

Emulating the CFHTLenS weak lensing data: Cosmological constraints from moments and Minkowski functionals

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Weak gravitational lensing is a powerful cosmological probe, with non-Gaussian features potentially containing the majority of the information. We examine constraints on the parameter triplet (Ω_m, w, σ_8) from non-Gaussian features of the weak lensing convergence field, including a set of moments (up to fourth order) and Minkowski functionals, using publicly available data from the 154 deg² CFHTLenS survey. We utilize a suite of ray-tracing N-body simulations spanning 91 points in (Ω_m, w, σ_8) parameter space, replicating the galaxy sky positions, redshifts and shape noise in the CFHTLenS catalogs. We then build an emulator that interpolates the simulated descriptors as a function of (Ω_m, w, σ_8) , and use it to compute the likelihood function and parameter constraints. We employ a principal component analysis to reduce dimensionality and to help stabilize the constraints with respect to the number of bins used to construct each statistic. Using the full set of statistics, we find $\Sigma_8 \equiv \sigma_8(\Omega_m/0.27)^{0.55} = 0.75 \pm 0.04$ (68% C.L.), in agreement with previous values. We find that constraints on the (Ω_m, σ_8) doublet from the Minkowski functionals suffer a strong bias. However, high-order moments break the (Ω_m, σ_8) degeneracy and provide a tight constraint on these parameters with no apparent bias. The main contribution comes from quartic moments of derivatives.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Weak gravitational lensing (WL) is emerging as a promising technique to constrain cosmology. Techniques have been developed to construct cosmic shear fields with shape measurements in large galaxy catalogues. Although the shear two-point function (2PCF) is the most widely studied cosmological probe (see, e.g. [1]), alternative statistics have been shown to increase the amount of cosmological information one can extract from weak lensing fields. Among these, high-order moments [2–6], three-point functions [7–9], bispectra [10–13], peak counts [14–21] and Minkowski Functionals [22,23] have been shown to improve cosmological constraints in weak lensing analyses.

In this work, we use the publicly available CFHTLenS data, consisting of a catalog of ≈ 4.2 million galaxies, combined with a suite of ray-tracing simulations in 91 different cosmological models to derive constraints on the cosmological parameters Ω_m , σ_8 and the dark energy (DE) equation of state w . The statistics we consider in this work are the Minkowski functionals (MFs) and the low-order moments (LM) of the convergence field. Cosmological parameter inferences from CFHTLenS have been obtained using the 2PCF [1], and a number of authors have

investigated the constraining power of CFHTLenS using statistics that go beyond the usual quadratic ones. Fu *et al.* [24] used three-point correlations as an additional probe for cosmology, and found modest (10%–20%) improvements over the 2PCF. These results rely on the third-order statistics systematic tests performed by Simon *et al.* [25].

Liu *et al.* [26] have found a more significant (50%–60%) tightening of the Ω and σ_8 constraints, utilizing the abundance of WL peaks. Cosmological constraints using WL peaks in CFHTLenS Stripe82 data have also been investigated by Liu *et al.* [27]. Finally, closest to the present paper, Shirasaki & Yoshida [28] investigated constraints from Minkowski Functionals, including systematic errors. Our study represents two major improvements over previous work. First, constraints from the MFs in Ref. [28] were obtained through the Fisher matrix formalism, assuming linear dependence on cosmological parameters. Our study utilizes a suite of simulations sampling the cosmological parameter space, mapping out the nonlinear parameter dependence of each descriptor. Second, we include the LMs as a set of new descriptors; these yield the tightest and least biased constraints.

This paper is organized as follows: we first give an overview of the CFHTLenS catalogs, and summarize the adopted data reduction techniques. Next, we give a description of our simulation pipeline, including the ray-tracing algorithm, and the procedure used to sample the

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parameter space. We call the statistical weak lensing observables—the power spectrum, Minkowski functionals, and moments—“descriptors” throughout the paper. We discuss the calculation of the descriptors, including dimensional reduction using a principal component analysis, and the statistical inference framework we used. We then describe our main results, i.e. the cosmological parameter constraints. To conclude, we then discuss our findings and comment on possible future extensions of this analysis.

II. DATA AND SIMULATIONS

A. CFHTLenS data reduction

In this section, we briefly summarize our treatment of the public CFHTLenS data. For a more in–depth description of our data reduction procedure, we refer the reader to [26].

The CFHTLenS survey covers four sky patches of 64, 23, 44 and 23 deg² area, for a total of 154 deg². The publicly released data consist of a galaxy catalog created using SExtractor [29], and includes photometric redshifts estimated with a Bayesian photometric redshift code [30] and galaxy shape measurements using *lensfit* [31,32].

We apply the following cuts to the galaxy catalog: $\text{mask} < 1$ (see Table B2 in [29]), redshift $0.2 < z < 1.3$ (see [31]), $\text{fitclass} = 0$ (which requires the object to be a galaxy) and $\text{weight} > 0$ (with larger w indicating smaller shear measurement uncertainty). Applying these cuts leaves us 4.2×10^6 galaxies, 124.7 deg² sky coverage, and average galaxy density $n_{\text{gal}} \approx 9.3 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$. The catalog is further reduced by $\sim 25\%$ when one rejects fields with non-negligible star-galaxy correlations. These spurious correlations are likely due to imperfect PSF removal, and do not contain cosmological signal. These cuts are consistent with the ones adopted by the CFHTLenS Collaboration (see [24]).

The CFHTLenS galaxy catalog provides us with the sky position $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, redshift $z(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ and ellipticity $\mathbf{e}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ of each galaxy, as well as the individual weight factors $w(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ and additive and multiplicative ellipticity corrections $c(\boldsymbol{\theta}), m(\boldsymbol{\theta})$. Because the CFHTLenS fields are irregularly shaped, we first divide them into 13 squares (subfields) to match the shape and $\approx 12 \text{ deg}^2$ size of our simulated maps (see below). These square-shaped subfield maps are pixelized according to a Gaussian gridding procedure

$$\bar{\mathbf{e}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} W(|\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}_i|) w(\boldsymbol{\theta}_i) [\mathbf{e}^{\text{obs}}(\boldsymbol{\theta}_i) - c(\boldsymbol{\theta}_i)]}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} W(|\boldsymbol{\theta} - \boldsymbol{\theta}_i|) w(\boldsymbol{\theta}_i) [1 + m(\boldsymbol{\theta})]}, \quad (1)$$

$$W_{\theta_G}(\boldsymbol{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2\pi\theta_G^2} \exp\left(-\frac{\boldsymbol{\theta}^2}{2\theta_G^2}\right), \quad (2)$$

where the smoothing scale θ_G has been fixed at 1.0 arcmin (but varied occasionally to 1.8 and 3.5 arcmin for specific tests described below) and m, c refer to the multiplicative and additive corrections of the galaxies in the catalog.

Using the ellipticity grid $\bar{\mathbf{e}}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ as an estimator for the cosmic shear $\gamma^{1,2}(\boldsymbol{\theta})$, we perform a nonlocal Kaiser-Squires inversion [33] to recover the convergence $\kappa(\boldsymbol{\theta})$ from the E mode of the shear field,

$$\kappa(\mathbf{l}) = \left(\frac{l_1^2 - l_2^2}{l_1^2 + l_2^2}\right) \gamma^1(\mathbf{l}) + 2 \frac{l_1 l_2}{l_1^2 + l_2^2} \gamma^2(\mathbf{l}). \quad (3)$$

The simulated κ maps we create below are 12 deg² in size and have a resolution of 512×512 pixels. The CFHTLenS catalogs contain masked regions (which include the rejected fields and the regions around bright stars). We first create gridded versions of the observed κ maps matching the size and pixel resolution of our simulated maps, with each pixel containing the number of galaxies (n_{gal}) falling within its window. We then smooth this galaxy surface density map with the same Gaussian window function as Eq. (2) and remove regions where $n_{\text{gal}} < 5 \text{ arcmin}^2$ (see [28]). Regions with low galaxy number density can induce large errors in the cosmological parameter inferences.

B. Simulation design

We next give a description of our method to sample the parameter space with a suite of N -body simulations. We wish to investigate the nonlinear dependence of the descriptors (in this work, Minkowski Functionals and moments of the κ field) on the parameter triplet $\mathbf{p} = (\Omega_m, w, \sigma_8)$, while keeping the other relevant parameters (h, Ω_b, n_s) fixed to the values (0.7, 0.046, 0.96) (see [34]). We sampled the D -dimensional ($D = 3$ in this case) parameter space using an irregularly spaced grid. The grid was designed with a method similar to that used to construct an emulator for the matter power spectrum in the COYOTE simulation suite [35]. Given fixed available computing resources, the irregular grid design is more efficient than a parameter grid with regular spacings: to achieve the same average spacing between models in the latter approach would require a prohibitively large number of simulations.

We limit the parameter sampling to a box whose sides range over $\Omega_m \in [0.07, 1], w \in [-3.0, 0], \sigma_8 \in [0.1, 1.5]$. These are large ranges, with most of the corresponding three-dimensional parameter volume ruled out by other cosmological experiments. However, our focus in this work is to quantify the constraints from CFHTLenS alone, which, by itself has strong parameter degeneracies. We next map this sampling box Π into a hypercube of unit side. We want to construct an irregularly spaced grid consisting of N points $\mathbf{x}_i \in [0, 1]^D$. Let a *design* \mathcal{D} be the set of this irregularly spaced N points. Our goal is to find an optimal design, in which the points are spread as uniformly as possible inside the box. Following Ref. [35], we choose our optimal design as the minimum of the cost function

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}) = \frac{2D^{1/2}}{N(N-1)} \sum_{i < j}^N \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_i - \mathbf{x}_j|}. \quad (4)$$

This problem is mathematically equivalent to the minimization of the Coulomb potential energy of N unit charges in a unit box, which corresponds to spreading the charges as evenly as possible. Finding the optimal design \mathcal{D}_m that minimizes (4) can be computationally very demanding, and hence we decided to use a simplified approach. Although approximate, the following iterative procedure gives satisfactory accuracy for our purposes:

- (1) We start from the diagonal design \mathcal{D}_0 : $x_i^d \equiv i/(N-1)$ for $d = 1 \dots D$.
- (2) We shuffle the coordinates of the particles in each dimension independently $x_i^d = \mathcal{P}_d(\frac{1}{N-1}, \frac{2}{N-1}, \dots, 1)$, where $\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_D$ are random independent permutations of $(1, 2, \dots, N)$.
- (3) We pick a random particle pair (i, j) and a random coordinate $d \in \{1, \dots, D\}$ and swap $x_i^d \leftrightarrow x_j^d$.
- (4) We compute the new cost function. If the value is less than in the previous step, we keep the exchange; otherwise, we revert the coordinate swap.
- (5) We repeat steps 3 and 4 until the relative cost function change is less than a chosen accuracy parameter ϵ .

