A detailed study of the enigmatic cluster M82F

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ABSTRACT

We present a detailed study of the stellar cluster M82F, using multiband high-resolution Hubble Space Telescope (HST) imaging and deep ground-based optical slit and integral field spectroscopy. Using the imaging, we create colour maps of the cluster and surrounding region in order to search for substructure. We find a large amount of substructure, which we interpret as the result of differential extinction across the projected face of the cluster. With this interpretation, we are able to construct a spatially resolved extinction map across the cluster which is used to derive the intrinsic flux distribution. Fitting cluster profiles (King and Elson, Fall & Freeman) to the intrinsic images, we find that the cluster is 15–30 per cent larger than previous estimates, and that no strong evidence of mass segregation in this cluster exists. Using the optical spectra, we find that the age of M82F is 60–80 Myr and from its velocity conclude that the cluster is not physically associated with a large HII region that it is projected upon, both in agreement with previous studies. The reconstructed integral field maps show that majority of the line emission comes from a nearby HII region. The spatial dependence of the line widths (implying the presence of multiple components) measured corresponds to the extinction map derived from photometry, indicating that the gas/dust clouds responsible for the extinction are also partially ionized. Even with the wealth of observations presented here, we do not find a conclusive solution to the problem of the high light-to-mass ratio previously found for this cluster and its possible top-heavy stellar initial mass function.

Key words: galaxies: individual: M82 – galaxies: starburst – galaxies: star clusters.

1 INTRODUCTION

The young massive cluster M82F in the starburst galaxy M82 has received a considerable amount of attention in recent years. It has been the focus of medium- and high-resolution, optical and near-infrared (IR) spectroscopy as well as high-resolution, space-based imaging (Gallagher & Smith 1999, hereafter GS99; Smith & Gallagher 2001; McCrady, Graham & Vacca 2005, hereafter MGV05; Bastian & Goodwin 2006). These observations have produced some surprising results. These results can be summarized as follows. The age of M82F is 60 ± 20 Myr despite being spatially coincident with an HII region. The stellar initial mass function (IMF) within the cluster is extremely top-heavy with many fewer stars below 2–3 $M_\odot$ than expected for a normal IMF, while the radius appears to change as a function of wavelength, possibly indicating a large amount of mass segregation. Additionally, M82F displays an excess of light at large radii indicating that the cluster may not be in dynamical equilibrium.

Smith & Gallagher (2001, hereafter SG01) found that although M82F is spatially coincident with a large HII region (in projection), the cluster velocity seems to differ from that of the HII region by ~25 km s$^{-1}$, as inferred from emission lines, and hence may not be physically associated with it. These authors (also see GS99) conclude that M82F is deep within the galaxy and that we are seeing the cluster through a chance line-of-sight of relatively low extinction. The magnitude of the extinction is also a matter of some debate, as different authors obtain discrepant values of the amount of extinction for M82F, with SG01 and MGV05 reporting $A_V$ values of 2.8 mag and 0.6–1.1, respectively.

The estimate of extinction is one of the essential ingredients when attempting to calculate the stellar IMF by comparing the ratio of light to dynamical mass estimates, with that of simple stellar population (SSP) models (all stars are coeval and assumed to have the same metallicity). Other required parameters are the age, velocity dispersion, effective radius, distance to the source and the observed...
magnitude. Once these ingredients are assembled, and assuming that the cluster is in virial equilibrium, one can place the cluster in the luminosity to dynamical mass (L/M$_{\text{dyn}}$) versus age diagram along with the corresponding predictions of SSP models composed of varying IMFs.

Using the L/M$_{\text{dyn}}$ as a diagnostic, SG01 and MGV05 have concluded that M82F is unique in that it may have an extremely top-heavy stellar IMF as it contains many fewer stars below 2 or 3 M$_{\odot}$ than predicted by a standard Salpeter (1955) IMF. Other explanations of the derived position in the L/M$_{\text{dyn}}$ versus age diagram are errors in the age, radius, velocity dispersion or extinction in previous studies or that the cluster is not in virial equilibrium. Goodwin & Bastian (2006) have shown that M82F is also unique in the age, radius, velocity dispersion or extinction in previous studies or that the cluster is not in virial equilibrium. However, Goodwin & Bastian (2006) have shown that M82F is also unique in the age versus L/M$_{\text{dyn}}$ plane, being the only young massive extragalactic cluster which is not consistent with SSP models when one includes the effects of rapid residual gas expulsion on the dynamics of young clusters.

Using high-resolution imaging, MGV05 have reported a change in the effective radius as a function of wavelength, consistent with the presence of a large amount of mass segregation. Using the same data, Bastian & Goodwin (2006) found an excess of light at large radii in the luminosity profile of the cluster, consistent with the idea that the cluster is not in virial equilibrium. However, Goodwin & Bastian (2006) have shown that M82F is extremely subvirial (i.e. the velocity dispersion is much too low for the estimated luminous mass present) if it has a normal IMF, the opposite as would be expected for residual gas expulsion.

A possible solution to the above discrepancies would be that M82F is younger than presumed in the previous studies, i.e. closer to ∼10 Myr than to 60 Myr. The age of a cluster, if assumed to consist of a SSP, can be determined through comparison of the photometry of the background does not significantly affect any of the results presented here. We then corrected the summed fluxes for aperture losses based on the calibrations presented in Sirianni et al. (2005), namely 0.16, 0.11, 0.10 and 0.21 mag in the V, I and J filters, respectively.

