Kinematics of molecular gas in star-forming galaxies with large-scale ionized outflows

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Accepted 2022 October 18. Received 2022 October 18; in original form 2022 April 6

ABSTRACT

We investigate the kinematics of the molecular gas in a sample of seven edge-on (i > 60°) galaxies identified as hosting large-scale outflows of ionized gas, using ALMA CO(1–0) observations at ~1 kpc resolution. We build on Hogarth et al., where we find that molecular gas is more centrally concentrated in galaxies which host winds than in control objects. We perform full three-dimensional kinematic modelling with multiple combinations of kinematic components, allowing us to infer whether these objects share any similarities in their molecular gas structure. We use modelling to pinpoint the kinematic centre of each galaxy, in order to interpret their minor- and major-axis position velocity diagrams (PVDs). From the PVDs, we find that the bulk of the molecular gas in our galaxies is dynamically cold, tracing the rotation curves predicted by our symmetric, rotation-dominated models, but with minor flux asymmetries. Most notably, we find evidence of radial gas motion in a subset of our objects, which demonstrate a characteristic ‘twisting’ in their minor-axis PVDs generally associated with gas flow along the plane of a galaxy. In our highest S/N object, we include bi-symmetric radial flow in our kinematic model, and find (via the Bayesian Information Criterion) that the presence of radial gas motion is strongly favoured. This may provide one mechanism by which molecular gas and star formation are centrally concentrated, enabling the launch of massive ionized gas winds. However, in the remainder of our sample, we do not observe evidence that gas is being driven radially, once again emphasizing the variety of physical processes that may be powering the outflows in these objects, as originally noted in H21.

Key words: molecular data – galaxies: kinematics and dynamics – galaxies: structure.

1 INTRODUCTION

The processes that trigger angular momentum to collapse inwards towards the inner regions of a galaxy are relatively well understood on kiloparsec scales. Generally, we understand that the formation of an asymmetric component in a galaxy generates a forcing frequency which exerts a torque and destabilizes material in the disc. In the case of weak perturbations (like spiral arms), this can cause streaming motions, with gas typically flowing inwards along spiral arms (Sellwood & Masters 2022). In stronger disturbances, material is forced on to a series of resonant orbits, where they do not experience a torque from the rotation of the asymmetric component. Primarily, these orbits fall at Lindblad resonances, which describes a series of closed stable orbits where an object’s epicyclic frequency is an integer-multiple of the forcing frequency (Combes 1991; Bertin 2014). The strongest resonance is at the co-rotation radius; where the orbital velocity of the stars/gas is equal to the velocity of the rotating asymmetric component, often coincident with the turnover radius of the disc’s velocity profile.

Strongly asymmetric components in a galaxy can take the form of bars or distortions generated by interactions or mergers (which can subsequently cause the formation of a bar, Eliche-Moral et al. 2011). Bars in particular are known to be vital in bulge formation by driving gas into the inner regions of galaxies, which enhances the central mass concentration and subsequently leads to starburst activity (Spinoso et al. 2017). In edge-on galaxies, the presence of a bar can be inferred from the existence of multiple components in the kinematics of the gaseous tracers, describing rings of gas at the resonant orbits of a disc subjected to a pattern frequency (Bureau & Athanassoula 1999). The surface profile of this gas would also appear more centralized as angular momentum is driven inwards. The consequences of bar-induced inflow are an increase in star formation activity, possibly leading to the launching of outflows (Spinoso et al. 2017), the build-up of a pseudo-bulge, and the subsequent suppression of star-formation activity (Gavazzi et al. 2015; Zolotov et al. 2015; Tacchella et al. 2016).

We explored these ideas in Hogarth et al. (2021, hereafter H21) by analysing ALMA CO(1–0) observations of ‘normal’ star-forming galaxies revealed by optical integral field spectroscopy to be hosting large-scale ionized gas outflows (Ho et al. 2016). The key finding from H21 is that the molecular gas (and star formation) in galaxies hosting large-scale ionized outflows is more centralized than in control objects, as also independently observed by Bao et al. (2021).

This result is illustrated in Fig. 1. The figure shows the molecular gas mass surface density (ΣHI) as a function of normalized radius along the major axis, after the galaxies hosting strong ionized-gas outflows are divided into low- (log(M/L<10)) and high-mass (log(M/L>10)) subsamples. The mean ΣHI profile of each subsample is compared to that of a control sample matched in M*. © 2022 The Author(s) Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of Royal Astronomical Society
2 SAMPLE SELECTION AND DATA

A full description of our sample selection and data products is outlined in H21; we provide a cursory overview here, and refer to that publication for more details. Our objects are selected from the SAMI Galaxy Survey, an optical integral field spectroscopic survey of 3068 spatially resolved galaxies at $z \lesssim 0.1$ (Croom et al. 2012; Bryant et al. 2015; Green et al. 2018; Scott et al. 2018; Croom et al. 2021). We use the two diagnostics developed by Ho et al. (2016) to identify edge-on galaxies (i.e. $i > 70^\circ$) harbingers of large-scale ionized winds, which we refer to as ‘outflow-types’. We targeted 9 of these galaxies, as well as seven control objects, for follow-up CO(1–0) observations with ALMA in Cycle 5. These observations were done in Band 3 with a synthesized beam of 1 arcsec ($\approx 0.5$–1 kpc) and a spectral resolution of $\approx 10$ km s$^{-1}$, with an on-source integration time between 45 and 53 min for each object.

