



OGLE-2016-BLG-1003: First Resolved Caustic-crossing Binary-source Event Discovered by Second-generation Microlensing Surveys

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Abstract

We report the analysis of the first resolved caustic-crossing binary-source microlensing event OGLE-2016-BLG-1003. The event is densely covered by round-the-clock observations of three surveys. The light curve is characterized by two nested caustic-crossing features, which is unusual for typical caustic-crossing perturbations. From the modeling of the light curve, we find that the anomaly is produced by a binary source passing over a caustic formed by a binary lens. The result proves the importance of high-cadence and continuous observations, and the capability of second-generation microlensing experiments to identify such complex perturbations that are previously unknown. However, the result also raises the issues of the limitations of current analysis techniques for understanding lens systems beyond two masses and of determining the appropriate multiband observing strategy of survey experiments.

Key words: binaries: general – gravitational lensing: micro

Supporting material: data behind figure

1. Introduction

Since the first microlensing surveys (Alcock et al. 1993; Aubourg et al. 1993; Udalski et al. 1993), the microlensing experiment has achieved remarkable progress through the

advent of new observation surveys (e.g., MOA: Sumi et al. 2011, KMTNet: Kim et al. 2016), and the improvement in both software (e.g., improved photometry based on difference imaging) and hardware (e.g., large-format wide-field cameras). As a result, the detection rate of microlensing events, which was several dozen per year in early experiments, is now more than about two thousand events per year. In addition, the progress now enables surveys to densely and

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continuously cover lensing events with a high enough cadence to detect various microlensing signals without follow-up observations.

Dense and continuous coverage of lensing light curves is important for various scientific studies in microlensing. The most prominent example is planetary microlensing events. The lensing signal of a planet generally appears as a short-lasting perturbation to a standard Paczyński (1986) curve induced by the host of the planet, and the duration of the signal is on the order of hours for Earth-mass planets and several days for Jupiter-mass planets. Therefore, one would expect that lensing events need to be monitored with a cadence of $\lesssim 1 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ for low-mass planets and of $\lesssim 1 \text{ day}^{-1}$ for giant planets. With the improvement of observational equipment and the development of observational strategy, current-generation experiments are able to monitor a large number of lensing events with cadences high enough to detect planets by survey-only data (e.g., Udalski et al. 2015c; Shin et al. 2016; Sumi et al. 2016).

Another area that has benefited from dense and continuous observations is caustic-crossing microlensing events. When a lens is composed of multiple masses, the light curve often exhibits a slope discontinuity. This discontinuity occurs when a source is located at some positions (caustics) at which the point-source magnification diverges (Schneider & Weiss 1986; Erdl & Schneider 1993).²⁵ In addition, if the source passes close to or over the caustic, the different parts of the source are magnified differently, resulting in a deviation from the point-source magnification. Detecting this finite-source effect is important because it provides an opportunity to measure the angular Einstein radius θ_E , which makes it possible to better constrain the physical properties of the lens system (Gould 1994). Despite its importance, the measurement of θ_E is difficult due to the short duration of caustic crossings, as well as the difficulty of predicting the time of occurrence. For most caustic-crossing events, the duration of the signal is on the order of hours. Therefore, resolving the caustic crossings also requires high-cadence observations similar to the cadence for low-mass planets (Shin et al. 2016).

The high cadence and continuity of microlensing observations is also crucial for identifying the nature of lensing events. Aside from inherent degeneracies originating in the symmetries of the lens-mapping equation itself (e.g., Dominik 1999), one often confronts cases in which different interpretations can explain observed light curves due to the incomplete coverage of the perturbation. For example, Gaudi & Han (2004) showed that sparse coverage of planet-like anomalies can give rise to severe ambiguities in the interpretation. In addition, Park et al. (2014) pointed out that incomplete coverage also causes ambiguity between stellar and planetary interpretations, even though the perturbation clearly shows a large deviation from the standard Paczyński curve. Furthermore, Jung et al. (2017) discussed how if the coverage of the anomaly is sparse, then binary-source solutions can be confused with planetary solutions in the case of long-term planet-like perturbations.

In this paper, we demonstrate the importance of high-cadence and continuous observations, as well as the capability of second-generation microlensing experiments, by presenting the analysis of the lensing event OGLE-2016-BLG-1003. The event was densely covered by round-the-clock observations of

Table 1
Correction Parameters

Observatory	Number	k	σ_{\min} (mag)
OGLE (I)	1716	1.587	0.005
MOA (RI)	749	0.905	0.001
KMTC (I)	791	0.922	0.001
KMTS (I)	693	0.995	0.001
KMTA (I)	290	1.077	0.003
KMTC (V)	41	1.068	0.001
KMTS (V)	20	1.015	0.001

three surveys including KMTNet, OGLE, and MOA. The light curve exhibits two nested pairs of caustic-crossing features, which is unusual for typical caustic-crossing perturbations.

