A detailed look at the AGN in M51: molecular inflow and outflow



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AGN Feedback in the ALMA/NOEMA Era

- Feedback: regulate star formation, matching simulations with observations e.g. Alexander&Hickox12, Fabian+14
- Associated with (molecular) outflows: fuel of star formation removed from disc
- Numerous detections at high-z; details still unclear e.g. Feruglio+10; Maiolino+12; Cicone+12,14,15



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• M51 with PAWS: pilot study of what will become routine with ALMA/NOEMA

• Plateau de Bure Whirlpool Survey (PAWS): pioneering studies of GMCs properties in external galaxies. I'' (36 pc), 5 km/s resolution

Schinnerer+13; Pety+13; Hughes+13; Meidt+13; Colombo+14a,b; Meidt+15



PAWS: M51 in CO(1-0), 1"

• Seyfert 2 nucleus, with two radio lobes



The PAWS Picture: high-resolution CO map of M51



• Evidence for complex CO line profiles near nucleus



Feeding the Nucleus: Gravitational Torques Acting on Gas

• Gravitational torques increase/remove angular momentum from gas \rightarrow radial flows



- 3.6µm dominated by old stars (tracing stellar mass), but dust emission also present
- Independent Component Analysis (ICA): separate stars from dust using 3.6 and 4.5µm
 e.g. Pahre+04, Willner+04, Peletier+12, Meidt+14, Querejeta+14: old stars ⇒ [3.6]-[4.5]<0
 dust ⇒ [3.6]-[4.5]>0
- S⁴G pipeline 5: mass maps for >1500 nearby galaxies (public on IRSA! Querejeta+14)

Feeding the Nucleus: Gravitational Torques Acting on Gas

• Correct 3.6µm image for dust emission: retrieve 2D stellar mass distribution









Feeding the Nucleus: Gravitational Torques Acting on Gas



• Azimuthal average of the torques (weighted by the molecular gas):

García-Burillo+05, Haan+09

- Molecular gas (radial) inflow: ~1 M_☉/yr
- Evidence for AGN feeding at present







PAWS: M51 in CO(1-0), 1"





Contours: - white: VLA 3.6cm



Dumas+11



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- red: [OIII], HST/WFPC2 F502N

Dumas+11, Bradley+04





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- white: VLA 3.6cm
- red: [OIII], HST/WFPC2 F502N
- *green*: Hα, HST/WFPC2 F656N

Dumas+11, Bradley+04



















- New observations of central R=1 kpc with dense gas tracers
- Plateau de Bure Interferometer + 30m (short spacings); 4" resolution (natural)



- Dense molecular gas closely follows 3.6cm distribution
- Line ratios (CO, HCN, HNC, HCO⁺) will provide some constraints on chemistry

• Ionisation cone rather depleted of CO, but plenty of HCN emission: stratification



Conclusions

I) Gas inflow in the central kpc of M51

2) Biconical CO outflow not applicable to M51

3) Dense gas emission closely related to radio continuum

4) Radio plasma driving stratified molecular outflow, not radiation pressure