Cold gas in massive galaxies and across environments: challenges and prospects

Barbara Catinella
Swinburne University of Technology

L. Cortese (Swinburne), D. Schiminovich (Columbia) & GASS Team

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HI gas plays a key role in every step of galaxy evolution, but there is still a lot of work to do to understand how gas cycles in and out of galaxies.
Two open questions for upcoming HI surveys

- How is the gas cycle of galaxies affected by the environment outside clusters?
- How does the gas content of galaxies depend on redshift?

Scaling relations are powerful tools to address these questions

- Comparison of galaxy properties must be done at fixed stellar mass
- Need large samples, spanning range of environments and galaxy properties, and probing the gas-poor regime
GASS: The GALEX Arecibo SDSS Survey

Targeted HI survey: \(~800\) galaxies with homogeneously measured $M_*$, SFR and gas properties. Arecibo large program (2008-2012).

- Volume-limited: $0.025 < z < 0.05$
- Stellar mass selected: $10 < \log \frac{M_*}{M_\odot} < 11.5$
- Gas fraction limited: $\frac{M_{\text{HI}}}{M_*} > 1.5\%$

Final data release (DR3; Catinella et al. 2013) available at:
www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/GASS/
Gas content vs structural / SF properties of galaxies

Catinella et al. 2010, 2012b & 2013

HI mass fraction most tightly correlated with $\mu_*$ and NUV-r
Scaling relations from ALFALFA stacking

Fabello, Catinella et al. 2011

- HI stacking: powerful technique for upcoming SKA precursor surveys
- Complementary to (not a substitute for) individual detections
Galaxy structure and gas content

Transition seen in $\mu_*$, not in $M_*$

Catinella et al. 2010

Not reproduced by models (Kauffmann et al. 2012)
Scaling relations and environment
Powerful tools to study effects of environment on galaxy evolution

Herschel Reference Survey
(Boselli et al 2010): 322 galaxies
(62 E/SO, 260 Sp./Irr)
Volume/Stellar Mass limited - from isolated to cluster galaxies

Clusters are rare! Only 10% of local galaxies reside in clusters. What about HI content of galaxies in groups?

Cortese, Catinella et al. (2011)

HI content determined primarily by stellar mass, environment is secondary. Environmental comparisons must be done at fixed stellar mass.
At which density does the environment start affecting galaxy evolution?

Group environment: does it matter?

Optical studies show that environment acts well before reaching the dense cluster environment (Dressler 1980, Lewis et al 02, Gomez et al 03...)

Adapted from Dressler (1980)

Kilborn et al. (2009)
HI content (and SF) suppressed in groups

First statistical evidence for suppression of HI gas at fixed stellar mass in groups with halo mass $M_H \geq 10^{13} M_\odot$

- Extend to lower stellar mass and larger samples.
- Need to probe gas-poor regime and variety of environments. Stacking science.
Detection of 21 cm emission at $z > 0.1$ is DIFFICULT
- weak signals $\rightarrow$ very long integration times
- radio frequency interference (RFI)

In fact, almost NOTHING is known about the HI content of galaxies above $z=0.1$
Arecibo observations of SDSS-selected galaxies at $z>0.16$

- Galaxies selected from SDSS according to $z$, presence of H$\alpha$ line emission, inclination, disk morphology, and relative isolation
- Observations completed in 2011
- 53 galaxies targeted, $0.16 < z < 0.26$
- On-source integration time of 1-5 hr per object; $\sim 400$ hr telescope time

The very HI-rich Universe

Highest z detection of HI emission from a galaxy to date (z=0.25)

Among the most HI massive galaxies known

- 29 detections + ~10 marginal
- $0.16 < z < 0.26$
- HI mass $2 - 8 \times 10^{10} \, M_{\odot}$
- Stellar mass $> 10^{10} \, M_{\odot}$
- NUV-r $< 3.5$ mag (blue sequence)
- SFR $= \sim 5-30 \, M_{\odot}/yr$
What can we say about this population?

- unusually HI-rich and blue galaxies, rare at z=0 → by selection!
- low stellar mass surface densities typical of disks

Catinella & Cortese (in prep.)
A unique sample of rare, very HI-rich galaxies

- HI masses are as expected from their stellar surface densities and NUV-r colors
- probe HI-star formation connection in unusually HI-rich regime
- these are the galaxies that SKA and its pathfinders will detect at higher $z$

Catinella & Cortese (in prep.)
Atomic and molecular gas

SDSS Arecibo HI IRAM CO(1-0)

Log Stellar mass = 11.27 M$_\odot$
Log HI mass = 10.7 M$_\odot$
Log H$_2$ mass $\sim$ 10.2 M$_\odot$
SFR $\sim$25 M$_\odot$/yr

Do all these galaxies host exceptionally large molecular gas reservoirs as well?

ALMA and SKA precursor telescopes will study this population in detail in the next few years!!

Catinella & Cortese (in prep.)
Outlook

Effect of environment on gas: statistical studies
- Compare properties at fixed stellar mass, need to reach gas-poor regime
- Large-area, shallow surveys (e.g. WALLABY/WNSHS, ALFALFA) with stacking
- Deep surveys targeting range of environments also with detections

HI properties beyond z~0.1
- Deep surveys on small fields (e.g. DINGO, LADUMA)
- Glimpse of science to come from deep Arecibo observations
The Role of Hydrogen in the Evolution of Galaxies

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