

CLASS B1152+199 AND B1359+154: TWO NEW GRAVITATIONAL LENS SYSTEMS DISCOVERED IN THE COSMIC LENS ALL-SKY SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

The third phase of the Cosmic Lens All-Sky Survey (CLASS) has recently been completed, bringing the total number of sources imaged to over 15,000 in the CLASS and Jodrell-VLA Astrometric Survey combined survey. In the VLA observations carried out in 1998 March and April, two new candidate lensed systems were discovered: CLASS B1152+199 and B1359+154. B1152+199 is a 1''6 double, with a background quasar at $z = 1.019$ lensed by a foreground galaxy at $z = 0.439$. The relatively flat radio spectra of the lensed images ($\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94} = -0.32$), combined with a previous *ROSAT* detection of the source, make B1152+199 a strong candidate for time delay studies at both radio and X-ray wavelengths. B1359+154 is a quadruply lensed quasar at $z = 3.235$, with a maximum image separation of 1''7. As yet, the redshift of the lensing object in this system is undetermined. The steep spectral index of the source ($\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94} = -0.9$) suggests that B1359+154 will not exhibit strong variability and is therefore unlikely to be useful for determining H_0 from measured time delays.

Key words: gravitational lensing

1. INTRODUCTION

The Cosmic Lens All-Sky Survey (CLASS) commenced observations in 1994 (Myers et al. 1995), building upon the foundation of the Jodrell-VLA Astrometric Survey (JVAS; Patnaik et al. 1992). In the three observing “seasons” since that time, CLASS has observed over 10,000 targets selected as flat spectrum between 4.8 and 1.4 GHz, bringing the CLASS total (including JVAS) to over 15,000 sources. Details of the CLASS survey and statistical sample will be presented in a forthcoming paper (Myers et al. 1999). In this paper, we present the discovery of two new lenses from the CLASS-3 observations.

As in the other CLASS papers, we adopt the convention

$$S \propto \nu^\alpha, \quad (1)$$

where ν is the frequency of observation. Our flat-spectrum sample is defined as those sources with $\alpha \geq -0.5$ between 4.85 GHz in the improved Green Bank survey (GB6; Gregory et al. 1996) and 1.4 GHz in the NRAO VLA Sky Survey (NVSS; Condon et al. 1998).

The CLASS-3 observations mainly concentrated on the region from 0° to $+28^\circ$ in declination. A lower density of

fainter sources filled in gaps in the rest of the CLASS survey area from $+28^\circ$ to $+76^\circ$ declination using the new NVSS selection. With CLASS-3, nearly all GB6 sources 30 mJy or brighter satisfying the spectral selection have been observed, with the exception of a small number (~ 700) falling in the remaining gaps of NVSS.

2. OBSERVATIONS

The third phase of the survey (CLASS-3) was carried out with the NRAO Very Large Array (VLA)⁴ in the A configuration during 1998 March–May. The VLA default X-band intermediate frequencies (IFs) were used in CLASS-3: 8.4351 and 8.4851 GHz, with an average frequency of 8.46 GHz. As in previous CLASS sessions, 30 s integrations were taken on each source, with phase calibrators (selected from JVAS) inserted in the schedule after every 10th CLASS target. On average, 54 CLASS sources were observed per hour. A total of 5096 targets were observed in CLASS-3.

The data reduction pipeline was identical to that used in CLASS-1 and CLASS-2 (e.g., Myers et al. 1995). Calibration was performed in AIPS, with mapping automatically carried out in DIFMAP (Shepherd, Pearson, & Taylor 1994). At the end of the AUTOMAP procedure, model fitting was performed by using Gaussian components placed at the positions of the individual small “clean” boxes found in the main search loops. As the goal of CLASS

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is to search for the lensing of compact radio cores, any sources exhibiting multiple compact model-fit components were identified promptly after sections of the observations had been completed to allow follow-up in later parts of CLASS-3.

The preliminary automap output from CLASS-3 indicated two excellent lens candidates: CLASS B1152+199 and B1359+154. B1152+199 is a 1".6 double, with two distinct compact components. The map of B1359+154 shows five components, with four compact and one extended in the X-band snapshot. This is believed to be a 1".7 quadruple lens system where lensing galaxy emission is also seen, making it similar to CLASS B2045+265 (Fassnacht et al. 1999). Follow-up VLA observations of the two candidates at U band (14.94 GHz) were carried out in the April run, confirming the multiplicity, compactness, and identical component spectra expected for the lensing hypothesis.

Analysis and model fitting with point and Gaussian components was done in DIFMAP. DIFMAP functions by working on the residual "difference map" produced by transforming the residual UV data after subtraction of the current model from the original UV data set (see Shepherd et al. 1994 and Shepherd 1997 for more details on DIFMAP). Maps were made using both uniform UV weighting (to get the highest resolution possible, at the cost of noise level) and natural UV weighting (to get the best signal-to-noise ratio possible, at the cost of resolution). Uncertainties in the positions and flux densities were determined using the square root of the diagonal elements of the covariance matrix that DIFMAP computes during the model-fitting procedure. For the flux densities, this is very nearly identical to the rms in the naturally weighted residual image, and this is what we present in the tables below. Images were constructed using the residual maps as a noise floor and then adding the model components convolved with a Gaussian restoring beam of width appropriate to the core of the synthesized ("dirty") beam for the chosen weighting.

