Measurement of a Cosmographic Distance Ratio with Galaxy and CMB Lensing

Hironao Miyatake

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91109, USA Department of Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544 USA and Kavli IPMU (WPI), UTIAS, The University of Tokyo, Kashiwa, Chiba 277-8583, Japan

Mathew S. Madhavacheril and Neelima Sehgal Physics and Astronomy Department, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, USA

Anže Slosar

Physics Department, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Brookhaven, NY 11973, USA

David N. Spergel

Department of Astrophysical Sciences, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544 USA

Blake Sherwin

Berkeley Center for Cosmological Physics, LBL and Department of Physics, University of California, Berkeley, CA, 94720 USA

Alexander van Engelen

Canadian Institute for Theoretical Astrophysics, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 3H8 (Dated: May 17, 2016)

We measure the gravitational lensing shear signal around dark matter halos hosting CMASS galaxies using light sources at $z \sim 1$ (background galaxies) and at the surface of last scattering at $z \sim 1100$ (the cosmic microwave background). The galaxy shear measurement uses data from the CFHTLenS survey, and the microwave background shear measurement uses data from the *Planck* satellite. The ratio of shears from these cross-correlations provides a purely geometric distance measurement across the longest possible cosmological lever arm. This is because the matter distribution around the halos, including uncertainties in galaxy bias and systematic errors such as miscentering, cancels in the ratio exactly. We measure this distance ratio in three different redshift slices of the CMASS sample, and combine them to obtain a 15% measurement of the distance ratio, $r = 0.344 \pm 0.052$ at an effective redshift of z = 0.54. This is consistent with the predicted ratio from the *Planck* best-fit Λ CDM cosmology of r = 0.410.

INTRODUCTION

Cross-correlating optical weak lensing and cosmic microwave background (CMB) lensing is emerging as a powerful tool for measuring cosmological parameters and quantifying systematic uncertainties. In particular, cross-correlations between optical and CMB lensing are sensitive to structure growth, and thus dark energy properties and modifications to General Relativity on large scales [1–4]. These cross-correlations can also isolate systematic effects such as, for example, multiplicative and photo-z biases in optical weak lensing measurements [5, 6]. Recently cross-correlations using CMB lensing data from ACT, SPT, and *Planck* and optical lensing data from the CFHTLenS and DES surveys have been presented with detections of modest significance [5, 7–13]. However, the precision of these measurements is expected to increase rapidly with newer data from, e.g., ACTPol, SPTpol, CMB-S4, HSC, DES, KiDS, and LSST.

In this work, we present the first measurement of a particularly useful cross-correlation between optical and CMB lensing: the cosmographic distance ratio. This measurement is obtained by measuring the gravitational lensing shear around a particular set of dark matter halos, first using background galaxies as the lensed source plane and then using the CMB as the lensed source plane. Taking the ratio of these shear measurements results in a purely geometric distance measurement that is insensitive to the details of the mass distribution around the lensing halos, their galaxy bias, or potential miscentering [14–16]. The ratio is given by

$$r = \frac{\gamma_t^o}{\gamma_t^c} \sim \frac{d_A(z^c) d_A(z^L, z^g)}{d_A(z^g) d_A(z^L, z^c)}$$
(1)

where γ_t^o and γ_t^c are the optical and CMB tangential shear, d_A is the angular diameter distance, and z^c , z^g , and z^L are the redshifts to the CMB, the background galaxy source plane, and the lensing structure respectively [17, 18]. This ratio has been measured previously when both source planes have been background galaxies with z < 2 [19–22]. However, the advantage of using the CMB as the second source plane is that it provides the longest lever arm for distance ratios, which can result in an order of magnitude higher sensitivity to dark

TABLE I. Number of CMASS Galaxies Used

Redshift	Galaxy Density	Optical	CMB
Range	(per arcmin^2)	Analysis	Analysis
0.43 < z < 0.51	0.007	2,895	211,441
0.51 < z < 0.57	0.007	2,896	$213,\!497$
0.57 < z < 0.7	0.008	$3,\!108$	$229,\!341$
0.43 < z < 0.7	0.021	8,899	$654,\!279$

energy parameters [17, 18]. In this Letter, we present the first measurement of such a ratio using data from *Planck*, CFHTLenS, and the BOSS CMASS galaxy sample. The CFHTLenS measurement is made for 8,899 CMASS galaxies spanning an area of 105 square degrees, and the *Planck* measurement is made for 654,279 CMASS galaxies spanning an area of 8,502 square degrees.

