Autocorrelations of stellar light and mass at \( z \sim 0 \) and \( \sim 1 \): from SDSS to DEEP2

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ABSTRACT
We present measurements of projected autocorrelation functions \( w_p(r_p) \) for the stellar mass of galaxies and for their light in the \( U \), \( B \) and \( V \) bands, using data from the third data release of the DEEP2 Galaxy Redshift Survey and the final data release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS). We investigate the clustering bias of stellar mass and light by comparing these to projected autocorrelations of dark matter estimated from the Millennium Simulations (MS) at \( z = 1 \) and 0.07, the median redshifts of our galaxy samples. All of the autocorrelation and bias functions show systematic trends with spatial scale and waveband which are impressively similar at the two redshifts. This shows that the well-established environmental dependence of stellar populations in the local Universe is already in place at \( z = 1 \). The recent MS-based galaxy formation simulation of Guo et al. reproduces the scale-dependent clustering of luminosity to an accuracy better than 30 per cent in all bands and at both redshifts, but substantially overpredicts mass autocorrelations at separations below about 2 Mpc. Further comparison of the shapes of our stellar mass bias functions with those predicted by the model suggests that both the SDSS and DEEP2 data prefer a fluctuation amplitude of \( \sigma_8 \sim 0.8 \) rather than the \( \sigma_8 = 0.9 \) assumed by the MS.

Keywords: galaxies: formation – galaxies: high-redshift – galaxies: statistics – cosmological parameters – large-scale structure of Universe.

1 INTRODUCTION
The two-point correlation function (2PCF) has long served as the primary way of quantifying the spatial distribution of galaxies in our Universe. Measurements of 2PCF for different classes of galaxies in the local Universe have been carried out with high accuracy thanks to the large redshift surveys assembled in recent years, in particular the two-degree field galaxy redshift survey (2dFGRS; Colless et al. 2001) and the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000). These studies have established that 2PCFs depend on a variety of properties such as luminosity, stellar mass, colour, spectral type and morphology (Davis et al. 1988; Hamilton 1988; White, Tully & Davis 1988; Boerner, Mo & Zhou 1989; Einasto 1991; Park et al. 1994; Loveday et al. 1995; Benoist et al. 1996; Guzzo et al. 1997; Willmer, da Costa & Pellegrini 1998; Loveday, Tresse & Maddox 1999, 2001; Beisbart & Kerscher 2000; Brown, Webster & Boyle 2000; Guzzo et al. 2000; Norberg et al. 2001, 2002; Zehavi et al. 2002, 2005, 2011; Li et al. 2006a; Wang et al. 2007, 2011; Swanson et al. 2008; Ross, Tojeiro & Percival 2011). Recently, there have also been studies of galaxy clustering at higher redshifts, which are...
usually based on deep surveys (up to $z \sim 1$–1.5) covering small areas ($\lesssim 1.5$ deg$^2$), e.g. the DEEP2 Galaxy Redshift Survey (Davis et al. 2003; Coil et al. 2004a, 2006, 2008), the VIMOS-VLT Deep Survey (Le Fèvre et al. 2005; Pollo et al. 2005, 2006; Meneux et al. 2006, 2008), and the zCOSMOS Survey (Lilly et al. 2007, 2009; Muneux et al. 2009; de la Torre et al. 2011). Measurements of 2PCFs for different classes of galaxies and at different redshifts have provided powerful quantitative constraints on models of galaxy formation and evolution (see for example De Lucia & Blaizot 2007; Li et al. 2007; de la Torre et al. 2011b; Guo et al. 2011).

A number of recent studies have further investigated the dependence of galaxy clustering on physical properties by measuring weighted or marked 2PCFs (e.g. Beisbart & Kerscher 2000; Faltenbacher et al. 2002; Sheth 2005; Skibba et al. 2006, 2009; Skibba & Sheth 2009; Li & White 2009, 2010). Simply speaking, this statistic is estimated using exactly the same methodology as the one used for the traditional 2PCF, except that each galaxy in the real sample and/or in the random sample is weighted by one of its physical properties such as stellar mass or luminosity at a given band. When compared to the traditional 2PCF, this alternative two-point statistic has the advantage that it makes use of the whole galaxy sample and thus minimizes the sampling and large-scale structure noises. As found in Li & White (2009), a particular virtue of the weighted correlation functions is that the correlation signals are dominated by contributions from galaxies in a relatively narrow mass range, around the characteristic mass of the stellar mass function. Thus, the statistic is robust to incompleteness of the observed sample at the two mass extremes. In addition, the weighting scheme used for estimating the statistic makes it a direct measure of the clustering of stars on scales larger than those of individual galaxies, rather than the clustering of the host galaxies as probed by the traditional 2PCF. This statistic thus provides a compact and accurate way to characterize the distribution of stellar populations over large ranges in spatial scale.

