

# Twenty Years of Chandra Cluster Phenomenology

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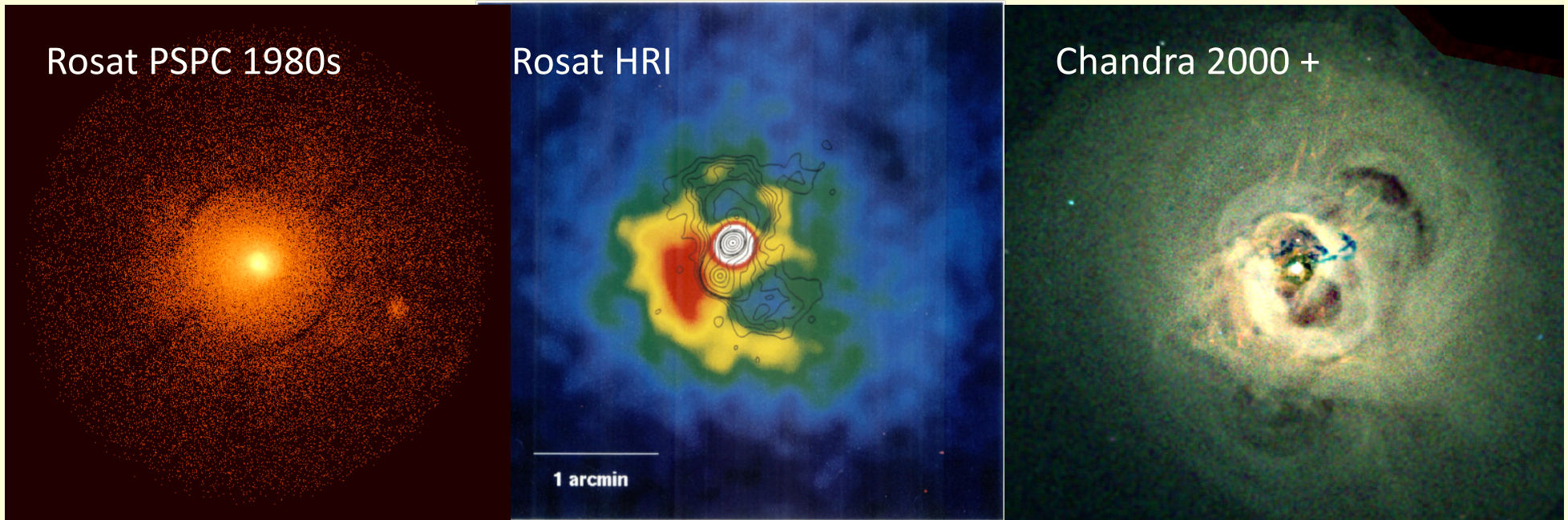
Paul Nulsen

*Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics*

Boston, December 3, 2019

See Nulsen + 2019, [20 Years of Chandra](#), Chapter 9, Groups and Clusters of Galaxies

# X-ray Universe in sharp focus: precision thermodynamics



Sharp imaging: ( $\sim 25\times$  HRI,  $\sim 600\times$  PSPC) + moderate spectral resolution

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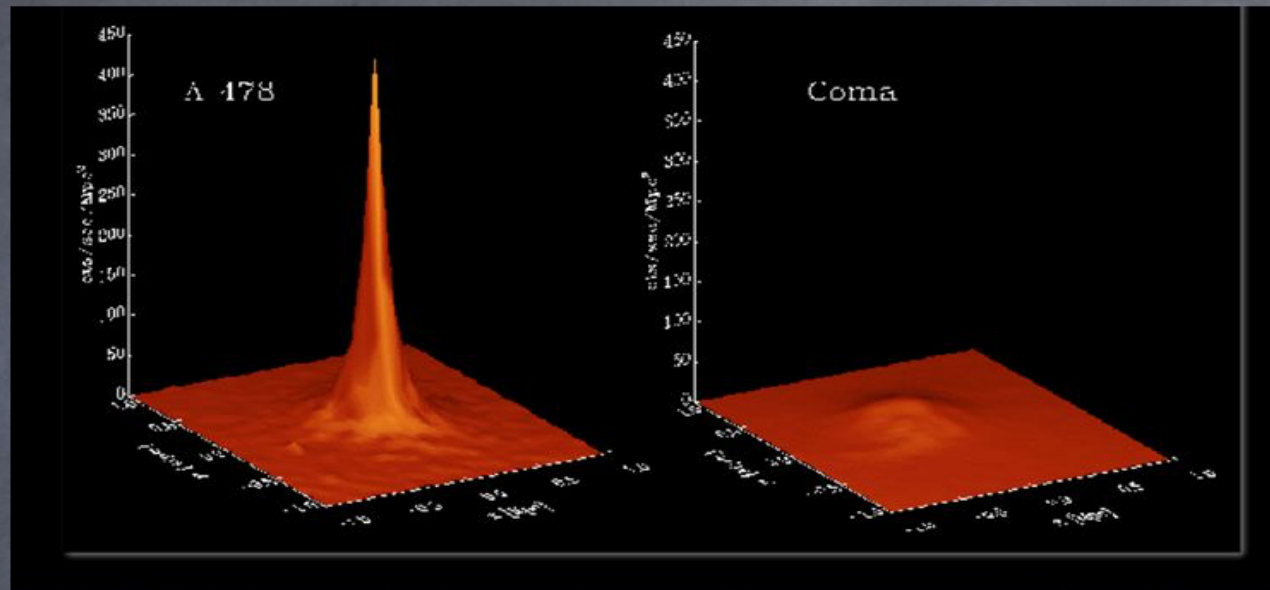
Synergy: Hubble, VLA, LOFAR, GMRT, ALMA, computer simulation

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**A great leap forward:** Universe shaped by gravity, black holes, magnetic fields

