



# Prediction of Planet Yields by the PRime-focus Infrared Microlensing Experiment Microlensing Survey

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## Abstract

The PRime-focus Infrared Microlensing Experiment (PRIME) will be the first to conduct a dedicated near-infrared microlensing survey by using a 1.8 m telescope with a wide field of view of 1.45 deg<sup>2</sup> at the South African Astronomical Observatory. The major goals of the PRIME microlensing survey are to measure the microlensing event rate in the inner Galactic bulge to help design the observing strategy for the exoplanet microlensing survey by the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope and to make a first statistical measurement of exoplanet demographics in the central bulge fields where optical observations are very difficult owing to the high extinction in these fields. Here we conduct a simulation of the PRIME microlensing survey to estimate its planet yields and determine the optimal survey strategy, using a Galactic model optimized for the inner Galactic bulge. In order to maximize the number of planet detections and the range of planet mass, we compare the planet yields among four observation strategies. Assuming the Cassan et al. mass function as modified by Penny et al., we predict that PRIME will detect planetary signals for 42–52 planets (1–2 planets with  $M_p \leq 1M_{\oplus}$ , 22–25 planets with mass  $1M_{\oplus} < M_p \leq 100M_{\oplus}$ , 19–25 planets  $100M_{\oplus} < M_p \leq 10,000M_{\oplus}$ ), per year depending on the chosen observation strategy.

*Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts:* [Gravitational microlensing \(672\)](#); [Gravitational microlensing exoplanet detection \(2147\)](#); [Galactic bulge \(2041\)](#); [Galactic center \(565\)](#); [Galaxy structure \(622\)](#); [Near infrared astronomy \(1093\)](#)

## 1. Introduction

The number of the detection of exoplanets has exceeded 5000. Most of these have been discovered via transit and radial velocity methods and have orbital radii and masses different from those of the solar system planets. The microlensing method, in contrast, is complementary to the other methods because it is sensitive to Earth-mass planets (Bennett & Rhie 1996) beyond the snow line (Gould & Loeb 1992), as well as to free-floating planets that are not orbiting a host star (Sumi et al. 2011; Mróz et al. 2017; Gould et al. 2022). The snow line represents the boundary in the protoplanetary disk where H<sub>2</sub>O becomes ice, outside of which planet formation is predicted to be most active according to the core accretion model (Lissauer & Stewart 1993; Pollack et al. 1996). Currently, there are three optical microlensing survey projects; the Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics (MOA; Bond et al. 2001; Sumi et al. 2003), the Optical Gravitational Lensing Experiment (OGLE; Udalski et al. 2015), and the Korea Microlensing Telescope Network (KMTNet; Kim et al. 2016). Thanks to these survey observations and other follow-up observations, the total number of planets detected via microlensing is 141 as of 2022 November 2.<sup>5</sup> Statistical analyses using microlensing planets provide important findings

such as cold planet frequency (Suzuki et al. 2016) and constraints on the dependence of cold planet frequency on the Galactic location (Koshimoto et al. 2021b). Suzuki et al. (2016) measured the mass-ratio function of planets beyond the snow line using 29 planets discovered by the MOA and other optical microlensing surveys. They found a break and likely peak in the mass-ratio function near a Neptune mass for the first time. However, there is still a large degree of uncertainty in the location of the break (or peak) in the planet mass-ratio distribution owing to the lack of low-mass planets in their analysis. Recently Zang et al. (2022) have suggested a possibility that low-mass planets are more abundant than previous results. Their analysis used 13 planets including small mass-ratio planets detected by KMTNet, but did not correct for detection efficiencies. Koshimoto et al. (2021b) used the statistical samples in Suzuki et al. (2016) and showed that there is no strong dependence of the cold planet frequency on the Galactocentric distance.

The inner bulge ( $|b| \lesssim 2^\circ$ ) regions including the Galactic center have remained hidden for the current microlensing survey owing to high extinction. However, these regions are interesting because this is where we expect to find microlensing events in large quantities because of the high stellar density (Gould 1995). In the near-infrared (NIR), light can penetrate through the dust in this region. Comparing the measurements of the planet frequency using an NIR microlensing survey with that determined by the present optical survey, the dependency of planet occurrence on the Galactic structure can be measured, which provides key insights into planetary formation and its history in the galaxy.

<sup>5</sup> [https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/counts\\_detail.html](https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/docs/counts_detail.html)



So far, hundreds of microlensing events were discovered in the inner bulge region by two NIR surveys, the Visible and Infrared Survey Telescope for Astronomy (VISTA) Variables in the Via Lactea Survey (VVV; Minniti et al. 2010) and the United Kingdom Infrared Telescope (UKIRT) Microlensing Survey (Shvartzvald et al. 2017, 2018). The VVV survey conducted an NIR survey toward the inner Galactic bulge including the Galactic central region and adjacent region of the Galactic plane by using VISTA, the 4 m telescope with the 1.6 deg<sup>2</sup> field of view (FOV) VISTA InfraRed Camera (VIRCAM; Emerson & Sutherland 2010) at ESO’s Cerro Paranal Observatory in Chile. Although there are multiple epochs in the  $K_S$  band, the survey is not designed for microlensing and the observation cadence was irregular (1/day at best), which is generally inadequate to detect microlensing light curves with features due to planets. However, their survey is sufficient to reveal the number of microlensing events as a function of the Galactic longitude and Galactic latitude. They found the Galactic longitude distribution ( $-10^\circ.0 < l < 10^\circ.44$ ) by using 630 microlensing events discovered during 2010–2015 (Navarro et al. 2018) and the Galactic latitude distribution ( $-3^\circ.7 < b < 3^\circ.9$ ) using 360 microlensing events (Navarro et al. 2020b). From 2015 to 2018, the UKIRT Microlensing Survey (Shvartzvald et al. 2017) conducted a microlensing exoplanet survey toward the inner Galactic bulge by using the UKIRT 3.8 m telescope on Maunakea, Hawaii with a 0.8 deg<sup>2</sup> FOV infrared camera, Wide Field Camera (WFCAM). The UKIRT microlensing survey observed in the  $H$ - and  $K$ -band filters. UKIRT-2017-BLG-001Lb (Shvartzvald et al. 2018) is the first planet that was found near the Galactic center at  $(l, b) = (-0^\circ.12, -0^\circ.33)$  with a high extinction of  $A_K = 1.68$ . The discovery of UKIRT-2017-BLG-001Lb demonstrated that an NIR survey enables the detection of planets close to the Galactic center with high extinction. Although the above observations have been made, there are still no measurements of microlensing event rates and planet frequency in the inner Galactic bulge.

The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is NASA’s next flagship mission (Spergel et al. 2015), which is planned to launch in late 2026. It will be placed in a halo orbit around the second Sun–Earth Lagrange Point (L2). The main uses of Roman are to study dark energy and to conduct a statistical census of exoplanets by conducting a microlensing survey. Roman comprises a 2.4 m telescope with a 0.281 deg<sup>2</sup> wide FOV camera. The Roman Galactic Exoplanet Survey (Bennett & Rhie 2002; Bennett et al. 2010) will comprise 15 minute cadence observations over a few square degrees toward the inner Galactic bulge with a wide W149 filter (1–2  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Thanks to the high photometric accuracy and continuous observations during  $\sim 72$  days in each of six seasons over five years, Roman will detect  $\sim 1400$  cold exoplanets with masses greater than that of Mars ( $\sim 0.1M_\oplus$ ) including 300 planets with masses of less than  $3M_\oplus$  (Penny et al. 2019). In addition, Johnson et al. (2020) shows that Roman would detect  $\sim 250$  free-floating planets.

Prior to the microlensing survey by Roman, the PRime-focus Infrared Microlensing Experiment (PRIME) will start its NIR microlensing survey toward the inner Galactic bulge in 2023. PRIME will conduct a high-cadence wide FOV survey by using a 1.8 m telescope ( $f/2.29$ ) with a 1.45 deg<sup>2</sup> ( $0''.5 \text{ pix}^{-1}$ ) FOV at Sutherland Observatory operated by the South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO). Half of the observation time will be used for the microlensing planet survey toward the

inner Galactic bulge. The other half will be used for other sciences, such as the transit surveys for M dwarfs and the transient search for counterparts of high- $z$  gamma-ray bursts and gravitational-wave events.

Here we present results of our simulations that compare four observation strategies for the PRIME microlensing survey and predict the planet yields. In Section 2, we introduce the PRIME microlensing survey. Then we explain the methodology of our simulations in order to calculate the detection efficiency of microlensing events and planets in Section 3. Next, we calculate the star counts, microlensing event rate, detection efficiencies, and detection number of microlensing events and planets for each line of sight over the inner Galactic bulge in Section 4. We present microlensing and planet yields depending on four observation strategies in Section 5. Finally, we discuss our results and summarize our conclusions in Sections 6 and 7.

## 2. PRime-focus Infrared Microlensing Experiment (PRIME)

### 2.1. The PRIME Microlensing Survey

PRIME will be the first dedicated NIR microlensing experiment for the inner Galactic bulge. PRIME will use an NIR camera called PRIME-Cam, consisting of four Teledyne HgCdTe  $4\text{K} \times 4\text{K}$  photodiode array (H4RG-10) detectors with 10 micron pixels. The primary passband for the microlensing survey is the  $H$  band, and  $Z$ -,  $Y$ -,  $J$ -band filters are also used for color measurements. The current plan, which is assumed in our simulations, is that each observation epoch will be composed of twelve 9 s co-added dithered exposures and take 160 s including overheads (readout time per exposure, 3 s; slew time for dithering, 1 s; and slew time for the next field, 4 s) per exposure. The parameters for the PRIME telescope and PRIME-Cam are summarized in Table 1. We note that some parameters in Table 1 are current assumptions and are subject to change.

### 2.2. The Goal of the PRIME Microlensing Survey

The main goals of the PRIME microlensing survey are to measure the microlensing event rate in the inner Galactic bulge to help design the observing strategy for Roman’s exoplanet microlensing survey and to make a first statistical measurement of exoplanet demographics in the central bulge fields where optical observations are very difficult owing to the high extinction in these fields. By comparing with the planet frequency measured by visible observation, PRIME will reveal the Galactic distribution of planet frequency. PRIME also helps to provide insight into the performance of the H4RG-10 detectors that Roman will use. Moreover, after the Roman telescope begins to observe, the simultaneous observations of PRIME and Roman enable us to measure the microlensing parallax, which gives us the mass and distance of lens systems. In particular, observations where the baseline between the Earth and L2 is  $\sim 0.01$  au have a sensitivity to the parallax measurements in the timing of a caustic crossing (Wyrzykowski et al. 2020), which is just as sharp a feature as planetary signals, and the parallax measurements down to the free-floating planets regime (Bachelet et al. 2022).

**Table 1**  
Adopted Parameters of the PRIME Microlensing Survey

Mirror diameter(m)	1.8
Field of View (deg <sup>2</sup> )	1.45
Detectors	4×H4RG-10
Pixel scale ("/pixel)	0.5
Plate scale (μm/pixel)	10
Primary bandpass (μm)	1.64 ± 0.30 ( <i>H</i> band)
Exposure time (s)	9
Readout number	3
Stack number	12
Readout noise (counts/pixel) <sup>a</sup>	12.12
Dark (counts/pixel/s) <sup>a</sup>	0.130
QE	0.88 <sup>b</sup>
Throughput, $\eta$	0.78 <sup>c</sup>
Thermal background (counts/pixel/s)	500 <sup>d</sup>
Sky background (counts/pixel/s)	3400–9400 <sup>e</sup>
Limiting magnitude (mag)	18.5 <sup>f</sup> ( <i>H</i> band)
Saturation limit (mag)	11.0 ( <i>H</i> band)

#### Notes.

<sup>a</sup> The readout noise and dark count value is assumed to be the same as those of the Roman telescope as shown in Penny et al. (2019).

<sup>b</sup> Assumed QE in the *H* band.

<sup>c</sup> Throughput is estimated by multiplying the assumed transmittance of the atmosphere, the measured reflectance of the primary mirror, the measured transmittance of AR coatings, the measured transmittance of the filters, and the assumed detector QE.

<sup>d</sup> Assumed thermal background at 290 K in the *H* band.

<sup>e</sup> Assumed sky background in the *H* band, corresponding to 13.0–14.2 mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup>. These limits are derived based on the sky emission from Cerro Pachon at the Gemini Observatory (<https://www.gemini.edu>).

<sup>f</sup> Faint magnitude limit for 5 $\sigma$ .

## 3. Simulations

Although an expected microlensing event rate of each field in the inner bulge can be calculated by a model of our galaxy, we need a survey simulation to obtain detection efficiencies of (i) microlensing events and (ii) planetary events to calculate how many microlensing events and planets are expected to be found by PRIME.

In this section, we present the procedure of a Monte Carlo simulation for one year of PRIME observations toward the inner Galactic bulge with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadence observations to estimate the detection efficiencies as a function of the field coordinate and observation cadence.

### 3.1. Simulation Overview

Figure 1 shows a schematic view of our simulation. For each Galactic coordinate and for each observation cadence, a Monte Carlo simulation is performed to calculate the detectability of one hundred thousand microlensing events. A brief explanation of each procedure is presented in the following.

First, we randomly select source and lens objects from each star catalog at specific Galactic coordinates, (*l, b*), generated from a stellar population synthesis model in our galaxy. We then assign parameters for single-lens microlensing and binary-lens microlensing with planetary mass ratios. Synthetic light curves are generated. Each light curve is then modified according to the observation cadence, the parameters of PRIME-Cam and telescope, and observation conditions at Sutherland. Finally, based on the detection criteria, we will

examine whether the microlensing events and the planetary signatures can be detected.

