Starcounts Redivivus: III. A Possible Detection of the Sagittarius Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxy at $b = -40^o$

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ABSTRACT

As part of the Selected Areas Starcount Survey (SASS), a CCD survey to $V > 21$, we have obtained VI photometry of two fields at $b = \pm 40^\circ$ aligned roughly with an extrapolation of the major axis of the Sagittarius (Sgr) dwarf spheroidal galaxy. Comparison of the color-magnitude diagram (CMD) for some of these fields to the CMDs of fields reflected about the Galactic $l = 0^\circ$ meridian reveals an excess of stars at $V_o = 17.85$ and $0.9 < (V - I)_o < 1.1$ in the $(l, b) = (11^\circ, -40^\circ)$ field. The excess stars have colors consistent with the Sgr red clump, and deeper CMD imaging in these locations shows evidence of a main-sequence turnoff at $V = 21$ with the main-sequence extending to the

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limit of our data ($V = 24$). The surface brightnesses we derive from either the potential excess of red clump stars or the apparent excess of MSTO stars are consistent with each other and with the results of other surveys at this latitude. No similar excess appears in our northern Galactic hemisphere fields near $l = 353°, b = +41°$ field.

We have obtained spectroscopy of all 30 candidate red clump stars in the range $0.9 < (V - I)_o < 1.1$ and $17.75 < V_o < 17.95$. The radial velocity distribution of the stars, while dissimilar from expectations of Galactic structure models, does not show a contribution by stars near the Galactocentric radial velocity seen in other studies near the Sgr core. It is difficult to reconcile a photometric result that is consistent with other explorations of the Sagittarius stream with a radial velocity distribution that is apparently inconsistent. In a companion paper (Johnston et al. 1999), we discuss how some of the discrepancies are resolved if *our* potential Sgr detection corresponds to a *different* Sgr tidal streamer than that detected by most other surveys.

Subject headings: Galaxy: evolution – Galaxy: formation – Galaxy: halo – Galaxy: structure – galaxies:individual(Sagittarius) – galaxies: interactions – stars: horizontal-branch

1. Introduction

The discovery in 1994 (Ibata, Gilmore & Irwin 1994, I94) of the Sagittarius (Sgr) dwarf spheroidal (dSph) galaxy has provided direct observational support for the proposition that dwarf satellite galaxies can be tidally disrupted by the gravitational potential of the Milky Way and contribute to both its field star and cluster populations. Stars associated with Sgr but well beyond its tidal radius of $\sim 4^\circ$ (Ibata et al. 1997, I97 hereafter) have been detected by a variety of techniques, some that we utilize in the present study. Deep color magnitude diagrams (CMDs) of fields oriented along the major axis of Sgr have revealed the presence of the Sgr main sequence turn off (MSTO) superimposed on the CMD of field stars (Mateo et al. 1996, hereafter M96; Fahlman et al. 1996, F96; Mateo et al. 1998, M98). Surveys of RR Lyrae stars have shown concentrations at the distance modulus of Sgr (M96; Alard 1996, A96; Alcock et al. 1997, A97). The prominent Sgr red clump has also proven useful for delineating its structure (I94; Sarajedini & Layden 1995, SL95; Ibata et al. 1995, I95). These stellar Sgr detections are plotted in Aitoff projection in Figure 1 along with planetary nebulae (Zijlstra & Walsh 1996) and globular clusters associated with Sgr (Terzan 7, Terzan 8, Arp 2 and M54). Figure 1 demonstrates the growing extent of the Sgr "tidal stream" as the joint surveys probe a larger area.

We have begun the Selected Areas Starcounts Survey (SASS) to provide accurate photometric catalogues for our continuing study of the classical Galactic starcounts problem (Reid & Majewski 1993). Among our completed SASS fields, Kapteyn Selected Areas (SA) 107 ($l = 6^\circ, b = 41^\circ$) and SA184 ($356^\circ, -40^\circ$) were imaged in the $BVRI$ passbands with an approximately square, 5x5 grid of overlapping CCD images covering 2.1 deg^2 per SA, of which a subset (1.26 deg^2) has been analyzed in the context of Galactic starcounts already (Siegel et al. 1997, SMRT97 hereafter). To constrain the symmetry of the halo and Intermediate Population II thick disk near $l = 0^\circ$, we also observed "anti-fields" (ASA107 and ASA184 in Figure 1), reflected about the Galactic $l = 0^\circ$ meridian, in V and I. Because these "anti-fields" lay near the projection of the Sgr major axis, however, we rearranged our normal square grid of individual CCD images to a linear strip optimized to detect the Sgr stream, if present at these latitudes. In this way, we might evaluate better the extent to which our starcount analysis might be sensitive to, and affected by, interception of Sgr-like tidal structures.

We outline here the identification of possible interloping Sgr stars in our ASA184 field, at $b = -40^\circ$, as first suggested by Siegel et al. (1997). In that report, we presented results based on excesses in the field star color magnitude diagram that were intriguing, unique in our data set, and consistent with the presence of Sgr in the one survey area most likely to intercept the Sgr debris stream, though, admittedly, the photometric evidence was not decisive. Since that report, however, additional support for a Sgr interpretation to the photometric excesses we found has come from the work by M98 who have obtained deep CMDs in fields near our ASA184 field and who claim unambiguous detection of Sgr stars. The M98 results (particularly the measured surface brightness of Sgr debris in this part of the sky) are remarkably consistent with our own results.

Though our findings here may be argued to remain non-decisive, there are several reasons that motivate making our results available: (1) Our data would seem to corroborate (with great consistency) the independent work of M98 to trace the dwindling (and more difficult to follow) density profile of the Sgr debris stream at great angular separations from the Sgr core. (2) There is great interest in, indeed need for, tracing out the full extent of the Sgr debris stream; however, because of the huge area covered by Sgr, mapping its extent will require a huge investment by the community. In some sense, "every little bit helps" (note the number of different groups contributing to the Sgr mapping in Figure 1), and our findings can help advance this endeavour by providing an additional benchmark in one region of the sky. (3) We have supplemented our photometry with spectroscopy of the supposed Sgr red clump stars in the ASA184 field and have produced a radial velocity distribution. Thus, if the Sgr interpretation is born out, we provide the only velocity measure of the debris stream at such large distances from the Sgr core. (4) While the velocity distribution we derive does show a curious trend that is suggestive of the presence of a "moving group", the mean radial velocity of the stars is unlike expectations extrapolated from previous radial velocity studies of Sgr near its core. This has inspired a new dynamical model, presented in a companion paper (Johnston et al. 1999, "Paper II" hereafter), of the destruction and present state of the Sgr dwarf spheroidal. The new model, which is unique in that it accomodates all previous Sgr observations (as well as our new and unexpected results) naturally and self-consistently, explains the low latitude results (those presented here and by M98) as being derived from a separate, but overlapping Sgr tidal tail stripped off on a previous perigalactic passage of Sgr. (5) There is value in pointing out anomalous findings in field star studies, even if only to point out phenomena meriting further study, to alert colleagues of potential problem areas, and to underscore our present lack of understanding of the nature of the Galactic stellar populations. We point to the precedent of Rodgers et al. 1990, whose presentation of an unusual excess population in a similar direction of the sky bears some resemblance to our report here.

