# Astronomy 120



#### Prof. Jeff Kenney Class 12 June 12, 2018

#### midterm exam

- thurs june 14 morning? evening?
- fri june 15 morning? evening?
- sat june 16 morning? afternoon?
- sun june 17 morning? afternoon?

## observing session

- is ON for tonight, tues june 12
- 8pm-11pm
- complete observing "pre-assignment" before coming
- planetarium show 8-9pm
- observing & observing assignment 9-11pm

After dark matter and stars, which of the following has the most mass in our galaxy?

- A. Photons
- B. Gas
- C. Cosmic rays
- D. Dust
- E. Planets, comets, asteroids

Today in Astro120: Gas in Galaxies

- What is in the space between the stars?
- Where does gas in universe come from?
- How do we "see" this gas?
- How does the gas allow us to detect the presence of Dark Matter?

# Importance of gas

Stars form from clouds of gas

 Galaxies form from clouds of gas & dark matter

#### A. "primordial"

Created in Big Bang in early universe, existed before stars & galaxies

#### **B. Recycled through stars**

Nucleosynthesis in stellar cores (C->Fe) or supernova & neutron star explosions (heavier than Fe)

It all started as ionized H (just protons) in the Big Bang. Subsequent nuclear reactions turned some of it into heavier elements, either in the early universe (He,Li,Be,B) or later in stars & supernovae (C,N,O & higher)

# Formation of the elements in the universe (oversimplified...)



#### A. "primordial"

Created in Big Bang in early universe, existed before stars & galaxies

big clue.... observed elemental abundances of universe:H 74% by mass (simplest element most abundant)He 25% by massAll other elements 1% by mass

prediction for Big Bang Nucleosynthesis:

- H 75.5% by mass
- He 24.5% by mass
- All other elements <<1% by mass

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Nucleosynthesis in stellar cores (C->Fe) or supernova & NS explosions (heavier than Fe)

Returned to space by stellar mass loss (stars are always ejecting mass)(stellar winds, envelope ejection in planetary nebula phase) or supernovae

#### Recycling by stars back into space

2. The star then ejects

Low mass stars: Planetary nebulae

Medium mass stars in binaries: Type la Supernovae

High mass stars: Type II Supernovae















### How can we see Gas in the universe?

- A. It emits photons
- B. Light from stars is doppler shifted by gas particles
- C. By its gravitational effect on nearby stars
- D. Via the rotation curves of galaxies
- E. It absorbs photons
- F. You can't see gas, you smell it

#### Detecting atomic hydrogen with spectral line of HI

H is most abundant element in universe (~74% by mass) I in HI means atom has all its electrons (only 1 in case of H)



electron in lowest orbit (n=1)

electron and proton have spins in same direction (parallel)

#### Neutral Hydrogen (HI): λ=21cm spectral line from "spin-flip transition"



An H atom in upper energy state (parallel spins)

will *spontaneously* change to

lower energy state (anti-parallel spins), emitting a photon with  $\lambda$ =21cm in the process

# Neutral Hydrogen (HI): λ=21cm spectral line from "spin-flip transition"



Electron in ground state orbital level is split into 2 hyperfine levels

# Why 21cm HI line is important It is easy to excite upper energy level

 Upper energy level is only E = 5.9x10<sup>-6</sup> eV or T = E/k = 0.07 K above ground state!

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- Tiny amount of energy required to excite upper state – it is easy to do this with low energy collisions, which happen almost anywhere in universe!

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- Upper energy level is only E = 5.9x10<sup>-6</sup> eV or T = E/k = 0.07 K above ground state!
- Tiny amount of energy required to excite upper state – it is easy to do this with low energy collisions, which happen almost anywhere in universe!
- 21cm HI line is excellent probe of neutral hydrogen gas throughout universe

### 2 most important radio telescopes for HI studies of galaxies



Very Large Array (VLA) New Mexico, US 27 dishes with 25m diameter interferometer

#### Arecibo Telescope Puerto Rico 305m diameter Single dish



#### Milky Way in stars (NIR) and neutral gas (HI)



A disk component (not bulge) but some HI clouds extend up into the halo

# HI gas is associated with the disk not the bulge



Blue: stars Red: heated dust (distribution like HI gas)

# Sc galaxy M101

120" 372 NGC 5457 Sc(s)

M101 is one of largest nearby spirals

"Negative" Optical Image of M101

Sandage & Bedke

# 2 different images of M101 to same scale





HI gas much more extended than optical starlight



Fig. 1. Grey-scale picture of the total HI column density distribution of M 101. The column densities range from  $1 \ 10^{20}$  (white) to  $3.8 \ 10^{21}$ cm<sup>-2</sup> (dark). The resolution is  $13'' \times 16''$  (~ 500 pc). The arrow indicates the position of the superbubble.

