

A SURVEY OF THE PISCES-PERSEUS SUPERCLUSTER. V. THE DECLINATION STRIP
+33.5° TO +39.5° AND THE MAIN SUPERCLUSTER RIDGE

GARY WEGNER

Department of Physics and Astronomy, Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

MARTHA P. HAYNES AND RICCARDO GIOVANELLI

National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center¹ and Department of Astronomy, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853

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ABSTRACT

Measurements of 544 radial velocities, 229 optical and 315 in the 21 cm H I line, are presented for galaxies, mostly in the declination strip $+33.5^\circ < \delta < +39.5^\circ$ in the region of the Pisces-Perseus supercluster. These are combined with other available data to investigate the linear structure identified as the main supercluster ridge. The main ridge of the supercluster extends at least $50h^{-1}$ Mpc before it disappears into the zone of avoidance east of Perseus. Confinement both on the plane of the sky and in the velocity dimension imply an axial ratio of greater than ten to one and an inclination with respect to the plane of the sky of less than about 12 degrees. The smoothed volume density contrast over the whole ridge averages more than a factor of 6 relative to the average density derived for the whole sample. The relative proximity, low inclination to the plane of the sky, and high contrast relative to the foreground and background, help to make the Pisces-Perseus filament one of the most prominent features in the extragalactic sky on large scales.

1. INTRODUCTION

The study of the large-scale distribution of galaxies in the local universe has been a major topic of research in the last decade. In particular, advances in the capabilities of detectors and spectrometers at both optical and radio wavelengths have contributed to tremendously increase the number of measured galaxy redshifts and thus have led to a great improvement in our ability to judge the topology of the galaxy distribution. Although the existence of large deviations from the isotropic expansion predicted by Hubble's law has also been confirmed in this period, the application of the simple redshift-distance relation to major redshift surveys allows us a fair approximation to the picture of the distribution of luminous matter in the nearby universe. It is now clear that the structure on large scales is complex. While it is quite easy to identify the galaxy to which any star chosen at random in the universe belongs, it is much more difficult to find the hierarchy in which a random galaxy exists.

Among the primary aims of attempts to detail the three-dimensional structure in the local universe are the mapping of individual superclusters, the determination of their scale parameters and the characterization of their morphology. We require not only qualitative descriptions of the distribution of galaxies in a three-dimensional sense, but also quantitative measures of the topology that can be used to test models for the formation and evolution of such structures. Indeed, all of these objectives are the goals of ongoing studies by a number of groups and much progress has been made in recent years. The identification of indi-

vidual supergalactic objects is new territory in astronomy, not without its controversies and limitations, the latter imposed more by our inadequate observational samples than by our imaginations.

The sky distribution of galaxies in the local universe is illustrated in Fig. 2 of Giovanelli & Haynes (1991). Its inspection promptly reveals that the three most prominent large-scale features are: (1) the zone of avoidance, (2) the Virgo cluster and the supergalactic plane, and (3) the main ridge of the Pisces-Perseus (PP) supercluster, which runs southwestward from the Perseus cluster at (R.A., Dec.) $\simeq (3.2^h, +42^\circ)$. It is important to recognize the differences in the distances of these objects. The zone of avoidance arises locally from the structure of the Milky Way; the relatively nearby Virgo cluster has a radial velocity of 1050 km s^{-1} , while that of the Perseus cluster is 5500 km s^{-1} , which places it five times farther than Virgo, if we neglect deviations from Hubble flow. The difference in distance implies that apparent magnitude-limited surveys, of which typical redshift surveys are a fair approximation, sample 3.5 mag intrinsically fainter galaxies in Virgo than they do in PP. Nonetheless, PP represents a projected overdensity that rivals that of the Local Supercluster, and significantly exceeds the latter in linear size. How both our viewing aspect and the characteristics of the PP supercluster combine to make this prominent feature, is discussed in Sec. 4. Conversely, it should be noted that the structure discussed in this paper may not be representative of "typical" structures in the local universe: we chose PP as the focus of our observational effort precisely because of its prominence in the sky distribution of bright and large, nearby galaxies: hardly an unbiased choice. The PP supercluster was identified as an exceptional feature quite early by Bernheimer (1932). Seminal quantitative work was produced by Einasto *et al.* (1980) and Gregory *et al.*

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(1981), which outlined the major characteristics of the structure, in spite of the then meager redshift data base.

As evident also in Fig. 1 of Giovanelli *et al.* (1986: hereafter referred to as GHC), the main ridge of the supercluster extends across six hours of right ascension, roughly $22^{\text{h}} < \text{R.A.} < 4^{\text{h}}$. It extends westward from the Perseus cluster to the south where it becomes harder to trace in the region west of $\text{R.A.} = 0^{\text{h}}$. Although the supercluster can be traced throughout the region of our overall survey and possibly beyond (Haynes & Giovanelli 1988), the highest density regions outline a roughly continuous structure in the northern portions ($\text{Dec.} > +25^\circ$). This high density volume is linear in structure, extending east to west across the survey area and is confined in the perpendicular sky direction and in redshift. We shall refer to this extragalactic object as the "Pisces-Perseus ridge" and it is the subject of the current paper.

In a series of earlier papers, we have presented the results of our H I survey of the Pisces-Perseus supercluster, generally covering separate zones of declination as they were completed or significantly updated (Giovanelli & Haynes 1985; Giovanelli *et al.* 1986; Haynes *et al.* 1988; Giovanelli & Haynes 1989). In the past, our observational efforts were limited to H I emission line spectra of the spiral galaxies. Because in the northern section of the region (which is particularly important because it includes the highest density supercluster ridge) morphological segregation induces a reduction in the proportional representation of late-type galaxies, and because of physical restrictions associated with the radio telescopes that have been used, we have undertaken to complement the radio line observations with optical spectroscopic ones, thus improving the completeness of the sample in high density regions of particular dynamical importance. The results of 574 optical and radio measurements of radial velocities of galaxies are included in Sec. 2. In Sec. 3, we investigate the structure of the main ridge in three dimensions, identifying clusters and groups dynamics. In the fourth section, the effects of the favorable viewing aspect and the proximity of the supercluster are examined to demonstrate how similar, but differently oriented structures could escape notice in galaxy surveys. The characteristics of the Pisces-Perseus ridge and our impressions of its relevance to general questions concerning large-scale topology are summarized in the conclusion.

2. RESULTS FOR THE REDSHIFT SAMPLE

Some of the highest density concentrations in the PP supercluster are found in the declination strip around $+36^\circ$, including Abell 262 and portions of the NGC 383/NGC 508 cluster. At the same time that morphological segregation increases the proportional representation of early-type objects, the available radio telescopes impose their own limitations. At high zenith angles, the Arecibo 305 m telescope suffers from vignetting and spillover, which both decrease the system sensitivity quickly with increasing zenith angle. Simultaneously, tracking time shortens until the northern limit is reached at about $+38^\circ$.

Our alternative telescope of choice in the northern hemisphere was the late 91 m telescope at Green Bank, a smaller and more restricted transit instrument. Because of the much lower sensitivity and the need for morphological representation by high surface brightness observations, we have augmented the H I observations in this strip with optical spectroscopic redshift measurements. In this section, we report the results of both optical and radio surveys. While they refer principally to the declination strip 33.5° to 39.5° of PP, many redshifts correspond to galaxies in immediately adjacent regions.

2.1 Optical Data

Observations were made with the 2.4 m Hiltner telescope of the Michigan-Dartmouth-MIT (MDM) Observatory using the Mark III spectrograph. The Mark III is a high efficiency grism spectrograph with all glass transmission optics designed by W. A. Hiltner and built at the University of Michigan. For the present observations, a 300 lines/mm grism was used with either a Thompson or a RCA CCD as the detector. With an entrance slit of 1.9 arcsec width, this setup yields resolutions of 11 and 13 Å, respectively with an approximate spectral coverage of 4000 to 7200 Å. All data reductions were done at Dartmouth using the IRAF software package (Tody 1986); in particular, the standard longslit routines were used to flatten, subtract the background, and extract wavelength corrected one-dimensional spectra. Velocities were obtained from the absorption spectra of the galaxies using nightly K giant standard star spectra and a Fourier coefficient program (JKFOUR) similar to that described by Sargent *et al.* (1977) and kindly supplied by Roger Davies. Emission line spectra were measured using the "deblending" option in the "spot" IRAF routine.

