KMT-2019-BLG-0371 and the Limits of Bayesian Analysis

Yun Hak Kim^{1,2}, Sun-Ju Chung^{1,2}, Jennifer C. Yee³, A. Udalski⁴, Ian A. Bond⁵, Youn Kil Jung¹, Andrew Gould^{1,6,7}, Michael D. Albrow⁸, Cheongho Han⁹, Kyu-Ha Hwang¹, Yoon-Hyun Ryu¹, In-Gu Shin¹, Yossi Shvartzvald¹⁰, Weicheng Zang¹¹, Sang-Mok Cha^{1,12}, Dong-Jin Kim¹, Hyoun-Woo Kim^{1,13}, Seung-Lee Kim^{1,2}, Chung-Uk Lee¹, Dong-Joo Lee¹, Yongseok Lee^{1,12}, Byeong-Gon Park^{1,2}, Richard W. Pogge⁶

(KMTNet Collaboration),

Radek Poleski⁴, Przemek Mróz¹⁴, Jan Skowron⁴, Michal K. Szymański⁴, Igor Soszyński⁴, Pawel Pietrukowicz⁴, Szymon Kozłowski⁴, Krzysztof Ulaczyk^{4,15}, Krzysztof A. Rybicki⁴, Patryk Iwanek⁴, Marcin Wrona⁴, Mariusz Gromadzki⁴
(OGLE Collaboration),

and

Fumio Abe¹⁶, Richard Barry¹⁷, David P. Bennett^{17,18}, Aparna Bhattacharya^{17,18}, Martin Donachie¹⁹, Hirosane Fujii²⁰, Akihiko Fukui^{21,22}, Yoshitaka Itow¹⁶, Yuki Hirao²⁰, Rintaro Kirikawa²⁰, Iona Kondo²⁰, Naoki Koshimoto^{23,24}, Yutaka Matsubara¹⁶, Yasushi Muraki¹⁶, Shota Miyazaki²⁰, Clément Ranc¹⁷, Nicholas J. Rattenbury¹⁹, Yuki Satoh²⁰, Hikaru Shoji²⁰, Takahiro Sumi²⁰, Daisuke Suzuki²⁰, Paul J. Tristram²⁵, Yuzuru Tanaka²⁰, Tsubasa Yamawaki²⁰, and Atsunori Yonehara²⁶
(MOA Collaboration)

¹ Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute, 776 Daedeokdae-ro, Yuseong-Gu, Daejeon 34055, Republic of Korea; sjchung@kasi.re.kr, sherlock@kasi.re.kr

² University of Science and Technology, Korea, (UST), 217 Gajeong-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 34113, Republic of Korea

³ Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

⁴ Astronomical Observatory, University of Warsaw, Al. Ujazdowskie 4, 00-478 Warszawa, Poland

⁵ Institute of Natural and Mathematical Science, Massey University, Auckland 0745, New Zealand

⁶ Department of Astronomy, Ohio State University, 140 W. 18th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

⁷ Max-Planck-Institute for Astronomy, Königstuhl 17, 69117D-69117 Heidelberg, Germany

⁸ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800 Christchurch, New Zealand

⁹ Department of Physics, Chungbuk National University, Cheongju 28644, Republic of Korea

¹⁰ Department of Particle Physics and Astrophysics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot 76100, Israel

¹¹ Department of Astronomy and Tsinghua Centre for Astrophysics, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, People's Republic of China

¹² School of Space Research, Kyung Hee University, Giheung-gu, Yongin, Gyeonggi-do, 17104, Republic of Korea

¹³ Department of Astronomy and Space Science, Chungbuk National University, Cheongju 28644, Republic of Korea

¹⁴ Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA

¹⁵ Department of Physics, University of Warwick, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, CV4 7AL, UK

¹⁶ Institute for Space-Earth Environmental Research, Nagoya University, Nagoya 464-8601, Japan

¹⁷ Code 667, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA

¹⁸ Department of Astronomy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742, USA

¹⁹ Department of Physics, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand

²⁰ Department of Earth and Space Science, Graduate School of Science, Osaka University, Toyonaka, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

²¹ Department of Earth and Planetary Science, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

²² Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Vía Láctea s/n, E-38205 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain

²³ Department of Astronomy, Graduate School of Science, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033, Japan

²⁴ National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, 2-21-1 Osawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8588, Japan

²⁵ University of Canterbury Mt. John Observatory, P.O.Box 56, Lake Tekapo 8770, New Zealand

²⁶ Department of Physics, Faculty of Science, Kyoto Sangyo University, Kyoto 603-8555, Japan

Received 2021 January 12; revised 2021 April 7; accepted 2021 April 15; published 2021 June 15

Abstract

We show that the perturbation at the peak of the light curve of microlensing event KMT-2019-BLG-0371 is explained by a model with a mass ratio between the host star and planet of $q \sim 0.08$. Due to the short event duration ($t_E \sim 6.5$ days), the secondary object in this system could potentially be a massive giant planet. A Bayesian analysis shows that the system most likely consists of a host star with a mass $M_h = 0.09^{+0.14}_{-0.05} M_\odot$ and a massive giant planet with a mass $M_p = 7.70^{+11.34}_{-3.90} M_{Jup}$. However, the interpretation of the secondary as a planet (i.e., as having $M_p < 13 M_{Jup}$) rests entirely on the Bayesian analysis. Motivated by this event, we conduct an investigation to determine which constraints meaningfully affect Bayesian analyses for microlensing events. We find that the masses inferred from such a Bayesian analysis are determined almost entirely by the measured value of θ_E and are relatively insensitive to other factors such as the direction of the event (ℓ , b), the lens–source relative proper motion μ_{rel} , or the specific Galactic model prior.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Binary lens microlensing (2136)

Supporting material: data behind figure

1. Introduction

In microlensing events, it is rare to measure the flux from the lens star; even if it is detected in normal, seeing-limited data, it is rare to be able to definitively identify it with the lens (however, see, e.g., Han et al. 2019b). Without a measurement of the lens flux, it is impossible to infer its mass through standard techniques, e.g., by putting the lens on a color-magnitude diagram. However, there are a few cases in which both the microlens parallax, π_E , and the finite source effect (leading to a measurement of the Einstein ring radius, θ_E) may be measured (Refsdal 1966; Gould 1992, 1994, 2000; Witt & Mao 1994; Nemiroff & Wickramasinghe 1994). In such cases, the lens mass may be computed as

$$M = \frac{\theta_E}{\kappa \pi_E}, \quad (1)$$

where $\kappa = 8.14 \text{ mas } M_\odot^{-1}$.