To account for the red-leak apparent in UV filters, we corrected the F250W flux counts by 20 per cent. This value was estimated from the calibrations provided by Sirianni et al. (2005). The red-leak was corrected in the photometry of the models as well. Once the magnitude of each pixel is known for each band (background subtracted), we then generate colour maps in order to search for substructure within the cluster and surrounding region. These are shown in Fig. 1.

At the assumed distance to M82 of 3.6 Mpc, 1 HRC pixel of 0.025 arcsec corresponds to 0.44 pc.

## 2 OBSERVATIONS

### 2.1 HST/HRC imaging

The images used in the current study were taken from the HST archive fully reduced by the standard automatic pipeline (bias correction, flat-field and dark subtracted) and drizzled (using the Multi-Drizzle package – Koekemoer et al. 2002) to correct for geometric distortions, remove cosmic rays, mask bad pixels and resample the images to a constant pixel scale of 0.025 arcsec. The observations are presented in detail in MGV05 and consist of High-Resolution Camera (HRC) observations in the F250W, F435W, F555W and F814W (Prop ID: 9473, PI W.D. Vacca). For the remainder of the current study, we will refer to these bands interchangeably as UV, B, V and I, although we emphasize that no transformations have been applied. Total exposure times for the UV, B, V and J images were 10 160, 1320, 400 and 120 s, respectively. The images were aligned using point sources throughout the images as reference calibrators, using the B band as the reference image, with the GEOMAP and GEOTRANS routines in IRAF. Transformations are accurate (rms) to better than ∼0.2 pixels in the V and I images, while it is 0.4 pixels in the UV images due to the lower flux. Accurate alignments were necessary to create precise colour maps (e.g. Seth et al. 2006).

Photometry was carried out on each pixel separately, using the zero-points given in Sirianni et al. (2005). In order to correct for light losses for each pixel, we applied the wavelength-dependent aperture corrections of Sirianni et al. (2005), extrapolated to a single pixel aperture, to the measured magnitudes. This resulted in colour changes of −0.06 mag in UV − B and 0.22 in V − I.

Additionally, we carried out aperture photometry for M82F by summing all of the flux within a radius of 15 pixels. We then used the same background estimate as was done to make the colour maps (see next section), namely a ring with inner and outer radius of 50 and 54 pixels, respectively. We note that the precise location of the background does not significantly affect any of the results presented here. We then corrected the summed fluxes for aperture losses based on the calibrations presented in Sirianni et al. (2005), namely 0.16, 0.11, 0.10 and 0.21 mag in the UV, B, V and J filters, respectively.

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### 2.2 Spectroscopy

#### 2.2.1 Slit spectroscopy

We supplement the above data set with deep optical spectra taken of M82F in multi-object spectrograph mode (MOS) using GMOS on Gemini-North. The data are part of a larger program to obtain spectroscopy of the cluster population in M82 (Prog. ID: GN-2006A-Q-38; PI L.J. Smith). The observations were taken on the night of 2006 May 4 and consisted of eight individual exposures of 30 min each for a total exposure time of 4 h. Full details of the reduction and data processing will be presented elsewhere. In brief, we used the B600 grating with a slit width of 0.75 arcsec in 2 × 2 binning mode. The data were calibrated using a combination of the Gemini IRAF package and custom routines. The spectra were extracted and wavelength calibrated using arc frames, and finally combined to remove cosmic rays. Flux calibrations were performed using a response function derived from the standard star Wolf 1346.
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2.2.2 Integral field spectroscopy

In addition to the slit spectroscopy discussed above, we have also obtained Integral Field Unit (IFU) spectroscopy of M82F and its surroundings using GMOS on Gemini-North (Prog. ID GN-2007A-Q-21; PI L.J. Smith). The data were taken on the night of 2007 February 16 in two slit mode. The R831 grating was used to achieve a resolution of 60 km s\(^{-1}\) and wavelength range of 6150–6980 Å. The field of view is 5 by 7 arcsec\(^2\). Two pointings of 900 s each were obtained, along with a sky field placed 1 arcmin away. The orientation of the pointings was chosen such that the sky field was outside the galactic disc and in a region not contaminated by the galactic superwind of M82.

The basic reductions of the data were done using a combination of the Gemini IRAF package and custom reduction techniques. All science images were bias-subtracted and then flat-fielded with Gcal (Gemini Calibration Unit) flats and twilight flats which were co-added and normalized. Spectra were extracted and wavelength calibrated with solutions obtained from the arc exposures. The spectra were cosmic-ray cleaned and the sky was subtracted (using the same techniques as above) and flux calibrated using the response function derived from the flux standard star Wolf 1346. As a last step, the two datacubes were resampled to 0.1 arcsec per spatial pixel (spaxel) and combined, which resulted in a 73 × 49 spectral cube.
3 RESULTS

3.1 Substructure in M82F

In Fig. 1, we show the colour maps of $UV-B$, $B-V$ and $V-I$ for M82F and the surrounding region. Solid contours show the observed $B$-band flux. Star clusters are generally assumed to be SSPs, therefore we would expect each pixel to have the same colour. However, it is clear that there is considerable substructure within M82F, which is present in all the colour maps. Often, this small-scale structure is also distinguishable in the observed flux levels.

