



1700-2025
Leibniz-Institut für 325 Jahre
Astrophysik Potsdam



and Lyman Radiation

Peter Weilbacher (AIP) / OAC, Kolymbari / April 2025

and the BlueMUSE consortium

MUSE

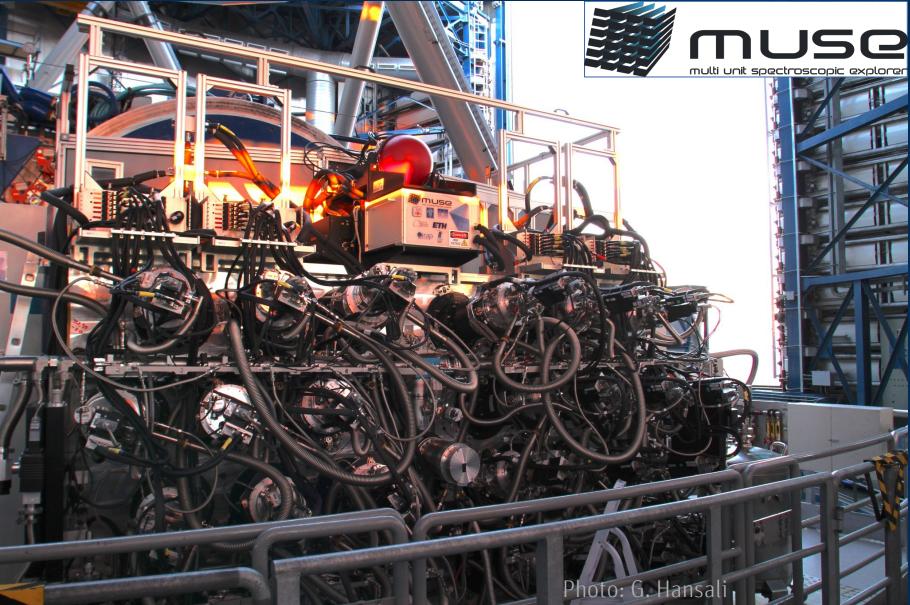
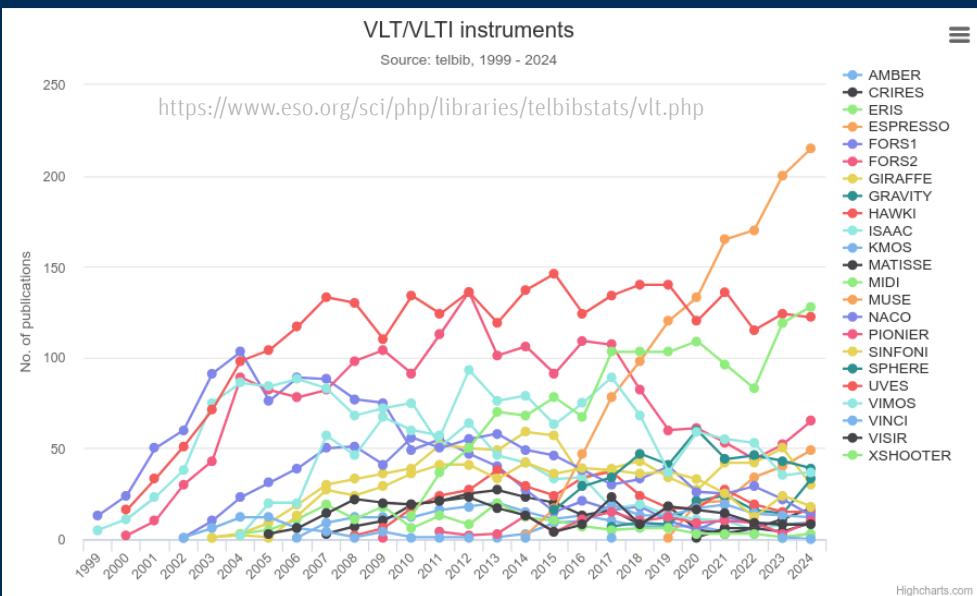


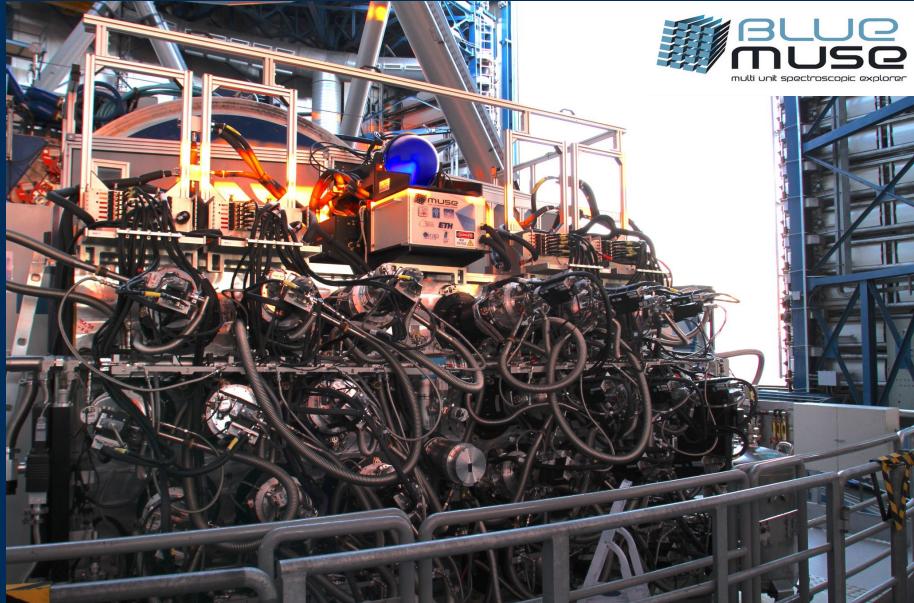
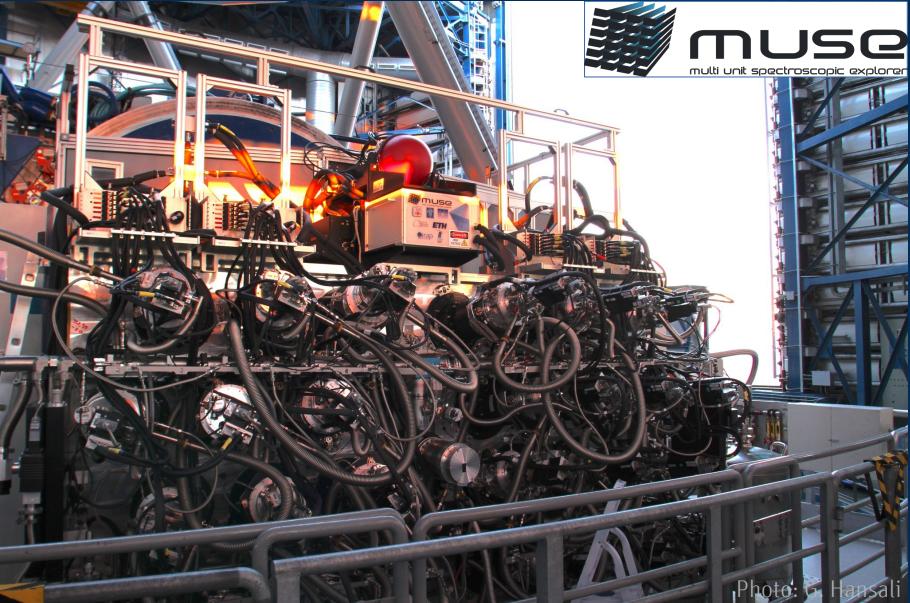
Photo: G. Hansali



