Structure of the Draco Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxy

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ABSTRACT

This article studies the structure of the Draco dwarf spheroidal galaxy with an emphasis on the question of whether the spatial distribution of its stars has been affected by the tidal interaction with the Milky Way, using R- and V-band CCD photometry for eleven fields. The article reports coordinates for the center, a position angle of the major axis, and the ellipticity. It also reports the results of searches for asymmetries in the structure of Draco. These results, and searches for a “break” in the radial profile and for the presence of principal sequences of Draco in a color-magnitude diagram for regions more than 50 arcmin from the center, yield no evidence that tidal forces from the Milky Way have affected the structure of Draco.

Subject headings: galaxies: dwarf — galaxies: individual (Draco) — galaxies: stellar content — galaxies: structure — galaxies: Local Group

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1. Introduction

This article studies the structure of the Draco dwarf spheroidal (dSph) galaxy. The dSph galaxies are characterized by small size, low luminosity, low surface brightness, and old to intermediate age stellar populations. The Local Group dSphs are clustered around and appear to be gravitationally bound to the much more luminous spiral galaxies (see the review by van den Bergh 2000). Draco, together with at least eight other dSphs, is a satellite galaxy of the Milky Way. Draco is $80 \pm 7$ kpc from the Sun (Aparicio, Carrera, & Martínez-Delgado 2001, ACMD hereafter) and, although its tangential velocity is not known, the measured radial velocity, corrected for solar motion, of $-98 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Olszewski et al. 1995, Armandroff et al. 1995) implies that Draco is currently approaching the Milky Way.

Even though the masses of dSphs are small in comparison to those of luminous spiral and elliptical galaxies, many of their mass-to-light ratios ($M/L$'s hereafter) are very large (Aaronson 1983, Mateo 1998). For example, the $M/L_V$ of Draco is 90 assuming that mass follows light (Armandroff et al. 1995) and 340 – 610 using more realistic models (Kleyna et al. 2001) — this is the highest measured value among the Galactic dSphs. The presence of non-luminous, or dark, matter in Draco is the most direct interpretation of its large $M/L$.

However, several authors have proposed alternative explanations for the large measured $M/L$'s of dSphs in general and Draco in particular. These explanations invoke either a modification of the laws of gravity (MOND, Milgrom 1983) or the dSph being far from virial equilibrium due to its interaction with the Galactic tidal field.

Kuhn & Miller (1989) and Kuhn (1993) proposed that a resonance between the orbital frequency and the frequency of internal collective oscillation modes of a dSph drives the dSph far from virial equilibrium. In this picture, a dSph with a large measured $M/L$ is a gravitationally unbound stellar system which does not dissipate quickly because the stars are on Galactic orbits that keep them together. However, Sellwood & Pryor (1998) show through numerical simulations that only a stellar system with even lower central concentration than those for the observed dSphs has collective modes that are not strongly damped and even in such a system these modes are not excited by coupling to the orbital motion. Oh, Lin, & Aarseth (1995) modeled weak, but non-resonant, tidal interactions between the Galaxy and a dSph that led to the formation of tidal debris around the dSph but did not increase the velocity dispersion and $M/L$ to the values measured for real dSphs.

Piatek & Pryor (1995) examined whether a single strong tidal shock that disrupts a dSph can produce the large velocity dispersion and $M/L$ values measured for real dSphs. This study found that such tidal interactions do not increase the velocity dispersion but instead they produce a large velocity gradient along the major axis. Kroupa (1997) studied models in which the tidal debris from the dSph is aligned along the line of sight, in which case
the velocity gradient masquerades as a large velocity dispersion. These models require that
the dSphs with large measured $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{L}$s are on nearly radial orbits. They also predict vertical
broadening of the principal sequences, such as the horizontal branch, in the color-magnitude
diagram (Klessen & Kroupa 1998, Klessen & Zhao 2001).

The presence of tidal debris around a dSph does not prove that their measured $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{L}$s
have been raised by tidal interactions. For example, Grillmair et al. (1995) and Leon et
al. (2000) detected tidal debris around globular clusters, which have measured $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{L}_V$s
of 1 – 3 (Pryor & Meylan 1993) that agree well with those expected from their stellar
populations. However, because the spatial extent and the surface density of tidal debris
depends on the mass distribution, intrinsic $\mathcal{M}/\mathcal{L}$, and orbital elements of the dSph, along
with the Galactic potential, detecting and quantifying the tidal debris can yield information
about these quantities (e.g., Kuhn 1993, Moore 1996, Johnston et al. 1999a, Johnston et al.
1999c). In addition, deriving the amount and distribution of dark matter in a dSph using
the kinematics of a tracer population requires measurements of the projected density profile
of that population. Limits on the central density of dark matter are particularly sensitive to
the shape of the profile at large radii (Pryor 1994).

Irwin & Hatzidimitriou (1995; IH hereafter; see the references therein for earlier work)
derived radial profiles and structural parameters for most of the Galactic dSphs using star
counts from Palomar and UK Schmidt telescope plates. IH determined limiting, or tidal,
radii for a dSph by fitting single-component, isotropic King models to its profile. They
noted that in many cases the dSph has a profile that is above the fitted King model at large
radii, which they interpret as evidence for “extra-tidal” stars. Many subsequent studies
have interpreted the IH tidal radius as the boundary between gravitationally bound and
unbound populations. However, the two-body relaxation time of every dSph is longer than
its age (Webbink 1985) and so there is no reason that the dSph must resemble a King model.
Indeed, it is possible to find many equilibrium models that fit perfectly almost any projected
density and projected velocity dispersion profile (Dejonghe & Merritt 1992).

