Herschel reveals a molecular outflow in a z = 2.3 ULIRG

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ABSTRACT

We report the results from a 19-hr integration with the SPIRE Fourier Transform Spectrometer aboard the *Herschel Space Observatory* which has revealed the presence of a molecular outflow from the Cosmic Eyelash (SMM J2135–0102, hereafter SMM J2135) via the detection of blueshifted OH absorption. Detections of several fine-structure emission lines indicate low-excitation H II regions contribute strongly to the [C II] luminosity in this z = 2.3ULIRG. The OH feature suggests a maximum wind velocity of 700 km s⁻¹ and outflow rate of ~60 M_☉ yr⁻¹. This is lower than the expected escape velocity of the host dark matter halo, $\approx 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. A large fraction of the available molecular gas could thus be converted into stars via a burst protracted by the resulting gas fountain, until an AGN-driven outflow can eject the remaining gas.

Key words: galaxies: high-redshift — galaxies: ISM — galaxies: starburst — infrared: galaxies — ISM: jets and outflows — submillimetre: galaxies

1 INTRODUCTION

With only 10-30 per cent of the gas of a giant molecular cloud (GMC) undergoing conversion into stars, and another 40 per cent of that returning to the interstellar medium (ISM) through supernovae and stellar winds, star formation is an inefficient process (Murray 2011). The rapid dispersal of GMCs by the combined radiation and mechanical pressure exerted by newly-formed massive stars is responsible for this inefficiency, lowering the intensity but extending the duration of the star formation resulting from an initial quantity of molecular material. This is visible in the relatively small observed reduction in the gas available for star formation since $z \sim 2$ (of order $10 \times$, e.g. Carilli & Walter 2013), and in the similar decrease in the cosmic star-formation rate (SFR) in galaxies over the same period (e.g. Behroozi et al. 2013; Sobral et al. 2014). Conversion to stars is not the only fate of molecular gas; stellar feedback, along with that from AGN, are also capable of expelling interstellar material from a galaxy entirely (Veilleux et al. 2005).

Occurring as galaxy-scale superwinds, these outflows are observed locally to be primarily powered by star formation, excluding those generated in late-stage galaxy mergers, which are typically driven by AGN (Veilleux et al. 2013). Superwinds seem to be more common and powerful at high redshift (e.g. Weiner et al. 2009; Banerji et al. 2011) where the majority of outflowing gas arises from strongly star-forming, high-mass galaxies and the outflow strength increases with SFR surface density Σ_{SFR} (Newman et al. 2012). Supernovae (Strickland & Heckman 2009), stellar winds (Murray et al. 2005), radiation pressure (Murray et al. 2011) and cosmic rays (Uhlig et al. 2012) may all contribute to the driving pressure. While star formation is expected to produce wind velocities as high as 700 km s⁻¹ (Martin 2005), this may be insufficient for the material to escape the global potential well, leading to a 'fountain': material subsequently falls back, leading to star formation over a timescale much greater than that of the original burst (Hopkins et al. 2013a). AGN may be required for complete expulsion of gas to the surrounding medium, since they seem able to drive outflow velocities of several thousand km s⁻¹ (Rupke et al. 2005a).

As with the ISM from which it originates, a superwind is expected to comprise multiple gas phases moving with different velocities (e.g. Rupke et al. 2005a; Feruglio et al. 2010). Whilst observations of X-ray and UV absorption lines have indicated ionised and neutral atomic components (e.g. Kornei et al. 2012), the presence of molecular gas may also be required (depending on the timescale for material to cycle from atomic to molecular) if future star formation is to be reduced. CO and OH are the most common non-H₂ molecules at the temperatures and densities involved, with



