Radio galaxies and their environments

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Outline

- Radio galaxies
- Search for high-z radio galaxies
- 325 MHz GMRT and 1.4 GHz VLA surveys
- Ultra steep spectrum (USS) radio sources as the tracer of HzRGs
- Optical, near-IR, mid-IR identification of USS sources
- Redshift distributions
- Environments of HzRGs
Radio powerful AGN ($L_{1.4 \text{ GHz}} > 10^{24} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$)
Radio size: Few 100s kpc to ~  Mpc
Radio morphology: typically pair of symmetrically opposite jets and lobes
Radio emission: synchrotron process
Variety of radio morphologies

Factors: viewing angle, evolutionary stage (young, old), AGN parameters (AGN power, mass, spin of SMBH), Host galaxy, Environment (field, group, cluster)

Credit: VLSS
High-redshift radio galaxies (HzRGs)

- Hosted in massive galaxies with very high star formation rates (few 100 - few 1000 M_☉ yr⁻¹) (Jarvis et al. 2001a; Willott et al. 2003)

- Likely to be progenitor of massive elliptical galaxies in local universe (Best et al. 1998; McLure et al. 2004)

- Often associated with over-densities i.e., proto-clusters and clusters (Stevens et al. 2003; Venemans et al. 2007; Galametz et al. 2012)

HzRGs are important to understand the formation and evolution of galaxies at higher redshifts and in denser environments.
How to search radio galaxies

Step 1: Deep and wide low-frequency radio surveys

Step 2: Probable HzRG candidates (e.g., USS, faint K-band counterparts)

Step 3: Identify optical, IR counterparts

Step 4: Redshifts from spectroscopic observations

Ultra Steep Spectrum (USS) radio sources => HzRG candidates

$z - \alpha$ correlation is one of the successful tracers

Most of the radio galaxies known at $z > 3.5$ are searched using $z - \alpha$ correlation (Jarvis et al. 2004; Cruz et al. 2006; Miley & De Breuck 2008)

However, an USS cannot be guaranteed as a high redshift source and vice-versa (e.g., Waddington et al. 1999; Jarvis et al. (2009))
The conventional explanation

- a concave radio spectrum coupled with a radio K-correction

- radio jets expand in denser environments; a scenario more viable in (proto)-cluster environments

(Kramer et al. 2006; Bryant et al. 2009; Bornancini et al. 2010)
325 MHz GMRT radio observations of Herschel fields
advantage at low-frequency: large collecting area, large foV and adequate resolution (~ 9")

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Total Time</th>
<th>Rms</th>
<th>No. of sources (≥ 5σ)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XMM-LSS</td>
<td>9 deg²</td>
<td>40 h</td>
<td>160 μJy/b</td>
<td>3300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lockman hole</td>
<td>18 deg²</td>
<td>200 h</td>
<td>40 μJy/b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELAIS-N1</td>
<td>9 deg²</td>
<td>100 h</td>
<td>40 μJy/b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deepest low frequency wide radio survey in XMM-LSS field (Sirothia et al. In preparation)

Located at a site close to Pune, India
Operated by National Center for Radio Astrophysics, Pune
30 parabolic dishes of 45m diameter each
frequency bands: 1.4 GHz, 610 MHz, 325 MHz, 240 MHz, 150 MHz and 50 MHz
Multiwavelengths observations in XMM-LSS

325 MHz GMRT
9 deg$^{-2}$
Rms $\sim$ 160 $\mu$Jy
3300 sources
(Sirothia et al. 2014, in preparation)

1.4 GHz VLA
1.0 deg$^{-2}$
rms $\sim$ 16 $\mu$Jy
1054 sources
(Bondi et al. 2003)

VVDS (VIMOS VLT Deep Survey)

1.4 GHz VLA
0.8 deg$^{-2}$
rms $\sim$ 20 $\mu$Jy
512 sources
(Simpson et al. 2006)

SXDF (Subaru XMM-N Deep Field)

