



Galaxy Clustering in Early SDSS Redshift Data

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ABSTRACT

We present the first measurements of clustering in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) galaxy redshift survey. Our sample consists of 29,300 galaxies with redshifts $5,700 \text{ km s}^{-1} \leq cz \leq 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, distributed in several long but narrow ($2.5 - 5^\circ$) segments, covering 690 square degrees. For the full, flux-limited sample, the redshift-space correlation length is approximately $8 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. The two-dimensional correlation function $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ shows clear signatures of both the small-scale, “fingers-of-God” distortion caused by velocity dispersions in collapsed objects and the large-scale compression caused by coherent flows, though the latter cannot be measured with high precision in the present sample. The inferred real space correlation function is well described by a power law, $\xi(r) = (r/6.1 \pm 0.2 h^{-1} \text{Mpc})^{-1.75 \pm 0.03}$, for $0.1 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} \leq r \leq 16 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. The galaxy pairwise velocity dispersion is $\sigma_{12} \approx 600 \pm 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for projected separations $0.15 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} \leq r_p \leq 5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. When we divide the sample by color, the red galaxies exhibit a stronger and steeper real space correlation function and a higher pairwise velocity dispersion than do the blue galaxies. The relative behavior of subsamples defined by high/low profile concentration or high/low surface brightness is qualitatively similar to that of the red/blue subsamples. Our most striking result is a clear measurement of scale-independent luminosity bias at $r \lesssim 10 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$: subsamples with absolute magnitude ranges centered on $M_* - 1.5$, M_* , and $M_* + 1.5$ have real space correlation functions that are parallel power laws of slope ≈ -1.8 with correlation lengths of approximately $7.4 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, $6.3 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, and $4.7 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, respectively.

Subject headings: Cosmology: observations — cosmology: theory — dark matter — galaxies: clustering — galaxies: distances and redshifts — large-scale structure of universe

1. Introduction

The primary observational goals of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) are to image 10,000 square degrees of the North Galactic Cap in five passbands, with an r' limiting magnitude of 22.5, to obtain spectroscopic redshifts of 10^6 galaxies and 10^5 quasars, and to obtain similar data for three ~ 200 square degree stripes in the South Galactic Cap, with repeated imaging to enable co-addition and variability studies in one of these stripes (York et al. 2000). One of the principal scientific objectives is to map the large-scale structure traced by optical galaxies with unprecedented precision over a wide range of scales. These measurements of large-scale structure will allow critical tests of cosmological models and theories of galaxy formation. This paper presents the first measurements of galaxy clustering from the SDSS redshift survey, based on a sample of $\sim 30,000$ galaxies observed during commissioning operations and during the first few months of the survey proper. Complementary studies of the angular clustering of galaxies in the SDSS imaging survey

appear in Connolly et al. (2001) and Tegmark et al. (2001), and the implications of these measurements for the 3-D galaxy power spectrum are discussed by Dodelson et al. (2001) and Szalay et al. (2001). Scranton et al. (2001) examine many possible systematic effects on the angular clustering measurements and conclude that they are small; these tests and conclusions are also relevant to the analyses of the redshift survey carried out here.

The redshift-space clustering of galaxies has been a central concern of observational cosmology since the early studies of Gregory & Thompson (1978) and Joeveer & Einasto (1978). Milestones in this effort include: the first CfA redshift survey (Huchra et al. 1983), which mapped ~ 2400 galaxies selected from the Zwicky et al. (1968) catalog over 2.7 sr of sky to a magnitude limit of $m_{Zw} = 14.5$; redshift surveys to similar depth in other areas of sky such as the Southern Sky Redshift Survey (da Costa et al. 1991) and the Optical Redshift Survey (Santiago et al. 1995); sparsely sampled surveys of optically selected galaxies to $B \approx 17$ (the Stromlo-APM Redshift Survey, Loveday et al. 1996; the Durham/UKST Redshift Survey, Ratcliffe et al. 1998); the second CfA redshift survey (de Lapparent, Geller, & Huchra 1986; Geller & Huchra 1989), with a magnitude limit of $m_{Zw} = 15.5$ and an eventual total of $\sim 13,000$ galaxies in the “Updated Zwicky Catalog” (Falco et al. 1999); a similar extension of the Southern Sky Redshift Survey (da Costa et al. 1998); redshift surveys of IRAS-selected galaxies to successively deeper flux limits of 2 Jy (Strauss et al. 1992), 1.2 Jy (Fisher et al. 1995), and 0.6 Jy (the sparsely sampled QDOT survey, Lawrence et al. 1999; the PSCz survey of $\sim 15,000$ galaxies, Saunders et al. 2001); the deep slice surveys of Vettolani et al. (1998; ~ 3300 galaxies to $b_J = 19.4$) and Geller et al. (1997; ~ 1800 galaxies to $R = 16.13$); and the Las Campanas Redshift Survey (LCRS; Shectman et al. 1996), which mapped $\sim 24,000$ galaxies in six thin ($1.5^\circ \times 90^\circ$) slices at a depth $R \approx 18$. The current state-of-the-art is represented by Peacock et al. (2001) and Percival et al.’s (2001) studies of redshift-space clustering in a sample of $\sim 140,000$ galaxies from the ongoing 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey. The sample that we analyze here is most similar to the LCRS, with slightly more galaxies but a comparable depth and thin-slice geometry.

Two factors that complicate and enrich the interpretation of galaxy clustering in redshift surveys are the distortions of structure induced by peculiar velocities and the possibility that galaxies are “biased” tracers of the underlying matter distribution. On small scales, velocity dispersions in collapsed objects (a.k.a. “fingers-of-God”) smear out structures along the line of sight, effectively convolving the real space correlation function with the galaxy pairwise velocity distribution (see, *e.g.*, Davis & Peebles 1983). On large scales, coherent flows into high density regions and out from low density regions enhance structures along the line of sight (Sargent & Turner 1977; Kaiser 1987; Hamilton 1998). Because the underlying clustering pattern should be statistically isotropic, the apparent anisotropy induced by redshift-space distortions yields constraints on the distribution of peculiar velocities, which can in turn yield constraints on the matter density parameter Ω_m . With our current galaxy sample, we clearly detect the signature of both the small-scale, “fingers-of-God” suppression and the large-scale, coherent flow amplification. However, we are not yet able to measure the latter effect with high precision, so we defer a detailed examination of Ω_m constraints (and

comparison to Peacock et al. 2001) to a future analysis of a larger sample.

The notion that the optical galaxy population might give a systematically “biased” picture of matter clustering came to the fore in the mid-1980s, largely in an effort to reconcile the predictions of $\Omega_m = 1$ inflationary models with observations (Davis et al. 1985; Bardeen et al. 1986; Melott & Fry 1986; Bahcall & Soneira 1983; Kaiser 1984). There are now numerous arguments in favor of a low- Ω_m universe, but theoretical models of galaxy formation, the well known dependence of observed galaxy clustering on morphological type (*e.g.*, Hubble 1936; Zwicky 1937; Abell 1958; Davis & Geller 1976; Dressler 1980; Guzzo et al. 1997), and more recent evidence for dependence of clustering on luminosity (*e.g.*, Hamilton 1988; White, Tully, & Davis 1988; Park et al. 1994; Loveday et al. 1995; Benoist et al. 1998; Willmer, da Costa, & Pellegrini 1998) all imply that galaxies cannot be perfect tracers of the underlying matter distribution. Advances in hydrodynamic cosmological simulations, high-resolution N-body simulations, and semi-analytic methods now allow detailed *a priori* predictions of bias for physically motivated models of galaxy formation (*e.g.*, Cen & Ostriker 1992; Katz, Hernquist, & Weinberg 1992; Benson et al. 1999; Blanton et al. 1999; Colín et al. 1999; Kauffman et al. 1999; Pearce et al. 1999; White, Hernquist, & Springel 2001; Yoshikawa et al. 2001). Empirical constraints on bias can therefore provide tests of galaxy formation theories and guidance to physical ingredients that may be missing from current models. The SDSS is ideally suited to the empirical study of bias because of the high sampling density and the detailed photometric and spectroscopic information available for every galaxy. We begin the effort here, by examining the dependence of the real-space correlation function and redshift-space distortions on galaxy color, luminosity, surface brightness, and light profile concentration.

The next Section describes the data sample used for the clustering analysis. Section 3 describes our methods for estimating the correlation function, including technical issues such as sampling corrections and the effects of the minimum fiber spacing in the spectroscopic observations. Section 4 presents the clustering results for the full, flux-limited galaxy sample. Section 5 examines the clustering of subsamples defined by color, luminosity, and other galaxy properties. We summarize our results in Section 6. A discussion of our jackknife error estimation procedure, and comparison of this procedure to results from mock redshift catalogs, appears in Appendix A. About half of the galaxies in our sample are in the SDSS Early Data Release.²⁷ To aid researchers attempting to reproduce and extend our results, we present the redshift space correlation function for this subset of the data in Appendix B. Throughout the paper, absolute magnitudes quoted for galaxies assume $H_0 = 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

²⁷See <http://archive.stsci.edu/sdss/> and the technical description in Stoughton et al. (2001).

2. Data

2.1. Description of the Survey

The SDSS (York et al. 2000) is producing an imaging and spectroscopic survey over π steradians in the Northern Galactic Cap. A dedicated 2.5m telescope (Siegmund et al. 2001) at Apache Point Observatory, Sunspot, New Mexico, images the sky in five bands between 3,000 and 10,000 Å (u' , g' , r' , i' , z' ; Fukugita et al. 1996) using a drift-scanning, mosaic CCD camera (Gunn et al. 1998), detecting objects to a flux limit of $r' \approx 22.5$. Approximately 900,000 galaxies (down to $r'_{\text{lim}} \approx 17.77$; Strauss et al. 2001), 100,000 Luminous Red Galaxies (LRGs; Eisenstein et al. 2001), and 100,000 quasars (Richards et al. 2001) are targeted for spectroscopic follow up using two double fiber-fed spectrographs on the same telescope. Most of the essential technical details are summarized in a paper that accompanies the SDSS Early Data Release (Stoughton et al. 2001).

As of June 2001, the SDSS has imaged around 2,500 square degrees of sky and taken spectra of approximately 140,000 objects. We use a subset of these data here to calculate the correlation function of galaxies, confining our attention to regions where the data reductions and calibration have been carefully checked and the spectroscopic completeness is well understood.

2.2. Imaging and Spectroscopic Pipelines

As described by Stoughton et al. (2001), the imaging data are processed by astrometric (Pier et al. 2001) and photometric (Lupton et al. 2001ab) pipelines and calibrated relative to a set of standard stars (Tucker et al. 2001). Targets are selected by a target selection pipeline (Vanden Berk et al. 2001), and plates for spectroscopic observations are drilled based on the results of a tiling pipeline (Blanton et al. 2001b). After the spectra are observed, the spectroscopic pipeline then reduces, calibrates, and classifies the spectra and determines redshifts.

The photometric pipeline (Lupton et al. 2001b) detects objects and measures their properties in all five bands. Most relevant here are the Petrosian magnitude m_P , the radius r_{50} containing 50% of the Petrosian flux, and the radius r_{90} containing 90% of the Petrosian flux. The details of SDSS Petrosian magnitudes, a modified form of those introduced by Petrosian (1976), are described in a number of references and will not be repeated here, except to say that they are designed to measure a constant (and large) fraction of a galaxy’s total light, independent of redshift or central surface brightness but (slightly) dependent on light-profile shape (Blanton et al. 2001a; Lupton et al. 2001b; Strauss et al. 2001; Stoughton et al. 2001; Yasuda et al. 2001). The radii r_{50} and r_{90} , which we use below to quantify galaxies’ surface brightnesses and morphologies, are not corrected for seeing. However, such corrections would be small since most of the galaxies in this sample are relatively large ($r_{50} > 2''$; Blanton et al. 2001a), and the seeing conditions for the imaging are generally good (FWHM $\lesssim 1.5''$).

The calibration is performed relative to standard stars as described in York et al. (2000), Tucker

et al. (2001) and Stoughton et al. (2001). Calibration is a three-tiered system in which “secondary standards” that are not saturated in the 2.5m imaging camera are used to calibrate the imaging data. These secondary standards are themselves calibrated relative to a set of “primary standards” using a 0.5m photometric telescope (PT; Uomoto et al. 2001). These primary standards have been calibrated relative to the fundamental standard BD +17°4708 by the United States Naval Observatory 1m telescope. The calibrations used here are not fully validated, though they are thought to be accurate to within 5%. Because of this remaining uncertainty, object magnitudes are referred to in this paper and others based on early SDSS data as u^* , g^* , r^* , i^* , and z^* .

The target selection pipeline (Vanden Berk et al. 2001) determines which objects from the imaging survey are spectroscopic targets. We concentrate here on the “Main Sample” galaxies in the SDSS, which are selected using the criteria detailed by Strauss et al. (2001). The essential selection criteria for this sample are the star/galaxy separator, the surface-brightness limit, and the flux limit. The star/galaxy separation is based on a comparison of the flux f_{PSF} of the object measured through a PSF aperture to the flux f_{model} estimated using a best-fit model to the galaxy profile (choosing the better of pure exponential and de Vaucouleurs profiles). This method is known to be an extremely efficient and reliable separator at the magnitudes appropriate for the spectroscopic sample (Lupton et al. 2001b). We find that 98% of objects targeted as main sample galaxies indeed turn out to be galaxies. The major contaminant is double stars with separations less than $2''$.

The surface-brightness limit is based on the Petrosian half-light surface brightness in r^* . For some parts of the sample used here, obtained during commissioning observations, the surface-brightness limit is $\mu_{1/2} = 23.5 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$, but for most of the sample it is $\mu_{1/2} = 24.5 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$. Because we will use relatively luminous galaxies to trace the density field here, the positive correlation between surface brightness and luminosity (Blanton et al. 2001a) guarantees that the surface-brightness limit will be unimportant.

The flux limit of the spectroscopic survey is approximately $r^* = 17.77$, after correction for Galactic reddening using the maps of Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998). The limit varies somewhat over the area of our sample, as the target selection criteria changed during the commissioning phase of the survey, when much of these data were taken. We will cut back to a uniform flux limit of $r^* = 17.6$ for our current analysis. In addition, there is a bright limit imposed on the flux in a 3-arcsecond diameter aperture (the entrance aperture of a spectroscopic fiber) of $m_{\text{fiber}} > 15$ in g^* , r^* and $m_{\text{fiber}} > 14.5$ in i^* , in order to avoid saturation and cross-talk between fibers in the spectrograph.

The reliability of the galaxy target selection is very high; galaxy target selection results for two imaging runs over the same patch of sky agree for 95% of the objects; the differences are attributable to small, random magnitude errors shifting objects across the flux limit (Strauss et al. 2001).

The tiling pipeline (Blanton et al. 2001b) positions spectroscopic tiles and assigns fibers to

targets. The most important constraint is imposed by the size of the fiber plugs, which dictates that two fibers cannot be placed closer than $55''$ to each other. If the spectroscopic tiles did not overlap, this would mean that about 10% of the objects would be unobservable. We define the maximal subset of objects that do not collide with each other this way as the “decollided” set of objects. It is this set of objects for which we desire high completeness. Because the tiles are circular, about 30% of the sky is actually covered by more than a single tile; in these regions, many of the objects lost due to collisions (hereafter known as “collided” objects) can be recovered. Note, however, that the tiles are positioned such that there are more tiles in dense areas of sky; thus, the regions covered by tile overlaps tend to be 5–10% overdense compared to average. We will describe in Section 3 how we handle objects whose redshifts are missing due to fiber collisions.

Finally, the spectroscopic pipeline extracts, analyzes, and classifies the spectra, determining the spectral type, redshift, and other spectral information for each target. The success rate for classifying spectra and determining redshifts correctly is very high ($> 99\%$) for main sample galaxy targets, based on a subsample of $\sim 20,000$ spectra examined by eye. The spectroscopic pipeline assigns an empirically calibrated confidence level to the redshift determination for each object; cutting out main sample galaxy redshifts with low confidence ($CL < 75\%$) removes only 0.7% of the objects from the sample, with a negligible effect on the clustering results below.

2.3. Determining Positions, Luminosities, and Rest-frame Colors

The redshift of a galaxy is not a linear measure of an object’s distance at the moderate redshifts probed here (median $z \sim 0.1$), and the comoving distance of an object depends somewhat on the cosmology assumed. Throughout this paper, we assume a Friedmann-Lemaître metric with $\Omega_m = 0.3$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$. When we plot correlation functions versus separation, we are always referring to the comoving separation, transformed from km s^{-1} separations using the standard formulas as tabulated in, for example, Hogg (1999).

We also must account for cosmological effects when calculating the absolute magnitudes from the apparent magnitude and the redshift using the formula

$$M = m - DM(z) - K(z) + 5 \log_{10} h, \quad (1)$$

where $DM(z)$ is the bolometric distance modulus for the cosmology in question (again, see Hogg 1999), $K(z)$ is the K -correction, and the Hubble constant is $H_0 = 100h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. Throughout this paper, we use $h = 1$ to compute absolute magnitudes, and we quote distances in $h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$.

The K -correction is necessary to account for the fact that the system response in the observed frame corresponds to a narrower, bluer rest-frame passband, depending on the redshift of the observed object. In order to make an estimate of the K -correction, it is therefore necessary to have an estimate of the spectral energy distribution (SED) of each object. We can make a good estimate based on the five-band photometry provided by SDSS. For each object, we find the linear

combination of the four SED templates of Coleman, Wu, & Weedman (1980), as extended in the red and blue by Bolzonella, Miralles & Pelló (2000), which best fits the photometry. We use the resulting SED to estimate the K -corrections, assuming no evolution of the SED. This method is similar to simply interpolating between passbands to infer a rest-frame flux, while also taking advantage of what astronomers know already about galaxy SEDs. These K -corrections are also useful to determine the rest-frame colors of objects from their observed colors. The details of our procedure, which are based on the photometric redshift methods of Csabai et al. (2000), will be described in a forthcoming paper.

2.4. Description of the Sample

Figure 1 shows the angular distribution of the resulting sample in Galactic coordinates. The area covered is approximately 690 square degrees (comparable to the sky coverage of the LCRS survey), or about 7% of the area that will eventually be covered by the survey; in this area, we have selected $\approx 30,000$ galaxies for our sample, as explained in the following paragraphs. Figure 2 shows the distribution in right ascension and redshift of galaxies near the Celestial Equator ($|\delta| < 5^\circ$).

Even though some regions of the survey are currently complete to $r^* < 17.77$ (dereddened, using Schlegel et al. 1998), others are complete only to $r^* < 17.6$, and for simplicity we have pared back our sample to this constant flux limit. In addition, we have imposed a bright limit of $r^* > 14.5$ because at the bright end we are limited by the bright spectroscopic limits (the 3-arcsecond aperture magnitude limit of $r^* > 15$ imposed to prevent saturation and cross-talk of fibers in the spectrograph) and by the quality of deblending of large galaxies in the version of the photometric pipelines used for targeting many of these galaxies. These flux limits reduce the number of targets we consider by about 10%.

