X-RAY SURFACE BRIGHTNESS PROFILES OF OPTICALLY SELECTED ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI: COMPARISON WITH X-RAY AGN

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ABSTRACT

We use data from the All Wavelength Extended Groth Strip International Survey to construct stacked X-ray maps of optically bright active galaxies (AGN) and an associated control sample of galaxies at high redshift ($z \sim 0.6$). From our analysis of the surface brightness profiles obtained from these X-ray maps, we find evidence of feedback from the active nuclei. We find that excluding galaxies and AGN, residing in group environments, from our samples enhances the significance of our detection. Our results support the tentative findings of Chatterjee et al. who use X-ray selected AGN for their analysis. We discuss the implications of these results in the context of quantifying AGN feedback and show that the current method can be used to extract X-ray source population in high redshift galaxies.

Subject headings:

1. INTRODUCTION

The influence of the central supermassive black hole (SMBH) on the growth and evolution of the host galaxy is evident through a variety of observational and theoretical investigations (e.g., Silk & Rees 1998b; Gebhardt et al. 2000; Merritt & Ferrarese 2001a; Di Matteo et al. 2005; Peterson & Fabian 2006; McNamara & Nulsen 2007b,a; Chatterjee et al. 2008, 2010; Battaglia et al. 2010; Gitti et al. 2012; Pellegrini et al. 2012; Gaspari et al. 2012; Choi et al. 2013; Chatterjee et al. 2015b). The effect of the central SMBH on large scale gas and stars in galaxies and clusters is generally known as active galactic nuclei (AGN) feedback in the literature.

The first evidences of interaction between the gas and stars in galaxies and clusters with the central AGN came through pioneering X-ray and radio observations of galaxy clusters (e.g., Cavagnolo et al. 2011; Nulsen et al. 2005; Dunn & Fabian 2006b). These pathbreaking observations gave notion to the theory of jet-intra cluster medium (ICM) interaction (e.g., Heinz et al. 1998; Reynolds et al. 2001, 2002; Heinz et al. 2002; Choi et al. 2004; Reynolds et al. 2005a,b; Fabian et al. 2005; Vernaleo & Reynolds 2006, 2007; Bogdanović et al. 2009; Balbus & Reynolds 2010; Kunz et al. 2012; Tombesi et al. 2015; Yang & Reynolds 2016b; Roberg-Clark et al. 2016; Yang & Reynolds 2016a; Ruszkowski et al. 2017). The jet-ICM interaction was also observed in group environments (Komossa & Böhringer 1999; Vrtilek 2000; Zanni et al. 2005; Giodini et al. 2010; O'Sullivan et al. 2011; Randall et al. 2011; Giacintucci et al. 2011; Randall et al. 2014; Fertig et al. 2014; Vogt et al. 2015; Randall et al. 2015). Recently efforts were made by Chatterjee et al. 2015b (C15 hereafter) to observe the AGN-ICM/ISM interaction in galaxy environments.

Using data from the All Wavelength Extended Groth Strip International Survey (AEGIS) (Davis et al. 2007) and the DEEP-2 galaxy redshift survey (Davis et al. 2003; Newman et al. 2013) C15 used AGN and galaxy samples $(0.3 \le z \le 1.00)$

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1.3), matched on the basis of their optical properties (e.g., colour and redshift) and extracted their X-ray surface brightness profiles. The results were suggestive of an excess in the extended X-ray emission of normal galaxies to that of AGN host galaxies. However the effect of the *Chandra* point spread function (PSF) of the X-ray bright AGN sample left the conclusion tentative. In this work we follow the same technique as C15 but carry out the analysis with an optically selected sample (Yan et al. 2011) to minimize the effect of the X-ray emission from the AGN itself. DEEP-2 galaxy redshift survey has identified 50,000 galaxies. Our AGN sample is optically selected and a galaxy control sample, matched with the AGN sample, in properties like color and redshift is prepared from the DEEP-2 survey. All the X-ray classified AGN $(L_{2-10keV} > 10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1})$ and optically classified AGN are filtered out from the galaxy control sample. Our results support the findings of C15 and we propose that even at galaxy environments we find observational evidences of interaction between the central AGN and large scale gas in the galaxy.

