

CLUSTER PALEONTOLOGY IN ABELL 3266: FOSSILS, RELICS AND REMNANTS

Chris Riseley | Research Fellow

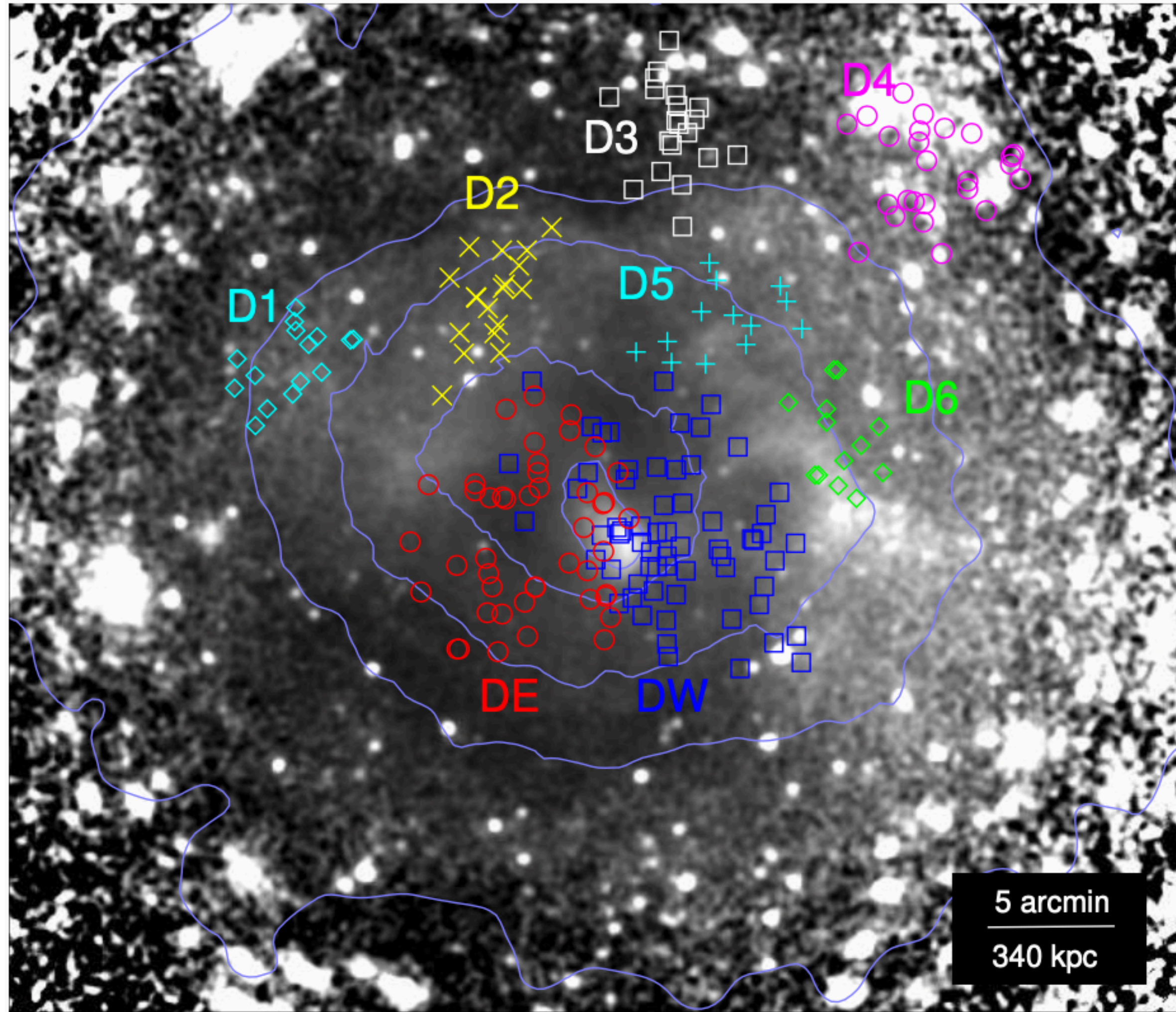
Third National Workshop on the SKA Project - the Italian Route to the SKAO Revolution
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1. Dipartimento di fisica e astronomia, Alma Mater Studiorum — Università di Bologna
2. INAF -- Istituto di Radioastronomia, Bologna
3. CSIRO Astronomy & Space Science

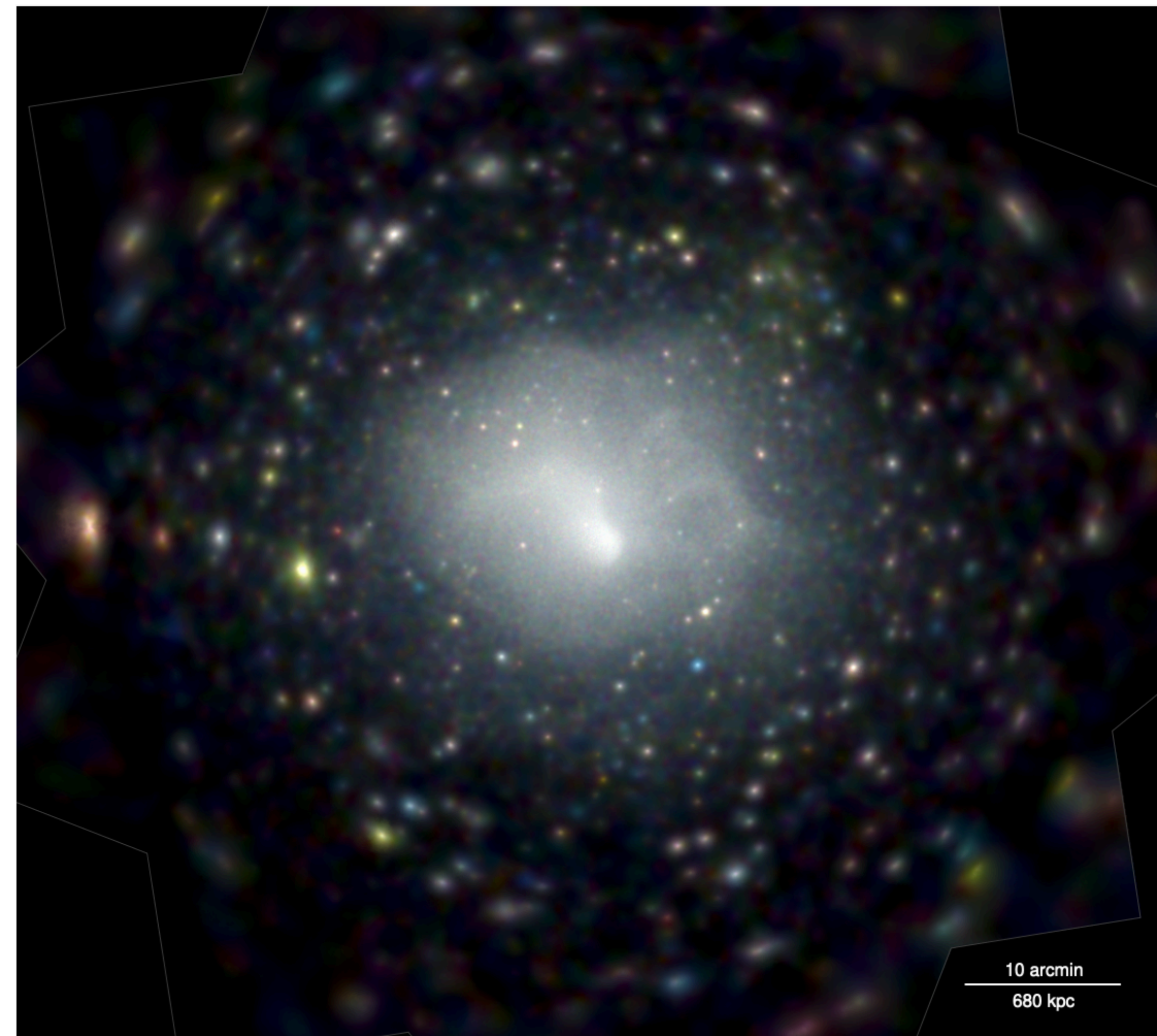
*with thanks to: Tessa Vernstrom, Tim Galvin, Aman Chokshi,
Andrea Botteon, Dominique Eckert, Stefan Duchesne, and others...*

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ABELL 3266



Sanders et al. (2021)



Sanders et al. (2021)

► Complex, low-redshift merging cluster:

- ◉ $z = 0.0385$
- ◉ Significant X-ray substructure (XMM-Newton, Chandra, eROSITA).
- ◉ Significant optical substructure (Dehghan et al. 2017)
- ◉ Poorly-explored in the radio (only shallow and/or low-resolution).

ABELL 3266 IN THE RADIO

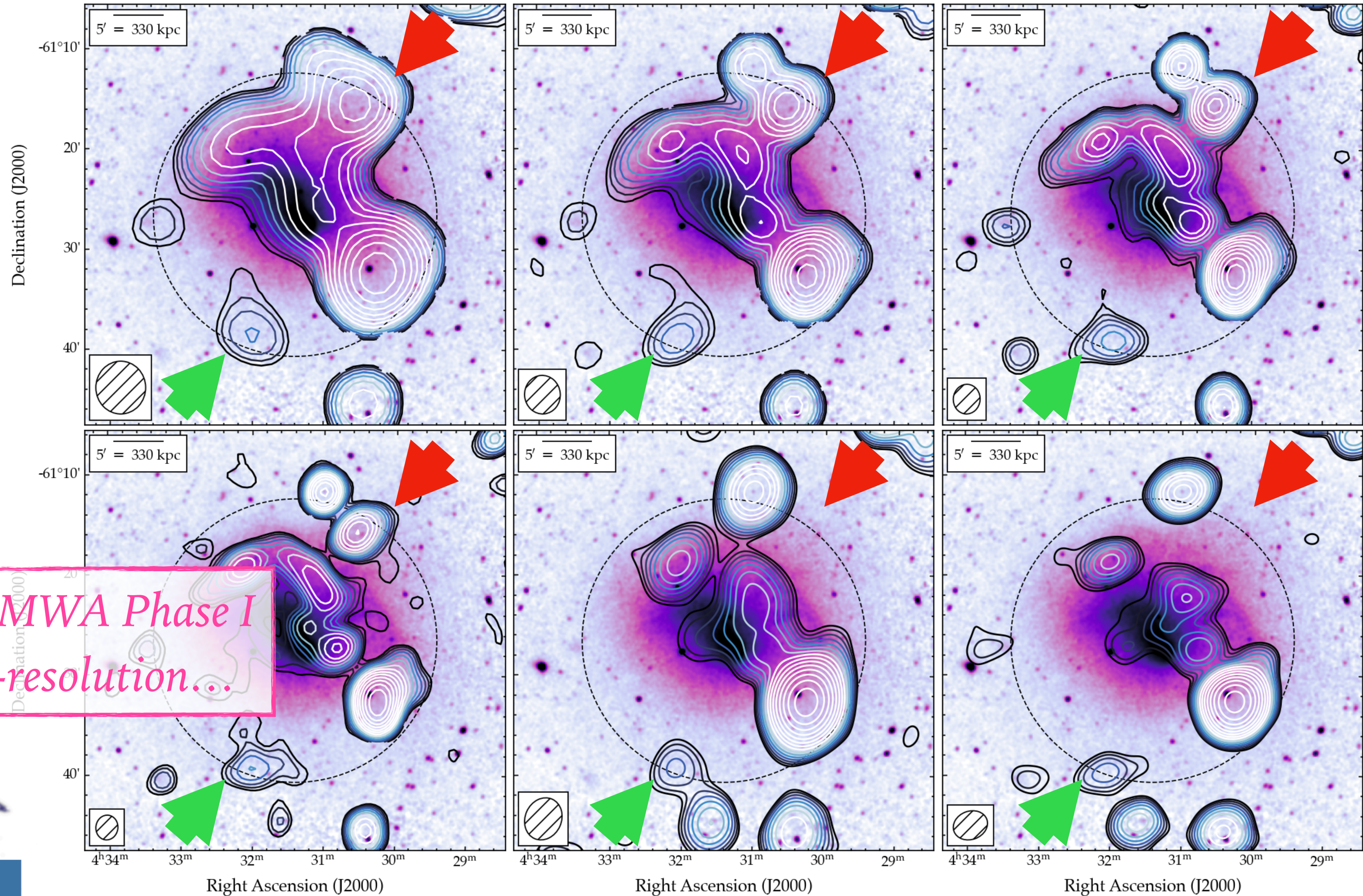
- Significant emission:
 - *Blended sources or something more?*
 - Inconclusive in 2016
- Interesting sources:
 - *Bright, ultra-steep spectrum source (NW; red)*
 - *Peripheral arc-like source (SE; green)*

Intriguing radio emission but MWA Phase I (GLEAM) & KAT-7 too low-resolution...

