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Lensing magnification effects on the cosmic shear statistics

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ABSTRACT

Gravitational lensing causes a correlation between a population of foreground large-scale structures and the observed number density of the background distant galaxies as a consequence of the flux magnification and the lensing area distortion. This correlation has not been taken into account in calculations of the theoretical predictions of the cosmic shear statistics but may cause a systematic error in a cosmic shear measurement. We examine its impact on the cosmic shear statistics using the semi-analytic approach. We find that the lensing magnification has no practical influence on the cosmic shear variance. Exploring the possible shapes of the redshift distribution of source galaxies, we find that the relative amplitude of the effect on the convergence skewness is 3 per cent at most.

Key words: gravitational lensing – cosmology: theory – dark matter – large-scale structure of Universe.

1 INTRODUCTION

The cosmic shear (coherent distortions in distant galaxy images resulting from the weak lensing by large-scale structures) is now recognized as a powerful tool for measuring the mass distribution in the universe, as well as a promising way to measure the cosmological parameters (Mellier 1999; see Bartelmann & Schneider 2001 for reviews). Although its signal is very weak, recent reports on the detections demonstrate that a well-developed data analysis algorithm has been established (Van Waerbeke et al. 2000, 2001a; Wittman et al. 2000; Bacon, Refregier & Ellis 2000; Kaiser, Wilson & Luppino 2000; Maoli et al. 2001).

So far, the detections were obtained from relatively small fields, which limits the statistical analyses of the surveys to second order statistics (the variance or two-point correlation function of the cosmic shear). Their amplitude reflects the amplitude of the density contrast, and thus provides a constraint on the combination of the values of Ω_m and σ_8 (Bernardeau, Van Waerbeke & Mellier 1997, hereafter BvWM97; Jain & Seljak 1997; Maoli et al. 2001). The skewness of the lensing convergence is, on the other hand, known to be sensitive to Ω_m almost independently on σ_8 (BvWM97; Van Waerbeke et al. 2001b, hereafter vWHSCB01), and thus it may break the degeneracy among the cosmological parameters constrained from the second-order statistics. A precise measurement of the skewness is, therefore, one of main goals of ongoing wide-field cosmic shear surveys such as the DESCART project.¹

It was pointed out by Hu & Tegmark (1999) that such wide-field cosmic shear surveys have the potential for probing the cosmological models as accurately as the cosmic microwave background radiation measurements. In order to get the ability to the fullest, there are, however, some issues which should be developed/examined in detail, listed below.

(i) Accurate theoretical predictions of the cosmic shear statistics at intermediate scales (0.5–10 arcmin). On such scales the signals will be detected easily, however neither perturbation theory nor the hierarchical ansatz apply (e.g. Jain & Seljak 1997; vWHSCB01).

(ii) Examination of possible corrections which arise from higher order correction terms in calculations of the theoretical predictions, for example, Born approximation and lens–lens couplings (BvWM97; Schneider et al. 1998; vWHSCB01), and the source clustering (Bernardeau 1998; Hamana et al. 2000). They are especially important for the convergence skewness because it is (in the perturbation theory sense) a quantity of the fourth order of $\delta^{(1)}$ (see Section 2 for details).

(iii) Examination the impact of the intrinsic shape correlation of source galaxies; in the theoretical calculations of the cosmic shear statistics it is supposed to be negligible (Croft & Metzler 2000; Heavens, Refregier & Heymans 2000; Catelan, Kamionkowski & Blandford 2001; Crittenden et al. 2000a,b).

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¹ For more information about DESCART project, see <http://terapix.iap.fr/Descart/>

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(iv) Development of a robust way to correct defects in instruments, in particular the point spread function anisotropy (Kaiser, Squires & Broadhurst 1995; Kuijken 1999; Erben et al. 2001; Bacon et al. 2000).

