

# The Rubin – LSST Polish Consortium Annual Meeting 2024

23 – 24 October 2024, Warsaw, Poland

## Strong lensing in LSST era – new opportunities for cosmology and fundamental physics



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ŚWIERK

**Marek Biesiada**

Department of Astrophysics  
National Centre for Nuclear Research  
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# Our strong lensing group

LSST is expected to discover  
10 000 strong lensing systems including 1000 quasar lenses

Let's have them!

A&A 664, A4 (2022)  
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202142463>  
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Astronomy  
&  
Astrophysics

- Hareesh Thuruthipilly

## Finding strong gravitational lenses through self-attention

Study based on the Bologna Lens Challenge

Hareesh Thuruthipilly<sup>1</sup>, Adam Zdrozny<sup>1</sup>, Agnieszka Pollo<sup>1,2</sup>, and Marek Biesiada<sup>1,3</sup>

A&A, 688, A34 (2024)  
<https://doi.org/10.1051/0004-6361/202449929>  
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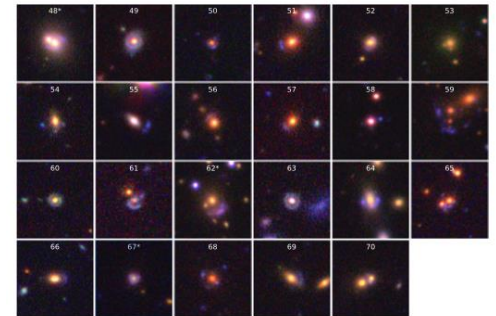
Astronomy  
&  
Astrophysics

- Margherita Grespan

## TEGLIE: Transformer encoders as strong gravitational lens finders in KiDS

From simulations to surveys<sup>\*</sup>

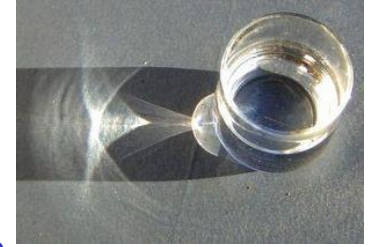
M. Grespan<sup>1</sup>, H. Thuruthipilly<sup>1</sup>, A. Pollo<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Lochner<sup>3,4</sup>, M. Biesiada<sup>1</sup>, and V. Eisebeth<sup>1</sup>



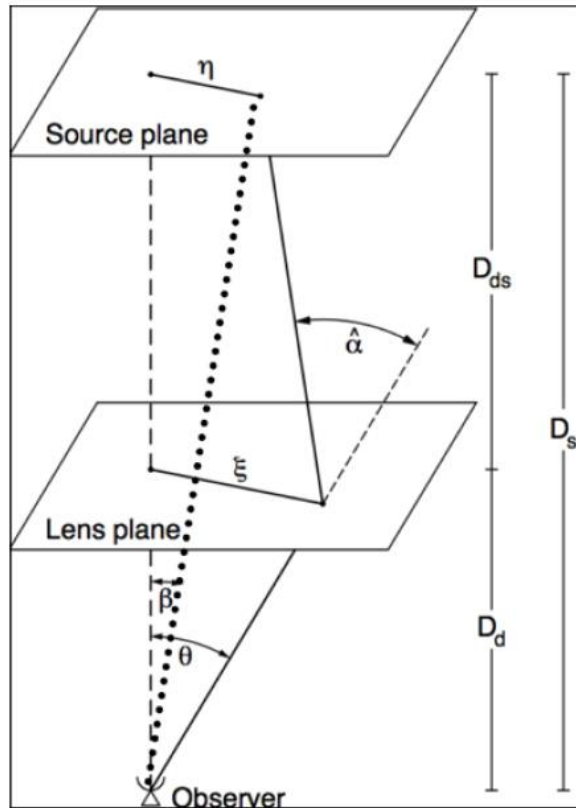
44 new discoveries

- Shuaibo Geng –science cases (next talk !)
- Sreeknath Harikumar – strong lensing of GWs
- ...

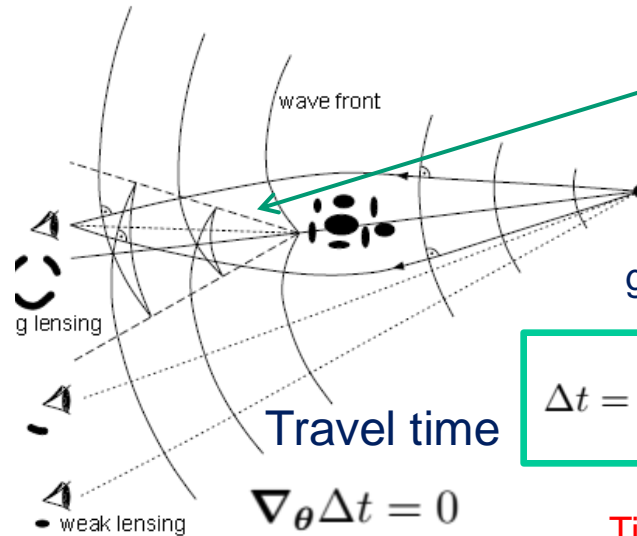
# Gravitational lensing in a nut shell



## Light rays formalism



## Wavefront formalism (Fermat principle)



caustics

$$\phi(\theta) = \frac{D_{ls}}{D_l D_s c^2} \int \Phi(D_l \theta, z) dz$$

Newtonian potential at lens plane

geometrical term

$$\Delta t = \frac{1 + z_l}{c} \left[ \frac{D_{ol} D_{os}}{D_{ls}} \left[ \frac{(\theta - \beta)^2}{2} - \phi(\theta) \right] \right]$$

Time delay distance

Fermat potential

Lens equation

$$\nabla_{\theta} \Delta t = 0$$

$$\hat{\alpha}(\theta) D_{ls} + \beta D_s = \theta D_s$$

$$\theta - \beta - \nabla_{\theta} \phi = 0$$

$$A(\theta) = \frac{\partial \beta}{\partial \theta} \quad \mu(\theta) = \frac{1}{\det A(\theta)}$$

$\alpha = \nabla_{\theta} \phi$  magnification

$$\theta_E = 4\pi \frac{\sigma_{ap}^2}{c^2} \frac{D_{ls}}{D_s} \left( \frac{\theta_E}{\theta_{ap}} \right)^{2-\gamma} f(\gamma)$$

Einstein radius

Observables:

- \* image positions and shape distortions
- \* time delay between images

- \* flux ratios magnification ratios

# Strong lensing - applications

- Cosmology
  - alternative way to measure  $H_0$
  - cosmic e.o.s.
  - curvature parameter - alternative method
- Testing modified gravity
  - agnostic approach – PPN parameter
  - alternative gravity with screening
- Lensed transient events
  - GW from CBC
  - GRBs
  - FRBs
  - SN Ia, SN II

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 941:16 (14pp), 2022 December 10

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<https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/ac9d36>



## Direct Tests of General Relativity under Screening Effect with Galaxy-scale Strong Lensing Systems

Yujie Lian<sup>1,2</sup>, Shuo Cao<sup>1,2</sup>, Tonghua Liu<sup>3</sup>, Marek Biesiada<sup>4</sup>, and Zong-Hong Zhu<sup>1,2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Astronomy, Beijing Normal University, Beijing 100875, People's Republic of China

