AGN feedback in dwarf galaxies?

Gohar Dashyan1*, Joseph Silk1,2,3,4, Gary A. Mamon1, Yohan Dubois1, Tilman Hartwig1

1 Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris (UMR 7095: CNRS and UPMC - Sorbonne Universités), 98 bis bd Arago, F-75014 Paris, France
2 Laboratoire AIM-Paris-Saclay, CEA/IRFU, CNRS, Univ. Paris VII, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette, France
3 Department of Physics and Astronomy, The Johns Hopkins University Homewood Campus, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA
4 BIPAC, Department of Physics, University of Oxford, Keble Road, Oxford OX1 3RH, UK

Abstract
Dwarf galaxy anomalies, such as their abundance and cusp-core problems, remain a prime challenge in our understanding of galaxy formation. The inclusion of baryonic physics could potentially solve these issues, but the efficiency of stellar feedback is still controversial. We analytically explore the possibility of feedback from Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) in dwarf galaxies and compare AGN and supernova (SN) feedback. We assume the presence of an intermediate mass black hole within low mass galaxies and standard scaling relations between the relevant physical quantities. We model the propagation and properties of the outflow and explore the critical condition for global gas ejection. Performing the same calculation for SNe, we compare the ability of AGN and SNe to drive gas out of galaxies. We find that a critical halo mass exists below which AGN feedback can remove gas from the host halo and that the critical halo mass for AGN is greater than the equivalent for SNe in a significant part of the parameter space, suggesting that AGN could provide an alternative and more successful source of negative feedback than SNe, even in the most massive dwarf galaxies.

Key words: methods: analytical – black hole physics – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: active – galaxies: dwarf – galaxies: luminosity function, mass function

1 INTRODUCTION
In the cold dark matter (CDM) cosmological model, larger structures form through successive mergers. Therefore, dwarf galaxies ($M_{\text{vir}} < 10^{11} M_\odot$) are potentially left over building blocks of galaxies and provide a test bed for the CDM model, as the smallest probes of cosmological structure formation. The LCDM model has proven successful at reproducing the large scale universe, however, disparities exist between the theory and observations on small scales: the model predicts too many small galaxies (the “missing satellites” problem, Moore et al. 1999), cuspy dark matter profiles that are not yet convincingly observed (Oh et al. 2011), and the most massive dwarfs predicted by LCDM simulations are rarely observed (the “too big to fail” problem, Boylan-Kolchin et al. 2011). Baryonic feedback, especially from supernovae (SNe), is a currently controversial solution to all these difficulties. Ram pressure stripping, tidal stripping, and harassment, are additional mechanisms that should occur in the group environment. It is, however, still unclear whether these mechanisms can account for the observed and expectations at the low mass end of the galaxy luminosity function. The role of SN feedback is uncertain since SNe might fail in multiphase interstellar medium (ISM) (Bland-Hawthorn et al. 2015). Moreover, massive dwarf galaxies seem to require stronger feedback than SNe can provide (Garrison-Kimmel et al. 2013). The role of environmental physics is also uncertain, since dwarf galaxy disagreements with the standard model seems to extend to regions where environmental effects should be small (Garrison-Kimmel et al. 2014).

X-ray observations indicate that Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) are present in roughly 1% of dwarf galaxies (Pardo et al. 2016; Baldassare et al. 2017), which, combined with any plausible duty cycle, suggests a larger occupation fraction for IMBH (Miller et al. 2015). Moreover, AGN feedback could potentially provide a unified answer to dwarf galaxy issues in the standard model (Silk 2017).

In this paper, we explore the possibility of AGN feedback from an intermediate mass black hole (IMBH) in dwarf galaxies. We compute the critical halo mass for gas expulsion out of the halo by the AGN outflow, following the example of Dekel & Silk (1986) for SNe. We examine how that critical mass depends on parameters, using standard scaling relations and a spherical model. This allows us to compare the roles of SNe and AGN in expelling the gas. We are considering the competition between gas retention from the gravitational force of the halo and gas expulsion by the AGN. This is a different approach from the one yielding a high mass break (Bower et al. 2006; Croton et al. 2006), which involves the role of AGN in suppressing cooling flows onto massive galaxies, thereby modifying the bright end of the galaxy luminosity function.

