

STUDYING INTER-CLUSTER GALAXY FILAMENTS THROUGH STACKING GMBCG GALAXY CLUSTER PAIRS

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ABSTRACT

We present a method to study the photometric properties of galaxies in filaments by stacking the galaxy populations between pairs of galaxy clusters. Using Sloan Digital Sky Survey data, this method can detect the inter-cluster filament galaxy overdensity with a significance of $\sim 5\sigma$ out to $z = 0.40$. Using this approach, we study the $g-r$ color and luminosity distribution of filament galaxies as a function of redshift. Consistent with expectation, filament galaxies are bimodal in their color distribution and contain a larger blue galaxy population than clusters. Filament galaxies are also generally fainter than cluster galaxies. More interestingly, the observed filament population seems to show redshift evolution at $0.12 < z < 0.40$: the blue galaxy fraction has a trend to increase at higher redshift: a filament "Butcher Oemler Effect". We test the dependence of the observed filament density on the richness of the cluster pair: richer clusters are connected by higher density filaments. We also test the spatial dependence of filament galaxy overdensity: this quantity decreases when moving away from the inter-cluster axis between a cluster pair. This method provides an economical way to probe the photometric properties of filament galaxies and should prove useful for upcoming projects like the Dark Energy Survey.

Subject headings: Large Scale Structures: Galaxy Filaments: Photometric Properties

1. INTRODUCTION

In the standard picture of structure formation after the Big Bang, initial density perturbations grow via gravitational instability and form massive structures in a bottom-up, hierarchical growth scenario in which small, gravitationally bound structure like galaxies conglomerate into progressively larger structures like galaxy groups and clusters. On the largest scales, gravitational instability leads to a collapse of matter first into sheets (Zeldovich 1970) and then into a network of filaments (Klypin & Shandarin 1983) with galaxy clusters at the intersection of filaments. This early result of Klypin & Shandarin has been confirmed in countless N -body simulations since then (e.g., Davis et al. 1985; Bertschinger & Gelb 1991; Springel et al. 2005).

Observationally the filamentary large-scale structure (LSS) has been traced by the galaxy distribution in redshift surveys for decades; from first indications seen by Jöeveer et al. (1978) over the seminal work of Geller & Huchra (1989) to modern redshift surveys like 2dF (Colless et al. 2001) and SDSS (Ahn et al. 2012). The gaseous Warm-Hot Intergalactic Medium residing in filaments was seen in X-ray emission (Werner et al. 2008; Fraser-McKelvie et al. 2011) and absorption (Buote et al. 2009; Fang et al. 2010). Malarecki et al. (2013) use the lobes of giant radio galaxies in an attempt to probe the physical condition of the WHIM below the densities accessible by X-ray observations. It is, however, not clear that assumption they make on the state of the gas in radio lobes (equipartition and minimum Lorentz factor) as well as the assumption on pressure equilibrium of the radio lobes

with the surrounding WHIM are fully justified. More recently the underlying Dark Matter skeleton of large-scale structure filaments was also detected through its gravitational lensing effect (Dietrich et al. 2012; Jauzac et al. 2012).

Despite these observational advances, filaments remain relatively little studied, yet they are astrophysically interesting places: LSS filaments contain a plurality of all matter in the Universe (Aragón-Calvo et al. 2010) and they harbor the "missing baryons" at low redshift (Davé et al. 2001). It is well known that galaxies in clusters are redder than galaxies in the surrounding field and mostly have ceased star-formation. As galaxies are constantly accreted into clusters along filaments, it is only reasonable to assume that a portion of the transformation from actively star-forming galaxies to passively evolving ones happens in filaments. The specific role of the filamentary environment in this process has not been studied very much. An exception is, e.g., the work of Porter et al. (2008), which found a spike in star-formation activity in filament galaxies at fixed cluster centric distance. It is of course well established that the local density of galaxies is one of the factors deciding the efficiency with which star-formation is quenched (Peng et al. 2010). The exact role of the filament versus the galaxy-group environment, however, has not been studied in detail.

The relative dearth of papers about filaments compared to, e.g., the number of studies done of galaxy clusters is due to the low-density contrast of filaments with respect to the mean density of the Universe. While galaxy clusters by definition have a density contrast $\delta > 200$, the typical density contrast of filaments is $\delta < 20$ (Aragón-Calvo et al. 2010). This makes filaments much more difficult to find, observe, and study, and they have generally been traceable in spectroscopic surveys only to redshift ~ 0.2 .

In this paper, we develop an algorithm to study the photometric properties of inter-cluster galaxy filaments from redshift 0.1 to 0.4. Because close pairs of galaxy clusters are generally connected by filaments (Pimblet et al. 2004; Colberg et al. 2005), instead of trying to detect single filaments,

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our approach is to identify galaxy cluster pairs and then stack the galaxy population between them. By comparing the stack of such populations to the stack of other selected galaxy fields, we can detect an overdensity of galaxies present in the connecting filaments. We go on to analyze the color and luminosity properties of these filament galaxies and to examine these for possible redshift evolution.

The remainder of this paper is arranged as follows. In Section 2, we describe our algorithm and some tests we have conducted on it, and represent the statistical significance of our filament overdensity. Section 3 contains our results. We compute color evolution and luminosity function of filament galaxies, as well as their spatial and richness dependence. We summarize and discuss the implications of our results in Section 4. In Appendix A, similar results from N-body simulation are provided for comparison. Throughout this paper, we assume a flat cosmology with $\Omega_m = 0.30$ and $h = 0.7$. We use z to denote redshift, and Σ to denote the 2-d projected galaxy number density. All the error bars shown in this paper represent single standard deviation errors.

2. METHODS

2.1. Data

For this study, we use the gmBCG galaxy cluster catalog (Hao et al. 2010). This is a large optically selected galaxy cluster catalog constructed from the SDSS Data Release 7 (Abazajian et al. 2009). It includes 55,424 clusters in the redshift range $0.1 < z < 0.55$, covering the whole SDSS Data Release 7 area. When building this catalog, Hao et al. searched for overdensities of red sequence galaxies around brightest cluster galaxy (BCG) candidates. The final catalog contains positions, estimated redshifts, and richness for each detected cluster. Comparing to other previously well accepted cluster catalogs (Miller et al. 2005; Koester et al. 2007) in the SDSS footprint, this catalog has larger sky coverage, extends to deeper redshift, and has been extensively tested by the authors of this paper.

The galaxy catalog we use for this study is constructed from SDSS DR8 BOSS imaging data (Eisenstein et al. 2011; Aihara et al. 2011). The sky coverage of this catalog is described by a catalog of random points, which samples the same angular coverage as the survey objects. Instead of using SDSS DR7, we choose to use galaxy data from the BOSS survey in a newer SDSS data release because of its improved photometry. This choice leaves the galaxy catalog having a slightly different sky coverage with the gmBCG cluster catalog. However, with the sky coverage weighting described in Section 2.2.5, only the overlapping area of the galaxy catalog and the cluster catalog contributes to our final results.

2.2. Algorithm

Figure 1 outlines our algorithm, which is described in detail in this section. To summarize, we select pairs of galaxy clusters and identify the galaxies which occupy the regions around these cluster pairs. We stack these galaxies, weight for sky coverage, and compare the galaxy population between cluster pairs to the galaxy population seen in other fields.

To test our methods and compare to our SDSS results, we also apply our algorithm to the Millennium simulation (Springel et al. 2005). The procedures and results of this application are discussed in the appendix.

2.2.1. Cluster Pair Selection

We begin by selecting the cluster pairs to be used in our algorithm. According to Colberg et al. (2005), the probability of finding a filament between galaxy clusters is strongly dependent on their separation. Clusters separated by less than $5h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ always have a connection between them, but this is primarily formed from the outer regions of the cluster populations rather than a separate filament population. For clusters that are separated between $15h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ to $25h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, about 1/3 of them have a filament connection. For clusters that are separated less than $35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, the probability of filament existence between them is larger than 10%. Clusters separated more than $50h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ are unlikely to have filaments between them. Also, richer clusters tend to have more filaments connecting to them, but the number of connections rarely exceeds 5. Informed by these expectations from simulation, we select cluster pairs separated by less than $\sim 35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ while limiting the maximum number of cluster pairs one cluster can appear in. For each cluster, the clusters paired to it satisfy the following conditions,

1. The difference in photometric redshift of the BCGs of the two clusters should differ by < 0.02 . This redshift difference roughly corresponds to a comoving distance of $50h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$.
2. The angular separation between the two clusters is smaller than $35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ on the plane of the sky at the redshift of the cluster to-be-paired-to. Because we do not directly constrain the two clusters' 3-d physical separation, the cluster pairs' 3-d physical separation can be larger than $35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, as shown in Figure 2.
3. Each cluster can appear in several cluster pairs if it has more than one neighbor meeting the above criteria. If a cluster appears in more than 5 cluster pairs, we keep its 5 closest pairs along with all pairs that include clusters with fewer than 5 neighbors.

With this selection procedure, we identify a total of 160,954 cluster pairs. As discussed in Section 2.2.6, when stacking galaxy populations that are around these cluster pairs, we apply an absolute magnitude cut which is above the SDSS completeness limit at $z = 0.38$, even with dust extinction correction and K-correction. To avoid including galaxy populations in very dusty sky regions, we exclude cluster pairs which fall within $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ angular boxes around galaxy objects which have dust extinction in r-band larger than 0.4. This lowers the number of cluster pairs to 158,897 in the final catalog. In this cluster pair catalog, one cluster on average appears in 5.7 cluster pairs.

2.2.2. Selection of Galaxies

Inter-cluster filaments do not always strictly lie on the inter-cluster axis. According to the studies of Pimblet et al. and Colberg et al., maybe 40% filaments run straightly from one cluster to the other one, and maybe a similar portion still appearing to be strand-like but curves from one cluster to the other one, and the rest being wall or sheet-like, irregular or even permeative with nondefinitive morphologies. In this paper, we do not try to distinguish filaments of different morphologies. We try to incorporate all kinds of genuine structures that cause an overdensity of matter between a cluster pair.

