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Falcón-Barroso, et al.

► **To cite this version:**

B. Husemann, K. Jahnke, Sébastien Sanchez, D. Barrado, S. Bekeraït\*error\*è, et al.. CALIFA, the Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area survey. *Astronomy & Astrophysics - A&A*, 2013, 549, pp.A87. 10.1051/0004-6361/201220582 . hal-02562266

**HAL Id: hal-02562266**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02562266v1>**

Submitted on 22 Apr 2021

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# CALIFA, the Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area survey

## II. First public data release<sup>★</sup>

B. Husemann<sup>1</sup>, K. Jahnke<sup>2</sup>, S. F. Sánchez<sup>3,4</sup>, D. Barrado<sup>4</sup>, S. Bekeraité<sup>1</sup>, D. J. Bomans<sup>5,6</sup>, A. Castillo-Morales<sup>7</sup>, C. Catalán-Torrecilla<sup>7</sup>, R. Cid Fernandes<sup>8</sup>, J. Falcón-Barroso<sup>9,10</sup>, R. García-Benito<sup>3</sup>, R. M. González Delgado<sup>3</sup>, J. Iglesias-Páramo<sup>3,4</sup>, B. D. Johnson<sup>11</sup>, D. Kupko<sup>1</sup>, R. López-Fernández<sup>3</sup>, M. Lyubenova<sup>2</sup>, R. A. Marino<sup>12</sup>, D. Mast<sup>4</sup>, A. Miskolczi<sup>5</sup>, A. Monreal-Ibero<sup>3</sup>, A. Gil de Paz<sup>7</sup>, E. Pérez<sup>3</sup>, I. Pérez<sup>13,14</sup>, F. F. Rosales-Ortega<sup>15,16</sup>, T. Ruiz-Lara<sup>13</sup>, U. Schilling<sup>5</sup>, G. van de Ven<sup>2</sup>, J. Walcher<sup>1</sup>, J. Alves<sup>17</sup>, A. L. de Amorim<sup>8</sup>, N. Backsmann<sup>1</sup>, J. K. Barrera-Ballesteros<sup>9</sup>, J. Bland-Hawthorn<sup>18</sup>, C. Cortijo<sup>3</sup>, R.-J. Dettmar<sup>5,6</sup>, M. Demleitner<sup>19</sup>, A. I. Díaz<sup>15</sup>, H. Enke<sup>1</sup>, E. Florido<sup>13,14</sup>, H. Flores<sup>20</sup>, L. Galbany<sup>21</sup>, A. Gallazzi<sup>22</sup>, B. García-Lorenzo<sup>9,10</sup>, J. M. Gomes<sup>23</sup>, N. Gruel<sup>24</sup>, T. Haines<sup>25</sup>, L. Holmes<sup>26</sup>, B. Jungwiert<sup>27</sup>, V. Kalinova<sup>2</sup>, C. Kehrig<sup>3</sup>, R. C. Kennicutt Jr<sup>28</sup>, J. Klar<sup>1</sup>, M. D. Lehnert<sup>20</sup>, Á. R. López-Sánchez<sup>29,30</sup>, A. de Lorenzo-Cáceres<sup>10</sup>, E. Mármod-Queraltó<sup>9,10</sup>, I. Márquez<sup>3</sup>, J. Mendez-Abreu<sup>9,10</sup>, M. Mollá<sup>12</sup>, A. del Olmo<sup>3</sup>, S. E. Meidt<sup>2</sup>, P. Papaderos<sup>23</sup>, J. Puschig<sup>17</sup>, A. Quirrenbach<sup>31</sup>, M. M. Roth<sup>1</sup>, P. Sánchez-Blázquez<sup>15</sup>, K. Spekkens<sup>26</sup>, R. Singh<sup>2</sup>, V. Stanishev<sup>21</sup>, S. C. Trager<sup>32</sup>, J. M. Vilchez<sup>3</sup>, V. Wild<sup>33</sup>, L. Wisotzki<sup>1</sup>, S. Zibetti<sup>34</sup>, and B. Ziegler<sup>17</sup>

*(Affiliations can be found after the references)*

Received 17 October 2012 / Accepted 31 October 2012

### ABSTRACT

We present the first public data release (DR1) of the Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area (CALIFA) survey. It consists of science-grade optical datacubes for the first 100 of eventually 600 nearby ( $0.005 < z < 0.03$ ) galaxies, obtained with the integral-field spectrograph PMAS/PPak mounted on the 3.5 m telescope at the Calar Alto observatory. The galaxies in DR1 already cover a wide range of properties in color–magnitude space, morphological type, stellar mass, and gas ionization conditions. This offers the potential to tackle a variety of open questions in galaxy evolution using spatially resolved spectroscopy. Two different spectral setups are available for each galaxy, (i) a low-resolution V500 setup covering the nominal wavelength range 3745–7500 Å with a spectral resolution of 6.0 Å (FWHM), and (ii) a medium-resolution V1200 setup covering the nominal wavelength range 3650–4840 Å with a spectral resolution of 2.3 Å (FWHM). We present the characteristics and data structure of the CALIFA datasets that should be taken into account for scientific exploitation of the data, in particular the effects of vignetting, bad pixels and spatially correlated noise. The data quality test for all 100 galaxies showed that we reach a median limiting continuum sensitivity of  $1.0 \times 10^{-18} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ Å}^{-1} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$  at 5635 Å and  $2.2 \times 10^{-18} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ Å}^{-1} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$  at 4500 Å for the V500 and V1200 setup respectively, which corresponds to limiting  $r$  and  $g$  band surface brightnesses of 23.6 mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> and 23.4 mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup>, or an unresolved emission-line flux detection limit of roughly  $1 \times 10^{-17} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$  and  $0.6 \times 10^{-17} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$ , respectively. The median spatial resolution is 3".7, and the absolute spectrophotometric calibration is better than 15% ( $1\sigma$ ). We also describe the available interfaces and tools that allow easy access to this first public CALIFA data at <http://califa.caha.es/DR1>.

**Key words.** techniques: spectroscopic – Galaxy: general – surveys

### 1. Introduction

The Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area (CALIFA) survey (Sánchez et al. 2012a, hereafter S12) is an ongoing large project of the Centro Astronómico Hispano-Alemán at the Calar Alto observatory to obtain spatially resolved spectra for 600 local ( $0.005 < z < 0.03$ ) galaxies by means of integral field spectroscopy (IFS). CALIFA observations started in June 2010 with the Potsdam Multi Aperture Spectrograph (PMAS, Roth et al. 2005), mounted to the 3.5 m telescope, utilizing the large (74" × 64") hexagonal field-of-view (FoV) offered by the PPak fiber bundle (Verheijen et al. 2004; Kelz et al. 2006). A diameter-selected sample of 939 galaxies were drawn from the 7th data

release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS, Abazajian et al. 2009) which will be described in Walcher et al. (in prep.), hereafter W12. From this mother sample the 600 target galaxies are randomly selected.

Combining the techniques of imaging and spectroscopy through optical IFS provides a more comprehensive view of individual galaxy properties than any traditional survey. CALIFA-like observations were collected during the feasibility studies (Mármod-Queraltó et al. 2011; Viironen et al. 2012) and the PPak IFS Nearby Galaxy Survey (PINGS, Rosales-Ortega et al. 2010), a predecessor of this survey. First results based on those datasets already explored their information content (e.g. Sánchez et al. 2011; Rosales-Ortega et al. 2011; Alonso-Herrero et al. 2012; Sánchez et al. 2012b; Rosales-Ortega et al. 2012). CALIFA can therefore be expected to make a substantial contribution to our understanding of galaxy evolution in various aspects including, (i) the relative importance and consequences

<sup>★</sup> Based on observations collected at the Centro Astronómico Hispano Alemán (CAHA) at Calar Alto, operated jointly by the Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (MPIA) and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC).

of merging and secular processes; (ii) the evolution of galaxies across the color–magnitude diagram; (iii) the effects of the environment on galaxies; (iv) the AGN–host galaxy connection; (v) the internal dynamical processes in galaxies; and (vi) the global and spatially resolved star formation history of various galaxy types.

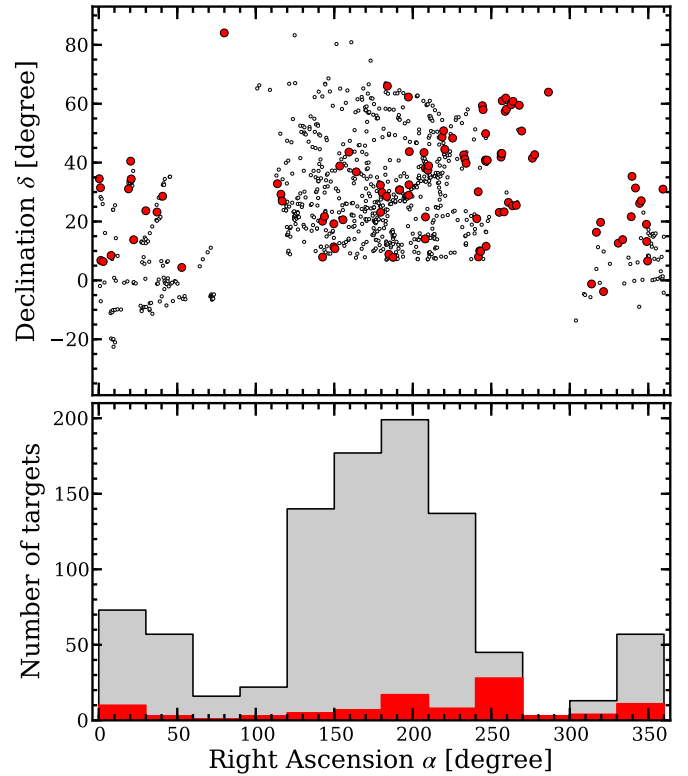
In this article, we introduce the first data release (DR1) of CALIFA which grants public access to high-quality data for a set of 100 galaxies. The properties of the galaxies in the DR1 sample are summarized in Sect. 2. We describe the data characteristics (Sect. 3), data structure (Sect. 4), and data quality (Sect. 5) of the distributed CALIFA data as essential information for any scientific analysis. Several interfaces are available to access the CALIFA DR1 data, which are introduced in Sect. 6.

## 2. The CALIFA DR1 sample

A sample of 939 potential CALIFA galaxies, also known as the “CALIFA mother sample”, was drawn from the photometric catalog SDSS DR7 as outlined in S12 and W12. The primary CALIFA selection criterion was the angular isophotal diameter ( $45'' < D_{25} < 80''$ ) of the galaxies, which was complemented by limiting redshifts,  $0.005 < z < 0.03$ . These redshift limits were imposed to ensure that all interesting spectral features can be observed with a fixed spectral setup of the instrument and that the sample would not be dominated by dwarf galaxies. Redshift information was taken from SIMBAD for all galaxies where SDSS DR7 spectra were unavailable. The reader is referred to W12 for a detailed characterization of the CALIFA mother sample and a thorough evaluation of the selection effects implied by the chosen selection criteria. From the CALIFA mother sample, 600 galaxies are randomly selected for observation purely based on visibility, and we refer to these galaxies as the virtual final CALIFA sample hereafter.

The first 100 public DR1 galaxies were observed in both spectral setups from the start of observations in June 2010 until June 2012. We list these galaxies in Table 1 together with their primary characteristics. The distribution of galaxies in the sky follows the underlying SDSS footprint (Fig. 1). An exception is the additional cut in  $\delta > 7^\circ$  that was applied to the region of the northern Galactic cap, given the sufficiently large number of objects with better visibility from Calar Alto. The number of galaxies in DR1 is not homogeneous as a function of right ascension,  $\alpha$ (J2000), and has a clear peak around  $\alpha \sim 255^\circ$ . This can be explained by the unexpected downtime of the 3.5 m telescope from August 2010 until April 2011 due to operational reasons at the observatory, which delayed the survey roughly by 8 months. CALIFA observations, therefore, so far span three summer seasons at Calar Alto, but only a single winter season. Nevertheless, the distribution of physical properties is nearly random, as expected, and covers galaxies with a wide range of properties as discussed below.

The distribution of galaxies in the color–magnitude diagram (Fig. 2) shows that the DR1 sample covers almost homogeneously the full range of the CALIFA mother sample. On average, the DR1 targets comprises  $\sim 20\%$  per color–magnitude bin of the total expected number when CALIFA is completed. However, there is currently still a deficit of low luminosity galaxies with intermediate colors. In other color–magnitude bins, especially within those where the mother sample contains few galaxies, fluctuations can be explained by the effect of low number statistics. Figure 2 highlights the need to further increase the numbers to the full CALIFA sample to obtain enough galaxies in each bin for a meaningful multi-dimensional statistical analysis.



**Fig. 1.** Distribution of galaxies in the CALIFA mother sample on the sky (*upper panel*) and as a function of right ascension (*lower panel*). Galaxies in the CALIFA DR1 sample are highlighted by filled symbols with red color. The number distribution in bins of  $30^\circ$  along the right ascension is shown in the lower panel for the mother sample (gray area) and the DR1 sample (red shaded area).

In Fig. 3, we show the  $r$  band luminosity function (LF) of the DR1 sample as compared to the mother sample and the reference SDSS sample of Blanton et al. (2005). All technical details on how we obtained the LFs are described in W12. We simply note here that despite the small sample size of DR1, we already reproduce the LF reasonably well. The turnover of the LF at  $M_r > -19.5$  is entirely expected and understood.

Galaxy morphologies were inferred by combining the independent visual classifications of several collaboration members as described in W12. In Fig. 4 we show the fraction of DR1 galaxies with respect to the expected final sample distribution for different morphological types grouped into elliptical, lenticular, spiral galaxies (separated by different bar strength) as well as ongoing galaxy mergers. A more detailed classification of spirals into early- and late-types is available, but we do not distinguish between them here because of the still modest number of galaxies within DR1. The DR1 coverage seems to be consistent with a random selection because the fraction of DR1 galaxies with respect to the expected final sample is almost constant for all types. Axis ratios ( $b/a$ ) were measured from the SDSS  $r$  band image by calculating light moments after proper sky subtraction and masking of foreground stars (see W12 for details). The fractions of axis ratios, which can be used as an indication of the inclination of spiral galaxies, covered by the DR1 sample is homogeneous with respect to the final sample (Fig. 5). Based on a Kolmogorov–Smirnov test, we further quantified that the morphology and the axis-ratio distribution of DR1 is consistent with being randomly drawn from the CALIFA mother sample with  $>95\%$  confidence.

**Table 1.** CALIFA DR1 galaxies and their characteristics.

Name	ID <sup>a</sup>	$\alpha$ (J2000) <sup>b</sup>	$\delta$ (J2000) <sup>b</sup>	$z^c$	$m_g^d$	$m_z^d$	$m_u - m_z^d$	Type <sup>e</sup>	Bar <sup>f</sup>	$b/a^g$
IC 5376	001	00:01:19.778	+34:31:32.40	0.0168	14.21	12.79	3.25	Sb	A	0.27
NGC 7819	003	00:04:24.505	+31:28:19.22	0.0167	14.07	13.61	2.17	Sc	A	0.53
UGC 00036	007	00:05:13.881	+06:46:19.30	0.0210	14.13	12.61	3.41	Sab	AB	0.60
NGC 0036	010	00:11:22.297	+06:23:21.66	0.0203	13.46	12.28	2.83	Sb	B	0.65
UGC 00312	014	00:31:23.921	+08:28:00.23	0.0145	13.86	13.61	1.58	Sd	B	0.35
NGC 0444	039	01:15:49.562	+31:04:50.24	0.0161	14.55	13.90	2.07	Scd	A	0.24
NGC 0477	042	01:21:20.483	+40:29:17.33	0.0196	14.37	13.20	2.86	Sbc	AB	0.66
IC 1683	043	01:22:38.929	+34:26:13.65	0.0162	14.04	12.75	3.05	Sb	AB	0.59
UGC 01057	053	01:28:53.253	+13:47:37.67	0.0212	14.44	13.49	2.42	Sc	AB	0.30
NGC 0776	073	01:59:54.525	+23:38:39.39	0.0164	13.38	12.31	2.94	Sb	B	0.69
UGC 01938	088	02:28:22.136	+23:12:52.65	0.0213	14.50	13.40	2.76	Sbc	AB	0.25
NGC 1056	100	02:42:48.312	+28:34:26.96	0.0052	12.95	11.50	3.13	Sa	A	0.57
NGC 1349	127	03:31:27.511	+04:22:51.24	0.0220	13.39	12.05	3.32	E6	A	0.89
UGC 03253	146	05:19:41.885	+84:03:09.43	0.0138	13.56	12.57	2.77	Sb	B	0.62
NGC 2410	151	07:35:02.261	+32:49:19.56	0.0156	13.29	12.00	3.05	Sb	AB	0.32
UGC 03995	155	07:44:09.127	+29:14:50.75	0.0159	13.13	11.98	3.85	Sb	B	0.46
NGC 2449	156	07:47:20.299	+26:55:48.70	0.0163	13.48	12.12	3.46	Sab	AB	0.50
IC 2487	273	09:30:09.166	+20:05:27.04	0.0145	13.87	13.02	3.21	Sc	AB	0.22
IC 0540	274	09:30:10.338	+07:54:09.90	0.0069	14.28	12.91	3.16	Sab	AB	0.30
NGC 2916	277	09:34:57.601	+21:42:18.94	0.0124	13.10	11.94	2.80	Sbc	A	0.59
UGC 05358	306	09:58:47.135	+11:23:19.31	0.0097	15.21	14.99	1.46	Sd	B	0.33
UGC 05359	307	09:58:51.646	+19:12:53.91	0.0283	14.66	13.58	2.70	Sb	B	0.37
UGC 05396	309	10:01:40.484	+10:45:23.13	0.0181	14.38	13.66	2.71	Sbc	AB	0.27
NGC 3160	319	10:13:55.114	+38:50:34.53	0.0229	14.54	12.98	3.45	Sab	AB	0.29
UGC 05598	326	10:22:14.003	+20:35:21.87	0.0188	14.72	13.68	2.61	Sb	A	0.30
UGC 05771	341	10:37:19.339	+43:35:15.32	0.0248	14.09	12.56	3.40	E6	A	0.71
UGC 06036	364	10:55:55.261	+36:51:41.46	0.0218	14.07	12.44	3.50	Sa	A	0.29
NGC 3991	475	11:57:30.959	+32:20:13.28	0.0108	13.84	13.37	1.38	Sm	A	0.22
NGC 4003	479	11:57:59.033	+23:07:29.63	0.0219	14.00	12.59	3.27	S0a	B	0.42
UGC 07012	486	12:02:03.145	+29:50:52.73	0.0102	14.35	14.01	1.41	Scd	AB	0.54
NGC 4185	515	12:13:22.192	+28:30:39.46	0.0130	13.18	12.30	3.30	Sbc	AB	0.64
NGC 4210	518	12:15:15.842	+65:59:07.15	0.0091	13.19	12.25	2.84	Sb	B	0.73
IC 0776	528	12:19:03.120	+08:51:22.15	0.0081	14.77	15.71	0.47	Sdm	A	0.56
NGC 4470	548	12:29:37.778	+07:49:27.12	0.0079	12.81	12.18	1.72	Sc	A	0.66
NGC 4676A	577	12:46:10.107	+30:43:54.89	0.0222	14.71	13.36	2.89	Sdm(x)	AB	0.28
UGC 08234	607	13:08:46.505	+62:16:18.09	0.0270	13.54	12.37	2.86	S0	A	0.63
NGC 5000	608	13:09:47.486	+28:54:24.99	0.0187	13.84	12.90	2.70	Sbc	B	0.60
UGC 08250	609	13:10:20.137	+32:28:59.47	0.0176	15.15	14.28	2.26	Sc	A	0.19
UGC 08267	610	13:11:11.334	+43:43:34.78	0.0242	14.82	13.28	3.54	Sb	AB	0.20
UGC 08733	657	13:48:38.994	+43:24:44.82	0.0078	14.54	14.03	1.56	Sdm	B	0.49
IC 0944	663	13:51:30.867	+14:05:31.95	0.0234	13.84	12.31	3.73	Sab	A	0.30
UGC 08778	664	13:52:06.668	+38:04:01.27	0.0108	14.15	12.95	2.89	Sb	A	0.21
UGC 08781	665	13:52:22.745	+21:32:21.66	0.0253	13.82	12.64	3.17	Sb	B	0.52
NGC 5378	676	13:56:51.013	+37:47:50.05	0.0100	13.41	12.36	3.14	Sb	B	0.63
NGC 5394	680	13:58:33.652	+37:27:12.54	0.0114	14.13	13.20	3.12	Sbc(x)	B	0.74
NGC 5406	684	14:00:20.119	+38:54:55.52	0.0180	13.08	11.91	3.24	Sb	B	0.88
NGC 5682	758	14:34:44.978	+48:40:12.83	0.0076	14.38	13.97	1.67	Scd	B	0.31
NGC 5720	764	14:38:33.281	+50:48:54.87	0.0260	13.97	12.85	2.88	Sbc	B	0.65
UGC 09476	769	14:41:32.028	+44:30:45.97	0.0109	13.56	12.85	2.26	Sbc	A	0.63
UGC 09665	783	15:01:32.464	+48:19:10.92	0.0085	14.15	12.89	2.99	Sb	A	0.23
UGC 09873	797	15:29:50.650	+42:37:44.10	0.0188	15.09	14.32	2.60	Sb	A	0.21
UGC 09892	798	15:32:51.947	+41:11:29.28	0.0189	14.73	13.75	2.59	Sbc	A	0.29
NGC 5966	806	15:35:52.108	+39:46:08.04	0.0151	13.36	11.95	3.40	E4	A	0.60
NGC 6032	820	16:03:01.124	+20:57:21.32	0.0145	13.92	12.85	3.33	Sbc	B	0.30
UGC 10205	822	16:06:40.180	+30:05:56.65	0.0219	13.73	12.36	3.27	S0a	A	0.58
NGC 6063	823	16:07:12.993	+07:58:44.36	0.0095	13.57	12.85	2.54	Sbc	A	0.60
IC 1199	824	16:10:34.346	+10:02:25.32	0.0158	13.80	12.60	2.79	Sb	AB	0.41
NGC 6081	826	16:12:56.857	+09:52:01.57	0.0171	13.64	12.10	3.55	S0a	A	0.46

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup> CALIFA unique ID number for the galaxy. <sup>(b)</sup> Equatorial coordinates of the galaxies as provided by NED. <sup>(c)</sup> Redshift of the galaxies based on SDSS DR7 spectra or complemented with SIMBAD information if SDSS spectra are not available. <sup>(d)</sup> Petrosian magnitudes as given by SDSS DR7 database corrected for Galactic extinction. <sup>(e)</sup> Morphological type from our own visual classification (see W12 for details). <sup>(f)</sup> Bar strength of the galaxy as an additional outcome of our visual classification. <sup>(g)</sup> Ratio between the semi-minor and semi-major axis based on a detailed re-analysis of the SDSS images (see W12 for details). <sup>(h)</sup> A visual morphological classification of this particular galaxy NGC 4676B is missing.

