

THREE GRAVITATIONAL LENSES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE:
ENHANCED STRONG LENSING THROUGH GALAXY CLUSTERING *C. D. FASSNACHT¹, J. P. MCKEAN¹, L. V. E. KOOPMANS², T. TREU³, R. D. BLANDFORD⁴,
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ABSTRACT

We report the serendipitous discovery of two strong gravitational lens candidates (ACS J160919+6532 and ACS J160910+6532) in deep images obtained with the Advanced Camera for Surveys on the *Hubble Space Telescope*, each less than 40'' from the previously known gravitational lens system CLASS B1608+656. The redshifts of both lens galaxies have been measured with Keck and Gemini: one is a member of a small galaxy group at $z \approx 0.63$, which also includes the lensing galaxy in the B1608+656 system, and the second is a member of a foreground group at $z \approx 0.43$. By measuring the effective radii and surface brightnesses of the two lens galaxies, we infer their velocity dispersions based on the passively evolving Fundamental Plane (FP) relation. Elliptical isothermal lens mass models are able to explain their image configurations within the lens hypothesis, with a velocity dispersion compatible with that estimated from the FP for a reasonable source-redshift range. Based on the large number of massive early-type galaxies in the field and the number-density of faint blue galaxies, the presence of two additional lens systems around CLASS B1608+656 is not unlikely in hindsight. Gravitational lens galaxies are predominantly early-type galaxies, which are clustered, and the lensed quasar host galaxies are also clustered. Therefore, obtaining deep high-resolution images of the fields around known strong lens systems is an excellent method of enhancing the probability of finding additional strong gravitational lens systems.

Subject headings: galaxies: individual (B1608+656) — gravitational lensing

1. INTRODUCTION

Strong gravitational lenses are excellent tools for cosmological and astrophysical studies (see, e.g., Kochanek, Schneider, & Wambsganss 2004). Because of their utility, an increase in the number of lenses is a highly desirable goal, especially when the numbers become large enough to marginalize over hidden parameters associated with any given lens system. The majority of lenses discovered in the last decade were found through dedicated surveys that used a variety of techniques to find strong lenses, such as targeting the potential lensed objects (e.g., Bahcall et al. 1992; Myers et al. 2003; Browne et al. 2003; Winn et al. 2000; Wisotzki et al. 2002; Pindor et al. 2004), searching around the potential lensing galaxies (e.g., Fassnacht et al. 2004), or looking for multiple redshifts associated with a single object in large spectroscopic surveys (e.g., Bolton et al. 2004,

2005, 2006). However, a large number of lens systems were discovered serendipitously. In this paper we report just such a discovery. We have found two additional strong lens candidates in a single image centered on a known gravitational lens, the data of which were obtained with the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS; Ford et al. 1998, 2002) on the *Hubble Space Telescope* (HST).

The main goal of the ACS observations was to obtain a high sensitivity image of the Einstein ring of a previously known gravitational lens, CLASS B1608+656 (Myers et al. 1995). The Einstein ring provides further constraints to the lensing mass model and reduces the uncertainties in the determination of H_0 from this time-delay system (e.g., Kochanek, Keeton, & McLeod 2001; Koopmans et al. 2003). The exquisite angular resolution and surface brightness sensitivity of the ACS imaging also allows the properties of the B1608+656 field to be studied. In particular, the contribution to the B1608+656 image splitting by a small group of galaxies associated with the main lensing galaxy has been investigated (Fassnacht et al. 2006), and a weak lensing analysis of the mass distribution along the line of sight to B1608+656 is being conducted. The deep ACS imaging has also allowed us to find two additional galaxy-scale gravitational lens systems in the same field of view.

In Section 2 we present the ACS and ground-based imaging of the two lens candidates. The spectra of the lensing galaxies and one of the lensed sources are presented in Section 3. We test lensing mass models for the two systems using a non-parametric lensing code in Section 4. Finally, in Section 5 we discuss the lensing hypothesis for both systems and estimate the likelihood of finding two additional lenses in this field. Throughout

