Weak lensing by galaxy troughs in DES Science Verification data

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ABSTRACT

We measure the weak lensing shear around galaxy troughs, i.e. the radial alignment of background galaxies relative to underdensities in projections of the foreground galaxy field over a wide range of redshift in Science Verification data from the Dark Energy Survey. Our detection of the shear signal is highly significant (10σ–15σ for the smallest angular scales) for troughs with the redshift range $z \in [0.2, 0.5]$ of the projected galaxy field and angular diameters of 10 arcmin...1°. These measurements probe the connection between the galaxy, matter density, and convergence fields. By assuming galaxies are biased tracers of the matter density with Poissonian noise, we find agreement of our measurements with predictions in a fiducial Λ cold dark matter model. The prediction for the lensing signal on large trough scales is virtually independent of the details of the underlying model for the connection of galaxies and matter. Our comparison of the shear around troughs with that around cylinders with large galaxy counts is consistent with a symmetry between galaxy and matter over- and underdensities. In addition, we measure the two-point angular correlation of troughs with galaxies which, in contrast to the lensing signal, is sensitive to galaxy bias on all scales. The lensing signal of troughs and their clustering with galaxies is therefore a promising probe of the statistical properties of matter underdensities and their connection to the galaxy field.

Key words: gravitational lensing: weak – cosmology: observations.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The measurement of weak gravitational lensing probes matter inhomogeneities in the Universe by means of the differential deflection they induce on the light of background sources. Most lensing analyses are driven by the signatures of matter overdensities, e.g. the gravitational shear of galaxies (e.g. Brainerd, Blandford & Smail 1996; Hoekstra, Yee & Gladders 2004; Sheldon et al. 2004; Mandelbaum et al. 2006; van Uitert et al. 2011; Brimiouille et al. 2013; Velander et al. 2014; Clampitt et al., in preparation) and clusters of galaxies (e.g. Tyson, Wenk & Valdes 1990; Marrone et al. 2009; Sheldon et al. 2009; Hoekstra et al. 2012; Marrone et al. 2012; Gruen et al. 2014; Umetsu et al. 2014; von der Linden et al. 2014) or the spatial correlation of shear due to intervening large-scale structure, cosmic shear (e.g. Wittman et al. 2000; Fu et al. 2008; Schrabback et al. 2010; Kilbinger et al. 2013; Becker et al. 2015).

Probes of underdense structures are complementary to this. Differences between dark energy and modified gravity (MG) models for cosmic acceleration might be more easily differentiable in cosmic voids (Clampitt, Cai & Li 2013; Cai, Padilla & Li 2015; Lam et al. 2015). The reason for this is that the screening of the hypothetical fifth force of MG (Vainshtein 1972; Khoury & Weltman 2004), required to meet Solar system constraints, is absent in these low-density environments. MG therefore entails that negative density perturbations should grow more rapidly than predicted by General Relativity, with effects on the density profile in and around such structures (cf. Cai et al. 2015).

Using voids detected in Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) spectroscopic galaxy catalogues (Sutter et al. 2012, 2014; Leclercq et al. 2015), first measurements of the radial alignment of background galaxies have been made (Melchior et al. 2014; Clampitt & Jain 2015). Future spectroscopic surveys will yield lensing measurements of void matter profiles with moderate signal-to-noise ratio (SNR; Krause et al. 2013). Combined with predictions for void profiles (Hamaus et al. 2014a; Hamaus, Sutter & Wandelt 2014b), these will provide unique tests of gravity.

On large enough scales, we expect a symmetry between the excess and deficit of matter relative to the mean. Despite this fact, highly significant lensing measurements have thus far only been performed on matter overdensities. In this work, we follow the new approach of measuring the properties of underdense regions in projections of the galaxy density field over wide ranges in the radial coordinate, i.e. in redshift. Due to the wide redshift range (e.g. $z \in [0.2, 0.5]$) used for the projection, these can be straightforwardly identified in galaxy catalogues with photometric redshift (photo-$z$) estimates. Because the selection from the projected field avoids underdensities which are randomly aligned with massive structures in front or behind them along their lines of sight, the SNR of the lensing signal is comparatively high. The approach is related to and motivated by the measurement of shear around galaxies in underdense projected environments, for which Brimiouille et al. (2013) have previously detected significant radial alignment (cf. their fig. 25; see also Gillis et al. 2013 for a detection of radial shear around galaxies in underdense 3D environments).

We make these measurements using Science Verification (SV) data from the Dark Energy Survey (DES, The Dark Energy Survey Collaboration 2005; Flaugher 2005). The data was taken after the commissioning of the Dark Energy Camera (DECam; DePoy et al. 2008; Flaugher et al. 2015) on the 4 m Blanco telescope at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory (CTIO) in Chile to ensure the data quality necessary for DES. We make use of a contiguous area of 139 deg$^2$ for which SV imaging data at lensing quality is available (cf. also Jarvis et al. 2015; Vikram et al. 2015).

The structure of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, we describe the data used. Our theoretical modelling of the trough signal is introduced in Section 3. Section 4 presents our measurements of the shear signal around troughs and their angular two-point correlation with galaxies. We summarize and give an outlook to future work in Section 5. For all theory calculations, we use a fiducial flat Λ cold dark matter (ΛCDM) cosmology ($\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.79$, $\sigma_8 = 0.79$, $n_s = 0.96$).