We have found that for $N = 91$ grid points $\mathcal{O}(10^5)$ iterations are sufficient to reach an accuracy of $\epsilon \sim 10^{-4}$. Once the optimal design \mathcal{D}_m has been determined, we invert the mapping $\Pi \rightarrow [0, 1]^3$ to arrive at our simulation parameter sampling \mathbf{p}_s . We show the final list of grid points in Table I and Fig. 1.

For each parameter point on the grid \mathbf{p}_s , we then run an N -body simulation and perform ray tracing, as described in Sec. II C, to simulate CFHTLenS shear catalogs. Throughout the rest of this paper, we refer to this set of simulations as CFHTemul. Additionally, we have run 50 independent N -body simulations with a *fiducial* parameter choice $\mathbf{p}_0 = (0.26, -1.0, 0.8)$, for the purpose of accurately measuring the covariance matrices, needed for the parameter inferences in Sec. III B. This additional suite of 50 simulations will be referred to as CFHTcov.

C. Ray-tracing simulations

The goal of this section is to outline our simulation pipeline. The fluctuations in the matter density field between a source at redshift z and an observer located on Earth will cause small deflections in the trajectories of light rays traveling from the source to the observer. We estimate the dark matter gravitational potential running N -body simulations with $N = 512^3$ particles, using the public code GADGET2 [36]. We adopted a comoving box

TABLE I. List of the CFHTemul grid points in the three-dimensional cosmological parameter space.

N	Ω_m	w	σ_8	N	Ω_m	w	σ_8	N	Ω_m	w	σ_8	N	Ω_m	w	σ_8
1	0.136	-2.484	1.034	26	0.380	-2.424	0.199	51	0.615	-1.668	0.185	76	0.849	-0.183	0.821
2	0.145	-2.211	1.303	27	0.389	-0.939	0.454	52	0.624	-2.757	0.327	77	0.859	-1.182	1.415
3	0.155	-0.393	0.652	28	0.399	-1.938	1.500	53	0.634	-1.575	0.976	78	0.869	-2.031	0.227
4	0.164	-2.181	0.313	29	0.409	-2.940	0.737	54	0.643	-2.454	1.444	79	0.878	-2.697	0.524
5	0.173	-0.423	1.231	30	0.418	-1.758	0.383	55	0.652	-1.029	1.458	80	0.887	-0.363	0.439
6	0.183	-0.909	0.269	31	0.427	-2.910	0.411	56	0.661	-0.486	0.892	81	0.897	-0.999	0.468
7	0.192	-1.605	1.401	32	0.436	-0.060	0.878	57	0.671	-2.364	0.793	82	0.906	-1.698	1.273
8	0.201	-2.787	0.807	33	0.446	-1.212	1.486	58	0.681	-2.970	0.610	83	0.915	-2.544	1.175
9	0.211	-0.333	0.341	34	0.455	-2.637	1.373	59	0.690	-1.332	0.482	84	0.925	-0.636	1.259
10	0.221	-1.485	0.666	35	0.464	-2.121	0.906	60	0.700	-0.273	0.283	85	0.943	-2.394	0.835
11	0.239	-1.848	0.962	36	0.474	-1.302	0.114	61	0.709	-2.061	0.425	86	0.953	-1.545	0.355
12	0.249	-2.727	0.369	37	0.483	-1.515	0.680	62	0.718	-1.728	1.472	87	0.963	-2.151	0.510
13	0.258	-1.395	0.241	38	0.493	-0.243	0.297	63	0.728	-0.120	0.596	88	0.972	-0.666	0.694
14	0.267	-2.667	1.317	39	0.502	-1.152	1.189	64	0.737	-2.847	1.203	89	0.981	-1.242	1.048
15	0.276	-0.849	1.429	40	0.512	-0.819	0.849	65	0.746	-0.090	1.118	90	0.991	-1.908	1.020
16	0.286	-1.272	1.104	41	0.521	-2.334	0.538	66	0.755	-0.456	1.359	91	1.000	-1.425	0.708
17	0.295	-1.878	0.100	42	0.530	0.000	0.624	67	0.765	-2.091	1.076	...	...	...	...
18	0.305	-0.879	0.765	43	0.540	-0.030	1.161	68	0.775	-1.122	1.132	...	...	...	...
19	0.315	-2.241	0.638	44	0.549	-1.818	1.287	69	0.784	-1.062	0.779	...	...	...	...
20	0.324	-2.001	1.217	45	0.558	-2.577	1.146	70	0.794	-1.365	0.156	...	...	...	...
21	0.333	-0.213	0.552	46	0.568	-0.516	1.331	71	0.803	-2.607	0.255	...	...	...	...
22	0.342	-2.817	1.062	47	0.577	-3.000	0.948	72	0.812	-1.788	0.722	...	...	...	...
23	0.352	-0.576	1.090	48	0.587	-2.304	0.128	73	0.821	-2.880	0.863	...	...	...	...
24	0.361	-0.606	0.171	49	0.596	-0.696	0.496	74	0.831	-0.759	0.213	...	...	...	...
25	0.370	-0.303	1.345	50	0.606	-0.789	0.142	75	0.840	-2.274	1.387	...	...	...	...

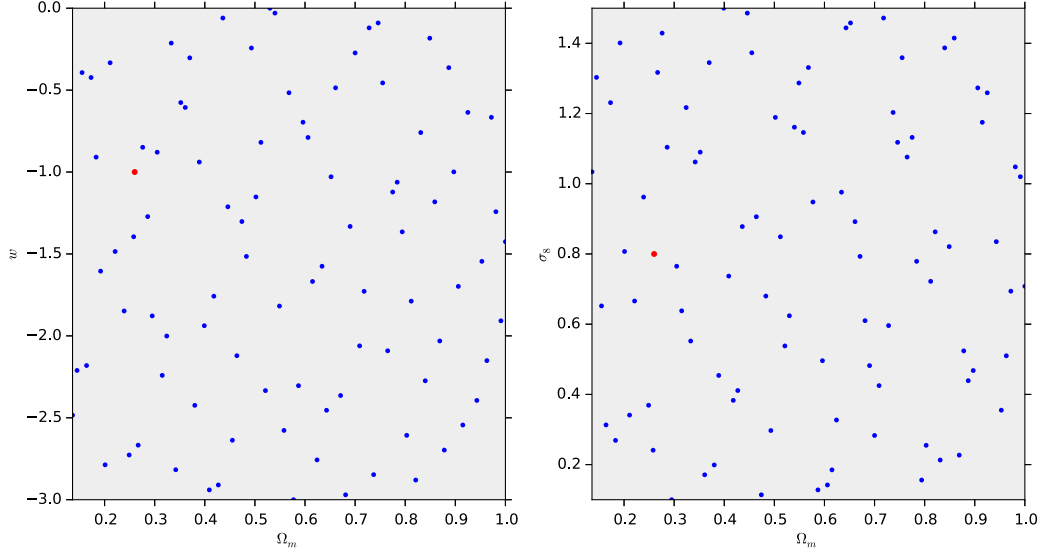


FIG. 1 (color online). (Ω_m, w) and (Ω_m, σ_8) projections of the final simulation design. The blue points correspond to the CFHTEmu1 simulation set, which consists of one N -body simulation per point, while the red point corresponds to the CFHTcov simulation set, which is based on 50 independent N -body simulations.

size of $240h^{-1}$ Mpc, corresponding to a mass resolution of $7.4 \times 10^9 h^{-1} M_\odot$. The simulations include dark matter only, and the initial conditions were generated with N-GenIC at $z = 100$, based on the linear matter power spectrum created with the Einstein-Boltzmann code CAMB [37]. Data cubes were output at redshift intervals corresponding to $80h^{-1}$ (comoving) Mpc.

Using a procedure similar to Refs. [38,39], the equation that governs the light ray deflections can be written in the form

$$\frac{d^2 \mathbf{x}(\chi)}{d\chi^2} = -\frac{2}{c^2} \nabla_{\mathbf{x}_\perp} \Phi(\mathbf{x}_\perp(\chi), \chi), \quad (5)$$

where χ is the radial comoving distance, $\mathbf{x}_\perp = \chi \boldsymbol{\beta}$ refers to two transverse coordinates (with $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ the angular sky coordinates, using the flat sky approximation), $\mathbf{x}(\chi)$ is the trajectory of a single light ray, and Φ is the gravitational potential.

Suppose that a light ray reaches the observer at an angular position $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ on the sky: we want to know where this light ray originated, knowing it comes from a redshift z_s . To answer this question we need to integrate Eq. (5) with the initial condition $\boldsymbol{\beta}(0; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \boldsymbol{\theta}$ up to a distance $\chi_s = \chi(z_s)$ to obtain the source angular position $\boldsymbol{\beta}(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta})$. Since light rays travel undeflected from the observer to the first lens plane, the derivative initial condition in the Cauchy problem (5) reads $\dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(0; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = 0$. We indicate the derivative of $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ with respect to χ as $\dot{\boldsymbol{\beta}}$. We use our proprietary implementation Inspector Gadget (see, e.g., [40]) to solve for the light ray trajectories based on a discretized version of Eq. (5) that is based on the multi-lens-plane algorithm (see [39] for

example). Applying random periodical shifts and rotations to the N -body simulation data cubes, we generate $R = 1000$ pseudoindependent realizations of the lens plane system used to solve (5). Once we obtain the light ray trajectories, we infer the relevant weak lensing quantities by taking angular derivatives of the ray deflections $A(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = \partial \boldsymbol{\beta}(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta}) / \partial \boldsymbol{\theta}$ and performing the usual spin decomposition to infer the convergence κ and the shear components (γ^1, γ^2) ,

$$A(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta}) = (1 - \kappa(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta})) \mathbf{I} - \gamma^1(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \sigma^3 - \gamma^2(\chi_s; \boldsymbol{\theta}) \sigma^1, \quad (6)$$

where \mathbf{I} is the 2×2 identity and $\sigma^{1,3}$ are the first and third Pauli matrices. We perform this procedure for each of the R realizations of the lens planes and we obtain R pseudoindependent realizations of the $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ weak lensing field. We use these different random realizations to estimate the means (from the CFHTEmu1 simulations) and covariance matrices (from the CFHTcov simulations) of our descriptors. Since the random box rotations and translations that make up the CFHTcov simulations are based on 50 independent N -body runs, we believe the covariance matrices measured from this set to be more accurate than the ones measured from the CFHTEmu1 set.