Figure 1. Left: Rest-frame stack centred on the OH 119.233- μ m line at z = 2.32591, with the continuum flux level normalised to that from the SED (Ivison et al. 2010). The vertical black dashed lines demarcate the region displayed in the right-hand plot. *Right*: Zoom-in on the OH absorption line with the rest-frame primary atomic and ionic fine-structure emission lines in the SPIRE FTS spectral range overplotted. The lensing amplification as a function of velocity is shown as a dotted black line, suggesting a higher amplification for [C II] relative to the other emission lines. Note that the SPIRE FTS produces a sinc line profile, with a width constant in frequency, and that all of the atomic and ionic lines are spectrally unresolved. Vertical dashed lines are displayed at the velocities of the CO-bright clumps identified in Danielson et al. (2013). The vertical shaded region corresponds to the derived median and 1σ velocity of the OH feature assuming two identical components and corresponds to a shift of $\sim -250 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ relative to the CO clump 'X', which contains the densest molecular gas, and which appears to be associated with the primary source of the [N II], [O III] and [O I] emission.

outflows inferred from observations of both species towards local galaxies and QSOs (e.g. Sakamoto et al. 2009; Fischer et al. 2010), indicating a correlation between AGN luminosity and maximum outflow velocity (see Fig. 4), and showing that outflows are prevalent among local ULIRGs.

OH is particularly well suited for tracing molecular gas in galactic winds. It possesses a dipole moment $\sim 15 \times$ that of CO. Due to the high densities required to thermalise OH rotational transitions ($\sim 10^9$ cm⁻³, Storey et al. 1981), the strongest OH line is typically the ground-state absorption 16 OH ${}^{2}\Pi_{3/2}$ $J = \frac{3}{2} \rightarrow \frac{5}{2}$, split by lambda-doubling into rest-frame 119.233- and 119.441-µm transitions. Back-lit molecular gas provides a prime opportunity to observe these transitions, with a blueshift expected from the radial movement of an outflow.

Despite the likely higher prevalence of superwinds at high redshift, and the potential advantages of observing OH, the far-infrared (FIR) rest-frame wavelengths of these transitions necessitate the use of space-based facilities. The consequential small apertures have meant that observations have been restricted to local galaxies (e.g. Spoon et al. 2013; Veilleux et al. 2013). Previous studies of high-redshift outflows have generally utilised optical lines (e.g. Steidel et al. 2010; Martin et al. 2012), which are generated within ionised material and thus insensitive to any molecular phase, critical to determination of whether superwinds or *in-situ* star formation dominate the reduction in interstellar molecular gas and SFR density at early epochs.

Gravitational lensing provides a means to circumvent these limitations. The galaxy, SMM J2135, was identified in the field of a massive, lensing cluster via ground-based 870-µm imaging (Swinbank et al. 2010). Subsequent imaging with high spatial resolution constrained the lensing model, showing that SMM J2135 is resolved into a ~5" long arc, mirrored about the critical curve, with a total magnification $\mu = 37.5 \pm 4.5$ (Swinbank et al. 2011). CO measurements of its velocity field reveal a disc with rotation speed 320 km s⁻¹, dominated by several star-forming clumps, each of radius 100–200 pc, distributed across a radius of ~2 kpc.

Here, we describe the discovery of a molecular outflow from

SMM J2135, as betrayed by the detection of the 119- μ m OH transition in absorption during a number of long integrations with the *Herschel Space Observatory*. Throughout, we use Planck 2013 cosmology (Planck Collaboration et al. 2013) with $H_0 = 67.8 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1} \, Mpc^{-1}}$, $\Omega_{\rm m} = 0.307$ and $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.693$.

2 OBSERVATIONS

Due to its high magnification, correspondingly high FIR flux densities and previous in-depth studies (e.g. Ivison et al. 2010; Danielson et al. 2011, 2013), SMM J2135 was included in our programme of deep *Herschel* (Pilbratt et al. 2010) SPIRE FTS (Griffin et al. 2010) observations (e.g. George et al. 2013).

