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# Barbell-shaped giant radio galaxy with $\sim 100$ kpc kink in the jet<sup>★</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

We present for the first time a study of peculiar giant radio galaxy (GRG) J223301+131502 using deep multi-frequency radio observations from GMRT (323, 612, and 1300 MHz) and LOFAR (144 MHz) along with optical spectroscopic observations with the WHT 4.2m optical telescope. Our observations have firmly established its redshift of 0.09956 and unveiled its exceptional jet structure extending more than  $\sim 200$  kpc leading to a peculiar kink structure of  $\sim 100$  kpc. We measure the overall size of this GRG to be  $\sim 1.83$  Mpc; it exhibits lobes without any prominent hotspots and closely resembles a barbell. Our deep low-frequency radio maps clearly reveal the steep-spectrum diffuse emission from the lobes of the GRG. The magnetic field strength of  $\sim 5$   $\mu$ G and spectral ages between about 110 to 200 mega years for the radio lobes were estimated using radio data from LOFAR 144 MHz observations and GMRT 323 and 612 MHz observations. We discuss the possible causes leading to the formation of the observed kink feature for the GRG, which include precession of the jet axis, development of instabilities and magnetic reconnection. Despite its enormous size, the Barbell GRG is found to be residing in a low-mass ( $M_{200} \sim 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ ) galaxy cluster. This GRG with two-sided large-scale jets with a kink and diffuse outer lobes residing in a cluster environment, provides an opportunity to explore the structure and growth of GRGs in different environments.

**Key words.** galaxies: jets – galaxies: active – galaxies: clusters: general – radio continuum: galaxies – instabilities – galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium

## 1. Introduction

Radio-loud active galactic nuclei (AGNs) are classified based on their observed properties. Two of these are radio galaxies (RGs) and radio quasars (RQs). RGs and RQs often exhibit relativistic radio jets connecting the nucleus to the outer extended emission.

Extended RGs and RQs with edge-brightened lobes are categorised as Fanaroff-Riley type II (FR II; Fanaroff & Riley 1974) and those with centre-brightened features with bright jets and no hotspots are called Fanaroff-Riley type I (FR I) sources. The launching and propagation of jets are explained by the standard beam model (Longair et al. 1973; Scheuer 1974; Blandford & Rees 1974), where collimated jets resulting from outflows originating from supermassive black holes give rise to the extended radio structure. The dichotomy between the FR I and FR II sources is thought to be rooted in the AGN accretion mode, in connection with jet power, gas entrainment, and possibly with the properties of the host galaxies (Best & Heckman 2012; Mingo et al. 2014, 2022; Hardcastle 2018a).

<sup>★</sup> A copy of the reduced images is only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to [cdsarc.cds.unistra.fr](https://cdsarc.cds.unistra.fr) (130.79.128.5) or via <https://cdsarc.cds.unistra.fr/viz-bin/cat/J/A+A/668/A64>

The properties of jets in radio-loud AGN (RLAGN), which include both RGs and RQs, and our current understanding have been reviewed recently (e.g., Blandford et al. 2019; Hardcastle & Croston 2020; Saikia 2022). RLAGN with an overall projected linear size greater than 0.7 megaparsec (Mpc) are defined as giant radio sources (GRSs); those associated with galaxies and quasars are referred to as giant radio galaxies (GRGs) and giant radio quasars (GRQs), respectively. They are quite rare compared with the RLAGN population, as shown in recent studies (e.g., Dabhade et al. 2020b,c; Kuźmicz et al. 2018; Delhaize et al. 2021). They are thought to grow in underdense environments and/or are supplied with continuous jet power for a long duration ( $\sim 10^8$  yr), thereby allowing them to scale larger distances. Efforts to constrain models explaining the giant nature of GRSs are still ongoing (Gopal-Krishna 1989; Subrahmanyam et al. 1996; Saripalli et al. 2005; Hardcastle et al. 2019; Dabhade et al. 2020a,b; Bruni et al. 2020; Kuźmicz et al. 2021; Mahato et al. 2022). The nature of GRSs has been reviewed in Komberg & Pashchenko (2009) and more recently in Dabhade et al. (2022).

The last few years have seen a resurgence in studies of GRSs owing to the new sensitive surveys at radio wavelengths, such as the LOFAR Two Metre Sky Survey

(LoTSS; Shimwell et al. 2019), which is largely complemented by optical spectroscopic surveys like the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000; Abolfathi et al. 2018).

In the course of identifying GRGs and carrying out detailed multi-wavelength studies of GRGs under our project SAGAN<sup>1</sup> (Dabhade et al. 2017, 2020b), we have discovered a peculiar giant radio galaxy J223301+131502 (GRG-J2233+1315 for short) from the NRAO VLA SKY SURVEY (NVSS; Condon et al. 1998), as reported in Dabhade et al. (2017). In the current paper we present our results on GRG-J2233+1315 based on our optical and radio observations. The observational details and data analyses are described in Sect. 2.

GRG-J2233+1315 is hosted by the galaxy SDSSJ 223301.30+131502.5, which exhibits a large diffuse stellar halo with apparent SDSS *r*-band magnitude ( $m_r$ ) of 15.21. It is classified as an S0 a-type galaxy (Paturel et al. 2003) with an isophotal diameter of ( $\log D_{25}$ ) of  $0.77 \pm 0.06$ . The stellar mass of the galaxy is  $\sim 1.62 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$  (Lin et al. 2018).

It has also been identified as the brightest cluster galaxy (BCG) by a number of catalogues using different methods (e.g., red sequence and friend-of-friend algorithm): the MaxBCG Catalog of 13,823 Galaxy Clusters from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (Koester et al. 2007), catalogued as MaxBCG338.25543+13.25070; the GMBCG Galaxy Cluster Catalog of 55 424 Rich Clusters from SDSS DR7 (Hao et al. 2010), catalogued as J338.25544+13.25070; and the WHL cluster catalogue (Wen et al. 2012) of 132,684 galaxy clusters from SDSS-III data, catalogued as WHLJ223301.3+131503. Although the methods used by Koester et al. (2007) and Hao et al. (2010) are similar to some extent, the method used by (Wen et al. 2012) is different. In addition, the datasets used in the three above-mentioned catalogues are three different data releases of SDSS photometric galaxies. Hence, it is evident that GRG-J2233+1315 is residing in a dense cluster environment, which is in contrast to the suggestions that GRGs reside in sparse environments (Mack et al. 1998; Subrahmanyan et al. 2008; Malarecki et al. 2015). In this paper we use the word dense to denote a higher-density environment than that of the general intergalactic medium or that associated with a field galaxy.

In the reporting paper of GRG-J2233+1315, Dabhade et al. (2017) used the photometric redshift ( $z$ ) of  $\sim 0.093$  from SDSS to estimate the total projected linear size of GRG-J2233+1315 to be  $\sim 1.71$  Mpc. Based on the only available radio data of NVSS at 1.4 GHz, Dabhade et al. (2017) observed a bright region, possibly part of the GRG on the western side of the host galaxy; it was thought to be a ‘knot’ in the jet that is unresolved.

The important issue is to examine the growth of such GRGs, which have managed to grow to megaparsec lengths despite being in a cluster environment. The combination of radio and X-ray data of such sources will enable us to study the intergalactic medium (IGM) as well as the intracluster medium (ICM). The interaction of the radio plasma with the hot ICM can lead to the formation of cavities, which show up as depressions in the X-ray surface brightness maps (Birzan et al. 2004; McNamara et al. 2005). Research still continues on how these radio plasma features influence the ICM as they could be supplying a dynamically important amount of heat and/or magnetic field to the ICM (Kronberg et al. 2001; Quilis et al. 2001; Brüggén & Kaiser 2002; Fabian et al. 2002; Heinz et al. 2002; McNamara & Nulsen 2007). Hence, a GRG with 1.83 Mpc size, residing in a cluster environment with peculiar radio morphol-

ogy consisting of bright unresolved features and diffuse lobes warrants a detailed study using multi-frequency radio data.

## 2. Observations and data analyses

In this section we provide the details of the optical and radio observations and their corresponding data analyses for GRG-J2233+1315. The radio subsection is further divided into two sub-subsections (GMRT and LOFAR).

### 2.1. Optical

An accurate redshift of the GRG is useful to estimate its properties, and hence efforts were made to update the SDSS photometric redshift of 0.093 (reported in Dabhade et al. 2017) with that of spectroscopic observations. The optical spectrum of the host galaxy (SDSS J223301.30+131502.5) was obtained using long-slit spectroscopy at the 4.2m *William Herschel* Telescope (WHT), located at La Palma, Canary Islands (Spain). The observations were carried out on 27 June 2017 under the programme ID W17AN014, using the Intermediate dispersion Spectrograph and Imaging System (ISIS<sup>2</sup>) instrument with 3' slit length and 1.5'' slit width. Further details of the observations and data reduction are presented in Sect. 2.2.1 of Saxena et al. (2019).

We used the standard IAU conversion from air to vacuum wavelengths (Morton 1991). The centre, full width at half maximum (FWHM) and error on FWHM for emission lines of the object, and the lamp spectra were measured using the Gaussian fitting routines. The instrumental broadening of grism 7 is 6.78 Å. We calculated the intrinsic FWHM using instrumental broadening. The optical spectrum obtained from WHT in two bands (red and blue) are combined and normalised using SDSS photometric flux. Briefly, we first generate a synthetic spectrum of the galaxy using SDSS photometric flux from the *ugriz* bands. The synthetic spectrum is then fitted with a higher-order polynomial to get the continuum of the galaxy. This continuum is used to normalise the combined optical spectrum obtained from the WHT. We calculated the redshift from the observed wavelengths, and the error in redshift was calculated using corrected FWHM.

The galaxy spectrum covering the wavelength range 3700–9000 Å is shown in Fig. 1. The redshift ( $z$ ) of the galaxy as identified from several prominent absorption and emission lines is  $0.09956 \pm 0.00383$ . More details are discussed in Sect. 3.1.

