

AN ENERGETIC AGN OUTBURST POWERED BY A RAPIDLY SPINNING SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLE OR AN ACCRETING ULTRAMASSIVE BLACK HOLE

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ABSTRACT

Powering the 10^{62} erg nuclear outburst in the MS0735.6+7421 cluster central galaxy by accretion with a 10% mass-to-energy conversion efficiency implies that its putative supermassive black hole (SMBH) grew by $\sim 6 \times 10^8 M_\odot$ over the past 100 Myr. Guided by data at several wavelengths, we place upper limits on the amount of cold gas and star formation near the nucleus of $< 10^9 M_\odot$ and $< 2 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$, respectively. These limits imply that an implausibly large fraction of the preexisting cold gas in the inner several kpc must have been consumed by its SMBH at the rate of $\sim 3\text{--}5 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ during the past 100 Myr while leaving no trace of star formation. Such a high accretion rate would be difficult to maintain by stellar accretion or the Bondi mechanism, unless the black hole mass approaches $10^{11} M_\odot$. Furthermore, its feeble nuclear luminosities in the UV, I, and X-ray bands compared to its enormous mechanical power are inconsistent with rapid accretion onto a $\sim 5 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ black hole. We suggest instead that the active galactic nucleus (AGN) outburst is powered by angular momentum released from a rapidly spinning black hole. The rotational energy and power available from a spinning black hole are consistent with the cavity and shock energetics inferred from X-ray observations. A maximally spinning $10^9 M_\odot$ black hole contains enough rotational energy, $\sim 10^{62}$ erg, to quench a cooling flow over its lifetime and to contribute significantly to the excess entropy found in the hot atmospheres of groups and clusters. Two modes of AGN feedback may be quenching star formation in elliptical galaxies centered in cooling halos at late times. An accretion mode that operates in gas-rich systems, and a spin mode operating at modest accretion rates. The spin conjecture may be avoided in MS0735 by appealing to Bondi accretion onto a central black hole whose mass greatly exceeds $10^{10} M_\odot$. The host galaxy’s unusually large 3.8 kpc stellar core radius (light deficit) may witness the presence of an ultramassive black hole.

Key words: galaxies: active – galaxies: clusters: individual (MS0735.6+7421) – X-rays: galaxies: clusters

1. INTRODUCTION

Chandra Observatory X-ray images of the hot atmospheres of galaxy clusters show a wealth of structure associated with central radio sources, including cavities, shock fronts, metal-enriched plumes, and filaments (see Peterson & Fabian 2006 and McNamara & Nulsen 2007 for reviews). It was realized early on that measurements of cavity sizes and their surrounding pressures provide a gauge of the pV work (mechanical energy) expended by radio jets as they inflate cavities against the surrounding gas pressure (McNamara et al. 2000). Combining this with the assumption that cavities are driven to their current locations primarily by buoyant forces, the derived mechanical energy and mean jet power lie in the ranges $10^{55}\text{--}10^{62}$ erg and $10^{41}\text{--}10^{46}$ erg s^{-1} , respectively. Systematic studies of clusters and giant elliptical galaxies have shown that mean jet power estimated in this way is comparable to the power required to quench cooling flows (Bîrzan et al. 2004; Dunn & Fabian 2006; Rafferty et al. 2006; Nulsen et al. 2007; Diehl & Statler 2008; Diehl et al. 2008). Most of this energy is expected to heat the surrounding gas (Churazov et al. 2001, 2002; Brüggen & Kaiser 2001; Ruszkowski et al. 2004; McCarthy et al. 2004; Heinz & Churazov 2005; Voit & Donahue 2005; Heinz et al. 2006). Observations and simulations imply that massive black holes located in the nuclei of elliptical and brightest cluster galaxies (hereafter BCGs) combined with an abundance of circumnuclear fuel draining onto them provide a natural feedback mechanism that is able to maintain most of the cooling gas at X-ray temperatures (Pizzolato & Soker 2005; Sijacki et al. 2007).

These developments have significant implications for the formation and evolution of galaxies and the fundamental properties of radio jets. Accretion-driven outflows may have regulated the growth of bulges giving rise to the correlation between bulge mass and SMBH mass (Ferrarese & Merritt 2000; Gebhardt et al. 2000; Tremaine et al. 2002; Häring & Rix 2004; Di Matteo et al. 2005). Active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback at late times in the so-called radio mode,⁶ may be responsible for the turnover at the bright end of the galaxy luminosity function and the dearth of bright blue bulge galaxies at late times (Bower et al. 2006; Croton et al. 2006; Sijacki et al. 2007, 2008; Somerville et al. 2008). AGN feedback may explain other significant problems including the breaking of self-similarity of the cluster scaling relations (Borgani et al. 2005; Puchwein et al. 2008; Gitti et al. 2007; Cavaliere et al. 2002), variations in the baryon fraction in clusters (Allen et al. 2004; Vikhlinin et al. 2006; Gitti et al. 2007), and the production of energetic particles (Benford & Protheroe 2008). Furthermore, because the pV methodology gives a fairly reliable lower limit to the enthalpy, or total jet energy (Jones & De Young 2005; Binney et al. 2007; Nusser et al. 2006; Mathews & Brighenti 2008), it is able to levy interesting constraints on the particle and magnetic field content, and radiative efficiencies of extragalactic radio sources (Bîrzan et al. 2004, 2008; De Young 2006; Dunn et al. 2006;

⁶ The term “radio mode” is misleading, since the energetic output of FR I radio sources operating at late times is dominated by mechanical power, by factors that often exceed 10^4 (Bîrzan et al. 2008). We suggest that “mechanical mode” or “kinetic mode” would be more appropriate terms.

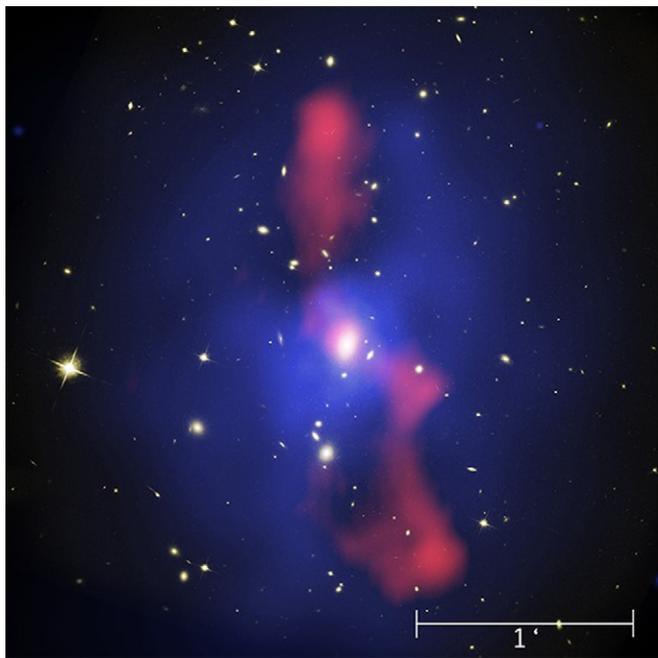


Figure 1. Image of the inner $200''$ (700 kpc) of the MS0735.6+7421 cluster combining the X-ray (blue), *I*-band (white), and radio wavelengths (red).

Croston et al. 2008; Diehl et al. 2008; Li et al. 2006; Nakamura et al. 2007, 2008). Here, we show that this methodology is able to place interesting constraints on the mass and spin of black holes driving AGN activity.

AGN powering mechanisms can be broadly described in the context of the accretion and spin paradigms (see Meier 2002 for a review). In the accretion paradigm, AGN outflows are powered by gravitational binding energy released by infalling gas (e.g., Begelman et al. 1984). The inflow of gas onto a disk eventually drains onto the black hole as its angular momentum is transported outward through shear stresses (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973), likely dominated by magnetohydrodynamic turbulence (e.g., Balbus & Hawley 1991). When the accretion rate approaches the Eddington value, \dot{M}_E , an optically thick disk forms releasing binding energy in the forms of radiation and winds. In the low accretion limit, i.e., $\dot{m} = \dot{M}/\dot{M}_E \lesssim 0.01$, a geometrically thick, optically thin disk forms. Most of the energy dissipated in the disks of these systems is locked-up in inefficiently radiating ions that are carried inward in an advection-dominated accretion flow or an ADAF, (Narayan & Yi 1995). Some or most of the binding energy is released in a mechanical outflow associated with a radio jet. Alternatively, it is possible that much of the matter entering the accretion disk never reaches the black hole, but instead is blown away in a wind, such as the ADIOS model of Blandford & Begelman (1999). ADAF and ADIOS models and their kin may be broadly applicable to black holes accreting far below the Eddington rate in cooling atmospheres of clusters and elliptical galaxies.