### 3.2. Simulation of Planetary Microlensing Events

In this section, we describe how to simulate planetary microlensing light curves. First, we generate a microlensing event by randomly drawing lens and source stars from catalogs of lens and source stars created by the Galactic model and adding a planet to the lens. Then we compute the parameters of single-lens and binary-lens models, which are associated with the physical parameters assigned to the combination of the source and lens. Then, we calculate the magnification of that event as a function of time.

#### 3.2.1. Galactic Model and Catalogs of Source and Lens

N. Koshimoto et al. (2023, in preparation). developed a stellar population synthesis tool, `genstars`,<sup>6</sup> which uses a modified version of the Galactic model by Koshimoto et al. (2021a). The modified model is applicable for the inner bulge region because it has a nuclear stellar disk (NSD) structure based on the NSD model by Sormani et al. (2022). The NSD is not included in other population synthesis tools such as the Besançon model (Robin et al. 2003, 2012) or *Galaxia* (Sharma et al. 2011). Thus, `genstars` is currently only the public population synthesis tool suitable for our simulation toward the inner bulge region.

Note that we use a slightly different version of `genstars` from the public version, where the center of our galaxy is at (*l, b*) = (0, 0) rather than at Sgr A\* at (*l, b*) = (−0°056, −0°046) (Reid & Brunthaler 2004). The central shift slightly affects our simulation results in the inner NSD region or central ∼0.5 deg<sup>2</sup>. However, the influence is negligible compared to other issues such as the underestimation of extinction in the Galactic central region, which is shown in N. Koshimoto et al. (2023, in preparation). This version of their Galactic model will hereafter be referred to as KGM.

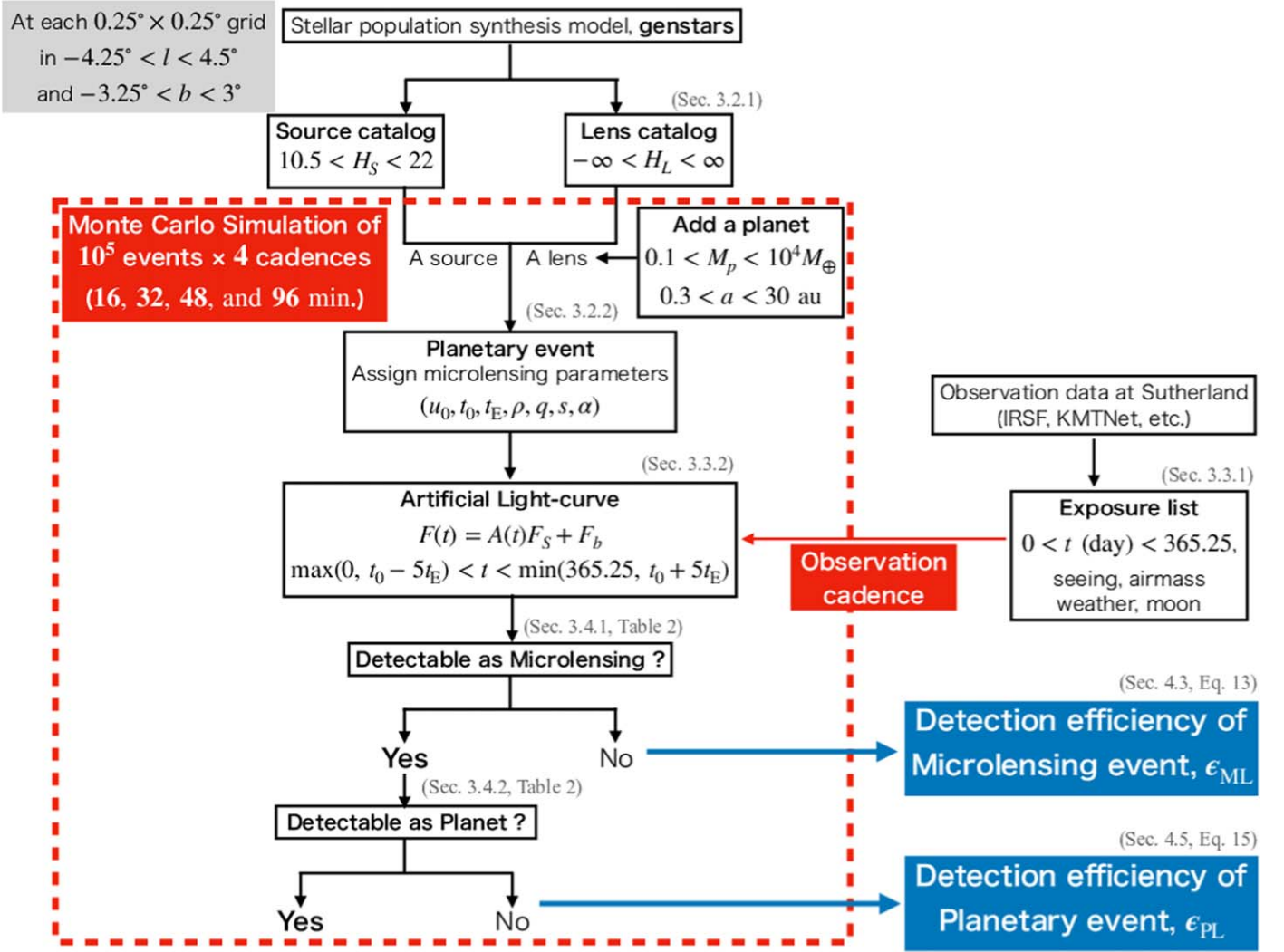
In order to simulate the combination of a source and a lens for microlensing events, we use two star catalogs. The first list, the list of sources, is selected by specifying a range of magnitudes, 10.5 < *H<sub>S</sub>* < 22 in the Vega magnitude system within 16 kpc from the Sun. The source list includes stars fainter than PRIME’s limiting magnitude, *H<sub>lim</sub>* ∼ 18.5, because they can become bright enough to be detected if sufficiently magnified. The second list, the list of lenses, is selected without magnitude limitations (−∞ < *H<sub>L</sub>* < ∞), i.e., including dark objects such as brown dwarfs, white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes. Each list contains the following physical parameters of sources or lenses: the magnitude, mass, radius, distance, and proper motions.

#### 3.2.2. Microlensing Parameters

A microlensing event occurs when a foreground lens star passes close to the line of sight between an observer and a background source star. The gravity of the lens star bends the light from the source star and magnifies its brightness. The angular Einstein ring radius is given by,

$$\theta_E = \sqrt{\kappa M_L \pi_{\text{rel}}}, \quad (1)$$

<sup>6</sup> The software is available via Zenodo (Koshimoto 2022) or <https://github.com/nkoshimoto/genstars>.



**Figure 1.** Schematic view of our simulation to estimate the detection efficiency of both microlensing events and planets at specific  $(l, b)$ . For each Galactic coordinate and for each observation cadence, a Monte Carlo simulation is performed to calculate the detectability of 100,000 microlensing events.

where  $M_L$  is the mass of the lens object, and  $\kappa = 4G(c^2 \text{ au})^{-1} = 8.14 \text{ mas } M_\odot^{-1}$ . When the distance from the observer to the lens and source are represented by  $D_L$  and  $D_S$ , respectively, the lens-source relative parallax is  $\pi_{\text{rel}} = 1 \text{ au}(D_L^{-1} - D_S^{-1})$ .

The magnification of the single-lens light-curve model depends on three parameters: the time of lens-source closest approach  $t_0$ , the impact parameter in units of the Einstein radius  $u_0$ , and the Einstein radius crossing time  $t_E$ . We also include the finite source effects and introduce one parameter: the ratio of the angular source size to the angular Einstein radius,  $\rho$ .

We assume uniform distributions of  $t_0$  and  $u_0$ :

$$0 \leq t_0 \leq T_{\text{obs}}, \quad (2)$$

$$0 \leq u_0 \leq u_{0,\text{max}}, \quad (3)$$

where we adopt the survey duration  $T_{\text{obs}} = 365.25$  day. We also adopt the maximum value of impact parameter  $u_{0,\text{max}} = 1.0$ . The events with  $u_{0,\text{max}} > 1.0$  do not significantly affect the final result because the detection efficiency is lower owing to the low magnification.  $t_E$  and  $\rho$  are derived from the physical parameters assigned to the combination of the source

and lens,

$$t_E = \frac{\theta_E}{\mu_{\text{rel}}} \quad (4)$$

$$\rho = \frac{\theta_*}{\theta_E}, \quad (5)$$

where  $\mu_{\text{rel}}$  is the lens-source relative proper motion drawn from the velocity distribution in the Galactic model. The angular radius of the source star  $\theta_* = R_*/D_S$ , where  $R_*$  is the radius of the source star estimated from the source magnitude from *genstars*. Note that the microlensing event rate is not equal among all the source-lens pairs picked up from the catalogs because it is  $\propto \mu_{\text{rel}} \theta_E$ . We will later add this weight when considering the statistics of simulated events.

The magnification of the binary-lens model requires three additional parameters; the planet-host mass ratio,  $q$ , the planet-host separation in units of the Einstein radius,  $s$ , the angle between the trajectory of the source, and the planet-host axis,

$\alpha$ . The mass ratio and the planet-host separation are given by

$$q = \frac{M_p}{M_h} \quad (6)$$

$$s = \frac{a_{\perp}}{D_L \theta_E}, \quad (7)$$

where  $M_p$  and  $M_h$  are the mass of the planet and the host star, respectively. Assuming a circular orbit, the projected orbital separation  $a_{\perp} = a\sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \zeta}$ , where  $a$  is the semimajor axis and  $\zeta$  is the angle between the plane of the sky and the binary axis at a given time. We use a uniform distribution of  $\cos \zeta$  assuming a circular planetary orbit that is inclined randomly to the line of sight. We use 21 fixed values of planetary mass distributed logarithmically in the range  $0.1 < M_p < 10^4 M_{\oplus}$  (0.10, 0.18, 0.32, ..., 10,000  $M_{\oplus}$ ) and 15 fixed values of semimajor axis in the range  $0.3 < a < 30$  au (0.3, 0.42, 0.58, ..., 30 au). We also assume a uniform distribution of  $0 < \alpha < 360$ .

### 3.2.3. Magnification Calculation

We calculate the magnification of the single-lens model as a function of time, using either the Yoo et al. (2004) or the Lee et al. (2009) method depending on the value of  $\rho$  for the calculation of the finite source with limb darkening as implemented in `MulensModel` (Poleski & Yee 2019). In order to calculate the magnification of the binary-lens model, we use the advanced contour integration method as implemented in `VBinaryLensing` (Bozza 2010; Bozza et al. 2018). In our simulations, we do not consider higher-order effects such as the parallax, xallarap, or lens orbital motion.

We note that the magnification of the binary-lens model are calculated to generate synthetic data points in Section 3.3 and to examine the validity of planetary signatures in Section 3.4.1. The magnification of the single-lens model are calculated to investigate the detectability of microlensing events and planetary signatures by the  $\chi^2$  value of the single-lens model in Section 3.4.1.

## 3.3. Generate Synthetic Data Points

After generating the microlensing models, the next step is to model how the microlensing events are observed by PRIME. We generate the synthetic data points with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences.

### 3.3.1. Exposure List

First of all, we make an exposure list of observational parameters such as seeing and airmass for each exposure time ( $\sim 160$  s). In order to reproduce actual observations, we consider the visibility of the Galactic center, weather, and days of full moon at Sutherland. The observation toward the inner Galactic bulge is assumed to be conducted when the Sun's altitude is more than  $12^\circ$  below the horizon and when the Galactic center's altitude is more than  $20^\circ$ . Then, we remove the days of the bad weather and three days across the full moon from the set of observable times, based on observation statistics<sup>7</sup> and online data<sup>8</sup> over 2016–2018. The simulated

observable time accounts for  $\sim 55\%$ – $60\%$  of the whole night time of the bulge season.

After making the exposure list of the epochs when the Galactic center is visible, we assign the value of airmass and seeing to each exposure time. We calculate airmass from the altitude of the Galactic center,  $\text{airmass} = \sec(z)$ , where  $z$  is the zenith angle. We draw the seeing values from the log normal distribution presented in Kato et al. (2007). That work provides an observational seeing distribution under certain airmass conditions obtained observations of the Large Magellanic Cloud from Sutherland with the InfraRed Survey Facility (IRSF). We also consider the airmass dependence of the seeing,  $\text{airmass}^{0.6}$ , given by Woolf (1982).

### 3.3.2. Flux Determination

Now we have the exposure list, where observational parameters such as the exposure epoch, seeing, and airmass are assigned. Then we calculate the flux for each observable data point of a microlensing event. The PRIME photometry will be reduced by using an implementation of the MOA Difference Imaging Analysis (DIA) pipeline (Bond et al. 2001). As the microlensing survey is conducted toward the inner Galactic bulge, where the surface density of stars is expected to be high, aperture photometry and point-spread function fitting photometry are known to be less effective in these crowded fields. With the magnification of the source flux as a function of time,  $A(t, \mathbf{x})$ , which is defined the microlensing parameters,  $\mathbf{x} = (u_0, t_0, t_E, \rho, q, s, \alpha)$  described in Section 3.2.2, the total flux of the magnified source,  $F(t)$ , is given by

$$F(t) = A(t, \mathbf{x})F_s + F_b, \quad (8)$$

where  $F_s$  is the baseline flux of the source star, and  $F_b$  is the blend flux, which can in principle include the lens flux.

When we simulate data points for each microlensing event, data points are generated during  $T_{\min} < t < T_{\max}$ , where  $T_{\min} = t_0 - 5t_E$  and  $T_{\max} = t_0 + 5t_E$ . If  $T_{\min} < 0$ , we use  $T_{\min} = 0$  and if  $T_{\max} > 365.25$ , we use  $T_{\max} = 365.25$ .