# Cluster Basics

90% dark matter 9% atmosphere 1% stars  
atmospheres  $T \sim 10^7 - 10^8$  K

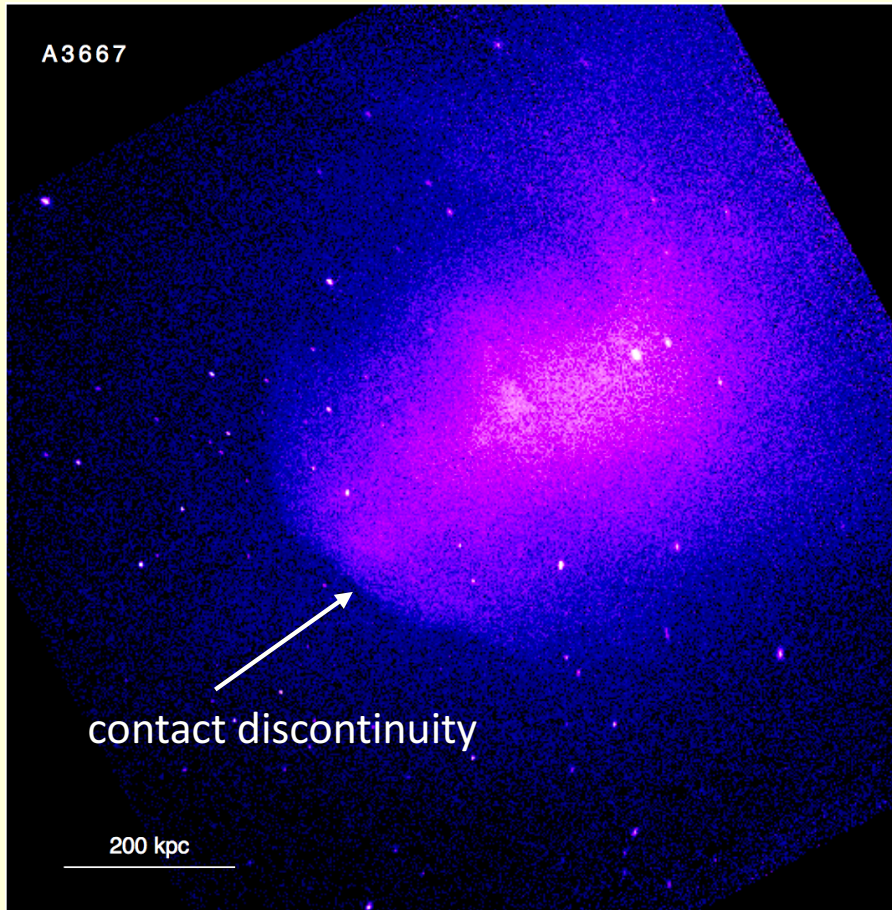


cool core cluster

non-cool core cluster

50-70% of clusters have cool cores

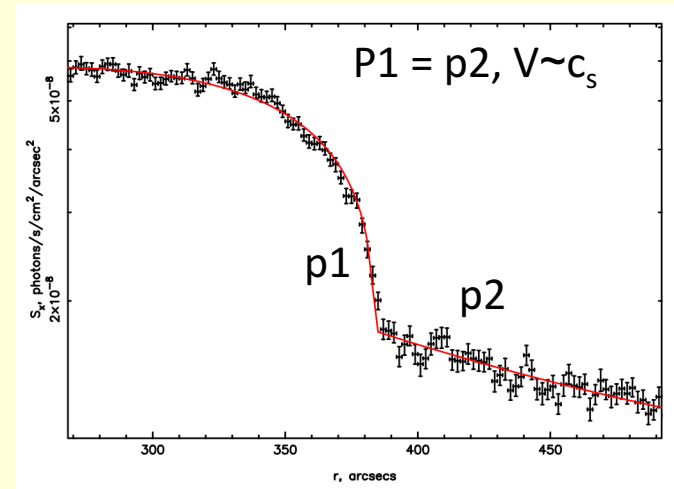
# Merger Cold Fronts: Galaxy Cluster Assembly



$$B \sim 10 \mu G$$

dynamics: thermal pressure + ram pressure

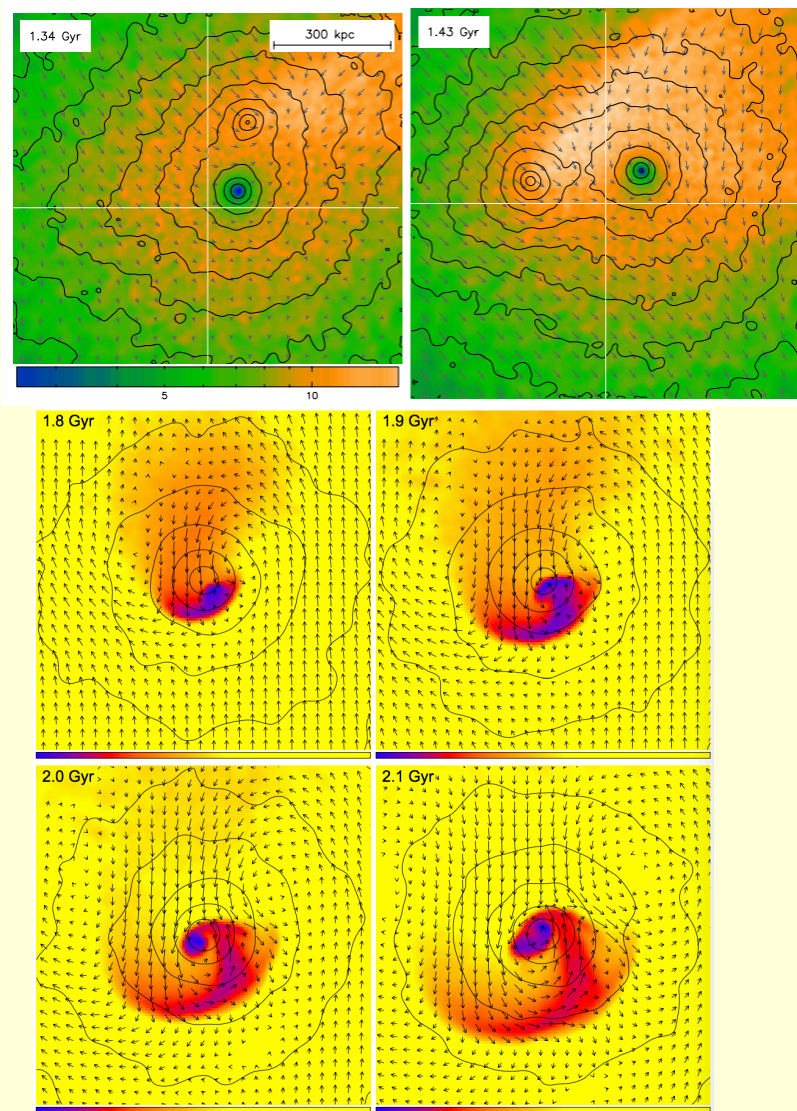
dense sub-cluster ablated by ram pressure



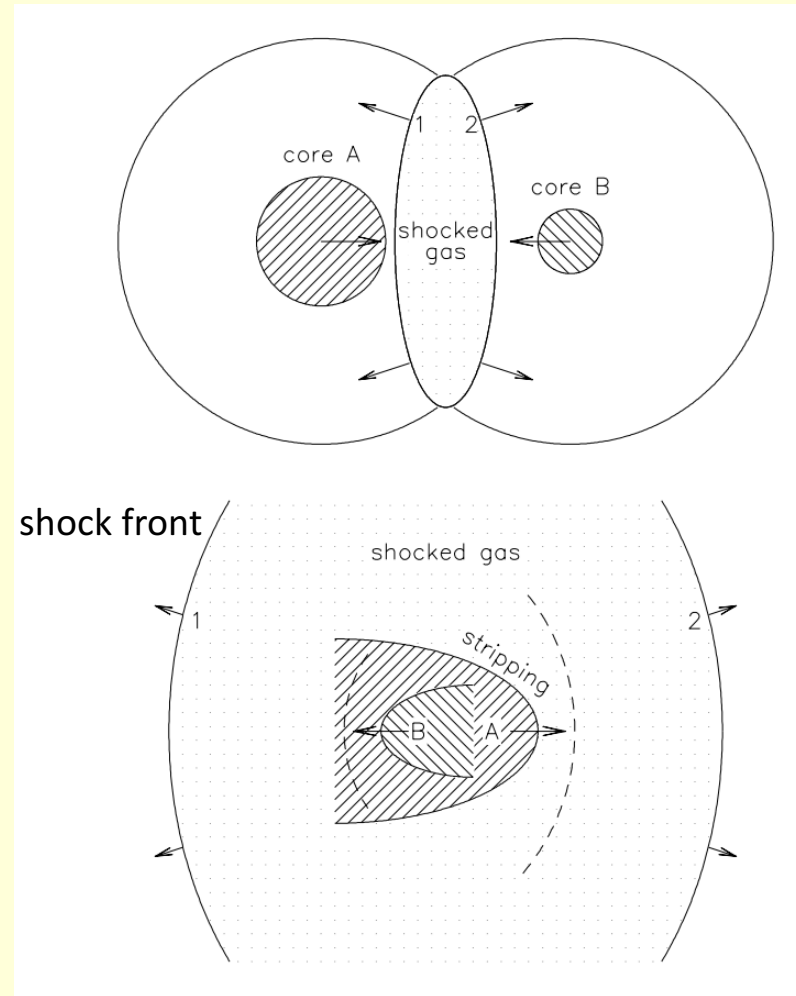
Cold fronts: window to cluster physics

- Suppressed instabilities (KH, RT)
- magnetic field enhanced
- thermal conductivity suppressed
- viscosity
- flow dynamics

