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A $z = 1.82$ ANALOG OF LOCAL ULTRA-MASSIVE ELLIPTICAL GALAXIES

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1. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the formation of massive elliptical galaxies remains a crucial unsolved issue of galaxy evolution. The recent discovery and the first redshift measurements, through deep ultraviolet (UV) rest-frame spectroscopy, of a substantial population of passively evolving galaxies at $z > 1.4$ (e.g., Cimatti et al. 2004; McCarthy et al. 2004; Daddi et al. 2005) have shown that quenching of star formation in the most massive galaxies was already well under way at $z \sim 2$.

A puzzling property of such objects has been revealed soon afterwards with some of them being found to have a factor of $\sim 2-5$ smaller effective radii compared to local early-type galaxies (ETGs) of the same stellar mass (e.g., Daddi et al. 2005; Trujillo et al. 2006; Longhetti et al. 2007; Cimatti et al. 2008; van Dokkum et al. 2008), implying that they are $\gtrsim 10$ times denser than their possible descendants in the local Universe. Several alternative mechanisms have been proposed to make such compact ETGs grow in size so to finally meet the properties of local ETGs (e.g., Khochfar & Silk 2006, Fan et al. 2008; Naab et al. 2009; La Barbera et al. 2009; Feldmann et al. 2010), but no general consensus has yet emerged.

On the other hand, ETGs at $z > 1.4$ with large effective radii, comparable to the local ETGs, have also been found (e.g., Mancini et al. 2010; Saracco et al. 2009, see also Daddi et al. 2005), indicating a diversity of structural properties in the ETG population at $z \sim 2$. Moreover, possible effects have also been discussed that could bias size estimates towards lower values (e.g., Daddi et al. 2005; Hopkins et al. 2009; Mancini et al. 2013; Pannella et al. 2009).

An independent way to check these issues is by measuring stellar velocity dispersions ($\sigma_*$); if high-$z$ ETGs are really super-dense, their $\sigma_*$ should be much higher than that of local ETGs of the same mass. Cappellari et al. (2009) measured...
formation rate SFR \lesssim\ data were reduced using the A0V-type star HIP 55627 was observed to obtain (relative) \sim\ them, in particular the galaxy (#254025) discussed in this paper, the most massive pBzKs (which are also the brightest in the COSMOS large scale structure. We preferentially selected the primary aim of our observation was to measure redshifts for R′′−band total magnitude. A cosmology with \Omega_M = 0.3, \Omega_\Lambda = 0.7, and H_0 = 70 km s\(^{-1}\) Mpc\(^{-1}\) is assumed.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTIONS

We have obtained 4.7 hours of MOIRCS spectroscopy of 34 BzK-selected galaxies (Daddi et al. 2004) from the catalog of McCracken et al. (2010) in the COSMOS field. We used the z1500 grism with 0″/″ slits, providing a resolution of R \approx 500 in the J-band over the range 9500–16000Å. The primary aim of our observation was to measure redshifts for passive BzK galaxies (pBzKs) and locate them accurately in the COSMOS large scale structure. We preferentially selected the most massive pBzKs (which are also the brightest in the NIR) to maximize the chance of determining also physical information in addition to redshifts for at least a fraction of them, in particular the galaxy (#254025) discussed in this paper and already studied by Mancini et al. (2010). The observations were made under partly cloudy conditions and with \sim 1″/2″ seeing. A sequence of 600s integrations were made in a two position dithering pattern separated by 2″. The A0V-type star HIP 55627 was observed to obtain (relative) flux calibration and to correct for telluric absorption. The data were reduced using the MCMSPD pipeline (Yoshikawa et al., in preparation), including flat-fielding by dome flat, sky subtraction between each exposure pairs, bad pixel and cosmic ray rejection, distortion correction, wavelength calibration (based on the OH telluric lines), residual sky subtraction and finally co-addition with appropriate offsets and weights. The 2-dimensional spectra are flux-calibrated using the standard star spectrum, and 1-dimensional spectra were extracted with the IRAF apall task using a 1″/9 aperture. The absolute flux calibration was then obtained by normalizing to the J-band total magnitude.