DATA & METHOD

The Lenses: BOSS CMASS Galaxies

For the foreground lens sample, we use the CMASS selection of galaxies from the DR11 release of the BOSS spectroscopic survey. These mostly red galaxies constitute an approximately volume-limited selection of luminous galaxies from SDSS-III that span a redshift range of 0.4 < z < 0.7. They are very often (90%) at the center of their host halos [23] with masses of around $M_{200} = 2 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$, measured both from optical [24] and CMB lensing [8]. As such, they are excellent tracers of massive halos that lens background sources. The entire sample covers roughly 20% of the sky.

In both the optical and CMB analyses, each CMASS lens galaxy is weighted as follows,

$$w_l = (w_{\text{noz}} + w_{\text{cp}} - 1)w_{\text{see}}w_{\text{star}}$$
(2)

so as to account for redshift failures (w_{noz}) , fiber collisions (w_{cp}) , effects of seeing (w_{see}) and stars (w_{star}) [25]. To reduce systematics associated with the width in redshift of the sample, we divide the sample into three redshift slices (see Table I) and perform the analysis separately in each redshift slice, combining the results only when calculating the final distance ratio at an effective redshift (see Results Section). For completeness, we also perform the analysis on the full sample in one wide redshift bin (see Figure 3), but do not obtain cosmological constraints from this.

Source Plane 1: CFHTLenS Galaxies

We use the public CFHTLenS catalog [26, 27] for calculating the optical tangential shear. The total area of the CFHTLenS survey is 154 deg^2 in four distinct fields. The overlapping area with the SDSS DR11 data is 105 deg^2 which contains 8,899 CMASS galaxies.

The catalog has galaxy shapes, which were measured by a Bayesian model-fitting method called lensfit[28], and photometric-redshifts (photo-z's) which were estimated with the BPZ code [29, 30] by using point-spreadfunction (PSF) matched photometry [31]. The effective number density of CFHTLenS source galaxies is 14 arcmin⁻².

The tangential shear in the *i*-th radial bin is measured by stacking galaxy shapes of lens-source pairs;

$$\langle \gamma_t^o(R_i) \rangle = \frac{\sum_{R_i} w_{ls} e_t^{ls}}{\sum_{R_i} w_{ls}},\tag{3}$$

where e_t is the tangential component of galaxy shapes, w_{ls} is a weight which is the product of the CMASS galaxy weight w_l given by Eq. (2) and the inverse-variance weight for galaxy shapes w_s provided by the CFHTLenS catalog that is estimated from the intrinsic galaxy shape and measurement error due to photon noise. Here the source galaxies are selected so that the best-fit photo-z is greater than the lens redshift.

The covariance matrix of the tangential shear is estimated by measuring the tangential shear around realistic mocks of the CMASS sample generated from N-body simulations [32, 33]. Using these CMASS mocks, we can naturally include sample variance, which can be important given the small area of the CFHTLenS suvey. We use 150 realizations of mocks to reduce the uncertainty of the covariance. At the scales used for this distance ratio analysis, the uncertainty due to lens shot noise and sample variance dominates the statistical uncertainty; it is about 1.5 times larger than the statistical uncertainty due to intrinsic galaxy shapes and becomes as large as a factor of four in the largest radial bin. The noise due to sample variance also induces correlations between neighboring bins, which are typically ~ 0.5 for the $R \gtrsim 10 \ h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ bins. Note that we could have canceled this sample variance exactly, by using exactly the same subset of galaxies to measure lensing of the CMB. However, given the large noise in the *Planck* convergence map, our overall statistical uncertainty would have increased.

