The MURALES survey. II.

Presentation of the observations and first results.

Barbara Balmaverde¹, Alessandro Capetti², Alessandro Marconi³,⁴, Giacomo Venturi⁷,¹⁷,⁴, M. Chiaberge⁵,⁶, R.D. Baldi⁷, S. Baumi¹⁰,¹⁵, R. Gilli⁸, P. Grandi⁹, E. Meyer¹³, G. Miley¹¹, C. O’Dea¹⁰,¹⁴, W. Sparks¹⁶, E. Torresi⁹, and G. Tremblay¹²

¹ INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico Brera, via B. Bianchi 46, 23087, Merate, Italy
² INAF - Osservatorio Astrofisico di Torino, Via Osservatorio 20, I-10025 Pino Torinese, Italy
³ Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università di Firenze, via G. Sansone 1, 50019 Sesto Fiorentino (Firenze), Italy
⁴ INAF - Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, Largo Enrico Fermi 5, I-50125 Firenze, Italy
⁵ Space Telescope Science Institute, 3700 San Martin Dr., Baltimore, MD 21210, USA
⁶ Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218, USA
⁷ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Southampton, Highfield, SO17 1BJ, UK
⁸ INAF - Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna, Via Gobetti 93/3, I-40129 Bologna, Italy
⁹ INAF - IASF BO, Via Gobetti 101, I-40129, Bologna, Italy
¹⁰ Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Minnesota, 214 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA
¹¹ Leiden Observatory, Leiden University, PO Box 9513, NL-2300 RA, Leiden, the Netherlands
¹² Department of Physics and Yale Center for Astronomy & Astrophysics, Yale University, 217 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT 06511, USA
¹³ University of Maryland Baltimore County, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250, USA
¹⁴ School of Physics & Astronomy, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY 14623
¹⁵ Carlson Center for Imaging Science, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY 14623
¹⁶ SETI Institute, 189 N. Bernado Ave Mountain View, CA 94043
¹⁷ Instituto de Astrofisica, Facultad de Fisica, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Casilla 306, Santiago 22, Chile

ABSTRACT

We present observations of a complete sub sample of 20 radio galaxies from the Third Cambridge Catalog (3C) with redshift <0.3 obtained from VLT/MUSE optical integral field spectroscoph. These data have been obtained as part of the MURALES survey (a MUSE RAdio Loud Emission line Snapshot survey) with the main goal of exploring the AGN feedback process in a sizeable sample of the most powerful radio sources at low redshift. We present the data analysis and, for each source, the resulting emission line images and the 2D gas velocity field. Thanks to their unprecedented depth these observations reveal emission line structures extending to several tens of kiloparsec in most objects. The gas velocity often shows ordered rotation, but in many sources it is highly complex. 3C sources show a connection between radio morphology and emission line properties: while in three of the four FR IIs the line emission regions are compact, ~ 1 kpc in size, in all but one of the FR IIs we detected large scale structures of ionized gas with a median extent of 17 kpc. Among the FR IIs, those of high and low excitation show extended gas structures with similar morphological properties, suggesting that they both inhabit regions characterized by a rich gaseous environment.

Key words. Galaxies: active – Galaxies: ISM – Galaxies: nuclei – Galaxies: jets

1. Introduction

Radio galaxies are among the most energetic manifestations of active galactic nuclei and harbor the most massive black holes (SMBHs) in the Universe, typically hosted in the brightest galaxies at center of clusters or groups. They are therefore extraordinarily relevant to address important unknowns related to the interaction between SMBHs and their environment (Gilli et al. 2012). Significant progress in understanding the fueling and evolution of the activity of radio loud AGNs, the triggering process of the radio emission and its impact on the environment, has been made by studying the third Cambridge catalogue of radio galaxies (3C, Spinrad et al. 1985). The 3C catalogue is the premiere statistically complete sample of powerful radio galaxies; it includes all the variety of extended radio morphologies, optical classes and environmental properties.

The study of radio-loud AGN has become particularly important for their role in the so-called feedback process, i.e., the exchange of matter and energy between active galactic nuclei, their host galaxies and clusters of galaxies. The evidence of kinetic AGN feedback is often witnessed in local radio-galaxies, showing in the X-ray images the presence of cavities inflated by the radio emitting gas. However, little is known about the coupling between radio-jets and ionized gas, whether the jets are able to accelerate the gas above the host escape velocity (McNamara & Nulsen 2007), and we also lack clear observational evidence on whether jets enhance or quench star formation (positive or negative feedback, e.g., Fabian 2012). Furthermore, the mechanical luminosity released by the AGN is not well-constrained because the cavity expansion speed is estimated using indirect

Send offprint requests to: balmaverde@oato.inaf.it
and model-dependent approaches. Finally, the radiative output from the AGN can produce fast outflows of ionized gas which also affect the properties of the ambient medium (e.g., Wylezalek & Zakamska 2016, Carniani et al. 2016, Cresci & Maiolino 2018).

A study of the optical-line-emitting gas properties in low redshift radio galaxies (mostly from the 3C) has been performed by Baum et al. (1988), Baum & Heckman (1989) and extended to higher redshift by McCarthy et al. (1995). The analysis of narrow band images centered on the [N II] or [O III] emission lines, revealed that extended optical-line-emitting gas is common in powerful radio galaxies. The ionized gas is often distributed along filamentary structures on scales of 40-100 kpc, eventually connecting the host radio galaxy to possible companions. Baum et al. (1988) noted that the extended emission-line gas is preferentially observed along the radio source axis: this suggests that the distribution and/or the ionization of this gas is influenced by the radio source. It has been also suggested that tidal interactions and mergers could be related to the formation of a radio jet, since many radio galaxies show morphological and/or kinematic evidences for a recent encounter. However, no firm conclusion could be drawn about the origin of the extended optical line emitting gas: it can not be excluded that the emission line gas have cooled out from the hot intergalactic medium or that it has an internal origin (i.e., a merger have stirred up and redistributed the gas that was already present in the host galaxy before the interaction).

