Prospects for JWST Science: Beyond the Peak of Cosmic Star-Formation Activity (z<3)

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ESTEC: Exploring the Universe with JWST

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0.1 < z < 3 -- Representation at this meeting



Why Be Interested in z<3?



Growth and Evolution of Galaxy Clusters

What can z<3 galaxies teach us about the formation and evolution of the faintest, lowest-mass galaxies in the universe?

(High-Redshift Galaxies are my primary focus of research, so this focus might be expected)

Primary science interest from JWST revolves around cosmic reionization and determining what reionizes the universe



This keys an interest in ultra-faint, lowmass galaxies...

Which galaxies contribute ionizing photons? How faint do we need to consider?





One question is about the prevalence of faint galaxies (and the cut-off of the LF)

What are the physical properties of ultra lowmass galaxies?

Dustiness vs. Luminosity (proxy for Mass)



Bouwens+2014; see also Bouwens+2009, 2012; Rogers+2014; Finkelstein+2012

Can we break this degeneracy between dustiness, age, and metallicity for the ultrafaint galaxies?

What are the masses (M/L ratios) of ultra-faint galaxies?

How strong are various emission lines in ultra-faint galaxies and what does this tell us about their gaseous nebula?

Can we measure the gas masses in ultra lowmass z~7-10 galaxies?

Which galaxies can we probe at present? How faint will we probe with JWST?



Perhaps we can gain insight into what is going on by looking for similar galaxies at z<7...



This exercise already done with HST at z~2



Alavi+2014

This exercise already done with HST at z~2



Parsa+2015

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How can we improve the HST exercise with JWST?



Alavi+2014



Parsa+2015

Dustiness vs. Luminosity (proxy for Mass)



Kurczynski+2014

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How strong are emission lines in faintest z~7 galaxies?

What do the emission lines indicate?





Smit+2014

Emission Line Properties of Faint z~7 Galaxies Not Yet Clear

GREATS program

(PI: Ivo Labbe)

200 hour depth IRAC data over 200 arcmin² 26.7 mag at 5 sigma Individual detections to 0.5 L* galaxies



Emission Line Properties of Faint z~7 Galaxies Not Yet Clear

Let's go to z~1-3....

Similar at z~7: [OIII] is elevated relative to Hβ at z~1-3



van der Wel+2011; see also Atek+2011; Brammer+2012

Similar at z~7: [OIII] is elevated relative to Hβ at z~1-3



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Similar at z~7: [OIII] is elevated relative to Hβ at z~1-3



How extreme can things look if we examine even fainter, lower mass z~2-4 galaxies?

MUSE Optical IFU on the VLT allows a first exploration of ultra-low-mass z~1-4 galaxies

MUSE Integral Field Unit @ Very Large Telescope

> MUSE Integral Field Unit decomposes each pixel by wavelength (R~3500 spectroscopy)



arcmin² field of view

MUSE Optical IFU on the VLT allows a first exploration of ultra-low-mass z~1-4 galaxies



Bacon+2015

Dec (J2000)

MUSE reveals very high-EW Lyα-emitting Galaxies at z=3-6!



Ideal Sources to Target with JWST!

Lower Mass than Accessible z>7 Galaxies

Bacon+2015

MUSE reveals very high-EW Lyα-emitting Galaxies at z=3-6!



Bacon+2015

Optical IFUs (e.g. MUSE) highly complementary to JWST NIRSpec into the future

Lower-Redshift Sources with MUSE could be targeted...



JWST will also allow us to probe the stellar masses and dynamical masses for the faintest z~1-3 galaxies.

The mass in stars will be computed both on the basis of the photometry (corrected for emission line contamination)

and on the basis of the IFU spectroscopy of sources

All of these activities can best be done on ultra-faint, low-mass z~1-3 galaxies -- where the sources are brighter and more accessible

Faint z<3 Galaxies will give us high S/N measurements of unique spectral lines...

JWST will only provide especially high S/N spectroscopy over a limited range (1-5 microns)...

