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LETTER

The rapid assembly of an elliptical galaxy of 400 billion solar masses at a redshift of 2.3

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Stellar archeology¹ shows that massive elliptical galaxies today formed rapidly about ten billion years ago with star formation rates above several hundreds solar masses per year (M_☉ yr^{-1}). **Their progenitors are likely the sub-millimeter-bright galaxies (SMGs)² at redshifts (z) greater than 2. While SMGs' mean molecular gas mass³ of** 5×10^{10} **M** $_{\odot}$ can explain the formation of typical **elliptical galaxies, it is inadequate to form ellipticals⁴ that already have stellar masses above** 2×10^{11} **M_☉ at** $z \approx 2$ **. Here we report multi-wavelength high-resolution observations of a rare merger of** two massive SMGs at $z = 2.3$. The system is currently forming **stars at a tremendous rate of 2,000 M**[⊙] **yr**−**¹ . With a star formation efficiency an order-of-magnitude greater than that of normal galaxies, it will quench the star formation by exhausting the gas reservoir in only** ∼ **200 million years. At a projected separation of 19 kiloparsecs, the two massive starbursts are about to merge and form a passive elliptical galaxy with a stellar mass of** \sim 4 \times 10¹¹ **M**⊙**. Our observations show that gas-rich major galaxy mergers, concurrent with intense star formation, can form the most massive** elliptical galaxies by $z \approx 1.5$.

HXMM01 (1HERMES S250 J022016.5−060143) was identified as an unusually bright SMG⁵ in the *Herschel* Multi-tiered Extragalactic Survey (HerMES⁶). We observed it with a variety of ground-based

telescopes from optical to radio to obtain higher resolution images and to better sample the spectral energy distribution (SED). The source is resolved into two similarly bright components at*z* ∼ 2.308 separated by 3 ′′ (Figure 1; hereafter X01N and X01S for the northern and southern component, respectively), which are connected by a bridge of material reminiscent of tidal tails frequently seen in galaxy mergers. The Carbon Monoxide (CO) $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$, $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$, and H α spectra all show slightly different redshifts for these two components. The velocity separation is 260 ± 70 km s⁻¹ and 330 ± 220 km s⁻¹ from the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ and H α spectra, respectively. In addition, the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ line widths for the two components are significantly different (970 ± 150 km s⁻¹ vs. $660 \pm 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, establishing clearly that they are two distinct galaxies undergoing a merger. HXMM01 is close to two low-redshift galaxies and is weakly gravitationally magnified. From our lens model (see Supplementary Information), we determined that the magnification factors are 1.8 ± 0.5 , 1.4 ± 0.2 , and 1.6 ± 0.3 for X01N, X01S, and the entire system, respectively. Here we quote lensing-corrected values, and the uncertainties in magnification have been propagated into their errors.

With a flux density of 20 ± 4 mJy at 850 μ m, HXMM01 is among the brightest SMGs known, which typically have a flux density of 5 mJy at 850 μ m of typical SMGs. The SED between 160 μ m and 2.1 mm is fully consistent with a modified blackbody with a characteristic dust temperature of 55 ± 3 K. The dust temperature is much hotter than those of normal star-forming galaxies, and lies at the higher end of starbursts⁷. We determine a total infrared (IR; 8–1000 μ m) luminosity of $L_{\text{IR}} = (2.0 \pm 0.4) \times 10^{13}$ L_⊙ for all components combined, where L_⊙ is the solar luminosity. This luminosity implies an instantaneous star formation rate⁸ (SFR) of 2000 \pm 400 M_☉ yr⁻¹ for a Chabrier initial mass function.

We estimate the total molecular gas mass from the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ line luminosity. The area-velocity-integrated CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ brightness temperature, which is also a luminosity measure, is $(2.9 \pm 0.7) \times$ 10^{11} K km s⁻¹ pc², implying a mass of $(2.3 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{11}$ M_☉ of molecular gas using our derived conversion factor (see Supplementary Information). This is the highest intrinsic CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ line luminosities among SMGs in the literature (Figure 2). Table 1 lists the known SMG mergers that are well separated in to two galaxies. It shows that HXMM01 is the brightest, most luminous, and most gas-rich SMG merger that is known.

We estimate stellar masses of $(9\pm2) \times 10^{10}$ M_☉ and $(1.3\pm0.3) \times$ 10^{11} M_☉ for X01N and X01S respectively, by modeling their UV-tomillimeter SEDs using the public code MAGPHYS⁹. HXMM01 is hence a merger of two massive galaxies in terms of both stellar and gas content. The combined gas-to-baryon fraction of HXMM01 is

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Figure 1 – **Multi-wavelength view of HXMM01**. Panel (a) shows the *Herschel* Space Observatory's false three-color image combining 250 (blue), 350 (green) and 500 (red) μ m images with resolutions of 18, 25 and 36^{$\prime\prime$}, respectively. HXMM01 is the brightest source in the image. Panel (b) shows the highest resolution images of HXMM01. The background and black contours show the Keck-NIRC2 K_S -band adaptive optics image. Overlain are the dust continuum emission at 880 μ m from the Submillimeter Array (SMA; red contours) and the molecular CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ emission from the Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA; blue contours). The SMA and JVLA contours are drawn at $+3$, $+4$, $+6$, and $+8\times$ the rms noise (σ = 0.67 mJy beam⁻¹ for SMA, and σ = 19 μJy beam⁻¹ for JVLA), and the Keck contours are at +5, +8, +11σ, where σ is again the rms noise (3.7 × 10⁻³ µJy pixel⁻¹). The two major components of HXMM01 (X01N and X01S) and the foreground galaxies are labelled along with their redshifts. Note that there is also a bridge of material detected at $\gtrsim 5\sigma$ level between X01N and X01S in the SMA and JVLA images. We also label the southern part of X01S as a "clump" because of its distinct optical spectral energy distribution compared to the rest of HXMM01. This clump could be a contaminating source, so we have excluded it in our stellar mass estimate of X01S. The ellipses at the lower left show the beam full width half maximum (0.54″ \times 0.44″ for the SMA and 0.83″ \times 0.77″ for the JVLA).

Figure 2 – **The infrared luminosity and stellar masses of sub-millimeter galaxies.** In both panels HXMM01 is plotted as the large filled red star. Its two main components, X01N and X01S, are plotted separately as the small filled red stars. The panel (a) plots IR luminosity vs. CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ luminosity with blue squares showing SMGs with direct CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ measurements^{11,24}. The blue circles are SMGs with higher *J* CO line luminosities that have been converted to CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ luminosities using the mean observed ratios³. Assuming $\alpha_{\text{CO}} = 1$, the dashed lines indicate constant consumption timescales of the entire gas reservoir ($\tau_{\text{gas}} \equiv 2 M_{\text{gas}}/\text{SFR}$) of 200 Myr and 2 Gyr, which are the mean values for SMGs³ and massive ($M_{\text{star}} > 10^{11} \text{ M}_{\odot}$) normal star-forming galaxies on the main sequence²⁵ at $z \sim 2$, respectively. The panel (b) plots SFR vs. stellar mass with blue data points showing SMGs at $z \sim 2$ using data from the literature^{3,11,24,26}. The star-forming main sequence²⁷ at $z = 2$ is indicated by a solid line. Dashed lines show constant specific SFRs (sSFR \equiv SFR/*M*_{star}). We find a sSFR for HXMM01 of 9.6 ± 2.3 Gyr⁻¹. At *z* ∼ 2 this places HXMM01 five times higher than the main sequence of normal star-forming galaxies²⁸. All error bars are formal ±1σ standard deviations, including those associated with the lensing magnification. The two panels demonstrate that HXMM01 has one of the largest gas and stellar content when compared to the SMG population at *z* ∼ 2, and it is clearly in a starburst phase.

Object	Z	S_{850}	Sep	$M_{\rm H2}$	SFR
		(mJy)	(kpc)	$(10^{10}$	$(M_{\odot} \, yr^{-1})$
SMM J02399-0136	2.8	9	8	8.0	990
SMM J09431+4700	3.4	10.5	30	6.6	1160
SMM J105141	1.2	8.7	5	6.6	960
SMM J123707/HDF 242	2.5	4.7	22	7.4	520
SMM J123711/HDF 254	2.0	4.2.	8	0.8	650
SMM 163650/N2 850.4	2.4	8	4	9.6	880
4C 60.07	3.8	11	25	6.4	1200
HXMM01	2.3	20+4	$19 + 4$	$23+6$	$2000+400$

Table 1 – **Resolved sub-millimeter galaxy mergers with projected separations less than 30 kpc**. The molecular gas masses (*M*H2) are estimated with the conversion factor from CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ luminosity to molecular gas mass, α_{CO} . This factor is estimated to be about four for normal star-forming galaxies like the Milky Way²⁰ and about one for local starbursts²¹. Two independent methods outlined in the Supplementary Information, using either the gas-to-dust mass ratio or the velocity-integrated CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ brightness temperature²², lead to $\alpha_{\rm CO} \sim 0.8 \text{ M}_{\odot} / (\text{K km s}^{-1} \text{ pc}^{-2})$ for HXMM01, consistent with the $\alpha_{\rm CO}$ measurements for several other SMGs^{7,23}. Using this conversion factor, we find that HXMM01 contains $(2.3 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{11}$ M_o of molecular gas. We use the same $\alpha_{\rm CO} = 0.8$ for other SMGs and have used CO *J* = 1→0 measurements wherever available. SFRs are estimated using the 850 μ m flux density (SFR/M_☉ yr⁻¹ = 110 *S*₈₅₀/mJy) and are uncertain by \leq 50%. For HXMM01, this relation gives a SFR consistent with that from the total IR luminosity. Similar to HXMM01 values for SMM J02399−0136 have been corrected for lensing magnification.

 $(52 \pm 5)\%$, far above the mean gas-to-baryon fraction of star-forming galaxies with stellar masses above 10^{11} M_⊙ at $z \sim 2$ (Figure 3). Massive galaxies with such a high gas fraction are not reproduced in cosmological simulations¹⁰. HXMM01 may represent a system that has accumulated a disproportionate amount of gas because of a higher accretion rate compared to the SFR in the past. Assuming a constant SFR with the observed value and no additional gas accretion, HXMM01 will reach a gas fraction of ∼20% in just ∼70 Myr, such that its stellar mass and gas fraction will be consistent with the simulated galaxies.

Because the components of HXMM01 are resolved in our SMA and JVLA observations, we use them to directly measure the physical extent of the dust and gas emission. We find that the intrinsic sizes of the dusty star forming regions $(A_{880} = 5 - 7 \text{ kpc}^2)$ are $3 - 7 \times$ smaller than the molecular gas reservoirs $(A_{\text{CO}} = 15 - 50 \text{ kpc}^2)$. This is in direct conflict with the commonly used assumption that the gas and dust in SMGs have the same physical extent. This discrepancy has also been observed in several other SMGs^{11} . When the sizes are used to measure to gas and star formation surface densities, we find HXMM01 lies along the sequence of local and high-redshift starbursts in the Kennicutt-Schmidt relation⁸ (see Supplementary Information). We also estimate the star formation efficiency, ε_{SF} , the percentage of gas that is converted into stars in a dynamical timescale. We find that the two merging SMGs are remarkably efficient in forming stars with values of $\varepsilon_{SF} = (10 \pm 3)\%$ and $(41 \pm 10)\%$ for X01N and X01S, respectively. Similar to other starbursts 12 , these efficiencies are about an order-of-magnitude higher than the typical value of normal starforming galaxies ($\varepsilon_{SF} \sim 2\%$). These efficiencies reach the theoretical maximum of 30% that has been estimated for molecular clouddominated starbursts¹³.

