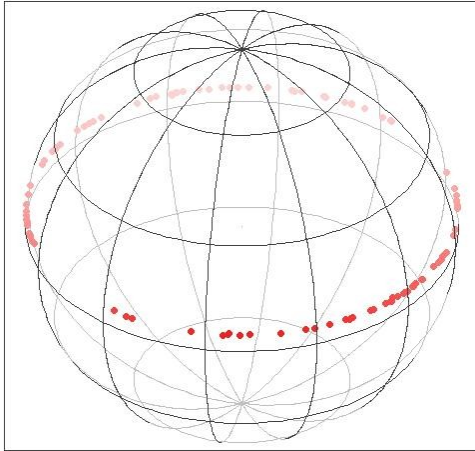


# State of the steep spectrum sample of the experiment Cold according to modern sky surveys in the optical and radio ranges



O. Zhelenkova <sup>(1)</sup>, Yu. Parijskij, N. Soboleva, A. Temirova <sup>(2)</sup>  
(1) SAO RAS; (2) SPb Branch of SAO RAS

## Active galaxies at different scales and wavelengths



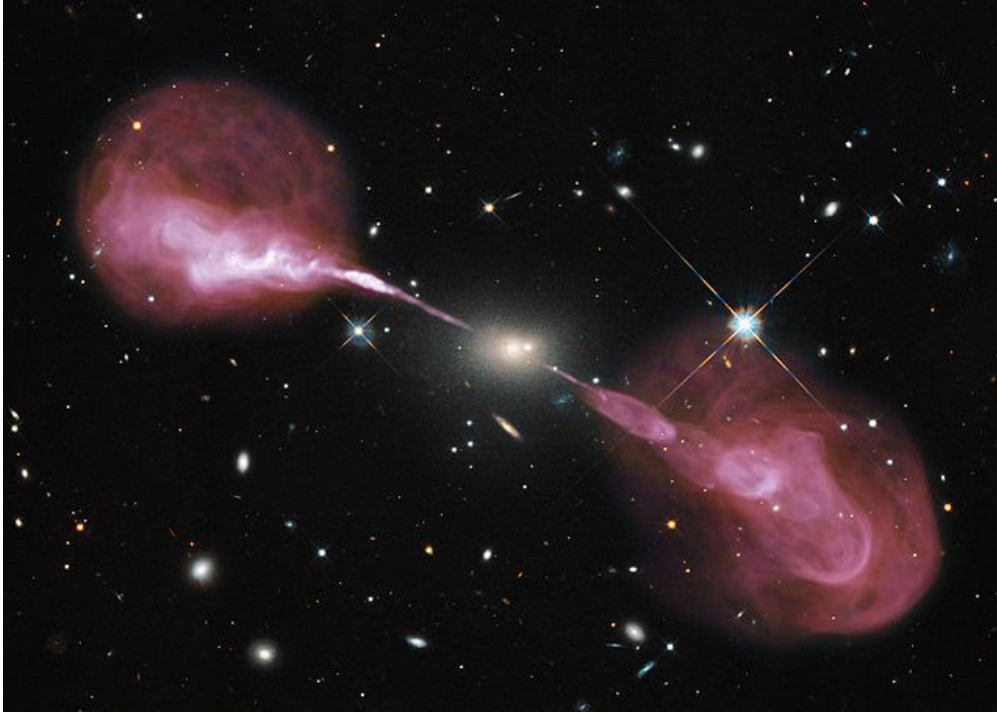
NIZHNY ARKHYZ, RUSSIA, OCTOBER 14-17, 2024

# Radiogalaxies and cosmology

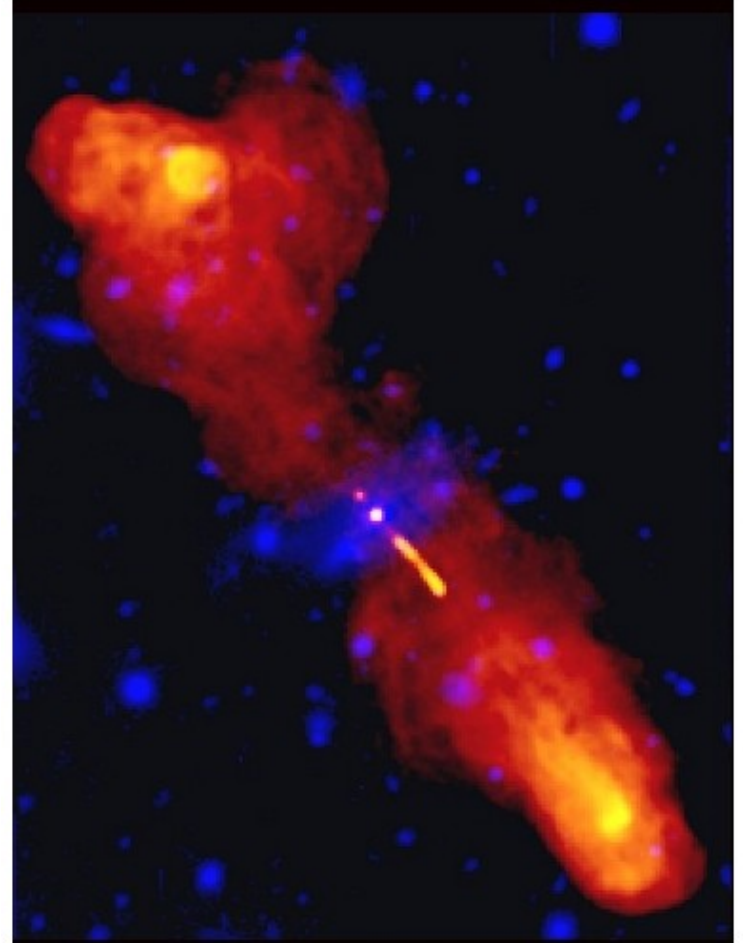
Detecting powerful radio galaxies at high redshifts is a challenging task. However, it should be noted that HzRGs are of particular interest to cosmology for the following reasons:

1. progenitors of local massive elliptical galaxies (Best et al. 1998; De Breuck et al. 2010);
2. the most massive galaxies at their redshift (Overzier et al. 2009);
3. study of the stellar population of the host galaxy, which for quasars is complicated by the high brightness of the active nucleus;
4. often found to be located at the centre of clusters and proto-clusters of galaxies (Pentericci et al. 2000; Miley et al. 2004; Orsi et al. 2016);
5. studies of their environment can give insights into the assembly and evolution of the large-scale structure in the Universe;
6. radio galaxies at  $z > 6$ , in the epoch of reionization, are of particular interest as they could be used as unique tools to study the process of reionization in detail (Carilli, Gnedin & Owen 2002).

# Radiogalaxies and cosmology



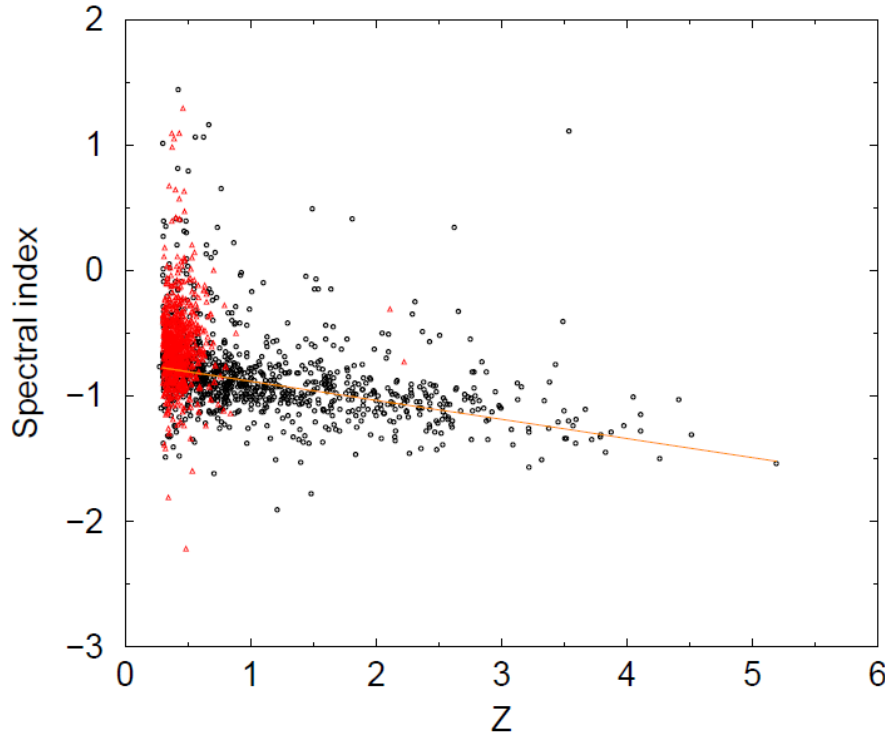
FRI type. Hercules A . The radio emission is imaged in pink and is superimposed on optical image. *Credits: VLA.*



FR II type. 3C 237 radio galaxy. The blue objects are the optical galaxies and stars. *Credits: NRAO*

# Radiogalaxies and cosmology

Blind searches for these rare objects are not effective. In the work of Tielens et al. (1979) it was found that distant sources have steep spectra.