At the same time, the microlens parallax often cannot be measured. As a result, the mass of the lens is unmeasured. If there is a planetary perturbation in the event, the planet's mass is measured only relative to the mass of the lens star, and hence the mass of the planet is also unmeasured. If we use a mass cut, e.g., $13M_{\text{Jup}}$, to define the boundary between a planet and a brown dwarf, then this ambiguity can lead to ambiguity as to whether a given companion is a planet or not.

In this paper, we present the analysis of one such event. The mass ratio, q , between the companion and the primary in KMT-2019-BLG-0371 is $q \sim 0.08$. Hence, the companion will be of “planetary” mass only if the primary is $M_L \lesssim 0.1M_\odot$. However, because the microlens parallax is not measured, we must use a Bayesian analysis to estimate the mass of the lens, as is standard practice.

Because our interpretation of this companion rests on the Bayesian analysis, we use this event to study how various inputs to such an analysis affect the inferred mass. This investigation is the first to systematically investigate the role of the physical constraints from the lens–source relative proper motion, μ_{rel} , and θ_E in this kind of Bayesian inference and stands to provide insight into the method as a whole. Nevertheless, because this investigation is motivated by KMT-2019-BLG-0371, we first begin by describing the analysis of that event.

2. Observations

The microlensing event KMT-2019-BLG-0371 was first discovered on 2019 April 15 by the alert system of the Korea Microlensing Telescope Network (KMTNet; Kim et al. 2016, 2018). KMTNet uses three identical ground-based telescopes 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). The event was detected in two KMTNet fields (BLG01 and BLG41), which overlap each other and have a combined cadence of $\Gamma = 4 \text{ hr}^{-1}$. The event was mainly observed with *I*-band images, and some *V*-band images were taken as well for the color determination of the source star. The KMTNet data were reduced by pySIS (Albrow et al. 2009), which is based on the Difference Image Analysis (DIA; Alard & Lupton 1998; Alard 2000).

The event was also detected by the Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment (OGLE; Udalski 2003; Szymański et al. 2015) by the 1.3 m Warsaw telescope at the Las Campanas

Table 1
Data and Error Renormalization Parameters

Observatory (Band)	N_{data}	k	σ_0 (mag)
OGLE (I)	2254	1.597	0.003
KMTc BLG01 (I)	2234	1.411	0.000
KMTc BLG41 (I)	2189	1.381	0.000
KMTa BLG01 (I)	1276	1.352	0.000
KMTa BLG41 (I)	1489	1.569	0.000
KMTs BLG01 (I)	1270	1.189	0.000
KMTs BLG41 (I)	1520	1.412	0.000
MOA (R)	1871	1.041	0.000

Note. N_{data} is the number of data points.

Observatory in Chile and is designated as OGLE-2019-BLG-0505. The equatorial positions of the event are (R.A., decl.)_{J2000} = (17^h53^m32^s.14, −31°33′18″.08), and the corresponding galactic coordinates are (l , b) = (358°630, −2°811).

Moreover, the event was found by the Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics (MOA; Sumi et al. 2016), and it was listed as MOA-2019-BLG-168. Hence, three different data sets were used to analyze the event.

The three different data sets were produced from the photometry pipeline of each observatory. Thus, the data need the renormalization process described in Yee et al. (2012), which is done by

$$\sigma' = k\sqrt{\sigma_i^2 + (\sigma_0)^2}, \quad (2)$$

where σ_i is the original error of the data, and k and σ_0 are the renormalizing parameters in order to achieve $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 1$. The renormalizing parameters for each observatory are introduced in Table 1.

3. Light-curve Analysis

As shown in Figure 1, the light curve of the microlensing event KMT-2019-BLG-0371 was well covered by three different microlensing survey groups. The caustic-crossing feature is clearly seen around HJD' $\sim$ 8592.4, which lasts a relatively short time ($\sim$ 0.6 days). From this, one can infer that the lens is a binary system with a low-mass secondary companion. Hence, we carry out the binary lens modeling. Binary lens modeling requires seven basic parameters, including single lens parameters (t_0 , u_0 , t_E), binary lens parameters (s , q , α), and the normalized source radius $\rho = \theta_*/\theta_E$, in which θ_* is the angular radius of the source star. Here t_0 is the time of the closest source approach to the lens, u_0 is the impact parameter (i.e., the minimum separation between the lens and the source at $t = t_0$) in units of θ_E , t_E is the Einstein radius crossing time of the event, s is the projected separation of the lens components in units of θ_E , q is the mass ratio between the two lens components, and α is the angle between the source trajectory and the binary axis.

We first conduct a grid search for three parameters (s , q , α) to find local $\Delta\chi^2$ minima through a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method. The ranges of each parameter are $-1 \leq \log s \leq 1$, $-4.0 \leq \log q \leq 0$, and $0 \leq \alpha \leq 2\pi$ with 100, 100, and 15 uniform grid steps, respectively. During the grid search, (s , q) are fixed and the other parameters are allowed to vary in an MCMC chain. As a result, we find two local solutions with (s , q) = (0.83, 0.08) and (s , q) = (1.58, 0.12)

Figure 1. Light curve of the best-fit binary model for KMT-2019-BLG-0371. The lower two panels show the residuals from the close and wide solutions. (The data used to create this figure are available.)

(see Figure 2), which are caused by a well-known close/wide degeneracy ($s \leftrightarrow 1/s$) (Griest & Safizadeh 1998; Dominik 1999).