### 2.2. Radio observations and data analyses

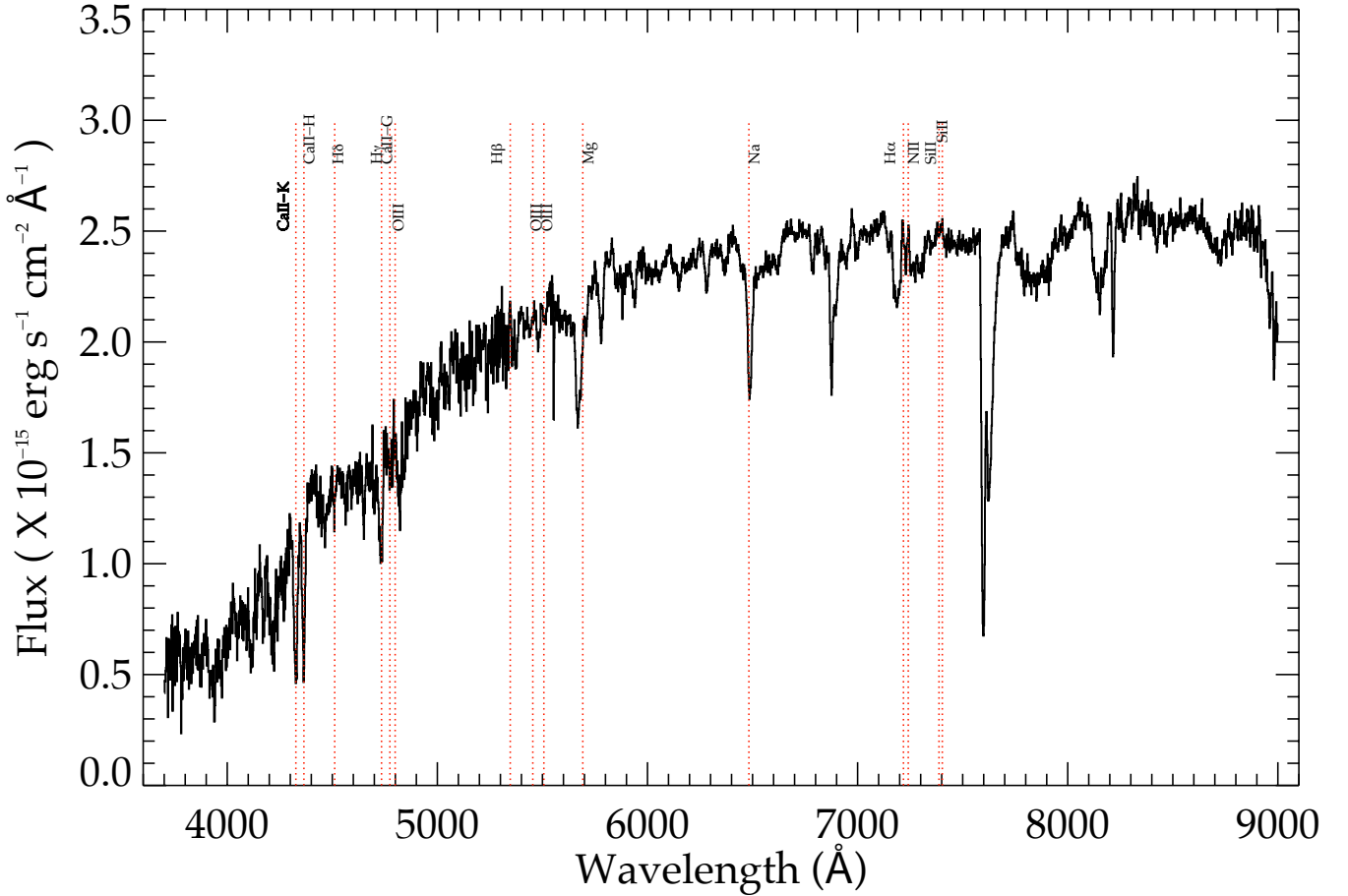
GRG-J2233+1315 was observed at three frequencies with the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), (Swarup 1991; Swarup et al. 1991) covering the frequency range from  $\sim 300$  to 1400 MHz (see Table 1). We obtained radio observations at frequencies below 300 MHz with the LOFAR's high band antennae (HBA; van Haarlem et al. 2013). In the following we describe the observations and data analyses.

#### 2.2.1. GMRT observations and analyses

GRG-J2233+1315 was observed with GMRT at 323 MHz, 612 MHz and 1300 MHz during 2015–2016 (see Table 1) under the projects 28\_20 and 31\_84 (PI: Pratik Dabhade). The raw

<sup>1</sup> <https://sites.google.com/site/anantasakyatta/sagan>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ing.iac.es/astronomy/instruments/isis/index.html>



**Fig. 1.** Plot of 4.2m WHT ISIS combined blue and red arm spectrum of GRG-J2233+1315. The identified emission and absorption lines in the spectrum are marked with red dashed vertical lines. The redshift ( $z$ ) of the galaxy is 0.09956 (see Sect. 2.1 for more details). The unmarked deep absorption lines are attributed to the atmosphere.

**Table 1.** Details of radio observations of GRG-J2233+1315.

Frequency (MHz)	Project Code	Observation Date	ObsID	Time on Source (mins)	Bandwidth MHz	Channels	Integration Time (secs)	Correlations	Primary Calibrator	Secondary Calibrator
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
1300	31_084	23/10/2016	8940	193	32	512	8	RR & LL	3C48	2148+069
612	28_020	17/05/2015	7785	225	32	512	8	RR & LL	3C48	2130+050
323	31_084	03/11/2016	8962	349	32	512	8	RR & LL	3C48	2212+018
144	LC6_024	05/09/2016	544937	480	49	231	1	RR & LL	3C196	3C196

**Notes.** Observations at 1300, 612, and 323 MHz are with GMRT and at 144 MHz are with LOFAR. The primary calibrator refers to the flux density calibrator and the secondary is the phase calibrator. Observation date format is dd/mm/yyyy.

visibility GMRT data of the three frequencies were analysed using the Source Peeling and Atmospheric Modelling (SPAM; Intema et al. 2017) package. SPAM is based on the Astronomical Image Processing System (AIPS; Greisen 2003) and the Python programming language. To access tasks in AIPS, a Python-based parseltongue interface (Kettenis et al. 2006) was used in SPAM. The analysis steps in SPAM start with the flux density and bandpass calibrations, which are derived from the respective calibrators after three cyclic iterations of flagging bad data including radio frequency interference (RFI) and calibrations based on models (e.g., Scaife & Heald 2012). In addition, instrumental phase calibrations were also determined using the methods of Intema et al. (2009). For ionospheric calibration, direction-dependent gains were derived from the strong

sources present in the field of view (FOV), which were then used to fit a time-variable phase screen over the whole array. This phase screen was used later during imaging to correct the entire FOV for effects caused by ionospheric phases. The derived calibrations were transferred to the target data (GRG-J2233+1315). This was followed with imaging, which consisted of several cyclic iterations of self-calibration with phase only gain calibration initially using local sky model derived from surveys like NVSS and others. The iterations also involved flagging the remaining weaker RFI. Finally, wide-field facet-based imaging was carried out with the visibility weighting scheme of ROBUST-1 (AIPS) as it presents a finer point spread function. Three more iterations of self-calibrations were carried out with the addition of amplitude calibration in the final round. In each



round, the process of peeling (Noordam 2004) was performed (see Intema et al. 2017 for more details).

## 2.2.2. LOFAR observations and analyses

GRG-J2233+1315 was observed three times between September 2016 and March 2020, once in a dedicated eight-hour LOFAR observation (project LC6\_024, observation ID 544933, PI: Pratik Dabhade), and also as part of LoTSS where, if we account for the target being offset from the pointing centre, the effective integration time at the location of the target was approximately eight hours (project LT10\_010, co-observing project LC11\_009, and observation IDs 695799, 708070, 765089, 773699). These observations were all conducted in HBA Dual Inner Mode, and for this project we made use of 231 0.195 MHz sub-bands between 120 and 169 MHz. Two 10 min calibrator observations were observed before and after each target observation. The basic details of these observations are summarised in Table 1.

The data were processed using the Prefactor pipeline<sup>3</sup>, as described in van Weeren et al. (2016), Williams et al. (2016), and de Gasperin et al. (2019), which corrects the data for direction-independent effects such as the bandpass, ionospheric Faraday rotation, clock offsets between different stations, and an offset between the XX and YY phases. The data were then processed with the latest version of the LoTSS direction-dependent calibration pipeline, the DDF-pipeline<sup>4</sup>, which is summarised in Sect. 5.1 of Shimwell et al. (2019) and described in more detail in Tasse et al. (2021). This pipeline uses the calibration package kMS (Tasse 2014 and Smirnov & Tasse 2015) and imaging package DDFacet (Tasse et al. 2018) to perform a direction-dependent self-calibration loop where calibration solutions are derived and gradually refined for 45 different directions spanning an  $8^\circ \times 8^\circ$  FOV and applied during the imaging. After each individual pointing is imaged we used the procedure described in van Weeren et al. (2021) to refine the solutions in the direction of our target and allow for each re-imaging. For each pointing this involved subtracting sources away from the target region before phase shifting all datasets to be centred on the target and then performing a direction-independent self calibration that makes use of WSClean (Offringa et al. 2014) and DPPP (van Diepen et al. 2018).

## 3. Results and discussion

In this section we present the results obtained from the optical (Sect. 3.1) and radio data analyses of GRG-J2233+1315. We present our discussion on the source in detail in the remaining subsections.

### 3.1. Optical

The optical spectrum of the host galaxy (Fig. 1) shows strong absorption lines from Ca H+K and Na, and lack of prominent emission lines, indicating that the galaxy is a passively evolving quiescent galaxy. Hence the galaxy appears to be a low-excitation GRG (LEGRG) having old stellar populations. Laing et al. (1994) classified high-excitation radio galaxies (HERGs) with the criterion of line flux ratios of  $[\text{OIII}]/\text{H}\alpha > 0.2$  and equivalent width (EW) of  $[\text{OIII}] > 3 \text{ \AA}$ . Buttiglione et al. (2010) defined the excitation index (EI) comprising of line flux ratios of six lines ( $[\text{OIII}]$ ,  $\text{H}\beta$ ,  $[\text{NII}]$ ,  $\text{H}\alpha$ ,  $[\text{SII}]$ , and  $[\text{OI}]$ ) to

<sup>3</sup> <https://github.com/lofar-astron/prefactor>

<sup>4</sup> <https://github.com/mhardcastle/ddf-pipeline>

classify HERGs and LERGs; the sources with  $\text{EI} > 0.95$  were classified as HERGs. Both of the above-mentioned schemes have been widely used for identifying HERGs and LERGs (e.g., Best & Heckman 2012). As seen in Fig. 1, some of the lines (e.g.,  $[\text{OIII}]$  and  $\text{H}\beta$ ) are weak and/or not detected significantly, hence GRG-J2233+1315 can be classified as a LEGRG. As discussed in Dabhade et al. (2020b) and Simonte et al. (2022), the LEGRGs are the dominant population in comparison with the HERGs, analogously to the normal-sized radio sources (Best & Heckman 2012; Hardcastle 2018a).