Our paper is organized as follows. In §2 we give a brief description of our datasets and methodology. We present our results in §3. Finally we summarize and discuss our results in §4. Throughout the paper we assume a spatially flat, Λ CDM cosmology: $\Omega_m = 0.28$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.72$, $\Omega_b = 0.04$, and h = 0.71 (Spergel et al. 2007).

2. DATA SETS

We use data products from the AEGIS and the DEEP-2 galaxy redshift survey for our analysis.

2.1. Optically selected AGN and Galaxy Control Samples

The AGN source data set contains 227 optically selected AGN sources. The optical selection of the AGN is carried out using the $[O_{III}]/H_{\beta}$ line ratio and the U-B rest frame color (Yan et al. 2011) selection. Out of the total 291 AGN, selected via the optical line ratios, 64 of them are X-ray detected (Laird et al. 2009) and the rest 227 are purely optical AGN candidates with no X-ray counterparts. Typically

Selection applied to Sample	Number of AGN	Number of Galaxies
Initial sample	227	5000
$0.3 \le z \le 0.6$	80	1576
Group Catalog	45	892

TABLE 1

Table showing the various cuts applied to the initial sample of 5000 galaxies and 227 optically selected AGN. The sample is reduced to 1576 galaxies and 80 AGN after the redshift cut. This is our 'complete sample'. After removing the group belonging sources we are left with 45 AGN and 892 galaxies which are our 'isolated sample'.

AGN selection in the nearby Universe (z <0.4) is done using optical emission line ratios of $[O_{III}]/H_{\beta}$ and $[N_{II}]/H_{\alpha}$ or by their X-ray fluxes. These line ratios are used to classify AGN and star forming galaxies in the local universe (e.g., Kewley et al. 2001; Kauffmann et al. 2003) using the BPT diagram (Baldwin et al. 1981). But for higher redshift sources, the N_{II} and H_{α} lines redshift out of the optical region into near infrared. So the use of new BPT diagrams with $[O_{III}]/H_{\beta}$ and U-B colour has been proposed in the literature (e.g., Yan et al. 2011).

The other method of classification that is used for selecting AGN is the luminosity cut in X-rays ($L_{2-10keV} > 10^{42}$ erg s⁻¹) as no star-forming galaxies in the recent Universe is seen to have X-ray brightness higher than this limit (e.g., Ranalli et al. 2003; Yan et al. 2011). There might be some AGN with lower X-ray luminosity from the used luminosity cut which might be due to lower accretion rates or intrinsic high X-ray absorption. These sources would not be classified as AGN according to this criteria. But it would require a SFR of $200M_{\odot}yr^{-1}$ for some star-forming galaxy to satisfy the Xray luminosity cut. The optically selected sources are then re-classified as AGN by using the X-ray cut. In our sample 76% of the optically selected AGN candidates are not classified as X-ray AGN (by using the luminosity cut). To confirm that the optically selected and X-ray rejected AGN candidates are not dusty high redshift star-forming galaxies, the stellar mass distribution of galaxies are considered. The stellar mass contents of our AGN candidates are found to be identical to the X-ray selected AGN and also they are much more massive than star-forming galaxies (Yan et al. 2011).

In our analysis we want to compare the X-ray environments of active and normal galaxies. Hence to compare the X-ray environments of our optically selected AGN candidates we would need to construct an equivalent sample of normal galaxies. To do this, we construct a control sample of galaxies using a three-dimensional parameter space matching criterion involving B-band absolute magnitude (proxy for luminosity), U - B color and redshift with our AGN sample. The normal galaxy control sample contains a total of 5000 galaxies. We want the host galaxies of the AGN and the control sample to be identical in their properties in order to ensure that whatever impact we see in our analysis comes from the black-hole activity and not from the stellar population or other constituents of the host galaxies. See §4 for more discussion on this issue. U-B color matching has been done in order to ensure that the AGN host and normal galaxies have similar stellar population and star-formation rates (C15).

