

LAMOST Experiment for Galactic Understanding and Exploration (LEGUE) — The survey's science plan *

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Abstract We describe the current plans for a spectroscopic survey of millions of stars in the Milky Way galaxy using the Guo Shou Jing Telescope (GSJT, formerly called

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the Large sky Area Multi-Object fiber Spectroscopic Telescope — LAMOST). The survey will obtain spectra for 2.5 million stars brighter than $r < 19$ during dark/grey time, and 5 million stars brighter than $r < 17$ or $J < 16$ on nights that are moonlit or have low transparency. The survey will begin in the fall of 2012, and will run for at least four years. The telescope's design constrains the optimal declination range for observations to $10^\circ < \delta < 50^\circ$, and site conditions lead to an emphasis on stars in the direction of the Galactic anticenter. The survey is divided into three parts with different target selection strategies: disk, anticenter, and spheroid. The resulting dataset will be used to study the merger history of the Milky Way, the substructure and evolution of the disks, the nature of the first generation of stars through identification of the lowest metallicity stars, and star formation through study of open clusters and OB associations. Detailed design of the LAMOST Experiment for Galactic Understanding and Exploration (LEGUE) survey will be completed in summer 2012, after a review of the results of the pilot survey.

Key words: techniques: spectroscopic — Galaxy: structure — Galaxy: evolution — Galaxy: kinematics and dynamics — Galaxy: disk — Galaxy: halo — spectroscopy

1 INTRODUCTION

Study of stars in the Milky Way galaxy is critical to understanding how galaxies form and evolve. Through study of galaxy formation, we test models of dark matter, gravitational collapse, hydrodynamics of the gas, stellar formation and feedback (including properties of the first generation of stars and enrichment of the interstellar medium through supernova explosions). The Milky Way is the only galaxy we can study in enough detail that these models can be tested in the six dimensions of phase-space. Only recently have large photometric sky surveys, including the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000; Gunn et al. 2006) and the 2 Micron All-Sky Survey (2MASS; Skrutskie et al. 2006), made it possible to piece together the structure of the Milky Way star by star. The Sloan Extension for Galactic Understanding and Exploration (SEGUE; Yanny et al. 2009) produced sparse samples of stellar spectroscopy. Large spectroscopic surveys, like the RADial Velocity Experiment (RAVE; Steinmetz 2003), which only targets the brightest stars; the APO Galactic Evolution Experiment (APOGEE, Allende Prieto et al. 2008b), which is observing late-type giant stars in the infrared; and the High Efficiency Resolution Multi-Element Spectrograph (HERMES; Freeman 2008) for the Anglo-Australian Telescope (AAT), which will deliver high accuracy metallicity measurements for a million bright ($V < 14$) Galactic stars, are currently in progress. With newly available holistic models of the Galaxy (e.g. Sharma et al. 2011), it is possible to correct galaxy models for artifacts that can result from the limited number of stars that are sampled in galaxy surveys such as LEGUE. The Gaia satellite (Perryman et al. 2001; Katz et al. 2004) will measure useful proper motions for one billion Galactic stars to ~ 20 th magnitude, radial velocities (RVs) of ~ 150 million stars to ~ 16 th mag, and stellar atmospheric parameters for ~ 5 million stars to ~ 12 th mag. However, there is a compelling case for much larger, deeper, and denser spectroscopic surveys of stars in the Milky Way.

We plan to study the structure of the Galactic halo (both the smooth component of the spheroid and the lumpy sub-structures) and disk components (including star-forming regions and open clusters (OCs)). The revealed structure will improve our models in terms of better understanding star formation, the formation history of the Galaxy, and the structure of the gravitational potential, including the central black hole and (sub)structure of the dark matter component.

In this work we discuss the LAMOST Experiment for Galactic Understanding and Exploration (LEGUE). The four year plan to survey Galactic structure presented here includes spectra for 2.5

million stars brighter than $r < 19$ and an additional 5 million stars brighter than $r < 17$; the actual distribution of magnitudes observed will depend on the throughput of the Guo Shou Jing Telescope (GSJT) system (Zhao et al. 2012). Most of the stars in the survey will be observed at $R = \lambda/\Delta\lambda = 1800$ which is achieved by placing a 2/3 width slit in front of the fibers; the grating is $R = 1000$. Additional $R = 5000$ gratings will be obtained part way through the survey and will be used particularly at low Galactic latitude where the star density is higher.

The LEGUE survey is divided into three parts: the spheroid, the disk, and the anticenter. The spheroid survey covers $|b| > 20^\circ$; the anticenter survey covers Galactic latitude $|b| \leq 30^\circ$, and longitude $150^\circ \leq l \leq 210^\circ$; and an extended disk survey covers as much of the low latitude sky ($|b| \leq 20^\circ$) as is available from the Xinglong Station; the $20^\circ \leq l \leq 80^\circ$ region of the disk will be poorly sampled due to a limited number of clear nights in summer (see Yao et al. 2012 for more on site conditions). Each of these portions of the survey have somewhat different target selection algorithms, which will be similar to the target selection algorithms implemented in the pilot survey, and described in companion papers (Carlin et al. 2012; Yang et al. 2012; Zhang et al. 2012; Chen et al. 2012).

2 SCIENCE GOALS

With the data representing a huge number of stars from the LAMOST spectroscopic survey, stellar kinematics can be calculated and the metallicity distribution function (MDF) in the Galaxy will be obtained. This will allow us to systematically investigate the spatial density, Galactocentric rotation velocity and velocity ellipsoid, and chemical abundance of stars as a function of position in the Galaxy. These provide important constraints on the present models of Galactic structure, formation history, kinematical and dynamical evolution, chemical evolution, and the distribution of dark matter in the Milky Way.

The primary science drivers of the LAMOST Galactic structure survey are

- (1) Search for extremely metal poor stars in the Galactic spheroid;
- (2) Kinematic features and chemical abundances of the thin/thick disk stars, with the goal of deriving the mass distribution (including the dark matter mass), the dynamical and chemical evolution, and the structure and the origin of the Galactic disks;
- (3) A thorough analysis of the disk/spheroid interface near the Galactic anticenter, with the goal of determining whether previously identified anticenter structures are tidal debris, or whether they are part of structures in the disk;
- (4) Discovery of stellar moving groups that may be associated with dwarf galaxies, and follow-up observations of known streams and substructures in the Galactic spheroid;
- (5) Survey of the properties of Galactic OCs, including the structure, dynamics and evolution of the disk as probed by OCs;
- (6) Search for hypervelocity stars and determination of their creation mechanism;
- (7) Survey the OB stars in the Galaxy, tracing the 3D extinction in the Galactic plane;
- (8) A complete census of young stellar objects across the Galactic Plane, which provides important clues to studies of large-scale star formation and the history of Galactic star formation.

