



# The JWST PEARLS View of the El Gordo Galaxy Cluster and of the Structure It Magnifies

Brenda L. Frye<sup>1</sup>, Massimo Pascale<sup>2</sup>, Nicholas Foo<sup>1</sup>, Reagen Leimbach<sup>1</sup>, Nikhil Garuda<sup>1</sup>, Paulina Soto Robles<sup>1</sup>, Jake Summers<sup>3</sup>, Carlos Diaz<sup>4</sup>, Patrick Kamienieski<sup>3</sup>, Lukas J. Furtak<sup>5</sup>, Seth H. Cohen<sup>3</sup>, Jose Diego<sup>6</sup>, Benjamin Beauchesne<sup>7,8</sup>, Rogier A. Windhorst<sup>3</sup>, S. P. Willner<sup>9</sup>, Anton M. Koekemoer<sup>10</sup>, Adi Zitrin<sup>5</sup>, Gabriel Caminha<sup>11</sup>, Karina I. Caputi<sup>12,13</sup>, Dan Coe<sup>10</sup>, Christopher J. Conselice<sup>14</sup>, Liang Dai<sup>15</sup>, Hervé Dole<sup>16</sup>, Simon P. Driver<sup>17</sup>, Norman A. Grogin<sup>10</sup>, Kevin Harrington<sup>18</sup>, Rolf A. Jansen<sup>3</sup>, Jean-Paul Kneib<sup>7,19</sup>, Matt Lehnert<sup>8</sup>, James Lowenthal<sup>20</sup>, Madeline A. Marshall<sup>21,22</sup>, Felipe Menanteau<sup>23,24</sup>, Belén Alcalde Pampliega<sup>18</sup>, Nor Pirzkal<sup>10</sup>, Mari Polletta<sup>25</sup>, Johan Richard<sup>8</sup>, Aaron Robotham<sup>17</sup>, Russell E. Ryan, Jr.<sup>10</sup>, Michael J. Rutkowski<sup>26</sup>, Christóbal Sifón<sup>27</sup>, Scott Tompkins<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Wang<sup>28</sup>, Haojing Yan<sup>29</sup>, and Min S. Yun<sup>28</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Astronomy/Steward Observatory, University of Arizona, 933 N. Cherry Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85721, USA; [bfrye@arizona.edu](mailto:bfrye@arizona.edu)

<sup>2</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of California, 501 Campbell Hall #3411, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA

<sup>3</sup> School of Earth & Space Exploration, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1404, USA

<sup>4</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, USA

<sup>5</sup> Physics Department, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, P.O. Box 653, Be'er-Sheva, 8410501, Israel

<sup>6</sup> FCA, Instituto de Física de Cantabria (UC-CSIC), Av. de Los Castros s/n, E-39005 Santander, Spain

<sup>7</sup> Institute of Physics, Laboratory of Astrophysics, Ecole Polytechnique Fed'rale de Lausanne (EPFL), Observatoire de Sauvigny, CH-1290 Versoix, Switzerland

<sup>8</sup> Univ Lyon, Univ Lyon1, Ens de Lyon, CNRS, Centre de Recherche Astrophysique de Lyon UMR5574, F-69230 Saint-Genis-Laval, France

<sup>9</sup> Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

<sup>10</sup> Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Drive, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA

<sup>11</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 1, D-85748 Garching, Germany

<sup>12</sup> Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, University of Groningen, Postbus 800, 9700 AV Groningen, The Netherlands

<sup>13</sup> The Cosmic Dawn Center, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Julian Maries Vej 30, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark

<sup>14</sup> Jodrell Bank Centre for Astrophysics, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, UK

<sup>15</sup> Department of Physics, University of California, 366 Physics North MC 7300, Berkeley, CA. 94720, USA

<sup>16</sup> Université Paris-Saclay, CNRS, Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale, F-91405, Orsay, France

<sup>17</sup> International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) and the International Space Centre (ISC), The University of Western Australia, M468, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009, Australia

<sup>18</sup> European Southern Observatory, Alonso de Córdova 3107, Vitacura, Casilla 19001, Santiago de Chile, Chile

<sup>19</sup> Aix Marseille Université, CNRS, LAM (Laboratoire d'Astrophysique de Marseille) UMR 7326, F-13388 Marseille, France

<sup>20</sup> Smith College, Northampton, MA 01063, USA

<sup>21</sup> National Research Council of Canada, Herzberg Astronomy & Astrophysics Research Centre, 5071 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC, V9E 2E7, Canada

<sup>22</sup> ARC Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions (ASTRO 3D), Australia

<sup>23</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 1002 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801, USA

<sup>24</sup> Center for Astrophysical Surveys, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, 1205 West Clark Street, Urbana, IL 61801, USA

<sup>25</sup> INAF—Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica (IASF) Milano, Via A. Corti 12, I-20133 Milan, Italy

<sup>26</sup> Minnesota State University-Mankato, Telescope Science Institute, TN141, Mankato, MN 56001, USA

<sup>27</sup> Instituto de Física, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Casilla 4059, Valparaíso, Chile

<sup>28</sup> Department of Astronomy, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003, USA

<sup>29</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA

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## Abstract

The massive galaxy cluster El Gordo ( $z = 0.87$ ) imprints multitudes of gravitationally lensed arcs onto James Webb Space Telescope Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) images. Eight bands of NIRCam imaging were obtained in the “Prime Extragalactic Areas for Reionization and Lensing Science” (“PEARLS”) program. Point-spread function–matched photometry across Hubble Space Telescope and NIRCam filters supplies new photometric redshifts. A new light-traces-mass lens model based on 56 image multiplicities identifies the two mass peaks and yields a mass estimate within 500 kpc of  $(7.0 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ . A search for substructure in the 140 cluster members with spectroscopic redshifts confirms the two main mass components. The southeastern mass peak that contains the brightest cluster galaxy is more tightly bound than the northwestern one. The virial mass within 1.7 Mpc is  $(5.1 \pm 0.60) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ , lower than the lensing mass. A significant transverse velocity component could mean the virial mass is underestimated. We contribute one new member to the previously known  $z = 4.32$  galaxy group. Intrinsic (delensed) positions of the five secure group members span a physical extent of  $\sim 60$  kpc. 13 additional candidates selected by spectroscopic/photometric constraints are small and faint, with a mean intrinsic luminosity  $\sim 2.2$  mag fainter than  $L^*$ . NIRCam imaging admits a fairly wide range of brightnesses and morphologies for the group members, suggesting a more diverse galaxy population in this galaxy overdensity.



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*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* [Strong gravitational lensing \(1643\)](#); [Galaxy clusters \(584\)](#); [High-redshift galaxy clusters \(2007\)](#)

*Supporting material:* machine-readable table

## 1. Introduction

The  $z = 0.87$  galaxy cluster ACT-CL J0102–4915, known as El Gordo, was discovered by its large Sunyaev–Z’eldovich effect (SZE) decrement observed by the Planck mission (Marriage et al. 2011). The cluster has the highest X-ray luminosity of any cluster at  $z > 0.6$  (Menanteau et al. 2012), and filaments of synchrotron radio emission flank the two major cluster components. Such filaments are typically a consequence of cluster-scale dynamical disturbances (Lindner et al. 2014). Mass estimates by independent methods, including applying the virial theorem to the velocity dispersion and strong- and weak-lensing approaches, place El Gordo at a mass  $\gtrsim 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ , close to exceeding the maximum mass allowable by the  $\Lambda$ CDM model at El Gordo’s redshift (e.g., Mortonson et al. 2011). Diego et al. (2023) give a complete summary of the mass estimates of El Gordo and the associated caveats on such measurements.

The cluster’s galaxy distribution consists of prominent southeastern (SE) and northwestern (NW) components, but there is some debate over which is dominant. Weak-lensing and dynamical mass estimates have historically favored the NW component, with a mass ratio of SE:NW close to 0.6:1 (Menanteau et al. 2012; Jee et al. 2014), while more recent weak- and strong-lensing studies promote the SE component to a ratio closer to 1:1 (Zitrin et al. 2013; Cerny et al. 2018; Diego et al. 2020; Kim et al. 2021; Diego et al. 2023). Diego et al. (2023) pointed out that both values may be true if the SE component is more massive on smaller physical scales but gradually loses out to the NW one with increasing radius. The dynamical stage of this binary cluster is also under debate. While there is consensus regarding a major merger, it is not yet settled whether the collision was head-on or off-axis (Zhang et al. 2018, and references therein). The cluster appears to be post-first passage (Molnar & Broadhurst 2015) and post-maximum separation and is now on its return phase (Ng et al. 2015), although the unusual X-ray morphology and positions of the radio relics prevent strong constraints on its evolutionary stage (Kim et al. 2021).

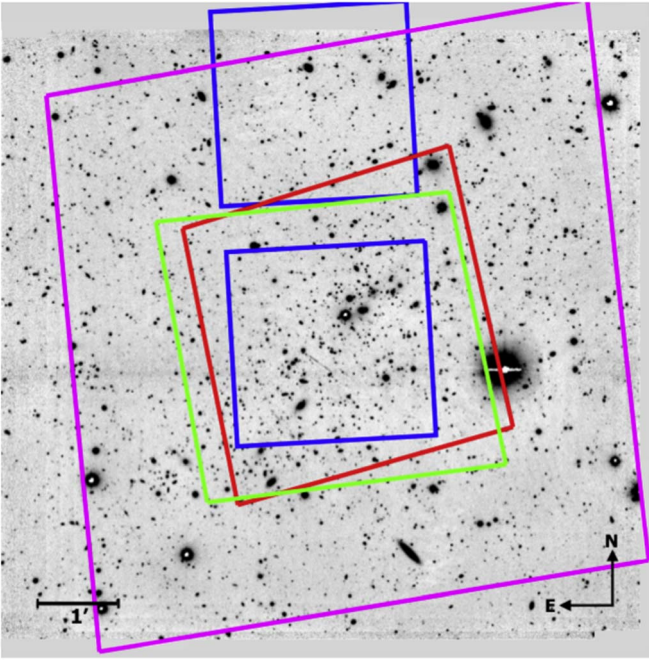
The first estimate of El Gordo’s mass distribution by strong-lensing modeling was based on nine cases of a single galaxy appearing in multiple locations, called an “image system,” and was constructed prior to the availability of spectroscopic redshifts of the image systems to anchor the model (Zitrin et al. 2013). Nonetheless, this initial lens model confirmed the elongation of the cluster in the direction of the ongoing merger and the high mass. Cerny et al. (2018) extended the number of image systems by a factor of 2, and Diego et al. (2020) contributed additional lensing constraints and confirmed the high mass. Even with these steps forward, the lack of spectroscopic redshifts of the image systems limited the accuracy of the resulting lens models and their ability to recover the lensed image positions (Johnson & Sharon 2016).

An advance was made by Caminha et al. (2022), who measured spectroscopic redshifts for 23 image systems in El Gordo using the Very Large Telescope Multi-Unit Spectroscopic Explorer (MUSE) instrument. This result was made

feasible by the integral field unit (IFU) spectroscopic approach that obtains spectra for all objects in the field of view. Four of the systems are at a similar redshift of  $z = 4.32$ , uncovering a strongly lensed grouping of galaxies behind the cluster (Caputi et al. 2021). By fitting spectral energy distributions (SEDs) to the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) photometry, Caputi et al. (2021) found the galaxies to be relatively low in mass ( $\sim 10^7$ – $10^{10} M_{\odot}$ ) and to have star formation rates (SFRs) of  $0.4$ – $24 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  that qualify two of them as starbursts. This result led Caputi et al. (2021) to suggest that these four galaxies may be experiencing enhanced star formation as a result of galaxy–galaxy interactions. The typical morphology of the galaxies—a blue, compact clump superimposed on a more extended and redder component—supports this claim, but the sources are too red and faint for the HST data to separate the components. High-resolution imaging that extends redward of the 4000 Å and Balmer breaks ( $\lambda > 2 \mu\text{m}$  observed) is needed to characterize the stellar populations and morphologies of these galaxies.

The first lensing analysis of El Gordo to incorporate James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam; e.g., Rieke et al. 2005) imaging (Diego et al. 2023) was completed using the nonparametric WSLAP+ approach. The authors constructed a base lens model by incorporating the 23 image systems of Caminha et al. (2022) and identified an additional 37 new image systems. Two lens models using all 60 systems assign roughly equal mass to the NW and SE components and confirm El Gordo’s high mass. Diego et al. (2023) also reported photometric redshift estimates using only the HST bands and separately using only NIRCam bands.

El Gordo is one of seven galaxy clusters selected by the “Prime Extragalactic Areas for Reionization and Lensing Science” (“PEARLS”) project (Windhorst et al. 2023) on account of its significant lensing strength and large critical curve perimeter. This paper presents new point-spread function (PSF)–matched photometry for El Gordo across HST and NIRCam filters, enabling more reliable photometric redshifts and a search for additional members of the  $z = 4.3$  galaxy overdensity. An independent lensing analysis is carried out using a “light-traces-mass” (LTM) lens model instead of WSLAP+, and a new spectroscopic analysis is used to search for substructures. This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the NIRCam data and the relevant ancillary imaging data. Section 3 describes the new NIRCam photometry and PSF-matched photometry that incorporates the bluer HST filters and the generation of the object catalog. The construction of the LTM lens model appears in Section 4. The spectroscopic analysis is given in Section 5, the new constraints on the cluster physical properties are discussed in Section 6, and the search for new members of the galaxy overdensity at  $z = 4.3$  appears in Section 7. Section 8 summarizes the results. This paper uses the AB magnitude system throughout, and we assume a flat  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology with  $H_0 = 67 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ,  $\Omega_{m,0} = 0.32$ , and  $\Omega_{\Lambda,0} = 0.68$  (Planck Collaboration et al. 2020).



**Figure 1.** HST and JWST/NIRCam coverage of the field. The background negative image is an  $r$ -band image from DES that has a field of view of  $3.6 \times 3.4$  Mpc at the cluster redshift. The pair of blue squares depict the two NIRCam fields of view, and other squares depict the HST imaging: F435W (green), F814W (red), and F606W (magenta), in order of increasing field coverage.

## 2. Observations and Reductions

### 2.1. NIRCam

NIRCam observations were obtained on 2022 July 29 as a part of the JWST PEARLS program (PI: Windhorst, Program ID 1176). The observing window was selected by the Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI) in order to reduce stray light expected from a nearby bright star in projection. Exposures were taken in F090W, F115W, F150W, and F200W in the short-wavelength (SW) module and in F277W, F356W, F444W, and F410M in the long-wavelength (LW) module. Point-source limiting magnitudes are filter-dependent, but approximately  $m_{AB} = 28.0$ – $28.9$  mag.