We limit this work to a fairly small range in redshift, $5,700 \text{ km s}^{-1} < cz < 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, even though the sample includes additional galaxies at higher redshift. We do so primarily because it is clear that galaxy evolution within the full range of redshifts (which extends to about $80,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) is important, and at the time of this work there was not yet an adequate model of this evolution to allow proper calculation of the radial selection function. Working at low redshift primarily limits our estimate of the large-scale clustering; however, the thrust of this work is the small-scale clustering of galaxies. Much larger-area samples of SDSS galaxies will soon be available, as well as good models of the evolution of the luminosity function, and much better estimates of the large-scale clustering will come from these samples. The outer redshift cut is the most costly of our imposed limits, eliminating 30% of the objects available after the above flux limits have been imposed.

We wish to study the clustering of relatively luminous galaxies near the exponential cutoff in the luminosity function at M_* . For most of the work below, we therefore impose absolute magnitude limits of $-22 < M_{r^*} - 5 \log_{10} h < -19$, which roughly brackets the value $M_* = -20.8$ determined for the SDSS (Blanton et al. 2001a). These absolute magnitude limits exclude another 15% of the

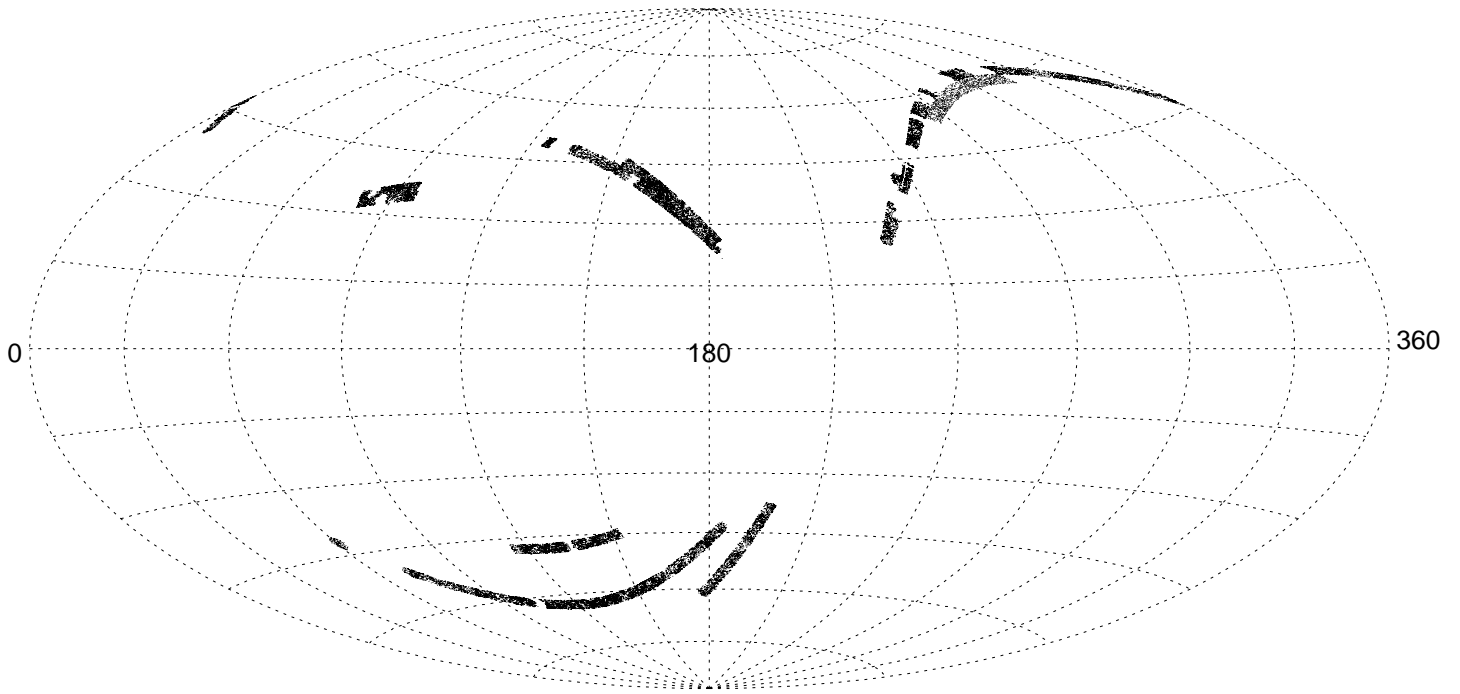


Fig. 1.— Aitoff projection of our galaxy sample in Galactic coordinates.

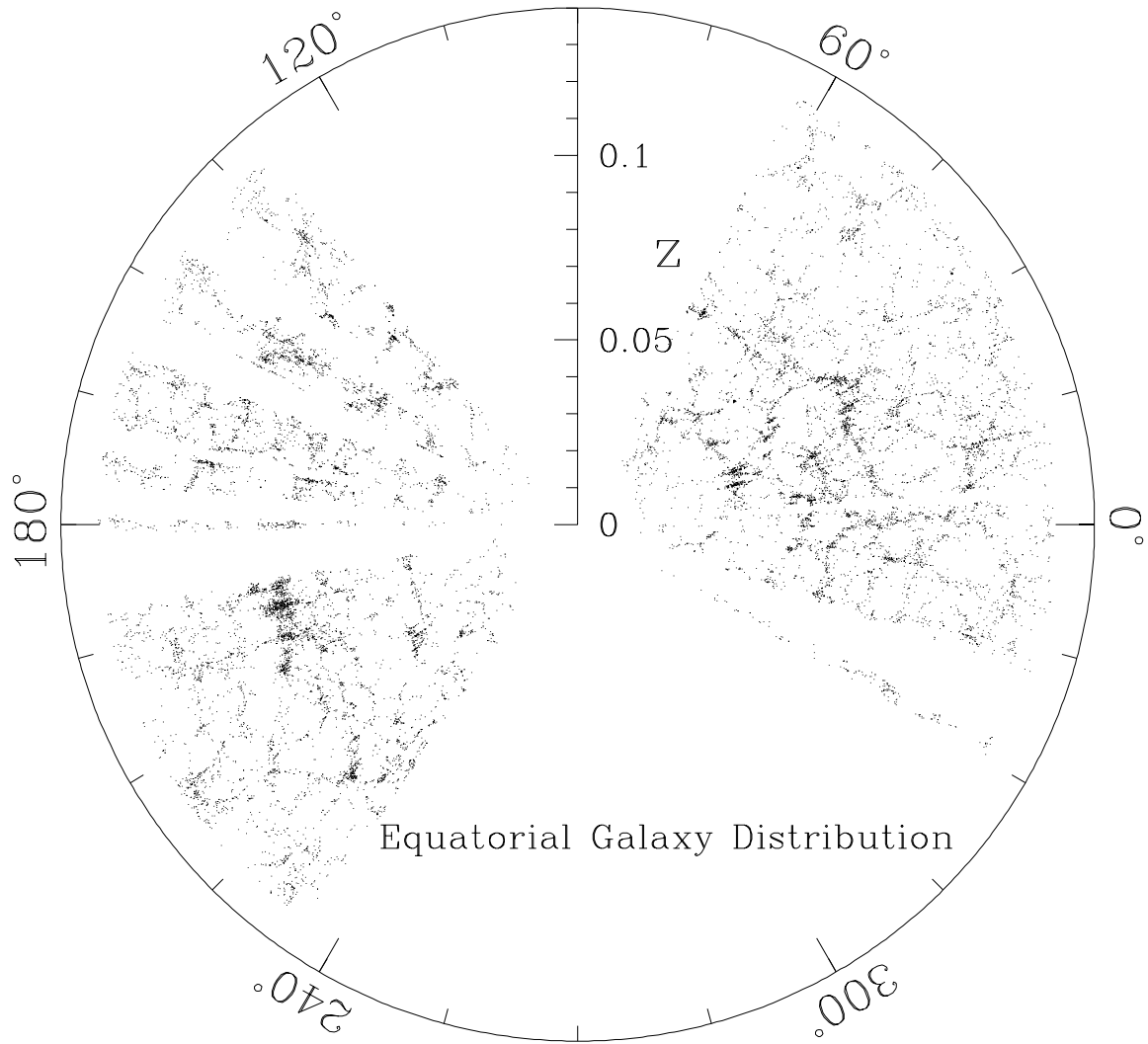


Fig. 2.— Pie-diagram distribution for the equatorial part of our sample. The plot includes 16,300 galaxies that lie within $|\delta| < 5^\circ$ of the Celestial Equator.

objects (after the redshift and flux cuts are imposed), leaving us with our canonical sample of 29,300 galaxies. We will use slightly different cuts to define volume limited samples of different luminosity ranges below. Finally, we will compare below the clustering of several different types of galaxies, defined by color, surface brightness, and morphology, describing in the appropriate sections how those subsamples of the canonical sample are defined.

3. Measuring the Correlation Function

Before measuring the correlation function, we need to determine how to treat the fiber collisions and how to properly correct for angular and radial selection effects. We first detail how we account for these issues, then describe our estimators for the correlation function and its errors.

3.1. Accounting for Fiber Collisions

One of the important observational constraints in the SDSS is that no two fibers on the same plate can be closer than $55''$. Thus, redshifts for both members of a close galaxy pair can only be obtained in regions where tiles overlap.

If we took no account of fiber collisions at all, then we would systematically underestimate correlations even on large scales because collisions occur more often in overdense regions such as clusters, which have enhanced large-scale clustering for the reasons discussed by, *e.g.*, Kaiser (1984). A simple way to correct this bias is to double-weight the member of each pair that *was* observed, since its *a priori* selection probability was 50%. Here we adopt a variant of the double-weighting procedure, assigning each galaxy whose redshift was not obtained because of a fiber collision the same redshift as its closest (angular) neighbor. On large scales, where both members of the pair contribute to the same separation bin, the effect is the same as double weighting, but our procedure should perform somewhat better on small scales because it retains information about the known angular positions of the collided galaxies. Some of the galaxy targets are not assigned fibers due to collisions with QSOs or LRGs; in these cases, no redshift is assigned, and the galaxy is treated as if the fiber simply did not measure a redshift successfully, as described in the next subsection.

At $cz = 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, the outer edge of our sample, $55''$ corresponds to a comoving transverse separation of $0.1 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. Fiber collisions will have a significant effect on correlation function estimates below this scale, and in this paper we will restrict our measurements to separations $> 0.1 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, so as to avoid the artificial increase of pairs with very small separations. Because two collided galaxies also have a line-of-sight separation, the collisions can in principle affect our estimate of the correlation function out to somewhat larger scales, but we show below that these effects are probably smaller than our statistical uncertainties for this sample. The spectroscopic observations obtain redshifts for the $\sim 30\%$ of collided galaxies that lie in tile overlap regions. We find that roughly half of these galaxies in fact have a redshift within $5 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ of their closest

angular neighbor, while the other half are chance projections. In the chance projection cases, either galaxy has equal *a priori* chance of being selected, so double weighting does not statistically bias the correlations with more distant galaxies.

Figure 3 demonstrates the effectiveness of our correction procedure. For the standard analyses in this paper, we use the true redshifts of collided galaxies whenever we have them and the closest neighbor redshifts when we do not. The long-dashed line shows what happens if we instead use closest neighbor redshifts for *all* collided galaxies. The correlation function $\xi(s)$ is virtually identical to that of the standard case, with differences in individual bins that are usually much smaller than the statistical error bar (as they should be in the absence of systematic bias, since the samples contain mostly the same galaxies). The short-dashed line shows the effect of ignoring fiber collisions entirely, i.e., dropping the collided galaxies out of the sample and applying no special weights to their neighbors. (In this case, we still account for the missing collided galaxies in the local sampling rate as described in the next subsection, treating these objects as though they were assigned fibers but did not yield a redshift measurement.) The resulting change in the correlation function is still smaller than the statistical errors of individual bins, but it is now systematic, with a $\sim 2\%$ bias for separations $s \sim 1 - 10 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$.

A detailed examination of fiber collision effects will require tests on artificial catalogs with realistic galaxy clustering and geometry. Preliminary tests with N-body simulations suggest that our adopted correction procedure should work extremely well (Berlind, private communication), and the agreement between the long-dashed and solid lines in Figure 3 supports this conclusion. We therefore expect that any residual systematic biases in our correlation function estimates due to fiber collisions are smaller than our current statistical errors.

3.2. Angular Selection Function

A small fraction of the galaxy targets in our sample were not assigned fibers in the observed plates. There are also some galaxy targets whose redshifts are not successfully measured, for the most part because of broken fibers in the spectrograph, but sometimes because of a low signal-to-noise ratio in the spectra. The completeness of the redshift sample, denoted here f , thus varies across the survey, and it is necessary to incorporate these variations into the window function of the survey. We evaluate the completeness in the following way. We break up the survey geometry into “sectors” defined by areas of sky covered by unique sets of tiles, as described by Blanton et al. (2001b). For example, if the survey consisted of two tiles, there would be three sectors: the area covered by only the first tile, the area covered by only the second tile, and the area covered by both tiles. These sectors are the natural units in which to divide the survey, and we calculate the completeness f for each sector. The completeness is simply the fraction of objects that were selected as galaxy targets for which a spectral classification was obtained (whether the object turned out to be a galaxy or not), or a redshift was assigned because the object was lost in a collision.

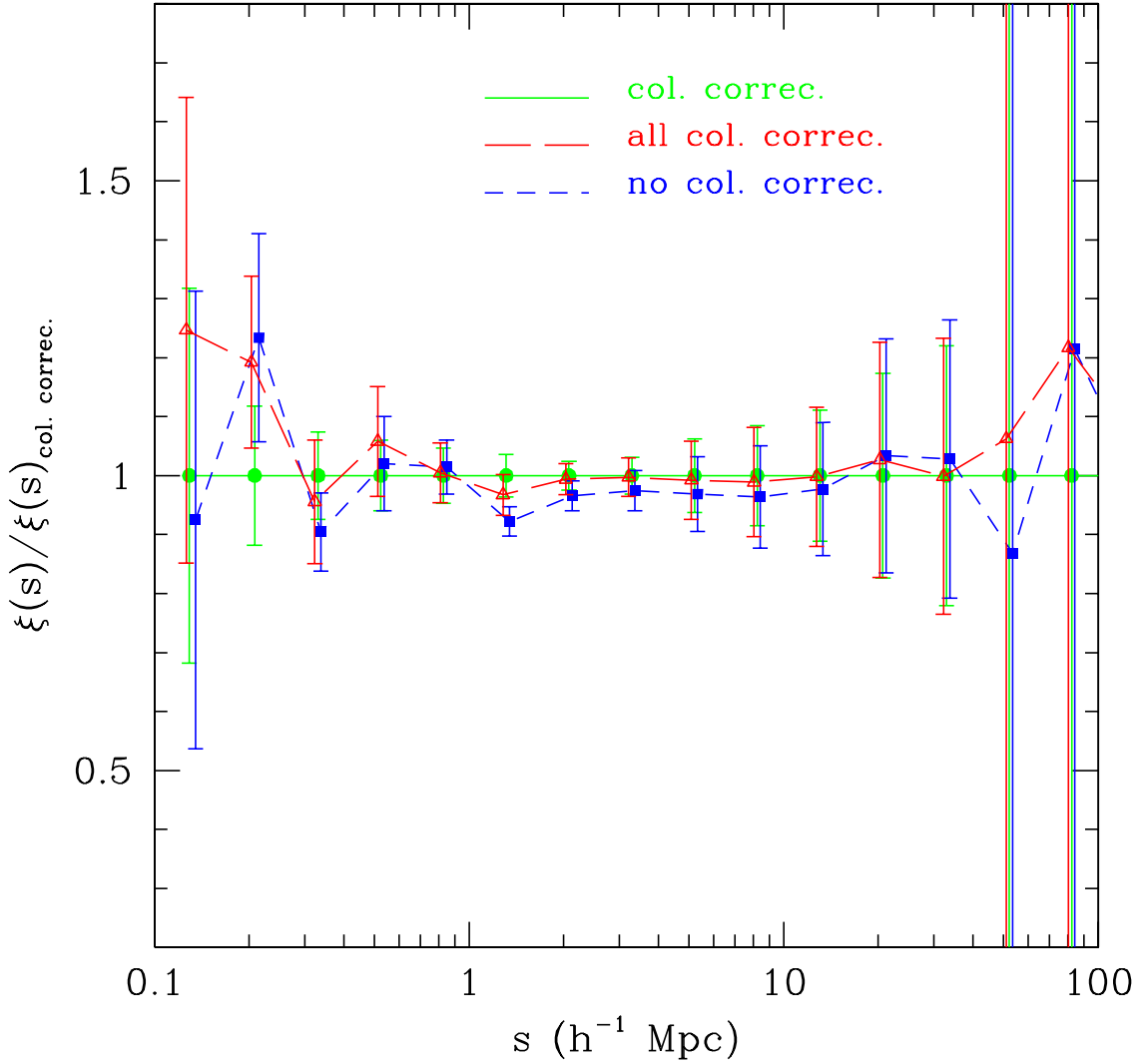


Fig. 3.— Comparison of alternative ways of treating fiber collisions. In the “standard” case, galaxies with missing redshift due to collisions are assigned their own angular position and the redshift of their companion (“col. correc.”, solid line). Alternatively, we assign the companion’s redshift to all collided galaxies, even when a collided galaxy’s redshift was obtained due to an overlapping plate (“all col. correc.”, long-dashed line). The short-dashed line shows the effect of simply discarding the galaxies with missing redshifts from the sample (“no col. correc.”); this approach is obviously incorrect, and it introduces a systematic bias at large scales, but the impact is still small. The ratio of the redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ for these cases to our “standard” $\xi(s)$ is shown. The points and errorbars for the latter two cases are shifted slightly to the left and the right for clarity.

In this sample, the average completeness is about 94%. There are two contributions to the incompleteness. First, only 97% percent of the available galaxy targets in the regions covered by plates actually are assigned fibers or have a neighbor that can provide a collision correction. This is partly because some galaxies are eliminated due to collisions with QSOs, LRGs, quality holes, or light traps (which have higher priority when fibers are assigned), and thus cannot be given collision corrections. In addition, we have included some regions that are covered by two plates, only one of which has so far been observed; the targets in such a region that are assigned to fibers on the unobserved plate contribute to the incompleteness. Second, the fraction of fibers assigned to main galaxy targets that successfully receive classifications is about 97% in this sample. The success rate for obtaining main sample galaxy redshifts during normal survey operations is over 99% . However, some of the data in this sample come from plates that have low signal-to-noise ratio (and will therefore be reobserved later in the survey) or were reduced using older, less efficient versions of the spectroscopic pipeline. In addition, some of these targets are imaging defects that were mistakenly classified as galaxies by early versions of the galaxy target selection algorithm, such as ghost images due to reflections of bright stars inside the camera or satellite trails. Though these latter cases, in fact, do not contribute to galaxy incompleteness, they are included in our estimate of f , but this makes a negligible difference to our results.