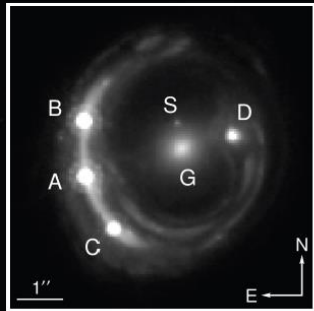
<sup>3</sup> School of Physics and Optoelectronic, Yangtze University, Jingzhou 434023, People's Republic of China

<sup>4</sup> National Centre for Nuclear Research, Pasteura 7, 02-093 Warsaw, Poland

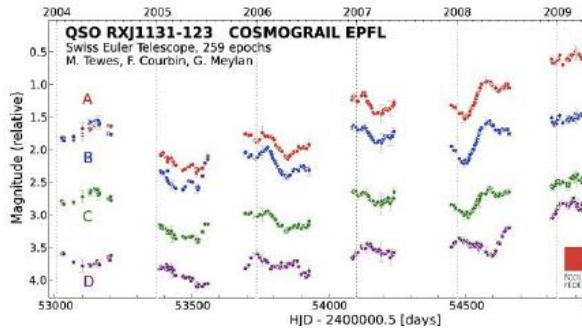
Received 2022 April 18; revised 2022 October 5; accepted 2022 October 23; published 2022 December 8

# Strong lensing cosmography – $H_0$ from time delay

RXJ1131-1231



S. Suyu, 2014/11/17



$$t(\vec{\theta}) = \frac{(1+z_d)}{c} \frac{D_d D_s}{D_{ds}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\theta} - \vec{\beta})^2 - \psi(\vec{\theta}) \right]$$

Time delay distance      Shapiro delay

Excess time delay      geometric time delay

H0LiCOW currently 6 +1 lenses

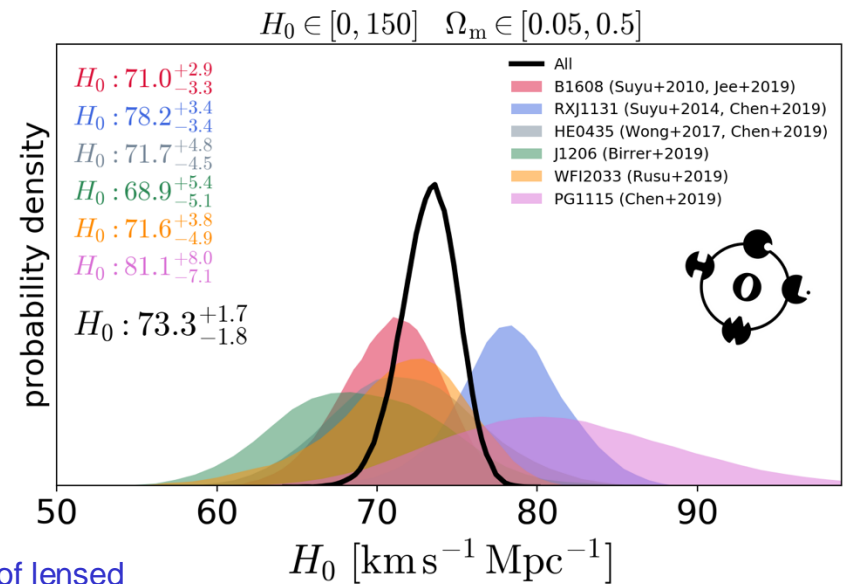
**Table 1 Relative uncertainties of three factors contributing to the accuracy of time-delay distance measurement**

	$\delta\Delta t$	$\delta\Delta\psi$	$\delta\text{LOS}$
Lensed GW + EM	0%	0.6%	1%
Lensed quasar	3%	3%	1%

$\delta\Delta t$ ,  $\delta\Delta\psi$ ,  $\delta\text{LOS}$  correspond to time delay, Fermat potential difference, and light-of-sight environment, respectively. We show the case for lensed gravitational wave (GW) + electromagnetic (EM) signals compared with standard technique in the EM domain using lensed quasars

From  
Liao, Fan, Ding, MB, Zhu, Nature Comm. 2018

Sub percent – accuracy of  $H_0$  possible with 10 lensed GW+EM

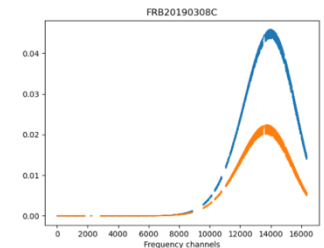
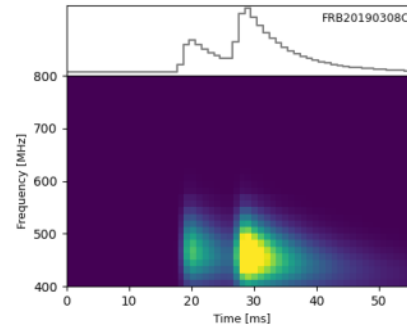
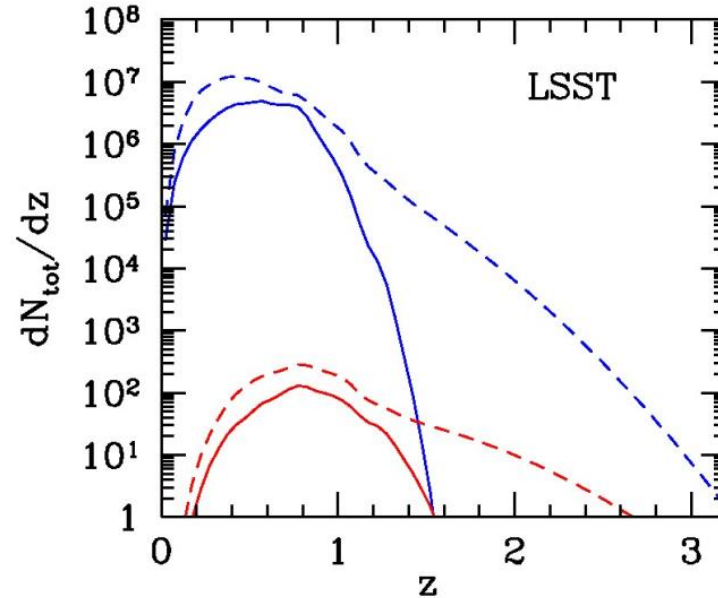


Power of lensed transient events:

GW K.Liao et al. 2018  
 SN Ia S.Huber et al. 2019  
 GRB M. Oguri 2019  
 FRB Z.-X. Li et al. 2018

# Strong lensing of transients

- LSST – SNe  
900 strongly lensed SN expected  
ca. 650 SNIa (Goldstein, Nugent 2017)
- GW CBC signals  
ET 50-100 lensed events yr<sup>-1</sup>  
(Piórkowska et al. 2013, Biesiada et al. 2014  
Ding et al. 2015, Yang et al. 2019)  
DECIGO 50-100 lensed events yr<sup>-1</sup>  
(Piórkowska et al. 2021)
- GRBs  
median  $z \sim 2$   
lensed GRB expected long  
time ago (Paczynski 1996)  
no fully confirmed case so far
- FRBs  
bright ms long radio flashes  
discovered 2007  
lying at cosmological distances  
expected to be lensed  
first possible lensed FRB20190308C



