

The Effective Field Theory of Large Scale Structures

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Motivation/Overview

- Large Scale Structure: Probe for dark energy, modified gravity and primordial perturbations
- LSS - large scales: linear problem - small scales: non-linear problem
- Usual approach: Numerics, i.e. N-body simulations
- Analytic models: Many different approaches, not clear which one “does the job best”

Goals

Towards the **non-linear scales**, LSS with **modified gravity**

Eulerian Standard Approach

- “Microscopic” system of collisionless DM particles, that interact only gravitationally in some flat FLRW background
- Approximation: Ideal fluid

Continuity and Euler equation

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \delta(\mathbf{k}, \tau) + \theta(\mathbf{k}, \tau) &= - \int d^3 \mathbf{q} \alpha(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}) \theta(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \delta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, \tau), \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \theta(\mathbf{k}, \tau) + \mathcal{H}(\tau) \theta(\mathbf{k}, \tau) + \frac{3}{2} \Omega_m \mathcal{H}^2(\tau) \delta(\mathbf{k}, \tau) \\ &= - \int d^3 \mathbf{q} \beta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}) \theta(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \theta(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, \tau)\end{aligned}$$

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Standard Perturbation Theory

- Instructive example: Einstein-de Sitter ($\Omega_m = 1$)
- Linear system solution: $\delta_L(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = a(\tau) \delta_1(\mathbf{k}) + a^{-3/2}(\tau) \tilde{\delta}_1(\mathbf{k})$ freely propagating

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- Perturbative ansatz in initial conditions:

$$\delta(\mathbf{k}, \tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a^n(\tau) \delta_n(\mathbf{k})$$

$$\delta_n(\mathbf{k}) = \int d^3\mathbf{k}_1 \dots d^3\mathbf{k}_n \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{1\dots n}) F_n(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n) \delta_1(\mathbf{k}_1) \dots \delta_1(\mathbf{k}_n)$$

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Problems of Standard Perturbation Theory

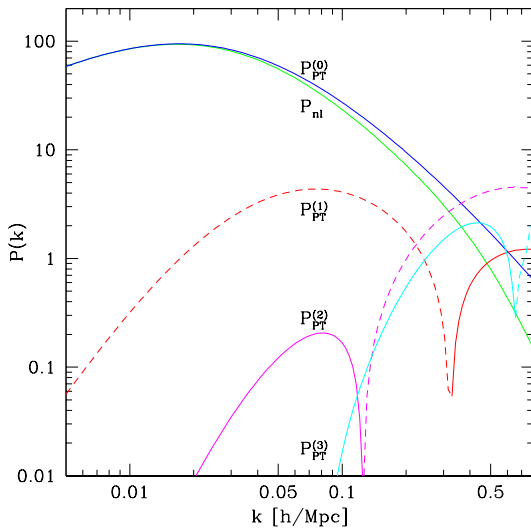
- **Perturbative solution not well defined on small scales**
- How large are the theoretical errors?
- How good is the approximation of an ideal fluid?
- **UV-divergences** in loop contributions to correlation functions, e.g. for Gaussian initial conditions

$$\langle \delta_1(\mathbf{k}) \delta_3(-\mathbf{k}) \rangle \propto \int d^3\mathbf{q} F_3(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}, -\mathbf{q}) P_0(k) P_0(q)$$

$$\text{leading order divergence : } \sim k^2 P_0(k) \int dq P_0(q)$$

- Typically $P_0(q) \propto q^n$
- Expect renormalization, but no counter-terms

Loop corrections to power spectrum



Effective Field Theory Approach

- Treatment only valid up to a scale $k_{NL} \Rightarrow$ should be understood in the sense of an effective field theory (Baumann et al '10, Carrasco et al '12, Hertzberg '12)
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Effective Field Theory of LSS

Effective Field Equations (relevant terms)

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\partial \delta_l}{\partial \tau} + \theta_l &= - \int d^3 \mathbf{q} \alpha(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}) \theta_l(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \delta_l(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, \tau), \\ \frac{\partial \theta_l}{\partial \tau} + \mathcal{H} \theta_l + \frac{3}{2} \Omega_m \mathcal{H}^2 \delta_l - c_s^2 k^2 \delta_l + \frac{c_v^2 k^2}{\mathcal{H}} \theta_l + \Delta \mathbf{J} + \dots \\ &= - \int d^3 \mathbf{q} \beta(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}) \theta_l(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \theta_l(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}, \tau)\end{aligned}$$

