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# PKS 0347+05: a radio-loud/radio-quiet double active galactic nucleus system triggered in a major galaxy merger

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#### ABSTRACT

We present optical, infrared (IR) and radio observations of the powerful Fanaroff-Riley type II (FR II) radio source PKS 0347+05 (z = 0.3390), and demonstrate that it is a rare example of a radio-loud/radio-quiet double active galactic nucleus (AGN) system, comprising a weak-line radio galaxy (WLRG) separated by 25 kpc (in projection) from a Seyfert 1 nucleus at the same redshift. Our deep Gemini optical images show a highly disturbed morphology, with a warped dust lane crossing through the halo and nuclear regions of the radio galaxy host, tidal tails and a bridge connecting the radio galaxy to the Seyfert 1 nucleus. Spectral synthesis modelling of our Gemini optical spectrum of the radio galaxy shows evidence for a reddened young stellar population of age <100 Myr. Further evidence for recent star formation activity in this source is provided by the detection of strong polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon features in mid-IR Spitzer/IRS spectra. Together, these observations support a model in which both AGN have been triggered simultaneously in a major galaxy merger. However, despite the presence of a powerful FR II radio source, and the apparently plentiful supply of fuel provided by the merger, the nucleus of the radio galaxy shows only weak, low-ionization emission-line activity. We speculate that the fuel supply to nuclear regions of the radio galaxy has recently switched off (within the last  $\sim 10^6$  yr), but the information about the resulting decrease in nuclear AGN activity has yet to reach the extended lobes and hotspots of the FR II radio source. Based on this scenario, we derive a lower limit on the typical lifetimes of powerful, intermediate-redshift FR II radio sources of  $\tau_{FR II} \gtrsim 5 \times 10^6$  yr. Overall, our observations emphasize that the fuelling of AGN activity in major galaxy mergers is likely to be highly intermittent.

Key words: galaxies: active – galaxies: individual: PKS 0347+05 – galaxies: interactions.

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Understanding the triggering of powerful, radio-loud active galactic nucleus (AGN) activity is important because relativistic jets and lobes of such AGN provide one of the most important forms of AGN-induced feedback: heating the hot gas in the extended X-ray haloes of the host galaxies and galaxy clusters and preventing it from cooling (McNamara & Nulsen 2007). The jets can also drive shocks and outflows in the warm gas on  $\sim$ 1–10 kpc scales (Holt, Tadhunter & Morganti 2008), directly affecting the star formation histories of the galaxy bulges.

In contrast to the results found for AGN of modest luminosity (e.g. Grogin et al. 2005; Cisternas et al. 2011), recent deep imaging and spectroscopic observations have provided strong evidence that luminous quasar-like AGN ( $L_{\rm bol} > 10^{45} {\rm ~erg~s^{-1}}$ ), of both radio-loud and radio-quiet varieties, are triggered in galaxy mergers (Ramos Almeida et al. 2011, 2012; Tadhunter et al. 2011; Villar-Martín et al. 2011, 2012; Bessiere et al. 2012). However, the triggering of these luminous AGN does not correspond to a single stage of a particular type of merger, with systems observed well before, around and after the time of coalescence of the nuclei of the merging galaxies. In this context, there is clearly an interest in understanding in greater

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**Table 1.** Summary of the general properties of the radio galaxy PKS 0347+05 and companion Seyfert 1 galaxy. Note that the IR luminosity  $L_{IR}$  was calculated according to the prescription of Sanders & Mirabel (1996) and represents the IR luminosity for the system as a whole (the far-IR emission of PKS 0347+05 is unresolved and cannot be attributed solely to one of the two main components). The stellar masses were estimated using the *K*-band photometry of Inskip et al. (2010).

	Radio galaxy	Seyfert 1
Redshift	$0.33903\pm 0.00016$	$0.33867\pm 0.00011$
Spectral type	WLRG	Sey 1
Radio morphology	FR II	_
$P_{5 \mathrm{GHz}} (\mathrm{W  Hz^{-1}})$	$4.5 \times 10^{26}$	_
$L_{[O III]}(W)$	$5.0 \times 10^{33}$	$1.6 \times 10^{34}$
$L_{\rm IR}$ (L <sub>O</sub> )	$(2.5^{+0.2}_{-0.6}) \times 10^{11}$	_
Stellar mass $(M_{\odot})$	$1.3 \times 10^{12}$	$4 \times 10^{11}$

detail the conditions that lead to the triggering of AGN in galaxy mergers.

In this paper we present a detailed optical, infrared (IR) and radio study of the powerful Fanaroff-Riley type II (FR II) radio source PKS 0347+05 (4C+05.16; see Table 1), which is one of the most spectacular merging systems revealed by our recent deep Gemini imaging study of a complete sample of 46 southern 2-Jy radio sources (Ramos Almeida et al. 2011). Previous observations of PKS 0347+05 produced apparently ambiguous results concerning the nature of the host galaxy and AGN: while imaging observations showed a diffuse galaxy at the expected position of the radio source host (di Serego Alighieri et al. 1994), published optical spectra of PKS 0347+05 reveal strong broad-line and non-stellar continuum emission characteristic of a broad-line radio galaxy (BLRG) or radio-loud quasar (Allington-Smith, Peacock & Dunlop 1991; di Serego Alighieri et al. 1994) - apparently inconsistent with the diffuse character of the host galaxy. In Section 3.1 we describe new optical imaging and spectroscopy observations which resolve the apparently ambiguous nature of this source, revealing it to be a rare example of a radio-loud/radio-quiet double AGN. The nature of the AGN activity is investigated in greater detail in Section 3.2, while we consider the recent star formation history of the radio source host galaxy in Sections 3.3 and 3.4. Finally, in Section 4 we discuss the implications of the results for our understanding of the triggering of AGN in galaxy mergers, and present a new method for determining the lifetimes of extragalactic radio sources. Throughout this paper we assume a cosmology with  $H_0 = 71 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1} \, Mpc^{-1}}$ ,  $\Omega_{\rm m} = 0.27$ and  $\Omega_{\lambda} = 0.73$ . This implies a luminosity distance of 1775 Mpc, and a scale of  $4.804 \text{ kpc } \text{arcsec}^{-1}$ , for the redshift of PKS 0347+05.

