Warm absorber energetics in broad-line radio galaxies

E. Torresi,1,2⋆ P. Grandi,1 E. Costantini3 and G. G. C. Palumbo2

1Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica-Bologna, INAF, via Gobetti 101, I-40129 Bologna, Italy
2Dipartimento di Astronomia, Università di Bologna, via Ranzani 1, I-40127 Bologna, Italy
3SRON, Netherlands Institute for Space Research, Sorbonnelaan 2, 3584 CA Utrecht, the Netherlands

Accepted 2011 August 24. Received 2011 August 23; in original form 2011 March 7

ABSTRACT
We review the soft X-ray properties of 3C 390.3, 3C 120, 3C 382 and 3C 445, the only broad-line radio galaxies (BLRGs) for which good quality gratings data are currently available. The XMM–Newton/Reflection Grating Spectrometer data of 3C 390.3 and 3C 120 were reanalysed searching for warm absorbers, already discovered in 3C 382 and 3C 445. We confirm the absence of ionized absorption features in 3C 120, but find signatures of outflowing gas ($v_{\text{out}} \sim 10^2 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) in 3C 390.3. Its warm absorber ($\log \xi \sim 2 \text{ erg cm s}^{-1}, N_H \sim 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$), similar to that observed in 3C 382, is probably placed in the narrow-line regions. Its gas content is slower and less dense than the accretion disc wind discovered in 3C 445. Independently from the location of the warm gas, the outflowing masses ($M_{\text{out}}$) of BLRGs are significantly (but improbably) predominant with respect to the accretion masses ($M_{\text{acc}}$), suggesting a clumpy configuration of the warm absorber. However, even assuming overestimated values of $M_{\text{out}}$, the kinetic luminosity of the outflow ($\dot{E}_{\text{out}}$) is well below 1 per cent of the kinetic power of the jet ($P_{\text{jet}}$). Thus, the jet remains the major driver of the radio-loud active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback at least on a parsec scale and beyond. The warm absorber parameters ($N_H, \xi$) of BLRGs span a similar range of values to type 1 radio-quiet AGNs. However, when the mass outflow rate of BLRGs and Seyfert 1s is plotted as a function of the radio loudness, $R = \log [v_{\text{vir}}(\text{GHz})/L_{\text{20-10 keV}}]$, the mass outflow rate seems to increase with radio power.

Key words: techniques: spectroscopic – galaxies: active – galaxies: general – X-rays: galaxies.

1 INTRODUCTION
In the last few years high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy has made progress in the exploration of the circumnuclear environment of radio-loud (RL) active galactic nuclei (AGN). Studies performed on obscured RL sources (Grandi et al. 2007, hereafter G07; Sambruna, Reeves & Braito 2007; Piconcelli et al. 2008; Torresi et al. 2009; Evans et al. 2010; Reeves et al. 2010, hereafter R10) revealed photoionized emitting-line gas as responsible for the soft excess, similarly to radio-quiet (RQ) Seyfert 2 galaxies. If absorption and emission are processes occurring in the same plasma, as suggested for Seyfert galaxies (Kinkhabwala et al. 2002), it is normal to assume that warm absorbers (WAs), characterizing at least 50 per cent of Seyfert 1 spectra, should be present also in unobscured broad-line radio galaxies (BLRGs). With the term WA we mean ionized outflowing gas in our line of sight that produces narrow absorption lines of several elements from C to Fe in the soft X-ray spectrum. Generally, these structures are blueshifted with moderate velocities, $v \sim 100-1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Kaastra et al. 2000; Kaspi et al. 2002; Crenshaw, Kraemer & George 2003), but can also reach $v > 10^4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Pounds et al. 2003a,b; Reeves, O’Brien & Ward 2003; R10; Braito et al. 2011) when the wind originates directly from the disc. The detection of WAs in BLRGs was expected to be more difficult than in Seyfert 1s because of the jet. If it is closer to the line of sight, the Doppler-boosted, non-thermal radiation could mask the absorption features.

Hints of WAs have been observed in the past in a handful of RL sources: 3C 382 and 3C 390.3 with ASCA (Reynolds 1997); 3C 351 with ROSAT Position Sensitive Proportional Counter (PSPC) (Nicastro et al. 1999); 4C+74.26 with the XMM–Newton European Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC) (Ballantyne 2005).

As a high-resolution X-ray analysis of 3C 382 (Reeves et al. 2009; Torresi et al. 2010). Successively, R10 reported the presence of a WA also in 3C 445. Since the gas has non-negligible outflowing velocities, it could contribute in transferring momentum to the environment in addition to the jet. However, to what extent the wind is important in the energetic budget of powerful RL AGN is still an open question. In order to shed some light on this issue, we collect high-resolution data from literature and explore the XMM–Newton Reflection Grating Spectrometer (RGS) archive. The main goal is to enlarge the sample of RL sources with clear detection of WAs. Finally, we attempt a RL/RQ comparison of the ionization and kinematic properties of the X-ray-absorbing gas.