Based on the two local solutions, we conduct additional modeling for which all parameters are allowed to vary. The best-fit parameters for the close and wide solutions are listed in Table 2. The difference in χ^2 between the two solutions is less than 2.5, thus making the close/wide degeneracy severe. Figure 3 represents the geometries of the close and wide solutions. The source for the two solutions passes the cusps of the resonant caustic, and this generates the caustic-crossing feature in the best-fit light curve (see Figure 1).

We also carry out further modeling with the microlens parallax effect (Gould 1992) and orbital motion effect (Dominik 1998), even though the event timescale $t_E \sim 6.5$ days is short compared to the typical expected timescales for measuring the two effects. In order to consider these two effects in modeling, we need four additional parameters, which are defined as $\pi_E = (\pi_{E,N}, \pi_{E,E})$ and $(ds/dt, d\alpha/dt)$. Here $(\pi_{E,N}, \pi_{E,E})$ are the north and east components of the microlens parallax vector and $(ds/dt, d\alpha/dt)$ are the instantaneous change rates of s and α , respectively. As a result, there is no significant improvement

($\Delta\chi^2 < 5$) compared to the standard model, as we expected. In order to directly determine the mass and distance of the lens, the measurements of both θ_E and π_E are needed (see Equations (1) and (7)). Due to no measurements of π_E , the physical parameters of the lens cannot be directly determined. In this case, they can be estimated from a Bayesian analysis, which assumes that all stars have an equal probability to host a planet of the measured mass ratio. Hence, we perform a Bayesian analysis to estimate the physical parameters of the lens system, which will be discussed in Section 4.2.

4. Physical Properties

4.1. Angular Einstein Radius

The determination of the angular Einstein radius θ_E requires measurements of the normalized source radius ρ and angular source radius θ_* . Thanks to the caustic-crossing features, we measure ρ from the modeling, while θ_* is determined from the intrinsic color and magnitude of the source star. For the determination of θ_* , we follow the procedure of Yoo et al. (2004) with the assumption that the source and giant clump (GC) experience the same amount of reddening and extinction.

Figure 2. $\Delta\chi^2$ distributions in the $(\log s, \log q)$ plane obtained from the grid search. The colors (red, yellow, green, sky blue, vivid blue, purple) indicate $\Delta\chi^2 < (5^2, 10^2, 15^2, 20^2, 25^2, 30^2)$, respectively.

Table 2
Best-fit Parameters

Parameters	Close	Wide
χ^2/dof	13784.877/14080	13787.268/14080
t_0 (HJD')	8592.392 ± 0.006	8592.391 ± 0.006
u_0	0.140 ± 0.007	0.141 ± 0.007
t_E (days)	6.50 ± 0.15	6.57 ± 0.15
s	0.826 ± 0.011	1.575 ± 0.014
q (M_2/M_1)	0.079 ± 0.002	0.123 ± 0.003
α (rad)	1.542 ± 0.008	1.544 ± 0.007
ρ (10^{-3})	6.46 ± 0.17	6.99 ± 0.21
$f_{s,\text{OGLE}}$	0.190 ± 0.008	0.206 ± 0.008
$f_{b,\text{OGLE}}$	0.302 ± 0.012	0.329 ± 0.013

Note. HJD' = HJD - 2,450,000. $f_{s,\text{OGLE}}$ and $f_{b,\text{OGLE}}$ are the source and blend fluxes of OGLE data sets, in which they are determined from the modeling.

First, we construct the instrumental KMTS color–magnitude diagram (CMD) using the pyDIA pipeline, which is shown in Figure 4. In general, KMTS data are used for CMDs because CTIO has better seeing. However, for this event, we use KMTS data, because only KMTS has a few V -band data points in the caustic-crossing region. We then estimate the centroid of the GC from the CMD and find the instrumental color and

magnitude of the source star from the best-fit model. The clump centroid is $(V - I, I)_{\text{GC}} = (3.02, 16.65)$, while the instrumental color and magnitude of the source are $(V - I, I)_{s,\text{close}} = (2.60, 19.75)$ and $(V - I, I)_{s,\text{wide}} = (2.62, 19.65)$ for the close and wide solutions, respectively. Then, the intrinsic color and magnitude of the source are estimated as

$$(V - I, I)_{s,0} = (V - I, I)_s - (V - I, I)_{\text{GC}} + (V - I, I)_{\text{GC},0}, \quad (3)$$

where the intrinsic color and magnitude of the clump are $(V - I, I)_{\text{GC},0} = (1.06, 14.52)$, which are determined from Bensby et al. (2013) and Nataf et al. (2013). As a result, we find that $(V - I, I)_{s,0,\text{close}} = (0.64 \pm 0.07, 17.62 \pm 0.09)$ and $(V - I, I)_{s,0,\text{wide}} = (0.66 \pm 0.07, 17.52 \pm 0.09)$. This indicates that the source is a late F-type or an early G-type dwarf (Bessell & Brett 1988). From the VIK color–color relation (Bessell & Brett 1988) and the color–surface brightness relation (Kervella et al. 2004), we estimate the angular source radius as

$$\theta_* = \begin{cases} 0.883 \pm 0.078 \mu\text{s} & (\text{close}) \\ 0.946 \pm 0.083 \mu\text{s} & (\text{wide}), \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Figure 3. Best-fit geometries of close/wide solutions. The red closed curves indicate the resonant caustic. M_1 and M_2 are the lens star and planetary companion, respectively.

and then the angular Einstein radii for the close and wide solutions are determined as

$$\theta_E = \frac{\theta_*}{\rho} = \begin{cases} 0.137 \pm 0.012 \text{ mas} & (\text{close}) \\ 0.135 \pm 0.013 \text{ mas} & (\text{wide}). \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

The relative lens–source proper motion is

$$\mu_{\text{rel}} = \frac{\theta_E}{t_E} = \begin{cases} 7.68 \pm 0.70 \text{ mas yr}^{-1} & (\text{close}) \\ 7.53 \pm 0.70 \text{ mas yr}^{-1} & (\text{wide}). \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

The parameters related to the source star are listed in Table 3.