In this paper, we focus on the lensing magnification effects on the cosmic shear statistics, which have not been taken into consideration in the theoretical calculation of the cosmic shear statistics but may cause a systematic error in their measurements. The lensing magnification has two effects on a deep galaxy survey: One is the flux magnification: the lensing changes the apparent galaxy size, leaving the surface brightness invariant, therefore the flux of a distant galaxy is magnified.² The other is the area distortion: the lensing also changes the unit solid angle at the source plane, and thus the number density of the distant galaxies varies with the direction in the sky even if the intrinsic source distribution is uniform. As a consequence, the lines of sight to distant sheared galaxies may not be random lines of sight in the presence of the lensing magnification. In fact, the lensing magnification effects are prominent within the galaxy cluster region where the number density of distant galaxies in the optical or near-infrared (near-IR) bands is measured to be smaller than the average value. Furthermore, the variation of the galaxy number density as a function of the distance from the cluster centre (the so-called ‘depletion curve’) were measured in some distant clusters of galaxies (e.g. Broadhurst, Taylor & Peacock 1995; Fort, Mellier & Dantel-Fort 1997; see also Mellier 1999 for a review). These observational facts indicate that the lensing magnification induces an (anti-)correlation between the distribution of the distant galaxies in the sky and the population of the lensing structures, i.e. the number density of the galaxies behind a lensing structure tends to be smaller than the average number density, whereas that behind a void tends to be larger than the average value.

The purpose of this paper is to quantitatively examine the lensing magnification effects on the cosmic shear statistics, especially on the convergence skewness. To do this, we use the non-linear semi-analytic approach, i.e. the perturbation theory approach combined with the non-linear fitting formula of the density power spectrum (Jain & Seljak 1997; Hamana et al. 2000; vWHSCB01). We focus on correction terms which arise from the presence of the lensing magnification, and are not concerned with other correction terms caused by, for example, the lens–lens coupling (vWHSCB01) and the source clustering (Hamana et al. 2000).

The outline of this paper is as follows. The calculations of the moments of the lensing convergence in presence of the lensing magnification are made in Section 2. In Section 3, the effect on the convergence skewness is quantitatively examined in three cold dark matter (CDM) models with realistic models of the redshift distributions of the source galaxy. We conclude in Section 4.

2 THE SEMI-ANALYTICAL APPROACH

2.1 Fluctuation in a galaxy number count as a result of the lensing magnification

Let $n_s(> S, z)$ be the unlensed number density of galaxies with redshift within Δz of z and with flux larger than S . Then, at an angular position ϕ where the lensing magnification is $\mu(z, \phi)$, the number counts are changed by the lensing magnification effects as (e.g. Bartelmann & Schneider 2001),

$$n_s^{\text{obs}}(> S, z, \phi) = \frac{1}{\mu(z, \phi)} n_s \left[> \frac{S}{\mu(z, \phi)}, z \right]. \quad (1)$$

Supposing that the number counts of the faint galaxies can be approximated by a power law over a wide range of fluxes, i.e. $n_s(> S, z) = n(z)S^{-\alpha(z)}$, then the lensed number counts are rewritten as

$$n_s^{\text{obs}}(> S, z, \phi) = n_s(> S, z) \mu(z, \phi)^{\alpha(z)-1}. \quad (2)$$

The magnification factor relates to the lensing convergence (κ) and shear (γ) by $\mu^{-1} = 1(1 - \kappa)^2 - \gamma^2$. We now rewrite the lensed source counts as $n_s^{\text{obs}}(> S, z, \phi) = n_s(> S, z)[1 + \delta n_s(> S, z, \phi)]$. Taking advantage of the power-law form of the number counts and also of the weak lensing approximation ($\kappa \ll 1$, $\gamma \ll 1$), the fluctuation in the number counts caused by the lensing magnification is given by

$$\delta n_s(z, \phi) = \mu(z, \phi)^{\alpha(z)-1} - 1 \approx 2[\alpha(z) - 1]\kappa_s(z, \phi), \quad (3)$$

where $\kappa_s(z, \phi)$ is the lensing convergence at an angular position ϕ for a source with redshift z (Mellier 1999; Bartelmann & Schneider 2001),

$$\kappa_s(z, \phi) = \frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \int_0^{\chi_s(z)} d\chi g(\chi, \chi_s) \delta(\chi, \phi), \quad (4)$$

where g is the so-called lensing efficiency function defined by

$$g(\chi, \chi_s) = \frac{H_0 f(\chi) f(\chi_s - \chi)}{c f(\chi_s) a(\chi)}. \quad (5)$$

