{ij} + h_{ij})dxidxj] \qquad (44)
$$

where τ is the conformal time, x the spatial comoving coordinate, and h_{ij} is the metric perturbation.

From this point on, we move in Fourier space for the calculation of the perturbed quantities. The scalar mode of h_{ij} , following the conventions of Ref. [[67](#page-20-13)], can be expressed as a Fourier integral:

$$
h_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{x}) = \int d^3k e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \left[\hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j h(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + \left(\hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j - \frac{\delta_{ij}}{3} \right) 6 \eta(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \right]
$$
(45)

where $\hat{k}_i \equiv k_i/k$ with $k \equiv |\mathbf{k}|$ and $h \equiv \delta^{ij} h_{ij}$ is the Fourier
transform of trace of h (τ **x**). The scalar field perturbation transform of trace of $h_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{x})$. The scalar field perturbation $\delta\sigma$ is, in this notation,

$$
\delta\sigma(\tau, \mathbf{x}) = \int d^3k e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \delta\sigma(\tau, \mathbf{k}). \tag{46}
$$

FIG. 6. Relative differences with respect to ΛCDM of CMB TT (left panels) and EE (right panels) power spectrum. Top panel: IGG standard with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$, $g(\sigma) = \alpha$; bottom panel: BDG phantom with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$.

A. The perturbed Einstein and scalar field equations

Following [\[67\]](#page-20-13) we use the definitions of the velocity potential $θ$ and the anisotropic stress perturbation $Θ$

$$
(\bar{\rho} + \bar{p})\theta \equiv \imath k^i \delta T_i^0, \tag{47}
$$

$$
(\bar{\rho} + \bar{p})\Theta \equiv -\left(\hat{k}_i\hat{k}_j - \frac{\delta_{ij}}{3}\right)\Sigma_j^i, \tag{48}
$$

$$
\Sigma^{i}{}_{j} \equiv T^{i}{}_{j}T^{i}_{j} - \delta^{i}_{j}\frac{T^{k}{}_{k}}{3},\tag{49}
$$

to write down the perturbed Einstein equations in the following form:

$$
k^2 \eta - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{H} h' = -\frac{a^2}{2} (\delta \tilde{\rho} + \delta \tilde{\rho}^{(G)}), \tag{50}
$$

$$
k^2 \eta' = \frac{a^2}{2} \left[(\tilde{\rho} + \tilde{P}) \tilde{\theta} + (\tilde{\rho}^{(G)} + \tilde{P}^{(G)}) \tilde{\theta}^{(G)} \right], \quad (51)
$$

$$
h'' + 2\mathcal{H}h' - 2k^2\eta = -3a^2(\delta\tilde{P} + \delta\tilde{P}^{(G)}),
$$
 (52)

$$
h'' + 6\eta'' + 2\mathcal{H}(h' + 6\eta') - 2k^2\eta = -3a^2(\tilde{\rho} + \tilde{P})\tilde{\Theta}, \quad (53)
$$

where a tilde denotes the effective perturbations defined in Appendix [B.](#page-17-0) The equation for the evolution of the scalar field fluctuation in Fourier space is

$$
\delta \sigma'' = \frac{\delta \tilde{\mathcal{G}}}{Z + 6\gamma + \frac{2\sigma'}{a^2} [3g(2\mathcal{H} - \frac{\sigma'}{\sigma}) + \sigma'(6\zeta - 2g_{,\sigma})]},
$$
(54)

where the explicit expression for $\delta \tilde{G}$ can be found in Appendix [B.](#page-17-0)

In Eqs. (50) – (53) we distinguished explicitly between the quantities coming from IG and the ones arising from the Galileon term to make as manifest as possible the reduction of IGG and BDG to the IG equations of [[68](#page-20-14),[69](#page-20-15)] when $g(\sigma) = \zeta(\sigma) = 0.$

B. Imprints on CMB anisotropies and large scale structure

In order to obtain the predictions for the CMB anisotropy angular power spectra and the matter power spectrum we have used an extension of the code CLASSig [\[26\]](#page-19-6) which includes the models studied in our paper. The basis for this code is the publicly available Einstein-Boltzmann solver $CLASS¹$ [\[70\]](#page-20-16).

In Fig. [6](#page-8-2) we show the deviations in the temperature (TT) and E-mode polarization (EE) CMB angular power spectra with respect to ΛCDM, whereas in Fig. [7](#page-9-0) we show how the CMB lensing potential angular power spectrum and the total linear matter power spectrum at redshift $z = 0$ differ in these theories with respect to the standard model. In the top

¹ https://lesgourg.github.io/class_public/class.html

FIG. 7. Relative differences with respect to ΛCDM in CMB lensing potential power spectrum (left panels) and matter power spectrum (right panels). Top panel: IGG standard with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$, $g(\sigma) = \alpha$; bottom panel: BDG phantom with $\gamma =$ 5×10^{-5} , $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$.

panels of Figs. [6](#page-8-2) and [7](#page-9-0) we have IGG in the standard branch, while in the bottom panels we show BDG phantom with potential $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$.

We note how in the standard branch there are small effects in the TT power spectrum at at low multipoles, resulting in an ISW effect extremely similar to the one observed in ΛCDM. This behavior is common to all the spectra in IGG at low multipoles, for which the differences with respect to GR are small. The departure from ΛCDM is more evident on the scales of the acoustic peaks in TT and

FIG. 8. Relative differences with respect to ΛCDM of the ISW contribution to the CMB TT angular power spectrum for BDG phantom with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$ and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$.

on smaller scales, where, due to the modification of gravity around the time of recombination, the contribution of the scalar field shifts and enhances the peaks of the power spectrum.

