The UV view of multi spin galaxies: insight from SPH simulations

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Abstract. The UV images of GALEX revealed that ∼30±3% of Early Type Galaxies (ETG) show UV emission indicating a rejuvenation episode. In ETGs with multiple spin components this percentage increases at 50%. We present here the characteristics of this sample and our smooth particle hydrodynamic (SPH) simulations with chemo-photometric implementation that provide dynamical and morphological information together with the spectral energy distribution (SED) at each evolutionary stage. We show our match of the global properties of two ETGs (e.g. NGC 3626 and NGC 5173). For these galaxies we can trace their evolutionary path.

1. Introduction

In the hierarchical scenario of structures formation and evolution, galaxy interactions and mergers are very common. One of the most impressive traces of the merging event is the phenomenon of counter-rotation (see Galletta (1996) for a review). Counter-rotation is observed when two components of a galaxy rotate with opposite spin. This may happen in a portion or in the whole range of galaxy radius. The first examples of counter-rotation were found in ETGs but in the later years this phenomenon has been found in every morphological type of galaxy: Ellipticals, S0s, Spirals and even in irregular galaxies. Due to the large number and variety of cases found, the counter-rotating galaxies on the last years abandoned the category of “peculiar galaxies” to become examples of a phase of the evolution of many (or most) galaxies.

A current challenge is to disentangle the different evolutionary paths producing counter-rotating galaxy components. In particular the evolution of interstellar medium (ISM) in counter-rotating galaxies is quite complex since, in contrast with “native” gas whose evolution is essentially determined by the star formation rate, the evolution of the accreted gas depends on many independent parameters, like: i) the impact angle, ii) the relative orientation of the accreted gas and galaxy- spins and iii) the abundance of native gas. In order to provide a complete, self-consistent, picture of both galaxy evolution and dust properties, it is highly desirable to have a SED that entails the whole spectral range self-consistently with the galaxy evolution.
2. The chemo-photometric SPH simulations

To this purpose, we performed a large set of simulations of galaxy formation and evolution of isolated collapsing triaxial systems initially composed of dark matter and gas, as described in (Mazzei & Curir 2003), together with a large set of encounter simulations starting from the same initial conditions of haloes, using different impact parameters, total masses and spin orientations. Our simulations allow us to derive the global properties of interacting systems, in particular velocities and relative abundances of all the system components, i.e. the merger evolution.

The general prescriptions of chemo-photometric SPH simulations and the grid of the impact parameters explored, are reported in several previous papers (Mazzei et al. 2013; Bettoni et al. 2012). All the simulations include self–gravity of gas, stars and DM, radiative cooling, hydrodynamical pressure, shock heating, viscosity, SF, feedback both from evolved stars and type II SNe, and chemical enrichment. Simulations provide the synthetic SED, based on evolutionary population synthesis (EPS) models, at each evolutionary stage, i.e. at each snapshot. The time-step between each snapshot is 0.037 Gyr. The SED accounts for chemical evolution, stellar emission, internal extinction and re-emission by dust in a self-consistent way. This extends over four orders of magnitude in wavelength at least, i.e., from 0.06 to 1000 \( \mu \text{m} \). Simulations self-consistently provide morphological, dynamic and chemo-photometric evolution. All the model parameters had been tuned in previous papers where the integrated properties of simulated galaxies stopped at 15 Gyr, i.e. their colors, absolute magnitudes, mass to luminosity ratios, and metallicities had been successfully compared with those of local galaxies (Curir & Mazzei 1999; Mazzei & Curir 2003).