2. Photometric Observations and Analysis

The fields ASA184 and ASA107 were observed in the V and I passbands as part of the SASS program in July, 1996 on the Swope 1-meter telescope at Las Campanas using the thinned 2048^2 TEK5 CCD chip. The large format CCD at the 29."03 mm^{-1} Swope image scale gives a 23.'5 field of view. In each of these two antifields, a narrow strip of images was taken approximately perpendicular to the major axis of Sgr, with field centers displaced by 20' to retain some overlap as a check on the photometry. However, some fields are displaced laterally as much as 20' from this alignment so as to avoid bright foreground stars (see Figure 2).

Reductions were carried out with the IRAF package CCDRED. Photometry was performed with the IRAF version of DAOPHOT (Stetson 1987) using a variable PSF. Photometric calibration was obtained via Landolt (1992) standards, the IRAF package PHOTCAL, and our own code. Photometry presented here reaches a depth of $V = 21$ in nine ASA184 subfields (1.18 deg^2), eight ASA107 subfields (1.07 deg^2), nineteen SA107 subfields (2.42 deg^2) and fifteen SA184 subfields (1.96 deg^2). Photometric errors at $V = 18.5$ are $(\sigma_V, \sigma_{V-I}) = (0.02, 0.03)$.

The CMD's of ASA184 and ASA107 are shown in Figure 3. In this paper, we adopt reddening coefficients, E_{B-V}, of 0.05 for ASA107, 0.07 for for SA107, 0.08 for ASA184 and 0.02 for SA184. Differential reddenings from CCD field to CCD field are estimated by intercomparing the peak of the blue edge on the $(V - I, V)$ CMD in one magnitude brightness bins centered at $V = 16.0, 16.5$ and 17.0; the estimated error in the differential reddening from this technique is 0.01 magnitude. For all four fields, the relative reddening differences match the Burstein & Heiles maps (1982) well, and, in the end, we set the absolute reddening from these maps. We have taken $E_{V-I} = 1.24 E_{B-V}$ and $A_V = 3.1 E_{B-V}$ from Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989).

On first inspection, a distinctive feature in the CMD corresponding to Sgr stars is not apparent in either ASA field in Figure 3 – any such signal is lost in the noise of the Galactic field star population. Any relative contribution by Sgr can be amplified by considering only stars with colors consistent with those expected for the satellite's populous red clump and avoiding the prominent, blue, MSTO edge of the field star CMD. We therefore consider stars with $0.90 < (V - I)_o < 1.10$. In this restricted color range, the field star magnitude distribution rises monotonically to fainter magnitude, while the Sgr population should produce a sharp peak at the apparent magnitude appropriate to the red clump. I97 estimated the FWHM of this peak to be 0.1 magnitudes from a CMD in the center of the Sgr dSph.

Figure 4a shows a magnitude histogram of ASA184 stars with $0.90 < (V-I)_o < 1.10$. A slight peak is apparent in the ASA184 data at $V_o = 17.85$, the magnitude expected for the red clump of Sgr at a distance modulus of $(m-M)$=16.8 given the proper reddening correction and using the I97 absolute magnitude, M_V=1.04, for the red clump. The distance modulus would be close to the prediction of I97 for this latitude. This $V_o = 17.85$ overdensity is strongest in a limited range of Galactic longitudes we have sampled. The histogram for stars in three specific, adjacent ASA184 subfields (numbers 2-4 in Figure 2), centered at $(l, b) = (10.9, -40.2)$, or $(\alpha,\ \delta)_{2000}$ = (20:59:58, -33:21:01), show that the contrast of this peak is increased from little more than 2σ (Figure 4a) to more than 3σ (Figure 4b). Figure 3c shows the CMD of these subfields with the SL95 Sgr isochrone superimposed, shifted to a distance modulus of 16.8. Unfortunately, the dominant field star population still allows no more than a slight impression of a possible Sgr red clump in either Figures 3a and 3c.

We compare these results to the magnitude histograms in the same color range for ASA107, SA184 and SA107 (Figures 4c-4e, respectively). No $V_o = 17.85$ peak is seen in these other fields, nor in comparison CMD regions – given by $1.15 \leq (V-I)_o < 1.40$ – in any of the fields including ASA184. Moreover, for either color range no field shows *any* other peak of nearly the same significance as the $V_o = 17.85$ peak in ASA184, which suggests that this feature is unique in the data set. The ASA184 peak is robust to change in bin size and bin center, generally appearing at the 2-3 σ level of significance.

This statistical peak is not, in itself, strong evidence of the presence of Sgr. In a large survey parsed into small color-magnitude bins, one might expect to find occasional deviations from a uniform distribution. However, such a peak happening to fall near the magnitude and color of the expected Sgr clump at a latitude consistent with the expanding tidal stream of Sgr (and now consistent with the M98 detection) is suggestive and warrants further investigation.

If Sgr is present in these subfields of ASA184, it should be possible to identify its more populous upper main sequence and turnoff stars through deeper imaging. On UT 14-16 July 1997, we imaged two 0.022 deg^{-2} ASA184 subfields using the du Pont 2.5-m and the same CCD used in the Swope observations. One deep CCD image was centered at the location of the possible red clump excess (ASA184 subfield 3), the other approximately two degrees west along $b = -40°$ (in ASA184 subfield 8, which does *not* show the $V_o = 17.85$ excess in the Swope data). These new photometric data, which have a magnitude limit of $V_o = 24.25$, were reduced similarly to the shallower Swope data. Figure 5 shows the CMD of these two subfields. An excess of objects at $(V-I)_o = 0.8$ and $20.5 < V_o < 24$ appears in ASA184-3 (Figure 5a) compared to ASA184-8 (Figure 5b). In Figure 5c, the Figure 5a data are shown again with the F96 isochrone for Sgr plotted. The excess in Figure 5a is matched by the Sgr MSTO region if we assume, as before, a Sgr distance modulus of $(m-M)_o =$ 16.8

As further support for the presence of a Sgr MSTO in ASA184-3, we show in Figure 5d the cumulative starcounts over $17.75 < V_o < 22.25$ for ASA184-3 and ASA184-8 in two color ranges: $0.6 < (V-I)_o < 0.8$, which would bracket the main contribution of a Sgr MSTO and upper main sequence in the magnitude range shown, and $1.1 < (V-I)_o < 1.3$, which should miss most of a $(m-M)_o = 16.8$, Sgr isochrone at these magnitudes. We note that while the starcounts of the redder color range track each other well, the cumulative starcounts for the MSTO color range do indeed show a break near $V_o \approx 20.75$ in the ASA184-3 subfield which is not seen in the ASA184-8 subfield. A Kolmogorov-Smirnov test of the null hypothesis that the plotted cumulative distributions for ASA184-3 and ASA184-8 are drawn from the same population gives a signficance level of 0.95 for the redder color range (which yields a total of 25 stars in ASA184-3 and 22 stars in SA184-8), but a level of only 0.23 for the MSTO color range (represented by 98 stars in ASA184-3 and 67 stars in ASA184-8). While this KS significance does not strongly rule out a similar parent population, 0.23 is at the upper end of KS significances (as low as a few percent) found for various binnings tested (including wider bin widths with increased sample sizes and better statistics that include more of the "SGR MSTO" region) blueward of $(V-I)_o = 0.95$. For the case illustrated in Figure 5d, the significance of the excess from Poissonian statistics is 2.7σ. Further deep imaging over more area in this region of the sky, away from the "spine" of fields covered by M98, would be a great help to improving the statistics of these tests and verifying the width of the Sgr stream at these latitudes.