2. Observation

The equatorial coordinates of OGLE-2016-BLG-1003 are $(\alpha, \delta)_{J2000} = (17^{\text{h}}36^{\text{m}}25^{\text{s}}.23, -27^{\circ}11'19''.9)$, which correspond to Galactic coordinates $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}.41, 2^{\circ}.65)$. On 2016 June 18, the event was announced by the OGLE group through the Early Warning System (Udalski et al. 2015b). The OGLE group uses the 1.3 m Warsaw telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory in Chile. This field was independently monitored by the MOA survey with its 1.8 m telescope at Mt. John Observatory in New Zealand.

The lensed star was also in the fields of the KMTNet survey, which consists of three identical 1.6 m-telescopes equipped with 4.0 deg^2 mosaic cameras that are located at the Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory in Chile (KMTC), South African Astronomical Observatory in South Africa (KMTS), and Siding Spring Observatory in Australia (KMTA). With these wide-field globally distributed telescopes, the survey continuously observed the event with $\sim 1 \text{ hr}^{-1}$ cadence.

Data reduction was performed by the individual survey groups using their customized pipelines.²⁶ All of these pipelines were developed based on the image subtraction technique (Alard & Lupton 1998). In order to use the data sets acquired from the different photometry codes, we readjusted the error bars of each data set using the standard method in microlensing (Yee et al. 2012). Based on the error derived from the pipeline, σ_0 , the renormalized error is calculated by

$$\sigma' = \sqrt{\sigma_{\min}^2 + (k\sigma_0)^2}. \quad (1)$$

Here σ_{\min} is a factor needed to adjust the error to be consistent with the scatter of the data, and k is a scaling factor needed to make $\chi^2/\text{dof} \sim 1$. In Table 1, we list the values of the error parameters for each data set with the total number of data and the observing passband.

3. Analysis

The OGLE-2016-BLG-1003 light curve (Figure 1) shows a large U-shaped brightness variation, suggesting that the event seems to be a typical binary-lens event characterized by a caustic entrance followed by a caustic exit. However, dense and continuous observations reveal that the light curve exhibits four

²⁵ It is possible that observed light curves are continuous due to the smearing out of the magnification by the finite size of the source, but the derivative is discontinuous (Figure 1 from Gould & Andronov 1999).

²⁶ For the source color measurement, the additional reduction of KMTC data was done using the DoPhot (Schechter et al. 1993) pipeline.

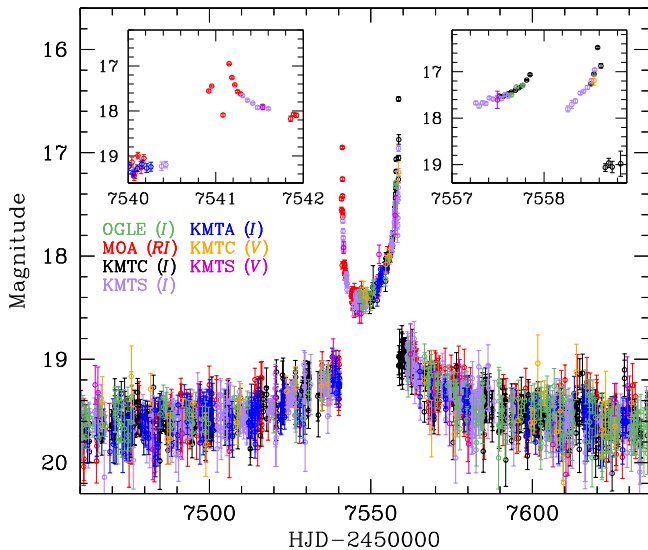


Figure 1. Light curve of OGLE-2016-BLG-1003. Two insets show the zoom of the perturbations centered at $\text{HJD}' \sim 7541$ and 7558 , respectively. The notation in the parenthesis represents the observation passband. The data used to create this figure are available.

distinctive spikes that occurred at $\text{HJD}' (= \text{HJD} - 2,450,000) \sim 7540.9, 7541.2, 7557.9, \text{ and } 7558.6$. Such complex deviations are unusual for typical caustic-crossing perturbations.

In fact, the MOA data remained unreduced until we encountered a degeneracy between two interpretations, as presented below. Although one of these was proven to be incorrect by the MOA data, examining the degeneracy is very important because (1) it raises the issue of the limitations of current analysis techniques for understanding lens systems beyond two masses (i.e., triple-lens system), and (2) it provides an opportunity for pondering the observational strategy of future microlensing experiments. Therefore, we first study the event without the MOA data.

