Powerful AGN jets and unbalanced cooling in the hot atmosphere of IC 4296

R. Grossová, N. Werner, K. Rajpurohit, F. Mernier, K. Lakhchaura, K. Gabányi, R. E. A. Canning, P. Nulsen, F. Massaro, M. Sun, T. Connor, A. King, S. W. Allen, R. Lyn-Salmon Frisbie, M. Donahue, A. C. Fabian

1 Department of Theoretical Physics and Astrophysics, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Kotlářská 2, Brno, 611 37, Czech Republic
2 Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Torino, via Pietro Giuria 1, I-10125 Torino, Italy
3 MTA-Eötvös University Lendület Hot Universe Research Group, Pázmány Péter sétány 1/A, Budapest, 1117, Hungary
4 School of Science, Hiroshima University, 1-3-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima 739-8526, Japan
5 Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Via Gobetti 93/2, 40131, Bologna, Italy
6 SRON Netherlands Institute for Space Research, Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht, The Netherlands
7 Institute of Physics, Eötvös University, Pázmány Péter sétány 1/A, Budapest, 1117, Hungary
8 Konkoly Observatory, MTA Research Center for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Konkoly Thege Miklós út 15-17, H-1121 Budapest, Hungary
9 Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, Stanford University, 452Lookout Mall, Stanford, CA 94305-4085, USA
10 Harvard Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
11 The Observatories of the Carnegie Institution for Science, 815 Santa Barbara Street, Pasadena, CA 91101, USA
12 Physics & Astronomy Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-2320, USA
13 Institute of Astronomy, University of Cambridge, Madingley Road, Cambridge CB3 0HA

ABSTRACT

We present new Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA, 1–2 GHz) radio data of the giant elliptical galaxy IC 4296, supported by archival radio, X-ray (Chandra, XMM-Newton) and optical (SOAR, HST) observations. The galaxy hosts powerful radio jets piercing through the inner hot X-ray emitting atmosphere, depositing most of the energy into the ambient intra-cluster medium (ICM). Whereas the radio surface brightness of the A configuration image is consistent with a Fanaroff-Riley Class I (FR I) system, the D configuration image reveals two large (∼ 160 kpc diameter), well-defined lobes (one of which is associated with an X-ray cavity) at a projected distance \( r \gtrsim 230 \) kpc. The total enthalpy of the radio lobes is \( \sim 7 \times 10^{59} \) erg and the mechanical power output of the jets is \( \sim 10^{44} \) erg s\(^{-1}\). The jets are mildly curved, possibly re-brightened by the relative motion of the galaxy and the ICM, and terminate with sharp edges, suggesting the presence of bow shocks, which would classify this as a transitional state of a supersonic FR I radio source. The central entropy and cooling time of the X-ray gas are unusually low, the cooling rate is consistent with \( \dot{M} \sim 5 M_\odot \) yr\(^{-1}\), and the nucleus hosts a warm \( \text{H} \alpha + [\text{N} \text{II}] \) nebula and a cold molecular CO disk. Because most of the energy of the jets is deposited far from the nucleus, the atmosphere of the galaxy continues to cool, apparently feeding the central supermassive black hole and powering the jet activity.

Key words: galaxies: active – galaxies: ISM – X-rays: galaxies.

1 INTRODUCTION

The oldest, largest known galactic structures in the Universe are giant elliptical galaxies. These systems are evolving contrary to the standard hierarchical galaxy formation scenario (Thomas et al. 2002). Observations and theoretical models...
indicate that they formed around 0.2–1 billion years after the Big Bang, went through a fast star-forming phase, and afterward grew only by dry mergers (Thomas et al. 2010; Onodera et al. 2015).

Initially, the evolution of giant ellipticals is dominated by dark matter, which clumps into halos via gravity. When the mass of a halo reaches \( \sim 10^{12} M_\odot \) (Correa et al. 2018), the inflowing gas passes through accretion shocks, and its temperature increases to several million Kelvin, forming an X-ray emitting atmosphere (further replenished by stellar mass loss; Pelegrini et al. 2018) and quenching star-formation (Cattaneo et al. 2009). These galaxies will continue to grow passively by interactions and dry mergers with other galaxies (Cattaneo et al. 2009). On the other hand, the sub-Eddington accretion rate of the gas onto the central supermassive black hole enables the so-called radio-mechanical (or radio mode) active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback, thereby producing jets and lobes of relativistic plasma, visible in the radio band, which are able to propagate well outside their galaxy hosts.

Radio wavelength studies of giant elliptical galaxies are important for answering outstanding questions about the heating and cooling of their X-ray emitting atmospheres and about the physics of their AGNs (Brighenti & Mathews 2006). In clusters of galaxies, there is strong observational evidence for radio-mode AGN feedback balancing the cooling of the intra-cluster medium (ICM; e.g. Churazov et al. 2000; Fabian et al. 2003; Birzan et al. 2004; Rafferty et al. 2006; Brüggen & Kaiser 2002) and preventing cooling flows and dramatic star formation (see Fabian 1994). At smaller scales, it is believed that radio-mechanical feedback also plays a critically important role in preventing atmospheric cooling in massive galaxies (Werner et al. 2019).

In the case of giant ellipticals, however, the so-called “cooling flow problem” is more severe, because of the shorter cooling time and the larger amount of gas returned by the stellar populations over the lifetime of the galaxy (Cattaneo et al. 2009) place stronger demands on the AGN feedback as a source of heat balancing the radiative cooling. In some cases, the high-velocity radio jets are able to drill through the hot galactic atmospheres without significantly affecting the host galaxy, which may lead to unbalanced cooling in the innermost part of the galaxy (Sun et al. 2005b). Comprehensive studies of such systems are essential for our understanding of the role of AGN feedback in galaxies, galaxy groups, and galaxy clusters.

