GNIRS & the Distant Universe

Gemini Science Meeting 2012 July 20, 2012

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Star formation history of the Universe



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Why is GNIRS the ideal instrument to observe galaxies at z=2-3?

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Typical massive galaxy at 2<z<3 is red

- Optically red
 - ► J-K = 2.48
 - ▶ (U-V)₀=0.62
- Faint in the observed optical
 - ► R_{AB} = 25.9



van Dokkum et al. 2006

Beyond the limits of optical spectroscopy

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van Dokkum et al. 2006

Beyond the limits of optical spectroscopy

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Full near-infrared wavelength coverage



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Targeted lines for $z \approx 2.3$



Figure from A. Shapley

A GNIRS Survey for massive galaxies at $z \approx 2.3$

- Selection:
 - MUSYC survey: UBVRIzJHK photometry
 - ► K_{vega} < 19.7
 - ▶ 2 < z_{phot} < 3
- Total sample: 36 galaxies
- Follow-up: SPITZER/IRAC, SPITZER/MIPS, Magellan/ LDSS3, HST/NICMOS, Keck/NIRC2-AO
- Fully reduced spectra and data products available at: www.astro.berkeley.edu/~mariska

Examples of emission line spectra



Kriek et al. (2007)

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Kriek et al. (2008)



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- 8 galaxies at z < 2
- 28 galaxies at 2 < z < 3

Overview

- 8 galaxies at z < 2
- 28 galaxies at 2 < z < 3
 - I Galaxies without detected emission lines

Galaxies without detected emission lines



Kriek et al. (2006)

Galaxies without detected emission lines



Kriek et al. (2006)

Continuum redshifts



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Overview

- 8 galaxies at z < 2
- 28 galaxies at 2 < z < 3
 - I Galaxies without detected emission lines
 - I7 Emission line galaxies (see Kriek et al. 2007)

Emission line galaxies: AGN or star forming?



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Kriek et al. (2007)

Overview

- 8 galaxies at z < 2
- 28 galaxies at 2 < z < 3
 - I Galaxies without detected emission lines
 - I7 Emission line galaxies
 - 12 star-forming galaxies
 - 5 AGN host galaxies

A Red Sequence at $z \approx 2.3$?



Kriek et al. (2008)

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Red Sequence Galaxies at $z \approx 2.3$



Kriek et al. (2008)

Massive galaxy distribution at z \approx 2.3



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Massive galaxy distribution at z \approx 2.3



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Morphologies of massive, quiescent galaxies at $z \approx 2.3$



van Dokkum et al. (2008)

Structural evolution from $z \approx 2.3$ to the present



van Dokkum et al. (2008)

Inside-out growth



Inside-out growth due to minor mergers?



Inside-out growth due to minor mergers?



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Bezanson et al. (2009)

29 hrs GNIRS spectrum of a quiescent galaxy at z=2.2



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29 hrs GNIRS spectrum of a quiescent galaxy at z=2.2



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Kriek et al. (2009)

A high velocity dispersion for at z=2.2 galaxy



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Comparison to local galaxies



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van Dokkum et al. (2009)

Comparison to local galaxies



van Dokkum et al. (2009)

Compilation of different dynamical galaxy studies



van de Sande, Kriek et al. in prep

Are compact quiescent galaxies disk dominated?





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van der Wel et al. (2011)

Resolved kinematics



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Resolved kinematics



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Massive galaxy distribution at z \approx 2.3



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Massive galaxy distribution at $z \approx 2.3$



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Scaled up cool galaxies at z \approx 2.3



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24 micron as SFR indicator



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24 micron as SFR indicator



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Problems GNIRS z~2.3 galaxy survey

- Photometric properties of parent galaxy sample poorly constrained
- Limited area of photometric survey
- Sample biased to the brightest galaxies
- Limited ancillary data

The NEWFIRM Medium-Band Survey



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Spectral features



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Kriek et al. (2011)

Galaxy properties as a function of spectral type at $z \approx 1.5$ With GNIRS, FIRE and NIRSPEC



Star formation, metallicities, dust, active galactic nuclei

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What have we learned using GNIRS?

- Galaxy population at $z \approx 2.3$ is quite diverse
- A red sequence of quiescent galaxies was already in place beyond z=2
- Massive quiescent galaxies at $z \approx 2.3$ are much more compact than their local analogs
- Massive star forming galaxies at z ≈ 2.3 are scaled up cool galaxies and have large irregular larger morphologies