3. Surface Density Considerations

If we have indeed detected tidal stellar debris of Sgr, we can place some estimate on the surface brightness of that debris. The implied excess of stars in our red clump CMD bin is some 10-14 stars in 0.41 deg^2 based on a comparison to our Galactic model (see below), which matches other parts of the CMD well. Therefore, we adopt 35 red clump stars deg^{-2} as an approximate upper limit on the excess.

Note that the lowest isopleth plotted in I95 for red clump stars is 1800 deg^{-2}, and this is expected to be a $\sim 50\%$ completeness contour. Thus, the density of our red clump stars 26° from the Sgr core at M54 appears to be lower by about two orders of magnitude from the lowest I95 isopleths which extend to about 5° from the Sgr core near M54, where the red clump densities reach a factor of roughly three higher still (but note that the red clump density of SL95 stars 12 arcmin north of M54 is roughly 1800 deg^{-2} – see I97 Figure 2 – a factor of two below the I95 and I97 isopleths at this point).

In I97, Sgr maps are given utilizing stars within a magnitude of the MSTO. In this case, isopleths of MSTO stars at 3600 deg^{-2} reach to about 13° from the Sgr core at M54 (where the Sgr MSTO density is a factor of 10 higher). From Figure 5d, we see that our excess of stars within one magnitude of the MSTO is roughly 14 stars in .022 deg^2, and this yields a density of MSTO stars 26° from the Sgr core of $\sim$ 1200 deg^{-2}, a fall off of only a factor of three across the 13° from the last I97 point [1]. The latter suggests a more gradual falloff of Sgr light in the last 13° along the stream to the point of our detection than in the first 13° from the Sgr core south. Such a "break" in the surface density of Sgr is precisely what is observed by M98 in their systematic survey along the length of the Sgr southern tidal arm.

In M98, the surface density of Sgr MSTO stars is derived to a Galactic latitude of $b = -48°$ using a slightly different bin in $(I, V - I)$ space, which we estimate as $19.6 < I < 20.3$ and $0.4 < V - I < 0.8$. At this latitude, M98 detects a density of approximately 1200 stars deg^{-2}, which includes both background Galactic stars and Sgr MSTO stars in approximately equal numbers. Our data detect 26 stars in this region of color-magnitude space in the deep 0.033 deg^2 observation of ASA184-3, which corresponds to 1200 stars deg^{-2}, a result identical to the M98 result. This would place our surface brightness as identical to M98 at this latitude (29.8 mag arcsec^{-2}).

The surface brightness implied by the red clump stars should produce an identical result. In I95, the density of Sgr red clump stars in the center of Sgr is set at 1.125 stars arc-minute^{-2}. Our corresponding density of 0.01 stars arc-minute^{-2} (assuming only half of the stars to be Sgr as in M98) would place our surface brightness 5.0-5.7 magnitudes below the core surface brightness of Sgr, or 30.2-30.9 mag arcsec^{-2} – a value slightly fainter, but fairly consistent with, the MSTO calculation.

4. Radial Velocities

In August 1997, September 1997, August 1998, and October 1998 we used the du Pont 2.5-m telescope at Las Campanas to obtain spectra of the stars in the $17.75 < V_o < 17.95$ peak of Figure 4b. The celestial coordinates and undereddened colors and magnitudes for

[1]Because I97 do not explicitly name the color range used in their isopleth map, it is not clear whether we have sampled exactly the same region of the Sgr MSTO.

these stars are listed in Table 1 (the dereddened colors and magnitudes used in our analysis are obtained by assuming $E(V-I)=0.1$ and $A_V=0.25$). Typical errors in our V and $V-I$ are about 0.015 and 0.020 magnitudes, respectively. Our spectra cover the wavelength range from 4800-6800 Å at a resolution of 2.5 Å and include the Mgb triplet, MgH band (5211 Å bandhead), and Na D doublets, which have been shown (Deeming 1960, Friel 1987, Paltoglou & Bell 1994, Tripicchio et al. 1997) to be useful discriminants between metal poor, evolved stars and more metal rich dwarfs. The data also encompass several iron lines useful for evaluating [Fe/H].

The spectra are of sufficient signal-to-noise to allow measurement of line indices and we anticipated being able to elucidate luminosity classes for our sample of candidate Sgr red clump stars, segregating foreground Galactic dwarfs. In fact, we found the results of such an analysis [2] to be ambiguous. The separation of disk dwarfs from red clump stars – which, for the Mgb, MgH and NaD features, are expected to have line strengths intermediate between those of giants and dwarfs of the same metallicity – is complicated in the case of *Sgr* red clump stars by virtue of the apparently high mean metallicity (photometrically determined to be [Fe/H]=-0.52 by SL95) and large spreads of abundances in this galaxy. As determined by the high resolution spectroscopic analysis of Smecker-Hane, McWilliam & Ibata (1998), Sgr has some metal-poor stars of [Fe/H] ≈ -1.5; however this same analysis indicates the existence of Sgr stars as metal rich as [Fe/H]=+0.11. Marconi et al. (1999) report an even more extreme result in their study of 23 candidate Sgr stars; these authors find *no* Sgr stars as metal poor as [Fe/H] = -1.5, and apparently find a rather high mean abundance, and stars as metal rich as [Fe/H]=+0.7. The effect of such high abundances on the line strengths of evolved stars is to counteract the suppression of absorption associated with decreasing surface gravity. Contributing to this modulation of line strengths by [Fe/H] is an apparent mean overabundance of magnesium in Sgr. From their table of representative Sgr stars, Marconi et al. (1999) find a mean [Mg/Fe] overabundance of +0.26. Such ambiguities were possibly manifest in our analysis [3], which yielded the bulk of the 30 stars in the sample to have line strengths between those of metal rich giants and metal poor dwarfs, but, in many cases, with implied surface gravities dependent on which specific spectroscopic indicator was selected.

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[2]Our analysis employed use of (a) Friel's (1987) Mgb+H index, (b) a wider index sensitive to MgH absorption over 5000-5250 Å (c) the equivalent width of the NaD doublet, fixed to continuum levels at 5875 and 5909 Å , and (d) a variant of the Friel (1987) [Fe/H] measure using five available iron lines, and for which Friel calibrated stars of luminosity class III and IV.

[3]The referee mentions having had similar problems in determining abundances for stars in the main body of Sgr, which he has found to have quite peculiar element ratios.

Because of these and other difficulties, in the end we found a line strength analysis of our spectra to be premature, and beyond the scope of the present contribution. Further work along these lines will require a larger sample of stars with improved signal-to-noise, a more thorough calibration incorporating a sizable sample of *bona fide* Sgr red clump stars for comparison, a consistent set of photometric colors for both standard and target stars, and better stellar atmosphere models specifically constructed for red clump stars. As a clearer picture of the complex Sgr abundance patterns emerges, it may be possible to take better advantage of the line strength information in our spectra. We can provide our spectroscopic data to interested parties upon request.

