

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

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ABSTRACT

We present new Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA, 1.5 GHz) radio data for the giant elliptical galaxy IC 4296, supported by archival radio, X-ray (*Chandra*, *XMM-Newton*) and optical (SOAR, *HST*) observations. The galaxy hosts powerful radio jets piercing through the inner hot X-ray emitting atmosphere, depositing most of the energy into the ambient intra-cluster medium (ICM). Whereas the radio surface brightness of the A configuration image is consistent with a Fanaroff-Riley Class I (FRI) system, the D configuration image shows two bright, relative to the central region, large (~ 160 kpc diameter), well-defined lobes, previously reported by Killeen et al., at a projected distance $r \gtrsim 230$ kpc. The *XMM-Newton* image reveals an X-ray cavity associated with one of the radio lobes. The total enthalpy of the radio lobes is $\sim 7 \times 10^{59}$ erg and the mechanical power output of the jets is $\sim 10^{44}$ erg s⁻¹. The jets are mildly curved and possibly re-brightened by the relative motion of the galaxy and the ICM. The lobes display sharp edges, suggesting the presence of bow shocks, which would indicate that they are expanding supersonically. The central entropy and cooling time of the X-ray gas are unusually low and the nucleus hosts a warm H α +[N II] nebula and a cold molecular CO disk. Because most of the energy of the jets is deposited far from the nucleus, the atmosphere of the galaxy continues to cool, apparently feeding the central supermassive black hole and powering the jet activity.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

The oldest, largest known galactic structures in the Universe are giant elliptical galaxies. These systems are evolving contrary to the standard hierarchical galaxy formation scenario (Thomas et al. 2002). Observations and theoretical models

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indicate that they formed around 0.2–1 billion years after the Big Bang, went through a fast star-forming phase, and afterward grew only by dry mergers (Thomas et al. 2010; Onodera et al. 2015).

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

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

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

The powerful AGN jets penetrating the innermost hot galactic atmosphere and depositing most of their energy out at radii $r \gtrsim 230$ kpc make the giant elliptical galaxy IC 4296, in the central region of the galaxy cluster Abell 3565, a source of high interest. Its radio counterpart, PKS 1333-33, has attracted the attention of astronomers for over 30 years. Historically, the first comprehensive studies were published by Killeen et al. (1986b,a) and Killeen & Bicknell (1988) using data from Very Large Array (VLA) at 1.3, 2, 6, and 20 cm. In particular, Killeen et al. (1986a) analysed X-ray data of the system from the imaging proportional counter (IPC) onboard the *Einstein* observatory. In addition to prominent jets extending over 35 arcmin, the authors reported a barely resolved diffuse X-ray source coinciding with the position of the galaxy.

In this paper, we present new radio data of IC 4296

obtained with the VLA in the A and D configurations at 1.5 GHz and compare them with archival observations available at lower frequencies in the TIFR GMRT Sky Survey (TGSS; Intema et al. 2017) and in the GaLactic and Extragalactic All-sky Murchison Widefield Array (GLEAM; Hurley-Walker et al. 2016).

While our paper presents new, deep radio observations, our goal is to study this system in a more comprehensive way. Therefore, we also analyse archival X-ray data from the *Chandra* and *XMM-Newton* observatories, as well as narrow-band $H\alpha+[N\text{ II}]$ images from the 4.1 meter Southern Astrophysical Research (SOAR) telescope and optical data from the Hubble Space Telescope (*HST*). This allows us to study the interaction between the jet/lobes and the surrounding hot and cold thermal gas phases.

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

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

2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA ANALYSIS

2.1 Radio observations and analysis

IC 4296 was observed on 2015 July 11 by the Karl G. Jansky VLA in A configuration (project code: 15A-305; PI: Werner) and on 2018 October 26 (project code: 18A-317, PI: Grossová) in D configuration. The L-band receiver covering the frequency range spanning from 1 to 2 GHz is divided into sixteen spectral windows with 64 1000 kHz wide channels. The one-hour long observations consist of ≈ 40 minutes integration time on the target and ≈ 10 minutes on both the standard VLA flux density calibrator 3C 286 and a nearby compact source J1316-3338 used as amplitude and phase calibrator. The VLA data were reduced and imaged using the National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) pipeline Common Astronomy Software Applications (CASA, McMullin et al. 2007), v4.7.2 and v5.0.0 for A and D configuration data, respectively.

