Multi-wavelength Searches for Local Relics of Black Hole Seeds in Dwarf Galaxies

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#### BH and galaxy evolution



#### BH and galaxy evolution





#### **BH and galaxy evolution**







#### BH and galaxy evolution





#### BH and galaxy evolution





Theory: Possible BH seed formation mechanisms

Remnants from first generation of massive stars

Direct collapse of dense gas



M<sub>BH</sub> ~100 M<sub>sun</sub>
abundant



M<sub>BH</sub> ~10<sup>5</sup> -10<sup>6</sup> M<sub>sun</sub>
 rare

for reviews, see e.g., Volonteri (2010); Natarajan (2014); Johnson & Haardt (2016); Latif & Ferrara (2016)

## The origin of the first "seed" BHs is largely unknown Observations: Detecting seed BHs at high-z is not currently feasible



• Our knowledge of BHs in the high-z Universe is limited to luminous quasars with hefty BHs ( $M_{BH} > 10^8 \cdot 10^9 M_{sun}$ )



• AGN signatures in z>6 galaxies have remained elusive

**Observations: Nearby dwarf galaxies contain local relics of BH seeds** (can tell us about the masses, host galaxies and formation mechanism of the first BHs)

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K. Cordes, S. Brown (STScl)

Models of BH growth in a cosmological context predict that the observational signatures indicative of seed formation are strongest in dwarf galaxies

### predictions at z=0



BH occupation fraction

M<sub>BH</sub>-host galaxy relations

We can learn about the origin of massive BHs from *observations* of nearby dwarf galaxies

# We can learn about the origin of massive BHs from *observations* of nearby dwarf galaxies

### Dynamical BH detections/limits in nearby dwarfs

Galaxy	Description	$M_{ m BH}$	Reference
M32	elliptical, M31 satellite	$(2.4 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{6}$	van den Bosch & de Zeeuw (2010)
NGC 404	S0, d ~ 3.06 Mpc	$4.5^{+3.5}_{-2.0} \times 10^5$	Seth et al. (2010)
NGC 4395	Sd, $d \sim 4.4$ Mpc	$4^{+8}_{-3} \times 10^5$	den Brok et al. (2015)
NGC 205	elliptical, M31 satellite	$\leq 2.2 \times 10^{4}$	Valluri et al. (2005)
Fornax	spheroidal, MW satellite	$\leq 3.2 \times 10^{4}$	Jardel & Gebhardt (2012)
Ursa Minor	spheroidal, MW satellite	$\leq (2-3) \times 10^4$	Lora et al. (2009)

Reines & Comastri (2016) review

## Gravitational sphere of influence cannot be resolved for low-mass BHs in small galaxies much beyond the Local Group

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Gravitational sphere of influence cannot be resolved for low-mass BHs in small galaxies much beyond the Local Group

Need to look for \*active\* BHs in more distant dwarfs

- AGNs in dwarf galaxies are powered by smaller BHs than typical AGNs
- These AGNs are less luminous (at a given Eddington fraction)

Eddington (maximum) luminosity is proportional to BH mass

$$L_{\rm Edd} = 1.3 \times 10^{38} (M_{\rm BH}/M_{\odot}) \,{\rm erg \ s^{-1}}$$

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- Need to lower threshold for what might be an AGN
- Need to be aware of possible contamination from star-formation related emission

First systematic search for AGN in dwarf galaxies (Reines et al. 2013)

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## >100 dwarf galaxies with massive BHs

First systematic search for AGN in dwarf galaxies (Reines et al. 2013)



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### narrow-line AGN

\* use emission-line diagnostic diagrams to look for photoionization signatures (AGN + composites)

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### broad-line AGN

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### 35 AGN 101 Composites

First systematic search for AGN in dwarf galaxies (Reines et al. 2013)



### 35 AGN 101 Composites

25 broad-line AGN (with BH mass estimates)

First systematic search for AGN in dwarf galaxies (Reines et al. 2013)



First systematic search for AGN in dwarf galaxies (Reines et al. 2013)



(also see RGG 118; Baldassare, Reines et al. 2015)

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#### Optical spectroscopy has produced the largest sample of dwarf galaxies hosting massive black holes

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Optical spectroscopy has produced the largest sample of dwarf galaxies hosting massive black holes

... however, only sensitive to the most actively accreting BHs in galaxies with low star formation



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- Improve our understanding of the demographics of BHs in dwarf galaxies
- Probes a different parameter space (e.g., lower BH accretion rates, star-forming host galaxies)
- Beware of X-ray binaries and supernova remnants





Henize 2-10: First example of a dwarf starburst galaxy with a massive black hole Reines et al. 2011, Nature

5 arcsec ~ 220 pc

Optical - HST Image from CXC press release Henize 2-10: First example of a dwarf starburst galaxy with a massive black hole Reines et al. 2011, Nature

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VLA 3.5 cm HST Paschen alpha Henize 2-10: First example of a dwarf starburst galaxy with a massive black hole Reines et al. 2011, Nature Reines & Deller 2012 (VLBI detection)



