

## PLANCK CLUSTER PAPER

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### ABSTRACT

We propose to continue our program of optical imaging to unveil all of the most massive clusters in the observable Universe. We start from the all-sky Planck Sunyaev-Zeldovich (SZ) catalogs, which contain several hundred high significance (signal-to-noise ratio,  $\text{SNR} > 5$ ) unconfirmed cluster candidates. Since SZ selection favors high mass clusters and the Planck confirmation process favored low redshift systems, the highest significance unconfirmed candidates are, therefore, likely massive clusters ( $M_{500} > 5 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ ) at relatively high redshift ( $z > 0.5$ ). Our proposed observations, using MOSAIC-3 on Mayall, are designed to confirm the presence of a brightest cluster galaxy (to  $z \sim 1$ ) and red sequence of accompanying cluster members (to  $z \sim 0.7$ ). Preliminary results from our observations over the past two years have validated our approach by the detection of optical clusters in a number of Planck candidates, including the discovery of rich systems at  $z = 0.553$  and  $z = 0.830$  that rival the most massive clusters known. The proposed observations represent the first step required to provide a complete all-sky census throughout the observable Universe of the most massive, high redshift clusters. Their expected high redshift and high mass make the unconfirmed Planck clusters, arguably, the most important available sample for probing deviations from  $\Lambda$ CDM and defining the high-mass end of the cluster mass function.

*Subject headings:*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Massive galaxy clusters at high redshifts are rare beasts that hold important clues to the evolution of structure in the Universe and in principle can help probe (or falsify) structure formation models under the  $\Lambda$ CDM paradigm (e.g., Mortonson et al. 2011; Harrison & Coles 2012; Harrison & Hotchkiss 2012; Waizmann et al. 2012; Zitrin et al. 2009). Galaxy clusters also harbor a significant fraction of the visible baryons in the Universe, in the form of a hot intracluster medium that leaves an imprint on the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) through the Sunyaev Zel'dovich (SZ) Effect (Sunyaev & Zeldovich 1972). The surface brightness of this effect does not depend on redshift, therefore providing uniform samples of massive clusters up to arbitrary distances. This has been borne out by the large area surveys of the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT) and the South Pole Telescope (SPT) that have detected hundreds of massive clusters since 2008 up to redshifts of  $z \sim 1.4$  (see Reichardt et al. 2013 and Hasselfield et al. 2013 for latest results). Now, Planck has released an all-sky SZ sample (PSZ, Planck Collaboration XXIX et al. 2013) that contains 861 confirmed clusters (of which most [683] were known previously) and another 366 unconfirmed cluster candidates. We led the ACT cluster confirmation process using 4-m class telescopes; now we propose to use our well-established expertise to identify Planck clusters. The recent SZ cluster samples have opened a new window into extreme systems, the most massive clusters at high redshift (Foley et al. 2011, Menanteau et al. 2012), prompting studies that match their observed numbers with the abundance predictions of  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology (Hoyle et al. 2011, Mortonson et al. 2011, Waizmann et al. 2012). There are few, if any, clusters at high redshift ( $z > 0.8$ )

and high mass ( $M_{200} > 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ ) in the cosmological simulations (see Tinker et al. 2008), so the halo mass function at high- $z$  and high- $M$  is essentially unconstrained. Thus, with the proposed observations we will determine the abundance of massive clusters at high redshift making a direct observational measurement of the high- $z$ , high- $M$  end of the halo mass function. For example, one of the most impressive results of the ACT SZ survey is our discovery of the high redshift ( $z = 0.87$ ), extreme cluster El Gordo (ACT-CL J0102-4915), the most significant SZ detection of the whole survey (and also of the SPT survey). Our recent HST weak-lensing analysis has provided an independent mass estimation  $M_{200a} = (3.1 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$  (Jee et al. 2013) that confirms our earlier mass estimates for the cluster (Menanteau et al. 2012). Based on its estimated mass alone, El Gordo is a very rare system within the ACT+SPT (2800 sq. deg.) survey area, but is still consistent with the expectations of  $\Lambda$ CDM. We are now at a unique moment in cluster science where we can discover all massive clusters in the observable universe. This census will measure the high-mass, high-redshift cluster mass function, and determine the extent of deviations from the theoretical halo mass function (Tinker et al. 2008, Jenkins et al. 2001).