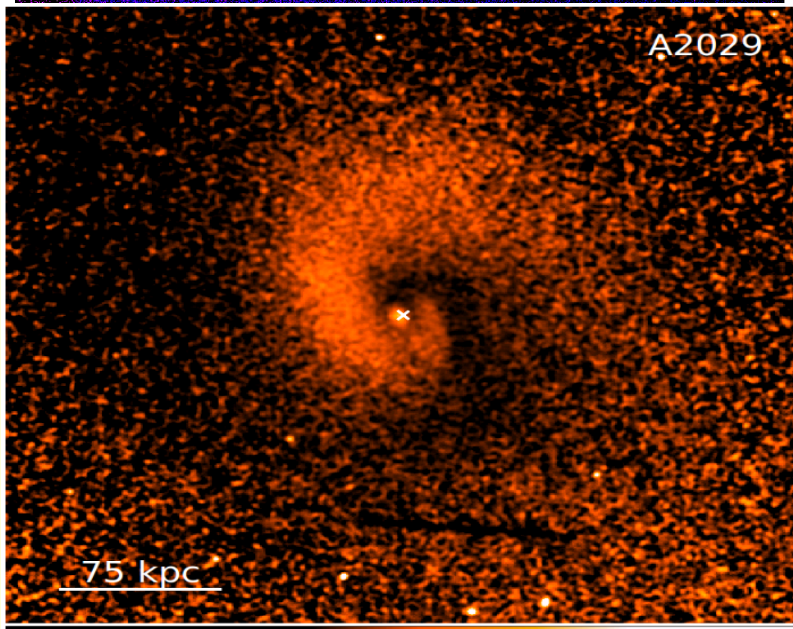
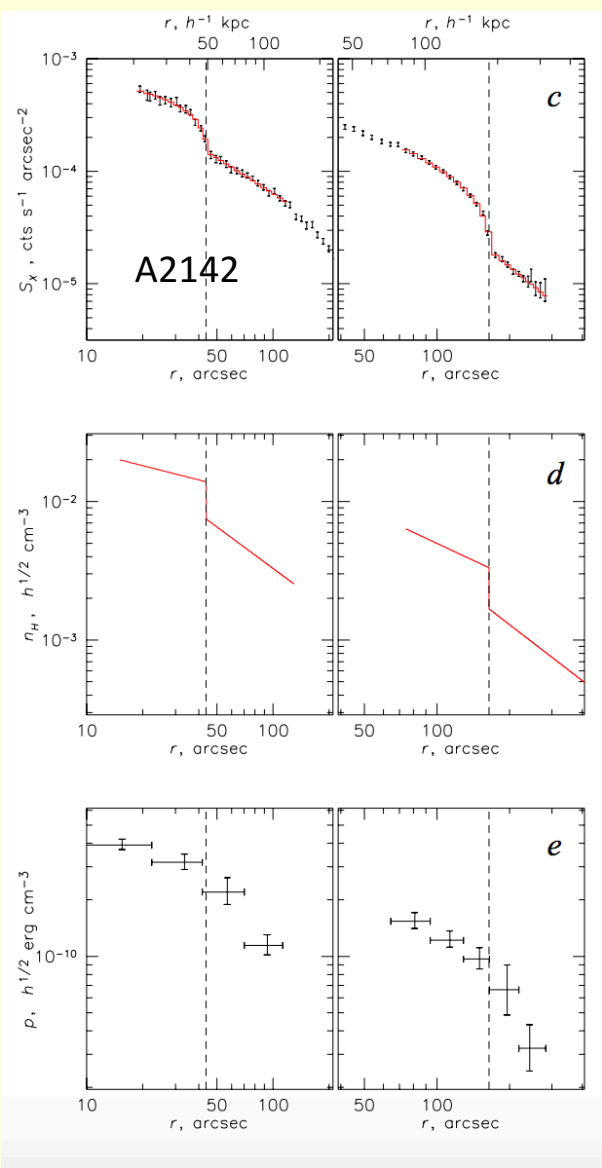
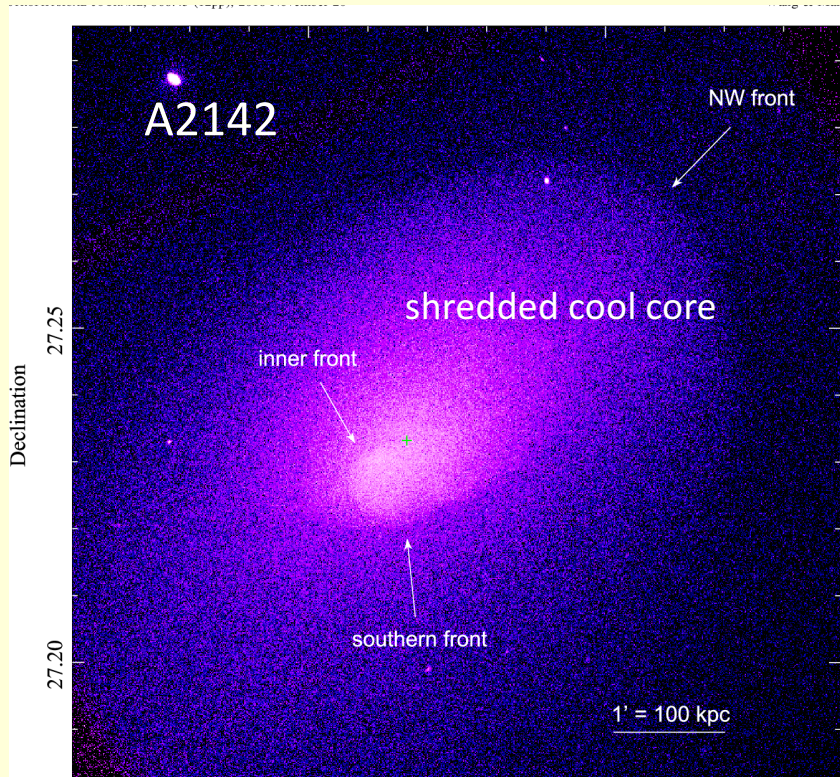
# Sloshing Cold Front