If the PSF correction is imperfect, it can contaminate the tangential shear. To estimate this effect, we calculate the tangential shear around random points. We use 50 realizations of random points to reduce statistical uncertainties [34]. The random signal is non-zero for $R \gtrsim 20 h^{-1}$ Mpc. We then make a PSF correction by subtracting this random signal from the lensing signal. If the correction works, the 45-degree-rotated shear should be consistent with zero. Figure 1 shows the 45-degreerotated shear after the correction for each radial bin in each redshift slice. The $R \sim 40 h^{-1}$ Mpc radial bins are consistently smaller than zero for all the redshift slices, and thus we do not use them. The *p*-value based on the

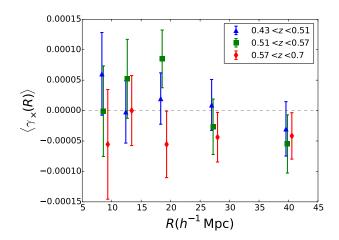


FIG. 1. Null test of optical lensing signal. The $R \sim 40 \ h^{-1}{\rm Mpc}$ bins are consistently smaller than zero for all the redshift slices, and thus we do not use them. The *p*-value based on the χ^2 per degree of freedom of the 12 $R \lesssim 30 \ h^{-1}{\rm Mpc}$ bins over the redshift slices is 0.82, which is within a 95%CL region. Thus we use these 12 data points for the distance ratio analysis.

 χ^2 per degree of freedom of the 12 $R \lesssim 30 \ h^{-1}$ Mpc radial bins over the redshift slices is 0.82, which is within a 95%CL region. Thus we use these 12 data points for the distance ratio analysis shown in Figure 4.

Source Plane 2: Planck CMB Map

To extract a corresponding shear profile of CMASS halos using the CMB as the background light source, we prepare a HEALPIX map [35] of the CMASS galaxy overdensity (with nside = 1024) for each redshift slice and cross-correlate it with the *Planck* reconstructed lensing convergence κ map [36]. Thus we obtain an estimate of $C_l^{\kappa\delta_g}$ in Fourier-space, which we then convert to a real-space shear estimate, $\langle \gamma_t^c(R) \rangle$, as discussed below.

To create the galaxy overdensity map of CMASS galaxies, for each HEALPIX pixel \mathbf{x} , we assign a number given by

$$\delta_g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\sum_{i \in \mathbf{x}} w_i}{\frac{1}{N} \sum_i w_i} - 1 \tag{4}$$

where $\sum_{i \in \mathbf{x}} w_i$ sums over the weights of each CMASS galaxy *i* that falls in that pixel \mathbf{x} , and where $\frac{1}{N} \sum_i w_i$ sums over the weights of all CMASS galaxies in all unmasked pixels and then divides by the total number of unmasked pixels *N*. Here the weight $w_i = w_l w_s(z)$, where w_l is the BOSS systematic weight given in Eq. (2) and $w_s(z)$ is an effective CFHTLens weight. We include the CFHTLens weights here, which have been interpolated as a function of lens redshift, because in the optical analysis they change the median redshift of the lens galaxies within a redshift slice. When comparing with the CMB signal, it is important that the median redshift of the lens sample is the same since galaxy properties could evolve as a function of redshift. Although the effect of such an evolution is mitigated by our use of thin redshift slices, we still weight the lens galaxies in the CMB analysis consistently with the optical analysis.

The mask used in this analysis is a combination of a mask derived from the completeness of the BOSS galaxies, where we exclude regions where the completeness is below 70%, and the convergence mask provided with the *Planck* 2015 lensing data release. For the CMASS mask, we have checked that decreasing the minimum completeness to 10% has a negligible impact on the results since most of the survey area is close to 100% complete. For the *Planck* convergence mask, we note that it masks out galaxy clusters identified through the thermal Sunyaev-Zeldovich effect.