The spin paradigm posits that the rotational energy of a rapidly spinning black hole and its accompanying disk is channeled outward through the formation of a magnetohydrodynamical jet. Jet power may be generated by rotation of the accretion disk (Blandford & Payne 1982, BP), or by rotation of the black hole and its ergosphere (Blandford & Znajek 1977, BZ), or a combination of both (Meier 1999; Nemmen et al. 2007). Like the accretion model itself, spin-powered jets are maintained by accretion of a weakly magnetized plasma (Meier 1999). However,

the power generated per unit of accreted mass can, in some models, be much larger than for purely accretion-powered models.

The existence of a population of spin-powered radio galaxies was inferred by Sikora et al. (2007) who found two distinct loci in the Eddington accretion luminosity versus radio power plane. In this plane, radio power declines with increasing nuclear accretion luminosity in both populations when expressed in Eddington units (see also Ho 2002). The lower radio power population is composed primarily of disk galaxies, while the higher power population is composed primarily of elliptical galaxies. Sikora et al. and others have argued that this bimodality indicates two processes are powering radio galaxies. The lower-power disk systems, which contain ample levels of cold gas, have slowly rotating holes that are powered primarily by accretion. Higher radio power elliptical galaxies, which are nearly devoid of cold gas, harbor rapidly spinning black holes that are able to power their radio jets. Sikora et al. pointed out that unlike disk galaxies, the hierarchical growth of elliptical galaxies will lead to black hole mergers that, under the right conditions, spin-up SMBHs, providing a natural mechanism to power radio jets (see also Meier 2002, but see Hughes & Blandford 2003).

Earlier studies have attempted to evaluate the viability of spin powering of extragalactic radio jets. For example, Cao & Rawlings (2004) used 3CR radio galaxies to constrain BZ and BP models, while Nemmen et al. (2007) evaluated the performance of a hybrid model incorporating elements of the BZ, BP, and ADAF models. These studies concluded that the BZ model was unable to power the most luminous sources, but that hybrid models (e.g., Meier 1999; Punsly & Coroniti 1990) may be able to do so.

BCGs centered in cooling flows are often rich in atomic and molecular gas (Edge 2001; Salomé & Combes 2003; Donahue et al. 2000), and they frequently have an ample supply of fuel to power AGN by accretion. When this is not true, as we argue for MS0735.6+7421 (MS0735), black hole spin provides a plausible alternative power supply. The energy available in a maximally spinning $10^9 M_\odot$ black hole $\sim 10^{62}$ erg is comparable to the X-ray luminosity of a cooling flow integrated over the ages of clusters. Therefore, spin may be an energetically significant factor in the evolution of cooling flows, and in the creation of excess energy (entropy) in groups and clusters (Voit 2005; Babul et al. 2002; Borgani et al. 2005).

In this paper, we focus on the MS0735 cluster, which harbors an energetic AGN outburst that was identified by its unusually large pair of X-ray cavities (McNamara et al. 2005). Each is roughly 200 kpc in diameter and is filled with radio emission (Figure 1). The cavities are surrounded by a weak but powerful shock front reaching beyond the central galaxy into the inner several hundred kiloparsecs of the cluster. With a total energy of 10^{62} erg and a mean jet power exceeding 10^{46} erg s $^{-1}$, its prodigious power demands push accretion and jet models to their limits.

We show that both the energy and power output from AGN determined using X-ray cavities and shock fronts provide interesting constraints on black hole mass, spin and accretion power. The accretion model requires an implausibly large accretion rate compared to the available fuel supply and rate of star formation in MS0735's BCG, unless the SMBH is unusually massive. However, the rotational energy of a rapidly spinning SMBH with a mass consistent with the Magorrian relation can accommodate its demanding jet energy and power output. Our case for spin powering is based on straightforward energy and gas supply arguments that avoid environmental complexities,

Table 1
Photometric Corrections and Nuker Profile Parameters

Gal. extinction ^a mag	K ^b mag	Evolution ^b mag	Aperture mag	(1+z) ⁴ mag	μ_0 mag arcsec ⁻²	r_b arcsec	γ	β	α
0.011	0.116	0.229	0.117	0.849	17.34 ± 0.04	1.1 ± 0.2	0.00 ± 0.02	2.02 ± 0.04	0.99 ± 0.04

Notes.

^a Cardelli et al. (1989).

^b Poggianti (1997).

orientation effects (Urry & Padovani 1995; Antonucci 1993), and the details of spin models (e.g., Cao & Rawlings 2004; Nemmen et al. 2007; Reynolds et al. 2006). We attempt to balance our discussion by pointing out problems with the spin paradigm as it applies to the quenching of star formation in massive galaxies at late times.

Throughout this paper we assume a Λ CDM cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ and $\Omega_m = 0.3$. For redshift $z = 0.216$, the corresponding ratio of linear to angular size is $3.5 \text{ kpc arcsec}^{-1}$.

2. OBSERVATIONS

An image of the inner $200''$ (700 kpc) of the cluster combining the X-ray, *I*-band, and radio wavelengths is shown in Figure 1. The single orbit image was exposed with the Hubble Space Telescope's Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) through the F850LP filter, which we refer to as the *I* image. Its angular resolution is $0''.05$ per pixel. Individual frames were reduced and calibrated using standard pipeline processing and were combined using the multi-drizzle technique. Magnitudes quoted here were corrected for foreground Galactic extinction, *K*-correction, evolution of the stellar population, cosmological surface brightness dimming, and an aperture correction. These corrections are given in Table 1. Further analysis was performed using the IRAF and IDL image processing environments. The 320 MHz radio image and 40 ksec Chandra X-ray image shown in Figure 1 are discussed in Birzan et al. (2008) and McNamara et al. (2005), respectively.

A new $H\alpha$ image was obtained on 2005 January 22, with the WIYN 3.5 m telescope on Kitt Peak using the mosaic camera. Individual frames were taken through the narrow, on-band filter W029 and off-band Gunn r (W009) filter exposed for 10,800 sec and 3600 sec, respectively. The images were corrected for bias and flat fielding using standard procedures.

The star-formation rate of the BCG was measured using a UV image exposed with *XMM-Newton*'s Optical Monitor Wide 2 (W2) imager for 18.5 ksec. The image was obtained in tandem with a deep X-ray observation of MS0735 presented by Gitti et al. (2007). The W2 filter has a passband spanning 1800–2600 Å, and the camera provides a spatial resolution of $\simeq 2''.3$ FWHM.

3. ENERGETIC DEMANDS ON ACCRETION BY THE SMBH

Figure 1 shows radio jets emerging from the nucleus at an angle of roughly 45 degrees, to the north-east and south-west. The jets are redirected to the north and south at distances of 50–90 kpc from the nucleus, where they expand into lobes. The radio lobes are enclosed by two X-ray cavities, each of which is nearly 200 kpc ($1'$) in diameter. The lobes have displaced roughly a trillion solar masses of X-ray plasma. The cavities are surrounded by a weak but powerful shock front with Mach number of 1.4 measured to the east and west of the AGN, and perpendicular to the radio axis (McNamara et al.

2005). A spherical model for this part of the shock requires a driving energy of 5.7×10^{61} erg. This approach underestimates the true energy because the shock front extends considerably further to the north and south, implying a faster, stronger shock, encompassing a greater volume in those directions. The age of the model shock, 1.1×10^8 yr, is better determined, since it depends largely on the shock radius and its current speed. Assuming $4pV$ per cavity, Rafferty et al. (2006) found the total enthalpy of the cavities to be 6.4×10^{61} erg, which is close to the shock energy. A faithful outburst model would account for the entire shock front and the cavities. In particular, it should explain the division of outburst energy between the shock flow and cavity enthalpy. Without such a model, and given the similarity of the two energy estimates, and that the shock energy is probably underestimated, it is reasonable to compute the total energy of the outburst as their sum, 1.21×10^{62} erg. The mean power of the jet is then $P_{\text{jet}} = 3.5 \times 10^{46} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$.

Assuming the outburst was powered by the gravitational binding energy released by accretion, and adopting a mass-energy conversion efficiency $\epsilon = 10\%$, we find that under these assumptions the black hole grew by

$$\Delta M_{\text{BH}} = \frac{(1 - \epsilon) E}{\epsilon c^2} = 6 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}.$$

Here, ΔM_{BH} accounts for the lost binding energy, and E is the total energy output in mechanical and radiative forms. We have ignored radiation because it accounts for a negligible fraction of the current power output. This growth in mass corresponds to an average growth rate of $5.6 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ over the past 1.1×10^8 yr.

