Radio–optical galaxy shape correlations in the COSMOS field

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Accepted 2016 September 1. Received 2016 August 6; in original form 2016 June 28

ABSTRACT

We investigate the correlations in galaxy shapes between optical and radio wavelengths using archival observations of the Cosmic Evolution Survey (COSMOS) field. Cross-correlation studies between different wavebands will become increasingly important for precision cosmology as future large surveys may be dominated by systematic rather than statistical errors. In the case of weak lensing, galaxy shapes must be measured to extraordinary accuracy (shear systematics of <0.01 per cent) in order to achieve good constraints on dark energy parameters. By using shape information from overlapping surveys in optical and radio bands, robustness to systematics may be significantly improved without loss of constraining power. Here we use HST-ACS (Hubble Space Telescope-Advanced Camera for Surveys) optical data, Very Large Array (VLA) radio data and extensive simulations to investigate both our ability to make precision measurements of source shapes from realistic radio data and to constrain the intrinsic astrophysical scatter between the shapes of galaxies as measured in the optical and radio wavebands. By producing a new image from the VLA-COSMOS L-band radio visibility data that are well suited to galaxy shape measurements, we are able to extract precise measurements of galaxy position angles. Comparing to corresponding measurements from the HST optical image, we set a lower limit on the intrinsic astrophysical scatter in position angles, between the optical and radio bands, of \( \sigma_\alpha > 0.212\pi \) rad (or 38.2\(^\circ\)) at a 95 per cent confidence level.

Key words: gravitational lensing: weak – cosmology: observations – radio continuum: galaxies.

1 INTRODUCTION

Weak gravitational lensing analyses exploit the coherent distortion of galaxy shapes induced by the gravitational potential along the line of sight to constrain the distribution and evolution of massive structures in the Universe, providing an excellent probe of cosmology (see e.g. Kilbinger 2015, for a review). Conducting precision cosmology tests with weak lensing (e.g. selecting between competing models of dark energy) requires high number densities (\( n_{\text{gal}} \gtrsim 1 \text{ arcmin}^{-2} \)) of high-redshift (\( z \gtrsim 1 \)) sources and analysis tools to measure their shapes to extraordinary accuracy. These attributes have been available to surveys at optical wavelengths for a number of years, with useful cosmological results beginning to emerge from CFHTLens (Köhlinger et al. 2016), DES-SV (The Dark Energy Survey Collaboration 2015) and DLS (Jee et al. 2016). As source number densities increase in these and future experiments (and statistical uncertainties decrease), it is the systematic uncertainties which will come to dominate. One way of tackling the problem of such systematics is through multi-wavelength investigations, which have the potential to address both instrumental and astrophysical contamination. In particular, telescopes operating at radio wavelengths are about to undergo a significant leap in survey speed and sensitivity and, ultimately, with the Square Kilometre Array (SKA)\(^1\) will be capable of world-leading weak lensing cosmology alone (Brown et al. 2015; Bonaldi et al. 2016). In addition, cross-correlation weak lensing studies between radio and optical wavebands appear highly promising, providing comparable cosmological constraints as traditional single-waveband experiments, but with the significant advantage of being much more robust to wavelength-dependent systematic effects (Demetroullas & Brown 2016; Harrison et al. 2016).

In this paper, we focus on a particular aspect of these cross-correlation studies: the correlation between the optical and radio shapes of those galaxies which will be common to both catalogues. As discussed in Harrison et al. (2016), this shape covariance constitutes a noise term on the measured weak lensing shear power spectra, and needs to be well understood to form robust cosmological parameter constraints. Furthermore, literature results on these shape correlations are divided, with Battye & Browne (2009) finding a significant correlation in orientations between the shapes of

\(^{1}\)http://www.skatelescope.org
objects detected in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) and Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty centimetres (FIRST) catalogues, and Patel et al. (2010) finding almost no correlation in the optical and radio shapes of galaxies in the Hubble Deep Field-North. Here we measure and compare the optical and radio shapes of sources in the Cosmic Evolution Survey (COSMOS) field, which has deep data available in both wavebands. To facilitate an accurate comparison, we have implemented a significant re-analysis of the radio Very Large Array (VLA) COSMOS data set. Our re-analysis significantly reduces the level of galaxy shape systematics which we found to be present in the previous analysis of Schinnerer et al. (2007, though we note that their analysis was primarily focused on measuring faint number counts and was not optimized for extracting galaxy shapes).

When conducting any study which relies upon accurate galaxy shape measurements, it is important to appreciate that the data generated in radio observations are fundamentally different to that generated by imaging telescopes in optical wavebands. Radio telescopes are typically operated as interferometers, consisting of many individual antennas, from which the signals are correlated to form ‘visibilities’. For a pair of antennas a projected distance $d$ apart, the recorded visibility is a measurement of the flux at a specific spatial frequency on the sky. For interferometers with $N$ antennas, $N(N-1)/2$ correlations can be formed between the different baseline lengths, sampling a large number of scales and allowing us to reconstruct a partially sampled Fourier transform of the sky brightness distribution (when the assumptions of the Van Cittert–Zernike theorem are satisfied; Carozzi & Woan 2009). This can provide distinct advantages, allowing for very good angular resolution (set by the longest baseline in the array) with a comparably large maximum field of view (set by the primary beam of the individual antennas).

The incomplete sampling of spatial scales means the data must be further processed to obtain an estimate of the corresponding image-plane information. The resultant point spread function (PSF) from a radio interferometer (commonly referred to as a ‘dirty beam’) is highly deterministic at $\gtrsim 700$ MHz frequencies (as it is set by the known sampling of the Fourier plane — a useful property for weak lensing) but can have significant structure, with appreciable side-lobes extending across the entire sky. The convolution of this complicated beam with an unknown sky creates the ‘dirty image’ (the lobes extending across the entire sky). The convolution of this complicated beam with an unknown sky creates the ‘dirty image’ (the simple Fourier transform to image space of the data). Deconvolving the dirty beam from the dirty image to enable source identification, flux and shape measurement is then a difficult process.

A commonly used algorithm for this purpose is known as Högbom-CLEAN. This algorithm assumes that any section of the sky is made up of a finite number of delta function point sources. Beginning with the dirty image, CLEAN iteratively finds the position and brightness of the brightest source in the field and subtracts flux, corresponding to the convolution of this point source with the dirty beam, directly from the visibility data. This is repeated across the image until a residual map remains with CLEAN components, and produces a ‘CLEAN’ map (see Högbom 1974, for a detailed description and motivation). Additionally, this procedure helps to reduce side-lobe artefacts across the radio map which can be problematic, especially when a large dynamical range in source fluxes is considered.