In Section 2, we explain the scaling relations and the physics of the outflow driven by the AGN wind. In Section 3, we compute the critical conditions and discuss their dependence on the parameters as well as the effect of cooling. We summarize and discuss the results in Section 4.

* E-mail: dashyan@iap.fr

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2 MODEL

We study gas ejection from a spherical galaxy halo driven by the AGN outflow by following the propagation of the swept-up ISM (Sections 2.2 and 2.3), and comparing the outflow and local escape velocities. We use scaling relations to estimate the physical quantities (Section 2.1), with the aim of exploring the parameter space.

2.1 Scaling relations

For a given halo mass \( M_{\text{halo}} \), the parameter space to be explored consists of: the redshift, the IMBH mass, the Eddington ratio of the AGN, the fraction of mass in gas, the gas and dark matter density profiles, the velocity of the inner wind, and the lifetime of the AGN. We investigate AGN feedback in early dwarf evolution, and therefore the relevant redshift is the typical redshift of halo formation, when the typical density fluctuation corresponds to a halo mass that satisfies \( \sigma(M_{\text{halo}},z) = 1 \). We use a fitting function for \( \sigma(M_{\text{halo}},z) \) (app. A of van den Bosch 2002). Therefore, the physical quantities associated to \( M_{\text{halo}} \) are computed at \( z(M_{\text{halo}}) \), and varying \( M_{\text{halo}} \) means varying the redshift. For a given halo mass, the virial radius \( R_{\text{vir}} \) and velocity \( V_{\text{vir}} \) are uniquely defined

\[
\begin{align*}
    z &= z_{\text{nonlinear}}(M_{\text{halo}}), \\
    M_{\text{halo}} &= \frac{4\pi}{3} \Delta_c(z) \rho_c E^2(z) R_{\text{vir}}^3, \\
    V_{\text{vir}} &= \frac{G M_{\text{halo}}}{R_{\text{vir}}},
\end{align*}
\]

where \( G \) is the gravitational constant, \( \rho_c \) is the critical density of the Universe, and \( \Delta_c(z) \) is the density contrast relative to critical, taken from Bryan & Norman (1998), and \( E^2(z) = [H(z)/H_0]^2 \). We use a constant gas fraction

\[
    M_g = \frac{f_g}{\rho_c} M_{\text{halo}},
\]

where \( f_g = \Omega_0/\Omega_m \approx 0.17 \). The dark matter and gas both follow the NFW profile of Navarro et al. (1996)

\[
\rho_{\text{DM}}(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{r/R_s (1 + r/R_s)^2},
\]

\[
\rho_g = \frac{f_g}{1 - f_g} \rho_{\text{DM}},
\]

where \( R_s = R_{\text{vir}}/c(M_{\text{halo}},z) \), and \( c(M_{\text{halo}},z) \) is the NFW concentration given by Dutton & Macciò (2014). The escape velocity at the virial radius is

\[
V_{\text{esc}} = V_{\text{vir}} \sqrt{2 \log (1 + c) / (\log (1 + c) - c / (1 + c))}
\]

(Cole & Lacey 1996). Using an \( M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma \) type relation for the black hole (BH), we estimate the BH mass

\[
M_{\text{BH}} = A \sigma^\alpha,
\]

where the velocity dispersion \( \sigma \approx 0.7 V_{\text{vir}} \) for NFW models (Lokas & Mamon 2001). We vary \( \alpha \) between 3.5 and 5, and for each \( \alpha \) we fit the normalization \( A \) to the observational data of Ferrarese & Merritt (2000), Gebhardt et al. (2000), Tremaine et al. (2002), Gültekin et al. (2009), and Kormendy & Ho (2013).

\[\text{Figure 1. Schematic view of the outflow structure. The accreting IMBH drives a wind with velocity } v_w \text{, it collides with the ISM and is slowed in a strong shock at } R_{\text{sw}} \text{. A forward shock, at } R_{\text{shell}}, \text{ is driven into the ISM. } R_d \text{ is the contact discontinuity between the shocked wind and the shocked ISM.}\]