We use standard CASA (Common Astronomy Software Applications) pipeline subroutines (McMullin et al. 2007) to reduce the ALMA data. We then extract total CO(1–0) emission (and total molecular gas masses), moment maps, and position velocity diagrams (PVDs) as described in H21.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Kinematic modelling

We perform kinematic modelling of the ALMA data to determine the kinematic centres of the CO(1–0) emission (see Fig. 2). By finding the kinematic centre of our objects through modelling, we can more accurately centre the PVDs and assess kinematic features. Due to the high inclination of our objects, we have to use full 3D kinematic modelling to overcome projection effects. We employ the KINematic Molecular Simulation (KinMS; tool of Davis et al. 2013; Davis, Zabel & Dawson 2020). The KinMS tool allows us to create simple simulated interferometric data cubes by defining arbitrary surface-brightness and velocity profiles. The tool accounts for the dispersion of the gas as well as both projection and disc-thickness, while also including observational effects such as beam-smearing in the output simulation. We employ the KINMS_FITTER wrapper for KinMS, which acts as a front-end for the most common fitting tasks within KinMS and provides a simple interface for defining surface brightness and velocity profiles. It also provides an interface to the GASStimator package, which implements a PYTHON MCMC Gibbs sampler with adaptive stepping employed to fit the mock interferometric data cubes generated by KinMS, with predefined surface-brightness and velocity profiles, to the original data cubes.

Intrinsic, KinMS assumes that the gas in our observations is dynamically cold and relaxed, so the models are subsequently symmetric about their spatial and spectral kinematic centres. In order to capture the rotation-dominated gas, we use an arctangent velocity curve in each case. While arctangent velocity profiles have been widely used in the literature, they are not physically motivated, and real galaxies rotation curves are often significantly more complicated. In our case, however, excellent fits are obtained using this simple rotation curve form. By using a velocity curve model, we can effectively separate gas in our objects which has non-circular dynamics from that captured by the pure circular motion model. For each object, we

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1 As CO maps are not available for all of these SAMI control objects, the $\Sigma_{HI}$ profiles are derived from $\Sigma_{SFR}$ using the results of Leroy et al. (2013) (see details and validation of this procedure in H21).

2 https://github.com/TimothyADavis/KinMSpy

3 https://kinms.space

4 https://github.com/TimothyADavis/KinMS_fitter

5 https://github.com/TimothyADavis/GASStimator

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Figure 1. Radial $\Sigma_{HI}$ profiles of molecular gas in the high and low-$M_*$ outflow-type samples from ALMA and derived from SAMI samples [converted to molecular gas density using the $\Sigma_{SFR}$--$\Sigma_{HI}$ relation from Leroy et al. (2013)] defined in H21. Top: The high-$M_*$ sample of outflow-type objects given by the teal vertical density profile and the high-$M_*$ SAMI sample in orange. Bottom: The low-$M_*$ sample of outflow-type objects given by the teal vertical density profile and the low-$M_*$ SAMI sample in orange. In both panels, the vertical white dashed lines indicate the radius within which half of the integral under the curves lies to give an indication of the different extents of the gas.
Figure 2. Best-fitting models created using KinMS for seven of our outflow-type objects. Each row of panels in the figure gives details of the kinematic fit for each object respectively. In each row of the three panels: left, the zeroth moment of the CO(1–0) data cube (filled coloured contours) with the zeroth moment of the model overlaid in the black contours; middle, the residual velocity map obtained by subtracting the observed and modelled intensity weighted mean velocity maps (i.e. $M_{1, \text{data}} - M_{1, \text{model}}$); right, the spectrum extracted from the data when collapsed over its spatial axes (teal line) with the spectrum from the model (red line) and the residual of the two beneath (with the RMS noise level of the data given by the dark-shaded region).
fit multiple different surface brightness profiles and combinations of surface brightness profiles with the arctan velocity profile (i.e. exponential disc, exponential disc + central hole, Gaussian ring, two exponential discs, exponential disc + Gaussian ring, two Gaussian rings). The total number of parameters used in a given model is, therefore, dictated entirely by the surface brightness model used. Prior to using the MCMC fitting process, we perform a least squares fit to the data in order to obtain first guesses at the model parameters. Once we have implemented MCMC fits using all prospective surface brightness models, we select a best-fitting model that minimizes the Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC; i.e. the model with the greatest likelihood with respect to a penalty incurred for larger numbers of parameters).

In Fig. 2, we present the KinMS models of our objects identified as outflow types. In Table 1, we list the best-fitting surface brightness profiles and total number of free parameters used in the fit. In addition to the parameters associated with the surface brightness profiles and arctan velocity profile, we also fit the position angle, RA centre, Dec. centre, velocity centre, inclination, total flux and velocity dispersion of the gas (see Appendices A and B). However,
Figure 3. Example of MGE model derived from r-band HSC photometry of GAMA106389. The r-band data are given by the coloured filled isophotes and the model by the orange isophotes, both spaced by 0.5 mag arcsec$^{-2}$. The bottom panel is zoomed image of the central regions of the top panel. The black dashed circle represents the HSC resolution ($σ_{PSF} \approx 1$ arcsec) to indicate which Gaussian components would be unresolved by our data. The MGE model centre is offset from the flux centre in this instance due to the dust lane obscuring flux on the near-side of the edge-on galaxy.

in the cases of GAMA228432, GAMA238125, and GAMA574200, we fix the total flux parameter in the models to our initial guess (calculated by integrating the flux of the cube) due to overestimation of this parameter when the gas profiles are significantly asymmetric.

There is no ubiquitous or defining feature that exists in all of the outflow-type objects. Most are best modelled by a single-component surface brightness profile, but we find no preference towards a disc-type profile as opposed to a ring-type profile. However, using these kinematically symmetric models that simulate pure rotation, we can begin to interpret any potentially dynamically disturbed features in the PVDs extracted from our outflow-type objects in Section 4.

3.2 Circular velocity

Another method of determining whether the CO(1–0) gas observed in our galaxy sample is dynamically disturbed is by comparing its kinematics to the circular velocity of the objects predicated by the gravitational potential of the stellar content. We attempt this by extracting Multi-Gaussian Expansion (MGE) models (Emsellem, Monnet & Bacon 1994), using r-band photometry from HSC (Hyper Suprime-Cam Subaru Strategic Program; Aihara et al. 2019). Our MGE models are derived using the MGEFIT package of Cappellari (2002). An example of the MGE models produced by implementing the MGEFIT package on the r-band photometry on our objects is given in Fig. 3, where we contrast the original photometry for GAMA106389 with the output surface brightness model.

