Models of Galaxy Interactions in Stephan's Quintet

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Intro: Galaxy Interactions & Evolution

Galaxies are not "Island of Universes", rather they interact with neighboring galaxies and matters, and are affected by environment.

Galaxy interactions (collisions) are common: The extent of galaxy halos is comparable to the separation between them. Most galaxies have interaction histories.

Galaxy interactions are one of the primary drivers of galaxy evolution by rearranging the structure of the galaxies & by triggering lots of the cosmic star formation, etc.

Intro: The key to understanding various phenomena driven by interactions

Martin et al. 201

--> Careful comparison of multi-wavebands observations of nearby galaxies with dynamical models

Observations in multi-wavebands reveal important physical quantities, & information about various physical processes in the systems.

Well-constrained numerical models provide: direct laboratory experiments & analyses via simulated media, predictions of the distributions of star formation, & additional constrains or information about the systems. Renaud, Boily, Naab, & Theis 2009



Intro: Early Views on Peculiar Galaxies

Until the early 1970's,

there was still much debate on the tidal deformation of interacting galaxies, particularly for the very extended filamentary features observed:

- tidal origins?
- magnetic fields or bizarre explosions involved?

Intro: 'Galactic Bridges & Tails'

- A seminal work in the field of galaxy interactions & numerical models of encounters
- By Toomre & Toomre (1972)
- Used a simplistic stellar dynamics code

Development of tidal bridges & tails

by a close planner encounter of a companion of equal mass:





Intro: Collisional Rings



Toomre (1978):

Collisions between a smaller companion with a spiral victim

Smooth transitions from rings to spirals

Completeness & symmetry of rings

- offset of collision
- vertical component of velocity

Star Formation at the center & outer edge





Stephan's Quintet

SQ is a relatively close (~94 Mpc), bright, and isolated system, showing many interesting features of interactions. ---> It has been a popular object of study.

Although numerous observational & theoretical studies have helped to understand many features in the group, its evolutionary history and the effects of various interactions have remained poorly understood due to its multiple violent interactions. ---> Dedicated simulations for SQ has been requested!

However, constraining models for a compact group is difficult. No specific modeling has been performed for SQ before

- Renaud, Appleton, & Xu 2010 (just accepted, ApJ)
 - ---> N-body stellar dynamics models
- Hwang, Struck, Renaud, & Appleton (about to submit)
 - ---> SPH models, including gaseous component into the simulations

Membership of SQ

Stephan's Quintet ('SQ', HCG 92, Arp 319, VV 288):

- discovered by Edouard Stephan in 1877
- one of the first compact groups identified (Hickson 1982)
- a visual grouping of five galaxies (NGC 7317, 7318a/b, 7319, & 7320)
- NGC 7320 is a foreground galaxy
- instead, NGC 7320c is related to the group
- NGC 7320c is coming toward us with the large relative velocity, having collided with the IGM, triggering the group-wide shock.

 NGC 7318b
 NGC 7318a

 ~ 5700 km/s
 ~ 6600 km/s



5700 km/s ---> IN Velocity, Low-Vr

Members & Key Features

Eastern (G4)

Papa (G1)

Intruder (G3)
 Mama (G2)

Western

inner tail

SQ-B

IN-A

SQ-4

outer tail (diffuse)

A very deep blue image of SQ (Credit : V. Martinez)



WFC3 Hubble Space Telescope

(Credit: NASA, ESA, and the Hubble SM4 ERO Team)



ISOCAM 15 micron image

Sources A & B: Star formation regions associated with the group Source C: A foreground star Source D: A background galaxy (Xu et al. 1999)





Contours : Spitzer MIR H₂ rotational line emission Image : B-band (Cluver et al. 2010)



(d) H₂0-0 S(3)

Aain hock

Correlation between H₂ and X-ray distributions









HI distribution

Most of the HI gas are found outside the members in 5 physically distinct components, ("Arc-N", "Arc-S", "NW-HV", "NW-LV", & "SW"), in 3 discrete velocity bands (high, intermediate, & low Vr ranges).





HI seemed to be converted into both a hot X-ray component and a warm H2 component

Dynamical History & Model Constrains

Past dynamical history:

---> 3 scenarios

- two long parallel tidal tails
- stripping of most of the HI from Papa (and other involving members)

Current dynamical state:

- Intruder is colliding though the IGM at a high speed (~900 km/s), triggering the large-scale shock.

Relatively close past ~ current:

- Intruder looks still intact ==> entering the group for the first time?
- however, seems to have experienced tidal disruption ==> might interacted (with Mama) before!





3 Scenarios for the Parallel Tails

Involving Papa, Eastern, and/or Mama:

- (A) Both tails produced simultaneously by an encounter of Eastern with Papa (Moles et al. 1997):
 the same formation age for the parallel tail
 parallel tails are not seen frequently
- (B) The outer and inner tails produced one after one by two (or more) encounters of Eastern with Papa (Moles et al. 1997; Sulentic et al. 2001):
 - 1st: at least 500 Myr ago
 - 2nd: as recently as 200 Myr ago



(c) The outer tail produced by an encounter of Eastern with Papa, and then the inner tail by an encounter of Mama with Papa (Xu et al. 2005)

- but, slow passage of Eastern require more time
- UV inner tail ==> Mama / Papa





Modeling Goals & Strategy

Our modeling work is extension of the earlier work of Renaud et al. (2010) which used an N-body stellar dynamics code adding thermohydrodynamic effects to the N-body models.