Table 1. continued.

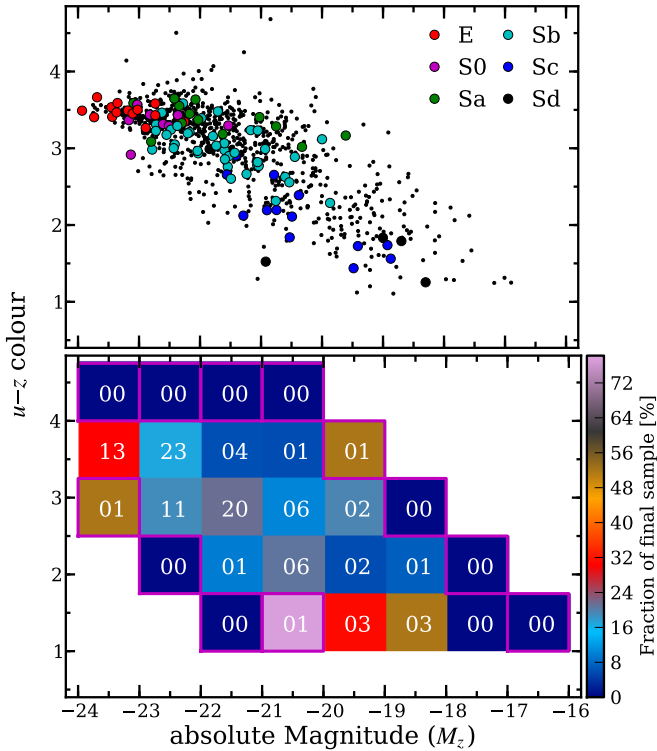
Name	ID <sup>a</sup>	$\alpha$ (J2000) <sup>b</sup>	$\delta$ (J2000) <sup>b</sup>	$z^c$	$m_g^d$	$m_z^d$	$m_u - m_z^d$	Type <sup>e</sup>	Bar <sup>f</sup>	$b/a^g$
UGC 10331	828	16:17:21.123	+59:19:12.46	0.0152	14.38	13.85	1.84	Sc(x)	AB	0.26
NGC 6125	829	16:19:11.535	+57:59:02.89	0.0154	12.94	11.50	3.38	E1	A	0.91
NGC 6146	832	16:25:10.330	+40:53:34.32	0.0292	13.32	11.87	3.38	E5	A	0.77
NGC 6154	833	16:25:30.483	+49:50:24.93	0.0199	13.73	12.77	2.98	Sab	B	0.65
NGC 6150	835	16:25:49.965	+40:29:19.41	0.0292	14.00	12.50	3.52	E7	A	0.48
UGC 10384	837	16:26:46.684	+11:34:48.96	0.0165	14.54	13.31	2.42	Sb	A	0.22
NGC 6173	840	16:29:44.875	+40:48:41.96	0.0294	13.20	11.78	3.48	E6	A	0.65
UGC 10650	843	17:00:14.582	+23:06:22.83	0.0099	15.22	22.71	-5.68	Scd	A	0.20
UGC 10693	845	17:04:53.020	+41:51:55.76	0.0280	13.50	12.15	3.47	E7	AB	0.68
UGC 10695	846	17:05:05.573	+43:02:35.36	0.0280	14.06	12.67	3.29	E5	A	0.67
UGC 10710	847	17:06:52.521	+43:07:19.96	0.0280	14.38	13.02	3.30	Sb	A	0.25
NGC 6310	848	17:07:57.480	+60:59:24.56	0.0114	13.52	12.23	3.29	Sb	A	0.22
NGC 6314	850	17:12:38.715	+23:16:12.29	0.0221	13.55	12.23	3.09	Sab	A	0.51
NGC 6338	851	17:15:22.976	+57:24:40.28	0.0274	13.42	11.90	3.82	E5	A	0.66
UGC 10796	852	17:16:47.724	+61:55:12.43	0.0102	14.57	14.53	1.43	Scd	AB	0.49
UGC 10811	854	17:18:43.725	+58:08:06.43	0.0291	14.49	13.20	2.98	Sb	B	0.42
IC 1256	856	17:23:47.285	+26:29:11.48	0.0159	13.87	12.89	2.57	Sb	AB	0.59
NGC 6394	857	17:30:21.423	+59:38:23.61	0.0284	14.48	13.19	3.08	Sbc	B	0.29
UGC 10905	858	17:34:06.437	+25:20:38.28	0.0265	13.71	12.23	3.42	S0a	A	0.53
NGC 6411	859	17:35:32.849	+60:48:48.25	0.0123	12.78	11.54	3.53	E4	A	0.68
NGC 6427	860	17:43:38.598	+25:29:38.17	0.0108	13.34	11.90	3.18	S0	AB	0.61
NGC 6497	863	17:51:17.966	+59:28:15.14	0.0105	13.59	12.34	3.57	Sab	B	0.65
NGC 6515	864	17:57:25.195	+50:43:41.24	0.0228	13.54	12.22	3.29	E3	A	0.78
UGC 11228	865	18:24:46.259	+41:29:33.85	0.0194	13.81	12.36	3.40	S0	B	0.57
UGC 11262	866	18:30:35.698	+42:41:33.70	0.0186	15.01	14.59	2.19	Sc	A	0.39
NGC 6762	867	19:05:37.089	+63:56:02.79	0.0098	13.87	12.49	3.13	Sab	A	0.49
UGC 11649	872	20:55:27.619	-01:13:30.87	0.0127	13.57	12.44	3.26	Sab	B	0.88
NGC 7025	874	21:07:47.336	+16:20:09.22	0.0166	12.87	11.38	3.67	S0a	A	0.72
UGC 11717	877	21:18:35.412	+19:43:07.39	0.0212	14.36	12.81	3.72	Sab	A	0.47
MCG-01-54-016	878	21:25:59.970	-03:48:32.26	0.0098	14.92	14.67	1.52	Scd	A	0.13
NGC 7194	881	22:03:30.937	+12:38:12.41	0.0272	13.66	12.15	3.45	E3	A	0.79
UGC 11958	883	22:14:46.882	+13:50:27.13	0.0262	14.15	12.84	4.59	S0(x)	A	0.74
NGC 7321	887	22:36:28.022	+21:37:18.35	0.0238	13.45	12.35	2.94	Sbc	B	0.69
UGC 12127	888	22:38:29.421	+35:19:46.89	0.0275	13.59	12.19	3.86	E1	A	0.85
UGC 12185	890	22:47:25.063	+31:22:24.67	0.0222	14.12	12.99	3.07	Sb	B	0.47
NGC 7436B	893	22:57:57.546	+26:09:00.01	0.0246	13.40	11.84	3.92	E2(x)	A	0.90
NGC 7466	896	23:02:03.464	+27:03:09.34	0.0251	14.09	12.92	2.93	Sbc	A	0.53
NGC 7549	901	23:15:17.270	+19:02:30.43	0.0157	13.59	12.53	2.88	Sbc	B	0.75
NGC 7563	902	23:15:55.927	+13:11:46.03	0.0143	13.30	11.83	3.62	Sa	B	0.68
NGC 7591	904	23:18:16.259	+06:35:08.86	0.0165	13.44	12.18	2.90	Sbc	B	0.59
UGC 12864	935	23:57:23.920	+30:59:31.45	0.0156	14.35	13.95	2.51	Sc	B	0.32
NGC 4676B <sup>h</sup>	939	12:46:11.235	+30:43:21.87	0.0218	15.03	13.68	3.94	...(x)	...	0.82

In Fig. 6, we present the distribution of stellar masses for the DR1 galaxies. They were directly inferred from the CALIFA data by applying spatially resolved spectral synthesis using the STARLIGHT code (Cid Fernandes et al. 2005) with a combination of single stellar populations (SSPs) from the libraries of González Delgado et al. (2005) and Vazdekis et al. (2010), which both adopt a Salpeter initial mass function. Details of these measurements will be presented in González Delgado et al. (in prep.). The DR1 galaxies cover intermediate to high-mass galaxies, including more than 5 galaxies per 0.25 dex bin between  $10^{10}$  and  $10^{12} M_{\odot}$  and a median value close to  $10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . The asymmetric distribution is expected from the distribution in absolute magnitudes (see Fig. 2) and is inherited from the CALIFA mother sample due to its selection criteria (see W12 for details).

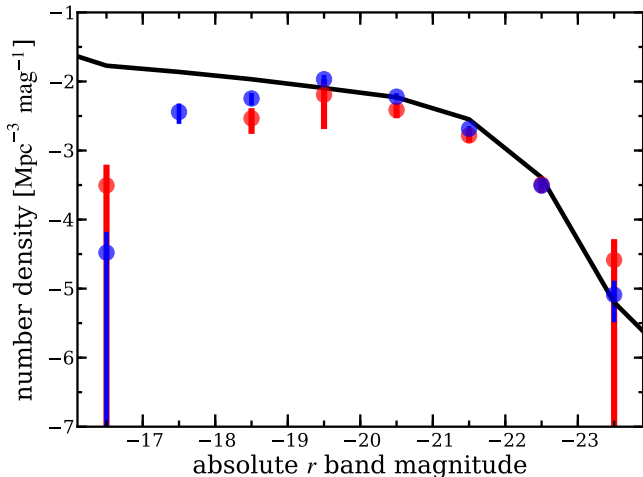
Many different kinds of galaxies are already covered in the DR1 sample in sufficient numbers to perform spatially resolved comparison studies. In addition to global galaxy parameters presented previously, we show the  $[\text{O III}]/\text{H}\beta$  vs.  $[\text{N II}]/\text{H}\alpha$  emission-line diagnostic diagram (Baldwin et al. 1981; Veilleux & Osterbrock 1987) for the nucleus in Fig. 7. It is constructed

from the most central spaxel at the coordinates of each CALIFA galaxy center (Table 1 excluding objects with a wrong astrometry in the data as discussed later in Sect. 5.2). After removing the stellar continuum using a spectral synthesis approach, we measured the emission line fluxes by fitting Gaussians to their profiles in the residual spectra. A variety of different ionization mechanisms can be found in the DR1 galaxy sample, ranging from pure star formation to Seyfert-type active galactic nuclei (AGN), with a significant number of galaxies in between. Also, low-ionization nuclear emission-line regions (LINERs) (Heckman 1980), which are predominantly hosted by bulge-dominated or elliptical galaxies, appear to be frequent. Robust classification of individual galaxies according to such a scheme can be complicated, i.e., in border-line cases or due to systematic uncertainties in the emission-line measurements, as well as adopting other types of diagnostic diagrams (e.g. Cid Fernandes et al. 2010), or a different classification scheme. This has been considered in the Kehrig et al. (2012) study of the ionization source of the interstellar medium in two LINER-like early-type CALIFA galaxies. Rather than to suggest or impose a certain classification of individual galaxy nuclei for



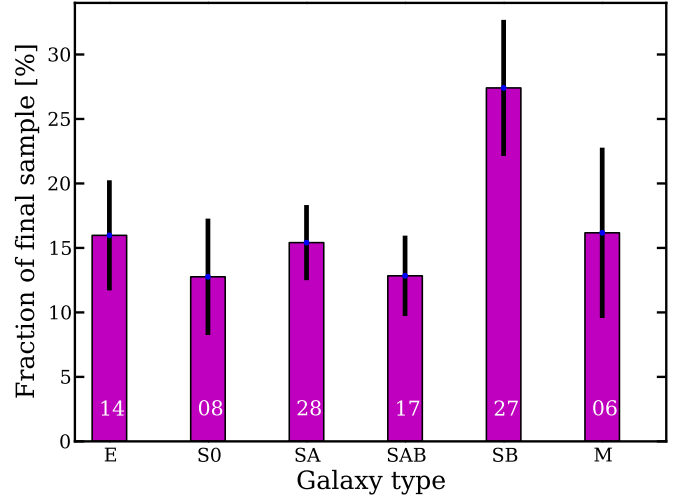


**Fig. 2.** *Upper panel:* distribution of CALIFA galaxies in the  $u-z$  vs.  $M_z$  color–magnitude diagram. Black dots indicate galaxies in the CALIFA mother sample (S12, W12) and colored symbols denote CALIFA DR1 galaxies. Different colors represent the morphological classification of galaxies which range from ellipticals (E) to late-type spirals (Sd). *Lower panel:* the fraction of galaxies in the DR1 sample with respect to the expected final CALIFA sample distribution in bins of 1 mag in  $M_z$  and 0.75 mag in  $u-z$ . The total number of galaxies per bin in the DR1 sample is written in each bin. The bins for which the number of galaxies in the mother sample is less than 5 are prone to low-number statistics and enclosed by a magenta square for clarity.

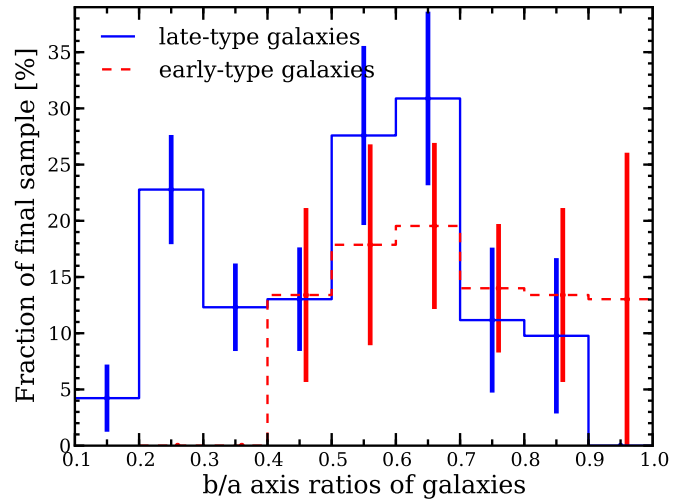


**Fig. 3.** Luminosity functions in the  $r$  band of the DR1 sample (red points), the CALIFA mother sample (blue points), and the low-redshift sample of the NYU value added catalog (black line, Blanton et al. 2005). Despite the small size of the DR1 sample the luminosity function is reproduced well.

the DR1 sample, we present one particular representation here only to demonstrate the diversity of the DR1 galaxy sample.



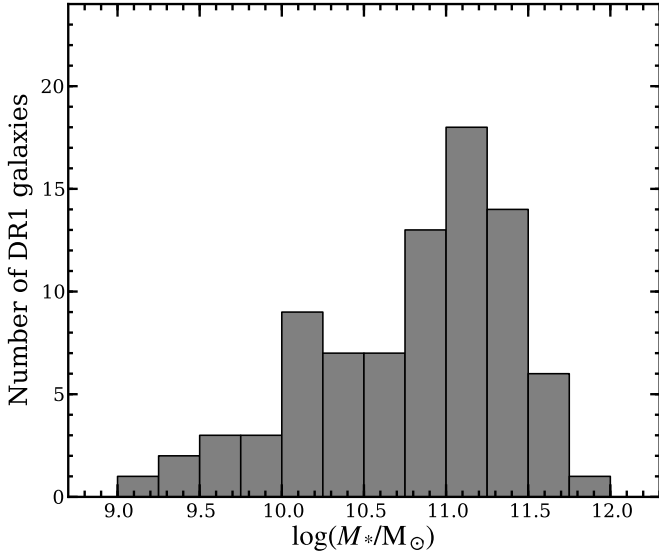
**Fig. 4.** The fraction of galaxies in the DR1 sample with respect to the expected final CALIFA sample distribution, split by visually classified morphology. We divide the galaxies into ellipticals (E), lenticulars (S0), non-barred spirals (SA), weakly barred spirals (SAB), strongly barred spirals (SB), and ongoing mergers (M) of any type. The morphological distribution of the DR1 sample lies close to that of the mother sample. The total number of galaxies in the DR1 for each morphology type is written on the bar. Error bars are computed from the Poisson errors of the associated DR1 number counts.



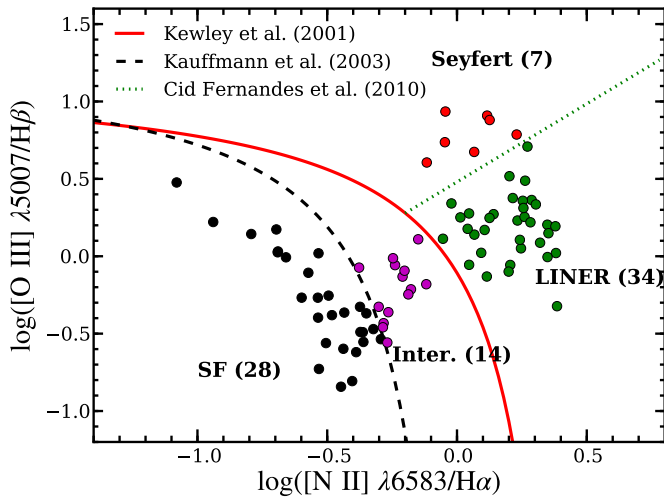
**Fig. 5.** The fraction of galaxies in the DR1 sample with respect to the expected final CALIFA sample distribution, as a function of axis ratio ( $b/a$ ). Galaxies were separated into early-type galaxies (E+S0) and late-type galaxies (Sa and later). The CALIFA mother sample does not include any elliptical galaxies with  $b/a < 0.3$  or any spiral galaxies with  $b/a > 0.9$ . Error bars are computed from the Poisson errors of the associated DR1 number counts.

### 3. Data processing and error propagation

The instrument characteristics and observing strategy of the CALIFA survey define the requirements for the data reduction scheme. These requirements are thoroughly described in S12 and only briefly summarized here for completeness. The PPAk fiber bundle of the PMAS instrument comprises 382 fibers, each with a diameter of  $2.7''$  projected on the sky. The primary FoV has a hexagonal shape of  $74'' \times 62''$  in size, sampled by 331 fibers with a filling factor of  $\sim 60\%$ . A set of 36 fibers are dedicated to sample the sky background and are distributed



**Fig. 6.** Distribution of stellar masses for galaxies in the DR1 sample. The stellar masses have been determined from the CALIFA data (see text for details).



**Fig. 7.** Emission-line diagnostic diagram for the most central spaxel of each DR1 datacube. Only objects for which all required emission lines have  $S/N > 3$  are shown. The demarcation lines of Kewley et al. (2001), Kauffmann et al. (2003), and Cid Fernandes et al. (2010) are used to classify the galaxies into star forming (SF), intermediate, Seyfert, and LINER-type galaxies, which are denoted with black, magenta, red, and green symbols, respectively.

in 6 smaller bundles along a circle of  $\sim 72''$  radius around the FoV center. The remaining 15 fibers are coupled to the calibration unit of the instrument.

Each CALIFA galaxy is targeted twice with different spectral settings, a low-resolution (V500) setup covering the nominal wavelength range 3745–7500 Å at spectral resolution of  $R \sim 850$ , and a mid-resolution (V1200) grism covering the nominal wavelength range 3400–4840 Å at a spectral resolution of  $R \sim 1650$ . The useful wavelength range is, however, reduced by internal vignetting within the spectrograph for several fibers to 4240–7140 Å and 3650–4620 Å in the worst case for the V500 and V1200, respectively. Three dithered pointings are taken for each object to reach a filling factor of 100% across the entire FoV. The exposure time per pointing is fixed to 900 s for

the V500 and 1800 s for the V1200. The latter is further split into 2 or 3 individual exposures.

We are continuously upgrading the CALIFA pipeline (see S12 for details). The main improvements to the data reduction pipeline used to produce the DR1 data are briefly mentioned in the next section followed by a detailed characterization of the propagated noise.

### 3.1. Improvements on the CALIFA data reduction scheme

At the first stages of the project, we employed the R3D data reduction package (Sánchez 2006) as the basis to develop a fully automatic IFS data reduction pipeline dedicated to the CALIFA data. A description of that pipeline and the individual reduction steps was presented by S12. With the aim of improving the flexibility, portability, maintenance and capabilities of the pipeline, most of the data reduction tasks have been transformed to a Python-based architecture.

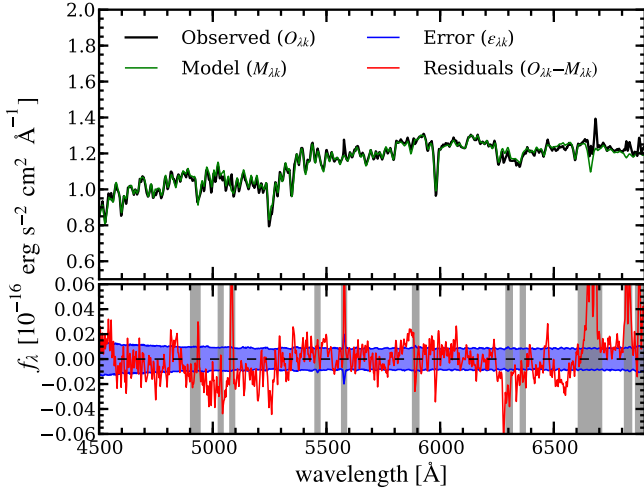
The main driver for the pipeline improvements was to implement the propagation of the Poisson plus read-out noise as well as bad pixels caused by cosmic ray hits, bad CCD columns, or the effect of vignetting, from the raw data to the final CALIFA data product in a consistent way. This was not possible with the reduction scheme adopted by the previous pipeline version (V1.2), because the numerous interpolation and resampling steps did not allow a reliable error propagation. Details of the most important improvements for the current pipeline version (V1.3c) are provided in Appendix A.

The final output of the V1.3c pipeline are cubes of intensity, errors and bad pixels. Details on the data format are described in Sect. 4. Below we evaluate specifically the accuracy of the pipeline-produced noise estimates and characterize effects of correlated noise that should be properly taken into account in any scientific analysis.

