VANDELS: A deep VIMOS survey of the CANDELS UDS and CDFS fields

Ross McLure[1]

[1] *Institute for Astronomy, Edinburgh University*

Abstract

VANDELS is a uniquely *deep* VLT public spectroscopic survey of high-redshift galaxies, carefully designed to exploit the multi-wavelength imaging and near-IR grism spectroscopy available in the CANDELS UDS and CDFS fields. VANDELS has been awarded $\simeq 1000$ hours of VLT time, with the fundamental aim of moving beyond redshift acquisition, and obtaining spectra with high enough signal-to-noise to derive metallicities and velocity offsets from absorption and emission lines. Using integration times set to obtain a constant S/N level ($20 < t_{int} < 80$ hours), VANDELS will target: *a)* $2.5 < z < 5.5$ star-forming galaxies with $H_{\rm AB} \leq 24$ ($I_{AB} \leq 25$), *b)* $H_{AB} < 22.5$ passive galaxies at $1.5 < z < 2.5$; *c)* fainter ($H_{AB} \leq 27$) star-forming galaxies at $3.0 < z < 7.0$ and *d)* X-ray/radio selected AGN. Combining ultra-deep VIMOS spectroscopy with the best optical+nearIR+Spitzer imaging, VANDELS will produce a unique legacy dataset, capable of unveiling the physics underpinning high-redshift galaxy evolution. In this talk I will give a brief overview of the VANDELS science goals, and present spectra from the first VANDELS observing runs in Nov/Dec 2014.