

Dark Matter Under the Microscope

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Or how to take advantage of caustic crossing events

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Hubble Space Telescope Discovery of a Probable Caustic-Crossing Event in the MACS1149 Galaxy Cluster Field

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Credential Certification: Patrick Kelly (pkelly@astro.berkeley.edu)

Subjects: Infra-Red, Optical, Ultra-Violet, Request for Observations, Transient



While monitoring the MACS1149 ($z = 0.54$) galaxy cluster as part of the RefsdalRedux program (PID 14199; PI Kelly) with the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) WFC3 IR camera, we have detected a rising transient that appears to be coincident (<0.1 arcsec) with the cluster's critical curve (line of formally infinite magnification) in cluster models (including those of C. Diego, C. Grillo, M. Oguri, A. Zitrin, M. Jauzac, K. Sharon, and J. Merten). Remarkably, the most likely current interpretation of the transient is that of an individual star in the host galaxy of SN Refsdal ($z = 1.49$) approaching the cluster caustic owing to the relative motion of the host galaxy, the cluster lens, and Earth. If so, we expect that it is currently magnified by a factor of possibly ten thousand to hundreds of thousands.

An individual star at redshift 1.5 extremely magnified by a galaxy-cluster lens

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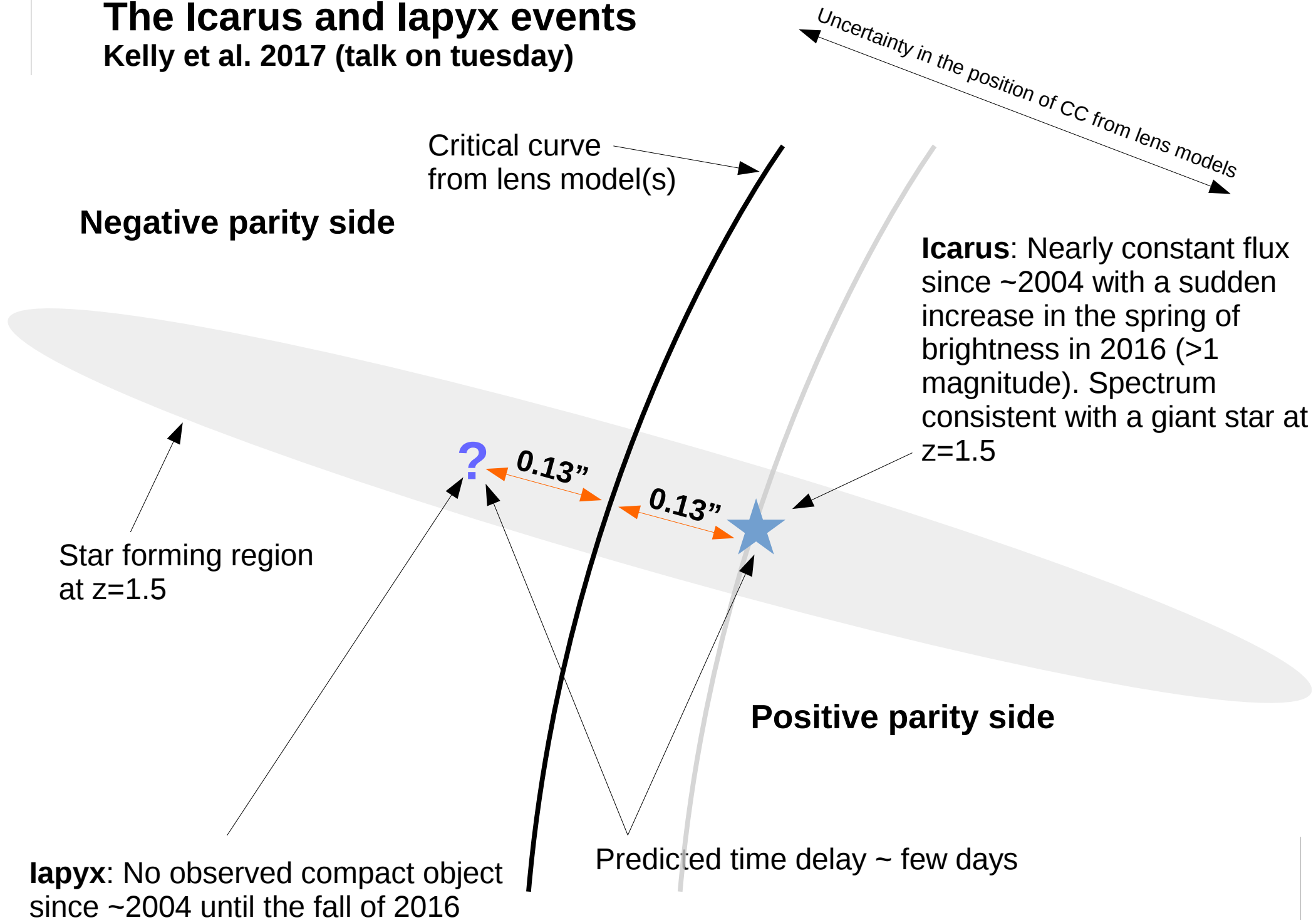
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The Icarus and Iapix events

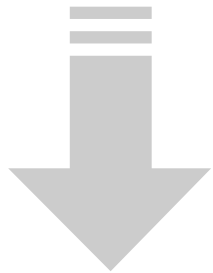
Kelly et al. 2017 (talk on tuesday)



Galaxy clusters. Ideal targets for caustic crossing events

Large Einstein radius implies a large maximum magnification

$$\mu \sim \theta_E / d$$



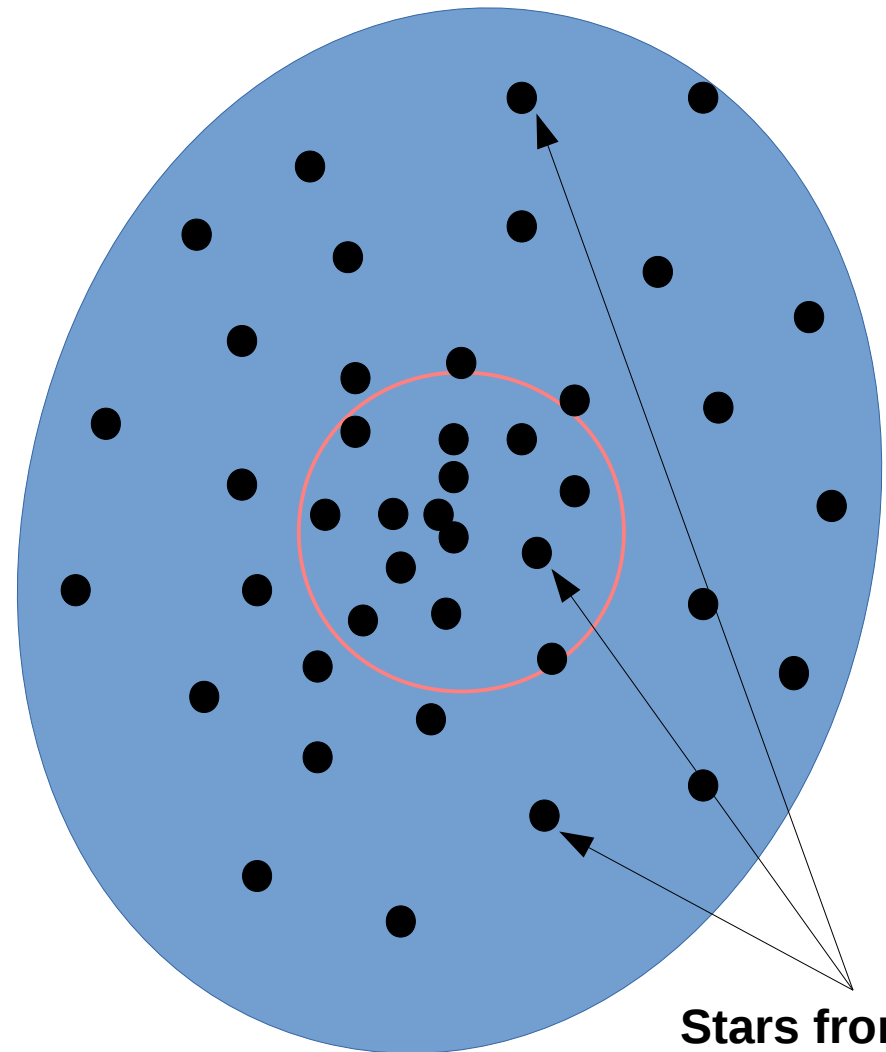
$$\mu_{\max} \sim \theta_E / r^{1/2}$$

Radius of background object

Star-size objects can be magnified by factors of many thousands

Large optical depth of microlensing over a large area near the critical curves.