### 3.2. Optical SED

BAGPIPES (Carnall et al. 2018) is a Python-based package used to model the spectral energy distribution (SED) of the galaxy and estimate various physical properties such as stellar mass, dust attenuation, star formation rate (SFR), and star formation history (SFH). To model the SED of GRG-J2233+1315, we used SDSS photometric and WHT spectroscopic data in BAGPIPES. This improves the precision of the flux calibration of the spectrum and the SED fitting. Since the redshift of the galaxy is well estimated from the optical spectrum, we adopted a Gaussian redshift prior with  $\sigma = 0.005$ . We used the traditional approach for SED fitting with a simple exponentially declining SFH model. Exponentially declining SFHs are the most commonly applied SFH model. The model assumes that star formation jumps from zero to its maximum value at some time  $T_0$ , after which star formation declines exponentially on a timescale  $\tau$ ,

$$\text{SFR}(t) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{t - T_0}{\tau}\right); \quad \text{when } t > T_0, \quad (1)$$

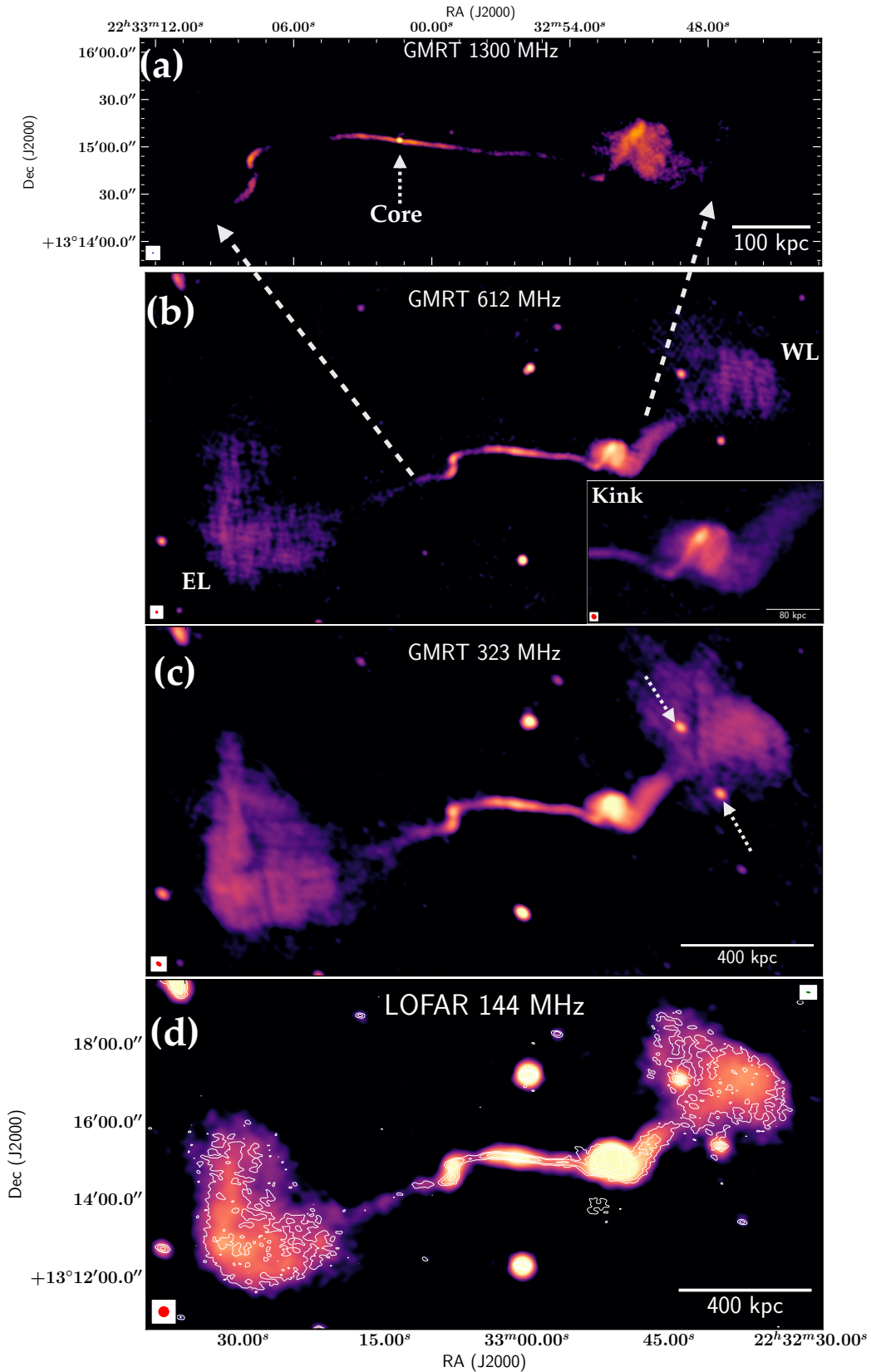
$$\text{SFR}(t) = 0 \text{ when; } t < T_0.$$

We adopted the Bruzual & Charlot (2003) library of single stellar populations to model the stellar emission of our galaxy with Kroupa (2001) initial mass function (IMF). We included the nebular module to estimate the nebular emission from our galaxy. The nebular emission model implemented in BAGPIPES is constructed following the methodology of Byler et al. (2017), using the latest version of the Cloudy photoionization code (Ferland et al. 2017). The ionization parameter (U) determines the strength of the emission lines. For this model, we kept U as a free parameter. The other default parameters were the solar abundances of Anders & Grevesse (1989), ISM depletion factors, and the helium and nitrogen scaling relations of Dopita et al. (2000). To account for dust attenuation caused to the stellar and nebular emission, we employed Calzetti et al. (2000) `dustatt_modified_starburst` module. We used flat priors for all the input model parameters.

The stellar mass of the galaxy obtained from our SED fitting model is  $11.72^{+0.03}_{-0.02} \times 10^{10} M_\odot$  (similar to that of Lin et al. 2018). Moreover, the galaxy is likely to confine a moderate to high amount of dust inside given the stellar dust attenuation,  $E(B - V)_{\text{stellar}} \approx 0.23$  mag. The age of the main stellar population ( $\text{age}_{\text{main}}$ ) of the galaxy is  $10.39^{+0.27}_{-0.36}$  Gyr and the SFR is in the range  $10^{-3} - 10^{-3.5} M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$  indicating an old quenched galaxy.

### 3.3. Size, radio power, and jet kinetic power

Using our radio observations with GMRT and LOFAR (see Sect. 2.2), we obtained deep and high-resolution images at 1300, 612, 323, and 144 MHz, as shown in Fig. 2. The deep GMRT 323 MHz and LOFAR 144 MHz images, which are more sensitive to diffuse large-scale structure, show the maximum extent of



**Fig. 2.** Radio images of GRG-J2233+1315 at 1300 (a), 612 (b), 323 (c), and 144 MHz (d). The RMS and resolution information of the images are provided in Table 3. The white box at the *bottom left* represents the beam. In *panel b* an additional zoomed-in image of the kink feature of the GRG is shown (see inset at *bottom right*). The two arrows in *panel c* show two unrelated sources. In *panel d* the LOFAR 144 MHz image is shown with two resolutions. The higher resolution is represented by contours, whose beam is shown in the top right corner of the panel. The radio contours in *panel d* are drawn with six levels, which are chosen by equally (in log scale) dividing the data value range above  $3\sigma$  (local rms of the map).

**Table 2.** Basic information about GRG.

Properties	Values
RA	22 33 01.30
Dec	+13 15 02.52
$r_{\text{band}}$ (mag)	15.04
LAS (')	16.1
Redshift ( $z$ )	$0.09956 \pm 0.00383$
Projected Size (Mpc)	1.83
$S_{1300\text{ MHz}}^{\text{Core}}$ (mJy)	$3.72 \pm 0.84$
$S_{1400\text{ MHz}}$ (mJy)	$231 \pm 7.8$
$S_{612\text{ MHz}}$ (mJy)	$479 \pm 24.3$
$S_{323\text{ MHz}}$ (mJy)	$835 \pm 83.5$
$S_{144\text{ MHz}}$ (mJy)	$1487 \pm 297.4$
$P_{1300\text{ MHz}}^{\text{Core}}$ ( $\times 10^{22}$ W Hz $^{-1}$ )	$9.30 \pm 2.20$
$P_{1400\text{ MHz}}$ ( $\times 10^{25}$ W Hz $^{-1}$ )	$0.60 \pm 0.05$
$P_{612\text{ MHz}}$ ( $\times 10^{25}$ W Hz $^{-1}$ )	$1.3 \pm 0.12$
$P_{323\text{ MHz}}$ ( $\times 10^{25}$ W Hz $^{-1}$ )	$2.2 \pm 0.30$
$P_{144\text{ MHz}}$ ( $\times 10^{25}$ W Hz $^{-1}$ )	$3.9 \pm 0.82$
$\alpha_{144}^{1400}$	$0.82 \pm 0.18$
$Q_{\text{Jet}}$ (erg s $^{-1}$ )	$1.3 \times 10^{43}$

**Notes.** RA and Dec are right ascension and declination of the host galaxy (J2000 coordinates).  $S_{\nu}$  is integrated flux density of the source and  $P_{\nu}$  is the radio power computed at frequency  $\nu$ .  $S_{1400\text{ MHz}}$  is measured from NVSS.  $\alpha_{\text{int}}$  is the integrated spectral index of the GRG from 144 MHz to 1400 MHz. Angular size refers to the largest angular size (LAS) of the GRG, as measured from the  $3\sigma$  contour of the LOFAR image at 144 MHz, which corresponds to  $0.73\text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ . The flux density and corresponding power at 1300 MHz are from GMRT  $L$ -band observations. Here the  $S_{\nu} \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$  convention is followed.

the source. The largest angular size (LAS) of  $16.1'$  for emission above  $3\sigma$  was estimated from the LOFAR 144 MHz map, the lowest contour level at  $3\sigma$  being  $0.73\text{ mJy beam}^{-1}$ . This yields a projected linear size of 1.83 Mpc. This was computed using the relation

$$D = \frac{\theta \times D_c}{(1+z)} \times \frac{\pi}{10800}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\theta$  is the LAS of the GRG on the sky in units of arcminutes ('),  $D_c$  (429.9 Mpc) is the comoving distance in Mpc,  $z$  is the host galaxy's redshift, and  $D$  is the projected linear size in Mpc. In this paper the cosmological parameters from Planck are used ( $H_0 = 67.8\text{ km s}^{-1}\text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ,  $\Omega_m = 0.308$ ,  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.692$ ; Planck Collaboration XIII 2016; scale at  $z = 0.09956$  is  $1.896\text{ kpc}''$ ).

In Table 2, we provide the integrated flux densities and their corresponding radio powers at the given frequencies. The CASA `imview` program was used to manually select the extended emission of the GRG in order to extract the flux densities. The flux densities of unrelated sources were subtracted out. The core flux density was estimated using the GMRT 1300 MHz map using the CASA task `imfit`.