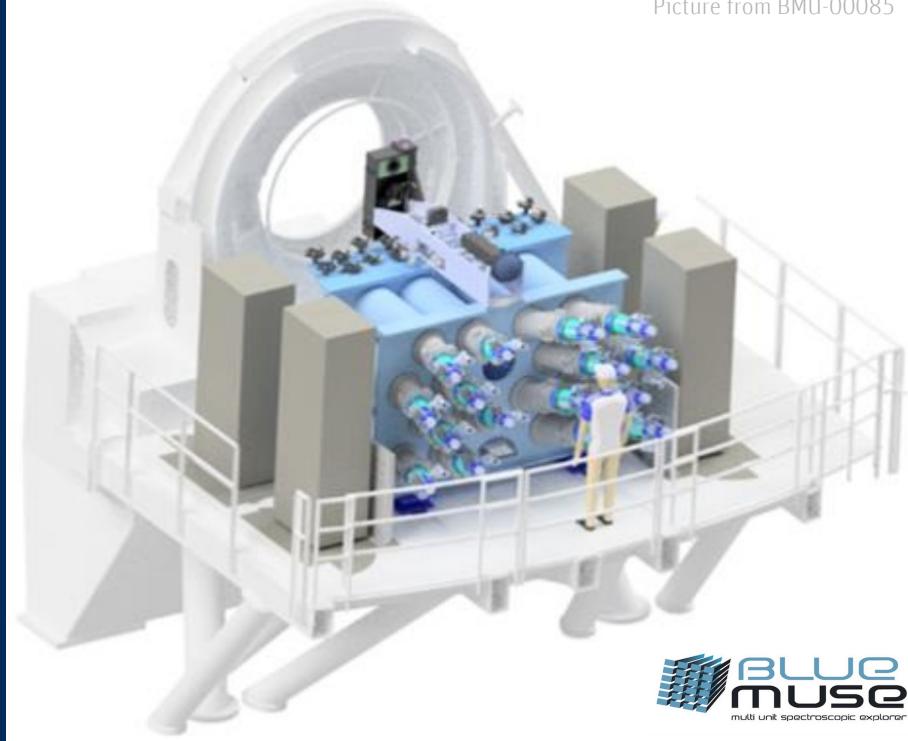
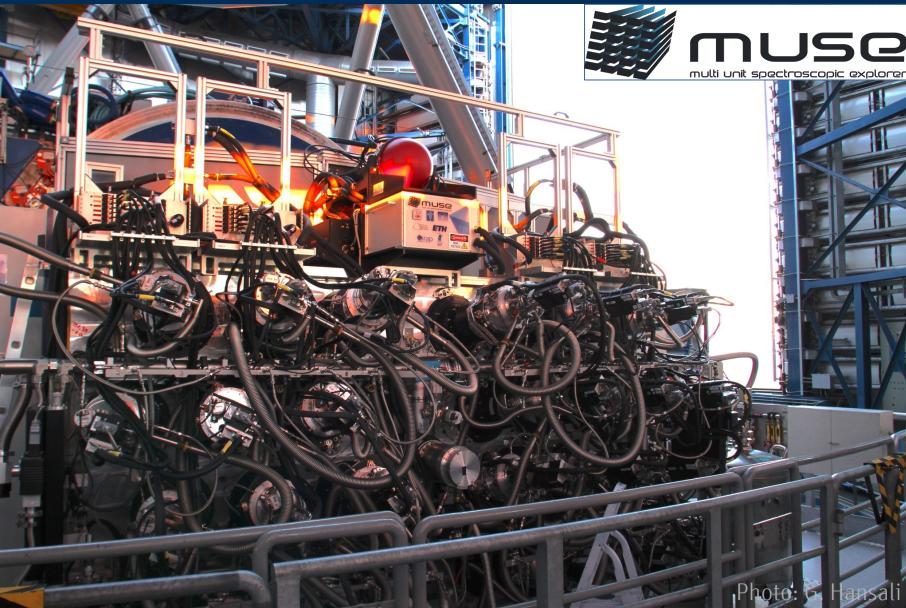
- MUSE: panoramic integral field spectrograph at VLT UT4
- operating since 2014
- the most successful ground-based astronomical instrument?



MUSE & BlueMUSE



MUSE & BlueMUSE



**BLUE
MUSE**
multi unit spectroscopic explorer

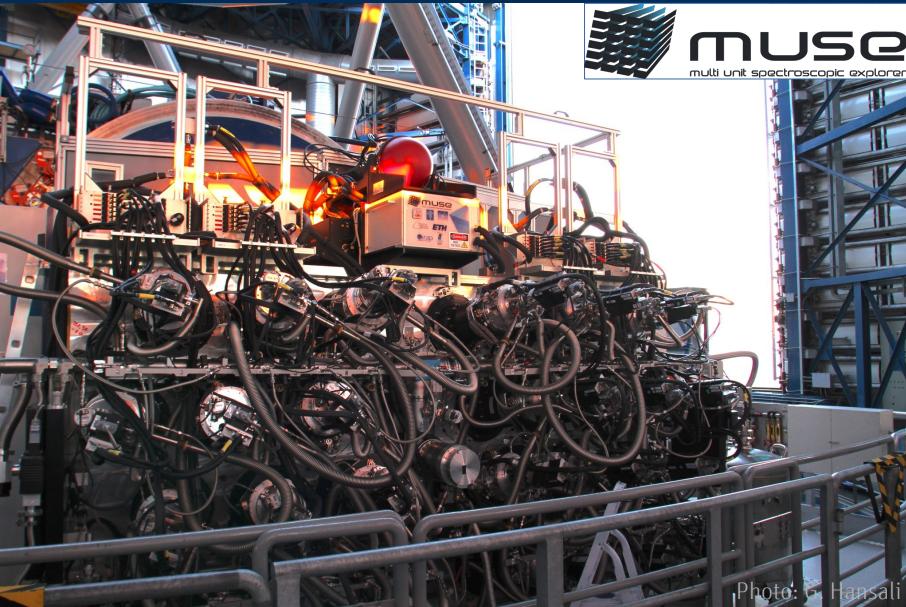
PI: Roland Bacon (CRAL)



PI: Johan Richard (CRAL)



