THE RED-SEQUENCE LUMINOSITY FUNCTION IN GALAXY CLUSTERS SINCE $z \sim 1$

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ABSTRACT

We use a statistical sample of ~500 rich clusters taken from 72 deg² of the Red-Sequence Cluster Survey (RCS-1) to study the evolution of ~30,000 red-sequence galaxies in clusters over the redshift range 0.35 < z < 0.95. We construct red-sequence luminosity functions (RSLFs) for a well-defined, homogeneously selected, richness-limited sample. The RSLF at higher redshifts shows a deficit of faint red galaxies (to $M_V \ge -19.7$) with their numbers increasing toward the present epoch. This is consistent with the "downsizing" picture in which star formation ended at earlier times for the most massive (luminous) galaxies and more recently for less massive (fainter) galaxies. We observe a richness dependence to the downsizing effect in the sense that, at a given redshift, the drop-off of faint red galaxies is greater for poorer (less massive) clusters, suggesting that star formation ended earlier for galaxies, implying that the process responsible for this evolution of faint galaxies is the termination of star formation, possibly with little or no need for merging. At the bright end, we also see an increase in the number of blue galaxies with increasing redshift, suggesting that termination of star formation in higher mass galaxies may also be an important formation mechanism for higher mass ellipticals. By comparing with a low-redshift Abell cluster sample, we find that the downsizing trend seen within RCS-1 has continued to the local universe.

Subject headings: galaxies: clusters: general — galaxies: elliptical and lenticular, cD — galaxies: evolution — galaxies: luminosity function, mass function

1. INTRODUCTION

Clusters of galaxies are ideal laboratories for studying galaxy evolution, since they contain many galaxies seen at the same epoch in close proximity. Their cores are dominated by early-type galaxies, which are the major component of the high-mass end of the galaxy stellar mass function locally. There is now a good deal of evidence that cluster early-type galaxies formed the bulk of their stars at high redshift and thereafter simply evolved passively with little or no residual star formation. One such line of evidence is the tight sequence they form in color-magnitude space (e.g., Visvanathan 1978; Bower et al. 1992), "the red sequence." A similar red sequence is also seen for early-type galaxies in the field out to at least $z \sim 1$ (Bell et al. 2004). Furthermore, *all* galaxies

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appear to be divided into two distinct populations: the passively evolving red sequence and the actively star forming "blue cloud." Only a small amount of residual star formation (less than $\sim 10\%$ of the galaxies' past averaged star formation rate) is necessary to move a galaxy from the red sequence to the blue cloud. Therefore, early-type galaxies can provide unique insight into the history of star formation, as traced by objects in which star formation has already been terminated.

In the local universe, the probability of a galaxy belonging to the red sequence or blue cloud depends on its stellar mass and its environment (Baldry et al. 2006). It is likely that the other fundamental parameter governing the properties of a galaxy is the epoch at which it is observed. Thus, in order to build a complete picture of galaxy evolution, we need to study the colors of galaxies as a function of mass (or luminosity), environment, and redshifts.

The classical picture for the formation of galaxies proposes a single "monolithic collapse" (Eggen et al. 1962), with stars in elliptical galaxies being formed in a single burst, thereafter

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evolving passively (Partridge & Peebles 1967; Sandage et al. 1970). This very simple model predicts remarkably well many of the properties and scaling relations of elliptical galaxies.

In the current hierarchical paradigm, structure forms in a "bottom-up" sense, as galaxies and clusters are built from the merging of smaller units. Recently, there has been growing evidence that star formation has evolved in a "top-down" sense with more massive galaxies being most actively star forming in the past and the bulk of the star formation activity moving toward less massive galaxies as the universe ages. Although this seems intuitively at odds with hierarchical models, scenarios have been proposed in which star formation progresses in this antihierarchical manner (De Lucia et al. 2006). Whereas previous generations of semianalytic models in this hierarchical framework suggested that the most massive early-type galaxies should be younger than less massive ones (Baugh et al. 1996; Kauffmann & Charlot 1998), in order to reconcile with the observed downsizing trend, the prediction is now that although the most massive early types assembled their mass later than lower mass early types, the stellar mass has been built up through a series of gas-poor mergers that do not result in additional star formation. Hence the earlier formation times of the stellar populations in more massive galaxies is recovered.

Despite numerous signs of merging in early-type galaxies (e.g., van Dokkum 2005; Tran et al. 2005), it remains an open question how important mergers are in their formation and evolution. The problem of disentangling how a galaxy assembled its mass from how it assembled its stars is a difficult one.

Several studies of field galaxies have reported this downsizing or antihierarchical trend in star formation (e.g., Bell et al. 2004; Juneau et al. 2005; Faber et al. 2007; Bundy et al. 2005; Scarlata et al. 2007). Initial results suggested that the comoving number density of massive early-type galaxies had evolved more than could be accounted for by passive evolution alone, and that "dry merging" of massive galaxies was required (Bell et al. 2004; Faber et al. 2007). More recently, it has been suggested that most, if not all, of the evolution can be attributed to the termination of star formation and pure passive evolution, and that a significant contribution from merging is not required (Cimatti et al. 2006; Scarlata et al. 2007).

In galaxy clusters, downsizing appears to be supported by the spectroscopic ages of red-sequence galaxies as a function of mass (Nelan et al. 2005). In distant clusters ($z \sim 0.8$), a deficit of faint red-sequence galaxies relative to local clusters has been claimed, in accordance with this picture (De Lucia et al. 2004, 2007; Tanaka et al. 2005). However, all of these high-redshift works have found a large cluster-to-cluster scatter in their samples of sizes of approximately 1–10 clusters, indicating that a large, statistical sample is crucial to such studies. The relative contributions of passive evolution versus dry merging to explain the evolution of the number density of early-type galaxies both in the field and in clusters is still an open question.

In this paper we present results using the first statistical sample of galaxy clusters drawn from a well-defined, wide-area, homogenous survey covering a large redshift range, 0.35 < z < 0.95. We present the survey data in § 2 and detail our method for constructing composite clusters in § 3. In § 4 we examine the red-sequence luminosity function (RSLF) and use the ratio of luminous-to-faint red-sequence cluster galaxies to trace its evolution with redshift and dependence on cluster mass. In § 5 we discuss our results and compare with other studies of early-type galaxy evolution both in clusters and the field, and in § 6 we present our conclusions. Throughout we assume a cosmology of $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ (and $h = H_0/100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$), $\Omega_M = 0.3$, and $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$.

