MOA-2012-BLG-505Lb: A Super-Earth-mass Planet That Probably Resides in the Galactic Bulge

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Received 2017 March 30; revised 2017 May 17; accepted 2017 May 18; published 2017 June 30

Abstract

We report the discovery of a super-Earth-mass planet in the microlensing event MOA-2012-BLG-505. This event has the second shortest event timescale of $t_E = 10 \pm 1$ days where the observed data show evidence of a planetary companion. Our 15 minute high cadence survey observation schedule revealed the short subtle planetary signature. The system shows the well known close/wide degeneracy. The planet/host-star mass ratio is $q = 2.1 \times 10^{-6}$ and the projected separation normalized by the Einstein radius is $s = 1.1$ or 0.9 for the wide and close solutions, respectively. We estimate the physical parameters of the system by using a Bayesian analysis and find that the lens consists of a super-Earth with a mass of $6.7_{-3.6}^{+10.7} M_\oplus$ orbiting around a brown dwarf or late-M-dwarf host with a mass of $0.10_{-0.05}^{+0.16} M_\odot$ with a projected star–planet separation of $0.9_{-0.3}^{+0.2}$ au. The system is at a distance of $7.2 \pm 1.1$ kpc, i.e., it is likely to be in the Galactic bulge. The small angular Einstein radius ($\theta_E = 0.12 \pm 0.02$ mas) and short event timescale are typical for a low-mass lens in the Galactic bulge. Such low-mass planetary systems in the Bulge are rare because the detection efficiency of planets in short microlensing events is relatively low. This discovery may suggest that such low-mass planetary systems are abundant in the Bulge and currently ongoing high cadence survey programs will detect more such events and may reveal an abundance of such planetary systems.

Key words: gravitational lensing: micro

1. Introduction

Since the first discovery of an exoplanet orbiting a main-sequence star (Mayor & Queloz 1995), more than 3000 exoplanets have been discovered. Most of these were discovered by the radial velocity method (Butler et al. 2006) and the transit method (Borucki et al. 2011). Although these methods have a higher sensitivity to planets with higher masses and closer orbits in general, their sensitivities are evolving to allow the discovery of planets of lower mass at wider orbits. The Kepler satellite revolutionized our understanding of the exoplanet distribution by detecting many small planets down to Earth-radius planets with semimajor axes of less than 1 au. However, the population of low-mass planets with separations of a few astronomical units are less understood.

Exoplanet searches using gravitational microlensing were first proposed by Mao & Paczynski (1991). If a background source star is closely aligned with a foreground lens star, the gravity of the lens bends the light from the source star to create unresolvable images of the source, yielding an apparent magnification of the source star brightness. If the lens star has a planetary companion and it lies close to one of the source images, the gravity of the planet perturbs the observed light curve. Microlensing is uniquely sensitive to exoplanets at orbit radii 1-6 au, just outside of the snow line (Ida & Lin 2004; Laughlin et al. 2004; Kennedy et al. 2006) with masses down to Earth-mass planets. Contrary to the other planet detection methods mentioned above, microlensing does not rely on any light from the host star. Microlensing is also sensitive to low-mass planets (Bennett & Rhie 1996) orbiting the faint and/or distant stars, like late-M-dwarfs, the most common stars in our Galaxy.

Since the first discovery of exoplanets by microlensing (Bond et al. 2004), about 50 planetary microlensing events have been found. Many microlensing planets have been discovered in high-magnification ($A \gtrsim 100$) events. Although the high-magnification events are rare, the events are very sensitive to planets (Griest & Safizadeh 1998; Rhie et al. 2000; Rattenbury et al. 2002). Therefore, we issue alerts for high-magnification events to encourage follow-up observations to detect and characterize
planetary anomalies in the light curves. We report the discovery of a planetary system in the Galactic bulge in the high amplification microlensing event MOA-2012-BLG-505.

We describe the observations and the data set of this event in Section 2. The light-curve modeling is described in Section 3. Section 4 presents the data calibration and the source star radius estimate. In Section 5, we present a Bayesian analysis, which is used to estimate the physical parameters of the lens system. Finally, our discussion and conclusions are given in Section 6.