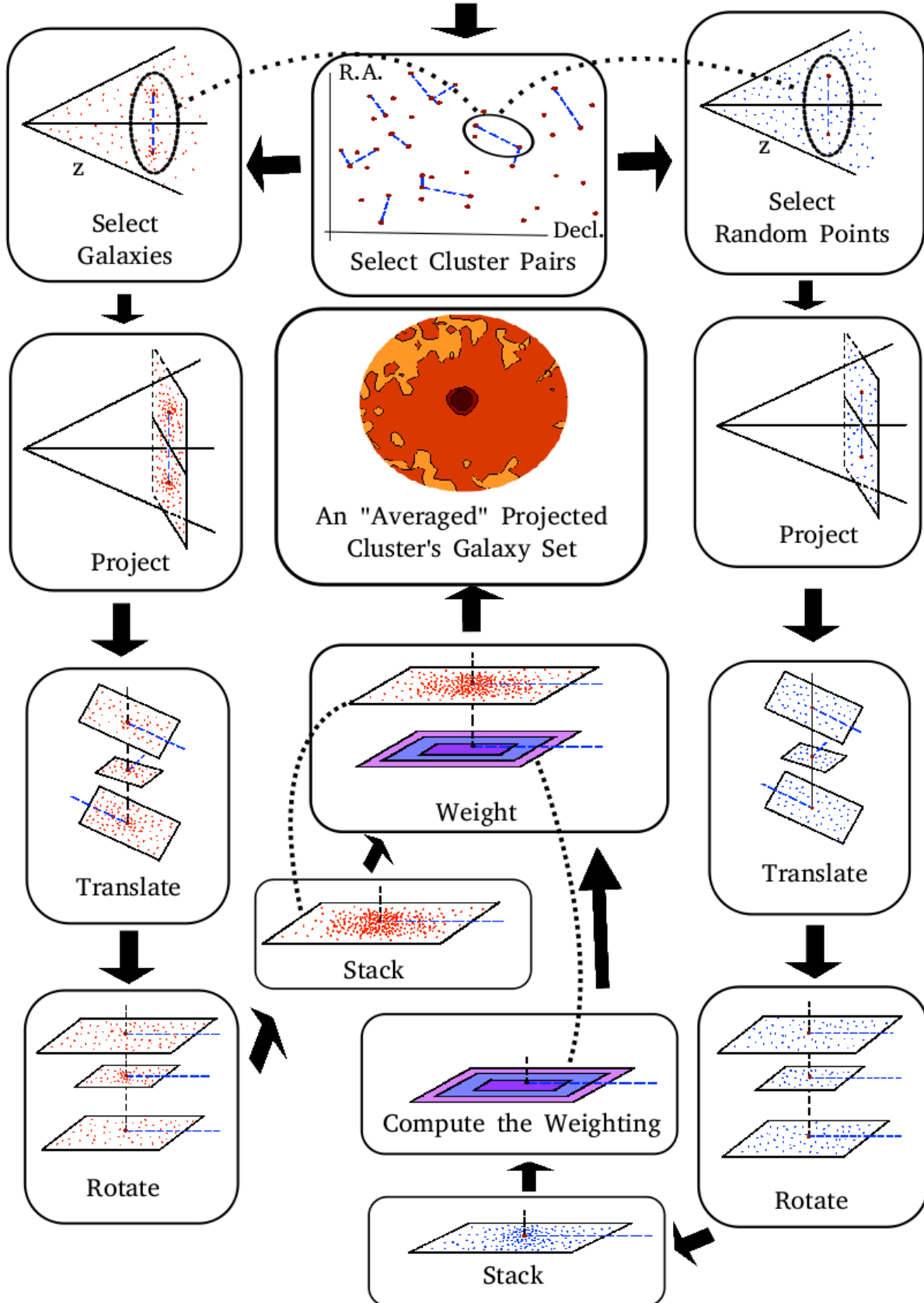


FIG. 1.— Flowchart illustration of the algorithm described in Section 2.2. The left side of the figure illustrates the manipulations on galaxy data in order to acquire stacked cluster pair galaxy fields. The right side illustrates the manipulations on the random point catalog in order to acquire the sky coverage weighting, which tells how many times each pixel in the galaxy stacking is covered by real sky data. The manipulations on random points are identical to the manipulations on real galaxy data before "Compute the Weighting" step (See Section 2.2.5 for details). Arrows indicate the processing flow. We first look for cluster pairs that possibly have filament connections and select the galaxies that are in the fields of such pairs. We then re-define the coordinates of these galaxies with steps "Project", "Translate" and "Rotate" so that the coordinates reflect the galaxies' projected physical distance to cluster centers (See Section 2.2.3 for details). We stack these galaxies and weight the stack with sky coverage weighting to obtain "averaged" galaxy distributions around one cluster center in cluster pairs. See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

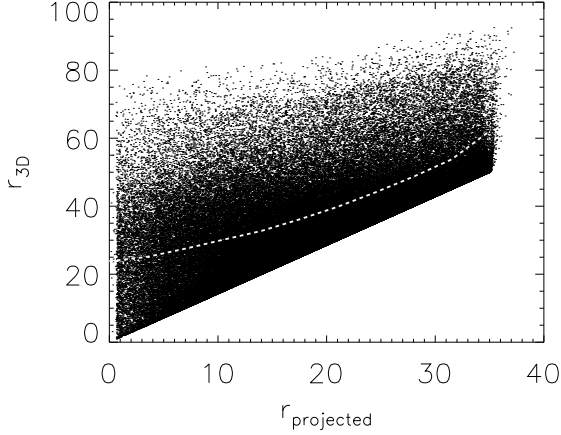


FIG. 2.— Cluster pairs’ projected separation on the plane of the sky at their median redshift, $r_{\text{projected}}$, versus their 3-d physical separation, $r_{3\text{D}}$. The white dashed line shows the mean $r_{3\text{D}}$ value at different $r_{\text{projected}}$. We assume the clusters’ photometric redshift are purely due to Hubble flow and use the law of cosine for calculating $r_{3\text{D}}$. The cluster pairs’ projected separation on the plane of the sky is cut off at $\sim 35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, depending on the exact redshift of the projection, but their 3-d separation can be as large as $90h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$.

For every cluster pair, we identify all galaxies in and around the two clusters. We first identify all galaxies in a rectangular box centered on the filament midpoint, with the width of the inter-cluster distance but twice as long. Galaxies in the square centered on each cluster form the "galaxy set" for that cluster. Each galaxy set includes the cluster, an inter-cluster region in which we expect to find a filament, and an opposing field region in which we do not (necessarily) expect a filament.

When selecting these neighboring galaxies, we do not make any redshift cuts. It is possible that a carefully designed photometric redshift cut could increase the significance of the results discussed in Section 2.3, but such a cut risks to introducing color and magnitude dependent selection effects. While photometric redshifts for bright passively evolving galaxies can be smaller than 0.05 (Cunha et al. 2009), those for fainter or star-forming galaxies can be substantially worse.

2.2.3. Cluster Galaxy Set Processing

For each cluster in one cluster pair, there is one galaxy set corresponding to it. We denote the angular coordinates of one cluster in one cluster pair to be (α_0, δ_0) , its comoving distance to be d_C , the angular coordinates of the g th galaxy in its galaxy set to be (α_g, δ_g) , and the angular coordinates of the other cluster BCG in this cluster pair to be $(\alpha_{0p}, \delta_{0p})$. Before stacking the galaxy sets of different clusters, we need to redefine galaxy coordinates so that they convey the same physical scale at different redshifts:

1. Project these galaxies onto a tangent plane at the cluster BCG,

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_g &= \alpha_g \cos(\delta_0), \\ \delta_g &= \delta_g, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

so that 1° in the θ_g and δ_g dimension corresponds to the same great-circle distance.

2. Translate (θ_g, δ_g) as in

$$\begin{aligned} \theta'_g &= \theta_g - (\alpha_0 \cos(\delta_0)), \\ \delta'_g &= \delta_g - \delta_0, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

so that the cluster center of the galaxy set is placed at $(0, 0)$.

3. Rotate the galaxy set with a rotation matrix M ,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \theta''_g \\ \delta''_g \end{bmatrix} = M \times \begin{bmatrix} \theta'_g \\ \delta'_g \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

to have the inter-cluster axis lay on $y=0$, with the direction extending to the other cluster aligned toward $x > 0$. The rotation matrix M has the form of:

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\arctan \frac{\delta_{0p} - \delta_0}{(\alpha_{0p} - \alpha_0) \cos \delta_0}) & \sin(\arctan \frac{\delta_{0p} - \delta_0}{(\alpha_{0p} - \alpha_0) \cos \delta_0}) \\ -\sin(\arctan \frac{\delta_{0p} - \delta_0}{(\alpha_{0p} - \alpha_0) \cos \delta_0}) & \cos(\arctan \frac{\delta_{0p} - \delta_0}{(\alpha_{0p} - \alpha_0) \cos \delta_0}) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (4)$$

4. Redefine the coordinates to be

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \theta''_g \times (d_C \tan 1^\circ), \\ y &= \delta''_g \times (d_C \tan 1^\circ). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Here, $d_C \tan 1^\circ$ is the physical distance that corresponds to 1° angular separation on the tangent plane at the cluster center. If all the galaxies in the galaxy set are at about the same redshift with the cluster BCG, the coordinates re-defined above would reflect the projected physical distance between these galaxies to the cluster BCG in the plane of the sky. This argument does not hold for the whole population since we do not make any redshift selection. However, this definition of coordinates should be proper for filament and cluster galaxies after foreground and background subtraction.

2.2.4. Stacking

When stacking, we create a multidimensional galaxy stack in bins of cluster pair redshift. Each stack is four dimensional, including galaxy coordinates (x, y) , galaxy absolute magnitude M_r , and the observer frame dust extinction corrected $g-r$ color. The binning size in each dimension is chosen to be small enough not to smear out the details of x , y , M_r and $g-r$ dependence, but not so small as to leave many bins unoccupied. For the x and y dimensions, the bin sizes are both $0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, because of the low S/N in one spatial bin. For binning in M_r and $g-r$, the bin sizes are 0.2 mag and 0.125 mag. The value of the stack at one particular bin $X_{i-1} < x \leq X_i$, $Y_{j-1} < y \leq Y_j$, $M_{r(l-1)} < M_r \leq M_{rl}$ and $(g-r)_{k-1} < (g-r) \leq (g-r)_k$ is denoted as $G_z(x_i, y_j, M_{rl}, (g-r)_k)$. To include a comparison of cluster galaxies to filament galaxies, we also build a two dimensional stack in M_r and $g-r$ with galaxies around cluster centers which satisfy $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} < 0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$. This stack of cluster galaxies is denoted as $CL_z(M_r, g-r)$.

2.2.5. Stack Weighting

Because the galaxy cluster pairs have different separations, and the galaxy sets of different clusters are selected based on their cluster pair separations, the physical sizes of our cluster galaxy sets vary. Also, the cluster pairs may fall at the edge of the survey, and the galaxy sets will have irregular sky coverage. Without accounting for this, we would observe artificial galaxy density gradients in the x and y dimension of the stacking. To remove such an artificial gradient, we weight $G_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ with a coverage weighting function $W_z(x, y)$. We first explain the physical interpretation of $W_z(x, y)$ and the

weighting procedure in this and the next paragraph, and describe details on computing $W_z(x, y)$ in the rest of this section. The value of $W_z(x, y)$ at $X_{i-1} < x \leq X_i$ and $Y_{j-1} < y \leq Y_j$, denoted as $W_z(X_i, Y_j)$, tells how many cluster galaxy sets include valid data for the pixel at $X_{i-1} < x \leq X_i$ and $Y_{j-1} < y \leq Y_j$. For example, $W_z(X_i, Y_j)=3$ when there are 3 clusters' galaxy sets fully covering this pixel, or $W_z(X_i, Y_j) = \frac{10}{3}$ when there are 3 clusters' galaxy sets fully covering this pixel and another cluster's galaxy set covering 1/3 of this pixel.

We weight $G_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ with Equation 6, and acquire a weighted distribution, $g_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$, the value of which at one bin, $X_{i-1} < x \leq X_i$, $Y_{j-1} < y \leq Y_j$, $M_{r(l-1)} < M_r \leq M_{rl}$ and $(g-r)_{k-1} < (g-r) \leq (g-r)_k$, is denoted as $g_z(x_i, y_j, M_{rl}, (g-r)_k)$:

$$g_z(x_i, y_j, M_{rl}, (g-r)_k) = \frac{G_z(x_i, y_j, M_{rl}, (g-r)_k)}{W_z(x_i, y_j)}. \quad (6)$$

This weighted distribution, $g_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$, can be interpreted as representing properties of one "averaged" cluster's galaxy set with filament connection on the $x > 0$ side.

The $W_z(x, y)$ we use is built from the random point catalog described in Section 2.1. This random point catalog first goes through the same algorithm with the galaxy catalog as described in Section 2.2.2 and Section 2.2.3, and then is stacked together. Unlike Section 2.2.4, in which we build a four dimensional distribution from stacking galaxies, we can only build a two dimensional distribution in x and y from stacking random points, denoted as $R_z(x, y)$. At $X_{i-1} < x \leq X_i$ and $Y_{j-1} < y \leq Y_j$, the value of $R_z(x, y)$, denoted as $R_z(X_i, Y_j)$, tells how many random points there are in this bin. Because the random point catalog covers the survey area evenly, $R_z(x, y)$ can be used as a proxy of $W_z(x, y)$. The relation between $R_z(x, y)$ and $W_z(x, y)$ at one particular bin is

$$R_z(x_i, y_j) = W_z(x_i, y_j) \times C(z). \quad (7)$$

Here $C(z)$ is the average number of random points per $[h^{-1}\text{Mpc}]^2$ at redshift z , and z is the median redshift value of the clusters which have their galaxy sets or random point sets stacked to build $G_z(x, y, M-r)$ or $R_z(x, y)$. $C(z)$ can be computed from the comoving distance, denoted by $d_C(z)$, at redshift z , and the average number of random points per deg^2 , denoted by C , through

$$C(z) = C \times \left[\arctan \left(\frac{0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc}}{d_C(z)} \right) \right]^2. \quad (8)$$

With known values of $R_z(x, y)$, and C , We compute $W_z(x, y)$ from Equation 7 and Equation 8, and then $g_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ from Equation 6, which is used for deriving the scientific results in this paper.

To weight $CL_z(M_r, g-r)$, which is used for comparison with $g_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$, we record the total number of random points that fall around cluster centers with $\sqrt{x^2+y^2} < 0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, denoted by R_z , and compute the weighted function of $CL_z(M_r, g-r)$, which is denoted by $cl_z(M_r, g-r)$, with following equations:

$$R_z = W_z \times C(z),$$

$$cl_z(M_{rl}, (g-r)_k) = \frac{CL_z(M_{rl}, (g-r)_k)}{W_z}. \quad (9)$$

In this weighting procedure, one might worry that the poisson noise of the random point sampling would lower the S/N

of $g(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ or $cl_z(M_r, g-r)$. Here, we show that with proper random point density, this influence is insignificant. The poisson noise in $R_z(x, y)$ and R_z increases with redshifts because $C(z)$ decreases with redshifts. Our random point catalog samples the survey coverage with $C = 9,275$ and at $z = 0.40$, $C(z) = 5.98$. Since we always stack galaxy sets of more than 5,000 clusters in each redshift bin, the S/N of $R_z(x, y)$ at most spatial bins, and of R_z , is larger than 100. At this significance level, the weighting constructed from $R_z(x, y)$ and R_z brings in negligible noise to $g(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ or $cl_z(M_r, g-r)$.