Whilst the results for the complete sample observed with MOIRCS will be presented elsewhere we will concentrate here on the pBzK galaxy #254025. This galaxy one of the 12 ultra-massive high redshift ETG candidates in Mancini et al. (2010), with a photometric redshift of z_{phot} = 1.71 and very bright NIR magnitudes of J_AB = 20.32 and K_AB = 19.41. Mancini et al. (2010) also report that the galaxy is non-detected at Spitzer/MIPS 24 μm to 80 μJy implying a star formation rate SFR \lesssim 50 M_{\odot} yr\(^{-1}\). Using HST/ACS F814W imaging (rest-frame UV) they measure a Sérsic index n = 4.1 and an effective radius of r_e = 5.7 kpc, consistent with the stellar mass-size relation of local elliptical galaxies (Mancini et al. 2010).

Figure 1 shows the resulting 1D and 2D MOIRCS spectra of #254025. The 4000 Å break is clearly seen, together with strong Balmer and metallic absorption lines, namely Ca II H +K, Ca II K, H_α, H_γ, H_δ, G-band and CN+H\θ. H/β falls in the region with low atmospheric transmission and with strong OH-lines. No emission lines are observed. While [O III]λλ4959, 5007 falls in a region with low atmospheric transmission, [O II]λλ3727 is uncontaminated and its non-detection sets a 3σ upper limit of SFR of \sim 2.5 M_{\odot} yr\(^{-1}\) (not corrected for extinction), using the Kennicutt (1998) conversion. From the spectrum, the absorption line redshift is measured as z = 1.8230 ± 0.0006.

3. RESULTS

3.1. Stellar Populations

Having determined the spectroscopic redshift, we proceeded to fit stellar population templates, separately to the broad-band spectral energy distribution (SED) and to the MOIRCS spectrum. We allowed for a wide range of possible star formation histories (SFHs), including: (1) instantaneous bursts, i.e., simple stellar populations (SSP); (2) constant SFRs for a duration within 0.01–3.5 Gyr \^2, terminated by SF quenching and followed by passive evolution; (3) delayed, exponentially declining SFH described as SFR(t) \propto (t/) exp(-t/) with τ within 0.1–2 Gyr; (4) exponentially increasing SFH, SFR(t) \propto exp(t/) for a duration within t_q = 0.1–3 Gyr, followed by SF quenching and passive evolution. We choose τ = 0.72 Gyr, corresponding to a stellar mass doubling time of \sim 0.5 Gyr, as suggested for z \sim 2 galaxies by the existence of tight stellar mass-SFR relation, with SFR \propto M_* (Daddi et al. 2007; Renzini 2009). For all the SFHs, template ages were allowed to range in t in 0.4–3.5 Gyr. We use a Chabrier (2003) IMF. The fits were made with metallicities of 0.5×Z_\odot, Z_\odot and 2×Z_\odot. To reduce the number of free parameters we have assumed no dust extinction, appropriate for a passively evolving galaxy, considering the strict upper limit on the SFR that is set by the spectrum, an assumption that is validated by the good fit that is achieved in the blue continuum (see Figure 1).

The SED fitting was carried out for the broad-band Bz data from Subaru/Suprime-Cam (Capak et al. 2007; Taniguchi et al. 2007), JHK data from CFHT/WIRCAM (McCracken et al. 2010), and the Spitzer/IRAC 3.6μm, 4.5μm and 5.8μm data (Sanders et al. 2007). Artificial errors of 0.05 mag for the Bz/JHK bands and 0.1 mag for the IRAC bands are added to the observed errors in quadrature to account for systematics in zero-point determinations, in the photometric measurements, and in the stellar population models. The templates for the SED fitting are generated from population synthesis models by Maraston (2005) hereafter MOS. The spectral resolution of the MOS models is significantly lower than that of our MOIRCS spectrum. Hence, for fitting the spectrum, we used templates from the Bruzual & Charlot (2003) hereafter BC03 spectral synthesis library. Although these models might not account properly for TP-AGB stars (e.g., Maraston et al. 2006), this effect is not significant at 2 The age of the Universe at z = 1.82 is about 3.5 Gyr, given the adopted cosmology.
4000Å rest-frame, the wavelength range probed by our spectrum. The template spectra are Gaussian-broadened to an overall velocity dispersion of 350 km s$^{-1}$ (see §3.2) to match the observed spectrum, and having fixed it the stellar population parameters are derived with the $\chi^2$ over the observed wavelength range 9500–16000Å.