*E-mail: torresi@iasfbo.inaf.it

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doi:10.1111/j.1365-2966.2011.19694.x
Table 1. Summary of the BLRG properties.

| z   | i    | log $M_{BH}$ | log $L_{ion}$ | log $L_{151\,MHz}$ |
|-----|------|-------------|---------------|------------------|
|     |      | (M$_\odot$) | (erg s$^{-1}$) | (W Hz$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$) |
| 3C 445 | 0.05623 | $\leq 60^d$ | 8.33 | 44.47 | 25.23 |
| 3C 390.3 | 0.0561 | 30–35$^c$ | 8.55 | 44.85 | 25.53 |
| 3C 382 | 0.0579 | 35–45$^c$ | 9.06 | 45.27 | 25.17 |
| 3C 120 | 0.033 | $\leq 21^c$ | 7.74 | 44.96 | 25.04 |

$^a$Provided by Grandi, Malaguti & Fiocchi (2006), with the exception of 3C 120 taken from Peterson et al. (2004).

$^b$L$_{ion}$ directly measured from the proper SED of each source, except for 3C 445 taken from R10. $L_{ion}$ is the ionizing luminosity between 1 and 1000 Ry ($=13.6–13.6$ keV).

$^c$L$_{151\,MHz}$ extrapolated from the power at 178 MHz of Hardcastle et al. (1998) and rescaled to our $\Lambda$CDM cosmology. For 3C 120 we refer to Arshakian et al. (2010).

$^d$Estimate from the radio jet-counterjet ratio (G07).

$^e$Estimate from the radio band (Giovannini et al. 2001).

$^f$Upper limit on the inclination angle obtained by using the larger apparent transverse velocity $v = 5.3c$ (Gómez et al. 2001).

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the very small sample of BLRGs considered throughout the work is described; the RGS spectral analysis performed on 3C 390.3 and 3C 120 together with the results are reported in Section 3. In Section 4, we discuss the physical and energetic properties of BLRG WAs and attempt a first comparison between RL and RQ outflows. The main results of this work are summarized in Section 5. The cosmological values $H_0 = 71$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$, $\Omega_m = 0.27$ and $\Omega_k = 0.73$ (Komatsu et al. 2009) are assumed throughout.

2 THE SAMPLE

The sample of BLRGs consists of four sources: 3C 390.3, 3C 120, 3C 382 and 3C 445. The main properties of each object are reported in Table 1, where the redshifts, the jet inclination angles, the black hole masses, the ionizing luminosities between 1 and 1000 Ry (Ryderberg) and the radio luminosities at 151 MHz are listed.

3C 390.3 ($z = 0.0561$; Hewitt & Burbidge 1991) is a classical double-lobed Fanaroff–Riley type II (FR II) radio galaxy (Pearson & Readhead 1988). It is one of the closest radio sources whose core exhibits superluminal motion in the pc-scale jet (Alef et al. 1996). From the apparent velocity of 3.5c and the core dominance, Giovannini et al. (2001) estimated the jet inclination angle $30^\circ < \theta < 35^\circ$, with $\beta = 0.96–0.99$. Double-peak emission lines characterize the optical and ultraviolet (UV) spectra of the source (Ereucleous & Halpern 1994; Zheng 1996; Wamsteker et al. 1997), while the UV bump is weak or even absent (Wamsteker et al. 1997). 3C 390.3 is known to be variable in the X-ray band, with variations in both soft and hard bands on a time-scale of weeks to months (Leighly & O’Brien 1997; Gliozzi, Sambruna & Ereucleous 2003). All previous X-ray telescopes observed this source. While in the hard X-ray band there is a general agreement on the presence of an iron line and reflection hump (Grandi et al. 1999; Sambruna et al. 2009), the modelling of the soft X-ray band is controversial. Einstein–IPC (Kruper, Canizares & Urry 1990) and BeppoSAX (Grandi et al. 1999) required an excess of column density. EXOSAT claimed the presence of a soft excess (Ghosh & Sondararajaperumal 1991), while Reynolds (1997) found hints of warm absorption in the ASCA data, successively confirmed by the detection of an absorption edge at 0.65 keV (Sambruna, Ereucleous & Mushotzky 1999). Recently, Sambruna et al. (2009) observed an emission line in the RGS spectrum associated with the O vii forbidden line possibly produced in the narrow-line region (NLR).

3C 120 ($z = 0.033$; Burbidge 1967) is classified as an FR I exhibiting a one-sided jet (Scheuer et al. 1979; Walker, Benson & Unwin 1987; Harris, Mossman & Walker 2004). The apparent transverse velocity of the jet $v_{jet} = 5.3c$, as obtained by the Very Long Baseline Array observation (Lister et al. 2009), implies an upper limit on the inclination angle of 21°. The optical spectrum of 3C 120 is typical of Seyfert 1 galaxies, with strong and broad emission lines, quite unusual for FR I radio sources. Reverberation mapping constrains the black hole mass to be $5.5_{-1.3}^{+1.2} \times 10^7$ M$_\odot$ (Peterson et al. 2004). At UV wavelengths, 3C 120 has a typical AGN spectrum with a strong blue bump and strong emission-line signature of a standard optically thick, geometrically thin accretion disc (Maraschi et al. 1991). The hard X-ray spectrum is characterized by a slightly broadened iron line (EW $\sim 100$ eV) at 6.4 keV, a weak ionized line at 6.9 keV (Yaqoob & Padmanabhan 2004; Kataoka et al. 2007) and Compton reflection $\Omega/\Gamma \sim 0.4–0.5$ (Ereucleous, Sambruna & Mushotzky 2000; Zdziarski & Grandi 2001; Gliozzi et al. 2003; Ballantyne, Fabian & Iwasawa 2004). The soft X-ray band of 3C 120 has been observed by the grating instruments onboard Chandra and XMM–Newton. In the Chandra High Energy Transmission Gratings (HETG) spectrum, an O vii Ly$\alpha$ absorption line, blueshifted by $\sim 5500$ km s$^{-1}$, was observed (McKernan et al. 2003). This feature was not revealed in the XMM–Newton/RGS observation (Ogle et al. 2005), which in contrast shows a slightly redshifted O vii Ly$\alpha$ emission structure.