In particular, we note regions of redder colour to the north-west and south-east of the centre of the cluster. These structures are clearly visible in the $UV-B$ image (top left panel of Fig. 1) and also present in all the colour maps. The cluster displays bluer colours as one moves away from the cluster centre to the south-west and north-east. We note that due to the lower flux level in the UV image, the $UV-B$ colour map does not extend as far to the north-west as the $B-V$ and $V-I$ maps, hence the ‘red’ region to the north-west of the later images does not appear in the $UV-B$ map. We find substructure throughout the projected face of the cluster in all of the colour maps shown in Fig. 1, along with good agreement in the position, shape and relative intensity of the substructures in each of the maps.

In order to search for the origin of this substructure, we show in Fig. 2 the $(UV-B)$ versus $(V-I)$ colour distribution for each pixel in M82F and the surrounding area. We also show two extinction vectors for $A_V=1$ mag, where the longer arrow (open head) is for a standard Galactic extinction law of Savage & Mathis (1979) and the shorter arrow (filled head) represents the Calzetti (1997) starburst extinction law. Also plotted as a solid line we show the GALEV (Anders & Fritze v. Alvensleben 2003) SSP model tracks of Salpeter IMF, $0.4Z_\odot$ metallicity, which use the Padova stellar isochrones. These tracks have been shifted by $A_V=2.5$ mag assuming the Galactic extinction law. The dashed line shows the same SSP models (also shifted by $A_V=2.5$ mag), but now for a lower mass cut-off in their stellar IMF at $2M_\odot$ (similar to the best-fitting IMF found by SG01).

The integrated colour of M82F is shown as an open (red) star, which has been corrected for aperture losses. The colours of M82F are consistent with an age of 60 Myr and an extinction value of $A_V=2.8$ mag, as found by SG01. We note that the solar metallicity SSP models (dotted line in Fig. 2) do not reproduce the colours of M82F as well as the $0.4Z_\odot$ models. However, some care must be taken not to overinterpret this result, as the aperture corrections applied to the photometry were derived from point sources whereas the cluster is clearly resolved. The true cluster-integrated colours may be somewhat redder (especially in $V-I$) than shown here. This being the case, we cannot distinguish between the 0.4 or 1 $Z_\odot$ model tracks, although interstellar medium (ISM) studies of M82 suggest values closer to the solar value (McLeod et al. 1993), similar to that found from near-IR spectra of red supergiants (Origlia et al. 2004). However, since the SSP model tracks are parallel at these ages the choice of the model does not affect our results. Throughout the remainder of the paper, we will discuss the interpretation for both metallicities.

The fact that the pixels in M82F mainly scatter parallel to the extinction vector lends strong support to the notion that the substructure seen in the colour maps is due to differential extinction across the cluster. While some of the substructure seen in the colour maps may be due to differential ages (i.e. the extinction vector and SSP models as a function of age are somewhat parallel in the observed regime), the age derived by spectroscopy argues for an older age, namely ~60 Myr (e.g. GS99 and Section 4). Age differentials in such a small region as a cluster are expected to be much smaller, on the order of a few Myr (e.g. Elmegreen 2006), thus ruling out differential ages as a major contributor to the scatter seen in Fig. 2.

3.2 Extinction across M82F

Assuming that the substructure presented in Section 3.1 is indeed due to differential extinction, it is possible to construct an extinction map for the region. To do this, we assume that each pixel has the intrinsic colour of a SSP model with an age of 60 Myr (see Section 4). We then shift each observed pixel value along the extinction vector in $B-V$ versus $V-I$ space (the $UV$ band was not used in this analysis as the flux per pixel was too low in the outer regions) until the value closest to the intrinsic colour is reached. The resulting extinction map is shown in the top panel of Fig. 3. Again, the solid contours represent the observed $B$-band flux. We only show the region within 30 pixels from the observed centre of M82F, as outside this radius it is unclear what the intrinsic colour of each pixel should be. For this, we used a background region identical to that used to make the colour maps. We note that choosing a different age (e.g. 10 Myr) for the intrinsic colour does not change the content of Fig. 3 or the subsequent analysis, as every pixel is then corrected by the same additional factor in extinction.

1 In practice, we would expect some scatter as each pixel probably does not fully sample the mass function of stars. The scatter perpendicular to the extinction vector of Fig. 2 is presumably due to the combination of this effect and measurement errors.
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Figure 3. Top: the colours represent the extinction map of the region around M82F. Note the strong spatial dependence of the extinction. The solid contours represent the observed $B$-band flux. The bar on the right-hand side of the panel shows measured $A_V$ in magnitudes. Bottom: the solid (red) contours show the $B$-band flux after correction for the derived extinction (from upper panel). The dashed contours represent the observed $B$-band flux. The contours represent the $1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32$ and $64$ per cent flux levels of the maximum flux in the intrinsic and observed images, respectively. The orientation is the same as in the top panel and in Fig. 1. Both panels are given in pixels, where one pixel corresponds to 0.025 arcsec.

