

# Radio jets clearing the way through galaxies: the view from H<sub>I</sub> and molecular gas

Raffaella Morganti<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ASTRON, the Netherlands Institute for Radio Astronomy, Postbus 2, 7990 AA,  
Dwingeloo, The Netherlands

<sup>2</sup>Kapteyn Astronomical Institute, University of Groningen, Postbus 800,  
9700 AV Groningen, The Netherlands  
email: [morganti@astron.nl](mailto:morganti@astron.nl)

**Abstract.** Massive gas outflows are considered a key component in the process of galaxy formation and evolution. Because of this, they are the topic of many studies aimed at learning more about their occurrence, location and physical conditions as well as the mechanism(s) at their origin. This contribution presents recent results on two of the best examples of jet-driven outflows traced by cold and molecular gas. Thanks to high-spatial resolution observations, we have been able to locate the region where the outflow occurs. This appears to be coincident with bright radio features and regions where the interaction between radio plasma jet and ISM is known to occur, thus strongly supporting the idea of jet-driven outflows. We have also imaged the distribution of the outflowing gas. The results clearly show the effect that expanding radio jets and lobes have on the ISM. This appears to be in good agreement with what predicted from numerical simulations. Furthermore, the results show that cold gas is associated with these powerful phenomena and can be formed - likely via efficient cooling - even after a strong interaction and fast shocks. The discovery of similar fast outflows of cold gas in weak radio sources is further increasing the relevance that the effect of the radio plasma can have on the surrounding medium and on the host galaxy.

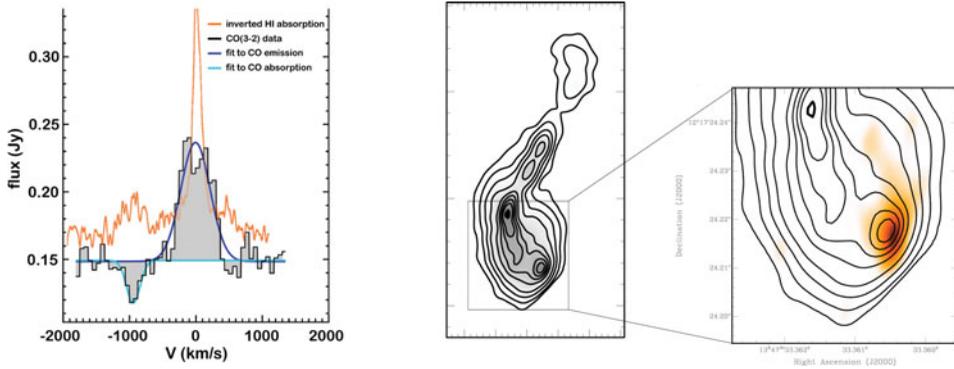
**Keywords.** galaxies: active, galaxies: individual (4C12.50, IC 5063), ISM: jets and outflow, radio lines: galaxies

---

## 1. Introduction

The impact of the energy released by an active nucleus (AGN) with the surrounding interstellar medium (ISM) and the consequent production of gas outflows has been known for a long time (e.g., Heckman *et al.* 1981; Whittle 1985, 1992; Gelderman & Whittle 1994). The large energetics connected to these phenomena initially suggested that gaseous outflow would be traced more naturally by ionized (hot or warm) gas. Indeed, a number of studies have shown that such outflows, observed both in X-ray (Reeves *et al.* 2009; Tombesi *et al.* 2012, 2014; Fabian 2013) as well as in optical (Nesvadba *et al.* 2006, 2007, 2008; Alexander *et al.* 2010; Rosario *et al.* 2010; Mullaney *et al.* 2013; Harrison *et al.* 2012, 2014; Holt *et al.* 2009, 2011), are common in AGN.

