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B. García-Lorenzo^{a,b}, A. Monreal-Ibero^{a,b}, E. Mediavilla^{b,a}, HARMONI Consortium and AMUSING survey



^a Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, C/Vía Láctea, S/N, E-38205, La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain ^b Departamento de Astrofísica, Universidad de La Laguna, E-38200 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain



RAL Space

Durham University

Abstract

We present preliminary results on the capabilities of HARMONI^[1], the first light integral field spectrograph for the ELT^[2], for high-redshift QSO hosts studies.

We performed simulations of HARMONI observations of QSOs at z=1.1 assuming two host-galaxy morphologies. As input for the simulation we combined MUSE observations of two nearby galaxies and a theoretical QSO spectrum which were redshifted and dimmed to z=1.1. We used the coarsest HARMONI spatial scale, R=7500 in the J-band, and LTAO on standard seeing conditions. This setup allowed simultaneously observe emission (H β +[OIII]) and absorption lines (e.g. MgI) to estimate the QSO and host galaxies parameters.

HARMONI Instrument Description

HARMONI is composed of:

- Calibration Module
- Laser Tomographic AO system (LGSS)
- Single Conjugate AO system (NGSS)
- PreFocal Relay System (PFRS)
- Integral Field Spectrograph (IFS) including
 - ✤ 3,5 m diameter cryostat operating at 140K
 - Preoptics providing pupil cold stop and 4 spatial scales
 - Integral Field Unit with Field Splitter, Relay systems and Image slicer



- 4 spectrographs including 42 gratings for multi-spectral resolution
- 12 detectors











Simulated HARMONI observations





Analysis of the HARMONI observed data-cubes





Spiral host, QSO subtracted



Upper panels show the intensity, velocity, and velocity dispersion maps of the stellar component for two QSO+host galaxies at Z=1.1 obtained from the HARMONI observed data-cubes using PPXF^[10]. Bottom panels present the same maps derived from the HARMONI data-cubes after the QSO subtraction using an optimal PSF (HSIM output for a point-source QSO HSIM input).

Results: Stellar kinematic parameters can be estimated. A proper subtraction of the PSF (QSO removal) would revel the morphology of the host galaxy.

Conclusions

- Our simulations indicate that HARMONI will obtain high quality observations of QSO+host objects using reasonable observing times of about three hours/object.
- PSF reconstruction and QSO removal are key to measure the host galaxy parameters.
- HARMONI observations are key to unveil the co-evolution of galaxies and their central black-holes.

Next steps

- Complete a set of QSO+host galaxy simulations using different redshifts, QSO/host brightness ratios and host morphologies, and exploring other spectral wavelength ranges.
- Explore different methodologies for subtracting the central QSO and improve the estimation of the QSO and host galaxy properties.

References

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