3C 382 ($z = 0.0579$; Marzke, Huchra & Geller 1996) is an FR II lobe-dominated radio galaxy showing a long jet (1.68 arcmin from the core) and two radio lobes, with a total extension of 3 arcmin (Black et al. 1992). In the optical–UV and X-ray regimes, there are hints of no strong jet contamination. The optical spectrum shows broad lines (FWZI $> 25,000$ km s$^{-1}$) which are variable on a timescale of months to years. (Yee & Oke 1981) suggested the presence of the UV bump from the accretion disc. In the X-ray band, 3C 382 is a bright source ($F_{2–10keV} \sim 3 \times 10^{-11}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$). It can be well fitted with a single power law between 2 and 10 keV, but shows a strong excess at lower energies (Prieto 2000; Grandi et al. 2001). In part, this is probably related to extended emission (0.2–2 keV) revealed by ROSAT/High Resolution Imager and Chandra (Prieto 2000; Gliozzi et al. 2007). The presence of a slowly highly ionized outflow in this source was attested by Torresi et al. (2010) using XMM–Newton/RGS data, and confirmed by the Chandra/HETG spectrum (Reeves et al. 2009).

3C 445 ($z = 0.05623$) is a powerful FR II radio galaxy, classified as a BLRG because of its broad and intense Balmer lines in the optical spectrum. Near-infrared (near-IR) observations show a substantial reddening of $E(B-V) = 1$ mag and the radio-to-IR spectral energy distribution (SED) indicates a predominance of dust emission with a negligible contribution of synchrotron photons. The existence of absorbing material is also supported by X-ray data showing a strong depletion of the continuum photons below a few keV. R10 suggest that the nuclear view could be obscured by an outflowing and clumpy accretion disc wind with high column density ($N_H \sim 10^{23}$ cm$^{-2}$) and velocity ($v \sim 10^4$ km s$^{-1}$). In spite of its optical classification, 3C 445 seems more similar to Seyfert 2s than Seyfert 1s (G07; Sambruna et al. 2007). In agreement with

$^1$ $\beta = v/c$ is the bulk velocity in units of the speed of light (Urry & Padovani 1995).
that, the soft X-ray excess can be fitted with a mix of emission lines and scattered continuum produced by photoionized gas (G07; R10). Indeed, the presence of the WA in this source was deduced by the detection of a high-energy absorption feature around 7 keV.

Since WAs have been already ascertained in 3C 382 and 3C 445, here we re-analyse the RGS data of 3C 390.3 and 3C 120.

### 3 RGS Spectral Analysis and Results

3C 390.3 was observed by XMM–Newton/RGS (den Herder et al. 2001) on 2004 October 8–9 for a total exposure of 50 ks and on October 17 for 20 ks. 3C 120 was pointed twice, on 2002 September 6 for 12 ks and on 2003 August 26 for 130 ks. In this paper, we consider only the second and longer observation. The RGS1 and RGS2 spectra were extracted using the SAS (v. 9.0.0) task rgsproc, which combines the event lists from all RGS CCDs, produces source and background spectra using a region spatially offset from that containing the source, and generates response matrices. The resulting spectra were analysed using the fitting package SPEX (v.2.0) (Kaastra, Mewe & Nieuwenhuijzen 1996). The Galactic absorption was modelled with the SPEX HOT component. For all spectral models, solar elemental abundances were adopted (Anders & Grevesse 1989). For each source, the proper line-of-sight Galactic column density was considered, $N_H = 3.5 \times 10^{20}$ and $1.1 \times 10^{21}$ cm$^{-2}$ for 3C 390.3 and 3C 120, respectively (Kalberla et al. 2005). The absorption/emission features were searched via the following two steps.

(i) A phenomenological approach, consisting the inspection of the (data/model/error) residuals after having fitted the continuum.

(ii) A physical approach, fitting the absorption features with the xabs model in SPEX. xabs calculates the transmission through a gas layer. Free parameters in this model are the outflow velocity ($v_{\text{out}}$), the total hydrogen column density ($N_H$) and the ionization parameter $\xi$. In the model, the column densities of different ions are linked through an ionization balance, which is pre-calculated using CLOUDY (Ferland et al. 1998). The ionization balance is dependent on the SED of the source. The UV/X-ray SEDs for both 3C 120 and 3C 390.3 were constructed using both the EPIC-pn (Strüder et al. 2001) and the optical monitor (OM; Mason et al. 2001) and are shown in Fig. 1. For 3C 390.3, we considered only the longest observation performed on October 8. The data were reduced using SAS (v. 9.0.0) with standard procedures. The light curve over 10 keV was extracted to check high background periods. The source and the background spectra were extracted from circular regions of 35-arcsec radius. Backgrounds were taken from a region within the same CCD of the targets and not contaminated by the sources. The response matrices were created using the SAS commands RMFGEN and ARFGEN. Events outside the 0.4–10 keV band were discarded in the pn spectra of both sources (Guainazzi 2010). We produced a rough representation of the continuum using a simple absorbed power law for 3C 390.3 ($\Gamma \sim 1.8$) and a broken power law ($\Gamma_1 = 2.04$, $\Gamma_2 = 1.75$ with a break at 2.5 keV) for 3C 120. For the purpose of constructing the SED, both continua were then absorbed to obtain the true ionizing X-ray flux. For the optical/UV part of the SED, we used the OM measurements for both 3C 120 (V and UBV filters) and 3C 390.3 ($U$, $U$VW1, $U$VM2 and $U$VW2 filters).

