abstract Recently, corrections to Einstein-Hilbert action that become important at small curvature are proposed. We discuss the first order and second order approximations to the field equations derived by the Palatini variational principle. We work out the first and second order Modified Friedmann equations and present the upper redshift bounds when these approximations are valid. We show that the second order effects can be neglected on the cosmological predictions involving only the Hubble parameter itself, e.g. the various cosmological distances, but the second order effects can not be neglected in the predictions involving the derivatives of the Hubble parameter. Furthermore, the Modified Friedmann equations fit the SNe Ia data at an acceptable level.

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