HXMM01 illustrates the rapid formation of an extremely massive elliptical galaxy in an equal mass gas-rich merger. The high star formation efficiency coupled with the short dynamical timescale would quickly turn this pair of starburst galaxies into a passive elliptical galaxy, as its SFR will decline with an *e*-folding time of 230 ± 40 Myr $(\tau_{\text{gas}} \equiv 2M_{\text{gas}}/\text{SFR})$ even without any feedback process¹⁴ ejecting gas out of the galaxy. We have assumed no additional gas infall. The factor of two in our gas exhausting timescale (τ_{gas}) accounts for the 50% gas recycling in stellar evolution. The descendent of HXMM01 is expected to have a stellar mass of \sim 4 × 10¹¹ M_☉, comparable to the most massive elliptical galaxies⁴ at $z \sim 2$. Its stellar population will appear old

and passively evolving by $z \sim 1.7$ (i.e., 1 Gyr afterwards) because the star formation ceased so rapidly¹⁵. While gas-poor ("dry") merging¹⁶ between less massive ellipticals are generally invoked to explain the subsequent stellar mass buildup after the SMG phase, the formation of a very massive galaxy directly through a gas-rich merger shows that dry mergers are not the only channel to form the most massive ellipticals. They can form by *in situ* starbursts involved in massive SMG mergers similar to HXMM01.

Starburst mergers similar to HXMM01 are extremely rare because they are short-lived and unusually massive. In addition, only a small fraction of mergers are expected to be observed as two separate galaxies¹⁷. Therefore, although we estimate that only one SMG–SMG merger as bright and luminous as HXMM01 to be present in every \sim 100 deg², their importance to galaxy evolution must be evaluated after correcting for their limited visibility due to the wide separation and the short lifetime. We can estimate the space density of massive mergers like HXMM01 based on its CO luminosity, assume all SMGs with such high CO luminosities are also mergers. But because the space density of galaxies as a function of CO luminosities is largely unknown, we resort to the observed space density of SMGs as a function of the SFR^{18} , given that SFR is proportional to gas mass. The space density of SMGs with SFR greater than 2000 M_☉ yr^{-1} is $(2.4 \pm 1.2) \times 10^{-6}$ Mpc⁻³ at $2 < z < 3$. Give the time span covered by the redshift range is 1.2 Gyr and the lifetime of HXMM01 is ∼ 200 Myr, the space density of HXMM01-like galaxies is $(1.4 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-5}$ Mpc⁻³ after correcting for the 17% duty cycle. Despite the large uncertainty, this is comparable to the space density of passive elliptical galaxies¹⁹ with stellar masses above 2×10^{11} M_☉ at *z* ∼ 1.1. Therefore, although SMGs as luminous as HXMM01 are rare, they could represent a short but critical transitional phase in the early formation of the most massive elliptical galaxies. This conclusion will soon be tested with wide-area sub-millimeter surveys that will uncover more SMG−SMG mergers similar to HXMM01.

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Figure 3 – **The gas mass and dynamical state of sub-millimeter galaxies.** The panel (a) shows the gas-to-baryon fraction vs. stellar mass for star-forming galaxies. HXMM01 is plotted as the large filled red star, while its two main components, X01N and X01S, are the two small filled red stars. Because a significant fraction of CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ emission is detected outside of the two main components, the total gas fraction is higher than those of X01N and X01S. In panel (a), the other data points are for SMGs (blue circles) and main-sequence star-forming galaxies (green squares). Both samples have used gas masses estimated from a model-calibrated relation between α_{CO} and CO brightness temperature²⁹. The same relation is used to estimate $\alpha_{\rm CO}$ for HXMM01. The yellow stripe shows $z \sim 2$ star-forming galaxies from cosmological hydrodynamic simulations¹⁰. The solid curve with an arrow shows the expected evolution of HXMM01 in the next 70 Myr assuming the observed rate of star formation and the conservation of mass. The dashed curves indicate constant gas masses of 10^{10} and 10^{11} M_☉. The panel (b) shows the virial dynamical mass vs. stellar mass for SMGs at **z** ∼ **2** with bigger and smaller blue circles showing SMGs from two other studies^{3,17}. The yellow stripe shows the stellarmass–halo-mass relation at $z = 2.3$ from abundance matching³⁰. All error bars are formal $\pm 1\sigma$ standard deviation, including those associated with the lensing magnifications. HXMM01 is extremely gasrich compared to other *z* ∼ 2 star-forming galaxies with similar stellar masses. It represents a galaxy evolution stage that is difficult to reproduce in simulations. The stellar mass of HXMM01 also implies a halo mass of \sim 5 × 10¹² M_☉ for each of the merging galaxies; i.e., a merged halo mass of 10^{13} M_{\odot}.

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Supplementary information accompanies this paper.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Here we give details of the multi-wavelength observations $(\S 1)$, the photometry deblending procedures $(\S 2)$, the weak lensing model $(\S$ 3), and the estimation of the physical properties $(\S$ 4) and the space density of HXMM01 $(\S$ 5).

Throughout we adopt a Chabrier³¹ initial mass function (IMF), and the concordance Λ CDM cosmology³² with $\Omega_{\rm m} = 0.27$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.73$, and $H_0 = 70$ km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹.

1 Observations and Data Reduction

HXMM01 was initially identified as a strong lensing candidate⁵ in SPIRE³³ observations from the *Herschel* Space Observatory³⁴ as part of the HerMES survey⁶ of the XMM-LSS field. The source has an unusually high 500 μ m flux density ($S_{500} = 132$ mJy), which suggests gravitational lensing of a fainter background galaxy³⁵.

Along with other lensing candidates⁵, we observed $HXMM01$ with the Submillimeter Array³⁶ to refine its position and to examine if its morphology is consistent with gravitational lensing. The *Herschel* source was resolved into two similarly bright SMA sources separated by only \sim 3″ and close to two low-redshift galaxies, making it a highpriority target for further followup observations.

Guided by the far-IR photometric redshift, the spectroscopic redshift of HXMM01 was first determined from a blind search for CO $J = 3 \rightarrow 2$ emission with the Combined Array for Research in Millimeter-wave Astronomy (CARMA). Subsequently, the redshift was confirmed at IRAM/Plateau de Bure Interferometer (PdBI) with a measurement of CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ emission. We also obtained single-dish and interferometric CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ data with the National Radio Astronomy Observatory's Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT) and Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA)³⁷. Finally, with Keck, we obtained a near-IR spectrum covering the $H\alpha$ emission of HXMM01 and optical spectra of the nearby foreground galaxies to determine their redshifts. The Keck K_S -band adaptive optics image and the *HST*/WFC3 F110W image further revealed the clumpy rest-frame optical morphology of both SMA sources. In the following, we describe the observations and data reduction procedures in more details.

1.1 Herschel Far-IR Imaging The original *Herschel* SPIRE imaging data for this source, as part of the HerMES XMM-LSS field observations⁶, are now publicly available from the *Herschel* Science Archive. The observational identifications (Obs Ids) of those datasets are 1342189003 and 1342190312. As the parallel-mode Photodetector Array Camera and Spectrometer (PACS)³⁸ data at 100 and 160 μ m is shallow, we then obtained deeper scans of HXMM01 with integration times of 840 s at these wavelengths using part of the remaining SPIRE team's guaranteed time (Obs Ids: 1342258806 and 1342258807). Finally, a $70 \mu m$ scan map of HXMM01 with an integration time of 276 s was obtained as part of an OT2 open-time program (Obs Ids: 1342261958 and 1342261957). The SPIRE data are reduced and analyzed following the standard procedures 39 . We used the high fidelity maps produced using an internal map-making package⁴⁰. The PACS data are reduced with HIPE.

1.2 Submillimeter Imaging We obtained high-resolution interferometric imaging of HXMM01 at $876.5 \,\mu$ m (342.02 GHz) with the SMA (PIs: Gurwell, Bussmann). HXMM01 was observed in the subcompact array configuration on 2010 Aug 14 with an on-source integration time (t_{int}) of 58 min, in the extended configuration on 2010 Sep 26 with $t_{\text{int}} = 141$ min, and in the very extended configuration on 2011 Jan 4

with $t_{\text{int}} = 54$ min. Atmospheric opacity and phase noise for all observations was very low ($\tau_{225 \text{ GHz}} = 0.07$, $\phi \approx 20$ deg). All observations used an intermediate frequency (IF) coverage of 48 GHz to provide a total of 8 GHz bandwidth (considering both sidebands). The quasars 0217+017 and 0238+116 were used for time-variable gain (amplitude and phase) calibration. 3C 454.3 served as the primary bandpass calibrator. We used a combination of Uranus and Callisto as the absolute flux calibrators.

We used the MIR software package in Interactive Data Language (IDL) to calibrate the visibility data. For imaging, we used the Multichannel Image Reconstruction, Image Analysis, and Display (MIRIAD) software package with natural weighting for maximum sensitivity. The final CLEANed image has a synthesized beam with a FWHM resolution of $0.52'' \times 0.43''$ at a position angle (PA) of 55° east of north and an root-mean-square noise level of 0.67 mJy beam⁻¹. The primary beam of the SMA is 35" FWHM at 342 GHz.

The final SMA map resolved HXMM01 into two major components separated by 2.95′′ (25 kpc) along with filamentary structures connecting the two (Figure 1). The northern component (X01N) has a flux density of 9.3 ± 0.7 mJy, while the southern component (X01S) has a flux density of 8.3 ± 0.7 mJy. The filaments have a total flux density of 9.4 ± 1.0 mJy, accounting for ∼35% of the entire system $(27.0 \pm 1.4 \text{ mJy}).$

1.3 Near-IR Imaging We obtained 40×80 s K_S -band images on 2012 February 4 (UT) with the Keck II laser guide-star adaptive-optics system⁴¹ (PI: Cooray). We used the NIRC2 camera at $0.04''$ pixel⁻¹ scale (40^{$\prime\prime$} field), and we dithered with 2–3^{$\prime\prime$} steps in a nine-point dithering pattern. The atmospheric seeing at 0.5 μ m was ∼0.8[″]. An $R = 17.6$ magnitude star 67^{''} SW of HXMM01 served as the tip-tilt reference star. The estimated Strehl ratio at the source position is ∼14% under normal conditions. Because of the large separation from the tip-tilt star, we had to rotate the camera to $PA = 121.2^\circ$ and offset HXMM01 to the upper right quadrant of the detector to keep the tip-tilt star within the range available to the field steering mirrors.