To investigate the mechanism of ionization in the extended emitting gas regions, Baum et al. (1990, 1992) used diagnostic diagrams (BPT diagrams, Baldwin et al. 1981, Veilleux & Osterbrock 1987) based on emission line ratios. They found line-ratio changes within individual sources along the elongated structures, but much higher variations from source to source, suggesting different ionization mechanisms. Separating the objects according to their kinematical properties in rotators, calm non rotators and violent rotators, they found that in rotators (mostly FR II) the forbidden lines (as [N II], [S II], [O I]) appear to be weak compared to HÎ± and pointing to photoionization from the nuclear continuum as the dominant ionization mechanism. Instead, in calm non rotators (mostly FR I) they usually observed high [N II] to HÎ± ratios, that they interpreted as produced by heating from cosmic rays. Other models could not be ruled out, e.g. clouds that condense out of the hot (10⁷ K) gas and are ionized by soft X-ray photons, or gas with super-solar abundances, photoionized by the AGN.

The emission line regions in radio galaxies have also been extensively studied with the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). The Wide Field Planetary Camera-2 images of 80 3CR radio sources up to z=1.4 (Privon et al. 2008) show that the radio and optical emission-line structures present a weak alignment at low redshift (z < 0.6), that becomes stronger at higher redshift. They found a trend for the emission-line nebulae to be larger and more luminous with increasing redshift and/or radio power. Baldi et al. (2019) presented Advanced Camera for Surveys emission line images of 19 low z 3C radio galaxies. They generally show extended [O III] emission, a large [O III]/HÎ± scatter across the galaxies, and a radio-line alignment effect. The line morphologies of HEGs and LEGs are different, the former being brighter and more extended.

We have started a project called MURALES (MUse RAdio Loud Emission lines Snapshot), a program aimed at observing the 3C radio sources with the integral field spectrograph MUSE at the VLT. Our main goals are to study the feedback process in a sample of the most powerful radio sources at low redshift, to constrain the coupling between the radio source and the warm gas, to probe the fueling process, and to estimate the net effect of the feedback on star formation.

The MUSE data will enable us to 1) obtain deep line emission images and to compare them with the X-ray structures, exploring the spatial link between the hot and warm ionized ISM phases, and with the radio outflows, 2) derive spatially resolved emission lines ratios maps and explore the gas physical conditions, 3) map and characterize the full 2D ionized gas velocity field, 4) obtain the 2D stellar velocity field that will be compared with that observed in the gaseous component, 5) detect star forming regions, in search of positive feedback with young stars form along the jets path and/or around the radio lobes.

An example of the capabilities of MUSE comes from the observations of 3C 317, a radio-galaxy located at the center of the Abell cluster A2052 (Balmaverde et al. 2018b). A complex network of emission lines filaments emshrods the whole Northern cavity. The ionized gas kinematics show the hallmarks of a shell expansion, with both blue- and red-shifted regions, with a velocity of ~ 250 km/s (a factor of ~ 2 lower than previous indirect estimates based on X-ray data) leading to an estimate of the cavity age of 1.1x10⁷ years. We did not detect any star-forming regions from the emission line ratios.

With the MUSE observations we also found a dual AGN associated to 3C 459 (Balmaverde et al. 2018a) whose host shows the signatures of a recent merger, i.e., disturbed morphology and a young stellar population. The line emission images show two peaks separated by ~ 4 kpc with radically different line profiles and ratios, and a velocity offset of ~ 300 km/s. The secondary AGN has properties typical of a highly obscured QSO, heavily buried at the center of the merging galaxies, producing a high ionization bicone extending more than 70 kpc.

Here we present the results of the observations of the first 20 3C sources obtained in Period 99. The paper is organized as follows: in Sect. 2 we present the sample observed, provide an observation log, and describe the data reduction. In Sect. 3 we present the resulting emission line images, line ratio maps, and 2D velocity fields. We also provide a description of the individual sources. In Sect 4 we study the spectra of the extended emission line regions. The results are discussed in Sect. 5 and summarized in Sect. 6.

We adopt the following set of cosmological parameters: \( H_0 = 69.7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \) and \( \Omega_{\text{m}} = 0.286 \) (Bennett et al. 2014).

2. Observation and data reduction

We observed a sample of 20 radio galaxies with MUSE as part of the MURALES survey. The sample is formed by all the 3C radio-sources limited to \( z < 0.3 \) and \( \delta < 20^\circ \), visible during the April-September semester, i.e., R.A. < 3h and R.A. > 15h. Their main properties are listed in Tab. 1. They are in the redshift range 0.018 < \( z < 0.289 \), with 11 sources located at \( z < 0.1 \). Their radio power spans more than two orders of magnitude, from \( \sim 10^{24} \) to \( \sim 2 \times 10^{26} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} \) at 178 MHz. Most of them (15) are FR II. All optical spectroscopic classes (low excitation galaxies, LEGs, high excitation galaxies, HEGs, and broad lined objects, BLOs) are represented with an almost equal share of LEGs (including four FR II/LEGs) and HEGs/BLOs. We compare the redshift and radio power distribution of our sample with that of the entire population of 114 3C radio galaxies at \( z <0.3 \) presented by Buttiglione et al. (2009). The mean redshift and radio power are \( z = 0.11 \) and \( \log L_{178} = 33.58 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \), respectively, not dissimilar from the values measured for the entire 3C subsample with \( z < 0.3 \) (\( z = 0.13 \) and \( \log L_{178} = 33.61 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \)).
Kolmogorov-Smirnov test confirms that the two distributions of $z$ and $L_{178}$ are not statistically distinguishable. Our sub-sample can then be considered as well representative of the population of powerful, low redshift, radio galaxies.

