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- SMG definition:
  S(850um) > 2-3 mJy
- Bright in submm, but extremely faint in optical
- $\label{eq:linear} \begin{array}{l} \mbox{Median properties:} \\ <z>\sim 2.5 \\ <L_{IR}>\sim 5x10^{12}\,L_{\odot} \\ <SFR>\sim 500\,M_{\odot}/yr \end{array}$
- Strong clustering strength: M<sub>halo</sub> ~  $10^{13}$  M<sub>☉</sub> similar to z ~2 QSOs









## Dynamical mass estimates

- Rotation velocities reach 500 km/s (inclination corrected), with a dispersion ~ 160 km/s
- Dynamical masses: M<sub>dyn</sub> ~ 2x10<sup>11</sup> M<sub>sun</sub> within 5 kpc
- CO(1-0) luminosity: L'<sub>co</sub> ~ 1.5x10<sup>11</sup> K km/s pc<sup>2</sup>
- > Upper limits on the CO-to-H2 conversion factor:  $M_{\rm H2}/L_{\rm co}^{} < 1.5, \, {\rm much \ lower \ than} \\ {\rm the \ Galactic \ GMC \ value \ of \ 4.3.}$







- any given gas mass
- 10x shorter gas depletion timescale than normal starforming galaxies
- Without continuous gas supply, SFR will decline with an e-folding timescale of ~200 Myr









- SMGs have ~10x higher SF efficiency than normal galaxies, i.e., they are massive starbursts
- Starbursts can stop star formation by rapidly exhausting the gas reservoir, providing a quenching mechanism to turn blue starforming galaxies into red passive galaxies.
- Starbursts are a universal phase in the formation of massive red galaxies. All galaxy formation models should be able to reproduce this important phase.
- What triggers the high star formation efficiency? Why every massive galaxy goes through a burst phase?

Astronomy originated from and is almost entirely driven by observation, which itself is driven by technological advances!





Hubble in Palomar

1948