Table 1 contains the optical redshift measurements of 213 galaxies observed with the Hiltner telescope. Sample objects were selected, for which, at the time of the observations, no optical redshifts were available to us. The entries include:

Column (1)—Identification in the *Catalog of Galaxies and Clusters of Galaxies* (Zwicky *et al.* 1961-68: hereafter referred to as CGCG), that is, the field number and then the entry number within that field.

Column (2)—*Uppsala General Catalog* (UGC) entry number (Nilson 1973).

Column (3)—*New General Catalogue* (NGC) or IC number or alternate name.

Columns (4) and (5)—1950 Right Ascension (R.A.) and 1950 Declination (Dec). For galaxies brighter than $m = 14.5$, positions were obtained from Dressel & Condon (1976). For others, coordinates were obtained from the CGCG or, when higher accuracy than that of the CGCG is manifest, they were obtained from the Palomar Sky Survey (PSS) prints using a standard overlay program, with an estimated accuracy of $10''$.

Column (6)—Morphological type code index based on the simple scheme: 0—Elliptical, 1—S0, 3—Sa, 5—Sb, 7—Sc, 9—Irrregular, 10—Peculiar, with intermediate types allowed. A "B" indicates the presence of a bar. This coding

TABLE 2. (continued)

CGCG	UGC	NGC/IC	RA	Dec	T	a x b	i	m _c	m _e	V _{sun}	V _o	W ₁	W ₂	W _c	F _{obs}	F _c	rms	snr	log L	log M _H	I	Q	Ref
		2875	034717.4	+362307	12	1.10 x 0.30	80	16.5	14.76	5767	5872	297	47	299	2.69	2.96	1.28	17.0	9.78	9.38	0	1	1
		2877	034747.8	+364453	9	1.60 x 0.90	57	17.0	15.65	3816	3921	103	89	124	1.51	1.79	1.99	8.8	9.07	8.81	0	1	1
		2882	034923.5	+343207	8	1.80 x 0.70	70	17.0	15.71	4268	4365	216	197	231	4.05	4.85	3.13		9.15	9.34	0	1	1
526-012		2885	034948.6	+352633	7	5.50 x 2.50	65	14.4	12.74	5803	5903	537		593		27.50			10.60	10.35	B	1	4
		2886	034950.7	+344836	8	1.70 x 1.30	41	18.0	17.00	5387	5483	138	126	210	1.46	1.81	1.63	8.6	8.83	9.11	0	1	1*
526-013		2889	035020.8	+370700	6B	1.60 x 0.80	62	15.7	14.49	5580	5687	352	324	399	3.50	4.13	1.81	8.8	9.86	9.50	0	3	1
		2893	035100.0	+362150	7B	1.20 x 1.00	35	17.0	15.65	5833	5936	172	152	303	3.04	3.50	2.05	11.6	9.44	9.46	0	1	1
		2901	035326.0	+344300	12	1.10 x 1.10	0	16.0	14.98	8452	8546	234	216		2.73	3.14	1.42	12.9	10.02	9.73	0	1	1
526-016		2920	035734.3	+345227	7	2.30 x 0.40	90	15.3	13.64	4158	4249	376	368	375	8.55	10.74	2.30	13.4	9.95	9.66	0	1	1
		2932	035936.3	+334360	8	1.10 x 1.00	25	18.0	16.94	4880	4966	211	201		2.68	3.06	1.56	12.4	8.77	9.25	0	1	1
526-017		2945	040124.0	+334000	2	1.50 x 1.10	44	15.2	14.26	5230	5315	234	208	332	6.52	7.76	1.19	41.4	9.90	9.71	0	1	1
		2959	040353.2	+341803	10	1.40 x 1.20	32	16.0	14.59	5946	5632	99	186		3.67	4.36	4.75		9.81	9.51	0	1	6
		2991	041042.3	+364320	5B	2.20 x 1.70	41	16.5	14.46	6032	6121	257	232	391	7.11	9.71	3.58	11.6	9.94	9.93	0	1	1
		3007	041516.3	+333920	7	1.30 x 1.10	33	17.0	15.63	5631	5706	97	178		4.80	5.61	2.91	20.0	9.41	9.63	0	3	6
		3028	042119.9	+334540	12	1.70 x 0.80	64	16.0	14.02	5484	5554	452	499		10.68	12.71	1.74	19.0	10.03	9.97	0	1	6

Notes to Table 2

- 514-012 = N7263 : observed on CGCG position, as given.
 U12008 : pointing and flux calibration uncertain.
 514-020 = U12012 : pair with -019 at 3.9', 211; no evidence of blend.
 514-039 = U12051 : highly asymm, poor s/n; vel, width, flux uncertain.
 514-071 = U12120 = N7342 : as above.
 514-090 = U12137 : flux calibration uncertain.
 516-002 = U12474 : signal identification uncertain; signal could be much broader (~ 650 km/s), and centered near 4900 km/s.
 517-014 : 80 mJy continuum source within beam; absorption feature probably real (no obvious optical feature in off position at 00^h05^m23^s, same dec; check for HI emission in off field not done).
 519-007 : interference makes signal identification quite doubtful.
 519-021 = U480 : probable blend with -022 at 1.4'.
 520-023 = U755 : poor flux calibration.
 520-026 = U758 : as above.
 520-036 = U831 : as above.
 521-017 : confused with -018 at 2.5'; parms. v. uncertain.
 521-018 = U944 = N512 : at 2.5' from -017; no evidence of disturbance in this spectrum.
 U1316 : pair with 522-023 at 1.5'.
 522-071 = U1400 : parms. v. uncertain; other candidate for signal at ~ 4025 km/s.
 U1642b : in spectrum on U1642, two well separate features appear; we attribute that at 4639 km/s to U1642 because of its symmetry and resemblance of rotating disk; other feature might be associated with extended emission from one of the companions of U1642, located respectively at 4.3' and 3.8'.
 523-067 = U2067 : pair with -066 at 2.5'; blend; parms. quite uncertain.
 524-043 = U2465 : asymm. profile: poor pointing?
 524-055 = U2548 : poor flux calibration.
 U2707 : previously reported velocity (Beers et al. 1986) of 3405 km/s is incorrect.
 U2886 : both U2886 and U2887 (1.1x1.0, dwarf, m=18) within the beam (sep. 1'); unable to discern two separate features, assignment of full flux to U2886 arbitrary.

Column (23)—Quality code for H I detection: 1—high quality detection, 2—marginal or poor detection, 3—flux and velocity ok, but profile unsuitable for use in T–F relation, 4—H I seen in absorption, 5—confused with neighbor.

Column (24)—Reference code for H I data. The H I data reported here come from one of the following sources: 1—This survey, 2—Northern Pisces–Perseus region (Haynes *et al.* 1988), 3—Isolated galaxy survey (HG84), 4—Survey of large angular diameter galaxies (Hewitt *et al.* 1983), 5—Magri (1990), and 6—Sc galaxy survey (in preparation). When followed by a “*”, see notes at the end of the table.

2.3 The Overall Redshift Sample

In the northern region of the PP supercluster referred to as the “northern box,” bounded by 22^h < R.A. < 4^h, +20° < Dec. < +50°, our compilation now includes 3311 galaxies of known redshift, of which 2891 are at $V_{\text{sun}} < 12\,000$ km s⁻¹. Within that region, there are 2888 CGCG galaxies

(catalogued magnitudes 15.7 or brighter); of those, 2340 have measured redshifts. Two thousand and eighteen galaxies have 21 cm measurements, of which 1798 have been presented by us. Our contribution in this region to the optical redshift data base amounts to 503 galaxies, including those given here and others by Sakai *et al.* (1993). The sky distribution of galaxies with heliocentric radial velocities smaller than 12 000 km s⁻¹ in the northern box are displayed in Fig. 1. The region includes the vast majority of spectroscopic measurements reported in Tables 1 and 2.

