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# Large-scale structure in the ELAIS S1 Survey

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## ABSTRACT

We present an analysis of the two-point angular correlation function of The European Large-Area *Infrared Space Observatory* (ELAIS) S1 survey. The survey covers 4 deg<sup>2</sup> and contains 462 sources detected at 15 μm to a 5σ flux limit of 0.45 mJy. Using the 329 extragalactic sources not repeated in different observations, we detect a significant clustering signal; the resulting angular correlation function can be fitted by a power law  $w(\theta) = A\theta^{1-\gamma}$  with  $A = 0.014 \pm 0.005$  and  $\gamma = 2.04 \pm 0.18$ . Using the observed redshift distribution of the objects (from spectroscopic and photometric redshifts), we invert Limber's equation and deduce a spatial correlation length  $r_0 = 4.3_{-0.7}^{+0.4} h^{-1}$  Mpc. This is smaller than that obtained from optical surveys but it is in agreement with results from *IRAS*. This extends to higher redshift the observational evidence that infrared selected surveys show smaller correlation lengths (i.e. reduced clustering amplitudes) than optical surveys.

**Key words:** galaxies: clusters: general – galaxies: evolution – cosmology: observations – large-scale structure of Universe – infrared: galaxies.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Theories of structure formation were strongly constrained by the statistical measurements of clustering in some of the early galaxy redshift surveys. Surveys of infrared (IR) galaxies, in particular, were able to rule out the standard cold dark matter model (Efstathiou et al. 1990; Saunders et al. 1991). Present-day redshift surveys such as the 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey (2dFGRS; Colless et al. 2001), the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000) and, in the far-IR, the Point Source Catalog Redshift survey (PSC-z, Saunders et al. 2000) are now able to provide definitive measurements of galaxy clustering in the local Universe.

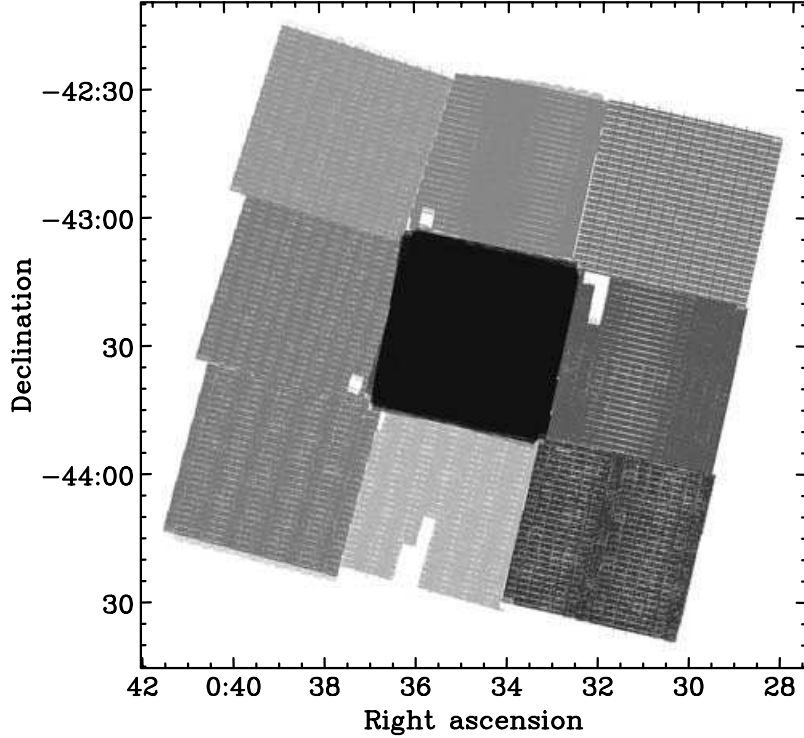
Despite this success, we have always known that galaxies are biased tracers of the matter distribution and yet we have a poor observational or theoretical understanding of this bias, although it is assumed to be related to the process of galaxy formation and evolution. To understand bias and, by inference, galaxy formation, we need to better understand the clustering of different galaxy types and the evolution of this clustering with redshift.