2 DATA

We select trough positions and measure their lensing signal with galaxy catalogues from the SV phase of DES. In this section, we briefly describe the catalogues used.

2.1 Galaxy catalogue

The DES SVA1 red-sequence Matched Filter Galaxy Catalog (redMaGiC; Rozo et al. 2015) is a photometrically selected luminous red galaxy (LRG) sample chosen to have precise and accurate photometric redshifts. redMaGiC makes use of the red sequence model computed from the redMaPPer cluster catalogue (Rykoff et al. 2014; Rykoff et al., in preparation). This model of the red sequence as a function of magnitude and redshift is used to compute the best-fitting photo-$z$ for all galaxies regardless of SED type, as well as the $\chi^2$ goodness-of-fit. At any given redshift, all galaxies fainter than a minimum luminosity threshold $L_{\text{min}}$ are rejected. In addition, redMaGiC applies a $\chi^2$ cut such that $\chi^2 < \chi^2_{\text{max}}$, where the maximum $\chi^2_{\text{max}}(z)$ is chosen to ensure that the resulting galaxy sample has a nearly constant comoving space density $\bar{n}$. In this work, we use the high density sample, such that $\bar{n} = 10^{-3} h^2$ Mpc$^{-3}$ and $L_{\text{min}}(z) = 0.5 L_\star(z)$ in the assumed cosmology. This space density is roughly four times that of the SDSS BOSS CMASS sample. As detailed in Rozo et al. (2015), the redMaGiC photo-$z$s are nearly unbiased, with a scatter of $\sigma_{\delta}(1+z) \approx 1.7$ per cent and a 4σ outlier rate of about 1.7 per cent. By virtue of this, redshift errors are negligible for the selection of underdensities in the galaxy field when the latter is projected over the wide redshift ranges we use (see Section 2.2).

2.2 Trough selection

The troughs are selected as centres of cylindrical regions (or, more accurately, of conical frustums) of low galaxy density as follows. Let the galaxy catalogue (cf. Section 2.1) be given with entries $x_i, z_i, L_i$ for the angular position, redshift and luminosity of galaxy $i$, $1 \leq i \leq n$.

Define a function $W_i(z, L)$ that assigns a weight to each galaxy based on its redshift and luminosity. Furthermore, define $W_i(\theta)$ to weight points by their projected angular separation $\theta$ from the centre. From these, we define a projected, weighted and smoothed version of the galaxy density field

$$G(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} W_i(|x-x_i|) W_i(z_i, L_i).$$

In this study, we use a simple weighting corresponding to a hard cut in luminosity, redshift and radius, i.e.

$$W_i(z, L) = \begin{cases} 1, & L \geq 0.5 L^\star \wedge 0.2 \leq z \leq 0.5 \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$
masking fractions when selecting troughs and modelling the signal. At the level of statistical precision achieved here, this simplification is not expected to cause a significant difference.

The mean surface density of redMaGiC galaxies in the useable area is approximately $\bar{n} = 0.055 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$, corresponding to a mean count of approximately 4, 17, 69 and 155 galaxies in cylinders of radius 5, 10, 20 and 30 arcmin. At the lower 20th percentile, selected troughs have mean counts of 1, 9, 44 and 108 galaxies, respectively.

2.3 Lensing source catalogue

For the background sources, we use a shape catalogue measured with ngmix.2 We apply the cuts, weighting and responsivity correction as recommended in Jarvis et al. (2015), where also the shape measurement and testing of catalogues is described in detail. In order to prevent confirmation bias, shear estimates in the catalogue were blinded with an unknown factor until the analysis had been finalized (cf. Jarvis et al. 2015, their section 7.5).

We use the two highest redshift bins defined in Becker et al. (2015, cf. their fig. 3) by means of photo-$z$ probability density estimates made with skynet (Graff & Feroz 2013; Bonnett 2015), a method that performed well in an extensive set of tests on SV data (Sánchez et al. 2014). The mean redshift of the lower (higher) redshift bin is $z \approx 0.6$ ($z \approx 0.9$). We use the appropriately weighted skynet stacked $p(z)$ estimate for predicting the lensing signal (cf. Section 3). To maximize the SNR for our non-tomographic measurements, we weight the signal measured in both bins as 1:2 to approximately accommodate the ratio of effective inverse critical surface mass density. The resulting $p(z)$ of the samples used are shown in Fig. 2. The tests performed in Bonnett et al. (2015) indicate that errors in photo-$z$ estimation are not a dominant systematic error for the prediction of the shear power spectrum that we use them for.

We note that the consistency of different shape measurement and photo-$z$ methods with the catalogues used in this analysis has been investigated in detail and confirmed within the systematic requirements on the present data in several works (Sánchez et al. 2014; Bonnett et al. 2015; Becker et al. 2015; Jarvis et al. 2015; The Dark Energy Survey Collaboration et al. 2015).

3 THEORY

Structures in the Universe can be described by an underlying field, the matter density as a function of position and time. Matter density itself is not an observable. Its properties can, however, be recovered by a number of observable fields, such as the three-dimensional or projected galaxy density (a sparse, biased tracer) or the convergence field (a weighted, projected version of it). In this section, we describe our modelling of the shear and galaxy correlation signal of troughs by the interrelation of these observables and the underlying matter density.