A few features stand out clearly in the extinction map (i.e. the top panel of Fig. 3). The first is a high-extinction region to the north-west of the centre of the cluster. This feature is presumably responsible for the tightening of the observed flux contours with respect to the opposite side where the distribution is much smoother. Also, on the opposite side (to the south-east) there seems to be a small patch of high extinction which is also reflected in the skewness of the observed flux contours.

Additionally, there exists a lane of high extinction which connects these two regions, passing through or near to the observed cluster centre. There also appears to be a ‘hole’ in the extinction map to the north-east of the cluster.

We note that adopting a different interstellar extinction law does not substantially affect our results. For example, if we used the extinction law of Calzetti (1997) all of the structures seen in Fig. 3 are still present, with their relative strengths preserved. However, the total amount of extinction for every pixel would increase by approximately $\Delta A_V = 0.9$ mag.

While the south-west side of the cluster also shows substantial differential extinction, the total amount of extinction is much less. On the opposite side, it is not clear if the low-extinction values represent intrinsic values as the colour of the companion cluster is much bluer (shown as magenta triangles in Fig. 2), which may simply represent a younger age. The much lower extinction estimated for the ‘companion’ cluster suggests that this cluster is not physically associated with M82F, but instead resides closer to the observer. This cluster, seen in the images and colour maps at $(x,y) = (80, 75)$, does show some evidence for differential extinction across its face, however it also seems offset from the colour of M82F. This suggests that the cluster may be younger and perhaps associated with the H II region. Unfortunately, no information exists on the velocity of this cluster (see Sections 4.2 and 5 for a discussion of the surrounding H II region).

Upon close inspection, one difference between Figs 2 and 3 can be seen, namely that the highest extinction region to the north-west of cluster centre is not present in the colour–colour plot. The reason for this is the inclusion of the UV in Fig. 2, which was excluded (due to the lower flux levels) in the derivation of the extinction. This has been checked with $B - V$ versus $V - I$ plots, which themselves do not enable us to distinguish between age and extinction, but which can be used to derive the extinction if the age is already known.

In Table 1, we list the derived extinction and absolute magnitude of M82F. The fact that the dust lanes seen on and around M82F do not display any connection to the cluster’s structure argues that the dust causing the extinction is in a ‘screen’, i.e. not intermixed with the stars of the clusters.

3.2.1 The effect of a wavelength-dependent PSF

Since HST produces near diffraction limited images, the point spread function (PSF) of the HRC is wavelength dependent (e.g. Sirianni et al. 2005). To test whether this biases our results, we have performed the following tests. We have smoothed each image with a Gaussian kernel with $\sigma = 1, 2$ and 3 pixels. Tests using the PSF images showed that smoothing with the largest value (i.e. $\sigma = 3$ pixel) effectively removed any structures in colour maps of the PSF. We then generated the extinction maps using these smoothed images and searched for differences between these maps and the unsmoothed map. Even with the lower resolution, all of the major structures discussed above are still present, namely the high-extinction regions to the north-west and the south-east of the centre of the cluster.

| Parameter | Value |
|-----------|-------|
| Age       | 50–70 Myr |
| $R_{\text{eff}}$ | $2.63 \pm 0.32$ pc |
| $A_V$     | 2–4 mag |
| $M_V$     | $-14.3 \pm 0.2$ mag$^a$ |
| $\sigma$  | $13.4 \pm 0.7$ km s$^{-1}$ |
| $L/M_{\odot}$ | $42 \pm 10 M_{\odot}$ |

$^a$Using an aperture of 20 pixels and the background region defined in the text. Measured from the intrinsic $V$-band image (i.e. extinction-corrected image).

$^b$Taken from SG01.
Additionally, we can use the colour images in Fig. 1 to search for PSF effects. The PSF for the F435W and the F555W is very similar to each other, compared to the F814W PSF (Sirianni et al. 2005). Furthermore, the F250W and F435W have very similar PSFs. Therefore, we expect to see the same substructure in the \( U - B \) and \( B - V \) images as in the derived extinction map. In fact, this is what we find. Again, the two high-extinction regions (to the north-west and south-east) of the centre, along with a general filament across the cluster, can be seen as redder colours in both of these colour maps. Additionally, we see the small ‘hole’ in the extinction to the north-east of the cluster centre.

Thus, we conclude that the wavelength dependence of the PSF is not significantly affecting the results presented here.

### 3.3 The intrinsic shape of M82F

Using the derived extinction map shown in the top panel of Fig. 3, we can correct the observed flux per pixel for reddening, and derive the intrinsic flux distribution (referred to as the intrinsic image) of M82F. This is shown in the bottom panel of Fig. 3, where the intrinsic \( B \)-band flux contours are shown as solid (red) lines and the observed flux contours are shown as dashed (black) lines. Both sets of contour levels are shown as 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 and 64 per cent of their maximum values. The companion cluster, at \((x, y) = (80, 75)\), still appears in the intrinsic image (as an extended lobe to the north-east of the centre of M82F), although its presence is somewhat weaker than in the original images. This is due to its bluer colour, which, when Fig. 3 is produced, is assumed to reflect a lower extinction. However, as can be seen in Fig. 2 the companion does seem shifted in colour space, suggesting a younger age. Thus, the corrected image in this region is more uncertain and will not be used in the following analysis.