Using a sample of almost half a million galaxies from the SDSS, Li & White (2009, hereafter Paper I) and Li & White (2010, hereafter Paper II) estimated projected autocorrelation functions $w_p(r_p)$ for the stellar mass of galaxies and for their light in the five SDSS photometric bands. All of the autocorrelation estimates are extremely well described by power laws over the full non-linear range $10 h^{-1}$ kpc $< r_p < 10 h^{-1}$ Mpc. Luminosity is found to cluster less strongly than stellar mass in all bands and on all scales. The autocorrelation function of luminosity varies systematically with wavelength in both amplitude and slope, with the reddest band (the $z$ band) showing the highest amplitude and the steepest slope, indicating that the $z$-band light is the closest proxy for stellar mass in terms of clustering properties. These trends provide a precise characterization of the well-known dependence of stellar populations on environment. In combination with autocorrelation functions of luminosity- and stellar mass-selected galaxy samples, as well as accurate luminosity and stellar mass functions, these results provide tight constraints on galaxy formation, which are a major challenge for current models [see for example the significant discrepancies in recent work by Guo et al. 2011 based on the Millennium Simulations (MS)].

In this paper, we extend the work of Papers I and II to higher redshifts ($z \sim 1$) using data from the DEEP2 Galaxy Redshift Survey (Davis et al. 2003). We use the methodology of Papers I and II to compute projected stellar mass autocorrelation functions for DEEP2 galaxies, as well as projected autocorrelations for their luminosity in the rest-frame $U$ and $B$ bands. In order to compare the two surveys directly, we re-analyse the SDSS, computing luminosity autocorrelations in the $U$, $B$ and $V$ bands, where luminosities in these bands are estimated from SDSS data through a Bayesian technique based on a spectral energy distribution library constructed from the Bruzual & Charlot (2003, hereafter BC03) population synthesis code. We compare these results with the autocorrelations of dark matter at $z = 0.07$ and $z = 1$, the median redshifts of the SDSS and DEEP2 galaxy samples used here, in order to understand the bias of stellar mass and light. By comparing with the model of Guo et al. (2011), we investigate quantitatively how well current treatments of galaxy formation reproduce the clustering evolution of stellar mass and light. Finally, we discuss the possibility that the measured shape of the mass autocorrelation functions can be used to estimate the value of the mass fluctuation amplitude parameter $\sigma_8$.

2 DATA

2.1 SDSS galaxy sample

The low-redshift galaxy sample used in this study is a magnitude-limited sample constructed from the final data release (DR7; Abazajian et al. 2009) of the SDSS (York et al. 2000) and is exactly the same as that used in Papers I and II. This sample contains 482 755 galaxies located in the main contiguous area of the survey in the northern Galactic cap, with $r < 17.6$, $-24 < \text{Mag}_{\text{lim}} < -16$ and spectroscopically measured redshifts in the range $0.001 < z < 0.5$. Here, $r$ is the $r$-band Petrosian apparent magnitude, corrected for Galactic extinction, and $\text{Mag}_{\text{lim}}$ is the $r$-band Petrosian absolute magnitude, corrected for evolution and $K$-corrected to its value at $z = 0.1$. The apparent magnitude limit is chosen in order to select a sample that is uniform and complete over the entire area of the survey (see Tegmark et al. 2004). The median redshift of this sample is $z = 0.088$, with 10 per cent of the galaxies below $z = 0.033$ and 10 per cent above $z = 0.16$. As shown in Paper I (see their fig. 4) the autocorrelation of stellar mass is dominated by contributions from a narrower and slightly lower redshift range (with 10 per cent of the galaxies below $z = 0.025$ and 10 per cent above $z = 0.12$), with a median redshift of $z = 0.067$. We thus take $z = 0.067$ as the effective median redshift of this sample when comparing with dark matter autocorrelations and semi-analytical model predictions.