MWA: 88 MHz

MWA: 104 MHz

MWA: 145 MHz



MWA: 200 MHz

KAT-7: 1.3 GHz

KAT-7: 1.8 GHz



Evolutionary Map of the Universe



ABELL 3266

► Background map:

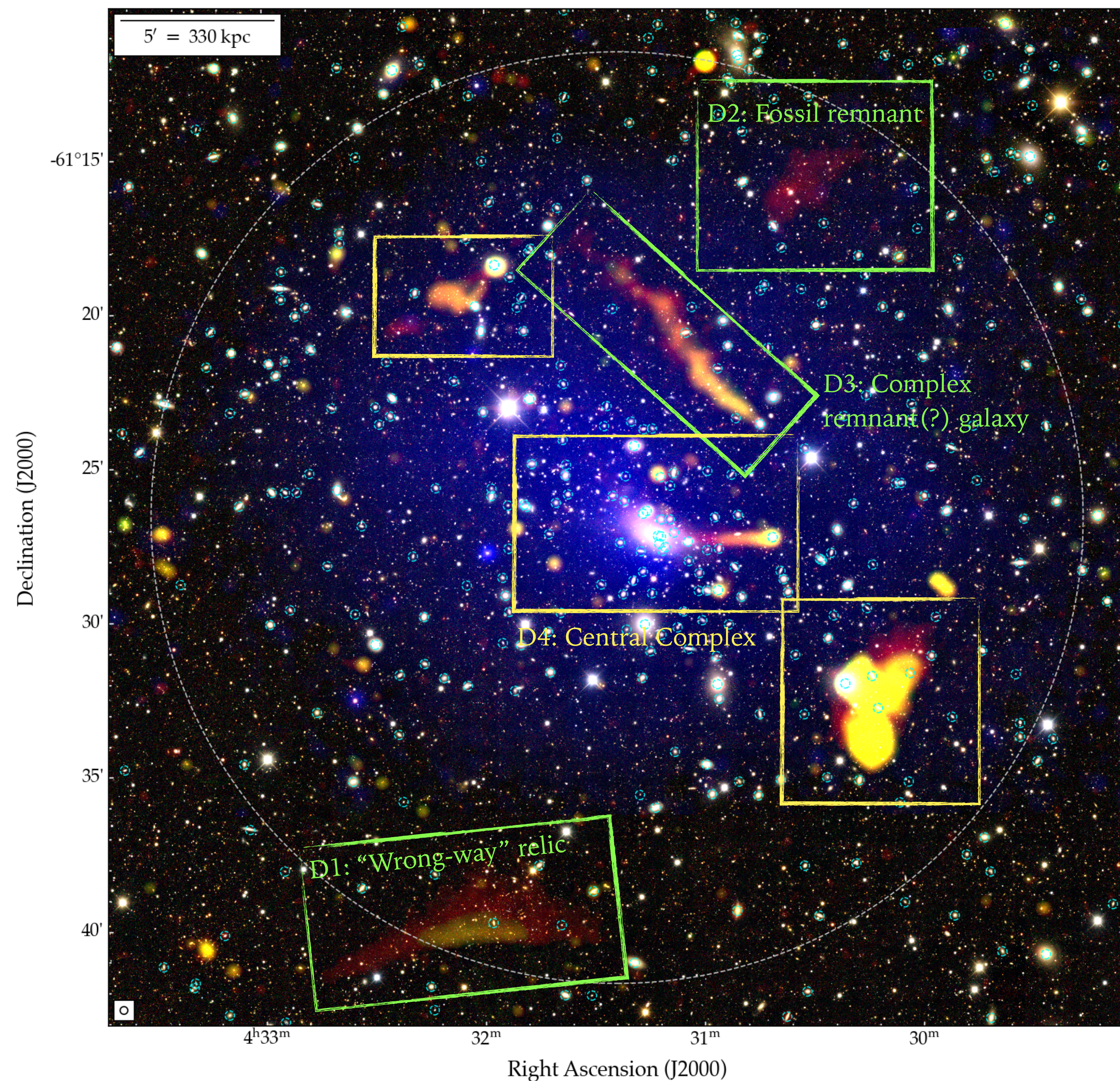
- ◉ RGB Dark Energy Survey (DES) *i*-, *r*-, *g*-band.
- ◉ Cyan circles: cluster-member galaxies

► Overlays:

- ◉ X-ray data from XMM-Newton (blue channel)
 - * **Bremsstrahlung: hot plasma (10^7 K)**
- ◉ 943 MHz ASKAP data from EMU Early Science (red channel)
- ◉ 2.1 GHz ATCA data (green channel)
 - * **Synchrotron: CRe & magnetic fields.**

► Interpretation:

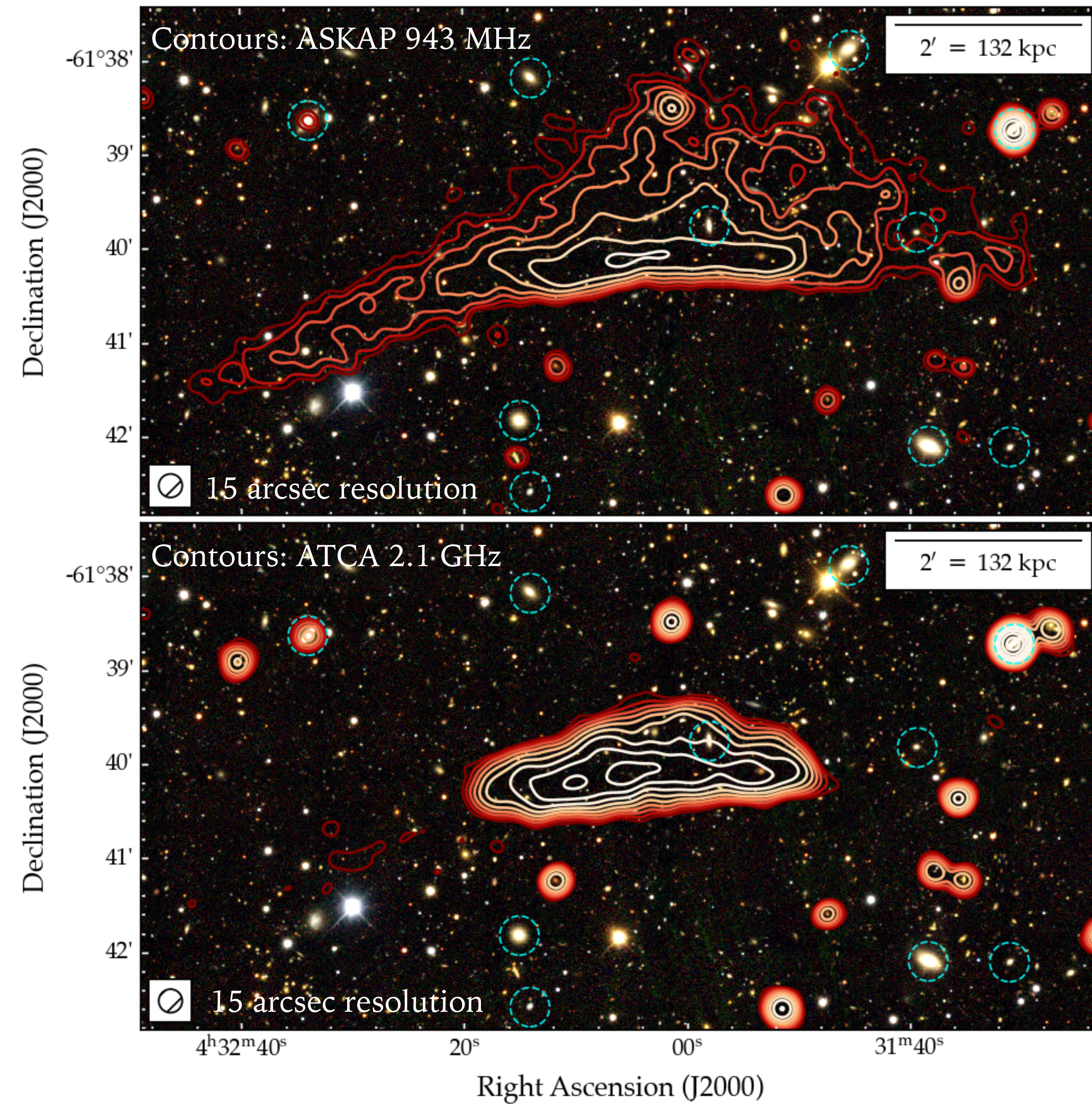
- ◉ **Yellow** = typical “active galaxy” steep spectrum ($\alpha \sim -0.8$ to -1)
- ◉ **Red** = old, (ultra) steep spectrum ($\alpha \ll -1.5$)
- ◉ **Green** = inverted spectrum ($\alpha > 0$)



D1: THE “WRONG-WAY” RELIC

► Properties:

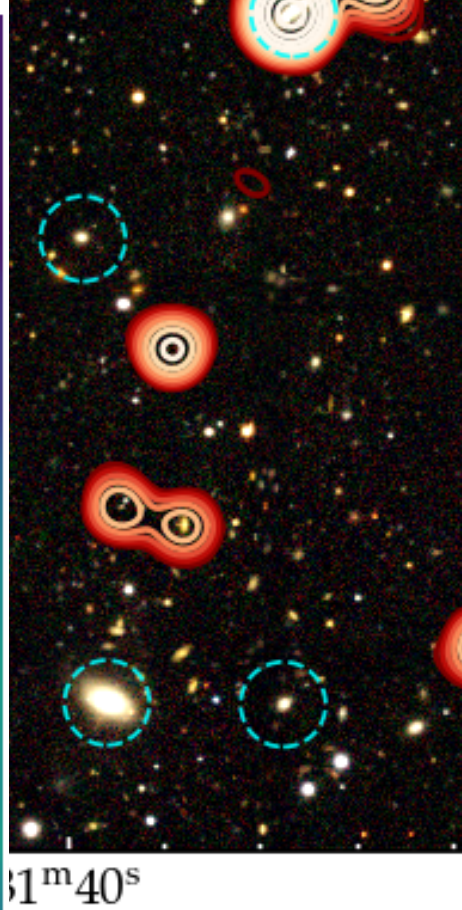
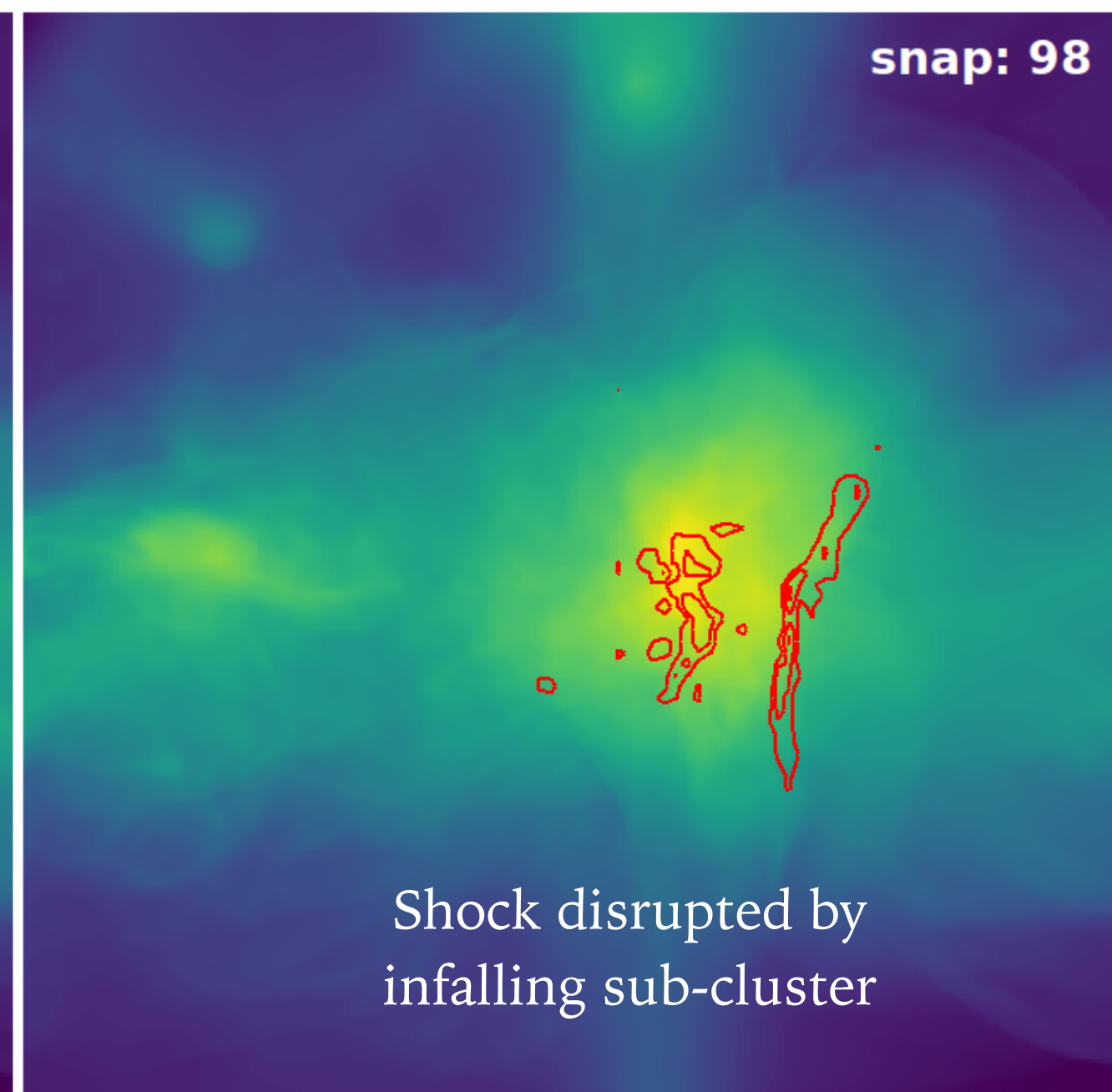
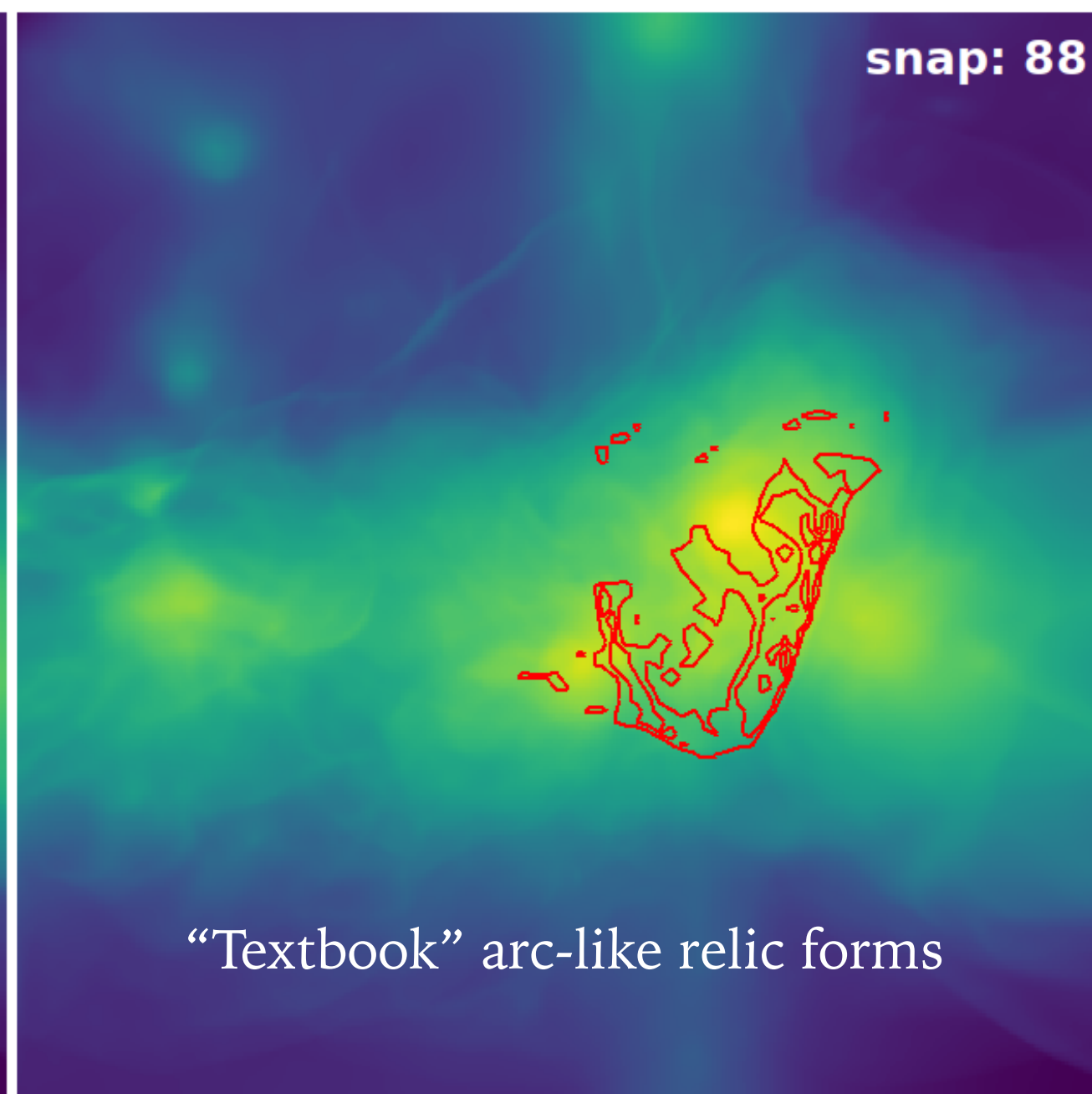
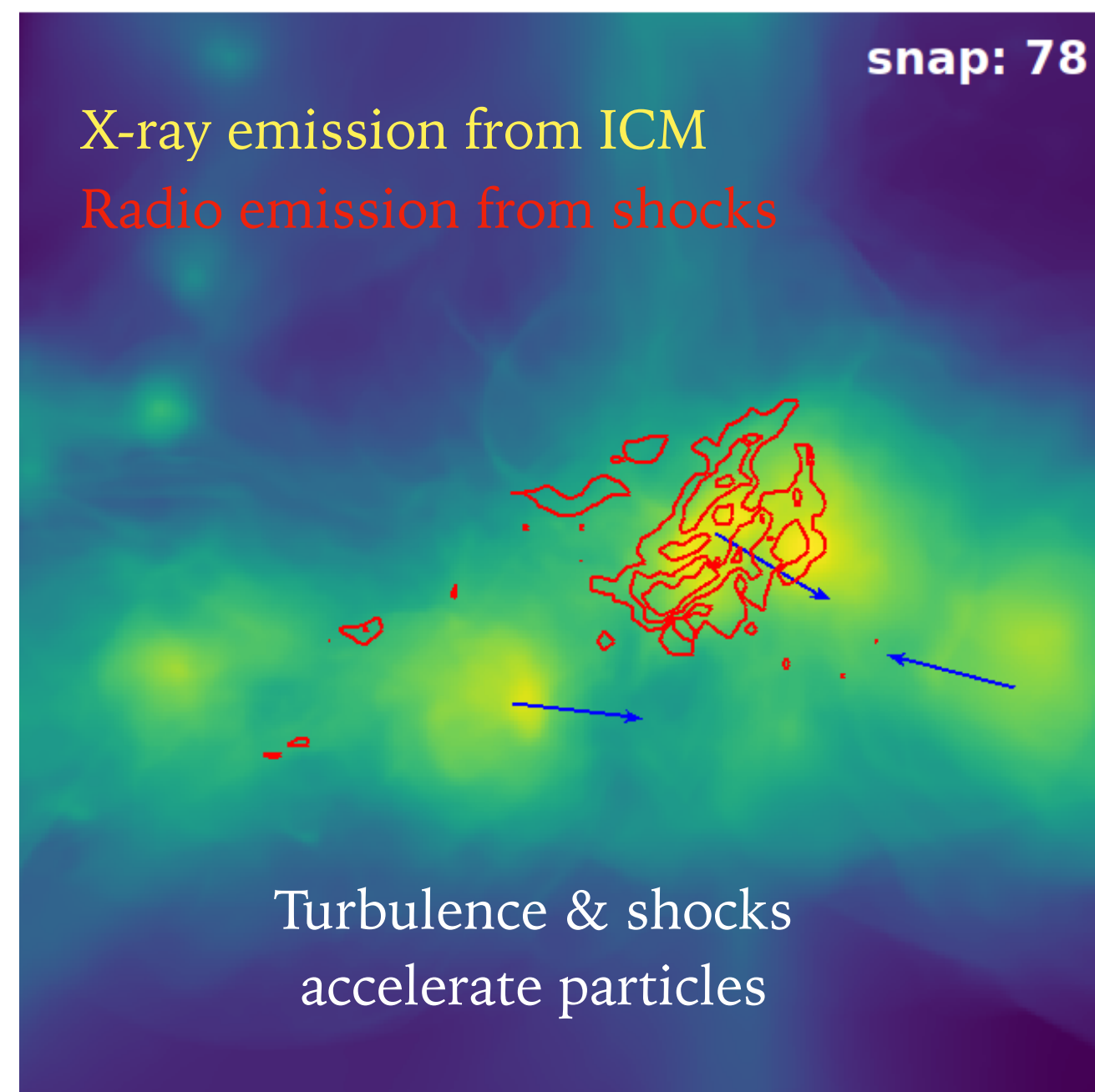
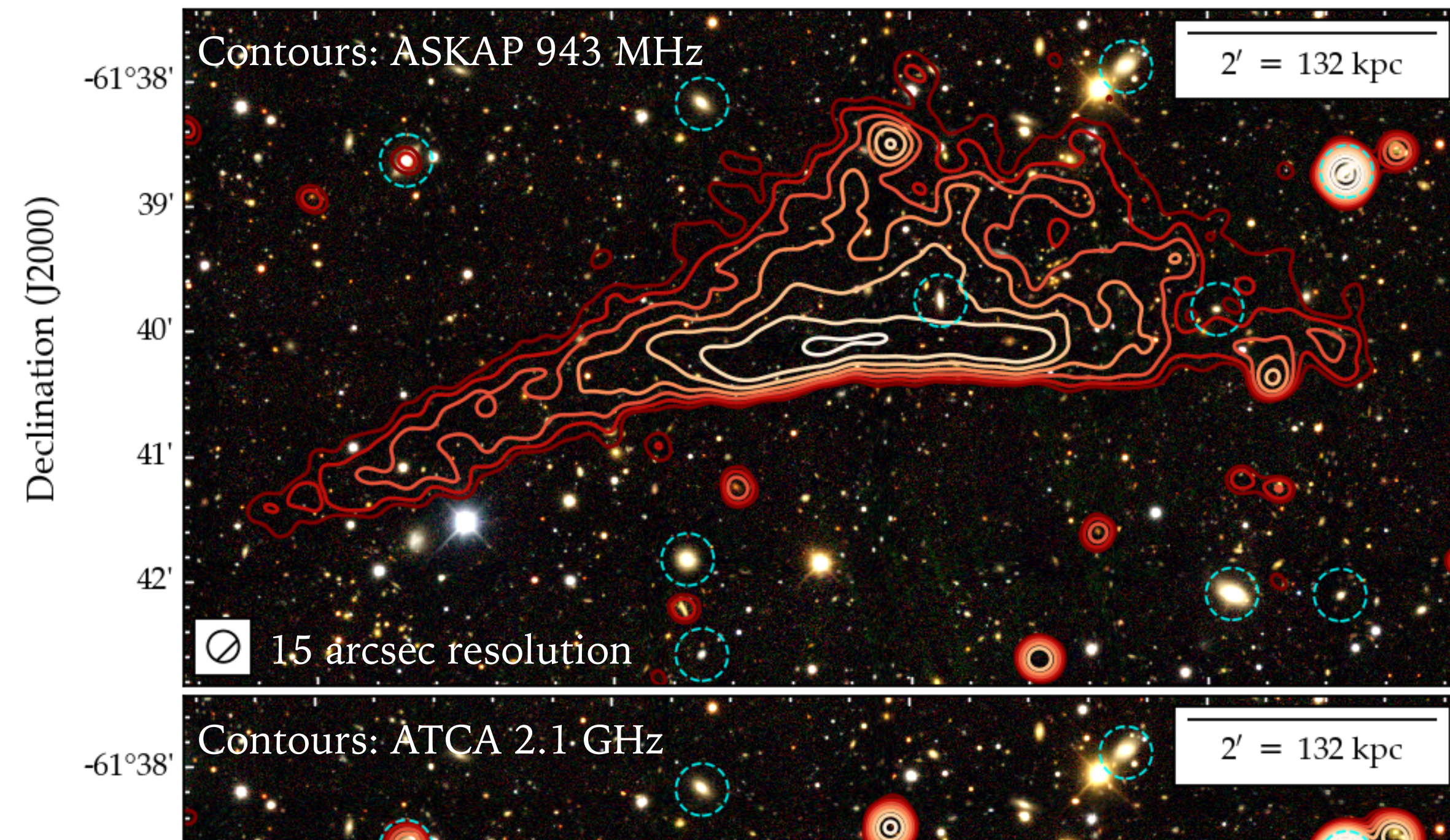
- Arc-like morphology (linear size ~ 580 kpc), located in cluster outskirts.
- Ultra steep spectrum ($\alpha_{\text{int}} = -1.83 \pm 0.21$), clear spectral gradient, *possibly curved*.
- Co-located with X-ray shock (eROSITA; [Sanders et al. 2021](#)).
- *Only a handful of clusters with shocks in radio AND X-ray!*