\[ \xi = L/(n_e R^2) \]

where $L$ is the 1–1000 Ry source ionizing luminosity (corresponding to $13.6\text{eV}$–$13.6\text{keV}$), $n_e$ is the electron density of the gas and $R$ is the distance of the gas from the central source.

The photometric analysis was performed using the standard procedure within the XMM–Newton SAS (v. 9.0.0). The optical fluxes have been dereddened using the extinction curves of Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989), knowing the optical extinction $A_V$. This has been calculated following the Bohlin, Savage & Drake (1978) formula: $N_H \sim A_V (1.9 \times 10^{21})$ cm$^{-2}$ (for $R_V = 3.1$). The low-energy tail of the SED (IR to radio) was taken as described in the standard SED used in CLOUDY (Mathews & Ferland 1987).

#### 3.1 3C 390.3

At first, the continuum of both observations was modelled with a power law ($\Gamma \sim 1.9$) plus a neutral absorber ($N_H \sim 2.5 \times 10^{20}$ cm$^{-2}$) in addition to the Galactic one ($C/d.o.f. = 583/406$). Although during the second pointing (October 17) the source flux was about 14 per cent lower, the spectral parameters are completely consistent. A careful inspection of the residuals revealed photon deficits in the regions of $\text{Ne}^+ (12.134 \text{Å})$, $\text{Fe}^{xx} (12.864 \text{Å})$, $\text{O}^{vii} \text{Ly}\alpha (18.969 \text{Å})$ and $\text{N}^{vii} (24.898 \text{Å})$. An example of absorbed structures is shown in Fig. 2. In order to confirm the WA detection and constrain physical properties of the WA, the xabs component was added to the continuum model. The column density of the ionized absorber $N_{H\text{I}}$, the ionization parameter $\xi$ and the velocity of the gas were left free to vary. The velocity dispersion between different blend components is fixed to the default value $v = 100\text{ km s}^{-1}$. The covering fraction parameter ($f_{\text{cov}}$) is fixed to the default value equal to 1. The fit improves with the addition of the WA with respect to the power law alone, i.e. $\Delta C = 18$ and 11 for a decrease by 3 in the number of degrees of freedom, corresponding to a significance $>99.6$ per cent and $\sim 97$ per cent, for the longest and shortest observations, respectively (see Table 2 and Fig. 3).
Although a one-phase absorption model well describes the data, we also tested a stratified gas possibility. Actually, the inclusion of a second absorber, with a higher ionization parameter \( \log \xi \approx 3 \text{ erg cm}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \) and column density \( N_{\text{H}2} \approx 1.5 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2} \), seems to reproduce better the shape of the most prominent features. However, the statistical improvement of the fit is not significant. Finally, we note positive residuals around 23.5 Å (observed frame) in both data sets (Fig. 4). In agreement with Sambruna et al. (2009), a narrow Gaussian component at the theoretical wavelength of the O \( \alpha \) forbidden line (Table 3) is a good parametrization of this emission feature.

### Table 2.

Best-fitting parameters for both 3C 390.3 observations. The observation date, photon index, source rest-frame neutral absorber column density \( N_{\text{H}1} \), column density of the ionized absorber \( N_{\text{H}1} \), ionization parameter \( \log \xi \), outflow velocity and \( \Delta C \) after the addition of the xabs model to the absorbed power law are reported.

| Obs.       | \( \Gamma \) | \( N_{\text{H}1} \) \((10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2})\) | \( N_{\text{H}1} \) \((10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2})\) | \( \log \xi \) \((\text{erg cm}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1})\) | \( v \) \((\text{km s}^{-1})\) | \( \Delta C \) |
|------------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| October 8  | 1.89 ± 0.05  | 2.5 ± 0.2                        | 5.5 \(+2.0\) \(-1.7\)          | 2.08 \(+0.12\) \(-0.07\)       | <600          | 18                  |
| October 17 | 1.96 ± 0.02  | 3.1 ± 0.62                       | 3.7 \(+2.9\) \(-1.9\)          | 1.98 \(+0.2\) \(-0.08\)        | <1000         | 11                  |

**Figure 2.** 3C 390.3 residuals in a zoomed region around Ne \( \alpha \), Fe \( \alpha \) lines (observed frame) after fitting the first observation (October 8) with a power law plus a neutral absorber in addition to the Galactic one.

**Table 3.** 3C 390.3 O \( \alpha \) emission line parameters for the two epochs. The wavelength, flux and FWHM together with \( \Delta C \) after the addition of the line to the absorbed power law are reported.

| Obs.      | Line \( f \) | \( \lambda \) \((\text{Å})\) | Flux \((10^{-4} \text{ photon cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1})\) | FWHM \((\text{Å})\) | \( \Delta C \) |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| October 8 | O \( \alpha \) | 22.101         | 0.56 \(+0.68\) \(-0.26\) | 0.51 \(+0.47\) \(-0.23\) | 13             |
| October 17| O \( \alpha \) | 22.101         | 0.64 \(+0.82\) \(-0.24\) | 0.33 \(+0.21\) \(-0.12\) | 17             |

**Figure 3.** splot best-fitting modelling of the RGS spectrum of 3C 390.3. The most prominent absorption lines are labelled.

