

Cosmological perturbation theory at three-loop order

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Abstract

We analyze the dark matter power spectrum at three-loop order in standard perturbation theory of large scale structure. We observe that at late times the loop expansion does not converge even for large scales (small momenta) well within the linear regime, but exhibits properties compatible with an asymptotic series. We propose a technique to restore the convergence in the limit of small momentum, and use it to obtain a perturbative expansion with improved convergence for momenta in the range where baryonic acoustic oscillations are present. Our results are compared with data from N-body simulations at different redshifts, and we find good agreement within this range.

1 Introduction

Analytic techniques in cosmological perturbation theory experienced a renaissance in the last decade. The main driver of this development was the observation in refs. [1] and [2] that large perturbative contributions arising from soft effects can be resummed in standard perturbation theory. This result led to a reorganization of standard perturbation theory (SPT) in terms of multi-point correlators, known as Renormalized Perturbation Theory (RPT) [1]. Especially striking is this result for the propagator where the resummed result agrees very well with the measurements in N-body simulations in contrast to SPT. Motivated by the success of RPT, a plethora of resummation schemes has been invented, mostly with the goal to resum large soft effects (for a collection of methods see [3, 4]).

However, for equal-time correlators as for example the power spectrum, enhancement from pure soft effects should be absent due to Galilean invariance [5, 6, 7]. This was recently demonstrated explicitly in [8] at any order in perturbation theory. Thus, the breakdown of SPT in the description of the power spectrum at late times does not seem to be related to soft effects (see also refs. [9, 10, 11]). Understanding the actual reason behind this failure and using it to devise better approaches remains an open question. It was also recently realized that the aforementioned cancellation of the soft enhancements can be made manifest by a judicious symmetrization of the corresponding SPT integrands before any integration is performed [8, 12]. This facilitates the numerical evaluation of higher loop contributions that are using Monte-Carlo integration techniques. Obtaining the cancellation between different contributions after integration would be challenging with these integration techniques.

Most of the previous work on the understanding of the non-linear behavior of cosmological perturbation theory has been focused on short scales, where the higher order corrections (computed up to two-loops) surpass the linear predictions (see e.g. [1, 4, 13]). In this work, we are interested in the opposite regime of the power spectrum, namely small momenta. In this case, SPT (and its different extensions) is expected to converge well rather independently from the redshift [14, 15]. In the first part (Sections 2 and 3) we show that this is in fact not true. Even though the linear contribution to the power spectrum dominates in the limit $k \rightarrow 0$, the three-loop contribution of SPT surpasses the two-loop and even the one-loop contribution at late times ($z \sim 0$) and the convergence of the SPT series is questionable. Subsequently (in Section 4),

we resum the SPT result by means of Padé approximants using as guidance the asymptotic behavior in the small momentum regime found in [8]. We also extend these methods to describe the power spectrum at slightly larger momentum in this Section. Finally, we conclude in Section 5. Some technical details about our numerical procedure and the Padé approximation can be found in the Appendices.

2 Evaluation of the power spectrum

2.1 Formalism

Our results are presented for an idealized case of Standard Perturbation Theory (SPT). This assumes that the physics of interest is well described by considering the first two moments of the Vlasov equation¹, the density contrast δ and the velocity field [14, 17, 18, 19]. For the latter we will assume it can be represented by a scalar θ (we consider an irrotational fluid). We consider an Einstein-de Sitter Universe without dark energy. However, as initial conditions we use the dark matter spectrum corresponding to the realistic cosmological parameters as obtained by CAMB [20] and also employ the appropriate linear growth factor $D_+(z)$ for the SPT expansion. We focus on the growing mode and Gaussian initial conditions. For convenience, we work with the two-components field Ψ_a with $\Psi_1 \equiv \delta$ and $\Psi_2 \equiv -\theta/\mathcal{H}$. The rest of our notation is the one from [8]. In particular, three-momenta will be denoted by single letters, e.g. k .

In SPT, the calculation of cosmological observables is organized as a perturbative calculation in the original values of the field Ψ , that for the growing mode is summarized in δ^0 . The integrands of the n -th order solution can be written in terms of the linear result $\delta^L(k, \eta) = e^{\eta-\eta_0} \delta_0(k)$ as

$$\psi_a^{(n)}(k_1, \dots, k_n; \eta) = \begin{pmatrix} F_n(k_1, \dots, k_n) \\ G_n(k_1, \dots, k_n) \end{pmatrix} \delta^L(k_1, \eta) \cdots \delta^L(k_n, \eta), \quad (2.1)$$

where $\eta = \ln D_+(z)$ and the functions F_n and G_n fulfill the well-known

¹The validity of this approach has been recently challenged in [16].

recursion relations [21]

$$\begin{aligned}
F_n(k_1, \dots, k_n) &= \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \frac{G_m(k_1, \dots, k_m)}{(2n+3)(n-1)} \times \\
&\quad \left[(2n+1)\alpha(\overleftarrow{k}, \overrightarrow{k})F_{n-m}(k_{m+1}, \dots, k_n) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + 2\beta(\overleftarrow{k}, \overrightarrow{k})G_{n-m}(k_{m+1}, \dots, k_n) \right], \quad (2.2)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
G_n(k_1, \dots, k_n) &= \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} \frac{G_m(k_1, \dots, k_m)}{(2n+3)(n-1)} \times \\
&\quad \left[3\alpha(\overleftarrow{k}, \overrightarrow{k})F_{n-m}(k_{m+1}, \dots, k_n) \right. \\
&\quad \left. + 2n\beta(\overleftarrow{k}, \overrightarrow{k})G_{n-m}(k_{m+1}, \dots, k_n) \right], \quad (2.3)
\end{aligned}$$

where $\overleftarrow{k} \equiv k_1 + \dots + k_m$ and $\overrightarrow{k} \equiv k_{m+1} + \dots + k_n$. Below we use the F_n and G_n functions fully symmetrized with respect to the momenta and we denote them by $F_n^s(k_1, \dots, k_n)$ and $G_n^s(k_1, \dots, k_n)$.

The perturbative expansion of the power spectrum for the density field $P(k, \eta)$ can be obtained by evaluating the two functions $\Psi_1^{(n)}$ and $\Psi_1^{(n')}$ that contribute at order n and n' , respectively, and summing over $n, n' \geq 1$. The corresponding contribution is conventionally denoted by $P_{nn'}$. In general $P_{nn'}$ is given by a sum of terms each of which involves the product $F_n F_{n'}$, and explicit expressions can be obtained by listing the different possibilities to contract the $n + n'$ Gaussian fields $\delta^L(\eta; k_i)$ contributing to $P_{nn'}$.

In the present context we find it convenient to organize the various contributions in a slightly different way, namely with three indices l, r, m . The first two indices $l, r \geq 0$ count the contractions $\langle \delta^L(\eta; q) \delta^L(\eta; -q) \rangle$ with momentum modes belonging to one of the F_n functions, respectively, and the index $m \geq 1$ counts the number of connections between the two F_n functions. To be explicit

$$\begin{aligned}
P_{(l,r,m)}(k, \eta) &= \frac{(2l+m)!(2l+m)!}{2^{(l+r)}m!l!r!} e^{2(l+r+m)(\eta-\eta_0)} \int dQ \\
&\quad F_{2l+m}^s(k_1, \dots, k_m, q_1, -q_1, \dots, q_l, -q_l) \\
&\quad F_{2r+m}^s(-k_1, \dots, -k_m, p_1, -p_1, \dots, p_r, -p_r), \quad (2.4)
\end{aligned}$$

where the integration measure is given by

$$\int dQ = \left(\prod_i \int d^3 Q_i P^0(Q_i) \right) \delta^{(3)}(k - \sum_{i=1}^m k_i). \quad (2.5)$$

Here $P^0(k)$ denotes the initial power spectrum at $\eta = \eta_0$ and the Q_i run over $k_1 \dots k_m$, $q_1 \dots q_l$ and $p_1 \dots p_r$. The full power spectrum is given by the sum over all terms with $l, r \geq 0$ and $m \geq 1$. We note that the conventional $P_{nn'}$ are given by summing over all the $P_{(l,r,m)}$ with $n = 2l + m$ and $n' = 2r + m$. Each contribution $P_{(l,r,m)}$ can be interpreted as a Feynman diagram featuring two kernels denoting the F_n -functions, that are connected by m lines, and have l and r lines that are starting and ending at the same kernel function, respectively. Consequently, $P_{(l,r,m)}$ contributes to the power spectrum at the $L = l + r + m - 1$ loop order.