4.2. Lens Properties

As mentioned in Section 1, the lens mass M can be measured from the measurements of the angular Einstein radius θ_E and microlens parallax π_E (see Equation (1)). Using these two parameters, one can also measure the distance to the lens D_L , because it is defined as

$$D_L = \frac{\text{au}}{\pi_E \theta_E + \pi_S}, \quad (7)$$

where $\pi_S = \text{au}/D_S$ is the source parallax (Gould 2004). Here we adopt $D_S = 8.40 \text{ kpc}$ from Nataf et al. (2013). Although θ_E was measured from the detection of the caustic-crossing feature, π_E was not measured owing to the short timescale $t_E \sim 6.5$ days. Therefore, we perform a Bayesian analysis to estimate the physical parameters of the lens. For the Bayesian analysis, we follow the procedures of Jung et al. (2018b) using the Galactic model that is based on the velocity distribution (Han & Gould 1995), mass function (Charbrier 2003), and matter density profile of the Galaxy (Han & Gould 2003).

Figure 5 shows the Bayesian probability distributions for the physical parameters of the host star for close and wide solutions. The mass and distance of the host star are

$$M_h = \begin{cases} 0.093^{+0.137}_{-0.049} M_\odot & (\text{close}) \\ 0.093^{+0.137}_{-0.049} M_\odot & (\text{wide}) \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

and

$$D_L = \begin{cases} 7.01^{+1.05}_{-1.21} \text{ kpc} & (\text{close}) \\ 7.04^{+1.05}_{-1.20} \text{ kpc} & (\text{wide}). \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Figure 4. Instrumental CMD of the event KMT-2019-BLG-0371. The red and green circles represent the GC centroid and source star, respectively.

Table 3
Source Parameters

Parameters	Close	Wide
$(V - I)_{s,0}$	0.64 ± 0.07	0.66 ± 0.07
$I_{s,0}$	17.62 ± 0.09	17.52 ± 0.09
θ_* (μ as)	0.88 ± 0.08	0.95 ± 0.08

Because of $M_p = qM_h$, the secondary companion mass of the host star is

$$M_p = \begin{cases} 7.70^{+11.34}_{-3.90} M_{\text{Jup}} & (\text{close}) \\ 11.98^{+17.65}_{-6.31} M_{\text{Jup}} & (\text{wide}). \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

The results indicate that the lens is most probably a low-mass M dwarf with a super-Jupiter planet or a brown dwarf. The projected separation between the host and the planet is

$$a_{\perp} = sD_L \theta_E = \begin{cases} 0.79^{+0.14}_{-0.16} \text{ au} & (\text{close}) \\ 1.50^{+0.27}_{-0.29} \text{ au} & (\text{wide}). \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

Considering the snow line location of $a_{\text{snow}} = 2.7(M/M_{\odot}) \text{ au}$ (Kennedy & Kenyon 2008), the planet orbits beyond the snow

line of the host star in both models. The physical parameters of the lens system are described in Table 4.

5. Investigation of Bayesian Analysis

There have now been several events with direct measurements of the lens flux from high-resolution imaging (Batista et al. 2015; Bennett et al. 2015, 2020; Bhattacharya et al. 2019, 2020; Terry et al. 2020; Vandenroux et al. 2020). Comparing the inferred masses to the predictions from prior Bayesian estimates has often resulted in disagreements. At the same time, the true masses are not necessarily expected to agree perfectly because a Bayesian posterior produces a distribution. For example, Shan et al. (2019) compared the measured masses to the Bayesian posteriors for a sample of events with masses measured from Spitzer parallaxes. They found that although there were some nominal outliers relative to a Bayesian prediction, as an ensemble they were consistent with being drawn from the distribution, e.g., 5% of events should have masses at least 2σ from the central predicted value. At the same time, we would benefit from a better understanding of how the inputs to Bayesian analyses affect the outputs.

In order to investigate the roles of θ_E and μ_{rel} in the Bayesian analysis, we repeat the calculation of the predicted lens mass on

Figure 5. Bayesian probability distributions of the host mass (M_h) and the distance (D_L). Red and blue lines indicate the close and wide solutions, respectively.

Table 4
Lens Parameters

Parameters	Close	Wide
$M_h (M_\odot)$	$0.09^{+0.14}_{-0.05}$	$0.09^{+0.14}_{-0.05}$
$M_p (M_{\text{Jup}})$	$7.70^{+11.34}_{-3.90}$	$11.98^{+17.65}_{-6.31}$
D_L (kpc)	$7.01^{+1.05}_{-1.21}$	$7.04^{+1.05}_{-1.20}$
$a_\perp$ (au)	$0.79^{+0.14}_{-0.16}$	$1.50^{+0.27}_{-0.29}$
μ_{rel} (mas yr $^{-1}$)	7.68 ± 0.70	7.53 ± 0.70

a grid of $\log \theta_E$ and $\log \mu_{\text{rel}}$.²⁷ Here we adopt the ranges $-2.8 \leq \log \theta_E \leq 0.6$ and $-0.8 \leq \log \mu_{\text{rel}} \leq 1.8$, which span the range of values published in microlensing papers, and $(\log \theta_E, \log \mu_{\text{rel}})$ are uniformly divided over a (100×100) grid. Figure 6 shows that for $\mu_{\text{rel}} \lesssim 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$, the median mass derived from the Bayesian analysis depends only on θ_E . That is,

²⁷ Technically, θ_E and μ_{rel} are correlated because they are derived from t_E and ρ , which are correlated parameters in the microlensing model (e.g., Yee et al. 2009). However, these parameters are usually well measured from the microlensing model (to within a few percent), and there are other sources of uncertainty in θ_E . By contrast, the errors in the Bayesian estimates of M and D_L are typically 1 to 2 orders of magnitude larger than the errors in the microlensing parameters. Therefore, the effect of any correlations between these parameters does not significantly influence the results, and it is not taken into account in the Bayesian analysis.

once θ_E is known, the inferred mass does not depend on the lens–source relative proper motion.