However, the discovery that fast and massive outflows can also be traced by cold gas (H<sub>I</sub> and CO, see e.g. Morganti *et al.* 2005a,b; Kanekar & Chengalur 2008; Feruglio *et al.* 2010; Dasyra & Combes 2011, 2012; Morganti *et al.* 2013a,b; Cicone *et al.* 2014; García-Burillo *et al.* 2014) has challenged our ideas of how exactly the energy released by an AGN may interact with its surroundings. One of the reasons why outflows have attracted a lot of attention is that they could play an important role in regulating the growth of the super-massive black holes and/or the quenching of star formation in early-type galaxies. Thus, in order to understand if this is the case, we need to have a better insight on



**Figure 1.** Left: the integrated HI absorption profile is shown superimposed on the CO profile (taken from Dasyra & Combes (2012) with the HI from Morganti *et al.* (2005a) inverted for comparison). Middle: radio continuum image of 4C 12.50. Right: zoom-in of the southern lobe of 4C12.50 (contours) with the distribution of the HI detected in absorption indicated in color.

the complexity of these structures, build a more complete and realistic view of feedback effects and provide better constraints to theoretical models (see e.g. Fabian 2013, Combes 2014 for reviews).

Different mechanisms have been proposed to accelerate the gas. Although radiation pressure launching (wide) winds from the accretion disk interacting and shocking the surrounding medium (Zubovas & King, 2012, 2014; Zubovas & Nayakshin 2014, Costa *et al.* 2014, Faucher-Giguère & Quataert 2012) is often favorite (Cicone *et al.* 2014), the role of the radio plasma has also gained interest. This mechanism can be particularly relevant in early-type galaxies where up to  $\sim 30\%$  of the high mass galaxies are radio-loud (Best *et al.* 2005) and the radio-loud phase is known to be recurrent. Actually, the high efficiency in the coupling between the radio plasma and the surrounding ISM/IGM and the mechanical power of the radio jets exceeding the synchrotron power (McNamara *et al.* 2012, Bîrzan *et al.* 2008, Cavagnolo *et al.* 2010), suggest that this mechanism can be relevant also for relatively weak radio sources. Indeed, a few cases are already known (see e.g. NGC 1266 Alatalo *et al.* 2011, Nyland *et al.* 2013 and NGC 1433 Combes *et al.* 2013). The role of radio jets has been also emphasized by the results from numerical simulations (Wagner & Bicknell 2011, Wagner, Bicknell, Umemura, 2012; G. Bicknell These Proceedings).

While one mechanism does not exclude the other, it is important to have an overview of the impact that each of them (radiation pressure and mechanical energy from plasma jets) has on the surrounding ISM.

Expanding the number of known outflows of HI and molecular gas in order to provide a larger statistics is the focus of various studies. Observations of molecular outflows in Ultra Luminous IR Galaxies (combined with known cases of molecular outflows) have been presented by Cicone *et al.* (2014) showing relations between outflow rates and AGN properties. In the case of the atomic neutral hydrogen, their occurrence has started to be addressed by a shallow survey (e.g. Geréb *et al.* 2014a,b) that suggests that HI outflows could last only for a fraction of the life of the radio source, i.e. a few Myr up to  $10^7$ . Thus, they appear to be a temporary phenomena that can, however, be recurrent.

However, the other important direction where progresses need to be made is to spatially resolve the outflows and trace their distribution and the physical properties of the gas.

Here we summarize the results recently obtained for two interesting radio sources: the young radio galaxy 4C 12.50 and the Seyfert 2 IC 5063. These objects represent two of

the most convincing cases of jet-driven outflows traced by HI and molecular gas, thus showing that these phases of the gas can co-exist with energetic processes and shocks. Interestingly, the two sources cover a very broad range of radio power: while 4C 12.50 is a powerful radio source with  $P_{1.4} \sim 10^{26} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ , IC 5063 is a radio-loud Seyfert galaxy with  $P_{1.4} \sim 3 \times 10^{23} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ . The latter is comparable with NGC 1068 but located at the lower edge of the power distribution for radio galaxies. The jet powers of these two objects are, however, not too different and similar to other radio galaxies showing HI outflows (see Guillard *et al.* 2012 for details).

