

Effect of Our Galaxy’s Motion on Weak Lensing Measurements of Shear and Convergence

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ABSTRACT

In this work we investigate the effect on weak-lensing shear and convergence measurements due to distortions from the Lorentz boost induced by our Galaxy’s motion. While no ellipticity is induced in an image from the Lorentz boost to first order in $\beta \equiv v_{\text{Galaxy}}/c$, the image is magnified. This affects the inferred convergence at a 10 per cent level, and is most notable for low multipoles in the convergence power spectrum $C_{\ell}^{\kappa\kappa}$ and for surveys with large sky coverage like LSST and DES. Experiments which image only small fractions of the sky and convergence power spectrum determinations at $\ell \gtrsim 5$ can safely neglect the boost effect to first order in β .

Key words: gravitational lensing: weak – cosmology: theory – cosmology: observations.

1 INTRODUCTION

Current and upcoming weak-lensing experiments will map the gravitational potential of structures out to moderate redshift over most of the sky, thereby enabling us to learn more about the nature and distribution of dark matter and dark energy. To do so, these surveys will measure one to two-per cent changes in the intrinsic shape of surrounding background galaxy images. These small image distortions are probes of the gravitational potentials of lensing clusters and thus of the large-scale structure of our universe.

Weak lensing therefore provides an indirect method to measure the distribution of the dark matter and possibly infer its properties, even though it has yet to be seen in direct detection experiments (Wright & Brainerd 2000). The details of cluster formation also depend on the density and properties of dark energy, so measuring the number of weak lensing clusters as a function of redshift will lead to an improved determination of the dark energy equation of state (Bartelmann & Schneider 2001). Similarly, measurements of cluster gravitational potentials over a range of redshifts are an important component of tests for modifications to General Relativity that might explain cosmic acceleration and replace dark energy (Lue, Scoccimarro & Starkman 2004; Bean & Tangmatitham 2010).

Since weak-lensing surveys are attempting to measure only one per cent distortions of the unknown intrinsic shapes of distant objects, observations and data analysis can easily be affected by systematic effects. Therefore, it is important to fully understand and characterize any unwanted signal that may hinder drawing accurate conclusions from the data. Several systematics have been investigated to-date, such as (Bernstein & Huterer 2010; Chang et al. 2012a; Yoo & Seljak 2012; Chang et al. 2012b) among others, however one in particular, the Lorentz boost of photons caused by our Galaxy’s peculiar motion, has been neglected. In this work

we quantify its importance to weak-lensing surveys. This work is complementary to Bonvin (2008) in which the effects of source and observer motion due to their local gravitational fields were considered.

The paper is organized as follows: section 2 briefly reviews weak lensing shear and convergence; section 3 discusses how Lorentz boosts distort images; section 4 presents the boosted shear matrix A_{ij} ; in section 5 we calculate the convergence power spectrum $C_{\ell}^{\kappa\kappa}$; in section 6 we show the effect of boosts on reduced shear. We discuss our results in section 7.

2 WEAK LENSING SHEAR AND CONVERGENCE

As photons from distant galaxies travel towards us, they traverse the gravitational potentials of nearby galaxy clusters, causing their paths to bend. This well-known phenomenon of gravitational lensing causes the shapes of observed galaxies to be distorted and the locations of their images to be offset. The location θ_s^i of a source is related to that of its lensed image, θ^i (here $i = 1, 2$ denotes the component of the image or source location in the plane perpendicular to the line-of-sight, a.k.a. the image-source plane):

$$\theta_s^i = \theta^i + \frac{2}{\chi} \int_0^\chi d\chi' \frac{d\Phi(\chi')}{dx} (\chi - \chi'). \quad (1)$$

The angular shift and image distortion are typically encoded in a 2×2 symmetric transformation matrix

$$A_{ij} \equiv \frac{\partial \theta_s^i}{\partial \theta^j} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \kappa - \gamma_1 & -\gamma_2 \\ -\gamma_2 & 1 - \kappa + \gamma_1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

Here κ is the convergence, which describes the magnification of a galaxy image, and $\gamma_{1,2}$ are components of the shear matrix, which characterizes the stretching and angular deflection of the image.

Since surveys are unable to measure shear directly, they instead measure ellipticity of galaxy images. Starting with the quadrupole moment of an image,

$$q_{ij} \equiv \int d^2\theta I_{obs}(\theta) \theta_i \theta_j, \quad (3)$$

two standard measures of image ellipticity are

$$\epsilon_1 = \frac{q_{xx} - q_{yy}}{q_{xx} + q_{yy}} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon_2 = \frac{2q_{xy}}{q_{xx} + q_{yy}}. \quad (4)$$

Clearly $\epsilon_1 = \epsilon_2 = 0$ for a circular image. In the weak lensing limit ($\kappa, \gamma \ll 1$), ellipticity and shear are simply related, for example $\epsilon_1 = 2\gamma_1$. We can use this relation to infer the underlying gravitational potential of a cluster by measuring the shapes (ellipticities) of galaxy images that have been stretched through weak lensing by the potential of that cluster.