The tree-level and one-, two- and three-loop contributions are in this notation given by

$$\begin{aligned} P_{lin} &= P_{(0,0,1)} = e^{2(\eta-\eta_0)} P^0(k), \\ P_{1-loop} &= P_{(0,0,2)} + 2P_{(0,1,1)}, \\ P_{2-loop} &= P_{(0,0,3)} + 2P_{(0,1,2)} + P_{(1,1,1)} + 2P_{(0,2,1)}, \\ P_{3-loop} &= P_{(0,0,4)} + 2P_{(0,1,3)} + P_{(1,1,2)} + 2P_{(0,2,2)} \\ &\quad + 2P_{(1,2,1)} + 2P_{(0,3,1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Compared to the standard notation, $P_{22} = P_{(0,0,2)}$, $P_{13} = P_{(0,1,1)}$, $P_{24} = P_{(0,1,2)}$, $P_{15} = P_{(0,2,1)}$, $P_{33} = P_{(0,0,3)} + P_{(1,1,1)}$, etc.

2.2 Efficient evaluation at any loop

An efficient evaluation of the power spectrum is typically hindered by two factors. First, there is a cancellation between different big contributions in the limit of large external momentum k . This cancellation has to be dealt with at the level of the integrand for a reasonable accuracy. Second, the integrand contains a large number of terms and performance is an issue in the numerical evaluation of the integrand.

The first problem can be overcome with the procedure presented in [8] and also discussed in detail in the context of the effective theory approach to cosmological perturbation in [12]. In the following, we briefly review this approach. The cancellation under consideration stems from contributions

that arise if some of the loop momenta Q_i in Eq. (2.5) become soft. In this regime the functions F_n^s are enhanced by a factor $\propto k/|Q_i|$ for each soft momentum. However, after summing over all contributions and after integration the enhancement is absent. This absence follows from Galilean invariance [5, 6, 7] and was proven in detail in [8].

Remarkably, the cancellation can be made explicit already at the level of the integrand. To understand how to do it, let us start with the one-loop example, where one has two contributions of the form

$$\begin{aligned} 2P_{(1,0,1)} &\propto 2 \int d^3 k_1 d^3 q_1 F_3^s(k_1, q_1, -q_1) F_1^s(-k_1) P^0(q_1) P^0(k_1) \delta^{(3)}(k_1 - k) \\ &= 2 \int d^3 q_1 F_3^s(k, q_1, -q_1) P^0(q_1) P^0(k), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} P_{(0,0,2)} &\propto \int d^3 k_1 d^3 k_2 [F_2^s(k_1, k_2)]^2 P^0(k_1) P^0(k_2) \delta^{(3)}(k_1 + k_2 - k) \\ &= \int d^3 k_2 [F_2^s(k - k_2, k_2)]^2 P^0(k - k_2) P^0(k_2). \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

The first term experiences an enhancement for soft internal momentum q_1 , while the second term is enhanced for either k_2 soft or $(k - k_2)$ soft. Even though the final result has no enhancement by soft modes, different regions in the integration conspire to cancel each other. This problem can be avoided by enforcing that $(k - k_2)$ cannot become soft. Since the integrand is symmetric under $(k - k_2) \leftrightarrow k_2$ (inherited from $k_1 \leftrightarrow k_2$) this can be achieved by inserting a factor $\Theta(|k - k_2| - |k_2|)$ (respectively $\Theta(|k_1| - |k_2|)$) in Eq. (2.7) and compensating by a factor 2. After identifying the one loop momentum $Q_1 \equiv q_1 \equiv k_2$ and symmetrizing $Q_1 \leftrightarrow -Q_1$ the integrand is not enhanced in the soft regime if both contributions are added (the partial enhancement arises from the same region of integration).

This procedure is readily generalized to higher orders. For any $P_{(l,r,m)}$ with $m \geq 2$ one can use the symmetry in the momenta k_1, \dots, k_m to single out k_1 to be the largest loop momentum and remove it via integration over the delta function after inserting a factor

$$m \prod_{i=2}^m \Theta(|k_1| - |k_i|) \Big|_{k_1=k-k_2-\dots-k_m}. \quad (2.8)$$

Alternatively, one can also sort all the loop momenta

$$m! \prod_{i=2}^m \Theta(|k_{i-1}| - |k_i|) \Big|_{k_1=k-k_2-\dots-k_m}, \quad (2.9)$$

what is obviously equivalent since the integrand is fully symmetric in the momenta k_i . In both cases, the integrand then depends on the external momentum k as well as on the loop momenta $Q_i = k_2, \dots, k_m, q_1, \dots, q_l, p_1, \dots, p_r$. Here the index i can be chosen to run from 1 to $L = l + r + m - 1$, the number of loop momenta. The possible enhancement will now only follow from soft modes in the loop momenta Q_i . In the next step, the integrand should be symmetrized with respect to arbitrary permutations of the Q_i , to ensure that all the internal momenta are treated on the same footing. Similarly, one has to symmetrize the integrand with respect to the sign-flips $Q_i \leftrightarrow -Q_i$ of any of the loop momenta. After these manipulations, the resulting integrands for all $P_{(l,r,m)}$ with indices satisfying $L = l + r + m - 1$ should be added to obtain an expression for the L -loop integrand.

Both choices (2.8) and (2.9) lead to an infrared safe integrand. We tested both and find that the second is slightly more stable in the numerical integration due to a less redundant integration region. As in the one-loop case, we observed that the integrand is not enhanced for soft modes if all contributions at fixed loop order are summed over. We tested this analytically up to two loops and numerically up to four loops as already reported in [8].

In conclusion, the expression at L -loop evaluated in the numerics is

$$P_{L-loop} = e^{2(L+1)(\eta-\eta_0)} \int d^3 Q_1 \dots d^3 Q_L P^0(Q_1) \dots P^0(Q_L) \sum_{\substack{l,r \geq 0, m \geq 1 \\ m+l+r=L+1}} I_{(l,r,m)} \quad (2.10)$$

with the integrand

$$I_{(l,r,m)} = \frac{(2l+m)!(2r+m)!}{2^{(l+r)} l! r! m!} \text{Symm} \left[\left\{ m! \prod_{i=2}^m \Theta(|k_{i-1}| - |k_i|) \times \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. F_{2l+m}^s(k_1, \dots, k_m, q_1, -q_1, \dots, q_l, -q_l) \times \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. F_{2r+m}^s(-k_1, \dots, -k_m, p_1, -p_1, \dots, p_r, -p_r) \right\}_{k_1=k-\sum_{j=2}^m k_j} \right]. \quad (2.11)$$

The symmetrization denotes a sum over all $N_{(l,r,m)} \equiv \frac{L!}{(m-1)! l! r!} \times 2^{m-1}$ possibilities to choose the momenta $k_2 \dots k_m$, $q_1 \dots q_l$ and $p_1 \dots p_r$ out of the

L momenta $Q_1 \dots Q_L$ as well as performing the sign changes $k_j \leftrightarrow -k_j$ for $j = 2, \dots, m$, multiplied by a normalization factor $1/N_{(l,r,m)}$. Note that the symmetrizations affect also the first argument of the F_n functions since $k_1 \equiv k - \sum_{j=2}^m k_j$.