We use a Bayesian technique to derive estimates of the absolute magnitudes in $U$, $B$ and $V$ bands for each galaxy in our sample, following Kauffmann et al. (2003) and Salim et al. (2005). Libraries of Monte Carlo realizations of model star formation histories are generated between $0 < z < 0.5$ in regular bins of $\Delta z = 0.001$, using the BC03 population synthesis code. Each library contains 25 000 models with each star formation history being characterized with two components: an underlying continuous model with an exponentially declining star formation law and random bursts superimposed on this continuous model. The models also have metallicities and dust attenuation uniformly distributed over wide ranges. The universal initial mass function (IMF) of Kroupa (2001) is adopted. For each galaxy in our sample, we derive the $U$, $B$ and $V$ magnitudes by comparing the observed $ugriz$ spectral energy distribution (SED) to all the model SEDs in the closest redshift model library. The $\chi^2$ goodness of fit of each model determines the weight, $\text{exp}(-\chi^2/2)$, which is assigned to that model when building the probability distribution functions (PDFs) of the rest-frame $U$, $B$ and $V$ magnitudes of the galaxy. We adopt the PDF-weighted mean values as our estimates of these quantities. Adopting the median of the PDF gives almost identical results for the autocorrelation function analysis.

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2.2 DEEP2 galaxy sample

The DEEP2 Galaxy Redshift Survey (Davis et al. 2003) utilizes the DEIMOS spectrograph (Faber et al. 2003) on the Keck II telescope. Targets for the spectroscopic sample were selected from BRI photometry (Coil et al. 2004a) taken with the 12 k × 8 k mosaic camera on the Canada–France–Hawaii Telescope (CFHT). The images have a limiting magnitude of $R_{AB} \sim 25.5$. Since the $R$-band provides the highest signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) among the CFHT bands, the photometry in this band was used to select targets for spectroscopic observation in the DEEP2. The CFHT imaging covers four widely separated regions, with a total area of 3.5 deg$^2$. In fields 2–4, the spectroscopic sample is pre-selected using $(B - R)$ and $(R - I)$ colours to eliminate objects with $z < 0.7$ (Davis et al. 2003). Colour and apparent magnitude cuts were also applied to objects in the first field, the Extended Groth Strip (EGS), but these were designed to downweight low-redshift galaxies rather than eliminate them entirely (Willmer et al. 2006).

We use data from the third data release of the DEEP2 survey$^1$ which contains spectra of about 50,000 galaxies in the magnitude range $18.5 \leq R_{AB} \leq 24.1$. The spectra have a resolution of $R \sim 5000$. For this study we have selected a sample of 30,546 galaxies from the DEEP2 DR3, with redshifts of quality 3 or 4 and in the range $0.8 < z < 1.35$. The median redshift of this sample is $z = 1$, which we use for comparisons with dark matter and model galaxy autocorrelations.

The derived galaxy parameters required in this work include stellar mass ($M_\ast$) and rest-frame magnitudes in $U$ and $B$ bands. The procedure for estimating these parameters is exactly the same as the one above for the SDSS. In brief, the observed BRI SED of each galaxy in the DEEP2 is compared to a large grid of BC03 model SEDs, providing a maximum likelihood estimate of the $I$-band mass-to-light ratio of the galaxy, as well as its rest-frame $U$ and $B$ magnitudes. A Kroupa (2001) IMF is adopted, as in the SDSS analysis. Our estimates of stellar mass and rest-frame magnitudes are statistically well consistent with those from Bundy et al. (2006) and Willmer et al. (2006). Indeed we have repeated our clustering analysis using stellar mass and rest-frame magnitude estimates from these previous papers, obtaining almost the same results.

We do not consider the $V$ band for DEEP2 galaxies, as at $z \sim 1$ this band is shifted well beyond the reddest band (the $I$ band) that is observed.