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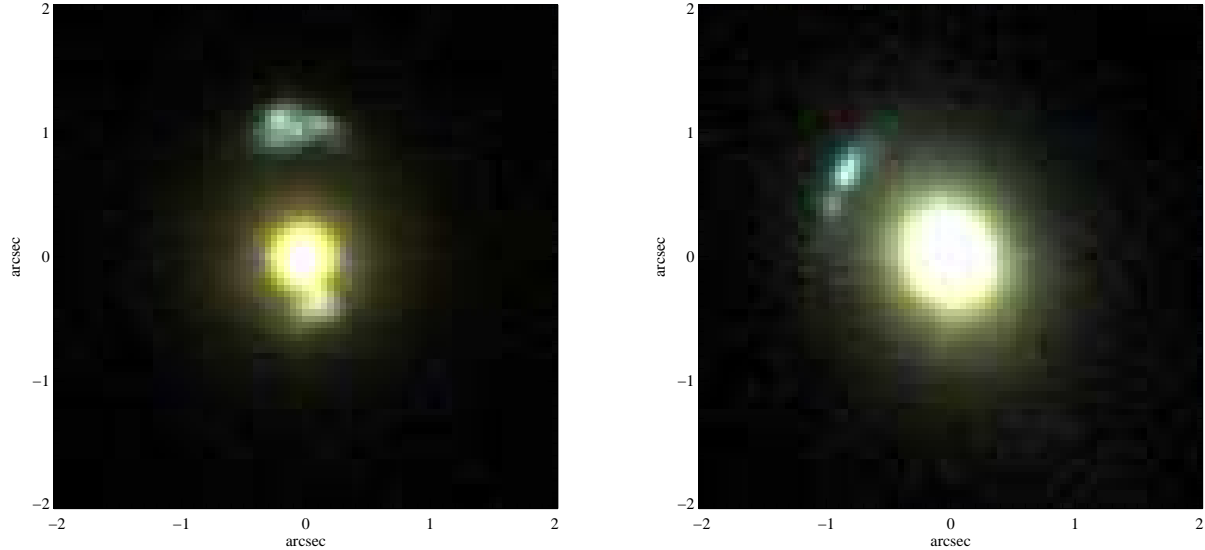


FIG. 1.— Three-color images of “Fred” (left) and “Ginger” (right). The images were constructed from the ACS images, with the F606W data in the blue channel, the sum of F606W and F814W in the green channel, and F814W in the red channel, respectively. In each image, north is up and east is to the left. The blue blobs and arc stand out clearly from the red lensing galaxies.

this paper we assume a flat Universe with $\Omega_M = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$, and, unless otherwise stated, we will express the Hubble Constant as $H_0 = 100 h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

2. OPTICAL IMAGING

In this section, we present space- and ground-based multi-color optical imaging of the two lens candidates in the field of B1608+656.

2.1. Hubble Space Telescope

High resolution optical imaging of the B1608+656 field was obtained with the ACS (GO-10158; PI: Fassnacht). The data were acquired over the course of five visits between 2004 August 24 and September 17. The Wide Field Channel (WFC) of the ACS was used throughout, providing a field of view (FOV) of $202'' \times 202''$ and a scale of $0.05 \text{ arcsec pixel}^{-1}$. Our observations consisted of nine orbits that used the F606W filter and eleven orbits with the F814W filter, corresponding to total exposure times of 22516 s and 28144 s, respectively. The data were reduced in the standard manner using the *stsdas* package within IRAF⁶. The final combined images were produced using *multidrizzle* (Koekemoer et al. 2002), which also corrected the data for the ACS geometric distortion. The area covered by the final combined image in each filter, defined as the region in which the weight file had pixel values greater than 2000, is 11.9 arcmin^2 . Catalogs of objects in the ACS images were generated by running SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) with the parameters suggested by Benitez et al. (2004). The count rates in the images were converted to Vega-based magnitudes using the zero points on the ACS web site⁷. Full details

⁶ 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 under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

⁷ See <http://www.stsci.edu/hst/acs/analysis/zeropoints>

TABLE 1
IMAGING OBSERVATIONS

Date	Telescope	Instrument	Filter	t_{exp} (sec)
2000 Apr	P60	CCD13	<i>g</i>	7200
2000 Apr	P60	CCD13	<i>r</i>	3600
2000 Apr	P60	CCD13	<i>i</i>	3000
2000 Jul	P60	CCD13	<i>g</i>	5400
2004 Aug/Sep	HST	ACS/WFC	F606W	22516
2004 Aug/Sep	HST	ACS/WFC	F814W	28144

of the acquisition and reduction of our ACS imaging will be presented in a future paper. A summary of the imaging observations is given in Table 1.

A visual inspection of the ACS images, undertaken with the goal of evaluating the properties of the galaxies surrounding B1608+656, revealed two objects with lens-like morphologies. Each consists of a reddish early-type galaxy with a nearby blue arc or multiple blue blobs, similar to other lenses found in HST imaging (e.g., Ratnatunga, Griffiths, & Ostrander 1999; Fassnacht et al. 2004; Blakeslee et al. 2004; Bolton et al. 2006). The two lens candidates, ACS J160919+6532 and ACS J160910+6532 are shown in Figure 1. For simplicity, the two lens candidates will hereafter referred to as “Fred” and “Ginger”, respectively. In Fig. 2 we show a larger field of view that includes the two lensing candidates and B1608+656. Both lens candidates are in close proximity to B1608+656 on the sky: “Fred” lies $\sim 36''$ to the northeast, whereas “Ginger” is $\sim 37''$ to the north-northwest. The coordinates of the lens candidates are given in Table 2.

“Fred” consists of a red spheroidal galaxy with two blue candidate lensed images to the north and south. The blue image to the north is extended in an east/west

TABLE 2
LENS SYSTEM COORDINATES

Name	RA (J2000)	Dec (J2000)	z_l
“Fred”	16 09 18.760	+65 32 49.72	0.6321
“Ginger”	16 09 10.292	+65 32 57.38	0.4264

direction, while the southern blue image is both fainter and covers a smaller angular size on the sky. The sizes and surface brightnesses of the two blue images are consistent with gravitational lensing. Their separation is $\sim 1''.5$.

