From halo to intergalactic medium: directly constraining the properties of large-scale gas around high-redshift quasars

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Credit: A. Obreja & A. Macciò



Credit: A. Obreja & A. Macciò

Temperature

Credit: A. Obreja & A. Macciò

CGM

 10^{6}

10⁵

 10^4



CGM/IGM in emission: a lot of information on galaxy evolution, but is it accessible?

• What are the physical properties of these gas phases?

What is the spatial distribution of the cool and warm/hot phase in halos?

How does the IGM funnel into the CGM and onto the central galaxies? What is the role of satellites?

Can we directly constrain halo dynamics?

What is the role of AGN in shaping the properties of galactic halos and the surrounding IGM?



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Rees 1988

epochs corresponding to redshifts $z \leq 3$. This gas, expected to have a two-phase structure, could be highly luminous if it were irradiated by a central quasar. Evidence for extended emission-line 'fuzz' around high-z quasars (or even upper limits to the surface brightness of any such reprocessed radiation) can yield surprisingly strong clues to the nature and formation mechanism of their host galaxies. In the absence of a central quasar, infalling gas that cooled from the

EXTENDED Lya EMISSION AROUND YOUNG QUASARS: A CONSTRAINT ON GALAXY FORMATION

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ABSTRACT

The early stage in the formation of a galaxy inevitably involves a spatially extended distribution of infalling, cold gas. If a central luminous quasar turned on during this phase, it would result in significant extended Ly α emission, possibly accompanied by other lines. For halos condensing at redshifts $3 \leq z \leq 8$ and having virial temperatures 2×10^5 K $\leq T_{vir} \leq 2 \times 10^6$ K, this emission results in a "fuzz" of characteristic angular diameter of a few arcseconds and surface brightness $\sim 10^{-18}$ to 10^{-16} ergs s⁻¹ cm⁻² arcsec⁻². The fuzz around bright, high-redshift quasars could be detected in deep narrowband imaging with current telescopes, providing a direct constraint on galaxy formation models. The absence of detectable fuzz might suggest that most of the protogalaxy's gas settles to a self-gravitating disk before a quasar turns on. However, continued gas infall from large radii, or an on-going merger spreading cold gas over a large solid angle, during the luminous quasar phase could also result in extended Ly α emission, and can be constrained by deep narrowband imaging.

and out to the IGM (e.g., Hogan & Weymann 1987, Gould & Weinberg 1996, Cantalupo+2005, Kollmeier+2010)

Scientific framework before the advent of sensitive integral-field spectrographs: Ly α nebulae around quasars



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Scientific framework before the advent of sensitive integral-field spectrographs: High-z radio galaxies



FLASHLIGHT survey: deep narrow-band imaging of z~2 radio-quiet quasars **FAB**+2014

Survey carried out with the LRIS/Keck and GMOS/Gemini-South instruments:

- 11 quasars (Keck)
- $SB_{Lv\alpha} \sim 1 4 \times 10^{-18} \, erg \, s^{-1} \, cm^{-2} \, arcsec^{-2}$ - 15 quasars (Gemini)



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FLASHLIGHT survey: never seen such large nebulae before, but one could have...





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First average Ly α profile around high-z quasars



FAB+2016

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Credit: A. Obreja & A. Macciò

The importance of a constraint on Hell (1640Å) emission

FAB+2015

Optically thin ($logN_{HI} < <17.2$)

$$SB_{Ly\alpha} \propto f_{0H} N_H$$

Optically thick (logN_{HI}>>17.2) Given the luminosity of the QSO, the nebula cannot be optically thick.

 $\mathrm{SB}_{Ly\alpha} \propto f_c L_{\nu_{LL}}$

The Lyα emission would have been much brighter than observed.

Hennawi & Prochaska 2013

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Constraining the gas densities on CGM scales: Slug Nebula (UM287)

FAB+2015b



2 hours on LRIS/Keck

psf subtracted, smoothed 2D spectrum



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Photoionization models require high densities: ISM densities on 100 kpc scales?



Photoionization models require clouds with parsec sizes!

 $R \approx \frac{N_{\mathrm{H}}}{n_{\mathrm{H}}} <<$ 1 kpc

Most of current cosmological simulations cannot resolve subkiloparsec gas-clumps on large scales (e.g., CGM)...