We initially observed SMM J2135 as part of OT1_RIVISON_I: a 3.8-hr integration using the central detectors of the SPIRE arrays, comprising 200 scans with the FTS mirror. The data were processed using the *Herschel* data processing pipeline (Fulton et al. 2010) within the HERSCHEL INTERACTIVE PROCESSING ENVI-RONMENT v11. The local background was estimated as the mean spectrum observed by the rings of detectors surrounding the central detector.

The resulting spectrum covering $\lambda_{obs} = 194-671 \,\mu\text{m}$ provided strong detections of several fine-structure lines, along with a tentative indication of OH absorption. We then obtained five additional 3.8-hr integrations as part of OT2_RIVISON_2, processing these using the same method as the first observation, in order that the spectra may be co-added. We rejected one of these, due to significant inconsistencies across several wavelength ranges. The combined integration time of the useful data is therefore 19 hr.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The continuum-subtracted rest-frame stack of our observations provides significant (> $4-5\sigma$) detections of [C II], as previously identified by Ivison et al. (2010), alongside new detections of

Transition /µm	Velocity $/km s^{-1}$	Flux /Jy km s ⁻¹	Amplification	$\begin{array}{c} \text{Luminosity} \\ \text{/}10^9\text{L}_{\bigodot} \end{array}$
[C II] 158	100 ± 140	290 ± 60	50 ± 20	1.2 ± 0.5
[N II] 122	280 ± 40	65 ± 13	37 ± 4	0.5 ± 0.1
[O III] 88	320 ± 120	60 ± 16	35 ± 15	0.7 ± 0.3
[O I] 63	410 ± 50	55 ± 9	33 ± 5	0.9 ± 0.2
OH 119	160 ± 110	-180 ± 40	36 ± 5	-1.4 ± 0.4

Table 1. Far-IR line properties from fitting sinc profiles (as appropriate for an FTS), with errors determined via jackknife datasets. All fine-structure lines are unresolved (1.44 GHz FWHM), with luminosities calculated using the lensing amplification factors derived for their observed velocities (Swinbank et al. 2011). Velocities are relative to the low-*J* CO luminosity-weighted redshift of z = 2.32591 (Swinbank et al. 2011). The OH properties were derived by integrating over all flux less than the continuum level and assuming two identical components, and assume an amplification corresponding to a source velocity of $(300 \pm 50) \text{ km s}^{-1}$.

[N II] 122 μ m, [O III] 88 μ m and [O I] 63 μ m. The previous, tentative indication of OH absorption is confirmed.

The low angular resolution of the SPIRE FTS is unable to spatially resolve individual kinematic components within SMM J2135, instead producing a galaxy-integrated spectrum. The velocity separation of the clumps partially alleviates this complication, however, allowing a comparison of the detected lines with the previous CO measurements. The stack at 119.233 μ m is displayed in Fig. 1, along with a comparison of the OH absorption with the rest-frame fine-structure emission lines.

3.1 Atomic and ionic fine-structure lines

To determine the properties of the observed FIR lines, we fitted each with a sinc profile, as appropriate for an FTS spectrum (Swinyard et al. 2014). The resulting line measurements are detailed in Table 1, with conservative errors obtained by using the jackknife technique on the individual FTS scans (200 for each observation), leaving out ten consecutive scans to produce each subset.

Intriguingly, several of the fine-structure line velocities appear to be offset from the literature redshift, derived from intensityweighted low-J CO emission, used to define the zero velocity in Fig. 1 and Table 1, with the HII region lines at higher velocities than [C II] 158 µm, a PDR line. We observe the peak [O I] 63 µm emission at (410 ± 50) km s⁻¹, an unexpected value given the status of this transition as a primary coolant of dense PDRs, and hence typically co-located with [CII]. The similar velocity offsets of the [N II] and [O III] lines indicate the presence of an ionising source at around $300 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$. We thus associate these lines with the CO component, 'X', identified in Danielson et al. (2011, 2013) to be the most active site of massive star formation in SMM J2135, with a velocity of $\sim 400 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$. The material traced by these lines appears to be very different from that observed in CO and with the SMA, with individual line profiles displaying no structure, although the spectral resolution of the FTS may smear out finer details. A simultaneous fit to the four fine-structure lines yields a mean velocity $v_{\rm fs} = (220 \pm 120) \,\rm km \, s^{-1}$ relative to the low-J CO luminosityweighted redshift of z = 2.32591.

