



Constructing perturbation theory kernels for large-scale structure in generalized cosmologies

Atsushi Taruya

*Center for Gravitational Physics, Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University,
Kyoto 606-8502, Japan*

*Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe, Todai Institutes for Advanced Study,
the University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8583, Japan (Kavli IPMU, WPI)*

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We present a simple numerical scheme for perturbation theory (PT) calculations of large-scale structure. Solving the evolution equations for perturbations numerically, we construct the PT kernels as building blocks of statistical calculations, from which the power spectrum and/or correlation function can be systematically computed. The scheme is especially applicable to the generalized structure formation including modified gravity, in which the analytic construction of PT kernels is intractable. As an illustration, we show several examples for power spectrum calculations in $f(R)$ gravity and Λ CDM models.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The evolution of large-scale matter inhomogeneities is driven by gravity in a cold dark matter-dominated universe. As redshift decreases, the development of gravitational clustering eventually enters the nonlinear regime, and the linear theory prediction ceases to be adequate. Even at large scales, the transition to nonlinear evolution appears as a non-negligible effect, which has to be properly incorporated into theoretical predictions when comparing with precision observations. Indeed, aiming at measuring the baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO) and redshift-space distortions (RSD) as probes of the cosmic expansion and growth of structure (e.g., Refs. [1–3]), the accuracy of theoretical calculation needs to be better controlled, including observational systematics as well as new cosmological effects such as the modification of gravity or free-streaming suppression of massive neutrinos.

Among several approaches to deal with nonlinear structure formation, perturbation theory (PT) of large-scale structure is suited for predicting statistical quantities at cosmological scales of our interest [4], and it is particularly relevant for BAO and RSD. Although it is limited to the weakly nonlinear regime, the PT treatment tells us how the nonlinear clustering is developed through the coupling between different Fourier modes in an analytic way, characterized by the so-called (standard) PT kernels. In particular, in the standard cosmological model, the PT kernels are systematically constructed with recursion relations (e.g., Refs. [4–6]), and higher-order corrections to the power spectrum or bispectrum are computed efficiently (e.g., Refs. [7–11]). Further, these PT kernels are applied to several resummed PT calculations recently developed (e.g., Refs. [6,12–20]), with which the applicable range of PT prediction becomes greatly improved.

One important remark in the present PT treatment is, however, that the calculations heavily rely on the analytic

PT kernels constructed with recursion relations. Apart from a few exceptional case including the Einstein–de Sitter universe, the analytic construction of PT kernels is generally intractable. This is even the case for the standard Λ CDM model, in which the mode coupling successively generates a set of higher-order growth functions, and a tractable higher-order calculation needs to be handled by the so-called Einstein–de Sitter approximation (e.g., Refs. [21–23]). Although some of the cases are cured by generalizing the analytic recursion relation [24], more difficult cases arise from the modification of gravity or structure formation. An example is the modified gravity models with the chameleon-type screening mechanisms [25] [e.g., $f(R)$ gravity [26,27]]. In these models, the gravity sector is modified in the presence of a new scalar degree of freedom, coupled with the Poisson equation. The resultant evolution of perturbations are not separately treated in time and scale, and the time evolution of statistical quantities has to be numerically solved (e.g., Ref. [28]).

In order to deal with the PT calculation in an analytically intractable situation, several numerical approaches have been presented (e.g., Refs. [22,23,28–30]). These approaches are basically the moment-based method that numerically solves the time evolution of statistical quantities. The methods particularly rely on a specific resummed PT formalism, and give a statistical prediction in a wider applicable range.

In this paper, rather than computing the statistical quantities directly, we are interested in the numerical scheme to reconstruct the PT kernels, since these are building blocks of various perturbative treatments, and many applications would be possible. We here present a simple numerical method to reconstruct the PT kernels. As an illustration, we consider the structure formation in the $f(R)$ gravity model as well as general relativity (GR), and show several examples

for power spectrum calculations based on both the standard PT and resummed PT treatments.

This paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we begin by briefly reviewing the basic equations for perturbations based on a general framework to deal with a wide class of modified gravity models. Section III then describes the numerical treatment to reconstruct the PT kernels. With a relevant cosmological setup and initial conditions, PT kernels are numerically reconstructed by solving the evolution equations for perturbations. Section IV demonstrates the numerical scheme for PT kernels, and presents several examples for the power spectrum calculation, based on the standard and resummed PT treatment in both GR and $f(R)$ gravity. Finally, Sec. V is devoted to a summary and discussion.

II. BASIC EQUATIONS FOR PERTURBATIONS

In this section, we present a framework to deal with PT calculations of large-scale structure. We are particularly interested in a wide class of structure formation that can differ from the standard Λ CDM model. In this paper, we consider the PT formalism developed in Ref. [28], with which we can describe the structure formation in a variety of modified gravity models that has a nonlinear screening mechanism to recover GR.

On large scales of our interest, where the dynamics of matter fluctuations is approximately described by the single-stream approximation of the collisionless Boltzmann equation, the evolution of the CDM plus baryon system can be regarded as an irrotational and pressureless fluid system. The governing equations for matter fluctuations become

$$\frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{a} \nabla \cdot [(1 + \delta) \mathbf{v}] = 0, \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + H \mathbf{v} + \frac{1}{a} (\mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla) \cdot \mathbf{v} = -\frac{1}{a} \nabla \psi, \quad (2)$$

where ψ is the Newton potential. In modified gravity, the gravity sector relevant for structure formation is generally modified in the presence of a new scalar degree of freedom. In most of the models, this modification can be described by the Brans-Dicke type scalar field, and the Newton potential couples with both the matter and Brans-Dicke scalar. The modified Poisson equation must be solved with the scalar-field equation:

$$\frac{1}{a} \nabla^2 \psi = \frac{\kappa^2}{2} \rho_m \delta - \frac{1}{2a^2} \nabla^2 \varphi, \quad (3)$$