Perimeter of Crit.Curve > 100''



articles

Flux variations of QSO 0957 + 561 A, B and image splitting by stars near the light path

K. Chang & S. Refsdal

Hamburger Sternwarte, Gojenbergsweg 112, D-2050 Hamburg 80, FRG

Chang & Refsdal (1979)

Describes how large amplifications can be obtained if background objects are compact enough.

First time it is shown how microlenses can momentarily demagnify background sources

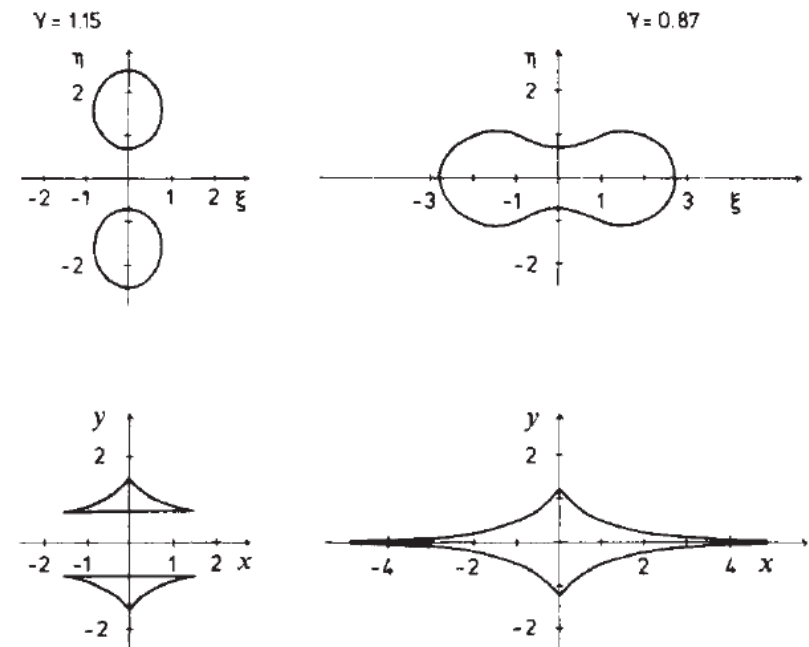
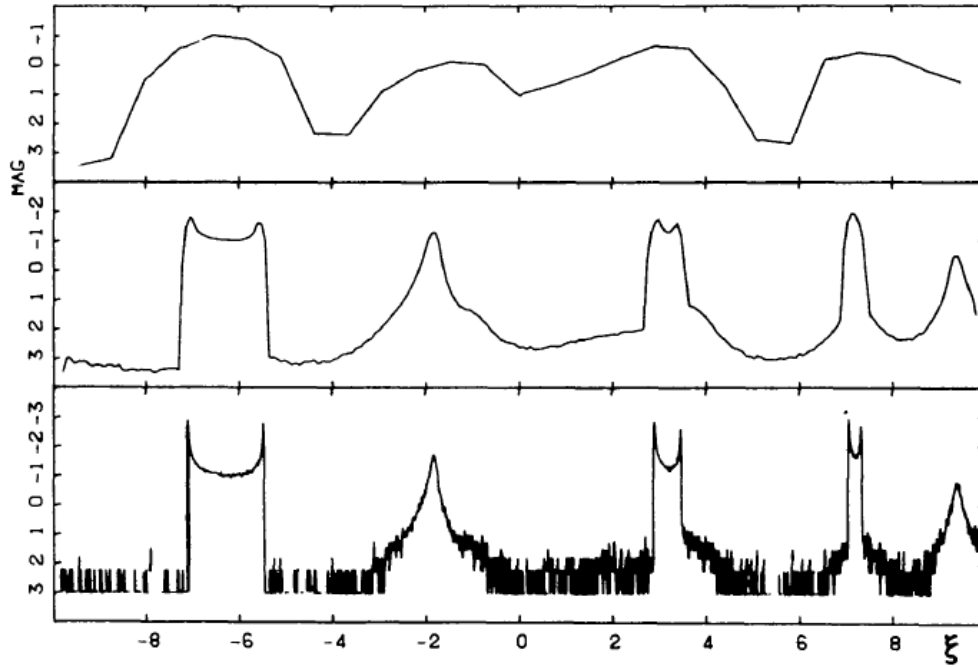


Fig. 2 Critical curves in the deflector plane (ξ, η) and in the observer's plane (x, y) for the cases $\gamma = 0.87$ and $\gamma = 1.15$.

Early work

Kayser, Refsdal & Stebbins (1986)

lower track



A field of microlenses can result in complex light curves, involving both magnification and demagnification

Did not study the particular case of very close distances to the critical curve (computationally very expensive, see also Paczynski's work in the 80's)

J. Miralda-Escudé (1991)

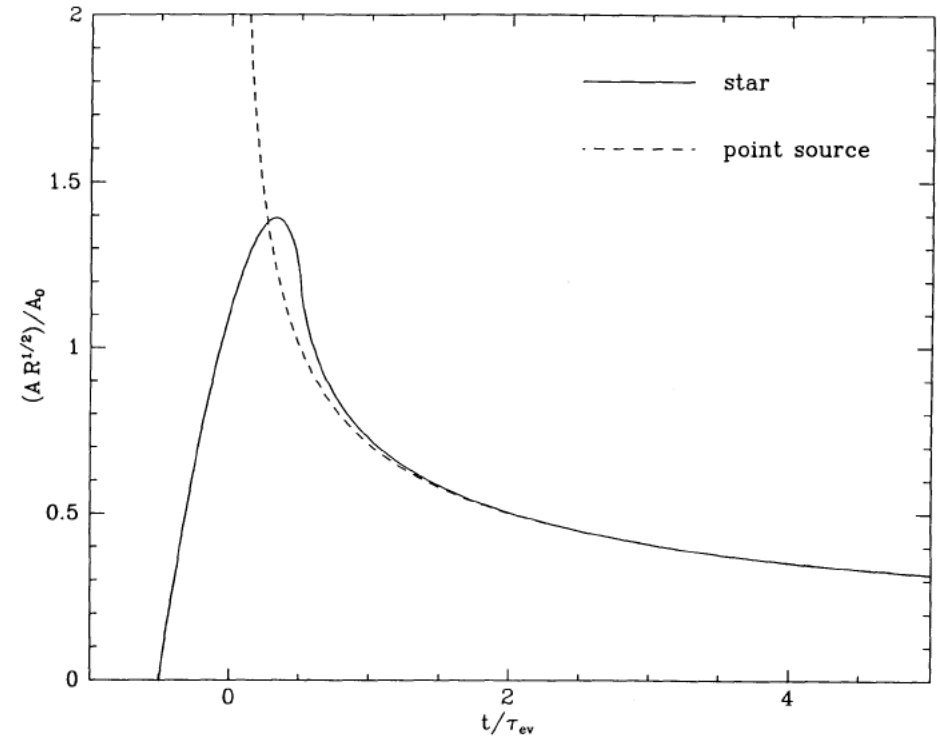


FIG. 2.—Magnification of a star with uniform surface brightness as a function of the time since the center of the star crossed the caustic. Magnification of a point source at the center of the star is also shown. Characteristic time τ_{ev} is given in eq. (12). In 50% of the cases this curve should occur in the reverse order in time.

