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GROUPS OF GALAXIES I. NEARBY GROUPS

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ABSTRACT

We present generalized techniques for finding density enhancements in the quasi-three-dimensional space known as redshift space. We use one of these techniques to examine the effects of varying selection criteria on the dynamical parameters derived for groups of galaxies. There is a broad range of selection parameters which yields well defined and well behaved groups. We present a whole sky catalog of nearby groups with outer number density enhancement greater than 20. The median M/L for our groups is ~ 170 , corresponding to a cosmological density of $\Omega = 0.1$. We include a two-dimensional projection of several contours near the Virgo cluster. The clustering exhibits both concentric and hierarchical structure.

Subject headings: cosmology — galaxies: clusters of — galaxy: redshifts

I. INTRODUCTION

Dynamical studies of groups of galaxies are an important method for estimating galaxy masses (Rood, Rothman, and Turnrose 1970; Sandage and Tammann 1975; Turner and Gott 1976a; Geller and Peebles 1973; Materne and Tammann 1974; Press and Davis 1982). Most previous identifications of group members have been based either on limited or subjective data (de Vaucouleurs 1975; Holmberg 1969; Karachentseva 1973) or on two-dimensional criteria (Turner and Gott 1976a; Materne 1978, 1979). Members of de Vaucouleurs groups, for example, were identified on the basis of similarity in redshift, apparent magnitude, and morphology as well as on positional coincidence. This method suffers from poorly defined sampling and selection criteria. The two-dimensional method of Turner and Gott identifies group members on the basis of angular separation by finding regions in which the surface number density of galaxies is enhanced. This technique suffers because the projected spatial separations vary with distance—relatively nearby groups of large angular scale cannot be identified. Because this technique is applied to a magnitude-limited sample, the galaxy luminosity function is sampled differently for groups at different distances. This method will not yield the same groups when applied to samples which cover the same region of the sky but which have different limiting magnitudes.

The techniques we discuss below were developed to avoid some of these problems: they are well defined, objective, and easily applied, and they can be adapted to remove selection biases. We conduct a parameter-space search to examine the sensitivity of group characteristics to the selection criteria. For the purposes of this discus-

sion we adopt the conventional definition of a group of an association of galaxies which are likely to be physically (and dynamically) associated; more precisely, they are density enhancements in redshift space.

Section II discusses the technique we use for the analysis of some groups along with several possible variations on this technique. These techniques can be applied to a variety of samples (galaxy redshift catalogs). Here we apply this technique to a magnitude-limited catalog of galaxies which covers the whole sky to $13.2 m_B$ [in the Zwicky or de Vaucouleurs $B(0)$ magnitude system, Huchra 1976]. The group analysis of the CfA redshift survey (Davis *et al.* 1982; Huchra *et al.* 1982) will be presented in Paper II (Geller and Huchra 1982). In § III we discuss the parameter search and evaluate the statistical reliability of membership selection as a function of search parameters. Section IV contains a discussion of the average characteristics of the groups and shows that over a large range of selection parameters, the typical root mean square velocity dispersion in groups and the typical mass-to-light ratio are relatively stable.

II. TECHNIQUES

Three basic pieces of information are generally available for the study of the galaxy distribution: positions, redshifts, and magnitudes. Morphological information, which may, in fact, be irrelevant to group membership, is usually not available for faint galaxies. Magnitude similarity is a poor criterion for group membership because the galaxy luminosity function is broad. We are therefore left with the quasi-three-dimensional information embodied in the position and redshift data.

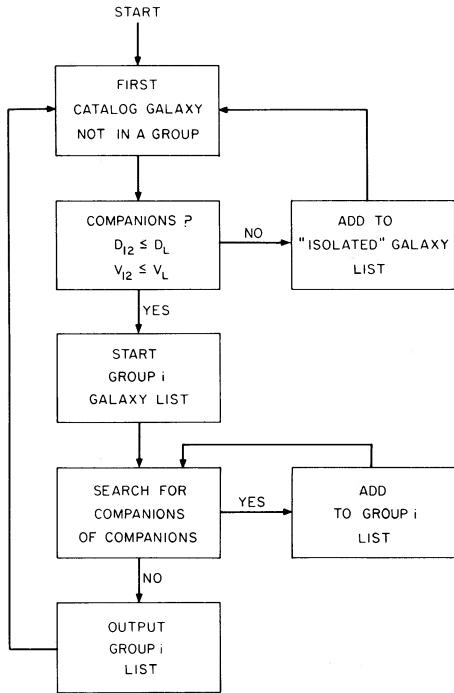


FIG. 1.—Flow chart for group selection algorithm

The method used to select group members should satisfy several basic requirements. The algorithm should be easy to apply and to implement on a computer. It must handle as many selection effects as possible, must yield reproducible results, and must not build in strong preconceptions about the group dynamics. Ideally one should be able to vary the selection criteria.

