

# Paving the way to SKA observations of galaxy clusters with pathfinder and precursor instruments

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INAF - IRA

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November 28, 2023 - The fourth national workshop on the SKA project, Catania

# Galaxy clusters

## Optical:

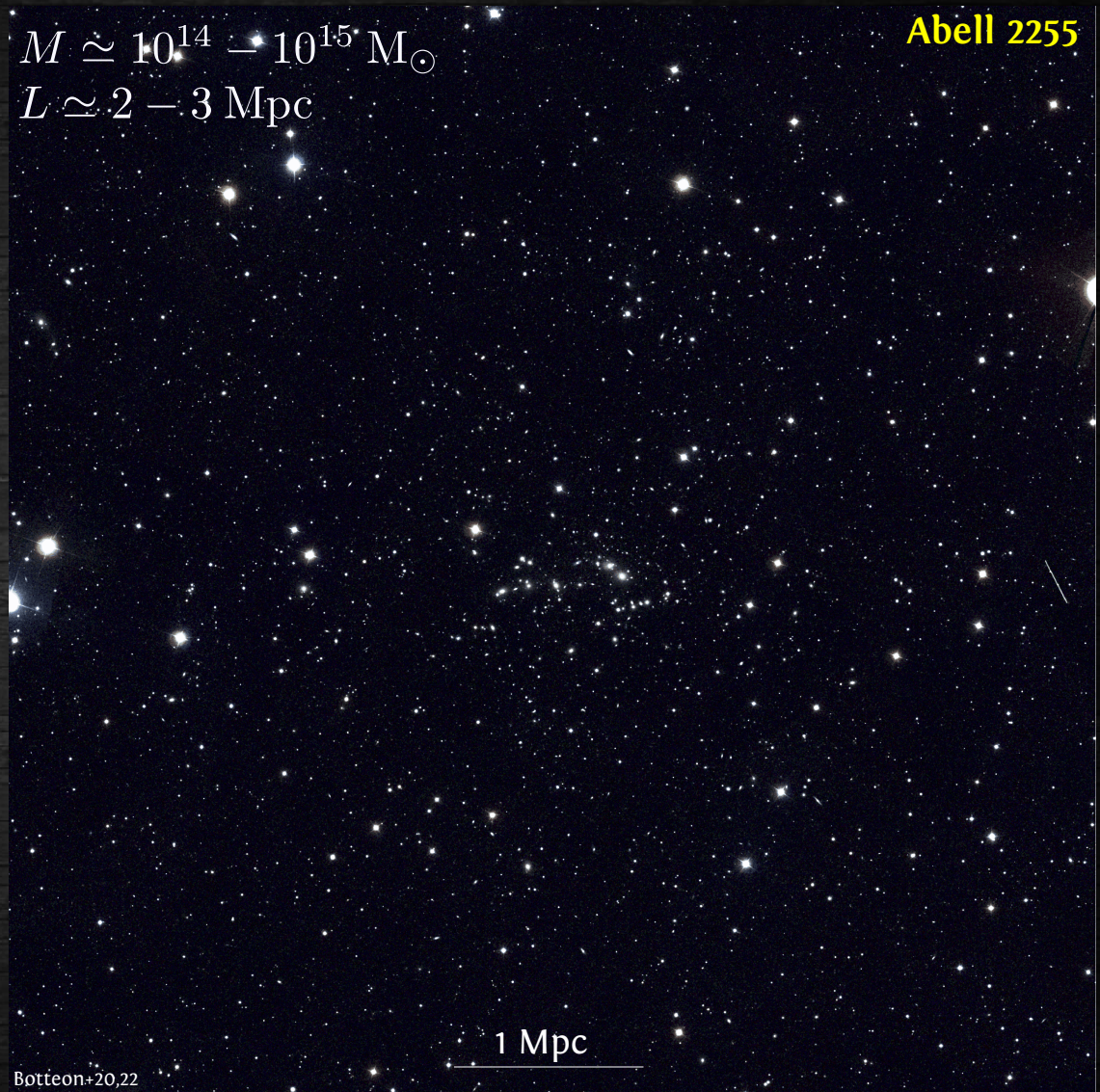
- 100-1000s galaxies
- Mass: a few % of total

## Lensing:

- Trace dark matter
- Mass: 80% of the total

$$M \simeq 10^{14} - 10^{15} M_{\odot}$$
$$L \simeq 2 - 3 \text{ Mpc}$$

Abell 2255



1 Mpc

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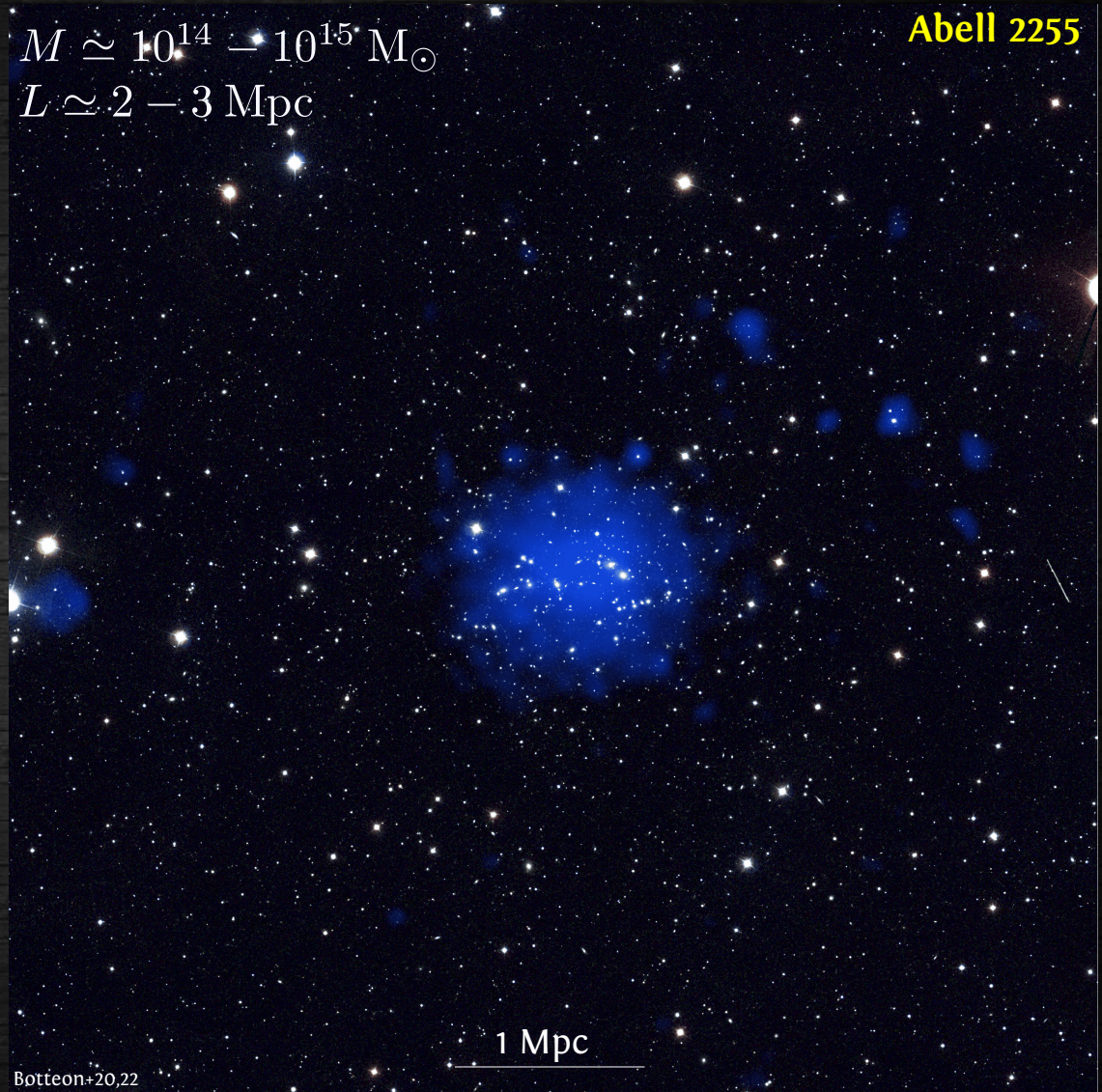
## X-rays:

- Intra-cluster medium (ICM)
- Hot ( $10^7 - 10^8$  K) and rarified ( $10^{-3} - 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ )
- Thermal bremsstrahlung
- Mass: 15% of total

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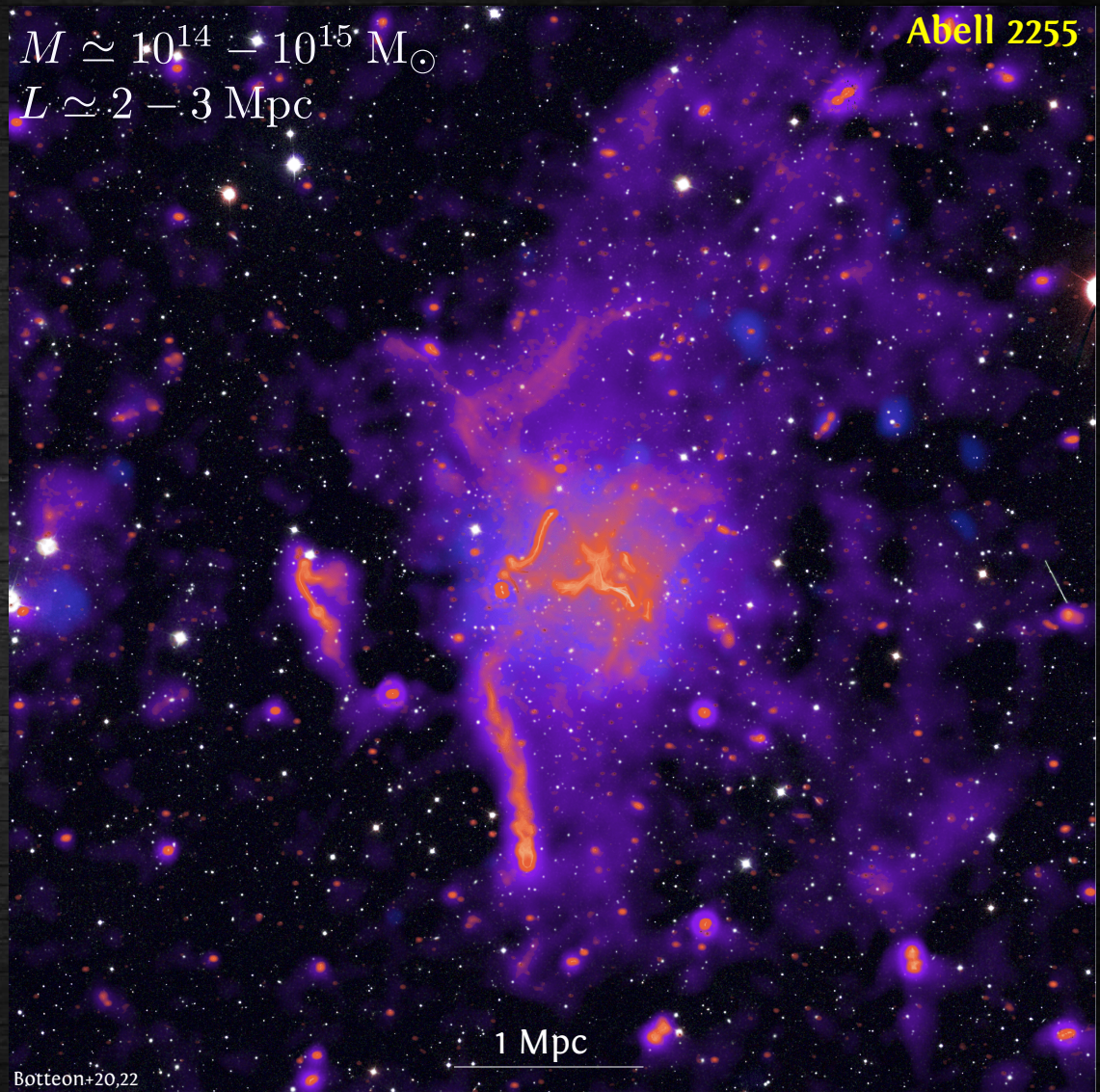
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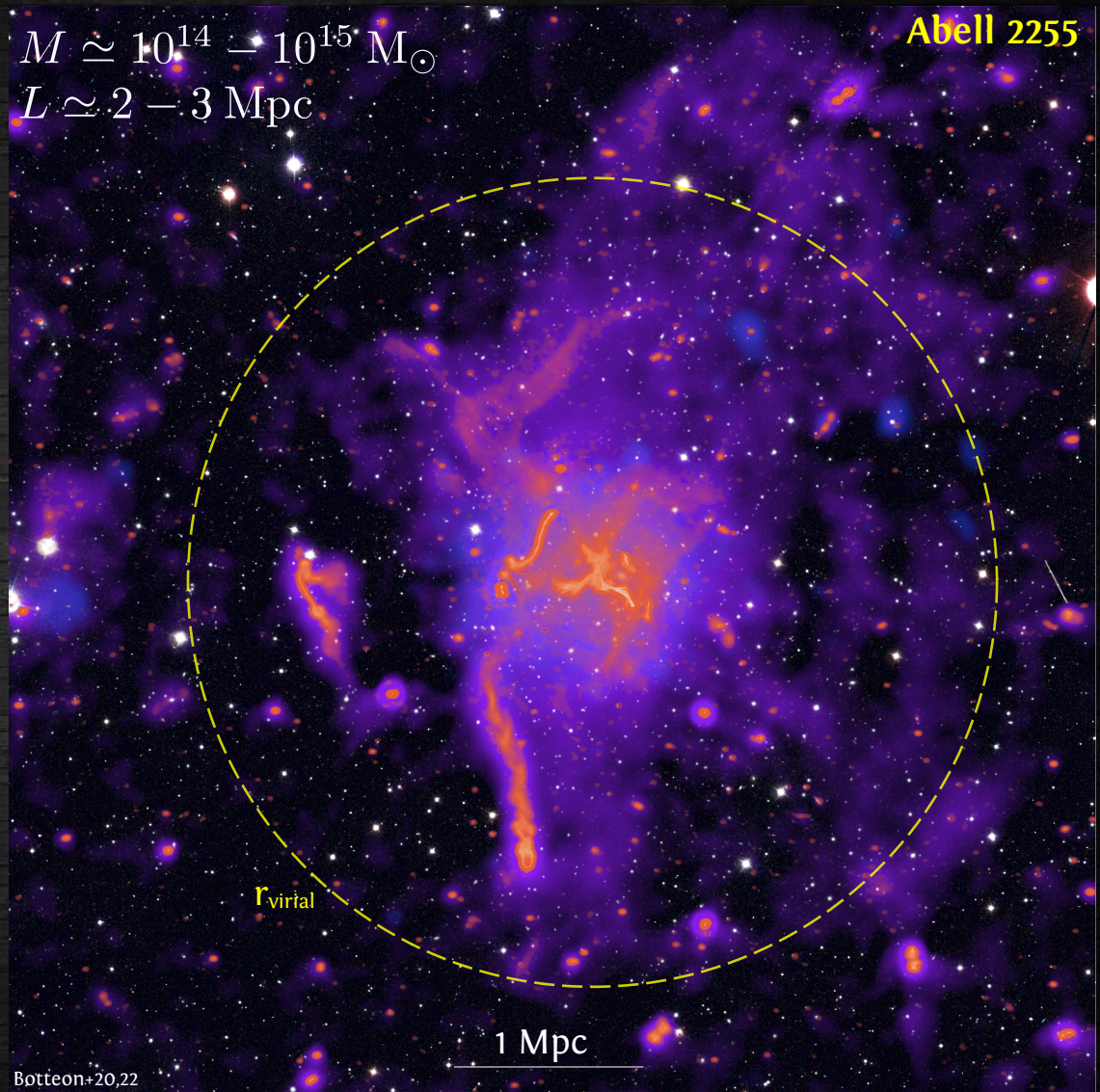
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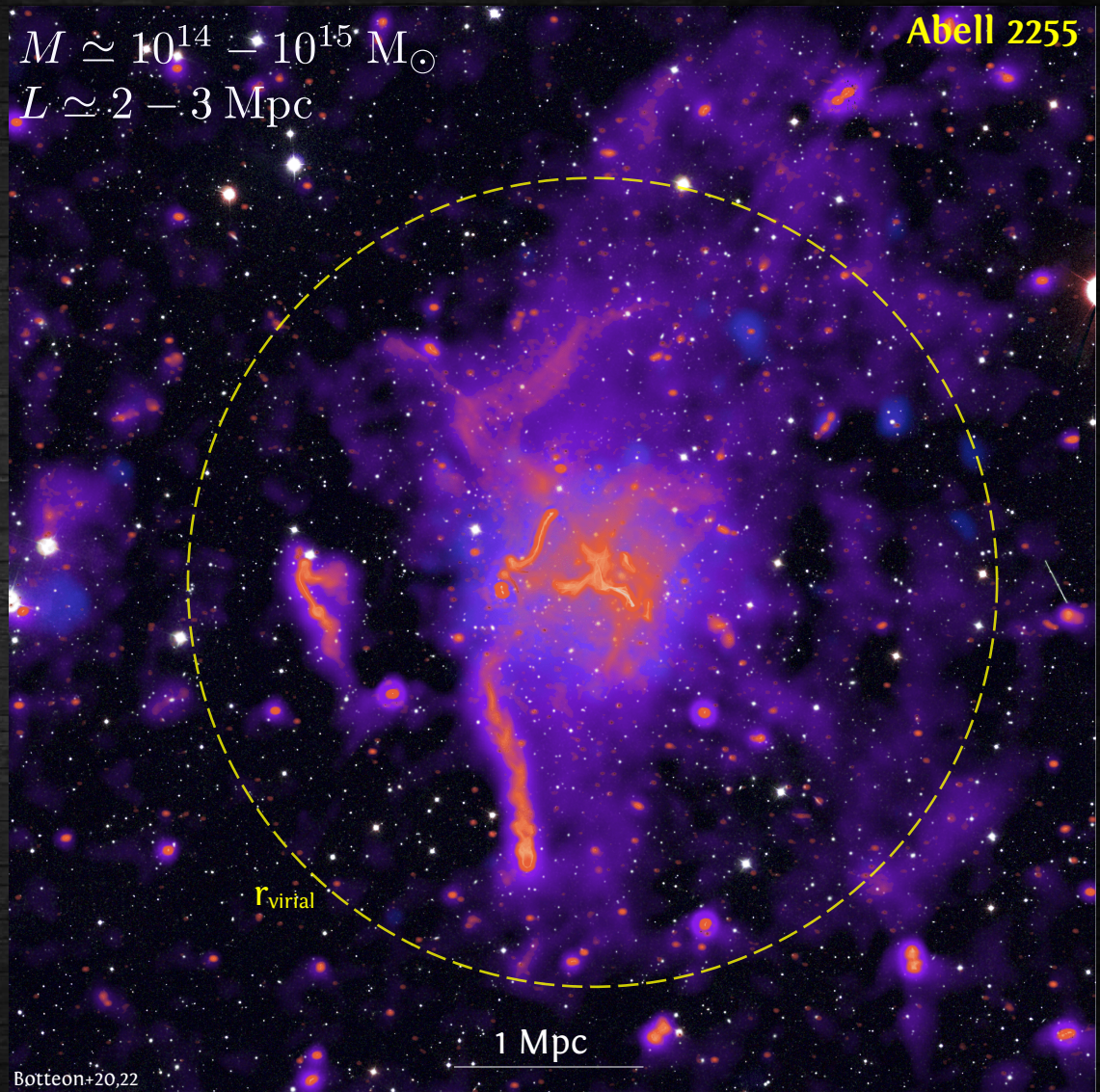
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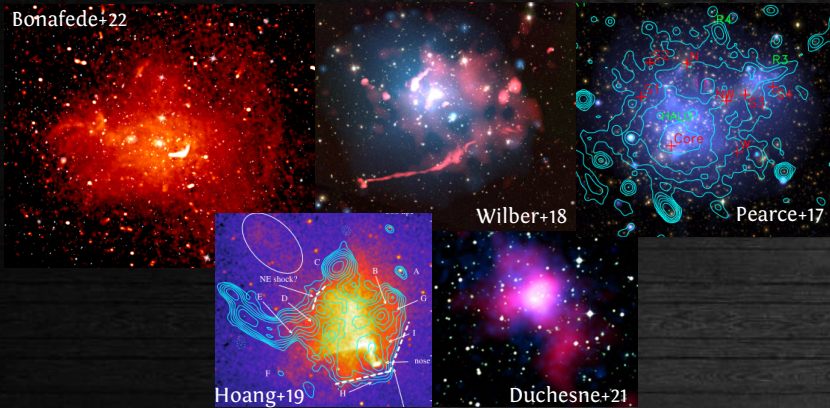
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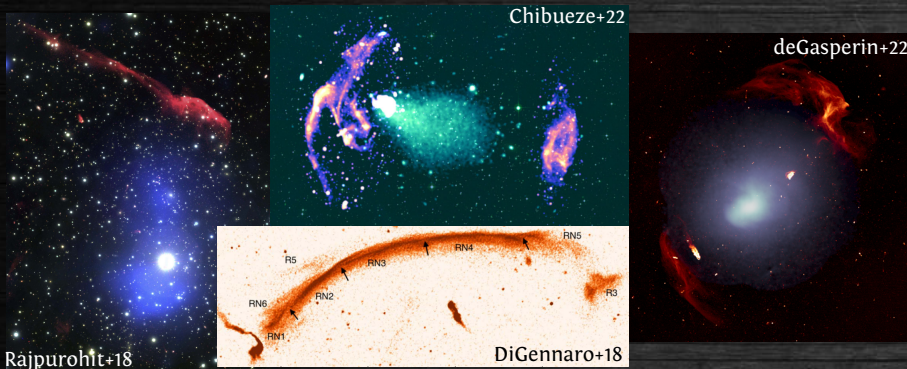
- ? What is the origin of non-thermal components?
- ? What is their impact on the thermal ICM? (microphysics & dynamics)