The convergence κ is related to the magnification, while the two components of the complex shear $\boldsymbol{\gamma} = \gamma^1 + i\gamma^2$ are related to the apparent ellipticity of the source. Given a source with intrinsic complex ellipticity $\mathbf{e}_s = e_s^1 + ie_s^2$, its observed ellipticity will be modified to

$$\mathbf{e} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mathbf{e}_s + \mathbf{g}}{1 + \mathbf{g}^* \mathbf{e}_s} & |\mathbf{g}| \leq 1 \\ \frac{1 + \mathbf{g} \mathbf{e}_s^*}{\mathbf{e}_s^* + \mathbf{g}^*} & |\mathbf{g}| > 1 \end{cases}, \quad (7)$$

where $\mathbf{g} \equiv \boldsymbol{\gamma}/(1 - \kappa)$ is the reduced shear.

For each simulated galaxy, we assign an intrinsic ellipticity by rotating the observed ellipticity for that galaxy by a random angle on the sky, while conserving its magnitude $|\mathbf{e}|$. To be consistent with the CFHTLenS analysis, we adopt the weak lensing limit ($|\boldsymbol{\gamma}| \ll 1, \kappa \ll 1$), i.e. $\mathbf{g} \approx \boldsymbol{\gamma}$ and $\mathbf{e} \approx \mathbf{e}_s + \boldsymbol{\gamma}$. We also add the multiplicative shear corrections by replacing $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ with $(1 + m)\boldsymbol{\gamma}$. We note that the observed ellipticity for a particular galaxy already contains the lensing shear by large scale structure (LSS), but the random rotation makes this contribution at least second order in κ by destroying the shape spatial correlations induced by lensing from LSS. Consistent with the weak lensing approximation, the lensing signal from the simulations is first order in κ and hence the randomly rotated observed ellipticities can be safely considered as intrinsic ellipticities.

We analyze the simulations in the same way as we analyzed the CFHTLenS data—constructing the simulated κ maps as explained in Sec. II A. These final simulation products are then processed together with the κ maps obtained from the data to compute confidence intervals on the parameter triplet (Ω_m, w, σ_8) .

III. STATISTICAL METHODS

The goal of this section is to describe the framework to combine the CFHT data and our simulations, and to derive the constraints on the cosmological parameter triplet (Ω_m, w, σ_8) . Briefly, we measure the same set of statistical descriptors from the data and from the simulations; these are then compared in a Bayesian framework in order to compute parameter confidence intervals.

A. Descriptors

The statistical descriptors we consider in this work are the Minkowski functionals (MFs) and the low-order moments (LMs) of the convergence field. The three MFs (V_0, V_1, V_2) are topological descriptors of the convergence field $\kappa(\boldsymbol{\theta})$, probing the area, perimeter and genus characteristic of the κ excursion sets Σ_{κ_0} , defined as $\Sigma_{\kappa_0} = \{\kappa > \kappa_0\}$. Following Refs. [22,23], we use the following local estimators to measure the MFs from the κ maps:

$$\begin{aligned} V_0(\kappa_0) &= \frac{1}{A} \int_A \Theta(\kappa(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \kappa_0) d\boldsymbol{\theta}, \\ V_1(\kappa_0) &= \frac{1}{4A} \int_A \delta_D(\kappa(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \kappa_0) \sqrt{\kappa_x^2 + \kappa_y^2} d\boldsymbol{\theta}, \\ V_2(\kappa_0) &= \frac{1}{2\pi A} \int_A \delta_D(\kappa(\boldsymbol{\theta}) - \kappa_0) \frac{2\kappa_x \kappa_y \kappa_{xy} - \kappa_x^2 \kappa_{yy} - \kappa_y^2 \kappa_{xx}}{\kappa_x^2 + \kappa_y^2} d\boldsymbol{\theta}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Here A is the total area of the field of view and $\kappa_{x,y}$ denotes gradients of the κ field, which we evaluate using finite differences. In this notation $\Theta(x)$ is the Heaviside function and $\delta_D(x)$ is the Dirac delta function. The first Minkowski functional, V_0 , is equivalent to the cumulative one-point PDF of the κ field, while V_1, V_2 are sensitive to the correlations between nearby pixels. The one-point PDF of the κ field, ∂V_0 , can be obtained by differentiation $\partial V_0(\kappa_0) = dV_0(\kappa_0)/d\kappa_0$.

In addition to these topological descriptors, we consider a set of low-order moments of the convergence field (two quadratic, three cubic and four quartic). We choose these moments to be the minimal set of LMs necessary to build a perturbative expansion of the MFs up to $O(\sigma_0^2)$ (see [41,42]). We adopt the following definitions:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LM}_2: \sigma_{0,1}^2 &= \langle \kappa^2 \rangle, \langle |\nabla \kappa|^2 \rangle, \\ \text{LM}_3: S_{0,1,2} &= \langle \kappa^3 \rangle, \langle \kappa |\nabla \kappa|^2 \rangle, \langle \kappa^2 \nabla^2 \kappa \rangle, \\ \text{LM}_4: K_{0,1,2,3} &= \langle \kappa^4 \rangle, \langle \kappa^2 |\nabla \kappa|^2 \rangle, \langle \kappa^3 \nabla^2 \kappa \rangle, \langle |\nabla \kappa|^4 \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

If the κ field were Gaussian, one could express the MFs in terms of the LM_2 moments, which are the only independent moments for a Gaussian random field. In reality, weak lensing convergence fields are non-Gaussian and the MF and LM descriptors are not guaranteed to be equivalent. References [41,42] studied a perturbative expansion of the MFs in powers of the standard deviation σ_0 of the κ field. When truncated at order $O(\sigma_0^2)$, this can be expressed completely in terms of the LMs up to quartic order. Such perturbative series, however, have been shown not to converge [23] unless the weak lensing fields are smoothed with windows of size $\geq 15'$. Because of this, throughout this work, we treat MF and LM as separate statistical descriptors.

We note that this choice is somewhat *ad hoc*. In general, the LMs that contain gradients are sensitive to different shapes of the κ multispectra $P_\kappa^n(\mathbf{l}_1, \dots, \mathbf{l}_n)$ because a particular LM_n has the general form

$$\text{LM}_n = \int d\mathbf{l}_1 \dots d\mathbf{l}_n \rho(\mathbf{l}_{1\dots n}) P_\kappa^n(\mathbf{l}_{1\dots n}), \quad (10)$$

where ρ is a polynomial of order n in the \mathbf{l} 's. For example for K_2 we have $\rho(\mathbf{l}_{1234}) = l_4^2$ and this moment emphasizes quadrilateral shapes for which one side is much larger than the others. On the other hand, for K_3 we have $\rho(\mathbf{l}_{1234}) = (\mathbf{l}_1 \cdot \mathbf{l}_2)(\mathbf{l}_3 \cdot \mathbf{l}_4)$ and this moment is most sensitive to trispectrum shapes that are close to rectangular. There are moments which include derivatives in addition to those included in Eq. (9). In the future, we will investigate whether there is additional constraining power in these additional quartic moments.

In addition to the MFs and LMs, we consider the angular power spectrum $P_l \equiv P_l^2$ of κ , defined as

TABLE II. Summary of the descriptors we used, together with the specifications and the number of bins N_b in each case.

Descriptor	Details	N_b (linear spacing)
V_0, V_1, V_2 (MF)	$\kappa_0 \in [-0.04, 0.12]$	50
Power Spectrum (PS)	$l \in [300, 5000]$	50
Moments (LM)	...	9

$$\langle \tilde{\kappa}(\mathbf{l}) \tilde{\kappa}(\mathbf{l}') \rangle = (2\pi)^2 \delta_D(\mathbf{l} + \mathbf{l}') P_l, \quad (11)$$

where $\tilde{\kappa}(\mathbf{l})$ is the Fourier transform of the κ field. Previous works have studied cosmological constraints from the convergence power spectrum extensively. Here our purpose is to compare the constraints we obtain from the MFs and LMs to ones present in the literature, which are based on the use of quadratic statistics (see for example [1]). The statistical descriptors used in this work are summarized in Table II.

When measuring statistical descriptors on κ maps, particular attention must be paid to the effect of masked pixels. The MFs and LMs remain well defined in the presence of masks, since the estimators in Eqs. (8) and (9) are defined locally, and can be computed in the nonmasked regions (with the exception of the few pixels that are close to the mask boundaries). The situation is more complicated for power spectrum measurements, which require the evaluations of Fourier transforms and hence rely on the value of every pixel in the map. Although sophisticated schemes to interpolate over the masked regions have been studied (see for example [43]), for the sake of simplicity, we here insert the value $\kappa = 0$ in each masked pixel. Given the uniform spatial distribution of the masked regions in the data, we expect that masks have a little effect on the power spectrum at the range of multipoles in Table II, except for an overall normalization which will be the same both in the data and the simulations. Likewise, we believe that the way we deal with masked sky regions—essentially ignoring them—is robust for the MFs and LMs. Since we apply the same masks to our simulations and the data, they are unlikely to introduce biases in the resulting constraints. Masks, of course, can still affect the sensitivity and weaken constraints. The impact of the masks and their treatment has been evaluated for the MFs, obtained from CFHTLenS, by Ref. [28], in which the authors find that the masked regions are not a dominant source of systematic effects in the CFHTLenS data.