We assume that the three-dimensional galaxy field can be described as a deterministic, biased tracer of the matter. This means that the 3D contrast $\delta$ of matter density $\rho$,

$$
\delta \equiv \frac{\bar{\rho} - \langle \rho \rangle}{\langle \rho \rangle},
$$

and the equivalent quantity defined for the galaxy field are proportional at any position. Their ratio defines the bias $b$, which depends on the galaxy population.

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1 We have also tried stricter (i.e. lower percentile) and looser (i.e. higher percentile) thresholds, which yield a higher (lower) amplitude of the signal with larger (smaller) uncertainties. Also see Section 4.1.2 for the selection of high-density cylinders.

2 cf. https://github.com/esheldon/ngmix
Lensing convergence $\kappa$ is related to $\delta$ via the projection integral over comoving distance $\chi$ (cf. e.g. Bartelmann & Schneider 2001)

$$\kappa(\theta) = \int_0^\infty d\chi^N \cdot q_\chi(\chi) \cdot \delta(\chi, \theta),$$  

where

$$q_\chi(\chi) = \frac{3H_0^2 \Omega_m^0}{2} \chi \cdot G(\chi)$$

with

$$G(\chi) = \int_0^\infty d\chi' \cdot n_{\text{source}}(\chi') \frac{\chi' - \chi}{\chi}.$$  

Here, $n_{\text{source}}(\chi)$ is the distribution of source galaxies of the lensing measurement.

An overdensity of convergence inside a circular aperture relative to its edge results in a tangential alignment of background galaxy shapes. Correspondingly, an underdensity causes radial alignment. Both cases are described by (cf. Schneider, Kochanek & Wambsganss 2006, p. 279f)

$$\gamma(\theta) = (\kappa)(< \theta) - \kappa(\theta).$$

Here, $\gamma(\theta)$ is the tangential component of gravitational shear averaged over the edge of a circle of radius $\theta$, $\kappa(\theta)$ is the equivalent average of the convergence and $|\kappa|(< \theta)$ is the mean convergence inside the circle. For the case of $|\gamma| < 1$, $|\kappa| < 1$, tangential components of gravitational shear and reduced shear $\gamma_t$ are approximately equal and observable as the mean tangential alignment of background galaxy ellipticity. The cross component of shear, $\gamma_r$, rotated by 45° relative to the tangential direction, is expected to be zero when taking the average over the full circle for a single thin lens or over an ensemble of thick lenses.

In order to connect these fields and model the trough signal, we make these three assumptions:

(i) We apply the Limber (1954) approximation to compute the angular power spectrum of the projected matter density contrast $\delta_S(\theta)$ within the redshift range of the redMaGiC galaxies used for the trough selection ($0.2 \leq z \leq 0.5$). The same approximation is also used to compute the cross power spectrum between $\delta_S$ and the convergence field $\kappa(\theta)$ relative to the background galaxy redshift distribution.

(ii) We assume that $\delta_S(\theta)$ and $\kappa(\theta)$ follow a Gaussian distribution – at least when they are averaged over the trough radius or over the annuli in which we measure the shear.

(iii) We assume that the redMaGiC galaxies are placed on to $\delta_S$ via a biased Poisson process.

In this section, we describe how these assumptions translate to a prediction for the expected shear signal and galaxy density around troughs.

### 3.1 Projected matter density and galaxy counts

Let the volume density of redMaGiC galaxies as a function of comoving distance $\chi$ be given by $n_{\text{lens}}(\chi)$. The projected galaxy contrast is proportional to a weighted projection of matter contrast $\delta_S$. In a flat universe, the latter is calculated as

$$\delta_S(\theta) = \frac{\Sigma - \bar{\Sigma}}{\Sigma} = \int_{\chi_0}^{\chi_{\text{N}}} d\chi \cdot n_{\text{lens}}(\chi) \cdot \delta(\chi, \theta),$$

where $\delta(\chi, \theta)$ is the 3D matter contrast at the point $(\chi, \theta)$ on the backward light cone. For a galaxy sample with constant comoving density, such as the redMaGiC catalogue, this is a simple volume weighting of matter density, $n_{\text{lens}}(\chi) \propto dV/[d\Omega d\chi]$, and $\delta_S$ is the common projected matter density contrast.

If we average $\delta_S$ over circles of angular radius $\theta_T$, we arrive at the new random field $\delta_T$,

$$\delta_T(\theta) = \frac{1}{\pi \theta_T^2} \int_{\theta - \theta_T \leq \theta} d\theta' \cdot \delta_S(\theta') .$$

In this we have made the approximation of a flat sky, valid for $\theta_T \ll 1$.

If the galaxies are placed on to $\delta_S(\theta)$ via a biased Poisson process, then the discrete probability $P$ of finding $N$ galaxies within $\theta_T$ given the value of $\delta_T$ is

$$P(N|\delta_T) = \frac{1}{N!} \left( N \left[ 1 + b \delta_T \right] \right)^N \exp \left( -N \left[ 1 + b \delta_T \right] \right) .$$

For $\delta_T < -\frac{1}{2}$, we assume $P(N > 0|\delta_T) = 0$ and $P(N = 0|\delta_T) = 1$ (see also Appendix A). We have used the bias $b$ and mean galaxy count $\bar{N}$ within $\theta_T$. For our model predictions shown later, we fix the bias at a fiducial value of $b = 1.6$ or vary it between 1.4, . . . , 1.8 to show the dependence on bias in the relevant range. Note that we neglect the moderate redshift dependence of the bias of redMaGiC galaxies (cf. Rozo et al. 2015), which is a good approximation for the limited redshift range used here.