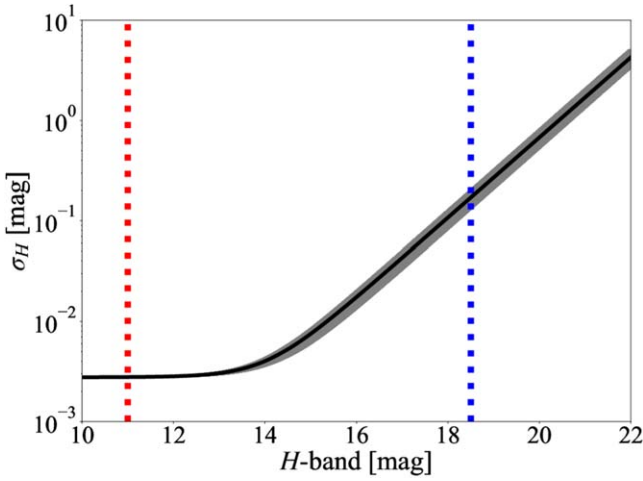
We calculate the source flux,  $F_s$ , by combining the  $H$ -band magnitude of the source star,  $H_S$ , generated from `genstars` with the throughput,  $\eta$ , in Table 1.

To estimate the blending flux  $F_b$ , we calculate the lens flux from the  $H$ -band magnitude of the lens star,  $H_L$ , and the total flux of stars brighter than the limiting magnitude within the PSF,  $F_{\text{bright}}$ . We derive  $F_{\text{bright}}$  by using the  $H$ -band images taken by the Vista Variables in the Via Lactea survey fourth data release (DR4; Minniti et al. 2010). We evaluate  $F_{\text{bright}}$  by subtracting the smooth background flux from the total flux in the region within the typical  $H$ -band seeing disk at Sutherland ( $\sim 1''.4$ ). Then, the blending flux,  $F_b$ , can be obtained by adding the lens flux and  $F_{\text{bright}}$  contaminated in the event.

We evaluate the flux uncertainty  $F_{\text{err}}$  by quasi-smooth backgrounds such as sky backgrounds and faint unresolved stars, and instrumental backgrounds such as thermal background and dark current. These sources of error and their magnitudes are summarized in Table 1. In ground-based observations, the brightness of the sky background is higher in the NIR wavelength than in the optical wavelength. In particular, intensities of the OH emission lines significantly dominate the sky background in the  $H$  band. OH lines are known to fluctuate not only within the FOV but also throughout the night. In our simulation, we simulate those variations by randomly taking the sky brightness from a

<sup>7</sup> <https://kmtnet.kasi.re.kr/kmtnet-eng/observing-statistics-of-three-sites/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://kmtnet.kasi.re.kr/ulens/>



**Figure 2.** Photometric precision of PRIME as a function of the  $H$ -band magnitude when each observation epoch will be composed of twelve 9 s co-added dithered exposures and take 160 s including overhead, assuming no blending and typical seeing. The black line shows the photometric precision assuming the sky background is  $13.6 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$ . The gray region shows the photometric precision assuming the sky background is  $(13.0\text{--}14.2 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2})$ . The red and blue dotted lines indicate the saturation limit in a single read and the faint magnitude limit for a  $5\sigma$ .

uniform range of  $13.0\text{--}14.2 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$  for each observation epoch because there is no measurement of the specific distribution of the  $H$ -band sky brightness and its dependence on the observation conditions at Sutherland. We also consider that variations in the sky background due to changes in the moonlight are almost negligible because we exclude observations across a three day interval across the time of full moon. This is a conservative assumption because the moon’s contribution to the sky background is minimal in the  $H$  band when the separation angle between the target and the moon is more than  $10^\circ$  (Pedani 2014). Although there may be systematic errors due to insufficient sky subtractions, DIA will deal with slight variations in the sky background in actual observation. Thus, we do not take them into account in our simulations assuming that the sky background is successfully subtracted. The average flux of quasi-smooth background produced by faint unresolved stars,  $F_{\text{faint}}$  is estimated by the smooth background light in the region within the resolution of the simulation,  $0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$  using the  $H$ -band images in VVV DR4. We consider both Poisson noise from the total flux,  $F(t)$ , quasi-smooth backgrounds and instrumental backgrounds, and Gaussian noise from the readout noise. It is known that the true photometric errors are underestimated owing to the crowded stellar fields, nearby bright stars, scintillation, and flat-fielding, etc. In order to include a fractional systematic uncertainty, we also add 0.3% of the magnitude in quadrature to each error.

The resultant photometric precision for each observation epoch as a function of the  $H$ -band magnitude is shown in Figure 2, assuming no blending and typical seeing. Each observation epoch will be composed of twelve 9 s co-added dithered exposures and take 160 s including overhead. As the gray area shows, photometric precision varies by up to 20% with respect to the black line, depending on the value of sky brightness. The typical photometric accuracies are  $\sigma_{K_s} = 0.01 \text{ mag}$  and  $\sigma_{J,H} = 0.03 \text{ mag}$  for the VVV survey (Navarro et al. 2020a), and  $\sigma_{Y,J,H} < 0.02 \text{ mag}$  for the UKIRT Microlensing Survey (Lawrence et al. 2007; Lucas et al. 2008). The photometric precision of the PRIME microlensing survey is

$\sigma_H < 0.03 \text{ mag}$  for bright sources with  $H < 16.5 \text{ mag}$ . Moreover, the limiting magnitude of PRIME is  $H_{\text{lim}} \sim 18.5 \text{ mag}$ , which is brighter than limiting magnitudes<sup>9</sup> of those surveys. This is reasonable considering PRIME’s smaller aperture than these two telescopes. Compared with those NIR surveys, PRIME has a comparable performance to those other NIR surveys, but will conduct the microlensing survey with much higher observation cadences, which is essential for the detection of planetary signals due to low-mass planets.

### 3.4. Detection Criteria

#### 3.4.1. Microlensing Event

In order to detect planets via microlensing, it is required to detect both the microlensing event itself and to distinguish the planetary perturbations from the single-lens event. We defined five criteria for the detection of microlensing events, which are summarized in Table 2. The first criterion is as follows,

$$\Delta\chi_{\text{ML}}^2 \equiv \chi_{\text{const}}^2 - \chi_{\text{ML}}^2 > \Delta\chi_{\text{ML,th}}^2, \quad (9)$$

where  $\chi_{\text{const}}^2$  and  $\chi_{\text{ML}}^2$  is the  $\chi^2$  of the best-fit constant flux and best-fit single-lens model, respectively. We use  $\Delta\chi_{\text{ML,th}}^2 = 500$ . The second criterion is that there must be more than 100 data points to guarantee modeling accuracy. The third criterion is that there must be data points before and after the peak time of the event, which enhances the accuracy of the parameters measured from the light curves. The fourth criterion is that the maximum value of the source brightness must be  $>5$  times larger than the flux error at the time. We note that this criterion is more conservative than the criterion that is used in the analysis by KMTNet (Zang et al. 2022, 2023). The fifth criterion is that there are at least three consecutive points with the observed flux deviating from the constant baseline by more than  $5\sigma$ . This requirement is intended to reduce the occasional artifacts on the baseline, like cosmic-ray hit. Note that some events passed these criteria thanks to their planetary perturbation. Thus, even events with weak signals from the microlensing event itself have not been missed in our simulations if its planetary signature is sufficiently strong.

#### 3.4.2. Planetary Signature

To estimate the expected yields of the planet detection by the PRIME microlensing survey, we need to set the planet detection criterion. Our criterion for the detection of planetary signature is as follows,

$$\Delta\chi_{\text{PL}}^2 \equiv \chi_{\text{ML}}^2 - \chi_{\text{PL}}^2 > \Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2, \quad (10)$$

where  $\chi_{\text{ML}}^2$  and  $\chi_{\text{PL}}^2$  is the  $\chi^2$  of the best-fit single-lens model and binary-lens model, respectively. We use  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 160$  following previous microlensing simulation studies (e.g., Bennett & Rhie 2002; Penny et al. 2013; Henderson et al. 2014).

Although Suzuki et al. (2016) conducted their statistical analysis using a  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL}}^2$  threshold of 100 from only MOA survey data, we use  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 160$  as a conservative assumption in

<sup>9</sup> The limiting magnitudes are  $H_{\text{lim}} \sim 19.5 \text{ mag}$  for the VVV survey (Zhang & Kainulainen 2019) and  $H_{\text{lim}} \sim 19.0 \text{ mag}$  for the UKIRT Microlensing Survey (Lawrence et al. 2007).

**Table 2**  
Detection Criteria

Level	Criteria	Comments
Microlensing	$\Delta\chi_{\text{ML}}^2 > \Delta\chi_{\text{ML,th}}^2 = 500$	$\Delta\chi^2$ between the constant flux and single-lens models must be $>500$
	$N_{\text{data}} > 100$	Number of data points must be $>100$
	$N_{\text{data}, (t < t_0)} \geq 1$ & $N_{\text{data}, (t > t_0)} \geq 1$	Data point(s) must exist before and after the peak time of the event
	$A(t_{\text{max}})F_s/F_{\text{err}}(t_{\text{max}}) > 5$	Maximum value of the source brightness at $t_{\text{max}}$ must be $>5$ times larger than the flux error at the time, $t_{\text{max}}$
	$N_{5\sigma} > 3$	$>3$ consecutive points with $>5\sigma$ deviation from the baseline must exist.
Planet	$\Delta\chi_{\text{PL}}^2 > \Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 160$	$\Delta\chi^2$ between the single-lens and binary-lens models must be $>160$

order to consider uncertainties in our simulation. We investigate the impact of changing  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2$  on our simulation results. When we use  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 100$ , the detection efficiency of planetary signatures averaged over the planetary masses becomes  $\sim 12\%$  higher than that of  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 160$ . As the result, the change in the threshold slightly increases the planet detections described in Section 5.2. We also estimate the detection efficiency of planetary signatures averaged over the planetary masses for  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 300$  and find that the detection efficiency is  $\sim 16\%$  lower than that of  $\Delta\chi_{\text{PL,th}}^2 = 160$ . Despite the lower detection rate, the number of Earth-mass planets to be detected is still more than one. Although the change in the threshold affects the planet yields slightly, there is no significant change in the trend in the number of planet detections depending on observation strategies and our results in Section 5.2.

### 3.5. Simulated Light Curves

Figure 3 shows examples of simulated microlensing events in which the planetary signature can be detectable by PRIME. Although the duration of the significant deviation due to the low-mass planet is only a few hours (top panels in Figure 3), the planetary signature is detectable if there are sufficient observation data. The detection efficiency for high-mass planets is high because the duration of the planetary perturbation is typically a few days (bottom panels in Figure 3).

On the contrary, Figure 4 shows examples of planetary events whose planetary signatures are missed in our simulation. The artificial event in the top panel is located in a field observed with a 32 minute cadence. The duration of the signature due to a planet with mass of  $1 M_{\oplus}$  is too short to be detected. The event in the bottom panel of Figure 4 has a longer planetary signature due to a  $10,000 M_{\oplus}$  planet. However, the planetary signature is missed because there are no data points during the period of perturbation.

## 4. Statistics of Observable Microlensing Events

By repeating the steps described in the previous section as illustrated in Figure 1, we conduct a Monte Carlo simulation of microlensing events and probe their detectability for each specified Galactic longitude and latitude, so that we obtain the expected number of microlensing events and planets.

In the first four subsections, we calculate the number of detections of microlensing events. The yields of microlensing events for each Galactic coordinate per square degree during the survey duration  $T_{\text{obs}}$ ,  $N_{\text{ML}}(l, b)$ , are derived by multiplying the number of source stars,  $N_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , the event rate,

$\Gamma_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , and the detection efficiency of microlensing events,  $\epsilon_{\text{ML}}(l, b)$ ,

$$N_{\text{ML}}(l, b) = \Gamma_{\text{source}} N_{\text{source}} T_{\text{obs}} \epsilon_{\text{ML}}. \quad (11)$$

We show the distribution of  $N_{\text{source}}$  and  $\Gamma_{\text{source}}$  for each field at first in Figures 5 and 7. Then we show the results of the estimation of the detection efficiency and the number of detections of microlensing events as a function of the field coordinate and observation cadence in Figures 9 and 13.

In the last two subsections, we also calculate the number of detections of planets per square degree per year,  $N_{\text{PL}}(l, b)$  in Figure 15, as follows,

$$N_{\text{PL}}(l, b) = \int_{a=0.3\text{au}}^{a=30\text{au}} \int_{M_p=0.1M_{\oplus}}^{M_p=10^5M_{\oplus}} N_{\text{ML}} \epsilon_{\text{PL}} f_p d \log(a) d \log(M_p), \quad (12)$$

where  $\epsilon_{\text{PL}}(l, b, a, M_p)$  is the detection efficiency of planets and  $f_p[\log(a), \log(M_p)]$  is the cool-planet mass function.

