X26b Ly α Luminosity Function at z = 1.9 - 3.5 and the HETDEX Survey

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The luminosity function (LF) is an important tool for understanding the statistical properties of galaxies along the cosmic history. Previous studies about the Ly α LF at $z \sim 2-3$ have found a significant excess over the Schechter function at the bright end (Konno et al., 2016; Sobral et al., 2018), raising questions to the nature of very luminous Ly α emitters (LAEs) at cosmic noon. To address this question, we investigate the shape of Ly α LF at z = 1.9 - 3.5 using the early data of Hobby Eberly Telescope Dark Energy eXperiment (HETDEX) survey. The HETDEX survey is the largest blind integral field spectroscopic survey by far, which will cover $\sim 450 \text{ deg}^2$ of sky area, corrsponding to $\sim 9 \text{ comoving Gpc}^3$ of cosmic volume. About one million unbiased, spectroscopically selected LAEs are expected at the completion of the survey. Utilizing the large data, we derive the Ly α LF by both the non-parametric $1/V_{\text{max}}$ method and the parametric Schechter function fitting. Our results have the best-fit Schechter function consistent with previous studies, and show a moderate excess above the Schechter function at $L_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \ge 10^{43.3} \text{erg s}^{-1}$. We will discuss the origin of the bright end excess, as well as future plans of the HETDEX survey.