The CLEAN algorithm works well at producing plausible radio images and placing sources at reliable positions. However, CLEAN is a non-linear deconvolution technique which assumes that missing information, due to a partially sampled visibility (or Fourier) plane, can be modelled as a set of point sources. This inherent assumption may result in significant systematics when attempting to measure precision morphology as is necessary for weak lensing cosmology. Patel et al. (2015) have tested the performance of CLEAN on SKA-like simulations and have found the performance to be orders of magnitude away from what is necessary for systematic uncertainties from shape measurement to be sub-dominant to statistical ones when measuring cosmic shear. In this paper, we have adopted a CLEAN-based imaging pipeline in our re-analysis of the VLA-COSMOS data. However, mindful of the above concerns around potential shape biases being induced by the CLEAN processing, we have also carried out extensive simulations to quantify the level of shape measurement bias we expect in our newly created image.

In addition to minimizing systematics through cross-correlation, radio weak lensing also presents further potential advantages through additional information from polarization (Brown & Battey 2011; Whittaker, Brown & Battey 2015a) and rotational velocity maps (Morales 2006) which may be used to reduce the shot noise from intrinsic galaxy shapes and also mitigate against intrinsic alignment systematics – a key astrophysical systematic due to correlations of galaxy shapes being imprinted during their formation process. To date, two attempts have been made to detect a weak lensing signal in radio data alone. In the first, Chang, Refregier & Helfand (2004) were able to detect a lensing aperture mass signal at a significance of 3.6$\sigma$. In this case, the Fisher-plane data from the FIRST radio survey (Becker, White & Helfand 1995) were used to estimate the shear on radio sources directly, without imaging, modelling them using Fisher-plane shapelets (Chang & Refregier 2002). The second study, by Patel et al. (2010), used combined radio observations from the VLA and Multi-Element Radio Linked Interferometer Network (MERLIN) to extract galaxy shapes from radio images constructed by the Högbom-CLEAN method discussed above, where the low absolute number of detected sources precluded a significant weak lensing detection.

This paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we introduce the COSMOS data used in this study and outline the data reduction steps that we have applied. In Section 3, we describe our technique for creating simulated radio data sets and we also describe our approach to measuring the radio galaxy shapes, which includes the extraction of a model of the VLA-COSMOS PSF from the simulated data sets. An assessment of the accuracy of the shape parameter recovery from the radio simulations is provided in Section 4. In Section 5, we present the shape measurements from the real VLA-COSMOS data. We then investigate the correlation between the radio-derived and optical-derived position angles of galaxies within the COSMOS field in Section 6. Finally, in Section 7 we summarize our conclusions.

2 DATA

The COSMOS field is a 2 deg$^2$ patch of sky which has already been subject to extensive multi-wavelength analysis, with data available from a large number of telescopes including the Hubble Space Telescope (HST, optical), VLA (radio), as well as the Spitzer (infrared), GALEX (UV) and XMM–Newton (X-ray) satellites. In this study, we focus on the radio and optical observations, taken with the VLA at L band (1.4 GHz) in A- and C-array configuration, and with the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) instrument on board the HST, respectively.

2.1 VLA radio observations

The VLA L-band observations consist of a combination of A- and C-array observations sub-divided into two intermediate frequency
(IF) chunks which are centred at 1.3649 and 1.4351 GHz, with each of the IFs further divided into six channels each averaging over a 3.125 MHz bandwidth. The combination of the A- and C-array observations allows a wider range of spatial scales to be probed. (The accessible spatial scales are dependent upon antenna configuration – A-array corresponds to smaller scales, and C-array to larger scales in this case.) The observation time totals 240 and 19.5 h in A- and C-array configurations, respectively. In total, 23 pointings were required to cover the COSMOS field, providing a separation of 15 arcmin between the individual field centres. The VLA observations and accompanying data reduction and imaging were initially conducted by Schinnerer et al. (2007), where more information on the observation strategy can be found.

We performed an initial examination of the radio image as produced by Schinnerer et al. (2007) in order to assess its suitability for extracting galaxy shapes.\(^2\) The results of this assessment are illustrated in Fig. 1, which shows a histogram of the position angles (\(\alpha\)) of all resolved sources detected in the image. To extract the galaxy shapes, we used the \texttt{IMSHAPE} package (Zuntz et al. 2013), described in further detail in Section 3. Note that in this study we define \(\alpha\) to be the position angle of the galaxy measured north of east (i.e. anticlockwise).

In the absence of lensing and/or intrinsic alignment effects, we expect the galaxies to be randomly orientated and the position angle histogram to be consistent with a uniform distribution. Clearly, a large deviation from the expected random uniform distribution is observed. This is likely to be due to systematic effects introduced during the image creation and/or shape measurement steps. For example, as discussed in Section 1, we expect systematic effects to be introduced at some level due to the use of the \texttt{CLEAN} task of the imaging pipeline – the \texttt{IMAGR}\(^3\) – that was used in the creation of the Schinnerer et al. (2007) image. Noting again that the Schinnerer et al. (2007) study was not focused on shape measurements, and motivated by the results shown in Fig. 1, we have performed our own imaging analysis of the VLA-COSMOS visibility data. While our re-analysis also makes use of the \texttt{CLEAN} algorithm, implementing the data reduction and imaging ourselves enables us to accurately quantify the shape measurement bias due to the imaging pipeline through simulations.

2.1.1 Data reduction

For the purposes of this work, we require a precise quantification of any shape systematics caused by the data reduction and imaging processes. This necessitates the use of the simulations detailed in Section 4 and the construction of a coherent pipeline which may be run identically on both simulations and real data. For the radio data, we begin from partially processed continuous visibility data provided to us by E. Schinnerer and V. Smolic (via private communication with C. Hales). Although these data were partially reduced, we found it necessary to apply further data reduction steps in order to arrive at a fully reduced and calibrated visibility data set.

We have used the Common Astronomy Software Applications (\texttt{CASA}; McMullin et al. 2007) packages, following the calibration steps outlined in Taylor, Carilli & Perley (1999), and implemented in Schinnerer et al. (2007).

We first removed radio frequency interference (RFI) from the data by flagging visibilities which contained RFI at higher levels than the sky signal. After clipping the data to remove all entries with amplitude >0.9 Jy, we further visually inspected the data to remove structures corresponding to RFI. The amount of data removed was 9.9 per cent of the initial data. The remaining \((u, v, w)\) locations are then used throughout the rest of our analysis, including for the simulations.

Calibration errors in the visibilities were accounted for by intercalated observations of calibration sources with known fluxes and morphologies, with the calibration solutions interpolated on to the observations of the target field. Three calibration sources were observed: primary flux calibration source 0521+166; primary phase calibrator 1024-008; and, as a secondary calibrator in both flux and phase, 0925+003.

We proceeded through a series of reduction steps from a standard radio astronomy data reduction cookbook as described in, for example, Fomalont & Perley (1999):

(i) delay (phase) calibration,
(ii) initial bandpass calibration,
(iii) gain calibration of calibration sources,
(iv) flux derivation for calibration sources,
(v) bandpass calibration with spectral indices,
(vi) update amplitude and phase calibration solutions,
(vii) apply calibration solutions to target fields.

The result of these steps was initially calibrated visibility data, ready for image-plane calibration and final imaging, as described in the next section.