$$(3 + 2\omega_{\text{BD}}) \frac{1}{a^2} \nabla^2 \varphi = -2\kappa^2 \rho_m \delta - \mathcal{I}(\varphi) \quad (4)$$

with $\kappa^2 = 8\pi G$ and ω_{BD} is the Brans-Dicke parameter. Here, we employ the quasistatic approximation, valid at the subhorizon scales. Note that the field φ has a nonlinear

self-interaction term, \mathcal{I} , by which the screening mechanisms that recover GR in the nonlinear regime can be realized. In the PT framework, it is expanded as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}(\varphi) = & M_1(k) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 d^3 \mathbf{k}_2}{(2\pi)^3} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{12}) M_2(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) \varphi(\mathbf{k}_1) \varphi(\mathbf{k}_2) \\ & + \frac{1}{6} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 d^3 \mathbf{k}_2 d^3 \mathbf{k}_3}{(2\pi)^6} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{123}) M_3(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) \\ & \times \varphi(\mathbf{k}_1) \varphi(\mathbf{k}_2) \varphi(\mathbf{k}_3) + \dots \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Here, $\mathbf{k}_{1\dots n} = \mathbf{k}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{k}_n$. The function M_n are in general model dependent, and are explicitly given for a concrete model of modified gravity [28]. In this paper, we will demonstrate our numerical PT treatment described in Sec. III, specifically focusing on GR and $f(R)$ gravity. The functions M_n are then explicitly given by [28]

$$M_n = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{GR} \\ \frac{d^n \bar{R}(f_R)}{df_R^n}, & f(R) \text{gravity} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

with \bar{R} being the background curvature and $f_R \equiv df(R)/dR$. As a successful $f(R)$ gravity model for the late-time cosmology, we consider the specific functional form in the high-curvature limit, given by $f(R) = -2\kappa^2 \rho_\Lambda + |f_{R,0}|(R_0^2/R)$ with R_0 being the background curvature today. This model has been frequently studied in the literature, and with $|f_{R,0}| \ll 1$, the background cosmic expansion becomes nearly identical to the Λ CDM model. In this case, Eq. (6) reduces to $M_n = \{(2n+1)!/(-2|f_{R,0}|)^n\}(\bar{R}/R_0)^{2n}\bar{R}$, and we have $\bar{R} = \kappa^2(\rho_m + 4\rho_\Lambda)$. Below, we set the model parameter $|f_{R,0}|$ to 10^{-4} for illustrative purposes, and present the results.

Equations (1)–(4) are the basic equations for perturbations. In Fourier space, these can be reduced to a more compact form. Assuming the irrotationality of fluid quantities, the velocity field is expressed in terms of a scalar quantity, $\theta = \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}/(aH)$. Then, we have [28],

$$\begin{aligned} H^{-1} \frac{\partial \delta(\mathbf{k})}{\partial t} + \theta(\mathbf{k}) \\ = - \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 d^3 \mathbf{k}_2}{(2\pi)^3} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{12}) \alpha(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) \theta(\mathbf{k}_1) \delta(\mathbf{k}_2), \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} H^{-1} \frac{\partial \theta(\mathbf{k})}{\partial t} + \left\{ 2 + \frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} \right\} \theta(\mathbf{k}) + \frac{\kappa^2 \rho_m}{2H^2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{3} \frac{(k/a)^2}{\Pi(k)} \right\} \delta(\mathbf{k}) \\ = - \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 d^3 \mathbf{k}_2}{(2\pi)^3} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{12}) \beta(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) \theta(\mathbf{k}_1) \theta(\mathbf{k}_2) \\ - \frac{1}{2H^2} \left(\frac{k}{a} \right)^2 S(\mathbf{k}). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Here α and β are the mode-coupling kernels given by

$$\alpha(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) = 1 + \frac{\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2}{|\mathbf{k}_1|^2},$$

$$\beta(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) = \frac{(\mathbf{k}_1 \cdot \mathbf{k}_2)|\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2|^2}{|\mathbf{k}_1|^2|\mathbf{k}_2|^2}.$$

The function Π characterizes the deviation of the Newton constant from GR, while the quantity S is originated from the nonlinear interactions of the scalar field, which

is responsible for the recovery of GR at small scales. The explicit form of these are obtained from the Poisson equation and field equation for the Brans-Dicke scalar [Eqs. (3)–(5)], and the expressions relevant for perturbations up to the third order are respectively given by [28,31]

$$\Pi(k) = \frac{1}{3} \left\{ (3 + 2\omega_{\text{BD}}) \frac{k^2}{a^2} + M_1(k) \right\}, \quad (9)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S(k) = & -\frac{1}{6\Pi(k)} \left(\frac{\kappa^2 \rho_m}{3} \right)^2 \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 d^3 \mathbf{k}_2}{(2\pi)^3} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{12}) M_2(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) \frac{\delta(\mathbf{k}_1) \delta(\mathbf{k}_2)}{\Pi(k_1) \Pi(k_2)} \\ & - \frac{1}{18\Pi(k)} \left(\frac{\kappa^2 \rho_m}{3} \right)^3 \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 d^3 \mathbf{k}_2 d^3 \mathbf{k}_3}{(2\pi)^6} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{123}) \\ & \times \left\{ M_3(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) - \frac{M_2(\mathbf{k}_{12}, \mathbf{k}_3) M_2(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2)}{\Pi(k_{12})} \right\} \frac{\delta(\mathbf{k}_1) \delta(\mathbf{k}_2) \delta(\mathbf{k}_3)}{\Pi(k_1) \Pi(k_2) \Pi(k_3)}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Here, in deriving the last expression, we perturbatively express the scalar field φ in terms of δ using Eqs. (4) and (5) (see Appendix B of Ref. [31] for a derivation).

