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Detection of Hα emission from z > 3.5 submillimetre luminous galaxies with AKARI-FUHYU spectroscopy

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ABSTRACT

We present tentative Hα emission line detections of four submillimetre-detected galaxies at z > 3.5: the radio galaxies 8C1909+722 and 4C60.07 at signal-to-noise ratios (SNRs) of 3.1 and 2.5, and two submillimetre-selected galaxies (SMGs) near the first of these at SNRs of 10.0 and 2.4, made with the AKARI Space Telescope as part of the FUHYU mission program. These are the highest-redshift Hα detections in such galaxies, made possible by AKARI’s unique near-infrared spectroscopic capability. The two radio galaxies had known redshifts and surrounding structure, and we have detected broad Hα components indicating the presence of dust-shrouded quasars. We conclude that powerful AGNs at z > 3.5 occur in peaks of the star-formation density fields, supporting a close connection between stellar mass build-up and black hole mass assembly at this redshift. We also show that 4C60.07 is a binary AGN. The Hα detections of the two SMGs are the first redshift determinations for these sources, confirming their physical association around their companion radio galaxy. The Hα-derived star formation rates (SFRs) for the SMGs are lower than their far-infrared derived SFRs by a factor of ~10, suggesting a level of dust obscuration similar to that found in studies at ~1 < z < 2.7.

Key words: galaxies: evolution — galaxies: starburst — galaxies: active — infrared: galaxies — submillimeter: galaxies

1 INTRODUCTION

The interaction between active galactic nuclei (AGNs) and star formation in galaxies is a key question in cosmology. For local galaxies, Magorrian et al. (1998) found a relation between black hole mass and stellar bulge mass, and Ferrarese & Merritt (2000) and Gebhardt et al. (2000) found a tight correlation between black hole mass and stellar velocity dispersion, so it is widely accepted that the two are intimately related. The redshift evolution of the cosmic star formation rate (SFR) is remarkably similar to that of quasar luminosity density (Boyle & Terlevich 1998; Chapman et al. 2005) and black hole accretion (Franceschini et al. 1999). Mid-infrared spectroscopy has shown that most Ultra-Luminous InfraRed Galaxies (ULIRGs, 10¹²L☉ < L_IR < 10¹³L☉) have simultaneous AGN and starburst activity in their nuclei (Genzel et al. 1998; Spoon et al. 2007).

Various models have been developed to explain the dynamics underlying these observations. Simulations of galaxy mergers have incorporated the growth of black holes and star formation, showing AGN feedback as a mechanism to regulate SFR (e.g. Springel et al. 2005; di Matteo et al. 2005). Semi-analytic source count models can best reproduce massive galaxy number densities when incorporating AGN feedback in the co-evolution of galaxies and their central black holes (e.g. Croton et al. 2006; Bower et al. 2006).

Observational constraints for such models from high-redshift galaxies are now becoming available. Studies using a combination of submillimetre and X-ray observations at z ~ 2 have confirmed the association of AGNs and intense star formation (Alexander et al. 2005; Harrison et al. 2012).
The discovery of high-redshift submillimetre galaxies (Smail et al. 1997; Hughes et al. 1998; Barger et al. 1998) and their possible association with high-redshift radio galaxies (HzRGs) (e.g. Stevens et al. 2003) implies that there are regions of intense star-formation which also show strong radio emission at high redshift. Detection of emission lines from these galaxies in the infrared can be used to confirm this connection, and to provide an independent measure of SFRs and AGN activity.

Spectroscopy of high-redshift radio and submillimetre galaxies has previously been made in the near-infrared K-band (Swinbank et al. 2004). The AKARI Space Telescope (Murakami et al. 2007) could obtain spectra at longer near-infrared wavelengths between 2.5 µm and 5.0 µm, a region not previously available for spectroscopy by other infrared space missions such as Spitzer Space Telescope (and with poor sensitivity from the ground), giving the possibility of detecting Hα for galaxies at 3.0 < z < 6.5.