2.1.2 Imaging

Provided with the calibrated visibilities for all 23 VLA pointings, we developed an imaging pipeline implemented as a series of \texttt{CASA} tasks. Each of the 23 pointings was imaged separately using the \texttt{CLEAN} task, which deconvolves the complex radio interferometer beam following the Högborn-\texttt{CLEAN} algorithm introduced in Section 1, and described further in Högborn (1974).

Residual sidelobe noise from one bright source (RA 10:02:51.242, Dec. +2:42:48.70) was removed from multiple

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\(^2\) We performed this assessment on the publicly available image produced by Schinnerer et al. (2007), which we downloaded from http://www.mpia.de/COSMOS/.

\(^3\) Wide field imaging algorithm via the Högbom-\texttt{CLEAN} method.

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**Figure 1.** A histogram of the position angles of all resolved sources detected in the VLA-COSMOS radio image of Schinnerer et al. (2007). The galaxy position angles (\(\alpha\)) were measured using the \texttt{IMSHAPE} shape measurement software. The measured distribution is clearly inconsistent with the expected random uniform distribution.
The image produced using natural weighting has a beam central lobe size with a full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of 1.5 arcsec × 1.4 arcsec, at an orientation of 70°, while the image obtained using uniform weighting has a beam central lobe size with FWHM 1.45 arcsec × 1.3 arcsec at an orientation of −20°. The position angles here are defined in an anticlockwise sense, north of east. One could, in principle, use these recovered beam parametrizations as an approximation to the observational PSF during galaxy shape estimation. However, as shown in Section 3.1, this can be improved upon by directly measuring the PSF from images reconstructed from simulations that include injected unresolved sources (point sources) placed across the field. The rms noise level in our final mosaicked image was 33.59 and 28.52 μJy beam⁻¹ in the central 1 × 1 deg² region of the field for the natural (uniform) weighting scheme. Although this is ~3 times the noise level achieved in the Schinnerer et al. (2007) study, we find only a minor drop in resolved source counts (~6 per cent) while, as we demonstrate in Section 4, we find that our image is more robust in terms of shape systematics and features. Implementing our own data reduction and imaging pipeline also allows us to accurately model any analysis-induced systematic effects through simulations.

2.2 HST-ACS survey data

For our optical shape measurements, we use the observations collected with the ACS instrument on board the HST, as described in Koekemoer et al. (2007). These observations were conducted over a total of 583 HST orbits, covering a field that is 1.64 deg² in area.

The observations were collected using the F814W filter and reach a limiting magnitude of $I_{AB} = 27.2$ mag at 10σ, and the angular resolution is 0.05 arcsec (McCracken et al. 2010). The science data used in this study were produced by Koekemoer et al. (2007) and consist of 575 pointings across the entire mosaic. Additionally, for each pointing, the raw exposures were combined using the MultiDrizzle pipeline (Koekemoer et al. 2003) to improve the pixel scale to 0.03 arcsec, which we use in our analysis. The output MultiDrizzled image cut-outs are available at http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/Missions/cosmos.html.

3 SHAPE MEASUREMENTS

3.1 Modelling the effective radio PSF using simulations

To date, many shape measurement techniques have been developed and optimized for weak lensing surveys, predominantly at optical wavelengths. A key systematic effect to account for in these techniques is the correct deconvolution of the PSF of the observations, and it is equally important to account for such effects in radio observations. As discussed in Section 1, the PSF applied to the sky (the ‘dirty beam’) by a radio interferometer is precisely known and highly deterministic (and mostly unaffected by stochastic variation in the atmosphere). However, this is only the correct PSF for the dirty map and has significant sidelobes across the entire sky, meaning almost all sources are blended with one another. Deconvolving this PSF correctly is a challenging task. The clean algorithm is one approach to performing the deconvolution. However, as discussed in Section 1, clean is highly interactive and non-linear, meaning that by the time a clean image has been produced, the effective PSF in the image is some unknown function, usually modelled as a Gaussian fit to the central lobe of the dirty beam (and known as the ‘clean beam’).
For source morphology, this leads to unmodelled shape distortions due to the PSF which are not captured by the clean beam. To account for this additional distortion, we use simulations of the VLA-COSMOS data set to estimate an effective PSF model in the image plane. We additionally use these simulations to probe for shape systematic effects induced by the imaging pipeline.

The input sky image used for the simulation was created with the GalSim (modular galaxy image simulation) toolkit (Rowe et al. 2015). Our simulations include the positions and morphologies of all sources identified in the source catalogue constructed by Schinnerer et al. (2007). We note that it is primarily the distribution of source positions, fluxes and sizes which determines the characteristics of the un-clean-ed flux contributing to the residual distortions in the effective PSF in the image. By using the Schinnerer et al. (2007) catalogue as input to our simulations, we ensure that the position, flux and size distributions of sources in our simulations are approximately the same as the true distributions in the COSMOS field. The catalogue of Schinnerer et al. (2007) was constructed using the AIPS tasks 'SAD', 4 'MAXFIT' 5 and 'IMFIT' 6 to determine the source position, flux density and morphologies.

We generate the resolved sources in our simulations assuming elliptical Gaussian morphologies, and using the best-fitting parameters as determined by Schinnerer et al. (2007). For all sources that were classified as unresolved by Schinnerer et al. (2007), we inject a single pixel source (delta function) with the appropriate flux and position into the simulation. The simulations are created on a real-space grid with a pixel scale of 0.2 arcsec pixel\(^{-1}\), which is higher resolution than that of the final radio image which is gridded to 0.35 arcsec pixel\(^{-1}\). For each of the 23 COSMOS field pointings, we project this simulation on to the visibilities corresponding to the true Fourier-plane sampling of the original VLA data set. Finally, random noise (with rms equal to that measured from the real visibility data) is added to the simulated visibilities.

The simulated visibility data sets thus contain the same dirty beam, the same level of random noise and approximately the same source distribution as was found in the original data set. Additionally, the resolved source morphologies are exactly known and can serve as a test of the imaging pipeline. The simulated data sets were then processed using the exact same imaging pipeline as described in Section 2.1.2, using the CASA task CLEAN. The output of our simulation pipeline is thus a reconstructed CLEAN image which should fully capture any systematic effects introduced by the radio imaging process.

By examining the observed shapes of those objects that were injected as point sources, we were then able to estimate the effective PSF across the image. In order to capture any spatial variation in the PSF, the field was split into a 4 × 4 grid and a weighted mean of the measured shapes corresponding to the injected point sources was calculated in each of the 4 × 4 grid cells. We used the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) as the weight for each source,

\[
\text{PSF}_{\text{total}} = \frac{1}{\sum_i \omega_i} \sum_i \omega_i I_i, \tag{1}
\]

where \(\omega_i = (S/N)_i\). We found that the resulting weighted mean beam shapes in each grid cell were well modelled using 2D Gaussian ellipses though the PSF shape did vary somewhat across the field.

4 'SAD' (Search and Destroy) is a source extraction program within AIPS.
5 'MAXFIT' is a coordinates and value extremum finder algorithm within AIPS, useful for finding the centre position of sources.
6 'IMFIT' is a Gaussian fitting algorithm within AIPS.