#### **2 OBSERVATIONS**

New optical long-slit spectroscopic observations for PKS 0347+05 were taken in 2007 February using the ISIS spectrograph on the 4.2-m William Herschel Telescope (WHT) on La Palma, and in 2008 December using the GMOS instrument on the Gemini-South (Gemini-S) telescope on Cerro Pachón, Chile. In both cases the slit was aligned along the parallactic angle, in order to avoid wavelength-dependent slit losses due to differential atmospheric refraction. Details of the spectroscopic observations are given in Table 2, while the slit positions of the various spectroscopic observations are shown overlayed on our Gemini-S r'-band image in Fig. 1(b).

In the case of the WHT data, observations were taken simultaneously with both the red and blue arms of the ISIS dualarm spectrograph, using the R300B and R158R gratings with a 1.5-arcsec slit. Initially, the slit was centred on the diffuse galaxy along the axis of the large-scale FR II radio source. However, the spectrum of the this galaxy showed only weak narrow emission lines, with no sign of the strong broad lines reported in previous studies of this source (Allington-Smith et al. 1991; di Serego Alighieri et al. 1994). Therefore, a spectrum was also taken with the slit centred on the object ~5 arcsec to the south-west (SW) of the nucleus of the diffuse galaxy, because this has the compact morphology that would generally be expected for a broad-line AGN. Indeed, the spectrum of the compact object proved to have strong broad lines similar to those detected in the previous observations of PKS 0347+05.

Motivated by the spectacular optical morphology of PKS 0347+05 revealed by our deep Gemini-S r'-band image (Ramos Almeida et al. 2011; see Fig. 1), a deep spectrum of the diffuse galaxy along the radio axis was taken using Gemini-S/GMOS in spectroscopic mode, in order to improve on the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of the WHT/ISIS data and allow spectral synthesis modelling of the stellar populations. The Gemini-S/GMOS observations were made using the B600 and R400 gratings, with the 1.5-arcsec slit centred on the nucleus of the diffuse galaxy. Although the B600 and R400 observations were not taken simultaneously, the observations with the two gratings were interleaved, in order to ensure uniform observing conditions and similar airmass and parallactic angle for the red and blue spectra.

The reduction of the WHT data followed the standard steps of bias subtraction, flat-fielding, wavelength calibration, flux calibration and correction for the tilt in the long-slit spectrum in the spatial direction; all the reduction was done using the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) package in IRAF.<sup>1</sup> The reduction of the Gemini data was similar, except that the IRAF Gemini package was used to mosaic the three GMOS CCD images and subtract the bias before proceeding with the wavelength and flux calibration. All the spectra were corrected for Galactic reddening [E(B - V) = 0.274 from Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis 1998] prior to further analysis.

Based on the measurement of night sky lines recorded in the longslit spectra, the accuracy of the wavelength calibration is better than 0.5 Å for both the WHT and the Gemini spectra, while comparisons between observations of several flux standard stars demonstrate that the relative flux calibration is accurate to within  $\pm 5$  per cent. Reassuringly, no scaling was required to match the flux levels of the red and blue arm WHT/ISIS spectra, and the B600 and R400 Gemini-S/GMOS spectra, in the wavelength regions where they overlap; the flux levels of the blue and red spectra agree to within 5 per cent.

Note that the reduction of r'-band Gemini images and *Spitzer*/IRS spectra discussed in the following sections are described in detail in Ramos Almeida et al. (2011) and Dicken et al. (2012), respectively.

#### **3 RESULTS**

#### 3.1 Optical morphology

Fig. 1 shows our deep r'-band image of the PKS 0347+05 system, clearly revealing that it has a complex morphology comprising two galaxies with projected separation of 5.3 arcsec (25 kpc), a diffuse

<sup>1</sup> IRAF is distributed by the NOAO, which is operated by the Association of Universities for the Research in Astronomy, Inc., under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation (http://iraf.noao.edu/).

**Table 2.** Details of the long-slit spectroscopic observations of PKS 0347+05. The final column gives the spectral resolution. In the case of the WHT observations, the shorter and longer exposure times correspond to observations taken with the slit centred on the eastern and western sources, respectively.

Telescope	Instrument	Grating	Date	Exposure (s)	PA (°)	Slit width (arcsec)	Seeing FWHM (arcsec)	$\begin{array}{c} \Delta\lambda \\ (\text{\AA}) \end{array}$
WHT	ISIS	R300B	9/02/07	900 and 2700	40	1.5	1.0	5.5
		R158R	9/02/07	900 and 2700	40	1.5	1.0	10.5
Gemini-S	GMOS	B600	23/12/08	3600	140	1.5	0.57	7.0
		R400	23/12/08	1800	140	1.5	0.57	13.7
Spitzer	IRS	SL	8/10/08	480	169	3.6	_	260
		LL	8/10/08	480	85	10.5	_	100



**Figure 1.** Deep imaging observations of PKS 0347+05. (a) Gemini r'-band image of PKS 0347+05. (b) Gemini r'-band image at higher contrast, with overlays showing the positions of the slits used for the WHT, Gemini and *Spitzer/IRS* spectroscopic observations. See Ramos Almeida et al. (2011) for details of the reduction of the optical imaging data. (c) Gemini r' band following subtraction of Sérsic law model fitted to the radio galaxy component.

and irregular low surface brightness envelope that extends 15 arcsec (70 kpc) to the north-west of the eastern galaxy, and a system of knot and tail features centred on the western galaxy that are co-aligned in the north-south direction.

To examine the near-nuclear structure in the eastern galaxy in more detail, we have subtracted a model for its surface brightness profile. We performed the modelling using GALFIT version 3.0.2 (Peng et al. 2002, 2010).<sup>2</sup> First, we derived a PSF profile by extracting the 2D images of several stars in the Gemini-S/GMOS image, normalizing to unit flux and taking an average profile weighted by the S/N of the component extracted stellar profiles. The system was then modelled over a  $70 \times 70 \operatorname{arcsec}^2$  area, using a Sérsic profile

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Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society © 2012 RAS by University of Sheffield user on 03 November 2017 (Sérsic 1963) to fit the eastern galaxy, and a point source (PSF profile) to fit the compact western galaxy. The best-fitting Sérsic profile index for the eastern galaxy was n = 2.8. All model parameters, including the centroids of the two galaxies, were allowed to vary freely. We also left the residual background level as an additional free parameter.