Unfortunately, this procedure tremendously increases the number of terms one has to evaluate. In particular, the symmetrization of the integrand in (2.11) generates a large number of contributions. It is thus essential to only perform the necessary symmetrizations. In Eq. (2.11) we already used the fact that F_n^s is symmetric in its parameters. This implies that one should only average over the $\frac{L!}{(m-1)!l!r!}$ terms arising from picking the k , q and p momenta out of the set of all Q (instead of all $L!$ orderings). Likewise, the symmetric F_n^s and G_n^s can be determined from (2.2) by summing over $\binom{n}{m}$ terms if the functions F_n and G_n on the right-hand side are already the symmetric ones.

Since the final evaluation of F_n and G_n only depends on the scalar product between different vectors, it is very efficient to pre-calculate and store partial results on different stages. The vectors that appear in the scalar products are of the form

$$v = c_k k + \sum c_i Q_i, \quad (2.12)$$

where the c can be ± 1 or 0. By convention one can also chose c_k to be non-negative. At L -loop, there are $n_L = 2 \cdot 3^L$ vectors of this type, e.g. $n_3 = 54$ at three loop order. It is much faster to enumerate the existing linear combinations in the beginning and to store the pre-calculated values of the $n_L(n_L+1)/2$ scalar products in a table rather than using the real-valued vectors in the recursion. Since all vectors that appear in the evaluation of the integrand are of the form (2.12), they can be represented by a vector of length $L + 1$ of the coefficients (c_k, c_1, \dots, c_L) . Adding and subtracting vectors within this class can then be handled efficiently via basic modulo operations.

At the same token, also the required F_n^s and G_n^s functions can be pre-calculated. Their arguments are the loop momenta Q_i (with a sign) and a vector of the kind as (2.12) with $c_k = 1$ (cf. (2.11)). Since the functions F_n^s and G_n^s are symmetric under interchanging the momenta, only $(3^L + 1)4^L$ different combinations can appear as parameters. The factor $(3^L + 1)$ stores the form of the vector involving k as in (2.12) [since $c_k = 1$ there are only 3^L vectors that appear, plus one possibility that no vector of this form is present in the argument]; the factor $4^L = 2^L \cdot 2^L$ stores the information if the loop momentum Q_i is present or not as an argument (2^L possibilities),

and similarly whether $-Q_i$ is present (also 2^L possibilities). Storing the F_n^s and G_n^s functions with the required sets of arguments in a table improves the performance tremendously, especially because the functions with a low number of arguments (up to ~ 5 at three loops; the maximum is 7) are typically evaluated many times due to the recursive calculation.

In the presented data, the Monte Carlo integration library CUBA [22] has been used. We evaluate the eight-dimensional integrals with up to 10^8 evaluations of the integrand. The errors shown are the ones resulting from the numerical integrations. We performed numerous checks using two completely independent codes. In particular, we tested different parametrizations of the loop momenta. Some more details about the numerical integration can be found in App. A.

3 Three-loop results

3.1 Expectations

Before presenting our numerical results and implications, we would like to discuss the expectations in the large k and small k regimes as analyzed in ref. [8]. In both regimes the variance of the density field [5]

$$\sigma_l^2(k, z) \equiv 4\pi \int_0^k dq q^2 P_{lin}(q, z) = 4\pi D_+(z)^2 \int_0^k dq q^2 P_{lin}(q, z=0), \quad (3.1)$$

plays an important role. In the previous expression P_{lin} is the power spectrum at linear level. At large k and for an initial power spectrum similar to Eisenstein-Hu [23], the leading logarithmic behavior in k is given at L -loop order by contributions of the form ($n \leq 2L$)

$$P_{L-loop} \ni ([k\partial_k]^n P_{lin}(k, z)) \sigma_l^{2L}(k, z). \quad (3.2)$$

Subleading logarithms can give sizable corrections [8]. For small k on the other hand, one finds

$$P_{L-loop} \rightarrow -\frac{61}{105} C_L k^2 P_{lin}(k, z) \frac{4\pi}{3} \int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) \sigma_l^{2L-2}(q, z). \quad (3.3)$$

The convergence of the expansion in loops depends ultimately on the quantity $\sigma_l(q, z)$ and on the coefficients C_L that are unknown (the normalization has

been chosen such that at one-loop $C_1 = 1$). For the first three loop orders they are order one.

The problem is that σ_l is sensitive to the UV part of the power spectrum what hinders the convergence of SPT also for soft momenta k . Parametrically, it scales for a Eisenstein-Hu spectrum as

$$\sigma_l^2(k, z) \simeq D_+(z)^2 \int^k \frac{d^3q}{q^3} \log^2(e + q/k_0) \simeq D_+(z)^2 \log^3(e + k/k_0), \quad (3.4)$$

such that for soft modes we find the scaling

$$\begin{aligned} C_L \int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) \sigma_l^{2L-2}(q, z) &\simeq C_L D_+(z)^{2L} \int dl e^{-2l} l^{3L-1} \\ &\simeq \frac{(3L-1)!}{2^{3L}} C_L D_+(z)^{2L}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

The first factor in the second line of Eq. (3.5) grows very fast with the number of loops. So even for large redshift (for which there is an additional suppression $D_+ \sim 1/(1+z)$), the convergence of SPT can be at best asymptotic² unless the coefficients C_L in (3.3) do produce a strong suppression (we do not find an indication for such a suppression up to three loop order).

3.2 Numerical Results and Implications

Figure 1 shows the power spectrum up to three loops at $z = 0$. One observes that even for very small k the three-loop result is larger than even the one-loop term. This indicates that SPT does not converge in this regime even though the linear contribution dominates over the subleading ones for $k \rightarrow 0$. This was already observed in [25] where the propagator in SPT was studied at three-loop order. Given an asymptotic series, its form may still provide very relevant information about the non-linear behavior of the solution [26]. We comment on a possible way of achieving this through a resummation of the different contributions below.

Another observation is that for $z = 0$ the sum of loop corrections up to three loops becomes larger than the linear power spectrum for $k \gtrsim 0.16h/\text{Mpc}$. Since the former is negative, SPT clearly does not converge neither on these

²Another famous example of a perturbative series that is strictly non-convergent, but asymptotically converging is the the loop expansion in QED [24].

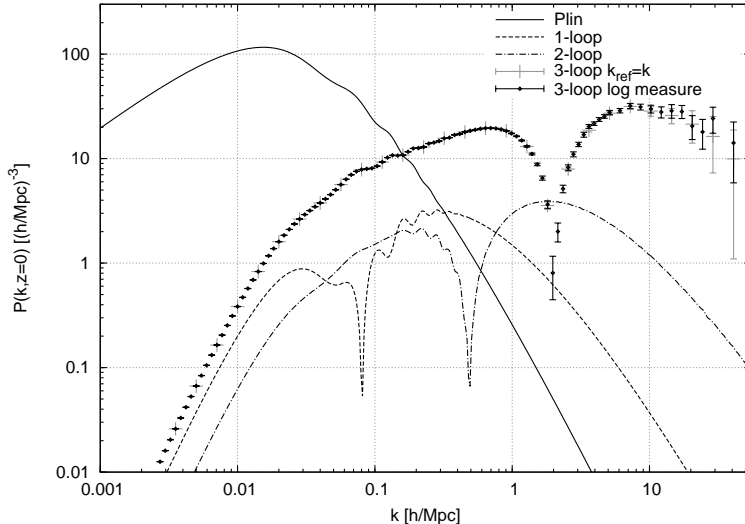


Figure 1: One, two and three-loop contributions to the equal-time power spectrum obtained from a numerical Monte Carlo integration within standard perturbation theory at $z = 0$. The linear power spectrum is obtained from the initial power spectrum from CAMB [20] using the Λ CDM model with WMAP5 parameters. For the three-loop order, the error bars show an estimate for the numerical error obtained by multiplying the error output of the CUBA routine Suave by a factor of two. The relative error is ≤ 0.002 for $k \leq 0.55 h/\text{Mpc}$. The black diamonds and grey crosses correspond to two different parametrizations of the absolute loop momenta (see App. A).

scales. For even larger momentum k , one observes that each loop contribution features the expected behavior (3.2) with a logarithmic enhancement compared to the linear spectrum. But also in this regime, the loop expansion appears to be divergent.