Having obtained MGE surface brightness models for the r-band photometry of our galaxies, we extract circular velocity curves using the MGE_VIRC function in the JAMPY package (Cappellari 2008). The MGE_VIRC function assumes a constant mass-to-light ratio (M/L) within a galaxy, which we derive for each galaxy using the colour calibration outlined in Bell & de Jong (2001):

$$B - V = 0.98(g - r) + 0.22,$$

$$\log M/L = -0.66 + 1.222(B - V) \pm 0.1 \text{ dex},$$

where $g$ and $r$ are the g-band and r-band magnitudes for our objects from SDSS DR16 (Ahumada et al. 2020), which using SDSS conversions in equation (1), we transform into $B - V$ colours.

As all of the objects in our sample are highly inclined ($i > 60^\circ$), the disc inclination parameter in most cases falls below the lower limit of the inclination prior built into JAMPY when analytically deprojecting our 2D MGE models into 3D space (in all cases we use the inclination from GAMA DR3; Baldry et al. 2018). Below this lower limit, JAMPY cannot deproject the MGE model. Using the method outlined in Cappellari et al. (2009) and Smith et al. (2019), we circularize the MGE model components by transforming the input to JAMPY from $[S_i, \sigma_i, q_{obs,i}] \rightarrow [S_i, \sigma_i, q_{obs,i}, 1]$, where $S_i$, $\sigma_i$, and $q_{obs,i}$ are the surface brightness, width and axial ratio of the $i$th Gaussian component, respectively. By performing this conversion, which makes only a small modification to the MGE models, the input no longer falls below the lower bound of the inclination required for deprojection. We also perform a first-order dust correction of the r-band images by masking pixels containing dust regions by-eye, assuming the dust acts as a screen in front of the stellar emission (Carollo et al. 1997; Cappellari 2002). As the galaxies are edge-on, the dust is easily identified and masked by-eye within dust lanes. This procedure for dust-correcting is widely used in the literature (e.g. see Scott et al. 2013; Davis et al. 2017; Thater et al. 2017; Davis et al. 2018). The MGE model generated for GAMA106389 is illustrated in Fig. 3.

We find in many of our MGE models that the central Gaussian components are similar in size or smaller than the spatial resolution of the HSC r-band data. Again using the methodology outlined in Smith et al. (2019), we speculate that the central components that are unresolved by the HSC data may be associated with optical emission from AGN. Consequently, those components do not contribute to the stellar mass and could artificially steepen our velocity curves in the central regions. We discuss this further in Section 4, where we use the velocity curves extracted from our MGE models including and excluding these unresolved central components as the upper and lower limits of the component of the rotational velocity due to the stellar mass distribution, respectively. For the lower limits, we exclude MGE components that have $\sigma_i < \sigma_{PSF}$, where $\sigma_i$ are the dispersions of the MGE Gaussian components and $\sigma_{PSF}$ is the dispersion of the HSCPSF (see Fig. 3). We follow a similar reasoning of that employed in Davis et al. (2013), where we anticipate that a substantial deviation of our ALMA data PVDs from the circular velocity curve would imply that the gas in the objects is dynamically disrupted with respect to the stellar disc.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Major axis PVDs

We use the method outlined in Davis et al. (2013) to construct and interpret the major axis PVDs from our ALMA CO(1–0) datacubes,
which are presented in Fig. 4. We extract our PVDs from the original ALMA cubes by rotating the spatial axes by the position angle found by our KinMS fitting procedure (see Section 3.1) and centred on the kinematic centre also found using the results from our fit. Each PVD is extracted using a 2 kpc-wide slit, which includes all the emission for these edge-on galaxies. We produce two panels for each object; one with the major axis PVD on the left and one with the residual between the PVDs of the data and the KinMS model on the right. In each left-hand panel, we overlay the PVDs extracted from the respective KinMS models using the same position angle and slit width. Additionally, we show rotation curves for both the ionized gas and stars by rotating the 2D SAMI maps by the KinMS position angle and averaging the velocity along the major axis in the same slit used to extract the CO(1–0) PVDs. As detailed in Section 3.2, we also show the velocity curve of the stellar disc calculated using our MGE models in each panel in Fig. 4. We create an upper and lower limit for these velocity curves by including and excluding MGE components unresolved by the HSC data, respectively (these limits also include the uncertainty created by our MIL ratio estimates given by equation 2). These limits serve as the range of possible velocities predicted by the MGE models. While we attempted to account for dust attenuation in our MGE models, errors related to this dust correction can be included within the error budget associated with the MIL ratio.

Using the KinMS models, we can centre our PVDs appropriately and, consequently, can more accurately assess kinematic features and observe features that depart from the dynamically relaxed models. In Fig. 4, we find that the bulk of the CO(1–0) gas in most instances falls within the velocity range predicted by our MGE models. We also find that the velocity of the CO(1–0)-emitting gas lies above that observed for the ionized gas and stellar rotation in all cases. This is consistent with the principle of asymmetric drift, where stellar and gaseous discs with large dispersions rotate slower than dynamically cold components. In addition, we find well-converged solutions using our pure rotation models for each object (see Appendix A). In roughly half of our objects, our models are in good agreement with the rotation curves extracted from our MGE models, suggesting that the bulk motion of the molecular gas is driven by the stellar potential. In all cases, the gas at large offsets is in agreement with the MGE-derived rotation curves (radii ≳ effective radius). However, we note that in the three galaxies where we see some disagreement between the molecular gas rotation and that predicted by the MGE (GAMA106389, GAMA228432, and GAMA593680), the molecular gas is distributed in a ring/s, or has a central hole, which alters the rotation curve to follow solid body rotation along our line of sight. This may artificially flatten the rotation of the molecular gas in the inner regions (radii ≳ ring/hole radius) of the galaxies compared to the rotation curve generated from the stellar potential. Furthermore, these models have generally low gas velocity dispersions (σ_v ≲ 30 km s⁻¹), with the exception of GAMA593680 (see Appendix B). However, this exception is likely driven by the central velocity flare in this object, which is unaccounted for in our simple model. The combination of these factors suggests that the CO(1–0) gas in our observations is largely dynamically cold and relaxed in a disc/ring, so that its kinematics is primarily driven by the stellar potential of the host galaxy (and at these radii, the stellar contribution to the total potential is dominant).