Transients – advantage: high temporal resolution (time delays)<sup>6</sup>

# Strong lensing and as a new probe of parametrized post-Newtonian (PPN) gravity

Parametrized post-Newtonian (PPN) formalism is a very convenient way to study and compare gravity theories beyond GR

One useful PPN parameter  $\gamma$  measures the amount of spatial curvature generated by unit mass

In the weak field limit the metric is characterized by two potentials

$$ds^2 = a^2(\tau) \left[ \left( 1 + \frac{2\Phi}{c^2} \right) c^2 dt^2 - \left( 1 - \frac{2\Psi}{c^2} \right) g_{ij} dx^i dx^j \right] \quad \gamma = \frac{\Psi}{\Phi}$$

stellar dynamics is sensitive to the Newtonian potential

Trajectory of light is sensitive to both potentials, as a result:

deflection angle is  $\hat{\alpha}_{PPN} = \frac{1 + \gamma}{2} \hat{\alpha}_{GR}$

and the Einstein radius of spherically symmetric lens is  $\theta_E = \sqrt{\frac{1 + \gamma}{2}} \left( \frac{4GM_E}{c^2} \frac{D_{ls}}{D_s D_l} \right)^{1/2}$





# TEST OF PARAMETRIZED POST-NEWTONIAN GRAVITY WITH GALAXY-SCALE STRONG LENSING SYSTEMS

SHUO CAO<sup>1</sup>, XIAOLEI LI<sup>1</sup>, MAREK BIESIADA<sup>1,2</sup>, TENGPENG XU<sup>1</sup>, YONGZHI CAI<sup>1</sup>, AND ZONG-HONG ZHU<sup>1</sup>

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Received 2016 September 11; revised 2016 November 18; accepted 2016 December 2; published 2017 January 20

We used a catalog of 80 intermediate mass lensing systems from SLACS, BELLS, LSD and SL2S  $200 \text{ km s}^{-1} < \sigma_{ap} \leq 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$   
(Cao et al. 2015, ApJ 806:185)

lens model

total mass  $\rho(r) = \rho_0 \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^{-\alpha}$

luminosity  $\nu(r) = \nu_0 \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^{-\delta}$

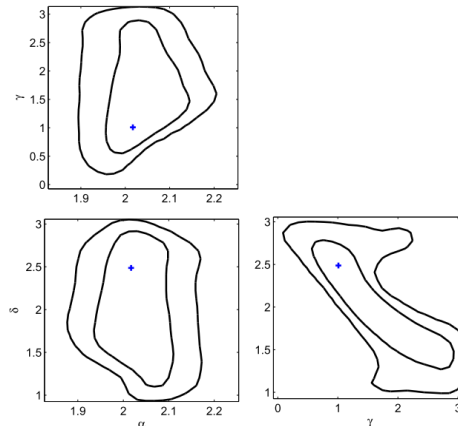
anisotropy  $\beta(r) = 1 - \sigma_t^2 / \sigma_r^2$   
 $\beta = 0.18 \pm 0.13$

lensing gives  $\frac{GM_E}{R_E} = \frac{2}{(1 + \gamma)} \frac{c^2}{4} \frac{D_s}{D_{ls}} \theta_E$

stellar velocity dispersion gives

$$\sigma_r^2(r) = \left[ \frac{GM_E}{R_E} \right] \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi} (\xi - 2\beta) \lambda(\alpha)} \left( \frac{r}{R_E} \right)^{2-\alpha}$$

Best fits



$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= 2.017^{+0.093}_{-0.082}, \\ \delta &= 2.485^{+0.445}_{-1.393}, \\ \gamma &= 1.010^{+1.925}_{-0.452}. \end{aligned}$$



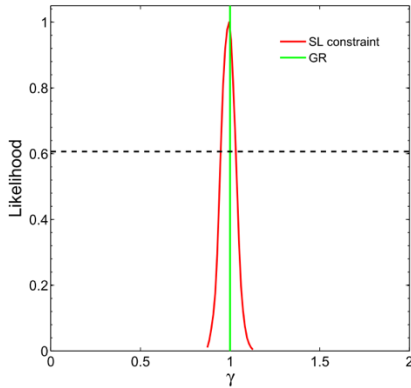


Figure 3. Normalized posterior likelihood of the PPN  $\gamma$  parameter obtained with rigid priors on the nuisance parameters ( $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\delta$ ).

With priors

$$\langle \alpha \rangle = 2.00; \sigma_{\alpha} = 0.08$$

$$\langle \delta \rangle = 2.40; \sigma_{\delta} = 0.11.$$

$$\beta = 0.18 \pm 0.13$$

$$\gamma = 0.995^{+0.037}_{-0.047}$$



Simulated sample of SGL  
systems detectable in

LSST (code of Collett 2015)

with prior on  $\Omega_k$

$$\frac{\Delta\gamma}{\gamma} \sim 10^{-3} - 10^{-4}$$

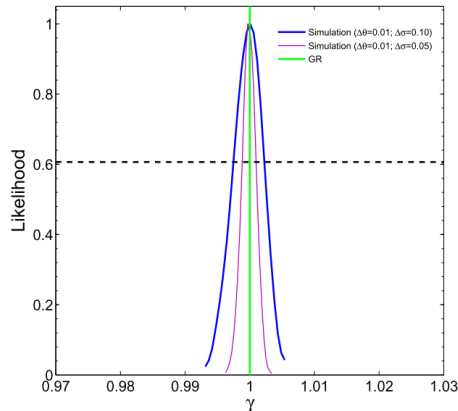


Figure 8. Constraints on the PPN parameter from simulated LSST strong lensing data, with a prior on the cosmic curvature  $-0.007 < \Omega_k < 0.006$  from *Planck*.

GRAVITATION

# A precise extragalactic test of General Relativity

Thomas E. Collett<sup>1\*</sup>, Lindsay J. Oldham<sup>2</sup>, Russell J. Smith<sup>3</sup>, Matthew W. Auger<sup>2</sup>, Kyle B. Westfall<sup>1,4</sup>, David Bacon<sup>1</sup>, Robert C. Nichol<sup>1</sup>, Karen L. Masters<sup>1,5</sup>, Kazuya Koyama<sup>1</sup>, Remco van den Bosch<sup>6</sup>

Einstein's theory of gravity, General Relativity, has been precisely tested on Solar System scales, but the long-range nature of gravity is still poorly constrained. The nearby strong gravitational lens ESO 325-G004 provides a laboratory to probe the weak-field regime of gravity and measure the spatial curvature generated per unit mass,  $\gamma$ . By reconstructing the observed light profile of the lensed arcs and the observed spatially resolved stellar kinematics with a single self-consistent model, we conclude that  $\gamma = 0.97 \pm 0.09$  at 68% confidence. Our result is consistent with the prediction of 1 from General Relativity and provides a strong extragalactic constraint on the weak-field metric of gravity.