On the contrary, in the model with $Z = -1$ we can observe large departures from ΛCDM at low multipoles in TT, due to the interplay of G_3 and the ISW effect [\[38,](#page-19-16)[40](#page-19-28)]. We show the relative difference in the ISW contribution to the TT angular power spectrum in Fig. [8.](#page-9-1)

For the BDG in the phantom branch, while we see differences on all scales in all power spectra of Figs. [6](#page-8-2) and [7](#page-9-0), due to the presence of the cosmological constant, it is clear that as $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ gets smaller we recover the predictions of ΛCDM and there is therefore room to provide a good fit to the data even with $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 \neq 0$ but small.

The differences in the matter power spectrum with respect to the standard model, presented in the right panels of Fig. [7,](#page-9-0) are interesting targets for upcoming large scale structure data such as $DESI₁²$ Euclid₃³ or Vera Rubin observatory, 4 which will significantly tighten constraints on these models.

²<https://www.desi.lbl.gov>

³ [https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Euclid) **[Euclid](https://www.esa.int/Science_Exploration/Space_Science/Euclid)**

<https://www.vro.org/>, <https://www.lsst.org/>

IV. CONSTRAINTS FROM COSMOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

In this section, we present the constraints on the cosmological parameters of the models studied: IGG in the standard branch (IGGst) and BDG in the phantom branch with a potential (BDGph). In the following results the potential is always given by a $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$, while the function $g(\sigma)$ is a constant in the standard branch and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ for $Z = -1$. Note that in the following we consider only IGG in the standard branch since, for the same range of parameters, BDG gives exactly the same results.

A. Methodology and datasets

We study these models first with CMB data only and we extend the analysis to other datasets when necessary in order to constrain a parameter within our prior or when the model is not ruled out by CMB alone and the results are interesting enough justify the study with additional likelihoods. We perform a Markov chain Monte Carlo analysis using the publicly available sampling code MontePython $v3⁵$ [[71](#page-20-17),[72\]](#page-20-18) connected to the aforementioned extension of CLASSig [[26](#page-19-6)]. For the sampling, we use the Metropolis-Hastings algorithm with a Gelman-Rubin [\[73\]](#page-20-19) convergence criterion $R - 1 < 0.01$. The reported mean values and uncertainties on the parameters, together with the contour plots, have been obtained using $GetDist^6$ [[74\]](#page-20-20). We make use of CMB data in temperature, polarization, and lensing from Planck Data Release 3 [\[6,](#page-18-5)[75\]](#page-20-21). We consider the Planck baseline likelihood (hereafter P18) which is composed by the Plik likelihood on high multipoles, $\ell > 30$, the commander likelihood on the lower multipoles for temperature and SimAll for the E-mode polarization [[75](#page-20-21)], and the conservative multiple range, $8 < \ell < 400$, for the CMB lensing. As complementary data to Planck, we use BAO data from the postreconstruction measurements from BOSS DR12 [[76\]](#page-20-22); low-z BAO measurements from SDSS DR7, 6dF, and MGS [[77](#page-20-23),[78\]](#page-20-24); Lyα BAO measurements from eBOSS DR14, and a combination of those [\[79](#page-20-25)–[81\]](#page-20-26). Hereafter we call this combination of datasets simply BAO. For the BDGph model, on top of BAO, we will also consider the combination of P18 with the Pantheon catalog of SN Ia in the redshift range $0.01 < z < 2.3$ [\[82\]](#page-20-27)⁷ (hereafter SN) using a prior on the supernovae peak absolute magnitude $M_{\rm B}$ [[83\]](#page-20-28) [hereafter p(M)] of

$$
M_{\rm B} = -19.2435 \pm 0.0373 \text{ mag.} \tag{55}
$$

We sample on six standard parameters: $\omega_{\rm b}$, $\omega_{\rm c}$, H_0 , $\tau_{\rm reio}$, $\ln(10^{10}A_s)$, n_s , and the modified gravity parameters, in particular

- (i) For IGGst we sample on $\tilde{\alpha}$ at fixed $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$.
- (ii) For BDGph we sample on $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ with fixed $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$.

In addition to the cosmological parameters, we sample on the nuisance and foreground parameters of the P18 likelihoods and, when considering the Phanteon dataset, on M_B . In our analysis we assume two massless neutrino with $N_{\text{eff}} = 2.0328$ and a massive one with fixed minimum mass m_{ν} = 0.06 eV. As in [[27](#page-19-8)], we fix the primordial ⁴He mass fraction Y taking into account the different value of the fraction Y_p taking into account the different value of the effective gravitational constant during big bang nucleosynthesis, and the baryon fraction, $\omega_{\rm b}$, tabulated in the public code PArthENoPE [[84](#page-20-29),[85](#page-20-30)].

Moreover, for each run we compute the best-fit values, obtained minimizing the χ^2 following the methods of [[23](#page-19-11)], and quote the difference in the model χ^2 with respect to the Λ CDM one, i.e. $\Delta \chi^2 \equiv \chi^2 - \chi^2_{\Lambda \text{CDM}}$. Thus, negative values of $\Delta \chi^2$ indicate an improvement in the fit with respect to ΛCDM. We also compute the Akaike information criterion (AIC) [\[86\]](#page-20-31) of the extended model M relative to that of ΛCDM: $\Delta AIC = \Delta \chi^2 + 2(N_M - N_{\Lambda CDM})$, where N_M is the number of free parameters of the model.