The mechanical luminosity of the IMBH is a function of the velocity of the AGN inner wind \( v_w \), the luminosity of the AGN, given itself by the Eddington ratio \( \chi \) and the Eddington luminosity,

\[
L_m = \frac{v_w}{2c} L_{\text{AGN}} = \frac{v_w}{2c} \chi L_{\text{Eddington}} = \frac{v_w}{2c} \chi \frac{4\pi G c M_{\text{BH}} m_p}{\sigma_T^2},
\]

where \( m_p \) is the proton mass and \( \sigma_T \) the Thomson cross section. Equation (6) assumes that the outflow momentum flux is comparable to that in the emitted radiation field, \( L_{\text{AGN}}/c \). We assume \( v_w = 0.1c \), where \( c \) is the speed of light, following observations (Tombesi et al. 2010; Gofford et al. 2013; King & Pounds 2015). Finally, we define \( t_{\text{AGN}} \) as the lifetime of the AGN.

2.2 Structure of the outflow

A schematic view of the outflow structure is shown in Fig. 1. The outflow from the AGN impacts the ISM of the host galaxy, producing an inner reverse shock at \( R_{\text{sw}} \), slowing the wind, and an outer forward shock accelerating the swept-up gas at \( R_{\text{shell}} \). A contact discontinuity separates the hot shocked wind and the shocked ISM at \( R_d \). The shocked wind is much hotter than the shocked ISM. Therefore, the cooling of the shocked ISM has no substantial impact on the propagation. Hence, we assume, as Faucher-Giguère & Quataert (2012) that the shocked ISM is collapsed into a thin shell and define \( R = R_d = R_{\text{shell}} \). Moreover, the sound crossing time in the shocked wind is smaller than the age of the outflow and the entire region is at uniform pressure (Weaver et al. 1977).

2.3 Equations of the propagation

2.3.1 Energy-driven

The propagation is called energy-driven when no energy is lost to radiation and the energy is thereby conserved. In that case, the motion of the shell is driven by the internal energy of the shocked wind that expands adiabatically. Following an approach similar to
AGN feedback in dwarf galaxies?

Weaver et al. (1977) and Koo & McKee (1990), the set of equations giving the radius of the shell and the internal energy of the gas is

$$\frac{dR}{dt}(M_{\text{shell}}(R) \dot{R}) = 2E_{\text{th}} + M_{\text{shell}} \dot{R}^2 + E_{\text{grav}, t},$$

$$E_{\text{in}} + E_{\text{grav}, 0} = E_{\text{th}} + \frac{1}{2} M_{\text{shell}} \dot{R}^2 + E_{\text{grav}, t},$$

(7)

where $M_{\text{shell}}$ is the mass of the gas engulphed by the blast wave at $R$, $E_{\text{in}}(t) = L_\text{in} \times \min(t, t_{\text{AGN}})$ is the total injected energy; $E_{\text{grav}, 0}$ is the gravitational energy that the swept-up gas would have had in the absence of the blast wave; $E_{\text{grav}, t}$ is the gravitational energy of the gas shell, under the gravity of the total mass engulfed by the blast wave. The first equation in (7) is the generalized virial theorem, applied to the gas engulfed by the blast wave, assuming that most of the mass is carried by the shell of shocked ISM. The second equation simply states the conservation of energy since the propagation is adiabatic: all the input energy ($E_{\text{in}}$) and the initial gravitational energy ($E_{\text{grav}, 0}$) at a given time during propagation go to: (1) the internal energy of the shocked wind ($E_{\text{in}}$), (2) the kinetic energy of the shell ($\frac{1}{2} M_{\text{shell}} \dot{R}^2$) of the blast wave, (3) the current gravitational energy of the gas shell under the gravity of the total mass engulfed by the blast wave ($E_{\text{grav}, t}$).