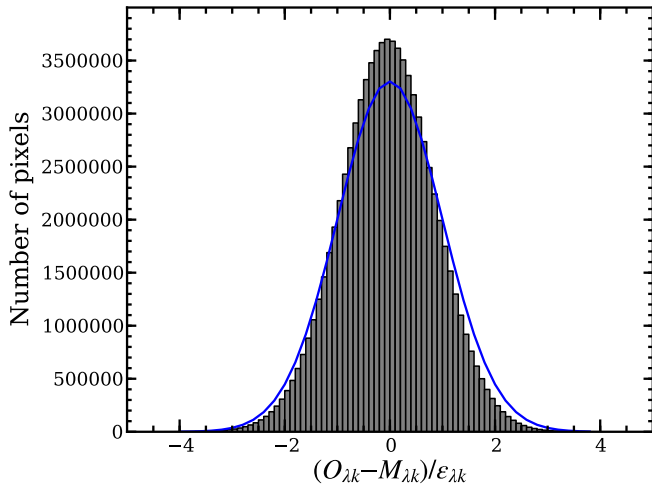
### 3.2. Accuracy of the propagated noise

The derivation of error spectra in IFS data is a complex task, for which there are no well established recipes. It is therefore relevant to verify the reliability of the pipeline errors ( $\epsilon_{\lambda}$ ). An approximate assessment of the error spectra was carried out with the aid of full spectral continuum fitting described by Cid Fernandes et al. (in prep.), and Gonzalez Delgado et al. (in prep.). The CALIFA spectra are decomposed in terms of combinations of SSP spectra from González Delgado et al. (2005) and Vazdekis et al. (2010) including a dust extinction term following the Cardelli et al. (1989) law. An example of such a fit is shown for a central V500 spectrum in Fig. 8 for illustrative purposes. For a certain spectrum  $k$  it presents the observation ( $O_{\lambda k}$ ), the best-fit model ( $M_{\lambda k}$ ), the residuals ( $R_{\lambda k} = O_{\lambda k} - M_{\lambda k}$ ), and the provided pipeline error spectrum ( $\epsilon_{\lambda k}$ ).

Neglecting systematic deviations of the model spectra with respect to the real data in some wavelength regions, one would expect the residuals  $R_{\lambda k}$  to be typically of the order of  $\epsilon_{\lambda k}$ . Indeed, we find that this is the case. The histogram of  $U_{\lambda k} = R_{\lambda k}/\epsilon_{\lambda k}$  (Fig. 9) was obtained from over  $10^8$  data points of nearly  $10^5$  spectra for the V500 spectra distributed within this DR1. Emission lines and faulty pixels were excluded from the statistics (shaded areas in Fig. 8), as the spectral fits are only meant to reproduce the stellar component. The histogram follows nearly a Gaussian shape, centered at  $-0.04$  with a standard deviation of 0.8. The expected standard deviation would be 1.0 if the error spectra would statistically agree with the noise in the residual spectra and assuming that the stellar population model is



**Fig. 8.** Example of a stellar population fit with STARLIGHT to the central V500 spectrum of NGC 5966, restricted to the unvignetted part. The observed, modeled and residual spectrum are shown together with the pipeline produced  $\pm 1\sigma$  error. Sky and galaxy emission line regions masked during the fitting are indicated by the gray shaded areas.



**Fig. 9.** Histogram of the observed ( $O_{\lambda k}$ ) minus model ( $M_{\lambda k}$ ) residuals at each wavelength normalized by the formal flux error ( $\epsilon_{\lambda k}$ ). The model spectra are obtained from STARLIGHT fits for the stellar continuum, excluding the main emission lines, as well as bad pixels. The histogram describes almost a Gaussian centered at 0 with a dispersion of  $\sim 0.8$ . The blue line indicates a Gaussian distribution centered at 0 with a dispersion of 1, normalized to the total number of pixels for comparison. On the assumption that the spectral residuals are due to noise (i.e., neglecting model imperfections), this figure demonstrates that the pipeline error estimates are reliable.

a perfect fit. Selecting different wavelength ranges for this comparison to avoid regions with systematic template mismatches mainly changes the centroid of the distribution whereas the standard deviation is nearly constant. Thus, the propagated errors are overestimated by  $\sim 20\%$  in the mean. This was also verified for the V1200 setup using the same method. The overall conclusion of this test is that the errors provided in DR1 are robust, with a slight systematic overestimation of  $\sim 20\%$  that can be taken into account during any analysis if needed.

### 3.3. Characterization of spatially correlated noise

It is often necessary to spatially co-add spaxels in the datacubes to achieve a minimum signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) in the spectra

for a specific application. For CALIFA we adopt an inverse-distance weighted image reconstruction scheme so far, which averages the flux among all fibers within  $5''$  for a given spaxel in the final datacube by assuming a 2D Gaussian profile with a dispersion of  $1''$  for the individual weighting factors (see S12 for details). Like many other image resampling schemes it introduces significant correlation between the spaxels in the final datacubes. This can be understood from simple arguments. Each CALIFA dataset contains 993 physically independent spectra from the fibers of the three dithered pointings, but the final datacube consists of more than 4000 spectra at a sampling of  $1'' \times 1''$  per spaxel. This automatically implies that the final spaxels *cannot be completely independent from each other* within the CALIFA datacubes through the complex correlation of signal and noise between neighboring spaxels.

In the limit case of co-adding the spectra of the entire cube, the pipeline analytically calculates an error weighting factor for each pixel such that the formal error of the co-added spectrum is identical to the one obtained by co-adding the individual fiber spectra. Of course, this is an unrealistic case, because only spectra within a small zone are typically co-added to preserve some spatial resolution. A popular method for adaptive binning is the Voronoi-binning scheme implemented for optical IFS data by Cappellari & Copin (2003). It assumes that the spectra are completely independent of each other to compute the required bin size for a given target S/N. Blindly adopting such a binning scheme to CALIFA datacubes will lead to incorrect results, because the assumption that the spectra are independent is not valid. Either the bin sizes will be smaller than required to achieve the target S/N, or alternatively expressed, the error of the co-added spectra will be higher than formally expected given the error of individual spaxels.

Here, we characterize the effect of the correlated noise by determining the ratio of the “real” error ( $\epsilon_{\text{real}}$ ), directly estimated from the residuals  $R_{\lambda k}$ , to the analytically propagated error ( $\epsilon_{\text{bin}}$ ) of binned spectra as a function of bin for a certain target S/N. The results obtained for all DR1 datasets are shown in Fig. 10 for the two instrumental setups with a target S/N level of 20. The observed trends can be sufficiently described by a simple logarithmic function<sup>1</sup>

$$\epsilon_{\text{real}} = \epsilon_{\text{bin}} [1 + \alpha \log n], \quad (1)$$

with  $n$  the number of spaxels per bin.

The values for the slope  $\alpha$  range from 1.35 to 1.45 with a mean of  $\alpha = 1.4$ , for target S/N values between 10 and 60. The fits to the data result in less accurate exponents for target S/N ratios of 10 and 60 given the poor sampling towards large- and small-size bins, but the overall shape is preserved. This means that  $\alpha$  mainly depends on the number of spaxels per bin and not on the target S/N.

## 4. CALIFA data format and characteristics

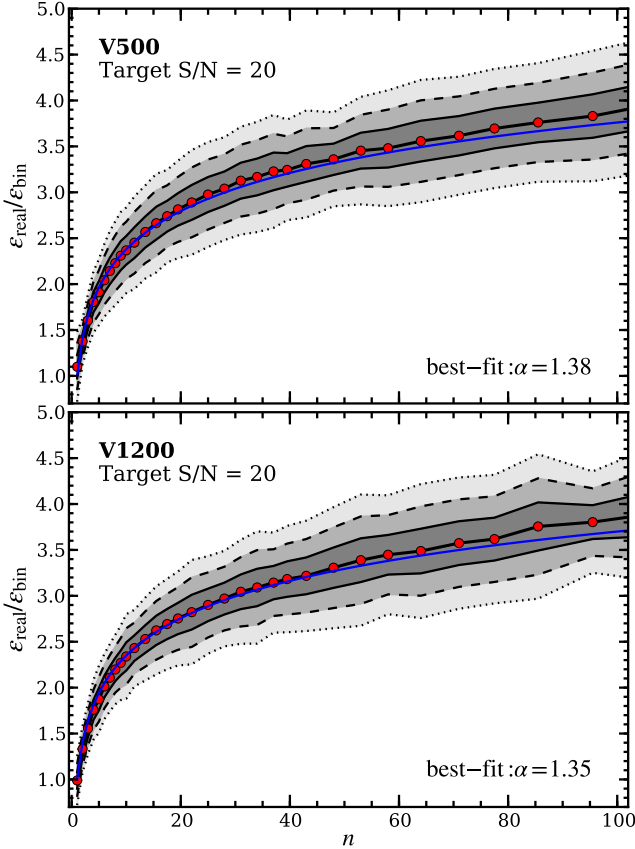
The CALIFA data are stored and delivered as datacubes (three-dimensional data) in the standard binary FITS format and consist of four FITS header/data units (HDU). These datacubes represent (1) the measured flux densities, corrected for Galactic extinction as described in S12, in units of  $10^{-16} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$  (primary datacube), (2) associated errors, (3) error weighting factors, and (4) bad pixels flags (Table 2). They allow users to

<sup>1</sup> An independent estimate of this empirical relation, proposed by Cid Fernandes et al. (in prep.), is completely consistent within the estimated uncertainties.



**Table 2.** CALIFA FITS file structure.

HDU	Extension name	Format	Content
0	Primary	32-bit float	flux density in units of $10^{-16} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$
1	ERROR	32-bit float	$1\sigma$ error on the flux density
2	ERRWEIGHT	32-bit float	error weighting factor
3	BADPIX	8-bit integer	bad pixel flags (1 = bad, 0 = good)



**Fig. 10.** Ratio of the real error ( $\epsilon_{\text{real}}$ ) to the analytically propagated error ( $\epsilon_{\text{bin}}$ ) as a function of number of spaxels per bin for all the V500 (*upper panel*) and V1200 (*lower panel*) data of DR1 at a target S/N of 20. Grey shades mark the  $1\sigma$ ,  $2\sigma$  and  $3\sigma$  levels. The blue lines represent the best fit logarithmic function with  $\alpha = 1.38$  and  $\alpha = 1.35$ , respectively.

properly take into account the characteristics of each dataset concerning bad pixels and noise for their specific analysis. The first two axes of the cubes correspond to the spatial dimension along right ascension and declination with a  $1'' \times 1''$  sampling. The third dimension represents the wavelength along a linear grid. The dimensions of each datacube ( $N_\alpha$ ,  $N_\delta$ , and  $N_\lambda$ ), as well as the spectral sampling ( $d_\lambda$ ) and constant resolution ( $\delta_\lambda$ ) along the entire wavelength range, are summarized in Table 3. Note that the spatial resolution is worse than the actual seeing during the observation because the large aperture of each fiber ( $2''.7$ ) strongly undersamples the point spread function. The final CALIFA spatial resolution is mainly set by the dither pattern and the image reconstruction scheme rather than the seeing. We evaluate this as part of our quality control tests discussed below in Sect. 5.2.

#### 4.1. Error datacubes

The error datacubes in the first FITS extension correspond to the associated  $1\sigma$  noise level of each pixel as formally propagated

**Table 3.** Dimension and sampling of CALIFA datacubes.

Setup	$N_\alpha^a$	$N_\delta^a$	$N_\lambda^a$	$\lambda_{\text{start}}^b$	$\lambda_{\text{end}}^c$	$d_\lambda^d$	$\delta_\lambda^e$
V500	78	73	1877	3749 $\text{\AA}$	7501 $\text{\AA}$	2.0 $\text{\AA}$	6.0 $\text{\AA}$
V1200	78	73	1701	3650 $\text{\AA}$	4840 $\text{\AA}$	0.7 $\text{\AA}$	2.3 $\text{\AA}$

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup> Number of pixels in each dimension. <sup>(b)</sup> Wavelength of the first pixel on the wavelength direction. <sup>(c)</sup> Wavelength of the last pixel on the wavelength direction. <sup>(d)</sup> Wavelength sampling per pixel. <sup>(e)</sup> Homogenized spectral resolution (FWHM) over the entire wavelength range.

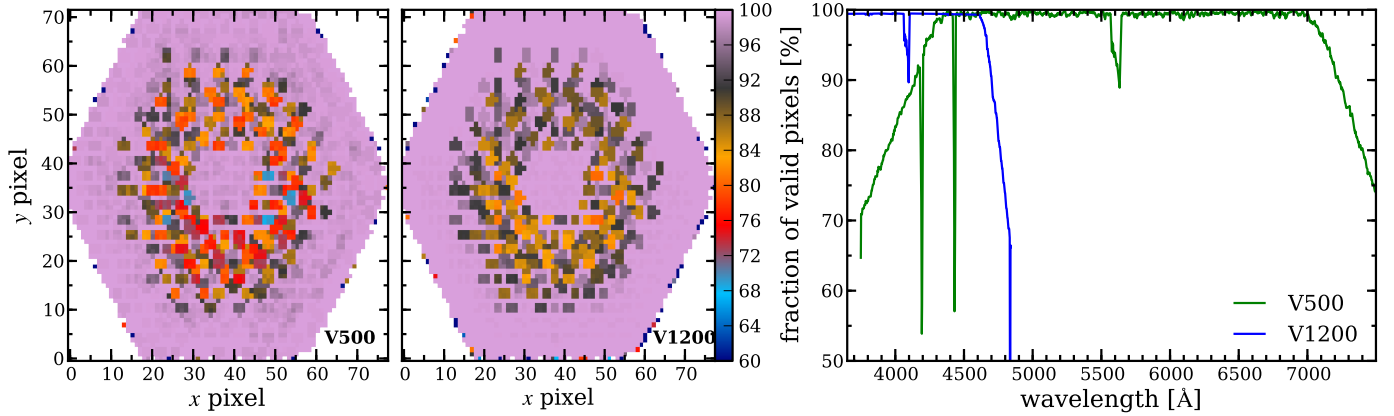
by the pipeline. As validation of our efforts to optimize the pipeline, we verified that the measured noise is systematically lower by  $\sim 20\%$  than the formal error vector for individual spaxels (see Sect. 3.2). In the case of bad pixels, we assigned an error value that is roughly ten orders of magnitude higher than the typical value for the considered dataset. Any analysis based on the  $\chi^2$  statistics will implicitly take into account bad pixels if the error vector is considered. The correlation of noise becomes important only in cases where the CALIFA data need to be spatially binned as discussed in Sect. 3.3. The second FITS extension reports the error scaling factor for each pixel in the limiting case that all valid spaxels of the cube would be co-added. Suggestions about how to deal with the correlated noise and proper usage of the error scaling factors were described above in detail.

#### 4.2. Bad pixel datacubes

Bad pixel datacubes are produced by the pipeline and stored in the third FITS extension. They report pixels for which no sufficient information is available in the raw data because of cosmic rays, bad CCD columns, or the effect of vignetting. The data at bad pixels have been interpolated, and *it is considered not usable* even if the spectrum looks “good” at those locations. The V1200 data is less affected by cosmic rays compared to the V500 data, because several frames are observed per pointing. The data at a bad pixel are therefore restored from the other available frame(s) although this results in a lower S/N.

The distribution of bad pixels is not homogeneous within the datacube because of the vignetting effect as noted in S12. In Fig. 11, we present the typical fraction of valid pixels along the spatial and spectral axis for the V500 and V1200 setup, respectively. Note that four bad CCD columns have been identified, which lead to four wavelength regions where the fraction of valid pixels is significantly reduced. The vignetting effect of the instrument results in a wavelength coverage reduced by up to  $\sim 25\%$  for some fibers on the blue and/or red side of the spectral range.

The hexagonal PPak FoV is resampled to a rectangular grid, so that the uncovered corners are filled with zeros. These are also flagged as bad pixels for consistency, whereas the residuals of bright night-sky emission lines are not flagged as bad pixels. The strength of their residuals is different for each dataset and might be handled differently depending on the specific data analysis.



**Fig. 11.** Fraction of valid pixels in each spectrum across the CALIFA FoV (*left panels*) and as a function of wavelength (*right panel*) for the V500 and V1200 setup. The spaxels most severely affected by the vignetting in the blue and red part of the spectra lead to the ring like structure around the FoV center. The blue part of the V1200 data does not show a vignetting effect here because we cut off the wavelength range in the final data already at 3650 Å due to the very low sensitivity in the blue. Four bad CCD columns are visible that lead to a significantly reduced fraction of valid pixels at narrow wavelength regions.

**Table 4.** Main FITS header keywords and their meaning.

Keyword	Data type	Meaning
OBJECT	string	Name of the target galaxy
CALIFAID	integer	ID of the galaxy
NAXIS1	integer	Number of pixels along right ascension axis ( $N_\alpha$ )
NAXIS2	integer	Number of pixels along declination axis ( $N_\delta$ )
NAXIS3	integer	Number of pixels along wavelength axis ( $N_\lambda$ )
CRPIX1	float	Reference pixel of the galaxy center in right ascension
CRVAL1	float	Right ascension $\alpha$ (J2000) of the galaxy center in degrees
CDEL1	float	Sampling along right ascension axis in arcsec
CRPIX2	float	Reference pixel of the galaxy center in declination
CRVAL2	float	Declination $\delta$ (J2000) of the galaxy center in degrees
CDEL2	float	Sampling along declination axis in arcsec
CRVAL3	float	Wavelength of the first pixel along the wavelength axis in Å
CDEL3	float	Sampling of the wavelength axis in Å
hierarch PIPE VERS	string	Version of the reduction pipeline
hierarch PIPE UNITS	string	Units of the flux density
hierarch PIPE GALEXT AV	float	Galactic $V$ band extinction along line-of-sight
hierarch PIPE REDUDATE	string	Date/time the data were reduced
hierarch PIPE VMAG 3SIG	float	Estimated $3\sigma$ surface brightness depth in mag arcsec <sup>-2</sup>
MED_VEL	float	Estimated systemic velocity in km s <sup>-1</sup>
hierarch PPAK PREF DATE-OBS	string	Date/time of the observation
hierarch PPAK PREF UT_START	float	Start of the observation in seconds UT time
hierarch PPAK PREF UT_END	float	End of the observation in seconds UT time
hierarch PPAK PREF MJD-OBS	float	Modified Julian date of the observation
hierarch PPAK PREF AIRMASS	float	Airmass during the observation
hierarch PPAK PREF EXPTIM	float	Exposure time of the observation
hierarch PPAK PREF HVCOR	float	Line-of-sight difference to heliocentric velocity
hierarch PPAK PREF EXT_V	float	$V$ band atmospheric extinction in magnitudes
hierarch PPAK PREF PIPE FLEX XOFF	float	Measured flexure offset in $x$ -direction in CCD pixels
hierarch PPAK PREF PIPE FLEX YOFF	float	Measured flexure offset in $y$ -direction in CCD pixels
hierarch PPAK PREF PIPE SPEC RES	float	Homogenized spectral resolution (FWHM) in Å
hierarch PPAK PREF PIPE SKY MEAN	float	Mean surface brightness ( $\mu_{\text{sky}}$ ) during observation

#### 4.3. FITS header information

The FITS header contains the standard keywords that register the spatial axes to the standard World Coordinate System (WCS, [Greisen & Calabretta 2002](#)) and the wavelength to the spectral axis in a linear grid. Each CALIFA datacube contains the full FITS header information of all raw frames from which it was created, where each header entry is expanded with a unique prefix for a given pointing/frame. The prefix consists of the string

“PPAK” followed by the designation of the pointing *PREF*, which can be “P1”, “P2”, or “P3” for the three pointings of the V500 setup, or “P1F1”, “P1F2”, “P2F1”, etc..., for the individual frames taken for each pointing of the V1200 setup.

The reduction pipeline also collects information regarding, e.g., sky brightness, flexure offsets, Galactic extinction, approximate limiting magnitude, etc., and adds it to the FITS header. Header keywords that may be of general interest for the analysis and/or evaluation of the data are summarized in [Table 4](#)

for convenience. Note that the systemic velocity of the galaxies (MED\_VEL) automatically estimated by the pipeline is not robustly measured from the V1200 data, because of the smaller wavelength coverage and lower S/N compared to the V500 data.

## 5. Data quality

This first CALIFA data release provides science grade data of 100 galaxies to the community. Hence, in order to define the set of galaxies to be released, a detailed characterization of the data quality for the existing data is needed to select and define a minimal useful suite of quality control (QC) parameters.

Overall, the final data quality for CALIFA depends on a number of independent factors such as (i) general instrument reliability and temperature stability, (ii) ambient conditions during observations, and (iii) the robustness of the data reduction pipeline. We define a set of parameters and QC flags in the areas of astrometric, spectroscopic and photometric characterization that are measured for all galaxies. We amend these parameters with four quality flags for each of the two spectral setups (V500/V1200; eight in total) that summarize the reduction process for each galaxy and indicate data quality.

We strongly urge users to consider these QC parameters with regard to their science application. For example, if a science goal focuses primarily on kinematics, then a substantial offset in absolute astrometric registration is not a limitation for the analysis of any one galaxy. However, if, under the same circumstance, the science goal requires deriving joint spatially-extended information from matching with the SDSS, then caution is advised.

The values and uncertainties listed for the individual QC parameters are intended to provide the user with a summary of the information content of the CALIFA data on a specific galaxy in order to allow for the initial assessment of whether or not a specific datacube can be used for a planned analysis. In the following we display and comment on the distribution of the key flags and QC parameters while demonstrating the overall sample properties and the nature of outliers.

The QC parameters and QC flags can be found in Tables 5 and 6 for the V500 and V1200 data, respectively, which are also available in electronic form on the DR1 web page and accessible through the Virtual Observatory (see Sect. 6.3 for details).

### 5.1. Initial reduction pipeline flags

As an initial description to evaluate the data and reduction quality, we provide each of the four flags per setup that come directly from the reduction process. Some of the extended parameters in the sections below will add to further validate and expand on these initial flags.

