Feedback-Regulated Star Formation on Galactic Scales

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Q: WHY IS STAR FORMATION SO INEFFICIENT?



A: Stellar Feedback! SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

 Standard (in Galaxy Formation):
 Couple SNe energy as "heating"/thermal energy

FAILS:

 $t_{\rm cool} \sim 4000 \,\mathrm{yr} \left(\frac{n}{\mathrm{cm}^{-3}}\right)^{-1}$ $t_{\rm dyn} \sim 10^8 \,{\rm yr} \left(\frac{n}{{\rm cm}^{-3}}\right)^{-1/2}$





 High-resolution (~1pc), molecular cooling (<100 K), SF only at highest densities (n_H>1000 cm⁻³)



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- *Explicit* Momentum Flux:
 - Radiation Pressure

$$\dot{P}_{\rm rad} \sim \frac{L}{c} \left(1 + \tau_{\rm IR}\right)$$

> SNe

$$\dot{P}_{\rm SNe} \sim \dot{E}_{\rm SNe} \, v_{\rm ejecta}^{-1}$$

Stellar Winds

$$\dot{P}_{\rm W} \sim \dot{M} v_{\rm wind}$$











Spiral Galaxy M101 Spitzer Space Telescope • Hubble Space NASA / JPL-Caltech / ESA / CXC / STScl







Hopkins, Quataert, & Murray, in prep









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Stellar Feedback & Self-Regulation WHICH MECHANISMS MATTER?



 $SFR \sim 100 + M_{sun}/yr$ $(L \sim L_{EDD})$

Optically thick

> $<n> \sim 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ $T_{cool} \sim 1000 \text{ yr}$

Stellar Feedback & Self-Regulation WHICH MECHANISMS MATTER?



 $SFR \sim 0.01 \text{ M}_{sun}/\text{yr}$ $(L << L_{EDD})$

Optically thin

 $<n> \sim 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ $T_{\text{cool}} \sim \text{Myr}$

Kennicutt-Schmidt relation emerges naturally



Global Star Formation Rates are INDEPENDENT of High-Density SF Law



Hopkins, Quataert, & Murray 2011 also Saitoh et al. 2008

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> Just need *some* cooling channel: changes at $M_{gal} < 10^6 M_{sun}$, Z<0.01 Z_{sun}

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- Need net momentum injection dP/dt ~ L/c ~ SFR to cancel dissipation ~ M_{gas} S_{disk} W and maintain Q~1
- Not just top-down collapse

Star Formation is Feedback-Regulated: MORE FEEDBACK = LESS STAR FORMATION



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Q ~ 1 Is a Boring Diagnostic EVERYTHING GOES TO Q~1. SERIOUSLY.



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Properties of GMCs STUFF TO EXAMINE IN THE FUTURE...





100 pc

















Future Directions WHAT CAN WE EXPLORE WITH MORE REALISTIC ISM/FEEDBACK MODELS?

- Mergers:
 - Star cluster formation? Starburst environments?
- AGN Feedback:
 - How does it couple to a multi-phase ISM?
- Cosmological simulations:
 - "Zoom-in" disk formation simulations (D. Keres)
 - Cosmological volume AMR: dwarf populations and mass function evolution (M. Kuhlen)
- GMCs & ISM Structure:
 - Formation & destruction of GMCs, lifetimes, star formation efficiencies





~30 sec

A Few Words on Mergers... WHY DO WE CARE ABOUT THEIR STAR FORMATION Mihos & Hernquist 94 Kormendy+99,05,08,10 Lauer+98,05,07 Hopkins, Kormendy, Lauer 10a-d Ferrarese+06, Cote+08

Elliptical structure is fundamentally two-component:



Mergers always dominate at highest L, but the threshold shifts



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The Role of Starbursts in Cosmic Star Formation:



This Accounts for the Centers of (nearly all) Ellipticals WHAT ARE THE PHYSICS AT WORK?





Gas



Do we still need 'Quasar Mode' Feedback?



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Summary:

- Global Star formation is Feedback-Regulated: independent of small-scale SF 'law' (same for molecular chemistry, cooling, etc)
 - Need 'enough' stars to offset dissipation (set by gravity)
- Gravity+turbulence' alone fails. Badly.
 - That said, galaxies will find a way to get to Q~1:
 S(gas) independent of feedback.... even when driven by feedback
- Feedback leads to Kennicutt relation & super-winds:
 - $\gg~{
 m Mass}$ -loading $\dot{M}_{
 m wind} \propto \dot{M}_{*}/V_{c}$
- Different feedback mechanisms dominate different regimes:
 - High densities: radiation pressure
 - Intermediate densities: HII heating, stellar wind momentum
 - Low densities: SNe & stellar wind shock-heating
 - Extremely non-linear coupling between them!
 - No one mechanism works
- Even if every bulge forms in a merger, only ~10% of stars
 - (an important 10%!)
 - Bulge kinematics, shapes, dispersions, mass densities, kinematic subcomponents
 - Fuels SMBH growth?









- Radiative Transfer: SUNRISE by P. Jonsson
- Not just at z=0, but in high-redshift sub-millimeter galaxies (e.g. work by Melbourne, Narayanan, Genzel & co.)



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Structure in Elliptical Light Profiles RECOVERING THE ROLE OF GAS

PFH & Rothberg et al. 2008 PFH, Kormendy, & Lauer et al. 2



> You DO get realistic ellipticals, IF given realistic disks

Recover the "tilt" in the fundamental plane: spheroid scalings = disks + dissipation

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Metallicity & Stellar Pops: Foster, Proctor PFH et al. 0

V/s & Structural Parameters: Jogee & PFH et al. 10,11



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How Good Is Our Conventional Wisdom?

Major Merger Remnants DO MERGERS DESTROY DISKS?

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