A typical image of a randomly chosen field of the Milky Way will contain stars at many distances from the local disk to the distant halo, and may also contain groups of stars with a variety of origins. While these groups will be well mixed and indistinguishable from multi-color imaging alone, the addition of kinematic information and information about spectroscopic stellar atmospheric parameters ($[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, T_{eff} , $\log g$, $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$) make possible the identification of a common origin for groups of stars. If one has a large enough kinematic sample, such as that proposed here for LAMOST, one can begin to trace the origin and build up of the Galaxy itself and explore the role that individual bursts

of star formation at different times played in the assembly of the thick disk and halo. This is a study that can only be done with spectra of hundreds of thousands to millions of stars.

It was a tremendous asset of the SDSS imaging survey that it covered a large ($> 8000 \text{ deg}^2$) contiguous region, with no significant holes in the surveyed area. For example, this allowed clear unambiguous discovery of long faint streams tracing around our Galaxy; e.g., the Grillmair and Dionatos 63-degree stream (Grillmair & Dionatos 2006), and the Orphan Stream (Grillmair 2006; Belokurov et al. 2006), among others. Without a large contiguous picture it would have been difficult if not impossible to piece together the very low contrast density enhancements that make up these faint structures. Since LAMOST can cover a similarly large area spectroscopically, one could look for kinematic streams in RV and position which are contiguous across the sky, and connect pieces of structures which would otherwise not be possible to unambiguously associate with each other.

The SEGUE survey was designed in an era when very large density substructures were beginning to be discovered in the Milky Way's stellar halo. It was designed to sample these structures on the largest scales, and therefore consisted of many pencil beam surveys that covered a large range of distances. The stars to be observed were chosen using more than a dozen separate and possibly overlapping highly complex target selection categories, each optimized for a different science goal. While these choices were reasonable at the time, we now need a large density of spectra in each volume of the Galaxy to study lower contrast substructure and discover substructure in the Galactic disk. The much larger sample of stars in the LEGUE survey will therefore be selected with more contiguous sky coverage and with higher density spatial sampling.

Although the LAMOST survey will be more complete than SEGUE, three factors keep us from a complete survey in magnitude and sky area covered: (1) LAMOST fibers do not move more than $3.15'$ from their nominal positions, (2) we will only observe 2% of the estimated 5×10^8 stars in the available $\sim 2\pi$ steradians, and (3) fields are circular, and the centers are constrained to be centered on a bright star that can be used for real-time active mirror corrections. Our survey will not be complete in sky coverage. However the selection algorithm will be a simple function of color and magnitude, with weighted random sampling.

Below we highlight several of the interesting science cases that will be addressed with LEGUE spectroscopy.

2.1 Metal-poor Stars

Metal-poor stars provide the fossil record of the creation and evolution of the elements from the earliest times, and thus play an important role in the study of early Galactic chemical evolution. In particular, the most metal-deficient and hence oldest stars in the Galaxy provide information about their Population III progenitors, which must have existed in the past but, if there were no low-mass counterparts, do not exist anymore today. Due to the rapid decline of the metallicity distribution function (MDF) of the Galactic halo towards low metallicities, extensive, wide-field objective-prism surveys such as the HK survey (e.g. Beers et al. 1985, 1992) and the Hamburg/ESO Survey (HES; Christlieb et al. 2008) have been used to identify the most metal-poor stars. The combined sample of very metal-poor stars (VMP; $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -2.0$) discovered by these efforts to date now exceeds 3000. Most recently, the massive spectroscopic effort from SDSS, and in particular SEGUE, has increased the number of known VMP stars to over 30 000, including on the order of 1000 extremely metal-poor stars (EMP; $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.0$), and at least a handful of stars likely to have even lower metallicity.

High-resolution spectroscopic studies of subsets of these have produced detailed studies of the nucleosynthesis process in the early Galaxy and the Big Bang (see Beers & Christlieb 2005; Frebel & Norris 2011). For example, abundances of ${}^7\text{Li}$ for metal-poor stars provide constraints on Big Bang nucleosynthesis (see Asplund et al. 2006; Mucciarelli et al. 2012), and the nature of the slow (s-) and rapid (r-) neutron-capture processes can be investigated by metal-poor stars enhanced in the respective elements (for example Sneden et al. 2008).

Extrapolating from the number of EMP, Ultra Metal-Poor (UMP; $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -4.0$) and Hyper Metal-Poor (HMP; $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -5.0$) stars found by the HK, HES, and SDSS efforts, LEGUE is expected to yield 10 000 or more stars with $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -3.0$, hundreds of stars with $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -4.0$, and ~ 20 – 30 stars with $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}] < -5.0$, increasing the number of known stars in these metallicity ranges by over an order of magnitude.

We will also determine the shape of the low-metallicity tail of the halo MDF with much higher accuracy than is possible with the limited samples available today. The MDF provides important information on the formation and chemical enrichment history of the Galactic halo (e.g. Schöroek et al. 2009).

2.2 The Disk in and beyond the Solar Neighborhood

We propose to study the kinematic features and the chemical abundances of the Galactic thin/thick disks in the solar neighborhood and beyond.

2.2.1 *The local dark matter density*

The local mass density of the Milky Way is still an open question since Oort (1932, 1960) first attempted to solve the Poisson-Boltzmann equation using the movement of a group of stars near the Sun. Bahcall (1984), Kuijken & Gilmore (1989), Holmberg & Flynn (2000, 2004) etc. also made estimates of the local matter density using various observed data and methods. Kuijken & Gilmore (1989), using well observed RVs from a volume-selected sample of K dwarf stars near the South Galactic pole, found little evidence of local dark matter. Holmberg & Flynn (2000, 2004) used Hipparcos data, which have distance measurements but are not guaranteed to be a complete sample, and found a significant amount of dark matter in the solar neighborhood. Recently, Garbari et al. (2012) revisited this question with improved methods but still did not resolve the issue.

In a new attempt to estimate the local mass density, we propose to observe about 100 000 nearby bright stars, selected from the Tycho-2 catalog (Høg et al. 2000), with accurate proper motions, and additionally a complete set of dwarf stars toward the North Galactic pole with LAMOST. The metallicity corrected photometric distance and the vertical velocity dispersion as a function of the distance to the disk's mid-plane will be obtained. The spectra of these stars must have S/N and spectral resolution sufficient to distinguish giants from dwarfs and to obtain RVs to a precision of better than 5 km s^{-1} , which is possible with the LEGUE $R = 5000$ gratings. With the vertical velocity, which is contributed by the RVs in the North Galactic pole, and by the combination of the RV, distance and the proper motion in other directions, one can improve the local disk matter density measurement with a larger and more complete sample.

2.2.2 *Local velocity substructure in the disk*

These data also enlarge the sample of the nearby bright stars and will be a significant improvement over the Geneva-Copenhagen Survey (Nordström et al. 2004, hereafter GCS). The $\sim 14\,000$ F and G dwarfs in the GCS survey have full phase-space coordinates; a follow-up survey by Famaey et al. (2005) has similar data for ~ 6000 K and M stars. As a result of these studies, there are very few stars with HIPPARCOS distances that do not have well-determined space motions. These samples have revealed intriguing structure in the distribution of their Galactic U and V velocities, which contains important information about the dynamical history of the Milky Way through resonance scattering (Dehnen 2000; Helmi et al. 2006). For example, Sellwood (2010) has been able to identify strong evidence for a recent Lindblad resonance in the solar neighborhood. In addition, Antoja et al. (2012) revealed a similar substructure beyond the solar neighborhood with RAVE data.