2.2.6. Galaxy Absolute Magnitude and Luminosity Cut

For every galaxy selected in Section 2.2.2, we compute an absolute magnitude from its apparent magnitude, m_r , SDSS dust extinction correction, e , K-correction, K , and its cluster BCG's luminosity distance d_L , with equation

$$M_r = m_r - 5 \log \left(\frac{d_L}{10 \text{pc}} \right) - e - K. \quad (10)$$

We compute the K-correction for each galaxy with analytical approximations provided by Chilingarian et al. (2010), since the more popular SED template fitting method is inefficient to implement with our large volume of data. This Chilingarian et al. approach approximates K-corrections computed by Fioc & Rocca-Volmerange (1997) and Blanton & Roweis (2007) with analytical polynomials of two parameters: redshift and one observed color, and the residual between values measured by this approach and others (Fioc & Rocca-Volmerange 1997; Blanton & Roweis 2007; Roche et al. 2009) is close to zero for r-band in the redshift range [0.1, 0.45] (Chilingarian et al. 2010). In our application of this method, we use each galaxies own $g-r$ color and the cluster BCG's photometric redshift.

Because SDSS is an apparent magnitude limited survey (Stoughton et al. 2002), its imaging data contains different galaxy populations at different redshifts: at lower redshift, the galaxy catalog is more complete, including more intrinsically faint galaxies than at higher redshift. To ensure we are selecting the same galaxy population for comparison in different redshift bins, we apply a $-24.2 < M_r < -20.4$ cut in Section 2.3, Section 2.5, Section 3.1, Section 3.3 and Section 3.4. Under this magnitude cut, even with a maximum dust extinction correction, $e_{\max} = 0.4$, and a maximum K-correction $K_{\max} = 0.6$ in the galaxy catalog, a galaxy's absolute magnitude is still above the 95% completeness limit of r-band at redshift $z = 0.38$. In Section 3.2, the M_r cut is different for different redshift bins, which is listed in Table 1. This cut ensures that the galaxy population is more than 95% complete in each redshift bin.

2.3. Foreground/Background Subtraction and Filament Detection Significance

In this section, we describe our foreground and background galaxy subtraction and quantify the detection significance of our filament signal. Within the weighted average cluster galaxy set $g_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ we define a "filament" region (denoted FL), a "cluster" region (denoted CL), and two comparison regions C1 and C2. All of these regions are displayed in Figure 3. We search for filament galaxies by subtracting the galaxy population observed in C1 or C2 from that seen in FL.

Since the filament fields are placed on the right side of the galaxy sets, the "filament" region is defined with the following

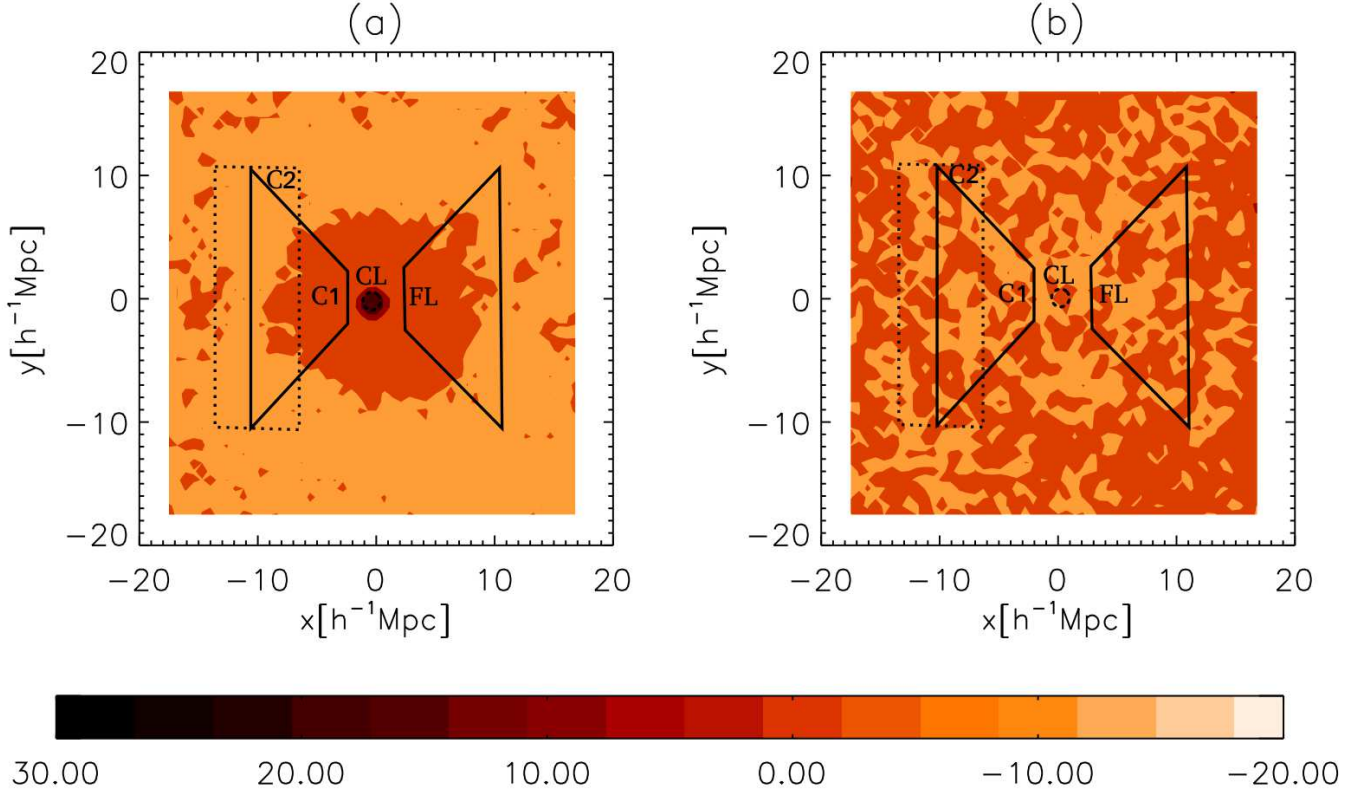


FIG. 3.— (a) Shows a galaxy overdensity significance contour map from stacking galaxy sets of clusters at $0.14 < z < 0.18$. There is a significant overdensity in the middle of the map, caused by the presence of many cluster galaxies. (b) Shows null test results from stacking randomly re-positioned pairs, where the whole field is noisily flat. In (a) and (b), the solid line and dashed line boxes mark out the four regions defined in Section 2.3. See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

constraints:

$$2.1 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < x < 10.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$$

$$|\theta = \arctan(y/x)| \leq 45^\circ.$$

We define this region to be $2.1 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ away from the cluster center to avoid including contamination by cluster galaxies. Although cluster galaxy contents can be removed with the foreground/background subtraction procedure as described later in this section, contamination from this population would lower the S/N of filament signals. We also eliminate galaxies that are too far away from cluster centers (with $x > 10.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$), to avoid lowering the S/N of filament detections with too noisy spatial bins. Since few cluster pairs extend to $10.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$, at the spatial bins beyond this distance, not only the galaxy count noise becomes significant, the random point count noise also starts to influence, resulting in exceptionally low S/N of these bins. The filament region angular extent $|\theta| = 45^\circ$ is chosen based on discussion in Section 3.4. Defining the cluster region is more straightforward. Since cluster BCGs are placed at $(x, y) = (0, 0)$, we define the region enclosed within $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} < 0.7 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ to be the cluster region, which is also the coverage of functions $CL_z(M_r, g-r)$ and $cl_z(M_r, g-r)$.

To evaluate signals from the foreground/background galaxy population, we define two comparison regions. The first, C1, satisfies these constraints:

$$-10.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < x < -2.1 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$$

$$|\theta = \arctan(y/x)| \leq 45^\circ,$$

The second comparison region, C2, satisfies,

$$-13.3 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < x < -6.3 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$$

$$-10.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < y < 10.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}.$$

The C1 region is symmetrical to the FL region, and is used for filament foreground/background subtraction. Both FL and C1 contain galaxies present in the outskirts of the clusters, so using C1 for foreground/background subtraction should, to first order, eliminate these. The C2 region is used for foreground/background signal evaluation in estimating the cluster population. It is picked to be a region away from the cluster center.

In Figure 4, we resample with replacement, i.e. bootstrap, cluster pairs which have their galaxy sets stacked, and show the projected galaxy number density in the FL region and the C1 region. The averaged galaxy number density in the filament region is $\sim 5\sigma$ higher than that of the C1 region. Since cluster outskirts galaxies have already been taken into consideration when making comparison, this galaxy overdensity is unlikely to be caused by the existence of one galaxy cluster alone, but related to cluster pair structures exclusively. We associate this galaxy overdensity with the filament population between cluster pairs. Such a galaxy overdensity is very small comparing to galaxy overdensity caused by cluster fields. In Figure 3(a), we show projected galaxy overdensity significance contour map of stacked galaxy sets at $0.14 < z < 0.18$. At (X_i, Y_j) , the projected galaxy overdensity significance, de-

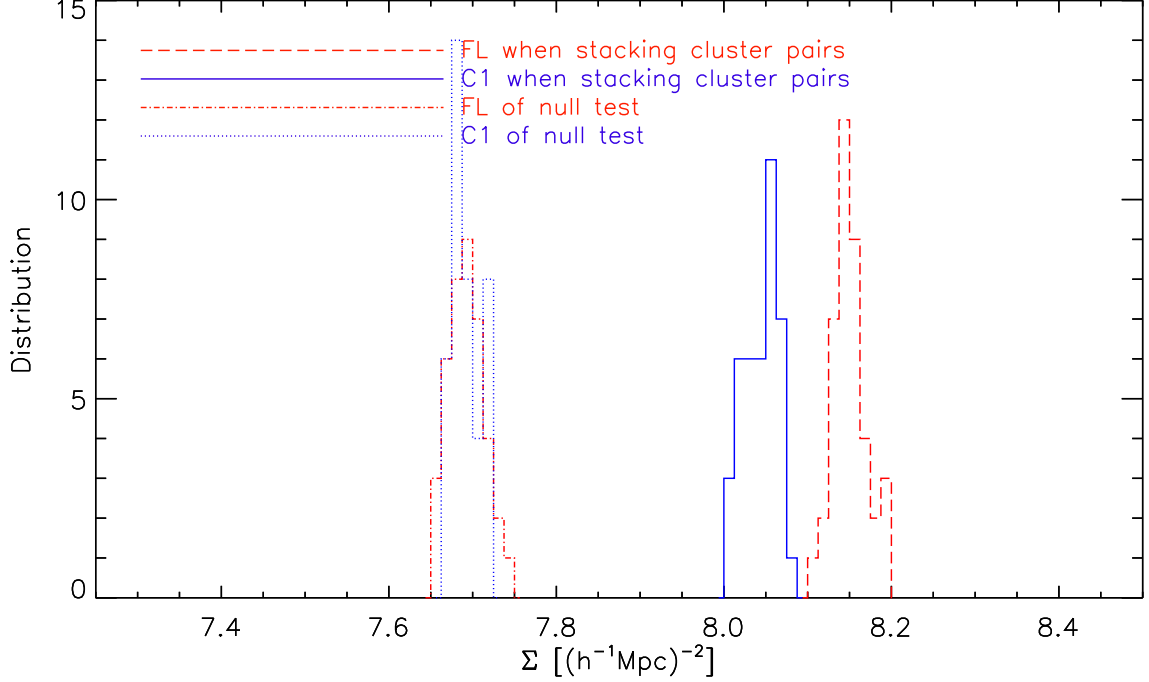


FIG. 4.— Projected galaxy number density in the filament region (FL) and the comparison 1 region (C1) at $0.14 < z < 0.18$ when stacking real cluster pairs or when performing null test with randomly re-positioned pairs (see Section 2.5 for details). The histograms shows distributions of 40 bootstrapped resamplings of the original stacking. When stacking galaxy sets of real cluster pairs, the FL region (red dashed line) displays a galaxy overdensity above the C1 region (blue solid line) with a significance of $\sim 5\sigma$. Galaxy number counts of FL and C1 at other redshift slices also show similar high significance detection. In null test of stacking randomly re-positioned pairs, we don't observe any overdensity in F1 (blue dotted line) over C1 (red dash dot line). Because the galaxy overdensity in cluster fields, the galaxy count in F1 and C1 from stacking real cluster pairs are higher than stacking randomly re-positioned pairs. See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

noted by $S(X_i, Y_j)$, is defined as,

$$S_z(X_i, Y_j) = \frac{\sum_{k,l} g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r)_l) - \mu_z}{\sigma_z}. \quad (11)$$

Here, μ_z and σ_z are the mean and scatter of projected galaxy count per spatial pixel in the C2 region, computed with,

$$\mu_z = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}} \sum_{k,l} g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r)_l)}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}}, \quad (12)$$

$$\sigma_z = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}} [\sum_{k,l} g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r)_l) - \mu_z]^2}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}}}.$$

In Figure 3(a), We observe a significant overdensity in the center because of cluster galaxy population. The filament overdensity is not directly observable in this figure, due to the very small density contrast of the filaments.