Fig. 1(c) shows the result of the GALFIT model subtraction. Clearly, the near-nuclear structure of the eastern galaxy is highly complex, with warped dust lane that threads through the nuclear regions and eastern halo of the galaxy, and has an extent of 2.3 arcsec (11 kpc) to the west, and 5.1 arcsec (25 kpc) to the east. It is notable that the western extension of the dust lane points towards the nucleus of the western galaxy. There is also evidence for a second dust lane cutting through the extended halo of the system  $\sim$ 5 arcsec to the north of the western nucleus.

The nucleus of the western galaxy is only marginally resolved [full width at half-maximum (FWHM)  $\sim 0.6$  arcsec] at the resolution of our Gemini data. On the other hand, the nuclear region of the eastern galaxy is resolved into a central compact component, with high surface brightness condensations 1.1 arcsec (5.3 kpc) to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> GALFIT is a well-documented 2D fitting algorithm which allows the user to simultaneously fit a galaxy image with an arbitrary number of different model components, in order to extract structural parameters of the galaxy. The model galaxy is convolved with a point spread function (PSF) and, using the downhill-gradient Levenberg–Marquardt algorithm, is matched to the observational data via the minimization of the  $\chi^2$  statistic.



Figure 2. Gemini r'-band image of PKS 0347+05 (grey-scale) overlayed with the 5-GHz radio map of Morganti, Killeen & Tadhunter (1993) (contours).

the east in the direction of the dust lane, and 1.2 (5.8 kpc) arcsec to the north-west (see Fig. 1c). The fact that the latter feature is also visible in the *K*-band image of Inskip et al. (2010) suggests that it may represent a third nucleus in the system. There is also a region of more diffuse emission that runs to the south of, and parallel to, the dust lane. It is possible that all of these brighter features represent regions of star formation that are associated with, and partially obscured by, the dust lane.

We note that Inskip et al. (2010) find that a substantial contribution from a point source (20 per cent) is required in order to fit the *K*-band light profile of the western galaxy adequately, but that it is possible to fit the light profile of the eastern galaxy using a Sérsic law (index = 4) without any point source component. This analysis also shows that the ratio of the total *K*-band flux of the eastern to that of the western galaxy is  $\sim$ 3:1.

Overall, the PKS 0347+05 system shows a high degree of morphological disturbance at optical wavelengths, consistent with the idea that it represents a major galaxy merger observed in the precoalescence stage, before the nuclei of the precursor galaxies finally coalesce.

#### 3.2 The nature of the AGN activity in PKS 0347+05

As described in Section 1, the AGN classification of PKS 0347+05 has been ambiguous in the past: while the spectroscopic studies classify it as a BLRG on the basis of the detection of a strong broad  $H\alpha$  line, this is apparently at odds with the diffuse nature of the host galaxy.

Fig. 2 shows an overlay of the 5-GHz Very Large Array (VLA) radio map on our r'-band Gemini image. The 5-GHz map reveals a classical FR II morphology aligned along position angle PA =  $170^{\circ}$ , with strong, relatively undistorted, edge-brightened radio lobes. The total diameter of the radio source is  $326 \pm 24$  kpc. Although no radio core is detected at either 5 or 22 GHz (Morganti et al. 1993; Dicken et al. 2009), the fact that the line connecting the highest surface brightness regions in the two radio lobes falls with 0.5 arcsec of the nucleus of the eastern galaxy provides strong evidence that the radio jets originate in the eastern galaxy (see also di Serego Alighieri et al. 1994). While we cannot entirely rule out the idea that radio



**Figure 3.** WHT spectroscopic observations of the PKS 0347+05 system. Top: spectrum of the nucleus of the diffuse galaxy to the east  $(1.5 \times 2.2 \text{ arcsec} \text{ extraction aperture})$ . Bottom: spectrum of the compact object to the west  $(1.5 \times 1.6 \text{ arcsec} \text{ extraction aperture})$ . The fluxes are in units of  $10^{-17} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Å}^{-1}$ .

jets originate in the western nucleus, this is highly unlikely given the undistorted nature of the radio structure and the close positional agreement between the radio axis and the nucleus of the eastern galaxy.

The apparently ambiguous nature of the optical AGN classification is resolved by our new spectroscopy. In the course of our 2007 WHT observations we made spectroscopic observations of both the diffuse eastern galaxy and its more compact companion to the west (see Fig. 3). The eastern galaxy shows weak, narrow H $\alpha$  and [NII] emission lines, but the  $[O_{III}]\lambda 5007$  emission that is either weak or absent. In contrast, our spectrum of the western nucleus reveals broad H $\alpha$ , H $\beta$  and Fe II emission lines that are characteristic of quasars or Seyfert 1 nuclei, although its relatively low [O III] luminosity (see Table 3) is more typical of Seyfert 1 nuclei than quasars (see Zakamska et al. 2003). It is also notable that the general character of the spectrum of western nucleus, with its low equivalent width [OIII] emission and relatively strong broad FeII blends, has more in common with radio-quiet AGN than with radio-loud AGN. Indeed, such spectral characteristics are rare in steep radio spectrum, radio-loud AGN (Boroson & Green 1992).

We contend that previous spectroscopic studies of PKS 0347+05 have reported observations of the nucleus of the western companion galaxy (this would appear brighter in target acquisition systems), rather than the true (diffuse) radio source host galaxy to the east. This explains the previous classification of this source as a BLRG. In the following we refer to the eastern galaxy as the radio galaxy and the western galaxy as the Seyfert 1 nucleus.

**Table 3.** Diagnostic emission-line ratios for the nuclear regions of the PKS 0347+05 radio galaxy, measured from the Gemini, WHT and *Spitzer* spectra. Note that, in the case of the Gemini spectra, the best-fitting stellar continuum model was subtracted from the spectra prior to measuring the line ratios. Further details of the *Spitzer* spectra are given in Dicken et al. (2012). Given that the longer wavelengths (>6000 Å, in the rest frame) of the Gemini spectrum are likely to be affected by fringing, we also present the [N II](6584)/H $\alpha$  ratio measured from the WHT spectrum.