Note that we extracted estimates of the PSF from the simulations for the natural and uniform weighting schemes separately. Cut-outs of the final PSF model images were produced with a 32 × 32 stamp size (equivalent to a 11.2 × 11.2 arcsec, and were later upsampled \(^7\) to 170 × 170 cut-outs. These PSF cut-outs were subsequently used in the shape analysis of both the resolved simulated sources and of the resolved real sources.

Fig. 3 displays the weighted mean beam shapes as measured from our simulations for the case of natural weighting (a similar equivalent can be made for the uniform weighting scheme). The best-fitting parameters of the 2D elliptical Gaussian fits are provided in Table 1 for both weighting schemes. Since the effective beam size measured shows some dependency on grid position, this will be an important feature to include in our shape analysis of the real data.

\(^7\) The original cut-outs were upsampled from the original sidelength of \(s = 32\) pixels to an upsampled sidelength \(S = 170\) pixels, using a padding coefficient of \(p = 2\) and an upsampling coefficient of \(u = 3\), following the relation \(S = (s + p) \times u\).
3.2 Estimation of radio shapes

Having estimated the effective PSF across the image, we are now in a position to measure the shapes of those sources that are resolved by the radio observations. Here we outline our general approach to extracting source shapes. We apply this approach to the resolved sources in our simulations and to the resolved sources in the real data, in Sections 4 and 5, respectively. When fitting for shapes, we take the source positions from Schinnerer et al. (2007) who performed their source finding with the AIPS task SAD. We then classify each source as resolved/unresolved according to an elliptical Gaussian fitting procedure. We use the CASA task IMFIT (which incorporates the deconvolution of the CLEAN beam) to fit elliptical Gaussian models to each source. We classify as resolved those sources with a major and minor axis greater than ~1.2 times the effective PSF size. For the natural weighted image, we select sources according to

\[
a > 1.8 \text{ arcsec} \\
b > 1.7 \text{ arcsec}
\]

S/N > 5,

whereas for the uniform weighted image

\[
a > 1.75 \text{ arcsec} \\
b > 1.6 \text{ arcsec}
\]

S/N > 5,

where \(a\) and \(b\) are the best-fitting semi-major and semi-minor axes, respectively. An S/N cut of >5 was applied, as was previously in Schinnerer et al. (2007). Since we are only concerned in position angles for this study, we deem this relatively low S/N cut as sufficient to maximize source counts, although it should be noted that typical weak lensing studies would require a much larger cut and therefore reducing the sample size. After applying these cuts, we are left with 931 and 762 remaining sources in the natural and uniform weighted images, respectively.

3.2.1 Shape estimator

In this work, we make use of developments in optical shape measurement techniques. In particular, we have chosen to use the IM3SHAPE code to extract galaxy shapes, which we apply directly to our radio image. IM3SHAPE (Zuntz et al. 2013) is a maximum likelihood model-fitting algorithm for estimating galaxy ellipticities. The performance of IM3SHAPE was demonstrated, for example, during the GREAT10 optical weak lensing challenge (Kitching et al. 2012), where it achieved relatively accurate and unbiased shape measurements (Kacprzak et al. 2012).

We parametrize individual galaxy shapes in terms of a two-component ellipticity, \(e = (e_1, e_2)\). Here \(e_1\) describes elongations parallel and perpendicular to an arbitrarily chosen reference axis and \(e_2\) describes elongations along the directions rotated \(\pm 45^\circ\) from the reference axis. This ellipticity can also be expressed in terms of a semi-major (\(a\)) and semi-minor (\(b\)) axis, and a position angle (\(\alpha\)). The ellipticity modulus \(e = |e|\) is given by

\[
e = \frac{a^2 - b^2}{a^2 + b^2} = \sqrt{e_1^2 + e_2^2},
\]

where \(e_1\) and \(e_2\) are the vector elements of \(e\),

\[
e_i = \begin{pmatrix} |e| \cos(2\alpha) \\ |e| \sin(2\alpha) \end{pmatrix},
\]

and where \(\alpha\) is the position angle,

\[
\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{e_2}{e_1} \right).
\]

In our shape measurement analysis, we used IM3SHAPE to fit a sum of two Sérsic profiles, specifically a ‘bulge plus disc’ model. We emphasize that the IM3SHAPE fitting procedure fully accounts for the PSF (which the user must supply) by including it in the forward model. A Sérsic profile is a surface brightness distribution model described by

\[
I(r) = I(0) \exp \left[ -\left( \frac{r}{r_s} \right)^{1/n} \right],
\]
were obtained from the covariance matrix of 
and \( \alpha \) (7) estimates (as a function of the \( \alpha \) IM 2 \( \chi \) 6 2014 with galaxy positions [from the Schin-
nerer et al. (2007) source catalogue] and PSF models at each of those positions (approximated by the 16 PSF models derived from simulations, see Section 3.1). \( \text{IM}\text{SHAPE} \) performs a fit for source parameters describing the position and shape of the galaxy in terms of the two-component Sersic bulge + disc model. Although it in-
creases the computational time from the default \( \text{IM}\text{SHAPE} \) settings, we choose to keep both the disc and bulge components of the galaxy models’ Sersic index free. This is motivated in part since our sam-
ples is sufficiently small that this addition of computation time is not problematic. Moreover, the standard Sersic profile, which is well 
tested in comparison to real optical galaxies, lacks the same test in comparison to galaxies as observed in the radio. By leaving the two indices free, we allow for a larger range of models. This shape mea-
surement procedure is performed for the entire galaxy population, and for the two weighting schemes that we have implemented.

4 QUALITY OF SHAPE MEASUREMENTS FROM SIMULATIONS

In this section, we use the simulations described in Section 3.1 to quantify how well the galaxy shape measurement pipeline of Section 3.2 can recover the input ellipticities.

4.1 Estimation of measurement bias

4.1.1 Ellipticity measurement bias

To process our simulations, we mirror the analysis performed on the real VLA-COSMOS data, producing a recovered image from the
simulated visibilities using the \text{CLEAN} algorithm as described in Section 2.1.2, and measuring the shapes of the galaxies from the
recovered image using \text{IMSHAPE}.

We quantify the success of the shape recovery from the simulations in terms of a linear bias model. This is parametrized for each ellipticity component separately as
\[
e^{\text{obs}} = e^{\text{true}} + m + c,
\]
where \( m \) is a multiplicative, and \( c \) an additive, bias.

Fig. 4 shows the recovery of the input \( e_1 \) and \( e_2 \) values for both weighting choices in the imaging algorithm, with the best-fitting multiplicative and additive bias parameters listed in Table 2. For the natural weighting scheme, we find a relatively small additive bias and the multiplicative bias appears highly similar between the two ellipticity components. However, this is not true for the uniform weighting scheme, which displays a more significant additive systematic effect and a clear discrepancy in the multiplicative bias components.