Potential minor issues are noted with a value = 1, while the standard case receives value = 0. Galaxies with major issues, i.e. flag values = 2 have been observed as part of the CALIFA survey, but were excluded from this data release. The reduction flags are:

- FLAG\_RED\_O: observing conditions quality. Set to 1 if the night sky is brighter than  $\mu_V = 20.5 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$  (V500) or  $\mu_B = 20.0 \text{ mag arcsec}^{-2}$  (V1200), respectively. There exists a correlation between limiting continuum sensitivity of the datacubes and the night-sky brightness. For nights brighter than this limit the datacubes may not be as deep as targeted. Flag is set to 2 if observing conditions were non-photometric or if background of unknown origin is seen in the data.

- FLAG\_RED\_R: reduction/calibration quality. Set to 1 if reduction deviates from the standard procedure, e.g. due to a lack of directly associated continuum or arc-lamp exposures or a saturation in the available calibration data. Flag is set to 2 if manual intervention was required to recover a minimum of possible data from the raw data.
- FLAG\_RED\_W: wavelength calibration quality. Set to 1 if the standard deviation of the pipeline-estimated systemic velocity in different wavelength regions is larger than  $25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Flag set to 2 if the deviation is more than 2 standard deviations, or  $34 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ .
- FLAG\_RED\_V: visual inspection quality. Summary of a visual inspection of the data. If there is an obvious defect affecting a small fraction of the FoV (like the presence of a strong line or a imperfectly traced fiber), flag is set to 1. It is set to 2 when it is evident that the data have low quality for any unknown reason. Finally this flag is set to 1, even if all previous cases have value = 0, when a master continuum or master arc frame, instead of an individual frame, has been used during the reduction of any of the frames used to create the final datacube.

### 5.2. Astrometric accuracy and spatial resolution

#### 5.2.1. Astrometric registration accuracy

The first area of testing and evaluation of the pipeline output is the absolute astrometric registration of the datacube coordinate systems to the International Coordinate Reference System (ICRS). Astrometric registration is of central importance when CALIFA data are to be combined with e.g. imaging data from other surveys to extract spatially resolved information at certain locations in a galaxy. For this purpose the CALIFA pipeline uses a simple scheme whereby the tabulated coordinates of the galaxy V band photometric center, as given in Table 1, are assigned to the measured barycenter of the reconstructed image in the CALIFA datacubes.

We tested independently the robustness and accuracy of this approach by both visual inspection of the assigned galaxy centers in both setups, as well as in V500 matching the galaxy location of a reconstructed  $g$  band from CALIFA to, where available, corresponding SDSS images. The deviations of the CALIFA astrometry from the ICRS are typically small.

In the V500 setup the offset for most galaxies lies below  $1''.4$ . However, three galaxies show offsets between  $1''.4$  and  $3''$ , and further two substantially larger offsets of  $\sim 12''$  and  $\sim 22''$ . In these cases, either the centers of the galaxies are not well defined due to dust lanes in strongly inclined system, or the galaxies have a bright field star near their center:

- UGC 10650: Edge-on spiral with fuzzy center. Registration should be better than  $3''$ .
- NGC 4676A: One galaxy of The Mice with unclear center and a possible offset of  $\sim 1''.5$  in the astrometric registration.
- NGC 6032: Highly inclined galaxy with prominent dust lane and difficult to define center.  $\sim 2''$  offset in the coordinates.
- NGC 0477: Astrometric center set to nearby star; resulting offset is  $\sim 12''$ .
- NGC 3991: Center of this inclined spiral is not the brightest component. The correct center and hence coordinate system is offset by  $\sim 22''$ .

In the V1200 setup we tested the astrometric co-registration with respect to the V500 reference frame. Generally the registration is

**Table 5.** CALIFA DR1 quality control parameters for the V500 data.

ID	Airmass <sup>a</sup>	$\mu_{V,\text{sky}}^b$	$A_V^c$	Seeing <sup>d</sup>	Flags(R) <sup>e</sup>	$\delta_\lambda^f$	$\left(\frac{g_{\text{CALIFA}}}{g_{\text{SDSS}}}\right)^g$	$\left(\frac{r_{\text{CALIFA}}}{r_{\text{SDSS}}}\right)^h$	$S/N(R_{50})^i$	$I_{3\sigma}^j$	Flags(QC) <sup>k</sup>
001	1.02 ± 0.01	21.4	0.18	...	0000	5.95 ± 0.33	1.01	0.94	35 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
003	1.01 ± 0.01	20.8	0.23	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	6.46 ± 0.98	1.01	1.05	18 ± 5	1.0 ± 0.3	0000
007	1.34 ± 0.05	20.5	0.17	...	0000	6.11 ± 0.41	0.92	0.95	32 ± 5	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
010	1.31 ± 0.05	21.0	0.22	...	0000	5.70 ± 0.19	1.05	0.98	27 ± 7	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
014	1.26 ± 0.04	21.0	0.21	...	0000	5.72 ± 0.33	1.43	1.31	28 ± 7	0.6 ± 0.2	0010
039	1.03 ± 0.01	20.8	0.23	0.9 ± 0.1	0010	6.02 ± 0.18	1.04	1.05	19 ± 4	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
042	1.10 ± 0.03	21.0	0.13	...	0000	6.77 ± 0.57	1.06	1.00	17 ± 3	1.1 ± 0.3	0200
043	1.01 ± 0.01	21.3	0.19	...	0010	6.12 ± 0.22	0.99	0.91	37 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
053	1.19 ± 0.04	20.7	0.17	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	6.35 ± 0.29	1.04	1.05	32 ± 7	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
073	1.04 ± 0.01	21.1	0.20	...	0000	6.47 ± 0.45	1.03	0.95	24 ± 4	1.5 ± 0.3	0000
088	1.13 ± 0.03	20.8	0.17	1.0 ± 0.4	0000	5.65 ± 0.87	1.04	0.99	27 ± 5	1.2 ± 0.3	0000
100	1.37 ± 0.26	20.7	0.14	...	0000	6.39 ± 0.37	1.00	0.99	36 ± 7	1.9 ± 0.5	0000
127	1.22 ± 0.02	20.6	0.28	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	5.90 ± 0.32	1.00	1.00	19 ± 3	2.0 ± 0.5	0000
146	1.47 ± 0.00	20.7	0.12	...	0000	4.86 ± 0.79	0.97	0.94	21 ± 4	1.7 ± 0.4	0000
151	1.07 ± 0.02	21.0	0.15	...	0000	7.01 ± 0.16	1.07	1.03	26 ± 7	1.6 ± 0.4	0000
155	1.03 ± 0.01	21.1	0.16	...	0100	6.34 ± 0.28	1.05	1.02	18 ± 5	1.6 ± 0.5	0000
156	1.12 ± 0.04	21.0	0.16	...	0100	6.33 ± 0.36	0.99	0.94	22 ± 14	1.4 ± 0.4	0000
273	1.06 ± 0.01	21.1	0.14	...	0000	6.67 ± 0.19	1.05	1.00	27 ± 5	1.0 ± 0.3	0000
274	1.18 ± 0.02	20.9	0.17	...	0000	5.64 ± 0.29	1.03	0.95	34 ± 7	0.9 ± 0.2	0000
277	1.60 ± 0.12	20.3	0.33	...	1000	6.69 ± 0.47	1.07	1.12	21 ± 4	1.8 ± 0.6	1000
306	1.12 ± 0.01	20.9	0.16	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	5.54 ± 0.06	1.05	0.99	13 ± 5	0.8 ± 0.3	0000
307	1.06 ± 0.01	21.2	0.16	...	0100	3.84 ± 0.71	1.07	1.04	18 ± 4	1.2 ± 0.3	0000
309	1.27 ± 0.05	21.0	0.15	...	0000	7.44 ± 0.30	1.11	1.04	15 ± 4	1.6 ± 0.4	0000
319	1.11 ± 0.03	20.5	0.56	...	0000	5.82 ± 0.39	1.01	1.07	25 ± 6	1.4 ± 0.4	0000
326	1.05 ± 0.01	20.8	0.17	...	0000	5.72 ± 0.09	1.01	0.96	31 ± 7	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
341	0.78 ± 0.68	14.0	0.11	1.5 ± 0.2	1000	6.24 ± 0.41	0.99	0.97	30 ± 6	1.0 ± 0.3	0000
364	1.33 ± 0.07	20.8	0.12	...	0000	6.30 ± 0.26	1.00	0.95	39 ± 9	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
475	1.35 ± 0.07	20.8	0.12	...	0000	6.42 ± 0.56	1.82	1.66	29 ± 17	1.0 ± 0.2	0210
479	1.14 ± 0.03	20.8	0.17	...	0000	5.62 ± 0.12	1.01	0.96	32 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
486	0.70 ± 0.61	14.0	0.10	1.2 ± 0.7	0000	5.88 ± 0.48	1.03	0.98	27 ± 7	0.7 ± 0.2	0000
515	1.01 ± 0.00	20.9	0.14	...	0000	6.22 ± 0.24	1.12	1.06	21 ± 4	1.7 ± 0.3	0000
518	1.16 ± 0.01	20.9	0.15	...	0000	6.52 ± 0.30	1.03	1.00	23 ± 4	1.6 ± 0.4	0000
528	1.14 ± 0.01	20.8	0.17	...	0001	6.30 ± 0.38	1.17	1.16	9 ± 3	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
548	1.16 ± 0.01	20.8	0.19	1.2 ± 0.1	0000	6.04 ± 0.50	1.02	0.98	53 ± 10	0.8 ± 0.4	0000
577	1.02 ± 0.01	21.0	0.15	...	0000	6.12 ± 0.41	1.07	1.00	17 ± 11	0.8 ± 0.2	0100
607	1.22 ± 0.03	21.3	0.16	...	0100	6.26 ± 0.17	1.00	0.94	50 ± 11	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
608	1.31 ± 0.06	21.1	0.17	...	0000	7.20 ± 0.24	1.12	1.08	17 ± 4	1.3 ± 0.3	0000
609	1.07 ± 0.02	21.3	0.14	...	0100	4.56 ± 1.09	1.07	1.00	21 ± 6	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
610	1.11 ± 0.03	21.2	0.17	...	0000	6.99 ± 0.23	1.12	1.06	26 ± 7	1.2 ± 0.3	0000
657	1.02 ± 0.01	21.2	0.19	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	6.44 ± 0.84	1.08	1.01	15 ± 4	0.8 ± 0.3	0000
663	1.20 ± 0.04	20.9	0.17	...	0000	5.61 ± 0.42	1.06	0.99	29 ± 7	1.0 ± 0.3	0000
664	1.04 ± 0.02	21.2	0.17	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	6.46 ± 0.96	1.02	0.97	40 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
665	1.06 ± 0.01	21.1	0.17	...	0000	6.29 ± 0.44	1.03	0.96	22 ± 3	1.1 ± 0.4	0000
676	1.03 ± 0.03	21.0	0.15	...	1100	6.62 ± 1.04	1.02	0.97	17 ± 4	1.5 ± 0.3	0000
680	1.07 ± 0.02	21.0	0.17	...	0000	5.57 ± 0.13	1.00	0.94	19 ± 9	0.7 ± 0.2	0000
684	1.05 ± 0.02	21.0	0.17	...	0000	5.48 ± 0.11	1.03	0.98	33 ± 6	1.5 ± 0.3	0000
758	1.02 ± 0.00	21.1	0.24	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	7.11 ± 1.14	1.13	1.08	23 ± 6	0.7 ± 0.3	0000
764	1.29 ± 0.05	21.1	0.18	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	5.43 ± 0.31	1.04	0.94	24 ± 4	0.9 ± 0.2	0000
769	1.02 ± 0.01	21.2	0.17	...	0000	7.20 ± 0.62	1.05	1.00	22 ± 4	1.2 ± 0.3	0000
783	1.08 ± 0.02	21.3	0.16	...	0000	5.76 ± 0.91	1.08	1.07	35 ± 8	0.9 ± 0.2	0000

**Notes.** We describe the meaning of each column including the identifier of each column in the electronic table available on the DR1 web page. <sup>(a)</sup> Average airmass (OBS\_AIR\_MEAN) and rms (OBS\_AIR\_RMS) of the observations for the frames used to create the considered datacube. <sup>(b)</sup> Average night-sky surface brightness (OBS\_SKY\_MAG) in the V band during the observations in units of mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup>. <sup>(c)</sup> Average night-sky attenuation (OBS\_EXT\_MEAN) in the V band during the observations in magnitudes. <sup>(d)</sup> Average natural seeing (OBS\_SEE\_RD\_AVE) in the V-band during the observations in arcsec (FWHM). <sup>(e)</sup> Reduction quality flags, combining the four individual column flags (FLAG\_RED\_O, FLAG\_RED\_R, FLAG\_RED\_W, FLAG\_RED\_V) as described in Sect. 5. <sup>(f)</sup> Average spectral resolution (CAL\_SP\_RES) and error (CAL\_SP\_RES\_ERR) in Å (FWHM), measured by fitting the night-sky emission lines with single Gaussian functions. <sup>(g)</sup> Ratio between the SDSS *g* band flux derived from the datacube and the one derived from the SDSS images for a 30''-diameter aperture (CAL\_DR8\_RATIO\_G). <sup>(h)</sup> Ratio between the SDSS *r* band flux derived from the datacube and the one derived from the SDSS images for a 30''-diameter aperture (CAL\_DR8\_RATIO\_R). <sup>(i)</sup> Average signal-to-noise ratio (CAL\_SN\_MEAN\_WIN) and error (CAL\_SN\_ERR\_WIN) estimated for the full wavelength range at one half light radius from the center. <sup>(j)</sup> Average flux (CAL\_LS\_WIN) and error (CAL\_LS\_ERR\_WIN) at the 3 $\sigma$  continuum detection limit in units of 10<sup>-18</sup> erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> Å<sup>-1</sup>. <sup>(k)</sup> Quality control flags, combining the four individual column flags (FLAG\_AIR, FLAG\_ASTR, FLAG\_FLUXCAL, FLAG\_DEPTH) as described in Sect. 5.



Table 5. continued.

ID	Airmass <sup>a</sup>	$\mu_{V,\text{sky}}^b$	$A_V^c$	Seeing <sup>d</sup>	Flags(R) <sup>e</sup>	$\delta_\lambda^f$	$\left(\frac{g_{\text{CALIFA}}}{g_{\text{SDSS}}}\right)^g$	$\left(\frac{r_{\text{CALIFA}}}{r_{\text{SDSS}}}\right)^h$	$S/N(R_{50})^i$	$I_{3\sigma}^j$	Flags(QC) <sup>k</sup>
797	1.05 ± 0.07	21.0	0.15	...	0000	6.79 ± 0.14	1.01	0.98	23 ± 5	0.7 ± 0.2	0000
798	1.05 ± 0.02	21.3	0.21	...	0000	5.68 ± 0.46	1.03	1.00	30 ± 6	0.6 ± 0.2	0000
806	1.00 ± 0.00	21.1	0.25	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	6.33 ± 0.82	1.15	1.08	22 ± 5	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
820	1.07 ± 0.02	21.2	0.17	...	0100	4.49 ± 1.45	1.02	1.00	11 ± 3	2.1 ± 0.5	0100
822	1.03 ± 0.01	21.2	0.17	...	0000	7.53 ± 0.17	1.32	1.22	19 ± 5	1.4 ± 0.3	0000
823	1.15 ± 0.00	20.9	0.19	...	0000	5.40 ± 0.08	1.09	0.99	26 ± 5	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
824	1.14 ± 0.01	20.9	0.17	...	0010	5.60 ± 0.12	1.42	1.13	38 ± 7	0.8 ± 0.3	0010
826	1.18 ± 0.03	21.1	0.17	...	0000	6.54 ± 0.38	1.01	0.94	33 ± 7	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
828	1.21 ± 0.03	21.3	0.26	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	5.70 ± 0.07	1.43	1.28	33 ± 9	0.6 ± 0.2	0010
829	1.09 ± 0.01	21.2	0.18	...	0000	5.85 ± 0.21	1.12	1.05	41 ± 7	1.3 ± 0.2	0000
832	1.01 ± 0.01	21.3	0.17	...	0000	7.29 ± 0.68	1.01	0.99	44 ± 10	1.2 ± 0.4	0000
833	1.12 ± 0.03	21.2	0.18	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	6.16 ± 0.15	1.05	0.94	22 ± 4	1.1 ± 0.2	0000
835	1.00 ± 0.00	21.1	0.17	1.1 ± 0.2	0000	6.09 ± 0.50	1.01	0.97	43 ± 8	0.9 ± 0.2	0000
837	1.11 ± 0.00	21.1	0.17	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	5.82 ± 0.12	1.13	1.08	49 ± 7	0.7 ± 0.2	0000
840	1.18 ± 0.04	21.0	0.28	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	6.26 ± 0.44	1.08	0.99	32 ± 6	1.3 ± 0.3	0000
843	1.45 ± 0.09	21.0	0.23	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	6.04 ± 0.92	1.12	0.97	18 ± 7	1.0 ± 0.3	0100
845	1.03 ± 0.02	21.4	0.19	...	0000	5.64 ± 0.13	1.08	1.02	40 ± 9	0.8 ± 0.3	0000
846	1.06 ± 0.02	21.0	0.39	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	5.72 ± 0.11	1.07	1.00	22 ± 4	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
847	1.31 ± 0.09	21.3	0.15	0.7 ± 0.1	0100	5.41 ± 0.56	0.96	0.81	28 ± 11	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
848	1.10 ± 0.00	21.0	0.38	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	5.89 ± 0.21	1.06	1.00	36 ± 5	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
850	1.05 ± 0.01	21.0	0.29	...	0000	6.35 ± 0.62	1.02	0.99	37 ± 8	1.0 ± 0.4	0000
851	1.32 ± 0.04	20.5	0.41	0.7 ± 0.1	0000	5.80 ± 0.08	1.08	1.05	17 ± 4	1.6 ± 0.4	0000
852	1.12 ± 0.01	21.0	0.36	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	5.77 ± 0.07	1.04	1.01	12 ± 5	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
854	1.18 ± 0.03	20.7	0.42	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	5.32 ± 0.90	1.05	0.98	24 ± 6	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
856	1.05 ± 0.02	21.2	0.17	...	0000	5.53 ± 0.14	1.06	0.98	28 ± 5	0.9 ± 0.2	0000
857	1.08 ± 0.00	21.5	0.16	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	6.00 ± 0.13	1.14	1.03	40 ± 7	0.7 ± 0.2	0000
858	1.10 ± 0.03	21.2	0.15	1.3 ± 0.2	0000	6.07 ± 0.32	1.06	0.97	36 ± 6	1.1 ± 0.4	0000
859	1.16 ± 0.02	21.2	0.15	0.7 ± 0.1	0000	5.98 ± 0.47	1.04	0.99	46 ± 7	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
860	1.04 ± 0.02	21.2	0.29	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	6.21 ± 0.79	1.00	0.84	44 ± 5	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
863	1.09 ± 0.01	21.4	0.16	0.7 ± 0.1	0000	5.78 ± 0.15	0.99	0.94	33 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
864	1.06 ± 0.01	20.9	0.28	...	0100	5.08 ± 0.44	1.05	0.96	25 ± 6	1.4 ± 0.3	0000
865	1.01 ± 0.01	21.2	0.25	...	0100	5.75 ± 0.44	0.96	0.90	38 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.2	0000
866	1.04 ± 0.02	21.3	0.21	1.1 ± 0.1	0111	5.36 ± 0.40	0.98	0.88	16 ± 4	0.7 ± 0.2	0000
867	1.13 ± 0.01	21.2	0.21	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	5.69 ± 0.20	0.92	0.90	43 ± 5	0.8 ± 0.3	0000
872	1.28 ± 0.01	20.9	0.15	0.6 ± 0.1	0000	4.93 ± 0.75	1.03	1.00	22 ± 4	1.1 ± 0.5	0000
874	1.10 ± 0.02	21.0	0.22	...	0000	5.74 ± 0.51	0.93	0.88	33 ± 6	2.4 ± 0.1	0000
877	1.24 ± 0.05	21.0	0.22	...	0100	5.13 ± 0.41	0.77	0.80	26 ± 7	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
878	1.33 ± 0.01	20.9	0.22	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	4.00 ± 0.90	1.00	0.95	10 ± 12	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
881	1.10 ± 0.00	21.1	0.15	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	5.58 ± 0.32	1.11	1.03	45 ± 8	1.0 ± 0.2	0000
883	1.10 ± 0.01	21.2	0.17	1.0 ± 0.2	0000	6.11 ± 0.21	0.78	0.70	12 ± 3	1.6 ± 0.5	0000
887	1.08 ± 0.02	21.3	0.17	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	6.43 ± 0.59	1.06	0.98	38 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.3	0000
888	1.01 ± 0.01	20.9	0.22	...	0000	5.25 ± 0.41	1.10	1.03	29 ± 7	1.3 ± 0.3	0000
890	1.08 ± 0.02	21.0	0.22	...	0000	4.76 ± 0.71	1.04	1.00	35 ± 6	0.9 ± 0.3	0000
893	1.35 ± 0.07	20.5	0.20	1.0 ± 0.1	1100	5.96 ± 0.28	1.18	1.04	20 ± 8	2.0 ± 0.5	0000
896	1.36 ± 0.08	20.8	0.18	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	6.02 ± 0.14	1.00	0.96	27 ± 6	1.0 ± 0.3	0000
901	1.10 ± 0.03	21.3	0.14	1.0 ± 0.1	0100	5.54 ± 0.26	1.02	0.95	35 ± 9	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
902	1.10 ± 0.00	21.2	0.17	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	5.96 ± 0.13	1.01	0.93	41 ± 6	1.0 ± 0.3	0000
904	1.20 ± 0.04	21.0	0.17	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	6.10 ± 0.10	1.06	0.99	34 ± 9	1.1 ± 0.3	0000
935	1.04 ± 0.02	21.0	0.17	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	5.79 ± 0.32	1.02	1.02	16 ± 6	0.8 ± 0.3	0000
939	1.11 ± 0.04	20.8	0.15	...	0000	5.96 ± 0.22	1.00	0.92	17 ± 6	1.3 ± 0.4	0000

accurate to better than 2". Only for two galaxies we find a more substantial offset:

- NGC 4470: Galaxy with difficult to define center. Offset of ~9" between the two setups.
- NGC 4676A: As stated for V500 the center is not well defined for this galaxy and an offset of ~6" exists between the two setups.

