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Spectral Resolution boosting GPI's IFS using a small EDI interferometer addition

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Prof. Bruce Macintosh hosting



Science motivation: detection of bio-related molecules in exoplanets

Atmospheric molecules (water, CO2, methane etc) vibrational spectra have a fingerprint which makes them easy to detect using a small interferometer addition

Features consist of set of quasi-periodic 30-40 fine lines



GPI's Integral Field Spectrograph cannot resolve these features with its low R~40

An interferometer of ~6mm delay has a periodic response almost matched to the feature shape



Placing the interferometer in series with the IFS creates moire fringes, which can detect the biomarker. Res~40 has been effectively boosted 100x to Res~4000.

Technique is called Externally Dispersed Interferometry (EDI). Interferometers can be made compact

It could be inserted into the existing beam like a filter



Interferometer "filter" would be inserted prior to IFS



Figure 3: GPI Schematic design.

Interferometer creates a sinusoidal transmission comb Intrf. peaks and valleys can be used to resolve narrow features well beyond resolution of native spectrograph



Interferometer creates a sinusoidal transmission comb

Intrf. peaks and valleys can be used to resolve narrow features well beyond resolution of native spectrograph

Only a few mm (6 mm) intrf. delay is needed to resolve biomarkers, to yield effective R~4000



Three atmospheric absorption features at R=3850, at 2 micron

Feature consists of group of about 40 almost evenly spaced lines





Interferometer (EDI) at 6mm delay has similar sensitivity to fine features as R~3850

Similar for the 1.6 um band

5.8 mm delay interferometer comb

Period in wavenumber (cm⁻¹) space is reciprocal of delay (cm)

interfrmtr_comb * spectrum

Moire fringes are produced which encode spectral information

We have software which reverses this process to deduce the high res spectrum from the moire

10x res boost demo'd on Mt. Palomar

2700 --> 27,000 using 7 delays, up to 3 cm

"High-resolution broadband spectroscopy using externally dispersed interferometry at the Hale telescope: Part 1, data analysis and results", D.J. Erskine, J. Edelstein, E. Wishnow, M. Sirk, P.S. Muirhead, M.W. Muterspaugh, J.P. Lloyd, Y. Ishikawa, E. McDonald, W. V. Shourt, and A. M. Vanderburg, J. Astr. Tele. Instrm. Sys. 2(2), 025004 (2016), doi: 10.1117/1.JATIS.2.2.025004.

"High-resolution broadband spectroscopy using externally dispersed interferometry at the Hale telescope: Part 2, photon noise theory", D.J. Erskine, J. Edelstein, E. Wishnow, M. Sirk, P.S. Muirhead, M.W. Muterspaugh, and J.P. Lloyd, J. Astr. Tele. Instrm. Sys. 2(4), 045001 (2016), doi: 10.1117/1.JATIS.2.4.045001.

Moire fringes survive the spectrograph blurring

Medium res

Low res

Native R~700

Mag ~ 16% of continuum

Plots subtract the nonfringing portion

R~70 Mag ~ 7% of continuum

Fourier Transform of feature shows concentration of signal at high frequencies

2 um band