The second lens candidate, “Ginger”, is a bright red elliptical with an extended blue gravitational arc to the north east. The narrow arc-like feature appears to curve toward the red galaxy, which is consistent with lensing. There is also evidence of substructure in the arc, which is presumably due to clumps of star formation. No obvious counter-image can visually be identified in the color map. However, the galaxy-subtracted residuals (Section 4) do show a faint possible counter-image.

Fitting de Vaucouleurs profiles to the lens galaxies – after masking the lensed features – yields the parameters listed in Table 3 (for a description of the procedure see, e.g., Treu et al. 2006). Observed quantities are transformed into rest frame quantities as described in Treu et al. (2001), yielding effective radii and surface brightnesses of $R_e = 4.76 \pm 0.48$ and 3.60 ± 0.36 kpc and $SB_e = 20.42 \pm 0.05$ and 20.81 ± 0.05 mag arcsec $^{-2}$ for “Fred” and “Ginger”, respectively. These values were calculated assuming that $h = 0.7$. Correcting for evolution to $z = 0$ adopting $d \log(M/L_B)/dz = -0.72 \pm 0.04$ (Treu et al. 2005), and assuming that the lens galaxies obey the Fundamental Plane (FP; Dressler et al. 1987; Djorgovski & Davis 1987) relationship yields estimates for the central velocity dispersions of $\sigma_{FP} = 180 \pm 51$ and 142 ± 32 km s $^{-1}$ for “Fred” and “Ginger”, respectively. The uncertainty on σ_{FP} is dominated by the uncertainty in the evolutionary correction and in the intrinsic thickness of the FP (assumed to be 0.08 in $\log R_e$).

2.2. Palomar 60-inch Telescope

Ground-based imaging of the B1608+656 field was obtained as part of a program to investigate the environments of strong gravitational lenses (e.g., Fassnacht et al. 2006). The observations were conducted using the Palomar 60-Inch Mayer telescope (P60), with the CCD13 detector. The CCD provides a FOV of approximately $13' \times 13'$, with a pixel size of $0''.379$. The data were taken using the Gunn g , r , and i filters in 2000 April. The seeing was approximately $1''.2$ through the r and i filters, while it was $1''.5$ through the g filter. Exposure times are given in Table 1. A further observing session in 2000 July was used to increase the depth of the g band data. In these observations, the seeing was $\sim 1''.2$. The conditions during both observing sessions were photometric. The data were reduced using standard IRAF tasks, and then the g -band data from the two observing sessions were combined. Astrometric solutions were computed with the aid of positions obtained from the USNO-A2.0 catalog (Monet et al. 1996) while photometric solutions were

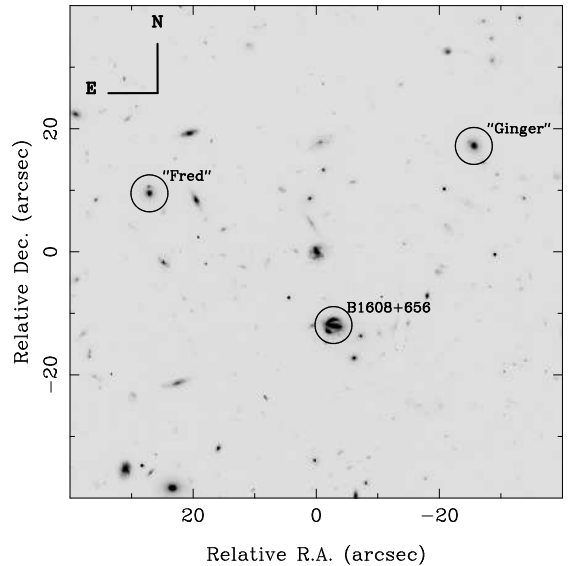


FIG. 2.— Wider field of view, showing B1608+656 and the two additional strong lens candidates in relation to it. The image was obtained through the F814W filter with the ACS.

derived from observations of several Gunn standard stars (Thuan & Gunn 1976). Given the seeing and the faintness of the background objects, the background sources are not resolved in the P60 imaging. Therefore only total (lens + source) magnitudes are given in Table 3.

3. SPECTROSCOPY & REDSHIFTS

Several attempts to obtain the redshifts of the lenses and background sources have been made. A summary of the spectroscopic observations is given in Table 4. The first observation, with the Echelle Spectrograph and Imager (ESI; Sheinis et al. 2002) on the W. M. Keck II Telescope, was obtained as a part of the general investigation of the environment of the B1608+656 lens system. The subsequent observations, with the Low Resolution Imaging Spectrograph (LRIS; Oke et al. 1995) at Keck and the Gemini Multi-object Spectrograph (GMOS; Hook et al. 2004) on Gemini-North, were targeted specifically at the lens candidates. The LRIS observations were obtained on subsequent nights and consisted of one exposure on each lens candidate. Each observation was taken at the very end of the night, ending after 18 degree twilight, so the blue-side observations were swamped by the sky emission. In contrast, the GMOS observations of “Fred” were obtained in excellent conditions, with a dark sky and seeing of $\sim 0''.6$. The three GMOS exposures of the system were dithered in the spectral direction in order to fill in the gaps between the chips. The LRIS and ESI data were reduced using scripts that provided interfaces to the standard IRAF tasks. In addition, a portion of the ESI data reduction was performed using custom IDL scripts. The GMOS data were reduced using the *gmoss* package in IRAF. The wavelength calibration for all of the exposures was based on arclamp spectra obtained adjacent in time to the science observations.