We obtain a C_l estimate of the cross-correlation by summing over spherical harmonic transform coefficients of the galaxy overdensity and CMB kappa maps, with the appropriate correction for fractional sky coverage ($f_{\rm sky} =$ 0.206 for 8,501 deg²),

$$\hat{C}_{l}^{\kappa\delta_{g}} = \frac{1}{(2l+1)f_{\text{sky}}^{\kappa\delta}} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} \delta_{lm}\kappa_{lm}.$$
(5)

We then convert the cross-correlation estimate in Fourierspace to the real-space tangential shear of the CMB associated with CMASS galaxies, $\langle \gamma_t^c(R) \rangle$, via a Hankel transform (e.g Eq.2 in [37]),

$$\langle \gamma_t^c(R) \rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int \ell d\ell J_2(\ell R/\chi) C_\ell^{\kappa \delta_g}.$$
 (6)

Note that this is exact only in the flat-sky limit, however we do not probe radial scales large enough that we should be sensitive to the effects of a curved sky. Using Simpson's rule on the discrete set of $C_l^{\kappa\delta_g}$'s, this integral is calculated at 5000 radial points and averaged in radial bins R corresponding to the optical analysis. Note that the errors are uncorrelated between l bins to a very good approximation in Fourier space, and are highly correlated between radial bins in real space. The latter is appropriately accounted for as described below.

To generate an expected theory curve we compute the shear transform in Eq. (6) using an input $C_l^{\kappa\delta_g}$ curve generated with a linear matter power spectrum from CAMB Sources [38–40] with a linear galaxy bias of 2. This is shown in Figure 2 both as the unbinned blue curve and as the black crosses binned identically to the data. We also show here the result of restricting the $C_l^{\kappa\delta_g}$ to the range 40 < L < 2000, which is the L range of the Planck κ -map used in this analysis. (Modes with L < 40 can be affected by the treatment of the mask, and Planck does not report

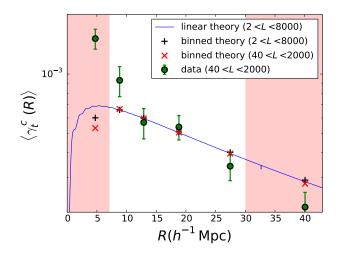


FIG. 2. Theory expectation of CMB tangential shear using an input $C_l^{\kappa\delta_g}$ curve from 2 < L < 8000 generated with a linear matter power spectrum from CAMB Sources [38–40] with a linear galaxy bias of 2. We also show the effect of restricting the $C_l^{\kappa\delta_g}$ to the range 40 < L < 2000, which is the L range of the Planck κ -map. We do not use radial bins that have a mismatch between these two (red shaded regions) as that would make the optical and CMB analyses inconsistent. The green points show the shear from the data, and where those points deviate from the theory at small scales is where there is sensitivity to the one-halo term from the CMASS galaxy halos themselves.

modes with L > 2048). Including 2000 < L < 8000 corresponds better to the resolution of the CFHTLenS survey, and in Figure 2 we show a significant difference at $R \sim 5 h^{-1}$ Mpc between L < 2000 and L < 8000. Thus we do not include this bin in our distance ratio analysis. For a similar reason, we exclude the radial bin at $R \sim 40h^{-1}$ Mpc. The green points in Figure 2 show the real-space shear from the data, and where those points deviate from the theory curve at small scales indicates where the measurement is sensitive to the one-halo term from the CMASS galaxy halos themselves (which is not included in the theory curve).

We use 600 realizations of the CMASS mocks to make the covariance matrix and repeat the procedure above, cross-correlating a galaxy overdensity map generated from each mock with the *Planck* data κ -map, and then transforming that into a shear estimate. We note that there is no correlated structure between the *Planck* data map and the CMASS mocks, so that the resulting covariance matrix does not include sample variance from this correlated structure. However, this effect is expected to be negligible since the noise in the CMB κ -map is expected to dominate. We check this by calculating Fishermatrix theory errors with and without this $C_l^{\kappa \delta_g}$ term (see, e.g., Eq. 15 in [11]), and find agreement to within 1% between the two.

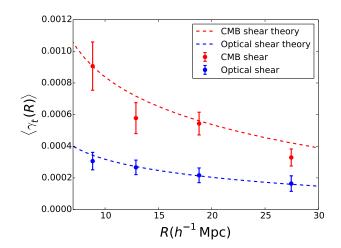


FIG. 3. CMB and optical shear around CMASS halos in the redshift range 0.43 < z < 0.7. The dashed blue curve shows a theory fit to the optical data, which includes both the 1-halo and 2-halo terms. This red curve is given by scaling up the blue curve to the CMB source redshift.