This paper presents tentative Hα detections from AKARI observations of high-redshift radio and submillimetre galaxies. Data collection and reduction are discussed in §2. Results are presented in Table 1 and discussed in §3. We assume H₀=72.0 km s⁻¹Mpc⁻¹, Ω_M=0.3 and Ω_L=0.7.

2 DATA COLLECTION AND REDUCTION

2.1 AKARI-FUHYU Mission Program

The AKARI “Follow-Up Hayai-Yasui-Umai” mission program (FUHYU, Pearson et al. 2010) used the AKARI InfraRed Camera (IRC, Onaka et al. 2007) to carry out imaging and spectroscopy of well-studied galaxies rich in multi-wavelength data, often with known redshifts, to maximise the legacy value of the AKARI data. The mission program carried out extensive infrared imaging during the first two phases of the AKARI mission; the near-infrared spectroscopic campaign was carried out during Phase III, the warm phase after cryogen exhaustion. Spectroscopy was carried out using the IRC grism over a 1′ × 1′ point source aperture centred on 46 submillimetre and radio galaxies from June 2008 - May 2010. We will be reporting later on results for the rest of our FUHYU mission program targets.

2.2 Targets Observed

Observations were made of two HzRGs, and three submillimetre sources potentially associated with one of them (see Table 1 and Figure 1). Stevens et al. (2003) described submillimetre mapping of these radio sources by the Submillimeter Common-User Bolometer Array (SCUBA) instrument on the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT), and suggested that the submillimetre sources observed were associated with the nearby radio source on the basis of their number densities and positions relative to the radio jets.

8C1909+722 and companions. The redshift was reported in De Breuck et al. (2001) based on a deep Keck optical spectrum showing strong Ly-α emission with FWHM = 1200 ± 90 km s⁻¹. This field was included in an 850 µm survey of the environments of HzRGs which detected three nearby submillimetre galaxies (Stevens et al. 2003). Two of the three submillimetre sources (SMM1 and SMM2) were later detected at 350 µm with SHARC-II on the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (Greve et al. 2006). A recent study using JVLA and IRAM PdBI radio observations and Herschel data at 100 µm - 500 µm (Ivison et al. 2012) found a large red dust feature aligned with the radio jet and SMM1, and concluded that SMM1 probably shared the same node or filament of the cosmic web as the radio galaxy, although it did not detect convincing 12CO emission from SMM1. Redshifts for these SMGs were not previously known.

4C60.07 HzRG. The redshift for this galaxy is based on the Ly-α emission line (Roettgering et al. 1997) with FWHM = 2880 ± 940 km s⁻¹. Dust emission was detected at 850 µm and 1.25 mm (Papadopoulos et al. 2000), and CO J=1-0 emission (Greve et al. 2004). A detailed SMA, Spitzer and VLA study by Ivison et al. (2008) suggested an early-stage merger between the host galaxy of an AGN (the HzRG) and a companion starburst/AGN (which they labelled ‘B’; see Figure 2). They proposed that a second submillimetre source, which they labelled ‘A’, although of roughly equal integrated flux as source ‘B’, might be comprised of cold dust and gas, a short-lived tidal structure caused by the merger.

2.3 Observations

The AKARI IRC-NIR instrument used a filter wheel to select either one of three imaging filters or one of two dispersion elements. For our reference image, we used the N3 image filter (≈ 3 µm) which had a field of view of approximately 10′×10′ across 412 × 512 pixels giving a pixel scale of 1.46″. For spectroscopy, we used the grism NG which dispersed between 2.5 µm - 5.0 µm across 291 pixels, giving 0.0097 µm per pixel, in a 1′×1′ aperture (referred to as Np) which is...
Figure 1. Left: SCUBA 850 µm image and contours (at 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3 σ) for 8C1909+722 with the positions of the four AKARI spectra marked in red. Right: SCUBA 850 µm image and contours (at 1, 2, 3 and 4 σ) for 4C 60.07 with the position of the AKARI spectrum marked in red. This does not resolve the sources within the central contour (see Figure 3 for SMA 870 µm contours). The SCUBA maps are from Stevens et al. (2003).