The images were reduced following the standard procedures^{42}. Before individual frames were finally combined, the camera distortion was corrected using the on-sky distortion solution from observations of the globular cluster M 92. Five frames were rejected because of poor AO corrections, so the final image combined 35×80-s frames. It has a FWHM resolution of 0.18^{''}, as measured from the stellar source located $10''$ W of HXMM01. The image was flux and astrometry calibrated against the K_S -band image from the VISTA Hemisphere Survey (VHS). The K_S -band image is shown in Figure 1. To highlight HXMM01, we added contours to the Keck image after subtracting the foreground galaxies.

HXMM01 was observed as part of our *Hubble* Space Telescope (*HST*) Cycle 19 SNAP Program (ID: 12488, PI: Negrello). Four images of 63 s were taken in the F110W filter by the Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3) on 2012 September 4 (UT). We applied a four-point dithering pattern with a parallelogram primary pattern shape, a point spacing of 0.572′′, and a line spacing of 0.365′′. After passing the images through the standard WFC3 pipeline, we used the Image Reduction and Analysis Facility (IRAF) MULTIDRIZZLE package on the four frames for distortion correction, image registration, cosmic-ray rejection, and image combination. A square interpolation kernel was used in the drizzling process and the final reduced image has a pixel scale of 0.06′′ and a FWHM resolution of 0.24′′ .

Finally, we obtained seeing-limited J and K_S -band images of HXMM01 with the Long-slit Intermediate Resolution Infrared Spectrograph (LIRIS), which is mounted on the Cassegrain focus of the 4.2-m William *Herschel* Telescope (WHT) (PI: Perez-Fournon). The observations took place on 2011 January 15 (UT). We took 90×20 -s

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exposures in K_S -band and 135×40 -s exposures in *J*-band. The images were reduced with the IRAF LIRIS data reduction package LIRISDR. The FWHM resolutions are $0.9''$ and $0.8''$ for the final *J* and K_S -band images. The astrometry was calibrated against 2MASS. The images were flux calibrated against the public VHS *J* and *K*_S-band images of the same region. The WHT images are much deeper than the VHS images. The two components of HXMM01 are easily separated in the WHT images and are detected at $4-9\sigma$.

Besides the morphology information from the high-resolution Keck and *HST* images, all of these images were used to obtain photometry for both the foreground galaxies and HXMM01 so that we can study their spectral energy distributions (SEDs). Wherever detected, the two components of HXMM01 show consistent configurations in different images. However, we do not detect the submillimeter and CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ filaments between the two main components in these images. X01S appears much bluer in F110W−*K*_S than X01N, which is a result of the "clump" that we identified at the southern end of X01S (Figure 1). The clump is also detected in the archival Canada-France-Hawaii telescope optical images, and its SED is consistent with either a less obscured galaxy at $z = 2.3$ or a physically unrelated contaminating source.

1.4 Millimeter Photometry Millimeter continuum is useful to constrain Rayleigh-Jeans tail of the thermal dust emission. We observed HXMM01 at 1.2 mm with the Max-Planck Millimetre Bolometer 2 (MAMBO2⁴³) at the IRAM 30 m telescope on 2011 January 19 and 22 as part of the pool observations, achieving a 1^σ sensitivity of ∼0.9 mJy (PI: Perez-Fournon). HXMM01 was clearly detected with a flux density of 11.2 ± 0.9 mJy. We note that some MAMBO2 observations taken around the same time could have been affected by a "drift" signal of ∼5 mJy, but it is unlikely that the HXMM01 observations were influenced, because (1) we obtained consistent measurements from two scans that were carried out three days apart and (2) the 1.2 mm flux density is consistent with the best-fit modified blackbody from the photometry at other far-IR/millimeter wavelengths (see \S 4.2). We also detected the continuum of HXMM01 at 2.1 mm with a flux density of 1.2 ± 0.2 mJy as part of the CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ observations with the PdBI (see § 1.8).

1.5 Archival X-ray-to-Radio Imaging HXMM01 was observed on 2006 July 4, 2006 July 22, 2008 July 30, and 2009 Jan 1 by *XMM-Newton* as part of the Large Scale Structure Survey⁴⁴. Two pointings (XMM-LSS 42 and 45) in AO5 covered HXMM01. We combined the MOS observations that contains HXMM01 and obtained a stacked image with a total integration time of 85 ks. It is unfortunate that HXMM01 happened to lie on the edges of both pointings where the sensitivity is low. No source is detected at the position of HXMM01. In § 4.9, we provide upper limits on the X-ray fluxes and luminosities.

To build the panchromatic SEDs of HXMM01 and the foreground galaxies, we obtained imaging data from the Galaxy Evolution Explorer⁴⁵ (*GALEX*, FUV, NUV), the Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Legacy Survey Wide⁴⁶ (CFHTLS-Wide, u^*, g', r', i' , and z'), the VHS $(J, H, \text{ and } K_{S})$, the *Spitzer* Wide-area Infrared Extragalactic Survey⁴⁷ (SWIRE; 3.6, 4.5, 5.6, 8.0, 24, 70, and 160 μ m), the Widefield Infrared Survey Explorer all-sky survey⁴⁸ (WISE; 3.4, 4.6, 12 and 22 μ m), and the FIRST survey⁴⁹ (21 cm), in addition to our *HST* (F110W), WHT (*J*, and *K*_S), Keck/NIRC2 (*K*_S), *Herschel* PACS and SPIRE (70 to 500 μ m), SMA (880 μ m), MAMBO2 (1.2 mm), and IRAM/PdBI images (2 mm). In \S 2, we describe how we obtained the deblended photometry for HXMM01 and the foreground galaxies.

1.6 Redshift from CO $J = 3 \rightarrow 2$ We used CARMA to search for CO $J = 3 \rightarrow 2$ emission towards HXMM01 in the 3 mm band⁵⁰ (PI: Riechers). The search was guided by the photometric redshift of $2.7 \pm$ 0.5 (Dave Clements) obtained from fitting the $250-1100 \mu$ m SED. Ob-

Figure S1 – **Keck/NIRSPEC near-IR and JVLA centimeter spectra of HXMM01**. The velocities were computed against the systemic redshift at $z = 2.308$. On the top, we use the 2D spectra to show the velocity offset between the two components of HXMM01. The vertical axis is along the spatial direction and NNE is up (slit $PA = 24.3^\circ$ and 22° for the H α and CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ spectra, respectively). The CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ 2D spectrum is extracted from the JVLA data cube using a 1.2["] pseudoslit centered on the two main components. The middle and bottom left panels show the H α spectra of X01N and X01S, along with the best-fit Gaussians (red curves). Regions affected by strong sky lines are plotted in light grey. A scaled sky spectrum is shown in blue. The dashed vertical lines indicate the center of the best-fit Gaussian. The right panels show the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ spectra along with the best-fit Gaussians (red curves).

servations were carried out under good to excellent 3 mm weather conditions during 4 tracks between September 07 and 10 in 2010 in the D array configuration (6–127 m baselines), yielding an on-source (total) observing time of 7.8 hr (13.3 hr). Each of the tracks targeted a different frequency setting, using the 3 mm receivers and the CARMA spectral line correlator with an effective bandwidth of 3.7 GHz per sideband (IF range: 1.2–4.9 GHz) at 5.208 MHz (15.6 km s−¹ at 100 GHz) spectral resolution, yielding a contiguous frequency coverage of 85– 112 GHz to search for redshifted CO line emission. The nearby quasar J0239–025 was observed every 15 minutes for complex gain calibration. Pointing was performed at least every 2–4 hr on nearby stars and radio quasars, using both optical and radio modes. The bandpass shape was derived from observations of the bright quasar 3C 84. Absolute fluxes were bootstrapped relative to Uranus. The resulting calibration is estimated to be accurate within ∼15%.

We used the MIRIAD package for data reduction and analysis. The combined data were imaged using "natural" baseline weighting, resulting in a synthesized clean beam size of $5.6'' \times 4.2''$ (PA 149[°]) and a rms noise level of 0.75 mJy beam⁻¹ per 405.4 MHz (1162 km s⁻¹) frequency bin.

A systematic inspection of the data cube both in the uv and image planes yields a single, broad emission feature close to the phase center at the position of the SMA continuum emission. We interpret this feature as the CO $J = 3 \rightarrow 2$ line emission ($v_{\text{rest}} = 345.7959899 \text{ GHz}$, redshifted to $v_{obs} = 104.56 \pm 0.03$ GHz) towards HXMM01, yielding

Figure S2 – **JVLA and PdBI CO spectra of HXMM01**. The velocities were computed against the systemic redshift at $z = 2.308$. The CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ 2D spectrum at the top is extracted from the JVLA data cube using a 1.2^{*''*} pseudo-slit at PA = 22[°], while the CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ spectrum at the bottom is extracted from the PdBI data cube using a 2.4′′ pseudo-slit at the same PA. Both panels clearly show the different velocity structures of the two components, strengthening the findings in Fig. S1.

a redshift of $z = 2.3073 \pm 0.0010$. We subsequently confirmed this redshift by detecting CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ line emission with the GBT and JVLA (see next subsection) and CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ line emission with the IRAM/PdBI at the same redshift (see \S 1.8).

1.7 CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ **Spectroscopy** We obtained single-dish CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ data at the 100 m diameter GBT for 4.85 hr on 2010 November 21 and 2.10 hr on 2011 January 14 (Program ID: GBT09C-70; PI: Harris). We used the Zpectrometer cross-correlation spectrometer⁵¹ attached to the facility Ka-band correlation receiver. With instantaneous frequency coverage from 26.5 to 37.7 GHz, the spectrometer covers redshifts $2.1 \le z \le 3.5$ for the 115.27 GHz CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ transition. Over the spectrometer's band the FWHM beam size ranged from $27''$ to $16''$, and the correlator's 20 MHz bandwidth corresponded to a spectral resolution of 234 to 157 km s^{-1} . Cross-correlation produces spectra that are the difference in power between the receiver's two beams on the sky, which are separated by 78′′. The correlation receiver architecture, electrical phase switching, and optically switching the source between the receiver inputs with sub-reflector motion on a 10 sec cycle greatly reduces electronic and atmospheric fluctuations. We switched the telescope between two targets close on the sky on an 8 min cycle to compensate for optical imbalance between the two beams. We established the absolute flux scale with hourly pointing on quasar 0108+0135; spectra of this source before and after pointing also provided average corrections for pointing drift and atmospheric transmission. The flux density of 0108+0135 was 1.8 Jy during the observations, calibrated against 3C 48, whose flux density is 0.74 Jy at 34.8 GHz, following the Astronomical Almanac (2011). The CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ line from HXMM01 is clearly detected at 34.85 ± 0.01 GHz, corresponding to $z = 2.3074 \pm 0.0008$. The FWHM beam size of the GBT is $22''$ at this frequency.

We also obtained high-resolution CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ data with the JVLA

Figure S3 – **Comparison of CO line profiles**. The PdBI CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ and CARMA CO $J = 3 \rightarrow 2$ lines have been scaled by v_{1-0}/v_J in frequency and $(v_{1-0}/v_J)^2$ in flux density. The top axis shows the velocity relative to the systemic redshift of $z = 2.308$. The JVLA, CARMA, and PdBI spectra are extracted using 6^{$\prime\prime$}, 12 $\prime\prime$, and 15 $\prime\prime$ -diameter apertures.

