

29 Aug 2013

Dear WIYN Users,

HexPak and GradPak are two new IFUs for the Bench Spectrograph, similar to SparsePak and DensePak, but with new, variable-pitch fiber geometries. The attached flyer illustrates the concepts. These IFUs are available in "shared use" mode to the general community starting in observing semester 2014A. It is anticipated that they will become WIYN facility instruments in the future.

If you are interested in using them in 2014, please see the information below. We would be delighted to have people use HexPak and/or GradPak as much as possible as soon as possible.

- We will confirm the instrument has been successfully installed and functionally verified as soon as possible.

- We anticipate instrument delivery in Fall 2013, with initial limited commissioning as time allows later in the current semester.

- Instrument documentation (IFU geometry, performance estimates, reduction tools) will be forthcoming in late 2013. A preliminary description can be found in "HexPak and GradPak: variable-pitch dual-head IFUs for the WIYN 3.5m Telescope Bench Spectrograph" (Wood, Corey M., Bershady, Matthew A., Eigenbrot, Arthur D., Buckley, Scott A., Gallagher, John S., Hooper, Eric J., Sheinis, Andrew I., Smith, Michael P., Wolf, Marsha J, 2012, Proceedings of the SPIE, Volume 8446, id. 84462W-84462W-10). These IFUs feed the existing WIYN Bench Spectrograph.

"Shared use" means you get access to use the new IFUs during your own allocation of observing time, and you also get access to expertise prior to the publication of the instrument papers and hand-over of the IFUs as facility-class instruments. In return, you include the instrument PI (Bershady) on publications resulting from these observations.

You are expected to be able to support WIYN observations and the basic data reduction. If you have used DensePak, SparsePak, or even Hydra, these new IFUs are a variant feeding the same (Bench) spectrograph.

The instrument team can help you prepare your run; one of us likely will be available, remotely, during runs (depending on schedule) to get you started; and we can certainly offer advice on how to use our existing software tools.

If you need to consult with another one of the instrument team for these purposes, we request they too be included as an author on resulting HexPak or GradPak publications.

Formally the way this works is that you contact me in advance of the proposal deadline, we come to an understanding on the scope of support required, and we jointly send a letter to the appropriate observatory Director stating our agreement on use and publication authorship; we indicate that you have permission to use HexPak and/or GradPak given the above understanding on "shared use." Finally, you submit your proposal to the appropriate TAC by the normal deadline.

Best regards,
Matt

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