The new data reported here make a significant contribution to this overall sample. This is because they probe the high density structure of the PP ridge and we use them in the study given in the remaining sections.

Strictly referring to the declination range between 33.5 and 39.5 degrees, Figs. 2 and 3 illustrate the degree of completeness of the redshift survey in that region. Figure 2 displays the number of known redshifts, as a function of CGCG magnitude, $n(m)$, and the completeness fraction

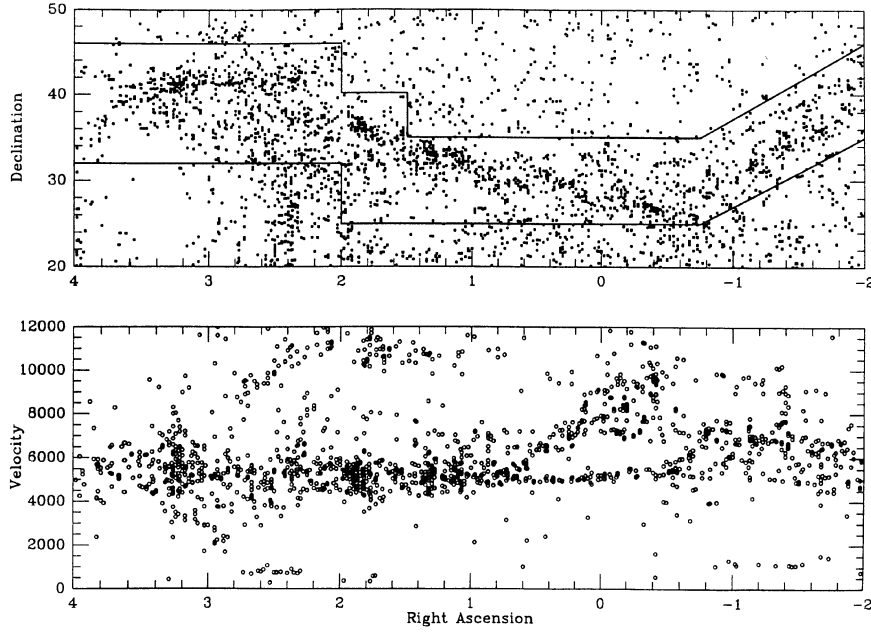


FIG. 1. Separate two-dimensional views of galaxy distribution in the northern PP box. The upper panel shows the sky distribution of all galaxies in the overall northern box sample. The region believed to contain the PP main ridge is outlined. The lower panel shows the two dimensional R.A.- V_0 for galaxies in the ridge region highlighted in the upper panel.

$c(m)$, defined as the ratio of $n(m)$ to that of catalogued objects in the given magnitude bin. Overall completion is better than 75% except for the last two bins, i.e., for galaxies fainter than 15.5. Figure 3 illustrates completion as a function of major angular (blue) diameter of the galaxy. The solid histogram includes galaxies of known redshift, while the dotted one displays the size distribution of CGCG galaxies. The latter is a subset of the former for sizes larger than $1'$, as many low surface brightness UGC galaxies, fainter than 15.7, have measured redshifts as well.

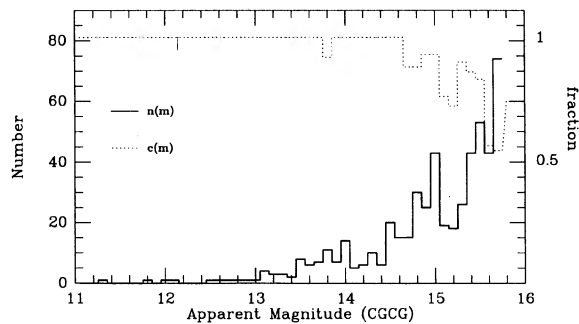


FIG. 2. Magnitude distribution of galaxies with known redshift in the 33.5° to 39.5° declination strip of the PPS region (solid line) and completeness fraction (dotted line). The completeness fraction is the ratio, for each magnitude bin, of the number of galaxies of known redshift to that of galaxies catalogued in the CGCG.

3. THE MAIN RIDGE OF THE PISCES-PERSEUS SUPERCLUSTER

With the availability of this enlarged redshift compilation as well as positional information, it is now possible to obtain a detailed view of the galaxy distribution in the main ridge of the supercluster. In this section, we examine evidence that the northern supercluster is dominated by a high density linear ridge. Note however, that the southern extension of the supercluster appears quite different in both sky and cone diagram projections (Haynes & Giovanelli 1988), and thus we are, if anything, only examining part of the overall connective structure in this large portion of the sky.

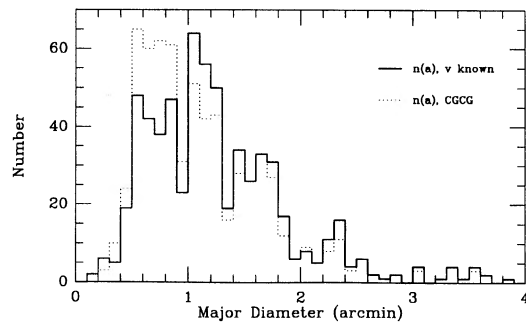


FIG. 3. Major blue angular diameter distribution of galaxies of known redshift (solid line), and distribution of those listed in the CGCG (dotted line).

3.1 Confinement on the Plane of the Sky

In GHC, we examined the large-scale galaxy distribution in PP using a much less complete set of redshift data. In particular, Fig. 1 of GHC presents a shade intensity diagram of the overall PP region extending across all fifty degrees of declination. Here we consider only the northern portion and the reader is referred to GHC and Haynes & Giovanelli (1988) for the regionwide picture. Similar to Fig. 4 of GHC, Fig. 1 shows separate two-dimensional slices to establish the identification of the PP ridge in better detail. In the upper panel, the sky distributions within the northern box of all 3517 galaxies (of magnitude 15.7 or brighter or major angular diameter larger than $1'$) in the current sample, including galaxies without measured redshifts is illustrated. Individual galaxy locations are marked by small squares. The Perseus cluster A426, A262, and the Pisces cluster at (R.A., Dec.) = $01^{\text{h}}04^{\text{m}}$, $+32^\circ$ are evident. Too poor to meet Abell's (1958) richness criteria, the Pisces clusters extend over the center of the main ridge and include the concentrations of galaxies around NGC 383 and NGC 508 in CGCG fields 520–521. Note that galactic obscuration becomes a significant problem in the northern and eastern portions of the map (cf. Fig. 2 of GHC).

The region of highest density extracted from the complete surface density map as illustrated in Fig. 1 of GHC is outlined in Fig. 1. This portion of the sky will be referred to as the “ridge region.” Within this region, there are 1631 galaxies with known redshift $V_0 < 12\,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. In the lower panel, the two-dimensional slice in right ascension and velocity is shown only for the objects in the ridge region. A426 is the prominent vertical structure seen at R.A. = $3^{\text{h}}12^{\text{m}}$, and the other clusters are apparent by the flaring of the velocity dispersion at the location of the higher density region also seen in the upper panel. With $V_0 = 9000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Struble & Rood 1987), A2666 is also visible at R.A. = $23^{\text{h}}48^{\text{m}}$. The structure in the velocity domain, and in particular, the occasional velocity crowding into narrow lanes will be discussed further in Sec. 2.2.