For this DR1 we provide the pipeline registration as described above and do not correct offsets found through these separate external checks. In future data releases it is planned to implement more sophisticated registration methods directly in the pipeline thereby reducing the number of outliers and improving the overall astrometric registration accuracy. We describe the astrometric

offsets for DR1 with the flag FLAG\_ASTR, given for the V500 and V1200 in Tables 5 and 6, respectively. For V500 the values 0, 1, and 2 describe offsets <1".4, 1".4 to 3".0, and >3".0. In the V1200 table values for FLAG\_ASTR of 0 and 2 refer to relative offsets between V500 and V1200 smaller or larger than 3".

### 5.2.2. Seeing and spatial resolution

The achievable spatial resolution of imaging data is usually determined by the telescope aperture together with the atmospheric and instrumental seeing during ground-based observations. In the case of CALIFA, the coarse sampling of the large PPAk fibers modified by the adopted 3-fold dithering pattern as described in S12 imposes additional limitations on the final spatial resolution.

**Table 6.** CALIFA DR1 quality control parameters for the V1200 data.

ID	Airmass	$\mu_{B,\text{sky}}$	$A_V$	Seeing	Flags(R)	$\delta_\lambda$	$S/N(R_{50})$	$I_{3\sigma}$	Flags(QC)
001	1.01 ± 0.02	22.4	0.22	...	0000	3.05 ± 0.44	13 ± 4	2.1 ± 0.8	000
003	1.07 ± 0.06	22.0	0.17	...	0010	2.77 ± 0.17	9 ± 3	2.0 ± 0.7	000
007	1.18 ± 0.03	21.7	0.14	...	0000	2.52 ± 0.13	12 ± 3	3.4 ± 1.9	000
010	1.27 ± 0.09	22.2	0.17	...	0000	2.56 ± 0.15	8 ± 3	3.2 ± 0.7	000
014	1.25 ± 0.08	22.2	0.19	...	0010	2.88 ± 0.28	11 ± 3	1.5 ± 0.6	000
039	1.08 ± 0.05	22.1	0.21	1.1 ± 0.2	0000	3.10 ± 0.14	12 ± 3	1.8 ± 0.4	000
042	1.21 ± 0.10	22.3	0.15	0.9 ± 0.1	0100	3.91 ± 1.11	11 ± 3	1.8 ± 0.5	000
043	1.01 ± 0.01	22.3	0.27	...	0000	2.89 ± 0.34	14 ± 4	1.8 ± 0.6	000
053	1.36 ± 0.20	21.9	0.16	...	0100	2.62 ± 0.32	11 ± 2	3.0 ± 0.8	000
073	1.07 ± 0.04	22.2	0.26	...	0110	2.98 ± 0.24	8 ± 2	3.4 ± 1.1	000
088	1.34 ± 0.15	21.4	0.21	...	1000	3.51 ± 0.44	10 ± 3	4.4 ± 2.1	000
100	1.40 ± 0.16	21.8	0.15	1.1 ± 0.1	0100	3.09 ± 0.69	20 ± 5	2.8 ± 0.6	000
127	1.39 ± 0.34	21.7	0.15	...	1000	3.04 ± 0.14	7 ± 2	3.9 ± 1.5	000
146	1.48 ± 0.01	22.2	0.14	1.3 ± 0.2	0100	3.04 ± 0.13	13 ± 3	2.1 ± 0.6	000
151	1.57 ± 0.22	21.4	0.17	...	0000	2.68 ± 0.25	13 ± 4	2.8 ± 0.8	000
155	1.08 ± 0.05	22.1	0.13	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.97 ± 0.23	6 ± 1	4.1 ± 1.0	000
156	1.07 ± 0.05	22.3	0.14	...	0000	3.68 ± 0.75	9 ± 6	3.5 ± 0.6	000
273	1.06 ± 0.02	22.2	0.14	1.1 ± 0.1	0100	2.96 ± 0.24	15 ± 3	1.6 ± 0.5	000
274	1.33 ± 0.11	22.0	0.17	...	0000	2.66 ± 0.16	12 ± 4	3.1 ± 0.8	000
277	1.08 ± 0.04	21.7	0.15	...	0100	3.05 ± 0.37	15 ± 2	3.4 ± 1.0	000
306	1.12 ± 0.01	22.1	0.17	1.6 ± 0.4	0010	2.93 ± 0.17	7 ± 2	1.8 ± 0.5	000
307	1.18 ± 0.08	22.2	0.15	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	2.44 ± 0.18	6 ± 2	3.8 ± 1.3	000
309	1.23 ± 0.08	22.1	0.14	...	0000	3.25 ± 0.20	8 ± 2	3.1 ± 0.5	000
319	1.07 ± 0.05	22.2	0.15	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	2.41 ± 0.09	14 ± 4	1.7 ± 0.6	000
326	1.29 ± 0.06	21.9	0.17	...	0100	2.69 ± 0.22	7 ± 3	3.9 ± 1.5	000
341	1.23 ± 0.10	22.0	0.16	1.2 ± 0.1	0000	2.76 ± 0.19	13 ± 4	1.8 ± 0.6	000
364	1.02 ± 0.02	22.1	0.17	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.84 ± 0.18	18 ± 4	1.8 ± 0.6	000
475	1.11 ± 0.07	22.1	0.17	...	0000	2.95 ± 0.30	20 ± 14	2.0 ± 0.6	000
479	1.16 ± 0.04	22.3	0.17	...	0110	2.58 ± 0.10	8 ± 3	3.9 ± 1.3	000
486	1.19 ± 0.09	22.1	0.15	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	3.13 ± 0.22	10 ± 5	2.2 ± 0.6	000
515	1.18 ± 0.09	22.3	0.15	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.82 ± 0.29	6 ± 1	3.7 ± 0.9	000
518	1.18 ± 0.03	22.6	0.13	...	0000	3.22 ± 0.11	15 ± 4	2.1 ± 0.6	000
528	1.48 ± 0.08	22.0	0.17	...	0010	2.37 ± 0.02	3 ± 1	3.4 ± 1.1	000
548	1.19 ± 0.05	21.9	0.18	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	3.08 ± 0.31	19 ± 7	2.9 ± 0.7	020
577	1.06 ± 0.04	22.2	0.22	...	0000	3.05 ± 0.13	8 ± 7	1.5 ± 0.4	020
607	1.24 ± 0.07	22.3	0.14	...	0000	2.89 ± 0.34	23 ± 4	2.5 ± 0.6	000
608	1.22 ± 0.11	21.9	0.16	...	0000	2.60 ± 0.27	9 ± 3	2.1 ± 0.8	000
609	1.07 ± 0.05	22.4	0.15	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	2.75 ± 0.20	8 ± 2	2.8 ± 0.5	000
610	1.19 ± 0.08	22.5	0.17	...	0000	2.38 ± 0.05	10 ± 4	2.6 ± 0.8	000
657	1.07 ± 0.05	22.4	0.19	1.5 ± 0.2	0000	2.84 ± 0.11	8 ± 2	1.6 ± 0.4	000
663	1.10 ± 0.01	22.0	0.17	...	0000	3.56 ± 0.27	12 ± 3	2.2 ± 0.6	000
664	1.08 ± 0.05	22.0	0.26	1.2 ± 0.1	0000	2.82 ± 0.21	19 ± 3	2.0 ± 0.6	000
665	1.18 ± 0.11	22.1	0.10	...	0000	2.69 ± 0.13	6 ± 3	4.0 ± 1.1	000
676	1.01 ± 0.01	22.5	0.17	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	3.85 ± 1.30	6 ± 2	3.0 ± 0.5	000
680	1.08 ± 0.05	22.4	0.10	...	0010	2.63 ± 0.06	9 ± 5	1.4 ± 0.4	000
684	1.07 ± 0.05	22.3	0.13	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.98 ± 0.16	17 ± 3	2.0 ± 0.5	000
758	1.20 ± 0.05	22.2	0.26	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	3.06 ± 0.11	10 ± 3	2.2 ± 0.7	000
764	0.74 ± 0.64	...	0.13	...	0000	2.94 ± 0.20	9 ± 3	1.7 ± 0.5	000
769	1.03 ± 0.02	22.2	0.17	...	0000	3.05 ± 0.21	11 ± 4	2.1 ± 0.6	000
783	1.18 ± 0.08	22.3	0.17	...	0010	2.80 ± 0.23	15 ± 3	2.8 ± 0.5	000
797	1.07 ± 0.05	22.5	0.17	1.3 ± 0.2	0010	2.89 ± 0.28	11 ± 3	1.6 ± 0.5	000
798	1.13 ± 0.07	22.2	0.30	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	2.87 ± 0.11	10 ± 3	2.0 ± 0.8	000
806	1.05 ± 0.05	22.2	0.21	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	2.99 ± 0.19	8 ± 2	1.8 ± 0.5	000
820	1.13 ± 0.09	22.3	0.15	0.7 ± 0.1	0011	2.99 ± 0.23	6 ± 1	3.6 ± 0.7	000
822	1.10 ± 0.06	22.1	0.16	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	3.02 ± 0.08	13 ± 4	1.6 ± 0.5	000
823	1.18 ± 0.04	22.0	0.26	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.84 ± 0.12	12 ± 2	2.1 ± 0.7	000
824	1.19 ± 0.05	21.6	0.24	1.1 ± 0.2	0000	2.77 ± 0.08	11 ± 2	4.0 ± 1.1	000
826	1.17 ± 0.05	22.0	0.17	...	0000	2.58 ± 0.32	14 ± 4	3.0 ± 0.9	000
828	1.18 ± 0.05	22.6	0.16	1.0 ± 0.1	0010	2.78 ± 0.07	15 ± 4	1.3 ± 0.4	000
829	1.25 ± 0.08	22.0	0.17	1.4 ± 0.2	0010	4.00 ± 0.69	13 ± 3	2.2 ± 0.3	000
832	1.03 ± 0.02	22.1	0.17	...	0000	2.92 ± 0.27	18 ± 5	2.1 ± 0.6	000
833	1.07 ± 0.03	22.2	0.10	...	0000	2.99 ± 0.69	5 ± 2	3.4 ± 1.2	000
835	1.04 ± 0.04	22.3	0.16	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	2.66 ± 0.11	20 ± 5	1.4 ± 0.5	000

**Notes.** The meaning of the columns is the same as for Table 5 except that the sky surface brightness is measured in the  $B$  band and the QC flag (FLAG\_FLUXCAL) is not defined for the V1200 data.

Table 6. continued.

ID	Airmass	$\mu_{B,sky}$	$A_V$	Seeing	Flags(R)	$\delta\lambda$	$S/N(R_{50})$	$I_{3\sigma}$	Flags(QC)
837	1.16 ± 0.05	22.2	0.14	0.8 ± 0.1	0010	2.91 ± 0.13	25 ± 6	1.6 ± 0.5	000
840	1.26 ± 0.11	22.1	0.10	...	0000	3.71 ± 1.47	12 ± 3	2.1 ± 0.9	000
843	1.12 ± 0.06	22.4	0.26	...	0000	2.74 ± 0.15	10 ± 4	1.9 ± 0.4	000
845	1.19 ± 0.17	21.7	0.28	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	2.92 ± 0.10	11 ± 4	2.3 ± 1.0	000
846	1.18 ± 0.08	22.0	0.25	...	0000	2.92 ± 0.14	9 ± 2	2.0 ± 0.9	000
847	1.03 ± 0.03	21.9	0.32	0.8 ± 0.1	1000	2.95 ± 0.27	11 ± 4	2.3 ± 0.8	000
848	0.83 ± 0.73	14.7	0.23	1.0 ± 0.1	1000	2.66 ± 0.11	16 ± 3	2.3 ± 0.6	000
850	1.05 ± 0.02	22.0	0.19	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	3.00 ± 0.10	13 ± 3	2.2 ± 0.5	000
851	1.13 ± 0.04	22.1	0.28	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	3.00 ± 0.74	8 ± 2	2.0 ± 0.5	000
852	1.40 ± 0.10	21.6	0.19	1.4 ± 0.2	0010	3.34 ± 0.39	6 ± 2	2.1 ± 0.6	000
854	1.22 ± 0.06	22.0	0.37	0.9 ± 0.1	0001	2.69 ± 0.16	10 ± 4	2.2 ± 0.8	000
856	1.06 ± 0.04	22.7	0.24	0.9 ± 0.1	1100	2.69 ± 0.22	7 ± 2	3.2 ± 0.8	000
857	1.10 ± 0.02	22.4	0.22	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.83 ± 0.13	16 ± 4	1.9 ± 1.1	000
858	1.28 ± 0.17	22.1	0.23	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.97 ± 0.27	13 ± 5	2.4 ± 0.8	000
859	1.18 ± 0.05	22.2	0.32	0.7 ± 0.1	0000	2.65 ± 0.10	14 ± 3	2.6 ± 0.6	000
860	1.05 ± 0.03	22.3	0.27	0.9 ± 0.3	0000	2.78 ± 0.31	23 ± 3	2.4 ± 0.6	000
863	1.20 ± 0.06	22.3	0.19	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.68 ± 0.07	13 ± 4	2.2 ± 0.8	000
864	1.05 ± 0.02	22.4	0.20	...	0000	3.56 ± 0.32	14 ± 3	1.7 ± 0.5	000
865	1.02 ± 0.02	22.3	0.26	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.94 ± 0.14	17 ± 4	1.7 ± 0.6	000
866	1.08 ± 0.05	22.1	0.34	...	0000	2.95 ± 0.06	6 ± 2	1.7 ± 0.4	000
867	1.13 ± 0.01	22.1	0.38	...	0000	3.61 ± 2.32	17 ± 2	2.4 ± 0.6	000
872	1.37 ± 0.06	21.7	0.22	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	2.66 ± 0.14	7 ± 2	2.8 ± 0.8	000
874	1.13 ± 0.05	21.8	0.30	0.8 ± 0.1	0000	3.29 ± 0.47	11 ± 3	2.7 ± 0.4	000
877	1.10 ± 0.06	21.7	0.22	1.0 ± 0.1	0000	3.01 ± 0.22	8 ± 3	3.5 ± 1.0	000
878	1.36 ± 0.06	22.1	0.18	1.1 ± 0.1	0010	2.86 ± 0.11	5 ± 7	2.1 ± 0.7	000
881	1.17 ± 0.12	22.0	0.30	0.9 ± 0.2	0000	3.04 ± 0.19	16 ± 4	2.0 ± 0.7	000
883	1.12 ± 0.04	22.1	0.31	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	2.71 ± 0.19	3 ± 1	4.6 ± 1.7	000
887	1.05 ± 0.01	22.2	0.29	0.8 ± 0.1	0100	3.03 ± 0.42	13 ± 4	2.8 ± 1.0	000
888	1.08 ± 0.06	21.9	0.41	...	0000	2.87 ± 0.14	8 ± 3	2.5 ± 0.8	000
890	1.02 ± 0.01	21.8	0.23	0.9 ± 0.1	0000	3.03 ± 0.22	13 ± 3	2.5 ± 0.6	000
893	1.37 ± 0.21	21.8	0.15	1.0 ± 0.1	0010	2.87 ± 0.14	8 ± 3	2.4 ± 0.4	000
896	1.04 ± 0.03	22.3	0.14	1.4 ± 0.3	0110	2.80 ± 0.30	11 ± 3	2.5 ± 0.6	000
901	1.20 ± 0.11	22.1	0.25	1.0 ± 0.2	0100	3.09 ± 0.15	11 ± 6	3.5 ± 1.7	000
902	1.34 ± 0.14	21.7	0.21	1.1 ± 0.1	0000	3.04 ± 0.15	18 ± 3	1.9 ± 0.5	000
904	1.29 ± 0.09	21.7	0.22	1.3 ± 0.3	0001	3.03 ± 0.25	14 ± 4	2.5 ± 0.8	000
935	1.10 ± 0.07	22.3	0.18	...	0110	2.43 ± 0.04	6 ± 2	2.5 ± 0.7	000
939	1.35 ± 0.08	21.9	0.28	0.9 ± 0.1	0100	3.23 ± 0.28	9 ± 3	1.9 ± 0.7	000

We measure the seeing in the CALIFA data from two independent sources. The first one, the differential image motion monitor (DIMM, Aceituno 2004), operates fully automatically at the Calar Alto observatory during the night<sup>2</sup>. The DIMM seeing for the DR1 sample is shown in Fig. 12 and has a median value of 0".9 (FWHM). We confirm this value with measurements of the width of the guide star on images taken by the Acquisition and Guiding (AG) Camera of the PMAS instrument (Roth et al. 2005), which, as expected, has a slightly larger median value of 1".15 (FWHM). This confirms that atmospheric and instrumental seeing are not the limiting factors in the spatial resolution of the CALIFA cubes.

Instead, the large aperture of each fiber (2".7 diameter) in the PPAk fiber bundle does not permit to take full advantage of the good seeing conditions. The final spatial resolution of the CALIFA data is set by fiber size and the dither scheme together with the adopted image reconstruction algorithm. The width of the point spread function (PSF) is directly measured from the V500 CALIFA datacubes in 35 cases where a bright field star is in the FoV (see left panel of Fig. 13 for an example). The

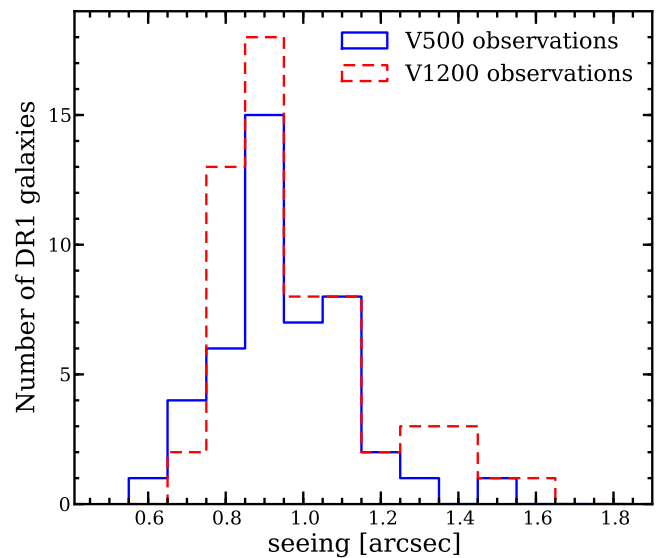
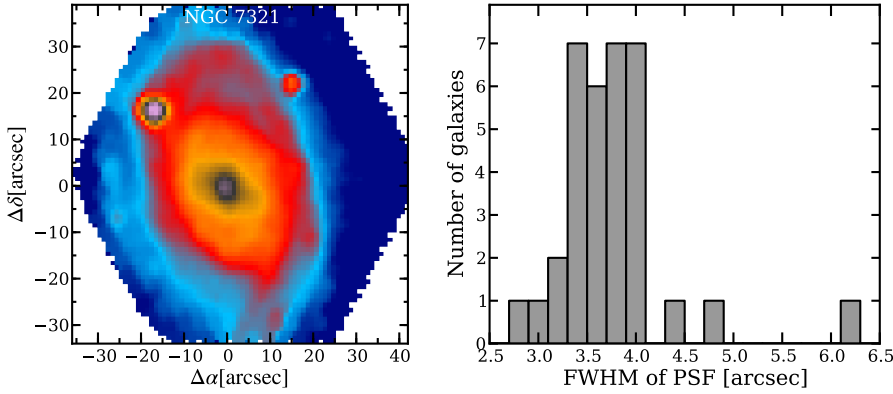


Fig. 12. Distribution of the seeing during the CALIFA observations as measured by the automatic Differential Image Motion Monitor (DIMM, Aceituno 2004).

measured FWHM distribution of the PSF (Fig. 13 right panel) has a well-defined median value of 3".7 (FWHM). To verify

<sup>2</sup> Since the DIMM has tighter operational constraints (humidity lower than 80% and wind speed less than 12 m s<sup>-1</sup>) than the 3.5 m telescope, seeing information is not available for every CALIFA observation. Hence DIMM seeing values can be missing from Tables 5 and 6, but the overall seeing distribution is not expected to be very different.



**Fig. 13.** *Left panel:*  $V$  band image of NGC 7321, an example of a CALIFA galaxy with a star in the FoV to measure the PSF of the data. *Right panel:* distribution of the FWHM of the CALIFA PSF as measured from 34 cubes with a sufficiently bright star in the field. The median of the distribution is  $3''.7$ ; the spread of values is due to the flux of the underlying galaxy structure and undersampling of the stellar image and hence high-value outliers are upper limits in these cases.

these measurements we simulated the expected CALIFA PSF for  $1''$  Gaussian seeing while adopting the fiber sampling, dither pattern and image reconstruction algorithm used for the DR1. We obtained a FWHM for the PSF of  $\geq 3''$  as a lower limit, which is in agreement with our empirical measurements.

This spatial resolution is for a large part set by the adopted kernel for the inverse-distance weighting scheme for the image reconstruction (see S12 for details). It was chosen to produce smooth images without obvious structure caused by the dither pattern. Other image combination approaches such as drizzling (Fruchter & Hook 2002) can be used to reach closer to the intrinsic spatial resolution of CALIFA data, which is significantly better than  $3''$  due to the dithering scheme used. The choice of image combination procedure depends on the actual goal and will be an area of improvement in future CALIFA data releases.

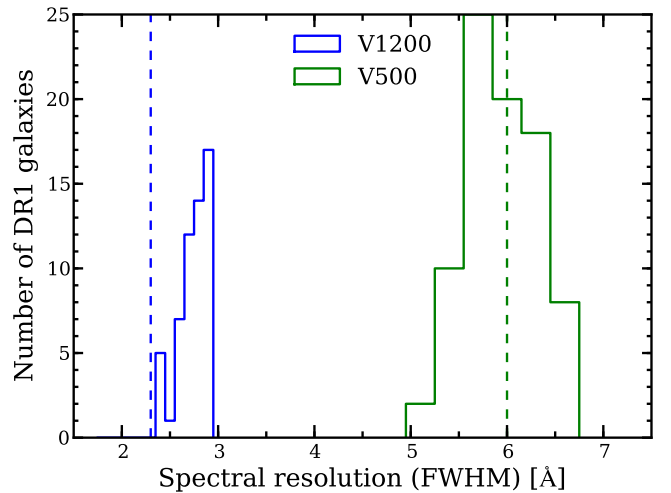
### 5.3. Wavelength calibration accuracy

During the data reduction the spectral resolution was homogenized to reach a target FWHM of  $6 \text{ \AA}$  (V500) and  $2.3 \text{ \AA}$  (V1200), respectively, over the whole wavelength range, as explained in S12. To go beyond the simple flag-cut from the pipeline diagnostics we tested the spectral resolution and the wavelength calibration, and its spectral and spatial consistency.