3.1. Without MOA data

To explain the light curve, we initially searched for the solution based on a single-source binary-lens (1S2L) interpretation. Using the parametrization and the method of Jung et al. (2015), we investigated the parameter space considering higher-order effects such as lens orbital motion (Dominik 1998) and microlens parallax (Gould 1992, 2004). However, because of the two distinct features at $\text{HJD}' \sim 7557.9$ and 7558.6 , we could not find a satisfactory model describing the perturbations. We therefore take into account two additional interpretations that could possibly cause such complex deviations. The first interpretation is that the lens is composed of three masses (1S3L), and the second is that both the source and the lens contain two components (2S2L).

3.1.1. Single-source Triple-lens Modeling

The 1S3L modeling was conducted using a similar method to that of Udalski et al. (2015a) and Bennett et al. (2017). First, we searched for the 1S2L parameters that describe the dominant U-shaped anomaly by removing the data around $\text{HJD}' \sim 7558.6$. We then recovered the data and performed an additional grid search over (s_2, q_2, ψ) space by fixing the (s_1, q_1) parameters, where s_1 (normalized to θ_E) is the projected binary separation and $q_1 = M_2/M_1$. Here s_2 (normalized to θ_E)

is the projected separation between the third mass, M_3 , and the barycenter of the binary lens, (CM_B), ψ is the angle between the CM_B - M_3 axis and the binary-lens axis, and $q_2 = M_3/M_1$. We note that the grid parameters $(s_1, q_1, s_2, q_2, \psi)$ are fixed during the computation, while other parameters are allowed to vary from their initial values. Finally, to refine each local minimum, we seeded a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) with its parameters and allowed all of these to vary.

We find that two degenerate 1S3L models (marked as “A” and “B”) can explain the light curve. However, there are some residuals in both solutions. This triggers a further investigation considering both the parallax and the lens orbital effect (“orbit +parallax”). Accounting for the parallax effect requires including two additional parameters $\pi_E = (\pi_{E,N}, \pi_{E,E})$, which are the vector components of the microlens parallax (Gould 2004). For the consideration of the orbital effects, we include four additional parameters $(ds_1/dt, d\alpha/dt, ds_2/dt, d\psi/dt)$, which describe, respectively, the change rate of s_1, α, s_2 , and ψ to first-order approximation. When we test the model with these higher-order effects, we test $u_0 > 0$ and $u_0 < 0$ solutions to consider the “ecliptic degeneracy” (Jiang et al. 2004; Skowron et al. 2011). We note that because the third mass is much smaller than the other two masses, we adopt CM_B as a reference position of the lens system.

In Table 2, we present the two solutions. The best-fit model light curve (local A) is shown in Figure 2. The lensing geometries of the individual solutions are presented in the upper and middle panels of Figure 3. We find that the light curve is generated by a circumbinary planet orbiting a stellar binary. The perturbations near $\text{HJD}' \sim 7541.2$ and 7558.6 are produced by the source crossing over the resonant caustic formed by the binary lens, while the perturbation near $\text{HJD}' \sim 7557.9$ is produced by the source passing close to the central caustic induced by the planet located near the Einstein ring. Although the two solutions cause ambiguity in the s_2 measurement, the two mass ratios q_1 and q_2 are almost the same in both solutions.

3.1.2. Binary-source Binary-lens Modeling

The binary-source lensing magnification is described by the flux-weighted mean of two single-source magnifications, i.e., $A = (A_1 F_1 + A_2 F_2)/(F_1 + F_2)$, where F_i and A_i denote the flux and magnification of the individual sources (Griest & Hu 1992). The single-source magnification is related to the lens mapping from the source plane to the image plane, resulting in the distortion of images. The lens-mapping equation is represented by

$$\zeta = z - \sum_{i=1}^{N_l} \frac{\epsilon_i}{\bar{z} - \bar{z}_{m,i}}, \quad (2)$$

where N_l is the number of lens components, $\epsilon_i = m_i/M_{\text{tot}}$, and M_{tot} is the total mass of the lens system. Here $\zeta, z_{m,i}$, and z are, respectively, the positions of the source, lens components, and images in complex coordinates, and the bar denotes the complex conjugate. Note that all of the angles are normalized to θ_E . The magnification A_j of j th image is then determined from the amount of the distortion of the image given by the

