Back at the Edge of the Universe

Optically Thick [CII] emission in Lensed Dusty Star-forming Galaxies from the SPT survey

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Abstract

ALMA spectroscopy (cycle 0 and 1) of point sources from the South Pole Telescope survey has uncovered a population of high-redshift (z = 2 - 5.7), strongly lensed dusty star-forming galaxies (DSFGs). This has resulted in an unbiased redshift distribution for DSFGs peaking for $z \sim 3.5$, i.e. higher than previously believed of $z \sim 2.5$, and doubled the number of sources at z > 4. In this talk I will present the latest result from our finestructure line survey of 20 DSFGs. Comparing [CII] velocity profiles (APEX and Herschel) with CO velocity profiles from ALMA reveals consistent velocity profiles, suggesting little differential lensing between these species. Combining the [CII] detections with low-J CO detections (ATCA), we find [CII]/CO(1–0) luminosity ratios of 5200 ± 1800, and argue that this line ratio is best described by [CII] and CO emitting gas with higher [CII] than CO excitation temperature, and high optical depth ($\tau > 1$) for both lines. The geometric structure of photodissociation regions (PDRs) allows for such conditions. Using ALMA (cycle 1) we have detected a [NII] line which additionally can reveal how much of the [CII] emission originate from PDRs.