

Exploring stability of $f(Q)$ cosmology near general relativity limit with different connections

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May 25-29, 2026, Sofia, Bulgaria

May 28, 2026

Motivation

- Dark matter, dark energy
- Inflation
- H_0 tension, S_8 tension

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Nonmetricity tensor:

$$Q_{\rho\mu\nu} \equiv \nabla_{\rho} g_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\rho} g_{\mu\nu} - \tilde{\Gamma}^{\beta}_{\mu\rho} g_{\beta\nu} - \tilde{\Gamma}^{\beta}_{\nu\rho} g_{\mu\beta}. \quad (2)$$

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Observation

The extra function in set 2 doesn't take the role of dark energy and dark matter; instead, it introduces additional dynamics into the equations of motion.

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How does the additional function influence the background dynamics near the General Relativity limit, and does it indicate any sign of background instability?

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Stability analysis

A stability analysis is conducted approximating the equation of motion near the general relativity limit

$$\begin{aligned} Q(t) &= Q_*(t) + q(t), & H(t) &= H_*(t) + h(t), \\ \gamma(t) &= \gamma_*(t) + g(t), & \rho(t) &= \rho_*(t) + r(t). \end{aligned}$$

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Result of connection set 1

All perturbations smoothly approach the General Relativity limit, and a single model function accounts for all cosmic epochs of the Universe.

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Connection set 2

From the connection equation: $\ln \left(F_{QQ}^*(t) \dot{Q}_*(t) \right) = -3 \int H_*(t) dt.$

In matter dominated epoch,
and the model function

$$\begin{aligned} h(t) &\sim \frac{1}{t^2}, \quad r(t) \sim \frac{1}{t^3}, \quad g(t) \sim c_1, \\ F(Q) &= \alpha Q + \beta Q^2 \end{aligned}$$

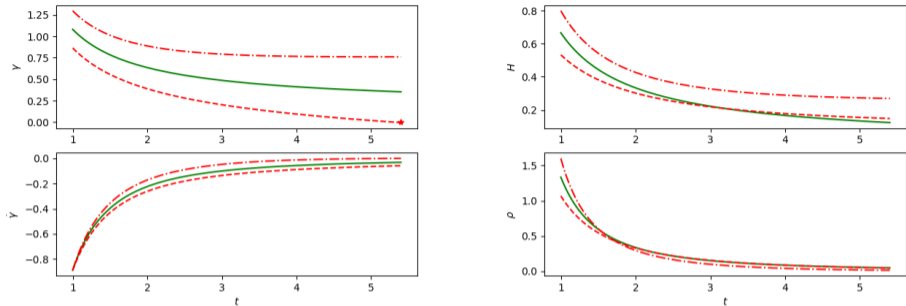


Figure: Numerical solutions of the set 2 system for the model function (??) with $\alpha = 1$, $\beta = 1$, $\kappa = 1$. The green solid curves depict the matter dominated solution with initial conditions matching general relativity ($t = 1$, $H = 0.666$, $\rho = 1.333$, $\gamma = 1.081$, $\dot{\gamma} = -0.888$), while the red dashed curves depict slightly perturbed configurations (of $\gamma = 1.281$ and $\gamma = 0.881$ instead). The latter solution hits a singularity by reaching $\gamma = 0$ at about $t = 5$, indicated by a star symbol.

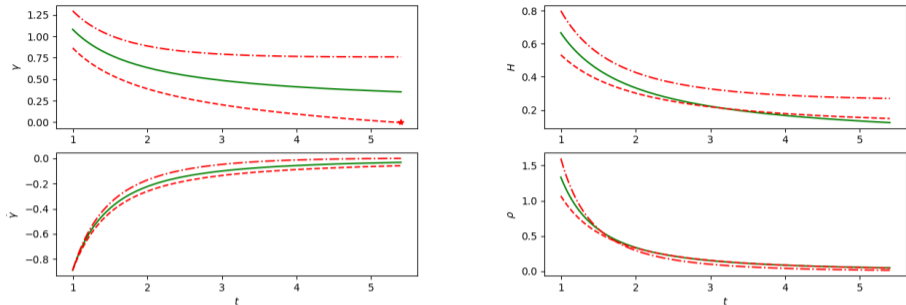


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Conclusion

- Alternative connections are problematic already at the background level and obstruct a smooth GR limit.
- Unlike set 1, a single $f(Q)$ model cannot reproduce all cosmic epochs of the Universe; different epochs require different model choices, with stability guaranteed only during the radiation-dominated era.

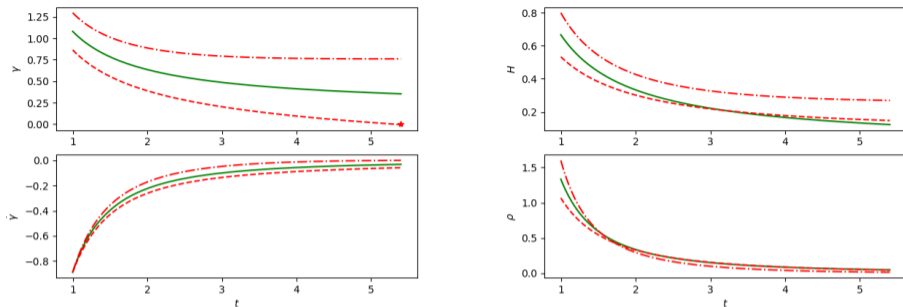


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Publication details: arXiv: 2406.11621