In this paper we attempt to provide an estimate of the clustering of IR galaxies a factor of ten deeper (in redshift) than those seen in the *IRAS* surveys. To do this we provide the first estimate of clustering from any of the extragalactic *Infrared Space Observatory* (*ISO*) surveys. This is thus the first estimate of clustering from galaxies selected at 15 μm. We have used part of the ELAIS survey (Oliver et al. 2000) as this probes the largest volume of any of the *ISO* surveys. We measure the projected clustering by calculating the angular correlation function, we then discuss the constraints this places on the three-dimensional clustering using Limber's equation (Limber 1954).

## 2 THE ELAIS S1 SURVEY

The European Large-Area *ISO* survey (ELAIS; Oliver et al. 2000) was the largest Open Time programme on *ISO* (Kessler et al. 1996). This project surveyed 12 deg<sup>2</sup>, larger than all but the serendipitous surveys, making it ideal for clustering studies. The main survey bands were at 6.7, 15, 90 and 170 μm. Of these bands the 15-μm catalogues contain the greatest density of galaxies (see e.g. Gruppioni et al. 2002; Serjeant et al. 2000), and provide the best statistics

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**Figure 1.** The selection function used to generate the random sample of galaxies. The dark central region arises owing to the deeper observations being carried out in it.

for clustering. The final analysis of the 15- $\mu\text{m}$  data using the Lari method for one of the ELAIS fields (S1) has recently been completed (Lari et al. 2001) and this is the sample that we use in this analysis.

The S1 field is located at  $\alpha(2000) = 00^{\text{h}}34^{\text{m}}44^{\text{s}}.4$ ,  $\delta(2000) = -43^{\circ}28'12''$ , covering an area of  $2 \times 2 \text{ deg}^2$ . The 15- $\mu\text{m}$  survey is made from nine raster observations, each one of  $\sim 40 \text{ arcmin} \times 40 \text{ arcmin}$ . The central raster S1.5 has been observed three times. Using the Lari method we have obtained a sample of 462 sources to  $5\sigma$  in the flux range 0.45–150 mJy (Gruppioni et al. 2002).

### 3 SELECTION FUNCTION

In addition to the galaxy catalogue itself, the selection function is the most important ingredient in the calculation of clustering statistics. Errors in the selection function will invalidate the answer, whereas errors in the weighting scheme will usually make the answer more noisy.

A selection function is required for each source list that is being investigated. The selection function,  $\phi$ , is defined as the expected number density of sources as a function of  $\mathbf{r}$  (which might be two or three dimensional), in the absence of clustering; i.e. the expected number of galaxies  $d\mathcal{N}$  in a volume  $dV$  is  $d\mathcal{N} = \phi(\mathbf{r})dV$ . With this definition,  $\int \phi(\mathbf{r})dV = \mathcal{N}$ . The selection function is used to simulate a catalogue with no clustering.

To be selected from the ELAIS S1 catalogue sources had to exceed a signal-to-noise threshold,  $\sigma_{\text{min}}$ . The signal-to-noise ratio of a detected source  $i$ , is  $\sigma_i(\mathbf{r}_i) = S_i/N(\mathbf{r}_i)$  where  $S_i$  is the signal of the source and  $N(\mathbf{r}_i)$  is the noise at the position of the source. Had this source been in a different part of the survey, it would have had a different signal-to-noise ratio. We can define then a mask,  $M_i(\mathbf{r})$ , which represents the detectability of each object as a function of

position as follows:

$$M_i(\mathbf{r}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \sigma_i(\mathbf{r}) < \sigma_{\text{min}} \\ 1 & \text{if } \sigma_i(\mathbf{r}) \geq \sigma_{\text{min}}, \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma_{\text{min}} = 5$ . The unnormalized selection function can then be written as

$$\phi' = \sum_i M_i(\mathbf{r}) \quad (2)$$

which can be normalized

$$\phi = \phi' \frac{\mathcal{N}}{\int \phi' dV}. \quad (3)$$

#### 3.1 BUILDING THE MASKS

In the full ELAIS S1 region there are nine independent noise maps  $N(\mathbf{r})$ , corresponding to nine independent subcatalogues. Note that the central noise map is less noisy and the corresponding subcatalogue deeper, because the *ISO* data were already combined (Gruppioni et al. 2002). We constructed a selection function as follows: for each source in the subcatalogue we calculate the hypothetical signal-to-noise ratio (defined as the peak flux over the rms value) at each point in the raster. Where these exceed the extracted signal-to-noise threshold  $\sigma_{\text{min}}$  (equation 1), the value of the selection function at that position is incremented (equation 2).