3.2 Confinement in Velocity

Confining the cluster in the sky direction, we can examine the restriction into a narrow range of velocity space. Figure 4 shows cone diagrams with R.A. as the angular coordinate for the two samples, the northern box (upper panel) and the ridge (lower panel). All galaxies, including objects fainter than $m = 15.7$, are included. As in the lower portion of Fig. 1, Fig. 4 well illustrates the basic structure of the PP region: a large overdensity is seen in the velocity range $4500 < V_0 < 6500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. A426 is the “finger of God” pointing toward the origin at R.A. = $3^{\text{h}}12^{\text{m}}$. The eastern ridge is characterized by a typical 1-d velocity dispersion about the mean of about $350\text{--}500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, as will be quantified below. If interpreted purely as a spread in the distances to such objects, the corresponding depth of the ridge is about $7\text{--}10 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. Of comparable importance is the fact that the foreground is virtually empty of galaxies across almost the entire region. The PP foreground void and its possible connection to the Local Supercluster have

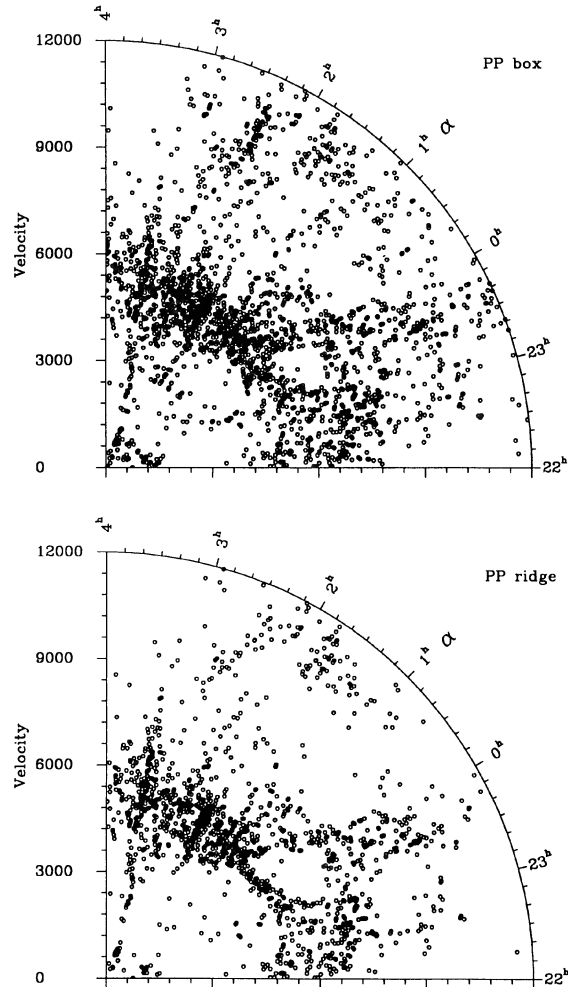


FIG. 4. Velocity cone diagrams with Right Ascension as the angular coordinate with no correction for declination squeezing. The upper panel shows the distribution of all 2891 galaxies with measured redshifts less than $12\,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, while the lower one includes only the 1631 that lie within the boundaries of the ridge illustrated in Fig. 1.

been discussed previously (Haynes & Giovanelli 1986). An unsuccessful search for H I rich dwarfs within the void was conducted by Eder *et al.* (1989). As noted by Haynes & Giovanelli (1988), the foreground void can be traced over the entire 50 degree declination range and is thus not spherical. Similar geometry is noted for the void in front of the Hercules supercluster (Freudling 1990). A smaller background hole is evident in Fig. 4, at R.A. = 0^{h} , just where the major ridge appears to split into two narrower segments, one extending toward the background and one nearly perpendicular to the line of sight.

One of the most striking features of the PP ridge is its near-perfect orientation at constant redshift from us. Figure 5 attempts to quantify the confinement of the main ridge in both spatial and velocity coordinates. For narrow bins of right ascension within the area outlined in Fig. 1, the right panels show the mean values and their standard deviations of the velocity and declination distributions.

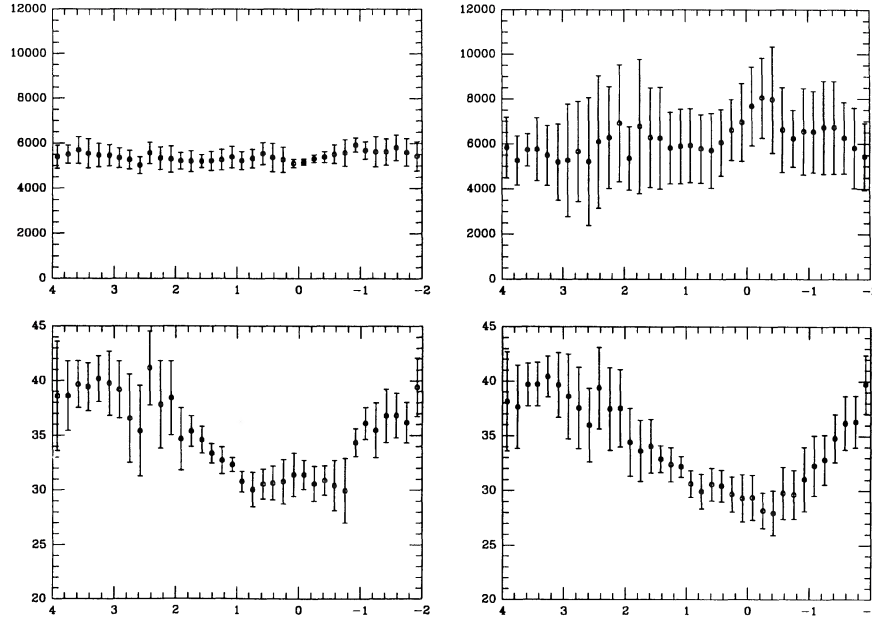


FIG. 5. Mean values and standard deviations of velocity (upper panels) and declination (lower panels) for galaxies in bins of Right Ascension in the ridge region. The right panels show galaxies of all velocity, while the ridge membership criterion $4500 < V_0 < 6500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ has been used in constructing the left panel.

The left panels show similar distributions but only for galaxies with $4500 < V_0 < 6500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. This figure serves to quantify the qualitative impressions given in Figs. 1 and 4. Comparison of the left and right panels is necessary because of the uncertainty in interpreting dispersion as depth in the redshift dimension. Examination of Fig. 5 along with histograms of the velocity distribution in each bin allows the best attempt to delineate the ridge. Where the main clusters are present, the spread in velocity is clearly larger than that indicated in the left hand panel, but in regions of only moderate density, the supercluster ridge is characterized by a typical velocity dispersion in the radial direction of $300\text{--}500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ as noted also in Figs. 1 and 4.

In the narrow lane running between R. A. = $23^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}$ and R.A. = $0^{\text{h}}15^{\text{m}}$, a length of about $9h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, it lowers to a minimum of only 125 km s^{-1} . Since the dispersion around the velocity mean is so small, and $\langle V \rangle \approx 5200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, the apparent narrowness of lane in velocity is not an artifact of our redshift boundaries for ridge membership but reflects either a true thinness in the redshift dimension or an illusory thinness resulting from perversely tuned infall of galaxies in a broader lane towards a linear structure at its mean distance.

The lane is seen in this diagram to show a decrease in mean velocity of about 220 km s^{-1} from west to east. In the same region, the breadth of the ridge in the declination direction has a width of about 4.2 degrees. Corresponding variations in the distributions are seen in the portions to the east where the declination distribution flairs in the neighborhood of A262 at lower declinations and A347 to the north.

The mean degree of overdensity within the surveyed region can be estimated by comparing the observed redshift

distribution to that expected from a homogeneously distributed sample, which would be characterized by some “universal” luminosity function. While the issue of whether a universal luminosity function exists may be open to question, the averaging over the sky coordinates is such to minimize the relevance of that issue vis-a-vis the results discussed here. The scaling of the luminosity function can be obtained by the mean number of galaxies within a distance much larger than that which characterizes the redshift domain of the supercluster. Both the northern box region and the PP ridge exhibit strong clustering over the velocity window $4000 < V_0 < 6000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; over that range, and integrated over the whole sky coordinates of the two regions as described above, the northern box and the PP ridge yield overdensities on the order of, respectively, at least 4 and 6.

