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### GRB 131117A: VLT/X-shooter redshift

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N. R. Tanvir (U. Leicester), J. P. U. Fynbo (DARK/NBI), L. Kaper (U. Amsterdam)  
and V. D'Elia (ASI/ASDC) report:

We observed the afterglow of GRB 131117A (Page et al. GCN 15490, Trotter et al. GCN 15491, Tanga et al. GCN 15493) with the VLT X-shooter spectrograph covering a spectral range 3200A to 18000A. Poor conditions meant that observations could not start until 01:42 UT, 68 minutes post-burst.

The continuum level is faint, but we see a strong break corresponding to Ly-alpha at a redshift of  $z=4.042$ . This is supported by the detection of absorption lines corresponding to SiII 1259/1260, SiIV 1393/1402 and SiII 1526. There is also a clear Ly-a forest blueward of the break. We therefore propose this as the redshift of the GRB, noting it is consistent with the photometric redshift of Tanga et al. (GCN15493).

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