In this respect, a source of high interest is the giant elliptical galaxy IC 4296 in the central region of the galaxy cluster Abell 3565. Its radio counterpart, PKS 1333-33, has attracted the attention of astronomers for at least the past 30 years. Historically, the first comprehensive studies were published by Killeen et al. (1986b) and Killeen & Bicknell (1988) using data from Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA) at 1.3, 2, 6, and 20 cm. In parallel, Killeen et al. (1986a) analysed X-ray data of the system from the imaging proportional counter (IPC) onboard the *Einstein* observatory. In addition to a prominent structure of jets extending over 35 arcmin, the authors reported a barely resolved diffuse X-ray source coinciding with the position of the galaxy.

In this paper, we present new radio data of IC 4296 obtained by the the VLA in the A and D configurations at 1–2 GHz and compare them with archival observations available at lower frequencies in the TIFR GMRT Sky Survey\(^1\) (TGSS) and in the GaLactic and Extragalactic All-sky Murchison Widefield Array\(^2\) (GLEAM).

While our study mainly focuses on these new, deep radio observations, our goal is to study this system in a comprehensive way. Therefore, we also analyse archival X-ray data from the *Chandra* and *XMM-Newton* observatories, as well as narrow-band Hα+[Nii] images from the 4.1 meter Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) telescope and optical data from the Hubble Space Telescope (*HST*), which allow us to study the development of the interaction between the jet/lobes and the surrounding hot and cold thermal gas phases.

Our paper is organized as follows: Section 2 includes the observational details and data reduction methods. Our results are presented and described in Section 3. A thorough discussion in Section 4 is addressing the most important outcomes of our analysis connecting all these multi-wavelength observations, with a particular emphasis on the relation between the radio and X-ray bands. Finally, our conclusions and remarks are summarized in Section 5.

Throughout this paper, we used the following cosmology parameters: \( H_0 = 69.6 \text{km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1} \) (Bennett et al. 2014), \( \Omega_M = 0.286 \) and \( \Omega_\Lambda = 0.714 \). At the redshift of 0.0125 the distance of IC 4296 is 49 Mpc (Mei et al. 2000), estimated using the surface brightness fluctuation method, with the corresponding scale of 0.256 kpc/arcsec. The spectral index \( \alpha \) of the synchrotron radiation as a function of the flux density \( S_\nu \) at the frequency \( \nu \) is defined as \( S_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha \). The elemental abundances are expressed with respect to the proto-solar values from Lodders et al. (2009).

## 2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Radio observations and analysis

IC 4296 was observed on the 11th of July 2015 by the Karl G. Jansky VLA in high-resolution A configuration (project code: 15A-305; PI: Werner) and on the 26th of October 2018 (project code: 18A-317, PI: Grossova) in compact VLA D configuration. The L-band receiver covering the frequency range spanning from 1 to 2 GHz is divided into sixteen spectral windows with 64 channels per spectral window and the channel width of 1000 kHz. The one-hour long observations use the standard VLA flux density calibrator 3C286, and consists of 8 five-minute observations of the target in cycles with a nearby compact source J1316-3338 used as amplitude and phase calibrator.

The VLA data were reduced and imaged using the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) pipeline Common Astronomy Software Applications (CASA) (McMullin et al. 2007), v4.7.2. and v5.0.0. for A and D configuration data, respectively.

A careful approach was used to flag the Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) signal. Especially in the L-band (between 1–2 GHz), the RFI may play a significant role. To avoid RFI, first, we used the auto-flagging algorithm *tcrop* in CASA to identify the outliers in the time-frequency plane.

---

1. Available at [https://vo.astron.nl/tgssadr/q_fitselectorims/form](https://vo.astron.nl/tgssadr/q_fitselectorims/form)
2. Available at [http://gleam – vo.icrar.org/gleam_postage/q/form](http://gleam – vo.icrar.org/gleam_postage/q/form)
followed by Offringa’s RFI software A0Flagger (Offringa et al. 2012). The combination of the two strategies flagged in total 46% of the data, with spectral windows 2, 3, 8 and 9 almost entirely flagged for the A configuration data. In case of the D configuration data set, more than half of the spectral windows had to be flagged.

Afterwards, we used a model for the flux calibrator 3C 286 provided by the CASA package to set up the flux density scale determined by Perley & Butler (2013). The initial gain calibration was performed for central channels on both calibrators to average over the small variations of phase with time in the bandpass. Next, we performed the bandpass calibration. The relative delays of each antenna in comparison with reference antenna were derived and complex bandpass solutions were calculated to include variations in gain with frequency. The next step determined complex gains for both calibrators. Finally, the derived calibration solutions were applied to the target.

The deconvolution and imaging were performed by the CASA clean algorithm in the multi-frequency synthesis mode. We produced images over a wide range of resolutions and with different uv-tapers and weighting schemes to emphasize the radio emission on various spatial scales. A second order Taylor polynomial (nterms=2; McMullin et al. 2007) was used, to take into account the spectral behavior of bright sources. To refine the calibration for the target, we performed two cycles of phase and one cycle of amplitude and phase calibration.