Nevertheless, our spectra are of suitable quality for the measurement of radial velocities. In Table 1 we present the heliocentric radial velocities derived for our red clump sample. Since all of our stars are in a small region of the sky, the offset from heliocentric to Galactocentric frames is nearly constant at +21 km s^{-1}, if a rotational velocity for the local standard of rest of 220 km s^{-1} and a solar motion with respect to that of $(U, V, W) = (-9, 11, 6)$ km s^{-1} are adopted. Velocities were obtained via a cross-correlation analysis against well established, bright velocity standards. To minimize flexure induced systematics, comparison arcs for each target and calibration source were always taken right after, and at the same telescope position as, the stellar spectra. Strong spectral lines were left out of the cross-correlation analysis. The location of the peak ("CCP") of the cross-correlation curve was taken as the radial velocity difference between target and calibration spectrum; the CCP value is included in Table 1. The typical error in the radial velocities is 12 km s^{-1}, as determined by repeat measures of a number of stars (including numerous stars beyond those presented here) on different observing runs and after accounting for a mean run to run systematic offset velocity determined from all repeat stars. However, in some cases, due to low signal to noise, a CCP was rather weak and the radial velocity is rather more suspect. In cases where CCP < 0.30 (radial velocities marked as "::" in Table 1) or $0.30 \leq$CCP< 0.40 (radial velocities marked as ":" in Table 1), an observation with higher signal to noise was sought. For the subsequent analysis, we have adopted radial velocities with CCP ≥ 0.40 over other measured radial velocities for the same star if the latter velocities have CCP < 0.40. Otherwise, multiple radial velocity measures have been averaged.

Because the field surveyed, ASA184, is almost directly below the Galactic center, the mean radial velocity of stars from both nearby and very distant stars (whose mean rotational component is predominently perpendicular to the line of sight) are expected to be around $V_{helio} \lesssim 0$ km s^{-1}. For stars near the Galactic center, the line of sight becomes tangent to their mean rotation around the Galactic center and the radial velocity reflects more of their mean rotational velocity. In Figure 6 we show the expected mean heliocentric radial velocities for stellar populations of different mean rotational rates around the Galactic center as a function of distance from the Sun in the direction of the field ASA184. We consider four possible contaminants of our "Sgr red clump" sample, which is centered in the CMD at $V_o = 17.85$ and $(V-I)_o = 1.0$:

Halo giant stars: At $V_o = 17.85$ and $b = -40°$ any giant star with $(V-I)_o = 1.0$ will be well into the halo. If we adopt stars of the metallicity of M3 and M13 as typical of the halo, we derive a distance of 37 kpc. The expected mean radial velocity for such contaminants would be < -25 km s^{-1} (Figure 6) but with a rather large (~ 100 km s^{-1}) dispersion.

Horizontal branch stars: With $(V-I)_o = 1.0$ these would most likely be red clump stars. If we adopt the I97 absolute magnitude for Sgr red clump stars as typical for "contaminant" red clump stars from the halo field, they would be at a distance of about 23 kpc. The mean heliocentric radial velocity for these stars would be < -10 km s^{-1}, but again with a large velocity dispersion if from a random halo field population.

Metal rich dwarfs: If solar abundance, a $(V-I)_o = 1.0$ dwarf would be 2.2 kpc distant and 1.4 kpc (some four old disk scaleheights) below the Galactic plane. The expected mean radial velocity for these stars would be < 0 km s^{-1}, and, while of solar metallicity, the velocity dispersion would need to be of order 40 km s^{-1} or so for them to be at such large distances from the Galactic mid-plane. One might not expect an abundance of solar metallicity stars at this z-distance; we present them here as one limit for dwarf contaminants, to compare to...

Metal poor subdwarfs: For a subdwarf 3 magnitudes below the nominal solar abundance main sequence, the distance is some 550 pc, and 350 pc below the Galactic plane. Thus, most dwarf contaminants in the sample are likely to be somewhere between 0.5 and 2.2 kpc distant, and, from Figure 6, should show mean heliocentric velocities near -10 km s^{-1} for typically expected, "thick disk" asymmetric drifts.

What should we expect as "contaminants" of our "SGR red clump sample" as predicted from standard Galactic models? Using star count model B from Reid et al. (1996), which we have already shown to give reasonable fits to the SA107 and SA184 data (SMRT97; see also Figure 4), we predict 40-50 stars deg^{-2} for $17.75 < V_o < 17.95$ and $0.9 < (V-I)_0 < 1.1$ at this (l, b) (or 16-20 stars in our spectroscopic sample of 30 stars). This expected number is in reasonable (though not exact) agreement with the density of stars (a) in this same color-magnitude bin for the Galactic structure fields ASA107, SA184 and SA107 (Figures 4c-e), and (b) with the density of stars in ASA184 in the magnitude bins adjacent to the $V_o = 17.8$ bin in Figures 4a and 4b. In our model, about one third of the expected 16-20 stars are predicted to be from the disk and two-thirds from the thick disk; only a few stars are expected to be evolved ($M_V < 3$) stars from a homogeneously distributed halo population (and these will be predominently giants). Assuming mean rotational velocities of ~ 200, ~ 170, and ~ 40 km s^{-1} for the old thin disk, the thick disk, and the halo, respectively, then we should predict some ten or so stars centered around $V_{helio} \sim -10$ km s^{-1} (Figure 6) with a dispersion of $\lesssim 50$ km s^{-1} or so (mostly a combination of the σ_U and σ_W parts of the thick disk velocity ellipsoid), some five stars more tightly clumped around $V_{helio} \sim -10$ km s^{-1} (represeting the old thin disk), and a few halo giants broadly spread around $V_{helio} \sim -30$ km s^{-1}. It is not clear what population the "excess" dozen or so stars should represent in the sample of 30 stars.

We find the mean heliocentric radial velocity for all 30 stars in the sample is 4 km s^{-1}, with an RMS of 58 km s^{-1}. At first blush, the distribution of velocities (Figure 7) seems *roughly* consistent with expectations for a mix of thin and thick disk stars and a smattering of halo stars, but from Figure 6 and the starcount model predictions detailed above we should expect the velocities for any combination of stellar populations to skew towards negative V_{helio}, rather than positive V_{helio} as is found (Figure 7). We note, for example, that 16 of the 30 stars have $V_{helio} > 0$ (the median is 9.5 km s^{-1}), when the majority of stars should have $V_{helio} < 0$.

Despite the skew to $V_{helio} > 0$, the lack in our data of a distinct radial velocity signal separate from that of the Galactic disk stars is unfortunate in that it does not allow us immediately to isolate specific members of any excess population above the predicted Galactic stellar populations, and, indeed, may even call into question the reality of such an excess population in the spectroscopic sample. However, we call attention to a *color dependence* of the radial velocity distribution which does seem to point to the presence of a distinct radial velocity signal. As shown in Figure 8, there is a dichotomy in the radial velocity distributions on either side of $(V-I)_o \sim 1.0$, with a difference in the mean velocity of stars of 47 km s^{-1}. The bluer stars show a mean $V_{helio} = -17$ km s^{-1} and velocity dispersion of 67 km s^{-1} while the redder stars show a mean velocity of $V_{helio} = 30$ km s^{-1} and much smaller velocity dispersion of only 27 km s^{-1}. The velocity distribution *and* number of stars in the bluer population are very similar to the expectations for Galactic stellar populations as outlined above.