Because more than 90% of the galaxies observed in the FL region come from foreground and background populations, the properties of filament galaxies would not be distinguishable without foreground/background subtraction. To get the pure properties of galaxy filaments, like color distribution and luminosity distribution, we first get such distributions of the total galaxy population in the FL region and the C1 region, and then subtract the C1 region count from the FL region count. For example, to get the color distribution of pure filament galaxies at one redshift bin, we first get color distribution

of the FL region with

$$f_{\text{FL}}(g-r) = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in FL}} \sum_k g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r))}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in FL}} 0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \quad (13)$$

and color distribution of the C1 region with

$$f_{\text{C1}}(g-r) = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C1}} \sum_k g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r))}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C1}} 0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \quad (14)$$

and then subtract $f_{\text{C1}}(g-r)$ from $f_{\text{FL}}(g-r)$ as in,

$$f_{\text{pfil}}(g-r) = f_{\text{FL}}(g-r) - f_{\text{C1}}(g-r). \quad (15)$$

$f_{\text{pfil}}(g-r)$ is the color distribution of pure filament galaxies after removing foreground/background galaxy contents. In Equation 13 and Equation 14, the $0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2$ factor is in the denominators because one pixel in the x and y dimension of $g(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ is $0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc} \times 0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$. This subtraction is also illustrated in Figure 5. To acquire properties of cluster galaxies for comparison with filament galaxies, similar subtraction between the CL region and the C2 region is applied:

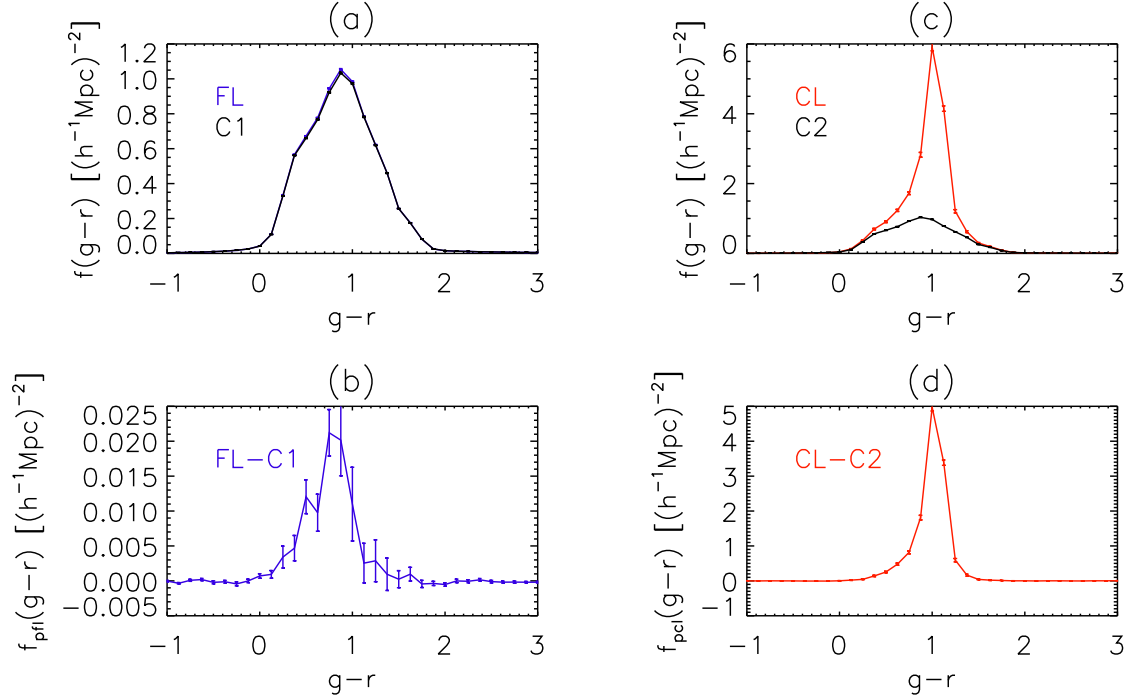


FIG. 5.— How we get the "pure" color distributions of filament galaxies and cluster galaxies. (a) shows the color distributions of the FL region and the C1 region, which are almost indistinguishable. After subtracting the C1 region distribution from the FL region distribution, we obtain the color distribution of pure filament galaxies, which is shown in (b). Subtraction between the CL region and the C2 region is also applied to get the pure color distribution of cluster galaxies. (c) shows the color distributions of the CL region galaxies and the C2 region, and (d) shows the pure color distribution of cluster galaxies after subtraction. These plots are based on stacking galaxy sets of clusters in the redshift bin $[0.14, 0.18]$. Unless otherwise noted, the error bars in this figure and the rest of the paper are single standard deviation errors estimated from bootstrapping the galaxy sets being stacked. Because one cluster on average appears 5.7 times in the stack (158,897 cluster pairs versus 55,424 clusters), and the error for clusters tend to be underestimated, we enlarge the error estimation of clusters by a factor of $\sqrt{5.7}$ through out the paper. See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_{\text{CL}}(g-r) &= \frac{\sum_k c_{l_z}((M_r)_k, (g-r))}{0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \\
 f_{\text{C2}}(g-r) &= \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}} \sum_k g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r))}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}} 0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \\
 f_{\text{pcl}}(g-r) &= f_{\text{CL}}(g-r) - f_{\text{C2}}(g-r).
 \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Here, $f_{\text{pcl}}(g-r)$ is the color distribution of pure cluster galaxies.

2.4. Justification on Using C1/C2 for Foreground/Background Subtraction

When using C1/C2 for foreground/background subtraction, a concern arises that C1/C2 not only contain foreground/background galaxies, but also filaments which are not in the FL region. In this section, we show that such scenarios do exist but the detection of filament galaxies is still effective.

Indeed, more often than not, galaxy filaments also appear in regions other than the FL fields because each cluster is typically connected to more than one neighbor. In Figure 6(a), we show the distribution of pair connections for each cluster in our cluster pair catalog. Most clusters have more than 5 pair connections, and some of them even have more than 10 pair connections. However, the probability of one cluster having a filament connection in C1 region is relatively low. In Figure 6(b), we show the distribution of cluster pair connections

appeared in C1 and FL while placing one cluster pair on the $y = 0$ axis in the FL region. About 30% of the clusters do not have cluster pair connection appearing in C1, and the number of cluster pair connections in C1 tend to be smaller than this number in FL. In Figure 6(c), we show the cumulative probability distribution of the difference between number of cluster pair connections in FL and C1. The probability of C1 having more or equal number of cluster pair connections than the FL region is less than 40%. On average, the FL region contains 1.091 ± 0.007 more cluster pair connections than the C1 region. Therefore, the FL region always tend to contain more filament galaxies than the C1 region, and using C1 for foreground/background subtraction would still leave proper galaxy counts similar to stacking pure inter-cluster galaxies.

Similarly to C1, the C2 region would also contain cluster-pair field galaxies. Using C2 for cluster foreground/background subtraction will then remove cluster-pair field galaxy count in addition to foreground and background galaxy count. However, because of the very high galaxy overdensity in clusters, the absence of such a population have negligible influence ($\sim 1\%$) and won't change the main conclusions of this paper.

Another concern about our method of searching for filaments between cluster pairs is that since clusters tend to cluster, the filament signal we are seeing might come from clusters which cluster between cluster pairs. We compare the number of clusters two cluster finders, gmBCG (Hao et al. 2010) and redMaPPer (Rykoff et al. 2013), find around cluster pairs and between cluster pairs. We notice that although clusters

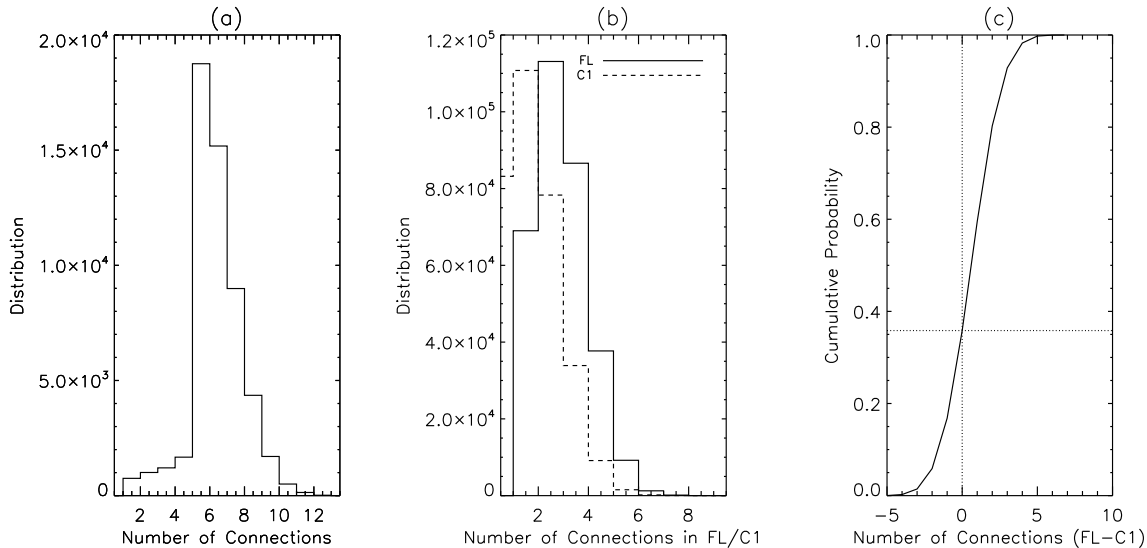


FIG. 6.— (a) Distribution of the number of pair connections each cluster have in the cluster pair catalog. Most clusters are connected to more than 5 other clusters. (b) Distribution of the number of cluster pair connections in the C1 region (dashed line) and the FL region (solid line). There is no cluster pair connection in C1 for 30% of the time, and the average number of cluster pair connections in C1 is lower than that in FL. Meanwhile, the FL region always contain at least one cluster pair connection since one cluster pair is always aligned along $y = 0$ at the FL side. (c) Cumulative probability distribution of the difference between number of cluster pair connections in FL and C1. C1 is unlikely to have equal or more cluster pairs than FL ($\sim 35\%$). The horizontal and vertical dotted lines indicate where number of cluster pair connections in FL and C1 are equal.

might have slightly higher chance to appear between cluster pairs than appearing randomly around them, this clustering of clusters effect contributes to $< 5\%$ of the filament signal we observe.

2.5. Null Test with Random Cluster Pair Re-Positioning

To test the robustness of our algorithm, we randomly translate the angular coordinates of the cluster pairs and rerun our algorithm. We expect to get a stack of galaxies which are completely flat with no overdensity either at the "cluster center" or in the "filament region".

2.5.1. Random Cluster Pair Re-Positioning

For one cluster pair in the 160,954 pre-masked cluster pair catalog, we first generate a random point inside the angular region $110^\circ < \alpha < 260^\circ$ and $0^\circ < \delta < 60^\circ$. We then translate the angular coordinates of the two clusters in this cluster pair so that the left cluster is laid on the generated random point. After randomly re-position every cluster pair in the 160,954 pre-masked cluster pair catalog, we mask out these pairs which fall into regions with dust extinction in r-band larger than 0.4, and make a new pair catalog which will be referred as the randomly re-positioned pair catalog. This new pair catalog and the original cluster pair catalog overlaps significantly in sky coverage, and have similar physical separation distributions, as well as similar cluster pair count in each redshift bin.

2.5.2. Galaxy Set Profile of Randomly Re-positioned Pairs

We run the algorithm described in Section 2.2 and Section 2.3 with the randomly re-positioned pair catalog, and get the $S(x, y)$ contour map as shown in Figure 3(b), and the distributions of galaxy number count per $[h^{-1}\text{Mpc}]^2$ in the FL region and the C1 region as shown in Figure 4. We do not observe an overdensity either in the filament region or in

the cluster region when stacking galaxy sets of randomly re-positioned pairs. We therefore state that the treatment of sky coverage geometry in our algorithm is proper, and the filamentary as well as cluster overdensity observed in Section 2.3 are real attributes of cluster pair fields.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Color Distributions

This section studies the $g-r$ color evolution of filaments at $0.10 < z < 0.42$. For SDSS filters, despite the 4000\AA break transition from g-band to r-band around $z \sim 0.38$, practically, $g-r$ works almost equally well for separating blue late-type galaxies from red early-type galaxies at $0.3 < z < 0.42$. Hao et al. (2010) have a detailed discussion on using $g-r$ for detecting the red sequence in cluster galaxies out to $z = 0.42$.