We also constructed a spectral index map the VLA D configuration image at 1.5 GHz and a GLEAM radio image at 158 MHz. To create a reliable spectral index map it is essential to compare the images using the same resolution and the same pixel size. First, we deconvolved the two-dimensional VLA calibrated data using the uvtaper option within the CASA clean algorithm to create a total flux intensity image to approach the resolution of the GLEAM image. Then, we smoothed the image with the exact GLEAM restoring beam size$^3$ using the CASA task immath to match the resolution completely. Secondly, the GLEAM image was regridded to gain the same pixel size as the VLA D configuration image. In the CASA immath task, we defined an expression to calculate flux densities, spectral indices and their errors adapted from Rajpurohit et al. (2018) with flux density uncertainties of 4% for the VLA data (Perley & Butler 2013) and 8% for the GLEAM data (Hurley-Walker et al. 2017).

### 2.2 Archival X-ray observations

#### 2.2.1 Archival Chandra observations and analysis

IC 4296 was observed by the Chandra Advanced CCD Imaging Spectrometer in the S-array (ACIS-S) on the 10th of September 2001 (Obs. ID: 2021) and the 15th of December 2001 (Obs. ID: 3394) with a total clean exposure time of 48 ks. The data reduction and analysis are described in detail in Lakhehaura et al. (2018).

#### 2.2.2 Archival XMM-Newton observations and analysis

In addition to Chandra, we also used an archival XMM-Newton observation (Obs. ID: 0672870101) of IC 4296, which was performed on the 11th of July 2011. We took advantage of both the EPIC (MOS 1, MOS 2, and pn) and RGS (RGS 1 and RGS 2) instruments to fully investigate this system.

The entire EPIC data reduction procedure and EPIC imaging extraction were done using the XMM Science Analysis System (SAS) software v17.0.0. and were adopted from Mernier et al. (2015), to which we refer the reader for further details. After filtering the EPIC data from flaring events, the cleaned exposures are 46 ks, 47 ks, and 44 ks for MOS 1, MOS 2, and pn, respectively.

The EPIC spectral analysis that is performed in Sect. 3.2 follows the general prescription detailed in Mernier et al. (2015). We used the spectral fitting package SPEX v3.04 (Kaastra et al. 1996; Kaastra et al. 2017) to analyse the obtained EPIC spectra. Since the signal-to-noise in the extracted EPIC regions is much weaker than in the central regions analysed with Chandra ACIS-S (Sect. 3.2), a careful modelling of the background is necessary here. This modelling, taking into account the Galactic thermal emission, the local hot bubble, the unresolved point sources (or cosmic X-ray background), the quiescent particle background, and the residual soft-proton background is also fully described in Mernier et al. (2015), and references therein. Finally, we modelled the X-ray emission of IC 4296 with a redshifted and absorbed cie model, in which the abundances are fixed to 0.3 proto-solar (Urban et al. 2017). The MOS 1, MOS 2, and pn spectra were fitted simultaneously and the spectra were deprojected using the ddsproj tool (Russell et al. 2008). The free parameters are thus the temperature ($kT$) and the SPEX normalisation.

The RGS data reduction was performed using the SAS task rgsproc, which also takes care of filtering the data from flared events and of estimating the background from the RGS CCD 9 (where no source counts are expected). The first order RGS 1 and RGS 2 raw spectra, extracted within 0.8 arcmin (i.e. 90% of the point spread function) in the cross-dispersion direction, are then background-subtracted and combined using the SAS task rgscombine. Compared to EPIC, the RGS spectra are much better suited for investigating the heating-cooling balance in the central X-ray atmosphere of IC 4296 (Sect. 3.2). Therefore, in addition to the cie emission, we model our combined RGS spectrum with a classical “cooling-flow” ($cf$) component. The multiplicative component lpro (calculated from the MOS 1 detector image in the 0.3–2 keV band) is also applied to account for the instrumental broadening of the lines due to the spatial extent of the source. The lower and higher temperature limits of the $cf$ model are respectively fixed to 0.1 keV and tied to the temperature of the cie model. The free parameters are the normalisation of the cie component, the cooling rate of the $cf$ component, and the O, Ne, Mg, Si, and Fe abundances.

### 2.3 Archival optical observations and analysis

Narrow-band Hα+[N II] imaging of IC 4296 was obtained by Sun et al. (in preparation) on the 4.1 m SOAR telescope using the SOAR Optical Imager (SOI). The full description

---

3 The GLEAM restoring beam is $155.57'' \times 143.65''$. 

MNRAS 000, 1–10 (2018)
of these observations is given in the survey paper, but we briefly summarise them here. IC 4296 was observed on the 21th of July 2015 for 1800 s in both on (6649/76) and off (6737/76) band filters. Basic reduction was performed using SOE-specific IRAF scripts based on the {	exttt{mscred}} package.

In addition to the SOAR image, we used archival {	extit{HST}} Imaging with the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) High Resolution Channel (HRC) obtained as part of program GO-9838 (PI: L. Ferrarese) observed on the 7th of August 2004. ACS/HRC images are in the F435W and FR656N filter, which was tuned to a central wavelength of 6644.3; this tuning samples Hα at the redshift of IC 4296. These observations were previously discussed by Dalla Bontà et al. (2009). We did not continuum-subtract the ACS/HRC images, but a strong nuclear source is seen in the FR656N image that is not seen in the corresponding F435W image. As was discussed by Dalla Bontà et al. (2009), there is strong Hα+[NII] emission that extends beyond the central disk.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Radio morphology

The 1–2 GHz VLA A configuration radio image is shown in Fig. 1 (left panel) with a resolution of 3.94″ × 3.26″ and a root-mean-square (RMS) noise of 0.06 mJy/beam. The total intensity image clearly reveals a bright nucleus and extended emission in two jets, with several knots on both sides, terminating in diffuse radio plumes. The two well-collimated and almost symmetric jets emit via synchrotron radiation in the central regions. However, interestingly, the jets show noticeable re-brightening further away from the nucleus at r ∼ 10 kpc, where the radio plumes broaden. Based on our VLA data obtained in A configuration (which is less sensitive to extended structures), the total extent of the radio structure is ∼ 120 kpc with the northwestern jet extending out to r ∼ 70 kpc and the southeastern to r ∼ 50 kpc. The total integrated flux density of the source in A configuration is 3.98 ± 0.40 Jy. IC 4296 shows a gradual decrease in surface brightness from the centre, which is typical of FR I radio galaxies.