We identify troughs as circles in the sky with low galaxy count $\bar{N}$. Given any $N$, the expected value of $\delta_T$ is

$$\langle \delta_T|N \rangle = \int_{-1}^{\infty} d\delta_T \cdot \delta_T \cdot p(\delta_T|N) .$$

Bayes’ theorem tells us that

$$p(\delta_T|N) = \frac{P(N|\delta_T) \cdot p(\delta_T)}{P(N)} .$$
3.2 Convergence and shear profile

Our goal is to compute the mean value of $\kappa$ at a distance $\theta$ from the trough centre. For this, we define a set of annuli $i=1,\ldots,n$ around the trough for which $\theta \in [\theta_i, \theta_{i+1})$. Let $K_i$ be the average of $\kappa$ in annulus $A_i$,

$$K_i(\theta) = \frac{1}{\pi(\theta_{i+1}^2 - \theta_i^2)} \int_{A_i} d^2\theta' \kappa(\theta').$$

(15)

If both $\delta_T$ and $K_i$ have Gaussian distributions with zero mean, then the expectation value of $K_i$ for a fixed value of $\delta_T$ is given by

$$\langle K_i | \delta_T = s \rangle = \frac{\text{Cov}(\delta_T, K_i)}{\sigma_T^2} s,$$

(16)

where the covariance $\text{Cov}(\delta_T, K_i)$ can be computed in terms of the cross power spectrum $C_{\kappa,\Sigma}(\ell)$ of $\Sigma$ and $\kappa$ (see Appendix B). Note that the Gaussian approximation for the matter contrast and convergence becomes accurate regardless of the pointwise $p(\delta)$ since all random fields are smoothed over annuli or circles and a large redshift range.

The expectation value of $K_i$ when the trough contains $N$ galaxies is finally given by

$$\langle K_i | N \rangle = \frac{\int_{-1}^{\infty} ds \int_{-1}^{\infty} ds' \rho(\delta_T = s) \rho(\delta_T = s')}{\int_{-1}^{\infty} ds \rho(\delta_T = s)},$$

(17)

If we select as troughs all cylinders with $N \leq N_{\text{max}}$, the mean $K_i$ around them will be

$$\langle K_i | \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle = \frac{\sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} P(N) \langle \delta_T | N \rangle}{\sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} P(N)}.$$

(18)

The tangential shear signal around troughs is given by equation (7), using equation (18) to calculate the mean convergence in each annulus.

3.3 Trough–galaxy angular correlation

The trough–galaxy angular correlation function can be modelled in a very similar way. First define annuli $A_i$ around the trough that correspond to the bins in which $w(\theta)$ is measured. The mean density contrast $w_i$ in each annulus is given by (cf. equation 15)

$$w_i(\theta) = \frac{1}{\pi(\theta_{i+1}^2 - \theta_i^2)} \int_{A_i} d^2\theta' \delta_T(\theta').$$

(19)

Under the assumptions of Gaussianity, the expectation value of $\delta_i$ for a fixed value of $\delta_T$ is given by (cf. equation 16)

$$\langle w_i | \delta_T = s \rangle = \frac{\text{Cov}(\delta_T, w_i)}{\sigma_T^2} s.$$

(20)

In analogy to equation (18), the mean density contrast in annulus $A_i$ around the trough is given by

$$\langle w_i | \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle = \frac{\sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} P(N) \langle \delta_T | N \rangle}{\sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} P(N)}.$$

(21)

The average number of galaxies in an annulus $i$ outside the trough radius is given by

$$\langle N_i | \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle_{\text{out}} = \frac{\bar{A}_i}{A_T} \sum_{|w_i| \leq N_{\text{max}}},$$

(22)
where the mean galaxy count $\bar{N}_i$ in annulus $i$ is obtained by rescaling
the average galaxy count inside one trough radius to the area $A_T$ of
the annulus,
$$\bar{N}_i = \frac{N_i}{A_T}. \tag{23}$$

The profile of galaxy counts around a trough is then given by
$$\langle w_{N,i} \mid \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle_{\text{out}} = \frac{\langle |N_i| \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle_{\text{out}} - 1}{\bar{N}_i} = b\langle |w_i| \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle. \tag{24}$$

The situation is more complicated for annuli inside the trough radius
$\theta_T$. Here, the Poisson noise of the different bins is correlated.
This is because the sum of the galaxy counts in the different bins
has to meet the requirement by which we selected the troughs.

Without full treatment of the covariances, we make a prediction for
the galaxy number counts inside the trough that (i) matches the
mean galaxy counts predicted by the full model and (ii) matches
the projected matter contrast profile with a given bias. To this end,
we simply replace $\bar{N}$ in equation (22) by the predicted mean
number of galaxies inside selected troughs, e.g. when demanding that
$N_T \leq N_{\text{max}}$. This number is given by
$$\bar{N}_T = \frac{\sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} P(N) N}{\sum_{N=0}^{N_{\text{max}}} P(N)} \tag{25}.$$ 

The mean number of galaxies found in an annulus inside the trough
is then given by
$$\langle N_i \mid \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle_{\text{in}} = \frac{\bar{N}_i A_i}{A_T} [1 + b\langle |w_i| \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle] \tag{26}$$
and the profile of galaxy counts inside the trough radius is given by
$$\langle w_{N,i} \mid \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle_{\text{in}} = \frac{\langle |N_i| \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle_{\text{in}} - 1}{\bar{N}_i} = \frac{\bar{N}_T [1 + b\langle |w_i| \leq N_{\text{max}} \rangle] - 1}{\bar{N}_i}. \tag{27}$$

### 4 MEASUREMENT

In the following section, we correlate trough positions with the
shear signal of background galaxies (Section 4.1). Additionally, we
measure the projected number density profile of redMaGiC galaxies
in the same redshift and luminosity range used for the trough
selection, i.e. the angular two-point cross-correlation of troughs and
galaxies (Section 4.2).