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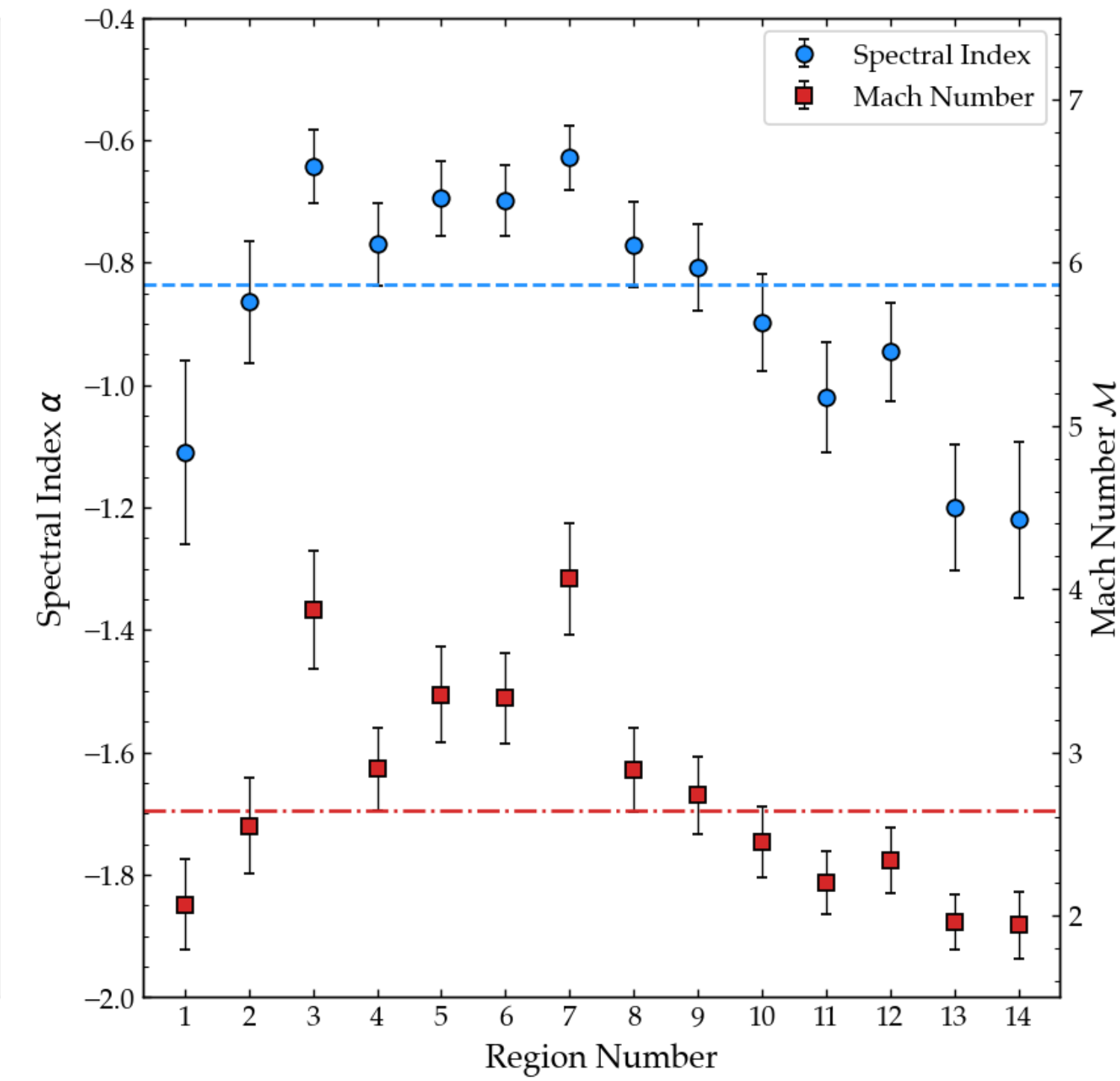
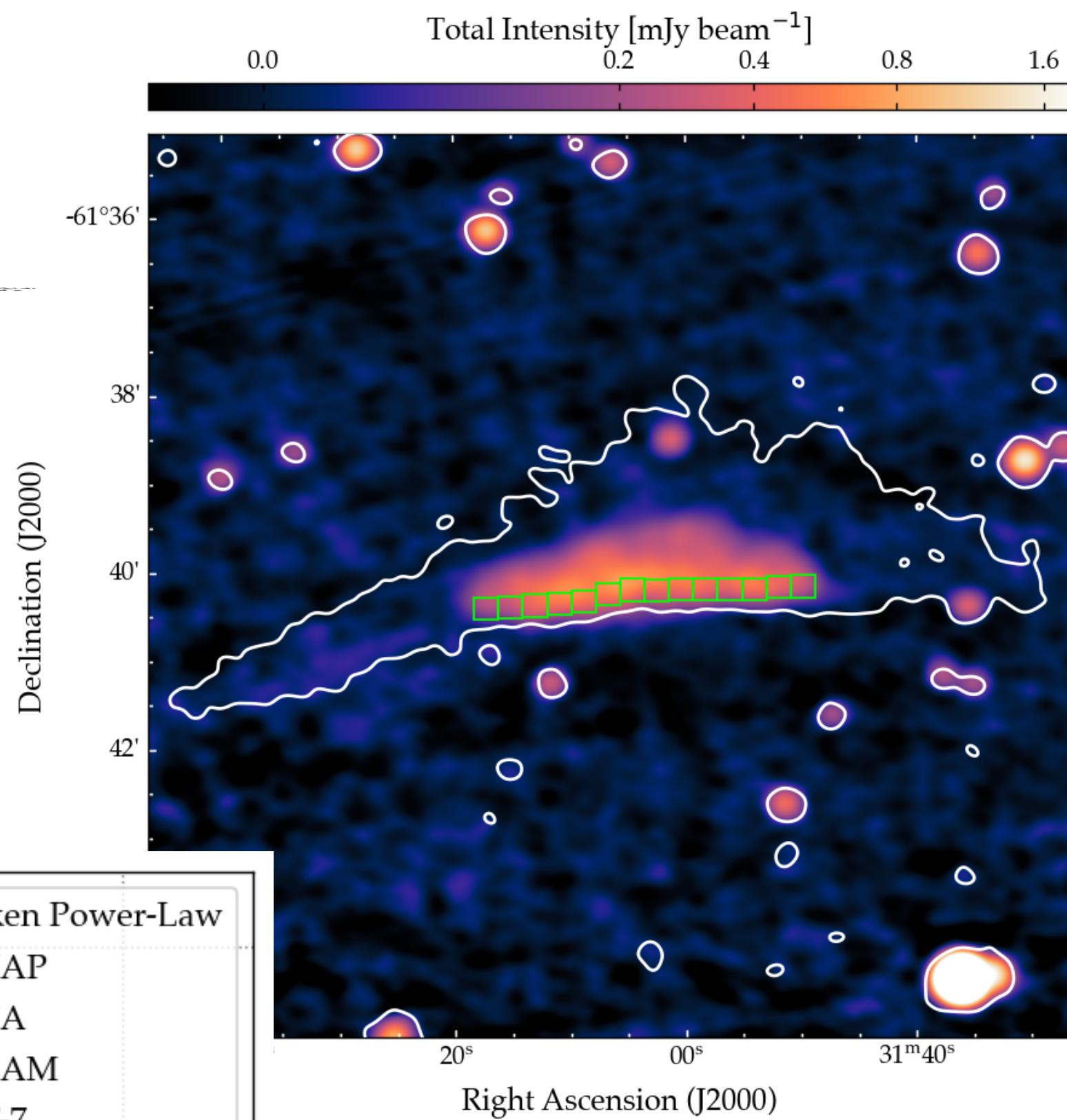
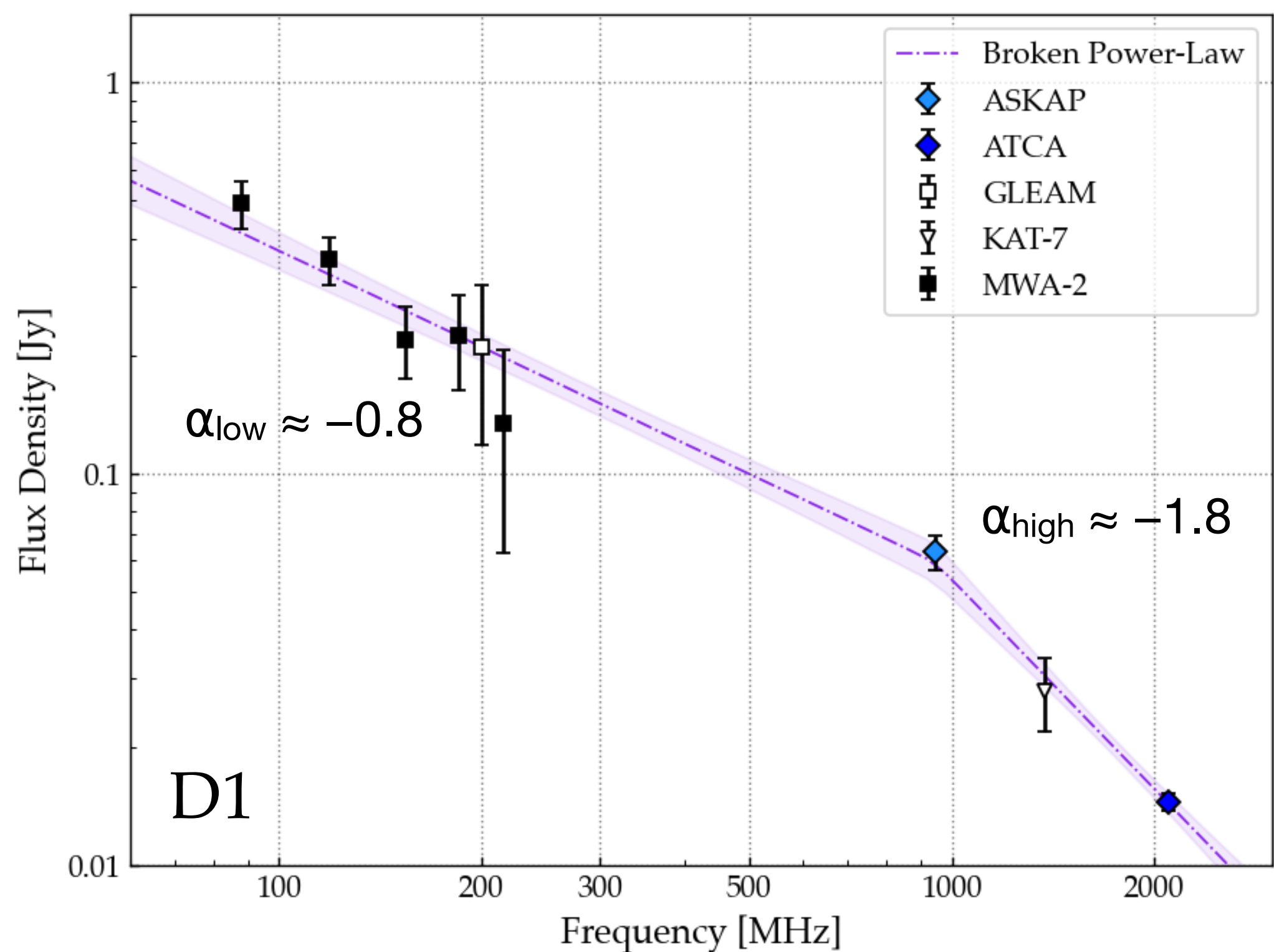
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D1: THE "WRONG-WAY" RELIC