The phase-space information of the proposed LAMOST nearby bright star survey can be converted to action-angle variables to reveal finer details of the phase space structure that will enable the dynamical origin of the features to be identified. Hahn et al. (2011) have already performed this analysis on a sample of < 7000 main sequence stars within 200 pc of the Sun from the RAVE (DR2) survey and the M-dwarf catalog derived from SDSS by West et al. (2011). They found evidence confirming the structure already identified in Sellwood (2010), but many more stars are needed in order to find less prominent substructures. The on-going RAVE survey will substantially increase the sample from the southern sky and will nicely complement the LAMOST northern sky survey. It is worthy to note that searching for substructure in phase-space depends heavily on the survey selection functions, which have been carefully designed for this kind of science (Carlin et al. 2012).

2.2.3 *Disk structure from red clump stars*

Apart from the nearby stars, there are also a large number of intrinsically luminous giant stars in the disk that can be observed by LAMOST. They bring kinematic information from a few kpc beyond the solar neighborhood. Some of the luminous stars, particularly the red clump stars, are good distance indicators. We expect to observe about 500 000 red clump stars with $V < 17$ in the anticenter region: $|b| < 20^\circ$ and $90^\circ < l < 220^\circ$. The red clump stars at low Galactic latitude can be easily selected from the 2MASS color-magnitude diagram (López-Corrodoira et al. 2002). Nearby dwarf stars can overlap in intrinsic color with the red clump stars, but as the latter get reddened by extinction in the mid-plane, the dwarf stars can be easily removed. This color selection of red clump stars is thus very efficient with only little contamination by other giant stars and remaining dwarf stars (Liu et al. 2012).

Similar to the substructure found in the U-V distribution in the solar neighborhood, the resonance of the Galactic bar and spiral arms may also induce substructure in the velocity distribution in the outer disk. Moreover, the velocity distribution of the stars right on the spiral arms will also show some special substructure, e.g. arcs, due to the correlation of the radius and the orientation of the stellar orbits (Quillen et al. 2011). Indeed, Liu et al. (2012) found evidence of the resonance occurring at a Galactocentric radius of 10–11 kpc in the anticenter direction from the distribution of the RV of only ~ 800 red clump stars observed by MMT/Hectospec. Since LAMOST can extend the disk observations to more than 100° in azimuth, it will provide clearer evidence of the resonance. Combining these with the velocity distribution in the solar neighborhood derived from LAMOST's bright spectra, one can model the rotation pattern speeds, as well as the strength and the current phase of the Galactic bars and the spiral arms.

The red clump stars will cover about 4 kpc in Galactocentric radius, from 8 kpc (solar radius) to 12 kpc. The proper motions have been provided for most of them in the PPMXL catalog (Roeser et al. 2010). Once red clump stars are reliably identified along the line of sight to the Galactic anticenter from LAMOST spectra, their proper motions can be used to derive the Galactic rotation curve. The Galactic rotation curve has been measured from HI, CO and masers (e.g. Sofue et al. 2009; Sakai et al. 2012). However, because the uncertainty in distance for HI and CO is very high, the rotation curve derived from these objects is not reliable. Though the distance to the masers can be accurately measured from trigonometric parallax, only very few masers have been measured this way; furthermore, since most of them are located in spiral arms, they are not the best tracers to continuously cover all Galactocentric radii. We propose to measure the rotation curve using the RVs of the red clump stars in the disk. Since the distance can be well determined, the rotation curve derived from this sample is expected to be significantly more accurate. The improved rotation curve will make it possible to decompose the disk and halo components of the Galactic gravitational potential. The shape and mass of the dark matter halo, including the local dark matter, will be estimated. In light of the Rix & Zaritsky (1995) work on external galaxies, it is interesting to ask whether the disk of our Galaxy is also lopsided. This could be studied with the kinematic features of the disk stars

in the LAMOST survey data combined with other survey catalogs, e.g. APOGEE (Allende Prieto et al. 2008b).

2.2.4 Radial migration

Though the thick disk was discovered by Gilmore & Reid in 1983, its origin is still a puzzle. There have been dozens of models of thick disk formation (see the annual review by Majewski et al. 1994). Today, some of them are out of date and four main scenarios are thought to be the most likely: 1) accreted debris of the disrupted satellites (Statler 1988; Abadi et al. 2003); 2) heating of the pre-existing thin disk by the merging satellites (e.g. Quinn et al. 1993; Villalobos & Helmi 2008); 3) in-situ triggered star formation during and after a gas-rich merger (see Jones & Wyse 1983; Brook et al. 2004); and 4) in-situ formation of the thick disk through radial migration of stars as a consequence of corotation resonance with transient spiral structures (Sellwood & Binney 2002), bar structures (Minchev & Famaey 2010), or orbiting satellites (Quillen et al. 2009). Observational evidence of radial migration has been reported by authors such as Yu et al. (2012), Lee et al. (2011b), Loebman et al. (2011) and Liu & van de Ven (2012). Moreover, Liu & van de Ven (2012) found that radial migration is not the only channel to form the thick disk; the stars in eccentric orbits with $[Fe/H]; -0.5$ dex may have originated from a gas-rich merger.

The chemical abundance of the stars can be considered the “real” integral of motion, since it does not change over most of the lifetime of a star. Abundances tell us about the place in which the star formed. The chemo-kinematic study of both the thin and thick disk stars can be conducted based on the data from the LAMOST spectroscopic survey. This, for instance, is the best way to investigate radial migration from observations. Schönrich & Binney (2009) have set up a chemical evolution model taking into account radial migration. Loebman et al. (2011) pointed out that the α -abundance is a valuable indicator of age that can be used to help confirm the radial migration. Sales et al. (2009), Dierickx et al. (2010), and Liu & van de Ven (2012) indicate that eccentricity could also be a powerful kinematic feature for detecting radial migration. LAMOST survey data in the disk will provide sufficient samples covering not only the solar neighborhood but also a few kpc beyond. The data will be used to investigate the variation of the abundance features, for example the metallicity distribution function, in terms of spatial and kinematic features and subsequently build the chemo-dynamical evolution model of the disk.

In addition to providing valuable data to the international astronomical community, this survey, combined with the future Gaia data, gives a powerful way to describe the spatial positions and other properties for stars with different abundances. These provide important constraints on the present models of disk structure, formation history, and chemo-dynamical evolution of the Milky Way.