The approach we take is the most general method for finding isodensity contours for the galaxy distribution. We apply the technique to a magnitude-limited redshift catalog. The procedure is outlined in Figure 1. We first choose a galaxy in the catalog which has not been previously assigned to a group. We search around it for companions with projected separation from the first galaxy:

$$D_{12} = 2 \sin(\theta/2) V / H_0 \leq D_L(V_1, V_2, m_1, m_2), \quad (1)$$

where

$$V = (V_1 + V_2)/2,$$

and velocity difference

$$V_{12} = |V_1 - V_2| \leq V_L(V_1, V_2, m_1, m_2), \quad (2)$$

where V_1 and V_2 refer to the redshifts of the galaxy and its companion, m_1 and m_2 are their magnitudes, and θ is their angular separation. We use a Hubble constant

$H_0 = 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, but actual identification of groups does not depend on the H_0 used. If no companions are found, the galaxy is entered in a list of "isolated" galaxies. All companions found are added to the list of group members. The surroundings of each companion are then searched. This process is repeated until no further members can be found.

There is a variety of prescriptions for D_L and V_L . The most straightforward way is to choose a fixed D_L and V_L . This procedure is naive because, while it accounts for the change of projected separation with distance, it ignores all other selection effects. The method we adopt is designed specifically to compensate for variation in the sampling of the galaxy luminosity function as a function of the distance of the group. We assume that the luminosity function is independent of distance and position and that at larger distances only the fainter galaxies are missing. For each pair we take

$$D_L = D_0 \left[\int_{-\infty}^{M_{12}} \Phi(M) dM / \int_{-\infty}^{M_{\lim}} \Phi(M) dM \right]^{-1/3}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$M_{\lim} = m_{\lim} - 25 - 5 \log(V_F/H_0)$$

and

$$M_{12} = m_{\lim} - 25 - 5 \log(V/H_0),$$

$\Phi(M)$ is the differential galaxy luminosity function for the sample (the number of galaxies per Mpc per magnitude interval), and D_0 is the projected separation in Mpc chosen at some fiducial redshift V_F . This prescription weights the volume searched by the number density of galaxies that could be observed in a magnitude-limited sample taken at the distance V . The corresponding number density contour surrounding each group represents a fixed number density enhancement relative to the mean number density of

$$\frac{\delta \rho_N}{\rho_N} = \frac{3}{4\pi D_0^3} \left[\int_{-\infty}^{M_{\lim}} \Phi(M) dM \right]^{-1} - 1. \quad (4)$$

The limiting velocity difference is scaled, as suggested by P. Schechter, in the same way as D :

$$V_L = V_0 \left[\int_{-\infty}^{M_{12}} \Phi(M) dM / \int_{-\infty}^{M_{\lim}} \Phi(M) dM \right]^{-1/3}. \quad (5)$$

The ratio V_0/D_0 is related to an assumed cosmological mean density (Gott and Rees 1975; Sargent and Turner 1977; Geller and Huchra 1982). The pairwise selection procedure defined by equations (3) and (5) is commutative; if galaxy 1 finds companion galaxy 2, companion

galaxy 2 will find galaxy 1. Commutativity means that for any particular galaxy catalog and choice of selection parameters, a unique group catalog results. The weighted box technique described by equations (3)–(5) can be easily applied on a grid of values of D_0 and V_0 in order to investigate the sensitivity of group characteristics to the selection parameters.

Another method is to leave the velocity cut unscaled. The advantage of not scaling velocity is that we do not build in a bias of velocity dispersion with distance. On the other hand, if V_0 in equation (5) is large enough, there will not be a significant correlation.

Alternatively, a search algorithm could be designed to identify luminosity density contours by replacing equation (3) by

$$D_{LL} = D_0 \left[\int_{-L_{12}}^{\infty} L \phi(L) dL / \int_{-L_{\lim}}^{\infty} L \phi(L) dL \right]^{-1/3}, \quad (6)$$

where

$$L_{12} = (L_1 + L_2)/2$$

is the average luminosity of the pair and

$$L_{\lim} = C \operatorname{dex}(-M_{\lim}/2.5),$$

with C a constant depending on the magnitude system. Our tests with this algorithm show that with a magnitude-limited sample, this technique and the first algorithm produce similar group catalogs.

Another measure of the separation between two galaxies is

$$s = (V_1^2 + V_2^2 - 2V_1 V_2 \cos \theta)^{1/2} / H_0 \quad (7)$$

(Davis, Geller, and Huchra 1978, hereafter DGH). A pairwise group selection algorithm would require either a number or luminosity-weighted s . An algorithm using this metric will produce groups with exceedingly small velocity dispersion and unacceptably long crossing times. The velocity dispersion obtained for any group would be less than the Hubble velocity corresponding to the limiting separation s . This difficulty could be reduced by scaling the $(V_1^2 + V_2^2)$ term in equation (7) by a factor smaller than the Hubble constant H_0 . The actual choice of scaling factor is again linked to a cosmological model.

All pairwise techniques discussed so far are commutative. There are other methods which may be of interest for special applications. An example is the procedures used by Press and Schechter (1974) to obtain a statistical measure of the amplitude distribution of spherical density enhancements from an N -body simulation. Although a procedure of this kind may be of interest for

finding statistics of the distribution (Gott and Turner 1977), it does not produce a unique catalog.