► Diffusive Shock Acceleration

- $\mathcal{M}_{\text{radio}} = 4.06 \pm 0.34$; $\mathcal{M}_{\text{X-ray}} = 1.54 / 1.71$
- Mach number discrepancy — not unusual.
- *Moderate/strong shock.*



Low $B \sim 1 \mu\text{G} : \xi \sim 2 \times 10^{-2}$

High $B \sim 8 \mu\text{G} : \xi \sim 2 \times 10^{-3}$

*Efficiency is reasonable within DSA framework
BUT... broken spectrum => re-acceleration.*

D2: THE FOSSIL REMNANT

► Properties:

- Diffuse, complex morphology => most likely in cluster.
- *Undetected at 2.1 GHz despite 9 μJy rms => $\alpha \lesssim -4.9$*

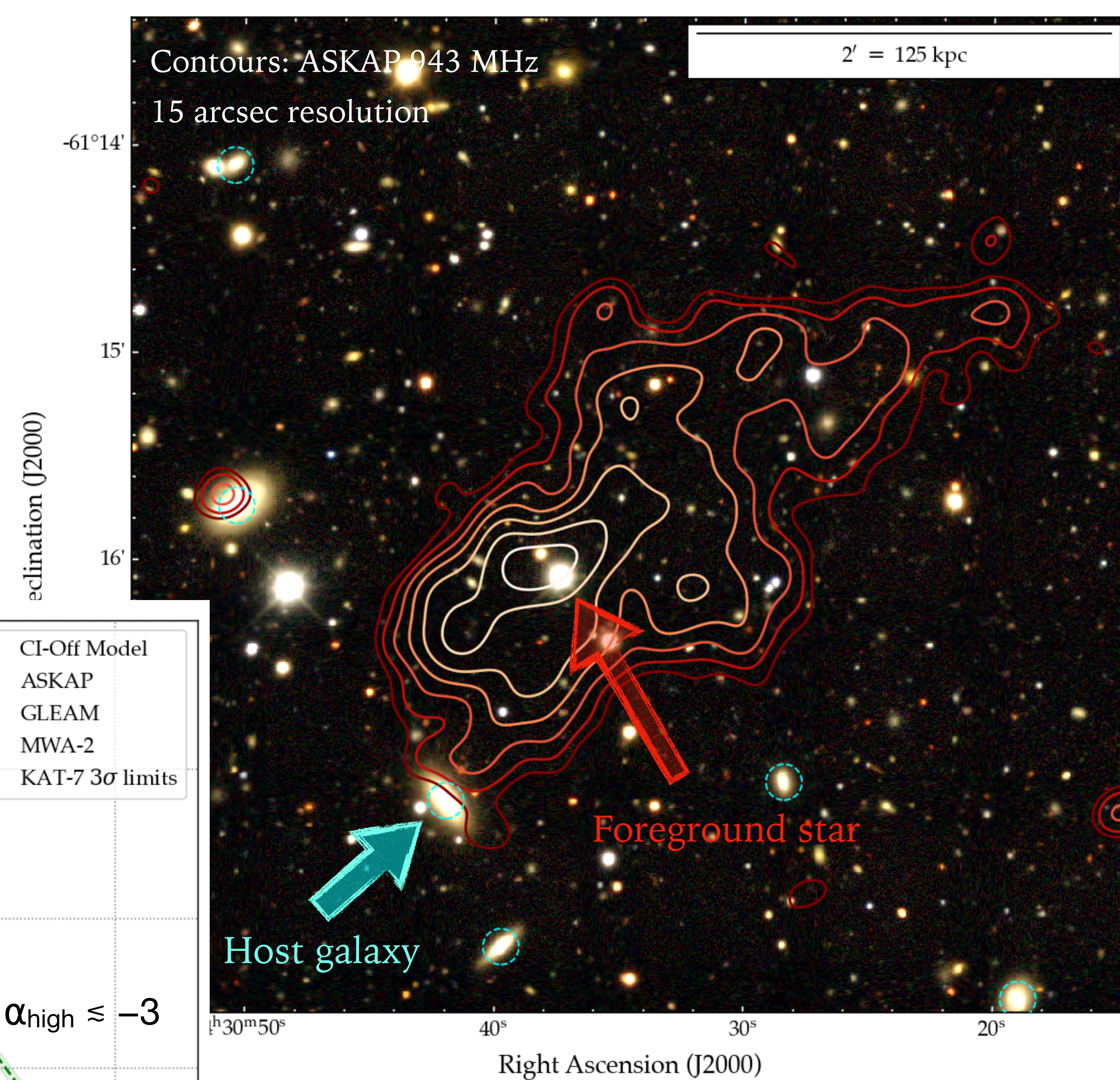
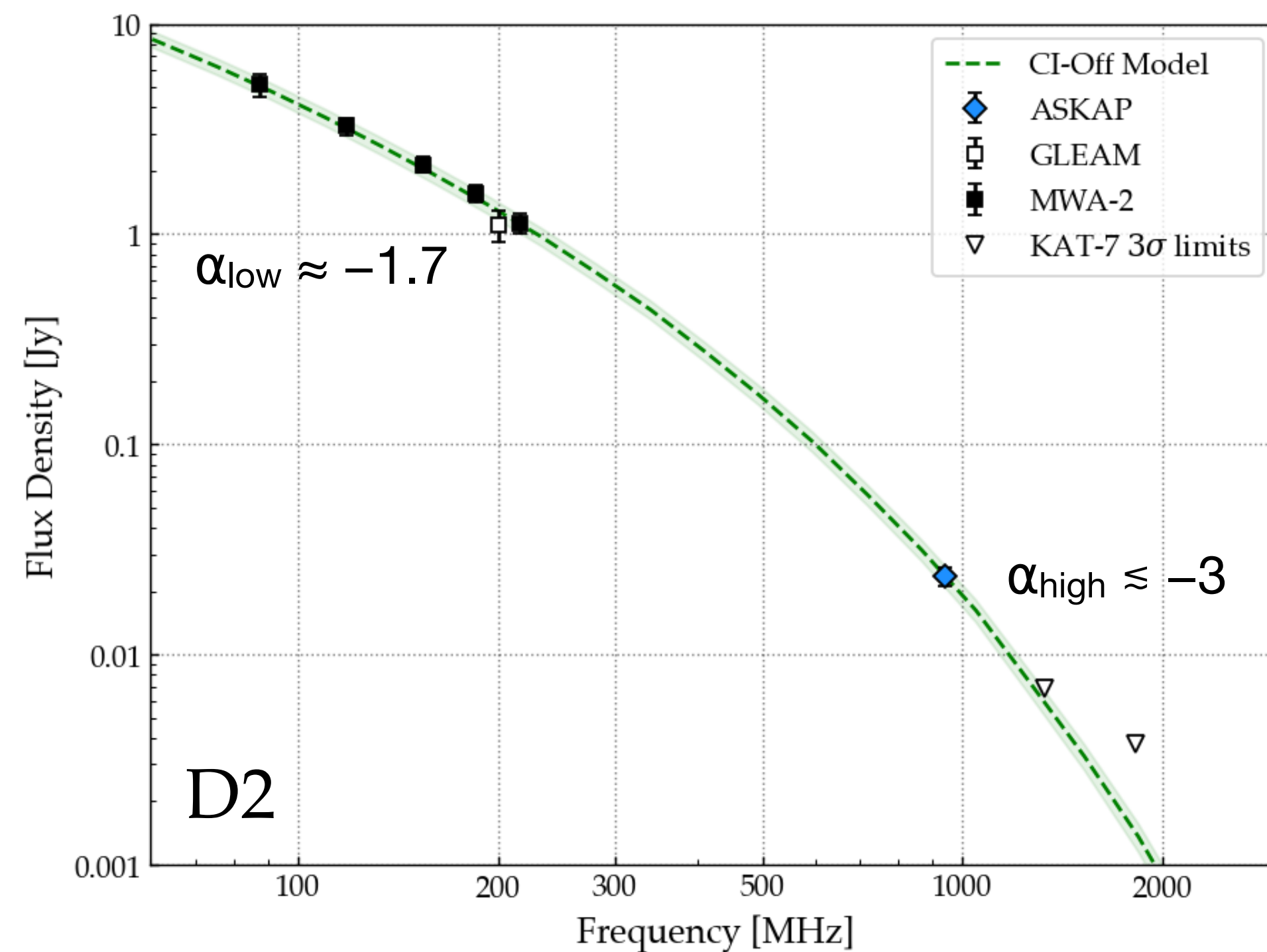
► Host galaxy:

- Cluster member at south-east tip, $z = 0.0559$
- LLS ~ 223 kpc

► Core prominence:

- Total flux: 23.6 mJy
- No core < 0.25 mJy
- $CP \sim 0.01$

- Consistent with e.g. [Brienza et al. \(2017\)](#); [Quici et al. \(2021\)](#)