The overall flux density scale used for the X-band observations was based on 5.18 ± 0.10 Jy for J1331+305 (3C286) and 3.22 ± 0.10 Jy for J0137+331 (3C48). This calibration should be good to $\pm 3\%$ or better, as estimated from the scatter in VLA calibrator measurements over the time period of CLASS-3 (this information is available from the VLA). In addition to these primary calibrators, we used compact steep-spectrum sources J0713+438 (1.20 ± 0.02 Jy) and J1945+709 (0.43 ± 0.01 Jy). The gain stability of the VLA at X band is superb, and the internal consistency between the correlator counts per jansky as determined by these independent sources was better than 2% for the 1998 April 5 data, for example. At U band, however, the flux density scale is more uncertain. We adopted 3.4 ± 0.1 Jy for J1331+305 and as a secondary calibrator assumed 0.73 ± 0.04 Jy for J0713+438. We estimate an overall calibration accuracy of $\pm 3\%$ at X band, and $\pm 5\%$ at U band from the scatter in VLA calibrator measurements during the several months of the CLASS-3 observations. In the following discussion of uncertainties and in the error estimates given in the tables, we do not include these overall scale errors. However, these should be kept in mind, especially in the quoted spectral indices between the X band and U band, as the conservative 3% and 5% estimated uncertainties in the X-band and U-band flux densities, respec-

tively, translate to a spectral index uncertainty of $\sigma_\alpha = 0.1$ when propagated.

2.1. Optical Follow-Up

Both lens candidates were observed with the Low Resolution Imaging Spectrograph (LRIS; Oke et al. 1995) on the W. M. Keck II Telescope on 1998 April 21. The 1".5 long slit and 300 gr mm^{-1} grating were used for the observation. The wavelength coverage was 4024–9012 Å, with a scale on the detector of $2.44 \text{ Å pixel}^{-1}$. For each lens candidate the long-slit position angle was chosen to cover the lensed images and the predicted position of the lensing galaxy. The data were reduced using standard IRAF⁵ routines. The flat-field frames were constructed from dome flat observations. The sky lines in each spectrum were used to make corrections for flexure in the spectrograph. Observations of the Oke standard star Feige 34 (Oke 1990) were used to determine the response of the detector. The spectra were extracted using the optimal weighting routines in IRAF.

In addition, each candidate was observed with the COSMIC camera on the Palomar 5 m telescope on 1998 May 31. A set of images was taken in the Gunn *g* and *i* filters. The observing conditions were not photometric, with high cirrus present throughout the evening. The average seeing was found to be 1".1. The standard star Feige 67 was observed to set the magnitude scale. Magnitudes were derived using the IRAF APPHOT package. We estimate errors in calibration of as much as several tenths of a magnitude, given the conditions.

3. CLASS B1152+199

CLASS B1152+199 was selected as GB6 J11553+1939 with a 4.85 GHz flux density of 76 mJy. The corresponding 1.4 GHz flux density in the NVSS is 77.4 mJy, and thus the overall two-point spectral index is $\alpha_{1.4}^{4.85} = -0.02$. The target GB6 J11553+1939 also corresponds to MG2 J115518+1940 (Langston et al. 1990), which is identified with a mag 16.9 optical object in the Palomar Sky Survey E plates (Brinkmann et al. 1997), consistent with what we find in our follow-up. Note that Brinkmann et al. were observing counterparts to X-ray sources seen in the *ROSAT* All-Sky Survey and that they located a 69 mJy radio source at 4.85 GHz (VLA D configuration 1992) in this location (Laurent-Muehleisen et al. 1997).

Examination of the *ROSAT* All-Sky Survey catalog identifies CLASS B1152+199 with RXS J115517.6+193935. Analysis of the *ROSAT* data gives a (0.5–2 keV) flux density of $8 \times 10^{-13} \text{ ergs cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$. *ROSAT* detection of X-ray emission at this position argues for quasar identification. The bright X-ray emission, combined with the compact flat-spectrum radio structure, strongly suggest that this source will be variable and therefore a good target for both radio and X-ray time delay monitoring.

The X-band discovery 30 s snapshot and U-band 5 minute image are shown in Figure 1. Because this is a relatively bright source, we show the uniformly weighted images, with resolutions of 0".21 (X band) and 0".13 (U

⁵ IRAF (Image Reduction and Analysis Facility) is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, which are operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