4.1.2 Position angle measurement bias

In addition to measuring the accuracy of the ellipticity reconstruction, we have also assessed the accuracy with which the galaxy position angles can be reconstructed. The position angle of a galaxy

\[
\alpha^{\text{obs}} = \frac{1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{e^{\text{true}}}{e^{\text{true}}} \right).
\]

From equation (6), it is clear that, for a small additive ellipticity bias and highly similar multiplicative ellipticity biases, position angle estimates based on equation (7) should be relatively unbiased. We therefore expect to recover relatively unbiased position angle estimates from our naturally weighted images for which we found small additive ellipticity biases and highly similar multiplicative biases.

Fig. 5 shows the position angles \( \alpha^{\text{obs}} \), recovered from the source ellipticities measured in our simulations. In addition to the ‘raw’ po-
nosition angles \( \alpha^{\text{raw}} \), we have also estimated the position angles from ellipticity measurements which have already been debiased using the best-fitting linear ellipticity bias model parameters. We label these corrected position angle measurements \( \alpha^{\text{corr}} \). We fit a linear bias model to both the \( \alpha^{\text{raw}} \) and \( \alpha^{\text{corr}} \) estimates (as a function of the true position angles \( \alpha^{\text{true}} \)). Fig. 5 shows that the extracted position angles using the natural weighting scheme are essentially unbiased, both before and after correction for the measured ellipticity bias, although they are still a noisy estimate. The same is not true for the uniform weighting scheme where a residual multiplicative bias remains. Based on these results, we choose the natural weighting scheme for the remainder of this work. Note that although we have used a simple linear model for the bias in \( \alpha \), this may not neces-
sarily be a good model in the limit of very precise measurements. However, it appears to provide a good approximation given the level of measurement noise present here. The best-fitting parameters for this linear model are listed in Table 2. The associated uncertainties from values in Table 2 were obtained from the covariance matrix of the linear model fit.

In Appendix A, we investigate how the position angle recovery obtained may relate to requirements on shear additive and mul-
tiplicative systematics in current and future optical weak lensing surveys. Fig. 6 demonstrates the shear recovery achievable using a position-angle-only shear estimators (as detailed in Whittaker, Brown & Battye 2014). For comparison, we have overplotted with the white error bar the approximate results obtained from simulations in this study; additionally we show weak lensing requirements with optical studies with the black contours. We can see here that although our position angle estimates are relatively unbiased within measurement errors, the resultant uncertainty on the position angle bias parameters from this study is large compared to current capabilities. For more information on Fig. 6, see Appendix A.

5 RADIO SHAPE MEASUREMENTS WITH DATA

For the radio images we have constructed from the real data (with the pipeline described in Section 2.1.2), we measure source elliptic-
ities with \text{IMSHAPE}, with the application of simulated effective PSF models approximated over the field (see Section 3.1). We convert these ellipticity measurements to position angle estimates, \( \alpha \), using equation (4) to create the full galaxy morphology catalogue. Note that the \( e_i \) components are corrected for multiplicative and additive bias, as estimated from the corresponding simulations, following

\( \text{COSMOS radio–optical galaxy shapes} \)

\( \text{3345} \)

\( \text{MNRAS} \text{463}, \text{3339–3353} (2016) \)
Figure 4. Shape parameter recovery from simulations. The figures show the residuals in the ellipticity components as measured from the simulated radio data sets. Each point represents the measurements for a single galaxy. Panels (a) and (c) show the recovery of $e_1$ and $e_2$ from images produced using natural weighting. Panels (b) and (d) show the same for images produced using uniform weighting. In each panel, a regression line is overplotted using the best-fitting parameters reported in Table 2.

equation (6). However, this has little effect on the resulting $\alpha$ values for the image created with natural weighting (see discussion in Section 4).

As a measure of the improvement in our VLA-COSMOS imaging (from the point of view of shape estimation) over the original analysis of Schinnerer et al. (2007), in Fig. 7 we compare histograms of the measured position angles from the two analyses. The figure reveals a large discrepancy in the distributions measured from the two images, with the position angles extracted from our new image being distributed much closer to the uniform distribution expected for such a large sample. The large systematic correlations in position angles present in the original image would clearly pose a problem for any subsequent analyses which rely on accurate measurements of galaxy shapes.

We compare the distribution of the galaxy ellipticity moduli, $|e|$, measured from our new VLA-COSMOS image, to a model distribution in Fig. 9. The model we compare to is a reasonable approximation of a typical optical shape distribution, and is taken from the GRavitational IEnsing Accuracy Testing 2008 (GREAT08) analysis (Bridle et al. 2010). The functional form is given by

\[
P(|e|) = |e| \left[ \cos \left( \frac{\pi |e|}{2} \right) \right]^2 \exp \left[ -\left( \frac{2|e|}{B} \right)^C \right],
\]

where parameters $B = 0.19$ and $C = 0.58$ are appropriate for disc-dominated galaxies. We find that the $|e|$ distribution measured from the radio data is slightly broader than that expected for an optical sample. This may be a genuine feature of the shape population or a possible effect in the radio imaging that has not been accounted for.

We measure an ellipticity dispersion of $\sigma_e = 0.29$ (per ellipticity component) and best-fitting model parameter values of $B = 0.113 \pm 0.041$ and $C = 0.303 \pm 0.058$ in equation (8). In Fig. 9, we also
6 MULTI-WAVEBAND SHAPE COMPARISON

Weak lensing at radio wavelengths can provide an important complementary study to equivalent studies at optical wavelengths. An important aspect of such complementarity is how radio and optical galaxy shapes intrinsically relate to each other. This has important implications for how a radio weak lensing survey may be used in synergy with overlapping optical observations. For example, if radio and optical shapes are typically intrinsically aligned, then the radio provides an alternative measure, with different systematics, but probing the same weak lensing sample as the optical observations. On the other hand, if radio and optical shapes are intrinsically uncorrelated, then the radio effectively probes a different sample of galaxies, at the same redshifts as the optical catalogue, but again with different systematics. In Fig. 5, we demonstrated that our position angle estimator, though noisy, provided unbiased measurements of the galaxy position angles from the simulated radio data sets. We therefore conduct our galaxy shape comparative study in the COSMOS field using galaxy position angle measurements.