The observations were obtained as part of the program ID 099.B-0137(A). Two exposures of 10 minutes each (except for

3C 017: FR I/LEG, 1″ = 1.40 kpc. The emission lines are only slightly extended and confined within the central ~3″ (~4 kpc). The compactness of this source prevents us from producing a well resolved gas velocity field. The line width is larger along the radio axis, reaching ~15 kpc. The gas velocity increases moving to the West up to ~15 kpc.

3C 017: FR II/BLO, 1″ = 3.58 kpc. Beside the bright central nuclear component, characterized by the presence of broad Balmer lines, the ionized gas extends in the NW direction out to ~15 kpc. The gas velocity increases moving to the West up to

We here focus on the properties of the ionized gas as probed by various emission lines. The results of the analysis are presented in Figs. 1 through 19. We do not show images of 3C 318.1, the only object in which we failed to detect any line emission. For each of the remaining 19 sources we derived a continuum image (integrating the rest-frame line-free region between 5800 and 6250 Å) on which we superposed the radio contours from radio maps, retrieved from the NRAO VLA Archive Survey. In many cases the size of the radio source exceeds the whole MUSE field of view and, in most objects, the size of the region where emission lines are detected. For this reason we did not overlay the radio contours onto the emission line images. We also produced images in the different emission lines and obtained the corresponding gas velocity field. In the figures we show the intensity of the brightest line, usually the deblended [N II] or [O III]. When the line emission is resolved we present the 2D gas velocity maps and the position-velocity diagram extracted along a synthetic long-slit aperture aligned with interesting line structures. This is possible for all sources except 3C 015, 3C 029, and 3C 456. In the following we describe the results obtained for the individual sources.

3.1. Notes on the individual sources

3C 015: FR I/LEG, 1″ = 1.40 kpc. The emission lines are only slightly extended and confined within the central ~3″ (~4 kpc). The compactness of this source prevents us from producing a well resolved gas velocity field. The line width is larger along the radio axis, reaching ~800 km s$^{-1}$. The gas velocity increases moving to the West up to ~15 kpc. The gas velocity increases moving to the West up to

Table 1. Main properties of the 3C sub sample observed with MUSE and observations log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>z</th>
<th>FR</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>$L_{178}$ [erg s$^{-1}$ Hz$^{-1}$]</th>
<th>L.A.S radio [kpc]</th>
<th>r [kpc]</th>
<th>Obs. date</th>
<th>Seeing [″]</th>
</tr>
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<td>0.073</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>LEG</td>
<td>33.30</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>0.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>3C 017</td>
<td>0.220</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>BLO</td>
<td>34.44</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>Jul 20 2017</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 018</td>
<td>0.188</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>BLO</td>
<td>34.27</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>0.53</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.045</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>LEG</td>
<td>32.84</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>Jul 20 2017</td>
<td>0.51</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td>HEG</td>
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<td>288</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>0.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 040</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>LEG</td>
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<td>440</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Jul 22 2017</td>
<td>0.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>3C 063</td>
<td>0.175</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>HEG</td>
<td>34.21</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>Jul 21 2017</td>
<td>0.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>3C 318.1</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>32.72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jun 22 2017</td>
<td>1.38</td>
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<tr>
<td>3C 327</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td>HEG</td>
<td>33.98</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>19.5</td>
<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 348</td>
<td>0.155</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>ELEG</td>
<td>35.35</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>34.0</td>
<td>Jul 20 2017</td>
<td>1.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.030</td>
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<td>LEG</td>
<td>33.69</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>Jun 29 2017</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 386</td>
<td>0.017</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>32.18</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>Jun 03 2017</td>
<td>0.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 403</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td>HEG</td>
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<td>101</td>
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<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>0.54</td>
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<tr>
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<td>LEG</td>
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<td>LEG</td>
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<td>32.9</td>
<td>Jul 01 2017</td>
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<td>LEG</td>
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<td>286</td>
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<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>0.61</td>
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<tr>
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<td>II</td>
<td>BLO</td>
<td>33.26</td>
<td>483</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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<td>1.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>3C 456</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td>HEG</td>
<td>34.23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jun 30 2017</td>
<td>1.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>0.289</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>HEG</td>
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<td>943</td>
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<td>Jul 22 2017</td>
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<tr>
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<td>II</td>
<td>BLO</td>
<td>34.55</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>76.0</td>
<td>Jul 22 2017</td>
<td>0.43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Column description: (1) source name; (2) redshift; (3 and 4) FR and excitation class; (5) radio luminosity at 178 MHz from Spinrad et al. (1985); (6) largest angular size of the radio source; (7) largest distance of emission line detection in kpc units; (8) date of the observation; (9) mean seeing of the observation.
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Fig. 1. 3C 015, FR I/LEG, 1" = 1.40 kpc. Top left: radio contours (black) overlaid onto the optical continuum image in the 5800 and 6250 Å rest frame range. The size of the image is the whole MUSE field of view, 1' × 1'. Top right: [N II] emission line image extracted from the black square marked in the left panel. Fluxes are in 10⁻¹⁸ erg s⁻¹ cm⁻² arcsec⁻². Bottom: velocity field from the [N II] line and velocity dispersion. Velocities are in km s⁻¹ units.