# Merger (remnant core) Cold Front

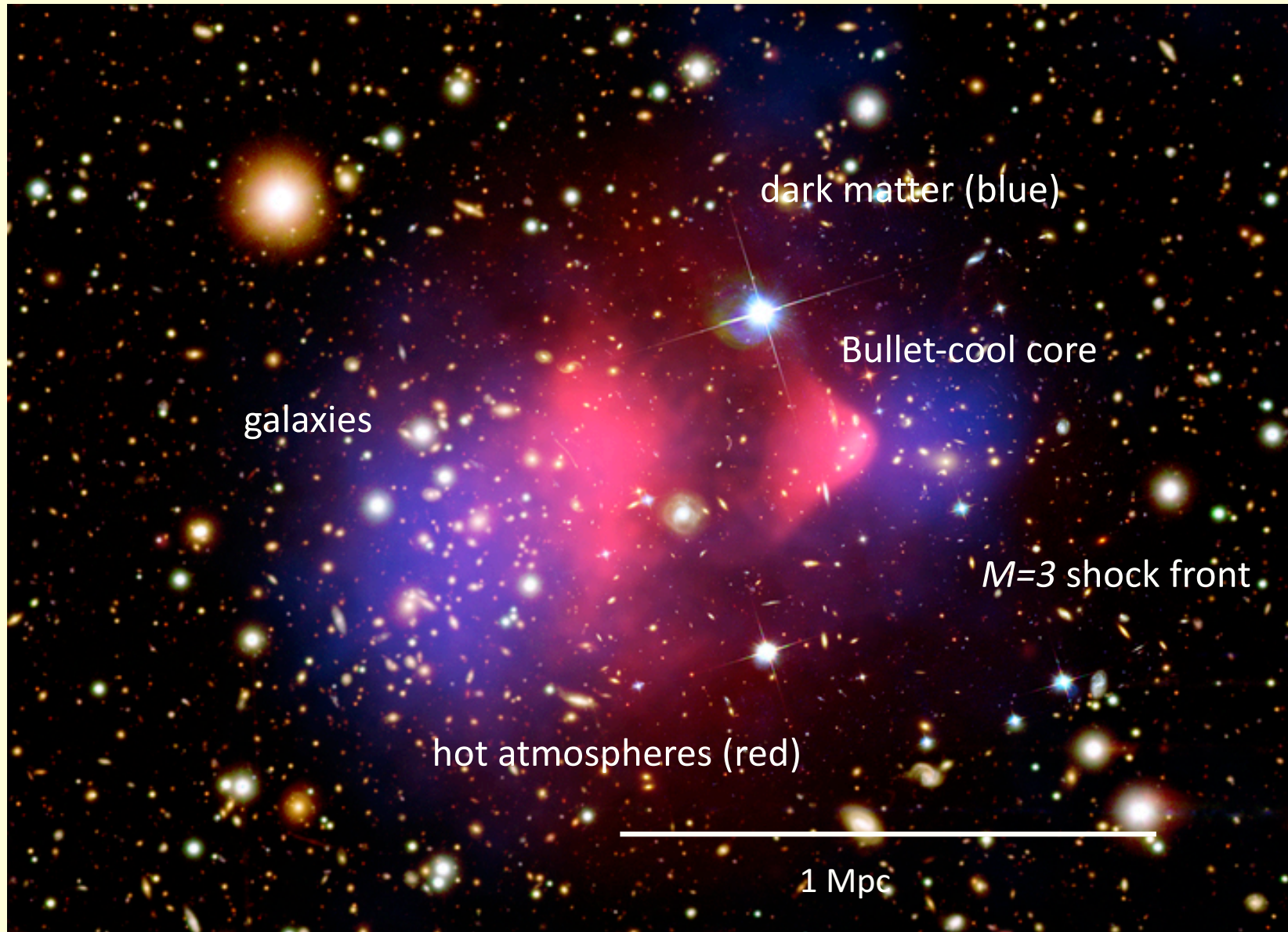


# Sloshing Cold Fronts

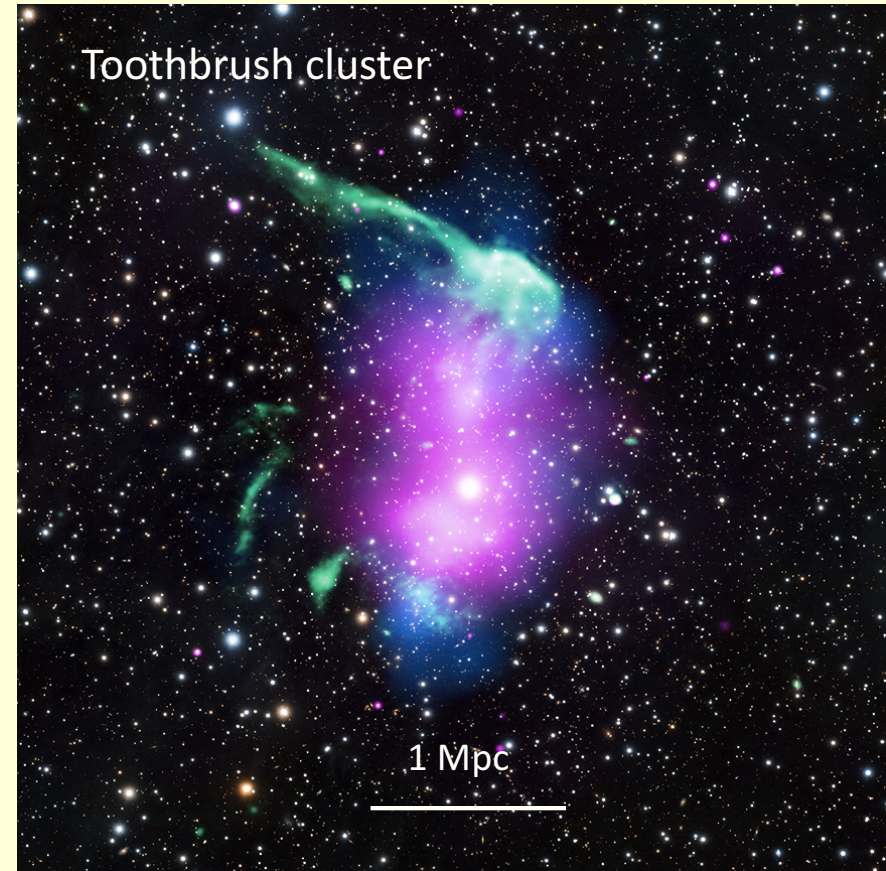
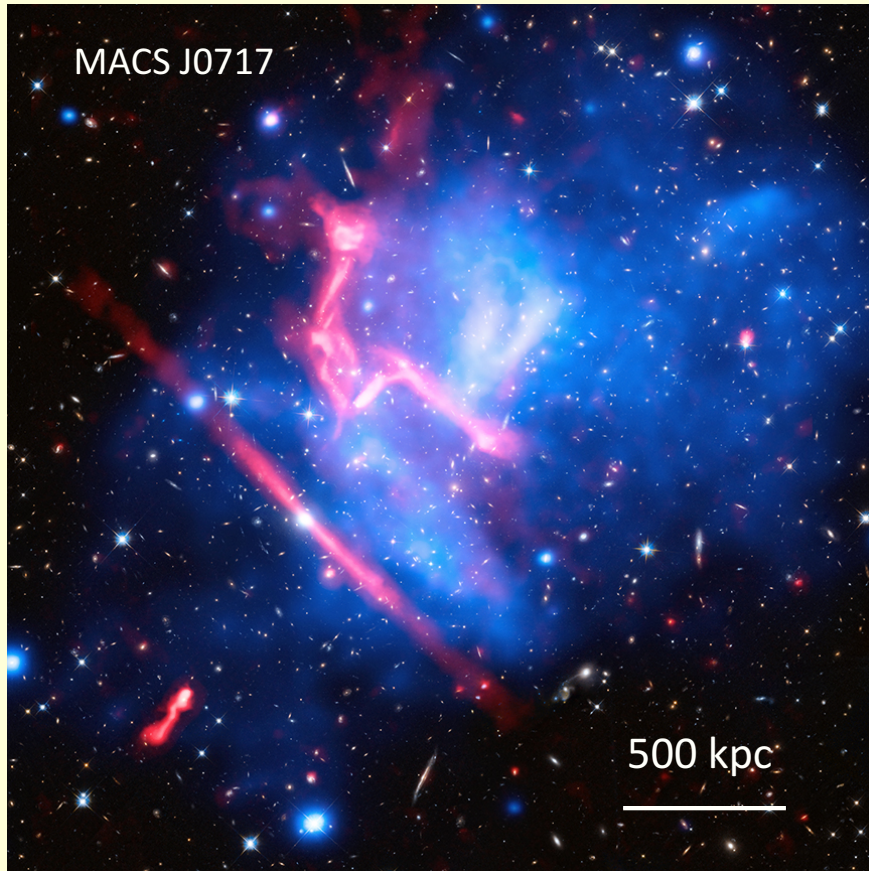


angular momentum, gravity, buoyancy = spiral

# Clusters assemble by mergers



# Radio Relics – energized by violent collisions



four clusters colliding

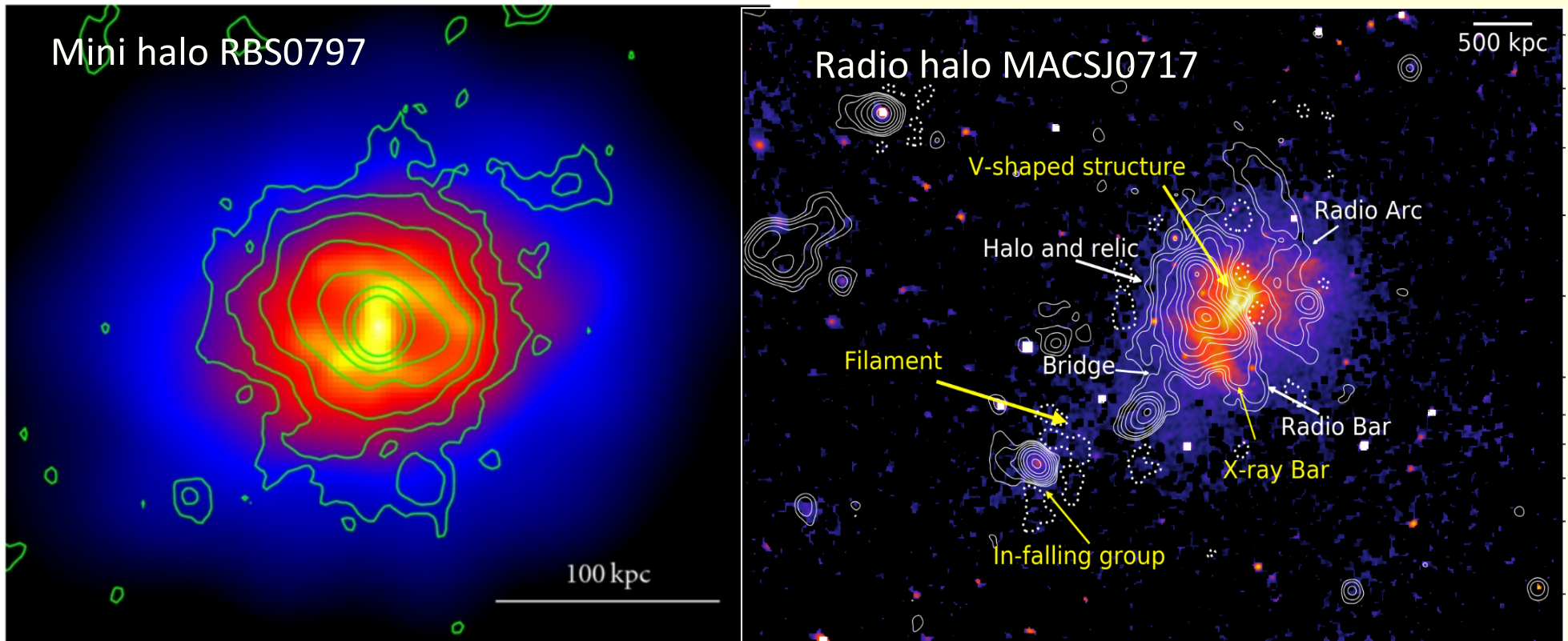
$M=2-3$  shock fronts

Problems: electron (re) acceleration: turbulence, shocks?

thermal electrons? relativistic electrons from radio galaxies reenergized?