#### 4.1 Shear signal

We measure the mean shear of background galaxies around troughs,
selected as described in Section 2.2. To correct for potential additive
shear systematic errors, we subtract the tangential shear measured
around random points. Since the masked region depends on the
respective trough radius, the random shears for each $\theta_T$ differ slightly.
Fig. 4 shows measured tangential and cross shears.

Per-mille radial alignment of background galaxies at and bey-
ond the trough radius is detected with high significance in all bins
(cf. Section 4.1.3, Table 1). Cross shears are consistent to the
expected null signal within the uncertainties (cf. also the reduced $\chi^2$
in Table 1). The model proposed in Section 3 is a good fit to the data
in all bins (cf. Section 4.3 and reduced $\chi^2_{\text{red}}$ in Table 1).

#### 4.1.1 Tomography

By splitting either the source sample or using smaller redshift ranges
for selecting the troughs, it is possible to probe the redshift evolution
of the trough lensing signal. We perform both measurements in the
following.

(i) For source tomography, we divide the source galaxy sample
into two redshift bins (cf. Section 2.3). Note that since troughs are
thick lenses, the change in source redshift causes more than a simple
change in amplitude. The differential weighting as a function of lens
redshift inside the $z = 0.2, \ldots, 0.5$ cylinder also influences the shape
of the shear profile. Due to the nearly power-law matter two-point
correlation at all redshifts, however, the latter effect is small. The
left-hand panel of Fig. 5 shows the source-tomographic signal. We
note that the agreement of the measurement with the model in both
bins is additional evidence for the appropriateness of the $p(z)$ as
estimated for our source samples (cf. Bonnett et al 2015).

(ii) For trough redshift tomography, we split the trough redshift
range into two approximately equal-volume slices $z = 0.2, \ldots, 0.4$
and $z = 0.4, \ldots, 0.5$. When using these smaller redshift ranges
for the trough selection, two effects reduce the SNR: (1) due to
the lower galaxy count, Poissonian noise weakens the correlation
of trough positions with matter underdensity; and (2) uncorrelated,
overdense large-scale structure along the line-of-sight outside the
trough redshift range causes additional variance in the lensing sig-
nal. Shear measurements are shown in the right-hand panel of
Fig. 5. The signal is reduced as expected, but the measurement
is still highly significant and consistent with the model in both
cases (see Table 1 for details on significance and goodness of fit).

#### 4.1.2 Galaxy density percentiles

All measurements presented above use troughs selected to be below
the lower 20th percentile of galaxy counts. Measurements with
larger limiting percentiles (e.g. the 30th percentile) give results of
similar significance but smaller amplitude.

It is particularly interesting, however, to study the symmetry
of matter in the overdense and underdense tails of the galaxy field.
For dense enough tracers and large enough scales, the expectation is that
all involved fields are approximated well by a Gaussian distribution.
This should lead to symmetric shear signals at the same upper and
lower percentiles. On smaller scales, the galaxy counts (if only
due to Poisson noise) and the matter density and convergence field
(since $\delta| \ll 1$ is no longer true and non-linear evolution boosts
high-density fluctuations) deviate from a Gaussian distribution and
we expect some degree of asymmetry between the low- and high-
density signal.

The measurement for both the lower and upper 20th percentile
is shown in Fig. 6 and is in agreement with these expectations. At
small trough radii, there appears to be a significant asymmetry, with
the overdense regions showing a larger shear signal than anticipated
from our model or the measurement of underdensities. For larger
cylinders, such an effect is not detected. A lognormal model of
the matter contrast (dashed lines) makes virtually no difference
for larger trough radii. For smaller trough radii, the shears around
high-density cylinders are predicted to be somewhat larger, yet
not sufficiently so to fit the data well. We hypothesize that the
discrepancy between high- and low-density cylinders can rather
be explained by an environment dependence of the bias of the
redMaGiC tracer galaxies: because the mean bias of galaxies in
overdense regions is larger than in underdense regions, the shear
Figure 4. Weak lensing signal of galaxy troughs of $\theta_T = 5, 10, 20$ and 30 arcmin radius (top left to bottom right). Shown is the tangential shear signal (blue) around points from the lower 20th percentile in galaxy counts in cylinders of $z = 0.2, \ldots, 0.5$. Lines show model predictions (cf. Section 3) for our fiducial cosmology and, for illustration of the bias dependence, a bias of $b = 1.4, 1.6, 1.8$ (light to dark blue, dotted, dot–dashed and dashed lines). Cross-shear is shown with grey cross symbols, to be interpreted with error bars of similar size. Tangential shear around random points, subtracted from the trough measurement, is shown with black open symbols.

Around small, high-density cylinders gets boosted relative to the signal around the low-density troughs (cf. the bias dependence of the model prediction in Fig. 4).