The images were reduced by our team as discussed in detail by Windhorst et al. (2023). Briefly, the data were retrieved from the Mikulski Archive for Space Telescopes (MAST) and corrected for  $1/f$  noise by first using the prescription of C. Willott.<sup>30</sup> We then ran the ProFound code, which makes a second round of corrections of any remaining residuals in the relevant rows and columns and also flattens the background and corrects for detector-level offsets, wisps, and snowballs (Robotham et al. 2017, 2018). Finally, the frames were astrometrically aligned onto a common astrometric reference frame and drizzled into combined mosaics, following similar methodology to that first described by Koekemoer et al. (2011), updated to use the JWST pipeline.<sup>31</sup> Figure 1 depicts the field coverage against the backdrop of the  $r$ -band Dark Energy Survey (DES) image. The single, central NIRCam pointing covers both the SE and NW cluster components and the many

prominent arcs. Figure 2 shows the NIRCam color image. Some of the data presented in this paper were obtained from MAST at STScI. The specific observations analyzed can be accessed via doi:10.17909/x49n-d207.

### 2.2. Ancillary Data

We augmented the NIRCam data with bluer HST Wide Field Camera (WFC) F435W, F606W, and F814W imaging drawn from the literature (PID 14096; PID 12477). Data in HST Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) WFC, WFC3-IR, and Spitzer/IRAC filters also exist, which substantially overlap with the data used here, but they are superseded by the NIRCam imaging and so are not included here. Spectroscopy is available from Sifón et al. (2013) and Caminha et al. (2022).

Three Chandra observations were acquired (ObsIDs 12258, 14022, and 14023; PI: J. Hughes) with a total of 351 ks of combined exposure time. We reprocessed the observations to generate level-2 event files using the `chandra_repro` script available in the Chandra Interactive Analysis of Observations (CIAO; Fruscione et al. 2006) software, version 4.14, with CALDB v. 4.9.8. The three observations were merged using the `merge_obs` script to produce a broadband (0.5–7.0 keV), coadded, clipped counts image and a corresponding exposure map. We detected X-ray point sources using the `wavdetect` script and visually inspected the source list to create a list of point sources that did not pertain to the cluster. We removed and replaced the pixels of these sources with interpolated values from the surrounding background regions of each source using the `dmfilth` script. The resulting image was divided by the corresponding exposure map to produce an exposure-corrected image and smoothed using `aconvolve` with a Gaussian kernel.

## 3. Photometry

### 3.1. NIRCam Photometry

Photometry is delivered individually for each NIRCam filter as a part of the JWST pipeline image reductions. Using only the eight NIRCam bands tends to underestimate the redshifts relative to the spectroscopic values (Diego et al. 2023), thereby motivating photometry extending to the bluer HST filters. These are the HST ACS filters F435W, F606W, and F814W, which provide coverage blueward of the 4000 Å and Balmer breaks at the redshift of the background galaxy overdensity at  $z = 4.32$ . Deriving accurate photometric redshifts requires consistent photometry in all filters.

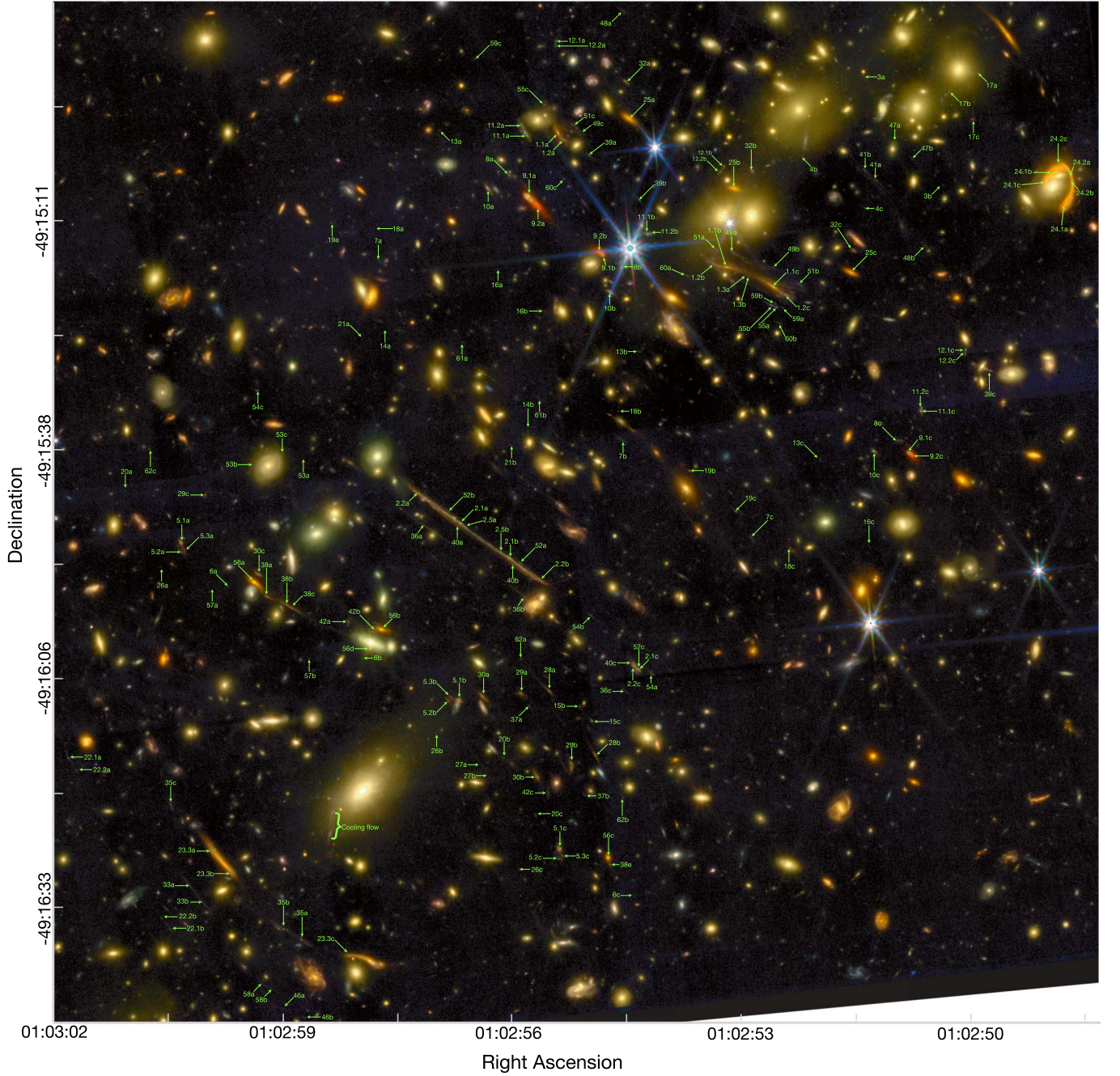
The JWST NIRCam F200W image was assigned as the reference image. In this filter, the imaging performance is diffraction-limited, defined as having a Strehl ratio  $> 0.80$ . To find sources, SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) was used in a two-step HOT+COLD process, following the prescription of Galametz et al. (2013). The object catalog reports AUTO magnitudes, which are measured in a Kron-like elliptical aperture.

For other JWST filters, each image was convolved with a kernel to match the PSF of the F200W image. The kernels were derived in Fourier space by applying the convolution theorem (Pascale et al. 2022). The original rms maps remain adequate because all NIRCam filters have similar PSF FWHMs. Isophotal (ISO) magnitudes were derived from forced aperture photometry in SExtractor’s dual-image mode, using the F200W

<sup>30</sup> <https://github.com/chriswillott/jwst.git>

<sup>31</sup> <https://github.com/spacetelescope/jwst>



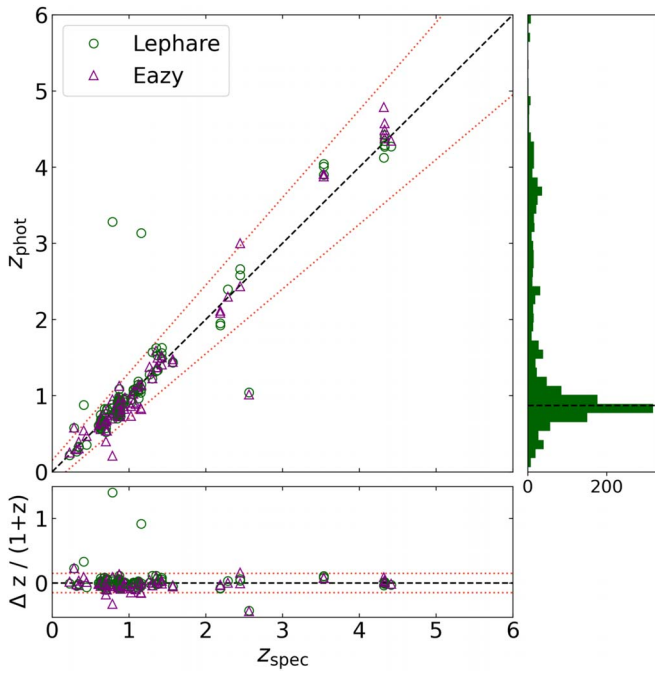


**Figure 2.** NIRC2 color image of the central region of El Gordo. The image is  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  on a side, and the orientation is North up and East to the left. The colors follow the prescription in Trilogy (Coe et al. 2012), with red showing F410M+F444W, green showing F200W+F277W+F356W, and blue showing F090W+F115W. All colors are multiplied by the sum of all the wide NIRC2 filters (F090W + F115W + F150W + F200W + F277W + F356W + F444W) to the  $1/4$  power. The 56 image systems used in our lens model are labeled in green, as is the cooling flow detected in HST imaging. The axes give the R.A. and decl. in J2000 coordinates.

image and its associated weight map for detection, but each other NIRC2 image and its weight map for the measurements. The ISO colors were then added to the F200W AUTO magnitudes to derive the magnitudes in each filter. This was done because isophotal magnitudes generally yield more accurate colors, while AUTO magnitudes tend to better estimate total flux (Coe et al. 2006). Magnitude uncertainties were computed by SExtractor, based on the rms maps. Systematics are broadly accounted for in the photometric redshift estimation that follows, by enforcing a minimum uncertainty of 0.05 mag for each photometric measurement.

### 3.2. HST Photometry

To prepare the HST imaging for multiband photometry, the HST and NIRC2 imaging were both aligned to the GAIA reference frame. The PSFs were then generated in all filters. We first attempted to measure the PSFs in the HST images from the data by coadding the profiles of isolated and unsaturated stars. The search for suitable stars was done with the photutils DAOFinder (Bradley et al. 2022). This exercise yielded fewer than five stars in each filter, too few to give accurate PSFs. Instead, we adopted the model PSFs provided by STScI,



**Figure 3.** Photometric redshifts vs. spectroscopic redshifts. The points depict redshifts, as indicated in the legend. The dashed line shows equality, and the dotted lines delineate the region where  $|\delta z|/(1+z) < 0.15$ , the goodness-of-fit criterion used by Pascale et al. (2022). The bottom panel shows  $|\delta z|/(1+z)$  directly. The panel on the right gives the histogram of photometric redshifts, which peaks at the El Gordo cluster redshift (shown by the dashed line).

which provide better representations of the point-source profile.<sup>32</sup> We also attempted to measure the NIRCcam PSFs from the data and again found too few stars, prompting us to model the PSFs using the WebbPSF software.

The photometry in each of the HST filters proceeded as for the NIRCcam photometry (Section 3.1), measuring ISO color differences with respect to the F200W reference image. This avoids measuring fluxes directly from the HST images, on which fainter objects can get lost in the noise. This procedure assumes that the detection image is a good model for the HST images. The coverage in the bluest available band, F435W, is relatively shallow, and none of the members of the galaxy overdensity at  $z=4.32$  were detected in this filter. Obtaining deeper F435W imaging would improve the SED fits discussed below, especially for the  $z \geq 4$  sources.

### 3.3. Full Object Catalog

Two independent software approaches were applied to estimate photometric redshifts: EAZY (Brammer et al. 2008; Brammer 2021) and LePhare (Arnouts & Ilbert 2011). In both cases, SED templates were optimized for the identification of high-redshift galaxies using JWST/NIRCcam imaging (Larson et al. 2022). A comparison of 161 galaxies that have both spectroscopic and photometric redshifts shows good agreements for both LePhare and for EAZY. In 98% of cases, the photometric redshifts are within 15% of the spectroscopic redshifts. There are nevertheless a handful of outliers (Figure 3). Most of the outliers are at redshifts at which strong nebular emission lines are between two filters. For example, at  $z=1.1$ , the observed wavelength of  $H\alpha$  is between the F115W and F150W filters, and at  $z=2.6$ ,  $H\alpha$

is between the F200W and F277W filters. In these cases, this strong nebular emission line that would increase the flux within a filter gets missed and therefore cannot contribute to the redshift measurements. Although the LePhare redshifts have two outliers that EAZY does not, the LePhare redshifts show slightly less scatter at  $z=4.3$ , where they are most important for this study. For this reason, we adopted LePhare for the remainder of this study, but given the similar performance between the two photometric redshift approaches and the many spectroscopic redshifts, the choice should make little difference.

After the successful checks, we extended the photometric redshift estimates to the full multiband object catalog. A photometric redshift is considered secure if the object is: (1) in the field of view for all filters; (2) detected in a minimum of eight filters; and (3) spatially resolved from its neighbors. The resulting distribution of photometric redshifts peaks at the cluster redshift and displays also minor peaks at  $z \approx 1.6$ ,  $z \approx 2.4$ ,  $z = 3.75$ , and  $z = 4.32$  (Figure 3). The  $z \approx 1.6$  peak is caused by a problem case in which [O III] falls in a gap between the F115W and F150W filters and at the same time  $H\alpha$  is situated between the F150W and F200W filters, resulting in redshift degeneracies. Likewise, at  $z \approx 2.4$ , [O III] falls between F150W and F200W. The  $z = 4.32$  peak corresponds to the redshift of the known galaxy overdensity mentioned in Section 1.