The first lens candidate, “Fred” has a redshift of $z_l = 0.6321$, based on multiple absorption features (Ca II, H δ , and the G-band) seen in the ESI and GMOS spectra (Figure 3). The “Fred” redshift places it in a small group

TABLE 3
LENS SYSTEM PHOTOMETRIC PROPERTIES

Name	g_{tot}^a	r_{tot}^a	i_{tot}^a	F606W ₁ ^b	F814W ₁ ^b	$R_{e,F606W}^b$ (")	$R_{e,F814W}^b$ (")	F606W _s ^c	F814W _s ^c
“Fred”	22.5	21.6	21.0	21.9	20.3	0.62	0.69	23.9	23.1
“Ginger”	22.1	20.8	20.4	21.1	20.0	0.64	0.66	24.6	24.0

^aMagnitudes are the “MAG_AUTO” magnitudes returned by SExtractor, with the default values for the Kron factor and minimum radius.

^bMagnitudes and effective radii of the lensing galaxy from the best fit de Vaucouleurs model; not corrected for Galactic extinction

^cBrighter of the two lensed images.

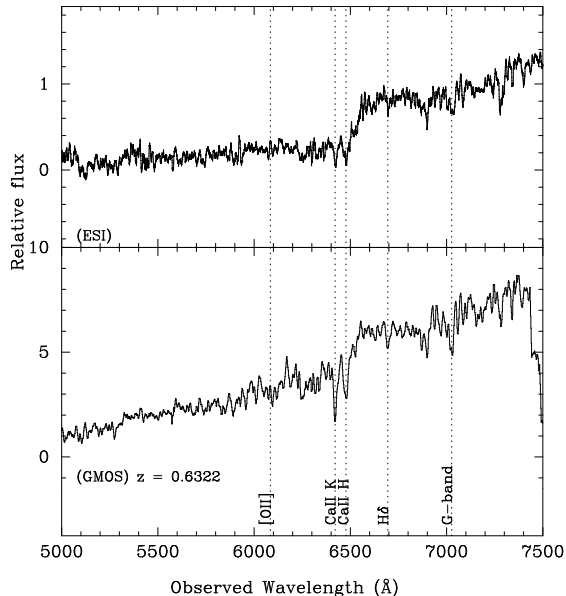


FIG. 3.— Optical spectra of the “Fred” lens candidate, obtained with Keck/ESI (top) and Gemini/GMOS (bottom). The ESI spectrum has been smoothed with a boxcar of width 8.3\AA (35 pixels), while the GMOS spectrum has been smoothed with a boxcar of width 9.2\AA (5 pixels). The observed absorption features, as well as the expected location of the [O II] emission, have been marked.

that also includes the lensing galaxy in the B1608+656 system (Fassnacht et al. 2006). The ESI observations were obtained before the system was identified as a lens candidate. Although the position angle (PA) of the slit was approximately correct for the system morphology, no trace of the lensed source is seen in the spectrum. On the other hand, the GMOS spectrum of this object was obtained with a slit PA chosen specifically to cover both the lensing galaxy and the lensed source. The brighter of the two blue blobs is clearly seen in the two-dimensional spectrum and is spatially separated from the lens galaxy spectrum, allowing a separate spectrum to be extracted for the lensed image (Figure 4). However, no clear emission or absorption features, beyond those due to contamination from the lens galaxy light and imperfect subtraction of the night sky lines, are seen in the spectrum of the source. Given the blue color of the lensed source, we expect to see emission lines in the spectrum; the lack of emission features allows us to place tentative limits on the redshift of the background source. Emission from

[O II] $\lambda 3727$ shifts out of the range covered by the GMOS spectrum at a redshift of $z_s = 1.0$, while Ly α emission enters the spectral range at $z_s = 2.8$. We therefore assume that the background object falls within this redshift range. For completeness we have to consider the possibility that the blue knots are star formation associated with the lensing galaxy. However, if this were the case, we would expect strong [O II] emission at a wavelength of 6083\AA . We do not see any evidence for [O II] emission at 6083\AA in any of the “Fred” spectra and therefore conclude that the arc is not due to star formation in the lensing galaxy.

The other lens candidate, “Ginger”, has a spectrum typical of an early-type galaxy (Figure 5). A number of absorption features, including lines due to Ca II H and K, H δ , and the G-band give a redshift of $z_{lens} = 0.4264$. Although the slit PA was chosen to cover both the galaxy and the brightest portion of the arc, no redshift for the background source was obtained. This may just be due to the short integration time and bright night sky. The redshift of the lens galaxy places it in another group detected along the line of sight to B1608+656. This group has a mean redshift of $z = 0.426$ (Fassnacht et al. 2006).