The picture might change if one goes to larger redshift z , where the expansion parameter can be efficiently suppressed since $\sigma_l^2 \propto D_+(z)^2 \sim (1+z)^{-2}$. In Figs. 2 and 3 we show some comparisons between our three-loop SPT results (black lines and diamonds) and N-body simulations (red dots, Horizon Run 2 [27]) for various redshifts (see App. C for further details). For large redshift ($z \gtrsim 1.75$) the three-loop contribution may lead to an improved agreement with the N-body data, while it clearly degrades the agreement compared to the two-loop at lower redshifts. The same happens for the two-

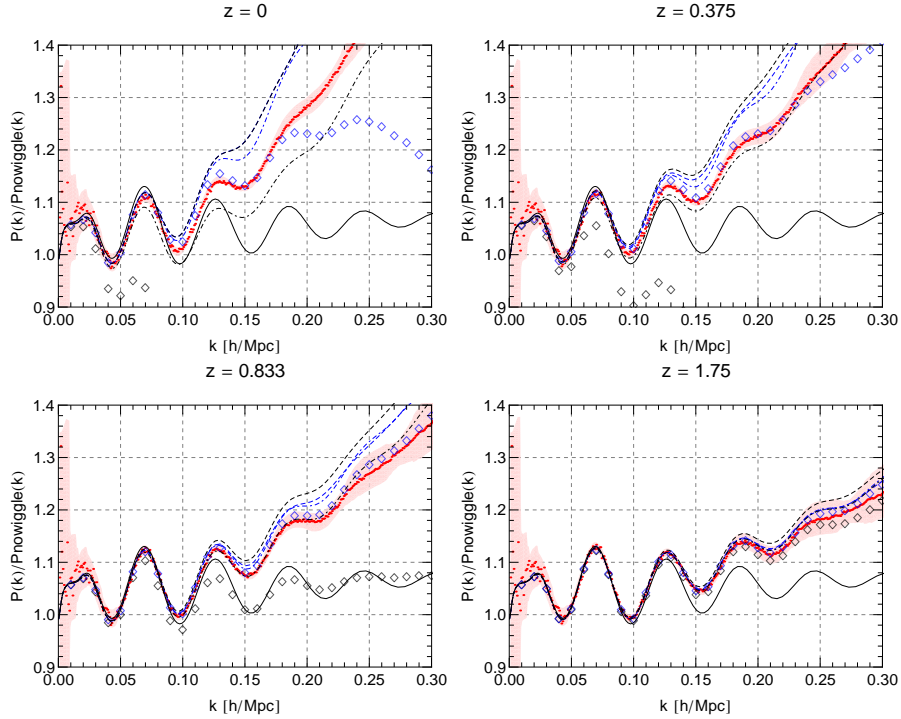


Figure 2: Comparison at redshifts $z = \{0, 0.375, 0.833, 1.75\}$ of SPT up to one loop (black dashed lines), two loops (black dot-dashed) and three loops (black diamonds) with N-body results of the Horizon Run 2 [27] (red dots, see App. C). The black line corresponds to the linear result. We also show the results of Padé resummation (same styles as for SPT but in blue, see Sec. 4); at $z = 0$ the blue and black dashed line lie on top of each other.

loop at even smaller redshifts and at small momenta. This indicates that for any redshift, adding loop contributions improves the agreement only up to a certain order, as typically expected for asymptotically converging series.

In general, in such a situation, one expects that the partial sum up to the smallest term yields the most accurate estimate of the full result, with a theoretical uncertainty of the order of the smallest term. For a realistic initial power spectrum, this indicates that the power spectrum at $z \lesssim 1$ can be estimated with SPT at most to an accuracy of the order of the two-loop contribution (e.g. $P_{2-loop}/P_{lin} \simeq 6\%$ at $z = 0$ and $k = 0.1 h/\text{Mpc}$).

As already emphasized, this does not mean that it is in principle impos-

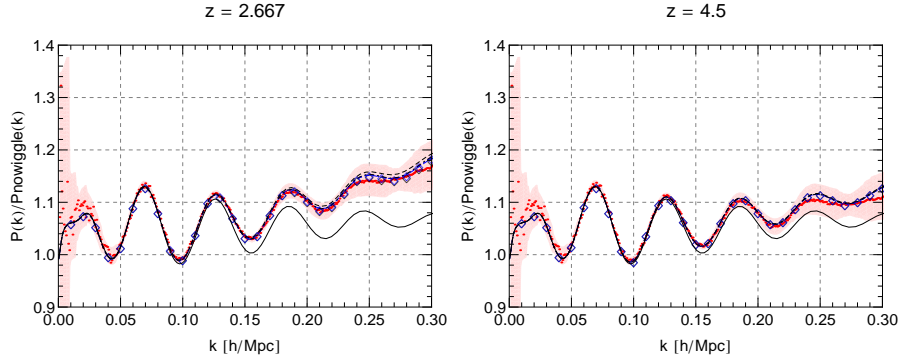


Figure 3: Same as Fig. 2 for redshifts $z = \{2.67, 4.5\}$

sible to achieve a better precision within this framework. Indeed, there are well-known examples where a resummation of an asymptotically diverging perturbative series yields physically meaningful results, provided the leading behavior of the higher orders is known or can be estimated, see e.g. [28, 29]. For the problem of gravitational collapse, some approaches already exist for the case of non-linear evolution of collapsing spheroidal bodies [30, 31] and in the context of Lagrangian perturbation theory (LPT) [32].

It is interesting to compare the SPT dynamics studied here with other approaches to the problem of non-linear behavior of cosmological perturbations. Some of these approaches reproduce the low- k limit of SPT (e.g. [9, 13]), and the same asymptotic behavior at low- k is expected. Accordingly, these approaches cannot converge in the regime of low momenta. This is not obvious for other approaches, as the Zel'dovich approximation (ZA). For the latter, the structure of the F_n kernels differs from the SPT dynamics at low- k , and different contributions at higher loop order are suppressed by additional factors of the momentum k . This is clearly seen in Fig. 1 of [1], where the calculation is performed to three-loops³. One may wonder if this approach neglects important contributions or if it even properly resums the asymptotic behavior of SPT. A possible way to study this is by developing a perturbation theory around ZA. This can be readily done in LPT. In this case, the results up to two-loops can be found in [34]. Unfortunately, the individual loop contributions to the power spectrum are not presented such that the

³We have also tested our numerical code against this result.

