A Near-Infrared View of Shocks in Nuclear Outflows

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Mrk 273 Not to scale!

> @JustTheLetterU #galpath16 Aug 2, 2016

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Shocks in Galaxy Mergers

- Mergers: violent interaction of gas in ISM
- Stellar/AGN feedback: heats up gas / quenches (enhances?) SF
- Galactic-scale shocks induced by outflows (e.g. Rich+11,15; Soto & Martin 12)



What drives these shocks?



- Cloud cloud collision
- Tidal induced gas stream
- AGN-/SB-driven outflows

What drives these shocks?

- Understand the nuclear gas kinematics
- Identify and characterize nuclear outflows
- Trace the origin of the ionizing source
- Ascertain the conditions at the launch sites

Nuclear Gas Kinematics in Galaxy Mergers



NIR AO IFS observations!

Keck OSIRIS AO LIRG Survey



- OSIRIS (+ NIRC2) + AO
 - Nicely complements WiFeS, MUSE, CWI (and all the large IFU surveys)
 - K band, sampling at 0.01" (NIRC2) and 0.035"-0.100"/spaxel (OSIRIS)
 - FWHM ~ 0.05" \rightarrow 20-50 pc/spaxel at z < 0.05

Keck OSIRIS AO LIRG Survey





Molecular Outflows: Mrk 273

H₂ velocity dispersion – biconical outflows



U+2013

Molecular Outflows: Mrk 273

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• [Si VI] traces extended CLR (Muller-Sanchez+11)



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Shocks + AGN photoionization (at N nucleus)

Mrk 273 Outflow Properties

V ~ 200 km/s Distance from nucleus = 640 pc $M_{H2} = 7.7 \times 10^3 M_{\odot}$ Age of outflow ~ 3.3 Myr E ~ 1.3 x 10⁴³ erg/s

→ AGN-driven winds



U+ 2013, ApJ, 775, 115



Medling, VU+ 2015a, MNRAS, 448, 2301



Medling, VU+ 2015a, MNRAS, 448, 2301

IR17207 Shocked ISM

v ~ 200 km/s Mass = $4M_{\odot}$ (Soto+ 12) Distance from nucleus = 340 pc $E = 5.1 \times 10^{40}$ erg/s



Reasons for shocks:

- \rightarrow SB-driven winds
- \rightarrow cloud-cloud collisions

Medling, VU+ 2015a, MNRAS, 448, 2301









U+16 in prep.

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Medling, VU+ 2014

U+16 in prep.







Medling, VU+ 2014

vel(gas) – vel(disk)













-170.0





U+16 in prep.

$H_2/Br\gamma$ + enhanced vdisp = shocks





H₂ Velocity Dispersion



 Elevated H₂/Brγ values are necessary (but not sufficient?) to confirm coherent shocked, potentially outflowing gas





- Elevated H₂/Brγ values are necessary (but not sufficient?) to confirm coherent shocked, potentially outflowing gas
- Look for cases with H₂/Brγ > 4 and good correlation with velocity dispersion!

Take-home Messages

- Nuclear gas kinematics important for probing the launch sites of potential outflows and identifying shocks
- NIR AO IFS observations provide high spatial resolution (e.g. 20-50pc/ spaxel FWHM) view of the inner kpc region in local galaxy mergers
- Detected AGN- / SB-driven outflows as traced primarily by H₂ in a few systems using differential velocity maps
- Identify shocks with H₂/Brγ and H₂ velocity dispersion correlations and verify with 2D distributions
- Expected to occur more frequently in ULIRGs / advanced merger stage systems, but also seen in lower luminosity / early merger stage objects
- Need more statistics to pinpoint when and how they might be triggered;
 NIR diagnostics may come in handy in the JWST / 30-m class scope era!