As a test of the significance of the derived extinction and contour maps, we have added Poissonian noise to the observed images and carried out the same analysis as given above. We did not find any notable differences in the derived maps; thus we conclude that the main features seen in the extinction map and the subsequent extinction-corrected image (contour map) are real.

In order to search for structural differences between the observed and intrinsic images, we used ISHAPER (Larsen 1999) to fit King (King 1962) and Elson, Fall & Freeman (EFF; 1987) profiles to the observed flux distributions. The King and EFF profiles feature similar central cores; however they differ in the outer regions, with the King profiles having a distinct truncation at large radii while the EFF profiles follow an asymptotic power-law fall-off without any such truncation.

For all experiments, we use a fitting radius of 15 pixels. We have generated the PSF for each filter in two different ways. First, we have used the program TINYTIM to generate a PSF at the position of M82F on the chip. Secondly, we have generated an empirically derived PSF based on observations of resolved star clusters in the Galaxy and Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC). We do not find any systematic differences between the results of the two PSFs.

For all experiments, we use a fitting radius of 15 pixels. Fitting on concentration parameters for King profiles leads to values of 8.5–11.5 for both the intrinsic and the observed profiles. We found \( \chi^2 \) values of the fits to be four times lower for the intrinsic images for the \( B \) and \( V \) bands, while they were slightly higher for the \( I \) band, compared to the observed images. The best-fitting effective radius (corrected for the ellipticity) is \( R_{\text{eff}} = 0.12, 0.12 \) and 0.11 arcsec for the observed profile of the \( B \), \( V \) and \( I \) bands, in good agreement with that found by MGV05, namely 0.120 ± 0.002, 0.123 ± 0.002 and 0.113 ± 0.002 (from their fig. 4). However, for the intrinsic profile we find \( R_{\text{eff}} = 0.13, 0.12 \) and 0.11 for the \( B \), \( V \) and \( I \) bands, respectively.

For young clusters, King profiles may not be the best representative function. Young clusters tend not to have a tidal truncation, but instead are best fitted by an EFF profile. Therefore, we have also fit EFF profiles to the images and find that they give equally good fits. The best-fitting index of the EFF profiles is 1.46 or \( \gamma = 2.92 \). The effective radius of these fits is \( \sim 13–20 \) per cent larger than that determined using a King profile in both the observed and intrinsic images. Using an EFF profile on either the intrinsic or observed images appears to eliminate the wavelength dependence of the \( R_{\text{eff}} \), therefore calling into question previous reports of mass segregation in M82F (MGV05). From the EFF profile fits carried out on the intrinsic images, we find an average, ellipticity-corrected effective radius of 0.15 arcsec, or 2.63 pc (±0.32) at the assumed distance of M82F (where the error is the standard deviation between the three filters). The derived parameters for all filters in both the intrinsic and observed images are given in Table 2.

![Figure 4](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article-abstract/379/4/1333/996881)

**Figure 4.** Top: the observed (solid blue line) and intrinsic (dash–dotted red line) ellipticity of M82F as a function of distance from the centre of the cluster. Bottom: the relative position angle (same labelling as the top panel) as a function of distance from the centre.

In order to test for degeneracies in the fit parameters, we used version 0.93.9 of ISHAPER which takes into account correlations between the filters.

| Filter   | FWHM\(^a\) (pix) | \(e^b\) | Index\(^c\) | \(R_{\text{eff}}^d\) (pc) |
|----------|------------------|--------|------------|------------------|
| **Observed** |                 |        |            |                  |
| F435W    | 6.75             | 0.58   | 1.65       | 2.22             |
| F555W    | 5.11             | 0.56   | 1.35       | 2.65             |
| F814W    | 5.70             | 0.53   | 1.59       | 1.93             |
| **Average** | 2.25 ± 0.33      |        |            |                  |
| **Intrinsic** |                |        |            |                  |
| F435W    | 6.99\(^{+0.48}_{-0.19}\) | 0.63\(^{+0.06}_{-0.05}\) | 1.58\(^{+0.28}_{-0.06}\) | 2.54\(^{+0.04}_{-0.26}\) |
| F555W    | 5.56             | 0.56   | 1.34       | 2.99             |
| F814W    | 5.71             | 0.55   | 1.45       | 2.36             |
| **Average** | 2.63 ± 0.32      |        |            |                  |

\(^a\)FWHM of the major axis.

\(^b\)The FWHM of the minor axis divided by the FWHM of the major axis.

\(^c\)The index of the Moffat profile, equivalent to \(\gamma/2\) of an EFF profile.

\(^d\)The effective radius of the best-fitting profile, correcting for ellipticity and using the conversion between the FWHM and \(R_{\text{eff}}\) for the best-fitting value of the index.

\(^e\)The average and standard deviation of the best-fitting results for the three different filters.

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the parameters. As an example (in fact the worst case), we give the best-fitting parameters along with the 1σ errors for the intrinsic F435W image in Table 2. While the full width at half-maximum (FWHM), major/minor axis, and index can shift by 7, 9 and 15 per cent, respectively, relative to the best fit value, we find that the combination of these in order to derive the effective radius varies by only ∼10 per cent.

