

CORE COSMOLOGY LIBRARY: PRECISION COSMOLOGICAL PREDICTIONS FOR LSST

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ABSTRACT

The Core Cosmology Library (CCL) provides routines to compute basic cosmological observables to a high degree of accuracy, which have been verified with an extensive suite of validation tests. Predictions are provided for many cosmological quantities, including distances, angular power spectra, correlation functions, and the halo mass function through state-of-the-art modeling prescriptions available in the literature. Fiducial specifications for the expected galaxy distributions and clustering bias for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) are also included, together with the capability of computing redshift distributions for a user-defined photometric redshift model. **Our rigorous validation procedure, based on comparisons between CCL and independent software packages, ensures that the numerical accuracy of the predictions for correlation functions is within a fraction of the expected statistical uncertainty of LSST observables.** CCL is an open source software package written in C, with a Python interface and publicly available at <https://github.com/LSSTDESC/CCL>.

1. INTRODUCTION

Starting in the next decade, large-scale galaxy surveys will drive a new era of high precision cosmology (LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration 2012; Green et al. 2011; Laureijs et al. 2011). Their main goal is arguably

to answer the question of the origin of cosmic acceleration, in other words, to elucidate the nature of “dark energy”, broadly understood as a family of potential models: from a cosmological constant to a dynamical field and modifications of gravity (see for example Carroll 2001; Peebles & Ratra 2003; Padmanabhan 2003;

Copeland et al. 2006; Ishak 2007; Weinberg et al. 2013 and references therein). These data will also allow us to shed light on a number of open questions in fundamental physics, such as the nature of dark matter, the mass of neutrinos or the level of primordial non-Gaussianity. **To do: maybe add some references here.**

High precision constraints on dark energy models will be achieved by probing at the same time the expansion and growth history of the Universe over a long redshift baseline. For this purpose, it will be crucial to combine measurements of multiple cosmological probes: weak and strong gravitational lensing, the clustering of galaxies, distances to supernovae, and the abundance, clustering and gravitational lensing of galaxy clusters. Current weak lensing surveys, such as the Dark Energy Survey¹ and the Kilo-Degree Survey², have started to take this approach already (Joudaki et al. 2018; van Uitert et al. 2018; DES Collaboration et al. 2017; Krause et al. 2017). From a theoretical perspective, there are two challenges faced by the next generation of galaxy surveys.

First, we need to ensure that all probes are modeled accurately from a *physical* point of view, including cosmological, astrophysical, and observational effects, to avoid potential biases in the final cosmological results. In the context of weak gravitational lensing, for example, phenomena that can lead to biases include the impact of baryons on the distribution of matter and the intrinsic alignments of galaxies (e.g. van Daalen et al. 2011; Semboloni et al. 2011; Troxel & Ishak 2015; Krause et al. 2016; Blazek et al. 2017). In the context of galaxy clustering, the most relevant astrophysical systematic is the galaxy-matter bias relation on small scales (Zhao et al. 2013; Desjacques et al. 2016). Effects such as magnification of number counts and redshift space distortions need to be included in the models as well (Alonso & Ferreira 2015; Ghosh et al. 2018).

Second, even standard cosmological quantities in the simplest models, such as distances in a Λ CDM cosmology, have to be predicted to a validated high degree of *numerical* accuracy. Achieving this objective is not always trivial, as computing these quantities generally requires, for example, numerical integration or interpolation, both of which are prone to numerical error. In this work, we establish the numerical accuracy of our predictions by performing comparisons between independent implementations of the same models.

¹ <https://www.darkenergysurvey.org>

² <http://kids.strw.leidenuniv.nl>

Faced with these challenges, the Dark Energy Science Collaboration (DESC), one of the science collaborations of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), has built a comprehensive software tool that satisfies the needs of the next generation of cosmological analysis: the Core Cosmology Library³ (CCL). CCL is a software library providing the infrastructure to make theoretical predictions that are validated to a well-documented high *numerical* accuracy for the purpose of constraining cosmology. While CCL was built with LSST in mind, the goal is to produce a publicly available, user-friendly, well-documented, adaptable software that can be used in any theoretical modeling work in cosmology. **EC: This manuscript describes such and such version of the library. To our knowledge, no other adaptable, up-to-date and publicly available software tool for state-of-the-art cosmological predictions has undergone such a rigorous validation process as described in this manuscript.**

CCL computes standard cosmological functions including the Hubble parameter, cosmological distances, density parameters, the halo mass function, halo bias and linear growth functions. It calculates the matter power spectrum using various methods including common approximations, by calling external software such as CLASS (Blas et al. 2011), or emulators, such as the “Cosmic Emulator” of Lawrence et al. (2017). It computes 2-point angular power spectra and correlation functions from various probes, going beyond the Limber approximation. While CCL incorporates state-of-the-art models available in the literature, this manuscript is mainly concerned with documenting their implementation and *numerical* accuracy, but does not address the *physical* accuracy of each model, for which we point the reader to the relevant references in the following sections.

CCL’s overall structure is illustrated in Figure 1. Our implementation has support for spatially flat and curved Λ -Cold Dark Matter (Λ CDM) cosmologies, and w CDM cosmologies with the option of using a time-dependent equation of state. It also allows for cosmologies with multiple massive neutrino species and can be linked to external software for modified gravity predictions (hi_CLASS, Zumalacárregui et al. 2017).

The validation procedure to assess the *numerical* accuracy of each CCL feature is the following. We compare the CCL evaluation of each observable or function to an independent implementation from a stand-alone software scripts or package. We set an initial target tolerance for the fractional

³ publicly available at <https://github.com/LSSTDESC/CCL>

or absolute difference between outputs that surpasses our expected needs for accurate cosmological constraints. Ultimately, the numerical uncertainties in the different CCL functions propagate to our predictions for correlation functions, which we expect to be the basis of the core cosmology analysis with LSST (similarly to current DES and KiDS efforts). Hence, our overall goal in this work is to demonstrate that correlation functions obtained by CCL are accurate to within a fraction of the expected observational uncertainties for the models and in the range of scales of interest to LSST.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the cosmological models and observables supported by CCL. In Section 3, we describe the details of the implementation of the quantities introduced in Section 2. Section 4 provides details of the validation procedure, the tests performed and the accuracy achieved. Section 5 gives brief guidelines for the usage of CCL, although we direct the reader to the software online repository, documentation and user manual for further information. We conclude in Section 6 with an outlook towards the integration of CCL in the LSST DESC pipelines, and we outline future additions to the software.

2. COSMOLOGICAL MODELS AND OBSERVABLES

The overarching goal of CCL is to allow seamless integration of different cosmological models of interest to LSST. The cosmological models assume a homogeneous and isotropic spacetime metric, and an inflationary model for the primordial universe described by a power-law with spectral index n_s , and amplitude A_s . The cosmological components include the matter density parameter Ω_m , which is the sum of the baryonic component Ω_b and the cold dark matter component Ω_c , the dark energy density Ω_Λ , the radiation density Ω_g , the curvature density Ω_K , and the neutrino density of both massless and massive neutrinos, given by $\Omega_{\nu,\text{rel}}$ and $\Omega_{\nu,\text{m}}$ respectively. Unless specified, we refer to these densities at the present. The current expansion rate is given by the Hubble constant, $H_0 = 100 h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. The normalization of the density fluctuations is established either in terms of A_s or in terms of the RMS variance in spheres of $8 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ today, σ_8 .

The following set of features is supported in CCL:

- Flat Λ CDM cosmology governed by the parameters Ω_b , Ω_m , H_0 , n_s , A_s or σ_8 , and a cosmological constant dark energy model with equation-of-state $w = -1$.

- The Chevallier-Polarski-Linder (CPL) model for dark energy, which adopts the following parametrization for w as a function of the scale factor, a (Chevallier & Polarski 2001 and Linder 2003),

$$w(a) = w_0 + w_a(1 - a). \quad (1)$$

We note that models with constant w are simply a subset of the above, where $w_a = 0$.

- Non-zero curvature (K), so that the curvature density parameter $\Omega_K = 1 - \sum_i \Omega_i$, where i refers to each of the density components.
- Extra relativistic species, contributing to N_{eff} (the effective number of neutrinos).
- Massive neutrinos specified by either the sum of their masses Σm_ν (which maps on to the density parameter $\Omega_{\nu,\text{m}}$ above), or by the individual masses of each of the three neutrino species. This feature is allowed alongside non-zero curvature, extra relativistic species, and evolving dark energy.
- An arbitrary, user-defined modified growth function (see description in Section 2.2). This can be combined with a model that otherwise contains non-zero curvature and evolving dark energy.

In the particular case of cosmologies with massive neutrinos, CCL allows the user to specify either a sum of masses, Σm_ν , or the individual mass of each of three neutrino species. In the former case, CCL will by default split Σm_ν into three neutrino masses which are consistent with the normal hierarchy (see, e.g. Lattanzi & Gerbino 2017 for a review). However, the user can alternatively ask for Σm_ν to be split either into masses consistent with the inverted hierarchy, or into equal masses. Each neutrino species is then checked for whether it is non-relativistic (massive) at $z = 0$, and this information is used in combination with the user-provided value of N_{eff} to set the number of relativistic neutrino species.

Not all features of CCL are available for all models. For a guide to which predictions are available for each model, see Table 1. Note that if users install their own version of CLASS, CCL can then make predictions for a more extended set of cosmologies. Users should take care to understand the validity of the CCL assumptions for their own models.

2.1. Background cosmology

The models that are specified above map directly onto cosmological observables such as the expansion rate of



Figure 1. CCL structure flowchart. CCL is written in C with a Python interface. CCL routines calculate basic cosmological functions such as the Hubble function, density parameters, distances and growth function. It uses various methods to compute the matter-power spectrum including CLASS, “Cosmic Emulator” developed by Lawrence et al. (2017), or common approximations. It computes 2-point angular power spectra and correlation functions from various probes. CCL is designed to accommodate multiple methods to calculate cosmological observables.

Table 1. Cosmologies implemented in CCL and observables supported in each of them. Note that the only reason why angular power spectra appear not to be supported in non-flat cosmologies is that the hyperspherical Bessel functions are currently not implemented, although their impact is fairly limited. Likewise, number counts power spectra are strictly not supported in the presence of massive neutrino cosmologies due to the scale-dependent growth rate that affects the redshift-space distortions term, even though the impact of this is also small for wide tomographic bins. Finally, notice that in addition CCL can make predictions for the growth of perturbations for some modified gravity models through a user defined $\Delta f(a)$ as detailed in Section 2.2, and that other extensions are supported via integration of external modified gravity codes.

Observable/Model	flat Λ CDM	Λ CDM+ K	Λ CDM + m_ν	w CDM
Distances	✓	✓	✓	✓
Growth	✓	✓	X	✓
$P_m(k, z)$	✓	✓	✓	✓
Halo Mass Function	✓	✓	X	✓
C_l , number counts	✓	X	X	✓
C_l , weak/CMB lensing	✓	X	✓	✓
Correlation function	✓	X	✓	✓

the Universe, which is parameterized through the Hubble parameter as

$$\frac{H(a)}{H_0} = a^{-3/2} \left(\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda a^{-3(w_0+w_a)} \exp[3w_a(a-1)] + \Omega_K a + (\Omega_g + \Omega_{\nu,\text{rel}}) a^{-1} + \tilde{\Omega}_{\nu,\text{m}}(a) a^3 \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (2)$$

which is a function of the energy density in the different components today and the scale factor. In this expression, we have assumed the CPL parameterization de-

scribed above for the dark energy equation of state, and $\tilde{\Omega}_{\nu,\text{m}}(a) = \rho_{\text{crit}}^{-1} \rho_{\nu,\text{m}}(a)$ is the fractional energy density of massive neutrinos, calculated via

$$\tilde{\Omega}_{\nu,\text{m}}(a) = \frac{7}{8} \sum_{i=1}^{N_\nu} \frac{4\sigma_B}{c\rho_{\text{crit}}} \left(\frac{T_\nu^{\text{eff}}}{a} \right)^4 \int_0^\infty dx x^2 \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + (\mu^i)^2}}{\exp(x) + 1}. \quad (3)$$

Here, σ_B is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant, c is the speed of massless particles, ρ_{crit} is the present critical

density, and T_ν^{eff} is the present effective temperature of the massive neutrinos. T_ν^{eff} is related to the temperature of the CMB via $T_\nu^{\text{eff}} = T_{\text{CMB}} T_{\text{NCDM}}$, where T_{NCDM} is a dimensionless factor ($\simeq 1$) used by e.g. **CLASS** to set the ratio $\sum m_\nu / \Omega_{\nu, \text{m}}$ to its experimentally measured value. Note that T_{NCDM} is used to modulate the effective temperature of massive neutrinos only; the temperature of relativistic neutrinos follows the usual relation. Finally, μ^i is a per-species mass-dependent dimensionless constant, given by $\mu^i = m_\nu^i c^2 a / (k_B T_\nu^{\text{eff}})$ where k_B is the Boltzmann constant.

The density parameters $\Omega_X(a)$ of a given species X at a given time are defined in terms of the physical background densities $\bar{\rho}_X(a)$ via $\Omega_X(a) \equiv \rho_{\text{crit}}^{-1}(a) \bar{\rho}_X(a)$, where the critical density

$$\rho_{\text{crit}}(a) = (8\pi G)^{-1} 3c^2 H^2(a) = \rho_{\text{crit}} H_0^{-2} H^2(a). \quad (4)$$

As an example, the physical density of matter is given by

$$\bar{\rho}_m(a) = \bar{\rho}_m a^{-3} = \rho_{\text{crit}} \Omega_m a^{-3}, \quad (5)$$

and its density parameter is

$$\Omega_m(a) = \Omega_m H_0^2 a^{-3} H^{-2}(a). \quad (6)$$

CCL moreover allows for comoving physical densities $\bar{\rho}_{X, \text{com}}(a) = \bar{\rho}_X(a) a^3$ to be extracted, which in the case of matter reduces to a time-independent $\bar{\rho}_{m, \text{com}} = \rho_{\text{crit}} \Omega_m$. We include bars for ρ_X to distinguish from spatially-varying densities in later sections.

Fitting models to cosmological observables requires predicting cosmological distances for a given model. We consider the comoving radial distance, which is calculated via a numerical integral as

$$\chi(a) = c \int_a^1 \frac{da'}{a'^2 H(a')}. \quad (7)$$

The comoving angular diameter distance is then computed in terms of the comoving radial distance,

$$r(\chi) = \begin{cases} k^{-1/2} \sin(k^{1/2} \chi) & \mathcal{K} > 0 \\ \chi & \mathcal{K} = 0 \\ |k|^{-1/2} \sinh(|k|^{1/2} \chi) & \mathcal{K} < 0 \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where $\mathcal{K} = \Omega_K H_0^2 c^{-2}$ is the curvature. The angular diameter distance is given by $d_A = a r(a)$, and the luminosity distance is $d_L = r(a)/a$, leading to the familiar relation $d_A = a^2 d_L$ which is valid in general for all metric theories of gravity. The **CCL** suite also has the functionality to compute the distance modulus, defined as

$$\mu = 5 \log_{10}(d_L / \text{pc}) - 5, \quad (9)$$

along with $a(\chi)$, the inverse function of $\chi(a)$.

2.2. Growth of perturbations

Probing the growth history of the Universe can allow us to distinguish between cosmological models. To compute the linear growth factor of matter perturbations, $D(a)$, **CCL** solves the following differential equation:

$$\frac{d}{da} \left(a^3 H(a) \frac{dD}{da} \right) = \frac{3}{2} \Omega_m(a) a H(a) D, \quad (10)$$

using a Runge-Kutta Cash-Karp algorithm. We define $g(a) \equiv D/a$ and adopt as initial conditions $g(a) = 1$ and $g'(a) = 0$ at sufficiently high redshift, during the matter-dominated era (Cooray et al. 2004).