It is also seen in the literature that the galaxy properties depend on redshifts (e.g., Beifiori et al. 2014; Lapi et al. 2014) and hence the samples are matched in redshift too. Amongst the 5000 galaxies, 1673 galaxies have single entries only,

while 1088 entries have been repeated multiple times in the control sample in order to make the color and redshift distribution of the two samples as similar as possible. The distributions are shown in the left panel of Fig. 1. A K-S test ensured a significance p value of 0.97.

2.2. Group Catalog

It is known that group environments are likely to affect the extended X-ray emission due to the enhanced depth of the gravitational potential well. Hence to identify the group environments associated with the AGN and galaxies in our sample we use the DEEP2 group catalog (Gerke et al. 2012). The catalog enlists the group ID of 34,492 DEEP2 sources and those having group ID's greater than 10000 are isolated (see Gerke et al. 2012 for details). Gerke et al. (2012) used the Voronoi-Delaunay method for finding groups of galaxies in the redshift space. Two or more galaxies are said to belong to a group if they are linked by the group finding algorithm and galaxies which are not linked by the group finder algorithm are said to be isolated or field galaxies. After eliminating the sources belonging to galaxy groups we obtain 45 AGN and 892 galaxy sources. We identified these sources as 'isolated'. We also examine the redshift distribution of these two 'isolated' samples in order to compare them with the complete sample. The redshift distribution of the samples are shown in the right panel of Fig. 1. We perform a K-S test on the redshift distribution of the 'isolated' galaxy and AGN samples and obtain a p-value of 0.97279 indicating sufficient preservation of similarity. The color distribution of the samples are shown in Fig. 2. The KS-test when performed on the color distribution yielded a p value of 0.88275. In Table 1 we provide the details of the constructed samples used in our analysis.

2.3. *Methodology*

We follow the stacking analysis technique adopted in C15. The effective area-exposure corrected (EAEC maps) X-ray maps of AEGIS-X (Laird et al. 2009) have been used for the preparation of the stacked images of our samples. These maps are constructed using the event files, exposure time maps and effective area maps provided in (Laird et al. 2009). All the gaps and singularities arising in the EAEC maps due to no exposure were assigned null counts. A square region with dimensions of 5×5 arcminutes has been cut around each of our identified sources from the EAEC maps. All the other sources present in this region were identified using the AEGIS-X source list and the getpsf routine provided by Laird et al. (2009) was used to obtain their PSFs. To avoid contamination these X-ray point sources were masked using the ellipse corresponding to the 95% of the encircled energy region (Laird et al. 2009, C15). Circles with radii that are 1.5 times the semi-major axis of these ellipses are assigned zero counts and are placed on the map with the corresponding sources at the centre of these circles. C15 showed that the surface brightness profiles are statistically invariant if the used mask sizes are 1 or 3 times the 95% EER. A stacked source map is obtained by co-adding these individual source maps. A mask map corresponding to each source map is prepared by using the circles used for masking the X-ray point sources within the source maps. The pixels other than those falling in the encircled regions around the point sources are assigned a value of 1 in the mask map. All these mask maps are added together to obtain a stacked mask map. Now the final average stacked image is obtained by dividing the stacked source map by the stacked mask map in order to correct for the multiple addition

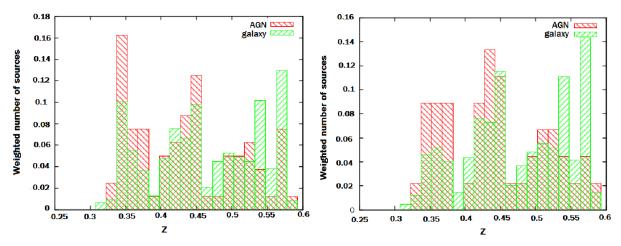


FIG. 1.— Redshift distribution of the complete AGN and galaxy samples (left panel) and the 'isolated' AGN and galaxy samples (right panel). See §2 and Table 1 for description of the samples.