2.3.2 Momentum-driven

The nature of the outflow depends on that of the reverse shock between the wind and the shocked wind, which in turn depends on the cooling: if the cooling is efficient, the shocked wind loses its thermal energy and compresses into a thin shell. The outflow is called momentum-driven because the shock is accelerated by the momentum input per unit time $L_{\text{AGN}}/c$ and no longer by the adiabatic expansion of the shocked wind. The equation of propagation is

$$\frac{d}{dt} \left[ M_{\text{shell}}(R) \dot{R} \right] = \frac{L_{\text{AGN}}}{c} - \frac{GM_{\text{shell}}(R) [M_{\text{DM}}(< R) + M_{\text{BH}}]}{R^2},$$

(8)

where $M_{\text{shell}}(R) \dot{R}$ is the momentum of the shell, and $L_{\text{AGN}}/c$ is the momentum input from the photons per unit time. In the momentum-driven regime, the outflow is much less powerful than in the energy-driven regime: for an IMBH near the $M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma$ relation, only a fraction $\sim \sigma/c$ of the mechanical luminosity is transferred to the ISM (King & Pounds 2015).

2.4 Energetics

The combined action of many SNe leads to the development of an expanding superbubble capable of sweeping-up ISM (Kim et al. 2017). In this Section and in Section 3.2 we compare the effects of AGN and SNe as a function of the halo mass, varying relevant parameters such as the Eddington ratio, the lifetime of the AGN. The star formation rate can be approximated as $M_{\text{SF}}/t_{\text{SF}}$ where $M_{\text{SF}} = M_{b}(< R_{\text{crit}}/10)$ is the gas mass available for star formation and $t_{\text{SF}}$ is the gas depletion time in the ISM with a redshift dependence

$$t_{\text{SF}} = 1.26(1 + z)^{-0.34} \text{ Gyr},$$

observed by Genzel et al. (2015, their table 3). The total luminosity is

$$L_{\text{SN}} = E_{\text{SN}} M_{\text{SF}}/t_{\text{SF}},$$

(10)

$$\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_{\odot}} \geq 10^{10} \left( \frac{M_{\text{halo}}}{10^{12} M_{\odot}} \right) \left( \frac{\chi}{1} \right) + \log \left( \frac{\epsilon_{w}}{\chi} \right).$$

Figure 2. Ratio between the mechanical luminosity from the AGN and the mechanical luminosity from SNe, as a function of the halo mass, for different values of (a) the Eddington ratio $\chi$; (b) the exponent $\alpha$ in the $M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma$ relation; (c) SNe wind efficiency $\epsilon_{w}$. For each panel, the default values for the parameters that do not vary are: $\chi = 0.1$; $\alpha = 4.5$; $\epsilon_{w} = 0.1$.

where $\nu$ is the number of SNe per mass of forming stars. For a Kroupa initial mass function (Kroupa 2001), $\nu = 1/150 M_{\odot}$. However, only a fraction $\epsilon_{w} \sim 1 - 10\%$ of $L_{\text{SN}}$ contributes to drive an outflow (Dubois & Teysier 2008).

We compare the input wind luminosities from AGN ($L_{\text{in}, \text{AGN}}$) and SNe ($L_{\text{in}, \text{SN}}$) through the ratio $R = L_{\text{in}, \text{AGN}}/L_{\text{in}, \text{SN}}$. Fig. 2 shows that $R$ increases with halo mass. Therefore, a halo mass exists above which the mechanical luminosity of AGN is higher than the mechanical luminosity from SNe, and this mass depends on $\chi$, $\epsilon_{w}$ and $\nu$. $R$ increases with $\chi$ and decreases with $\alpha$ and $\epsilon_{w}$. In Section 3.2, we also take into account the momentum injection by SNe, following Kim & Ostriker (2015).

In this paper, the AGN mass is uniquely defined by the halo mass and the exponent in the $M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma$ relation. By releasing that constraint, one can compute the minimum black hole mass required to energetically dominate SNe. We find

$$\log \left( \frac{M_{\text{BH}, \text{crit}}}{10^{9} M_{\odot}} \right) \geq 2.8 + 1.1 \log \left( \frac{M_{\text{halo}}}{10^{12} M_{\odot}} \right) + \log \left( \frac{\epsilon_{w}}{\chi} \right).$$

However, this energetic approach is only first order because the energy cannot be considered as the deciding quantity a priori, since it can be lost through cooling processes. Therefore, it is important to use a self-consistent treatment of the cooling and to compute the propagation of the shell (see Section 3). Coupling between SNe and AGN as well as geometry effects are other limitations to this simple approach, that are not addressed in this paper.