The nine individual selection functions are then combined into a single one. Fig. 1 shows the final image. In the overlap region only one selection function was used and the final catalogue excludes sources in that region that arose from the other subcatalogues. Sources with stellar counterparts have also been removed (see Gruppioni et al. 2002) from the catalogue and excluded from

the calculation of the selection function. We end up with a catalogue of 329 sources.

The selection function so obtained is then used to generate the random catalogues with no clustering, essential for properly calculating the two-point correlation function.

#### 4 THE ANGULAR CORRELATION FUNCTION

Correlation functions are widely used to study the distribution of sources in surveys and to derive large-scale properties of galaxies. The two-point spatial correlation function is defined so that

$$dP = n^2[1 + \xi(r)] dV_1 dV_2$$

is the joint probability of finding a source in a volume element  $dV_1$  and another source in a volume element  $dV_2$ . The function  $\xi(r)$  is the excess probability of finding an object compared to a random distribution of objects.

Similarly, one can define the two-point angular correlation function so that

$$dP = n^2[1 + w(\theta)] d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2$$

is the joint probability of finding a source in a solid angle element  $d\Omega_1$  and another source in a solid angle element  $d\Omega_2$ . These two statistics are related by Limber's equation (Peebles 1980).

In order to calculate the angular correlation function of mid-IR sources we use the Landy & Szalay (1993) estimator (Landy & Szalay 1993)

$$w(\theta) = \frac{[\text{DD}] - 2[\text{DR}] + [\text{RR}]}{[\text{RR}]}, \quad (4)$$

where [DD], [RR] and [DR] represent the normalized number of galaxy–galaxy, random–random and galaxy–random pairs with angular separation in  $(\theta, \theta + d\theta)$ .

Errors in the calculation of the angular correlation function are dominated by Poisson noise. The error in each bin can be estimated using the following expression (Baugh et al. 1996):

$$\delta w(\theta) = 2\sqrt{\frac{1 + w(\theta)}{\text{DD}}}, \quad (5)$$

where, in this case, DD is the total number of galaxy–galaxy pairs (not normalized). Errors calculated using this equation are comparable to the errors obtained from a bootstrap resampling technique (Ling, Barrow & Frenk 1986).

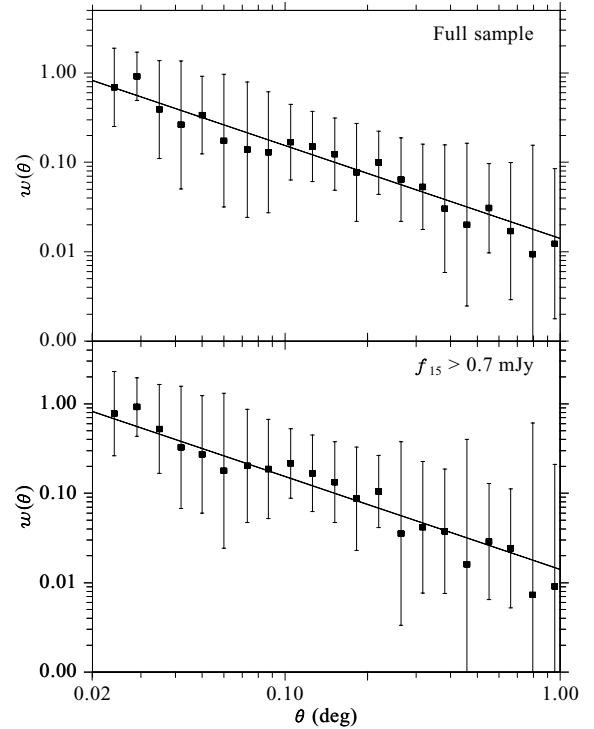
A second source of errors comes from the finite size of the sample. To correct for this effect we use the random sample to calculate the integral constraint (e.g. Infante et al. 1994) as

$$\delta = \frac{\sum N_{rr}(\theta)}{\sum N_{rr}(\theta)[1 + w(\theta)]} \quad (6)$$

and divide the calculated correlation function by this factor,  $\delta = 0.945$ .