At first, this seems surprising because it seems that μ_{rel} should constrain the Galactic population to which the lens belongs. If both the lens and the source are in the Galactic bulge, we might expect only a small relative proper motion between them. By contrast, if the lens is in the disk, we might expect a larger relative proper motion on average because disk stars move with the galactic rotation curve relative to the bulge. If the lens is very near the Sun, we might expect an even larger proper motion owing to the peculiar motion of the lens. However, a brief investigation reveals that only the third constraint (extremely large proper motions corresponding to very nearby lenses) is significant.

Generally, the source is in the bulge. So, its mean proper motion is $\langle \mu_{\text{rel}}(l, b) \rangle = (-6, 0) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ and the dispersion in each direction is about 3 mas yr^{-1} . Thus, for bulge–bulge lensing, $\langle \mu_{\text{rel}}(l, b) \rangle = (0, 0) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ as expected, but the dispersion in each direction is 4.2 mas yr^{-1} . Hence, any $|\mu_{\text{rel}}|$ is allowed in the range $0 < |\mu_{\text{rel}}| < 9 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$. For disk lenses, $\langle \mu_{\text{rel}}(l, b) \rangle = (6, 0) \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$, but again, the dispersion in each direction is 3.3 mas yr^{-1} (note that the dispersion of disk lenses is small and more or less constant as a function of distance). So again, pretty much any μ_{rel} is allowed for $0 < |\mu_{\text{rel}}| < 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$. Thus, $|\mu_{\text{rel}}| \lesssim 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ is not constraining,

Figure 6. Median mass produced by a Bayesian analysis for different combinations of θ_E and μ_{rel} . The solid contours are shown at fixed masses $M = (0.03, 0.075, 0.15, 0.3, 0.6, 0.9) M_\odot$ (red, yellow, green, cyan, blue, magenta). The open circles are events from the literature with masses inferred from a Bayesian analysis; they are color-coded by mass. The contours indicate that for $\mu_{\text{rel}} \lesssim 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ ($\log \mu_{\text{rel}} < 1$) the inferred mass is almost completely determined by θ_E .

which leaves only the θ_E constraint as contributing to the determination of the lens mass.

In terms of the Bayesian likelihood function, if we ignore μ_{rel} (which we have established is not constraining), we have the microlensing event rate Γ

$$\Gamma(M, D_L) = D_L^3 \rho(D_L) * g(M), \quad (12)$$

where $\rho(D_L)$ is the density of stars and $g(M)$ is their mass function. However,

$$\theta_E^2 = \kappa \pi_{\text{rel}} * M \rightarrow M = \frac{\theta_E^2}{\kappa \pi_{\text{rel}}}, \quad (13)$$

where $\pi_{\text{rel}} = \text{au}(1/D_L - 1/D_S)$ is the relative lens–source parallax. So, if θ_E is known, then

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(M, D_L) &\rightarrow \Gamma(D_L) \\ &= D_L^3 \rho(D_L) * g\left(\frac{\theta_E^2}{\kappa \pi_{\text{rel}}}\right), \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where π_{rel} is regarded as an implicit function of D_L , and π_s is regarded as fixed or varying over a narrow range (technically, Equation (14) should have another factor of θ_E , but this is always the same because it is measured). Hence, if we hold θ_E fixed, then $\Gamma(D_L)$ is some smooth function of D_L . One could take the peak of this function to be the most likely value, and hence infer M . Alternatively, one could marginalize over D_L , in which case

$$D_{L,\text{best}} = \frac{\sum_i D_{L,i} \Gamma(D_{L,i})}{\sum_i \Gamma(D_{L,i})} \quad (15)$$

and

$$M_{\text{best}} = \frac{\sum_i M(\theta_E^2 / \kappa \pi_{\text{rel},i}) \Gamma(D_{L,i})}{\sum_i \Gamma(D_{L,i})}. \quad (16)$$

Either way, the resulting mass (and distance) depends solely on θ_E .

Figure 7 shows the predicted lens mass (and its 68% confidence interval) as a function of θ_E after marginalizing over μ_{rel} for $\mu_{\text{rel}} < 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$. Although this relation was generated specifically for KMT-2019-BLG-0371 using the Galactic model described in Section 4.2, comparing to other published events with masses inferred from a Bayesian analysis shows that it is broadly applicable. That is, although the lens masses for the events from the literature²⁸ were derived along different lines of sight and using different Galactic models, the scatter in the inferred masses is smaller than the intrinsic uncertainties in our relation.

The three clear outliers on this plot (OB150954, Shin et al. 2016; Bennett et al. 2017; OB161540, Mróz et al. 2018; OB170560, Mróz et al. 2019) all have proper motions larger than our limit of $\mu_{\text{rel}, \text{max}} = 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$. A fourth outlier (OB121323; Mróz et al. 2019) is outside the bounds of this plot, but it has $\log \theta_E = -2.63$ and an expected mass of $M \sim 2\text{--}20 M_\oplus$. In this case, the Bayesian mass is highly sensitive to the choice of mass function, because the mass function for objects smaller than brown dwarfs is poorly constrained. In general, there are very few events with $\log \theta_E < -1.0$, so it is unclear whether θ_E still dominates inferences about the lens mass, especially because this corresponds to the region where our knowledge of the mass function prior becomes highly uncertain. However, the lack of scatter for larger θ_E implies that the relation shown in Figure 7 provides almost as much insight into the nature of lens as a full Bayesian analysis based on measurements of θ_E and μ_{rel} .

At the same time, Figure 7 also calls into question whether or not the “insight” gained from a Bayesian analysis is meaningful. The right panel of Figure 7 shows that the distribution of objects with true mass measurements (from combining a measurement of θ_E with a measurement of π_E) is much broader than the Bayesian relation. In fact, the distribution of mass at a given θ_E is fairly uniform, rather than concentrated toward the

²⁸ For events with multiple solutions, we used the mean mass for the different solutions.