B. Cosmological parameter inferences

In this section, we briefly outline the statistical framework adopted for computing cosmological parameter confidence levels. We make use of the MFs and LMs, as well as the power spectrum, as discussed in the previous section. We refer to $M_i^r(\mathbf{p})$ as the descriptor measured from a realization r of one of our simulations with a choice of

cosmological parameters \mathbf{p} (i.e. from one of the $R = 1000$ map realizations in this cosmology), and to D_i as the descriptor measured from the CFHTLenS data. In this notation, i is an index that refers to the particular bin on which the descriptor is evaluated (for example, i can range from 0 to 9 for the LM statistic and from 0 to $N_b - 1$ for a MF measured in N_b different, linearly spaced κ bins, as indicated in Table II).

Once we make an assumption for the data likelihood $\mathcal{L}_d(D_i|\mathbf{p})$ and for the parameter priors $\Pi(\mathbf{p})$, we can use Bayes' theorem to compute the parameter likelihood \mathcal{L}_p ,

$$\mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{p}|D_i) = \frac{\mathcal{L}_d(D_i|\mathbf{p})\Pi(\mathbf{p})}{N_{\mathcal{L}}}. \quad (12)$$

Here $N_{\mathcal{L}}$ is a \mathbf{p} -independent constant that ensures the proper normalization for \mathcal{L}_p . We make the usual assumption that the data likelihood $\mathcal{L}_d(D_i|\mathbf{p})$ is Gaussian [44]:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_d(D_i|\mathbf{p}) &= [(2\pi)^{N_b} \det \mathbf{C}]^{-1/2} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\chi^2(D_i|\mathbf{p})}, \\ \chi^2(D_i|\mathbf{p}) &= [\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{p})]^T \mathbf{C}^{-1} [\mathbf{D} - \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{p})]. \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

We assume, for simplicity, that the covariance matrix \mathbf{C} in Eq. (13) is \mathbf{p} -independent and coincides with $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{p}_0)$. The simulated descriptors $\mathbf{M}(\mathbf{p})$ are measured from an average over the $R = 1000$ realizations in the CFHTemul ensemble,

$$M_i(\mathbf{p}) = \frac{1}{R} \sum_{r=1}^R M_i^r. \quad (14)$$

The covariance matrix,

$$C_{ij} = \frac{1}{R-1} \sum_{r=1}^R [M_i^r(\mathbf{p}_0) - M_i(\mathbf{p}_0)][M_j^r(\mathbf{p}_0) - M_j(\mathbf{p}_0)], \quad (15)$$

is measured from the $R = 1000$ realizations in the CFHTcov ensemble. While Eq. (15) gives an unbiased estimator of the covariance matrix, its inverse is not an unbiased estimator of \mathbf{C}^{-1} (e.g. Ref. [39]). Given that in our case $R \gg N_b$, we can safely neglect the correction factor needed to make the estimator for \mathbf{C}^{-1} unbiased.

When computing parameter constraints from the CFHTLenS weak lensing data alone, we make a flat prior assumption for $\Pi(\mathbf{p})$. We postpone using different priors, incorporating external data, for future work. Parameter inferences are made estimating the location of the maximum of the parameter likelihood in Eq. (12), which we call $\mathbf{p}_{\text{ML}}(D_i)$, as well as its confidence contours. The $N\sigma$ -confidence contour of $\mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{p}|D_i)$ is defined to be the subset of points in parameter space on which the likelihood has a constant value c_N and

$$\int_{\mathcal{L}>c_N} \mathcal{L}_p(\mathbf{p}|D_i)d\mathbf{p} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-N}^N dx e^{-x^2/2}. \quad (16)$$

Using Eq. (17) below, and given the low dimensionality of the parameter space we consider ($D = 3$), we are able to directly compute the parameter likelihood Eq. (12) for 100^3 different combinations of the cosmological parameters p , arranged in a finely spaced $100 \times 100 \times 100$ mesh within the prior window $\Pi(\mathbf{p})$. We directly compute the maximum likelihood $\mathbf{p}_{\text{ML}}(D_i)$ and the contour levels c_N without the need for more sophisticated MCMC methods.

The data likelihood is directly available for parameter combinations on the simulated irregular grid \mathbf{p}_s . We use a Radial Basis Function (RBF) scheme to interpolate $M(\mathbf{p})$ to arbitrary intermediate points. We approximate the model descriptor as

$$M(\mathbf{p}) = \sum_{s=1}^N \lambda_s \phi(|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}_s|), \quad (17)$$

where ϕ has been chosen as a multiquadric function $\phi(r) = \sqrt{1 + (r/r_0)^2}$, with r_0 chosen as the mean Euclidean distance between the points in the simulated grid \mathbf{p}_s . The constant coefficients λ_s can be determined by imposing the N constraints $M(\mathbf{p} = \mathbf{p}_s) = M(\mathbf{p}_s)$, which enforce exact results at the simulated points. The

interpolation computations are conveniently performed using the `interpolate.Rbf` routine contained in a Scipy library [45].

We studied the accuracy of the emulator, built with the CFHTemul simulations, by interpolating the convergence descriptors to the fiducial parameter setting $(\Omega_m, w, \sigma_8) = (0.26, -1.0, 0.8)$ and comparing the result to the one expected from the CFHTcov simulations. Figure 2 shows that our power spectrum emulator has a relative error smaller than 20% for the lower multipoles ($l < 500$), and comparable to 1% for the higher multipoles. The MF emulator has a relative error $\lesssim 10\%$ for the first 30 bins (which correspond to κ values in $[-0.04, 0.08]$) and deteriorates due to numerical noise for the remaining 20 bins. We eliminate the residual impact of these inaccuracies using a dimensionality reduction framework, which we explain in the next section. Nevertheless, we do not expect these inaccuracies to affect our conclusions. Figure 2 demonstrates that our emulator is able to distinguish a nonfiducial model from the fiducial one within numerical errors. We thus found no need to implement a more sophisticated interpolation scheme [46].

C. Dimensionality reduction

The main goal of this work is constraining the cosmological parameter triplet (Ω_m, w, σ_8) using the CFHTLenS

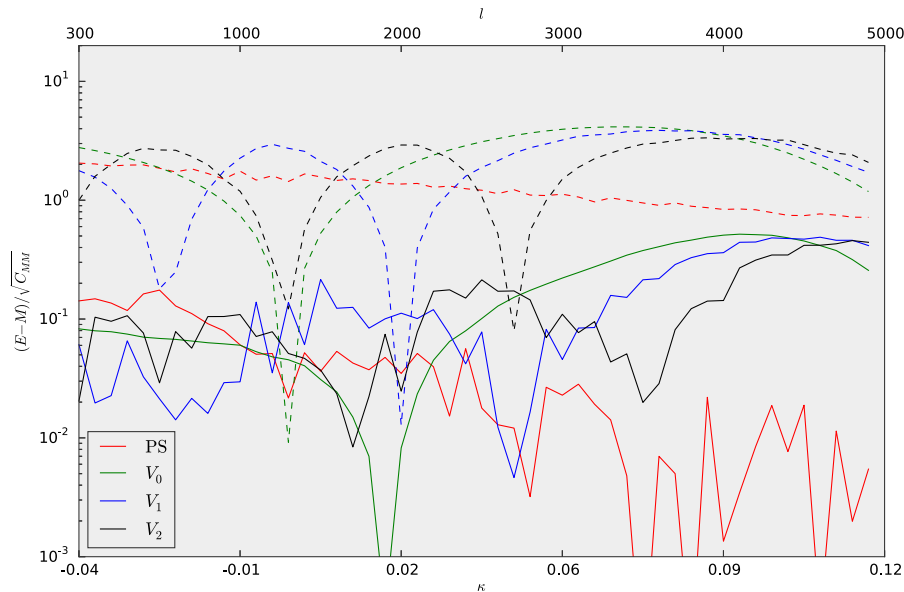


FIG. 2 (color online). Accuracy of the emulator based on the CFHTemul simulations. The figure shows the absolute difference between the descriptor interpolated at the fiducial parameter setting, and the descriptor expected from the CFHTcov simulations (these are the absolute values of differences which oscillate around zero). The descriptors are shown in units of the standard deviation in each bin i (determined from the diagonal elements of the CFHTcov covariance matrix). We show the accuracy results for the power spectrum (red) and the three Minkowski functionals V_0 (green), V_1 (blue) and V_2 (black). For reference, we also show, using dashed lines, the difference between the expected CFHTcov descriptors and the interpolated descriptor at the nonfiducial point $\mathbf{p} = (0.8, -1.0, 0.5)$. This nonfiducial point lies beyond the LM 1σ contour from the simulations shown in Fig. 3 right panel, and corresponds to the target accuracy we wish to achieve.

data. Once the $N\sigma$ contours have been obtained, using the procedure and Eqs. (12)–(16) outlined above, one may ask whether the choice of binning affects these contours. Indeed, in our previous work, we have found that the number of bins, N_b , can have a non-negligible effect on the contour sizes (see [23] for an example with simulated data sets).

In order to ensure that are results are robust with respect to binning choices, we have implemented a principal component analysis (PCA) approach. Our physical motivation for this approach is that, even though we need to specify N_b numbers in order to fully characterize a binned descriptor, we suspect that the majority of the constraining information (of a particular descriptor) is contained in a limited number of linear combinations of its binning. In the framework adopted by [35], for example, the authors find that the majority of the cosmological information in the matter power spectrum is contained in only five different linear combinations of the multipoles. Because of this, we believe that dimensionality reduction techniques such as PCA can help deliver accurate cosmological constraints using only a limited number of descriptor degrees of freedom.

In order to compute the principal components of our descriptor space, we use the CFHTemul simulations, which sample the cosmological parameters at the $N = 91$ points listed in Table I, and allow us to compute the $N \times N_b$ model matrix $M_{pi} = M_i(\mathbf{p})$. Note that this is a rectangular (nonsquare) matrix. Following a standard procedure (see, e.g., Ref. [47]), we derive the *whitened* model matrix \tilde{M}_{pi} , defined by subtracting the mean (over the $N = 91$ models) of each bin, and normalizing it by its variance (always over the $N = 91$ models). Next we proceed with a singular value decomposition (SVD) of $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}$,

$$\mathbf{U}\mathbf{S}\mathbf{V}^T = \frac{\tilde{\mathbf{M}}}{\sqrt{N-1}}, \quad (18)$$

where $S_{ij} = S_i\delta_{ij}$ is a diagonal matrix and V_{ij}^T is the j th coordinate ($j = 1 \dots N_b$) of the i th principal component ($i = 1 \dots \min[N_b, N]$) of $\tilde{\mathbf{M}}$, with the index j ranging from 1 to N_b . By construction, \mathbf{V} is \mathbf{p} -independent.