Despite finding evidence that the molecular gas [as observed with the CO(1–0) line] is dynamically cold, in some cases we observe features that are not captured by the pure rotation model. More generally, we also see indications of flux asymmetry in many of our PVD diagrams. To exemplify this more clearly, in Fig. 4 we show the residuals of the PVDs extracted from our CO(1–0) observations with those from the KinMS models, which are both normalized by their respective total flux (normalized to ease the interpretation of flux asymmetry with respect to the model). As the KinMS models are by nature spatially and spectrally symmetric about their kinematic centres, asymmetry or unmodelled features in our data should be highlighted when compared against them.

As each object has a unique kinematic structure and a model that captures that structure with different degrees of success, we will consider each object in Fig. 4 in isolation:

(i) GAMA106389: The molecular gas distribution is best modelled by a Gaussian ring, as opposed to an exponential disc (see Section 3.1). The central emission in the PVD also appears to follow the solid-body rotation pattern (i.e. where velocity increases linearly with radius), rather than the steepest central stellar rotation predicted by the MGE model. This is what we would expect to observe for a gas ring viewed in projection. The most likely interpretation of this object’s kinematic profile is the existence of a resonance system, which may be driven by the forcing frequency associated with a bar. The pattern frequency of a bar causes gas to accumulate on stable, closed orbital paths where the gas rotates at a rate that is commensurate with the rate at which it encounters the forcing. In this case, it is probable that either the inner Lindblad resonance or X2 orbits are populated by gas (those at and within co-rotation, which usually coincides with the turnover radius). The object appears to have a flux asymmetry in the approaching velocity side of its PVD, suggesting the gas is not evenly distributed around this ring. This asymmetry is also present in the residual plot for the object.

(ii) GAMA228432 is modelled by an exponential disc with a central hole. This profile could again be indicative of a resonance system where the inner orbits have been evacuated (the linear shape of the inner region of the PVD is also what would be expected for a ring viewed in projection). Furthermore, there is a flux enhancement in the approaching side of its PVD (which we also observe in the ionized gas distribution) and the receding side extends to higher velocities and offsets than the approaching end with respect to the kinematic centre.

(iii) GAMA238125 is modelled by an exponential disc with a velocity curve in very close agreement with the MGE-derived curve. Like GAMA228432, the spatial distribution of the gas is asymmetric with respect to the kinematic centre (see Fig. 2) that can be observed in the approaching side of the PVD.

(iv) GAMA417678 is modelled by a Gaussian ring surface brightness profile with a rotation curve that is in close agreement with the MGE-derived rotation curve. This ring-type profile may again be indicative of a resonance system, with gas occupying the inner Lindblad resonance, within the co-rotation radius. Again, with reference to Fig. 4, we observe a gas enhancement at receding velocities. We also note a slight flaring of the velocities towards the kinematic centre of the profile, which can be more clearly observed in the residual plot, where there are residual flux enhancements corresponding to this central velocity flare.

(v) GAMA574200 is modelled by an exponential disc and appears relatively symmetric with regard to the kinematic centre. The object does extend further at receding velocities, which can be observed in Fig. 2, where the object is asymmetric with respect to the kinematic centre.

(vi) GAMA593680 appears to be the most complex in terms of kinematic structure and is modelled by a superposition of two Gaussian profiles; an inner Gaussian disc-like profile (we say disc-type here as the mean position of the ring is located at the kinematic
centre) and outer Gaussian ring-type profile. The inner region of the PVD also follows a linear rotation pattern, emulating solid-body rotation, instead of the more sharply rising central rotation predicted by our MGE model. As previously noted, this is what we would expect to observe when viewing gas rings in projection. Again, we interpret the multiple ring structure of this object as indicative of an axi-symmetric forcing, most likely by a bar. In this instance, we may have inner Lindblad resonances/X2 orbits occupied in addition to the co-rotation radius or outer resonances, as the gas profile appears to extend beyond the turnover radius. The bulk of the profile is in reasonable agreement with the MGE-derived rotation (there is some indication that the turnover radius of the model is larger than that of the MGE-derived rotation curve). However, the gas clearly has a central flare in the velocity direction. This central flare is not captured by either the MGE rotation or by that of the model, which is evident in the residual. We cannot, therefore, attribute this flare to the inner Gaussian ring in this profile, assuming the dynamics are purely driven by circular rotation. Furthermore, in the

Figure 4. PVDs extracted along the major axes of our outflow-type objects with their residuals when compared to their respective KinMS model. In each of the panels on the left, we give the PVD extracted from a 2 kpc-wide slit centred on the kinematic centre and orientated along the position angle, both determined by the KinMS modelling (given by the filled coloured contours). The PVD extracted from the KinMS model is given by the pale blue contours over the data, representing 10 per cent of the maximum value in the model PVD to 90 per cent in steps of 10 per cent of the maximum value. For comparison, we also plot the velocity curves extracted from the SAMI stellar and ionized gas velocity maps, extracted and averaged along the minor axes in the same 2 kpc-wide slit used to create the CO(1–0) PVDs. The stellar and ionized gas rotation curves are given by the purple circles and magenta diamonds, respectively. The uncertainties represent one standard error in the mean when averaging over the minor axes (this is the dominant error). In each of these panels, we also plot the rotation curves generated by our MGE fits to HSC r-band photometry. We give an upper and lower limit of the these rotation curves by the white dashed lines (see the text for more details). In the panels on the right side, we give the residual of the data and model both normalized by their total fluxes (i.e. data$_{ij}$/\Sigma i_j data$_{ij}$ - model$_{ij}$/\Sigma i_j model$_{ij}$, where $i$ and $j$ are the PVD axes) with the collapsed residuals for the velocity and offset axes.
residual panel the receding side of the PVD is clearly more gas rich than the approaching side, implying a flux asymmetry in this object.