2.4 Data reduction pipeline

The IRC data reduction pipeline for the warm phase (Onaka et al. 2009) was originally used to analyse our data. However, we found the correction for spacecraft jitter between the ~8 spectroscopic frames within each pointing and sky subtraction did not yield satisfactory results, so we wrote our own pipeline using Interactive Data Language (IDL) to reduce the raw spectroscopic data.

Our new pipeline includes dark subtraction, saturation masking (physical detector saturation is detected by scaled values from a short exposure and masked out), wavelength calibration and spectral response calibration using the calibration data from the IRC pipeline. We wrote our own routines to handle sky subtraction in which we fitted a sixth-order polynomial in the dispersion direction to remove a banding pattern across the frame, and a second-order polynomial in the image direction. We also wrote routines to handle de-glitching and to estimate the offsets between frames for each pointing caused by spacecraft jitter, using the simultaneous 10′ × 10′ imaging data. Our pipeline included IDL routines for zerofootprint drizzling into a grid expanded by 5 times in each direction and for noise-weighted feature extraction which were previously developed for the SCUBA Half Degree Extragalactic Survey (SHADES, Serjeant et al. 2000).

At the redshifts of the targets considered in this paper, the Hα hydrogen recombination line falls within our 2.5 µm - 5.0 µm observed wavelength range. However, Hβ was outside our range. No other emission lines were detected. We used the reference image of the larger 10′ × 10′ N3 band field which is attached to the 1′ × 1′ grism field, smoothed with a 5 × 5 median boxcar, to confirm the identification of our sources with images from public archives.
3 RESULTS

We show in Figure 4 the spectra of the five targeted sources, four of which appear to have significant Hα emission. The spectra have been stacked by co-adding the noise-weighted pointings for each source. These spectra had been smoothed in the source extraction routine during the data reduction on an interactive basis. Finally, the results were stacked by coadding the noise-weighted pointings for each target. The reduced spectra had lower noise and fewer artefacts than those from the AKARI pipeline.

The spectroscopic flat fields provided in the calibration data have low signal-to-noise and were found to increase the rms of our data slightly, so they were not used, following guidance in the manual (Onaka et al. 2009).

3.1 Spectra of the HzRGs

The spectrum for the radio galaxy 8C1909+722 HzRG has a broad Hα emission line at the correct wavelength for its redshift, as shown in Figure 4 (top). The spectrum was taken from the centre of the target.

For the radio galaxy 4C60.07, Figure 3 shows the AKARI 3 µm image overlaid with the SMA 870 µm contours from Ivison et al. (2008). There are two submillimetre peaks, the weakest (labelled ‘A’) coincident with the 3 µm peak, and the strongest (‘B’) offset by about 3′′. The stacked spectrum for this radio source has a broad Hα emission line at ‘B’ (see Figure 4 bottom). We did not detect an Hα line at ‘A’.

The FWHM of the Hα lines for the two HzRGs are shown in Table 2 and are 9400±1600 km s⁻¹ and 4800±1000 km s⁻¹ respectively, levels which show that dust-shrouded quasars are present in these sources.

3.2 Spectra of the submillimetre galaxies near 8C1909+722

SMM1 shows considerable structure, both in the submillimetre (see Figure 1) and at 3 µm (see Figure 2). The second-brightest of the submillimetre peaks shows an Hα emission line, but the other peaks do not. The emission line confirms that SMM1 is at the same redshift as the radio galaxy.

SMM2 also shows Hα emission (see Figure 3), again at the same redshift (z = 3.536), confirming that this galaxy is also associated with the radio galaxy. The spectrum for SMM2 is taken from the centre of the target in the AKARI 3 µm image.

SMM3 does not show a peak at the expected wavelength, although there is a strong peak about 0.05 µm lower. We have not taken this as a convincing Hα emission line. Unlike SMM1 and SMM2, this galaxy is not aligned with the radio jets.