B. Results

1. Induced gravity Galileon standard

For IGGst we present the results obtained by considering $n = m = 0, \gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, with α allowed to vary. We show the P18 results for this model in Fig. [9](#page-11-0) and Table [I](#page-11-1), with a comparison to Λ CDM and IG with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$. We obtain a tight constrain on the Galileon term, i.e., $\tilde{\alpha}$ < 2.5 × 10⁻⁶ at 95% CL with P18 data. This result shows how CMB data are sufficient to strongly constrain IGG around IG. All the contours for the other parameters overlap with the IG ones.

The marginalized mean and uncertainty for the Hubble constant H_0 [km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹] at 68% CL is 67.72 \pm 0.54
without any hint at a possible reduction of the Hubble without any hint at a possible reduction of the Hubble tension, as there is no significant increase either in the mean or in the uncertainty with respect to the ΛCDM value of 67.36 ± 0.54 [\[13\]](#page-18-9), or the IGst value 67.64 ± 0.54 (when $x = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ is fixed in the MCMC). When combining $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ is fixed in the MCMC). When combining BAO with P18 we obtain tighter constraints but the same qualitative behavior (Tables [I](#page-11-1) and [II](#page-12-1)).

The cosmological constraints from P18 and $P18 + BAO$ on $\tilde{\alpha}$ allow a Vainshtein mechanism to occur only at subparsec scale for an object of a solar mass.

2. Brans-Dicke Galileon phantom

For this model in the phantom branch with a cosmological constant, we add BAO to P18 data in order to constrain the parameter $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ within our prior range,

⁵ https://github.com/brinckmann/montepython_public

⁶ <https://getdist.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

⁷ <https://github.com/dscolnic/Pantheon>

FIG. 9. Marginalized 68% and 95% CL 2D regions using CMB data alone (P18). IGG standard (Z = 1) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$; V(σ) = Λ , $g(\sigma) = \alpha$ in green; IG standard with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$, in orange and ΛCDM in blue.

 $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 = 10^8/\tilde{\alpha} \in [0, 0.4]$. Current CMB data are indeed not enough to constrain this seven parameter model with γ fixed. The presence of the cosmological constant helps in providing posterior distributions closer to ΛCDM and similar values for most of the cosmological parameters with the exception of H_0 : due to the shape of the posterior in the plane $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ -H₀ (see Fig. [10](#page-12-2)), higher values of the Hubble constant compared to the ΛCDM ones are allowed (as it happens for nonminimally coupled scalar fields with standard kinetic terms due to the degeneracy γ -H₀). The marginalized mean and uncertainty for the Hubble constant H_0 [km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹] at 68% CL using the combination P18 + BAO (Table [II\)](#page-12-1) is $69.1^{+0.9}_{-1.3}$. For the same dataset, IG phantom with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ fixed at the same value considered here for BDGph gives 67.62 ± 0.42 , while it
gives $67.20^{+0.68}$ when x is a free parameter. Thus, BDGph gives 67.20 $^{+0.68}_{-0.55}$ when γ is a free parameter. Thus, BDGph can raise the value of the Hubble constant relatively to IGph and it reduces the Hubble tension to a significance of 2.5σ .

This result motivates our further analysis using the Pantheon catalog with the addition of a prior on the peak absolute magnitude of SN Ia as in [\[87\]](#page-20-32). We present the outcomes of this analysis in Table [III](#page-13-0) and Fig. [11.](#page-13-1) When considering this dataset the Hubble tension has a significance of only 1.7σ in BDGph, as the marginalized mean and uncertainty at 68% CL is $H_0 = 70.58 \pm 0.97$ kms⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹.
The corresponding values in IGpb, with $\chi = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and x The corresponding values in IGph, with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and γ free to vary in the MCMC are, respectively, 68.15 ± 0.52
and 68.07 ± 0.56 This means that the Galileon term is not and 68.07 ± 0.56 . This means that the Galileon term is not only necessary to avoid instabilities present in IGph (see only necessary to avoid instabilities present in IGph (see Sec. [II C](#page-6-4)) but it also plays an important role in alleviating the Hubble tension. Using this dataset we obtain $\Delta \chi^2 = -8.5$ and $\Delta AIC = -6.5$, showing a weak preference for the model with respect to ΛCDM while in all other cases there is no significant improvement, if any, with respect to ΛCDM.

We would also like to emphasize another aspect of our findings in terms of the Vainshtein radius. We obtain $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 = 0.23^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$ at 68% CL with P18 + SN + p(M); this means that we see high statistical significance for $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 \neq 0$, and consequently a Vainshtein radius of $\mathcal{O}(100)$ pc for a solar mass. This is in contrast with the case $P18 + BAO$ where $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$ is consistent with zero at 1σ and we only have

TABLE I. Constraints on the main parameters (at 68% CL unless otherwise stated) considering Planck 2018 data alone for IGG standard (Z = 1) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$, $g(\sigma) = \alpha$, IGG standard with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $V(\sigma) =$ Λ and ΛCDM.