4. GRAVITATIONAL LENS MODELS

We reconstruct the lensed images and source of both systems to test the lens hypothesis and assess whether a relatively simple mass model can explain the observed lens-like features in Figure 1. We adopt a Singular Isothermal Ellipsoid (SIE) lens mass model (Kormann et al. 1994), which describes the mass distribution (stellar plus dark matter) in the inner regions of massive lens-galaxies extremely well (e.g., Treu & Koopmans 2004; Koopmans et al. 2006). In addition, we add where necessary an external shear to account for the group environment (Fassnacht et al. 2006). The modeling is done via a non-parametric reconstruction method, which is described in more detail in Treu & Koopmans (2004) and Koopmans (2005). We regularize the solutions somewhat to attain a smoother solution; see Koopmans (2005) for a proper discussion. The modeling is conducted on the the F606W ACS images, after subtracting off the emission from the lensing galaxy. The galaxy-subtracted images are shown in the upper left panels in Figure 6. The “Fred” image shows clearly the two bright lensed images. In the “Ginger” image, the arc is seen in the top right corner of the galaxy-subtracted image, while there is a hint of a counter-image in the lower left corner

TABLE 4
 SPECTROSCOPIC OBSERVATIONS

Date	Target	Telescope	Instrument	Grating	Wavelength Coverage	Slit Width (")	Slit PA	t_{exp} (sec)	SNR ^a
2001 Jul 23	“Fred”	Keck II	ESI	175 ^b	3887–10741	1.0	+11.8	3600	2.5
2005 Apr 12	“Ginger”	Keck I	LRIS/R	600/5000	4899–7488	1.0	+48.2	1800	8
2005 Apr 13	“Fred”	Keck I	LRIS/R	600/5000	4908–7452	1.0	+8.2	1800	8
2005 May 13	“Fred”	Gemini-N	GMOS	B600	4587–7478	1.0	+8.2	4500	12

^aValue given is the average SNR pix^{-1} in the region just redward of the Ca II absorption lines.

^bCross-dispersed.

 TABLE 5
 LENS MODEL PARAMETERS

Parameter	“Fred”	“Ginger”
b_{SIE}	0''.73	0''.61
θ_{SIE}	...	[−49°] ^a
q_{SIE}	[1.0] ^a	0.84
γ_{ext}	0.056	...
θ_{ext}	131°	...

^aHeld fixed at observed value.

The resulting non-parametric source and lens models are shown in Figure 6 for both systems. The resulting SIE and external shear parameters, for the mass models centered on the brightness peaks of the observed galaxies, are given in Table 5. Note that the PA values are given in the frame of the image and are rotated -93.8° with respect to the PA on the sky. The bracketed quantities are fixed at the observed values.

5. DISCUSSION

The first question to address is whether or not the candidates presented in this paper are actually gravitational lenses. Of course, a measurement of the redshifts of the background objects would make the lens hypothesis more secure. The current set of spectra were obtained with limited observing time or wavelength coverage, or were observed with the slit at a non-optimal PA. Therefore, a more dedicated observing campaign may yet yield the redshifts, especially at shorter wavelengths where the contrast between the lens and the source is improved (as for HST1543, see Treu & Koopmans 2004). The blue colors of the background objects suggest that their spectra may contain emission lines and thus that it may be possible to obtain redshifts in spite of the faintness of the objects. Even without redshifts, however, the system morphologies and the surface brightnesses of the background objects are consistent with gravitational lensing, as can be seen from the lens modeling.

5.1. The lens model for “Fred”

Based on several arguments – besides the similar colors and typical lens-geometry of the two galaxy-subtracted residual images – we strongly believe that “Fred” is a *second* strong-lens system in the field of the B1608+656 lens system. (1) The source brightness distribution of “Fred” shows structural features that correspond to the features

seen in the higher magnification image, as expected under the lens hypothesis. However, when mapped onto the second, much fainter, image, it also matches the somewhat triangular structure of that image extremely well, with overall residuals between the observed images and the lens model at an RMS level of $< 10^{-2}$. There is no *a priori* reason that this mapping onto the second system should be successful if the system were not a lens system. (2) The Einstein radius of $b_{\text{SIE}}=0''.73$, determined from the best-fit model, implies an approximate stellar velocity dispersion σ_{SIE} between 290 and 210 km s^{-1} for source redshifts between $z_s=1.0$ and 2.0, respectively. These values are typical for most lens galaxies (i.e., around L_*) and also agree well with the brightness of the galaxy and absence of emission lines in the spectra. A direct measurement of its velocity dispersion and source redshift, however, can secure this agreement more accurately. (3) The SIE model for “Fred” requires an external shear of $\gamma_{\text{ext}} \approx 0.06$ with a PA of 225 degrees. This is the direction of the previously known lens system, B1608+656, (see Figure 2) and could be caused by its group environment (Fassnacht et al. 2006), although the group parameters are not well constrained by the current data. (4) The last piece of (circumstantial in this case) evidence, is the good agreement between the ellipticity of the stellar light and that of the SIE mass model. This correlation is typically very strong (RMS of ~ 0.1 in q_*/q_{SIE} ; see Koopmans et al. 2006) for elliptical-galaxy systems with a significant stellar mass component inside the Einstein radius.