# Diffuse cluster sources



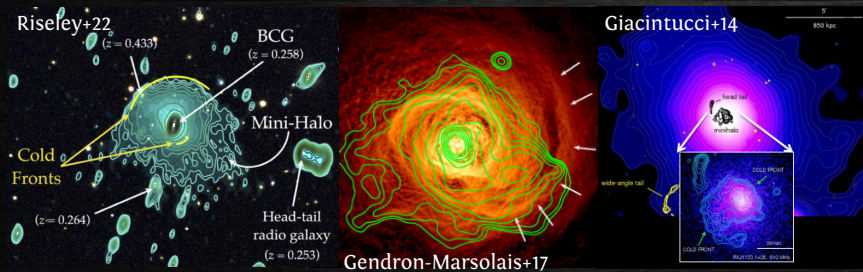
## Radio halos:

- Cluster-scale, in the center
- Follow X-ray morphology
- Unpolarized
- Steep spectra ( $\alpha \sim 1.2-1.3$  but also  $\alpha > 1.5$ )



## Radio relics:

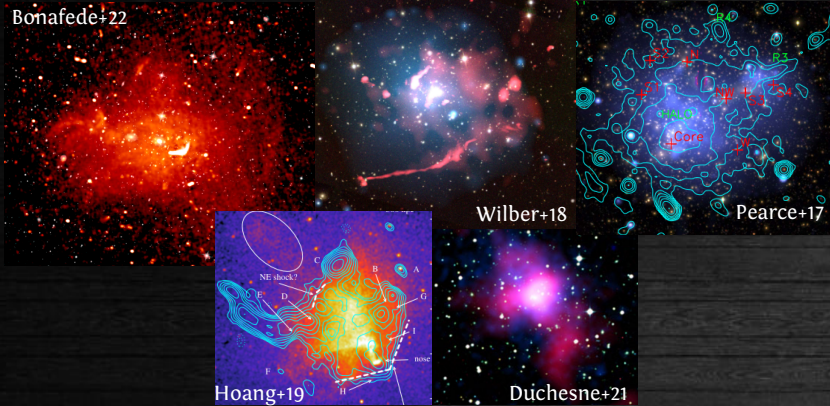
- Cluster-scale, in the outskirts
- Elongated
- Polarized
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- Single and double relics



## Radio mini-halos:

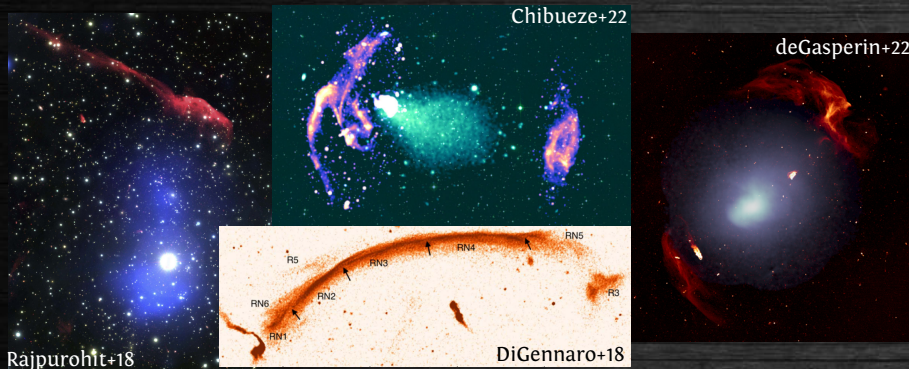
- 100-400 kpc in size, cluster centers
- Surround BCG
- Sharp surface brightness edges
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# Diffuse cluster sources



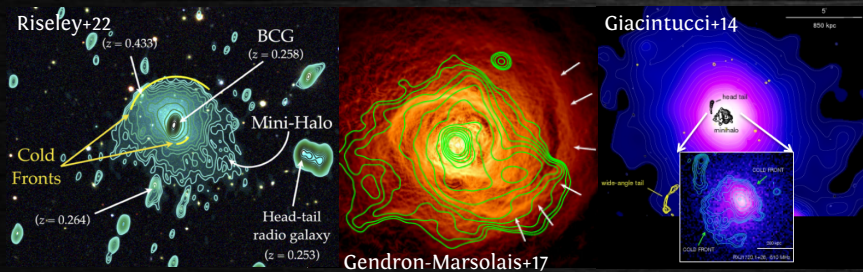
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**Diffusion problem** (e.g. Jaffe77)

$$\tau_{\text{diff}} (\sim 10 \text{ Gyr}) \gg \tau_{\text{rad}} (\sim 0.1 \text{ Gyr})$$

→ Emitting particle must be generated *“in situ”*

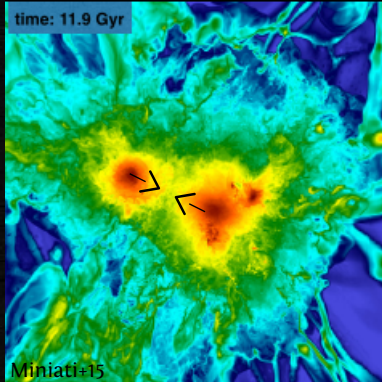


# Origin of halos and relics

Observational milestones:

- *halos* and *relics* are **not ubiquitous** in galaxy clusters
- clusters hosting *halos* and *relics* are **merging** systems

The generation of **giant** diffuse cluster sources is linked to the **formation process** (mass growth) of galaxy clusters

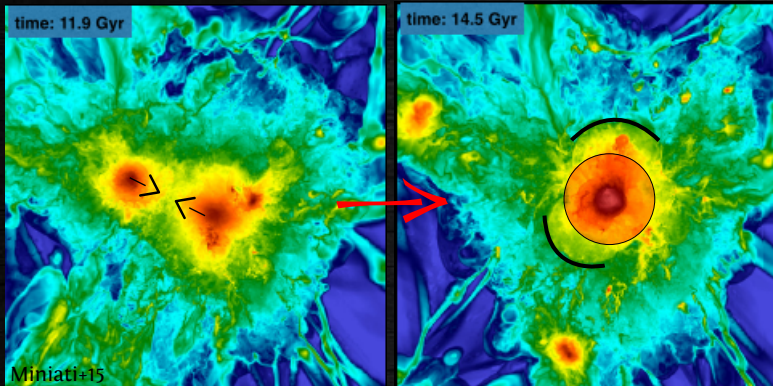


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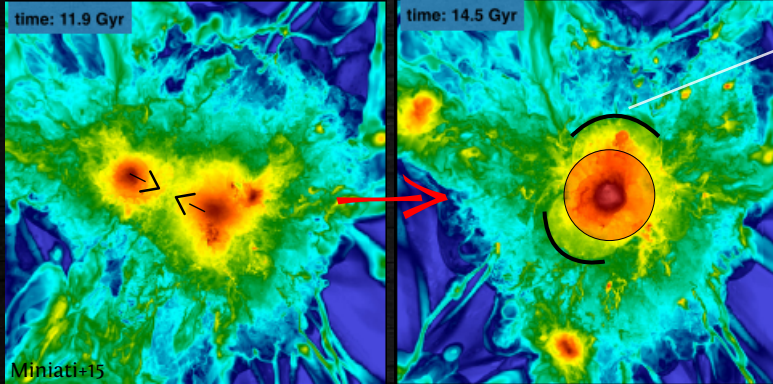


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## Shocks:

accelerate relativistic particles (Fermi I)

CRe  $\rightarrow$  **Radio relics**

CRp  $\rightarrow \pi^0$  decay  $\rightarrow$  gamma-rays (not detected)

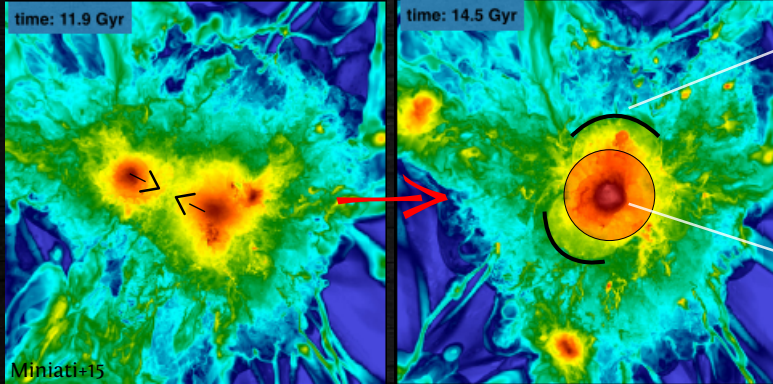
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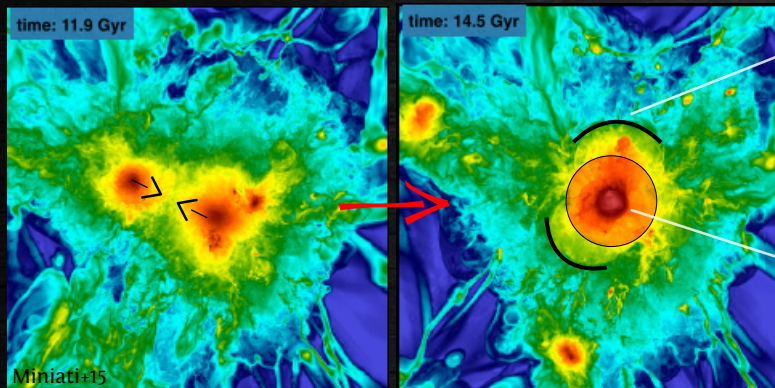
accelerate seed CRe & secondary  $e^\pm$  (Fermi II) → **Radio halos**  
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## Halos:

- ✓ Ultra steep spectrum radio halos (USSRH) (Brunetti+08)
- ✓ High-frequency spectral steepening (Thierbach+03)
- ✓ More common/powerful in massive clusters (Cassano+13)
- ✓ Pure hadronic models discarded (Brunetti+17)

- ? *What is the role of secondary electrons?*
- ? *What are the composition and origin of seed particles?*
- ? *How does turbulence cascade to particle-scale?*

## Relics:

- ✓ Co-location with (weak) shocks (Finoguenov+09)
- ✓ Head-on collisions generate double relics (Roettiger+97)
- ✓ Radial spectral steepening (aging) (vanWeeren+10)
- ✓ DSA of thermal electrons ruled out (Botteon+20)

- ? *What is the role of seed electrons?*
- ? *What is the magnetic field strength in cluster outskirts?*
- ? *Where are the CRp?*

# Origin of mini-halos

Observational milestones:

- *mini-halos* are **not ubiquitous** in galaxy clusters
- clusters hosting *mini-halos* are somehow **relaxed** systems

Mini-halos *are not* associated with **energetic** merging events! Need processes that can **preserve** the cool core

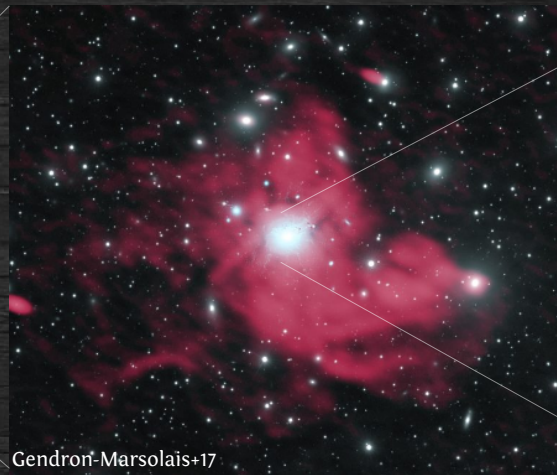
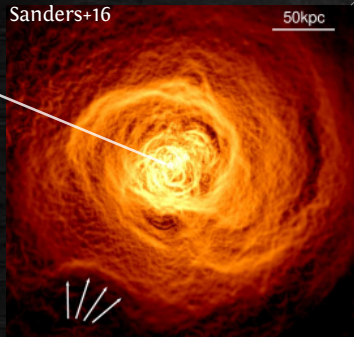
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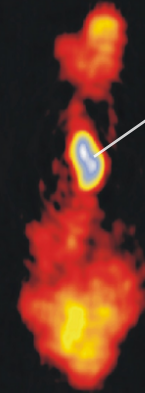
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**Sloshing:**  
cold fronts  
turbulence



Walker+00



**AGN:**  
turbulence  
shocks  
CRp+CRe

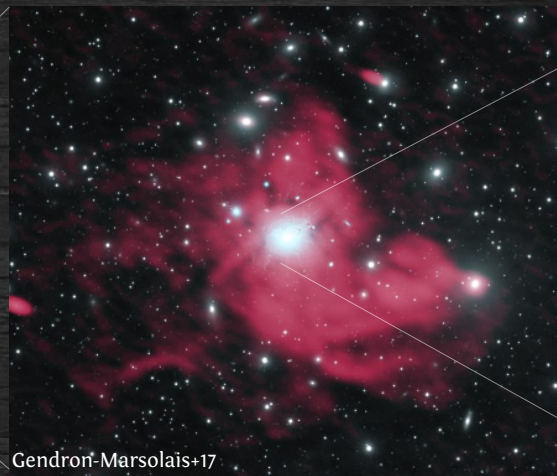
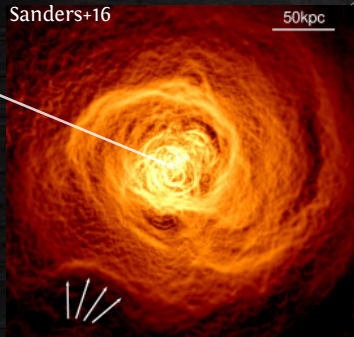
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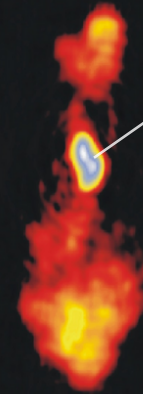
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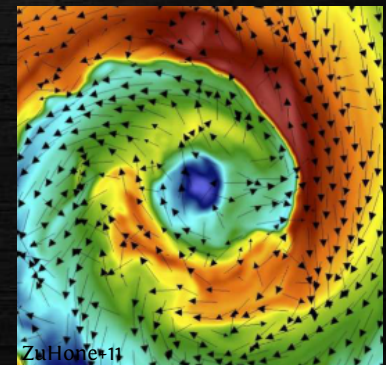
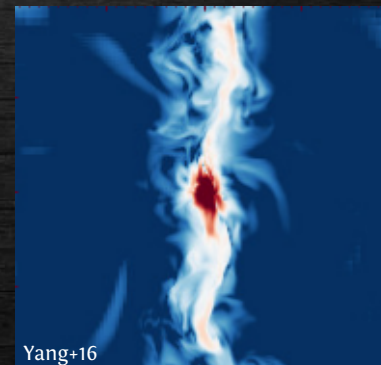


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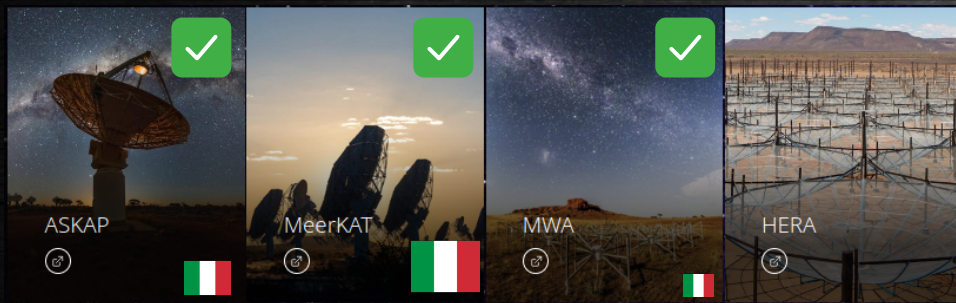
- ✓ Quite common in massive and cool-core clusters (Giacintucci+17)
- ✓ Connection with central AGN (Richard-Laferrriere+20)
- ✓ Connection with sloshing cold fronts (Mazzotta+Giacintucci07)

- ❓ *What is the role of secondary electrons?*
- ❓ *What is the source of turbulence?* (AGN vs minor/off-axis merger)