In doing this, **CCL** simultaneously computes the logarithmic growth rate $f(a)$, defined as:

$$f(a) \equiv \frac{d \ln D}{d \ln a}. \quad (11)$$

CCL provides functions that return the growth normalized to $D(a=1) = 1$ and to $D(a \ll 1) \rightarrow a$. It employs an accelerated spline that is linearly spaced in the scale factor to interpolate the growth functions.

The growth calculations cover flat and curved Λ CDM and w CDM cosmologies. However, it should be noted that the above treatment is ill-defined in the presence of massive neutrinos, and attempts to compute the growth rate in cosmologies with massive neutrinos will get an inconsistent result.

Finally, **CCL** allows for an alternative ‘modified gravity’ cosmological model defined by a regular curved w CDM background as well as a user-defined $\Delta f(a)$, such that the true growth rate in this model is given by $f(a) = f_0(a) + \Delta f(a)$, where $f_0(a)$ is the growth rate in the background model. Note that this model is only consistently implemented with regards to the computation of the linear growth factor and growth rates. All other **CCL** functions (including the non-linear power spectrum) will ignore these modifications. This model, and the interpretation of the predictions given by **CCL**, should therefore be used with care. A version of the growth code and transfer functions depending on modified gravity parameters is under development.

2.3. Matter power spectrum

Theoretical predictions for cosmological observables such as galaxy clustering, gravitational lensing and cluster mass functions rely on knowledge of the distribution of matter from small to large scales in the Universe. The quantity most frequently used to describe the distribution of matter at a given wavenumber \mathbf{k} and redshift is the matter power spectrum, $P(k, z)$, defined as

$$\langle \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}, z) \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}', z) \rangle = (2\pi)^3 P(k, z) \delta_D^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \quad (12)$$

where $\tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k})$ is the Fourier component of the overdensity field at a given wavenumber and δ_D^3 is the Dirac delta function. $P(k, z)$ has units of volume and a dimensionless analogue is often defined as

$$\Delta^2(k, z) \equiv \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} P(k, z). \quad (13)$$

CCL implements several different methods for making predictions for the matter power spectrum. Two of those methods, the BBKS (Bardeen et al. 1986) and Eisenstein & Hu (1998) approximations, are only accurate to within a few percent and are implemented for validation purposes mainly. These approximations provide analytical expressions for the transfer function, $T(k)$, which is related to the matter power spectrum by $\Delta(k)^2 \propto T^2(k)k^{3+n_s}$. The normalization of the power spectrum is either defined at $z = 0$ by setting σ_8 to its value today, or by setting the amplitude of primordial fluctuations, A_s . If σ_8 is provided, A shooting method is used to obtain the corresponding A_s for the specified cosmology.

The default CCL implementation uses the CLASS algorithm Blas et al. (2011) to obtain predictions for $P(k, z)$. In addition, CCL can also generate $P(k, z)$ predictions by emulation of cosmological numerical simulations, in particular, using the ‘‘Cosmic Emulator’’ developed by Lawrence et al. (2017).

None of the above methods account for the impact of baryonic physics on the distribution of matter, which is known to exceed the percent level at scales $k \gtrsim 1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ (van Daalen et al. 2011; Vogelsberger et al. 2014; Hellwing et al. 2016; Springel et al. 2017) and can affect the extraction of cosmological parameters (Semboloni et al. 2011, 2013; Mohammed & Seljak 2014; Eifler et al. 2015; Mohammed & Gnedin 2017). To account for this effect, we incorporate in CCL an effective parametrization (Schneider & Teyssier 2015) of the redistribution of matter as a consequence of feedback from Active Galactic Nuclei and adiabatic cooling. We give an overview of each method to predict the matter power spectrum in what follows.

BBKS approximation. CCL implements the analytical BBKS approximation to the transfer function (Bardeen et al. 1986), given by

$$T(q) = \frac{\ln[1 + 2.34q]}{2.34q} \times [1 + 3.89q + (16.2q)^2 + (5.47q)^3 + (6.71q)^4]^{-0.25} \quad (14)$$

where q is defined as follows (Sugiyama 1995)

$$q \equiv k / \{ \Omega_m h^2 e^{-\Omega_b [1 + (2h)^5 / \Omega_m]} \text{Mpc}^{-1} \}. \quad (15)$$

The BBKS power spectrum option is primarily used as a precisely-defined input for testing the numerical accuracy of CCL routines (as described in Sec. 3), and it is not recommended for other uses.

Eisenstein & Hu approximation. CCL also provides an approximation to the matter power spectrum as implemented by Eisenstein & Hu (1998) (we refer the reader to this paper for a detailed discussion of the fitting formulae).⁴

CLASS. The default configuration of CCL adopts predictions for the linear and nonlinear matter power spectrum from the publicly available software (Blas et al. 2011). CLASS computes the non-linear power spectrum using the HaloFit prescription of Takahashi et al. (2012).

Cosmic emulator. *To do: In the section on the HMF and halo bias below, there is a lot of emphasis on the fact that these quantities are not themselves without significant uncertainty. Should we include a sentence or two to that effect here as well? - DL JAB: my general comment in the abstract is related to this. TM: I think we should avoid all discussions of physical accuracy and near the top say ‘‘all models presented in the paper (P, HMF, bias, etc.) are themselves physically uncertain. The reader should consult those papers to learn about the physical accuracy.’’* The emulator (Lawrence et al. 2017) provides accurate predictions for the non-linear matter power spectrum, at the 1% level for $z \leq 2$ and in the wavenumber range $k = [10^{-3}, 5] \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. The allowed range of cosmological parameters that can be passed to the emulator is as follows⁵:

$$\begin{aligned} 0.12 &\leq \Omega_m h^2 \leq 0.155, \\ 0.0215 &\leq \Omega_b h^2 \leq 0.0235, \\ 0.7 &\leq \sigma_8 \leq 0.9, \\ 0.55 &\leq h \leq 0.85, \\ 0.85 &\leq n_s \leq 1.05, \\ -1.3 &\leq w_0 \leq -0.7, \\ -1.73 &\leq w_a \leq -0.7, \\ 0.0 &\leq \Omega_{\nu, \text{m}} h^2 \leq 0.01. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

In the case of the emulator, the effective number of relativistic neutrino species is set to $N_{\text{eff}} = 3.04$ and $\Omega_g = 0$. In Lawrence et al. (2017), the neutrino component of the power spectrum is not simulated, but either linearly evolved and added to the simulated power spectra at low redshift, or accounted for by a scale-dependent cor-

⁴ Note that the implementation in CCL modifies Eq. 5 of Eisenstein & Hu (1998) using $a^{-1} = 1 + z$ instead of the approximation $a^{-1} \sim z$. The difference in the resulting power spectra is negligible, but larger than 1 part in 10^4 for $k < 10 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

⁵ w_a and w_0 are constrained jointly to be $0.3 \leq (-w_0 - w_a)^{1/4}$.

rection to the growth function. More details on this method and its accuracy can be found in Upadhye et al. (2014); Castorina et al. (2015); Heitmann et al. (2016).

Baryonic correction model (BCM). CCL incorporates the impact of baryons on the total matter power spectrum via the BCM of Schneider & Teyssier (2015). The main consequences of baryonic processes are: to suppress the power spectrum at intermediate scales ($k \sim$ a few $h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$) due to the ejection of gas by Active Galactic Nuclei feedback, and to enhance it at smaller scales due to adiabatic cooling. To account for these effects, BCM uses an effective decomposition for the impact of gas ejection (G) and the enhancement of the small scale profile due to star formation (S) to estimate the fractional effect of baryonic processes on the dark matter-only power spectrum (P_{DMO}):

$$P_{\text{BCM}}(k, z) = P_{\text{DMO}}(k, z)G(k|M_c, \eta_b, z)S(k|k_s) \quad (17)$$

Three effective parameters govern the contribution of baryonic processes to modifying the total matter power spectrum:

- $\log_{10}[M_c/(M_\odot/h)]$: the mass of the clusters responsible for feedback, which regulates the amount of suppression of the matter power spectrum at intermediate scales;
- η_b : a dimensionless parameter which determines the scale at which suppression peaks;
- and $k_s [h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}]$: the wavenumber that determines the scale of the stellar distribution of matter in the center of halos.

If these parameters are not specified by the user, CCL assumes the default parameters of Schneider & Teyssier (2015), calibrated through different comparisons with observations and simulations in that work.

2.4. Two-point correlators

This section describes the theoretical expectations for the two-point correlators of pairs of quantities (fields) defined on the sky. These fields can be classified in terms of their spin s under rotations on the plane tangent to the sphere. In general a spin- s field is defined by two real-valued functions of the spherical coordinates $a_1(\hat{\mathbf{n}})$ and $a_2(\hat{\mathbf{n}})$ (e.g. γ_1 and γ_2 for weak lensing or the Stokes parameters Q and U in the case of polarized intensity), from which one can form the complex field $a = a_1 + ia_2$.

Spin- s quantities can be decomposed into their harmonic coefficients ${}_s a_{\ell m}$ through a spherical harmonic transform:

$${}_s a_{\ell m} = \int d\hat{\mathbf{n}} a(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) {}_s Y_{\ell m}^*(\hat{\mathbf{n}}), \quad a(\hat{\mathbf{n}}) = \sum_{\ell m} {}_s a_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}(\hat{\mathbf{n}})$$

where ${}_s Y_{\ell m}$ are the spin-weighted spherical harmonics. The harmonic coefficients can then be associated with parity-even and parity-odd components (E -modes and B -modes respectively) as⁶

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\ell m} &= -\frac{1}{2} [{}_s a_{\ell m} + (-1)^s {}_{-s} a_{\ell m}] \\ iB_{\ell m} &= -\frac{1}{2} [{}_s a_{\ell m} - (-1)^s {}_{-s} a_{\ell m}] \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

In what follows we will focus on scalar ($s = 0$) quantities such as the overdensity of source number counts or the lensing convergence, and on spin-2 fields such as the lensing shear. We will also distinguish between *tracers* (fields observed on the sky, such as number counts in a redshift bin, shear, or CMB temperature fluctuations) and *contributions* to the total observed fluctuations of these tracers (such as the biased matter density term in number counts, redshift-space distortions, magnification, etc.).

2.4.1. Angular power spectra

The angular power spectrum C_ℓ^{ab} between two tracers a and b is defined as

$$\langle a_{\ell m} b_{\ell m}^* \rangle \equiv C_\ell^{ab} \delta_{\ell\ell'} \delta_{mm'}, \quad (19)$$

where $a_{\ell m}$ and $b_{\ell m}$ can be either the E -mode or B -mode component of the corresponding field. In what follows we will only deal with fields for which the B -modes are exactly or nearly 0, and which we will take to be identically 0. Therefore all equations refer to the E - E power spectrum. In general, this power spectrum can be written as:

$$C_\ell^{ab} = 4\pi \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} \mathcal{P}_\Phi(k) \Delta_\ell^a(k) \Delta_\ell^b(k), \quad (20)$$

where $\mathcal{P}_\Phi(k)$ is the dimensionless power spectrum of the primordial curvature perturbations, and Δ^a and Δ^b are the transfer functions corresponding to these tracers. Each transfer function will receive contributions from different terms. CCL supports three types of tracers: number counts, galaxy shape distortions and lensing convergence, with the following contributions:

Number counts.—The transfer function for number counts can be decomposed into three contributions: $\Delta^{\text{NC}} = \Delta^{\text{D}} + \Delta^{\text{RSD}} + \Delta^{\text{M}}$, where

⁶ We note that for spin-0 quantities the minus sign preceding these equations is usually omitted, and we do so in what follows. Also, all scalar fields discussed here are real-valued, and therefore have zero B -modes.

- Δ^D is the standard density term proportional to the matter density:

$$\Delta_\ell^D(k) = \int dz p_z(z) b(z) T_\delta(k, z) j_\ell(k\chi(z)), \quad (21)$$

where $j_\ell(x)$ is ℓ -th order spherical Bessel function, T_δ is the matter transfer function, $b(z)$ is the linear clustering bias for this tracer and $p_z(z)$ is the normalized distribution of sources in redshift (i.e. the selection function). The fluctuations in the number density of sources in different redshift bins are therefore treated by CCL as different tracers. Note that CCL does not currently support non-linear or scale-dependent bias, but future releases will do so under a number of schemes, including perturbative approaches as implemented in e.g. McEwen et al. (2016).

- Δ^{RSD} is the linear contribution from redshift-space distortions (RSDs):

$$\Delta_\ell^{\text{RSD}}(k) = \int dz \frac{(1+z)p_z(z)}{H(z)} T_\theta(k, z) j_\ell''(k\chi(z)), \quad (22)$$

where $T_\theta(k, z)$ is the transfer function of θ , the divergence of the comoving velocity field, and j_ℓ'' is the second order derivative of the spherical Bessel function, j_ℓ . Note that the RSD contribution to number counts is computed by CCL assuming a linear-theory relation between the matter overdensity and peculiar velocity fields, mediated by the scale-independent growth rate f (Eq. 11). While this should not be problematic for wide photometric redshift bins and standard cosmological models, users should exercise care when interpreting results for narrow window functions or exotic cosmologies. Additionally, number count tracers with RSD in cosmologies with massive neutrinos are not currently supported.

- Δ^M is the contribution from lensing magnification:

$$\Delta_\ell^M(k) = -\ell(\ell+1) \int \frac{dz}{H(z)} W^M(z) T_{\phi+\psi}(k, z) j_\ell(k\chi(z)), \quad (23)$$

where $T_{\phi+\psi}$ is the transfer function for the Newtonian-gauge scalar metric perturbations, and W^M is the magnification window function:

$$W^M(z) \equiv \int_z^\infty dz' p_z(z') \frac{2-5s(z')}{2} \frac{r(\chi' - \chi)}{r(\chi')r(\chi)}. \quad (24)$$

Here, $s(z)$ is the logarithmic derivative of the number of sources with magnitude limit, and $r(\chi)$ is the angular comoving distance (see Eq. 8).

Note that CCL does not currently compute relativistic corrections to number counts (Challinor & Lewis 2011; Bonvin & Durrer 2011). Although these will be included in the future, their contribution to the total fluctuation is largely subdominant (see Alonso et al. 2015 and the two references above), and therefore it is safe to ignore them for our purposes.

Correlated galaxy shapes.—The transfer function for correlated galaxy shapes (intrinsic and lensed) is decomposed into two terms: $\Delta^{\text{SH}} = \Delta^{\text{WL}} + \Delta^{\text{IA}}$, where

- Δ^L is the standard lensing (“cosmic shear”) contribution:

$$\Delta_\ell^L(k) = -\frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+2)!}{(\ell-2)!}} \int \frac{dz}{H(z)} W^L(z) T_{\phi+\psi}(k, z) j_\ell(k\chi(z)), \quad (25)$$

where W^L is the lensing kernel, given by

$$W^L(z) \equiv \int_z^\infty dz' p_z(z') \frac{r(\chi' - \chi)}{r(\chi')r(\chi)}. \quad (26)$$

- Δ^{IA} is the transfer function for intrinsic galaxy alignments. CCL supports the so-called “non-linear alignment model”, in which the intrinsic galaxy inertia tensor is proportional the local tidal tensor (Hirata & Seljak 2004; Hirata et al. 2007):

$$\Delta_\ell^{\text{IA}}(k) = \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+2)!}{(\ell-2)!}} \int dz p_z(z) b_{\text{IA}}(z) f_{\text{IA}}(z) T_\delta(k, z) \frac{j_\ell(k\chi(z))}{[k\chi(z)]^2}. \quad (27)$$

Here, b_{IA} is the so-called alignment bias, and f_{IA} is the fraction of aligned galaxies in the sample. Notice that $b_{\text{IA}}(z)$ absorbs the typical normalization factors used in the literature for intrinsic alignment amplitude and redshift evolution. It is thus not to be confused with C_1 or A_{IA} , typical parameters for the linear alignment model, as adopted in works such as Blazek et al. (2017); van Uitert et al. (2018); Joudaki et al. (2018); Hildebrandt et al. (2017).

