Star formation in high-redshift galaxies

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Observing the distant Universe



Star Formation History of the Universe



How did galaxies form their stars?

The 'main sequence' of galaxy formation



e.g., Salmon+2015

MS galaxies are rotation dominated



e.g., Wisnioski+16

Morphology of MS galaxies: Clumps

IFU spectroscopy

UV imaging



e.g., Guo+2015

Hα

e.g., Genzel+2011

Molecular gas

e.g., Tacconi+2010

+

v = +73 km/s

c.f. Stellar Mass

Wuyts+2012

Star Formation History of the Universe



Long-wavelengths trace dust-obscured star formation





The cosmic molecular gas density



High-z molecular gas detections



Most high-z gas/dusty SF unresolved



Star formation law

Evidence for two sequences out to high-z – is it real?



> A CO-to- H_2 conversion factor $(\alpha_{\rm CO})$ is assumed

Star formation at high-redshift Recent results

- Submillimeter-selected
- Color-selected
- > (Sub-)millimeter deep fields

SMG formation challenges theorists



Many SMGs contain multiple galaxies

SMA Primary Beam

ALMA ('ALESS')

Hodge+13



PdBl



Smolcic+12

- A significant fraction (~30%) of singledish submillimeter sources are multiples
- Precisely locating the submm emitters is key for getting redshifts (a prerequisite for studying physical properties!)

Many on galaxy main sequence

Da Cunha+15 (using ALMA ID's):







Fraction on MS increases with z

See also Michalowski+17; Koprowski+16

Dusty SF is compact



Dusty SF is disky



Median Sersic index $n = 0.9 \pm 0.2$

Stark contrast with existing stellar populations

Hodge+16



May have implications for SED fitting routines assuming colocated dust

Stark contrast with existing stellar populations

Chen, JH+17



Implies geometrical effects may be partly responsible for offset from local IRX- β relation

Is the dusty SF clumpy?



lono+16

Would imply extreme SFRSDs of up to 6000 M yr⁻¹ kpc⁻²

-0.10

-0.05

0.00

Offset [arcsec]

0.05

Oteo+17

0.10

Is the dusty SF clumpy?

Hodge+16

Resolution 0.12" (1.0 kpc)



Consistent with smooth exponential disks

Is the dusty SF clumpy?

Resolution 0.03" (200pc) Gullberg+17 (in prep)



Also consistent with smooth exponential disks

Caution should be exercised when identifying clump candidates in interferometric data of such S/N

Cold gas extends further than dust

Calistro Rivera, JH+17 (in prep)

CO(3-2) contours on HST-WFC3/ACS



$R_{eff,CO}$ range from 2.5-7 kpc

(And can show large offset to stars)



Chen, JH+17

Implies higher SFE in center





Hodge+15



Implies higher SFE in center

With ALMA: 0.6 hours



Chen, JH+17

Is the gas clumpy?



Dynamically constraining α_{CO}



Calistro Rivera, JH+17 (in prep)

The resolved star formation law



→ High-z SMGs have high SF efficiencies on small scales

A universal star formation law?



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- Color-selected
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Evolving cold gas fraction



See also Magdis+12, Tacconi+13, etc

SFR/ISM content dependencies



Resolving CO in 'normal' galaxies

Aravena+14



Even with ALMA, this requires a substantial time investment

Resolved [CII] at z=7

Smit+17



Star formation at high-redshift Recent results

- > Submillimeter-selected
- Color-selected
- > (Sub-)millimeter deep fields





What will ASPECS LP deliver?



Summary

- Huge progress in understanding star formation at highredshift
- We can now not only correctly identify galaxies (not trivial!), but also resolve their cold gas and dust on ~kpc scales
- Recent efforts constrain both the evolution of the cold gas density, as well as its contribution to the shape of the cosmic SFRD
- ALMA will allow resolved studies of the gas/dusty SF in galaxies further down the LF