*Spectral index ( $\alpha_{1400}$ ) – redshift diagram for 2442 radiogalaxies ( $z > 0.3$ ). The regression line was drawn using the median spectral indices within bins with a step  $\Delta z = 0.5$ . (Verkhodanov et al., 2010).*

Although steep spectra are also observed in pulsars and faded and giant radio galaxies, this criterion is often used in the selection of distant object candidates: Roettgering et al. (1994), De Breuck et al. (2000), Broderick et al. (2007), Saxena et al. (2018).

# Radiogalaxies and cosmology

Radio properties of known radio galaxies at  $z > 4$  (from Saxena et al., 2018)

Name	$z$	$S_{150}$ mJy	$\log L_{150}$ $\text{W Hz}^{-1}$	$S_{1400}$ mJy	$\alpha_{150}^{1400}$	Size kpc	Reference
TGSS J1530+1049	5.72	170	29.1	7.5	-1.4	3.5	Saxena+(2018)
TN J0924-2201	5.19	760	29.6	71.1	-1.1	7.4	van Breugel+(1999)
J163912.11 + 405236.5	4.88	103	28.2	22.5	-0.7	-	Jarvis+(2009)
RC J0311 + 0507	4.51	5981	30.3	500.0	-1.1	21.1	Kopylov+(2007)
VLA J123642 + 621331	4.42	undet.	-	0.5	-	-	Waddington+(1999)
6C 0140 + 326	4.41	860	29.4	91.0	-1.0	17.3	Rawlings+(1996)
8C 1435 + 635	4.25	8070	30.4	497.0	-1.2	21.1	Lacy+(1994)
TN J1123 - 2154	4.11	512	29.1	49.3	-1.0	5.5	Reuland+(2004)
TN J1338 - 1942	4.10	1213	29.5	120.8	-1.0	37.8	Reuland+(2004)

# RATAN-VLA-BTA (Big Trio) - search for distant radio galaxies using a sample of radio sources with steep spectra



**RATAN:** Selection sources with ultra steep spectra from RC catalogue. It was obtained from observations of a 40' sky strip survey at declination SS433  $\delta(1981)=+04^{\circ}57'\pm 20'$  ( $\nu=3.94$  GHz) and also used UTRAO catalogue (365 MHz);

**VLA:** morphological structure and precise coordinates of radio sources of the SS sample

**BTA:** optical identification and obtained spectral redshifts.

**Selection criteria for USS-sample** (Kopylov et al., 1995):

- $\alpha \leq -1.0 \div -0.9$  ( $S \propto \nu^{\alpha}$ );
- flux density (not brighter than a few hundred mJy at 3.94 GHz);
- FR II type double radio sources;
- small angular size ( $LAS < 20''$ )

# RATAN-VLA-BTA - search for distant radio galaxies



- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Parijskij Yu. N.   | 1. Goss W.M.        |
| 2. Soboleva N.S.      | 2. Pursimo T.       |
| 3. Temirova A.V.      | 3. Nilsson K.       |
| 4. Kopylov A.I.       | 4. Teerikorpi P.    |
| 5. Verkhodanov O.V.   | 5. Sillanpä A.      |
| 6. Zhelenkova O.P.    | 6. Takalo L.O.      |
| 7. Bursov N.N.        | 7. Winn J.          |
| 8. Afanas'ev V.L.     | 8. Fletcher A.      |
| 9. Dodonov S.N.       | 9. Burke B.         |
| 10. Moiseev A.V.      | 10. Conner S.       |
| 11. Fatkhullin T.A.   | 11. Crawford F.     |
| 12. Naugol'naya M.    | 12. Cartwright J.   |
| 13. Vitkovskij Val.V. | 13. Thomasson P.    |
| 14. Komarova V.N.     | 14. Muxlow T. W. B. |
| 15. Lipovka N.M.      | 15. Beswick R.      |
| 16. Kovalev Yu. Yu.   | 16. Reich P.        |
| 17. Baryshev Yu.      | 17. Furst E.        |

# RATAN-VLA-BTA - search for distant radio galaxies

**VLA:** 300 radio maps were obtained for the Cold sources, including 100 maps for half of the SS-sample sources, at 1.4, 5, 8 and 15 GHz with an angular resolution of  $0.1'' \div 1.5''$ . And 15% of the sources fell into the FIRST survey area (1.4 GHz,  $5''$ ).

**BTA (photometry and optical identifications):** observations were carried out from 1991 to 2008 (80 observing nights with  $\theta \approx 2''$ , 0.75 nights per object);

50% of the time was spent on R-band observations (700 frames, 600 s exposure).

BVI-photometry was performed for half of the objects.

For 22 objects images were obtained ( $\theta \approx 1''$ ) on the 2.56-m NOT telescope (Pursimo et al., 1999).

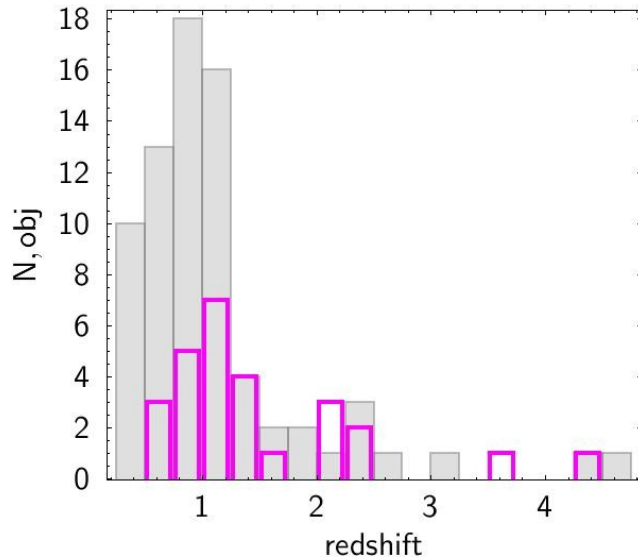
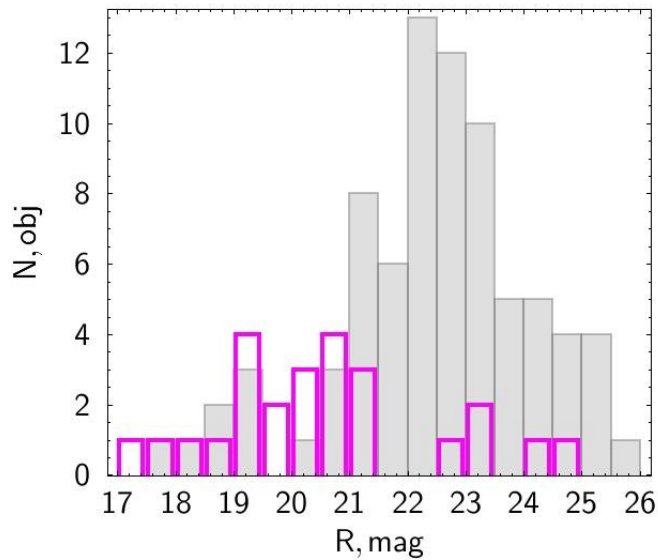
Optical counterparts were found for 94% of sources.

**Photometric redshifts:** for 48% of objects photometric redshifts were obtained using BVRI photometry (Verkhodanov+, 2002).

**BTA (spectra):** Spectroscopic studies of optical candidates were carried out using the SCORPIO focal reducer (Afanas'ev&Moiseev, 2005) from 2001 to 2008 (58 nights, 0.8 nights per object).

