GREEN BANK TELESCOPE DETECTION OF POLARIZATION-DEPENDENT H I ABSORPTION AND H I OUTFLOWS IN LOCAL ULIRGS AND QUASARS

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ABSTRACT

We present the results of a 21 cm H i survey of 27 local massive gas-rich late-stage mergers and merger remnants with the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope. These remnants were selected from the Quasar/ULIRG Evolution Study sample of ultraluminous infrared galaxies (ULIRGs; \( L_{8-1000\mu m} > 10^{12} L_{\odot} \)) and quasars; our targets are all bolometrically dominated by active galactic nuclei (AGNs) and sample the later phases of the proposed ULIRG-to-quasar evolutionary sequence. We find the prevalence of H i absorption (emission) to be 100% (29%) in ULIRGs with H i detections, 100% (88%) in FIR-strong quasars, and 63% (100%) in FIR-weak quasars. The absorption features are associated with powerful neutral outflows that change from being mainly driven by star formation in ULIRGs to being driven by the AGN in the quasars. These outflows have velocities that exceed 1500 km \( s^{-1} \) in some cases. Unexpectedly, we find polarization-dependent H i absorption in 57% of our spectra (88% and 63% of the FIR-strong and FIR-weak quasars, respectively). We attribute this result to absorption of polarized continuum emission from these sources by foreground H i clouds. About 60% of the quasars displaying polarized spectra are radio-loud, far higher than the \( \sim 10\% \) observed in the general AGN population. This discrepancy suggests that radio jets play an important role in shaping the environments in these galaxies. These systems may represent a transition phase in the evolution of gas-rich mergers into “mature” radio galaxies.

KEY WORDS: Galaxies: active – Galaxies: evolution – ISM: jets and outflows – Quasars: absorption lines – radio lines: galaxies

ONLINE-ONLY MATERIAL: Color figures

1. INTRODUCTION

Recent theoretical work suggests that feedback from active galactic nuclei (AGNs) plays an important role in establishing the present-day appearance of massive galaxies. Major galaxy mergers at high redshifts may trigger powerful starbursts, lead to the formation of elliptical galaxies, and account for the growth of supermassive black holes (e.g., Sanders et al. 1988; Di Matteo et al. 2005; Springel et al. 2005; Hopkins et al. 2005, 2008). In this merger-driven evolutionary scenario, two gas-rich progenitors collide to form a completely obscured ultraluminous infrared galaxy (ULIRG) where substantial inflows of gas trigger starbursts and feed the central black hole(s). As the system evolves, the obscuring gas and dust begin to disperse, bringing about the formation of a dusty IR-excess quasar and eventually a “naked” optical quasar. Powerful winds, driven by either the starburst or the central black hole, seem to be required to quench star formation and to stop the growth of the black hole in order to explain the observed \( M_{BH} - \sigma \) relation (e.g., Murray et al. 2005).

There is growing support for the existence of this type of “negative feedback” in luminous late-stage mergers. Most galaxies with star formation rate (SFR) densities \( \gtrsim 0.1 M_\odot yr^{-1} kpc^{-2} \) show signs of outflow (e.g., Heckman 2002; Veilleux et al. 2005). These starburst-driven winds are often seen in ULIRGs, with mass outflow rates of \( \sim 0.1-5 \) times the SFR and velocities \( \sim 100-400 \) km \( s^{-1} \) (Rupke et al. 2002, 2005a, 2005b, 2005c; Martin 2005, 2006). In late-stage mergers and pure Seyfert galaxies, however, these winds are sometimes driven by the AGN, reaching outflow velocities \( \gtrsim 1000 \) km \( s^{-1} \) (Rupke et al. 2005c; Krug et al. 2010). Similar AGN-driven outflows are also found in recently (re)started radio galaxies (e.g., Oosterloo et al. 2000; Morganti et al. 2005b). Several studies have also shown that these outflows are often multi-phased, with powerful molecular, neutral, and ionized outflows having all been detected in the same object (e.g., Morganti et al. 2007; Fischer et al. 2010; Feruglio et al. 2010; Rupke & Veilleux 2011; Sturm et al. 2011).

In the present paper, we focus on the H i properties of the Quasar/ULIRG Evolution Study (QUEST) ULIRGs and quasars, searching for the presence and the driving source (AGN or starburst) of neutral outflows in merging systems as a function of merger stage. This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we discuss how our H i sample is selected. In Section 3, we describe our observational setup, data reduction, and spectral analysis. We then examine the H i profiles of our targets in Section 4 and the detection of polarized absorption (including a more sophisticated spectral decomposition that boosts our number of absorption detections) in Section 5. Finally, in Section 6, we discuss the possible origins of the H i outflows. We conclude in Section 7 with a summary of our findings. Throughout this paper, we adopt \( H_0 = 71 \) km \( s^{-1} Mpc^{-1} \), \( \Omega_M = 0.27 \), and \( \Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.73 \) (Hinshaw et al. 2009).

2. SAMPLE SELECTION

In order to assess the physical conditions and the dynamical evolution of the neutral gas in late-stage merger systems, we selected targets from the QUEST sample of ULIRGs and
quasars that are bolometrically dominated by AGNs. The details of the QUEST sample selection are outlined in previous QUEST papers (e.g., Schweitzer et al. 2006; Netzer et al. 2007; Veilleux et al. 2009b). Briefly, the original QUEST sample of ULIRGs begins with the 1 Jy sample, a flux-limited sample of 118 ULIRGs selected from a redshift survey of the IRAS faint source catalog (Kim & Sanders 1998). To these, five well-studied local ULIRGs from the Revised Bright Galaxy Survey (Sanders et al. 2003) were added given the availability of archival data from multiple observatories (see Veilleux et al. 2009b; Veilleux 2012 for details). The original quasar sample contains 25 quasars, including 24 Palomar-Green (PG) quasars from the Bright Quasar Sample (Schmidt & Green 1983) and B2 2201+31A which satisfies the B magnitude criterion of Schmidt & Green (1983). An additional nine PG quasars were added to the sample from archival data. The selected quasars fall at the low end of the quasar B-band luminosity function.

The ULIRGs and quasars in the QUEST sample are well matched in redshift ($z < 0.3$) and in near-IR imaging show tidal features that indicate merger origins (Veilleux et al. 2006, 2009a). The entire QUEST sample spans the merger evolution sequence from binary starburst-dominated ULIRGs, to completely coalesced AGN-dominated ULIRGs, to dust-enshrouded quasars, to optical quasars whose dust has been cleared.

Our H$\alpha$ sample is a subset of the QUEST targets. To ensure quality spectra, we require $z < 0.12$; our 27 targets evenly sample coalesced ULIRGs ($8$ targets), far-infrared (FIR)-strong quasars ($f_{60\mu m}/f_{15\mu m} > 1$; $10$ targets), and FIR-weak quasars ($8$ targets). The two classes of quasars have similar spectral energy distributions representative of AGNs, with the FIR-strong quasars having an additional contribution to their FIR emission from intense star formation (Netzer et al. 2007). The morphologies of the quasar hosts are in agreement with the picture that FIR-weak quasars are at a later evolutionary stage than FIR-strong quasars, following the (near) cessation of star formation (Veilleux et al. 2009a). Thus, our targets sample the later stages of merger evolution from coalescence to the aftermath of significant star formation. Table 1 summarizes the properties of our H$\alpha$ sample.

3. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA

3.1. Observational Setup

The targets were observed with the Robert C. Byrd Green Bank Telescope (GBT) Spectrometer in the L band between 2011 August and 2012 March during the $\sim$160 hr of time available for GBT programs 11B075 and 12A075 (PI: Teng). The data were collected in 10 minute on–off source pairs (5 minutes per position) with 12.5 MHz bandwidth, two spectral windows centered at the same frequency (1420.4058 MHz), two linear polarization modes (XX and YY), and nine sampling levels. To minimize the effects of radio frequency interference (RFI) on the data, we used the notch filter for sources with heliocentric recessional velocities below $17,000$ km s$^{-1}$. The total on-source time for each galaxy was determined during the observing runs based on the strength of the spectral features relative to the noise or up to a maximum of 3 hr. Most sources were observed over multiple observing sessions. The circumstellar starburst galaxy M82 was observed at the beginning of each observing session as a check for instrumental variations.