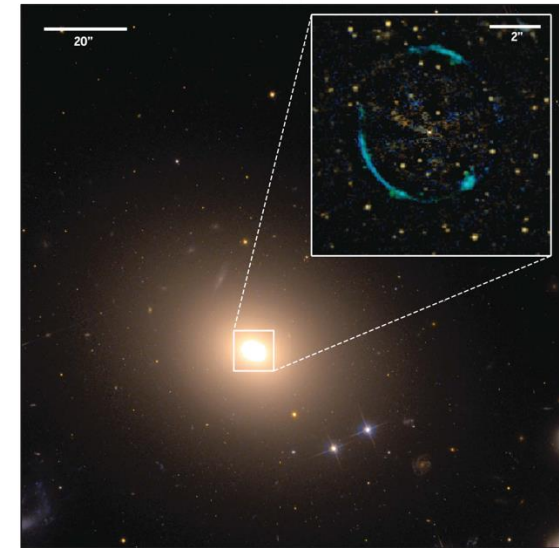
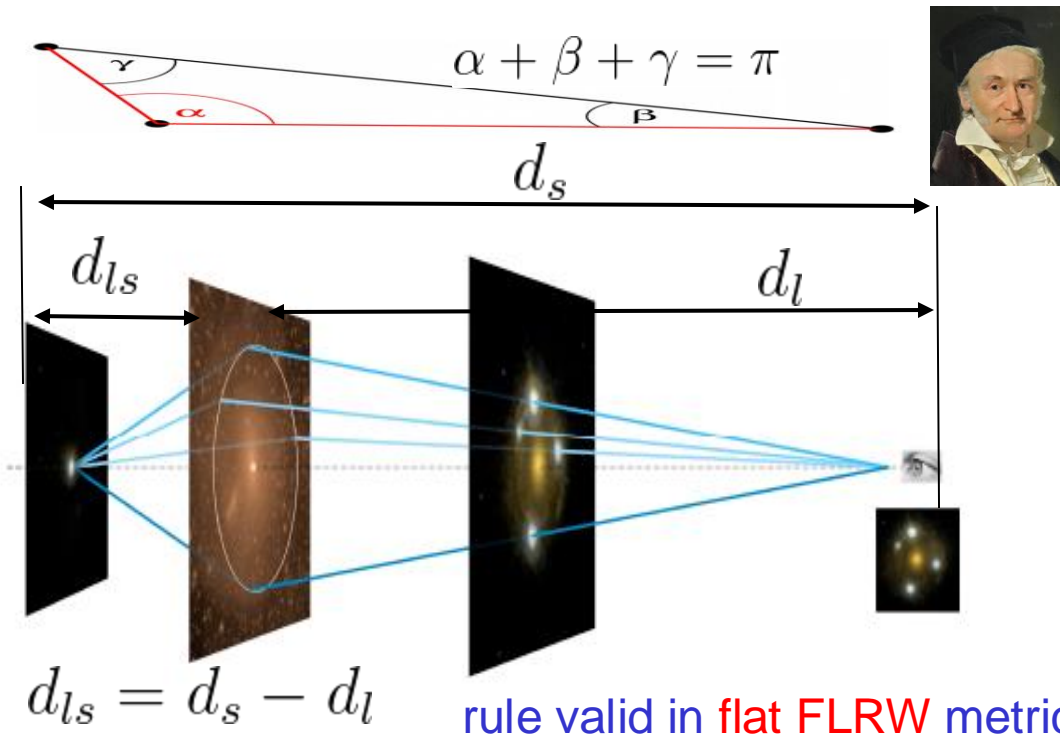


Fig. 1. Color composite image of ESO325-G004. Blue, green, and red channels are assigned to the F475W, F606W, and F814W HST imaging. The inset shows a F475W and F814W composite of the arcs of the lensed background source after subtraction of the foreground lens light. Scale bars are in arc seconds.

# Strong lensing and curvature of the Universe



Strong lensing systems offer us „degenerated triangles”

One can obtain  $\Omega_k$  if

$d_l, d_s, d_{ls}$  are known

Observations:

$z_l, z_s$  – known

Images --  $\rightarrow d_{ls} / d_s$

Time delays --  $\rightarrow d_l d_s / d_{ls}$

So:  $d_l$  is measurable

=====

$d_s$  – match by redshift to some standard candle (or ruler)

Distance sum rule – valid in any FLRW metric

$$d_{ls} = \sqrt{1 + \Omega_k d_l^2} d_s - \sqrt{1 + \Omega_k d_s^2} d_l$$

$$\Omega_k(z_l, z_s) = \frac{d_l^4 + d_s^4 + d_{ls}^4 - 2d_l^2 d_s^2 - 2d_l^2 d_{ls}^2 - 2d_s^2 d_{ls}^2}{4d_l^2 d_s^2 d_{ls}^2}$$

This is a function of two redshifts, but within the FLRW metric it should be just a single number !

# Strongly gravitationally lensed type Ia supernovae: Direct test of the Friedman-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker metric

Jingzhao Qi,<sup>1,2</sup> Shuo Cao,<sup>2,\*</sup> Marek Biesiada,<sup>2,3</sup> Xiaogang Zheng,<sup>4</sup> Xuheng Ding,<sup>4</sup> and Zong-Hong Zhu<sup>2,4,†</sup>

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Received 12 October 2018; published 12 July 2019

	$\delta\theta_E$	$\delta\sigma_{ap}$	$\delta\gamma$	
Multiple images	1%	5%	1%	
	$\delta\Delta t$	$\delta\Delta t$ (ML)	$\delta\Delta\psi$	$\delta\Delta\psi$ (LOS)
Time delay	1%	1%	$\propto (\delta\theta_E, \delta\gamma)$	1%
	$\Delta\mu_D$ (sta)	$\Delta\mu_D$ (ML)	$\delta\mu$	$\Delta\mu_D$ (sys)
Lensed SNe Ia	$\sigma_{\text{stat}}$	0.70 mag	$\propto (\delta\theta_E, \delta\gamma)$	$\sigma_{\text{sys}}$

maître-Robertson-Walker (FLRW) gravitational lensing systems with type Ia supernovae will provide a model-independent test of the FLRW metric directly. Our results, obtained by the Large Synoptic Survey, show that the FLRW metric is consistent with accuracy  $\Delta\Omega_k = 0.04$ .

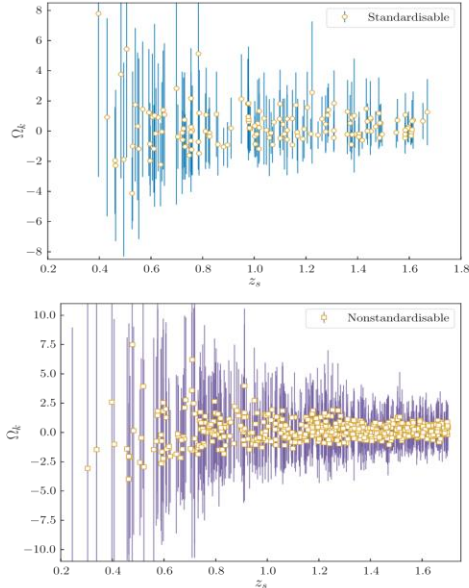


FIG. 1. An example of the simulated measurements of  $\Omega_k$  from future observations of SGLSNe Ia: without and with the effect of microlensing. The blue lines denote the associated error bars (68.3% C.L.) of  $\Omega_k$  when all the uncertainties are included.