Table 2. Best-fitting bias parameters for ellipticity components ($e_1$ and $e_2$), and for both the raw and corrected position angle components ($\alpha_{\text{raw}}$ and $\alpha_{\text{corr}}$; see the text in Section 4.1) as measured from simulations. The measured ellipticity and position angle components are fitted to a linear bias model with multiplicative ($m$) and additive ($c$) bias parameters. $\alpha_{\text{raw}}$ refers to position angles estimated from the measured ellipticities using equation (7). $\alpha_{\text{corr}}$ refers to position angles estimated from ellipticities which have already been corrected for the measured $e_i$ biases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>$m$</th>
<th>$c$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e_1$</td>
<td>$0.207 \pm 0.042$</td>
<td>$-0.001 \pm 0.011$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e_2$</td>
<td>$0.208 \pm 0.035$</td>
<td>$-0.012 \pm 0.008$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha_{\text{raw}}$</td>
<td>$-0.0022 \pm 0.0116$</td>
<td>$-0.0099 \pm 0.0080$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha_{\text{corr}}$</td>
<td>$0.0115 \pm 0.0116$</td>
<td>$-0.0118 \pm 0.0079$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniform</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e_1$</td>
<td>$0.125 \pm 0.039$</td>
<td>$0.181 \pm 0.010$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$e_2$</td>
<td>$0.373 \pm 0.032$</td>
<td>$-0.021 \pm 0.008$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha_{\text{raw}}$</td>
<td>$-0.0870 \pm 0.0081$</td>
<td>$-0.0058 \pm 0.0056$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\alpha_{\text{corr}}$</td>
<td>$0.0247 \pm 0.0096$</td>
<td>$0.0120 \pm 0.0066$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

show the distribution recovered from our analysis of the HST optical data (see the next section), finding much better agreement with the model curve assuming the fiducial parameters (as expected). For the optical data, we find best-fitting model parameter values of $B = 4.65 \pm 0.288 \times 10^{-3}$ and $C = 0.218 \pm 0.002$.
with $S/N > 20$ are considered in this sample. This provides us with a sample that is mostly composed of stars and point-like objects, and serves as a rough basis to form PSFEX models. The reliability of \texttt{CLASS\_STAR} is discussed in Holwerda (2005).

(iii) We conduct a second iteration of star classification on the data. Once again, we use \texttt{SExtractor} to produce a source catalogue, where the software is now provided with the PSF models produced in step (ii) with \texttt{PSFEX}. For this iteration, the software incorporates the PSF model into the extracted parameters and we are able to produce a more reliable star/galaxy classification. We adapt the pseudo-code detailed in Jarvis et al. (2016) for our own star source selection which we implement as follows:

\begin{align*}
\text{BRIGHT\_TEST} & = \text{CLASS\_STAR} > 0.6 \\
& \quad \text{AND MAG\_AUTO} < 25.0
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{LOCUS\_TEST} & = \text{SPREAD\_MODEL} \\
& \quad + \text{SPREADERR\_MODEL} < 0.003
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{FAINT\_PSF\_TEST} & = \text{MAG\_PSF} > 40.0 \\
& \quad \text{AND MAG\_AUTO} < 26.0 \\
& \quad \text{AND MAG\_PSF} < 90.0
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{GALAXIES} & = \text{NOT BRIGHT\_TEST} \\
& \quad \text{AND NOT LOCUS\_TEST} \\
& \quad \text{AND NOT FAINT\_PSF\_TEST}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{STARS} & = \text{[LOCUS\_TEST OR BRIGHT\_TEST]} \\
& \quad \text{AND NOT FAINT\_PSF\_TEST}.
\end{align*}

Sources are only included in our star sample if they are identified by the \text{BRIGHT\_TEST} or \text{LOCUS\_TEST} and if they are not removed as junk in the \text{FAINT\_PSF\_TEST}. Here the \text{BRIGHT\_TEST} procedure simply relies on \text{SExtractor}'s own source classification system, this time excluding bright sources (magnitude $> 25$) from the sample. The \text{LOCUS\_TEST} procedure identifies the source locations relative to the stellar locus via the \text{SPREAD\_MODEL} parameter. This is an additional star/galaxy classifier based on the linear discriminant between the best-fitting PSF model [from step (ii)] and a model made from the same PSF convolved with a circular exponential disc model (see Desai et al. 2012, for a more detailed discussion on the \text{SPREAD\_MODEL} classifier). Again, we only include stars with $S/N > 20$ in our final stellar sample.

(iv) Finally, we again generate PSF models, this time from the improved stellar sample from step (iii) and using \text{PSFEX}. This provides a PSF model as a function of position on the sky for each of the 575 pointings across the entire mosaic, which we will use for shape analysis.

These steps are depicted as a flowchart in Fig. 8.
COSMOS radio–optical galaxy shapes

Table 3. Comparison of the measured ellipticity dispersion and ellipticity distribution fit parameters for the radio and optical data sets. Also listed are the parameters adopted for the representative model used in the GREAT08 analysis of Bridle et al. (2010).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study</th>
<th>$\sigma_e$</th>
<th>$B$</th>
<th>$C$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STEP</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optical</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>$4.65 \pm 0.288 \times 10^{-5}$</td>
<td>$0.218 \pm 0.002$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>$0.137 \pm 0.024$</td>
<td>$0.318 \pm 0.032$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With possession of shape measurements in both the optical and radio observations, we perform a cross-wavelength comparison of the source position angles. Motivated by the simulation results of Section 4, we perform the comparison with the position angle estimates, also noting the existence of shear estimators which make use of position angles (Whittaker et al. 2014). We make individual cut-out images comparing the source shapes in radio and optical available at https://github.com/bentunbridge/cosmos-radio-optical – we show a selection of these in Fig. 10.

To aid a statistical comparison, we also compute the associated uncertainties in the position angle measurements, $\sigma_{\alpha}$, for both the radio and optical shape catalogues. For the radio catalogue, the scatter in the position angles estimated from the VLA-COSMOS simulations (see Section 4) is used to estimate $\sigma_{\alpha}$ as a function of S/N. For the optical measurements, we take advantage of previous work to estimate the uncertainty in an image-plane ellipticity measurement for a source with a given S/N in the case of uncorrelated pixel noise. The statistical uncertainties were derived analytically by Kacprzak et al. (2012) and Refregier et al. (2012) who also demonstrated the validity of these expressions using simplified galaxy models including multiplicative and additive noise with the IM3SHAPE code. For ellipticity components, this uncertainty estimate is given by

$$\sigma_{\alpha} = \frac{(1 - e^2)}{2 S/N},$$

where $S/N$ is the ideal estimate of the signal-to-noise of the galaxy. Note that for nearly circular sources, i.e. small $e$ value, the statistical error associated with shape measurements saturates. Hence, $\sigma_{\alpha}$ is derived through propagation from equation (4).

Fig. 11 shows a comparison of the average uncertainty in the position angle ($\sigma_{\alpha}$) as a function of S/N for both the radio and optical bands, where for the radio we have included the uncertainties for the naturally imaged weighting scheme, as used in this study. As can be seen, at low S/N the radio position angles are estimated with a similar precision as is achieved in the optical. However, the improvement seen in the $\alpha$ recovery at increased S/N levels in the optical is not mirrored to the same extent in the radio data.

Radio and optical sources are cross-matched to within a positional tolerance of 1.0 arcsec, and the position angles of the matched sample are cross-correlated. Within the uncertainties, we do not make a statistically significant detection of correlation across the sample as a whole. We measure the Pearson’s correlation coefficient in $\alpha$ and find $R_{\alpha} = 0.024$ and $R_{\alpha} = 0.028$ for the images created using the natural weighting, respectively. These low values of $R_{\alpha}$ indicate that the radio and optical position angles do not show a statistically significant correlation.
Figure 10. Comparison between the radio and optical images for four sources in the catalogue. In each case, an 11.2 arcsec × 11.2 arcsec cut-out is shown for the optical (left-hand panels) and radio (right-hand panels) images of the matched source. Note the much poorer resolution of the radio images.

