Strong Lensing Insights into the Hubble Tension



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The Standard Model of Cosmology

Standard model is the "flat ΛCDM " cosmology, where $\Omega_k = 1 - \Omega_m - \Omega_{\Lambda} = 0$, w = -1

Very successful at explaining a variety of observations

Planck accurately measures cosmological parameters by observing the cosmic microwave background (CMB)

Planck observations do not directly constrain the Hubble constant (H₀) - must assume a cosmological model (e.g., flat Λ CDM)



The Hubble Tension

- Tension in early-Universe and late-Universe measurements of H₀
 - Planck CMB: 67.4 +/- 0.5 km/s/Mpc (assuming flat ΛCDM)
 - SH0ES (Cepheid distance ladder + type la SNe): 73.0 +/- 1.0 km/s/Mpc (Riess+2021)
- > 5σ discrepancy
 - systematic errors?
 - rejection of flat ACDM (i.e., new physics)?
- Independent measurements of H₀ are key



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Gravitational Lensing



Animation credit: M. Mori

- Background object (source) magnified by foreground object (lens)
- Multiple images \rightarrow create lens model
- Lensing effect depends on:
 - mass distribution of lens
 - line of sight structure
 - cosmology



Animation credit: Y. Hezaveh

Time-Delay Cosmography

- "time delay" between the multiple lensed images
 - due to different path length, gravitational potential
- Can determine "time-delay distance" $D_{\Delta t}$, inversely proportional to H_0
- One-step method to infer H_0 , independent of CMB and distance ladder



Time-Delay Cosmography

- Lensed quasars
 - variable on short timescales (~days)
 - bright and easy to detect
- Monitoring of lensed quasars
 - measure brightness of images every night or every few nights
 - identical features in light curve correspond to same source event, but shifted in time
 - shift light curves until features overlap to determine time delay



Time-Delay Cosmography

- To constrain $D_{\Delta t}$, need:
 - Measured time delay (Δt)
 - Accurate lens model (to determine Φ_{lens})
 - Estimate of mass along line of sight (K_{ext} ; can bias $D_{\Delta t}$)
 - Lens galaxy velocity dispersion (break degeneracies in modeling; complementary constraints on cosmological parameters; e.g., Jee+2015, 2016)



TDCOSMO / HOLiCOW



- long term monitoring for accurate time delays
- high-resolution imaging for detailed lens modeling
- wide-field imaging/spectroscopy to characterize mass along LOS
- spectroscopy to measure lens velocity dispersion
- Seven lenses analyzed to date (see Wong+2020, Shajib+2020, Birrer+2020 for latest results)



H₀ from lensed quasars

Time Delay Measurements

- Long-term monitoring of time-delay lenses using small (1-m and 2-m) telescopes (Courbin+2011; Bonvin+2017)
- Well-tested algorithms for time-delay measurements (Tewes+2013)
- Long time baselines needed to minimize effects of microlensing (but high-cadence monitoring possible; Courbin+2018, Millon+2020b)



Lens Modeling

- Accurate lens model using deep HST and AO imaging
- High resolution needed to model quasar host galaxy
- Adaptive PSF correction using quasar images (e.g. Chen+2016)
- Incorporate velocity dispersion of lens galaxy to reduce model degeneracies
- Assume either elliptical power-law or stars+NFW (composite) model and combine results



Shajib, Wong et al. 2022

Mass Along the Line of Sight



Animation credit: M. Mori

- Lenses lie in overdense LOS due to local lens environment (e.g., Fassnacht+2011; Wong+2018)
- Some strong perturbers need to be included explicitly in lens model (e.g., Wilson+2016; McCully+2017; Sluse+2017)
- Estimate effect of weaker perturbers using weighted galaxy number counts calibrated by simulations (e.g., Greene+2013; Rusu+2017,2020)
- Independent weak lensing analysis agrees with weighted number counts method (Tihhonova+2018,2020)

Blind Analysis

- H₀ and related quantities blinded throughout analysis
 - avoid confirmation bias
 - discover unknown systematics
- Blindness can be implemented by subtracting median of posterior PDF during analysis
- Unblind only after analysis completed, agreement by all coauthors
- Unblinded results published without any further modification