2. DATA

The Red-Sequence Cluster Survey (RCS-1; Gladders & Yee 2005) is a two-filter imaging survey covering $\sim 100 \text{ deg}^2$. It was designed to build a well-defined sample of galaxy clusters out to $z \sim 1$ using a highly efficient color selection technique (Gladders & Yee 2000, 2005). This technique provides a photometric estimate of the cluster redshift, accurate to $\Delta z \sim 0.05$ (e.g., Blindert et al. 2007; Gilbank et al. 2007). A proxy for the mass of each cluster is produced by measuring the optical richness, which is obtained by calculating the amplitude of the galaxy-cluster cross-correlation function, B_{gc} (Longair & Seldner 1979; Yee & López-Cruz 1999). We use a modified version of the B_{gc} parameter (B_{gcR} ; see Gladders & Yee 2005), considering only galaxies with colors compatible with the red sequence at the estimated redshift of the cluster. Although the uncertainty on B_{gcR} for an individual cluster is relatively large ($\sim 20\% - 30\%$), the accuracy for ensembles is good, as demonstrated by the agreement between cosmological parameters derived from BgcR-selected samples of RCS-1 clusters and the current best-fit cosmology from other methods (Gladders et al. 2007). Extensive work is ongoing to calibrate the scaling relation between B_{gcR} and mass from RCS clusters. Some early results have been presented in Blindert et al. (2007), Gilbank et al. (2007), and L. F. Barrientos et al. (2008, in preparation). Results from the X-ray-selected CNOC1 clusters can be found in Yee & Ellingson (2003) and Hicks et al. (2006).

We use data from the RCS-1 photometric catalogs, which are derived from moderate-depth imaging data in the $R_{\rm C}$ and z' bands. The imaging was obtained with two mosaic cameras on 4 m class telescopes, CFH12K on the CFHT and MOSAIC-II on the CTIO Blanco telescope. Details of the data reduction are given in Gladders & Yee (2005), and we only give a brief account here. The survey is divided into 20 patches, each typically around $2^{\circ} \times 2^{\circ}$. Object detection, classification, and photometry were performed on the images using the Picture Processing Package (PPP) (Yee 1991). For each object, total magnitudes in the deeper of the two filters (usually R) were computed from a curve-of-growth analysis. Colors were measured using a 3" aperture or the optimal aperture from the curve of growth, if it is smaller. Total magnitudes for the shallower filter were then calculated using the total magnitude of the deeper filter and this color. Galactic extinction was corrected using the maps of Schlegel et al. (1998). The z'magnitudes are expected to be uncertain at the $z' \leq 0.10$ level, and this is confirmed by our own comparison of internal overlaps (and also additional photometry from other follow-up imaging), and the (R - z') colors should be accurate to ≤ 0.03 (Gladders & Yee 2005). Throughout, we use magnitudes on the AB system unless otherwise specified. In this paper we only consider the 72 deg^2 selected to have the highest photometric quality (see Gladders et al. 2007 for details).

3. CONSTRUCTING COMPOSITE CLUSTERS

We construct composite clusters following the basic technique of Loh et al. (2007). We repeat the salient points of that work here, and add details pertinent to our analysis. To build our sample, we select clusters from the latest (2005 December) generation RCS-1 cluster catalog, with red-sequence estimated redshifts $0.35 < z_{\rm RCS} \le 0.95$; richness, $B_{\rm gcR} > 500$ [in units of $(h_{50}^{-1} \text{ Mpc})^{1.77}$]; and detection significance, $\sigma_{\rm RCS} \ge 3.3 \sigma$. A $B_{\rm gcR} = 500$ cluster corresponds to a velocity dispersion $\sigma \sim 400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (e.g., Blindert et al. 2007), and our sample extends up to $B_{\rm gcR} \sim 2000$ clusters that would correspond to $\sigma \sim 1200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

For each cluster, we extract colors and magnitudes [binning 0.1 mag in z'-band magnitude and 0.05 mag in (R - z') color] for

all galaxies within a radius of $0.5r_{200}$, where the value of r_{200} is estimated from the richness following the relation $\log r_{200} =$ 0.48 log $B_{\rm gc}$ – 0.95 (Barkhouse et al. [2007], after converting to our cosmology from their h = 0.5 to h = 0.7; see also Yee & Ellingson 2003). This corresponds to a physical radius of between ~1.1 and 1.9 h^{-1} Mpc for the range of richness used here. For some clusters, the circle defined by this radius may fall partially off the edge of our survey. We use detailed maps of the positions of all the CCD chips to calculate the fractional area lost due to survey geometry. We use this fraction to reject clusters where the fractional areal completeness is <0.6 and to correct incomplete clusters. The total fraction of clusters rejected due to geometric considerations alone is around 20%. The rejected clusters are not a strong function of redshift or richness, so the net effect is simply to reduce the total usable area of the survey by \sim 20%. For the remaining clusters, more than 80% of the sample have fractional areal completeness of >0.8.

The data from these clusters are placed into redshift bins of $\Delta z = 0.1$. The typical uncertainty in redshift given the redsequence color of a cluster varies from ~0.04 to 0.08 within RCS-1 (e.g., Blindert et al. 2007; Gilbank et al. 2007). We do not attempt to correct the colors of each cluster within each redshift bin to a common redshift, since the systematic difference in color is smaller than the size of the random error due to the accuracy of measuring the position of the red sequence in color-magnitude space, and doing so will in fact increase the dispersion of the composite color-magnitude diagrams (CMDs).

The composite CMDs so created contain cluster galaxies plus contamination from background/foreground galaxies. We remove this contamination in a statistical way by creating background CMDs by summing the data from all galaxies within RCS-1. In practice, we sum galaxies within each RCS-1 patch (disjoint areas of sky of typically $\sim 4 \text{ deg}^2$) and create a composite background by summing the background from each patch, weighted by the number of clusters each patch contributes to our final cluster sample. We do not explicitly remove clusters from these background fields, as the total area contributed by all the clusters within any patch is small ($\sim 2\%$) and masking the clusters each time is computationally expensive. We verified that performing this masking does not affect our final results.