Figure 11. Average uncertainty in position angle measurements for both the radio and optical samples as a function of S/N. Radio uncertainties for the natural weighting scheme are derived from simulations and shown by the dashed line for our sample of radio galaxies. The hatched area shows this to a confidence level of 68 per cent. The optical uncertainties are calculated analytically following Refregier et al. (2012).

Figure 12. Comparison of the distribution of Pearson’s correlation coefficients ($R_\alpha$) measured from simulations of matched catalogues for varying levels of intrinsic (astrophysical) scatter in the radio–optical position angle correlation as detailed by the colour scale ($\sigma_\alpha^{\text{scatter}}/\pi$). The vertical dashed line shows the corresponding measurement from the data ($\approx 0.24$). For comparison, we highlight the most consistent histogram, shown by the bold purple histogram.
Limits on the intrinsic (astrophysical) scatter between the position angles of the same galaxies in the radio and optical bands. The curves show $P(\sigma^{\text{scatter}}_\alpha | R_\alpha)$ – the probability distribution of $\sigma^{\text{scatter}}_\alpha$ given the measured value of $R_\alpha$. The results obtained using the natural weighted radio image are shown as the blue curve.

The results are further summarized in Fig. 13 where we plot $P(\sigma^{\text{scatter}}_\alpha | R_\alpha)$: the probability distribution of $\sigma^{\text{scatter}}_\alpha$ given the value of $R_\alpha$ measured from the data. The measured $R_\alpha$ is shown to be most consistent with a $\sigma^{\text{scatter}}_\alpha$ value of 0.24 rad (or 14\textdegree) and the distribution corresponds to a 95 per cent lower limit of 0.212 rad (or 38\textdegree) on $\sigma^{\text{scatter}}_\alpha$.

6.3 Relation to earlier results

Although the shapes of galaxies as measured in the optical and radio need not necessarily be aligned, previous studies have suggested such an alignment, at least for certain galaxy types. In particular, Battye & Browne (2009) were able to show a strong alignment of the radio and optical images of galaxies classified as late-type and a weaker anti-alignment correlation in position angle for sources classified as early-type galaxies. A physical motivation for this pattern can be made from the source of radio emission in each case. For late-type galaxies, radio emission is related to areas of recent star formation and so is expected to trace the similarly generated optical emission. In early-type galaxies, the radio emission is driven by accretion on to a central black hole, producing bright jets anti-aligned with the galaxy disc, causing radio emission to be aligned with the optical minor axis. Battye & Browne (2009) made use of SDSS and FIRST for the optical and radio observations, respectively. The key difference with the work presented here is the comparatively large volumes probed by SDSS and FIRST, compared to COSMOS. Between SDSS and FIRST, 239 993 matches are made between the optical and radio observations (although this is before the application of any selection cuts), far surpassing the 761 sources used in this study.

In order to make a comparison between the studies, we implemented similar selection cuts to those used by Battye & Browne (2009). Their cuts included only considering bright sources via a magnitude cut-off $M > 18$, and a limitation on the ellipticity, implemented as $b/a < 0.8$ (where $a$ and $b$ are the semi-major and semi-minor axis, respectively), for both the optical (SDSS) and radio (FIRST) sample. Finally, a cut on the minimum radio source size was applied ($a > 2$ arcsec) resulting in a sample of 14 302 galaxies. We modify these cuts due to the differences in the observation properties. In particular, we choose not to implement a magnitude cut since we have already applied S/N cuts ($S/N > 10$ and $S/N > 5$ for the optical and radio samples, respectively). We impose the same cuts on ellipticity, only including sources with $b/a < 0.8$ in both the optical (HST-ACS) and radio (VLA) samples. We impose a less stringent size cut ($a > 1$ arcsec) compared to that used in Battye & Browne (2009) due to the increased resolution of the COSMOS data.

After implemented these cuts, only 327 sources remain. Of these 327, we can further split the sample into galaxy morphology types by matching to a previous COSMOS morphology catalogue compiled by Scarlata et al. (2007). The results are summarized in Table 4. Correlating the radio and optical shapes within these classification subsets, we again find no meaningful correlation between the radio and optical shapes. We note however that the number of galaxies in our sub-samples is small. We further note that the main sample of galaxies used in this study (being composed mainly of faint, high-redshift star-forming galaxies) will be a much closer match to a typical weak lensing galaxy sample, compared to the sample identified in Battye & Browne (2009). An apparent lack of correlation between optical and radio galaxy shapes has been commented on before by Patel et al. (2010). This study attempted to measure a weak lensing signal in the radio with eMERLIN and VLA observations, while simultaneously conducting a cross-correlation study of galaxy shapes. Subsequently, they found no correlation between the optical and radio shapes, which is consistent with our findings here.

### Table 4. Sub-samples of the COSMOS radio–optical matched catalogue, after undergoing further selection cuts, and sub-divided according to galaxy type. From the full sample of radio galaxies detected in our VLA-COSMOS image, we find that 761 galaxies are successfully matched to an optical source. However, only 327 remain after applying the cuts described in Section 6.3.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Fraction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No classification</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have performed a detailed comparison analysis of the shapes of galaxies in the COSMOS field, as measured in the optical using HST, and as measured in the radio, using the VLA. Our study has been motivated by the scientific potential of cross-correlation cosmic shear analyses of future overlapping optical and radio surveys (Brown et al. 2015; Bonaldi et al. 2016; Camera et al. 2016; Harrison et al. 2016). In order to fully exploit such future cross-correlations, one needs to understand in detail the correlations in intrinsic optical and radio shapes, which is the issue that we have attempted to address in this study.

In the course of our analysis, we have highlighted some of the challenges involved in extracting shapes from radio observations. For this analysis, we have chosen to measure galaxy shapes from

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\(^9\) The FIRST data used in Battye & Browne (2009) have a resolution of 5 arcsec, compared to ~1.5 arcsec for the VLA-COSMOS data.
images reconstructed from the VLA radio data. In particular, we have used simulations, composed of a known distribution of galaxy shapes combined with a realistic radio interferometer observation and imaging pipeline, to show the effectiveness of position angle (\(\alpha\)) recovery through typical radio data reduction and image creation techniques. We have investigated the use of two variations of the widely used Höggbom-CLEAN image creation algorithm in the radio: natural and uniform visibility weighting. We find that the choice in weighting scheme affects the measured shape parameters greatly. In particular, the choice of a uniform weighting scheme yields largely discrepant values of multiplicative bias in ellipticity components for a given galaxy. We found that this problem was diminished when natural weighting was used, which produced highly similar multiplicative bias on ellipticities, which later cancels when position angles are derived from the measured ellipticities. This allowed us to obtain unbiased estimates of the position angles, which were important for this study.