4.1.3 Significance

For estimating uncertainties, we use a set of $N_j = 100$ jackknife resamplings. In order to ensure that these are approximately equally populated with troughs, we choose them with a K-means algorithm\(^3\) on the catalogue of 5 arcmin trough positions. The delete-one jackknife yields a covariance

$$\text{Cov}(f_1, f_2) = \frac{N_j - 1}{N_j} \sum_{i=1}^{N_j} (f_1 - \langle f_1 \rangle)(f_2 - \langle f_2 \rangle)$$

for two quantities $f_1, f_2$ estimated from the data excluding region $i (f_i)$ or averaging over all $\langle f \rangle = N_j^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N_j} f_i$. In our case, we estimate the covariance matrix $\hat{C}$ of tangential shear measurements (or, in Section 4.2, angular two-point correlation measurements) in our set of angular bins.

\(^3\) https://github.com/esheldon/kmeans_radec/
Table 1. Metrics of significance of detection of shear around troughs of radius \(\theta_T\) selected from the galaxy field in the given redshift range \(z_T\) at the percentile threshold \(P\) for sources in the indicated \(z_s\) bins. We list the SNR of shear at the trough radius, \(\chi^2(\theta_T)/\sigma_{\chi^2}(\theta_T)\), and of the optimally weighted linear combination of shears, \(\Gamma/\sigma_{\Gamma}\). See description in Section 4.1.2 for details. The remaining columns show the reduced \(\chi^2\) of the residuals of model and measurement (cf. Section 4.3) and of cross-shears.

| Trough selection \(\theta_T\) & \(z_T\) & \(z_s\) & Significance \(\chi^2(\theta_T)/\sigma_{\chi^2}(\theta_T)\) & \(\Gamma/\sigma_{\Gamma}\) & Reduced \(\chi^2\) of residuals \(\chi^2_{\text{res}}\) of measurement \(\chi^2_{\text{res}}\) of model |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 & [0.2, 0.5] & All & 10 & 17 & 1.1 & 0.3 |
| 10 & [0.2, 0.5] & All & 9 & 12 & 1.4 & 0.5 |
| 20 & [0.2, 0.5] & All & 4 & 9 & 0.9 & 1.0 |
| 30 & [0.2, 0.5] & All & 3 & 6 & 0.7 & 1.0 |
| 10 & [0.2, 0.5] & High & 8 & 11 & 1.4 & 0.6 |
| 10 & [0.2, 0.4] & All & 7 & 9 & 0.9 & 0.4 |
| 10 & [0.4, 0.5] & All & 5 & 10 & 1.2 & 0.6 |
| 10 & [0.2, 0.5] & All & 9 & 12 & 1.0 & 0.4 |

Fig. 7 shows the correlation coefficients \(R_{ij} = \text{Cov}(g_i, g_j)/\sqrt{\text{Var}(g_i)\text{Var}(g_j)}\) estimated for our fiducial 10 arcmin trough measurement. At intermediate and large radii, neighbouring bins are highly positively correlated, which is even more the case for the larger troughs. The negative correlation of the innermost bins is a generic feature that appears in all trough sizes probed and is connected to the opposite sign of the first two data points of the lower panels of Fig. 4. Both this and the off-diagonal negative correlations at large radii are also seen in less noisy versions of the covariance determined from simulations (cf. Friedrich et al., in preparation).

We ensure the significances defined below are stable under a change of binning scheme and jackknife regions by calculating them with 15 instead of 25 radial bins for which we estimate the covariance using 50 rather than 100 jackknife patches, which yields consistent results.

Different measures of detection significance can be defined as follows.

(i) **SNR of shear.** A simple measure is the tangential shear at the first angular bin outside the trough radius \(\theta_T\) in units of its standard deviation according to the jackknife estimate, \(\chi^2(\theta_T)/\sigma_{\chi^2}(\theta_T)\).

(ii) **Optimal signal-to-noise** (cf. e.g. Gruen et al. 2011, their equation 11), we define a linear combination of tangential shear measurements. The weights of the linear combination are chosen as \(W = C^{-1} \cdot g^\text{model}\) for our fiducial bias of \(b = 1.6\). The SNR of \(\Gamma = W \cdot g\) is given as \(\Gamma/\sigma_{\Gamma} = \sqrt{\Gamma^T \cdot C \cdot \Gamma}\).

We list these metrics for various trough selections in Table 1. For the most conservative metric, \(\chi^2/\sigma_{\chi^2}\), we find a detection significance of 10\(\sigma\) for the smallest troughs. The optimal linear combination of observables yields even higher significances. Our detection of radial shear around underdensities on small scales of \(\theta_T = 5\), . . . , 10 arcmin is of considerably higher significance than that of the most recent void lensing studies (Melchior et al. 2014; Clampitt & Jain 2015). On larger scales, significance decreases but is still comparable.

4.2 Trough–galaxy angular correlation

The lensing signal around troughs, studied in the previous sections, measures a weighted, projected version of the matter density field (cf. equation 4). Galaxies themselves also trace the matter field,
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Figure 6. Tangential shear signal for troughs, i.e. centres of cylinders below the 20th percentile (measurement and model in blue), and overdense cylinders above the 80th percentile (red) in galaxy count. We plot model predictions for a bias of $b = 1.6$, with solid (dashed) lines assuming a Gaussian and dotted (dashed-dotted) lines a log-normal distribution of the matter contrast around troughs (overdense cylinders). Grey/black points indicate $g \times$ for both measurements.