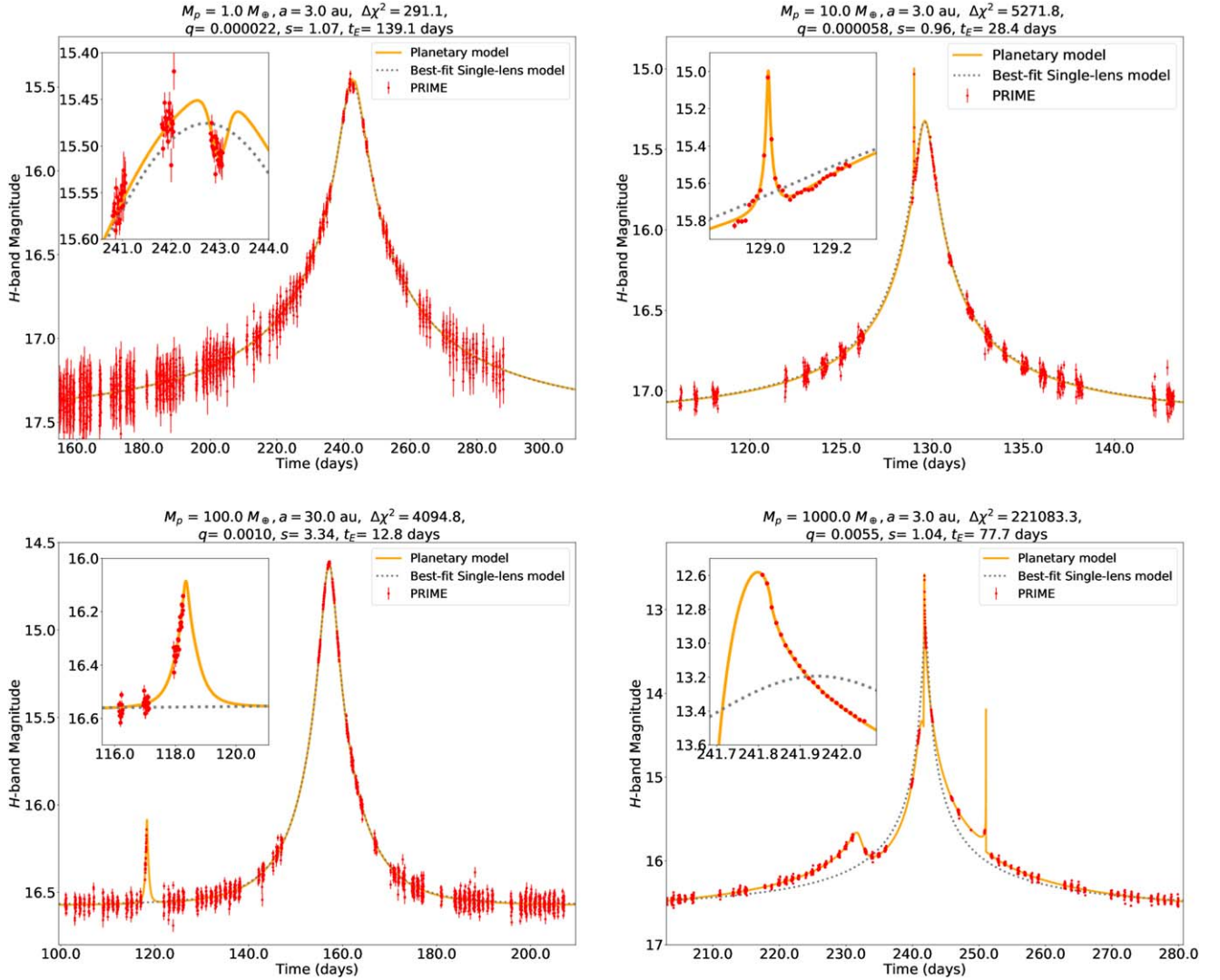
We conduct our simulation for 875 fields over  $-4.25 < l < 4.75$  and  $-3.25 < b < 3.0$  with a resolution of  $0.25 \times 0.25$ . The Surot et al. (2020) extinction map used in *genstars* has up to a  $0.0025 \times 0.0025$  resolution. To reduce the computational time without losing the extinction variation, the number of the sources and lenses in catalogs are reduced by a scaling factor  $f_{\text{sim}}$  in *genstars*. The source and lens catalogs for each grid are created by giving the grid size of  $0.25 \times 0.25$ , where the extinction variation with the resolution of  $0.0025 \times 0.0025$  are taken into account. Then we use the scaling factor  $f_{\text{sim}} = 0.0032$  that reduces uniformly to 0.0032 times the number of stars in the given grid. Along each grid and each observation cadence, we randomly generate one hundred thousand microlensing events by using the source and lens catalogs.

### 4.1. Source Star Counts

Figure 5 shows the KGM stellar density map for stars with  $10.5 < H_S < 22$ ;  $N_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , calculated from the source catalogs. The star counts per square degree,  $N_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , along the line of sight is calculated as,

$$N_{\text{source}}(l, b) = \frac{N_{\text{sim}}}{f_{\text{sim}} \delta\Omega_S}, \quad (13)$$

where  $N_{\text{sim}}$  is the number of source stars generated by *genstars*,  $\delta\Omega_S = 0.25 \times 0.25$  is the solid angle within which each source is drawn from *genstars*, and  $f_{\text{sim}} = 0.0032$  is the scaling factor that we specified to limit the number of output stars by *genstars*.



**Figure 3.** Examples of simulated microlensing events whose planetary perturbation are detectable with the PRIME microlensing survey. The insets show the zoom-in of planetary signatures. The red dots show the synthetic data points with a 16 minute cadence. The planetary model for each event is shown in the orange line. The gray dotted lines show the best-fit single-lens models.

Star counts depend on the combination of stellar number density and extinction. Most of stars in the region  $|b| < 0.5^\circ$  and  $|l| < 1.5^\circ$  belong to the NSD component, yielding a relatively high stellar density. However, owing to high extinction, the number of sources is small in the Galactic center and the Galactic plane. Therefore, according to Figure 5, the mean number of stars in the region  $-0.75 < b < 0.5$  is  $\sim 5.3 \times 10^7$  stars per square degree, which is  $\sim 23\%$  and  $\sim 12\%$  lower than that in the region  $-2.0 < b < -0.75$  and  $-3.25 < b < -2.0$ , respectively.

We also compare the bulge star counts by KGM with that by observation for validation. Figure 6 shows a comparison between luminosity functions in the Stanek window ( $l, b = [0^\circ.25, -2^\circ.15]$ ) predicted by the KGM and as observed by the Hubble Space Telescope (HST; Terry et al. 2020). Terry et al. (2020) distinguished between foreground stars and bulge stars by accurate measurement of the longitudinal proper motion. Although we should use same cut of the proper motion as Terry et al. (2020), here we plot the counts for stars labeled bulge stars in the output catalog by `genstars`.

Figure 6 shows that stars with  $H \gtrsim 19.5$  mag are underestimated in KGM. However, this discrepancy is not expected to

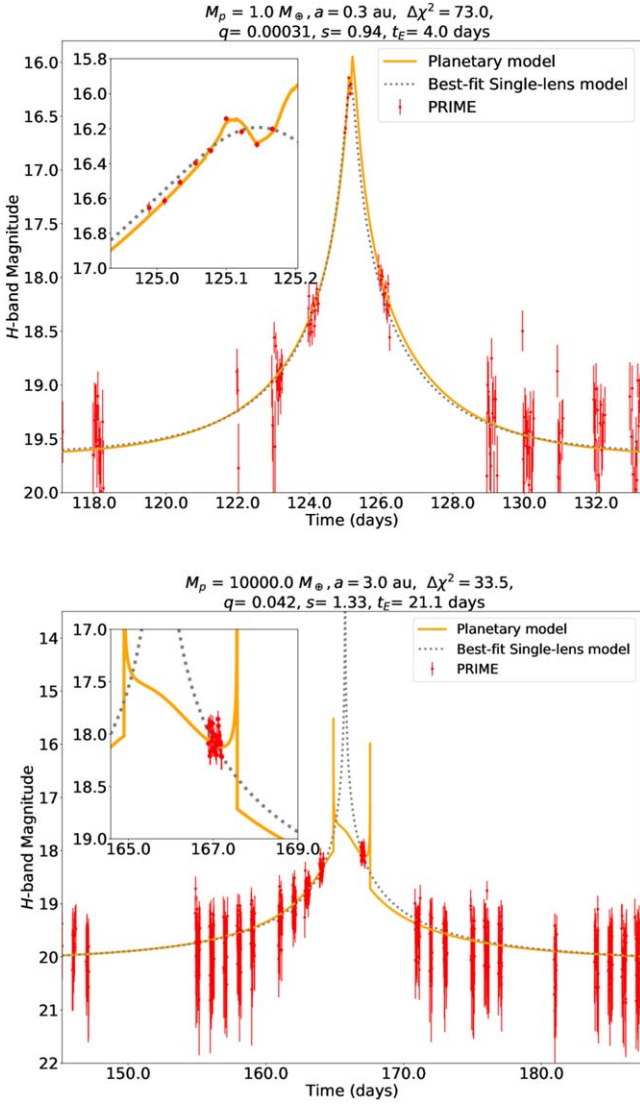
affect simulation results for two reasons. First, at the Galactic center and in the Galactic plane ( $|l| < 2^\circ, |b| < 1^\circ$ ), owing to the high extinction  $A_H^{10} \sim 1.5\text{--}3.5$  compared to the extinction in the Stanek window  $A_{H,\text{stanek}} \sim 0.68$ , the underestimated faint stars are expected to be almost undetectable by PRIME even if the magnification is high. Second, at fields away from the Galactic center (e.g.,  $|l| < 2^\circ, -2^\circ < b < -1^\circ$ ), although the extinction ( $A_H \sim 0.4\text{--}1.0$ ) is almost the same as that at the Stanek window, we expect little effect on the total result because of the small percentage of detectable events with  $H_S \gtrsim 19.5$  owing to the low detection efficiency for faint source stars.

#### 4.2. Event Rate

The microlensing event rate,  $\Gamma_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , is the probability that a source star is magnified by a foreground lens star per unit time. The event rate per source is calculated via Monte Carlo integration of the event rate using source and lens catalogs as

<sup>10</sup> We estimate  $A_H$  using the Surot et al. (2020)'s  $E(J-K_s)$  map and the Nishiyama et al. (2009)'s extinction law.





**Figure 4.** Same as Figure 3, but for the planetary microlensing events that do not pass the detection criteria of the planetary signatures. The observation cadence is 32 minutes in these examples.

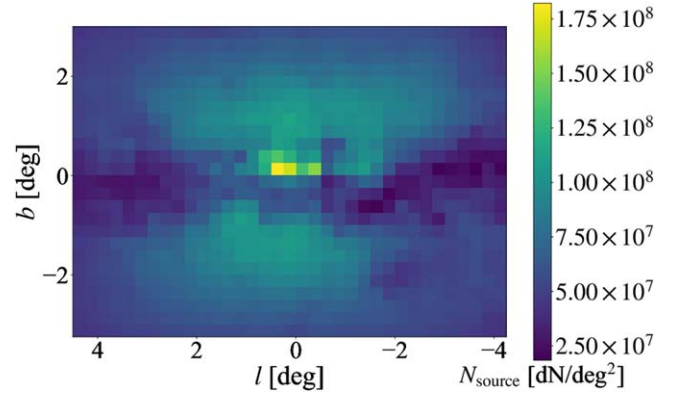
follows (Penny et al. 2013; Awiphan et al. 2016),

$$\Gamma_{\text{source}}(l, b) = \frac{\Omega_{\text{los}}}{f_{\text{sim}} \delta\Omega_S N_{\text{sim}}} \sum_{\text{sources}} \left( \frac{1}{f_{\text{sim}} \delta\Omega_L} \sum_{D_L < D_S}^{\text{Lenses}} 2\theta_E \mu_{\text{rel}} \right), \quad (14)$$

where  $\Omega_{\text{los}}$  is the solid angle of each grid, and  $\delta\Omega_S$  and  $\delta\Omega_L$  are the solid angle of the source and lens catalogs, respectively. In our simulation, we use  $\Omega_{\text{los}} = \delta\Omega_S = \delta\Omega_L = 0.25^\circ \times 0.25^\circ$ .

Figure 7 shows the KGM map of the event rate per source,  $\Gamma_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , derived using our source and lens catalogs. According to Figure 7, at the NSD region ( $|b| < 0.5^\circ$ ,  $|l| < 1.5^\circ$ ) the event rate is the highest among all fields. This is because  $\Gamma_{\text{source}}(l, b)$  is mainly determined by the stellar density. The mean event rate per source in the region  $-0.75 < b < 0.5$  is  $\sim 2.5 \times 10^{-5}$ , which is  $\sim 15\%$  and  $\sim 73\%$  higher than those in the regions  $-2.0 < b < -0.75$  and  $-3.25 < b < -2.0$ , respectively.

Figure 8 compares the model event rate values with the observational values by Mróz et al. (2019). Mróz et al. (2019)



**Figure 5.** Map of star counts with  $10.5 < H_s < 22$  mag,  $N_{\text{source}}(l, b)$ , in our source catalogs generated by *genstars*. Most of stars in the region  $|b| < 0.5^\circ$  and  $|l| < 1.5^\circ$  belong to the NSD component, yielding high stellar density. However, owing to the high extinction, the number of sources is small in the Galactic center and the Galactic plane.

shows the optical depth and event rate maps by using the largest sample of 8000 events from the optical survey of OGLE-IV during 2010–2017. Owing to the high extinction around the Galactic center, there is no measurement of the event rate at  $|b| < 1^\circ$  by OGLE. Outside of the Galactic plane, the two values of the event rate are almost coincident; thus we conclude that there is no need of correction for the model event rate values as was done in Penny et al. (2019).