MUSE & BlueMUSE



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MUSE & BlueMUSE

Telescope	VLT UT4 Yepun	 muse multi unit spectroscopic explorer
Instrument Type	Optical Integral Field Spectrograph	
Wavelength range	(465)480 – 930 nm	
Resolution	R ~ 1800 – 3600	
Field of view	contiguous 1' x 1' (WFM)	
Detectors	24 deep depl. CCDs (e2v), 4k x 4k	
Sampling	0.2" x 0.2" x 0.125 nm	
Throughput (incl. telesc. & atmosph.)	40% (16% at red end)	
Commissioning	February – August 2014	
AO support		
WFM (since 2017)	~2x EE improvement (GLAO)	
NFM (since 2018)	high-order correction (7.5" x 7.5" field, sampled at 0.025")	

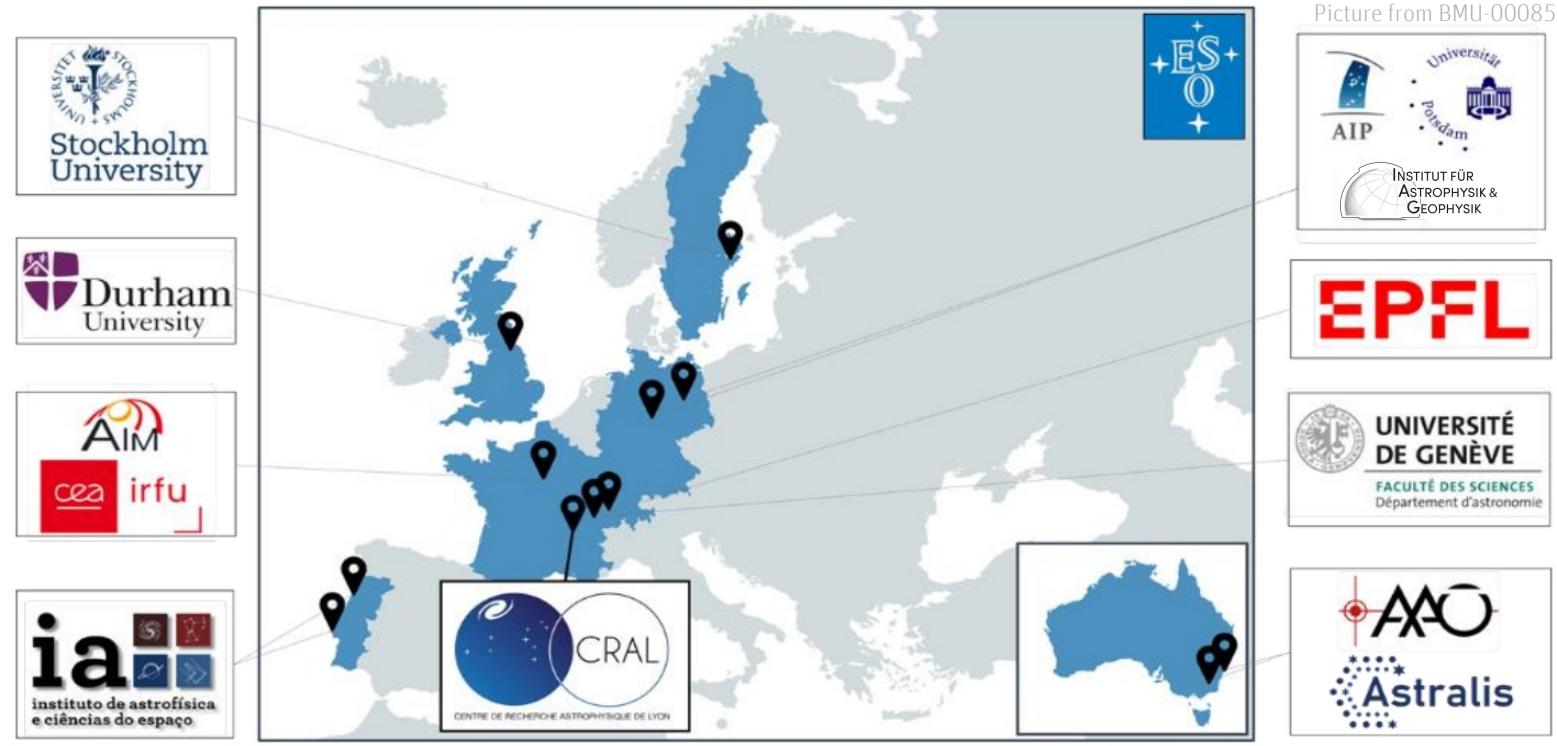
Telescope	another VLT UT	 blue muse multi unit spectroscopic explorer
Instrument Type	Optical Integral Field Spectrograph	
Wavelength range	at least 350 – 580 nm	
Resolution	R > 2600, $\langle R \rangle > 3500$	
Field of view	contiguous 1' x 1'	
Detectors	16 CCDs (4k x 4k)	
Sampling	likely around 0.2" x 0.3" x 0.06 nm	
Throughput (incl. telesc. & atmosph.)	>26% (>15% in the blue)	
Commissioning	2032	
AO support	None	

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Commissioning	2032	Phase A just finished!
AO support	None	

BlueMUSE Consortium



Project Office:

PI Johan Richard (CRAL)

PM Rémi Giroud (CRAL)

PS Davor Krajnović (AIP)

SE Florence Laurent (CRAL)