Intrinsic ellipticities of galaxies are approximately randomly oriented (especially if the galaxies are widely separated in redshift), however the ellipticities induced by gravitational lensing are correlated when they are nearby on the sky. Two galaxy images with their ellipticities oriented in the same direction will have the same sign for ϵ_1 , whereas images with anti-aligned ellipticities will have opposite signs for ϵ_1 . Therefore, two galaxies at points θ_1 and θ_2 with random alignments (e.g. images not affected by gravitational lensing) will have $\epsilon_1(\theta_1)\epsilon_1(\theta_2)$ negative as often as positive. Lensed galaxy pairs will be biased toward positive values, when θ_1 and θ_2 are sufficiently close. This correlation function can therefore be used statistically as a tool to infer the underlying lensing potential, assuming sufficient tracer galaxies are lensed.

To determine the convergence κ , one measures the local number density of galaxies. Since magnification changes the size of a galaxy image as well as its brightness, counts will be lower than expected if the magnification $\mu > 1$. We can again use the weak lensing limit to find a relation between magnification and convergence. Letting $\gamma \equiv \sqrt{\gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2}$:

$$\mu = \frac{1}{\det A} = \frac{1}{(1 - \kappa)^2 - \gamma^2} \simeq 1 + 2\kappa. \quad (5)$$

It is therefore important for calculations of the weak lensing convergence power spectrum to correctly determine the magnification. Similar to ellipticity, in actual observations one can measure the reduced shear, g , rather than the shear itself, γ . On the one hand

$$g \equiv \frac{a/b - 1}{a/b + 1}, \quad (6)$$

where a/b is the ratio of the semimajor (a) and semiminor (b) axes of a galaxy image (Bartelmann & Schneider 2001). On the other hand g can be expressed in terms of κ and γ :

$$g = \frac{\gamma}{1 - \kappa}. \quad (7)$$

It should be clear that any systematic which would be coherent across a patch of sky necessarily needs to be removed. We will show in the following sections that the Lorentz boosting of galaxy images will do just that: it affects galaxies at iso-latitude rings around the boost direction in the same way, which could give a false measurement of correlated ellipticities and convergence and, therefore, lead to an incorrect reconstruction of the gravitational lensing potential.

3 EFFECT OF PECULIAR MOTION ON MAGNIFICATION AND ELLIPTICITY

To obtain a first estimate of how images are distorted due to Lorentz boosts, we consider two spatial vectors, \hat{n}_1 and \hat{n}_2 , separated by a small angle $\cos \delta\alpha = \hat{n}_1 \cdot \hat{n}_2$. Under a boost $\beta\hat{v}$, a unit vector \hat{n} transforms to:

$$\hat{n}' = \left(\frac{\cos \chi + \beta}{1 + \beta \cos \chi} \right) \hat{v} + \frac{\hat{n} - \hat{v} \cos \chi}{\gamma(1 + \beta \cos \chi)} \quad (8)$$

$$\simeq \hat{n} + \beta(\hat{v} - \hat{n} \cos \chi), \quad (9)$$

where $\cos \chi = \hat{n} \cdot \hat{v}$. (Primes will be used throughout to denote boosted quantities.) For the weak lensing systems under consideration the size of the lensed object is small, so we are interested in $\hat{n}_1 \simeq \hat{n}_2$. Both vectors will then be, to lowest order in small quantities, the same angle χ away from the boost direction. This gives:

$$\cos \delta\alpha' = \hat{n}_1' \cdot \hat{n}_2' \quad (10)$$

$$\simeq (\hat{n}_1 + \beta(\hat{v} - \hat{n}_1 \cos \chi)) \cdot (\hat{n}_2 + \beta(\hat{v} - \hat{n}_2 \cos \chi)) \quad (11)$$

$$= \cos(\delta\alpha) + 2\beta \cos \chi (1 - \cos \delta\alpha), \quad (12)$$

or, expanding again in powers of $\delta\alpha$,

$$\delta\alpha' \simeq \delta\alpha (1 - \beta \cos \chi). \quad (13)$$

Because this equation holds irrespective of the direction $\hat{n}_1 - \hat{n}_2$, it follows that, by considering \hat{n}_1 and \hat{n}_2 to be pairs of points on the same isophote, objects will only undergo magnification to first order in the small quantities β and $\delta\alpha$.