Throughout this paper, we use a concordance cosmological model ( $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$ ,  $\Omega_m = 0.3$ , and  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ), assume a Chabrier initial mass function (Chabrier 2003), and use AB magnitudes (Oke 1974).

### 2. DESIGN

Among the recently released all-sky PSZ catalog there are 366 unconfirmed SZ detections with  $S/N > 4.5$ . The vast majority of these must lie at high- $z$  because the Planck confirmation process mostly relied on existing catalogs with a preference for low- $z$  clusters. Furthermore, the confirmed sample has a small fraction (3%) of  $z > 0.6$  clusters compared to that expected ( $\sim 20\%$ )

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based on the theoretical halo mass function (Tinker et al. 2008, Jenkins et al. 2001). If other clusters like El Gordo exist, they are hiding as high-significance candidates within the objects in this catalog. The objective of this proposal is to use optical and near-infrared imaging to confirm the SZ detections as real clusters and provide photometric redshifts using the multi-color information. Our strategy is to use SOAR and Mayall imaging as the first and fundamental step to confirm the highest significance detections in the PSZ catalog that are visible across the entire sky (both hemispheres). For semester 2014A alone, this corresponds to a sky area of  $\sim 20,000$  sq. deg., more than 6 times the area of the current combined ACT+SPT surveys. Following closely the procedure we used for ACT follow-up, we prioritize the target selection by SZ signal-to-noise (S/N). For this initial investigation we will target the  $\sim 60$  cluster candidates (visible in 2014A) from the PSZ catalog with  $S/N > 5$ . For this sample the statistical reliability of PSZ cluster candidates is quite high: according to the Planck team  $\sim 90\%$  of candidates at  $S/N > 5$  turn out to be real clusters (see Fig. 2, left panel). Given this purity value, the proposed observations, utilizing telescopes in both hemispheres, will enable the confirmation of  $\approx 5060$  massive clusters at high redshift in semester 2014A alone. We will propose to observe the remaining  $S/N > 5$  PSZ candidates during semester 2014B. Optical imaging will be sufficient to confirm nearly all of the candidates, but for the highest redshift ones, NIR data will be necessary. Again we will follow what worked well for ACT cluster follow-up: those candidates with some evidence for a high- $z$  BCG (note that we can detect these to  $z \sim 1.5$ ) will be targeted with NIR observations to confirm the presence of a BCG and detect the red sequence of cluster members. Observational priority again will be given to higher S/N candidates. Assuming WMAP7 cosmology with the Tinker et al. (2008) halo mass function, there should be only  $\sim 4$  clusters as massive as El Gordo ( $\leq 2 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ ) at  $z > 0.6$  in the full area covered by the Planck PSZ catalog (83.7% of the sky). Although Planck's larger beam size (compared to ACT and SPT) makes it more sensitive to clusters at lower redshifts (due to their larger projected angle on the sky), among the 861 confirmed clusters in the recently released all-sky Planck SZ catalog are the two highest significance high-redshift SZ detections from ACT (as well as several other ACT and SPT clusters). This confirms the ability of Planck to unambiguously detect the most massive clusters at high redshift. In fact Planck reports El Gordo ( $z = 0.87$ ) and ACT-CL J2327.40204 ( $z = 0.701$ ) at S/N values of 8.0 and 6.3, respectively. And as Figure 2 (right panel) shows, these are the two most massive Planck clusters in the confirmed sample at high redshift. For the new clusters we confirm, our experimental design allows us to estimate photometric redshifts, which will be sufficiently

accurate for a meaningful estimate of the clusters mass from the Planck SZ signal.

## 2.1. Observations

All observations were conducted at the Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) Mayall/4m telescope. The optical observations were made with the Mosaic camera mounted at the prime focus. Two detector packages were used for the observations. The earlier Mosaic1.1 instrument consisted of eight  $2048 \times 4096$  SITe CCDs, arranged  $2 \times 4$ , separated by a  $\sim 50$  pixels gap with a pixel scale of  $0''.26 \text{ pixel}^{-1}$ . Mosaic1.1 was replaced with Mosaic3, in year?, and consists of four new  $4k \times 4k$ , 15 micron pixel, 500-micron thick LBNL deep-depletion CCDs. Because the only change from Mosaic1.1 to Mosaic3 are the CCDs and controllers the both versions have a  $36' \times 36'$  field-of-view.