2.2.5 Low-mass stars and the local stellar populations

All the Galactic stellar populations are dominated by low-mass stars in the M dwarf/subdwarf range $0.08M_{\odot} < M < 0.4M_{\odot}$. By number, they constitute $> 70\%$ of H-burning stars in the Galactic disk, and probably a larger, though as yet undetermined, fraction of H-burning stars in the Galactic halo. M dwarfs/subdwarfs have long evolutionary timescales and are also fully convective. As a result, their atmospheric composition is essentially identical to their primordial chemical makeup. This makes M dwarfs/subdwarfs true fossils of star formation and chemical evolution in the Galaxy. M dwarfs have complex spectra dominated by molecular bands of TiO and CaH which have proven difficult to model. However, recent advances in optical and infrared spectral analysis have revealed patterns which now make it possible to evaluate metallicities (Lépine et al. 2007; Woolf et al. 2009; Rojas-Ayala et al. 2012) and identify relatively young (< 500 Myr) M dwarfs (West et al. 2008; Schlieder et al. 2012) based on spectral features in the red-optical and near-IR. The low and medium-resolution spectra of M dwarfs/subdwarfs that will be collected in the various LAMOST surveys will

have sufficient resolution and signal-to-noise to estimate effective temperatures and metallicities, and use gravity and activity diagnostic features to identify young stars. Preliminary results from GSJT commissioning data demonstrate that M dwarfs can be efficiently identified and analyzed (Jing et al., in preparation).

By the nature of this survey, which targets stars at random over an extended range of colors and magnitudes, large numbers of M dwarfs/subdwarfs will inevitably be observed in all the fields. Even in regions dedicated to specific surveys, there will always be a fraction of fibers that cannot be allocated to primary targets. Those free fibers will then be placed on available objects following the general color-magnitude selection scheme, of which a significant fraction will be low-mass stars. One advantage of M dwarfs/subdwarfs is their large numbers and relative proximity. Within the magnitude limits of LEGUE, most observed M dwarfs/subdwarfs will be within 1 kpc of the Sun, which means that they will generally have relatively large proper motions (either already recorded or that could be easily measured), from which full 3D motion can be derived when combined with the LEGUE radial velocity measurements.

The LEGUE survey will provide a useful complement to the SDSS survey. Most M dwarfs identified in SDSS lie at high Galactic latitudes, and thus mainly probe the Galactic old/thick disk (West et al. 2011). The LEGUE survey will target larger numbers of M dwarfs/subdwarfs at low Galactic latitudes, and probe deeper into the young/thin disk. In addition, target selection in SDSS followed a complicated color-color scheme, and as a result ended up with a bias against the more metal-poor M subdwarfs, whose colors differ significantly from the colors of metal-rich M dwarfs (Lépine & Scholz 2008; Lépine et al. in preparation). Indeed, the recent claim of an “M dwarf problem” by which the Galactic disk would be deficient in metal-poor stars (Woolf & West 2012), might simply be the result of the algorithm used to select SDSS spectroscopic targets. The LEGUE survey would put that conjecture to the test, and determine the metallicity distribution in the local disk to unprecedented statistical accuracy.

Combining metallicity data with the full 3D kinematics will provide the clearest picture of the local and low-mass members of the Galactic stellar populations, identifying their relative numbers in the solar vicinity and mapping their distribution in velocity space. These data will allow one to search, e.g., for the local signature of Galactic halo streams (Re Fiorentin et al. 2005, Famaey et al. 2005), for the kinematic signature of the Galactic spiral arms and bulge (Sellwood 2011), or signs of accretion events in the disk (Helmi et al. 2006).

2.3 Outer Disk Substructure

The outer disk is most easily studied in the direction of the Galactic anticenter, where by virtue of the Sun’s position some 8 kpc from the Galactic center, the stars in the outer disk region are relatively nearby. The anticenter direction has proven to be particularly rich in substructure, including the Monoceros Ring (Newberg et al. 2002; Yanny et al. 2003; Peñarrubia et al. 2005), the Anticenter Stream (Grillmair 2006; Grillmair et al. 2008; Carlin et al. 2010), the EBS stream (Grillmair 2006; Grillmair 2011), and the Canis Major Overdensity (CMa, Martin et al. 2004). The Monoceros Ring and CMa have stirred considerable debate, with some investigators claiming that these structures are evidence of warping and/or flaring of the stellar disk (Momany et al. 2006; Natarajan & Sikivie 2007), while others maintain that they are most likely remnants of merger events (Conn et al. 2007; Butler et al. 2007).

Only with a very large sample of stellar velocity and metallicity measurements in the anticenter direction are we likely to make significant progress in understanding the origins of structures and substructures in the outer disk. Previously detected substructures are about 10 kpc from the Sun, so the main sequence stars are about 19th magnitude and giant stars are about 15th magnitude, which spans the expected target range of LEGUE. As the weather at the Xinglong Station is statistically most favorable when the anticenter region is overhead, the GSJT survey is particularly well suited

for unraveling this complex region and answering many important questions concerning the build-up and evolution of the Galaxy.

2.4 Spheroid Structure and Tidal Streams

Since the discovery from a kinematic survey of the Galactic bulge of the Sagittarius (Sgr) dwarf galaxy that is undergoing a tidal disruption (Ibata et al. 1994), photometric surveys covering large sky areas (e.g., SDSS, 2MASS) have vastly expanded our knowledge of the spheroid's spatial substructure by using carefully selected stellar tracers.

A spectroscopic survey of large numbers of stars over a contiguous area of sky is vital to fully characterizing known halo substructures. Although discovery and extensive spatial mapping of halo substructures have been enabled by photometric surveys such as 2MASS and SDSS, the kinematics of stars in many of the streams and substructures are poorly known (or completely unknown, in some cases). Using SDSS/SEGUE as an example, instances where kinematics have been measured for substructures (see Belokurov et al. 2007b; Newberg et al. 2009; Willett et al. 2009; Koposov et al. 2010; Newberg et al. 2010; Li et al. 2012) have relied on handfuls of SEGUE plates that intersect the structures. Even if a clear kinematic signature of the stream/substructure can be seen in the RVs, the sparse spatial coverage makes interpretation of chemodynamical information difficult.

In addition, a large-area survey will allow for the *discovery* of substructures as kinematical overdensities among halo stars in a way that sparse sampling cannot. In fact, because phase-space density is conserved with time (as accreted substructures phase-mix with Milky Way populations), accretion remnants that are no longer spatially coherent can often be identified from their velocities (for example Helmi & White 1999). Thus large samples of RVs from spectroscopic surveys such as LAMOST are likely to yield numerous discoveries of accretion relics in the halo (similar to the “Cetus Polar Stream” found by Newberg et al. 2009 or the “ECHOS” discussed in Schlaufman et al. 2009, both of which came from SEGUE data). The discovery and mapping of halo substructures over a large volume of the halo can be used to assess the fraction of the halo that is accreted and distinguish between various expectations from hierarchical structure formation models (e.g., Bullock & Johnston 2005; Cooper et al. 2010; Rashkov et al. 2012).

Tidal streams can be used to constrain the merger history of the Milky Way, and probe the Galactic dark matter halo. Measured velocities over large angular extents of streams can be used in conjunction with distances (and, where available, proper motions) to fit orbits to streams (see Willett et al. 2009; Koposov et al. 2010; Newberg et al. 2010). These not only aid in recreating the original satellite population, but can be used as sensitive probes of the shape and strength of the Galactic dark matter halo in which they are orbiting (e.g., Johnston et al. 1999; Law et al. 2009; Koposov et al. 2010). The spectra also yield metal abundances – $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ is measurable even at low resolution, and abundances of specific species or families of chemical elements can be derived at medium-to-high resolution (including alpha-abundances even at SEGUE resolution of $R \sim 2000$; Lee et al. 2011a). The chemical signatures of accretion events persist to some extent in $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, but can be seen much more clearly in alpha-element abundances (i.e., $[\alpha/\text{Fe}]$), which carry the imprint of the progenitor's enrichment history and can be used to identify accretion events (or more generally, a global accretion history) through what has become known as “chemical tagging” or “chemical fingerprinting” (e.g., Freeman & Bland-Hawthorn 2002; Johnston et al. 2008; Chou et al. 2010a,b).