The redshift peak at  $z=3.75$  is poorly understood. The spectroscopy found only one lensed source at a redshift near this peak ( $z=3.77$ ), yet the probability distributions of the photometric redshifts of the other sources are largely consistent with a single peak and do not allow for other redshift solutions. A concern is that an instrumental gap in the MUSE spectrograph prevents the detection of features in the wavelength range 5805–5965 Å, corresponding to  $Ly\alpha$  at  $z=3.75$ . Nonetheless, broader features such as the Ly-series continuum break should be detectable if there really is a galaxy group at this redshift. This problem is compounded by the fact that at this same redshift, the  $H\alpha$ + [N II] complex falls between the F200W and F277W bands and so is not recorded, while  $H\beta$ + [O III] falls within F200W, resulting in redshift degeneracies (McKinney et al. 2023). These special circumstances explain why some sources at  $z=3.75$  might be missed, but do not explain a peak at this redshift. In sum, the peak in lensed source counts at  $z=3.75$  may indicate the presence of a bona fide galaxy overdensity, but its existence remains uncertain, pending spectroscopic confirmation.

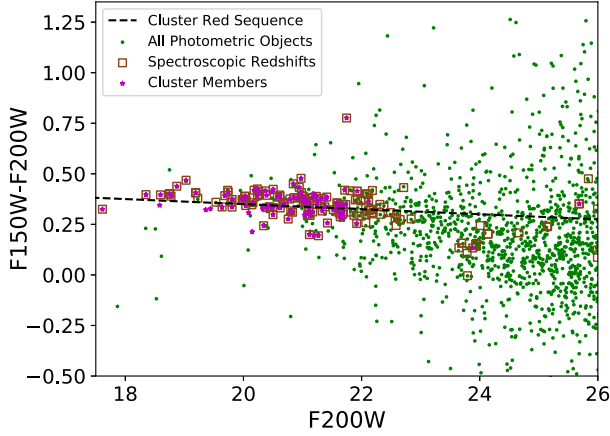
## 4. Strong-lensing Model

### 4.1. LTM Approach

We constructed an LTM strong-lensing model, which takes advantage of strong-lensing evidence and especially of image systems (Zitrin et al. 2009, 2015). This model approach requires few free parameters and therefore minimizes overfitting of the lensing constraints and resulting unphysical solutions. The model began with the central cluster galaxies, each with an assumed 2D power-law surface mass density profile of power-law index  $q$  and with mass normalized by the measured luminosity of each galaxy, to create a cluster galaxy mass map in 2D. An approximate “cluster” mass component was generated by summing up the galaxy mass distributions and smoothing with a Gaussian kernel of width  $S$ . These galaxy and cluster components were then added with a relative weight  $k_{\text{gal}}$ , reflecting the ratio of luminous to dark matter, which together were scaled to a desired redshift by a factor  $K$ . A third component is a global external shear of strength  $\gamma_{\text{ex}}$  and

<sup>32</sup> Empirical models for the WFC3/UVIS and WFC/ACS PSFs (Krist et al. 2011).



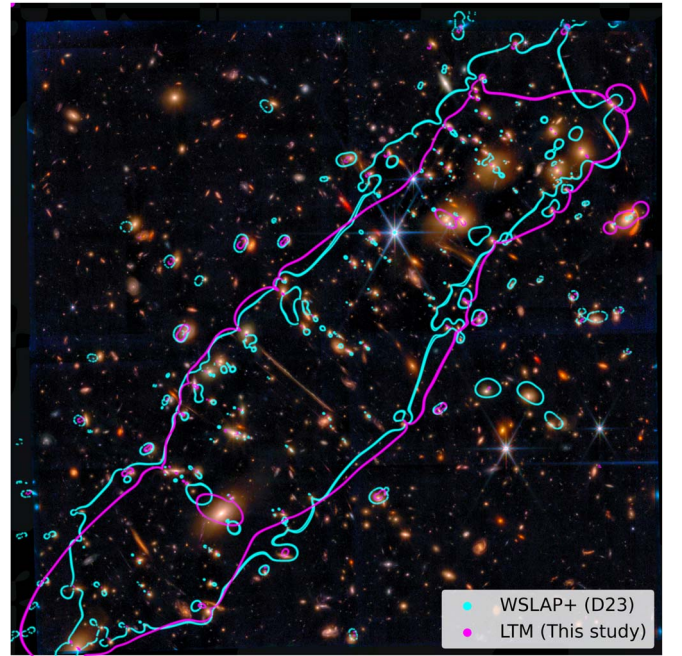


**Figure 4.** Color–magnitude diagram generated from the JWST/NIRCam photometry. Cluster members are indicated by red dots, and other galaxies are indicated by green dots. Galaxies with spectroscopic redshifts are surrounded by squares. The black dashed line shows the cluster red sequence. Magnitudes are SExtractor AUTO, and colors are based on PSF-matched isophotal photometry.

position angle  $\phi_{\text{ex}}$ . The external shear allows for elongated critical curves, but contributes only to the deflection field and not to the total mass density. Thus, the model’s six free parameters are  $q$ ,  $S$ ,  $K$ ,  $k_{\text{gal}}$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{ex}}$ , and  $\phi_{\text{ex}}$ . When fitting images that lack a secure redshift measurement, the source distance is an additional free parameter to be optimized in the fit. The best fit that satisfies the free parameters was obtained by a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) approach, with uncertainties computed by bootstrapping the MCMC steps. We refer to Pascale et al. (2022) for details on the implementation of this code.

The cluster members inputted to the model were selected by their spectroscopic redshifts and also by making a strict color cut to isolate the red sequence (Figure 4). To correlate the mass with the luminosity, the cluster members were all nominally assigned the same global weight factor of 1.0, which was subsequently modified for two special regions. First, a galaxy overdensity in the direction of the SE component in the foreground at  $z \approx 0.63$  introduces a non-negligible deflection to the lens model. Following previous work (Caminha et al. 2022; Diego et al. 2023), we adopted the cluster redshift for these galaxies, but assigned a weighting factor less than unity to account for the different lensing geometries. Second, a handful of galaxy members that are ultrabright and/or situated near in projection to the critical curve have a higher lensing impact than their individual brightnesses would imply. As such, the weighting factors and configurations (core radius, position angle, and ellipticity) were left free to be fit by the model. These galaxies include the brightest cluster galaxy (BCG), which is situated in the SE component, and other influential members, such as the galaxy closest in projection to El Anzuelo (system 24 in Figure 2).

The lensed galaxy constraints were introduced in a multistep process, starting with the 23 image systems with spectroscopic redshifts (Caminha et al. 2022). We also added El Anzuelo, which is a partial Einstein ring and ALMA source for which CO(3–2) line emission is detected at  $z = 2.291$  (Diego et al. 2023; Kamieneski et al. 2023). The initial lens model was based on these 24 spectroscopically confirmed systems with their redshifts fixed. The parameters of the remaining systems were free to be fit by the model. Additional secure image systems were introduced gradually, each time making sure that

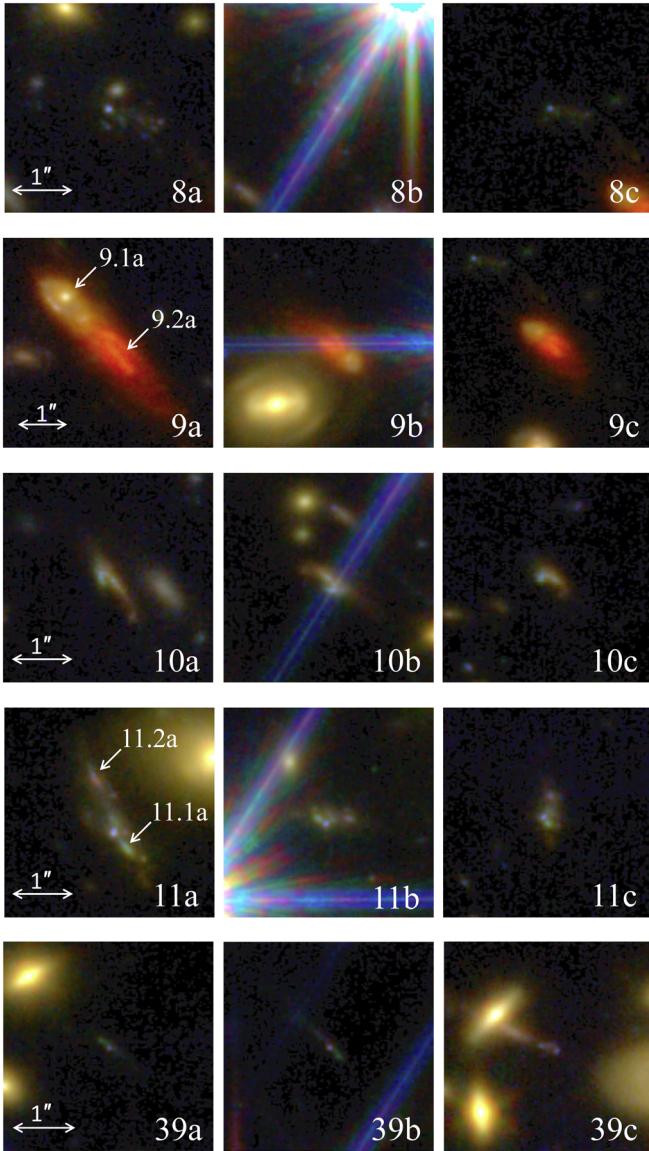


**Figure 5.** Color image using all NIRCam filters that depicts the critical curves for our LTM model at  $z = 4.3$  (magenta) and for the free-form WSLAP+ model at  $z = 2.5$  (cyan; Diego et al. 2023). The critical curve is depicted at a  $z = 4.33$  in order to match the redshift of the galaxy overdensity discussed in Section 7. The orientation and color rendering are the same as Figure 2.

the fit improved. To qualify as secure, we required that all images in a given image system must have similar colors and spectroscopic redshifts (where available), a consistent lens-predicted location and model-predicted redshifts, and correlated morphologies (for uncontaminated images). Based on our criteria, we were unable to accept six image systems from the literature. The Appendix gives details. We augmented the list of image constraints in stages: (1) new image family members of known image systems; and (2) new image systems, which were all subsequently vetted by our lens model. In total, we identified five new counterimages of known image systems and two new image systems (61 and 62). The image systems from Caputi et al. (2021) are reported in Table 1, and the full set of lensing constraints is reported in Table 2. The image system identifications for the first 23 systems follow the designations of Caminha et al. (2022), and the remainder follow the designations of Diego et al. (2023).

Our best-fit model, which is the one for which  $\chi^2$  is minimized, includes a total of 56 image systems and is presented in Figure 5. This model reproduces the angular positions of input lensed images to an rms difference of  $\sim 1''.8$ . It is reassuring that the critical curve has a similar orientation, shape, and Einstein radius in both the LTM and WSLAP+ models. Although the new model incorporated most of the same image systems as Diego et al. (2023), our LTM model was constructed independently and by a different method.

The LTM lens model gives a total mass  $(7.0 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  within a radius of 500 kpc of the cluster’s luminosity-weighted mean center (LWMC; see Section 6). The uncertainty is dominated by systematics (Johnson & Sharon 2016; Meneghetti et al. 2017; Strait et al. 2018; Pascale et al. 2022) because strong-lens modeling is an inherently underconstrained problem. The systematic uncertainties estimated above come from two sources: differences in galaxy mass-to-light ratios (assumed by the LTM



**Figure 6.** NIRC2 color images of the four known and one probable  $z = 4.32$  systems showing resolved morphologies. Scale bars are shown in each image, and the orientation is North up, East left. Systems 8, 9, 10, and 11 were first identified by Caputi et al. (2021), in whose study the HST imaging was not able to detect the red component in system 9. In NIRC2, the galaxy images separate out into multiple components, suggesting ongoing galaxy interactions/mergers, and also flip in image parity between the counterimages, as expected on each crossing of the critical curve. System 39 was discovered in this study by its model-predicted redshift, photometric redshift, and morphology.

approach to be identical for all galaxies) and uncertainty in fitting model parameters to the data. Each uncertainty was estimated by an MCMC approach using 100 iterations on a simplified model using only the 24 image systems having spectroscopic redshifts. The  $1\sigma$  uncertainty from 0.3 dex variation in the mass-to-light conversion factor is  $1 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$  or 2% of the inferred mass, while the model construction itself gives an uncertainty of  $8 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$  or 1%. These uncertainties are small, but consistent with those of Johnson & Sharon (2016), who concluded that lens models based on at least one spectroscopic image system yield uncertainty  $<4\%$  in mass within 1 Mpc. To be conservative, we adopted 4% as the overall uncertainty.

The mass given by our LTM model is slightly smaller than that in Diego et al. (2023), who estimated a mass of  $8.0\text{--}8.6 \times$

**Table 1**  
Galaxy Overdensity Members ( $z = 4.32$ )

| ID    | $z$                 | $z_{\text{ph}}$        | $\mu$ | $m_{\text{F200W,int}}$ |
|-------|---------------------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 8a    | 4.3175 <sup>a</sup> | $4.12^{+0.08}_{-0.09}$ | 4.2   | 26.84                  |
| 8c    | 4.3175 <sup>c</sup> | $4.01^{+0.26}_{-0.15}$ | 3.1   | 27.16                  |
| 9.1a  | 4.3196 <sup>a</sup> | $4.47^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | 5.6   | 24.07                  |
| 9.1c  | 4.3196 <sup>c</sup> | $4.29^{+0.09}_{-0.08}$ | 3.0   | 25.40                  |
| 9.2a  | 4.3196 <sup>a</sup> |                        | 7.5   | ...                    |
| 9.2c  | 4.3196 <sup>c</sup> |                        | 2.9   | ...                    |
| 10a   | 4.3275 <sup>a</sup> | $4.42^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$ | 4.0   | 25.57                  |
| 10b   | 4.3275 <sup>a</sup> |                        | 3.4   | $>27.93$               |
| 10c   | 4.3275 <sup>a</sup> | $4.29^{+0.06}_{-0.08}$ | 3.0   | 25.90                  |
| 11.1a | 4.3278 <sup>a</sup> | $4.27^{+0.07}_{-0.06}$ | 4.5   | 25.21                  |
| 11.2a | 4.3278 <sup>b</sup> | $4.29^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$ | 4.2   | 25.82                  |
| 11.1b | 4.3273 <sup>a</sup> |                        | 3.0   | ...                    |
| 11.2b | 4.3273 <sup>b</sup> |                        | 2.9   | ...                    |
| 11.1c | 4.3273 <sup>a</sup> | $4.34^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$ | 3.2   | 25.78                  |
| 11.2c | 4.3273 <sup>b</sup> |                        | 3.0   | ...                    |
| 39a   | 4.14 <sup>d</sup>   | $4.29^{+0.16}_{-0.16}$ | 3.8   | 27.28                  |
| 39b   | 4.14 <sup>d</sup>   |                        | 7.2   | 26.23                  |
| 39c   | 4.14 <sup>d</sup>   |                        | 3.3   | ...                    |
| 101   | 4.317 <sup>e</sup>  |                        | 2.1   | $>28.77$               |
| 102   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.12^{+0.24}_{-0.13}$ | 1.5   | 26.78                  |
| 103   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.22^{+0.26}_{-0.34}$ | 1.7   | 27.73                  |
| 104   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $3.54^{+0.86}_{-0.09}$ | 1.6   | 28.32                  |
| 105   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.20^{+0.11}_{-0.09}$ | 1.7   | 25.32                  |
| 106   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.20^{+0.64}_{-0.64}$ | 2.5   | 29.01                  |
| 28a   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.34^{+0.12}_{-0.12}$ | 6.6   | 27.72                  |
| 107   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $5.65^{+0.21}_{-4.7}$  | 11    | 28.91                  |
| 108   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.20^{+0.13}_{-0.14}$ | 2.2   | 26.41                  |
| 109   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $3.97^{+0.52}_{-0.38}$ | 2.2   | 28.43                  |
| 110   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.85^{+0.05}_{-1.4}$  | 3.6   | 29.39                  |
| 111   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.22^{+0.09}_{-0.14}$ | 1.6   | 25.32                  |
| 112   | 4.32 <sup>f</sup>   | $4.60^{+0.21}_{-3.7}$  | 2.2   | 26.96                  |

**Notes.** Column (1): image system ID; column (2): redshift; column (3): photometric redshift estimate from LePhare; column (4): lensing magnification factor estimated from our lens model; and column (5): F200W apparent magnitude corrected for lensing magnification (“intrinsic”).