2. Observation and Data

The Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics (MOA; Bond et al. 2001; Sumi et al. 2003) collaboration is conducting a microlensing exoplanet search toward the Galactic bulge using the 1.8 m MOA-II telescope at Mt. John University Observatory in New Zealand. Thanks to the wide field of view of 2.2 deg² with 10 k × 8 k pixel mosaic CCD-camera, MOA-cam3 (Sako et al. 2008), we conduct a high cadence survey observations depending on the field. The observations are carried out mainly with a custom broad R + I band filter, called MOA-Red.

On 2012 July 27, UT 17:48, the microlensing event MOA-2012-BLG-505 was detected and alerted by MOA at (α, δ)(2000) = (17h52m34.3s, −32°02′24.3″) corresponding to Galactic coordinates: (l, b) = (−1°892, −2°881). This event was alerted at HJD−2450000 = 6136.24 and, because the event was very short and fast-rising, the alert was issued after peak magnification and when the planetary signal at the peak was already over. Therefore, no follow-up observation was conducted on this event by other groups. Fortunately, this event occurred in one of the fields with the highest cadence observation of 15 minutes. Thus we could detect a short subtle planetary signature by MOA data alone. Figure 1 shows the observed light curve.

The MOA data were reduced with MOA’s implementation of a Difference Image Analysis (DIA) pipeline (Bond et al. 2001). This method has the advantage for detecting objects whose brightness changed in the stellar crowded fields like those in the Galactic bulge by subtracting good-quality reference images from each of the observed images. It also produces better photometric light curves, avoiding the effect of blending stars compared to traditional PSF photometry. Moreover, our pipeline is designed to be sensitive to those events whose source star is fainter and not resolved in the reference image, but magnified brighter than observational limiting magnitude by the microlensing, as in this event.

It is known that the nominal error bars calculated by the pipeline are misestimated in such stellar crowded fields due to various reasons. We empirically renormalized the errors by using the standard method (Yee et al. 2012) as follows. Note that this renormalization is intended to produce proper errors of the parameters in the light-curve modeling, and we made sure that the fitting results do not depend on this renormalization. We renormalized by using the formula,

\[ \sigma_i' = k \sqrt{\sigma_i^2 + e_{\text{min}}^2} \]

where \( \sigma_i' \) is the \( i \)th renormalized error, \( \sigma_i \) is the \( i \)th error obtained from DIA, and \( k \) and \( e_{\text{min}} \) are the renormalizing parameters.

At first, we searched the preliminary best-fit model by using light curves with original errors. Then we sort the data points by magnification and make a cumulative \( \chi^2 \) distribution. The \( e_{\text{min}} \) value is chosen such that the slope of the distribution is 1. The \( k \) value is chosen such that \( \chi^2 / \text{dof} \approx 1 \). As a result, we obtained \( e_{\text{min}} = 0 \) and \( k = 1.351988 \) for MOA-Red, \( e_{\text{min}} = 0 \) and \( k = 0.932111 \) for MOA-V.

3. Light-curve Models

There are five microlensing parameters for a point-source point-lens model: the time of lens-source closest approach \( t_0 \), the Einstein timescale \( t_\text{E} \), the minimum impact parameter \( p_\text{min} \), the planet-host separation in units of the Einstein radius \( s \), and the angle between the trajectory of the source and the planet-host axis \( \alpha \). Moreover, if the finite size of the source is considered (finite source effect), we need the source size in units of the Einstein radius \( \rho \equiv \theta_\text{s}/\theta_\text{E} \), where \( \theta_\text{s} \) is the angular source radius and \( \theta_\text{E} \) is the angular Einstein radius. If the effect of Earth’s orbital motion during the event, called the microlensing parallax effect, is significant, the north and east components of the microlensing parallax vector \( \pi_{\text{E,N}} \) and \( \pi_{\text{E,E}} \) are added, respectively. If both the finite source effect and the microlensing parallax effect are detected, we can determine the lens mass and the distance directly (Muraki et al. 2011).