Rafferty et al. (2006) found a black hole mass of $2 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$ using the BCG's 2MASS K-band bulge luminosity $M_K = -26.37$ and the scaling relation of Marconi & Hunt (2003). Applying the V-band bulge luminosity $M_V = -23.91$ (see below) to Lauer's et al. (2007a) black hole mass versus bulge luminosity relation gives a somewhat higher mass of $5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$. Lauer et al. (2007a) have shown that 2MASS measurements systematically underestimate the true bulge luminosity. Therefore, we adopt the Lauer et al. value as the nominal progenitor mass.

Taken at face value, the accretion model then implies that the SMBH grew by about 10% during the outburst. The corresponding Eddington accretion rate for a $5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$ black hole is $\dot{M}_E = 2.2\epsilon^{-1} M_{\text{BH}} 10^{-9} M_{\odot} = 110 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$. Powering the outburst by accretion implies that MS0735's SMBH has grown, on average, at $\sim 5\%$ of the Eddington rate for 10^8 yr. These figures are merely indicative given the crude estimate of the black hole mass and the poorly known value of the mass-to-energy conversion factor, ϵ , which depends on, among other things, the spin of the black hole.

3.1. Structure of the Core

High resolution structural studies of BCGs (e.g., Laine et al. 2003) have found it useful to characterize the light profile using

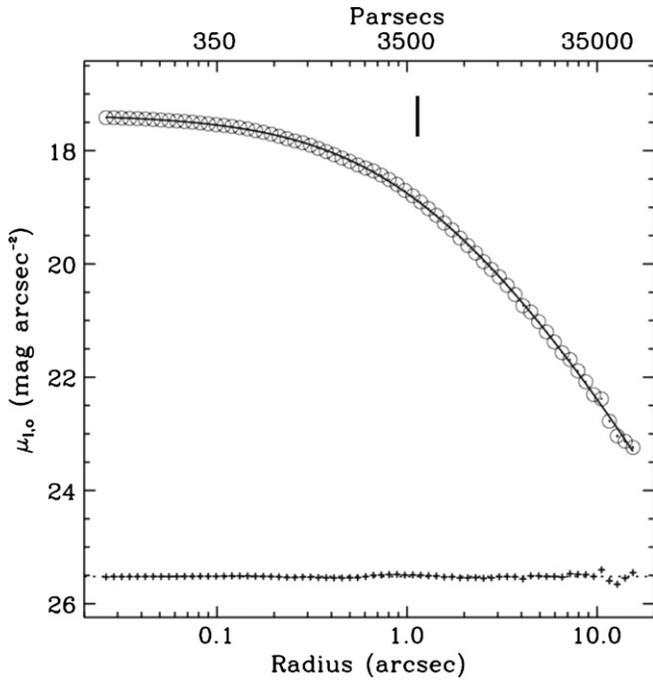


Figure 2. Central surface brightness profile with Nuker law fit superposed. Residuals from the fit are shown beneath the curve.

the so-called Nuker law:

$$I(r) = I_0(r/r_b)^{-\gamma} (1 + [r/r_b]^\alpha)^{(\gamma-\beta)/\alpha}.$$

A plot of the nuclear surface brightness profile of the BCG is shown in Figure 2 with the Nuker law fit superposed. Profile parameters are given in Table 1. The profile reveals no excess emission in the nucleus associated with a bright AGN, nuclear star formation, or a stellar disk or cusp. We find a break radius of $r_b = 1.1 \pm 0.2'' = 3.8$ kpc. The systematic error is larger than the statistical uncertainty, and depends on the asymptotic outer slope β , whose value is sensitive to the background correction, and to dust extinction, which extends beyond the break radius. Our attempt to model these effects suggests errors less than two- or three-tenths of an arcsec.

The break radius is similar in angular size to values in Laine’s sample of BCGs. However, its linear size is 2 to 3 times larger than the largest in the Laine et al. (2003) and Lauer et al. (2007b) samples. Laine et al. found a correlation between break radius and V -band galaxy luminosity (see also Faber et al. 1997; Lauer et al. 2007a). MS0735’s R -band absolute magnitude $M_R = -24.51$ (Rafferty et al. 2006) adjusted to the V -band assuming $(V - R) = 0.6$ is $M_V = -23.91$. A comparison between this value and Laine’s sample shows that MS0735’s BCG would be among the most luminous in their sample. In fact, MS0735’s core is comparable to that of a galaxy one to two magnitudes brighter. The implication is that it probably harbors an ultramassive black hole (see Section 4.6).

The runs of ellipticity (ϵ) and position angle (PA) of the I -band stellar isophotes are shown in Figure 3. Beyond $1''$, PA is roughly constant with radius approaching a value of $\simeq -15$ degrees. Over the same region, ϵ rises gradually from 0.3 to roughly 0.5. Variations in ϵ and PA within one arcsec are primarily due to dust. The galaxy shows no obvious evidence of other dynamical disturbances that might have been induced by a recent merger or strong gravitational interaction.

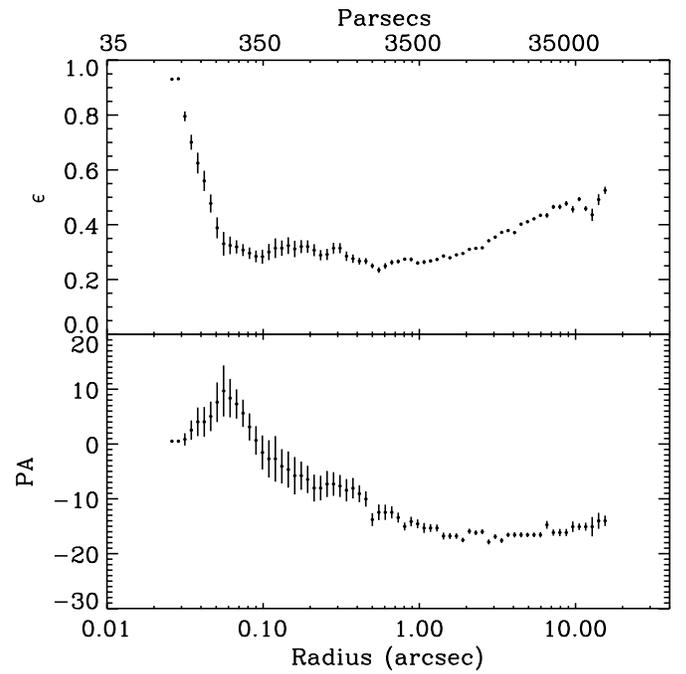


Figure 3. I -band isophotal ellipticity (ϵ) and position angle (PA) profiles.

3.2. Nuclear Emission

No evidence for unresolved nuclear emission is seen in Figure 2. We find an upper limit of $L_I < 2.5 \times 10^{42}$ erg s $^{-1}$ at the resolution limit $0.05''$. Similarly, no evidence of nuclear emission is seen in the X-ray or ultraviolet bands. An upper limit to the X-ray flux from a nuclear source was found by extracting a spectrum from the *Chandra* image within a circular aperture of $1.5''$ in radius located at the position of the BCG’s nucleus. Only 392 net counts were extracted. Assuming that the counts represent a combination of thermal X-rays from the hot gas and nonthermal X-rays from an AGN, we fit the spectrum to a thermal model with temperature, foreground column density, and metallicity, held constant, while solving for an embedded power-law spectrum. The power-law fit was largely unconstrained and offered no improvement over the thermal model. The upper limit to the unabsorbed nuclear flux $f_x < 8 \pm 6 \times 10^{-14}$ erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$ corresponds to a bolometric X-ray luminosity $L_x < 1 \times 10^{43}$ erg s $^{-1}$. The UV image discussed later gives an upper limit of $L_{UV} < 1.8 \times 10^{42}$ erg s $^{-1}$ from the nucleus.