To rank the principal components V^T in order of importance, we note that the diagonal matrix \mathbf{S}^2 is simply the diagonalization of the model covariance [not to be confused with the descriptor covariance in Eq. (15)],

$$\frac{1}{N-1} \tilde{\mathbf{M}}^T \tilde{\mathbf{M}} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{S}^2\mathbf{V}^T. \quad (19)$$

We follow the standard interpretation of PCA components, stating that the only meaningful components V_i^T in the analysis (i.e. the ones that contain the relevant cosmological information) are those corresponding to the largest

eigenvalues S_i^2 , with the smallest eigenvalues corresponding to noise in the model, due to numerical inaccuracies in the simulation pipeline. We expect our constraints to be stable with respect to the number of components, once a sufficient number of components have been included. Using the fact that different principal components are orthogonal, we perform a PCA projection on our descriptor space by whitening the descriptors and computing the dot product with the principal components, keeping only the first n components:

$$M(n)_{pi}^r = V^T(n)_{ij} \tilde{M}_{pj}^r; \quad D(n)_i = V^T(n)_{ij} \tilde{D}_j. \quad (20)$$

Here we indicate with $V^T(n)$ the truncation of V^T to the first n rows (i.e. i can now range from 1 to n). As described above, the expectation is that most of the cosmological information is contained in a small number of components $n < N_b$. We will describe in detail below the choice we make for n , together with the sensitivity of our results to this choice.

Looking at PCA from a geometrical perspective, the dimensionality reduction problem is equivalent to the accurate reconstruction of the coordinate chart of the descriptor manifold. As outlined in Ref. [47], the coordinate chart constructed with the PCA projection in Eq. (20) is accurate for reasonably flat descriptor manifolds. When curvature becomes important, more advanced projection techniques (such as locally linear embedding) have to be employed. We postpone an investigation of such improvements to future work.

IV. RESULTS

This section describes our main results, and is organized as follows. We begin by showing the cosmological constraints from the CFHTLenS data for the triplet (Ω_m, σ_8, w) , as well as for an alternative parametrization, (Ω_m, Σ_8, w) , with $\Sigma_8(\alpha) \equiv \sigma_8(\Omega_m/0.27)^\alpha$. In the next section we give a justification on why we fix α to a value of 0.55. We then use our simulations to perform a robustness analysis of the parameter confidence intervals with respect to the number of PCA components used in the projection. We finally study whether the constraints can be tightened by combining different descriptors. A summary with the complete set of results, along with the relevant figures, is shown in Table III.

A. Cosmological constraints

We first make use of Eqs. (12)–(16) to compute the 1σ constraints on cosmological parameters, using the triplet (Ω_m, σ_8, w) . Figure 3 shows the constraints in the (Ω_m, σ_8) plane, marginalized over w , for both the CFHTLenS data, as well as from the mock data in our simulations. In Fig. 4, we examine constraints from different sets of moments, as well as using different smoothing scales. Figure 5 shows

TABLE III. Summary of our results and related figures.

Parameters	Descriptors	Short description	Relevant figures
(Ω_m, σ_8)	PS(3), $V_0(5)$, $V_1(20)$, $V_2(20)$, LM(9)	1σ constraints from CFHTLenS and mock observations	3, 3b
(Ω_m, σ_8)	(σ_i^2, S_i, K_i)	1σ constraints from CFHTLenS using κ moments combined at different θ_G	4, 4b
(w, Σ_8)	PS(3), $V_0(10)$, $V_1(10)$, $V_2(10)$, LM(9)	Contours from CFHTLenS	5
Σ_8	PS(3), $V_0(10)$, $V_1(10)$, $V_2(10)$, LM(9)	$\mathcal{L}(\Sigma_8)$ from CFHTLenS	6
-	PS, V_0 , V_1 , V_2 , LM	PCA eigenvalues	7
(Ω_m, σ_8)	PS, V_0 , V_1 , V_2 , LM	Stability of contours	8
(Ω_m, σ_8)	PS(3) \times $V_0(5)$ \times $V_1(20)$ \times $V_2(20)$ \times LM(9)	Constraints from CFHTLenS combining statistics	9
(w, Σ_8)	PS(3) \times $V_0(10)$ \times $V_1(10)$ \times $V_2(10)$ \times LM(9)	Constraints from CFHTLenS combining statistics	9b
Σ_8	PS(3) \times $V_0(10)$ \times $V_1(10)$ \times $V_2(10)$ \times LM(9)	$\mathcal{L}(\Sigma_8)$ from CFHTLenS combining statistics	10

the confidence contours in the (w, Σ_8) plane, marginalized over Ω_m . As this figure shows, and as discussed further below, no meaningful constraints were found on w from CFHTLenS alone.

Because of the relatively small size of this survey, degeneracies among the parameters can have undesirable effects on the constraints. The well-known strong degeneracy between Ω_m and σ_8 is evident in the long “banana” shaped contours in Figs. 3 and 4. To mitigate the effect of this degeneracy, in addition to the usual triplet (Ω_m, σ_8, w) , we consider an alternative parametrization, built with the triplet (α, Σ_8, w) where α is a constant, and $\Sigma_8(\alpha) \equiv \sigma_8(\Omega_m/0.27)^\alpha$. While Ω_m and σ_8 are poorly

constrained due to degeneracies, the $\Sigma_8(\alpha)$ combination lies in the direction perpendicular to the error “banana” at the pivot point $\Omega_m = 0.27$. This is the direction of the lowest variance $\mathcal{L}(\Omega_m, \sigma_8)$ for a suitable choice of α , and hence has a much smaller relative uncertainty. We can derive the optimal value of α from the full three dimensional likelihood $\mathcal{L}(\Omega_m, w, \sigma_8)$, from which we can compute the expectation values,

$$\mathbb{E}(\alpha) = \langle \Sigma_8(\alpha) \rangle; \quad \mathbb{V}(\alpha) = \langle (\Sigma_8(\alpha) - \mathbb{E}(\alpha))^2 \rangle, \quad (21)$$

and minimizing the ratio $\sqrt{\mathbb{V}}/\mathbb{E}$ with respect to α . The expectation values are taken over the entire parameter box.

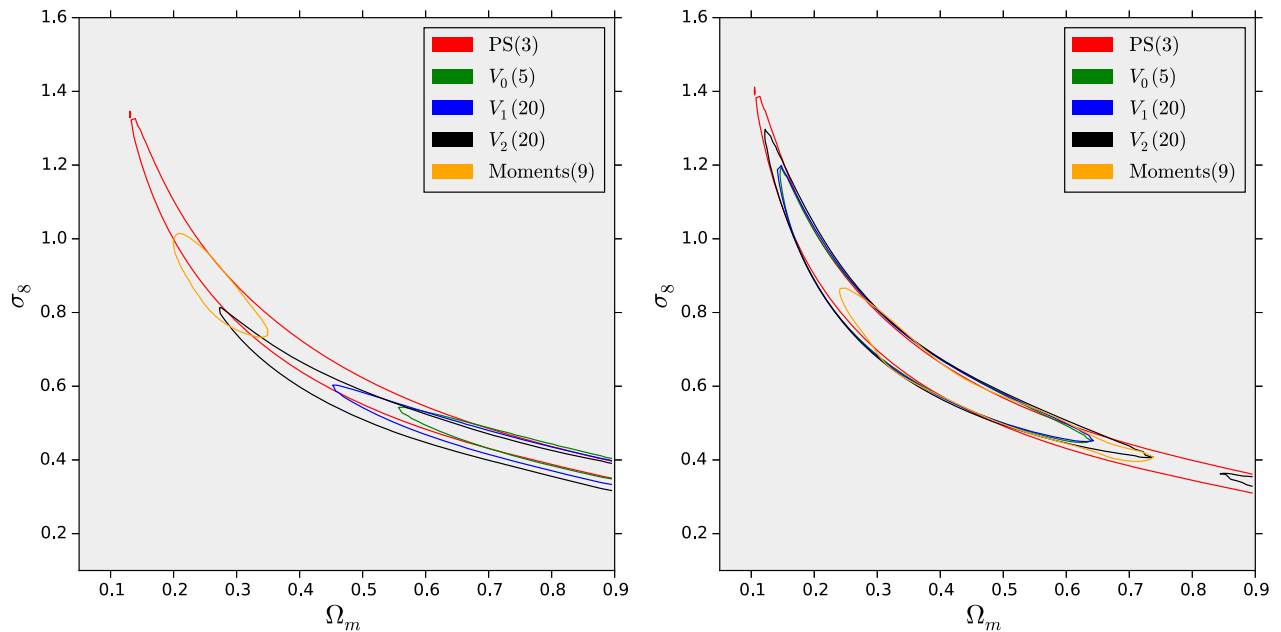


FIG. 3 (color online). 1σ (68% C.L.) constraints on the (Ω_m, σ_8) parameter doublet using the power spectrum (red), the three Minkowski functionals (V_0 : green, V_1 : blue, V_2 : black) and the moments (orange). We show the constraints from the data (left panel) and from a mock observation constructed using the mean of 1000 realizations in the CFHTCOV simulation suite (right panel). The contours are calculated from the parameter likelihood function \mathcal{L} marginalized over w . The parentheses near the descriptor label refer to the number of principal components included.

