

# Chemistry in normal and active galaxies

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**Abstract.** I will discuss recent results on the chemistry and physical conditions of the nuclear and extended molecular interstellar medium in starburst galaxies and active galactic nuclei (AGNs). Chemistry of the molecular ISM can be used to distinguish between AGN and starburst-driven nuclei - and is a potentially useful tool to help track starburst evolution. This is of particular importance to deeply enshrouded ultraluminous galaxies, where heavy extinction makes optical age-dating methods difficult to apply.

**Keywords.** astrochemistry - galaxies: ISM - galaxies: starburst - galaxies: active - radio lines: galaxies

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