Thin disk accretion models predict that most of the gravitational binding energy released by accretion should be radiated throughout the X-ray, UV, and optical bands. The optical luminosity of such a disk for a reasonable viscosity parameter $\alpha \sim 0.3$ is $L_{\text{disk}} = 1.7 \times 10^{12} m_9^{1.27} (\dot{m}/0.1)^{0.6} L_\odot$ (Meier 2002). For MS0735 this corresponds to an optical luminosity of $L_{\text{disk}} = 3.3 \times 10^{46}$ erg s $^{-1}$ for an assumed SMBH mass of $5 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ and an accretion rate in Eddington units of $\dot{m} = 0.05$. This figure is vastly larger than our upper limits, suggesting the emission is beamed out of our line of sight, is obscured, or is absent altogether. The implied level of I -band extinction is 10.3 mag, corresponding to column density $N_H = 4.1 \times 10^{22}$ cm $^{-2}$, which is normal for AGN (see Risaliti et al. 1999). The absence of penetrating X-ray emission argues against a hidden nucleus. It is possible that the energy has been advected inward by an ADAF-like process (Narayan & Yi 1995), but this seems

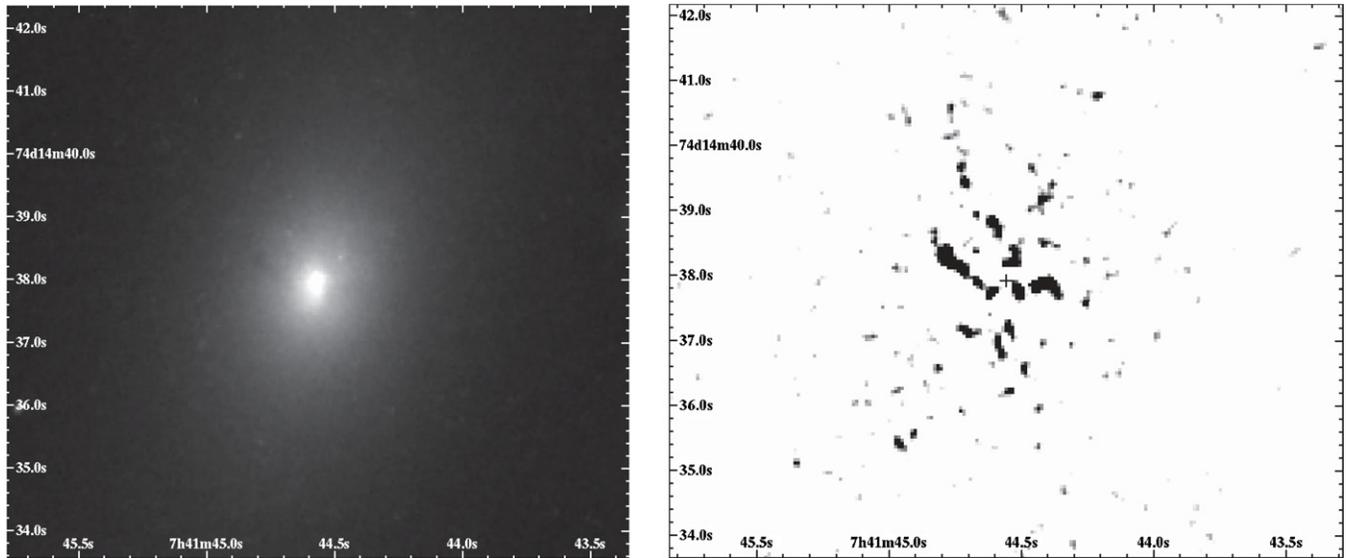


Figure 4. Image of the central region of the BCG (left) showing dust features. Dust map (right) formed by subtracting a model of the background star light. The location of the nucleus is indicated by a “+” (plus).

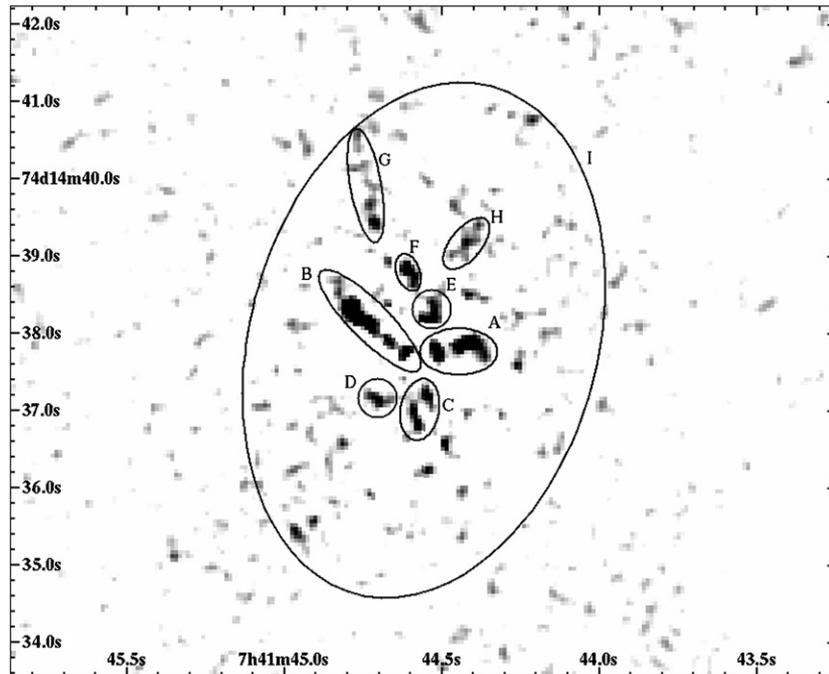


Figure 5. Detail of dust map with dust features indicated referring to Table 2.

unlikely unless the black hole is much more massive than the bulge light to black hole mass scaling relations imply.

3.3. Nebular Emission, Cold Gas, and Dust

The *I*-band *HST* image of the central galaxy is shown in Figure 4 next to the difference between the image and a smooth stellar background model. The nucleus is undistinguished. A system of filamentary dust features is seen in the inner five arcsec (17 kpc) of both the direct and difference images. These features are labeled in Figure 5 and their properties are listed in Table 2. No evidence for a dusty disk is seen. Laine et al. (2003) detected dust features in 38% of their sample of BCGs. Nuclear dust disks were found in 14% and filamentary dust features in

17% of their sample. Therefore, dust is a common feature of these systems. Nuclear dust and ionized gas disks of several hundred pc in diameter are often found in gE galaxies (e.g., Ferrarese & Ford 1999). Such a disk would be unresolved in MS0735.

The level of extinction can be characterized by comparing the light decrement in the subtracted image to that in the model. Assuming, for simplicity, that the dust is located in a foreground screen, the light decrement can be expressed as $I(r, \theta)/I(r, \theta)_0 = e^{-\tau(\lambda)}$, where $\tau(\lambda)$ is the optical depth, $I(r, \theta)$ is the observed surface brightness, and $I(r, \theta)_0$ is the model. Further assuming a standard Galactic extinction curve (Cardelli et al. 1989) and a mean gas to dust ratio of 100, we find a relationship between the hydrogen column density N_H

Table 2
Gas and Dust Masses

Region	Area of region (10^{43} cm 2)	$\langle \tau \rangle$	N_H (10^{20})	Total gas mass ($10^6 M_\odot$)
A	1.51	0.043 ± 0.006	1.88 ± 0.26	2.39 ± 0.31
B	1.74	0.098 ± 0.013	4.29 ± 0.55	6.32 ± 0.67
C	0.988	0.044 ± 0.003	1.9 ± 0.33	1.59 ± 0.25
D	0.581	0.025 ± 0.008	1.88 ± 0.42	0.921 ± 0.19
E	0.0872	0.052 ± 0.029	2.27 ± 1.3	0.167 ± 0.15
F	0.494	0.054 ± 0.013	2.35 ± 0.57	0.980 ± 0.23
G	1.74	0.117 ± 0.015	5.11 ± 0.66	7.52 ± 0.89
H	0.0901	0.058 ± 0.01	2.54 ± 0.46	1.93 ± 0.33
I	5.64	0.171 ± 0.0004	7.49 ± 0.02	49.3 ± 0.09

Note. All errors are based on Poisson statistics.