III. SOLVING PERTURBATION THEORY KERNELS NUMERICALLY

The main goal of the PT calculation is to solve Eqs. (7) and (8) perturbatively, and to apply their perturbative solutions to the statistical predictions of large-scale structure. To start with, let us expand the quantities δ and θ as

$$\delta(\mathbf{k}; t) = \delta^{(1)}(\mathbf{k}; t) + \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{k}; t) + \dots, \quad (11)$$

$$\theta(\mathbf{k}; t) = \theta^{(1)}(\mathbf{k}; t) + \theta^{(2)}(\mathbf{k}; t) + \dots. \quad (12)$$

Our focus here is the evolution of matter fluctuations seeded by a tiny density fluctuation. In this case, the solutions of perturbations are expressed as [32]

$$\begin{aligned} \delta^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}; t) = & \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 \dots d^3 \mathbf{k}_n}{(2\pi)^{3(n-1)}} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{12\dots n}) \\ & \times F_n(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n; t) \delta_0(\mathbf{k}_1) \dots \delta_0(\mathbf{k}_n), \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \theta^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}; t) = & \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}_1 \dots d^3 \mathbf{k}_n}{(2\pi)^{3(n-1)}} \delta_D(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_{12\dots n}) \\ & \times G_n(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n; t) \delta_0(\mathbf{k}_1) \dots \delta_0(\mathbf{k}_n), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where δ_0 is the random initial density fluctuation. The functions F_n and G_n are the so-called standard PT kernels, and in some limited cases, these are analytically constructed with recursion relations [4–6] based on the Einstein–de Sitter approximation, by which all the non-trivial higher-order growth factors are expressed in terms of the linear growth factor. In general structure formation with Eqs. (7), (8), and (10), however, the systematic construction of PT kernels is analytically intractable (see Refs. [28,33] for some attempts in a class of modified gravity models). A typical case is the $f(R)$ gravity, in which the scale and time dependence of the perturbation equations are no longer separable.

In this paper, solving the evolution equations, we consider the numerical construction of PT kernels. Defining the linear operator of the matrix form (here a is the scale factor of the Universe)

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}(k; a) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} a \frac{d}{da} & 1 \\ \frac{3}{2} \left(\frac{H_0}{H(a)} \right)^2 \frac{\Omega_{m0}}{a^3} \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{3} \frac{(k/a)^2}{\Pi(k)} \right\} & a \frac{d}{da} + \left(2 + \frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} \right) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (15)$$

the evolution equations for the kernels F_n and G_n are written as

$$\hat{\mathcal{L}}(k_{1\dots n}; a) \begin{pmatrix} F_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; a) \\ G_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; a) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} S_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; a) \\ T_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; a) \end{pmatrix}. \quad (16)$$

The source functions S_n and T_n represent the nonlinear mode coupling, and are written in terms of the lower-order perturbed quantities. The explicit form of these functions is derived from the basic equations (7), (8), and (10), and we below summarize those up to the third order.

A. Source functions

Obviously, the source function at first order should vanish, since we do not consider any interaction at linear order. We thus have

$$S_1(k; a) = 0, \quad (17)$$

$$T_1(k; a) = 0. \quad (18)$$

At second order, even with the vanishing source terms, the linear-order solution obtained from Eq. (16) naturally induces the nonvanishing source function. From Eqs. (7) and (8), we can read off

$$\begin{aligned} T_3(k_1, k_2, k_3; a) = & -\beta(k_1, k_{23})G_1(k_1)G_2(k_2, k_3) + \frac{1}{6} \left(\frac{k_{123}}{aH(a)} \right)^2 \frac{H_0^4}{\Pi(k_{123})} \left(\frac{\Omega_{m,0}}{a^3} \right)^2 M_2(k_1, k_{23}) \frac{F_1(k_1)F_2(k_2, k_3)}{\Pi(k_1)\Pi(k_{23})} \\ & + \frac{1}{36} \left(\frac{k_{123}}{aH(a)} \right)^2 \frac{H_0^6}{\Pi(k_{123})} \left(\frac{\Omega_{m,0}}{a^3} \right)^3 \left\{ M_3(k_1, k_2, k_3) - \frac{M_2(k_{23}, k_1)M_2(k_2, k_3)}{\Pi(k_{12})} \right\} \frac{F_1(k_1)F_1(k_2)F_1(k_3)}{\Pi(k_1)\Pi(k_2)\Pi(k_3)}. \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Note here that the expressions given above are not fully symmetrized with respect to the exchange of each argument, but are partly symmetric under $k_2 \leftrightarrow k_3$. Thus, the PT kernels numerically constructed with the above source functions need to be properly symmetrized for later analysis in the statistical calculations. Making use of the partial symmetry, the symmetrized kernels are obtained from

$$F_{3,\text{sym}}(k_1, k_2, k_3; a) = \frac{1}{3} \{ F_3(k_1, k_2, k_3; a) + \text{cyclic perm.} \}, \quad (23)$$

$$G_{3,\text{sym}}(k_1, k_2, k_3; a) = \frac{1}{3} \{ G_3(k_1, k_2, k_3; a) + \text{cyclic perm.} \}. \quad (24)$$

B. Initial conditions

We are interested in the structure formation starting with an initial condition consistent with cosmic microwave

$$\begin{aligned} S_2(k_1, k_2; a) = & -\frac{1}{2} \{ \alpha(k_1, k_2)G_1(k_1)F_1(k_2) \\ & + \alpha(k_2, k_1)G_1(k_2)F_1(k_1) \}, \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_2(k_1, k_2; a) = & -\frac{1}{2} \beta(k_1, k_2)G_1(k_1)G_1(k_2)v \\ & + \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{k_{12}}{aH(a)} \right)^2 \frac{H_0^4}{\Pi(k_{12})} \\ & \times \left(\frac{\Omega_{m,0}}{a^3} \right)^2 M_2(k_1, k_2) \frac{F_1(k_1)F_1(k_2)}{\Pi(k_1)\Pi(k_2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

The source functions given above are expressed in a symmetric form, i.e., $S_2(k_1, k_2) = S_2(k_2, k_1)$ and $T_2(k_1, k_2) = T_2(k_2, k_1)$. This implies that numerically solving Eq. (16) with the above source functions automatically gives the symmetrized PT kernel for F_2 and G_2 .