Fig. 2 (top) shows the obtained angular correlation function, calculated using 200 realizations with 2000 random sources each, in intervals of  $\log \theta = 0.08^\circ$ . Random catalogues have been built using the selection function calculated in the previous section. Data points have been fitted by a power law of the form  $w(\theta) = A\theta^{1-\gamma}$  resulting in  $A = 0.014 \pm 0.005$  and  $\gamma = 2.04 \pm 0.18$  (where  $\theta$  is measured in degrees).

The mean number of objects in each field is  $\langle n \rangle = 35.25$  (excluding the central raster S1.5, with 71 sources), with a standard deviation of six objects. As the S1.5 field reaches deeper flux limits, it could in principle be subject to clustering variations that would



**Figure 2.** Angular correlation function as calculated from ELAIS S1. The top part shows the calculation performed using all sources, while the bottom part only those sources with fluxes larger than 0.7 mJy have been considered (excluding then, those faint sources only detectable in the central deeper raster S1.5). The data points are fitted by a power law  $w(\theta) = A\theta^{1-\gamma}$  with  $A = 0.014 \pm 0.005$  and  $\gamma = 2.04 \pm 0.18$ .

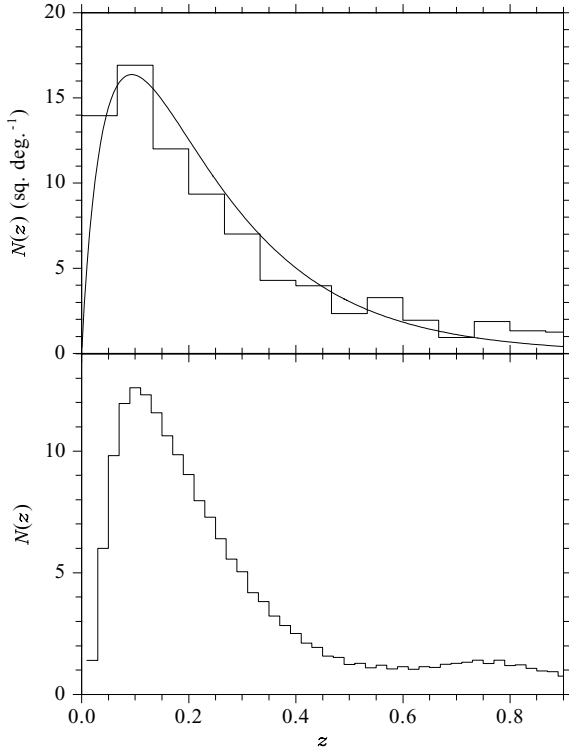
affect the whole clustering estimation. We repeat the above calculation removing those sources with fluxes fainter than the flux limit excluding S1.5: a total of 27 sources with fluxes  $< 0.7$  mJy are removed. By recalculating the selection function and the angular correlation function we then obtain an estimate of the clustering from sources detectable over most of the S1 field. In this case the integral constraint is slightly larger than the previously obtained,  $\delta = 0.970$ . The angular correlation function is shown in Fig. 2 (bottom) and is fitted by the same power law previously calculated. Although the correlation function is now slightly larger at scales  $\sim 0.1^\circ$ , the errors are also larger and the overall correlation function is well fitted by the previous function.

#### 5 SPATIAL CORRELATION FUNCTION

In the case of small angles, both  $w$  and  $\xi$  can be approximated by power-law shapes, and the spatial correlation function can be written as (e.g. Phillipps et al. 1978)

$$\xi(r, z) = \left(\frac{r}{r_0}\right)^{-\gamma} (1+z)^{-(3+\epsilon)}, \quad (7)$$

where  $r_0$  is the comoving correlation length at  $z = 0$  and  $r$  the comoving distance. The parameter  $\epsilon$  is the clustering evolution index and is interpreted as follows. A value  $\epsilon = 0$  corresponds to stable clustering in physical coordinates, i.e. galaxy clusters remain unchanged and clustering changes owing to the expansion of the Universe, while  $\epsilon = 3 - \gamma$  corresponds to clustering fixed in comoving coordinates, i.e. clustering does not change with time and the galaxy clusters expand with the Universe.