The near-IR observations utilized the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) Extremely Wide-Field Infrared Imager (NEWFIRM; Probst et al. 2004). The instrument consists of four InSb  $2048 \times 2048$  pixel arrays arranged in  $2 \times 2$  with approximately  $1'$  gaps between each of the CCDs. The detector has a plate scale of  $0''.4 \text{ pixel}^{-1}$  and a  $28' \times 28'$  field-of-view.

need to talk about the dithering

The optical observing strategy consists of targeted *griz* observations of individual candidates with exposure times of 350 s, 350 s, 1100 s and 1100 s (assuming dark conditions) to provide  $5\sigma$  detections limits of  $g = ??$ ,  $r = 24.5$ ,  $i = 24.5$ ,  $z = 24.2$  ensuring the unambiguous detection of the faint (i.e.,  $0.4L_{\star}$ ) galaxies in the red cluster sequence up to  $z \sim 1.0$  (citation?) and of brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs) to higher redshifts. The choice of filters in our program is driven by the need to segregate early-type galaxies in the cluster through their colors (or photometric redshifts) by sampling blueward and red-ward of the  $4000\text{\AA}$  break.

For the NEWFIRM observations, we obtained 3600 s of Ks band imaging using 60 s exposures (5 coadded 12 s exposures) taken at 60 different dither positions distributed quasi-randomly over a square  $100'' \times 100''$  region. This produced reduced images with uniform exposure and sky level. The final dithered images cover approximately  $28' \times 28'$  which comfortably matches the MOSAIC observations.

A NEWFIRM integration of 3600 s allows us to reach a limiting Ks magnitude of  $\sim 22.0$  (AB,  $3\sigma$ ). This magnitude limit corresponds to  $\sim M_{\star} + 2$  in the cluster luminosity function at  $z = 1.0$  as measured by De Propris et al. (1999), and assuming Ks AB = Ks Vega + 1.86. This surface brightness limit corresponds to  $\sim M_{\star} + 1.0$  at  $z = 1.5$ , sufficient for detecting sub  $L_{\star}$  at this limit, allowing for confident detection of the BCG and associated red cluster sequence.

TABLE 1 Basic properties of the ten galaxy clusters targeted with the MS:  
Column 1: Our internal cluster name; Column 2: Abell Catalog ID; Column 3: The right ascension of the cluster; Column 4: The declination of the cluster; Column 5: the nominal (often photometric) cluster redshift; Column 6: The measured richness from Rykoff et al. (2012); Column 7: The date of our observations.

Cluster (1)	RA (J2000) (2)	DEC (J2000) (3)	PSZ2 SNR (4)	MOSAIC Obs. (5)	NEWFIRM Obs. (6)
PSZ1.G031.91+67.94	14:29:02	+24:37:33.38	—	Feb, 2014	—