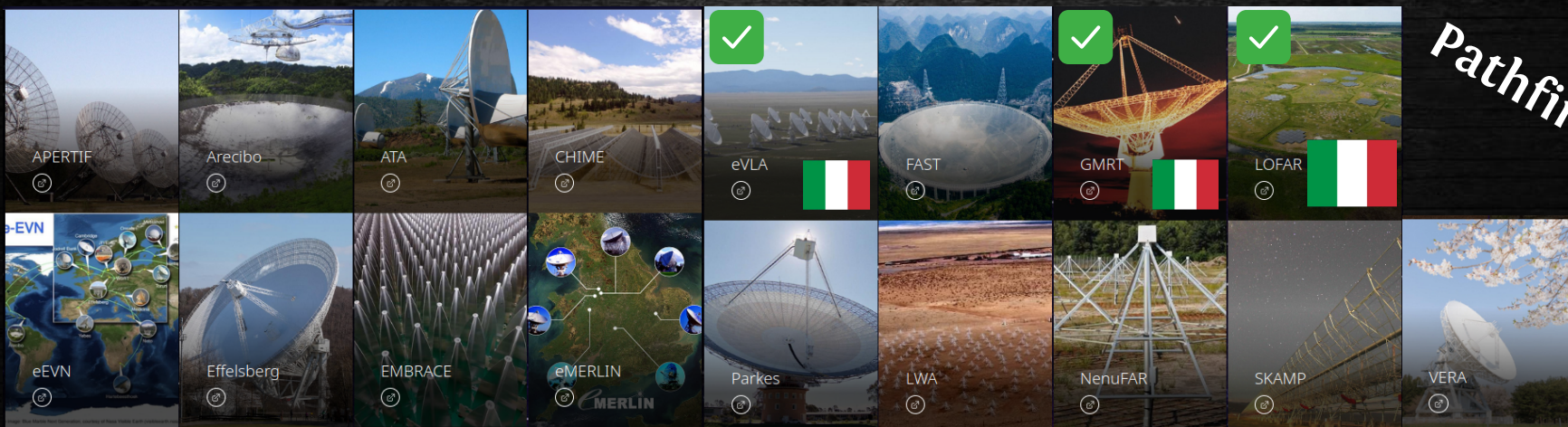




# SKA precursors and pathfinders

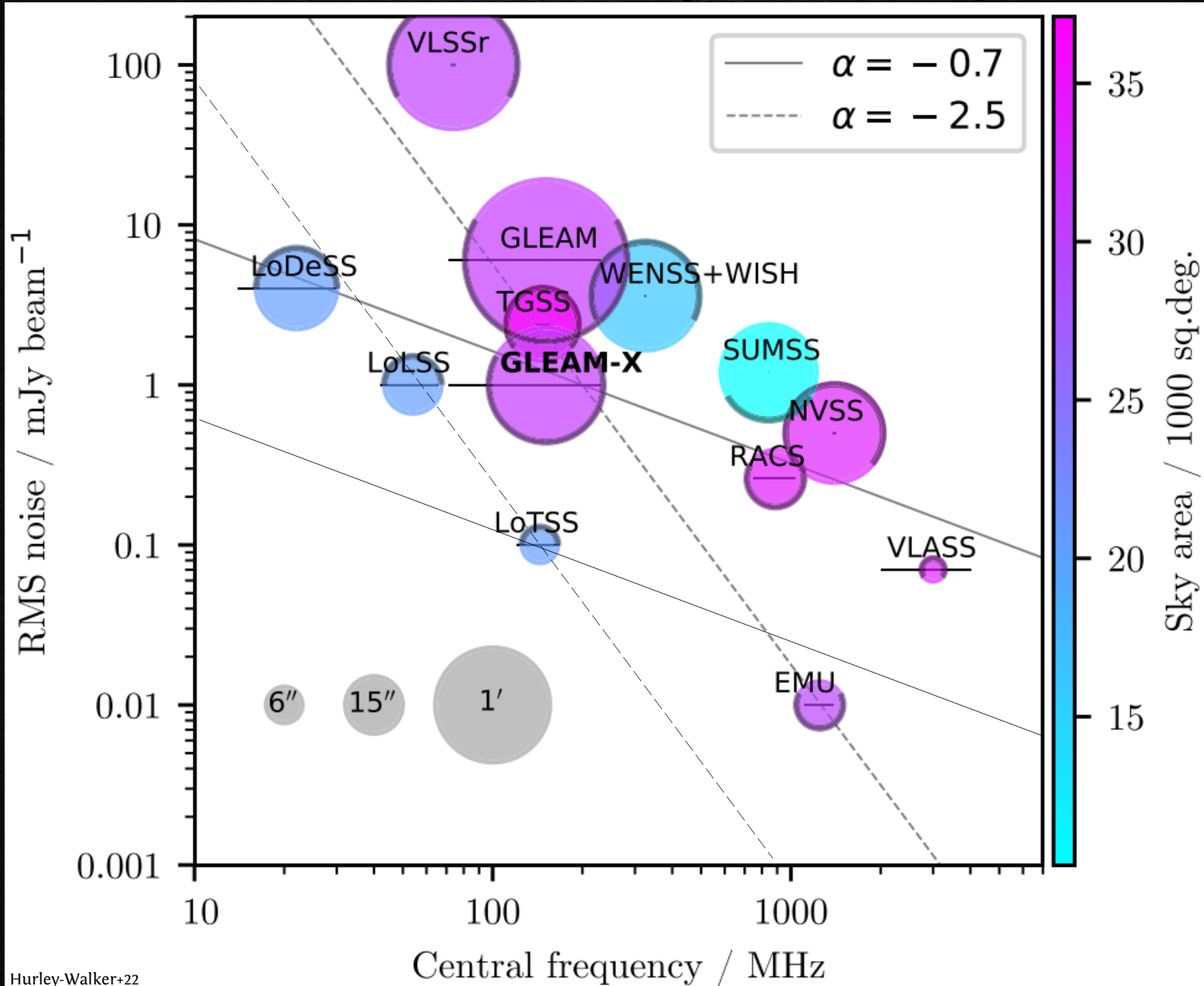


## Precursors

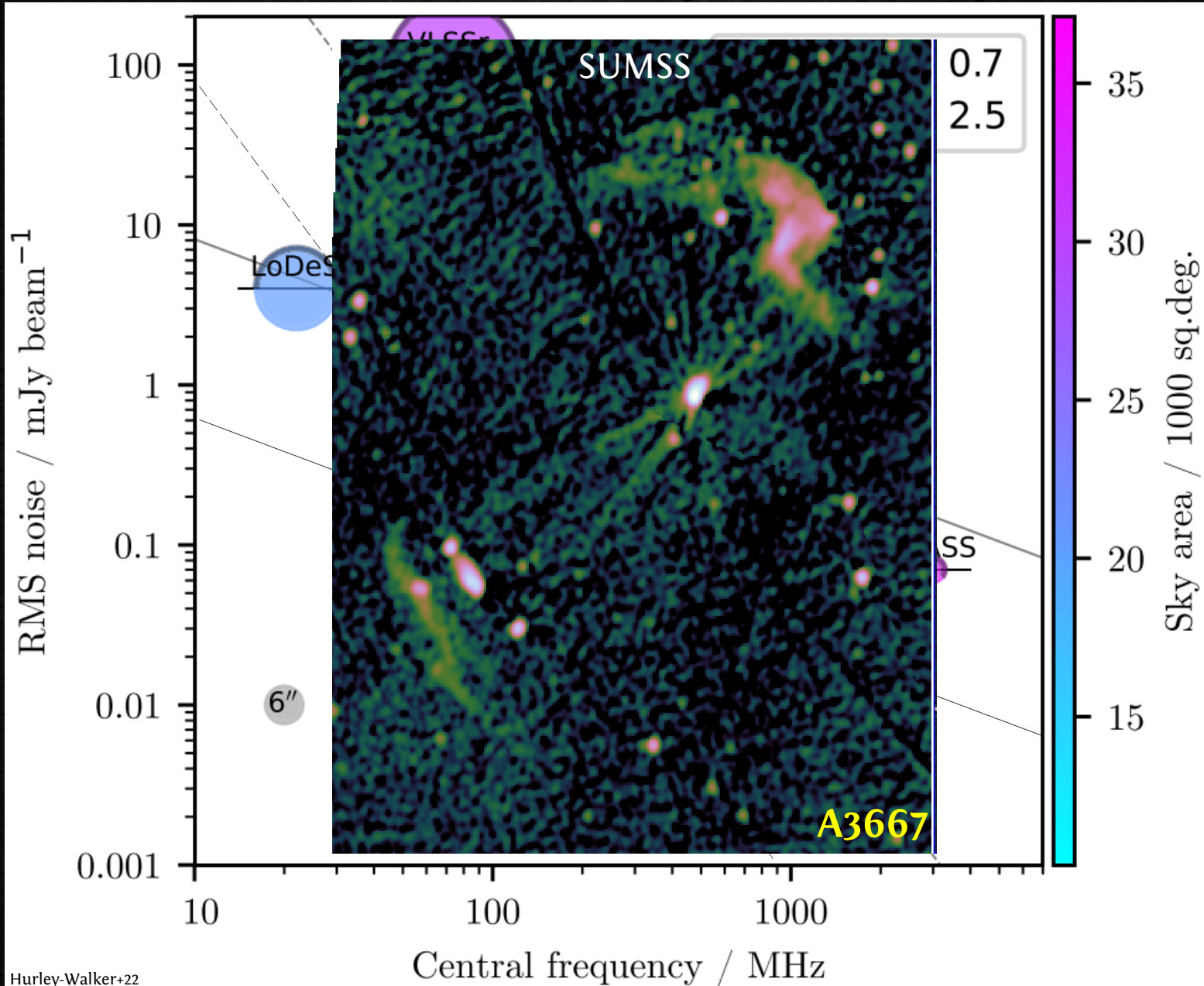


## Pathfinders

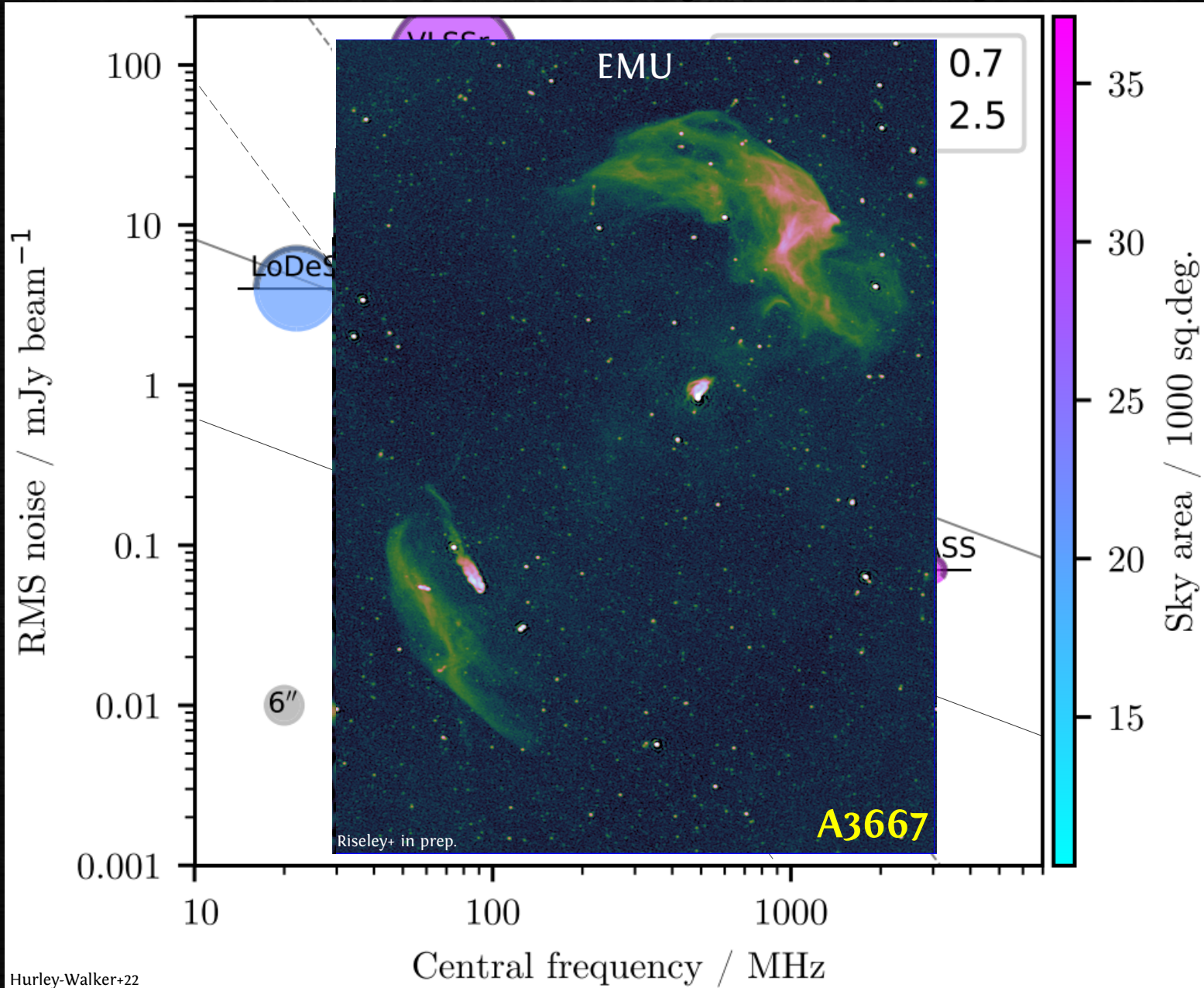
# Wide-area sky surveys



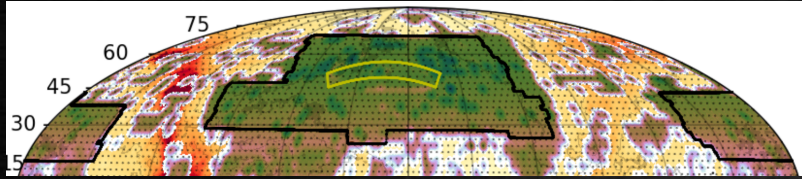
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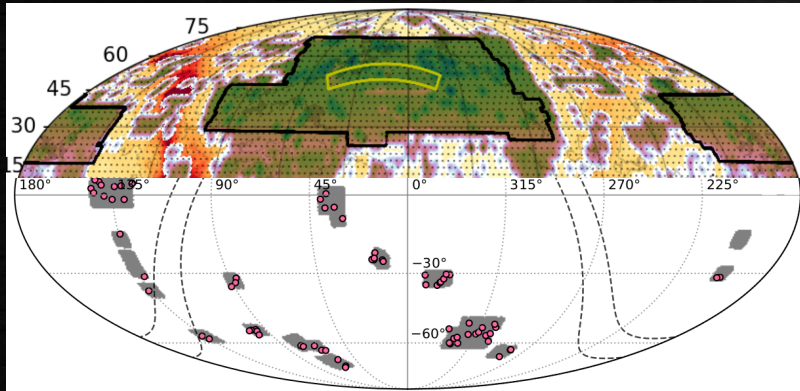
# Large statistical samples



**LOFAR**

*LoTSS-DR2*, 5634 deg<sup>2</sup>, **309** PSZ2 clusters  
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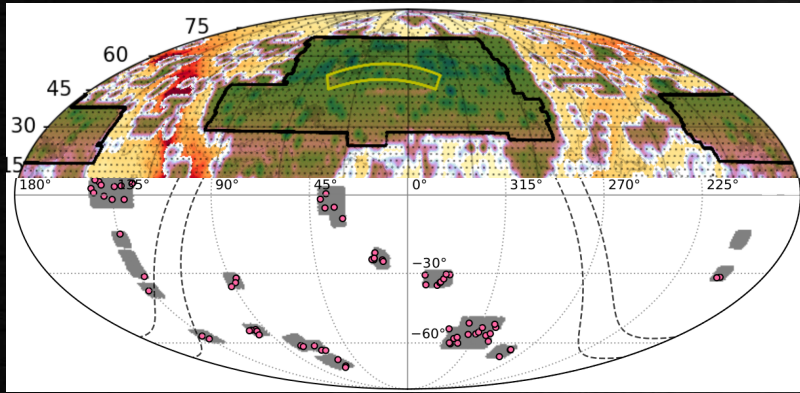
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*EMU*, 1990 deg<sup>2</sup>, **71** PSZ2 clusters  
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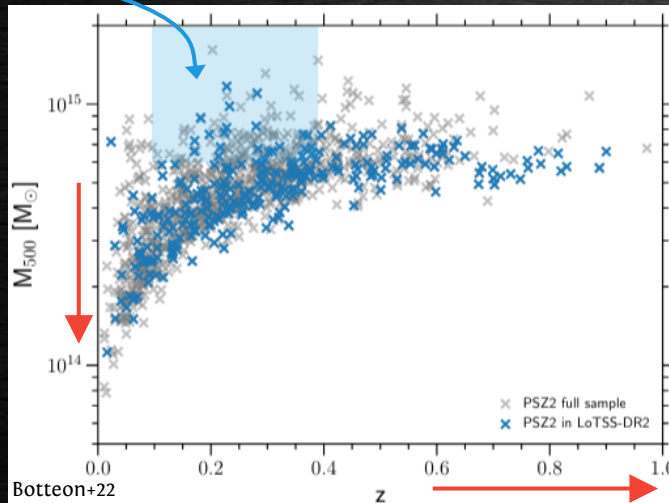
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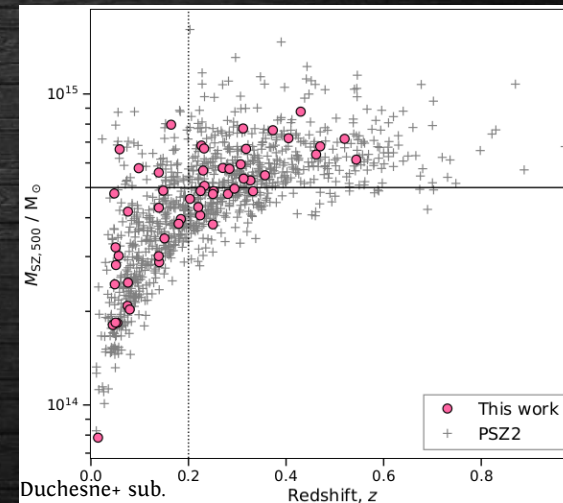
Previous studies

Planck provides a *mass-selected* cluster sample



*The Planck clusters in the LOFAR sky*

(6 papers in A&A)



Statistical analysis of PSZ2 *galaxy clusters* exploring new ranges of *redshift* and *mass*

# Highlights

*LoTSS-DR2* (Botteon+22): 83 halos, 26 relics

*EMU* (Duchesne+ sub.): 21 halos, 11 relics



About *half* are *new*



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All *LoTSS+EMU*: ~500 halos, ~160 relics



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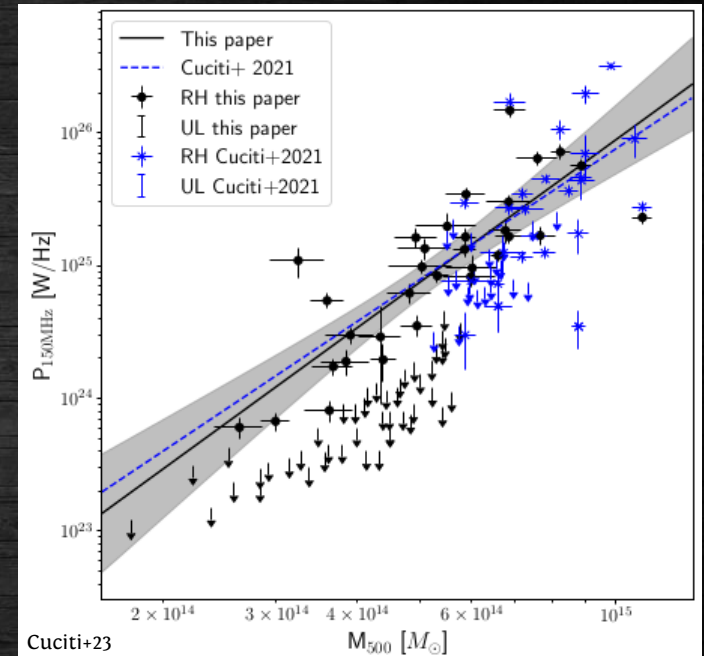
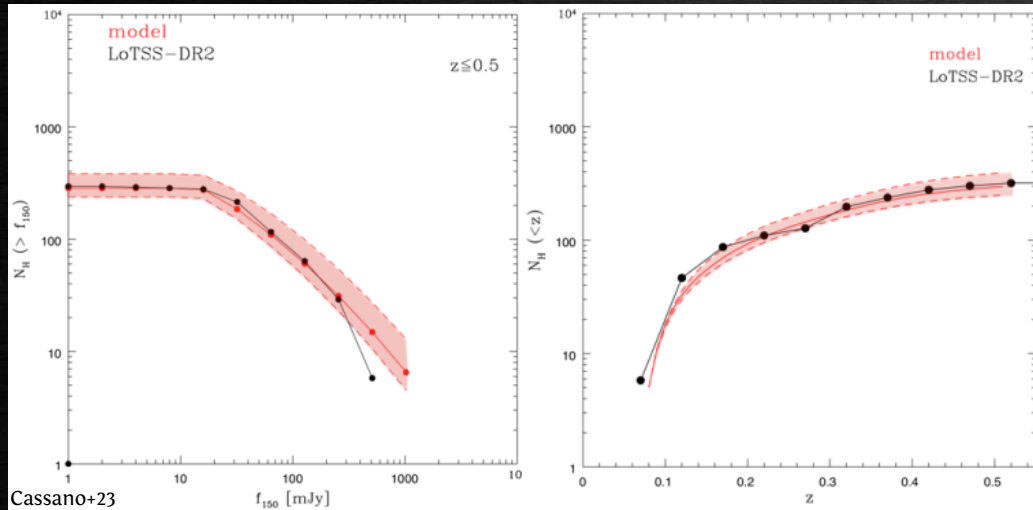
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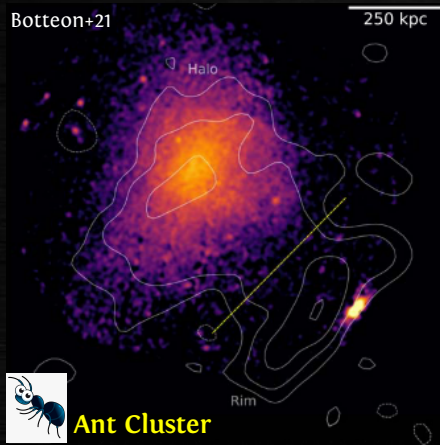
- Number, flux density, and  $z$  distribution of **halos** OK with *turbulent re-acceleration* models
- Ongoing: tests on spectral properties using *LoLSS*, *uGMRT*, and *MeerKAT*

- P-M relation at *low*-frequency
- *Wider* range of mass probed
- Scatter related to cluster **disturbance**