Here χ denotes the radial comoving distance, a is the scale factor normalized by its present value, and $f(\chi)$ denotes the comoving angular diameter distance, defined as $f(\chi) = K^{-1/2} \sin K^{1/2} \chi$, χ and $(-K)^{-1/2} \sinh(-K)^{1/2} \chi$ for $K > 0$, $K = 0$ and $K < 0$, respectively, where K is the curvature that can be expressed as $K = (H_0/c)^2 (\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda - 1)$. The lensing convergence is therefore the projected density contrast weighted by the distance combination and the scale factor along the line of sight to a source. Note that, in the expression (3), the fluctuation does not

² We should note here that the lensing causes not only magnification ($\mu > 1$ with μ denoting the magnification factor) but also demagnification ($\mu < 1$). Throughout this paper, following the usual convention, we use the term ‘magnification’ irrespective of the value of the magnification factor.

depend on the flux because of the power-law form of the number-counts. In the following sections, we will therefore not explicitly denote the flux dependence of the source counts.

2.2 Cosmic shear statistics in the presence of the lensing magnification

Let us consider the measured convergence that results from averages made over many distant galaxies located at different distances. Denoting the smoothing scale by θ , such an average can formally be written as

$$\kappa_\theta = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}_i) \kappa_s(z_i, \boldsymbol{\phi}_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_s} W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}_i)}, \quad (6)$$

where $W_\theta(x)$ denotes the weight function of the average, N_s is the number of source galaxies, and $\boldsymbol{\phi}_i$ and z_i are the direction and redshift of i th source, respectively. For the weight function, the angular top-hat filter (BvWM97) and/or compensated filter (Schneider et al. 1998) are commonly adopted (e.g., Van Waerbeke et al. 2001b). In what follows, we consider the top-hat filter for the weight function, and in this case equation (6) is reduced to $\kappa_\theta = \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} \kappa_s(z_i, \boldsymbol{\phi}_i) / N_s^j$, where N_s^j is the number of source galaxies within an aperture θ centered on a direction $\boldsymbol{\phi}_j$. Taking the continuous limit for the source distribution,³ equation (6) can be rewritten by,

$$\kappa_\theta = \frac{\int d^2\phi W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi \kappa_s(\chi, \boldsymbol{\phi}) n_s^{\text{obs}}(\chi, \boldsymbol{\phi})}{\int d^2\phi W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s^{\text{obs}}(\chi, \boldsymbol{\phi})}, \quad (7)$$

where χ_H is the distance to the horizon and $n_s^{\text{obs}}(\chi, \boldsymbol{\phi})$ is the source number count as defined by equation (3), which effectively describes the redshift distribution of the source.

In what follows, the distance distribution of the unlensed number counts is supposed to be normalized to unity, $\int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) = 1$. Let us now expand equation (7) in terms of δ using the perturbation theory approach (BvWM97). The presence of the lensing magnification does not change the expression of the first-order term,

$$\kappa_\theta^{(1)} = \frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \int d^2\phi W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) \int_0^{\chi} d\chi' g(\chi', \chi) \delta^{(1)}(\chi', \boldsymbol{\phi}). \quad (8)$$

The second-order convergence consists of two terms. One comes from the second order density perturbation, which is formally written by replacing the subscript ⁽¹⁾ in the first-order expression (8) with ⁽²⁾ (BvWM97). The other is a result of the lensing magnification,