**Figure 4.** 3C 390.3 residuals for the O \( \alpha \) forbidden line.

### 3.2 3C 120

The soft X-ray continuum of 3C 120 is very complex. An RGS fit with a simple power law absorbed by two neutral absorbers is not a satisfying representation of the data \((C/d.o.f. = 803/328)\). The spectral shape of the continuum seems to be curved, as suggested by negative residuals around 23–26 Å, i.e. the region where O \( \alpha \) edge is expected. We exclude that this spectral bending can be attributed to a WA. Indeed the xabs model is not statistically required by the data and left the residuals invariant. Following Ogle et al. (2005), the oxygen abundance of the second absorber was allowed to vary. The fit greatly improves \((C/d.o.f. = 562/327)\) and the oxygen abundance drops to \( A_{\text{O}} = 0.53 \pm 0.07 \). However, an inspection of the residuals still reveals emission features in the range 17–20 Å (Fig. 5). These structures can be fitted with two Gaussian lines at the wavelength corresponding to the rest-frame positions of Fe \( \alpha \) and O \( \alpha \) Ly\( \alpha \) (see Table 4), providing a further improvement of the fit \((C/d.o.f. = 449/323)\). To ascertain the nature of the emitting-line gas, we tested both collisional (i) and photoionized (ii) scenarios. (i) A single temperature collisional model, Collisional Ionization Equilibrium (CIE) in SPEX, was applied instead of two single lines. A thermal component with \( kT = 0.37^{+0.09}_{-0.06} \) keV cannot completely take into account the emission features; in fact residuals around the Fe \( \alpha \) are still present. A second CIE component gives a poor fit \((C/d.o.f. = 371/323)\).
520/323, while a better modelling is provided by a non-equilibrium ionization jump (NEIJ) model in SPEX (C/d.o.f. = 498/323). However, even in this case, there are still positive residuals. (ii) If the emitting-line gas has a photoionized origin, the emission line at 16.892 Å could be radiative recombination continuum (RRC) from O vii slightly redshifted with respect to the rest frame of the galaxy (\(v \sim +2000\, \text{km s}^{-1}\)). We tested this hypothesis fitting this feature with the RRC model in SPEX. Since RRCs are narrow and prominent structures in photoionized plasmas, we assumed a typical electron temperature of \(kT = 3\, \text{eV}\). We fit the RRC emission measure of O vii as a free parameter; however, the fit is still not satisfying (C/d.o.f. = 517/324).

We conclude that our proposed models cannot reproduce the data better than a single temperature gas plus a Gaussian line, C/d.o.f. = 440/323 (see Table 4), leaving the exact nature of the emitting-line gas still uncertain. However, we exclude that one or two plasma components in collisional ionization equilibrium, or even in non-equilibrium, are sufficient to reproduce the soft excess in 3C 120.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Warm absorber physical properties

Table 5 lists, for each source, column density, ionization parameter, outflow velocity and minimum and maximum radii derived for the WAs of the studied BLRGs. For 3C 390.3, we consider the parameters obtained from the October 8 observation, for which the fit improvement due to the inclusion of a WA is more significant. For 3C 445, the soft emitting gas properties, derived by R10, are also listed. In order to establish the location of the emitting/absorbing region, the measured distances of the broad-line region (BLR) and the torus are also reported. The minimum distance of the WA (\(r_{\text{min}}\)) from the central engine is measured from

\[r_{\text{min}} \geq \frac{2GM}{\nu_{\text{out}}}\]

(1)

where \(M\) is the black hole mass and assuming that the outflow must have a speed (\(\nu_{\text{out}}\)) greater than or equal to the escape velocity. The maximum distance (\(r_{\text{max}}\)) can be estimated assuming that most of the mass of the absorber is concentrated in a thin layer \(\Delta R\), where \(\Delta R/R \leq 1\). The column density is a function of the density of the material \(n(R)\) at ionization parameter \(\xi\) of its volume filling factor (here assumed to be equal to 1) and of \(\Delta R\):

\[N_{\text{HI}} \sim n(R)\Delta R C_{\xi}\]

(2)

This combined with the expression of the ionization parameter gives

\[\frac{\Delta R}{R} \sim \frac{\xi N_{\text{HI}}}{L_{\text{ion}}}\]

(3)

|   | \(\log N_{\text{HI}}\) | \(\log \xi\) | \(\nu_{\text{out}}\) | \(r_{\text{min}}\) | \(r_{\text{max}}\) | \(r_{\text{BLR}}\) | \(r_{\text{torus}}\) |
|---|-----------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| 3C 445 (om) | 22.0 | 3.18 | +150\(^c\); -430\(^b\) | <0.01\(^c\); ~0.1\(^d\) | 0.02 | 0.45 |
| 3C 445 (wa) | 23.3 | 1.4 | -10\(^d\) | 0.01 | - | - |
| 3C 390.3 (wa) | 20.7 | 2.08 | < -600 | >9 | \(\leq 450\) | 0.03 | 0.7 |
| 3C 382 (wa) | 22.5 | 2.69 | -1000 | \(\geq 44\) | 0.05 | 1.5 |
| 3C 120 | - | - | - | - | 0.03 | 0.8 |

\(^a\)Redshift velocity (compared to the systemic) of the emitter (R10).

