Astrophysical Thinking SS 2018

hand in April 19

Question 7: Strong gravitational lensing and the Hubble constant

• No need to look up any text books! No need to type your answers!

The quasar 0957+561 at z=1.4 is strongly lensed by a foreground galaxy at z=0.4 resulting in two images (A and B). Image A is offset from the foreground galaxy by ~ 5 arcseconds, while image B is offset by ~ 1 arcseconds. Which of the two images is the one that is more strongly deflected?

Flux variations seen in image A are replicated 420 days later in image B indicating a significant time delay. Use this information to estimate the Hubble constant! What is the mass of the foreground galaxy?

Hint: Start from the Schwarzschild metric

$$ds^{2} = \left(c^{2} - \frac{2MG}{r}\right)dt^{2} - \left(1 - \frac{2MG}{rc^{2}}\right)^{-1}dr^{2} - r^{2}d\Omega^{2}$$

and estimate both the time delay and the spatial deflection of light in this metric (approximation is okay).