The morphology of the lensed source is unusual. However, given its blue color and presumed (i.e., relatively high) redshift one might expect the emission from such a galaxy to be dominated by knots of star formation. In fact, the source shape is similar to several of the reconstructed lensed sources in the SDSS Lens ACS Survey (SLACS) sample of Bolton et al. (2006). Generally speaking, the increased abundance of peculiar and irregular galaxies at high redshifts and faint magnitudes is well established from deep surveys (e.g., Abraham et al. 1996). Once again, the facts that the unusual morphology is seen in both components and that the lens model so clearly maps the brighter image into the fainter one are strong arguments in favor of the lensing hypothesis.

The projected mass of the lensing galaxy, within the Einstein ring radius, is given by

$$M_E = \frac{c^2}{4G} \frac{D_\ell D_s}{D_{\ell s}} \theta_E^2$$

where θ_E is the Einstein ring radius in angular units and

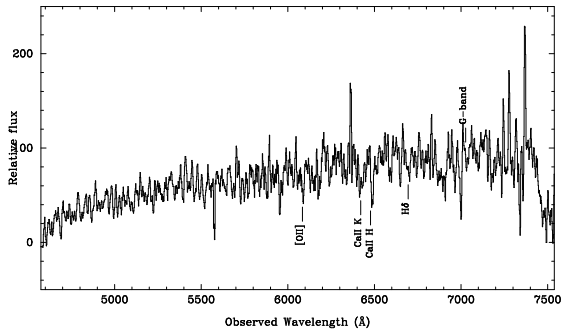


FIG. 4.— Optical spectrum of the “Fred” background object, obtained with GMOS. All of the marked features are associated with the lensing galaxy. The emission lines correspond to regions in which bright night-sky lines have been imperfectly subtracted. No clear emission lines from the background source are seen.

D_ℓ , D_s , and $D_{\ell s}$ are the angular diameter distances to the lens, to the background source, and between the lens and the background source, respectively. The Einstein ring radius is given above, and corresponds to half the separation between the two lensed images. The derived mass of the lensing galaxy is $6.9 \times 10^{10} (D_s/D_{\ell s}) h^{-1} M_\odot$. For source redshifts between 1.0 and 2.0, this corresponds to masses between 2.2 and $1.1 \times 10^{11} h^{-1} M_\odot$. Adopting the surface photometry derived in § 2.1, this corresponds to a B -band mass-to-light ratio inside the cylinder of radius equal to the Einstein Radius of $13.6 h$ ($6.8 h$) in solar units for $z_s = 1.0$ (2.0). These values are consistent with those found for other lens galaxies (e.g., Treu & Koopmans 2004), lending further support to the lensing hypothesis for “Fred”.

The velocity dispersion estimated via the FP in § 2.1 provides a further consistency check on the lensing interpretation, or an estimate of the redshift of the background source if the lensing hypothesis is accepted (e.g., Kochanek et al. 2000). In fact, empirical evidence suggests that at scales comparable to the effective radius, the ratio of stellar to SIE velocity dispersion, $f_{\text{SIE}} = \sigma_*/\sigma_{\text{SIE}}$, is close to unity (e.g., Kochanek et al. 2000; van de Ven et al. 2003; Treu & Koopmans 2004; Treu et al. 2006; Koopmans et al. 2006). The estimated velocity dispersion from the FP ($\sigma_{\text{FP}} = 180 \pm 51 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) is consistent with that of the best fitting SIE for plausible z_s , consistent with the lensing hypothesis. Conversely, adopting the lens hypothesis, σ_{FP} would imply $z_s > 1.52$ for $f_{\text{SIE}} = 1.0 \pm 0.1$.

5.2. The lens model for “Ginger”

This system is significantly less constrained because the presumed counter-image is very faint and the brightness distribution of the images lacks very distinct structure. Due to the lack of constraints, only the lens strength (b_{SIE}) and ellipticity (q_{SIE}) are varied in the modeling, and no external shear is used. The resulting reconstructed source consists of two features that correspond to those seen in the brighter of the two (lensed) images. Even though both the geometry and the relative brightnesses of the images can be fit by a model with several free parameters, the models are very tentative. The Einstein radius of $b=0''.61$, determined from the best-fit model, implies an approximate stellar velocity dispersion between 205 and 180 km s^{-1} for source