3 IMPLICATIONS

The critical condition for gas removal is that the velocity $V_{\text{shell}}$ of the shell of swept-up ISM is above the escape velocity when it reaches the virial radius. For both SNe and AGN, the scaling relations are such that this critical condition defines two mass regions on both sides of the critical halo mass: for halo masses below (respectively

MNRA0000, 1-6 (2017)
above) the critical halo mass, gas removal by the outflow is possible (impossible). We numerically integrate the equations of motion and compute the critical halo mass as the greatest for which the shell velocity exceeds the escape velocity at the virial radius. For AGN and SNe driven shells, we use the corresponding luminosity to compute the velocity of the shell, until it reaches the virial radius or stalls. For SNe, we update the luminosity at each time step by updating the available gas mass: we remove the amount of gas that has gone to star formation from the total available gas mass.

### 3.1 Cooling

If the cooling timescale is shorter than the flow time, \( R_{\text{shell}}/V_{\text{shell}} \), the cooling is efficient and the outflow is momentum driven, otherwise, it is energy-driven. We include cooling processes in our model when integrating the equation of motion of the blast wave, and choose between momentum- and energy-driven accordingly. The dominant process for the cooling of the shocked wind is Compton cooling: the electrons of the shocked wind lose energy to photons via the inverse Compton effect (Ciotti & Ostriker 1997, Hartwig et al. 2017). The Compton cooling time is given by

\[
\tau_C \equiv \frac{3m_e c}{8\pi \sigma_T U_{\text{rad}}} \frac{m_e c^2}{E},
\]

where \( m_e \) is the mass of an electron, \( E \approx 9m_e c^2/16 \) is the energy of an electron in the shocked wind, and \( U_{\text{rad}} = L_{\text{AGN}}/(4\pi R_{\text{sw}}^2 c) \) is the radiation density in the wind. At the beginning of the outflow, close to the IMBH, the radiation field is intense enough to cool the shocked wind: the outflow starts momentum driven, and \( \tau_C \propto R^2 \).

Integrating equation (8), the flow time in the momentum-driven regime follows \( t_{\text{flow}} \propto R^{2+\alpha/2} \), where \( \alpha = -1 \) is the local slope of the NFW profile. Comparing the scaling of \( t_C(R) \) and \( t_{\text{flow}}(R) \), one sees that while gravity is negligible and as long as the AGN shines, a radius of transition to an energy-driven expansion exists.

To compute the effect of other cooling mechanisms, we use the Sutherland & Dopita (1993) cooling function approximated in polynomial form by Tozzi & Norman (2001). We find that subsequent radiative cooling becomes important only once the shell has slowed down to velocities much lower than the escape velocity and therefore has a negligible influence on the fate of the swept-up gas (see also Hartwig et al. 2017).

Fig. 3 displays the propagation for different \( (\chi, t_{\text{AGN}}) \) pairs. The critical mass is the halo mass \( (1) \) below which the shell velocity is above the escape velocity at the virial radius, \( (2) \) above which the shell slows down before reaching the virial radius because of the inertia of the swept-up gas, gravity and/or cooling. The transition from the initial momentum- to energy-driven is visible in the upper-right panel: it corresponds to the abrupt early rise of the velocity of the bottom curve. For each panel, one can see a break in the velocity curve (e.g. at \( t = t_{\text{AGN}} = 1 \) Myr in the upper-right panel), when the AGN stops shining. The smooth reacceleration of the shell, visible in the top curve of the lower-right panel, is due to the increasingly steeper slope of the NFW profile: beyond the scale radius, the gas is so tenuous that the shell can reaccelerate. Note that we do not consider two-temperature effects (Faucher-Giguère & Quataert 2012), which increases the Compton cooling time and thus leads to an earlier transition to adiabatic expansion, and therefore enhances gas ejection.