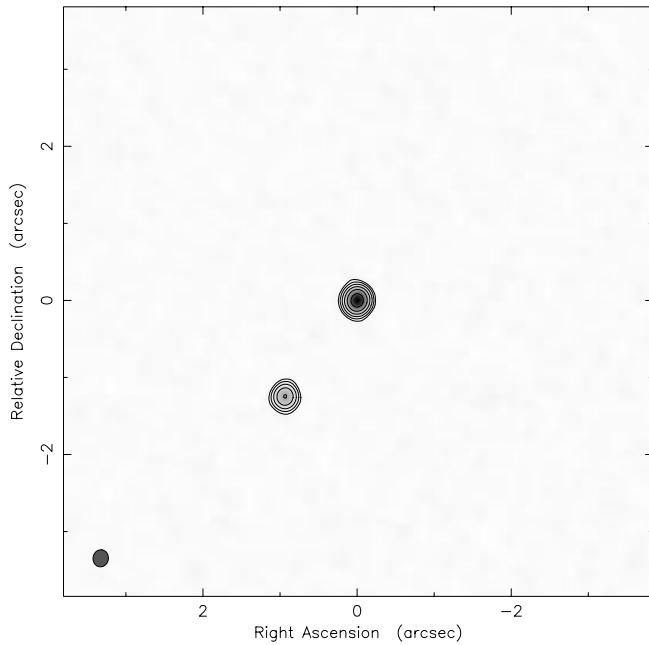


FIG. 1a

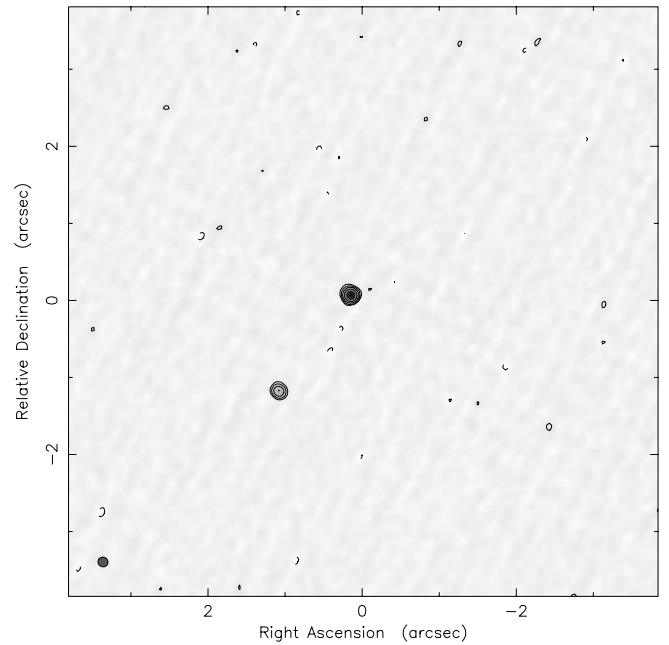


FIG. 1b

FIG. 1.—The gravitational lens CLASS B1152+199. (a) 8.46 GHz VLA radio image, $0''.21$ resolution, uniform weighting taken 1998 April 3. Lowest contour $\pm 2\%$ of map peak of $52.2 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$, and contours increase by factors of 2. (b) 14.94 GHz VLA image, $0''.12$ resolution, uniform weighting, taken 1998 April 5. Lowest contours $\pm 4\%$ of peak $42.6 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$, and positive contours increase by factors of 2.

band). We find two components with a relative separation of $1''.56$ and a flux density ratio of 3:1. Further examination reveals a third faint radio source in the field. This object is $23''$ from the two compact components and is probably unrelated (in a lensing sense) to the flat-spectrum double. This source is designated as component C in the tables. Positional and flux density data for B1152+199 are listed in Table 1.

The combined flux densities of components A and B in the VLA maps are 69.5 mJy at 8.46 GHz and 58.1 mJy at 14.94 GHz . Thus, the overall spectral index between the X and U bands is $\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94} = -0.32$, slightly steeper than the spectral index found at lower frequencies. Both components A and B are compact in the uniformly weighted X-band and U-band images, and the spectral indices of the components are identical within the uncertainties.

Although the distant component C was extremely faint in the U-band image, model fitting was able to solve for a component, which converged to the same position as in the X-band data. The spectral index of source C between the X band and U band is significantly steeper than that of components A and B and therefore it is unlikely to be another

image. However, it might be the compact hot-spot in a lobe or an altogether unrelated source.

3.1. Optical Follow-Up of B1152+199

Spectra of B1152+199 were extracted from two 600 s observations using a single-slit position (P.A. = 320°), with lines from both source and lens seen. Figure 2 is dominated by light from the background source. Three emission lines from the source are observed: strong broad Mg II $\lambda 2800$ at 5650 \AA , [O II] $\lambda 3727$ at 7526 \AA , and H γ at 8760 \AA . These lines establish the source redshift at $z_s = 1.0189 \pm 0.0004$. In addition, at the blue end of the spectrum Mg II and Mg I absorption lines associated with the lens are seen. A second spectrum was extracted offset along the slit from the main emission (Fig. 3) and is dominated by light from the lensing galaxy. The features associated with the lens include the Mg I absorption seen in Figure 2 at 4104 \AA , [O II] $\lambda 3727$ emission at 5368 \AA , and Ca II H and K absorption at 5660 and 5706 \AA . These lines give a consistent lens redshift of $z_l = 0.4386 \pm 0.0008$. Note that the spectrum around the Ca H and K lines is distorted by the broad Mg II emission

TABLE 1
CLASS B1152+199: COMPONENT POSITIONS AND FLUX DENSITIES

COMPONENT	OFFSET (arcsec)		S_X (mJy)	S_U (mJy)	$\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94}$	$S_X(A)/S_X$
	East	North				
A	0	0	52.27	43.78	-0.31 ± 0.01	1.00
B	$+0.935 \pm 0.005$	-1.248 ± 0.005	17.23	14.34	-0.32 ± 0.03	3.03 ± 0.03
C	-23.085 ± 0.036	-0.144 ± 0.038	2.34	1.20	-1.2 ± 0.4	22.3 ± 1.5

NOTE.—Positions are offset from R.A. $11^{\text{h}}55^{\text{m}}18^{\text{s}}.2971$ and decl. $+19^\circ 39' 42''.230$ (J2000.0). The rms noise levels are $0.16 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ for the 1998 April 1998 3 X-band observation and $0.25 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ for the 1998 April 5 U-band observation.

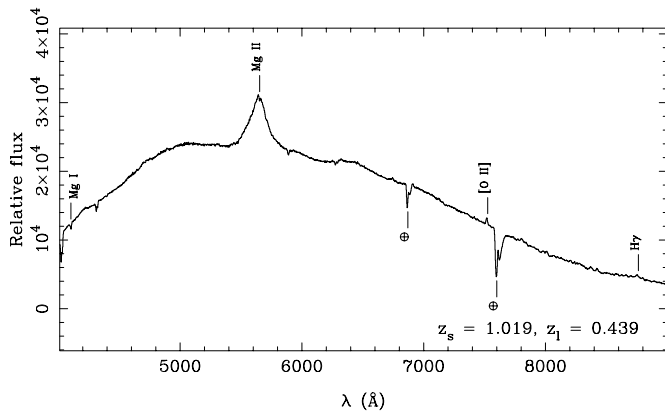


FIG. 2.—Keck II LRIS spectrum of B1152+199 dominated by light from the background source. The strong broad lines establish the source redshift as $z_s = 1.019$. The absorption lines at the blue end are associated with the lens.

line from the source. Several narrow emission lines associated with the background source are also seen in Figure 3, including Ne v $\lambda 3346$ at 6756 Å, Ne v $\lambda 3427$ at 6918 Å, and the [O II] and H γ observed in Figure 2.