This, together with other results (HVCs, galactic winds, ...) motivated new theoretical research:

- High-resolution simulations of multiphase gas (e.g., McCourt+2018, Gronke&Oh 2018-2019-2020, Mandelker+2018, Vossberg+2019);
- Cosmological simulations with higher refinement schemes for CGM (e.g., Hummels+2018, Suresh+2018);
- Lognormal distribution for gas densities (e.g., Cantalupo+2019)



A game changer: MUSE (the Multi-Unit Spectroscopic Explorer) on VLT/ESO







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QSO MUSEUM:

Quasar's Snapshot Observations with MUse: Search for Extended Ultraviolet eMission

- "Service mode" with MUSE/VLT (142 hours awarded so far)

- Targeted so far: 61 z ~3.2 quasars (15 radio-loud); average i_mag (AB) = 18.13 (GTO sample is 17.5 @z~3.4)

- Exposure time: average 45 minutes/source (some longer, up to 4.5 hours/source);
- SB limit @Lya line: $1\sigma \sim 2 \times 10^{-18} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$ (30Å NB); $1\sigma \sim 8.8 \times 10^{-19} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$ (1.25Å layer)
- Seeing: average 1" (0.6"-1.8")

Weather: clear or photometric

Ly α surface brightness maps



Is there a redshift evolution?

FAB+2019a



Witnessing the transition between cold vs hot mode accretion for quasar hosts?



Witnessing the transition between cold vs hot mode accretion for quasar hosts?



Lya velocity maps



Ly α velocity dispersion maps



$M_{\rm DM} \approx 10^{12.5} M_{\odot}$; NFW profile at $z \sim 3$

$V_{\rm circ}^{\rm max} \approx 360 \ \rm km/s$

$\sigma_{1\mathrm{D}} = V_{\mathrm{circ}}^{\mathrm{max}} / \sqrt{2} \approx 250 \mathrm{~km/s}$ \mathbf{J}

The kinematics are consistent with gravitational motions

(even more when considering Lyman-alpha resonant scattering and MUSE spectral resolution)

FAB+2019a

A coherent velocity pattern over > 100 kpc



FAB+2018a

...and at least 4 companions (2 AGN)



A coherent velocity pattern over > 100 kpc: rotation-like signature



FAB+2018a

Comparison with cosmological simulations: witnessing the build up of a massive system

FAB+2018a



The observed velocity gradient could trace the inspiraling of substructures within a massive halo



 \approx 20 % of projections

FAB+2018a

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• CGM

 10^{23}

 10^{22}

 10^{21}

 10^{20}

 $10^{10} \text{m}^{-10^{19}} \text{m}^{-10^{19}} \text{m}^{-10^{17}} \text{M}$

 10^{16}

 10^{15}

 10^{14}

Towards a clear IGM detection: from individual quasars to quasar pairs

FAB+2019b



 $z_{QSO1} = 3.020$ $z_{QSO2} = 3.008$ $M_{1450}^{QSO1} = -23.44$ $M_{1450}^{QSO2} = -23.12$

From a survey of 11 z~3 quasar pairs

Discovery of intergalactic Lyα bridges FAB+2019b



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Discovery of intergalactic Lyα bridges FAB+2019b



Photoionization modeling: constraining the physical properties and geometry of the system



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Photoionization modeling: constraining the physical properties and geometry of the system



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CGM/IGM in emission: a new field, still a lot to explore and learn...

Statistical observations of CGM of massive systems; IGM seen only in peculiar systems/fields

•	What are the physical properties of these gas phases?	Hints for cool gas made up of dense structures
•	What is the spatial distribution of the cool and warm/hot phase in halos? molecular phase?	Cool gas is routinely observed! diverse morphologies
•	How does the IGM funnel into the CGM and onto the central galaxies? What is the role of satellites?	In a cool phase dominated by gravitational motions? Redshift
•	Can we directly constrain halo dynamics? Possibly	evolution?
•	What is the role of AGN in shaping the properties of galactic halos and the surrounding IGM?	No violent AGN winds/outflows detected in the cool CGM

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