Stellar/AGN feedback in nearby disk galaxies: XMM-Newton/RGS emission line diagnostics

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Stellar feedback in 30 Dorado



- The brightest HII region in the Local Group of galaxies.
- In the LMC at 50 kpc and with little line-of-sight confusion.
- Powered primarily by the well-studied central OB association.
- The age and IMF are studied in spatially resolved fashion.
- Chemically a closed box.

Chandra and Suzaku results:

- Hot plasma is not isothermal; a log-normal temperature distribution is a good approx.
- 80% mass-loading from the ISM explains both the mass and the metal abundances of the plasma.
- The thermal+kinetic energies of the nebula is comparable to the mechanical input.
- Evidence for nonthermal diffuse X-ray emission, especially in the central region.

Evidence for charge exchange in 30 Dorado



- Large G = (f+i)/r ratio of the OVII K α triplet is inconsistent with the CIE assumption
- APEC+CX model gives a good fit to this XMM/RGS spectrum

Wang+ 2023 (in prep)

Charge exchange is ubiquitous in star-forming regions





- Large G-ratios of He-like Kα triplets cannot be due to pure CIE plasma emission.
- APEC+CX model gives a good fit to this XMM/RGS spectrum of 210 ks exposure.

Evidence for charge exchange in M82

Soft X-ray arises at least partly from the interplay between hot plasma outflow and entrained cool gas, as part of the mass-loading process



G = (f+i)/r ratios of He-like K α triplets are far too large to be consistent with optically-thin CIE plasma emission.

Liu, Mao, & Wang (2011); Zhang, Wang, et al. (2014)

Thermal plasma + CX modeling of the spectral line emission



Zhang, Wang, Ji, Smith, & Foster (2014)

- Explains the spatial correlation between hot and cool gas tracers.
- Accounting for the CX is important to determining the thermal and chemical properties of the hot plasma.
- CX is proportional to the ion flux into the hot/cold gas interface → powerful way to constrain the effective interface area or turbulent mixing and potentially the flow speed.

AGN feedback: bipolar radio and X-ray-emitting bubble-like structure in M106

- At D=7.6 Mpc, it is very similar to our Milky Way Galaxy, in terms of the overall mass and SFR. But there is little gas and star formation in the central region.
- Synchrotron radio bubbles; B-field ~4-300 μ G from centers to edges.
- The bipolar structure energetically resembles the Fermi/eROSITA bubbles (~ 10^{57} erg), but ~2x smaller (+-8 kpc off the galactic disk) or ~4 x younger (~ 0.8 Myr).





0.4-1 1-2 2-7 keV

144 MHz FUV 0.4-1 keV

Zeng, Wang, & Fraternali (2023)

Spatially resolved X-ray spectroscopy with RGS data of the anomalous arms



Non-CIE X-ray emission: an AGN relic in M31



The bulge contains little cool gas and no recent star formation

Li & Wang (2007)

X-ray spectroscopy of an AGN relic in M31



- G =(f+i)/r ratios of Kα triplets of He-like ions are too large to be consistent with optically-thin CIE plasma.
- Also unexpected are high Lyβ/Lyα for H-like N and O and high iron line ratios (Fe XVIII 14.2Å/Fe XVII 17Å and Fe XVII 15Å/17Å).
- Instead, the spectrum is well explained by the presence of an AGN of Lx~10⁴⁴ erg/s about half Myr ago, which led to over-ionization of the gas.

Zhang, Wang+. 2018

X-ray spectroscopy as a tool to infer the recent AGN history in nearby galaxies



- Recombination continuums (or edges) are key diagnostics of AGN relics.
 - Timescale to reach ionization equilibrium can be > time interval between AGN episodes.
 - X-ray IFU could map spectroscopic signatures of AGN relics across the ISM and/or CGM! Zhang, Wang+ (2018)

Summary and conclusions

- Stellar & AGN feedback or its coupling with the ISM/CGM is the weakest link in our understanding of galaxy ecosystem/growth.
- X-ray spectroscopy is essential to the understanding of the feedback:
 - Baryon physics and X-ray emission mechanisms:
 - Thermal, chemical, and kinematic properties of the hot plasma and its heating and/or cooling mechanisms
 - Microscopic physics and radiation process at hot/cool gas interfaces
 - Measurement of AGN feedback
 - Plasma heating by AGN/Jets and outflows
 - Ionization affects of episodic activity
 - Energetics of mechanical outflows

Charge exchange in the Cygnus Loop SNR: OVII Kα triplet centroid as a diagnostic



With the large FoV, XIFU can map such large SNRs very efficiently to further probe the CX physics.

The centroid of the triplet depends on the relative intensities of the R, I, F lines, determined by how the upper levels are populated.



O VII K α centroid shift between inner and rim regions ($E_{inner} - E_{rim}$) vs. normalized H α flux density; RGS confirmation by Uchida+ (2019)

Roberts & Wang (2015)