For 71 sources spectra were obtained [Dodonov et al. (1999), Afanas'ev et al. (2003), Kopylov et al. (2006), Parijskij et al. (2010)]: 25% - no lines detected, 50% - galaxies (50% with  $z > 1$ ), 25% - quasars (70% -  $z > 1$ );

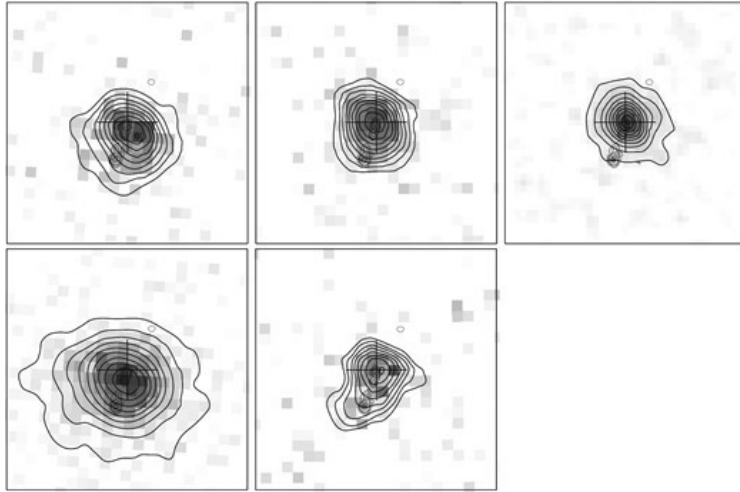
# RATAN-VLA-BTA - search for distant radio galaxies



## Median characteristics

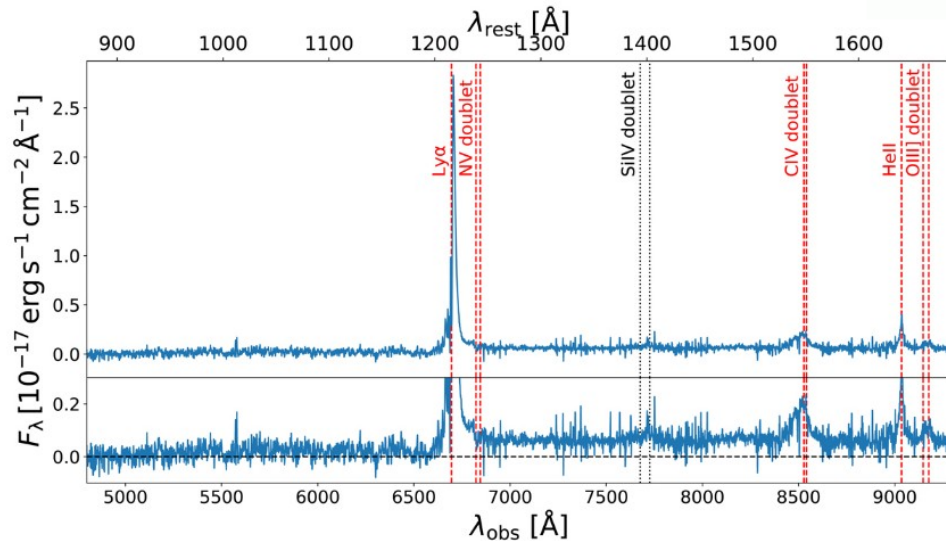
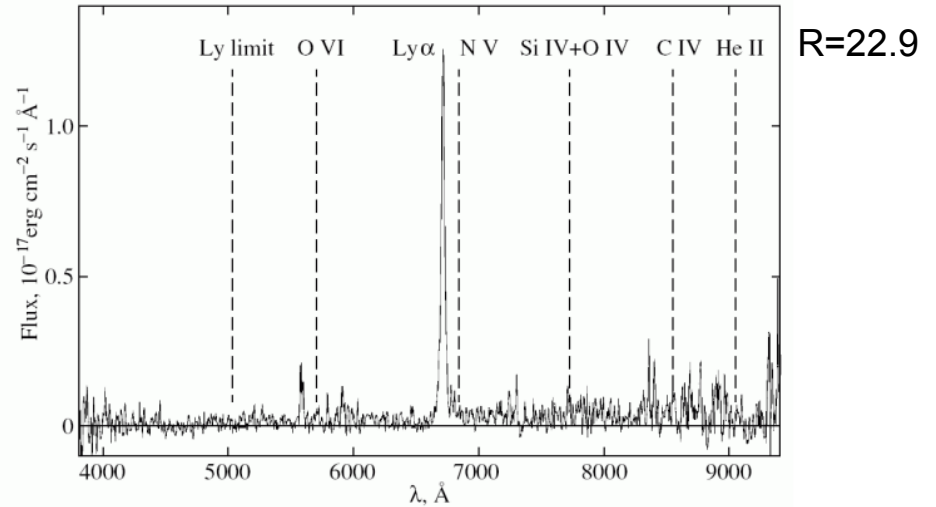
$\alpha_{365}^{3940}$	-1.1	
$S_{150}$ , mJy	1189	42÷6491
$S_{3940}$ , mJy	65	3÷402
LAS, arcsec	11.7	0.1÷122.5
R, mag	22.5	
K, mag	17.7	
W1, mag	16.3	
Z	0.95	
$\log L_{150}$ , W/Hz	27.7	25.1÷30.2

# The most distant radio sources of the Big Trio program



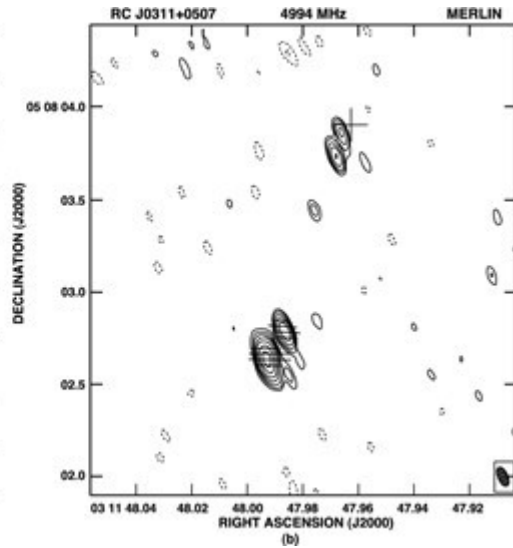
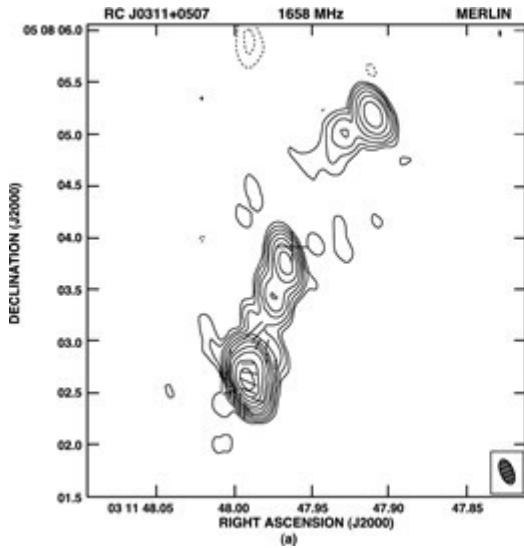
The RC J0311+0507 (4C+04.11) images. From left to right in the top row: the *R*, *I* and *K* bands are shown, in the bottom row: SED 665, SED 707.

Optical spectrum of the host galaxy of RC J0311+0507. We identify a narrow, intense line at the center. with Ly $\alpha$  1216 Å.  $z=4.514$ .



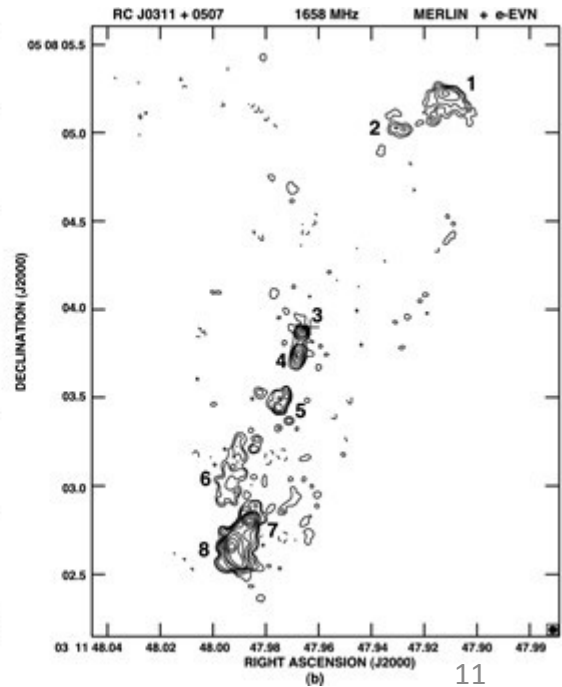
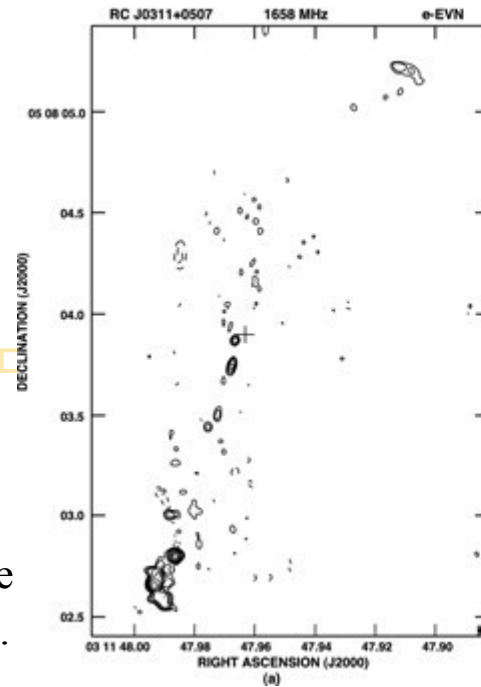
MUSE rest frame UV spectra (Wang+,2021).  $Z= 4.5077$