The distribution of spectral resolutions for all galaxies is shown in Fig. 14 for both instrument setups. It was estimated by measuring the width of night sky lines in the error cube, which contains a reliable trace of the sky lines in the input data. For the V500 setup we find that it is centered on the target spectral resolution ( $6 \text{ \AA}$ ). This is not the case for the V1200 setup. For this setup only Hg pollution lines ( $\text{Hg I } \lambda 4046 \text{ \AA}$  and  $\lambda 4358 \text{ \AA}$ ) are available in the corresponding wavelength range. Since these lines are resolved at the resolution of this setup the derived empirical resolution is a conservative upper limit.

We tested the overall wavelength calibration in two ways. First, we measured the centroids of the same night sky lines and determined their scatter across the FoV. In all cases, the centroids are fully consistent with zero offset from the nominal wavelength, while the scatter is consistent with pure measurement errors and the absence of any detectable systematic spatial variation.

Secondly, we tested whether there exists any systematic offsets of the wavelength calibration at different wavelengths of the spectra. For this purpose we modeled the recession velocity in the spectra of every galaxy's coadded central  $10''$  apertures in different spectral regions. We did this using the penalized pixel-fitting method (pPXF, Cappellari & Emsellem 2004)



**Fig. 14.** Distribution of the final spectral resolution (FWHM) in the combined cubes as measured from the sky lines in the error cube. The vertical dashed lines indicate the spectral resolution to which the spectra were aimed to be homogenized during the data reduction. Measurements for V1200 (blue, *left*) are upper limits since the night sky lines used are intrinsically resolved at this level. The spread is due to uncertainties in calculating the spectral resolution from only a few available lines.

to piecewise fit stellar models, hence measuring central wavelengths in several (3–5) independent spectral bins showing strong absorption features. The resulting velocity differences between these bins were again always consistent with pure measurement noise and the absence of systematics.

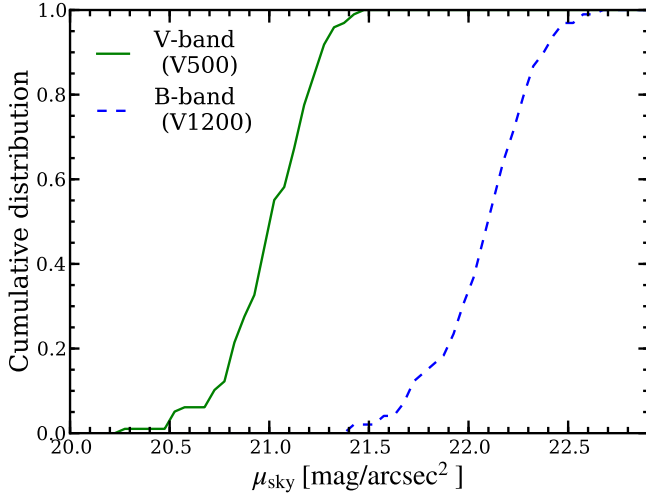
In summary, no spatial or spectral variation of the wavelength calibration is found beyond the uncertainty imposed by the spectral resolutions of  $6 \text{ \AA}$  and  $2.3 \text{ \AA}$  (FWHM) for the different setups – hence the random shot noise of the data fully dominates the accuracy of wavelength calibration.

### 5.4. Spectrophotometric quality and accuracy

#### 5.4.1. Sky subtraction quality

Cumulative distributions of the  $V$  and  $B$  band night-sky surface brightness during observations are shown in Fig. 15 for the V500 and V1200 CALIFA data, respectively. They were derived from the sky-fibers following the analysis described in S12. There is considerable scatter in night-sky brightness of





**Fig. 15.** Cumulative distribution of the *V* band (V500, *left* curve) and *B* band (V1200, *right* curve) night-sky surface brightness during the observations of the V500 and V1200 CALIFA data, respectively.

about 1.5 mag in both cases, indicating the highly variable conditions at the observatory. The typical night-sky brightness is  $\mu_V \sim 21.0$  mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> for the V500, and  $\mu_B \sim 22.1$  mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> for the V1200 data. While the former is  $\sim 1$  mag brighter than the mean dark night sky at the observatory ( $\overline{\mu_V} \sim 22$  mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup>), the latter is much more similar to the mean ( $\overline{\mu_B} \sim 22.5$  mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup>), according to Sánchez et al. (2007a). This is expected because we have reserved the darkest nights (new moon  $\pm 1$  night) for the V1200 setup, while gray nights are used for the more efficient V500 setup.

We have conducted a series of tests to assess the sky subtraction accuracy in the continuum as delivered by the data reduction pipeline. As the initial test we again used the STARLIGHT code (Cid Fernandes et al. 2005) to model the central pipeline-reduced spectra with stellar templates and allowing for the presence of a dust component. Figure 16 shows the residuals of these fits as a fixed rest-frame wavelength stack of spectra for the 100 DR1 galaxies. Here spectra were always integrated over a central 10'' aperture.

In this view, all rest-frame features form vertical stripes while atmospheric and instrumental features are slanted away from the vertical. The main effects from imperfections in sky subtraction can be seen around 6000 Å and 6250 Å, where sky-line residuals at a few percent of the stellar template flux exist.

In order to be more quantitative regarding how much the sky subtraction could be systematically improved, if at all, we have taken advantage of the ability of the pPXF package to simultaneously fit sky and stellar templates to optimize the sky subtraction of our data<sup>3</sup>.

We selected all sky fibers from each of the three pointings for a particular object and, as in the pipeline, discarded the six brightest fibers to ensure that we eliminate cases that are clearly not dominated by the sky. The remaining 30 sky fibers were used as sky templates for pPXF. The input galaxy spectra were selected from fibers located in a ring in the inner disk of the galaxy

<sup>3</sup> A caveat is that while ideally the following method should be implemented at the pipeline level, at this point it is too complex and needs too much intervention to be implemented there, or to be carried out for all the sample galaxies – at the same time it does not provide optimum sky fitting for all the fibers.

where light intrinsic to the galaxy dominates. We noticed that the use of fibers from the outer parts of the galaxy (i.e. more sky dominated) can lead to errors in the derived kinematic parameters, giving the wrong sky-template plus stars combination as the output of the pPXF fitting. After masking emission lines to avoid nebular contamination we ran pPXF, which gives as output the best stellar combination plus the best sky combination. This procedure therefore provides the combination of sky fibers that best matches the data. For further optimization, we ran pPXF on a fiber-per-fiber basis to adjust this best sky solution to each of the fibers including the sky-dominated outer fibers. The resulting sky weights are rather constant over the FoV of the instrument with a scatter of 4%, as is illustrated in Fig. 17.

This method was applied to a set of objects in the DR1 sample. We then compared the sky-subtracted spectra of a pointing coming from the pipeline and our method, before cube reconstruction. We carried out this comparison by calculating the S/N in the continuum: for those fibers for which the method described above improves the sky subtraction, the average difference in the S/N is  $3.7 \pm 2.8\%$ .

Hence, the resulting sky subtraction is, globally, not significantly improved compared to the pipeline sky subtraction. The average improvement achieved in some of the fibers is of the order of a few percent, thus nearly as the pipeline sky subtraction is within a few percent in S/N as accurate as the sky subtraction carried out using a sophisticated template fitting algorithm.

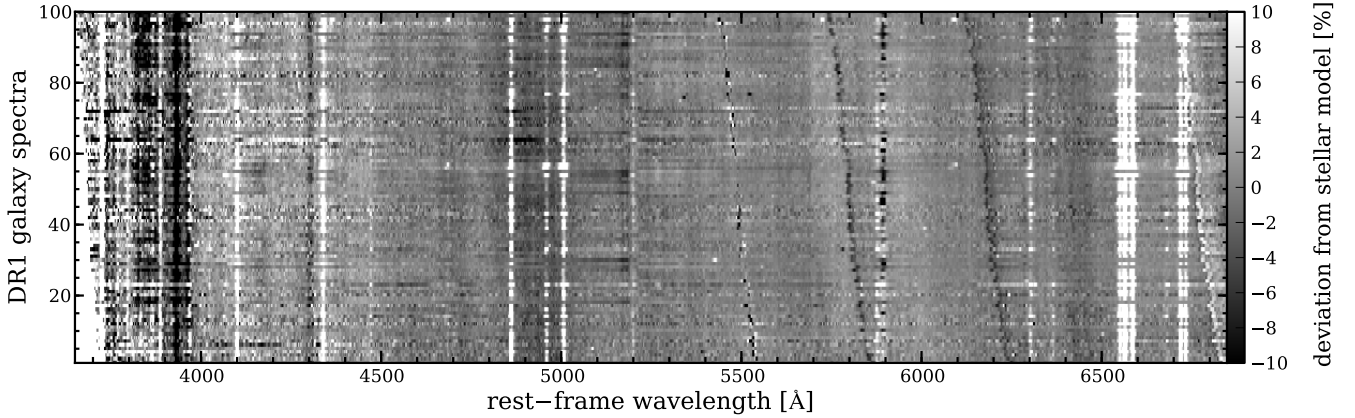
For completeness, we note that among all lines the strongest residual from the sky occurs in the Hg I  $\lambda 4358$  Å, Hg I  $\lambda 5461$  Å, O I  $\lambda 5577$  Å, Na I D (around 5890 Å), O I  $\lambda 6300$  Å and O I  $\lambda 6364$  Å emission lines as well as at the telluric *B* band absorption.

#### 5.4.2. Spectrophotometric accuracy

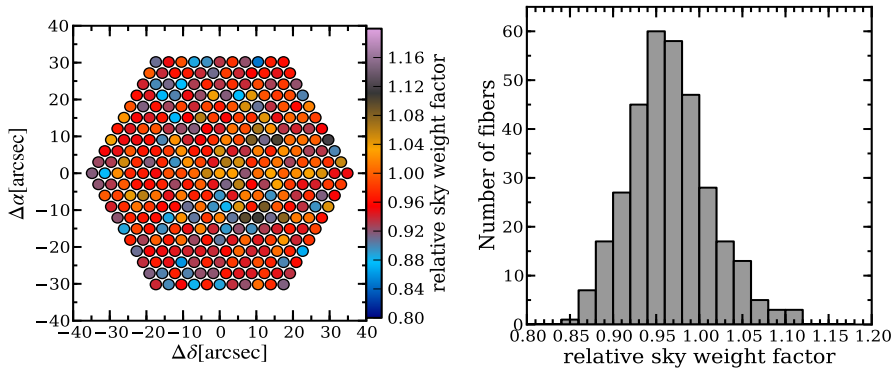
As part of the standard CALIFA pipeline each V500 datacube was rescaled in the absolute flux level to match the SDSS DR7 broad-band photometry within an aperture of 30'' diameter, while the V1200 data were matched to the V500 data (S12). A mosaiced SDSS image was created for each galaxy using SDSSmosaic, an IRAF<sup>4</sup> package developed by S. Zibetti (Zibetti et al. 2009), which also subtracts the background from each SDSS scan by fitting a plane surface that allows for linear gradient along the scan direction. All stripes of the mosaic were combined using the program SWarp (Bertin et al. 2002). Finally, we obtained the Galactic-extinction corrected absolute magnitudes with SExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996) using the photometric zero-points as provided by the SDSS DR7 photometric pipeline.

This process to rescale fluxes for absolute re-calibration will not be perfect as can be seen from the slight systematic residuals in the blue and red edges of the spectrum in Fig. 16. To quantitatively cross-check the achieved accuracy in the absolute photometry of the CALIFA data, we use the improved photometry provided by the 8th data release of SDSS (Aihara et al. 2011) to independently measure any systematic offset. The distribution of photometric scale factors for the *g* and *r* bands is shown in Fig. 18 (left panel). The mean SDSS/CALIFA *g* and *r* band ratios in the release are  $1.06 \pm 0.13$  and  $1.00 \pm 0.10$ , respectively, which shows that the absolute photometric calibration of CALIFA data is better than 15%. We attribute the mild systematic offset to the

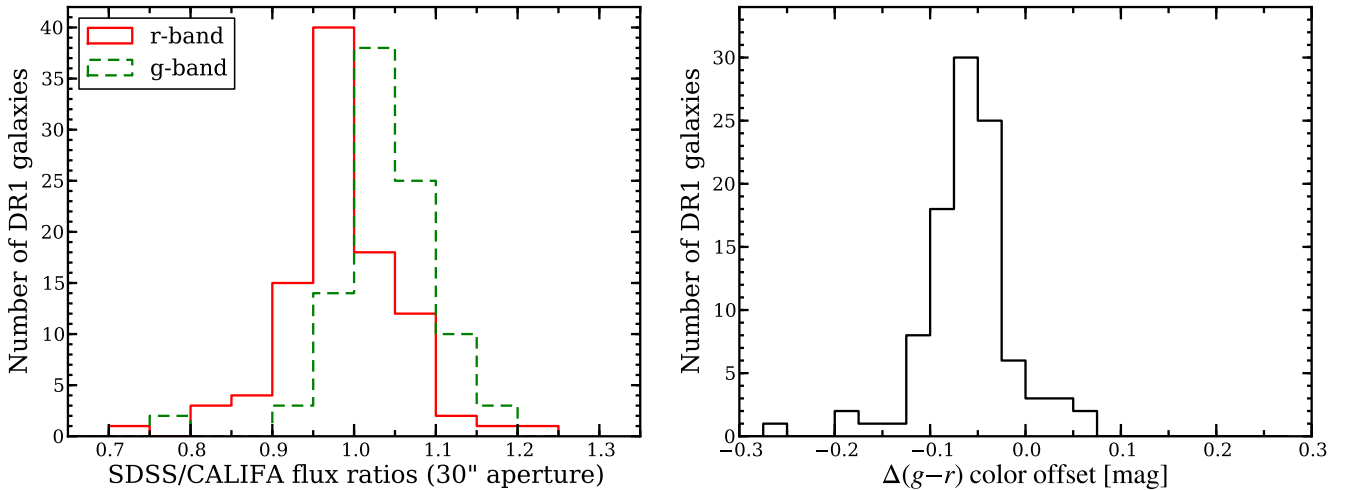
<sup>4</sup> IRAF is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, which are operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.



**Fig. 16.** Stack of 100 DR1 central-region spectra in the rest-frame, sorted by redshift. Shown are the residuals after subtraction of the best-fitting stellar population model with STARLIGHT. Systematic deviations from an idealized model can be seen as vertical stripes (rest-frame mismatches, e.g. imperfect stellar model or emission lines), slanted stripes (observed-frame mismatches, e.g. imperfect sky model) or general blue-to-red features (imperfect relative flux calibration with respect to SDSS).



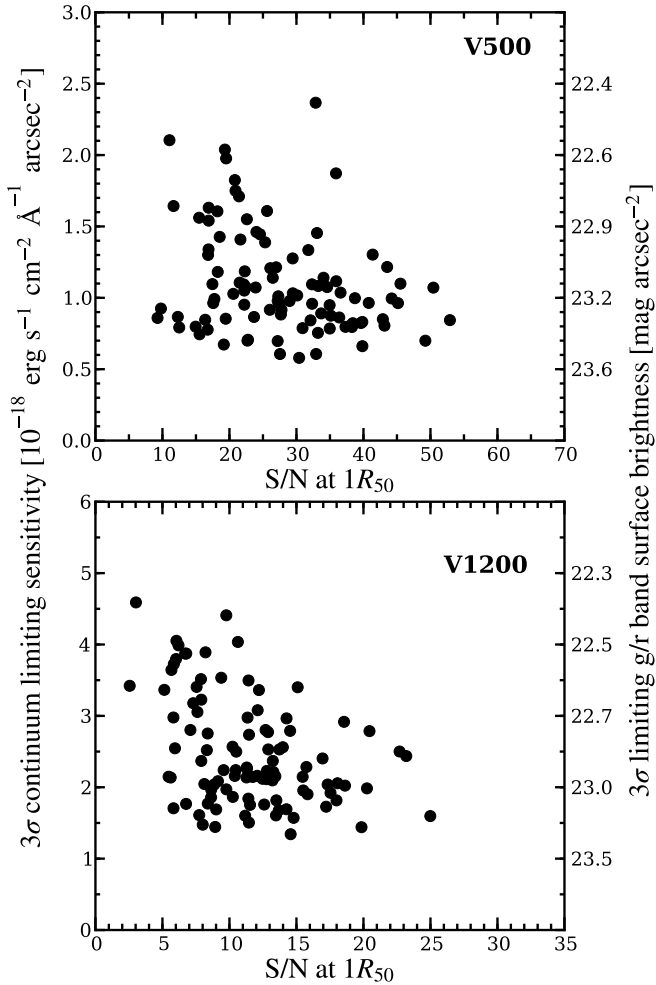
**Fig. 17.** Left panel: sky weight factor of the sky spectrum as inferred with pPXF across the PPAk field for the second pointing of UGC 03944. Right panel: distribution of sky weight factors for that particular pointing.



**Fig. 18.** Left panel: distribution of the 30'' aperture photometry scale factor between the SDSS DR8 images and re-calibrated CALIFA data. We compare the photometry only for the  $g$  and  $r$  bands, which are both entirely covered by the V500 wavelength range. Right panel: distribution of the corresponding color offset between the SDSS DR8 images and the synthetic CALIFA broad-band images.

improvements in the SDSS sky subtraction accuracy around the low-redshift galaxies with size of  $>40''$  selected for CALIFA. However, there are also several objects with photometric scale factors below 0.8 and above 1.2 for which we identify bright field stars as being the most likely cause of a bias in the background estimates either for the SDSS or CALIFA data. For DR1 we actually drew a line at values of 0.5 and 2.0 for the scale factors

and removed a few objects that showed values beyond these limits. In the right panel of Fig. 18 we show the distribution in  $\Delta(g-r)$  color difference between the SDSS and CALIFA data. We find a systematic offset of  $\Delta(g-r) = -0.06$  mag (median) with a scatter of only 0.05 mag. Thus, the spectrophotometric accuracy across most of the covered wavelength range is 6% for the CALIFA data.



**Fig. 19.** Limiting  $3\sigma$  continuum sensitivity measured at the outskirts of the galaxy as a function of the average continuum S/N at the half light radius ( $R_{50}$ ). The corresponding broad-band surface brightness limits in  $r$  (V500) and  $g$  (V1200) are indicated on the right  $y$ -axis. The limiting continuum sensitivity and the S/N was computed from the median signal and noise in the wavelength region 4480–4520 Å and 5590–5680 Å for the V1200 and V500 data, respectively.

For the V500 setup we add a flag for the quality of photometric calibration, FLAG\_FLUXCAL. If for both SDSS  $g$  and  $r$  band the ratio between SDSS and CALIFA lies between 0.7 and 1.4, we assign a flag value of 0. For at least one band behaving worse than this, with ratios up to 2.0 or down to 0.5, we assign FLAG\_FLUXCAL=1, and we reject the data for even worse values.

### 5.5. Limiting sensitivity and signal-to-noise

The limiting continuum sensitivity of the spectrophotometrically recalibrated SDSS spectra are presented in Fig. 19. We compare the  $3\sigma$  continuum flux density detection limit per interpolated 1 arcsec<sup>2</sup>-spaxel for the faintest regions against the average S/N per spectral resolution element within an elliptical annulus of  $\pm 1''$  around the galaxies  $r$  band half-light semi-major axis ( $R_{50}$ ). Both values were estimated from the noise within the narrow wavelength ranges 4480–4520 Å and 5590–5680 Å for the V1200 and V500 setup, respectively, that are nearly free of stellar absorption features. As expected, the  $3\sigma$  continuum

flux density detection limit<sup>5</sup> for the V500 data (as low as  $I_{3\sigma} = 1.0 \times 10^{-18}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> Å<sup>-1</sup> arcsec<sup>-2</sup> in the median at 5635 Å) is a factor of  $\sim 2$  fainter than for the V1200 data ( $I_{3\sigma} = 2.2 \times 10^{-18}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> Å<sup>-1</sup> arcsec<sup>-2</sup> in the median at 4500 Å) mainly because of the difference in spectral resolution. These continuum sensitivities can be directly transformed into equivalent limiting broad band surface brightnesses of 23.6 mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> in the  $r$  band for the V500 and 23.4 mag arcsec<sup>-2</sup> in the  $g$  band for the V1200 data. The dispersion in the limiting continuum sensitivity can partially be explained by the variance in the sky brightness of the corresponding night, because both are significantly correlated, as expected. However, other atmospheric conditions, such as dust attenuation, transparency of the night, etc. are important characteristics that alter the achievable depth at fixed exposure times. We provide a flag for the limiting sensitivity, FLAG\_DEPTH, which indicates with 0, 1, 2, whether the  $3\sigma$  continuum limiting sensitivity is  $< 5$ , between 5 and 20, or  $> 20 \times 10^{-18}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> Å<sup>-1</sup> arcsec<sup>-2</sup>.

Another interesting quantity for practical purposes is the S/N of the data. Since the galaxy brightness enters as the signal, S/N correlates only partially with the limiting sensitivity, which is a measure of the noise. The mean S/N in the continuum per spaxel at the half-light semi-major axis ( $1 R_{50}$ ) of all objects is  $\sim 14$  for the V1200 setup, while it is  $\sim 34.5$  for the V500 data. Thus, we achieve a  $S/N > 10$  for the majority of the objects even for the V1200 setup. This means that using adaptive binning scheme, a decent S/N can be achieved far beyond  $1 R_{50}$ .

### 5.6. Overall quality judgment

The quality of a given dataset is defined by a combination of the quality flags introduced above. We used a subset of these in order to guarantee that we deliver scientifically first-grade data in this data release. Minimum (maximum) threshold values have been defined as follows: Airmass,  $\sec(z) < 2$ ; relative spectrophotometric calibration relative to SDSS,  $0.50 < (f_{\text{CALIFA}}/f_{\text{SDSS}}) < 2$  for both  $g$  and  $r$  band; and a limiting sensitivity better than  $2 \times 10^{-17}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> arcsec<sup>-2</sup> in the abovementioned spectral windows (Sect. 5.5). We also add the described checks on seeing, wavelength calibration and spectral resolution and initial reduction flags.