Several groups have recently studied the structure of the Draco dSph. Smith, Kuhn,
& Hawley (1997) detected apparent stars of Draco extending up to 3 degrees east of the
center — far beyond the 28.3 arcmin tidal radius determined by IH. They interpret these
stars as a tidally unbound population. In contrast, Piatek et al.(2001; hereafter P01) found
evidence for Draco stars beyond the IH tidal boundary, though only weak evidence for stars
with distances as large as 1 degree. Odenkirchen et al.(2001b; hereafter Od01) studied the
morphology of Draco using Sloan Digital Sky Survey data for a wide region around the
galaxy. They derived a limiting (or tidal) radius for Draco of 49.5 arcmin, which is 75%
greater than the IH value. Thus, they argue that the stars of Draco detected by P01 are
within the tidal boundary and therefore are gravitationally bound to Draco. The Od01 upper limit for the surface density of Draco stars beyond their limiting radius is a factor of ten lower than the surface density detected by Smith, Kuhn, & Hawley (1997). Od01 argue that this detection resulted from an incorrectly estimated background. Interestingly, they also note that an exponential model fits their data better than a King model, so the actual existence of a limiting radius is called into doubt. Finally, ACMD derive a radial profile of Draco that is in broad agreement with that of Od01.

The large discrepancy in the values for the limiting radius of Draco obtained by IH and Od01 underscores the large uncertainties in this fitted parameter. Since the dynamics of the tidal debris is decoupled from the internal dynamics of the dSph, the surface density profile of the tidal debris and that of the dSph should have different spatial structure. Johnston et al. (1999b) performed numerical experiments which show that a robust indicator of tidal debris around a dSph is the presence of an abrupt change in the local power-law index of the radial surface density profile of a dSph – a “break” in the profile. The presence of tidal debris causes the surface density to decrease less steeply in the outer regions of a dSph. Note, however, that Kroupa (1997) argues that a profile resembling that of a real dSph may be produced by an unbound population of stars. It seems, therefore, that the limiting radius of a dSph is not a trustworthy representative of the tidal boundary of a dSph.

In this article we report the results of a study of the structure of Draco based on the R- and V-band photometric data for eleven fields in and around Draco. We derive such structural parameters as the center, position angle, and ellipticity. In addition, we search for tidal debris using methods based on color-magnitude diagrams, the radial profile of the surface density, and the shape of isopleths of a map of the surface density. We compare our results to those from the existing studies of Draco.

Section 2 describes the data and its reduction. Section 3 presents the color-magnitude diagrams (CMDs) for the new N1 and S1 fields, describes the procedure of discriminating between non-members and possible members of Draco based on location in the CMD and image morphology, and compares the sample of possible members of Draco from this paper to those from ACMD and Od01. Section 4 derives model-independent structural parameters of Draco and a map of the projected density of the galaxy. The section also comments on the reality of asymmetries in the projected density map. Section 5 summarizes and discusses our main results.
2. Data Acquisition and Reduction

The data consists of R- and V-band photometry of objects from eleven fields which are located in and around the Draco galaxy. Photometry for nine of these fields is the same as those that P01 used in their study. The two additional fields, N1 and S1, are adjacent to the central C0 field of P01 in the north and south directions, respectively, and extend beyond the tidal boundary along the minor axis. These additional fields were imaged with the KPNO 0.9-m telescope using the $2048 \times 2048$ T2KA CCD chip (see P01 for more details). There is a 0.55 arcmin overlap between the N1 and C0 fields, while there is a 1.85 arcmin gap between S1 and C0. The N1 and S1 fields were taken under non-photometric conditions and so we obtained two tie fields centered roughly halfway between the N1 and C0 and S1 and C0 fields. Table 1 gives the basic information about the N1 and S1 fields and their corresponding tie fields. This table supplements Table 1 in P01, which gives this information for the other nine fields. Columns (1) and (2) list the name of the field and the date of data acquisition. The next four columns give the coordinates of the center of a field, first in the equatorial system and then in the Galactic system. Columns (7) and (8) list the total exposure times for the V and R bands, respectively, and the last two columns list the average value and root-mean-square (rms) scatter around the average for the full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the stellar images in the V- and R-band frames, respectively. The FWHMs were measured in the same way as those in P01.

The data for the N1 and S1 fields have a more variable FWHM than the majority of the P01 fields because they were taken before the installation of the two-element field flattener on the 0.9-m telescope. The N1 R-band data have the worst seeing of any of our data. The N1 V-band data was taken through clouds and it has less total exposure time than our other V-band data. We discuss the impact of these deficiencies on our results in Sections 2.2 and 3.2.

The instrumental magnitudes of objects in the N1 and S1 fields come from the same method described in P01 – DAOPHOT (Stetson 1987, 1992, 1994) photometry of combined frames. The tie frames determine the transformation between the instrumental and standard magnitudes. Because the tie frames were also taken under non-photometric conditions we use them to transform N1 and S1 to the same photometric system as C0. To do so, we use the following procedure. 1) Determine aperture magnitudes for objects in the tie frame using a 6-pixel aperture radius. 2) Match the objects that are common to the C0 and tie frames. 3) Using these objects with their standard magnitudes measured in C0, derive a photometric transformation which converts aperture magnitudes to standard magnitudes in the tie frame. 4) Match objects common to the science and tie frames. 5) Using these objects, derive a photometric transformation which converts instrumental magnitudes in the science frame to
standard magnitudes.

Tables 2A and 2B give the standard $R$- and $V$-band photometry for the N1 and S1 fields, respectively. The first five columns in the tables give the ID, $x$ and $y$ coordinates on the $R$ frame, and $\alpha$(J2000.0) and $\delta$(J2000.0) for an object. The equatorial coordinates come from plate solutions based on positions for stars in the USNO-A2.0 catalog (Monet et al. 1998) using a recipe developed by Paul Harding (personal communication). Columns (6) and (7) give the $R$-band magnitude followed by its uncertainty, $\sigma_R$. Columns (8) and (9) list the same for the $V$ band. The last two columns give the average CHI and SHARP values (described in Section 3.2).

