# Resolved Star Formation in Galaxies Using Slitless Spectroscopy

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# Wide Field Slitless Spectroscopy

- Efficient blind emission line searches
- Large multiplexing
- Wide, un-interrupted wavelength (redshifts) ranges
- Successfully used with NICMOS, ACS, WFC3 (GRAPES, PEARS, 3D-HST, FIGS)
- Future missions (JWST, WFIRST)



#### JWST NIRCAM ~ 4.1µm



### JWST NIRISS ~ 1.5µm



# Looking for Ly-a and emission lines using Simulation Based Extraction (SBE)

- "Classic" slitless extraction
- Starts with being able to simulate individual observations:
  - Improved contamination correction
  - Improved flux calibration
  - Based on deep imaging and source catalogs from ancillary data
- Really still just an improved simple box extraction

Pirzkal et al. 2017

Simulatior







- Deepest WFC3 G102 grism observations
- R=150, 8000Å<λ<11500Å
- 4 pointings/fields, 40 orbits depth
- 5 PAs per field
- 18 arcmin<sup>2</sup>
- Science goals: high-z Ly-α, old massive galaxies, intermediate redshift Hα, [OIII], and [OII] emitters.

Pirzkal et al. 2017a

53°15'

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10'



### FIGS, Simulation Based Extraction Low-z sources



### <u>Ha z=0.43 example</u>

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### FIGS, Simulation Based Extraction Two z~7.5 Ly-α galaxies <sub>EW~150A</sub>



<sup>a</sup> From Finkelstein et al. (2013).

<sup>b</sup> Based on bootstrap technique (see §3.5).

EW~50A

### Tilvi+2016 Larson+2017



# Resolving star formation: EM2D

- Location, location, location!
- Importance of deriving the exact source of emission lines
- Impact on wavelength calibration and combination of multi-PA observations





# Resolving star formation: EM2D

- Identify emission lines independently of host galaxy
- Leverages multiple PA observations
- We determine the exact location of the emission line region AND its observed wavelength
- Multiple emission lines (e.g. [OIII]/Ha, [OII]/ [OIII]) detected separately





### Locating star formation: EM2D WFSS in the optical using ACS

- PEARS, ACS grism survey
- 1162 emission lines
- z<1.5
- flux limit of ~10<sup>-17</sup> erg/s/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Multiple star forming regions AND line species
- Spectral extraction of individual star forming regions
- Allows for studying properties (SFR etc..) of individual star forming regions! (Pirzkal+2013)







### Locating star formation: EM2D WFSS Spec-Z improvement

- FIGS, WFC3 grism survey (NIR)
- 303 emission line regions
- 237 galaxies
- Ha (134), [OIII] (115), [OII] (58)
- Lya (1): z=7.5 independently detected (Larson et al. 2017 source)
- z<3
- flux limit of ~10<sup>-17</sup> erg/s/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Position of emission line regions  $\sim e^{-0.8x}$
- Significant correction with 30% of sources δz/(1+z)>0.005



Pirzkal+18a in prep



# Resolving star formation: MAP2D

- Once an accurate observed wavelength is know, we can build full 2D maps of the emission features
- Forward model each individual, continuum subtracted spectra
- Enables a more intricate look at star formation in these objects
- Detection of diffuse star formation as well as fainter multiple star forming regions
- Applicable to JWST observations taken using multiple orientations, i.e. much higher redshifts (z<9) than we currently reach with HST/WFC3



Pirzkal+18b in prep



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Pirzkal+18b in prep

# MAP2D: Ly-a sources at z~7.5



# Finding faint Ly-a emitters: LINEAR

- Extraction of faint emission line from WFSS data requires an optimal approach to maximize S/N:
  - LINEAR: non parametric forward modeling
    - Resolves the problem of contamination



Ryan, Casertano and Pirzkal+17

- Overlapping spectra (contamination) has up to now been solved using modeling (SBE)
- Problem can be framed as a large matrix operation
- Non-parametric reconstruction of the spectra in the field
- Arbitrary spectral resolution can be tailored to specific cases (lower resolution for faintest spectra)
- FIGS: 100 images, 10<sup>6</sup> pixels each, with 1000 objects with 100 spectral element spectra
- Problem is one of a VERY large matrix inversion (10<sup>8</sup> x 10<sup>5</sup>)
- But most elements are zero (>99.9%)
- Can be handled using modern computers and LQSR algorithm
- This is now implemented in LINEAR!!!

# LINEAR examples



Ryan, Casertano, Pirzkal 2017

- LINEAR non-parametric reconstruction significantly improves on current state-of-the-art SBE extraction (e.g. Pirzkal et al. 2017a)
  - Resolution can be improved in high signal to noise case
  - Signal-to-noise can be increased by reconstructing lower resolution spectra

Ryan, Casertano and Pirzkal+17

# LINEAR examples



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## LINEAR and very high-z LBG WFSS

- z~11 triple lensed dropout in MACS0647-JD (Coe+13)
  - Very faint source (AB=26.)
  - z=10.7 +0.6/-0.4



## LINEAR and very high-z LBG WFSS

- Photometrically more likely to be at high redshift BUT a low redshift solution existed
- Observed using 12 orbits
   WFC3/G141 grism observation
- Low redshift interloper ruled out using just the first 4 orbits:
  - No high EW emission lines!
- Very crowded, contaminated field and faintness of this source makes SBE extractions challenging
- Good case for LINEAR

N. Pirzkal, Tokyo 3/28/18





• Pirzkal et al. 2015

## LINEAR and very high-z LBG WFSS

- Spectral reconstruction using LINEAR
- Detection of a spectral break at the expected wavelength
- Fitting this spectra to a lyman-break, we estimate this source to be at z~11.1+/-0.1
- Break detected at 5.5o
- This low mass, z=11
   source will be "easily"
   detected using JWST!!<sup>(\*)</sup>





# Summary

- "Classical" extraction method simply sums the fluxes from multiple PAs, losing spatial information and degrading redshift accuracy.
- SBE improves extraction of faint sources by handling contamination better.
- EM2D and MAP2D fully realize the potential of slitless observations by improving redshift accuracy AND resolving individual SF regions.
- LINEAR's breakthrough is a robust reconstruction of the crowded fields - for example, finally confirming a faint lensed galaxy at z~11 that could only be inferred before.
- All of these approaches will allow an optimal use of JWST WFSS