The LAMOST/LEGUE survey is particularly well suited to study substructure in the Milky Way halo, as this survey will take millions of spectra over large contiguous regions in both the north and south Galactic caps, as well as the low-latitude Galactic anticenter. Because tidal debris is prevalent at large distances from the Galactic center, it is necessary to obtain spectra of intrinsically bright stellar tracers, including stars of type A-F (at both the turnoff and the horizontal branch) and K/M giants. Giant stars are difficult to select photometrically from among the much larger numbers of dwarfs at similar colors, though the SDSS u -band will aid in the selection of these where it is avail-

able. However, giants can be readily distinguished from dwarfs by surface gravity measurements derived from the LAMOST spectra, provided that adequate S/N has been achieved to measure reliable stellar parameters. It is ideal to have sufficient S/N to measure metallicities and surface gravities, but even with just an RV (which can be measured down to $S/N \sim 5$) a lot can be learned about halo substructures. The LEGUE survey will over-emphasize blue (A, F) stars in its target selection, as well as observing a large fraction of K/M giant candidates, over a large contiguous (or nearly contiguous) area of the northern sky, providing a huge dataset to be used for studies of halo substructure.

2.5 Open Clusters

OCs have long been used to trace the structure and evolution of the Galactic disk. OCs have relatively large age spans and they can be relatively accurately dated; one can see OCs to large distances while most of them have average reddening and distance parameters available; the spatial distribution and kinematical properties of OCs provide critical constraints on the overall structure and dynamical evolution of the Galactic disk; meanwhile, their $[M/H]$ values serve as excellent tracers of the abundance gradient along the Galactic disk, as well as many other important disk properties, including the age-metallicity relation (AMR) and evolution of the abundance gradient (Chen et al. 2003).

We expect the LAMOST low Galactic latitude survey to observe ~ 300 OCs, obtaining stellar RVs as well as abundance information of stars complete to R -band 16 mag in the cluster fields. This will give the largest spectroscopic data set for studying the Milky Way's OCs.

The large amount of up-to-date homogeneous OC data from LAMOST would lead to the most reliable membership determination for sample clusters, using accurate RV data. These will significantly purify the color-magnitude diagrams of hundreds of OCs and provide the best basis for obtaining the essential parameters of clusters, such as distances and ages.

Delicately selected “standard open clusters” (e.g., M67, see Smolinski et al. 2011) can play a role as “models” for calibrating LAMOST observations and the data-processing pipeline. On the other hand, well characterized clusters can also be used as calibration tools when combined with appropriate evolutionary models. Also, the M67 field could supply good targets for detecting or verifying possible tidal tails of these stellar clusters.

By utilizing RVs and proper motions from outside catalogs, one would be able to trace the structure and kinematics of the disk as a function of position in the Galaxy, especially in the following aspects:

- (1) The depth of LAMOST will allow the 3-D structure of the northern Galactic warp (Guijarro et al. 2010) in the Galaxy to be traced, using giants and red clump stars in distant clusters;
- (2) Kinematic data of OCs will also allow us to systematically study the Galactocentric rotation velocity, which will provide definitive estimates of the mass of the Galaxy, and also the principal scale parameter – the distance of the Sun from the Galactic center, R_{\odot} ;
- (3) By combining chemical abundances and ages of OCs, one will be able to probe the correlations between age, velocity, and abundance as a function of position in the Galaxy (Yu et al. 2012).

2.6 Hypervelocity Stars

The existence of hypervelocity stars (HVSs) with velocity higher than the escape velocity of the Galaxy was predicted by Hills (1988). HVSs are thought to be ejected from the very center of the Galaxy. The ejection mechanisms may include tidal disruption of tight binary stars by the central massive black hole (MBH) or interaction between single stars and an intermediate mass black hole inspiralling towards the central MBH (e.g., Hills 1988; Yu & Tremaine 2003). Since the first discovery of an HVS (SDSS J090745.0+024507, a $g' = 19.8$ B9 star at a Galactocentric distance of ~ 110 kpc with a heliocentric RV of $\sim 850 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) by Brown et al. (2005), about 19 HVSs have been found (see Edelman et al. 2005; Hirsch et al. 2005; Brown et al. 2006a,b, 2007a,b, 2012). HVSs,

linking the central MBH to the Galactic halo, can be used to probe a variety of properties of the Galaxy on scales from ~ 5 pc to $\sim 10^5$ pc (Kenyon et al. 2008). The trajectories of HVSs provide unique constraints on the shape of the potential of the Galaxy's dark matter halo (Gnedin et al. 2005; Yu & Madau 2007). The distributions of the velocities and rates of HVSs enable us to pin down the ejection mechanisms. The density, velocity, and stellar type distributions of HVSs also tell us about the environment around the central MBH and the stellar mass distribution near the MBH (e.g., Brown et al. 2006a; Kollmeier & Gould 2007; Lu et al. 2007). HVSs may also have connections to the S stars in the disk near the central MBH (e.g., Lu et al. 2010) and may provide clues to the growth of the MBH (e.g., Bromley et al. 2012). A large sample of HVSs is clearly desired for all the above studies.

At present, only one HVS, US 708, is an extremely He-rich sdO star in the Galactic halo, with a heliocentric RV of $+708 \pm 15$ km s $^{-1}$. Hirsch et al. (2005) speculated that US 708 was formed by the merger of two He white dwarfs (WDs) in a close binary induced by the interaction with the super-massive black hole (SMBH) in the Galactic center and then escaped. Recently, Perets (2009) suggested that US 708 may have been ejected as a binary from a triple disruption by an SMBH, which later evolved and merged to form an sdO star. However, the evolutionary lifetime of US 708 is not long enough if it originated from the Galactic center. Wang & Han (2009) found that the surviving companions from the WD + helium star channel of type Ia supernova (SN Ia) progenitors have a high spatial velocity (>400 km s $^{-1}$) after an SN Ia explosion, which could be an alternative origin for HVSs, especially for HVSs such as US 708 (see also Justham et al. 2009). Considering the local velocity nearby the Sun (~ 220 km s $^{-1}$), Wang & Han (2009) found that about 30% of the surviving companions of SNe Ia may be observed to have velocity above 700 km s $^{-1}$. In addition, an asymmetric SN explosion may also enhance the velocity of the surviving companion. Thus, a surviving companion star in the WD + helium star channel of SNe Ia may have a high velocity like US 708.

An alternate origin for HVSs was proposed by Abadi et al. (2009), who suggested that some of the stars could be from the tidal disruption of dwarf galaxies.