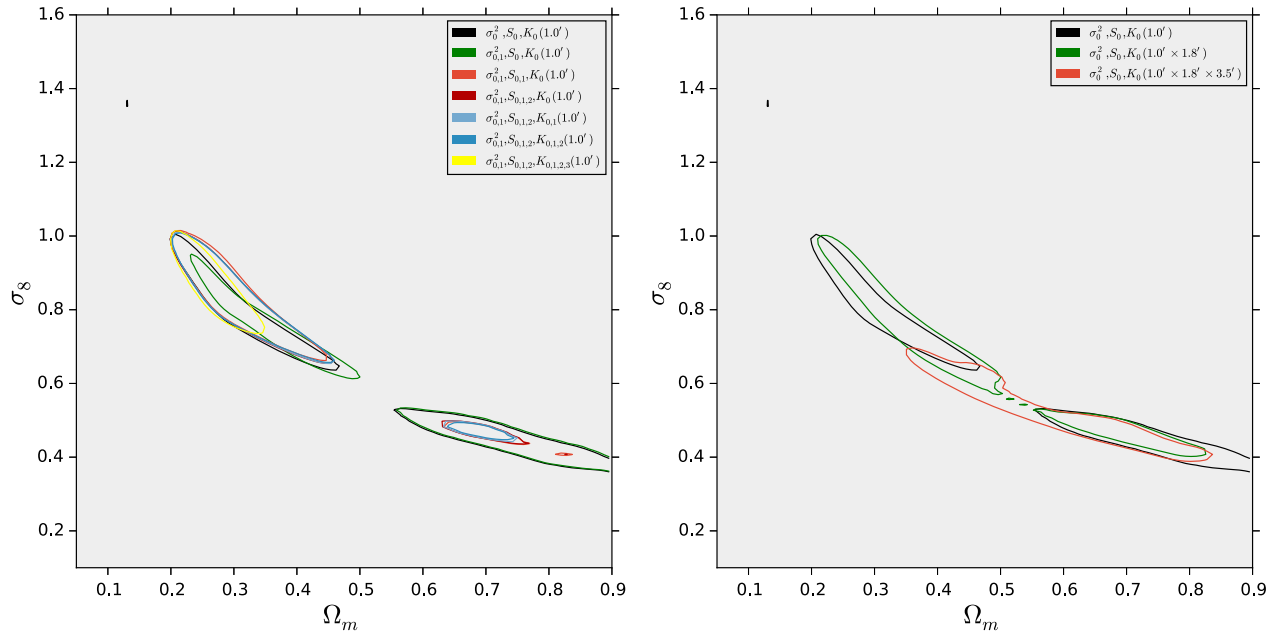


FIG. 4 (color online). 1σ (68% C.L.) constraints on the (Ω_m, σ_8) parameter doublet using moments, with different colors corresponding to different moment combinations (see Eq. (9) for their definitions). We show the results from the one-point moments σ_0^2, S_0, K_0 (black curves; both left and right panels). In the left panel, we also show constraints obtained adding moments of gradients to the one-point moments. In the right panel, we combine one-point moments measured at different smoothing scales.

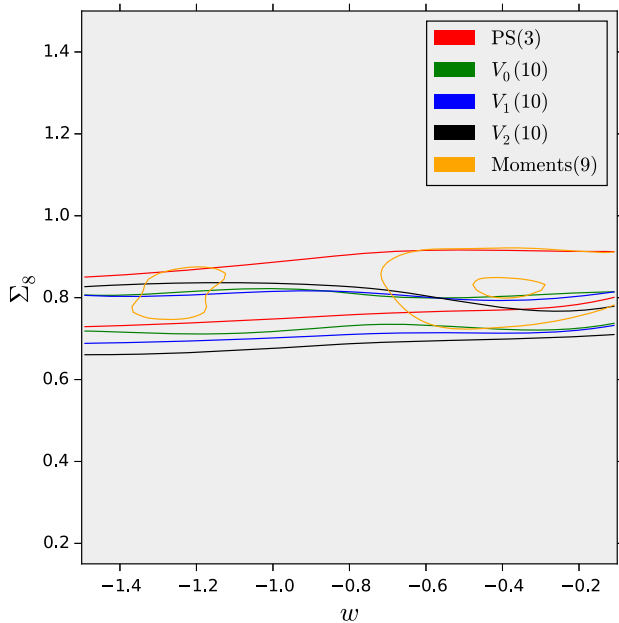


FIG. 5 (color online). 1σ (68% C.L.) constraints on the (w, Σ_8) parameter doublet from the CFHTLenS data, obtained with the power spectrum (red), the three Minkowski functionals (V_0 : green, V_1 : blue, V_2 : black) and the moments (orange). The contours are calculated from the parameter likelihood function \mathcal{L} marginalized over Ω_m , and the parentheses near the descriptor label refer to the number of principal components.

This procedure yields a value $\alpha \approx 0.55$ for the statistical descriptors that we consider, consistent with what is found in the literature (see [1] for example). Although α can mildly depend on the type of descriptor considered, we choose to keep it fixed, knowing that the width of the Σ_8 likelihood cannot vary significantly with different choices of α . We show the probability distribution of the best-constrained parameter Σ_8 (marginalized over Ω_m and w) in Fig. 6.

We discuss the results of this section in Sec. V below.

B. Robustness

The cosmological constraints should in principle be insensitive to N_b , once a sufficient number of bins are used, but inaccuracies in the covariance (due to a limited number of realizations) can introduce an N_b dependence. Our binning choices are summarized in Table II. Here we show that the cosmological constraints derived in this paper are numerically robust; i.e. they are reasonably stable once we consider a large enough number n of principal components.

Figure 7 shows the PCA eigenvalues from the SVD decomposition of our binned descriptor spaces (following the discussion in Sec. III C), as well as the cumulative sum of these eigenvalues, normalized to unity. Figure 8 shows the dependence of the (Ω_m, σ_8) constraints on the number of principal components n .

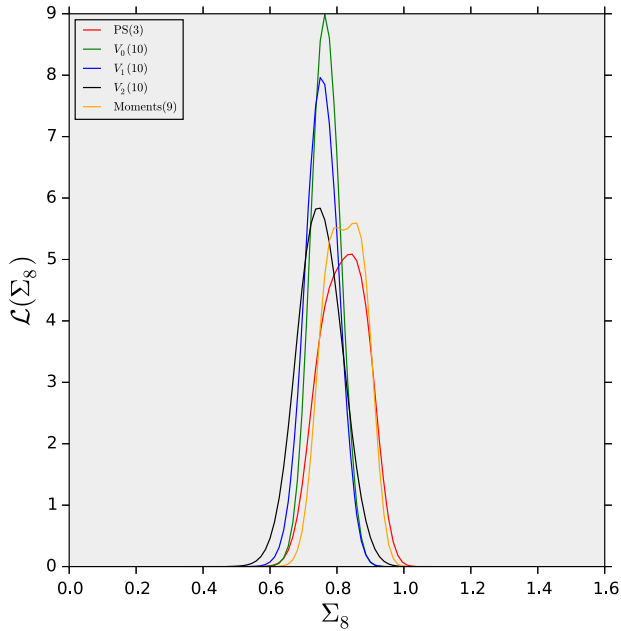


FIG. 6 (color online). The likelihood of the best-constrained parameter combination $\Sigma_8(\alpha) \equiv \sigma_8(\Omega_m/0.27)^\alpha$ from the CFHTLenS data, obtained with the power spectrum (red), the three Minkowski functionals (V_0 : green, V_1 : blue, V_2 : black) and the moments (orange). The likelihood was computed with a constant optimized $\alpha = 0.55$, but marginalized over both Ω_m and w . The parentheses near the descriptor label refer to the number of principal components.

These figures clearly indicate that we only need a limited number of components in order to capture the cosmological information contained in our descriptors. The eigenvalues diminish rapidly with n , and, in particular, the confidence contours converge to good ($\lesssim 10\%$) accuracy typically for $n = 5-10$ (depending on the descriptor). This finding also addresses the inaccuracy of the MF emulator at high thresholds, pointed out in Fig. 2. By keeping a limited number of principal components, we are able to prevent the inaccurate high-threshold bins, which have a low constraining power, from contributing to the parameter confidence levels.

C. Combining statistics

Different statistics can include complementary cosmological information, allowing their combinations to tighten the constraints. Previous work using multiple lensing descriptors in CFHTLenS alone included combining the power spectrum and peak counts [26], combining the power spectrum and Minkowski functionals [28], and combining quadratic (2PCF) statistics with cubic statistics derived from the 3PCF of the CFHTLenS κ field [24].

The procedure we adopt here is as follows. Consider two binned descriptors, $d_{1,i}, d_{2,j}$ where the indices i, j correspond to bin numbers. We first compute each single-descriptor constraint as a function of the number of PCA components, as in Fig. 8. We then determine the minimum

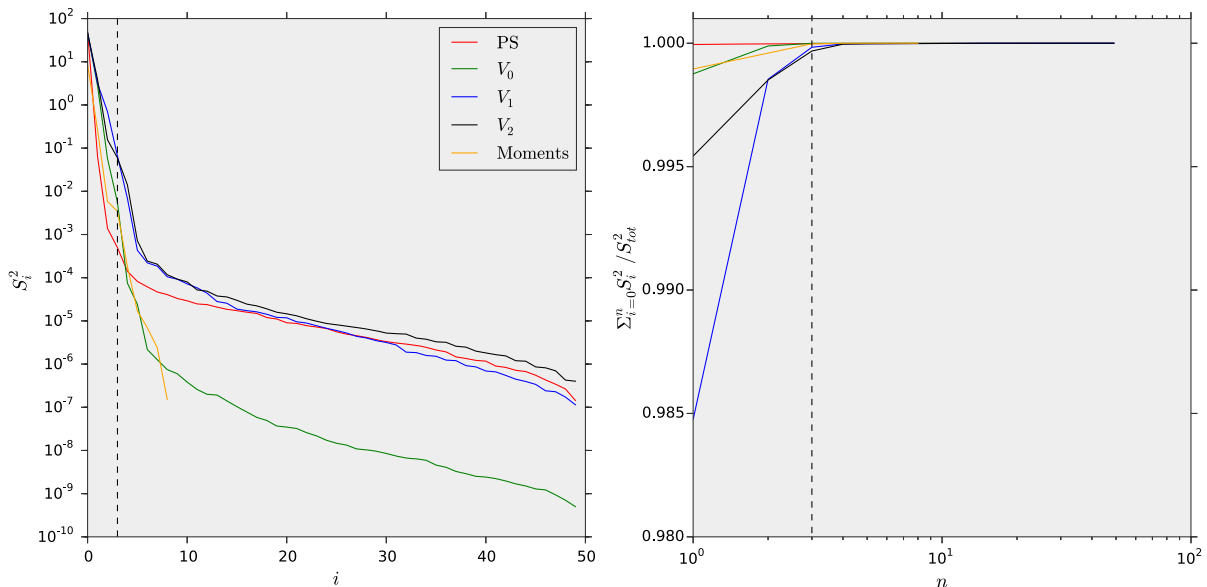


FIG. 7 (color online). Results from the principal components analysis (PCA) of the binned power spectrum (red), the three Minkowski functionals (V_0 : green, V_1 : blue, V_2 : black) and the moments (orange). The left panel shows the magnitudes of the PCA eigenvalues S_i^2 and the right panel shows their cumulative sum, normalized to unity. A dashed vertical (black) line has marks $n = 3$ for reference.

