Testing the laws of gravity by combining lensing and spectroscopy

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Probes of the cosmological model

How fast is the Universe expanding with time?

How fast are structures growing within it?





Tests of large-scale gravity

• Can tests of G.R. be extended to cosmic scales? And can that yield insight into dark energy?



Tests of large-scale gravity

- The large-scale structure of the Universe creates a rich variety of observable signatures we can explore in the gravitational sector!
- Two of the most important are galaxy velocities and gravitational lensing



Measuring galaxy velocities

 Galaxies move coherently, creating redshift-space distortion in galaxy redshift surveys



Gravitational lensing



Combining galaxy velocities and lensing

• Mis-match between imaging and spectroscopy



Combining galaxy velocities and lensing

- Sensitive to theories of gravity in complementary ways
- General perturbations to FRW metric:

$$ds^2 = \left[1 + 2\psi(x,t)\right] dt^2 - a^2(t) \left[1 - 2\phi(x,t)\right] dx^2$$

- (ψ, ϕ) are metric gravitational potentials, identical in General Relativity but can differ in general theories
- Relativistic particles (e.g. light rays for lensing) collect equal contributions and are sensitive to $(\psi+\phi)$
- Non-relativistic particles (e.g. galaxies infalling into clusters) experience the Newtonian potential ψ

Combining galaxy velocities and lensing



2dF Lensing Survey (2dFLenS)



- 50 AAT nights granted for spectroscopic follow-up of southern lensing surveys such as KiDS and DES
- Galaxy lens sample to test gravity by cross-correlating weak lensing distortions and galaxy velocities
- Perform photometric redshift calibration

Cone plot (initial data)



Photometric redshift calibration

- Photometric redshift errors are one of the leading systematics for weak lensing tomography
- Mean and width of redshift distributions in each photo-z bin must be known to accuracy ~ 10⁻³
- Method (1) : spectroscopic training set [issues : sample variance, incompleteness of training set, outliers]
- Method (2) : photo-z/spec-z cross-correlations [issues : degeneracies with galaxy bias, cosmic magnification]
- Currently unsolved problem for current and future lensing surveys (DES, LSST, Euclid)

LSST and 4MOST

- 4MOST is a wide-field spectroscopic survey facility for ESO on the 4m-class VISTA telescope, starting in 2020
- The AAO is involved via the construction of a tiltingspine positioner with ~2400 fibres
- Opportunities to fund Australian involvement through an ARC-LIEF grant [outcome not yet known]
- 4MOST "cosmology" survey could provide ~20 million redshifts over the southern hemisphere
- 4MOST+LSST powerfully extends the KiDS/DES science that OzDES & 2dFLenS are pursuing at the AAT

Summary

- Apparent existence of dark energy motivates new tests of large-scale gravitational physics
- Two observable signatures are non-relativistic galaxy velocities and relativistic lensing of light
- Overlap of imaging/spectroscopy enhances tests of gravity by improving both statistics (galaxy-galaxy lensing) and systematics (photo-z calibration)
- Existing efforts by OzDES and 2dFLenS will lead to future science with LSST and 4MOST