(PI: Ivison). Observations were carried out dynamically during good weather conditions in 2012 January (DnC configuration), March (C configuration), and June (B configuration). The bright compact calibration source, J0241−0815, was observed every few minutes to determine accurate complex gain solutions and bandpass corrections. 3C 48 was also observed to set the absolute flux scale, and the pointing accuracy was checked locally every hour. At the redshift of HXMM01, the receivers gave 1,024 MHz coverage with 512×2 MHz channels. The data were reduced using AIPS¹¹. Because the AIPS/SETJY task adopts a higher flux for 3C 48 ($S = 0.83$ Jy at 34.8 GHz; i.e., 12% higher than that assumed for the GBT/Zpectrometer data), we scaled the GBT flux densities by the ratio of the two adopted 3C 48 flux densities (0.83 Jy/0.74 Jy) for a fair comparison. In the end, the channels were imaged over a $512 \times 512 \times 0.1''$ field, with natural weighting (ROBUST = 5), to form a $512³$ cube centered on HXMM01. Integrating over the 80 channels ($\sim 1,400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) that contain line emission yielded an r.m.s. noise level of 25 μ Jy beam⁻¹.

The CLEANed and velocity-integrated CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ map is shown in Figure 1 as blue contours. The beam is $0.83'' \times 0.77''$ at PA = 72° . Similarly to the SMA data, HXMM01 was resolved into two main components separated by \sim 2.8″. The northern component shows an extension of low-surface-brightness filament towards the southern component. This filament has a line flux of $S_{\rm CO}\Delta V = 0.20 \pm 0.04$ Jy km s⁻¹, which is 2.5 times lower than that of the northern component. We extracted the CO spectra with $1.2''$ and $2.0''$ -diameter apertures centered on the northern and southern components, respectively. Based on the best-fit Gaussian models of the velocity-integrated map, we then applied aperture corrections of $1.7\times$ and $1.3\times$ to the spectra of the northern and southern components, respectively. The two $CO J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ components have significantly different redshifts and line profiles (Figure S1 and Table S1), indicating that they are two galaxies that are merging, instead of lensed images from a single source. This result is confirmed by the Keck H α spectra (§ 1.9; see Figure S1) and the PdBI CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ data cube (§ 1.8; see Figure S2).

The JVLA spectrum integrated over a $6''$ -diameter aperture gives

a line width of $\Delta V_{\text{FWHM}} = 840 \pm 160 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and a line flux of $S_{\text{CO}}\Delta V = 1.7 \pm 0.3 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$ at $z = 2.3079 \pm 0.0007$. In comparison, the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ measurements from the GBT are: $\Delta V_{\text{FWHM}} = 1670 \pm 100$ 140 km s^{-1} and $S_{\text{CO}}\Delta V = 2.3 \pm 0.3 \text{ Jy km s}^{-1}$ at $z = 2.3074 \pm 0.0008$. As shown in Figure S3, the discrepancy between JVLA and GBT CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ line intensity is insignificant (0.6 ± 0.4 Jy km s⁻¹), and it mostly occurs in the wings, where the S/N is low. While some flux from the extended wings could have been resolved out in the high-resolution JVLA data, we primarily adopt the JVLA measurements when deriving the properties of HXMM01 to be conservative about its gas mass.

1.8 CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ Spectroscopy and 2 mm continuum We observed HXMM01 with the PdBI tuned at 139.414 GHz, as part of the millimeter follow-up of the HerMES gravitational lens candidates (PI: Cox). The Widex correlator bandwidth (3.6 GHz) allows covering the CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ emission line and the underlying 2 mm continuum. The observations were carried out in September 2010 in the compact D array configuration with 4 antennae, with a total on-source integration of 3.7 hours. System temperatures during the observations were in the range 70−140 K, and precipitable water vapor around 2 mm. Data analysis was carried out with GILDAS. Maps were obtained using natural weighting, resulting in a synthesized beam of $8.9'' \times 3.1''$ and PA = 140 deg. The noise level is 0.8 mJy beam−¹ in 20 MHz channels.

We detected a bright CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ line peaking at a redshift $z = 2.3081 \pm 0.0002$, consistent with the redshift obtained from the CARMA, the JVLA, and the GBT observations. The line is detected at a high significance (30 σ ; Figure S3). The spatially resolved velocity structure is consistent with that observed in the JVLA data cube (Figure S2), further confirming that HXMM01 is a merger.

In addition to the CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ line, we also detected the continuum at 2.1 mm with a flux density of 1.2 ± 0.2 mJy.

1.9 K-band H^α **Spectroscopy** We obtained a *K*-band spectrum of HXMM01 on 2010 November 21 (UT) with the Near Infrared Spectrometer (NIRSPEC⁵²) on the Keck II telescope (PI: Casey). We used the low-resolution mode with NIRSPEC-7 (K') filter and a cross-dispersion angle of 35.49◦ , which gave a wavelength range of 1.96−2.40 ^µm. The 0.76′′ (*R* ∼ 1450) slit was oriented at a PA of 24.3[°] east of north to capture both components of HXMM01. We took eight frames of 600 s each (10 coadds of 60 s exposures), adopting the standard "ABBA" dithering sequence with a step of 15′′ along the slit. HIP 34499 ($K_S = 10.6$ AB) was observed using the same setup for telluric correction.

We used the REDSPEC IDL package to perform spectral and spatial rectification on all of the frames. Most of the sky background and fringing patterns were removed by subtracting the two nodding positions, and the residual sky background was removed by shifting the rectified and median-combined A−B 2D spectrum along the spatial direction by 15′′ and subtract it from the unshifted 2D spectrum. Onedimensional spectra were extracted with 1.8′′-wide apertures. We detected a broad $H\alpha$ line as well as the continuum in both X01N and X01S. We calibrated the flux of the spectra with the K_S -band photometry from the WHT K_S -band image (§ 1.3). In total, the H α lines contribute to ~12% (2.7±0.4 μ Jy) of the *K*_S-band flux of HXMM01. Consistent with the results from the CO lines, the $H\alpha$ spectra also show different redshifts and line profiles for X01N and X01S (Fig. S1). Table S1 summarizes the measurements from the best-fit Gaussians.

1.10 Optical Spectroscopy of Foreground Galaxies We obtained optical spectra of the two foreground lensing galaxies (G1 and G2 in Figure 1) on 2011 March 1 (UT) with the Low Resolution Imaging Spectrometer⁵³ on the Keck I telescope (PI: Bridge). We took two 540 s exposures through a 1.5^{*''*} slit at PA = 275.2° (i.e., aligned with G1 and G2). On the blue side, we used the 600 groove mm^{-1} grism blazed at 4000 Å; while on the red side, we used the 400 groove mm⁻¹ grating

blazed at 8500 Å tilted to a central wavelength of 7779 Å. The 560 nm dichroic was used. The wavelength coverages are 3000−5600 Å and $5400-10200$ Å, and the spectral resolutions are 6 and 10 Å (FWHM) for the blue and red, respectively. The spectra were taken at an airmass of ∼1.75, and the atmospheric seeing was ∼0.6^{$\prime\prime$} at 0.5 μ m.

The data were reduced and extracted with IRAF. From the [O III] $\lambda \lambda$ 4959,5007 lines of G1, and H α and [N II] $\lambda \lambda$ 6548,6583 lines of G2, we determined their redshifts of $z_{G1} = 0.6546 \pm 0.0001$ and $z_{G2} = 0.5020 \pm 0.0001$, respectively.

2 Deblending the Photometry

Because of the proximity of HXMM01 to the foreground galaxies on the sky, we need to deblend the various sources in some of the images to obtain robust photometry. Between the *u*∗-band and IRAC 8.0 μ m, we model the various components in individual images with GALFIT⁵⁴. We use high-S/N PSF stars near HXMM01 that are unsaturated and relatively isolated. For images between the *u*∗-band and the *K*_S-band, we use a star 10["] south-southwest of HXMM01. For the IRAC images, we use a star 7.7′ north of HXMM01. We model the foreground galaxies as Sérsic profiles. The foreground galaxy G2 shows more complex structures (e.g., the tail to the SW) than G1, so we include multiple Sérsic profiles with their relative positions fixed to those determined from the high-resolution *HST* image. Instead of masking out HXMM01, we include multiple Gaussians to approximate its clumpy morphology and fit them simultaneously with the foreground galaxies. We obtain reasonably good fit with $\chi^2/dof \sim 1.0$ for all of the images except for the *HST*-F110W image (χ^2 /dof ~ 1.4). Although the *HST* image is the most challenging to model because of the detailed structures of the foreground galaxies, the photometry is very robust because the components do not overlap as much as the seeinglimited images and IRAC images.

The total fluxes of G1 and G2 are obtained from the best-fit models. We then subtract the models of G1 and G2 from the original images to reveal emission from HXMM01 (Figure S4). Finally, we measure the fluxes from the residual images with two apertures placed around the northern and southern components. As shown in Figure S4, the apertures are large enough to enclose all of the detectable flux, yet are small enough to avoid including too much background noise. It is clear that X01S is much brighter than X01N in the optical bands but the two are similarly bright in the near-IR, suggesting either less dust obscuration in X01S or that the southern clump of X01S is not part of the system (Figure 1). Since we cannot separate the two parts of X01S at wavelengths other than the $HST/F160W$ and $Keck/K_S$ -band, we decided to include both in the photometry. Future *HST* imaging and spectroscopy are needed to reveal the nature of the southern clump of X01S.

GALEX barely detected one source at the position of HXMM01 in the NUV band. Considering the spatial resolution in the NUV band is 6 ′′ in FWHM, G1, G2, and HXMM01 are blended together. The source has a total NUV flux density of $0.67 \pm 0.18 \,\mu$ Jy and is undetected at FUV. We can safely assume that the contribution of HXMM01 is negligible because both filters are shorter than the Lyman break at $z = 2.31$. Unable to deblend the flux between G1 and G2, we assume the 3σ upper limit $(0.54 \mu Jy)$ at NUV for all of the components. We do not use the FUV upper limits because of its limited constraints on the SED.

Deblending is unreliable for the *WISE* images because of the low S/N and resolution. The best-fit SED models of G1 and G2 (see $\S 3.1$) suggest that most of the 11 μ m emission and ~25% of the 22 μ m could arise from the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and dust continuum of the foreground galaxies, although the models have large uncertainties due to the lack of constraints at long wavelengths. Considering the large uncertainties involved in estimating the foreground contamination at $11 \mu m$ and that the other three *WISE* channels overlap and are consistent with higher quality *Spitzer* data, we opt not to

http://www2.keck.hawaii.edu/inst/nirspec/redspec.html

Figure S4 – **Deblending the photometry from the** $u*$ **-band to 8** μ **m**. All images are $16'' \times 14''$ and are aligned in astrometry so that N is up and E is to the left. The tickmarks are spaced at intervals of 2''. For each filter, the original image is shown on the left and the residual image after subtracting the two foreground galaxies is shown on the right. The apertures used for our photometry are outlined in the residual images $(blue - X01N$; red $- X01S$).

use the *WISE* data for the SED modeling.