We apply several masks for regions of particularly bad seeing and where an early version of the tiling algorithm (now replaced) accidentally produced artificial gaps in the sampling. We exclude any objects in our data or random catalog that lie inside these masks. The masks cover less than 1% of the total area. We have not applied masks around bright stars; if we did, they would exclude about 1% of the total area (Scranton et al. 2001). It will be necessary to include these masks when studying clustering at the largest scales, because at large scales the clustering amplitude of stars becomes large (due to the variation with Galactic latitude) and the clustering amplitude of galaxies becomes small.

Because the completeness of the redshift sample is high to begin with, and because we account for the incompleteness in each individual sector, the effects of completeness variations on our current clustering measurements are negligible.

3.3. Radial Selection Function

As noted above, our sample is limited at bright and faint apparent magnitudes: $14.5 < r^* < 17.6$. Thus, at any given redshift we can only observe galaxies in a given absolute magnitude range. Furthermore, we restrict our analysis here to galaxies with absolute magnitudes $-22 < M_{r^*} < -19$. At any redshift, the fraction of objects in this absolute magnitude range that are in the sample is

$$\phi(z) = \frac{\int_{M_{\min}(z)}^{M_{\max}(z)} dM \Phi(M)}{\int_{-22}^{-19} dM \Phi(M)}, \quad (2)$$

where $\Phi(M)$ is the luminosity function (number density of objects per unit magnitude) and

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\min}(z) &= \max(-22, 14.5 - \text{DM}(z) - K(z)), \\ M_{\max}(z) &= \min(-19, 17.6 - \text{DM}(z) - K(z)), \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

and $\text{DM}(z) = m - M$ is the distance modulus as described in Section 2.3. In this context, $K(z)$ is determined using the mean galaxy SED in the sample. Equations (2) and (3) simply express the fact that a galaxy must lie in our apparent magnitude range and in our absolute magnitude range to be included in the sample.

The luminosity function for our sample is determined in the manner described by Blanton et al. (2001a). It is necessary to perform this calculation separately for each of the subsamples described in Section 5 because the luminosity functions of, for example, blue galaxies and red galaxies differ substantially. The luminosity function for our full sample is consistent with that of Blanton et al. (2001a) when determined using the same redshift limits as that paper. However, we note here that it appears from preliminary results (to be described in detail elsewhere) that the galaxy luminosity function evolves measurably within the redshift range of our spectroscopic sample. At the time the calculations presented here were performed, we had not yet accounted for this effect in our calculation of the selection function. This is our main motivation for limiting the current sample to $cz < 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. More recently, we have fit a pure luminosity evolution model to the data. The resulting change in the selection function below $cz = 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ is less than 5%, and the resulting differences in the measured correlation functions are negligible. Thus we are confident that our radial selection function calculated without accounting for evolution is sufficient to study the small-scale clustering of interest here.

When the random sample is created for the calculation of the correlation function (see below), this selection function $\phi(z)$ and the local completeness f must be taken into account. In practice, we first distribute points uniformly in comoving space; we then include each such point in the random sample with a probability $f\phi(z)$. Figure 4 compares the expected redshift distribution of this uniform sample (smooth line) to the actual redshift histogram of galaxies, including the galaxies whose redshifts were assigned by our collision correction method. The differences between the expected redshift distribution and the actual one reflect the large-scale structure which we are here attempting to measure.

3.4. Estimator

To account for the survey geometry, we generate random catalogs of galaxies with the same survey geometry as the real sample, applying both the radial and angular selection functions. We typically use in each random catalog 10 times the number of galaxies in the real sample, and we have verified that increasing the number of random points makes negligible difference to the results.

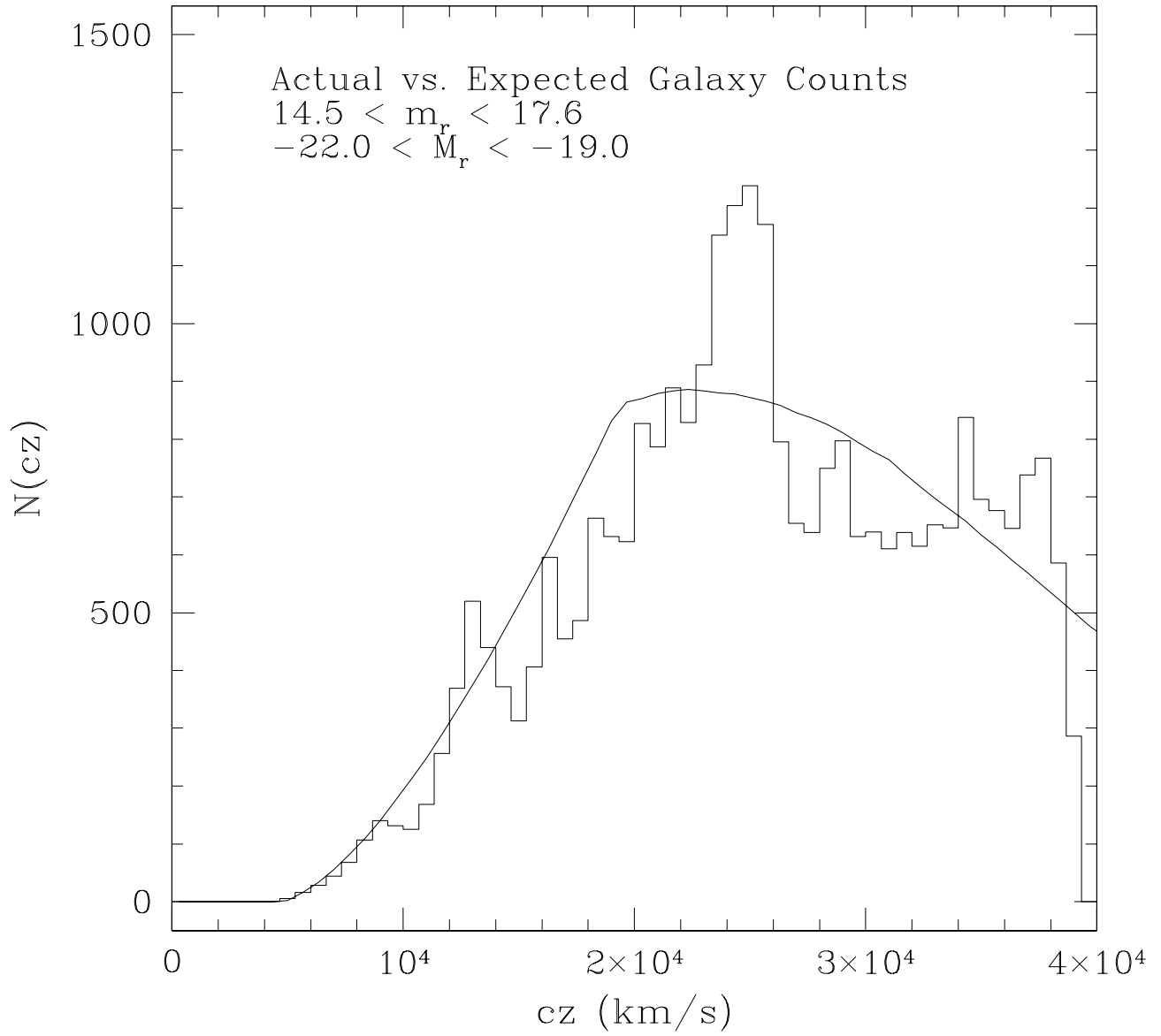


Fig. 4.— Histogram of the redshift distribution of the SDSS galaxies in our sample. The solid line is the average distribution expected given the luminosity function, the flux limits, and the angular selection function.

We calculate the correlation function using the Landy & Szalay (1993) estimator,

$$\xi(s) = \frac{1}{N_{RR}(s)} \left[N_{DD}(s) \frac{n_R(n_R - 1)}{n_D(n_D - 1)} - 2N_{DR}(s) \frac{n_R}{n_D} + N_{RR}(s) \right], \quad (4)$$

where N_{DD} , N_{DR} , and N_{RR} are the weighted data-data, data-random, and random-random pair counts, respectively, with redshift-space separations in a bin centered on s , and n_D and n_R are the mean number densities of galaxies in the data and random samples. Bins in s are logarithmically spaced with width of 0.2 in $\log(s/h^{-1}\text{Mpc})$ starting from $s = 0.1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$. Other statistics are calculated in an analogous way. We also tried the alternative estimators of Davis & Peebles (1983) and Hamilton (1993) and found no significant difference in the results.

For the pair weighting we follow Hamilton (1993) and use a minimum variance weighting (see also Davis & Huchra 1982; Feldman, Kaiser & Peacock 1994). For a galaxy pair with redshift separation s , we weight each galaxy by

$$w_i = \frac{1}{1 + 4\pi n_D \phi(z_i) J_3(s)}, \quad (5)$$

where $J_3(s) \equiv \int_0^s s'^2 \xi(s') ds'$. For this integral, we approximate ξ by a power-law with slope -1.2 and correlation length $8 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ (resembling the result for the correlation function in redshift space that we get below, see § 4.1), but the results are robust to reasonable choices. Alternatively, we also weighted each galaxy simply by the inverse of the selection function ϕ and obtained comparable results.

The full covariance error matrices are obtained by a jackknife error estimate (see, *e.g.*, Lupton 1993). We divide our sample into ten separate regions on the sky of approximately equal area. We perform the analysis ten times, each time leaving a different region out. The estimated statistical covariance of ξ_i in redshift separation bin i and ξ_j in bin j is then

$$\text{Covar}(\xi_i, \xi_j) = \frac{N-1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N (\xi_i^l - \bar{\xi}_i^l)(\xi_j^l - \bar{\xi}_j^l), \quad (6)$$

where $N = 10$ in our case, and $\bar{\xi}_i$ is the mean value of ξ_i measured in the samples. Further discussion regarding the robustness of the jackknife error estimate and comparison to alternative error estimates can be found in Appendix A. Note that if the number of regions is increased ($N > 10$), then each term in the sum decreases (because the $N - 1$ regions in each jackknife subsample are a larger fraction of the total sample), but the number of terms increases, so the estimated covariance converges to a stable answer.

In what follows, we present results for the Landy-Szalay estimator, with minimum variance weighting for the galaxies, and errors obtained by jackknife resampling. Galaxies with missing redshifts due to fiber collisions are accounted for as described above in Section 3.1.

4. Clustering of the Full Sample

In this Section we present the results for our full galaxy sample. Summarizing the details described in the previous sections, the sample consists of 29,300 galaxies with redshift $5,700 \text{ km s}^{-1} < cz < 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, apparent magnitude (corrected for Galactic absorption) $14.5 < r^* < 17.6$, and absolute magnitude $-22 < M_{r^*} < -19$.

4.1. Redshift-Space Clustering

Figure 5 shows the redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ of the full sample. For separations $2 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < s < 10 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, the observed correlation function can be crudely approximated by a power-law, $\xi(s) = (s/s_0)^{-\gamma}$, with $\gamma = 1.2$ and $s_0 = 8.0 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. Our results are in quite good agreement with those from Tucker et al.’s (1997) analysis of the LCRS (open squares in Figure 5), though the SDSS correlation function has a slightly higher amplitude. We have assumed an $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ model to compute comoving separations, but adopting an Einstein-de Sitter model (as Tucker et al. do) yields a nearly indistinguishable result. The SDSS $\xi(s)$ remains measurably non-zero out to $s = 30 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ and is consistent with zero at larger separations.

The redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ differs from the real-space correlation function $\xi_r(r)$ because of peculiar velocities. Following standard practice, we separate the effects of redshift-space distortions from spatial correlations by separating the vector between two galaxies into a line-of-sight component π and a projected component r_p , and measuring $\xi(r_p, \pi)$. More specifically, following the notation of Fisher et al. (1994), for a pair of galaxies with redshift positions \mathbf{v}_1 and \mathbf{v}_2 , we define the redshift separation vector $\mathbf{s} \equiv \mathbf{v}_1 - \mathbf{v}_2$ and the line-of-sight vector $\mathbf{l} \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2)$. This allows us to define the parallel and perpendicular separations

$$\pi \equiv \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{l} / |\mathbf{l}|, \quad r_p^2 \equiv \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{s} - \pi^2. \quad (7)$$

In real space, the contours of equal ξ should be circular (by isotropy, ξ depends only on the scalar separation), but in redshift space the contours are distorted by peculiar velocities.

Figure 6 shows $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ for our sample, where we bin r_p and π in linear bins of $2 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. On small scales, the contours are elongated along the line of sight direction, exhibiting the expected “fingers-of-God” distortion caused by velocity dispersion in collapsed objects. On larger scales, $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ shows compression in the π direction, caused by coherent large-scale streaming. The qualitative appearance of Figure 6 is similar to that of, *e.g.*, figure 1 of Fisher et al. (1994) or figure 2 of Peacock et al. (2001).

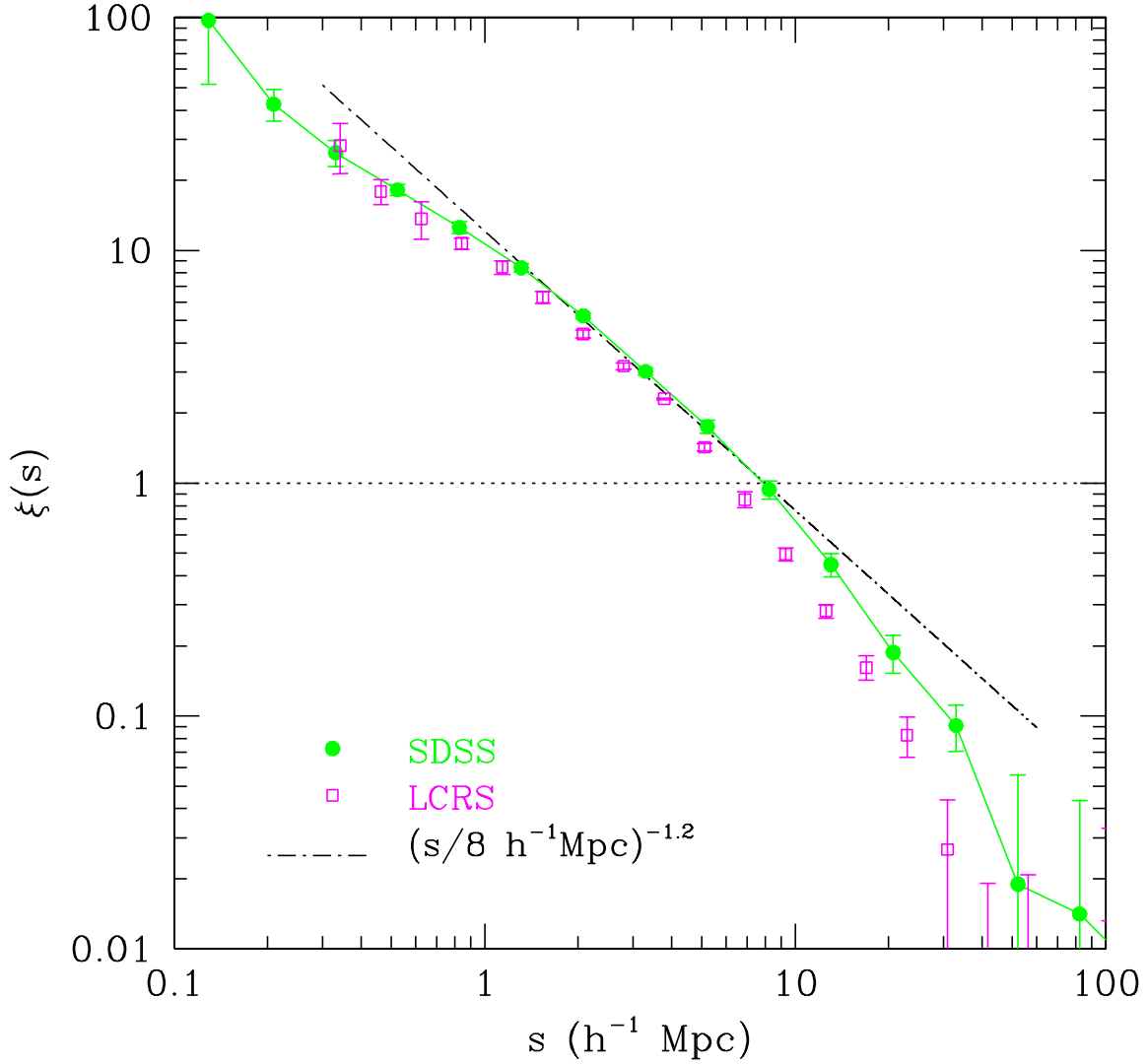


Fig. 5.— The redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ (solid points and line). The error bars plotted here, and in all subsequent figures, correspond to the 1σ uncertainty estimated from jackknife resampling. A fiducial power-law fit for the range $2 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < s < 10 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ is plotted as a dot-dashed line. Open squares show $\xi(s)$ obtained from the LCRS (Tucker et al. 1997).