The g band COSMIC image of B1152+199 is shown in Figure 4. There is a bright stellar object ($g = 16.5$ and $i = 16.6$) located at the radio position. Presumably, this is the brighter of the two lensed images, with the weaker image significantly attenuated by dust extinction from the lens. Given that the Keck spectrum clearly shows two system redshifts, with the brighter background source spectrum consistent with that of a $z_s = 1.019$ quasar, it is unlikely that this is simply a chance misidentification. Improved ground-based imaging or *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) observations will be required to clearly sort out the optical properties of this system.

3.2. Preliminary Lens Model for B1152+199

B1152+199 is a two-component system, and current imaging data provides only three active constraints on the modeling—two relative coordinates and a flux-density ratio. Furthermore, since B1152+199 is flat spectrum, the true magnification ratio may be masked by variability (though the consistency between the 4.85 GHz flux densities in GB6 and the VLA data of Laurent-Muehleisen et al. argues against strong variability). The modeling of this system will therefore be postponed until additional con-

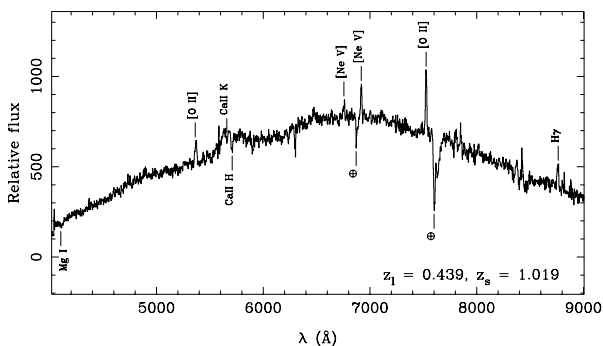
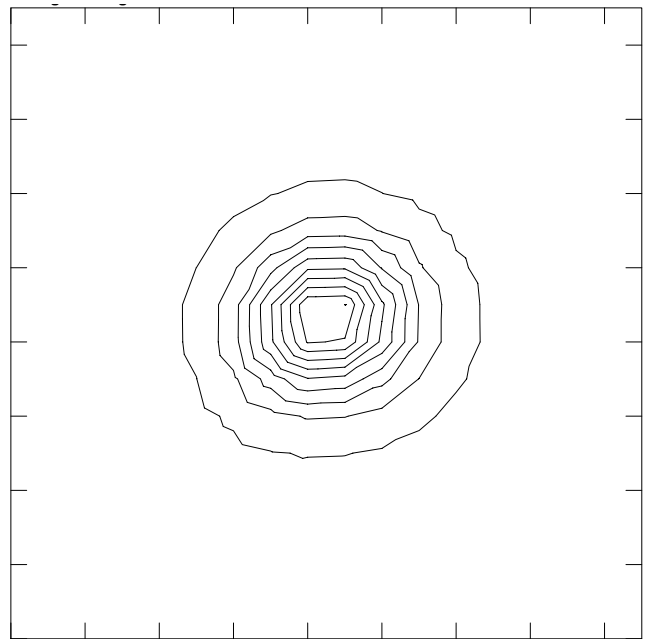


FIG. 3.—Keck-II LRIS spectrum of lensing galaxy in B1152+199. The lines from the lens give $z_l = 0.439$. Lines associated with the background source are also seen in this spectrum.



Peak flux = 3.2136E+04
Levs = 3.214E+03 * (-10, -9, -8, -7, -6, -5, -4, -3, -2, -1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

FIG. 4.—COSMIC g band contour map of B1152+199, showing the 16.5 mag stellar object at the lens position. Contours are at 10% intervals, and there is no sign of a secondary image. The field of view displayed is $5'' \times 5''$.

straints can be obtained, such as the location of the lensing galaxy relative to the images from optical or infrared observations, or substructure seen in higher resolution radio maps.

4. CLASS B1359+154

CLASS B1359+154 was selected as GB6 J14016+1513, with a flux density of 66 mJy at 4.85 GHz. At 1.4 GHz, the NVSS flux density is 115 mJy, giving an overall low-frequency spectral index of $\alpha_{1.4}^{4.85} = -0.447$, near the limit of our spectral index cutoff ($\alpha_{1.4}^{8.5} = -0.5$).

The X-band discovery 30 s snapshot (not shown) was taken on 1998 March 16. Follow-up 5 minute X-band and 10 minute U-band observations were made on 1998 April 5. The deep X-band image is shown in Figure 5a with uniform weighting to enhance the resolution ($0''.21$). The map of the U-band data shown in Figure 5b at a resolution of $0''.15$ was made using natural weighting to show the fainter components. A total of six components are seen in the deeper X-band image, with an additional component (F) found near the center component (E). This component was later found using model fitting in the original X-band snapshot and appears in the tables. We tentatively identify the outer components, labeled A–D clockwise from the brightest (north) component, as the images of a single background source. The two central components, E and F, are both found to be extended in the deep X-band data set, supporting the hypothesis that these are due to lensing galaxy emission. The positions and flux densities of the B1359+154 radio components are listed in Table 2. Positions were computed without any self-calibration applied to the data to minimize biases introduced by those steps.