The stellar population parameters of the best-fit models from each adopted SFH are listed in Table [1] and the best-fit templates for the spectrum andSED are shown in Figures [1] and [2], respectively. The best fit spectra have star-formation (SF) weighted ages of $t_{\text{sf}} = 1.14^{+0.73}_{-0.74}$ Gyr and stellar masses of $M_*= (2.76^{+0.82}_{-0.01}) \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ for the broad-band SED, and $t_{\text{sf}} = 1.88^{+0.24}_{-0.24}$ Gyr and stellar mass of $M_*= (3.99^{+0.10}_{-0.32}) \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ for the spectrum. The best fit results are from $Z = Z_\odot$ for the SED and $Z = 2 \times Z_\odot$ for the spectrum. However, for the spectrum very similar values are derived using solar metallicity models that result in a slightly higher $\chi^2$ (Table 1). We notice that solar, or slightly supersolar metallicities are appropriate for local elliptical galaxies with successful individual spectra of GMASS galaxies with successful individual (Sánchez-Blázquez et al. 2006) is adopted here since it provides the best uniform and complete set of stars.

3. Velocity Dispersion and Dynamical Modeling

Our high S/N spectrum ($\simeq 8.7$ per 60 km s$^{-1}$ spectral interval in the continuum) allows us to measure a velocity dispersion from the absorption line width $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$, which is a combination of the galaxy stellar velocity dispersion $\sigma$, and the instrumental resolution $\sigma_{\text{instr}}$. This S/N is comparable to spectra of GMASS galaxies with successful individual $\sigma$ determinations (Cappellari et al. 2009). Therefore we followed the same approach of Cappellari et al. based on the Penalized Pixel-Fitting method (pPXF; Cappellari & Emsellem 2004). The MILES stellar library containing 985 stars (Sánchez-Blázquez et al. 2004) is adopted here since it provides the best uniform and complete set of stars.

Figure 3 shows the best-fit templates from pPXF, corresponding to $\sigma_{\text{obs}} = 350 \pm 30$ km s$^{-1}$ (random) $\pm 30$ km s$^{-1}$ (systematic) for the rest-frame wavelength range of 3500–4450 Å. The random error ($1\sigma$ confidence) is determined as half of the interval in $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$ spanned by 68 out of 100 Monte Carlo realizations of the input spectrum. A rough estimate of the systematic error is obtained as half of the interval in $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$ spanned by all repeated extractions of the kinematics using different, but equally acceptable, combinations for the values of the degree (from 0–4) of the additive and multiplicative polynomials in pPXF. Restricting the fit to the region with the Balmer and Ca H+K lines (3700–4100 Å in the rest-frame) gives $\sigma_{\text{obs}} = 300 \pm 50$ km s$^{-1}$ (total error), consistent with the value derived from the full spectral range.

In order to derive $\sigma$, we need to determine accurately the instrumental resolution. To do this we have used our combined MOIRCS spectrum without sky subtraction and simultaneously fitted Gaussian profiles to a series of telluric OH-lines at $\lambda \simeq 11,500$ Å, i.e., near the strongest absorption features of the galaxy’s spectrum. The central wavelength for each OH-line was taken from Rousselet et al. (2000) and we left $\sigma_{\text{instr}}$, OH-line intensities, and constant baseline as free parameters. The fitting procedure reproduces the observed sky spectra very well. Over $\lambda = 3500–4450$ Å, the instrumental resolution changes from 270 km s$^{-1}$ to 330 km s$^{-1}$. We adopt $\sigma_{\text{instr}} = 300 \pm 7$ km s$^{-1}$ (random) $\pm 30$ km s$^{-1}$ (systematic).

The derived galaxy stellar velocity dispersion is $\sigma_* = \sqrt{\sigma_{\text{obs}}^2 - \sigma_{\text{instr}}^2}$, which gives $\sigma_* = 180 \pm 59$ km s$^{-1}$ (random) $\pm 87$ km s$^{-1}$ (systematic). The relatively large uncertainties in $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$, and as $\sigma_{\text{obs}}$ is close to $\sigma_{\text{instr}}$, we cannot place a lower limit to $\sigma_*$. However, we can derive a 1σ upper limit of $\sigma_* < 326$ km s$^{-1}$ (or $\sigma_* < 385$ km s$^{-1}$ at the 2σ level), which is consistent with both determinations. If Balmer lines suffer from fill-in from emission lines $\sigma_*$ could be somewhat lower.