Line ratio	Value	Instrument
[Оп](3727)/[Оп](5007)	$1.60 \pm 0.8$	Gemini/GMOS
$H\delta/H\beta$	$0.24 \pm 0.06$	Gemini/GMOS
$H\gamma/H\beta$	$0.48 \pm 0.07$	Gemini/GMOS
[O III](5007)/Hβ	$1.04 \pm 0.09$	Gemini/GMOS
[N II](6584)/Hα	$0.69 \pm 0.12$	WHT/ISIS
	$0.75 \pm 0.14$	Gemini/GMOS
[Ne III](15.6)/[Ne II](12.8)	$0.39\pm0.13$	Spitzer/IRS



**Figure 4.** Gemini/GMOS spectrum of the PKS 0347+05 radio galaxy (1.5 × 1.45 arcsec extraction aperture). Not that the dips in the spectra at ~3760 and ~4480 Å are due to the gaps between the CCD detectors used in the GMOS instrument. The spectrum has been corrected for Galactic reddening. The fluxes are in units of  $10^{-17}$  erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> Å<sup>-1</sup>.

Further clues to the nature of the AGN in the radio galaxy host are provided by our deeper Gemini/GMOS spectrum of the nucleus of the eastern galaxy (Fig. 4). This reveals weak  $[O \amalg] \lambda \lambda 5007$ , 4959, H $\beta$  and [O II]  $\lambda$ 3727 emission lines as well as a strong stellar continuum. Given the low equivalent width of its  $[O III] \lambda 5007$ emission line ( $\leq 10$  Å), this object qualifies as a weak-line radio galaxy (WLRG) according to the criterion of Tadhunter et al. (1998). Table 3 summarizes the line ratio information for the nucleus of the eastern galaxy. The generally low-ionization character of the nuclear spectrum is characteristic of WLRG in general. However, this object falls in the 'composite' region of the  $[O_{III}]/H\beta$  versus  $[N_{II}]/H\alpha$ diagnostic diagram shown in Fig. 5, suggesting a significant contribution from stellar, rather than AGN, photoionization (Kewley et al. 2006). Therefore, the strength of any AGN-photoionized emissionline component in the eastern nucleus is likely to be even weaker than estimated on the basis of the total [O III] emission-line luminosity. It is notable that, despite the possible contribution from stellar photoionization, the [O III] luminosity of PKS 0347+05 is two orders of magnitude lower than radio galaxies of similar redshift and radio power in the 2-Jy sample described in Tadhunter et al. (1998); it is by far the highest redshift WLRG in the 2-Jy sample —

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**Figure 5.**  $[O ext{ III}]/H\beta$  versus  $[N ext{ II}]/H\alpha$  diagnostic plot showing the position of the nucleus of PKS 0347+05 (large black circle) relative to SDSSdetected galaxies (grey dots) from SDSS DR8. Points below the dashed line represent H ext{ II} regions galaxies dominated by stellar photoionization, while points above the black solid line represent objects dominated by AGN photoionization (Kewley et al. 2006). Note that PKS 0347+05 falls in the composite zone between these two lines, indicating a mixture of AGN and stellar photoionization.

the next highest redshift 2-Jy WLRG is PKS 1648+05 (Her A) at z = 0.158.

Although the [O III] emission is not detected directly in the nuclear regions of the radio galaxy in our low S/N WHT spectrum, we do detect weak extended [O III] emission in the WHT spectrum along  $PA = 40^{\circ}$  that extends 9.2 arcsec (44 kpc) to the SW and 4.4 arcsec (21 kpc) to the north-east (NE) of the nucleus (see Fig. 6). The velocity pattern along this PA has the characteristics of a rotation curve, with the extended [O III] emission on the SW side of the nucleus blueshifted by  $10.9 \pm 0.8$  Å (8.1  $\pm 0.6$  Å, or  $485 \pm 36$  km s<sup>-1</sup> in the radio galaxy rest frame) relative to that on the NE side; this velocity pattern is likely to be associated with the rotation of the disc-like structure/dust lane visible in our optical r'-band image. The average of the wavelengths of the [OIII] emission on either side of the nucleus provides an estimate of the systemic redshift of the radio galaxy of  $z_{rg} = 0.33903 \pm 0.00016$ . This agrees within the measurement uncertainties with the redshift estimated from a Gaussian fit to the [O III] emission detected in our nuclear Gemini spectrum (Fig. 4;  $z_{rg} = 0.33895 \pm 0.00008$ ). For comparison, the redshift of the Seyfert 1 nucleus implied by the centroid wavelength of a Gaussian fit to its [O III] emission is  $z_{sy1} = 0.33867 \pm 0.00011$ . Thus, the rest-frame radial velocity difference between radio galaxy and the Seyfert 1 nucleus is small:  $\Delta V = -80 \pm 44 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$ .

#### 3.3 The mid- to far-IR characteristics

In Figs 7(a) and (b) we show the mid-IR 24- and 70- $\mu$ m monochromatic luminosities plotted against [O III] emission-line luminosity for the 3CRR and 2-Jy samples described in Dicken et al. (2010), with the position of PKS 0347+05 highlighted. It is clear that PKS 0347+05 falls well above the observed correlations at both wavelengths, implying a substantial contribution from a



**Figure 6.** Cut out of the WHT long-slit spectrum along  $PA = 40^{\circ}$ , showing the faint, extended [O III]  $\lambda$ 5007 emission that is detected out to a maximum radius of 9.2 arcsec to the SW and 4.4 arcsec to the NE of the radio galaxy nucleus. Although the slit is centred on the radio galaxy, it encompasses some emission from the western galaxy – the slit passes ~1.5 south of the Seyfert 1 nucleus (see Fig. 1b).

starburst-heated dust component (Dicken et al. 2009, 2010). Further evidence for dust-obscured star formation in PKS 0347+05 is provided by its relatively red mid- to far-IR (MFIR) colour  $[F(70)/F(24) = 8.8 \pm 1.3]$ , which is characteristic of starburst objects, but is much redder than measured in AGN-dominated radio galaxies (Dicken et al. 2009, 2010). Using the *Spitzer* photometric data presented in Dicken et al. (2009) we estimate that the MFIR luminosity of the PKS 0347+05 system as a whole is  $L_{\rm IR} = (2.5^{+0.2}_{-0.6}) \times 10^{11} L_{\odot}$  – implying that it is a luminous rather than an ultraluminous IR galaxy (ULIRG; Sanders & Mirabel 1996).