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_\theta^{\text{mag.}(2)} &= 2 \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^2 \int d^2\phi W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) [\alpha(\chi) - 1] \int_0^{\chi} d\chi' g(\chi', \chi) \delta^{(1)}(\chi', \boldsymbol{\phi}) \int_0^{\chi} d\chi'' g(\chi'', \chi) \delta^{(1)}(\chi'', \boldsymbol{\phi}) \\ &\quad - \kappa_\theta^{(1)} \frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{c} \int d^2\phi W_\theta(\boldsymbol{\phi}) \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) [\alpha(\chi) - 1] \int_0^{\chi} d\chi' g(\chi', \chi) \delta^{(1)}(\chi', \boldsymbol{\phi}). \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Using the small-angle approximation (Kaiser 1992), equation (8) is rewritten in terms of the Fourier transform of the density contrast, $\delta(k)$, by,

$$\kappa_\theta^{(1)} = \frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) \int_0^{\chi} d\chi' g(\chi', \chi) \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} W[f(\chi')k_\perp \theta] \delta^{(1)}[\mathbf{k}; \chi'] \exp[ik_\chi f(\chi')], \quad (10)$$

where the wavevector \mathbf{k} is decomposed into the line-of-sight component k_χ and perpendicular to it, \mathbf{k}_\perp , and $W(x)$ is the Fourier transform of the weight function. In the case of the top-hat filter, $W(x) = 2J_1(x)/x$ where J_1 is the spherical Bessel function. In the same manner, equation (9) is rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa_\theta^{\text{mag.}(2)} &= 2 \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^2 \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) [\alpha(\chi) - 1] \int_0^{\chi} d\chi' g(\chi', \chi) \int_0^{\chi} d\chi'' g(\chi'', \chi) \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \delta^{(1)}[\mathbf{k}'; \chi'] \exp[ik'_\chi f(\chi')] \\ &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3k''}{(2\pi)^3} \delta^{(1)}[\mathbf{k}''; \chi''] \exp[ik''_\chi f(\chi'')] W[f(\chi')k'_\perp + f(\chi'')k''_\perp | \theta] - \kappa_\theta^{(1)} \frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{c} \int_0^{\chi_H} d\chi n_s(\chi) [\alpha(\chi) - 1] \\ &\quad \times \int_0^{\chi} d\chi' g(\chi', \chi) \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} W[f(\chi')k'_\perp \theta] \delta^{(1)}[\mathbf{k}'; \chi'] \exp[ik'_\chi f(\chi')]. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

³ See Bernardeau (1998) for a discussion on this point.

The lensing magnification effect makes the average of the convergence non-zero;

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \kappa_\theta \rangle &= \langle \kappa_\theta^{\text{mag.}(2)} \rangle = 2 \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^2 \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi n_s(\chi) [\alpha(\chi) - 1] \int_0^\chi d\chi' g^2(\chi', \chi) I_0(\chi', 0) - 2 \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^2 \\ &\times \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi n_s(\chi) \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi' n_s(\chi') [\alpha(\chi') - 1] \int_0^{\chi'} d\chi'' g(\chi'', \chi) g(\chi'', \chi') I_0(\chi'', \theta), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

where

$$I_0(\chi, \theta) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int dk k W^2 [f(\chi'') k \theta] P_{\text{lin}}(\chi, k), \quad (13)$$

with $P_{\text{lin}}(\chi, k)$ being the linear matter power spectrum. The variance is not affected by the lensing magnification and is given by,

$$V_\kappa(\theta) = \langle (\kappa_\theta - \langle \kappa_\theta \rangle)^2 \rangle = \langle \kappa_\theta^{(1)2} \rangle = \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^2 \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi n_s(\chi) \int_0^\chi d\chi' g^2(\chi', \chi) I_0(\chi', \theta). \quad (14)$$