From the stellar velocity dispersion the virial mass can be calculated as $M_{\text{vir}} = C_{\text{FWM}} \sigma_*^2 / g$. We have set $C = 5$ as empirically calibrated on local galaxies with state-of-the-art dynamical modeling (Cappellari et al. 2006), with the velocity dispersion being measured within a large aperture ($\sim 1 r_e$) as in our case. The effective radius $r_e$ was measured by Mancini et al. (2010) from the HST/ACS F814W image ($\simeq 2900$ Å in the rest-frame) as 0.68″ $\pm 0.07″$ or 5.7 $\pm 0.6$ kpc at $z = 1.82$. Thus the upper limit of the virial mass is derived as $M_{\text{vir}} < 7.0 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$.

We have also constructed a dynamical model based on axisymmetric Jeans dynamical models as those used to model the GMASS galaxies by Cappellari et al. (2009), adopting a multi-Gaussian expansion (MGE; Emsellem et al. 1994). This method has the advantage that the derived $M/L$ is virtually insensitive to possible underestimation of the size, which can be a possibility at high redshifts. Considering the bolometric surface brightness dimming of $(1+z)^4$, a factor $(1+z)$ coming from the source redshifting and the $K$-correction between rest-frame 2900 Å to rest-frame $U$-band, we derived a rest-frame $U$-band luminosity of $L_U = 6.7 \times 10^{11} L_\odot$. The second moment of the velocity $\gamma_{\text{rms}}^2 = \sigma^2 + \sigma_\text{rms}^2$ was also estimated (assuming $\beta = 0$ and axisymmetry) by using the Jeans anisotropic MGE (JAM) method (Cappellari et al. 2008). The upper limit for the dynamical $M/L_U$ can be calculated by $(M/L_U)_{\text{JAM}} = (\sigma_*/\gamma_{\text{rms}}^2)^2 < 1.0$, which can be converted into the upper limit of the dynamical mass from the JAM model as $M_{\text{JAM}} = L_U \times (M/L_U)_{\text{JAM}} < 6.8 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$. Therefore the virial mass and Jeans mass agree well though both of them are upper limits. A JAM model constructed from a noiseless model with the best fitting Sérsic parameters of Mancini et al. (2010), as opposed to the actual ACS image, gives the same $(M/L_U)_{\text{JAM}}$ within 1%. This is due to the robustness of the central $M/L$ recovered using dynamical models (in contrast to virial estimates) to photometric uncertainties at large radii (e.g., §3.2 in Cappellari et al. 2009).

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Figure 4 compares the properties of the galaxy #254025 and other $z \simeq 2$ galaxies for which the same quantities have been measured (Cappellari et al. 2009; van Dokkum et al. 2009). The figure includes ETGs at $z \simeq 0.06$, selected from the Sloan...
Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) on the base of their red $u-g$ color and high Sérsic index $n \sim 4$ (Blanton et al. 2005). The dynamical and stellar masses agree very well for the high-$z$ objects, within a factor of $\lesssim 2$. Note that our massive galaxy has physical properties in good agreement with those of local ETGs of similar stellar mass. Our galaxy provides a second example of a very massive passively evolving system for which a stellar velocity dispersion has been measured (the GMASS objects of Cappellari et al., which in Figure 4 also lie on the $z = 0$ scaling relations, but have stellar masses below $10^{11} M_\odot$). The “normal” size and velocity dispersion of our massive ETG is strikingly in contrast with the extreme properties (i.e., a very high $\sigma_\star = 510^{+163}_{-95}$ km s$^{-1}$ and a small $r_e = 0.78 \pm 0.17$ kpc) of the galaxy studied by van Dokkum et al. (2009) with similar stellar mass ($2 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$). This suggests a substantial diversity in the physical properties of the most massive ETG population at $z \sim 2$ including “immature”, albeit virialized, systems — which will have to evolve into normal $z = 0$ massive galaxies through some physical processes which decrease their velocity dispersion and increase their sizes — as well as “mature” ETGs, already on the scaling relationships of $z = 0$ ETGs. It is clear that many more observations of similar galaxies are required to establish which kind of ETG is commonest at high redshift: either the compact/high-$\sigma_\star$ objects like those found by van Dokkum et al. (2009), or the apparently normal, low-$\sigma_\star$ objects presented in this paper. Also, nothing prevents our particular object to evolve further from its present state which mimics that of local ellipticals of the same mass. For example, it may grow further and become a brightest cluster galaxy (BCG) or a cD galaxy. For this reason, it would be important to estimate the volume number density of similar objects at high redshifts, and compare it to that of BCGs and cD galaxies.