At wavelengths longer than \sim 20 μ m, deblending is impossible because of the limited spatial resolution of the available data, except at 880μ m where we have the high resolution SMA data. However, we do not need to subtract the foreground galaxies here, because HXMM01 should be dominating the total flux as the SEDs of the foreground galaxies rapidly decline at these wavelengths. Indeed, the foreground galaxies are not detected in our SMA image. HXMM01 is resolved in the SMA image (Figure 1), so we can directly measure the $880 \mu m$ fluxes of X01N and X01S. Without high-resolution data at other wavelengths, we assume the fluxes can be divided in the same proportion among the three components as at $880 \,\mu m = 34\%$ in X01N, 31% in X01S, and 35% in the filaments (see § 1.2). Clearly, we have assumed that the dust temperatures from the three components are the same, which may not be true in reality.

We opt not to use the SWIRE 160 μ m data because HXMM01 is severely blended with another brighter source to the NW. And due to the complex structures in the background of that image, we cannot extract a reliable flux for HXMM01. Instead, we use the PACS 160 μ m data that is much deeper and has much better spatial resolution.

We did not obtain useful measurements of HXMM01 in the VHS *H*-band because of image artifacts and at MIPS 160μ m because of blending and complex structures in the background. HXMM01, G1, and G2 are undetected at FUV, NUV, MIPS $70 \mu m$, and 21 cm. The MIPS 70 μ m upper limit is consistent with the 2σ detection made with the PACS 70 μ m image.

We list the deblended photometry in Tables S2 and S3. In the photometric errors, we have included the following flux calibration uncertainties: 3% for CFHTLS⁴⁶, 2% for VISTA and WHT⁵⁵, 3% for IRAC⁵⁶, 4% for MIPS 24 μ m⁵⁷, 5% for MIPS 70 μ m⁵⁸, 5% for PACS

Figure S5 – **SEDs of the foreground galaxies G1 (top) and G2 (bottom)**. The best-fit stellar population synthesis models are plotted as black solid curves, and the corresponding intrinsic models without dust extinction are plotted in blue. Labeled are the spectroscopic redshifts that we obtained from the Keck/LRIS and the reduced χ^2 values of the best-fit models.

70, 110 and 160 μ m, 7% for SPIRE⁵⁹ (confusion noises are also included in the total errors for PACS and $SPIRE^{60}$, 10% for SMA, and 15% for MAMBO2 and PdBI.

3 Lens Modeling

The observed configuration and morphology of HXMM01 do not provide constraints on the lensing potential, except that we can rule out models that produce multiple images of a single source (i.e., the strong lensing cases). To constrain the lensing magnifications that the foreground galaxies impose on HXMM01, we need to estimate the dark matter halo masses of G1 and G2 from their stellar masses. The standard method to measure stellar masses is to fit the observed UV-tonear-IR SEDs with stellar population synthesis models.

3.1 Stellar and Halo Masses of the Lensing Galaxies We use the MAGPHYS software⁹ to fit evolutionary population synthesis models to the SEDs. We used the default 25,000 model spectra computed using the 2007 version of the Bruzual and Charlot stellar population synthesis $code^{61}$. The model spectra were computed at ages between 0.1 and 13.5 Gyr for various metallicities and dust absorption optical depths, assuming a Chabrier $IMF³¹$ and exponentially declining or constant star formation histories with random bursts. Models with ages greater than the age of the Universe at the redshift of the object are excluded. The software treats dust attenuation of young and old stars separately, following a two-component model 62 assuming that stars younger than $10⁷$ yr are embedded in their birth clouds so these stars are attenuated by dust in both the birth cloud and the interstellar medium (ISM). It then consistently computes the re-radiated mid-to-far-IR dust emission in stellar birth clouds and the ambient diffuse ISM, based on the power of the attenuated stellar emission at shorter wavelengths. A χ^2 and the corresponding probability $\exp(-\chi^2/2)$ are computed for each model. Finally, a marginalized likelihood distribution is built for each parameter. We adopt the best-fit parameter as the median of the likelihood distribution, which is usually close to the value corresponding to the minimum χ^2 , and its $\pm 1\sigma$ confidence interval as the 16th–84th percentile range.

We fix the galaxies to their spectroscopic redshifts from the Keck/LRIS spectra (§ 1.10; $z_{G1} = 0.6546$ and $z_{G2} = 0.5020$). Both

Figure S6 – **Magnification map and magnification factors**. (a) Similar to Figure 1, but here we overlay the image-plane magnification map as black contours on the *HST*/WFC3 F110W image. The magnification map is computed assuming the median halo masses and SIE profiles. Critical curves are in yellow and caustics are in purple. (b) Distributions of the total magnification factors for the K_S -band (black), the dust continuum at $880 \mu m$ (red), and the molecular gas as probed by CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ (blue). On the top, we show their $\pm 1\sigma$ confidence intervals along with the median magnification (boxes with error bars) from log-normal fits (solid curves).

G1 and G2 are undetected in the SMA $880 \mu m$ image, so we use the 3 σ upper limit at 880 μ m to put some constraints on the dust emission, and therefore, on the amount of dust extinction.

Figure S5 shows the best-fit models. Using the 16th, 50th, and 84th percentiles of the marginalized likelihood distributions, we estimated stellar masses of $log(M_{star}/M_©) = 10.72 \pm 0.06$ and 10.86 ± 0.10 for G1 and G2, respectively. The stellar masses correspond to halo masses of $log(M_{halo,G1}/M_{\odot}) = 12.56 \pm 0.26$ and $log(M_{halo,G2}/M_{\odot}) =$ 12.81±0.33, adopting the *M*star−*M*halo relation at their redshifts from abundance matching³⁰ and including the intrinsic scatter of the relation.

3.2 Magnification Factors We constrain the lensing magnification factors (μ) in a Monte-Carlo fashion. We start by generating a distribution of 5000 pairs of stellar masses for G1 and G2 that follow

Figure S7 – L'_{CO} **vs. FWHM** for CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ of lensed and unlensed **SMGs**. The two red stars show the measurements of X01N and X01S from the JVLA data cube, which have not been corrected for lensing. The big blue squares with error bars are unlensed and lensing-corrected SMGs with CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ measurements^{11,24,51,63}, and the small blue squares are mostly SMGs with higher *J* CO line measurements converted to CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ using mean observed ratios⁶⁴. The red line shows the best-fit relation for unlensed SMGs. The grey filled circles with error bars are the GBT CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ measurements⁶⁵ of the brightest lensed SMGs in the H-ATLAS survey. The two main components of HXMM01 lie on the same relation as unlensed SMGs, suggesting that they are mildly ($\mu \leq 2$) magnified, consistent with our lens modeling results $(\S$ 3.2).

the posterior likelihood distributions from MAGPHYS. We assign dark matter halo masses using the *M*star−*M*halo relations from abundance matching³⁰. The 0.15 dex intrinsic scatter in the *^M*star−*M*halo relation at fixed halo mass is also included. We adopt the singular isothermal ellipsoid (SIE) density profile for the lenses and assume them to follow the centroid, ellipticity, and PA of the light distribution, as supported by observations^{66,67}. For each pair of virial masses (baryonic+dark matter), we compute the image plane magnification map for sources at $z = 2.31$ with LENSTOOL (Figure S6*a*)⁶⁸. We then compute the luminosity weighted magnification factors for HXMM01, X01N, and X01S using the PSF/beam-deconvolved light-distribution models. We compute μ for the K_S -band, 880 μ m, and CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ images separately because there are significant spatial offsets in the sources across these wavelengths. After excluding the strong lensing cases where models generate more images then observed, the distributions of magnification factors and source-plane projected separations are fit with log-normal functions to find the medians and the 1σ uncertainties (Figure S6*b*).

We find that the total luminosity-weighted magnification of HXMM01 is only about 1.6. The northern component (X01N) is more magnified ($\mu \sim 1.8$) than the southern component (X01S; $\mu \sim 1.4$). The source-plane separation of the two components in K_S -band is just 2.2′′ (19 kpc), which is 35% smaller than the image plane separation $(3.4'' = 28$ kpc). Table S1 lists the results. We find similar results using the NFW profile⁶⁹, although the estimated magnifications are \sim 20% lower than using the SIE profile. Despite the observed spatial offsets among the gas, dust, and stellar components, their magnification factors agree within 10%. Therefore, we can safely ignore differential magnification in this source.

As shown in Figure S7, the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ luminosities and line

widths of HXMM01 also suggest only mild ($\mu \sim 1.8$) magnifications from the foreground galaxies, because their CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ luminosities are similar to those of unlensed SMGs with the same line widths.

4 Physical Properties of HXMM01

In this section we determine the physical properties of HXMM01 from the SEDs, the high-resolution CO and dust continuum images, the CO spectra, and the X-ray images. Because the lensing magnifications are small $(\mu < 2)$ and have large uncertainties, we list the lensamplified properties in units of μ^{-1} instead of correcting for μ . Our derived physical parameters are summarized in Table S1 along with the estimated magnification factors, so that readers can easily correct for μ to obtain the intrinsic properties. Note that some parameters are unaffected by lensing — e.g., surface densities, temperatures, and mass or luminosity ratios — so magnification correction is unnecessary.

4.1 Stellar Mass and Star Formation Rate We modeled the full SEDs of X01N and X01S with MAGPHYS in the same fashion as for the lensing galaxies $(\S 3.1)$, although there are more data points to constrain the dust re-radiated emission. We treat the two components of HXMM01 separately because of their distinct optical-to-near-IR SEDs. As we discussed in § 2, X01N and X01S cannot be separated in the images at wavelengths between $24 \mu m < \lambda < 1200 \mu m$ except at 880 μ m, so we had to assume that the two galaxies have the same SED shape at these wavelengths and assign their flux densities based on their proportion in the SMA image — 34% in X01N, 31% in X01S, and 35% in the filaments.

The best-fit SEDs are compared with the photometry in Figure S8*a*. As expected, the level of dust extinction is high, with a rest-frame *V*band optical depth of $\tau_V \sim 3 - 4$ for young stars in birth clouds (i.e., only \lesssim 5% of the *V*-band emission leaks out). We find that the total stellar masses are around $(1.6 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{11} \mu^{-1}$ M_☉ and $(7.4 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{10}$ $10^{10} \mu^{-1}$ M_☉ for X01N and X01S, respectively. As we noted earlier, the compact clump at the southern end of X01S dominates its emission at wavelengths shorter than the K_S -band (Figs. 1 and S4), making it appear much bluer than X01N. The clump may also be the reason why the model for X01S poorly fits the IRAC data points. Assuming that the clump is not part of X01S and that the intrinsic SED of X01S is similar to that of X01N, we estimate a stellar mass of $(1.7 \pm 0.3) \times$ 10¹¹ μ ⁻¹ M_☉ using the clump-subtracted *K_S*-band flux (∼8.1 μ Jy) and the mass-to-light ratio of X01N. In the following we adopt this latter stellar mass estimate for X01S.