The low resolution D configuration image is shown in Fig. 1 (right panel). The image has a resolution of 90.15″ × 23.02″ and the RMS noise level is ∼ 0.2 mJy/beam. The total integrated flux density of IC 4296 in D configuration is 8.30 ± 0.83 Jy. The difference between the extracted integrated flux density values in A and D configurations lies in the fact that the A configuration data with the missing short baselines are not able to recover the highly-peaked signal from the more extended diffuse emission in the jets and lobes. Two well-confined lobes are visible in the D configuration image at a projected distance of ∼ 230 kpc and 290 kpc from the bright nuclear region, in the northwestern and southeastern direction, respectively (Fig. 1; right panel).

Since the plumes and/or lobes in FR I and FR II radio galaxies tend to have steeper radio spectra, we also inspected the archival TGSS radio maps at 153 MHz. These revealed a radio structure comparable to that observed at 1–2 GHz in our VLA A configuration image, but also a weak diffuse lobe-like emission extending far beyond A configuration data. The GLEAM data at 154–162 MHz also confirm the two extended lobe-like structures (Fig. 2).

The spectral index map created using the GLEAM data at 158 MHz and the VLA D configuration data at 1.5 GHz is shown in Fig. 3. As expected, the central regions of the galaxy show a flat spectral index of −0.5 and a steepening is present in the lobes. They both have steep spectra with indices of −0.7 and −1.1, respectively (Fig. 3). The spectral index map appears uniform over the two lobes in agreement with the lack of clear hot spots that would have flatter radio spectra. The uncertainties on the spectral index are of the order of a few percent.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure1.png}
\caption{The VLA total intensity images of IC 4296 at 1–2 GHz. Left panel: The A configuration image shows that the surface brightness of jets decreases as a function of radius, although we also see re-brightening in the radio plumes at ∼ 10 kpc from the nucleus. The restoring beam size is 3.94″ × 3.26″ and is shown in the bottom-right corner. Right panel: The D configuration image revealed well-confined radio lobes extending up to almost 300 kpc from the central regions of IC 4296, previously reported by Killeen et al. (1986b). The restoring beam is 90.15″ × 23.02″ and is shown in the bottom-right corner. The contour levels are at [-1,1,2,4,8,16] × 5 RMS noise, with corresponding RMS noise of 0.06 mJy/beam and of 0.2 mJy/beam for VLA A and D configuration data, respectively.}
\end{figure}
The radio power of $\sim 10^{24}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ at 1.4 GHz$^4$ obtained from CASA total intensity image is comparable to the boundary radio power of the Fanaroff-Riley dichotomy of $\sim 10^{24.5}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ at 1.4 GHz (Owen & Ledlow 1994). With its absolute R-band magnitude of $M_R = -23.33 \pm 0.24$ mag, IC 4296 is placed below the boundary division line of the Ledlow-Owen diagram, where most of the FR I sources are located. We also computed the radio power at 408 MHz extrapolating it with a spectral index of $-0.7$ and comparing this value with the distributions of FR I and FR II radio galaxies. Our sources appear to have $P_{408}$ compatible with the low power tail of FR Is.

3.2 Comparison with the X-ray data

The characteristic radius of the X-ray atmosphere in Fig. 4 (left panel) observed by Chandra ACIS-S (see also Pellegrini et al. 2003) is much smaller than the total extent of the radio jets. The jets emanating from the nuclear region are well-collimated at first and, after piercing through the innermost parts of the hot X-ray emitting atmosphere, they widen significantly ($r \sim 10$ kpc from the nucleus).

Lakhchaura et al. (2018) investigated the radial profiles of the entropy and the cooling time ($t_{\text{cool}}$) over free-fall time ($t_f$) ratio. The cooling time and entropy decrease with decreasing radius down to $< 1$ kpc. The power-law fit of the radial entropy profile reveals a steep slope with an index of $\sim -1.2$. Even below 2 kpc, the slope of the entropy profile remains steep with an index of $\sim -1.0$, and in the innermost radial bin the entropy reaches a value of $K_0 \sim 1.5$ keV cm$^2$ (see the appendix in Lakhchaura et al. 2018). In fact, IC 4296 has the steepest entropy profile of all galaxies in the sample of Lakhchaura et al. (2018), followed by that of NGC 4261 (see Fig. 6). This will be discussed further in Sect. 4.2.

The cooling time in the centre of IC 4296 is $t_{\text{cool}} < 11.2$ Myr. The ratio of the cooling time to free-fall, time $t_{\text{cool}}/t_f$, reaches a value close to 10 in the centre of the galaxy, where the atmosphere most likely continues to cool, feeding the central supermassive black hole and powering the jets.

The archival Chandra X-ray image reveals an excess of X-ray emission in the southwestern part of the structure, in between the arms of the jet, as marked by a red circle in the Chandra X-ray image in Fig. 4 (left panel). The detection significance of such X-ray diffuse emission is above $5\sigma$. Surface brightness profiles derived along this extended X-ray emission do not reveal any sharp edges.

