How, when and where did the first SMBHs form?



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The persistent challenge of luminous z>6 QSOs SMBHs grown to 10⁹ M_{sun} in less than 1 Gyr



as of May 2016, ~100 QSOs known at z>5.7 (~10 at z>6.5), all from wide-area optical/NIR surveys (SDSS, PanSTARRS, CFHQS, UKIDSS, VISTA)

$$\begin{split} L_{bol} > 10^{13} L_{sun} \\ M_{BH} &\sim 10^{8 \cdot 10} M_{sun} \\ dN/dV &\sim 1/Gpc^3 \\ all broad line, unobscured QSOs \end{split}$$

No understanding of BH seeds: theory predicts 10²-10⁶ M_{sun}



from Volonteri10

All these individual models have problems: BH seeding may (probably must) be a mixture of them

Results form the deepest X-ray field: 7Ms CDFS

X-ray stacking of CANDELS galaxies



Vito+16

some DCBH models already ruled out

High-z AGN space density



X-ray surveys trace the bulk (80-90%) of active SMBHs

2deg² Chandra COSMOS-Legacy; Marchesi+16

The future of X-ray surveys (Athena) is bright but far away



#1 – Need to fill the 20yrs temporal gap and prepare for Athena

Discovery space of wide-and-deep optical surveys: HSC - SHELLQs



15 new QSOs & LBGs in 80 deg² \rightarrow 250-300 in the final 1400 deg² : faint end of QSO LF

LBC etendue = $1/5 \times HSC \rightarrow LBT$ slower but probably second best Dedicated survey effort? (discovery rate ~ 1 faint z=6 QSO every 10 nights)

LSSs around early SMBHs



(Most) simulations show that early SMBHs only form in overdense environments - indirectly supported by their abundance and mass

Observational searches for LBG overdensities inconclusive so far

LBT + deep multi- λ survey in the SDSS J1030 field



Entire field covered by LBC riz (Morselli+14) * MUSYC UBVRIzJHK (Gawiser+06) **WIRCAM** YJ (Balmaverde+ in prep.) Subaru rizNB_{CIV} (Diaz+14,15) 500ks Chandra in Jan 2017

QSO is being pointed by MUSE + ALMA

#2 - Need to exploit unique LBT features

The submm breakthrough with ALMA

BH feedback at high-z

measure of mass (dynamical, gas, dust), kinematics, morphology of z>6 QSO hosts ~40-50 such measurements by 2017-2018



#3 – need to enter into the discovery space opened by ALMA

Summary and mid-term (<5-10 yr) programmatics

X-rays surveys : Make plans for the 20 yrs before Athena surveys:

- 1) intensive exploitation of Chandra/XMM through large programs (XMM workshop last May, Chandra is Aug 16)
- 2) join proposals for mid-term survey missions (e.g. NASA MIDEX)

Wide-and-deep optical surveys: exploit LBT; exploit VST/KIDS; join LSST?

Submm follow-up: reinforce ARC and enlarge submm community, even through participation to facilities other than ALMA

Current INAF Vision document does not really provide priorities: do this in the revised version, based on FTEs per project

Exercise for MA1 (and not only): think how to distribute our working time in the next few years and look at the total FTE distribution