In contrast to several other high-redshift starbursts (e.g. Ferkinhoff et al. 2011; Valtchanov et al. 2011), we observe a line-to-continuum flux deficit similar to that seen in local ULIRGs (Luhman et al. 2003). Most of the FIR lines have luminosity-to- $L_{\rm FIR}$ ratios slightly below the mean of those of the local



Figure 2. Properties of the atomic and ionic fine-structure lines. *Upper left:* Comparison of line luminosities in SMM J2135 (red square) with local ULIRGs (coloured circles; Farrah et al. 2013) and local galaxies of various types (black circles; Brauher et al. 2008). The line $L_{[NII]} = 0.1L_{[CII]}$ is shown in grey. *Upper right:* Mean line-to-FIR luminosity ratios for several lines in the Brauher et al. (2008) sample. SMM J2135 values are denoted by squares. *Lower left:* Line-to-IR luminosity ratios in Farrah et al. (2013) and SMM J2135 (square). Colour map as in upper left plot, displaying the fractional contribution of AGN to L_{bol} , with marker area proportional to L_{bol} . *Lower right:* Estimated χ^2 contours for CO clump, 'X' (Danielson et al. 2011), of SMM J2135 (red) overlaid on the PDR surface temperature model from Kaufman et al. (2006), suggesting *n* and G_0 values of 10^{2-3} (see text for caveats).

Brauher et al. (2008) sample (Fig. 2), consisting of low-redshift normal star-forming galaxies, starbursts and AGN, compared to which SMM J2135 possesses an order-of-magnitude higher FIR luminosity. A comparison (Fig. 2) to the $z \sim 0.1$ ULIRG sample of Farrah et al. (2013) reveals comparable line luminosities and L_{line} to- L_{IR} ratios in SMM J2135, with the exception of [N II] which is stronger in SMM J2135 than for any galaxy in that study.

The [C II] results in particular are interesting, with the derived luminosity a factor of four lower than estimated in Ivison et al. (2010). The earlier value was derived from a much shallower spectrum, calibrated with the asteroid Vesta (Uranus is now used), assumed a smaller lensing amplification (32.5) and used a Gaussian rather than a sinc fit. Our estimate gives a line luminosity-to- L_{IR} ratio of 0.06 per cent. With a [C II]/[N II] ratio of 2.5, similar to that tentatively observed in LAE-2 by Decarli et al. (2014) (and much lower than its companion submillimetre galaxy [SMG] in that paper), H II regions may make a major contribution to the [C II] luminosity. An intriguing, if perhaps unlikely scenario is a strong contribution to the [C II] emission from the outflow itself, which would suggest a lower amplification (due to increased source velocity) and hence higher luminosity.

With the [O I] emission appearing to arise from within CO clump, 'X', we fit several observed parameters for this clump to the PDR models presented in Kaufman et al. (2006). We assume an FIR luminosity for this clump, $L_{\text{FIR}}^{\text{X}} = L_{\text{FIR}}^{\text{tot}} \cdot \text{SFR}^{\text{X}}/\text{SFR}^{\text{tot}}$, and that 50 per cent of [C II] emission arises from the [O I]-producing PDRs within this clump (a value likely over-estimated should the