Lensing convergence.—The transfer function for the lensing convergence of a given source plane at redshift z_* receives only one contribution, given by

$$\Delta_\ell^\kappa(k) = -\frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{2} \int_0^{\chi_*} \frac{dz}{H(z)} \frac{r(\chi_* - \chi)}{r(\chi)r(\chi_*)} T_{\phi+\psi}(k, z), \quad (28)$$

where $\chi_* \equiv \chi(z_*)$.

It is worth noting that the equations above should be modified for non-flat cosmologies by replacing the spherical Bessel functions j_ℓ with their hyperspherical counterparts (Kamionkowski & Spergel 1994). These are currently not supported by CCL, and their impact is mostly relevant on low multipoles. The library also assumes a factorizable matter power spectrum at unequal times $P_\delta(k, z_1, z_2) = T_\delta(k, z_1)T_\delta(k, z_2)2\pi^2\mathcal{P}_\Phi(k)$ (see Kitching & Heavens 2017). Furthermore, CCL assumes a relation between transfer functions T_δ , T_θ and $T_{\phi+\psi}$ that is strictly only valid in vanilla Λ CDM⁷:

$$T_\delta = -\frac{1+z}{H(z)f(z)}T_\theta = -\frac{k^2}{3H_0^2\Omega_m}\frac{T_{\phi+\psi}}{1+z}. \quad (29)$$

These approximations will be revisited in future versions of the library.

2.4.2. Correlation functions

Fields can also be correlated in configuration space, and the corresponding correlators are called correlation functions. Let a and b be two fields with spins s_a and s_b . We start by defining $\tilde{a}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1)$ and $\tilde{b}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}_2)$ as the fields a and b rotated such that the x -axis of the tangential coordinate systems at $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1$ and $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_2$ become aligned with the vector connecting both points. We can then define two correlation functions:

$$\xi_+^{ab}(\theta) \equiv \langle \tilde{a}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1)\tilde{b}^*(\hat{\mathbf{n}}_2) \rangle, \quad \xi_-^{ab}(\theta) \equiv \langle \tilde{a}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1)\tilde{b}(\hat{\mathbf{n}}_2) \rangle,$$

where $\hat{\mathbf{n}}_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{n}}_2 \equiv \cos \theta$.

ξ_\pm can be related to the power spectra as

$$\xi_\pm^{ab} = \sum_\ell \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} (\pm 1)^{s_b} C_\ell^{ab\pm} d_{s_a, \pm s_b}^\ell(\theta), \quad (30)$$

where $d_{mm'}^\ell$ are the Wigner- d matrices (Ng & Liu 1999; Chon et al. 2004) and we have defined the power spectra

$$C_\ell^{ab\pm} \equiv \left(C_\ell^{a_E b_E} \pm C_\ell^{a_B b_B} \right) + i \left(C_\ell^{a_E b_B} \pm C_\ell^{a_B b_E} \right), \quad (31)$$

which reduces to the EE power spectrum when all B -modes are 0.

Note that, as scalar quantities are real, any correlation involving at least one spin-0 field only has one non-unique correlation function. In these cases, the Wigner- d matrices can also be expressed in terms of associated

Legendre polynomials P_ℓ^m , and therefore Eq. 30 becomes

$$\xi^{ab}(\theta) = \sum_\ell \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} C_\ell^{ab} \sqrt{\frac{(\ell-s_a)!}{(\ell+s_a)!}} P_\ell^{s_a}(\cos \theta), \quad (32)$$

where we have assumed $s_b = 0$.

In the flat-sky approximation we can take the small-scale limit $\ell \gg s_a, s_b$ and approximate

$$d_{s_a s_b}^\ell(\theta) \longrightarrow J_{s_a-s_b}(\ell\theta), \quad (33)$$

where $J_\alpha(x)$ is the Bessel function of order α . Eq. 30 then becomes⁸

$$\xi_\pm^{ab}(\theta) = (\pm 1)^{s_b} \int \frac{d\ell \ell}{2\pi} C_\ell^{ab\pm} J_{s_a \mp s_b}(\ell\theta). \quad (34)$$

In summary, for spins 0 and 2, the three relevant cases for the cosmological observables supported by CCL are:

- $s_a = s_b = 0$ (e.g. galaxy-galaxy, galaxy- κ and κ - κ):

$$\xi^{ab}(\theta) = \sum_\ell \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} C_\ell^{ab} P_\ell(\cos \theta) \quad (\text{full-sky}) \quad (35)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \frac{d\ell \ell}{2\pi} C_\ell^{ab} J_0(\ell\theta) \quad (\text{flat-sky}) \quad (36)$$

- $s_a = 2, s_b = 0$ (e.g. galaxy-shear, κ -shear):

$$\xi^{ab}(\theta) = \sum_\ell \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} C_\ell^{ab} d_{2,0}^\ell(\theta) \quad (\text{full-sky}) \quad (37)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \frac{d\ell \ell}{2\pi} C_\ell^{ab} J_2(\ell\theta) \quad (\text{flat-sky}) \quad (38)$$

- $s_a = s_b = 2$ (e.g. shear-shear):

$$\xi_\pm^{ab}(\theta) = \sum_\ell \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} C_\ell^{ab} d_{2,\pm 2}^\ell(\theta) \quad (\text{full-sky}) \quad (39)$$

$$= \int_0^\infty \frac{d\ell \ell}{2\pi} C_\ell^{ab} J_{2\mp 2}(\ell\theta) \quad (\text{flat-sky}) \quad (40)$$

In the following sections, we will specifically refer to the clustering correlation function in Eq. (36) as ξ_{gg} .

2.4.3. 3-dimensional spatial correlation function

In addition to the angular correlation functions, CCL can also be used to compute the three-dimensional spatial correlation function, $\xi(r)$, from the transform of the matter power spectrum:

$$\xi(r) = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int dk k^2 P(k) \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \quad (41)$$

⁷ Note that the transfer functions are defined here for the full non-linear density field, as opposed to the more common linear transfer functions.

⁸ See the weak lensing review by Bartelmann & Schneider (2001), page 44 and Joachimi & Bridle (2010).

In the future CCL will be expanded to incorporate the calculation of the higher-order multipoles needed to characterize the redshift-space three-dimensional correlation function in the presence of RSDs.

2.5. Halo mass function

Being able to calculate the halo abundance as a function of mass is a necessary step to being able to constrain cosmology with probes such as galaxy clusters. Modern cosmology makes extensive use of fitting functions in order to predict the evolution of halo abundances, which necessarily require derivation from cosmological simulations. In order to reach the high precision required for cosmological constraints in a self-consistent fashion, it is ultimately necessary to use cosmological simulations; we implement this with halo mass functions with parameters fit to these simulations. The calculation of the halo mass function focuses around the spherical overdensity method of halo finding, in which the size of a halo can be defined with:

$$\bar{\rho}(r_\Delta) = \Delta \times \bar{\rho}_m, \quad (42)$$

where a spherical halo with radius r_Δ has an average density $\bar{\rho}$ equal to the overdensity parameter Δ times the mean background density of the universe at a given redshift, $\bar{\rho}_m(z)$. Within the literature, the choice of Δ can vary considerably, as observations focusing on the compact cores of halos often take much larger values of Δ than the fiducial definition in most halo clustering studies, $\Delta = 200$. We note that another common definition exists which utilizes the critical density of the universe, ρ_{crit} ; this introduces a simple conversion factor between the two definitions that must be accounted for. CCL only accepts overdensity parameters with respect to the mean matter density, but we plan to allow for self-consistent handling of critical density based definitions in the future.

The halo mass function is defined as

$$\frac{dn}{dM} = f(\sigma) \frac{\bar{\rho}_m}{M} \frac{d \ln \sigma^{-1}}{dM}, \quad (43)$$

where n is the number density of halos of a given mass M associated with the RMS variance of the matter density field σ^2 at a given redshift and f is a fitting function⁹. In CCL calling this function returns the mass function in logarithmic mass bins, $dn/d \log_{10} M$, where the input is the halo mass M and scale factor a .

The halo mass M is related to σ by first computing the radius R that would enclose a mass M in a homogeneous

Universe at $z = 0$:

$$M = \frac{H_0^2}{2G} R^3 \rightarrow \frac{M}{M_\odot} = 1.162 \times 10^{12} \Omega_m h^2 \left(\frac{R}{1 \text{ Mpc}} \right)^3. \quad (44)$$

The RMS density contrast in spheres of radius R can then be computed as

$$\sigma_R^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int dk k^2 P(k) \tilde{W}_R^2(k) \quad (45)$$

where $P(k)$ is the linear matter power spectrum and $\tilde{W}(kR)$ is the Fourier transform of a spherical top hat window function,

$$\tilde{W}_R(k) = \frac{3}{(kR)^3} [\sin(kR) - kR \cos(kR)]. \quad (46)$$

This is commonly related in terms of the mass inside of the Lagrangian scale of the halo, using the following transformation:

$$R = (3M/4\pi\bar{\rho}_m)^{1/3}. \quad (47)$$

As a consequence, one can also define σ_M as the RMS variance of the density field smoothed on some scale M , analogously to Eq.(45).

One commonly used halo mass function definition within the literature is the [Tinker et al. \(2010\)](#) fitting function. This fitting function has been developed using collisionless N -body simulation data, using halos identified by spherical overdensities. This is an extension of the [Tinker et al. \(2008\)](#) halo mass function, which is also included within CCL as a comparative option. This fitting function assumes little change with respect to cosmological parameters. Further, it includes a redshift scaling which is assumed to sharply end at a redshift of $z = 3$. This halo mass function is calibrated within the range of $10^{10.5} h M_\odot \leq M \leq 10^{15.5} h M_\odot$ at a redshift of $z = 0$.

For comparison purposes, we also have included the results of [Angulo et al. \(2012\)](#), which uses the Millenium XXL simulation in order to study galaxy cluster scaling relations. As part of this study, they have calculated their own fit to the [Tinker et al. \(2010\)](#) fitting function. While this additional halo mass function is available, it has not been extended to a broad range of overdensity parameter Δ , nor has it been extended beyond a redshift of $z = 0$.

The [Tinker et al. \(2008\)](#) fitting function uses the following parameterisation:

$$f(\sigma) = A \left[\left(\frac{\sigma}{b} \right)^{-a} + 1 \right] e^{-c/\sigma^2}, \quad (48)$$

where A , a , b , and c are fitting parameters that have additional redshift scaling. This basic form is modified

⁹ Not to be confused with the linear growth rate of structure defined in Eq. 11

for the Angulo et al. (2012) formulation. The resulting form is

$$f(\sigma) = A \left[\left(\frac{b}{\sigma} + 1 \right)^{-a} \right] e^{-c/\sigma M^2}, \quad (49)$$

where the only change is in the formulation of the second term. Note that the fitting parameters in the Angulo et al. (2012) formulation do not contain any redshift dependence and the use of it is primarily for testing and benchmark purposes.

The Tinker et al. (2010) model parameterizes the halo mass function in terms of the peak height, $\nu = \delta_c/\sigma_M$, where $\delta_c = 1.686$ is the critical density for collapse. The function is then re-expressed as

$$f(\nu) = \alpha [1 + (\beta\nu)^{-2\phi}] \nu^{2\eta} e^{(-\gamma\nu^2/2)}. \quad (50)$$

We note that these halo mass functions, while implemented to high *numerical* accuracy through comparison against a flat Λ CDM cosmology (see ‘CCL1’ in Table 3), carry their own uncertainties. It has not been significantly studied whether the halo mass function is universal with respect to changes in dark energy parameterisation. Tinker et al. (2008, 2010) quote 5% accuracy of their mass functions. This result is consistent with the work of Watson et al. (2013), which also finds a 5% level difference in comparison to the Tinker fitting function. Further study will be required in the future in order to gain percent level accuracy in determining the halo mass function. **To do: For what cosmologies was the Tinker mass function tested? I.e., what should go in Table 1?**

2.6. Halo bias

JAB: I’m a bit confused by this section. This is a quantity that CCL can return. But currently the clustering observables can only handle linear (scale-independent) bias? And should we say that the user can specify a linear bias that does not come from this fitting formula? ASV: Including the Tinker fitting function for the halo bias is a fairly natural step considering we are also including the Tinker mass function (on which this is heavily related to). I do not think the fact that the clustering section of the code is currently unready to handle more than linear bias impacts the usefulness of having this built in. That being said, I will specify that currently we do not have a linear bias model built in as an explicit framework, though it can certainly be passed in to other sections of the code.

An important step in many interpretations of the halo model is to have a measure of the bias of dark matter halos, defined as the ratio of the halo power spectrum to the linear dark matter power spectrum,

$$b^2(k) = \frac{P_h(k)}{P_{\text{lin}}(k)}. \quad (51)$$

As with measures of the halo mass function, high accuracy cosmological constraints requires the use of numerical simulations to develop fitting functions and emulators. We note that we will define haloes as in the above subsection focusing on the halo mass function. CCL implements the halo bias fitting function results in Tinker et al. (2010), though future improvements will likely require the use of emulator methods.

The Tinker et al. (2010) model parameterizes the halo mass function (Eq. 50) and the halo bias in terms of the peak height and the critical density for collapse as

$$b(\nu) = 1 - A \frac{\nu^a}{\nu^a + \delta_c^a} + B\nu^b + C\nu^c, \quad (52)$$

$$(53)$$

Again, while high *numerical* accuracy has been verified, there is a remaining uncertainty to the *physical accuracy*. Tinker et al. (2010) found a $\sim 6\%$ scatter when determining the halo bias due to differences in simulations alone. In addition, this parameterization does not include a careful exploration of any impact due to changes in the dark energy equation of state. As with the halo mass function, studies will be required to reach accuracy at the percent level for any cosmological predictions. **EC: I think we need some further references here of scale-dependen bias, assembly bias, etc.**

We note that many observables are tuned to utilizing a linear halo bias (that is to say the bias function is scale independent). While the current functionality of CCL is to return the Tinker et al. (2010) model for halo bias, it is possible to generate alternative models of linear halo bias and pass these results to CCL for analysis purposes. **EC: I think this is a bit confusing: from this I understand that CCL can predict $b(k)$ but cannot pass anything but linear bias to the angular power spectra.**

2.7. Photometric redshifts

Redshifts of LSST galaxies will be obtained via photometry. Therefore, performing any cosmological analysis which incorporates redshift information requires a model for the probability of measuring a photometric redshift z_{ph} for an object with true redshift z_t . In order to maintain agnosticism towards the optimal model, and hence to allow for the future inclusion of advancements from ongoing research, CCL allows the user to flexibly input a photometric redshift model. In addition, for ease of use, CCL provides the option of using a built-in function for a simple Gaussian photometric redshift probability distribution. We define $\frac{dN}{dz}$ as the true redshift distribution of a sample of galaxies, and $\frac{dN}{dz}^i$ as the true redshift distribution of those galaxies that belong to photometric redshift bin i . The photometric redshift

model can then be used, for example, when computing $\frac{dN^i}{dz}$ as given by:

$$\frac{dN^i}{dz} = \frac{\frac{dN}{dz} \int_{z_i}^{z_{i+1}} dz' p(z, z')}{\int_{z_{\min}}^{z_{\max}} dz \frac{dN}{dz} \int_{z_i}^{z_{i+1}} dz' p(z, z')} \quad (54)$$

where $p(z, z')$ is the photometric redshift probability distribution, and z_i and z_{i+1} are the photo- z edges of the bin in question. In the case of the simple Gaussian photometric redshift model for which native support is included in CCL, $p(z, z')$ is given as

$$p(z, z') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_z} \exp\left(-\frac{(z - z')^2}{2\sigma_z^2}\right). \quad (55)$$

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF HIGH-ACCURACY COSMOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS

In this section, we note some of the assumptions and implementation details that are relevant when making accurate cosmological predictions. In general, we use the publicly available **GSL** library¹⁰ to perform all of the integrations and interpolations. Most interpolations use the `gsl_interp_akima` method, and the power spectra interpolation use a bicubic option provided by `gsl_interp2d_bicubic`. We work with double precision quantities throughout. The validation tests performed for CCL are described in detail in Section 4.