III. GALAXY CATALOG AND LUMINOSITY FUNCTION

We have searched for groups using a whole sky catalog of 1312 galaxies brighter than $m_B = 13.2$ with complete redshift information (Huchra *et al.* 1982). This catalog is similar to but not identical to the Revised Shapley-Ames Catalog of Sandage and Tammann. We correct the velocity of each galaxy (coordinates α_i and δ_i) in the sample for a dipole Virgo-centric flow,

$$V_{\text{LSC}} = V_{\text{IN}} [\sin \delta_i \sin \delta_V + \cos \delta_i \cos \delta_V \cos(\alpha_i - \alpha_V)], \quad (8)$$

where V_{LSC} is the correction, α_V and δ_V are the right ascension and declination of the center of the Virgo cluster (Huchra and Davis 1982), and V_{IN} is the assumed infall velocity, taken here to be 300 km s^{-1} . To avoid the singularity at 0 km s^{-1} , we give all galaxies with $V < 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ an “indicative” distance of $300 \text{ km s}^{-1} H_0^{-1}$. This procedure allows us to keep the negative velocity members of Virgo and other nearby groups. We present and analyze a catalog of groups with velocities less than 4000 km s^{-1} . The search for individual members is made out to a limiting velocity of 8000 km s^{-1} . These procedures avoid throwing out either low or high velocity members for nearby groups or groups near the 4000 km s^{-1} cut, respectively, and thus biasing the group velocity dispersions. At velocities larger than 4000 km s^{-1} , uncertainties in the luminosity function (we are on the exponential portion at the bright end) produce large uncertainties in the scaling of D_0 and V_0 .

The luminosity function we use to calculate the group luminosity and the scaling of D_0 and V_0 is derived directly from this catalog. We choose for simplicity to parameterize it in the Schechter (1974) form with

$$\alpha = -1.02, \quad M^* = -19.06, \quad \phi^* = 0.0277.$$

Because we are primarily interested in producing a finding list of groups and analyzing dynamics, we do not include any absorption correction in either the luminosity function or the group selection. In principle, the effect of absorption on group selection can be removed in a manner analogous to the one used to account for variation in the sampling of the luminosity function (eqs. [3]–[6]).

IV. RAMIFICATIONS

Several results are immediately apparent upon our application of this technique to the galaxy catalog. First, the group centers are insensitive to the choice of parameters except in cases where the cutoffs V_0 and D_0 are

TABLE 1
NUMBER OF INTERLOPERS

D_0 (Mpc)	V_0 (km s $^{-1}$)				
	200	400	600	∞	$\delta\rho/\rho$
At $V_F = 1000$					
0.37	0.08	0.16	0.2	0.5	100
0.63	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.3	20
0.78	0.34	0.65	0.88	2.1	10
1.40	1.1	2.1	2.8	6.7	1
Scaled to $V = 2000$					
0.37	0.14	0.33	0.50	1.0	100
0.63	0.41	0.95	1.5	2.8	20
0.78	0.64	1.5	2.3	4.3	10
1.40	2.0	4.7	7.2	13.8	1

extreme. More precisely, if the density enhancement specified is too high, few groups are found; and if the separation parameter D_0 becomes an appreciable fraction of the sample depth, the galaxies are lumped into only a few groups of large size. Second, the geometry of groups is not constrained by the selection procedure and the outer boundary of every group corresponds to a roughly defined fixed density enhancement contour. All the groups have a density greater than the density of this outer contour. Third, for any particular galaxy, we can estimate the number of accidental associations (interlopers) for any set of selection parameters.

Table 1 gives the probable number of interlopers (n_I) within a specified D_L and V_L of a galaxy at a fiducial velocity $V_F = 1000$ km s $^{-1}$ and at 2000 km s $^{-1}$, near the mean velocity for the sample. This number is

$$n_I = \pi \left(\frac{D_L}{V_G/H_0} \right)^2 \mathcal{N} \left[\frac{n_{V_L}(V_G)}{n_T} \right], \quad (9)$$

where \mathcal{N} is the surface number density of galaxies in the sample, n_T is the total number of galaxies in the sample, and $n_{V_L}(V_G)$ is the number of galaxies within V_L of V_G . These estimates are valid for individual group members at V_G . For the bright galaxy catalog analysed here, the histogram of velocities peaks near 1000 km s $^{-1}$. Thus the number of interlopers quoted is near the maximum expected—it is slightly larger at 2000 km s $^{-1}$ because the surface area searched is larger and the peak in the velocity distribution is very broad (because of Virgo). The number of interlopers decreases at larger velocities when the velocity histogram trails off. In principle one picks up less than n_I interlopers per galaxy searched because of overlap of the volume searched.

A rough estimate of the typical number of group members within a specified distance of a given galaxy can be obtained from the correlation function. The

mean number of galaxies in excess of random (n_C) within r of a given galaxy is

$$n_C = 4\pi\rho N \int_0^r \xi(r') d^3 r', \quad (10)$$

where the correlation function is

$$\xi(r) = (r_c/r)^\gamma$$

with $r_c = 5$ Mpc and $\gamma = 1.8$ (DGH; Davis *et al.* 1982). We estimate ρ_N by computing the number density of galaxies at the fiducial velocity (distance). For $V_F = 1000$ km s $^{-1}$, $\rho_N = 0.038$ galaxies Mpc $^{-3}$. The proportion of interlopers can now be estimated roughly from (12) and (13). If $V_L = 400$ km s $^{-1}$, the fraction of interlopers within 1 Mpc of a galaxy is $n_I/n_C = 0.15$. Table 1 gives the expected number of interlopers computed for a range of selection parameters.