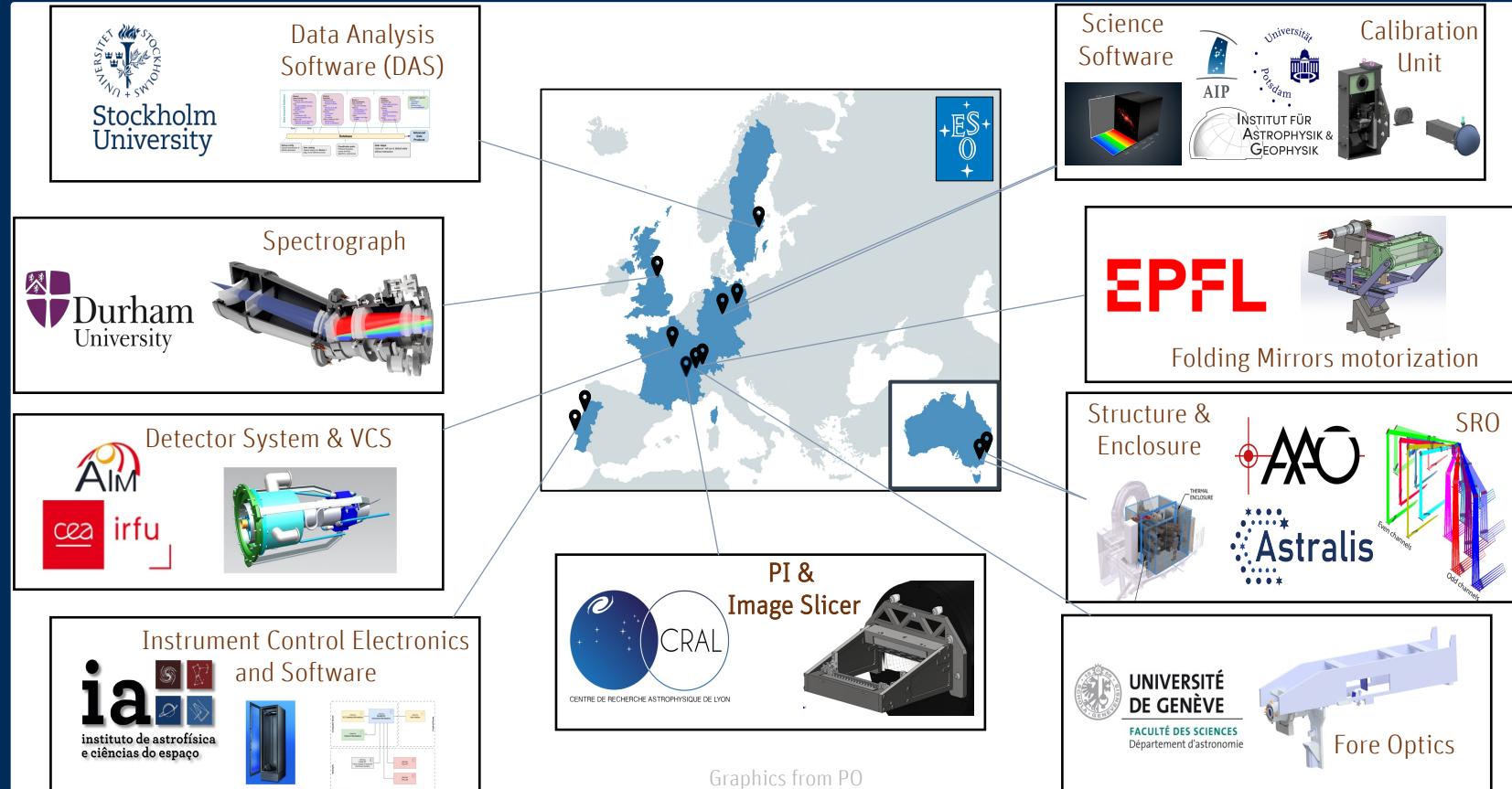
Institutional Board / Executive Board

Science Team

further technical teams

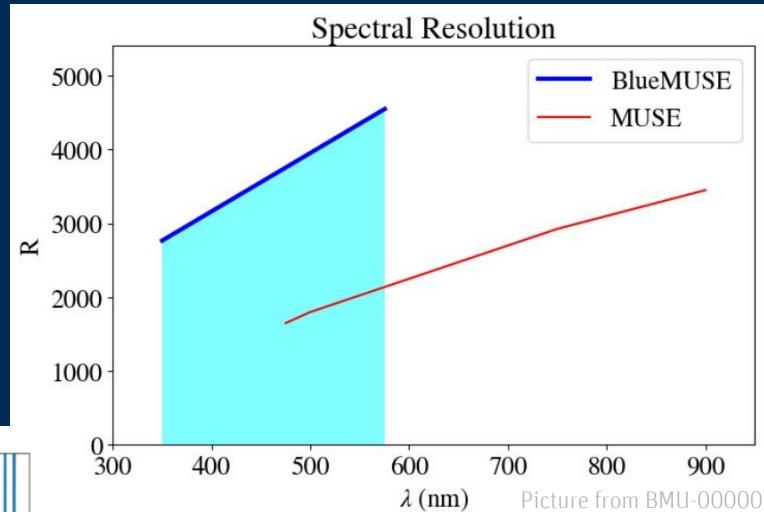
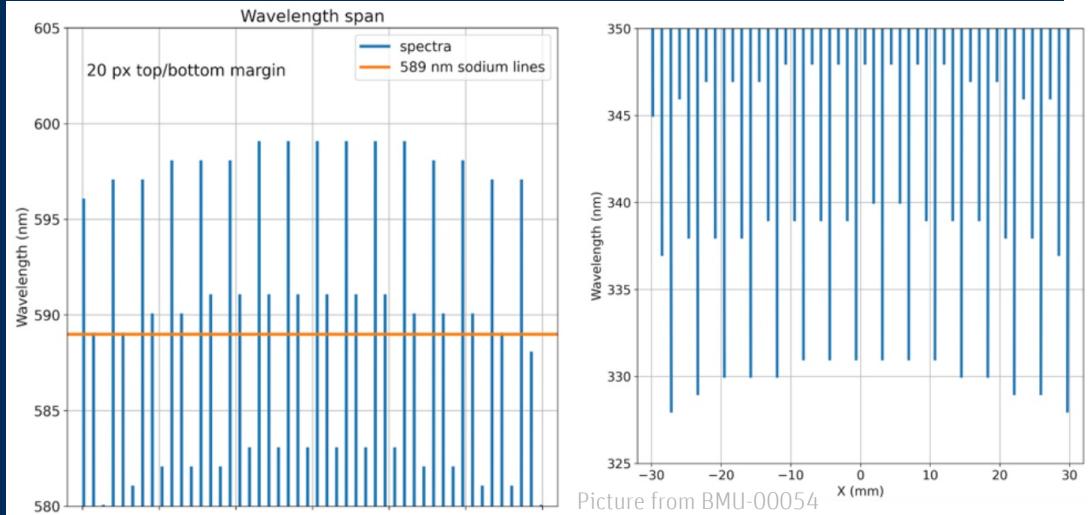
ESO follow-up Team

BlueMUSE Consortium



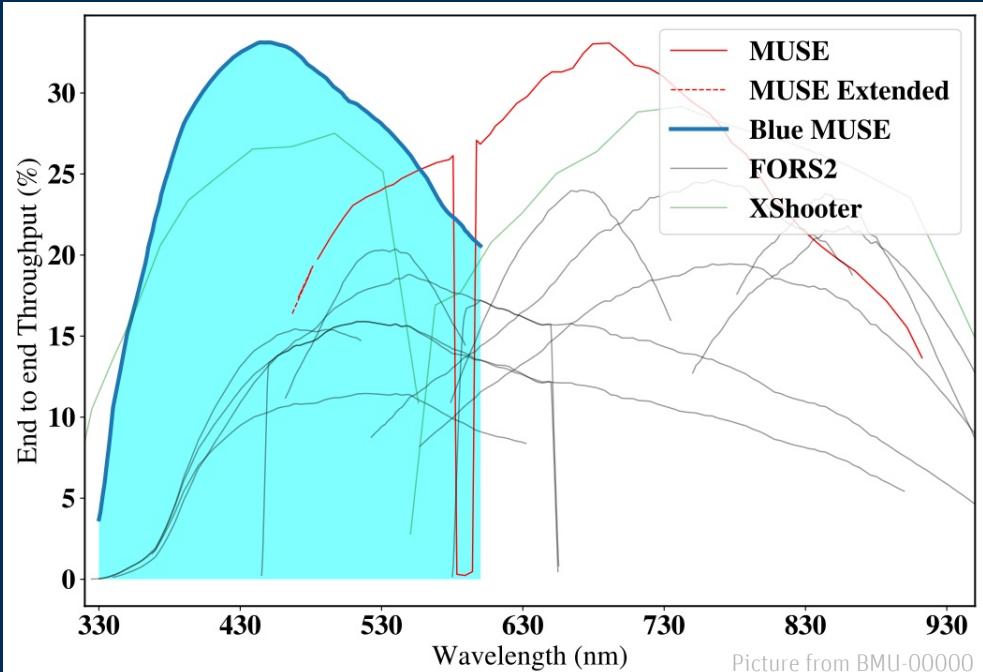
Spectral resolution & wavelength range

- Blue wavelength is limited by atmospheric cut-off
- Red cutoff related to spectral resolution and sensitivity
- 'extended' mode for a fraction of the FoV: ~330-600 nm