Figure 3. Normalised OH profile of SMM J2135 compared to those of the four starburst-dominated (AGN contribution < 25 per cent of $L_{\rm IR}$) sources in the local sample of Spoon et al. (2013), observed with Herschel/PACS (Poglitsch et al. 2010). The low maximum and median blueshift velocities of these (including SMM J2135) are typical of systems with low AGN contributions (see Fig. 4). Vertical dotted lines denote the rest-frame velocities of the OH doublet for the [N II]/[O III] redshift (such that the CO redshift corresponds to $-300 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$). Note that the SPIRE FTS produces an FWHM of \sim 570 km s⁻¹ at this observed frequency, with the PACS spectrometer producing a FWHM of <290 km s⁻¹ for the displayed observations. Shown in cyan is the 20087 spectrum deconvolved with the PACS spectral profile and then convolved with the SPIRE spectral profile, producing a very similar profile to that observed in SMM J2135.

observed [C II]–[O I] velocity offset prove genuine and H II regions contribute strongly to the [C II] luminosity).

The [C I] 370 µm/[C I] 609 µm ratio from Danielson et al. (2011) should additionally probe the deeper regions ($A_{\rm V} \sim 2-4$: Kaufman et al. 2006). As indicated in the lower-right panel of Fig. 2, these parameters indicate a gas density $n \sim 10^{2-3}$ cm⁻³ and incident FUV flux $G_0 \sim 10^{2-3}$ Habing fields (Fig. 2) within CO clump 'X', consistent with (Danielson et al. 2013). The above values both increase as the [C II]/[O I] ratio drops, with Danielson et al. (2013) estimating $n \sim 10^3$ cm⁻³ for the molecular gas within clump 'X'.

With dissimilar photon energies required for production of the species involved, but comparable critical densities, the relative luminosity $L_{\rm [O\,III]}/L_{\rm [N\,II]}$ is a sensitive diagnostic of the interstellar radiation field hardness, little affected by gas density. We observe $L_{\rm [O\,III]}/L_{\rm [N\,II]} = 1.3 \pm 0.7$ in SMM J2135, with the models presented in Ferkinhoff et al. (2011) thus indicating production within an H II region surrounding a starburst with an effective temperature of 35,000 K or within a narrow-line region with ionisation parameter ~-3.5. This, along with the higher total $L_{\rm [N\,II]}$ and $L_{\rm [C\,II]}$ and low G_0 inferred above, is consistent with a situation in which SMGs possess more extended star formation than local ULIRGs, generated by large, low-ionisation H II regions (e.g. Biggs & Ivison 2008; Hainline et al. 2009; Menéndez-Delmestre et al. 2009; Ivison et al. 2011; Swinbank et al. 2011).

3.2 OH absorption

Due to the relatively poor spectral resolution of the SPIRE FTS, we do not see a readily-identifiable P-Cygni profile in the 119 μ m

OH feature and as such we fitted it with two identical components constrained to have the rest-frame frequency separation of the line doublet, suggesting a velocity offset of $(160 \pm 110) \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (see Fig. 1 and Table 1). Requiring strong active star formation from dense material as the primary driver, as with the [N II], [O III] and [O I] lines we associate the OH source with CO clump, 'X' (Danielson et al. 2013), at $v \sim 400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ corresponding to a mean velocity of the OH of -250 km s^{-1} . Rupke et al. (2005a) require $v < -50 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for classification as an outflowing wind. As such, this $(-180 \pm 40) \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$ feature represents the highest redshift observation of outflowing molecular gas.

No other OH transitions are observed, consistent with the faint 79- μ m cross-ladder transition observations in Spoon et al. (2013). Multiple transitions have been detected in the nearby quasar, Mrk 231 (González-Alfonso et al. 2014), with several showing absorption fluxes comparable to that of the 119- μ m doublet, suggesting that the 119- μ m lines are optically thick in that system, or that the radiatively-excited upper levels are more highly populated. The large FWHM of the FTS spectral profile makes it difficult to determine the underlying line structure; however, it is likely that the outflow does not have a covering factor of unity, or alternatively that it is not optically thick.