3.3 Distribution of Groups

Another way to trace the large-scale structure along the ridge is to identify concentrations in the galaxy distribution in three dimensions. As discussed by Haynes & Giovanelli (1991), both visual and automated techniques of cluster analysis can be employed to give the best understanding of structure. Numerical algorithms for identifying clustering in the true galaxy distribution are complicated by the realities that all observed separations are projections and local deviations from Hubble flow are significant on small scales in the vicinity of groups and clusters, and perhaps on large scales as well. The PP ridge is a region of high density where perturbations in the underlying matter distribution are likely to be significant if light traces mass. With the caveat that we are not yet able to interpret the velocity field

well, we have applied a group-finding algorithm to the objects located within the PP box. The algorithm is based on the percolation technique described by Huchra & Geller (1982) and examines the separation among objects in the spatial and velocity dimensions separately. In attempting to identify groups, we checked the fields of all galaxies, searching for companions in both sky coordinates and redshift. Cutoff values in linear separation for potential partners are allowed to increase with increasing redshift in order to account for Malmquist bias. As discussed in Haynes & Giovanelli (1991), cutoff values in redshift and magnitude must be imposed on the sample in order to use the method properly to give quantitatively meaningful results and a fiducial redshift must be chosen where all galaxies are believed to be counted in defining the density contrast. As in the earlier paper and following Huchra & Geller (1982), we define the cutoff in linear separation for a density contrast of 20 at a fiducial redshift of $V_F \approx 1000$ km s⁻¹ to be 0.5 Mpc. We also required the grouped pairs to be separated in the radial velocity coordinate by less than 600 km s⁻¹.

Note that the application of this group-finding algorithm requires accepting that a mean density can be characterized. In spite of this uncertainty, we can nonetheless examine densities relative to the mean density of *this volume*. Additionally, Gourgoulhon *et al.* (1992) have discussed a distance dependent bias that needs to be taken into consideration in the group identification process; since we will be interested only in structures within the supercluster, i.e., all at roughly the same distance from us, we have not introduced their correction. Our purpose is to obtain a qualitative impression of the supercluster structure, rather than to claim group membership in this volume, where velocity dispersion and peculiar motions might introduce considerable scatter in group assignments. A more detailed examination of the true three-dimensional structure requires a more sophisticated attempt to recover the true density field both from studies of the apparent distribution of galaxies and from the measurement of peculiar motions with the aid of redshift-independent distances. Although we are presently pursuing these studies, here we mean to provide a more general discussion of how rather fortuitous aspects of this supercluster influence our initial impressions.

Figure 6 displays the distribution of groups in the northern ridge. Each panel shows the location of galaxies meeting certain criteria of local density. From top to bottom: galaxies found to be isolated at contrast = 20 and members of groups found at contrast = 30 000, 300, and 20 times the mean density. Galaxies in the same grouping are marked by the same symbol type; note that because of the large number of groups, symbols must be repeated, but with a regularity of pattern with increasing group mean right ascension. Because groups often fragment into separate sub-concentrations as contrast is increased, it is not possible to track a galaxy from one panel to the other with the same symbolic marking. Hence galaxies do not have the same representation in successive panels.

The bottom panel shows the locations of all galaxies

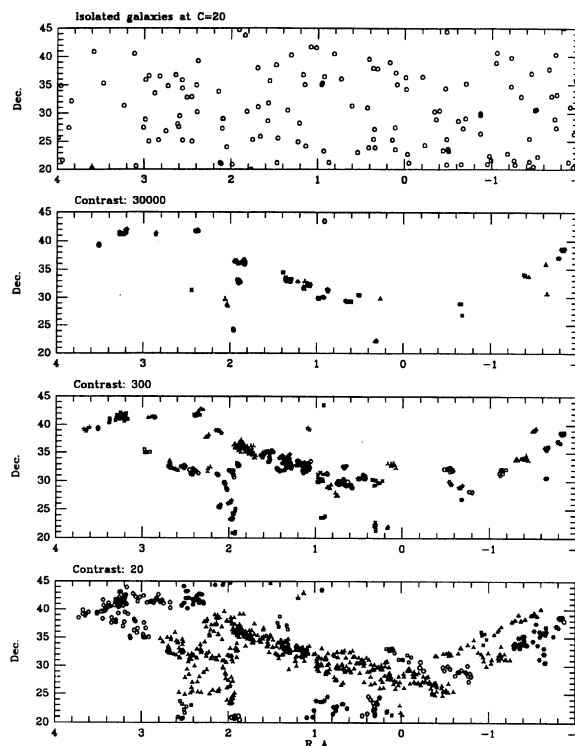


FIG. 6. The sky distribution of galaxies selected by certain density criteria. The uppermost panel shows the distribution of 145 isolated galaxies, i.e., galaxies found not to have any companions at a contrast of 20. The second and third panels from the top display galaxies found in groups at density contrast of, respectively, 30 000 and 300. The bottom panel displays galaxies that are members of groups in which the density is 20 times higher than the mean density in the surveyed region.

that the group-finding algorithm identifies as members of groups in which the density is 20 times the mean density. Note that at this low density contrast a single structure extends along the whole supercluster ridge from just east of Abell 262 west to Pegasus and south. Indeed, this single “group” contains 576 galaxies. A second populous structure surrounds the Perseus cluster.

The second panel from the bottom in Fig. 6 displays the galaxies in groups found at a density contrast of 300. Many of the groups are now seen to be separate clumps of the

TABLE 3. Highest density groups in the PP Supercluster.

Name	RA hh mm.m	Dec dd mm	N	$\langle z \rangle$ kms ⁻¹	σ kms ⁻¹	r_H Mpc
513-015	22 09.6	38 31	5	5889	240	0.26
N7318	22 33.6	33 42	4	5984	418	0.02
N7343	22 36.6	33 59	4	6342	803	0.27
NGC 70	00 15.6	29 47	5	6402	614	0.04
NGC 83	00 18.6	22 12	7	5744	723	0.18
NGC 183	00 36.0	29 17	4	5222	102	0.14
NGC 295	00 52.2	31 20	5	5376	782	0.21
NGC 383	01 04.8	32 09	9	4808	461	0.08
NGC 403	01 06.6	32 17	5	4762	139	0.21
NGC 420	01 09.0	31 40	4	5047	313	0.23
NGC 507	01 19.8	33 04	23	4725	595	0.25
NGC 529	01 23.4	34 27	4	4608	247	0.08
A 262	01 50.4	36 11	18	4638	612	0.22
NGC 751	01 54.0	32 52	8	4616	376	0.10
A 347	02 22.2	41 47	5	5020	387	0.16
Perseus	03 15.6	41 19	19	5003	911	0.19

extensive group seen in the lower panel that defines the supercluster ridge. The panel immediately above shows the groups found at a density contrast of 30 000 times the mean density measured in the northern box. These groups contain the prominent Abell clusters, the Pisces cluster, and other dense peaks in the galaxian distribution. Those containing more than three members at the density contrast of 30 000 are listed in Table 3. The top panel shows the distribution of the 145 galaxies that are *not* found to be members of any group at a contrast of 20. No supercluster is evident in their sky distribution, although it should be noted that these objects still possess velocities which place them preferentially at the supercluster distance. They may be considered as outlining the outer layer of the supercluster enhancement.

4. EFFECTS OF ASPECT AND DISTANCE ON DETECTING NEARBY STRUCTURE

Here, we speculate on how the relative proximity of PP, our viewing angle, and its intrinsic high density linear concentration of galaxies, contribute to its appearance as one of the most conspicuous features of the extragalactic distribution of light.