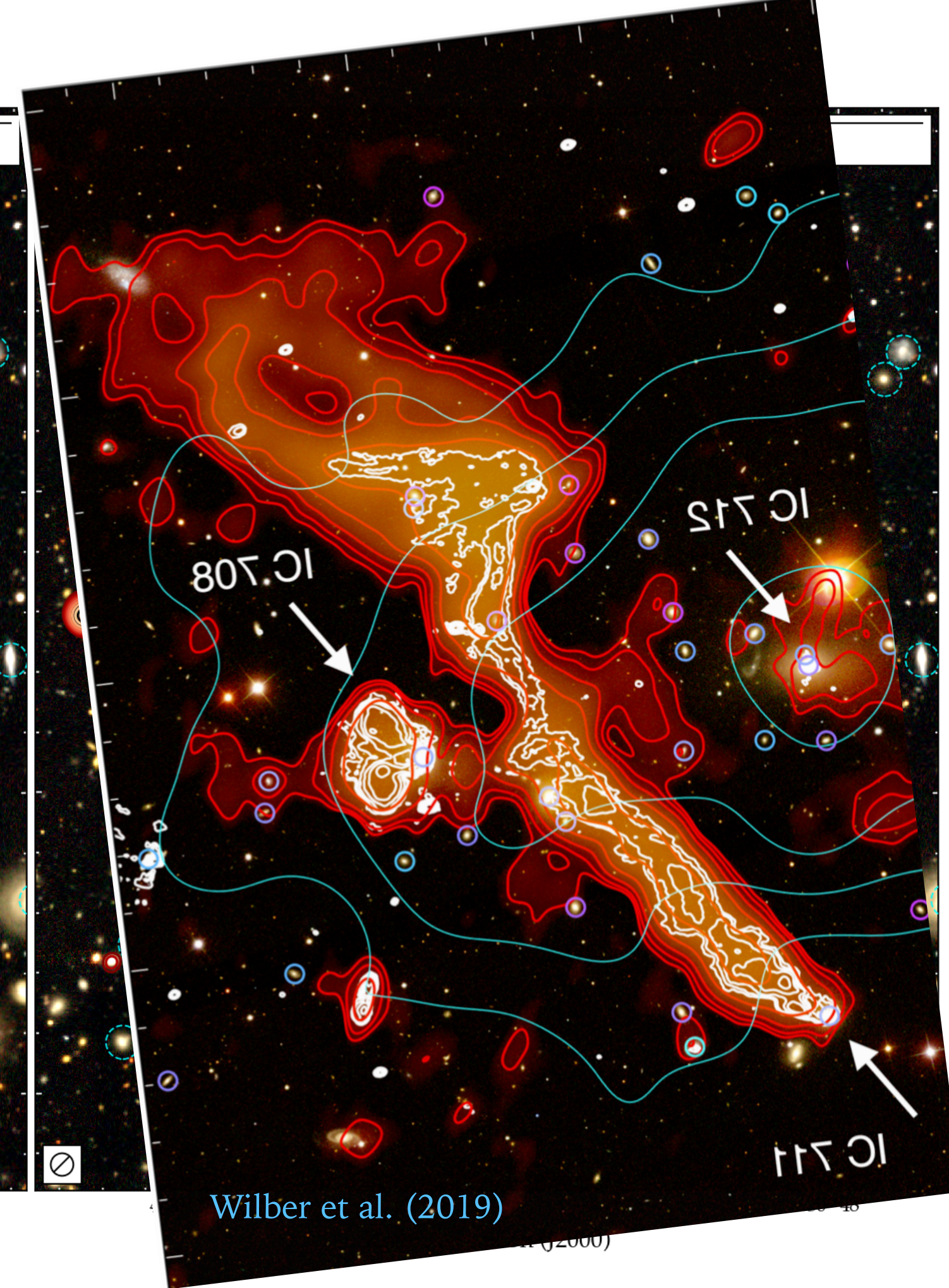
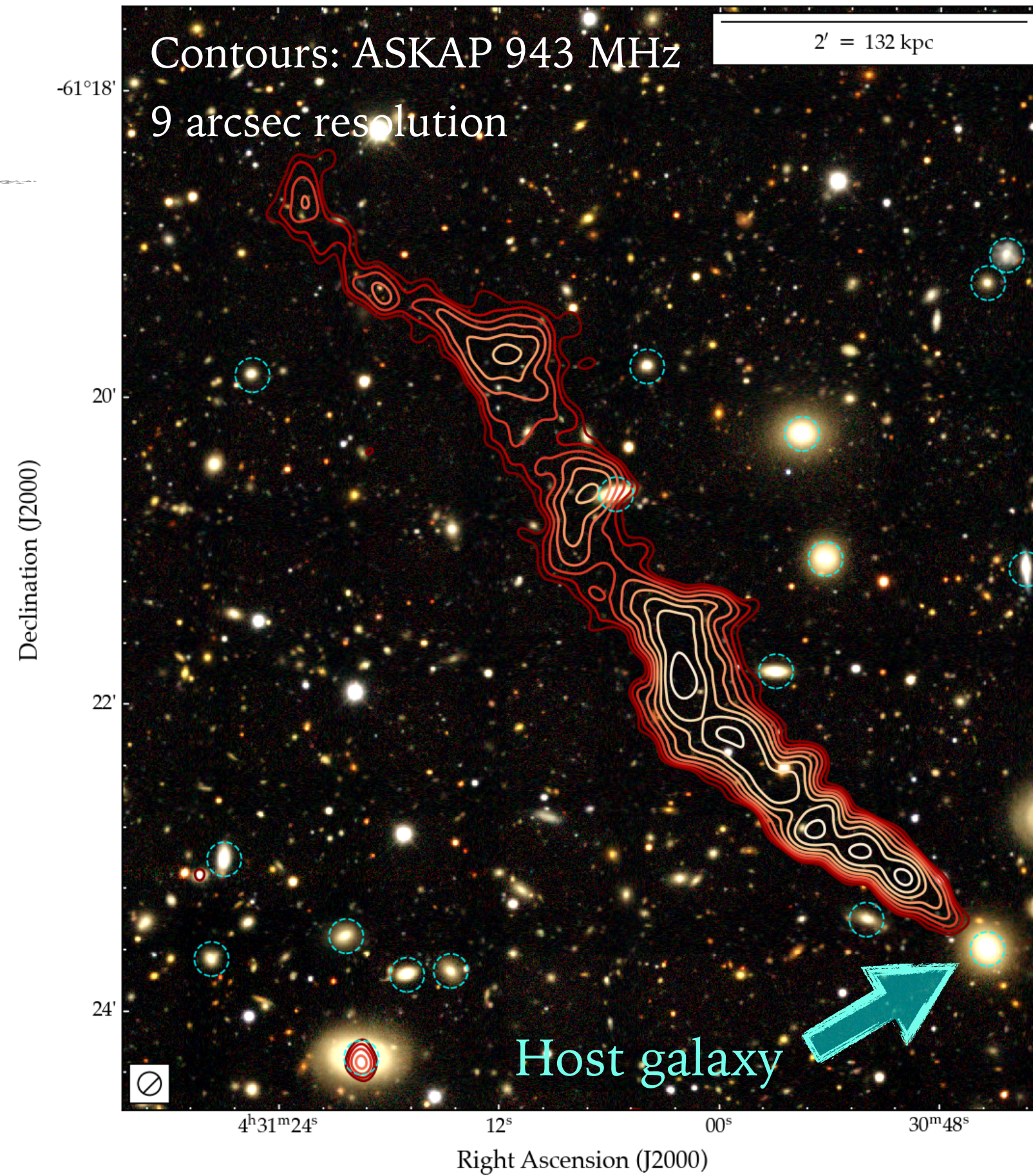


*Morphology, USS, curved spectrum...
Diagnosis: fossil AGN remnant*

D3: THE COMPLEX REMNANT(?)

► Properties:

- Complex, knotty morphology.
- *Single source or multiple components?*
- LAS ~ 7.3 arcmin ; LLS ~ 508 kpc.



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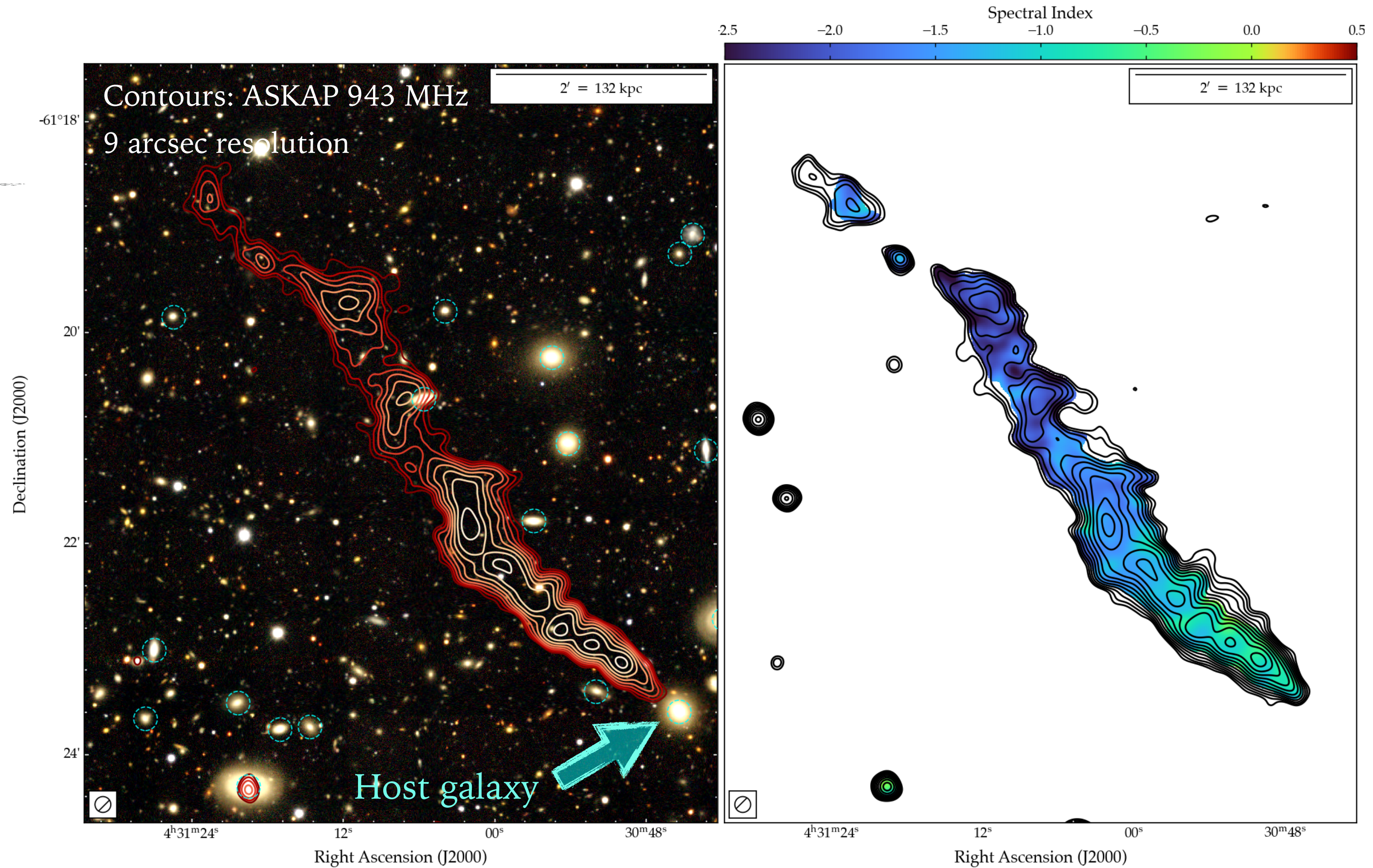
- ◉ Complex, knotty morphology.
- ◉ *Single source or multiple components?*
- ◉ LAS ~ 7.3 arcmin ; LLS ~ 508 kpc.

► Spectrum:

- ◉ Strong spectral gradient following spine.
- ◉ Near host: $\alpha \sim -0.8$; Tail: $\alpha < -2.5$.
- ◉ Integrated: $\alpha \sim -1.4$

► No core detected:

- ◉ Core prominence CP $\sim 10^{-3}$ to 10^{-4} .



*Another remnant?
Why the clumpy morphology?*

D3: THE COMPLEX REMNANT(?)