It turns out that any object with a circular cross section will retain that circular cross section to all orders in β . Therefore, for intrinsically circular galaxy images *no ellipticity will be induced due to our motion*. (However, circular isophotes may map to elliptical isophotes – an effect we have not yet fully investigated, but on which we elaborate in sec. 7.) More generally, any intrinsically elliptical image will only be magnified, not deformed, to first order in β . Higher order β corrections not considered here may produce shape distortions.

Since the images will be magnified at first order, measurements of convergence *will* be affected by relativistic aberration.

4 BOOSTING THE SHEAR MATRIX

We now present a general procedure for boosting the shear matrix in order to extend the results of the previous section to higher order, although we only explicitly work to first order.

Consider a unit vector in an arbitrary direction (θ, ϕ) specified in spherical coordinates. Without loss of generality, we choose our coordinate axes such that $(\theta, \phi) \simeq (\pi/2 + \delta\theta, \pi/2 + \delta\phi)$. In Cartesian coordinates,

$$\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} -\delta\phi \\ 1 - \frac{\delta\theta^2}{2} - \frac{\delta\phi^2}{2} \\ -\delta\theta \end{pmatrix}. \quad (14)$$

In order to transform to a frame where the boost is in the \hat{z} direction, we rotate this unit vector by an angle $\psi = \pi/2 - \chi$ about the \mathbf{x} -axis. Since the boost will not affect the azimuthal angle, there is no need to also rotate about the \mathbf{z} -axis.

We boost the unit vector in the \mathbf{z} -direction, and then rotate back to the original frame. The boosted coordinates (θ', ϕ') , are represented as $(\pi/2 + \delta\theta', \pi/2 + \delta\phi')$:

$$\delta\theta' \simeq \delta\theta - \beta\delta\theta \sin \psi, \quad (15)$$

$$\delta\phi' \simeq \delta\phi - \beta\delta\phi \sin \psi. \quad (16)$$

Here we have evaluated everything to second order in small parameters $\delta\theta$, $\delta\phi$, and β , and have ignored higher order contributions.

We can immediately see that there will be induced magnification due to relativistic aberration. From eq. 2 we have

$$A_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - \beta \sin \psi & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \beta \sin \psi \end{pmatrix}, \quad (17)$$

from which we conclude that only magnification effects are present at first order in β : $\kappa = \beta \sin \psi$. As current measurements of κ from weak lensing surveys are of order 10^{-2} and $\beta \sim 10^{-3}$, we expect this magnification to be up to 10 per cent of weak lensing effects.

5 CALCULATING THE BOOSTED CONVERGENCE POWER SPECTRUM

Here we look at the effect of boosting on the convergence power spectrum. We note that as boosting will (to first order) produce a dipole on the sky in the observed magnification of sources, we choose to perform a full-sky decomposition in terms of spherical harmonics, similar to the CMB. We then look at the power spectrum on cut skies of various sizes.

From above, the convergence due to a boost in the $-\hat{z}$ direction (letting $\theta = \psi - \pi/2$) is:

$$\kappa(\theta, \phi) = \beta \cos(\theta) = 2\beta \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{3}} Y_1^0(\theta, \phi). \quad (18)$$

Thus on a full-sky only a dipole contribution will be present in the power spectrum:

$$C_\ell^{\kappa\kappa} = \frac{1}{(2\ell+1)} \sum_m |a_{\ell m}|^2 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} C_1^{\kappa\kappa} = \frac{4\pi}{9} \beta^2 \\ C_{\ell \neq 1}^{\kappa\kappa} = 0. \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

On a cut sky however, there is “ringing,” where power from the dipole leaks into other moments, and instead

$$a_{\ell m} = \int_{\Omega} \kappa(\theta, \phi) Y_\ell^m(\theta, \phi) d\Omega. \quad (20)$$

The integral is taken over only the region of interest on the sky. In Figure 1 we show the effect of increased sky coverage on the boosted convergence power spectrum for several specific patches of sky, where the patches are chosen such that their center is located at $\frac{\pi}{2}$ from the boost axis. We see that experiments with larger sky coverage will be more sensitive to boosting effects, and in fact for surveys which measure 36 per cent of the sky the boosted power spectrum may be comparable to the expected primordial convergence power spectrum. We did find that the power spectrum exhibited a dependence on the choice of sky coverage location in the θ direction, however calculations using approximately a third of the sky or above consistently became larger than the expected full-sky primordial spectrum calculated from CAMB.

6 BOOST EFFECTS ON REDUCED SHEAR

Despite there being no change in the ellipticity of an image (as shown in sec. 3), we want to investigate the effect of a boost on the reduced shear (eq. 7), since it includes a factor of κ which is altered by a boost.