~ 100 km s⁻¹, but when turning toward the North it decreases to blueshifted velocities, down to ~ −200 km s⁻¹. In addition, a blueshifted compact emission line knot is found ~ 20 kpc to the North. The line width is, except on the nucleus, rather small. The [O III]/Hα line ratio in the West region is enhanced by a factor ~ 3 compared to the nucleus.

3C 018: FR II/BLO, 1" = 3.17 kpc. Diffuse line emission, elongated in the EW direction, surrounds the broad lined nucleus out to ~15 kpc. The lines are redshifted on both sides of the nucleus, by ~ 200 km s⁻¹ on the West and by ~ 100 km s⁻¹ on the East where they are slightly blue-shifted in the perpendicular N-S direction. The line width is always much larger than the instrumental width, with typical values of ~ 200 km s⁻¹. The [O III]/Hα ratio decreases the nucleus toward the extended regions, from ~4 to ~0.5.

3C 029: FR I/LEG, 1" = 0.89 kpc. Similarly to 3C 015, the line emission is only marginally extended. There is a hint of rotation along a line of nodes oriented at ~120°.

3C 033: FR II/HEG, 1" = 1.17 kpc. The MUSE field-of-view covers only ~1/4 of the extension of the radio source. The ionized gas has an elliptical shape, extending out to ~ 8" (~ 9 kpc) on both sides of the nucleus, and elongated along PA ~ 50°, then twisting along PA ~ 70°. The velocity field is dominated by ordered rotation, with a line of nodes initially at PA ~ 75°, then twisting at smaller angles. Outside the central regions of high velocity gradient, the most distant gas shows a constant rotation of ~300 km s⁻¹. The velocity dispersion is enhanced along a linear region parallel to the line of nodes. The [O III]/Hα ratio is smaller in the West and East regions, and larger in a region approximately aligned with the radio axis, suggestive of an ionization cone.

3C 040: FR I/LEG, 1" = 0.37 kpc. This source shows a FR I morphology, with diffuse radio plumes (not fully shown in Fig. 6) extending by more than ~20°. Emission lines are detected in a compact but resolved region extending by ~3" (~1 kpc). Gas
Fig. 2. 3C 017, FR II/BLO, 1" = 3.58 kpc. Top left: radio contours (in white) overlaid onto the optical continuum image over the MUSE field of view. Top right: [N II] emission line image extracted from the white square marked in the left panel. Middle left: gas velocity obtained from the [N II] line. Middle right: position-velocity diagram extracted from the synthetic slit shown overlaid onto the velocity field. Bottom: velocity dispersion and map of the [O III]/Hα line ratio. Fluxes are in $10^{-18}$ erg s$^{-1}$ cm$^{-2}$ arcsec$^{-2}$, velocities are in km s$^{-1}$ units.
Fig. 3. 3C 018, FR II/BLO, 1″ = 3.17 kpc. Same as Fig. 2.
Fig. 4. 3C 029, FR I/LEG, 1″ = 0.89 kpc. Top left: radio contours overlaid onto the optical continuum image. Top right: [O III] emission line image. Bottom: velocity field from the [O III] line and velocity dispersion. Fluxes are in 10^{-18} erg s^{-1} cm^{-2} arcsec^{-2}, velocities are in km s^{-1} units.

rotation is detected, around PA ~ 75°, with an amplitude of ~ 300 km s^{-1}.

3C 063: FR II/HEG, 1″ = 2.99 kpc. The size of the emission line region is similar to that of this double-lobed radio source. On the East side the gas extends along PA~ 80° for ~ 8″ (~ 25 kpc) with a small velocity gradient. On the opposite side, emission lines extend initially toward the South-West, out to ~ 10″, well aligned with the radio axis. At the location of the Southern hot spot, the gas sharply bend toward the North, forming an arc-like structure, located at a distance of ~ 33 kpc from the nucleus, wrapping around the Southern lobe. This feature is dominated by a series of compact knots, surrounding the outer edge of the radio lobe. The gas velocity initially has a positive gradient, reaching ~ 200 km s^{-1}, out to ~ 6″, where it reverses. On the arc-like emission line feature the velocity smoothly decreases down to ~ -400 km s^{-1}. The line width is always much larger than the instrumental width, with typical values of ~ 200 km s^{-1} and above. The [O III]/Hα ratio decreases from the nucleus toward the more extended regions.

3C 318.1: This is the only source of the MURALES survey in which we failed to detect any emission line. This is likely due to the fact that they (if at all present) are of low brightness, but also the conditions during these particular observing block were particularly poor, causing strong residuals of sky lines falling onto the Hα region. It is a very peculiar source also from the point of view of its radio properties, a likely relic source, with an extremely steep spectrum (α_{235GHz}/235MHz = 2.42), not currently active (Giacintucci et al. 2007).