This becomes important if we want to model the nebular properties of the faintest galaxies accurately...

At z<3: we can measure the following lines (restframe 12000 Angstroms) at especially high S/N:

Paschen α, Brackett γ

This should allow us to model the properties of nebulae in star-forming galaxies in low-mass galaxies very accurately. This provides insight into the physical conditions.

How does gas fuel star formation in low-mass galaxies?

At z~1-5, the best information will be available on gas masses

with JWST + ALMA....





In the typical galaxy, only the lowest rotational states of CO tend to be populated.



Narayanan+2015

How does gas fuel star formation in low-mass galaxies?

Direct measurements of the gas mass are difficult at z>5...



JWST can help to further leverage ALMA data by providing measurements of the systemic redshifts to enable stacking of the CO lines

Carilli & Walter 2013

What is the Lyman-continuum escape fraction in faint z~7 galaxies?

Difficult to probe directly, as any escaping Lyman-Continuum radiation at $z\sim7$ would need to redshift through Ly α forest.

Characterization Possible in faint z=1-3 galaxies (particularly those which are gravitationally lensed)

Combine

HST UV Images / Ground-Based UV IFU data (Keck Cosmic Web Imager) with

detailed spectral characterization possible with JWST

What is the Lyman-continuum escape fraction in faint z~7 galaxies?

Characterization Useful given Evidence that only certain types of galaxies show substantial Lyman-Continuum Escape

e.g. strong [OIII]-emitting galaxies (i.e. "green peas") are claimed to show high escape fractions.

here is one example galaxy at z=3.2:



What can JWST teach us about red z~2 galaxies that are ultra-faint?



Stutz+2008; see also Sommariva+2014

What can we learn from current and future JWST spectroscopy about the ionization state of the z>7 universe?

Spectroscopic Confirmation: Very Challenging!

(Redshift Measurements)



Schenker+2014; see also Pentericci+2014; Tilvi+2014; Treu+2013; Stark+2010; Fontana+2010; Caruana+2014; Ono+2012

To search for probable Lyα emission from galaxies,

we should consider those galaxies which are the brightest

and which are likely line dominated ([OIII])

Find Line-Dominated z>7 Galaxies Using Photometry



Find Line-Dominated z>7 Galaxies Using Photometry



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Search for and Do Spectroscopy on very bright, Line-Dominated z>7 Galaxies



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Find Line-Dominated z>7 Galaxies Using Photometry



Find Line-Dominated z>7 Galaxies Using Photometry



Roberts-Borsani, RJB + 2015

Four Particularly Bright, [OIII]-Dominated z>7 Galaxy Candidates Identified



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Follow up with Keck/MOSFIRE Spectroscopy



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Zitrin, ..., RJB + 2015

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Beyond the Peak of Cosmic Star-Formation Activity (at z<2)

Most of the volume of the obserable universe lies between z=0.5 and z=4.0 and will be available for study with the James Webb Space Telescope.

One of the most interesting frontiers at z<2-3 with JWST will involve characterization of the faintest and lowest-mass galaxies at these epochs (blue and red).

Study of the faintest z=1-2 galaxies with JWST should allow us to gain insight into both the possible cut-off of the LF at the faint end (since it seems unlikely to be robustly probed at $z\sim7$)

JWST should also give us our strongest leverage for looking at the properties of ultra low-mass star-forming galaxies (dust, age, metallicity, stellar / dynamic mass, gas masses, escape fraction)

JWST should also give us great insight into the mechanisms which guide the formation of ultra-faint, low-mass early time galaxies at z>2



























Let's consider another possible high-magnification region in Abell 2744

























What happens if you apply the MACSI149 model to the HUDF z~7 sample?



What happens if you apply the MACSI149 model to the HUDF z~7 sample?



To what magnification factor do current results seem reliable?













z=6 LF Results: (CANDELS+XDF vs. HFF cluster [4-cluster] constraints)



What happens if you apply the MACSI149 model to the HUDF z~7 sample?



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