By design, the mid-to-far-IR SEDs of the two components are identical. Integrating the best-fit SEDs between rest-frame 8 and 1000 μ m, the IR luminosities implies an instantaneous SFR of 1100 \pm 100 μ^{-1} M_☉ yr⁻¹ for each of the components, when converted using the Kennicutt⁷⁵ calibration for a Chabrier³¹ initial mass function:

$$
SFR/M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1} = 10^{-10} L_{\text{IR}}/L_{\odot} \tag{1}
$$

4.2 Dust Properties As the far-IR SED is dominated by thermal dust emission, we fit the photometric data between $160 < \lambda < 2,100 \,\mu\text{m}$ with a modified blackbody in both the general optically thick form $(S_v \propto (1 - e^{-\tau}) B_v(T)$, where $\tau = (v/v_0)^\beta$ and $B_v(T)$ is the Planck function) and the optically thin form $(S_v \propto v^{\beta} B_v(T))$. We treat all components of HXMM01 together because they are spatially resolved only at 880 μ m. We fit for the characteristic dust temperature T_{dust} , the power law slope of dust opacity $β$, the total far-IR luminosity L_{IR} , and the wavelength $\lambda_0 \equiv c/v_0$ below which the emission is optically thick ($\tau \geq 1$). Given that the dust opacity per unit mass follows the same power law as the optical depth, $\kappa_d \propto v^{\beta}$, and a normalization^{76,77} of $\kappa_d(125\mu\text{m}) = 2.64 \pm 0.29 \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-1}$, we can also estimate the dust mass M_{dust} assuming all dusts are at a single temperature T_{dust} .

We use an affine-invariant Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampler (emcee)⁷⁸ to compute 500,000 steps from 250 samplers. Our

Figure S8 – **SED modeling of HXMM01**. (a) The blue and red data points are the deblended photometry of X01N and X01S, respectively. Their best-fit MAGPHYS models (blue and red curves) are overlaid to show the quality of the fit. The dotted curves are the dust-free intrinsic (i.e., stellar only) MAGPHYS models. (b) The red data points show the total photometry of HXMM01 including the filament (Table S3). Overplotted are redshifted and scaled templates from the local ULIRGs Mrk 231^{70} (orange long dashed curve) and Arp 220^{71} (solid purple), the strongly lensed star-forming galaxy "Cosmic Eyelash"⁷² at $z = 2.3$ (green dashed), and the AGN composite SED⁷³ (blue dotted). The AGN template has been scaled to the H α flux of HXMM01 and reddened⁷⁴ by $A_V = 1.5$ magnitude so that it is consistent with the optical SED of HXMM01. (c) Blackbody fit to the far-IR (160 μ m < λ < 2.1 mm) SED. The optically thick model (black) provides a superior fit than the optically thin model (blue); the corresponding χ^2 values are labelled. The smaller error bars show only the uncorrelated statistical uncertainties, while the full error bars include both confusion noise (for PACS and SPIRE) and systematic flux calibration uncertainties. The inset shows the 1, 2, and 3σ contours in the $T - \beta$ plane for the optically thick model.

approach fully marginalizes over the optical depth, and takes covariances between the input photometry into account. The autocorrelation length is <50 steps for all parameters, i.e., the chains converge very well. The resulting constraints are shown in Figure S8*c*.

The general optically thick model provides a better fit to the data. Our best fits have $\chi^2 = 1$ for 3 degrees of freedom and $\chi^2 = 7.6$ for 4 degrees of freedom for the optically thick and the optically thin models, respectively. The former is therefore preferred and the bestfit parameters are tabulated in Table S1. The total IR luminosity of $L_{\text{IR}} = (3.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{13} \mu^{-1}$ L_☉ is enormous. This implies a FIRderived SFR of $3200 \pm 200 \mu^{-1}$ M_☉ yr⁻¹.

The best-fit dust temperature is \sim 55 K, which is much higher than the average 35 K for normal star-forming galaxies and lies at the higher end of the dust temperature distribution⁷⁹ of hyper-luminous IR galaxies at *z* ∼ 2. This temperature is higher than the previously derived value $(T_{\text{dust}} = 43 \pm 1 \text{ K})^5$, because Wardlow et al. used the optically thin model with β fixed to 1.5, which has been ruled out because of the new PACS photometry. As a reference, our optically thin model with β relaxed gives $T_{\text{dust}} = 36 \pm 2$ K.

High dust temperatures indicate efficient star formation^{7,80}, i.e., starbursts. Using the Stephen-Boltzmann law, we have

$$
T_{\text{dust}}^{4+\beta} \propto L_{\text{IR}}/M_{\text{dust}} \propto \text{SFR}/(Z_{\text{gas}}M_{\text{gas}}) = \text{SFE}/Z_{\text{gas}},\tag{2}
$$

where $SFE \equiv SFR/M_{\text{gas}}$ is the global star formation efficiency. Combined with the lack of AGN activity in HXMM01 (§ 4.8), the high dust temperature clearly indicates that HXMM01 is a starburst galaxy. This conclusion is supported by the star formation efficiencies per dynamical timescale estimated in § 4.5.

4.3 Sizes of Star Forming Regions and Gas Reservoirs Our high resolution data allow us to directly measure the extent of the dusty star forming regions at rest frame $265 \mu m$ and the gas reservoirs probed by CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$. As both components of HXMM01 are resolved in the SMA and JVLA CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ images, we use Gaussian models convolved with the beam to fit the intensity maps. The source sizes are estimated using the best-fit HWHMs along the major (*a*) and minor (*b*) axes $(A = \pi ab)$. We find that the total size of the dusty star forming regions ($\Sigma A_{880} \sim 20 \mu^{-1}$ kpc²) is about five times smaller than that of the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ gas reservoirs ($\Sigma A_{\text{CO}} = 95 \,\mu^{-1} \,\text{kpc}^2$), similar to the

lensed SMG HATLAS12−00 that has high-resolution CO *J* = 1→0 and dust maps 42 .

Since it is blackbody radiation, we can also estimate the crosssection of the dust emitting region using the Stefan-Boltzmann law:

$$
A_{\rm SB} = \frac{L_{\rm IR}}{4\sigma T_{\rm dust}^4} = 1.8 \times 10^{-6} \text{ kpc}^2 L_{\rm IR} T_{\rm dust}^{-4} \tag{3}
$$

where L_{IR} is in L_{\odot} and T_{dust} is in K. We estimate a dust cross section of $A_{SB} = 6.3 \pm 1.5 \,\mu^{-1}$ kpc² using the optically thick model. This cross section based on Stefan-Boltzmann law is three times smaller than the total area measured directly from the 880 μ m image, suggesting that the dust filling factor is only about 30%. In other words, a lot of structures have not been resolved, consistent with the low CO brightness temperatures ($T_b = 2 - 3$ K) that we measured from the JVLA CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ data cube.

4.4 CO→**H**² **Conversion Factor** Assuming the dust mass from the optically thick case, $M_{\text{dust}} = (2.9 \pm 0.7) \times 10^9 \mu^{-1} \text{ M}_{\odot}$, and the Milky Way gas-to-dust mass ratio 81 of 140, we would expect a total gas mass of $(4.1 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{11} \mu^{-1}$ M_☉. When compared with the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ luminosity from the JVLA $(L'_{\text{CO}} = (4.5 \pm 0.8) \times$ $10^{11} \mu^{-1}$ K km s⁻¹ pc²), we obtain a CO→H₂ conversion factor of $\alpha_{\rm CO,dust} = 0.91 \pm 0.27 \,\rm M_{\odot}/(K \,\rm km \,\rm s^{-1} \,\rm pc^2).$

On the other hand, through hydrodynamical simulations coupled with radiation transfer codes, the mean velocity-integrated CO brightness temperature (W_{CO}) from spatially resolved CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ data and gas metallicity (Z/Z_{\odot}) has been used to provide a calibration to estimate $\alpha_{\rm CO}^{22}$:

$$
\alpha_{\text{CO,N12}} = 10.7 W_{\text{CO}}^{-0.32} (Z/Z_{\odot})^{-0.65} \tag{4}
$$

where $W_{\text{CO}} = L'_{\text{CO}}/A_{\text{CO}}$ is in K km s⁻¹, and the resulting $\alpha_{\text{CO,N12}}$ is in M_☉/(K km s⁻¹ pc²). Using the sizes measured from the JVLA CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ map and assuming that $Z = Z_{\odot}$ for SMGs based on previous measurements of gas metallicity from metallicity-diagnostic optical line ratios⁸², we estimate that $\alpha_{\text{CO,N12}} = 0.71 \pm 0.04$ and 0.88 ± 0.04 for X01N and X01S, respectively. Note that these estimate are unaffected by lensing, because lensing preserves the brightness temperature.

Both of the above methods yield results consistent with the normally assumed value of $\alpha_{\text{CO}} \sim 0.8 - 1.0$ for mergers^{21,23,83,84}. Such

Figure S9 – **Star-formation-rate surface density vs. molecular gas surface density for quiescently star-forming and starburst galaxies**. The two components of HXMM01 and the $z = 4.05$ SMG GN20⁸⁵ are the red stars and the red square, respectively. The 1σ uncertainties of these measurements are smaller than the size of the symbol. Other objects are compiled from the literature^{8,86}, and their typical 1σ uncertainties are indicated by the cross at the lower right. HXMM01 is consistent with the sequence defined by local⁸ and highredshift starbursts¹², which have ∼20 times higher SFR surface density at a given gas surface density than quiescently star-forming galaxies. The dashed lines indicate constant gas consumption timescales for the star-forming disks ($\tau_{disk} \equiv \tau_{dyn}/\epsilon_{SF} = \Sigma_{gas}/\Sigma_{SFR}$) of 70 Myr (red) and 1.5 Gyr (grey). Note that τ_{disk} are smaller than the consumption timescale for the entire gas reservoirs ($\tau_{\rm gas}$), because usually only part of the gas reservoir is actively forming stars.

a conversion factor implies tremendous amount of molecular gas and very high gas-to-baryon fractions for both components of HXMM01 (Figs. 2 and 3).

4.5 Star Formation Efficiency In the form of the Kennicutt-Schmidt law that involves a dynamical timescale¹², the star formation efficiency per dynamical timescale is defined as

$$
\varepsilon_{\rm SF} \equiv \frac{\Sigma_{\rm SFR}}{\Sigma_{\rm gas}/\tau_{\rm dyn}}.\tag{5}
$$

With the measurements from the previous subsections, we can now estimate $\varepsilon_{\rm SF}$ using the SFR surface density ($\Sigma_{\rm SFR}$), the gas surface density (Σ_{gas}) , and the dynamical timescale (τ_{dyn}) .