With Equations 13–16, we compute the color distributions of galaxy filaments, $f_{\text{fil}}(g-r)$, as well as the color distributions of galaxy clusters, $f_{\text{pcl}}(g-r)$, at different redshifts. Results are shown in Figure 7. The red sequence population is observed in both clusters and filaments. Comparing to galaxy clusters, galaxy filaments have a bimodal color distribution and a larger blue galaxy population.

More interestingly, galaxy clusters and filaments both show evidence of redshift evolution, with a blue cloud galaxy population increasing steadily from $z = 0.1$ to $z = 0.4$. In galaxy clusters, such evolution is observed as the Butcher-Oemler effect (Butcher & Oemler 1978a,b, 1984), although the exact nature of it is much debated. Many embrace this effect as testimony of hierarchical clustering (Kauffmann 1995; Baugh et al. 1996; Ellingson et al. 2001; McGee et al. 2009; Li et al. 2009), but there are also strong voices that remain critical (Dressler 1984; Smail et al. 1998; Andreon & Etori 1999; Andreon et al. 2004, 2006), saying that either the error of measurements are underestimated, or this effect is no more than selection bias. Nevertheless, our data show a very strong redshift evolution of the cluster blue fraction and suggest that a

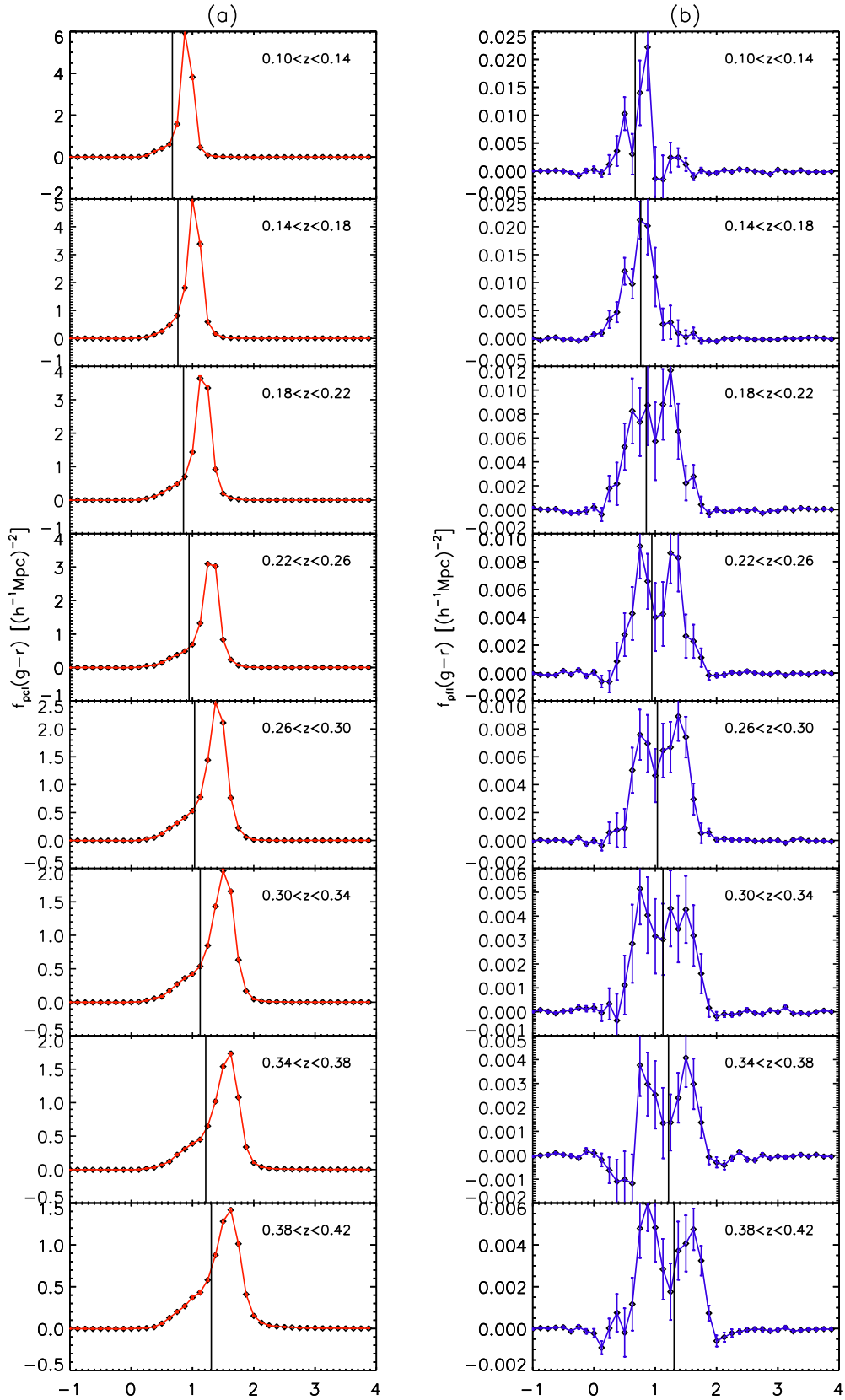


FIG. 7.— $g-r$ distributions of clusters (a) and filaments (b) in 8 redshift bins. Filaments are bimodal with their color distribution and contain a larger blue galaxy bump than clusters. Also, the filament color distribution shows evidence of redshift evolution in the form of a blue galaxy population that becomes increasingly important at higher redshift. The vertical solid lines in these plots mark the blue/red galaxy color cut used in Section 3.1.1. Note that the galaxy population sampled here is somewhat incomplete at $0.38 < z < 0.42$ (See discussion in Section 2.2.6). See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

similar effect **may** also exist in filaments. At redshifts $z < 0.2$, the blue galaxy cloud is only a small bump comparing to the red sequence population. Moving to higher redshifts, the blue cloud becomes more prominent, taking up the more than half of the population at $z > 0.28$.

3.1.1. Blue Galaxy Fraction Evolution

Figure 7 shows that filaments and clusters both contain blue and red galaxies. This figure suggests redshift evolution in the filament galaxy population. This section quantifies this evolution by measuring the blue galaxy fraction in filaments and clusters as a function of redshift.

To measure the blue galaxy fraction, we determine a blue/red galaxy cut to separate the blue/red galaxy population. We take the minimum point between the blue and red galaxy peak in the bimodal filament color distribution, and fit it with a linear relation to redshift. In Figure 7, we have these linearly fitted values marked out as a vertical solid line in both cluster and filament color distributions, and use them as the blue/red galaxy cut. We tested other blue/red galaxy cut criteria, including using local minimum in the color distributions, double gaussian mixture fitting minimums and values extrapolated from passive evolution models, but the conclusions here do not change much. We compute the blue galaxy fraction in filaments R_{pfl} and clusters R_{pcl} per redshift bin by evaluating,

$$\begin{aligned} R_{\text{pfl}} &= \frac{\int^{s_z} f_{\text{pfl}}(g-r)d(g-r)}{\int f_{\text{pfl}}(g-r)d(g-r)}, \\ R_{\text{pcl}} &= \frac{\int^{s_z} f_{\text{pcl}}(g-r)d(g-r)}{\int f_{\text{pcl}}(g-r)d(g-r)}. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Here s_z is the $g-r$ color of the separation between blue and red galaxies in this redshift bin. The integrations in the above equations are performed with a five-point Newton-Cotes integration formula on the binned color distributions.

In Figure 8 we show this blue galaxy fraction estimation in filaments and clusters at different redshifts. We also fit a linear evolution of the blue galaxy fraction with redshift (dashed lines) using the MPFITEXY routine (Williams et al. 2010) (dependent on the MPFIT package from Markwardt (2009)). Our measurement suggest that the blue galaxy fraction increases with redshift with a linear fitting slope of 0.61 ± 0.07 .

For filaments, the linear fit of the blue galaxy fraction as a function of redshift slightly prefers a positive slope, 0.49 ± 0.42 , with a significantly higher intercept, which reflects the overall bluer filament population. We change our FL and C1 region definition to avoid including the cluster pre-processing area ($> 4.2h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ away from cluster center), but do not find noticeable change in this effect. This indicates the independence of this redshift evolution feature on pre-processing around clusters. We briefly discuss the implications of this result in Section 4.1.

3.2. Luminosity Function

In this section, we study the luminosity functions of the filament and the cluster galaxy populations. Because our data does not allow us to constrain the 3-dimensional distribution of cluster and in particular of filament galaxies, we make the following assumptions when computing the number density of galaxies:

1. N -body simulations predict that the density profiles fall off quickly between $1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ and $2h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ from the in-

tercluster axis (Colberg et al. 2005). Thus, a single filament will typically not occupy the whole FL region. We assume that one filament occupies 1/3 of the filament region defined in Section 2.3, and extends $\pm 1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ along the line of sight.

2. Since most galaxy clusters are at the scale of $1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$, we assume that one cluster lies within the aperture of $\sqrt{x^2+y^2} < 0.7h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ and also extends $\pm 1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}$ along the line of sight. Note that this does not imply a strong triaxiality of the cluster but rather limits the choice of cluster galaxies to those found in a cylinder fully contained within the cluster.
3. We assume that the purity of the gmBCG cluster catalog is 80%, which is the lower limit estimated for the gmBCG catalog (Hao et al. 2010).
4. We also assume that on average 20% of the cluster pairs in our sample are connected by filaments. This again is a lower limit, estimated from the results of Colberg et al. (2005).

The assumptions listed here are clearly only rough approximations adopted for convenience. We therefore stress that they only impact the normalization of the luminosity function and not the determination of the characteristic magnitudes as a function of environment. Consequently, we caution the reader against comparing the measured 3-d galaxy number density of filaments and clusters in this paper to measurements obtained in other ways without taking these approximations into account.

Under the above assumptions, the luminosity distributions of filaments and clusters in one redshift bin, denoted by $\phi_{\text{pfl}}(M_r)$ and $\phi_{\text{pcl}}(M_r)$, respectively, are computed from $g_z(x, y, M_r, g-r)$ and $cl_z(M_r, g-r)$ with the following equations:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{\text{FL}}(M_r) &= \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in FL}} \sum_l g_z(X_i, Y_j, M_r, (g-r)_l)}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in FL}} 0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \\ \Phi_{\text{CL}}(M_r) &= \frac{\sum_l cl_z(M_r, (g-r)_l)}{0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \\ \Phi_{\text{C1}}(M_r) &= \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C1}} \sum_l g_z(X_i, Y_j, M_r, (g-r)_l)}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C1}} 0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \\ \Phi_{\text{C2}}(M_r) &= \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}} \sum_l g_z(X_i, Y_j, M_r, (g-r)_l)}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C2}} 0.49(h^{-1}\text{Mpc})^2}, \\ \phi_{\text{pfl}}(M_r) &= \frac{\Phi_{\text{FL}}(M_r) - \Phi_{\text{C1}}(M_r)}{\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{20\%} \times 2h^{-1}\text{Mpc}}, \\ \phi_{\text{pcl}}(M_r) &= \frac{\Phi_{\text{CL}}(M_r) - \Phi_{\text{C2}}(M_r)}{\frac{1}{80\%} \times 2h^{-1}\text{Mpc}}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

In Figure 9, we plot the luminosity distributions of filaments and clusters. We also fit the luminosity distribution of filaments and clusters with a Schechter (1976) function:

$$\phi(M_r)dM_r = 0.4 \ln(10) \phi^* (10^{-0.4(M_r - M_r^*)})^{\alpha+1} e^{10^{-0.4(M_r - M_r^*)}} dM_r. \quad (19)$$