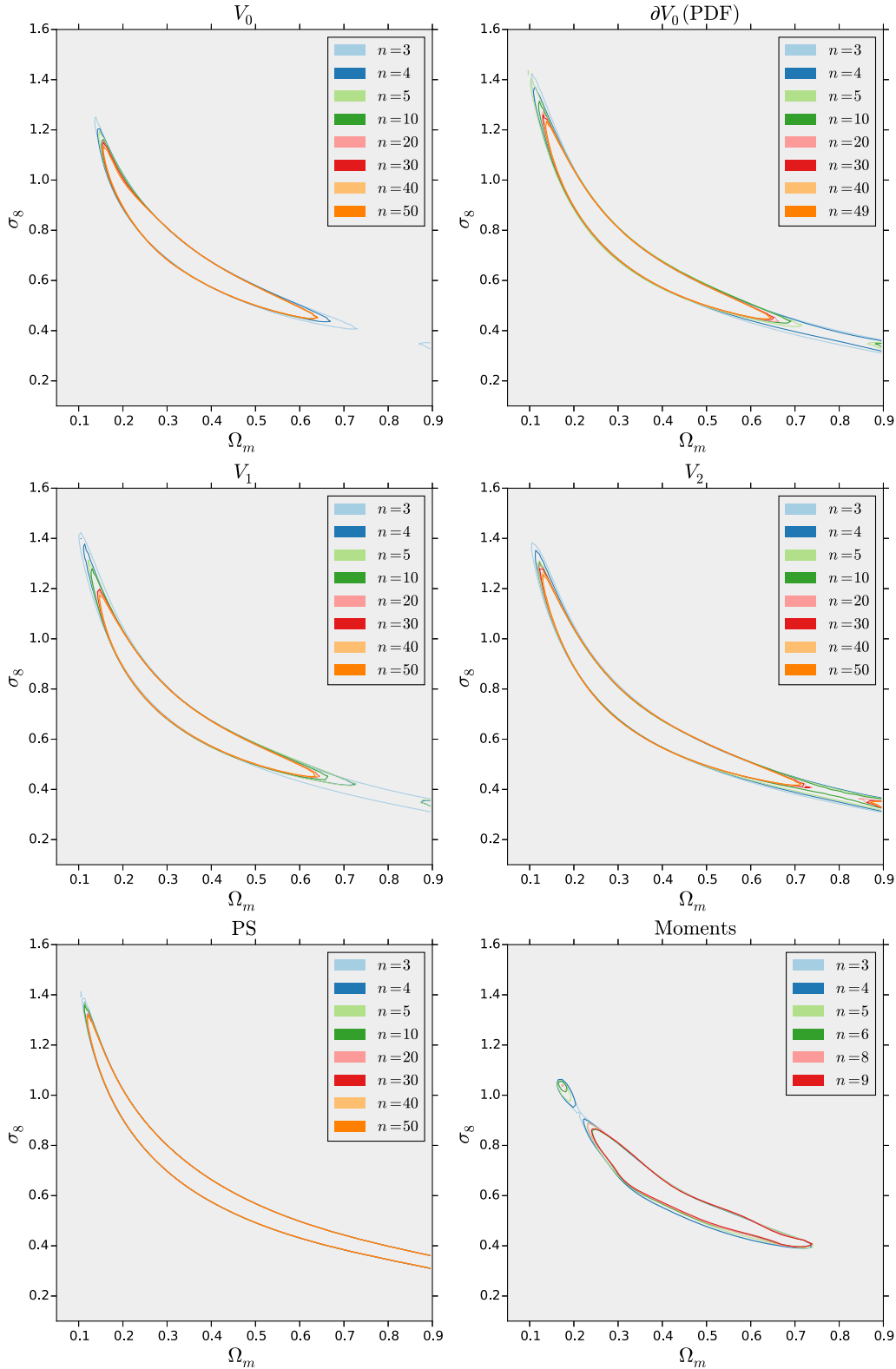


FIG. 8 (color online). The dependence of the 1σ contours in the (Ω_m, σ_8) plane on the number of PCA components, obtained from a mock observation constructed with the CFHTCOV simulations. The different panels refer to the different descriptors (from left to right, top to bottom) V_0 , $\partial V_0(\text{PDF})$, V_1 , V_2 , power spectrum and moments. The labels in each panel show the number of PCA components included to obtain contour with different colors.

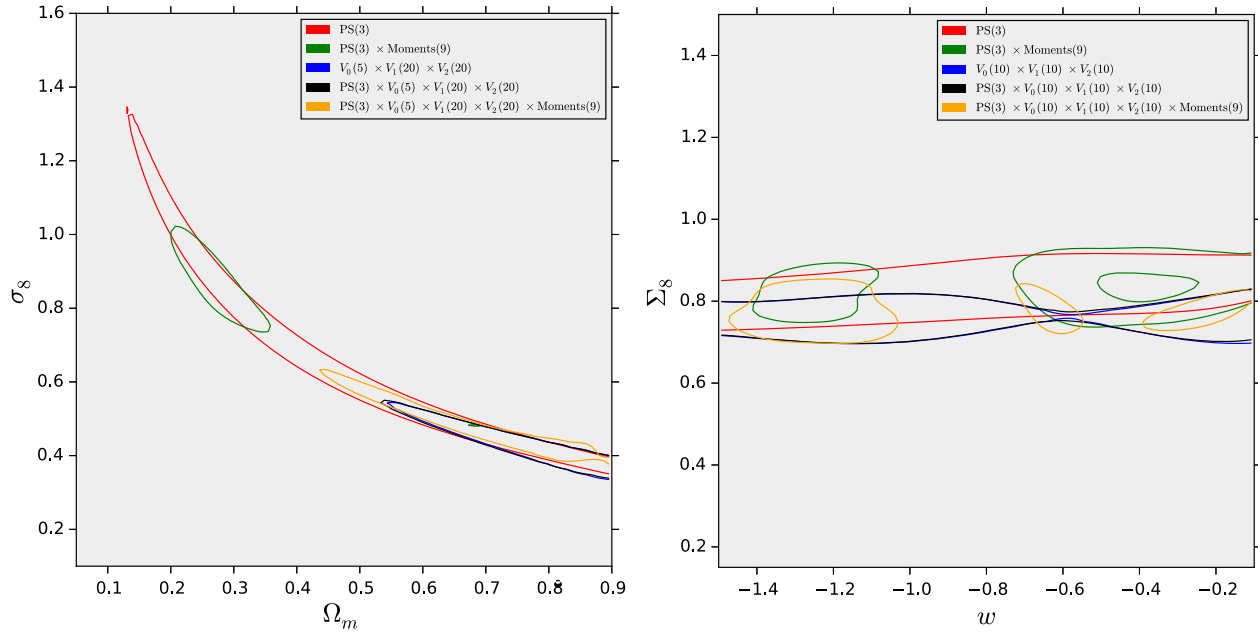


FIG. 9 (color online). 1σ constraints on the (Ω_m, σ_8) (left panel) and (w, Σ_8) (right panel) doublets, using the power spectrum (PS) alone (red), the MFs alone (blue), as well as using different combinations of descriptors: PS \times Moments (green), PS \times MFs (black) and PS \times MFs \times Moments (orange). The likelihood function has been marginalized over w (left panel) and Ω_m (right panel). The parentheses next to each descriptor label refers to the number of PCA components included.

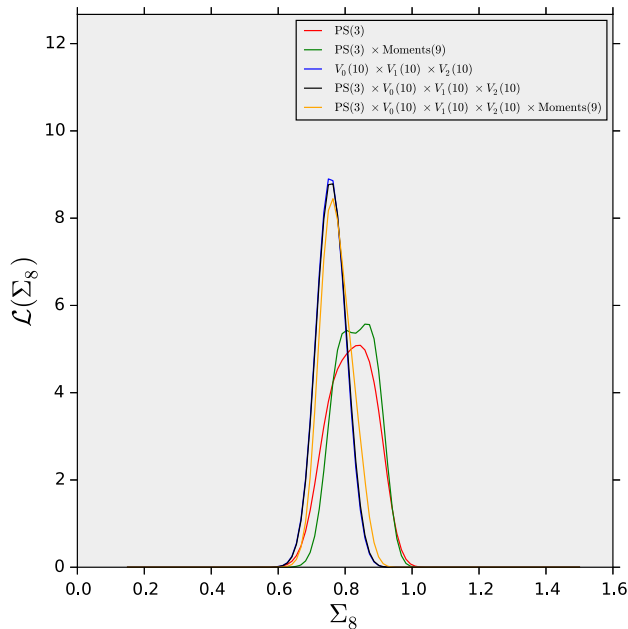


FIG. 10 (color online). The probability distribution of the best-constrained parameter Σ_8 from the CFHTLenS data, using the power spectrum (PS) alone (red), the MFs alone (blue), as well as using different combinations of descriptors: PS \times Moments (green), PS \times MFs (black) and PS \times MFs \times Moments (orange). The likelihood function has been marginalized over Ω_m and w . The parentheses next to each descriptor label refers to the number of PCA components.

number of PCA components $n_{1,2}$ needed for the constraints to be stable. We next construct the vector $d_{1 \times 2} = \{d_1(n_1), d_2(n_2)\}$ and consider this as the combined $(n_1 + n_2)$ -dimensional descriptor vector. This procedure naturally allows us to account for the cross covariance between different binned descriptors. An analogous procedure can be used to combine multiple (three or more) descriptors.

We show constraints from different descriptor combinations in the (Ω_m, σ_8) and (w, Σ_8) planes in Fig. 9, and on the best-constrained parameter Σ_8 in Fig. 10. We also provide a tabulated version of the Σ_8 constraints (1σ) in Table IV. We discuss these findings in the next section.

TABLE IV. Tabulated values of 1σ constraints on Σ_8 corresponding to Fig. 10.