# Radio Halos & Mini-halos



Mini-halo: Located in cool cores -- relic relativistic electrons from central galaxy radio source reaccelerated by atmospheric turbulence & sloshing

Radio Halo: Faint, diffuse, large-scale, unpolarized, powered by turbulence, shocks

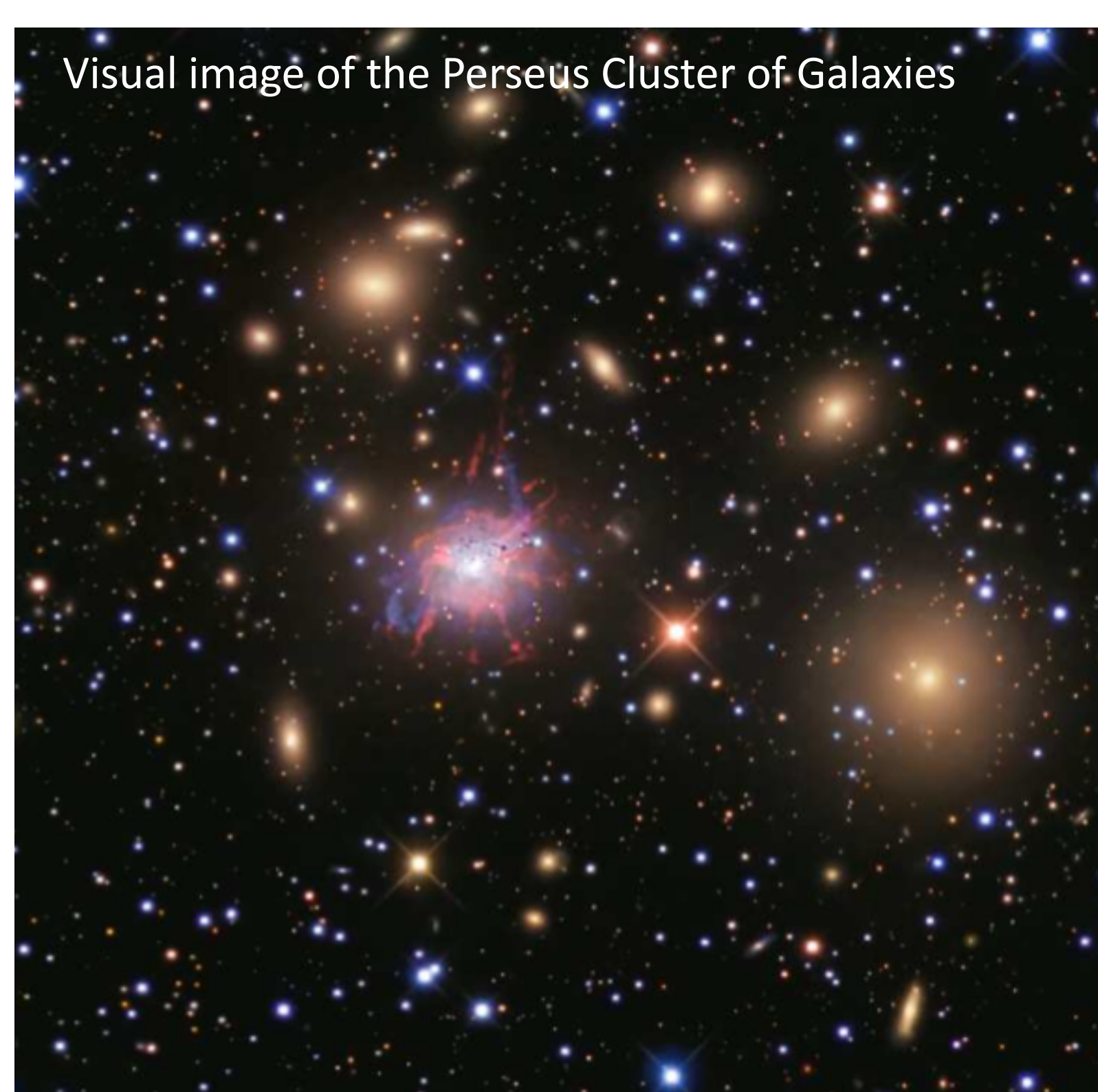
## Takeaway Points

- dynamic clusters: collisions, sloshing
  - Surprise: edges in pressure balance, cold fronts
  - edge/shock morphology sensitive to merger history: mass, orbit, speed
  - modern simulations capture this physics well
- 
- sharp discontinuity: magnetic draping suppresses KHI & thermal conduction.
  - longer term evolution: swirls -- sensitive to plasma viscosity
  - electron/ion equilibration timescales measured in violent collisions