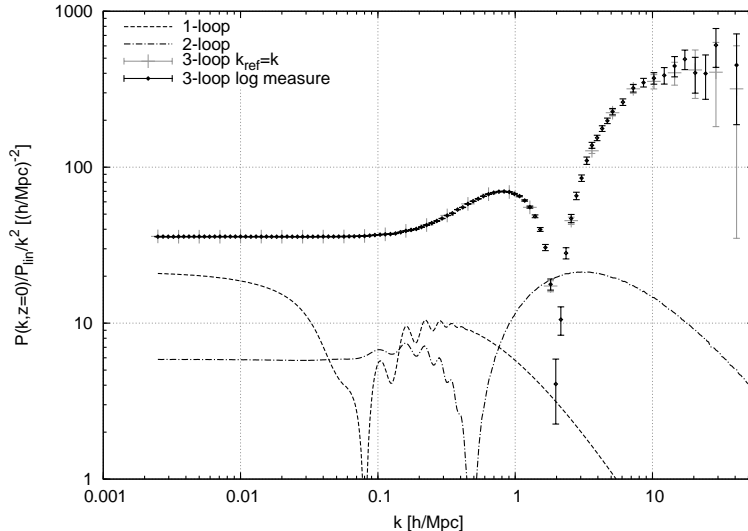


Figure 4: Ratio $P_{L-loop}(k, z = 0)/P_{lin}(k, z = 0)/k^2$ for the one- two- and three-loop contributions (line styles as in Fig. 1).

convergence properties cannot be easily inferred (For a comparisons of ZA and the asymptotic behavior of SPT dynamics in the context of spherical collapse see [31]).

4 Padé resummation

In the previous section, we discussed strong indications that SPT does not provide a convergent expansion for the power spectrum at low- k . In fact, the inclusion of three-loop results makes the expansion look asymptotic, with the one-loop result representing the optimal fit to the data at $z = 0$. We also noticed that the same formalism fails at any order to give reliable predictions for the behavior of the power spectrum at scales where the baryonic acoustic oscillations (BAO) are today (cf. Fig. 2) [35]. In this section we want to explore the possibility that these problems are related. Namely, we use a Padé ansatz to resum the low- k result and see if it can provide a perturbation theory that leads to reliable predictions in the BAO regime.

4.1 Padé resummation for the low momentum kernels

Our starting point is the observation that the range of k values for which the small- k limit (3.3) is valid increases with increasing loop order. This can be seen clearly in Fig. 4, where we show the loop contributions to the power spectrum normalized to $k^2 P_{lin}(k, z)$. In particular, this reveals that $P_{3-loop} \propto k^2 P_{lin}(k, z)$ up to $k \lesssim 0.08h/\text{Mpc}$ to percent accuracy, while the two-loop starts to deviate from this limit by more than one percent already at $k \sim 0.06h/\text{Mpc}$ and the one-loop at $k \sim 0.003h/\text{Mpc}$. Supposing that also the higher loop orders can be well-described by the ‘small- k ’ limit up to similar momenta as the two- and three-loop, this motivates to investigate the divergent loop series in this limiting regime more closely.

For the linear power spectrum corresponding to the WMAP5 parameters used in [27], we find that the coefficients in the small- k expansion (3.3) up to three-loop order are given by $C_1 = 1$, $C_2 \simeq 0.71$, and $C_3 \simeq 1.05$ (see App. B for analytic expressions at L -loop). The full result for the power spectrum in the small- k limit can be written as

$$P_{small-k}(k, z) \equiv -\frac{61}{105}k^2 P_{lin}(k, z) \frac{4\pi}{3} \int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) K(\sigma_l^2(q, z)) \quad (4.1)$$

where the integrand kernel is given by a series in $x \equiv \sigma_l^2(q, z)$,

$$K(x) = \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} C_L x^{L-1}. \quad (4.2)$$

The divergent behavior of the loop expansion originates from the increasing powers of x inside the q -integral in (3.3), as discussed before. Therefore, a resummation of this series could remedy the divergence in the small- k limit. However, this would require some knowledge of the asymptotic behavior of the C_L . In the following, we will explore the consequences of using a Padé ansatz (see e.g. [26] for a discussion of Padé resummations⁴) of the form

$$K_{nm}^{pade}(x) \equiv \frac{1 + \sum_{i=1}^n a_i x^i}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^m b_j x^j}, \quad (4.3)$$

which satisfies the normalization condition $K(0) = 1$. The coefficients a_i and b_j can be determined by matching the Taylor coefficients of the Padé ansatz

⁴Other examples of the use of Padé ansatz in physics can be found in [28, 29, 36]. See also [31] for results in LPT.

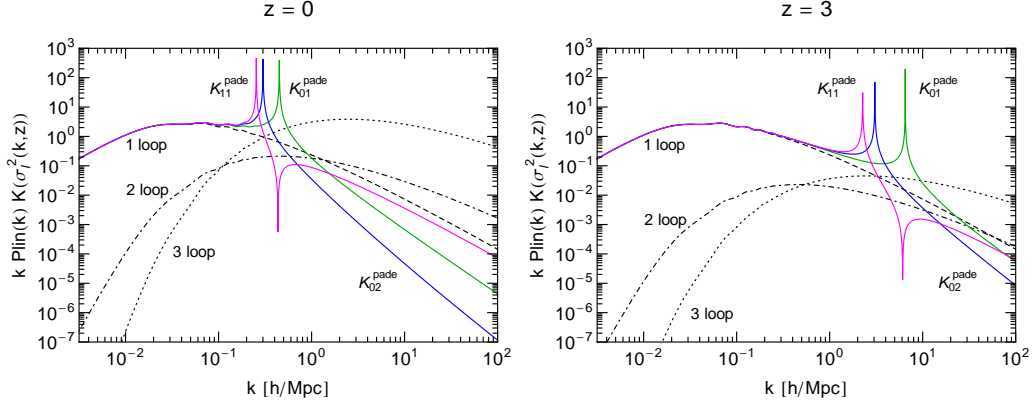


Figure 5: Integrand kernel $k P_{lin}(k) K_L(\sigma_l^2(k, z))$ for the power spectrum as obtained in SPT at one-loop (black dashed), two loops (black dot-dashed), three loops (black dotted). The solid lines are the integrand kernels obtained after Padé resummation, K_{01}^{pade} (green), K_{02}^{pade} (blue) and K_{11}^{pade} (magenta). The factor $k P_{lin}(k)$ is chosen such that the area under the curves represents the integral when using a logarithmic integration measure.

to the perturbative SPT calculation. When taking only the one- and two-loop coefficients into account, one obtains K_{01}^{pade} with $b_1 = -C_2$. When taking also the three-loop into account, there are two non-trivial possibilities: K_{02}^{pade} with $b_1 = -C_2$, $b_2 = C_2^2 - C_3$ and K_{11}^{pade} with $b_1 = -C_3/C_2$ and $a_1 = C_2 - C_3/C_2$. The various results for the Padé approximants are shown in Fig. 5, together with the corresponding loop contributions $K_L = C_L x^{L-1}$. Note that, to determine the C_L it is in principle sufficient to evaluate the loop integrals $P_{L-loop}(k)$ for a single (small enough) value of the momentum k .

The Padé ansatz replaces the divergent behavior of the loop series by an integrand kernel that is dominated by momentum modes $k \sim 0.01 - 0.1 h/\text{Mpc}$, and is therefore not very sensitive to the UV regime of the power spectrum (cf. Fig. 5). In addition, the three Padé approximants all feature an integrable singularity that originates from a simple root of the polynomial in the denominator. The position of this pole indicates the momentum scale where the perturbative expansion eventually breaks down. For the three approximants we find the pole at $x \equiv \sigma_l^2(k, z) \simeq 1.4$ for K_{01}^{pade} , at $x = 0.85$ for K_{02}^{pade} and at $x = 0.68$ for K_{11}^{pade} . In terms of the corresponding momentum $k_{pole}(z)$, this means that the pole shifts to smaller momenta for

smaller redshift, as can be also observed in Fig. 5. For example, for K_{02}^{pade} one has $k_{pole}(z=0) = 0.3 h/\text{Mpc}$ and $k_{pole}(z=3) = 3.1 h/\text{Mpc}$.