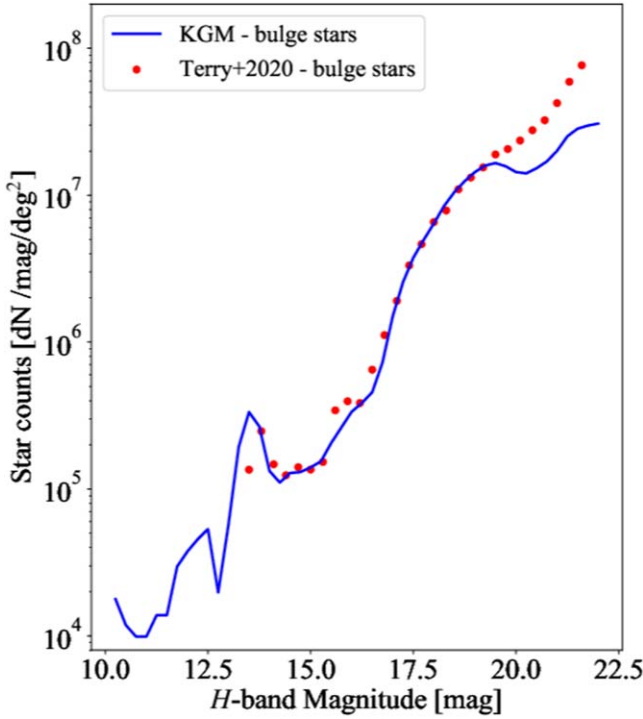
### 4.3. Detection Efficiency for Microlensing Events

We estimate the detection efficiencies for microlensing events,  $\epsilon_{\text{ML}}(l, b)$ , along each line of sight of the inner Galactic bulge. Using the detection criteria described in Section 3.4.1, the detection efficiency of microlensing events,  $\epsilon_{\text{ML}}(l, b)$ , is defined as the ratio of the number of detected events to the number of all simulated events and calculated as

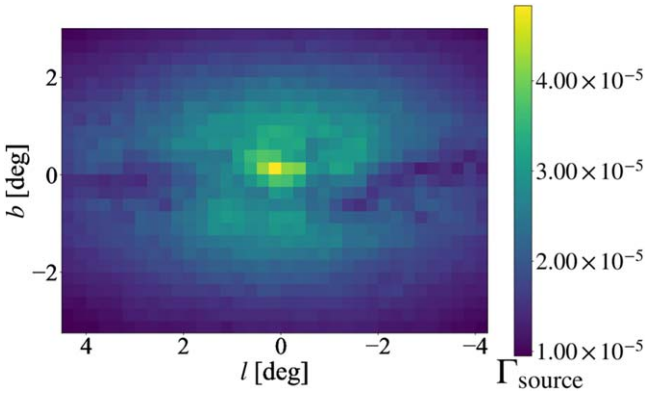
$$\epsilon_{\text{ML}}(l, b) = \frac{\sum_{i, \text{microlensing}} 2\mu_{\text{rel}, i} \theta_{E, i}}{\sum_{i, \text{all}} 2\mu_{\text{rel}, i} \theta_{E, i}}, \quad (15)$$

where each event  $i$  is weighted by its microlensing event rate ( $\propto 2\mu_{\text{rel}, i} \theta_{E, i}$ ).

Figure 9 shows the mean detection efficiencies of microlensing events along each line of sight with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences. At the same observation cadence, the detection efficiency is lower at the Galactic center than away from the Galactic center. The mean number of detection efficiencies with a 16 minute cadence in the region  $-0.75 < b < 0.5$  is  $\sim 0.07$ , which is  $\sim 29\%$  and  $\sim 43\%$  lower than those in the regions  $-2.0 < b < -0.75$  and  $-3.25 < b < -2.0$ , respectively. There are two reasons why the mean detection efficiency of microlensing events is lower at the Galactic center. The first reason is the large fraction of short  $t_E$  events at the Galactic center. The top panels in Figure 10 show  $t_E$  distributions for all simulated events (red histogram) and detected events (blue histogram) at two Galactic coordinates. The median value of  $t_E$  at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ, 125)$ , is  $\sim 5.1$  days, which is smaller than  $\sim 9.7$  days at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ, 125, -2^\circ, 625)$ , because the majority of events toward the former direction comprise a source and a lens located in the bulge, yielding the small lens-source relative parallax,  $\pi_{\text{rel}}$ , and small angular Einstein ring radius  $\theta_E$  (Equations (1) and (4)). Microlensing events with short  $t_E$  are

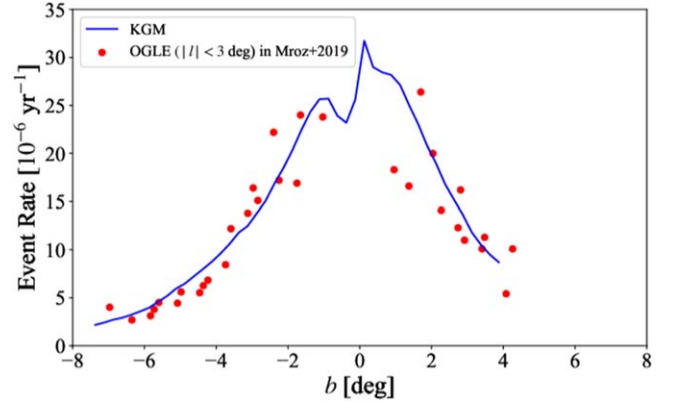


**Figure 6.** Comparison of star counts in the Stanek window ( $l, b = [0^{\circ}25, -2^{\circ}15]$ ) in KGM (blue line) for the bulge population as a function of the  $H$ -band magnitude to those by HST observation in Terry et al. (2020; red points). Stars with  $H > 19.5$  mag are underestimated in the Galactic model.



**Figure 7.** Map of the event rate per source,  $\Gamma_{\text{source}}$ , calculated using source and lens catalogs, generated by *genstars*. The event rates per source are mainly determined by the stellar density, so at the NSD region ( $|b| < 0.5$ ,  $|l| < 1.5$ ) the event rate is the highest among other fields.

detected less efficiently by the survey as indicated by the green lines in Figure 10. Therefore the mean detection efficiency,  $\epsilon_{\text{ML}}$ , at  $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}125, -0^{\circ}125)$ , is lower than that at  $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}125, -2^{\circ}625)$ . The second reason is the large fraction of faint stars owing to the high extinction at the Galactic center. The top panels in Figure 11 show the luminosity functions for both simulated events (red histogram) and detected events (blue histogram) in the same Galactic coordinates as Figure 10. The estimated extinction values are  $A_H \sim 4.4$  and  $A_H \sim 0.7$  for at  $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}125, -0^{\circ}125)$  and at  $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}125, -2^{\circ}625)$ , respectively. The detection efficiency as a function of  $H_S$  is lower for faint stars than for bright stars as indicated by the green lines in Figure 11. The fraction of faint sources with  $H_S > 17.5$  in all events, which are lower  $\epsilon_{\text{ML}}$ ,



**Figure 8.** Comparison of the event rate per source calculated from the source and lens catalogs from *genstars* (blue line) with that measured in Mróz et al. (2019; red points). Due to the high extinction around the Galactic plane, there is no measurement of the event rate at  $|b| < 1^{\circ}$  by OGLE. Outside of the Galactic plane, the two values of the event rate are almost coincident.

is  $\sim 30\%$  and  $\sim 6\%$ , at  $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}125, -0^{\circ}125)$  and  $(l, b) = (0^{\circ}125, -2^{\circ}625)$ , respectively. Therefore, owing to high extinction, the large fraction of faint stars, whose detection efficiency is low, also results in low mean detection efficiency at the Galactic center.

Figure 9 also shows that, at the same field, the lower the cadence, the lower the detection efficiency. Compared to the mean detection efficiency in the same region with a 16 minute cadence, the detection efficiencies are  $\sim 9\%$ ,  $17\%$ , and  $33\%$  lower with 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences, respectively.

In Figure 12, we plot the detection efficiency of microlensing events depending on the Einstein crossing time,  $t_E$ . As expected, the detection efficiency becomes lower near the Galactic center and/or with lower cadence. It is difficult to detect microlensing events with  $t_E \lesssim 0.3, 0.6, 1,$  and  $3$  days when the observation cadence is 16, 32, 48, and 96 min, respectively.

#### 4.4. The Number of Detected Microlensing Events

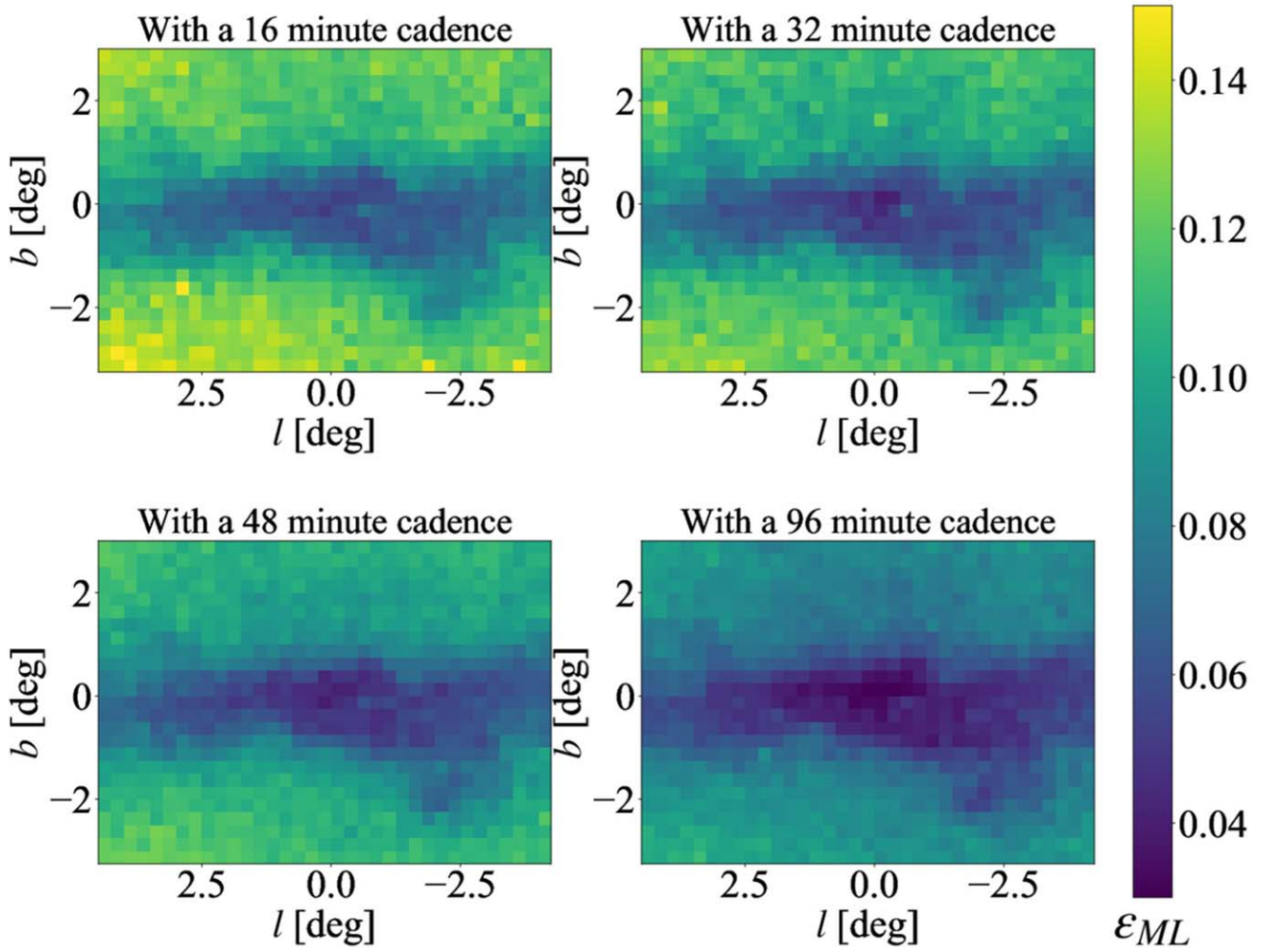
Figure 13 shows the yields of microlensing events for each Galactic coordinate per square degree for one year,  $N_{\text{ML}}(l, b)$ , calculated by Equation (11). According to Figure 13, the mean number of microlensing yields with a 16 minute cadence in the region  $-0.75 < b < 0.5$  is  $\sim 93$  events per square degree, which is  $\sim 41\%$  and  $\sim 18\%$  lower than those in the regions  $-2.0 < b < -0.75$  and  $-3.25 < b < -2.0$ , respectively. Compared to the microlensing yields in the same region with a 16 minute cadence, the yields are  $\sim 10\%$ ,  $18\%$ , and  $35\%$  lower with 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences, respectively.

#### 4.5. Detection Efficiency for Planetary Signatures

We also estimate the detection efficiencies of the planetary signatures  $\epsilon_{\text{PL}}(l, b, a, M_p)$  along each line of sight. Following the detection criteria of planetary signatures described in Section 3.4.2, the detection efficiency of a planetary signature is defined as the ratio of the number of detected planetary events to the number of detected events as microlensing

$$\epsilon_{\text{PL}}(l, b, a, M_p) = \frac{\sum_{i, \text{planet}} 2\mu_{\text{rel}, i} \theta_{\text{E}, i}}{\sum_{i, \text{microlensing}} 2\mu_{\text{rel}, i} \theta_{\text{E}, i}}. \quad (16)$$

Figure 14 shows the detection efficiency of planetary signatures,  $\epsilon_{\text{PL}}(M_p)$ , as a function of the planet mass, which



**Figure 9.** Mean detection efficiency of microlensing events along each line of sight,  $\epsilon_{ML}(l, b)$ . Each plot shows the detection efficiency for different cadences. With the same observation cadence, the detection efficiency is lower at the Galactic center than away from the Galactic center. See the text for an explanation of these trends. At the same field, the lower the observation cadence, the lower the detection efficiency.