2.3 Semi-analytic model galaxy catalogues

In this paper we compare our observational results to predictions from the galaxy formation model of Guo et al. (2011, hereafter G11). This model was created by implementing semi-analytic models for baryonic astrophysics on merger trees encapsulating the evolution of the halo/subhalo population in the Millennium (Springel 2005) and Millennium-II (Boylan-Kolchin et al. 2009) Simulations.$^2$ The Millennium was carried out in a cubic region 500 $h^{-1}$ Mpc on a side with mass resolution $\sim 10^9 M_\odot$, while the Millennium-II followed evolution in a region with 125 times smaller volume, but at 125 times better mass resolution. The combination of the two simulations allows galaxy formation to be studied over the full range of observed populations, from dwarf spheroidals to cD galaxies. In comparison to earlier semi-analytic models from the Munich group, the treatments of supernova feedback, galaxy size, photoionization suppression and environmental effects on satellite galaxies have been significantly updated, resulting in excellent fits not only to recent SDSS data on the luminosity and stellar mass functions of galaxies, but also to the recent determinations of the abundance of faint satellite galaxies around the Milky Way. Most of the population properties for galaxies in the local Universe are reasonably well reproduced by the model, which also makes precise predictions for non-linear clustering over the full observed range of scales, 10 kpc to 10 Mpc. Comparisons between the clustering properties predicted by the model and measurements of SDSS galaxy clustering show that agreement with SDSS data is quite good for masses above $6 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$ and at separations above 2 Mpc, although the predicted clustering is up to 20 per cent too high in some mass ranges. On smaller scales, lower mass galaxies are predicted to be substantially more clustered than is observed. G11 suggest, but do not prove, that this may be a consequence of an overly large present-day fluctuation amplitude ($\sigma_8 = 0.9$) in the simulations.

3 CLUSTERING MEASURES

Following Papers I and II, we weight each galaxy in our samples to correct for incompleteness when computing our stellar mass (or luminosity) autocorrelations. The weights used for SDSS galaxies take into account three factors. The first is $1/\left(f_{sp}\right)$, where $f_{sp}$ is a spectroscopic completeness, defined as the fraction of the photometrically defined target galaxies for which usable spectra were obtained. The second weight, $1/V_{ij}$, is applied to each pair of galaxies, where $V_{ij} = \min(V_{max,i}, V_{max,j})$ and $V_{max}$ is the maximum volume over which the $i$th galaxy would be included in the sample. This weight accounts for the fact that faint galaxies are not detected throughout the entire survey volume in a flux-limited survey. The final weight is the factor $1/f_{coll,ij}$, which is also applied to galaxy pairs and appears in data–data counts only. This factor is a function of angular separation $\theta_{ij}$ of the two galaxies and corrects for the effect of fibre collisions on small scales.

Similarly, for each galaxy pair in the DEEP2 sample we also assign a weight following Willmer et al. (2006):

$$W_{ij} = \frac{\kappa_i \kappa_j}{V_{ij}},$$

(1)

where $\kappa_i$ accounts for incompleteness resulting from the DEEP2 colour selection and redshift success rate. The second factor $V_{ij}$ is defined in the same way as above. Detailed description on the calculation of the weights can be found in Willmer et al. (2006).

We have generated a random sample which has the same overall sky coverage and redshift distribution as the DEEP2 sample. The spatial window function of the DEEP2 survey is applied to the random sample, which includes masking areas around bright stars and takes into account the varying redshift completeness of the observed slit masks. The reader is referred to previous papers by Coil et al. (2004b, 2006, 2008) for detailed description of the window function. For each real galaxy, we generate 100 sky positions at random within the entire survey region of the DEEP2 including all the four separate fields, and we assign to each of them the properties of the real galaxy, in particular, its values of $\kappa$ and $V_{max}$. Since the four fields of the survey are widely separated, correlations in these properties in the real sample are wiped out by randomizing in angle.

We follow Coil et al. (2006) to assign a redshift to each random point according to the redshift distribution averaged over all the fields in the data.
The projected autocorrelation function of stellar mass or luminosity in a given band is then computed using the estimator described in Paper I (see their equation 2), in which the weights obtained above are applied. We estimate the autocorrelation functions using the entire real (or random) sample, for both SDSS and DEEP2. Errors on the mass autocorrelation in the SDSS are estimated from the scatter among the measurements from 20 mock galaxy catalogues constructed from the MS, and in the right-hand panel from the scatter between measurements on the four independent fields of the DEEP2 survey. The solid line in the left-hand panel is a power-law fit to the SDSS data over the range $10 \, h^{-1} \text{Mpc} < r_p < 10 \, h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ and is repeated in the right-hand panel. It corresponds to a three-dimensional autocorrelation function $\xi^r(r) = (r/r_0)^{-1.84}$ with $r_0 = 6.1 \, h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. The dotted line in the right-hand panel is a power-law fit to the DEEP2 data over the full range probed, with index fixed to be $-1.84$, i.e. the same as what is determined for the SDSS data. The corresponding correlation length is $r_0 = 4.3 \, h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Projected autocorrelation functions and bias factors