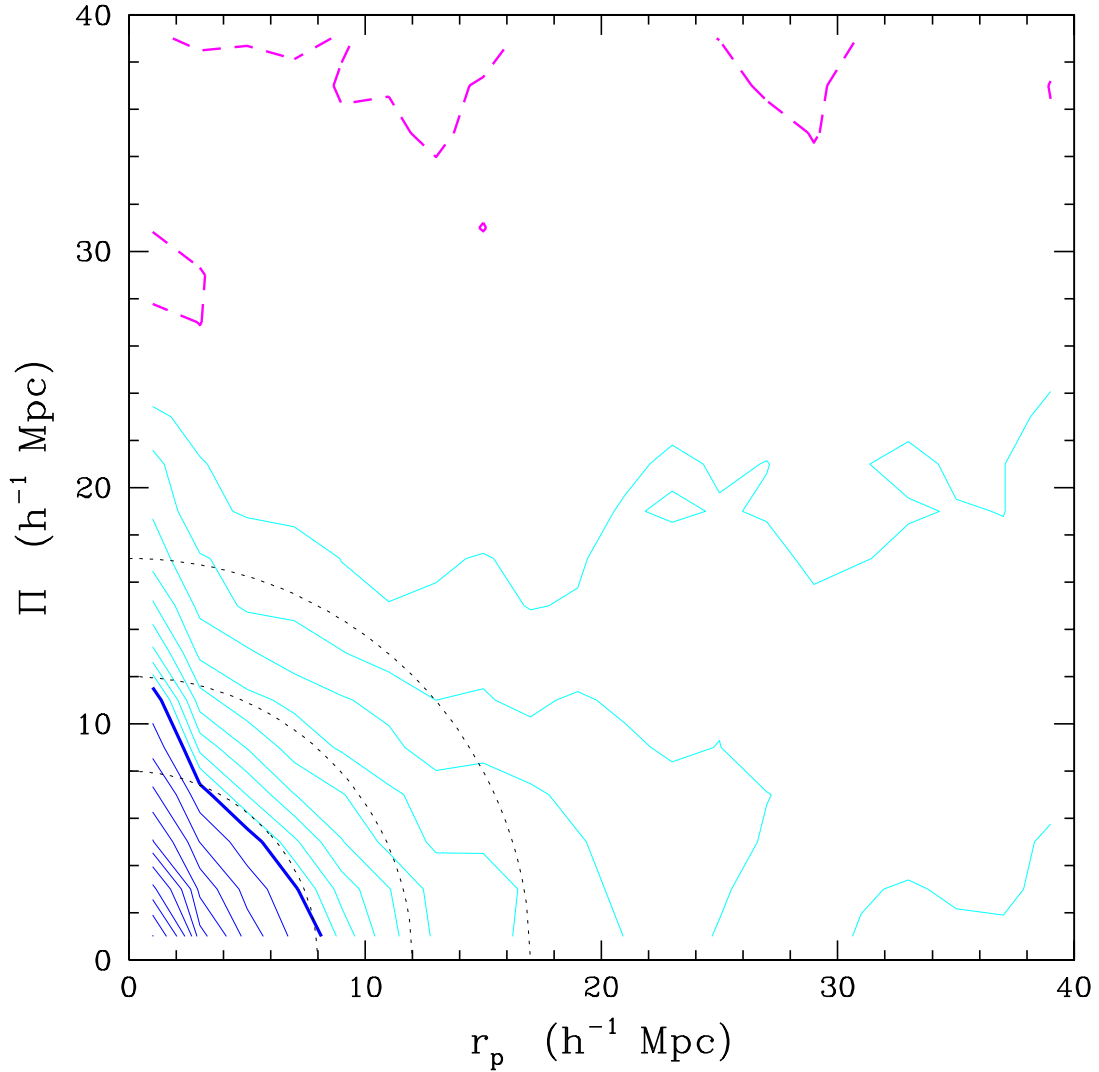


Fig. 6.— Contours of $\xi(r_p, \pi)$, the correlation function as a function of separation perpendicular (r_p) and parallel (π) to the line of sight. The heavy solid contour corresponds to $\xi = 1$; for larger values of ξ contours are logarithmically spaced, with $\Delta \log_{10} \xi = 0.1$; below $\xi = 1$ they are linearly spaced, with $\Delta \xi = 0.1$; the heavy dashed contour corresponds to $\xi = 0$. The concentric dotted lines are the angle-averaged redshift space correlation function, $\xi(s)$, at $\xi(s) = 1.0, 0.5$ and 0.25 .

4.2. Real-Space Clustering

The effects of redshift-space distortions are only radial, so projection onto the r_p axis gives information about the real-space correlation function. We compute the projected correlation function $w_p(r_p)$ by integrating $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ over π ,

$$w_p(r_p) \equiv 2 \int_0^\infty d\pi \xi(r_p, \pi) = 2 \int_0^\infty dy \xi_r \left(\sqrt{r_p^2 + y^2} \right), \quad (8)$$

where ξ_r is the desired real-space correlation function (Davis & Peebles 1983). In practice we integrate up to $\pi_{max} = 40 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, which is large enough to include most correlated pairs and to give a stable result. The second equation above allows us to relate w_p to the real-space correlation function. In particular, for a power-law $\xi_r(r) = (r/r_0)^{-\gamma}$, the second integral can be done analytically, yielding

$$w_p(r_p) = A r_p^{1-\gamma} \quad \text{with} \quad A = r_0^\gamma \Gamma(0.5) \Gamma[0.5(\gamma - 1)] / \Gamma(0.5\gamma), \quad (9)$$

where Γ is the Gamma function.

Figure 7 shows $w_p(r_p)$ for the full galaxy sample and the best-fit power-law model, which corresponds to $\xi_r(r) = (r/r_0)^{-\gamma}$ with $r_0 = 6.14 \pm 0.18 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, $\gamma = 1.75 \pm 0.03$. This fit to the slope and amplitude of the correlation function is obtained using points in the range $0.1 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < r_p < 16 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$; the correlation coefficient between r_0 and γ , measuring the normalized covariance of the two estimates, is ~ -0.5 , implying that the measures are anti-correlated to a degree. Since the jackknife estimates of the off-diagonal terms in the covariance matrix are noisy and lead to an unstable matrix inversion in the χ^2 minimization (unless we confine the fit to only a few bins), the best-fit r_0 and γ values were obtained from the diagonal terms only. As a result, we are not guaranteed to have unbiased estimates of these parameters, but the visually evident goodness-of-fit suggests that any such bias is negligible. The errors on r_0 and γ were obtained from the variance in the estimates of these quantities among the jackknife subsamples, again using only the diagonal terms in the covariance matrix, as described in Appendix A.

The real-space correlation function is characterized much more accurately by a power-law than the redshift-space correlation function. Our value of γ agrees well with results from previous redshift surveys and angular clustering studies (*e.g.*, Davis & Peebles 1983; Loveday et al. 1995; Hermit et al. 1996) and with the slope derived from the SDSS angular correlation function (Connolly et al. 2001). The value of r_0 is also similar to that obtained from other optically selected galaxy samples, though slightly on the high side; for example, Jing, Mo, & Börner (1998) find $r_0 = 5.06 \pm 0.12 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ for the LCRS. If we adopt an Einstein-de Sitter cosmology, as they do, instead of a flat- Λ cosmology, then our inferred value of r_0 drops slightly, to $r_0 = 5.7 \pm 0.2 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$.

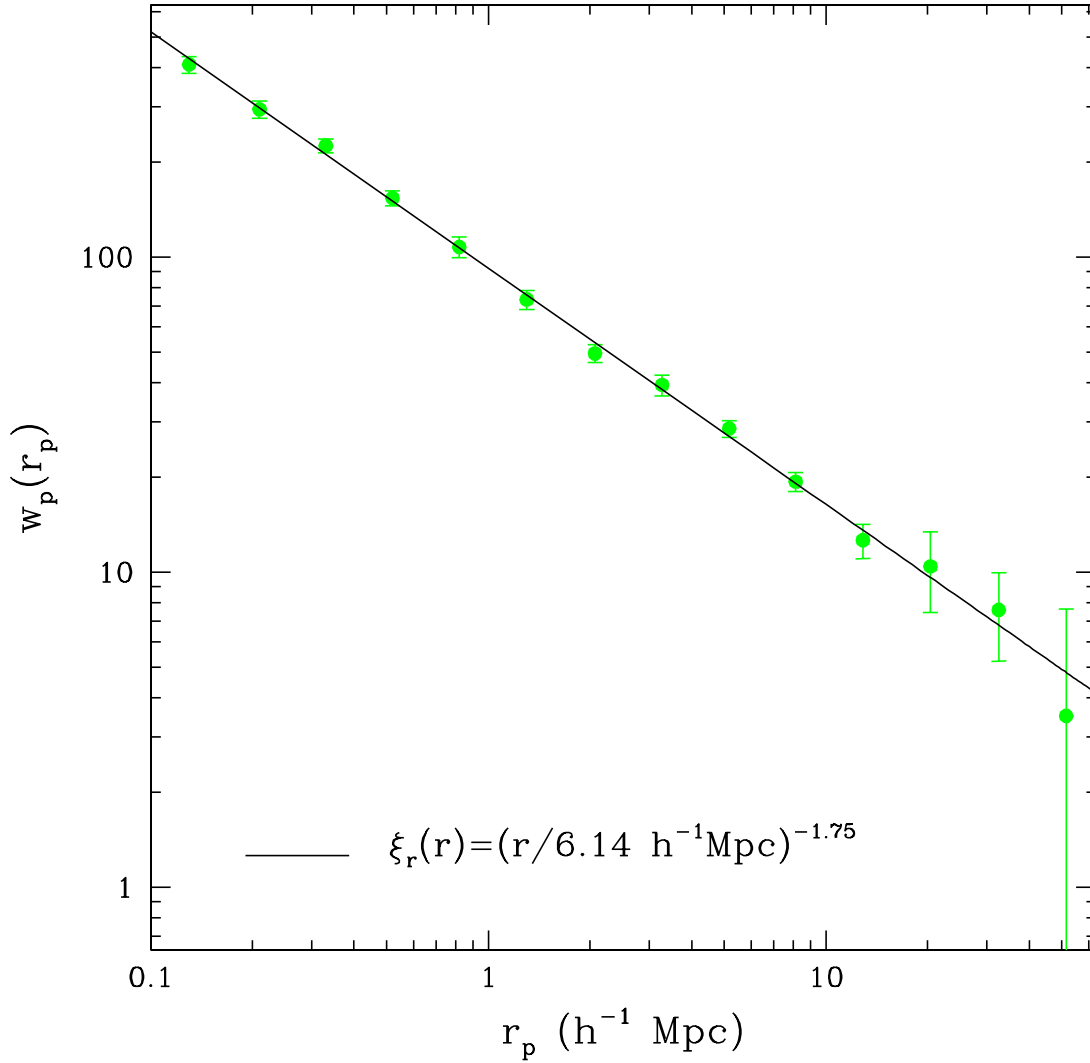


Fig. 7.— Projected correlation function $w_p(r_p)$ (solid points). The solid line is the best-fit power-law for w_p , which implies the denoted power-law for the real-space correlation function $\xi_r(r)$. The fit is performed for $r_p < 16 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$.

4.3. Angular Moments

The redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ in Figure 5 differs from the real-space correlation function $\xi_r(r)$ inferred from $w_p(r_p)$ in the expected sense: $\xi(s)$ is depressed on small scales by velocity dispersions and enhanced on large scales by coherent flows, so the slope of $\xi(s)$ is shallower and $s_0 > r_0$. The anisotropy of $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ encodes more complete information about the amplitude of galaxy peculiar velocities. In principle, the anisotropy on large scales can be used to constrain $\beta \equiv \Omega_m^{0.6}/b$, where the bias parameter b is the ratio of galaxy fluctuations to mass fluctuations (Kaiser 1987; Hamilton 1992). For this application, it is helpful to decompose $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ into a sum of Legendre polynomials,

$$\xi(r_p, \pi) = \sum_l \xi_l(s) \mathcal{P}_l(\mu), \quad (10)$$

where \mathcal{P}_l is the l^{th} Legendre polynomial and μ is the cosine of the angle between the line of sight and the redshift separation vector. The angular moments are found by integration

$$\xi_l(s) = \frac{2l+1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \xi(r_p, \pi) \mathcal{P}_l(\mu) d\mu. \quad (11)$$

In linear perturbation theory, only the monopole, $\xi_0(s)$, quadrupole, $\xi_2(s)$, and hexadecapole, $\xi_4(s)$ are non-zero, and the ratio

$$Q(s) \equiv \frac{\xi_2(s)}{\frac{3}{s^2} \int_0^s \xi_0(s') s'^2 ds' - \xi_0(s)} = G(\beta) \equiv \frac{\frac{4}{3}\beta + \frac{4}{7}\beta^2}{1 + \frac{2}{3}\beta + \frac{1}{5}\beta^2} \quad (12)$$

(Hamilton 1992). Thus, the ratio Q provides an estimate of β (similar estimates can be constructed using $\xi_4(s)$, but they are noisier). However, while linear theory distortions produce a negative quadrupole term, finger-of-God distortions produce a positive quadrupole, and their signature persists out to large separations (Cole, Fisher & Weinberg 1994, Fisher et al. 1994).

Figure 8 shows the quadrupole ratio $Q(s)$ for the full sample. The error bars are obtained, as before, from the scatter in the jackknife subsamples. This Figure quantifies the visual impression of the contours in Figure 6, showing positive (finger-of-God) quadrupole distortion at $s \lesssim 10 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ and negative (coherent flow) quadrupole distortion at larger scales. $Q(s)$ should approach a constant value in the linear regime, and the measured results are consistent with this prediction. However, the error bars on these scales are large and highly correlated, whereas high precision over a range of scales is needed to separate the influence of coherent flows from that of small-scale dispersions (see, *e.g.*, Hatton & Cole 1998). The effective volume of our current sample is $\sim 4 \times 10^6 (h^{-1} \text{Mpc})^3$. Our measurement of large-scale redshift-space distortions is limited by finite volume effects, as a small number of elongated superclusters and filaments in the data can give rise to anisotropy in $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ on large scales. In this respect, the thin-slice geometry of our present sample works against us, since it provides relatively few pairs at large transverse separations. We therefore defer an estimate of β to a future study based on a larger, more nearly 3-dimensional sample of SDSS data, and focus instead on the amplitude of small-scale, incoherent velocities.

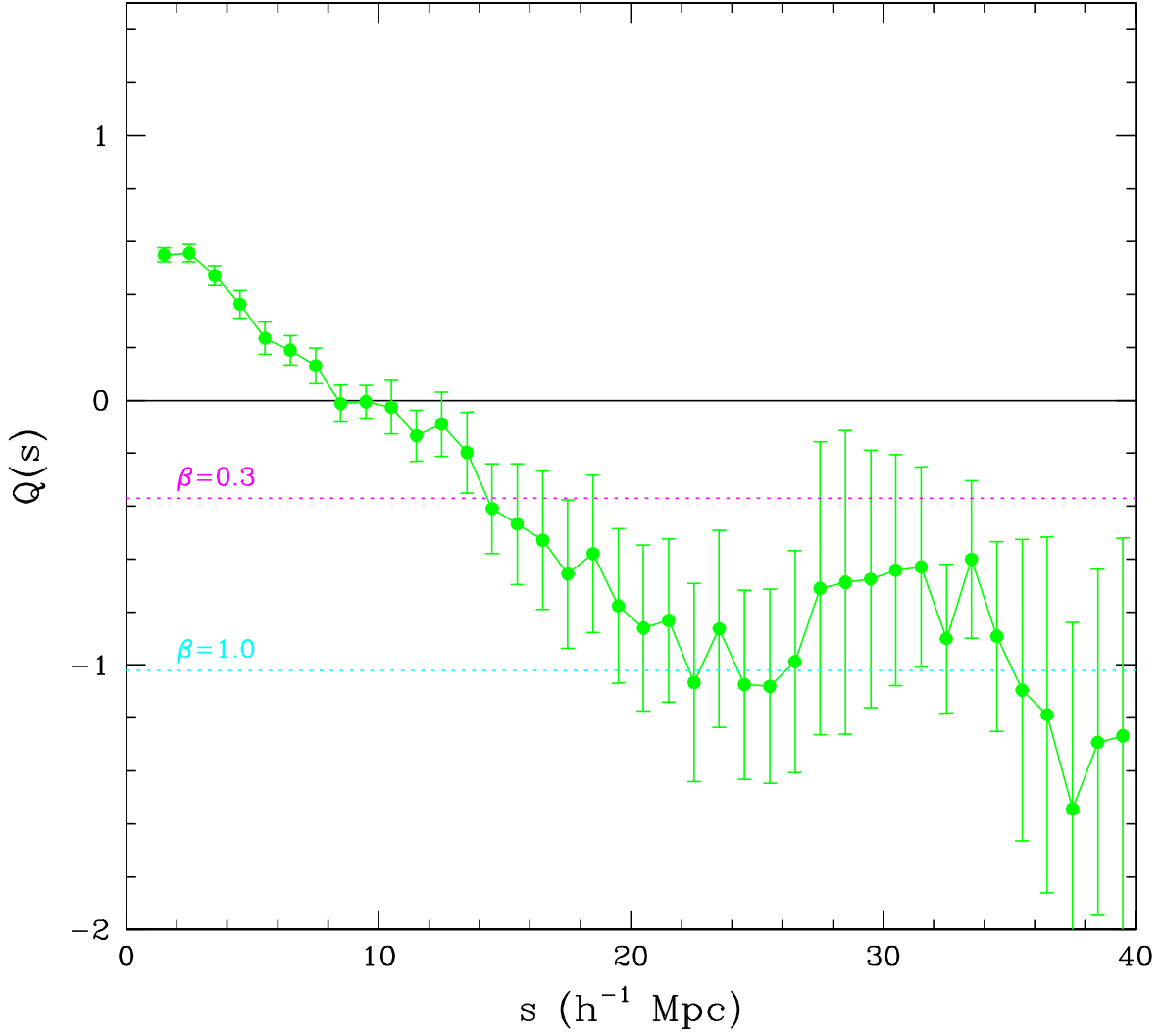


Fig. 8.— Modified quadrupole to monopole ratio, $Q = \xi_2/(\bar{\xi}_0 - \xi_0)$. In linear theory this ratio is determined by the parameter $\beta \equiv \Omega_m^{0.6}/b$. Dotted lines show the linear theory expectation for $\beta = 0.3$ and $\beta = 1.0$.

4.4. Pairwise Velocity Dispersion

In the non-linear regime, where density and velocity fields are weakly coupled, the correlation function $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ can be modeled as a convolution of $\xi_r(r)$ with the galaxy pairwise velocity distribution $F(V)$ (Peebles 1980, §76; Davis & Peebles 1983; see Fisher 1995 for an illuminating discussion of the assumptions implicit in this approach). If F varies only slowly with r , one can write

$$1 + \xi(r_p, \pi) = H_0 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \left[1 + \xi_r \left(\sqrt{r_p^2 + y^2} \right) \right] F(V) dy, \quad (13)$$

where

$$V \equiv \pi - H_0 y + \bar{v}_{12}(r) \quad (14)$$

and $\bar{v}_{12}(r)$ is the mean radial pairwise velocity of galaxies at separation r . The real-space correlation function $\xi_r(r)$ can be inferred from $w_p(r_p)$ as described in §4.2. Unfortunately, the forms of $\bar{v}_{12}(r)$ and $F(V)$ are not known *a priori* for galaxies. Following Davis & Peebles (1983), we assume that $\bar{v}_{12}(r)$ in the above equation takes the form

$$\bar{v}_{12}(r) = \frac{H_0 y}{1 + (r/r_0)^2}. \quad (15)$$

This model is based on the similarity solution of the pair conservation equation (Davis & Peebles 1977). Using the formulae given in Mo, Jing & Börner (1997), it can be shown that equation (15) with $r_0 \sim 5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ matches reasonably well the mean streaming velocities of dark matter particles in the ΛCDM model with $\Omega_m = 0.3$ and $\sigma_8 \sim 1$. The similarity solution may therefore be a reasonable approximation for the underlying density field over limited ranges of length and time scales. If galaxies are biased relative to the mass with a constant bias factor independent of time, the mean streaming velocities for galaxies should have a similar form (see Fisher et al. 1994). Our following presentation is based on equation (15), but we will test the sensitivity of our results to this assumed infall model.