3.1. Background functions & growth of perturbations

Cosmological predictions require making assumptions on the values of several physical constants, as defined in the previous sections. We have performed a comparison of the physical constants used in CCL to those used in **GSL** and **CLASS** as well as published sources such as the NIST Handbook and PDG Review of Particle Physics (Beringer et al. 2012). Where possible, we have set constants to the values that are used internally in **CLASS**. This includes the value of the gravitational constant, the Boltzmann constant, the Planck constant, the speed of light, and the electron charge. **CLASS** does not include a definition of the solar mass or the Stefan-Boltzmann constant so we use the values used by **GSL**. After comparison between the physical constants used in CCL and those of the sources mentioned above, we have found better than 10^{-4} agreement with everything except the gravitational constant.

The value of the gravitational constant, G , enters into the critical density. We found that failure to define G with sufficient precision initially resulted in lack

of convergence at the 10^{-4} level between the CCL outputs and benchmarks (and among benchmarks). Importantly, note that **CAMB** barely has 10^{-4} precision in G (and similarly, there might be other constants within **CAMB/CLASS** for which one should check the precision level). For CCL predictions and benchmarks, we are using the value from **CLASS**. **To do: Was this the G we used for benchmarks?**

3.2. Matter power spectrum

For speed, the initialization of a cosmological model within CCL performs initial computations of the linear and nonlinear matter power spectra, which are then interpolated whenever required. The bicubic spline is performed in two variables. The first one is the logarithmically-spaced wavenumber. For the scale factor, we adopt a hybrid spacing scheme where this quantity is linearly-spaced for $a > 0.1$ and logarithmically-spaced otherwise. The goal of this hybrid scheme is to allow sufficiently fine sampling at low redshift for LSST observables, while at the same time allowing for predictions for CMB lensing without significantly slowing down the computations, as would result from a linear-spacing throughout. The spline interpolation causes some precision loss in the power spectra output (compared to, for example, direct outputs from **CLASS** or the cosmic emulator) which is quantified in Section 4.

We introduce a maximum value k (in units of Mpc^{-1}) up to which we evaluate the power spectra for interpolation; we call this parameter `K_MAX_SPLINE`. A separate `K_MAX` parameter sets the limit of evaluation of the matter power spectrum. The range between `K_MAX_SPLINE` < k < `K_MAX` is evaluated by performing a second order Taylor expansion in $\ln k$.

The Taylor expansion is implemented as follows: first, we compute the first and second derivative of $\ln P(k, z)$ at $k_0 = \text{K_MAX} - 2\Delta \ln k$ via finite difference derivatives using **GSL**. The fiducial choice for $\Delta \ln k$ is 10^{-2} . We then apply a second order Taylor expansion to extrapolate the matter power spectrum to $k > \text{K_MAX_SPLINE}$. The Taylor expansion gives

$$\begin{aligned} \ln P(k, z) \simeq & \ln P(k_0, z) + \frac{d \ln P}{d \ln k}(\ln k_0, z)(\ln k - \ln k_0) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2 \ln P}{d \ln k^2}(\ln k_0, z)(\ln k - \ln k_0)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

We also extrapolate the power spectrum at small wavenumbers. In this case, we introduce the parameter `K_MIN`, the wavenumber below which the power spectra are obtained by a power-law extrapolation with index n_s :

$$\log P(k < \text{K_MIN}, z) = \log P(\text{K_MIN}, z) + n_s(\log k - \log \text{K_MIN}) \quad (57)$$

¹⁰ <https://www.gnu.org/software/gsl/>

The value adopted for `K_MIN` depends on the choice of power spectrum method. Note that an additional parameter, `K_MIN_DEFAULT`, sets the minimum k for integrations. This is set to `K_MIN_DEFAULT` = $5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. For `CLASS` and the nonlinear power spectrum, we adopt `K_MIN` that coincides with the smallest wavenumber output by `CLASS`, `K_MIN` = $7 \times 10^{-6} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.¹¹ As a consequence, when using `CCL` with `CLASS`, no extrapolation will occur at low wavenumbers unless the user modified the default values of `K_MIN_DEFAULT` and/or `K_MIN`.

3.3. Angular power spectra

Different numerical approaches have been implemented in the library in order to expedite the computation of angular power spectra. We describe these here.

3.3.1. Limber approximation

As shown in Section 2.4.1, computing each transfer function contributing to a given power spectrum involves a radial projection (i.e. an integral over redshift or z or χ), and thus computing full power spectra consists of a triple integral for each ℓ . This can be computationally intensive, but can be significantly simplified in certain regimes by using the Limber approximation, given by:

$$j_\ell(x) \simeq \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2\ell+1}} \delta\left(\ell + \frac{1}{2} - x\right). \quad (58)$$

This eliminates the integrals associated with each of the two transfer functions, massively accelerating the calculation.

Thus for each k and ℓ we can define a radial distance $\chi_\ell \equiv (\ell+1/2)/k$, with corresponding redshift z_ℓ . Substituting this in the expressions presented in Section 2.4.1, the power spectrum can be computed as a single integral:

$$C_\ell^{ab} = \frac{2}{2\ell+1} \int_0^\infty dk P_\delta(k, z_\ell) \tilde{\Delta}_\ell^a(k) \tilde{\Delta}_\ell^b(k). \quad (59)$$

¹¹ For BBKS, the power spectrum is computed analytically at all k , i.e., there is no extrapolation. For the Eisenstein & Hu (1998) implementation, the splines of the power spectrum span `K_MIN_DEFAULT` < k < `K_MAX_SPLINE`, so there is only extrapolation at high k .

where

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\ell^D(k) = p_z(z_\ell) b(z_\ell) H(z_\ell) \quad (60)$$

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\ell^{\text{RSD}}(k) = \frac{1+8\ell}{(2\ell+1)^2} p_z(z_\ell) f(z_\ell) H(z_\ell) - \quad (61)$$

$$\frac{4}{2\ell+3} \sqrt{\frac{2\ell+1}{2\ell+3}} p_z(z_{\ell+1}) f(z_{\ell+1}) H(z_{\ell+1})$$

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\ell^M(k) = 3\Omega_{M,0} H_0^2 \frac{\ell(\ell+1)}{k^2} \frac{(1+z_\ell)}{\chi_\ell} W^M(z_\ell) \quad (62)$$

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\ell^L(k) = \frac{3}{2} \Omega_{M,0} H_0^2 \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+2)!}{(\ell-2)!}} \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{1+z_\ell}{\chi_\ell} W^L(z_\ell) \quad (63)$$

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\ell^{\text{IA}}(k) = \sqrt{\frac{(\ell+2)!}{(\ell-2)!}} \frac{p_z(z_\ell) b_{\text{IA}}(z_\ell) f_{\text{red}}(z_\ell) H(z_\ell)}{(\ell+1/2)^2}. \quad (64)$$

The Limber approximation works best for wide radial kernels and high ℓ .

3.3.2. Beyond Limber: *Angpow*

`CCL` incorporates natively a brute-force integration method to compute the C_ℓ^{ab} angular power spectra as described above without the Limber approximation. The algorithm performs first the integrals over z for both tracers, and ends with the k integral. This computation is much slower than using the Limber approximation, but results in precise angular power spectra at low ℓ and correct cross-correlations between tracers. The integration of these routines has been tested against the `CLASS` code and recovers the same angular power spectra to less than 1% at low multipoles ($\ell < 100$) when precision parameters are set to high values.

However, the computation of the C_ℓ^{ab} without the Limber approximation is extremely costly in terms of computing time using this method, if one wants to explore extensively a full cosmological parameter space. `CCL` provides fast non-Limber predictions by calling the *Angpow* software (Campagne et al. 2017a).

The angular power spectrum for two tracers C_ℓ^{ab} is computed in *Angpow* according to the following expression

$$C_\ell^{ab} = \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty dz dz' p_{z_1}(z_1) p_{z_2}(z') \times \int_0^\infty dk f_\ell(z, k) f_\ell(z', k). \quad (65)$$

The auxiliary function $f_\ell(z, k)$ can be defined without loss of generality as

$$f_\ell(z, k) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} k \sqrt{P_\delta(k, z)} \tilde{\Delta}_\ell(z, k) \quad (66)$$

with $\tilde{\Delta}_\ell(z, k)$ the function describing the physical processes such as matter density fluctuations and redshift-space distortions as described for instance in Durrer

(2008); Yoo et al. (2009); Yoo (2010); Challinor & Lewis (2011); Bonvin & Durrer (2011). The **Angpow** version delivered with **CCL** can only deal with galaxy clustering tracers (no lensing), and this without the magnification lensing term (equation 23). The incorporation of those transfer functions is left for future work, but in principle **Angpow** has the capability to treat them. For now, for galaxy clustering tracers we define $\tilde{\Delta}_\ell(z, k)$ as

$$\tilde{\Delta}_\ell(z, k) \approx b(z)j_\ell(k\chi(z)) - f(z)j_\ell''(k\chi(z)) \quad (67)$$

with $j_\ell(x)$ and $j_\ell''(x)$ the spherical Bessel function of order ℓ and its second derivative, and $f(z)$ the growth rate of structure.

In **Angpow**, the inner integral in k is computed first. To conduct the computation of such an integral of highly oscillating functions, the 3C-algorithm described in details in Campagne et al. (2017a) is used. In brief, it relies on the projection of the oscillating $f_\ell(z, k)$ onto a Chebyshev series of order 2^N , the product of the two Chebyshev series is performed with a 2^{2N} Chebyshev series; then the integral is computed using Clenshaw-Curtis quadrature. Finally, the integrals over z are performed via again an optimised Clenshaw-Curtis quadrature. All the Chebyshev expansions and the Clenshaw-Curtis quadrature are performed via the *Discrete Cosine Transform* of type I from the DCT-I fast transform of the FFTW library (Frigo & Johnson 2012).

As in the general case the Limber approximation is valid at high ℓ values, the **CCL** user can define an ℓ threshold to switch from the non-Limber slow computation to the faster Limber approximation.

3.4. Correlation functions

Computing the angular correlation functions essentially involves performing a linear transformation on the power spectra to go from harmonic to real space. The exact Equations (35, 37, 39) relating both quantities involve carrying out $N_\theta \times \ell_{\max}$ operations, where $\ell_{\max} \sim O(10^{4-5})$ is the maximum multipole needed to achieve convergence and N_θ is the number of angular scales θ at which the angular correlation function needs to be computed. Thus, evaluating these expressions directly can become prohibitively slow and should be avoided except in regimes where other approximations are not valid. In particular **CCL** only supports the brute-force evaluation of these equations for correlations involving at least one spin-0 field. The default method in **CCL** is to use the flat-sky approximation and evaluate the Hankel transforms (Eqs. 36, 38, 40).

CCL provides two methods to compute Hankel transforms:

Brute-force integration. **CCL** allows users to compute Hankel transforms by brute-force integration

over the Bessel functions using an adaptive Gauss-Kronrod algorithm. The oscillating nature of these functions makes this method slow and not appropriate for likelihood-sampling. The preferred method to compute correlation functions is through the use of **FFTlog** (see below), and we support the brute-force method primarily for testing and validation.

FFTlog. The public code **FFTlog**¹² is able to compute fast Hankel transforms through the assumption that the kernels of these transforms are periodic functions in logarithmic space. The Hankel transform can then be solved using Fast Fourier Transforms at a much lower computational expense than brute-force integration (Hamilton 2000; Talman 2009). **CCL** incorporates a version of the **FFTlog** method with only minor modifications from the original. The only potential drawback of this method is the need to sample the kernels (i.e. the C_ℓ) on very small scales to ensure the convergence of the method. To do this, **CCL** extrapolates the power spectrum as a power law, $C_\ell \propto \ell^\beta$, with a tilt β estimated from the logarithmic slope of the two last values of C_ℓ provided as input. We have verified that this method agrees with the brute-force integration well within cosmic-variance uncertainties.

We should also note that other approaches relating the correlation functions directly with the 3D matter power spectrum (e.g. Campagne et al. 2017b) could be useful in accelerating this computation, and we will explore these avenues in the future.

3.5. Halo mass function

To do: Some of this seems would be better in the validation section. Can we restrict to implementation here? To achieve 10^{-4} precision in $\sigma(M)$ (see Eq. 45 and 47) and the normalisation of the power spectrum, we have verified that the integral of σ_8 and $\sigma(M)$ has converged for the chosen values of $\{k_{\min}, k_{\max}\}$. This will be discussed further in Sec. ???. Also note that for $\sigma(M)$, it is important to set the desired precision level correctly for the numerical integrator. As the integral yields $\sigma^2(M)$, this becomes the relevant concern for numerical accuracy.

Derivatives are calculated utilizing a spline interpolation of $\sigma(M)$. These splines cover the range from 10^6 to $10^{17} M_\odot$. For each value of $\log(M)$ in our spline evaluation, we calculate the value of $\sigma(M)$ half a step in either direction. We use the difference compared to the mass spacing to calculate an approximate derivative, which is then used in the spline interpolation. This has been tested to meet our necessary precision for the halo mass

¹² <http://casa.colorado.edu/~ajsh/FFTLog/>

function within the mass range explored by [Tinker et al. \(2010\)](#). We note that there the accuracy is reduced at the edges of these splines and exploring extreme mass ranges may require changes in the parameters to initialize these splines.

In order to accomodate a wide range of values of the overdensity parameter Δ , we have generated a spline interpolation between best fit values as defined by [Tinker et al. \(2008\)](#) and [Tinker et al. \(2010\)](#). This covers a dynamic range from $\Delta = 200$ to 3200 , with respect to the mean density. Within this range, we interpolate in the space of the fit parameter and $\log \Delta$ using Akima interpolation built from piecewise third order polynomials. We have chosen this rather than the fitting formulas utilized in [Tinker et al. \(2010\)](#) in order to assure high precision match to the Tinker halo mass function when choosing a value of Δ directly from the paper.

3.6. Massive neutrinos

When initializing a cosmology with massive neutrinos within CCL, the user can provide either a single value for m_ν , corresponding to a sum of the masses of three neutrinos, or a set of three values, corresponding directly to the three masses. In the former case, one can also specify how the sum of masses should be split for calculations. The default behavior of CCL is to split the sum into three masses which are consistent with the normal neutrino mass hierarchy, but an inverted hierarchy or equal splitting can be requested. (For a review of the neutrino mass hierarchies and relevant particle physics results, see for example [Lattanzi & Gerbino 2017](#); [Lesgourgues & Pastor 2012](#).)

For equal splitting, it is clearly trivial to compute the three neutrino masses. If splitting with respect to the normal or inverted hierarchy is desired, it is slightly more complicated. The relevant known quantity which has been determined via particle physics experiments is the square of the difference of neutrino masses (up to a sign for one of the differences, hence the two possible hierarchies). Because we know the square of the differences rather than the differences themselves, we must solve a set of quadratic equations for the neutrino masses. In CCL this is accomplished by making use the knowledge that the mass difference between two of the neutrino species is small. This allows us to Taylor expand about this difference, and greatly simplifies solving for the three neutrino masses. This methodology represents an approximation (related to discarding higher-order terms in this Taylor expansion), however it produces discrepancies from the exact solution which result in cosmological predictions which differ at levels

far below our required validation levels (detailed below in Section 4).