Our XMM-Newton EPIC image extracted in the 0.3–2.0 keV band unveils a cavity with a diameter of $\sim 160$ kpc associated with the northwestern radio lobe (see Fig. 4; right panel). We find a small misalignment between the radio lobe and the X-ray cavity, which could be due to projection effects or, alternatively, the cavity could be aligned with a steeper and older component of the radio lobe, not detectable at 1–2 GHz but visible at lower frequencies.

We extracted and fitted the deprojected spectra from four partial spherical shells in the direction of the northwestern jet (traced by the green sectors in Fig. 4 right). The corresponding radial profile of the electron density ($n_e$) is shown in Fig. 5. We have subtracted the emission contribution of the gas at larger radii (i.e. beyond our field of view), which we estimated by extrapolating a beta model fit to our initial density profile. The temperature and total density (electrons plus ions) of the gas surrounding the cavity (i.e. the last radial bin in Fig. 5) are respectively $kT = 0.95 \pm 0.01$ keV and $n = 9.6 \pm 0.05 \times 10^{-4}$ cm$^{-3}$, which corresponds to a pressure of $n kT = 9.12 \times 10^{-4}$ keV cm$^{-3}$. Assuming the northwestern cavity is spherical with a radius of 80 kpc, the 4pV work performed by the jet to displace the ICM is $\sim 3.7 \times 10^{59}$ erg. Assuming a similar enthalpy for the southeastern cavity, which

---

$^4$ with corresponding flux density $\sim 8 \times 10^{-26}$ W m$^{-2}$ Hz$^{-1}$. 
is outside of the \textit{XMM-Newton} field-of-view, we obtain a total enthalpy of \( \sim 7 \times 10^{49} \text{erg} \).

The combined \textit{XMM-Newton} RGS1+RGS2 spectrum is shown in Fig. 7. Some lines (e.g. Fe XVII at 15Å and 17Å, O VIII at 19Å, rest frame) are clearly identified as they are typical of a cool (\( \lesssim 1 \text{ keV} \)) gas. Our best-fit model provides a temperature of 0.74 \( \pm 0.05 \text{ keV} \) and an Fe abundance of 0.13 \( \pm 0.02 \) for the cie component, as well as a cooling rate of 5.4 \( \pm 1.7 \text{ M}_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} \) for the cf component (see also Sect. 4.2).

3.3 Comparison with the optical data

The narrow band SOAR H\alpha+[N ii] image shown in Fig. 8 (right panel) indicates that the ionized gas is circumnuclear. The SOAR data also provide a hint for entrainment under the northwestern radio plume. Interestingly, recent studies of CO emission of a sample of giant elliptical galaxies by Boizelle et al. (2017) and Ruffa et al. (2019) revealed the presence of a circumnuclear molecular gas disk, which is almost perpendicular to the jet. The \textit{HST} data clearly show a warped, dusty disk with a 0.9\(^{\prime}\) radius (see Fig. 8, left panel).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 The nature of the radio source

Thanks to our new VLA data in D configuration at 1–2 GHz, which have a shorter baseline and a deeper exposure with respect to the previous observations, we confirm the presence of the two lobes previously detected by Killeen et al. (1986b). While the extended emission resembles the radio morphology of FR II radio galaxies, the lobes lack compact hot spots that would have been most likely already detected in the A configuration image. The total extent of the radio structure is \( \sim 500 \text{kpc} \), which is also in agreement with Killeen et al. (1986b). In that sense, IC 4296 can be compared to powerful radio galaxies, because of the compactness of radio lobes relative to their distance from the galaxy core.

From the X-ray analysis, we conclude that it would take \( 1.5 \times 10^{10} \text{yr} \) to inflate the northwestern X-ray cavity with a radius of \( \sim 80 \text{kpc} \) at the sound speed of \( c_s = 516 \text{km s}^{-1} \) for \( kT = 1 \text{keV} \) gas. Assuming this expansion time, we obtain a jet power of \( 1.6 \times 10^{44} \text{erg s}^{-1} \). Another approach is considering the sound-crossing time of the projected distance of the cavity from the centre of the galaxy of \( 2.2 \times 10^8 \text{yr} \), which results in a jet power of \( 10^{44} \text{erg s}^{-1} \).

The radio morphology of the source indicates possible supersonic expansion. In the boundary layer, where the well-defined northwestern radio lobe meets the ambient ICM (Fig. 1, right panel), the surface brightness is increased and the end of the jet forms a lobe with a sharp-edged morphology. According to 3-dimensional hydrodynamic simulations by Massaglia et al. (2016) and Perucho & Martí (2007), this sharp head of the jet is consistent with bow shocks, which are typical indicators of the supersonic expansion relative to the surrounding medium. Inconsistency with the classical low power FR I class radio sources lies in the re-brightenings in the northwestern radio lobe, which classifies IC 4296 as a transitional state of supersonically expanding FR I source. This is in agreement with the study by Killeen & Bicknell (1988).

The radio morphology of IC 4296 shows similarities with the morphology of 3C 348 (Hercules A, often classified as a FR I/II radio source; Siebert et al. 1996; Gizani & Leahy 2003), which is one of the most luminous radio sources with a total power comparable to the Cygnus A galaxy (Gizani et al. 2005). Hercules A also has missing compact hotspots and possesses an unusual morphology dominated by jets and inflated steep spectrum lobes.

The jets, piercing through the galactic atmosphere and depositing their energy into the surrounding intra-cluster medium, are also present in the FR I radio source NGC 4261 (a.k.a. 3C 270; O’Sullivan et al. 2005). Interestingly, we find that the derived enthalpy for the cavities/lobes of IC 4296 is \( \sim 30 \) times larger than for NGC 4261 (O’Sullivan et al. 2011), mainly due to the size of the radio lobes (\( \sim 6 \) times larger in the case of IC 4296). As further discussed in Sect. 4.2, in these two cases the central regions also show steep entropy (see Fig. 6) and cooling time profiles (Werner et al. 2012; Voit et al. 2015b) and a prominent nuclear dusty disk perpendicular to the radio jets (Jaffe et al. 1993; Jaffe & McNamara 1994).

