

The Resolved Radio Continuum vs. Star Formation Rate in Nearby Dwarf Galaxies

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Continuum Emission in Galaxies



Condon 1992: The observed radio/FIR spectrum of M82 (Klein et al. 1988, Carlstrom & Kronenberg 1991)

RC—IR Relationship

- Holds over 5 orders of magnitude with only
 0.2 dex scatter
- Holds out to a redshift of at least 3
- Calorimeter model
- The conspiracy
 - At low luminosity neither the IR or $[20]_{20}$ radio accurately trace the SFR leading $_{19}$



The Sample

 Local Irregulars That Trace Luminosity Extremes, The HI Nearby Galaxy Survey

- LITTLE THINGS (what an acronym)

- 40 dwarf irregular and Blue Compact Dwarf galaxies
- 0.8 < D[Mpc] < 10.3
- Extensive multi-wavelength data
 FIR, UV, MIR, Optical (Hα)
- Low mass, low metallicity, early galaxy analogue and a test of the calorimeter model



- VLA C-band (4—8GHz)
- 40 hours in C-configuration
- Resolution 3-8"
- Sensitivity 3—15µJy beam⁻¹
- 22 detections, 13 of which are new

Analysis

- Remove background sources
- Define masks
- Estimate SFR
- Separate RC components
- Investigate the RC—SFR and RC—FIR relation
- Magnetic Fields

Removing Background Sources

- Significant issue in these faint galaxies
- Identify through cross matching with NED and proximity of RC emission to $\mbox{H}\alpha$



Masks

- Previous studies tend to either focus on unresolved observations or on bright galaxies
- RC emission in dwarfs is faint and patchy



The SFR

- Use combination of 24µm + FUV
 Leroy et al. 2012
- The 24 μ m corrects the FUV for internal extinction
- Some uncertainty
 - Some MIR generated by older stars
- Issues regarding low star formation rate
 Stochastic, not fully sampled IMF etc.



Separating the Radio Continuum

- Hα and RC_{Th} both originate in the hot (10⁴K) plasma within HII regions
- Results in a tight spatial correlation that can be used to estimate the RC_{Th} emission

– Deeg et al. 1997, Murphy et al. 2011

- The $\rm RC_{Th}$ can then be subtracted from the total RC to give the $\rm RC_{Nth}$
- We do not correct the H α for internal extinction
- A different Bayesian approach requires numerous samples of the radio SED (see Jonathans talk)



The RC—SFR Relation

- Integrated over the RC-based mask results are consistent with theoretical
- Integrated over the disk-based mask show a suppression of the RC by a factor of 2—4





The RC—SFR Relation

• Compared to the study of larger spirals by Heesen et al. (2014)



The RC—FIR Relation

- RC excess when integrating over the RC mask
- Consistent when integrating over the disk





The FIR—SFR Relation

 Both the disk and RC masks integrated FIR underestimate the SFR compared to Calzetti et al. 2010



Magnetic Fields

- Assuming equipartition we can estimate the magnetic field strength
- Average of 6.0µG over disk mask and 12.7µG over RC mask
- Peaks towards regions of SF with values up to 30µG in NGC1569
- Consistent with larger spirals

 -9.7μ G in WSRT SINGS sample

Interpretation

- The RC is suppressed relative to the expected SFR over the disk
 - The RC_{Nth} is responsible
 - But the magnetic fields are strong so are CRes escaping?
- The FIR—SFR show the FIR underestimates the SFR in both masks
- The conspiracy continues
- More data obtained to improve S/N and allow radial, spectral, polarisation studies