2.1. Comparison of Photometry From Overlapping Fields

The regions of overlap between the N1 and C0 fields and between the S1 and SE1 fields allow a comparison of the magnitudes for the objects in common. Figure 1a plots the magnitude difference $\Delta R \equiv R_{N1} - R_{C0}$ vs. $R_{N1}$ for the 47 objects that are common to the N1 and C0 fields and are matched to within a 0.69 arcsec radius – which is equivalent to about 1 pixel. Similarly, Figure 1b plots the magnitude difference for the $V$-band.

The unweighted mean of $\Delta R$ is $-0.061 \pm 0.018$, where the uncertainty is estimated from the rms scatter around the mean. This calculation excludes the three brightest objects in the sample, one of which is out of the plot to the left and all of which are saturated in the N1 image; the two dimmest objects, which have large uncertainties; and the two objects near $R = 20$ with positive $\Delta R$, whose $R$- and $V$-band photometry suggest are RR Lyrae variables. The offset between the zero-points of the two fields is likely due to the poor focus near the edges of the C0 frame. However, our calibration procedure ensures that the average zero-point shift between the two fields is zero.

The unweighted mean of $\Delta V$ is $-0.083 \pm 0.026$. This calculation excludes the two brightest objects, one of which is out of the plot to the left and both of which are saturated in the C0 frame; objects dimmer than $V = 23$, which have large uncertainties; and the same two likely RR Lyrae variables excluded from the calculation of the mean $\Delta R$. Visual inspection of Figure 1b shows that the mean $\Delta V$ for the objects brighter than about $V = 21$ is closer to zero than the mean value calculated above, arguing that there is no large zero-point difference for the $V$-band photometry.

Figure 2a plots the magnitude difference $\Delta R \equiv R_{S1} - R_{SE1}$ vs. $R_{S1}$ for the 115 objects common to the S1 and SE1 fields. Similarly, Figure 2b plots the magnitude difference for the $V$-band. The unweighted mean $\Delta R$ is $0.058 \pm 0.013$. This calculation excludes the brightest
object, which is saturated, and objects fainter than \( R = 23 \), which have large uncertainties. Again, this difference is likely due to the variable focus across the S1 field. Excluding the brightest object and objects fainter than \( V = 23 \), the unweighted mean \( \Delta V \) is \(-0.027 \pm 0.031\).

The plots and mean magnitude differences for both the \( R \)- and \( V \)-band photometry show that the zero points of the S1 and SE1 fields are in acceptable agreement.

### 2.2. Completeness

The variation of the photometric completeness with position distorts the measured structure of a stellar system. Weighting each object by the inverse of the completeness estimated for its magnitude and position will reduce the distortion of the structure. We perform numerical experiments to determine the level of completeness as a function of magnitude and position within a field for all of our fields.

In an experiment, we add artificial stars to both the \( R \)- and \( V \)-band frames using a grid which places a star at the same location on the sky. The spacing of the grid is eight pixels (5.5 arcsec) in both directions, which results in adding about 65,000 artificial stars to each field. The addition of such a large number of artificial stars in a single experiment does not affect the crowding of the artificial stars because the stars are arranged on a grid and thus do not overlap each other. An artificial star has the point-spread function which was derived for its frame during the photometric reduction process.

We perform five completeness experiments for every field, reducing the \( R \)- and \( V \)-band frames together in the same way as the real data. The artificial stars in a given experiment and frame have the same magnitude and color, which are chosen from the isochrone described in P01. The magnitude and color pairs used in the five experiments are \((R, V - R)\): \((21.1, 0.406)\), \((21.6, 0.395)\), \((22.1, 0.368)\), \((22.6, 0.288)\), and \((23.1, 0.257)\). An artificial star is counted as recovered if it is measured in both frames and its position is within one-half of a pixel of its input position, irrespective of how the recovered magnitude compares to the input magnitude.

The completeness must be averaged over a region that is larger than the spacing of the grid of artificial stars and that is large enough to contain a fair sample of the local surface density of objects. In addition, this region should be smaller than the size of the structure in Draco. We adopt a circular window with a radius of 200 pixels in order to smooth out the effects of saturated stars and their charge overflow columns, which create the largest regions with big fluctuations in the surface density of objects. Using a weighted average where the weight varies with distance, \( r \), from the center of the window, as \((1 - (r/200 \text{ pixels})^2)^2\) yields...
a completeness that changes smoothly with position. The C0 field has the largest number of saturated stars and the steepest density gradients. Thus, in this field only, the estimates of both the completeness and the surface density exclude regions around some of the brightest stars. See Section 4.2 for more details.

Placing the center of the window at points with a spacing of roughly 40 pixels in both directions yields an array of average completenesses. There are five arrays per field, one for each magnitude and color pair of artificial stars. An object with $16.4 < R < 22.6$ has a completeness calculated by bicubic spline interpolation in position and linear interpolation in magnitude. Objects brighter than $R = 16.4$ have a completeness of 1.0, whereas objects dimmer than $R = 22.6$ are excluded from the analysis.

Figure 3 plots the ratio of the total number of recovered artificial stars to the number added vs. magnitude for each of our eleven fields. The C0 and N1 fields are significantly shallower than the others. The lower completeness of C0 at $R \leq 22.1$ is due to the larger number of bright, saturated stars in this field. The C0, N1, S1, and E1 fields, imaged before the installation of the field flattener, show a larger and more systematic variation of the completeness within a field than the rest of the fields. The completeness decreases with increasing distance from the center in the C0 and E1 fields. The difference in completeness between the center and edge can be as large as 0.4 when the completeness is changing most rapidly with magnitude (see Figure 3). In contrast, N1 and S1 have a larger completeness at the edge than in the center. The largest differences are similar to those for C0 and E1. Only within small regions near two corners of field C0 does the completeness fall below 0.5 at $R = 22.6$.