RESULTS

Shear profiles, $\gamma_t(R)$, are related to the underlying projected mass density, $\Sigma(R) = \int d\chi \rho(R,\chi)$, through the relation

$$\gamma_t(R) = \frac{\Delta \Sigma(R)}{\Sigma_{\rm cr}} = \frac{\bar{\Sigma}(< R) - \Sigma(R)}{\Sigma_{\rm cr}}$$
(7)

where $\bar{\Sigma}(\langle R)$ is the average mass density within a circle of radius R, and $\Sigma_{\rm cr}$ is the critical surface mass density. We note that $\Delta\Sigma(R)$ depends only on the total matter distribution of the lens, and $\Sigma_{\rm cr}$ is a purely geometric quantity since it depends only on the distances to the lens and background sources. Since the criteria used to select the lensing galaxies (the CMASS sample selection) is the same in the regions where the optical and CMB analyses are performed, we assume that the underlying $\Delta\Sigma(R)$ is identical in both cases. This allows us to write the expected distance ratio as

$$r(\{c_p\}) = \frac{\gamma_t^o}{\gamma_t^o} = \frac{\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{\rm CMB}(\{c_p\})}{\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{\rm opt}(\{c_p\})}$$
(8)

where the dependence on the cosmological parameters, $\{c_p\}$, enters through the distance-redshift relations. Here the numerator is the critical surface density for CMB lensing, which is calculated as

$$\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{\rm CMB} = \left[\frac{\sum_{ls} w_{ls} \Sigma_{\rm cr}^{-1}(z_l, z_{\rm CMB}; \{c_p\})}{\sum_{ls} w_{ls}}\right]^{-1} \qquad (9)$$

where $z_{\rm CMB} = 1100$ is the redshift to the surface of last scattering, and the sum is over CMASS lenses. The critical surface density $\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{-1}$ is related to the comoving angular diameter distances as,

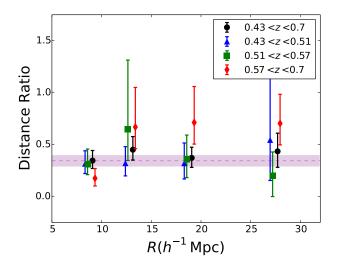


FIG. 4. Measured distance ratio for each radial bin and redshift slice of CMASS galaxies. Here the error bars are derived by Monte Carloing the covariance matrices for optical and CMB measurements, taking the ratio for each realization, and showing the 68% CL region around the mean ratio. The dashed line and error band show $r = 0.344\pm0.052$, the best-fit value coadding all the radial bins and simultaneously fitting to the three redshift slices.

$$\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{-1} = \frac{4\pi G}{c^2} \frac{d_A(z_l, z_s) d_A(z_l) (1+z_l)^2}{d_A(z_s)}.$$
 (10)

Here $d_A(z_s)$, $d_A(z_l)$, and $d_A(z_l, z_s)$ are the comoving angular diameter distances to the source, lens, and between the source and lens respectively.

In the denominator is the equivalent expression for optical lensing,

$$\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{\rm opt} = \left[\frac{\sum_{ls} w_l P_{\rm stacked}(z_s|z_l) \Sigma_{\rm cr}^{-1}(z_l, z_s; \{c_p\})}{\sum_{ls} w_l P_{\rm stacked}(z_s|z_l)}\right]^{-1},\tag{11}$$

where $P_{\text{stacked}}(z_s|z_l)$ is the photo-z PDF stacked over source galaxies whose best-fit photo-z is greater than a given lens redshift z_l , using the weight provided by the CFHTLenS catalog. Thus

$$P_{\text{stacked}}(z|z_l) = \frac{\sum_s w_s P_s(z|z_l)}{\sum_s w_s}.$$
 (12)

Note that the dilution effect due to foreground galaxies selected as source galaxies is effectively corrected for in Eq. (11).