# Low-mass and high-z radio halos

Low-mass →

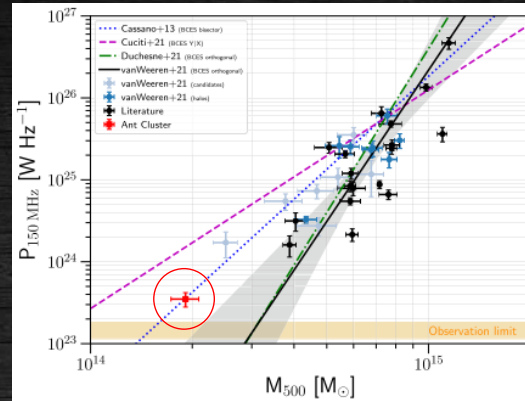
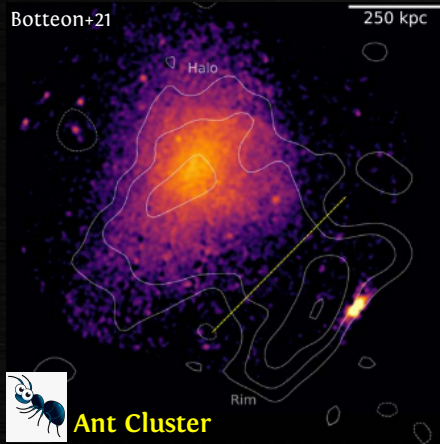
$M_{500} < 2e14 M_{\odot}$



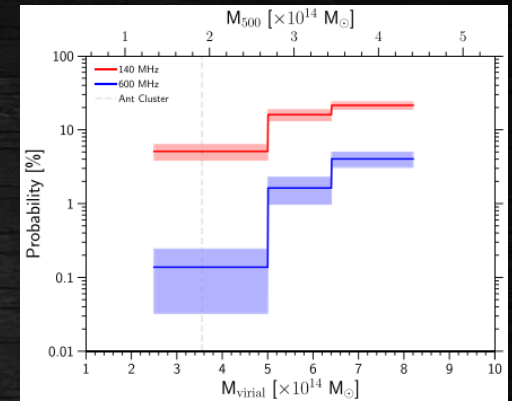
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- Exploring the P-M relation in an *uncharted* territory

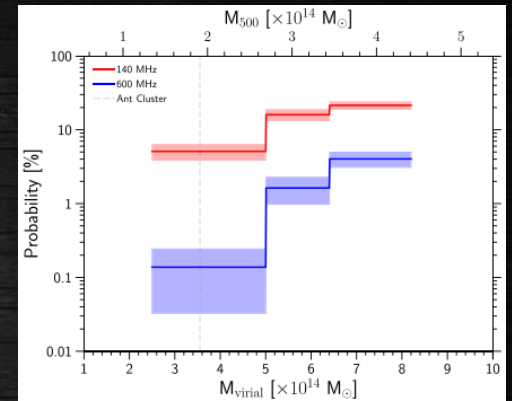
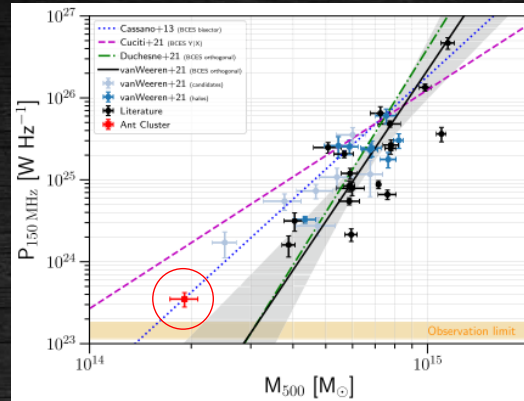
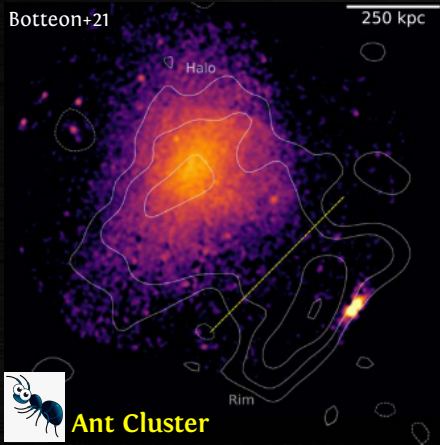


- Crucial test for turbulent *re-acceleration* models

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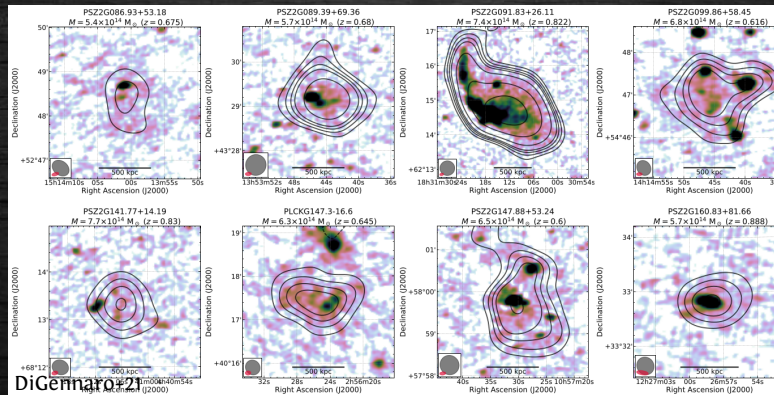
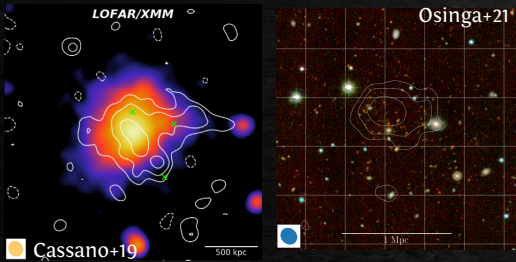
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• Exploring the P-M relation in an *uncharted* territory

• Crucial test for turbulent *re-acceleration* models

High-redshift →  $z > 0.6$

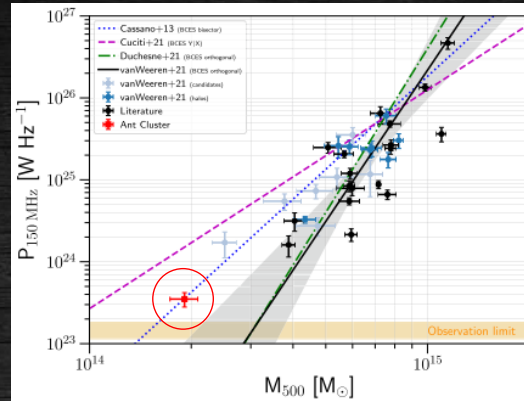
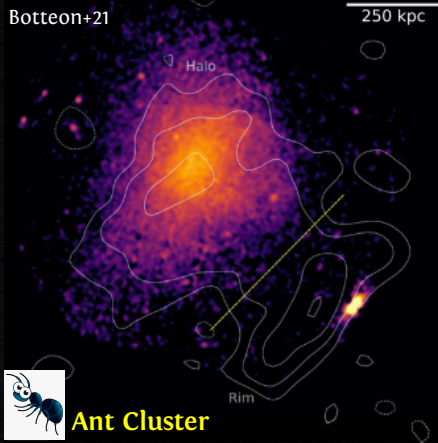


$$\frac{d\gamma}{dt} \propto - (B_{\text{cmb}}^2 + B^2) \gamma^2$$

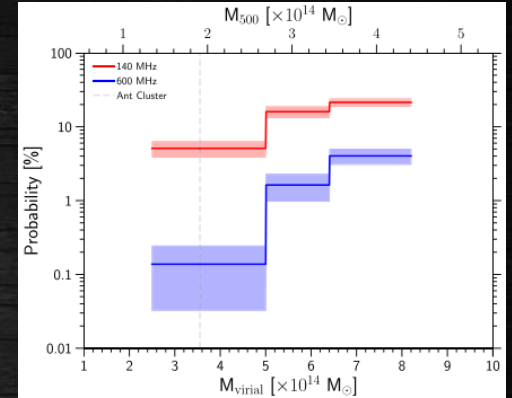
$$B_{\text{cmb}} = 3.25(1+z)^2 \mu\text{G}$$

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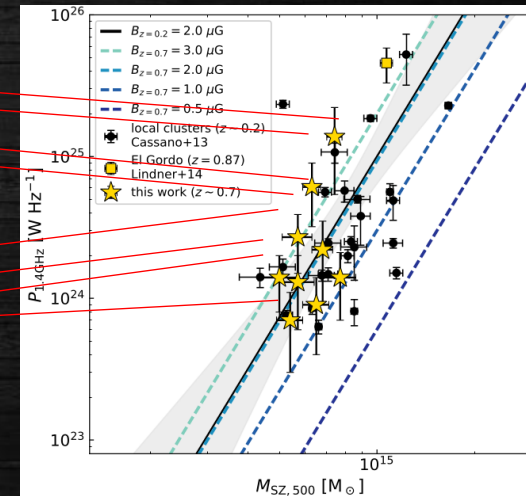
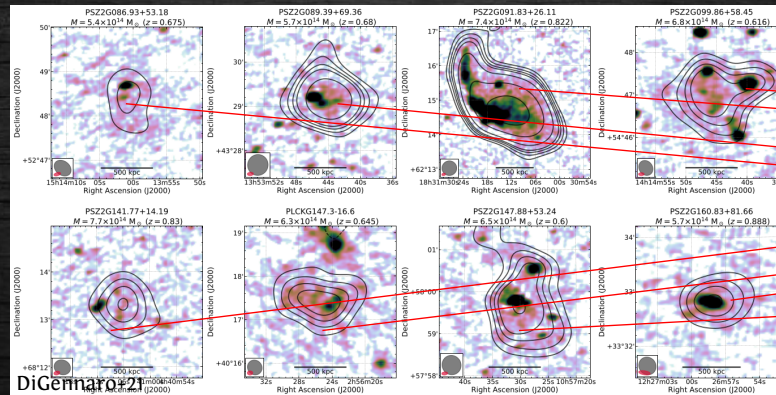
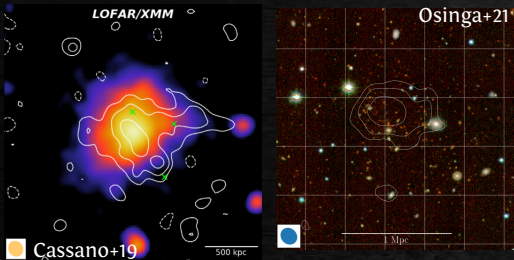


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High-redshift →  $z > 0.6$



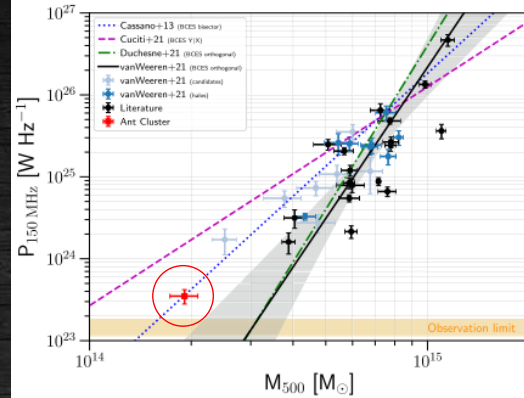
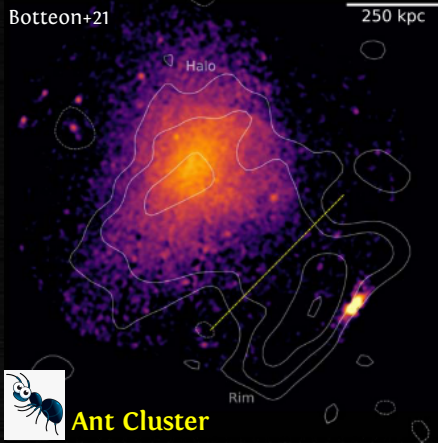
$$\frac{d\gamma}{dt} \propto - (B_{\text{cmb}}^2 + B^2) \gamma^2$$

$$B_{\text{cmb}} = 3.25(1+z)^2 \mu\text{G}$$

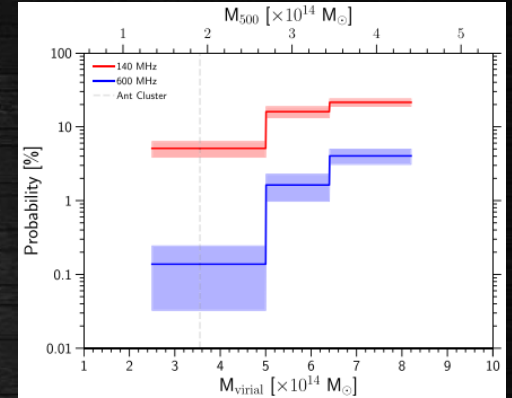
Fast magnetic field amplification in *distant* galaxy clusters

# Low-mass and high-z radio halos

Low-mass →  
 $M_{500} < 2e14 M_{\odot}$

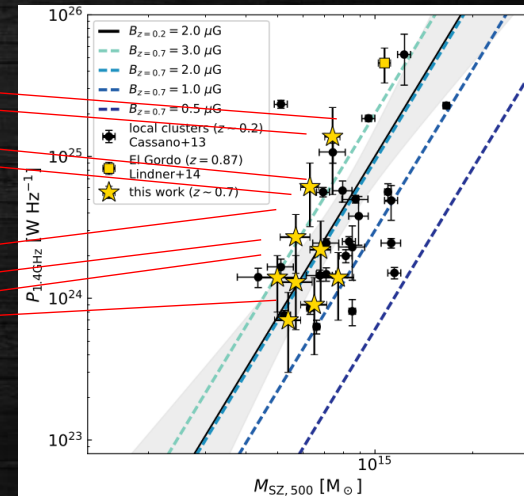
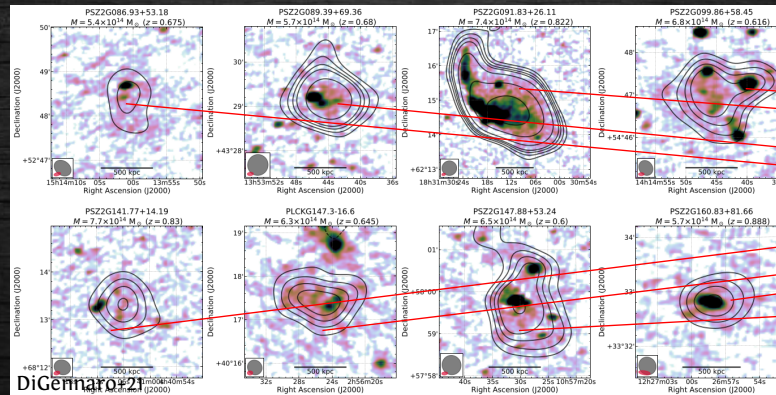
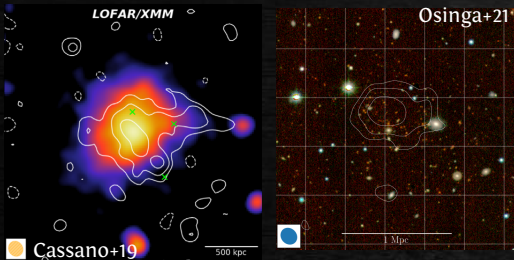


- Exploring the P-M relation in an *uncharted* territory



- Crucial test for turbulent *re-acceleration* models

High-redshift →  $z > 0.6$



$$\frac{d\gamma}{dt} \propto - (B_{\text{cmb}}^2 + B^2) \gamma^2$$

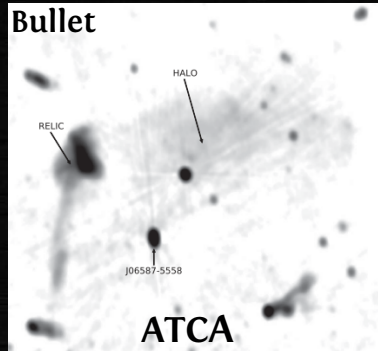
$$B_{\text{cmb}} = 3.25(1+z)^2 \mu\text{G}$$

Fast magnetic field amplification in *distant* galaxy clusters

- ? How low can we go in mass?
- ? How far can we go in redshift?