Latest TDCOSMO Results



figure adapted from Wong+2020

Combined result: ~2% precision on H₀ for flat Λ CDM, in >4 σ tension with *Planck*

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Latest TDCOSMO Results

flat ACDM



>4 σ tension between TDCOSMO and *Planck*

Combined with SH0ES, >6 σ tension between early and late-Universe probes

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What next? Systematic error checks

- Spread of PDFs for individual lenses suggests no evidence for unaccounted systematics (Millon+2020)
- Could there be systematics that bias the results as a whole?



figure adapted from Wong+2020

Lens Modeling Codes

- TDCOSMO lenses have been modeled using one of two codes
 - GLEE (Suyu & Halkola 2010; Suyu+2012)
 - Lenstronomy (Birrer+2015; Birrer & Amara 2018)
- Main differences are in source plane reconstruction (parametrized vs. pixelated) and PSF error handling
- Model lens WGD2038 with both codes to predict time delays (Shajib, Wong et al. 2022)
 - two teams agreed on dataset and basic model parameters beforehand
 - results blinded to other team until models completed



Shajib, Wong, et al. 2022

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Lens Modeling Codes

- Unblinded time delays consistent within $\sim 1.2\sigma$ for power-law model
- Both teams found irregularities in composite model before unblinding
- Some differences in other parameters before kinematics/Kext folded in
 - e.g., power-law slope
- PSF reconstruction a possible systematic
 - teams exchanged PSFs post-unblinding, found better agreement in power-law slope
 - should subsample PSF for IR band (GLEE team did this, Lenstronomy did not)
- Future time delay measurement of WGD2038 will test model accuracy

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Dark Matter Substructure

- Dark matter subhalos / satellite galaxies can perturb lens potential
- Strong lensing is a promising technique to constrain DM substructure (e.g., Nierenberg+2014, 2017; Hezaveh+2016; Gilman+2019)
- Effect on time delays?
 - analysis of mock lenses w/ substructure shows bias < 0.3%,
 ~0.5% scatter in overall H₀ constraint (Gilman+2020)

Gilman+2020

Higher-order Multipoles in Lens Galaxies

van de Vyvere+2022

- Test effect of higher-order multipoles (i.e. boxyness/discyness) in lens galaxies (van de Vyvere+2022)
- Mock boxy/discy lenses fit with standard elliptical profiles what is the effect?
- H₀ can be biased, but should see strong residuals if S/N high enough
- TDCOSMO lenses are high-S/N and show low residuals (i.e., no evidence for additional complexity in lens structure)

Power-law vs. Composite Profiles

TDCOSMO models assume either elliptical power-law or stars+NFW (composite) profile and marginalize over both

Both model types give consistent results (Millon+2020)

We believe these mass profiles are well-motivated, but...

Mass-Sheet Transform (MST)

- Modification of the density profile of the lens by a multiplicative factor λ
 - rescales the time delay and source position, leaving all other observables invariant
 - fundamental degeneracy in lensing (e.g., Falco+1985, Schneider & Sluse 2013,2014)
- Can be due to either/both an external mass sheet (Kext or K_s) or a modification of the lens mass profile λ_{int}
- Can be broken with observables related to intrinsic source size, magnification, or lensing potential (e.g., kinematics) OR by assuming a mass profile (e.g., power-law)

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Mass-Sheet Transform (MST)

- TDCOSMO results depend on assumption of power- \bullet law or composite (stars+DM) profile (Kochanek+2020a,b)
 - physical and well-motivated

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- relaxing this assumption, we can only constrain H₀ to precision of velocity dispersion measurement (~5-10%)
- Additional cored NFW component can act as an approximate MST (Blum+2020)
 - core radius must be quite large (at least 3x Einstein radius)

Blum+2020

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Bayesian Hierarchical Inference