**Figure 3.** Top: redshift distribution of ELAIS objects obtained from follow-up spectroscopic observations and photometric redshifts. Bottom: model redshift distribution of ELAIS sources obtained by Pozzi et al. (2004).

If  $w(\theta)$  is parametrized as  $w(\theta) = A_w \theta^{1-\gamma}$ , then Limber's equation becomes (e.g. Phillips et al. 1978)

$$A_w = C r_0^\gamma \frac{\int D_\theta^{1-\gamma} g^{-1}(z)(1+z)^{-(3+\epsilon)} (dN/dz)^2 dz}{[\int (dN/dz) dz]^2}, \quad (8)$$

where  $D_\theta$  is the angular diameter distance,  $g(z)$  is the scalefactor multiplied by the element of comoving distance

$$g(z) = \frac{c}{H_0} [(1+z)^2(1+\Omega_0 z)^{1/2}]^{-1} \quad (9)$$

and

$$C = \pi^{1/2} \frac{\Gamma[(\gamma-1)/2]}{\Gamma(\gamma/2)}. \quad (10)$$

The only unknown quantity in equation (8) is the redshift distribution of the sources. A distribution given by

$$\frac{dN}{dz} = \frac{3N\Omega_s}{2z_c^3} z^2 \exp\left[-\left(\frac{z}{z_c}\right)^{3/2}\right],$$

where  $z_m = \sqrt{2}z_c$  is the median redshift of the survey, provides good fits to the distribution of optical galaxies (Baugh 1996, and references therein) and has been widely used to invert Limber's equation. However, the redshift distribution of mid-IR sources is more extended and the equation above is no longer valid. Fig. 3 (top) shows the redshift distribution of the ELAIS sources, obtained from optical spectroscopy (La Franca et al., private communication; Perez-Fournon et al., private communication) and photometric redshifts (Rowan-Robinson et al. 2004). Instead of the optical  $dN/dz$  we use

$$\frac{dN}{dz} \propto z \exp\left[-\left(\frac{z}{z_c}\right)^{3/4}\right] \quad (11)$$

**Table 1.** Summary of correlation length values obtained from different surveys.

Survey	$z_m$	$r_0$ ( $h^{-1}$ Mpc)	$\gamma$	Ref. <sup>a</sup>
APM	0.05	5.7	1.67	1
SDSS	0.18	$5.7 \pm 0.2$	$1.75 \pm 0.03$	2
2dFGRS	0.08	$4.92 \pm 0.27$	$1.71 \pm 0.06$	3
IRAS	0.02	$3.79 \pm 0.14$	$1.57 \pm 0.03$	4
PSCz	0.02	3.7	1.69	5
ELAIS	0.2	$4.3^{+0.4}_{-0.7}$	$2.04 \pm 0.18$	

<sup>a</sup>References. 1: Maddox et al. (1990); 2: Zehavi et al. (2002) (assuming a Einstein-de Sitter cosmology); 3: Norberg et al. (2001); 4: Saunders, Rowan-Robinson & Lawrence (1992); 5: Jing et al. (2002).

which fits reasonably well the distribution of the ELAIS sources, where in this case  $z'_m = \sqrt{2}z_c$  is the *mode* of the distribution.

We can now integrate equation (8) to find  $r_0$ . Assuming  $\Omega_0 = 1.0$  and  $\epsilon = 0$  and using a redshift of  $z'_m = 0.1$  in equation (11), we obtain  $r_0 = 4.3 h^{-1}$  Mpc with a 95 per cent confidence level in the range  $3.8 h^{-1}$  Mpc to  $4.7 h^{-1}$  Mpc.

