Pseudo-bulges, classical bulges and elliptical galaxies – II

Monsters at Heart

Dimitri Gadotti (ESO)

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Composite Bulges

It is evident that a single galaxy can have a classical bulge AND a disk-like bulge. It can also have a box/peanut (see e.g. Kormendy & Barentine '10).



IRAC-1 image of NGC 4565. The disk-like bulge is the tiny structure in the center.

Composite Bulges

Nowak et al. ('10) argue that they find two galaxies with a small classical bulge inside a disk-like bulge.



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Composite Bulges

Gadotti ('09) suggests that the presence of small star-forming disk-like bulges inside classical bulges can be relatively common.



Host Galaxies and Environment

Having low B/T, galaxies with disk-like bulges are naturally late-type spirals. Durbala et al. ('08) find them to be predominantly in low density environments.

Mathur et al. ('11) and De Xivry et al. ('11) show evidence that galaxies that are narrow-line Seyferts type 1 (NLS1) host disk-like bulges. High accretion rates might be fuelled by bars.

(NLS1: small black holes, high accretion rates.)

Although there is no consensus in the literature, there are suggestions that elliptical galaxies are characterized by two dichotomies (see e.g. Graham et al. '03; Trujillo et al. '04; Ferrarese et al. '06; Kormendy et al. '09; Graham '11):

1. core-depleted vs. extra-light (coreless; power-law)





Kormendy et al. '09

Mass deficits in core galaxies are probably caused by the slingshot effect of binary supermassive black holes in dissipationless mergers. Stars can even be ejected from galaxy!



Core galaxies rotate slowly, have boxy shape, are radio-bright, X-ray-bright and α -enhanced, as compared to extra-light galaxies (Kormendy et al. '09).



Kormendy et al. ('09) suggest that core ellipticals form via dry, dissipationless mergers. They are also kept with a core due to the heating of external gas through AGN feedback.

Extra-light ellipticals would thus form via wet, dissipative mergers. Starbursts would occur in these mergers and originate the extra component.





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Janz & Lisker ('08) show that curved relation is not a good fit to data. Moreover, scatter indicates a dichotomy.



Dwarfs are less concentrated than giants for a given luminosity. Presumably, supernovae feedback can reproduce this observation, turning the potential shallower by pushing gas outside.

At a fixed B/T, disk-like bulges are also less concentrated (Gadotti '09; see also Laurikainen et al. '07). Evidence of the acting of physics other than gravity.

Graham '11





We think that a SMBH resides at the heart of every (massive) galaxy. Their masses are correlated with central velocity dispersion and bulge luminosity (or mass, see e.g. Gueltekin et al. '09).



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This suggests a connected growth of bulges (and ellipticals) and SMBHs. The latter would accrete mass until AGN feedback regulates the inflow of gas, the growth of the SMBH and the formation of stars in the bulge (or elliptical, see e.g. Younger et al. '08).

The building of disk-like bulges would not be connected with the (bulk of the) growth of the SMBHs. Disk-like bulges come after.

Graham ('08) shows evidence that barred galaxies increase scatter in the SMBH scaling relations. Hu ('08) finds different relations for what he classified as pseudo-bulges, a sub-sample which comprises almost exclusively barred galaxies.

Gadotti & Kauffmann ('09) find that barred galaxies deviate from the M_{Bulge} - σ and M_{BH} - σ relations (M_{BH} is derived from Haering & Rix '04). Velocity dispersions are too large.



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In barred galaxies (even if seen face-on), velocity dispersion is increased by dynamical processes (e.g. Gadotti & de Souza '05).



Total SMBH mass density is 55 per cent larger using M_{BH} - σ relation from Tremaine et al. ('02), as compared to the M_{BH} - M_{bulge} of Haering & Rix ('04).



SMBH mass budget at redshift zero (Gadotti & Kauffmann '09) using M_{BH} - M_{Bulge} from Haering & Rix ('04)



In galaxies with composite bulges, SMBH correlates better with classical bulge mass only (Erwin '10; see also Kormendy et al. '11).





The essential idea is that ellipticals would have a formation process that significantly involves the merger of smaller units. Time-scales should be shorter for more massive systems (the downsizing scenario, e.g. Cowie et al. '96), almost approaching monolithic collapse (Eggen et al. '62).

Classical bulges could also form through mergers, but differences seen between ellipticals and classical bulges suggest different merger histories, in terms of major/minor merger ratio, dry/wet merger ratio and total number of mergers (see e.g. Hopkins et al. '10).

Formation of low B/T bulges is a challenge for Λ CDM (e.g. Weinzirl et al. '09), but progress in this direction with N-body simulations is happening. Scannapieco et al. ('10) report the formation, in the Aquarius simulation, through minor mergers, of bulges with low Sérsic indices (~ 1) and B/T (~ 0.1 – 0.2), albeit with excessive effective radii (see also Governato et al. '09, '10; Brook et al. '11).



Scannapieco et al. '10

Implementation of (disk-like) bulge building via disk instabilities in semi-analytical models is still very crude (Athanassoula '08; De Lucia et al. '11; Guo et al. '11): a large fraction (half) of the disk mass is transferred to the bulge if a disk is found to be bar-unstable. This is done to stabilize the disk against bar formation, but we see in Nature now at least half of disk galaxies with prominent bars.

In extreme cases, mass transfer is about 13 per cent of disk stars (Gadotti '08).



Coalescence of giant clumps in primordial disk galaxies is also a viable way to form (classical) bulges (Bournaud et al. '07; Elmegreen et al. '08).



Elmegreen et al. '08

Coalescence of giant clumps in primordial disk galaxies is also a viable way to form (classical) bulges (Bournaud et al. '07; Elmegreen et al. '08). t = 200 t = 375 t = 500 t = 750



Some Thoughts on Future Research

Galaxies are ghostly, we can see through them. Projection of different components complicates matters. Linking different aspects such as structural analysis and kinematics is revealing. (Think also of chemical evolution, stellar population ages, different wavelengths etc.) I.e., holistic thinking!



A simple example:

kinematics on and above disk plane to study the rotation of bulges (Gadotti et al., in prep.)

Some Thoughts on Future Research

2D fits with BUDDA (de Souza et al. '04; Gadotti '08) reveal no bulge (galaxy is classified as S0 in RC3), but peanut, and perhaps a ring, or spiral arms. Other galaxies show thick disks. This indicates which kinematics one is really measuring.