Efficiency and throughput

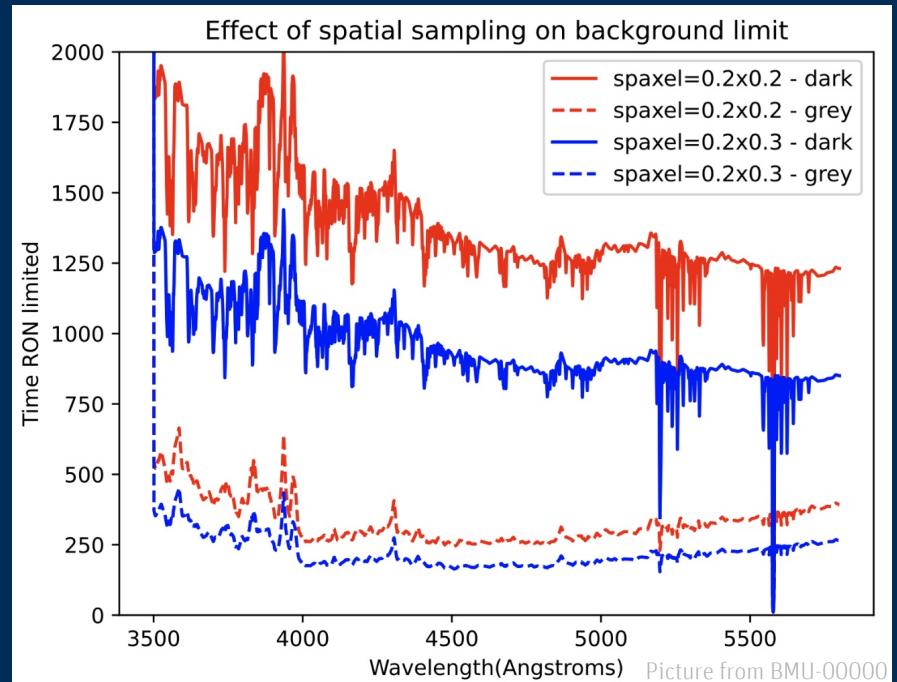
- Expected peak throughput similar to MUSE, up to 35%
- demonstrated by AIP lab spectrograph (MUSE-like but blue-sensitive)
- BlueMUSE + VLT more efficient in the blue than ELT
 - higher blue throughput
 - larger field of view
 - 11x more efficient than HARMONI at 500 nm



Picture from BMU-00000

Rectangular spaxels

- sampling $0.3''$ sufficient in the blue
- $0.2''$ in one dimension allows compact spectrograph
- MUSE-like sampling ($0.2'' \times 0.2''$):
read-out noise limited in dark time for $t_{\text{exp}} \approx 1500$ s
- 16 spectrographs instead of 24 can sample the $1' \times 1'$ field
- rectangular sampling (approx. $0.2'' \times 0.3''$) allows shorter exposures and does not degrade spatial resolution
- final cube will have square spaxels!



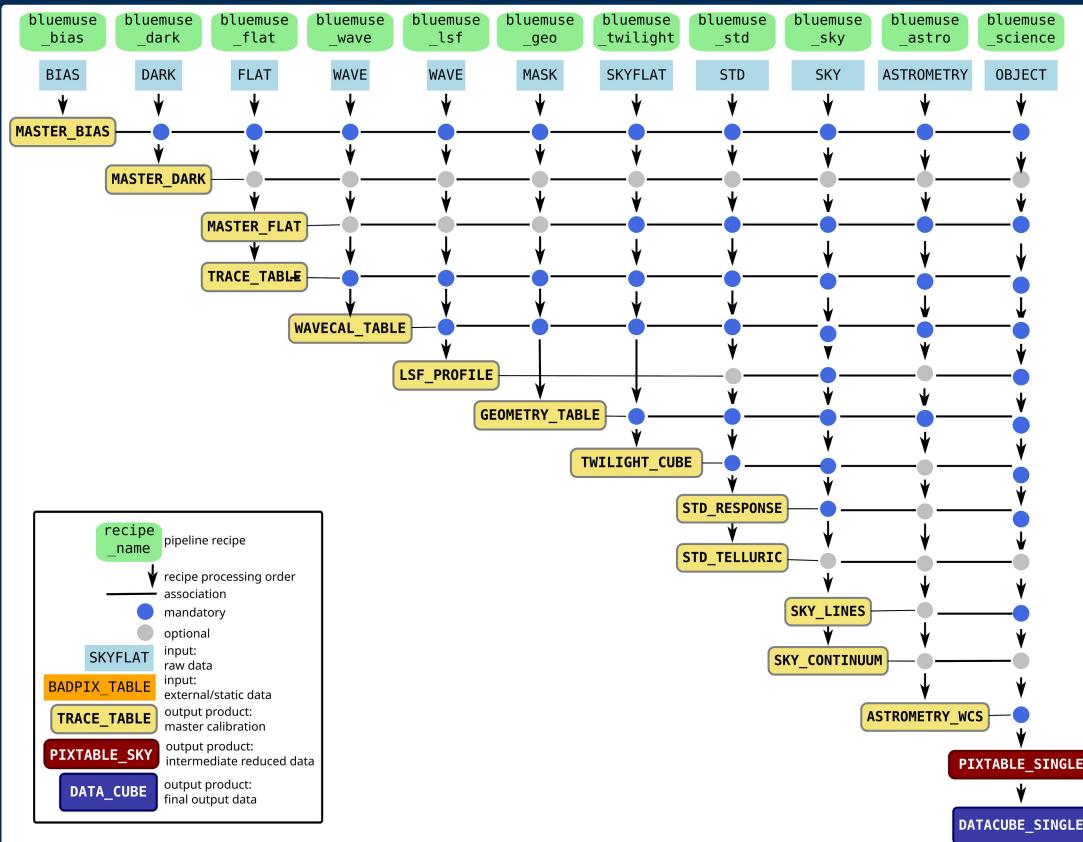
Stability

- MUSE has various properties that change with temperature
 - slice illumination → flat-fielding / image artifacts
 - wavelength calibration → redshifts / velocities
- improve for BlueMUSE
- fully leverage higher spectral resolution
- technical solutions studied:
 - thermal instrument cover
 - motorized folding mirrors

DRS

- Data Reduction Software → converts raw data into datacubes
- mostly like MUSE pipeline
- rough idea about the science processing steps
- improvements as far as issues are understood

(tell me now if there is something you always hated about the MUSE pipeline or the cubes!)