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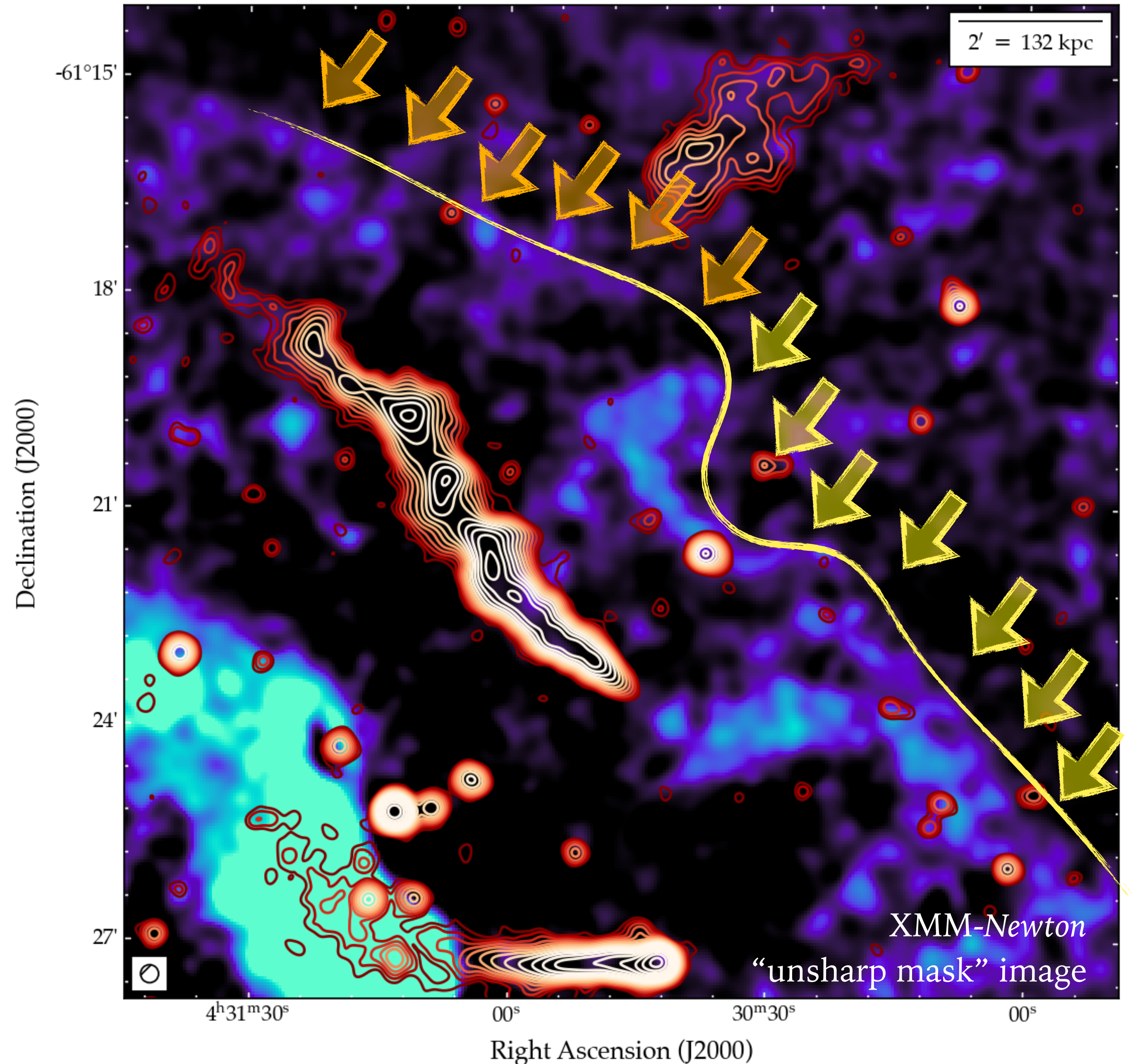
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- ◉ Integrated: $\alpha \sim -1.4$

► No core detected:

- ◉ Core prominence CP $\sim 10^{-3}$ to 10^{-4} .

*Inhomogeneous re-acceleration by
historic shock!*



CONCLUSIONS

► Abell 3266 is a highly-complex system:

- Rich sub-structure, rich merger history.
- Plethora of **fossil radio galaxies** & bent-tails.
 - * *Clear evidence of complex interactions with thermal plasma of the ICM.*
- New **radio relic** tracing shock **re-acceleration**.
 - * *Thermal pool DSA conclusively ruled out.*

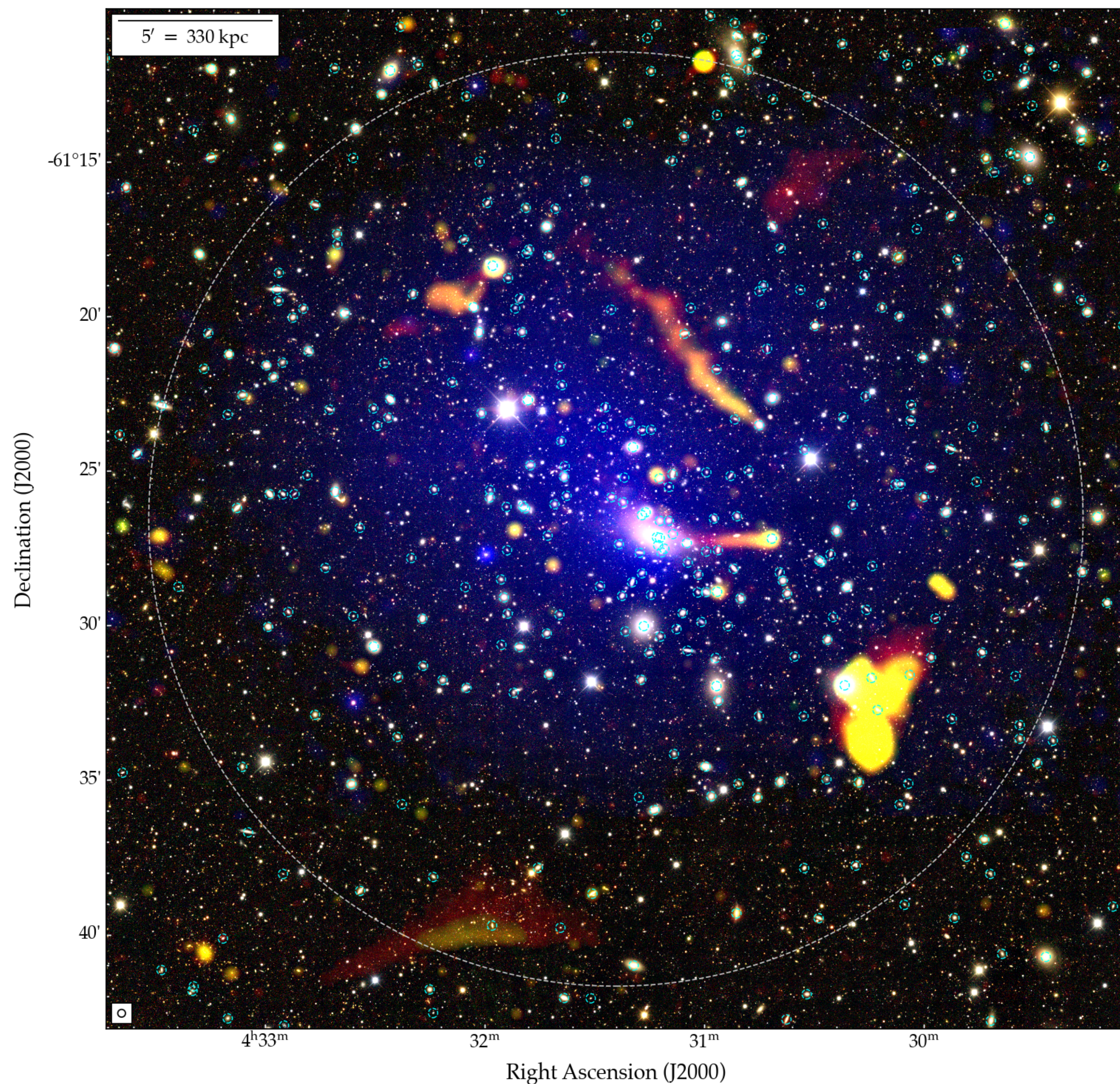
► More to come:

- Many active galaxies ; other **remnants**.
- Other **diffuse radio sources**
- *3D magnetic field reconstruction via spectropolarimetry!*

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 @cjriseley

Thanks for listening... Questions?



D4: CENTRAL COMPLEX

► Properties:

- Diffuse: ~ 240 kpc
- Faint: $0.8 \mu\text{Jy arcsec}^{-2}$
- *Ultra-steep spectrum: $\alpha < -2.54$*

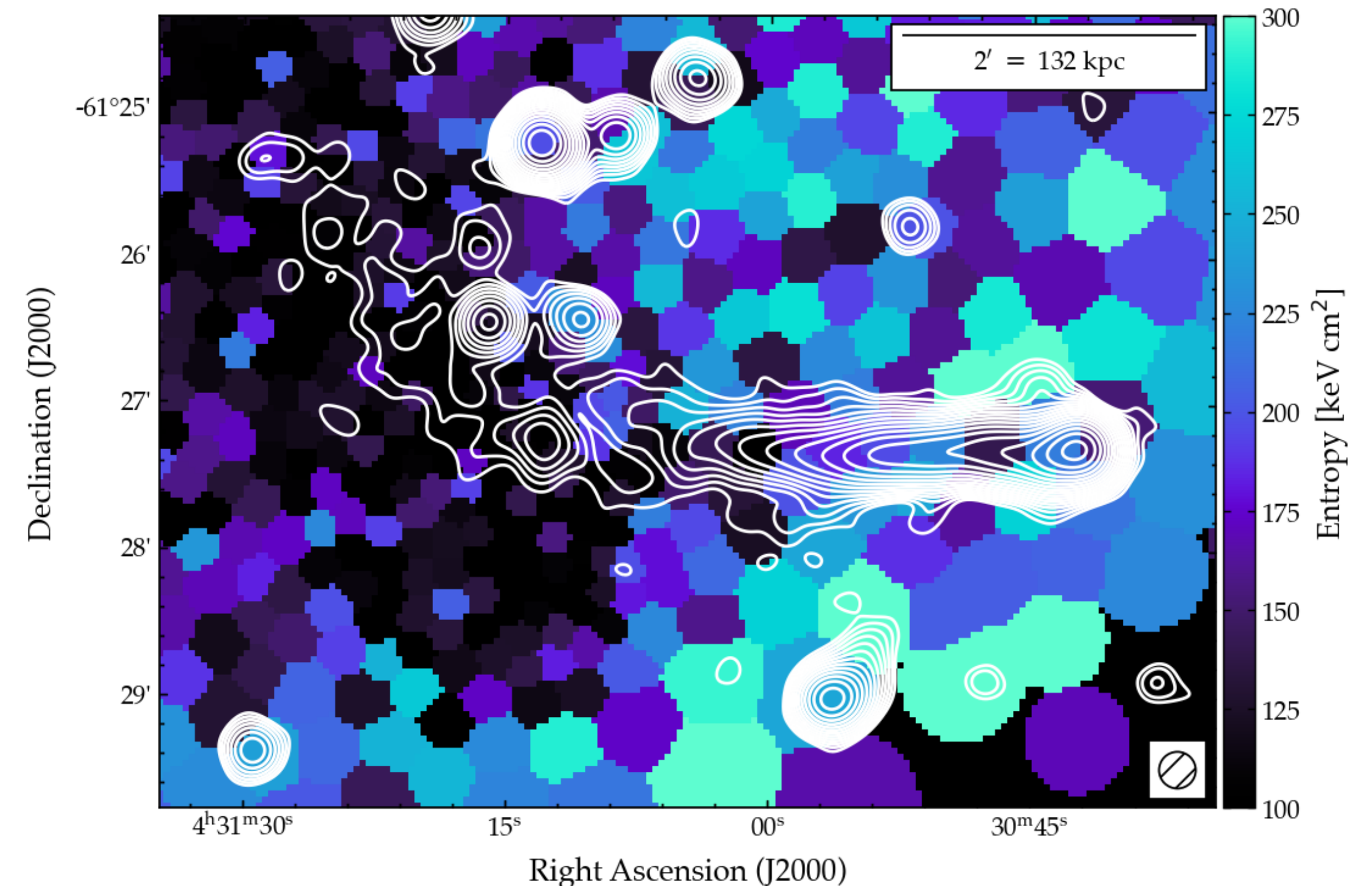
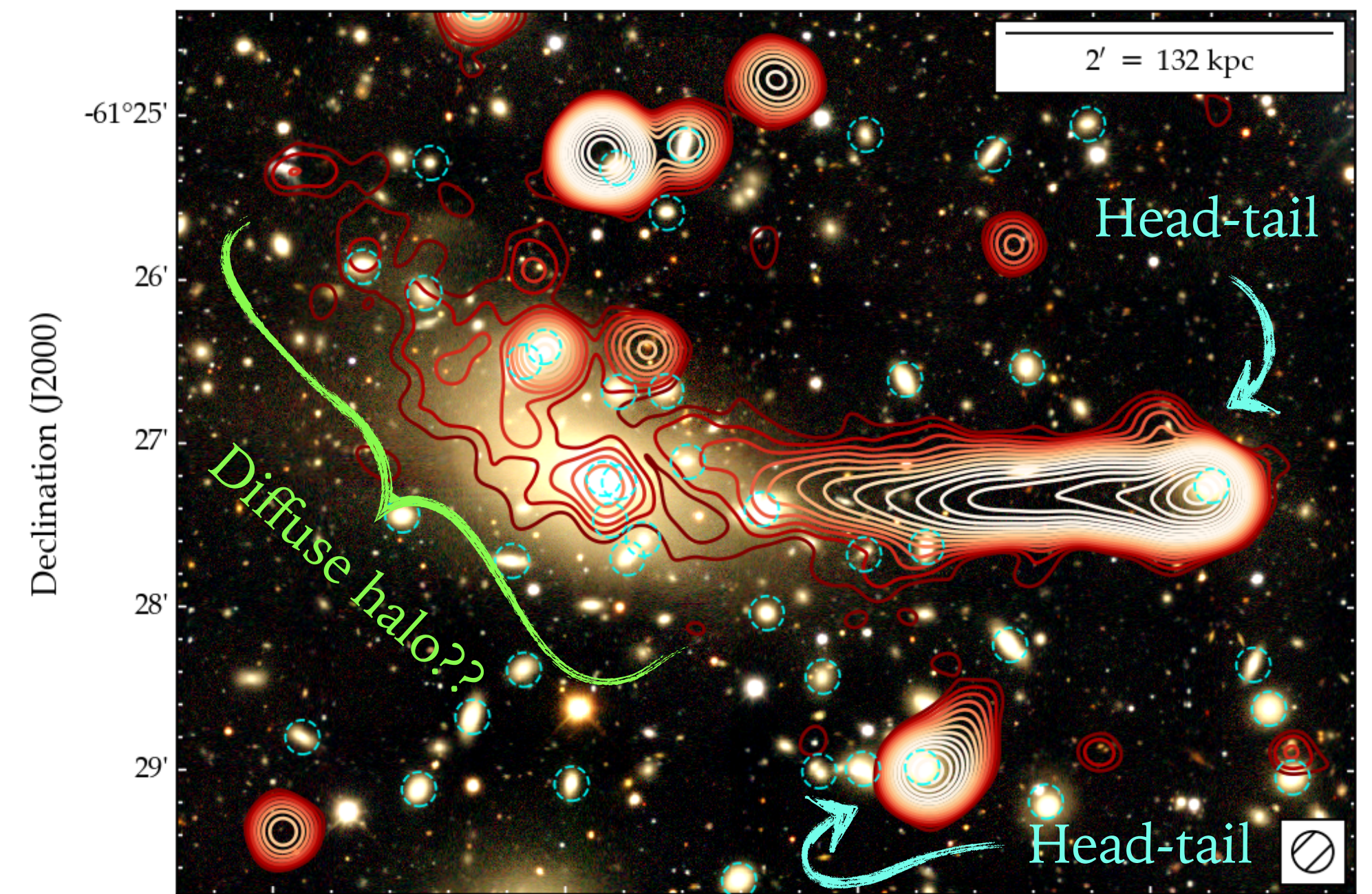
► A mini-halo?