Cosmological Constraints: To constrain cosmological parameters, we minimize the following quantity,

$$\chi^2(\{c_p\}) = \sum_{\alpha} \sum_{ij} d_i \operatorname{Cov}_{ij}^{-1} d_j, \qquad (13)$$

where $d_i = \gamma^o(R_i) - r(\{c_p\})\gamma^c(R_i)$ for the *i*th radial bin,

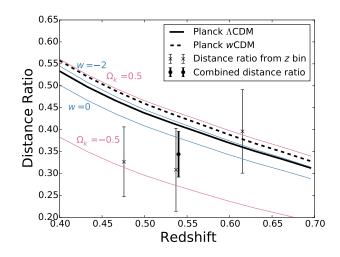


FIG. 5. Comparison of the measured distance ratio with that predicted from different cosmological models. The thin cross points show the measured distance ratio fitted separately for each redshift slice. The thick dot point shows the distance ratio fitted to all the redshift slices simultaneously assuming linear dependence of the ratio on redshift (see text for details). The black solid and dashed curves show the ratio for the best-fit Λ CDM and wCDM models respectively from the *Planck* TT + lowP spectra [41]. The thin solid curves show deviations from the best-fit Λ CDM model as indicated.

and the covariance is given by

$$Cov_{ij} = Cov(\gamma^o(R_i), \gamma^o(R_j)) -2rCov(\gamma^o(R_i), \gamma^c(R_j)) +r^2Cov(\gamma^c(R_i), \gamma^c(R_j)).$$
(14)

We ignore the second term in Eq. 14 because the overlapping region for the two measurements is less than 2% of the region used in our CMB analysis. The index α in Eq. 13 runs over the three redshift bins of the CMASS sample shown in Table I. Correlations between z-bins due to sample variance are not included because the contribution from clustering of CMASS galaxies was found to be subdominant to the contributions from CMB lensing reconstruction noise, Poisson noise of CMASS counts, and shape noise of CFHTLens galaxies.

In Fig. 4, we show the measured distance ratio for each radial bin and redshift slice of CMASS galaxies. Fig. 5 shows the coadded distance ratio for each redshift slice. We also include the distance ratio simultaneously fitted to the three redshift slices. In doing this, we assume the ratio linearly depends on redshift, i.e., $r(z) = r_0 + r'(z - z_p)$, where z_p is the "pivot" redshift determined so that the errors on r_0 and r' are uncorrelated. This yields $r = 0.344 \pm 0.052$ at a pivot redshift of $z_p = 0.54$, a 15% measurement of distance ratio. Measurements of r' are very poor due to the limited redshift span and were included in this solely to determine the pivot redshift. In Fig. 5, we also show the ratio predicted for different cosmological models as a function

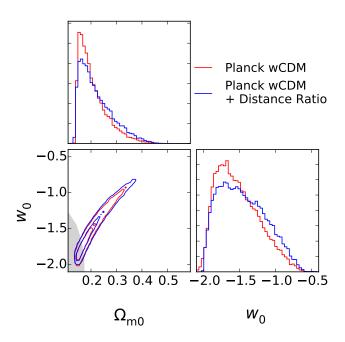


FIG. 6. Constraints on Ω_{m0} and w_0 . In the w_0 versus Ω_{m0} panel, the white and shaded regions show less than and more than 68% CL respectively from the distance ratio alone. The red curves show the 68% and 95% CL from the *Planck* TT + lowP spectra [41], and the blue curves show constraints from the combination of this distance ratio plus *Planck* TT + lowP.

of lens redshift using Eq. (8). The solid/dashed curves show the ratio for the best-fit $\Lambda CDM/wCDM$ models from the *Planck* TT + lowP spectra [41]. The ratio between ΛCDM and wCDM models changes within a smaller range compared to our statistical uncertainty, which means it is difficult to place tight constraints in spite of the 15% accuracy of our measurement.

