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Characterizing Galaxy Protoclusters: a case study of a Planck-selected candidate

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Understanding how and when galactic structures formed is a major unsolved problem in Astrophysics, yet such sources are also very red and faint, making their confirmation a challenge. Nascent galaxy overdense regions or "protoclusters" are relatively brighter at z=2-4, during which the in-situ star formation rates and/or AGN activities peaked. While obtaining spectroscopic confirmation of multiple member galaxies can be slowgoing, at the same time there is ample useful photometric information. We present a study of the protocluster candidate PLCK G256.8-33.2, which is drawn from the Spitzer Planck Herschel Infrared Cluster (SPHerIC) survey. SPHerIC identified 82 galaxy protocluster candidates at z=1.3-3.0 using mid-through far-infrared imaging data. In this preliminary analysis we include also optical and near-infrared imaging to do the matched photometry and fit Spectral Energy Distribution (SEDs) to the galaxies in to measure their photometric redshifts.

Field

Cosmology

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