Errors are propagated through for each bin of the CMD accounting for the Poisson uncertainty due to cluster counts, background counts, and the variance from patch to patch. The number of cluster galaxies in the *j*th bin of the composite cluster CMD, N_{cj} , is given by

$$N_{cj} = \sum_{i} N_{ij} - n_{fj}, \qquad (1)$$

where N_{ij} is the observed number of galaxies (cluster + field) in the *j*th bin of the *j*th cluster region (N_{cj} is allowed to be formally negative in our method. In practice we will be binning over many bins of color and magnitude in our analysis, such that the totals in these larger bins are always positive). The field contribution, n_{fi} , is given by

$$n_{fj} = \frac{\sum_{i} \Omega_i}{\sum_{p} \Omega_p} \sum_{p} N_{pj} w_p, \qquad (2)$$

where Ω_i and Ω_p represent the areas of the cluster regions and the *p*th patch (field), respectively. The patch weighting is

$$w_p = \frac{m_p}{\sum_p m_p},\tag{3}$$

 TABLE 1

 FITTED CMR PARAMETERS FOR THE COMPOSITE CLUSTERS

\overline{z}	$m_{z'}^{\star}$	$(R-z')$ at $m_{z'}^{\star}$	d(R-z')/dz'
0.40	18.940	0.825	-0.044
0.50	19.453	0.925	-0.046
).60	19.908	1.063	-0.048
0.70	20.322	1.243	-0.049
).80	20.675	1.439	-0.059
).90	20.955	1.632	-0.063

Note.—Columns show the average redshift of the composite cluster, the observed value of m^* in z' (derived from the z = 0.4 fit and the passively evolving model), the observed color at this magnitude, and the slope of the relation.

where m_p is the total number of clusters in patch p contributing to the composite cluster. This gives more weight to data from those patches that contribute more clusters, usually due to the greater area they cover or greater uniformity of data.

The error in the counts of the *j*th bin is the quadrature sum of cluster and field contributions:

$$\sigma(N_{cj}) = [\sigma(n_{ij})^2 + \sigma(n'_{fj})^2]^{1/2}.$$
 (4)

We denote the field uncertainty here as n'_{fj} , since we allow for the Poisson uncertainty, $n^{1/2}_{fj}$, plus the patch-to-patch standard deviation, σ^p_{fj} , in a manner akin to that of Lumsden et al. (1992):

$$\sigma(n'_{fj}) = \max(n^{1/2}_{fj}, \sigma^p_{fj}).$$
 (5)

The rationale for a semiglobal background subtraction (i.e., the approach of eqs. [1]-[5]) is discussed in more detail in Loh et al. (2007).

Once a background-subtracted cluster CMD has been created, the next step is to fit the red sequence. Several techniques were tried to fit the locus in the presence of the blue cloud galaxies. The method traditionally used is to fit using the biweight estimator (Tukey 1958). We found that using this method on the whole CMD (particularly in the highest redshift bins) caused poor fits, mainly due to the significant population of blue galaxies at faint magnitudes that biased the fit, causing the relation to be much steeper than that estimated by eye. To circumvent this problem, we overlaid model tracks for the expected red sequence and rejected galaxies bluer than 0.2 mag in (R - z') than the expected colors. This effectively isolates the red sequence (as confirmed by visual inspection), but still allows the slope and intercept of the relation to be fine-tuned. We also found that reducing the scale radius used to select red-sequence galaxies to $0.25r_{200}$ allows a cleaner fit, and so we use this value for fitting the color-magnitude relation (CMR). The results of the fit are given in Table 1.

Next, we subtract the best-fit CMR to leave a red sequence that is horizontal in color-magnitude space, resampling the binned CMD using sinc interpolation. The result is a red sequence centered on zero color, with no magnitude dependence. We denote these corrected colors as $(R - z')_{corr}$. Blue galaxies will have a stronger k-correction than red galaxies, and so we apply a differential k-correction to the blue galaxies, as a function of their observed color (see, e.g., Loh et al. 2007). The primary effect of this correction is to dim the contribution of ongoing star formation in the brightest blue galaxies, allowing cleaner selection of the brightest red-sequence galaxies. With these corrections, the resulting magnitude of each galaxy is thus now more closely related to its stellar mass. This correction is discussed in more detail in § 4.3.

Finally, to isolate red-sequence galaxies for further study, we choose to use only galaxies on the red side of the red sequence, i.e., $(R - z')_{corr} \ge 0$. This eliminates contamination by galaxies blueward of the red sequence whose magnitude errors may allow them to scatter onto the red sequence. Since red-sequence galaxies are the reddest normal galaxies at a given redshift, there should be no galaxies redward of them, after background subtraction. We verified the CMR goodness of fit by centroiding the CMD data in color about the $(R - z')_{corr} = 0$ line and applying a small subpixel shift, if necessary. Such color shifts were ≤ 0.01 . The red sequence was then extracted by mirroring this distribution about the $(R - z')_{corr} = 0$ line. To include the effects of brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs), which are often found to be slightly bluer than the red sequence, possibly due to the effects of ongoing star formation due to the accretion of cold gas at the cluster center (e.g., McNamara & O'Connell 1992), we relax the requirement of $(R - z')_{corr} \ge 0$ to ≥ 0.5 for galaxies brighter than M^* . This allows the inclusion of galaxies that are clearly seen to be separate from the blue galaxy population (after application of the differential k-correction, described above).

4. RED-SEQUENCE LUMINOSITY FUNCTIONS

We are now left with a CMD, constructed to contain only redsequence galaxies. Red-sequence luminosity functions (RSLFs) can be constructed by simply summing over the color bins. A crucial step is to understand the magnitude completeness of the sample. Modeling the incompleteness, as is usually done for galaxy number counts in the field, becomes a much more complicated problem due to the color cuts imposed. The only reliable way to verify the completeness for red-sequence-selected galaxies is by deeper imaging of the same areas of sky (e.g., Cimatti et al. 2006). We adopt a very conservative approach and cut our data to a magnitude limit that should provide close to 100% completeness for galaxies (Yee 1991). We adopt a limit 0.8 mag brighter than the 5 σ point-source magnitude limits (Gladders & Yee 2005). This produces color and magnitude limits in observed R and z'. To ensure that we are not incomplete for the faintest, reddest galaxies, we calculate the intercept of the R-band magnitude limit with the red envelope of the red sequence, prior to removing the red-sequence slope, and decrease the z' mag limit to this value (typically ≈ 0.2 mag brighter). This offset can been seen in Figure 1.