Extreme magnifications (>1 million) can be obtained when a star crosses behind a smooth cluster caustic

Shows how images disappear behind a smooth caustic

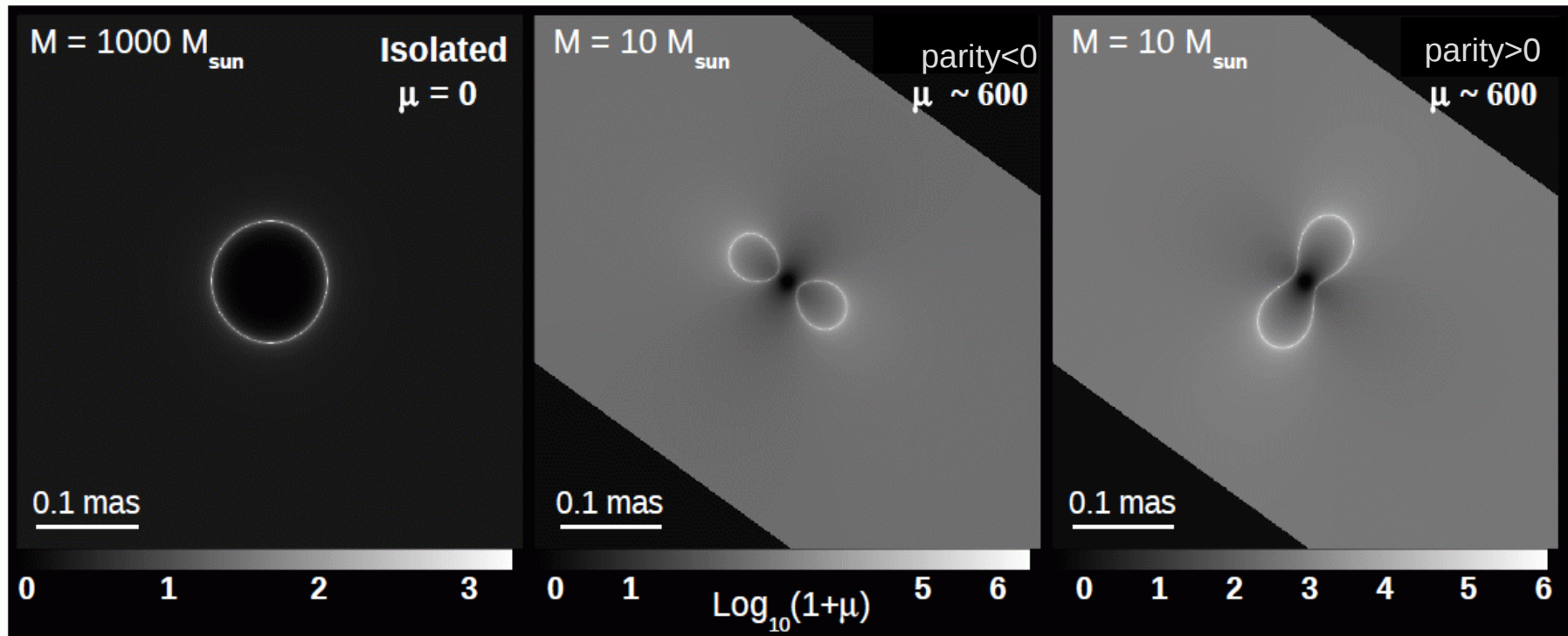
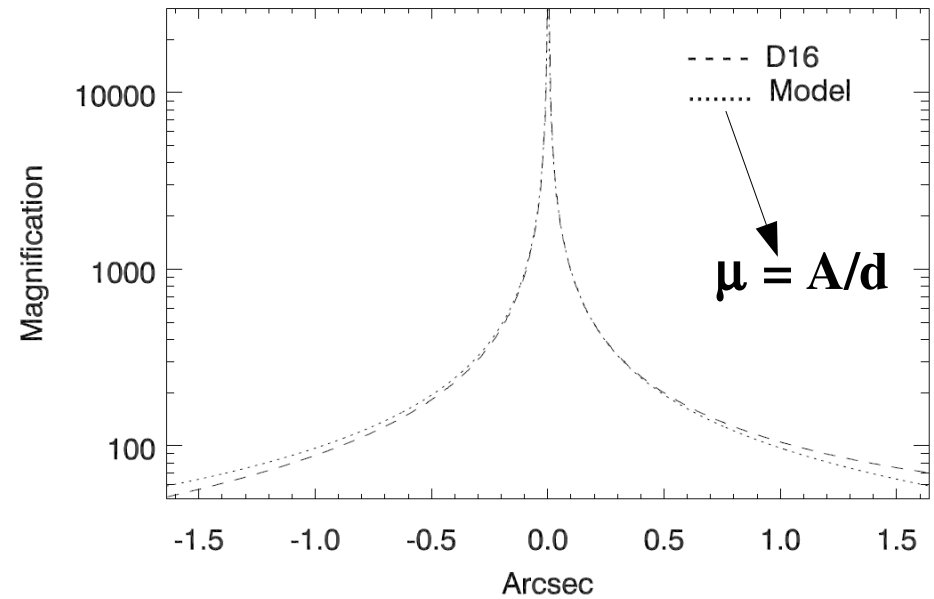
Did not consider microlenses

Magnification of small microlenses near a critical curve (Diego et al. 2017)

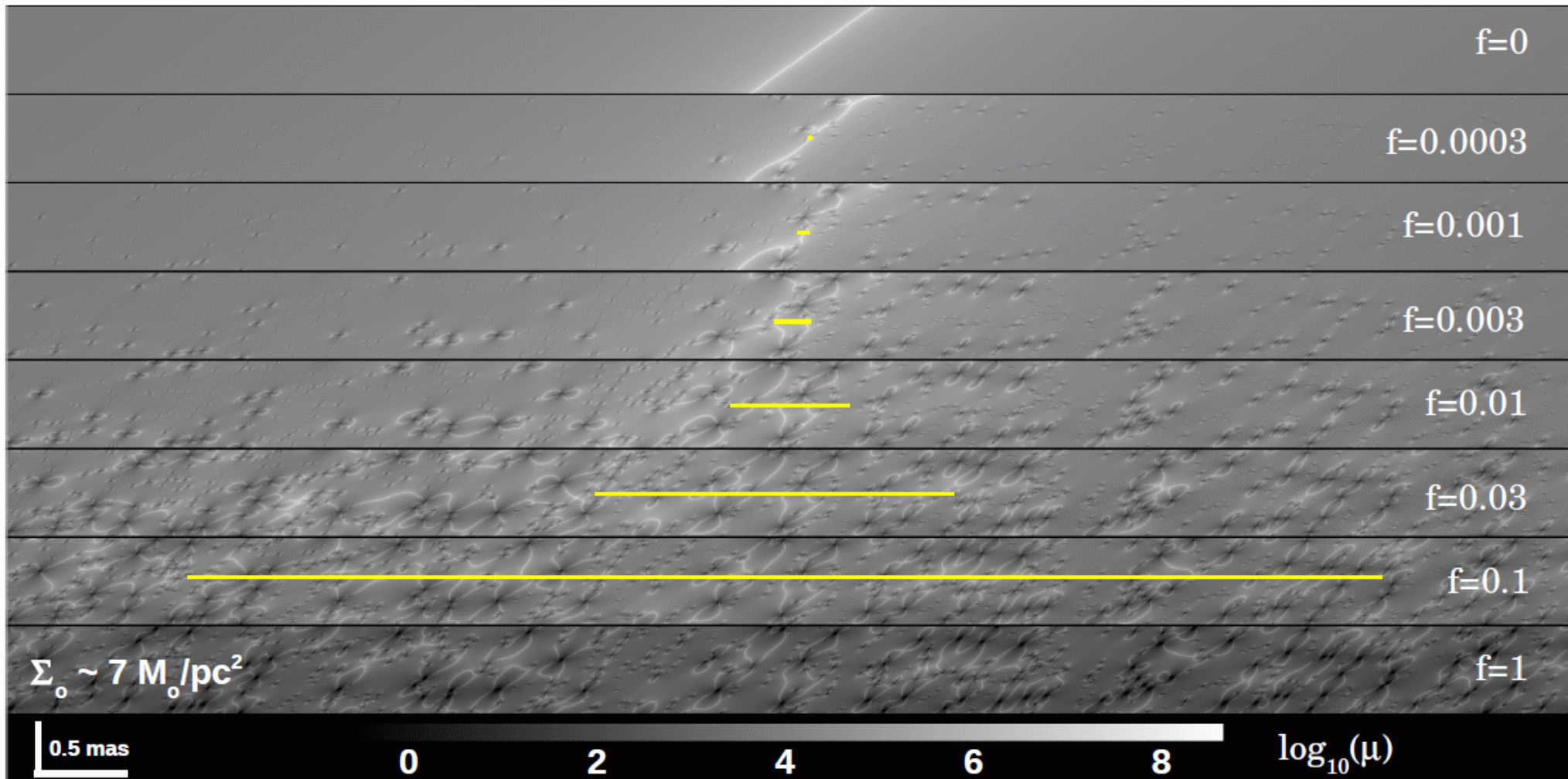
The lensing distortion from a microlenses in the lens plane near the critical curve is magnified by a factor proportional to the magnification of the macrolens (cluster).