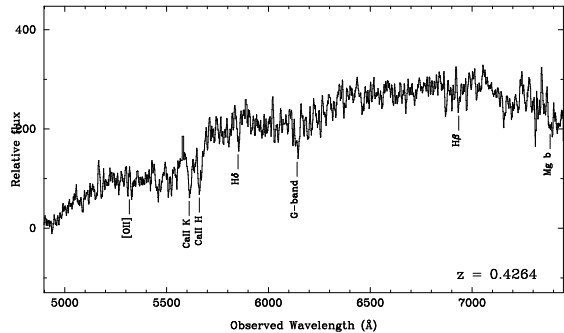


FIG. 5.— The optical spectrum of the “Ginger” lens candidate taken with LRIS on the Keck Telescope. The data have been smoothed with a boxcar of width 5 pixels, corresponding to 6.25 \AA . The spectrum is dominated by the emission from the lens, whose spectral shape is consistent with an early-type galaxy. The redshift of the lens is $z = 0.4264$. There is no evidence of ongoing star formation (the expected position of the [O II] emission line is marked).

redshifts between $z_s=1.0$ and 2.0, respectively. Following the same arguments as for “Fred” we can obtain consistency checks or an estimate for z_s , by comparing the results of the lens model with the surface photometry. The Einstein radius implies a mass within the cylinder of $7.3 (5.4) \times 10^{10} h^{-1} M_\odot$ for $z_s = 1.0$ (2.0). This corresponds to a B -band mass-to-light ratio of $11.4 h$ ($8.4 h$) in solar units for $z_s=1.0$ (2.0), which is consistent with typical values found for other lens galaxies at similar redshift (Koopmans et al. 2006). The velocity dispersion implied by the FP, $\sigma_{\text{FP}} = 142 \pm 32 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, is somewhat (but not significantly for the higher source redshift range) smaller than that obtained from the lens model for z_s in the range 1–2. Thus, under the lens hypothesis either $z_s > 2.2$ is required ($z_s > 3$ for $f_{\text{SIE}} = 1.0 \pm 0.1$) or $f_{\text{SIE}} < 1$, possibly indicating extra convergence from the environment of “Ginger”. None of these arguments appear conclusive as to the lensing nature of “Ginger”. Whether “Ginger” is a *third* strong lens in the field of B1608+656 will probably require a direct measurement of the source redshift and a more definitive detection of the counter-image.

6. SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Our investigations have shown that the single ACS pointing centered on B1608+656 contains two additional strong lens candidates. This result implies that there are one to two additional lenses in a $\sim 10 \text{ arcmin}^2$ area of the sky, giving *a posteriori* lensing rates of $0.07\text{--}0.46 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$ if only “Fred” is a real lens, and $0.14\text{--}0.59 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$ if both of the candidates are real lenses (68% limits assuming Poisson statistics; Gehrels 1986). These rates should be contrasted with the results of other HST lens-search campaigns, which have found lower lensing rates. For example, 10 lens candidates, two of which have been confirmed, were found in the $\sim 600 \text{ arcmin}^2$ of the Medium Deep Survey (Ratnatunga, Griffiths, & Ostrander 1999), for a lensing rate of $\leq 0.02 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$. Also, the search in the Great Observatories Origins Deep Survey (GOODS) ACS data by Fassnacht et al. (2004) resulted in six lens candidates in $\sim 300 \text{ arcmin}^2$, once again giving a lensing rate of at most $\sim 0.02 \text{ arcmin}^{-2}$.