# The most distant radio sources of the Big Trio program

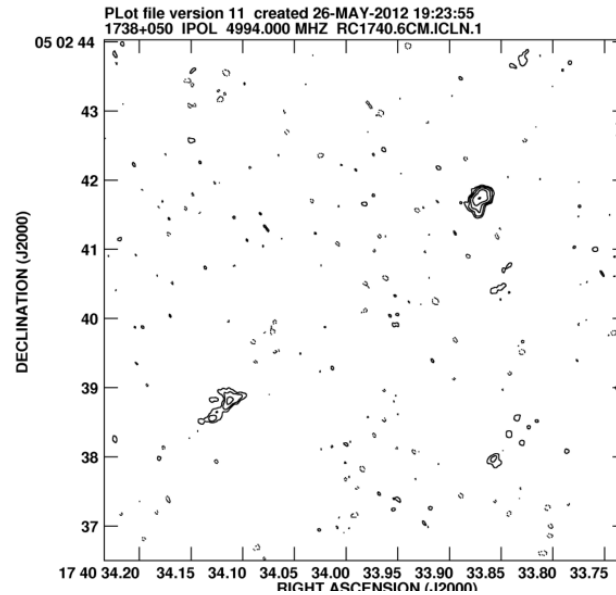
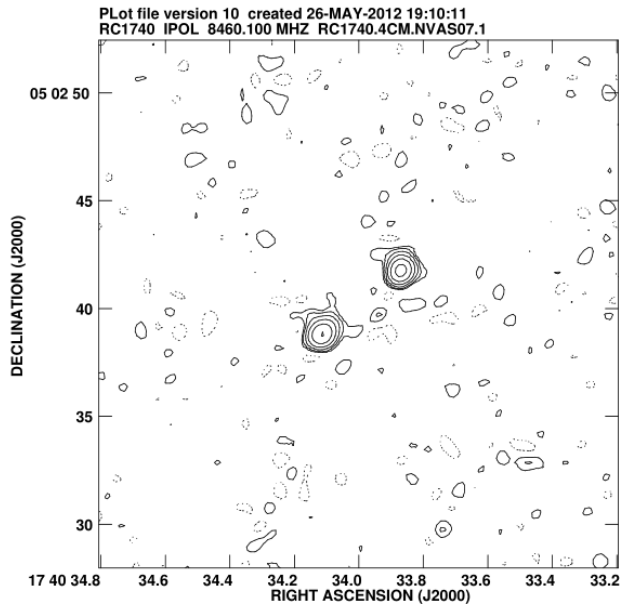
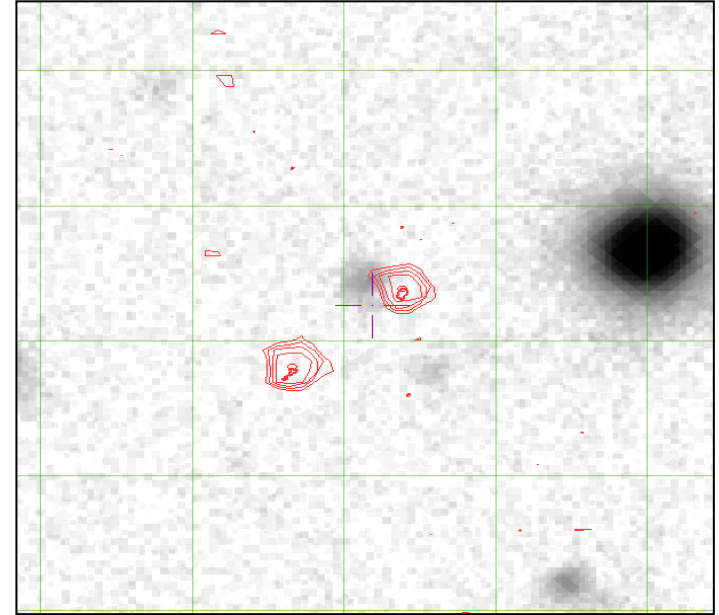
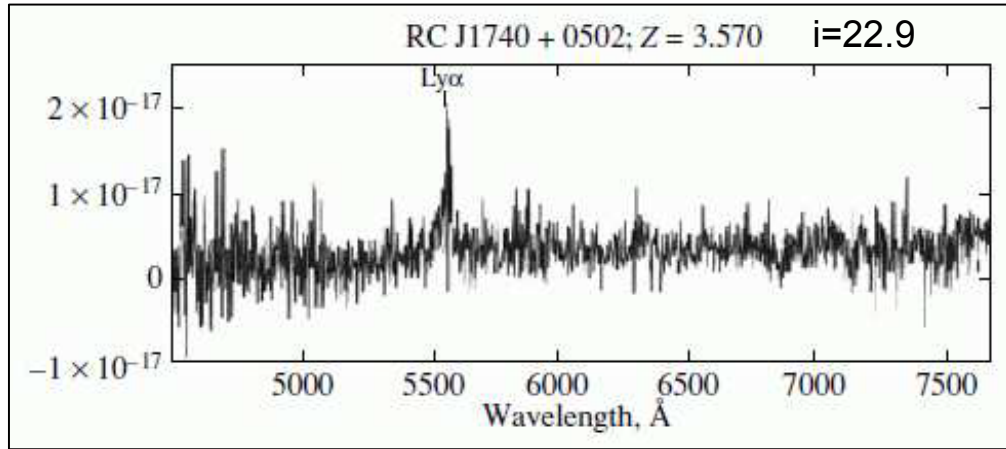


- (a) MERLIN (1658 MHz) image with a restoring beam of  $0.264'' \times 0.132''$ .
- (b) MERLIN (4994 MHz) image with a restoring beam of  $0.110'' \times 0.039''$