Very small microlenses can produce measurable changes in the observed flux of a distant bright and compact object (star) if they are close enough to the cluster critical curve

$$\theta_E = \sqrt{\frac{M \mu_t}{\pi \Sigma_{\text{crit}}}}$$



Disruption of critical curves by ICL stars



Magnification gets redistributed over a wide region.

Instead of a single very bright peak we would see many smaller peaks.

Total observed flux integrated over over long times is conserved.

Disruption of critical curves by ICL stars

$M=10 M_{\odot}$ (F=1.76%)

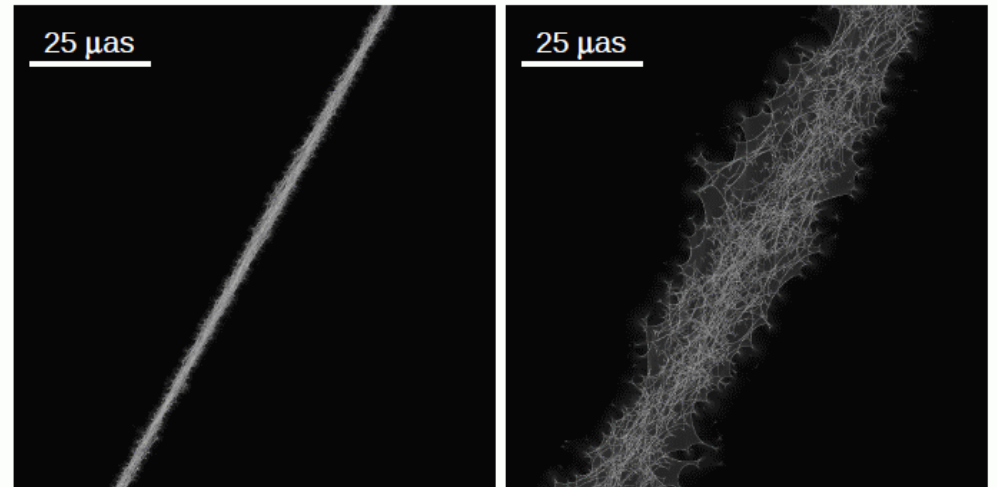
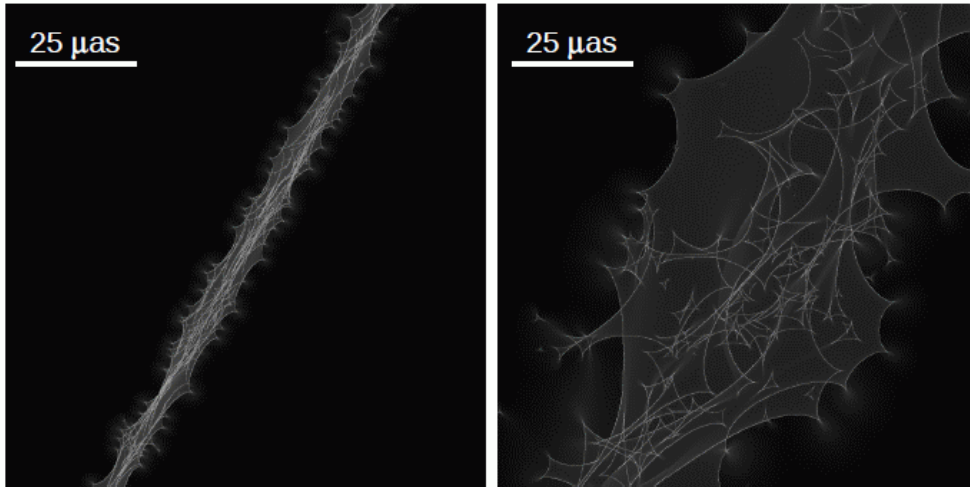
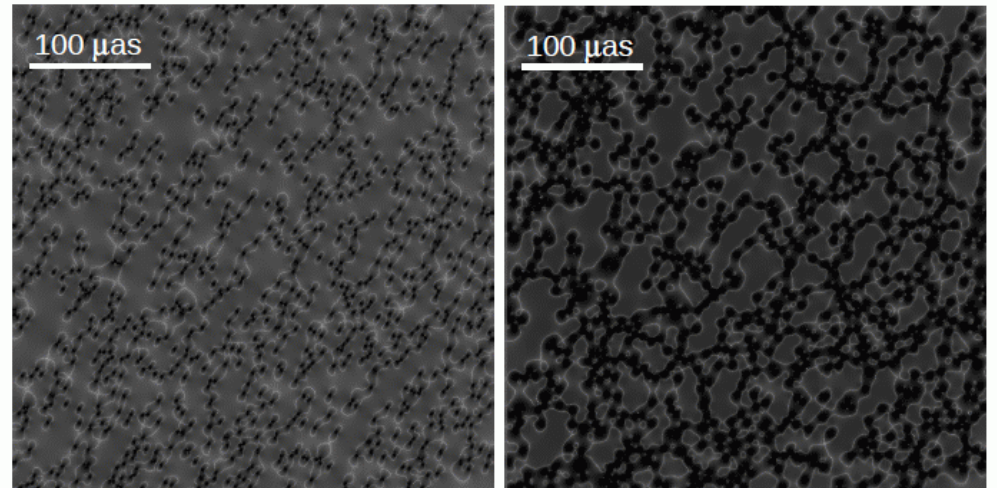
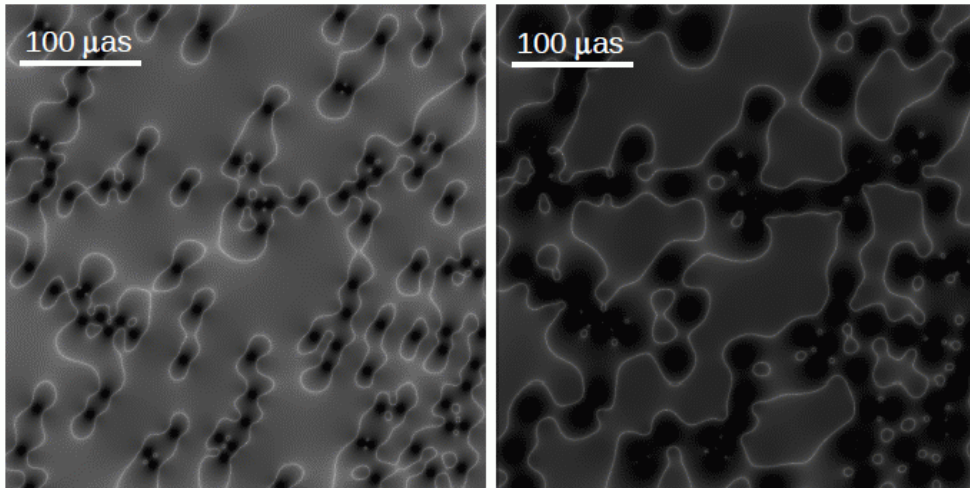
N=100

$M=100 M_{\odot}$ (F=17.6%)

$M=1 M_{\odot}$ (F=1.76%)

N=1000

$M=10 M_{\odot}$ (F=17.6%)



Caustic web sensitive to number and mass of microlenses.