TABLE 1 Continued

Cluster (1)	RA (J2000) (2)	DEC (J2000) (3)	PSZ2 SNR (4)	MOSAIC Obs. (5)	NEWFIRM Obs. (6)
PSZ1.G055.83-41.64	21:57:14	-2:31:51	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G084.62-15.86	21:49:44	+33:10:23.81	—	Oct, 2014	—
PSZ1.G096.44-10.40	22:19:35	+44:31:05.27	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G102.86-31.07	23:33:08	+28:43:51.60	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G102.97-04.77	22:34:47	+52:43:13.90	—	Oct, 2014	—
PSZ1.G105.91-38.39	23:53:54	+22:34:21.09	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G108.90-52.04	0:16:38	+09:52:49.98	—	—	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G118.06+31.10	15:54:34	+84:10:37.49	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G125.54-56.25	0:57:17	+06:35:23.29	—	Nov, 2014	—
PSZ1.G127.55+20.84	3:10:51	+82:25:43.91	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G138.60-10.85	2:27:02	+49:04:54.07	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G142.17+37.28	9:18:56	+70:52:01.14	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G142.38+22.82	6:13:40	+71:52:21.02	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G146.00-49.42	1:51:35	+10:44:02.79	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G148.20+23.49	6:37:46	+66:54:24.40	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G153.41+36.58	8:42:40	+62:34:31.61	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G153.56+36.23	8:39:31	+62:31:30.58	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G162.30-26.92	3:24:26	+24:00:44.46	—	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G169.80+26.10	7:30:08	+48:20:02.06	—	Oct, 2014	—
PSZ1.G182.49-57.09	2:44:20	-7:55:37	—	Nov, 2014	—
PSZ1.G183.26+12.25	6:42:56	+31:49:07.58	—	Oct, 2014	—
PSZ1.G185.93-31.21	4:11:39	+06:16:00.67	—	Jan, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ1.G206.45+13.89	7:29:59	+11:56:22.64	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G206.64-21.17	5:24:49	-4:14:07	—	—	Dec, 2014
PSZ1.G224.82+13.62	8:01:42	-4:03:54	—	Jan, 2014	—
PSZ1.G244.48+34.06	9:49:52	-7:29:28	—	Jan, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G249.01+73.75	11:56:46	+16:55:43.68	—	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ1.G286.25+62.68	12:21:10	+00:47:34.05	—	Feb, 2014	Feb, 2016
PSZ1.G341.69+50.66	14:25:20	-4:59:54	—	Feb, 2014	—
PSZ2.G022.03+17.75	17:28:37	-1:13:03	6.2	Jun, 2017	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G024.46-18.08	19:42:23	-15:26:09	6.9758	Jun, 2017	—
PSZ2.G027.77+10.88	18:03:22	+00:25:57.59	6.4166	Jun, 2016	—
PSZ2.G028.15-08.62	19:13:41	-8:08:26	7.667	Jun, 2017	—
PSZ2.G029.66-47.63	21:45:44	-21:46:49	5.7447	Nov, 2016	—
PSZ2.G029.80-17.40	19:48:32	-10:31:40	9.007	Jun, 2016	—
PSZ2.G032.12-14.96	19:43:34	-7:27:45	9.119	Jun, 2017	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G033.27-17.54	19:54:52	-7:36:11	6.855	Jun, 2017	—
PSZ2.G044.83+10.02	18:36:39	+15:04:49.72	9.27	Oct, 2015	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G047.53+08.55	18:46:59	+16:50:35.39	6.554	Jun, 2016	—
PSZ2.G048.47+34.86	17:02:08	+27:08:48.05	5.7414	Jun, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G065.35-08.01	20:26:04	+24:08:06.72	5.8294	Jun, 2016	—
PSZ2.G071.67-42.76	22:30:54	+05:42:05.22	8.635	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ2.G075.08+19.83	18:46:48	+45:46:33.27	5.738	Jun, 2016	—
PSZ2.G086.35-13.94	21:49:44	+35:42:37.49	5.4227	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G089.06-11.79	21:52:53	+39:03:52.50	5.7164	Nov, 2016	—
PSZ2.G092.11-33.73	23:01:37	+22:28:59.71	5.8142	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G092.46-35.22	23:05:50	+21:19:27.96	6.727	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ2.G093.04-32.38	23:01:43	+24:02:24.90	6.032	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ2.G093.71-30.90	23:00:44	+25:36:40.92	5.0012	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G096.43-20.89	22:48:09	+35:33:21.47	5.8051	Jun, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G098.38+77.22	13:18:25	+38:35:06.94	5.51	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G100.22+33.81	17:13:41	+69:22:24.33	5.6879	Jun, 2017	—
PSZ2.G100.38+16.73	20:18:43	+66:42:10.74	5.0838	—	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G100.45+16.79	20:18:34	+66:47:07.85	11.7853	Oct, 2015	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G104.15-38.85	23:48:48	+21:43:24.60	6.4145	Jun, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G107.41-09.57	23:13:47	+50:19:32.01	10.6877	Jun, 2016	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G107.83-45.45	0:07:35	+16:07:51.05	7.0946	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G112.07-39.86	0:15:30	+22:14:43.50	5.7201	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G112.54+59.53	13:29:54	+56:48:44.45	5.3734	—	Jan, 2017
PSZ2.G120.76+44.14	13:12:39	+72:53:23.47	5.5857	—	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G123.35+25.39	1:41:20	+88:13:14.57	10.86	Oct, 2014	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G123.84+25.75	2:55:30	+88:24:01.91	5.807	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G124.11+25.02	2:40:03	+87:38:38.73	5.5289	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G125.55+32.72	11:25:35	+83:57:29.12	6.4852	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G127.35-10.69	1:19:42	+51:56:15.39	6.941	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ2.G128.15-24.71	1:15:30	+37:54:48.45	4.7484	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G131.27-25.82	1:28:49	+36:26:41.01	4.5022	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G136.31+54.67	11:47:50	+60:45:56.07	6.9194	Jun, 2017	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G137.24+53.93	11:41:07	+61:11:39.02	7.8731	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G137.58+53.88	11:39:27	+61:09:01.04	8.179	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ2.G139.72-17.13	2:19:55	+42:49:53.97	5.1164	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G144.84-35.16	2:09:42	+24:21:19.56	4.8356	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G145.25+50.84	10:53:26	+60:51:43.24	5.9848	—	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G146.88+17.13	5:34:10	+65:43:14.28	6.1331	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G153.56+36.82	8:44:32	+62:24:41.96	15.8967	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G153.68+36.96	8:45:33	+62:17:12.13	5.0674	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G163.22-26.48	3:28:29	+23:50:15.15	6.3463	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016