We estimate the potential of discovering HVSs from a spectroscopic survey of stars by LAMOST. As a baseline, we assume a survey area of 16 000 square degrees and a magnitude limit of $r = 19.5$. According to the LEGUE halo target selection (Fan et al. 2012; Carlin et al. 2012), all A- and B-type stars will be selected and a significant fraction of stars down to M-type will be selected. Current searches for HVSs usually preselect B-type stars as targets for spectroscopic observations to increase the success rate by reducing the contamination of old halo stars. Identifying hypervelocity stars from the LAMOST survey is essentially straightforward once the spectra are acquired, and it is not limited to B-type stars. Based on ~ 10 HVSs discovered, Brown et al. (2007b) estimate the space density of $3\text{--}4M_{\odot}$ (main sequence B stars, $M_V \sim 0$) HVSs to be $(0.077 \pm 0.008)R^{-2}$ kpc $^{-3}$, where R is the Galactocentric distance in units of kpc. With a magnitude limit of $r=19.5$, the LAMOST survey can reach $R \sim 80$ kpc for B stars, and the above space density implies that 30 ± 3 B-type HVSs are expected to exist in the survey area of 16 000 square degrees. The LAMOST survey can also discover a large number of other types of HVSs, about 180 (830) HVSs down to $0.8M_{\odot}$ if a Salpeter (Galactic bulge) initial mass function (IMF) is assumed. The above predicted numbers are proportional to the survey area. They also depend on the limiting magnitude — one magnitude brighter would lead to a factor of 1.585 lower in these numbers, since the numbers are proportional to the Galactocentric distance R that can be reached given that the number density is proportional to $1/R^2$.

Compared with the present HVS sample, the LAMOST survey will likely increase the HVS sample by about one order of magnitude or more. In addition to this, LAMOST will discover a large sample of bound HVSs (with RVs in the range between ~ 275 and ~ 450 km s $^{-1}$; e.g., Brown et al. 2007a) and possibly binary HVSs. The large statistical sample of HVSs of different types discovered

by LAMOST will be a powerful tool to deepen our understanding of the properties of the Galaxy, from the very center to the outer halo.

2.7 Three Dimensional Extinction Map Across the Disk

Due to the existence of tremendous amounts of dust, it is extremely difficult, but important, to trace the three dimensional distribution of dust along the disk. Kiszkurno et al. (1984) presented a 3D distribution of extinction in the Galactic disk based on UBV photometry of a limited number of OB stars. However, both the spatial coverage and number density of the sample of OB stars are low, which makes it difficult to perform accurate extinction corrections.

The magnitude limited spectroscopic survey allows for the first systematic census of OB stars in the Galactic disk. The high luminosity of OB stars helps to trace three dimensional extinction at larger distances, which provides a key data set for subsequent studies of objects in the Galactic disk, including exploration of the structure and distribution of dust clouds, and the nature of dust grains. Spectra of luminous OB stars penetrating foreground star forming regions provide important information on spatial distribution and physical scales of dust in different regions. This LAMOST legacy survey, along with various data sets in the infrared (e.g. 2MASS, UKIDSS, Spitzer, Herschel) and sub-mm (e.g. JCMT, ALMA), provides important information on the 3D distribution of extinction across the disk. Once available, the 3D extinction map will allow for the first time detailed quantitative accounts of photometric corrections along any line of sight.

Other less luminous, but more numerous, stars in the disk can be used to trace the three dimensional distribution of dust in the solar neighborhood. For brighter stars with high quality photometry, and spectra at both $R = 1800$ and $R = 5000$, we will be able to disentangle the star's temperature, surface gravity, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, $[\alpha/\text{H}]$, and reddening. The reddening along each line of sight will be an important tool for mapping the local dust extinction.

2.8 A Complete Census of Comparatively Evolved Young Stellar Objects

The Herbig & Bell Catalog (HBC; Herbig & Bell 1988), which has long been serving as an important source for detailed investigations of the formation and early evolution of solar-like stars, included 735 emission line stars serendipitously discovered toward the Orion constellation. LEGUE could produce a nearly complete census of comparatively evolved Young Stellar Objects, classical T Tauri stars and weak lined T Tauri stars (WTTS), over the portion of the Galactic plane surveyed. These data will be a treasured legacy of LAMOST for studies of the history of large-scale star and cluster formation across the disk. The spatial distribution of WTTS, combined with results from multi-wavelength studies of star formation in e.g. the infrared and/or sub-mm observations will provide important clues to our understanding of how star and cluster formation propagates through giant molecular complexes.

3 OBSERVING CONSTRAINTS

The LEGUE survey is designed to serve the science objectives, subject to the constraints of the telescope system (Zhao et al. 2012). Since the telescope is constrained to operate within 2 hours of the meridian, and a typical exposure set of three 30-min exposures takes about two hours to observe, there is a very small range of right ascension that can be observed at any given time. This fact combined with the weather patterns (see Yao et al. 2012) means that the telescope will have very little observing time towards the Galactic center, since the Galactic center is observable only in the summer when it is almost always too humid to observe. Most of the available clear weather will be when the Galactic anticenter is up in the winter months.

Because Mirror B (the downward facing Schmidt primary) is fixed, the effective collecting area of the telescope and the quality of the point spread function depends on the hour angle and decli-

nation of the observations. The largest collecting area and smallest point-spread function (PSF) are when Mirror A (the Schmidt corrector) and Mirror B are nearly aligned at $\delta = -10^\circ$. However, at very low declinations the air mass is large, so there is high atmospheric extinction and distortion. Thus, considering all factors, the optimal image quality is found at around $20 < \delta < 30^\circ$. At all declinations, 20% of the light is lost at the edges of the field of view due to vignetting.

At declinations above $\delta = 60^\circ$, the PSF at the edge of the focal plane becomes so large that observations are restricted to a 3° field of view instead of the full 5° field of view. Because the fiber positions are nearly fixed, we lose 64% of the fibers as well as 64% of the field of view. The best observing conditions are expected in a declination range $10^\circ < \delta < 50^\circ$ and within two hours of the meridian, with the additional constraint that for $10^\circ < \delta < 20^\circ$ the observations are within 1.5 hours of the meridian. Within this range, there will be a reasonable consistency of observations and a PSF that puts most of the light inside the fibers. Outside of this range, the performance is largely unknown, and in many cases could be substantially worse than this recommended operating region.

The fibers are positioned with robotic arms that operate within $3.15'$ of their nominal positions, which are about $4.7'$ apart. The survey targets must be fairly evenly distributed on the sky; at most seven fibers can be placed within any circular sky area with radius of about $3.15'$. If an OC is $20'$ in diameter, we can place at most about 50 fibers on stars within the cluster's diameter, and those must be fairly uniformly distributed over the cluster area. We can select fewer than 20 targets in the vicinity of a globular cluster with tidal radius of $10'$. In addition to limiting our ability to sample stars in clusters, the constraints on uniformity of the fiber positioning system make it difficult to do completely filled surveys of any area of the sky.