The primary goal is to figure out the dynamical interaction history in hopes that SQ is a prototypical and that teaches us about other systems too.

Several interactions seem to occur sequentially: a sequence of two-at-a-time collisions (which makes modeling of this complex system more feasible).

Three major stages:

- (1) to reproduce the inner and outer tails in a good configuration, ==> based on stripping much of gas off the involving members, the 3 scenarios
- (2) to test the occurrence of any intermediate interaction before the present,
- (3) to make a high-speed collision between Intruder & the IGM.

The Simulation Code

The SPH code of Struck (1997, ApJS, 113, 269):

- Hydrodynamical forces are computed with a spline kernel on a grid.
- Local self-gravity is calculated between gas particles in adjacent cells.
- Each model galaxy consists of two disks with gas & collisionless star particles, & a rigid dark matter halo.
- Simple treatment of heating & cooling for gas particles are included.
- Star-forming gas particles are identified by using density & temp. thresholds.
- A restricted 3-body approximation for the halos is used to simulate the large-scale dynamics.
- The effects of dynamical friction are included, in some cases.
- The non-inertial reference frame of a "primary" galaxy is used.
- The code variables are dimensionless & are converted to the physical units after simulations.

Models of Type A, B, & C

Models A: Both tails --> by Eastern (a single encounter)

Models B: The outer tail --> by Eastern (earlier encounter) The inner tail --> by Eastern (recent encounter)





Models C: The outer tail --> by Eastern The inner tail --> by Mama

Models C

Models C (based on Scenario C):

to produce the outer tail from an encounter of Eastern/Papa, and then the inner tail from a different encounter of Mama/Papa

Our models show that

reconstructing the parallel tails one after one in a good configuration out of a disk of Papa by two different close encounters is very difficult and unlikely.



Papa, Mama, Intruder, & Eastern



Models C

In models C, when Mama passes the vicinity of Papa, Mama destroys/disturbs the early generated nearby delicate tidal features.



Models A

In models A, Mama do not contribute in generating any of the parallel tail. Mama needs to stay far from the parallel tails so that they can grow in a good configuration.



Models A

In models A, The initial orbit of Mama is not strongly constrained.



The Fiducial Model

The fiducial model (a representative of models A) designed:

- (1) to generate the inner & outer tails simultaneously by a close encounter of Eastern (G4) with Papa (G1),
- (2) to have a collision between Mama (G2) & Intruder (G3)
 - far below the plane of Papa,
- (3) to make a high-speed collision between Intruder (G3) & the IGM.

The initial parameters of the fiducial model				
	G1	G2	G3	G4
Halo masses ^{<i>a</i>} $(\times 10^{10} M_{\odot})^{b}$	12.6	8.2	7.1	2.4
Halo cutoff radii ^c (kpc)	135.0	55.0	80.0	45.0
Gas disk radii (kpc)	27.0	8.0	16.0	9.0
Stellar disk radii (kpc)	18.0	11.0	11.0	7.0
Gas particle numbers	$68,\!680$	6,000	24,000	7,480
Star particle numbers	32,000	11,760	11,760	4,960
Disk orientations ^{d}		180° about $x\text{-axis}$	180° about x-axis	
Initial center $positions^e$	at origin	(-70.0, 10.0, -20.0)	(12.0, 2.0, -340.0)	(12.5, -15.3, 15.3)
(x,y,z) (kpc)				
Initial center velocities f	(0.0, 0.0, 0.0)	(110.0, -27.0, -72.5)	(20.0, -7.5, 300.0)	(35.9, 79.5, -77.5)
$(v_x, v_y, v_z) \ (\mathrm{km \ s^{-1}})$				



Evolution of star particles at 4 times:

- **1. Early development of the parallel tails.**
- 2. The onset of the collision between Mama / Intruder.
- **3. During the high-speed collision between Intruder / IGM.**
- 4. Shortly after the high-speed collision.



Papa, Mama, Intruder, & Eastern

Evolution of gas particles at 4 times:

- **1. Early development of the parallel tails.**
- 2. The onset of the collision between Mama / Intruder.
- **3. During the high-speed collision between Intruder / IGM.**
- 4. Shortly after the high-speed collision.

Gas tends to be affected more by encounters than stars.



High-Vr gas:

- mostly from Papa, Mama, & Eastern
- bulk of gas along the parallel tails
- some gas at N of Intruder (W of Papa) forming a compact feature

Intermediate-Vr gas:

- mostly from Intruder & Papa
- gas at N of Intruder in a more extended feature

Low-Vr gas:

- mostly from Intruder
- Some diffuse gas at S of Intruder



The hot gas in high-Vr range (during the high-speed collision) shows an elongated feature at W of Papa.

Little star-forming gas is found at the shock region, indicating the elongated feature is heated not by star formation, rather by the high-speed collision.







Guillard et al. (2009):

The cooling time is significantly longer than the age of the shock (~ 5 Myr).

Our models:

Gas particles (clouds) continue to interact for some tens of millions of years.



This amounts to decaying turbulence with many small shocks of various strengths in that region and we think it can account for the observed emission without much star formation.

Summary

We found a very interesting result in SQ, with collisions on mostly two-at-a-time.

This result may be general, because flyby or the final merger together time would be short compared to the total orbital time.

So, our major result can be extended to other groups in studying the evolutionary histories or finding initial conditions of collisions.