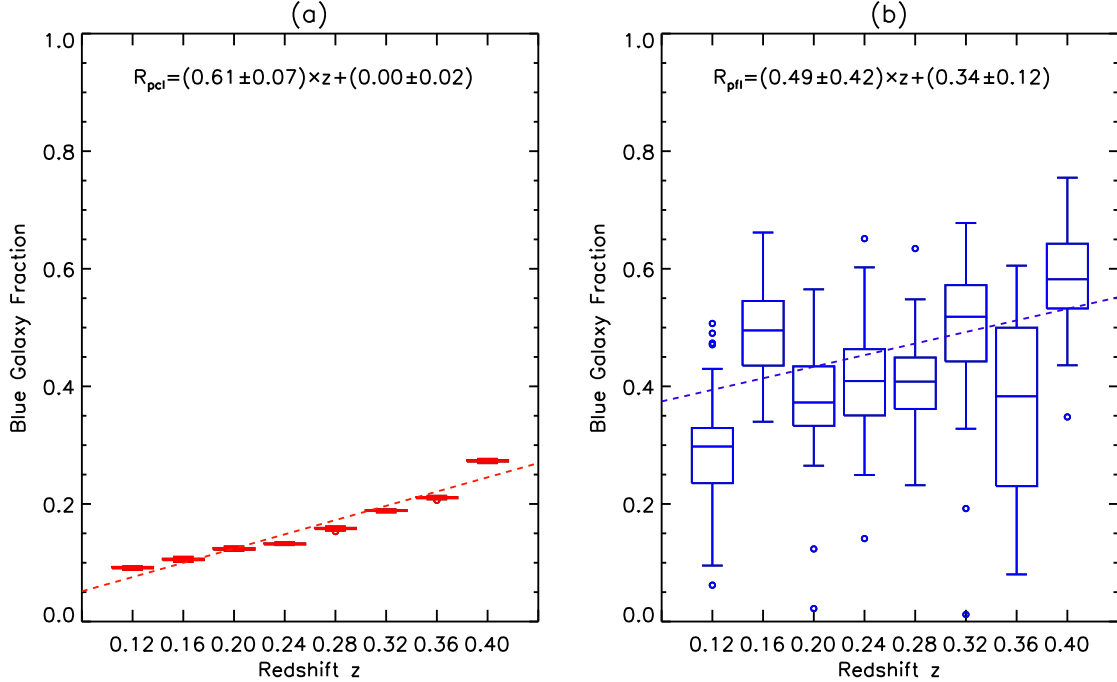


FIG. 8.— Redshift evolution of blue galaxy fraction in clusters (a) and filaments (b). These two figures show box plots of the blue galaxy fraction evaluation in clusters and filaments of 40 bootstrapped stacks at each redshift bin. The bottom and top of the boxes represent the lower and upper quartiles, and the whiskers represent the minimum and maximum values of the data, or 1.5 times the quartiles. Data points outside this range are plotted as open circles. We also fit the blue galaxy fraction linearly to the redshift (dashed lines). The blue galaxy population in clusters and filaments both seems to increase at higher redshift, but the change in filaments is less dramatic. Also note that the observed galaxy population is somewhat incomplete at $0.38 < z < 0.42$ (see discussion in Section 2.2.6). See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

TABLE 1
FITTED LUMINOSITY FUNCTION PARAMETERS

z	M_r cut/mag	$\phi_f^*/(h^3\text{Mpc}^{-3})$	$M_{r,f}^* - 5\log_{10} h/\text{mag}$	$\phi_c^*/(h^3\text{Mpc}^{-3})$	$M_{r,c}^* - 5\log_{10} h/\text{mag}$
[0.10, 0.14]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -18.0$	0.37 ± 0.24	-23.49 ± 5.40	5.18 ± 0.13	-21.544 ± 0.033
[0.14, 0.18]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -18.6$	0.32 ± 0.18	-24.21 ± 5.16	5.36 ± 0.11	-21.422 ± 0.018
[0.18, 0.22]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -19.2$	0.78 ± 0.15	-20.87 ± 0.25	5.21 ± 0.15	-21.369 ± 0.018
[0.22, 0.26]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -19.6$	0.73 ± 0.17	-20.80 ± 0.24	5.01 ± 0.07	-21.317 ± 0.015
[0.26, 0.30]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -20.0$	0.65 ± 0.12	-20.76 ± 0.20	4.86 ± 0.06	-21.229 ± 0.014
[0.30, 0.34]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -20.4$	0.41 ± 0.11	-21.09 ± 0.39	4.66 ± 0.05	-21.193 ± 0.011
[0.34, 0.38]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -20.6$	0.47 ± 0.14	-20.66 ± 0.31	4.67 ± 0.06	-21.137 ± 0.012
[0.38, 0.42]	$-24.2 \leq M_r \leq -21.0$	0.45 ± 0.21	-20.71 ± 0.38	4.78 ± 0.07	-21.103 ± 0.016

This table lists the fitted luminosity function parameters as discussed in Section 3.2. The first column gives the redshift range of each redshift bin, and the second column gives the magnitude cut at this redshift, i.e., the luminosity function fitting range. The errors of the parameters are evaluated through fitting 40 resamplings of the galaxy sets being stacked at each redshift bin. Error estimation of clusters is enlarged by a factor of $\sqrt{5.7}$ since clusters are on-average oversampled by this factor in the stack.

Because our data can only put weak constraints on the faint end of the luminosity function, we chose to fix $\alpha = -1.2$, the value found by Blanton et al. (2001) and close to the measurements of Hoyle et al. (2005) and Popesso et al. (2005). The very bright end of the luminosity distribution tends to depart from a Schechter function (Yang et al. 2008). We therefore restrict our fits to galaxies with $M_r - 5\log_{10} h \geq -22.3$. We list the results of our fits in Table 1. The normalizations, Φ^* and r-band characteristic magnitude, M_r^* , of filaments and clusters are denoted by ϕ_f^* , $M_{r,f}^*$ and ϕ_c^* , $M_{r,c}^*$, respectively.

In two individual redshift bins at $0.10 < z < 0.14$ and $0.14 < z < 0.18$ our measurement of M_r^* has large errors. Visual inspection of these fits suggests that the fixed faint end slope may not be a good representation of the data in these bins. Especially in the low redshift bins the data, however, is too noisy to leave the faint end slope as a free parameter. We

choose to ignore these two bins in our subsequent discussion and analysis.

3.3. Cluster Richness Dependence

This section studies the dependence of filament overdensity on cluster richness. When stacking galaxy sets of clusters in the cluster pair catalog, in addition to two redshift bins $0.10 < z < 0.26$ and $0.26 < z < 0.42$, we further bin the cluster pairs into two richness bins: one bin with both clusters in the pair having richness estimation between 8 and 10 and one bin with both clusters in the pair having richness larger than 10. Here, by richness, we mean the GM_SCALED_NGALS or $GM_NGALS_WEIGHTED$ richness estimation of the gm-BCG cluster catalog, whichever is recommended for a specific galaxy cluster (Hao et al. 2010).

We evaluate the filament galaxy overdensity of different

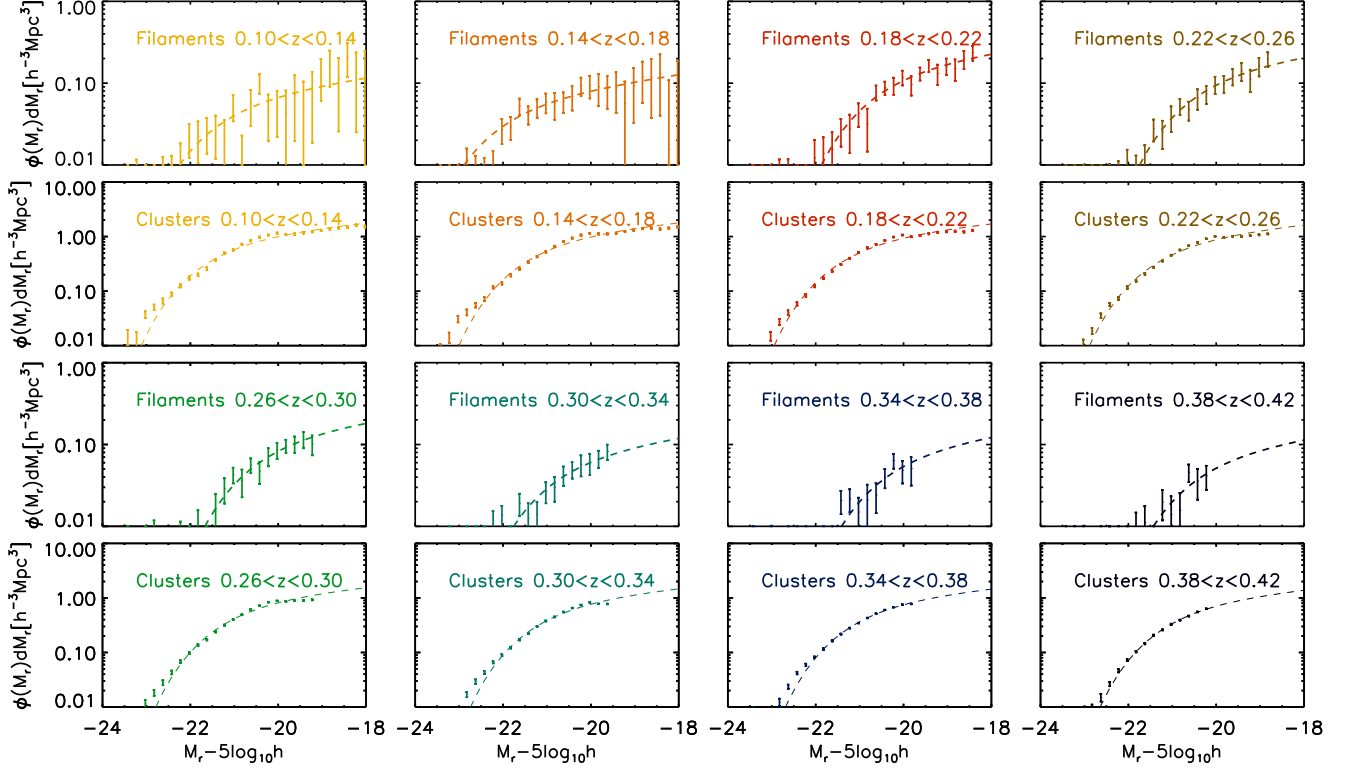


FIG. 9.— Luminosity Distributions of filaments (1st and 3rd rows) and clusters (2nd and 4th rows) and fits to the Schechter function (dashed lines) using the MPFIT package (Markwardt 2009). The fitting parameters are listed in Table 1. We do not fit for the $M_r - 5\log_{10} h < -22.3$ bright end of the luminosity distributions since a LRG population component is possibly present, and it luminosity distribution tend to deviate from the Schechter function (Yang et al. 2008). See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

bins with a quantity Σ_{pfl} , which is computed with equations:

$$\Sigma_{\text{FL}} = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in FL}} \sum_{k,l} g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r)_l)}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in FL}} 0.49(h^{-1} \text{Mpc})^2},$$

$$\Sigma_{\text{C1}} = \frac{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C1}} \sum_{k,l} g_z(X_i, Y_j, (M_r)_k, (g-r)_l)}{\sum_{(i,j) \text{ in C1}} 0.49(h^{-1} \text{Mpc})^2}, \quad (20)$$

$$\Sigma_{\text{pfl}} = \Sigma_{\text{FL}} - \Sigma_{\text{C1}}.$$

This quantity is the 2-d projected galaxy number count per $[h^{-1} \text{Mpc}]^2$ of our detected filament galaxy overdensity. However, this quantity should not be misinterpreted as the typical surface number density of filament galaxies. Not every cluster pair being stacked has a filament connection between them, and single filaments typically occupy only a small subset of the FL region. Consequently, the real projected galaxy count of filaments per unit area can be significantly larger than the values given by Σ_{pfl} . In Table 2, we list the Σ_{pfl} between cluster pairs at the above richness and redshift binning. The Σ_{pfl} between richer cluster pairs tends to be larger than the Σ_{pfl} between poorer cluster pairs. Assuming the geometrical distribution of filaments does not change with cluster richness, this result suggests that richer cluster pairs tend to be connected by higher density filaments.

TABLE 2
 $\Sigma_{\text{pfl}} [(h^{-1} \text{Mpc})^{-2}]$ VERSUS RICHNESS AT TWO REDSHIFT RANGES

Richness range	$0.10 \leq z < 0.26$	$0.26 \leq z < 0.42$
$8 \leq \text{Richness} < 10$	0.053 ± 0.030	0.012 ± 0.020
Richness ≥ 10	0.075 ± 0.016	0.061 ± 0.008

3.4. Spatial Distribution

Galaxy filaments can be warped and do not always strictly lie along the intercluster axis (Pimbblet et al. 2004; Colberg et al. 2005). Therefore, significant filamentary overdensities still can be seen off the intercluster axis. In this section, we rotate the FL region and the C1 region away from the intercluster axis as described in Table 3 and compare the surface number density of galaxies Σ_{pfl} at two redshift ranges $[0.10, 0.26]$ and $[0.26, 0.42]$. Our result is shown in Figure 10. As we move away from the intercluster axis, the observed filament population gradually falls off. At $\theta > 45^\circ$, the filament galaxy overdensity is almost consistent with zero.

4. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In this paper we developed an algorithm to detect and study the properties of galaxies in filaments statistically. Our method makes use of the fact that close pairs of galaxy clusters have a large probability of being connected by filaments. This is a robust prediction of numerical simulations of structure formation (e.g., Colberg et al. 2005) and has been confirmed observationally in galaxy redshift surveys (e.g., Pim-

TABLE 3
DEFINITIONS OF THE FL AND C1 BOXES USED IN SECTION

Number	FL	C1
1	$2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < 10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 0^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 15^\circ$	$-10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < -2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 0^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 15^\circ$
2	$2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < 10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 0^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 30^\circ$	$-10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < -2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 0^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 30^\circ$
3	$2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < 10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 15^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 45^\circ$	$-10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < -2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 15^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 45^\circ$
4	$2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < 10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 30^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 60^\circ$	$-10.5h^{-1}\text{Mpc} < x < -2.1h^{-1}\text{Mpc}, 30^\circ \leq \theta = \arctan(y/x) < 60^\circ$

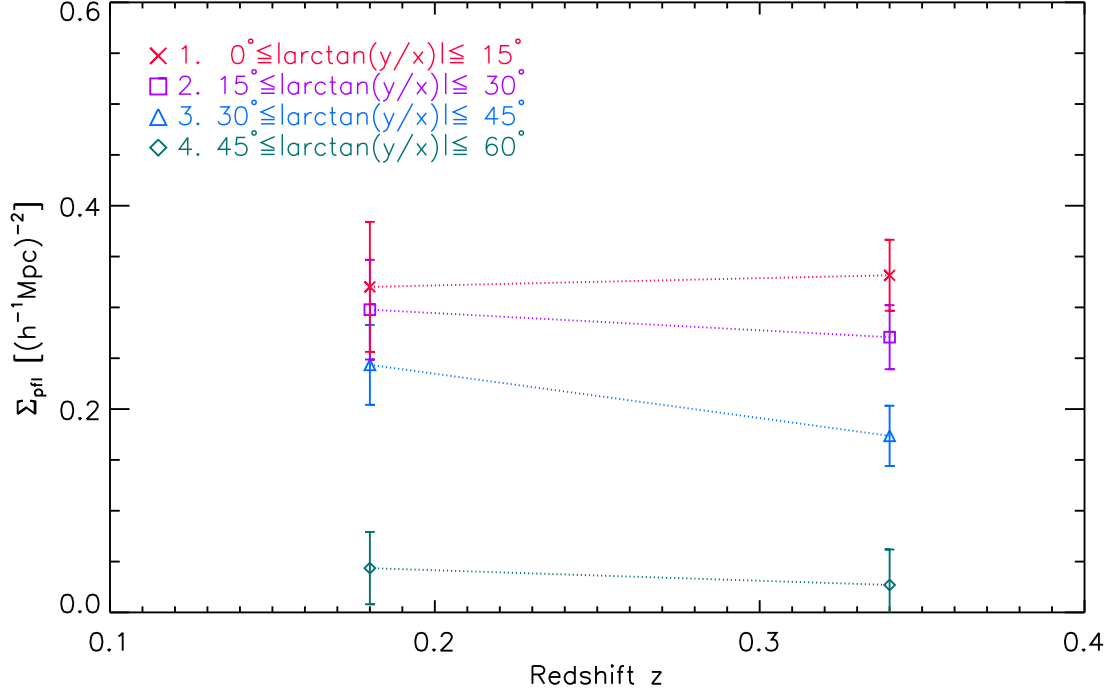


FIG. 10.— The 2-d projected galaxy number density of filaments, Σ_{pfil} , with FL and C1 boxes placed at different extension angles. The exact definition of FL and C1 are listed in Table 3. Filament galaxies still can be seen at increasing angles off the intercluster pair axis, but eventually die out when the extension angle from this axis is larger than 45° . See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

blet et al. 2004). This allows us to study filament galaxies statistically without the need to spectroscopically identify them. Our algorithm is applicable to all photometric surveys, in which large numbers of galaxy clusters can be found. As a result we can study the properties of representative filament galaxies out to much higher redshifts than is currently possible with wide-field spectroscopic surveys.

We applied our new method to the gmBCG galaxy cluster catalog and the photometric SDSS DR8 BOSS galaxy catalog. Although the projected filament galaxy densities exceed that of the surrounding field by only $\sim 2\%$, we can detect these relative overdensities at high significance (often $\sim 5\sigma$) in redshift bins of thickness $\Delta z = 0.04$ at $0.10 < z < 0.42$. The limit of this redshift range is governed by the gmBCG cluster finding algorithm and the small survey volume in the local Universe at the low redshift end, and by the flux limit of SDSS at the high redshift end. Future deep wide-field surveys like the Dark Energy Survey⁷ will allow us to push this method to higher redshifts.

As an application of our method, we study the color and luminosity distributions of galaxy filaments, as well as the dependence of the filament richness on the richness of the clus-

ters to which they are connected. Finally, we put limits on the warping angles of large-scale structure filaments.

As verification additional to that already presented in Section 2, we also apply our algorithm to the Millennium Simulation (Springel et al. 2005). We present this in the appendix and only mention here that such tests support the efficacy of our methods and also confirm previous suggestions that the Millennium Simulation is overpopulated with red galaxies (Guo et al. 2011).

4.1. Color Evolution

We find that filament galaxies have a clear bimodal color distribution. At redshift $0.10 < z < 0.14$, the filament $g-r$ color distribution is qualitatively comparable to the $u-r$ color distribution of bright wall galaxies at $z < 0.107$ presented in Hoyle et al. (2012): both being bimodal, and the blue cloud galaxy taking up $\sim 1/3$ of the whole population.

We find clear indications for a Butcher-Oemler effect in galaxy clusters at very high significance. Fitting a linear function to the blue galaxy fraction we find that it increases with redshift with a slope of 0.61 ± 0.07 over the redshift range studied. This is comparable to the results of Hansen et al. (2009), which showed that from $z = 0.28$ to $z = 0.2$, there is a $\sim 5\%$ decrease in the blue galaxy fraction, which our linear

⁷ <http://www.darkenergysurvey.org/>

fit agrees with. Care needs to be exercised when comparing our measurement to many other works studying the Butcher-Oemler effect, though. For example, Margoniner et al. studied the Butcher Oemler effect with 295 Abell clusters, and showed that the blue fraction in these clusters increases with a slope of 1.24 ± 0.07 at redshift range $z < 0.4$. Since Margoniner et al. adopted different cluster aperture ($0.49 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ instead of $0.7 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$), brighter magnitude limit ($M_r^* - 1 < M_r < M_r^* + 1$, which is approximately $-22.2 < M_r < -19.2$ according to our measurements of M_r^*) and completely different blue/red galaxy cut (rest frame $g-r$ color 0.2 magnitude fainter than the red sequence ridgeline), it is not particularly surprising that we have different estimation on the blue galaxy fraction evolution strength, but a more specified study on this effect in clusters may wish to refine the choice of cluster aperture, brightness limit, and blue/red galaxy cut used here.

We marginally detect an evolution in the blue fraction of filament galaxies with a linear slope of 0.49 ± 0.42 . This indicates that there might be a trend that the population of blue galaxies in filaments is increasing at higher redshift, but this redshift evolution feature is weaker than in clusters. The implications of such an observation are complicated, though. Should galaxy filaments be considered as ensemble of galaxy groups and galaxies in less dense environments, our observation can be the result of a Butcher-Oemler effect in galaxy groups, as discussed in Li et al. (2012). Li et al. measured the red/blue galaxy fraction in galaxy groups at different mass ranges and found that galaxy groups of all different masses show a trend of increasing blue galaxy fraction at higher redshifts. Their measurements of the blue galaxy fraction in galaxy groups at their lowest total stellar mass bin $\log(M_{*,\text{grp}}/M_\odot) < 11.2$ are $\sim 48\%$ at $z = 0.25$ and $\sim 52\%$ at $z = 0.35$, is consistent with our interpolated values $\sim 46.3\%$ at $z = 0.25$ and $\sim 51.2\%$ at $z = 0.35$. The possible redshift evolution of the blue galaxy fraction in filaments can also be a “by-product” of changes in filament galaxy contents or morphologies at different redshifts. Our results on the evolution of the blue galaxy fraction in filaments are currently limited by the signal-to-noise ratio per redshift bin. Future deep surveys will give us a longer lever arm in redshift to study this effect in more detail. We also expect that improvements in galaxy cluster selection will lead to an enhanced catalog purity at all redshifts. This will improve the SNR at all redshifts.

4.2. Luminosity Function

We measured the characteristic r-band magnitude of cluster and filament galaxies in redshift bins by fitting a standard Schechter luminosity function with a fixed faint end slope of $\alpha = -1.2$. For cluster galaxies, Popesso et al. (2005), who studied the RASS-SDSS clusters to $z = 0.26$, is a suitable comparison to our work. Their measurements of the cluster r-band characteristic magnitude at $z < 0.26$ are $-21.35 \pm 0.19 \text{ mag}$ or $-21.40 \pm 0.20 \text{ mag}$, depending on the choice of background. This is in good agreement with our measurements. An increase of M_r^* of cluster galaxies with redshift is seen at high statistical significance. This result, however, may be affected by a potential redshift dependence of the purity of the gmBCG catalog, as well as a redshift dependent richness threshold in the cluster finder. A detailed study of these factors is beyond the scope of the present work and the redshift evolution of M^* should be treated with caution.

In redshift bins where we obtain reliable measurements, the r-band M^* of filament galaxies is significantly lower than that

TABLE 4
SDSS R-BAND CHARACTERISTIC MAGNITUDE MEASUREMENTS

	M_r^* Measurements
Filament M_r^* (our measurement)	-20.85 ± 0.11
Blanton et al. (2001) M_r^*	-20.83 ± 0.03
Montero-Dorta & Prada (2009) $^{0.1}M_r^*$	-20.71 ± 0.04^a

^a Note that this magnitude is measured for the SDSS r-band blue shifted by 0.1, i.e., $^{0.1}r$. (Blanton et al. 2003a,b), and are not directly comparable to the rest in the table. At $z = 0.1$, the K-correction to such bands are $-2.5 \log_{10} 1.1 = -0.1035$, but the K-correction for our system at $z = 0.1$ ranges from -0.06 to 0.37 . Here, we make a simple assumption that there is a uniform offset between the galaxy absolute magnitude measured in the $^{0.1}r$ band and the regular r band. Since the the K-correction we use at $z = 0.1$ scatters around 0.08, which is the K-correction for galaxies of $z = 0.1$ and $g-r = 0.8$ using the Chilingarian et al. (2010) approximation, we assume the offset between the two systems to be 0.18. The r-band characteristic magnitude measured in Montero-Dorta & Prada (2009) is now closer to our filament measurement.

of cluster galaxies. We find no significant redshift evolution of $M_{r,f}^*$.

When we stack the luminosity distributions of filament galaxies over $0.18 < z < 0.42$, we obtain a characteristic luminosity of filament galaxies of $M_{r,f}^* = -20.85 \pm 0.11 \text{ mag}$. This value is compatible with two r-band M^* measurements (listed in Table 4) of SDSS galaxies, in which galaxies were not separated by their environment. This re-enforces the result of Aragón-Calvo et al. (2010) that most matter and thus most galaxies live in filaments and not in clusters. Consequently, the filament environment is expected to dominate globally averaged measurements. Our value is also close to the r-band M^* measurement of wall galaxies in Hoyle et al. (2005), who found $M^* = -20.62 \pm 0.08 \text{ mag}$. The filament galaxies in this work fall into the category of wall galaxies in Hoyle et al. (2005) (galaxies in denser environments than extremely underdense cosmic voids). Not surprisingly, filament galaxies are significantly brighter than void galaxies, whose r-band M^* was measured to be $-19.74 \pm 0.11 \text{ mag}$ by Hoyle et al. (2005).

4.3. Filament Richness and Geometry

We find that richer clusters are connected to richer filaments. This is consistent with description of structure formation given by Bond et al. (1996). In this picture, superclusters with pronounced filaments between their massive constituent clusters are the result of rare initial density peaks. In turn, less massive clusters were “disadvantaged” from the beginning by being more isolated and having fewer and less dense filaments connected to them. Because we select up to 5 neighbors for any cluster to form cluster pairs with, independent of the cluster richness, both factors – the density and the number of filaments – affects the measured surface density of galaxies. Consistent with this expectation, we find that the correlation of filament richness with cluster richness exists at two redshift ranges studied here.

Finally, we also studied the distribution of matter in what we call the filament region between the clusters. Slightly more than half of all filaments are curved and some connect the clusters at which they terminate with offsets from the intercluster axis. These reasons make it impossible to disentangle the density profile of filaments from the distribution of filament geometries in our stacks. Nevertheless, the galaxy density in the filament region should decrease as one moves away from the intercluster axis. We verified this by varying the position angle of the filament region when rotating it around the cluster center. We find that filaments are unlikely to be warped by more than 45° from the intercluster axis.

4.4. *Outlook*

This stacking approach to studying filaments is not only applicable with optical galaxy data, but can also be applied to weak lensing measurements, Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect observations, and X-ray emission from the warm-hot intercluster medium, provided appropriately large survey data exist. We look forward to its broader application in the era of combined data from deep wide-field optical, SZ, and X-ray surveys.