Table 2
Best-fit Parameters

Parameters	Without MOA Data				With MOA Data		
	1S3L				2S2L	2S2L	
	Local A		Local B			Without Prior Standard	With Prior Standard
	Standard	Orbit+Parallax	Standard	Orbit+Parallax			
χ^2/dof	3604.2/3541	3530.9/3535	3610.7/3541	3531.8/3535	3531.3/3539	4288.1/4288	
$t_{0,1}$ (HJD')	7551.978 ± 0.135	7552.916 ± 0.137	7551.928 ± 0.123	7552.931 ± 0.153	7551.038 ± 0.204	7549.825 ± 0.182	7549.977 ± 0.094
$u_{0,1}$	0.092 ± 0.004	-0.125 ± 0.005	0.092 ± 0.003	-0.124 ± 0.004	0.059 ± 0.013	-0.022 ± 0.010	-0.015 ± 0.007
$t_{0,2}$ (HJD')	...	...	...	...	7552.517 ± 0.134	7553.146 ± 0.129	7553.256 ± 0.107
$u_{0,2}$	...	...	...	...	0.135 ± 0.006	0.135 ± 0.004	0.134 ± 0.003
t_E (days)	39.832 ± 1.415	31.971 ± 1.056	40.216 ± 1.345	33.334 ± 1.030	28.931 ± 0.665	29.860 ± 0.632	30.203 ± 0.649
s_1	0.954 ± 0.014	1.066 ± 0.013	0.948 ± 0.013	1.042 ± 0.014	1.033 ± 0.011	1.014 ± 0.010	1.006 ± 0.011
q_1	0.248 ± 0.013	0.232 ± 0.011	0.249 ± 0.012	0.217 ± 0.014	1.188 ± 0.039	1.407 ± 0.013	1.428 ± 0.014
α (rad)	2.554 ± 0.015	-2.652 ± 0.016	2.551 ± 0.013	-2.654 ± 0.018	0.842 ± 0.015	0.875 ± 0.014	0.893 ± 0.012
s_2	0.941 ± 0.011	0.944 ± 0.021	0.786 ± 0.011	0.937 ± 0.021	...	...	...
q_2 (10^{-3})	1.054 ± 0.162	1.256 ± 0.158	1.082 ± 0.192	1.176 ± 0.251	...	...	...
ψ (rad)	1.594 ± 0.028	-1.538 ± 0.043	1.615 ± 0.032	-1.377 ± 0.051	...	...	...
$\rho_{*,1}$ (10^{-3})	0.603 ± 0.058	0.685 ± 0.062	0.553 ± 0.056	0.570 ± 0.060	$0.451^{+1.422}_{-0.121}$	1.003 ± 0.351	1.321 ± 0.048
$\rho_{*,2}$ (10^{-3})	...	...	...	...	1.293 ± 0.161	1.371 ± 0.068	1.368 ± 0.053
$\pi_{E,N}$	...	-0.614 ± 0.423	...	-0.585 ± 0.367	...	...	...
$\pi_{E,E}$	...	0.382 ± 0.153	...	0.603 ± 0.110	...	...	...
ds_1/dt (yr^{-1})	...	-3.342 ± 0.122	...	-3.229 ± 0.120	...	...	...
$d\alpha/dt$ (yr^{-1})	...	1.273 ± 0.179	...	1.191 ± 0.204	...	...	...
ds_2/dt (yr^{-1})	...	-0.498 ± 0.373	...	-3.526 ± 0.405	...	...	...
$d\psi/dt$ (yr^{-1})	...	1.500 ± 0.443	...	-1.515 ± 0.513	...	...	...
$q_{F,V}$	...	...	...	...	1.202 ± 0.201	1.047 ± 0.234	1.070 ± 0.036
$q_{F,RI}$	...	...	...	...	...	0.981 ± 0.032	1.033 ± 0.031
$q_{F,I}$	...	...	...	...	1.182 ± 0.054	1.037 ± 0.037	1.068 ± 0.036

Note. HJD' = HJD-2450000.

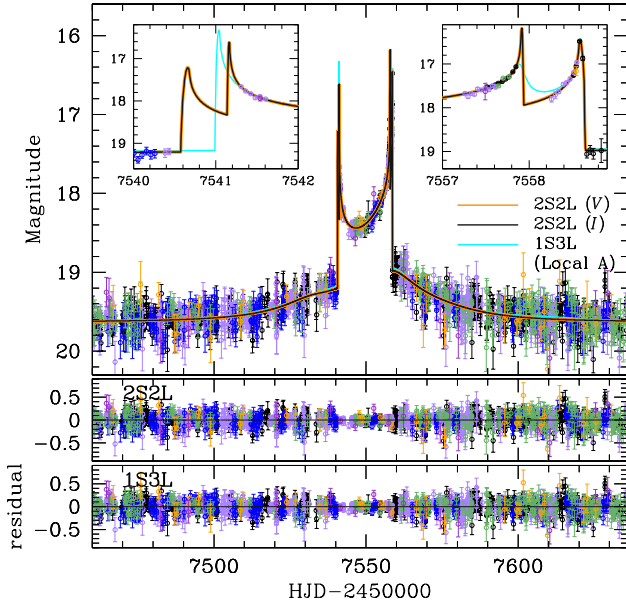


Figure 2. Light curves of 1S3L and 2S2L interpretations without the MOA data. The cyan curve is the best-fit 1S3L solution, while the orange and black curves are the best-fit 2S2L solutions for V and I band, respectively. The two insets show the zoom of the perturbations near $\text{HJD}' \sim 7541$ and 7558 .