	IGGst	IGst	Λ CDM
$10^2 \omega_{\rm b}$	2.242 ± 0.014	2.240 ± 0.014	2.237 ± 0.015
$\omega_{\rm cdm}$	0.1200 ± 0.0012	0.1200 ± 0.0012	0.1200 ± 0.0012
H_0 [km s ⁻¹ Mpc ⁻¹]	67.72 ± 0.54	67.64 ± 0.54	67.36 ± 0.54
$ln(10^{10}A_{s})$	3.044 ± 0.014	3.046 ± 0.014	3.044 ± 0.014
$n_{\rm s}$	0.9647 ± 0.0044	0.9662 ± 0.0041	0.9649 ± 0.0042
$\tau_{\rm reio}$	0.0545 ± 0.0073	0.0546 ± 0.0075	0.0544 ± 0.0073
$10^6\tilde{\alpha}$	< 2.5 (95% CL)	\cdots	\cdots
γ	5×10^{-5}	5×10^{-5}	\cdots
$\Delta \chi^2$	0.2	0.2	\cdot \cdot \cdot
\triangle AIC	2.2	0.2	\cdots

phanton with $q(\delta) = a\delta$ and ACDM. In an cases unless otherwise specified $\gamma = 3 \times 10^{\circ}$ and $V(\delta) = A$.						
	IGGst	BDGph	IGst	IGph $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$	IGph	Λ CDM
$10^2 \omega_{\rm b}$	2.245 ± 0.014	2.244 ± 0.014	2.244 ± 0.013	2.245 ± 0.013	2.245 ± 0.014	2.244 ± 0.013
$\omega_{\rm cdm}$				$0.11940 + 0.00096$ $0.11966 + 0.00097$ $0.11937 + 0.00093$ $0.11910 + 0.00093$	0.11884 ± 0.00099	0.11925 ± 0.00094
H_0 [km s ⁻¹ Mpc ⁻¹]	67.97 ± 0.44	$69.1_{-1.3}^{+0.9}$	67.91 ± 0.42	67.62 ± 0.42	$67.20^{+0.68}_{-0.55}$	67.75 ± 0.43
$ln(10^{10}A_{s})$	3.047 ± 0.014	3.045 ± 0.014	3.048 ± 0.014	$3.048^{+0.014}_{-0.015}$	3.048 ± 0.015	3.049 ± 0.014
$n_{\rm s}$	0.9662 ± 0.0041	$0.9678 + 0.0038$	0.9676 ± 0.0036	0.9675 ± 0.0037	0.9671 ± 0.0038	0.9675 ± 0.0037
$\tau_{\rm reio}$	0.0562 ± 0.0073	0.0543 ± 0.0073	0.0563 ± 0.0071	$0.0568^{+0.0068}_{-0.0077}$	0.0575 ± 0.0075	0.0568 ± 0.0072
$10^6\tilde{\alpha}$	< 2.2 (95% CL)	\cdots
$1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$	\cdots	< 0.28 (95% CL)	\cdots	.	\cdots	\cdots
γ	5×10^{-5}	5×10^{-5}	5×10^{-5}	5×10^{-5}	< 0.00047 (95% CL)	\cdots
$\Delta \chi^2$	-0.1	-1.1	-0.1	0.2	Ω	\cdots
\triangle AIC	1.9	0.9	-0.1	0.2	2	\cdots

TABLE II. Constraints on the main parameters (at 68% CL unless otherwise stated) considering the combination P18 + BAO for IGG standard (Z = 1) with $q(\sigma) = \alpha$, IG standard and phantom (Z = -1) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ fixed, IG phantom with γ free to vary, BDG phantom with $g(\sigma) = g\sigma^{-1}$ and ΛCDM. In all cases unless otherwise specified $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and $V(\sigma)$

an upper limit $1/\tilde{\alpha}_8 < 0.28$ at 95% CL, perfectly consistent with the ΛCDM limit of the theory.

V. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the cosmological effects of a model where a scalar field, σ , with a coupling to the Ricci scalar of the type $F(\sigma) = \gamma \sigma^2$, has a cubic Galileon term of the form $\alpha\sigma^{m}(\partial\sigma)^{2}\Box\sigma$. Since the extensions of IG and BD with a Galileon term are not equivalent, theories up to a field redefinition, differing by a term $4\zeta(\sigma)X^2$ in the Lagrangian, we have studied the two models separately: IGG and BDG.

This Galileon term leads to the Vaishtein mechanism which can screen gravity, potentially reconciling the theory with GR inside the so-called Vainshtein radius also for values of the coupling to the Ricci scalar—or of the Brans-Dicke parameter ω_{BD} —which evade the Solar System constraints. Moreover, thanks to the presence of the Galileon term, the theory is free of ghost and Laplacian instabilities even for a noncanonical sign of the kinetic term in the Lagrangian. We have therefore considered the theory [\(2\)](#page-1-2) in the two branches called, respectively, the standard ($Z = 1$) and phantom ($Z = -1$) branches, where Z enters the kinetic term in the Lagrangian as ZX, with $X = -\nabla_{\mu} \sigma \nabla^{\mu} \sigma / 2$.

We have shown that the Galileon term leads to important cosmological effects in all the cases considered. In this paper we have computed the theoretical predictions for cosmological observables such as the CMB anisotropy and matter power spectra. We have also compared these predictions with observations by restricting the analysis to fixed γ and m , if not otherwise stated.