The goal of the work on these objects is to locate the outflows, derive their characteristics and the physical conditions of the gas in order to understand the impact that radio plasma jets can have. For a third object, 3C 293, the study of the HI and ionized gas is presented in Mahony *et al.* (2013) and These Proceedings.

## 2. Two cases of jet-driven fast outflows of HI and molecular gas

### 2.1. The young, far-IR bright 4C 12.50

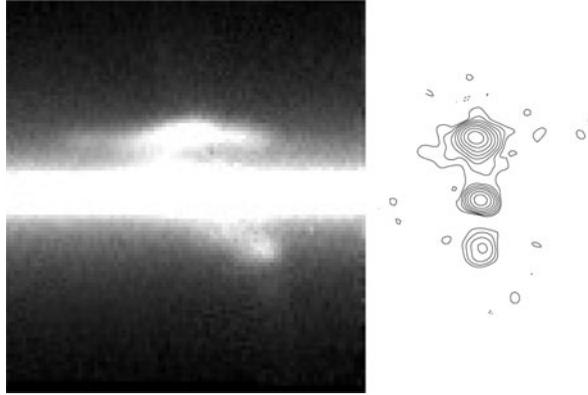
The young radio galaxy 4C 12.50 (PKS 1345+12) is a prime target for AGN feedback studies as it contains all of the signatures of a recently triggered powerful AGN currently shredding its natal cocoon. Holt *et al.* (2003, 2011) have studied in detail the kinematics of the ionized gas. At the position of the nucleus they observe complex emission line profiles and Gaussian fits to the [OIII] emission lines required three components (narrow, intermediate and broad), the broadest of which has width  $\sim 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (FWHM) and is blueshifted by  $\sim 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  with respect to the halo of the galaxy. In HI, a broad and mostly blueshifted absorption structure was detected by Morganti *et al.* (2005a). Interestingly, a very similar profile (shown in Fig. 1, left) was observed for the molecular gas [CO(1-0) and (3-2)] by Dasyra & Combes (2012). Thus, these gaseous components have been interpreted as being part of the same fast outflow of cold gas.

The signature of what is at the origin of such fast outflows was found by tracing the HI outflowing gas down to the pc scale using global VLBI observations (Morganti *et al.* 2013). Fig. 1 (right) shows the location of the blueshifted absorption as traced by the VLBI data. Blueshifted ( $\sim 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ) HI absorption was detected from two components: a compact ( $< 10 \text{ pc}$ ) cloud located at the end of the southern radio jet - about 100 pc from the core - and a diffuse trail of HI observed against and around the southern radio lobe. The unresolved cloud was estimated to have a column density of  $N_{\text{HI}} = 4.6 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (assuming the temperature  $T_{\text{spin}} = 100 \text{ K}$ , thus representing a lower limit). The derived mass of the cloud is  $M_{\text{HI}} = 600 M_{\odot}$ , reaching up to  $M_{\text{HI}} = 1.6 \times 10^4 M_{\odot}$  if the extended part is included. The average densities derived for the compact clouds range between  $150 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  and  $300 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ .

### 2.2. The molecular outflow in the radio-loud Seyfert galaxy IC 5063

The Seyfert 2 galaxy IC 5063 has a lower radio power ( $P_{1.4} = 3 \times 10^{23} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ ) than 4C 12.50. However, like 4C 12.50, it shows prominent outflows of different phases of the gas, from HI to ionized gas, and they have been presented and discussed in Morganti *et al.* (2007 and references therein). These components of the outflows have been identified associated with the brighter radio lobe, about 0.5 kpc from the nucleus. In the case of the HI, this was done with single-baseline VLBI observation (Oosterloo *et al.* 2000) and, therefore, the distribution of the gas could not be imaged as in the case of 4C 12.50.