The radio power was computed using the formula  $P_{\nu} = 4\pi D_L^2 S_{\nu} (1+z)^{\alpha-1}$ , where  $D_L$  is the luminosity distance (estimated using the redshift,  $z$ ),  $S_{\nu}$  is the measured flux density at frequency  $\nu$ ,  $(1+z)^{\alpha-1}$  is the standard  $k$ -correction term, and  $\alpha$  is the radio spectral index. The total radio luminosity of the source at 144 MHz is  $3.9 \times 10^{25}\text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  which is below the traditional lower limit for FRII sources, which is  $\sim 10^{26}\text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  at 150 MHz (Mingo et al. 2019). However, recent LOFAR observations have

**Table 3.** Information of images shown in Fig. 2.

Image	Frequency (MHz)	RMS (mJy beam $^{-1}$ )	Resolution ('' $\times$ '', $^{\circ}$ )
a	1300	0.013	$2.5'' \times 2.1''$ , $62.3^{\circ}$
b	612	0.039	$7.1'' \times 6.8''$ , $22.3^{\circ}$
Kink	612	0.031	$5.1'' \times 4.5''$ , $31.5^{\circ}$
c	323	0.081	$12.1'' \times 8.8''$ , $51.9^{\circ}$
d	144	0.242	$20.0'' \times 20.0''$ , $90.0^{\circ}$
d <sup>(*)</sup>	144	0.145	$9.9'' \times 5.5''$ , $80.9^{\circ}$

**Notes.** The asterisk (\*) indicates a high-resolution image from LOFAR.

demonstrated the existence of a significant population of FRII sources below this luminosity (Mingo et al. 2019, 2022).

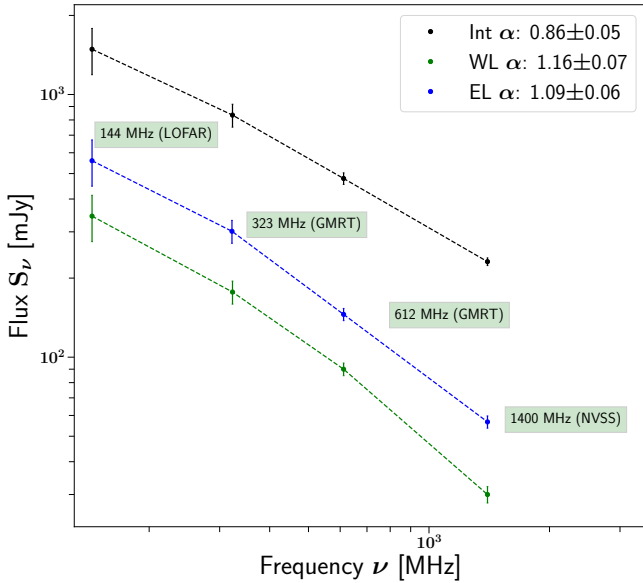
The jet kinetic power ( $Q_{\text{Jet}}$ ) was estimated according to the scheme based on simulation-based analytical model given by Hardcastle (2018b), who has shown it to be a good estimator using low-frequency radio data. We estimate  $Q_{\text{Jet}}$  to be  $1.3 \times 10^{43}\text{ erg s}^{-1}$ , which is on the low side when compared to powerful FRII radio galaxies and quasars, which have  $Q_{\text{Jet}}$  usually above  $\sim 10^{45}\text{ erg s}^{-1}$  (Godfrey & Shabala 2013). As per Fig. 3 ( $Q_{\text{Jet}}$  as a function of 150 MHz radio luminosity) of Godfrey & Shabala (2013), GRG-J2233+1315 lies very close to the division between FRI and FRII radio galaxies.

### 3.4. Radio morphology

Using the NVSS radio map of GRG-J2233+1315, Dabhade et al. (2017) reported a bright unresolved feature on the western side of the host galaxy, which was thought to be a knot in the jet. Using our deep and high-resolution observations with GMRT and LOFAR, we resolved the overall structure of GRG-J2233+1315 in detail. Our multi-frequency radio maps from GMRT and LOFAR as seen in Fig. 2 (image details in Table 3), reveal a thin collimated jet emanating from the radio core<sup>5</sup> transforming into a  $\sim 100\text{ kpc}$  structure shaped like an upper case omega ( $\Omega$ ), which we refer to as the kink on the western side. It is most likely that the kink feature is also present on the eastern side in some form of symmetry. While the kink on the western side of the jet is prominently seen, the feature or the possible kink (or 'twist') on the eastern side of the jet does not show the same morphology. It appears that these two features are in different planes, and that only one of them is clearly observed due to projection effects. The radio images of all frequencies in our study show this highly complex and rare feature in the structure of the GRG. Beyond the omega-shaped ( $\Omega$ ) kink feature, the jet appears to re-collimate again having a greater width than before and connecting to the inner edge of the mushroom-shaped lobe. The two-point sources embedded in the western lobe (WL), (Fig. 2c) are unrelated sources and their flux densities were subtracted from the total flux density of the lobe.

Our highest resolution ( $2.5'' \times 2.1''$ ) radio map at 1300 MHz from GMRT reveals the radio core, which coincides with the galaxy SDSS J223301.30+131502.5 and confirms its host nature. On the eastern side we observe a twisted jet feature that leads towards the lobe. The jet terminating in the eastern lobe (EL) is fainter, possibly due to Doppler dimming, compared to the western side. The full jet connection to the lobe can be seen only in the GMRT 323 MHz and LOFAR 144 MHz maps.

<sup>5</sup> The radio core is detected only in the GMRT 1300 MHz map.



**Fig. 3.** Spectral index plot of western and eastern lobes (WL and EL) along with the full source (Int), where the 1400 MHz flux density was obtained from archival NVSS data. A possible break frequency is seen around  $\sim 323$  MHz.

Overall, the radio morphology of GRG-J2233+1315 (hereafter Barbell GRG) resembles a barbell, the weightlifting equipment. Even though the Barbell GRG shows two lobes, as do typical FR II RGs, it lacks the presence of hotspots, and hence it is difficult to categorise the source strictly in the classical definition of FR I or FR II morphology. However, the presence of collimated jets connecting to the lobes is the same as seen in typical RGs or GRGs of FR II type. The study of Mingo et al. (2019) using LoTSS has clearly shown populations of FR I and FR II radio sources not obeying the canonical FR I–FR II radio power or luminosity break of  $10^{26} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  at 150 MHz.

The Barbell GRG has a conspicuous resemblance to another cluster centre source, 4C35.06 (Riley 1975; Biju et al. 2014). As shown clearly in the particular study by Biju et al. (2017), the radio source 4C35.06 resides at the centre of the Abell 407 cluster with very complex radio morphology and perplexing scenario of nine merging galaxies. Hence the source was named ‘Zwicky’s Nonet’ by Biju et al. (2017), where one of the nine merging galaxies is the actual host of the radio galaxy. As seen in Fig. 5 of Biju et al. (2017), features labelled ‘A1’ and ‘D2’ are very similar to the WL and EL of the Barbell GRG along with the narrow re-collimated jet leading to the steep spectrum diffuse lobes.

### 3.5. Spectral index ( $\alpha$ )

The integrated spectral index ( $S_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$ ) of the whole Barbell GRG and both lobes from 144 to 1400 MHz can be seen in Fig. 3, where the lobes are steeper ( $\alpha \sim 1$ ).

In Fig. 4 we see the three-point spectral index map of the Barbell GRG made using LOFAR 144 MHz, GMRT 323 MHz, and GMRT 612 MHz data at a resolution of  $13''$ . Here, the frequency coverage on the higher side was restricted to 612 MHz due to lack of similar resolution maps at  $\sim 1400$  MHz which recover the entire source. The NVSS map with its coarser resolution of  $45''$  does not resolve the jets and kink feature well. The GMRT 1300 MHz map provides the highest resolution of  $\sim 2''$ , but although we tried imaging the source by using the short spacings and tapering the data, it did not recover the whole source.

Therefore, in order to obtain spectral index information of the whole source with an angular resolution of  $13''$ , the NVSS and GMRT 1300 MHz data were not used.

The steps followed for making the three-frequency spectral index maps are based on the procedure given in Hoang et al. (2017). Firstly, the individual datasets (maps presented in Fig. 2) were further re-imaged with a similar UV range ( $0.2k\lambda$  to  $50k\lambda$ ) and weighting schemes with UV tapering to obtain maps at a common resolution of  $13''$ . From each map, only those pixels with a brightness of greater than three times the rms noise were used for the spectral index calculations and images. The GMRT images were aligned with respect to the LOFAR image along with regridding all images to a common pixelisation. For the process of image aligning, we fitted the compact point sources with 2D Gaussian function to find their accurate locations, and then the average displacement was determined between the three images. Likewise, the GMRT images were appropriately shifted along the RA and Dec axes.

The spectral index map in Fig. 4 clearly shows the flatness ( $\sim 0.5$ ) of the radio core and the kink. Both the lobes show steep ( $\sim 1$ ) spectral index indicating older plasma (Table 4).

### 3.6. Spectral ageing and magnetic field

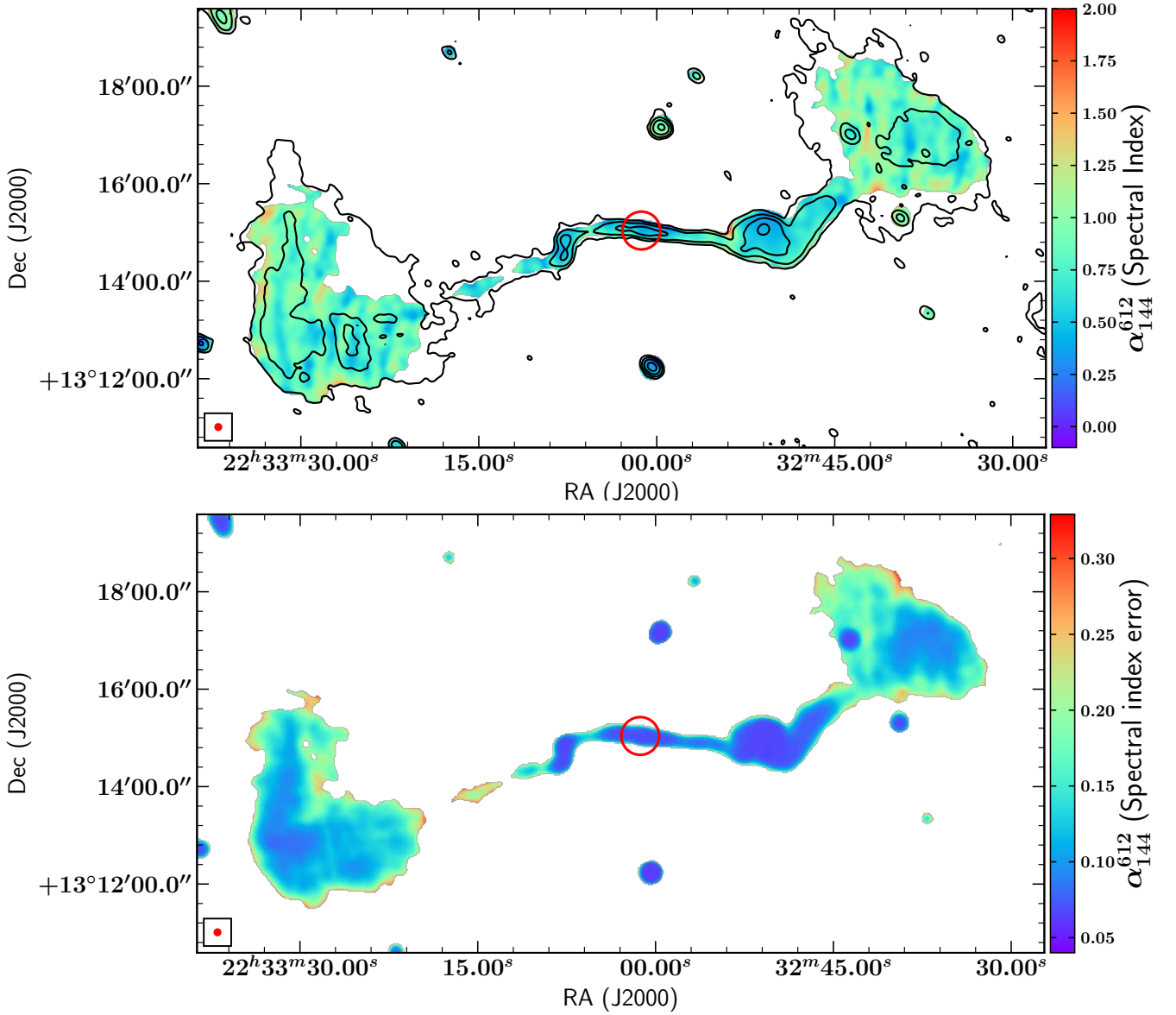
One of the ways to estimate the life span of radio galaxies is through interpreting the radio spectrum ( $S_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$ ) of their electron population, often known as the spectral age of the source.