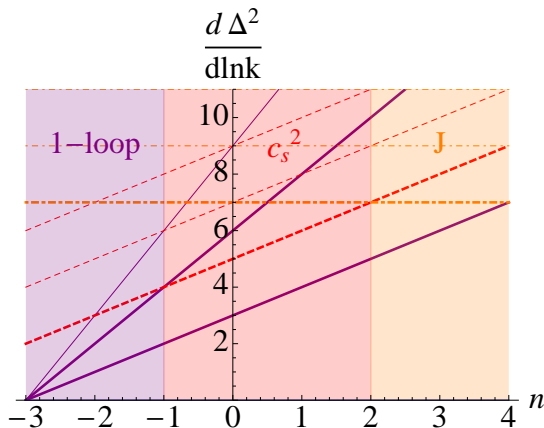
- New operators at lowest order: Pressure, viscosity and stochastic noise
- Solution to problems of SPT: Small parameter (k/k_{NL}), viscous fluid with pressure, coarse-graining \sim cutoff regularization, new operators act as counter-terms

Renormalization in EdS [Pajer, Zaldarriaga '13]

- "Threshold corrections", e.g. for the power spectrum

$$P = P_0 + P_{1-loop} + P_{c^2} + P_{\Delta J} + \dots$$

- In our universe: $n = -2.5$, so:
 - c^2 -terms $>$ 2-loop
 - $\Delta J <$ 3-loop



Modified Gravity

- Typical example: Scalar-tensor theories:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi) \right] + S_m$$

- Assume: Models for dark energy. Typically very constrained on small scales \Rightarrow not viable
- Screened models can evade these constraints, e.g. chameleon, dilaton

Modified Gravity and Perturbation Theory

- Field equations: Fluid equations (modified couplings), Poisson and Klein-Gordon equation
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- Linear solutions for some models (chameleon, dilaton) are very inaccurate (Brax et al '12,'13)
- \Rightarrow loop corrections must be important
- Very recently (Brax, Valageas '13): General approach via tomography. Roughly: Expand mass and coupling in perturbations of ϕ and solve Klein-Gordon equation. Result: Field equations with vertices at all orders

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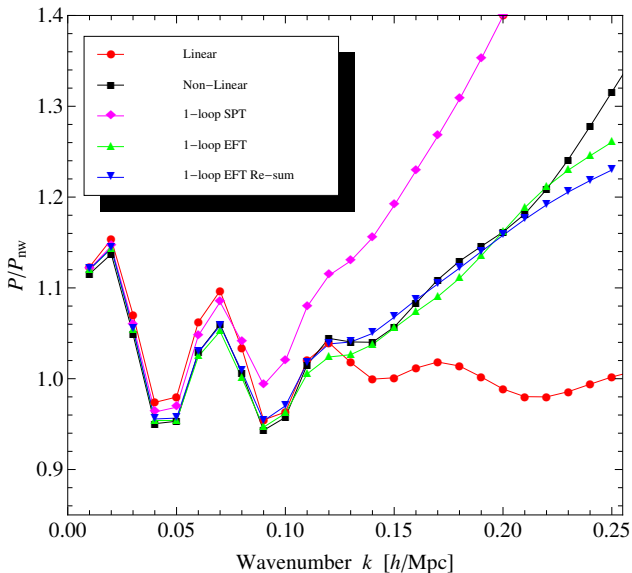
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Conclusions

- SPT comes with problems: breakdown at small scales, UV-divergences
- The EFT approach addresses these problems. It is a well-defined framework for studying LSS.
- New operators yield contributions that are more important than 2-loop terms
- Including modified gravity is well-motivated but challenging, so far γ -model, linear results
- Based on (Brax, Valageas '13) a deeper understanding might be possible
- Computation of the bispectrum in the EFT

The End

Backup: EFToLSS: Results



Backup: γ -model

- Assume $f = \Omega_m^\gamma$ and a Λ CDM background (for GR: $\gamma = 6/11$)
- Field equations modified only by $\epsilon(\tau) \Rightarrow$ obtain $\epsilon_\gamma(\tau)$
- Perturbative solution at late times:

$$F_2(\mathbf{k}, \mathbf{q}) = \left(\frac{3\nu_2}{4} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{q} \left(\frac{1}{k^2} + \frac{1}{q^2} \right) + \left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{3\nu_2}{4} \right) \frac{(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{q})^2}{k^2 q^2}$$

- Find approximate solution for ν_2 and repeat regularization of loop integrals (similarly for F_3)