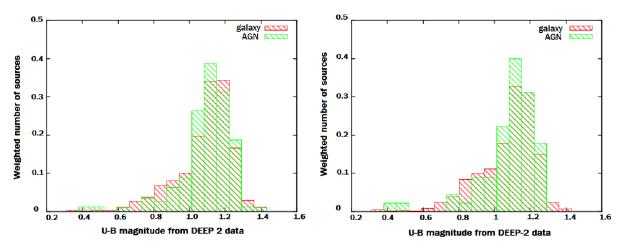


FIG. 2.— U-B colour distributions of the the complete AGN and galaxy samples (left panel) and the 'isolated' AGN samples (right panel). See §2 and Table 1 for description of the samples.

of pixels while adding the source maps. Fig. 3 shows the final stacked maps of the AGN and normal galaxies respectively. The original dimension of the stacked maps are of 300''x300'' but only a 40''x40'' square region around the centre has been shown in Fig. 3. Each pixel of the map corresponds to 0.5 arcseconds.

3. RESULTS

The stacked maps of each of the two samples have been used to extract the surface brightness profiles of AGN and galaxies. The average X-ray counts were extracted from the non-overlapping annuli each of width 4 arcseconds in the stacked maps. The background counts were subtracted accordingly. The standard error of the mean has been plotted as the error in the X-ray count for each data point. The errorbars represent the standard errors at each annulus. Fig. 4 (top-left panel) shows the surface brightness profiles of the stacked map of both the AGN and the galaxies belonging to the complete sample. The blue dot-dashed and the red dotted lines show the surface brightness profile for the galaxy and the AGN respectively. The green dashed and the red solid lines show the PSF of the galaxy and the AGN stacked map respectively normalised to the maximum counts in each case.

The surface brightness profile of the galaxy clearly shows an excess as compared to that of the AGN.

The analytic form of the average *Chandra* PSF (Gaetz et al. 2004) using the parameters for soft X-ray photons (0.5-2 keV) has been shown as the average PSF normalized to the peak value of the associated counts. The *Chandra* PSF depends on the position of the source in the detector and various other factors and hence would be different for each source. However since we use an averaged stacked map for the extraction of the surface brightness profile we compare our findings with that of the average *Chandra* PSF at soft X-ray energy as done in C15. A reasonable estimate of the PSF using the core and the wing is given by

$$f(\theta) = \frac{A_0}{\left(1 + \left(\frac{\theta}{\theta_0}\right)^2\right)^{\gamma/2}} + A_1 \exp\left[-4\ln(2)\left(\frac{\theta}{\theta_1}\right)^2\right] + A_2 \exp\left[-4\ln(2)\left(\frac{\theta}{\theta_2}\right)^2\right] (1)$$

The fit parameters are taken from C15 and Gaetz et al. (2004). In the top right panel of Fig. 4 we compare our results with that of C15. The blue dashed line represents the profile for the

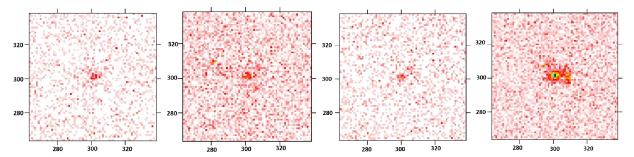


FIG. 3.— Stacked maps corresponding to the four samples shown in Fig. 1 Fig. 2 and Table 1. 'Complete AGN sample' (left-most panel), 'Complete galaxy sample' (middle left panel), 'isolated AGN sample' (middle right panel) & 'isolated galaxy sample' (right-most panel). The original dimension of the stacked maps are of 300"x300" but only a 40"x40" square region around the centre has been shown here. See §2.3 for the stacking methodology.