3C 327: FR II/HEG, 1″ = 1.94 kpc. The line emission extends in the NE-SW direction for ~ 18 kpc. The velocity field in the central regions is highly ordered, with a line of node inclined with respect to the geometrical axis by ~ 40°. The gas velocity at radii larger than ~ 3 kpc shows a full amplitude of ~ 600 km s^{-1}. The velocity dispersion is enhanced along the line of nodes, likely due to the unresolved velocity gradients in this region. The [O III]/Hα ratio is smaller in the North and South regions, and larger in a region approximately aligned with the radio axis, suggestive of a ionization cone.
Fig. 5. 3C 033, FR II/HEG, 1″ = 1.17 kpc. Same as Fig. 2.
**3C 348:** FR I/LEG, $1'' = 2.71$ kpc. A close companion, at the same redshift, is seen at $\sim 9$ kpc to the NW. This is the only FR I source showing substantially extended emission line, reaching a distance of $\sim 35$ kpc on the West side. The gas is mainly in rotation in the central regions, but the kinematic axis (at $PA \sim 20^\circ$) is almost perpendicular to the geometrical one. Following the large scale gas filaments, the gas velocity increases steadily toward larger radii, reaching an amplitude of $\sim 400$ km s$^{-1}$. The gas velocity dispersion is highly enhanced at the nucleus and in the region cospatial with the West radio jet.

**3C 353:** FR II/LEG, $1'' = 0.60$ kpc. In the central region the gas is in ordered rotation with a line of node oriented at $PA \sim 30^\circ$. An S-shaped filament extends for $\sim 22$ kpc in the North-South direction. Its velocity field is rather complex: on the North side the gas is initially blueshifted by $\sim 100$ km s$^{-1}$, but its velocity then steadily increases at larger radii before falling back to the systemic velocity for $r > 10$ kpc. In the central $\sim 3$ kpc both the velocity dispersion and the [N II]/H$\alpha$ ratio are larger than in the regions at larger radii.

**3C 386:** FR II, $1'' = 0.35$ kpc. Line emission is detected out to the edges of the MUSE filed of view, covering a distance of at least 16 kpc. Beside the central source, it forms linear diffuse structures in the E-W direction, perpendicular to the radio lobes. Gas rotation around $PA \sim 30^\circ$ is seen in the central regions. On the West side the velocity amplitude increases steadily reaching $\sim 300$ km s$^{-1}$. On the opposite side the line is also generally redshifted, but reaching lower velocities, with the two filaments showing different velocities. Lines are broader along the line of nodes which coincides with the radio axis. Our data confirm the presence of a star superposed onto the nucleus (Lynds [1971]; Buttiglione et al. [2009]).

**3C 403:** FR II/HEG, $1'' = 1.15$ kpc. The ionized gas extends over $\sim 45$ kpc forming a diffuse structure in the NE - SW direction.
Fig. 7. 3C 063, FR II/HEG, 1″ = 2.99 kpc. Same as Fig. 2
Fig. 8. 3C 327, FR II/HEG, $1'' = 1.94$ kpc. Same as Fig. 2
Fig. 9. 3C 348, FR I/ELEG, 1″ = 2.71 kpc.
Fig. 10. 3C 353, FR II/LEG, 1″ = 0.60 kpc.
Fig. 11. 3C 386, FR II, 1'' = 0.35 kpc.
Most of the gas is in very regular rotation with a line of nodes oriented at $PA \sim -30^\circ$ with a large velocity gradient in the central $\sim 3$ kpc, reaching an amplitude of $\pm 300$ km s$^{-1}$, followed by a smooth decrease at larger radii. High velocity blueshifted gas, reaching $\sim 800$ km s$^{-1}$ is seen on the nucleus. Similarly to what is seen in 3C 033, lines are broader in a region almost aligned with the line of nodes. The [O III]/H$\alpha$ ratio is larger in the off-nuclear regions.

3C 403.1: FR II/LEG, $1'' = 1.07$ kpc. The line morphology in this source is particularly complex. There is a central region extending $\sim 9$ kpc around the host galaxy and showing well ordered rotation. However, the ionized gas also forms a series of elongated structures, mainly on the E and SE direction, with compact knots joined by more diffuse emission. There are several galaxies in the MUSE field of view, but only a few emission line knots are associated with them. These extended structures, reaching a distance of $\sim 35$ kpc, are all found at very similar velocities, being redshifted by $\sim 150 - 200$ km s$^{-1}$ with respect to the host galaxy. Overall, the gas structure is reminiscent of the gas bubble seen in 3C 317. In 3C 403.1, however, there is no apparent correspondence with the location of the radio emission which extends to much larger radii, $\sim 230$ kpc, although the available radio image is at very low spatial resolution ($\sim 45''$).

3C 424: FR II/LEG, $1'' = 2.29$ kpc. The emission line structure is dominated by a bright linear feature in the EW direction which shows an overall blueshift of $\sim 100$ km s$^{-1}$. More diffuse emission extends along a perpendicular axis out to $\sim 30$ kpc with an overall redshift of $\sim 150$ km s$^{-1}$ on the SE side but reaching $\sim 450$ km s$^{-1}$ on the NW side where we also find the regions of highest velocity dispersion, up to $\sim 450$ km s$^{-1}$. Generally, the nuclear regions have a higher [N II]/H$\alpha$ ratio that the rest of the emission line nebula.

3C 442: FR II/LEG, $1'' = 0.53$ kpc. Two compact knots, separated by $\sim 0.7$ kpc dominate the emission line structure. They show a velocity offset of $\sim 130$ km s$^{-1}$ but their spectra are very similar from the point of view of the line ratios and this does not suggest, unlike the case of 3C 459 discussed below, the presence of a dual AGN. At large radii two tongues of ionized gas extend in the SW direction for $\sim 4$ kpc, a feature reminiscent of the edges of the cavity seen in the 3C 317 (Balmaverde et al. 2018a), but the resolution of the available radio images does not allow us to perform a detail comparison between these structures. Along the same SW direction diffuse gas is detected out to a radius of $\sim 14$ kpc, showing an almost constant velocity of $\sim 150$ km s$^{-1}$. On the SW side there is another diffuse structure, apparently unrelated to the filaments pointing more to the South based on both its location and much larger blueshift (up to $\sim 400$ km s$^{-1}$) not associated with any galaxy in the field.