In Fig. 3 we compare the 119- μ m OH absorption feature of our stacked spectra, to that of starburst dominated sources from the Spoon et al. (2013) sample. The normalised, integrated, absorbed flux, $-380 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$, is at the high end of those in that sample, including both starburst- and AGN-dominated sources.

Following Spoon et al. (2013), we define $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{obs}}$ as the velocity at which a B-spline fitted to the blue absorption wing crosses the continuum flux density. Correcting for turbulence (100 km s⁻¹: as used in Spoon et al. 2013), and instrumental spectral resolution (1.2 GHz) in quadrature, we obtain an estimate for the maximum velocity of outflowing molecular gas: $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{mol}} = -670 (-550) \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for $v_{\text{source}} = 400 (300) \text{ km s}^{-1}$, with Spoon et al. (2013) estimating the uncertainty on $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{mol}}$ obtained in this method as $\pm 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. This similarity to the maximum predicted for starburst-driven outflows (~700 km s⁻¹, Martin 2005) suggests highly efficient momentum transfer within SMM J2135.

It is additionally instructive to compare this result with outflows from high-redshift galaxies determined from UV absorption lines. Winds from SMGs should likely possess qualities of both these, and of outflows from local ULIRGs. Fig. 4 shows our detection in relation to those presented in Spoon et al. (2013); Veilleux et al. (2013), with SMM J2135 occupying the lower-rightcorner of the $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{mol}}$ -SFR plot, typical of the sources with low fractional AGN contributions to L_{bol} . A correlation of v_{max}^{UV} with SFR surface density Σ_{SFR} in such high-redshift galaxies has been identified (Chen et al. 2010; Kornei et al. 2012; Newman et al. 2012). Σ_{SFR} is typically found in high-redshift SMGs to be between that in low-redshift ULIRGs and high-redshift 'normal' galaxies, suggesting comparatively high expected v_{\max}^{UV} within SMM J2135 and other SMGs; however, the observed ionised components may have velocities systematically different from that of the molecular phases, with Banerji et al. (2011); Kornei et al. (2012) and Martin et al. (2012) finding $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{UV}}$ similar to $v_{\text{max}}^{\text{mol}}$ for SMM J2135 within galaxies of substantially lower Σ_{SFR} .

With an inclination, $60 \pm 8^{\circ}$, determined by Swinbank et al. (2011) for SMM J2135, we now consider the solid angle into which molecular gas may be ejected. An angle of 140° perpendicular to the disk is suggested by the ULIRG samples of Rupke et al. (2005b), Spoon et al. (2013) and Veilleux et al. (2013) in which 2/3 of the OH detections show outflows, consistent with the OH detections



Figure 4. *Left:* Comparison of SMM J2135 to local ULIRGs from Spoon et al. (2013) and Veilleux et al. (2013). Marker colour denotes the fractional AGN contribution to L_{bol} (see left-hand colour bar), with enclosed marker area proportional to L_{bol} . SMM J2135 is displayed with a filled marker, and appears typical of sources with little AGN contribution within that sample, with L_{AGN} the primary determinant of v_{max} . The AGN luminosity indicated for SMM J2135 is derived from the estimated maximum 10-per-cent contribution to L_{IR} . *Right:* Comparison with the Spoon et al. (2013); Farrah et al. (2013) sample. The much lower OH-to-IR luminosity ratios of the ULIRGs of that sample likely indicates higher OH optical thickness or larger OH covering fractions.

tion in SMM J2135. More collimated winds are however advocated by the lower detection rates of blueshifted UV absorption-line features in sources of lower SFR at both low (Rupke et al. 2005a) and high redshift (Kornei et al. 2012; Martin et al. 2012). Such an disparity could exist should there be a difference in wind structure between those driven by AGN and starbursts, or those generated in the disturbed morphologies of late-stage mergers. Our measurements for SMM J2135 are consistent with the above literature, suggesting that in starburst-dominated sources it is likely that the SFR or Σ_{SFR} are primary determinants of the opening angle, with AGN contributing particularly to v_{max} (Fig. 4). A systematic difference in opening angle may however be difficult to disentangle from both the wind velocity and occurrence rate as a function of various host galaxy properties, in particular Σ_{SFR} , particularly if observational constraints restrict classification to those of the highest absorbed flux or v_{max} .