4.2 The unbalanced cooling in IC 4296

The X-ray image overlaid with the radio contours, in Fig. 4, indicates that while in the inner part of the galaxy, at \( r \lesssim 10 \text{kpc} \), the radio jets are well-collimated by the thermal pressure of the hot atmosphere, their width increases at larger radii. Nevertheless, these powerful radio jets pierce through the inner hot X-ray emitting atmosphere of the galaxy and extend to radii over \( r \gtrsim 230 \text{kpc} \), where they deposit their energy into the outer galactic atmosphere and the ambient ICM.

Similarly to NGC 4261, the entropy profile of IC 4296 (Fig. 6) shows a steeper slope than for all the other giant elliptical galaxies analysed by Lakhchaura et al. (2018). In fact, it appears to be decreasing all the way to \( r \approx 1 \text{kpc} \) (see also Panagoulia et al. 2014; Babyk et al. 2018). At \( r < 1 \text{kpc} \), \( t_{\text{cool}}/t_{\text{yr}} \) drops to \( \approx 10 \) and the gas may become thermally unstable (Sharma et al. 2012; Gaspari et al. 2012; Kunz et al. 2012; McCourt et al. 2012; Gaspari et al. 2013; Voit et al. 2015a). These results suggest that, whereas the expanding radio jets and lobes may be able to heat the surrounding gas at \( r \gtrsim 10 \text{kpc} \), the inner, well-collimated, part of the jets do not appear to be depositing sufficient heat to the innermost rapidly cooling X-ray atmosphere.

This picture is in line with our analysis of the \textit{XMM-Newton} RGS spectra, as they are consistent with an appreciable mass deposition rate of \( 5.4 \pm 1.7 \text{M}_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} \). This rate is particularly high compared to other elliptical galaxies and groups whose RGS spectra reveal mass deposition rates typically less than \( 1 \text{M}_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} \) (Liu et al. 2019). Assuming that the bulk of this material accretes onto the central supermassive black hole and is converted into jets with a 10% efficiency, it will result in a jet power of \( \sim 3 \times 10^{46} \text{erg s}^{-1} \). This is more than two orders of magnitude higher than the actual jet power estimated in Sect. 4.1 (\( \sim 10^{44} \text{erg s}^{-1} \)). We therefore conclude that the current rate of cooling is largely sufficient to effectively produce the observed radio jets.

In the centre of the galaxy, we observe a disc of ionized and molecular gas (Boizelle et al. 2017; Ruffa et al. 2019), which is also visible in the \textit{HST} image in the left panel of
Unbalanced cooling in IC 4296

**Figure 4.** Left panel: The Chandra X-ray image at 0.5–5 keV overlaid with white contours of our VLA image at 1–2 GHz obtained in A configuration with same contour levels as defined in Fig. 1. The image reveals an excess of the X-ray emission, marked by a red circle, to the southwest of IC 4296. Right panel: The background-subtracted, exposure-corrected XMM-Newton EPIC image (combining MOS 1, MOS 2, and pn) in the 0.3–2 keV band overlaid with contours of the VLA D configuration image same as in Fig. 1 (right). The X-ray image reveals a decrement, a likely cavity, corresponding to the northwestern radio lobe. The overplotted green partial annuli indicate the spectral extraction regions used to determine the temperature and the density of the ICM outside of the northern radio lobe.

**Figure 5.** Deprojected electron density profile of the gas surrounding the northwestern cavity of IC 4296. The spectral extraction regions are shown by the green sectors in Fig. 4 (right).

**Figure 6.** The entropy profiles of IC 4296 and NGC 4261 in comparison with the sample of Lakhchaura et al. (2018). The red, green and blue solid lines show median profiles for cool gas free, nuclear cool gas and extended cool gas systems, respectively and the shaded regions show the median absolute deviation (MAD) spreads about the medians. The entropy profiles of IC 4296 and NGC 4261 show much steeper trends than the other galaxies in the sample.

4.3 Peculiar bending jets in a hot atmosphere

The radio and X-ray morphologies of IC 4296 resemble those of some other systems, such as NGC 1265, where the powerful radio jets penetrate through the atmosphere of hot gas bound to the host galaxy, with little impact on the X-ray gas (Sun et al. 2005a). In NGC 1265, the two-sided jet emerges from the atmosphere into the ICM of the Perseus cluster. Since NGC 1265 is moving at high speed relative to the ICM, we see bright radio knots in its jet where they impinge on the ICM and are deflected (O’Dea & Owen 1987). Although

---

5 The Eddington luminosity for IC 4296 is $\sim 1.2 \times 10^{47}$ erg s$^{-1}$. 

---

MNRAS 000, 1–10 (2018)
IC 4296 differs in important respects from NGC 1265, we cannot exclude that the offset radio peaks in its jet would have a similar origin.