For a standard kinetic term, we find an instability in the radiation dominated era due to the presence of the Galileon term. This instability is dissipated in the subsequent matter dominated era, during which the Galileon term becomes

FIG. 10. Marginalized 68% and 95% CL 2D regions, using the combination P18 + BAO. BDG phantom (Z = -1) with γ = 5×10^{-5} , $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ in red, IGph and IGph with fixed $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, respectively, in green and orange; in all cases $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$. ACDM in blue.

TABLE III. Constraints on the main parameters (at 68% CL unless otherwise stated) considering the combination $P18 + SN + p(M)$ for IG phantom (Z = -1) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ fixed and free to vary, BDG phantom with $\gamma =$ 5×10^{-5} , $q(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ and Λ CDM. In all cases $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$.

	BDGph	IGph $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$	IGph	Λ CDM
$10^2 \omega_{\rm b}$	2.253 ± 0.014	2.256 ± 0.014	2.257 ± 0.014	2.256 ± 0.014
$\omega_{\rm cdm}$	0.1190 ± 0.0012	0.1180 ± 0.0011	0.1180 ± 0.0011	0.1181 ± 0.0011
H_0 [km s ⁻¹ Mpc ⁻¹]	70.58 ± 0.97	68.15 ± 0.52	68.07 ± 0.56	68.31 ± 0.50
$ln(10^{10}A_{s})$	3.046 ± 0.015	3.053 ± 0.015	3.054 ± 0.015	$3.054_{-0.016}^{+0.014}$
$n_{\rm s}$	0.9699 ± 0.0040	0.9703 ± 0.0041	0.9702 ± 0.0041	0.9705 ± 0.0040
$\tau_{\rm reio}$	0.0555 ± 0.0077	$0.0602^{+0.0076}_{-0.0085}$	0.0608 ± 0.0079	$0.0602_{-0.0083}^{+0.0072}$
$1/\tilde{\alpha}_8$	$0.23_{-0.05}^{+0.06}$	\cdots	\cdots	\cdots
γ	5×10^{-5}	5×10^{-5}	< 0.00022 (95% CL)	\cdots
$\Delta \chi^2$	-8.5	1.1	θ	\cdots
\triangle AIC	-6.5	1.1	\mathfrak{D}	\cdots

subleading, and then eventually the scalar field energy density is no more negligible contributing to the acceleration of the Universe. We find that the CMB anisotropy pattern is sensitive to the dissipation of the instability in the matter era. This effect constrains the Galileon term to be small close to the CMB last scattering surface.

In the branch $Z = -1$ we have considered only BDG for the sake of simplicity. The phenomenology of a kinetic term with a negative sign—corresponding to a BD theory in the parameter range ω_{BD} < 0—is rather different. First, the presence of a Galileon term leads to an healthy theory for all the values of γ , i.e., for any negative value of ω_{BD} , therefore rescuing the range $\omega_{\rm BD} < -3/2$ which would contain a ghost in the BD theory with no Galileon term. The Galileon term leads to a dynamics very different from the corresponding branch of induced gravity, by freezing the scalar field for most of the matter dominated era and releasing it at lower redshift.

In the standard branch, Planck 2018 and BAO data constrain the amplitude of the Galileon parameter as $\tilde{\alpha}$ < 2.2 × 10⁻⁶ at 95% CL (Table [II\)](#page-12-1) for IGG with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $m = 0$, and a constant term Λ as a potential. The constraints for BDG in the standard branch are identical to the ones of IGG; we have therefore reported them only once for IGG. The cosmological constraint on $\tilde{\alpha}$ allows a Vainshtein mechanism to occur only at subparsec scale for an object of a solar mass. Summarizing, for a standard kinetic term, we have therefore found tight constraints on the Galileon term and resulting posterior probabilities for cosmological parameters very similar to those of IG.

For BDG with $Z = -1$ and a constant term Λ as a potential, we have found that Planck 2018 and BAO data constrain $H_0 = 69.1_{-1.3}^{+0.9}$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹ at 68% CL and $\tilde{\alpha}^{-1}$ < 0.281 × 10⁻⁸ at 95% CL, for $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ and $m =$ −1 (Table [II](#page-12-1) and Fig. [10](#page-12-2)). The addition of a Galileon term in the phantom branch is therefore crucial to obtain a value of

FIG. 11. Marginalized 68% and 95% CL 2D regions, using the combination P18 + SN + p(M). BDG phantom (Z = -1) with $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$, $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ in red, IGph and IGph with fixed $\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ respectively in green and orange; in all cases $V(\sigma) = \Lambda$. ΛCDM in blue.

 H_0 larger than Λ CDM. We have therefore a modified gravity model which leads to a value of H_0 larger than in Λ CDM with a screening of $\mathcal{O}(100)$ pc for a solar mass, as desired. By adding the Pantheon dataset with a prior on the supernovae peak absolute magnitude $M_B = -19.2435 \pm 0.0373$ mag, we find $H_2 = 70.58 \pm 0.97$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹ 0.0373 mag, we find $H_0 = 70.58 \pm 0.97$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹
and $\tilde{\sigma}^{-1} = 0.23^{+0.06} \times 10^{-8}$ at 68%. CL always for $\gamma =$ and $\tilde{\alpha}^{-1} = 0.23^{+0.06}_{-0.05} \times 10^{-8}$ at 68% CL, always for $\gamma =$ 5×10^{-5} and $m = -1$ (Table [III](#page-13-0) and Fig. [11\)](#page-13-1). As it happens for the degeneracy between H_0 and γ in IG [\[88](#page-20-33)], the SH0ES measurement pulls H_0 along the degeneracy with α^{-1} . By adding a Galileon term, the theory inherits also characteristics of a late model in increasing H_0 . In addition, the value and the posterior of S_8 are unchanged with respect to Λ CDM, not aggravating the so-called σ_8 tension [\[89](#page-20-34)].