It is important to note that the integral in Eq. (4.1) is still well-defined when taking the principal value integral, since the pole of the Padé approximant of the kernel is integrable. This remedies the divergent behavior observed in Eq. (3.5). Another way to view this is that the summation over L in Eq. (4.2) has to be performed inside the momentum integral as in Eq. (4.1), and should not be interchanged with the loop integration over q as done in the usual SPT loop expansion, cf. Eq. (3.3).

This suggests that the divergent behavior of the loop expansion in the small- k limit is indeed spurious, and originates from interchanging the sum over loops and the integration over the (largest) loop momentum q . The Padé ansatz provides a possibility to avoid this issue. Furthermore, it can be improved systematically by increasing the order n and m . By matching the coefficients of the Taylor expansion of $K(x)$ in x in Eq. (4.2) to L -loop accuracy, one could go up to approximants of order $n + m \leq L - 1$. In this sense, a sequence of Padé approximations with increasing order provides a well-defined, systematic way to improve the accuracy even beyond the three-loop matching considered here (to increase the order to $n + m = 3$ one would need C_4 , which would require a four-loop computation).

4.2 Padé resummation for the power spectrum

The results obtained for the small- k limit of the power spectrum when inserting the various Padé approximants for the kernel K in Eq. (4.1) are shown in Fig. 6 as a function of the redshift. Also shown are the perturbative two- and three-loop contributions, whose divergent behavior for small z can be clearly seen. In contrast, the results employing Padé approximants are well-behaved even for $z \rightarrow 0$. It is reassuring to observe that the two approximants K_{02}^{pade} and K_{11}^{pade} yield very similar results, so that this ambiguity has only little effect on the final result. In addition, also the result obtained from the approximant K_{01}^{pade} , which is determined by matching only to two-loop order, is in reasonable agreement. Another observation is that, for large redshifts $z \gtrsim 3$ the Padé-resummed result agrees well with the perturbative three-loop result. For smaller redshifts $z \lesssim 2$, where the three-loop correction becomes larger than the two-loop contribution, the Padé resummed results are close to the two-loop value, and for $z \lesssim 1$ close to one-loop. This behavior is consistent with the one expected for an asymptotic series.

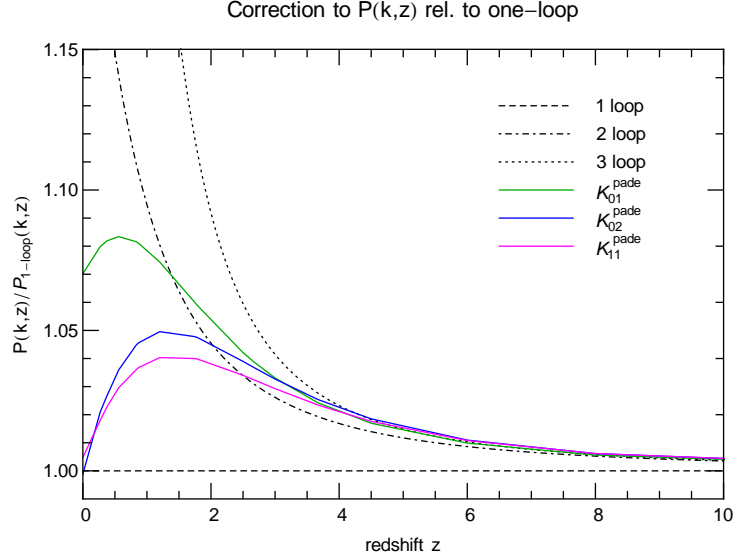


Figure 6: Correction to the power spectrum $P(k, z)$ at small k vs. the redshift z . The y -axis is normalized to the small- k limit of the one-loop correction $P_{1-loop}^{small-k} \equiv -\frac{61}{105}k^2\sigma_d^2 P_{lin}(k, z)$. The black lines correspond to the SPT result (two-loop dot-dashed, three-loop dotted), and the solid lines show the Padé resummed result when taking the one- and two-loop into account (green), and when taking also the three-loop into account (blue and magenta). Note that the plotted ratio is independent of k when k is small.

One can also extend this resummation to obtain an improved convergence behavior at momenta (slightly) above the regime where the small- k limit is strictly applicable. For that purpose, we consider a modified loop expansion

$$P(k, z) = P_{lin}(k, z) + P_{small-k}^{pade}(k, z) + P_{1-loop}^{sub}(k, z) + P_{2-loop}^{sub}(k, z) + P_{3-loop}^{sub}(k, z) + \dots, \quad (4.4)$$

where the Padé term is obtained by inserting a Padé approximant for the kernel K_{nm}^{pade} in Eq. (4.1), and

$$P_{L-loop}^{sub}(k, z) \equiv P_{L-loop}(k, z) - P_{L-loop}^{small-k}(k, z) \quad (4.5)$$

is the L -loop contribution in SPT with the small- k limit subtracted. The latter is obtained by inserting $K_L = C_L x^{L-1}$ for the kernel in Eq. (4.1).

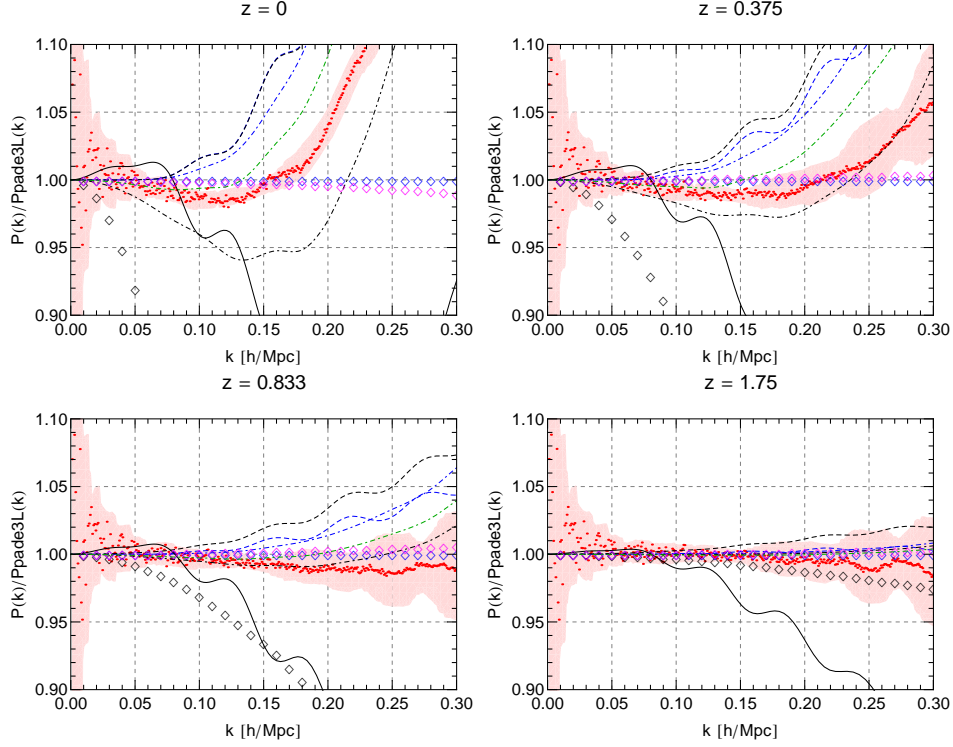


Figure 7: As Fig. 2, but normalized to the Padé improved three-loop result with kernel K_{02}^{pade} (blue diamonds). For comparison we show in addition Padé improved three-loop using K_{11}^{pade} (magenta diamonds), and the Padé improved two-loop with the kernel K_{01}^{pade} (green dotdashed line).