TABLE 1 Continued

Cluster (1)	RA (J2000) (2)	DEC (J2000) (3)	PSZ2 SNR (4)	MOSAIC Obs. (5)	NEWFIRM Obs. (6)
PSZ2.G165.39+09.22	5:47:59	+46:08:39.24	5.5998	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G166.27-24.71	3:42:39	+23:24:41.39	9.5753	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G166.27-25.02	3:41:44	+23:11:00.45	8.0897	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G166.56-17.69	4:04:47	+28:21:38.16	4.7632	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G167.44-38.06	3:09:12	+12:37:11.49	7.657	Oct, 2014	—
PSZ2.G171.79-42.08	3:08:40	+07:24:32.96	5.842	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G173.76+22.92	7:17:28	+44:03:27.62	5.8035	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G181.88-30.77	4:04:21	+09:16:14.87	9.2935	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G183.92+16.36	7:01:57	+32:51:35.39	4.974	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G185.45-32.01	4:08:04	+06:06:33.99	4.992	Jan, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ2.G189.79-37.25	3:59:37	+00:07:54.80	7.278	Oct, 2014	Nov, 2014
PSZ2.G191.82-26.64	4:38:37	+04:42:02.64	6.172	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G192.40-67.89	2:18:20	-17:45:23	7.0301	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2017
PSZ2.G194.68-49.76	3:25:22	-9:40:50	5.712	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G210.37-37.00	4:32:44	-14:03:01	9.8447	Nov, 2016	Nov, 2015
PSZ2.G210.71+63.08	10:51:42	+24:58:09.19	7.3734	Jun, 2017	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G210.78-36.25	4:36:07	-14:02:58	6.3181	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G216.25+10.10	7:33:26	+01:40:36.28	5.518	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G228.35-66.31	2:38:41	-30:50:21	9.0827	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G230.28-28.57	5:31:09	-26:49:29	9.3019	—	Nov, 2016
PSZ2.G235.96+38.21	9:46:11	+00:29:10.03	9.396	—	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G237.68+57.83	10:53:31	+10:48:56.98	5.3631	—	Jan, 2017
PSZ2.G246.86-12.29	7:08:10	-35:37:39	7.862	—	Dec, 2014
PSZ2.G252.45+73.44	11:58:35	+16:00:18.38	5.5683	—	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G253.44-10.93	7:28:33	-40:51:17	7.075	—	Dec, 2014
PSZ2.G254.52+62.52	11:29:57	+07:35:04.97	4.8476	—	Jan, 2017
PSZ2.G270.88+37.23	11:05:19	-18:56:55	5.4886	—	Jan, 2017
PSZ2.G305.76+44.79	12:59:54	-18:01:59	5.717	—	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G310.81+83.91	12:55:01	+21:05:41.16	8.2891	Nov, 2016	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G318.46+83.79	12:58:33	+21:08:11.93	9.401	Feb, 2014	Mar, 2014
PSZ2.G320.94+83.69	12:59:47	+21:06:56.63	7.3218	Jun, 2017	Feb, 2016
PSZ2.G328.96+71.97	13:23:13	+10:43:41.59	5.8516	Jun, 2017	Feb, 2016

A summary of our observations is given in Table 1.