We have also analyzed the theoretical predictions of the model introduced by Silva and Koyama [[50](#page-19-26)] in which there is no potential and the late-time acceleration is driven exclusively by the Galileon term. This particular model is physically viable and provides screening on Solar System scales. We have shown that it leads to CMB predictions which are at odds with the Planck data, with a $\Delta \chi^2 = 30.6$ with respect to ΛCDM. Therefore, although theoretically interesting because the acceleration is not driven by an effective cosmological constant, the model is ruled out by observations.

In conclusion, we have shown how a Galileon term leads to rather nontrivial cosmological effects to the simplest scalar-tensor theories of gravity. It can lead simultaneously to a value of H_0 larger than in Λ CDM and to effective screening for a large volume of parameter space. It is therefore interesting to find that another term in the Horndeski Lagrangian can lead to a value larger then the ΛCDM one, as previously found for the basic evolving Newton's constant in [\[26](#page-19-6)–[28](#page-19-13)[,31](#page-19-14)–[33](#page-19-10)[,68](#page-20-14)[,69](#page-20-15)[,87](#page-20-32)[,88\]](#page-20-33). A more general exploration of the parameter space of this theory in which the speed of gravitational waves is c without any fine tuning, by allowing to vary simultaneously the coupling to the Ricci scalar, γ , and the Galileon term is in progress.

FIG. 12. Time evolution of the scalar field (top panel), the equation of state parameter for dark energy (middle panel) and the density parameters (bottom panel) in BDG phantom $(Z = -1)$ with no potential and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$, for different values of γ .

FIG. 13. Stability conditions: ghost instability (top panel), Laplacian instability (middle panel). Vainshtein radius for a solar mass spherical object (bottom panel) BDG in the phantom branch $(Z = -1)$, without potential, $g(\sigma) = \alpha/\sigma$, for different values of γ .

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APPENDIX A: BDG IN THE PHANTOM BRANCH WITH $\Lambda = 0$

In this appendix we study the model, introduced in [[50](#page-19-26)], that exactly respects the solution [\(27\)](#page-5-0), considering it as a limiting case of BDGph when $\Lambda = 0$. We discuss the background evolution, including stability conditions and the Vainshtein screening of the theory, CMB anisotropies, and matter power spectrum and the constraints on the model coming from CMB observations.

1. Background evolution, stability conditions, and screening

In the absence of the cosmological constant, in order to describe today's acceleration of the expansion of the Universe, the parameter α should be fine-tuned, this is done by solving Eq. [\(27\)](#page-5-0) for α and using it as an initial guess for a shooting algorithm that fixes the value of α to produce the desired $\Omega_{\text{DE}} = 1 - \Omega_{\text{m}} - \Omega_{\text{r}}$, given the density

parameters of matter and radiation as inputs. With α fixed by the requirement of cosmic acceleration, the only free parameter of the theory is γ , resulting therefore in a theory that can provide cosmic acceleration without a cosmological constant, with as many free parameters as the BD model.

Today's value of the scalar field is such that it satisfies Eq. [\(28\).](#page-5-2) See Secs. [II B 2](#page-5-3) and [II D](#page-6-0) for details on why we do not need to set σ_0 following Eqs. [\(25\)](#page-3-3) or [\(24\)](#page-3-2) thanks the Vainshtein screening mechanism, but we still need to respect the condition $M_{\text{Pl}} = 1$ today. The evolution of the scalar field with redshift is plotted in the top panel of Fig. [12.](#page-14-0) The field is frozen deep in the radiation era and it starts to grow at very late times reaching the value required by consistency with GR on small scales today. In the figure we normalized the field to its value at $z = 0$ which is different depending on the chosen value of γ , since $\gamma \sigma_0^2 = 1$.
Departures from ACDM are evident already at the

Departures from ΛCDM are evident already at the background level, especially in the matter era and in the field dominated era. In fact, during the matter era, before the equality with DE, we observe, from the bottom panel of Fig. [12,](#page-14-0) $\tilde{\Omega}_{\sigma}$ becoming slightly negative. This effect is more prominent for larger values of γ. At the time when Ω_{σ} is decreasing and becoming negative, the corresponding Ω_{DE} in the ΛCDM model is already growing; therefore, a steeper growth of Ω_{σ} is needed in order to reach the ΛCDM value today and for the matter-dark energy equality to happen more or less at the same redshift. We emphasize that Ω_{σ} < 0 is not a problem from the physical point of

FIG. 14. Relative differences with respect to ΛCDM for BDG phantom (Z = -1) without potential and $q(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$, for different values of γ. CMB TT (top left), EE (top right), lensing potential (bottom left) and linear matter power spectra (bottom right).

view: this parameter simply describes the contribution of the scalar field to the total expansion rate when the Friedmann equations are recast in a form that resembles Einstein gravity [[52](#page-19-29)[,53\]](#page-20-0).