In Figs. 2 and 3, we show the results obtained using the Padé kernel K_{02}^{pade} together with the subtracted SPT contributions up to one-, two- and three-loop, respectively (blue dashed and dot-dashed lines and blue diamonds – we refer to them as *Padé improved* one-, two- and three-loop results in the following). We observe that the first three orders of this modified loop expansion exhibit a behavior that is much less divergent than without the Padé resummation. The improvement in convergence can be seen in some more detail in Fig 7, where we normalize the y -axis to the Padé improved three-loop result and show a $\pm 10\%$ range. Evidently, the Padé improved loop expansion has significantly better convergence properties (blue lines/diamonds) than SPT (black lines/diamonds). In particular, the difference between Padé improved

z	$k_{max}/(h/\text{Mpc})$
0	0.11
0.375	0.14
0.833	0.18
1.75	0.34

Table 1: The momentum k_{max} denotes the scale where the Padé improved three-loop and two-loop results agree at the percent level, depending on the redshift.

three- and two-loop results is less than one percent for $k \lesssim 0.11 h/\text{Mpc}$ at $z = 0$. (More information is given in Table 1). In addition, in this range the prediction also agrees with the N-body results. For the three-loop, the agreement with N-body is good for even somewhat larger momenta, depending on the redshift. However, for relatively large momentum $k \gtrsim 0.2 h/\text{Mpc}$, the perturbative series still breaks down at $z = 0$. Nevertheless, one may observe that the simple Padé ansatz yields a considerable improvement compared to standard SPT even for momenta above the small- k limit.

Finally, we would like to discuss the robustness of the Padé ansatz. In Fig. 7 we show the results obtained when using the Padé kernels K_{02}^{pade} or K_{11}^{pade} , respectively, together with the subtracted three-loop contribution from SPT (blue and magenta diamonds, respectively). Their relative deviation is below one percent for $k \lesssim 0.32 h/\text{Mpc}$ at $z = 0$, and is therefore negligible in practice. In addition, we also present a result that is obtained using the kernel K_{01}^{pade} together with the subtracted two-loop contribution (green dot-dashed line in Fig. 7). Since this kernel relies on two-loop matching only, the corresponding result can be obtained without performing any three-loop calculation. It is interesting to observe that this result is very close to the Padé improved three-loop result with kernels K_{02}^{pade} or K_{11}^{pade} determined by three-loop matching even at $z = 0$ for momenta up to $k \lesssim 0.15 h/\text{Mpc}$.

5 Conclusions

There is currently a large interest in understanding the evolution of primordial density perturbations in the Universe beyond the linear predictions. This effort is driven both by the possibility of understanding physics related to the acceleration of the Universe and of the medium that collapses to create the structure at cosmological scales [14, 16, 37, 38]. Maybe more fundamen-

tally, it is also spurred by the question if the perturbative expansions are consistent.

In the present work, we have investigated this issue by first numerically determining the three-loop contributions to the power spectrum in SPT. We observed that the SPT series does not converge even for low momenta. As we explained, this is expected for a realistic spectrum. The series exhibits a behavior compatible with an asymptotic series. We exploited this to produce a Padé resummation that yields a significant improvement in the convergence of SPT. Quite interestingly, even at low-redshift this is not only relevant at low- k but extends to scales in the BAO momentum regime. Our approach is based on a Padé ansatz for a single function $K(x)$ of the variance of the density field $x = \sigma_l^2(k, z)$, whose parameters are determined by matching to the SPT L -loop corrections to the power spectrum at small k (i.e. small x), $K(x) \sim \sum C_L x^{L-1}$. We stress that the coefficients C_L are independent of momentum or redshift. Therefore, in principle, the matching coefficients can be obtained by evaluating the three-loop integrals only for a single momentum value. Additionally, the redshift dependence enters only via $x = \sigma_l^2(k, z)$. Hence, it may be regarded as a non-trivial check that the Padé ansatz improves the agreement with N-body data for all considered redshifts.

The features discussed above indicate that the improvement based on the Padé ansatz is systematic and not accidental. Also, it contains no free parameters and therefore the improvement is not biased. The comparison with N-body simulation supports the claim that the Padé ansatz grasps some of the non-linear dynamics of the system in a wide range of scales. Nevertheless, the good agreement between the Padé resummation and the N-body results at $z \sim 0$ should not be overrated. Our main result is that one can achieve a convergent series using Padé approximants in the regime of small momenta. Notice that this distinguishes our resummation scheme from the ones that resum soft effects for large momenta. Furthermore, those schemes that reproduce SPT results for low momenta will have convergence problems.

There are different aspects of our approach that we leave for further research. First, it would be interesting to perform a cross-check using N-body simulations for various sets of parameters as well as a more thorough understanding of the behavior of the C_L for large L . Also, allowing for simulations with different initial power spectra would be helpful to clarify the validity of our approach. Finally, it would be interesting to investigate whether our Padé ansatz is related to approaches discussed in Refs. [30, 31] to understand the non-linear evolution of spheroidal bodies.

Acknowledgments

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A Numerical integration

For the numerical evaluation of the loop integrals we use the Suave routine of the Monte Carlo integration library CUBA 3.0 [22]. We choose the external momentum k along the z -axis. The freedom to rotate all loop vectors by a common angle within the $x - y$ plane can be used to eliminate one polar integration. Furthermore, since the integrand is symmetric (by construction) with respect to sign-flips of each of the loop momenta, it is sufficient to integrate the azimuthal angles in the range $\cos \theta \in [0, 1]$. At three loops, we integrate over the eight-dimensional unit cube with $x_1 - x_3$ chosen as in Eq. (A.1), $x_4 = \cos \theta_{k_1}$, $x_5 = \cos \theta_{k_2}$, $x_6 = \cos \theta_{k_3}$, $x_7 = \phi_{k_1}/(2\pi)$, $x_8 = \phi_{k_2}/(2\pi)$, and set $\phi_{k_3} = 0$. We take the Jacobian for this substitution into account in the integrand. Furthermore, we use $k_{min} = 10^{-5} h/\text{Mpc}$, $k_{max} = 10^2 h/\text{Mpc}$, and the Suave settings $\epsilon_{rel} = 10^{-3}$, $\epsilon_{abs} = 10^{-12}$, $N_{eval}^{max} = 10^8$, NOSMOOTH= 1, LAST= 1, NNEW= 5000, FLATNESS=25. We checked that our results are stable against variations in these parameters, and also checked that the routine Cuhre yields identical results within the error estimate provided by CUBA. We checked agreement of the two-loop results with the SPT output of the RegPT code [13].

Ultimately, we used sequential logarithmic distributions for the absolute values of the loop momenta

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 &= k_{min} \exp[\log(k_{max}/k_{min})x_1], \\ Q_2 &= k_{min} \exp[\log(Q_1/k_{min})x_2], \\ Q_3 &= k_{min} \exp[\log(Q_2/k_{min})x_3], \end{aligned} \tag{A.1}$$

where k_{min} and k_{max} denote the minimal and maximal values of the input power spectrum and the variables x_i are integrated over $[0, 1]$. The reason for this choice is motivated by the asymptotic behavior in Eqs. (3.1) and (3.2).

For Figs. 1 and 4 we used as input the linear spectrum obtained from CAMB for the WMAP5 parameters $\Omega_m = 0.279$, $\Omega_b/\Omega_m = 0.165$, $n_s = 0.96$,

$h = 0.701$, $\sigma_8 = 0.817$ (identical to [13]). For all other figures, we used the set of Λ CDM parameters underlying the N-body simulation Horizon Run 2 as specified in [27], which slightly differs from the previous ones.

