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Erika Benítez / Manolis Plionis / Yair Krongold / J. Jesús González / Irene Cruz González / Deborah  
Dultzin Hacyan / Vahram Chavushyan  
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## LY $\alpha$ EMITTERS AS TRACERS OF PROTO-CLUSTERS OF GALAXIES AT HIGH-Z: RLQSOS AND RQSOS ENVIRONMENT

Erika Benítez,<sup>1</sup> Manolis Plionis,<sup>2,3</sup> Yair Krongold,<sup>1</sup> J. Jesús González,<sup>1</sup> Irene Cruz-González,<sup>1</sup>  
Deborah Dultzin-Hacyan,<sup>1</sup> and Vahram Chavushyan<sup>3</sup>

**The great capability and flexible nature of the OSIRIS-GTC tunable filters make them the most efficient tool to study systematically the environment of RLQSOSs and RQSOSs in the range  $2 < z < 4$ . In this work we present our first results on simulations performed in order to define our optimal observational strategy.**

The basic idea of this project (see Benítez et al. 2005) is to detect Ly $\alpha$  emitters within 5 Mpc ( $\sim 12.5$  arc min) around our target QSOs, possibly the sites of proto-cluster formation, above a line-flux threshold corresponding to faint emitters, i.e.,  $1 \times 10^{-17}$  erg  $\text{cm}^{-2}$   $\text{s}^{-1}$  at  $z = 4.5$  (e.g. Dawson et al. 2004). The basic idea is to observe at least 3 RQQ and 2 RLQ in three redshift windows (2.35, 3.05, 4.25), in order to study possible environmental dependencies and their evolution. Control fields  $\sim 20$ -30 Mpc away from each target will also be observed in order to quantify the significance of possible overdensities around our target QSOs. Simulations show that filter widths of  $\sim 350$   $\text{km s}^{-1}$  are sufficiently large to be consistent with typical galactic masses while sufficiently small to recover also the dynamics of the proto-clusters. The expected integration time, per spatial pointing and wavelength tuning in order to reach  $S/N = 3$  at the detection threshold, is  $150 < t_{\text{integ}} < 750$  s, depending on the  $z$ -window. The minimal number of pointings and  $\lambda$ -tunings necessary for the aims of our project are estimated using detailed simulations, which show that our initial project objectives can be carried out within  $\sim 15$ -20 hours of OSIRIS guaranteed time.

In order to test whether our observations of Ly $\alpha$  emitters in the proto-cluster environment will be able to recover the dynamical properties of the proto-cluster, we have simulated the detection procedure on various  $\Lambda$ CDM clusters and at the different redshift windows. Our original set-up assumes that

<sup>1</sup>Instituto de Astronomía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Apdo. Postal 70-264, México D. F., 04510, México (erika@astroscu.unam.mx).

<sup>2</sup>National Observatory of Athens, Palaia Penteli, 152 36 Athens, Greece.

<sup>3</sup>INAOE, Apartado Postal 51, C.P. 72000, Puebla, Puebla, México.

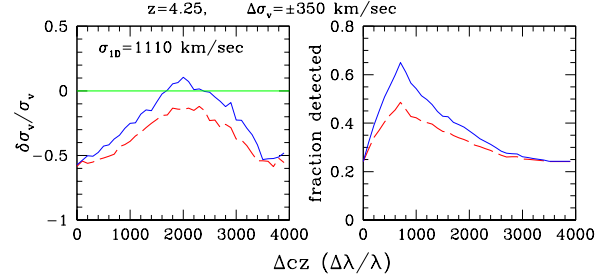


Fig. 1. Results from applying our observation strategy on a simulated  $\Lambda$ CDM cluster (see text).

(a) proto-clusters are either dynamically active (non-relaxed) with two sub-cluster components merging, or dynamically quiescent, forming by slowly accreting material along the filament within which they are embedded and (b) that the QSO (target redshift) is situated at the center of the overall proto-cluster potential well. We have found that for an expected range of proto-cluster velocity dispersions (plus possible bulk motions) and in order to recover the dynamical properties of the simulated proto-clusters it is necessary to perform two tunable filter observations, shifted with respect to each other by 2000  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ , and with a  $\lambda$ -tuning that yields a 600-700  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  width, corresponding to a 300  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  uncertainty in the radial velocity of each emitter.

In Figure 1 (left panel) we present for one case, the fraction of the recovered cluster velocity dispersion (of  $\sigma_{1D} = 1110$   $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ) as a function of the wavelength shift of the tunable filter, which arises from the spatial variation of the filter wavelength sensitivity. Of course we have assumed that the Ly $\alpha$  emitters are tracing the cluster potential well. The broken line corresponds to one tunable filter observation while the continuous line to the double observation, described above. The right panel shows the corresponding fraction of the Ly $\alpha$  emitters that will be detected by these observations.

## REFERENCES

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