A careful approach was followed to flag Radio Frequency Interferences (RFI). First, we used the auto-flagging algorithm `tfcrop` in CASA to identify the outliers in the time-frequency plane. Then, we used the Offringa’s RFI software `AOFLAGGER` (Offringa et al. 2012). The combination of the two strategies, for the A configuration, flagged in total 46% of the data, with spectral windows 2, 3, 8 and 9 almost entirely flagged. In case of the D configuration, more than half of the data had to be flagged.

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

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

We also constructed a spectral index map using the VLA D configuration image at 1.5 GHz and a GLEAM radio image at 158 MHz. To create a reliable spectral index map it is essential to compare the images using the same resolution and the same pixel size. First, we deconvolved the two-dimensional VLA calibrated data using the `uvtaper` option within the CASA `clean` algorithm to create a total flux intensity image close to the resolution of the GLEAM image. Then, we smoothed the image with the exact GLEAM restoring beam size¹ using the CASA task `imsmooth`. Secondly, the GLEAM image was regridded to get the same pixel size as the VLA D configuration image. We used the CASA `immath` task, to calculate flux densities, spectral indices, and their errors following Rajpurohit et al. (2018). We assumed flux density uncertainties (f_{err}) of 4% for the VLA data (Perley & Butler 2013) and 8% for the GLEAM data (Hurley-Walker et al. 2017).

2.2 Archival X-ray observations

2.2.1 Archival Chandra observations and analysis

IC 4296 was observed by the Chandra Advanced CCD Imaging Spectrometer in the S-array (ACIS-S) on 2001 September 10 (Obs. ID: 2021) and 2001 December 15 (Obs. ID: 3394) with a total clean exposure time of 48 ks. The on-axis point-spread function (PSF) is better than 1 arcsec for Chandra. The data reduction and analysis are described in detail in Lakhchaura et al. (2018).

2.2.2 Archival XMM-Newton observations and analysis

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

RGS 2) instruments to fully investigate this system. The on-axis PSF of the X-ray telescopes on XMM-Newton is of the order of 10 arcsec.

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

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

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

2.3 Archival optical observations and analysis

Narrow-band $H\alpha + [N\text{ II}]$ imaging of IC 4296 was obtained by Sun et al. (in prep.) with the 4.1 m SOAR telescope using the SOAR Optical Imager (SOI). The full description of these observations is given in the survey paper (Sun et al. in prep.), but we briefly summarize them here. IC 4296 was observed on 2015 July 21 for 1800 s in both on (6649/76) and off

¹ The GLEAM restoring beam is $155.57'' \times 143.65''$.

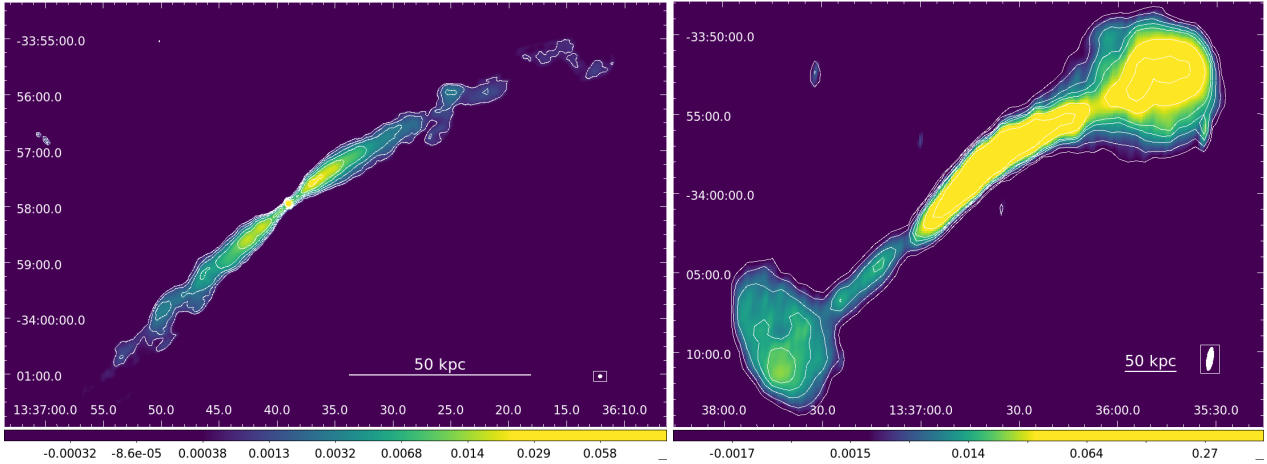


Figure 1. The VLA total intensity images of IC 4296 at 1.5 GHz. *Left panel:* the A configuration image shows that the surface brightness of jets decreases as a function of radius, although we also see re-brightening in the radio plumes at ~ 10 kpc from the nucleus. The restoring beam size is $3.94'' \times 3.26''$ and is shown in the bottom right corner. *Right panel:* the D configuration image revealed well-confined radio lobes extending up to almost 300 kpc from the central regions of IC 4296, previously reported by Killeen et al. (1986b). The restoring beam is $90.15'' \times 23.02''$ and is shown in the bottom-right corner. The contour levels are at $[-1, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16] \times 5$ rms noise, with corresponding rms noise of $0.06 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ and of $0.2 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ for VLA A and D configuration data, respectively.