We also measured the continuum flux densities of our sample at 1.42 GHz using the AutoPeak procedure in order to check for time variability. However, due to the plethora of continuum sources within the large GBT beam, the $\sigma$ confusion limit is $\sim 100$ mJy at this frequency. Therefore, we were only able to obtain confident continuum measurements for five targets. These values are in agreement with older values obtained with the Very Large Array (VLA) for their nuclear core flux densities (Condon et al. 2002), despite the much larger beam of the GBT. For the remainder of the sample, we use published values of the core continuum flux densities as measured with the VLA (e.g., Barvainis et al. 1996; Condon et al. 1998; Rafter et al. 2009).

3.2. Data Reduction

The spectra were reduced using GBTIDL (Marganian et al. 2006). Individual 5 s records showing large broadband harmonic RFI were flagged, and persistent RFI spikes that appear in the data were replaced by interpolation across the affected channels for both spectral windows and polarizations. For each polarization, the data from the two spectral windows were averaged together, and a polynomial of the order of $\leq 5$ was fitted over a range of $\sim 1000$ km s$^{-1}$ on each side of a galaxy’s systemic redshift in the Hanning-smoothed and then decimated$^9$ spectrum to subtract the baseline. The same baseline-fitting regions and order of polynomial fit were used for both polarizations.

Flux calibration was derived from simultaneous observations of an internal noise diode. The baseline-subtracted and flux-calibrated scans for each polarization were accumulated and averaged for each galaxy. A fourth-order boxcar smoothing was then applied to the averaged data with decimation, resulting in a resolution of $\sim 6$ km s$^{-1}$ per channel. The two polarizations were then averaged together to produce the full intensity spectra shown in Figure 1. We ensured that our flux calibration is correct by comparing the full intensity profile of Mrk 231 with that measured by the VLA (Carilli et al. 1998); both profiles are identical. Discussions of individual objects in the Appendix include comparisons with previous data, whose generally good agreement with our data in terms of velocity profile and flux validate our data reduction process. Table 1 also provides a list of some observational parameters for our galaxies.

Nearly all of the galaxies were detected. Two galaxies, PG 0804+761 and F15462—0450, had strong RFI spikes overlapping with the expected H$\alpha$ frequencies. At the limit of 3 hr on-source, PG 1126—041 and F21219—1757 were not detected, and F04103—2838 and F15130—1958 were marginally detected. The detections of PG 1426+015 and PG 1617+175 are uncertain because their putative emission features have widths similar to the broadness of the baseline ripples before baseline subtraction.

3.3. Spectral Analysis

The individual H$\alpha$ profiles in the spectra of our sample galaxy are complex combinations of absorption and emission. For simplicity, we have measured the emission and absorption features separately, but we note that this approach may slightly alter the final measured values of these quantities. More complex decomposition of the emission and absorption is only possible for a few sources because of the degeneracy between emission and absorption, as discussed in Section 5.2.

$^9$ The total number of channels in the spectrum is decreased, or decimated, by a factor equal to the order of smoothing performed.
Table 1
The Sample and Journal of Observations

| Source          | R.A. J2000 | Decl. J2000 | \( v_{LSR} \) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | Type    | FIR Strength | log \( (\text{SFR})_{10} \) (\( M_\odot \) yr\(^{-1}\)) | SFR \( \gamma \) | log \( R_X \) | Dates of Observations | \( \text{flux} \) (s) | \( \text{vel} \) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \( \sigma_{\text{chan}} \) (mJy) | Fit | Order |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| PG 0007+106     | 00:10:31.0 | +10:58:30  | \( 26783 \)    | QSO     | Weak         | 12.23           | 1.2           | 0.099\(^1\) | 2011 Sep–2012 Jan | 7894  | 6.11 | 0.77 | 3 |
| PG 0050+124     | 00:53:34.9 | +12:41:36  | \( 17658 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 12.07           | 10.4          | 0.009\(^1\) | 2011 Sep–2012 Jan | 4815  | 5.78 | 0.94 | 3 |
| F04103–2838     | 04:12:19.4 | –28:30:25  | \( 35215 \)    | ULIRG   | Strong       | 12.30           | 154.2         | 0.013\(^1\) | 2011 Sep–2012 Feb | 6372  | 5.60 | 0.58 | 3 |
| F05189–2524     | 05:21:01.4 | –25:21:45  | \( 12760 \)    | ULIRG   | Strong       | 12.22           | 71.6          | 0.029\(^1\) | 2011 Sep–2012 Jan | 12330 | 5.60 | 0.58 | 3 |
| PG 0804+761     | 08:10:58.6 | +76:02:43  | \( 29979 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 12.08           | 0.3           | 0.004\(^1\) | 2011 Aug          | 860   | 6.23 | 2.97 | 3 |
| PG 0844+349     | 08:47:42.4 | +34:45:04  | \( 19187 \)    | ULIRG   | Strong       | 11.44           | 0.8           | <0.0025\(^1\) | 2011 Nov          | 3153  | 5.83 | 0.96 | 3 |
| UGC 05101       | 09:35:51.6 | +51:28:19  | \( 11802 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 12.05           | 110.2         | 0.309\(^1\) | 2011 Aug–2011 Sep | 2151  | 5.57 | 1.46 | 3 |
| PG 1119+120     | 11:21:47.1 | +11:44:18  | \( 15050 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 11.33           | 0.4           | <0.0025\(^1\) | 2011 Oct–2012 Mar | 3837  | 5.68 | 0.38 | 3 |
| PG 1229+204     | 12:32:03.6 | +20:29:09  | \( 18890 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 11.56           | 0.4           | 0.003\(^1\) | 2012 Mar          | 3411  | 5.82 | 0.92 | 3 |
| PG 1411+442     | 14:13:48.3 | +44:00:14  | \( 26861 \)    | QSO     | Weak         | 11.78           | 0.0           | <0.0025\(^1\) | 2011 Aug–2012 Feb | 6346  | 6.12 | 0.92 | 3 |
| PG 1448+273     | 14:51:08.7 | +27:09:27  | \( 21987 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 11.92           | 1.9           | 0.004\(^1\) | 2012 Mar          | 3153  | 6.08 | 1.09 | 5 |
| PG 1501+106     | 15:04:01.2 | +10:26:16  | \( 10919 \)    | QSO     | Strong       | 11.33           | 0.0           | <0.0025\(^1\) | 2011 Aug–2011 Sep | 6135  | 6.00 | 0.63 | 3 |
| F15130–1958     | 15:15:55.2 | –20:09:17  | \( 32585 \)    | ULIRG   | Strong       | 12.23           | 108.8         | 0.010\(^1\) | 2012 Feb–2012 Mar | 6540  | 5.53 | 0.77 | 3 |
| F15250+3608     | 15:26:59.4 | +35:58:38  | \( 16535 \)    | ULIRG   | Strong       | 12.12           | 109.6         | 0.018\(^1\) | 2011 Dec–2012 Mar | 2666  | 6.33 | 1.25 | 3 |
| PG 1617+175     | 16:20:11.3 | +17:44:46  | \( 33526 \)    | ULIRG   | Strong       | 12.28           | 168.7         | 0.013\(^1\) | 2012 Dec–2012 Mar | 2547  | 6.38 | 1.59 | 3 |

References. (1) Condon et al. (1998), NVSS; (2) Rafter et al. (2009); (3) Barvainis et al. (1996).

