Observations of Feedback in Radio-Quiet Quasars

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Observations of Feedback in Radio-Quiet Quasars

- Why radio-quiet?
- Observations of multi-phase quasar winds
- Bridging theory and observations





1. Why Radio-Quiet?

Negative quasar feedback in most of the massive galaxies

Galaxy luminosity function, colors Black hole / bulge correlations Only 10% of AGN currently have very powerful jets

(Intra-cluster medium – might be enough)
(unclear what's going on at high redshift z=2, luminosity dependence?)
Perhaps every galaxy had a powerful jet once?

But: differences between haloes of RL and non-RL objects (Mandelbaum + 2009).

Perhaps weak jets are sufficient to drive feedback?



Gebhard et al., Ferrarese & Merritt 2000, Tremaine et al. 2002, Gultekin et al. 2009

1. Why Radio-Quiet?

There is a known mechanism for RQ feedback

"Line driving" "Radiative driving" Small scale outflows seen in 20% of RQ quasars

Do they do enough on galaxy-wide scale?

Quasar – acceleration close to the nucleus – fast gas runs into ISM



Murray et al. 1995 Proga et al 2000



2. Observations of feedback in RQ quasars

- "Multi-phase" wind (presumably due to initial ISM, but maybe instabilities?)
- Every phase = its own observational signature
- If phases are in pressure equilibrium, n_{hot}T_{hot}=n_{warm}T_{warm}=n_{cold}T_{cold}
- Something hot and tenuous = volumefilling, everything else = clouds, filaments?



Liu, Zakamska, et al. 2013a,b,c

- Line-emitting gas: can study kinematics
- T=10⁴K, densities from <10 to >100 cm⁻³
- Integral field unit observations spectrum in every point
- Detect ionized gas to 15-40 kpc from the center in most cases
- Striking observational difference: RQ=round, RL=elongated



Liu, Zakamska, et al. 2013a,b,c

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Observations of extended ionized gas, z=2-3 Nesvadba et al. 2006/08, M=10¹⁰Msun, v>800km/s

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Integral field unit observations – spectrum in every point

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Liu, Zakamska, et al. 2013a

- Line ratios: Clouds are getting more diffuse further out?
- Get "fried" ("matter-bounded")?
- Kinematic models: reproduce velocity maps, velocity dispersions, v_{out}=800km/sec
- This allows us to estimate kinetic energy flux
- Median is 2% of bolometric
- Uncertain... Need better models for volume-filling wind, cloud emission



Liu, Zakamska, et al. 2013a,b

A few candidates for super-bubbles Wind expands along the path of least resistance, perpendicular to disk

starburst galaxies, Fermi Bubbles, simulations







2. Observations of feedback in RQ quasars clouds and hot volume filling gas

- Warm ionized gas: too far to see individual clumps, filaments?
- See 20 pc clouds in HST images in one nearby object!
- Observed with every telescope on the ground and in space... (talk by Ai-Lei Sun this afternoon)
- Extended X-ray emission hot volume-filling component? or shocked clouds?
- Low-density component: very hard. Could use predictions from simulations!



HST composite Comerford et al.

Greene, Zakamska, Smith 2012

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Chandra + HST-814 Pooley, Comerford, Greene, Zakamska

2. Observations of feedback in RQ quasars colder phases

Very important: dominate mass, energy?

Cold neutral gas seen in blue-shifted absorption against the quasar

Less common in quasars than in starbursts?

Molecular gas seen with large velocities (inconsistent with disk)

ALMA: In progress...



Tremonti et al. 2007 (these are not currently luminous quasars)



CO emission, $dM/dt=710 M_{sun}/year E_{kin}=4.4x10^{44} erg/s$, extended (3kpc)

2. Observations of feedback in RQ quasars synchrotron emission?

Like in a SNR: particles can be accelerated on the shock

Expect radio synchrotron

Strong correlation between velocity (from ionized gas lines) and radio luminosity



Zakamska & Greene, in prep.

2. Observations of feedback in RQ quasars quasar vs star formation?

Physics similar, how to distinguish?

Considered local ULIRGs = quasars, starbursts and everything in between

Winds in AGN-dominated objects faster (1000 km/sec) than in starbursts (500 km/sec)

In mergers AGN phase shorter but more intense?

Star formation insufficient on grounds of energetics



Hill & Zakamska 2013

3. Bridging theory and observations

- ["Multi-phase" picture: wind runs into clumpy ISM
- Use simulations to predict emission from hot phase, warm phase
- Need radiative mechanisms (photoionization vs shock-ionization)
- Velocity fields of clumps are directly comparable! (Lots of kinematic information available...)
- Goal: reliable kinetic energies from observations



Thanks to Alex Wagner!

Summary

- RQ-mode feedback: isotropic "bomb" that sends a

blast wave through galaxy ISM

– Different "phases" of the wind observable at different wavelengths

- Ionized gas (10⁴K) the most detailed picture so far
- Right about now is the time to compare with simulations!
- We are very interested!
- JHU: G.Liu, R.Alexandroff, O.Nayak, M.Hill
- J.Greene, A.-L.Sun, N.Nesvadba, J.Comerford