# Halos & relics (sub)structures

We can now recover extended emission at *high resolution*



Halos were generally described as **smooth** sources with **regular** morphology

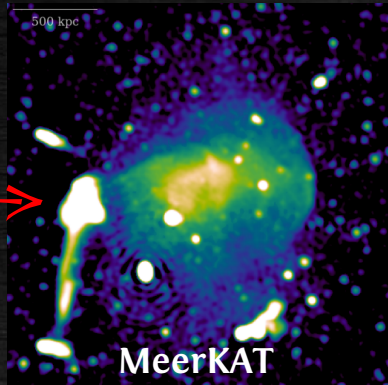
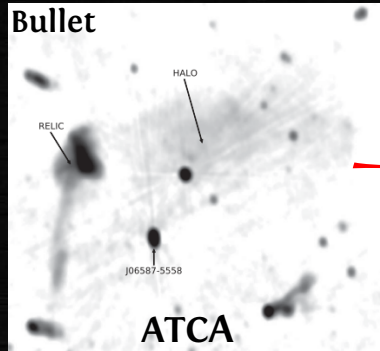
(Feretti+12, vanWeeren+19)

→ not true anymore



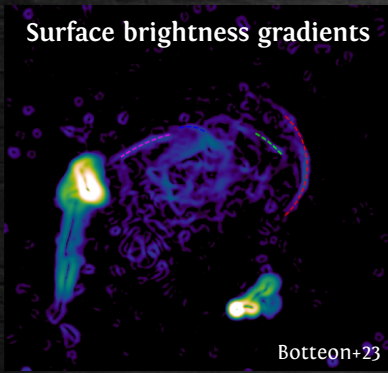
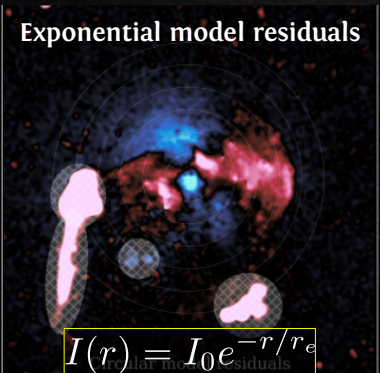
# Halos & relics (sub)structures

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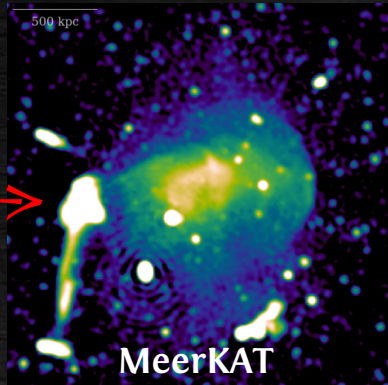
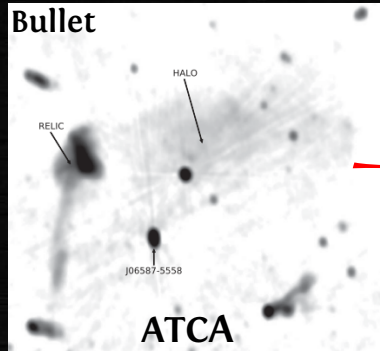
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# Halos & relics (sub)structures

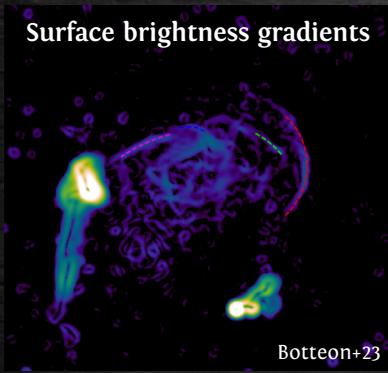
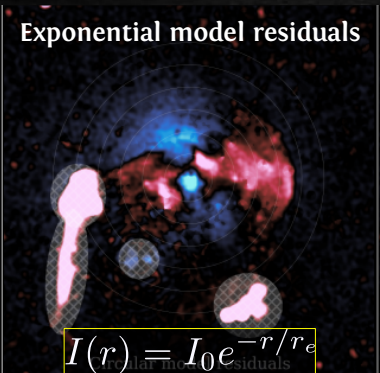
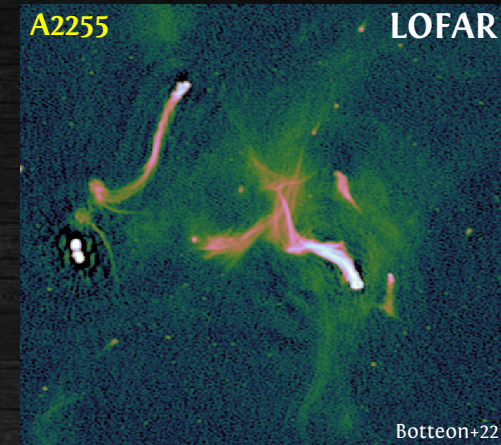
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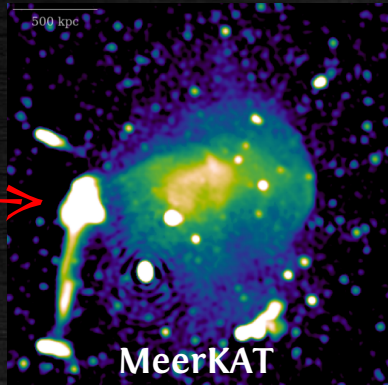
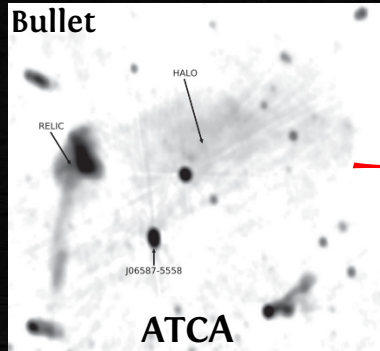
→ not true anymore



Halos are actually rich of **substructure**, including prominent surface brightness *edges* and *filamentary* structures

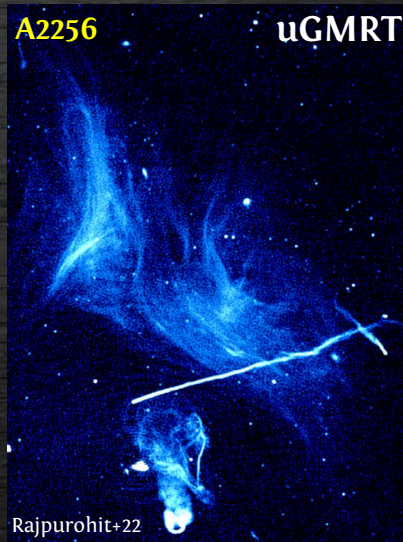
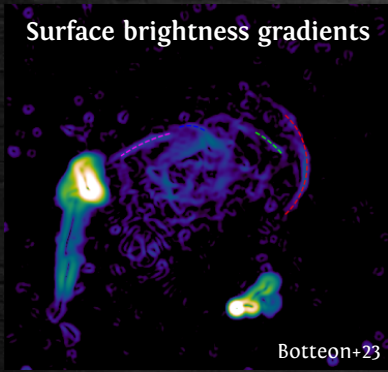
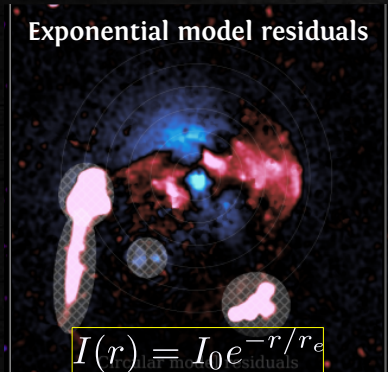
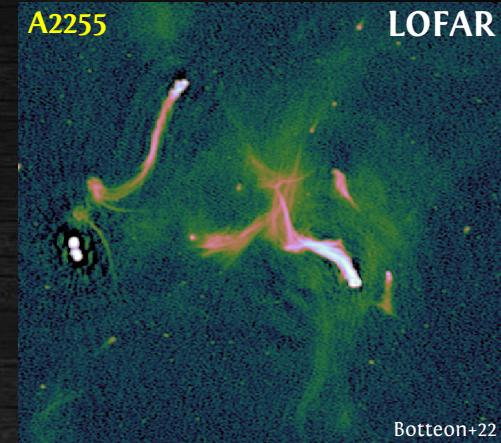
# Halos & relics (sub)structures

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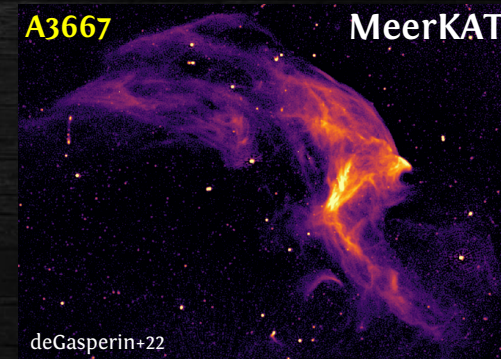


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→ not true anymore



Radio relics?  
Full of *filaments*!

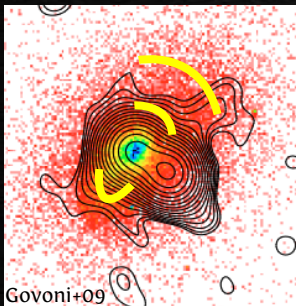
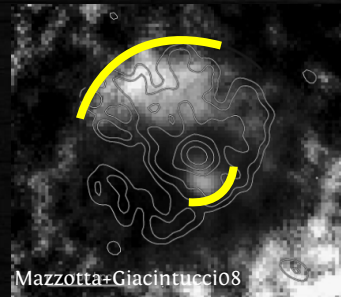
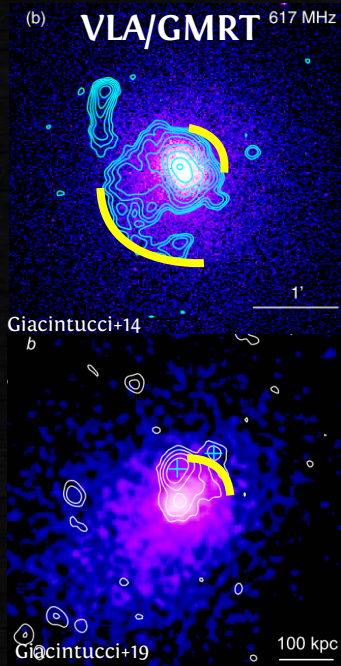


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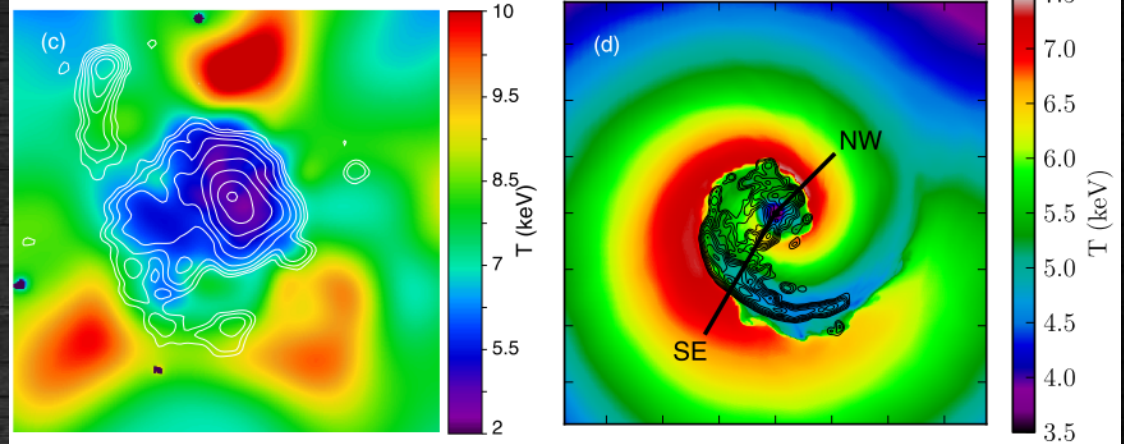
② What is their connection with particle acceleration and magnetic field amplification mechanisms?

# Mini(?) halos

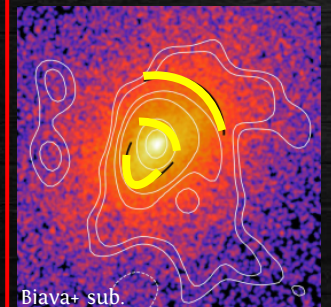
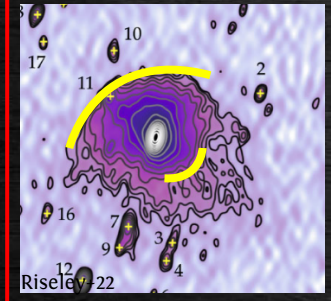
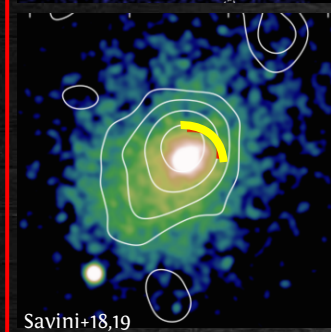
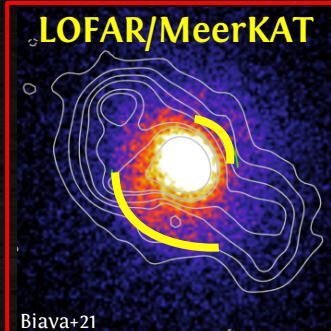
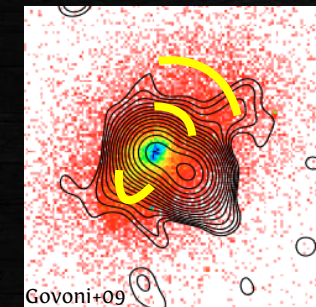
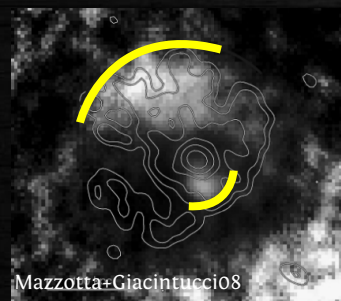
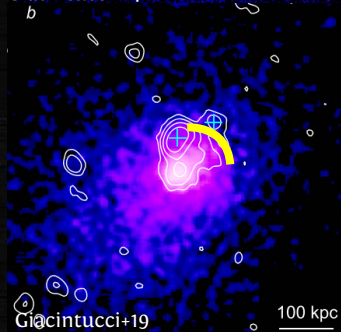
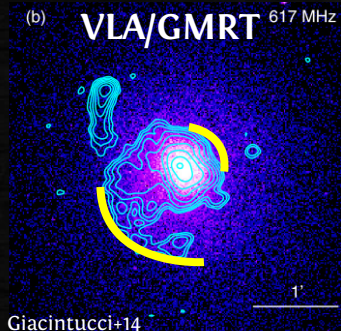
*Confinement* of mini-halos in sloshing *cold fronts*



ZuHone+13, Giacintucci+14

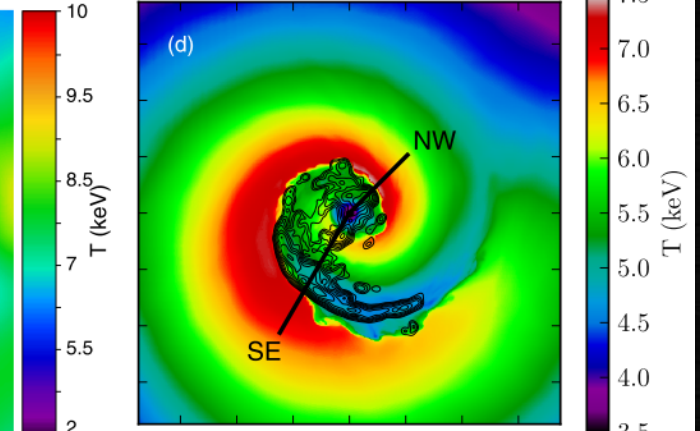
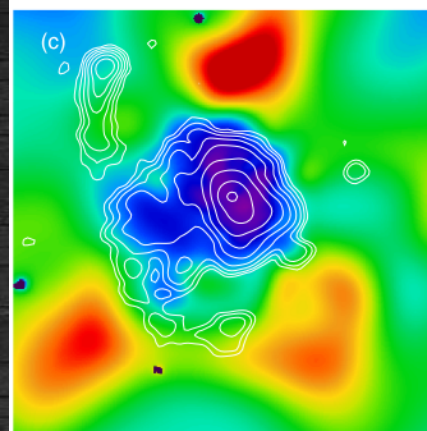


# Mini(?) halos



Confinement of mini-halos in sloshing cold fronts

ZuHone+13, Giacintucci+14



Some mini-halos are surrounded by steep spectrum emission

- ? Two components with different origin?
- ? Low levels of turbulence outside the central region?