In a similar way, the third-order source functions are read off from the evolution equations to give

$$\begin{aligned} S_3(k_1, k_2, k_3; a) = & -\alpha(k_1, k_{23})G_1(k_1)F_2(k_2, k_3) \\ & - \alpha(k_{23}, k_1)G_2(k_2, k_3)F_1(k_3), \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

background (CMB) observations. In such a case, the Universe at an early epoch would be approximately described by the Einstein–de Sitter universe. The evolution of matter fluctuations is dealt with in linear theory, from which we obtain the growing-mode solution, $F_1 \propto a$ and $G_1 \propto -a$. Since we are also interested in the late-time evolution dominated by the growing mode, as a natural initial condition, we may set

$$F_1(k; a_i) = a_i, \quad G_1(k; a_i) = -a_i, \quad (25)$$

where a_i is the initial scale factor, which we will typically take as $a_i = 10^{-4}$. For the higher-order PT kernels, the initial condition becomes

$$F_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; a_i) = 0, \quad G_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; a_i) = 0. \quad (26)$$

While the initial conditions given above may be the most relevant setup consistent with observations, we can of

course examine the other setup to test the different structure formation scenarios. As an example, we will present the cases with the Zel'dovich initial condition. Note that for statistical calculations, we need to further fix the properties of the initial density field δ_0 in Eqs. (13) and (14). In Sec. IV, we will demonstrate several examples assuming the Gaussianity of δ_0 .

C. Numerical implementation

Given a set of evolution equations and initial conditions for PT kernels, it is straightforward to obtain numerical solutions. Since the evolution equations for each PT kernel are the ordinary differential equations, and in most of the cases these are expressed in a regular and nonsingular form, the standard integrator is sufficient for a precision calculation. We will present below the numerical results based on the Bulirsch-Stoer method (e.g., Ref. [34]).

As will be demonstrated below, we are particularly interested in the power spectrum calculations at next-to-leading order, which are called one-loop. In this case, we need at least kernels up to the third order, for which a specific procedure of the numerical calculation is given as follows. For a given set of wave vectors $(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3)$ [we introduce the shorthand notation $\mathcal{F}_n = (F_n, G_n)$]:

- Solve simultaneously the evolution equations for the kernels, $\mathcal{F}_1(k_i)$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$), $\mathcal{F}_2(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3)$, and $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3)$.
- Repeat (a) to obtain $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3, \mathbf{k}_1)$ and $\mathcal{F}_3(\mathbf{k}_3, \mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2)$.
- Combining the results (a) and (b), evaluate the symmetrized kernel, $\mathcal{F}_{3,\text{sym}}$ through Eq. (23).

Note that the kernels \mathcal{F}_2 are automatically symmetrized with the source terms in Eqs. (19) and (20). The above procedure is applied to many sets of wave vectors used for the mode-coupling (loop) integrals until a sufficient number of kernels are sampled over a wide range of Fourier modes. As we will see in Sec. IV A, thanks to the statistical isotropy, the data size of the PT kernels needed for power spectrum calculations is not actually so large at one-loop order. The second- and third-order kernels are just tabulated as the three-dimensional array, and hence the kernel data for one-loop calculations can be quickly created even without parallel computation.

IV. DEMONSTRATION IN POWER SPECTRUM CALCULATIONS

In this section, the numerical scheme to solve PT kernels presented in Sec. III is demonstrated in the power spectrum calculations, focusing on both GR and $f(R)$ gravity. We first present the results of the standard PT calculation in Sec. IV A. The application of our numerical treatment to the resummed PT calculation is presented in Sec. IV B. As another interesting application, in Sec. IV C, we examine the power spectrum calculations starting with the Zel'dovich initial condition, and quantify the impact of

transients based on the standard PT treatment. Finally, in Sec. IV D, a practical application of our numerical scheme to the modeling of the power spectrum in redshift space is briefly discussed.

In what follows, we assume the Gaussian initial condition, for which the randomness of the initial density field δ_0 is solely characterized by the initial (linear) power spectrum P_0 :

$$\langle \delta_0(\mathbf{k}) \delta_0(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta_D(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') P_0(k). \quad (27)$$

Adopting the flat Λ CDM model, we use the CMB Boltzmann code, CAMB [35], to compute the initial (linear) power spectrum based on the cosmological parameters consistent with nine-year WMAP results [36]: $\Omega_m = 0.281$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.719$, $\Omega_b = 0.0464$, $h = 0.697$, $n_s = 0.971$, $\sigma_8 = 0.851$ (see Ref. [31]).

A. Standard PT

Provided the standard PT kernels up to the third order, the first leading-order corrections called one-loop are computed. Here and in what follows, we abbreviate all the symmetrized kernels $F_{n,\text{sym}}$ to F_n . The power spectrum of the density field or matter power spectrum, $P_{\delta\delta}$, is given by

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\delta\delta}^{\text{SPT}}(k) = & \{F_1(k)\}^2 P_0(k) \\ & + 6F_1(k) \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} F_3(\mathbf{q}, -\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) P_0(q) \\ & + 2 \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3} \{F_2(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})\}^2 P_0(q) P_0(|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}|). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Although the expression apparently involves the three-dimensional integrals, it is known in the GR case that these are reduced to one- and two-dimensional integrals (e.g., Refs. [7,8,10]). Recently, a novel algorithm for fast computation has been proposed [37,38]. In general structure formation scenarios including modified gravity, such a fast algorithm is no longer adequate; however, statistical isotropy still enables us to reduce these integrals to two dimensions, which can be quickly evaluated with standard Gaussian quadrature.