325 MHz GMRT
9 deg$^{-2}$
Rms $\sim$ 160 $\mu$Jy
3300 sources
(Sirothia et al. 2014, in preparation)
Cross-matching of 325 MHz and 1.4 GHz radio sources

Radio spectrum a power law: \( S_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha} \)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of sources</th>
<th>VVDS</th>
<th>SXDF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.4 GHz</td>
<td>1054</td>
<td>512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325 MHz</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-matched</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USS (( \alpha \leq -1.0 ))</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USS sample**:
325 MHz - 1.4 GHz spectral index (\( \alpha \)) \( \leq -1.0 \)

**Total 160 USS sources**

Singh et al. 2014 A&A
Comparison with previous USS samples (HzRGs candidates)

HzRGs search limited to bright USS sample based on shallow or moderately deep radio surveys (e.g., De Breuck et al. 2002a, 2004; Broderick et al. 2007, Bryant et al. (2009); Bornancini et al. (2010)).

we are probing ~10 times deeper ($S_{1.4\,\text{GHz}} \geq 0.1\,\text{mJy}$) : a different flux density regime

Relatively faint and High-z sources in our sample
Nature of USS at faint (submJy) flux densities?

- Powerful radio galaxies at higher redshifts
  or
- Population of low-power AGNs at moderate redshifts
  or
- Mixed population
**Optical, near-IR Identification of USS sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>VLA-VVDS</th>
<th>SXDF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB mags limits</td>
<td>AB mags limits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>28.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>27.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>R</td>
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<td>I</td>
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<td>25.7</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>24.0</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VVDS**: optical data limited to $I_{AB} \sim 25.0$ identify only 65% USS sources

**Optical near-IR identification rates of USS are lower than that for non-USS source**

**SXDF**: Deeper optical data ($I_{AB} \sim 27.7$) identify nearly all USS sources

**USS sources are systematically fainter.**
Redshifts of USS radio sources

**Photo-z of 1.4 GHz radio population**

**VVDS field**  
Optical CFHTLS + near-IR VIDEO data  
VIMOS VLT Deep Survey (VVDS) spectroscopic survey  
McAlpine (2013).

**SXDF**  
11 band photo-z (u, B, V, R, i, z, J, H, K plus IRAC bands 1 and 2)  
Visible Multi-Object Spectrograph (VIMOS)  
Simpson et al. (2012).

**VVDS field**
- 86/111 (77%) photo-z  
- 11/86 Spec-z

- $0.09 \leq z \leq 3.86$, median $z \sim 1.18$
- $53/86 \sim 61.5\%$ are at $z \geq 1.0$

**SXDF**
- 39/44 (~89%) photo-z  
- 16/39 Spec-z

- $0.03 \leq z \leq 3.34$, median $z \sim 1.57$
- $26/32 \sim 72\%$ are at $z \geq 1.0$

60% – 70% USS sources are at $z > 1.0$

A fraction of sources without redshift estimates.  
Possible HzRG candidates

Peak at $z \sim 0.3$ : 6 known X-ray clusters at $z \sim 0.26 – 0.35$ (Pacaud et al. 2007; Adami et al. 2011)
Radio Luminosities

1.4 GHz

VVDS field:

\[ 2.88 \times 10^{21} \leq L_{1.4\text{GHz}} \leq 1.2 \times 10^{26} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} \]

\[ L_{1.4\text{GHz}, \text{median}} \sim 3.16 \times 10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} \]

SXDF:

\[ 3.31 \times 10^{21} \leq L_{1.4\text{GHz}} \leq 2.69 \times 10^{27} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} \]

\[ L_{1.4\text{GHz}, \text{median}} \sim 7.24 \times 10^{24} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} \]

\[ \text{FR I} < P_{178 \text{ MHz}} \sim 10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} < \text{FR II} \]

\[ \sim 40\% \text{ USS have radio luminosities typical of powerful FRII Radio galaxies} \]
A large fraction of USS sources falling in SMGs, LIRGs / ULIRGs regions

Radio AGN hosted in SMG-like dusty obscured intensely Star forming galaxies at moderate redshifts (e.g., Sajina et al. 2007b).