X-rays from 100 M degree gas permeating the Perseus cluster

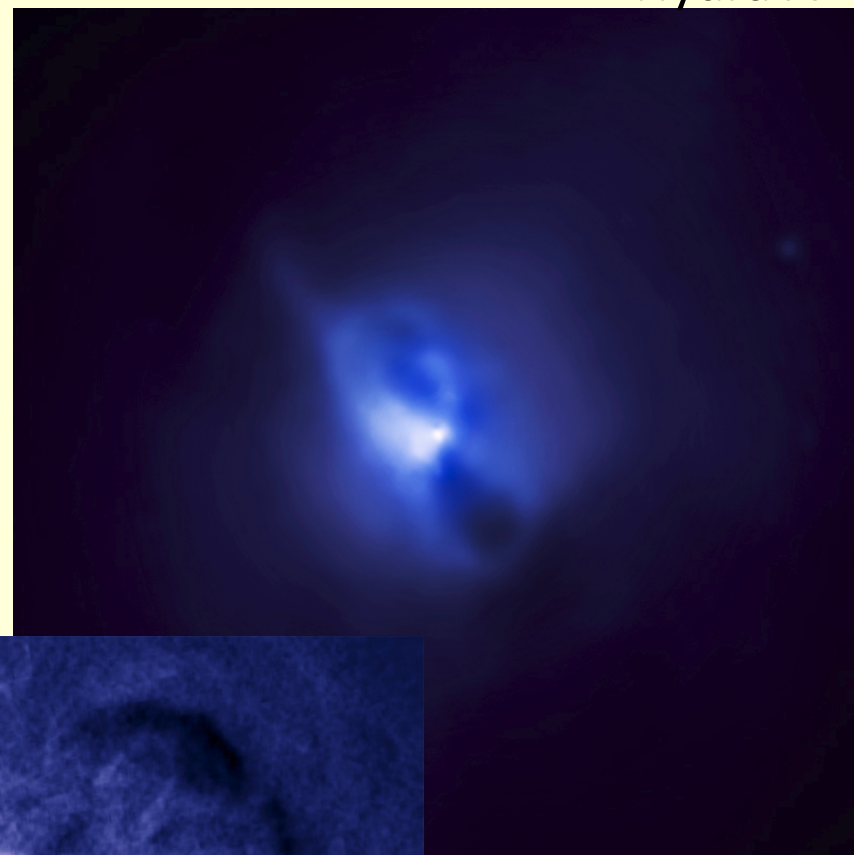


# Visual image of the Perseus Cluster of Galaxies

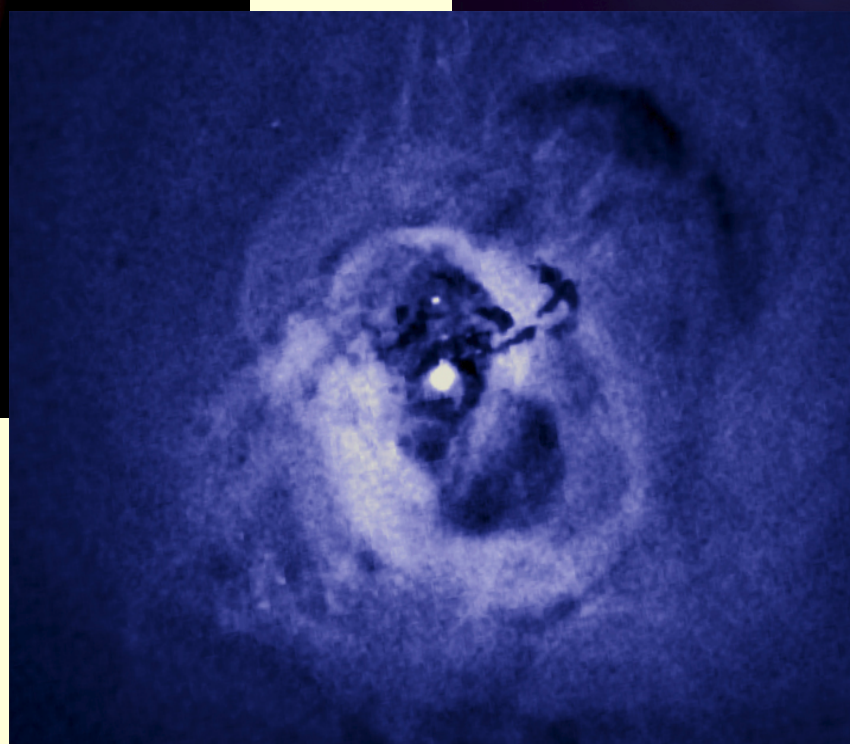
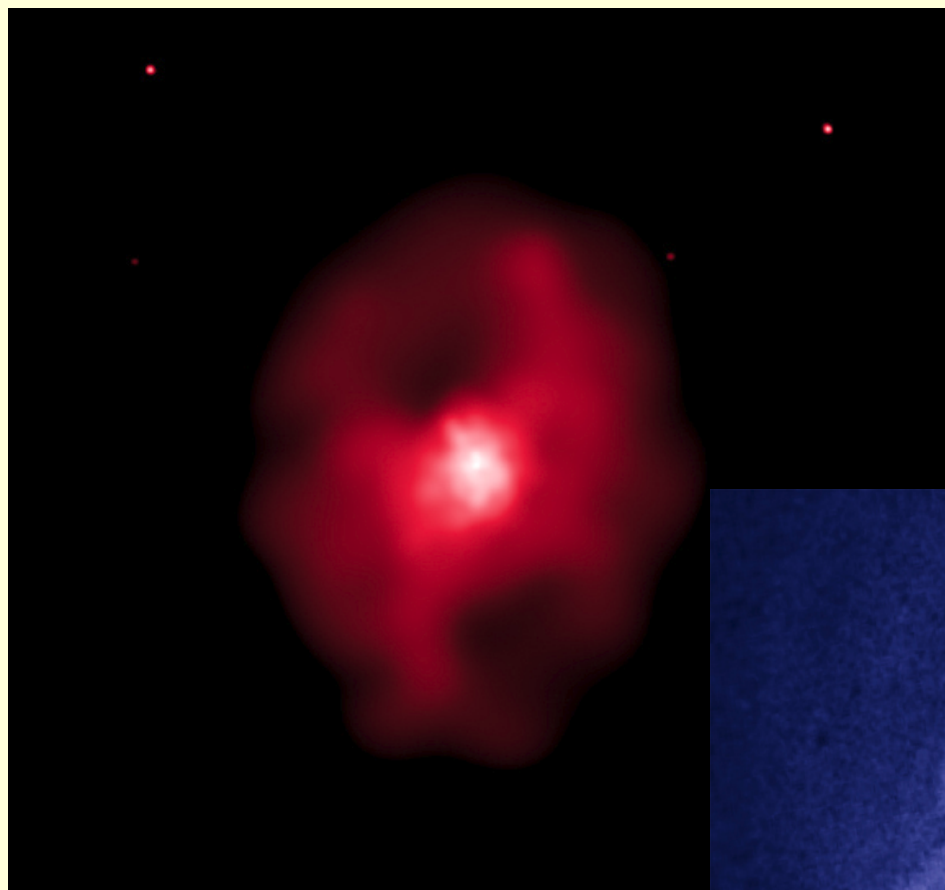