Figure 7. Median Bayesian mass estimate as a function of θ_E , marginalized over μ_{rel} for $\mu_{\text{rel}} < 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ (gray points with error bars). Open circles show that the Bayesian mass estimates from the literature are all consistent with these estimates despite being along different lines of sight and using a range of priors. The outliers all have $\mu_{\text{rel}} > 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$ and so are not expected to obey this relation (see Figure 6). Left: points are color-coded by mass. Red solid and dashed lines indicate the polynomial fit of the mass curve and its $\pm 1\sigma$ error, respectively. Right: lenses with mass estimates from a Bayesian analysis are plotted as black circles. Lenses that also have parallax information (so a mass measurement) are plotted as red triangles.

Table 5
Polynomial Fit Coefficients

	A	B	C	D	E	a	b	c	d	e
Value	-0.19	-1.29	-2.47	-0.37	-0.15	3.32	-2.06	0.25	0.51	-0.13
+1 σ	-2.10	-1.34	-2.58	-0.77	-0.08	0.95	0.16	0.22	0.45	0.06
-1 σ	-0.21	-1.50	-3.16	-1.02	-0.62	2.77	-2.49	0.34	0.83	-0.42

most likely Bayesian mass. Of course, lenses with small masses may be overrepresented in this plot (since, at fixed θ_E , a smaller mass implies a larger, more easily measured parallax), but it still emphasizes the value of true mass measurements for interpreting the nature of microlensing events.

6. Summary

We analyzed the microlensing event KMT-2019-BLG-0371 with data from three different surveys (OGLE, KMTNet, and MOA). The best-fit model light curve of the event, thanks to

inferred mass for $\mu_{\text{rel}} < 10 \text{ mas yr}^{-1}$. Furthermore, comparing to Bayesian analyses in the literature shows that variations due to different lines of sight or different galactic models are smaller than the intrinsic uncertainty in the Bayesian analysis. Hence, for many applications, it is likely sufficient to use the relation and confidence interval in Figure 7 rather than a full Bayesian analysis. All values presented in Figure 7, which are θ_E , mass, and $\pm 1\sigma$ of the mass, are listed in Table 6. For easier access to the relation in Figure 7, we perform a polynomial fitting for the gray dotted mass curve and its $\pm 1\sigma$ error. The result is given as

$$\log(M_L/M_\odot) \simeq \begin{cases} A(\log \theta_E)^4 + B(\log \theta_E)^3 + C(\log \theta_E)^2 + D(\log \theta_E) + E & (\log \theta_E \leq -0.28) \\ a(\log \theta_E)^4 + b(\log \theta_E)^3 + c(\log \theta_E)^2 + d(\log \theta_E) + e & (\log \theta_E > -0.28), \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

the high-cadence observations, demonstrated an evident caustic crossing around the peak in spite of the short event duration ($t_E \sim 6.5$ days). Nevertheless, the event suffered from the $s \leftrightarrow 1/s$ degeneracy, and the microlens parallax was not measured. Therefore, there is ambiguity in the determination of a concrete solution for the lens. A Bayesian analysis suggests that the host star is likely to have a mass on the border between low-mass stars and brown dwarfs, making the companion a super-Jupiter planet, despite the large mass ratio.

Motivated by investigating the physical interpretation of this event, we use it as a proxy to study the role of various inputs to the Bayesian analysis used to infer the lens mass (and distance). This analysis takes both μ_{rel} and θ_E as inputs. However, the analysis shown in Figure 6 shows that only θ_E influences the

where the coefficients are presented in Table 5.

At the same time, events with measured masses (based on measurements of the microlens parallax) show a much broader distribution than indicated by this relation. This appears to conflict with the results of Shan et al. (2019), who showed that the true distribution of masses for events with measured masses and Spitzer parallaxes was consistent with a statistical sampling of the Bayesian mass posteriors derived for those events. One possible explanation is that Spitzer parallax measurements are less biased toward low-mass events than measurements from annual parallax, which dominate the sample shown in Figure 7. It is also possible that the 68% confidence interval does not fully reflect the shape of the posterior, which is broad and non-Gaussian (see, e.g., Figure 5).

Table 6
Parameters Plotted in Figure 7

$\log \theta_E$	$\log M_L$	$-1\sigma(\log M_L)$	$+1\sigma(\log M_L)$	References
-2.801	-2.094	0.514	0.540	...
-2.767	-2.081	0.539	0.525	...
-2.733	-2.080	0.532	0.541	...
-2.699	-2.066	0.556	0.556	...
-2.665	-2.046	0.587	0.595	...
-2.631	-2.076	0.574	0.650	...
-2.625	-4.398	...	...	OB121323 (1)
-2.597	-2.085	0.555	0.624	...
-2.563	-2.051	0.566	0.592	...
-2.529	-2.067	0.548	0.607	...
-2.495	-2.069	0.570	0.617	...
-2.461	-2.045	0.626	0.594	...
-2.427	-2.071	0.582	0.631	...
-2.393	-2.069	0.560	0.586	...
-2.359	-2.072	0.553	0.555	...
-2.325	-2.099	0.542	0.581	...
-2.291	-2.107	0.552	0.633	...
-2.257	-2.142	0.520	0.672	...
-2.223	-2.134	0.522	0.625	...
-2.189	-2.115	0.535	0.616	...
-2.155	-2.110	0.524	0.617	...
-2.121	-2.103	0.534	0.619	...
-2.087	-2.088	0.551	0.618	...
-2.053	-2.077	0.561	0.625	...
-2.036	-2.824	...	...	OB161540 (2)
-2.019	-2.077	0.550	0.638	...
-1.985	-2.071	0.541	0.633	...
-1.951	-2.053	0.541	0.608	...
-1.917	-2.041	0.534	0.600	...
-1.883	-2.037	0.520	0.603	...
-1.849	-2.026	0.520	0.596	...
-1.815	-2.012	0.525	0.593	...
-1.781	-1.996	0.523	0.591	...
-1.747	-1.978	0.515	0.589	...
-1.713	-1.952	0.506	0.583	...
-1.679	-1.927	0.496	0.579	...
-1.645	-1.903	0.479	0.573	...
-1.611	-1.877	0.463	0.564	...
-1.577	-1.850	0.450	0.547	...
-1.543	-1.821	0.435	0.530	...
-1.524	-1.534	...	...	MB15337 (3)
-1.509	-1.788	0.428	0.522	...
-1.475	-1.754	0.420	0.523	...
-1.441	-1.718	0.408	0.521	...
-1.412	-1.073	...	...	OB170560 (4)
-1.407	-1.681	0.398	0.513	...
-1.373	-1.641	0.394	0.500	...
-1.339	-1.600	0.389	0.487	...
-1.305	-1.559	0.378	0.474	...
-1.271	-1.518	0.369	0.461	...
-1.237	-1.476	0.359	0.447	...
-1.203	-1.432	0.352	0.439	...
-1.187	-1.339	...	...	OB171522 (5)
-1.169	-1.388	0.345	0.435	...
-1.135	-1.344	0.339	0.429	...
-1.130	-1.366	...	...	MOA-bin-29 (6)
-1.101	-1.296	0.336	0.420	...
-1.074	-1.350	...	...	KB161107 (7)
-1.067	-1.244	0.336	0.410	...
-1.046	-0.739	...	...	OB181011 (8)
-1.033	-1.196	0.330	0.401	...
-1.032	-0.997	...	...	OB150051 (9)
-1.032	-0.921	...	...	OB180677 (10)
-1.021	-1.140	...	...	OB151771 (11)