Stevens et al. (2003) suggested that the radio galaxy, the nearby submillimetre galaxies and other clumps had formed as a single galaxy cluster; we have confirmed that this association is correct in the case of two of these submillimetre sources.

3.3 Star Formation Rates

We have used the Hα emission lines to estimate the star formation rates of the submillimetre galaxies, using the formula from Kennicutt (1998):

\[
\text{SFR} / (\text{M}_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}) = 7.9 \times 10^{-35} L_{\text{H}\alpha} / W
\]  

(1)

assuming a Salpeter IMF and solar abundances. The results for the two submillimetre galaxies for which we detected Hα lines are 260 ± 80 M_⊙ yr⁻¹ and 300 ± 100 M_⊙ yr⁻¹ respectively (see Table 2). No adjustment has been made for dust extinction.

We can obtain an alternative measure of the SFRs by using the 850 µm luminosity (Table 1) to estimate the 60 µm luminosity, then using the 60 µm luminosity to obtain an estimate of the far-infrared luminosity for 8-1000 µm (L_{FIR}). We have assumed the SED of the submillimetre galaxy SMMJ2135-0102 (the ‘Eyelash’) for these estimates,
Table 2. Estimates of star formation rates and line widths. Estimates of SFR(Hα) for the SMGs are based on Hα emission luminosities, and deconvolved FWHM are based on the width of the Hα lines for the HzRGs. No adjustment for extinction has been made. FIR luminosities and SFRs are based on the 850 µm flux (see Table 1) assuming an SMMJ2135-0102 SED. SFR(Hα)s for the HzRGs are not quoted due to line contamination from their AGNs. Redshifts in italics were identified by this work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Redshift (z)</th>
<th>Flux(Hα) (10^{-19}Wm^{-2})</th>
<th>SNR(Hα)</th>
<th>L_{Hα} (10^{36}W)</th>
<th>SFR_{Hα} (M_{⊙}yr^{-1})</th>
<th>L_{FIR} (10^{13}L_{⊙})</th>
<th>SFR_{FIR} (M_{⊙}yr^{-1})</th>
<th>FWHM(Hα) (km s^{-1})</th>
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<tr>
<td>HzRGs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8C1909+722 HzRG</td>
<td>3.536</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>8.6 ±2.8</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>2.5 ±0.2</td>
<td>4300 ±1500</td>
<td>4900 ±1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4C60.07 HzRG</td>
<td>3.788</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.6 ±1.4</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>1.7 ±0.3</td>
<td>2900 ±1000</td>
<td>4800 ±1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMGs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8C1909+722 SMM1</td>
<td>3.536</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>3.3 ±0.3</td>
<td>260 ±80</td>
<td>1.6 ±0.2</td>
<td>2800 ±1000</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8C1909+722 SMM2</td>
<td>3.536</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>3.8 ±1.6</td>
<td>300 ±100</td>
<td>0.6 ±0.2</td>
<td>1100 ±500</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8C1909+722 SMM3</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>&lt;0.02</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>&lt; 0.02</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>0.3 ±0.2</td>
<td>500 ±300</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

and then used the formula for estimating the star formation rate from Kennicutt (1998):

\[
\text{SFR}/(M_{⊙}\text{yr}^{-1}) = 4.5 \times 10^{-37} L_{\text{FIR}}/W
\]

The results of this calculation are shown in Table 2. The SFRs estimated from Hα are lower than the SFRs estimated from \(L_{\text{FIR}}\) by factors of about 11 and 4 respectively, suggesting dust obscuration. Swinbank et al. (2004) found an SFR(FIR)/SFR(Hα) ratio of \(\sim 10\) in a study of submillimetre to radio galaxies in the redshift range to \(z = 1.408\) to \(z = 2.692\). Takata et al. (2006) found close agreement between the two methods of estimating SFRs after adjusting the Hα-based estimates for dust extinction by an average factor of 2.9±0.5 in a study of submillimetre-selected ULIRGs at \(0.9 < z < 2.7\). Figure 3 shows that our SMGs have luminosities and dust extinction at comparable levels with these earlier studies.