<sup>a</sup> Caputi et al. (2021) measured a spectroscopic redshift at this coordinate.

<sup>b</sup> A spectroscopic redshift was measured along the same arc and near this specific coordinate in projection.

<sup>c</sup> A spectroscopic redshift was measured for a counterimage of this arc system.

<sup>d</sup> Lens model redshift

<sup>e</sup> MUSE single-line detection, this study.

<sup>f</sup> Pure photometric selection, this study, with the redshift assumed.

$10^{14} M_{\odot}$  in the same 500 kpc radius we used. Our values may be consistent with an older LTM model (Zitrin et al. 2013), based on nine image systems, none with spectroscopic redshifts, for which the mass was reported to be  $6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  in a 370 kpc radius and  $1.7 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$  in 700 kpc. At the same time, the weak-lensing mass within a radius of 0.8 Mpc for the NW and 0.7 Mpc for the SE components, which roughly corresponds to our radius of 500 kpc from the LWMC, is  $M_{500} = (1.8 \pm 0.34) \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$  (Jee et al. 2014, their Table 2). Their value is comparable to the high end of the strong-lensing values.

#### 4.2. Spectroscopic Image Systems at $z = 4.32$

Four galaxies at  $z = 4.32$  are triply imaged and previously known (Caputi et al. 2021): image systems 8, 9, 10, and 11 (Figure 6). We recount below the photometric, lensing, and morphological information that is new to this study, and report

**Table 2**  
Strong-lensing Image Systems

| ID    | R.A.        | Decl.        | $m_{F200W,obs}$ | $z_{sp}$            | $z_{ph}$                               | $z_{mod}$ | $\mu$ | References        |
|-------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|-----------|-------|-------------------|
| 1.1a  | 01:02:55.39 | -49:15:00.35 | 22.48           | 2.5636 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 2.4   | Z13(1)            |
| 1.1b  | 01:02:53.35 | -49:15:16.32 | 21.58           | 2.5636 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 230   | Z13(1)            |
| 1.1c  | 01:02:52.77 | -49:15:18.68 | 20.38           | 2.5636 <sup>a</sup> | 1.04 <sup>+0.04</sup> <sub>-0.07</sub> | ...       | 3.5   | Z13(1)            |
| 1.2a  | 01:02:55.33 | -49:15:01.16 | 24.70           | 2.5636 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 2.5   | Z13(1)            |
| 1.2b  | 01:02:53.35 | -49:15:16.32 | ...             | 2.5636 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 28    | Z13(1)            |
| 1.2c  | 01:02:52.61 | -49:15:19.69 | ...             | 2.5636 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 1.8   | Z13(1)            |
| 2.1a  | 01:02:56.58 | -49:15:47.09 | 22.66           | 2.8254 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 65    | Z13(2)            |
| 2.1b  | 01:02:55.98 | -49:15:51.23 | 22.70           | 2.8254 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 19    | Z13(2)            |
| 2.1c  | 01:02:54.38 | -49:16:04.53 | 23.74           | 2.8254 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 3.3   | Z13(2)            |
| 2.2a  | 01:02:57.09 | -49:15:43.54 | 23.49           | 2.8254 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 12    | Z13(2)            |
| 2.2b  | 01:02:55.62 | -49:15:53.82 | 23.41           | 2.8254 <sup>b</sup> | 3.40 <sup>+0.08</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | 13    | Z13(2)            |
| 2.2c  | 01:02:54.45 | -49:16:04.07 | 23.69           | 2.8254 <sup>b</sup> | 2.65 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 3.5   | Z13(2)            |
| 2.5a  | 01:02:56.52 | -49:15:47.51 | ...             | 2.8254 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 130   | Z13(2)            |
| 2.5b  | 01:02:56.08 | -49:15:50.57 | 23.53           | 2.8254 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 23    | Z13(2)            |
| 3a    | 01:02:51.64 | -49:14:53.67 | 28.19           | 3.3300 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 18    | Cam22(3a)         |
| 3b    | 01:02:50.69 | -49:15:06.54 | 28.68           | 3.3300 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 14    | Cam22(3b)         |
| 4b    | 01:02:52.41 | -49:15:03.10 | 25.98           | 3.3339 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 20    | Cam22(4b)         |
| 4c    | 01:02:51.65 | -49:15:09.28 | 25.27           | 3.3339 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 4.6   | Cam22(4c)         |
| 5.1a  | 01:02:59.99 | -49:15:49.47 | 24.09           | 3.5376 <sup>a</sup> | 4.01 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.02</sub> | ...       | 6.8   | Z13(4.1)          |
| 5.2a  | 01:02:59.99 | -49:15:50.64 | 25.68           | 3.5376 <sup>b</sup> | 3.85 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub> | ...       | 8.2   |                   |
| 5.3a  | 01:02:59.97 | -49:15:50.30 | 26.41           | 3.5376 <sup>b</sup> | 3.22 <sup>+0.15</sup> <sub>-0.13</sub> | ...       | 8.8   |                   |
| 5.1b  | 01:02:56.62 | -49:16:08.21 | 23.90           | 3.5376 <sup>a</sup> | 4.01 <sup>+0.04</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub> | ...       | 63    | Z13(4.5)          |
| 5.2b  | 01:02:56.74 | -49:16:08.38 | 25.49           | 3.5376 <sup>b</sup> | 3.90 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.14</sub> | ...       | 20    |                   |
| 5.3b  | 01:02:56.71 | -49:16:07.93 | 25.05           | 3.5376 <sup>b</sup> | 3.90 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | 28    |                   |
| 5.1c  | 01:02:55.37 | -49:16:26.03 | 23.94           | 3.5376 <sup>a</sup> | 4.04 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 2.2   | Z13(4.4)          |
| 5.2c  | 01:02:55.39 | -49:16:27.23 | 25.41           | 3.5376 <sup>b</sup> | 3.92 <sup>+0.04</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | 2.1   |                   |
| 5.3c  | 01:02:55.34 | -49:16:26.87 | 26.22           | 3.5376 <sup>b</sup> | 3.85 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub> | ...       | 2.1   |                   |
| 6a    | 01:02:59.45 | -49:15:54.71 | 27.86           | 4.1879 <sup>a</sup> | 4.04 <sup>+0.18</sup> <sub>-0.09</sub> | ...       | 4.7   | Cam22(6a)         |
| 6b    | 01:02:57.80 | -49:16:03.32 | 27.78           | 4.1879 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 6.8   | Cam22(6b)         |
| 6c    | 01:02:54.45 | -49:16:31.76 | 28.10           | 4.1879 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 1.8   | D23               |
| 7a    | 01:02:57.59 | -49:15:15.55 | 26.43           | 4.2306 <sup>c</sup> | 3.74 <sup>+0.05</sup> <sub>-0.04</sub> | ...       | 3.6   | D23(7a)           |
| 7b    | 01:02:54.59 | -49:15:37.22 | 25.69           | 4.2306 <sup>a</sup> | 0.51 <sup>+4.00</sup> <sub>-0.23</sub> | ...       | 5.4   | Cam22(7b)         |
| 7c    | 01:02:53.03 | -49:15:48.74 | 26.10           | 4.2306 <sup>a</sup> | 4.09 <sup>+0.13</sup> <sub>-0.20</sub> | ...       | 5.8   | Cam22(7c)         |
| 8a    | 01:02:55.99 | -49:15:05.38 | 25.29           | 4.3175 <sup>c</sup> | 4.12 <sup>+0.08</sup> <sub>-0.09</sub> | ...       | 4.2   | Ca21(2a)          |
| 8b    | 01:02:54.61 | -49:15:16.44 | ...             | 4.3175 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 3.3   | Ca21(2b)          |
| 8c    | 01:02:51.24 | -49:15:37.08 | 25.93           | 4.3175 <sup>c</sup> | 4.01 <sup>+0.26</sup> <sub>-0.15</sub> | ...       | 3.1   | D20; Ca21(2c)     |
| 9.1a  | 01:02:55.78 | -49:15:07.89 | 22.20           | 4.3196 <sup>c</sup> | 4.47 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.02</sub> | ...       | 5.6   | Ca21(4a)          |
| 9.1b  | 01:02:54.85 | -49:15:14.90 | ...             | 4.3196 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 4.0   | Ca21(4b)          |
| 9.1c  | 01:02:51.11 | -49:15:38.53 | 24.21           | 4.3196 <sup>c</sup> | 4.29 <sup>+0.09</sup> <sub>-0.08</sub> | ...       | 3.0   | Ca21(4c)          |
| 9.2a  | 01:02:55.74 | -49:15:08.37 | ...             | 4.3196 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 7.5   | D23(9.2a)         |
| 9.2b  | 01:02:54.89 | -49:15:14.61 | ...             | 4.3196 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 4.2   | D23(9.2b)         |
| 9.2c  | 01:02:51.06 | -49:15:38.86 | ...             | 4.3196 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 2.9   | D23(9.2c)         |
| 10a   | 01:02:56.28 | -49:15:06.93 | 24.07           | 4.3275 <sup>c</sup> | 4.42 <sup>+0.07</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | 4.0   | Z13(3.1),Ca21(3a) |
| 10b   | 01:02:54.77 | -49:15:19.53 | ...             | 4.3269 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 3.4   | Z13(3.2),Ca21(3b) |
| 10c   | 01:02:51.56 | -49:15:38.36 | 24.71           | 4.3289 <sup>c</sup> | 4.29 <sup>+0.06</sup> <sub>-0.08</sub> | ...       | 3.0   | Z13(3.3),Ca21(3c) |
| 11.1a | 01:02:55.82 | -49:15:00.30 | 23.58           | 4.3278 <sup>c</sup> | 4.27 <sup>+0.07</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub> | ...       | 4.5   | D20;Ca21(1a)      |
| 11.2a | 01:02:55.86 | -49:14:59.37 | 24.26           | 4.3278 <sup>b</sup> | 4.29 <sup>+0.06</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | 4.2   |                   |
| 11.1b | 01:02:54.31 | -49:15:12.43 | ...             | 4.3273 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 3.0   | D20;Ca21(1b)      |
| 11.2b | 01:02:54.27 | -49:15:12.33 | ...             | 4.3273 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 2.9   |                   |
| 11.1c | 01:02:50.97 | -49:15:33.55 | 24.52           | 4.3273 <sup>c</sup> | 4.34 <sup>+0.09</sup> <sub>-0.07</sub> | ...       | 3.2   | D20;Ca21(1c)      |
| 11.2c | 01:02:50.97 | -49:15:33.08 | ...             | 4.3273 <sup>b</sup> |  | ...       | 3.0   |                   |
| 12.1a | 01:02:55.44 | -49:14:49.23 | 25.39           | 4.7042 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 2.5   | Cam22(12a)        |
| 12.2a | 01:02:55.44 | -49:14:49.83 | 25.94           | 4.7042 <sup>c</sup> | 4.88 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 2.6   | Cam22(12a)        |
| 12.1b | 01:02:53.38 | -49:15:04.29 | 26.87           | 4.7042 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 7.0   | Cam22(12b)        |
| 12.2b | 01:02:53.43 | -49:15:04.95 | ...             | 4.7042 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 7.2   | Cam22(12b)        |
| 12.1c | 01:02:50.43 | -49:15:26.15 | 25.20           | 4.7042 <sup>a</sup> | 4.70 <sup>+0.16</sup> <sub>-0.09</sub> | ...       | 5.1   | Cam22(12c)        |
| 12.2c | 01:02:50.43 | -49:15:26.69 | ...             | 4.7042 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 4.8   | Cam22(12c)        |
| 13a   | 01:02:56.86 | -49:15:00.06 | 28.38           | 4.7528 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 2.5   | D23               |
| 13b   | 01:02:54.41 | -49:15:26.49 | 28.33           | 4.7528 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 4.8   | Cam22(13b)        |
| 13c   | 01:02:52.19 | -49:15:39.44 | >27.93          | 4.7528 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 6.2   | Cam22(13c)        |
| 14a   | 01:02:57.51 | -49:15:24.17 | >27.93          | 4.9486 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 12    | Cam22(14a)        |
| 14b   | 01:02:55.73 | -49:15:35.60 | >27.93          | 4.9486 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 6.3   | Cam22(14b)        |
| 15b   | 01:02:55.13 | -49:16:09.01 | 24.72           | 4.9770 <sup>a</sup> | 4.95 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.02</sub> | ...       | 5.5   | Cam22(15b)        |
| 15c   | 01:02:54.98 | -49:16:10.74 | 24.72           | 4.9770 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 5.0   | Cam22(15c)        |
| 16a   | 01:02:56.15 | -49:15:16.70 | >27.93          | 5.0880 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 11    | Cam22(16a)        |
| 16b   | 01:02:55.56 | -49:15:21.71 | >27.93          | 5.0880 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 32    | Cam22(16b)        |
| 16c   | 01:02:51.57 | -49:15:49.93 | >27.93          | 5.0880 <sup>c</sup> |  | ...       | 2.7   | This paper        |
| 17a   | 01:02:50.29 | -49:14:53.04 | 27.89           | 5.0929 <sup>a</sup> |  | —         | 13    | Cam22(17a)        |
| 17b   | 01:02:50.63 | -49:14:55.36 | 26.75           | 5.0929 <sup>a</sup> |  | ...       | 12    | Cam22(17b)        |
| 17c   | 01:02:50.36 | -49:14:58.58 | 26.64           | 5.0929 <sup>a</sup> | 5.15 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.03</sub> | ...       | 4.0   | Cam22(17c)        |