Having then a set of three neutrino masses, we check which of the corresponding neutrino species is non-relativistic today ($m_\nu > 0.00017$, [Lesgourgues & Pastor 2012](#)), and obtain the number of massive neutrinos in the cosmology. We use this, along with N_{eff} , to set the number of relativistic neutrinos species, which is required in computing Ω_g and $\Omega_{\nu,\text{rel}}$. We must be slightly careful in doing so, as only for massive neutrinos do we modify the relationship between the temperature of the CMB and the neutrino temperature as described following equation 3 above. The value of $N_{\nu,\text{rel}}$ consistent with the user-provided N_{eff} is given by:

$$N_{\nu,\text{rel}} = N_{\text{eff}} - (T_{\text{NCDM}})^4 \left(\frac{4}{11} \right)^{-\frac{4}{3}} N_{\nu,\text{m}}. \quad (68)$$

In equation 3 above, we specify how $\Omega_{\nu,\text{m}}$ is computed for a given cosmology with massive neutrinos. Within this expression is a phase-space integral:

$$\int_0^\infty dx x^2 \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + (\mu)^2}}{\exp(x) + 1}. \quad (69)$$

At high and low μ , corresponding to high and low mass neutrinos, this integral need not be evaluated numerically. At high μ , we set the integral equal to $\frac{5\zeta(3)}{18\pi^4}\mu$, while at low μ it goes to $\frac{7}{8}$. The μ values at which these approximations are taken can be set by the user. Outside of the regime in which these approximations are valid, the integral is computed numerically using `gsl`, splined, and stored such that for a single cosmology it must only be computed once.

It may sometimes be preferable or necessary to specify a cosmology in terms of $\Omega_{\nu,\text{m}}$ instead of m_ν . To facilitate this, CCL includes a convenience function which returns m_ν given $\Omega_{\nu,\text{m}}$. This is achieved via the relationship

$$\sum m_\nu = 93.14\text{eV} \times \Omega_{\nu,\text{m}} \quad (70)$$

and then by splitting $\sum m_\nu$ into three neutrinos masses using the convention given by the user (the default being the normal mass hierarchy).

4. VALIDATION

Our goal in building CCL was to ensure that all outputs are validated to a well-established high level of numerical accuracy. As mentioned in the introduction, Section 1, this was achieved by comparing these outputs against one or multiple independent implementations obtained for the same cosmology. **The ultimate**

goal was to guarantee that any numerical uncertainty in the predictions for correlation functions are within a fraction of the expected statistical uncertainty for LSST. In this section, we document the numerical accuracy achieved for each observable and demonstrate that our overall goal has been achieved. We emphasise that the hereby presented tests pertain to *numerical* accuracy alone, while details of the *physical* accuracy of each model are provided in Section 2. (In some cases, the achieved level of numerical accuracy is higher than the physical accuracy of the model for a particular observable. In the cases where this applies, we make it clear below.) Table 2 summarises all the CCL validation tests discussed in this section.

We described the core of our validation procedure in Section 1. For each CCL prediction, one or more independent implementations were used to make analogous computations. Those independent implementations are provided and within the CCL repository together with our main software. For each feature, we define a numerical accuracy parameter, \mathcal{A} , in the following subsections, which quantifies the relative or absolute difference between the CCL prediction and the independent one. We quote the level of accuracy achieved and show that we meet our ultimate goal of ensuring that the numerical accuracy of the computed correlation functions from CCL is at the desired level.

All plots presented in this section can be reproduced by means of a `python` notebook available with the code. Accuracy checks can also be run automatically upon installation of the software.

4.1. Background quantities & growth of perturbations

Comoving radial distances, the growth factor and distance moduli were compared against independently produced benchmarks for redshifts between $z = 0.01$ and $z = 1000$. These comparisons were performed for the cosmologies listed in Table 3 and for the cosmologies with massive neutrinos listed in Table 4. (Notice that the growth function with massive neutrinos is not supported by CCL because it is scale-dependent and therefore ill defined in our framework.) The accuracy metric was defined as the fractional difference between the prediction made by CCL and by an independent implementation (labeled i), i.e., for the growth factor,

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \frac{|D_{\text{CCL}}(z) - D_i(z)|}{D_i(z)} \quad (71)$$

and analogously defined for the comoving radial distance and distance moduli. The target level of accuracy was 10^{-4} and this was achieved or surpassed for all the background quantities. Figure 2 summarizes our results. The left panel shows the distance accuracy achieved for different cosmological models (curves of different thickness) as a function of redshift, which is always better than 10^{-6} . Similarly, the right panel shows the growth factor accuracy, which is $< 10^{-5}$ everywhere.

4.2. Matter power spectra

4.2.1. Analytic expressions

As discussed in Section 2.3, several power spectrum methods are implemented in CCL. Two of them, the BBKS (Bardeen et al. 1986) and the Eisenstein & Hu (1998) methods are implemented for validation purposes only and feed into the tests for observables such as angular power spectra and correlation functions, as we will see in subsequent sections. These two implementations have been validated against independent implementations. The accuracy in this case was defined as the absolute fractional difference between the CCL and the independent predictions:

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \frac{|P_{\text{CCL}}(k, z) - P_i(k, z)|}{P_i(k, z)} \quad (72)$$

For BBKS, this test was performed at $0 \leq z \leq 5$ in the wavenumber range $10^{-3} \leq k \leq 10 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ with 10 bins per decade, and yielded an accuracy level of 10^{-4} .¹³ For the Eisenstein & Hu (1998) matter power spectrum, we obtained similar accuracy at $z = 0$ for the same wavenumbers. The cosmologies for which the tests were implemented are specified in Table 2.

The BCM implementation for the impact of baryons on the matter power spectrum, described in Section 2.3 is also analytical. Following Equation (72), we found it to be accurate to 10^{-12} .

4.2.2. Validation of interpolation schemes

In its default configuration, CCL adopts the HaloFit (Takahashi et al. 2012) implementation by interpolating CLASS power spectra outputs to model the matter power spectrum. The computation of the power spectrum from CLASS can be significantly sped up by interpolating the matter power spectra in the range

¹³ We noticed that there are 2 typographical errors for the BBKS transfer function in “Modern Cosmology” (Dodelson 2004) compared to the original BBKS paper. The quadratic term should be $(16.1q)^2$ and the cubic term should be $(5.46q)^3$. The BBKS equation is correct in Peacock (1999). Using the wrong equation can give differences in the results above the 10^{-4} level.

Quantity	Equation/Reference	Cosmologies	Range	Accuracy, \mathcal{A}
Comoving radial distance, χ	(7)	CCL1-5, CCL7-11	$0.01 \leq z \leq 1000$	10^{-4}
Growth factor, D	(10)	CCL1-5	$0.01 \leq z \leq 1000$	10^{-4}
$\sigma(M)$ (BBKS)	(45)	CCL1-3	$10^6 \leq M/(M_\odot/h) \leq 10^{16}$	10^{-4}
$\log[\sigma^{-1}(M)]$ (BBKS)	(74)	CCL1-3	$10^6 \leq M/(M_\odot/h) \leq 10^{16}$	10^{-4}
$\log[(M^2/\bar{\rho}_m)dn/dM]$	(75), Tinker et al. (2010)	CCL1	$10^{10} \leq M/(M_\odot) \leq 10^{16}$ & $z = 0$	5×10^{-3}
$P(k)$ (BBKS)	(14)	CCL1-3	$10^{-3} \leq k/(h/\text{Mpc}) \leq 10$ & $0 \leq z \leq 5$	10^{-4}
$P(k)$ (Eisenstein & Hu)	Eisenstein & Hu (1998)	CCL1	$10^{-3} \leq k/(h/\text{Mpc}) \leq 10$ & $z = 0$	10^{-4}
$P(k)$ (CLASS HaloFit)	Takahashi et al. (2012)	?	$10^{-3} \leq k/(h/\text{Mpc}) \leq 10$ & ?	?
$P(k)$ (CosmicEmu w CDM)	Lawrence et al. (2017)	M1,M3,M5,M6,M8,M10	$10^{-3} \leq k/\text{Mpc}^{-1} \leq 5$ & $z = 0$	3×10^{-2}
$P(k)$ (CosmicEmu ν CDM)	Lawrence et al. (2017)	M38,M39,M40,M42	$10^{-3} \leq k/\text{Mpc}^{-1} \leq 5$ & $z = 0$	3×10^{-2}
C_ℓ clustering	(20),(21)	CCL6	$1 \leq \ell \leq 30000$	10^{-3}
C_ℓ weak lensing	(20),(25)	CCL6	$1 \leq \ell \leq 30000$	10^{-3}
C_ℓ CMB lensing	(20),(28)	CCL6	$1 \leq \ell \leq 3000$	10^{-3}
$\xi_{++}, \xi_{--}, \xi_{gg}$	(40),(36)	CCL6	$0.01 < \theta/\text{deg} < 5$	$0.5\sigma_{\text{LSST}}$
3D correlation, ξ	(41)	CCL1-5	$1 < r/\text{Mpc} < 200$ & $0 \leq z \leq 5$	4×10^{-3}
C_ℓ clustering non-Limber	(20),(21),(22)	CCL1	$500 \leq \ell < 1000$	2×10^{-2}
C_ℓ clustering Angpow	(20),(21),(22)	CCL1	$1 \leq \ell < 1000$	1×10^{-2}

Table 2. Summary of CCL validation tests and accuracy achieved. These tests can be reproduced by the user and are integrated into the CCL repository via TravisCI. To do: Some questions about the HMF test. We are checking the HMF but also σ and σ^{-1} with different tolerances. In what way are those checks different from the $\sigma(M)$ check? Also, the units of mass in the $\sigma(M)$ check and HMF check are inconsistent - do we want to change that? For non-Limber tests, the quoted precision stands for the ratio between the relative errors between the computed C_ℓ s and the cosmic variance. We should also clarify here what the difference is between the two C_ℓ non-Limber tests.

Cosmological models for code comparison project									
Acronym	Model	Ω_m	Ω_b	Ω_Λ	h_0	σ_8	n_s	w_0	w_a
CCL1	flat Λ CDM	0.3	0.05	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-1	0
CCL2	w CDM	0.3	0.05	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0
CCL3	w CDM	0.3	0.05	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0.1
CCL4	open w CDM	0.3	0.05	0.65	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0.1
CCL5	closed w CDM	0.3	0.05	0.75	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0.1
CCL6	flat Λ CDM	0.3	0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-1	0

Table 3. Cosmological models for code comparison project. To do: Model 6 was introduced because we use it in some of the checks, it needs more explanation in the main text

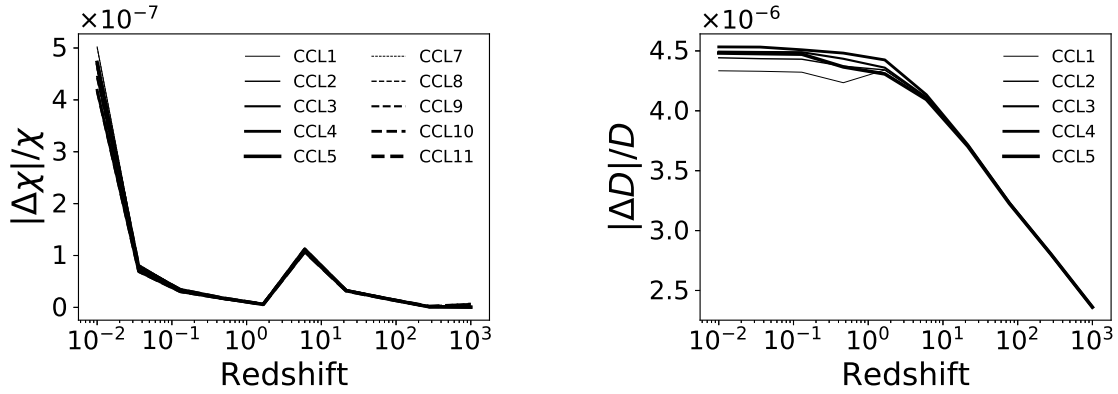


Figure 2. Accuracy achieved by CCL in the prediction of background quantities. Left panel: fractional difference between the predictions of the comoving radial distance by CCL and the benchmark for models CCL1-5 documented in Table 3 (solid lines) and models CCL7-11 with massive neutrinos documented in Table 4 (dashed lines). Right panel: fractional difference between the predictions of the growth factor by CCL and the benchmark for models CCL1-5. The growth factor in cosmologies with massive neutrinos is scale-dependent and not supported by CCL.

Cosmological models with massive neutrinos											
Acronym	Model	Ω_m	Ω_b	Ω_Λ	h_0	σ_8	n_s	w_0	w_a	N_{eff}	m_ν (eV)
CCL7	flat Λ CDM, m_ν	0.3	0.05	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-1	0	3.013	{0.04, 0, 0}
CCL8	w CDM, m_ν	0.3	0.05	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0	3.026	{0.05, 0.01, 0}
CCL9	w CDM, m_ν	0.3	0.05	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0.1	3.040	{0.03, 0.02, 0.04}
CCL10	open w CDM, m_ν	0.3	0.05	0.65	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0.1	3.013	{0.05, 0, 0}
CCL11	closed w CDM, m_ν	0.3	0.05	0.75	0.7	0.8	0.96	-0.9	0.1	3.026	{0.03, 0.02, 0}

Table 4. Cosmological models with massive neutrinos used in testing CCL against independently produced benchmarks. We calculate N_{eff} according to equation (68), based on the number of massless and massive neutrino species.

$K_MIN < k < K_MAX_SPLINE$ and extrapolating beyond it, as described in Section 3. In this section, we describe the loss of accuracy due to this method. The tests presented are performed in a flat Λ CDM cosmology with $\Omega_c = 0.25$, $\Omega_b = 0.05$, $A_s = 2.1 \times 10^{-9}$, $h = 0.7$ and $n_s = 0.96$.

The accuracy of this approximation is shown in Figure 3 for redshifts $z = 0$, $z = 3$ and $z = 20$. We compare the nonlinear matter power spectrum at these redshifts, computed with the previously described approximation, to the matter power spectrum obtained by setting the power spectrum splines to high-accuracy values. We find that for typical values of $\Delta \ln k = 10^{-2}$ and $K_MAX_SPLINE = 50 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ln P$ has converged to an accuracy that surpasses the expected impact of baryonic effects on the matter power spectrum at $k > 10 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. **To do: Christiane, what was exactly the reference fiducial power?** (For an estimate of the impact of baryons on the total matter power spectrum, see Schneider & Teyssier 2015.)

With the implementation described above, the power spectrum splines are initialized up to K_MAX_SPLINE . This is also true for the linear matter power spectrum, which is used within CCL in particular to obtain σ_8 (see Eq. 45). We have tested how this procedure affects the convergence of the linear matter power spectrum. We compare the fiducial CCL output to the case where we set $K_MAX_SPLINE = 5 \times 10^3 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. The result is shown in Figure 3. For some applications that use the linear power spectrum, the user might need to increase the value of K_MAX_SPLINE . While CCL adopts certain fiducial values of the number of scale factor and wavenumber values to use in the interpolation, we have tested that increasing the sampling does not change the results presented in Figures 3.

In addition to the above tests in Λ CDM cosmologies without massive neutrinos, we have checked the impact of using splines (at intermediate k) and extrapolation (at low and high k) in cosmologies CCL7, CCL8, and CCL9 with massive neutrinos, defined in Table 4. We compare the linear and nonlinear matter power spectrum as computed directly via CLASS to that computed using CLASS via CCL. We find that for k between K_MIN and K_MIN_SPLINE , the two power spectra agree to better than 10^{-4} in all models. For k between K_MAX_SPLINE and K_MAX , agreement is better than 10^{-3} , which we deem sufficient given the significant physical uncertainties introduced at these small scales by effects such as galaxy formation (van Daalen et al. 2011). The fractional difference between the two nonlinear power spectra is plotted in Figure 4.

4.2.3. Generalized validation of the power spectrum over Λ CDM parameter space

While concentrating on individual points in cosmological parameter space allows us to perform detailed validation tests, as above, it is important for CCL to also be validated across a wide range of cosmological parameter values, e.g. to ensure validity for MCMC analyses. In this section, we present a set of validation tests for the CCL linear and non-linear matter power spectrum functions that spans a broad range of Λ CDM parameters.