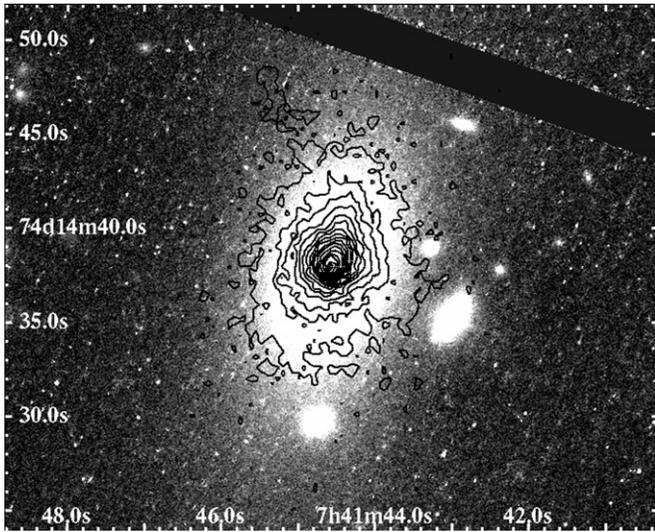


Figure 6. *R*-band optical image of BCG obtained with the WIYN telescope showing the $H\alpha$ contours superposed.

toward MS0735 and $\tau(\lambda)$ to be $N_H = 4.37 \times 10^{21} \tau(\lambda) \text{cm}^{-2}$. The $\tau(\lambda)$ is typically a few percent in the *I* band. The gas masses toward each feature were found by multiplying the column densities by the area subtended by the dust features. Figure 5 highlights the deepest dust features whose total gas masses sum to $2.2 \times 10^7 M_\odot$. The integrated absorption throughout the $H\alpha$ clouds indicated by region I corresponds to a total gas mass of $\sim 4.9 \times 10^7 M_\odot$. Because the foreground screen model tends to

underestimate the dust mass, the actual mass could be several times larger.

Salomé & Combes (2008) recently found an upper limit of $< 3 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ to the molecular gas mass near the nucleus of MS0735 using the IRAM telescope. Furthermore, the mid-infrared rotational lines of warm H_2 are weak in the spectrum of MS0735 [ZwCl 1370] (de Messières et al. 2009) and correspond to $\sim 10^5 M_\odot$ of gas at temperatures between 500 K and 2000 K. Both observations are consistent with the modest gas mass implied by the dust map.

The BGC harbors a luminous $H\alpha$ nebula discovered by Donahue et al. (1992). Our image of the nebula is shown in Figure 6 superposed against a ground-based *R*-band image obtained recently with the WIYN telescope. The $H\alpha$ isophotes show modest variations in ellipticity and position angle (Figure 7). A comparison between the $H\alpha$ isophotes (Figure 7) and the stellar isophotes (Figure 3) shows that the stars and gas have similar shapes. The gas is relaxed and has settled into the galaxy's potential well. The only indications of an interaction are a shallow trough in the $H\alpha$ emission extending north-east of the nucleus roughly following the radio jet shown in Figure 1, and a low surface brightness $H\alpha$ cloud 7–14'' to the north-east of the nucleus. The trough may be related to a dust filament at that location. Otherwise the gas appears surprisingly placid, considering its location in a galaxy that has recently experienced such a powerful AGN outburst.

Donahue et al. (1992) found an $H\alpha + [\text{N II}]$ flux of $9 \pm 2 \times 10^{-15} \text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, which corresponds to a luminosity of $L_{H\alpha + [\text{N II}]} = 1.22 \times 10^{42} \text{erg s}^{-1}$. In cooling flow systems, the ratio of $[\text{N II}]$ to $H\alpha$ flux shows a large spread centered around unity (Hatch et al. 2007). Assuming that the $H\alpha$ luminosity is half the $H\alpha + [\text{N II}]$ luminosity, an electron density $n_e = 100 \text{cm}^{-3}$, and a nebular temperature of 10^4K , we find an ionized gas mass of

$$M_i = \frac{L(H\alpha)m_p}{n_e \alpha_B h \nu} = 4.5 \times 10^6 M_\odot.$$

This value is much less than the dust estimates and Salomé & Combes' upper limit, but is larger than the warm molecular hydrogen mass found by de Messières et al. (2009). M_i is likely to be the mass of gas in the ionized skins of cold molecular clouds, and thus represents a small fraction of the gas present in the galaxy. All taken together, our results are consistent with less than $10^9 M_\odot$ of cold gas in the inner 20 kpc of the galaxy.

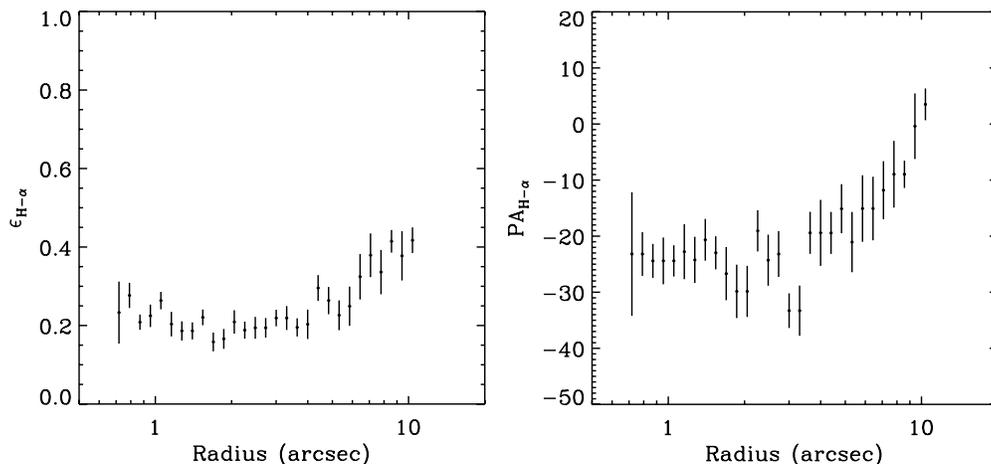


Figure 7. Isophotal $H\alpha$ ellipticity (left) and position angle (right) profiles.

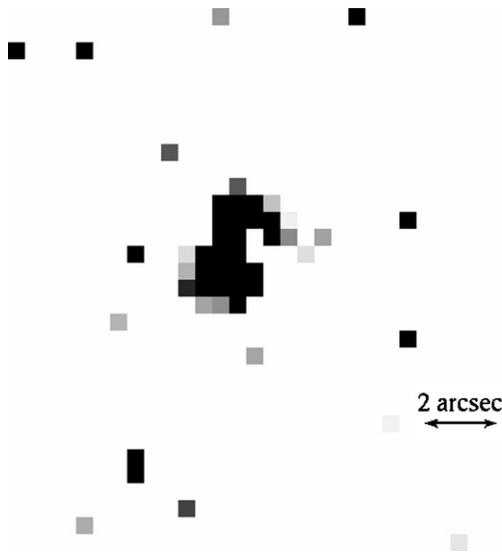


Figure 8. *XMM* Optical Monitor W2 Filter UV image (1800–2600 Å) of the nucleus of the BCG.

3.4. Lack of Significant Star Formation

Despite the existence of some cold gas, strong star formation is not seen. Rafferty et al. (2008) have shown that the BCG’s central colors and halo color gradient are consistent with a normal old stellar population. The color gradient lacks a prominent central blue dip seen in star forming BCGs, although we cannot exclude the possibility of a modest blueing of less than 0.1 mag in the inner 2″.

We estimate the star-formation rate using the *XMM-Newton* Optical Monitor Wide 2 (W2) UV image. The W2 filter has a passband of 1800–2600 Å, and the camera provides a spatial resolution of $\simeq 2\prime\prime/3$ FWHM. The image presented in Figure 8 shows that the galaxy is barely detected in the far UV. We find a UV luminosity of $1.82 \pm 0.14 \times 10^{42}$ erg s $^{-1}$ within a 10″ aperture. The relationship between UV luminosity and star-formation rate (Salim et al. 2007) gives a star-formation rate of $0.25 M_{\odot}$ yr $^{-1}$. Both the flux and star-formation rate have been *K*-corrected and corrected for foreground extinction. It is difficult to disentangle the UV flux emerging from the old stellar population, from that which is genuinely associated with young stars. Therefore, we interpret this measurement as an upper limit to the star-formation rate.

MS0735 does not exhibit the mid-infrared cool dust continuum that normally rises from $\sim 15 \mu\text{m}$ to the far infrared in star-forming galaxies (de Messières et al. 2009). A limit to the star-formation rate based on the $15 \mu\text{m}$ continuum is about $2 M_{\odot}$ yr $^{-1}$ (M. Donahue et al. 2009, in preparation). Star formation at this level should have been detected easily in Rafferty’s *U*-band observations and in our far-UV data, unless it is buried in dust. This possibility seems unlikely given the modest dust levels seen in the *HST* image, but we cannot rule it out. We note that the IR star-formation rate found by Donahue et al. (2009) assumes that the dust emission is powered by young stars. If other heat sources are operating, the IR measurement would overestimate the star-formation rate. We adopt a conservative upper limit to the star-formation rate of $< 2 M_{\odot}$ yr $^{-1}$. The upshot is that the star-formation rate is modest compared to the apparent accretion rate onto the SMBH.