Figure 1 shows the power spectra at $z = 0.5$ (red) and 1 (blue) in GR. The results reconstructed from the numerical PT kernels (solid) are compared with those obtained from the analytic kernels (dotted). In computing the power spectrum from the numerical PT kernels, the kernel data of $F_2(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})$, $F_3(\mathbf{q}, -\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k})$ are first stored in the three-dimensional array (k, q, μ) with 121 bins for wave numbers k and q , and with 15 bins for the directional cosine $\mu = (\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{q}) / (|\mathbf{k}||\mathbf{q}|)$. The wave number k and q are sampled in the range, $[10^{-3}, 10] h \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ on logarithmic scales. With the $121^2 \times 15$ arrays, it typically costs 50–90 seconds on a laptop computer without parallel computation [39]. Then, the stored kernel data F_2 and F_3 are delivered to the

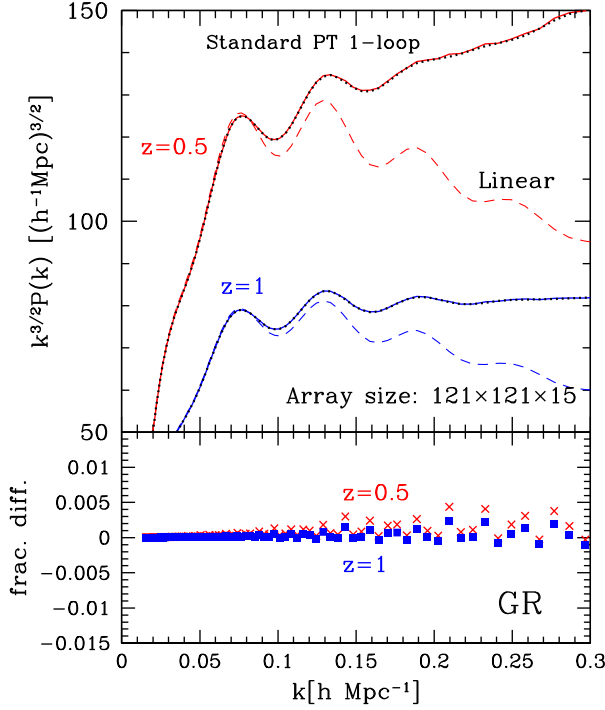


FIG. 1. Matter power spectra at $z = 0.5$ (blue) and $z = 1$ (red) in standard PT calculations. Top: Power spectrum multiplied by $k^{3/2}$. While solid lines are the one-loop power spectra reconstructed from the numerical data of PT kernels, black dotted lines are the analytic PT results based on the Einstein–de Sitter approximation. For comparison, linear theory predictions are depicted as dashed lines. Bottom: Fractional difference of the standard PT results between the numerical approach and the analytic treatment, $P_{\text{num}}^{\text{SPT}}(k)/P_{\text{analytic}}^{\text{SPT}}(k) - 1$.

code to compute Eq. (28), which creates the power spectrum data within typically 10–20 seconds.

The resultant power spectra obtained from the two methods coincide with each other, and are indistinguishable. To see the quantitative difference in detail, the bottom panel of Fig. 1 plots the fractional difference between the two, $[P_{\text{num}}^{\text{SPT}}(k) - P_{\text{analytic}}^{\text{SPT}}(k)]/P_{\text{analytic}}^{\text{SPT}}(k)$, with $P_{\text{num}}^{\text{SPT}}$ and $P_{\text{analytic}}^{\text{SPT}}$ being respectively the power spectra computed with numerical and analytic PT kernels. Within the validity range of the standard PT one loop, which is roughly $k \lesssim 0.1$ and 0.15 at $z = 0.5$ and 1 , the differences are well within 0.1% . Extrapolating the results to higher k , there appears to be a slight systematic increase of the fractional difference. This presumably comes from a small flaw in the power spectrum calculations with analytic PT kernels, for which the Einstein–de Sitter approximation (e.g., Refs. [21–23]) is used to evaluate the higher-order growth factors. Since the systematic deviation arising from this approximation manifests far away from the applicable range of PT, it does not have any impact on the PT calculation at all. Rather, the present numerical scheme is proven to be helpful for a quick check of the analytic PT treatment.

B. Resummed PT calculation

Having confirmed an accurate power spectrum calculation with numerical PT kernels, we demonstrate our method in the resummed PT calculations. The resummed PT scheme considered here is the multipoint propagator expansion proposed in Ref. [17]. The scheme was applied to a practical power spectrum calculation at two-loop order in Refs. [16,20]. Also in the modified gravity case, the one-loop calculation in $f(R)$ gravity was demonstrated in Ref. [31]. In this resummed PT, the multipoint propagators are the building blocks of the systematic PT expansion, which possesses nonperturbative properties that can be obtained in standard PT by summing up an infinite series of PT expansions. A systematic construction of the $(p+1)$ -point propagators, $\Gamma^{(p)}$, is thus the key in the multipoint propagator expansion, and there are methods to accurately construct propagators based on the standard PT kernels.