The heavier the microlenses, the wider the microcaustic region.

Smooth caustics ONLY if microlenses are not massive.

Events can be produced thousands of years before images disappear.

Microlenses near cluster

Caustics: Lens equation.

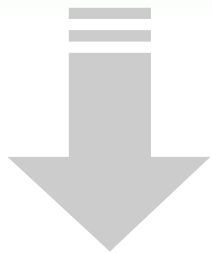
Critical curves (and their corresponding caustics) depend on the “parity”.

On the side with positive parity, counterimages are always magnified by large factors

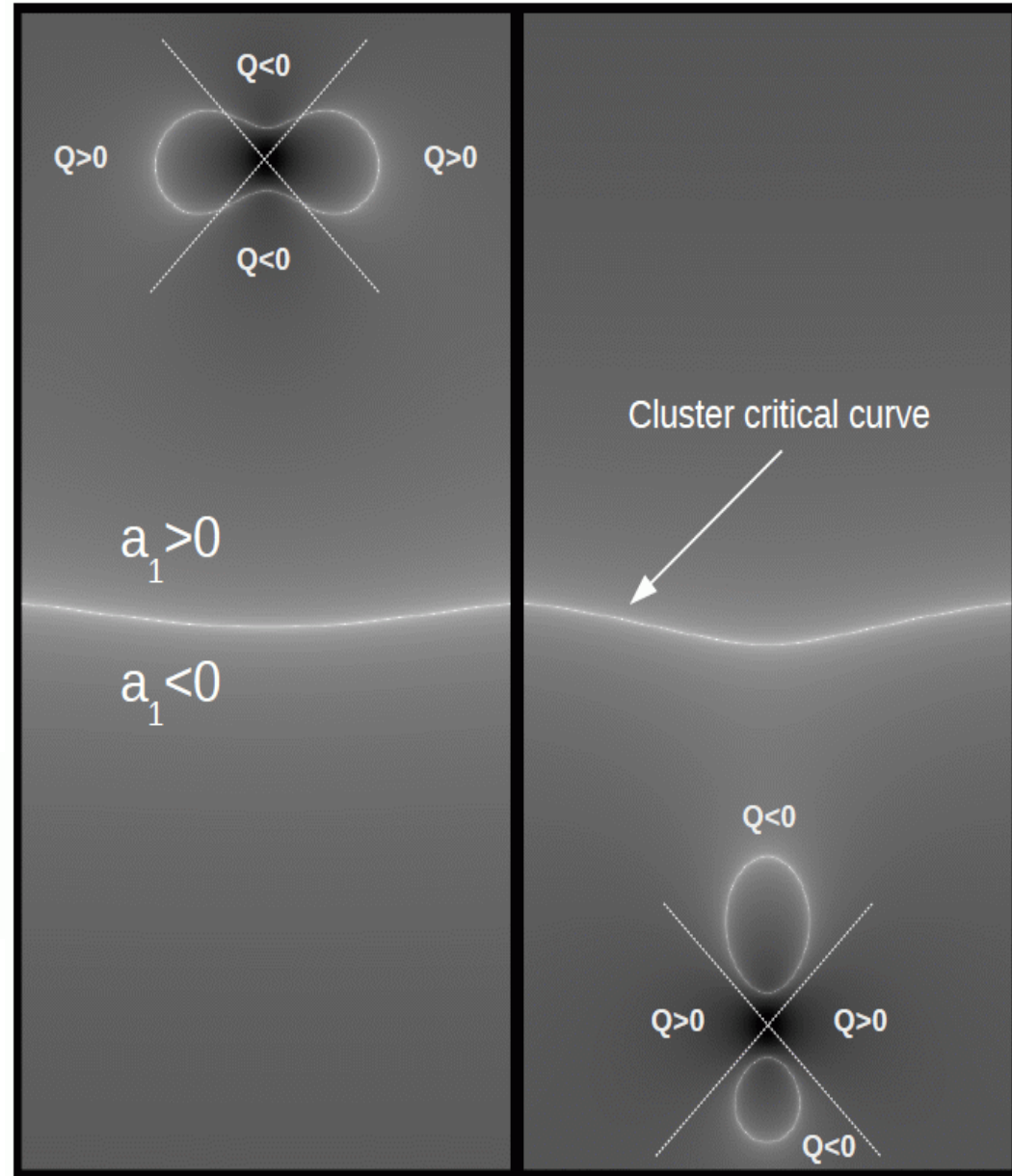
On the side with negative parity, counterimages can have small magnifications and not be observed

$$\beta = \left(\begin{array}{c} (x + x_o)/\mu_r \\ (y + y_o)^2/r_E \end{array} \right) - r_e^2 \left(\begin{array}{c} x/r^2 \\ y/r^2 \end{array} \right),$$

Cluster



Microlens



Eq. of the micro-critical curve

$$r^2 = r_e^2 \frac{(a_2 - a_1)Q}{2a_1a_2} \left[1 \pm \sqrt{1 + \frac{4a_1a_2}{(a_2 - a_1)^2 Q^2}} \right]$$

Some properties of near-caustic events

Non-symmetric light curves depending on the image parity.

Negative parity side has periods of low magnification (years) where macroimage *disappears*

Superluminal apparent speed

The closer to the critical curve (caustic) the more substructure that can be probed.