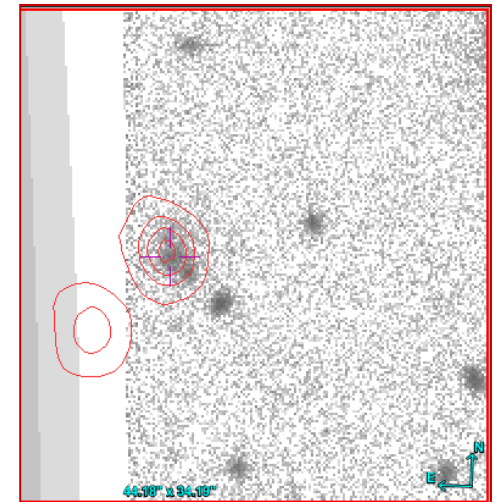
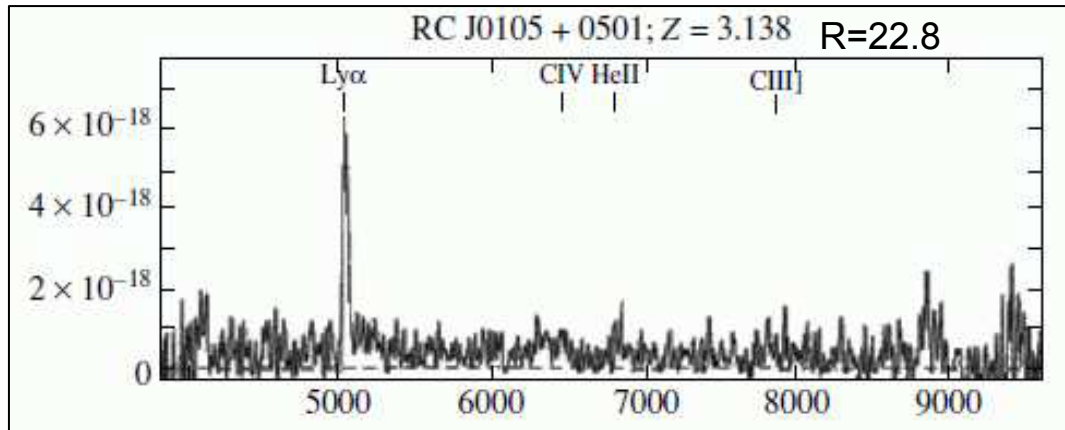
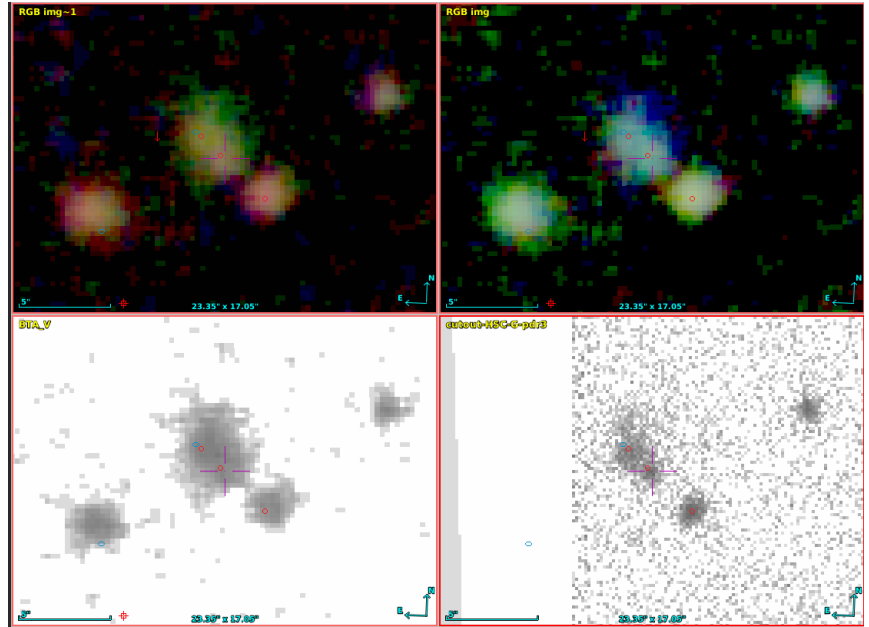
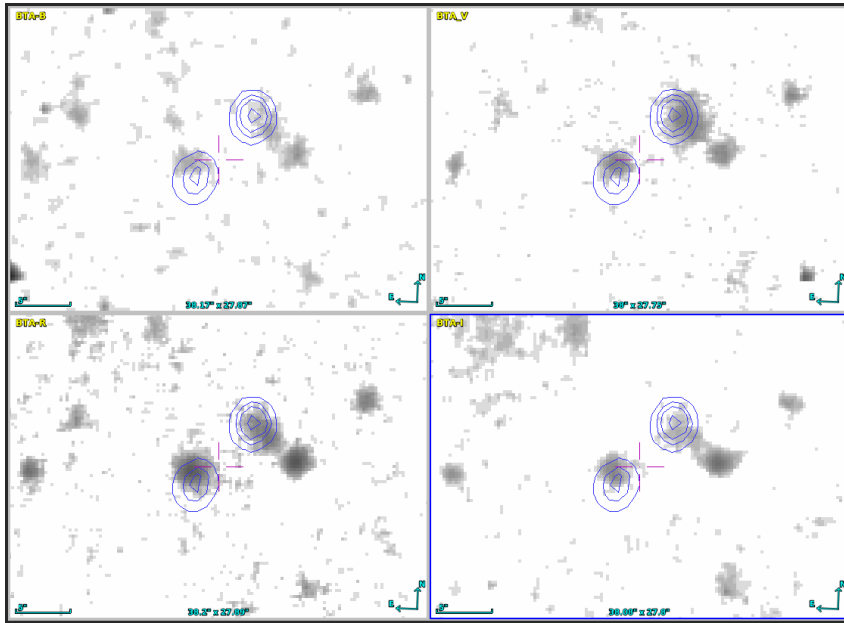
- (a) An e-EVN 1658 MHz image of RC J0311+0507 with restoring beam of  $0.025'' \times 0.025''$
- (b) A MERLIN and e-EVN combined image with a restoring beam of  $0.035'' \times 0.035''$ .



# The most distant radio sources of the Big Trio program



# The most distant radio sources of the Big Trio program

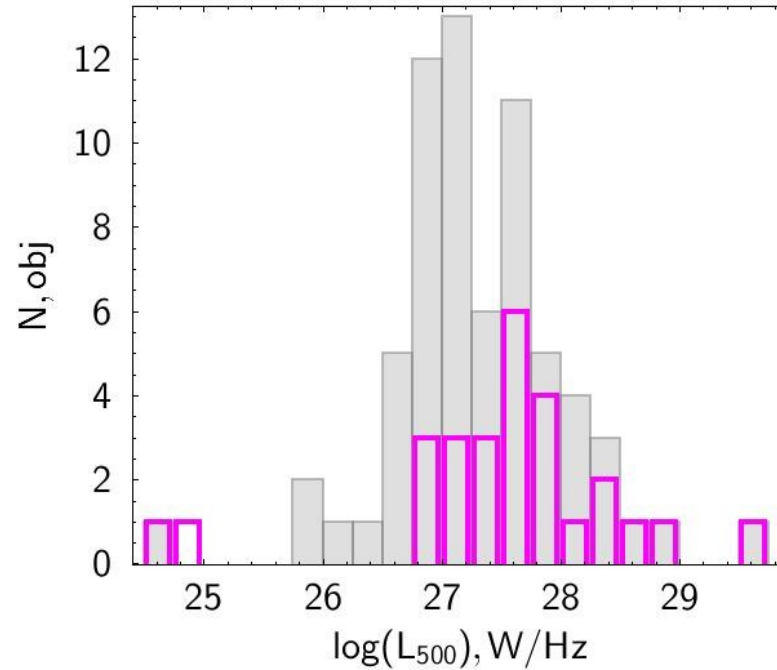
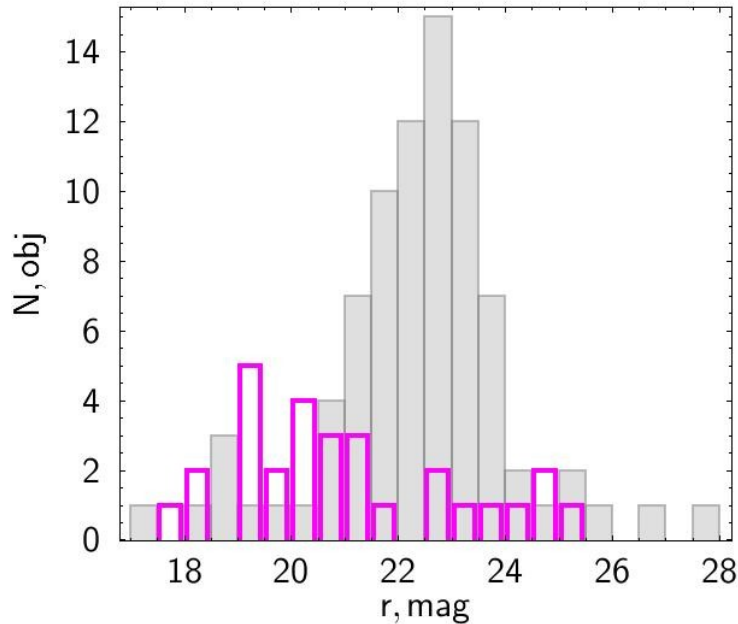


New surveys:

TGSS, GLEAM, WENSS, RACS, VLASS — refinement of the structure of radio sources (for 50% of the sample), refinement of radio spectra;

SDSS, PanSTARRS, WISE, DES, LS, HSC — additional information about host galaxies;

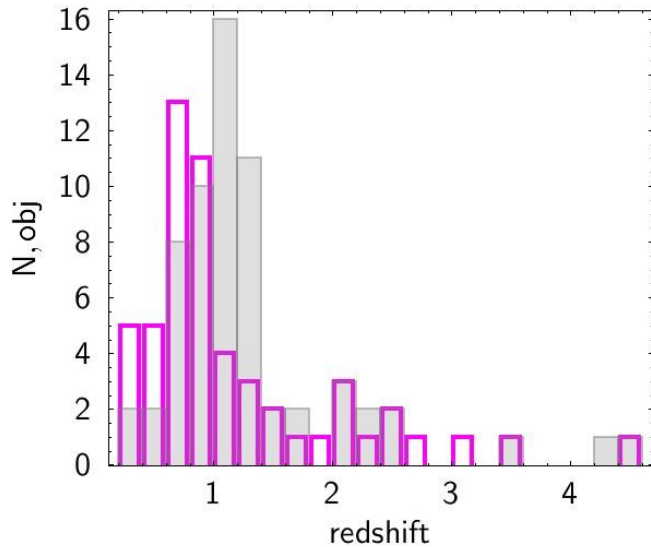
Vizier, Simbad, NED, SDSS, LS, HSC — redshifts of host galaxies.