Notes. Column 1: galaxy name. Coordinate-based names beginning with "F" are sources in the IRAS Faint Source Catalog; the "PG" sources are Palomar-Green quasars. Column 2: right ascension in J2000 coordinates. Column 3: declination in J2000 coordinates. Column 4: heliocentric radial velocity given by NED. These velocities are measured via optical emission lines and may underestimate the true recessional velocities since some fraction of the line emission may arise from the outflowing material. Column 5: ULIRG or QSO source. Column 6: FIR strength as defined by Netzer et al. (2007) where FIR-strong sources have \( f_{\text{IR}}/f_{\text{opt}} > 1 \). Column 7: bolometric luminosity. For ULIRGs, we assume \( L_{\text{bol}} = 1.15 L_\odot \). For PG QSOs, we assume \( L_{\text{bol}} = 7 L_\odot \). Column 8: star formation rates in solar masses per year derived using the average AGN contribution fraction to the total bolometric luminosity measured by Veilleux et al. (2009b) for each galaxy. Column 9: 1.4 GHz continuum flux densities. Values taken with the GBT unless noted. The upper limits are given as the detection limit of the NRAO VLA Sky Survey (NVSS). Column 10: 1.4 GHz to 2–10 keV flux ratio, where \( \log (\text{flux})_{\text{2–10 keV}} = -4.3 \) implies a radio-loud source (La Franca et al. 2010). We used the (average, if multiple observations were performed) absorption-corrected 2–10 keV flux from Teng & Veilleux (2010) except for PG 0007+106 and PG 0804+761 whose X-ray measurements were taken from Piconcelli et al. (2005). These ratios are corrected for the 1.4 GHz contribution from star formation based on the SFRs listed in the table and the SFR–1.4 GHz relation from Bell (2003), which assumes the same 0.1–100 \( M_\odot \) initial mass function as Kennicutt (1998). For ULIRGs, due to their high line-of-site density columns, their measured 2–10 keV fluxes may be underestimated and thus the listed values may represent upper limits. Column 11: period over which the target was observed. Column 12: total on-source time in seconds after flagging. Column 13: velocity resolution of the full intensity spectrum. Column 14: the channel-to-channel rms of the full intensity spectrum. Column 15: the order of polynomial over which the baseline was fitted and then subtracted.
Figure 1. Full intensity GBT spectra of 25 galaxies whose velocities did not overlap with RFI signals. Columns from left to right are ordered by source type: ULIRGs, FIR-strong quasars, and FIR-weak quasars. Each column is organized with increasing infrared luminosity going down. The targets with marginal or uncertain detections as noted in Section 3.2 are labeled with M and U, respectively, after their names. The $x$-axis is displayed as the velocity relative to the heliocentric radial velocity of the galaxy given in Table 1 and identified by the vertical dashed line. The regions with hash marks are frequencies where the data are affected by persistent RFI spikes in some observing sessions, and the black regions are those where the data are affected by RFI spikes in all observing sessions. The best Gaussian fits to the absorption features are highlighted in blue, where the dotted lines are individual Gaussian components (when there are multiple overlapping components) and the solid curves are the sums of these components. The kinematics of these systems change from narrow absorption features likely due to outflows supported by the starbursts in ULIRGs, to broad absorption features from jet-driven outflows supported by the AGN in FIR-strong quasars, and finally to the emission profiles more characteristic of gas in rotation in the FIR-weak quasars.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)
For galaxies with significant emission (peak-to-rms > 3σ), we measure the central velocity (\(V_0\)), width (\(W_{20}\), \(W_{50}\)), and total velocity-integrated flux (\(f_{\text{HI}}\)) using the GBTIDL task *gmeasure*. In these instances, since there are no obvious companions enclosed within the GBT beam, the total flux is integrated between velocities at which the flux density reaches zero. The central velocity is the heliocentric velocity measured at the midpoint of the 20% flux level. The width of emission is measured at the 20% level and its error. Column 4: velocity width of the emission measured at the 50% level and its error. Column 5: maximum intensity of the spectrum. Column 8: derived H\(_{\text{I}}\) mass from emission and its error calculated using Equation (2).

### Notes

Column 1: galaxy name where (M) and (U) indicate marginal and uncertain detections, respectively, as noted in Section 3.2. Column 2: heliocentric velocity relative to the systematic velocity presented in Table 1, and its associated measurement error. Column 3: velocity width of the emission measured at the 20% level and its error. Column 4: velocity width of the emission measured at the 50% level and its error. Column 5: maximum intensity of the spectrum. Column 6: signal-to-noise ratio given by the peak intensity relative to the channel rms listed in Table 1. Column 7: velocity-integrated H\(_{\text{I}}\) flux in emission and its error. Column 8: derived H\(_{\text{I}}\) column density calculated using Equation (1). Column 9: derived H\(_{\text{I}}\) mass from emission and its error calculated using Equation (2).

Using Equations (1) and (2), we can calculate the neutral gas mass and column density of the gas in each galaxy. These calculations are based on the assumption that the gas is optically thin and that the emission is primarily from H\(_{\text{I}}\). The results are presented in Table 2.

| Source          | \(V_0\) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(W_{20}\) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(W_{50}\) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | Peak (mJy) | S/N | \(f_{\text{HI}}\) (Jy km s\(^{-1}\)) | \(N_{\text{HI}}\) (10\(^{18}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) | \(M_{\text{HI}}\) (10\(^{10}\) M\(_{\odot}\)) |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|----|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| PG 0007+106     | −216 ± 16               | 1063 ± 49                   | 894 ± 33                    | 4.30       | 5.85 | 2.57 ± 0.14                   | 9.35 ± 0.49                      | 8.46 ± 0.45                      |
| PG 0050+123     | 473 ± 17                | 789 ± 51                    | 435 ± 34                    | 7.00       | 7.45 | 2.43 ± 0.14                   | 8.85 ± 0.51                      | 3.44 ± 0.20                      |
| F04103-2838 (M) | 129 ± 21                | 151 ± 63                    | 21 ± 42                     | 3.44       | 3.91 | 0.17 ± 0.06                   | 0.62 ± 0.22                      | 0.97 ± 0.34                      |
| PG 0844+249     | 243 ± 8                 | 541 ± 23                    | 436 ± 15                    | 8.83       | 9.20 | 2.32 ± 0.12                   | 8.44 ± 0.43                      | 4.05 ± 0.21                      |
| PG 1119+120     | −18 ± 2                 | 226 ± 7                     | 221 ± 5                     | 5.35       | 6.45 | 0.58 ± 0.07                   | 2.11 ± 0.24                      | 0.65 ± 0.07                      |
| PG 1211+143     | 522 ± 8                 | 200 ± 25                    | 174 ± 17                    | 3.85       | 4.18 | 0.04 ± 0.07                   | 0.14 ± 0.25                      | 0.11 ± 0.20                      |
| PG 1229+204     | 182 ± 11                | 600 ± 34                    | 504 ± 23                    | 5.37       | 5.84 | 1.84 ± 0.12                   | 6.70 ± 0.43                      | 3.24 ± 0.21                      |
| Mrk 273         | 407 ± 11                | 116 ± 32                    | 62 ± 21                     | 5.94       | 4.53 | 0.37 ± 0.07                   | 1.35 ± 0.26                      | 0.24 ± 0.15                      |
| PG 1351+640     | −205 ± 21               | 585 ± 64                    | 480 ± 43                    | 2.64       | 3.34 | 0.82 ± 0.10                   | 2.98 ± 0.38                      | 2.73 ± 0.34                      |
| PG 1426+015 (U) | 107 ± 35                | 1131 ± 104                  | 591 ± 69                    | 5.12       | 4.69 | 2.08 ± 0.20                   | 7.57 ± 0.72                      | 6.86 ± 0.65                      |
| PG 1440+356     | −294 ± 13               | 477 ± 39                    | 395 ± 26                    | 3.01       | 4.81 | 0.48 ± 0.07                   | 1.73 ± 0.27                      | 1.30 ± 0.20                      |
| PG 1448+273     | −50 ± 18                | 97 ± 54                     | 23 ± 36                     | 2.04       | 3.26 | 0.11 ± 0.03                   | 0.41 ± 0.12                      | 0.21 ± 0.06                      |
| PG 1501+106     | 61 ± 21                 | 137 ± 63                    | 22 ± 42                     | 2.58       | 3.37 | 0.32 ± 0.05                   | 1.16 ± 0.17                      | 0.20 ± 0.03                      |
| PG 1617+175 (U) | −118 ± 15               | 1139 ± 44                   | 1057 ± 30                   | 6.94       | 4.36 | 3.88 ± 0.30                   | 14.12 ± 0.18                     | 21.21 ± 1.62                     |
| PG 2130+099     | 224 ± 9                 | 599 ± 26                    | 518 ± 18                    | 7.86       | 6.95 | 2.30 ± 0.15                   | 8.37 ± 0.53                      | 3.84 ± 0.24                      |
| PG 2214+139     | 104 ± 14                | 876 ± 42                    | 567 ± 28                    | 11.22      | 8.53 | 4.43 ± 0.21                   | 16.13 ± 0.75                     | 7.99 ± 0.37                      |

\[ N_{\text{HI}} = 3.64 \times 10^{18} f_{\text{HI}} \text{ cm}^{-2}, \tag{1} \]

\[ M_{\text{HI}} = 2.35 \times 10^{5} f_{\text{HI}} \left( \frac{V_{\text{cor}}}{H_0} \right)^2 M_{\odot}, \tag{2} \]

where \(V_{\text{cor}}\) is the recessional velocity corrected for the influence of the Virgo Cluster, the Great Attractor, and the Shapley Supercluster as calculated by the NASA Extragalactic Database (NED). All of these measured and derived quantities are listed in Table 2.
using a range of polynomial orders (1–5), we confirm that the same spectral features are still detected, even for marginal detections such as that in F04103−2838. The measured widths and velocities are in agreement with those measured with the best-fit baseline to within the errors. Therefore, we are confident that even the weak detections noted as “marginal” in Tables 2 and 3 are real.