The total flux density of the components in the deep X-band image is 27.9 mJy, significantly less than the GB6

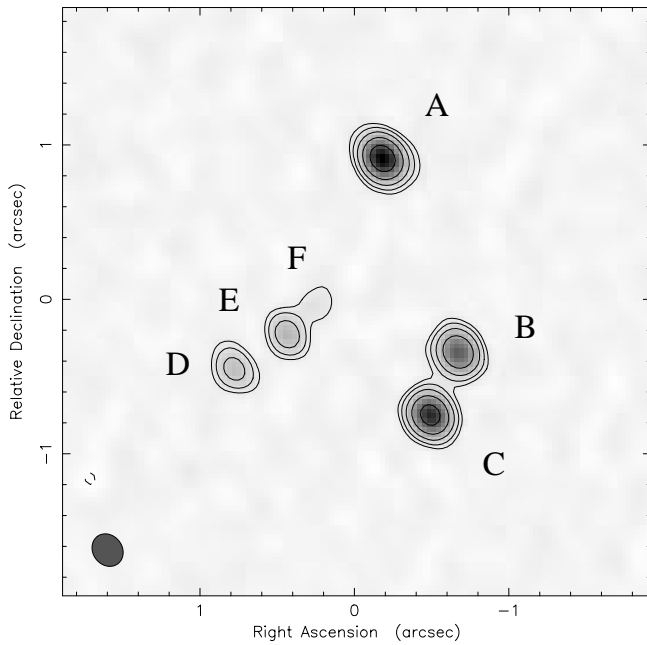


FIG. 5a

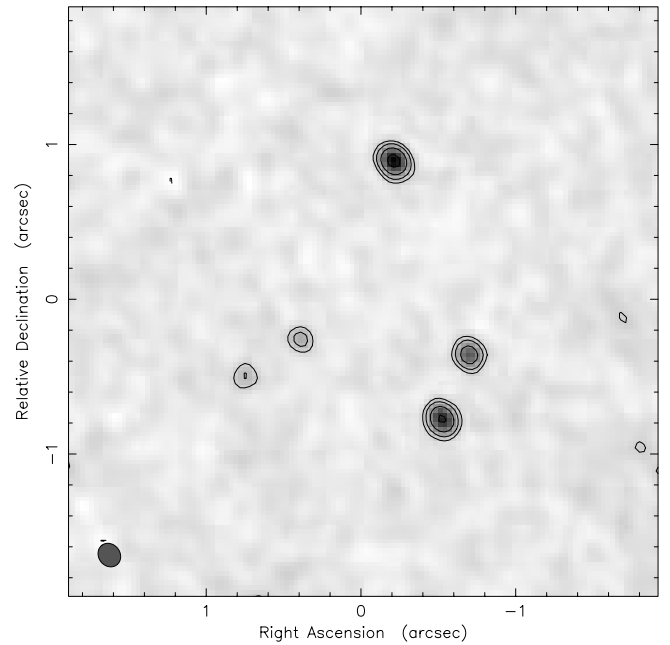


FIG. 5b

FIG. 5.—The gravitational lens CLASS B1359 + 154. (a) Deep 8.46 GHz VLA radio image, 0".21 resolution, uniform weighting. Contours begin at $\pm 4\%$ of the peak flux density of $9.36 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ and increase in factors of 2. (b) 14.94 GHz VLA image, 0".15 resolution, natural weighting. Contours begin at $\pm 10\%$ of peak flux density of $5.35 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ and step in factors of 2. Both images taken on 1998 April 5.

flux density, possibly indicating the presence of extended emission that is resolved out of the VLA images. For the brightest five components (A–E) detected in both of the 1998 April 5 images, the overall high-frequency spectral index is $\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94} = -0.9$. Note that the central component E has a spectral index flatter than that of the outer components, also indicating that it is probably associated with the lensing galaxy, rather than being an additional lensed image. Component F is too faint to see in the U-band image (it would be less than 2σ if it is as flat spectrum as E).

As in the case of B1152 + 199, wide-field images were made of the data to look for companion sources. In the deep X-band image, for example, no sources are found above a flux density of 0.5 mJy within $\pm 128''$ of the location of B1359 + 154.

4.1. Optical Follow-Up of B1359 + 154

The spectrum of B1359 + 154 was extracted from a single 480 s exposure with the slit at P.A. = 70° . This is shown in Figure 6. Several emission lines are observed with almost no

detected continuum. These emission lines can all be identified with a source at redshift $z_s = 3.235 \pm 0.002$. The lines seen are Ly α at 5150 \AA , N v $\lambda 1240$ at 5252 \AA , C iv $\lambda 1549$ at 6556 \AA , He II $\lambda 1640$ at 6948 \AA , and C III $\lambda 1909$ at 8073 \AA . No features associated with the lensing galaxy are observed.

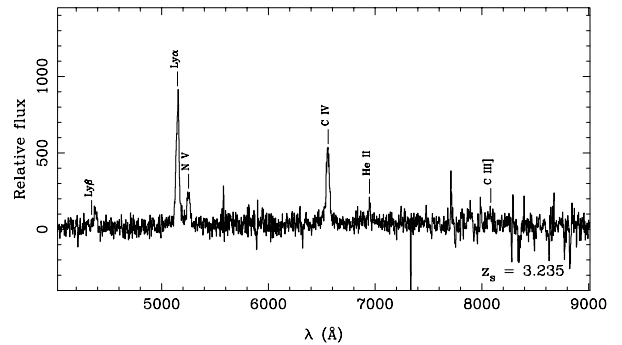


FIG. 6.—Keck II LRIS spectrum of B1359 + 154. The identified emission lines give a source redshift of $z_s = 3.235$.