current galaxy sample while the green dot-dashed line represents the galaxy profile for C15. The yellow dotted and the red solid lines represent the profiles of the C15 and current AGN sample respectively. The higher emission at the central region for the C15 AGN profile is coming from the bright X-ray emission from the accretion discs of AGN. It is evident and as has been noted in C15, the measured X-ray profile of their extended emission is contaminated by the PSF and the conclusions they draw in their paper are tentative. After correcting for PSF, C15 tend to find that the galaxy count was higher than the AGN within the error limits. With our new optically selected sources we observe that the excess in galaxy counts is significant compared to AGN. Our results thus favor the findings of C15.

The stacked maps for the 'isolated' samples are also subjected to the same procedure and the same analytic form of the average PSF is used with the same parameters to produce the X-ray surface brightness profiles of the isolated sources. The profiles are shown in the bottom-left panel of Fig. 4. We observe that the excess in galaxies over AGN increases when we exclude sources that are residing in group environments.

Following C15 we obtain the difference profiles between galaxy and AGN. The error in the difference σ is calculated as follows: $\sigma = \sqrt{\sigma_A^2 + \sigma_G^2}$, where σ_A is the standard error on the mean AGN count and σ_G is the standard error on the galaxy at the same distance. The results are shown in the bottom right panel of Fig. 4. The positive points suggest an excess of the galaxy count over AGN and negative points suggest an excess of the AGN. The solid blue line represents no difference between the counts. We can see that the galaxy profile shows considerable excess as compared to the AGN.

We also compute the difference for the 'isolated' samples using the same statistic described above. We note that the difference increases for the isolated sample when we exclude the AGN and galaxies residing in groups. The difference profile for the isolated sources has a significance of about $3\,\sigma$ and that of the complete sample shows a significance of about $2.5\,\sigma$. The removal of the group sources improves the significance of detection which might be mainly due to the dark-matter environment present in the group systems. We also removed the group sources from C15 and performed the same exercise. We did not find any significant difference in the case of C15.

4. DISCUSSION

Feedback from the central black hole and its role in galaxy evolution has been widely studied in the literature (e.g., Chatterjee et al. 2015b; Hopkins et al. 2016; Cielo et al. 2017; Correa et al. 2018; Penny et al. 2018). The observational effects

of AGN feedback has been estimated via many routes, the most recent of which involves the statistical detection of the signal through Sunyaev Zeldovich observations (e.g., Chatterjee et al. 2010; Ruan et al. 2015; Verdier et al. 2016; Crichton et al. 2016; Dutta Chowdhury & Chatterjee 2017). These large volume of theoretical and observational studies establish the importance and ubiquity of the role of AGN feedback in theories of structure formation. The direct effects of AGN feedback were seen in cluster and group environments through pioneering X-ray observations proving its global significance at all scales of structure formation.

C15 tried to study the direct effect of AGN feedback on the soft X-ray gas in galaxies, extending the scope of the study to lower mass structures within the cosmic web. However, as mentioned before the study of C15 suffered from PSF contamination from X-ray point sources making their conclusions tentative. The current study aims at improving the conclusion drawn in C15 by replacing the X-ray selected AGN with the X-ray dim but optically bright sample of AGN. In this work, we detect a significant excess X-ray emission from the galaxy stacked maps as compared to the AGN stacked maps supporting the tentative conclusions of C15.