Since there is no evidence for a tidal truncation in M82F (Bastian & Goodwin 2006), we adopt the effective radius from the EFF profile rather than the King profile, leading to an adopted size (effective radius) of 2.63 pc for M82F.

In Table 1, we give the measured size, the velocity dispersion from the literature and the corresponding light-to-mass ratio.

The profile of M82F is extremely steep. Only ∼17 per cent of known globular clusters in the Galaxy have King profiles with indices (log c) less than 1 (Harris 1996). Comparing the EFF profile fits of M82F to those of LMC clusters shows that only ∼22 per cent of the clusters there have profiles with γ greater than 3 (Mackey & Gilmore 2003).

Following on these results, we also used the IRAF routine ELLIPSE to measure the ellipticity and position angle of the cluster as a function of distance from its centre. The results for the B band are shown in Fig. 4. In the top panel, we show the ellipticity of the cluster for both the observed (blue solid) and intrinsic (red dash–dotted) images. Note that the ellipticity is highly dependent on radius for the observed cluster profile (varying from 0.15 to 0.4 in the inner 20 pixel), while the intrinsic profile varies much less (0.3 ± 0.05) in the same interval. In the bottom panel of Fig. 4, we show the position angle for the two cluster profiles as a function of radial distance. There is a strong radial trend (∼25°) in the observed profile while the intrinsic profile does not show any systematic trend with radius and the amplitude of variation is much lower (∼7°). This figure agrees well with the results from ISHAPE.

3.4 The high \(L/M_{\text{dyn}}\) of M82F

As shown above, the variable extinction across the face of M82F complicates the determination of the clusters intrinsic luminosity and size. Both of these quantities are essential in determining the \(L_{\text{V}}/M_{\text{dyn}}\) (ratio of the intrinsic luminosity to its dynamical mass). By comparing this ratio to that of SSP models, one can place constraints on the underlying mass function of the cluster (e.g. SG01; MGV05; Bastian et al. 2006a) or on its dynamical state (e.g. Goodwin & Bastian 2006).

In Table 1, we show the measured intrinsic luminosity and effective radius and the derived \(L_{\text{V}}/M_{\text{dyn}}\) ratio using the velocity dispersion (\(\sigma\)) measured by SG01 and the virial theorem (for details see SG01 and MGV05). For a 60 Myr SSP, the expected \(L_{\text{V}}/M_{\text{dyn}}\) lies in the range of ∼7 to ∼12 L\(_{\odot}\)/M\(_{\odot}\) for solar metallicity and a Salpeter (1955) initial stellar mass function (Maraston 2005). The derived value for M82F is 42 (±10) L\(_{\odot}\)/M\(_{\odot}\), hence it is well outside the range expected for a standard IMF, as has been previously noted by SG01 and MGV05. If the cluster is out of dynamical equilibrium due to either the expulsion of natal gas (Goodwin & Bastian 2006) or an interaction with a giant molecular cloud (Gieles et al. 2006), we would expect the \(L_{\text{V}}/M_{\text{dyn}}\) to be lower than that of the SSP model for the correct age.

Thus, even having taken into account differential extinction across M82F, the large value of \(L_{\text{V}}/M_{\text{dyn}}\) is still not accounted for. Possible alternatives are a truly top-heavy stellar IMF, a highly mass-segregated cluster (MGV05) or unforeseen complications in the velocity dispersion measurements due to the large differential extinction.

4 RESULTS FROM DEEP OPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY

4.1 Age

Due to the complexity of M82F, there has been some debate in the literature as to the precise age of the cluster. SG01 have assigned an age of 60 Myr based on the width (FWHM) of the optical Balmer lines and the depth of the He I lines while MGV05 have derived similar age, namely between 40 and 60 Myr, based on their H-band spectra. However, SG01, Bastian et al. (2006b) and Goodwin & Bastian (2006) have noted that the reported discrepancy between the \(L/M_{\text{dyn}}\) ratio of the cluster and SSP models would be resolved if the cluster was less than ∼15 Myr old. Bastian & Goodwin (2006) have provided some evidence for this scenario by showing that the cluster profile is in a non-equilibrium state, suggestive of a young age. Additionally, the photometry (i.e. Fig. 2) allows for multiple solutions to the age of M82F (one at ∼60 Myr and the other around 10 Myr). Therefore, we have obtained high signal-to-noise ratio (S/N > 200 per spectral pixel) optical spectra of this cluster in order to help resolve the debate.

In order to find the age of M82F, we have compared the observed spectra to SSP models, taken from Delgado et al. (2005) (hereafter GD05), where we have chosen to use the Padova isochrones in order to provide the best comparison with the GALEV models used in the photometric analysis. Additionally, we have also chosen the models with a Salpeter (1955) stellar IMF (in the range of 0.1 to 120 M\(_{\odot}\)) which was also used in the adopted GALEV models. Finally, all results will also be discussed in terms of solar and 0.4 solar metallicities. All SSP models used in this work have been smoothed to have approximately the same resolution as the data. Due to the high extinction of M82F (A\(_{\text{V}}\) = 2–4), the best age-determining mechanism in the optical would be the ratio of two close strong lines (in order to avoid problems with extinction) which are highly sensitive to the temperature of the stars which produce them. Such a ratio is provided by the HeI 4471 Å and Mg II 4481 lines. The ratio of the depths of these two lines as a function of age of the SSP model (for solar and 0.4 solar metallicity) is shown in the top panel of Fig. 5. The depth of each line, i.e. the minimum, is found in two ways. The first is simply measuring the flux value at the minimum of each line, which, however, may be subject to Poissonian noise. The second method is to fit each line with a Gaussian function and take the minima. For the observed spectrum, both methods were employed on the original as well as the extinction-corrected spectra (corrected values between A\(_{\text{V}}\) = 0 and 4 mag). The hashed area in the top panel represents the observed ratio of M82F for both methods and all extinctions tested.