Since the half-light radius of a two-dimensional Gaussian is equal to the HWHM, we estimate the surface densities of the SFR and the gas mass using the measured source sizes

$$
\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} = 0.5 \text{SFR}/A_{880} \quad \text{and} \quad \Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 0.5 M_{\text{H2}} / A_{\text{CO}}, \tag{6}
$$

There are usually two dynamical timescale estimates — the freefall timescale (τ_{ff}) and the rotational timescale (τ_{rot}). We estimate the free-fall timescale as

$$
\tau_{\rm ff} = \sqrt{R_{1/2}^3/(2GM_{\rm vir})} = 0.74R_{1/2}/\Delta V_{\rm FWHM},\tag{7}
$$

where we have used the virial mass within $R_{1/2}$ (M_{vir})^{87,88}

$$
M_{\rm vir} = 5\sigma^2 R_{1/2} / G = 2.1 \times 10^5 M_{\odot} \Delta V_{\rm FWHM}^2 R_{1/2},
$$
 (8)

where ΔV_{FWHM} is in km s⁻¹ and $R_{1/2}$ Note that some authors^{3,17} used a virial coefficient greater than 5 to account for non-virialized systems, giving a formula $M_{\text{vir}} = 2.8 \times$ 10^5 M_{\odot} ΔV_{FWHM}^2 $R_{1/2}$. To be consistent, we have corrected their dynamical masses to our scaling in Figure 3.

On the other hand, the rotational timescale is defined as

$$
\tau_{\text{rot}} = R_{1/2}/v_c = 1.36 R_{1/2} / \Delta V_{\text{FWHM}},\tag{9}
$$

where we have used the isotropic virial formula to estimate the characteristic circular velocity, $v_c = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8 \ln 2} \Delta V_{\text{FWHM}}} = 0.736 \Delta V_{\text{FWHM}}^{86}$, because the velocity gradient is unresolved in our data.

We opt to use the mean of the two very similar timescales as an estimate of the dynamical timescale. For the half-light radius $(R_{1/2})$, we use the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ HWHM along the major axis from the JVLA data. And for simplicity, we have considered the observed $R_{1/2}$ as unmagnified, although it could be magnified at most by a factor of μ , and likely only by $\sqrt{\mu}$. Nevertheless, ε_{SF} depends only linearly on $R_{1/2}$ because all of the other parameters involved in the equation, $\Sigma_{\rm SFR}$, $\Sigma_{\rm gas}$, and ∆*V*FWHM, are preserved by lensing.

With Eqn. 5, we estimate remarkably high star formation efficiencies: $\varepsilon_{SF} \sim 10\%$ and 40% for X01N and X01S, respectively. This is more than an order-of-magnitude higher than the mean efficiency of quiescently star-forming galaxies like our Milky Way (ε _{SF} ∼2%). It is worth noting that the ∼40% star formation efficiency of X01S is similar to that of the hyperluminous quasar host galaxy⁸⁹ SDSS J114816.64+525150.3 at $z = 6.4$, which represents another example of maximum starbursts¹³.

The SFR and gas surface densities of HXMM01 are broadly consistent with the starburst sequence defined by local ultra-luminous IR galaxies (ULIRGs) and luminous SMGs. Likewise, its SFR surface density is much higher than the quiescently star-forming galaxies at the same epoch⁸⁶ (Figure S9). Along with the $z = 4.05$ SMG GN20⁶³, HXMM01 seems to also show a small offset from the best-fit relation of other SMGs. This is likely because for most of the SMGs the sizes of star formation and gas reservoir were estimated from maps of higher-*J* CO lines¹². Lack of CO *J* = 1→0 data, it was assumed that high-*J* CO emission have the same physical extent as the star-forming regions and the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ emission, although accumulating evidence suggests that total gas reservoirs traced by $CO J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ emission are more extended than the star formation regions traced by submillimeter continuum and the denser gas reservoirs traced by higher-*J* CO lines in both local ULIRGs⁹⁰ and SMGs^{11,24,63}. Because the higher-*J* CO line luminosities were converted to those of CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ using empirically determined mean brightness temperature ratios, the gas surface densities are overestimated for the SMGs that lack CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ maps. This alluded bias is unlikely to be present in studies that have used CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ maps for size measurements^{11,24,42,63,91}.

4.6 Local Disk Stability As discussed in § 4.3, the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ gaseous reservoir of HXMM01 is five times larger than the dust emitting regions embedded within. The reservoir is possibly part of a massive gas inflow bringing copious amounts of cold gas to fuel the starbursts. Similar to extended CO disks in some low redshift galaxies $92-94$, it is possible that the gas reservoir of HXMM01 is rotationally supported, suppressing its fragmentation to form giant molecular clouds and stars. To address the stability of the reservoir, we make use of the Toomre's criterion⁹⁵:

$$
Q = \frac{\kappa \sigma}{\pi G \Sigma_{\text{gas}}} \tag{10}
$$

which compares the gas surface density Σ_{gas} to the critical surface density value at which the disk becomes unstable and begins to fragment. In the above, σ is the gas velocity dispersion and κ is the epicylic frequency, which for flat rotation curves can be written as $\kappa = \sqrt{2}v_c/R_{1/2}$, where $v_c = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8\ln 2}} \Delta V_{\text{FWHM}} = 1.73\sigma$ is the characteristic circular velocity⁸⁶, and $R_{1/2}$ is the CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ disk radius. Combined with $\Sigma_{\text{gas}} = 0.5 M_{\text{H2}} / (\pi R_{1/2}^2)$ and Equation 8, we obtain:

$$
Q = 0.97 \frac{M_{\text{vir}}}{M_{\text{gas}}} \tag{11}
$$

We estimate $Q > 1$ ($Q = 3-6$) for both X01N and X01S, because their virial masses are a few times greater than their gas masses. Therefore, the disks appear locally stable at least at the half-light radii. This is consistent with our finding that intense star formation occurs only in the inner parts of the disks (§ 4.3), since *Q* decreases at smaller radii mainly as a result of the higher gas surface densities.

4.7 CO Excitation The velocity-integrated *J*=x→y to *J*=1→0 brightness temperature ratio is defined as,

$$
r_{x-y/1-1} = \frac{\int T(x-y) \, \mathrm{d}v}{\int T(1-0) \, \mathrm{d}v} = \frac{\int S_v(x-y) \, \mathrm{d}v}{\int S_v(1-0) \, \mathrm{d}v} \left(\frac{v_{1-0}}{v_{3-2}}\right)^2 \,,\tag{12}
$$

where $S_v(x-y)$ is the flux density in the *J*=x→y transition and v_{x-y} is the frequency of the transition.

Combining the JVLA CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$, CARMA CO $J = 3 \rightarrow 2$, and PdBI CO $J = 4 \rightarrow 3$ data, we measure CO brightness temperature ratios of *^r*3−2/1−⁰ ⁼ ⁰.64±0.16, and *^r*4−3/1−⁰ ⁼ ⁰.49±0.09, similar to other SMGs^{11,51,64} and $z > 2$ quasar host galaxies^{64,96}. This indicates that we would have obtained a similar amount of total molecular gas mass for HXMM01 if we had converted high-*J* CO lines to CO $J = 1 \rightarrow 0$ using the mean observed brightness temperature ratios for SMGs.

4.8 Could HXMM01 be AGN Dominated? It would be useful to know if any of our estimates are biased by the presence of AGNs. Broad Balmer lines seen in HXMM01 are common in SMGs^{82,97}. They could indicate either AGN broad line regions or strong outflows. The clear stellar light bump sampled by the IRAC bands (Figure S8*a*) indicates insignificant AGN contribution. Assuming that AGN activity is responsible for the broad $H\alpha$ lines, we can scale the composite AGN SED^{73,98,99} to the observed H α flux and compare it to the observed SED. As shown by the blue dotted curve in Figure S8*b*, the AGN's hot dust bump would start to dominate the SED above \sim 5 µm and produce a red [5.8]−[8.0] color, contradicting the observations. Dust extinction does not compromise this result: the more dust extinction we impose to the AGN SED, the redder [5.8]−[8.0] color we get because the AGN SED has to be scaled to the same H α flux. Therefore, the broad H α lines in HXMM01 are likely produced by strong starburst-driven outflows and HXMM01 is unlikely dominated by AGNs.

4.9 X-ray Constraints on AGN luminosity and Cooling Rate of Hot Gas Here we attempt to put some constraints on the AGN luminosity and hot gas cooling rate using the stacked X-ray image from the XMM-LSS survey $(\S 1.5)$, although the constraints are limited because of the shallowness of the X-ray data.

We measure the count rates with a $15''$ -radius aperture and the background with an annulus between $75''$ and $90''$ (to avoid an X-ray source $60''$ to the NE). After correcting for the aperture loss (70%) and the vignetting (\sim 50% at 10′ off-axis), we measure a 3 σ upper limit of 1.1×10^{-3} count s⁻¹ at 0.5−10 keV. With WebPIMMS, the above count rates yield a flux of 6.6×10^{-15} erg s⁻¹ cm⁻² for a Raymond Smith plasma model of 0.2 *Z*[⊙] metallicity and a temperature of 7.1 × 10⁶ K (i.e., the virial temperature of a 10¹³ M_Q halo at $z = 2.3$), and a 0.5−10 keV flux of 9.7×10^{-15} erg s⁻¹ cm⁻² for a power-law model with a photon index of 2. Therefore, the X-ray constraint on the cooling luminosity is $L_{0.5-10 \text{ keV}} < 2.8 \times 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, while the constraint on the AGN luminosity is $L_{0.5-10 \text{ keV}} < 4.2 \times 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$. These luminosities imply a cooling rate of \dot{M} < 1,900 M_☉ yr⁻¹, and an Eddington-limited black hole mass of $M_{\rm BH, Edd} \equiv (L_{\rm bol}/1.45 \times$ 10^{38} erg s⁻¹) M_☉ < 4.8×10^7 M_☉, assuming a bolometric correction of $6\%^{100}$. Note that this is not an upper limit on the black hole mass, because sub-Eddington accretion would allow higher mass black holes.

It is not surprising that we did not detect HXMM01 in the relatively shallow X-ray observations. In the 2 Ms *Chandra* Deep Field North¹⁰¹, only two of the 20 radio-detected SMGs show X-ray fluxes greater than $f_{0.5-8 \text{ keV}} > 5 \times 10^{-15} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}.$

5 Space Density of Hyper-Luminous Mergers Like HXMM01?

HXMM01 has an intrinsic flux density of $S_{880} \simeq 17 \pm 4$ mJy. From the 880 μ m single-dish source count function¹⁰², the surface density of sources brighter than 17 mJy at 880 μ m is ~0.1 deg⁻². The estimated volume density of such bright objects¹⁰² is 10^{-8} to 10^{-7} Mpc⁻³, much lower than volume density of SMGs with 880 μ m flux densities of a few mJy ($\sim 10^{-6}$ to 10^{-5} Mpc⁻³). Due to the lack of bright SMGs in LABOCA surveys, the volume and surface density estimates are uncertain by at least a factor of a few in either direction. Follow-up CO observations of 2 to 10 mJy SMGs find that $16 \pm 13\%$ (2 out of 12) are resolved 17 into physically related galaxy pairs with separations greater than 12 kpc. Assuming that the resolved merger fraction of fainter galaxies is applicable to more luminous sources, we estimate the surface density of bright SMG mergers like HXMM01 is \sim 0.01 deg⁻².

We can make another estimate using the source count at 500 μ m. The surface density of *Herschel*-selected sources⁵ with $S_{500} > 100$ mJy that are not associated with either a local $(z < 0.1)$ star-forming galaxy or a bright radio-loud AGN is 0.14 ± 0.04 deg⁻². Follow-up high resolution imaging of ten such sources⁵ reveals that HXMM01 is the only well-separated SMG merger with $S_{500} > 100$ mJy in HerMES. So the expected surface density of well-resolved SMG pairs is $\sim 0.014 \text{ deg}^{-2}$, or ∼1 per 100 deg², consistent with our estimate from the 880 μ m source count function.