Based on observational (Davis & Peebles 1983; Fisher et al. 1994) and theoretical (*e.g.*, Peebles 1976; Sheth 1996; Juszkiewicz, Fisher, & Szapudi 1998) considerations, we adopt an exponential form for F ,

$$F(V) = C \exp \left(-2^{1/2} |V| / \sigma_{12} \right), \quad (16)$$

where C is a normalization factor and $\sigma_{12}(r)$ is the pairwise velocity dispersion (PVD). Under these assumptions, we can estimate $\sigma_{12}(r)$ by performing a χ^2 minimization of the difference between the observed $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ and the prediction given by equation (13). In practice, we minimize the following quantity

$$\sum_i \left[\frac{\xi^{\text{obs}}(r_p, \pi_i) - \xi^{\text{pred}}(r_p, \pi_i; \sigma_{12})}{\sigma_{\xi}^{\text{obs}}(r_p, \pi_i)} \right]^2, \quad (17)$$

where the summation is done over π bins up to $15 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ for a fixed r_p , so generally σ_{12} is a function of r_p . Here $\sigma_{\xi}^{\text{obs}}(r_p, \pi)$ is the error on $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ estimated from the jackknife samples. The fit for σ_{12} is robust to changing the limiting π in the range $10 - 20 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$.

Figure 9 shows the result of this calculation, the PVD of the full sample for projected separations $0.1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < r_p < 20 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$. The error bars are obtained by fitting σ_{12} separately from each of the jackknife samples and computing the associated jackknife error (analogous to the way we obtain errors on the power-law fit for w_p). This provides a realistic estimate of the errors, which are dominated by variations in the number of rare, high-dispersion structures in the sample (see discussions by Mo, Jing & Börner 1993; Zurek et al. 1994; Somerville, Davis, & Primack 1997). Figure 10 compares the function $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ predicted by the best fit model to the measured values for several different choices of r_p .

As a test of the sensitivity of our results to the assumed form of \bar{v}_{12} , we have repeated the analysis where \bar{v}_{12} is assumed to be the same as that for dark matter particles in the ΛCDM model (calculated using the formulae in Mo, Jing & Börner 1997). This assumption would be valid if the mean streaming velocity of galaxy pairs at a given separation is the same as that of mass particles at the same separation. We find that for $r_p \lesssim 3 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, the PVD is quite similar to that obtained assuming the similarity model (eq. 15), while at larger separations it changes significantly. Without knowing how galaxies are biased relative to the mass, it is unclear which infall model is more realistic. The test we describe here, however, indicates that estimates of the PVD at $r_p \lesssim 3 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ are robust to uncertainties in the infall model.

The measured PVD is roughly constant in this range, with $\sigma_{12}(r) \simeq 550 - 675 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. If we adopt an Einstein-de Sitter cosmology, σ_{12} decreases by $\approx 50 - 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Our estimate is close to the values found by Jing et al. (1998) for the LCRS ($\sigma_{12} = 570 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at $r_p = 1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$) and by Marzke et al. (1995) for CfA2+SSRS2 ($\sigma_{12} = 540 \text{ km s}^{-1}$), but it is substantially higher than the values found in the early 1980s from much smaller redshift surveys (250 km s^{-1} by Bean et al. 1983; 340 km s^{-1} by Davis & Peebles 1983). The SDSS result thus confirms that the galaxy velocity field, while colder than predicted by unbiased $\Omega_m = 1$ models (*e.g.*, Davis et al. 1985), is not so cold that it demands an extremely low value of Ω_m or a highly biased galaxy distribution. While $\sigma_{12}(r)$ has been the most widely used characterization of small-scale velocity dispersions, other statistics have been proposed that are less sensitive to rare objects that contribute many pairs (Davis, Miller, & White 1997; Landy, Szalay, & Broadhurst 1998) or that quantify the dispersion as a function of local density (Strauss, Ostriker & Cen 1998). Future measurements that examine the dispersion as a function of both environment and type may prove a valuable diagnostic for the relation between galaxies and dark matter halos (Sheth et al. 2001b).

5. Dependence on Galaxy Properties

The SDSS is ideal for investigating the dependence of clustering on galaxy properties because a wealth of photometric data is available for each galaxy in the spectroscopic sample. Here we examine the dependence of the real-space correlation function and redshift-space anisotropy on galaxy color, then calculate the real-space correlation function for subsamples defined by luminosity, surface brightness, and light-profile concentration. The spirit of our investigation is similar to that of

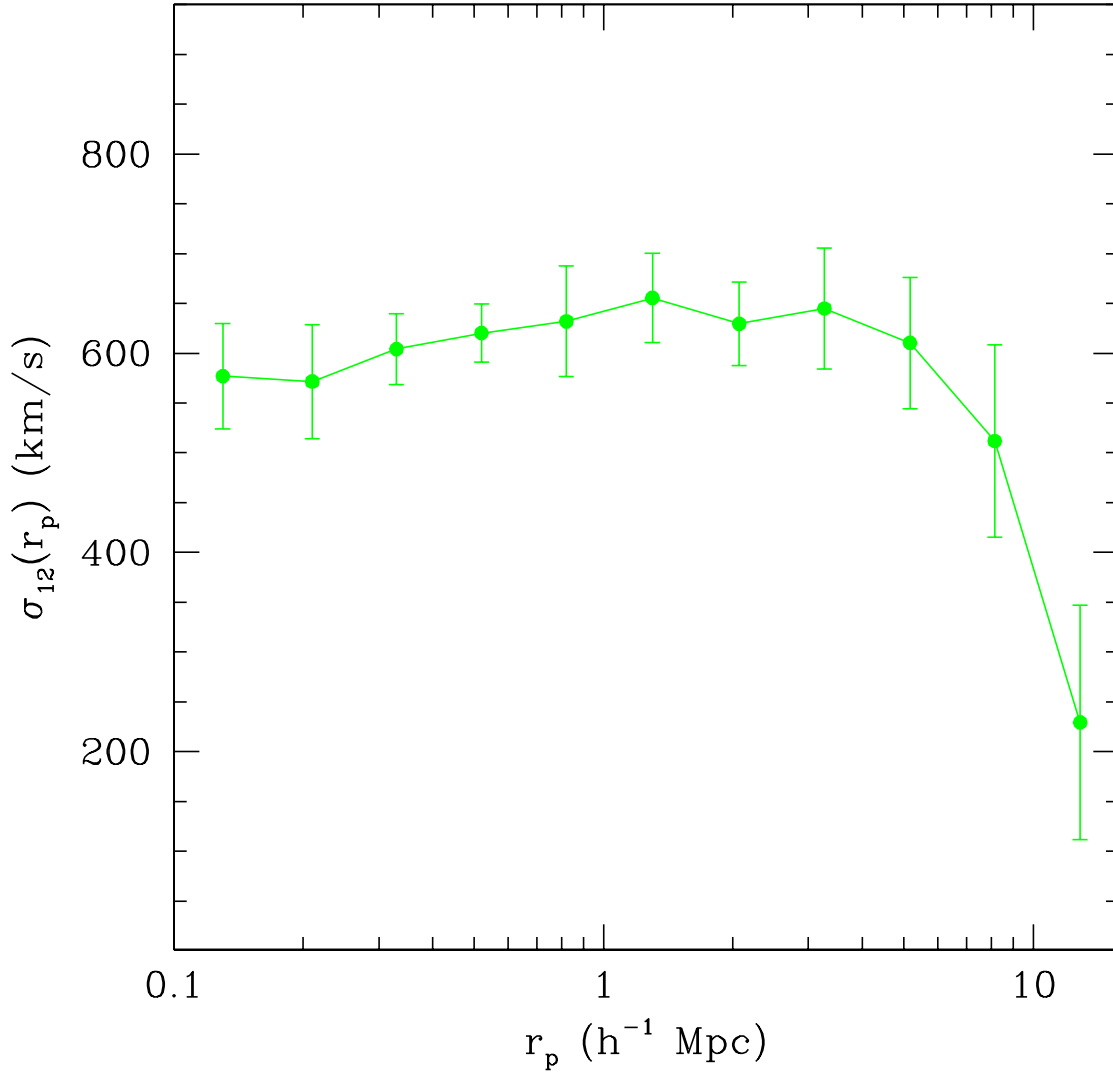


Fig. 9.— The pairwise velocity dispersion $\sigma_{12}(r_p)$, inferred by fitting $\xi(r_p, \pi)$. Error bars are obtained from the values of σ_{12} in different jackknife subsamples. The value of σ_{12} for $r_p > 3 h^{-1}$ Mpc depends significantly on the assumed mean streaming model.

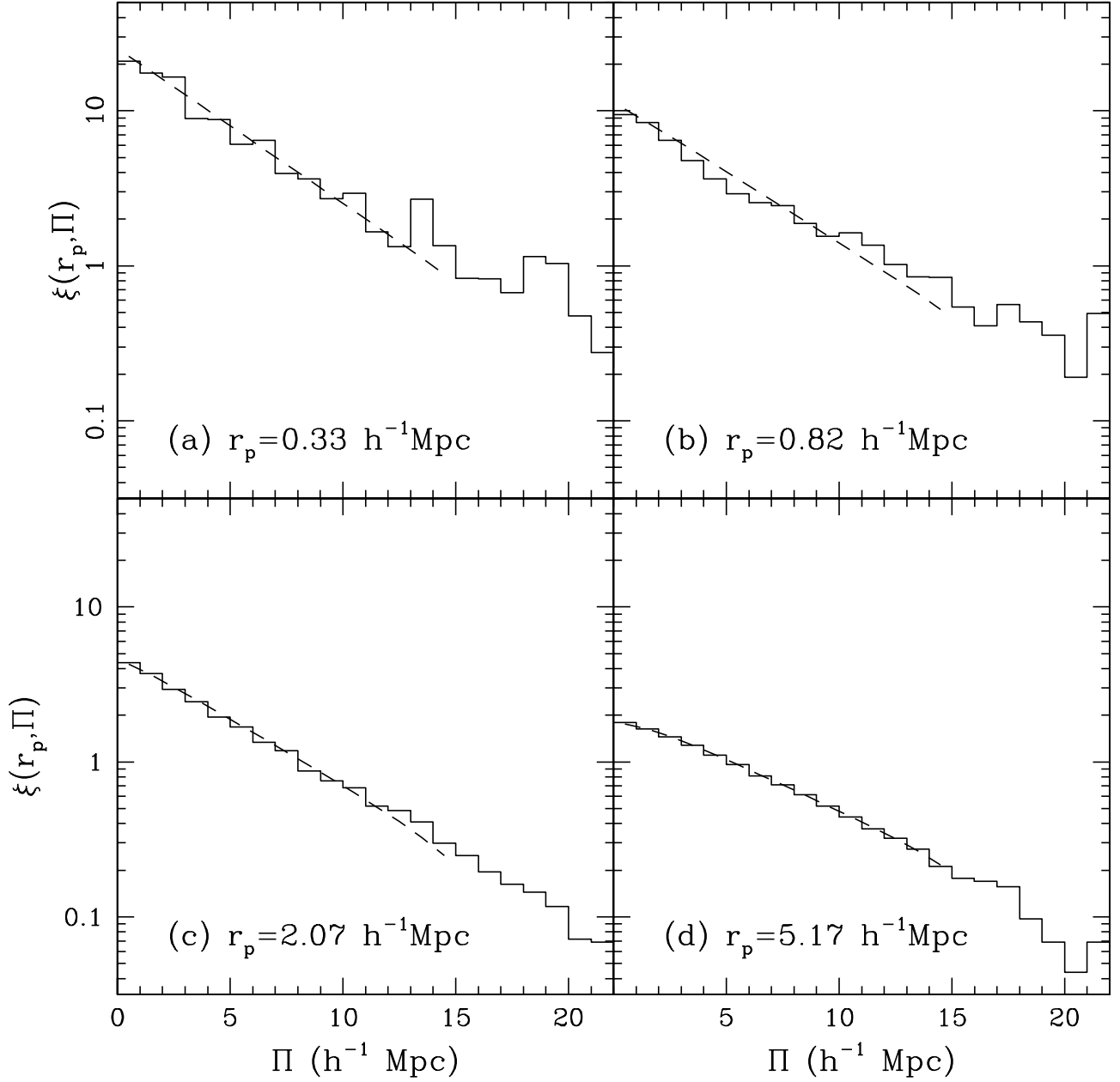


Fig. 10.— Examples of the model fits for $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ for four different values of r_p . The histogram shows the observed values, and the dashed line is the model fit of eq. (13).

Guzzo et al.’s (1997) study of galaxy clustering as a function of morphological type and luminosity, but the higher quality of our imaging data allows us to consider a broader set of photometric parameters, and the larger size of our redshift sample allows us to measure differences in clustering with higher precision.

5.1. Color

We divide our full sample into two subsamples based on the rest-frame $u^* - r^*$ colors of the galaxies. Strateva et al. (2001) find that the $u^* - r^*$ color distribution of galaxies is bimodal, and thus galaxies can be naturally divided into “blue” and “red” classes. They also show (using independent morphological classification schemes) that the blue class contains mainly late (spiral) morphological types while the red class consists mainly of bulge-dominated galaxies, as one would expect. After K -corrections are accounted for, we find that the color distribution is still bimodal but that the division at $u^* - r^* = 2.2$ in observed bands is closer to $u^* - r^* = 1.8$ in rest-frame bands. We therefore divide the sample into galaxies bluer and redder than a rest-frame color of $u^* - r^* = 1.8$, resulting in a red subsample that includes $\sim 20,000$ galaxies and a blue subsample of $\sim 10,000$ galaxies. In the full absolute magnitude range considered here ($-19 < M_{r^*} < -22$), the two subsamples have similar space densities, but the red galaxies are systematically more luminous (Blanton et al. 2001a) and therefore sample a larger volume. We list some relevant properties of the full sample and the color subsamples in the first lines of Table 1. Space densities \bar{n} are the inferred mean density for the indicated class of galaxies over the full absolute magnitude range. We also repeated our clustering analysis defining the blue and red samples based on the rest-frame $g^* - r^*$ color (making the division at $g^* - r^* = 0.6$), and found very similar results.

Figure 11 compares the redshift-space correlation functions of the red and blue subsamples to that of the full galaxy sample. The red galaxies have a substantially higher amplitude and steeper $\xi(s)$ than the blue galaxies, with a correlation length $s_0 \approx 9 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ compared to $s_0 \approx 5.5 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ for the blue galaxies. This difference is expected from the well known morphology-density relation, since redder, early-type galaxies preferentially inhabit high density regions. The difference in anisotropy of $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ is equally striking (Figure 12), with red galaxies exhibiting much stronger finger-of-God distortions on small scales. The compression of contours along the π axis at large scales is also much more obvious for the red galaxies, though this may be just a consequence of the smaller number and weaker clustering of the blue galaxies, which makes $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ much noisier.

Because the peculiar velocity distortions are very different for the two subsamples, it is important to remove them in order to assess their relative spatial clustering. Figure 13 compares the projected correlation functions $w_p(r_p)$, with the red galaxies again exhibiting a steeper and higher amplitude correlation function. Power-law model fits in the range $0.1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < r_p < 16 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ yield $r_0 = 6.78 \pm 0.23 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, $\gamma = 1.86 \pm 0.03$ for the red galaxies and $r_0 = 4.02 \pm 0.25 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, $\gamma = 1.41 \pm 0.04$ for the blue galaxies. The blue galaxies show hints of a departure from power-law behavior at the smallest separations, a possible signature of their tendency to cluster in lower mass

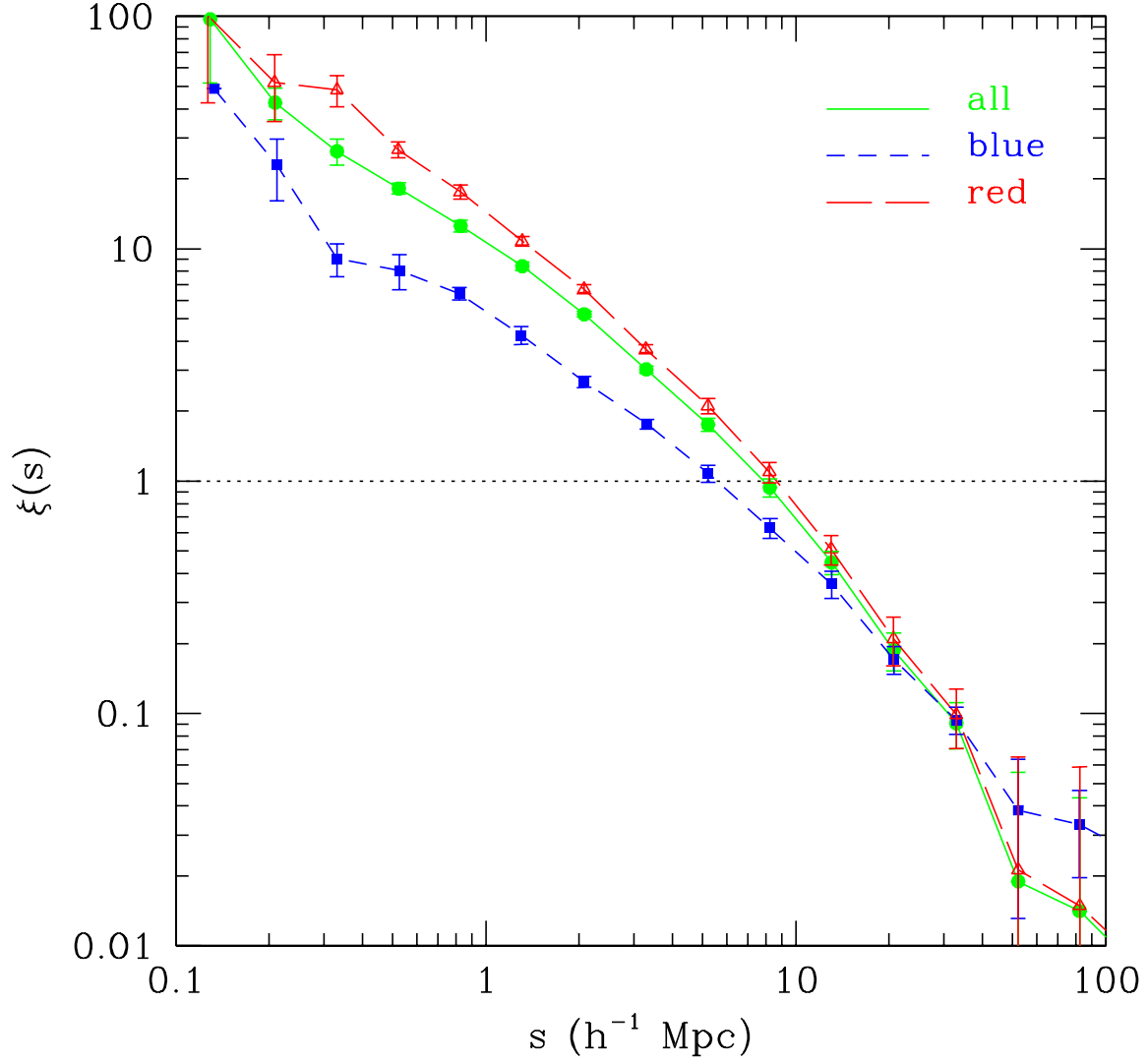


Fig. 11.— The redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ for the blue sample (solid squares, short-dashed line), the red sample (open triangles, long-dashed line) and the full sample (solid circles and line). Color cut is based on $u^* - r^*$ color.