\(^b\)Outflow velocity determined by G07.

\(^c\)Upper limit estimated from the definition of the ionization parameter of the emitting gas \(R^2 = L_{\text{out}}/\xi n_{\text{e}}\) (R10).

\(^d\)Estimate from the measured linewidths of the O vii–O viii emission (R10).
Therefore, if $\Delta R / R \leq 1$, then

$$r_{\text{max}} \leq \frac{L_{\text{ion}}}{\xi N_{\text{H}}}.$$  

(4)

The BLR and torus radii are calculated following the prescriptions of Ghisellini & Tavecchio (2008), which simply assume that typical distances scale as the square root of the ionizing disc luminosity:

$$r_{\text{BLR}} = 10^{17} L_{\text{ion}}^{1/2} \text{cm},$$  

(5)

$$r_{\text{torus}} = 2.5 \times 10^{18} L_{\text{ion}}^{1/2} \text{cm}.$$  

(6)

Table 5 suggests two immediate considerations. (i) Depending on the line of sight, different features are revealed (see also Table 1). The absorption lines due to photoionization and photoexcitation processes are preferentially observed in sources seen at small $i$ (i.e. 3C 382 and 3C 390.3). In contrast, the emission lines produced by the inverse processes are dominant in 3C 445, the only source with Seyfert 2 characteristics (and presumably with larger jet inclination angle). We note that no WA could be detected in 3C 120, the BLRG in the sample with the smallest inclination angle ($i < 21^\circ$) and the only one with a $\gamma$-ray counterpart (Abdo et al. 2010). However, this source is quite unique. Indeed the detection of X-ray emission lines is at odds with the idea that the jet dominates the soft X-ray emission.

(ii) The location of the ionized outflow is not unique. In 3C 445, the WA was suggested by the detection of a strong edge around 7 keV. The deduced high velocity ($v_{\text{out}} \sim 10^7 \text{km} \text{s}^{-1}$), high column density ($N_{\text{H}} > 10^{23} \text{cm}^{-2}$) and low ionization parameter ($\log \xi = 1.4 \text{erg cm s}^{-1}$) of the wind indicate a probable origin in the disc (R10). In contrast, in 3C 382 and 3C 390.3, the absorption features, signatures of an ionized outflow, were found in the soft part of the grating spectra. The gas has different physical parameters and probably a different origin. Indeed the column densities and ionization parameters vary in the range $N_{\text{H}} = 10^{20}-10^{22} \text{cm}^{-2}$ and $\log \xi = 2-3 \text{erg cm s}^{-1}$. Moreover, the slower velocities, $v_{\text{out}} \sim 10^5-10^6 \text{km} \text{s}^{-1}$, constrain the location of such gas between the torus and the NLR, favouring the torus wind scenario (Krolik & Kriss 2001; Blustin et al. 2005, hereafter B05).

### 4.2 Warm absorber energetics

WA energetics are summarized in Table 6. The mass accretion rate $M_{\text{acc}} (L_{\text{bol}} \approx L_{\text{acc}} = \eta M_c c^2)$ was calculated for $\eta = 0.1$. The mass outflow rate estimates how much mass is carried out of the AGN through the wind, and can be expressed as

$$M_{\text{out}} \sim \frac{1.23 m_p L_{\text{bol}} v_{\text{out}} C_r \Omega_1}{\xi}.$$  

(7)

We set the solid angle of the outflow $\Omega = 2.1$, using the information that $\sim 33$ per cent of the radio galaxies belonging to the 3CR sample with $z < 1.5$ are BLRGs (Buttiglione et al. 2009), and assuming that at least 50 per cent of the objects possess an outflow as in Seyfert 1s. The volume filling factor $C_r$, being unknown, was kept equal to 1, equivalent to assume an upper limit on $M_{\text{out}}$. The kinetic energy is the power released in the circumnuclear environment through the outflow and is expressed by

$$E_{\text{out}} = \frac{M_{\text{out}} v_{\text{out}}^2}{2},$$  

(8)

where $v_{\text{out}}$ is the blueshift velocity measured for the WA.

$P_{\text{jet}}$ is calculated according to the formula of Shankar et al. (2008) adapted from Willott et al. (1999):

$$P_{\text{jet}} = 3 \times 10^{45} f^{3/2} L_{15}^{6/7} \text{erg s}^{-1}.$$  

(9)

$L_{15}$ is the observed radio luminosity in units of $10^{28} \text{W} \text{Hz}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$ at 151 MHz. The factor $f$ accounts for systematic underestimates of the true jet power. The average value ($f = 15$) (Hardcastle, Evans & Croston 2007) supports the picture of ‘heavy’ jets with a dominant protonic component.

