Parallax in general relativity



Center for Theoretical Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw

Hot topics in Modern Cosmology Spontaneous Workshop XIV May 8th – 14th, 2022, IESC Cargèse, France

Geometric optics in GR beyond the Sachs formalism, beyond a single emission and observation point

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Based on papers:

M. Grasso, MK, J. Serbenta, Geometric optics in general relativity using bilocal operators, Phys. Rev. D 99, 064038 (2019)

MK, E. Villa, Geometric optics in relativistic cosmology: New formulation and a new observable, Phys. Rev. D **101**, 063506 (2020)

MK, J. Serbenta, Testing the null energy condition with precise distant measurements, Phys. Rev. D 105, 084017 (2022)

Distance measure along a null geodesic

 $D \equiv D(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}, \gamma_0, u_{\mathcal{O}}, u_{\mathcal{E}})$







Luminosity distance

flat spacetime, no relative motion

$$F = \frac{I}{4\pi D^2}$$



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general spacetime

$$D_{lum} = \sqrt{\frac{I}{4\pi F}} \qquad D_{lum} \equiv D_{lum}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}, \gamma_0, u_{\mathcal{O}}, u_{\mathcal{E}})$$

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Related to the angular diameter distance via the Etherington's reciprocity relation

 $D_{lum} = (1 + z)^2 D_{ang}$ [Etherington 1933, Penrose 1966, ... Uzun 2019]

Angular diameter distance

Expressing the distance measures using curvature

Main tool: geodesic deviation equation around a null geodesic





Angular diameter distance

$$D_{ang} = (l_{\mathcal{O}\mu} u_{\mathcal{O}}^{\mu})^{-1} \left| \det \mathcal{D}_{B}^{A} \right|^{1/2}$$

Parallax effect - difference in apparent position of a light source between two nearby observers [Grasso, Korzyński, Serbenta 2019]



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Flat spacetime:

$$\delta\theta = -\frac{\delta x_{\mathcal{O}}}{D}$$



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General spacetime:

$$\theta \theta^{A} = -\Pi^{A}{}_{B} \delta t$$
$$\Pi_{AB} = \Pi_{BA}$$



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General spacetime:

$$\delta\theta^A = - \Pi^A_{\ B} \delta x^B_{\mathcal{O}}$$

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$$D_{par} = \left| \det \Pi^{A}{}_{B} \right|^{-1/2} \qquad D_{par} \equiv D_{par}(\mathscr{E}, \mathscr{O}, \gamma_{0}, u_{\mathscr{O}})$$



8

Expressing the distance measures using curvature









Parallax distance

$$D_{par} = (l_{\mathcal{O}\mu} u_{\mathcal{O}}^{\mu})^{-1} \left| \det \mathcal{D}_{B}^{A} \right|^{1/2} \left| \det \left(\delta^{A}_{B} + m^{A}_{B} \right) \right|^{-1/2} \qquad D_{par} \equiv D_{par}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{O}, \gamma_{0}, u_{\mathcal{O}})$$

Define a scalar, dimensionless quantity





Define a scalar, dimensionless quantity $\mu = 1 - \frac{\det \Pi^A{}_B}{\det M^A{}_B}$ Expressed via distance measures $\mu = 1 - \sigma \frac{D^2_{ang}}{D^2_{par}}$ ±1, but usually 1

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 $\chi_{\mathcal{E}}$

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Expressed via distance measures

$$\mu = 1 - (1+z)^{-4} \frac{D_{lum}^2}{D_{par}^2}$$

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Vanishes in a flat spacetime

$$\mu = 1 - \det\left(\delta^A_{\ B} + m^A_{\ B}\right)$$

Frames-independent $\mu \equiv \mu$

 $\mu \equiv \mu(\mathscr{E}, \mathscr{O}, \gamma_0)$



Magnitude of the effect locally:

negligible pressure (dust)

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Galactic scales

mass density of the thin disc of the Milky Way $\rho \approx 1 M_{\odot} \, {\rm pc}^{-3}$

most distant trigonometric parallax measured $r \approx 20 \, \text{kpc}$
Distance slip

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Galactic scales

mass density of the thin disc of the Milky Way $\rho \approx 1 M_{\odot} \, {
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most distant trigonometric parallax measured $r \approx 20 \, \text{kpc}$

 $\mu\approx 2\cdot 10^{-4}$

MK, E. Villa, *Geometric optics in relativistic cosmology: New formulation and a new observable,* Phys. Rev. **D 101**, 063506 (2020)

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Assume this measurement is possible. Signal? What can we learn?