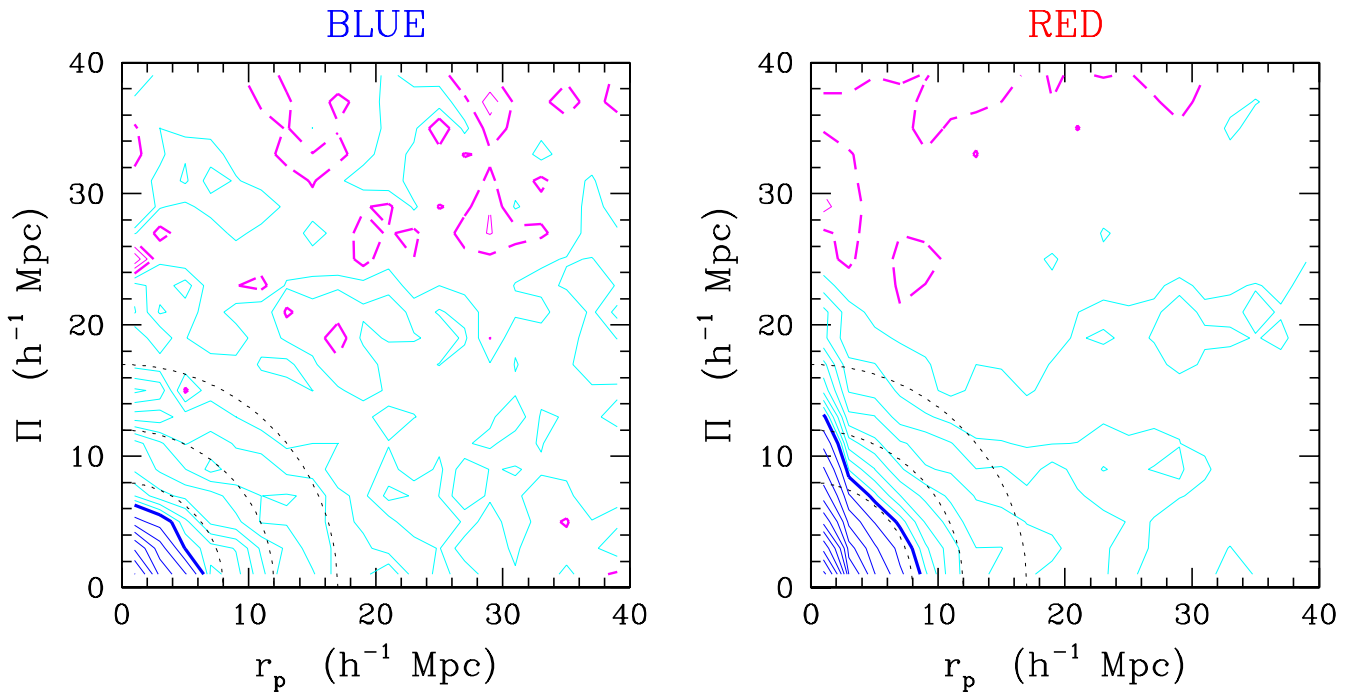


Fig. 12.— $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ for the blue sample (left panel) and red sample (right panel). Contours are as in Fig. 5.

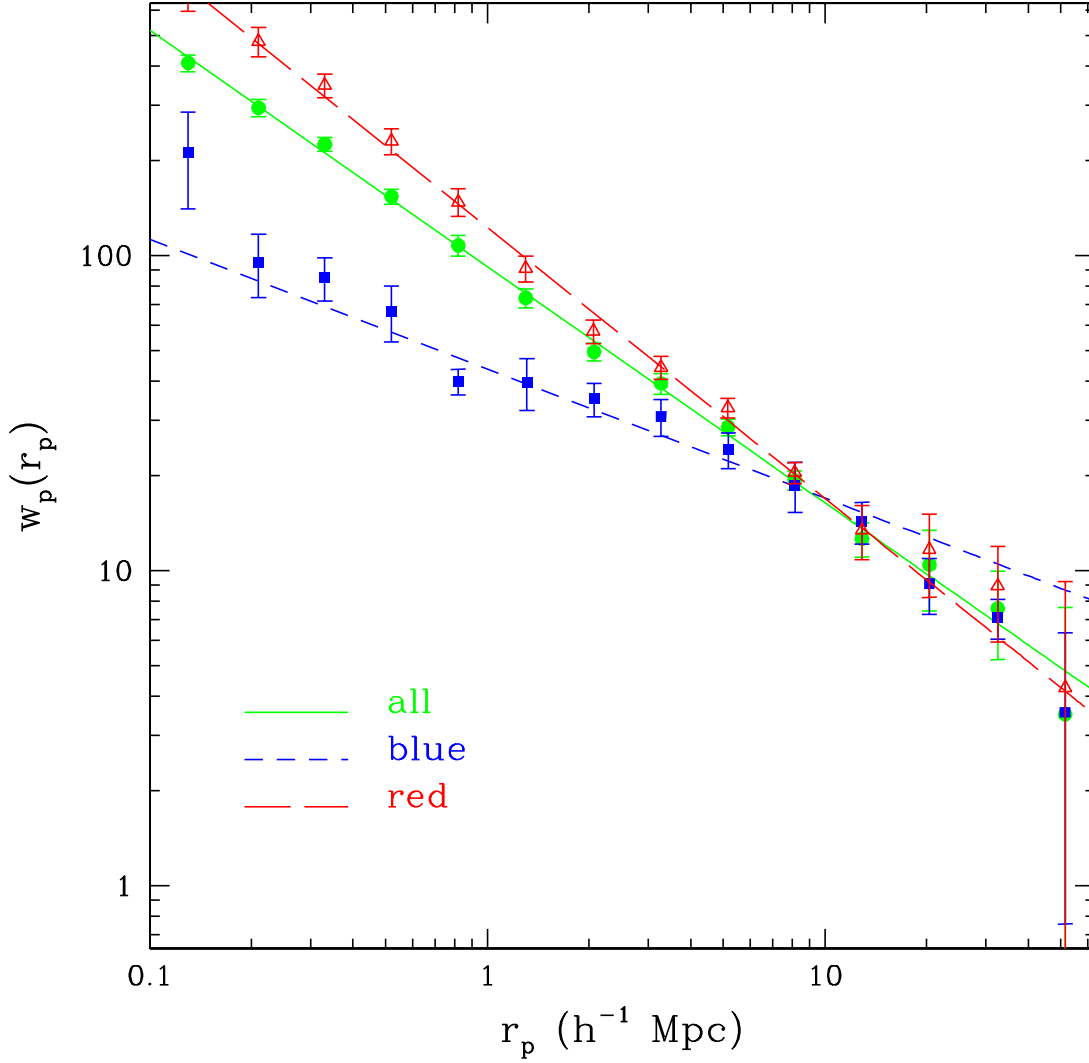


Fig. 13.— Projected correlation functions $w_p(r_p)$ for the blue (squares) red (triangles), and full (circles) samples. The straight lines are the best-fit power-laws for w_p , obtained for $0.1 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < r_p < 16 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. The short-dashed, long-dashed and solid lines correspond to the blue, red, and full samples, respectively.

halos with smaller virial radii (see, *e.g.*, Seljak 2000), but the statistical significance of this departure is not high. At large scales, the two correlation functions approach each other, with $w_p(r_p)$ for the red galaxies having a slightly higher amplitude but similar shape. The behavior in Figure 13 is qualitatively consistent with expectations based on the morphology-density relation (Narayanan, Berlind, & Weinberg 2000, figure 2), though the data at large scales are too noisy to test whether the relative bias becomes constant in the linear regime, as “local” bias models predict (Coles 1993; Fry & Gaztañaga 1993; Mann, Peacock, & Heavens 1998; Scherrer & Weinberg 1998; Narayanan et al. 2000).

Figure 14, the quadrupole ratio $Q(s)$, confirms the much stronger finger-of-God distortion of the red galaxies evident in Figure 12, with a large positive Q at small scales. At large scales, the red galaxies have a more negative $Q(s)$ than the blue galaxies, which is contrary to expectation given their higher relative bias, but the difference is marginal at best; for $s > 15 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, both subsamples generally have $Q(s)$ within the 1σ error bar of the full sample $Q(s)$. With future, larger samples, comparison of real-space clustering amplitudes and redshift-space distortions on large scales will allow interesting new tests of bias models.

Figure 15 shows the pairwise velocity dispersions of the two subsamples, demonstrating very clearly the preference of red galaxies for denser, hotter environments. For $r_p \sim 0.2 - 8 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, the PVD of the red sample is $\sigma_{12} \approx 650 - 750 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, while the blue galaxy PVD is only $\sigma_{12} \approx 300 - 450 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. This latter range is in fact similar to that obtained by Fisher et al. (1994) for IRAS galaxies. The two subsamples have similar σ_{12} at $r_p = 15 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$; partial convergence of σ_{12} at large scales is expected in theoretical models (Sheth et al. 2001a), though the assumptions used to infer σ_{12} from $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ may also be breaking down at this point (see §4.4 and Fisher 1995). Calculations where \bar{v}_{12} is assumed to be the same as that for dark matter particles in the ΛCDM model show again that the PVD at $r_p \lesssim 3 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ are quite robust against the change of infall model.

5.2. Luminosity

We study the dependence of clustering on luminosity using three volume-limited subsamples, each with different absolute magnitude and redshift limits, as summarized in Table 2. The absolute magnitude ranges of the three subsamples are centered approximately on $M_* + 1.5$, M_* , and $M_* - 1.5$, where $M_* = -20.8$ is the characteristic luminosity in a Schechter (1976) function fit to the SDSS luminosity function (Blanton et al. 2001a). The space density of the lowest luminosity subsample is 27 times that of the highest luminosity subsample. The redshift ranges are chosen to ensure that the selection function $\phi(z) = 1$ for each subsample (*i.e.*, they are volume-limited), accounting for K -corrections and the bright and faint apparent magnitude limits of the full sample. Because the width of the absolute magnitude bins is half the range of apparent magnitudes in the full sample, the three redshift ranges are actually disjoint, so our comparison of clustering properties relies on each subsample volume being large enough to fairly represent the cosmic mean.

Table 1. Flux-limited Correlation Function Samples

Description	Additional limits	N_{gal}	\bar{n}	r_0	γ	$r_{r_0\gamma}$
Full	—	29,300	1.85	6.14 ± 0.18	1.75 ± 0.03	-0.51
Red	$u - r > 1.8$	19,603	1.05	6.78 ± 0.23	1.86 ± 0.03	-0.15
Blue	$u - r < 1.8$	9,532	0.87	4.02 ± 0.25	1.41 ± 0.04	-0.24
High SB	$\mu_{1/2,r^*} < 20.5$	17,859	0.94	6.48 ± 0.21	1.84 ± 0.03	-0.14
Low SB	$\mu_{1/2,r^*} > 20.5$	11,439	0.98	5.55 ± 0.21	1.55 ± 0.04	-0.47
High Concen.	$c = r_{90}/r_{50} > 2.7$	11,883	0.55	6.74 ± 0.24	1.88 ± 0.02	-0.29
Low Concen.	$c = r_{90}/r_{50} < 2.7$	17,417	1.41	5.64 ± 0.22	1.63 ± 0.03	-0.01

Note. — All samples use $14.5 < m_{r^*} < 17.6$, $5,700 \text{ km s}^{-1} < cz < 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, and $-22 < M_{r^*} < -19$. \bar{n} is measured in units of $10^{-2} h^3 \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$. r_0 and γ are obtained from a fit for $w_p(r_p)$. $r_{r_0\gamma} \equiv \sigma_{r_0\gamma}/\sqrt{\sigma_{r_0}\sigma_\gamma}$ is the correlation coefficient between r_0 and γ .

Table 2. Volume-limited Correlation Function Samples

Absolute Mag. Limits	Redshift Limits	N_{gal}	\bar{n}	r_0	γ	$r_{r_0\gamma}$
$-23.0 < M_{r^*} < -21.5$	$0.100 < z < 0.174$	3,674	0.06	7.42 ± 0.33	1.76 ± 0.04	-0.85
$-21.5 < M_{r^*} < -20.0$	$0.052 < z < 0.097$	9,067	0.73	6.28 ± 0.77	1.80 ± 0.09	-0.77
$-20.0 < M_{r^*} < -18.5$	$0.027 < z < 0.051$	3,130	1.64	4.72 ± 0.44	1.86 ± 0.06	-0.83

Note. — All samples use $14.5 < m_{r^*} < 17.6$. \bar{n} is measured in units of $10^{-2} h^3 \text{ Mpc}^{-3}$. r_0 and γ are obtained from a fit for $w_p(r_p)$. $r_{r_0\gamma}$ is the normalized correlation coefficient between r_0 and γ .

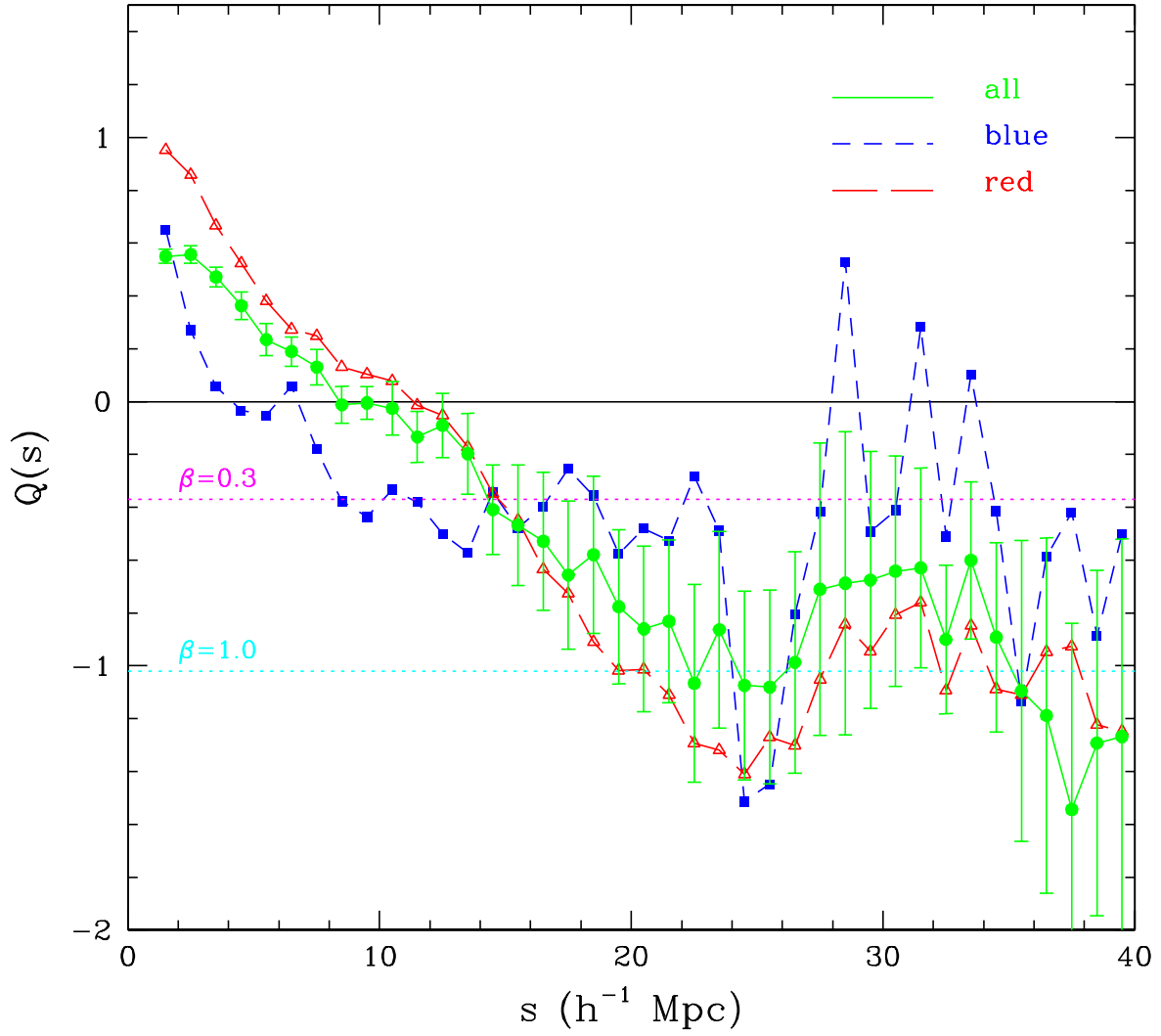


Fig. 14.— $Q(s)$ for the blue (short-dashed), red (long-dashed) and full (solid) samples. For clarity, error bars are drawn only for the full sample.