In Fig. 1 we show projected stellar mass autocorrelation functions $w_p^*(r_p)$, as well as projected luminosity autocorrelations $w_L^*(r_p)$ in the $U, B, V$ bands. Results are plotted for the SDSS in the left-hand panel, and for the DEEP2 in the right-hand panel. In both panels, $w_p^*(r_p)$ is shown using triangles with error bars, while $w_L^*(r_p)$ are shown using lines.

The left-hand panel of Fig. 1 reproduces the results of Paper II where luminosity autocorrelation functions were estimated for the five passbands of SDSS ($ugriz$). Luminosity is less strongly clustered than stellar mass on all scales and in all wavebands. Furthermore, the amplitude and slope of the luminosity autocorrelation function changes systematically with wavelength, with the reddest band (the $V$ band) showing the highest amplitude and the steepest slope. As a result, $V$-band light clusters more similar to stellar mass than the bluer bands plotted, but not as close as the $z$-band light analysed in Paper II. This is expected because $z$-band light is known to be closely related to stellar mass indicators (e.g. Kauffmann et al. 2003). Finally, all the autocorrelation estimates are well described by power laws. The best power-law fit to the stellar mass autocorrelations is shown in the figure, but in this paper we will not discuss such fits further, since they were a major topic of the two previous papers and the DEEP2 data do not allow autocorrelation shapes to be studied in as much detail as is possible at low redshift using SDSS.

As can be seen from the right-hand panel of Fig. 1, the DEEP2 galaxies show autocorrelation behaviour very similar to the SDSS. Although the measurement errors are relatively large due to the smaller sample size and the considerable depth of the DEEP2, all...
the systematic trends seen above for the SDSS hold also for the DEEP2. Furthermore, the slopes of the autocorrelation functions are consistent with remaining constant from \( z \sim 1 \) to the present, although their amplitudes have increased by a factor of about 1.6 when, as here, they are measured in comoving coordinates. To be more quantitative, we have estimated the relative bias factor as a function of projected separation between the SDSS and the DEEP2 by directly comparing their stellar mass autocorrelations. A linear fit indicates that the bias is well described by \( b = 1.6 - 0.09 \log_{10}(r_p) \), with a reduced \( \chi^2 \) of 1.03. The rms scatter around the fit is 22.2 per cent over the \( r_p \) range probed. Thus, the slopes of stellar mass autocorrelation from the two surveys are really very similar to each other. Our result is broadly consistent with previous studies of the evolution of galaxy two-point correlation functions using data from the same surveys (e.g. Coil et al. 2006, 2008).

These results are shown again in Fig. 2 in terms of bias factors which we define as the ratio of the projected stellar mass (or luminosity) autocorrelation to the projected dark matter density autocorrelation. The latter is obtained from the \( z = 0.065 \) and \( z = 1 \) snapshots of the MS and thus assumes the cosmological parameters of the simulation. As noted above, these redshifts are appropriate to characterize the mean depth of our SDSS and DEEP2 measurements. A maximum line-of-sight depth \( |\Delta z| = 40 \ h^{-1} \) Mpc was adopted when computing the projected autocorrelation function for dark matter in order to mimic our procedures for the real data. At \( r_p \gtrsim 1.5 \ h^{-1} \) Mpc, all our estimates are consistent with bias being scale-independent. On these scales the overall bias at \( z \sim 1 \) is higher by a factor of \( \sim 1.7 \) than at \( z \sim 0 \). This reflects the well-established result that large-scale structure has been growing more rapidly in the dark matter distribution since \( z = 1 \) than in the galaxy distribution.