Looking at Table 6, it appears immediately evident that the kinetic luminosity related to slow outflows is always a negligible fraction ($\lesssim 0.1$ per cent) of both bolometric luminosity and jet kinetic power and that the radiative power is generally larger than the kinetic one. Shankar et al. (2008) proposed to directly link the kinetic power of the ejecting material (jets, winds) to the rest-mass energy of the accreting matter. If this is the case, $P_{\text{jet}}$ can also be expressed in terms of accretion energy: $P_{\text{jet}} = \eta \dot{M} M_c c^2$ (we do not take into account the wind, as its energetic contribution is not important). Then, the ratio between $P_{\text{jet}}$ and $L_{\text{bol}}$ directly expresses $\eta_{\text{out}} / \eta$. This efficiency ratio is generally $< 1$, suggesting that accretion power could be preferentially channelled in radiation rather than in jet kinetic power (at least in these sources). Assuming $\eta$ equal to 0.1 (typical value of standard accretion discs), $\eta_{\text{out}}$ ranges between 0.01 and 0.06. However, if accretion disc winds are energetically important (see Section 4.3) the kinetic (jet + wind) power could compete with the radiative power.

### 4.3 Comparison with type 1 radio quiet AGN

Here we compare the X-ray properties of BLRGs studied in this work with a sample of type 1 RQ AGN (Seyfert 1s, narrow-line

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**Table 6.** For each BLRG we give the mass outflow rate ($M_{\text{out}}$), the kinetic luminosity of the outflow ($E_{\text{out}}$), the bolometric luminosity ($L_{\text{bol}}$), the mass accretion rate ($M_{\text{acc}}$) assuming $\eta = 0.1$, the kinetic power of the jet ($P_{\text{jet}}$) and the jet extraction efficiency $\eta_j = (P_{\text{jet}} / L_{\text{bol}} / \eta)$.  

| Source     | $M_{\text{out}}$ ($M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$) | $E_{\text{out}}$ (erg s$^{-1}$) | $L_{\text{bol}}$ (erg s$^{-1}$) | $M_{\text{acc}}$ ($M_{\odot} \text{yr}^{-1}$) | $P_{\text{jet}}$ (erg s$^{-1}$) | $\eta_j$ |
|------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 3C 445     | 2.90 $C_v$                             | 46.4                          | 45.10                       | 0.2$^b$                                | 44.88                         | 0.06   |
| 3C 390.3   | 1.40 $C_v$                             | 41.66                         | 45.65                       | 0.77                                   | 45.12                         | 0.03   |
| 3C 382     | 1.41 $C_v$                             | 41.91                         | 45.84                       | 1.2                                    | 44.81                         | 0.01   |
| 3C 120     | –                                      | –                             | 45.34                       | 0.37                                   | 44.71                         | 0.02   |

$^a$L$_{\text{bol}}$ directly estimated from the total SED of each source, except for 3C 445 taken from Marchesini, Celotti & Ferrarese (2004).

$^b$The value from R10 is rescaled assuming $\eta = 0.1$.  

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Seyfert 1s (NLS1s), QSOs) having a good modelling of the WA. We chose the sample already studied by B05 with the addition of the Seyfert 1.2 IC 4329a taken from McKernan, Yaqoob & Reynolds (2007). Among the sources exhibiting signatures of warm absorption as reported by McKernan et al., IC 4329a is the only one not in common with B05. Very recently, a possible detection of a fast outflow in MR 2251–178 has been proposed by Gofford et al. (2011) on the basis of Suzaku data. For this source, belonging to the B05 sample, we however prefer to consider only the WA physical parameters derived by the XMM–Newton/RGS analysis (Kaspi et al. 2004; B05). For the sake of consistency, when a source has a multiphase outflow, only the higher phase, similar to BLRGs (log $\xi = 2.2$–2.9 erg cm s$^{-1}$), is considered. It is important to note that, in this case, the estimated mass outflow rates refer only to the higher phases, neglecting the contribution of mass outflow rates related to lower ionization parameters. However, even considering the averaged WA parameters the final result does not change. The mass outflow rates and the related kinetic powers of RQ objects in table 4 of B05 are rescaled to a volume filling factor equal to 1 in order to match our assumption. We keep the small (and of no consequence) difference between the solid angle of BLRGs ($\Omega = 2.1$) and Seyferts/QSOs ($\Omega = 1.6$), both estimated on the basis of similar considerations. Fixing $C_\nu = 1$, the RQ mass outflow rates are obviously shifted to larger values.

As shown in Fig. 6 (upper panel), all the sources have large (and implausible) mass outflow rates exceeding the mass accretion rates by even more than one order of magnitude implying, also for RL sources, a non-uniform distribution of the photoionized gas. We can deduce a BLRG volume filling factor as small as $\sim$0.01, simply assuming that the same amount of matter is accreted and ejected as wind from the nuclear region (i.e. $M_{\text{out}} \sim M_{\text{acc}}$ with $\eta = 0.1$). In both RL and RQ AGN, the kinetic energy associated with the slow winds is negligible with respect to the radiative luminosity, even considering a uniform gas distribution ($C_\nu = 1$) (Fig. 6, lower panel). There are only three sources, PG 1211+143, PG 0844+349 and 3C 445, for which $E_{\text{out}} \geq L_{\text{link}}(\sim L_{\text{acc}})$. In these objects the winds have velocities of several thousand km s$^{-1}$, in spite of the presence/absence of a powerful jet, and are probably directly connected to the accretion disc (Pounds et al. 2003a,b). These disc winds are extremely energetic, unless they have small covering factors and/or are transient phenomena. Indeed, in BLRGs persistent disc outflows covering large solid angles could even compete with the jets in transferring momentum to the circumnuclear environment.