To fit the microlensing parameters, we used the Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithm (Verde et al. 2003) and the Sumi et al. (2010) implementation of the image centered ray-shooting method (Bennett & Rhie 1996; Bennett 2010). Three microlensing parameters, \( (q, s, \alpha) \), feature the anomaly shape well, thus we first conduct a grid search of 9680 fixed grid points of these parameters leaving the other parameters free. We used 11 values for \( \log q \) over the range \( \log q \in [-4, 0] \), 22 values for \( \log s \) in the range \( \log s \in [-0.5, 0.55] \), and 40 values of \( \alpha \) in the range \( \alpha \in [0, 2\pi] \). Then we searched for the best model by refining the best 100 models from the initial grid search with all
parameters free. In this event, we detected a finite source effect. To obtain the value of $\rho$ properly, we included linear limb-darkening. The stellar effective temperature $T_{\text{eff}}$ computed from the source color presented in Section 4 is $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 6213$ K (González Hernández & Bonifacio 2009). We assumed $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 6250$ K, a surface gravity of $g \sim 4.5$ cm s$^{-2}$, the microturbulent velocity as $v_t = 0$ km s$^{-1}$, and a metallicity of log[M/H] = 0. We used the corresponding limb-darkening coefficient from the ATLAS stellar atmosphere models of Claret (2000), and found the coefficient for MOA-Red is $u = 0.52845$ by taking the mean of the $R$- and $I$-band values. We also determined the coefficient for MOA-V is $u = 0.6413$.

Because the peak magnification of the event is $A_{\text{max}} \sim 100$, the event is very sensitive to the planetary perturbations. Figure 1 shows the best-fit model and the light curve of this event. Table 1 presents the best-fit model parameters. We found that the best-fit model with planetary mass ratio of $q = 2 \times 10^{-2}$ reproduces the asymmetric feature at the peak of light curve in this event. Comparing to the single lens model, the best planetary model improves $\chi^2$ by $\Delta \chi^2 \sim 227$. Therefore, the planetary signal is detected significantly.

The inclusion of the finite source effect improves the fit by $\Delta \chi^2 = 17.1$, i.e., larger than $4\sigma$. The comparison between the model with and without the finite source is shown in Figure 2. One can see that the model with the finite source fits the data better around the event peak. Thus, we include the finite source effect in the following analysis. Because the source trajectory of the best-fit model crosses only the central caustic as is common in high-magnification events, there is the well known close-wide degeneracy. The microlensing parameters are almost the same except for the separations. The models with $s < 1$ and $s > 1$ are called the close and wide models, respectively. In this event, the shapes of the central caustics for both close and wide models are fairly similar, as shown in Figure 3. The $\chi^2$ difference between these models is only $\Delta \chi^2 = 0.019$; therefore, we cannot distinguish them.

We did not detect the microlensing parallax effect in this event. This is as expected because the event is short with a timescale of $\sim 10$ days (Gould 1992; Gaudi 2012).

We also found a model with a stellar mass ratio of $q \sim 6.7 \times 10^{-2}$, which is the second preferred model with $\Delta \chi^2 \sim 32$ compared to the best close-wide planetary models above. Although the best planetary models have significant $\Delta \chi^2$ compared to the best single lens model, the distinction of these models against stellar binary models is marginal because of relatively subtle anomaly features. To confirm that our planetary model best explains the observed data, we conducted a further grid search to check if there are any other local minima with different $q$ values. In Figure 4, we plot $\Delta \chi^2$ for each model with a range of mass ratios $q$. Here, we searched for the best model using each $q$ value leaving the other parameters to vary freely. The ranges of $q$, $s$, and $\alpha$ in this search are the same as those used in the first grid search. We found some local minima corresponding to distinctly different lens system geometries. Three of these minima can be seen in Figure 4, while the others have larger $\chi^2$. Models in the range of $q \sim 4 \times 10^{-2}$, $4 \times 10^{-3} \sim q \lesssim 1 \times 10^{-2}$, and $q \gtrsim 1 \times 10^{-2}$ have the same sort of geometry as the best model with $(q, s, \alpha) = (2.1 \times 10^{-2}, 1.1, 2.4)$, another planetary solution with $(q, s, \alpha) = (5.2 \times 10^{-3}, 1.3, 5.0)$ and the stellar binary solution with $(q, s, \alpha) = (6.6 \times 10^{-2}, 0.2, 1.3)$, respectively. We found that the local minimum with $q \sim 6.63 \times 10^{-2}$ in Figure 4 is the only local minimum with a stellar mass ratio. This model corresponds to the second best model found from the first grid analysis above which the $\Delta \chi^2$ with respect to the best model is $\sim 31$ (i.e., larger than $5\sigma$). Therefore, we conclude that the planetary solution is the global best solution for this event.