### 4. H i PROFILES OF LATE-STAGE MERGERS

The individual H i profiles of our targets are discussed in the Appendix. In general, we see H i trends along the merger sequence but no correlation with infrared luminosity.

All of the detected ULIRGs show H i absorption, typically with multiple velocity components, many of which are narrow (FWHM < 100 km s$^{-1}$) and some of which are redshifted. Only 2/7 (29%) of the detected ULIRGs have H i emission. The different velocity absorption components have different origins and are not necessarily caused by outflows or infall; kinematics of circumnuclear gas disks may mimic the properties of outflows or infall in single-dish data. In a couple of cases, such as UGC 05101 and Mrk 273, the absorption profiles are nearly symmetrical about zero velocity. For the Type 2 AGN UGC 05101, the profile is likely from absorption due to a slightly inclined rotating H i disk superposed on an obscured nucleus. This interpretation is consistent with CO maps of UGC 05101 showing smooth, regular rotation of the molecular gas (Genzel et al. 1998; Wilson et al. 2008). On the other hand, the CO velocity field of Mrk 273 is very distorted (Downes & Solomon 1998; Wilson et al. 2008), so it is unlikely that the gas is in well-ordered disk-like rotation. The double absorption in H i seen in Mrk 273 probably corresponds to the binary obscured

\[
\text{Equation (3)}
\]

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**Table 3**

Measurements of H i in Absorption

| Source       | \( V_0 \) (km s$^{-1}$) | FWHM (km s$^{-1}$) | "Peak" (mJy) | S/N | \( N_{HI} \) (10$^{22}$ cm$^{-2}$) | \( \tau_{max} \) | \( \rho_{abs} \) (Jy km s$^{-1}$) |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| F05189−2524  | 160 ± 3                  | 79 ± 6            | −2.74 ± 0.23 | 4.73 | 1.50                              | 0.099            | −0.04                            |
| UGC 05101    | −251 ± 11                | 419 ± 26          | −6.69 ± 0.22 | 4.59 | 3.24                              | 0.400            | −0.54                            |
| PG 1211+143  | −227 ± 1                 | 460 ± 3           | −37.67 ± 0.16 | 40.95 | 5.73                              | 0.065            | −3.07                            |
| PG 1244+026  | −381 ± 8                 | 226 ± 20          | −3.07 ± 0.23 | 3.05 | ...                               | ...              | −0.13                            |
| Mrk 231      | −6 ± 2                   | 199 ± 6           | −16.87 ± 0.41 | 11.07 | 2.15                              | 0.056            | −0.64                            |
| Mrk 273      | −122 ± 8                 | 334 ± 21          | −11.41 ± 0.41 | 8.71 | 5.60                              | 0.088            | −0.74                            |
| PG 1440+356  | 325 ± 4                  | 333 ± 8           | −9.57 ± 0.21 | 15.27 | ...                               | ...              | −0.57                            |

**Notes.** Column 1: galaxy name. Column 2: heliocentric velocity measured from H i relative to the systematic velocity presented in Table 1, as modeled using a Gaussian model, and its associated measurement error. Column 3: full width of the absorption feature at the 50% flux level as measured using a Gaussian model and its error. Column 4: peak absorption flux and its error as measured using a Gaussian model. Column 5: signal-to-noise ratio measured as a ratio between the peak flux and channel rms listed in Table 1. Column 6: integrated H i column density based on the absorption model, assuming a spin temperature of 1000 K and using Equation (4) based on the optical depth profile derived using Equation (3). For PG 1411+442 and PG 1501+106, the 1.4 GHz core flux densities are only upper limits, so their derived \( N_{HI} \) values are lower limits. Column 7: peak optical depth based on Equation (3). Column 8: velocity-integrated H i flux in absorption measured from the best-fit Gaussian component models.
absorption features are on average \( \sim \) the eight detected sources but also in emission (75%). The generally detected not only in absorption (88%, or seven of eight detected sources), but also in emission (75%). The latter case is discussed in more detail in Section 5.2.

The superposition of an emission profile and a broad absorption profile. The latter case is discussed in more detail in Section 5.2.

nuclei in this object. Thus, CO maps can help eliminate gas disks as the origin of the absorption features. However, only a few galaxies in our sample have readily available CO maps so direct comparisons are difficult. Comparison of single-dish CO and H\(_i\) profiles for the QUEST targets is ongoing, but it is beyond the scope of the present paper. The more complex profiles, such as those seen in F15250+3608, F05189–2524, and F15130–1938, may be interpreted as multiple infalling or outflowing components. They may also result from the superposition of an emission profile and a broad absorption profile. The latter case is discussed in more detail in Section 5.2.

In contrast, the H1 profiles of the FIR-strong quasars are generally detected not only in absorption (88%, or seven of the eight detected sources) but also in emission (75%). The absorption features are on average \( \sim 60 \) km s\(^{-1}\) broader than those seen in ULIRGs or approximately three times greater than the typical FWHM measurement error in the ULIRGs. Both redshifted and blueshifted absorption features are seen, although the systemic velocities of these systems are uncertain. Optical emission lines may underestimate recessional velocity since some fraction of the line emission may arise from outflowing material. In the case of PG 0050+124 (I Zw 1), this effect causes a shift of \( \sim 700 \) km s\(^{-1}\) (see the Appendix). A similar situation could also hold for PG 1440+356. In three cases, PG 1119+120, PG 1244+026, and PG 1440+356, the minima of the absorption troughs exceed the nuclear continuum flux densities. This discrepancy implies that off-nuclear emission, not accounted for in the nuclear fluxes of Table 1, also contributes to the continuum emission in these four sources. Given the resolution limit of the VLA core measurements of PG 1119+120 and PG 1440+356, the off-nuclear emission must be at least \( \sim 20–30 \) kpc from the core; for PG 1244+026, the separation from the core must be at least 3 kpc. While we cannot formally rule out the possibility that these absorption features are absorption of H1 against continuum from background quasars, this possibility is statistically unlikely. Another possibility is that the flux densities of the cores in these galaxies are time variable as exemplified by the variability of the core in PG 1351+640 (see the Appendix).

The H1 profiles of the FIR-weak quasars are different from those of the ULIRGs and FIR-strong quasars. H1 is seen mostly in emission (88%, or seven of eight detected sources), and only 25% (2/8) show broad absorption. The emission profiles are very broad (\( W_0 \gtrsim 500 \) km s\(^{-1}\)) and bumpy, perhaps beginning to resemble those of regularly rotating disks that typically display Gaussian or double-horned profiles; the measured widths and velocities are consistent with previous measurements of quasars (e.g., Bothun et al. 1984; Condon et al. 1985; Hutchings et al. 1987; Ho et al. 2008; König et al. 2009). These properties will be revisited in Section 5.2.