Covering a full range of all 5 Λ CDM parameters on a regular grid would be prohibitively expensive, so an alternative method for fairly (but more sparsely) sampling the parameter space is needed. We use Latin Hypercube Sampling to determine a tractably-sized set of sample points. This splits the parameter space into a regular grid with N bins per dimension. The sample points are then chosen by going through each dimension in turn and choosing a bin at random without replacement, so that a given bin in each dimension is only ever chosen once. This is repeated until all bins in each dimension contain a single sample (or until a maximum number of sample points has been reached). This has the effect of covering the space uniformly but sparsely, with only N sample points chosen from the N^5 available positions on the grid. The exact location of the sample within each bin can be chosen from a uniform distribution within that bin, but for simplicity we put each sample at the bin center. We use $N = 100$ sample points per dimension, with the ranges for each parameter given in Table 5. These ranges were chosen to be significantly wider than those allowed by current observational constraints, to ensure that the full parameter range expected to be accessed by MCMC analyses is covered. For the purposes of this exercise, we allow only massless neutrinos ($N_{\text{eff}} = 3.046$), and set T_{CMB} to the same value in CCL and CLASS.

Parameter	Range
h	[0.55, 0.8]
Ω_c	[0.15, 0.35]
Ω_b	[0.018, 0.052]
A_s	$[1.5, 2.5] \times 10^{-9}$
n_s	[0.94, 0.98]

Table 5. Ranges of Λ CDM parameters used for the generalised CCL validation tests of the matter power spectrum.

For each set of parameters, we then calculate the linear and non-linear (Halofit) power spectra using CCL for a range of redshifts. A corresponding set of refer-

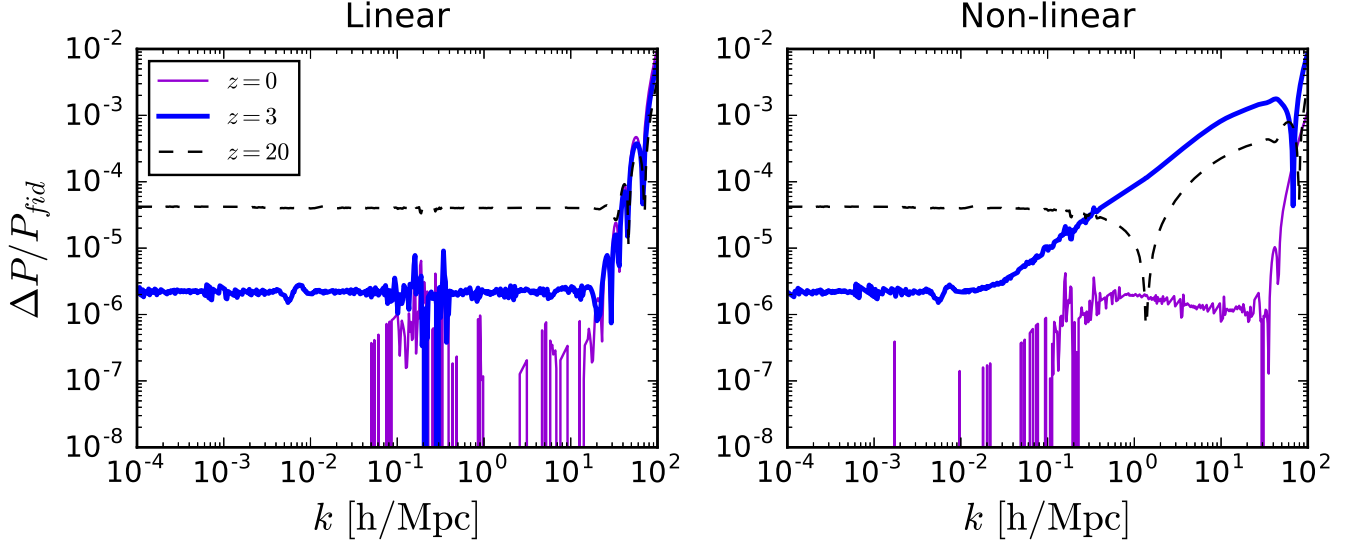


Figure 3. The relative error compared to power spectra produced with high values of the power spectrum splines, P_{fid} , produced by splining the matter power spectrum up to `K_MAX_SPLINE` and extrapolating beyond this value with a second order Taylor expansion the natural logarithm of the matter power spectrum. The left panel shows the relative errors for the linear matter power spectrum at $z = 0$, $z = 3$ and $z = 20$. The right panel shows the results for the non-linear matter power spectrum at the same redshifts. The standard CCL parameters adopted are those corresponding to the black dashed curve. For comparison, the impact of baryonic physics on the matter power spectrum is $\sim 10\%$ at $k = 1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ (Schneider & Teyssier 2015).

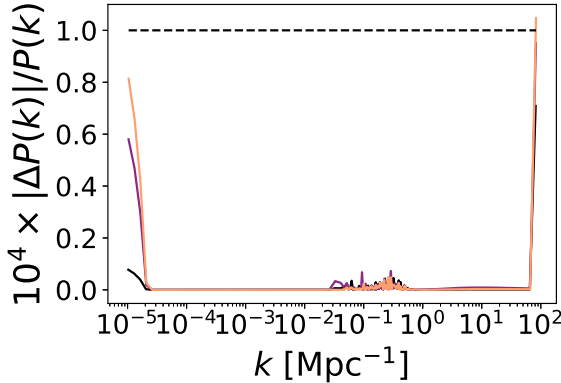


Figure 4. Fractional difference between the nonlinear matter power spectrum as computed directly via CLASS with that computed using CLASS via CCL in cosmologies CCL7, CCL8, and CCL9 with massive neutrinos.

ence power spectra is then produced using CLASS directly, i.e. using a regular installation of CLASS (v2.6.3) that is completely independent of the CCL code. We run this with either default precision settings (‘standard precision’), or settings intended to produce high-precision CMB results (‘high precision’), taken from the `pk_ref.pre` precision file that is bundled with CLASS.

Fig. 5 shows the fractional difference between the CCL and CLASS matter power spectra at $z = 0$ for 100 sample points over the parameter space, with each line colored according to the value of Ω_c for that sam-

ple. Results for different power spectrum types (linear vs. Halofit) and CLASS precision settings are shown for comparison.

As shown in the top two panels of Fig. 5, CCL reproduces the standard CLASS results well across a broad range of parameter values, always remaining well within the target fractional precision of 10^{-4} . This demonstrates the robustness of our choice of spline parameters to different cosmological parameter values.

The lower panels in Fig. 5 show the fractional deviation between CCL (which always uses the ‘standard’ CLASS precision) and CLASS with high precision settings. These deviations are more significant, especially around the wavenumbers where the BAO feature is most prominent. The precision is still generally better than 10^{-3} however, and is only worse than that for the very lowest values of Ω_c .

Fig. 6 shows the same comparison, but now for $z = 2$. The precision on the linear matter power spectrum is almost an order of magnitude better than at $z = 0$ for the standard precision settings, and about the same as at $z = 0$ for the high precision settings. The picture is slightly different for the Halofit power spectrum however, where moderate deviations are seen for the standard precision settings in models with small values of Ω_c . This appears to be caused by a setting inside CLASS that switches off Halofit corrections when a redshift- and cosmology-dependent threshold is reached, and can be mitigated by increasing the value of the `P_k_max.1/Mpc`

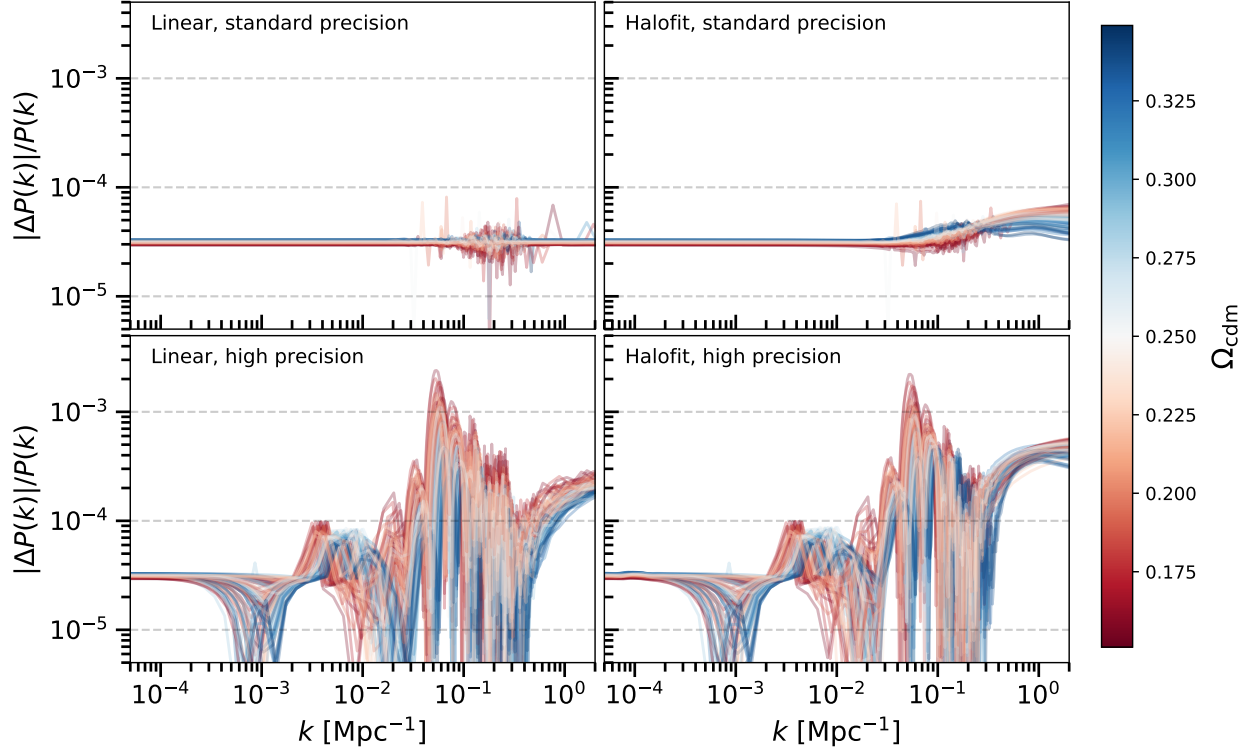


Figure 5. Absolute fractional difference between the matter power spectra at $z = 0$ calculated using CLASS via CCL, and CLASS directly, for a range of cosmological parameter values, and different CLASS precision settings (standard vs. high-precision) and power spectrum types (linear vs. Halofit). The lines are colored according to the value of Ω_c for each set of cosmological parameters (see Table 5 for the ranges of other parameters).

parameter (which is already set to a relatively high value of 50 in CCL by default). Larger values of Ω_c produce only slightly worse precision than at $z = 0$, and the high precision Halofit results are also relatively unchanged.

These results show that the CLASS-based CCL power spectrum calculations are robust across a broad range of cosmological parameters, especially for the linear power spectrum, but that some caution must be taken when using the Halofit power spectrum in MCMC studies that involve higher redshifts for example.¹⁴

4.2.4. Validation of the Cosmic Emulator implementation

To do: I think this section should go before the one on generalized validation of the power spectrum over LCDM space, because that one refers to 'the sections above' as being at specific cosmologies, which is the case here. - DLEC: The only caveat is that the generalized validation scheme doesnt account for the emulator.

The matter power spectrum emulation procedure from Lawrence et al. (2017) has an intrinsic accuracy com-

pared to the simulated results used for its construction. It effectively provides a fitting scheme which allows interpolation between the simulation results. As a consequence, the method itself has some limitations in how well it can reproduce the simulation results. CCL takes the emulator predictions and interpolates between the wavenumber and scale-factor notes in the emulator output. To validate the final power spectra coming out of CCL, we compared them directly to the simulated spectra from Lawrence et al. (2017) for a subset of the cosmologies adopted in that work. In this section, we quantify the accuracy of the CCL predictions by estimating

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \frac{|P_{\text{CCL}}(k, z) - P_{\text{L17}}(k, z)|}{P_{\text{L17}}(k, z)} \quad (73)$$

where the label L17 refers to the smoothed simulated power spectra from Lawrence et al. (2017).

Our results are shown in Figure 7. For cosmologies without neutrinos, we required the matter power spectrum at $z = 0$ to be within 1% of the smoothed simulated power spectrum from Lawrence et al. (2017) (see their Figure 6). Similarly, we required 3% accuracy for cosmologies with neutrinos (their Figure 5). The cosmologies that were tested are the ones listed in Ta-

¹⁴ Note that the K_MAX_SPLINE setting in the ccl_params.ini file can be used to change the value of P_k_max.1/Mpc used for the Halofit calculation, so this issue can be avoided at the expense of an increase in runtime.

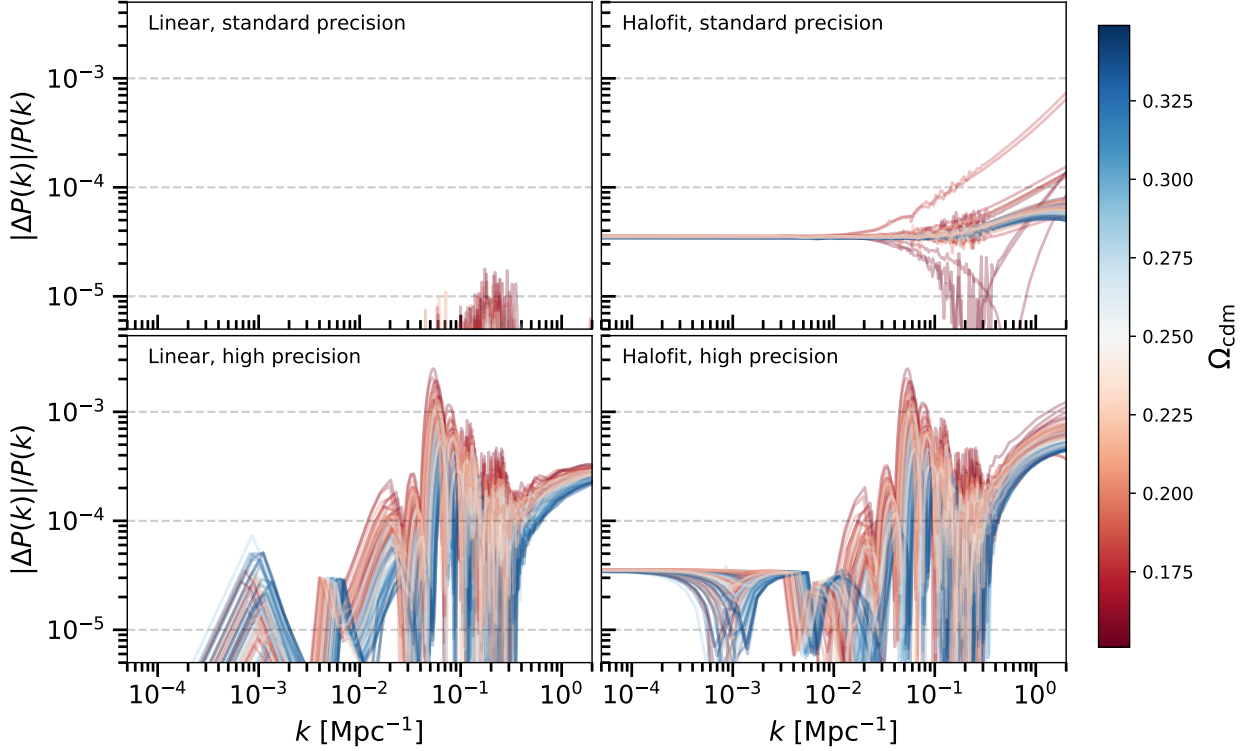


Figure 6. Absolute fractional difference between CCL and CLASS matter power spectra, as plotted in Fig. 5, but now at $z = 2$.

ble 3, which are described in detail in Lawrence et al. (2017). EC: Need to explain 1 – 3% better.