Table 6
(Continued)

$\log \theta_E$	$\log M_L$	$-1\sigma(\log M_L)$	$+1\sigma(\log M_L)$	References
-1.009	-0.997	...	...	OB161227 (12)
-0.999	-1.148	0.325	0.395	...
-0.965	-1.098	0.321	0.384	...
-0.955	-1.060	...	...	KB180748 (13)
-0.931	-1.048	0.320	0.373	...
-0.914	-1.057	...	...	KB162142 (14)
-0.914	-0.958	...	...	MB11262 (15)
-0.910	-1.363	...	...	KB161820 (16)
-0.904	-0.830	...	...	MB11291 (17)
-0.897	-0.996	0.317	0.362	...
-0.863	-0.947	0.312	0.355	...
-0.829	-0.899	0.306	0.348	...
-0.795	-0.849	0.303	0.339	...
-0.761	-0.799	0.303	0.332	...
-0.745	-0.298	...	...	KB162364 (18)
-0.733	-0.638	...	...	MB09411 (19)
-0.727	-0.744	...	...	MB10353 (20)
-0.727	-0.748	0.301	0.323	...
-0.693	-0.700	0.298	0.317	...
-0.688	-0.658	...	...	OB05390 (21)
-0.659	-0.651	0.297	0.308	...
-0.658	-0.509	...	...	OB08210 (22)
-0.625	-0.602	0.298	0.296	...
-0.620	-0.199	...	...	KB162397 (23)
-0.619	-0.537	...	...	OB120724 (24)
-0.591	-0.552	0.299	0.284	...
-0.557	-0.504	0.300	0.272	...
-0.553	-0.427	...	...	OB08355 (25)
-0.538	-0.678	...	...	MB08310 (26)
-0.538	-0.292	...	...	OB141760 (27)
-0.523	-0.457	0.300	0.258	...
-0.523	-0.397	...	...	MB11322 (28)
-0.499	-0.559	...	...	OB170373 (29)
-0.489	-0.414	0.299	0.243	...
-0.488	-0.398	...	...	OB120838 (30)
-0.469	-0.420	...	...	MB09319 (31)
-0.454	-0.371	0.301	0.228	...
-0.432	-0.372	...	...	OB181700 (32)
-0.432	-0.337	...	...	OB08513 (33)
-0.420	-0.330	0.307	0.212	...
-0.418	-0.260	...	...	OB151670 (34)
-0.415	-0.419	...	...	KB191339 (35)
-0.386	-0.294	0.314	0.199	...
-0.377	-0.337	...	...	OB131721 (36)
-0.352	-0.263	0.322	0.185	...
-0.318	-0.237	0.332	0.175	...
-0.287	-0.417	...	...	OB170173 (37)
-0.284	-0.217	0.341	0.167	...
-0.277	-0.194	...	...	OB07368 (38)
-0.260	-0.199	...	...	OB03235 (39)
-0.255	-0.465	...	...	OB151649 (40)
-0.250	-0.203	0.349	0.165	...
-0.216	-0.197	0.351	0.168	...
-0.182	-0.195	0.346	0.175	...
-0.168	-0.284	...	...	OB06238 (41)
-0.148	-0.193	0.334	0.183	...
-0.114	-0.186	0.319	0.194	...
-0.114	-0.123	...	...	MOA-bin-1 (42)
-0.097	-0.119	...	...	KB170165 (43)
-0.092	-0.267	...	...	OB130132 (44)
-0.080	-0.174	0.307	0.200	...
-0.056	-0.249	...	...	MB08379 (45)
-0.046	-0.159	0.297	0.200	...
-0.012	-0.140	0.288	0.196	...