# Re-defining giant & mini halos?

**Mini-halos**

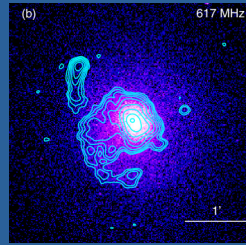
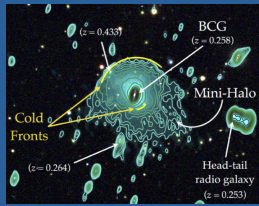
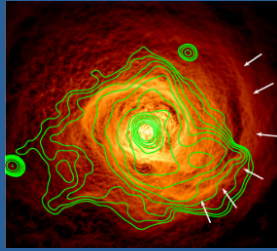


**Giant halos**

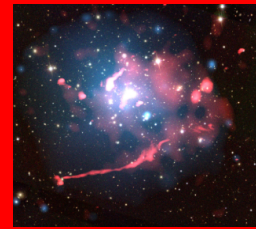
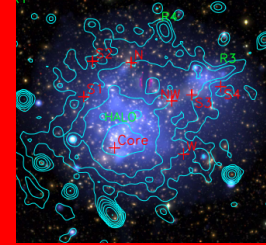


# Re-defining giant & mini halos?

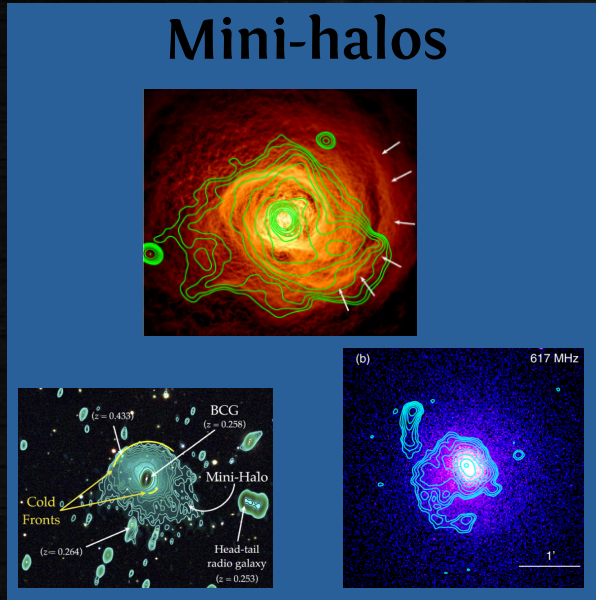
## Mini-halos



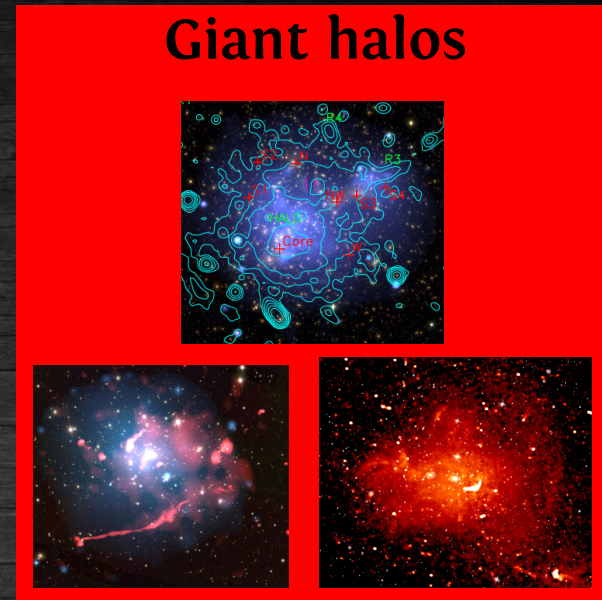
## Giant halos



# Re-defining giant & mini halos?



The prototypical “mini” halo  
is **-1 Mpc** in size

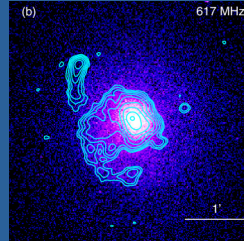
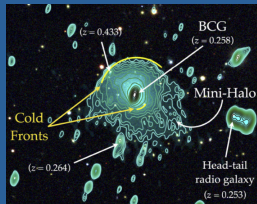
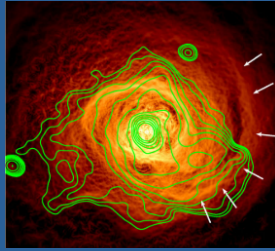


“Giant” halos in low-mass  
clusters are **-500 kpc** in size

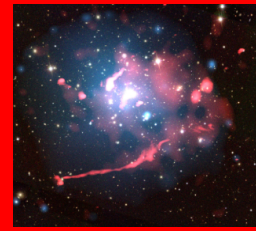
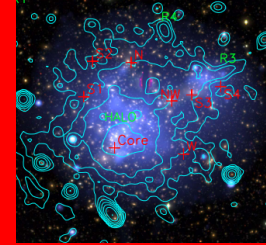


# Re-defining giant & mini halos?

## Mini-halos



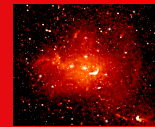
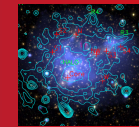
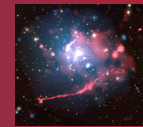
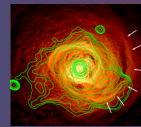
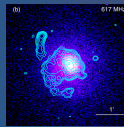
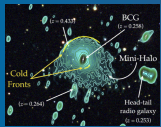
## Giant halos



The prototypical “mini” halo is **-1 Mpc** in size

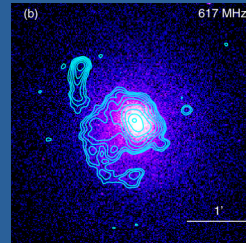
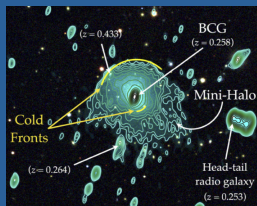
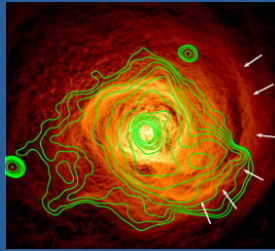
“Giant” halos in low-mass clusters are **-500 kpc** in size

## Halos.



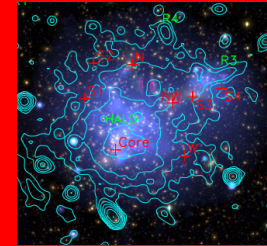
# Re-defining giant & mini halos?

## Mini-halos



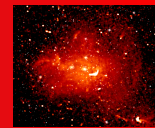
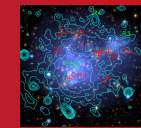
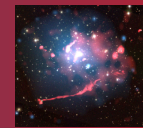
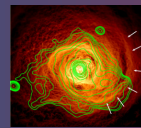
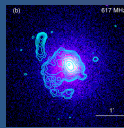
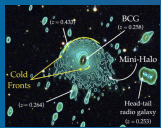
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## Giant halos



“Giant” halos in low-mass clusters are **-500 kpc** in size

## Halos.



Article  
**Radio Galaxy Classification: #Tags, Not Boxes**

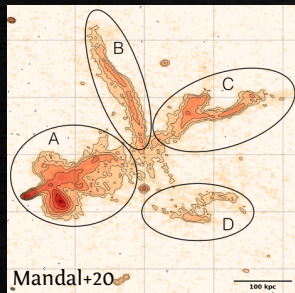
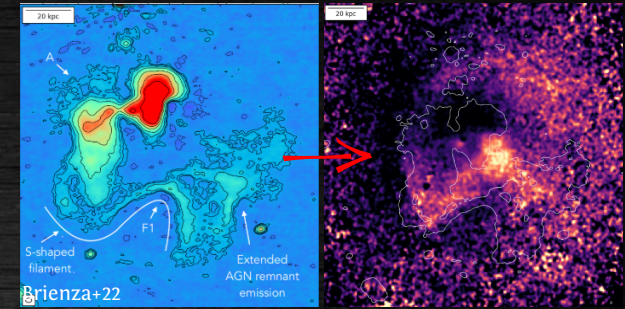
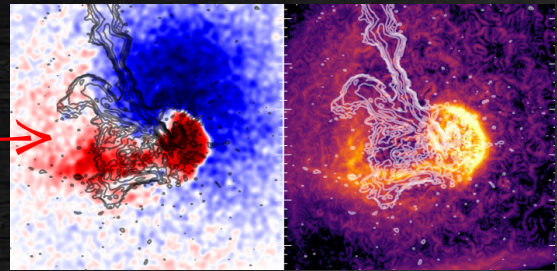
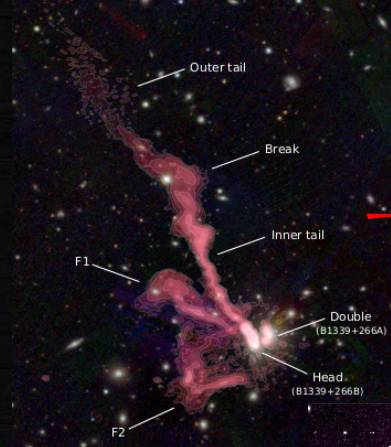
Lawrence Rudnick



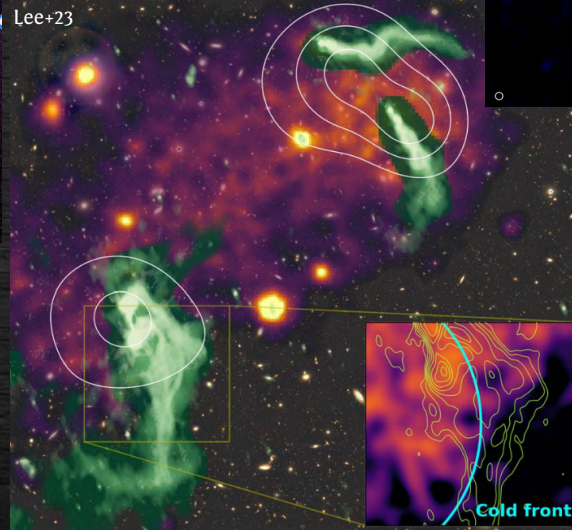
*Instead of trying to place them into “boxes”, we should assign them #tags, a system that is easy to understand and apply, that is flexible and evolving, and that can accommodate conflicting ideas with respect to what is relevant and important.*

# AGN/ICM interaction (seeding)

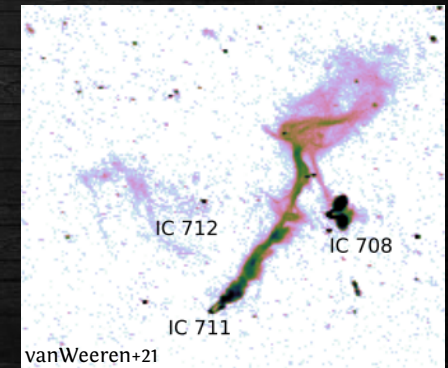
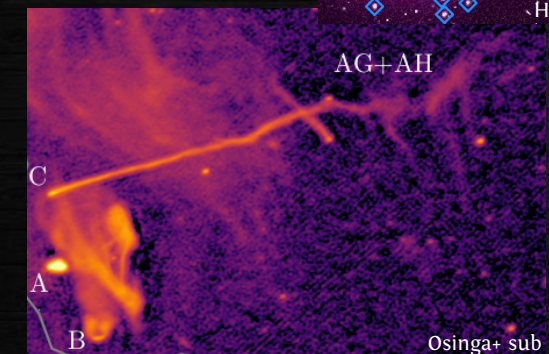
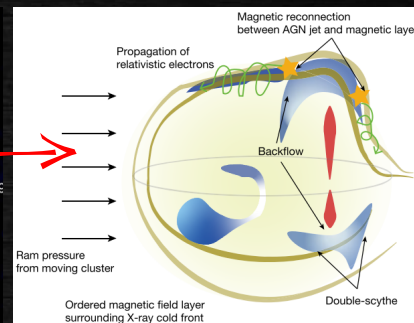
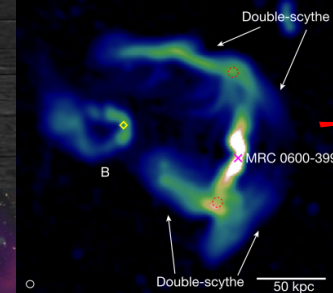
Botteon+21



Lee+23



Chibueze+21



Complex interactions between *non-thermal components* and *ICM motions*  
 → transport of **seeds** and **B**

# Beyond clusters

- **Relics** are found in the cluster *outskirts*  
(vanWeeren+10, Bagchi+11, Bonafede+14,22, Hoang+21, Riseley+22, Jones+23)