On the other hand, the velocity dispersion for the redder stars is much less than expected for even a random sample of only Galactic disk dwarf stars in this direction of the sky; however, the red star velocity dispersion is more typical of expectations for halo "moving groups", and we note that if this redder sample should also contain some contribution by Galactic stars, they would tend to *increase* the velocity dispersion. Moreover, the *mean* radial velocity of the redder sample is more than 40 km s^{-1} higher than expectations for Galactic disk stars. A Kolomogorov-Smirnov test that the radial velocity distributions on either side of $(V-I)_o = 1.0$ are drawn from the same population gives only 1% confidence.

The relevance of this velocity-color disparity may lie in a closer inspection of the Sgr CMD in SL95 (see their Figures 4 and 6b) which seems to show (1) the Sgr red clump concentrated to $1.0 < (V-I)_o < 1.15$ and (2) a relative dearth of stars for $0.9 < (V-I)_o < 1.0$. Perhaps a more appropriate color bin for our selection of Sgr red clump stars should have been $1.0 < (V-I)_o < 1.15$, and we should *expect* Sgr red clump stars primarily in the $(V-I)_o > 1.0$ part of the spectroscopic sample, but *not* the $(V-I)_o < 1.0$ part of the spectroscopic sample. While this would seemingly dovetail nicely with the color dependence of the radial velocities described above, we must also point out that this parsing of the spectroscopic sample by color yields no consistent *excess* in counts by our photometric data (both the red and blue sample show a similar low-significance excess). That is, to identify the $1.0 < (V-I)_o < 1.1$ stars that show the much tighter velocity dispersion as a "moving group" we have to believe simultaneously that the major contribution of the Galaxy to our spectroscopic sample just happened to be in the $0.9 < (V-I)_o < 1.0$ sample. This is an unlikely assertion and stresses the need for a larger statistical sample to understand these apparent contradictions.

We conclude from this analysis that *if* the Sgr red clump population is indeed present in our spectroscopic sample, its mean velocity is likely to be rather low – a mean velocity of $V_{helio} = 30$ km s^{-1} or $V_{GSR} = 51$ km s^{-1} if we adopt the $1.0 < (V-I)_o < 1.1$ stars as representative, and lower if we do not. We note that most of the previous velocity surveys of Sgr near its core determined mean velocities greater than $V_{GSR} = 150$ km s^{-1}, whereas we have only two stars with velocities that large. As we discuss in the companion paper, this discrepancy with previous radial velocity work does not, in itself, discount our having detected the Sgr red clump in our spectroscopic sample.

5. Discussion

5.1. Sagittarius or Not Sagittarius?

We are presented with the following set of apparently conflicting circumstances: (1) the implication of our model and starcount data presented in Figure 4b is that there is a 50-100% excess of stars in the ASA184 CMD in the magnitude and color range of interest; (2) this particular part of the CMD is a reasonable match to the expected location of the prominent Sgr red clump, and a Sgr-like isochrone and the appearance of a prominent

Sgr-like MSTO is implied by our deep CMD in this part of the sky, as presented in Figure 5; (3) the surface brightness of stars in these two regions are consistent with each other, consistent with an extrapolation of the Sgr extent into this field, and consistent with the results of M98; but (4) the radial velocity distribution of stars in this field, while dissimilar from expectations for that of Galactic stars, is not grossly so when the sample is considered in total; (5) there is a color trend in the velocity distribution, which is not supported by the location of the count excess, but which does have an intriguing correspondence to the color range of Sgr red clump stars in SL95; (6) we find the spectral line strength indices to yield ambiguous gravity/abundance information.

At this point, we are uncertain of how to account for (5) and both (5) and (6) clearly require further observations to resolve. We propose three ways to reconcile (1)-(4): (a) Our photometric results are merely a statistical fluke in the large SASS project and these stars are all Galactic; (b) we have found a stellar system with an extended spatial distribution that has a CMD extremely similar to Sgr, is at about the same distance as Sgr, has about the same surface brightness as Sgr in this part of the sky, but that is not Sgr; or (c), we have indeed identified Sgr, but in our field Sgr has a very different radial velocity than seen near the center of the dwarf galaxy.

Given the consistency of our photometric results with each other and with M98, we find proposition (a) unlikely, although not impossible. A larger survey with deep imaging would address this issue conclusively. Proposition (b) would require the unique circumstance of two distinct stellar systems overlapping in surface density and position, which is also unlikely, but not impossible. In the companion paper (Johnston et al. 1999), we demonstrate how proposition (c) is viable if our observations are revealing a *different* tidal tail of Sgr than observed at higher Galactic latitudes. With semi-analytical modeling of the destruction of the Sgr dwarf and by following the fate of debris shed by perigalacticon passages of the dwarf on a variety of orbits, Johnston et al. conclude that lines of sight progressively farther from the Sgr core should intercept additional debris streamers of Sgr with differing radial velocities and distances. The possible detection of Sgr here, with the distance and velocity characteristics we derive, match remarkably well to the predictions for a tidal streamer torn from Sgr *three* perigalactic passages ago. Spectroscopy of Sgr stars in the nearby M98 fields would be an important test of the various propositions put forth here and in Johnston et al. (1999).

5.2. Sgr in the Northern Hemisphere

From the lack of a Sgr detection in our ASA107 field at $b = +40°$, it is tempting to impose an *upper* limit to Sgr's possible extent in this direction. However, we hedge on such an interpretation. In the first place, the orbital path of the dSph is not precisely known above the Galactic equator. It is not only possible, but likely, that we missed the orbit entirely and that the ASA107 data do not constrain the length or age of the tidal stream. It is worth noting that in a more careful treatment of the Sgr disruption, Johnston (1998) shows that it would take a mere 3 Gyr for Sgr tidal debris to wrap entirely around 360°, if it has a mass of $10^8 M_\odot$.

Most studies of the Sgr stream have concentrated on its southern extent since studying the northern tail means working into the Galactic plane, a difficult prospect. Nevertheless, observations at $b > 10°$ are possible and a Sgr component might be expected at $b \geq 10°$ given the 25° southern extent we may have detected in this paper and that is seen by M98.

5.3. Implications for Galactic Structure Studies

Finally, it is important to place our likely detection of Sgr within the context of the original aims of our SASS survey, which were to constrain global density models of Galactic stellar populations. From the mere existence of the Sgr system, it is evident that simple triaxial models and symmetric analytic expressions are insufficient to describe the outer populations of the Milky Way. The recent work by Johnston (1998) is particularly relevant to this discussion. She finds that after 10 Gyr, the fraction of the sky that would be covered by the debris of a disrupted, $10^8 M_\odot$ Sgr would be on the order 5000 deg^2, while the LMC should cover some 10,000 deg^2. However, to the extent that there *do* exist more dynamically relaxed disributions of stars, the expansive diaspora of tidal debris may lurk as a mere tittle against an overwhelming stellar background (e.g., see Johnston 1998, Figure 8). With a wider canvas of SASS fields, we hope to evaluate the veracity of simple analytical approaches to modeling the structure of the Milky Way, and determine the level of need for superposition of irregularities in model Galactic density distributions.