(6737/76) band filters². Basic reduction was performed using SOI-specific IRAF scripts based on the `mscred` package.

In addition to the SOAR image, we used archival *HST* Imaging with the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) High Resolution Channel (HRC) obtained as part of program GO-9838 (PI: L. Ferrarese) observed on 2004 August 7. ACS/HRC images are in the F435W filter and the FR656N filter, which was tuned to a central wavelength of 6644.3; this tuning samples $\text{H}\alpha$ at the redshift of IC 4296. These observations were previously discussed by Dalla Bontà et al. (2009) and presented also in Lauer et al. (2005) and Bal-maverde & Capetti (2006). We did not continuum-subtract the ACS/HRC images, but a strong nuclear source is seen in the FR656N image that is not seen in the corresponding F435W image. As was discussed by Dalla Bontà et al. (2009), there is strong $\text{H}\alpha + [\text{N II}]$ emission that extends beyond the central dust disk visible in the right panel of Fig. 8 (for more details see also Sect. 3.3).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Radio morphology

The 1.5 GHz VLA A configuration radio image is shown in Fig. 1 (*left panel*) with a resolution of $3.94'' \times 3.26''$ and a root-mean-square (rms) noise of $0.06 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$. The total intensity image clearly reveals a bright nucleus and extended emission in two jets, with several knots on both sides, terminating in diffuse radio plumes. The two well-collimated and almost symmetric jets emit via synchrotron radiation in the central regions. However, interestingly, the jets show noticeable re-brightening further away from the nucleus at $r \sim 10$ kpc, where the radio plumes broaden, as

mentioned previously by Killeen & Bicknell (1988). Based on our VLA data obtained in A configuration (which is less sensitive to extended structures), the total extent of the radio structure is ~ 120 kpc with the northwestern jet extending out to $r \sim 70$ kpc and the southeastern to $r \sim 50$ kpc. The total integrated flux density of the source in A configuration is 3.98 ± 0.40 Jy. IC 4296 shows a gradual decrease in surface brightness from the centre, which is typical of Fanaroff-Riley (FR I) radio galaxies.

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

Since the plumes and/or lobes in FR I and FR II radio galaxies tend to have steep radio spectra, we also inspected the archival TGSS radio maps at 153 MHz. These revealed a radio structure close to that observed at 1.5 GHz in our VLA A configuration image, but also a weak diffuse lobe-like emission extending far beyond the A configuration image (black contours in Fig. 2). The GLEAM data at 154–162 MHz also confirm the two extended lobe-like structures (white contours in Fig. 2).

The spectral index map created using the GLEAM data at 158 MHz and the VLA D configuration data at 1.5 GHz is shown in Fig. 3. As expected, the central regions of the galaxy show a flat spectral index of -0.5 and a steepening is present in the lobes. They both have steep spectra with indices of -0.7 and -1.1 , respectively (Fig. 3). The spectral

² CTIO (Cerro Tololo Inter-American Observatory) $\text{H}\alpha$ filter 6649/76 ($\lambda_{\text{cen}} = 6650\text{\AA}$, FWHM = 77\AA) and 6737/76 ($\lambda_{\text{cen}} = 6746\text{\AA}$, FWHM = 86\AA).

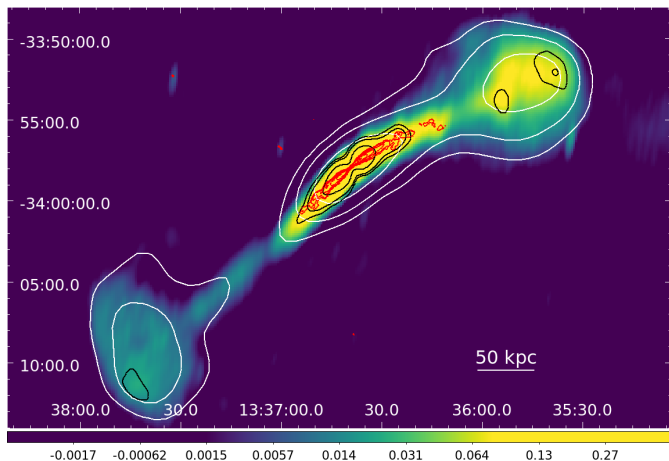


Figure 2. The VLA D configuration radio map at 1.5 GHz overlaid with the TGSS radio contours at 153 MHz (in black), VLA A configuration contours at 1.5 GHz (in red), and the GLEAM radio maps at 154–162 GHz (in white). Contours levels were created at $[-1, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16] \times 5$ rms noise for the TGSS, GLEAM, VLA A configuration data with corresponding rms noise of 3, 0.12, and $0.06 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$.