(vii) 018906 is modelled by an exponential disc and appears relatively symmetric with respect to the kinematic centre, but with some indications of flux asymmetry at velocities close to the MGE-predicted turnover radius.

Our galaxies, which all harbour large-scale ionized gas winds, demonstrate a degree of flux asymmetry in their molecular gas when
compared to their symmetric KinMS models (we will discuss the significance of the asymmetry in Section 5.1). We also find some instances of unmodelled kinematic features (e.g. central velocity flaring). There may be evidence, therefore, that the molecular gas is not perfectly kinematically settled in our outflow-type galaxies.

4.2 Minor axis PVDs

We also extract PVDs along the minor axes of our objects. These minor axis PVDs may reveal radial motion of the CO(1–0) gas, otherwise difficult to identify in the major axis PVDs. Radial motion can be detected by a ‘twisting/bending’ of the minor axis PVD about the kinematic centre, indicating gas flow in the plane of the disc. For these PVDs, we use slit width equal to the effective radius \( r_e \) of the objects (where we use \( r_e \) values from the GAMA DR3 catalogue), so that the slit extends half an \( r_e \) either side of the kinematic centre along the major axis. By using a wide slit for these PVDs, we hope to capture the bulk of the CO(1–0) gas, in order to detect widespread radial motion (it should be noted, referring back to Fig. 1, that the molecular gas is centrally concentrated, meaning this slit covers most of the CO emission). In Fig. 5, as in Fig. 4, we include two panels for each object; one with the minor axis PVD drawn from our data overlaid with the model PVD and the other the residual between the PVDs of the data and the model (calculated in the same manner as the residual plots in Fig. 4). Again, we consider each galaxy separately:

(i) GAMA106389: There is evidence of gas enhancement at negative offsets and at negative velocities, but no ‘bending/twisting’ indicative of radial motion.

(ii) GAMA228432: We observe a clear ‘bending’ in this PVD, represented as spatial and velocity asymmetries, possibly indicative of radial motion and inflow or outflow of gas along the rotation plane. As detailed in Section 4.1, the central hole in the exponential profile used to model this object may suggest the presence of a bar,
which would exert gravitational torques on the surrounding gas and, subsequently, internal radial motion.

(iii) GAMA238125: We do not observe asymmetry in this object, but we note there are deviations from the minor-axis PVD extracted from the model. The low S/N of this object may restrict our ability to discern kinematic features clearly.

(iv) GAMA417678: We can infer from the residual a gas enhancement at negative offsets and positive velocities, but no ‘bending/twisting’ indicative of radial motion.

(v) GAMA574200: The lower S/N is this object is again limiting, but we do not observe notable asymmetry in this object.

(vi) GAMA593680: The presence of a ‘bend’ in the PVD towards the positive offsets is very striking in this case. The residual panel validates this observations by showing a clear gas enhancement at positive velocities. In this instance, given the ring-type component used to model this object and the observations of the kinematic features of the major-axis PVD made in Section 4.1, we again can infer a resonance system with radial motion induced by a bar.

(vii) GAMA618906: We do not observe significant asymmetry in this object apart from a slight enhancement at positive velocities, but the low S/N of this object limits further analysis.

We will reflect on these observations and their implications in Section 5 and discuss how this interpretation relates to previous results.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Dynamically cold discs

A ubiquitous feature of our sample of SAMI-selected galaxies with galactic-scale ionized gas winds is that the molecular gas appears to be dynamically cold. We find good agreement between the PVDs
we extract from our CO(1–0) datacubes and our MGE models in about half of objects (with some MGE models being steeper than our CO(1–0) data at low offsets, see Section 4.1). However, the objects where we see disagreement (GAMA106389, GAMA228432, and GAMA593680) all have ring-type molecular gas profiles, which produce flattened rotation curves when viewed in projection. We, therefore, do not necessarily interpret disagreement here between the rotation of the molecular gas and that from the stellar potential.
In all cases, however, the data agrees reasonably with the MGE-derived rotation curves at large offsets ($\gtrsim r_e$). We also find excellent agreement between our KinMS models and the observed CO(1–0) emission (see Section 3.1). As detailed in Davis et al. (2013), KinMS models make the assumption that the gas is dynamically cold and symmetrically distributed about its kinematic centre. We also find low-velocity dispersions for each object, further supporting the inference that the molecular gas is dynamically cold and rotation dominated.

We can test the hypothesis that the gas in our galaxies is largely rotation dominated by calculating the velocity to velocity dispersion ($V/\sigma$) ratio using the parameters from our models. In Fig. 6, we present the $V/\sigma$ values for our outflow-type objects. The whole sample falls consistently in the very highly rotation-dominated regime (i.e. $V/\sigma \gg 1$), implying again that the molecular gas in these objects is largely dynamically cold and rotation supported. This is further substantiated by Fig. 4, where the bulk of the CO(1–0) emission follows the stellar kinematics.

While it is evident that the objects in our sample are largely rotation-dominated and dynamically relaxed, we do observe some asymmetries when examining our PVDs in Section 4.1. These could

![Figure 6](https://example.com/figure6.png)

**Figure 6.** Plot illustrating the $V/\sigma$ ratios for the outflow-type galaxies in our sample. In each case, we use the maximum velocity and velocity dispersion values from the best-fitting models generated from KinMS (see Section 3.1 and Appendix B). We mark $V/\sigma = 1$ with an orange dashed line to mark the rotation-dominated ($V/\sigma > 1$) and dispersion-dominated ($V/\sigma < 1$) regimes.
be due to either velocity asymmetries (i.e. deviations of the kinematics from circular motion) or flux asymmetries (i.e. asymmetries in the gas distribution in an otherwise axi-symmetric potential).