4. POWERING THE AGN OUTBURST

The conditions in MS0735 stretch the ability of the various accretion mechanisms to power its AGN. These mechanisms include Bondi accretion from the hot atmosphere, cold accretion from a donor galaxy, cooled gas from the hot atmosphere, stars plunging into the SMBH, or inspiral of one or more SMBHs from a galaxy or group merger. Each will be discussed in turn.

4.1. Bondi Accretion of the Hot Atmosphere

Accretion of gas from the hot halo by the Bondi mechanism is attractive for several reasons. It is in principle straightforward to regulate in the context of feedback models and cooling flows (e.g., Nulsen & Fabian 2000; Sijacki et al. 2007; Somerville et al. 2008), and the X-ray atmosphere provides a steady supply of fuel. In relatively low power giant ellipticals, Bondi accretion has been shown to be energetically feasible in the sense that hot atmospheres probably have a sufficient gas density to supply the mass required to account for the observed jet powers (Di Matteo et al. 2000; Allen et al. 2006; Rafferty et al. 2006).

The average gas density and temperature in the inner 3″ (10 kpc) of MS0735’s hot halo is $n_e = 0.067 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and 3.2 keV, respectively (Rafferty et al. 2006, 2008). A reanalysis of the *Chandra* image pushing further into the center yields a temperature of $kT \sim 2.5$ keV and $n_e = 0.13 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ in the inner arcsec or so. Adopting a nominal black hole mass of $M_{\text{BH},9} = 5$ in units of $10^9 M_{\odot}$, we find a Bondi accretion rate of

$$\dot{M}_{\text{B}} = 0.012 \left(\frac{n_e}{0.13} \right) \left(\frac{kT}{2.5} \right)^{-3/2} \left(\frac{5}{M_{\text{BH},9}} \right)^2 = 5 \times 10^{-3} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}.$$

This value lies far below $\dot{M} = 5.6 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ required to power the outburst. The density and temperature of the hot halo may be somewhat higher and lower, respectively below *Chandra*’s resolution limit and approaching the vicinity of the black hole. However, the combination of gas density, temperature, and black hole mass that is able to yield a sufficiently large accretion rate is extreme. For example, by increasing the gas density to 1 particle cm $^{-3}$ and decreasing the gas temperature to 0.14 keV or so, while holding the black hole mass at its nominal value, would result in a sufficiently high Bondi rate. However, the volume containing the $6 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$ of gas required to fuel the outburst would be roughly 1.8 kpc (0′.5) in radius. This gas would be revealed as a sharp spike in the X-ray emission near the nucleus, which is not observed. Additional sources of uncertainty include the poorly constrained energy conversion efficiency which may fall below the canonical 10% value, as suggested by Allen et al. (2006) and Merloni & Heinz (2007). Conversely, the efficiency may be larger than 10% if the SMBH is indeed rapidly spinning. While we cannot rule out Bondi accretion based on these arguments, we regard it as exceedingly unlikely if the SMBH mass lies close to our adopted value.

The demands on gas density and temperature are eased dramatically for a black hole mass substantially in excess of $10^{10} M_{\odot}$. A black hole mass approaching $7 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$, as the missing core light suggests (see Section 4.6), could power the outburst by Bondi-like accretion for $n_e = 0.1 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ and a central gas temperature approaching $kT = 1.0$ keV within one arcsec of the nucleus. These conditions would be accompanied by a four-fold increase in surface brightness in the inner arcsec of the X-ray image. No evidence of this is seen, although a suitable combination variables may be found that could match the observation. The key here is whether indeed an ultramassive black hole lies in the nucleus of MS0735. Its unusually large

core hints at this remarkable possibility. But direct evidence for SMBHs substantially in excess of $\sim 10^9 M_\odot$ remains elusive.

4.2. Stellar Accretion

The efficiency of stellar accretion onto SMBHs is governed by the two-body relaxation timescale, $\tau \propto \sigma^3/\rho_*$, which is much longer than the age of the Universe in the low density cores of BCGs. A feedback scenario involving the capture of stars by a nuclear SMBH has been discussed by Wang & Hu (2005). Using the methodology of Syer & Ulmer (1999), Wang & Hu found capture rates in bulges with 10^8 to $10^9 M_\odot$ black holes to be $\sim 10^{-5}$ yr $^{-1}$ to $\sim 10^{-6}$ yr $^{-1}$, giving AGN energies of $\sim 10^{56}$ – 10^{57} erg per outburst. These energies lie far below the output of MS0735. Miralda-Escudé & Kollmeier (2005) have argued that stellar capture can be enhanced by the presence of an accretion disk. But this model still requires a sufficiently dense reservoir of stars to capture, which appears to be absent in MS0735's large, low surface brightness core. Stellar accretion seems to be an unlikely source of accreted mass.

4.3. Cold Gas Accretion

Cooling flows often harbor greater than $10^{10} M_\odot$ of molecular gas (Edge 2001; Salomé & Combes 2003), providing a reservoir from which to fuel star formation and the AGN (Pizzolato & Soker 2005). Given the large nuclear accretion rate implied by the AGN power, we would expect the nucleus to be awash in gas and star formation, which is clearly not the case. While the upper limits on the central gas mass presented in Section 3.3 cannot exclude the existence of gas in a less visible form, the observed limit of $\lesssim 10^9 M_\odot$ is uncomfortably close to the $\sim 6 \times 10^8 M_\odot$ of gas required to fuel the outburst by accretion.

Accretion onto an AGN is an inefficient process that is usually accompanied by star formation. The existence of the Magorrian relation shows that the accretion efficiency onto SMBHs historically is roughly one part in seven hundred. Some relief can be found when the mass to energy conversion efficiency approaches $\simeq 0.4$ for a rapidly spinning SMBH. But it would not fix the problem. It is just as likely, if not more so, that $\epsilon < 0.1$. Allen et al. (2006) and Merloni & Heinz (2007) found ϵ to be closer to a few percent, rather than the canonical 10% we have assumed. Natarajan & Treister (2009) found an average efficiency of roughly 5%, based on the shape of the X-ray luminosity function. Regardless of the assumed efficiency, fueling the AGN by cold accretion demands an unrealistically large fraction of the cold gas supply at the center the BCG to be channeled onto the black hole in only 10^8 yr.

Two gas-rich systems from Edge's sample we have studied in detail are Abell 1068 and Abell 1835 (McNamara et al. 2006). Both harbor star formation at rates approaching or exceeding $\sim 100 M_\odot$ yr $^{-1}$ and contain $> 10^{10} M_\odot$ of molecular gas. The AGN power in Abell 1068 is quite modest, and most of its cold, molecular gas is being consumed by star formation. Only a small fraction of the gas in these systems can be accreting onto the SMBH. The central galaxy in the Abell 1835 cluster is cloaked in $9 \times 10^{10} M_\odot$ of molecular gas, and star formation is proceeding at a rate of 100–180 M_\odot yr $^{-1}$. Yet its AGN power, and hence the accretion rate onto its SMBH, is about an order of magnitude smaller than MS0735's. In this system, for every unit of mass accreting onto the SMBH, 300–600 units are consumed by star formation, a ratio that is close to the expectation of the Magorrian relation. In MS0735 the situation is reversed.

Between 3 and 20 units of mass are accreting onto the SMBH for every one consumed by stars. This requires a channeling mechanism 10^3 to 10^4 times more efficient than the mechanisms operating in gas-rich cooling flows and during the early stages of galaxy formation.

Assuming for the moment that cold gas is accreting onto the SMBH at its nominal rate in a spherical flow proceeding essentially at the free-fall speed, v_r , the radius at which the surface density of gas will exceed the critical surface density for the onset of molecular cloud condensation and star formation Σ_{crit} (Martin & Kennicutt 2001) is

$$R_{\text{crit}} = 0.13 \left(\frac{\dot{M}}{5 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}} \right) \left(\frac{\Sigma_{\text{crit}}}{10 M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}} \right)^{-1} \times \left(\frac{v_r}{300 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \text{ kpc}.$$

Here, v_r is set to the typical one-dimensional velocity dispersion of a BCG, and \dot{M} is the accretion rate onto the SMBH. This value is comparable to the gravitational radius ~ 130 pc for a $5 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ black hole. So it is possible that the gas has fallen into the black hole before stars were able to form. However, the assumptions going into this calculation are exceedingly, and perhaps unrealistically optimistic. They are at variance with what is observed in otherwise similar systems. It is difficult to imagine all of the gas in the halo suddenly flowing radially inward near to the free-fall speed without forming a disk and stars. But we have not ruled it out.