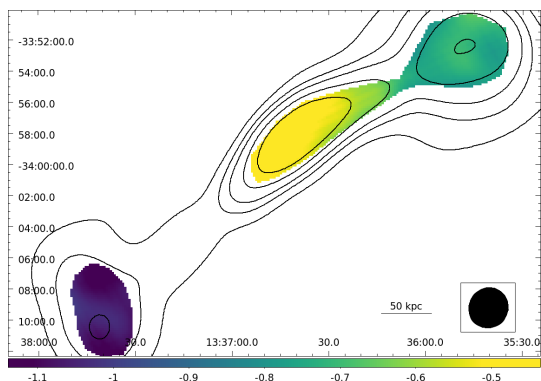


Figure 3. The spectral index map for IC 4296 reveals a flat spectral index in the central region of the jet, whereas in the two lobes we observe a steep spectral index of -0.7 and -1.1 . The map was created using the 158 GHz GLEAM and the 1.5 GHz VLA D configuration image at $155'' \times 143''$ resolution (the beam is shown in the right corner of the map) and it is overlaid by VLA contours corresponding to the VLA smoothed image, in respect to GLEAM image to reach the same beam size. The rms noise reached value of $\sim 1.5 \text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$. Contour levels are $[-1, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16] \times 5$ rms noise.

index map appears uniform over the two lobes in agreement with the lack of clear hot spots that would have flatter radio spectra. The uncertainties on the spectral index are of the order of a few percent.

The radio power of $\sim 10^{24} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ at 1.4 GHz^3 obtained from CASA total intensity D configuration image is close to the boundary radio power of the FR dichotomy of $\sim 10^{24.5} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ at 1.4 GHz (Owen & Ledlow 1994). With its absolute R-band magnitude of $M_R = -23.33 \pm 0.24 \text{ mag}$, IC 4296 is placed below the boundary division line of the

³ With corresponding flux density $\sim 8 \text{ Jy}$.

Ledlow-Owen diagram, where most of the FR I sources are located.

3.2 Comparison with the X-ray data

The characteristic radius of the X-ray atmosphere in Fig. 4 (left panel) observed by *Chandra* ACIS-S (see also Pellegrini et al. 2003) is much smaller than the total extent of the radio jets. The jets emanating from the nuclear region are at first well-collimated and, after piercing through the innermost parts of the hot X-ray emitting atmosphere, at $r \sim 10 \text{ kpc}$, they widen significantly, as previously noticed by Killeen & Bicknell (1988).

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

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

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

Our *XMM-Newton* EPIC image extracted in the $0.3\text{--}2.0 \text{ keV}$ band reveals a cavity with a diameter of $\sim 160 \text{ kpc}$ associated with the northwestern radio lobe (see Fig. 4; right panel). We find a small misalignment between the radio lobe and the X-ray cavity. It could be the result of projection effects, where the part of the cavity closer to the mid-plane of the source is clearly visible in the X-ray image, while the part associated with the visible radio emission might be offset from the mid-plane and thus not seen clearly in the images.

We extracted and fitted the deprojected spectra from four partial spherical shells in the direction of the northwestern jet (traced by the red sectors in Fig. 4 right panel). The corresponding radial profile of the electron density (n_e) is shown in Fig. 5. We have subtracted the emission contribution of the gas at larger radii (i.e. beyond our field of view), which we estimated by extrapolating a beta model fit to our initial density profile. The temperature and total density (electrons plus ions) of the gas surrounding the cavity (i.e. the last radial bin in Fig. 5) are respectively $kT = 0.95 \pm 0.01 \text{ keV}$ and $n = 9.6 \pm 0.05 \times 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, which

corresponds to a pressure of $nkT = 9.12 \times 10^{-4} \text{ keV cm}^{-3}$. Assuming the northwestern cavity is spherical with a radius of 80 kpc, the $4pV$ work performed by the jet to displace the ICM is $\sim 3.7 \times 10^{59} \text{ erg}$. Assuming a similar enthalpy for the southeastern cavity, which is outside of the *XMM-Newton* field-of-view, we obtain a total enthalpy of $\sim 7 \times 10^{59} \text{ erg}$.