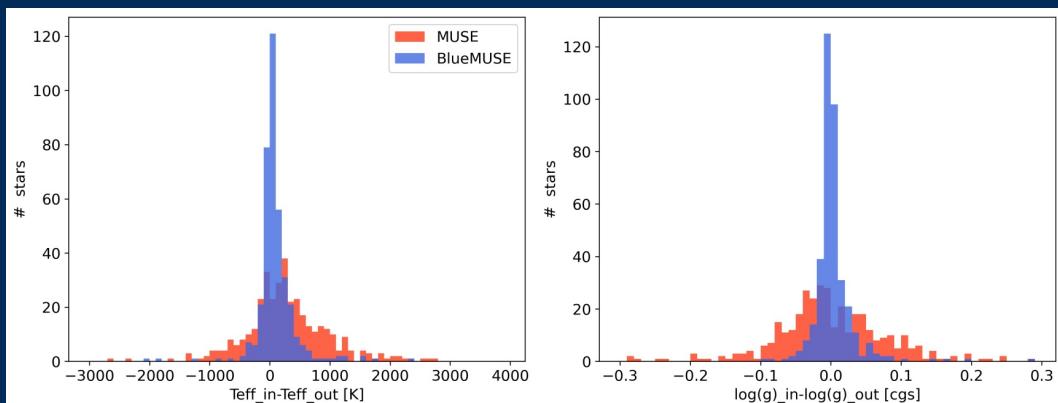
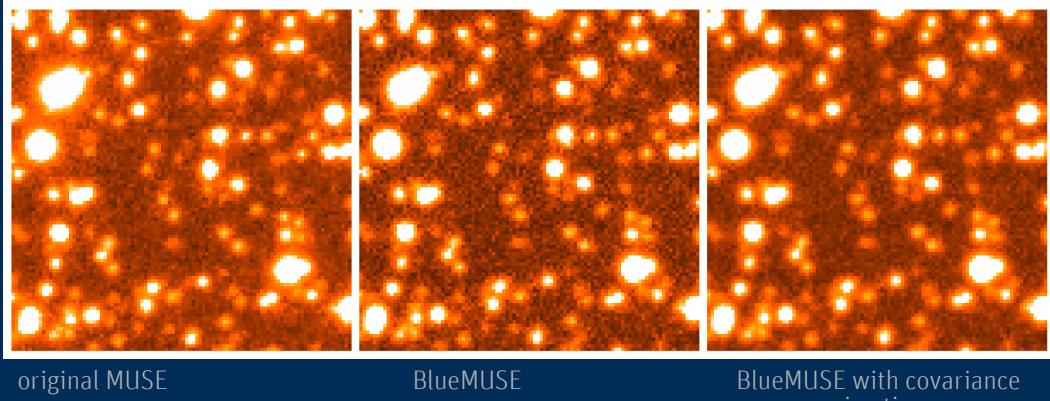


DAS

- Data Analysis Software → starts from reduced datacubes
- automated analysis for different science cases
- different modules:
 - detection
 - extraction
 - classification
 - cataloging
- example: automated creation of catalog of LAEs with spectral analysis

BlueSi

- simulating cubes for BlueMUSE
- test science cases and tools
- matched with up-to-date instrument parameters
- several scene types available
 - globular cluster
 - resolved young star cluster
(gas content being implemented)
 - full galaxy (being worked on)
 - high-redshift objects (LAEs)
- SPIE paper: Wendt et al. arXiv:2406.13915



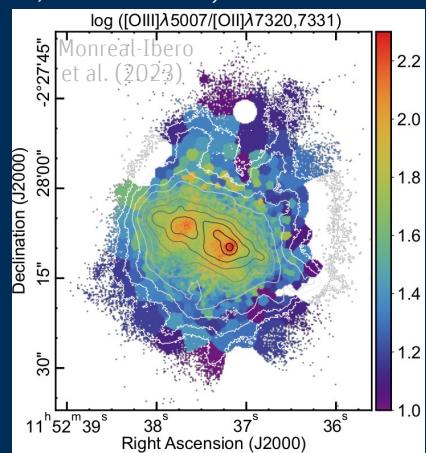
stellar parameter recovery (MUSE / BlueMUSE comparison)

BlueMUSE science

- Science: “Phase A **White Paper**”
(current internal version: Krajnović et al. BMU-00000;
old version Richard et al. arXiv:1906.01657)
- Different distances:
 - The Milky Way and the Local Group (organisers Angela Adamo, Norberto Castro)
 - Nearby galaxies (organisers Davor Krajnović, Angel Lopez-Sánchez)
 - The Distant Universe (organisers Tanya Urrutia, Mathilde Jauzac, Mark Swinbank)
- Key science cases
 - Massive stars
 - ISM and HII regions in extreme starbursts
 - Gas flows around and between galaxies

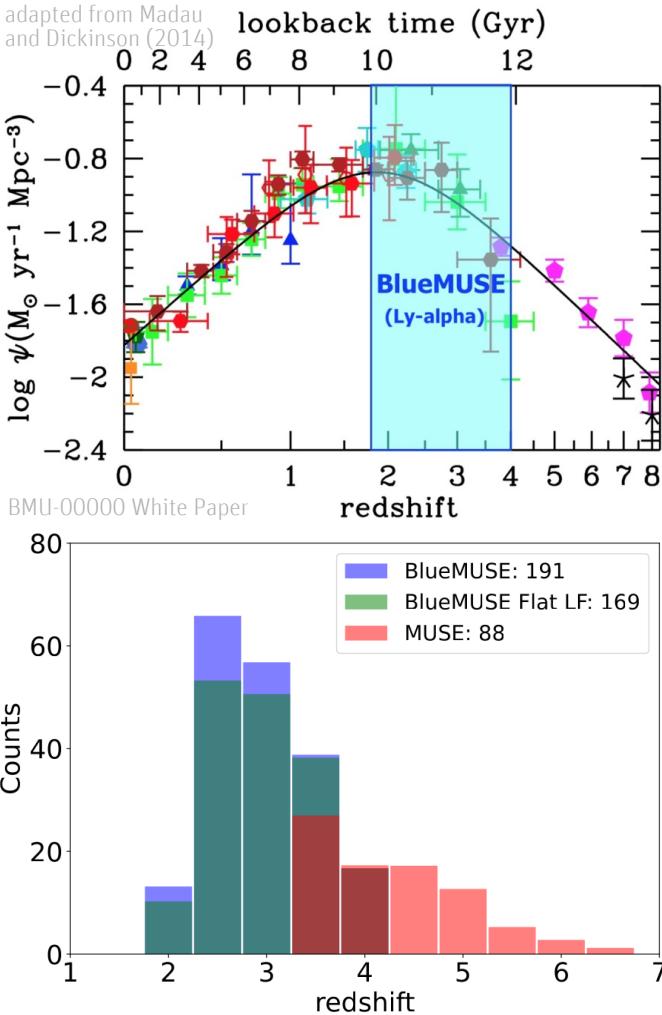


Credit: Castro/Weilbacher (AIP)