The completeness simulations show that the errors in the magnitude and color of a recovered star become rapidly larger as the input magnitude approaches the limiting magnitude of the data. Due to this effect, a Draco star can appear far from the principal sequence of Draco in the CMD and, thus, not be counted as a member of the galaxy. Likewise, a field star or galaxy can be scattered close to the principal sequence of Draco and be counted as a member. Measuring this effect would require artificial star experiments that added objects throughout the CMD. Such experiments are difficult to implement because they require knowing the true distribution of stars in the CMD and so they have not been done by any study of the structure of a dSph. This effect is most important for the weak C0 and N1 fields and Sections 4.2 and 4.6 discuss the impact of this effect on our results. Wide-field CCD cameras are now available on many large telescopes, thus obtaining higher-quality data is a better approach to this problem than performing more elaborate completeness experiments.
2.3. Tangent Plane Projection

Expressing the positions of objects in a single, standard coordinate system simplifies the study of the structure of a stellar system. Therefore, we convert positions of objects measured in pixels within each frame into offsets in arcminutes from a chosen center by performing a tangent plane projection. The offsets are with respect to equatorial position $17^h \ 20^m \ 18.66^s$ and $57^\circ \ 55' \ 55''$ (J2000.0), which corresponds to the center of gravity of Draco determined by IH. In our standard system, the $X$ offset increases eastward and the $Y$ offset increases northward.

3. Color-Magnitude Diagrams

The top panel of Figure 4 shows a CMD for all objects in the N1 field. The bottom panel is the same for the S1 field. The magnitudes and colors of the objects in both panels are not corrected for either reddening or extinction.

The CMDs for the N1 and S1 fields show blue stars on the horizontal branch (HB) of Draco near $R = 20$ and the lower red-giant branch (RGB) stars at about $V - R = 0.3$ and $20 \lesssim R \lesssim 23$. This is expected since part of both fields are within the tidal boundary of Draco.

3.1. Reddening and Extinction

The variation of extinction within and between our fields can also distort the measured structure of a stellar system. To reduce the impact of this variation we determine average reddenings and extinctions for entire fields using the prescription of Schlegel et al. (1998). The reddenings for the N1 and S1 fields are 0.030 and 0.029, respectively. These yield $V$- and $R$-band extinctions of 0.099 and 0.080, respectively, for the N1 field and 0.097 and 0.078, respectively, for the S1 field. Even after correcting for reddening and extinction, small differences in our photometric zero points remain, as evidenced by differences in the color of the blue edge of the distribution of field stars in the CMD, measured as described in P01. This color is 0.234 for the N1 field and 0.242 for the S1 field.
3.2. Selecting Samples Using CMD, SHARP, and CHI Criteria

The objects in our fields consist of stars and galaxies. The former are both Galactic foreground stars and members of Draco. The structure of Draco can best be measured using a sample of objects containing a large number of Draco stars while at the same time containing the smallest number of field stars and galaxies. The lines in the left panel of Figure 5 outline the region in the CMD where Draco stars are present. The selection of this region is discussed below. The lines in the right panel outline the region where stars are found in the diagram that plots SHARP value vs. magnitude. A large positive value of the SHARP index calculated by the DAOPHOT package indicates an object that is more extended than the point-spread function – which is likely a galaxy. DAOPHOT also calculates CHI, a measure of the quality of the point-spread function fit. Values larger than 5.0 occur for galaxies and spurious objects such as pixels with charge overflow. The remainder of this paper uses the sample of objects that likely are stars on the basis of their CHI and SHARP values and separates these into samples of likely members (the “in” sample) and likely non-members (the “out” sample) of Draco on the basis of their position in the CMD.

The panels of Figure 5 plot every second object from the C0 field and every tenth object from the other fields to show clearly both the Draco sequences and the distribution of field stars and galaxies. The width of the region outlining the RGB of Draco in the left panel of Figure 5 is proportional to the uncertainty in color for $R < 21.6$. The width is about $\pm 2\sigma_{V-R}$, which is narrower than the $\pm 3\sigma_{V-R}$ used in P01. The narrower width increases the fraction of Draco members in the outlined region. For $R > 21.6$ the outlined region does not extend farther to the red with the increasing uncertainty in color to avoid the large number of field stars. However, the region extends even farther to the blue to include possible blue stragglers of Draco. The region of allowed SHARP values in the right panel of Figure 5 is 40% wider than that in P01 to accommodate the more variable focus of the C0, N1, S1, and E1 fields.

The artificial star simulations described in Section 2.2 show that the large photometric uncertainties of the faint objects will scatter them both into and out of the “in” and “out” samples. This effect can alter the measured structure of Draco because the distribution of objects in the CMD is not the same in all of our fields. For example, our C0 and N1 fields are shallower than the others. As discussed in Section 2.2, we do correct our data for completeness but we have chosen not to correct for this scattering effect.
3.3. Background Surface Density

We determine the background surface density of the “in” and “out” samples using the most distant fields: N2, E2, S2, SW2, and W2, which are about 1 degree from the center of Draco (see Figure 1 in P01). The weighted mean surface density of the background for the “in” sample is $1.446 \pm 0.026 \, \text{arcmin}^{-2}$. The weight for each surface density is the inverse of the square of the sampling uncertainty. The $\chi^2$ of the scatter around the mean is 4.96 for three degrees of freedom (the S2 and SW2 fields were combined into one since they overlap). The probability of exceeding this value by chance is 0.17, so there is no evidence for more variability than expected by counting statistics and the stated uncertainty in the mean is realistic. For the “out” sample, the $\chi^2$ of the scatter around the weighted mean is 22.8 and the probability of exceeding this by chance is $4.4 \times 10^{-5}$. The clustering of galaxies causes the larger variability of the surface density compared to that expected from the sample size (see the detailed discussion in P01). Thus, for the “out” sample we adopt an unweighted average background of $3.91 \pm 0.12 \, \text{arcmin}^{-2}$, where the uncertainty is based on the scatter around the mean.

3.4. Comparison with Other Samples

The current paper is one of several that have recently studied the structure of Draco using star counts. This section briefly compares our “in” sample with the corresponding samples from ACMD and Od01. The goal is to assess how well these samples determine the structure of Draco.