The combined *XMM-Newton* RGS 1+RGS 2 spectrum is shown in Fig. 7. Some lines (e.g. Fe XVII at 15 Å and 17 Å, O VIII at 19 Å, rest frame) are clearly identified as they are typical of a cool ($\lesssim 1 \text{ keV}$) gas. Our best-fit model provides a temperature of $0.79 \pm 0.05 \text{ keV}$ and an Fe abundance of 0.13 ± 0.02 for the *cie* component, as well as a cooling rate of $4.5 \pm 1.0 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ for the *cf* component. In this spectrum of limited quality, however, the cooling rate and Fe abundance parameters seem to share some degeneracy, with our inferred cooling rate dropping to $2.1 \pm 0.6 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ when fixing the abundances to 0.3 proto-solar. This is further discussed in Sect. 4.2.

3.3 Comparison with the optical data

The narrow band SOAR $\text{H}\alpha + [\text{N II}]$ image shown in Fig. 8 (*right panel*) indicates that the ionized gas is circumnuclear and the ionized disk is perpendicular to the jets. The SOAR data also provide a hint for entrainment along the northwestern radio plume. The *HST* data show a warped, dust disk with a $0.9''$ radius (see Fig. 8; *left panel*), which does not appear to be perpendicular to the jets (see Schmitt et al. 2002, for more details) and is visible on smaller scales than the emission in the SOAR image (Fig. 8; *right panel*). Interestingly, recent studies of CO emission for a sample of giant elliptical galaxies by Boizelle et al. (2017) and Ruffa et al. (2019) revealed the presence of a circumnuclear molecular gas disk, which is co-spatial with the dust (Ruffa et al. 2019).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 The nature of the radio source

Our new VLA data in D configuration at 1.5 GHz confirm the presence of the two lobes previously detected by Killeen et al. (1986b). While the extended emission resembles the radio morphology of FR II radio galaxies, the lobes lack compact hot spots. The total extent of the radio structure is $\sim 500 \text{ kpc}$, which is in agreement with Killeen et al. (1986b). The compactness of the radio lobes relative to their distance from the galaxy core, make IC4296 very similar to other powerful radio galaxies.

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

The radio morphology of the source indicates possible supersonic expansion. In the boundary layer, where the well-defined northwestern radio lobe meets the ambient ICM (Fig. 1; *right panel*), the surface brightness is increased and

the end of the jet forms a lobe with a sharp-edged morphology. According to 3-dimensional hydrodynamic simulations by Massaglia et al. (2016) and Perucho & Martí (2007), this sharp head of the jet is consistent with bow shocks, which are typical indicators of the supersonic expansion relative to the surrounding medium. The inconsistency with the classical FR I class, low power radio sources with subsonic expansions, lies in the re-brightenings and sharp-edged structure of the northwestern radio lobe suggesting its supersonic expansion.

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

The jets, piercing through the galactic atmosphere and depositing their energy into the surrounding intra-cluster medium, are also present in the FR I radio source NGC 4261 (a.k.a. 3C 270; O’Sullivan et al. 2005). Interestingly, we find that the derived enthalpy for the cavities/lobes of IC 4296 is ~ 30 times larger than for NGC 4261 (O’Sullivan et al. 2011), mainly due to the size of the radio lobes (~ 6 times larger in the case of IC 4296). As further discussed in Sect. 4.2, in these two cases the central regions also show steep entropy (see Fig. 6) and cooling time profiles (Werner et al. 2012; Voit et al. 2015b) and a prominent nuclear dust disk fueling the AGN closely related to powerful radio jets (Jaffe et al. 1993; Jaffe & McNamara 1994), which might have cooled from the hot X-ray emitting atmosphere of the galaxy. Such a dust and molecular disk are also present in the brightest cluster galaxy of Hydra A, which also displays powerful jet activity (McNamara 1995; Taylor 1996).