The presence of a possible X-ray tail seen in the Chandra image and the location of IC 4296 in the centre of Abell 3565 is consistent with the sloshing of the ambient ICM around the galaxy (see Markevitch & Vikhlinin 2007). Given the relative motion, the radio jets emerging from the central atmosphere run into the ICM and are deflected in the direction opposite to the galaxy’s travel, as also noted by Kemp (1994). Assuming that the jets are supersonic, they could be deflected in a succession of inclined weak shocks or via magnetohydrodynamical instabilities (Massaglia et al. 2018), converting jets’ kinetic energy to thermal energy. Alternatively, the brightening could result from the dissipation of turbulence driven by the interaction between the jets and the external medium (Burns 1998). In either case, the additional thermal energy will raise the pressure in the jet plasma, causing it to expand (e.g. Gizani & Leahy 1999). This would account for the increase in the width of the radio source in the regions $\sim 10$ kpc from the central AGN.

The apparent curvature of the jets is rather weak and we may be viewing the system from a direction nearly parallel to the velocity vector. The location of the tail and the radio source curvature are both consistent with a projected relative velocity towards the northeast.

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Here, we present the results of new VLA radio observations of the giant elliptical galaxy IC 4296, obtained in A and D configurations. Combined with complementary X-ray and optical data, we provide a comprehensive, multi-wavelength view of the AGN feedback and jet-ICM interaction at play in this system. Our results can be summarised as follows:

- Our VLA data obtained in D configuration reveal well-defined radio lobes without significant hot spots but with large diameters of $\sim 160$ kpc at radii $r \gtrsim 230$ kpc, which are undetected in the higher resolution A configuration VLA images. This unusually powerful radio source inflated cavities with a remarkable total enthalpy $\sim 7 \times 10^{59}$ erg. For comparison, this enthalpy is 30 times larger than for NGC 4261, due to the 6 times larger size of the radio lobes.
- The observed radio morphology is consistent with 3D hydrodynamical simulations (e.g. Massaglia et al. 2016) of supersonically expanding jets/lobes, with bow shocks created at the boundary layer of the radio lobes interacting with the ambient ICM.
- The jets are bent likely due to the relative motion of the ICM with respect to IC 4296 and magneto-hydrodynamic instabilities, advecting the plasma in long narrow plumes. The relative motion of the galaxy with respect to the ICM is also supported by a possible X-ray tail seen in the Chandra image.
- The powerful jets piercing through the hot galactic atmosphere do not appear to be depositing sufficient heat in the innermost gas to prevent it from cooling, with the bulk of their energy deposited well beyond 10 kpc from the nucleus. The atmosphere of the galaxy can therefore continue to cool rapidly, feeding the central supersonic black hole and powering the jets. This is supported by the steep entropy and cooling time profiles of the hot galactic atmosphere which continue to drop all the way to the nucleus, where a warm Hα+[N\textsc{ii}] nebula and a cold molecular CO disk are clearly seen. As with a handful of other examples, such as NGC 4261, the cooling continues despite the powerful jet activity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the Lendület LP2016-11 grant awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc. The scientific results reported in this article are based on observations made by the Chandra X-ray Observatory and published previously in cited articles.

Based on observations obtained at the Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) telescope, which is a joint project of the Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia, Inovações e Comunicações (MCTIC) do Brasil, the U.S. National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), and Michigan State University (MSU). K.G. was supported by the János Bolyai Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

This research has made use of resources provided by the Compagnia di San Paolo for the grant awarded on the BLENV project (S1618_L1_MASF_01) and by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research for the grant MASF_FFABR_17_01.

This investigation is supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) grants GO4-15096X, AR6-17012X and GO6-17081X.

This work is supported by the “Departments of Excellence 2018 - 2022” Grant awarded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) (L. 232/2016). F. Massaro acknowledges financial contribution from the agreement ASI-INAF n.2017-14-H.0. A.C.F. acknowledges
support from ERC Advanced Grant 340442. K.R. acknowledges financial support from the ERC Starting Grant “MAG-COW”, no. 714196 and M. S. acknowledge the support from the NSF grant 1714764.

References

Arnaud M., Rothenflug R., Boulade O., Vigroux L., Vangioni-Flam E., 1992, A&A, 254, 49

Birzan L., Rafferty D. A., McNamara B. R., Wise M. W., Nulsen P. E. J., 2004, ApJ, 607, 800

Babek I. V., McNamara B. R., Nulsen P. E. J., et al., 2018, ApJ, 862, 39

Bennett C. L., Larson D., Weiland J. L., Hinshaw G., 2014, ApJ, 794, 135

Boizelle B., Barth A. J., Baker A. J., et al., 2017, American Astronomical Society Meeting Abstracts #229, 229, 114.06

Brighenti F., Mathews W. G., 2006, ApJ, 643, 120

Brüggen M., Kaiser C. R., 2002, Nature, 418, 301

Burns J. O., 1998, Science, 280, 400

Cattaneo A., Faber S. M., Binney J., et al., 2009, Nature, 460, 213

Churazov E., Forman W., Jones C., Böhringer H., 2000, A&A, 356, 788

Correa C. A., Schaye J., Wyithe J. S. B., et al., 2018, MNRAS, 473, 538

Dalla Bontà E., Ferrarese L., Corsini E. M., et al., 2009, ApJ, 690, 537

Fabian A. C., 1994, ARA&A, 32, 277

Fabian A. C., Sanders J. S., Allen S. W., et al., 2003, MNRAS, 344, L43

Foster A. R., Ji L., Smith R. K., Brickhouse N. S., 2012, ApJ, 756, 128

Gaspari M., Ruszkowski M., Oh S. P., 2013, MNRAS, 432, 3401

Gaspari M., Ruszkowski M., Sharma P., 2012, ApJ, 746, 94

Gizani N. A. B., Cohen A., Kassim N. E., 2005, MNRAS, 358, 1061

Gizani N. A. B., Leahy J. P., 1999, New Astron. Rev., 43, 639

Gizani N. A. B., Leahy J. P., 2003, MNRAS, 342, 399

Hurley-Walker N., Callingham J. R., Hancock P. J., et al., 2017, MNRAS, 464, 1146