The “in” sample in this paper is intermediate in both limiting magnitude and radial extent compared to those in ACMD and Od01. Its limiting magnitude is about 2.6 magnitudes below the level of the horizontal branch compared to about 4.0 magnitudes below for ACMD and 1.8 magnitudes below for Od01. The Od01 sample has complete azimuthal coverage to a distance of 2 degrees from the center of Draco whereas the “in” sample has six inner fields extending to about 50 arcmin from the center and five background fields about 1 degree from the center (see Figure 1 in P01). The AMCD sample has three fields extending to about 50 arcmin from the center of Draco.

The central surface density and its ratio to the background surface density far from the center are two of the best measures of the quality of a sample for determining the structure of Draco. The central surface density of the “in” sample (presented in Section 4.6) is half that of the ACMD main-sequence sample but it is about three times that of the Od01 sample. The ratio of the central and background surface densities for the “in” sample is 3–5 times
smaller than those of the ACMD and Od01 samples, reflecting the better discrimination against non-members in the CMD allowed by the homogenous photometry in Od01 and by the deeper photometry in ACMD. These comparisons show that the “in” sample is better than the Od01 sample for studying the inner regions of Draco. The ACMD sample would be better still, however this work is focused on the stellar populations rather than on the structure of Draco.

4. Model-independent Structure

This section examines the structure of Draco without assuming a parametric model. It first discusses the derivation of a smooth surface density map for objects from our data using an adaptive kernel. Discussions of a contour plot of the surface density map and of estimates of the center of the galaxy and of the position angle of its major axis follow. The section ends by discussing the centers, position angles, and ellipticities resulting from fitting ellipses to the smooth surface density map.

4.1. Adaptive Kernel Estimate of the Smooth Surface Density

The construction of a surface density map from the positions of objects on the sky requires smoothing. Kernel estimators are commonly used for this purpose (e.g., Silverman 1986). For systems with large variations in the surface density a kernel whose width decreases as the density increases – an adaptive kernel – recovers the maximum amount of information.

We use a parabolic kernel to construct the smoothed density map for Draco on a grid of points following the methods outlined in Silverman (1986). A kernel with a fixed width creates a “pilot” density estimate. The final surface density map uses an adaptive kernel whose width is inversely proportional to the square root of the pilot density at each grid point. This procedure keeps the number of objects contributing to each kernel area approximately constant.

The construction of the surface density map from our data is complicated by the incomplete areal coverage of our fields. There are swaths of missing data north-west, south-west, and north-east from the galaxy and small gaps in the data between the CO and W1 and C0 and S1 fields. There are also numerous holes in the data due to bright and saturated stars. We generate artificial data to fill in the empty regions within an area of 120 arcmin by 120 arcmin centered on Draco. Most of the empty regions, shown in white in Figure 6, have artificial objects generated from a constant distribution function scaled to have the
average surface density of the background fields. The artificial objects in grey regions in the
figure are drawn from the adjacent regions with the same area and containing real objects.
While filling holes in the data is required for kernel estimates of the surface density, the
surface density within a kernel width of large regions of artificial data should be treated with
caution.

4.2. Contour Plot of the Surface Density

Figure 6 shows contours of constant surface density for Draco. The kernel size (\( w \) in
the kernel \( 1 - (r/w)^2 \), where \( r \) is the radial distance from the object) for the pilot estimate
is 3.1 arcmin, producing largest and smallest adaptive widths of 1.5 arcmin and 9.9 arcmin,
respectively. Approximately 90 objects are within the area of the adaptive kernel, yielding
a fractional uncertainty in the density of 0.11. The solid contour lines represent values of
the surface density above the adopted background density whereas dashed lines represent
values below. Contours are drawn at 0, \( \pm 1, \pm 2, 3, 4, \) and \( 5\sigma \) from the background level,
where \( \sigma \) is the fractional uncertainty in the density estimate times the background density.
The contour levels at higher surface density are spaced by \( 3\sigma \), where now \( \sigma \) is the fractional
uncertainty times the surface density at the previous contour. The actual contour levels are
in the figure caption.

The position angle of the major axis of the innermost contour is different from those
for the more distant contours. We show in Section 4.4 that the statistical significance of
this apparent difference is very low, arguing that this difference is caused by the sampling
uncertainty in the surface density estimate.

The contours also show an apparent lopsidedness: there seems to be a shoulder about
10 arcmin to the east of the center and a steeper gradient on the north side of the galaxy
than on the south side. We test for the statistical significance of asymmetries along the
major and minor axes in Section 4.5. We find that these asymmetries are either due to the
sampling uncertainty (along the major axis) or problems with the photometry (along the
minor axis).

Figure 6 shows that surface densities above background extend beyond 28.3 arcmin –
the tidal radius determined by IH – along and close to the major axis, which confirms the
results of IH, Od01, and ACMD that Draco extends beyond the IH tidal boundary. IH
argued on the basis of an abrupt change in the slope of the outer parts of their radial profile
that these stars are not gravitationally bound, whereas the other authors argued on the
basis of the absence of such a change that they are bound. A map of surface density can
reveal tidal debris if the outermost contours show an S-shape distortion or extended tidal tails. Grillmair et al. (1995), Leon et al. (2000), and Odenkirchen et al. (2001a) have detected such features around Galactic globular clusters. The visibility of S-shaped distortions around a Galactic dSph is likely to be suppressed by our nearly-in-the-orbital-plane position with respect to the dSph. However, the line-of-sight projection of this debris could still introduce irregularities into the structure. The contours in Figure 6 do not show any obvious signs of tidal distortions or extended tidal tails. However, our data do not extend far enough to rule out the existence of tidally induced distortions in Draco.