Of 113 sources:

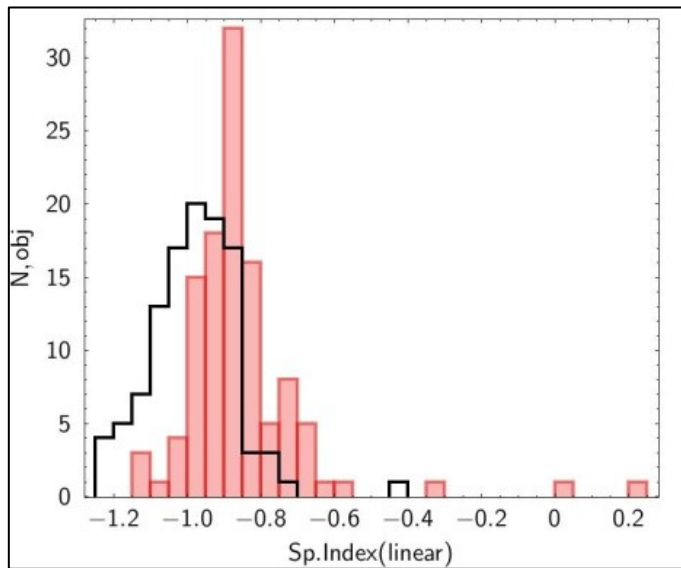
❖ 97% identified;

❖ 80% of galaxies and 20% of quasars (magenta) in the sample.



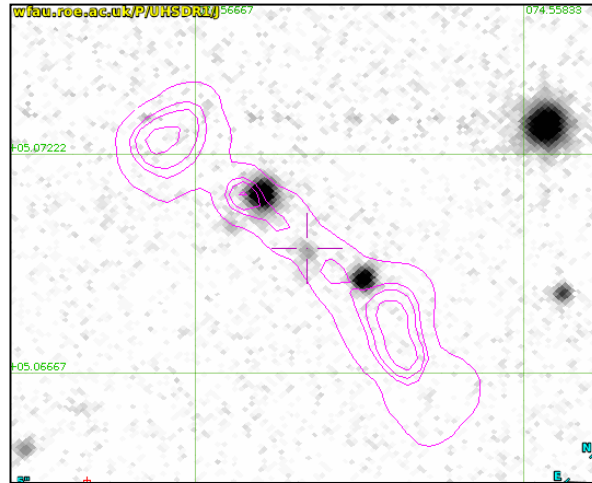
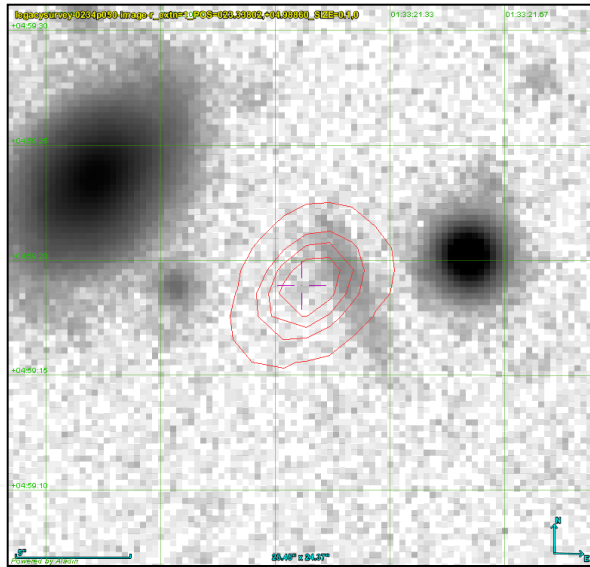
Of 113 sources:

- ❖ redshifts known for 88% of sources;
- ❖  $z_{sp}$  (magenta) was determined for 55 (48%);
- ❖  $z_{ph}$  – 40%;
- ❖ from new surveys obtained  $z_{ph}$  for 27 sources (23%).



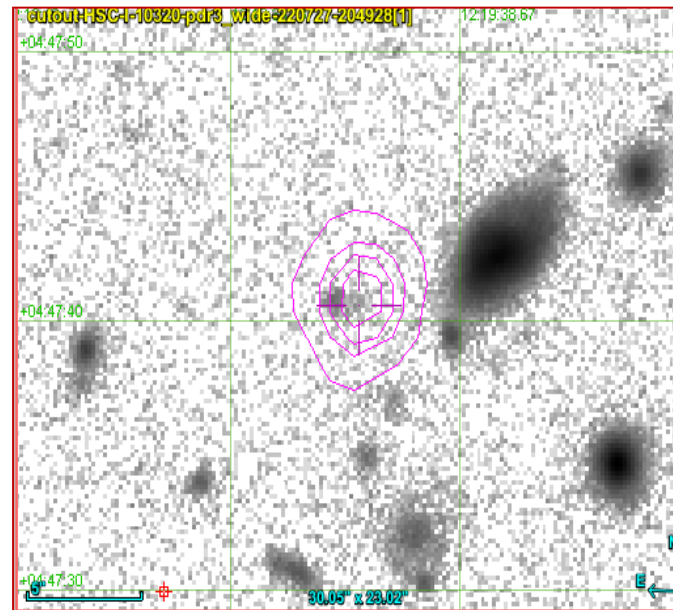
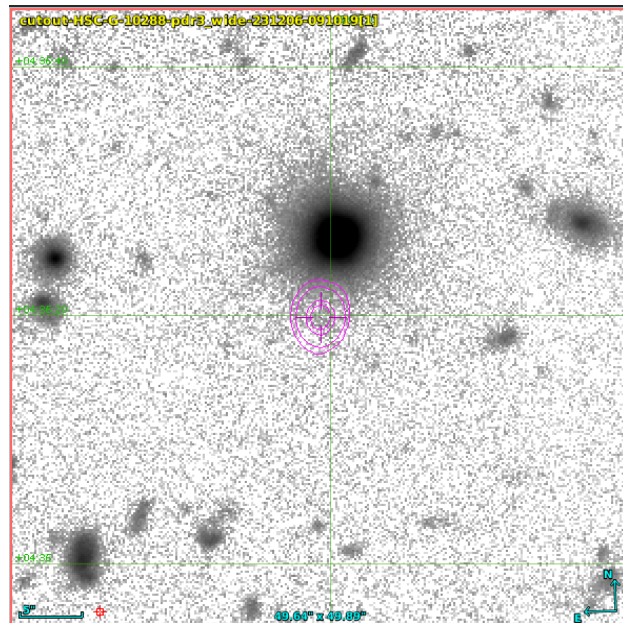
The radio spectra of the SS-sample sources have been refined using new radio surveys. Spectral indices obtained by linear approximation are given, using new (red) and old (black) data.