At smaller separations, the scale dependence of the bias is strong, with a total range of a factor of 5 over \( 10 \ h^{-1} \) kpc \( < r_p < 1 \ h^{-1} \) Mpc in the SDSS, and a factor of 2 over \( 100 \ h^{-1} \) kpc \( < r_p < 1 \ h^{-1} \) Mpc in the DEEP2. Another obvious feature is a step at around 2 Mpc which is seen in all bias functions and at both redshifts. Considering the large error bars, we would state that the step feature in the DEEP2 bias function is significant only at about \( 1.5 \sigma \) (at 0.5 \( h^{-1} \) Mpc) to \( 2 \sigma \) (at 0.7 \( h^{-1} \) Mpc) level. In order to quantify how closely the SDSS and DEEP2 bias functions approximate each other, we have estimated the ratio of the two bias functions shown in Fig. 2 as a function of projected separation. This can also be well described by a linear function \( b = 0.58 + 0.08 \log_{10}(r_p) \), with a reduced \( \chi^2 \) of 0.4. The rms scatter around this line is 12.7 per cent.

Given the featureless \( w(r_p) \) observed for stellar mass and light, the strong scale dependence of the bias factors on these scales is largely due to the much more pronounced features seen in the dark matter autocorrelations, mainly the remarkable change in slope at the transition between the one-halo term, where the pair counts are dominated by galaxy pairs in the same halo, and the two-halo term, where galaxy pairs are mostly in separate haloes, at a few Mpc (see figs 2 and 6 of Paper I for illustrations). As discussed in Paper I, this uncomfortable step feature suggests that the amplitude of mass fluctuations is too high in the MS, and that the shape of our bias functions might be used to estimate the value of the fluctuation amplitude parameter \( \sigma_8 \). We will come back to this point in the last section.

### 4.2 Comparisons with a galaxy formation model

In this section we compare the observed projected autocorrelations of stellar light and mass to predictions for these same statistics from the galaxy formation model of G11, based on the Millennium and Millennium-II simulations. In their paper these authors already compared their model to SDSS clustering data, in particular, to the projected autocorrelations of stellar mass and of galaxies separated into passive and actively star-forming objects in a series of disjoint ranges of total stellar mass. They found their model to reproduce observed clustering reasonably well, to a level better than about 20 per cent at all separations for \( M_\star \geq 6 \times 10^9 \ M_\odot \) and at \( r_p > 2 \) Mpc for \( M_\star > 6 \times 10^9 \ M_\odot \), but to substantially overpredict the clustering of stellar mass at smaller separations. Further comparisons between the SDSS and the model for autocorrelation functions in different
intervals of stellar mass and optical colour showed this discrepancy to be due mainly to passive galaxies with stellar masses in the range $6 \times 10^8 M_\odot < M_* < 6 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$, indicating that the model predicts too many red, passive, satellites of this mass. The authors suggested that this might indicate that the fluctuation amplitude $\sigma_8 = 0.9$ adopted in the simulations is too high.

Here we extend this study to $z = 1$ by comparing the model predictions with our DEEP2 results. The results are shown in Fig. 3 (the right-hand panel), where we plot the ratios of observed to predicted $w_p(r_p)$ both for stellar mass (symbols with error bars) and for luminosity in the $U$, $B$ and $V$ bands (lines). For comparison, the corresponding results for SDSS are shown in the left-hand panel. At both redshifts, the discrepancy between the model and data is clearest in the stellar mass autocorrelations. As already found by Guo et al. (2011), the model $w_p^*(r_p)$ exceeds that observed in the SDSS on all scales, by only $\sim 15$ per cent for $r_p \gtrsim 2 h^{-1}$ Mpc but by increasingly larger factors on smaller scales, reaching a factor of $\sim 3$ at $10 h^{-1}$ kpc. At redshift $z \sim 1$, our DEEP2 results show a similar offset and are consistent with the same trend within their error bars.

Remarkably, although the model predicts stellar mass autocorrelations that disagree with the SDSS data, its luminosity autocorrelations match observation much better, particularly in the rest-frame $B$ band. Apparently, the overly strong clustering of stellar mass is almost exactly compensated by the overabundance of passive satellite galaxies so that the light distribution is well reproduced. At $z \sim 1$, the predicted luminosity autocorrelations lie somewhat above the DEEP2 measurements in $B$ but agree well at $U$. Given the error bars, the discrepancy at the longer wavelengths is only marginally significant. The fact that a physically based galaxy formation model can simultaneously agree with the clustering of light and disagree with that of stellar mass, yet agree with the abundance of galaxies as a function of both light and stellar mass (see G11) demonstrates the complexity of the constraints on galaxy formation implied by precise observations of abundance and clustering. The agreements and disagreements with DEEP2 data at $z \sim 1$ are very similar to those with SDSS data at low redshift, suggesting that the model is treating the evolution and clustering of the galaxy population in a realistic way.