The surface density is below background about 20 arcmin to the north and about 25 arcmin to the southeast of the galaxy at the 1–2σ level. Such regions are expected from fluctuations caused by counting statistics. However, the surface density is also lower than background in these regions in a similar map constructed using the “out” sample. The surface density of objects classified as non-stellar in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey data in the vicinity of Draco (York et al. 2000) also show lower than average values in these regions. All of this evidence suggest that large-scale structure in the distribution of galaxies, which are not completely eliminated from our “in” sample, is at least partly responsible for the low surface densities. The surface density of galaxies is lower in the southeast region than in the north region, whereas Figure 6 shows the reverse. We think that the large photometric uncertainties in the N1 field compared to our other fields have scattered more stars from the “in” sample into the “out” sample, thus reducing the measured surface density (see the discussion in Sections 2.2 and 3.2). This spuriously low surface density is likely responsible for the steeper density gradient seen on the north side of Draco compared to the south side.

4.3. Center and Position Angle

If the distribution of stars in Draco were not symmetric, then the center of Draco would depend on the method used to measure it. The first two methods employed in this study use a minimum of assumptions to find the center of Draco from the “in” sample of stars in the C0 field.

The first method finds a center of symmetry for Draco using a mirrored autocorrelation of the one-dimensional distribution of stars in either the $X$ or $Y$ direction calculated in a sliding window 20 arcmin wide in $X$ and 14 arcmin wide in $Y$. This method yields a center at $X = -0.28$ arcmin $Y = 0.11$ arcmin. Varying the size of the sliding window implies that the uncertainties in these positions are on the order of 0.1 arcmin.

The second method finds a center that minimizes the fractional rms scatter in the
number of stars in the four quadrants of a circular aperture about their mean. The radius of the aperture equals the shortest distance between its center and the nearest edge of the C0 field. This method aligns the boundaries of the four quadrants with the major and minor axes of Draco, thus it also yields the position angle of the major axis. The resulting center is $X = 0.16 \pm 0.18$ arcmin and $Y = 0.15 \pm 0.12$ arcmin and the position angle of the major axis is $90.6 \pm 4.6$ degrees. The uncertainties come from one thousand bootstrap determinations of the center and position angle. Each determination draws a sample of the same size as the original sample with replacement.

4.4. Do ellipticity, Position Angle, and Center Depend on Semi-major Axis?

With the assumption that the contours of constant projected density are ellipses, fitting ellipses gives another determination of the center and position angle of the major axis along with the ellipticity. The variation of these quantities with the length of the semimajor axis is an indication of the presence of asymmetries. The panels of Figure 7 show the dependence of the ellipticity ($e$), position angle (PA), $X$-coordinate of the center ($X_c$), and $Y$-coordinate of the center ($Y_c$) on the semimajor axes of ellipses ($a$) fit to the estimate of the surface density described in Section 4.2 and shown in Figure 6. The best fit ellipse has the minimum rms fluctuation in the surface density measured at 360 points equally spaced in arclength around the ellipse. Each triangle in Figure 7 is the value of the structural parameter determined from the fit to the actual sample. The corresponding square and its associated error bar are the mean value of the structural parameter determined from 1000 bootstrap simulations and the rms scatter around this mean, respectively. The smallest value of the semimajor axis fitted is set by the minimum kernel width and the largest by the presence of gaps in the data.

Panel a) of Figure 7 shows that the ellipticity, $e$, does not vary significantly with semimajor axis. The weighted average value of $e$ is $0.331 \pm 0.015$ and the total $\chi^2$ is 1.4. The uncertainties used to calculate these quantities come from the bootstrap experiments. Approximately only every other point is independent because of the smoothing. However, the $\chi^2$ per the smaller true number of degrees of freedom is still less than one, which shows that the variation in $e$ is not significant.

This conclusion is strengthened by results from Monte-Carlo simulations of fitting ellipses to the density field of a symmetric model of Draco. The model is the power law with a core used by Kleyna et al. (1998) and has $e = 0.29$, PA = 88°, $X_c = Y_c = 0$ arcmin, a core radius of 17.7 arcmin, and a power-law exponent of 4.1. The values for the last two parameters come from fits to our data. Each realization of the model is smoothed adaptively
in the same way as the real data. The panels in Figure 8 show the mean values of \(e\), \(PA\), \(X_c\), and \(Y_c\) from 1000 Monte Carlo experiments. The error bar is the rms scatter around the mean. Panel a) of Figure 8 shows that the mean \(e\) is biased upwards to about 0.4 for a semimajor axis of 3.0 arcmin. Our fitted ellipticities for the real data show a very similar trend.

Panel b) of Figure 7 plots the position angle of the major axis, \(PA\), vs. semimajor axis. The \(PA\) varies from \(52^\circ \pm 17^\circ\) at \(a = 3.0\) arcmin to \(90.0^\circ \pm 2.2^\circ\) at \(a = 12.0\) arcmin. The innermost point is about two standard deviations below the mean of the points at larger semimajor axes, implying a marginally significant change of \(PA\). The orientation of the surface density contours in Figure 6 also shows this change. Panel b) of Figure 8 shows that the rms scatter in the \(PA\) at a semimajor axis of 3.0 arcmin is large enough that statistical fluctuations can explain the change observed in the real data.

Panel c) of Figure 7 shows that \(X_c\) systematically increases with increasing semimajor axis. Panels c) and d) of Figure 8 show that a symmetric model produces no such trends, on average. The trend in the real data reflects a small asymmetry of the contours in Figure 6 – as described in Section 4.2. Section 4.5 tests the statistical significance of this apparent asymmetry and finds that it is not. The \(\chi^2\) for the \(X_c\) values about their weighted mean of \(-0.10 \pm 0.11\) arcmin is about one per degree of freedom, which also argues that the trend is not significant.

Finally, panel d) of Figure 7 plots the \(Y\)-coordinate of the center, \(Y_c\). There is no evidence for a dependence of \(Y_c\) on semimajor axis. The weighted mean of \(Y_c\) is \(0.13 \pm 0.06\).

### 4.5. Asymmetry

The contour plot of Draco depicted in Figure 6 shows an apparent “shoulder” about 10 arcmin to the east of the center, approximately along the major axis, and a steeper gradient beyond 10 arcmin from the center on the north side than on the south, approximately along the minor axis. The statistical significance of an asymmetry can be ascertained by measuring how often asymmetry can arise by chance from a symmetric model of Draco due to the finite size of the sample of stars.