3C 445: FR II/BLO, $1'' = 1.09$ kpc. The emission line region in this source has a triangular shape, elongated in the SW direction out to a radius of $\sim 20$ kpc. The gas velocity is roughly constant, with a redshift of $\sim 150$ km s$^{-1}$. The [O III]/H$\alpha$ ratio increases from the nucleus to the outer regions.

3C 456: FR II/HEG, $1'' = 3.74$ kpc. The emission line region in this source is compact, confined within $\sim 10$ kpc. Nonetheless, it clearly shows rotation around PA $\sim 45^\circ$ and large velocity dispersion up to $\sim 350$ km s$^{-1}$.

3C 458: FR II/HEG, $1'' = 4.38$ kpc. Ionized gas is detected at a distance of more than 100 kpc. It is located in various clumps forming various elongated structures, in a general NE-SW direction. The gas velocity field is also rather complex: although there is a tendency for the gas located in the NE quadrant to be generally redshifted (and to be blue-shifted in the SW one) there are changes of speed occurring on small scale.

3C 459: FR II/BLO, $1'' = 3.58$ kpc. We presented the results obtained for this source in Balmaverde et al. (2018a). We detected diffuse nuclear emission and a filamentary ionized gas structure forming a one sided triangular-shaped region extending out to $\sim 80$ kpc. The central emission line region is dominated by two compact knots of similar flux separated by 1''2 (5.3 kpc). Based on the dramatic differences in velocity, line widths, and line ratios, we argued that we are observing a dual AGN system, formed by a radio-loud AGN and a type 2 QSO companion.

4. Ionization properties of the extended emission line regions

In order to explore the ionization properties of the extended emission line regions, we extracted spectra from synthetic apertures as far as possible from the nuclei, but still in regions of sufficient signal to derive useful emission line measurements. We limit to the FR II sources and discarded 3C 456 and 3C 403.1 because they are too compact to obtain off-nuclear measurements. The selected areas are marked in Fig. 20 and listed in Tab. 2.

Seven sources fall into the region populated by Seyfert/HEGs: they are all objects classified as HEGs also based on the nuclear line ratios (Battaglione et al. 2010), see Tab. 2. Similarly, we find the same classification for the nucleus and for the extended region in two LEGs, namely 3C 353 and 3C 442. However, there is one HEG, 3C 458, in which the emission line ratios measured on the extended emission correspond to a different spectroscopic type, for which we derive a LEG classification. In this case the extended emission line region is located at very large distance from the nucleus (80 kpc). The transition from high to low ionization appears to occur gradually, based on the decrease of the [O III]/H$\alpha$ ratio with distance (see Fig. 18).

Finally, there are three sources with a peculiar behavior, namely 3C 63 (a HEG), 3C 386 (of uncertain spectral type), and 3C 424 (a LEG): they are located in different regions of the diagnostic diagrams depending on the panel considered, an indication that we might not be observing regions in which photoionization from an active nucleus or from young stars is the dominant process. This is reminiscent of the results found with MUSE observations by Balmaverde et al. (2018a) for 3C 317: we argued that ionization due to slow shocks (Dopita & Sutherland 1995) or collisional heating from cosmic rays (Ferland et al. 2008, 2009; Fabian et al. 2011) might be important. The general small width of the emission lines in these regions, $\sim 50 - 100$ km s$^{-1}$, argues against the importance of shocks, thus favoring ionization from energetic particles.

5. Discussion

The MUSE data reveal a relationship between the radio morphology and the warm ionized gas structures. Objects belonging to the FR I and FR II classes behave differently: we did not detect extended line emission in three out of four FR I despite their lower redshift (ranging 0.018 to 0.073) with respect to FR II. The only exception is the FR I, 3C 348. In all the FR II observed
Fig. 12. 3C 403, FR II/HEG, 1″ = 1.15 kpc.
Fig. 13. 3C 403.1, FR II/LEG, $l'' = 1.07$ kpc.
Fig. 14. 3C 424, FR II/LEG, 1" = 2.29 kpc.
Fig. 15. 3C 442, FR II/LEG, 1'' = 0.53 kpc.
Fig. 16. 3C 445, FR II/BLO, 1" = 1.09 kpc.
(with the only exception of 3C 456) we observe ionized gas extending up to 20 effective radii of the host. In most cases these structures exhibit a filamentary shape, reminiscent of tidal tails (3C 327, 3C 348, 3C 353, 3C 386, 3C 403.1, 3C 442, 3C 458, and 3C 459). In some cases these filaments seem to connect the radio galaxy with a galaxy at the same redshift (e.g. 3C 403.1, 3C 403, and 3C 424), suggesting that FR II radio galaxies often inhabit a dynamic environment, as seen also by high redshift studies (Chibou munget al. 2018). In one case (3C 063) we observe ionized gas emission around the expanding radio lobe, similarly to 3C 317 (Balmaverde et al. 2018a). No apparent difference emerges between the FR II of HEG or LEG spectral class.

Overall, we observe extended line emission structures in FR II are preferentially (but not exactly) oriented perpendicularly to the radio jets. The tendency for the radio ejection to occur along the rotation axis of gas/dust disks has been strongly debated in past, resulting in contrasting results. [Heckman et al. (1985) found that in radio galaxies with radio emission larger than >100 kpc, the radio jet and the gas rotational axis are typically aligned to within a few tens of degree. We defer the detailed analysis of the velocity fields and of the relationship between radio and line emission to a forthcoming paper.