The conditions of the molecular gas in IC 5063 have been first explored in CO(2-1) using APEX. From these observations, an outflow of  $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$  has been reported by Morganti *et al.* (2013b). However, the low spatial resolution of these observations did



**Figure 2.** Left:  $\text{H}_2$  2.2  $\mu\text{m}$  ISAAC spectrum taken along the radio axis of IC 5063 (Tadhunter *et al.* 2014) Right: radio image of IC 5063 obtained from the ATCA (Morganti *et al.* 2007). The co-spatial location of the broad (FWZI  $\sim 1200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ )  $\text{H}_2$  line and the bright radio lobe ( $\sim 0.5$  kpc from the radio core) is evident.

not allow to trace the location of the outflowing gas. The outflow of warm molecular gas has been further explored with observations of the  $\text{H}_2$  1-0 S(1) at 2.128  $\mu\text{m}$  line using ISAAC at the VLT. Tadhunter *et al.* (2014) reported the identification of the location of the outflow, corresponding to the brighter radio lobe (see Fig. 2) about 0.5 kpc from the nucleus. This confirmed, for the first time, the possibility of having jet-driven molecular outflows. The molecular gas shows a broad, complex profile of the  $\text{H}_2$  emission line with a full width at zero intensity of FWZI  $\sim 1200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . At the location of the brighter radio lobe, the profile is clearly broader than that of the nucleus or of the eastern radio lobe (see Fig. 2). A temperature of  $\sim 1900 \text{ K}$  and a molecular hydrogen mass of  $M_{\text{H}_2} \sim 8 \times 10^2 M_\odot$  for the western outflow region were derived (see Tadhunter *et al.* 2014 for details).

However, even more spectacular appears to be the distribution and kinematics of cold molecular gas traced by CO(2-1) when observed at the high spatial resolution and sensitivity of ALMA (Morganti *et al.* in prep). The observations, using the most extended configuration ( $\sim 0.5$  arcsec resolution), have allow to resolve the distribution of the molecular gas and locate the outflowing gas by separating it from the regularly rotating component. The observations confirm that the gas with the highest outflowing velocity is located co-spatial with the bright radio lobe. However, there is more to it. Molecular gas with disturbed kinematics is present at all locations along the radio emission (Morganti *et al.* in prep). At these locations the gas shows blueshifted and redshifted velocities compared to the regularly rotating component (likely the inner counterpart of the large scale HI disk observed in this galaxy, Oosterloo *et al.* 2000). Interestingly, the mass of the disturbed/outflowing component is a few  $\times 10^7 M_\odot$ , thus much larger than the component of warm molecular gas and also larger than the HI component.

### 3. Origin of the HI and molecular outflows

In both cases, the extreme kinematics, together with the location of the outflowing gas, suggest that we are witnessing gas being expelled from the galaxy as a result of the interaction between the radio jet and dense cloud(s) in the ISM. The energetics of the radio jets in these sources appear to be able to support these outflows, with jet powers more than one order of magnitude larger than the kinetic power of the outflow.

The scenario that appears to explain better our observations is the one in which the relativistic jets are expanding through the clumpy interstellar medium, driving fast shocks into dense molecular clouds embedded in a lower-density medium as suggested in the model of Wagner *et al.* 2011, 2012. Most of the interaction is happening via the large cocoon of disturbed and outflowing gas created around the jet by the interaction of the radio plasma. This cocoon is affecting a large region of the galaxy (see simulations by Wagner *et al.* 2011, 2012). Direct interaction between the jet and the ISM may occur in some limited regions, e.g. where the jet encounters large, compact clouds (see e.g. the case of 4C 12.50). A further support to this scenario is the similarity of the density of the HI clouds detected in 4C 12.50 and those of the clouds in the numerical simulations (Wagner *et al.* 2011, 2012). This scenario, together with the larger amount (compared to the other phases of the gas) of cold molecular gas found in the case of IC 5063, supports the possibility of the atomic and molecular phases being the result of the cooling process of the gas after being warmed up (and possibly ionized) by the passage of a fast shock.