This research was supported by NSF grants AST-9412265 to IT and SRM, AST-9412463 to INR, and AST-9528177 to AUL. We thank Rodrigo Ibata for useful comments in the refereeing stage. We dedicate this work to the memory of our friend and colleague, Jerry Kristian.

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TABLE 1.

Star	α J2000.0	δ J2000.0	V	$V-I$	Obs Date mmddyy	Exptime (sec)	RV$_{helio}$ (km/sec)	CCP
01	21:00:05.7	-33:30:15	18.028	1.049	081197	2700	-137.5 ::	0.25
02	20:59:35.2	-33:31:39	18.146	1.161	081197	1800	-10.8	0.45
03	20:59:41.3	-33:32:11	18.024	1.043	081198	900	99.2 :	0.33
					102898	1800	114.1	0.61
04	21:01:04.8	-33:34:30	18.199	1.075	102898	1440	-30.4	0.70
05	21:01:33.7	-33:39:55	18.115	1.073	081497	1350	10.6 ::	0.22
					081298	1800	19.6	0.86
06	20:50:48.2	-33:50:57	18.099	1.073	081298	1200	-113.6	0.75
07	21:00:22.4	-33:29:59	18.141	1.170	102898	1080	17.9	0.73
08	20:59:26.2	-33:33:17	18.022	1.007	082397	900	110.6 ::	0.28
					081298	1350	113.2	0.90
09	20:59:58.6	-33:35:31	18.027	1.034	081497	1350	-37.4 :	0.37
					081497	1350	-36.9 :	0.37
					081298	900	-51.0	0.70
10	21:00:42.2	-33:49:59	18.159	1.140	082497	900	-14.0	0.44
11	20:59:26.2	-33:49:47	18.023	1.140	081298	900	45.9	0.77
12	21:00:07.5	-33:09:56	18.066	1.057	081298	900	37.5	0.73
13	21:00:12.7	-33:20:34	18.130	1.188	081298	900	31.5	0.64
14	21:01:01.5	-33:23:30	18.065	1.135	082497	900	61.2 :	0.30
15	21:00:22.6	-33:10:05	18.016	1.156	081298	900	67.1	0.59
16	20:59:28.9	-33:13:27	18.050	1.084	081397	1800	-3.5	0.51
					081397	1800	-4.0	0.50
17	20:59:57.6	-33:14:41	18.177	1.004	081298	900	-145.9 :	0.32
					102898	1800	-73.7	0.63
18	21:01:11.0	-33:17:23	18.035	1.064	081298	3600	-15.5	0.72
					102898	1800	-23.1	0.83
19	21:01:17.1	-33:21:56	18.018	1.164	081398	1440	22.7	0.77
					102898	1800	-2.7	0.75

TABLE 1 (continued).

Star	α J2000.0	δ J2000.0	V	$V-I$	Obs Date mmddyy	Exptime (sec)	RV$_{helio}$ (km/sec)	CCP
20	20:59:37.2	-33:21:36	18.058	1.001	081297	1800	-34.9 ::	0.20
					102898	1800	9.1	0.58
21	21:00:43.9	-33:27:08	18.077	1.110	082397	900	65.3 :	0.32
					081398	1800	61.3	0.85
24	21:01:15.3	-33:33:56	18.146	1.189	102898	1800	46.9	0.60
25	21:00:04.8	-33:25:06	18.072	1.143	082397	900	10.2	0.45
					081398	1080	7.4	0.73
27	21:00:48.0	-33:03:07	18.154	1.167	081398	2720	36.0	0.80
28	20:59:38.8	-33:06:46	18.081	1.027	081398	2720	-32.9 :	0.35
30	21:00:08.2	-32:51:50	18.021	1.066	082497	900	-10.0 ::	0.24
					081398	1260	-51.5	0.69
31	21:00:32.4	-33:03:22	18.075	1.032	102898	1350	-37.4	0.47
32	21:00:16.3	-33:05:57	18.090	1.167	081498	1440	33.2	0.68
33	21:00:06.3	-33:06:54	18.058	1.092	081397	1350	-65.2 ::	0.22
					102898	1800	-40.4	0.89
34	21:00:07.5	-33:09:56	18.040	1.032	081498	1440	14.5	0.58

Figure Captions

Fig. 1.— Aitoff projection showing the location of the suspected Sgr globular clusters (*circled crosses*), previous detections of stars in the Sgr stellar stream (*solid dot* for M96, *dotted lines* delineate the survey areas of A96 and A97, and *solid contour* for the approximate outer isophote of I97), Sgr planetary nebulae (*crosses* – the two *crosses* outside the I97 isophote are only possibly associated), our SA fields (*squares*) and our anti-SA fields (*solid strips*). The long *solid line* shows the survey of M98.

Fig. 2.— Placement of the CCD fields in the ASA184 strip. Subfield 6 was displaced to avoid a bright star and subfield 9 is intended to provide a check on the photometric tie-in between subfields 6 and 7.

Fig. 3.— Dereddened color-magnitude diagrams (CMDs) of the (a) ASA184 and (b) ASA107 fields. Panel (c) shows the CMD of subfields 2, 3 and 4 of ASA184. Although the Sgr red clump may be present in the field, the overwhelming contribution of the field star population makes it difficult to discern. A Sgr isochrone from SL95 is superimposed on top of the data in panel (c).

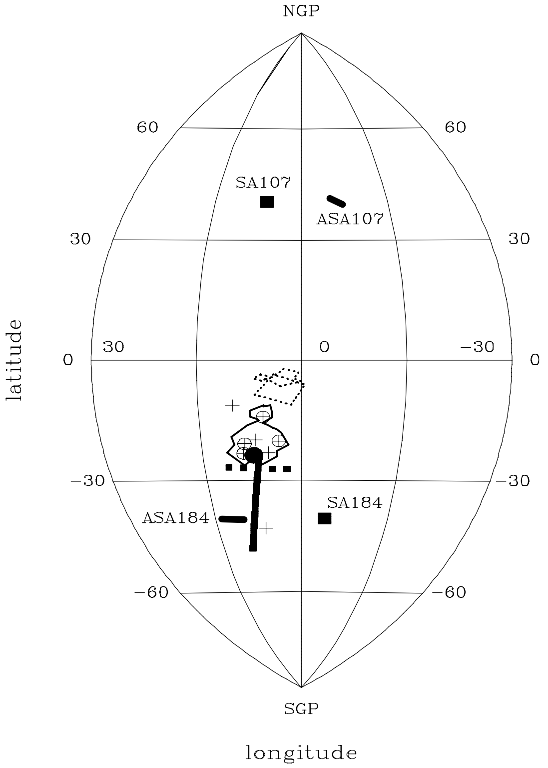
Fig. 4.— Magnitude histograms of the (a) ASA184 , (c) ASA107 , (d) SA184 and (e) SA107 fields in the dereddened color interval $0.90 < (V-I)_o < 1.10$. In each panel, the *dark solid lines* are our data normalized to 1 deg^{-2} for the color range $0.9 \leq (V-I)_o < 1.1$, and, for comparison, our computer model predictions for this color range (*dashed lines*) and the data in a redder color bin ($1.15 \leq (V-I)_o < 1.4$, *dotted lines*). A few representative error bars are given in each panel. We have determined E_{B-V} reddenings for each field as 0.08 (ASA184), 0.05 (ASA107), 0.02 (SA184), and 0.07 (SA107). Note the weak $V = 17.8$ peak in ASA184. Panel (b) narrows ASA184 to the 2, 3 and 4 subfields. The peak at $V_o = 17.8$ is much clearer in this smaller ASA184 sample.

