The Detailed Substructure of the Milky Way Stellar Streams: DECam Imaging of the Eastern Banded Structure

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CMD filtered and smoothed surface density map of the EBS region (data from Grillmair 2011)

What can stellar streams tell us about the Milky Way in a cosmological context?

Streams trace the hierarchical nature of galaxy formation and the assembly of the Galactic halo

- Stream orbits probe the Galactic potential out to large galactocentric radii
- Identifying stream progenitors informs our understanding of the relative contribution of various objects to the halo's formation
- Spatial morphology of streams may contain signatures of the numerous dark subhalos predicted by LCDM



LCDM simulation of a Milky Way-like galaxy showing the stellar streams created from tidal destruction of accreted dwarf galaxies (Bullock & Johnston 2005)

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What are the progenitors of the known stellar streams? How do dwarfs and globular clusters contribute to halo assembly?

At present: Only ~3 stellar streams have known progenitors. Most streams have no identifiable progenitor.



Numerical simulations of subhalo + stream encounters in Pal 5 by Yoon et al. (2011)

The Eastern Banded Structure (EBS)



Photometry: DECam *gri* 1080 s per pointing

Spectroscopy of Hydra I: MMT + Hectochelle 700 MSTO stars [selected from SDSS!] RV errors < 5 km/s

Filtered and smoothed surface density maps from Grillmair (2011)

DECam Data Analysis and Photometric Calibration





Residuals as a function of magnitude, color, and spatial position (r band)

What We Learned:

- Reject low S/N SDSS stars
- Use well-measured DECam point sources
 → Should mitigate brighter/fatter in the
 calibration...?

DECam Photometric Calibration

- 1) Quality cut the raw photometry
- 2) Match these to SDSS
- 3) Reject outliers to increase robustness of calibration







Color-Magnitude Diagram: Hydra I region

DECam (180 s exposure)

SDSS



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Results: Chemo-Dynamic Properties



Histogram of Hectochelle velocities

 → Minimize thick disk contamination by removing g < 19
 → N = 187 stars in faint sample



Velocity versus radius from Hydra I center

→ Membership probabilities determined using EM algorithm (Walker et al. 2009)

Results: Chemo-Dynamic Properties



Results: Stellar Populations



Results: Chemo-Dynamic Properties



Observed rotation in Hectochelle sample of stars with $P_m > 50\%$.

→ Before removing photometric contaminates: 8 +/- 2 km/s



Observed rotation in Hectochelle sample of stars with $P_m > 50\%$.

→ After removing photometric contaminates: 3 +/- 2 km/s

Results: Spatial Distribution of MSTO Stars



Selection of MSTO stars with g-r errors consistent with isochrone

Spatial position of MSTO stars (red) compared to spatial distribution of all point-sources

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What is Hydra I? Three Hypotheses...

Star Cluster

If a globular cluster, we expect:

- Old age (10–13 Gyr)
- _2 < [Fe/H] < 0.5

If an open cluster, we expect

- Young age (< ~2 Gyr)
- _0.5 < [Fe/H] < 0.2

Dwarf Galaxy

From mass-metallicity relation: progenitor would have been a Fornax-like dwarf

 Implies significant (>99.99%) mass loss

Substructure in the Monoceros Ring EBS/Hydra could simply be part of the large Monoceros Ring complex



Age-[Fe/H] diagram for Milky Way globular (red, black) and open (green) clusters. Data from Dotter et al. 2011, Dias et al. 2014.

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Stellar mass versus [Fe/H] for Local Group dwarf galaxies (Kirby et al. 2013)

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Star count map of MSTO stars from Pan-STARRS1 (Slater et al. 2014). In the top panel, color indicates distance. The EBS stream is labeled as feature B in the bottom panel.

What To Take Away:

The Milky Way affords us the chance study halo substructure in great detail. Much remains unknown about stream progenitors!

The properties of Hydra I:

- No rotation at the few km/s level
- Stellar pops as young as ~6 Gyr
- [Fe/H] = -0.93 +/- 0.03



Future Work:

- Attempt CMD foreground subtraction to disentangle Hydra I from MRi region
- Artificial star test to improve star-galaxy separation; quantify completeness
- Detailed analysis of stream substructure using spatial maps
- Simulate observations of stream gaps/ clumps to test for statistical significance