In an extended analysis, in order to distinguish between flux and velocity asymmetries, we look for the presence of velocity asymmetry by transforming our major-axis PVDs so that where gas is present (according to our masking process) the intensity is | = 1 and otherwise = 0 (see Appendix C). The PVDs are then rotated by 180° and subtracted from the un-rotated, binary PVDs. This process aims to highlight asymmetry in the shape of a PVD with respect to the kinematic centre, which is an indication of instability over dynamical time-scales (τdyn). In all cases, and especially for the high-mass galaxies, this analysis reveals little evidence for velocity asymmetries. This suggests that the kinematics of the gas in these objects is stable over a time-scale τdyn (≈ 2πRmax/Vmax ≈ 300 Myr).

Next, we employ a similar technique to quantify the significance of the flux asymmetries seen in the major-axis PVDs. Whereas velocity asymmetry by itself can indicate on-going dynamical instability, flux asymmetry without velocity asymmetry is more likely associated with a settled disc that has undergone past instability (or potentially chance alignments of molecular clouds along our line of sight).

We define flux asymmetry using a similar method as the Asymmetry Index (A; Schade et al. 1995; Abraham et al. 1996), so that

\[
\text{Flux Asymmetry} = \frac{\sum_{ij}|\text{PVD}_j - \text{PVD}_{\text{PVD}_0}|}{2\sum_{ij}\text{PVD}_j},
\]

where PVDj and PVD0 are the PVDs and 180°-rotated PVDs, respectively. To compare the flux asymmetry we observe in our objects to a control sample, we use the PHANGS-ALMA (Leroy et al. 2021) sample to create a distribution of flux asymmetry. We degrade the PHANGS-ALMA CO(2 → 1) resolution to be comparable to our physical resolution of ≈ 1 kpc and perform the same procedure summarized by equation (3). The results of this analysis are illustrated in Fig. 7, where we split the PHANGS-ALMA flux asymmetries into high-M∗ and low-M∗ subsamples and overlay our outflow-type flux asymmetries. We find that our objects fall within the inner (i.e. 25–75 percent) quartiles of the high-M∗ and low-M∗ KDE profiles extracted from PHANGS-ALMA, with the exception of GAMA618906 in the high-M∗ distribution.

Ultimately, we do not find evidence to suggest that the flux asymmetry of the molecular gas content in our outflow-type objects is extraordinary compared to a sample of galaxies not undergoing large-scale outflows of ionized gas. However, the generally lower flux asymmetries we observe in our higher M∗ objects is consistent with the findings of Davis et al. (2022), who find a similar result between the Asymmetry Parameter values from CO zeroth moment maps and total galaxy M∗. The explanation they postulate is that higher M∗ galaxies are more likely to host dense stellar bulges which form deep potentials at the centre of these galaxies and, as a result, keep the molecular gas more stable (i.e. the stellar potential dominates over the gas self-gravity). Davis et al. (2022) find the stellar mass surface density is the most influential global galaxy property that dictates the morphology of the molecular gas content and has a stabilizing effect on its kinematics. This is highly relevant to our results, where we have a sample of objects hosting molecular gas with dynamics largely dominated by the stellar potential, which is very dynamically stable.

5.2 Radial gas motion

In Section 4.2, we presented minor axes PVDs to look for signatures of radial motion. We note a clear ‘twisting’ feature in only two of our objects: GAMA228432 and GAMA593680. This ‘twisting’ manifests itself as an excess of gas either above or below the disc and either at approaching or receding velocity (so as to create a bend in the PVD profile). This feature is often associated with radial inflows or outflows along the disc.

By modelling, the kinematically settled bulk of the gas using an arctan rotation curve, we find multiple instances of ring-type gas distributions, which are often associated with the presence of a resonance system, such as a bar (e.g. see Combes 1991; Comerón et al. 2014; Fraser-McKelvie et al. 2020; Chiba & Schönherr 2021). As previously discussed, these ring, or multiple ring, structures can emerge from the presence of Lindblad resonances, where an orbit’s epicyclic frequency is commensurate with the pattern frequency driven by the rotation of a central bar. In order to test the hypothesis that the molecular gas in our two objects where we identify ‘twisting’ features in their PVDs is undergoing radial motion, we re-model the highest S/N object of the two, GAMA593680, with a radial bi-symmetric bar-flow component (we are unable to produce a compelling solution with the lower S/N object GAMA228432 due to the number of parameters required). GAMA593680 has the most compelling evidence for radial bar-flow (i.e. ring-type profiles, un-modelled kinematic components and ‘twisting’ minor-axis PVD).

To model radial motion induced by a central bar, we use the RADIAL_BARFLOW function within the KINMS_FITTER wrapper, which is based on the non-axisymmetric models outlined in Spekkens &
Sellwood (2007). This radial motion model assumes that the bar extends from the galaxy’s centre to a radius $R_{\text{bar}}$, with a phase $\phi_{\text{bar}}$ and that the gas has a fixed radial and transverse velocity ($V_r, V_t$). In both models, we use the same surface brightness profile used in the preliminary modelling (see Table 1) and an arctan rotation curve. The results of this process are given in Fig. 8, where we present PVDs extracted from both the major and minor axes. The BIC chooses the model with radial motion as the best-fitting model for GAMA593680, despite the penalization for the four additional parameters introduced by the radial bar-flow (see Appendix A). Visually, the radial bar-flow provides the flaring in the velocity direction that we observe in the major-axis PVDs. There is clear improvement in the model when comparing against the major and minor-axis PVDs in Fig. 8. The remaining flux asymmetries we observe in the residual panels may simply trace flux asymmetries in the object, as opposed to unmodelled kinematic features. However, the improvement in the model at least suggests that radial motion plays a part in this object’s molecular gas kinematics.