Fig. 5.— Dereddened color-magnitude diagrams of (a) the ASA184-3 subfield ($(l,b) = (10.9^\circ, -40.2^\circ)$), which shows the strongest Sgr detection and (b) the ASA184-8 subfield ($(l,b) = (13.0^\circ, -40.1^\circ)$), which is nearly two degrees west (approximately along $b = -40^\circ$), away from the detection. Panel (c) shows the ASA184-3 CMD with the F96 isochrone superimposed. Panel (d) shows the cumulative starcount distributions from the deeper du Pont CCD data for ASA184-3 (*solid lines*) and ASA184-8 (*dashed curves*) for two color ranges: $0.6 < (V-I)_o < 0.8$ (*upper curves*), which should include the bulk of the Sgr main sequence turn off, and $1.1 < (V-I)_o < 1.3$ (*lower curves*), which should not contain many Sgr stars in the magnitude range shown ($17.75 < V_o < 22.25$). The discrepancy between the shapes of the two upper curves suggests the presence of the Sgr MSTO in ASA184-3 (see text).

Fig. 6.— Expected mean heliocentric radial velocities for stars of various mean rotational velocities about the Galactic center as a function of distance (kpc) in the direction of ASA184. The curves are drawn assuming a mean rotation for the local standard of rest (Θ_o) of 220 km s^{-1}, a solar motion of $(U, V, W) = (-9, 11, 6)$ km s^{-1}, and a solar Galactocentric distance of 8.0 kpc. For stars of $V_o = 17.85$ and $(V - I)_o = 1.0$ (the magnitude and color of the "Sgr red clump" sample), we mark the approximate distances of stars of different possible luminosities: solar abundance dwarf (absolute magnitude $M_V = 6.16$ adopted from Reid & Gizas 1997), a 3.0 magnitude subluminous subdwarf (M_V as suggested by the subdwarfs in Monet et al. 1992), a red clump star of similar luminosity to those in Sgr (adopting the I97 $M_V = 1.04$), and a red giant star of the abundance ([Fe/H] ~ -1.55) of M3 and M13 (absolute magnitude of $M_V \sim 0$ derived from the data in Johnson & Bolte 1998). The effect of lowering Θ_o is to offset the curves systematically in the positive direction; e.g., the Olling & Merrifield (1998) recommended $\Theta_o = 184$ km s^{-1} increases the expected radial velocities shown by 5 km s^{-1}.

Fig. 7.— Histogram of radial velocities for the Sgr red clump sample.

Fig. 8.— The distribution of stars in radial velocity and color. Note the skew of the redder stars in this sample. While it is tempting to assign these stars to Sgr, this assignment does not necessarily square with the distribution of the count excess (see text).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60
SA107
ASA107
30
30
latitude
0
30
0
−30
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−30
ASA184
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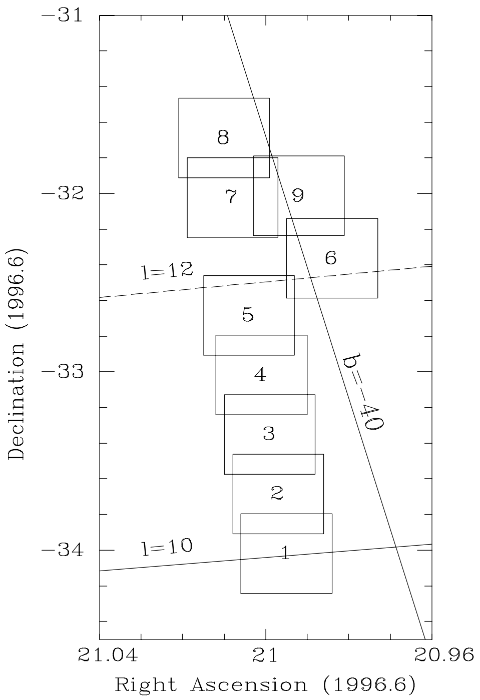
−60
−60
SGP
longitude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−33
−34
8
7
9
6
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2
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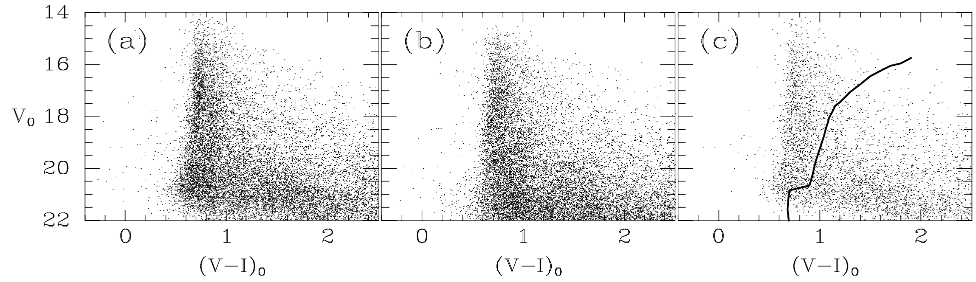
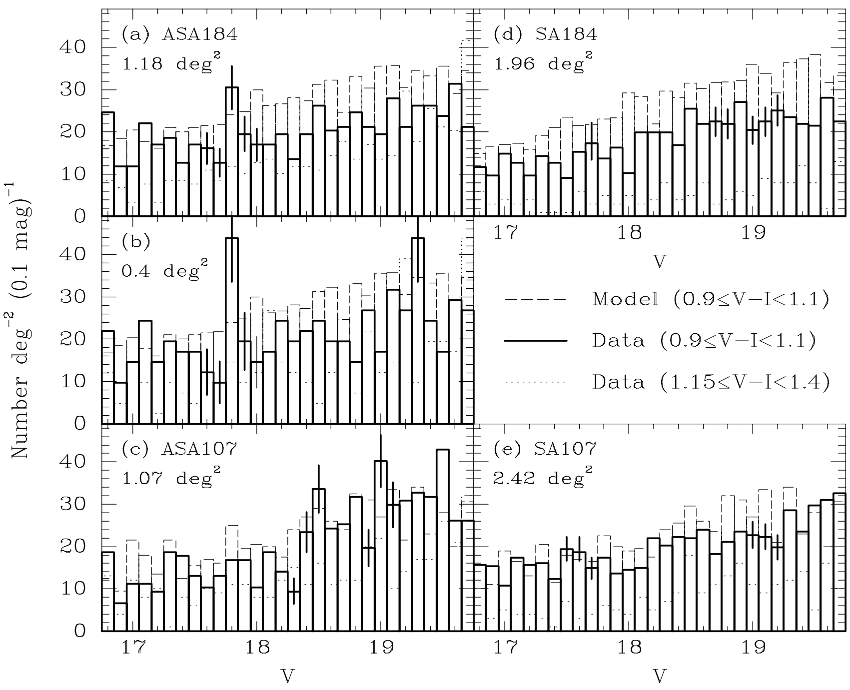
Declination (1996.6)
21.04
21
20.96
Right Ascension (1996.6)