# Refinement of optical identifications

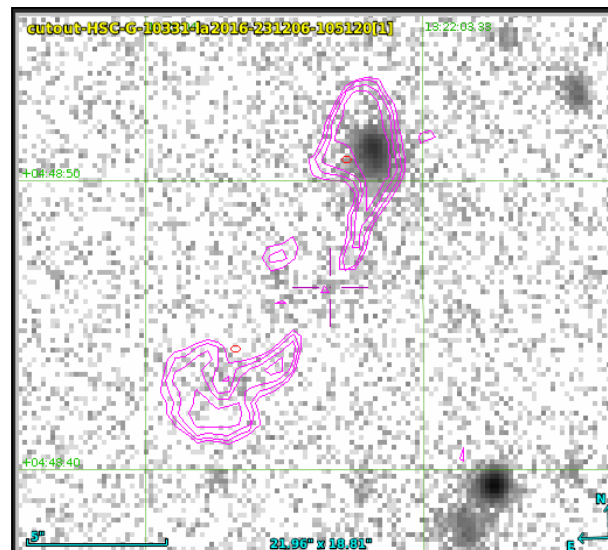
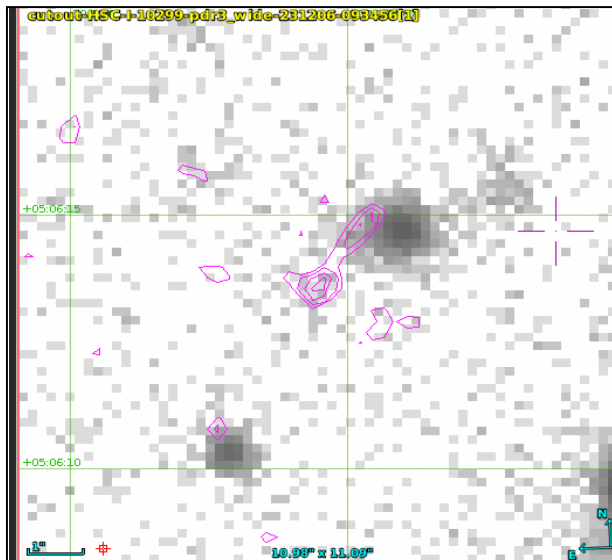
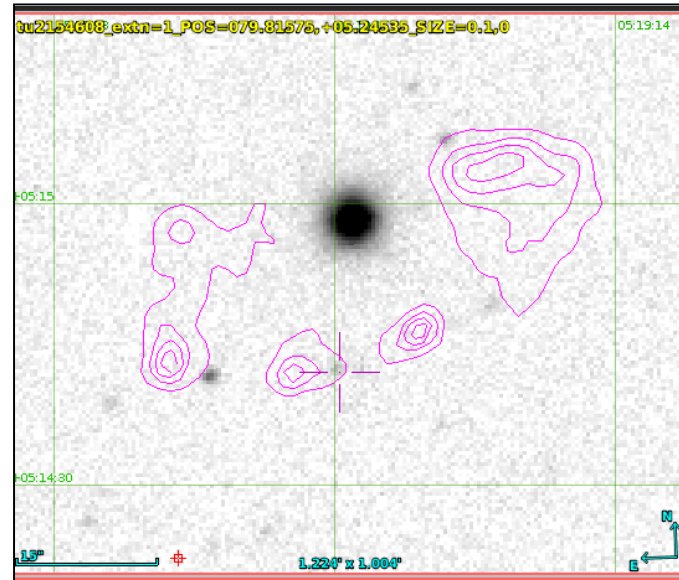
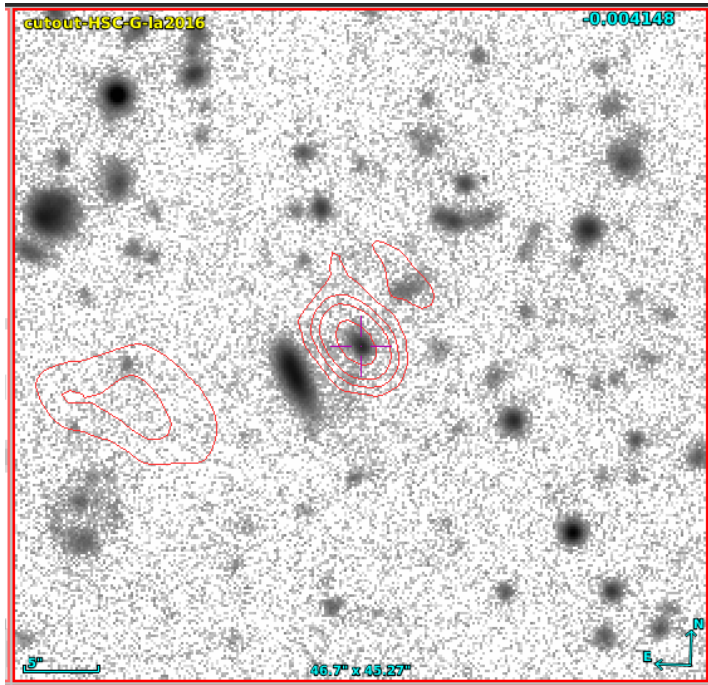


Cutouts from new radio and optical surveys made it possible to refine the identification of radio sources in the sample.

top: RCJ0133+0459,  
RCJ0458+0456;  
bottom: RCJ0907+0439,  
RCJ1219+0446

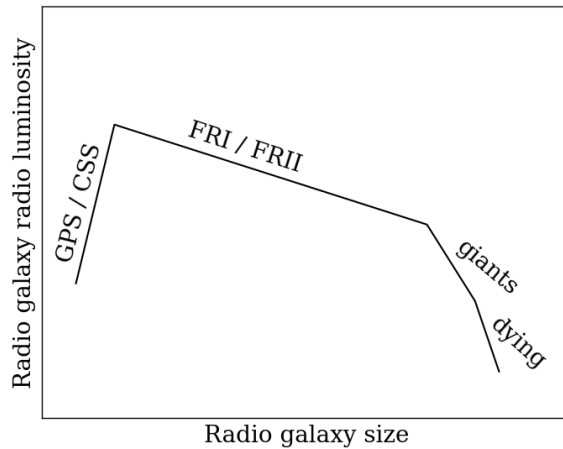


# Refinement of optical identifications



Examples:  
top: RCJ0159+0448,  
RCJ0519+0510  
bottom: RCJ1011+0502,  
RCJ1322+0449.

# Evolutionary status of the source: spectral curvature and morphology



A schematic view of different stages of a radio galaxy life. *Credit: Kapinska.*

## ***Spectral curvature parameter :***

$$SPC = \alpha_{\text{high}} - \alpha_{\text{low}} (S \propto \nu^{-\alpha}) \text{ [2011A\&A...526A.148M]}$$

SPC > 0.5 – faded radio source: ~10%,

SPC < 0 – restart of activity in radio range: 15%-17%.

## ***Radio source morphology :***

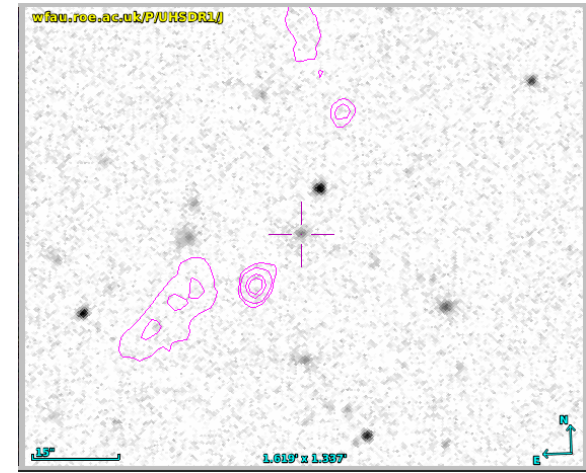
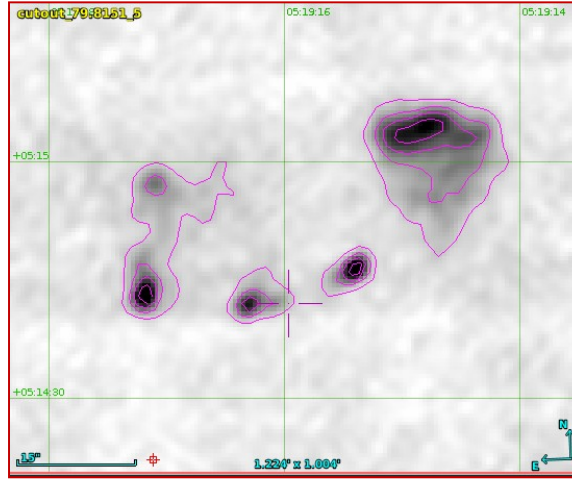
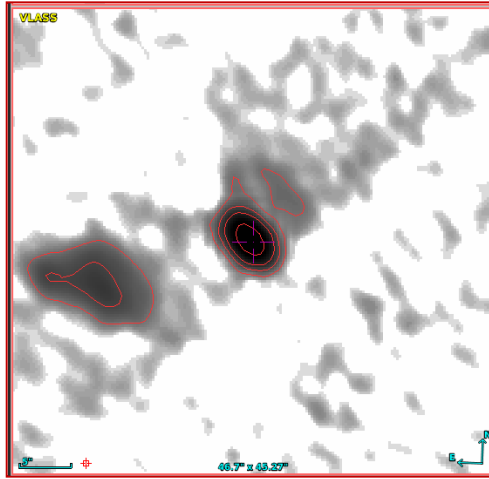
Triple (T), double double (DD) – radio source restart: 20-25%;

There are radio lobes on the NVSS map and no radio lobes on the VLASS map – faded radio source : ~10%.