4.2 The unbalanced cooling in IC 4296

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

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

At first glance, this picture is in line with our analysis of the *XMM-Newton* RGS spectra, as they are consistent with

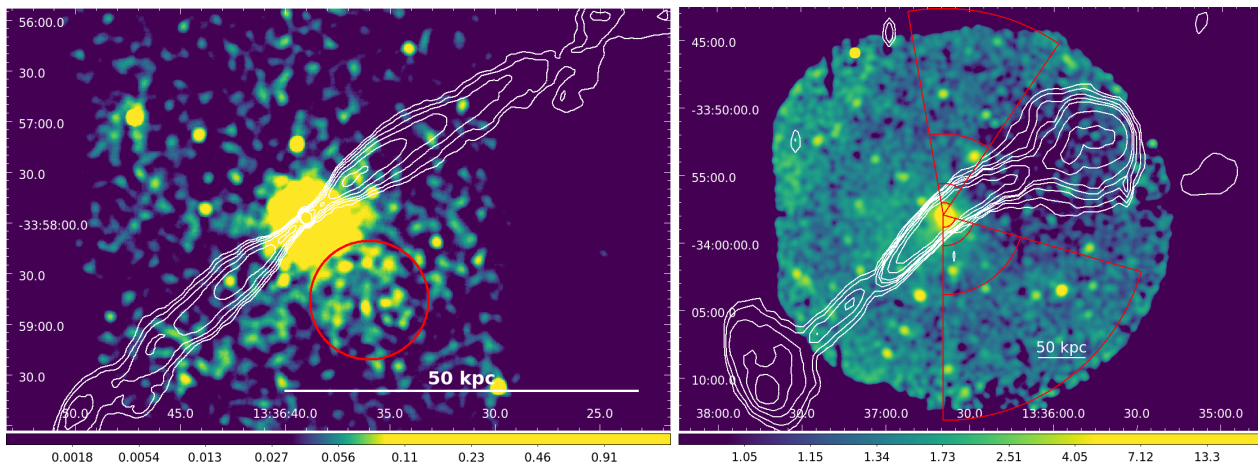


Figure 4. *Left panel:* The *Chandra* X-ray image at 0.5–5 keV overlaid with white contours of our VLA image at 1.5 GHz obtained in A configuration with same contour levels as defined in Fig. 1. The image reveals an excess of the X-ray emission, marked by a red circle, to the southwest of IC 4296. *Right panel:* The background-subtracted, exposure-corrected *XMM-Newton* EPIC image (combining MOS 1, MOS 2, and pn) in the 0.3–2 keV band overlaid with contours of the VLA D configuration image same as in Fig. 1 (*right panel*). The X-ray image reveals a decrement, a likely cavity, corresponding to the northwestern radio lobe. The overplotted red partial annuli indicate the spectral extraction regions used to determine the temperature and the density of the ICM outside of the northern radio lobe.

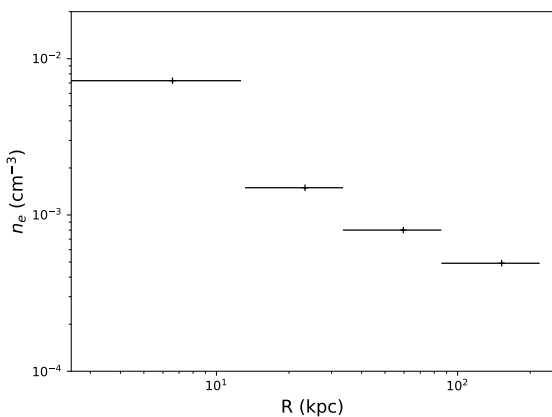


Figure 5. Deprojected electron density profile for the gas surrounding the northwestern cavity of IC 4296. The two spectral extraction regions, whose values have been combined and averaged in this figure, are shown by the red sectors in Fig. 4 (*right panel*).

an appreciable mass deposition rate of $4.5 \pm 1.0 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$. This rate is particularly high compared to other elliptical galaxies and groups whose RGS spectra reveal mass deposition rates typically less than $1 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ (Liu et al. 2019). We caution, however, that this measurement suffers from large systematic uncertainties because the limited quality of the data implies degeneracies between some parameters. For example, fixing all the abundances to 0.3 proto-solar (which is more realistic than our best-fit 0.13 proto-solar value; e.g. Urban et al. 2017) yields a lower mass deposition rate of $2.1 \pm 0.6 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$. Moreover, we cannot exclude even higher abundances (i.e. close to the proto-solar value) in the inner ~ 10 kpc region, which would then further revise lower the inferred cooling rate. Future deeper observations will thus be important to confirm (or disprove) the unusually high cooling rate in this source. Assuming nevertheless