inverse of the determinant of the Jacobian, i.e.,

$$A_j = \frac{1}{|\det J|}; \quad \det J = 1 - \left. \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial \bar{z}} \frac{\partial \bar{\zeta}}{\partial z} \right|_{z=z_j}, \quad (3)$$

and the single-source magnification is thus the sum of all magnified images $A = \sum_j A_j$.

For the interpretation of the light curve, we define the principal 2S2L lensing parameters with the approximation that the relative motion between the lens and each source star is rectilinear, and the trajectories of the two sources are parallel each other. Based on the 1S2L parametrization, the description of a standard 2S2L light curve then requires four additional parameters related to the additional source companion: $(t_{0,2}, u_{0,2}, \rho_{*,2}, q_F)$. Here the definitions of $(t_{0,2}, u_{0,2})$ are the same as those for a single-source single-lens event, $\rho_{*,2}$ is the source radius of the second source, and $q_F = F_2/F_1$ is the flux ratio between the two sources, which is needed to compute the individual source fluxes. We note that the flux ratio depends on the passband (Griest & Hu 1992; Hwang et al. 2013; Jung et al. 2017), and thus one should allot separate q_F parameters to each observed passband.

We search for the 2S2L solution using a method similar to Jung et al. (2015). We first perform an initial grid search. We set s , q , α , and q_F as grid parameters, since the lensing magnification varies sensitively to the change of these parameters, while the magnification varies smoothly to the changes of the other parameters. The grid parameters (s, q, α, q_F) are divided by (80, 80, 11, 11) grids and span the range of $-1.0 < \log s < 1.0$, $-4.0 < \log q < 1.0$, $0 < \alpha < 2\pi$, and $-5.0 < \log q_F < 5.0$, respectively. At each grid point, we use the fixed value of (s, q) , while we allow α and q_F to vary during the computation. Here we assume that the flux ratio is the same for all passbands because the difference of magnification between different q_F parameters is quite subtle compared to that of other parameters. Figure 4 shows the $\Delta\chi^2$ distribution in

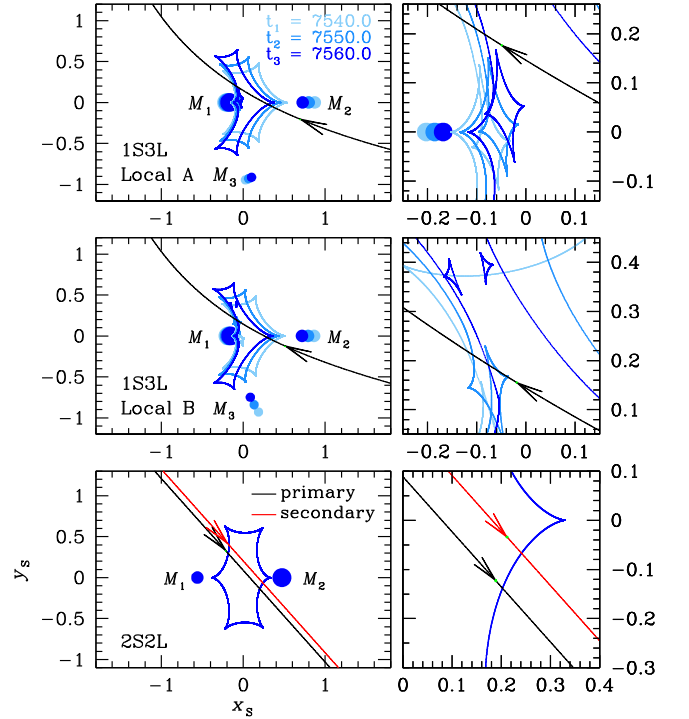


Figure 3. Geometries of 1S3L and 2S2L interpretations without the MOA data. In each panel, the closed curve represents the caustic, and the line with an arrow is the source trajectory. The locations of the lens components are represented by the blue filled circles. The right panels show the enlarged view of the left panel corresponding to the anomaly region near $\text{HJD}' \sim 7558$. In the case of the 1S3L solutions, the positions of the lens component and caustic change in time due to the orbital motion. We show three sets of caustics at $\text{HJD}' \sim 7540, 7550$, and 7560 . All of the lengths are normalized to the Einstein radius θ_E .

the (s, q) space obtained from this initial search. It clearly shows that there is only one local minimum. We then assign individual q_F parameters to individual passbands, and find a best-fit solution from further refinement of the local solutions.