The total FIR luminosity calculated above also shows that SMM1 and the two HzRGs are HyperLuminous InfraRed Galaxies (\(L_{\text{FIR}} > 10^{13}L_{⊙}\)), and SMM2 is a ULIRG.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

These are the first (tentative) detections of Hα emission lines in HzRGs / SMGs at \(z > 2.8\).

We have found that the Hα lines in the two HzRGs are broad. Broad Hα emission lines in HzRGs are not rare (Larkin et al. 2000; Nesvadba et al. 2011) and indicate that these sources should be classified as reddened quasars rather than galaxies (see the discussion in Rawlings et al. 1995), a situation that can lead to misleading estimates of stellar populations in the host galaxy. This is a particular problem in studies using near-/mid-infrared photometry of sources which may otherwise appear to be narrow-line AGNs.

For 4C60.07, our detection of a broad Hα line was at the location of the submillimetre source ‘B’ (see Figure 3). Ivison et al. (2008) suggested that ‘B’ was a gas-rich starburst/AGN on the basis of the red mid-infrared colours. Our discovery that ‘B’ is a quasar supports the argument that binary AGNs at close separations may be due to the triggering or enhancement of AGN activity during mergers. The unexpectedly high prevalence of binary quasars at high redshifts (Djorgovski 1991; Hennawi et al. 2010) provided strong support for this idea. A recent study of binary quasars found that simple halo occupation distribution models under-predict quasar clustering at small separations (Kayo & Oguri 2012). That such a well-studied source had not previously been shown to be a quasar adds to the evidence that there is a higher fraction of binary AGN/quasars at high redshift than previously realised.

Our Hα luminosity and FWHM results for the two HzRGs are both consistent with those of lower redshift radio galaxies (e.g. Nesvadba et al. 2011).

Our detection of Hα emission lines from two submillimetre galaxies in the region of 8C1909+722 provides confirmation of their association with the HzRG. The extent of the system is \(\sim 700\) kpc (based on Stevens et al. 2003), suggesting that this may be evolving into a cluster of galaxies or possibly a single galaxy. The complex SMM1 is \(\sim 80\) kpc in extent and appears to be in the process of merging. In the 8C1909 field we have the first confirmation of multiple U/HyLIRGs in a protocluster region at \(z > 3\), giving a combined SFR of \(\sim 8000 M_{⊙}\text{yr}^{-1}\).

The high levels of star formation in the two SMGs are shown with previous results in Figure 5. Our Hα luminosities and SFR(FIR)/SFR(Hα) ratios are comparable to those found in recent studies at \(0.9 < z < 2.7\) suggesting similar levels of dust obscuration.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCES

Figure 4. From top: 8C1909+721 HzRG, SMM1, SMM2, SMM3 (non-detection) and 4C60.07. The dashed red vertical lines show the position of Hα emission lines at the expected redshifts. The solid red lines show the gaussian least-squares fits to the Hα line and continuum in the wavelength region shown. The dotted grey lines show the noise levels as a function of wavelength, calculated as described in the text. The green points at 3.0 µm are from the AKARI broadband photometry (the reference image). The green point at 3.6 µm for 4C60.07 is from Spitzer IRAC broadband photometry. Spitzer photometry for 8C1909+722 is an order of magnitude higher and may include flux from another source; 0.8 µm Keck photometry (De Breuck et al. 2001) is the same order of magnitude as the AKARI data.

Figure 5. Top: Hα luminosity for the two SMGs as a function of redshift in comparison with earlier studies. Bottom: Star formation rates based on Hα luminosity versus far-infrared luminosity of the two SMGs compared to those of recent studies. Takata et al. (2006) and Flores et al. (2004) data are shown before correction for extinction. Some sources show evidence of AGNs; all are SMGs. Our results are shown in red.
Hα emission with AKARI-FUHYU near-infrared spectroscopy