Nonetheless, we show cosmological constraints with this distance ratio measurement combined with *Planck* TT + lowP data. The constraints varying only $\Omega_{\rm m0}$ and w_0 are shown in Fig. 6. The constraint from the distance ratio alone is fairly weak as expected from the discussion above; in the w_0 versus $\Omega_{\rm m0}$ panel, the white and shaded regions show less than and more than 68% CL respectively from the distance ratio alone. The *Planck* constraints alone from the TT + lowP spectra, which prefer $w_0 < -1$ and $\Omega_{\rm m0} < 0.3$, are shown as red contours. These contours are largely unchanged after adding our distance ratio measurement, shown by the blue contours.

As possible systematic uncertainties of the optical shear analysis, we explore the effect of possible multiplicative shear bias and photo-z bias on the optical measurement. Since these biases affect the overall amplitude of the lensing signal, they are totally degenerate. Thus we investigate these biases separately. First, we parametrize multiplicative bias as $\langle g_{obs} \rangle = (1+m) \langle g_{true} \rangle$, and fit the distance ratio with cosmological parameters

fixed to the *Planck* best-fit Λ CDM cosmology. The obtained constraint is $m = -0.14 \pm 0.13$. Second, we parameterize the photo-z bias as a shift of photo-z PDF, i.e., $P(z) \rightarrow P(z + b_z)$. To avoid calculating the optical lensing signal with a new source galaxy selection every time b_z is updated, we calculate the lensing signal without any source galaxy selection, which means all the dilution correction is put into computing $\Sigma_{\rm cr}^{\rm opt}$ (see Eq.11). With the fixed cosmology, we obtain $b_z = -0.08 \pm 0.08$. These results indicate (under the assumption of standard Λ CDM cosmology) that there is no significant evidence of systematic uncertainties in our optical shear measurement.

DISCUSSION

In this work we have for the first time computed the distance ratio using optical and CMB weak lensing, yielding a 15% measurement. We have used BOSS CMASS galaxies for the lensing galaxies, and CFHTLenS galaxy shapes and the *Planck* convergence map for optical and CMB background sources, respectively. The distance ratio extracts a purely geometrical factor by canceling out the matter distribution around halos, and thus we are free from systematic uncertainties arising from modeling galaxy bias and miscentering. Our distance ratio is consistent with the predicted ratio from the *Planck* best-fit Λ CDM cosmology.

Separation of the lenses into thin redshift slices, which is enabled by the spectroscopic information in the CMASS sample, (a) allows us to make independent measurements of the distance ratio at three different redshifts, providing consistency checks, (b) makes the measurement less sensitive to variations in the mass distribution as a function of redshift, and (c) naturally avoids loss of signal-to-noise due to weighting of CMASS galaxies by CFHTLenS weights when applying these weights in the CMB analysis, although the latter effect is almost negligible.

In our CMB shear anlaysis, the dominant contribution to the noise is from the noise in the *Planck* reconstructed lens map. We note that our analysis includes CMB lensing angular scales in the range 400 < L < 2000, which region was excluded from the *Planck* lensing autospectrum analysis [36]. The reason for this exclusion was due to a failure of the curl null test around $L \sim 700$. While there may be a systematic affecting the autospectrum analysis, in general, one would expect many systematics to not be present in a cross-correlation analysis. However, as the cause of the autospectrum systematic is unknown, we flag this as a caveat to the above analysis.

In our optical shear analysis, sample variance and shot noise of the CMASS subsample dominates the statistical uncertainty. This is because the CFHTLenS survey consists of four small fields far apart from each other. This fact demonstrates the importance of correct covariance estimation for a survey with patchy configuration of fields.

Optical surveys such as HSC, DES, KiDS, LSST, WFIRST and Euclid are expected to provide orders of magnitude larger samples of background sources as well as large foreground samples with accurate photometric redshifts from red sequence calibration. In addition, datasets from surveys like DESI and PFS will provide large foreground samples with spectroscopic redshifts. Combining this with wide and deep high-resolution maps of CMB lensing from AdvancedACT, SPT3G, the Simons Observatory, and eventually CMB Stage-4, the coming decade will allow for measurements of the distance ratio to within 1% making it a competitive and complementary probe of curvature and cosmic acceleration.

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