$$v_{\text{obs}} = \frac{d\theta}{dt} = \frac{\Theta}{2\mu_o} v_p \mu,$$

Chang & Refsdal 1979

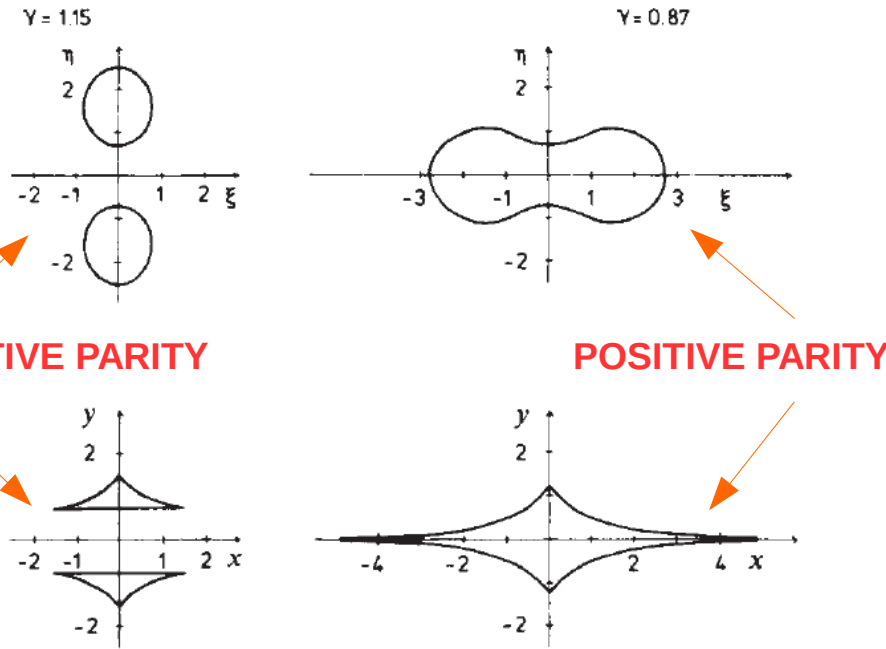
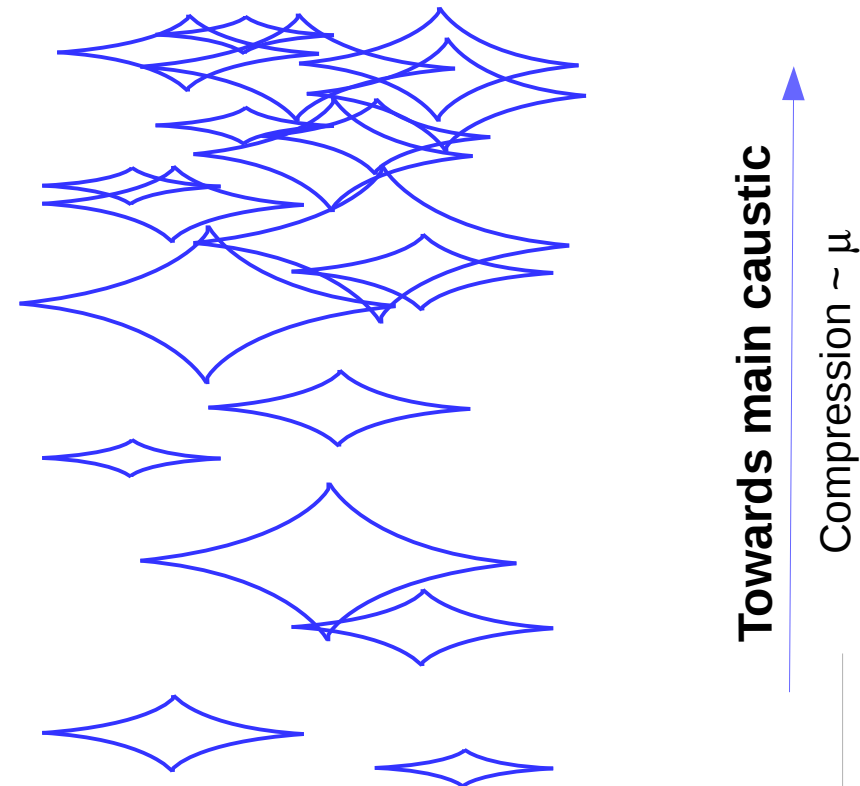
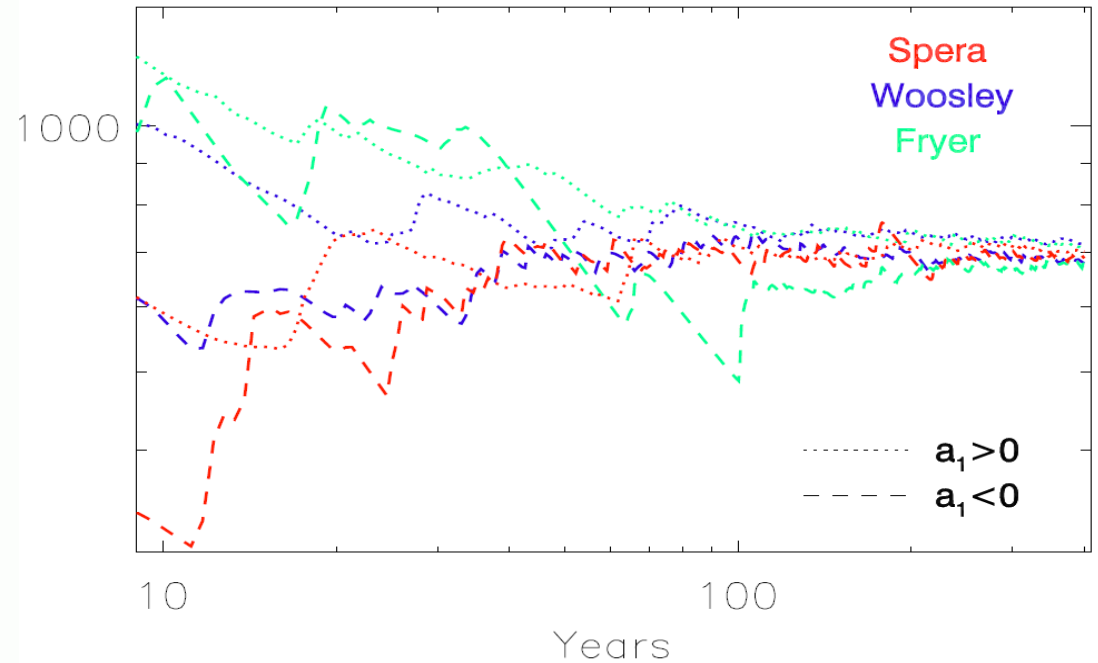
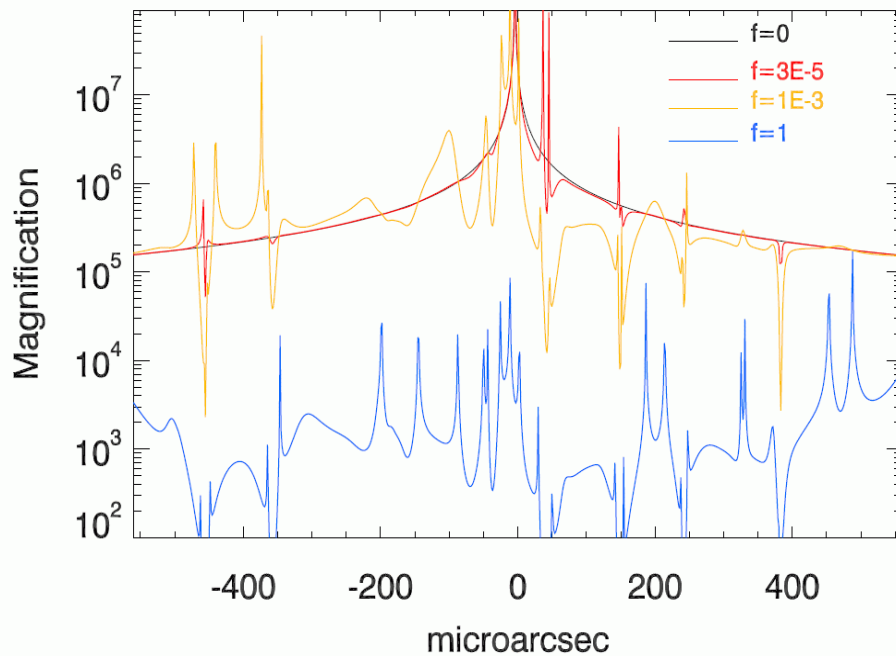


Fig. 2 Critical curves in the deflector plane (ξ, η) and in the observer's plane (x, y) for the cases $\gamma = 0.87$ and $\gamma = 1.15$.



Some properties of near-caustic events

Impact of Microlenses ($f \cdot \text{ICL}$)



Flux conservation

Reduced maximum magnification but similar total (i.e over time) magnification.

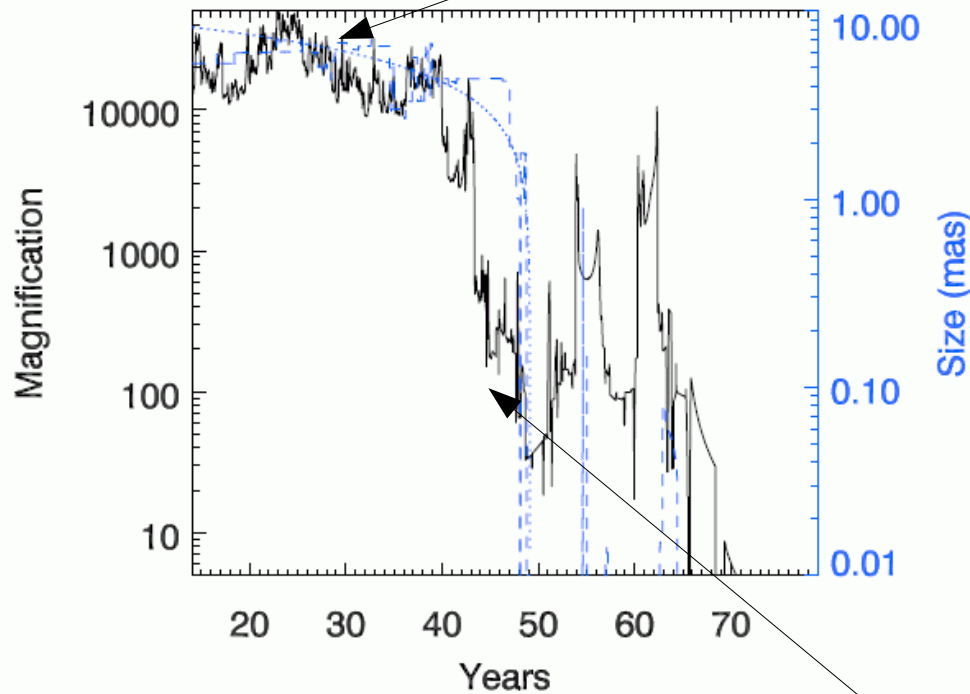
Many-vs-one.