The shape of the spectra is influenced primarily by two factors, the injection of energetic electrons and the electron population undergoing synchrotron and inverse-Compton losses. Energy losses for high-energy electrons are indicated by a steepening of the spectrum beyond the break frequency ( $\nu_b$ ). It becomes steeper when the electrons are not rejuvenated or re-accelerated after the pause or end of AGN activity. The low-frequency (MHz) radio observations play an important role in determining the break in the power-law that occurs due to radiative losses. As more time elapses, the  $\nu_b$  moves to lower radio frequencies (Kardashev 1962; Pacholczyk 1970; Jaffe & Perola 1973). With the knowledge of the break frequency and the magnetic field of the source, the spectral age ( $\tau_{\text{sp}}$  in megayears, Myr) can be calculated using the formula (van der Laan & Perola 1969; Leahy 1991):

$$\tau_{\text{sp}} = 1590 \frac{B^{0.5}}{(B^2 + B_{\text{IC}}^2) \sqrt{\nu_b(1+z)}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $B_{\text{IC}} = 3.18(1+z)^2$  is the magnetic field strength equivalent to the cosmic microwave background radiation and  $B$  is the magnetic field strength in various regions of the source, both in units of  $\mu\text{G}$ . Here  $z$  is the redshift of the source and  $\nu_b$  is the spectral break frequency in GHz above which the radio spectrum steepens from the initial power-law spectrum. In the simple spectral ageing model, the magnetic field is assumed to be constant in a given region throughout the energy loss process. It is also assumed that there is no energy loss due to the expansion process and the particles have a constant power-law energy spectrum. To determine the spectral ages of the WL and EL of the Barbell GRG, a cylindrical geometry is assumed, and the sizes ( $d$ ) of the specified regions are computed from the lowest frequency map of LOFAR 144 MHz. The magnetic fields in the corresponding regions are calculated using the classical formalism (Miley 1980) and the revised formalism (Brunetti et al. 1997; Govoni & Feretti 2004; Beck & Krause 2005) by assuming





**Fig. 4.** Figure shows three frequency spectral index map and its uncertainties. *Upper panel:* spectral index map made using LOFAR 144 MHz, GMRT 323 MHz, and GMRT 612 MHz maps (described in Sect. 3.5). The GMRT 323 MHz contours are overplotted in black with six levels spaced in log scale with the lowest level of  $3\sigma$  (Table 3). The red circle indicates the location of the radio core or host galaxy. In the *bottom left corner*, the red dot represents the beam of  $13'' \times 13''$ . *Lower panel:* spectral index error map.

**Table 4.** Radio properties of GRG-J2233+1315, as measured from our observations from GMRT and LOFAR, along with archival NVSS data.

Region	$S_{1400\text{MHz}}$ (mJy)	$P_{1400\text{MHz}}$ $10^{24} \text{ WHz}^{-1}$	$S_{612\text{MHz}}$ (mJy)	$P_{612\text{MHz}}$ $10^{25} \text{ WHz}^{-1}$	$S_{323\text{MHz}}$ (mJy)	$P_{323\text{MHz}}$ $10^{25} \text{ WHz}^{-1}$	$S_{144\text{MHz}}$ (mJy)	$P_{144\text{MHz}}$ $10^{25} \text{ WHz}^{-1}$	$\alpha_{144}^{1400}$
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
WL	$30 \pm 2.3$	$0.81 \pm 0.08$	$90 \pm 5$	$0.24 \pm 0.02$	$177 \pm 18$	$0.48 \pm 0.06$	$344.3 \pm 68.9$	$0.93 \pm 0.20$	$1.16 \pm 0.07$
EL	$56.7 \pm 3.1$	$1.5 \pm 0.14$	$145.5 \pm 7.8$	$0.39 \pm 0.04$	$301.5 \pm 30.3$	$0.81 \pm 0.10$	$559.6 \pm 112.1$	$1.50 \pm 0.32$	$1.09 \pm 0.06$

**Notes.** WL and EL refer to the western and eastern lobe, respectively.

minimum energy conditions. The following formulae have been used for calculations :

$$u_{\min} \left[ \frac{\text{erg}}{\text{cm}^3} \right] = \xi(\alpha, \nu_1, \nu_2) (1+k)^{4/7} (\nu_0 [\text{MHz}])^{-4\alpha/7} \times (1+z)^{(12-4\alpha)/7} \left( I_0 \left[ \frac{\text{mJy}}{\text{arcsec}^2} \right] \right)^{4/7} (d [\text{kpc}])^{-4/7}, \quad (4)$$

$$B_{\text{eq}} [G] = \left( \frac{24\pi}{7} u_{\min} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (5)$$

$$B'_{\text{eq}} [G] = 1.1 \gamma_{\min}^{\frac{1-2\alpha}{3+\alpha}} \times B_{\text{eq}}^{\frac{7}{2(3+\alpha)}}. \quad (6)$$

Assuming a uniform magnetic field and an isotropic particle distribution, the minimum energy density ( $u_{\min}$ ) is computed,

**Table 5.** Values of equipartition magnetic field and spectral age estimated for the entire source (see Sect. 3.6).

Region	$k$ -value	$I_0$ (mJy arcsec <sup>-2</sup> )	$\alpha$	$d$ (kpc)	$u_{\min}$ $\times 10^{-12}$ (erg cm <sup>-3</sup> )	$B_{\text{eq}}(\text{cl})$ ( $\mu\text{G}$ )	$B'_{\text{eq}}(\text{rev})$ ( $\mu\text{G}$ )	$(\nu_b)$ (MHz)	$\tau_{\text{sp}}(\text{cl})$ (Myr)	$\tau_{\text{sp}}(\text{rev})$ (Myr)
WL	1	3.68	1.16	530	1.24	3.7	6.8	323	181	114
EL	1	3.48	1.09	573	0.94	3.2	5.7	323	191	134

**Notes.**  $I_0$  is the surface brightness at frequency  $\nu_0$ , which is taken as 144 MHz. The assumed break frequency ( $\nu_b$ ). The terms with (cl) use the classical formalism, and those with (rev) use the revised formalism.

where the parameter  $\xi$  is a function of spectral index  $\alpha$ . Different values of  $\xi$  are given in Table 1 in Govoni & Feretti (2004), and an appropriate value is chosen based on our spectral index estimates. In the classical formalism the spectrum is integrated from  $\nu_1$  to  $\nu_2$ , usually from 10 MHz to 100 GHz, where the corresponding minimum Lorentz factor ( $\gamma_{\min}$ ) and maximum Lorentz factor ( $\gamma_{\max}$ ) depend on the magnetic field strength. We assume a  $\gamma_{\min}$  of 100 to estimate  $B'_{\text{eq}}$  (e.g., Isobe & Koyama 2015; Giacintucci et al. 2021). The quantity  $k$  represents the ratio of energies in relativistic protons to electrons (1 or 100),  $I_0$  is the surface brightness at the measuring frequency, and  $d$  is the mean of the major and minor axes (source depth). In addition, we assume the filling factor to be 1. The terms  $B_{\text{eq}}$  and  $B'_{\text{eq}}$  respectively represent the classical and revised equipartition magnetic fields, which are related to  $u_{\min}$ , as seen in Eq. (5).

Based on our analysis, the equivalent magnetic field of the lobes is around 5  $\mu\text{G}$  (Table 5) which is similar to that of other GRGs (Ishwara-Chandra & Saikia 1999; Konar et al. 2004; Kronberg et al. 2004; Harwood et al. 2016). In addition, when compared with RGs of similar radio power and located in galaxy cluster centres from the Bîrzan et al. (2008) sample, the magnetic field strengths are comparable. It has been suggested that powerful radio galaxies, especially GRGs covering megaparsec-scale volumes are strong candidates for magnetising the intergalactic medium (Rees 1987; Ruzmaikin et al. 1989; Jafelice & Opher 1992; Kronberg 1994; Kronberg et al. 2001). This largely depends on how powerful the RG or GRG is along with its environment and hence, its direct effect may vary with the source. The study by Jafelice & Opher (1992), which models powerful radio galaxies (e.g., M84, 3C 465, and NGC 6251) based on observations, estimates the intergalactic medium magnetic fields to be in the range  $10^{-6}$ – $10^{-8}$  G.

Considering the synchrotron radiation mechanism in which the electrons are losing energy, the spectral ages are defined as the time progressed since the last acceleration of the particles. In addition to the above-mentioned radiative cooling losses, the depletion in particle and field energy in the radio lobe can also be caused by adiabatic expansion (Scheuer & Williams 1968). This can lead to a reduction in the magnetic field and break frequency, causing the measured spectral age to surpass the actual age of the radio source.