Zoom to cluster cores: Radio Mode feedback stabilizes cooling

Hydra A



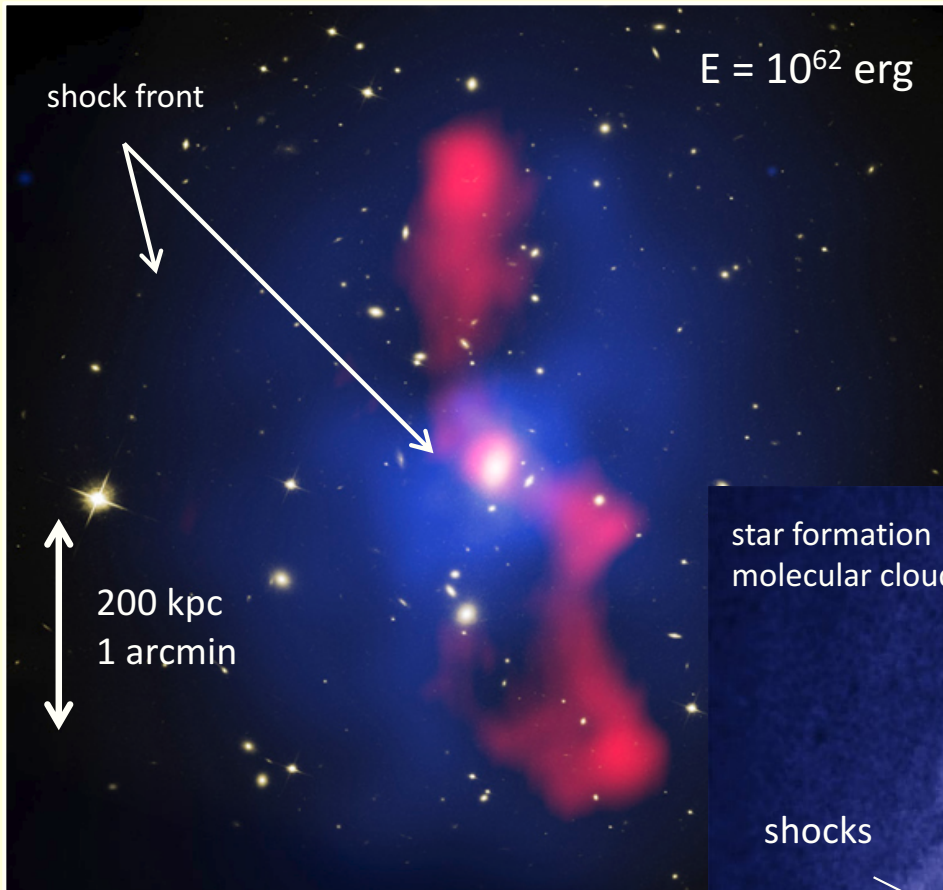
MS0735



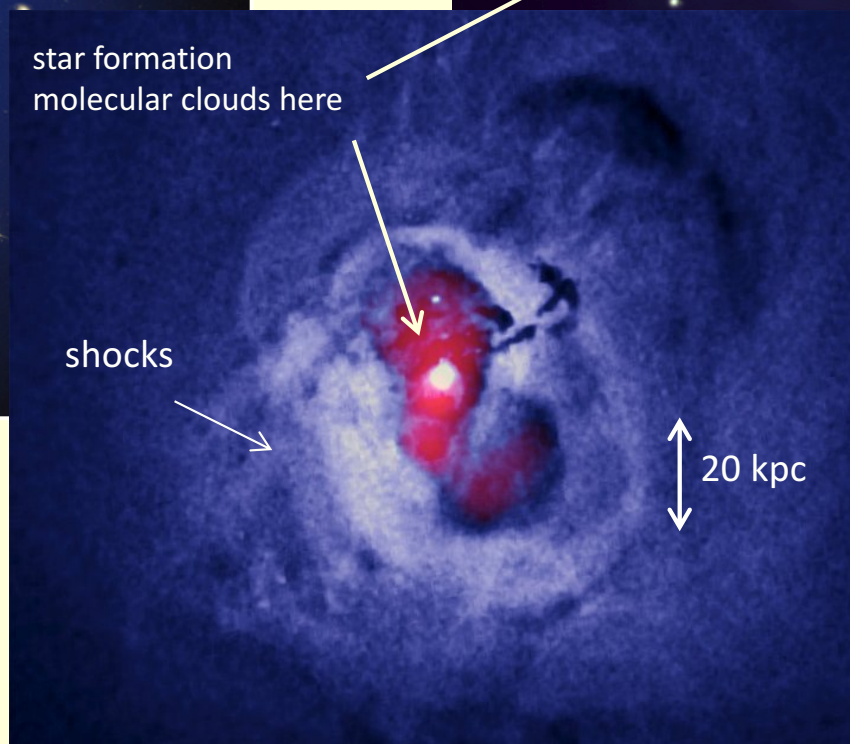
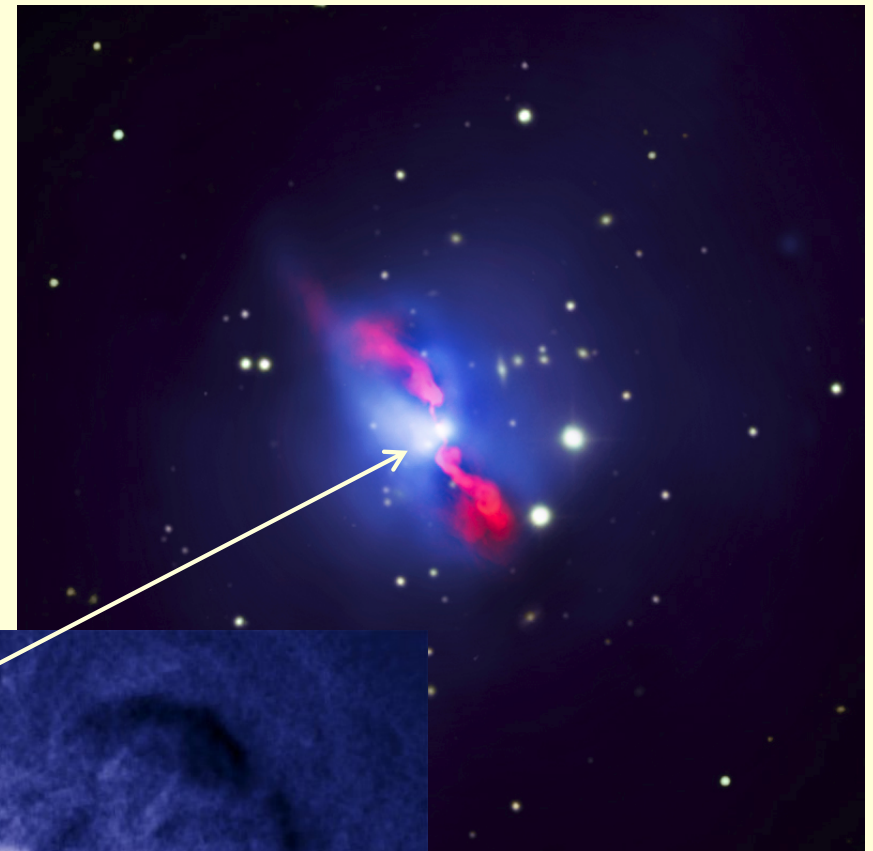
Perseus

X-ray + radio = mechanical feedback

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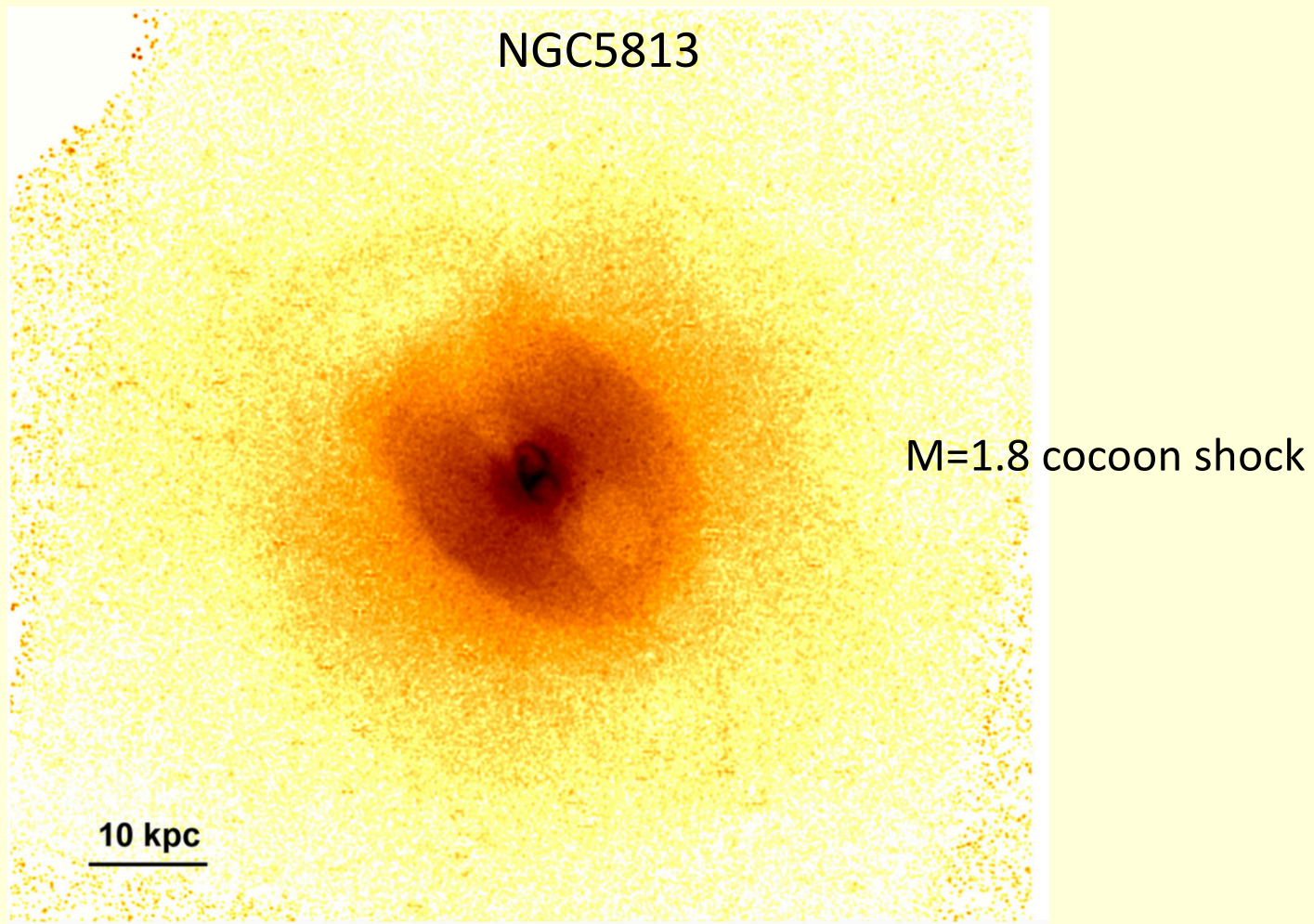
Hydra A