Since we only need the bluer (R_C band) data to measure the color of each galaxy, we can relax the limit from 0.8 mag brighter than the 5 σ point-source limit ($M_{5\sigma,R} - 0.8$) to only $M_{5\sigma,R} - 0.3$. The typical color errors show that we are still measuring colors of the faintest galaxies with an uncertainty of ≤ 0.15 mag at the faintest limit adopted. We note that repeating our analysis with the very conservative magnitude limits of $M_{5\sigma} - 0.8$ in both filters does not change any of our results at all, except to give us insufficient depth to make reliable measurements in our highest redshift bin (0.85 < $z \leq 0.95$), described later.

Figure 2 shows the RSLFs. We remind the reader that we have constructed these by averaging over all clusters of richness $B_{\rm gcR} > 500$ within $0.5r_{200}$.

Colless (1989) constructed composite luminosity functions (LFs) by using

$$N_{cj} = \frac{N_{c0}}{m_j} \sum_{i} \frac{N_{ij}}{N_{i0}},$$
 (6)

where N_{cj} is the number of galaxies in the *j*th bin of the composite LF, N_{ij} is the number in the *j*th bin of the *i*th cluster's LF, N_{i0} is the normalization of the *i*th cluster LF, m_j is the number



FIG. 1.—CMDs for the background-subtracted composite clusters in redshift bins of 0.1. Solid lines indicate fit to red sequence (Table 1). Dashed lines represent the 100% completeness limits adopted. Note that while the completeness in z' of the RCS catalog is somewhat deeper, we adopt the limits marked by the dashed lines so that the catalog is complete in (R - z') color to colors significantly redder than the red sequence (see text). The two-dimensional histograms have been Gaussian smoothed for display purposes.

of clusters contributing to the *j*th bin, and $N_{c0} = \sum_i N_{i0}$. This method is optimized for finding the composite LF under the assumption that it is universal (so that a simple rescaling by the cluster richness is all that is needed to find the average cluster LF), and in the presence of cluster data extending to different depths for different clusters. The approach we adopt here is effectively setting N_{i0} to unity, as we are trying to examine the average LF of all clusters within our uniformly selected sample of clusters, at each redshift. By integrating over a well-sampled volume of the universe, the weighting intended by Colless' N_{i0} term actually occurs naturally, since less rich clusters (containing fewer galaxies) are more abundant, and hence their contribution is "upweighted" relative to richer clusters. The actual number of clusters and the red-sequence galaxies they contribute are shown for various samples in Table 2.

We convert our observed z'-band magnitudes to rest-frame V band, using the same method as De Lucia et al. (2007). We use the GALAXEV stellar population synthesis code (Bruzual & Charlot 2003) to generate model galaxy spectral energy distributions (SEDs) arising from a single burst stellar population formed at $z_f = 3$. We use three populations of different metallicities. The zero point of each is normalized such that the observed CMR of Coma (Terlevich et al. 2001) is reproduced. These also give reasonable agreement with our observed CMRs as a function of redshift. Observed magnitudes are converted to rest-frame magnitudes, interpolating between the nearest models. We choose not to explicitly fit Schechter functions (Schechter 1976) to each redshift bin as (1) the characteristic magnitude, M^* , and faint-end



Fig. 2.—LFs for red-sequence galaxies in the composite clusters shown in Fig. 1. The mean redshift of each composite cluster is given in the upper left of each panel. Data are only shown down to the 100% completeness limit for galaxies. Error bars are dominated by uncertainty due to background subtraction (as discussed in § 3). The thick dashed lines are the best-fit Schechter function of the lowest redshift composite cluster, evolved according to passive evolution to each redshift. The upper *x*-axes show the rest-frame absolute *V*-band magnitude, and vertical dashed lines indicate limits of bright and faint bins adopted in our analysis.

slope, α , are degenerate; and (2) in the higher redshift bins, our data are not sufficiently deep to place strong constraints on the faint-end slope using this parametric fit. Instead, to study the evolution of the number density of red-sequence galaxies, we fit a Schechter function to the lowest redshift bin and passively evolve it using the above model to other redshifts. The data in the lowest redshift, $0.35 < z \le 0.45$, bin are sufficiently deep that a single Schechter function is not an adequate fit for the very faintest galaxies, and it can be seen that the well-known (e.g., Barkhouse et al. 2007) upturn occurs for dwarf galaxies at $M_V \gtrsim -18$. However, this fit is sufficient to be illustrative at brighter magnitudes. For reference, the fitted parameters for this

TABLE 2 Number of Clusters and Red-Sequence Galaxies in Each Redshift Bin for the Different Samples

	$\frac{B_{\rm gcR} > 500}{\rm Main \ Sample}$		$\frac{300 < B_{\rm gcR} \le 500}{\text{``Poorer'' Sample}}$		$B_{\rm gcR} > 800$	
					"RICHER" SAMPLE	
Ī	N _{clus}	$N_{\rm gal}$	N _{clus}	$N_{\rm gal}$	N _{clus}	Ngal
0.40	57	8378	54	4981	22	4463
0.50	52	7234	75	3942	9	1840
0.60	70	5901	84	3704	16	1682
0.70	80	5765	82	3194	20	2036
0.80	103	4253	104	2625	27	1299
0.90	98	3883	63	1165	29	1889

Note.—The expression N_{clus} refers to the number of clusters used for the analysis, after rejecting those with too low areal completeness, etc.; N_{gal} refers to the number of red-sequence galaxies down to the 100% completeness limit.

reference model are $\alpha = -0.94 \pm 0.04$ and $m_{z'}^{*} = 18.94 \pm 0.09$, which corresponds to an absolute $M_{z'}^{*} = -21.51$.