The overall impression of prodigious star formation activity, but weak AGN activity, is reinforced by our *Spitzer/*IRS spectrum of the radio galaxy (Fig. 8; see Dicken et al. 2012, for details), which shows strong PAH 6.6-, 7.7-, 11.3-µm emission bands and a moderately strong [Ne II]  $\lambda$ 12.8 µm line, but no sign of lines such as [Ne v]  $\lambda$ 14.3 µm or [O IV]  $\lambda$ 25.9 µm which are characteristic of AGN. Moreover, the [Ne III]  $\lambda$ 15.6 µm line is barely detected. We further note that the luminosity of the 11.3-µm PAH feature detected in PKS 0347+05 ( $L_{11.3} \sim 3 \times 10^{37}$  W) is the second highest in the 2-Jy sample (Dicken et al. 2012). Strong PAH features are rare in powerful radio galaxies; they are only detected in 30 per cent of the objects in the 3CRR and 2-Jy samples studied by Dicken et al. (2012).

### **3.4** The star formation history and stellar mass of the host galaxy

The optical emission-line spectrum, MFIR excess, red MFIR colours and strong PAH features all provide evidence for recent star formation activity in PKS 0347+05. We can gain further insights into the star formation history of the radio galaxy by modelling the deep Gemini spectrum of its nucleus (Fig. 4). This spectrum has a composite character, showing absorption features that are characteristic of relatively old stellar populations (OSPs; e.g. *G* band, Ca II K), as well a weak H $\delta$  Balmer line absorption and an ultraviolet (UV) excess that are characteristic of much younger stellar populations.

For this purposes of modelling the spectrum we have used CON-FIT, which is a purpose-written IDL-based code (see Robinson et al.



**Figure 7.** Position of PKS 0347+05 (red star) on the correlations between  $L_{24 \mu m}$  versus  $L_{[O III]}$  (top) and  $L_{70 \mu m}$  versus  $L_{[O III]}$  (bottom) for samples of 2-Jy and 3CRR radio sources (see Dicken et al. 2009, 2010, for details), with objects showing optical and PAH evidence for recent star formation identified with circles. Note that the PKS 0347+05 system has MFIR luminosities that are an order of magnitude higher than typical radio galaxies in the 3CRR and 2-Jy samples of similar [O III] luminosity.

2000; Tadhunter et al. 2005). Employing a minimum  $\chi^2$  technique to find the best fit to spectra, CONFIT attempts to model each spectrum with the minimum number of components. In the case of PKS 0347+05 we used two components: an OSP with an age of 12.5 Gyr and instantaneous burst young stellar population (YSP) with age in the range 0.001-5.0 Gyr and reddening in the range 0.0 < E(B - V) < 1.6 (solar metallicity model templates taken from Bruzual & Charlot 2003). We assumed a simple screen geometry for the reddening dust and used a Calzetti et al. (2000) extinction law for all the stellar populations.

Prior to the modelling it was important to gauge the level of any nebular continuum component, since this component is known to make a significant contribution to near-UV continua of narrow-line



**Figure 8.** *Spitzer/IRS* spectrum of PKS 0347+05 with the positions of various fine-structure and  $H_2$  emission lines identified. Note the strong PAH emission band features at 6.6, 7.7, 11.3 µm. Details of the reduction of the IRS data are presented in Dicken et al. (2012).

AGN with high equivalent width emission lines (Dickson et al. 1995; Tadhunter et al. 2002). In the case of PKS 0347+05 we find that, based on the H $\beta$  flux corrected for underlying stellar absorption, the nebular continuum is negligible, contributing <5 per cent of the continuum below 3500 Å. Moreover, given that the level of AGN activity indicated by the narrow lines is relatively low in this object, it is unlikely that AGN-related continuum components such as scattered or direct AGN emission contribute significantly to the optical/UV (see Tadhunter et al. 2002). Therefore, no correction for nebular continuum was deemed necessary, and we did not include components in our model to specifically take into account a scattered or direct AGN continuum component.

In carrying out the modelling, 52 continuum bins of 30-Å width were used. These were chosen to avoid emission lines, telluric absorption features, gaps between the GMOS CCD detectors and image defects. The wavelength range for the modelling was restricted to the rest wavelength range  $\sim$ 3000–6000 Å, in order to avoid the red end of the Gemini/GMOS spectrum which is strongly affected by fringing. The spectral bin 4050–4080 Å was selected for normalization. CONFIT works by scaling the flux from the model components so that the total flux incorporated in the model is always less that 125 per cent of the observed flux in the normalizing bin. The code then calculates the minimum  $\chi^2$  for each combination of components using different relative fluxes between the components. A relative flux calibration error of ±5 per cent was assumed for modelling the continuum of PKS 0347+05.

Initially, we assumed an unreddened OSP. This assumption is justified on the basis that OSPs in the foreground of the halo of the galaxy are unlikely to suffer major extinction by the near-nuclear dust lane, while OSPs in the stellar halo that are behind the dust lane along the line of sight are likely to be substantially extinguished and not contribute significantly to the total light of the OSP component. We find that, regardless of the degree of reddening in the OSP component, the inclusion of a YSP is essential for modelling the optical/UV continuum of PKS 0347+05. The contours of  $\chi^2_{red}$ for the unreddened OSP models show three minima, with three combinations of YSP age and reddening providing a viable fit to the overall shape of the spectrum ( $\chi^2_{red}$  < 1): 0.005–0.01 Gyr with 1.1 < E(B - V) < 1.4; 0.06–0.1 Gyr with 1.1 < E(B - V) < 1.4; and 0.8–1.2 Gyr with 0.2 < E(B - V) < 0.4. Detailed inspection of the fits to the stellar absorption features rules out the solutions with older age YSP (0.8-1.2 Gyr) because they substantially overpredict the Ca II K absorption line strength. However, we cannot distinguish between the two younger age YSP models based on the detailed fits. A major problem with the remaining viable models is that they require highly reddened YSP components, implying total YSP masses and star formation rates of the YSP components that are implausibly high ( $M_{ysp} > 10^{11}$  M<sub> $\odot$ </sub> and SFR  $> 10^3$  M<sub> $\odot$ </sub> yr<sup>-1</sup>).