We find that the 2S2L solution also gives an excellent fit to the complex perturbations. In Table 2, we list the best-fit parameters. The model light curve is presented in Figure 2. We show two model curves corresponding to each observed passband because the binary-source magnification is wavelength dependent. In Figure 3, we present the lensing geometry (lower panel) in which the two source trajectories are separately illustrated by a straight line with arrow head. We note that the source closer to the barycenter of the lens is marked as the “primary” and the other source is marked as the “secondary.” According to the 2S2L solution, the outer and inner pair of caustic-crossing features are produced by the secondary and the primary source passing over the resonant caustic, respectively.

From the comparison between the 1S3L and the 2S2L interpretations, we find that both interpretations almost equally well describe the observed light curve. The χ^2 difference between the two solutions is $\Delta\chi^2 < 1$, indicating that they are extremely degenerate. The similarity of the fits notwithstanding, the two models predict very different brightening variations near $\text{HJD}' \sim 7541$: one caustic entrance for the 1S3L model and two caustic entrances for the 2S2L model. As a result, one could distinguish the two interpretations if there existed data points with a cadence high enough to identify such characteristic features.

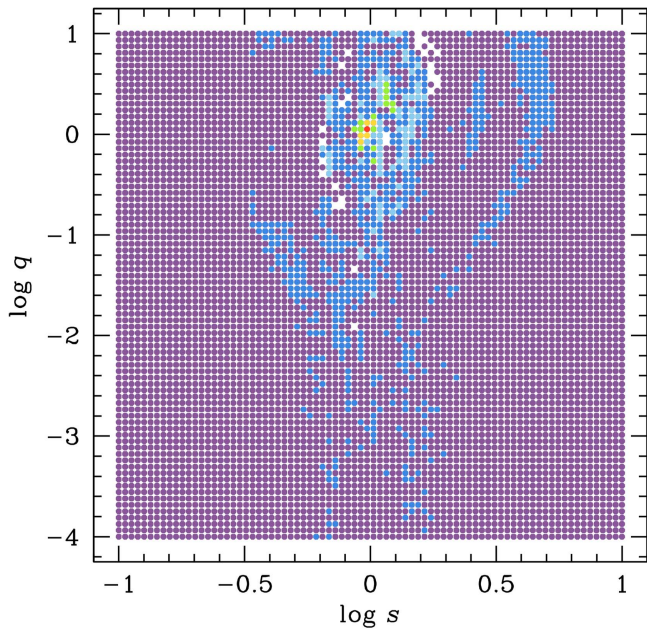


Figure 4. $\Delta\chi^2$ distribution in (s, q) space obtained from the 2S2L grid search. Each color represents the point of the space within 1σ (red), 2σ (yellow), 3σ (green), 4σ (light blue), 5σ (blue), and 6σ (purple) level from the best-fit solution, where $n = 20$.

3.2. With MOA Data

The degeneracy seemed to remain unresolved. However, it was noticed that the event was also in one of the MOA observation fields, although it was not registered in the MOA event list. In addition, it was immediately recognized that the MOA data could play an important role in distinguishing the degeneracy because the time zone of the MOA site exactly matched the unresolved part of the light curve.

We find that the MOA survey covers the unresolved region in which the data clearly show the feature of two caustic entrances. It definitely supports the 2S2L interpretation. With the MOA data, we further refine the 2S2L solution. The best-fit parameters are listed in Table 2. In Figure 5, we present the light curve of the 2S2L solution in the caustic-crossing region. Since the overall light curve and the lensing geometry are almost same as those derived without the MOA data, we do not present these redundant figures. The estimated flux ratios $(q_{F,V}, q_{F,RI}, q_{F,I}) = (1.05, 0.98, 1.04)$ are very close to unity, implying that the brightness of the two sources is quite similar. This resemblance consequently indicates that the two sources would have similar $\rho_{*,i}$ values. However, unfortunately, we find that $\rho_{*,1}$ is not well constrained; it has a range of $0 < \rho_{*,1} < 0.0014$ due to the sparse coverage of the caustic crossing corresponding to the primary source (see Figure 5).