In hindsight, it might not be surprising that the lens-

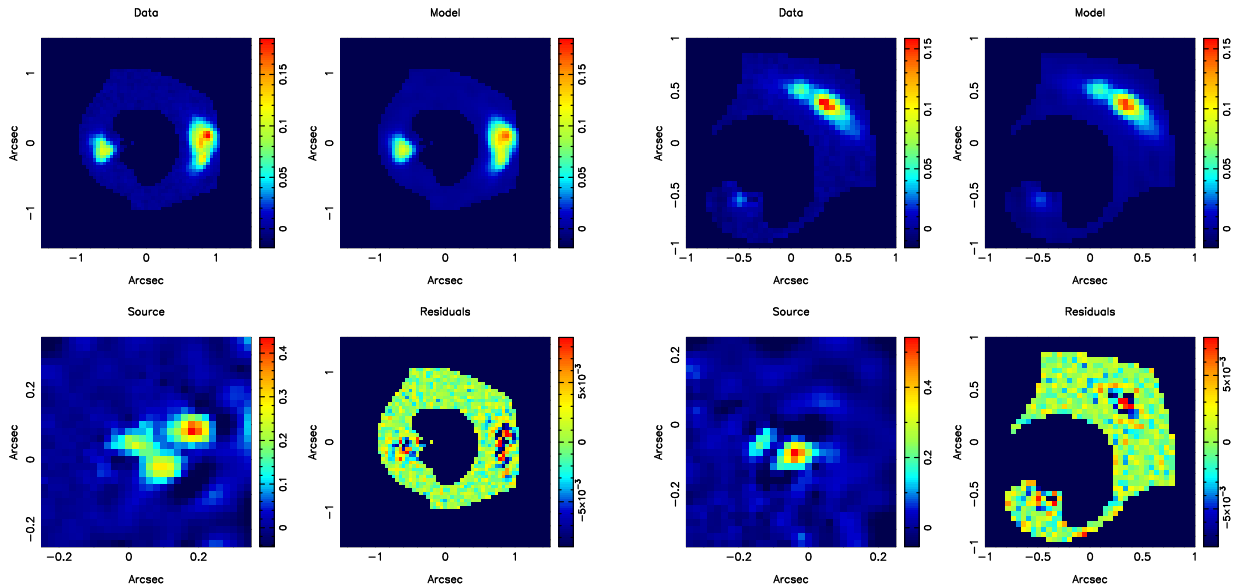


FIG. 6.— **(Left)** Model results for the “Fred” lens candidate. Panels show observed data with lensing galaxy subtracted (top left), the reconstructed lensed image (top right), the reconstructed source (bottom left), and the residuals between observed and model lensed emission (bottom right). The panels are rotated by -93.8° , so that the approximate orientation is east up and north to the right. **(Right)** Idem, but for the “Ginger” lens candidate.

ing rate in the B1608+656 field is an order of magnitude higher than those in the larger surveys, although the effect of small number statistics should not yet be discounted. Qualitatively this is easy to understand, because the field that is being imaged in these observations is not a random line of sight. First, the targeted field is already known to contain a massive early-type lens galaxy. These galaxies often are found in dense environments such as groups and clusters (e.g., Dressler 1980). Spectroscopic investigations of this particular field have revealed the presence of at least three galaxy groups along the line of sight to the B1608+656 lens system, including a group that is physically associated with the lensing galaxy (Fassnacht et al. 2006). Second, the lensed source in the B1608+656 system is itself a massive early-type galaxy exhibiting AGN activity in the radio domain (Myers et al. 1995; Fassnacht et al. 1996). Both as a massive galaxy and as a radio source (e.g., Allington-Smith et al. 1993), the background source can be expected to reside in an overdense environment. The lensed object in the B1608+656 system is at a redshift of $z_s = 1.394$ (Fassnacht et al. 1996). If the background sources in “Fred” and “Ginger” were at the same redshift, their angular separations from the B1608+656 system would correspond to $\sim 210h^{-1}$ kpc, not unusual for a group of galaxies. Third, by obtaining much deeper than normal space-based imaging of this field, we have started to pick up the ubiquitous population of faint blue galaxies. Depending on the steepness of the luminosity function of this population of galaxies, magnification bias can lead to a higher lensing rate than expected based on the density of galaxies at the limiting magnitude of the imaging (Bolton et al. 2006).

Being quantitative about the expected lensing rate is rather more difficult because it depends on many unknown factors such as the redshift and mass distributions of the potential lensing galaxies and the redshift

distribution of the sources, and thus is beyond the scope of this paper. However, to test the plausibility of the qualitative argument, we take a simple path to estimate the expected lensing rate in a deep ACS image such as this one. Our assumptions are that (1) only early-type galaxies will act as lensing galaxies and (2) all of the lenses will have lensing cross-sections of ~ 1 arcsec². The lensing cross-section is estimated by taking a circular area with a diameter equal to the typical image separation for the lenses discovered by the Cosmic Lens All-Sky Survey (Browne et al. 2003). We define the early-type galaxies as luminous ($F814W < 21.5$) red ($(F606W - F814W) > 1.0$) galaxies that also have morphologies typical of early types (i.e., excluding galaxies with clear disk-like structure). As a sanity check, all three of the lensing galaxies in this field satisfy the above criteria. The magnitude, color, and morphology cuts yield a conservative estimate of 14 potential lenses. To test the validity of our cuts, we extended them to one magnitude fainter and one magnitude bluer. Of the 30 additional galaxies that were thus included, only two satisfied the morphology criterion. Therefore, we assume that our cuts have located the vast majority of the luminous ellipticals in the field. The resulting total cross-section for lensing in this field is ~ 16 arcsec². This cross-section must be compared to the density of faint blue galaxies. The completeness limit for the F606W imaging that is presented in this paper is $F606W \sim 26.5$ ⁸. Assuming a typical magnification factor from strong lensing of a few, which is what we find from the lens models, thus requires a knowledge of the integrated number density of galaxies with $F606W < 28$. We use the corrected number counts of Benitez et al. (2004) to obtain an integrated number density of $\sim 2 \times 10^6$ galaxies per square degree or ~ 0.2 galaxies per square arcsecond. The combination of this surface density with

⁸ Here the magnitudes are in the AB system, in order to compare to the results of Benitez et al. (2004).

the approximate lensing cross-section in the field yields an *a posteriori* expectation value of 3.2 ± 1.7 lenses, given our assumptions. Therefore, it appears quite likely that two additional lenses would be found in these images.

We conclude that an efficient method to search for new gravitational lenses is to obtain deep images of the fields surrounding known strong lenses. This method takes advantage of the enhancement of the line-of-sight number densities of both the potential lenses and potential sources. We note that this is more an effect of biased galaxy formation than a bias due to the enhancement of the lensing cross-section by the group environment, which is secondary effect to lensing statistics (e.g., Keeton & Zabludoff 2004; Fassnacht et al. 2006). We also note that the results presented here suggest that clustering of sources and lenses should be taken into account when comparing observed and predicted lensing statistics in order, e.g., to place limits on cosmological parameters.

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