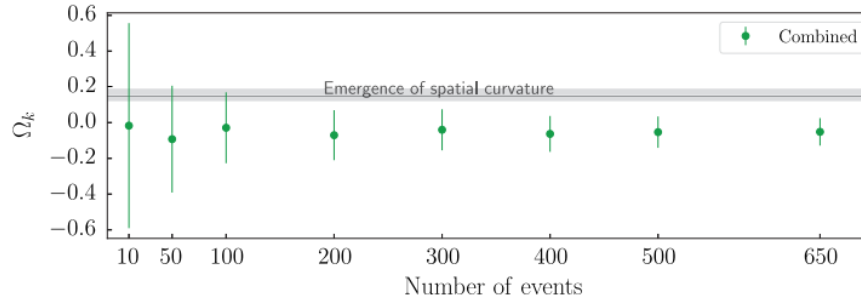
## Curvature parameter from lensed SN Ia

$$\frac{d_{ls}}{d_s} = \sqrt{1 + \Omega_k d_l^2} - \frac{d_l}{d_s} \sqrt{1 + \Omega_k d_s^2}.$$

$$D_l = (1 + z_l) D_{\Delta t} \frac{D_{ls}^A}{D_s^A}.$$

$$D_s = \frac{10^{(\mu_D + 2.5 \log \mu)/5 - 5}}{1 + z_s} (Mpc).$$

$$\Omega_k(z_l, z_s) = \frac{d_l^4 + d_s^4 + d_{ls}^4 - 2d_l^2 d_s^2 - 2d_l^2 d_{ls}^2 - 2d_s^2 d_{ls}^2}{4d_l^2 d_s^2 d_{ls}^2}$$

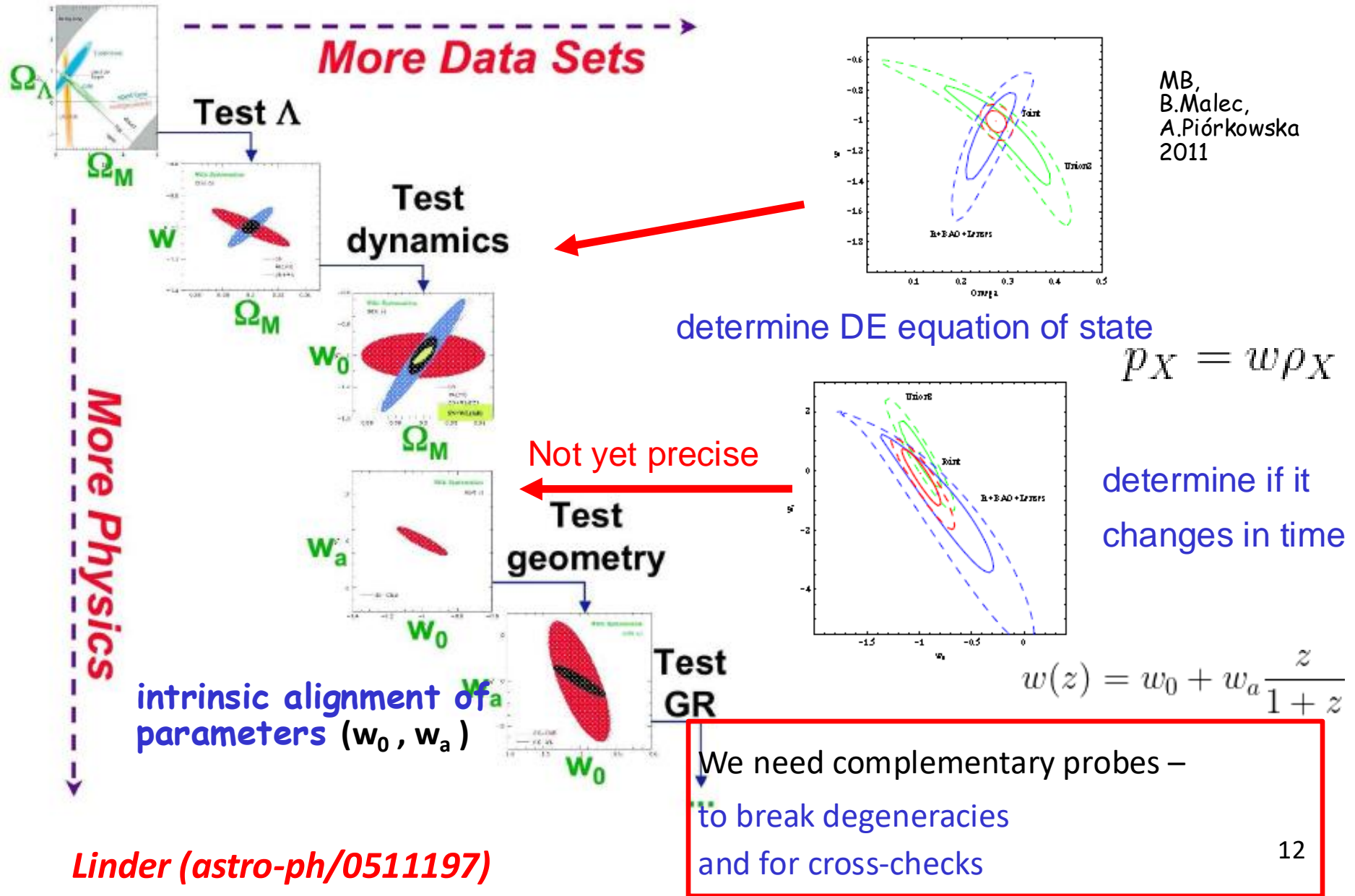


650 lensed  
SN Ia from LSST

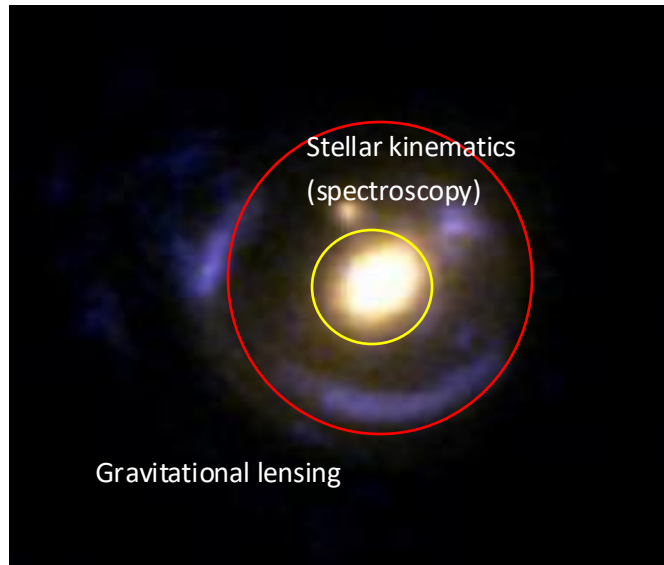
D. A. Goldstein,  
P. E. Nugent  
2017

FIG. 3. Inferred  $\Omega_k$  parameter as a function of the number of SGLSNe Ia, with the prediction of a silent universe added for comparison.

