Quasars Probing Galaxies: Gas Accretion in Extended Galactic Disks

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Circumgalactic Medium (CGM)

Orientation of Sightline Relative to the Disk May Determine Origin of Strong Absorption



Keck Quasars Probing Galaxies: Major Axis Sightline Results

- 1. Sign of CGM Doppler shift correlated with sign of disk rotation.
- 2. If the gas is near the disk plane, then it is not Doppler shifted enough to be on a circular orbit.
- 3. An inflow component in the disk plane easily reproduces the measured CGM kinematics.



Stephanie Ho, CLM, Kacprzak, Churchill 2016

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LRIS & APO Spectroscopy

- 15 quasar sightlines within 30 degrees of major axis
- Mg II 2796, 2803 absorption
- Galactic rotation curves from H $\!\alpha$
- Galaxy colors, luminosities, and masses from SDSS







Mg II Doppler Shifts & Galactic Rotation

- Seven of 11 detections have a net Doppler shift.
 - Sign matches sign of galactic rotation in every case
 - Same result holds for the 3 z=0.5 systems (Steidel et al. 2002)
- Four systems have a net Doppler shift < 20 km/s.





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Keck QpG Survey: Dynamics of Circumgalactic Gas



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Mg II in Quasar Sightlines







Line Widths Challenge Disk Models

Geometrical Model for Disk Absorption

- Disks cannot produce absorption on both sides of V_{svs}.
- Thin disks produce a narrow profile.
- Fitting disks models has awkward implications (H_{eff} ≈ r_{vir}).









Summary: CGM Kinematics around Star Forming Galaxies

- The angular momentum of the inner CGM is at least partially aligned with that of the galactic disk.
- The equivalent widths near the major axis exceed those at random azimuthal angles.
 Simple, thin disk model fails to explain velocity widths.
 - Rotating, cylindrical CGM?
 - Disks with radial inflow component fit linewidths and Doppler shifts.

Implications: CGM Gas Dynamics

- Some of the inflowing gas from these circumgalactic disks reaches the galactic disk
- The infall prolongs the disk lifetime beyond a few Gyr.
- Quenching requires the elimination of the circumgalactic disk.



