

THE GIRAFFE ARCHIVE : “À LA CARTE” REDUCED SPECTROSCOPIC DATA FROM THE VLT MULTI-OBJECT AND HIGH-RESOLUTION INSTRUMENT

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Abstract. The GIRAFFE multi-object spectrograph on VLT/UT2 has been working for more than a year. The first observed data are already available as raw files in the ESO Archive. The GIRAFFE Archive project aims at providing to the community the observed spectra, reduced in a standard way. The GIRAFFE Archive will allow selection and on-the-fly reduction of data according to the user’s choices and publicly available observations. The archive is located at <http://giraffe-archive.obspm.fr/>.

1 Introduction

The astronomical community expresses a strong need to access reduced spectroscopic data, as shown by the multiplicity of the database projects and realizations. In the aim of answering this request the GIRAFFE Archive provides the access to all the reduced spectra from released observations with the GIRAFFE spectrograph.

GIRAFFE is an ESO spectroscopic instrument, mounted on VLT UT2. Full description of GIRAFFE can be found in Pasquini et al. (2000, 2002, 2003). As a result of its capabilities, the scientific applications of GIRAFFE cover a wide range of topics, from stellar, to Galactic and extra-galactic studies. Moreover, since its startup in Spring 2003, GIRAFFE has been producing scientific data at the rate of about 150 multi-objects images per month, so that GIRAFFE is expected to provide more than a million spectra in its 10 year lifetime.

Indeed ESO distributes raw data. The motivation of the GIRAFFE Archive project is to make available the whole set of scientific data, in reduced form, once they are released. The GIRAFFE Archive is developed in the framework of the MIGALE project (Prugniel et al. 2003) and is a collaboration between Observatoire de Paris-Meudon and Observatoire de Genève.

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2 Description of the Archive

2.1 Content

For the time being, the GIRAFFE Archive is a *prototype* which aims at estimating the needed manpower and the impact on the astronomical community. The Archive is available at <http://giraffe-archive.obspm.fr/>, and contains the scientific data observed since March 2003 and publicly released by ESO (i.e. older than one year). The spectra available in the GIRAFFE Archive are reduced in a standard way using the GIRAFFE BaseLine Data Reduction Software (girBLDRS). This pipeline was developed by Observatoire de Genève and Observatoire de Paris (<http://girbldrs.sourceforge.net/>), and details about the reduction can be found in Blecha et al. (2000) and Royer et al. (2002).

2.2 Selection

The data selection is up to now based only on the position of the targets on the sky. It will soon be provided a multi-criteria advanced selection, which will allow one to chose instrumental set-up parameters as well as observation parameters. From a selected data product, one can easily retrieve the related data products, with similar parameters.

2.3 Data products

The data products are reduced FITS files, containing the spectra of all objects observed in a single GIRAFFE exposure (up to 132 in Medusa mode, and 300 in integral field observations). It includes the extracted spectra, their corresponding wavelength solution and the table listing the observed objects.

The user can rebin in wavelength “on-the-fly” the extracted spectra, by choosing the wavelength interval and step. The individual spectra can also be plotted and downloaded.

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