To check the result that comes from the poorly constrained $\rho_{*,1}$, we tested an additional model including a physical constraint. One important characteristic of the 2S2L interpretation is that the measured $\theta_{E,i}$ from the individual source radii $\rho_{*,i}$ must be consistent with each other. Following this argument, we imposed the Gaussian constraint,

$$f(\theta_{E,1}) \sim e^{-(\theta_{E,1} - \theta_{E,2})^2 / \sigma_{E,2}^2}, \quad (4)$$

on the MCMC chains by adopting the error of θ_E as $\sigma_{E,2}$ (see the next section). For the measurement of $\theta_{E,i}$, we included the

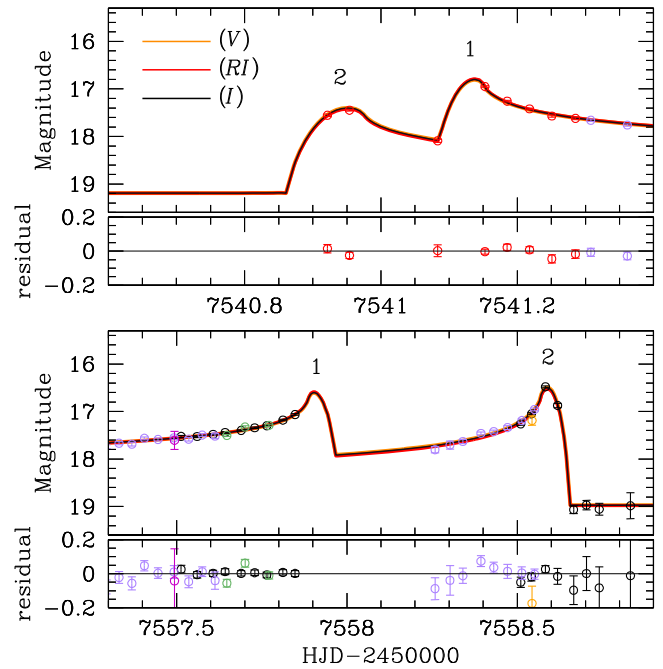


Figure 5. Enlarged view of the light curve around the caustic-crossing perturbations. The orange, red, and black curves are the best-fit models for V , RI , and I bands. They are nearly indistinguishable. The caustic entrance and the exit formed by the primary and the secondary source are marked by “1” and “2,” respectively.

KMTC DoPhot I and V band data solely to obtain their flux fraction by fitting along with other data sets. As presented in the seventh and eighth columns of Table 2, we find that the derived parameters are almost consistent and the prior does not significantly affect the precision of the parameters. In addition, the measured $\rho_{*,2}$ from both solutions are almost exactly the same, indicating that the derived θ_E is also consistent within the uncertainty level σ_E . Therefore, we use the result to characterize the two source stars.

3.3. Source Type

We determined the source type by following the procedure of Yoo et al. (2004). We first identified the individual source positions in the instrumental color–magnitude diagram (see Figure 6). We next measured the offsets $\Delta(V - I, I)$ between the giant clump centroid (GC) and the individual sources. From the de-reddened brightness $I_{0,GC} = 14.43$ (Nataf et al. 2013) and color $(V - I)_{0,GC} = 1.06$ (Bensby et al. 2011) of GC, we then estimated the de-reddened brightness I_0 and color $(V - I)_0$ of each source star. Here we assume that the GC and the source experience identical extinction. The derived $(V - I, I)_{0,i}$ of the two sources are $(V - I, I)_{0,1} = (0.76 \pm 0.13, 18.63 \pm 0.05)$ and $(V - I, I)_{0,2} = (0.75 \pm 0.12, 18.59 \pm 0.05)$, respectively. These indicate that the binary source is composed of two G-type main sequence stars.

Since we measured the finite size of the secondary source $\rho_{*,2}$, we also determined the angular Einstein radius θ_E . We first converted $(V - I)_{0,i}$ into $(V - K)_{0,i}$ using the VIK color–color relation (Bessell & Brett 1988), and then deduced the angular size of each source star $\theta_{*,i}$ from the relation between $(V - K)_0$ and θ_* (Kervella et al. 2004). The derived angular radii of the individual sources are $(\theta_{*,1}, \theta_{*,2}) = (0.629 \pm 0.045, 0.634 \pm 0.045) \mu\text{as}$.