#### 4. Final considerations

The results presented emphasize the effects - in some cases surprising - that the interaction between the radio plasma can have on the surrounding ISM. In the two objects presented, 4C 12.50 and IC 5063, the location and the physical conditions of the outflowing gas have been derived.

They show that:

- outflows of HI, molecular and ionized gas co-exist, thus showing that outflows are *truly multiphase*;
- the location of the faster outflows is off-nucleus and co-spatial with bright radio features. However, disturbed outflowing gas is present also along fainter regions of the radio jets/lobes;
- the most likely scenario describing the observations is a *jet expanding in a clumpy medium*. A combination of two mechanisms can be responsible for the outflows: lateral expansion of the gas pushed by the jet's cocoon and, limited to the brighter radio regions, direct jet/ISM interaction;
- the gas must be efficiently cooling after the shock produced by the jet. The cold molecular phase will be the final product of this process, while the warm molecular and HI are the intermediate (and less massive) phases.

The two objects presented here have quite different radio luminosity, with IC 5063 at the lower end of the distribution of radio power for radio galaxies. The discovery of other cases (see e.g., NGC 1266, Alatalo *et al.* 2011, Nyland *et al.* 2013 and NGC 1433, Combes *et al.* 2013), where a weak radio source seems to be the only realistic source of energy for driving a fast outflows of cold gas, further increases the relevance of such mechanism and the importance of studying the occurrence and characteristics.

#### Acknowledgements

The results presented here would not have been obtained without the help of my collaborators. In particular I would like to thank Clive Tadhunter, Tom Oosterloo, Zsolt Paragi, Raymond Oonk, Elizabeth Mahony and Wilfred Frieswijk. RM gratefully acknowledge support from the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP/2007-2013) /ERC Advanced Grant RADIOLIFE-320745.