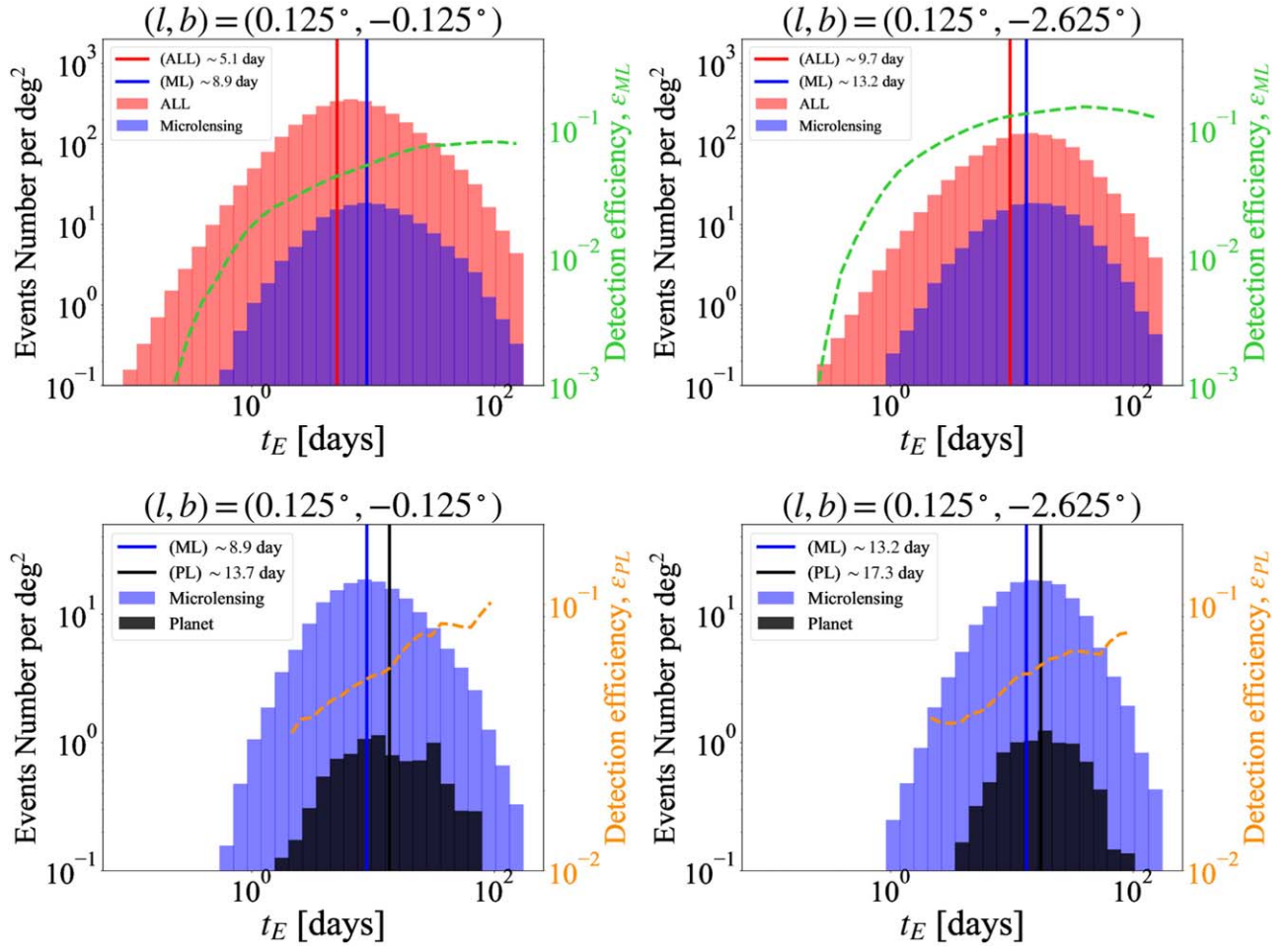
are obtained by averaging over all 875 fields and are summed across the semimajor axis,  $0.3 < a < 30$  au. With a 16 minute cadence, the detection efficiencies of the Jupiter-mass, Neptune-mass, and Earth-mass planets are  $\sim 0.05$ ,  $\sim 0.007$ , and  $\sim 0.0006$ , respectively. Compared to the detection efficiency with a 16 minute cadence, the detection efficiency is  $\sim 15\%$ – $20\%$ ,  $\sim 30\%$ – $50\%$ , and  $\sim 50\%$ – $70\%$  lower with 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences, respectively. In addition, decrease in the detection efficiency with observation cadence is greater for low-mass planets.

We note that the detection efficiency of the planetary signature can be regarded as almost the same over all fields simulated, owing to the combination of  $t_E$  distributions and luminosity functions. First, at the Galactic center, the fraction of short  $t_E$  events is larger than that away from the Galactic center. The bottom panels in Figure 10 show  $t_E$  distributions for both the detected microlensing events (blue histogram) and detected planetary events (black histogram) at two Galactic coordinates. The median values of  $t_E$  for microlensing events at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -0^\circ.125)$  is  $\sim 8.9$  days, which is smaller than  $\sim 13.2$  days at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -2^\circ.625)$ . Planetary events with short  $t_E$  are detected less efficiently by the survey; see the lines in Figure 10 describing  $\epsilon_{PL}$ , as well as the detection efficiency of microlensing events,  $\epsilon_{ML}$ .

Second, the fraction of bright stars at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -0^\circ.125)$  is larger than that at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -2^\circ.625)$ . The bottom panels in Figure 11 show the luminosity functions for both the detected microlensing events (blue histogram) and detected planetary events (black histogram). The detection efficiency of planetary signatures,  $\epsilon_{PL}$ , as a function of  $H_S$  changes little for faint stars with  $H_S > 16$ , but are higher for bright stars with  $H_S < 16$  as indicated by the lines in Figure 11. The fraction of bright sources with  $H_S < 16$  in microlensing events, which have higher  $\epsilon_{PL}$ , is  $\sim 20\%$  and  $\sim 7\%$  at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -0^\circ.125)$  and  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -2^\circ.625)$ , respectively. Therefore, the dependence of  $\epsilon_{PL}$  on the Galactic coordinates is minimized by the combination of the large fraction of short  $t_E$  events, which work to decrease the mean detection efficiency, and the large fraction of bright stars, which work to increase the mean detection efficiency, in microlensing events at the Galactic center.

#### 4.6. The Number of Detected Planets

We calculate the number of the detectable planets per square degree per year,  $N_{PL}(l, b)$ , by Equation (12). We use the Cassan et al. (2012) mass function of planets beyond the snow line as modified by Penny et al. (2019), which shows the planet



**Figure 10.** Einstein ring crossing time,  $t_E$ , distribution at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -0^\circ.125)$  (left panels) and at  $(l, b) = (0^\circ.125, -2^\circ.625)$  (right panels). The top panels show the distribution of all simulated events (red) and detected microlensing events (blue) with a 16 minute cadence by the assumed PRIME survey. The bottom panels show the distribution of detected microlensing events (blue) and detected planetary events (black). The vertical lines show the median value of each histogram. The dashed green and orange lines show the detection efficiency of microlensing events and planetary events depending on  $t_E$ , respectively.

frequency per decade of mass and semimajor axis by using planets detected via microlensing. Because Cassan et al. (2012) did not detect any planets with a mass less than  $5 M_\oplus$ , we decided to use a constant value,  $\sim 2$  planets per  $\text{dex}^2$ , below  $5 M_\oplus$  following Henderson et al. (2014) and Penny et al. (2013, 2019). The mass function finally used can be stated as,

$$f_p[\log(a), \log(M_p)] \equiv \frac{d^2 N}{d \log(a) d \log(M_p)} = \begin{cases} 0.24 \text{ dex}^{-2} \left(\frac{M_p}{95 M_\oplus}\right)^{-0.73} & \text{if } M_p \geq 5 M_\oplus, \\ 2 \text{ dex}^{-2} & \text{if } M_p < 5 M_\oplus. \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

Figure 15 shows the planet detection maps computed using Equation (12) along each line of sight. According to Figure 15, the mean number of planets detected with a 16 minute cadence in the region  $-0.75 < b < 0.5$  is  $\sim 1.6$  events per square degree, which is  $\sim 41\%$  and  $\sim 18\%$  lower than those in the regions  $-2.0 < b < -0.75$  and  $-3.25 < b < -2.0$ , respectively. Compared to the planet detections in the same region with a 16 minute cadence, the yields are  $\sim 31\%$ ,  $46\%$ , and  $70\%$  lower with 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences, respectively.

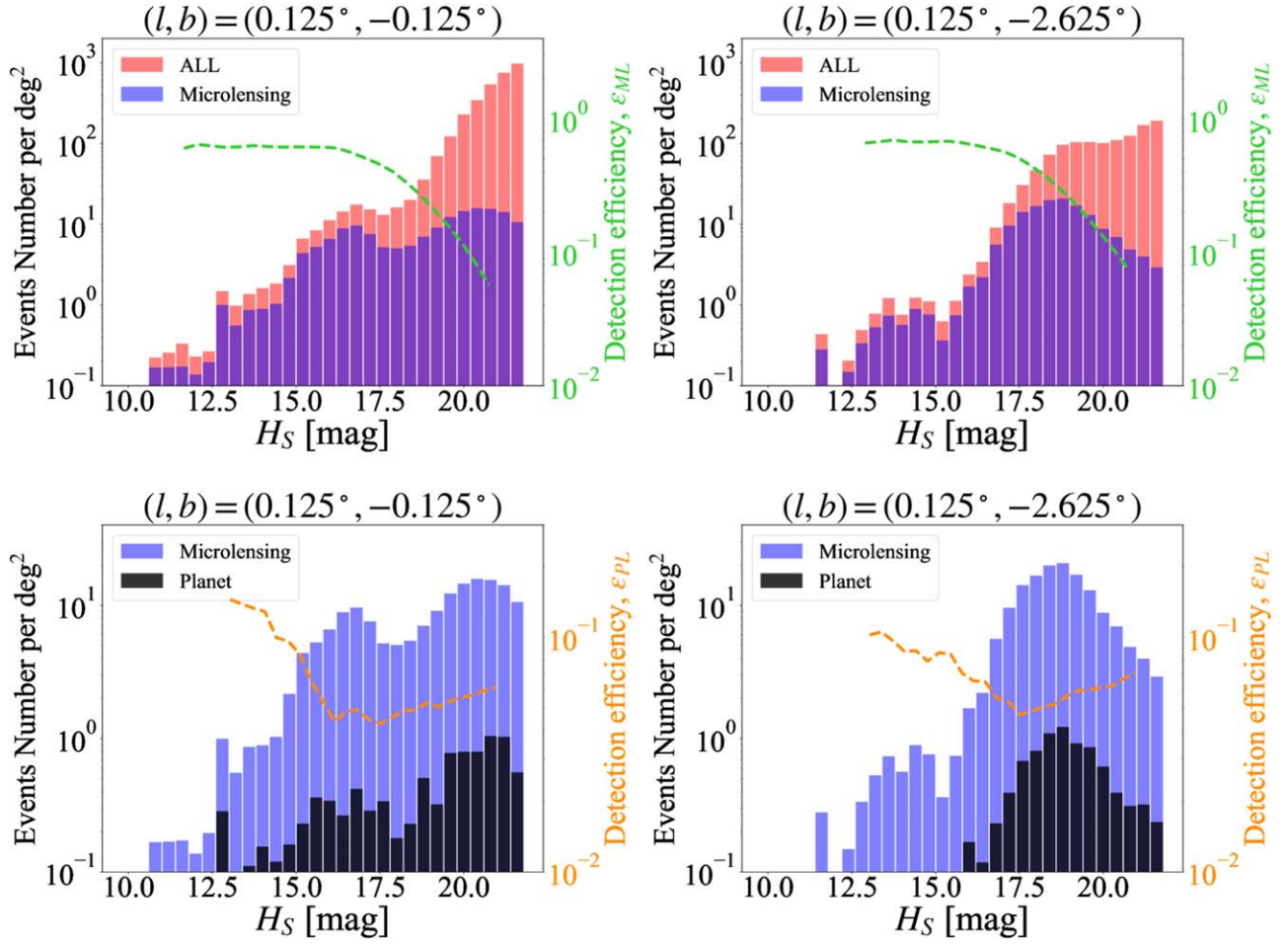
The planet detection map with a 16 minute cadence (upper left panel in Figure 15) is used to determine the order of the

observation fields in the next section. The field numbers are ranked by the high expectation number of planet detections summed across each PRIME FOV.

We investigate the impact of assuming other planet frequencies via microlensing as given in Suzuki et al. (2016) and Shvartzvald et al. (2016). Figure 21 in Penny et al. (2019) shows a comparison of modified planet frequency based on Cassan et al. (2012) to the latest measurements of the mass-ratio function by microlensing surveys (Shvartzvald et al. 2016; Suzuki et al. 2016). They assumed a  $0.5 M_\odot$  host star to convert the mass ratio to planet mass. The frequencies of low-mass planets ( $M_p \lesssim 30 M_\oplus$ ) obtained in Suzuki et al. (2016) are lower than the modified planet frequency, which suggests lower yields of low-mass planets. However, the frequency of the Earth-mass planets is still not well understood owing to the lack of low-mass planets in the statistical analyses. The frequencies of high-mass planets ( $3000 < M_p/M_\oplus < 10,000$ ) obtained in Shvartzvald et al. (2016) are higher than the modified planet frequencies, which suggests that the modified planet distributions underestimate the planet yields for high-mass planets.

## 5. Observation Strategies and Yields

Now that we have the expected number of microlensing events and planets as a function of the Galactic coordinate and



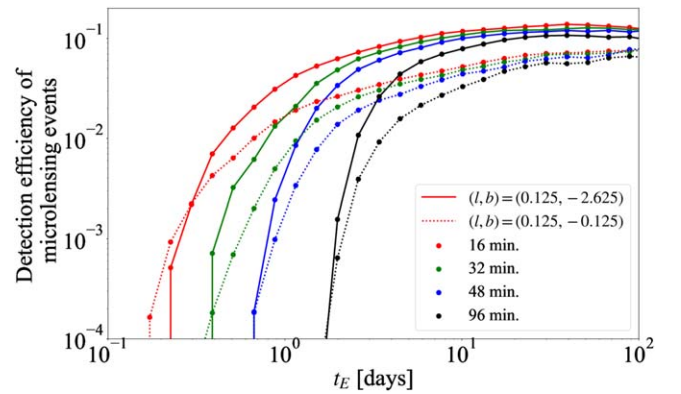
**Figure 11.** Source magnitude,  $H_S$ , distribution at  $(l, b) = (0.125, -0.125)$  (left panels) and at  $(l, b) = (0.125, -2.625)$  (right panels). The top panels show the distribution of all simulated events (red) and detected microlensing events (blue) with a 16 minute cadence. The bottom panels show the distribution of detected microlensing events (blue) and detected planetary events (black). The dashed green and orange lines show the detection efficiency of microlensing events and planetary events depending on  $H_S$ , respectively.

observation cadence, we are finally ready for discussing the PRIME survey strategy. In this section, we define four observation strategies and calculate both microlensing yields and planet yields depending on each observation strategy.