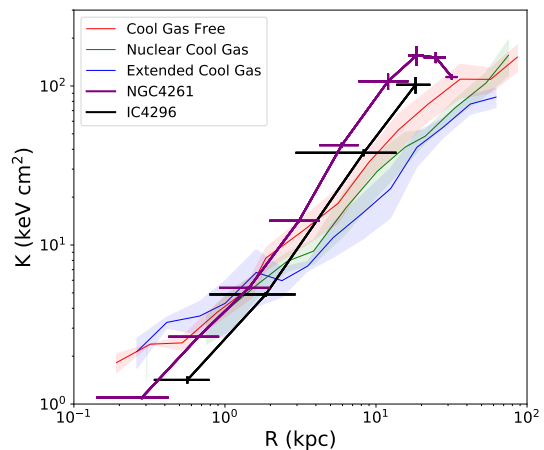


Figure 6. The entropy profiles of IC 4296 and NGC 4261 in comparison with the sample of Lakhchaura et al. (2018). The red, green and blue solid lines show median profiles for cool gas free, nuclear cool gas and extended cool gas systems, respectively and the shaded regions show the median absolute deviation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

our initial deposition rate and that the bulk of this material accretes onto the central supermassive black hole and is converted into jets with a 10% efficiency, it will result in a jet power of $\sim 2.6 \times 10^{46} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$. This is more than two orders of magnitude higher than the actual jet power estimated in Sect. 4.1 ($\sim 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$). We therefore conclude that the currently assumed rate of cooling is largely sufficient to effectively produce the observed radio jets.

In the centre of the galaxy, a disc of ionized and molecular gas (Boizelle et al. 2017; Ruffa et al. 2019) is observed, which is also visible in the *SOAR* image in the

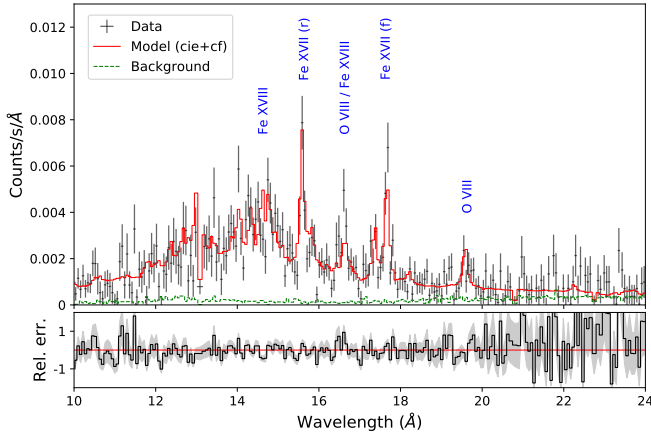


Figure 7. Combined first order RGS 1+RGS 2 spectrum of IC 4296, extracted within 0.8 arcmin in the cross-dispersion direction. Our best-fit model (cie+cf, see text) is overplotted in red.

right panel of Fig. 8. The circumnuclear dust disc seen by *HST* in the right panel of Fig. 8., could be covering the central engine of the galaxy, offering a possible explanation for the apparent strongly sub-Eddington nuclear luminosity of $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}} \sim 2 \times 10^{-5}$ (Pellegrini et al. 2003). The true Eddington ratio necessary to explain the acceleration of jets penetrating through the ambient medium could be significantly higher. On the other hand, the low Eddington ratio could also be a result of an advection-dominated accretion flow (ADAF), where the heat generated via viscous dissipation in the disk is “advected” inwards with the accreting gas (Narayan & Yi 1994).

4.3 Peculiar bending jets in a hot atmosphere

The radio and X-ray morphologies of IC 4296 resemble those of some other systems, such as NGC 1265, where the powerful radio jets penetrate through the atmosphere of hot gas bound to the host galaxy, with little impact on the X-ray gas (Sun et al. 2005a). In NGC 1265, the two-sided jet emerges from the atmosphere into the ICM of the Perseus cluster. Since NGC 1265 is moving at high speed relative to the ICM, we see bright radio knots in its jet where they impinge on the ICM and are deflected (O’Dea & Owen 1987). Although IC 4296 differs in important respects from NGC 1265, we cannot exclude that the observed re-brightening in its jet at $r \sim 10$ kpc could have a similar origin.

The presence of a possible X-ray tail seen in the *Chandra* image and the location of IC 4296 in the centre of Abell 3565 is consistent with the sloshing of the ambient ICM in the potential well of the cluster (see Markevitch & Vikhlinin 2007). Given the relative motion, the radio jets emerging from the central atmosphere run into the ICM and are deflected in the direction opposite to the galaxy’s travel, as also noted by Kemp (1994). Assuming that the jets are supersonic, they could be deflected in a succession of inclined weak shocks or via magnetohydrodynamical instabilities (Massaglia et al.