Given the problems with the zero reddening OSP models, we then experimented with models in which the OSPs are lightly reddened by E(B - V) = 0.15 and 0.3. In the case of the E(B - V) = 0.3OSP models we obtain viable fits to both the overall spectral energy distribution and detailed absorption features for YSP ages  $t_{\rm vsp}$  < 0.1 Gyr and YSP reddening  $0.4 < E(B - V) < 1.0^3$ , while the viable models with OSP reddened by E(B - V) = 0.15 have similar YSP ages and 0.8 < E(B - V) < 1.1 (see Figs 9 and 10 for examples of the model fits). Although they produce similar estimates of YSP ages, the major advantage of these lightly reddened OSP models is that, because the YSP reddening is lower, and the YSP contributes less to the flux in the normalizing bin, the masses of the YSP and the star formation rates are more plausible  $(4 \times 10^9 < M_{ysp} < 5 \times 10^9)$  $10^{10} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ ;  $40 < \mathrm{SFR} < 500 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}} \,\mathrm{yr^{-1}}$ ). On the basis of these models we estimate that the YSP contributes between 0.6 and 10 per cent (depending on the precise model) of the total stellar mass in the central regions of the galaxy covered by our spectroscopic aperture.

It would be difficult to be more precise about the ages of the YSP in PKS 0347+05, because of the uncertainties in the templates used in the modelling, and also because the starburst may not in fact be instantaneous. However, the estimated YSP ages ( $0.05 < t_{YSP} < 0.1$ ) overlap with the range of typical lifetimes of extragalactic radio sources, as estimated on the basis of spectral ageing and dynamical arguments (e.g. Alexander & Leahy 1987; Parma et al. 1999), and are consistent with the rate of occurrence of WLRG in the radio source population (see Section 4.2 below). Therefore, it is plausible that the AGN and jets in PKS 0347+05 were triggered during the most recent phase of merger-induced starburst activity. Certainly, there is no evidence for a substantial delay in the triggering of the AGN activity, as found in some studies of lower luminosity radio galaxies (Tadhunter et al. 2005, 2011) and radio-quiet AGN (Wild, Heckman & Charlot 2010).

<sup>3</sup> Note that we assume that the YSP is more highly reddened than the OSP, i.e. E(B - V) > 0.3.

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**Figure 9.** Spectral synthesis modelling of the nuclear spectrum of PKS 0347+05, showing the contours of minimum  $\chi^2$  for different combinations of the age and reddening [E(B - V)] of the YSP. The upper plot shows the full range of age and reddening used in the modelling, while the lower plot shows an expanded view of the younger stellar ages.

We have also used our spectral synthesis modelling results in combination with published photometry to estimate the total stellar mass of the host galaxy of PKS 0347+05. In making this estimate we have used our lightly reddened OSP models to calculate the total stellar mass (OSP+YSP) within our spectroscopic aperture, and the r'-band photometry of Ramos Almeida et al. (2011) to calculate the mass of the stellar halo outside the spectroscopic aperture.<sup>4</sup> In the latter case we assume that the light from the extended halo of the galaxy is emitted entirely by an unreddened OSP. Making this assumption we find total stellar masses in the range  $9 \times 10^{11} <$  $M_{\rm host} < 1.3 \times 10^{12} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$  – similar to the  $M_{\rm host} = 1.3 \times 10^{12} \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}}$ obtained by comparing the 64-kpc-diameter aperture K-band photometry of Inskip et al. (2010) with the spectral synthesis models of Maraston et al. (2009). Alternatively, if we assume that the stellar population mix and reddening are the same in the extended halo as in the nuclear aperture, we find that the total stellar masses are up to a factor of 2 higher. Note that all these mass estimates place the host galaxy of PKS 0347+05 at the upper end of the mass range for both starburst and non-starburst radio galaxies (Seymour et al. 2007; Tadhunter et al. 2011). Indeed, PKS 0347+05 falls significantly below the K-z relationship presented in Inskip et al. (2010) and, in terms of comparison with systems undergoing major mergers

in the local Universe, it is more massive than the host galaxies of *any* of the 26 low-redshift ULIRGs in the complete sample of Rodríguez-Zaurín, Tadhunter & González-Delgado (2010).

#### **4 DISCUSSION**

#### 4.1 Explaining the unusual properties of PKS 0347+05

PKS 0347+05 shows an unusual combination of properties. Although it is typical of powerful, FR II radio galaxies at intermediate redshifts in the sense that it is hosted by a giant elliptical galaxy that shows signs of a recent galaxy interaction (see Inskip et al. 2010; Ramos Almeida et al. 2011), it is unusual in showing a lack of evidence for AGN activity at both optical and mid-IR wavelengths, yet strong evidence for prodigious star formation activity. This rare combination of powerful FR II radio and strong recent ( $t_{ysp} < 100 \text{ Myr}$ ) star formation activity is generally associated with objects that also show quasar-like levels of nuclear emission-line activity ( $L_{[0 \text{ III}]} > 10^{35} \text{ W}$ ; Tadhunter et al. 2011).

The lack of evidence for powerful current AGN activity in the nuclear regions of PKS 0347+05 is all the more surprising given that the system appears to be undergoing a major gas-rich merger that has triggered substantial star formation activity; under such circumstances one would expect there to be a plentiful supply of gas fuel to the nuclear regions of the host galaxy, as predicted by hydrodynamical simulations of gas-rich mergers (di Matteo, Springel & Hernquist 2005; di Matteo et al. 2007; Johansson, Naab & Burkert 2009).