### 5.1. Observation Fields and Strategies

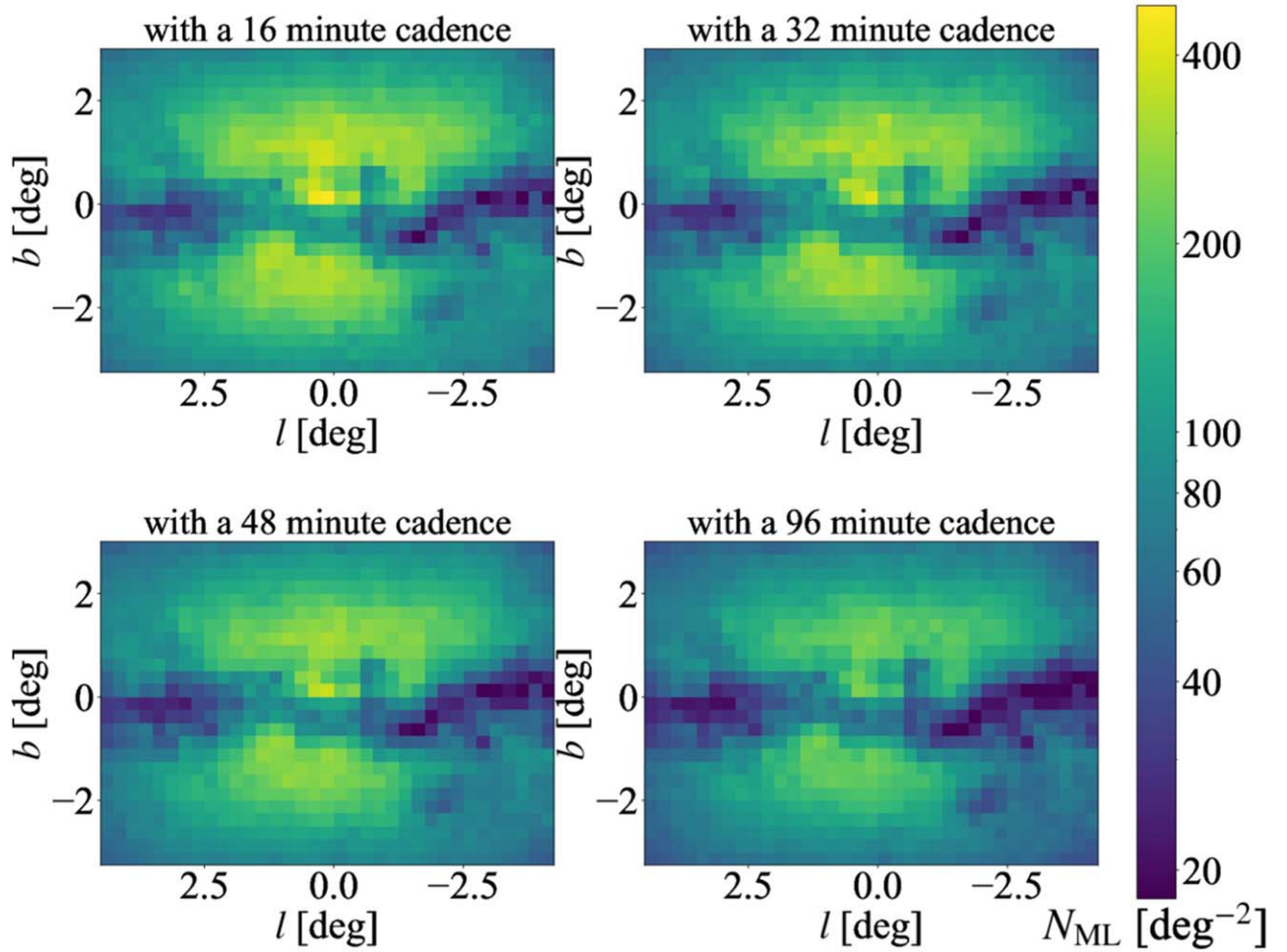
We divide our simulation fields ( $|b| \lesssim 2^\circ$ ,  $|l| \lesssim 4^\circ$ ) into 35 observation fields according to the size of the PRIME FOV and calculate the total number of planets expected to be detected in each observation field. Then the observation field numbers are ranked in order of the total number of detections (upper left panel in Figure 15). Because the number of observation fields we can observe is determined by the observation cadence, we define four strategies as follows and compare the planet yields among these four strategies:

- S1 6 fields (F1–F6) with a 16 minute cadence.
- S2 12 fields (F1–F12) with a 32 minute cadence.
- S3 18 fields (F1–F18) with a 48 minute cadence.
- S4 18 fields (F1–F18) with a hybrid cadence (16 minute cadence for F1–F3, 48 minute cadence for F4–6, 96 minute cadence for the other 12 fields),

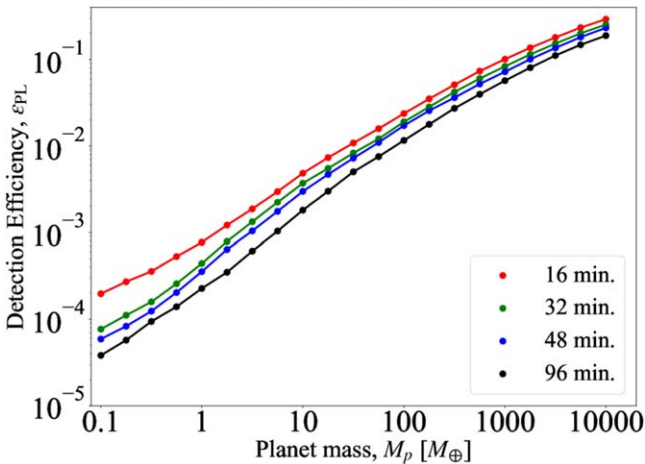


**Figure 12.** Detection efficiency of microlensing events depending on  $t_E$ . The solid and dotted lines show the detection efficiency away from the Galactic center,  $(l, b) = (0.125, -2.625)$ , and at the Galactic center,  $(l, b) = (0.125, -0.125)$ , respectively. The detection efficiency with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences are shown in red, green, blue, and black, respectively.

where we assumed that it takes 160 s in total to observe a field (exposure + overheads) to calculate the cadence. Figure 16 shows all 18 fields (F1–F18) considered here as well as which fields are observed by each strategy. As shown in the figure, the



**Figure 13.** Microlensing detection maps along each line of sight. Each plot shows the number of detections with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences. This figure is obtained by multiplying the star counts,  $N_{\text{source}}$  (Figure 5), event rate,  $\Gamma_{\text{source}}$  (Figure 7), and mean detection efficiency of microlensing events,  $\epsilon_{\text{ML}}$  (Figure 9).

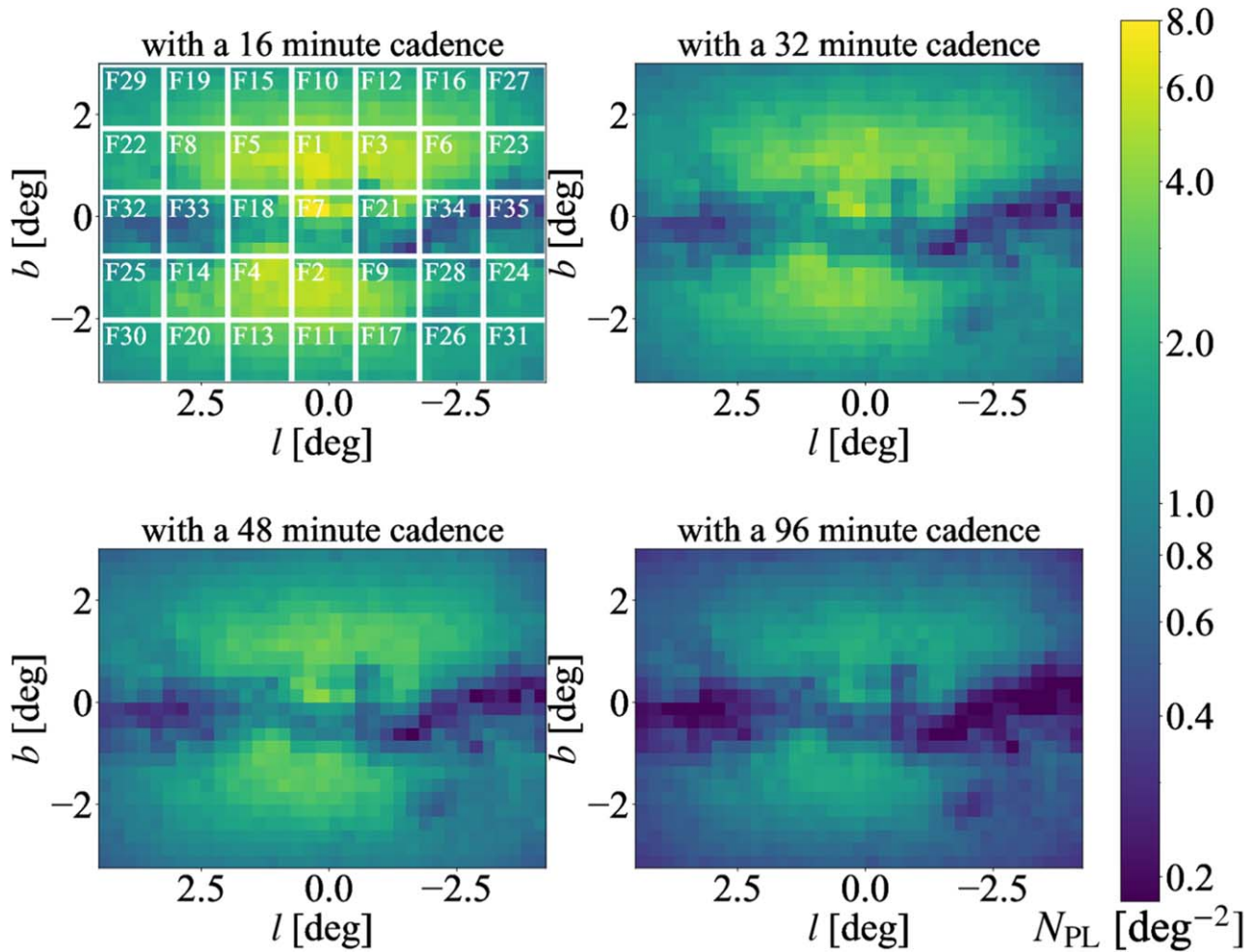


**Figure 14.** Detection efficiency of planetary signatures,  $\epsilon_{\text{PL}}(M_p)$ , depending on the planet mass, which are obtained by taking the average of all 875 fields and are summed across semimajor axis,  $0.3 < a < 30$  au. The red, green, blue, and black color plots shows detection efficiency with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences, respectively.

S1, S2, and S3 strategies each have different survey regions and monitor all the fields in each region equally. The S4 strategy has the same survey region as S3, but each field is monitored with different cadence. We call S4 a hybrid strategy.

We consider these different strategies because there is a trade-off between the number of fields and frequency of observations. On the one hand, an increase in the number of fields allows us to monitor more sources, which will yield a lot of microlensing events. On the other hand, a higher cadence observation has a higher sensitivity to low-mass planets, because the timescales of the planetary signature scales with  $\sqrt{q} t_E$ . The typical timescales of planetary signatures for Jupiter-mass planets and Earth-mass planets are a few days and a few hours, respectively. Thus high-cadence observations are required in order to detect Earth-mass planets, and it is unclear which strategy yields planet discoveries most efficiently including small mass planets without doing a simulation. However the following concerns caused by observations with a lower cadence are not considered in this paper. Lower-cadence observations make it more difficult to measure the source radius crossing time,  $\theta_*(\equiv \rho t_E)$ , and therefore  $\theta_E$ . So it is more challenging to measure host and planet masses either by a combination of  $\theta_E$  and  $\pi_E$  measurements (as in Muraki et al. 2011) or with the color-dependent centroid shift (Bennett et al. 2006; Dong et al. 2009).

Note that this paper is primarily concerned with the search for an optimal observation strategy with the goal of increasing planet yields to measure the planet frequency in the inner Galactic bulge. However we will discuss other observation strategies in Section 6.1, including a uniform survey that



**Figure 15.** Planet detection maps along each line of sight. Each plot shows the number of detections with 16, 32, 48, and 96 minute cadences. This figure is obtained by multiplying the number of microlensing detections,  $N_{ML}(l, b)$  (Figure 13), and the mean detection efficiency of planets,  $\epsilon_{PL}$ , which is obtained by averaging over all fields, over masses of  $0.1 < M_p < 10^5 M_{\oplus}$ , and semimajor axis values of  $0.3 < a < 30$  au and corrected by a modified cool-planet frequency based on Penny et al. (2019). The planet detection map with a 16 minute cadence (upper left panel) is used to determine the order of the observation fields in Section 5.1. Each white square shows a  $1.45 \text{ deg}^2$  FOV field. The field numbers are ranked by the expected number of planet detections summed across each square.

monitors a large contiguous area around the inner Galactic bulge, in order to measure the NIR event rate map to help optimize the choice of Roman microlensing survey fields.

### 5.2. Yields

Table 3 shows our estimation of the number of microlensing events and the number of planets detected by the PRIME microlensing survey assuming the Cassan et al. (2012) mass function as modified by Penny et al. (2019; Equation (17)) over a certain mass range. The total number of microlensing events detected are  $\sim 2300$ , 3400, 4100, and 3900 for the S1, S2, S3, and S4 strategies, respectively. The impact of increasing the number of sources by observing more fields is more significant than the impact of decreasing the detection efficiencies by observing with lower cadence.