As we have flux density measurements at only four frequencies between 144 and 1400 MHz, the spectral age estimates given here require confirmation from additional observations at both lower and higher frequencies. Lower-frequency measurements give better constraints on the injection spectral indices. The two-point spectral indices between 144 and 323 MHz for the EL and WL are  $0.78 \pm 0.28$  and  $0.82 \pm 0.28$ , respectively. The corresponding values between 323 and 1400 MHz are  $1.14 \pm 0.07$  and  $1.24 \pm 0.08$ , respectively. This suggests that there may be a spectral break around 300 MHz, but more data is required to confirm it.

Our results for the spectral ages of the Barbell GRG are presented in Table 5, where adopting the commonly used  $k$ -value of 1, average spectral ages of  $\sim 186$  Myr (classical) and  $\sim 124$  Myr (revised) were obtained (assuming  $\nu_b$  of 323 MHz) for the radio lobes. To match the spectral age with the dynamical age, the jet head speed would need to be  $\sim 0.03c$  (considering the distance between the radio core and the WL and constant jet speed). On the other hand, the lobes appear to be relics with no hotspots. In this case, if the jets are from a more recent cycle of activity, the velocity of the jets could be significantly higher, as seen in detailed models of jets (see review by Saikia 2022).

The spectral age estimation suffers from some uncertainties, such as inhomogeneity in the magnetic field and lack of accurate injection index values. It is often found that the spectral age differs from the dynamical age of the source, which mainly depends on the geometry and brightness of the radio source (e.g., Machalski et al. 2009).

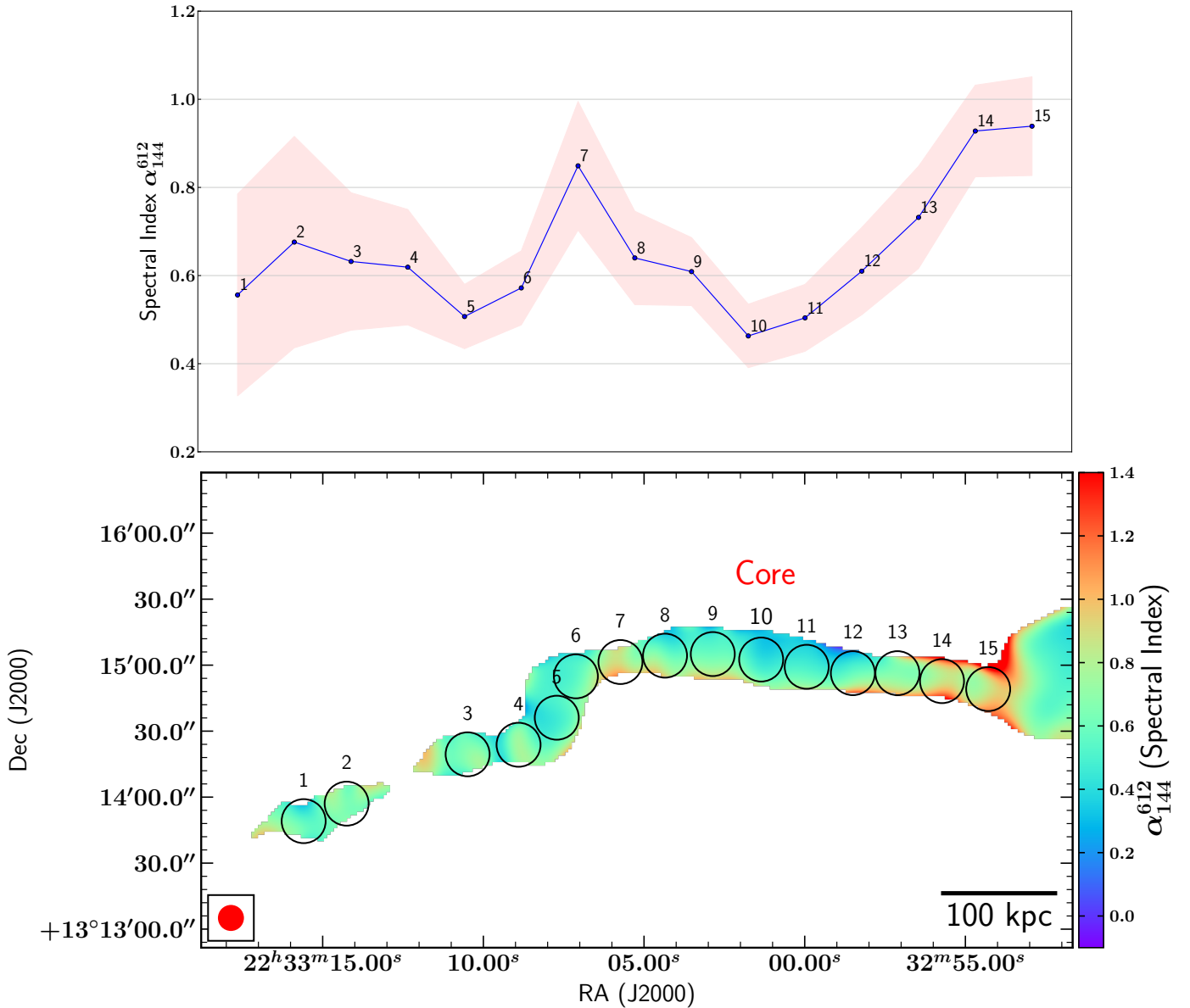
The spectral ages of both lobes for the Barbell GRG are on the high side compared to RGs; however, past studies of GRGs on spectral ageing have yielded a wide range of values between  $\sim 10$  Myr and 250 Myr (Mack et al. 1998; Schoenmakers et al. 2000; Konar et al. 2004, 2008; Jamrozny et al. 2008; Shulevski et al. 2019; Cantwell et al. 2020). It is worth noting that the method for estimating spectral ages was not uniform across all the above-mentioned spectral ageing work on GRGs.

A more detailed spectral ageing analysis is possible with additional observations at higher frequencies which will be presented in future work.

### 3.7. Jet and the kink

The Barbell GRG shows a remarkably long collimated jet, where the measured projected length of the jet from core to the base of the prominent kink is  $\sim 125''$ , which corresponds to  $\sim 237$  kpc. Radio galaxies exhibiting long collimated jets extending to hundreds of kiloparsec ( $>200$  kpc) are very rare (e.g., NGC 315 and HB13, Jaegers 1987; CGCG 049-033, Bagchi & Gopal-Krishna 2007; and 4C 34.47, Hocuk & Barthel 2010). However, unlike these sources, the Barbell GRG exhibits a counter-jet on the eastern side, which is rare in GRGs with FRII morphology (e.g., NGC 6251; discussed later in this section). In panels (c) and (d) of Fig. 2 we clearly see the counter-jet leading to the EL. As noted earlier, the jet has a prominent kink at a distance of  $127.5''$  (241 kpc) from the core, while the counter-jet has a weaker kink, separated from the core by  $79.6''$  (151 kpc).

The transverse widths of the radio emission beyond the kink and twist suggest that they are more likely to be collimated structures extending the jets to the inner edges of the lobes. The well-collimated jets (as seen in Figs. 2 and 4) are similar to those seen in FRII radio sources, although the outer lobes have no prominent hotspots. Therefore, it is quite possible that the jets belong



**Fig. 5.** The figure shows spectral index variation in the jets of the source. *Upper panel:* jet spectral index profile with respect to the marked regions seen in the lower plot. The shaded region indicates the uncertainties on the measurements. *Lower panel:* zoomed-in portion of Fig. 4 highlighting the core and jet. The numbered regions are labelled.

to a new episode of jet activity, while the outer mushroom-shaped lobes are relics of a previous episode. In addition, the kink and twist, which are not quite symmetric about the core, could be the transition points where the inner jets meet the inner dense core edge of the hot X-ray gas that usually surrounds the BCGs and can possibly lead to plasma instabilities causing the observed peculiar features.

There are many similarities between the Barbell GRG and NGC 6251, which is also a  $\sim 2$  Mpc GRG residing in a denser environment with a  $\sim 200$  kpc one-sided (north-western) jet (Waggett et al. 1977). This jet is known as the blowtorch jet, and has been the subject of several studies (e.g., Perley et al. 1984; Mack et al. 1997; Evans et al. 2005) ranging from radio to X-ray wavelengths. A counter-jet of  $\sim 50$  kpc was detected by Perley et al. (1984) using VLA, and recently better maps have been presented showing extended jet emission by Cantwell et al. (2020) using LOFAR and VLA. The spectral ages ( $\sim 200$  Myr) are similar for NGC 6251 (Cantwell et al. 2020) and Barbell

GRG, which are older compared to other GRGs from the literature with measurements.

The spectral index map made using LOFAR 144 MHz, GMRT 323 MHz, and GMRT 612 MHz maps is shown in Fig. 4, while the spectral index ( $\alpha$ ) along the jet and the counter-jet is shown in Fig. 5. Although the jet on the eastern side exhibits larger errors than on the western side and variations along its length, the value of spectral index is consistent with a value of  $\sim 0.6$  along most of the jet. However, on the western side the spectral index appears to systematically increase from  $\sim 0.5$  to  $0.9$ . While more sensitive multi-frequency observations would be helpful to further examine these trends, a nearly constant spectral index or a flattening of the spectral index as the jet travels outwards suggests the reacceleration of particles.

The radio jets produced near the central supermassive black holes are collimated by the magnetic field, and their collimation requires external confinement (Tomimatsu 1994; Beskin et al. 1998). For the external confinement the gas pressure profile

plays a vital role, and hence influences the jet acceleration and collimation along with the magnetic field configuration. For the jet in GRG NGC 6251, [Perley et al. \(1984\)](#) discussed a model for jet confinement at large scales due to thermal pressure of the environment and how its non-uniformity can affect the overall source morphology. Hence, in the Barbell GRG it is interesting to see a staggering  $\sim 237$  kpc collimated jet propagating in a low-mass galaxy cluster environment with weak X-ray emission, although there was no detection in the ROentgen SATellite (ROSAT) sky survey. The absence of the gas pressure profile of this dense environment means that it is not possible to model the parameters of the jet.

We first consider the possible explanations for the kink and twist in the jet, and then briefly comment on the overall structure of the source. The magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) processes govern the launch, acceleration, and collimation of astrophysical jets. Several works over the past three decades ([Hummel et al. 1992](#); [Baum et al. 1997](#); [Feretti et al. 1999](#); [Lobanov & Zensus 2001](#); [Marshall et al. 2001](#); [Mertens et al. 2016](#)) have shown the presence of peculiar features in the jets on subparsec to kiloparsec scales, which appear to be ‘wiggles’ or kinks. However, almost all of them are on smaller scales ( $\sim 10$  kpc), and not scales of  $\sim 100$  kpc as in the case of the kink in the Barbell GRG. The  $\sim 100$  kpc omega-shaped kink structure seen on the western side of the radio core is very unique, and a possible example of plasma instability on such a large scale. As discussed in Sect. 3.4 and in the current section, there is a possibility that the eastern side also harbours a kink (twist); however, it is not clearly observed, possibly due to projection effects.

