Understanding the obscuring material around AGN with ALMA Almudena Alonso Herrero CAB, Madrid, Spain



Simplest version of the AGN Unified Model

Credit: NASA WISE

What We Expect to See

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Galaxies are oriented randomly in the sky so the disks in their centers should be oriented randomly as well.

Thus we expect to see a random mix of exposed and hidden black holes everywhere we look.

obscuring tori should show similar properties in all AGN independent of AGN luminosity, redshift, Eddington ratio, etc

Obscured AGN fraction vs. luminosity

Obscured fraction is usually derived from X-ray column densities (N_{H} ,) and optical class (type I broad vs. type 2 narrow lines)

Dependence with AGN luminosity for X-ray selected samples?



Merloni+2014, see also Lawrence & Elvis 1982, Hasinger+2005, Simpson 2005, Della Ceca+2008, Burlon+2011, Ueda+2014, Buchner+2015

Missing AGN in X-ray (<10keV) surveys

Lawrence & Elvis 2010

Mateos+2017





- A non-negligible fraction of luminous, heavily obscured (high covering factors) type-2 AGN are missing in X-rays
- No dependence when combining different AGN selection methods?



 $N_{\rm LI} = 10^{24} - 10^{25} \,\rm cm^{-2}$

Initially inactive BH is triggered by an accretion event, and moves to higher N_H and Edd ratio, before reaching the effective Edd ratio and expelling most of the obscuring material

Torus models to understand the obscuring material of AGN



Modelling the AGN IR unresolved emission



$$\begin{split} N_{LOS}(i) &= N_0 e^{-(90-i)^2 / \sigma_{torus}^2} \\ P_{esc} &\simeq e^{(-N_{LOS})} \quad \text{β=90-i$} \\ f_2 &= 1 - \int_0^{\pi/2} P_{esc}(\beta) cos(\beta) d\beta. \end{split}$$

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Geometrical covering factor (CF) f₂ is

only a function of torus angular width and number of clouds along equatorial direction

the fraction of obscured AGN

Elitzur 2012, Nenkova+2008

Torus geometrical covering factor vs AGN type

Volume-limited sample of 26 nearby (D<40Mpc) Swift-BAT selected AGN</p>



García-Bernete+2019

see also Ramos Almeida+2011, Alonso-Herrero+2011, Mor+2012, Lira+2013, Ichikawa+2015, Martínez-Paredes+2017

Torus Dust Covering Factors vs Luminosity

Complete sample of X-ray selected AGN: 132 type 1 AGN and 78 type 2 AGN at redshifts z~0-1.7

Small CF values are preferred at high AGN luminosities but X-ray samples are not complete!



Mateos+2016, see also Mor+2009, 2012, Roseboom+2015

Torus geometrical covering factor vs Eddington ratio

Volume-limited sample of 24 nearby (d<40Mpc) Swift-BAT selected AGN</p>



Dusty torus model images

Siebenmorgen+2015



First direct detection of the torus: NGC1068

ALMA 432μm view (0.04-0.06" res) of central 2" of NGC1068
 Dust and molecular gas torus (7-10pc). M_{GAS}~10⁵M o
 and M_{DUST}~1600M o

•Circumnuclear disk (300pc x 200pc) with recent SF activity



García-Burillo+2016, also Gallimore+2016, Imanishi+2018

The Galactic Activity, Torus and Outflow Survey (GATOS)

- Gas cycle (inflows/outflows) in the central regions of nearby AGN
- Torus properties and nuclear obscuration
- Nuclear star formation activity and role in feeding and obscuring the AGN
- Polar dust: dust chemistry and connection with outflows



Radiation-driven fountain model, Wada+2012, 2016 Izumi+2018

GATOS members

Science Board

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http://gatos.strw.leidenuniv.nl

GATOS Sample Selection

Volume-limited sample (distances < 40Mpc) of Seyfert galaxies selected in ultra-hard X-rays (14-195keV) from the all-sky Swift/BAT catalog

Range of AGN luminosities, column densities and Eddington ratios

ALMA, NOEMA, optical IFU GTC/MEGARA and VLT/MUSE and future JWST





(Sub)mm observations

22 GATOS Seyferts at distances of less than 40Mpc

Best ALMA angular resolution of 0.11" ~ 7-13pc

- nuclear (tori)
- circumnuclear (SF, inflows, outflows)

 Band 7 (all): CO(3-2), HCO+(4-3), 850µm continuum PI: García-Burillo (cycles 5-6) PI: Alonso-Herrero (luminous GATOS, cycle 7)

Band 6 (selected targets): CO(2-1), I.3mm continuum -PI:Alonso-Herrero

- luminosities cover the Seyfert galaxy range
- complementary to the NUGA sample of low luminosity AGN (Combes+2019)





ALMA resolves dusty molecular tori in Seyferts





From the NUGA sample of low luminosity AGN, Combes+2019

A massive "outflowing" torus in NGC5643



A large torus/nuclear disk in NGC3227



- At 850µm nuclear disk diameter ~40pc, perpendicular to ionization cone and with on-going/recent SF
- CO emission does not peak at AGN position, central 15pc M(H2) ~5x10⁵ M☉

Column density $N(H_2) \sim a$ few 10^{23} cm⁻²





Torus properties: NUGA + GATOS (I)

✤ CO(2-1), CO(3-2) and 850µm morphologies

- large tori/disks (r=10-20pc)
- perpendicular to ionization cone/radio axis
- connected to molecular gas in host galaxy
- rotating and some with evidence of outflowing material
- Molecular gas in disks/tori: M(H₂) ~5×10⁵-10⁷ M
- Column densities at AGN
 position correlated with Xray column densities

ALMA resolution already probing nuclear obscuration

García-Burillo, AAH+2019 (in prep), also Combes+2019, Alonso-Herrero+2018, 2019



Conclusions

- Not clear if there is a dependence of covering factors with AGN type, LAGN and/or Eddington ratios from:
 - Obscured AGN fraction
 - Modelling of nuclear infrared emission

ALMA is imaging directly the obscuring torus

- Large (20-40pc) massive obscuring tori \perp jet/ionization cone axes
- Molecular gas column densities are correlated with X-ray $N_{\rm H}$

ALMA angular resolution probes the obscuring material in nearby AGN



Near future: study the obscuring material properties for a range of LAGN and Eddington ratios, and relation with AGN feedback