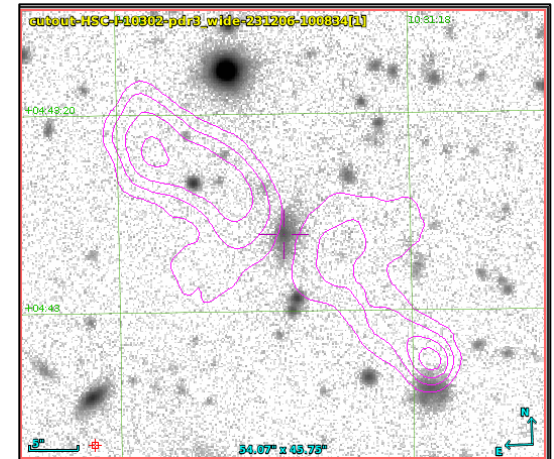
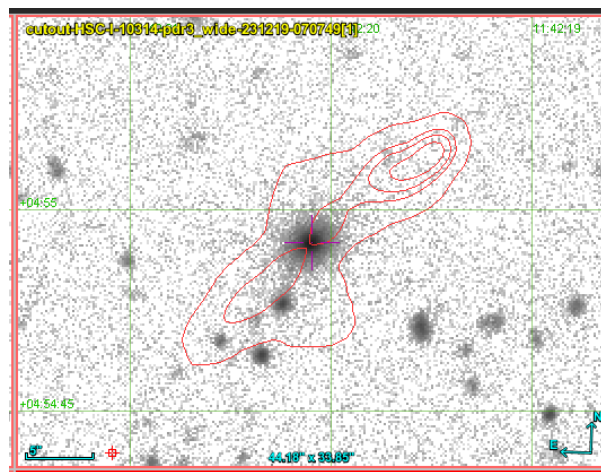
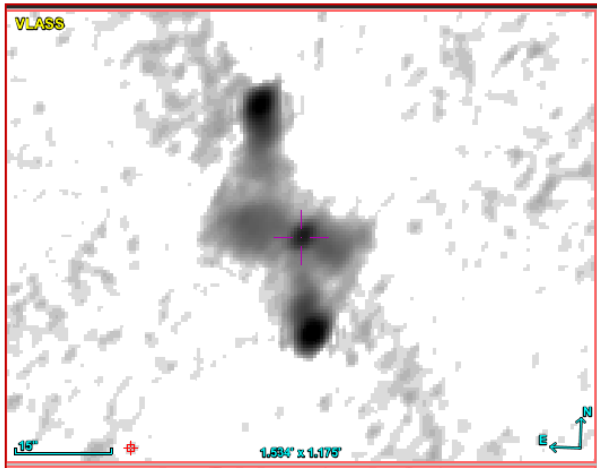
Small sources CSO, GPS, HFP are considered as young sources [2017ApJ...836..174C]: 10-15%.

Young (10%-15%)	Active (40%-45%)	Faded (10%)	Restart (20%-25%)
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# Restart radio sources and wide-angle tailed sources



# Jet reorientation – X-shaped sources

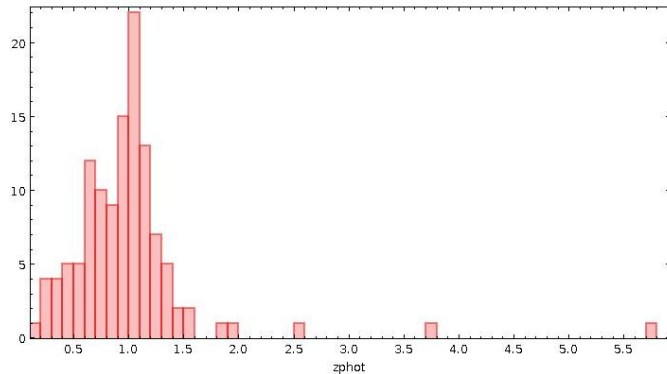


## Radio source environment: morphology and photometric redshifts

The deformation of the radio source lobes is an indicator of its environment and/or processes occurring in the immediate vicinity of the AGN.

❖ Wide-Angle Tailed, Narrow-Angle Tailed, Head-Tailed [1976ApJ...205L...1O, 2019A&A...626A...8M] sources indicate a cluster or group of galaxies: ~30%.

❖ The X-, Z-, S-shaped morphology of the radio lobes is explained by a rapid change in the orientation of the jets due to the merger of a small galaxy with a massive elliptical host galaxy, or due to instabilities in the accretion disk. [2004MNRAS.347.1357L, 2019ApJ...887..266J]: ~15%.

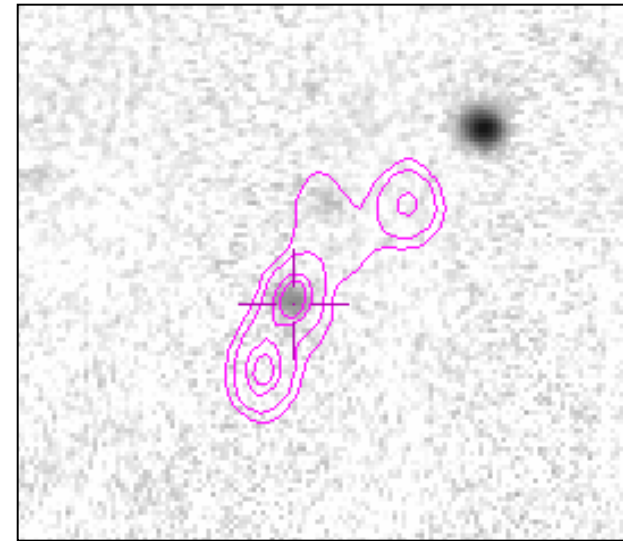
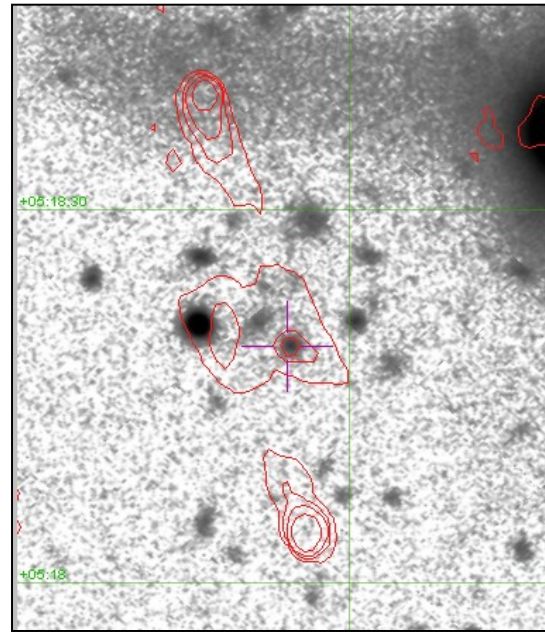
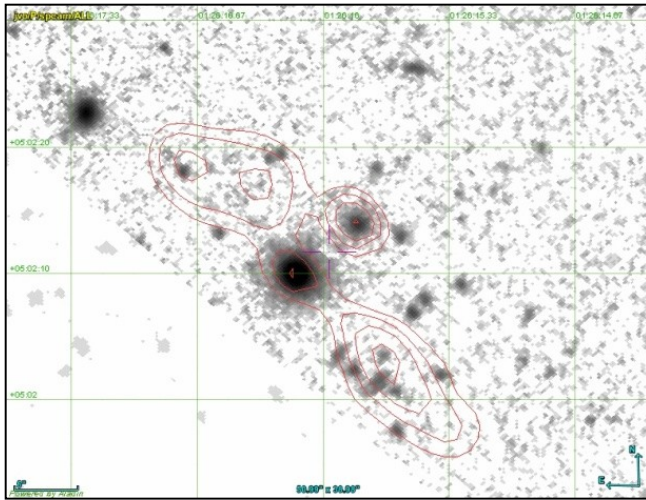


Comparison of photometric redshifts of galaxies in the 1Mpc×1Mpc region around a radio source - half of the sources have neighboring galaxies in photometric redshifts (LS, DataLab).

RCJ0039+0454 ( $z_{LS}=1.061\pm 0.092$ ).

Distribution of photometric redshifts (DESI) of galaxies in the 1 Mpc×1 Mpc region around the radio source. Peak at  $z=1.0-1.1$ .

## Quasar-galaxy pairs



Left: RCJ0126+0502 – a quasar ( $z_{sp}=1.008$ ) in a triple source, next to it a point radio source – a galaxy ( $z_{ph}=0.934$ ).

Center: RCJ0213+0516 – a radio galaxy ( $z_{sp}=0.935$ ) and a quasar ( $z_{sp}=0.938$ ) in a group of galaxies.

Left: RCJ0318+0506B ( $z_{ph}\sim 0.5$ ).



**Thank you for attention!**