In presence of the lensing magnification, the skewness parameter, defined by $S_3(\theta) = \langle (\kappa_\theta - \langle \kappa_\theta \rangle)^3 \rangle / V_\kappa^2(\theta)$, consists of two terms. One comes from the second-order perturbation, $\langle \kappa_\theta^{3,2\text{PT}} \rangle = 3\langle \kappa_\theta^{(1)2} \kappa_\theta^{(2)} \rangle$ (see BvWM97 and Hamana et al. 2000 for the explicit expression). The other arises from the lensing magnification,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \kappa_\theta^{3, \text{mag}} \rangle &= \langle [\kappa_\theta^{(1)} + \kappa_\theta^{\text{mag.}(2)} - \langle \kappa_\theta \rangle]^3 \rangle = 3\langle \kappa_\theta^{(1)2} \kappa_\theta^{\text{mag.}(2)} \rangle - 3\langle \kappa_\theta^{(1)2} \rangle \langle \kappa_\theta^{\text{mag.}(2)} \rangle \\ &= 12 \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^4 \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi n_s(\chi) [\alpha(\chi) - 1] \left[\int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi' n_s(\chi') \int_0^{\chi'} d\chi'' g(\chi'', \chi) g(\chi'', \chi') I_0(\chi'', \theta) \right]^2 \\ &\quad - V_\kappa(\theta) \times 12 \left(\frac{3\Omega_m H_0}{2c} \right)^2 \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi n_s(\chi) \int_0^{\chi_h} d\chi' n_s(\chi') [\alpha(\chi') - 1] \int_0^{\chi'} d\chi'' g(\chi'', \chi) g(\chi'', \chi') I_0(\chi'', \theta). \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

To derive the last expression, we used an approximation, $\int_0^{2\pi} d\vartheta \sin \vartheta W(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \simeq 2\pi W(k)W(k')$, with ϑ being the angle between the wavevectors \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{k}' . For the top-hat window function, the error this approximation induces is extremely weak, for instance it is less than 1 per cent for $n \sim -1.5$ with n being the effective power-law index of the matter power spectrum (Bernardeau 1998). Notice that, in the case of $\alpha(\chi) = 0$, which corresponds to the case that sources are selected on a surface brightness criterion (see Section 4 for a discussion on this point), the second term reduces to $12V_\kappa^2(\theta)$. As this immediately suggests, the cosmology dependence in the skewness correction term is weak, Ω_m in the coefficients of equation (15) is actually cancelled out by that in $V_\kappa^2(\theta)$ (this point is demonstrated in Fig. 1).

The above calculations are based on the perturbation theory approach. It is well known that on sub-degree scales the non-linearity in the evolution of the density field is very important for the cosmic shear statistics (Jain & Seljak 1997; wVHSCB). We take the non-linearity into account in our computations in the following way. For the variance, the effect of the non-linear evolution of the density power spectrum can be included by replacing the linear power spectrum with the non-linear power spectrum, i.e. $P_{\text{lin}}(a, k) \rightarrow P_{\text{NL}}(a, k)$ (Jain & Seljak 1997). We use the fitting formula for the non-linear power spectrum given by Peacock & Dodds (1996). For the skewness correction term, all density contrast terms needed for its calculation (equation 11), correspond to the linear order. This is the same situation as for the variance. Following the procedure used for this latter case, we simply replace the linear power spectrum with the non-linear one to include non-linear effects. We adopt the semi-analytic calculation of the skewness in the non-linear regime developed by vVHSCB01, which is based on the fitting formula of the density bi-spectrum by Scoccimarro & Couchman (2000).

It should be here noted that, comparing equations (12) and (14), the amplitude of the shift in average of the convergence from zero is found to be the same order of the variance, and thus is of order of $O(10^{-4})$. This shift has no practical effect on cosmic shear statistics because the constant shift has no effect on the second- and higher-order statistics by definition.

3 NUMERICAL RESULTS

In this section, we numerically examine the lensing magnification effect on the convergence skewness. We take three CDM models, a flat model with (Λ CDM) and without a cosmological constant (SCDM), and an open model (OCDM). We use the fitting formula of the CDM power spectrum given by Bond & Efstathiou (1984) normalized by the local galaxy cluster abundance (Eke, Cole & Frenk 1996; Kitayama & Suto 1997). The parameters in the models are listed in Table 1.