Because we were unable to detect the microlensing parallax in this event, we cannot determine the physical parameters of the lens system uniquely. Only the measurement of the finite source effect in this event partially breaks the degeneracy between microlensing parameters, which can be used to estimate the probability distribution of the physical parameters via the Bayesian analysis in Section 5.
4. CMD and Source Radius

In this section, we estimate the angular Einstein radius \( \theta_E = \theta_s / \rho \) from the best-fit \( \rho \) and the angular source radius \( \theta_s \), which can be calculated from the source color and magnitude. We get the source color and magnitude from MOA-Red band and MOA-V-band data. Figure 5 shows the OGLE (the Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment; Udalski 2003) \((V - I, I)\) color–magnitude diagram (CMD) of stars within 2′ around MOA-2012-BLG-505 (Szymański et al. 2011). It also shows the deep CMD of Baade’s window as observed by HST (Holtzman et al. 1998) and which is adjusted for the distance, reddening and extinction to the MOA-2012-BLG-505 field by using Red Clump Giants (RCG) as standard candles (Bennett et al. 2008). We convert the best-fit MOA-Red and MOA-V source magnitude to the standard Cousins I and Johnson V magnitude by cross-referencing stars in the MOA field with stars in the OGLE-III photometry map (Szymański et al. 2011) within 2′ of the event. We find the source color and magnitude to be \((V - I, I)_{\text{OGLE}} = (2.00, 21.29) \pm (0.06, 0.13)\). We only have a couple of MOA-V data points, one highly magnified point and one with low magnification, during this event. So we doubled the nominal error of the source color conservatively. We find, therefore, the source color and magnitude to be \((V - I, I)_{\text{OGLE}} = (2.00, 21.29) \pm (0.12, 0.13)\). The centroid of RCG color and magnitude in CMD are \((V - I, I)_{\text{RCG}} = (2.49, 16.32) \pm (0.01, 0.03)\) as shown in Figure 5. Comparing these values to the expected extinction-free RCG color and magnitude at this field of

Figure 3. Caustic geometries for the best-fit close (left) and wide (right) models indicated by the red curves. The blue line for each of the figures shows the source trajectory with respect to the lens system. The blue circle for each of the figures indicates the source star size.

Figure 4. \(\Delta \chi^2\) from the best-fit model as a function of \(q\). The red star indicates the \(\Delta \chi^2\) and \(q\) values corresponding to the best-fitting model. There is a local minimum at \(q \approx 6.63 \times 10^{-2}\), and the \(\Delta \chi^2\) between the best and local minimum is about 31.

Figure 5. Color–magnitude diagram (CMD) of OGLE-III stars within 2′ of MOA-2012-BLG-505 (black dots). The green dots show the HST CMD (Holtzman et al. 1998). The red point indicates the centroid of the red clump giant, and the blue point indicates the source color and magnitude.
\( (V - I, I)_{\text{RCG},0} = (1.06, 14.55) \pm (0.07, 0.04) \) (Bensby et al. 2013; Natal et al. 2013), we get the reddening and extinction to the source of \( (E(V - I), A_I)_{\text{RCG}} = (1.43, 1.77) \pm (0.07, 0.05) \). Therefore, we estimated the extinction-free source color and magnitude as being

\[
(V - I, I)_{S,0} = (0.57, 19.52) \pm (0.14, 0.14).
\]

(2)

By using the empirical formula, \( \log(\theta_e) = 0.50141358 + 0.41968496(V - I) - 0.2I \) (Boyajian et al. 2014; Fukui et al. 2015), we estimated the angular source radius,

\[
\theta_e = 0.34 \pm 0.05 \, \mu\text{as}.
\]

(3)

From this \( \theta_e \) and other fitting parameters, we calculated the angular Einstein radius \( \theta_E \) and the lens-source relative proper motion \( \mu_{\text{rel}} = \theta_E / t_E \) as follows.

\[
\theta_E = 0.12 \pm 0.02 \, \text{mas}
\]

(4)

\[
\mu_{\text{rel}} = 4.40 \pm 0.72 \, \text{mas \, yr}^{-1}.
\]

(5)

This \( \theta_E \) is relatively small, which indicates that the lens is likely low-mass and/or far from the observer. This \( \mu_{\text{rel}} \) is relatively high, which prefers that the lens is in the Galactic bulge rather than the disk.