Kleyna et al. (1998) defined an asymmetry statistic, \(\beta = (d_1/d_2) - 1\), where \(d_1\) and \(d_2\) are the distances along the major or minor axis between the point of highest surface density and the points where the surface density has fallen by a factor of two and \(d_1 > d_2\). A system is symmetric if \(\beta = 0\) and it is asymmetric if \(\beta > 0\). As defined, the \(\beta\) statistic can measure the asymmetry observed in our surface density map along the major axis. It cannot
measure the observed asymmetry seen at a larger distance along the minor axis. However, the latter asymmetry is likely due to problems with the photometry in the N1 field discussed in Sections 2.2 and 3.2. Thus, we do not investigate this asymmetry along the minor axis.

Measuring $\beta$ for the major axis using the same projected density depicted in Figure 6 and a major axis position angle of 88 degrees yields 0.24. Similarly, the value of $\beta$ for the minor axis is 0.47. Monte Carlo simulations using the symmetric model described in the previous section give a larger value for the $\beta$ along the major axis 81% of the time and for the $\beta$ along the minor axis 69% of the time. Thus, the data shows no evidence that Draco is asymmetric along either its major or minor axis.

4.6. Radial Profile

The top panel of Figure 9 plots the completeness-corrected surface density of objects from the “in” sample calculated in elliptical annuli vs. the semi-major axes of the annuli. We calculate the area of the overlap between each annulus and the data by dividing the sky into 2.8 arcsec square bins and summing the areas of the bins whose centers are within the annulus and within the boundaries of our fields. The center of the annuli is at $X = -0.10$ arcmin and $Y = 0.13$ arcmin. The annuli have an ellipticity of 0.33 and a major-axis position angle of 91°. The semi-major axis of an annulus is the average of the semi-major axes of the ellipses passing through the objects in the annulus. Each point has an error bar equal to the surface density divided by $\sqrt{N}$, where $N$ is the actual (not completeness corrected) number of objects in the annulus. The bottom panel of Figure 9 plots the background-subtracted surface density using the value of 1.446 arcmin$^{-2}$ from Section 3.3. Here, the error bar includes the uncertainty in the background, 0.026 arcmin$^{-2}$, added in quadrature. The horizontal dashed line in both plots represents the surface density of the background. Table 3 tabulates the surface densities shown in the top panel and their radii.

The top panel of Figure 9 shows that the surface density profile is approximately constant within a semi-major axis of 5 arcmin and decreases beyond. The profile flattens as it approaches the background surface density, however it never becomes flat and continues to decrease to values below the background found from the fields at larger radii. The surface densities that are below background in the outermost four annuli are likely caused in part by inadequate corrections for incompleteness, as discussed in Sections 2.2 and 3.2, and in part by the statistical accident that the portions of these annuli sampled by our data are regions of true low surface density (see Section 4.2).

Figure 10 shows the background-subtracted projected density profiles of Draco from IH,
Od01, and this article. The open squares are the IH profile taken from their Table 3, with the first 24 points in the table binned by two and the remainder by four. The error bars are based on counting statistics and the number of stars in each binned point. The triangles are the Od01 profile, where the open symbols are their S1 sample and the solid symbols are their S2 sample. The solid squares are the profile in the bottom panel of Figure 9. The error bars for all of the profiles include the uncertainty in the background added in quadrature. The vertical normalizations of the four profiles make the innermost point of each equal to one.

All four profiles in Figure 10 agree well up to a radius of about 20 arcmin. IH interpreted the apparent flattening of their profile beyond 20 arcmin as evidence for extra-tidal stars. However, the IH profile has roughly as many points below background as above in this region, implying that the flattening is not statistically significant (Od01). In addition, the IH sample does not exclude galaxies and so the error bars shown are too small because the fluctuations in the surface densities of galaxies exceed those from Poisson statistics. Therefore, we think that the IH profile is consistent with those of Od01 and this article. The Od01 profile and that from this article agree well out to a semi-major axis of about 40 arcmin and neither one shows an abrupt change of slope (a “break”). We conclude that none of the profiles shows unambiguous evidence for tidal debris around Draco.

4.7. CMD Outside of the Tidal Boundary

Od01 report a tidal radius for Draco of 49.5 arcmin, based on fitting a King (1966) model, and ACMD report a tidal radius of 42 arcmin, based on a visual inspection of their radial surface density profile. The difference between these two values reflects the difficulty of measuring the tidal radius. However, both studies demonstrate convincingly that Draco extends beyond the 28.3 arcmin tidal radius found by IH. Od01 argue that this more extended profile explains the stars of Draco detected by P01 beyond the IH tidal boundary. To search for Draco stars at still larger radii, we plot a CMD for the objects inside and outside of the Od01 tidal boundary—which is an ellipse with semimajor axis of 49.5 arcmin, a position angle of 88°, and centered at \( \alpha = 17^\text{h} 20^\text{m} 13.2^\text{s} \) and \( \delta = 57^\circ 54' 54'' \) (J2000), which corresponds to \((-0.73', -0.19')\) in our standard coordinate system.

The top panel in Figure 11 is a CMD for the objects located inside of the Od01 tidal boundary and the bottom panel is the corresponding plot for the objects outside. The CMD in the bottom panel shows no clear visual evidence of the principal sequences of Draco. This lack of visual evidence does not necessarily imply an absence of Draco stars beyond the Od01 tidal boundary. There could simply be too few Draco stars present to be noticeable in the
CMD. Indeed, such a population is expected if the profile of Draco is an exponential, which has no limiting radius. Od01 and ACMD find that an exponential profile is a good fit to their projected density profiles.