We assume that $n_s(z)$ takes the form

$$n_s(z) = \frac{b}{z_* \Gamma[(1+a)/b]} \left(\frac{z}{z_*} \right)^a \exp \left[- \left(\frac{z}{z_*} \right)^b \right]. \quad (16)$$

where $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function. We explore four models for the shape of the distribution. The parameters as well as characteristics (the mean redshift $\langle z \rangle$ and the rms of the distribution Δz) in each model are listed in Table 2. Note that only model A matches roughly the observed

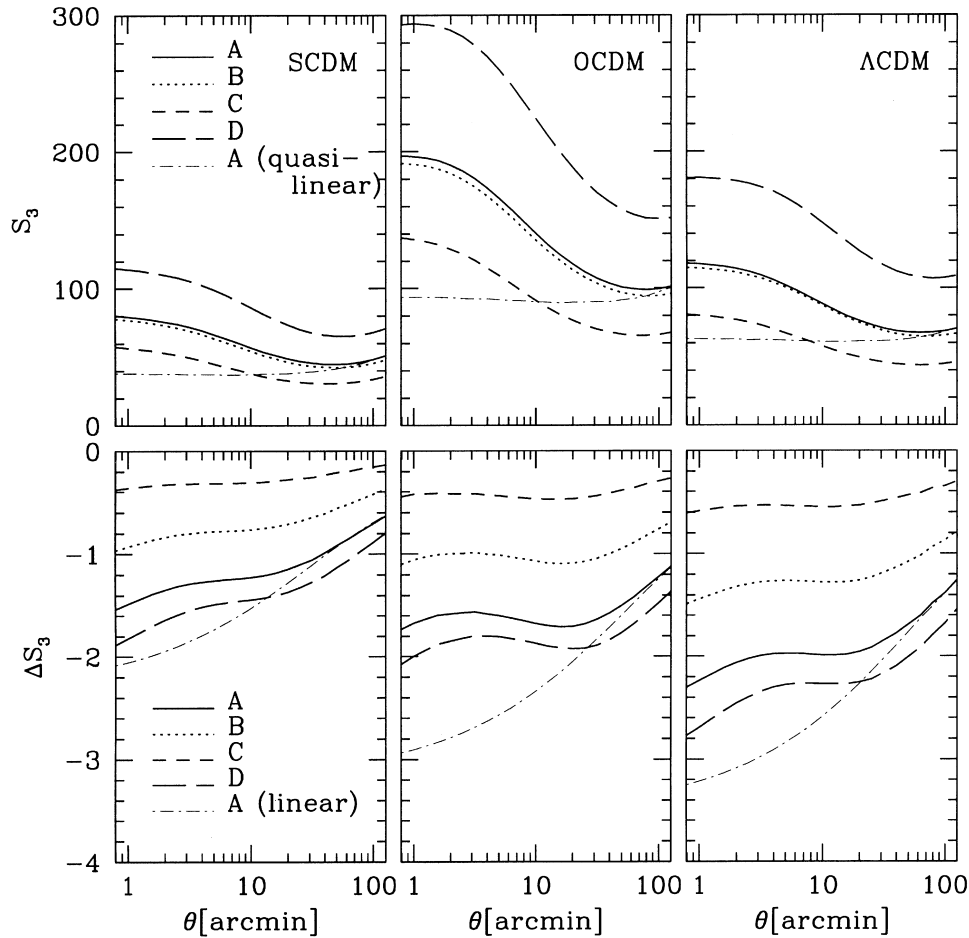


Figure 1. *Upper panels.* Skewness parameter S_3 of the lensing convergence evaluated without taking the lensing magnification effect into account. The dot-dashed line is the quasi-linear perturbation theory computation for A model. The other curves represent the semi-analytic computations with the non-linear matter bi-spectrum fitting formula (vWHSCB01). *Lower panels.* Skewness correction term due to the lensing magnification effects (for a case of $\alpha(z) = 0$). The dot-dashed line is the linear theory computation for A model. The other lines represent the semi-analytic non-linear computations.