Considering now our entire H1 sample, the distribution of equivalent widths (EWs, defined as the integrated flux density for each component divided by the continuum flux density of the core) is plotted in Figure 2. For this definition, the EWs of the absorption components are negative. It is clear that the strengths of the emission and absorption features progress along the merger sequence, with ULIRGs having the weakest features, the FIR-strong quasars having the strongest absorption features, and the FIR-weak quasars having the strongest emission features. In Figure 3, we compare the FWHMs of the...
emission and absorption with the SFRs of their host galaxies. For emission, the FIR-weak sources have the broadest widths, the ULIRGs have the narrowest widths, and the FIR-strong quasars bridge the gap between those two classes. In the ULIRGs, there appears to be a weak correlation between the width of the absorption components and the SFR, reminiscent of a similar relationship seen in Na\textsc{i} (Rupke et al. 2005b). However, given that multiple absorption components are associated with a single system (and thus a single SFR value), the validity of the connection between the SFR and the FWHM of the absorption components in ULIRGs is uncertain. On the other hand, absorption FWHM is not at all related to SFR in the quasars, further suggesting that the AGN play a role in these systems.

5. POLARIZATION-DEPENDENT H\textsc{i} ABSORPTION

An unexpected outcome of our GBT program is that many of the absorption features show a dependence on polarization (Figure 4). Indeed, 13 of our 23 GBT-detected targets show some profile difference in their 2 polarizations (1 ULIRG, 7 IR-excess quasars, and 5 optical quasars). For GBT observations, it is expected that there is a $\lesssim 6\%$ difference between polarizations in terms of normalization, but the observed spectral shapes should be the same in both polarizations (R. Maddalena 2012, private communication). This expectation is confirmed by the fact that our M82 data remain in agreement after baseline subtraction. Polarization variation in our QUEST sample is not RFI-related, as we have removed time intervals where the data

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)
are affected by broadband RFI. Since it is improbable that the $\text{H}_1$ screen itself is polarized, the underlying continuum emission must be polarized.

5.1. Time Variability

The most dramatic examples of polarized spectra are seen in PG 1211+143 and PG 1440+356. Not only are these spectra polarized, but they are also time variable on timescales of $\sim$30 minutes (Figures 5 and 6). In fact, of our radio-detected sample galaxies, time variability is only seen in sources that have significant absorption and spectra that are significantly polarized. A possible concern is that since we observed these sources over several sessions, variability could be an instrumental effect. However, comparing the different sessions’ data for M82, we find that time variability and polarization are not seen beyond what is expected of typical GBT observations. Moreover, session-to-session instrumental variability would not explain the 30 minute variability seen within the same observing session. Time varying polarizations are not seen only in the targets with the brightest continua, so the variations are not likely to be due to instrumental systematics from poor cancellation of baseline ripples in the position-switching scans (O’Neil2002).

A different sort of instrumental effect may be leakage of linear polarization from the linearly polarized background continuum into the total intensity of the absorption profiles. We cannot yet exclude this scenario since these observations were not designed for polarimetry and our current data lack the cross-correlated products (XY and YX) that would be needed to confirm these time variations.

If these time variations are real, they could be caused by one of several processes. First, they could be due to variations in the compact continuum sources behind the $\text{H}_1$ screen. As the X-ray light curves of PG 1211+143 and PG 1440+356 show (Figure 7), the X-ray-emitting central region can be highly variable on a timescale of about 30 minutes. Although not contemporaneous with our GBT data, these X-ray data suggest that the AGN continuum can vary on a 30-minute timescale if
the radio continuum is indeed related to the X-ray-producing regions. However, if the polarization-dependent variations are simply a result of the changing compact source continuum, then we would expect the continuum to vary in block and would observe a change in the EW of the H\textsubscript{i} absorption, not the frequency-dependent variations we see in these targets. Second, variability could be a result of changes in the structure of the H\textsubscript{i} screen. However, the timescale for the destruction of small H\textsubscript{i} clouds in the interstellar medium (ISM) is on the order of 1 Myr, depending on the exact properties of the ISM causing the absorption (e.g., McKee & Cowie 1977; Nagashima et al. 2006); it is therefore unlikely that cloud destruction causes the observed short-term variations. Similarly, it is unlikely that the movement of H\textsubscript{i} clouds into and out of our line of sight to the continuum source can cause the very broad variations observed in these objects.

The time variability of the polarization-dependent H\textsubscript{i} absorption is easier to explain if the polarized continuum emission comes from both the nuclear source and an extended source (e.g., radio jets). In this picture (Figure 8), the H\textsubscript{i} screen is also extended, covering both the nuclear source and extended jets with kinematically distinct clouds. As the central source fluctuates, the ratio of central-to-jet emission also changes, resulting in the observed wavelength-dependent polarization variations. In this scenario, there is no need for the structure of the H\textsubscript{i} screen to change on a fast timescale.

5.2. Decomposing the Spectrum

Regardless of whether the time variability is real, it is certainly the case that the spectra shown in Figure 4 are polarized. Again, we checked for baseline-subtraction-related effects on the detection of polarized absorption and found that the choice of the polynomial order of the baseline fits matters little to the detection of these polarization-dependent absorption features. The most obvious example of polarization not due to observational systematics is seen in the spectra of PG 0050+124 (I Zw 1). This H\textsubscript{i} profile is not polarized at relative velocities of 500–1000 km s\textsuperscript{-1} but becomes polarization-dependent between relative velocities −500 and +500 km s\textsuperscript{-1} (Figure 4). This behavior argues against attribution of apparent polarization dependencies to poor baseline subtraction or session-to-session variations in our GBT observations. At least in this one case, the polarization dependence must be due to something physically happening at relative velocities between −500 and +500 km s\textsuperscript{-1}. When we compare the H\textsubscript{i} profiles of each galaxy in the two separate polarizations, it appears that one polarization typically has higher flux than the other, with the exception of PG 1440+356, in which there is a velocity shift instead. The

![Figure 7. Background-subtracted 0.5–10 keV X-ray light curves of PG 1211+143 (left panel) over 6.5 years through four separate observations, and of PG 1440+356 (right panel) over one week through three separate pointings, from XMM-Newton. For each epoch, each point represents the EPIC-pn count rate in 1800 s intervals starting with the beginning of the observation in the first bin. The dotted lines are the median rates for each specific epoch. The periods of high background flares have been removed from the plot and the calculations of the median rate. The error bars are 3σ. The AGN has both high and low flux states and are clearly variable on the 30-minute timescale seen in Figures 5 and 6.](image)

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

![Figure 8. H\textsubscript{i} screen and source configuration that explains the variable polarization-dependent spectra observed in PG 1211+143 and PG 1440+356. In this picture, the H\textsubscript{i} screen is extended, covering both the core and the radio jets. The jets produce the polarized continuum against which the absorption features are detected. As the central source fluctuates, the ratio of central-to-jet emission also changes, resulting in the observed spectra.](image)

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)
effect is not systematic in the sense that one polarization is always higher than the other; each is nearly equally likely to be the polarization with the higher intensity. In some cases, particularly in PG 1351+640 and PG 1411+442, the lower-intensity profile appears to be the same as the higher-intensity profile with the addition of a broad absorption component.

To follow up on this intriguing hint, we produced the difference spectra (the spectrum in the polarization with the more negative H$_\text{I}$ profile minus the spectrum in the polarization with the more positive H$_\text{I}$ profile) shown in Figure 9. The absorption features in these spectra are then modeled the same way as before, using the GBTIDL task fitgauss. When these absorption models are included, many of the full intensity spectra that need multiple components to explain the blueshifted and redshifted components can be explained simply by H$_\text{I}$ emission that is combined with a single broad absorption component. This pattern is most obvious in PG 1351+640 and PG 1411+442. The results of this type of complex decomposition of the spectra are provided in
Tables 4 and 5. Similar decompositions can explain the shapes of the full intensity spectra of the ULIRGs F05189−2524 and F15130−1958, and the FIR-strong quasar PG 1244+026. However, since those spectra are not polarized, we cannot create difference spectra to model the broad absorption component. The fitgauss task statistically prefers the multiple-component models to the single-absorption model for these spectra. Overall, with the exception of PG 1501+106, the decompositions result in stronger features in both absorption and emission.

