

Searching for the Supermassive Black Hole in NGC 1265 (3C 83.1B)

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We present K -band adaptive-optics assisted spectroscopic observations of the central region of the archetype head-tail radio galaxy NGC 1265 (3C 83.1), with the aim of constraining the mass of the supermassive black hole (M_{BH}). The near-infrared data taken with the Altair–NIRI system on the Gemini North have a spatial resolution of FWHM = $0''.11$ (39 pc, at the galaxy's distance of 73 Mpc).

To account for the stellar contribution, we performed a multi-gaussian expansion (MGE, Cappellari 2002) by using a combination of our NIRI high-resolution K -band image and a TNG K' -band image (Marchesini *et al.* 2005) to cover the outer parts of the galaxy. We extracted the stellar kinematics by using the penalized pixel fitting method (pPXF, Cappellari & Emsellem 2004) from the CO absorption bands at $2.29\ \mu\text{m}$. We applied the Jeans anisotropic models (JAM, Cappellari 2008) to the data to determine the best fitting values for M_{BH} . The limited quality of our kinematical data did not allow us to measure very extended kinematics. Hence, we resorted to assuming fixed values for both the $(M/L)_K$ and the anisotropy β , using the results by Cappellari *et al.* (2006, 2007). The derived upper limit on M_{BH} ranges between $1 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$ and $3.45 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$ depending on the values of β and $(M/L)_K$, respectively. This range of masses is consistent with the $M_{\text{BH}}-L_{K,\text{bulge}}$ relation of Marconi & Hunt (2003).

With the addition of new kinematical data mapping the outer region of NGC 1265, we will be able to better constrain $(M/L)_K$ and to obtain a higher confidence value for M_{BH} . These new observations have been recently obtained with the Oxford SWIFT spectrograph on the Hale 5-m telescope at Palomar Observatory.

References

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