In a single pointing, LAMOST places 4000 fibers in 20 deg^2 of sky, which comes to about $200 \text{ fibers deg}^{-2}$. This is comparable to the fiber density in SEGUE, though SEGUE required two visits to each position on the sky to achieve $180 \text{ fibers deg}^{-2}$ (note also that with multiple visits, LAMOST can easily increase the target density to 600 deg^{-2} or more).

The spectrographs are designed for $R = 1000$ gratings and $R = 5000$ gratings. The wavelength range is 3700 to $\sim 9000 \text{ \AA}$ for $R = 1000$ gratings. Because we need better resolution than this to achieve the required velocity resolution and to measure elemental abundances, we place slits that are $2/3$ of the fiber diameter in front of the fibers. In theory, this should block 20% of the light and corresponds to the resolution of $R = 1800$. The LEGUE spectra will be similar to SEGUE spectra, with RVs and metallicities determined to $\sim 7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and 0.3 dex, respectively.

The $R = 5000$ gratings will yield two pieces of the spectrum that are 350 \AA wide, one in the red and one in the blue. The blue wavelength coverage is centered around 5300 \AA to sample the metal lines, including Mgb (5175 \AA). The red segment covers the spectral range $8400\text{--}8750 \text{ \AA}$, sampling the CaII (triplet), FeI, TiI, etc., which are ideal for measuring the RV, $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$, and detailed chemical abundances. The red portion of the $R = 5000$ wavelength coverage and resolution are comparable to that of the RAVE experiment. The accuracies in measuring RV and $[\text{Fe}/\text{H}]$ at $R = 5000$ are expected to be 1 km s^{-1} and 0.1 dex, respectively. These gratings will not be available in the first year of the survey, so $R = 5000$ observations will not start immediately.

Due to weather constraints, we have very little opportunity to observe at right ascensions of 16h to 22h. The part of the sky for which we will have the greatest number of observations is 2h to 8h, when fields near the Galactic anticenter are available. When planning the survey, we must ensure that there are always fields available at each right ascension when it becomes available.

4 SPHEROID, DISK AND ANTICENTER COMPONENTS

The LEGUE spectroscopic survey is divided into three major parts, which have different magnitude, selection, and signal-to-noise requirements. The three components of the Galaxy that will be surveyed by LEGUE are (1) the spheroid, (2) the Galactic anticenter, and (3) the disk. Science related

to the spheroid requires the faintest targets, and is most similar to the SEGUE survey. The anticenter survey takes advantage of the fact that the majority of the good weather at the Xinglong is in the winter months when the Galactic anticenter is high in the sky to do a statistical sampling of this important part of the Galaxy. The disk survey will sample bright stars, particularly those in OCs, when the Moon is bright. In the disk there are enough stars to populate the LAMOST fibers even at bright magnitude limits. In each of the three components, we will strive to achieve the best possible science with every fiber and photon that is available to the telescope while targeting stars of all types to provide a large serendipitous discovery space.

4.1 Spheroid Survey

We will perform a spectroscopic survey of at least 2.5 million stars selected from SDSS (I, II, III) imaging with $|b| > 20^\circ$, at a density of 320 stars per square degree or higher, over two contiguous areas: one in the north Galactic cap and one in the south Galactic cap, totaling 5000 square degrees of sky or more. In the north Galactic cap, brighter stars will be observed when the weather is not pristine and the footprints of the disk/anticenter surveys are not visible in the sky. At least 90% of the survey plates will be in this contiguous area, and at least 90% of the science fibers on each plate will be assigned based on a set of uniform survey criteria, using r , $(g - r)$, and $(r - i)$. Using these criteria, we can target essentially all blue O, B, A, and WD stars, and a statistically significant fraction of the high latitude F turnoff, K giant, M giant, and $0.1 < (g - r) < 1.0$ stars.

Because we cannot observe all possible targets, we will employ weighted random sampling to select stars from all possible spectral types and classes (see Carlin et al. 2012). There will not be separate individual selections for each type of star, as was used in SEGUE I. The target selection algorithm will be similar to the spheroid target selection algorithms used for the pilot survey (Zhang et al. 2012; Yang et al. 2012). It will still be complicated to calculate the fraction of spectra observed for any given color, magnitude, and position on the sky, because the fraction of stars observed will depend on the star density and the number of times that part of the sky was observed; in higher density regions and the first plates observed in a given part of the sky, a higher fraction of the spectra will be of relatively rare objects in less populated regions of color and magnitude.

4.2 Anticenter Survey

The anticenter survey will cover the region $150^\circ < l < 210^\circ$ and $-30^\circ < b < 30^\circ$, sampling a significant volume of the thin/thick disks as well as the halo. We will use the Xuyi photometric survey to select target stars, aiming for an even coverage across multidimensional $r, g - r, r - i$ color-magnitude space as well as in spatial distribution on the sky whenever possible, to minimize selection biases. We plan to survey an average of 1000 stars per square degree for $|b| > 2.5^\circ$ and twice that for lower Galactic latitudes. In total, approximately 3.7 million stars in the ~ 3600 square degree region will be surveyed, of which about a third (1.2 million) are faint and 2.5 million are bright. There is a significant overlap between the Disk Survey and the bright portion of the Anticenter Survey. There is also a significant overlap between the faint portion of the anticenter survey and the spheroid survey.

4.3 Disk Survey

We define the disk survey as the Low Galactic Latitude Survey, which will observe as much of the disk with $-20^\circ < b < 20^\circ$ as can be covered from the Xinglong, given the latitude and weather constraints, while including all known OCs in this region (see Chen et al. 2012 for an overview of the disk survey). Therefore the region for $150^\circ \leq l \leq 210^\circ$ will be a subset of the Galactic anticenter survey, for which the input catalog will be selected from the Xuyi photometric survey. If this survey is not available in a particular region of the sky, then targets will be selected from UCAC3 and

2MASS. Note that from the Xinglong station, the $20^\circ \leq l \leq 80^\circ$ region of the disk will be poorly sampled, due to a limited number of clear nights in summer.

We will perform a spectroscopic survey of at least three million $r < 16$ Galactic disk stars. The total region of sky available to survey is about 6000 square degrees. We would like 1000 objects per square degree (requiring five visits to each field), which means we will likely only cover 3000 of those square degrees. Weather statistics indicate that the area the anticenter will get good coverage. The priority for the other regions will be to get lower latitude stars because that is where the OCs live. The highest priority targets will be OC members; the remainder of the fibers will be placed on stars using a weighted random sampling of optical color and proper motion.

In addition, we will obtain $R = 5000$ spectra of stars that have already been observed at lower resolution, starting in year two or three of the survey. By that time, we will have multiple coverings, so the most interesting objects from the $R = 1800$ survey can be selected. The $R = 5000$ data are most useful if we already have $R = 1800$ data, since $R = 5000$ will give precise α and other elemental abundances, once the other stellar parameters are known from lower-resolution spectra. The photometry is not sufficient to get temperature in highly reddened regions. However, if we have $R = 1800$ and $R = 5000$ spectra combined with Xuyi photometry, then we will be able to determine accurate stellar parameters, alpha abundances, and reddening for each star. Furthermore, the study of internal OC kinematics requires RV accuracies of $1\text{--}2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (on the order of the velocity dispersions in OCs) provided by $R = 5000$ spectra.