4.1 Viewing Aspect and Orientation

It is evident from Figs. 1 and 4 that the supercluster ridge lies nearly in the plane of the sky. We may ask therefore how a changing perspective will affect the visibility of the supercluster structure. Figures 7(a)–7(d) illustrate

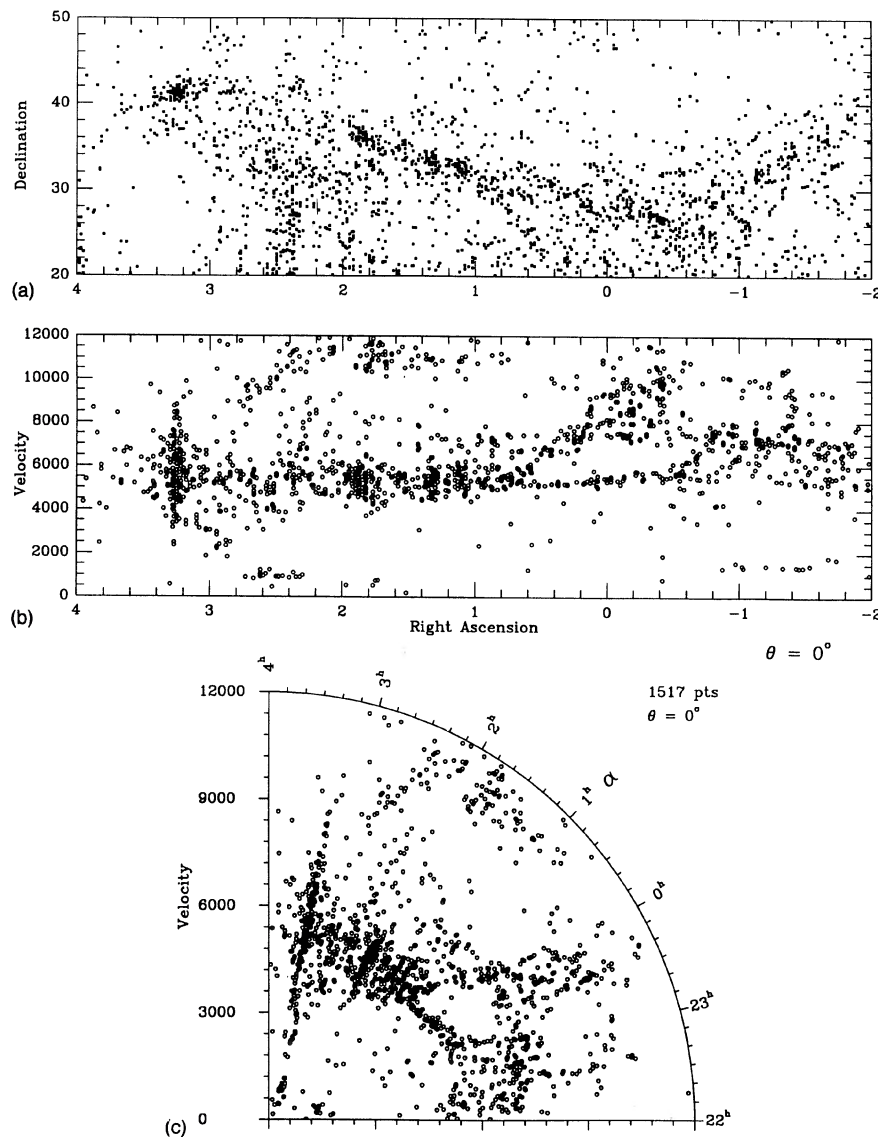


FIG. 7. The upper panels [(a),(b)] are the same two-dimensional slices as shown in Fig. 4, but now allowing for rotation of the linear supercluster ridge by an angle θ with respect to the plane of the sky. Here, $\theta=0^\circ$. The bottom panel (c) shows the velocity cone diagram for all galaxies remaining in the apparent-magnitude limited sample. The rules of the rotation are described in the text. Only galaxies that remain in the apparent magnitude limited sample following rotation are included.

how varying the inclination of such a linear structure along the line of sight will affect its identification. In this simple treatment, we have rotated the supercluster in the R.A.–Velocity plane, by an angle θ with respect to the plane of the sky such that each galaxy's declination remains constant.

Rotation is performed so that the ridge is assumed to be a rigid, linear bar fixed at the eastern terminus, identified with the Perseus cluster. The ridge then rotates by θ with respect to the plane of the sky in the sense that increasing θ displaces the western (Pegasus) end of the supercluster away from us. We start from $\theta=0^\circ$ (Fig. 7). Only galaxies found within the ridge region and having redshifts in the range $4500 \text{ km s}^{-1} < V_0 < 6500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ are assumed to be in the supercluster. Galaxies in the ridge region with higher or lower velocities do not rotate. In addition, we artificially allow for a population of homogeneously dis-

tributed objects at the same distance by allowing ten percent of the supercluster galaxies to remain where they are, randomly chosen. If the galaxy meets the criterion for inclusion in the supercluster ridge and does not fall in the 10% “random” bin, then it moves with the rigid supercluster through its rotation. As θ and thus the distance to a given galaxy increase, three effects become evident: (1) its observed redshift increases; (2) its apparent separation from A426 decreases; and (3) it appears fainter. No differential galactic extinction corrections are applied, but the amount of fading due to increased distance is calculated and the object in its new location is tested for inclusion within an apparent magnitude cutoff of $m=15.7$.

The upper panels in Figs. 7–10 are similar in content to Fig. 1; only galaxies in the magnitude-limited samples with $V_0 < 12000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ are shown, and the region of the ridge is not outlined in the upper panel. The lower cone diagram