BlueMUSE and Lyman α

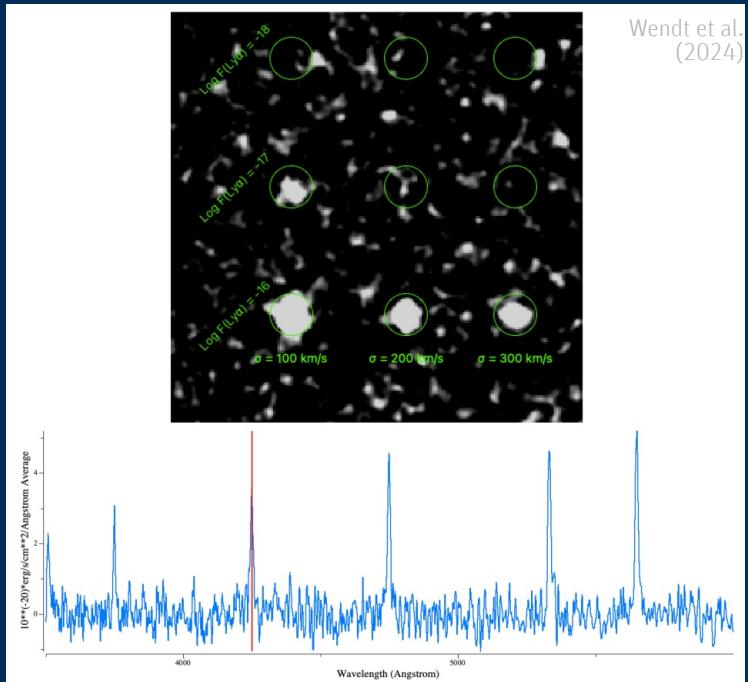
- Lyman α observable $1.9 < z < 3.8$
- fills most of z-range currently not observable by MUSE
- cosmological surface brightness dimming
 - about 4x less at $z=2-3$ compared to $z\sim 4$
 - 16x faster mapping of Ly α sources to same S/N
- Larger spaxels \rightarrow easier to reach background noise
- estimate source counts
 - 10 h field (like MUSE UDF-10)
 - 5σ detection limit
 - extrapolated LF $\rightarrow 191$ LAEs
 - flattened LF $\rightarrow 169$ LAEs
 \Rightarrow about 2x MUSE
- lensing fields: multiple images of fainter LAEs



BlueMUSE and Lyman α: Simulation

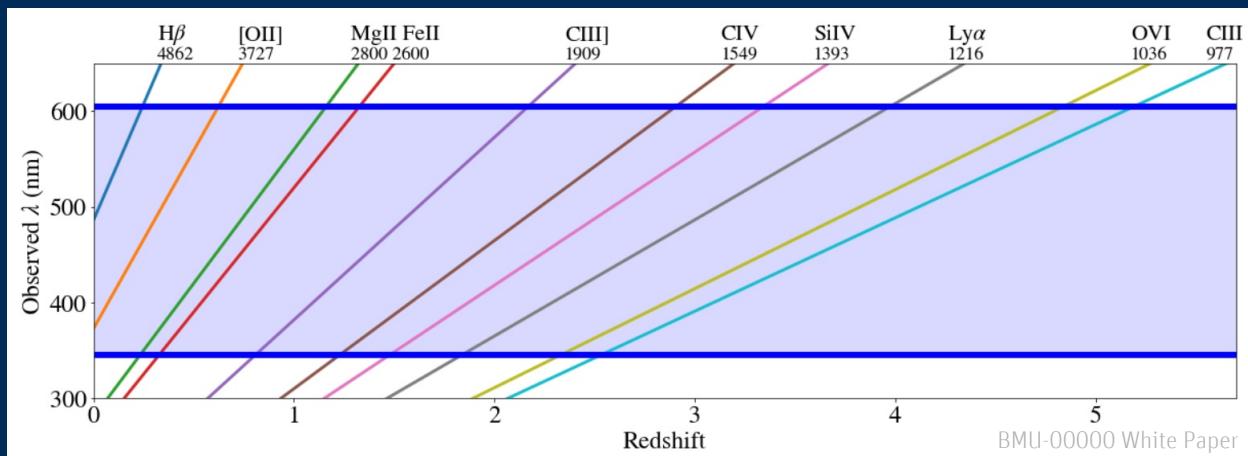
- BlueSi: simulated cube
- Ly α emitters placed at regular intervals
- Depth simulated like MUSCATEL shallow fields
- Different Ly α fluxes and line widths
- Recovery testing using LSDCat matched filtering

→ John Pharo



BlueMUSE and Lyman α halos

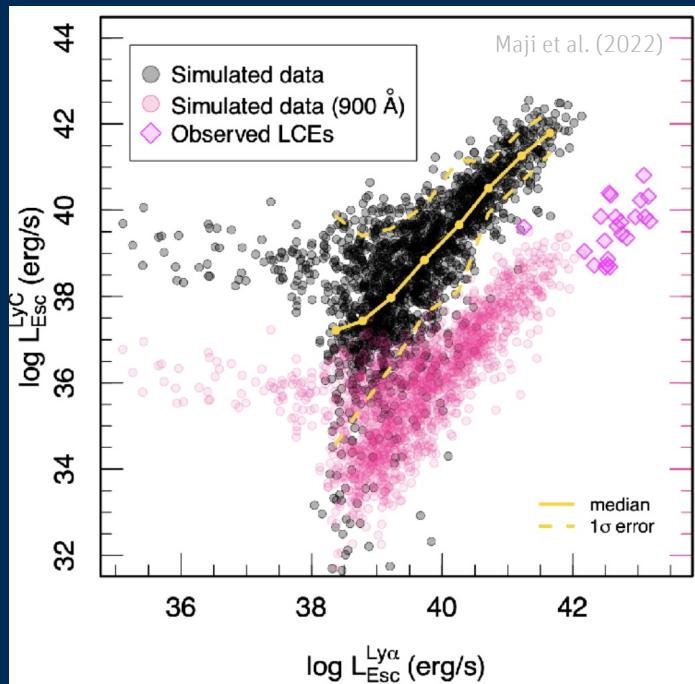
- halos (CGM) around LAEs at low surface brightness
- few galaxies at $z > 3$
- evolution: brighter targets → observe gas flows around more galaxies individually
- CGM of SF galaxies in Ly α
- probing CGM in emission with metal lines
- CGM around AGNs
- also: absorption-line studies of CGM to sweet spot $0.6 < z < 0.7$ with higher spectral resolution than MUSE