Table 1. Cosmological parameters.

Model	Ω_m	Ω_λ	h	σ_8
SCDM	1.0	0.0	0.5	0.6
OCDM	0.3	0.0	0.7	0.85
Λ CDM	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.9

Table 2. Parameters in models of the redshift distribution of source galaxies (a , b , z_*) and their characteristics (the mean redshift $\langle z \rangle$ and the rms of the distribution Δz).

Model	a	b	z_*	$\langle z \rangle$	Δz
A	2	1.5	0.798	1.2	0.572
B	3	1.8	0.813	1.2	0.456
C	5	2.5	1.11	1.5	0.400
D	2	1.5	0.598	0.9	0.429

redshift distribution of galaxies in current cosmic shear detections (Van Waerbeke et al. 2000). However, we test the other models to see a variation in the lensing magnification effect caused by possible changes in the shape of the redshift distribution.

The upper panels of Fig. 1 show the skewness parameter $S_3(\theta)$ evaluated without taking the magnification effects into account. As the figure clearly shows, the skewness is very sensitive to both Ω_m and the mean redshift of sources, but insensitive to the shape of the redshift distribution (comparing model A with B).

The lower panels of Fig. 1 show the skewness correction caused by the lensing magnification effects. We took $\alpha(z) = 0$ which gives the strongest estimate of the lensing magnification effect, as will be discussed in Section 4. The non-linear result deviates from the linear one on a sub-degree scale and the non-linearity reduces the amplitude of the magnification effect as it has stronger influence on $V_\kappa(\theta)$ than on $\langle \kappa_\theta^3 \rangle^{\text{mag}}$. Between the scales displayed, the skewness correction is almost constant, the variation is less than 1.4. The lensing magnification effect becomes stronger as the mean redshift becomes lower and as the distribution becomes broader. This redshift distribution dependence is, at least qualitatively, similar to that on the *source clustering effect*, which may be a result of the similarity in their phenomena (Hamana et al. 2000). The most important point found in Fig. 1 is, however, that the correction term is small, 3 per cent at the most.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

We have examined the lensing magnification effects on the convergence skewness using the non-linear semi-analytic approach. Numerical computations were done only for the case of $\alpha(z) = 0$. Does this choice have a special meaning? So far, little is known about the number counts of distant galaxies with measured redshifts, in particular at $z > 0.2$ where most of the source galaxies are located. We can, however, put a constraint on the range of the ‘effective value’ of α (under the assumption of no strong redshift evolution in α) as follows: (i) $\alpha > 0$ by definition and (ii) the observational facts that the number density of the distant galaxies behind the lensing galaxy clusters in optical or near-IR bands is smaller than that measured in the field region (e.g. Fort et al. 1997). This indicates that $\alpha < 1$, which comes from equation (2) with $\mu > 1$ within cluster region. Therefore, it may be said that the possible range of the ‘effective value’ of α is $0 < \alpha < 1$. Within this range, $\alpha = 0$ gives the upper limit of the lensing magnification effect on the convergence skewness. We may, therefore, conclude that the lensing magnification has no significant effect on the convergence skewness: its amplitude could be at most 3 per cent.

In the above discussion, we implicitly assumed that the source galaxies are selected by a flux threshold. However, one can adopt the selection with a surface brightness criterion. In this case, the flux magnification has no influence on the cosmic shear measurements, but the area magnification still exists. Therefore, the lensing magnification effect in this case can be estimated by setting $\alpha = 0$. Thus, the effect is stronger for the surface brightness selection than for the flux selection.

Finally, we notice a limitation of our calculation. We used the weak lensing approximation to derive equation (3). This approximation works well except for very rare directions, such as the core of clusters of galaxies where the lensing surface mass density is very high. Such regions where a strong lensing event can take place are very small: $\theta \lesssim 0.5$ arcmin at most. Therefore, it is expected that the strong lensing may change the above results on scales below 1 arcmin.

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