Since various *Herschel* surveys (HerMES, H-ATLAS, HeLMS) have mapped \sim 1000 deg² and the South Pole Telescope^{103,104} has mapped \sim 2500 deg² in submillimeter and millimeter wavelengths, there should be ∼35 bright SMG mergers in these data. To identify such mergers among ∼480 bright lensing candidates, a good strategy is to use the CO luminosity vs. line width relation to weed out highly magnified sources (see Figure S7).

In Table 1 we list the resolved SMG mergers reported in the literature. We note that there are many SMGs that have properties indicative of late-stage mergers. But here we only include the objects that have been resolved into multiple components. These mergers have projected separations spanning from 4 to 30 kpc and are at redshifts between $1 < z < 4$. References for the sources in Table 1 are as follows: SMM J02399−0136^{105,106}; SMM J09431+4700^{17,24,107}; SMM

XMM-Newton Users' Handbook, §3.2.2.2

http://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/Tools/w3pimms.html

J105141¹⁷; SMM J123707^{17,82,88,107}; SMM J123711^{18,108,109}; SMM 163650⁸⁸; 4C 60.07^{110,111}.

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Quantity	HXMM01	X01N	X01S	Unit	
Lens Modeling					
$\mu(K_{\rm S})$	$1.59_{-0.22}^{+0.36}$ $1.57_{-0.21}^{+0.34}$	$1.78^{+0.55}_{-0.32}$	$1.35_{-0.12}^{+0.19}$		
$\mu(880\mu m)$		$1.83^{+0.60}_{-0.60}$	$1.34 + 0.18$		
μ (CO1-0)	-0.21 $1.54^{+0.31}$	$1.84^{+0.63}_{-0.36}$	-0.12 $1.37^{+0.20}_{-0.29}$		
Separation	-0.20 $^{+0.32}_{-0.45}/^{+0.20}_{-1.8}$ 2.22		-0.13		
		MAGPHYS SED Modeling		arcsec/kpc	
		$(1.\overline{6\pm 0.1}) \times 10^{11}$	$(1.7 \pm 0.3) \times 10^{11}$	μ^{-1} M _{\odot}	
M_{stellar}		$(1.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{13}$		μ^{-1} L _{\odot}	
$L_{\rm IR}$	\cdots	Optically Thick Blackbody Fit	$(1.1 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{13}$		
	55 ± 3			K	
$T_{\rm dust}$ β	2.17 ± 0.23	.			
λ_0	180 ± 30			\cdots	
	$(2.9 \pm 0.7) \times 10^9$			μ m μ^{-1} M _{\odot}	
M_{dust}					
$L_{\rm IR}$	$(3.2 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{13}$			μ^{-1} L _o	
A_{SB}	6.3 ± 1.5	.		μ^{-1} kpc ²	
$\alpha_{\rm CO, gas/dust}$	0.91 ± 0.27			M_{\odot} /(K km s ⁻¹ pc ²)	
		SMA 880 μ m Image			
A_{880}		9.8 ± 0.6	8.9 ± 0.7	μ^{-1} kpc ²	
$\Sigma_{\rm SFR}$		56 ± 6	62 ± 8	M_{\odot} yr ⁻¹ kpc ⁻²	
		JVLA $CO(1\rightarrow0)$ Datacube			
$z_{\text{CO}1-0}$	2.3079 ± 0.0007 840 ± 160	2.3103 ± 0.0007	2.3074 ± 0.0004 660 ± 100	$\rm km\,s^{-1}$	
$\Delta V_{\rm FWHM}$		970 ± 150			
$L'_{\rm CO1-0}$	$(4.5 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{11}$	$(1.3 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{11}$	$(1.7 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{11}$	μ^{-1} K km s ⁻¹ pc ²	
A_{CO}		27 ± 2	68 ± 2	μ^{-1} kpc ²	
$W_{\rm CO}$	\cdots	4900 ± 780	2500 ± 350	$K \, \text{km} \, \text{s}^{-1}$	
$\alpha_{\rm CO,N12}$	[0.8]	0.71 ± 0.04	0.88 ± 0.04	M_{\odot} /(K km s ⁻¹ pc ²)	
$M_{\rm gas}$	$(3.6 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{11}$	$(9.5 \pm 1.0) \times 10^{10}$	$(1.5 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{11}$	μ^{-1} M _{\odot}	
$\Sigma_{\rm gas}$		1730 ± 200	1090 ± 100	M_{\odot} pc ⁻²	
$R_{1/2}$		3.0 ± 0.1	4.6 ± 0.1	kpc	
M_{vir}		$(5.9 \pm 1.9) \times 10^{11}$	$(4.3 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{11}$	M_{\odot}	
$\tau_{\rm rot}$		4.0 ± 0.8	9.3 ± 1.5	Myr	
$\tau_{\rm ff}$		2.2 ± 0.4	5.1 ± 0.8	Myr	
$\varepsilon_{\rm SF}$		0.10 ± 0.03	0.41 ± 0.10		
$M_{\rm gas}/M_{\rm baryon}$	0.52 ± 0.05	0.37 ± 0.04	0.47 ± 0.06		
		GBT $CO(1\rightarrow 0)$ Spectrum			
$z_{\text{CO}1-0}$	2.3074 ± 0.0008	.			
$\Delta V_{\rm FWHM}$	1670 ± 140	.		$\rm km\,s^{-1}$	
$L'_{\text{CO1}-\text{O}}$	$(6.2 \pm 0.9) \times 10^{11}$			μ^{-1} K km s ⁻¹ pc ²	
		CARMA $CO(3\rightarrow 2)$ Spectrum			
$ZCO3-2$	2.3073 ± 0.0010				
$\Delta V_{\rm FWHM}$	980 ± 200			$\rm km\,s^{-1}$	
L'_{CO3-2}	$(2.9 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{11}$			μ^{-1} K km s ⁻¹ pc ²	
$r_{3-2/1-0}$	0.64 ± 0.16				
		PdBI $CO(4\rightarrow3)$ Spectrum			
$ZCO4-3$	2.3081 ± 0.0002				
$\Delta V_{\rm FWHM}$	880 ± 50			$km s^{-1}$	
L'_{CO4-3}	$(2.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{11}$			μ^{-1} K km s ⁻¹ pc ²	
$r_{4-3/1-0}$	0.49 ± 0.09				
		Keck $H\alpha$ Spectra			
$z_{\text{H}\alpha}$		2.3144 ± 0.0019	2.3107 ± 0.0015		
$\Delta V_{\rm FWHM}$		$2,370 \pm 340$	$1,750 \pm 320$	$\rm km\,s^{-1}$	
$L_{\text{H}\alpha}$		$(9.4 \pm 1.6) \times 10^{42}$	$(1.4 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{43}$	μ^{-1} erg s ⁻¹	

Table S1 – Observed and Derived Properties of HXMM01. Refer to text for definitions of the parameters.

Instrument	Band	λ	G1	G ₂
		(μm)	(μJy)	(μJy)
GALEX	NUV	0.23	< 0.5	< 0.5
CFHT	u*	0.38	0.7 ± 0.2	$1.0 + 0.2$
CFHT	$_{\rm g}$ '	0.49	2.9 ± 0.2	$4.1 + 0.2$
CFHT	r '	0.62	6.3 ± 0.3	14.7 ± 0.5
CFHT	i'	0.76	$14.8 + 0.5$	$31.1 + 1.0$
CFHT	z^*	0.88	$19.8 + 0.9$	$46.3 + 1.6$
HST	F110W	1.16	$29.0 + 0.8$	72.9 ± 1.7
WHT	J	1.25	32.7 ± 1.2	78.2 ± 1.8
VISTA	н	1.65	$60.2 + 5.3$	$138.5 + 6.5$
WHT	K	2.15	$87.7 + 7.7$	$184.6 + 5.1$
IRAC	$3.6 \,\mu m$	3.56	$111.1 + 7.9$	180.6 ± 7.9
IRAC	$4.5 \,\mathrm{\mu m}$	4.51	77.6 ± 6.2	146.5 ± 7.3
IRAC	$5.8 \,\mathrm{\mu m}$	5.76	70.4 ± 13.9	99.3 ± 13.7
IRAC	$8.0 \,\mu m$	7.96	$51.4 + 14.6$	106.8 ± 14.7

Table S2 – Photometry of the foreground lensing galaxies.

Instrument	Band	λ	HXMM01	X01N	X01S
		(μm)	(μJy)	(μJy)	(μJy)
GALEX	NUV	0.23	< 0.5	$\overline{<}$ 0.5	< 0.5
CFHT	\mathbf{u}^*	0.38	0.5 ± 0.1	${}_{< 0.2}$	0.5 ± 0.1
CFHT	g'	0.49	1.3 ± 0.1	< 0.2	1.2 ± 0.1
CFHT	r	0.62	2.3 ± 0.2	0.2 ± 0.1	2.1 ± 0.2
CFHT	\mathbf{i}	0.76	2.5 ± 0.3	< 0.5	2.3 ± 0.3
CFHT	z^*	0.88	3.8 ± 0.6	0.6 ± 0.3	3.2 ± 0.6
HST	F110W	1.16	6.2 ± 0.4	1.6 ± 0.2	4.7 ± 0.3
WHT	J	1.25	6.8 ± 0.8	1.7 ± 0.5	5.1 ± 0.6
VISTA	Η	1.65			
WHT	K	2.15	22.5 ± 3.4	7.6 ± 2.0	14.9 ± 2.7
IRAC	$3.6 \,\mu m$	3.56	48.5 ± 5.8	22.2 ± 5.0	26.4 ± 2.8
IRAC	$4.5 \,\mu m$	4.51	64.1 ± 5.9	29.4 ± 5.0	34.7 ± 2.9
IRAC	$5.8 \,\mu m$	5.76	111.9 ± 12.0	51.5 ± 6.8	60.4 ± 9.6
IRAC	$8.0 \,\mu m$	7.96	86.9 ± 12.7	41.1 ± 6.7	45.8 ± 10.6
MIPS	$24 \mu m$	23.67	2280 ± 100		
PACS	$70 \mu m$	72.35	7970 ± 3890		
PACS	$100 \mu m$	107.42	31700 ± 3000		.
PACS	$160 \,\mu m$	166.15	102100 ± 6000		
SPIRE	$250 \,\mathrm{\mu m}$	250.94	180300 ± 14300	.	.
SPIRE	$350 \,\mu m$	354.27	192100 ± 15500		
SPIRE	$500 \,\mu m$	509.47	131600 ± 11300		
SMA	$880 \,\mu m$	876.50	27000 ± 3000	9300 ± 1200	8300 ± 1100
MAMBO	$1.2 \,\mathrm{mm}$	1200.00	11200 ± 1900	.	.
PdBI	2.1 mm	2141.31	1220 ± 240		
VLA	1.4 GHz	2.1×10^{5}	< 420	< 420	< 420

Table S3 – Photometry of HXMM01.