3. The Sample

Here we focus on two points: the (u-r) vs. \( M_r \) color magnitude diagram and the fit of the SED. In the (u - r) vs. \( M_r \) color magnitude diagram (CMD) (Baldry et al. 2004) early-type quiescent galaxies populate the red sequence and late-types, with active star formation, the blue one. The Galaxy Evolution Explorer (GALEX) satellite showed that a surprisingly high fraction (15%) of optically red SDSS ETGs exhibit strong UV excess (Yi et al. 2005). Later Donas et al. (2007) and Schawinski et al. (2007) showed that up to 30±3% of the ETGs imaged in the UV with GALEX have signatures of such rejuvenation episodes, even after excluding classical UV-upturn candidates. Considering the whole sample of galaxies with counter-rotation (Galletta 1996; Corsini & Bertola 1998) the percentage of ETGs with signatures of rejuvenation episodes in the nucleus and in the disk, jump at 50%. From this sample we selected a sub- sample in a local volume of 10 Mpc, that spans all the morphological sequence, from Spirals to ETGs, with available data from UV to near-IR. Here we present the results for two ETGs: NGC 3626 (S0/Sa) and NGC 5173 (E0).

4. Results

**NGC 3626** This galaxy is the first early spiral (RSA classified it as S0) in which gas/star counterrotation has been found (Ciri et al. 1995). Garcia-Burillo et al. (1998) found also a disk of molecular gas counterrotating with respect to the stars. From our model-
The UV view of multi spin galaxies

Figure 1. Data are as in [Mazzei et al. (2013)] for NGC 3626 (left), with the exception of new near-UV flux from GALEX archive at MAST, whereas for NGC 5178 (right), green points are ISO data from [Xilouris et al. (2004)], magenta are IRAS data and cyan are from [Temi et al. (2004)]. Solid lines are predictions from our chemophotometric simulations at 13.8 Gyr. The FIR SED includes two dust components: warm dust (HII regions) and cold dust (heated by the diffuse interstellar field) both including PAH molecules (e.g. [Bettoni et al. (2012)]). The warm/cold ratio is 0.23 for NGC 3626, like the average for Spirals (Mazzei et al. 1992), and double than in average for Es for NGC 5173, i.e. 1 instead of 0.5 (Mazzei et al. 1994).

Figure 2. NGC 3626 Left: Rotation curve of gas at the selected snapshot compared with observations [Ciri et al. 1995; Haynes et al. 2000], filled circles, both binned within 4; vertical bars show the dispersion of observations within each bin; dashed lines connecting the velocities of our snapshot, show the range of model predictions. Right: Rotation curve of stars compared with observations (Haynes et al. 2000), filled circles; the meaning of the symbols is the same as in the left panel.
The galaxy age results 11.5 Gyr. The average stellar age within the effective radius, \(r_\text{e}\), is 4.3 Gyr and increases to 5.5 Gyr within \(R_{25} \approx 3r_\text{e}\). These age estimates become younger if stellar ages are weighted by the B-band luminosity: 3.4 Gyr and 4.5 Gyr respectively. In the inner regions, \(R \leq 1.5\) kpc, stars are younger than 2 Gyr, in good agreement with the findings of Sil'chenko et al. (2010). The star formation rate due to stars younger than 0.01 Gyr, is \(2 M_\odot /\text{yr}\), in agreement with the radio estimates given by Bell (2003). Figure 1(left) compares our predictions with observations, including new near-UV flux released from GALEX archive; see Mazzei et al. (2013) for more details. In Figure 2 we compare the observed star and gas rotation curves with the results of our simulations.

NGC 5173 In this E0 galaxy Kannappan & Fabricant (2001) found the gas/star counter-rotation and in the GALEX UV image it is visible a patchy FUV inner ring. The simulation which best- fits its total SED (see Fig.1 right), from FUV to 200 \(\mu\)m, total B absolute magnitude, \(M_B = -17.48 \pm 0.31\) (from Hyperleda), and morphology at an age of 13.8 Gyr, corresponds to a galaxy encounter with mass ratio 1:1, total mass \(4 \times 10^{12} M_\odot\) and relative positions and velocities, \(r_1 = - r_2 = 888\) kpc, \(v_1 = - v_2 = 61\) km/s.

5. Conclusions

Our simulations trace the evolution of these galaxies along the blue sequence, which hosts them for about 7-8 Gyr, before they became mature and red ETGs after 4-5 Gyr they spent, in a significant part, in the so called green valley.

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