4.3. Halo bias and halo mass function

An independent code was utilized to test the accuracy of halo mass function predictions. Our predictions are computed from power spectra obtained using the BBKS approximation. For the halo mass function, we compare the value of σ ,

$$\tilde{\sigma} \equiv \log[\sigma^{-1}(M)], \quad (74)$$

and the value of the halo mass function in the form used in Tinker et al. (2008),

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv \log[(M^2/\bar{\rho}_m)dn/dM]. \quad (75)$$

These defines three new accuracy metrics:

$$\mathcal{A}_{hmf1} \equiv \frac{|\sigma_{\text{CCL}} - \sigma_i|}{\sigma_i}, \quad (76)$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{hmf2} \equiv \frac{|\tilde{\sigma}_{\text{CCL}} - \tilde{\sigma}_i|}{\tilde{\sigma}_i}, \quad (77)$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{hmf3} \equiv \frac{|\mathcal{H}_{\text{CCL}} - \mathcal{H}_i|}{\mathcal{H}_i}. \quad (78)$$

We note that while we maintain the 10^{-4} for our evaluations of σ , the accuracy degrades to a value of 5×10^{-3} for the halo mass function evaluation, primarily at the

high halo mass and high redshift domains. We find that this increased error is acceptable, as the level of precision is significantly better than the accuracy of current halo mass function models. This is demonstrated in Figure 8, where this calculation has been run for a single cosmology using the Tinker 2010 halo mass function. While there is a degradation in accuracy due to our spline treatment of the log inverse of $\sigma(M)$, we note that it does not significantly degrade our halo mass function determination. While improvement on this remains a task for the future, the halo mass function varies between fitting functions significantly more than this remaining error. As of this time, we do not have independent benchmarks for the halo bias function, though it should be noted that this calculation does not involve any additional functions beyond $\sigma(M)$ and should hold to the 10^{-4} tolerance level.

4.4. Two-point statistics

We used the BBKS linear matter power spectrum to compare two-point statistics for two redshift bins, resulting in three tomography combinations, $(1-1), (1-2), (2-2)$. The validation tests were performed for two kinds of redshift distributions: analytic and binned ones. The goal of defining these to sets was to capture any numerical deviation produced by the interpolation of the binned distribution. We adopted the following analytic

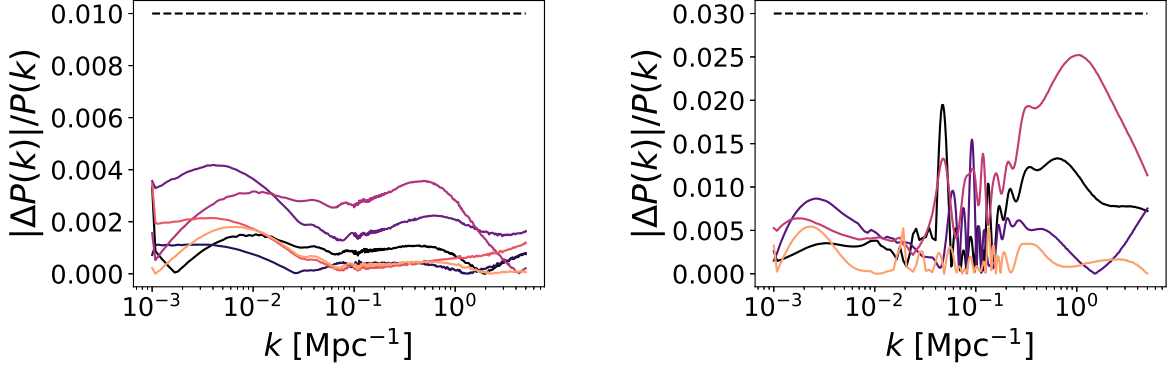


Figure 7. Absolute fractional accuracy in the matter power spectra, Eq. (73), obtained by calling the cosmic emulator from CCL and the smoothed simulated spectra from Lawrence et al. (2017). The left panel shows the results for cosmologies without neutrinos; the right panel, results for cosmologies with neutrinos.

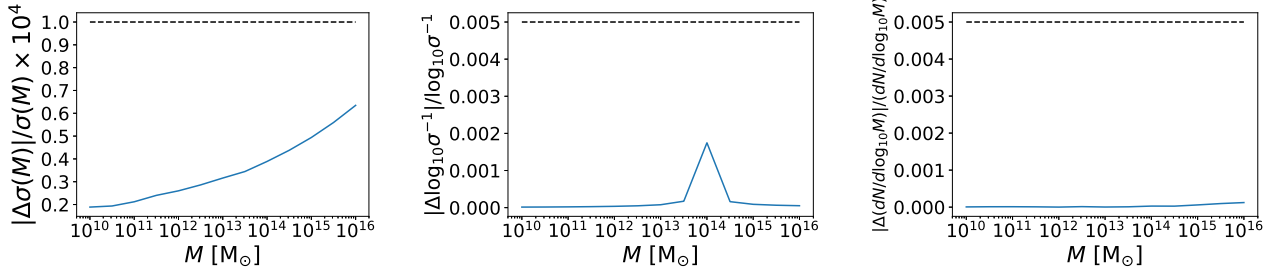


Figure 8. Three different numerical tests of the halo mass function calculation. In each line, the blue line is the fractional error in the function, while the black dashed line represents our error tolerance. The first panel demonstrates the robust calculation of $\sigma(M)$. The second panel demonstrates a numerical quirk in our spline treatment that is currently not addressed, but does reduce the numerical accuracy in returning the log inverse of $\sigma(M)$. We note that this does not significantly impact the error in the halo mass function in the final panel.

redshift distributions: a Gaussian with $\sigma = 0.15$, centered at $z_1 = 1$; and another Gaussian with the same dispersion but centered at $z_2 = 1.5$. In the case of the binned distributions, we adopted the two redshift distribution histograms shown in Figure 9.

For both types of distributions, we computed the following quantities:

- Number counts angular power spectra: density term only (no magnification, RSD, etc.) with non-evolving linear bias $b(z) = 1$, in the range $10 < \ell < 10000$, using 5 bins per decade,
- Lensing convergence angular power spectra: leading order convergence term only (no magnification or intrinsic alignments), in the same range and with the same resolution as the case above,
- Number counts angular correlation functions in the range $0.01 \text{ deg} < \theta < 5 \text{ deg}$, using 5 bins per decade, and
- Lensing shear angular correlation functions (ξ_+, ξ_-), similarly to above.

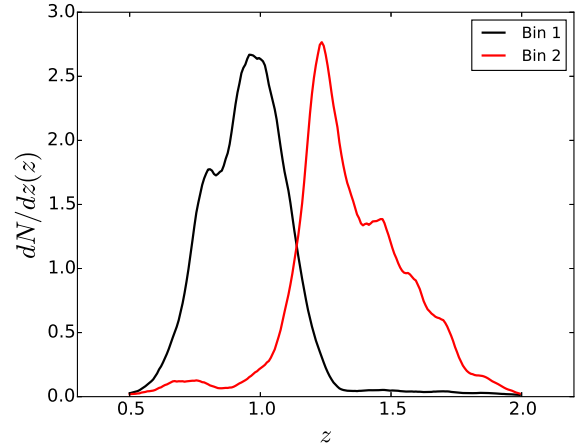


Figure 9. Binned redshift distributions used for validating the computation of angular power spectra and correlation functions.

Besides these two-point functions, we also validated the computation of the CMB lensing power spectrum, using the same ℓ binning described above.

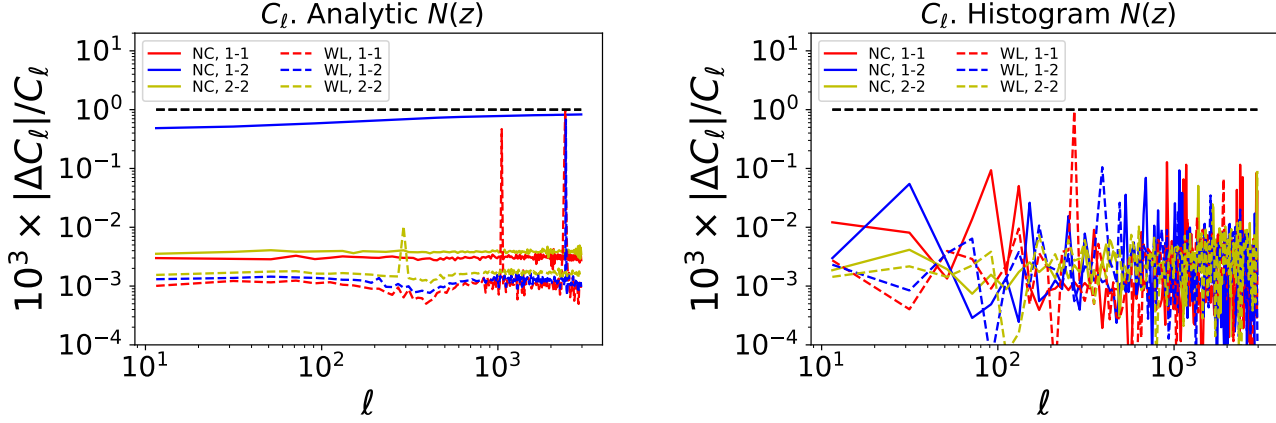


Figure 10. Tests of the angular power spectrum accuracy. Benchmark comparisons for number counts (solid) and weak lensing (dashed) power spectra are shown for analytic and histogram-based redshift distributions in the left and right panels respectively.

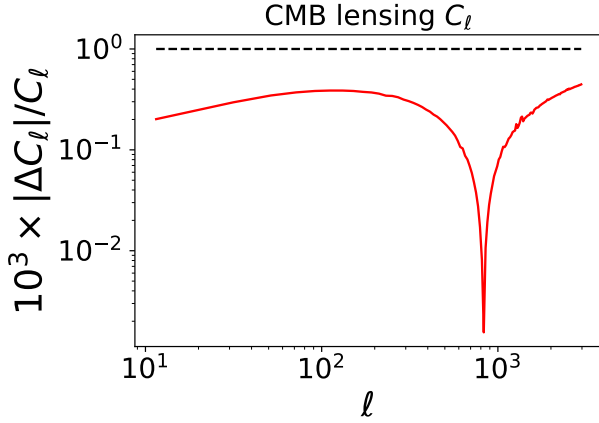


Figure 11. Same as Fig. 10 for the CMB lensing power spectrum.

For C_ℓ computations, we define as our accuracy metric the absolute value of the relative difference between CCL and an independent realisation:

$$\mathcal{A} = \left| \frac{C_\ell^{\text{CCL}} - C_\ell^{(i)}}{C_\ell^{(i)}} \right|. \quad (79)$$

Overall, we achieved a relative difference between CCL and the benchmarks of $< 10^{-3}$, but in general we allow 0.1% of the C_ℓ evaluations to fail. This applied both to analytic redshift distributions and histograms, for auto- and cross-correlations between bins for both galaxy clustering and weak lensing, as shown in Figure 10. The CMB lensing result is shown in Figure 11.

Cosmological constraints from current weak lensing surveys are derived from modeling correlation functions. As we discussed in Section 2, the correlation functions are modeled by Eq.(30) and obtained by CCL through numerical integration of predicted angular power spectra. To ensure that any numerical inaccuracies are small

enough for the purposes of obtaining cosmological constraints, we require that the absolute difference between the CCL prediction and an independent one is smaller than our expected error bars:

$$\mathcal{A} = \left| \xi^{\text{CCL}} - \xi^{(i)} \right| < 0.5\sigma_{\text{LSST}}. \quad (80)$$

where σ_{LSST} is the expected statistical uncertainty of any given correlation function between tracers.

To obtain realistic targets for the convergence of projected correlation function computations for LSST analyses, we calculated the expected statistical uncertainty of the clustering and lensing correlation functions of the LSST gold sample (LSST Science Collaboration et al. 2009) assuming an effective source galaxy density of $n_{\text{eff}} = 26 \text{ gal/sq arcmin}$ for galaxy shape distortions (Chang et al. 2013), and galaxy density of $n_{\text{gold}} = 45 \text{ gal/sq arcmin}$ for number counts. Specifically, we calculated the Gaussian covariance of angular correlation functions following the formalism of Joachimi et al. (2008), and note that leaving out the non-Gaussian covariance terms makes our accuracy criterion more conservative. We split the galaxy samples into 10 tomography bins, defined to contain equal numbers of galaxies.

We compared the difference between CCL calculated lensing and clustering correlations and the benchmarks, for the analytic redshift distributions and for auto-correlations of redshift bins only. Specifically, we took the value of the covariance in the bins centered at $z = 1$ and $z = 1.5$ to compare to the benchmarks. The results of this validation procedure for the projected correlation function are shown in Figure 12. Our results suggest that the convergence between CCL predictions and benchmarks is below the expected statistical uncertainty.

The 3-dimensional spatial correlation function $\xi(r)$ predicted by CCL was validated by comparing it with

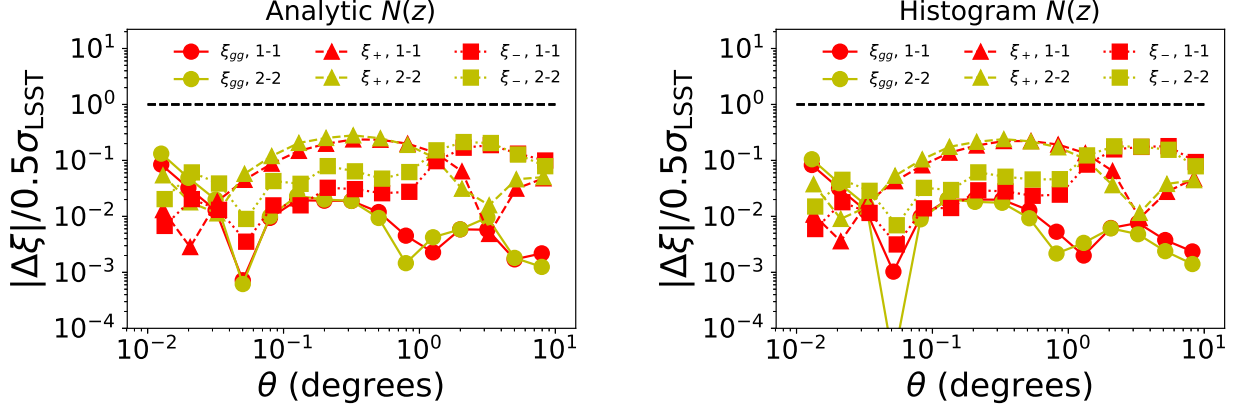


Figure 12. Comparison between the predicted projected correlation functions and the expected uncertainties for LSST. The left panel shows predictions for the analytic redshift distributions, while the right panel shows the case of the redshift histograms. The different markers and colors indicate clustering (ξ_{gg} , Eq. 36, filled circles) or lensing (ξ_{\pm} , Eq. 40, filled triangles and squares) auto-correlations of the 1-1 or 2-2 redshift bin combinations.

an independent, precise numerical transform. We calculated $\xi(r)$ by transforming the CCL non-linear HaloFit power spectrum using this independent code for the five cosmologies listed in Table 3 at redshifts $z = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$. We then compared with the $\xi(r)$ from CCL with a sampling of $P(k)$ equal to N_K_3DCOR bins per decade **EC: is this parameter defined somewhere?**. The accuracy metric is defined as

$$\mathcal{A} = |\xi^{\text{CCL}}(r) - \xi^{(i)}(r)| / \xi^{\text{CCL}}(r). \quad (81)$$

The default value of N_K_3DCOR = 100,000 results in $\mathcal{A} < 2.5 \times 10^{-3}$ for $0.1 < r < 250$ Mpc and $z = 0$. The agreement was better for higher redshifts.

