Astronomical Fourier Transform Spectroscopy at the Hamburg Observatory

Volker Perdelwitz

Hamburger Sternwarte

18.9.12



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Fourier Transform Spectroscopy

2 post-dispersed FTS

- Concept
- Performance
- Outlook



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• majority of exoplanet finds have been accomplished with cross-dispersed echelle spectrometers



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- however, echelle gratings are not the only option for high-resolution spectroscopy



- majority of exoplanet finds have been accomplished with cross-dispersed echelle spectrometers
- in combination with absorption cells accuracies of $1ms^{-1}$ can be achieved
- however, echelle gratings are not the only option for high-resolution spectroscopy
- we are working on a high resolution FTS with good signal-to-noise ratio for use with the 1.2m Oskar-Lühning-Telescope



Basic FTS setup

• based on a Michelson Interferometer



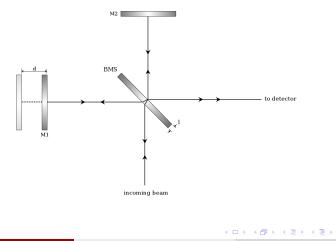
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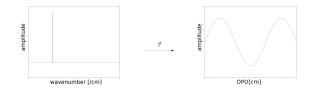




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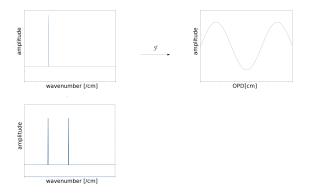




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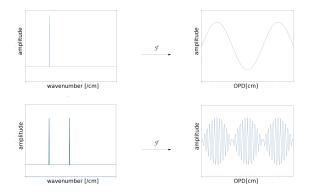




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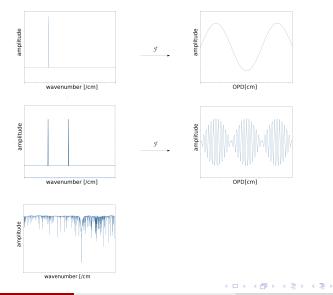




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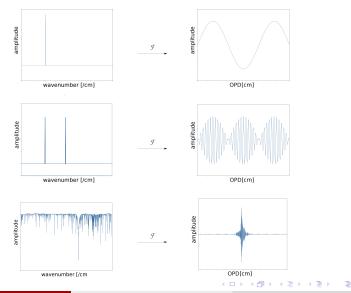
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• FTS resolution is given by $\Delta \nu = 1.207 \left(\frac{1}{2d}\right)$



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- FTS resolution is given by $\Delta \nu = 1.207 \left(\frac{1}{2d}\right)$
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- \Rightarrow more lines for RV measurements
- high flexibility
- good wavelength calibration allows operations in wavelength regions not accessible with iodine cell calibration



• Why are FTS not widely used in astronomy?



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- How can this be surpassed?
- \Rightarrow post-dispersed FTS



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Use of narrow-band filters



• placing a narrow-band filter in front of detector



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Use of narrow-band filters



- placing a narrow-band filter in front of detector
- $SNR_{FTS} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Delta\sigma}}$



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Use of narrow-band filters



- placing a narrow-band filter in front of detector
- $SNR_{FTS} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Delta\sigma}}$
- yields no improvement in integration time



Use of a dispersive grating



• broadband output is divided into N separate spectral channels



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Use of a dispersive grating



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- after performing the Fourier transform of the individual interferograms the broadband spectrum can be reassembled





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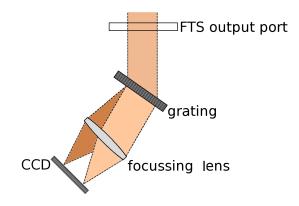


- broadband output is divided into N separate spectral channels
- large number of interferograms on different pixels of the detector, each covering a small region of the bandpass
- after performing the Fourier transform of the individual interferograms the broadband spectrum can be reassembled
- equivalent to N narrow-band spectrometers running simultaneously





Use of a dispersive grating





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$$SNR_{\nu} = \sqrt{rac{\kappa WT \nu N}{R_{FTS}}}$$



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 \bullet same integration time yields an SNR advantage of \sqrt{N} over a conventional FTS



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Outlook

• pdFTS in Hamburg is still in the planning phase



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- Zemax simulations are currently being performed
- target is R = 50000
- Behr et alii (2009) achieved a $\approx 20 m s^{-1}$ accuracy with a dispersed FTS linked to a 0.6m telescope



Thank you for your attention!

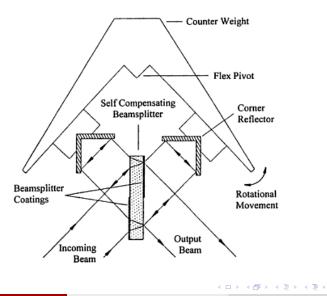


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