We can infer from our models of GAMA593680 (a superposition of a Gaussian disc-like profile and Gaussian ring-type profile) that a central bar may be responsible for driving radial gas flow towards resonant orbits commensurate with the bar pattern frequency. We do observe a ring-type gas structures in GAMA106389, GAMA228432, and GAMA417678; however, only see visual evidence of radial motion in GAMA228432. We are unable to identify whether these objects have optical bars due to their high inclination. Although ring structures such as these are typically caused by a bar, it is possible in some cases for minor mergers to cause the formation of inner discs and rings in a galaxy (Eliche-Moral et al. 2011). Unlike in the cases of GAMA228432 and GAMA593680, the other two galaxies identified as having ring-type molecular gas profiles, GAMA106389 and GAMA417678, do not show any indication of ongoing radial motion of gas. This does not preclude past gas motion which has led to a centralised molecular gas distribution in these objects or gas flows that small enough as to be beyond the sensitivity of our observations. However, objects GAMA238125, GAMA574200, and GAMA618906 show no evidence of a ring-type gas distribution, which further hinders the argument for a consistent kinematic process occurring in all of our outflow-type objects, as we find no evidence in the gas kinematics for a resonance system. These findings reinforce much of the discussion in H21, where we emphasize the variety in the properties of this sample, despite finding the consistent result of centrally concentrated molecular gas. Our results here imply that there is no one consistent kinematic process by which gas is driven into the centre of these galaxies undergoing large-scale ionized outflow.

As noted in Section 4.1, we do see some indication of flux asymmetry in the major axis PVDs drawn from our sample, implying that although the bulk of the gas in our objects appears dynamically cold, there may be some component of the gas that has undergone a disturbance. However, with reference to Section 5.1 and Fig. 7, the flux asymmetry we see in our outflow-types generally falls well within the bulk of the distribution derived from PHANGS-ALMA galaxies of their approximate stellar mass. This does not preclude the possibility that the flux asymmetry we observe results from a minor merger in the objects’ histories, but it does suggest that either the objects have largely dynamically re-stabilized following the merger in their histories or the merger occurred in such a way as not to significantly disturb the objects (e.g. gas accretion along the plane of the disc).

Minor mergers can create morphological distortions with respect to the disc, creating a pattern frequency and subsequently resonating, stable orbits in the centre of the disc. Again with reference to GAMA593680, we see a significant warp in the dust lane of this object in the HSC imagery (see H21), suggestive of a morphological disturbance in this object’s history. If our outflow-types have all experienced a minor-merger event, it may be that this has led to a resonant ring structure in some and less obvious morphological instabilities in others. This may also aid in explaining the kinematic complexity we note in GAMA593680, as merging events are likely to cause a degree of dynamic turbulence.

In H21, we find that our outflow-type objects (i.e. galaxies hosting large-scale outflows of ionized gas) have more centrally concentrated molecular gas compared to a control sample. Star formation in our outflow types is also restricted to the same central region ($<r_e$). This observation is also confirmed by Bao et al. (2021), who find older stellar populations in the centre of their sample of normal star-forming galaxies, suggesting the stars in the centre of these objects formed prior to the outer stellar population. This is further reinforced by the enhanced central metalicities found by Rodríguez-Baras, Díaz & Rosales-Ortega (2019) and Bao et al. (2021). From these combined results, we can infer an ‘inside-out’ process, whereby stars primarily form in the galactic centre. However, we note that Bao et al. (2021) observe an elevation is SFR density compared to their control sample, whereas we do not see see evidence of an enhancement in our outflow-types. The outflow-types studied by Bao et al. (2021) appear more powerful, in terms of the strength of their outflows, than those considered in our sample (where we detect outflows using the technique outlined in Ho et al. 2016). We conjecture that our samples are, therefore, not entirely analogous or are perhaps at different stages of their outflow activity. In terms of finding a process whereby molecular gas and star-formation is centralised, we only find evidence that two of the objects in our sample are undergoing a process whereby gas could be being driven radially inwards. In the remainder of our sample, the galaxies appear to possess a range of surface brightness profiles (see Section 3.1); some hosting ring-type gas distributions indicative of a driving pattern frequency and others hosting disc-like profiles. The variety of these results implies that there is not a consistent process responsible for centralizing molecular gas and star-formation is galaxies hosting large-scale ionized outflows. However, we note the small size of our sample limits our ability to draw firm conclusions. Larger-scale surveys of main-sequence star-forming galaxies are requiring to expand on our initial findings.

5.3 Molecular gas outflows

The original motivation of this work (prior to the findings of H21) was to assess whether galaxies on the main sequence of star formation, which harbour galactic-scale stellar winds, entrain molecular gas in their ionised gas outflows. Molecular gas outflows for galaxies with extreme star-formation activity or with active galactic nuclei (AGN) appear relatively common at all redshifts (e.g. see Veilleux, Cecil & Bland-Hawthorn 2005; Cicone et al. 2014; Fluetsch et al. 2019; Lutz et al. 2020), but many simulations require molecular outflows in more ‘normal’ star-forming galaxies in order to regulate star formation according to the ‘Equilibrium Model’ (Lilly et al. 2013). These simulations have been successful in reproducing a large number of critical observations (e.g. Bouché et al. 2010; Davé, Oppenheimer & Finlator 2011), but this is without direct observational evidence. In both this work and in H21, we attempt to reconcile this assumption of molecular gas outflows in main-sequence galaxies with observations of such galaxies with large-scale ionized outflows. In our investigation, while we do not find
Kinematics of molecular gas

Figure 8. Top: Major-axis PVD extracted from GAMA593680 (colour contours) overlaid with the PVD from the model simulating both rotational and radial motion (the format of the left-hand and right-hand panels is the same that in Fig. 4). Bottom: Minor-axis PVD extracted from GAMA593680 overlaid with the PVD from the model.