The evolution of the parameter of state of DE w_{DE} from the middle panel of Fig. [12](#page-14-0) is also interesting, as it presents a phantom behavior $w_{\text{DE}} < -1$ in correspondence to $\tilde{\Omega}_{\sigma}$ becoming negative and growing back to dominate the energy content of the Universe. This behavior is more prominent for a smaller value of γ for which the dip tends to be deeper and w_{DE} reaches lower values. The parameter w_{DE} today is slightly different from −1 and it eventually reaches −1 in the future, as shown in [\[50](#page-19-26)].

The top panel of Fig. [13](#page-14-1) shows the evolution of the stability conditions [\(29\)](#page-6-1) and [\(30\)](#page-6-2) with redshift. The conditions are satisfied for all the values of γ considered, thanks to the Galileon term. This term is also responsible for effective screening on small scales through the Vainshtein screening mechanism that allows the theory to reduce to GR within the so-called Vainshtein radius. Thus, within this radius the post-Newtonian parameters are those of GR. The time evolution of the Vainshtein

FIG. 15. Marginalized joint 68% and 95% CL regions 2D parameter space using P18 data alone. In orange BDG phantom ($Z = -1$) without potential, $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$ and ΛCDM in blue.

radius [\(31\)](#page-7-2) for a celestial body of a solar mass is shown in the bottom panel of Fig. [13](#page-14-1): the screening is effective and $r_{V\odot} \sim \mathcal{O}(100)$ pc today for all the values of γ studied.

2. CMB anisotropies and matter power spectrum

As we saw in Sec. [III](#page-7-0), the interplay of the G_3 and the ISW effect can result in an enhancement of the power spectrum on large scales [[38](#page-19-16),[40](#page-19-28)]. For this reason, in Fig. [14](#page-15-1) we can observe very large departures from ΛCDM at the largest scales in TT, due to the enhanced ISW effect. It is worth pointing out that as there is no potential, the curves do not flatten out towards zero for smaller γ, this is due to the fact that without a cosmological constant there is not a ΛCDM limit, as already discussed in Sec. [II.](#page-1-0) So, while this model provides late-time cosmic acceleration without a cosmological constant, it shows large differences with respect to ΛCDM at the level of CMB and matter power spectra; this is a disadvantage for differences $>$ 30% when comparing the predictions against the data, since ΛCDM fits Planck data quite well.

3. Constraints from cosmological observations

As we saw, this is the most extreme of the models considered, as it has no cosmological constant and therefore no ΛCDM limit and it cannot reproduce the CMB and LSS theoretical prediction of ΛCDM; this put it at a disadvantage when it is tested against data, and a $\Delta \chi^2 =$ 30.6 when considering P18 confirms it. While this completely rules out the model, there is a feature that is worth highlighting in addition to the theoretical appealing characteristic of providing cosmic acceleration without a

TABLE IV. Constraints on the main parameters (at 68% CL unless otherwise stated) considering Planck 2018 data alone for BDG phantom ($Z = -1$) without potential and $g(\sigma) = \alpha \sigma^{-1}$.

P18	
$10^2 \omega_{\rm h}$	2.266 ± 0.015
$\omega_{\rm cdm}$	0.1165 ± 0.0012
H_0 [km s ⁻¹ Mpc ⁻¹]	79.57 ± 0.67
$\ln 10^{10} A_s$	$2.9979_{-0.013}^{+0.0093}$
$n_{\rm s}$	0.9776 ± 0.0041
$\tau_{\rm reio}$	< 0.0475 (95% CL)
	$< 7.70 \times 10^{-7}$ (95% CL)
$\Delta \chi^2$	30.6
$\triangle AIC$	32.6

cosmological constant: it raises the Hubble constant to $H_0 = 79.57 \pm 0.67$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹. While this result is still
far from alleviating the tension, the ability to produce a far from alleviating the tension, the ability to produce a Hubble constant larger than the SH0ES value [[14](#page-18-10)] is quite interesting and it might be worth to construct and investigate similar models that, while retaining this ability, might provide a better fit to the data. The results for the model are shown in Fig. [15](#page-16-0) and Table [IV.](#page-17-1)

APPENDIX B: LINEAR PERTURBED EQUATIONS

Here we summarize the definition of the coefficients appearing in the perturbed Einstein and scalar field equations:

$$
\delta \tilde{\rho} = \frac{\delta \rho_m}{\gamma \sigma^2} - \frac{h' \sigma'}{a^2 \sigma} - \frac{2}{a^2} \left\{ \frac{\delta \sigma}{\sigma} \left[\frac{a^2 \rho_m}{\gamma \sigma^2} + Z \frac{\sigma'^2}{2 \gamma \sigma^2} + \frac{a^2}{\gamma \sigma} \left(\frac{V}{\sigma} - \frac{V}{2} \right) - \frac{3\mathcal{H}\sigma'}{\sigma} + k^2 \right] + \frac{\delta \sigma'}{\sigma} \left(3\mathcal{H} - Z \frac{\sigma'}{2 \gamma \sigma} \right) \right\}, \qquad (B1)
$$

$$
\delta \tilde{\rho}^{(G)} = -\frac{2}{\gamma a^4} \frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma^2} \left\{ \frac{\delta \sigma}{\sigma} \left[3\mathcal{H}\sigma'(2g - \sigma g_{,\sigma}) + \frac{\sigma'^2}{2} (\sigma g_{,\sigma,\sigma} - 2g_{,\sigma}) - k^2 \sigma g + \frac{3\sigma'^2}{2} (2\zeta - \zeta_{,\sigma}\sigma) \right] + \delta \sigma' (\sigma'(2g_{,\sigma} - 6\zeta) - 9\mathcal{H}g) - \frac{1}{2} h' \sigma' g \right\}, \qquad (B2)
$$

