# The Role of Accretion in High-Redshift Submillimeter Galaxies

#### David M Alexander (Cambridge)

With F. E. Bauer (Columbia), A. W. Blain (Caltech),
W. N. Brandt (Penn State), C. Borys (Caltech),
S. C. Chapman (Caltech), R. J. Ivison (Edinburgh),
A. Pope (British Columbia), and I. Smail (Durham)

#### Submillimeter/Millimeter: efficient identification of the most bolometrically luminous far-IR galaxies



#### And after intense multi-wavelength follow up...



#### But... massive galaxies also host massive black holes



### Measuring the "power" of AGN activity with X-rays





X-rays: (1) apparently a universal property of AGNs which allows AGNs to be identified irrespective of their optical/other properties, and (2) can probe heavily obscured objects



At z=2: rest-frame energies of 1.5-24 keV (can probe high  $N_H$ ) and  $L_X > 10^{42}$  erg/s (able to detect starbursts)

503 point sources +6 extended sources Alexander et al. (2003) Bauer et al. (2002) 20 observations spanning 27 months

# Talk Overview

• What Powers Submm/mm Galaxies? Alexander et al. (2005), ApJ, 632, 736

- Black-Hole Growth in Submm/mm Galaxies Alexander et al. (2005), Nature, 434, 738
   Borys et al. (2005), ApJ, 635, 853
- · Prospects with ALMA

# The SCUBA Galaxy Sample



### Properties of the AGNs



are of quasar luminosity

#### What Powers SCUBA Galaxies?



#### What Powers SCUBA Galaxies?



Some of the SCUBA galaxies could be AGN dominated but the majority are probably star-formation powered

#### Other Evidence that Star-Formation Dominated

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### (Chapman et al. 2004; Tacconi et al. 2005)

Multi-wavelength analayses also suggest that star-formation activity dominates the energetics of submm/mm galaxies Conclusion: intense star formation (of order 1000 solar masses/year) appears to dominate the energetics of bright submm/mm galaxies

# So AGNs are unimportant in submm/mm galaxies?

NO! The large AGN fraction implies almost continuous (~28-50% duty cycle) black-hole growth whilst undergoing star formation

More closely tied than other co-eval galaxy populations, which typically have a ~5% AGN fraction

## Joint black hole-stellar growth?

#### Rapid Black-hole Growth Phase?

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

Broad lines, when present, are typically <2500 km/s (Ledlow et al. 2002; Swinbank et al. 2004), <u>similar to narrow-line Seyfert 1s, which also suggests <10<sup>8</sup> M<sub>solar</sub></u>

#### $M-\sigma$ relationship in SCUBA galaxies

Stellar masses estimated using Spitzer infrared observations

![](_page_15_Figure_2.jpeg)

Data suggests that the black-hole growth lags stellar growth unless substantially sub-Eddington accretion (which disagrees with the models): similar to narrow-line Seyfert 1s

#### The Growth Phase of Massive Galaxies?

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

Black-hole growth from SCUBA galaxies is ~4-40% the quasar black-hole growth...

Other pre-guasar growth phases to be found (fainter submm galaxies?)

Conclusion: the black-hole growth appears to lag the stellar growth in submm/mm galaxies

The black-hole growth from bright submm/mm galaxies does not appear to be sufficient for the pre-quasar growth phase of massive galaxies: another growth phase required (submm faint galaxies?)

# Tracing black-hole growth with ALMA

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

ALMA: very effective method to constrain redshifts (in addition to CO and continuum constraints) and provide physical insight into the cosmic growth of black holes and the AGN-star formation connection

#### **General Conclusions**

• A large fraction (~28-50%) of SCUBA galaxies host moderate-luminosity, heavily obscured AGN activity

• This AGN activity occurs almost continously during intense star formation (~1000 solar masses/year): joint star formation and black-hole growth, in contrast to co-eval optical galaxies

• The black-hole growth is probably Eddington limited  $(M_{BH} < 10^8 M_{solar})$ : similar to narrow-line Seyfert 1s?

• The black-hole growth appears to lag the stellar growth; these massive galaxies probably don't lie on the local  $M-\sigma$  relationship until after an AGN-dominated guasar phase

• Bright submm/mm galaxies produce insufficient black-hole growth to represent the entire pre-quasar phase: X-ray faint z>1 AGNs (f850um=0.6mJy, average) probably contribute the additional black-hole growth; ALMA will provide an efficient method to obtain redshifts for these optically faint sources