The radio jets are susceptible to Kelvin–Helmholtz (KH) instabilities when they encounter an ambient medium with contrasting densities and flows ([Birkinshaw 1991](#); [Hardee 2007](#); [Perucho et al. 2007](#)). It has also been shown that jets having low magnetisation with  $Q_{\text{jet}} \sim 10^{45} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$  are affected by KH instabilities, which leads to deceleration and internal turbulence (e.g., [Mukherjee et al. 2020, 2021](#)). The environment in which the Barbell GRG is found most certainly provides the ideal conditions for the development of KH instabilities, and the observed kink feature could possibly be its manifestation in some form. However, the KH instabilities may not be operating at the scale of the observed kink structure.

Another possibility is that the observed kink feature in the Barbell GRG could also be the site for possible magnetic reconnection ([Romanova & Lovelace 1992](#)), where the brightening in the jet is observed. This bright or excess emission in the jet can be explained by magnetic reconnection rather than shocks ([Sironi et al. 2015](#)) as it has been shown via simulations that while shocks efficiently dissipate energy, they do not accelerate particles much above the thermal energy. Recent observation-based studies ([Shukla & Mannheim 2020](#); [Meyer et al. 2021](#)) have also shown compelling evidence of magnetic reconnection in jets of AGNs using high-energy instruments; however, they are on a much smaller scale and are closer to the AGN.

The current-driven (CD) kink or shear-flow instability can also cause the jets to be unstable, and often leads to brightening in regions of the jets ([Chiuderi et al. 1989](#); [Nakamura & Meier 2004](#)). Using three-dimensional MHD simulations, [Nakamura & Meier \(2004\)](#), [Nakamura et al. \(2007\)](#) proposed that the main reason for the observed wiggles or kink features in jets is due to CD instability. In this type of instability, a helical structure is developed with a relatively low growth rate. Simulation studies by [Mizuno et al. \(2009, 2012, 2014\)](#) have shown that CD instability can stimulate large-scale helical motions in the jets leading to deformation and without com-

plete jet disruption. Here, the distorted magnetic field structure can possibly prompt the creation of magnetic reconnection. Their simulations also revealed that the CD instability depends strongly on the magnetic pitch profile and moderately on the density profile. In addition, the velocity shear radius relative to the characteristic radius of the magnetic field determines the static and non-static features of the kink. In the case of the Barbell GRG, we observe that the jet on the western side develops a kink-like feature and undergoes recollimation before connecting to the WL. The helical patterns in jets have been observed in a few sources ([Pasetto et al. 2021](#); [Bruni et al. 2021](#); [Worrall et al. 2007](#); [Lobanov & Zensus 2001](#)) in a different range of spatial scales.

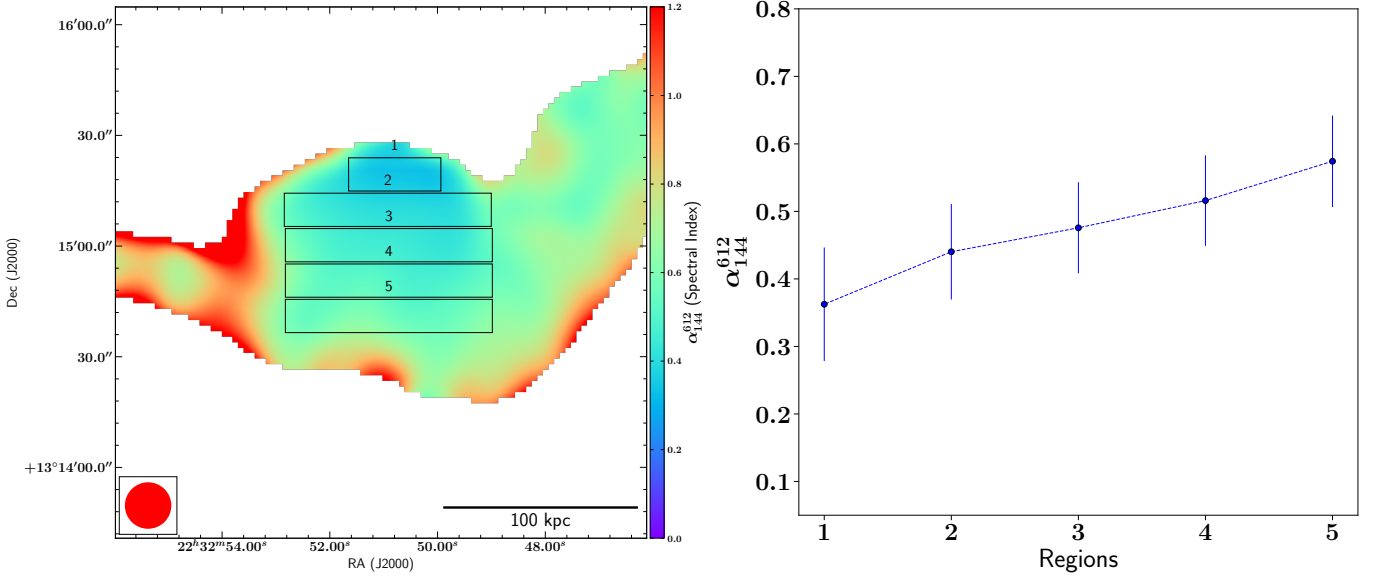
High-resolution studies of radio AGNs using Very Long Baseline Arrays are extremely important for studying jets as they allow us to closely examine the region of jet launching. Using multi-epoch VLBA observations at 15 GHz for BL Lacertae (BL Lac), [Cohen et al. \(2015\)](#) show a strong possibility of detecting Alfvén waves propagating in the radio jet emanating from the black hole. Their observations show the existence of a strong transverse component of the magnetic field belonging to the BL Lac jet. Assuming the magnetic field to be helical, based on previous observational studies ([Gabuzda et al. 2004](#)), they suggest that the observed features in the BL Lac are due to transverse S (shear) Alfvén waves propagating along with the longitudinal component of the magnetic field. These Alfvén waves appear to be stimulated by changes in the position angle of the re-collimation shock, which behaves like a whip<sup>6</sup> in action. Currently, it is unclear whether such disturbances along with jets can propagate to larger scales, but the above study does certainly have some similarities to that of the observed peculiar kink feature in the Barbell GRG.

An interesting mechanism is proposed by [Nakamura et al. \(2001\)](#) using helical kink instability to explain the observed wiggles or kink features in radio jets of AGNs. It is based on the Sweeping Magnetic-Twist model, which conjectures that the AGN core provides the necessary large amount of energy required to produce the systematic magnetic configuration. They conclude that the optimum mode of carrying this energy is via the Poynting flux of torsional Alfvén wave train (or train for short), which is produced by the interaction of the rotating accretion disk of the AGN and the large-scale magnetic field. The observed wiggles or kink can then arise from MHD processes under the influence of train; when it encounters low Alfvén velocity, it creates a pinched region and other deformations in the jet. Unlike the models discussed above, this model explains distortions in jets on a larger scale; as the magnetic twist cannot be created at large distances locally, the train can come along the jet from the radio core of the AGN.

The brightest part of the Barbell GRG is the kink feature, which could possibly be the working surface of supersonic jets in which the bulk kinetic energy is abruptly dissipated within decelerating shock waves. At the location of the shock fronts formed in the jets, the relativistic electrons are efficiently accelerated due to the impact with the ambient surrounding medium. This is evident from the very flat spectral index ( $\alpha_{144}^{612} = 0.36 \pm 0.08$ ) of the top (box 1) of the kink feature, as seen on the right side of Fig. 6, and represents a shock front. The spectral index gradient across the kink with the help of five regions or boxes is shown in the left panel Fig. 6, where it ranges from  $\sim 0.35$  to

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nasa.gov/jpl/distant-black-hole-wave-twists-like-giant-whip>





**Fig. 6.** Spectral index variation in the kink. *Left:* kink region of the Barbell GRG from Fig. 4, with five box regions, where the first box is the top-most part of the kink. *Right:* spectral index gradient of the kink from regions 1 to 5. The top box, or region 1, has the flattest spectral index.

0.6. The observed spectral index steepening to the lower downstream side of shock is consistent with advection and radiative losses. Hence, it clearly depicts the signature of a shock with in situ particle acceleration at the shock front (the head of the kink or box 1). Peacock (1981) showed that  $\alpha$  of 0.3–0.5 can be produced for a wide range of propagation velocities in the case of strong shocks using Fermi acceleration. Using MHD simulations of relativistic jets, Mukherjee et al. (2020) show that on small scales, KH instabilities affect the dynamics on the jet and on the large scale, the kink modes. They also find that a relatively low-power jet ( $Q_{\text{Jet}} \sim 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ ) with strong magnetisation is not stable against instabilities occurring due to kink mode and hence leads to strong bending of the jet head. This in turn leads to the formation of peculiar shock structures at the jet head, which is very similar to the Barbell GRG kink feature. However, some simulation studies have shown that jets with relativistic plasma that are magnetically dominated are not efficient sites for shock acceleration (Sironi et al. 2013, 2015).