(a)
(b)
(c)
V_0
(V−I)$_0$
(V−I)$_0$
(V−I)$_0$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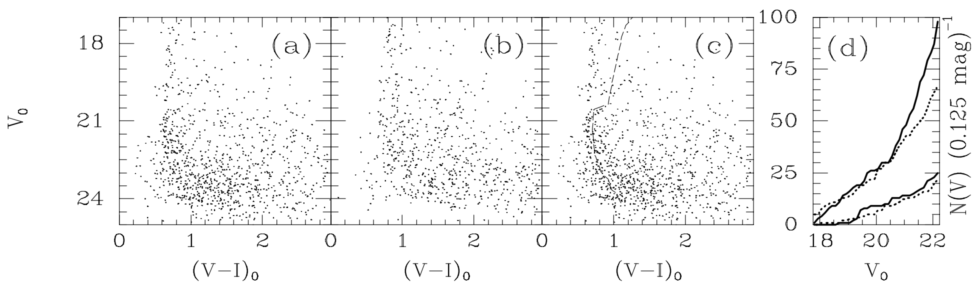
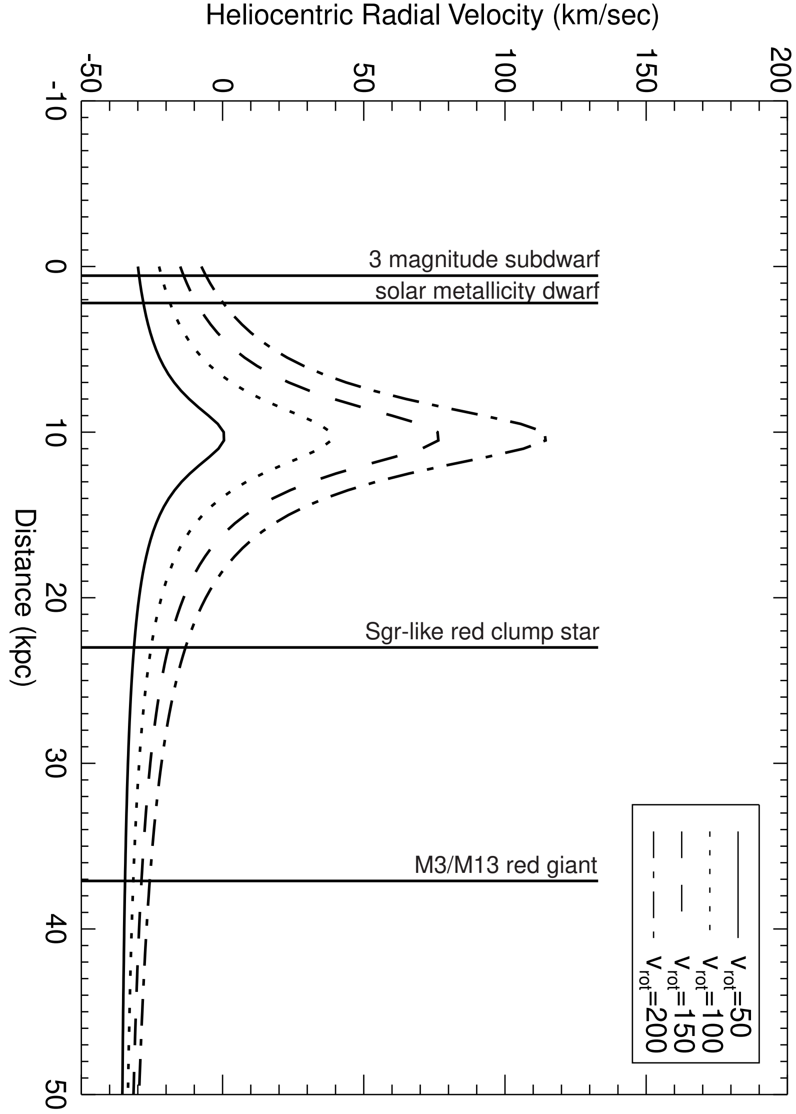
1.18 deg^2
(b)
0.4 deg^2
(c) ASA107
1.07 deg^2
(d) SA184
1.96 deg^2
(e) SA107
2.42 deg^2
Number deg^{-2} (0.1 mag)$^{-1}$
V
V
V
Model (0.9≤V−I<1.1)
Data (0.9≤V−I<1.1)
Data (1.15≤V−I<1.4)


(a)
(b)
(c)
(d)
V_0
$(V-I)_0$
$(V-I)_0$
$(V-I)_0$
V_0
N(V) (0.125 mag)$^{-1}$


Heliocentric Radial Velocity (km/sec)
Distance (kpc)
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solar metallicity dwarf
Sgr-like red clump star
M3/M13 red giant
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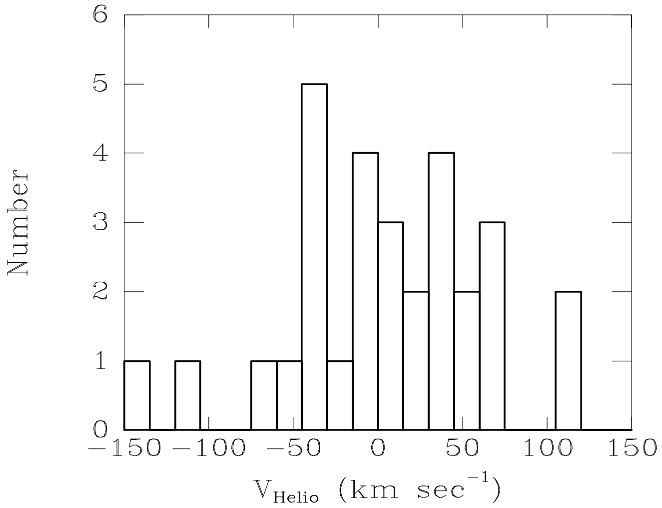
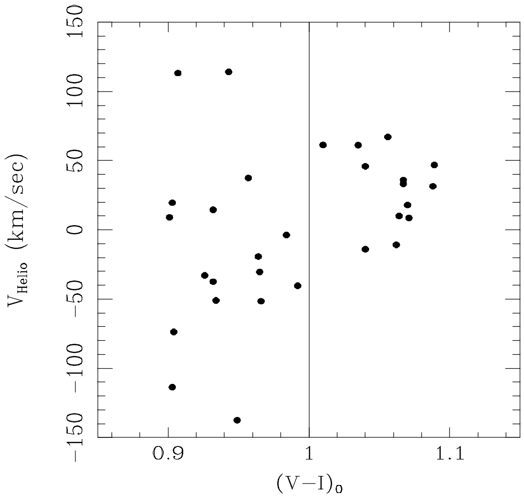
V_{rot}=150
V_{rot}=200


Number
V_{Helio} (km sec^{-1})


V_{Helio} (km/sec)
$(V-I)_0$