Given the results of this exercise, we find the instances of H\textsc{i} absorption (emission) to be 100% (29%) in detected ULIRGs, 100% (88%) in FIR-strong quasars, and 63% (100%) in FIR-weak quasars. The more complex decomposition of the spectra does not drastically change the distribution of EWs (Figure 10) compared to Figure 2. Figure 11 provides a comparison of the FWHMs of the emission and absorption features from the complex modeling with the SFRs of these galaxies. As in Figure 3, the FIR-weak quasars have the broadest emission features and the ULIRGs have the narrowest emission features. In terms of absorption, there is no obvious relationship between the absorption feature widths and the SFRs. As before, the FIR-weak quasars have the broadest absorption features, with the FIR-strong quasars spanning the range of widths between FIR-weak quasars and ULIRGs.
6. THE PROPERTIES OF H\textsc{i} OUTFLOWS

As discussed in Section 4, the absorption components are not necessarily caused by infall or outflow. It is possible, as seen in UGC 05101 (edge-on) and Mrk 231 (face-on), that these features can be associated with the kinematics of gas disks. A circumnuclear gas disk seen nearly edge-on with a non-isotropic gas mass (or background continuum) distribution can mimic characteristics of infall and outflow. Unfortunately, our single-dish data cannot unambiguously exclude gas disks as the source of the features we observe, but it is unlikely that all of our targets with absorption features have gas disks that are seen precisely edge-on.

Keeping this caveat in mind, we assume in the following discussion an outflow origin only for blueshifted H\textsc{i} absorption features with H\textsc{i}-corrected heliocentric velocities \( V_{\text{hel}} \) below \(-50\) km s\(^{-1}\) (Rupke et al. 2005a). A number of mechanisms have been proposed to explain such H\textsc{i} outflows. They include adiabatically expanding broad emission line clouds (e.g., Elvis et al. 2002), starburst- and AGN-driven galactic winds (e.g., Heckman et al. 1990; Veilleux et al. 2005), and AGN-driven jets interacting with the surrounding ISM (e.g., Oosterloo et al. 2000). These mechanisms predict different outflow locations (from parsec to kiloparsec scales) and geometries (wide angled versus collimated).

\[ \frac{M}{M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}} = 20 \left( \frac{\Omega}{4\pi} \right) \left( \frac{r_\star}{1 \text{kpc}} \right) \left( \frac{N_{\text{H}i}}{10^{21} \text{cm}^{-2}} \right) \left( \frac{v}{200 \text{km s}^{-1}} \right), \]

assuming spherical geometry, mass conservation, and a wind that flows from a distance of \( r_\star \) to infinity. The outflow is also assumed to subtend a solid angle of \( \Omega \) within which the gas has a covering fraction of 1. To facilitate comparisons with the values derived from young radio galaxies by Morganti et al. (2005b), we use the same assumptions of \( \Omega = \pi \) and \( r_\star = 1 \) kpc. Applying these assumptions and Equation (5) to the blueshifted absorption components where \( v = V_{\text{hel}} \), we find mass outflow rates \( M \) (wide) up to more than 6000 \( M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} \) (summarized in Table 6). These values are much larger than those of \( \lesssim 60 \) \( M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} \) measured by Morganti et al. (2005b) and the range measured in ULIRGs (13–133 \( M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1} \); Rupke et al. 2002).

Many of the mass outflow rates we infer seem unrealistically large; such high rates have not been measured in other astrophysical objects. These values do, however, depend on the assumptions we have made above. The mass outflow rate depends linearly on the size scale of the outflow region and the derived H\textsc{i} column density. Recall from Equation (4) that the column density depends on the spin temperature and optical depth profile, which in turn depends on the brightness of the background continuum. There are thus three key factors that affect our estimates of a mass outflow rate: the spin temperature of the gas, the assumed distance, and the background continuum.
result in spin temperatures >3000 K (e.g., Holt et al. 2006), although we note that absorption-line opacity will be dominated by the coldest material in any multiphase medium. Spatially resolved interferometric maps of several quasars suggest that the outflow regions have size scales ~0.2–1.6 kpc (Oosterloo et al. 2000; Morganti et al. 2003, 2005a; Emonts et al. 2005). Adeciding the smaller distance of 0.2 kpc instead of 1 kpc would reduce the derived mass outflow rates by a factor of five, more consistent with those derived for ULIRGs.

Finally, the estimated H\textsubscript{i} column density also depends strongly on the geometry of the source of continuum emission. We have assumed that this emission comes entirely from the core. However, the absorption troughs in several quasars in our sample are deeper than the core fluxes. This excess implies that off-nuclear emission also contributes to the observed continuum. In this case, $\tau$ in Equation (3) is overestimated and so is $N_{\text{H}}$, by a factor equal to the actual nuclear/total continuum flux ratio, although a larger source size may compensate to some extent.

### 6.2. Jet-induced Outflows

If the off-nuclear continuum source is indeed physically related to the target and not a background quasar that happens to lie within the GBT beam, our polarized spectra give more credence to the idea that radio jets play an important role in driving H\textsubscript{i} gas outflows (e.g., Morganti 2011). Several sources (see the Appendix) in our sample with polarized spectra have spatially resolved radio jets detected at higher frequencies. The resolutions of these VLA data imply that the jets are launched within ~0.4–0.9 kpc of the core. Considering a jet-induced outflow scenario for the H\textsubscript{i} absorption features, we again apply

| Source | $V_{\odot}$ (km s\textsuperscript{-1}) | $V_{\odot,\text{HI}}$ (km s\textsuperscript{-1}) | $N_{\text{HI}}$ (10\textsuperscript{21} cm\textsuperscript{-2}) | FWZI (km s\textsuperscript{-1}) | $V_{\text{max}}$ (km s\textsuperscript{-1}) | $V_{\text{res}}$ (km s\textsuperscript{-1}) | $M$ (wide) ($M_{\odot}$ yr\textsuperscript{-1}) | $M$ (jet) ($M_{\odot}$ yr\textsuperscript{-1}) | $\log(E/\text{jet})$ (erg s\textsuperscript{-1}) |
|--------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ULIRGs | | | | | | | | | |
| F04103−2838 (M) | $-$409 | $-$538 ± 36 | 81 | 1267 ± 212 | $-$1171 ± 214 | $-$920 ± 70 | 1089 | 4.4 | 41.6 |
| F05189−2524 | $-$374 | $-$374 ± 9 | 10 | 336 ± 67 | $-$542 ± 68 | $-$475 ± 21 | 97 | 0.4 | 40.3 |
| Mkn 231 | $-$79 | $-$79 ± 13 | 12 | 459 ± 90 | $-$309 ± 91 | $-$218 ± 29 | 24 | 0.1 | 38.3 |
| F15130−1958 (M) | $-$847 | $-$847 ± 10 | 39 | 266 ± 76 | $-$980 ± 77 | $-$923 ± 22 | 818 | 3.3 | 41.9 |
| F15250+3608 | $-$451 | $-$451 ± 15 | 61 | 494 ± 114 | $-$697 ± 115 | $-$594 ± 34 | 687 | 2.7 | 41.3 |

**FIR-strong quasars**

| | | | | | | | | | |
| PG 1110 + 124 | $-$32 | $-$216 ± 30 | 1124 | 2815 ± 191 | $-$1623 ± 192 | $-$977 ± 58 | 6072 | 24.3 | 41.6 |
| PG 1311 + 120 | $-$82 | $-$67 ± 4 | 85 | $-$71 ± 17 | $-$110 ± 17 | $-$89 ± 5 | ... | ... | ... |
| PG 1420 + 026 | 17 | 32 ± 27 | 297 | 721 ± 182 | $-$329 ± 184 | $-$176 ± 55 | 392 | 1.6 | 40.6 |
| PG 1400 + 356 | $-$61 | $-$61 ± 21 | 104 | 3118 ± 55 | $-$1620 ± 56 | $-$801 ± 23 | 158 | 0.6 | 38.9 |
| PG 1501 + 106 | $-$381 | $-$381 ± 18 | 152 | 696 ± 62 | $-$729 ± 63 | $-$573 ± 25 | 1450 | 5.8 | 41.4 |
| PG 1531 + 640 | $-$68 | 364 ± 23 | 213 | 2946 ± 147 | $-$1210 ± 148 | $-$547 ± 51 | ... | ... | ... |
| PG 1400 + 356 | 325 | 325 ± 4 | ... | 1104 ± 45 | $-$227 ± 45 | 41 ± 8 | ... | ... | ... |
| PG 1820 + 370 | $-$247 | $-$314 ± 24 | 313 | 547 ± 111 | $-$587 ± 112 | $-$460 ± 37 | 2453 | 9.8 | 41.5 |