BMU-00000 White Paper

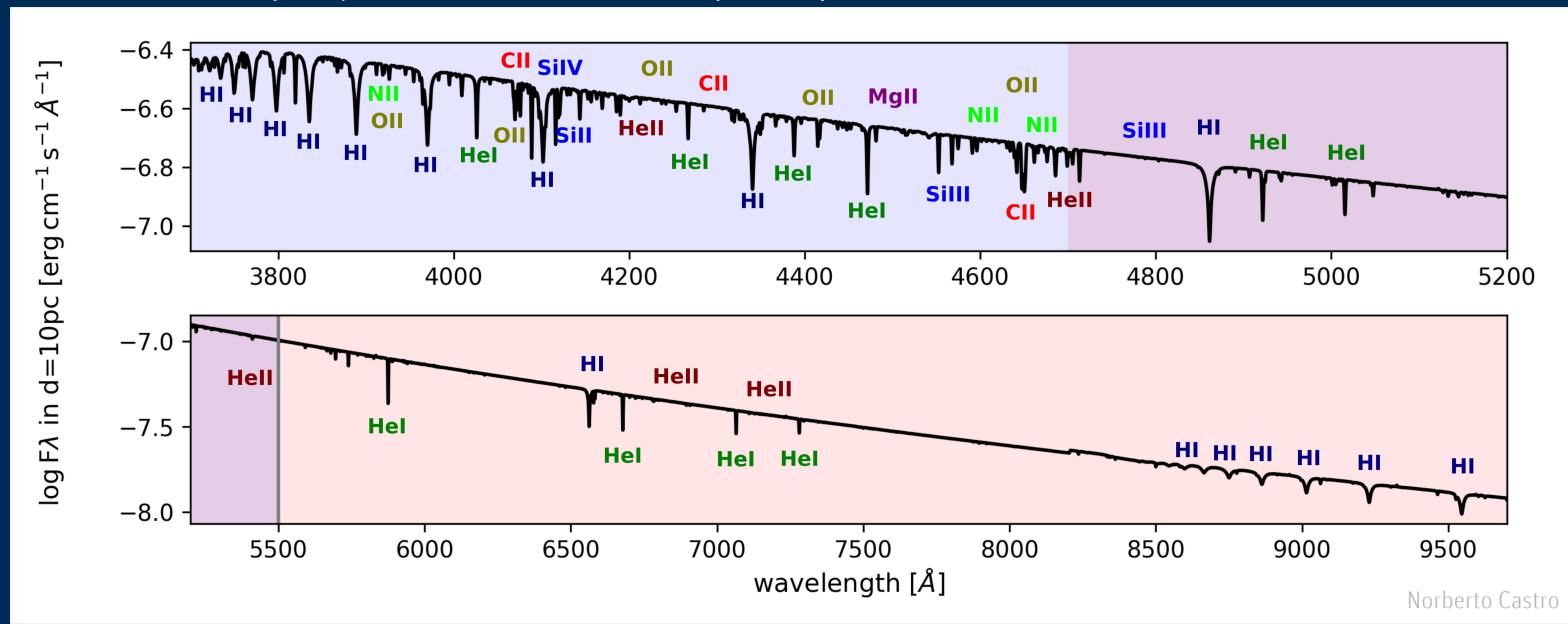
BlueMUSE and Lyman-continuum emitters

- direct LyC detections inefficient at $z \gtrsim 4$ (increasing IGM opacity)
- BlueMUSE can probe LyC from sources at $3 < z < 5$
- provide meaningful statistical samples of LyC emitters
- detection of ionizing emission down to $\sim 780 \text{ \AA}$ for $z \sim 3.5$ sources
→ constrain shape of LyC spectrum
- link to Ly α emission and Lyman-series absorption
(HI density and covering fraction)



Key science case: Massive Stars

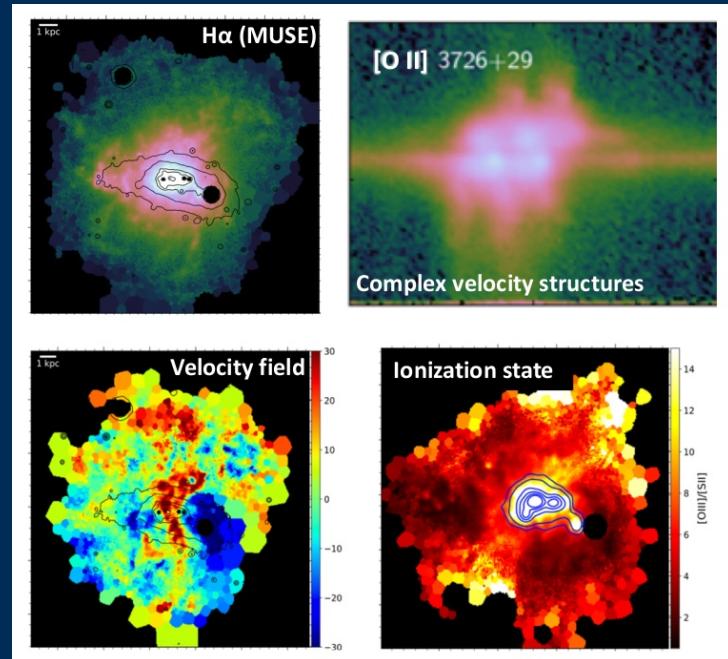
- 09.5V star spectrum from PoWR code
- Many metal lines between 3700 and 4700 Å!
- Much better chance to characterize the stars
- Improved determination of LyC injection → better estimate LyC escape



Norberto Castro

Key science case: ISM and HII regions in extreme starbursts

- Extreme starbursts → blue (dwarf) compact galaxies
 - Compact, irregular, low-luminosity, low metallicity
 - Short lived episode of SF
- Analogs of (low-mass) high-z SB systems
- Responsible for re-ionization
- Highly ionized ISM, compact, low [Z/H]
- What is their (massive) stellar content?
- What are the properties of the ionizing radiation?
- When/where do they leak LyC emission?
- How do the HII regions and the diffuse gas respond to the SF?
- BlueMUSE:
 - more precise kinematics
 - detection of critical lines [OII]3727,29 and [OIII]4363



Outlook & Conclusions

-  will be a new panoramic IFS at the VLT
- Instrument design based on successful MUSE
 - various improvements
 - instrument parameters may still change
 - Phase A just passed, design phase starting now
- BlueMUSE will
 - contribute to Lyman α studies at $1.9 < z < 3.8 \rightarrow$ find more LAEe than MUSE!
 - study the CGM in emission with Ly α and metal lines in statistical samples
 - observe more and fainter LyC emitters
 - improve characterization of nearby massive stars
 - extend studies of nearby starbursts (and their LyC emission) to bluer wavelengths
- **BlueMUSE should be at the VLT in 2032!**





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The End