A major advantage of this group selection algorithm is that we can choose a V_L such that the velocity dispersion of the groups is not severely constrained. For a given V_L , the *maximum* velocity dispersion, $\sigma_{v,\max}$, that could be obtained from this technique for a group of n_G galaxies that is maximally strung out in redshift is

$$\sigma_{v,\max}(n_g, V_0) = \frac{V_L}{[2(N_G - 1)]^{1/2}} \times \left[\sum_{j=1}^{I(n_G/2)} (n_G + 1 - 2j)^2 \right]^{1/2}, \quad (11)$$

where $I(n_G/2)$ is the greatest integer less than or equal to $n_G/2$. In general, the velocity dispersion of a group is defined as

$$\sigma_v = \left[\frac{1}{(n_G - 1)} \sum_{i=1}^{n_G} (V_i - V_G)^2 \right]^{1/2}, \quad (12)$$

where V_G is the mean group velocity and V_i is the velocity of the i th member. Table 2 gives the ratios of $\sigma_{v,\max}$ and $\sigma_{v,\text{mean}} = \sigma_{v,\max}/\sqrt{n_G}$ to V_L computed for several values of n_G . It is easily seen here that if we were limited to a $V_L = H_0 D_L$, the velocity dispersions would be minuscule unless we were to use very large D_L 's, corresponding to very small density enhancement contours. In general, any time V_L is constrained to be small, the velocity dispersions are likely to be biased to even smaller values—especially for small groups! This problem is evident in some of the earlier group finding techniques (Materne 1978, 1979; Tully 1980). We show in § IV that the actual velocity dispersions are not

TABLE 2
VELOCITY DISPERSION LIMITS

n	$\sigma_{v,\max}/V_L$	$\sigma_{v,\text{mean}}/V_L$
2	1	0.5
3	1.1	0.6
4	1.3	0.7
:		
10 ...	~ 3	~ 1

severely biased by the selection parameters for reasonable values of V_0 .

"Reasonable" values D_0 and V_0 are determined by several semiquantitative constraints. As we have discussed, taking V_0 too small severely limits the velocity dispersions. Furthermore, V_0 must be larger than the measurement errors, generally 50–100 km s⁻¹ for a single measurement. If D_0 is too small, the corresponding density enhancement contour is so large that only very tight binaries are found. Table 1 shows that the number of interlopers increases as D_0 and/or V_0 increases. If D_0 is too large, the density enhancement is too low—the groups are unlikely to be real. These constraints are shown schematically in Figure 2.

For any selection V_0 and D_0 some fraction of the galaxies in the sample are not assigned to any group. The number of these single galaxies depends on higher-order moments of the galaxy distribution and the galaxy catalog limits, just as do the groups selected (Fall *et al.* 1976; Huchra and Thuan 1977; Soniera and Peebles 1977).

V. THE GROUP CATALOG

Table 3 is the catalog of groups we obtain with $D_0 = 0.63$ Mpc (corresponding to a "volume" number density enhancement of 20 for the galaxy catalog) and with $V_0 = 400$ km s⁻¹. Only groups containing more than two members are shown. The groups and the galaxies in the groups are listed as they are found in a declination ordered list. Note that for single application of this finding technique, declination ordering is not necessary, but when large numbers of runs are made to map the parameter space, substantial savings in computer time result from this ordering. The table lists the galaxy name, "corrected" velocity, apparent magnitude, morphological type in de Vaucouleurs's T notation, and the galactic longitude and latitude for the galaxies in each group. Our choice of a catalog to display is based on the results of a parameter search described in the next section.

We compare our group catalog to the catalog of nearby groups found by de Vaucouleurs (1975, hereafter DV) in Table 4. The agreement is phenomenal; in a few cases we have split his groups into two subgroups. At this density enhancement, we lump together into three single groups the three largest associations of his groups: Virgo, Ursa Major plus Canes Venatici plus Coma I, and Leo. Nine DV groups do not appear in our catalog. Five of these are split into binaries, pairs of binaries, and isolated galaxies and are marked with a B in Table 4; the others are missed completely. These last groups either fall completely below the density = 20 contour, or, in the case of DV 38 (for which de Vaucouleurs had no velocities) and DV 24 (for which he had only one velocity) the galaxies are simply not together in velocity space. It is interesting to note that at this contour,

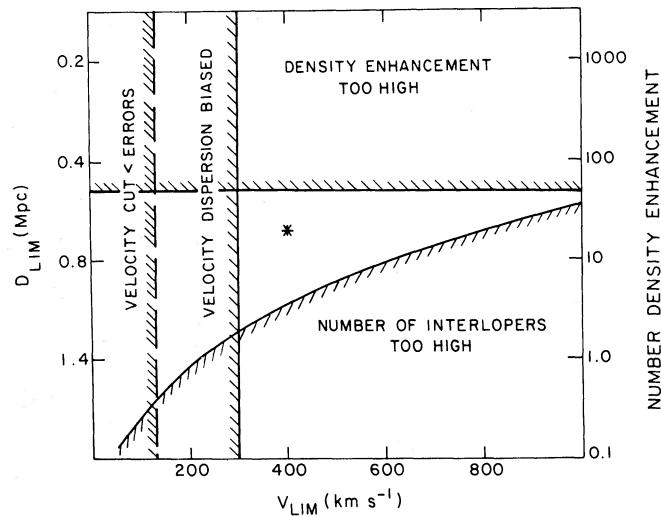


FIG. 2.—Group selection parameters. The region of "reasonable" search parameters is outlined.