Descriptor	$\Sigma_8 = \sigma_8 \Omega_m^{0.55}$
PS(3)	$0.84^{+0.06}_{-0.09}$
PS(3) \times Moments(9)	$0.86^{+0.02}_{-0.09}$
$V_0(10) \times V_1(10) \times V_2(10)$	$0.75^{+0.07}_{-0.04}$
PS(3) $\times V_0(10) \times V_1(10) \times V_2(10)$	$0.76^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$
PS(3) $\times V_0(10) \times V_1(10) \times V_2(10) \times$ Moments(9)	$0.76^{+0.06}_{-0.04}$

V. DISCUSSION

In this section we discuss the results shown in Sec. IV above, with particular focus on the constraints on cosmology.

As pointed out in Sec. III C, the choice of the number of bins, N_b , is an important issue. In order to ensure that our results are insensitive to N_b , we adopted a PCA projection technique to reduce the dimensionality of our descriptor spaces. The left panel of Fig. 7 shows that the PCA eigenvalues for all of our descriptors decrease by about 4 orders of magnitude from $n = 1$ to $n = 3$. The right panel of this figure shows that more than 99% of the descriptor variances are captured by including only the first $n = 3$ components.

This does not necessarily mean, however, that the cosmological information is captured by the first three PCA components: in principle, one of the higher- n PCA components could have an unusually strong cosmology dependence, and could impact the confidence levels. To address this possibility, we determined the 1σ contour sizes as a function of n in Fig. 8. This figure shows that the first three components indeed capture essentially all the information contained in the power spectrum. However, this is not true for the other descriptors. In particular, we find that $n \geq 5$ components are necessary for V_0 , and $n \geq 20$ components for V_1 and V_2 , in order for the (Ω_m, σ_8) contours to be stable at the $\sim 5\%$ level. All nine moments need to be included for the moments contours to be stable to this accuracy.

These results are slightly different when we study the (w, Σ_8) constraints (with α fixed at $\alpha = 0.55$ as discussed above). In this case we find that the optimal choice for all three MFs is $n = 10$, while the number of components required for the PS and Moments remain at $n = 3$ and $n = 9$, respectively. (These results are not shown, but obtained analogously to the figures above.)

We now discuss the main scientific findings of this work. In Fig. 3, we show the 1σ constraints on the (Ω_m, σ_8) doublet from the CFHTLenS data. The MF constraints appear to be biased towards the low- σ_8 , high- Ω_m region. Here and throughout the remainder of this paper, by “biased” (or “unbiased”) we refer to being incompatible (or compatible) with the concordance fiducial values at 1σ obtained in other experiments. For example, the current best-fit values of $(\Omega_m, \sigma_8) = (0.32, 0.83), (0.28, 0.82)$ from cosmic microwave background anisotropies measured, respectively, by the Planck [48] and WMAP [34] satellites lie beyond the 99% likelihood contours obtained from the three MFs (not shown).

This discrepancy may be due to uncorrected systematics in the CFHTLenS data, amplified by the (Ω_m, σ_8) degeneracy. As a test of our analysis pipeline, when we try to constrain mock observations based on simulations (shown in the right panel of Fig. 3), we recover the correct input position of the 1σ contours. It is important to note, however,

that the mock observations to which the right panel of Fig. 3 refers, were built with the mean of $R = 1000$ realizations of the CFHTCOV simulations. We found that it is possible to find some rare (10 out of the 1,000) realizations for which the best fit for (Ω_m, σ_8) lies in the lower right corner, near the location of the best-fit from the data. While this could provide an alternative explanation of the bias from the MFs, the likelihood of this happening is very small ($\lesssim 1\%$).

We observe that the moments give the tightest constraint on (Ω_m, σ_8) . Furthermore, this constraint is unbiased, in the sense defined above: it includes the current concordance values for these parameters within 1σ . This leads us to conclude that the bias in the constraints from the MFs is due to systematic errors, rather than the rare statistical fluctuations found above. The fact that the moments are useful for deriving unbiased cosmological constraints has been noted in previous work, which examined the biases caused by spurious shear errors [49].

In order to determine the origin of the tight bounds derived from moments, we studied the contribution of each individual moment to the constraints. Figure 4 shows the evolution of the (Ω_m, σ_8) constraints as we add increasingly higher-order moments to the descriptor set. Since we are constraining 3 cosmological parameters, we start by considering the set of the three traditional one-point moments which do not involve gradients, i.e. the variance, skewness, and kurtosis (σ_0^2, S_0, K_0). We then add the remaining six moments of derivatives one by one, starting from the quadratic moments.

Figure 4 shows that the biggest improvement on the parameter bounds comes from including quartic moments of derivatives (i.e. K_i with $i \geq 1$) in the descriptor set. This might explain why [24] find only relatively weak contour tightening ($\sim 10\%$) when adding three-point correlations to quadratic statistics, since the main improvement comes from higher moments of κ derivatives. Reference [24] consider one-point, third-order moments, combined for multiple smoothing scales. Figure 4 explicitly shows, however, that smoothing scale combinations are not as effective as moments of derivatives in constraining the (Ω_m, σ_8) doublet. Our results agree with an early prediction [5] that the kurtosis of the shear field can help in breaking degeneracies between Ω_m and σ_8 . Here we found that considering quartic moments of gradients further helps in breaking this degeneracy.

As noted above, the bias in the (Ω_m, σ_8) constraints is amplified by the cosmological degeneracy of these parameters. To mitigate this effect, we consider the combination of Ω_m and σ_8 that lies orthogonal to the most degenerate direction, namely $\Sigma_8 = \sigma_8(\Omega_m/0.27)^{0.55}$. Figure 5 shows the 1σ constraints for the (w, Σ_8) doublet, while Fig. 6 shows the marginalized Σ_8 likelihood from the CFHTLenS data. The CFHTLenS survey constrains the Σ_8 combination to a value of $\Sigma_8 = 0.75 \pm 0.04(1\sigma)$ using the full descriptor

set, in agreement with values previously published by the CFHTLenS Collaboration [1].

These figures also show that the current data set is insufficient to constrain w to a reasonable precision. This is consistent with the previous analyses of CFHTLenS [1,24,26,28]. We also note that Ref. [28] obtained the best-fit value of $w \approx -2$ (but with large errors that include $w = -1$ at 1σ). We found a similar result when using a Fisher matrix to compute confidence levels. Since the Fisher matrix formalism is equivalent to a linear approximation of our emulator (in which all cosmological parameter dependencies are assumed to be linear), we thus attribute this bias to the oversimplifying assumption of linear cosmology-parameter dependence of the descriptors. Although the right panel in Fig. 9 shows that the moments confine w to isolated regions in parameter space, we note that $w = -1$, the value favored by other existing experiments, is excluded at the 1σ level. The 2σ contours (not shown in the figure) join, and include $w = -1$.

Regarding the parameter biases, our results overall are in accordance with [49], namely, that unaccounted systematics result in larger parameter biases when the constraints are derived from the MFs, and that the LM statistic is less biased. However, for the CFHTLenS data the MFs can still effectively constrain the nondegenerate direction in parameter space, Σ_8 (Fig. 6).

Finally, we studied whether the combination of different statistical descriptors can help in tightening the cosmological constraints. We show the effects of some of these combinations in Figs. 9 and 10. The left panel of Figure 9 shows that, although combining the power spectrum and the moments with the Minkowski functionals helps tighten the (Ω_m, σ_8) constraints, it does not help in reducing the inherent parameter bias of the MFs. The right panel of Figure 9 shows that even with these statistics combined, w remains essentially unconstrained. [50] found that even weak lensing tomography alone is unable to constrain w sensibly. Figure 10 shows that the Σ_8 combination is already well constrained by any of the descriptors alone, without the need of combining different descriptors. This further clarifies that the nonquadratic descriptors mainly help to break degeneracies, tightening contours along the degenerate direction.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

In this final section we summarize the main conclusions of this work:

- (i) We find that the power spectrum, combined with the moments of the κ field provides the tightest constraint on the (Ω_m, σ_8) doublet from the CFHTLenS survey data. The tightness of these constraints comes mainly from the moments. Evidence of the unbiased nature of constraints from the moments has been found in [49]. We further find that the largest improvement on parameter bounds is achieved when

we include the quartic moments of derivatives in the descriptor set. This level of improvement cannot be achieved by combining one-point moments at different smoothing scales.

- (ii) Although weak lensing surveys are a promising technique to constrain the DE equation of state parameter w , reasonable constraints cannot be obtained with the CFHTLenS survey alone, even when using additional sets of descriptors that go beyond the standard quadratic statistics.
- (iii) When studying the cosmological information contained in the CFHTLenS data, special attention must be paid to the effect of residual systematic biases. While these residual systematics are found to be unimportant when constraining cosmology with the power spectrum alone, we find that these systematics need to be corrected to obtain unbiased constraints on the (Ω_m, σ_8) doublet using the Minkowski functionals. We are aware that when trying to explain the discrepancy between weak lensing and CMB constraints using the Minkowski functionals, there might be other effects to be considered, namely, non-Gaussian error correlations in the descriptors and inaccuracies of the simulations on small scales. These inaccuracies could in principle affect the excursion set reconstruction at high κ_0 thresholds. We will investigate these additional sources of error in future work.
- (iv) For the CFHTLenS data set, Minkowski functionals can effectively constrain the nondegenerate direction in parameter space, Σ_8 , where the amplifying effects of degeneracy are mitigated. The Minkowski functionals alone are sufficient to constrain the Σ_8 combination to a value of $\Sigma_8 = 0.75 \pm 0.04$ at 1σ significance level. This agrees with the value previously published by the CFHTLenS Collaboration within 1σ . Some tensions with Planck [48] still remain.

Possible future extensions of this work include simulating higher-dimensional parameter spaces (including, for example, the Hubble constant H_0 , and allowing a tilt in the power spectrum or a time dependence of the DE equation of state w), and combining the CFHTLenS constraints with different cosmological probes from large-scale structures and the CMB. The latter can help in breaking the Ω_m, σ_8 degeneracy, and allow improvements in the constraints on w . The techniques developed here can be applied to larger, soon-forthcoming survey data sets, such as the Dark Energy Survey [51], Subaru [52], WFIRST [53] and LSST [54].

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