- Reanalysis of TDCOSMO lenses using Bayesian hierarchical model (Birrer+2020)
 - internal MST parameters are encoded in analysis as hyperparameters
 - maximally conservative, mass profile constrained only from kinematics
 - freedom to bring in external datasets to constrain galaxy structure hyperparameters
- Use external sample of lenses from SLACS (Bolton+2006)
 - assumes TDCOSMO and SLACS lenses drawn from same parent population

Hierarchical Model Results

- Maximally conservative approach gives H₀ = 74.5 (-6.1/+5.6) km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹
 - ~8% precision
- Adding SLACS lenses gives lower λ_{int} (i.e., shallower mass profile)
- Assuming TDCOSMO and SLACS lenses are drawn from same parent population, H₀ = 67.4 (-3.2/+4.1) km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹
 - ~5% precision, central value lower but still consistent with original constraint
- Key questions:
 - is MST physical? (i.e., is it reasonable to assume galaxies are described by a power-law or stars+DM model)?
 - are TDCOSMO & SLACS lenses drawn from same parent population?
 - can degeneracy be broken with additional observations?

H_0 measurements in flat Λ CDM - performed blindly					
Wong et al. 2	020	73	$3^{+1.7}_{-1.8}$		
6 time-delay lenses	e-delay lenses H0LiCOW (average of PL and NFW + stars/constant M/L)				
Millon et al. 2	2020	_	$74.0^{+1.7}_{-1.8}$		
7 time-delay lenses (6	me-delay lenses (6 H0LiCOW + 1 STRIDES) TDCOSMO (NFW + stars/constant M/L)				
	74.2 ^{+1.6}				
		TDC	OSMO (power-law)		
this work kinematics only constraints on mass profile					
74 5+5.6					
TDCOSMO-only					
		73	.3+5.8		
TDCOSMO+SLACS _{IFU} (anisotropy constraints from 9 SLACS lenses)					
$67.4^{+4.3}_{-4.7}$					
TDCOSMO+SLACS _{SDSS} (profile constraints from 33 SLACS lenses)					
$67.4^{+4.1}$					
TDCOSMO+SLACS					
60	65	70	75	80	
$H_0 [{\rm kms^{-1}Mpc^{-1}}]$					
				lirror_2020	

Resolved Kinematics

- MST can be broken with resolved kinematics from IFU observations (Yildirim+2020,2021)
- Mock lens tests show JWST IFU data could lead to ~4% constraint per lens
- Upcoming JWST/NIRSpec cycle 1 program has been approved for this purpose
- Can constrain MST from TDCOSMO lenses alone, without needing to use external datasets

Future of Time-Delay Cosmography

- Goal: 1% precision on H₀
- More data on time-delay lenses
 - spatially-resolved stellar kinematics (e.g., VLT/MUSE, Keck/KCWI, JWST/NIRSpec)
 - improving kinematics measurement and modeling
 - increasing sample size of time-delay lenses (discovery, monitoring, follow-up)
- Testing and controlling for systematic uncertainties
 - more detailed investigation of lens mass profiles
 - multiple modeling approaches (Shajib, Wong et al. 2022)
- Analysis of large future lens samples
 - LSST will eventually discover ~hundreds or ~thousands of lensed quasars for time-delay cosmography
 - develop lens search methods on large imaging surveys (e.g., DES, HSC)
 - develop automated modeling techniques (Schmidt+ in prep.; Ertl+ in prep.)

Shajib+2018

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Summary

- Time-delay cosmography measures H₀ completely independent of CMB and distance ladder/SNe
- Latest TDCOSMO results attain ~2% precision on H_0 in flat Λ CDM
 - consistent with SH0ES SNe Ia + distance ladder
 - in >4 σ tension with *Planck* CMB value
- Hierarchical analysis using external datasets, relaxed assumptions on mass profile gives ~5% precision on H_0 in flat ΛCDM
 - assumes external lenses from SLACS are similar to TDCOSMO lenses
 - IFU data with upcoming *JWST* observations will break degeneracy
- Tests for systematic uncertainties
 - differences in lens modeling codes
 - DM substructure, higher-order multipoles in lens mass profile
- Future developments will push toward a ~1% constraint
 - larger lens samples
 - automated lens modeling

TDCOSMO Collaboration

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We're on YouTube!

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