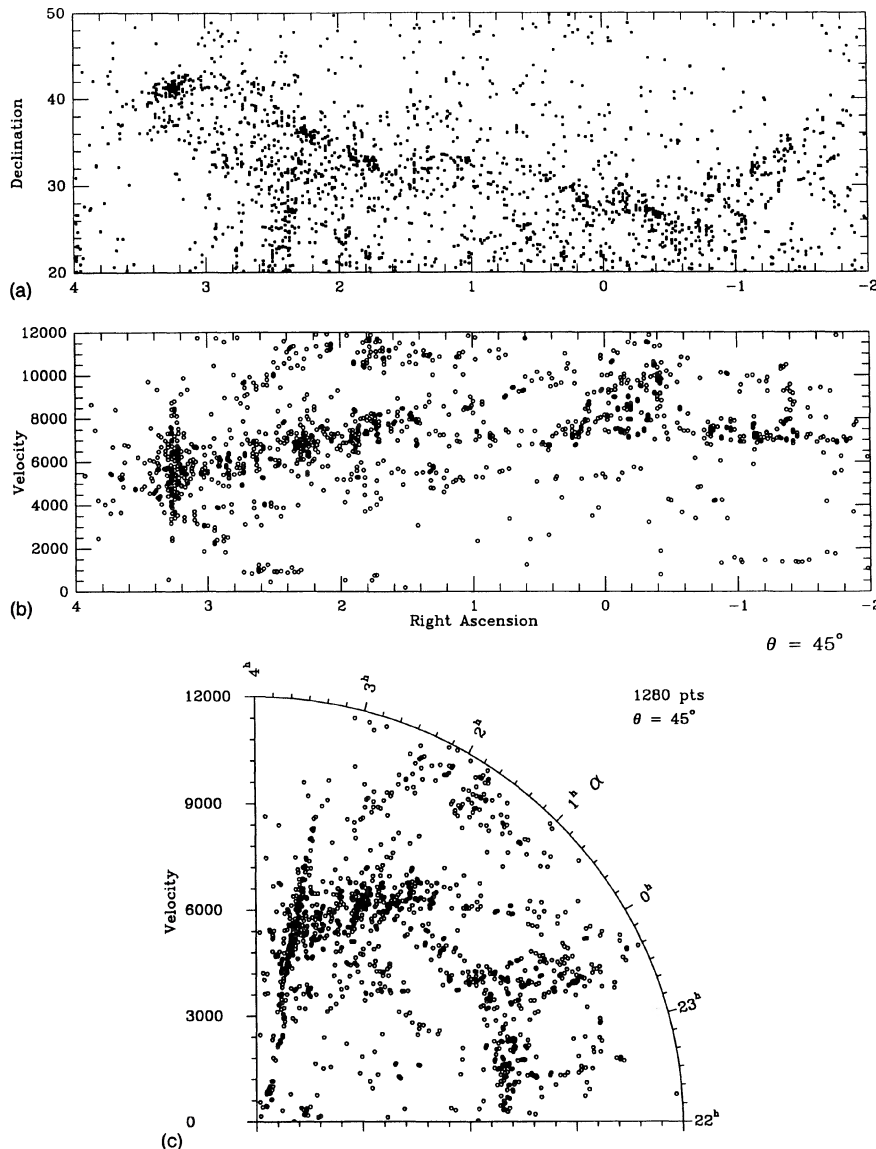
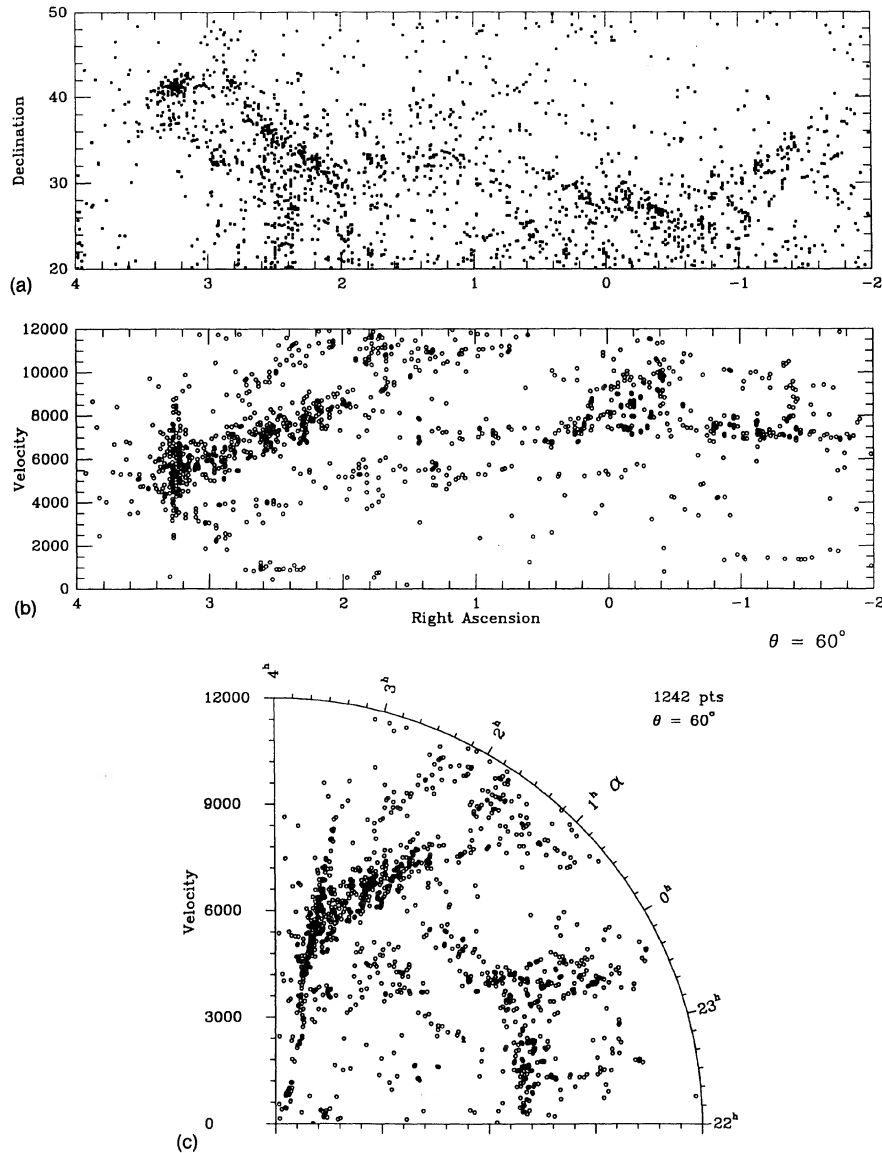


FIG. 8. Same as in Fig. 7, except that $\theta=45^\circ$.

FIG. 9. Same as in Fig. 7, except that $\theta = 60^\circ$.

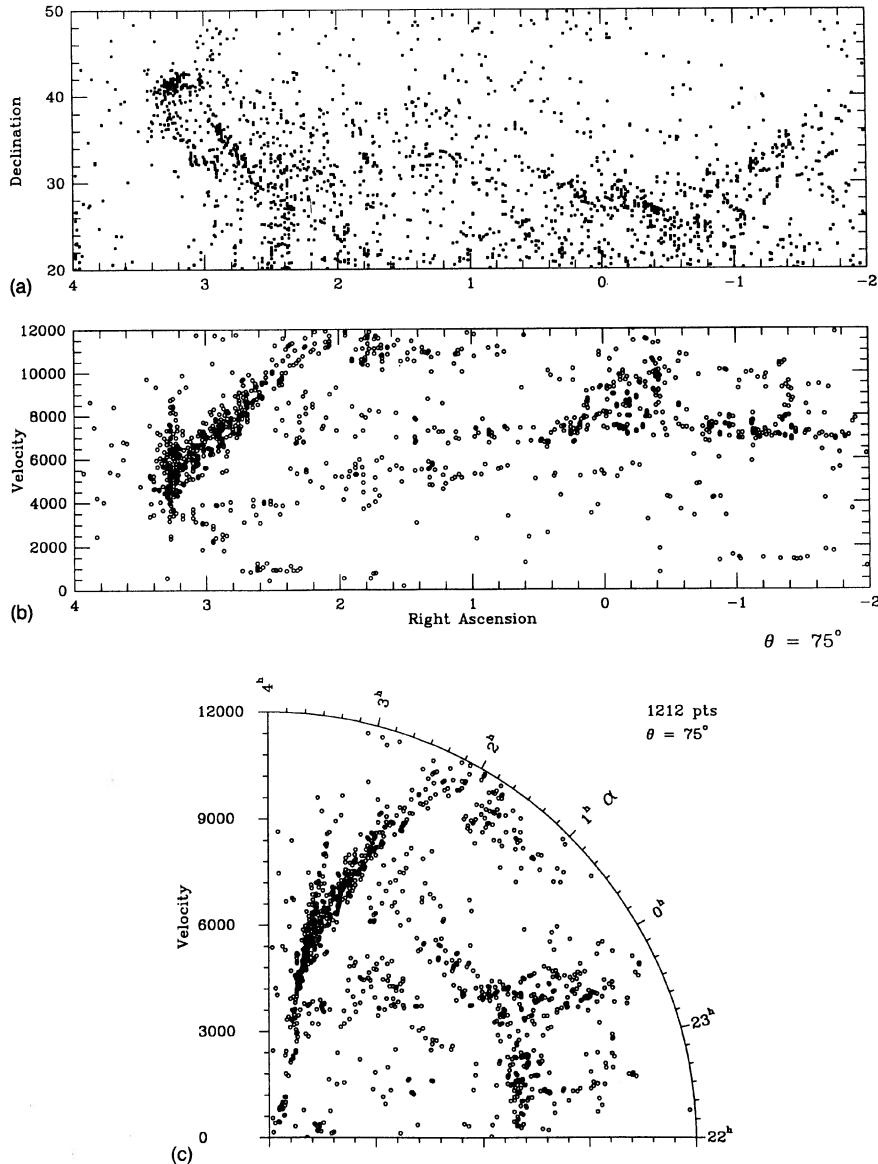
in each case shows the corresponding display for galaxies within the entire northern box and thus is to be compared with the upper cone diagram in Fig. 4. Also indicated is the number of objects that remain in the apparent magnitude limited sample after the rotation. For the $\theta = 0^\circ$ case, Fig. 7(a) shows the same features as Fig. 1 except that it contains only the galaxies with known redshift less than $12\,000\text{ km s}^{-1}$ in the upper panel. The ridge is clearly evident and can be traced westward to the branching that occurs at $\text{R.A.} = 0^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}$. The strong contrast relative to the foreground and background is most pronounced with the supercluster ridge oriented in the plane of the sky.