Increased rate of events if background object is bright enough.

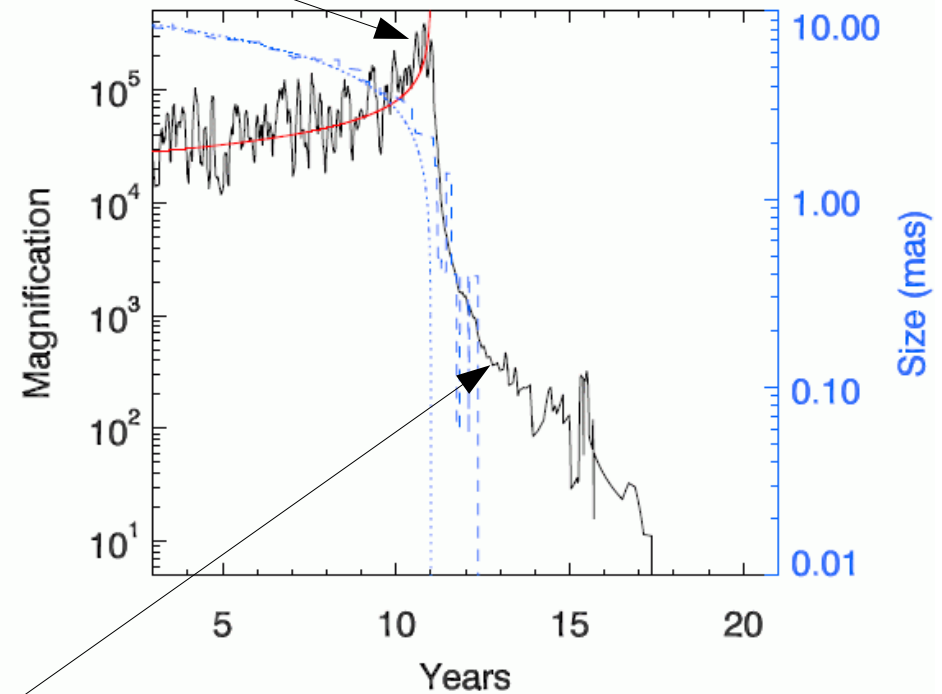
The death (or birth) of Icarus

Fewer microlenses \rightarrow Higher maximum magnification

ICL



ICL/30



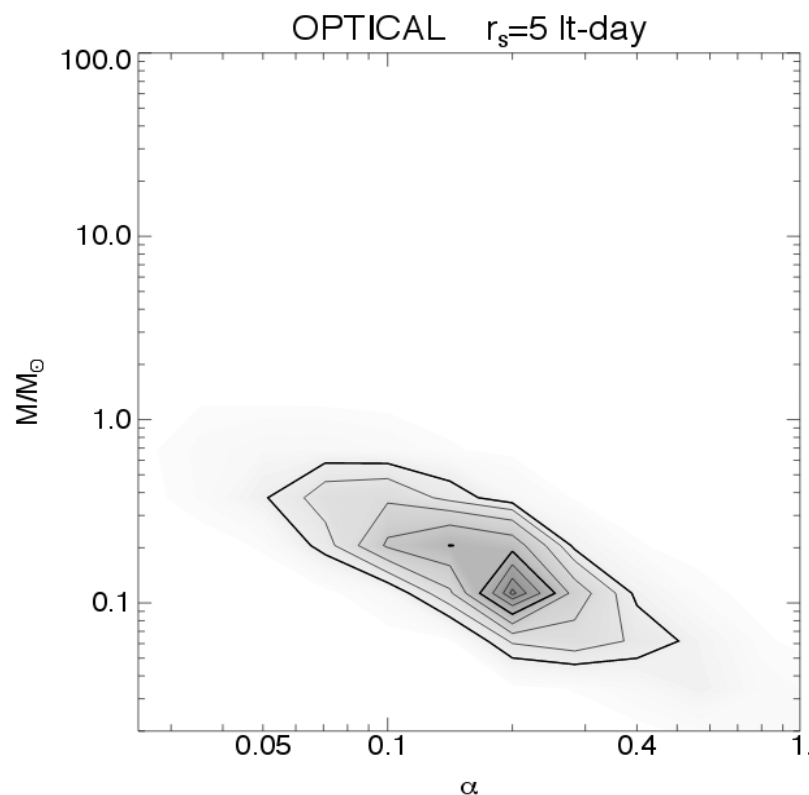
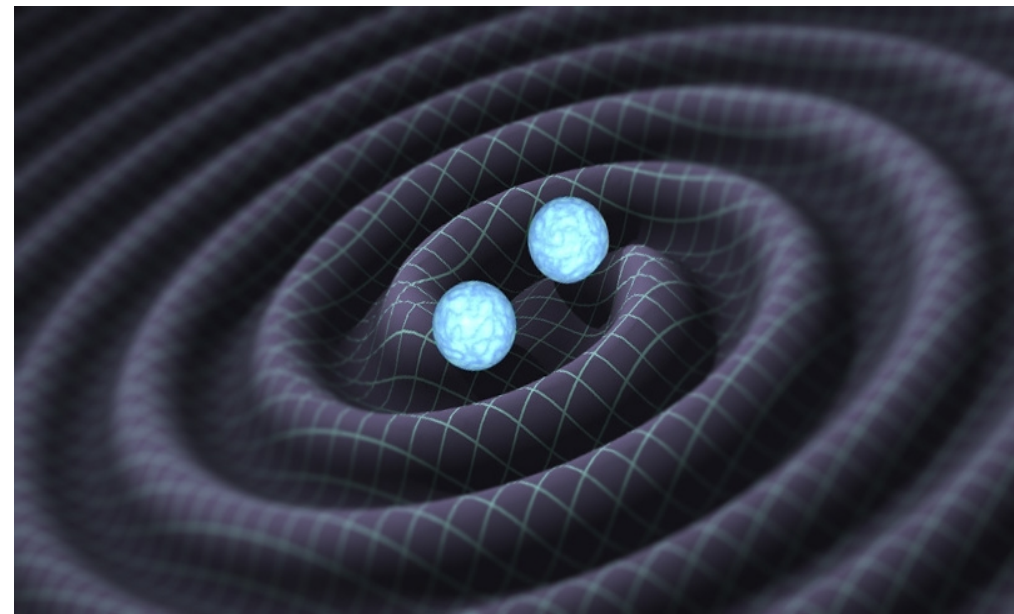
“Ringdown” very sensitive to substructure

Can we constrain the number of LIGO 30 Msun BH/PBH?

LIGO events seem to favour ~ 10 times more massive BH (~ 30 Msun) than expected.

The fraction of BH in the range of ~ 30 Msun seems to be constrained to be a fraction ($< 20\%$) of the dark matter content.

Can we improve on these limits by monitoring a bright star crossing a cluster caustic?