One proposed method is the regularized PT (RegPT) treatment in Refs. [17,20]. Using the standard PT kernels up to third order, this method enables us to compute the resummed power spectrum at one-loop order:

$$P_{\delta\delta}^{\text{RegPT}}(k) = \{\Gamma_{\text{reg},\delta}^{(1)}(k)\}^2 P_0(k) + 2 \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \{\Gamma_{\text{reg},\delta}^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})\}^2 \times P_0(q) P_0(|\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}|), \quad (29)$$

where the regularized propagators $\Gamma_{\text{reg},a}^{(1)}$ and $\Gamma_{\text{reg},a}^{(2)}$ consistent with the one-loop calculation are respectively given by [31]

$$\Gamma_{\text{reg},\delta}^{(1)}(k) = \left\{ F_1(k) \left(1 + \frac{k^2 \sigma_d^2}{2} \right) + 3 \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} F_3(\mathbf{q}, -\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) P_0(q) \right\} e^{-k^2 \sigma_d^2/2}, \quad (30)$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{reg},\delta}^{(2)}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) = F_2(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) e^{-k^2 \sigma_d^2/2} \quad (31)$$

with the quantity σ_d defined by

$$\sigma_d^2 = \int \frac{dq}{6\pi^2} \{G_1(q)\}^2 P_0(q). \quad (32)$$

Since the integrals involved in the expression are mostly of a form similar to what we saw in Eq. (28), the cost to numerically compute PT kernels as well as to evaluate integrals remains the same as in the standard PT calculations. Thus, the kernel data stored for the standard PT calculation can be directly applied to the RegPT calculation. Note that in modified gravity cases, the exponential damping factor generally receives some corrections associated with the nonlinear screening mechanism, but the impact of this corrections is shown to be negligible in $f(R)$ gravity at the scales of our interest [31].

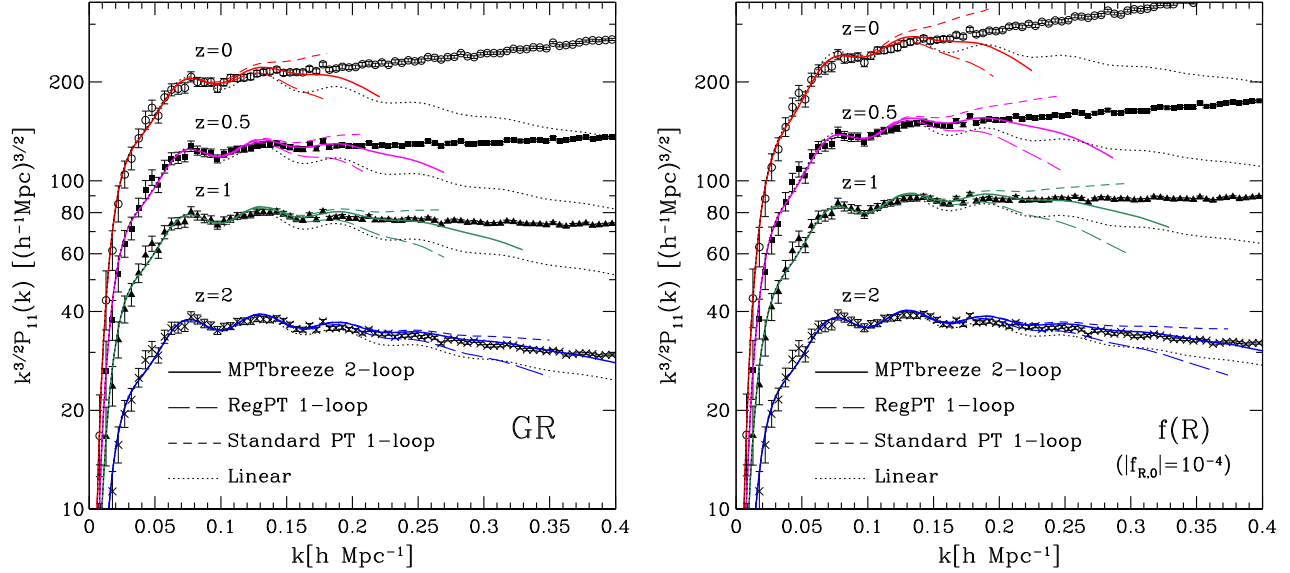


FIG. 2. Matter power spectra in GR (left) and $f(R)$ gravity (right) at $z = 0, 0.5, 1$, and 2 (from top to bottom). Based on the numerically constructed PT kernels up to third order, standard and resummed PT calculations are performed, and the results multiplied by $k^{3/2}$ are compared with N -body simulations taken from Ref. [31]. Long-dashed and short-dashed lines are the one-loop predictions based on RegPT and standard PT, respectively. On the other hand, solid lines represent the results based on the MPTbreeze treatment, which effectively gives two-loop predictions. For reference, the linear theory predictions are depicted as dotted lines.

Figure 2 presents the one-loop power spectra obtained from the RegPT treatment (long-dashed lines) in GR (left) and $f(R)$ gravity (right). The results are compared with standard PT results (short-dashed lines) and linear theory predictions (dotted lines). Here, we also present the power spectra data measured from N -body simulations, which are taken from Ref. [31]. Because of the exponential damping factor in the propagators, a large suppression of the power spectrum appears at relatively low k in the one-loop results, and the agreement with simulation is mostly comparable to that of the standard PT results. Nevertheless, a crucial point is that with the damping behavior, RegPT can capture the major trend of the nonlinear smearing in the acoustic signature of the power spectrum, successfully reproducing quite well the acoustic peak seen in the correlation function. By contrast, standard PT fails to compute the correlation function because of the bad high- k behavior.

As another interesting example, we consider a systematic construction of the propagator in Ref. [16] called MPTbreeze, with which we can develop two-loop calculations using the PT kernels up to third order. The power spectrum of MPTbreeze at two-loop order is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 P_{\delta\delta}^{\text{MPT}}(k) = & \{\Gamma_{\text{MPT},\delta}^{(1)}(k)\}^2 P_0(k) \\
 & + 2 \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \{\Gamma_{\text{MPT},\delta}^{(2)}(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})\}^2 P_0(q) P_0(|\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}|) \\
 & + 6 \int \frac{d^3 p d^3 q}{(2\pi)^6} \{\Gamma_{\text{MPT},\delta}^{(3)}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}-\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{q})\}^2 \\
 & \times P_0(p) P_0(q) P_0(|\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{p}-\mathbf{q}|) \quad (33)
 \end{aligned}$$

with the propagators

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma_{\text{MPT},\delta}^{(n)}(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n) \\
 = F_n(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n) \exp \left[\frac{3 \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} F_3(\mathbf{q}, -\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{k}) P_0(q)}{F_1(k)} \right]. \quad (34)
 \end{aligned}$$

Equation (33) involves the six-dimensional integral, for which we evaluate using the Monte Carlo technique [40,41]. Note that the MPTbreeze treatment with Eqs. (33) and (34) was originally proposed and applied to the power spectrum in the Λ CDM model (i.e., GR). Nevertheless, the propagators constructed with this treatment similarly behave like what is obtained from RegPT, and we may apply MPTbreeze to the power spectrum calculations in modified gravity models.