$$
(\tilde{\rho} + \tilde{P})\tilde{\theta} \equiv \frac{(\rho_m + P_m)}{\gamma \sigma^2} \theta_m + \frac{2k^2}{a^2} \left\{ \frac{\delta \sigma}{\sigma} \left[\frac{\sigma'}{2\gamma \sigma} (Z + 2\gamma) - \mathcal{H} \right] + \frac{\delta \sigma'}{\sigma} \right\},\tag{B3}
$$

$$
(\tilde{\rho}^{(G)} + \tilde{P}^{(G)})\tilde{\theta}^{(G)} \equiv \frac{2k^2}{\gamma a^4} \frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma^2} [\delta\sigma(3\mathcal{H}g - g_{,\sigma}\sigma' + 2\zeta\sigma') - \delta\sigma'g],\tag{B4}
$$

$$
\delta \tilde{P} = \frac{\delta P_m}{\gamma \sigma^2} + \frac{1}{a^2} \left\{ -\frac{\delta \sigma}{\sigma} \left[\frac{a^2}{\gamma \sigma} \left(V_{,\sigma} - \frac{2V}{\sigma} \right) + \frac{2a^2 P_m}{\gamma \sigma^2} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\gamma \sigma^2} (Z + 4\gamma) + \frac{2\sigma''}{\sigma} + \frac{2\mathcal{H}\sigma'}{\sigma} - \frac{4k^2}{3} \right] \right\}
$$
\n
$$
+ \delta \sigma' \left(\frac{\sigma'}{\gamma \sigma^2} (Z + 4\gamma) + \frac{2\mathcal{H}}{\sigma} \right) + \frac{2\delta \sigma''}{\sigma} + \frac{2\sigma'}{3\sigma} h' \right\},\tag{B5}
$$

$$
\delta\tilde{P}^{(G)} \equiv \frac{1}{\gamma a^4} \frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma^2} \left\{ \frac{\delta\sigma}{\sigma} \left[2(2g - g_{,\sigma}\sigma)(\sigma'' - \mathcal{H}\sigma') + \sigma'^2(2g_{,\sigma} - g_{,\sigma,\sigma}\sigma - 2\zeta + \zeta_{,\sigma}\sigma) \right] \right. \\ \left. - \delta\sigma' \left(2g_{,\sigma}\sigma' - 4\mathcal{H}g + 2g\frac{\sigma''}{\sigma'} + 4\zeta\sigma' \right) - 2g\delta\sigma'' \right\},\tag{B6}
$$

$$
(\tilde{\rho} + \tilde{P})\tilde{\Theta} \equiv \frac{(\rho_m + P_m)\Theta}{\gamma \sigma^2} + \frac{1}{3a^2} \left[\frac{4k^2 \delta \sigma}{\sigma} + 2(h' + 6\eta') \frac{\sigma'}{\sigma} \right],
$$
\n(B7)

$$
\delta \tilde{\mathcal{G}} = \frac{a^2(\delta \rho_m - 3\delta P_m)}{(1 + 6\gamma)\sigma} - \frac{h'}{2a^2} \left[a^2 \sigma'(Z + 6\gamma) + 2g\sigma' \left(3\mathcal{H}\sigma' - \frac{\sigma^2}{\sigma} + 2g\sigma'' \right) + 4\zeta \sigma'^3 \right] - h''g\frac{\sigma'^2}{a^2} \n+ \frac{1}{a^2} \delta \sigma \left\{ a^4 \left[\frac{3P_m - \rho_m}{\sigma^2} - \frac{4V}{\sigma^2} + \frac{4V_{,\sigma}}{\sigma} - V_{,\sigma\sigma} + (Z + 6\gamma) \left(\frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma^2} - k^2 \right) \right] \n+ g \left[2k^2 \left(\frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma} - 2\mathcal{H}\sigma' - 2\sigma'' \right) - 6\frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma^2} \sigma'' \right] - 4k^2 \zeta \sigma'^2 + g_{,\sigma} \sigma' \left[6\sigma'' \left(\frac{\sigma'}{\sigma} - 2\mathcal{H} \right) - 2\sigma' \left(3\mathcal{H}' + \frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma^2} \right) \right] \n- 12\sigma'^2 \zeta_{,\sigma} \sigma'' + 2g_{,\sigma\sigma} \sigma'^2 \left(\frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma} - 2\mathcal{H}\sigma' + 2\sigma'' \right) - 3\zeta_{,\sigma\sigma} \sigma'^4 - g_{,\sigma\sigma\sigma} \sigma'^4 \right\} \n+ \frac{1}{a^2} \delta \sigma' \left\{ a^2 \left[-2(Z + 6\gamma) \left(\mathcal{H} + \frac{\sigma'}{\sigma} \right) \right] + 12g \left[\sigma'' \left(\frac{\sigma'}{\sigma} - \mathcal{H} \right) - \mathcal{H}'\sigma' \right] - 24\zeta \sigma' \sigma'' \n+ 4g_{,\sigma} \sigma' \left(2\frac{\sigma'^2}{\sigma} - 3\mathcal{H}\sigma' + 2\sigma'' \right) - 12\zeta_{,\sigma} \sigma'^3 + 4g_{,\sigma\sigma} \sigma'^3 \right\}.
$$
\n(B8)

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