### DISCOVERY OF THE BRIGHTEST LYMAN-ALPHA EMITTERS IN THE EPOCH OF RE-IONISATION

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- When and how did the first stars and galaxies form?
- When and how did re-ionisation happen?



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- When and how did re-ionisation happen?

How do we observe the first galaxies and their interaction with re-ionisation?

# LYMAN-ALPHA AS A TOOL TO STUDY YOUNG GALAXIES AND RE-IONISATION

- narrow-band selects redshifted 1216 Å (optical at z>2)



- Lyα emitted by young galaxies (high EW)
- $Ly\alpha$  absorbed in more neutral IGM (test for re-ionisation)

# LYA AT Z = 6.6



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### **Evolution at all Luminosities (?)**



### **LYA AT Z = 6.6** Surveys limited by cosmic variance (<1deg<sup>2</sup>)



# OUR SURVEY: 5 DEG<sup>2</sup> IN UDS, COSMOS AND SA22

**NB921: Lyman-α at z=6.6** UDS, 0.9 deg<sup>2</sup>, NB921<26

- COSMOS, 0.9 deg<sup>2</sup>, NB921<25.5

Surveys: SDXF, UKIDSS-UDS, SpUDS, UDSz COSMOS, UltraVISTA, S-COSMOS, zCOSMOS

- SA22-Deep, 0.3 deg<sup>2</sup>, NB921<26

CFHTLS, UKIDSS-DXS

- SA22-Wide, 2.7 deg<sup>2</sup>, NB921<24.2



# SELECTION CRITERIA FOR Z=6.6 LAE

- $EW_{obs}$  > 300 Å
- Excess significance > 3
- ugri / BVRi > 3 sigma (Lyman break)
- J-K < 0.5 (blue restframe UV)





Matthee et al. 2015 (arXiv:1502.07355)

### **Results:**

99 LAEs in UDS15 LAEs in COSMOS2 LAEs in SA22-Deep18 LAEs in SA22-Wide



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### COSMOS REDSHIFT 7' (CR7) AND `MASOSA' THE BRIGHTEST Z=6.6 LAES



Sobral et al. (on the arXiv soon) Matthee et al. 2015 (arXiv:1502.07355)

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Confirms number density

# LAE Z=6.6 LUMINOSITY FUNCTION



# EVOLUTION FROM Z=6.6 TO Z=5.7



# TOY MODEL FOR LF EVOLUTION DUE TO RE-IONISATION



- LAE only observed in large enough ionised region
- Luminous LAEs easier to observe

# EVOLUTION FROM Z=6.6 TO Z=5.7 z=5.7 to z=6.6 evolution



### Bulk of the evolution happens at the faint end!

# EVOLUTION FROM Z=6.6 TO Z=5.7 z=6.6 to z=7.3 evolution



### Bulk of the evolution happens at the faint end!

# CONCLUSIONS

- We have obtained a new z=6.6 Lyα LF using data in UDS, COSMOS and SA22
- We spectroscopically confirm the two brightest LAE at z=6.6 so far, meaning that sources with luminosity similar to *Himiko* are not as rare as thought, and have number densities of ~ 1.5 per 10<sup>5</sup> Mpc<sup>3</sup>
- There is differential evolution of the LF from z=6.6 to z=5.7, which we argue is an effect of re-ionisation not being completed

### Ouchi+2010 data and fit - and our fit incl. Himiko



# EVOLUTION OF THE LYA LF Z=3-6



### We reproduce Ouchi+2010 in UDS



# COMPLETENESS



# TOY MODEL FOR LF EVOLUTION DUE TO RE-IONISATION

Input parameters:

- Escape fraction Lya = 30%, case B recombination
- Escape fraction LyC = 5%
- age Lya = 100 Myr
- Salpeter IMF, max M = 100 Msun

$$L(H\alpha) = 8.6 f_{esc,Ly\alpha} L(Ly\alpha) \text{ erg s}^{-1}$$

$$N_{\gamma,em} = \frac{L(H\alpha)}{1.37 \times 10^{-12}} \ \mathrm{s}^{-1}$$

$$R_S = 4.3 \, x_{\rm IGM}^{-1/3} \, (\frac{f_{esc,ion} N_{\gamma,em}}{1.3 \times 10^{57} {\rm s}^{-1}})^{1/3} \, (\frac{t}{2 \times 10^7 {\rm yr}})^{1/3} \, \, {\rm Mpc}$$

# EVOLUTION LAE & LBG



# Lya escape fraction

~40% of the data (rest is coming this December-January) Lya escape fraction: 4+-4% consistent with Hayes+2011

(for LAEs: 30+-3% consistent with Wardlow+2014, based on far IR)



Narrow-band technique -> double NB technique

- 1. sample of ~500 Ha emitters at z=2.23
- 2. place the NB392 filter at the INT
- 3. observe Lya emission line for these galaxies
- 4. measure the Lya flux -> escape fraction

- JM identifies sources at November 4 and 5, 2014
- DS is in Hawaii and tries to convince Keck staff for observations fail
- December: JM, DS & HR apply for DDT time VLT/FORS2 success
- Christmas: Benham goes to Hawaii, confirms brightest source with 15 minutes raw exposure with Keck/DEIMOS, bad weather for the other- success/fail
- January 2015: DS & JM convince ESO to observe this target with X-Shooter success
- January 2015: ESO staff at VLT confirms second source with a misaligned exposure. Moon prevents X-Shooter observations - success/fail
- February 2015: X-Shooter observations reveal ~ 2 sigma Hell
- March 2015: 8 hours of SINFONI DDT time granted by ESO with priority A

# **CR7...** how special is it?



### MUSE, HDF (Bacon, Brinchmann, et al. 2014)

# **CR7...** how special is it?



#### MUSE, HDF (Bacon, Brinchmann, et al. 2014)



**Figure 2** - Our most luminous source, CR7, left (identified with a "C" in Figure 1) and its the right. Both sources are completely absent in the optical down to ~28 (including very emitters with a detection in the z' band (implying a Lyman-break of ~3 or more). They detection of H $\beta$ +[OIII] (right) at that band with high EW (well within what is expected magnitude once we split our data into two different years. We estimate that (within 2") frame EW of ~200 A), but they are even more luminous with a larger aperture and thus n



# **CR7...**

e

Y UltraVISTA JHK UltraVI



**Figure 2** - Our most luminous source, CR?, left (i the right. Both sources are completely absent in the emitters with a c'atection in  $f_{i} \ni z'$  and (implying detection of H $\beta$ +[CII] (right) and with hi magnitude once we split our data into two differe frame EW of ~200 A), but they are even more lum

Normalised

0.6

0.4

0.2

1190



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# To be continued...