We compare our results with the study of extended optical emission lines gas in low redshift radio galaxies, presented by [Baum et al. (1988), Baum & Heckman (1989)], in which they presented narrow band images of a representative sample of powerful radio galaxies. The spatial resolution of the images was ∼1.5-2″, down to a flux limit in the range $10^{-17} - 10^{-16}$ erg s$^{-1}$ cm$^{-2}$ arcsec$^{-2}$. They commonly detected extended optical-line-emitting gas and in some cases filaments of ionized gas on scales of 40-100 kpc, departing from the host galaxy. Seven MURALES objects are in common with their sample: the comparison of the contour map with MUSE images shows that, although with lower spatial resolution and sensitivity, their narrow band filter images already captures the overall morphology of the extended gaseous structures. For example, they observed the S-shaped regions of line emission in 3C 063 and around the cavity in 3C 317.

The HST images of emission lines present a rather different picture with respect to the MUSE data, in particular both [Privon et al. (2008)] and [Baldi et al. (2019)] found a general alignment
Fig. 18. 3C 458, FR II/HEG, 1" = 4.38 kpc.
Fig. 19. 3C 459, FR II/BLO, $1'' = 3.58$ kpc.
between the line and radio axis. This is likely due to the fact that HST is able to resolve the innermost regions of the narrow line filaments while it is not sensitive to the large scale low brightness filaments.

In many galaxies the show ordered motion, usually indicative of rotation on both the galactic and the larger scale. However, several sources depart from this description, e.g. 3C 063, 3C 424, and 3C 458, while in other objects the gas velocity field is highly complex.

**Baum et al. (1990)** obtained long-slit optical spectra along the extended emission line features (see also [Heckman et al. 1985](#)). Inspecting the velocity curves along different position angles, they classified the emission line nebulae into rotators, calm rotators or violent rotators. Their kinematical classification corresponds generally to the morphological separation into FR I and FR II radio galaxies: rotators, calm non rotators are nearly always associated with FR II HEGs, while instead the calm non rotators are preferentially of FR I or FR II LEGs type. Our MUSE data reveal that objects of these latter two classes (e.g. 3C 353) actually show rotational motions that was not spatially resolved in their data. This applies also to at least two FR Is of our sample (namely, 3C 040 and 3C 348). We thus believe the objects belonging to the "calm non rotators" show well defined rotation with data of adequate spatial resolution, like in this work.

The maps of velocity dispersion often show quasi-linear regions of high velocity dispersion: the best examples are 3C 033 and 3C 403 (but a similar feature is seen also in 3C 327, 3C 348, 3C 353, and 3C 386). In 3C 033 the velocity dispersion reaches ~ 200 km s\(^{-1}\), to be compared with a value of ~ 70 km s\(^{-1}\) across the remaining of the emission line region, similar values are seen also in 3C 403. These features do not show a preferential relation with the radio axis, while they are generally perpendicular to the axis along which the emission line region is elongated. The origin of this effect is unclear.

From the point of view of the line ratios we find a variety of behaviors, with sources in which the O III/\(\alpha\) ratio decreases with radius (e.g., 3C 018 and 3C 458) but also sources in which it increases (e.g., 3C 017 and 3C 445). In 3C 033, 3C 327, and 3C 403, the map of the emission line ratios show the pattern reminiscent of a ionization cone, in which the O III/\(\alpha\) flux ratio map shows a biconical shape.

Our analysis of the large scale emission line regions shows that generally the spectroscopic type derived from the line ratios is consistent with the spectral classification based on the nuclear properties. In other sources, the emission line ratios are inconsistent with those produced by photo-ionization and also with shocks, given the low velocities observed, leaving the possibility of cosmic rays heating. This suggests that at very large distances the geometric dilution of the nuclear radiation field allows other ionization mechanism to prevail.

The spectra obtained also revealed significant departures from single gaussian profiles for the emission lines, mostly in the nuclear regions (see, e.g., the high velocity component visible in the P-V diagram of 3C 403 reaching ~ 800 km s\(^{-1}\)), that usually show asymmetric profiles with prominent high velocity wings. In a forthcoming paper, we will analyze in detail the line shapes, looking for the signature of outflows. In particular we will investigate the role of relativistic collimated jets in dragging outflows.

It has been suggested that LEGs and HEGs are related to a different accretion process, hot versus cold gas ([Hardcastle et al. 2007](#), [Buttiglione et al. 2010](#), [Baum et al. 1995](#)). We are probably witnessing a somewhat different situation: while we confirm the general paucity of ionized gas in FR Is, it is somewhat surprising that the FR II/LEGs show similar ionized gas structures to those of FR IIs/HEGs and BLOs. In fact LEGs are thought to be powered by hot accretion but we detect a large reservoir of warm, emitting line gas, similar to those found in HEGs. This seems to indicate that FR IIs of LEG and HEG type both inhabit regions characterized by a rich gaseous environment. However, the extended ionized tails and filaments observed by MUSE are only the tip of the iceberg of a larger amount of colder (atomic and molecular) gas. Observations of the H I and CO emission lines are needed to obtain a robust estimate of the entire gas content in these sources.

From the spatially resolved diagnostic diagram, we might envisage that the spectral type of a FR II varies with time, responding to changes of the accretion rate on a timescale much shorter than its lifetime. The measurements of the line ratios on large scale and the general consistency (with the notable exception of 3C 458) with the nuclear classification (see Tab.2) indicates that this does not generally occur on a timescale shorter than the light travel time from the nucleus to where these features are located, i.e., ~ 5 × 10\(^7\) years.