TABLE 2

CLASS B1359 + 154: COMPONENT POSITIONS AND FLUX DENSITIES

COMPONENT	OFFSET (arcsec)		S_X (mJy)	$S_{X\text{deep}}$ (mJy)	S_U (mJy)	$\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94}$	$S_X(A)/S_X$
	East	North					
A	0	0	9.86	9.57	5.43	-1.00 ± 0.06	1.00
B	-0.489 ± 0.006	-1.256 ± 0.006	5.87	5.82	3.51	-0.89 ± 0.09	1.64 ± 0.02
C	-0.310 ± 0.004	-1.662 ± 0.004	7.95	7.92	4.77	-0.89 ± 0.07	1.21 ± 0.01
D	$+0.958 \pm 0.019$	-1.372 ± 0.018	2.22	1.93	1.05	-1.07 ± 0.30	4.96 ± 0.17
E	$+0.617 \pm 0.017$	-1.138 ± 0.016	2.49	2.17	1.49	-0.66 ± 0.21	4.41 ± 0.14
F	$+0.437 \pm 0.065$	-0.955 ± 0.064	0.74	0.50	19.1 ± 2.5

NOTE.—Positions are offset from R.A. $14^{\text{h}}01^{\text{m}}35^{\text{s}}.5495$ and decl. $+15^\circ 13' 25''.643$ (J2000.0). The rms noise levels are $0.224 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ for the 1998 March 16 X-band deep observation, $0.066 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ for the 1998 April 5 deep X-band observation, and $0.176 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ for the 1998 April 5 U-band observation. The deep X-band data is used in the calculation of flux density ratios and spectral indices. Using the 16 Mar 1998 X-band data yields similar results.

A wide-field ($35'' \times 35''$) Gunn g band COSMIC image of B1359+154 is shown in Figure 7, while a close-up g band image is shown in Figure 8. The quad structure is clearly observed and agrees well with the orientation seen in the radio images. However, the seeing and image quality are insufficient to separate out the images and possible lensing galaxy emission. This will likely have to await *HST* imaging. The total magnitude of the system (images plus lens emission) is 22.5 in Gunn g and 21.9 in Gunn i .

4.2. Preliminary Lens Model for B1359+154

The modeling of a gravitational lens system with N unresolved components is constrained by $2(N - 1)$ relative image coordinates and $N - 1$ magnification (flux density) ratios. The VLA maps of B1359+154 therefore provide nine modeling constraints. Image positions and flux den-

sities are taken from the deep X-band data. We assume $q_0 = 0.5$, $H_0 = 100 h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, and a lens redshift of $z_l = 0.5$ for all calculations.

Optimization was performed using a pseudoimage plane minimization technique as described in Kochanek (1991). Once the model has converged, the lens equation is inverted to solve for the true images of the recovered source position. Coordinates are shifted to fix component A at (0, 0). A χ^2 is calculated using the relative positions (θ_i) and magnification ratios ($r_i = |S(i)/S(A)|$) of the resulting images,

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=B,C,D} \left[\frac{(\theta'_i - \theta_i)^2}{\Delta\theta_i^2} + \frac{(r'_i - r_i)^2}{\Delta r_i^2} \right],$$

where primed quantities are model-predicted and unprimed quantities are observed. The overall quality of the model is