5 SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In this work we have estimated projected autocorrelation functions $w_p(r_p)$ for the stellar mass of galaxies and for their light in the $U$, $B$ and $V$ bands, using data both from the third data release of the DEEP2 Galaxy Redshift Survey and the final data release of the SDSS. We have compared these to projected autocorrelations of dark matter estimated from the MS at $z = 1$ and 0.07, the median redshifts of our galaxy samples, in order to investigate the bias of the clustering of stellar mass and light.

The dependence of clustering on luminosity and colour for galaxies in the DEEP2 was previously studied by Coil et al. (2006, 2008): the former investigates the luminosity dependence of galaxy clustering, while the latter investigates the joint colour and luminosity dependence. These studies show that the dependence of clustering on colour is stronger than on luminosity. These findings are qualitatively very similar to those seen at low redshift in SDSS data (e.g. Zehavi et al. 2005, 2011; Li et al. 2006b). Their conclusion was that the correlations between environment and galaxy properties which are well known at $z = 0$ were, in fact, largely in place at $z = 1$. In this paper we have investigated these issues further by evaluating alternative two-point statistics, the projected autocorrelations of stellar mass and light, in a uniform way for the SDSS and the DEEP2, so that the two surveys can be compared directly to each other and to the predictions of a recent MS-based simulation of the formation and evolution of the galaxy population (Guo et al. 2011). These statistics have some advantages in that they allow the full observed samples to be used to characterize the distribution of stars at high

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3 The ‘excess’ of passive red satellite is well documented in the literature and seems to be a ‘common’ problem for all recent galaxy formation models.
precision over the comoving ranges 10 kpc to 30 Mpc in the SDSS and 200 kpc to 10 Mpc in DEEP2.

The most impressive result of this work is the remarkable similarity in behaviour between the SDSS and the DEEP2. The stellar mass and stellar light autocorrelations are, to within the still considerable error bars for DEEP2, identical in the two surveys except for an overall offset in amplitude by about a factor of 2. Papers I and II have found that the autocorrelations of stellar mass (or luminosity) are dominated by contributions from galaxies in a relatively narrow range in mass (or luminosity), around the characteristic value of the stellar mass (or luminosity) function. In effect, this paper thus compares clustering of the population around $M^* (or L^*)$ at the two redshifts. The similarity between the two surveys supports the conclusion of earlier analyses that the environmental dependence of galaxy properties seen in the local Universe was already in place at $z = 1$ (e.g. Coil et al. 2006, 2008; Cooper et al. 2006; Meneux et al. 2006, 2008, 2009). This similarity, as well as the factor-of-two offset between the two redshifts, is well reproduced by the galaxy formation model of G11 which matches the clustering of stellar light very well and overpredicts the clustering of stellar mass to a similar extent at both epochs.

The galaxy formation simulation fits the observed luminosity autocorrelations to within 30 per cent on all scales, both at $z = 0$ and $z = 1$, and it fits the stellar mass autocorrelations to about 15 per cent at $r_p > 2$ Mpc. On smaller scales the discrepancy in the stellar mass autocorrelations reaches a factor of 2–3. Correlations on large scales are produced by galaxies in different haloes (predominantly the central galaxies of those haloes) and the tight correlation between central galaxy properties and halo mass means that any model which fits the observed abundance of galaxies produces approximately correct correlations on these scales (e.g. Vale & Ostriker 2004; Conroy, Wechsler & Kravtsov 2006; Wang et al. 2006; More et al. 2009; Guo et al. 2010; Moster et al. 2010). Smaller scale correlations result from galaxy pairs residing in the same halo, so the discrepancy on these scales shows that the model has too many pairs of relatively massive galaxies which share a common halo. This may be explained by too large a value of $\sigma_8$ in the MS, which results in too many high-mass haloes which would then host these pairs. The much better agreement of the stellar light autocorrelations on these same scales shows that the ‘extra’ satellite galaxies must have relatively little light for their mass, thus high stellar mass-to-light ratios.