**Table 2**  
(Continued)

| ID    | R.A.         | Decl.        | $m_{F200W,obs}$ | $z_{sp}$            | $z_{ph}$                               | $z_{mod}$ | $\mu$ | References |
|-------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|-----------|-------|------------|
| 18a   | 01:02:57.66  | -49:15:11.80 | >27.93          | 5.1173 <sup>c</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 3.2   | D23        |
| 18b   | 01:02:54.67  | -49:15:33.62 | >27.93          | 5.1173 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 3.8   | Cam22(18b) |
| 18c   | 01:02:52.57  | -49:15:49.96 | 26.65           | 5.1173 <sup>a</sup> | 5.16 <sup>+0.06</sup> <sub>-0.10</sub> | ...       | 4.3   | Cam22(18c) |
| 19a   | 01:02:58.18  | -49:15:11.16 | 26.67           | 5.1199 <sup>c</sup> | 5.41 <sup>+0.06</sup> <sub>-0.11</sub> | ...       | 2.7   | D23        |
| 19b   | 01:02:53.80  | -49:15:40.74 | 27.12           | 5.1196 <sup>a</sup> | 1.89 <sup>+1.73</sup> <sub>-0.25</sub> | ...       | 5.9   | Cam22(19b) |
| 19c   | 01:02:53.23  | -49:15:45.56 | 26.86           | 5.1196 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 16    | Cam22(19c) |
| 20a   | 01:03:00.70  | -49:15:43.22 | 27.04           | 5.4845 <sup>c</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 6.7   | D23        |
| 20b   | 01:02:56.07  | -49:16:15.15 | 26.95           | 5.4845 <sup>a</sup> | 5.85 <sup>+0.28</sup> <sub>-0.15</sub> | ...       | 3.0   | Cam22(20b) |
| 20c   | 01:02:55.67  | -49:16:22.06 | 27.74           | 5.4845 <sup>a</sup> | 4.49 <sup>+0.18</sup> <sub>-0.29</sub> | ...       | 3.0   | Cam22(20c) |
| 21a   | 01:02:57.80  | -49:15:24.98 | >27.93          | 5.5811 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 11    | Cam22(21a) |
| 21b   | 01:02:55.98  | -49:15:37.76 | >27.93          | 5.5811 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 4.3   | Cam22(21b) |
| 22.1a | 01:03:01.39  | -49:16:15.23 | 26.96           | 5.9521 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 5.2   | Cam22(22a) |
| 22.2a | 01:03:01.28  | -49:16:16.76 | 27.39           | 5.9521 <sup>c</sup> | 6.00 <sup>+0.48</sup> <sub>-0.15</sub> | ...       | 2.0   | D23        |
| 22.1b | 01:03:00.14  | -49:16:35.72 | 26.72           | 5.9521 <sup>a</sup> | 1.12 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.03</sub> | ...       | 2.0   | Cam22(22b) |
| 22.2b | 01:03:00.24  | -49:16:34.40 | 28.31           | 5.9521 <sup>c</sup> | ...                                    | 6.5       | D23   |            |
| 23.3a | 01:02:59.64  | -49:16:26.36 | ...             | 2.1878 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 3.0   | Z13(c5.1)  |
| 23.3b | 01:02:59.38  | -49:16:29.17 | ...             | 2.1878 <sup>a</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 2.5   | Z13(c5.2)  |
| 23.3c | 01:02:57.95  | -49:16:38.88 | 24.52           | 2.1878 <sup>c</sup> | ...                                    | ...       | 1.8   | D23        |
| 24.1a | 01:02:49.215 | -49:15:08.84 | 21.23           | 2.29 <sup>f</sup>   | 2.00 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 5.8   | D23        |
| 24.1b | 01:02:49.322 | -49:15:04.52 | ...             | 2.29 <sup>f</sup>   | ...                                    | ...       | 6.6   | D23        |
| 24.1c | 01:02:49.452 | -49:15:06.03 | ...             | 2.29 <sup>f</sup>   | ...                                    | ...       | 6.1   | D23        |
| 24.2a | 01:02:49.150 | -49:15:05.44 | 21.90           | 2.29 <sup>f</sup>   | 2.70 <sup>+0.30</sup> <sub>-0.02</sub> | ...       | 5.5   | D23        |
| 24.2b | 01:02:49.141 | -49:15:05.99 | ...             | 2.29 <sup>f</sup>   | ...                                    | ...       | 5.6   | D23        |
| 24.2c | 01:02:49.263 | -49:15:03.86 | ...             | 2.29 <sup>f</sup>   | ...                                    | ...       | 6.2   | D23        |
| 25a   | 01:02:54.55  | -49:14:58.59 | 22.40           | ...                 | ...                                    | 2.44      | 2.5   | D23        |
| 25b   | 01:02:53.26  | -49:15:06.85 | 21.62           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 4.3   | D23        |
| 25c   | 01:02:51.83  | -49:15:16.91 | 23.01           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 4.4   | D23        |
| 26a   | 01:03:00.26  | -49:15:52.35 | 27.77           | ...                 | ...                                    | 3.34      | 9.7   | D23        |
| 26b   | 01:02:56.89  | -49:16:12.27 | 28.99           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 12    | D23        |
| 26c   | 01:02:55.88  | -49:16:28.44 | 27.81           | ...                 | 0.11 <sup>+0.07</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | ...   | D23        |
| 27a   | 01:02:56.33  | -49:16:16.09 | >27.93          | ...                 | ...                                    | 3.82      | 10    | D23        |
| 27b   | 01:02:56.24  | -49:16:17.35 | >27.93          | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 7.7   | D23        |
| 28a   | 01:02:55.51  | -49:16:07.15 | 25.67           | ...                 | 4.34 <sup>+0.12</sup> <sub>-0.12</sub> | 4.40      | 6.6   | Z13(c7.1)  |
| 28b   | 01:02:54.94  | -49:16:14.73 | 25.38           | ...                 | 3.24 <sup>+0.12</sup> <sub>-0.20</sub> | ...       | 6.5   | Z13(c7.2)  |
| 29a   | 01:02:55.85  | -49:16:07.45 | 24.67           | ...                 | ...                                    | 3.28      | 8.0   | D23        |
| 29b   | 01:02:55.24  | -49:16:15.79 | 25.24           | ...                 | 3.42 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.03</sub> | ...       | 3.0   | D23        |
| 29c   | 01:02:59.72  | -49:15:43.77 | 25.93           | ...                 | 3.69 <sup>+0.05</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub> | ...       | 4.6   | D23        |
| 30a   | 01:02:56.32  | -49:16:07.80 | 24.54           | ...                 | 2.89 <sup>+0.08</sup> <sub>-0.08</sub> | 2.25      | 6.0   | Z13(c9.1)  |
| 30b   | 01:02:55.66  | -49:16:17.43 | 24.21           | ...                 | 2.25 <sup>+0.08</sup> <sub>-0.10</sub> | ...       | 2.4   | Z13(c9.2)  |
| 30c   | 01:02:59.07  | -49:15:53.23 | 24.57           | ...                 | 2.46 <sup>+0.23</sup> <sub>-0.07</sub> | ...       | 3.4   | Z13(c9.3)  |
| 32a   | 01:02:54.59  | -49:14:54.12 | 24.91           | ...                 | 3.77 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | 2.50      | 2.6   | D23        |
| 32b   | 01:02:53.04  | -49:15:04.85 | 25.39           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 5.1   | D23        |
| 32c   | 01:02:51.80  | -49:15:14.24 | 25.19           | ...                 | 3.75 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.02</sub> | ...       | 3.1   | D23        |
| 33a   | 01:02:59.89  | -49:16:30.64 | 26.03           | ...                 | 2.67 <sup>+0.07</sup> <sub>-0.09</sub> | 10.87     | 44    | D23        |
| 33b   | 01:02:59.74  | -49:16:32.47 | 26.05           | ...                 | 3.84 <sup>+0.13</sup> <sub>-0.05</sub> | ...       | 11    | D23        |
| 35a   | 01:02:58.53  | -49:16:36.96 | 25.63           | ...                 | 1.06 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.06</sub> | 2.23      | 3.1   | D23        |
| 35b   | 01:02:58.75  | -49:16:35.70 | 25.94           | ...                 | 0.20 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 3.3   | D23        |
| 35c   | 01:03:00.13  | -49:16:20.82 | 25.46           | ...                 | 2.64 <sup>+0.55</sup> <sub>-0.03</sub> | ...       | 4.6   | D23        |
| 36a   | 01:02:57.32  | -49:15:45.39 | 24.95           | ...                 | 3.45 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.00</sub> | 2.96      | 15    | D23        |
| 36b   | 01:02:55.79  | -49:15:56.19 | ...             | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 10    | D23        |
| 36c   | 01:02:54.60  | -49:16:06.90 | 27.22           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 3.0   | D23        |
| 37a   | 01:02:55.76  | -49:16:08.94 | 26.47           | ...                 | 0.69 <sup>+0.06</sup> <sub>-0.13</sub> | 9.86      | 2.9   | D23        |
| 37b   | 01:02:55.07  | -49:16:19.71 | >27.93          | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 12    | D23        |
| 38a   | 01:02:58.97  | -49:15:55.90 | 23.97           | ...                 | 1.68 <sup>+0.00</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | 3.08      | 1.5   | D23        |
| 38b   | 01:02:58.72  | -49:15:56.85 | 24.37           | ...                 | 3.77 <sup>+0.02</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 2.0   | D23        |
| 38c   | 01:02:58.67  | -49:15:57.29 | 24.85           | ...                 | 3.71 <sup>+0.01</sup> <sub>-0.01</sub> | ...       | 2.2   | D23        |
| 38e   | 01:02:54.76  | -49:16:27.93 | 25.46           | ...                 | 3.40 <sup>+0.03</sup> <sub>-0.03</sub> | ...       | 1.9   | D23        |
| 39a   | 01:02:55.03  | -49:15:03.00 | 25.83           | ...                 | 4.29 <sup>+0.16</sup> <sub>-0.16</sub> | 4.14      | 3.8   | D23        |
| 39b   | 01:02:54.42  | -49:15:08.30 | 24.09           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 7.2   | D23        |
| 39c   | 01:02:50.10  | -49:15:28.77 | 26.14           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 3.3   | This Paper |
| 40a   | 01:02:56.63  | -49:15:47.43 | 27.72           | ...                 | ...                                    | 3.03      | 23    | D23        |
| 40b   | 01:02:55.96  | -49:15:52.05 | 27.52           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 28    | D23        |
| 40c   | 01:02:54.51  | -49:16:03.71 | 26.67           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 3.8   | D23        |
| 41a   | 01:02:51.53  | -49:15:05.90 | 25.99           | ...                 | 5.65 <sup>+0.09</sup> <sub>-0.18</sub> | 4.02      | 6.0   | D23        |
| 41b   | 01:02:51.66  | -49:15:04.68 | 25.47           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 6.9   | D23        |
| 42a   | 01:02:57.98  | -49:15:59.14 | 25.16           | ...                 | 2.59 <sup>+0.19</sup> <sub>-0.13</sub> | 2.24      | 11    | D23        |
| 42b   | 01:02:57.64  | -49:15:59.80 | 27.75           | ...                 | ...                                    | ...       | 14    | D23        |
| 42c   | 01:02:55.52  | -49:16:19.98 | 25.99           | ...                 | 3.76 <sup>+0.06</sup> <sub>-0.07</sub> | ...       | 2.2   | D23        |
| 46a   | 01:02:58.759 | -49:16:45.35 | 23.68           | ...                 | ...                                    | 2.76      | 2.6   | D23        |