5. Summary and Discussion

The average center of Draco measured with three methods described in Sections 4.3 and 4.4 is at \( \alpha = 17^h \ 20^m \ 18.1^s \) and \( \delta = 57^\circ \ 55' \ 13'' \) (J2000). The uncertainty is about 0.1 arcmin in both coordinates. This center is 40 arcsec east and 19 arcsec north of the center reported by Od01, a difference that is somewhat larger than that expected from the 25 arcsec uncertainty in right ascension and 11 arcsec uncertainty in declination of the Od01 value. However, the difference is smaller than twice the uncertainty and, thus, not statistically significant.

The position angle of the major axis of Draco is \( 90.6 \pm 4.6 \) degrees based on the objects within approximately 10 arcmin of the center (see Section 4.3). This value is in agreement with the \( 88 \pm 3 \) degrees measured by Od01. Fitting ellipses to the smoothed surface density, described in Section 4.4, gives a range of position angles consistent with the above values. Od01 and this study find no evidence that the position angle of the major axis varies with semi-major axis.

The ellipticity of Draco, determined from the average of the values for the ellipses fitted to the smoothed surface density, is \( 0.331 \pm 0.015 \). This average value is greater than the \( 0.29 \pm 0.02 \) determined by Od01. Our value is less reliable because of the problems with the photometry and completeness corrections in the N1 field described in Sections 2.2 and 3.2.

Tidal debris projected onto a bound dSph can produce a small asymmetry in the surface density map (Mayer et al. 2001). A larger asymmetry might arise if the observed dSph consists primarily of unbound tidal debris (Kroupa 1997, Klessen & Kroupa 1998). The contours of the smoothed surface density in Figure 6 show an apparent “shoulder” about 10 arcmin east of the center. We tested the statistical significance of the apparent asymmetry along the major and minor axes and found that both can occur by chance 81% and 69% of the time, respectively. Therefore, we find no compelling evidence for asymmetries in Draco, tidally induced or otherwise.

Figure 10 shows that the radial profile of Draco from this study agrees with the radial profiles from IH and Od01 within the uncertainties. The radial profile of Draco does not show evidence of an abrupt change, or break, in the slope. In addition, the cmd in Figure 11 does not show the principal sequences of Draco for the region beyond the Od01 tidal boundary,
which is also about the last point in our radial profile. Thus, we find no evidence that Draco is surrounded by tidal debris.

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Figure Captions

Fig. 1. (a) A comparison of the R-band magnitudes for the 47 objects common to the N1 and C0 fields. (b) The same as Fig. 1a for the V band.

Fig. 2. (a) A comparison of the R-band magnitudes for the 115 objects common to the S1 and SE1 fields. (b) The same as Fig. 2a for the V band.

Fig. 3. Average completeness as a function of magnitude for the eleven fields. Each point is the ratio of the number of recovered to the number of added artificial stars.

Fig. 4. Color-magnitude diagrams for N1 (top panel) and S1 (bottom panel). Only objects with CHI values less than 5 and SHARP values within the limits shown in Fig. 5 appear in these diagrams.

Fig. 5. Left panel: A color-magnitude diagram showing every second object from the C0 field and every tenth object from the other ten fields. The solid contours outline the principal sequences of Draco. Right panel: R-band magnitude vs. SHARP for the same sample of objects as that in the left panel. The solid lines represent the SHARP limits we adopt to discriminate between stars and galaxies. The objects within the lines are likely to be stars and those outside are likely to be galaxies or spurious objects. The two panels define the “in” and “out” samples: the “in” sample consists of objects within the outlined regions in both panels, whereas the “out” sample consists of those that are outside of the outlined region in the left panel (and brighter than $R = 22.6$) but within the outlined region in the right panel.

Fig. 6. Isopleths for a smoothed surface density map of Draco using the “in” sample of objects. Dashed contours correspond to values below the background. The lowest contour levels are 0, ±1, ±2, 3, 4, and 5$\sigma$ from the background, where $\sigma$ is the uncertainty of the smoothed density for locations in the map with densities near background. The spacing between the levels of the higher contours are 3$\sigma$, where $\sigma$ now is the uncertainty in the density at the value of the lower contour. The contour levels from the lowest to the highest are: 1.145, 1.295, 1.446, 1.597, 1.747, 1.898, 2.199, 2.886, 3.787, 4.970, 6.522, 8.560, 11.234, 14.743, 19.348, 25.391 arcmin$^{-2}$. The grey and white areas contain no data, see the text for details.

Fig. 7. The dependence on semi-major axis, a, of ellipticity (panel a), position angle of the major axis (panel b), x-coordinate of the center (panel c), and y-coordinate of the center (panel d) for ellipses fitted to the smoothed density map of Draco. An open triangle is the value of the structural parameter determined from fitting to the map shown in Figure 6. An open square and its associated error bar are the mean value of the structural parameter and
the rms scatter around the mean, respectively, determined from 1000 bootstrap experiments. Only approximately every other point is independent because of the smoothing in the density map.

Fig. 8. The dependence on semi-major axis, a, of ellipticity (panel a), position angle of the major axis (panel b), x-coordinate of the center (panel c), and y-coordinate of the center (panel d) for ellipses fitted to the smoothed density map for a symmetric model of Draco. Each point and its associated error bar are the mean and rms scatter around the mean, respectively, determined from 1000 Monte Carlo experiments.

Fig. 9. Radial profile of Draco before (top panel) and after (bottom panel) subtracting the background. Table 3 tabulates the values of the surface density shown in the top panel, their uncertainties, and the radii.

Fig. 10. Radial profiles after subtracting the background from Irwin & Hatzidimitriou (1995; IH) (open squares), Odenkirchen et al. (2001b; Od01) (open and solid triangles for samples S1 and S2, respectively), and this study (solid squares). The normalization of each profile makes the surface density of the innermost point equal to one.

Fig. 11. Color-magnitude diagram for the objects inside (top panel) and outside (bottom panel) of the Od01 tidal boundary of Draco. This boundary is an ellipse centered at $X = -0.73$ arcmin and $Y = -0.19$ arcmin with an ellipticity, position angle of the major axis, and a semi-major axis of 0.30, 88°, and 49.5 arcmin, respectively.