As a cross-check, we also used an alternative parametrization for the absolute loop momenta given by

$$Q_1 = k_{ref} \frac{x_1}{1 - x_1}, \quad Q_2 = Q_1 x_2, \quad Q_3 = Q_2 x_3, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

with the external momentum as reference point, $k_{ref} = k$. The results are in very good agreement with the ones obtained using Eq. (A.1), as can be seen by comparing the black diamonds with the grey crosses in Fig. 1. Finally, we also checked that after the adequate modification of the kernels $F_n \rightarrow F_n^{ZA}$ [14], we reproduce the results to three-loops for the ZA shown in [1].

B Padé resummation

Let us first investigate the origin of Eq. (3.3) more closely. The dominant L -loop contribution to the power spectrum at small k is given by [39, 40]

$$\begin{aligned} P_{L-loop}(k, z) &\rightarrow \frac{(2L+1)!}{2^{L-1}L!} P_{lin}(k, z) \\ &\times \int_{q_1} \cdots \int_{q_L} F_{2L+1}^s(\vec{k}, \vec{q}_1, -\vec{q}_1, \dots, \vec{q}_L, -\vec{q}_L) \\ &\times P_{lin}(q_1, z) \cdots P_{lin}(q_L, z). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where $\int_q \equiv \int d^3q$. Since $F_{2L+1}^s \propto k^2$ in the limit of small k [21, 14], the upper term scales as $k^2 P_{lin}(k, z)$. At one loop (see e.g. [8]),

$$P_{1-loop}(k, z) \rightarrow -\frac{61}{105} k^2 P_{lin}(k, z) \frac{4\pi}{3} \int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) = -\frac{61}{105} k^2 \sigma_d^2 P_{lin}(k, z), \quad (\text{B.2})$$

for small k . Analogously, we define L -loop kernels $\mathcal{K}_L(q, z)$ by

$$P_{L-loop}(k, z) \rightarrow -\frac{61}{105} k^2 P_{lin}(k, z) \frac{4\pi}{3} \int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) \mathcal{K}_L(q, z). \quad (\text{B.3})$$

By requiring that $q \equiv |\vec{q}_{max}|$ corresponds to the loop momentum with the largest absolute momentum, this definition is unique. The normalization is

chosen such that $\mathcal{K}_1 = 1$. In general for $L \geq 2$

$$\frac{\mathcal{K}_L(|\vec{q}|, z)}{q^2} = -\frac{(2L+1)!}{2^{L-1}L!} \frac{315}{61} L \int_{q_2} \cdots \int_{q_L} \mathcal{F}_{2L+1}^s(\vec{q}, -\vec{q}, \vec{q}_2, -\vec{q}_2, \dots, \vec{q}_L, -\vec{q}_L) \\ \times P_{lin}(q_2, z) \cdots P_{lin}(q_L, z) \times \Theta(|\vec{q}| - |\vec{q}_2|) \cdots \Theta(|\vec{q}| - |\vec{q}_L|),$$

where $\mathcal{F}_{2L+1}^s(\vec{q}_1, -\vec{q}_1, \dots, \vec{q}_L, -\vec{q}_L) \equiv \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} F_{2L+1}^s(\vec{k}, \vec{q}_1, -\vec{q}_1, \dots, \vec{q}_L, -\vec{q}_L)/k^2$ is the leading k^2 coefficient in the small- k expansion and the Heaviside functions as well as the prefactor L account for choosing $\vec{q}_{max} = \vec{q}_1 (\equiv \vec{q})$. This is possible because F_{2L+1}^s is totally symmetric in the \vec{q}_i . Note that, due to rotational symmetry, \mathcal{K}_L depends only on the absolute value of \vec{q} .

The coefficients used for the matching in the Padé ansatz are then given by

$$C_L = \frac{\int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) \mathcal{K}_L(q, z)}{\int_0^\infty dq P_{lin}(q, z) \sigma_l^{2L-2}(q, z)}. \quad (\text{B.4})$$

Note that the redshift-dependence cancels such that the left-hand side is indeed independent of z , and that $C_1 = 1$. The C_L are also independent of the external momentum k by construction. In the momentum regime $k \ll |\vec{q}_i| \ll q$ for $i = 2, \dots, L$ one has $F_{2L+1}^s \propto k^2/q^2$, i.e. $\mathcal{F}_{2L+1}^s \propto 1/q^2$. If this proportionality were exact, then even the dependence of C_L on σ_l (or equivalently on the shape of P_{lin}) would drop out completely and the C_L would be constants, independent of the input power spectrum. Deviations from this simple scaling for $|\vec{q}_i| \lesssim q$ lead to a sensitivity on P_{lin} , which is moderate at two-loops, see below.

At two-loop one finds [8] (see also [25])

$$\mathcal{K}_2(q, z) = \frac{44764}{83265} 4\pi \int_0^q dp p^2 g(p/q) P_{lin}(p, z) \quad (\text{B.5})$$

where

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{179056x^6} \left((x^2 + 1) (128258x^4 - 5760(x^8 + 1) - 13605(x^6 + x^2)) \right. \\ \left. - \frac{15}{4x} (x^2 - 1)^4 (384(x^4 + 1) + 2699x^2) \ln \left(\frac{x-1}{x+1} \right)^2 \right). \quad (\text{B.6})$$

Using that $1 \leq g(x) \leq 120424/78337 \simeq 1.54$ in the relevant range $1 \geq x \geq 0$, one obtains the strict inequality

$$0.54 \simeq \frac{44764}{83265} \leq C_2 \leq \frac{44764}{83265} \times \frac{120424}{78337} \simeq 0.83, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

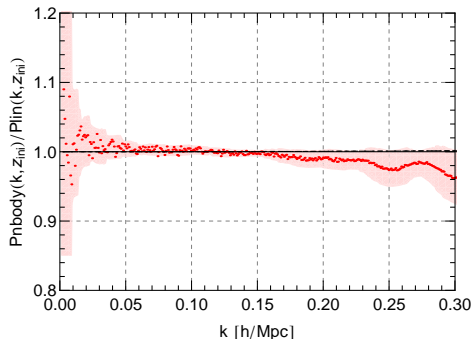


Figure 8: Power spectrum as provided by the Horizon Run 2 data [27] at the initialization redshift $z_{ini} = 32$ divided by the linear spectrum from CAMB. The shaded region corresponds to the estimate of the relative uncertainty in the N-body data used in Figs. 2, 3 and 7.

which is valid for an arbitrary choice of P_{lin} . Note that the value $C_2 \simeq 0.71$ obtained for a linear spectrum corresponding to WMAP5 parameters lies close to the middle of this interval.

C N-body data

We use the N-body data of the Horizon Run 2 presented in [27] as comparison with our analytical methods. This data is based on a box of size $7200 h/\text{Mpc}$ and $N = 6000^3$ particles with mean separation $1.2 h/\text{Mpc}$, initialized at $z_{ini} = 32$. The power spectrum at z_{ini} shows slight deviations from the linear spectrum due to sampling variance at low k and is slightly suppressed at larger k due to a convolution with the density assignment kernel, see Fig. 8. Although it is non-trivial how this deviation propagates to smaller z , we use the deviation $R(k) \equiv P_{n-body}(k, z_{ini})/P_{lin}(k, z_{ini})$ as an estimate to bracket the relative uncertainty of $P_{n-body}(k, z)$. The shaded areas shown in Figs. 2, 3, 7 and 8 correspond to the intervals $[\min(R(k), R(k)^{-1})P_{n-body}(k, z), \max(R(k), R(k)^{-1})P_{n-body}(k, z)]$.

We checked that using the larger simulation Horizon Run 3 yields very similar results. However, it has a slightly worse resolution at small scales, which would lead to larger uncertainties (i.e. larger $\max(R(k), R(k)^{-1})$) at $k \gtrsim 0.15 h/\text{Mpc}$ (by a factor 1.5 – 2).

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