4.1. Luminous-to-Faint Ratios

Tanaka et al. (2005) and De Lucia et al. (2007) both used the ratio of luminous-to-faint galaxies to look for evolution in the faint end of the RSLF with redshift. Our data are not as deep as either of these two works. However, we have sufficient depth to use the De Lucia et al. (2007) magnitude limits ($M_V \ge -20$ and $-20 < M_V \le -18.2$) to z = 0.5, so first we compare our luminous-to-faint ratio with theirs. For their z = 0.5 composite EDisCS cluster, De Lucia et al. (2007) find a luminous-to-faint ratio of 0.598 ± 0.064 (for their sample using photo-z-selected plus statistical subtraction) or 0.695 ± 0.077 (for statistical subtraction only), measured in the observed I band. We find a value of 0.644 ± 0.029 measured in the observed z' band. Our data probably more closely resemble their latter method, since we do not use photometric redshifts to reject galaxies on an individual basis. Our measurement agrees with their value to within the uncertainty.

In order to reach a reasonable redshift to search for evolution in the LF, say $z \sim 0.8$, we must adopt a brighter magnitude limit. We choose to define luminous galaxies as $-22.7 < M_V \le -20.7$ and faint as $-20.7 < M_V \le -19.7$. These limits allow us to use data up to our 100% completeness limit at z = 0.9, avoid including BCGs at the bright end, and provide approximately equal numbers of galaxies in each luminosity bin, at z = 0.9. These bounds are shown as dashed lines in Figure 2. The number in the lower right of each panel denotes the value of this ratio and its error. We calculate this value and its error following the same



FIG. 3.—Evolution of the ratio of luminous-to-faint red-sequence galaxies with redshift. Horizontal error bars represent redshift range used in each bin. The solid line is best linear fit accounting for errors. The diamond shows a low-redshift comparison point (not included in the fit) built from Barkhouse et al. (2007) data, discussed in \S 5.1.

method as described in § 3, and this can be thought of as a limiting case in which N_{cj} reduces to a LF of two magnitude bins. We show the evolution of the luminous-to-faint ratio in Figure 3. A simple linear fit with redshift is sufficient, $\propto z^{\beta}$ with $\beta = 0.94 \pm 0.18$.

This trend appears to be robust to changes in the exact choice of magnitude limits for the two bins, provided that the break point is chosen to be $M_V \sim -21$ or fainter.

4.2. Cluster Mass Dependence of Luminosity Function

With our large cluster sample, we can examine the LF for subsamples of our data of varying richness. For this test we choose to split the sample into two bins using B_{gcR} cuts of $300 < B_{gcR} \le$ 500 and $B_{gcR} > 800$. These subsamples are denoted "poorer" and "richer," respectively. The typical error on B_{gcR} is ~20%– 30%, so these limits ensure that the bins are as independent as possible, while maintaining reasonable numbers in each. In Figure 4 we show the evolution of the luminous-to-faint ratio, as in Figure 3, but this time split by richness. The linear fit from Figure 3 is overplotted as the solid line for reference. We see a trend in the direction that, at lower redshifts, richer clusters have a lower luminous-to-faint ratio than poorer clusters at the same redshift. At higher redshifts, $z \sim 0.6$, the value of the ratios becomes indistinguishable within the errors, and may even reverse in the last bin.

Incompleteness in the cluster catalog is a function of both redshift and richness. We examine its effects using completeness estimates from Gladders (2002). For clusters of $B_{\rm gcR} \ge 800$, the incompleteness is negligible, and so the richer bin is unaffected. However, for the poorest clusters at the highest redshift considered, the incompleteness can reach $\sim 20\%$. To quantify the incompleteness, we integrate over the measured distribution of B_{gcR} in the poorer subsample at each redshift, applying the completeness corrections, and compare the measured mean B_{gcR} in each bin with the expected value allowing for incompleteness. To $z \sim 0.7$ the bias in the mean $B_{\rm gcR}$ in the poorer bin is $\leq 10\%$, but by z = 0.9 the cluster sample is biased 25% richer than expected. This bias may wash out some of the intrinsic difference between richer and poorer clusters at the high-redshift end, if the difference seen at lower redshifts still exists there. Lowering the $B_{\rm gcR} > 300$ criterion to mitigate the effect of this bias would



FIG. 4.—Same as Fig. 3, but splitting the cluster sample into richer ($B_{gcR} > 800$, *circles*) and poorer ($300 < B_{gcR} \le 500$, *squares*) bins. The solid line is the best fit from Fig. 3 showing the fit to the whole sample, and the dotted line is a linear fit to the poorer clusters. The dashed line shows a $(1 + z)^{\beta}$ fit to the rich clusters including a low-redshift rich composite cluster based on Barkhouse et al. (2007) data, discussed in § 5.4.

likely introduce larger systematics, as the false-positive rate is expected to significantly increase below this richness.

A potentially more serious selection effect concerns the use of $B_{\rm gcR}$ cuts. The clusters are selected by the number of galaxies on their red sequence within a fixed physical radius. The magnitude limit adopted for the $B_{\rm gcR}$ measurement corresponds to $\sim M^{\star} + 2$ or the 100% completeness limit, whichever is brighter. This is faint enough to be affected by the decreasing fraction of fainter red-sequence galaxies at higher redshifts. If clusters naturally exhibit a monotonic sequence of luminous-to-faint ratios that increases with decreasing richness, and we select clusters based on the total number of galaxies on the red sequence, then this might impose a limit to the maximum luminous-to-faint ratio we can measure for the poorest clusters. This occurs since the poorest clusters appear to have a greater deficit of faint red members, and thus, such systems with high luminous-to-faint ratios (low fractions of faint galaxies) will be systematically excluded from our sample. The fact that the two or three highest redshift bins for the poorer clusters show approximately constant luminousto-faint ratios suggests that we might be seeing such a bias in our sample.

Over the redshift range $0.4 \le z \le 0.8$, De Lucia et al. (2007), when splitting their sample by velocity dispersion, found a trend in the opposite direction to that which we see: they suggested that more massive clusters exhibited higher luminous-to-faint ratios than less massive clusters. We note that the 600 km s⁻¹ division they used would correspond to a richness of $B_{gcR} \approx 600$ (Blindert et al. 2007), which is very close to the dividing line between our richer and poorer clusters.