Table 6
(Continued)

$\log \theta_E$	$\log M_L$	$-1\sigma(\log M_L)$	$+1\sigma(\log M_L)$	References
-0.009	-0.155	...	...	OB170604 (46)
-0.004	-0.080	...	...	OB171375 (47)
0.004	-0.119	...	...	KB190842 (48)
0.022	-0.121	0.276	0.192	...
0.056	-0.101	0.266	0.188	...
0.090	-0.081	0.259	0.184	...
0.095	-0.148	...	...	OB160613 (49)
0.107	-0.518	...	...	OB150954 (50)
0.124	-0.062	0.251	0.178	...
0.158	-0.048	0.239	0.179	...
0.192	-0.036	0.227	0.184	...
0.205	0.057	...	...	OB181269 (51)
0.226	-0.022	0.217	0.189	...
0.260	-0.008	0.209	0.195	...
0.294	0.010	0.200	0.233	...
0.328	0.028	0.192	0.240	...
0.362	0.044	0.189	0.237	...
0.387	-0.131	...	...	OB110417 (52)
0.396	0.058	0.187	0.236	...
0.430	0.078	0.186	0.243	...
0.464	0.109	0.194	0.251	...
0.498	0.141	0.201	0.279	...
0.532	0.169	0.208	0.321	...
0.566	0.196	0.220	0.298	...

References. (1) Mróz et al. 2019; (2) Mróz et al. 2018; (3) Miyazaki et al. 2018; (4) Mróz et al. 2019; (5) Jung et al. 2018b; (6) Kondo et al. 2019; (7) Hwang et al. 2019; (8) Han et al. 2019a; (9) Han et al. 2016; (10) Herrera-Martín et al. 2020; (11) Zhang et al. 2020; (12) Han et al. 2020a; (13) Han et al. 2020c; (14) Jung et al. 2018a; (15) Bennett et al. 2014; (16) Jung et al. 2018a; (17) Bennett et al. 2018; (18) Han et al. 2020e; (19) Bachelet et al. 2012; (20) Rattenbury et al. 2015; (21) Beaulieu et al. 2006; (22) Jeong et al. 2015; (23) Han et al. 2020e; (24) Hirao et al. 2016; (25) Koshimoto et al. 2014; (26) Bhattacharya et al. 2017; (27) Bhattacharya et al. 2016; (28) Shvartzvald et al. 2014; (29) Skowron et al. 2018; (30) Poleski et al. 2020; (31) Miyake et al. 2011; (32) Han et al. 2020b; (33) Jeong et al. 2015; (34) Ranc et al. 2019; (35) Han et al. 2020d; (36) Mróz et al. 2017; (37) Hwang et al. 2018; (38) Sumi et al. 2010; (39) Bennett et al. 2006; (40) Nagakane et al. 2019; (41) Jeong et al. 2015; (42) Bennett et al. 2012; (43) Jung et al. 2019; (44) Mróz et al. 2017; (45) Suzuki et al. 2014; (46) Han et al. 2020e; (47) Han et al. 2020e; (48) Jung et al. 2020b; (49) Han et al. 2017; (50) Bennett et al. 2017; (51) Jung et al. 2020a; (52) Shin et al. 2012).

Adaptive optics observations that measure the flux from the host star and/or independently measure μ_{rel} could be used to both resolve the nature of the lens in KMT-2019-BLG-0371 and further explore the limits of Bayesian analysis. For KMT-2019-BLG-0371, the lens has a $\sim 50\%$ probability of being a star. Thus, given that the source is faint, it is possible that excess light from the lens could be detected immediately to either estimate the flux from the lens or place an upper limit on it. However, if the lens is not resolved from the source, there is a risk of confusion if the excess light is in fact due to a companion to the lens (or source), rather than the lens itself (see, e.g., Bhattacharya et al. 2017). This confusion can be mitigated by waiting until the lens and source separate. In K band with a 10 m telescope, KMT-2019-BLG-0371L should be resolved from the source by ~ 2026 . With a 30 m telescope, its flux should be observable even for masses into the brown dwarf regime. If such measurements were made for a sizable sample of events that also have Bayesian estimates for the lens mass (at

present there are only a handful of such objects), this would serve as an independent test of the relation shown in Figure 7.

Work by Y.H.K. was supported by the KASI (Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute) grant 2021-1-830-08. This research has made use of the KMTNet system operated by the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI) and the data were obtained at three host sites of CTIO in Chile, SAAO in South Africa, and SSO in Australia. The OGLE project has received funding from the National Science Centre, Poland, grant MAESTRO 2014/14/A/ST9/00121 to A.U. The MOA project was supported by JSPS KAKENHI grant Nos. JSPS24253004, JSPS26247023, JSPS23340064, JSPS15H00781, JP17H02871, and JP16H06287. Work by C.H. was supported by the grants of the National Research Foundation of Korea (2019R1A2C2085965 and 2020R1A4A2002885).

ORCID iDs

Yun Hak Kim <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0646-9198>
 Sun-Ju Chung <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6285-4528>
 Jennifer C. Yee <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9481-7123>
 A. Udalski <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5207-5619>
 Youn Kil Jung <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0314-6000>
 Michael D. Albrow <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3316-4012>
 Cheongho Han <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2641-9964>
 Kyu-Ha Hwang <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9241-4117>
 Yoon-Hyun Ryu <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9823-2907>
 In-Gu Shin <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4355-9838>
 Yossi Shvartzvald <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1525-5041>
 Weicheng Zang <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6000-3463>
 Hyoun-Woo Kim <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8263-1006>
 Seung-Lee Kim <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0562-5643>
 Chung-Uk Lee <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0043-3925>
 Byeong-Gon Park <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6982-7722>
 Richard W. Pogge <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1435-3053>
 Przemek Mróz <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7016-1692>
 Jan Skowron <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2335-1730>
 Michal K. Szymański <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0548-8995>
 Igor Soszyński <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7777-0842>
 Paweł Pietrukowicz <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2339-5899>
 Krzysztof Ulaczyk <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6364-408X>
 Patryk Iwanek <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6212-7221>
 Richard Barry <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4916-0892>
 David P. Bennett <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8043-8413>
 Akihiko Fukui <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4909-5763>
 Yoshitaka Itow <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8198-1968>
 Iona Kondo <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3401-1029>
 Naoki Koshimoto <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2302-9562>
 Yasushi Muraki <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1978-2092>
 Shota Miyazaki <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9818-1513>
 Clément Ranc <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2388-4534>
 Nicholas J. Rattenbury <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5069-319X>
 Takahiro Sumi <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4035-5012>
 Daisuke Suzuki <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5843-9433>

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