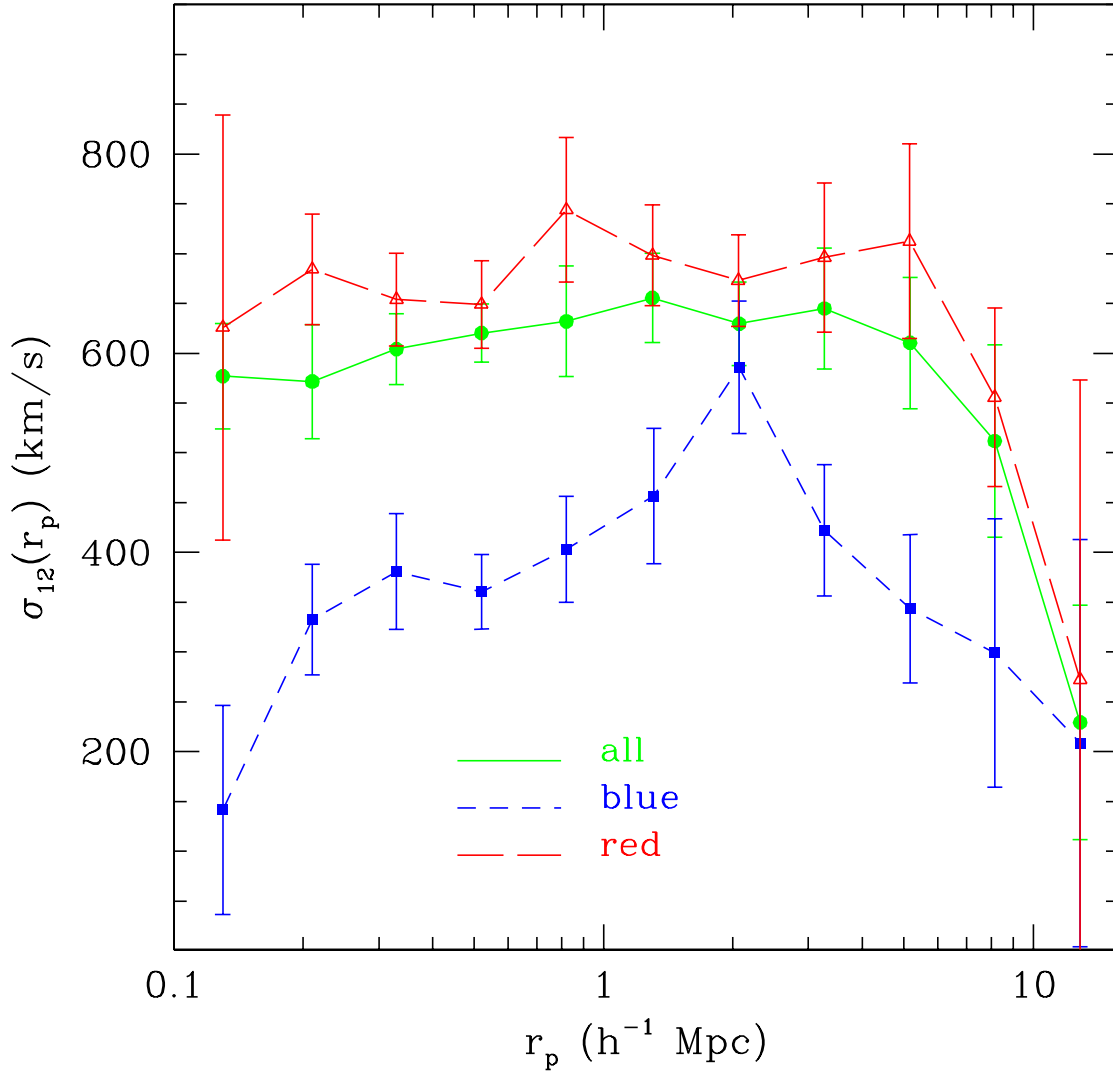


Fig. 15.— The pairwise velocity dispersion $\sigma_{12}(r_p)$ for the blue (short-dashed), red (long-dashed), and full (solid) samples. All error bars are 1σ , derived from jackknife subsamples of the indicated galaxy class.

Figure 16 shows the projected correlation functions $w_p(r_p)$ for the three absolute magnitude subsamples. Table 2 lists the parameters r_0 and γ of power-law $\xi_r(r)$ models determined by fitting $w_p(r_p)$ in the range $0.4 h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < r_p < 16 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ for the highest luminosity subsample and $0.1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < r_p < 16 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ for the other two subsamples. The correlation length and slope of the middle sample is similar to that of the full sample analyzed in §4, which is not surprising since most of the galaxies in a flux-limited sample have absolute magnitudes in the neighborhood of M_* . The low luminosity subsample has a clustering amplitude that is lower by $\sim 40\%$, and the high luminosity subsample has a clustering amplitude higher by $\sim 35\%$.

The general trend of Figure 16, stronger clustering for more luminous galaxies, is similar to that found in a number of earlier studies (Davis et al. 1988; Hamilton 1988; White, Tully, & Davis 1988; Park et al. 1994; Loveday et al. 1995; Guzzo et al. 1997; Benoist et al. 1998; Willmer, da Costa, & Pellegrini 1998). However, while some of these studies found that luminosity dependence became strong only for galaxies brighter than M_* , we find a steady trend from $M_* + 1.5$ to $M_* - 1.5$. Most of the earlier studies were based on B -band luminosities, while we have used r^* -band luminosities, so this difference in selection may contribute to the different trend. As the SDSS sample grows, we will be able to examine luminosity dependence of clustering in greater detail over a wider dynamic range.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Figure 16 is the nearly identical *shape* of the three correlation functions; at the 1σ level each is consistent with a power-law $\xi_r(r)$ of slope $\gamma = 1.8$ (see Table 2). A “halo occupation” analysis of galaxy clustering (see, *e.g.*, Benson et al. 1999; Ma & Fry 2000; Peacock & Smith 2000; Seljak 2000; Scoccimarro et al. 2001) implies that the correlation function at sub-Mpc scales is dominated by pairs of galaxies that reside in the same virialized dark halo, while the correlation function at scales $\gtrsim 2 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ comes from pairs in separate halos. Maintaining the constant slope seen in Figure 16 requires maintaining the relative strength of these two contributions in galaxy populations that differ by a factor of 27 in space density and a factor of 2.3 in correlation amplitude, a delicate balancing act. This empirical result should prove a demanding constraint for theoretical models of galaxy formation.

As we were completing this paper, a study of luminosity-dependent clustering in the 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey became available in preprint form (Norberg et al. 2001). The 2dF results also show nearly identical power-law forms of $w_p(r_p)$ in different luminosity ranges, and they show a strong dependence of clustering amplitude on luminosity for $L > L_*$. However, Norberg et al. (2001) find little luminosity dependence for $L < L_*$. Given the strong color dependence of clustering (§5.1; see also Shepherd et al. 2001) and of the luminosity function itself (Blanton et al. 2001a), it is not too surprising that b_J -selection (2dF) and r^* -selection (SDSS) lead to different luminosity dependence. The complex interplay between color, luminosity, and clustering offers yet another target for galaxy formation theories.

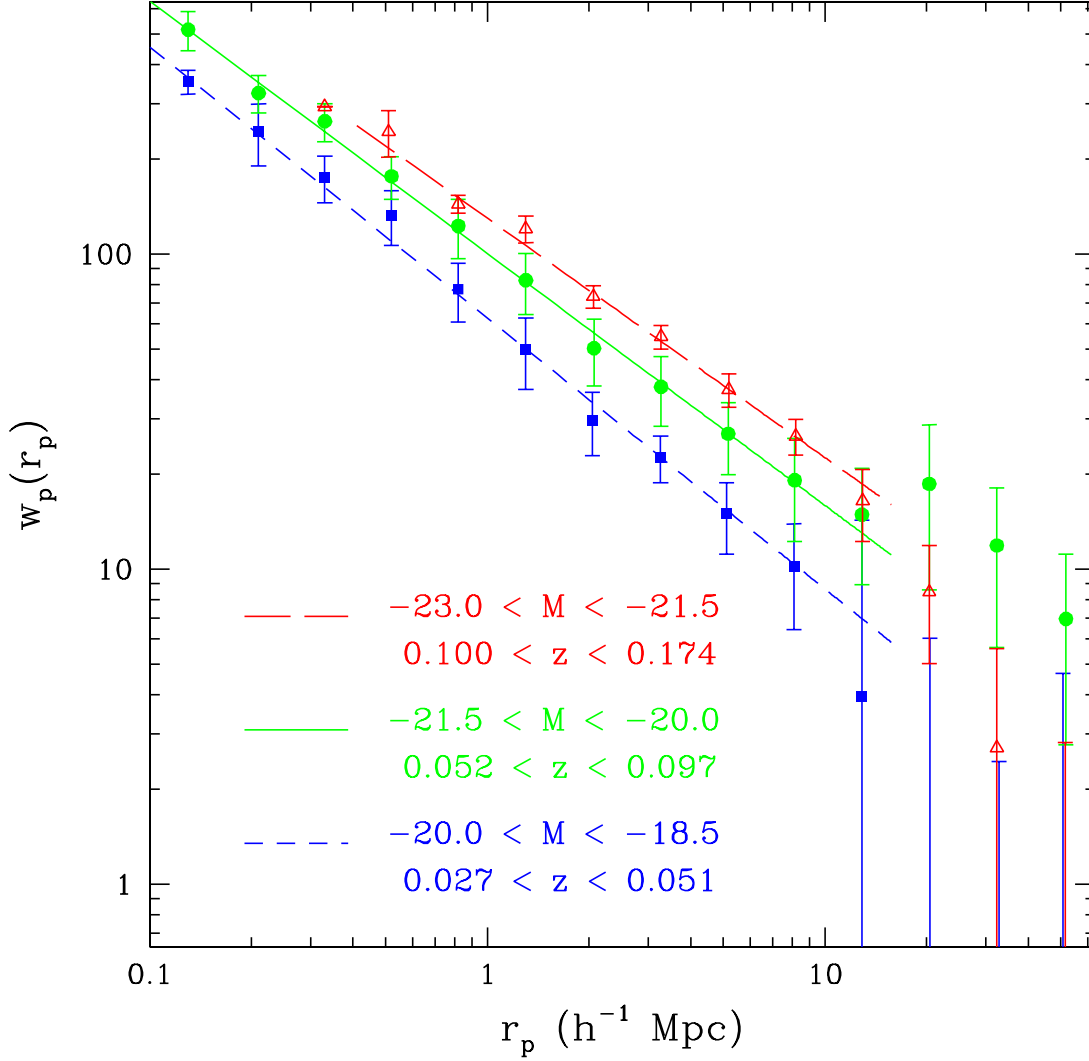


Fig. 16.— Projected correlation function $w_p(r_p)$ for three volume-limited samples, with absolute magnitude and redshift ranges as indicated. Squares, circles, and triangles show results for faint (sub- M_*), intermediate (M_*), and luminous (super- M_*) galaxies, respectively. Short-dashed, solid, and long-dashed lines show the best fit power-law models in the range they were fitted; parameters of the corresponding real-space $\xi_r(r)$ appear in Table 2.

5.3. Dependence on Surface Brightness and Morphology

The SDSS photometric pipeline (Lupton et al. 2001ab) measures many other properties that can be used to define galaxy classes. Here we consider two of these properties, surface brightness and light-profile concentration. Table 1 summarizes the thresholds that we use to define surface-brightness and concentration subsamples, along with sample sizes, mean space densities, and correlation function parameters.

The surface-brightness subsamples are divided at the threshold $\mu_{1/2} = 20.5$ mag arcsec⁻², where $\mu_{1/2} = m + 2.5 \log_{10}(2\pi r_{50}^2)$ is the mean r^* surface brightness within the Petrosian half-light radius r_{50} , K -corrected and corrected for cosmological surface-brightness dimming. The low surface-brightness sample contains around 11,400 objects and the high surface-brightness sample contains around 17,900 objects. The left panel of Figure 17 shows the projected correlation functions $w_p(r_p)$ of the two subsamples and of the full sample. The high surface-brightness galaxies have a steeper $w_p(r_p)$ and a higher clustering amplitude at $r_p \lesssim 3 h^{-1}$ Mpc. Fits of a power-law $\xi_r(r)$ to points with $r_p < 16 h^{-1}$ Mpc yield $r_0 = 5.55 \pm 0.21 h^{-1}$ Mpc, $\gamma = 1.55 \pm 0.04$ for the low surface-brightness sample and $r_0 = 6.48 \pm 0.21 h^{-1}$ Mpc, $\gamma = 1.84 \pm 0.03$ for the high surface-brightness sample. This trend of clustering strength with surface brightness is consistent with some earlier results based on smaller samples (Bothun et al. 1993, Mo, McGaugh & Bothun 1994). The two correlation functions actually cross at large scales, contrary to the expectation from simple bias models (see Narayanan et al. 2000), but the $w_p(r_p)$ amplitudes on these scales are consistent with each other at the 1σ level. We also note that since $w_p(r_p)$ is an integral in the π direction out to $40 h^{-1}$ Mpc, its value at r_p in fact probes clustering out to considerably larger scales.

The profile concentration subsamples are defined using the concentration parameter $c \equiv r_{90}/r_{50}$, which serves as a proxy for the traditional division of galaxies into early and late morphological types. For example, a pure de Vaucouleurs profile has $c \approx 3.3$ (given our definition of Petrosian magnitudes; see Blanton et al. 2001a), while a pure exponential profile has $c \approx 2.3$. We divide our full galaxy sample at $c = 2.7$, yielding about 11,900 galaxies with high concentration and 17,400 galaxies with low concentration. The right panel of Figure 17 shows the projected correlation functions of these subsamples. As expected from earlier studies of morphology-dependent clustering (Guzzo et al. 1997 and references therein), high- c (early type) galaxies have a steeper, higher amplitude correlation function. Fits of a power-law $\xi_r(r)$ yield $r_0 = 6.74 \pm 0.24 h^{-1}$ Mpc, $\gamma = 1.88 \pm 0.02$ for the high concentration subsample and $r_0 = 5.64 \pm 0.22 h^{-1}$ Mpc, $\gamma = 1.63 \pm 0.03$ for the low concentration subsample.

Qualitatively, our results for galaxy subsamples defined by surface brightness or profile concentration parallel our results for color subsamples described in §5.1. We have focused on $w_p(r_p)$ and $\xi_r(r)$, but the same characterization extends to redshift-space anisotropy: like red galaxies, high surface-brightness and high concentration galaxies show strong finger-of-God distortions, which in turn imply high pairwise velocity dispersions. Given the well known correlations between galaxy morphology, color, and surface brightness, these similarities are not surprising. As the SDSS pro-

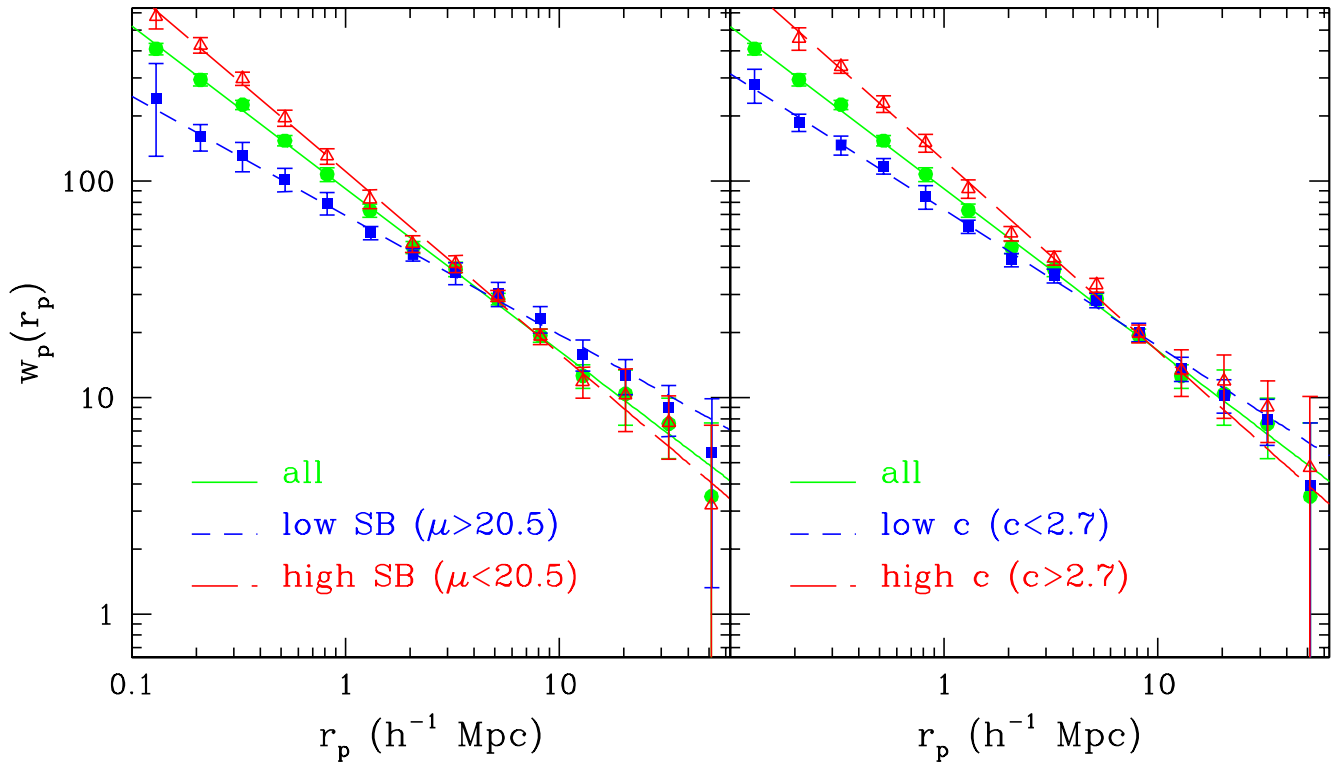


Fig. 17.— Projected correlation function $w_p(r_p)$ for samples cut according to surface brightness μ (left panel) and concentration parameter $c \equiv r_{90}/r_{50}$ (right panel). The straight lines correspond to the power-law fits of $w_p(r_p)$, for $r_p < 16 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$.

gresses, it will be possible to extend this type of analysis to a much finer level; for example, seeing if surface-brightness effects can be separated from color effects, isolating extreme classes of low surface-brightness or compact galaxies, comparing the clustering of galaxies with high and low profile concentration at fixed half-light surface brightness, or even comparing the clustering of barred and unbarred spirals or “disky” and “boxy” ellipticals. Detailed clustering studies of this sort should help disentangle the roles of early formation history and late-time transformation in determining galaxy properties.

6. Conclusions

We have presented the first measurements of galaxy clustering from early SDSS spectroscopic data, based on a sample of 29,300 galaxies. Since this sample covers a limited volume, spanning only $\sim 7\%$ of the total projected survey area of the SDSS, our analysis has focused mainly on small-scale clustering. The sample used for this analysis has been chosen with care: in addition to a uniform flux limit imposed at bright and faint magnitudes, $14.5 < r^* < 17.6$, the sample is limited in radial velocity, $5,700 \text{ km s}^{-1} < cz < 39,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, to avoid uncertainties introduced by evolution of the luminosity function, and in absolute magnitude, $-22 < M_{r^*} - 5\log_{10} h < 19$, so that it is dominated by galaxies with r^* -band luminosities around M_* . While these cuts reduce the number of galaxies included in the sample by nearly a factor of two, they allow robust conclusions to be drawn from the measurements. We have checked, for example, that our results are insensitive to details of the correlation function estimation, to uncertainties in the sample selection function, and to the effects of the 55-arcsecond minimum fiber separation. As discussed in Appendix A below, we have also tested our jackknife error estimation method using a large number of mock redshift catalogs drawn from N-body simulations of Cold Dark Matter models. These tests indicate that the jackknife errors used herein provide an accurate representation of the true statistical uncertainties over the scales of interest, at least in the context of these models.