Quantifying the bias in position angle (\(\alpha\)) achieved in this study with a linear bias model, a link to weak lensing requirements for future surveys was established via the position-angle-only shear estimators of Whittaker et al. (2014). A key result is shown in Fig. 6 which allows one to translate from the usually quoted requirements on shear bias to requirements on position angle bias. We find that although our position angle recovery appears relatively unbiased given our measurement errors, the uncertainty on the position angle bias that we are able to achieve using current data is still larger than current weak lensing requirements.

After quantifying the expected uncertainties through simulations, we have applied our shape measurement pipeline to the real COSMOS radio (VLA) observations. We used the resulting radio galaxy shape measurements (and associated uncertainties) to place a lower limit on the astrophysical scatter in source position angles between the continuum radio and optical emission of the sources which are detected in both our VLA data and an optical HST study of the same field. We find this lower limit to be \(\sigma_\alpha \geq 0.212 \pi (\text{or } 38:2)\) at a 95 per cent confidence level. This appears consistent with results from previous studies (Patel et al. 2010) considering the low absolute number of sources in our sample.

Understanding the radio–optical shape correlations is important as it will affect the noise term on the cosmological power spectra measured by radio–optical cross-correlation weak lensing studies (Camera et al. 2016; Harrison et al. 2016). High levels of correlation will increase the shot noise on shear measurement, but allow for cross-waveband calibration against some systematics, whilst low levels of correlation effectively increase the source number density being used to probe the cosmic shear field. In the near future deep, high-resolution optical and radio surveys such as SuperCLASS will further constrain this correlation, better informing forecasts and survey design considerations for SKA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Chris Hales, Anita Richards, Neal Jackson, Lee Whittaker and Joe Zuntz for useful discussions. We further thank Chris Hales, Eva Schinnerer and Vernesa Smolcic for providing us with the partially processed VLA data. MLB is an STFC Advanced/Halliday fellow. BT, IH and MLB are supported by an ERC Starting Grant (grant no. 280127).

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10 http://www.e-merlin.ac.uk/legacy/projects/superclass.html
APPENDIX A: POSITION ANGLE TO SHEAR BIAS

In this appendix, we relate our shape recovery in terms of shear. It is important to propagate obtained bias in position angle recovery (see Section 4) to the actual quantity of interest for scientific inference: the measured shear which can be related to the line-of-sight gravitational potential. Requirements on shear measurement additive and multiplicative systematics for these errors to be smaller than statistical uncertainties (calculated according to the prescription derived in Amara & Réfrégier 2008) are given in Table A1.

For shear estimation from ellipticities using the naive estimator,

\[
\hat{\gamma} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} e_i^{\text{obs}}, \tag{A1}
\]

these requirements on shear translate readily to requirements on ellipticity. However, for this study, we are interested in exploiting our relatively unbiased measurements of the position angles \(\alpha\). We therefore need to understand how biases in position angle measurements propagate into biases in the derived shear.

Position-angle-only shear estimators have recently been highlighted in Whittaker et al. (2014) and shown to be competitive with other current weak lensing estimators using the GREAT3 simulations in Whittaker, Brown & Battye (2015b). We follow this work and apply the third-order \(\alpha\)-only shear estimator of Whittaker et al. (2014) to multiple realizations of a sample of galaxies. This shear estimator is given by (Whittaker et al. 2014)

\[
\hat{\gamma} = \sqrt{\frac{32\sigma_{\alpha}^2}{2F_1^2N^2}} \times \cos \left[ \frac{1}{3} \left( \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{4\pi}{27e^{\alpha} F_1^{-1}} - 1 \right) + \pi \right) \right] \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbf{n}(i), \tag{A2}
\]

Table A1. Requirements on the systematic bias on shear components \((\gamma_1, \gamma_2)\), expressed in terms of the multiplicative \((m)\) and additive \((c)\) components of a linear bias model. Requirements are given for completed surveys (‘Stage II’ such as CFHTLens), intermediate-sized ongoing or future surveys (‘Stage III’ such as DES and SKA1) and for high-precision future surveys (‘Stage IV’ such as Euclid and SKA2).

| Survey   | \(|m|\) | \(|c|\) |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Stage II | 0.02   | 0.001  |
| Stage III| 0.004  | 0.0006 |
| Stage IV | 0.001  | 0.0003 |

where the vector \(\mathbf{n}(i)\) is a two-element vector composed of the sine and cosine of 2\(\alpha\) for the \(i\)th galaxy, \(\sigma_{\alpha}\) is the intrinsic dispersion in galaxy ellipticities and \(N\) is the total number of galaxies in the sample. \(F_1(\hat{\gamma})\) is a function given by

\[
F_1(\hat{\gamma}) = e^{2\sigma_{\alpha}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \cos(2\gamma_i) \right]^2 + \left[ \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sin(2\gamma_i) \right]^2, \tag{A3}
\]

where \(\sigma_{\alpha}\) is simply the intrinsic dispersion in galaxy position angle for the considered sample. The third-order approximation (which requires inversion and interpolation of the \(F_1(\hat{\gamma})\) function) is a good approximation to the full estimator of Whittaker et al. (2014) in the regime \(|\gamma| \lesssim 0.2\).

In order to relate the accuracy with which we can recover position angles (as demonstrated in Fig. 5) to the requirements on shear recovery for representative weak lensing experiments (as listed in Table A1), we have applied the third-order position-angle-only shear estimator to a set of simple simulations that include linear shear biases in the simulated position angles.

We simulate position angle measurements with varying levels of intrinsic linear bias in \(\alpha\), in the range of \(-0.2 < m_\alpha < 0.2\) and \(-0.2 < c_\alpha < 0.2\). This was sampled using a gridded mesh of 200 \(\times\) 800 upon the \(m_\alpha\) and \(c_\alpha\) parameter space to select input values, totalling 160 000 realizations. For each realization value, we simulate a shear catalogue of 10 000 galaxy shapes, each with a known gravitational shear component added to the galaxy shapes (where \(\epsilon_{i}^{\text{sky}} = e_{i}^{\text{int}} + \gamma_{i}\)). We then calculate the true position angles of the simulated galaxies \(\alpha_{i}^{\text{sky}}\) using equation (7) and add a position angle measurement bias according to

\[
\alpha_{i}^{\text{obs}} = (m_\alpha + 1)\alpha_{i}^{\text{sky}} + c_\alpha, \tag{A4}
\]

where \(\alpha_{i}^{\text{obs}}\) is now the ‘observed’ galaxy position angle (including both shear and bias effects). We then apply the third-order position-angle-only shear estimator described above to estimate the shear from our simulated position angle measurements. We repeat this process for several input shear values in order to fit a linear bias model for the estimated shear. The resultant shear bias parameters can then be compared to the shear bias requirements of Table A1 in order to place corresponding requirements on the bias in position angle measurements, i.e. on \(m_\alpha\) and \(c_\alpha\). Fig. 6 in Section 4.1.2 shows the bias in the estimated shear that results from the position angle bias for a range of position angle bias parameters. The performance of the position angle recovery from the VLA-COSMOS simulations (see Section 4.1) and the requirements of Table A1 are also indicated in this figure.

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