**Table 2**  
(Continued)

| ID  | R.A.         | Decl.        | $m_{F200W,obs}$ | $z_{sp}$  | $z_{ph}$               | $z_{mod}$ | $\mu$ | References |
|-----|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-------|------------|
| 46b | 01:02:58.499 | -49:16:46.27 | 23.68           |           |                        |           | 2.5   | D23        |
| 47a | 01:02:51.25  | -49:15:01.35 | ...             |           |                        | 3.71      | 8.9   | D23        |
| 47b | 01:02:51.08  | -49:15:03.35 | 28.74           |           |                        |           | 9.6   | D23        |
| 48a | 01:02:54.62  | -49:14:45.72 | 25.88           |           | $3.06^{+0.02}_{-0.06}$ | 4.31      | 2.6   | D23        |
| 48b | 01:02:50.92  | -49:15:13.71 | 25.96           |           | $0.98^{+0.18}_{-0.15}$ |           | 7.8   | D23        |
| 49a | 01:02:53.27  | -49:15:14.55 | 28.52           |           |                        | 2.46      | 39    | D23        |
| 49b | 01:02:52.78  | -49:15:16.31 | 27.18           |           |                        |           | 17    | D23        |
| 49c | 01:02:55.19  | -49:14:59.66 | 24.85           |           | $3.81^{+0.03}_{-0.05}$ |           | 2.6   | D23        |
| 51a | 01:02:53.47  | -49:15:14.26 | ...             |           |                        | 2.77      | 16    | D23        |
| 51b | 01:02:52.46  | -49:15:18.40 | 25.61           |           |                        |           | 12    | D23        |
| 51c | 01:02:55.22  | -49:14:59.35 | 25.18           |           |                        |           | 2.5   | D23        |
| 52a | 01:02:55.86  | -49:15:51.85 | 26.07           |           |                        | 2.92      | 34    | D23        |
| 52b | 01:02:56.74  | -49:15:45.66 | 26.12           |           |                        |           | 25    | D23        |
| 52c | 01:02:54.42  | -49:16:03.93 | ...             |           |                        |           | 3.9   | D23        |
| 53a | 01:02:58.52  | -49:15:39.30 | 26.48           |           |                        | 7.11      | 7.4   | D23        |
| 53b | 01:02:59.13  | -49:15:40.12 | 27.82           |           |                        |           | 58    | D23        |
| 53c | 01:02:58.77  | -49:15:38.83 | 27.33           |           |                        |           | 19    | D23        |
| 54a | 01:02:54.24  | -49:16:05.14 | 26.30           |           | $4.08^{+0.14}_{-0.15}$ | 4.30      | 6.7   | D23        |
| 54b | 01:02:55.01  | -49:15:58.00 | 26.13           |           | $3.70^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$ |           | 6.1   | D23        |
| 54c | 01:02:59.08  | -49:15:31.23 | 26.83           |           | $3.65^{+0.02}_{-0.03}$ |           | 5.4   | D23        |
| 55a | 01:02:52.74  | -49:15:21.11 | 26.37           |           | $1.25^{+0.14}_{-0.16}$ | 3.18      | 1.5   | D23        |
| 55b | 01:02:52.81  | -49:15:20.85 | 25.53           |           | $4.41^{+0.25}_{-0.09}$ |           | 1.6   | D23        |
| 55c | 01:02:55.58  | -49:14:56.94 | 24.19           |           | $2.09^{+0.17}_{-0.10}$ |           | 1.1   | This paper |
| 56a | 01:02:59.11  | -49:15:54.18 | 22.44           |           | $3.18^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$ | 3.20      | 2.3   | D23        |
| 56b | 01:02:57.56  | -49:15:59.80 | 22.31           |           |                        |           | 5.9   | D23        |
| 56c | 01:02:54.78  | -49:16:27.06 | 23.43           |           | $3.32^{+0.09}_{-0.08}$ |           | 1.9   | D23        |
| 56d | 01:02:57.69  | -49:16:02.07 | ...             |           |                        |           | 13    | D23        |
| 57a | 01:02:59.63  | -49:15:56.55 | >27.93          |           |                        | 4.15      | 28    | D23        |
| 57b | 01:02:58.45  | -49:16:03.37 | 27.80           |           | $3.21^{+0.19}_{-0.07}$ |           | 3.1   | D23        |
| 58a | 01:02:58.91  | -49:16:42.87 | 28.05           |           |                        | 3.40      | 2.3   | D23        |
| 58b | 01:02:59.02  | -49:16:42.21 | >27.93          |           |                        |           | 2.2   | D23        |
| 59a | 01:02:52.67  | -49:15:21.17 | >27.93          |           |                        | 4.57      | 2.0   | D23        |
| 59b | 01:02:52.76  | -49:15:20.69 | 27.44           |           |                        |           | 1.7   | D23        |
| 59c | 01:02:56.43  | -49:14:51.46 | 27.45           |           | $0.75^{+0.11}_{-0.16}$ |           | 2.2   | This paper |
| 60a | 01:02:53.83  | -49:15:17.40 | 26.53           |           | $1.04^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$ | 2.66      | 12    | D23        |
| 60b | 01:02:52.70  | -49:15:23.04 | 26.59           |           | $1.06^{+0.34}_{-0.14}$ |           | 3.4   | D23        |
| 60c | 01:02:55.31  | -49:15:05.89 | 26.50           |           | $1.70^{+0.35}_{-0.37}$ |           | 2.2   | This paper |
| 61a | 01:02:56.54  | -49:15:25.61 | >27.93          |           |                        | 3.78      | 21    | This paper |
| 61b | 01:02:55.64  | -49:15:32.06 | >27.93          |           |                        |           | 20    | This paper |
| 62a | 01:02:55.83  | -49:16:03.35 | 26.05           | $4.863^f$ |                        |           | 10    | This paper |
| 62b | 01:02:54.60  | -49:16:19.91 | 27.90           | $4.863^f$ |                        |           | 2.9   | This paper |
| 62c | 01:03:00.98  | -49:15:38.32 | 25.72           | $4.863^f$ |                        |           | 2.4   | This paper |

**Notes.**

- <sup>a</sup> A spectroscopic redshift is measured at this coordinate in Caminha et al. (2022).  
<sup>b</sup> A spectroscopic redshift is assumed along the same arc and near to this specific coordinate in projection.  
<sup>c</sup> A spectroscopic redshift is measured not at this coordinate, but for one or more of its counterimages.  
<sup>d</sup> The photometric redshift is estimated using EAZY.  
<sup>e</sup> A spectroscopic redshift is measured at this coordinate in Caputi et al. (2021).  
<sup>f</sup> A spectroscopic redshift is measured for this arc in this study.

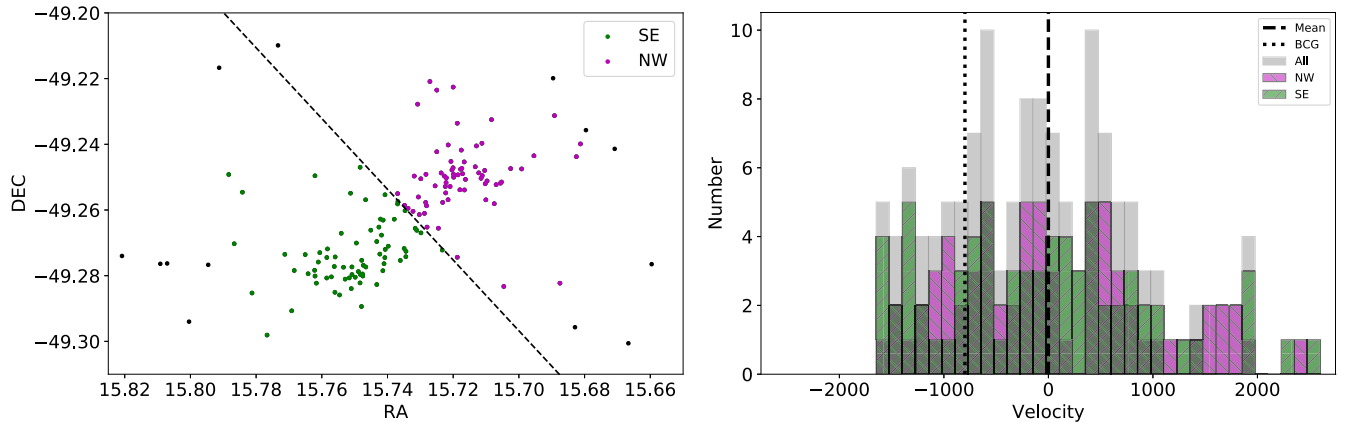
(This table is available in machine-readable form.)

redshift values that are sourced from Caputi et al. (2021). To start, Arc 8a has a spectroscopic redshift of 4.3175. With only NIRCам data, Arcs 8a and 8c gave  $z_{ph} \approx 0.7$  (Diego et al. 2023), likely a result of misidentification of the Lyman break as the 4000 Å and Balmer breaks. The inclusion of the bluer HST bands helps to break this degeneracy, yielding a better photometric redshift estimate for these two galaxy images. Arcs 8a and 8c consist of multiple components. The brightest clump near Arc 8a (the yellow knot above the blue knot in Figure 6) is of concern because it does not appear in Arc 8c and has the colors of a cluster member. Therefore, the SED was measured by integrating over the bluer and more compact arc clumps, excluding this apparent cluster

member. Our lens model gives magnification factors  $\mu$  of 4.2 and 3.1 for Arcs 8a and 8c, respectively. Arc 8b is severely contaminated by a bright stellar diffraction spike, and no useful photometry is possible.

Arc 9.1a has  $z_{sp} = 4.3196$ . Each image of this triply imaged system has two main components: a bluer one detected in the HST imaging (Arcs 9.1a, b, and c) and a redder one detected in archival ALMA imaging (Arcs 9.2a, b, and c). Both components appear in the NIRCам imaging. Our photometric redshift easily recovers the spectroscopic redshift for Arc 9.1a, which is detected in every NIRCам filter. Arc 9.2a, on the other hand, has lower signal to noise and is not detected in the





**Figure 7.** Spectroscopy in the El Gordo cluster field. Left: the cluster members with spectroscopic redshifts are depicted by the colored dots. Cluster members are assigned a different color with respect to a cut that bisects the cluster (black dashed line). Right: the redshift histogram is depicted for all cluster members (gray) and separately for the NW (purple) and SE (green) sides. The dashed vertical line corresponds to the mean cluster redshift of  $z = 0.873$ , and the dotted line gives the relative velocity of the BCG. The components of this ongoing major cluster merger do not obviously separate out in velocity space, motivating a more complex statistical analysis of the galaxy velocities to uncover any substructures.

SW NIRCcam filters; it yields no photometric redshift. This dual-colored lensed image flips in parity between the counter-images, as expected on each crossing of the critical curve. The lens model gives  $\mu \approx 3\text{--}8$ , depending on the component (Table 2).

Image system 10 has spectroscopic redshifts measured individually for all three images:  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.3275$  for Arc 10a,  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.3269$  for Arc 10b, and  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.3289$  for Arc 10c. Similar to system 8, the NIRCcam-only  $z_{\text{ph}} \approx 0.7$  measured for Arcs 10a and 10c in Diego et al. (2023) is incorrect, and adding HST data produces photometric redshifts consistent with the true ones. The morphology resembles an upside-down blue “check” and a red mark. This “checkmark” galaxy image flips in parity twice across the three images, as expected for each crossing of the critical curve. We estimate magnification factors of 4.0 and 3.0 for Arcs 10a and 10c, respectively. Arc 10b suffers from contamination by a bright stellar diffraction spike.

Image system 11 has spectroscopic redshifts measured individually for all three images:  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.3278$  for Arc 11.1a,  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.3273$  for Arc 11.1b, and  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.3273$  for Arc 11.1c. Again the NIRCcam-only photometric redshifts are unreliable, with  $z_{\text{ph}} = 0.69$  for Arc 11.1a and  $z_{\text{ph}} = 4.11$  for Arc 11.1c. Photometric redshifts using our HST+NIRCcam catalog are consistent with  $z = 4.32$  for both images. The morphology consists of multiple blue and red clumps that again appear to be indicating galaxy–galaxy associations or interactions. Arc 11.1b has severe contamination from a stellar diffraction spike, and no photometric redshift could be obtained. Magnification factors range from 2.9 to 4.5.

## 5. Spectroscopic Analysis

Spectroscopic redshifts for El Gordo ( $z = 0.873$ ) are drawn from two main sources. First, Sifón et al. (2013) obtained redshifts for 89 galaxies, which extend out to 2.5 Mpc (physical), well outside of the NIRCcam field of view. Second, Caminha et al. (2022) secured redshifts for 402 objects in the central  $1' \times 3'$  region of the cluster. The redshifts range from 0 up to 5.9521 with fairly uniform azimuthal coverage, owing to the IFU spectroscopic setup. In all, they found 150 galaxies near the cluster redshift ( $0.85 < z < 0.90$ ).

Cluster membership is met for galaxies that have velocities within  $\pm 4000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  of the mean value of  $z = 0.873$ . This corresponds to the range  $0.862 < z < 0.890$ . We further selected the subset of galaxies within the projected virial radius of 1.7 Mpc from the cluster center. With these criteria, a total of 140 galaxies make it into our cluster member catalog. Figure 7 (left) shows the galaxy positions.

The number of cluster galaxies with radial velocities suffices to assess cluster disturbances (e.g., Windhorst et al. 2018, Appendix A) and also to estimate the mass. In the simple approximation that a single dark matter halo underlies the cluster, the virial theorem applied via the Gapper method (Wainer & Thissen 1976; Beers et al. 1990) yields  $M_1 = (4.6 \pm 0.54) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  within the virial radius (1.7 Mpc). (The uncertainty was computed by jackknife sampling, following the prescription of Beers et al. 1990.) However, El Gordo is a double cluster, and that has to be taken into account. For a double cluster with mass ratio unity and separation between components  $\epsilon$  times the virial radius, the above  $M_1$  underestimates the mass by a factor of  $(1 - \frac{7}{16}\epsilon^2)$ . For El Gordo,  $\epsilon \approx 0.40$ , resulting in a correction factor of 0.93, and total mass  $M_2 = (5.1 \pm 0.60) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ . The stated uncertainty is based solely on the uncertainty in the velocity dispersion.  $M_2$  is smaller than the mass reported by Menanteau et al. (2012),  $1.86^{+0.54}_{-0.49} \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ . Those authors also reported a mass ratio closer to 2:1 between the NW and SE components, while ours is closer to unity (Section 6). Menanteau et al. (2012) estimated the mass in a different way, applying a scaling relation between  $M_{200}$  and dark matter concentration to the velocity dispersion, which incurs additional uncertainty.

$M_2$  is about a factor of 4 smaller than the virial mass estimated by a strong-lensing approach to a similar radius,  $2.09\text{--}2.24 \times 10^{15}$  (Diego et al. 2023). A recent weak-lensing estimate also to a similar radius of  $2.13^{+0.25}_{-0.23} \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$  (Kim et al. 2021) is similar to the strong-lensing mass and larger than  $M_2$ . This discrepancy with the strong- and weak-lensing results can be explained in part by orientation effects. The absence of a double peak in the redshift histogram suggests that the cluster is oriented near the plane of the sky with a significant transverse velocity component. If this is the situation, the true virial mass will be larger than  $M_2$  above. Other factors that can bias the

mass include the existence of other cluster halos/subhalos and the validity of the assumption of hydrostatic equilibrium for a merging cluster.