The source color obtained from MOA-Red and MOA-V data lies on the blue edge of the typical main-sequence stars expected from the HST CMD. We checked the effect of possible systematics in the color measurement on the final estimated lens physical parameters as follows. Assuming the source star is a main-sequence star in the Bulge, which is very likely, we adopt the mean color of the main-sequence stars in the HST CMD with the magnitudes ranging around the observed source magnitude \( I_S = 21.29 \pm 0.13 \) (Bennett et al. 2008). We get a source color and magnitude of \( (V - I, I)_{S,\text{OGLE}} = (2.32, 21.29) \pm (0.12, 0.13) \) and \( (V - I, I)_{S,0} = (0.89, 19.52) \pm (0.14, 0.14) \), with and without extinction and reddening, respectively.

The lens physical parameters estimated by using this source color are consistent with the final results by using the source color obtained from the light curves (see Section 5) to within 1σ errors. Therefore, systematics in our measurement of the source color do not make any difference to our final results. We use the source color measured from the light curves in the following discussions.

5. Lens Physical Parameters by Bayesian Analysis

We cannot directly determine the lens physical parameters because we could not measure the microlensing parallax effect. Thus we estimated the probability distribution of lens physical properties by using a Bayesian analysis (Beaulieu et al. 2006; Gould et al. 2006; Bennett et al. 2008) assuming the Galactic model of Han & Gould (1995) as a prior probability. We note that the probability of stars hosting a planet with the measured \( q \) and \( s \) values is independent of the lens’s mass and distance from the Earth. We used the measured \( \theta_E \) and \( t_E \) to constrain the probability distributions of lens parameters. Although this event has the \( s \sim 1/s \) degeneracy, all lens physical parameters of these degenerate solutions are consistent within the 68.3% confidence interval. Therefore, we combined the result of the wide and close model weighted by \( e^{-\Delta \chi^2 / 2} \) (\( \Delta \chi^2 = \chi^2_{\text{close}} - \chi^2_{\text{wide}} = 0.019 \)).

Planetary system parameters confidence intervals are sometimes set at the fixed contour levels, but this is confusing for distributions with multiple peaks. So, we prefer percentiles, so that the 68% and 95% confidence intervals represent the central 68% and 95% of the probability distribution. The posterior distributions and parameters are shown in Figure 6, Figure 7, and Table 2, respectively. According to this analysis, the host is a brown dwarf or late-M-dwarf with a mass of \( 0.10^{+0.15}_{-0.05} \, M_\odot \) at 7.2\( ^{+1.1}_{-1.0} \) kpc away from the Earth, i.e., likely in the Galactic bulge. In the calculation of the posterior probability, we treated the stars in the Bulge and the stars in the disk separately following each number density distributions given by Han & Gould (1995). The posterior probability that the lens system is in the bulge is 80.5%, and the probability that the lens primary is a brown dwarf in the disk is 19.5%. The planet mass is a super-Earth with a mass of \( 6.7^{+10.7}_{-3.6} \, M_\oplus \), and the projected separation from the host is \( r_\parallel = 0.91^{+0.22}_{-0.26} \, \text{au} \). Assuming a planetary orbit with random inclination and phase (Gould & Loeb 1992), the physical three-dimensional separation is \( a = 1.13^{+0.64}_{-0.34} \, \text{au} \).

6. Discussion and Conclusion

We found that MOA-2012-BLG-505Lb is a super-Earth-mass planet, ranging from terrestrial mass to Neptune mass, orbiting around a brown dwarf or late-M-dwarf probably in the Galactic bulge. Figure 8 shows the distribution of known exoplanets in planet mass as a function of the host mass. This event is shown by a purple circle and the position is in the bottom left (corresponding to both a low-mass host and planet). The red circles indicate the planets found by microlensing, where filled and open circles indicate that their masses are measured and estimated by a Bayesian analysis, respectively. Red ones indicate planetary mass ratios of \( q \ll 0.1 \) and green ones, on the other hand, indicate larger mass ratios of \( q \gg 0.1 \), i.e., low-mass binaries. Although the detection efficiencies of the planetary events with large \( q \) are higher than that with small \( q \) (Suzuki et al. 2016), all planetary systems have small \( q \sim 0.001-0.0001 \) except one planetary system with large \( q \sim 0.01 \) (Han et al. 2016) orbiting around low-mass stars of \( <0.15 \, M_\odot \). This result indicates that the low-mass stars tend to host relatively low-mass planetary companions.