Recent simulations have shown starburst-powered outflow rates of up to $1000 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot} yr^{-1}}$ (Hopkins et al. 2013b), consistent with mass-loading factors, $\eta = \dot{M}_{\text{outflow}}/\text{SFR}$, which locally are order a few and – as with v_{max} – exhibit a positive correlation with AGN luminosity (Feruglio et al. 2010; Cicone et al. 2014; González-Alfonso et al. 2014). At higher redshift, highmass starbursting galaxies (of which SMGs are an important subpopulation) may dominate the global gas mass returned to the IGM (Newman et al. 2012).

An estimate of the mass outflow rate from SMM J2135 can be determined from the column density of ground-state OH molecules via a physical model, such as that presented in González-Alfonso et al. (2014), a modified version of which is now detailed.

Radially outflowing material occurs within a region surrounding a driving source at a radius r > r' > R, such that the OH column density $N_{OH}(\Omega) = \int_{r}^{R} n_{OH}(r', \Omega) dr'$. Mass conservation then requires that $n_{OH}(r', \Omega) r'^2 v(r', \Omega)$ (where v(r') is the OH velocity at radius r') is constant across r' at any Ω , leading to the mass outflow rate

$$\dot{M} = m_{\rm H_2} X_{\rm OH}^{-1} n_{\rm OH}(r) r^2 v(r) \int w(\Omega) \, \mathrm{d}\Omega, \tag{1}$$

where $m_{\rm H}$ is the mass of a hydrogen atom, $X_{\rm OH} = n_{\rm OH}/n_{\rm H_2}$ and the angular dependence has been moved to a factor $w(\Omega)$. The mass conservation at r can be expressed as a function of the column density $N_{\rm OH}$ via the use of a simple linear velocity model $v(r') = v + \frac{V-v}{R-r}(r'-r),$ where v = v(r) and V = v(R), resulting in

$$n_{\rm OH} r^2 v = N_{\rm OH} \frac{Rv - rV}{R - r} \left[\frac{1}{r} - \frac{1}{R} + \frac{V - v}{Rv - rV} \ln\left(\frac{Vr}{vR}\right) \right]^{-1}.$$
 (2)

An estimate of the column density can be derived from the observed absorption:

$$\frac{N_{\rm OH}}{\rm cm^{-2}} = 6.7 \times 10^{10} \left(\frac{T_{\rm ex}}{\rm K}\right) \frac{\exp\left(\frac{130 \,\rm K}{T_{\rm ex}}\right)}{\exp\left(\frac{121 \,\rm K}{T_{\rm ex}}\right) - 1} \left(\frac{\int \tau(v) \,\rm d}}{\rm km \, s^{-1}}\right), \quad (3)$$

where T_{ex} is the excitation temperature of the outflowing gas.

For physically motivated model parameter values: $X_{\rm OH} = 5 \times 10^{-6}$ (Goicoechea & Cernicharo 2002), $\int w(\Omega) \, d\Omega = \frac{2}{3} \times 4\pi$, r = 100 pc (motivated by the size of components 'X' and 'Y' – Swinbank et al. 2011), R = 200 pc, v(r) = v = 550 km s⁻¹, v(R) = V = 100 km s⁻¹, $T_{\rm ex} = 200$ K (Danielson et al. 2013), $\int_{-550}^{-100} \tau(v) \, dv = 2000$ km s⁻¹, the 119-µm absorption suggests a mass-outflow rate of $60 \, {\rm M}_{\odot} \, {\rm yr}^{-1}$, and hence a mass loading ≈ 1 for the 70 ${\rm M}_{\odot} \, {\rm yr}^{-1}$ SFR of CO clump 'X' (Swinbank et al. 2011). We note that the above parameters are determined only poorly and mass-outflow rates estimated from this single transition are likely to be extremely uncertain. Particularly insecure are the estimates of temperature, integrated optical depth and $X_{\rm OH}$, the latter determined from local GMCs, whereas this outflow may be launched from a region dominated by atomic gas, and the outflow likely contains multiple phases regardless.