# Modern cosmology: Incremental Exploration of the Unknown



# Strong lensing combined with stellar kinematics



1. The simplest lens model

**Singular Isothermal Sphere (SIS)**

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\sigma_v^2}{2\pi G r^2}$$

$$\theta_E = 4\pi \left( \frac{\sigma_v}{c} \right)^2 \frac{D_{ls}}{D_s}$$

2. Spherically symmetric power-law mass density profile

$$\rho(r) \sim r^{-\gamma}$$

**stellar dynamics** (spherically symmetric Jeans equation):

mass projected inside the aperture radius

scaled to the Einstein radius

**Strong lensing:** mass inside the Einstein radius

$$M_{lens} = \frac{c^2}{4G} \frac{D_l D_s}{D_{ls}} \theta_E^2 \quad + \quad M_{dyn} = \frac{\pi}{G} \sigma_{ap}^2 D_l \theta_E \left( \frac{\theta_E}{\theta_{ap}} \right)^{2-\gamma} f(\gamma)$$

$$\theta_E = 4\pi \frac{\sigma_{ap}^2}{c^2} \frac{D_{ls}}{D_s} \left( \frac{\theta_E}{\theta_{ap}} \right)^{2-\gamma} f(\gamma)$$

3. More general spherically symmetric power-law model

$$\rho(r) = \rho_0 \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^{-\alpha} \quad \text{total mass}$$

$$\nu(r) = \nu_0 \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^{-\delta} \quad \text{luminous matter}$$

$$\beta(r) = 1 - \sigma_t^2 / \sigma_r^2 \quad \text{stellar anisotropy}$$

$$\theta_E = 2\sqrt{\pi} \frac{\sigma_{ap}^2}{c^2} \frac{D_{ls}}{D_s} \left( \frac{\theta_E}{\theta_{ap}} \right)^{2-\alpha} (\xi - 2\beta) \lambda(\alpha)$$



# Strong lensing cosmography – e.o.s. of the Universe

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **73**, 023006 (2006)

## Strong lensing systems as a probe of dark energy in the universe

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(Received 3 November 2005; published 23 January 2006)

**Journal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics**  
An IOP and SISSA journal

JCAP03(2012)016

## Constraints on cosmological models from strong gravitational lensing systems

Shuo Cao,<sup>a</sup> Yu Pan,<sup>a,b</sup> Marek Biesiada,<sup>c</sup> Włodzimierz Godłowski<sup>d</sup>  
and Zong-Hong Zhu<sup>a,1</sup>

10 cluster lenses  
70 galaxy lenses  
from SLACS

Cosmological model	Best-fitting parameters ( $n = 80$ )	Best-fitting parameters ( $n = 46$ )
$\Lambda$ CDM	$\Omega_m = 0.20^{+0.07}_{-0.07}$	$\Omega_m = 0.26^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$
$w$ CDM	$w = -1.02^{+0.26}_{-0.26}$	$w = -1.15^{+0.34}_{-0.35}$
CPL	$w_0 = 0.60 \pm 1.76$ $w_a = -7.37 \pm 8.05$	$w_0 = -0.24 \pm 2.42$ $w_a = -6.35 \pm 9.75$

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 806:185 (12pp), 2015 June 20

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## COSMOLOGY WITH STRONG-LENSING SYSTEMS

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Received 2015 January 23; accepted 2015 May 1; published 2015 June 17

Monthly Notices

of the ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. **406**, 1055–1059 (2010)

doi:10.1111/j.1365-2966.2010.16725.x

## Cosmic equation of state from strong gravitational lensing systems

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Accepted 2010 March 22. Received 2010 March 18; in original form 2010 February 5

WMAP7+BAO+H0

$$\Omega_m = 0.272$$

$$w = -1.10 \pm 0.14$$

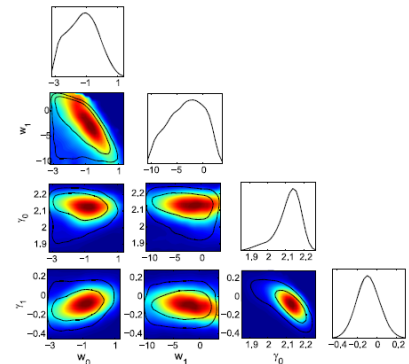
$$w_0 = -0.93 \pm 0.13$$

$$w_a = -0.41 \pm 0.71$$

Komatsu et al. 2011

20 galaxy lenses  
from SLACS + LSD

doi:10.1088/0004-637X/806/2/185



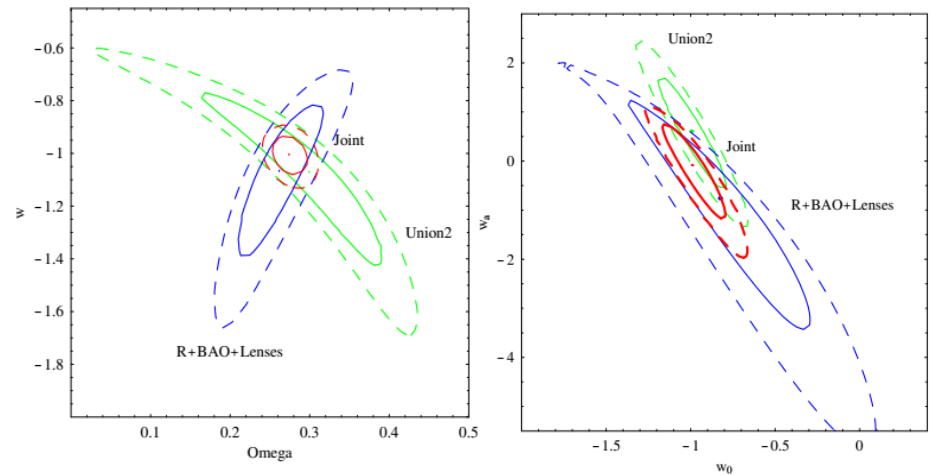
118 lenses from  
SLACS sample

## Dark energy constraints from joint analysis of standard rulers and standard candles

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Vol. 44 (2013)

ACTA PHYSICA POLONICA B

No 11

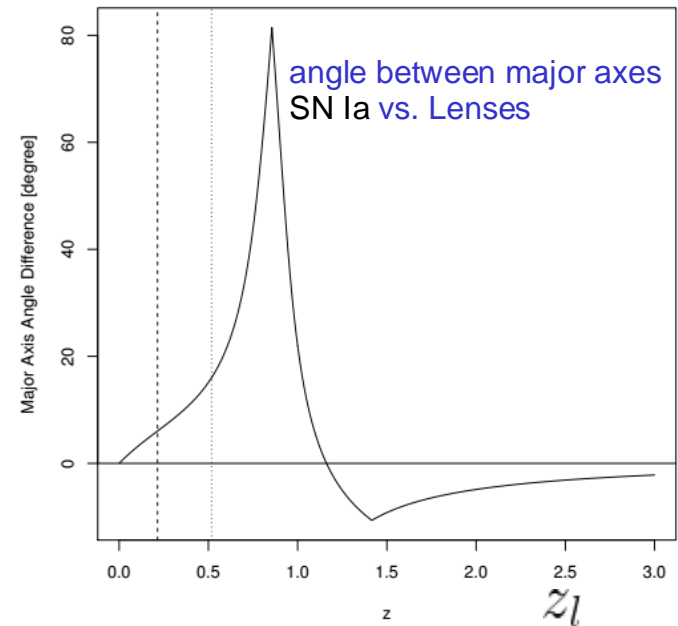
## ON THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF DIFFERENT COSMOLOGICAL PROBES WITH SLACS, BELLS AND SL2S STRONG GRAVITATIONAL LENSING DATA\*