4.3. Total Cluster Luminosity Functions

Next we consider LFs for galaxies of all colors. In order to more fairly compare bluer galaxies with their red-sequence counterparts, we apply additional corrections to the former to remove type-dependent star formation differences so that the z' magnitudes more closely sample the underlying old stellar populations. Otherwise, blue galaxies temporarily brightened by ongoing star formation would enter our sample and then fade out again at lower redshift as their star formation rate decreases. This is akin to deriving a pseudostellar mass function, with the luminosity due to star formation removed. First, we infer a k-correction by



Fig. 5.—Same as Fig. 2, but for cluster galaxies of all colors. The blue cloud galaxies have been k-+e-corrected relative to red-sequence galaxies. The dashed lines are the same passively evolved red-sequence fit as in Fig. 2.

comparing the observed galaxy colors with SEDs from Coleman et al. (1980) shifted to the redshift of the composite cluster. Second, we add a simple (model-dependent but small) evolution correction to account for the different average star formation histories of the red and blue galaxies. We use a correction term of the form Qz where we adopt Q = 0.9 for the red-sequence galaxies and Q = 0.6 for bluer galaxies, in the z' band. The Q = 0.9 parameterization is an excellent approximation to the luminosity evolution of the z = 3 burst model we have adopted; Q = 0.6 is a reasonable choice for later spectral types (e.g., Yee et al. 2005), but the exact choice makes little (≤ 0.1 mag) difference to the final differential correction over the redshift range considered here, since $\Delta Q < 0.3$ and $\Delta z = 0.5$.

In Figure 5 we plot composite LFs for cluster galaxies of all colors. Overlaid is the same curve as shown in Figure 2, showing the passively evolved fit to the z = 0.4 red-sequence LF. This shows much closer agreement between the evolution expected for red-sequence galaxies and the observed evolution of the total galaxy population of all colors than with the observed evolution of just the red-sequence LF (cf. data points in Figs. 2 and 5 with dashed line in these figures). Figure 2 showed a deficit of faint red galaxies at higher redshift and a slow falloff in the number of bright red galaxies with increasing redshift. When galaxies of all colors are considered, the LF (Fig. 5) more closely resembles that of the passively evolved z = 0.4 red-sequence LF.

As an additional step, we examine the differences due to the different stellar mass-to-light ratios, M/L, of the red and blue galaxies by modeling the blue galaxies as a stellar population with an *e*-folding timescale of 4 Gyr. As pointed out by Bell et al. (2004) this color would correspond approximately to an Sb galaxy locally. This is a reasonable choice for a typical blue cloud cluster member (Loh et al. 2007). We use the difference in M/L ratio

between this model and that of the z = 3 burst to measure differential corrections for the bluer galaxies relative to the red sequence. Applying this additional correction gives a stellar mass function for the total galaxies that still more closely resembles the expected evolution for the passively evolved red-sequence stellar mass function than does the observed evolution of the red sequence. We note that our results are unchanged if instead we simply use the difference between the 4 Gyr *e*-folding model and the z = 3 burst model to infer the differential *k*-, evolution, and *M/L* corrections, and use this as a check of our semiempirical corrections. Given the uncertainties inherent in inferring star formation histories for blue galaxies from a single color and modeling the entire blue cloud as a single, simple stellar population, we do not pursue this any further here, but regard these results as illustrative.

If we omit the corrections to the bluer galaxies just described and consider simply the uncorrected z'-band LF, then the agreement between the observed LF would even more closely trace the curve expected for the passively evolved red sequence shown in Figure 5. Thus, we have adopted a more conservative approach by applying these corrections instead of using the z'-band LF directly. Detailed modeling of the blue populations within these clusters is beyond the scope of this current paper, but will be explored in future work. However, this is very suggestive that the simplest explanation for the evolution of the red-sequence LF is that red-sequence galaxies can be built up from the termination of star formation in blue cloud galaxies.

5. DISCUSSION

We have constructed a pseudo-mass-selected composite cluster sample from a large number of rich galaxy clusters out to $z \sim 1$. For the first time, we have sufficient numbers of cluster

members to study in detail the evolution of the luminosity function (LF) in a homogeneously selected cluster sample.

5.1. Faint-End Evolution

At the faint end $(M_V \gtrsim -21)$, the red-sequence luminosity function (RSLF) in clusters declines with increasing redshift. This is most clearly seen in the evolution of the luminous-to-faint ratio (Fig. 3). Such a decline is consistent with the "downsizing" picture, in which star formation proceeds from the most massive to least massive galaxies as the universe ages. The red sequence traces the history of star formation via the "red and dead" remnants of once actively star forming galaxies.

In order to extend the time baseline covered by our RCS-1 sample, we compare with a low-redshift cluster sample, taking data from Barkhouse et al. (2007), who studied the RSLFs of a sample of X-ray-luminous Abell clusters in the redshift range 0.04 < z < 0.20. Their method for selecting red-sequence galaxies was very similar to ours, except using (B - R) imaging [which is very close to rest-frame (R - z') at $z \sim 0.5$]. We simply convert their *R*-band photometry into the rest-frame *V* band using the same stellar population models described in § 4 and converting their assumed h = 0.5-0.7. The luminous-to-faint ratio for this sample is shown as the diamond in Figure 3. This low-redshift value is consistent with the extrapolation of the linear fit to our higher redshift data. This implies that, within the luminosity range we are probing, downsizing is still ongoing from $z \sim 0.9$ down to the present day.