As demonstrated by the top panel of Fig. 5, the relative depth of these two lines is a good age indicator for ages between ∼40 and 400 Myr. The middle panel of this figure shows the region of the spectra around the He I and Mg II lines between 4446 and 4490 Å with three SSP models of different ages superposed. In order to remove the effects of extinction and parallax on the observed spectra, we attempted to rectify the spectra shown in the middle and bottom panels of Fig. 5. To do this, we first divided each spectrum by the mean flux in two adjacent continuum bands and then fit a second-order polynomial to the continuum bands on each side of the line of interest (this was done independently for the
would be older by $\sim$10–15 Myr. However, as seen in the top panel of Fig. 5, a younger age of 7 Myr is also consistent with the data. This age can be ruled out by the width of the Balmer lines and depth of the Helium lines which are predicted to be much narrower and deeper, respectively, for young stellar populations (bottom panel of Fig. 5). The fact that the SSP models overpredict the depth of H$\beta$ is indicative of the presence of emission within the line.

### 4.2 Velocity

In order to find the velocity of M82F, we have cross-correlated the observed spectra (extinction corrected by $A_V = 3$ mag) with the GD05 SSP templates. For the cross-correlation we have used two methods, the IRAF task FXCOR and the Penalized Pixel Fitting (PPXF) routine of Cappellari & Emsellem (2004). In both the techniques, we have masked out emission lines and instrument defects such as chip gaps in the observed spectra. Both methods gave consistent results with the heliocentric velocity of the absorption component (presumably the cluster) of 15.9 (±15) km s$^{-1}$. This result is in good agreement with SG01 who found a velocity of 24.3 (±1.7) km s$^{-1}$ using high-resolution spectra.

The PPXF method allows one to subtract the best-fitting template in order to extract the information on the emission lines present. In the present case, emission from H$\beta$ and [O III] $\lambda$5007 Å is clearly detected. The heliocentric velocity of this component is 40.8 (±10.3) km s$^{-1}$. This is also consistent with the first emission component found by SG01 at 50 km s$^{-1}$ but we do not see strong evidence of the components at 120 and 180 km s$^{-1}$.

The velocity difference between the emission and absorption components, along with the derived age, strongly suggests that M82F is not physically associated with the H II region which surrounds it in projected images. This will be discussed further in the next section.

### 5 IFU STUDIES OF M82F AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Integral field spectroscopy of young stellar clusters offers an ideal tool to study their effect on the surrounding ISM and other nearby clusters (e.g. Bastian et al. 2006a; Westmoquette et al., in preparation). As discussed above, M82F is located in a complex region of the galaxy and appears projected near a massive star-forming site, whose emission lines appear superposed on the broad absorption lines of the cluster. In order to further investigate where precisely this emission is coming from and how it relates to M82F, we have obtained an IFU pointing, centred in wavelength space on H$\alpha$ and the [N II] $\lambda$6583 Å (hereafter [N II]) lines, although the [S II] $\lambda\lambda$6717, 6731 lines are also covered. Fig. 6 shows the position of the IFU field of view on the HST-ACS/WFC H$\alpha$ (+continuum) mosaic image (Mutchler et al. 2007). Additionally, we show the resulting image (colour inset) of the continuum-subtracted reconstructed H$\alpha$ image obtained with the IFU (the details are discussed below).

#### 5.1 Line fitting

In order to see where the emission lines are strongest and to remove the continuum, we have fit single Gaussians to the H$\alpha$, [N II] and [S II] lines after subtraction of a linear fit to the continuum, using continuum bands just to the blue and red of the emission lines. The reconstructed H$\alpha$ flux map is shown in the top panel of Fig. 7. We see that the majority of the emission in the region is coming from an H$\alpha$ region just off the field of view of our IFU field. A likely...
well with that derived from [OIII] for each of the three lines. The lowest velocity component agrees the values and errors represent the mean and standard deviation.

The reconstructed IFU image of the FWHM of the Hα line (middle panel of Fig. 7, where we have not corrected for the instrumental resolution) shows some unexpected features. The line width varies across the field, with the HII region having a relatively narrow FWHM, and a (vertical) lane of broad emission which passes through the position of the cluster. We note that this general behaviour is also seen in the [NII] and [SII] lines.

In order to search for the cause of the broad lines, we have extracted a spectrum of all spatial pixels (spaxels) centred on the cluster in a 1 by 1 arcsec^2 box. The resulting [NII] line profile is shown in the bottom panel of Fig. 7, where structure in the profile suggests that multiple components are present. This is expected from the high-resolution spectrum of SG01 who found three components in the Hα emission profile of M82F. To test whether three components are indeed present, we have fit a single Gaussian to each line profile along with a three-component fit. This is shown for [NII] in the bottom panel of Fig. 7, where a single Gaussian is shown as a dash–dotted line (blue) as well as a three Gaussian fit along with their sum (red dashed lines). The difference between the observed spectra and the fits is also shown.