Kamphuis etal 1991

# Why are the outer parts of most spiral galaxies gas-rich?

- A. Gas is blown outwards by lots of supernovae during starburst phase of evolution
- B. Stars don't form so easily in the gas of the outer galaxy
- C. The gravitational force on the small gas particles is weak
- D. Magnetic fields keep the gas from settling to center
- E. Gas is bound to the Dark Matter

# 2 different images of M101 to same scale

Optical starlight In M101



 HI gas much more extended than optical starlight

-> Gas inefficient in forming stars in outer parts of galaxy because of low gas density



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having lots of HI gas in the outer parts of galaxies is great e because it gives us a way to measure the masses of galaxies far from the center...

by *measuring the Doppler shift of the HI emission line at 21cm* .. with radio telescope → *provides evidence for Dark Matter!* 

## **Doppler shift**

Apparent change in wavelength (and frequency) of wave due to relative motion between source & observer



redshifted photon from star moving away from observer



#### Doppler Effect



(a) stationary source

(b) moving source

#### wavecrests for stationary & moving sources





Motion along line-of-sight toward observer (v<0) causes blueshift ( $\lambda < \lambda_0$ )

Wavecrests squashed together so wavelengths shorter



Motion along line-of-sight away from observer (v>0) causes redshift ( $\lambda > \lambda_0$ )

Wavecrests stretched out so wavelengths are longer

#### Doppler shifts

wavelength  $\lambda_o$  for stationary source



redshifted wavelength  $\lambda$ for source moving away blueshifted wavelength  $\lambda$ for source moving toward



$$(\lambda - \lambda_{o}) / \lambda_{o} = \Delta \lambda / \lambda_{o} = v/c$$

doppler shift for light

convention: away is positive v, toward is negative v

3 things which cause  $\lambda$  of light to shift: Doppler shift, Cosmological redshift, Gravitational redshift

In general shift defined by z:

$$z = (\lambda - \lambda_o) / \lambda_o = \Delta \lambda / \lambda_o$$

 $\lambda_o = rest wavelength$ 

 $\lambda$  = detected wavelength

 $\lambda / \lambda_o = (1+z)$ 

e.g., if  $\lambda = \lambda_o$ ,  $\Delta \lambda = 0$ , z = 0 no shift

for Doppler shifts:  $z = \Delta \lambda / \lambda_o = v / c$  (for v << c) Jen is stopped for going through a red light in her Hummer. She tells the cop that the Doppler effect caused the red light to appear green. How fast would she need to be going?

- A. 200 mph
- B. 100 km/sec
- C. 1% of speed of light
- D. 33% of speed of light
- E. 99% of speed of light

why can you *hear* the Doppler shift of the moving buzzer, but not *see* it?

#### doppler shift for sound

$$\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v / v_s$$
  $v_s = 340 \text{ m/s}$   
speed of sound

#### doppler shift for light

$$\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v/c$$

c=3.00x10<sup>8</sup> m/s speed of light

### For doppler buzzer, v ~3 m/s

doppler shift for sound

$$\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v / v_s = (3 \text{ m/s}) / (340 \text{ m/s}) = 10^{-2}$$

#### doppler shift for light $\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v/c = (3 \text{ m/s})/(3.00 \text{ x} 10^8 \text{ m/s}) = 10^{-8}$

## For doppler buzzer, v ~3 m/s

doppler shift for sound

 $\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v / v_s = (3m/s) / (340 m/s) = 10^{-2}$ 

We can hear a pitch change of 1% !!

#### doppler shift for light

 $\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v/c = (3m/s)/(3.00x10^8 m/s) = 10^{-8}$ 

We can't see such a small change in the wavelength of light (but sensitive instruments can detect)



Star and planet both orbit around center of mass







#### Planet and star orbiting center of mass



Center of mass can be inside one of the bodies!









Wavelength shift gives velocity by Doppler shift  $(\lambda - \lambda o)/\lambda o = v/c$ 



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HI velocity map of spiral galaxy NGC 2903 Color= velocity of HI gas



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Wavelength shift gives velocity by Doppler shift  $(\lambda - \lambda o)/\lambda o = v/c$ 

and these velocities provide evidence for Dark Matter in galaxies !