4.4. Dependence of Jet Power and Energy on Spin

MS0735 is among the few objects whose jet energy and power levels are so demanding that the spin and accretion mechanisms can be meaningfully constrained. Accretion and spin are distinct in their parametric dependencies on power and energy. For spin, the *energy* output depends primarily on black hole mass and spin parameter, while for accretion, the output *energy* depends primarily on the total accreted mass. Spin *power* depends primarily on the squares of the poloidal magnetic field strength (pressure) and spin parameter, while accretion *power* depends primarily on mass accretion rate. These dependencies allow us, in principle, to distinguish between the two mechanisms.

We showed earlier that accretion seems unable to power this system, and we suggest a spinning SMBH as a plausible alternative power source. A rapidly rotating SMBH with a reasonable mass contains enough energy and, by applying a sufficient torque, enough power to launch and maintain the jet in MS0735. Here, we adopt the energy and power scaling relations of Meier's (1999, 2001) hybrid model to compare to our energy and power measurements:

$$E_{\text{spin}} \simeq 1.6 \times 10^{62} m_9 a^2 \text{ erg}$$

and

$$L_{\text{jet}} = 1.1 \times 10^{46} \left(\frac{B_p}{10^4 \text{ G}} \right)^2 m_9^2 a^2 \text{ erg s}^{-1},$$

where a is the spin parameter that varies between 0 for a nonspinning black hole and 1 for a maximally spinning hole, B_p is the poloidal magnetic field strength threading the accretion disk and ergosphere, and m_9 is the black hole mass in units of $10^9 M_\odot$. In this formalism, spin energy is transformed into jet power through a torque applied by B_p^2 . The estimated jet

power is related to the accretion rate through the requirement that the disk can support the associated magnetic stress (e.g., Meier 2002).

Assuming $a = 0.7$ and adopting an SMBH mass $5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$, Meier's spin model yields an energy of 4×10^{62} erg. This value is larger than the 1.2×10^{62} erg found from the cavities and shock fronts. Achieving a jet power of 3.5×10^{46} erg s^{-1} with these parameters requires a magnetic field strength near the hole of $\sim 5 \times 10^3$ G. This appears to be a plausible value within the context of Meier's theory. The formulas above allow a great deal of latitude in B_p given the poor constraints on the mass and spin of the hole, and there is a good deal of uncertainty in the theory itself. Provided a means of tapping its power is operational, black hole spin provides a plausible alternative to pure accretion power.

It is noteworthy that the spin mechanism requires some accretion in order to maintain the magnetic field that couples spin to jet power. Because the liberated energy is transformed primarily from the rotation of the hole itself, the spin model requires an accretion rate that can be a small fraction $\sim 10^{-2}$ – 10^{-3} of the rate required to power a jet by pure accretion (Meier 1999). In other words, unless the energetic output from spin substantially exceeds the accretion power, our argument for spin powering is largely moot. Whether or not the Blandford–Znajek mechanism and its variants are able to accomplish this is unclear (e.g., Ghosh & Abramowicz 1997). However, turning this point around, the conditions in MS0735 strongly suggest that the energetic output from spin exceeds the output from accretion by a large factor. This would have important consequences for MS0735 in particular and giant ellipticals centered in cooling atmospheres in general. If accretion from cooling atmospheres surrounding SMBHs provides the gas required to tap black hole spin power, AGN would be effectively coupled to the atmospheres by a feedback loop. AGN feedback may be the mechanism that prevents large cooling flows from forming (McNamara & Nulsen 2007).

4.5. Problem Spinning Up the SMBH

The spin model is not without its problems. We do not understand how the SMBH spun-up, and if it was born spinning, why its spin was tapped only recently. A SMBH can be spun-up by the accretion of high angular momentum gas, or the accretion of one or more SMBHs (Wilson & Colbert 1995; Volonteri et al. 2005). Both mechanisms require an accreted mass that is comparable to the progenitor's mass to achieve a spin parameter much greater than 0.5 (Rezzolla et al. 2008). One problem with this scenario as it applies to MS0735 is that typical galaxy mergers at late times occur with a roughly 10:1 mass ratio (Sesana et al. 2004), implying a similar ratio between their SMBHs. MS0735's BCG is among the most massive galaxies in the Universe. It would be unlikely to find a galaxy of comparable mass to merge with at late times. Buildup through mergers of smaller units during the hierarchical growth of galaxies is not expected to yield high spin factors (Hughes & Blandford 2003; Berti & Volonteri 2008). Gas accretion appears to be most efficient at spinning-up a hole (Moderski & Sikora 1996). A potential problem with this scenario is the absence of a stellar cusp, which indicates that the BCG has not accreted an appreciable amount of gas at late times.

4.6. Evidence for an Ultramassive Black Hole

It may be possible to estimate the size of the black hole or holes that merged to create MS0735's SMBH through the size

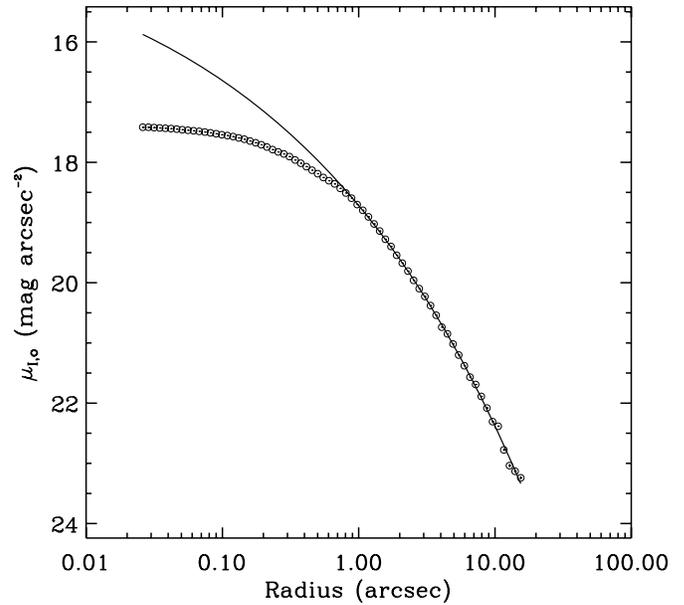


Figure 9. *I*-band surface brightness profile with Sersic profile superposed. The Sersic law overshoots the profile within the break radius. Beyond the break radius, the light profile closely follows the $R^{1/4}$ law.

of its core. Cusp-like surface brightness profiles are generally found in elliptical galaxies fainter than $M_B \simeq -20$ (Coté et al. 2006; Balcells et al. 2007), while luminous ellipticals like MS0735 generally have cores (Kormendy 1985; Laine et al. 2003; Lauer et al. 2007b). This dichotomy may be driven by gas and stellar dynamics during galaxy formation and evolution. As gas cools and sinks to the centers of dark matter halos, dissipation channels it to the nucleus creating a stellar cusp, not a core. Cusps may form by primordial cooling and subsequently during gas-rich mergers (Faber et al. 1997; Kormendy et al. 2008). As lower luminosity galaxies merge into larger entities via dissipationless “dry” mergers, their cusps are expected to be preserved (Milosavljević & Merritt 2001). Cores, or light deficits, are thought to be created by dynamical post-processing through interactions such as scouring by accreting SMBHs (Faber et al. 1997; Graham 2004; Gualandris & Merritt 2007; Lauer et al. 2007b; Kormendy et al. 2008), or perhaps by baryon oscillations driven by AGN outbursts (Peirani et al. 2008).

Black hole scouring operates by transferring energy from the inspiraling black hole to the stars in the light cusp through dynamical friction (Milosavljević & Merritt 2001; Milosavljević et al. 2002). Missing light in the nucleus, converted to appropriate mass units, is expected to be on the order of the sum of the masses of the inspiraling and host SMBHs. Gualandris & Merritt (2007) estimated the light deficit by extrapolating a Sersic profile inward to the nucleus from the break radius. We have done this for MS0735, and the results are shown in Figure 9. A Sersic profile (the solid line) is fitted to the light profile between the innermost extreme value of the break radius and the end of usable data at about 18". Beyond the break radius, the Sersic profile closely follows the $r^{1/4}$ -law profile. Taking the difference between the observed profile and the extrapolated Sersic law, we find a “missing light” of $2.3 \times 10^{10} L_{\odot}$. Adopting an *I*-band mass-to-luminosity ratio of 3, which is a typical value for giant elliptical galaxies, we find a very rough estimate of the mass deficit to be $7 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$.