TABLE 3—Continued

GROUP 81		4 GALAXIES				
N5376	2417	13.07	3	108.57	55.79	
N5389	2185	13.20	0	108.58	55.53	
N5322	2155	11.45	-5	110.28	55.48	
N5308	2388	12.70	-3	111.25	54.86	
GROUP 82		3 GALAXIES				
N3945	1537	11.91	-1	135.32	55.02	
N4036	1722	11.87	-3	132.97	54.24	
N4041	1554	11.93	4	132.68	54.03	
GROUP 83		7 GALAXIES				
N4545	3071	13.10	5	126.09	53.48	
N4521	3291	13.00	0	126.32	53.05	
N4332	3170	13.20	1	127.59	51.01	
N4256	2903	12.70	3	128.20	50.87	
N4108	2807	13.00	5	129.55	49.36	
N4128	2636	13.00	-2	128.69	47.86	
N4250	2443	13.00	-1	126.94	46.04	
GROUP 84		3 GALAXIES				
N1569	82	12.02	10	143.68	11.25	
I0342	214	10.50	6	138.17	10.59	
N1560	166	12.37	7	138.36	16.03	
GROUP 85		3 GALAXIES				
N2403	351	9.07	6	150.55	29.18	
N2366	328	11.69	10	146.40	28.54	
HOLM II	409	11.44	10	144.27	32.67	
GROUP 86		5 GALAXIES				
N2976	288	11.09	5	143.89	40.89	
I2574	336	11.20	9	140.19	43.59	
N3077	289	11.12	0	141.88	41.66	
N3031	236	7.88	2	142.07	40.89	
N3034	527	9.57	0	141.39	40.55	
GROUP 87		4 GALAXIES				
N3516	2843	12.86	-2	133.22	42.39	
N3348	3129	12.45	-5	134.62	41.34	
N3147	3011	11.52	4	136.27	39.45	
N3183	3377	12.97	4	135.24	39.14	
GROUP 88		7 GALAXIES				
N4750	1844	12.60	2	123.07	44.23	
N4589	2307	12.40	-5	124.23	42.88	
N4648	1825	12.60	-5	123.82	42.67	
N4319	2003	13.00	2	125.44	41.64	
N4291	2032	12.83	-5	125.55	41.58	
N4386	1967	12.90	-3	125.17	41.47	
N4133	1679	13.10	3	126.65	41.88	
GROUP 89		4 GALAXIES				
N2629	3914	12.80	-7	140.94	34.20	
I 520	3795	13.01	2	140.17	34.45	
N2523	3681	13.01	4	141.01	31.81	
MK 12	4196	12.70	20	140.43	30.04	
GROUP 90		3 GALAXIES				
I529	2538	12.00	5	138.97	35.93	
N2634	2536	12.60	-7	139.79	33.94	
N2633	2423	12.94	3	139.65	33.87	
GROUP 91		3 GALAXIES				
N2748	1766	12.66	4	136.23	34.35	
N2715	1617	12.32	5	134.71	33.31	
N2655	1665	11.22	0	134.90	32.68	
GROUP 92		3 GALAXIES				
N2268	2502	12.48	4	129.21	27.55	
N2300	2201	12.44	-2	127.67	27.81	
N2276	2697	12.25	5	127.62	27.72	

approximately 60% of the galaxies in the volume searched fall in groups, 26% are isolated (or too near the edge of our sample—e.g., in the galactic plane), and 14% are in doubles. These fractions do not change appreciably at a density contour of 10—the fraction in groups rises to 68%. In fact, if the cut is made at a density contour of 100, the fraction in groups is still ~40%. Single galaxies are not listed, for the same reasons outlined in Huchra and Thuan (1977): most of these galaxies are not truly isolated but rather lie near

the edges of the sample in either velocity, magnitude, or position. Searches to fainter limiting magnitudes almost always yield companions for these galaxies.

Figure 3 is a two-dimensional projection of the quasi-three-dimensional density contours for the ~60° × 60° region centered at 12° and 0°. The large dashed and dotted density enhancement contour cutting diagonally across the entire region outlines the supergalactic plane. The solid contour centered near 12°30' and 13° outlines the central concentration of the Virgo cluster. The dashed contour centered near 11° and 15° encompasses the four concentrations in Leo. It is clear that the local supercluster is not spherically symmetric.

Theoretical models of galaxy clustering have assumed hierarchical or self-similar clustering (Press and Schechter 1974; Efstathiou, Fall, and Hogan 1979; Peebles 1980). In this nearby sample, the hierarchical nature of the clustering is particularly evident near the supergalactic plane, but for some other concentrations (e.g., the one at 12° and -20°) the structure is nearly concentric. The number of contours at a particular level which lie within the contours of the next lower level gives information about the high order moments of the galaxy distribution.

VI. ANALYSIS

The groups in the catalog (Table 3) are all number density enhancements greater than 20. Groups of fixed minimum number density contour are identified by the procedure outlined in Figure 1 with both V_0 and D_0 scaled by equations (3) and (5) to account for the variation in sampling the galaxy luminosity function with distance. Figure 4 shows the variation of the search limits, V_L and D_L , with the mean redshift of the galaxy pair, V . The fiducial values for $V_F = 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, $V_0 = 400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and $D_0 = 0.63 \text{ Mpc}$ are indicated.