For each object we list the most important QC parameters discussed in this section in Tables 5 and 6. We carried out very extensive vetting and description in order to deliver 100 galaxies with prime quality data. These listed parameters can be used to check the data quality of the released cubes per object in more detail.

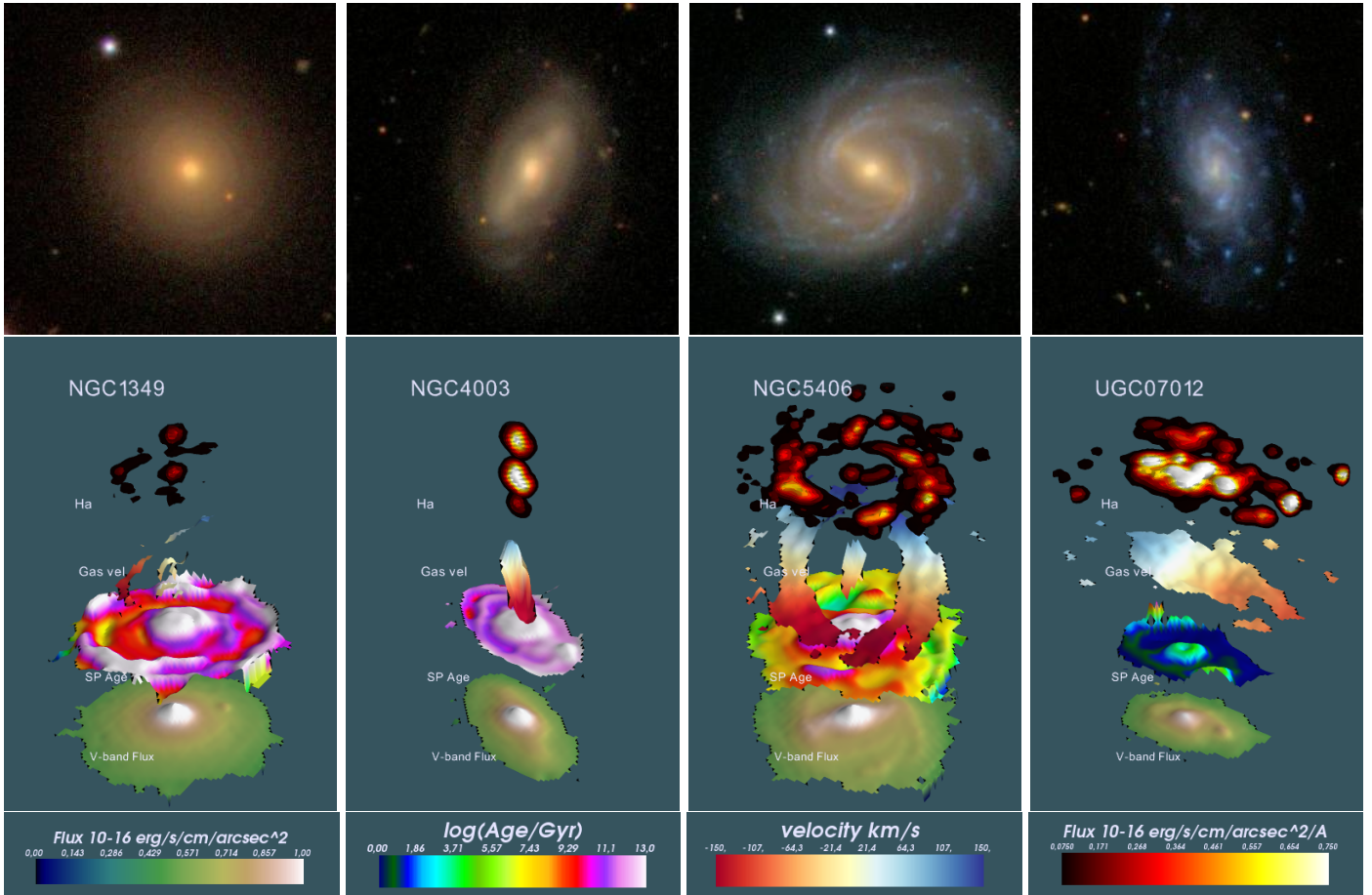
## 6. Access to the CALIFA DR1 data

### 6.1. The CALIFA DR1 search and retrieval tool

The public data is distributed through the CALIFA DR1 web page (<http://califa.caha.es/DR1>). A simple web form interface, developed especially for this first data release, allows to select data of a particular target galaxy, or a subsample of

<sup>5</sup> Please note that this is a continuum flux density. For e.g. any emission line the spectral resolution has to be taken into account, i.e. 6 Å and 2.3 Å FWHM for the V500 and V1200 setups. In order to detect an unresolved emission line with a  $3\sigma$  significance in their peak flux density requires an integrated emission line flux of  $\sim 1 \times 10^{-17}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> arcsec<sup>-2</sup> and  $\sim 0.6 \times 10^{-17}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-2</sup> arcsec<sup>-2</sup> in the V500 and V1200 data, respectively.





**Fig. 20.** *Top panels:* SDSS postage stamp images of CALIFA target galaxies, with a FoV of  $90'' \times 90''$ . *Bottom panels:* corresponding examples of quick-look CALIFA 3D visualization images shown on the CALIFA Galaxy Explorer page for four representative galaxies. From bottom to top it shows the reconstructed V band light distribution, the stellar population luminosity-weighted age distribution, the  $H\alpha$  gas velocity field, and the  $H\alpha + [N II] \lambda\lambda 6543, 6584$  emission-line 3D distribution inferred from the CALIFA V500 datacube. The associated color bars are shown below from left to right.

objects within some constraints on galaxy properties and observing conditions. Among the selection parameters we include the instrument setup, galaxy coordinates, redshift,  $g$  band magnitudes, observing date, Hubble type, bar strength, inclination estimated from axis ratio, V band atmospheric attenuation, air-mass, and relative accuracy of the SDSS/CALIFA photometric calibration. See W12 for a more detailed characterization of the CALIFA galaxies.

If CALIFA datasets are available within the given constraints, they are listed in the succeeding web page to make a final selection for download. The download process requests a target directory on the local machine to store the data, after the downloading option was selected. The CALIFA data are delivered as fully reduced datacubes in FITS format, described in Sect. 3, separately for each of the two CALIFA spectral settings, i.e. the V500 and V1200 setup. Each DR1 dataset is uniquely identified by their file name, `GALNAME.V1200.rscube.fits.gz` and `GALNAME.V500.rscube.fits.gz` for the V1200 and V500 setup respectively, where `GALNAME` is the name of the CALIFA galaxy listed in Table 1.

## 6.2. CALIFA Galaxy Explorer page

As it can be a challenge for the general user to judge a priori which CALIFA dataset could be useful for their specific scientific interest, we prepared a CALIFA Galaxy Explorer page

(hereafter CGE) that provides a presentation card for each individual CALIFA DR1 galaxy to the scientific community. It is a powerful tool for a quick-look reference of the galaxy properties and the actual content of the CALIFA DR1 data. The CGE is linked to each object in the output table of the CALIFA retrieval tool and a column with a link is added to a dedicated DR1 sample table available on the DR1 web page.

The CGE page is structured in three different levels. In the first level, a false-color ( $gri$  bands) SDSS postage stamp image ( $1.5' \times 1.5'$  in size) is presented together with a short table containing the galaxy name, galaxy equatorial coordinates (in J2000 format) and the designated CALIFA ID. Alternative names of the galaxies can be found through a direct link to NED together with the redshift, the SDSS  $u$ ,  $g$ ,  $r$ ,  $i$ , and  $z$  band Petrosian magnitudes, and the corresponding Galactic extinction in each band.

In the second level, the user finds the CALIFA data products and their content. A compact visualization of the CALIFA data (see Fig. 20) shows the reconstructed V band image, the stellar population luminosity-weighted age distribution, the gas velocity field, and the  $H\alpha + [N II] \lambda\lambda 6543, 6584$  emission-line 3D distribution at first glance. Those maps were created by a preliminary analysis of the V500 datacubes with the FIT3D software tool (Sánchez et al. 2007b). Additionally, the B and V band images reconstructed from the CALIFA datacubes are shown for both the V1200 and V500 setups, respectively, together with the corresponding  $30''$  aperture integrated spectra.



In the third level, we report the result of our visual morphological classification of the galaxy. More detailed galaxy information is shown in a separate table which includes additional parameters available through the Hyperleda database.

### 6.3. Virtual Observatory services

CALIFA data can be accessed using the Virtual Observatory (VO) Table Access Protocol (TAP, [Dowler et al. 2011](#)) at the TAP URL <http://dc.g-vo.org/tap> (service `ivo://org.gavo.dc/___system___/tap/run`). We provide tables describing each cube as a single data product (`califadr1.cubes`) including the QC parameters reported in Tables 5 and 6 as well as tables containing all fluxes of the entire DR1 by position and wavelength (`califadr1.fluxv500` and `califadr1.fluxv1200`) for the two setups separately. The table schemata can be obtained using the usual TAP means and tables can be easily retrieved and queried through the VO client TOPCAT<sup>6</sup>. Example queries and links will be provided on the DR1 web page to guide the user. The cubes can also be found in the GAVO data center's `ivoa.obscore` tables with a complete ObsCore metadata set ([Tody et al. 2011](#)) and the corresponding links are also stored in the `califadr1.cubes` table.

Individual spectra can also be accessed using IVOA's Simple Spectral Access Protocol using the service `ivo://org.gavo.dc/califa/q/s`. This allows for easy access from within analysis programs like Splat and an example will be provided on the DR1 web page.

An overview of VO-accessible resources generated from CALIFA data is available at <http://dc.g-vo.org/browse/califa/q>.

### 6.4. Visualization of CALIFA data

Visualization of CALIFA data is essential for its correct treatment, analysis and eventual scientific interpretation. IFS visualization tools are very useful for this purpose, as they provide a 2D view at any wavelength slice or enable exploration of the spectra at any spaxel. There are various visualization tools available in the community. Some are designed for a quick-look to the data, others allow for more interactivity, while yet other are developed for a particular project or data format.

For the visualization of CALIFA data, stored in a FITS datacube format, we list here several tools as examples: 1) `ds9`<sup>7</sup>, from version 7, can load and view 3D datacubes in multiple dimensions; 2) `QFitsView`<sup>8</sup> by Thomas Ott, is a generic FITS viewer program capable of handling datacubes and performing basic analysis operations; 3) `E3D`<sup>9</sup> ([Sánchez 2004](#)), is a high-level IFS package which allows interactive visualization, spatial resampling, and basic analysis; 4) `IFSview`<sup>10</sup> is a light and stand-alone Python script using `TkInter`, `pyfits` and `matplotlib`, to visualize FITS datacubes. Its ultimate goal is to transfer all the functionality of `E3D` into a more flexible and easy to install tool; 5) `CASA Viewer` as part of the `CASA` software package<sup>11</sup>, it was initially designed for the handling and analysis of 3D radio data, but will be extended to display optical/NIR datacubes in the upcoming version 4.0 ([Kuntchner et al., in prep.](#)). It can also read error vectors that can be properly

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.star.bris.ac.uk/~mbt/topcat/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://hea-www.harvard.edu/RD/ds9>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.mpe.mpg.de/~ott/QFitsView>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.aip.de/Euro3D/E3D>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.caha.es/sanchez/IFSview/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://casa.nrao.edu>

used in the analysis of the data; 6) `PINGSoft`<sup>12</sup> ([Rosales-Ortega 2011](#)), is a set of IDL routines designed to visualize, manipulate, and analyze IFS data regardless of the original instrument and spaxel size/shape. Given that it was originally developed for data from the PPAk instrument ([Rosales-Ortega et al. 2010](#)), it was recently updated to handle the CALIFA data format (see below). All those tools are also available through the CALIFA DR1 web page.

In the case of `PINGSoft`, the package is adapted to work natively with the CALIFA data, all routines automatically identify the different FITS extensions (HDUs) of the CALIFA format, allowing the user to spatially and spectrally explore the CALIFA data. In addition, `PINGSoft` includes routines to extract regions of interest by hand, within a given geometric aperture or based on a user-given mask, to integrate the spectra within a given region or based on the S/N derived from continuum/emission line features; to convolve the data with a full set of narrow and broad-band filters for visualization or analysis purposes; to perform radial binnings with either fixed spatial bins or S/N floor; to derive cross-correlations velocity fields; to perform spatial adaptive binning (e.g. Voronoi tessellation), as well as some miscellaneous codes for generic tasks in astronomy and spectroscopy. `PINGSoft` also includes a routine to split the different CALIFA FITS extensions into individual FITS files<sup>13</sup>.

In summary, there have been important efforts in the development of IFS visualization and manipulation tools. Given the number of different software options available in the literature, spatial and spectral visualization of the CALIFA data should not represent a limitation for potential users.

## 7. Conclusions

In this article we describe the data distributed with the first public data release of the Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area (CALIFA) survey. The CALIFA DR1 provides science-grade and quality-checked integral-field spectroscopy data for 100 nearby galaxies publicly distributed to the community at <http://califa.caha.es/DR1>. The current DR1 sample comprises one sixth of the total foreseen sample, but it already covers a similar range of colors, magnitudes (see Fig. 2), and morphological types (see Fig. 4). Thus, the released IFS data are representative of the typical spectroscopic properties of galaxies at each color/magnitude bin, although it lacks the proper statistical depth of the final sample. With this sample it will be possible to probe the evolutionary sequence across the color–magnitude diagram, even if it may not yet be possible to disentangle the effects of different galaxy properties and their evolution at each bin (like active nuclei, morphology, presence of bars...).

An improved data reduction pipeline (V1.3c) has allowed us to increase the quality of the data beyond the original specifications of the survey. The modifications with respect to the previous pipeline (V1.2) are described in Appendix A. The final FITS data format, including science data, propagated error vectors, masks, and error weighting factors was outlined in Sect. 4. The quality of each datacube was cross-checked by a set of defined figures of merit, allowing us to select and distribute the data with the highest quality. Among the parameters cross-checked are the depth, wavelength calibration accuracy, spectral

<sup>12</sup> <http://califa.caha.es/pingsoft>

<sup>13</sup> A similar Python routine that can split the FITS extensions into separate files and convert the CALIFA data to `CASA` data format can be found in the CALIFA web page.

resolution, sky subtraction, and stability of the observations and reduction process.

Despite its limited statistical scope, the CALIFA DR1 sample already comprises the largest (so far) IFS survey of nearby galaxies of all morphological types, sampling the full color-magnitude diagram, and covering the full optical extension of galaxies with a large wavelength coverage. The scientific use of this dataset is verified by several publications currently in preparation by the CALIFA collaboration on different science topics, including the ISM in early-type galaxies, dynamical and gas ionization state in merging galaxies, the stellar mass-growth in galaxies, dynamical state of galaxies, and oxygen abundance gradients. All those topics cover most of the science goals described in the official proposal for CALIFA survey, the CALIFA Red Book<sup>14</sup>, but there is certainly much more to explore. We encourage the community to make use of the CALIFA data. In return we request to cite the technical CALIFA papers about the survey design (Sánchez et al. 2012a), sample characterization (Walcher et al., in preparation), and this paper together with some recommended acknowledgements<sup>15</sup>.

The amount of data distributed in DR1 already comprises ~200 000 independent spectra. While this is already a large sample in itself, it represents only 17% of the total number of spectra foreseen at the completion of the CALIFA survey. Up to now we have acquired data for ~200 galaxies in both setups, for which we will continue to perform the quality control tests implemented for this DR. It is expected that the second CALIFA data release will take place after 2013, when we have collected high-quality science-grade data of 300 galaxies in both setups.

*Acknowledgements.* CALIFA is the first legacy survey being performed at Calar Alto. The CALIFA collaboration would like to thank the IAA-CSIC and MPIA-MPG as major partners of the observatory, and CAHA itself, for the unique access to telescope time and support in manpower and infrastructures. The CALIFA collaboration thanks also the CAHA staff for the dedication to this project. We thank the *Viabilidad Diseño Acceso y Mejora* funding program, ICTS-2009-10, for funding the data acquisition of this project. We thank the referee Mark Westmoquette for a prompt report with many valuable comments that improved the clarity of the article. B.H. gratefully acknowledges the support by the DFG via grant Wi 1369/29-1. K.J. was supported by the Emmy Noether-Programme of the German DFG under grant Ja 1114/3-1. S.F.S., F.F.R.O., and D.M. thank the *Plan Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo* funding programs, AYA2010-22111-C03-03 and AYA2010-10904E, of the Spanish *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación*, for the support given to this project. S.F.S. also thanks the *Ramón y Cajal* project RyC-2011-07590 of the Spanish *Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad*, for the support given to this project. R.C.F. acknowledges the support of the Brazilian agencies CAPES and CNPq. J.F.-B. acknowledges support from the *Ramón y Cajal* Program financed by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO). This research has been supported by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) under grants AYA2010-21322-C03-02 and AIB-2010-DE-00227. R.G.-B. has been supported by the Spanish *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación* under grant AYA2010-15081. R.A.M. was also funded by the Spanish programme of International Campus of Excellence Moncloa (CEI). D.M. and A.M.I. are supported by the Spanish Research Council within the program JAE-Doc, Junta para la Ampliación de Estudios, co-funded by the FSE. F.F.R.-O. acknowledge financial support for the ESTALLIDOS collaboration by the Spanish *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación* under grant AYA2010-21887-C04-03. J.M.G. is supported by grant SFRH/BPD/66958/2009 from FCT. B.J. has been supported by the Czech program for the long-term development of the research institution No. RV067985815 and by the grant PIPPMs No. M100031201 of the Czech Academy of Sciences. C.K. has been funded by the project AYA2010-21887

<sup>14</sup> Available at

[http://www.caha.es/CALIFA/Accepted\\_Proposal.pdf](http://www.caha.es/CALIFA/Accepted_Proposal.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> This study makes use of the data provided by the Calar Alto Legacy Integral Field Area (CALIFA) survey (<http://califa.caha.es/>). Based on observations collected at the Centro Astronómico Hispano Alemán (CAHA) at Calar Alto, operated jointly by the Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie (MPIA) and the Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (CSIC).

from the Spanish PNYA. A.d.O. and I.M. has been partially funded by the projects AYA2010-15196 from the Spanish *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación* and TIC 114 and PO08-TIC-3531 from Junta de Andalucía. B.G.-L. acknowledges the support of the *Ramón y Cajal* programme (RYC-2006-002037) and the grant AYA2009-12903 of the Spanish MICINN. P.P. is supported by a Ciencia 2008 contract, funded by FCT/MCTES (Portugal) and POPH/FSE (EC). P.S.-B. is supported by the *Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación* of Spain through the *Ramón y Cajal* programme. P.S.-B. also acknowledges a Marie Curie Intra-European Reintegration grant within the 6th European framework program and financial support from the Spanish Plan Nacional del Espacio del Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia (AYA2007-67752-C03-01). K.S. acknowledges support from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. V.S. acknowledges financial support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) under the program Ciência 2008 and the research grant PTDC/CTE-AST/112582/2009. V.W. Acknowledges support from an European Research Council starting grant and a Marie Curie reintegration grant. J.M.V. and A.M.I. have been partially funded by the projects AYA2010-21887 from the Spanish PNYA, CSD2006 – 00070 “1st Science with GTC” from the CONSOLIDER 2010 programme of the Spanish MICINN, and TIC114 Galaxias y Cosmología of the Junta de Andalucía (Spain). The Dark Cosmology Centre is funded by the Danish National Research Foundation. We also made use of data from the SDSS, SDSS-II and SDSS-III for which funding was provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Participating Institutions, the National Science Foundation, the US Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Japanese Monbukagakusho, the Max Planck Society, and the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The SDSS was managed by the Astrophysical Research Consortium for the Participating Institutions. This research has made use of the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database (NED) which is operated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. PMAS is operated as a common user instrument at CAHA under contract with the Leibniz-Institute for Astrophysics Potsdam (AIP).

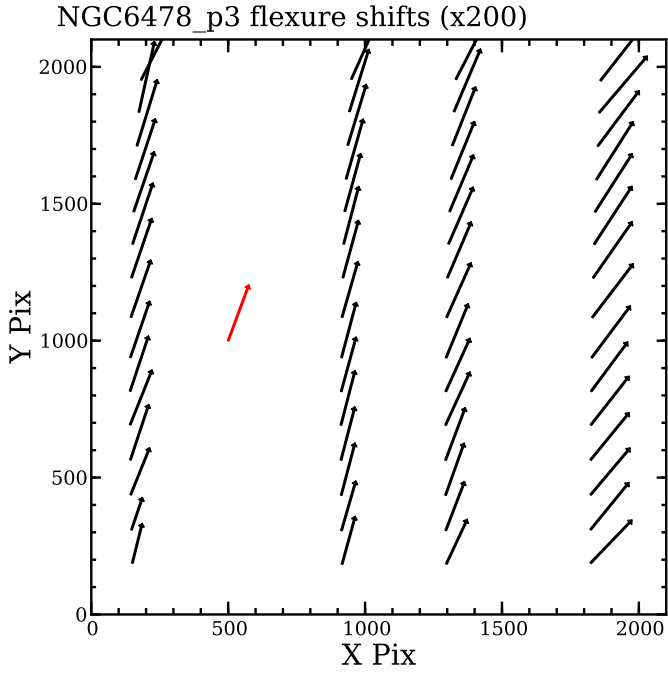
## Appendix A: CALIFA data reduction pipeline improvements

### A.1. Detection of cosmic rays in single exposures

Although the individual exposure times for the CALIFA data are relatively short, numerous pixels on the CCD may still be hit by cosmic rays. These pixels must be identified and properly handled to avoid artifacts in the final data products. In pipeline V1.2, cosmic rays in single exposures were detected using a simplified Laplacian edge detection scheme based on van Dokkum (2001). However, the performance was limited, with many cosmic rays remaining undetected. For this reason we developed a new detection algorithm (PyCosmic, Husemann et al. 2012) that achieves a much higher detection efficiency by combining a Laplacian edge detection scheme with a point spread function convolution approach. PyCosmic is applied to each raw frame just after it has been bias-subtracted and converted to electron counts. All detected cosmic rays are replaced by the median value of their surrounding pixels in PyCosmic. Nevertheless, we use the associated bad pixel mask to properly mask those pixels throughout the V1.3c pipeline as suggested in Husemann et al. (2012).