In Fig. 2, the power spectra obtained from the MPTbreeze treatment are plotted as solid lines. With the two-loop order calculations, the agreement with simulations is improved in both GR and $f(R)$ gravity, and the MPTbreeze results reproduce the power spectrum well in a range wider than RegPT and standard PT. A close look at the BAO feature reveals that the MPTbreeze tends to predict a more pronounced acoustic signal, and slightly over-predicts the simulations (see third peak at $z = 2$ or second bump at $z = 1$). This would be partly due to the incomplete mode-coupling treatment in constructing the multipoint propagators [20]. In particular, compared to the RegPT treatment, the two-point propagators in MPTbreeze, $\Gamma_{\text{MPT}}^{(1)}$, ignore the two-loop corrections, which are known to slightly reduce

the amplitude of propagators [19]. This would be a source of small discrepancy. Despite a small flaw, MPTbreeze outperforms RegPT one-loop, and with the PT kernels up to the third order, it would give an efficient PT prediction beyond one-loop calculations.

C. Transient from the Zel'dovich initial condition

So far, the numerical PT treatment has been performed with the initial conditions dominated by the linear growing-mode solution in Sec. III B. As we mentioned, the present numerical scheme is not only applicable to such a case, but also relevant to general initial conditions. Here, as an interesting example, we examine the power spectrum calculation with the Zel'dovich initial condition.

The Zel'dovich approximation serves as a relevant initial condition close to the one dominated by the linear growing-mode and has been frequently used in the cosmological N -body simulations. However, a small deviation of Zel'dovich dynamics from the growing-mode linear perturbation is known to excite a long-lived transient which can affect the statistical properties of density and velocity fields. The impact of this transient is characterized by the initial redshift z_i , and has been investigated in detail both with simulation and PT in the standard cosmological model (e.g., Refs. [42,43]), although little work has been done in the modified gravity models because of the complexity and time-consuming numerical simulation in the presence of a non-linear scalar field. Here, based on the PT calculations, we shall evaluate the impact of the transient in $f(R)$ gravity, and the results are compared with those obtained in GR.

In the PT treatment, the impact of the Zel'dovich transient on the late-time statistical properties is investigated by replacing the initial condition in Eq. (26) with [42,43]

$$F_n(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n; a_i) = a_i^n \tilde{F}_n^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots; \mathbf{k}_n), \quad (35)$$

$$G_n(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots, \mathbf{k}_n; a_i) = a_i^n \tilde{G}_n^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_1, \dots; \mathbf{k}_n) \quad (36)$$

where the kernels \tilde{F}_n^{ZA} and \tilde{G}_n^{ZA} are the symmetrized PT kernels in the Zel'dovich dynamics, and are explicitly given below up to the third order [9,43]:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}_2^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) &= \frac{1}{4} \{ \alpha(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) + \alpha(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_1) + \beta(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) \}, \\ \tilde{G}_2^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2) &= \frac{1}{2} \beta(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2), \\ \tilde{F}_3^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) &= \frac{1}{9} \{ \alpha(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_{23}) \tilde{F}_2^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) \\ &\quad + \alpha(\mathbf{k}_{23}, \mathbf{k}_1) \tilde{G}_2^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) + 2 \text{ perm} \} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{18} \{ \beta(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_{23}) \tilde{G}_2^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) + 2 \text{ perm} \}, \\ \tilde{G}_3^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) &= \frac{1}{6} \{ \beta(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_{23}) \tilde{G}_2^{\text{ZA}}(\mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3) + 2 \text{ perm} \}. \end{aligned}$$

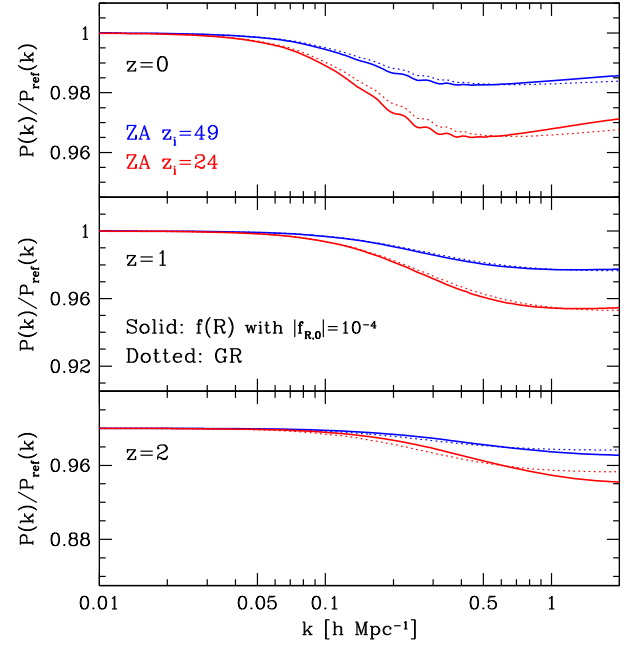


FIG. 3. Impact of transient from the Zel'dovich initial condition on the matter power spectrum. Based on the standard PT calculation at one-loop order, the impact of the transient is estimated with two different initial redshifts (ZA $z_i = 49$ and ZA $z_i = 24$, from top to bottom in each panel). The results are normalized to the reference spectra, $P_{\text{ref}}(k)$, computed with the growing-mode initial condition: $z = 0$ (top), $z = 1$ (middle) and $z = 2$ (bottom). The solid and dotted lines respectively represent the results in $f(R)$ gravity and GR.