We can easily construct a set of group catalogs by varying V_0 and D_0 . For each of these catalogs we calculate a set of number-weighted dynamical parameters: the line-of-sight velocity dispersion uncorrected for measurement error (eq. [12]), the mean harmonic radius

$$r_H = \frac{\pi V_G}{H_0} \sin \left\{ \left[n_G(n_G - 1) \sum_{j < i}^N \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{\theta_{ij}} \right]^{-1} \right\}, \quad (13)$$

where θ_{ij} is the angular separation of the i th and j th group members, the mean pairwise separation,

$$r_p = \frac{8V_G}{\pi H_0} \sin \left[\frac{1}{n_G(n_G - 1)} \sum_{j < i}^N \sum_{i=1}^N \theta_{ij} \right], \quad (14)$$

which is a measure of the size of the group, the virial

TABLE 4
COMPARISON WITH DE VAUCOULEURS'S GROUPS

DV Group No.	HG Group No.	Other Names
0	63	Local
1	13	Sculptor
2	85, 86	M81
3, 10, 13, 17, 32, 34	60	Ursa Major + CVn + Coma
4	19	Centaurus
5	75	M101
6	74, 71	N2841
7	58, 67	N1023
9, 11, 49	56	Leo
15	44, 48	
16, 22	3	N1566
18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 35, 46	41	Virgo
21	8	
27	12, 15	Grus
29	49	
30	78	
31	32	Eridanus
33	45	
36	34	
37	73	
40	52	
41	80	
42	64, 66	
43	65	
44	27, 28	
45	7, 10	
47	57	
48	61	
50	50	
52	9	
53	17	Fornax
54	62	

NOTE.—Missing DV Groups: 8(B), 12, 14(B), 23(B), 24, 28(B), 38, 39(2B), 51.

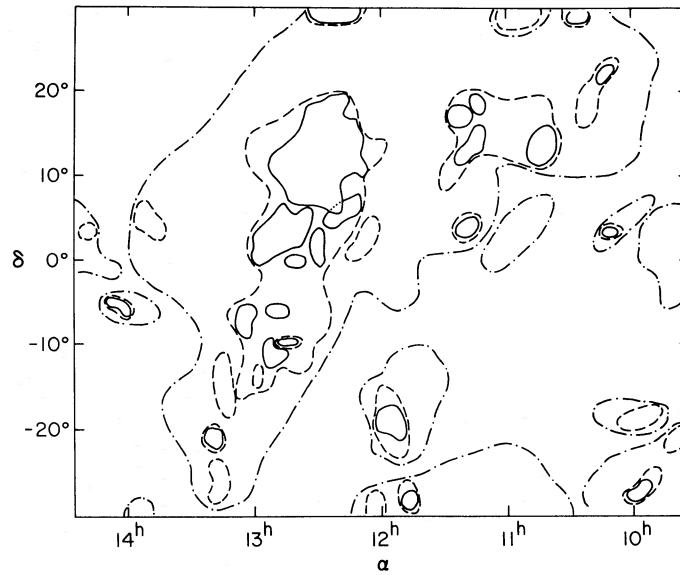


FIG. 3.—A contour plot for the region around $12^{\text{h}}, 0^{\circ}$. Contours shown are density enhancements of 2 (dashed and dotted line), 20 (dashed line), and 100 (solid line). In one region near $12^{\text{h}}20^{\text{m}}$ and $+7^{\circ}$ the dotted line indicates the underlying contour of a background group, because this is a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional contour plot. The group at $12^{\text{h}}40^{\text{m}}$ and -10° , and the group at 13^{h} and -14° , are also background groups.

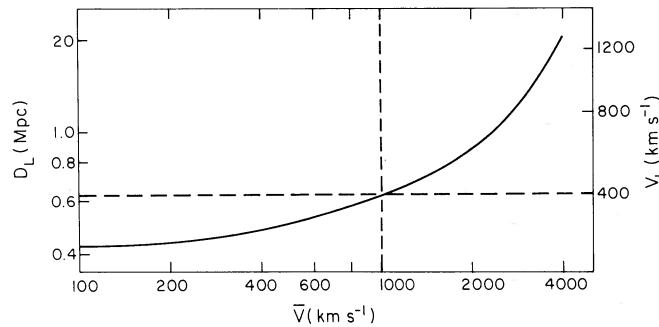


FIG. 4.—Selection parameters as a function of distance. This schematic shows the effect of correction for the available part of the luminosity function.

$$M_\odot/L_\odot = 6.96 \times 10^8 \sigma^2 r_H/L_\odot, \quad (15)$$

where L_\odot is the total group luminosity in solar units corrected for incomplete sampling, σ is in km s^{-1} , and r_H is in Mpc, and the virial crossing time (in units of the Hubble time H_0) is

$$t_v = \frac{3}{5^{3/2}} r_H/\sigma. \quad (16)$$

The quantities in equations (12)–(16) are listed in Table 5 for the groups in the catalog. Also listed are the mean right ascension and declination, total apparent magnitudes, and V_G . Our group selection algorithm does not, of course, guarantee that the groups we find are bound, virialized systems. The larger the $\delta\rho_N/\rho_N$, the more likely the groups are to be bound. For $\delta\rho_N/\rho_N > 10$, most of the groups in the catalog have crossing times much less than H_0^{-1} . We therefore take equation (15) as an approximate mass indicator; we have also calculated the estimator suggested by Bahcall and Tremaine (1981) and for most groups the two estimates are the same to within the statistical uncertainties. Note that for groups with small numbers of members, the uncertainty in the velocity dispersion and hence in the M/L is very large (Danese, DeZotti, and di Tullio 1980).