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angle between major axes  
SN Ia vs. Lenses

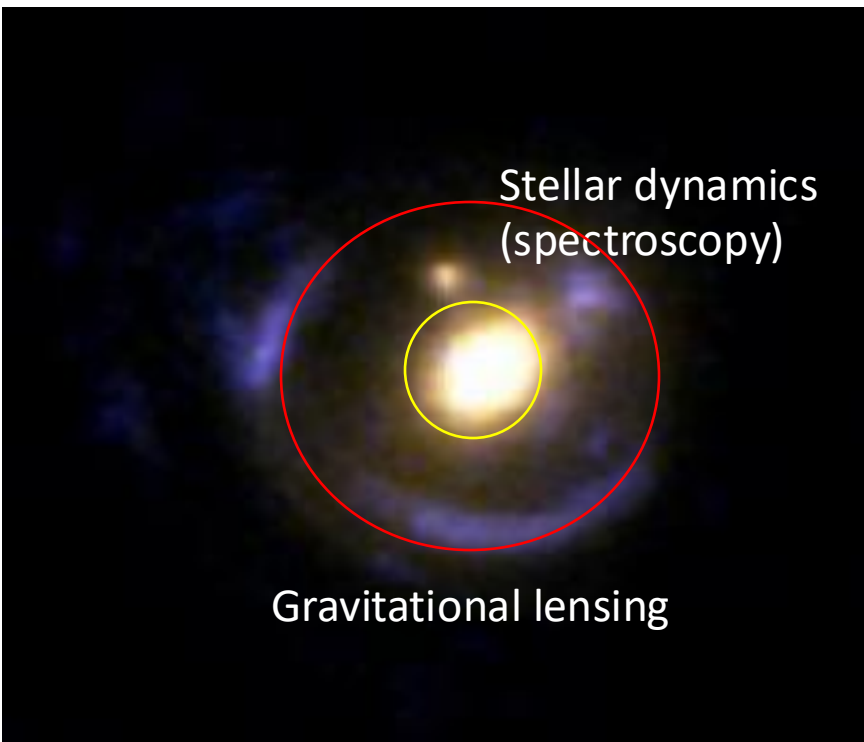
assuming  $z_s = 2z_l$

Has a potential to follow up with  
LSST data



# Strong lensing cosmography with LSST

Fundamental plane relation  $\log R_e = a \log \sigma_v + b \log \langle I_e \rangle + c$



~~velocity dispersion –  
spectroscopy~~

$$\theta_E = 4\pi \left( \frac{\sigma_v}{c} \right)^2 \frac{D_{LS}}{D_S}$$

image astrometry

Distance ratio  
depends on cosmological  
model ( $H_0$  cancels)

# Outline of our plans

- Develop an effective model of lens mass distribution based on agnostic approach to cosmological distances involved  
Shuaibo Geng et al. 2024 (A&A submitted)
- Use this model for **cosmological tests** and **beyond GR** tests (on existing data)
- LSST adopted approach – photo- $z$  + velocity dispersions via. fundamental plane relations
- Systematic study of  $(w_0, w_a)$  degeneracy in lensing approach to cosmic e.o.s. – finding „sweet spot region” in  $(z_l, z_s)$  plane

# Conclusions

- Vera Rubin Observatory (LSST survey) will become a game changer in precision cosmology

10 000 strong lensing systems including 1000 quasar lenses.

- Great opportunity to advance alternative cosmological probes

strong lensing systems

strongly lensed SN Ia (and other transient events)

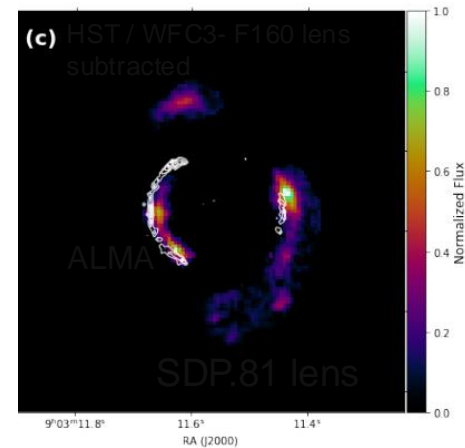
anomalies in time delays and DM substructure, fuzzy DM ?

[K.Liao, ... ,M.B., et al. ApJ 867:69, 2018](#)

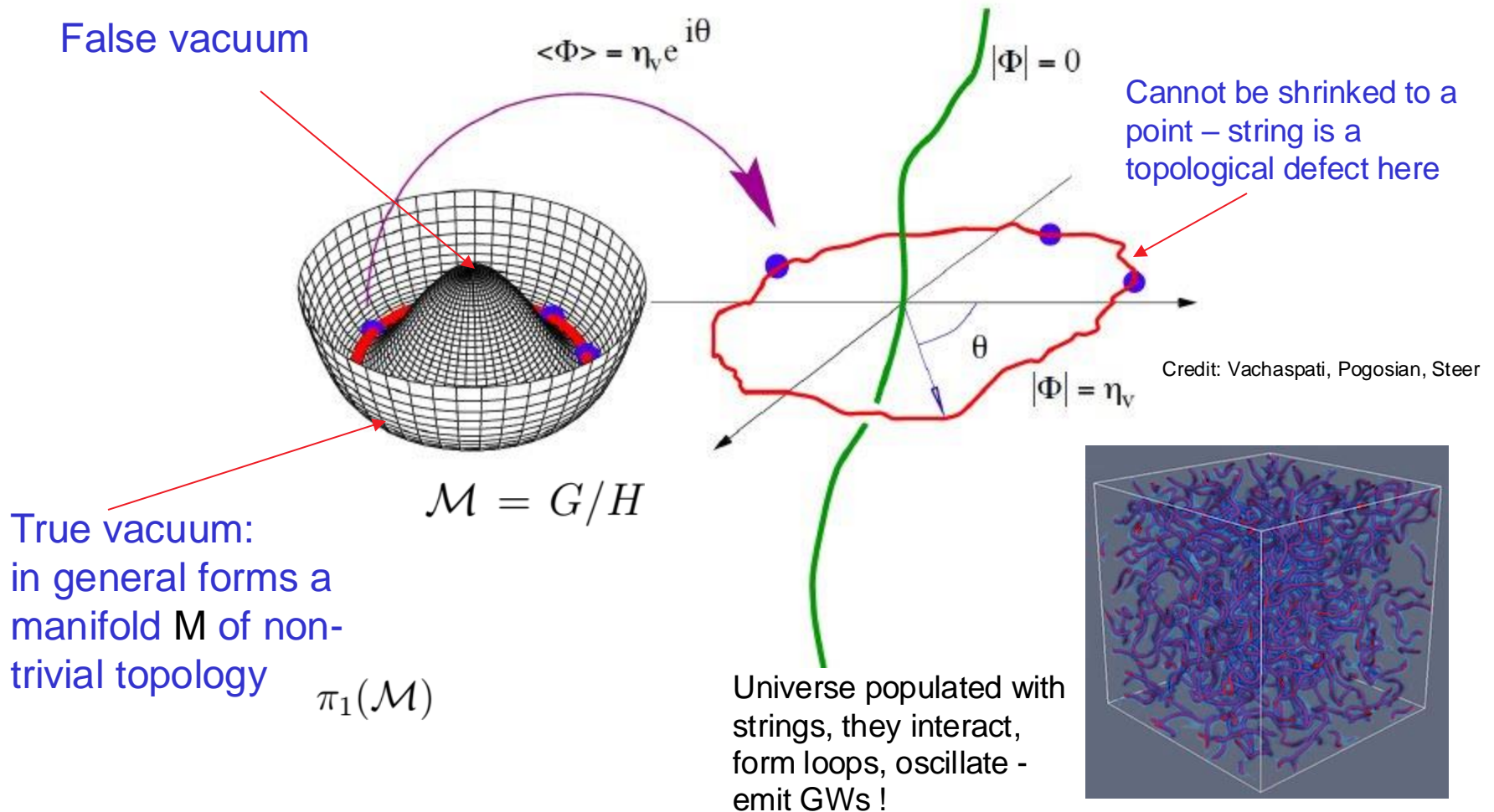
multiwavelength (optical, IR, radio) study of SL systems

lensed GRBs

- Opportunity to explore the fundamental questions in Physics, gravity theory beyond GR, nature of DM.