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TABLE 5
FITTED LUMINOSITY FUNCTION PARAMETERS IN SIMULATION AND SDSS

z	M_i cut	$\phi_1^* [(h^3 \text{Mpc}^{-3})]$ (Simulation)	$M_{i,1}^* - 5 \log_{10} h$ [mag] (Simulation)	$\phi_2^* [(h^3 \text{Mpc}^{-3})]$ (SDSS)	$M_{i,2}^* - 5 \log_{10} h$ [mag] (SDSS)
[0.10, 0.14]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -19.5$	0.12 ± 0.05	-20.39 ± 0.23	0.13 ± 0.09	-20.63 ± 0.91
[0.14, 0.18]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -20.1$	0.11 ± 0.05	-20.60 ± 0.47	0.09 ± 0.05	-21.89 ± 2.56
[0.18, 0.22]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -20.5$	0.13 ± 0.04	-20.49 ± 0.28	0.15 ± 0.04	-20.76 ± 0.23
[0.22, 0.26]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -20.9$	0.14 ± 0.04	-20.43 ± 0.31	0.16 ± 0.04	-20.43 ± 0.19
[0.26, 0.30]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -21.3$	0.28 ± 0.05	-20.00 ± 0.14	0.18 ± 0.04	-20.29 ± 0.31
[0.30, 0.34]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -21.7$	0.42 ± 0.18	-19.48 ± 0.31	0.07 ± 0.02	-21.17 ± 0.30
[0.34, 0.38]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -21.9$	0.27 ± 0.13	-20.07 ± 0.38	0.08 ± 0.02	-20.64 ± 0.30
[0.38, 0.42]	$-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -22.3$	0.19 ± 0.10	-20.56 ± 0.46	0.06 ± 0.03	-20.88 ± 0.44

This table lists the fitted Schechter function parameters of filament luminosity distributions in simulation and SDSS data. ϕ_1^* and ϕ_2^* are the normalization factors of the Schechter function fitting in simulation and SDSS respectively, and $M_{i,1}^*$ and $M_{i,2}^*$ are the characteristic magnitude of the fitting in simulation and SDSS. The errors of the parameters are evaluated through fitting 40 resamplings of the galaxy sets being stacked at each redshift bin.

APPENDIX

DETECTION OF FILAMENTS IN SIMULATION DATA

As further test of our method as well as for comparison with simulation data, we run our algorithm on the Millennium simulation (Springel et al. 2005), a large volume, high resolution N-body simulation under Λ CDM cosmology. This simulation includes information of dark matter structures, i.e., Friends-of-Friends (FOF) groups, and dark matter substructures. It also tracks the merging history of dark matter structures and substructures for galaxy formation simulation. For our purpose, we use the all sky lightcone realization of this simulation constructed with methods fully described in Henriques et al. (2012) and Blaizot et al. (2005), under the galaxy formation simulation of Guo et al. (2011).

Due to differences between these simulation data and SDSS observational data, we make a few adjustments of our methods before running our algorithm. First, instead of using gmBCG clusters to build the cluster pair catalog, we search for pairs of central BCGs in cluster-sized FOF groups with M_{200} (the mass within the radius where the enclosed average density is 200 times the critical density of the simulation) larger than $10^{14} M_\odot$. We make this adjustment because running the gmBCG cluster finder on these simulations does not yield satisfying purity and completeness, possibly due to the lack of clear color bimodality in the simulated galaxy population. Secondly, the simulation galaxy catalog has a apparent magnitude limit in i-band at $i = 21.0$ mag. Therefore, when making the brightness cut to ensure fair comparison of the galaxy population at different redshifts (as described in Section 2.2.6), the luminosity limit is adjusted to $-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -21.9$. This luminosity limit is above the $i = 21.0$ mag apparent magnitude limit at $z = 0.38$. For a fair comparison, we also rerun our codes with SDSS data under the new luminosity cut. When comparing results from simulation data and SDSS data in this section, all the results presented are under this new luminosity cut.

In Figure 11, we show the color distributions of filament galaxies in the Millennium simulations compared to those in the SDSS data. As noted by Guo et al. (2011), the simulation seems to contain too many red sequence galaxies in filaments, and the fraction of the blue galaxies does not match that seen in SDSS.

In addition, filament galaxies in the simulation appear to be fainter than observed in SDSS. In Figure 12, we show the luminosity distributions of filament galaxies in simulation and SDSS, and fit them to a Schechter function with the faint end slope fixed to be $\alpha = -1.2$, as having been discussed in Section 3.2. The fit parameters of the distributions are listed in Table 5. Filament galaxies in simulation appear to have a fainter characteristic magnitude in i-band than in SDSS. Possibly because of the magnitude cut $-25.3 \leq M_i \leq -21.9$ being too shallow, the Schechter function fittings yield smaller estimations of ϕ^* than Section 3.2.

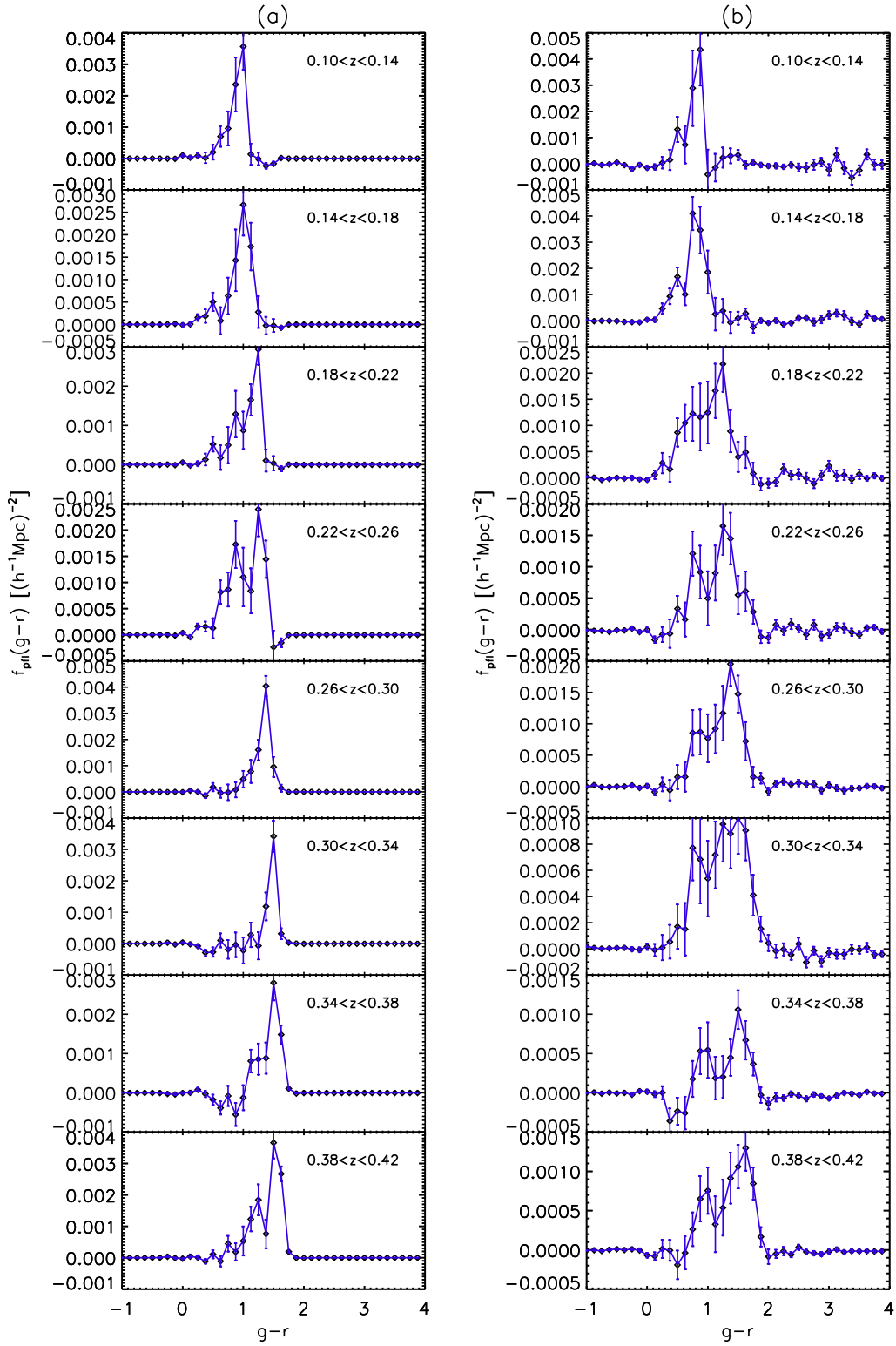


FIG. 11.— $g-r$ distributions of filaments at different redshift bins in simulation (a) and SDSS (b). Comparing to SDSS data, the simulation is over-populated with red galaxies. Note that the galaxy population is incomplete at $0.38 < z < 0.42$ (See discussion in Section 2.2.6) and also (b) differs from Figure 7 (b) because of the different luminosity cut applied. See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.

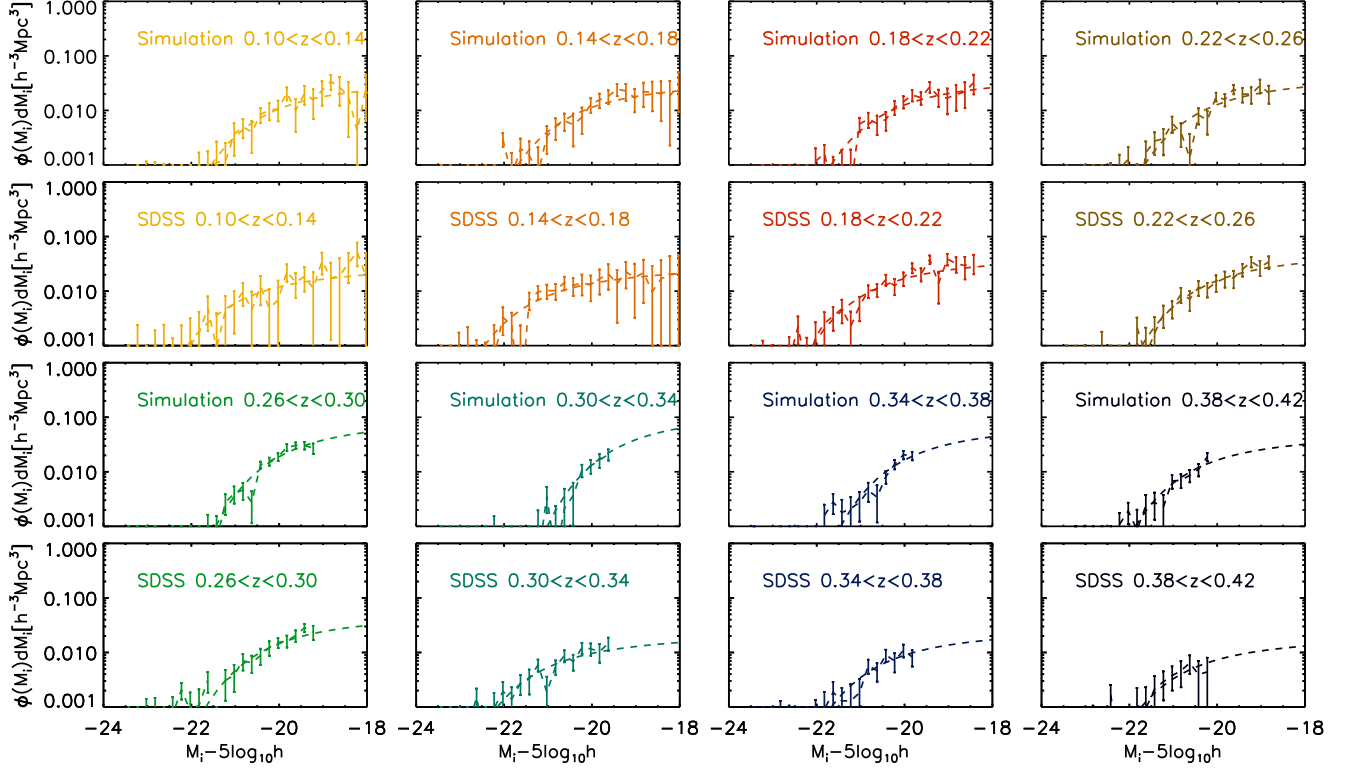


FIG. 12.— Luminosity distributions of filament galaxies in simulation (1st and 3rd rows) and SDSS (2nd and 4th rows) and their Schechter function fits (dotted lines). The Schechter function fit has a fixed faint end slope, and the rest of the fitting parameters are listed in Table 5. The characteristic magnitude of the fitted Schechter function is brighter in simulation than in SDSS, indicating overpopulation of bright galaxies in the simulation. See the electronic edition of the journal for a color version of this figure.