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Henize 2-10: First example of a dwarf starburst galaxy with a massive black hole Reines et al. 2011, Nature Reines & Deller 2012 (VLBI detection)



archival Chandra observation from 2001 (20 ks)



5 arcsec ~ 220 pc

New Chandra observations (200 ks)



#### New Chandra observations (200 ks)











Reines, Reynolds et al. 2016 ApJ Letters, 830, 35

count rate scale) same the (not on





- *L*<sub>R</sub>~ 4 x 10<sup>35</sup> erg s<sup>-1</sup>
- $L_X \sim 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$

#### X-ray spectrum of the nucleus



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- $L_{0.3-10 \text{ keV}} \sim 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
- BH is radiating significantly below its Eddington luminosity



Scaling between BH mass and galaxy total stellar mass

→ M<sub>BH</sub> ~ 3 x10<sup>6</sup> M<sub>sun</sub>

Reines & Volonteri (2015)

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Scaling between BH mass and galaxy total stellar mass

 $\rightarrow$  M<sub>BH</sub> ~ 3 x10<sup>6</sup> M<sub>sun</sub>

 $\rightarrow L_{BH} \sim 10^{-6} L_{Edd}$ 

Reines & Volonteri (2015)

- $L_{0.3-10 \text{ keV}} \sim 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
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# Soft spectrum resembles other weakly accreting massive BHs, including Sagittarius A\* (e.g., Baganoff et al. 2003; Constantin et al. 2009, Gultekin et al. 2012)



- $L_{0.3-10 \text{ keV}} \sim 10^{38} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$
- BH is radiating significantly below its Eddington luminosity

## Variability on hour-long timescales



Light curve with best-fit sine model (P = 33.5 ks = 9.3 hrs)

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Possible origins for a ~9-hr periodicity:

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• Most likely origin is a low-frequency QPO in the accretion flow



Lense-Thirring precession - vertical wobbling due to frame dragging

# Variability on hour-long timescales

Possible origins for a ~9-hr periodicity:

- Most likely origin is a low-frequency QPO in the accretion flow
- High-frequency QPO: unlikely given the BH mass implied by the observed frequency (~10<sup>8</sup> Msun)
- Massive BH binary: unlikely given the extremely short timescale until coalescence implied by the observed frequency (< 5 years)</li>



#### **Evidence for a massive black hole in Henize 2-10:**

- Parsec-scale non-thermal radio core with spatially coincident X-ray source
- At center of a ~250 pc-long rotating ionized gas structure
- Much too luminous in the radio to be an X-ray binary
- X-ray variability on hour-long timescales rules out a supernova remnant



Motivation to search for additional examples of massive BHs in dwarf galaxies using high-resolution radio and X-ray observations





radio

9:49:18.0

17.9



Reines et al. (2014)

9

18.1

Mrk 709 S

Large survey underway





WISE color-color diagram (Wright et al. 2010)



Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE)

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#### DISCOVERY OF A POPULATION OF BULGELESS GALAXIES WITH EXTREMELY RED MID-IR COLORS: OBSCURED AGN ACTIVITY IN THE LOW-MASS REGIME?

S, SATYAPAL<sup>1</sup>, N. J. SECREST<sup>1</sup>, W. MCALPINE<sup>1</sup>, S. L. ELLISON<sup>2</sup>, J. FISCHER<sup>3</sup>, AND J. L. ROSENBERG<sup>1</sup>

Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 000, 000-000 (2014) Printed 20 November 2014 (MN MTgX style file v2.2)

#### Infrared Signature of Active Massive Black Holes in Nearby Dwarf Galaxies

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MNRAS 454, 3722-3742 (2015)

doi:10.1093/mnra

The search for active black holes in nearby low-mass galaxies using optical and mid-IR data

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Beware of contamination from dwarf starburst galaxies

Beware of contamination from dwarf starburst galaxies



Reines et al. 2008b

Beware of contamination from dwarf starburst galaxies



Beware of contamination from dwarf starburst galaxies


### Mid-IR selection of AGN candidates in dwarf galaxies

Beware of contamination from dwarf starburst galaxies



Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)



Kevin Hainline



(also see O'Connor et al. 2016)

Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)

#### Reines et al. (2013)

#### Optically selected AGNs/Composites in WISE color space



The majority of optically selected AGNs/Composites in dwarf galaxies have mid-IR emission dominated by host galaxies (at WISE resolution).

Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)



BPT diagram (optical classification)

Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)



Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)



Star-forming dwarf galaxies with the bluest optical colors and youngest ages have the reddest mid-IR colors.

Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)



#### **Optically selected star-forming dwarf galaxies**

Star-forming dwarf galaxies with the youngest ages and highest SFRs have the reddest mid-IR colors.