**FIR-weak quasars**

| | | | | | | | | | |
| PG 0007 + 106 | $-$270 | $-$59 ± 21 | 43 | 2053 ± 133 | $-$1085 ± 134 | $-$627 ± 42 | 64 | 0.3 | 38.5 |
| PG 0844 + 249 | 158 | 58 ± 26 | ... | 2198 ± 174 | $-$1061 ± 175 | $-$558 ± 51 | ... | ... | ... |
| PG 1411 + 423 | $-$288 | $-$83 ± 18 | 2362 ± 91 | $-$1265 ± 92 | $-$709 ± 29 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| PG 1448 + 273 | $-$106 | $-$38 ± 31 | 1288 | 2129 ± 215 | $-$1102 ± 217 | $-$653 ± 67 | ... | ... | ... |
| PG 1617 + 175 (U) | $-$95 | $-$7 ± 33 | ... | 2737 ± 234 | $-$1376 ± 236 | $-$748 ± 69 | ... | ... | ... |

**Median**

| | | | | | | | | | |
| PG 0007 + 106 | 213 | 1370 ± 87 | $-$1020 ± 88 | $-$560 ± 31 | 1450 | 5.8 | 41.5 |

**Notes.** 1 The sum of the mass outflow rates from the multiple Gaussian components in the galaxy. Column 1: galaxy name. Column 2: heliocentric velocity of the absorption component as tabulated in Tables 3 and 5. Column 3: with the exception of PG 1211 + 143 and PG 1440 + 356, this is the outflow velocity measured relative to the H\textsubscript{i} systemic velocity measured from H\textsubscript{II} emission using values tabulated in Column 2 of Table 2 or 4. $V_{\odot,\text{HI}} = V_{\odot}$ if no emission is detected. For PG 1211 + 143 and PG 1440 + 356, this velocity is relative to the systemic velocity measured from optical emission lines, since the detection of H\textsubscript{II} emission is uncertain (Figures 5 and 6). Column 4: integrated H\textsubscript{i} column density based on the absorption model from Tables 3 and 5. Column 5: full width at zero intensity based on the best-fit Gaussian absorption model and its associated error. Column 6: the maximum outflow velocity where $V_{\text{max}} = V_{\odot,\text{HI}} - (1/2)\text{FWZI}$. Column 7: the velocity at which 98% of the gas has lower velocity where $V_{\text{res}} = V_{\odot,\text{HI}} - 2(FWHM/2.35)$. Column 8: derived mass outflow rate calculated using Equation (5) and assuming that the outflow is in a wide-angled cone where the mass is flowing into a solid angle of $\pi$ from a radius of 1 kpc following the same assumptions as Morganti et al. (2005b). Column 9: same as Column (8) but for a jet whose opening angle is assumed to be 5\textdegree launched at a distance of 0.5 kpc. Column 10: log of the kinetic energy outflow rate as calculated using Equation (6) for the jet scenario.
with those found in a recent study by Chandola et al. (2013) that AGNs (La Franca et al. 2010), we find that many objects in the 1.4 GHz to 2–10 keV ratio as an indicator of radio loudness of the galaxy, resulting in an underestimate of radio loudness. Using but optical data may be subject to contamination from the host galaxy, as objects in our sample are radio-loud (Table 1). These results are consistent with Hα considered radio-loud; one of the two (50%) FIR-weak quasars with detected Hα (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars we corrected the 1.4 GHz flux for star formation. Of the three ULIRGs with blueshifted absorption and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud.

The association of jets with the detected Hα absorption features is also seen in the distribution of radio loudness of our sample. Only one quasar in our sample is considered radio-loud based on optical-to-radio flux ratios (see the Appendix), but optical data may be subject to contamination from the host galaxy, resulting in an underestimate of radio loudness. Using the 1.4 GHz to 2–10 keV ratio as an indicator of radio loudness and a radio-loud cutoff value empirically derived from 1600 AGNs (La Franca et al. 2010), we find that many objects in our sample are radio-loud (Table 1). These results are consistent with those found in a recent study by Chandola et al. (2013) that suggest higher detection rates of Hα absorption toward extended compact steep-spectrum and gigahertz-peaked spectrum sources than toward the cores of radio galaxies. The environments in which the jets interact with the ISM can be complex, and we may be seeing a strongly polarized continuum being absorbed selectively by multiple neutral hydrogen clouds, resulting in polarized Hα absorption.

The fraction of radio-loud sources with associated Hα absorption (58%) is far higher than the ~10% observed in the general population of AGNs. Given the high SFRs of the ULIRGs, the circumnuclear starburst can contaminate the 1.4 GHz measurements. Using the 1.4 GHz to SFR correlation of Bell (2003), we corrected the 1.4 GHz flux for star formation. Of the three ULIRGs with blueshifted absorption and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. Similarly, of the six FIR-strong quasars with detected Hα outflows and X-ray detections, all (100%) are radio-loud. 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H I in emission is much more prevalent among the quasars than the ULIRGs, and the H I emission profiles increasingly resemble those of regularly rotating neutral gas disks as we move from FIR-strong to FIR-weak quasars. The amount of H I seen in emission increases modestly from \(\sim 4 \times 10^{10} \, M_\odot\) among the FIR-strong quasars to \(\sim 7 \times 10^{10} \, M_\odot\) among the FIR-weak quasars. These masses are consistent with those measured in low-redshift quasars (König et al. 2009) and the high end of the gas mass range seen in nearby active galaxies (Ho et al. 2008). We may be witnessing the creation of H I disks from residual neutral gas at the centers of merger remnants.

7. SUMMARY

We have analyzed of GBT H I spectra of 27 ULIRGs and quasars selected from the QUEST sample. We find the following.

1. As mergers evolve from fully coalesced ULIRGs to FIR-strong quasars to FIR-weak quasars, the characteristics of their H I profiles also change from mostly absorption in the ULIRGs to mostly emission in the FIR-weak quasars, with the FIR-bright quasars having intermediate properties. The kinematics of these systems change from narrow absorption features likely due to outflows driven by starbursts in ULIRGs, to broad absorption features from jet-driven outflows driven by AGNs in FIR-strong quasars, and finally to the emission profiles more characteristic of gas in rotation in FIR-weak quasars.

2. A large fraction of the quasars exhibit polarization-dependent absorption features, with 78% of FIR-strong quasars and 63% of FIR-weak quasars showing these features compared with 13% in ULIRGs. Some of these features vary on short timescales (down to \(\sim 30\) minutes). Neither time variability nor polarization-dependent spectral features are seen in contemporaneous observations of M82 (as expected), reducing the likelihood that these effects are instrumental artifacts. These features are likely due to H I absorption of polarized nuclear and off-nuclear continuum emission. The large fraction (\(\sim 60\%\)) of radio-loud sources with H I outflow-associated absorption suggests a close relationship between radio jets and the H I screen.

3. The polarization-dependent absorption features are most likely due to the emergence of radio jets in these systems, contributing to the continuum emission against which the absorption features are detected. The \(\sim 60\%\) radio-loud fraction of our sources with H I outflows is far higher than the \(\sim 10\%\) seen in the general population of AGNs. This distinction suggests that radio jets play an important role in shaping the environments in these systems, which may trace a transition phase in the evolution of gas-rich mergers into “mature” radio galaxies.

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APPENDIX

NOTES ON INDIVIDUAL GALAXIES

In this appendix, we describe the H I spectral properties of our GBT sample. When appropriate, we compare the present data with previous observations of these galaxies.

PG 0007+106. The only radio-loud object in our sample based on classic radio-to-optical criteria. This source is classified as a triple system in the third Zwicky catalog (III Zw 2), and the observed velocity range is consistent with the A (\(v_{\text{sys}} = 26,921 \, \text{km s}^{-1}\)) and C (\(v_{\text{sys}} = 26,981 \, \text{km s}^{-1}\)) components of the system. The GBT detection is assumed to be that of the brightest component. The H I emission profile of the full intensity spectrum agrees with the old Arecibo spectrum of Hutchings et al. (1987). The absorption feature, also noted by Hutchings et al. (1987), is more prominent in the XX spectrum of the GBT data.