In order to determine the robustness of the three-component fit, we have also fit the Hα and [SII] λ6716 in the same way. We find similar velocities for each of the three components in each of the lines, namely 37 (±27), 117 (±6) and 189 (±20) km s^{-1}, where the values and errors represent the mean and standard deviation for each of the three lines. The lowest velocity component agrees well with that derived from [OIII] λ5007 in Section 4.2, while all three components are consistent with those found by SG01, hence confirming multiple components are present. However, it appears that none of the components is consistent with the velocity of the cluster.

The general structure of the FWHM reconstructed image is consistent with the extinction map derived in Section 3.2 and seen in Fig. 3, where the extinction is high, i.e. the lane of across M82F, we see multiple components to the emission lines (i.e. larger FWHM) and where the extinction is relatively low we see only a single component. Thus, we are left to conclude that multiple layers of gas/dust are between us and M82F, and that the clouds which are causing the extinction in the vicinity of M82F are also emitting flux in the Hα, [NII] and [SII] lines, i.e. are at least partially ionized.

6 CONCLUSIONS

Using multiband high-resolution images of the enigmatic cluster M82F, we present the following conclusions.

(i) The integrated colours of M82F suggest an extinction of >2.5 mag in A_V and support an age of 60 Myr, consistent with the values measured by SG01.
(ii) There is considerable substructure within the body of M82F as seen in the colour maps. This substructure is also often seen in the observed contour maps.

(iii) By looking at the colour of each pixel in \((UV - B)\) versus \((V - I)\) space, we see that the pixels scatter parallel to the extinction vector, which supports the notion that the substructure is caused by differential extinction.

(iv) If one interprets this substructure as due to extinction (as opposed to age or population differences), then one can use the colour maps to create an extinction map of the cluster. This map shows the existence of lanes of extinction through the cluster and also a wall of high extinction on the north-west side of the cluster. Differences in the amount of extinction are larger than 1.5 mag in \(A_V\) in the region occupied by the cluster.

(v) Using this extinction map, it is possible to correct, on an individual pixel basis, the observed flux in order to derive the intrinsic flux. Doing this, we see that the PA of the cluster can change by \(\sim 30^\circ\) (in the \(B\) band within 20 pixels from the cluster centre).

(vi) Measuring the effective radius of M82F on the corrected image yields an increase of 15 per cent when using King profiles and 20–30 per cent when using EFF profiles.

(vii) Adopting the EFF profile fits, we do not find any signature of a colour–size relationship that would indicate major mass segregation. Mass segregation may, however, still be present, but simply not observable in this way.

(viii) The PA and ellipticity of the cluster are much more stable in the intrinsic images than the observed images, showing the benefit of the extinction-corrected images.

Using the extinction-corrected images of M82F, and fitting EFF profiles to the cluster, we conclude that mass segregation is not observable in this cluster in the broad-band images. However, the increased size estimates of this cluster are not enough to bring M82F into agreement with SSP models in the \(L/M_{\text{dyn}}\) diagram, leaving the origin of this discrepancy still unknown. It is possible that the stellar IMF within the cluster is extremely top-heavy or that the large and spatially variable extinction between the observer and the cluster causes complications in the velocity dispersion measurements. Another possibility is that mass segregation, although not found in the broad-band data, causes an underestimation of the velocity dispersion, hence increasing the \(L/M_{\text{dyn}}\) ratio. Thus, it remains to be seen if other clusters, with low-extinction estimates, also fall in the broad-band data, causes an underestimation of the velocity dispersion, hence increasing the \(L/M_{\text{dyn}}\) ratio. Therefore, it remains to be seen if other clusters, with low-extinction estimates, also fall in the region of the \(L/M_{\text{dyn}}\) versus age plane excluded by simple theory (i.e. combining SSP models and the effects of rapid gas removal).

From deep optical spectroscopy, we have been able to derive the age of M82F using the age-dependent ratio of the depth of the He\(\lambda4471\) and Mg\(\lambda4481\) lines. The intrinsic benefits of using this ratio to age date young star clusters are that it is largely unaffected by reddening (due to the proximity of the lines in wavelength), largely independent of metallicity and very sensitive to age in the range of \(\sim 40–400\) Myr. Using this technique, we find an age of 50–70 Myr, assuming solar metallicity, or 10–15 Myr older if one assumes 0.4 \(Z_\odot\). Younger ages (i.e. \(< 20\) Myr) can be ruled out by the widths of the Balmer lines.

Finally, we have also presented Integral Field observations of M82F and its surrounding region. We found that the majority of line emission seen in the region is not due to the cluster itself, but rather to a nearby H\(\text{II}\) region. We have found that the width of the emission lines corresponds spatially with the extinction map derived using optical colours, from which we conclude that the gas/dust clouds responsible for the extinction are also emitting in the \(H_\alpha\), \([\text{N}\text{II}]\) and \([\text{S}\text{II}]\) lines. There is some evidence of weak additional emission lines associated with M82F, but we could not conclusively derive their origin.

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