Jaffe W., Ford H. C., Ferrarese L., van den Bosch F., O’Connell R. W., 1993, Nature, 364, 213

Jaffe W., McNamara B. R., 1994, ApJ, 434, 110

Kaastra J. S., Mewe R., Nieuwenhuijzen H., 1996, in UV and X-ray Spectroscopy of Astrophysical and Laboratory Plasmas p.411, K. Yamashita and T. Watanabe. Tokyo : Universal Academy Press

Kaastra J. S., Raassen A. J. J., de Plaa J., Gu L., 2017, SPEX X-ray spectral fitting package

Kemp S. N., 1994, A&A, 282, 425

Killeen N. E. B., Bicknell G. V., 1988, ApJ, 324, 198

Killeen N. E. B., Bicknell G. V., Carter D., 1986a, ApJ, 309, 45

Killeen N. E. B., Bicknell G. V., Ekers R. D., 1986b, ApJ, 302, 306

Kuna M. W., Bogdanović T., Reynolds C. S., Stone J. M., 2012, ApJ, 754, 122

Lakhchaura K., Werner N., Sun M., et al., 2018, MNRAS submitted [arXiv: 1806.00455]

Liu H., Pinto C., Fabian A. C., Russell H. R., Sanders J. S., 2019, MNRAS, 4566

Lodders K., Palme H., Gail H. P., 2009, Landolt Bürnstein, 4B, 712

Markevitch M., Vikhlinin A., 2007, Phys. Rep., 443, 1

Massaglia S., Bodo G., Rossi P., Capetti S., Mignone A., 2016, A&A, 596, A12

Massaglia S., Bodo G., Rossi P., Capetti S., Mignone A., 2018, arXiv e-prints

McCourt M., Sharma P., Quataert E., Parrish I. J., 2012, MNRAS, 419, 3319

McMullin J. P., Waters B., Schiebel D., Young W., Golap K., 2007, in Astronomical Data Analysis Software and Systems XVI, edited by R. A. Shaw, F. Hill, D. J. Bell, vol. 376 of Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series, 127

Mei S., Silva D., Quinn P. J., 2000, A&A, 361, 68

Mernier F., de Plaa J., Lovisari L., et al., 2015, A&A, 575, A37

Narayan R., Yi I., 1994, ApJ, 428, L13

O’Dea C. P., Owen F. N., 1987, ApJ, 316, 95

Offringa A. R., van de Gronde J. J., Roerdink J. B. T. M., 2012, A&A, 539, A95

Ondera M., Carollo C. M., Renzini A., et al., 2015, ApJ, 808, 161

O’Sullivan E., Vrtilek J. M., Kempner J. C., David L. P., Houck J. C., 2005, MNRAS, 357, 1134

O’Sullivan E., Worrall D. M., Birkhanaw M., et al., 2011, MNRAS, 1180–+

Owen F. N., Ledlow M. J., 1994, Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series, 54, 319

Panagoulia E. K., Fabian A. C., Sanders J. S., 2014, MNRAS, 438, 2341

Figure 8. Left panel: The HST image of a dusty disk in IC 4296. The narrow band Hα image (in green) was obtained using ramp filter adjusted to the redshift of the galaxy. Two white arrows represent jets emitted from the central nuclear regions. Right panel: The narrow band Hα+[Nii] image from the SOAR telescope overlaid with the VLA A configuration radio contours.
Pellegrini S., Ciotti L., Negri A., Ostriker J. P., 2018, ApJ, 856, 115
Pellegrini S., Venturi T., Comastri A., et al., 2003, ApJ, 585, 677
Perley R. A., Butle B. J., 2013, ApJS, 204, 19
Percho M., Martí J. M., 2007, MNRAS, 382, 526
Rafferty D. A., McNamara B. R., Nulsen P. E. J., Wise M. W., 2006, ApJ, 652, 216
Rajpurohit K., Hoeft M., van Weeren R. J., et al., 2018, ApJ, 852, 65
Ruffa I., Prandoni I., Laing R. A., et al., 2019, MNRAS, 484, 4239
Russell H. R., Sanders J. S., Fabian A. C., 2008, MNRAS, 390, 1297
Sharma P., McCourt M., Quataert E., Parrish I. J., 2012, MNRAS, 420, 3174
Siebert J., Brinkmann W., Morganti R., et al., 1996, MNRAS, 279, 1331
Smith R. K., Brickhouse N. S., Liedahl D. A., Raymond J. C., 2001, ApJ, 556, L91
Sun M., Jerius D., Jones C., 2005a, ApJ, 633, 165
Sun M., Vikhlinin A., Forman W., Jones C., Murray S. S., 2005b, ApJ, 619, 169
Thomas D., Maraston C., Bender R., 2002, Reviews in Modern Astronomy, 15, 219
Thomas D., Maraston C., Schawinski K., Sarzi M., Silk J., 2010, MNRAS, 404, 1775
Urban O., Werner N., Allen S. W., Simionescu A., Mantz A., 2017, MNRAS, 470, 4583
Voit G. M., Donahue M., Bryan G. L., McDonald M., 2015a, Nature, 519, 263
Voit G. M., Donahue M., O’Shea B. W., Bryan G. L., Sun M., Werner N., 2015b, ApJ, 803, L21
Werner N., Allen S. W., Simionescu A., 2012, MNRAS, 425, 2731
Werner N., McNamara B. R., Churazov E., Scannapieco E., 2019, Space Sci. Rev., 215, 5

This paper has been typeset from a \TeX/L\TeX file prepared by the author.