5.2. Cluster Selection

In a hierarchical universe, clusters observed at some given epoch will have less massive progenitors at higher redshift. Therefore, it is pertinent to ask how the clusters at the low-redshift end of our sample relate to those at the high-redshift end. To do this, we use the results of van den Bosch (2002), who used N-body simulations to study the merger histories of cold dark matter halos. From his Figure 3, it can be seen that the main progenitor of a halo of mass typical for the clusters being studied here would grow in mass on average by a factor of ≤ 2 between a redshift of 0.8 and 0.4. Our mass proxy for selecting our sample is B_{gcR} . Assuming the relation between B_{gcR} and mass does not evolve between z = 0.4 and 0.9, this would correspond to a change in the B_{gcR} limit from 500 at the low-redshift end to 350 at the highredshift end. We have tried applying an evolving limit following a similar prescription and found that it does not affect our main results concerning the evolution of the luminous-to-faint ratio in clusters. Gladders et al. (2007) found from a self-calibration technique used to derive cosmological parameters that the best-fit mass-richness relation was compatible with no redshift evolution, but with a large uncertainty. Work is ongoing to establish whether the assumption that the B_{gcR} -mass relation does not evolve with redshift is valid. This is an observationally challenging project, but early results (Hicks et al. 2007; L. F. Barrientos et al. 2008, in preparation) suggest that the higher redshift relation, $z \ge 0.7 - 1.1$, appears consistent with the lower redshift calibration adopted here. If anything, the relation may evolve slightly in the direction that causes a given B_{gcR} to represent a less massive cluster at higher redshift, which would mean that the nonevolving B_{gcR} limit used here may naturally account for evolution in the average cluster mass through hierarchical growth.

The most serious aspect of the selection that may potentially influence the results is that of imposing a red-sequence richness cut; B_{gcR} is calculated from the number of red-sequence members brighter than $M^* + 2$ (or the 100% completeness limit, whichever

is brighter) within a 0.5 h_{50}^{-1} Mpc radius aperture. The coefficients associated with this measure are designed to make the value insensitive to the choice of counting radius or magnitude range under the assumption of a universal LF. However, we have shown that the faint end of the LF for red-sequence galaxies both evolves relative to the bright end with redshift and depends on cluster richness. Below $z \sim 0.7$, for the average cluster in this study, the downsizing effect has little impact on our B_{gcR} measurements, as any effect occurs below the magnitude limit used for B_{gcR} . Indeed, our red-sequence richness selection should preferentially pick systems least affected by downsizing, and so our results concerning the faint-end deficit of red-sequence galaxies should be regarded as a lower limit. The good agreement of our luminous-to-faint ratios with other work (despite using slightly different magnitude ranges) suggests that our results are not seriously affected, however. Furthermore, the fact that mass estimates of individual clusters agree well with the expected masses based on B_{gcR} at high redshift (Gilbank et al. 2007; L. F. Barrientos et al. 2008, in preparation), and that cosmological constraints based on cluster abundances (Gladders et al. 2007) agree with concordance values, suggest that this effect is likely not of serious concern for most of our studies. However, the clusterdependent effects of downsizing must be considered, especially for the lowest mass systems (Fig. 4) when studying galaxy evolution in our clusters. Accounting for these effects suggests a higher order correction that may improve our mass estimates based on B_{gcR} .

Projection of unrelated structure along the line of sight must also be considered. It is expected from simulations (Gladders 2002), and also measured from spectroscopy (Blindert et al. 2007; Gilbank et al. 2007), that $\sim 5\%$ -10% of red-sequence clusters in our study will have another cluster that is a significant fraction of the richness of the parent cluster projected onto their red sequence. However, in order to be close enough in redshift space that the red sequences cannot be distinguished by their (R - z') colors, the clusters would typically be closer than $\Delta z = 0.1$, the size of our redshift bins. So, the effect of projections is to some extent mitigated by our bin size, as the clusters are likely to be still placed in the same bin. The main problem is that clusters will be slightly undercounted, i.e., two clusters are placed in the same bin, but only counted as one. Projections where the clusters should be placed in different bins will just contribute a certain amount of cross talk between bins, blurring the difference between different redshifts. However, the magnitude of this effect is likely to be \lesssim 5% from the argument above. Thus, the net effect of projection will mostly be to add noise to the RSLFs, and not to artificially produce any of the trends we find. The richness dependence of the luminous-to-faint ratio means that a slight bias may be introduced, in that the projection of two poorer clusters that appear as one richer cluster should have a slightly higher luminous-to-faint ratio than expected for a single richer cluster. Again, the fraction of systems so affected is likely to be small.

Cohn et al. (2007) recently used a red-sequence selection to find clusters within the Millennium Simulation. Their algorithm differs in detail from ours, and there are still numerous important unresolved issues such as the density-dependent colors of galaxies within the semianalytic models used, but they estimate contamination rates of ~10% at z = 0.4 and ~20% at z = 0.9.

5.3. Total Luminosity Functions

Figure 2 shows that, moving from high redshift toward the current epoch, the faint end of the RSLF (or, equivalently, the stellar mass function) becomes increasingly populated. Figure 5 shows that, after attempting to correct bluer galaxies' luminosities

The study of the evolution of the overall normalization of the luminosity/stellar mass function is complicated by the fact that our cluster mass estimator is based on cluster richness. Thus, evolution in number density of galaxies within the cluster is degenerate with evolution in cluster mass. However, we can use the assumption that the average cluster in the high-redshift bins evolves into the average cluster in the lower redshift bins to justify the above argument. We showed in the previous section that, within the uncertainties of our sample selection, this is likely not a bad assumption.

Hence with the above caveats, we can say that not only do we see an increasing population of blue galaxies toward the faint end of the LF at higher redshift, but we also see an increase of blue galaxies at the bright end (cf. Figs. 2 and 5). Recent observations have found signs of mergers between bright, red galaxies in a handful of high-redshift clusters (Ford et al. 2004; Tran et al. 2005; Mei et al. 2006), and such a dry merging mechanism has been proposed for explaining the growth of the bright end of the red sequence. While we cannot place limits on the incidences of such mergers in our sample (due to the degeneracy between mass and number density), our finding of an increase in the number of bright blue galaxies in clusters at these redshifts suggests that the termination of star formation may also be a significant mechanism. We note that although the bright end of cluster LFs locally are dominated by red-sequence galaxies, spectroscopically confirmed blue cluster members as bright as the brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs) are seen to exist in clusters at $z \sim 1$ (Mei et al. 2006). In addition, in a sample of $z \sim 1$ clusters, Ford et al. (2004) suggested that the BCG had considerable evolution ahead of them. In three of their six clusters, the BCGs had morphologies of S0 or later, and in at least one cluster, the BCG seemed to comprise a pair of galaxies, close enough to potentially merge. This is support for our finding that the red-sequence LF might be produced simply by conversion of star-forming galaxies to passively evolving galaxies.

A more thorough treatment of this problem requires the use of an infall model and more detailed modeling of the stellar populations, and such work will be presented in a future paper.