An alternative redshift distribution of the ELAIS sources has been presented by Pozzi et al. (2004), computed from the luminosity function fit of galaxies on ELAIS S1 and S2 (see bottom of Fig. 3). When using this model redshift distribution as the input to equation (8) we obtain similar results of  $r_0 = 4.2 h^{-1}$  Mpc with a 95 per cent confidence level in the range  $3.6$  to  $4.8 h^{-1}$  Mpc.

## 6 DISCUSSION

We use a sample of 329 15- $\mu$ m galaxies detected in the ELAIS S1 survey covering a region of  $4 \text{ deg}^2$  of sky to determine the angular correlation function of the galaxies. We measure  $w(\theta)$  up to scales of  $1^\circ$ , corresponding to  $\sim 9$  Mpc at the median redshift of  $z_m = 0.2$ . The resulting correlation function is well fitted by a power law  $w(\theta) = A\theta^{1-\gamma}$  with  $A = 0.014 \pm 0.005$  and  $\gamma = 2.04 \pm 0.18$ . Using the redshift distribution of the sources we invert the angular correlation function using Limber's equation to determine the correlation length  $r_0$ . We find a value of  $r_0 = 4.3 h^{-1}$  Mpc with a 95 per cent confidence level in the range  $3.8$  to  $4.7 h^{-1}$  Mpc.

Table 1 lists the correlation lengths obtained from several optical and IR surveys. While optical surveys show a significant clustering with  $r_0 \sim 5 h^{-1}$  Mpc, the *IRAS* survey shows a lower value. The data described in this paper is consistent with this trend: that mid-IR selected sources show a smaller correlation length. This is expected because optical surveys favour elliptical galaxies which are more strongly clustered than spiral galaxies, while IR surveys preferentially select spirals and star-forming galaxies. We note that the ELAIS selected galaxies appear to have a marginally steeper two-point correlation function than the optical and the *IRAS* surveys. By fixing  $\gamma$  to the lower value allowed by the fit  $\gamma = 1.86$  we obtain  $r_0 = 4.1^{+0.2}_{-0.5}$ , bringing the clustering amplitude closer to that seen by *IRAS*.

It is interesting to note that the optical correlation function at  $z \sim 0.1$  (Norberg et al. 2001; Zehavi et al. 2002) is consistent with that at  $z \sim 0$  (Maddox et al. 1990), i.e. there is no apparent evolution in the correlation function over this albeit small redshift range. Likewise the IR galaxy correlation function estimate from this work at  $z \sim 0.2$  is consistent with the IR galaxy correlation function estimated from *IRAS* galaxies at  $z \sim 0$  (Jing, Börner & Suto 2002). This apparent lack of evolution may be because evolutionary effects are small or that evolution in mass clustering is compensated by evolution in

galaxy bias. It will be interesting to see if this apparent non-evolution in clustering of different galaxy population mixes is still found in deeper surveys (e.g. SWIRE, Lonsdale et al. 2003) as this might imply a striking conspiracy in the evolution of the bias in different galaxy types.

By performing a systematic analysis of all density peaks in the redshift distribution of field galaxies, Elbaz & Moy (2004) recently found an excess of *ISO* selected galaxies over the whole range of density peaks. This suggests that IR galaxies are more strongly clustered than optical galaxies, in apparent contradiction to our results. As the *ISO-CAM* surveys are deeper than ELAIS, it is plausible that there is an evolution of the clustering over the redshift interval spanned by these two *ISO* surveys. IR galaxies would then become more clustered towards higher redshift values, while the clustering of optical galaxies changes little. This would agree qualitatively with hierarchical pictures of structure formation (e.g. Granato et al. 2000). Such models predict that star formation and galaxy formation is driven by merger rate that would be a function of environment. Star formation would thus have occurred first and vigorously in the denser (more clustered) regions of the Universe, taking more time to initiate in lower density (less clustered) regions (see also Elbaz & Cesarsky 2003). The strong evolution in the luminosity function of IR galaxies (e.g. Pozzi et al. 2004) might then be coupled with an evolution in their clustering. Optically selected galaxies sample regions where past star formation activity was as high as those where current activity is high and are thus less sensitive to these effects. Finally this apparent contradiction may simply be that the deep *ISO-CAM* surveys do not sample a sufficiently large volume to be representative of the rest of the Universe.

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