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**Table 2. Synthetic aperture for the off-nucleus spectra and diagnostic line ratios**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (type)</th>
<th>Size (arcseconds)</th>
<th>Distance (arcseconds)</th>
<th>[O III]/H(\alpha)</th>
<th>[N II]/H(\alpha)</th>
<th>[S II]/H(\alpha)</th>
<th>[O I]/H(\alpha)</th>
<th>Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3C 017 (BLO)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 018 (BLO)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>16.72</td>
<td>1.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 033 (HEG)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>14.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 033 (BLO)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 327 (HEG)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>11.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 353 (LEG)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>&lt;1.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 386 (LEG)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>0.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 403 (HEG)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>&gt;9.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 424 (LEG)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 442 (LEG)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>&gt;0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 445 (BLO)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>8.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 458 (HEG)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>80.2</td>
<td>5.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3C 459 (BLO)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>69.0</td>
<td>5.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Column description: (1) source name; (2) region size (arcseconds); (3) distance from the nucleus in arcseconds and (4) kpc, (5, 6, and 7) diagnostic line ratios, (8) spectroscopic type.
Fig. 20. Emission line images (in logarithmic scale) of the 13 radio galaxies observed in MURALES with extended emission lines. The fields of view are indicated in the upper left corner of each image. The white segments are parallel to the radio axes, the with boxes mark the synthetic aperture from which we extracted the off-nuclear spectra.

6. Summary and conclusions

We presented the first results of the MURALES project (MUse RAdio Loud Emission lines Snapshot) obtained from VLT/MUSE optical integral field spectroscopic observations of 20 3C sources with $z < 0.3$ observed in Period 99, i.e., between June and July 2017. All classes of radio morphology (FR I and FR II) and optical spectroscopic classification are represented with an almost equal share of LEGs (including four FR II/LEGs) and FR IIs HEGs and BLOs. The distribution of redshift and radio power are not statistically distinguishable from the entire population of 114 3C radio galaxies at $z < 0.3$. Our sub-sample is therefore well representative of the population of powerful, low redshift, radio galaxies.

In this present paper we focused on the properties of the ionized gas. One of the most interesting result which emerges is the detection of emission line regions extending up to $\sim 100$ kpc. This is made possible by the unprecedented depth of the line emission images, reaching brightness levels, as low as a few $10^{17}$ erg s$^{-1}$ cm$^{-2}$ arcsec$^{-2}$, an order of magnitude deeper that the previous studies of emission lines in radio galaxies, despite the rather short exposure time of 20’. We detected emission
lines in all but one object, namely 3C 318.1, a likely relic radio source not currently active. In all other sources the emission line region is dominated by a compact component on a scale of a few kpc, likely the classical narrow line region. Large scale (~ 5 – 100 kpc) ionized gas is seen in all but one (3C 456) of the 15 FR II radio galaxies observed. Usually these structures appear as elongated filaments. Only one FR I (3C 348) shows extended emission lines. In some cases the MUSE field of view (1x1 arcmin square) covers the whole radio structure (e.g., 3C 017 and 3C 063), but in most cases the radio emission extends well beyond the portion of the sky covered by MUSE.

We found that the line emission structures are preferentially (but not exactly) oriented perpendicularly to the radio jets. Conversely, large scale gas structures aligned with the jets or surrounding the radio lobes (such as those found in 3C 317) are found only in one source, namely 3C 063. We are most likely observing gas structure associated with the secular fueling of the central SMBH. We defer the detailed analysis of the spatial relation between radio and line emission to a forthcoming paper.

The interaction between the AGN and the external medium is probably confined within the innermost regions, as indicated by the HST images, where most of the ionized gas is located. These regions are not properly spatially resolved by the MUSE emission line images. An analysis of the nuclear line profiles will be used elsewhere to study AGN driven outflows.

We presented also maps of emission line ratios ([O III]/Hα or [N II]/Hα), to identify regions characterized by different ionization states. Large spatial variations in line ratios are observed in most galaxies: moving outward from the nucleus we found sources with both increasing or decreasing gas excitation.

When possible, we compared the location of the nuclear and extended line emission regions into the spectroscopic diagnostic diagrams for 13 FR IIs: seven (two) sources are classified as HEGs and BLOs (LEGs) in the nuclear regions similarly show a high (low) excitation spectrum at larger distances. Conversely, in the HEG 3C 458, the spectrum at ~ 80 kpc from the nucleus leads to a LEG classification. In the last three sources (3C 63, 3C 386, and 3C 424) we are probably observing regions in which collisional heating from cosmic rays, rather than photoionization, is the dominant process.

For most sources we were able to produce the velocity and velocity dispersion 2D maps and a position-velocity diagram extracting the velocity profile from a synthetic long-slit aperture aligned with extended or interesting line structures. In most objects, the central gas is in ordered rotation, but it is highly complex in a significant fraction of our sample. On larger scales, we usually observed regular velocity fields, with small gradients.

The MUSE images confirm the general paucity of ionized gas in FR Is, while FR II/LEGs show ionized gas structures morphologically similar to those of FR IIs/HEGs and BLOs. This could indicate that FR IIs of both LEG and HEG type apparently inhabit regions characterized by a similar content of gas and, possibly, similar triggering/feeding mechanism. This would challenge previous suggestions that LEGs are powered by hot accretion (and HEGs by cold gas) while we detected a large reservoir of gas in both classes. To tackle the long standing issue of the triggering and of the origin of the fueling material in radio galaxies, we need to complement the information derived on the ionized component of the interstellar medium with observations able to trace also the cold gas component.

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