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In this thesis, I study the extreme environment of galaxy centers by understanding the conditions of the the molecular gas; the fuel of star formation. The fundamentals of star formation can be understood as a balance between the available molecular gas supply and feedback processes. By observing transitions of molecular and atomic species, I have determined the mechanisms that are heating the gas, the gas density, radiation environment, and mass.

Causing a Stir

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radiative and mechanical feedback in starburst galaxies

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