Significant fraction of IR Faint Radio Sources (IFRS)
=> HzRGs (not detected at 3.6 micron) obscured

Singh et al. 2014 A&A
We unveil young radio loud AGN residing in obscured environments.

A significant fraction of our USS sources do have:

- $\frac{S_{1.4\text{GHz}}}{S_{3.6\text{micron}}}$ similar to SMGs/ULIRGs
- radio loud ($L_{1.4\text{GHz}} \sim 10^{25} - 10^{26} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$)
- unresolved at 1.4 GHz (resolution 6 arcsec)
  (compact steep spectrum or GigaHertz peaked spectrum sources)
  at $z \sim 2$, 6 arcsec resolution gives size limit < 50 kpc

A possible scenario:

- a compact radio-loud AGN surrounded by vigorous starburst activity.
- AGN jets of kpc-scale passing through the dense gas and starburst activity that confine them.

Planned high-resolution radio observations are expected to determine the morphology, physical extent, and brightness temperature of the radio emitting regions.

A rare example:

F00183−7111, an ULIRG

$L_{\text{bol}} \sim 9 \times 10^{12} L_{\odot}$
$L_{2.3\text{GHz}} = 6 \times 10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$

VLBI observation shows a compact core–jet morphology
With jets spanning only to 1.7 kpc

Norris et al. (2012)
Several radio galaxies of the sample are lying in cluster environments.

Powerful radio galaxies, in particular bent radio galaxies, can be used to find high-$z$ clusters.
HzRGs as the tracer of (proto)-clusters

Limitations of classical techniques on cluster searches

- X-ray based searches
  The extended X-ray emission associated with the intra-cluster medium is effective up to $z \sim 1$ (Rosati et al. 2002).
  
  X-ray surface brightness fades away by $(1+z)^4$

- Cluster searches based on the red sequence
  successful up to $z < 1.0$
  It requires red sequence galaxies at higher-$z$
  and such a sequence may not exist at very high-$z$ (Gladders & Yee 2000)
Deep Optical, near-IR observations are required

Redshift ~ 1.1

SDSS r-band
3.6 micron Spitzer

Blanton et al. 2014
* Ultra deep radio surveys (rms ~ few microJy at 1.4 GHz)
* Unveil the population of radio galaxies up redshift (z) ~ 5 - 6
* HzRGs Beacon for associated (proto)clusters at high-z
Summary

- We obtain a sufficiently large sample of 160 faint USS sources and investigate their nature using optical, near-IR and mid-IR counterparts from existing deep surveys.

- USS sources are systematically fainter with lower identification rate in optical, near-IR and mid-IR suggesting their high-z and/or obscured nature.

- The radio luminosity distribution infers that substantially high fraction ($\geq 40\%$) of sample sources have radio luminosities typical FRII radio galaxies.

- A large fraction (~ 50%) of USS have $\frac{S_{1.4\text{GHz}}}{S_{3.6\text{micron}}}$ and redshifts similar to dusty SMGs/ULIRGs. These sources are likely to be AGNs hosted in dusty obscured galaxies.

- USS sources without redshifts also do not have detection in deep K-bands and 3.6 micron Images. Flux ratio limits on radio to mid-IR infers these sources to be HzRGs or heavily obscured HzRGs at moderate redshifts ($z \sim 2 - 3$)

- USS criterion remains an efficient method to select high-z sources even at fainter flux densities.

- Powerful radio galaxies can be used to identify high-z clusters

- MeerKAT, SKA will explore further deeper in distant universe
Thank you for your attention