Quasar lenses as a cosmological probe



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Dark energy

Mysterious energy that accelerates the universe

Modified gravity? Void?

Now, only astronomical observations provide a clue to its nature



Astro2010: next 10yr science in the US

ground #1 – LSST



space #1 – WFIRST



Dark energy, dark matter, time-domain astronomy Dark energy, extra-solar planet

Probing dark energy

Method	Probe
CMB anisotropy	D _A (z=1091)
Supernova la	DL(z)
Baryon Acoustic Oscillation	D _A (z), H(z)
Weak lensing	G(z) (growth rate)
Cluster of galaxies	G(z) (growth rate)

Know systematics: example



Cosmological constraint from type-la supernovae

Different light-curve fitting methods yield inconsistent results

→ Results are already systematics-limited !

Know systematics: example

Nearby+SDSS+ESSENCE +SNLS+HST

Cosmological constraint

from type-la supernovae

Possible approaches?

1. work hard to reduce systematics

2. use many independent methods for cross-checking



U_A

Quasar lensing



observer

lens = galaxy

source = quasar



HST images (NASA/ESA/M. Oguri)

Cosmology w/ quasar lenses

1. Strong lensing probability \rightarrow cosmic volume D_A(z)²H(z)⁻¹

2. Time delays between quasar images \rightarrow Hubble constant H₀ + distance ratio D_A(z)D_A(z_s)/D_A(z,z_s)

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"Classical" lensing test

Fukugita et al. (1990), Turner (1990)



"standard volume"

Lensing test of dark energy

The probability that a quasar at z_s is lensed



× cosmological volume $D_A(z)^2H(z)^{-1}$ × lensing power $[D_A(z,z_s)/D_A(z_s)]^2$ \rightarrow dark energy!

SDSS-I (2000-2005) & SDSS-II (2005-2008)

Imaging 8000 deg² in five optical bands

Spectroscopy galaxies/quasars selected from imaging data



SDSS quasar lens search (SQLS)

- Survey of lensed quasars using the SDSS spectroscopic quasar catalog
- Select candidates from morphology/color
- Follow-up observations for confirmation

Team

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+ many others...

SDSS quasar lens search (SQLS)

Public web page, up-to-date info on SQLS

http://www-utap.phys.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~sdss/sqls/

(Search "SDSS quasar lens search" on google/yahoo/bing/...)

lt's never easy...







lt's never easy...



[Inada et al. AJ, 135, 496 (2008)]

SDSS quasar lens search (SQLS)

Current Status

>98% of the survey done

46 confirmed new lensed quasars2 probable new lensed quasars13 previously known lensed quasars

\rightarrow 61 lensed quasars !

(cf. ~120 lensed quasars known to date)



Constraining dark energy

of lenses as a function of image separation θ vs. model predictions with different Ω_{Λ} (assume flat)

The number is sensitive to dark energy, with larger Ω_{Λ} being more lenses



Result from DR7: Ω_M - Ω_Λ



Combine lens result with SDSS BAO (Eisenstein et al. 2005)

 $\Omega_{\rm M} = 0.26^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$

 $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.86^{+0.09}_{-0.12}$

Consistent with "standard" model

Result from DR7: dark energy



Lens probability: summary

- Strong lensing probability of quasars is sensitive to the evolution of cosmic volume, and hence to dark energy
- We (SQLS) have construct the largest sample of quasar lenses appropriate for statistical studies
- The result is consistent with the current standard cosmological model, providing independent confirmation of dark energy

Cosmology w/ quasar lenses

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Time delay



(observed for ~20 lenses so far)

Poindexter et al. (2007)



Ho and dark energy

The characteristic scale of CMB is sound horizon at recombination ($r_s \sim 150$ Mpc in comoving)

What we really measure is the angle subtended by r_s , i.e., $\theta_s = r_s / D_A(z=1091)$

Constraint on dark energy from CMB is only through this ($\rightarrow D_A$), meaning that H₀ and dark energy are always degenerate



 \rightarrow accurate H₀ is a key to improve DE constraint!

Distance ratio cosmography



Time delays also probe dark energy directly through distance ratio D_A(z_I)D_A(z_S)/D_A(z_I,z_S)

The unique distance combination lead to the unique degeneracy direction, making it valuable DE probe (see also Linder 2004)

LSST Science Book (arXiv:0912.0201)

However, ...



The biggest problem: lens mass model

The resulting constraint on H₀ depends strongly on assumed mass model!

(example for 4-image lens PG1115+080)

Two approaches

- 1. "Golden lens" approach Investigate a singe lens in great detail to constrain its mass profile, and then use it to constrain cosmological parameters (e.g., Suyu et al. 2010)
- 2. "Ensemble of lenses" approach Combine many lenses to average out the lens mass model uncertainty

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Statistics of time delays

Oguri ApJ, 660, 1 (2007)

A new statistical technique to combine many time delay measurements

- 1. Define "reduced time delay" that quantifies the complexity of the lens potential
- 2. Derive reduced time delays as a function of image configurations and construct p(delay|image config.)
- 3. Compare it with observed delays to get constraints on cosmological parameters







Statistical constraint on Ho

- Combined analysis of time delays for 18 lenses
- Fixing other cosmological parameters, the Hubble constant is constrained to H₀=70±6 km/s/Mpc



Oguri ApJ, 660, 1 (2007)

Future: LSST (Large Synoptic Survey Telescope)



http://www.lsst.org

#1 in Astro2010

8.4-m telescope in Chili

Survey from ~2017

Cover the entire visible sky every few days

 \rightarrow Time-domain data for 1/2 of the whole sky!

Lensed QSOs/SNe in LSST

Oguri & Marshall MNRAS, 405, 2579 (2010)



Time delays will be measured for all of these!

Forecasting DE measurement



Future time delays can help to constrain w(z)

Time delay: summary

- Time delays can be a unique probe of dark energy, through H₀ and distance ratio D_A(z_I)D_A(z_S)/D_A(z_I,z_S)
- The current limiting factor is the mass distribution in lensing galaxy; we can get around this using novel statistical technique
- Currently time delays are already putting interesting cosmological constraints
- In the future, statistics of time delays can be a powerful cosmological probe thanks to planned time-domain surveys (e.g., LSST)

Thank you! 감사합니다!