For our full, flux-limited galaxy sample, we have measured the angle-averaged redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ and the two-dimensional correlation function $\xi(r_p, \pi)$, projected the latter along the π axis to infer the real-space correlation function $\xi_r(r)$, measured angular moments to quantify the anisotropy induced by peculiar motions, and modeled the small-scale anisotropy to infer the galaxy pairwise velocity dispersion $\sigma_{12}(r)$. Approximating the redshift-space correlation function by a power law, $\xi(s) = (s/s_0)^{-\gamma}$, yields a correlation length $s_0 \approx 8 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ and a slope $\gamma \approx 1.2$, but this representation is not accurate over a large range of scales. At small projected separations, contours of $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ show the characteristic “fingers-of-God” elongation along the line of sight caused by velocity dispersions in collapsed structures. At large separations, they show compression along the line of sight produced by coherent flows into high density regions. The projected correlation function $w_p(r_p)$ can be well fit by a power-law real-space correlation function $\xi_r(r) = (r/r_0)^{-\gamma}$, with $r_0 = 6.14 \pm 0.18 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ and $\gamma = 1.75 \pm 0.03$, for projected separations from $0.1 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ to $30 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. The ratio $Q(s)$ of the quadrupole and monopole moments of $\xi(r_p, \pi)$

is positive for $s \lesssim 10 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, where “finger-of-God” distortions dominate, and negative at larger scales, where coherent flow distortions dominate. A future analysis using a larger sample that extends to large scales in all three dimensions will enable us to extract an estimate of $\beta \equiv \Omega_m^{0.6}/b$ from the large-scale anisotropy. From the elongation of $\xi(r_p, \pi)$ at small scales, we estimate a pairwise velocity dispersion $\sigma_{12}(r) \approx 600 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ that is roughly constant in the range $0.1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < r < 10 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$.

Our results for the full galaxy sample are in fairly good agreement with those obtained from earlier optically selected galaxy redshift surveys, in particular from clustering analyses of the LCRS (Tucker et al. 1997; Jing et al. 1998). The fact that our first analysis of early data from the SDSS reproduces these results and yields comparable or better statistical precision demonstrates the encouraging prospects for future galaxy clustering studies with the SDSS redshift survey.

Taking advantage of our large sample and the high quality of SDSS imaging data, we have carried out a detailed examination of the dependence of real-space correlations and redshift-space distortions on galaxy photometric properties. Red and blue galaxies display markedly different clustering statistics, with the red galaxies exhibiting a higher amplitude and steeper real-space correlation function and much stronger finger-of-God distortions than the blue galaxies; at $r_p = 1 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, the pairwise velocity dispersion is $\sim 750 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for our red galaxy subsample and $\sim 350 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for our blue galaxy subsample. Subsamples of high/low surface brightness and high/low profile concentration display qualitative behavior similar to that of the red/blue subsamples. Perhaps our most striking result is a measurement of luminosity bias of the real-space correlation function that is approximately scale-independent at $r \lesssim 10 h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$. Using three volume-limited subsamples, we find a $\sim 40\%$ decrease in clustering amplitude as we go from a median absolute magnitude of M_* to $M_* + 1.5$ and a similar increase when going from M_* to $M_* - 1.5$, implying a relative biasing parameter $b/b_* \equiv (\xi/\xi_*)^{0.5}$ of 0.8 and 1.2, respectively, for the faintest and brightest samples. These three samples differ by a factor of 27 in galaxy number density, but in each case $\xi_r(r)$ is consistent with a power law of slope $\gamma \approx 1.8$.

Studies of galaxy clustering and redshift-space distortions in the local universe have two main scientific objectives: (a) to test cosmological models and determine their parameters, and (b) to infer the relation between the galaxy and dark matter distributions, partly to sharpen cosmological tests, but mostly to constrain and guide the emerging theory of galaxy formation. Cosmological model tests usually focus on large scales, where the effects of non-linear gravitational evolution and biased galaxy formation are relatively simple. These tests typically employ Fourier methods or statistical techniques that can isolate large-scale information and produce approximately uncorrelated error estimates even in the presence of a complicated survey geometry (Vogeley & Szalay 1996; Tegmark, Taylor, & Heavens 1997; Tegmark et al. 1998). Several of these methods have been applied to SDSS angular clustering data (Connolly et al. 2001; Scranton et al. 2001; Tegmark et al. 2001; Dodelson et al. 2001; Szalay et al. 2001), and they will be applied to the increasing sample of SDSS redshift data in the near future. The best constraints on galaxy bias will probably come from small and intermediate scales, where clustering statistics are most sensitive to the relation between

galaxies and dark matter and where precise measurements can be obtained for many different classes of galaxies. Our results on the color and luminosity dependence of real-space clustering and on pairwise velocities already provide a challenging target for theories of galaxy formation. In the near future, these will be complemented by measurements of higher-order clustering, which can break degeneracies among bias models that match two-point correlations (Scoccimarro et al. 2001). Studies of galaxy-galaxy weak lensing in the SDSS offer an entirely new route to determining the relation between galaxies and dark matter (Fischer et al. 2000; McKay et al. 2001). These measurements and other characterizations of galaxy clustering will improve in precision and detail as the SDSS progresses, yielding a wealth of new information with which to understand galaxy formation.

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A. Reliability of Error Estimates

A complete model of galaxy clustering predicts, in addition to mean values, the distribution and covariance of statistical measurement errors for any specified sample geometry and selection function. These predicted statistical errors can be used to assess the consistency of the model with the data. However, such error estimates can be cumbersome to compute, and they depend on the assumed clustering model itself. For some purposes, therefore, it is desirable to have estimates of statistical errors and their covariances that depend only on the data set itself.

One common approach to this task is to estimate errors from disjoint subsamples of the full data set, each occupying a separate sub-volume. One calculates the statistic of interest — *e.g.*, $\xi(s_i)$ for a number of separations s_i — in each sub-volume, and the estimated error of $\xi(s_i)$ is the error on the mean determined from the N sub-volumes. The same approach can be used to estimate covariance of errors. The disadvantage of this technique is that estimates of $\xi(s_i)$ from individual sub-volumes may become noisy or biased, especially on scales comparable to the

sub-volume size. A related but more robust way to estimate errors from the sample itself is the jackknife method described in Section 3.4 (see specifically eq. 6). In this approach, each jackknife subsample is obtained by *excluding* one of the sub-volumes from the full sample, and one “sums up” the variances of the jackknife subsamples rather than taking the error of the mean. Since each jackknife subsample is similar in size to the full sample, this method performs better on large scales, though the two approaches should give equivalent results in the limit where each sub-volume is representative of the whole data set (i.e., when fractional variances are small).

Our error bars on plotted data points and on parameter estimates (r_0 , γ , σ_{12}) are all computed using the jackknife method. Here we compare this approach to the model-based approach using the mock SDSS catalogs of Cole et al. (1998). Cole et al. (1998) ran a series of high resolution N-body simulations, using an Adaptive P³M code (Couchman 1991), for a suite of cosmological models and biasing schemes. They created catalogs with the survey geometry and anticipated selection function of the SDSS. We use two of their catalogs: a COBE-normalized flat Λ CDM universe (with $\Omega_m = 0.3$ and $h = 0.65$) and a structure-normalized τ CDM model (with $\Omega_m = 1.0$, $h = 0.5$ and $\Gamma = 0.25$). From each of these we extract 75 galaxy samples, each of which resembles the observed stripes in our sample. For computational convenience, we used artificial samples that are smaller than our current data set, with only $\sim 6,000$ galaxies per sample, but we expect that our conclusions about the relative behavior of jackknife and mock catalog error estimates would also hold for larger samples.

For each artificial galaxy sample we calculate the redshift-space $\xi(s)$ and the error estimates (including the full covariance matrix) using the jackknife method and the sub-volume method. Figure 18 compares these estimated errors to the “true” errors of this model, defined as the scatter of the 75 $\xi(s)$ estimates from different samples. Points and error bars show the mean and 1σ scatter of the “internal” error estimates (jackknife or sub-volume) in units of the true, “external” error at the same separation s .

The jackknife estimates recover the true errors reasonably well (with 1σ scatter $\lesssim 50\%$), and they are robust on all scales, without any gross systematics. The sub-volume estimates do comparably well on the intermediate scales, but on large scales they overestimate the errors. The sub-volume estimates are also more numerically unstable on small scales, where a single sub-volume may contain few galaxy pairs.

The jackknife method produces unbiased estimates of the true errors for both cosmological models. These models are both designed to match the observed APM correlation function, so their predicted errors are also comparable, but they do differ by $\sim 20\%$ on some scales, and the jackknife estimates seem to track these variations. We also performed this analysis for the off-diagonal elements of the covariance matrices. The covariance estimates do fairly well at intermediate scales but less well at small and large separations. The scatter in the estimates progressively increases for elements farther away from the diagonal. We are therefore less confident in the usefulness of the jackknife method for estimating a full covariance matrix; estimates of off-diagonal terms may be

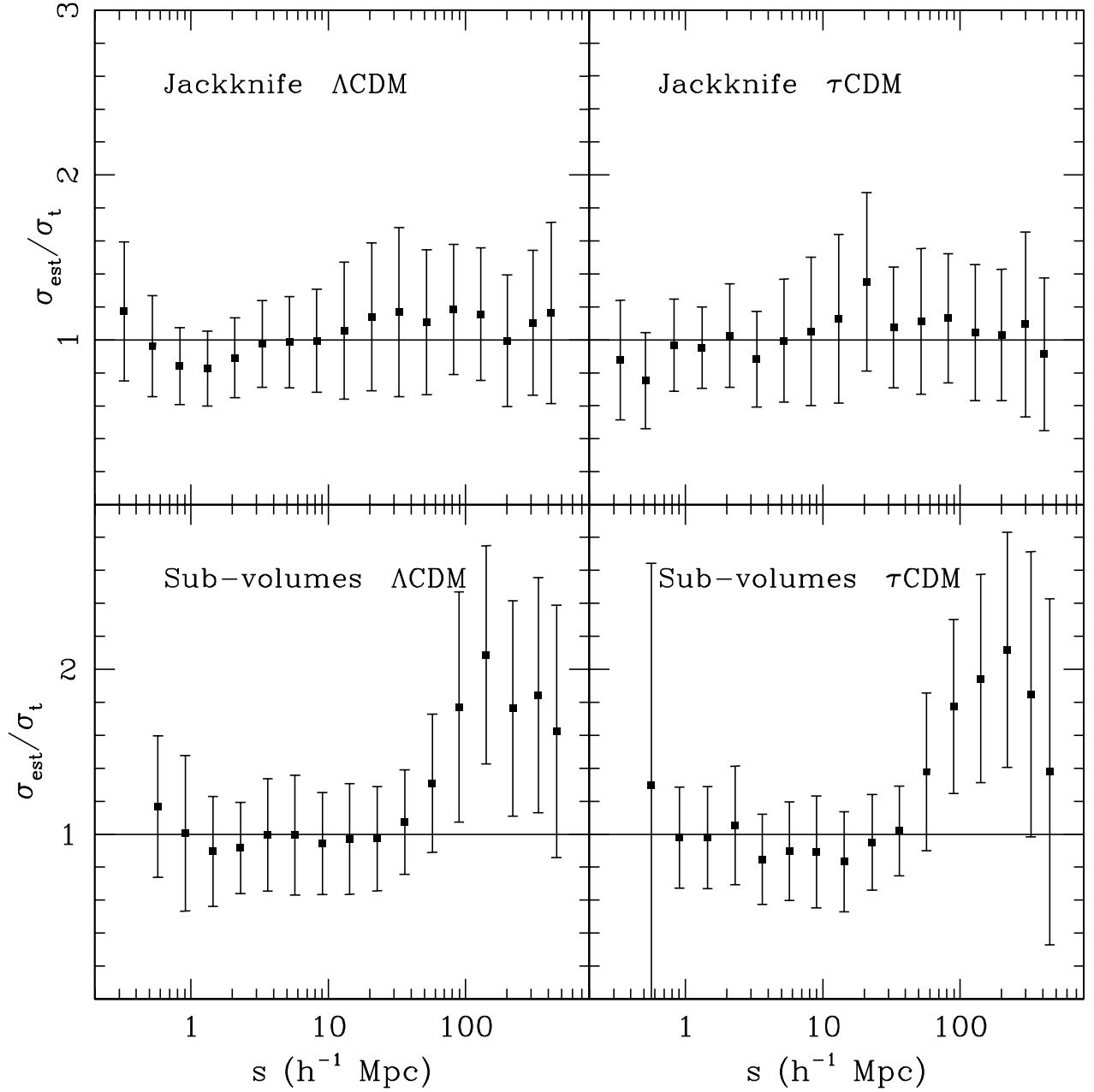


Fig. 18.— Comparison of jackknife and sub-volume “internal” error estimates to “external” estimates derived from variation among artificial samples, using the N-body mock catalogs of Cole et al. (1998). Points and error bars show the mean and 1σ scatter of the error estimates derived from 75 artificial samples, in units of the true (external) error. Top panels show results for the jackknife estimator and bottom panels for the sub-volume estimator. Left and right panels show Λ CDM and τ CDM models, respectively.

noisy and inter-dependent, making inversion of the covariance matrix unstable. When estimating parameters like r_0 , γ , and σ_{12} , therefore, we fitted values for each jackknife subsample using only diagonal terms, then estimated the error on the parameter by summing the variance of the estimates in the jackknife subsamples (see §4.2 and 4.4). This approach seems more reliable than using the full jackknife covariance matrix itself.

For a specified clustering model, the mock catalog approach is probably the best way to assess the consistency of the model with the data, provided that one has an efficient way to create large numbers of mock catalogs of the necessary size. (Scoccimarro & Sheth 2001 present a novel method that should improve the computational practicality of this approach for large-scale surveys.) However, the tests presented here give us confidence that our jackknife error estimates should be representative of the true statistical error bars for models that have clustering similar to that observed. The jackknife approach is especially convenient when one breaks up the full sample into subsets that have different clustering properties, as we have done in §5, since it will automatically account for the influence of these clustering differences on the statistical errors. Scranton et al. (2001) have compared jackknife and mock catalog errors in the context of angular clustering measurements and reached similar conclusions.

B. Early Data Release Sample

In June 2001, the SDSS released a large number of objects to the astronomical community in an “Early Data Release” (EDR). In order to facilitate the comparison of the results people find using that data with ours, we have run our code on a subsample of the data approximately corresponding to the EDR, which covers the North and South Equatorial regions as well as a high declination region that overlaps part of the SIRTf First Look region. The area of the spectroscopic sample is about 330 square degrees, and it contains 15,279 main sample galaxies within our adopted ranges of apparent magnitude, absolute magnitude, and redshift. The EDR sample is thus about half the size of the sample analyzed in this paper.

Our “EDR” sample differs slightly from that which one would create directly from the public data set. In particular, we use somewhat older photometric reductions and calibrations (though the changes since the ones we used have been small), and a more inclusive set of spectroscopic plates to make our sample. However, we do not believe that these small differences will have a significant effect on our results.

Figure 19 shows the result for the redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ obtained for the EDR sample (solid line). The result for our full sample, presented in Section 4.1, is plotted as well for comparison (dashed line). It is apparent that the results from the EDR sample closely resemble those of our bigger sample, with only slight deviations consistent within the errors. As expected, the errors associated with the EDR results are somewhat larger than the ones obtained for our sample, mainly on the smallest and largest scales. The results for comparing the other statistics are qualitatively similar.

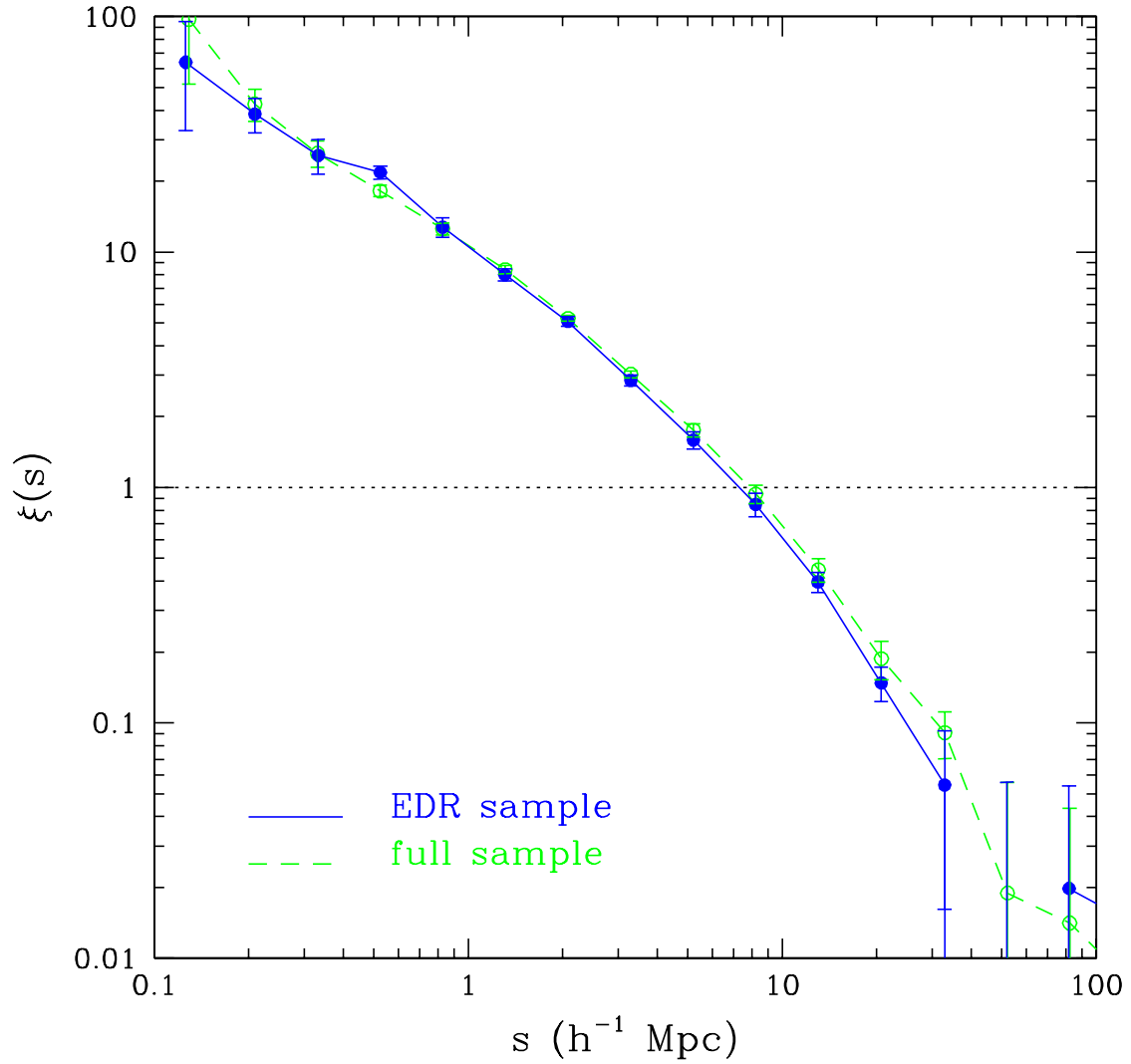


Fig. 19.— The redshift-space correlation function $\xi(s)$ for the spectroscopic sample included in the Early Data Release (solid symbols and line). The results from our larger sample are shown for comparison (open symbols and dashed line).

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