This event is roughly tied for the second shortest \( t_E \approx 10 \) days with a planetary companion with OGLE-2016-BLG-1195 (Bond et al. 2017; Shvartzvald et al. 2017). The shortest duration event with a planetary mass ratio companion was MOA-2011-BLG-262 (Bennett et al. 2014). Only a few microlensing planets with \( t_E \lesssim 10 \) days have been found. This is largely because the detection efficiency of planets in short events is low (Suzuki et al. 2016). We need to find and analyze more events like MOA-2012-BLG-505, to obtain unbiased statistics of planets around low-mass hosts.

The microlensing method has the capability to determine the dependence of the distribution of exoplanets on the distance from the center of our Galaxy. The comparison of published planets by Penny et al. (2016) is not conclusive because of biases in the planetary sample and the lack of a proper detection efficiency calculation for this sample. Large statistical samples (Suzuki et al. 2016) could be used for such a comparison if they are supplemented by lens mass measurements via a microlensing parallax (Gaudi et al. 2008; Muraki et al. 2011; Bennett et al. 2014) or host-star brightness measurements (Bennett et al. 2006, 2015; Batista et al. 2015).
However, both of these methods are more effective for planetary systems in the disk. Space-based microlensing parallax measurements have somewhat of an advantage in this regard, though the Spitzer program is limited in its sensitivity to short duration events due to the necessity of identifying targets from ground-based data (Zhu et al. 2017). The Kepler K2 microlensing program is limited by its short duration (Henderson et al. 2016). Prior to this paper, there have been five planets located with a 1σ distance lower limit of $D_L > 6.0$ kpc, i.e., they are likely to be in the Bulge.

Figure 6. Relative probability distributions of lens system properties from our Bayesian analysis. The dark and light blue regions indicate the 68% and 95% confidence intervals, respectively. The blue vertical lines indicate the median values of each of these distributions.

Figure 7. Relative probability distributions for the $I$, $J$, $H$, and $K$-band lens star magnitudes from our Bayesian analysis with extinction. The dark and light blue regions indicate the 68% and 95% confidence intervals, respectively. The vertical blue lines indicate the median values of each of these distributions. The vertical red lines indicate the source star magnitudes for each bands. Red dotted lines are their 1σ errors. The source magnitudes are estimated from Kenyon & Hartmann (1995) and Baraffe et al. (2003). Their extinctions are estimated from Cardelli et al. (1989).
Figure 8. Distribution of exoplanets. The horizontal axis corresponds to the host mass and the vertical axis corresponds to the planet mass. The purple point indicates MOA-2012-BLG-505. The red, green, blue, magenta, and black points indicate the planets found by Microlensing (planetary mass companion), Microlensing (binary mass companion), Transit & TTV, Direct Imaging, and Radial Velocity, respectively. In microlensing planets, filled circles indicate that their masses are measured and open circles indicate that their masses are estimated by a Bayesian analysis. The values of microlensing planets are from the literature, while those of the others are from http://exoplanet.eu.

Table 2
The Physical Parameters and 1σ Errors of MOA-2012-BLG-505

| Parameter | Units | Value | Error (1σ) |
|-----------|-------|-------|------------|
| $D_\circ$ | kpc   | 7.21  | ±1.14      |
| $M_\star$ | $M_\odot$ | 0.10 | ±0.06     |
| $m_p$ | $M_\odot$ | 6.70 | ±10.61    |
| $r_\circ$ | au | 0.90 | ±0.25 |
| $a$ | au | 1.12 | ±0.32 |
| $\mu$ | mas yr$^{-1}$ | 4.72 | ±1.01 |
| $J$ | mag | 25.34 | ±5.84 |
| $H$ | mag | 24.43 | ±6.79 |
| $K$ | mag | 23.93 | ±4.13 |