### 3. DATA REDUCTION AND CALIBRATION

Standard image reductions including subtraction of dark frames, flat fielding, sky-subtraction, and bad pixel masking was performed by the NOAO virtual observatory using the MOSAIC (Valdes & Swaters 2007) and NEWFIRM (Swaters et al. 2009) science pipelines. The resultant FITS files consist of fully reduced images with either all single exposure CCDs mosaicked into a single image extension (as in the case of Mosaic1.1 and NEWFIRM) or as a multi-extension FITS file with each single exposure CCD occupying a separate extension.

We then mosaic each separate exposure into a master mosaic as described in the following section.

#### 3.1. Mosaicking

Combined mosaics are created with SWARP (Bertin et al. 2002). The individual dither frames are stacked and then median combined to produce the final completed mosaic. The final mosaic retains the native plate scale, and header information. The final exposure time is calculated as the median exposure time of the combined images, and similarly the final airmass is median of the individual air masses. **need to talk about the weight images**

The full parameter file used while creating the mosaics is given in Appendix A.

#### 3.2. Astrometric Calibration

Each of the final mosaics produced in the previous section are first astrometrically aligned with *Gaia* (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016b) Data Release 1 (Gaia Collaboration et al. 2016a) using SCAMP (Bertin 2006) as

a part of PHOTOMETRYPIPELINE (PP; Mommert & M. 2017).

Sources are extracted from the mosaics with a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of at least ten and with a minimum area of at least 12 pixels. The extracted sources are then matched to the *Gaia* data and a new astrometric solution is calculated. Because the initial astrometric solution from the VO is quite accurate, the resultant corrections are less than 1".

#### 3.3. Photometric Calibration

After the mosaics have been astrometrically aligned, we use PP to produce a photometric solution. PP calculates a photometric zero-point in each of our observed bands by comparing field stars located throughout the mosaic to known photometry from large-area sky surveys. Because our sources are spread across the entire northern sky, and because we prefer to minimize the number of differences between photometric solutions we are limited to two surveys. We first seek photometric data from the *Sloan Digital Sky Survey* (SDSS; York et al. 2000) Data Release 13 (Alam et al. 2015) **get a new citation for dr13 this is for dr12**. When our target does not lie within the SDSS footprint we utilize the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System (Pan-STARRS; Chambers et al. 2016) Data Release 1 (hereafter PS1; Flewelling et al. 2016). Both surveys provide accurate *griz* magnitudes and large on-line queryable databases for rapid automated calibration.

Sources are extracted from the combined mosaics with a 3" diameter aperture; sources with a  $\text{SNR} \geq 10$  are matched to a survey catalog and a photometric zero-point is determined. We use half of the available stars (with accurate catalog photometry) to derive the zero-



point resulting in zero-points calculated from approximately 10 – 500 stars and with typical uncertainties of **give zp errors in the different bands.**

#### 4. ANALYSIS

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##### 4.1. Source Extraction and Photometry

For source extraction and photometry estimation we use Source Extractor (hereafter SExtractor; Bertin & Arnouts 1996) run dual image mode where the *i* image serves as a detection image. See Appendix B for a complete parameter listing. Science catalog photometry is compared to the

##### 4.2. Photometric Redshifts

We determine photometric redshifts from the four-band optical images using BPZ (Benitez 2000) following the same procedure as in Menanteau et al. (2008).

##### 4.3. Cluster Finding

We create RGB images using STIFF (Bertin & Emmanuel 2011). We use MAXBCG (Koester et al. 2007).

#### 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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#### 6. SUMMARY

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#### APPENDIX

##### SWARP

##### SEXTRACTOR