The estimated mass-outflow rate contributes little to the total gas-reduction rate, which is dominated by star formation $(300 \, M_{\odot} \, yr^{-1})$, estimated from the rest-frame 8–1000 µm luminosity of Ivison et al. 2010, corrected for the more recent lensing amplification Swinbank et al. 2011, and using the relation of Murphy et al. 2011). This suggests that the $2.5 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$ of molecular gas within SMM J2135 (Danielson et al. 2013), will be exhausted on a timescale of \approx 70 Myr, primarily through star formation. High-redshift SMGs are conjectured to have duty cycles of \approx 100 Myr (e.g. Hickox et al. 2012; Bothwell et al. 2013), comparable to that estimated here for molecular gas removal, suggesting little conversion of atomic to molecular gas, or gas input from the IGM.

The velocity required for outflowing gas to become unbound or to join the hot intracluster medium cannot be determined reliably without knowledge of the dark matter halo mass and the location of SMM J2135 within that halo. However, utilising the estimated stellar mass, $M_{\star} = 3 \times 10^{10} \,\mathrm{M}_{\odot}$ (Swinbank et al. 2010), alongside Table 7 from Moster et al. (2010), suggests $M_{\rm DM}(r_{\rm vir}) =$ $2 \times 10^{12} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$. This value neglects potential SMG clustering (e.g. Hickox et al. 2012) so may under-estimate the true halo mass. The escape velocity from a dark matter halo with a Navarro-Frenk-White profile (Navarro et al. 1997) with this virial mass, a virial radius of 100 kpc, and a concentration parameter c = 10, is $\sim 1000 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$, somewhat higher than the $v_{\rm max}$ calculated above for SMM J2135, supporting the suggestion that AGN are required for full expulsion of interstellar material from massive galaxies. Star-formation-powered outflows such as the one we have found in SMM J2135 are likely unable to escape the dark-matter halo and may merely serve to maintain the elevated SFR of SMGs though a fountain mechanism.

4 CONCLUSIONS

We present the first detection of OH absorption in a high-redshift galaxy, exploiting the SPIRE FTS aboard *Herschel*, and interpret this as a starburst-driven molecular outflow.

We additionally detect emission lines of [C II] 158 μ m, [N II] 122 μ m, [O III] 88 μ m and [O I] 63 μ m, finding line luminosities similar to local ULIRGs and indicative of a significant contribution to the [C II] luminosity from H II regions. PDR models indicate *n* and *G*₀ values of 10^{2–3} cm⁻³ and 10^{2–3} Habing fields, respectively.

The 119-µm OH absorption is blueshifted by ~250 km s⁻¹ relative to the dominant ionising source, as identified by strong [N II] and [O III] emission and associated with a clump ('X') pinpointed previously by low-*J* CO observations. A simple physical model suggests a 60 M_☉ yr⁻¹ molecular component to a starburst-driven wind, with a maximum velocity of 700 km s⁻¹. The rate of outflowing mass is similar to the SFR of the clump with which we believe it is associated, but the maximum outflow velocity is smaller than the escape velocity expected for the dark-matter halo. A large fraction of the available molecular gas could thus be converted into stars via a burst protracted by the resulting gas fountain, until an AGN-driven outflow can eject the remaining gas.

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