### A.2. Estimation and correction of instrument flexures

The PMAS instrument suffers from significant flexures (Roth et al. 2005), which introduces small shifts of the signal on the CCD in the dispersion and cross-dispersion direction depending on the hour angle of the telescope. Pipeline V1.2 invoked a pre-defined position list of ~30 prominent night-sky emission lines across the CCD to estimate the *absolute* shifts in both directions. Subsequently, each raw image was resampled to a common reference frame if the offset exceeded 0.1 pixel. This method was unstable because the absolute flexure offsets can exceed several pixels in which case the sky line positions might be misidentified with lines in the neighboring fibers.

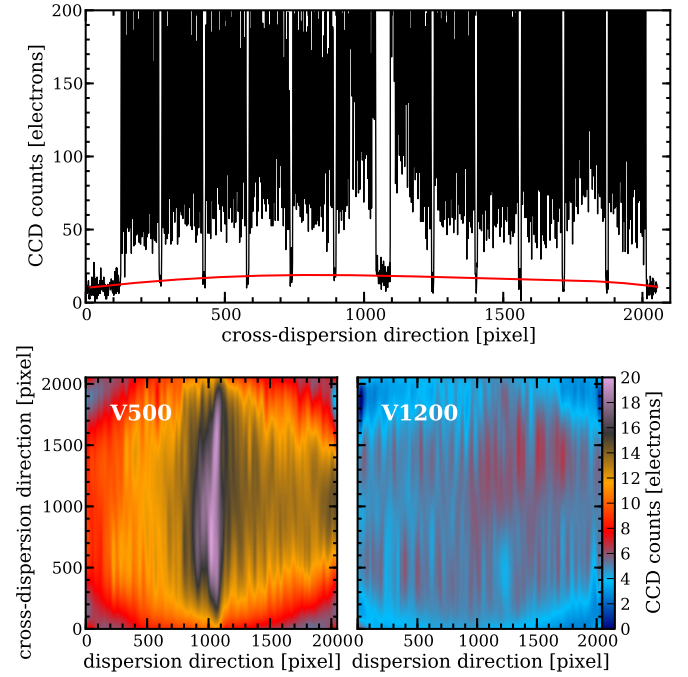


**Fig. A.1.** Example of the measured flexure shifts for the third V500 pointing of NGC 6478. The black arrows indicate the shift in  $x$  and  $y$  direction in CCD detector coordinates for positions across the CCD in the science exposures with respect to the continuum and arc lamp calibration frames. The length of the arrows represent the shift in pixels but multiplied by a factor of 200 to be visible. The median shift of all measurements is shown by the red arrow.

In pipeline V1.3c, we only estimate *relative flexure offsets* with respect to the continuum and arc-lamp calibration frame of each object in a two-stage process. Relative offsets in the cross-dispersion direction are measured by comparing the peak positions of fibers in each science frame close to the brightest night-sky emission lines with respect to their position in continuum lamp frame. After extraction of spectra, the wavelength of prominent sky lines is measured assuming the wavelength solution imposed by the arc-lamp calibration, which is compared with the expected wavelength of those lines. Any systematic deviation is attributed to flexure effects and the wavelength solution is corrected specifically for each individual science frame. These relative flexure offsets are often small ( $\leq 0.5$  pixel) because of the relatively small changes in telescope position between the science and calibration exposures for CALIFA. An example of the flexure pattern is shown in Fig. A.1, which indicates that the flexure shifts are nearly constant across the field. A global shift in dispersion and cross-dispersion is adopted for each frame. No resampling of the data is applied to correct for flexures in pipeline V1.3c, because only the calibration information is adjusted.

### A.3. Subtraction of straylight

An undesired feature of PMAS is an almost homogeneous background signal across the CCD image. Scattered light within the spectrograph, highly variable dark currents, or issues with the CCD controller could be potential origins and we simply refer to this feature as “straylight”. We find that the straylight contribution to some fibers can exceed 15% in counts depending on their throughput and input signal. The strength of the straylight affects the S/N of an object because it increases the Poisson noise. Straylight was implicitly corrected in pipeline V1.2 by



**Fig. A.2.** Example of the straylight subtraction process. *Top panel:* pixel counts along a CCD cross-dispersion cut of the science observation. A sixth order polynomial fit only through the gaps between the fiber bundles is shown as the red line. *Bottom panel:* straylight maps for the V500 and V1200 data, respectively, reconstructed from the polynomial fit for each cross-dispersion slice of the CCD and smoothed by a 2D Gaussian filter with a 20 pixel width.

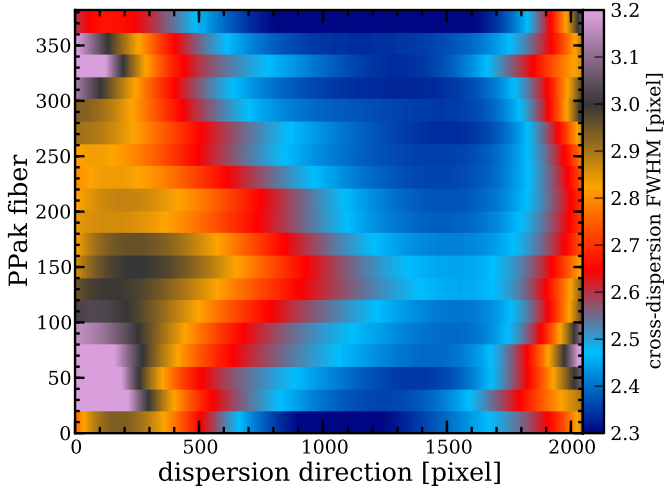
the sky subtraction, because the sky spectra inherit almost the same straylight signal as all other spectra. This approach, however, takes neither the subtle inhomogeneity of the straylight into account, nor assigns the correct error budget to the individual constituents, i.e. straylight, sky and object signal.

In pipeline V1.3c, we reconstruct the straylight signal using the few gaps between the fiber traces. First, the data is smoothed in the dispersion direction using a 5 pixel wide median filter to suppress the noise of individual CCD pixels. In a second step, we fit a sixth order polynomial to each cross-dispersion slice of the CCD, considering only pixels more than 6 pixels away from any fiber peak. An example is shown in Fig. A.2 (upper panel). Finally, the resulting straylight map is smoothed by a 2D Gaussian kernel with a dispersion of 20 pixels to suppress any artificial high-frequency structure. Examples of the smoothed straylight distribution are shown in Fig. A.2 (lower panels) for the V1200 and V500 setup. This distribution is subtracted from the calibration and science exposures before the fiber spectra are extracted. The straylight signal is of the order of 5–30 counts for the majority of the data, but in very few cases it reached several hundred counts or showed a complex pattern potentially due to problems with the cooling of the CCD. The computed Poisson noise of the images is unchanged so that the effect of straylight is properly included in the error budget of the data.

### A.4. Extraction of the fiber spectra

The amount of cross-talk between the PPAk fibers was estimated in pipeline V1.2 during spectral extraction by means of a modified Gaussian suppression technique (Sánchez 2006). This scheme achieved an accuracy of less than 1% for the cross-talk if the width of each fiber profile is a priori known





**Fig. A.3.** Example of the measured fiber profile width in cross-dispersion along the dispersion direction for each fiber. The measurements are performed in blocks of 20 fibers and interpolated along the dispersion direction with a fifth order polynomial function.

along the dispersion axis. A constant FWHM of 2.5 pixels in cross-dispersion direction was assumed in pipeline V1.2, but it changes significantly across the CCD.

In pipeline V1.3c, we now measure the widths of the fiber profiles averaged over blocks of 20 fibers at each 50th spectral element along the dispersion axis using a  $\chi^2$  minimization with the integrated fiber fluxes and a common FWHM per block as free parameters. The position of fibers is fixed based on the information from the continuum lamp (including any flexure offset). Subsequently, the measured fiber widths are interpolated by a 5th-order polynomial along the entire dispersion axis. An example of the estimated FWHM along the dispersion axis is shown in Fig. A.3.

For the spectrum extraction in pipeline V1.3c, we use the optimal extraction algorithm (Horne 1986) using a parallelized code that takes advantage of multi-core processor systems. The positions and widths of each Gaussian fiber profile are fixed to the values of the previous measurements. The advantage of optimal extraction is that errors can be analytically propagated based on the individual pixel errors. Bad pixels are also withdrawn during the extraction, despite a higher associated error. However, the extracted flux would be unreliable if all three of the most central pixels of a fiber are *simultaneously* flagged as bad. Thus, the corresponding spectral resolution element is flagged as bad in that case to avoid potential artifacts in the data.

#### A.5. Wavelength calibration and homogenization of the spectral resolution

The wavelength solution, as well as changes of the spectral resolution with wavelength are measured for each fiber based on the HeHgCd calibration lamp exposure taken for each CALIFA dataset. This information is used to resample the spectra to a linear grid in wavelength and to homogenize the spectral resolution to a common value along the dispersion axis using an adaptive Gaussian convolution. This scheme is unchanged in the current version of the pipeline, but now the flexure offsets in the dispersion direction are explicitly included in the wavelength solution to avoid a further resampling step.

The main goal of the V1.3c pipeline is to properly process the errors and bad pixel masks during the reduction step. The

errors are analytically propagated during the Gaussian convolution and a Monte Carlo approach is used to estimate the noise vector after the spline resampling of the spectra. Both processing steps introduce some correlation between neighboring pixels in the data and the noise. This is not a serious problem unless the data are binned in the dispersion direction. The assumption of uncorrelated errors would lead to a higher S/N compared to what will be measured from the real spectra. Bad pixels are completely masked out during both processes. Given the loss of information during the spline resampling at these pixels, we expand the bad pixel mask by 2 neighboring pixels on both sides along the dispersion axis. Finally, the error value of bad pixels is set to a high value ( $\sim 10^{10}$  counts) and the actual data are replaced with a linear interpolation along the dispersion axis of the nearest unmasked pixels.

#### A.6. Fiber transmission correction

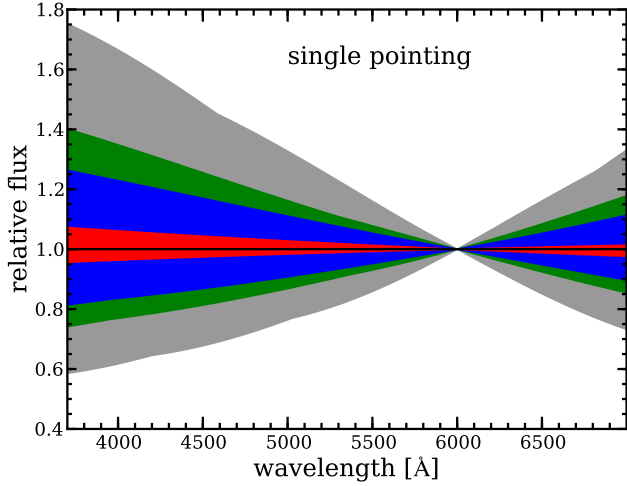
Applying a correction for the underlying straylight signal (Sect. A.3) also improves the quality of the fiber flat-fielding. This is particularly important for the vignetted areas at the corners of the CCD (see S12 for the details of the origin and effect of the vignetting), where the contribution of the straylight starts to dominate over the actual fiber signal. Consequently, we were able to reduce the threshold in the relative fiber transmission at which the data suffer from very low S/N from 75% to 30% in pipeline V1.3c. Pixels below this threshold are flagged as bad pixels and set to zero value. This decreases the masked area caused by vignetting at the corners of the CCD. It also increases the reconstructed image quality because three low transmission fibers (55–70% of transmission) within the PPAk FoV now remain above this new transmission threshold and do not need to be masked out anymore.

#### A.7. Flux calibration

The large fiber size and low filling factor of PPAk can complicate obtaining an accurate sensitivity function for the whole wavelength range. The relative blue-to-red sensitivity function depends strongly on the actual pointing of the PPAk fiber bundle with respect to the position of the standard star. The strength of this effect can be severe as inferred from a large suite of simulated standard star observations (see Fig. A.4). The reason for this is that the light of a standard star covered by a PPAk fiber inevitably changes with wavelength because of atmospheric dispersion, thoroughly discussed in García-Benito (2009), García-Benito et al. (2010) and Rosales-Ortega (2009). These classical aperture losses occur even if the standard star has been centered on a single fiber as accurately as possible for panchromatic observation as performed with the V500 setup.

We therefore empirically calibrated these aperture losses by comparing the CALIFA spectra with available SDSS spectra. We selected two photometric nights (shortly before and after mirror re-coating in September 2011) which had the best conditions: (i) the standard star was almost centered on a single fiber; (ii) the seeing conditions were good ( $< 1.5''$ ); and (iii) the airmass was sufficiently low ( $< 1.3$ ). After extracting the calibration star spectra we corrected them for the atmospheric extinction along wavelength (Sánchez et al. 2007a) considering the airmass and the monitored  $V$  band extinction at the time of observation. The corresponding sensitivity function was then used for flux calibration of the science data. In contrast to pipeline V1.2, we do not smooth the sensitivity function with a Gaussian kernel, but model it with a high-order polynomial to better preserve its





**Fig. A.4.** Relative sensitivity curves normalized at 6000 Å from simulated (noise free) standard star observations with PPak at a seeing of 1.2". Single pointing observations were simulated for a grid of pointing positions in  $\alpha$  and  $\delta$  with respect to the standard star. Simulations were performed for airmasses of 1.5 (gray), 1.3 (green), 1.1 (blue), and 1.0 (red) to take into account the change in the differential atmospheric refraction. The blue-to-red photometric calibration accuracy achievable is not sufficient even at low airmasses simply because of wavelength dependent aperture losses.

shape while clipping outliers and residuals caused by stellar absorption line mismatches.

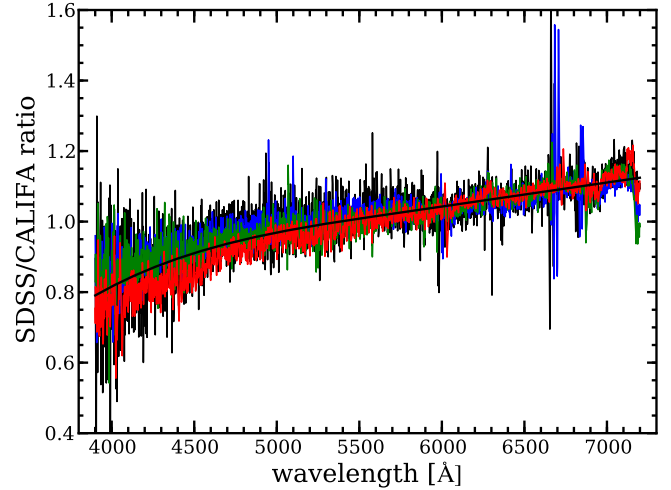
SDSS DR7 spectra are available for  $\sim 40\%$  of the CALIFA galaxies observed during those two nights. We extracted the spectrum within a radius of 1.5" around the galaxy center taking fractional pixel coverage into account to properly compare the spectrophotometry of the SDSS spectra and CALIFA data. The ratio of the 3"-diameter aperture SDSS and CALIFA spectra are shown in Fig. A.5 for one of the nights. The significant red-to-blue deviation along the wavelength is attributed purely to aperture losses of standard star observations as discussed before. We corrected the initial sensitivity functions of the two nights correspondingly and used the mean of both as a master sensitivity function for the calibration of all the CALIFA data distributed in DR1. The quality of this approach is evaluated in Sect. 5.4.2.

#### A.8. Sky subtraction

A high S/N sky spectrum is obtained by combining the 36 sky fibers of PPak. In pipeline V1.2, we rejected outlier sky spectra using a  $2\sigma$  clipping. This approach turned out to be unstable when a bright field star or neighboring galaxy filled an entire sky fiber bundle consisting of 6 fibers. Thus, we decided to simply take the mean of the 30 faintest sky fibers for pipeline V1.3c, which effectively avoids this problem except if more than one sky fiber bundle would be affected. In such a rare case it would be difficult anyway to obtain a reliable sky spectrum from the few remaining sky fibers. Another advantage of this procedure is that the error vector for the mean sky spectrum is well-defined and easily propagated through the sky subtraction step. One caveat is that uncertainties in the wavelength solution and the spectral resolution matching are not included in the uncertainty of the sky subtraction.

#### A.9. Image reconstruction and DAR correction

Since pipeline V1.2 a flux-conserving inverse-distance weighting scheme (see S12 for details) is used to reconstruct a spatial



**Fig. A.5.** The relative blue-to-red ratio between SDSS spectra and observed CALIFA V500 galaxy spectra (matched to the SDSS fiber aperture) along wavelength. All CALIFA spectra shown were obtained during the photometric night (2012 January 20th) and flux calibrated using the single pointing standard star observation of that night. A fourth order polynomial functions is sufficient to describe the trend presumably originating from the aperture losses of the standard star observation.

image from the three dithered PPak pointings with a sampling of 1". The effect of differential atmospheric refraction (DAR) on the data can be empirically measured from the spatially resampled datacube by tracing the centroid of the galaxy on the image plane along the wavelength axis. Common practice is often to resample each monochromatic image slice of the datacube again to align the galaxy centroid to a common reference position.

It is crucial in pipeline V1.3 to avoid this additional resampling step for a clean error propagation. Therefore, we adopt a two-stage iteration, (i) reconstruct the datacube and estimate the DAR effect, (ii) reconstruct the datacube again where the position of the fiber against the regular grid is changed according to the DAR offset empirically measured in the previous step. Although the error vector is well-defined for each spectrum in the reconstructed cubes, the inverse-distance weighting scheme introduces a strong correlation of the signal in the spatial dimension which is discussed in Sect. 3.3 in more detail.

Bad pixels are completely masked out during the weighting scheme so that in principle a full image can be reconstructed. However, a pixel value cannot be appropriately reconstructed if the contrast between the expected flux and the measured flux in the neighboring fibers is too high. We therefore flag each pixel in a reconstructed image as bad if the relative distance-based weight exceeds 5% for a fiber masked as bad at a given spectral resolution element. This value was chosen by experience to properly flag apparent artifacts along the wavelength axis caused by this effect.

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- <sup>6</sup> RUB Research Department Plasmas with Complex Interactions, Germany
- <sup>7</sup> Departamento de Astrofísica y CC. de la Atmósfera, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, 28040 Madrid, Spain
- <sup>8</sup> Departamento de Física, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, PO Box 476, 88040-900 Florianópolis, SC, Brazil
- <sup>9</sup> Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Vía Láctea s/n, La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain
- <sup>10</sup> Departamento de Astrofísica, Universidad de La Laguna, 38205 La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain
- <sup>11</sup> Institut d'astrophysique de Paris, CNRS, UPMC 98bis Bd Arago, 75014 Paris, France
- <sup>12</sup> CEI Campus Moncloa, UCM-UPM, Departamento de Astrofísica y CC. de la Atmósfera, Facultad de CC. Físicas, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Avda. Complutense s/n, 28040 Madrid, Spain
- <sup>13</sup> Departamento de Física Teórica y del Cosmos, University of Granada, Facultad de Ciencias (Edificio Mecenas), 18071 Granada, Spain
- <sup>14</sup> Instituto Carlos I de Física Teórica y Computación, 18071 Granada, Spain
- <sup>15</sup> Departamento de Física Teórica, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 28049 Madrid, Spain
- <sup>16</sup> Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica, Luis E. Erro 1, 72840 Tonantzintla, Puebla, Mexico
- <sup>17</sup> University of Vienna, Department of Astrophysics, Türkenschanzstr. 17, 1180 Vienna, Austria
- <sup>18</sup> Sydney Institute for Astronomy, School of Physics A28, University of Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia
- <sup>19</sup> Astronomisches Rechen-Institut, Zentrum für Astronomie der Universität Heidelberg, Mönchhofstraße 12-14, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany
- <sup>20</sup> GEPI, Observatoire de Paris, UMR 8111, CNRS, Université Paris Diderot, 5 place Jules Janssen, 92190 Meudon, France
- <sup>21</sup> CENTRA – Centro Multidisciplinar de Astrofísica, Instituto Superior Técnico, Av. Rovisco Pais 1, 1049-001 Lisbon, Portugal
- <sup>22</sup> Dark Cosmology Centre, Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Juliane Mariesvej 30, 2100 Copenhagen, Denmark
- <sup>23</sup> Centro de Astrofísica and Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade do Porto, Rua das Estrelas, 4150-762 Porto, Portugal
- <sup>24</sup> University of Sheffield, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Hounsfield Road Sheffield, S3 7RH, UK
- <sup>25</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy University of Missouri – Kansas City, Kansas City, MO 64110, USA
- <sup>26</sup> Department of Physics, Royal Military College of Canada, PO Box 17000, Station Forces, Kingston, Ontario, K7K 7B4, Canada
- <sup>27</sup> Astronomical Institute, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Boční II 1401/1a, 141 00 Prague 4, Czech Republic
- <sup>28</sup> Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA, UK
- <sup>29</sup> Australian Astronomical Observatory, PO Box 915, North Ryde, NSW 1670, Australia
- <sup>30</sup> Department of Physics and Astronomy, Macquarie University, NSW 2109, Australia
- <sup>31</sup> Landessternwarte, Zentrum für Astronomie der Universität Heidelberg, Königstuhl 12, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany
- <sup>32</sup> Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, University of Groningen, Postbus 800, 9700 AV Groningen, The Netherlands
- <sup>33</sup> School of Physics and Astronomy, University of St Andrews, North Haugh, St Andrews, KY16 9SS, UK (SUPA)
- <sup>34</sup> INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri – Largo Enrico Fermi, 5 – 50125 Firenze, Italy

<sup>1</sup> Leibniz-Institut für Astrophysik Potsdam (AIP), An der Sternwarte 16, 14482 Potsdam, Germany  
e-mail: bhusemann@aip.de

<sup>2</sup> Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, Königstuhl 17, 69117 Heidelberg, Germany

<sup>3</sup> Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (IAA/CSIC), Glorieta de la Astronomía s/n Aptdo. 3004, 18080 Granada, Spain

<sup>4</sup> Centro Astronómico Hispano Alemán de Calar Alto (CSIC-MPG), C/ Jesús Durbán Remón 2-2, 4004 Almería, Spain

<sup>5</sup> Astronomisches Institut, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universitätsstr. 150, 44801 Bochum, Germany