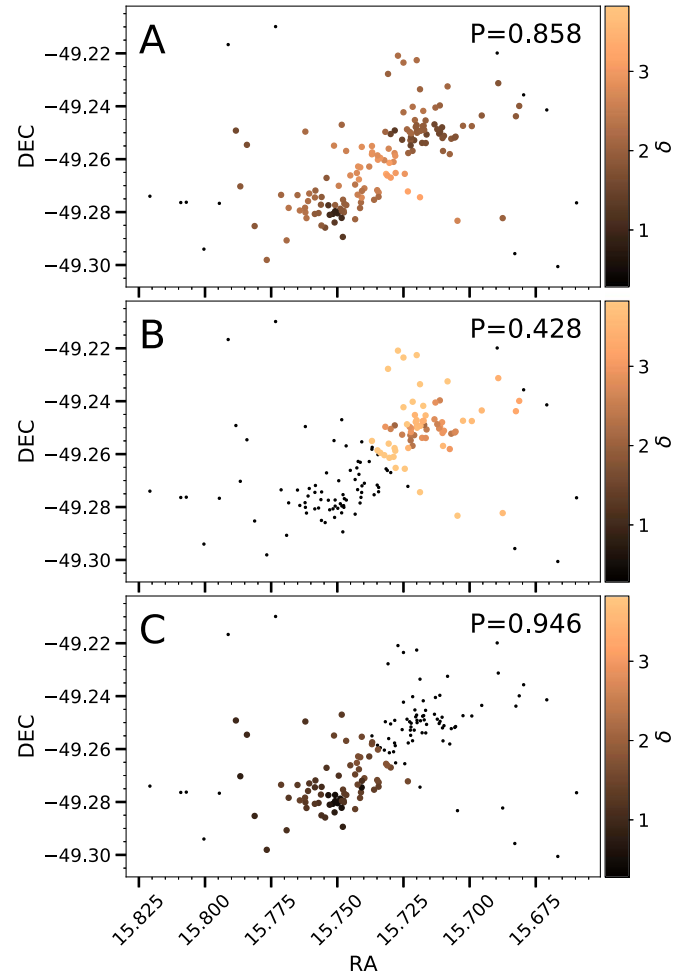
El Gordo is observed during a cluster merger involving at least two components, thereby explaining its elongated structure. Even though the double-peaked galaxy distribution is well known, there is no obvious bimodality in the radial velocities (Figure 7, right), similar to the results of Menanteau et al. (2012). If the collision axis is the line drawn through the centers of the SE and NW components, then bisecting that line (Figure 7, left) and computing the velocity histograms on each side still does not uncover two distinct components. However, the mean radial velocity difference between the 71 galaxies SE of the dividing line and the 69 galaxies on the NW side is  $\sim 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  in the cluster rest frame. If the collision axis is in the plane of the sky, the transverse velocity difference should be much larger than that.

Building on the work of Dressler & Shectman (1988), Biviano et al. (2002) devised a statistic to search for galaxy substructure. In their approach, the parameter  $\delta$  compares the local radial velocity properties of the Student- $t$  and  $\chi^2$  distributions with their global values. For a cluster with  $N$  redshifts, the group size is  $\sqrt{N}$ , equating to 12 nearest neighbors for this study. Figure 8 depicts the distribution of  $\delta$  values, with each point representing the  $\delta$  value computed from its dozen nearest neighbors. In turn, the individual 140  $\delta$  values are summed up to yield  $\Delta_{\text{obs}}$ . To calibrate this statistic, a final step compares the sum of the  $\delta$  values of 1,000 randomly generated instances in which the redshifts of each galaxy remain the same, but their positions are azimuthally scrambled,  $\Delta_{\text{sim}}$ . For each instance in which the data have a smaller and more bound  $\Delta_{\text{sim}}$  value, the numerator of the probability  $P$  relative to 1000 increments by one. From this exercise, we calculate the value  $P$  for which the randomly generated  $\Delta$  will be larger than the observed  $\Delta_{\text{obs}}$ .

To get an intuition for how to interpret these values, in a study of 59 clusters, Biviano et al. (2002) found  $P \leq 0.05$  to indicate significant substructure. On the other hand, a value of  $P$  closer to 1.0 indicates a more dynamically intact structure that lacks significant substructures. For El Gordo,  $P = 0.858$  (panel (A) of Figure 8). The probability is thus fairly high that the cluster as a whole is bound. To gain more physical insights, we isolated the cluster into the NW and SE halves and recomputed  $P$ . We obtained  $P = 0.428$  and  $0.946$ , for the NW and SE components, respectively (panels (B) and (C) of Figure 8). Notably,  $P$  approaches 1.0 only for the SE component, consistent with that component having a higher mass density in the vicinity of the BCG.

## 6. El Gordo Physical Properties

The mass distribution gives insights into the physical properties of this cluster. In a 1D trace of the surface mass density (Figure 9), both mass peaks are prominent, and there is a smaller peak at  $z = 0.63$ , situated between the two major components. A depression appears between the peaks in the 1D trace (lower panel of Figure 9), but not a sharp mass cutoff. The masses on the two sides of the cluster (divided at the LWMC position: the blue star in Figure 9) are  $(3.6 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  for the SE component and  $(3.4 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$  for the NW one. This makes the SE component slightly more massive than the NW one. Our statistical analysis (panel (C) in Figure 8)



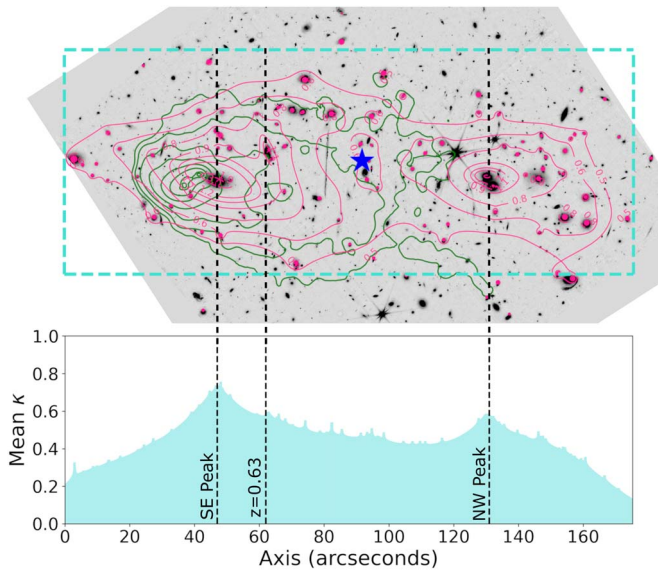
**Figure 8.** Search for substructure in El Gordo. Each dot, located at the position of a cluster member, represents the  $\delta$  value computed using the 12 nearest neighbors. The dots are color-coded relative to the  $\delta$  values, as indicated in the color bars. In this rendition, darker colors indicate the presence of more tightly bound regions. Values of  $P$  are recorded in each panel, for which higher values correspond to a more dynamically bound structure. (A)  $\delta$  for all galaxies in the cluster. (B) and (C)  $\delta$  calculated separately for the two cluster components.

makes the SE component more tightly bound, which may yield a higher galaxy number density there.

Other strong- and weak-lensing models also slightly favor the SE component (Zitrin et al. 2013; Cerny et al. 2018; Diego et al. 2020; Kim et al. 2021; Caminha et al. 2022; Diego et al. 2023), even though earlier studies had favored an NW-dominant mass with mass ratio  $\sim 0.6:1$  (Menanteau et al. 2012; Jee et al. 2014). Even those studies, though, were consistent with 1:1 within the uncertainties. The angular separation between the SE and NW components is  $83''$ , equating to 650 kpc at the redshift of the cluster. If the transverse velocity is similar to the transverse velocity dispersion (Section 5), the crossing time is  $\sim 1.3$  Gyr. In the more likely event the transverse velocity is higher, the time would be correspondingly shorter.

NIRCam detects not only gravitationally lensed arcs in the central region of the cluster, but also filaments of a cooling flow, which are somewhat arc-like in appearance, yet lack the morphology and geometry of lensed background galaxy images (Figure 2; see also Diego et al. 2020; Caminha et al. 2022). The X-ray source (Figure 9) has a cometary shape and is mostly confined to the SE component, despite the relatively equal mass





**Figure 9.** Surface mass contours scaled to the critical value ( $\kappa$ ) from our lens model (red continuous contours), relative to the X-ray map (green continuous contours). The mass peak is offset from the positional centroid in the X-ray map by a physical separation of between 5 and 9 kpc, similar in extent to the nonparametric lens model using NIRCам data by Diego et al. (2023). The X-ray peak is correlated with the position of a bright filament thought to be associated with a dense cooling flow onto the BCG. The lower panel depicts the 1D scan of  $\kappa$  summed up in a column orthogonal to the collision axis, obtained by summing up  $\kappa$  over an angular range of  $\pm 35''$ , equating to  $\pm 275$  kpc at  $z = 0.87$ . The SE and NW component mass peaks are detected, as is an intervening mass peak at  $z = 0.63$  that is taken into account in our lens model. The integrated mass does not have a low minimum, suggesting a significant amount of mass near the position of the LWMC (the blue star-shaped symbol).

ratio between the two components discussed above and their presumed similar dynamical history. On closer evaluation, the X-ray peak is a bit elongated, offset from the BCG by 5–9 kpc, and centered on the cooling flow of the BCG, suggesting a physical association. The interpretation that the cooling flow is mainly responsible for the X-ray emission is also motivated by the high particle number density in the cooling flow, such that the bremsstrahlung radiation within the cooling flow is stronger than the same radiation mechanism operating within the more diffuse and much more widespread intracluster medium.

Because the X-rays might not be a reliable indicator of the global cluster properties, we can turn to the spectroscopy. For example, the velocity offset of the BCG from the systemic redshift of the cluster is a known diagnostic of cluster virialization (Rumbaugh et al. 2018). For El Gordo, the BCG has a measured velocity offset of  $\sim 800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , from which we infer that the cluster is not well approximated as a virialized system (Figure 7). Moreover, the centroid position of the projected luminosity of the spectroscopically confirmed cluster members is another known diagnostic of cluster virialization (Rumbaugh et al. 2018). For our case, the “LWMC” was computed from the F200W image. Its rest wavelength of  $1.07 \mu\text{m}$  is a proxy that samples the SED longward of the 4000 Å and Balmer breaks at the cluster redshift. The resulting LWMC (Figure 9) is situated near the midpoint of the two cluster components, rather than near the BCG. This corroborates that there has been a major disturbance of the cluster.

At longer wavelengths, data obtained at 610 MHz and 2.1 GHz using the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope and the Australia Telescope Compact Array uncover two filamentary

structures of radio emission that are aligned along the collision axis, positioned on diametrically opposite sides, and separated by the viral radius (Lindner et al. 2014). These “radio relics” are thought to be synchrotron-emitting regions induced by shock waves propagating through the intracluster medium during mergers between two galaxy clusters. According to  $N$ -body simulations of cluster–cluster mergers, which are constrained by the X-ray, SZE, HST lensing, and dynamical data, the most likely scenario is that El Gordo is a simple binary cluster that made its first pericentric passage  $\sim 480$  Myr ago (Molnar & Broadhurst 2015). It is not yet established whether the collision was head-on or off-axis (Zhang et al. 2018). A dark matter–only Monte Carlo modeling code applied to these same constraints finds that the SE and NW components may be inbound (Ng et al. 2015), which would naturally explain the radio relics trailing the two subhalos, each of which has a synchrotron lifetime  $\lesssim 10^{7.5}$  yr, i.e., considerably shorter than the crossing time measured above. As a caveat, Kim et al. (2021) used Monte Carlo simulations and the radio relic constraints to show that neither the outgoing nor return phase is fully supported by the available information.

In sum, merger simulations, our study, and other studies have obtained several new constraints on merger properties, such as: (1) the LWMC is situated near the midpoint of the two components; (2) the line-of-sight peculiar velocity difference between the merger components is  $\sim 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ; (3) the velocity difference between the BCG and the NW component is  $\sim 400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ; (4) the  $\kappa$ -map has a center near the BCG and is offset from the X-ray peak, consistent with the cooling flow being the primary source of the X-ray emission; (5) the mass ratio is near unity; and (6) the crossing time is large relative to the lifetime of the radio relics. New simulations that take these constraints into account can help to place this massive and high-redshift cluster into the larger context of mass assembly.

## 7. Background Galaxy Overdense Region

### 7.1. Background

Zitrin et al. (2013) identified a triply imaged system with a model-predicted redshift of 4.16. This system corresponds to Arcs 10a, b, and c. Caputi et al. (2021) measured a spectroscopic redshift for this arc of 4.33 and measured similar redshifts for three other systems (here, 8, 9, and 11—Table 1). By fitting SEDs to the rest-frame UV data, Caputi et al. (2021) found all members to be star-forming and to have low dust extinction. Two of the galaxies have relatively high specific SFRs, from which they inferred that these galaxies may be undergoing galaxy–galaxy interactions.

To investigate this somewhat rare, strongly lensed  $z = 4.32$  galaxy overdensity, it is beneficial to obtain observations longward of the 4000 Å and Balmer breaks (observed  $\lambda \gtrsim 2 \mu\text{m}$ ) to detect the redder stellar population and search for other members. The new JWST PEARLS data provide rest-frame visible imaging to complement the rest-frame UV imaging from HST. We searched for additional lensed sources with similar redshifts predicted by the gravitational lens model ( $z_{\text{mod}}$ ) and for galaxies with similar photometric redshift estimates ( $z_{\text{ph}}$ ). The search identified one new probable member (system 39, Table 1). Figure 6 shows the known and one new probable group members.

The high sensitivity and resolution of NIRCам confirms image systems 8, 9, 10, and 11 by their similar morphologies,

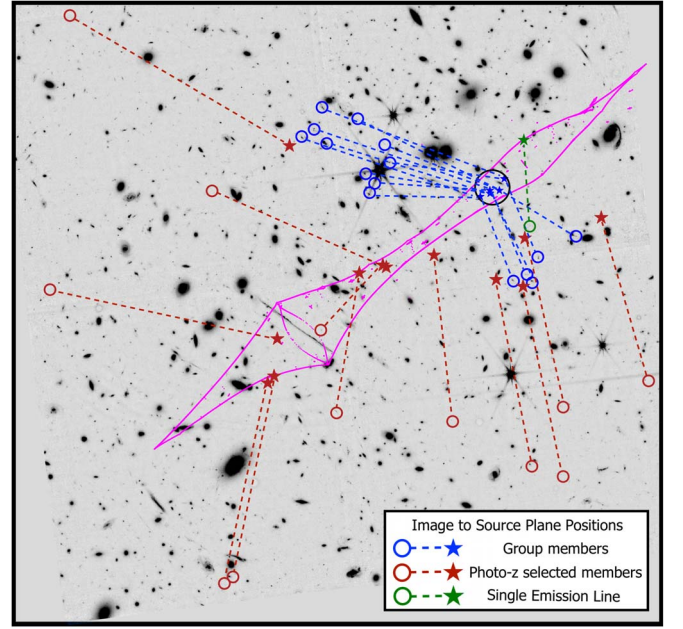
image orientations, and lens model–predicted locations. In some cases, the higher resolution of NIRCcam separates the images into additional components, strengthening the claim that galaxy associations and/or interactions may be instigating the star formation. The most striking example is system 9, the galaxy whose “checkerboard” dual-color sides are detected in each of three images of this one galaxy. The counterimages make obvious parity flips between images a and b and then again between images b and c, as predicted by lensing theory on each crossing of the critical curve. This parity information provides additional constraints on the lens model. It is interesting to ask if these four galaxies at  $z = 4.32$  comprise the entire galaxy group, or if they might be a subset of a larger galaxy overdensity.