If we consider an intrinsically circular background image with radius R (which we cannot measure directly) that is weakly lensed,

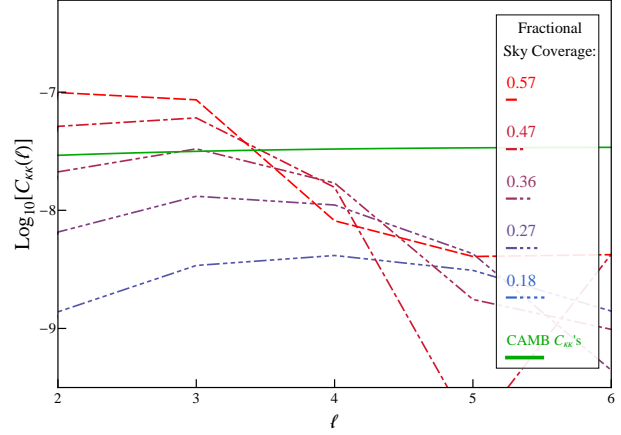


Figure 1. We plot the convergence power spectra purely due to boosting for various sky coverages for comparison to the full-sky primordial convergence power spectrum as generated by CAMB (Lewis, Challinor & Lasenby 2000). The side panel gives the fractional sky coverage for a survey for each of the plotted lines. Notice that when sky coverage becomes approximately a third of the sphere, the boosted power spectrum becomes larger than the expected primordial power spectrum.

we can measure the semi-minor and semi-major axes of the image a and b :

$$a = \frac{R}{1 - \kappa - \gamma}, \quad (21)$$

$$b = \frac{R}{1 - \kappa + \gamma}. \quad (22)$$

In the weak lensing limit, a/b becomes

$$\frac{a}{b} = 1 + 2\gamma. \quad (23)$$

For the magnification induced by boosting, the ratio a/b will not change to first order in small quantities, because each galaxy image is magnified symmetrically about its center. Thus the magnitude of the shear, γ , will be affected by boosting only at second order. The relation between the shear due to lensing alone (γ_{WL}) and the shear due to weak lensing and boosting combined ($\gamma_{WL+\beta}$) is

$$\gamma_{WL} = \gamma_{WL+\beta} (1 + \kappa_\beta). \quad (24)$$

Here we have used the fact that to first order $\kappa_{WL+\beta} = \kappa_{WL} + \kappa_\beta$. We can use eqs. 7 and 24 to infer that to first order in all small parameters there is no change in the reduced shear due to boost effects, so $g_{WL+\beta} = g_{WL}$.

7 DISCUSSION

With much attention being paid to weak lensing as a rich source of new information about our universe, it is important to fully understand the challenges present for current and future experiments. With this work we have characterized one particular systematic effect, the distortion of weak lensing images due to the peculiar motion of our galaxy.

We have shown that, while ellipticities of galaxy images will not be exaggerated due to boosting effects, the magnification of images will be changed at the 10 per cent level. We have additionally shown that this effect can be neglected for high multipoles ($\ell \sim 5$

and above) as well as for surveys with small sky coverage. However, as seen in Figure 1, for surveys mapping a third of the sky, the convergence power spectrum purely from boost effects can become comparable to the expected primordial convergence power spectrum. This illustrates a need to account for the Lorentz boost of weak-lensing images for large surveys such as LSST and DES. It could also affect measurements that probe the low-multipole weak-lensing signal, such as Kested, Kamionkowski, & Cooray (2003). There are still several second order effects which should be investigated, in particular the effect of boosting on isophotes and effects on flexion and other second order lensing quantities.

We noted that although circular images remain circular under a boost, isophotes (rings of constant intensity) would not necessarily follow the same behavior. The ability to neglect this effect will depend largely on differential magnification, relativistic aberration, and relativistic Doppler shift effects across an image. The aberration and Doppler shifts themselves will depend on the radial luminosity profile and spectrum of a galaxy.

Higher order effects from boosting may become appreciable when considering second-order lensing effects, such as flexion. To higher order in small parameters, shear terms may appear due to projection effects from the sky onto the observer plane: $\gamma_1 = -\frac{\beta}{2}\delta\theta^2 \sin\psi$. Note that $\delta\theta$ is the angular size in radians of a galaxy, and will thus be at least an order of magnitude or two smaller than β .

It should also be noted that shear cannot be directly measured from observations. Instead the reduced shear, g , is obtained, which is insensitive to convergence effects to first order in small parameters. In sec. 6 we showed that in this limit indeed measurements of reduced shear would not be affected to first order and boost effects can safely be neglected.

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