direct evidence of extra-planar molecular gas entrained in the ionized winds of these objects, we do find evidence that that gas is more centralized and provide a potential mechanism for gas to be driven inwards in a subset of these galaxies. These findings are, however, subtle and if there is molecular gas being expelled by the ionized wind, it is at levels below the sensitivity of our observations. This is similar to the conclusion of Roberts-Borsani (2020), who did not detect evidence of CO or H I outflows at the detection limit of
the deepest data available in a sample of nearby galaxies showing both ionized (Hα) and neutral (Na D) outflows. These observations may be consistent with the findings of Tacchella et al. (2016), who report that galaxies move above and below the star-formation main-sequence through cycles of compaction and depletion on far longer time-scales at z = 0 (~5 Gyr) compared to their counterparts at higher redshifts. This may result from greater disc stability at low redshifts and lower gas accretion rates (Zolotov et al. 2015; Tacchella et al. 2016). It is possible, therefore, that our outflow types are undergoing a compaction stage, but the subsequent depletion process, where molecular gas may be expelled, is occurring over far longer time-scales than galaxies that harbour extreme star formation or AGN.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this work, we build on the main finding of H21 that the molecular gas in galaxies hosting large-scale outflows of ionized gas is more centrally concentrated compared to objects without these intense ionized winds. In Section 3.1, we perform a kinematic analysis of our outflow-type galaxies using the KinMS package, which allows us to model the dynamic structure of their molecular gas content. It also enables us to interpret the kinematic features we see in the major and minor-axis PVDs extracted from our objects, by comparing the data with dynamically stable models. Our key findings are as follows:

(i) Four of the seven outflow-type objects we model with KinMS appear to possess ring-type gas distributions, which are indicative of a resonance system. We infer that these objects may host a bar or an axi-asymmetric feature caused by a minor merger, which could drive a resonant ring structure.

(ii) The bulk of the gas in our objects is consistent with our dynamically stable models. Furthermore, the gas rotation generally traces the velocity curves generated from MGE models derived from r-band photometry. These findings imply that the molecular gas is largely dynamically cold and rotation-dominated (where the rotation is driven primarily by the gravity well of the stellar disc).

(iii) We do not find a consistent model that best fits the molecular gas in our sample galaxies; a variety of different ring-type and disc-type (and superpositions) are selected for each object. This suggests that a range of kinematic processes may exist in these objects; with no one prevailing mechanism facilitating the centralization of the molecular gas in these galaxies hosting large-scale ionized outflows.

(iv) Despite finding that the bulk of the molecular gas in our outflow-type objects is dynamically cold, we do observe some kinematic features not captured by our models when examining our major-axis PVDs. In some cases, we observe a clear central flaring of the gas in the velocity direction. More ubiquitously, we observe minor flux asymmetries embedded in the dynamically cold bulk of the gas. This could indicate historical dynamical disruption. However, the flux asymmetry in these objects is not higher than that observed in a control sample of galaxies.

(v) We observe a ‘twisting’ feature in the two of the minor-axis PVDs we draw from our data, whereby there is an asymmetric gas enhancement both spatially and on the velocity axis about the kinematic centre. This feature is associated with radial gas motion either from radial inflows or outflows. If this radial motion describes gas moving towards the centre of our objects, it could supply the mechanism through which molecular gas becomes centralized in a subset of our outflow-types, which subsequently powers the ionized gas winds. However, we note that we do not see evidence of radial gas motion in the remainder of our sample.

(vi) We test the hypothesis of radial gas flow by simulating a bar in our KinMS model for our highest S/N object with signatures of radial gas flow (GAMAS93680). The addition of radial motion driven by a bar improves the model according to the BIC. We infer from these observations and the literature, that the centralization of the molecular gas in this object may be driven by axi-asymmetric kinematic structures, such as a bar or minor merger (where gas flow is largely confined to the plane of the disc).

Our foremost conclusion from this work is that we do see some signatures of radial motion of molecular gas in our outflow-type objects and are able to directly model radial bar-flow in our highest S/N object. This radial flow could cause the increased central concentration of molecular gas and star formation we reported in H21. However, we only observe evidence for radial gas motion in a small subset of our sample in addition to finding a large variety of surface brightness profiles in the sample as a whole. The lack of a universal best-fitting model for the spatial gas distribution in our galaxies, in addition to finding signatures of radial gas motion in only two objects, suggests that our sample is composed of galaxies that are governed by a range of kinematic processes. We also find that the bulk of the molecular gas appears dynamically cold, with some of minor flux asymmetries embedded in a relaxed disc. We hypothesize that the existence of radial flow in a subset of our objects may be indicative of bar instabilities or minor mergers, which can drive gas inwards. Furthermore, we can infer from the small flux asymmetries that there was some past dynamic disruption, such as a minor merger, but that the gas has subsequently relaxed. We do find a potential mechanism by which gas is driven radially inwards in a subset of our objects, by the possible presence of a bar or disc instability caused by a minor merger. Based on the results of H21, a centralized molecular gas distribution appears to be a necessary condition for galaxies to power large-scale ionized gas winds. However, this mechanism is not present in the majority of our objects, implying that they are at different stages of their evolution, have radial gas motion at levels below our sensitivity or are undergoing an entirely separate kinematic process by which molecular gas is centralized. The variety of molecular gas kinematic profiles we model in this work suggests that galaxies hosting galactic-scale ionized winds do not share one ubiquitous dynamical process that centralizes their gas and subsequently launches their stellar winds.

The conclusions of this study are limited by sample size and depth of the observations, but mostly by the high inclination of the galaxies, as required by the diagnostics of Ho et al. (2016) to identify ionized gas winds. Extending this type of analysis to larger samples with a broader range of inclinations should enable us to better understand the conditions required for normal star-forming galaxies to power large-scale outflows, a crucial component of the baryon cycle.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LMH and AS acknowledge support from the Royal Society. TAD acknowledges support from the UK Science and Technology Facilities Council through grants ST/S00033X/1 and ST/W000830/1. This paper makes use ALMA data from project S/JOA.ALMA#2011.0.01234.S. ALMA is a partnership of ESO (representing its member states), NSF (USA) and NINS (Japan), together with NRC (Canada), MOST and ASIAA (Taiwan), and KASI (Republic of Korea), in cooperation with the Republic of Chile. The Joint ALMA Observatory is operated by ESO, AUI/NRAO, and NAOJ.
DATA AVAILABILITY

All data products used in this work are available in the SAMI public data base (https://sami-surveys.org/data) and the ALMA science archive (https://almascience.eso.org/asax/).

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Supplementary data are available at MNRAS online.

Appendix A. KinMS corner plots.

Appendix B. KinMS parameters.

Appendix C. Velocity asymmetry analysis.

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