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + a(t)^{2} (d\chi^{2} + S_{k}(\chi)^{2} d\Omega^{2})$$

$$S_{k}(\chi) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}} \sin(\sqrt{k}\chi) & \text{if } k > 0\\ \chi & \text{if } k = 0\\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{|k|}} \sinh(\sqrt{|k|}\chi) & \text{if } k < 0, \end{cases}$$

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + a(t)^{2} (d\chi^{2} + S_{k}(\chi)^{2} d\Omega^{2})$$
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Low redshift expansion

$$\mu(z) = \frac{3}{2}\Omega_{m0} z^2 + \left(-\frac{1}{2}\Omega_{m0} - \frac{3}{2}\Omega_{m0}\Omega_{k0} - \frac{9}{4}\Omega_{m0}^2\right) z^3 + O(z^4)$$

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leading order term gives a measurement of Ω_{m0}

independent from any other measurements



 μ vs D_{ang} diagram

$$\mu(D_{ang}) = \frac{3}{2} \Omega_{m0} H_0^2 D_{ang}^2 + \frac{5}{2} \Omega_{m0} H_0^3 D_{ang}^3 + O(D_{ang}^4)$$

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bypassing *z* as observable

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potentially very robust measurement, independent from others

MK, J. Serbenta 2022:

Theorem:

- Null energy condition (NEC) holds, i.e. $R_{\mu\nu}\,l^\mu\,l^\nu\geq 0$
- No optical "singular points" between O and \mathcal{E} (such as focal points)

then

•
$$D_{par} \ge D_{ang}$$
 ($\mu \ge 0$)

• moreover,
$$D_{par} = D_{ang}$$
 ($\mu = 0$) if and only if $R^A_{\ \ llB} = 0$ along γ_0



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• moreover, $D_{par} = D_{ang}$ ($\mu = 0$) if and only if $R^A_{\ \ llB} = 0$ along γ_0

Rephrasing:

If the NEC holds then

both focusing of light by matter and tidal distortion of light rays makes D_{par} larger than D_{ang} at least up to the first focal point



Sketch of the proof

Geometry of the null congruence parallel at $\ensuremath{ \Theta}$

 $\mu(\lambda) = 1 - \frac{\mathscr{A}(\lambda)}{\mathscr{A}(\mathcal{O})}$

$$\mathscr{A}(\lambda) = \mathscr{A}(\mathscr{O}) \exp\left(\int_{\mathscr{O}}^{\lambda} \theta(\lambda') \, d\lambda'\right)$$

$$\frac{d\theta}{d\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2}\theta^2 - \sigma^2 - R_{\mu\nu} l^{\mu} l^{\nu}$$

 $\theta(\mathcal{O})=0$



Possible applications

- S. Räsänen 2014 consistency test of FLRW metric using D_{ang}/D_{lum} , z and D_{par}
- Distance inequality \implies sign of difference between D_{ang} and D_{par} carries information about the NEC. Observational test of NEC (+ GR + light propagation)

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- Distance inequality \implies sign of difference between D_{ang} and D_{par} carries information about the NEC. Observational test of NEC (+ GR + light propagation)

If we observe $D_{par} < D_{ang}$ then either the NEC does not hold, or modified GR or light propagation