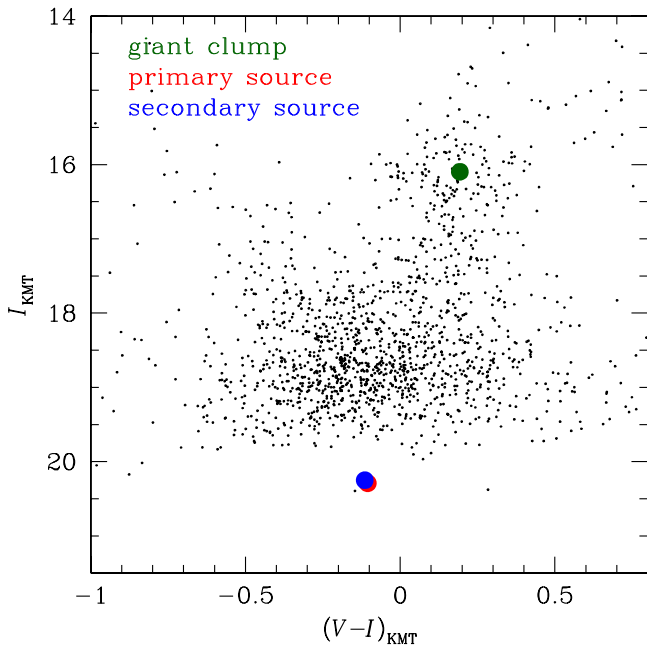


Figure 6. Positions of individual source stars in the instrumental color-magnitude diagram of nearby stars. Also shown is the position of the giant clump centroid.

The angular Einstein radius is thus

$$\theta_E = \frac{\theta_{*,2}}{\rho_{*,2}} = 0.462 \pm 0.043 \text{ mas}, \quad (5)$$

and the proper motion of the binary source relative to the binary lens is

$$\mu = \frac{\theta_E}{t_E} = 5.654 \pm 0.521 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}. \quad (6)$$

4. Discussion

We have presented an analysis of the event OGLE-2016-BLG-1003, for which the light curve exhibits two pairs of caustic-crossing perturbations. From the analysis considering two different interpretations based on high-cadence and continuous data taken by three microlensing surveys, we found that the anomalies can be explained by the 2S2L model. Our 1S3L models were clearly disfavored by the MOA data. However, the analysis of the event and the process of reaching the conclusion that the 2S2L model is correct demonstrate the potential difficulties of interpreting such complex events.

First, our result does not fully guarantee that the 1S3L interpretation is not the solution, because we only searched a subset of 1S3L parameter space as described in Section 3.1.1. In fact, it is extremely difficult or almost impossible with our current level of understanding to conduct the full 1S3L analysis, since current computing power is not even sufficient to obtain the initial solution by setting $(s_1, q_1, \alpha, s_2, q_2, \psi)$ as independent parameters. Therefore, in most cases, the 1S3L modeling has been done by following a hybrid approach that has been commonly used in this field. This approach is quite reasonable provided that the perturbation induced by the additional lens component does not affect the overall light

curve (e.g., planetary perturbation). For example, Udalski et al. (2015a) found the 1S3L solution by first estimating the principal binary-lens parameters that explain the overall light curve, and then by adding the third mass to fit the planet-like perturbation similar to the approach used here. Experience from these events indicates that applying this approach to possible 1S3L candidates is extremely difficult if one cannot first find the principal binary-lens parameters. Furthermore, even though the method can provide a plausible model for the light curve, there is no guarantee (i.e., $\Delta\chi^2$ surface) that the solution is the global minimum, and unfortunately this issue still remains an open question.

Our result also introduces degeneracy between 1S3L and 2S2L interpretations that can describe the unusual “nested caustics” features (i.e., two caustic entrances or two caustic exits in a row). Although the event reported here favors the 2S2L interpretation, discriminating between them was only possible because we had high-cadence data and the two solutions predicted different lensing magnification curves, which will not always be the case. Nevertheless, it is possible to discriminate between 1S3L and 2S2L solutions due to the different origin of the lensing magnification. As already proven by analyzing observed events (Hwang et al. 2013; Jung et al. 2017), the binary-source magnification depends on the observing passband, and thus one can distinguish between two interpretations with multiband observations.

Until now, however, the major purpose of multiband observations from survey experiments was to determine the source color. Consequently, the observation cadence of the extra passband is much sparser than the primary passband. For example, the ratio between V and I band observations of KMTNet in 2016 was 1/11 for the CTIO site and 1/21 for the SAAO site. Although this cadence is high enough to obtain the source color, we found that it is insufficient to precisely estimate the flux ratio $q_{F,V}$ (see Table 2), which yields the large uncertainty in the V band magnification. As a result, it was difficult to identify the difference in magnification between different passbands.

With second-generation experiments, we are now able to see many examples of complex perturbations such as those reported here, and thus multiband observations become much more important for deriving the correct solution. The microlensing event OGLE-2016-BLG-1003 demonstrates the capability of current surveys to identify previously unknown complex perturbations. However, it also raises the issues of the limitation of current analysis and the determination of the appropriate multiband observing strategy of survey experiments.

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