### 3.2 Parameter study

Fig. 4 shows the critical halo mass: for each pair of parameters \( (t_{\text{AGN}}, \chi) \) (panel a) and \( (t_{\text{AGN}}, \alpha) \) (panel b), we compute the critical halo mass below which gas removal by the AGN is possible, i.e. for which \( V_{\text{shell}}(R_{\text{vir}}) > V_{\text{esc}}(R_{\text{vir}}) \). For both dashed contours indicate \( M_{\text{crit}} = 10^9 M_\odot, 10^{10} M_\odot \) and \( 10^{12} M_\odot \). In panel (a), the critical mass increases towards the upper-right corner of the panel. Therefore, for a given halo mass, gas removal is possible for the parameters \( (t_{\text{AGN}}, \chi) \) that are on the upper-right side of the corresponding white dashed contour. Similarly, in panel (b), the critical halo mass increases towards the lower-right side of the panel. Black dash-dotted contours show where the critical halo masses for AGN and SNe are equal for given values of \( \epsilon_w \) (0.1 and 1). Note that the critical mass for SNe, at a given value of \( \epsilon_w \), is constant over these plots. Since a higher critical halo mass indicates stronger feedback, these contours also split the parameter space into two regions: in panel (a), AGN feedback dominates SN feedback on the upper-right side of the black contours, SN feedback dominates AGN feedback on the lower-left side; in panel (b) AGN dominate on the lower-right side of the black contours, and vice-versa. AGN feedback is greater than SNe feedback in a significant part of the parameter space, since Dubois & Teyssier (2008) compute values of \( \epsilon_w \) smaller than 10%.

In panel (a) of Fig. 4, one sees that the contour plots for low halo masses follow straight lines with a slope of \( -1 \). This occurs because the outflow is mostly energy-driven for masses below the critical halo mass: what mostly counts is the input energy, i.e. \( L_{\text{AGN}} \), which is constant along lines of slope \( -1 \). However, the critical halo mass does not depend on \( t_{\text{AGN}} \) above a certain value of \( t_{\text{AGN}} \). The reason is that the energy needs to be applied on a timescale shorter than the free-fall time of the galaxy in order to overcome gravity. Regarding the comparison with SNe feedback: given a halo mass, and a value of \( \epsilon_w \), the SN luminosity is uniquely defined, which means that for parameters along the contours where \( \epsilon_w = \)}
Figure 4. Critical halo mass below which gas removal by the AGN is possible, i.e. $V_{\text{halo}}(R_{\text{vir}}) > V_{\text{esc}}(R_{\text{vir}})$. (a) as a function of the Eddington ratio $\chi$ and $t_{\text{AGN}}$, with the slope of the $M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma$ relation $\alpha = 4$; (b) as a function of $\alpha$ and $t_{\text{AGN}}$, with $\chi = 0.3$. We show in a second colorbar the corresponding redshift according to equation (1a). White dashed contours indicate $M_{\text{crit}} = 10^3 M_\odot$, $10^4 M_\odot$, and $10^{12} M_\odot$. In panel (a), the critical mass increases towards the upper-right corner of the panel. Therefore, for a given halo mass, gas removal is possible for the parameters ($t_{\text{AGN}}, \chi$) that are on the upper-right side of the corresponding white dashed contour. Similarly, in panel (b), the critical halo mass increases towards the lower-right side of the panel. Black dash-dotted contours show where the critical halo masses for AGN and SNe are equal. Note that the critical mass for SNe, at a given value of $e_w$, is constant over these plots. Since a higher critical halo mass indicates stronger feedback, black contours also split the parameter space into two regions: in panel (a), AGN feedback dominates SN feedback in areas on the upper-right side of the black contours, and vice versa; in panel (b) AGN dominate in areas on the lower-right side of the black contours, and vice versa. AGN feedback is greater than SNe feedback in a significant part of the parameter space.

$M_{\text{crit,AGN}}$, the luminosity for SNe is uniform (e.g. $L_{\text{SN}} = 3 \times 10^{40}$ erg, for $e_w = 1$), whereas the AGN kinetic luminosity varies, and yet the critical mass is the same. The reason is that we turn off the AGN after $t_{\text{AGN}}$, but do not turn off SN kinetic power. Therefore, input energy and kinetic luminosities are good first order approaches but one has to consider the timescales during which the energies are applied.