Figure 7. Correlation matrix $R_{ij}$ of shear around 10 arcmin troughs measured in the logarithmic angular bins of Fig. 4 as estimated from 100 jackknife regions.

yet with a different weighting. We have approximated the connection of galaxies to the matter density, so far, as being constant comoving density, deterministic, biased tracers. Measurements of the two-point correlation of trough positions with galaxies are complementary to trough lensing, sensitive to both the properties of the matter field and the details of the connection of galaxies and matter.

We measure the angular two-point correlation between trough positions and redMaGiC galaxies in the same redshift range of $z = 0.2, \ldots , 0.5$ and limited to the same survey subarea of 139 deg$^2$ also used for the lensing analysis. Uncertainties are again estimated by estimating the two-point correlation in 100 jackknife resamplings and are highly correlated between bins, as is common in clustering analyses.

Fig. 8 shows results for the fiducial trough parameters, i.e. the trough catalogues also used in Fig. 4. The low galaxy count level inside the trough, due in part to the selection of regions of low matter density and to Poisson noise, steeply rises at the trough radius outside of which there is no Poisson contribution. Physical, smaller underdensities in the galaxy field are observed out to large radii. Section 3.3 discusses our modelling of the signal. Although only at moderate significance, there are indications of an increase of bias with trough radius, related to either a general scale or density dependence of bias or assembly bias (e.g. Wechsler et al. 2006).

4.3 Comparison to theory

We briefly compare our measurements to the model put forward in Section 3.

Our measurements of tangential shear around underdense troughs are consistent with the predictions at all scales and source and trough redshift configurations tested here. The reduced $\chi^2_{\text{mod}}$ of the residual of the data with respect to the $b = 1.6$ model are listed in Table 1 and consistent with noise. It is worth noting that the model is a good fit essentially without any free parameter. The only exception to this is the mild dependence on the assumed galaxy bias for the smallest scale $\theta_T = 5$ arcmin considered here. This can be understood as an effect of the importance of Poisson noise relative to true variations in the matter density field as traced by the galaxies. On large scales where Poisson noise is subdominant, galaxies are dense tracers of the smoothed matter field. Independent of the details of the galaxy placement model, i.e. as long as galaxy and matter density are somewhat positively correlated, the selection of some percentile in galaxy count then yields an essentially equivalent selection in matter density.

The model also consistently predicts our measurements for the two-point correlation of troughs and galaxies. The estimation of goodness of fit is strongly affected by the correlation of errors.
Figure 8. Angular two-point correlation of trough positions and redMaGiC galaxies in $z = 0.2, \ldots, 0.5$ for the same configurations as in Fig. 4. Shown are signal (black) and model predictions, for illustration for different values of the bias ($b = 1.4, 1.6, 1.8$ from light to dark blue, dotted, dot–dashed and dashed lines, cf. Section 3).

5 CONCLUSIONS

We have presented the measurement of per-mille level radial gravitational shear of background galaxies and negative two-point correlation of foreground galaxies around underdense cylinders (troughs) in the foreground galaxy field in DES data from the SV period.

(i) Our detection of radial shear around these projected underdense regions (cf. Section 4.1) is highly significant (above 10$\sigma$; cf. Section 4.1.3), on the smallest projected scales and widest projection redshift range considered. This is a much higher significance than has been achieved with present data for the shear signal around three-dimensional voids.

(ii) We develop a model for the shear profile (cf. Section 3), based on the assumption that galaxies are biased, Poissonian tracers of the Gaussian matter density field. The model predicts the lensing measurements consistently within the present level of uncertainty. It is interesting to note that on sufficiently large scales, the prediction is virtually independent of the details of the galaxy placement model.
yet sensitive to cosmological parameters (cf. Friedrich et al., in preparation).

(iii) Tomographic measurements that split the source sample or the redshift range used for the selection of troughs show consistent results. We note that the significance of radial shears strongly decreases for smaller trough redshift ranges, due to both the increased noise in galaxy counts and the variation of uncorrelated (overdense) structures along the line of sight in front or behind the trough cylinders.

(iv) We measure the shear signals around underdense and overdense cylinders in galaxy count at the same percentile thresholds (cf. Section 4.1.2). On small scales, we find indications for some deviation from our simple model predictions for the high-density regions. On large scales, however, we recover the expected symmetry between radial and tangential shear for both cases.

(v) In addition to the shear signal, we measure and model the two-point correlation of galaxies from our tracer population around trough positions (cf. 4.2). While consistent with our prediction on sufficiently large scales, this probe is more sensitive to the details of how galaxies trace the matter and therefore complementary to the shear signal.

The statistical power of these measurements will strongly increase as larger data sets become available. We note, in particular, that the final survey area of DES will be ≈30 times larger at comparable or even better data quality, allowing very precise measurements of the trough lensing signal. With these better statistics, trough lensing will be a relevant probe of cosmology, not only in the sense of constraining parameters of a $\Lambda$CDM model. Also, the potential lack of screening mechanisms in underdense environments would influence the growth of negative density perturbations, with implications for constraining MG models with these measurements.

On small scales, the details of how galaxies trace matter and the intrinsic distribution of the fields involved are likely to play a significant role for model predictions, and simulations in combination with progress on modelling will be required. Under these prerequisites, trough lensing measurements are a promising tool for probing the connection of galaxies and matter and gravity in the underdense Universe.