Hainline\*, Reines et al. 2016 (\*postdoc at the University of Arizona/Steward Observatory)



#### **Optically selected star-forming dwarf galaxies**

Systematic trend between star forming properties and mid-IR colors indicates the mid-IR emission is unlikely to be powered by AGNs

## Review paper:

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### Observational Signatures of High-Redshift Quasars and Local Relics of Black Hole Seeds

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(RECEIVED April 29, 2016; ACCEPTED September 2, 2016)

#### Abstract

Observational constraints on the birth and early evolution of massive black holes come from two extreme regimes. At high redshift, quasars signal the rapid growth of billion-solar-mass black holes and indicate that these objects began remarkably heavy and/or accreted mass at rates above the Eddington limit. At low redshift, the smallest nuclear black holes known are found in dwarf galaxies and provide the most concrete limits on the mass of black hole seeds. Here, we review current observational work in these fields that together are critical for our understanding of the origin of massive black holes in the Universe.

- stellar masses similar to the dwarfs that I'm studying locally
- expect that they would have already been seeded with a BH



- blue, compact galaxies 600-800
  Myr after the Big Bang (Bouwens+10)
- intrinsic sizes  $\leq 1 \text{ kpc}$  (Oesch+10)
- masses ~  $10^{9}$ - $10^{10}$  M<sub>sun</sub> (Labbé+10)

# Connections to the high-redshift Universe Searches for AGN in galaxies with stellar masses $\sim 10^{9} M_{sun}$ at z > 6 have found very few, if any, black holes

(Willott 2011; Fiore et al. 2012; Cowie et al. 2012; Treister 2013; Giallongo et al. 2015; Weigel et al. 2015; Vito et al. 2016)



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"Relations between central black hole mass and total galaxy stellar mass in the local Universe" Reines & Volonteri 2015

"Inferences on the relations between central black hole mass and total galaxy stellar mass in the high-redshift Universe"

Volonteri & Reines 2016

#### Reines & Volonteri 2015



BH mass vs. total galaxy stellar mass (341 nearby galaxies)

#### Reines & Volonteri 2015



# BH mass vs. total galaxy stellar mass (341 nearby galaxies)

#### Reines & Volonteri 2015



BH mass vs. total galaxy stellar mass (341 nearby galaxies)

#### Reines & Volonteri 2015



 $M_{BH} \sim 10^{-3} M_{gal}$ 

 $M_{BH} \sim 10^{-4} M_{gal}$ 



 $M_{BH} \sim 10^{-3} M_{gal}$   $\longrightarrow M_{BH} \sim 10^{6} M_{sun}$   $M_{BH} \sim 10^{-4} M_{gal}$   $\longrightarrow M_{BH} \sim 10^{5} M_{sun}$ 



 $M_{BH} \sim 10^{-3} M_{gal}$   $\longrightarrow M_{BH} \sim 10^{6} M_{sun}$   $M_{BH} \sim 10^{-4} M_{gal}$   $\longrightarrow M_{BH} \sim 10^{5} M_{sun}$ 

- AGNs expected to be less luminous
- Consistent with non-detections

Volonteri & Reines 2016

# Elusive AGN in the Next Era









# Elusive AGN in the Next Era

Observational constraints on the origin of BH seeds come from two extreme regimes:



High-z quasars with giant BHs pose a challenge for models of BH formation and growth



Dwarf galaxies at z~0 provide the most concrete limits on the masses of BH seeds

Samples will continue to grow in the next era

# Summary

- Contrary to conventional wisdom, dwarf galaxies can host massive BHs.
- Dwarf galaxies hold clues to the formation of the first seed BHs.
- We are finding the smallest BHs known in galaxy nuclei (~ $10^4$ - $10^5$  M<sub>sun</sub>).
- Identifying BHs in dwarf galaxies is challenging. Beware of contamination from stellar processes (starbursts, SNe, SNRs, XRBs)!
- The scaling between BH mass and total stellar mass in local AGN host galaxies can explain current lack of AGN detections in high-redshift, low-mass galaxies.
- With upcoming telescopes and surveys, we will start to reveal more of these elusive AGNs.

extra slides...

### LOCAL BH-TO-TOTAL STELLAR MASS RELATIONS (REINES & VOLONTERI 2015)

Approximate morphological types:



### Estimating black hole masses for AGN with broad H-alpha

- Assume motion of broad-line emitting gas is dominated by gravity of BH:  $M_{BH} \sim R V^2 / G$
- Need velocity (from line width) and radius (more complicated...)
- Radius of broad-line region measured for ~50 AGN using reverberation mapping
- For reverberation-mapped AGN, correlation between radius and luminosity
- For other AGN, we use the luminosity of broad H-alpha as a proxy for radius



(Reines et al. 2013, equation 5)



### Dwarf galaxies with optical signatures of active massive BHs



### A Candidate Massive Black Hole in the Low-Metallicity Dwarf Galaxy Pair Mrk 709



SDSS spectrum

Reines et al. 2014

### A Candidate Massive Black Hole in the Low-Metallicity Dwarf Galaxy Pair Mrk 709



diagnostic diagram from Reines et al. 2013

Reines et al. 2014