Since each fiber has a limited range of motion in the focal plane, we need four plates on each OC to obtain enough data to study their properties. These clusters are extremely important for calibration of the RVs as well as the stellar parameters, and are an interesting science project in their own right. There are enough OCs near the Galactic plane that there is little difference between specially targeting the OCs and surveying all areas of the sky.

By necessity, the majority of the disk fibers will be placed on stars that are not in OCs. These spectra will be vital for studying the local dynamical and chemical structure of the disk, looking for substructure and gradients in disk properties, studying disk moving groups, obtaining a complete sample of young stellar objects, and studying disk dust and extinction in three dimensions.

5 SAMPLE SURVEY STRATEGY

The number of spectra obtained is set by the number of clear nights per year at the Xinglong Observing Station, the number of fibers, the estimated exposure time, and a reasonable length of time for the proposed experiment. From a study of actual observatory weather information over a four year period, we expect about 1700 hours or 212 nights (1400 hours or 175 nights from September through April) per year. About 25% of the nights are good nights in which the faint plates can be observed. Three quarters of the time is dark/grey. Therefore there are about 263 hours (33 nights per year) in which we can take dark plates. We will assume that 10% of the good nights will be lost due to mechanical failures.

It takes one hour to adjust the mirrors at the beginning of the night in twilight, and another hour to adjust the mirrors in the middle of the night. The overhead for readout, slew, and fiber positioning is about half an hour. For 1.5 hour exposure times, (split into three 30 minute exposures) taken in dark/grey time, we can obtain three or four fields per night. The required exposure time on bright plates varies, but is typically 30 minutes of exposure for $R = 1800$ and 60 minutes of exposure for $R = 5000$. With this exposure time we can take 6–7 fields per clear night at $R = 1800$ and 4–5 fields per clear night at $R = 5000$. After the first year, the bright targets will be re-observed with the $R = 5000$ gratings in place. The bright plates are observed when the Moon is bright or when the transparency is poor. The bright targets are observed about 80% of the time. With 3500 science fibers assigned per plate (the other fibers are used for calibration), we can observe 1.2 million bright

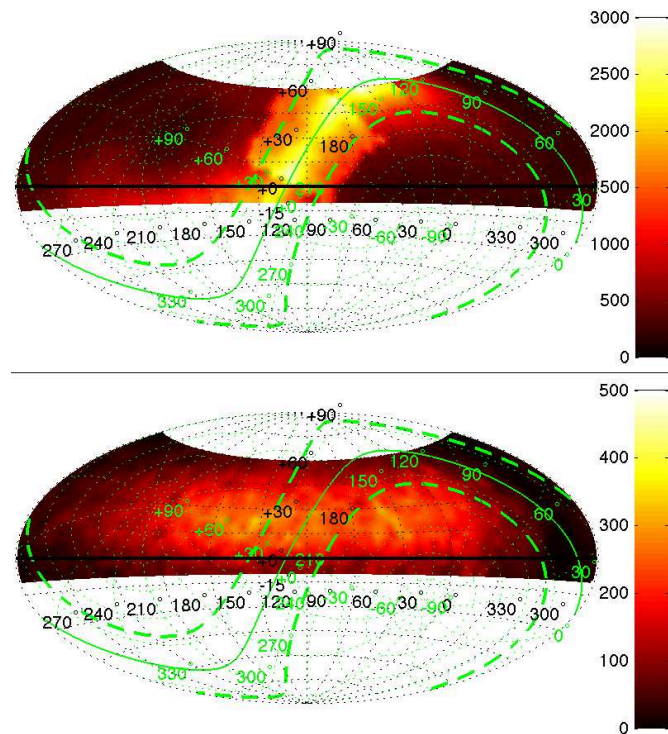


Fig. 1 The expected number density of LEGUE survey spectra (spectra deg^{-2}) in the whole visible sky with weather conditions and Moon phase considered (see Yao et al. 2012). The density is coded in color, with the scale shown in the sidebar. The Galactic plane is shown by the green solid thin line. The two dotted green lines indicate the limit between halo and disk regions of the survey (set at $b = |\pm 20^\circ|$). The upper panel shows the predicted number density of spectra observed on bright nights, when the Moon is above the horizon and whenever the sky is not perfectly transparent; resolutions at both $R = 1800$ and $R = 5000$ will be used. The lower panel shows the predicted number density of spectra observed on dark nights (with $R = 1800$ only). The high density area (in yellow) prominent in the upper panel is the Galactic anticenter area. Both panels are in equatorial coordinates; the Galactic coordinate tick marks are also given.

targets and 675 000 faint targets per year, where we have included both $R = 1800$ and $R = 5000$ observations for the bright targets.

To be clear, the low and medium resolution spectra will not be taken at the same time, or even in the same year. Changing the gratings requires that the spectrographs be re-calibrated, which will be done during daylight hours, and the $R = 5000$ gratings will not be available in the first year of the survey. In the first year of the survey, we expect to obtain 2.4 million $R = 1800$ spectra of bright targets.

Figure 1 shows a simulation of the number of targets per deg^2 that could be obtained, with these selection criteria considered over the course of a five year LAMOST survey, taking weather and Moon statistics into consideration, in Equatorial coordinates (Aitoff projection). The simulation was made for the five years 2012.10–2017.10. The constraints due to weather and other site conditions used for the simulation are discussed in detail by Yao et al. (2012).

The assumptions used to build the model in Figure 1 were more optimistic than we used in this proposal. All of the observations in the Galactic plane assume 10 plates observed per clear, moonlit

night, and the observations in the spheroid assumed that all clear weather had high transparency and four plates were observed per night. The large number of fibers in the anticenter region reflects our priority for observing a statistical sample in this region.

In the LEGUE survey, we will make the survey area as contiguous as possible. At any given time, the right ascension of the observations is nearly fixed, but there is freedom to change the declination. We will begin our observations at a fixed declination. As more plates are observed, we will add on to the contiguous area to the north and south. The low latitude regions of the survey (which are near the anticenter) will be covered many times, so the survey strategy will optimize contiguous and uniform coverage.

The survey time may be shared with an extragalactic survey, though the start of the extragalactic survey is likely to be delayed. The extragalactic survey (LEGAS) will operate only in the spheroid region, and could take as much as 2/3 of the dark/grey observing time once it begins. The LEGAS survey does not have high enough target density to use all of the fibers in each plate, so remaining fibers are allocated to LEGUE stellar targets. In practice LEGAS is unlikely to use more than about half of the dark/grey fibers.

6 FUTURE PLANNING

The LEGUE survey will begin in fall 2012. The survey will include at least 2.5 million fainter spectra in the spheroid and anticenter regions, and at least 5 million brighter spectra, concentrated towards the Galactic plane. The target selection algorithms will be updated versions of the target selection algorithms used for the pilot survey, considering the pilot survey results. Due to the uncertainty in the start date of the extragalactic (LEGAS) portion of the survey, the length of time required to complete the survey is uncertain. At the rates estimated in this paper, the survey can be completed in four years, but the actual time to completion may be longer if LEGUE does not use all of the telescope time.

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