Figures 8–10 are identical to Fig. 7, but with rotation through the angle θ of 45° , 60° , and 75° , respectively. The ridge becomes increasingly harder to trace over large angular distances as the rotation angle increases; visual co-

herence is lost and the number of sampled galaxies that are part of the structure diminishes. The contrast of the supercluster ridge relative to its immediate foreground and background appears greatly reduced.

4.2 Distance Effects

In addition to its favorable orientation nearly in the plane of the sky, the PP ridge is also sufficiently close that large numbers of its galaxies are included in the UGC and CGCG catalogs and at the same time, far enough away that it subtends a relatively small angle in one dimension on the sky. As discussed by GHC, PP is at a convenient distance to be traced by catalogs like the UGC and CGCG because those catalogs sample galaxies fainter than the knee of the luminosity function at the supercluster's dis-

FIG. 10. Same as in Fig. 7, except that $\theta=75^\circ$.

tance. As an example of the distance effect, we present in Fig. 11 how the supercluster ridge would appear if it were located instead at a redshift of $10\,000\text{ km s}^{-1}$. Similar to Fig. 7, Fig. 11 displays the two-dimensional representations for the case that the entire supercluster ridge is moved to that mean redshift. Each galaxy has its redshift increased by $(10\,000 - 5500) = 4500\text{ km s}^{-1}$, the difference between the new mean redshift and that of A426. To serve as benchmarks, all galaxies found within two degrees of the Perseus cluster A426 (Kent & Sargent 1983) retain their original apparent magnitude; but for other objects, a new apparent magnitude is assigned according to the galaxy's intrinsic luminosity and its new distance. Each galaxy is tested again for inclusion in the apparent magnitude limited sample. As before, only objects believed to be in the PP ridge are moved and ten percent of them are randomly allowed to remain at their current locations.

The analog of A426 now is located at a redshift of $10\,000\text{ km s}^{-1}$. A comparison of the uppermost panel with that in Fig. 7(a) shows a great reduction in the sampling of the other clusters. Some structure at 5000 km s^{-1} remains in the cone diagram, contributed by the more dispersed supercluster population found in the northern box but not within the ridge itself. A feature like PP found twice as far away would still be noticeable in redshift surveys, but it would also be quite inconspicuous in sky projection.

5. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have presented new observational results in the form of optical redshifts and 21 cm line emission profiles for, respectively, 229 and 315 galaxies, in the volume that includes the main ridge of the PP supercluster. In addition to presenting the observations, the purpose of

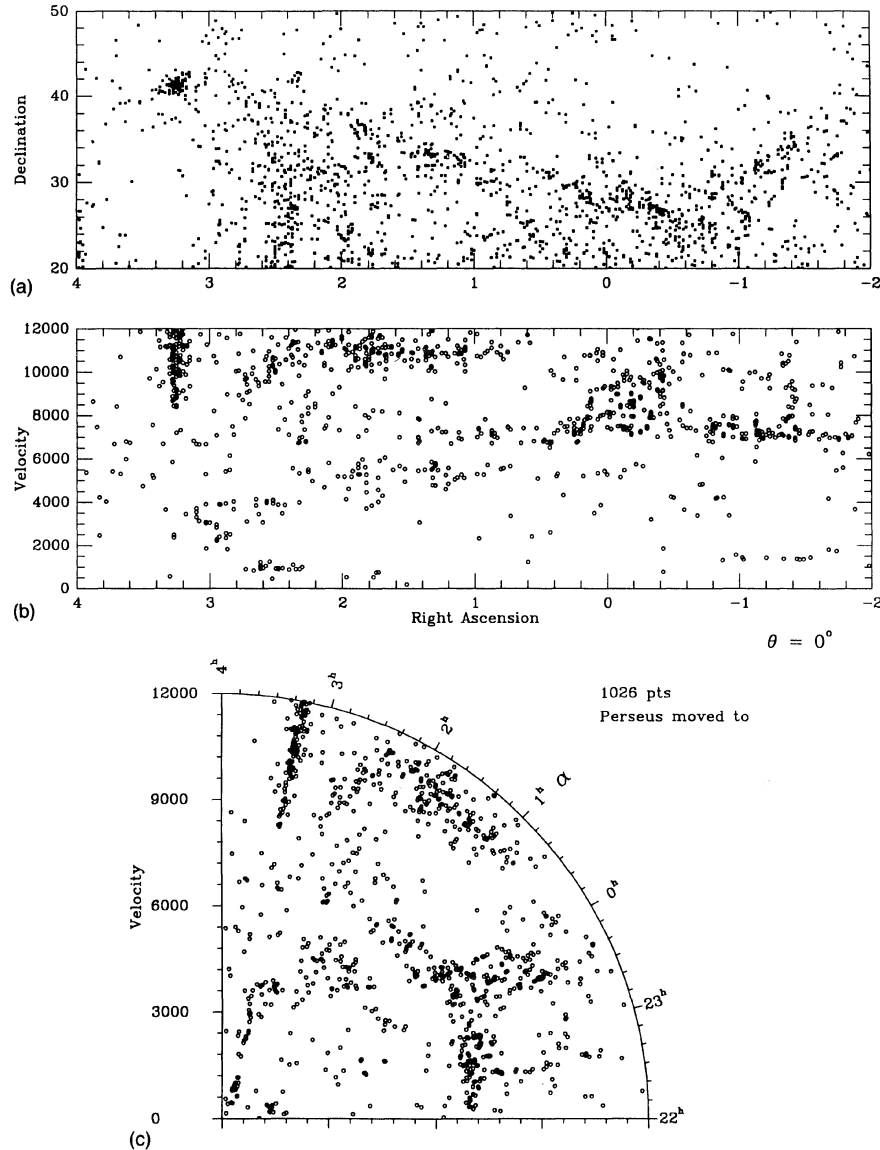


FIG. 11. Same as in Fig. 7 but for a supercluster ridge like PP located twice as far away.

the current paper is to give the reader a rough impression of the supercluster geometry, the linearity of its structure, its overdensity, and the unique aspects that make it such a favorable target for the study of large-scale structure in the local universe. We can summarize the main characteristics of the PP supercluster as evidenced by the data available today as follows.

(1) The main ridge of the supercluster extends at least $50h^{-1}$ Mpc from Pegasus eastward to the Perseus cluster, where it then disappears into the Zone of Avoidance. There are suggestions that its continuity is maintained behind the galactic plane (Giovanelli & Haynes 1982), but statistics tracing the extension are still poor.

(2) The width of the ridge in the plane of the sky is about $5\text{--}10h^{-1}$ Mpc. The main ridge lies roughly at the same distance from us at all points along its length.

(3) In comparison with what is expected for a randomly-distributed, well-behaved population, the redshift distribution (Figs. 1 and 4) reveals a significant overdensity at 5000 km s^{-1} and a prominent underdensity in the foreground. This void is seen over the entire PP survey region.

(4) Typical depths in redshift are of order $250\text{--}500\text{ km s}^{-1}$ with occasional velocity spreading due to the presence of clusters. Locally, and after the removal of mild velocity gradients, features of even lower velocity dispersion are seen, notably between R.A. = $23^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}$ and $00^{\text{h}}15^{\text{m}}$.

(5) A continuous arrangement of high density clusters and groups is seen in the PP ridge. The ridge is best defined by the highest density subconcentrations around the Pisces clusters, Abell 262 and Abell 426.

(6) The relative proximity, high density contrast, and

favorable orientation of the linear ridge structure give it high visibility in both sky projection and velocity-cone diagrams. Similar structures viewed more aligned with the line of sight or at twice the distance would be much harder to recognize.

(7) The PP supercluster dominates the structure seen in the anti-Virgo direction. Not only is there a foreground void separating PP from the Local Supercluster, but an underdensity also exists over much of its length in the background at a recessional velocity of $\approx 8000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The presence of such large-scale density inhomogeneities make it difficult to use portions of this volume to measure a fair value of the mean density.

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