MOA-2011-BLG-028Lb (Skowron et al. 2016) was determined to be in the bulge due to an upper limit on the microlensing parallax, and MOA-2011-BLG-293Lb (Batista et al. 2014) was determined to be in the bulge by detection of the lens star. MOA-2008-BLG-310Lb (Janczak et al. 2010), OGLE-2015-BLG-0051Lb (Han et al. 2016), and MOA-2011-BLG-322Lb (Shvartzvald et al. 2014) were estimated to be in the bulge based on a Bayesian analysis that assumed that bulge and disk stars are equally likely to host planets, so these bulge planet identifications are less definitive than the first two. MOA-2011-BLG-028Lb, MOA-2008-BLG-310Lb, and OGLE-2015-BLG-0051Lb are expected to be a Neptune-mass planet, sub-Saturn mass planet and a sub-Jupiter mass planet in the Galactic bulge, respectively. MOA-2011-BLG-293Lb and MOA-2011-BLG-322Lb are super-Jupiter mass planets in the Galactic bulge. The MOA-2011-BLG-262L host has an unusually high $\mu_{\text{rad}}$ which combined with the small $f_\circ$ implies a low-mass stellar host in the bulge or an apparently unbound planet hosting an Earth-mass moon. The Bayesian analysis for the OGLE-2016-BLG-1195 planetary system indicates a bulge lens (Bond et al. 2017), but the analysis of Spitzer data (Shvartzvald et al. 2017) seems to indicate a microlensing parallax signal due to a star in the disk that is not rotating with the disk. The priori probability of microlensing parallax direction given its magnitude and the measured $\mu_{\text{rad}}$ value is ~0.003. This suggests that the parallax measurement may have been compromised by a companion to the source or lens, so the nature of this event is as yet underdetermined. Due to these ambiguities with MOA-2011-BLG-262Lb and OGLE-2016-BLG-1195Lb, MOA-2012-BLG-505Lb is the sixth planet that is likely to be in the Bulge. However, the possibility that it is a planet orbiting a brown dwarf in the disk cannot be ruled out. Nevertheless, this discovery contributes to the statistics of planet distribution in our Galaxy.

We used the Bayesian analysis to estimate the probability distribution of the lens physical parameters because we could not measure the microlensing parallax. It is difficult to observe the microlensing parallax in the Bulge lens events because they are relatively short and their projected Einstein radius on the observer plane, $f_\circ$, is large relative to 1 au. $f_\circ$ for the Bulge lens event is 3–10 au typically. It is difficult to detect the microlensing parallax for such events from the space telescope located at L2; however, we may be able to detect these from the telescope located on ~au away from the Earth like Spitzer (Street et al. 2016) and/or Kepler (Henderson et al. 2016). If these instruments observe many events similar to MOA-2012-BLG-505, they will be able to determine the planet distribution in the Galaxy down to low-mass hosts. NASA’s WFIRST satellite will increase this sample size significantly and reveal the Galactic distribution of exoplanets (Spergel et al. 2015).

We may identify the lens by future high-resolution imaging with space telescope or ground-based AO observations if it is a relatively massive star, or we may set a tight upper limit when it is a really low-mass star. Figure 7 shows the distributions of $I$-, $J$-, $H$-, and $K$-band magnitudes for the lens star with extinction. The lens magnitudes are estimated from Kenyon & Hartmann (1995) and Baraffe et al. (2003). We selected the isochrone model for a 5 Gyr brown dwarf from Baraffe et al. (2003). The extinctions are estimated by using Cardelli et al. (1989). The distributions look bimodal because the luminosity changes sharply around 0.07 $M_\odot$, i.e., at the boundary between brown-dwarf and main-sequence stars, in the mass–luminosity relation. We cannot detect the lens star if it is a brown dwarf. However, if the lens star is a hydrogen burning star, we will probably be able to detect it with JWST (Gardner et al. 2006) when it is separated from the source star after 10 years.

T.S. acknowledges the financial support from the JSPS, JSPS23103002, JSPS24253004, and JSPS26247023. The MOA project is supported by the grant JSPS25103508 and 23340064. Work by N.K. is supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number JP15J01676. Work by A.F. is supported by JSPS KAKENHI Grant Number JP17H02871. N.J.R. is a Royal Society of New Zealand Rutherford Discovery Fellow. A.S. is a University of Auckland Doctoral Scholar.

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