Violation of NEC: $R_{\mu\nu} l^{\mu} l^{\nu} < 0 \iff T_{\mu\nu} l^{\mu} l^{\nu} < 0$

equation of state $p = w \rho$ w < -1

Summary and take-home message

- By comparing D_{ang} and D_{par} measured to a single source we get the distance slip μ new (potential) observable
- Interesting properties: frame-invariance, measures curvature and matter along the line of sight
- μ very small on short distances, too difficult to measure nowadays, but...
- It can provide independent matter density measurements
- $\mu \ge 0$ if the null energy condition holds

Thank you!





$$\delta\theta^{A} \approx \delta r^{A} = -\frac{1}{u_{\mathcal{O}}^{\sigma} l_{\mathcal{O}\sigma}} \mathcal{D}^{-1^{A}}{}_{C} \left(\delta^{C}{}_{B} + m_{\perp}{}^{C}{}_{B}\right) \delta x_{\mathcal{O}}^{B}$$



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parallax matrix $\Pi^{A}_{\ B}$



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$$D_{par} = u_{\mathcal{O}}^{\sigma} l_{\mathcal{O}\sigma} \left| \det \mathcal{D}_{B}^{A} \right|^{1/2} \left| \det \left(\delta_{B}^{A} + m_{\perp B}^{A} \right) \right|^{-1/2}$$
Parallax





Both observer and emitter in bound systems



Both observer and emitter in bound systems

Barycenters in free fall



Both observer and emitter in bound systems

Barycenters in free fall



Barycenters in free fall

Question: parallax without the local aberration and light bending effects

Both observer and emitter in bound systems

$$\delta x^{\mu}_{\mathcal{O}} = U^{\mu}_{\mathcal{O}} t_{\mathcal{O}} + \sigma^{\mu}(t_{\mathcal{O}}) \qquad \qquad \sigma^{\mu} \, l_{\mathcal{O}\mu} = 0$$

$$\sigma(t_0)$$

 δx_0 U_0



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$$\delta\theta^{A} = \delta_{\mathcal{O}} r^{A} t_{\mathcal{O}} + M^{A}_{B} \rho^{B} \left((1+z)^{-1} t_{\mathcal{O}} \right) - \Pi^{A}_{B} \sigma^{B}(t_{\mathcal{O}})$$



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$$\delta x^{\mu}_{\mathcal{O}} = U^{\mu}_{\mathcal{O}} t_{\mathcal{O}} + \sigma^{\mu}(t_{\mathcal{O}}) \qquad \qquad \sigma^{\mu} \, l_{\mathcal{O}\,\mu} = 0$$

$$\delta x_{\mathscr{C}}^{\mu} = U_{\mathscr{C}}^{\mu} t_{\mathscr{C}} + \rho^{\mu}(t_{\mathscr{C}}) \qquad \rho^{\mu} l_{\mathscr{C}\mu} = 0$$



$$\delta\theta^{A} = \delta_{\mathcal{O}} r^{A} t_{\mathcal{O}} + M^{A}_{\ B} \rho^{B} \left((1+z)^{-1} t_{\mathcal{O}} \right) - \Pi^{A}_{\ B} \sigma^{B} (t_{\mathcal{O}})$$

barycenter drift
(linear)



Both observer and emitter in bound systems

Barycenters in free fall

$$\delta x^{\mu}_{\mathcal{O}} = U^{\mu}_{\mathcal{O}} t_{\mathcal{O}} + \sigma^{\mu}(t_{\mathcal{O}}) \qquad \qquad \sigma^{\mu} l_{\mathcal{O}\mu} = 0$$

$$\delta x_{\mathscr{C}}^{\mu} = U_{\mathscr{C}}^{\mu} t_{\mathscr{C}} + \rho^{\mu}(t_{\mathscr{C}}) \qquad \rho^{\mu} l_{\mathscr{C}\mu} = 0$$



$$\delta\theta^{A} = \delta_{\mathcal{O}} r^{A} t_{\mathcal{O}} + M^{A}_{B} \rho^{B} \left((1+z)^{-1} t_{\mathcal{O}} \right) - \Pi^{A}_{B} \sigma^{B}(t_{\mathcal{O}})$$

barycenter drift
(linear) parallax
(periodic)