How do we explain the lack of powerful AGN activity in the nuclear regions of this system despite the evidence for powerful jet activity in the form of the FR II radio source? One possibility is that this is an extreme example of an FR II/WLRG in which the particular mode of accretion on to the black hole is such that it leads to powerful FR II radio activity without luminous emissionline activity. For example, it has been suggested that WLRGs are associated with fuelling via hot gas accretion, whereas strong-line radio galaxies (SLRGs) are associated with cold gas accretion (e.g. Hardcastle, Evans & Croston 2007; Buttiglione et al. 2010). However, this explanation seems unlikely in the case of PKS 0347+05 given that it is undergoing the final stages of a major gas-rich merger that is leading to prodigious star formation activity, and would be expected to be associated with a plentiful supply of cold gas fuel to the nuclear regions. Moreover, it is difficult to explain the jet power of such a luminous radio source purely in terms of Bondi accretion of the hot interstellar medium (ISM), unless the central black hole is unusually massive for its K-band luminosity and/or the hot ISM in the central regions of the galaxy is unusually dense (see fig. 1 of Hardcastle et al. 2007).

More plausibly, the jet and associated AGN activity in PKS 0347+05 are indeed fuelled by cold gas accreted in the merger, but the fuel supply is intermittent. In particular, we suggest that the rate of merger-driven accretion into the nuclear regions has recently diminished substantially in this object on a time-scale that is shorter than the light travel time to the radio/lobes hotspots ( $\sim 5 \times 10^5$  yr). Therefore, at the time we are observing the source, the level of nuclear AGN/jet activity is relatively low – leading to the WLRG classification – but the information about the decreased AGN/jet activity has yet to reach the extended radio lobes/hotspots, which still reflect the old (higher) levels of nuclear activity. Indeed, many of the most recent hydrodynamical simulations of major, gas-rich galaxy mergers provide evidence that, despite the generally high rates of accretion into the nuclear regions in the final stages of such mergers,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> We estimate that our spectroscopic aperture contains 26 per cent of the total stellar light at 6300 Å, contained within the 30-kpc-diameter photometric aperture used by Ramos Almeida et al. (2011).



**Figure 10.** Example of a model fit to the nuclear spectrum of PKS 0347+05. The model comprises a combination of the lightly reddened OSP [E(B - V) = 0.15: upper green curve] and a 0.08-Gyr YSP with a higher reddening [E(B - V) = 1.0: lower green curve]. The black line shows the observations, while the red line shows the model obtained by combining the OSP and YSP components; the histogram boxes at the bottom of the plot show the differences between the fluxes of the model and the data in each of the wavelength bins used for the modelling.

the gas flows are highly intermittent (e.g. Johansson et al. 2009). Moreover, further evidence for intermittency of the fuel supply is provided by mid-IR spectroscopic observations of ULIRGs which, despite generally being considered to represent the final stages of gas-rich mergers (within ~100 Myr of coalescence of the nuclei; Rodríguez-Zaurín et al. 2010), show a considerable range in the level of nuclear AGN activity, with the AGN energetically dominant in <50 per cent of cases (Veilleux et al. 2009). We also note that, based on the detailed analysis of their optical emission-line spectra, it has been suggested that the AGN in some other WLRG have only recently switched off (Capetti et al. 2011).

The other interesting feature of PKS 0347+05 is that it represents a rare example of a radio-loud/radio-quiet double AGN. Although many double-AGN systems are now known - many detected on the basis of Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) data - radio-loud/radioquiet double AGN are relatively rare, perhaps reflecting the fact that radio-loud AGN comprise only a small fraction of the overall AGN population, and are associated with giant elliptical galaxies at the upper end of the galaxy mass function. In this context we note that, of the 20 powerful radio galaxies from the 0.05 < z < 0.7 '2-Jy sample' that show double nuclei or are tidally interacting with a companion galaxy (Ramos Almeida et al. 2011), as far as we are aware, only PKS 0347+05 shows evidence for dual-AGN activity (representing only 5 per cent of the pre-coalescence systems in the 2-Jy sample). Previously reported examples of radio-loud/radioquiet dual AGN include 3C 294 (Stockton et al. 2004), 3C 321 (Robinson et al. 2000; Evans et al. 2008) and FIRST J164311.3+315618 (Brotherton et al. 1999). However, unlike PKS 0347+05, the radio galaxy components in all of these latter systems show powerful nuclear emission-line activity.

The simultaneous triggering of AGN in two galaxies undergoing an interaction can be naturally understood in terms of the radial gas flows driven by the tidal torques associated with such interactions. The radial gas flows are expected to take place simultaneously in both of the interacting galaxies, potentially triggering AGN activity. Given the large amounts of gas being funnelled into the near-nuclear regions of the interacting galaxies, the question then arises as to why dual AGN are not more common in interacting systems. The answer is likely to relate to the intermittency of the fuel supply, as already discussed above. Certainly, the presence of large quantities of gas in the central kpc is not by itself a sufficient condition for the

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society © 2012 RAS by University of Sheffield user on 03 November 2017 triggering of an AGN: the gas must also shed a considerable amount of its angular momentum to be accreted to the requisite sub-pc scales, and feedback effects associated with the central interactioninduced starburst component may either enhance or decrease the rate of accretion on to the central supermassive black hole.

Recent hydrodynamical simulations of the triggering of AGN in major spiral/elliptical mergers (van Wassenhove et al. 2012) demonstrate that dual AGN are likely to be observed in only a small percentage ( $\sim$ 0.6–16 per cent depending on the AGN luminosity threshold) of pre-coalescence elliptical–spiral mergers for nuclear separations >10 kpc. This is consistent with the low rate of dual-AGN activity among the pre-coalescence radio galaxies in the 2-Jy sample.<sup>5</sup>

#### 4.2 The lifetimes of intermediate-redshift FR II radio sources

Assuming that our interpretation of the properties of PKS 0347+05 is correct, by looking at the rate of occurrence of similar objects in the radio source population, we can obtain an estimate of the typical lifetimes of intermediate-redshift FR II radio sources that is independent of the usual spectral ageing and dynamical arguments.