Seven of our groups have mass-to-light ratios in excess of 1000. Group 14 probably contains an interloper, NGC 4679. Groups 16, 58, and 84 have very small redshifts, and we are probably underestimating the group luminosity because the distance is only poorly known.

Table 6 gives the median σ_v , and M/L as well as the number of groups (the number of binaries is shown in parentheses) as a function of the selection criteria. Use of the median rather than the mean decreases the sensitivity to condensations which have dynamical parameters in the tail of the distribution (see Fig. 5). In particular, use of the median also de-weights groups which have large velocity dispersions and/or mass-to-

light ratios because of large numbers of interlopers. Table 5 shows that many of the groups with the largest M/L ratios have a small number of members and are thus most subject to contamination. For $0.6 \text{ Mpc} < D_0 < 0.8 \text{ Mpc}$ and $300 \text{ km s}^{-1} < V_0 < 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ the variations in the median dynamical parameters are small compared with the probable errors in their determination. We identify this range in which the group parameters are least sensitive to the selection criteria as the range in which the groups are most likely to be real, physical associations.

From Table 6 we can see quantitatively the effects of the limits on group selection presented schematically in Figure 2. At $V_0 = 200$, the velocity dispersion appears to be biased toward small values. From Table 2 we see that for the typical group from three to four members, the average velocity dispersion is limited to 0.6–0.7 V_0 . For $V_0 = 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, the median values of the velocity dispersion are perilously close to this limit and the means are at the limit: in other words, for this V we get out what we put in. This restriction of the velocity dispersion has been a major flaw in some earlier group selection attempts (Materne 1978; Tully 1980). At $V_0 = 300\text{--}400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, $\sigma_{v,\text{mean}} \approx 0.3 V_0$; at these limits the dispersion is well below the selection limit. At $D_0 = 1.0 \text{ Mpc}$, the interloper fraction is high (see Table 4); the dynamical parameters thus vary strongly as a function of V_0 . At $D_0 = 0.37 \text{ Mpc}$ the number density enhancement is 100 and the number of groups is small. Note that the apparent optimal parameter choice coincides with the range for which the number of groups found is maximized.

The catalog (Table 3) is representative of the parameter range for which variation in the derived dynamical quantities is small. Figures 5a, 5b, and 5c are histograms of the line-of-sight velocity dispersions, the sizes (r_p), and the crossing times for the groups in the catalog. The three groups with velocity dispersions greater than 500 km s^{-1} are Virgo, Ursa Major, and the available piece (brightest galaxies) of the Centaurus cluster—all known to be large and relatively massive groups or

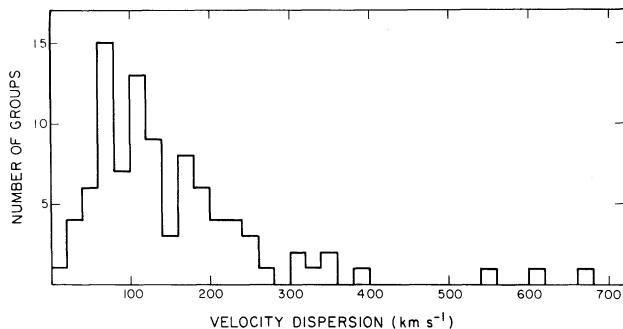


FIG. 5a

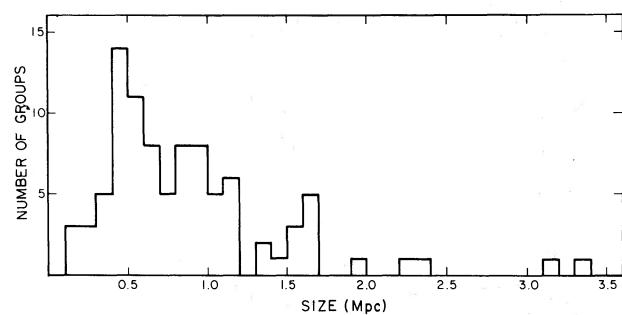


FIG. 5b

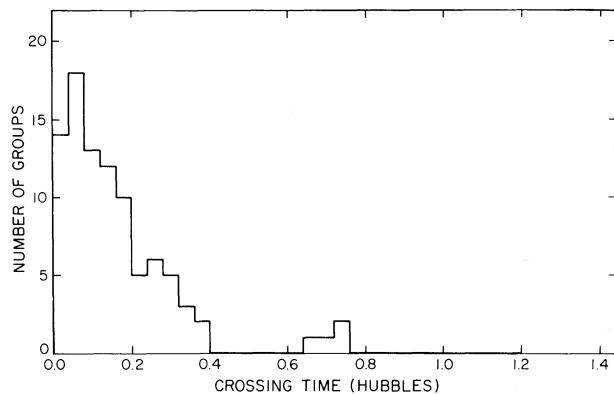


FIG. 5c

FIG. 5.—Histograms of dynamical parameters for the galaxy groups, (a) Line of sight velocity dispersion; (b) size, defined as the mean pairwise separation; (c) crossing time in units of the Hubble time.