### 7.2. Search for New Members

We searched the Caminha et al. (2022) redshift catalog for other lensed sources that have velocity separations within  $\pm 2800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  of the systemic redshift of the initial group of galaxies, equating to  $4.275 < z < 4.375$  (Sifón et al. 2013; Caputi et al. 2021; Caminha et al. 2022). With these criteria, three other galaxies are identified, but only one of them is within the NIRCcam field of view. That one galaxy has a redshift of 4.2750 and a quality flag rating of “9” from Caminha et al. (2022), which means that the emission feature is narrow or noisy, with no secure identification, and therefore fails to meet our criteria for a secure redshift. We then searched the MUSE data cube for any emission lines that are consistent with being  $\text{Ly}\alpha$  at  $z = 4.32$ , an exercise that uncovered two spectroscopic candidates. Of these, only one lensed source (Object 101) survives our conservative requirements that the source must also be detected by NIRCcam. Object 101 has  $z_{\text{sp}} = 4.317$  if the line is indeed  $\text{Ly}\alpha$ . The object is only marginally detected in NIRCcam F200W, and its counterimages cannot be securely detected. The lens model gives a magnification factor of 2.1.

In addition to the blind spectroscopic search, we also searched for  $z \approx 4.32$  candidates based on redshifts predicted from our lens model ( $z_{\text{mod}}$ ) and from our photometry ( $z_{\text{ph}}$ ). To be considered a candidate, we required that the lensed images have both  $z_{\text{mod}}$  and  $z_{\text{ph}}$  consistent with  $z = 4.32$ . One galaxy satisfied these criteria, image system 39, with  $z_{\text{mod}} = 4.14$ . Arc 39a has  $z_{\text{ph}} = 4.29 \pm 0.16$ . At the system 39 positions, the MUSE data cube reveals only noise, with no continuum or emission line features anywhere in the spectrum covering 4700–9350 Å. However, at  $z = 4.32$ , the only strong line in the passband is  $\text{Ly}\alpha$ , whose emission may be weak or even absent, depending on the outflow velocity of the expanding H II regions within which the line is produced (Frye et al. 2002). The properties of these five members appear in Tables 1 and 2. For reference, the four confirmed members and system 39 have a mean intrinsic F200W magnitude corrected for lensing magnification of 25.75. This value is fainter than  $L^*$  at F200W, which is  $\approx 25.0 \text{ mag}$  at  $z = 4$  (R. Cabanac, private communication, 2023).

Last, we extended our search for group members by a pure photometric approach, resulting in another 12 nonredundant lensed sources with  $z_{\text{ph}} = 4.3$  within the  $1\sigma$  uncertainties. The positions of these objects are in Table 3. Figure 10 shows the source plane positions of all 18 sources. The five more secure members of the galaxy overdensity have a total physical extent of  $\sim 60 \text{ kpc}$ . The single-line spectroscopic detection and the



**Figure 10.** NIRCcam F200W negative image depicting the  $z = 4.32$  probable and candidate members. The image positions and source positions are designated by circular and stellar shapes, respectively. The four galaxies at  $z = 4.32$  and one probable additional member with similar  $z_{\text{mod}}$  and  $z_{\text{ph}}$  values are lensed into 15 images (blue open circles), which map onto the source plane as indicated by the blue stars. (These are image systems 8, 9, 10, 11, and 39 in Tables 1 and 2.) A circle with a radius of 30 kpc is overlaid for reference. The one galaxy obtained by a single-line detection in the MUSE data cube is indicated in green. The 12 galaxies uncovered by a pure photometric search are indicated by the red open circles, which map onto the source plane at positions given by the red stars. These arcs correspond to systems 102–112 in Tables 1 and 3. The caustic for our LTM model is indicated by the solid pink contour.

**Table 3**  
New  $z = 4.32$  Galaxy Candidates

| ID   | R. A.       | Decl.        | $m_{\text{F200W,obs}}$ | $z$                    | $\mu$ |
|--|-------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|
| Found with MUSE single-line detection:             |             |              |                        |                        |       |
| 101  | 01:02:51.20 | −49:15:27.01 | >27.96                 | 4.317                  | 2.1   |
| Found with LePhare photometric redshift estimates: |             |              |                        |                        |       |
| 102  | 01:02:48.57 | −49:16:00.26 | 26.34                  | $4.12^{+0.24}_{-0.13}$ | 1.5   |
| 103  | 01:02:50.46 | −49:16:05.99 | 27.29                  | $4.22^{+0.26}_{-0.34}$ | 1.7   |
| 104  | 01:02:50.46 | −49:16:21.07 | 27.81                  | $3.54^{+0.86}_{-0.09}$ | 1.6   |
| 105  | 01:02:51.16 | −49:16:18.84 | 24.74                  | $4.20^{+0.11}_{-0.09}$ | 1.7   |
| 106  | 01:02:52.91 | −49:16:09.12 | 28.02                  | $4.20^{+0.64}_{-0.64}$ | 2.5   |
| 28a  | 01:02:55.51 | −49:16:07.15 | 25.67                  | $4.34^{+0.12}_{-0.12}$ | 6.6   |
| 107  | 01:02:55.83 | −49:15:49.25 | 26.31                  | $5.65^{+0.21}_{-0.47}$ | 11    |
| 108  | 01:02:57.78 | −49:16:42.92 | 25.55                  | $4.20^{+0.13}_{-0.14}$ | 2.2   |
| 109  | 01:02:57.97 | −49:16:44.33 | 27.57                  | $3.97^{+0.52}_{-0.38}$ | 2.2   |
| 110  | 01:02:58.24 | −49:15:19.04 | 28.00                  | $4.85^{+0.05}_{-1.4}$  | 3.6   |
| 111  | 01:03:01.39 | −49:14:40.88 | 24.81                  | $4.22^{+0.09}_{-0.14}$ | 1.6   |
| 112  | 01:03:01.83 | −49:15:40.50 | 26.10                  | $4.60^{+0.21}_{-0.37}$ | 2.2   |

**Note.** Column (4) gives the measured AB magnitudes, not corrected for magnification.

12 photometrically selected galaxies are more broadly distributed along the caustic and just outside it. The caustic is elongated along the long axis of the cluster, and perhaps not surprisingly, the group member candidates are relatively bright as a result of their high magnification factors of 1.5–11. The



12 photometrically selected members have a mean apparent F200W magnitude corrected for lensing magnification that is 1.5 magnitudes fainter than the value for the five confirmed and probable members, pushing the limit of detectability in the HST filters. The deflections, as depicted by the dashed line segments in Figure 10, do not vary much in angular extent. This is consistent with lensing theory, which predicts that for the idealized case of an isothermal lens, all sources at a similar source distance that are situated well behind the lens will be deflected by a constant amount (Narayan & Bartelmann 1996).

High-redshift galaxy overdensities can comprise only a few galaxies or, in the most extreme case, they can be sprawling structures extending up to several comoving megaparsecs (Chiang et al. 2017). The fact that the five secure members of this galaxy overdensity are relatively bright and tightly arranged, and that an additional 13 lensed sources are plausibly also at  $z=4.3$ , suggests that this galaxy overdensity may be larger than just a compact group of  $\sim$ a few galaxies. Four of the five secure members are also confirmed to be star-forming (Caputi et al. 2021), resolved (intrinsic physical extents of  $\sim 1$  kpc), and have morphologies indicative of galaxy interactions (Figure 6). By contrast, the 13 other candidate members are faint and small. It is tempting to speculate whether these candidate members, if real, may have had their SFRs truncated below 10% of their peak star-forming episode, one definition of a quiescent galaxy (Nanayakkara et al. 2022). Numerous NIRCам imaging studies have informed us that quiescent galaxies are more common than expected at  $z=3-4$ , implying an early and relatively rapid buildup of stellar material in galaxies and/or an efficient conversion rate of gas to stars at early times (Nanayakkara et al. 2022; Carnall et al. 2023; Valentino et al. 2023). A comprehensive investigation of the physical properties and star formation histories of these galaxies/candidates should uncover hints regarding their assembly and their connection to any larger galaxy overdensity.

## 8. Conclusions

A total of 56 multiply imaged galaxies are vetted by our LTM model, including two new image systems and five new counterimages, showcasing the benefits of the high-sensitivity and high-resolution NIRCам imaging. The incorporation of HST imaging enables PSF-corrected photometry across the visible and NIR passbands for all sources in the region of overlap of the 11 bands. The mass estimated from the lens model within 500 kpc is  $(7.0 \pm 0.30) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ , with a mass ratio between the SE and NW components close to unity. The SE peak is centered near the BCG, and the X-ray peak is centered very near the cooling flow of the BCG, in agreement with recent studies.

Although the two mass peaks are 650 kpc (projected distance) apart in the imaging, they are close in velocity space. This suggests a significant transverse velocity component, and in fact a statistical search is required to uncover the SE and NW components. The dynamical mass measured from the galaxy velocity dispersion in a double-halo configuration is  $(5.1 \pm 0.60) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ . This value is based on 51 more galaxies than a previous estimate to a similar radius. The measured mass is lower than the value estimated by strong- and weak-lensing studies. This difference can be explained if the transverse velocity is high, therefore underestimating the dynamical mass.

A motivation of this study was the search for additional galaxy members in the previously known  $z=4.32$  galaxy overdensity. This new study was made feasible by the high sensitivity of NIRCам, enabling the detection of  $z=4.32$  galaxies, by extending the wavelength reach longer than the 4000 Å and Balmer breaks and at depths equating to  $\sim$ a few magnitudes below  $M^*$ . By the combination of our model-predicted and photometric redshift estimates, one new member was discovered with high probability, and another possible member was discovered by a single emission line, assumed to be Ly $\alpha$  in the MUSE data cube. A pure photometric redshift search identified another dozen candidates. If real, then the addition of these 14 galaxies more than quadruples the total number of galaxies in this rare view of a strongly lensed structure. Given the broad range in apparent magnitudes, it is tempting to ask if there may be an even more diverse population of galaxies underlying the confirmed members, some of which may be already be quiescent. Ultimately, spectroscopic confirmation of these candidate members is needed to establish the nature of this rare view of a strongly lensed galaxy overdensity.

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of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA) Inc., under NASA contract NAS 5-26555 for HST. This research has made use of data obtained from the Chandra Data Archive and software provided by the Chandra X-ray Center (CXC) in the application package CIAO.




























## Appendix

The arc systems in the El Gordo Field that are utilized in our lens model are presented in Table 2. The image system designations for numbers 1–23 follow Caminha et al. (2022), and the image system designations for numbers 24–60 follow Diego et al. (2023). We removed six of the 60 previously known systems for the following reasons: systems 31 and 44 and image 43c are at or below the NIRCcam detection limit; system 34 has counterimages that have different colors and one image that is very close in projection to another source, preventing its verification; and systems 45 and 50 are very close in projection to a cluster member, preventing their verifications. At the same time, systems 31 and 43a and b have image family members that are too closely separated to usefully constrain the macro lens model that is the objective of this study. In general, an arc system that is predominantly lensed by a single cluster member is left out. The one exception is for El Anzueto (system 24), because it is situated relatively close to the cluster center and has a new tentative spectroscopic redshift presented in this paper. The table columns are as follows. Column (1): ID; column (2): R.A.; column (3): decl.; column (4): observed AB magnitude (SEXTRACTOR MAG\_AUTO) in the F200W filter; column (5): spectroscopic redshift ( $z_{\text{sp}}$ ); column (6): photometric redshift estimate ( $z_{\text{ph}}$ ); column (7): lens model–predicted redshift ( $z_{\text{mod}}$ ); column (8): magnification factor ( $\mu$ ); and column (9): discovery citation. Among the known image systems 1 through 60, we identified an additional five counterimages (labeled “This paper” in the “Ref.” column). We also extended the catalog to include the two new image systems, 61 and 62, which meet our selection criteria. The analysis of the strong-lensing properties appears in Section 4.

The galaxies with photometric redshifts that place them in the galaxy overdense region at  $z = 4.32$  are presented in Table 3. The columns are as follows. Column (1): ID; column (2): R.A.; column (3): decl.; column (4): observed AB magnitude (SEXTRACTOR MAG\_AUTO) in the F200W filter; column (5): photometric redshift ( $z_{\text{ph}}$ ); and column (6): the magnification factor on the assumption that the redshift is  $z = 4.32$ . One image from the doubly imaged system 28 also has a photometric redshift and a model-predicted redshift of 4.40. These identifications are all new to this study and are displayed also in Figure 6. Section 7 gives details on their selection.

## ORCID iDs

Brenda L. Frye  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1625-8009>  
 Massimo Pascale  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2282-8795>  
 Nicholas Foo  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7460-8460>  
 Jake Summers  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7265-7920>  
 Patrick Kamienieski  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9394-6732>  
 Lukas J. Furtak  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6278-032X>  
 Seth H. Cohen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3329-1337>  
 Jose Diego  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9065-3926>  
 Rogier A. Windhorst  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8156-6281>

S. P. Willner  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9895-5758>  
 Anton M. Koekemoer  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6610-2048>  
 Adi Zitrin  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0350-4488>  
 Gabriel Caminha  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6052-3274>  
 Karina I. Caputi  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8183-1460>  
 Dan Coe  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7410-7669>  
 Christopher J. Conselice  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1949-7638>  
 Liang Dai  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2091-8946>  
 Hervé Dole  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9767-3839>  
 Simon P. Driver  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9491-7327>  
 Norman A. Grogin  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9440-8872>  
 Kevin Harrington  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5429-5762>  
 Rolf A. Jansen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1268-5230>  
 Jean-Paul Kneib  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4616-4989>  
 Matt Lehnert  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1939-5885>  
 James Lowenthal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9969-3115>  
 Madeline A. Marshall  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6434-7845>  
 Felipe Menanteau  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1372-2534>  
 Nor Pirzkal  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3382-5941>  
 Johan Richard  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5492-1049>  
 Aaron Robotham  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0429-3579>  
 Russell E. Ryan, Jr.  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0894-1588>  
 Michael J. Rutkowski  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7016-5220>  
 Scott Tompkins  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9052-9837>  
 Daniel Wang  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9279-4041>  
 Haojing Yan  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7592-7714>  
 Min S. Yun  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7095-7543>

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