In Figure 17, we plot the planet detection rate per dex for four observation strategies, calculated by the sum of the semimajor axis over  $0.3 < a < 30$  au and the sum of the survey area ( $8.7\text{--}26.2 \text{ deg}^2$ ) shown in Table 3. In order to detect low-mass planets, high-cadence observations are required (S1), while in order to detect high-mass planets, observing a larger number of fields is more important than observing with a

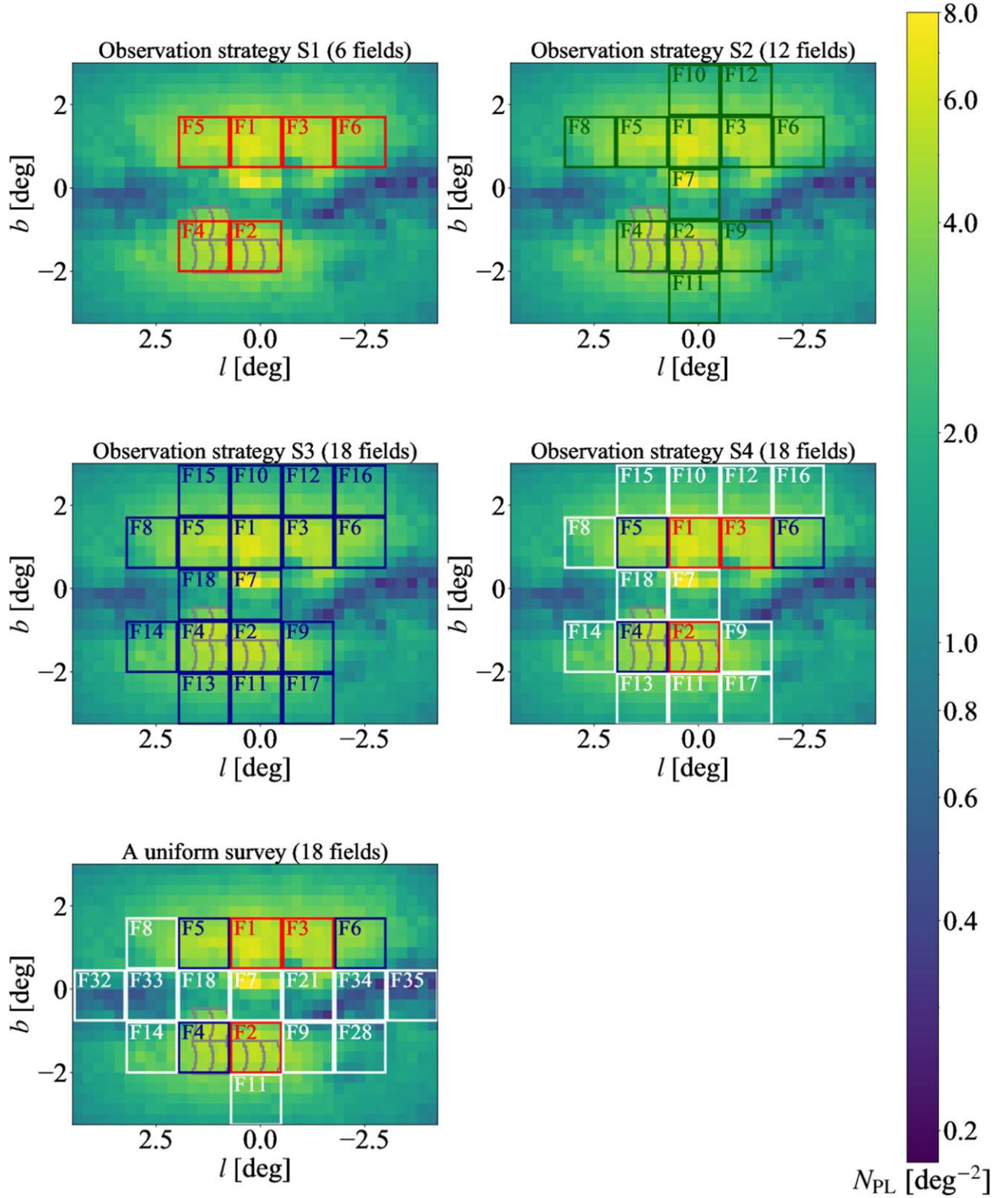
higher cadence (S2 and S3). When we use a hybrid observation cadence (S4), it is possible to detect both low-mass planets and high-mass planets. The lower panel in Figure 17 shows the detection rates of each strategy relative to that of S4. As the result, we predict that PRIME will discover 42–52 planets ( $1\text{--}2$  planets with  $M_p \leq M_{\oplus}$ , 22–25 planets with mass  $1M_{\oplus} < M_p \leq 100M_{\oplus}$ , 19–25 planets  $100M_{\oplus} < M_p \leq 10,000M_{\oplus}$ ), per year depending on each observation strategy.

## 6. Discussion

### 6.1. How to Decide the Optimal Survey Strategy?

The final survey strategy will vary according to the interests of several sciences: to reveal the planet frequency around the Galactic center, to optimize the Roman microlensing survey fields, to characterize the lens and planet parameters by follow-up observations. We will discuss each of these science interests in detail.

In this paper, we focus on revealing the demography of cold planets down to Earth mass beyond the snow line toward the inner Galactic bulge. In order to achieve that goal, it is required to optimize the observation strategy and to increase both the number of planets and the range of mass comparing four observation strategies; we find that it is possible to detect both

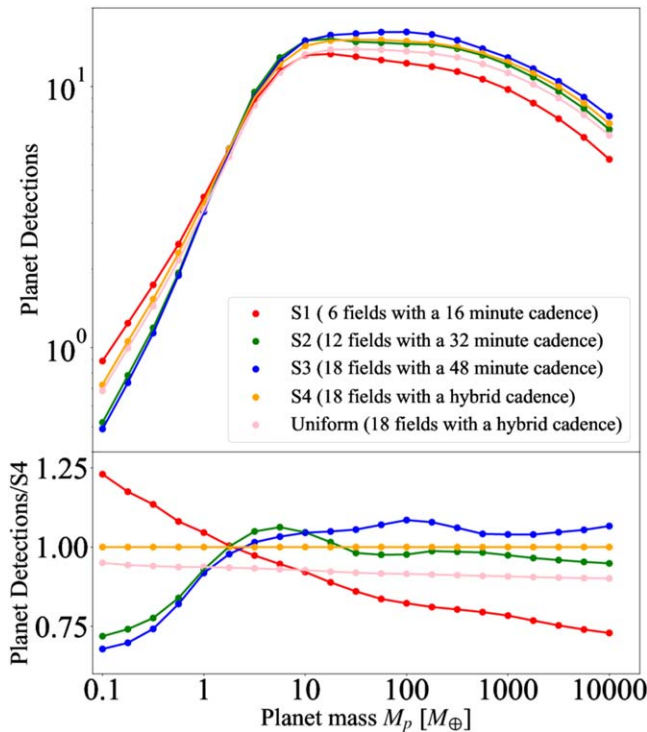


**Figure 16.** Field locations for the PRIME microlensing survey for each observation strategy considered in this work, plotted over the planet detection map with a 16 minute cadence. The top and middle panels show the observation strategies, S1–S4, described in Section 5.1. The bottom panel shows the spatially uniform survey including the Galactic center and the Galactic plane described in Section 6.1. The field numbers are ranked by their expectation of planet detections (Figure 15). Each square shows a  $1.45 \text{ deg}^2$  FOV field, where the red, green, blue, and white colors indicate cadences of 16, 32, 48, and 96 minutes, respectively. The gray region shows the assumed field placement for the Roman microlensing survey (Penny et al. 2019).

low-mass planets and high-mass planets by an observation strategy with a hybrid observation cadence, S4. We predict that PRIME will discover up to  $\sim 3900$  microlensing events and  $\sim 50$  planets per year by using S4.

However another important goal of the PRIME is the optimization of the Roman microlensing survey fields by measuring the NIR microlensing event rate map and  $t_E$  distributions. In order to achieve that goal, it is required to





**Figure 17.** Upper panel shows the number of planet detections per dex as a function of the planet mass,  $M_p$ . These plots are obtained by integrating over the semimajor axis  $0.3 < a < 30$  au and over the survey area ( $8.7$ – $26.2$  deg $^2$ ) shown in Figure 16, assuming the Cassan et al. (2012) mass function as modified by Penny et al. (2019). The red, green, blue, and orange plots show the detection rate for observation strategy S1, S2, S3, and S4 as described in Section 5.1. The pink plot shows the detections when we conduct a spatially uniform survey described in Section 6.1. The lower panel shows the detections of each strategy relative to that of S4.

conduct a spatially uniform survey toward the inner Galactic bulge. We investigate how the planet yields change with the uniform survey strategy. The bottom panel in Figure 16 shows the considered field locations when we conduct a uniform survey including the Galactic center and the Galactic plane. Here, we use a hybrid observation cadence and the total number of fields is 18, which are the same as in observation strategy S4. Table 3 shows our estimation of the number of microlensing events and the planet detections. The result shows  $\sim 6\%$ – $10\%$  fewer planet discoveries depending on the planet mass and  $\sim 13\%$  fewer microlensing discoveries compared to the observation strategy, S4. Therefore, the uniform survey not only allows for the detection of a relatively large number of planetary signals including low-mass planets to measure the planet frequency toward the Galactic inner bulge, but also allows for the measurement of event rates across the Galactic center and Galactic plane to help optimize Roman’s observation strategy.

NIR or optical follow-up observations will help to constrain the microlensing and physical parameters of planetary systems. In particular, color measurements of microlensing events will enable us to determine  $\theta_E$ , which constrains the lens mass and distance. Differences in extinction can affect the field selection because they affect whether color measurements can be performed or not, but field selection by extinction in other bands is outside the scope this work.

**Table 3**

Best-estimate Planet Yields per Year by the PRIME Microlensing Survey

Strategy	S1	S2	S3	S4	Uniform
Total Field Number	6	12	18	18	18
Area(deg $^2$ )	8.7	17.5	26.2	26.2	26.2
Mass( $M_\oplus$ )					
$0.1 < M_p \leq 1.0$	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.6
$1.0 < M_p \leq 10$	8.7	9.5	9.2	9.0	8.4
$10 < M_p \leq 100$	13.0	14.9	16.0	15.0	13.8
$100 < M_p \leq 1000$	11.3	13.9	15.0	14.1	12.8
$1000 < M_p \leq 10,000$	7.5	9.6	10.4	10.0	9.0
Total ( $10^{-1}$ – $10^4 M_\oplus$ )	42.4	49.1	51.8	49.8	45.6
Total Microlensing	$\sim 2300$	$\sim 3400$	$\sim 4100$	$\sim 3900$	$\sim 3400$

## 6.2. Inner Galactic Bulge Survey by PRIME

In this study, we use KGM, which is a population synthesis model optimized for the inner Galactic bulge that includes a nuclear stellar disk model. As shown in Section 4.1, the luminosity function at the low-mass stars is not in agreement with measurements. It is also known that there is the underestimation of extinction values in the Galactic central region, which is shown in N. Koshimoto et al. (2023, in preparation). Observations of the star counts, event rate, and detection efficiencies will drive improvements in Galactic models.

Although previous NIR observations toward the inner Galactic bulge such as the VVV survey have revealed detailed structure of the Galactic bar/bulge (e.g., Wegg & Gerhard 2013; Wegg et al. 2015), the formation history and structure of our galaxy is a long-standing challenge (Shen & Zheng 2020). To constrain the dynamical history and evolution of galaxy, accurate measurements of a stellar 6D phase space distribution and stellar properties in the inner bulge region will be provided by the future time-domain survey such as Roman, the Japan Astrometry Satellite Mission for Infrared Exploration (JASMINE; Gouda 2012), and GaiaNIR (Hobbs et al. 2016, 2019). Prior to these surveys, a time-domain survey with high cadence using PRIME will play an important role in providing new insights into the formation history and structure of our galaxy. In addition to aspects of microlensing, the time-domain data by the PRIME microlensing survey will provide useful information in studies of the Galactic structure, through variable stars such as eclipsing binaries, pulsating RR Lyrae, and Cepheids (e.g., Pietrukowicz et al. 2020; Botan et al. 2021).

## 7. Summary

We present the expected microlensing and planet yields for four survey strategies using the PRIME instrument. In order to maximize the number of planet detections and the range of masses, we need to optimize the number of the observation fields and observation cadence, which are in a trade-off relationship. Assuming the an underlying planet population of one planet per square dex per star and the Cassan et al. (2012) mass function of planets beyond the snow line as modified by Penny et al. (2019), we predict that PRIME will discover 2300–4100 microlensing events and 42–52 planets per year depending on the observation strategy. In particular, the observation strategy with a hybrid observation cadence (S4)

makes it possible to detect both low-mass planets and high-mass planets. By using S4, we predict that PRIME will discover up to  $\sim 3900$  microlensing events and  $\sim 50$  planets per year ( $\sim 1.7$  planets with  $M_p \leq 1M_{\oplus}$ ,  $\sim 24$  planets with mass  $1M_{\oplus} < M_p \leq 100M_{\oplus}$ ,  $\sim 24$  planets  $100M_{\oplus} < M_p \leq 10,000M_{\oplus}$ ). Besides, the spatially uniform survey not only allows for the detection of a relatively large number of planetary signals including low-mass planets, but also allows for the measurement of event rates across the Galactic center and Galactic plane.

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*Software:* genstars (Koshimoto 2022; N. Koshimoto et al. 2023, in preparation), MulensModel (Poleski & Yee 2019), VBBinaryLensing (Bozza 2010; Bozza et al. 2018).

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