An interesting feature in the observed bias functions of Fig. 2 is the obvious step at the one-halo/two-halo transition at about 2 Mpc which reflects the marked change in slope of the dark matter correlations at this point (see figs 2 and 6 of Paper I). We noted in Paper I that since physically consistent models for the evolution of the dark matter and galaxy distributions show smooth bias behaviour over this separation range, this feature suggests that the amplitude of mass fluctuations is too high in the MS, producing a one-halo/two-halo transition which is stronger in the simulated mass distribution than in the true mass distribution. If this interpretation is correct, the shape of our bias functions can be used to estimate the value of the fluctuation amplitude parameter $\sigma_8$. We illustrate this possibility in Fig. 4, where we plot the bias determined from the clustering of stellar mass over the separation range $200 h^{-1}$ kpc < $r_p$ < $15 h^{-1}$ Mpc both for the SDSS ($z = 0.07$) and the DEEP2 ($z = 1$). Here we use dark matter correlations measured in the MS not only at the median redshifts of the observed samples, but also at higher redshifts in order to represent (approximately) the correlations expected at the observed redshifts in cosmologies similar to the Millennium cosmology but with lower $\sigma_8$. We choose earlier redshifts with linear fluctuation amplitudes corresponding to $\sigma_8 = 0.8, 0.7$ and 0.6. The filled triangles show estimates of the stellar mass bias for the two surveys made in this way for four different values of $\sigma_8$. It is clear that as the fluctuation amplitude is decreased the step feature

![Image of Fig. 4](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article-abstract/419/2/1557/989378)

**Figure 4.** Triangles with error bars indicate bias as a function of scale for stellar mass in the SDSS (left-hand panel) and the DEEP2 (right-hand panel) assuming the MS cosmology but with varying values (as labelled) for the present-day fluctuation amplitude $\sigma_8$. For $\sigma_8$ values other than 0.9, projected dark matter autocorrelations at $z = 0.07$ (for the SDSS) and $z = 1$ (for the DEEP2) are approximated by the functions found in the MS at earlier times when the linear fluctuation amplitude matches that desired. Bias functions for stellar mass in the Guo et al. (2011) galaxy formation model (which assumes $\sigma_8 = 0.9$) at $z = 0.07, 1$ and 3 are shown by solid lines, labelled by redshift. For clarity, error bars are only shown in the right-hand panel in the case $\sigma_8 = 0.8$, and the triangles for each $\sigma_8$ are connected by a dotted line. Only for $\sigma_8 = 0.8$ or 0.7 is the bias function inferred from the data approximately as flat and featureless at the one-halo/two-halo transition as that measured in the model.

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becomes less prominent in both surveys and the bias becomes a more strongly decreasing function of scale.

Theoretical predictions for these stellar mass bias functions for $z = 0.07, 1$ and $3$ are shown for the galaxy formation model of G11 as solid lines in Fig. 4. As for the earlier galaxy formation models plotted in Paper I, none of these curves shows a feature at the one-halo/two-halo transition, but their slope increases significantly towards higher redshift. Comparing with the observational results, it is clear that the best agreement in amplitude occurs for $\sigma_8 = 0.8$ whereas the overall shape agrees best for somewhat lower amplitudes. It is remarkable that these results hold both for the SDSS at $z = 0.07$ and for the DEEP2 at $z = 1$. Hence, the models appear to describe the overall evolution of the stellar mass autocorrelations surprisingly well, once the cosmology is corrected to a lower $\sigma_8$ value, similar to that indicated by most other recent analyses of cosmic microwave background and other data (e.g. Komatsu et al. 2009, 2011). (However, see Wang et al. 2008 who argued that lowering $\sigma_8$ would not always solve the problem.)

In this paper we have only considered the diagonal errors on our autocorrelation function measurements, since we wish only to characterize the current situation, presenting a side-by-side comparison between the SDSS and DEEP2 in terms of the observed autocorrelations, the bias relative to dark matter, and a comparison with the current semi-analytic model. To go beyond this and to make rigorous model fits to the full ensemble of $w_p(r_p)$ estimates would be a major undertaking that is not possible here.

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