TABLE 6
VARIATION OF DYNAMICAL PARAMETERS WITH SELECTION CRITERIA

D_0	V_0			
	200	300	400	500
A. Velocity Dispersion σ_v				
0.37	102	124	132	142
0.63	103	114	122	136
0.78	100	116	139	165
1.01	104	140	184	230
B. M/L				
0.37	78	131	152	156
0.63	107	136	170	198
0.78	125	145	201	209
1.01	140	205	302	425
C. Number of Groups				
0.37	72(109)	83(102)	77(102)	79(99)
0.63	94(87)	93(84)	92(83)	93(80)
0.78	96(67)	88(69)	93(62)	93(60)
1.01	86(55)	78(52)	58(52)	65(40)

clusters. The velocity dispersions are in agreement with previously published values. It is interesting to note that the computed virial mass-to-light ratios for Virgo and Ursa Major are 190 and 120 in solar units, near the median for other, much smaller groups. The mean velocity dispersion for the sample is 155 km s^{-1} at a scale of 0.7 Mpc (mean group size). This number weighted average is about a factor of 2 lower than the pair-weighted velocity dispersion found by DGH for application of the statistical virial theorem to a sample including the Virgo cluster. This discrepancy occurs because the large velocity dispersion groups contain a large number of members and thus contribute strongly to the pairwise estimate.

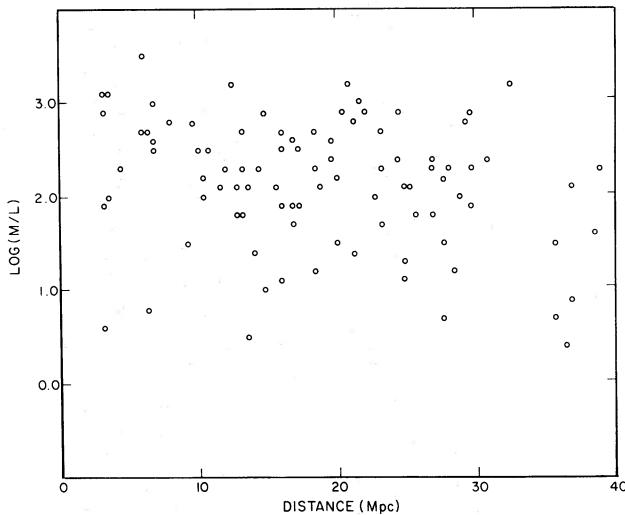
All of the crossing times are less than 1.0; in fact, only four are greater than 0.4, and all four of these are triples at large distances. Therefore the virial theorem should provide us with reasonable estimates of the masses.

We make no attempt to correct the individual group velocity dispersions for the measurement errors in individual galaxy velocities. The mean quoted error for the ~ 1300 galaxies in the sample is only 26 km s^{-1} ; the median is only 20 km s^{-1} . Subtraction of the error in quadrature from the median group dispersion of 122 km s^{-1} gives 120 km s^{-1} . Clearly the M/L 's for the few groups with velocity dispersions less than 50 km s^{-1} must be regarded with caution, but the median estimator of typical group characteristics is insensitive to these uncertainties.

The statistical properties of the technique will be discussed in more detail in Paper II, where we analyze a much larger sample of groups to a greater distance. There we will also apply the technique to a set of n -body simulations in order to investigate possible systematics. As an example of the lack of systematics introduced by our techniques we show in Figure 6 a plot of $\log M/L$ as a function of distance. There is no significant correlation.

VII. SUMMARY

The main purpose of this paper is to present a straightforward group selection procedure for which

FIG. 6.— M/L as a function of distance

biases can be easily examined. We have shown that there exists a range of selection parameters for which the dynamical parameters of the selected groups are stable. The M/L obtained is roughly 170 in solar units. If this value is applied to the mean luminosity density found in the CfA redshift survey (Davis and Huchra 1982), the mean cosmological mass density is 0.1, in reasonable agreement with almost all previous determinations from group dynamics but smaller than that derived from analyses of the Local Supercluster (Davis *et al.* 1980; Aaronson *et al.* 1980). Even our largest groups (Virgo, Ursa Major) are consistent with a low value for M/L . In this sample there is no evidence for a dependence of M/L on group size. Paper II, which is an analysis of the

whole CfA redshift survey, contains a detailed discussion of groups of galaxies as cosmological probes.

We have tried a wide variety of techniques and for reasonable selection criteria found not only the same dynamical results but also similar group membership. It does not matter how one looks for number or luminosity density enhancements in redshift space, as long as no biases are introduced and the selection is not allowed to become degenerate.

The group catalog is presented as a statistical sample. We do not investigate the detailed properties of each group, but we note that many of the well known and well studied nearby groups appear in the sample. There are mass and crossing time estimators other than the virial theorem (Bahcall and Tremaine 1981; Jackson 1975; Gott and Turner 1977). Although we have not presented these quantities, we have in fact calculated them. Even though the distribution of values of a parameter is sensitive to the particular definition, the median values of interest vary by less than 50%. We have not included the binaries because they are maximally sensitive to both the interloper problem and selection biases, but their inclusion would not substantially change any of the above results.

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