There are five time-scales to consider: the lifetime of the FR II radio source ( $\tau_{\rm FR II}$ ), the lifetime of the associated SLRG/quasar phase of nuclear activity ( $\tau_{\rm SLRG}$ ), the lifetime of the WLRG phase ( $\tau_{\rm WLRG}$ ), the light crossing time of the narrow-line region ( $\tau_{\rm NLR}$ ) and the light travel time from nucleus to the radio hotspots ( $\tau_{\rm HS}$ ). Given that the typical light crossing time of the near-nuclear NLR is  $\tau_{\rm NLR} \sim 3 \times 10^3$  yr (assuming  $r_{\rm NLR} = 1$  kpc), and typical powerful FR II radio sources have hotspot light travel times  $\tau_{\rm HS} > 10^5$  yr, we deduce that  $\tau_{\rm NLR} \ll \tau_{\rm HS}$ .

Following the scenario we have proposed for PKS 0347+05, we start by assuming that we observe WLRG optical spectra in powerful FR II radio sources for the full period of time after the central AGN and jets have switched off, and the NLR has faded,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>A caveat with comparing the simulations with the results for 2 Jy and other radio galaxy samples is that the (van Wassenhove et al. 2012) simulations concern galaxies that have significantly lower stellar and black hole masses than typical radio galaxies; the extent to which the black hole mass affects the dual-AGN statistics is not clear.

but before the information about this has reached the radio hotspots (i.e. over the time interval  $\tau_{\rm NLR} < t < \tau_{\rm HS}$ ). In this case,  $\tau_{\rm FR\,II} = \tau_{\rm SLRG} + \tau_{\rm HS}$ ,  $\tau_{\rm HS} = \tau_{\rm WLRG}$  and the fraction of WLRG detected in the population of powerful FR II radio sources is then  $f_{\rm WLRG} = \tau_{\rm HS}/\tau_{\rm FR\,II}$ . This leads to the following estimate of the lifetime of a typical FR II radio source:  $\tau_{\rm FR\,II} = \tau_{\rm HS}/f_{\rm WLRG} = L_{\rm rad}/(2cf_{\rm WLRG})$ , where  $L_{\rm rad}$  is the typical linear size of a radio source just before it switches off.

To determine the fraction of WLRG in the population of powerful radio galaxies ( $f_{WLRG}$ ), we consider the subsample of radio sources in the 0.05 < z < 0.7 '2-Jy sample' described in Tadhunter et al. (1998) and Dicken et al. (2009) with 5-GHz radio powers  $P_{5 \text{ GHz}} >$ 10<sup>26</sup> W Hz<sup>-1</sup>. This radio power cut ensures that all the radio sources are genuinely powerful radio sources with FR II or compact steep spectrum/gigahertz-peaked radio morphologies.<sup>6</sup> We find that the high radio power subset of the full 2-Jy sample comprises a total of 29 objects, of which 26 are classified as SLRG, and only three (PKS 0347+05, PKS 1648+05 and PKS 2211-17) are classified as WLRG.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, we deduce  $f_{WLRG} = 0.1$  and, assuming that  $L_{\rm rad} = 326$  kpc and  $\tau_{\rm HS} = 5 \times 10^5$  are typical of radio galaxies of similar radio power and redshift as PKS 0347+05 (e.g. Allington-Smith 1984), we obtain  $\tau_{\text{FR II}} = 5 \times 10^6$  yr. This is consistent with spectral ageing estimates of the lifetimes of powerful FR II radio sources (e.g. Alexander & Leahy 1987).

One of the major assumptions we have made is that the sources will appear as WLRGs over the full period  $\tau_{NLR} < t < \tau_{HS}$ . However, if the AGN has switched off completely over this period, and the AGN is the only source of ionization for the [O III] emission, then we would expect to observe negligible [O III] flux in most WLRGs. This is because the e-folding time of the intensity decline in the  $[O_{III}]$  emission is only ~20 yr for a typical NLR electron density of  $n_e = 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  (Binette & Robinson 1987; Capetti et al. 2011). In contrast, we do detect weak but significant [O III] emission from all three WLRGs in the high-power radio galaxy sample described above. A possible explanation for this apparent contradiction is that there remains significant low-level AGN activity that is capable of photoionizing the [O III] emission-line region in the post-SLRG phase. Alternatively, other ionizing sources (e.g. young stars or shocks) may be sufficient to produce the low-level [O III] emission once the AGN has faded. In this context, it is notable that at least two of the three WLRGs in the high-power radio source sample -PKS 0347+05 and PKS 1648+05 - fall in the 'composite' region of the diagnostic diagrams in which stellar photoionization may play a significant role.

Finally we emphasize that, if we are wrong in our assumption that *all* WLRGs are objects in which the AGN/jets have recently switched off, our estimate FR II radio source lifetime represents a lower limit on  $\tau_{\text{FR II}}$ , because  $f_{\text{WLRG}}$  – representing the fraction of genuine 'switch of' WLRG sources in the above equations – would then be lower than we have assumed; if  $\tau_{\text{FR II}}$  were substantially less that the 5 × 10<sup>6</sup> yr we have estimated, and all FR II radio sources grow to a linear size of a few hundred kpc before their AGN switch off, we would expect to detect a much higher fraction of WLRG in the high-power radio source population than is observed.

 $^7$  Tadhunter et al. (1998) define WLRGs as objects with [O III] equivalent widths EW<sub>O III</sub> < 10 Å. Although this definition encompasses objects in which no [O III] emission is detected, there are no such objects in the high-power 2-Jy sample.

#### **5** CONCLUSIONS

We identify PKS 0347+05 as a dual radio galaxy/Seyfert 1 AGN system in which both the AGN have been triggered as a consequence of the gas flows associated with a major galaxy merger. The fact that no powerful optical or mid-IR AGN activity is currently detected in the nucleus of the galaxy hosting the powerful FR II radio source can be explained in terms of a recent, rapid decline in the nuclear AGN activity within the last  $10^6$  yr which has yet to be reflected in the properties of the extended radio source. This, along with the overall rarity of dual AGN, highlights the intermittency of the AGN fuel supply, even in systems undergoing the final stages of major gas-rich mergers.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The only exception is PKS 1648+05 (Her A), which has a radio morphology that is intermediate between FR I and FR II.

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