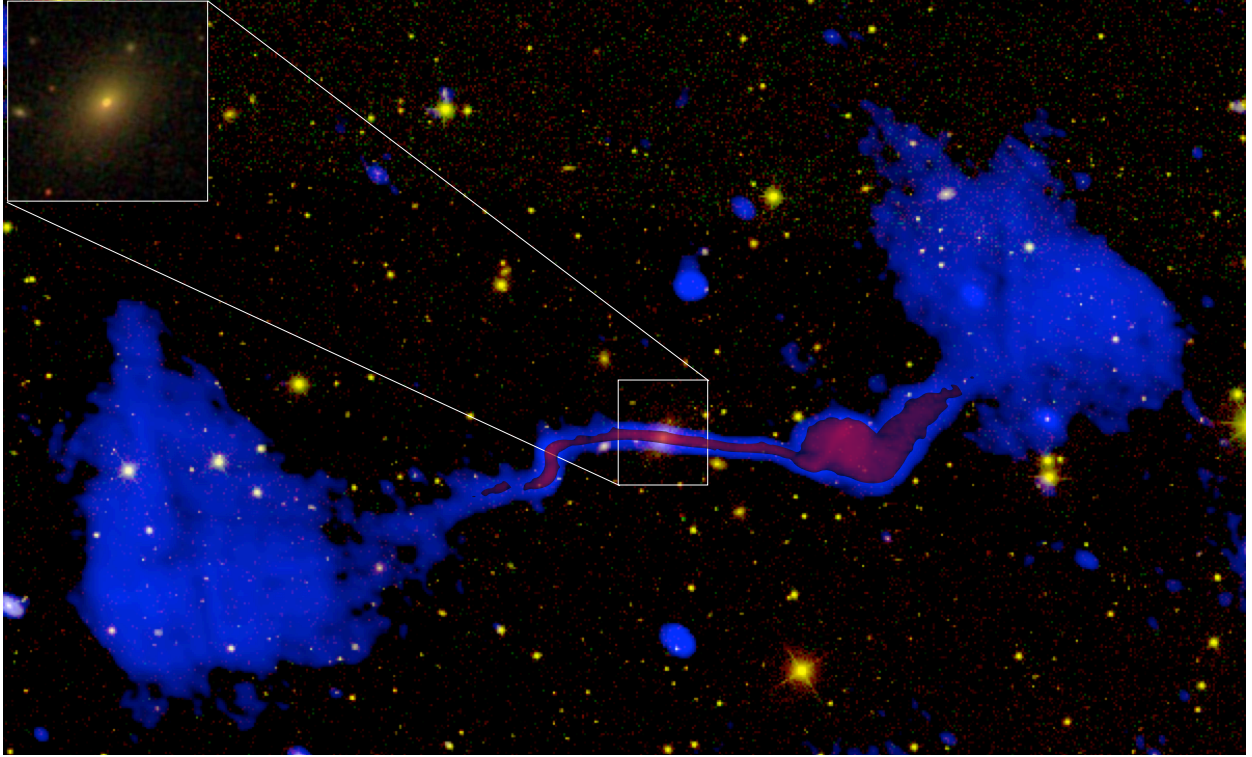
Although we considered a number of possibilities suggested in the literature for the formation of a kink in the flow of a jet, one also needs to consider the overall structure of the source. The presence of a kink and a similar structure on the opposite side (which we call a twist) is reminiscent of precessing jets, although there could be instabilities and shocks in the flow of the jets. Gower et al. (1982) presented a simple yet effective kinematical model of precessing twin jets with relativistic bulk velocity that explains peculiar radio jets with twists and turns of several radio galaxies and quasars. Parts of the Barbell GRG resemble the radio galaxy 3C 449, whose peculiar jet morphology with mirror symmetry was explained by Gower & Hutchings (1982) with a simple precessing beam model having relativistic bulk motion. This remains the most promising possibility for the overall structure of the source.

If the observed asymmetry of the jets is due to relativistic beaming, as appears to be the case for almost all radio jets (for a review, see Saikia 2022), the western jet is approaching us while the eastern jet is receding. For a collinear symmetric source, the twist which is on the receding side should appear nearer from

the core than the kink which is on the approaching side. This is consistent with the observations.

It is also interesting to note that the EL, which is on the receding side, has a flux density that is on average a factor of  $\sim 1.7$  higher than that of the WL. The brightness of the EL and WL estimated from the LOFAR 144 MHz image are similar, the values being 3.48 and 3.68 mJy arcsec $^{-2}$ , respectively, which are within  $\sim 5\%$ . As the EL is larger, this leads to a higher value of flux density and hence luminosity. A higher magnetic field in the EL compared with the WL would lead to increased synchrotron luminosity in the EL. However, if the magnetic fields are similar to the equipartition values, this is an unlikely explanation as the EL has a marginally lower value than the WL (see Table 5). Reacceleration of particles as the lobes interact with the intra-cluster medium could lead to increased radio emission. The EL has a slightly flatter integrated spectral index between 144 and 1400 MHz, as expected in such a scenario, and it would be interesting to explore this possibility further using data at more frequencies. Another possibility is that in addition to the effects of relativistic motion, the kink on the western side could be brighter due to greater dissipation of jet energy in the kink, leading to a decreased energy supply to the WL.

The precessing jet model is the most promising possibility for the overall structure of the Barbell GRG. As discussed earlier, precessing jet models are applicable to a wide variety of sources belonging to both FRI and FRII sources. Gower et al. (1982) and Gower & Hutchings (1982) have made a detailed model for 3C449 and also given parameters for 3C31. Although there are similarities, there are significant differences between these two galaxies and the Barbell GRG. Galaxies 3C449 and 3C31 are FRI galaxies where the jets expand to form diffuse plumes of emission, while the Barbell GRG has collimated jets, as in FRII galaxies, which lead towards diffuse lobes. For a more detailed modelling of the Barbell GRG, which is beyond the scope of the present paper, deep X-ray observations to determine the gas distribution, spectroscopic observations to determine the kinematics of the galaxy cluster, high-resolution radio images of the jets, and radio polarization information of the jets and the lobes, all of which we do not have at present, would be very valuable.



**Fig. 7.** Optical and radio colour composite image. The background yellow image represents the SDSS, the blue and red represents radio emission as seen in GMRT 323 MHz and 610 MHz (high resolution) maps, respectively. At the *top left* a zoomed-in view of the host galaxy (BCG SDSSJ223301.30+131502.5) is shown.

**Table 6.** WHLJ223301.3+131503 galaxy cluster parameters obtained from [Wen et al. \(2012\)](#).

$R_{200}$ (Mpc)	$R_{L_*}$	$N_{200}$	$M_{200}$ ( $M_{\odot}$ )	$V$ ( $\text{Mpc}^3$ )	Density ( $M_{\odot} / \text{Mpc}^3$ )	$L_X$ ( $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ )	$T_X$ (keV)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.02	20.04	13	$1.1 \times 10^{14}$	4.4	$2.4 \times 10^{13}$	$3 \times 10^{43}$	2.3

**Notes.** (1)  $R_{200}$ : virial radius of the galaxy cluster; (2)  $R_{L_*}$ : richness of the galaxy cluster, defined as  $R_{L_*} = L_{200}/L_*$ , where  $L_*$  is the characteristic luminosity of galaxies in the  $r$  band and  $L_{200}$  the total  $r$ -band luminosity within the radius of  $R_{200}$ ; (3)  $N_{200}$ : number of galaxies observed within  $R_{200}$ ; (4)  $M_{200}$ : mass within  $R_{200}$ ; (5) Volume: volume of cluster within  $R_{200}$ ; (6) Density: within  $R_{200}$ ; (7)  $L_X$ : cluster X-ray luminosity; and (8)  $T_X$ : temperature in the X-ray band, 0.1–2.4 keV.

### 3.8. Environment of the Barbell GRG

It is essential to study the environment of GRGs as one of the most favoured explanations for their gigantic sizes is an underdense environment ([Mack et al. 1998](#)). Another important reason to study their environment is to understand its effect on their morphologies. Some GRG studies ([Schoenmakers et al. 2000](#); [Lara et al. 2001](#); [Subrahmanyan et al. 2008](#); [Pirya et al. 2012](#)) have indicated that the observed asymmetries in the morphologies of the GRGs trace the asymmetries in their environment. Hence, GRGs, thanks to their large sizes, become a natural probe of environmental asymmetries over megaparsec scales ([Subrahmanyan et al. 2008](#); [Safouris et al. 2009](#)).

Using data from the literature, [Komberg & Pashchenko \(2009\)](#) presented observational evidence of several GRGs residing in a group or cluster environment. Recently, large GRG samples from the LoTSS and NVSS have revealed nearly 60 such examples of GRGs residing at the centres (with BCGs as their host galaxies) of galaxy clusters ([Dabhade et al. 2020c,b](#)) and 13 from the Rapid ASKAP Continuum Survey ([Andernach et al.](#)

[2021](#)). GRGs hosted by BCGs in cluster environments are relatively uncommon when considering the total known GRG population, and as shown by [Dabhade et al. \(2020b\)](#), only  $\sim 15\%$  of the known GRG population are associated with BCGs.

As briefly mentioned in Sect. 1, the Barbell GRG resides at the centre of WHLJ223301.3+131503 galaxy cluster. This galaxy cluster was identified by [Wen et al. \(2012\)](#), who also provided the additional information about the galaxy cluster presented in Table 6. [Wen et al. \(2012\)](#) cross-matched their galaxy cluster catalogue with the ROSAT X-ray survey and X-ray cluster database (BAX; [Sadat et al. 2004](#)) to find  $L_X$  and  $T_X$  for the galaxy clusters detected in the combined sample of ROSAT and BAX, and then used these data to calibrate the correlation between  $R_{L_*}$  and  $L_X$ . They then used this correlation (see details in Sect. 3.6 of [Wen et al. 2012](#)) to estimate  $L_X$  and  $T_X$  for the galaxy clusters not directly detected by ROSAT, including WHLJ223301.3+131503 (Fig. 7) in which the Barbell GRG resides.

The mass ( $M_{200} \sim 1.1 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ ) of the galaxy cluster WHLJ223301.3+131503 reflects that it is either a low-mass galaxy cluster or a massive galaxy group. The non-detection

of the cluster in the ROSAT sky survey is consistent with this. Therefore, in the case of the Barbell GRG, it appears, with the right combination of kinetic jet power and ambient medium, that the collimated jets travel outwards to form a megaparsec-scale radio galaxy. The value of the virial radius  $R_{200}$  of  $\sim 1.02$  Mpc for this cluster (Wen et al. 2012) suggests that GRG-J2233+1315 lies within this radius. The cluster environment is likely to affect the structure of the Barbell GRG. However, as mentioned earlier, deep X-ray observations to image the cluster gas distribution and its properties are required to explore this in detail.

#### 4. Summary

We have presented our study on a 1.83 Mpc large GRG called the Barbell GRG, which is hosted in a relatively dense environment of a galaxy cluster. Our optical spectroscopic observations of the host galaxy have established the redshift (0.09956) of the GRG, and hence its projected linear size. Our analysis also indicates a low SFR ( $\sim 10^{-3} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) for the host galaxy, consistent with its BCG nature. Our deep and high-resolution radio images from GMRT and LOFAR reveal a  $\sim 237$  kpc jet emanating from the radio core and leading to  $\sim 100$  kpc kink. The multi-frequency radio data enabled us to estimate the magnetic field and spectral ages of the diffuse lobes. The classical and revised equivalent magnetic field for the WL are  $\sim 3.7 \mu\text{G}$  and  $\sim 6.8 \mu\text{G}$ , respectively. For the EL the values are  $\sim 3.2 \mu\text{G}$  (classical) and  $\sim 5.7 \mu\text{G}$  (revised). The corresponding classical and revised spectral ages for the WL are respectively  $\sim 183$  Myr and  $\sim 115$  Myr, and for the EL  $\sim 193$  Myr and  $\sim 135$ . The discovery of the  $\sim 100$  kpc kink structure from our study provides a unique opportunity for testing various MHD models on large scales. We have discussed a few possibilities, such as the development of instabilities, magnetic reconnection, and precession of jet axis, which could have led to the creation of these structures. Precessing jets in an active galaxy residing in a cluster environment, with shocks and instabilities in the flow of the jets, is a promising possibility to understand the overall misaligned structure of the source. Further observations at X-ray wavelengths to study the gas distribution, spectroscopic data to understand the cluster dynamics, high-resolution radio observations of the jets, and detailed polarization observations would be useful for a detailed modelling and understanding of the source.

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