2019), converting jets’ kinetic energy to thermal energy. Alternatively, the brightening could result from the dissipation of turbulence driven by the interaction between the jets and the external medium (Burns 1998). In either case, the additional thermal energy will raise the pressure (and density) in the jet plasma, causing it to expand (e.g. Gizani & Leahy 1999). This would account for the increase in the width of the radio source in the regions ~ 10 kpc from the central AGN, also noticed by Killeen & Bicknell (1988).

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

5 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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

- The new high-resolution VLA data in A configuration reveal the bright central region of IC4296 and two almost symmetrical knotty radio jets extending far beyond the host galaxy. With the VLA D configuration data, we confirm the presence of well-defined radio lobes first reported by Killeen et al. (1986b). The lobes, without significant hot spots, have large diameters of ~ 160 kpc at radii $r \gtrsim 230$ kpc and are undetected in the higher resolution A configuration VLA images.
- The *XMM-Newton* data reveal the presence of an X-ray cavity associated with one of the large radio lobes indicating a remarkable total enthalpy $\sim 7 \times 10^{59}$ erg. For comparison, this enthalpy is 30 times larger than for NGC 4261, due to the 6 times larger size of the radio lobes.
- The observed radio morphology is consistent with 3D hydrodynamical simulations (e.g. Massaglia et al. 2016) of supersonically expanding jets/lobes, with bow shocks created at the boundary layer of the radio lobes interacting with the ambient ICM.
- The jets are bent likely due to the relative motion of the ICM with respect to IC 4296 and magneto-hydrodynamic instabilities, advecting the plasma in long narrow plumes. The relative motion of the galaxy with respect to the ICM is also supported by a possible X-ray tail seen in the *Chandra* image.
- The powerful jets piercing through the hot galactic atmosphere do not appear to be depositing sufficient heat in the innermost gas to prevent it from cooling, with the bulk of their energy deposited well beyond 10 kpc from the nucleus. The atmosphere of the galaxy can therefore continue to cool rapidly, feeding the central supermassive black hole and powering the jets. This is supported by the steep entropy and cooling time profiles of the hot galactic atmosphere which continue to drop all the way to the nucleus, where a warm $\text{H}\alpha + [\text{N II}]$ nebula and a cold molecular CO disk are clearly seen. As for a handful of other examples,

⁴ The Eddington luminosity for IC 4296 is $\sim 1.2 \times 10^{47}$ erg s⁻¹.

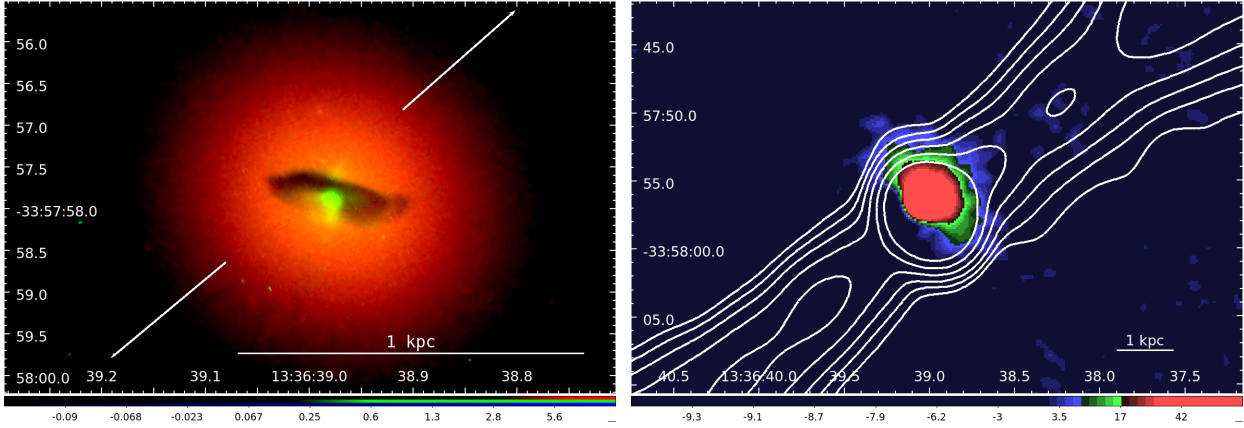


Figure 8. *Left panel:* The *HST* image of a dust disk in IC 4296. The narrow band $H\alpha$ image (in green) was obtained using ramp filter adjusted to the redshift of the galaxy. Two white arrows represent jets emitted from the central nuclear regions. *Right panel:* The narrow band $H\alpha+[N II]$ image from the SOAR telescope overlaid with the VLA A configuration radio contours.

such as NGC 4261, the cooling continues despite the powerful jet activity.

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