# Challenge for the future: cosmic strings !

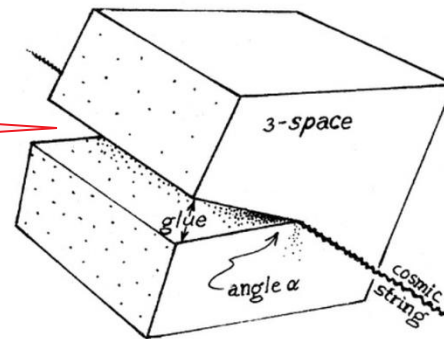


# Cosmic string – cuts the wedge from the space-time

String is locally fully characterized by its tension  
= mass per unit length  $\mu$

Deficit angle cut by the String

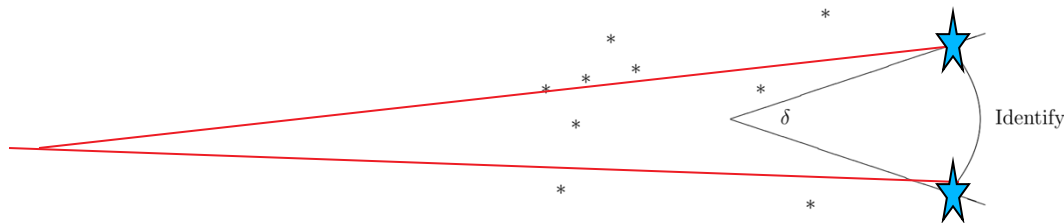
$$\delta = \frac{8\pi G\mu}{c^2}$$



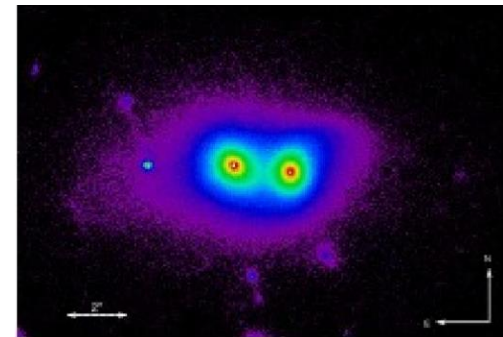
Credit: Roger Penrose

The only direct way to observe the String is by gravitational lensing !

$$\Delta\vartheta = \frac{4\pi G\mu}{c^2}$$



Source behind the cosmic string – split in two images (non-magnified !)



CSL – 1 one the most promising candidate

# CSL -1 case

CSL-1: chance projection effect or serendipitous discovery of a gravitational lens induced by a cosmic string?

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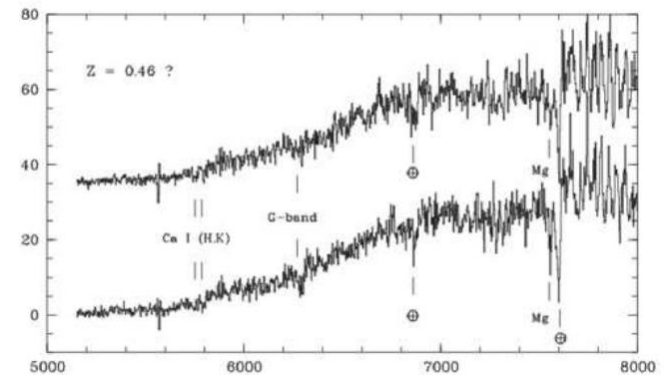
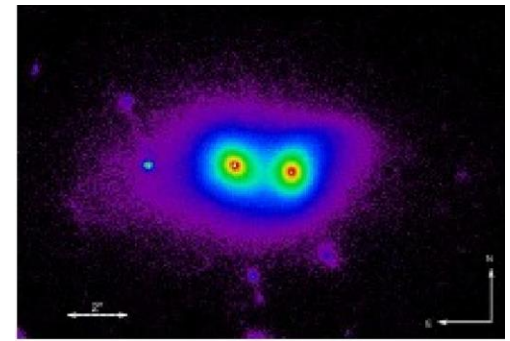
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## ABSTRACT

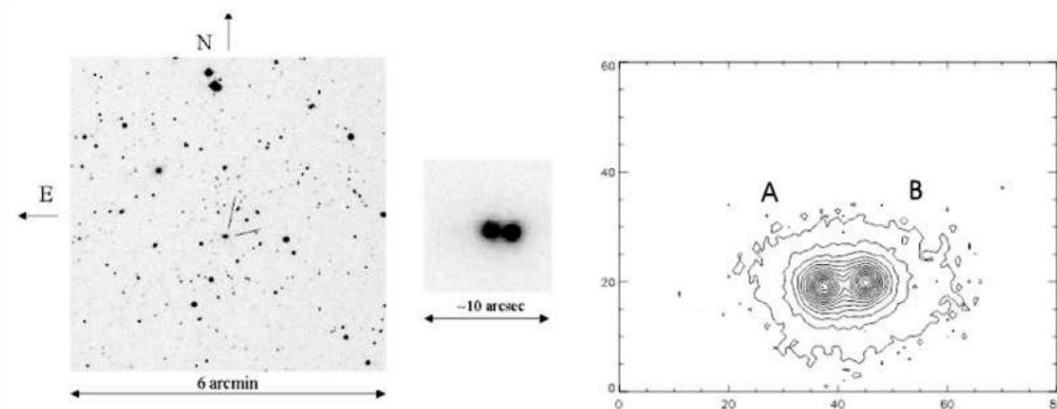
CSL-1 (Capodimonte–Sternberg–Lens Candidate, No.1) is an extragalactic double source detected in the OACDF (*Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte - Deep Field*). It can be interpreted either as the chance alignment of two identical galaxies at  $z = 0.46$  or as the first case of gravitational lensing by a cosmic string. Extensive modeling shows in fact that cosmic strings are the only type of lens which (at least at low angular resolution) can produce undistorted double images of a background source. We propose an *experimentum crucis* to disentangle between these two possible explanations. If the lensing by a cosmic string should be confirmed, it would provide the first measurements of energy scale of symmetry breaking and of the energy scale of Grand Unified Theory (GUT).



vertical shift in spectra – only for visualization

Eventually HST revealed a matter bridge (merger) ...

But in LSST era it is worth seeking for lensing by string



Thank you !