## References

- Alatalo, K., Blitz, L., Young, L. M., *et al.* 2011, *ApJ*, 735, 88
- Alexander, D. M., Swinbank, A. M., Smail, I., *et al.* 2010, *MNRAS*, 402, 2211
- Best, P. N., Kauffmann, G., Heckman, T. M., Brinchmann, J., *et al.* 2005, *MNRAS*, 362, 25
- Birzan, L., McNamara, B. R., Nulsen, P. E. J., *et al.* 2008, *ApJ*, 686, 859
- Cavagnolo, K. W., McNamara, B. R., Nulsen, P. E. J., *et al.* 2010, *ApJ*, 720, 1066
- Cicone, C., Maiolino, R., Sturm, E., *et al.* 2014, *A&A*, 562, A21
- Combes, F., 2014, *Proceedings of IAU Symp-309*, ed. B. L. Ziegler *et al.*, arXiv:1408.1591
- Combes, F., *et al.*, 2013, *A&A*, 558, A124
- Costa, T., Sijacki, D., & Haehnelt, M. G., 2014, *MNRAS*, 444, 2355
- Dasyra, K. M. & Combes, F., 2011, *A&A*, 533, L10
- Dasyra, K. M. & Combes, F. 2012 *A&A* 541, L7
- Fabian, A. 2013, *ARAA*, 50, 455
- Faucher-Giguère, C.-A. & Quataert, E., 2012, *MNRAS*, 425, 605
- Feruglio, C., Maiolino, R., Piconcelli, E., *et al.* 2010, *A&A*, 518, L155
- García-Burillo, S., *et al.*, 2014, *A&A*, 567, 125
- Gelderman, R. & Whittle, M., 1994, *ApJS*, 91, 491
- Geréb, K., Morganti, R., & Oosterloo, T. A., 2014a, *A&A*, 569, AA35
- Geréb, K., Maccagni, F., Morganti, R., Oosterloo, T. *et al.* 2014b, *A&A*, in press, arXiv:1411.0361
- Guillard, P., *et al.*, 2012, *ApJ*, 747, 95
- Harrison, C. M., *et al.*, 2012, *MNRAS*, 426, 1073
- Harrison, C. M., Alexander, D. M., Mullaney, J. R., & Swinbank, A. M., 2014, *MNRAS*, 441, 3306
- Heckman, T. M., Miley, G. K., van Breugel, W. J. M., & Butcher, H. R., 1981, *ApJ*, 247, 403
- Holt, J., Tadhunter, C. N., Morganti, R., & Emonts, B. H. C., 2011, *MNRAS*, 410, 1527
- Holt, J., Tadhunter, C. N., & Morganti, R., 2009, *MNRAS*, 400, 589
- Holt, J., Tadhunter, C. N., & Morganti, R., 2003, *MNRAS*, 342, 227
- Kanekar, N. & Chengalur, J. N. 2008, *MNRAS*, 384, L6
- Mahony, E., Morganti, R., Emonts, B., Oosterloo, T., & Tadhunter, C., 2013, *MNRAS*, 435, L58
- McNamara, B. R. & Nulsen, P. E. J., 2012, *NJPh*, 14, 055023
- Morganti, R., Fogasy, J., Paragi, Z., Oosterloo, T., & Orienti, M. 2013a, *Science* 341, 1082
- Morganti, R., Frieswijk, W., Oonk, R., Oosterloo, T., & Tadhunter, C. 2013b, *A&A* 552, L4
- Morganti, R., Tadhunter, C. N., & Oosterloo, T. A. 2005a *A&A*, 444, L9
- Morganti, R., *et al.* 2005b, *A&A*, 439, 521
- Morganti, R., Holt, J., Saripalli, L., Oosterloo, T. A., & Tadhunter, C. N., 2007, *A&A*, 476, 735
- Mullaney, J. R., Alexander, D. M., Fine, S., Goulding, A. D. *et al.*, 2013, *MNRAS*, 433, 622
- Nesvadba, N. P. H., Lehnert, M. D., De Breuck, C. *et al.*, *A&A*, 491, 407
- Nesvadba, N. P. H., Lehnert, M. D., De Breuck, C. *et al.*, 2007, *A&A*, 475, 145
- Nesvadba, N. P. H., Lehnert, M. D., Eisenhauer, F., Gilbert, A. *et al.*, 2006, *ApJ*, 650, 693
- Nyland, K., *et al.*, 2013, *ApJ*, 779, 173
- Oosterloo, T., Morganti, R., Tzioumis, A., Reynolds, J., King, E. *et al.*, 2000, *AJ*, 119, 2085
- Reeves, J. N., *et al.* 2009, *ApJ*, 701, 493
- Rosario, D. J., Shields, G. A., Taylor, G. B., Salviander, S., & Smith, K. L., 2010, *ApJ*, 716, 131
- Tadhunter, C., Morganti, R., Rose, M., Oonk, J. B. R., & Oosterloo, T., 2014, *Nature*, 511, 440
- Tombesi, F., Tazaki, F., Mushotzky, R. F., Ueda, Y., Cappi, M., *et al.* 2014, *MNRAS*, 443, 2154
- Tombesi, F., Cappi, M., Reeves, J. N., & Braito, V., 2012, *MNRAS*, 422, L1
- Wagner, A. Y., Bicknell, G. V., & Umemura, M., 2012, *ApJ*, 757, 136
- Wagner, A. Y. & Bicknell, G. V., 2011, *ApJ*, 728, 29
- Whittle, M., 1985, *MNRAS*, 213, 1
- Whittle, M., 1992, *ApJ*, 387, 109
- Zubovas, K. & Nayakshin, S., 2014, *MNRAS*, 440, 2625
- Zubovas, K. & King, A., 2014, *MNRAS*, 439, 400
- Zubovas, K. & King, A., 2012, *ApJ*, 745, L34