We also compared the absolute value of $r^2\xi(r)$ and find a maximum difference of $\Delta(r^2\xi(r)) < 3.0 \times 10^{-2}$ for the range $r = 0.1 - 250$ Mpc. This corresponds to approximately 0.08% of the Baryon Acoustic Oscillation peak value of $r^2\xi(r)$. At the peak, the difference is only 9.0×10^{-3} , or 0.024% of the peak height. The results are shown in Fig. 13

To further validate the $P(k) \rightarrow \xi(r)$ transform we performed a test using an analytical function $\xi(r) = (r/r_0)^a$, whose inverse transform $P(k)$ has a known analytic form. We used $r_0 = 5h^{-1}$ Mpc $^{-1}$ and $a = -1.67$, which approximates the actual three-dimensional correlation function. We then compared the CCL calculation of $\xi(r)$ to the known analytic result, defining an analogous metric to Eq. (81). This was found to be less than 0.4% in the range $1 < r < 200$ Mpc rising to about 5% at $r = 1000$ Mpc (see Fig. 14). For $r = 0.1 - 0.8$ Mpc the relative difference is $\approx 8\%$. The accuracy at low and high distances can be improved by increasing the range over which the power spectrum splines are evaluated.

CCL performs non-Limber computations of angular power spectra through the Angpow library as detailed in

Section 3.3.2. The Angpow software was tested against CLASS and the brute-force integration CCL computation, and can perform the same computations approximately an order of magnitude faster ($\mathcal{O}(1s)$). Its precision and speed parameters were optimised so that the relative numerical difference between the non-Limber computations is lower than two orders of magnitude, from $\ell = 2$ to $\ell = 1000$. We demonstrate this in Figure 15, where we plot the angular clustering power spectrum for a sample of galaxies with $\langle z \rangle = 1$ and a Gaussian redshift distribution that extends between $|z - \langle z \rangle| < 5\sigma_z$, **EC: is there a typo here?** where $\sigma_z = 0.02$, for a CCL6 cosmology. The non-Limber prediction deviates from the Limber case at low ℓ as expected. The right panel shows the fractional difference between the non-Limber curves, demonstrating the accuracy of the Angpow prediction for our choice of precision and speed parameters. Also the brute-force non-Limber computation and Angpow were tested to recover the Limber approximated curve at high ℓ for a wide Gaussian window ($\sigma_z = 0.1$). The relative errors with respect to the Limber result at high ℓ are also lower than two orders of magnitudes.

5. USAGE

CCL is a public tool developed by the members of the LSST-DESC and can be downloaded from the collaboration's GitHub repository¹⁵. Installation instructions are provided in a README file available in that same repository. In particular, CCL is installable via pip with minimal dependencies. These include cmake¹⁶, the GNU Scientific Library¹⁷ and FFTW3¹⁸. Instructions on how

¹⁵ <https://github.com/LSSTDESC/CCL>

¹⁶ <http://cmake.org>

¹⁷ <https://www.gnu.org/software/gsl/>

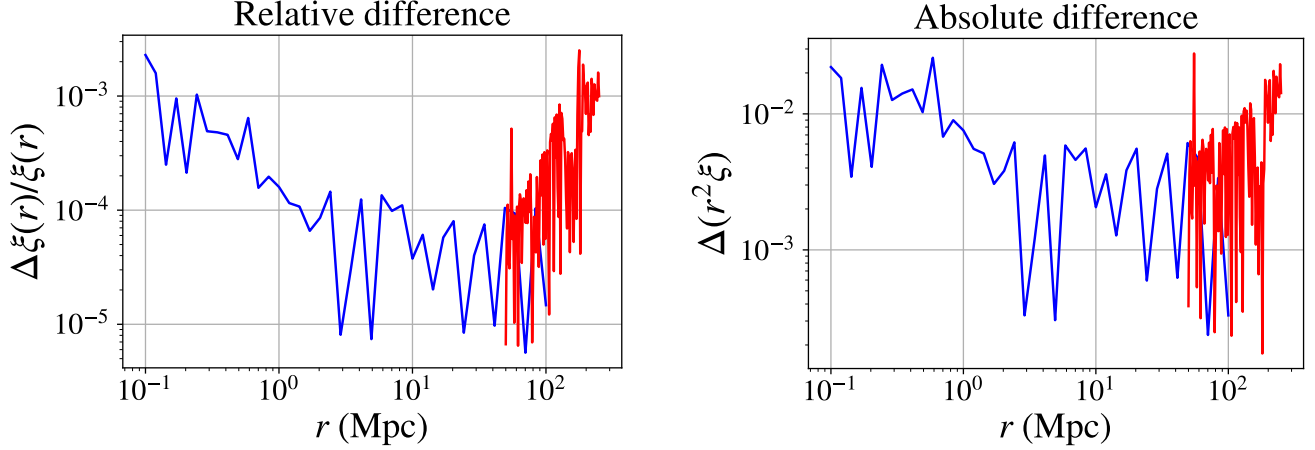


Figure 13. Comparison of the CCL calculation of the three-dimensional spatial correlation function $\xi(r)$ with a precise, numerical transform of the CCL non-linear Halofit power spectrum. The left panel shows the relative error $\Delta\xi(r)/\xi(r)$. The right panel shows the absolute error in $r^2\xi(r)$. Both panels are for the CCL1 model of Table 3 at redshift zero.

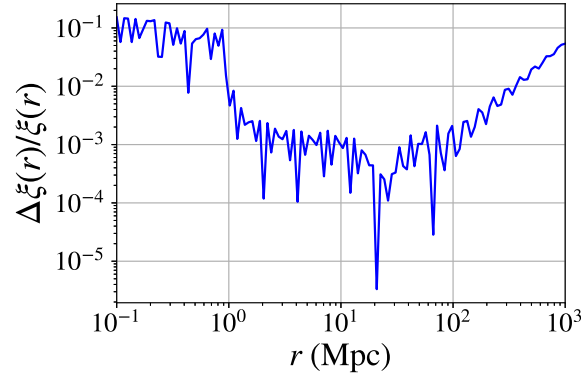


Figure 14. The relative error in the three-dimensional spatial correlation function computed using the CCL algorithm compared to an analytic function $\xi(r) = (r/r_0)^a$ whose inverse transform $P(k)$ is known analytically. In this validation test, the known $P(k)$ was transformed with the CCL algorithm and compared to the known analytic result for $\xi(r)$.

to generate a Docker¹⁹ image are provided for portability to different architectures. A suite of tests can be run to ensure installation was successful and all features perform normally. These comprise accuracy checks performed in C and unit tests available in **python**. These are also run regularly with the Travis continuous integration service²⁰, ensuring that the code remains reliable as we continue to improve it.

For the typical user, the steps to follow to perform a typical cosmological computation (for example, to obtain angular power spectra for galaxy clustering) in CCL are the following:

- Set up a **cosmology** object which contains all the information on the cosmological model. This will not only specify the values of the cosmological parameters but also the choice of algorithm for computing the matter power spectrum and information on whether to work under a linear approximation. This step already allows the user to compute quantities such as distances, the Hubble rate or growth functions.
- In a second step, the user specifies a **tracer** object, which contains all the information pertaining to the sample of galaxies to be modelled. For galaxy clustering, this includes information on the bias of the sample and its redshift distribution. The **tracer** also contains information on how the clustering is to be modelled, e.g., taking into account magnification effects.

¹⁸ <http://www.fftw.org/>

¹⁹ <https://www.docker.com/>

²⁰ <https://travis-ci.org>

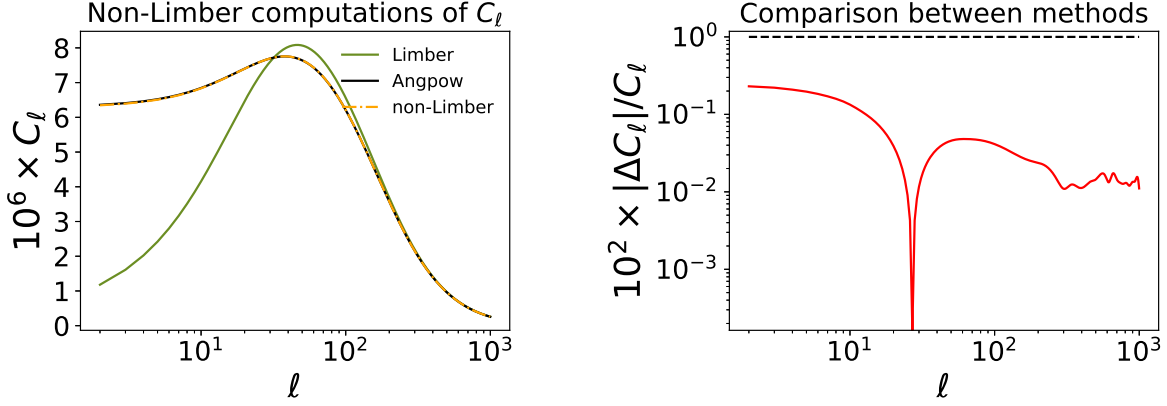


Figure 15. Different predictions for the clustering angular power spectrum of a sample of galaxies with a Gaussian redshift distribution centered on $\langle z \rangle = 1$. The left panel shows the C_ℓ predictions from the Limber case (green), the non-Limber case native to CCL (yellow dot-dashed) and **Angpow** (black). The right panel shows the fractional difference in the predicted clustering angular power spectrum between **Angpow** and the brute-force CCL non-Limber computation. The relative numerical difference between the non-Limber computations is lower than two orders of magnitude.

- Finally, the user can proceed to compute angular power spectra for a given set of multipoles via the function `ccl.angular_cls`, by providing the `tracer` object as input.

An example run corresponding to this case can be found in the `3x2demo` notebook or in the `ccl.sample_run.c` example in the `examples` folder within the repository.

CCL is documented online²¹ **EC: Will have to update this URL once merged.** and through Doxygen²² files released with the repository. The repository also includes multiple example files in C and several **Jupyter** notebooks showing many common use cases.

CCL is released under terms consistent with BSD 3-Clause licensing²³.

6. OUTLOOK

Science software development to facilitate the cosmological inference from LSST data is one of the critical tasks of the DESC. Recent cosmological analyses of the Dark Energy Survey (DES) relied on CosmoSIS (Zuntz et al. 2014) and CosmoLike (Krause et al. 2017), the Kilo-Degree Survey (KiDS) uses CosmoLSS (Joudaki et al. 2018) and CosmoMC (Lewis & Bridle 2002). All of these frameworks employ CLASS, CAMB (Challinor & Lewis 2005), or the cosmic emulator to compute the density power spectra. Compared to the analyses of DES, KiDS and the Hyper-Suprime Cam Survey (HSC), future data sets (e.g. LSST, *Euclid* and *WFIRST*) have substantially higher demands on analysis frameworks.

Analyses are becoming more complex in terms of cosmological physics that is included in the analyses (neutrinos, modified gravity, and dark matter models) and in terms of modeling astrophysical and observational systematics at the required precision.

It is the primary goal of the CCL to become the backbone of all cosmological analyses carried out by the LSST-DESC. This unified approach of a validated CCL will ensure that DESC results that are both consistent (in that they will all be based on the same theory framework) and accurate (in that this framework has undergone a rigorous numerical validation).

The implementation of CCL in realistic analysis pipelines has already begun: all likelihood module prototypes under development use it as its backbone, and the first of these, cosmological analysis of angular galaxy clustering cross-correlations, will serve as a model for the design of the joint-probes likelihood of the DESC. This work has allowed us to validate the performance of CCL in a realistic analysis scenario, verifying its accuracy and efficiency in the context of computationally demanding MCMC runs.

Beyond its usefulness in the DESC, the flexible design of CCL makes it a useful tool for the analysis of other cosmological datasets, as well as for the cross-correlation of different experiments. To this end, and to allow a generic and flexible analysis of the LSST data, further functionality will be added to CCL. Plans are in place to extend the range of standard and non-standard cosmological models covered by the code. Work is already underway to add a comprehensive implementation of the halo-model calculation of two-point functions (Peacock & Smith 2000) with sufficient flexibility to include generic parametrizations of observable halo profiles and

²¹ http://ccl.readthedocs.io/en/readthedocs_development/

²² www.doxygen.org/

²³ <https://github.com/LSSTDESC/CCL/blob/master/LICENSE>

mass-observable relations. The simplified treatment of the galaxy-matter connection for galaxy clustering and intrinsic alignments will be improved by implementing generic perturbation-theory approaches to structure formation (McDonald & Roy 2009; McEwen et al. 2016). A more complete implementation of all relevant cross-correlations between large-scale structure observables and other cosmological probes (e.g. CMB integrated Sachs-Wolfe effect -Sachs & Wolfe 1967-, and other secondary anisotropies) will also soon be included.

In general, although this document presents the functionality and performance of CCL shortly after its release, we expect the library to be a continuously evolving piece of software. This will allow CCL to satisfy the analysis needs of future large datasets, as well as more accurate and sophisticated models for a broad range of cosmological and astrophysical observables.

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Author contributions are listed below.

Husni Almoubayed: Reviewed code/contributed to issues.

David Alonso: Co-led project; developed structure for angular power spectra; implemented autotools; integrated into LSS pipeline; contributed to: background, power spectrum, mass function, documentation and benchmarks; reviewed code

Jonathan Blazek: Planning capabilities and structure; documentation and testing.

Philip Bull: Implemented and documented the Python wrapper; extensive infrastructure work, including maintenance of the build system and unit tests, bug fixes, and code review; enhanced the error handling system; performed power spectrum comparison across parameter space; various architecture/design contributions.

Jean-Eric Campagne: Angpow main builder.

N. Elisa Chisari: Co-led project, coordinated hack projects & communication, contributed to: correlation function & power spectrum implementation, documentation, and comparisons with benchmarks.

Alex Drlica-Wagner: Helped with document preparation.

Zilong Du: Implemented the 3d correlation function.

Tim Eifler: Reviewed/tested code.

John Ellison: Implemented the 3d correlation function; documentation of 3d correlation function.

Renée Hlozek: Contributed initial code for error handling structures, reviewed other code edits.

Mustapha Ishak: Contributed to planning of code capabilities and structure; reviewed code; identified and fixed bugs; wrote text for this note.

Shahab Joudaki: Contributed to implementation of background functions and documentation.

Matthew Kirby: Performed comparison of physical constants.

David Kirkby: Writing, testing and reviewing code.

Asking questions.

Elisabeth Krause: Initiated and co-led project; developed CLASS interface and error handling; contributed to other code; reviewed pull requests.

C. Danielle Leonard: Wrote and tested code for LSST specifications, user-defined photo-z interface, and support of neutrinos; reviewed other code; wrote text for this note.

Christiane S. Lorenz: Contributed to accurate high-redshift cosmological background quantities and benchmarked background splines.

Phil Marshall: Helped with document preparation.

Thomas McClintock: Wrote Python and doxygen documentation.

Sean McLaughlin: Wrote doxygen documentation and fixed bugs/added functionality to distances.

Alexander Mead: Wrote halo-model code and documentation

Jérémy Neveu: Contributed to Angpow, built the interface with CCL and the comparisons with benchmarks.

Stéphane Plaszczyński: Contributed to Angpow.

Javier Sanchez: Modified setup.py to allow pip installation and uninstall.

Sukhdeep Singh: Contributed to the correlation functions code.

Anže Slosar: Wrote and reviewed code.

Tilman Tröster: Wrote code for user-changable precision parameters and distance tests, found and fixed bugs.

Antonio Villarreal: Contributed to initial benchmarking, halo mass function code, and general code and issues review.

Michal Vrástl: Wrote documentation and example code, reviewed code.

Erika L. Wagoner: Set up logarithmic binning in wave number.

Joe Zuntz: Wrote initial infrastructure, C testing setup, and reviewed code.

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