To conclude, both very compact ETGs and ETGs following the local stellar mass-size and stellar mass-$\sigma_\star$ relations appear to co-exist at $z > 1.4$ (see also Mancini et al. 2010). However the number of high-$z$ ETGs with individual measurement of the velocity dispersion is still extremely small. Increasing their sample is of great importance to understand the evolution of these galaxies, and in particular how and when they acquire their final structural and dynamical configuration. This paper demonstrates that with reasonable telescope time several absorption features can be detected in the rest-frame optical spectrum of the high-$z$ ETGs, from which (at least for the most massive ETGs) the velocity dispersion and several stellar population properties can be derived.

We are grateful to Tomohiro Yoshikawa for providing MC-SMDP before publication. We thank Subaru telescope staff for help with our observations. We acknowledge funding ERC-SIG-UPGAL-240039, ANR-07-BLAN-0228, ANR-08-JCJC-0008 and a Grant-in-Aid for Science Research (No. 19540245) by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. AR is grateful to the Institute of Astronomy of ETH Zürich for its kind hospitality. MC acknowledges support from a STFC Advanced Fellowship (PP/D005574/1).

REFERENCES

Figure 1. MOIRCS spectrum of #254025 at \( z_{\text{spec}} = 1.82 \). Top: 4'' 2D spectrum; middle: 1D spectrum without smoothing (grey line) and with a 25Å binning (black thick line); bottom: relative noise level (solid line) and the sky transmission (shaded area). The red solid line shows the best-fit model (see §3.1). Positions of major emission and absorption lines are indicated by dot-dashed (blue) and dashed (red) lines, respectively, even when not detected.
Figure 2. Observed SED for #254025 (blue circles with error bars) compared to the best fit model from Maraston (2005; orange line and symbols). The best fit was found for a SFH with delayed exponential star formation rate that continued for about 1.4 Gyr, with a star-formation timescale of 0.13 Gyr, and for a solar metallicity. The parameters of the best fit templates can be found in Table 1.
Figure 3. Results of the pPXF fit for the stellar velocity dispersion of the galaxy. The panels show the resulting fit for the full spectral range (top), and for a wavelength range around Ca II H+K (bottom). The black solid line shows the observed spectrum, the red solid line shows the best-fit template, and the green diamonds are the residuals (arbitrarily shifted). The blue crosses indicate bad pixels rejected from the fitting. The solid blue line indicates the estimated 1σ noise level.
Figure 4. A comparison of the properties of high-redshift ETGs for which the velocity dispersion has been measured so far (symbols with error bars) with those of elliptical galaxies selected from SDSS at $z \simeq 0.06$ (gray dots). (a): the stellar velocity dispersions vs. the virial masses. (b): comparison between virial and stellar masses; the diagonal dashed line corresponds to equality of the two masses, and the dotted lines show a range by a factor of 2. (c): the effective radii vs. the virial masses. (d): the effective radii vs. stellar velocity dispersions. In all panels, the red filled circle represents the galaxy studied here, the green filled circle shows the object studied by van Dokkum et al. (2009), the blue squares represent the two GMASS galaxies with individual $\sigma_*$ measurements, and the yellow triangle represents the properties from the stacked GMASS spectrum (taken from Cappellari et al. 2009).
<table>
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<th>$t_{\text{onset}}$ (Gyr)</th>
<th>$\tau$ or $t_q$ (Gyr)</th>
<th>$t_d$ (Gyr)</th>
<th>$M_*$ ($10^{11} M_\odot$)</th>
<th>$M/L_{\text{U}}$ ($Z_\odot$) (Gyr)</th>
<th>$\chi^2$</th>
<th>$t_{\text{onset}}$ (Gyr)</th>
<th>$\tau$ or $t_q$ (Gyr)</th>
<th>$t_d$ (Gyr)</th>
<th>$M_*$ ($10^{11} M_\odot$)</th>
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**Note.** — Column 1: star-formation history (see Table 1); Column 2: elapsed time since the onset of star-formation; Column 3: star-formation timescale in the case of delayed exponential SFH and quenching time for SFHs with constant SFR+quenching and exponentially increasing SFR+quenching; Column 4: star-formation weighted age defined by \( \int_0^T (T-t) \phi(t) \, dt / \int_0^T \phi(t) \, dt \) where \( T \) is \( t_{\text{onset}} \) and \( \phi(t) \) is SFR; Column 5: stellar mass; Column 6: rest-frame U-band mass-to-light ratio; Column 7: reduced \( \chi^2 \) for the best-fit template.