5.4. Richness Dependence

Before looking at richness dependence within our own cluster sample, we can compare our results with the COMBO-17 field sample of Bell et al. (2004). In their Figure 3, Bell et al. (2004) plot a reference Schechter function with faint-end slope $\alpha = -0.6$. Their actual data begin to fall off faster than this -0.6 line, toward higher redshift. In our cluster data, the faint-end red-sequence slope never turns over as quickly as this -0.6 line, i.e., the field will always show a greater deficit of faint galaxies in the RSLF relative to our cluster data. This suggests that star formation ended later in faint galaxies in the field than in clusters. This can be viewed as an extension of the downsizing phenomenon: not only does star formation progress from more massive to less massive galaxies as the universe ages, but it also progresses from more massive to less massive clusters.

For the cluster subsamples split by richness (Fig. 4), the richer sample ($B_{gcR} > 800$) traces the best-fit linear relation (Fig. 3) to

the whole sample ($B_{gcR} > 500$), only with larger error bars due to fewer galaxies, again demonstrating that the richness cut chosen at this level does not affect the results. A low-redshift comparison point from a rich ($B_{gcR} > 1000$) subsample of the Barkhouse et al. (2007) data is also included and found to fit with the linear relation extrapolated from our higher redshift sample. The dashed line shows a power-law fit of the form $\propto (1+z)^{\beta}$. We find a best fit $\beta = (1.90 \pm 0.35)$, which only modestly differs from the linear fit over the redshift range probed by RCS, but gives better agreement with the low-redshift point from the Barkhouse et al. (2007) sample. Recently, Stott et al. (2007) parameterized the evolution in the luminous-to-faint ratio in this way, finding a value of $\beta = (2.5 \pm 0.5)$, which agrees with our value. They used an X-ray-luminous sample (of 10 clusters at $z \sim 0.1$ and 10 at $z \sim 0.5$ plus several additional clusters), which should be most comparable to our rich subsample here. However, they probe to a fainter magnitude limit (similar to the De Lucia et al. [2006] and Tanaka et al. [2005] depths), and so it is not obvious that the form of the redshift evolution should be the same as for our sample. We note that the trend they found is in good qualitative agreement

with our work and reasonable quantitative agreement. At the low-redshift end of our RCS sample, we find that the poorer clusters have systematically higher luminous-to-faint ratios than the rich clusters, meaning that their faint-end RSLF is falling off more rapidly than that of the richer clusters. This means that poorer clusters more closely resemble the field than do rich clusters. Again, none of our poorer sample's RSLF falls off as quickly as the upper limit to the field value of -0.6 found by Bell et al. (2004), and thus, poorer clusters have RSLFs that appear intermediate between rich clusters and the field. This is in the opposite direction to the result quoted by De Lucia et al. (2006) in the redshift range $0.4 \le z \le 0.8$ from their sample of ~ 10 clusters. We suggest that the most likely cause of this discrepancy is the choice of clusters. As noted by De Lucia et al. (2006), there is significant variation in the RSLFs from cluster to cluster, and our larger sample is more likely to be representative of the average cluster population. Toward higher redshift, we cannot measure a significant difference between richer and poorer, given the size of our error bars, except in the highest redshift $(z \sim 0.9)$ bin, where the trend appears to reverse. However, the last bin is the one that is most likely to be affected by incompleteness (both in the cluster sample and in the photometry), so we choose to be conservative and disregard this last bin. In addition, incompleteness effects at high redshift act to preferentially remove poorer clusters, causing the poorer bin to shift to systematically higher richness, lowering the significance of the difference between the two subsamples. We have overlaid a bestfit linear relation in Figure 4 to guide the eye, which shows that a couple of points are discrepant with such a fit at the >1 σ level. This suggests that our error bars may be slightly underestimated. We note that the richer ($B_{gcR} > 800$) points in Figure 4 could be replaced with the main sample ($B_{gcR} > 500$) plotted in Figure 3 to produce a sample with smaller error bars that would still produce an average composite cluster that is significantly richer than the poorer (300 $< B_{gcR} \le 500$) sample, but with more crosscontamination at the boundary of the richness bins, where the median B_{gcR} error on an individual cluster is $\Delta B_{gcR} \sim 200$. This would still produce a significant difference between the richer and poorer clusters at $0.4 \le z \le 0.5$, even after increasing the size of the poorer cluster error bars to be consistent with the best-fit straight line.

The results presented imply that the faint end of the red sequence was built up first in rich clusters, then in poorer clusters, and finally in the field.

6. CONCLUSIONS

We have studied the properties of red-sequence galaxies in a well-defined statistical sample of galaxy clusters over the redshift range 0.35 $< z \le 0.95$. Each redshift bin of width $\Delta z = 0.1$ contains \approx 50 clusters and \approx 5000 red-sequence galaxies. Our main results are as follows:

1. The faint end of the red sequence, as measured by the ratio of luminous-to-faint galaxies, declines with increasing redshift. This implies that star formation has not yet ended in the faintest cluster galaxies at high redshift. The red sequence is built up at the faint end as star formation proceeds to progressively less luminous (less massive) galaxies, consistent with the downsizing scenario (Cowie et al. 1996).

2. The turnover of the faint end of the RSLF is dependent on the cluster richness (mass), in the sense that for more massive clusters, the deficit of faint red-sequence galaxies is less than that for less massive clusters. This is an indication that star formation ended earlier for faint galaxies in richer clusters than in poorer clusters.

3. The decline in the faint end of the red sequence toward higher redshift is accompanied by an increase in the total (i.e., including blue galaxies) cluster LF. This suggests that the buildup of faint, red galaxies may be driven largely by the termination of star formation in low-mass galaxies. A similar increase of blue galaxies is also seen at the brighter end of the LF, suggesting that (at least some of) the buildup of high-mass, earlytype galaxies may also be attributed to the termination of star formation.

Future work will add the *B*- and *V*-band imaging of RCS-1 fields (Hsieh et al. 2005) and the accompanying photometric redshift catalog to examine the luminosity functions of RCS clusters. The $\sim 1000 \text{ deg}^2$ next-generation survey, RCS-2 (Yee et al. 2007), will provide an order-of-magnitude larger sample to improve on the statistics of the current work.

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