One of the key assumptions in theories of galaxy evolution is that galaxies reside in dark matter halos (e.g., Silk & Rees 1998b). Thus the extended emission in halos is correlated with the mass of the dark matter halo that provides the gravitational potential well in which the galaxies reside (White & Frenk 1991; Kereš et al. 2005; van de Voort et al. 2011; Correa et al. 2018). Studies show that even the stellar mass in galaxies is correlated with the host dark matter halo mass (e.g., Moster et al. 2010; Shankar et al. 2014; Chiu et al. 2016). Observations suggest that pointed X-ray emission in galaxies too are correlated with stellar luminosity and stellar mass thereof (e.g., Forman et al. 1985; Trinchieri & Fabbiano 1985; Canizares et al. 1987; Sarazin et al. 2000; Strickland et al. 2002; Kim & Fabbiano 2003; Sivakoff et al. 2003; Fabbiano 2006; Ranalli et al. 2008; Mineo et al. 2012). It is believed that the relative contribution to the X-ray emission from the hot halo and the point sources might depend on galaxy luminosity and morphology (see Fabbiano 2006 and references therein).

Thus, to truly understand the X-ray emission in galaxies one requires a more detailed understanding of the X-ray source population. Chatterjee et al. (2015a) tried to characterise the X-ray source population by using galaxies from the DEEP-2 survey. Their results show that the X-ray emission in high redshift galaxies ($z \sim 0.6-0.7$) seem to be a combination of point sources as well as extended emission and a degener-

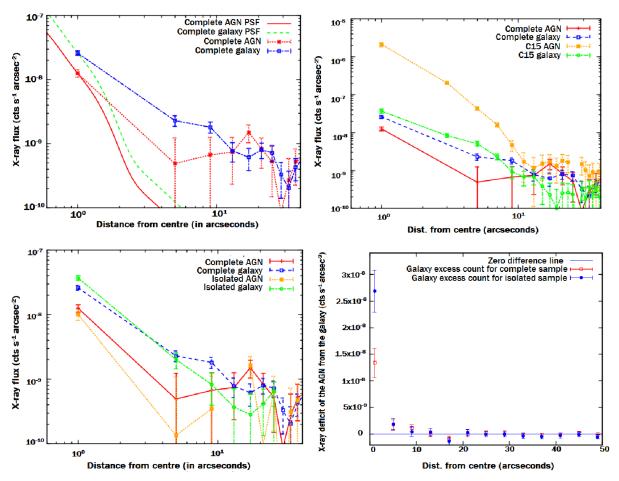


Fig. 4.— The **top-left panel** shows the extended X-ray count plotted against distance from the centre of the complete sample stacked map with 0.3 < z < 0.6 for both AGN and galaxies. The blue dot-dashed and the red dotted lines show the surface brightness profiles for the galaxy and the AGN stacked map respectively. The green dashed and the red solid lines show the PSF of the galaxy and the AGN stacked map respectively normalised by the maximum counts in each case. This plot corresponds to the complete sample of AGN and Galaxy as described in §2 and Table 1. **Top-right** panel shows the overplot of surface brightness profile of our complete sample with that obtained by C15 which used X-ray classified AGN for their analysis. The blue dashed line represents the profile for the current galaxy sample while the green dot-dashed line represents the galaxy profile for C15. The yellow dotted and the red solid lines represent the profiles of the C15 and current AGN samples respectively. C15 AGN sample (very high PSF) hugely dominates the C15 galaxy and as well as our AGN and galaxy complete samples. **Bottom-left** panel shows the extended X-ray count plotted against distance from the centre of the isolated sources (see §2 for description of the sample) stacked map for both AGN and galaxies overplotted with the complete sample source surface brightness profile. The green dot-dashed and blue dashed lines represent the profiles for the isolated and complete galaxy samples respectively. The yellow dotted line and the red solid lines show the profiles for isolated and complete AGN. The **bottom-right** panel shows the galaxy count excess from the AGN counts calculated from the surface brightness profiles. For the complete sample the excess is $2.5 \, \sigma$ (red) and for isolated sources the galaxy excess is at a significance of $3 \, \sigma$ (blue). See §3 and §4 for more details.

acy existed between the two classes of X-ray emission. So one of the challenges in studies involving AGN feedback in high redshift galaxies, lies in lack of rigorous quantification of the sources emitting in X-rays.