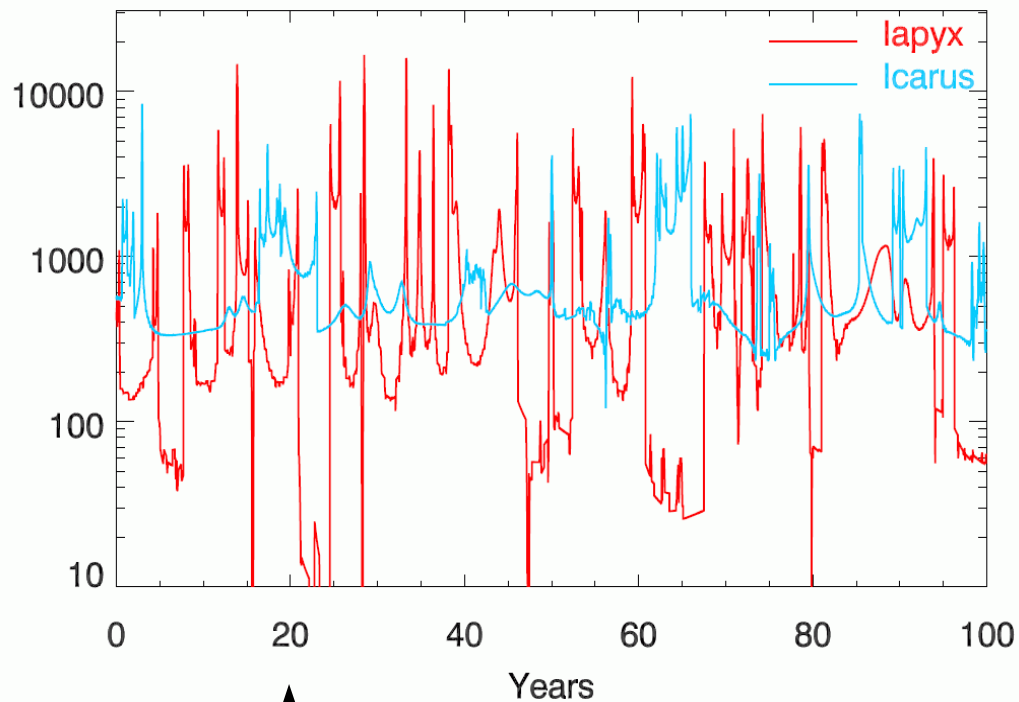


BUT see Mediavilla et al. 2017
PBH with ~ 30 Msun can only account for a few percent of dark matter **IF** accretion discs are a few light-days.

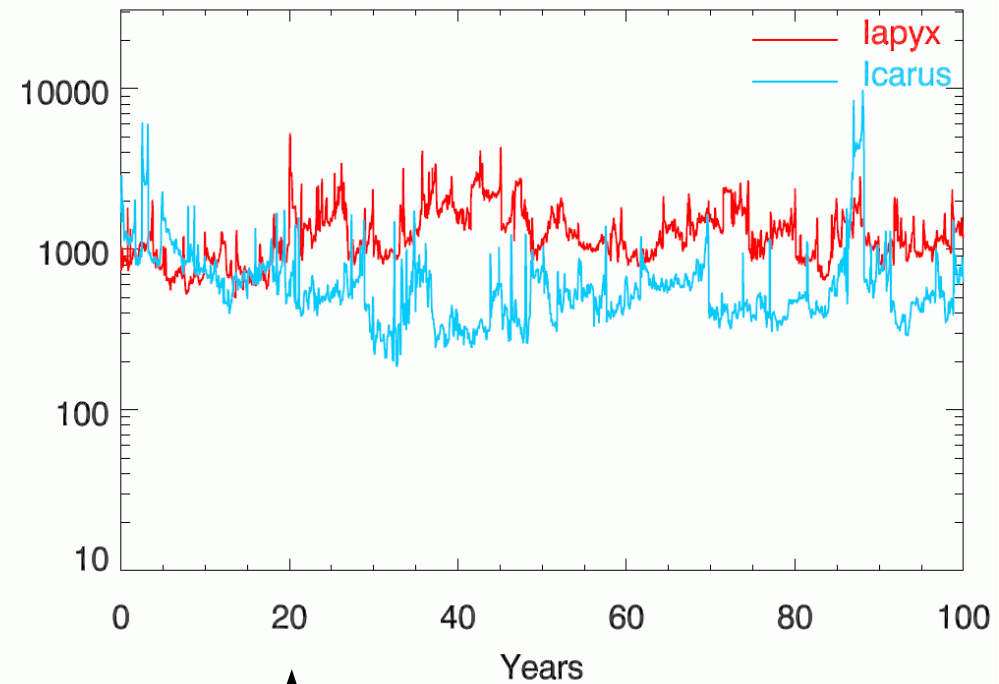
Can we constrain PBH or LIGO massive BH?

Light curves map the underlying substructure near the critical curves.

ICL



ICL+PBH(10%)



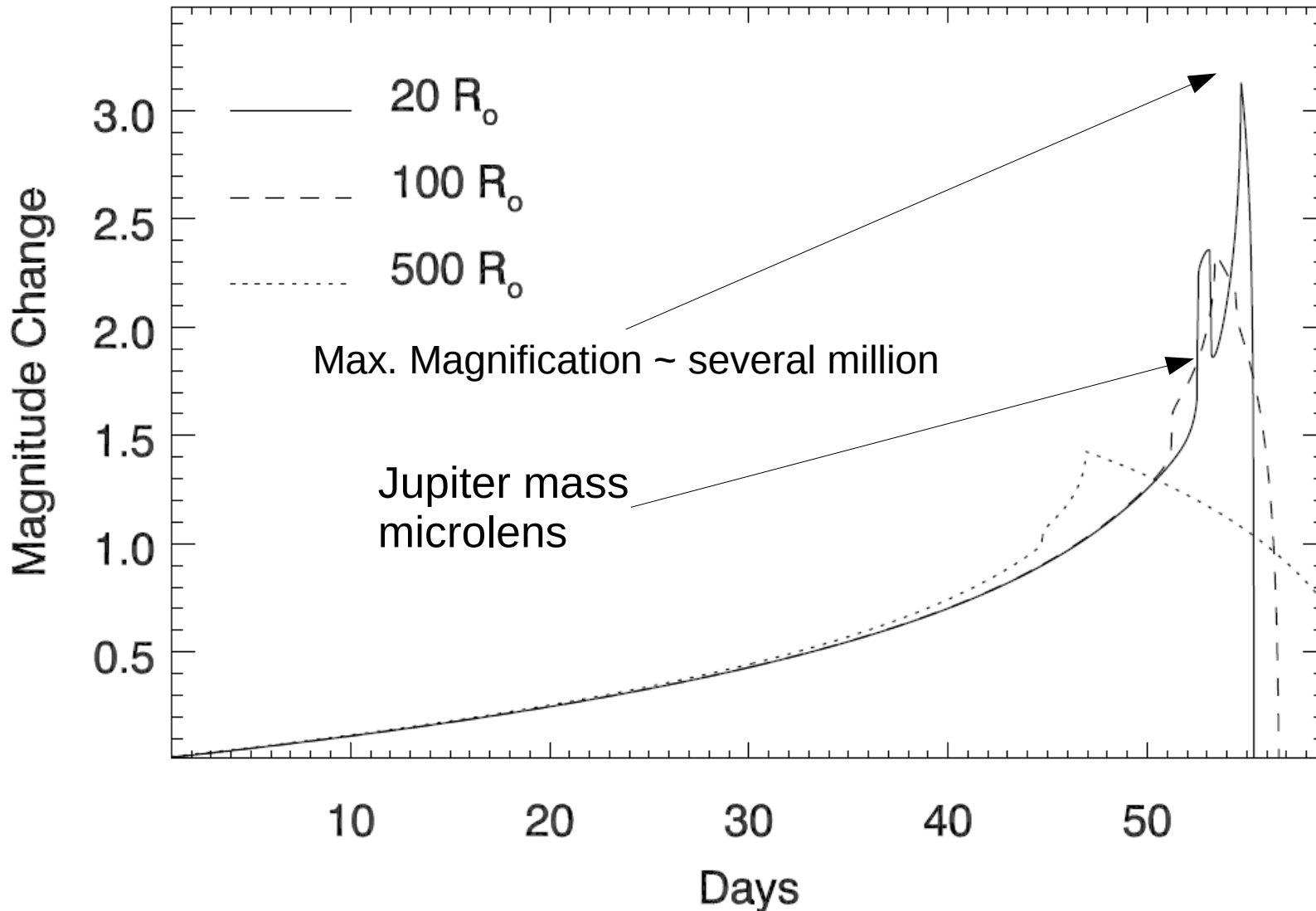
More consistent with observations

Less consistent with observations

The future. Where is the limit?

Light-curve should be sensitive to planet-size masses

with the permission of the ICL stars



Sensitive to planet masses at cosmological distances (but beware of ICL)

IT'S MOVIE TIME !



<https://cosmicspectator.org/2017/06/30/dark-matter-under-the-microscope/>