- $P_{1.4 \text{ GHz}} = 2.04 \times 10^{22} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$
- *Consistent with mini-halo candidate in EMU Pilot Survey (Norris et al. 2021)*
- No cool core...

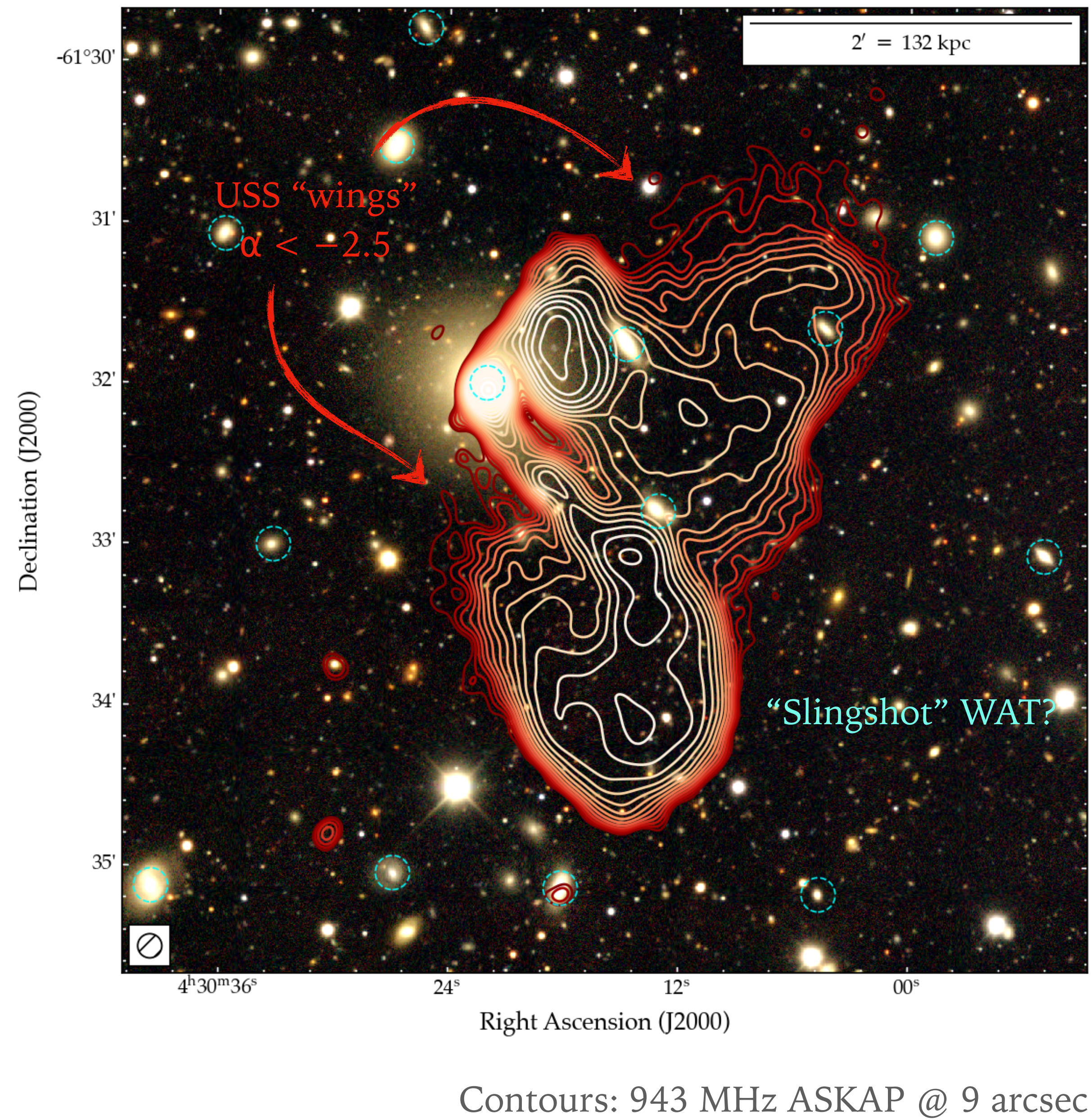
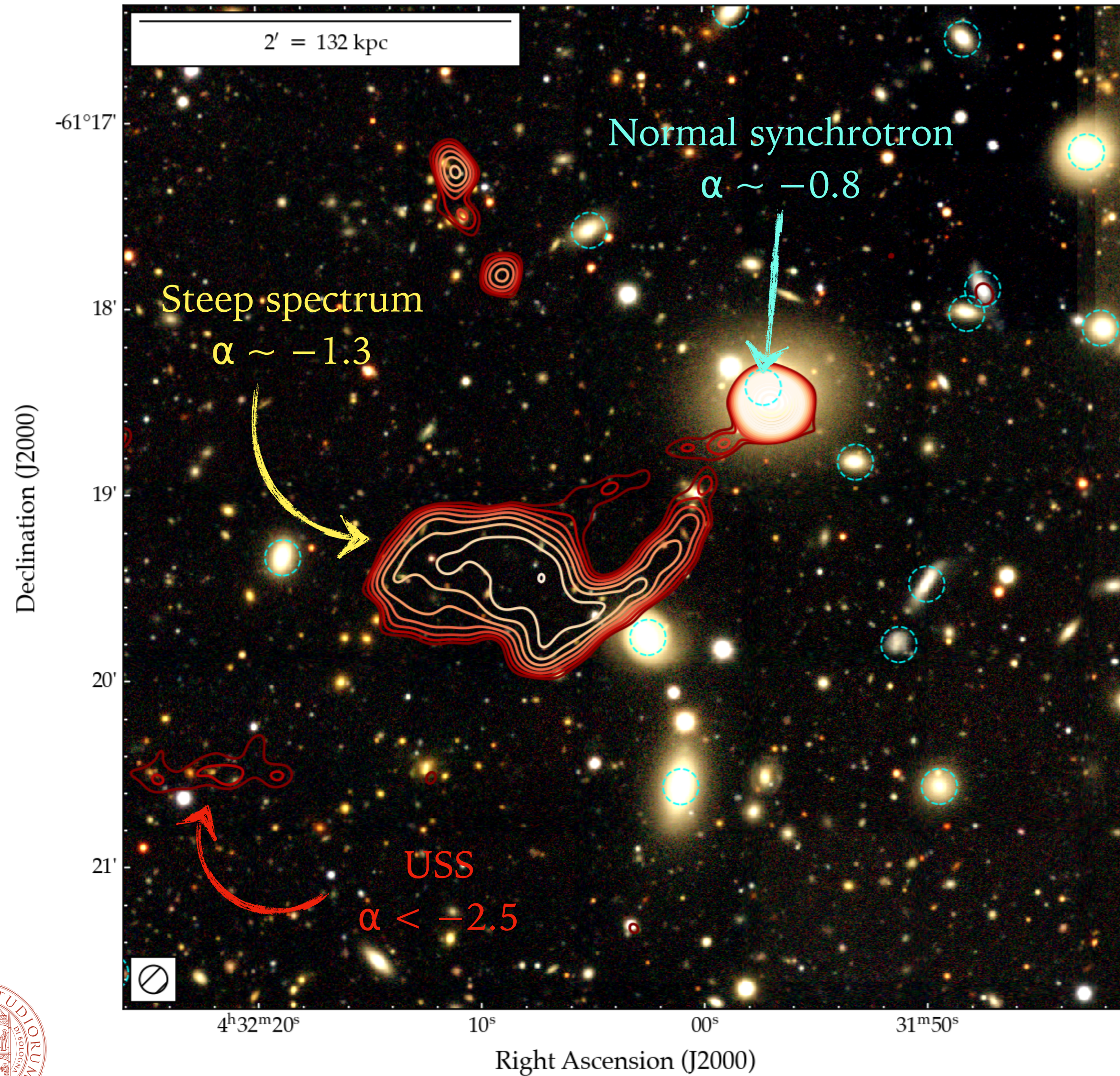
► Fossil tail(s)?

- Traces low-entropy spine.
- Head-tail: Fossil plasma re-accelerated by merger turbulence?
- BCG: dumbbell morphology (disturbed), diffuse optical emission traces diffuse radio emission. Stripped material?

Nature unknown yet. Need a better handle on low-frequency spectrum.



SUPPLEMENTARY



Contours: 943 MHz ASKAP @ 9 arcsec