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The conditional probability density of \( N \) galaxies inside the radius \( \theta \), given the density \( \delta_T \), is given by

\[
p(\delta_T|N) = \frac{P(\delta_T) p(N|\delta_T)}{P(N)}.
\]

where we have made the simple assumptions that galaxies trace matter with a constant bias \( b \) and that the variation of galaxy counts around the expectation value is given by the Poisson distribution.

The normalization constant gives the overall probability of finding \( N \) galaxies inside \( \theta \),

\[
N = P(N).
\]

In Appendix B, the trough variance \( \sigma_T^2 \) is derived from the 2D power spectrum of the projected matter contrast.

Note that in order to self-consistently define the biased Poisson model as explained above, equation (A1) can only be valid for \( \delta_T > -1/b \). Furthermore, one has to assume that

\[
P(\delta_T|N = 0) = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad N > 0.
\]

As a consequence one also has

\[
p(\delta_T|N = 0) = \frac{p(\delta_T)}{P(N = 0)} \quad \text{for} \quad \delta_T \leq -1/b.
\]

This also has to be considered when the probability \( P(N = 0) \) is computed.

**APPENDIX B: VARIANCE AND COVARIANCE OF CONVERGENCE AND \( \delta_T \)**

Let \( \delta_i, i = 1, 2 \), be two line-of-sight projections of the matter density contrast \( \delta \), i.e.

\[
\delta_i(\theta) = \int_0^\infty d\chi q_i(\chi) \delta(\chi \theta, \chi),
\]

\( q_i \) being the weights of the projections (cf. Bartelmann & Schneider 2001). According to the Limber (1954) approximation, the 2D cross power spectrum of \( \delta_1 \) and \( \delta_2 \) is given by

\[
C_{1,2}(\ell) = \int_0^\infty d\chi q_1(\chi) q_2(\chi) P_\delta \left( \frac{\ell}{\chi}, \chi \right).
\]

\( \ell \) is the comoving distance and a flat universe was assumed. Let \( A_i \), \( i = 1, 2 \), be annuli with minimal radius \( \theta_{i,\min} \) and maximal radius \( \theta_{i,\max} \). The annulus-averaged versions of \( \delta_i \) are given by

\[
D_i(\theta) = \frac{\int d^2\theta' G_i(\theta - \theta') \delta_i(\theta')}{\pi(\theta_{i,\max}^2 - \theta_{i,\min}^2)},
\]

where \( G_i(\theta) \) is the top-hat filter corresponding to annulus \( A_i \). \( \delta_i(\theta) \) can be expanded into spherical harmonics as follows:

\[
\delta_i(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{\ell,m} a_{\ell,m} Y_{\ell,m}(\theta, \phi).
\]

If \( \delta_i \) is a homogeneous and isotropic random field then the coefficients \( a_{\ell,m} \) satisfy the equation (cf. Peebles 1993)

\[
\langle a_{\ell,m} a_{\ell',m'} \rangle = \delta_{\ell\ell'} \delta_{mm'} C_{\ell,\ell'},
\]

where \( C_{\ell,\ell'} \) is the 2D power spectrum of \( \delta_i \).
Since the expectation values $\langle \delta_i \rangle$ vanish, the covariance $\langle D_1 D_2 \rangle$ can be computed as

$$\langle D_1 D_2 \rangle = \sum_{\ell, m} \sum_{\ell', m'} \int d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 \ G_i(\theta_1) G_j(\theta_2) \pi a_{\ell m} a_{\ell' m'}$$

where in the last step we used the relation (see e.g. Peebles 1993)

$$f_m = \int d\Omega \ G_i(\theta) Y_{\ell m}^*(\theta).$$

The annuli and circles we will use as filters are isotropic, i.e. $G_i(\theta, \phi) = G_i(\theta)$. Hence all coefficients $G_{\ell m}^{\prime}$ vanish except for $G_{\ell m}^0$ as $G_i(\theta)$ are given by

$$G_{\ell m}^0 = \int d\Omega_1 \ G_i(\theta) Y_{\ell m}^0(\theta)$$

where $N_1$ is the area of the annulus and $N_i$ is a normalization factor given by

$$N_i = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4\pi}}.$$

The covariance then reads

$$\langle D_1 D_2 \rangle = \sum_{\ell} C_\ell \ G_{1, \ell} G_{2, \ell}.$$

Note that, using the equation

$$P_r(x) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dx} \left( P_{r+1}(x) - P_{r-1}(x) \right),$$

one can simplify the $G_i, \ell$ to

$$G_i, \ell = \frac{2\pi N_i}{(2\ell + 1)A_{\ell}} \left[ P_{r+1}(x) - P_{r-1}(x) \right] \cos \theta_r.$$

The covariance of $K_i$ and $\delta_1$ can then be computed by setting $\delta_1 = K_i$ and $\delta_2 = \delta_T$. The variance $\sigma_1^2$ is found by setting both $\delta_1$ and $\delta_2$ to $\delta_T$. The correct expression for the area is $A_{\ell} = 2\pi(\cos \theta_{\ell, \min} - \cos \theta_{\ell, \max})$.

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4 The correct expression for the area is $A_{\ell} = 2\pi(\cos \theta_{\ell, \min} - \cos \theta_{\ell, \max})$.