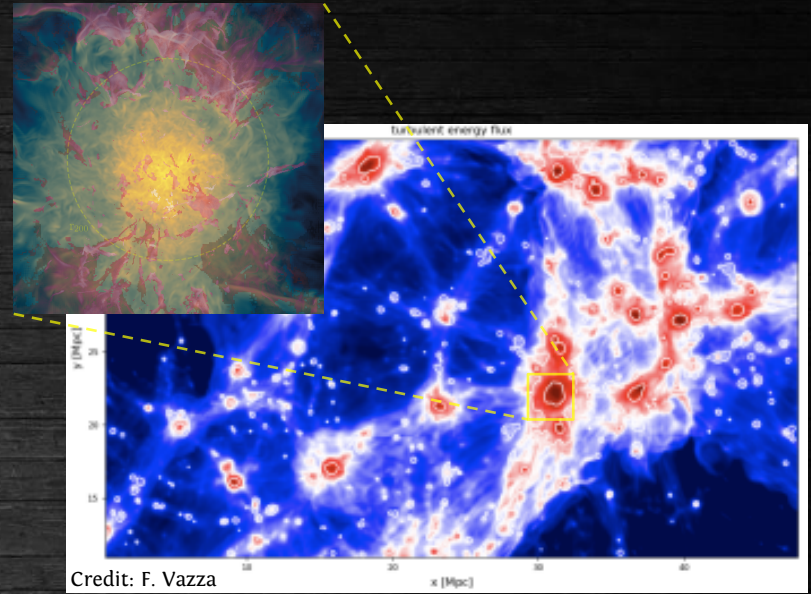
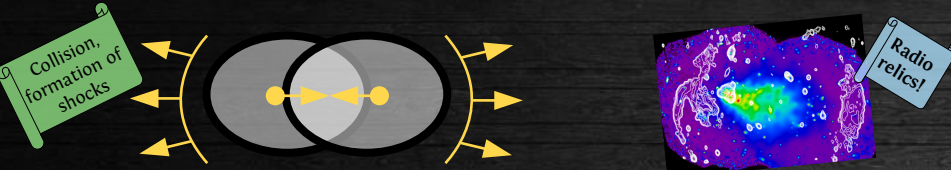


- **Halos** have extensions of 2 Mpc and *beyond*  
(Shweta+20, Hoang+21, Rajpurohit+21a,21b,22, Botteon+22, Cuciti+22, Knowles+22 Bruno+23)



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Credit: F. Vazza

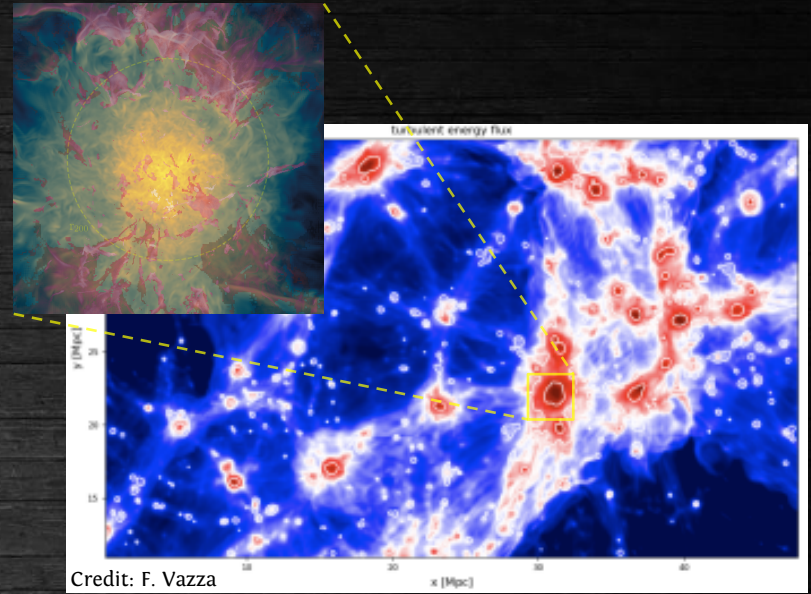
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Probing particle acceleration at *large distances* from the cluster center

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Probing particle acceleration at *large distances* from the cluster center

What about diffuse emission *outside* clusters?



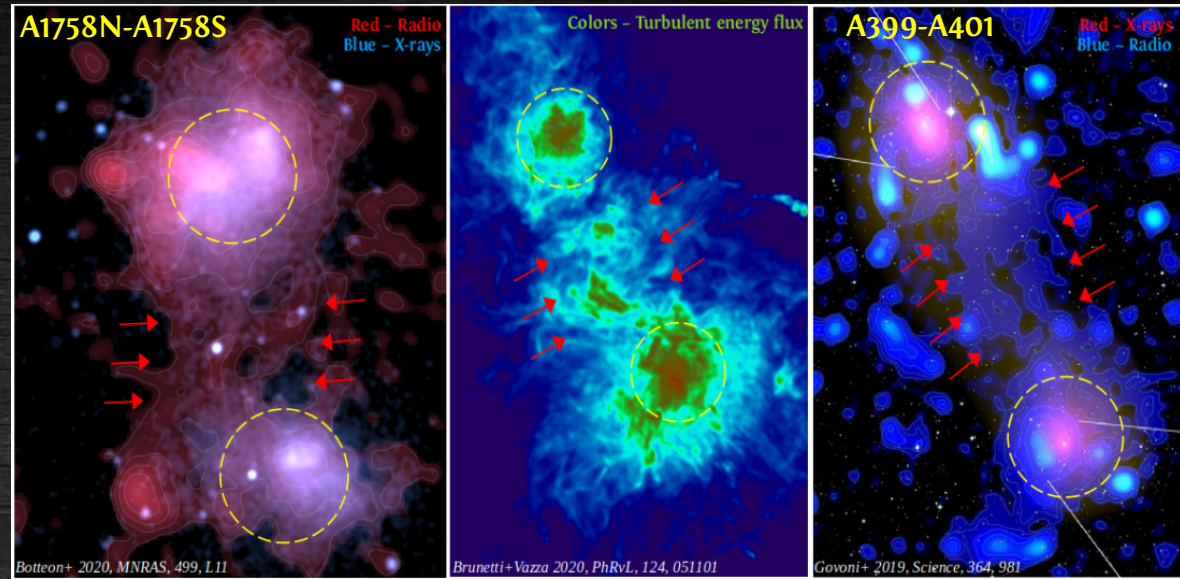
# Radio bridges

Radio bridges are 2-3 Mpc long synchrotron sources connecting *pairs* of galaxy clusters

- ❓ Are bridges common in cluster pairs?
- ❓ What are the properties of the emission?
- ❓ What are the particle acceleration mechanisms?

Very *active* research field

(Wittor+19, Brunetti+Vazza20, de Jong+22, Radiconi+22, Nunhokee+23, Balboni+23, Pignataro+23)



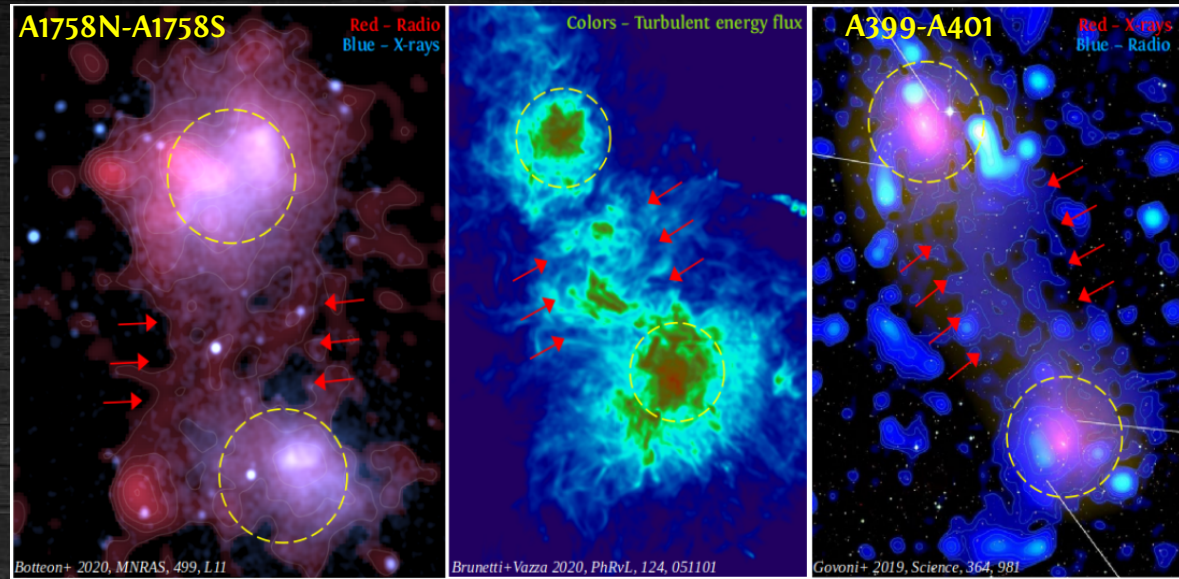
# Radio bridges

Radio bridges are 2-3 Mpc long synchrotron sources connecting pairs of galaxy clusters

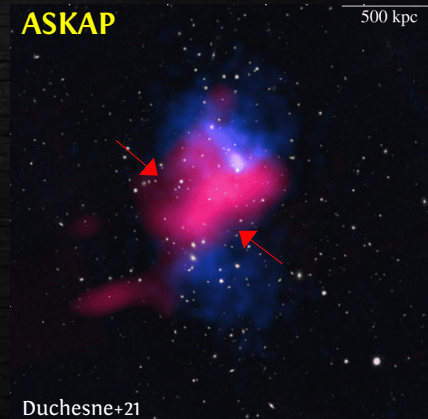
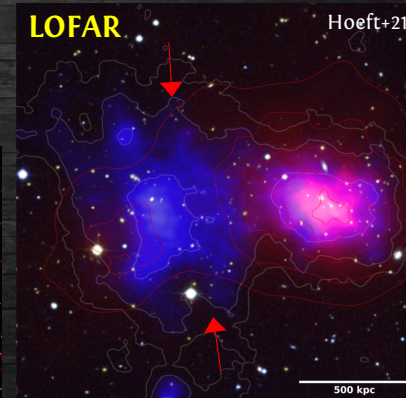
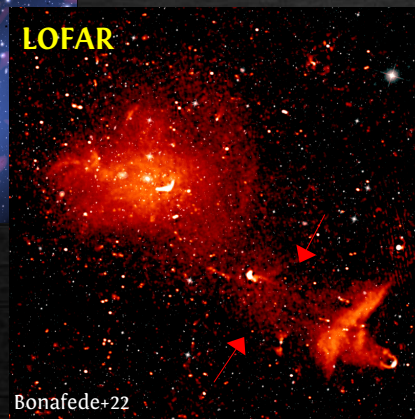
- Are bridges common in cluster pairs?
- What are the properties of the emission?
- What are the particle acceleration mechanisms?

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Other diffuse emission *in-between* clusters:

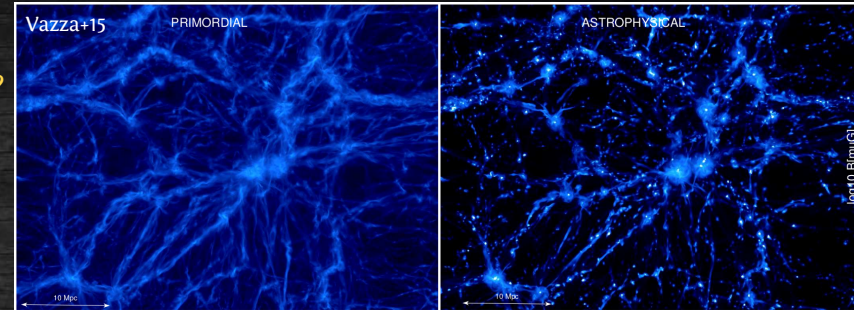




# Cosmic web

- ② *How did the Universe become magnetic?*
- ② *Where and when did it originate, and how has cosmic magnetism evolved?*

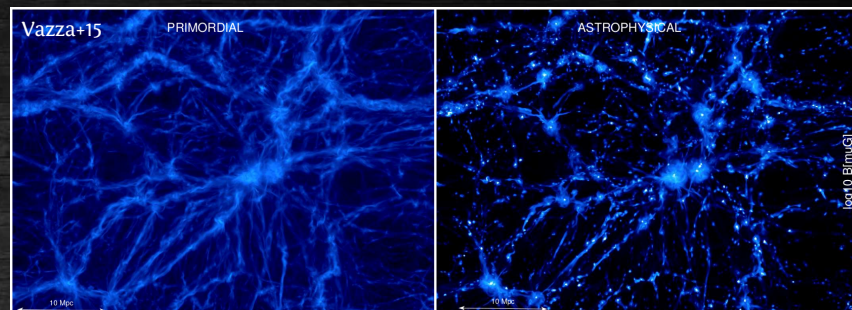
Radio emission from the *cosmic web* is  
beyond reach of *current* instruments  
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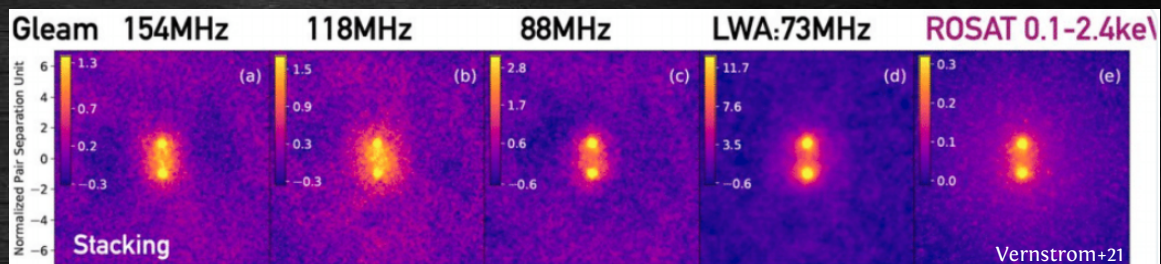
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390k pairs of LRG (*MWA, LWA, ROSAT*)

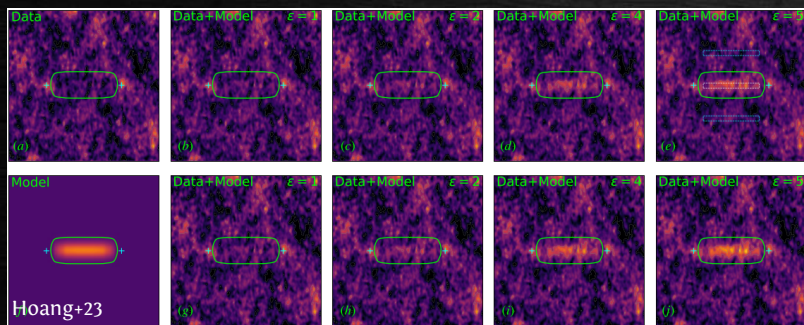
- $\alpha \sim 1$
- $30 \text{ nG} < B < 60 \text{ nG}$

But see Hodgson+22



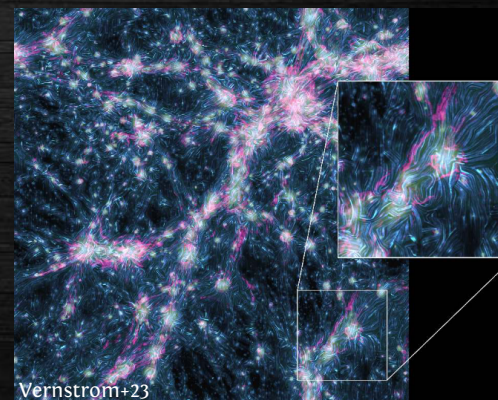
106 paired clusters (*LOFAR, eROSITA*)

- $\epsilon < 1.2 \times 10^{44} \text{ erg/s/cm}^3/\text{Hz}$
- $B < 75 \text{ nG}$



612k pairs of LRG+clusters (*GMIMS, Planck*)

- Polarization fraction >20%
- Shock origin



# Conclusions

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*Thank you*