To alleviate this problem we have extracted the signal from two kinds of environment, namely group galaxies and isolated galaxies. It has been shown that group environment and dynamics have effects on the evolution of their member galaxies (e.g., Hou et al. 2013; Roberts & Parker 2017) and the IGM also is affected by the member galaxies (e.g., Helsdon & Ponman 2000, 2003). Hence we expect the galaxies belonging to the groups to be different from the isolated sources. The group galaxies are themselves a part of the larger gravitational well of the dark-matter halo. The diffuse X-ray due to this halo has a large contribution to the X-ray of the member galaxies (Helsdon et al. 2001; Memola et al. 2009). In our study we observe that while including the group galaxies in our stacking analysis provides an excess of the X-ray emission in normal over active galaxies, the significance of this excess increases

when we exclude the group galaxies from our AGN and control galaxy samples (as shown in the bottom panels of Fig. 4). This is expected since the diffuse emission in groups in both the AGN and the control samples will tend to be identical and will smear out the differences in the average stacked signals. We removed the group belonging sources from C15 and did not find any difference in the surface brightness profiles from those obtained by C15. This is expected since the PSF emission is overwhelming in the case of C15.

We calculate the bolometric luminosities of the optical AGN according to the methodology described in Marconi et al. (2004) using the B-mand magnitude and the redshifts. The bolometric luminosities vary between 10^{43} - 10^{44} ergs s^{-1} . The accretion rates are calculated assuming the efficiency of conversion of accreted energy to radiated energy to be 10% (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973). These give accretion rates between $0.01M_{\odot}yr^{-1}$ to $0.17M_{\odot}yr^{-1}$. However we note that the value 10% is valid for radiatively efficient thin disc accretion, which is probably not the case in our AGN samples at large.

Following the procedure described in §4 of C15 we obtain an estimate of feedback energy for our AGN sources. The feedback energy is found to be 2.1×10^{39} ergs s^{-1} and 2.3×10^{39} ergs s^{-1} respectively for the complete and the isolated AGN sources. Thus according to the current model the feedback energy is about 0.01-0.001% of the bolometric luminosity of the AGN.

Now, if we assume the accretion rate energy to bolometric luminosity conversion efficiency to be η , the feedback fraction to be ε , then the ratio of the feedback energy to that of the accretion energy will be $\eta \epsilon$. Observational studies of wind outflow from quasars find the kinetic luminosity of the outflow to be about 5 - 10% or in some cases 0.01 - 1% (Feruglio et al. 2010; Revalski et al. 2018; Crenshaw & Kraemer 2012; Harrison et al. 2014; Husemann et al. 2016) of the bolometric luminosities of these quasars. In the case of radio loud sources it has been observed that the kinetic energy of the jet is higher than the bolometric luminosity of the AGN. Thus the parameter $\eta \epsilon$ in the above cases are higher than our estimates.

Numerical simulations have revealed that jet couple with the ISM very efficiently (Mukherjee et al. 2016; Wagner et al. 2012) and this efficiency is higher than radiative outflows (Cielo et al. 2018). Radiative feedback in cosmological simulations have assumed the feedback energy fractions ($\eta \epsilon$) to be typically 0.5% (e.g., Di Matteo et al. 2005; Khandai et al. 2015) of the accreted energy, consistent with our observed values. We stress that these simple estimates are representative and for more precise comparison we require understanding of accretion models in optically selected lower luminosity AGN.

According to current studies, the role of AGN feedback in galaxy formation has been strong. Thus, different observational strategies are being exploited to asses the effect at different scales of structures in the Universe. Recently a direct meausure of AGN feedback through Sunyaev-Zeldovich observations with the Atacama Large Millimeter Array has been reported (Lacy et al. 2018, Lacy, M. et al., in preparation). We like to stress that our technique to detect this effect at high redshifts, through X-ray observations is promising (with the limitations of the uncertainty in X-ray source populations). We thus propose to further carry out this study with samples of radio loud as well as obscure quasars to validate the evidence of AGN feedback using the X-ray staking technique.

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