PG 0050+124 (I Zw 1). The heliocentric radial velocity listed in Table 1 for this source is from optical spectroscopy by Ho & Kim (2009). The optically derived velocity is \(\sim 700 \, \text{km s}^{-1}\) lower than the H I-derived value of 18,285 km s\(^{-1}\) (Bothun et al. 1984). The optical emission lines may arise in part from outflowing gas, so the optically derived value may underestimate the actual systemic velocity of this object. The shape of the full intensity profile (Figure 1) at 18,285 km s\(^{-1}\) agrees with those previously published by Bothun et al. (1984) and Hutchings et al. (1987), and matches expectations for a regularly rotating disk. However, at lower velocities, the profile becomes polarized and a broad absorption feature is centered at the optically derived velocity (see Figure 9).

F04103−2838. There is a marginal detection of an emission feature and a weak but broad blueshifted absorption feature present.

F05189−2524. No emission is seen in the data. However, several absorption components are detected. An alternative explanation for the spectral shape is the superposition of an emission profile with a broad absorption component.

PG 0804+761. Strong RFI is present at the expected frequency of this galaxy. It is therefore excluded from our analysis.

PG 0844+249. The broad emission profile is asymmetric. Although the profiles in the two different polarizations differ slightly, they have shapes similar to that observed by Ho et al. (2008). Our integrated GBT flux density is larger than that measured by Ho et al. (2008). The emission feature redward of the peak may be due to a companion at \(v_{\text{sys}} = 19,601 \, \text{km s}^{-1}\).

UGC 05101. Multiple absorption components are seen in the GBT data. We interpret the H I absorption profile as a highly absorbed core coincident with an inclined regularly rotating disk.

PG 1119+120. This object was previously observed by Bothun et al. (1984) and Hutchings et al. (1987) with Arecibo. The profiles of the older spectra resemble our GBT observation, although the narrow absorption feature is not apparent in the lower-resolution Arecibo data. There is no obvious detection of a
companion in the GBT data near 16,000 km s$^{-1}$ as suggested by Hutchings et al. (1987). High-resolution VLA maps at 4.8 GHz show a bent jet extending to the northeast (Leipski et al. 2006). At the resolution of these VLA maps (∼0.7′′), the jet is resolved at a distance of ∼0.72 kpc.

**PG 1126−041.** This target was statistically undetected after 3 hr on-source, although there is a very weak broad absorption feature centered near its systemic velocity.

**PG 1211+143.** This broad absorption line system was undetected by Condon et al. (1985); when it was observed by Ho et al. (2008) with Arecibo, standing waves were present in the data due to the strong continuum.

**PG 1229+204.** This object was observed by Ho et al. (2008). The profile of the GBT spectrum roughly agrees with the earlier data.

**PG 1244+026.** A broad, blueshifted absorption feature is present. As for F05189−2524, an alternative explanation for the spectral shape may be emission absorbed by a single broad absorption feature.

**Mrk 231.** The deep absorption trough is associated with the face-on disk of the galaxy (Carilli et al. 1998; Ulvestad et al. 1999). Our GBT full intensity H$^1$ profile of this source mostly agrees with these previous observations, but we detect an additional absorption feature centered at relative velocity ≈−300 km s$^{-1}$ that was first suspected by Morganti (2011). This feature is slightly polarized, with the XX spectrum having lower intensity. Although the polarization is not as high as those seen in Figure 4, if we give the spectra of Mrk 231 the same treatment detailed in Section 5.2, we find that this feature has FWHM ∼1000 km s$^{-1}$ corresponding to a mass outflow rate of ∼0.3 M$\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ in the jet scenario. The polarized feature is thus likely associated with the radio jet (Carilli et al. 1998; Ulvestad et al. 1999). The velocity of this jet-enhanced outflow is similar to the value measured using Na i in the jet-disturbed region (∼1400 km s$^{-1}$; Rupke & Veilleux 2011).

**Mrk 273.** This source is the only binary in our sample; its nuclear separation is ∼750 kpc (Scoville et al. 2000). X-ray observations by Iwasawa et al. (2011) identified its southwestern nucleus as the Seyfert 2 nucleus and suggested that the northern nucleus may host a heavily obscured AGNs. The double-peaked H$^1$ absorption profile is very symmetric and is likely due to the two obscured nuclei. There appears to be a weak absorption feature in the YY spectrum at ∼−500 km s$^{-1}$.

**PG 1351+640.** The XX spectrum appears to show emission, while YY shows broad absorption. The H$^1$ absorption data may also be variable. Leipski et al. (2006) note a jet-like structure in their 4.8 GHz VLA maps and time variability in the core flux density. The resolution of the Leipski et al. (2006) data (∼0.′56) corresponds to a distance of ∼0.91 kpc. Although on a different spatial scale, this structure is consistent (similar position angle) with a single-sided extension hinted at by the 8.4 GHz Very Long Baseline Array (VLBA) snapshot data presented by Blundell & Beasley (1998). This feature is not seen in deeper VLBA imaging at multiple frequencies, but it should be noted that the data from Ulvestad et al. (2005) are only in the left-circular polarization.

**PG 1411+442.** The spectrum of this object is very similar to that of PG 1351+640. Emission is seen in the XX spectrum and a two-component absorption feature in the YY spectrum.

**PG 1426+015.** Ho et al. (2008) detect a fairly narrow ($W_{20} = 357.4$ km s$^{-1}$) and well-defined H$^1$ line centered at $v_{sys} = 25,975.2$ km s$^{-1}$. We have examined our spectrum at the corresponding frequency and see hints of emission over a wider range of velocities; however, this feature has such low significance and is so sensitive to the details of baseline fitting we classify its detection status as “uncertain.”

**PG 1440+356.** The profile of the H$^1$ absorption feature depends slightly on the polarization. Exceptionally, the feature is redshifted by ∼300 km s$^{-1}$ with respect to systemic velocity rather than being blueshifted. A possible explanation is that the systemic velocity taken from NED and based on optical emission lines underestimates the actual systemic velocity because the line-emitting gas arises in part from outflowing material. Another possibility is that we may be detecting infalling H$^1$. Emission is also present in the blue half of the spectrum, although this is only seen at one of several epochs.

**PG 1448+273.** The weakly polarized spectra show blueshifted absorption.

**PG 1501+106.** A weak emission feature is present in the data. A blueshifted absorption feature is also visible, particularly in the XX spectrum. A lot of the data for this source were affected by small ripples in the baseline. As a reality check, we compared our data with similar GBT data from program 10A-070 (PI: Kannappan). The ripples also appear to be present in a large fraction of their data. The persistent ripples could be due to harmonic waves from a strong RFI signal at a frequency that is slightly outside the detector frequency range. Due to the expected weakness of the features, we conservatively flagged all of the data that showed these ripples.

**F15130−1958.** Multiple weak absorption components are present in this object.

**F15250+3608.** This is the only ULIRG in our sample that shows distinct polarization-dependent H$^1$ absorption. The spectra are very similar to those of PG 1351+640 and PG 1411+442, where weak emission is seen in the XX spectrum and absorption in YY.

**F15462−0450.** Strong RFI present at the expected observed frequency of this galaxy. It is therefore excluded from our analysis.

**PG 1617+175.** Broad emission is detected in this object. The profiles of the emission differ slightly in the two polarizations. Notably, the emission feature in the YY spectrum seems to be affected by an additional absorption feature (Figure 9).

**F21219−1757.** This object was not detected.

**PG 2130+099.** This target was observed by Ho et al. (2008). Our full intensity profile of this source agrees with the older data from Arecibo. A blueshifted absorption feature is also seen in the XX spectrum. Leipski et al. (2006) detected what looks like jet-associated hot spots emanating from the core in 4.8 GHz A-array VLA data. The resolution of these VLA data (∼0.′35) implies that the jet can be resolved at a distance of ∼0.42 kpc.

**PG 2214+139.** The H$^1$ spectrum of this object is dominated by a broad emission feature centered at systemic velocity.

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