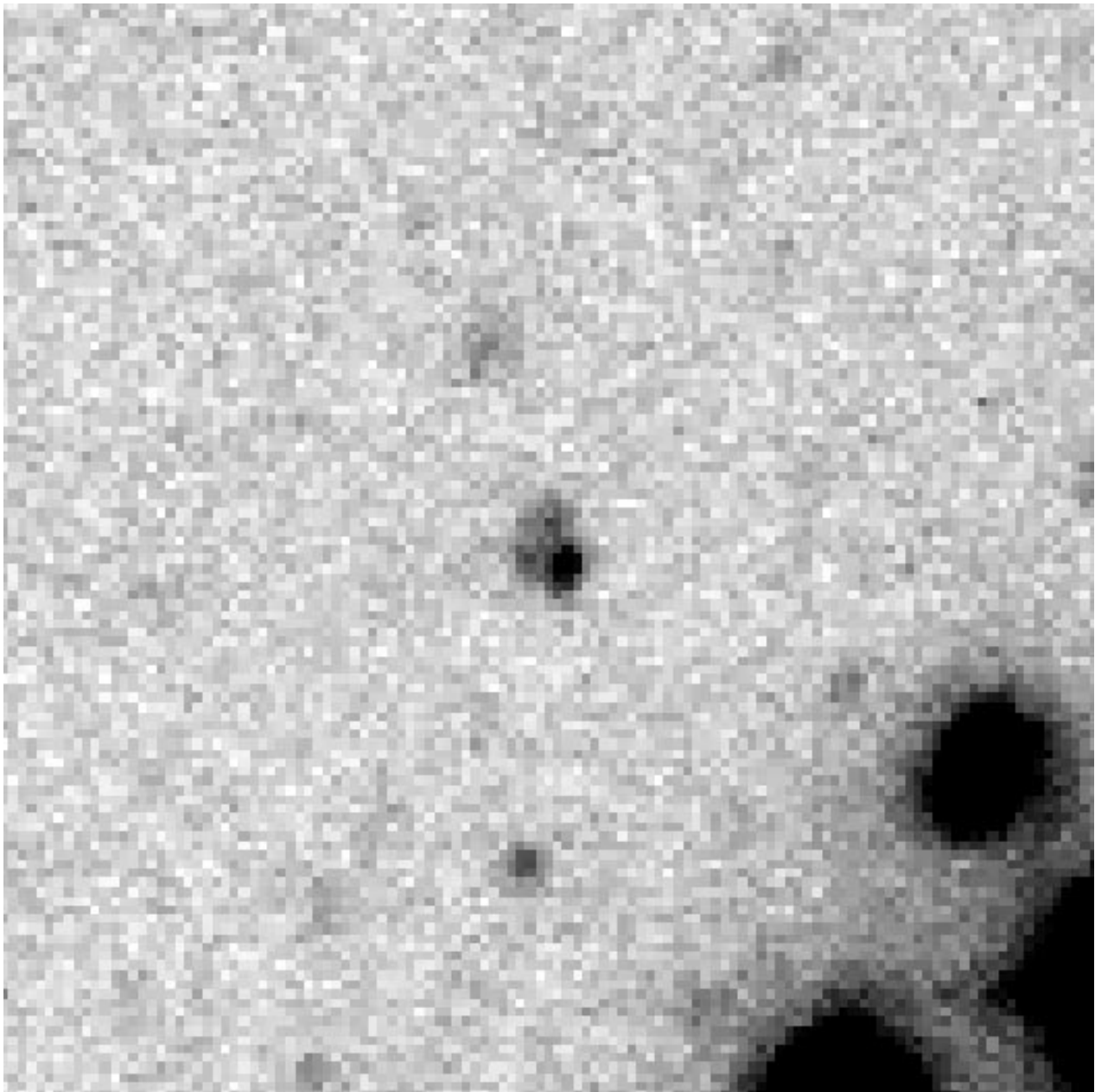


FIG. 7.—Wide-field ($35'' \times 35''$) COSMIC g band image of CLASS B1359+154. The object is centered in the frame

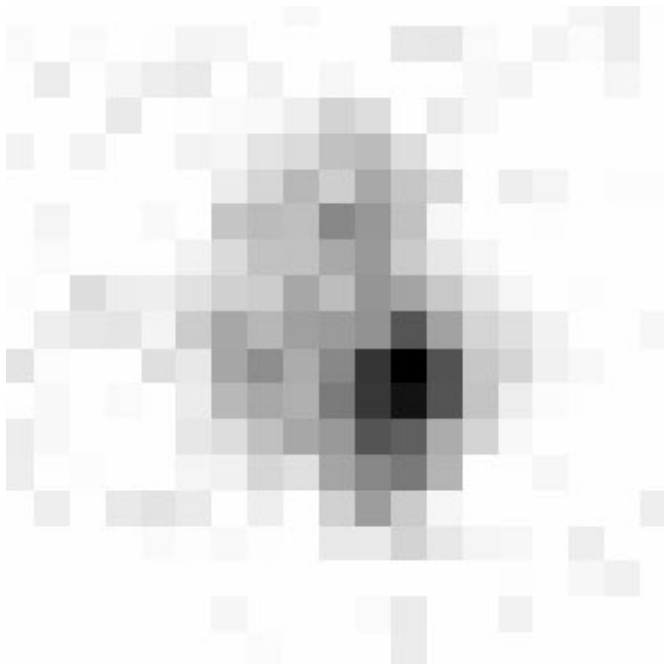


FIG. 8.—Close-up COSMIC *g* band image of CLASS B1359 + 154. The pixel size is 0.286.

determined by χ^2/NDF , where NDF is the number of degrees of freedom.

The simplest model consists of a background source being lensed by an isolated foreground galaxy. We therefore attempted to model B1359 + 154 using a singular isothermal ellipsoid (SIE; Kormann, Shneider, & Bartelmann 1994). An SIE model is described by five parameters (the lens plane coordinates, velocity dispersion, axial ratio, and position angle), so $\text{NDF} = 4$. Unfortunately, the best possible model using an isolated SIE deflector proves unsatisfactory due to a remarkably poor positional mismatch. Models including external shear of constant magnitude and direction ($\text{NDF} = 2$) also fail to offer a sufficient fit. We thus conclude that a single galaxy, even in the presence of significant external shear, is unlikely to account for the observed image configuration of B1359 + 154.

A more advanced model may be constructed by adding a second deflector, parametrized by a singular isothermal sphere (SIS), at the same redshift as the SIE. Since an SIS is described completely by its velocity dispersion and position, $\text{NDF} = 1$ for a compound SIE + SIS model. (Note that the coordinates of each deflector are left as free parameters.) Such models provide excellent fits to the image positions but fail to reproduce the flux density ratios to the accuracy required by the deep X-band data set. Source variability may, however, lead to confused estimates of the magnifi-

TABLE 3
CLASS B1359 + 154: SIE + SIS MODEL PARAMETERS

COMPONENT	OFFSET (arcsec)		σ (km s^{-1})	P.A. (deg)	<i>b/a</i>
	East	North			
SIE	+0.3618	-0.9773	210.13	135.29	0.694
SIS	-1.5255	-1.4969	137.63		
Source	-0.0544	-1.0037			

cation ratios from a single epoch of radio data. If we artificially set the flux density ratio uncertainties to 20% to account for possible variability, an acceptable fit can be obtained. This procedure is extremely ad hoc, as there is presently no evidence for variability in B1359 + 154. Moreover, the rather steep spectral indices of the lensed components make it unlikely that the source is strongly variable. We expand the error bars merely to illustrate that B1359 + 154 can be modeled as a gravitational lens system. The parameters of a possible SIE + SIS model ($\chi^2/\text{NDF} = 1.4$) are listed in Table 3. Model-predicted image positions, magnification factors, and time delays are listed in Table 4. Critical curves and caustics for the model are displayed in Figure 9. Note that neither the SIE nor SIS coordinate centers can be identified with the extended radio components E and F. Fixing the SIE at either location leads to extremely poor models.