This figure is a few times larger than the largest deficits found by Lauer et al. (2007b), and is much larger than those

considered by Kormendy & Bender (2009), reflecting the unusually large size of MS0735's break radius. The unknown shape of the progenitor profile is a large source of systematic uncertainty. Gualandris & Merritt (2007) have argued that the light deficit method breaks down when the core radius exceeds the gravitational radius of influence of the central black hole. The expression for the radius of influence, $r_h \simeq 13M_8^{0.59}\text{pc}$, where M_8 is the SMBH mass expressed in units of $10^8 M_\odot$ (Ferrarese & Ford 2005), yields a value of $\simeq 130$ pc for a black hole mass of $5 \times 10^9 M_\odot$. This figure is much smaller than its 3.1 kpc break radius. Therefore, the scouring model may not offer a complete explanation.

Kormendy & Bender (2009) have shown that mass deficit correlates with SMBH mass in several nearby systems, and Lauer et al. (2007a, 2007b) proposed that oversized cores witness the presence of "ultramassive" black holes exceeding $10^{10} M_\odot$. These studies certainly add grist to our conjecture that MS0735 harbors such an ultramassive black hole. However, caution is in order. MS0735 is uncharted territory. How such a large core and enormous black hole would be created is a mystery. One possibility is slingshot ejection by a massive binary or a merger kick (e.g., Boylan-Kolchin et al. 2004; Bogdanović et al. 2007). If some sort of scouring took place, our mass deficit measurement indicates that an ultramassive black hole would have been involved. The possible existence of ultramassive black holes and their numbers are of great interest as they provide an upper limit to the amount of energy deposited in hot atmospheres over the ages of galaxies and clusters (Fujita & Reiprich 2004; McNamara & Nulsen 2007), and their numbers would constrain the mass function of seed black holes at high redshift (Natarajan & Treister 2009).

4.7. Comparison to the Unified Accretion Model of AGN

Drawing on an analogy to the "low-hard," "high-soft" states seen in black hole binaries, Gallo et al. (2003), Merloni et al. (2003), Falke et al. (2004), Churazov et al. (2005) and others have argued that mechanical outflows and jets operate at low accretion rates $\dot{m} < 10^{-2}$. In black hole X-ray binaries, this corresponds to the "low hard" state. At high accretion rates $\dot{m} \sim 1$, the "high-soft" regime, a geometrically thin, optically thick disk forms, and most of the accretion energy is released in the form of radiation and winds emanating from the accretion disk, rather than in a jet. MS0735's implied accretion rate $\dot{m} \sim 0.05$ places it near to the high-soft regime. In the unified scenario, its nucleus should be as bright as a quasar. It is not. Neither the ADAF or ADIOS models should be operational at such a high accretion rate, so any radiation generated in a disk should be evident.

The size of this discrepancy is shown in Figure 10, where we have adapted the cartoon sketch of the relationship between accretion rate and AGN power given by Churazov et al. (2005). This figure shows the expected partitioning between radiation from the accretion disk and mechanical jet power as a function of mass accretion rate. In the low-hard state where $\dot{m} \lesssim 0.01$, AGN power is dominated by a jet and disk radiation is negligible. In the high-soft state, $\dot{m} \gtrsim 0.01$, the AGN power is dominated by radiation from the disk. Our measurements of MS0735's mechanical (heating) power and the upper limit to the disk radiation are indicated on the plot. MS0735's energy output is dominated by mechanical/heating energy and not radiation, which is inconsistent with the unified model.

If the black hole is indeed ultramassive and greatly exceeds $10^{10} M_\odot$, as its core size suggests, MS0735 may fall into the low-

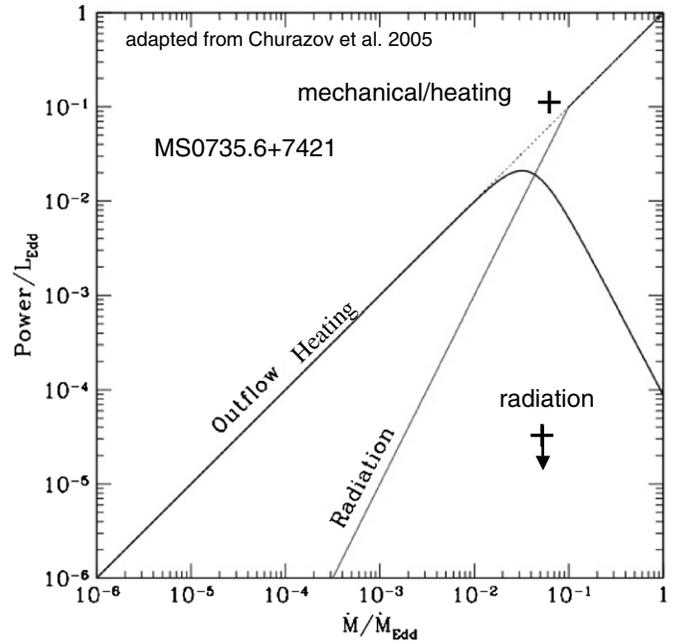


Figure 10. Cartoon sketch of unified model for AGN adapted from Churazov et al. (2005) indicating the locations of the mechanical jet power and the upper limit to the nuclear X-ray luminosity for MS0735. MS0735 does not fit the model.

hard regime, thus bringing it into consistency with the model. How massive the hole must be to accomplish this is unclear. The location of the critical accretion rate where the AGN output power transitions from mechanical output to radiation is poorly understood (e.g., Wu & Cao 2008), and may be as low as $\dot{m} \sim 10^{-4}$ (Fender et al. 2003). A lower transition value would strengthen the case that MS0735 does not fit the accretion paradigm. Finally, one can imagine we are seeing a post-accretion event where the quasar recently shut off. But this seems both fortuitous and implausible as it would not change the incredibly efficient demands on accretion or the lack of star formation. Unless MS0735's black hole is substantially in excess of the Magorrian value, its nuclear emission properties are inconsistent with the accretion paradigm.

5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

We have shown that using measurements of X-ray cavities and shock fronts, gas masses, and structural parameters of the host galaxy, we are able to levy interesting constraints on SMBH mass and spin. Unless a large and unseen reservoir of gas is flowing onto the nucleus with a remarkably high efficiency, and unless its black hole mass dramatically exceeds $10^{10} M_\odot$, it would be difficult to power MS0735's AGN by accretion alone. Adding to this, the BCG's nuclear luminosities at optical, UV, and X-ray wavelengths lie several orders of magnitude below the expected accretion luminosities at the rate required to fuel its AGN. In light of these problems, we have shown that its AGN may be powered by a spinning, $10^9 M_\odot$ to $10^{10} M_\odot$ black hole for a reasonable value of its spin parameter. Our hypothesis hinges on the assumption that the spin power released greatly exceeds the accretion power of the gas, maintaining the magnetic field pressure near the black hole.

MS0735's extreme properties have interesting consequences for feedback models operating in clusters and galaxies at late times (e.g., Croton et al. 2006; Pizzolato & Soker 2005). In order to operate a spin-powered feedback loop, its energy must

be tapped continuously, or nearly so, if it is to maintain balance between heating and cooling. Accretion at some level is needed to confine the poloidal magnetic field that torques the spinning black hole and taps its power (see Nemmen et al. 2007). If a relatively modest level of hot or cold accretion from the surrounding X-ray atmosphere is responsible, it could provide the link between the cooling atmosphere and AGN power that maintains a self-regulating feedback loop (see McNamara & Nulsen 2007).

MS0735 raises the possibility that both spin and accretion are important feedback modes in clusters. Spin-regulated feedback, or accretion power boosted by spin, may explain objects such as AWM 4 (O’Sullivan et al. 2005; Giacintucci et al. 2008; Gastaldello et al. 2008) and Abell 2029 (Clarke et al. 2004) whose nuclei are devoid of large reservoirs of cold gas and star formation, and yet apparently are able to maintain sufficient AGN power output to stave-off a cooling flow.

Finally, the need to invoke spin power may be avoided if the black hole mass dramatically exceeds $10^{10} M_{\odot}$, a remarkable possibility that finds support in the BGC’s unusually large core radius. This notion is highly speculative, but worth considering given the tight correlation between central light deficit and SMBH mass found by Kormendy & Bender (2009) in lower luminosity systems. The radius of gravitational influence of a $7 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$ black hole is ~ 600 pc, which corresponds to an angular size of $0''.17$ at the distance of MS0735. Therefore, it would be possible to detect or place interesting limits on the existence of such a massive black hole. How such an object would form and the fate of the enormous binding energy it would release is an open and interesting question.

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