Adopting the initial conditions for PT kernels given above, we create the new kernel data, from which we compute the standard PT power spectrum in Eq. (28). The results are then divided by those obtained with the standard growing-mode initial conditions in Sec. III B. Figure 3 plots the output results at $z = 0, 1$ and 2 (from top to bottom). Two different colors indicate the different initial redshifts: $z_i = 24$ (red) and $z_i = 49$ (blue). Solid lines are the results in $f(R)$ gravity, which are compared with those in GR (dotted). Note that despite the differences in cosmological parameters, the results in the GR case remarkably agree with those in Ref. [42] (see dotted lines of their Fig. 6).

Figure 3 implies that the impact of the transients in $f(R)$ gravity is almost at the same level as seen in GR. Since the modification of gravity becomes negligible at higher redshifts and a noticeable difference appears only at $z \lesssim 2$, the results look quite reasonable. Although the standard PT is applicable to a certain narrow range in k , it is shown to quantitatively explain the overall trend of the transients in the GR simulations [42], and we thus expect this to be the case in the results in $f(R)$ gravity. One important implication and/or remark in modified gravity is that the impact of the transients resembles that of the nonlinear screening effect on the power spectrum. Since the screening effect can

affect the power spectrum even at the large scales of our interest (e.g., Refs. [28,44,45]), a precision control of the N -body simulation is rather crucial in modified gravity in order to discriminate the impact of the screening effect from Zel'dovich transients. In this respect, the present PT calculations provide a helpful guideline to investigate this issue.

D. Application to redshift-space distortions

Since the present numerical scheme directly reconstructs the PT kernels as a building block of PT, a number of applications other than those presented is still possible. Here, as a final remark, we comment on the application to the RSD. The effect of RSD is inevitable for spectroscopic measurements of galaxy clustering, and it has to be taken into account for a proper comparison to the observations. The RSD is described simply by the mapping from real to redshift spaces through $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{r} + v_z \hat{\mathbf{z}}/(aH)$, where the vectors \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{s} respectively indicate the real- and redshift-space positions, v_z is the line-of-sight component of the peculiar velocity, and $\hat{\mathbf{z}}$ is the unit vector parallel to the line-of-sight direction. Despite its concise expression, modeling the RSD effect on the power spectrum is nontrivial due to the nonlinear nature of the mapping formula, and both the non-Gaussianity and cross-talk with small-scale clustering need to be incorporated into a model of RSD in a proper manner.

Among various improved RSD models recently proposed, one PT-based model of the redshift-space power spectrum is given by [46–48]

$$P^{(S)}(k, \mu) = e^{-(k\mu\sigma_v)^2} \{P_{\delta\delta}(k) + 2\mu^2 P_{\delta\theta}(k) + \mu^4 P_{\theta\theta}(k) + A(k, \mu) + B(k, \mu)\}, \quad (37)$$

where μ is the directional cosine defined by $\mu = \mathbf{k} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{z}}/|\mathbf{k}|$, and σ_v is a free parameter accounting for the nonperturbative suppression due to the coherent and small-scale virialized motions. In the parentheses, while the first three terms represent the nonlinear generalization of the Kaiser term (e.g., Refs. [49–51]), the A and B terms are the next-to-leading-order corrections coming from the systematic expansion of the exact power spectrum expression, and are expressed as the integrals of the bispectra and the square of the power spectra (see Refs. [46–48] for explicit expressions). The model given in Eq. (37) has been tested in both GR and $f(R)$ gravity [31,46–48,52–54], and applied to the observations to simultaneously constrain geometric distances and the growth of structure [55–57].

In a similar manner to the real-space power spectrum, provided the kernels up to the third order, we can evaluate Eq. (37) at one-loop order [58]. In Ref. [59], based on Eq. (37), the numerical PT treatment was applied to the computation of the redshift-space correlation function in $f(R)$ gravity. Applying it to the anisotropic galaxy

clustering data, a robust constraint on the model parameter, $|f_{R,0}|$, was obtained. We do not repeat the PT calculations, but we note here that Eq. (37) does not assume any underlying theory of gravity, and can be applied to any modified gravity theory (see Bose and Koyama [60] for application). With the present PT scheme, we uncover a variety of modified gravity models and will be able to perform a specific but more severe test of gravity beyond the consistency test of GR.

V. SUMMARY

In this paper, we presented a simple but powerful scheme to compute the perturbation theory (PT) kernels in general structure formation scenarios including modified gravity. The approach may be primitive, but it has versatile applicability to the statistical calculations of large-scale structure in the weakly nonlinear regime. With the numerically reconstructed kernels up to the third order, we demonstrated the power spectrum calculations in both GR and $f(R)$ gravity based on the standard PT and resummed PT. With the MPTbreeze prescription, one can even perform a two-loop calculation, with which the prediction in a wider applicable range is made available. Further, with the numerical kernels starting with Zel'dovich initial conditions, the impact of transients on the matter power spectrum has been examined in $f(R)$ gravity. With the help of a model of redshift-space distortions, the present scheme can be also applied to the calculation of the redshift-space power spectrum or correlation function as practical observables, and we commented on the cosmological analysis based on the numerical PT kernels.

Although the demonstrations presented here restrict the cases using PT kernels up to the third order, a reconstruction of higher-order PT kernels should be straightforward in principle, and implementing the parallel computation scheme, a much faster PT calculation will be made possible, further enlarging the applicability of the present method. This paper described the numerical treatment focusing on the evolution equations of the PT kernels with a specific linear operator [Eqs. (15) and (16)]. But the methodology itself is quite general, and one can also apply it to other types of evolution equations with different linear operators. The methodology might be useful to investigate an improved description of large-scale structure beyond the single-stream approximation.

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