If core radii are fit to each of the deflectors, it is possible to reproduce the flux density ratios to within the true error bars derived from the deep X-band observation. These models are underconstrained ($\text{NDF} = -1$), however, and we will not discuss them here.

TABLE 4
CLASS B1359 + 154: MODEL-PREDICTED IMAGE POSITIONS, MAGNIFICATION FACTORS, AND TIME DELAYS

COMPONENT	OFFSET (arcsec)		μ	Δt (h^{-1} days)
	East	North		
A	+0.0000	+0.0000	+11.30	0.0
B	-0.4887	-1.2560	-7.60	2.7
C	-0.3100	-1.6622	+7.44	2.5
D	+0.9579	-1.3721	-2.40	10.4

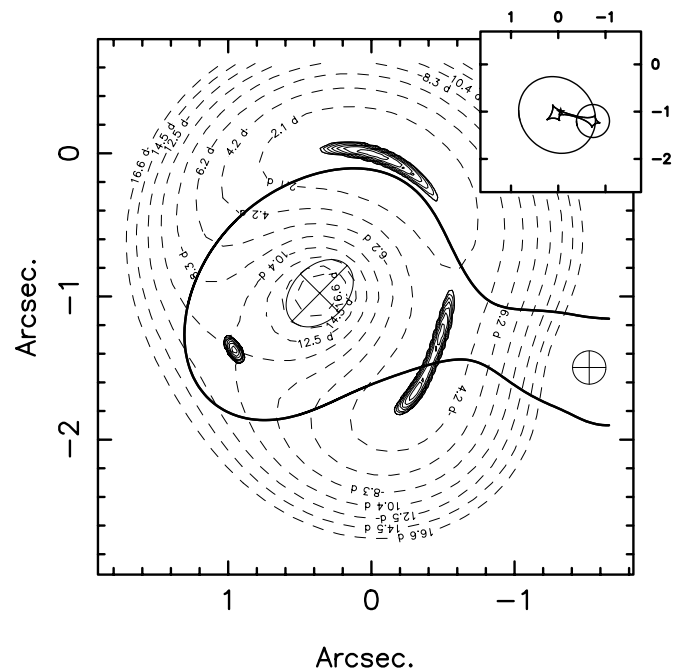


FIG. 9.—Critical curves (solid lines), caustics (inset), and curves of constant time delay (dashed lines) for the best-fit SIE + SIS model of CLASS B1359 + 154.

Additional information is clearly required to construct a viable lens model for B1359+154. The above SIE+SIS model is merely a first attempt to describe the system and will likely be modified as high-resolution optical and radio data are obtained. However, we believe that the above exercise has demonstrated two important points. First, B1359+154 may be modeled as a gravitational lens system, though constraints provided by the flux densities must be relaxed to obtain a sufficient fit. Second, the deflector system for this lens is almost certainly compound, as single-galaxy models are strongly excluded by our findings. We therefore predict that *HST* imaging will reveal a second deflector, making B1359+154 similar to CLASS B1608+656 (Koopmans & Fassnacht 1998).

5. DISCUSSION

The source CLASS B1152+199, discovered in the 1998 CLASS-3 observations, is clearly a lens. With two bright compact components exhibiting identical flat radio spectra, it is unlikely that these are two components of the same radio source, and even more unlikely that this is a chance superposition of two unassociated radio galaxies. Furthermore, the optical spectra obtained with the Keck II LRIS show unambiguous lines from systems at two distinct redshifts. We interpret these as a lensing galaxy at $z_\ell = 0.439$ and a background source (presumably a quasar) at $z_s = 1.019$.

Although only a single-redshift component was identified in the LRIS spectrum of CLASS B1359+154, which we assume is due to the background lensed source at $z_s = 3.235$, the unusual morphology exhibited in the radio maps almost certainly points toward a lensing origin. The geometry, compactness, and identical spectra of the four outer components is compelling evidence for this hypothesis, while the extended dual central components can be reasonably identified with emission from the lensing galaxy or galaxies. The similarities to the lenses CLASS B1608+656 in configuration (Myers et al. 1995) and CLASS B2045+265 with lens emission (Fassnacht et al. 1999) are striking. Although the optical image does not clearly resolve the structure, it is similar enough to the radio geometry to confirm this system as a gravitational lens. To test this hypothesis, we attempted to model B1359+154 as a gravi-

tational lens system. Though our results are very preliminary, we believe that a single deflector model can be excluded by our findings. A compound SIE+SIS deflector provides an adequate fit if the uncertainties in the flux density ratios are set at 20% to account for possible variability. We therefore predict that better optical and IR images of this field will show a second lensing galaxy. Constraints derived from such images are required to construct a more believable mass model for this system.

If it is indeed a lens, the prospects for using CLASS B1152+199 to measure time delays, and thus the Hubble constant H_0 , are good. It is bright, well separated, and likely to show measurable variability, having a flat spectrum ($\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94} = -0.32$). The prospects for optical or IR monitoring are poor, due to the lack of a second image in the Palomar data. However, the *ROSAT* detection of X-ray emission from this source suggests the possibility of monitoring by AXAF.

On the other hand, CLASS B1359+154 is weak, and the steep spectral index ($\alpha_{8.46}^{14.94} = -1.00$ for the brightest component) makes it unlikely that this source will be strongly variable. However, when combined with the other lenses previously found in the JVAS and CLASS surveys, both these new lens systems will add to the statistical evidence placing limits on the values of cosmological parameters such as the matter density Ω_0 and cosmological constant Λ_0 (e.g., Falco, Kochanek, & Munõz 1998).

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X-ray flux for B1152+199.

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