In order to further investigate the role of the relativistic jet, we explore a possible correlation between the mass outflow rate and the radio loudness parameter ($R$). We adopt a radio loudness 

$$R = \log \left[ \frac{L_{2-10\text{keV}}}{L_{\gamma}(\gamma-10\text{keV})} \right],$$

as proposed by Terashima & Wilson (2003). For RQ AGN, we use the 2–10 keV X-ray luminosities as measured by Bianchi et al. (2009), while we refer to Torresi et al. (2010) and to this paper for the X-ray luminosities of 3C 382 and 3C 390.3, respectively. The 5-GHz luminosities of RL and RQ sources are taken from Kellermann, Pauliny-Toth & Williams (1969) and from Ulvestad & Wilson (1984), respectively. For RQ objects, when the luminosity at 5 GHz is not available, we extrapolate it from the 1.4-GHz luminosity as reported in the NRAO/VLA Sky Survey (NVSS) catalogue (Condon et al. 1998) by assuming $\alpha = 0$ (Nagar, Wilson & Falcke 2001). We note that different assumptions on the radio spectral slope do not affect the radio-loudness estimation. Indeed even using $\alpha = 0.8$, given the dispersion of spectral indices for AGN (Kukula et al. 1998), the estimated $R$ values are completely consistent with those obtained for $\alpha = 0$. We consider BLRGs and type 1 AGN having slow outflows ($v_{\text{out}} = 10^{2-3}$ km s$^{-1}$) and similar phases. Disc winds are not taken into account here because we have only three sources. In Fig. 7 the mass outflow rates of both RL and RQ AGN are plotted as a function of the radio loudness. This plot suggests a possible difference between the two classes. Indeed the average $M_{\text{out}}$ value of RQ objects is $\sim 4 \, M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$, much lower than that of BLRGs which is around 25 $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$.

When the Spearman $\rho$ test and the generalized Kendall $\tau$ test in the Astronomy Survival Analysis (ASAS) package (Feigelson & Nelson 1985; Isobe, Feigelson & Nelson 1986; Lavalley, Isobe & Feigelson 1992) are applied to data, a possible positive correlation between $M_{\text{out}}$ and $R$ is suggested. The resulting significance is
Depending on the covering factor, this result depends on the covering factor, this result (R = Rtest).

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1, the mass outflow rates have implausibly large values appear to be huge (Eout ≥ Eacc) (unless these fast outflows have small covering factors and/or are transient phenomena).

(iv) Although the RL and RQ WA properties are very similar (at least at zeroth order), the mass outflow rate (Mout) and the radio-loudness parameter (R) seem to be correlated (Fig. 7) indicating a possible effect of a strong radio source on the outflowing winds. Considering that Mout depends on the covering factor, this result could simply indicate a different gas distribution in RL and RQ sources, with the WA being clumpier in the absence of a strong radio source. Alternatively, if the gas distribution is the same, the correlation could suggest that powerful jets favour the escape of more massive (but not necessarily more energetic) winds.

5 CONCLUSIONS

In this work we report the detection of a WA in the BLRG 3C 390.3. This is the third outflow observed after 3C 382 and 3C 445. In contrast 3C 120, the BLRG with the smallest jet inclination angle (i < 21°), shows a complex soft X-ray spectrum only modified by a structured Galactic cold gas, without signatures of warm ionized absorption. We discuss the physical and energetic properties of the WAs found in three BLRGs, 3C 390.3, 3C 382 and 3C 445.

(i) Depending on the outflow velocities the absorbing gas has different locations: the NLR/torus for slower outflows (3C 390.3 and 3C 382), and the accretion disc for 3C 445. Interestingly, these winds have been detected in different spectral regions, i.e. the NLR/torus winds in the soft X-ray band (0.3–2 keV), while the accretion disc wind above 6 keV (R10).

(ii) The mass outflow rate (Mout) of the absorbers is higher than the mass accretion rate (Macc), implying that we are overestimating the volume filling factor Cv, here assumed equal to 1 but probably much less than 1.

(iii) Even considering upper limits on Mout, the kinetic luminosity associated with the slow outflows is always lower than the accretion luminosity and the jet kinetic power.

Aware of the scarcity of RL sources with WAs, we attempt a first comparison with a sample of type 1 RQ AGN.

(i) Fixing Cv = 1, the mass outflow rates have implausibly large values in both RL and RQ AGN, suggesting a clumpy gas configuration in all AGN independently of their radio power.

(ii) In both Seyferts/QSOs and BLRGs, the kinetic luminosity related to slow outflows is always negligible with respect to the accretion luminosity (and the jet kinetic power for RL AGN).

(iii) Fast accretion disc winds are observed in AGN, independently of the RL or RQ classification (Fig. 8). The associated kinetic energies appear to be huge (Eout ≥ Eacc) (unless these fast outflows have small covering factors and/or are transient phenomena).

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The anonymous referee is gratefully acknowledged for thoughtful comments on the manuscript. We warmly thank Jelle Kaastra for accurate and constructive comments and suggestions. We thank Kazushi Iwasawa for valuable and useful discussions. ET is grateful to Adriano de Rosa for providing constant technical assistance. XMM–Newton is an ESA science mission with instruments and contributions directly funded by ESA Member States and NASA. ET acknowledges the support of the Italian Space Agency (contract ASI/INAF I/009/10/0 and ASI/GLAST I/017/07/0).

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