In panel (b), one sees that the contour plots are closer for higher values of $\alpha$, which means that the dependence of the critical halo mass as a function of $t_{\text{AGN}}$ at fixed $\alpha$ is steeper for higher values of $\alpha$. The reason is that the ratio $E_{\text{input}}/E_{\text{grav}}$, which quantifies to first order the effect of the AGN on the galaxy, is a shallower function of $M_{\text{halo}}$ for higher values of $\alpha$, for which the value of the critical halo mass is more sensitive to the normalization of that ratio, and thus to $t_{\text{AGN}}$. Note that when computing the expansion of the SN wind, we do not consider the cooling of the hot interior of the bubble, which, if significant, should lower the critical halo mass for SNe and thus widen the subspace of AGN predominance.

In the manner of equation (11), we can release the constraint on the black hole mass given by the $M_{\text{BH}} - \sigma$ relation and compute, using the equations of motions, the critical black hole mass above which AGN feedback is stronger than SN feedback. Fig. 5 shows the critical black hole mass above which the AGN-driven shell is pushed further in the ISM than the SN driven shell, as a function of the halo mass, for a given set of parameters ($t_{\text{AGN}}, e_w, \chi$). One sees that the scalings found energetically in equation (11) and by solving the equation of motion of the shell are similar. We retrieve the linear dependence of the critical black hole mass on $e_w/\chi$, computed energetically in equation (11). However, in the upper panel, the influence of the duration of the AGN can be seen with the sharp rise in the critical BH-to-halo-mass relation, which does not appear in equation (11). This rise, for $t_{\text{AGN}} = 10^5$ yr and $t_{\text{AGN}} = 10^6$ yr, indicates that the transition to an energy-driven propagation occurs

Figure 5. Critical black hole mass above which, for a given halo mass, AGN feedback is stronger than SN feedback for different values of (a) the duration of the AGN, $t_{\text{AGN}}$; (b) the SN wind efficiency $e_w$; (c) the Eddington ratio $\chi$. The black dashed line indicates the scaling found energetically in equation (11). The scalings found energetically and by solving the equation of motion of the shell are similar except for the short AGN time durations ($t_{\text{AGN}} = 10^5$ yr and $t_{\text{AGN}} = 10^6$ yr) for which the sharp rise reveals the transition from an energy-driven to a momentum-driven only AGN outflow.
later for higher black hole masses, and, hence, that transition never occurs for short $t_{AGN}$ and high black hole masses.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In this paper, we investigated the possibility of AGN feedback in dwarf galaxies. Assuming scaling relations between the relevant physical quantities, we obtained a critical halo mass below which gas removal by the AGN is possible. In a broad part of the parameter space, AGN feedback is more efficient than SNe feedback. This suggests that AGN could succeed where SNe might fail, such as in the most massive dwarf galaxies. We argue that AGN could potentially have played a significant role in gas ejection in early dwarf evolution.

In our definition, AGN feedback is efficient when the AGN-driven shell escapes the virial radius of the galaxy. This does not mean that AGN feedback is not efficient at regulating star formation in massive halos, just that there are no escaping winds. In particular, we do not include the effect of AGN feedback on the accretion of cooling flows. Moreover, in high redshift small mass disc galaxies, the effect of AGN should be smaller than in our 1D model because the outflow can escape in the perpendicular direction as analyzed by Hartwig et al. (2017). Besides, our work does not address the interplay between SN and AGN feedback: efficient SN feedback can prevent the accumulation of dense cold gas and starve the black hole (Dubois et al. 2015). A full treatment of this phenomenon would constrain the explorable parameter space for the black hole and minimize the predominance of AGN. A complete treatment would also include a multiphase ISM, which, when taken into consideration, reduces the feedback efficiency for both AGN (Costa et al. 2014) and SNe (Bland-Hawthorn et al. 2015). AGN can also trigger star formation as proposed theoretically (Silk & Norman 2009; Gaibler et al. 2012) and seen observationally (Maiolino et al. 2017). More realistic simulations, including much of this additional physics, are needed before we can fully understand the role of AGN feedback in the multiphase ISM of initially gas-rich dwarf galaxies.

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