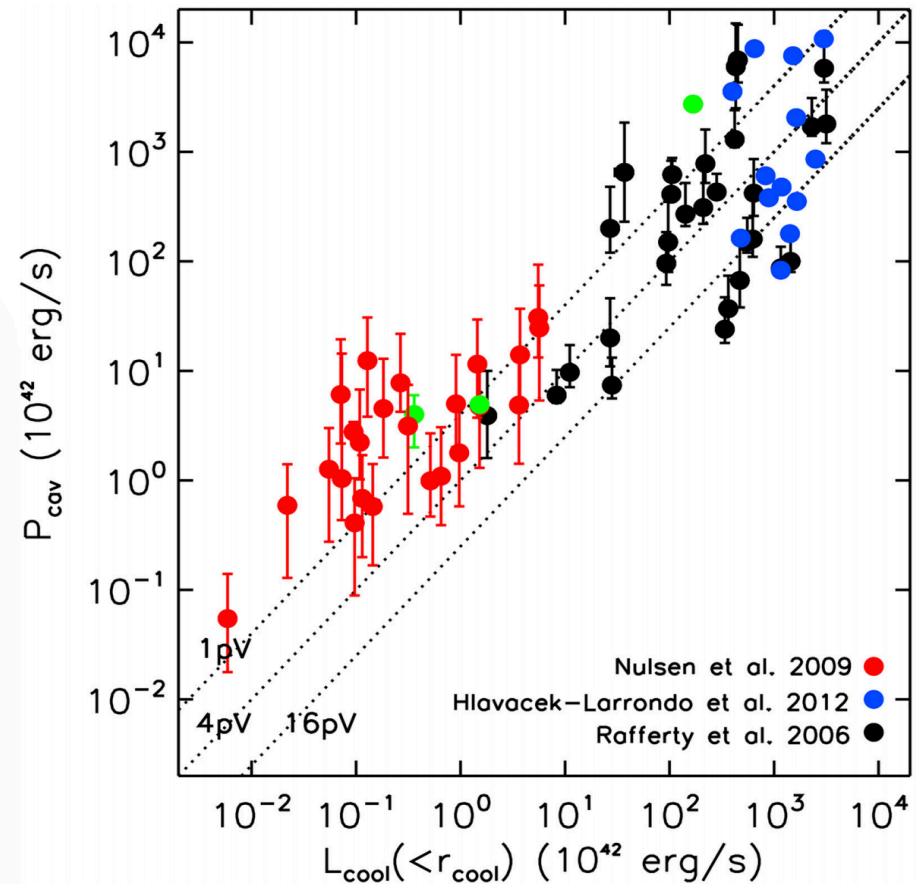
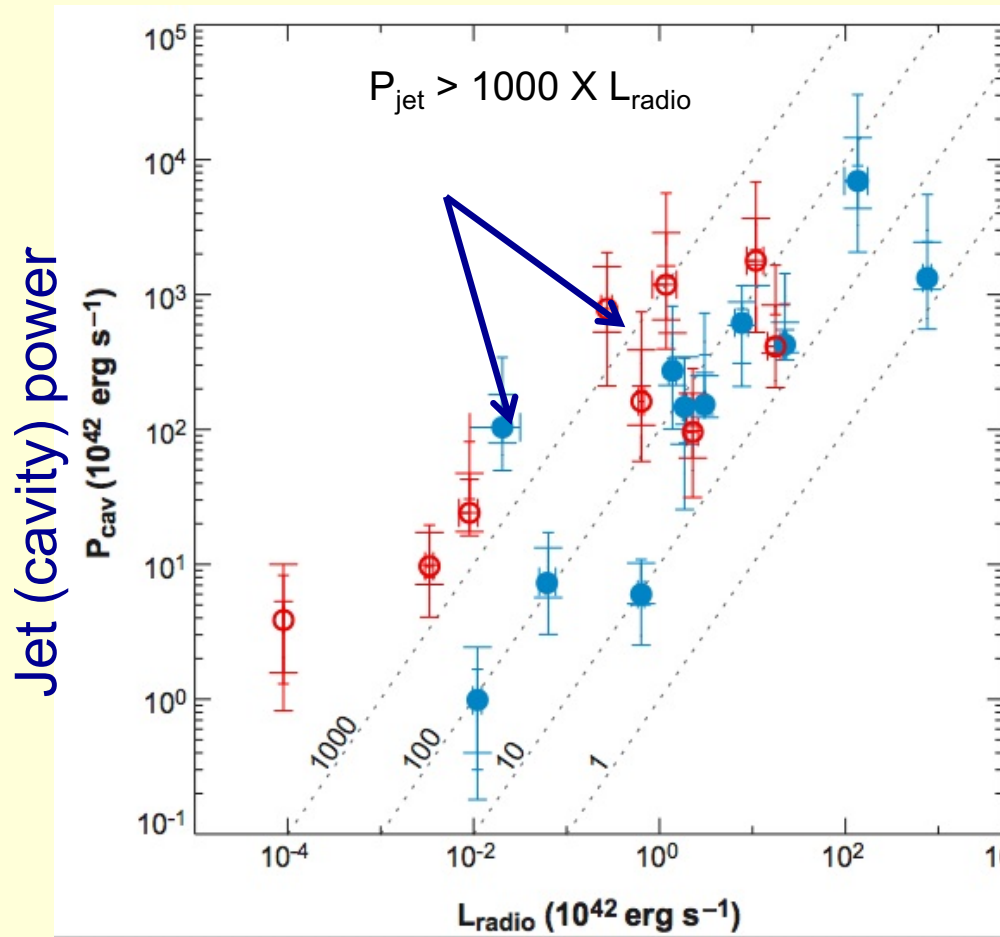
Perseus

Prescient paper:  
Gull & Northover 1973

Radio-mode feedback seen also in groups, ellipticals  
a common phenomenon, Key:  
short central cooling time



# Jet (cavity) power vs radio power & Cooling Luminosity



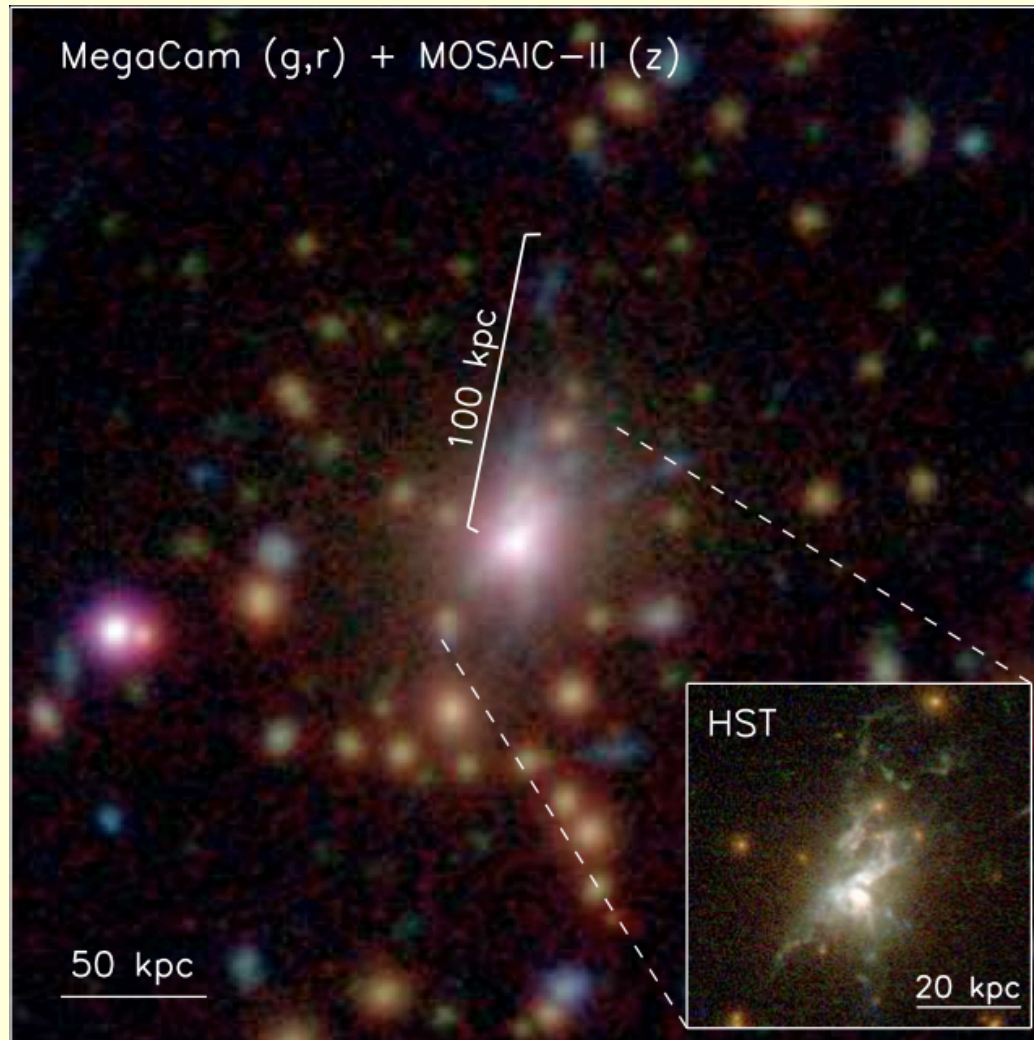
**Chandra Key insight:** even weak radio sources are mechanically powerful enough power to regulate cooling, lift enormous amounts of gas



# Phoenix Cluster: A burgeoning Central Galaxy at $z = 0.6$

$$\text{SFR} \sim 800 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1} \quad M_{\text{mol}} \sim 10^{11} M_{\odot}$$

What fuels star formation and AGN in this and others?



Lifting: Molecular Gas is filamentary, off nucleus, behind radio bubbles  
clearly seen in Perseus -- may stimulate thermally unstable cooling

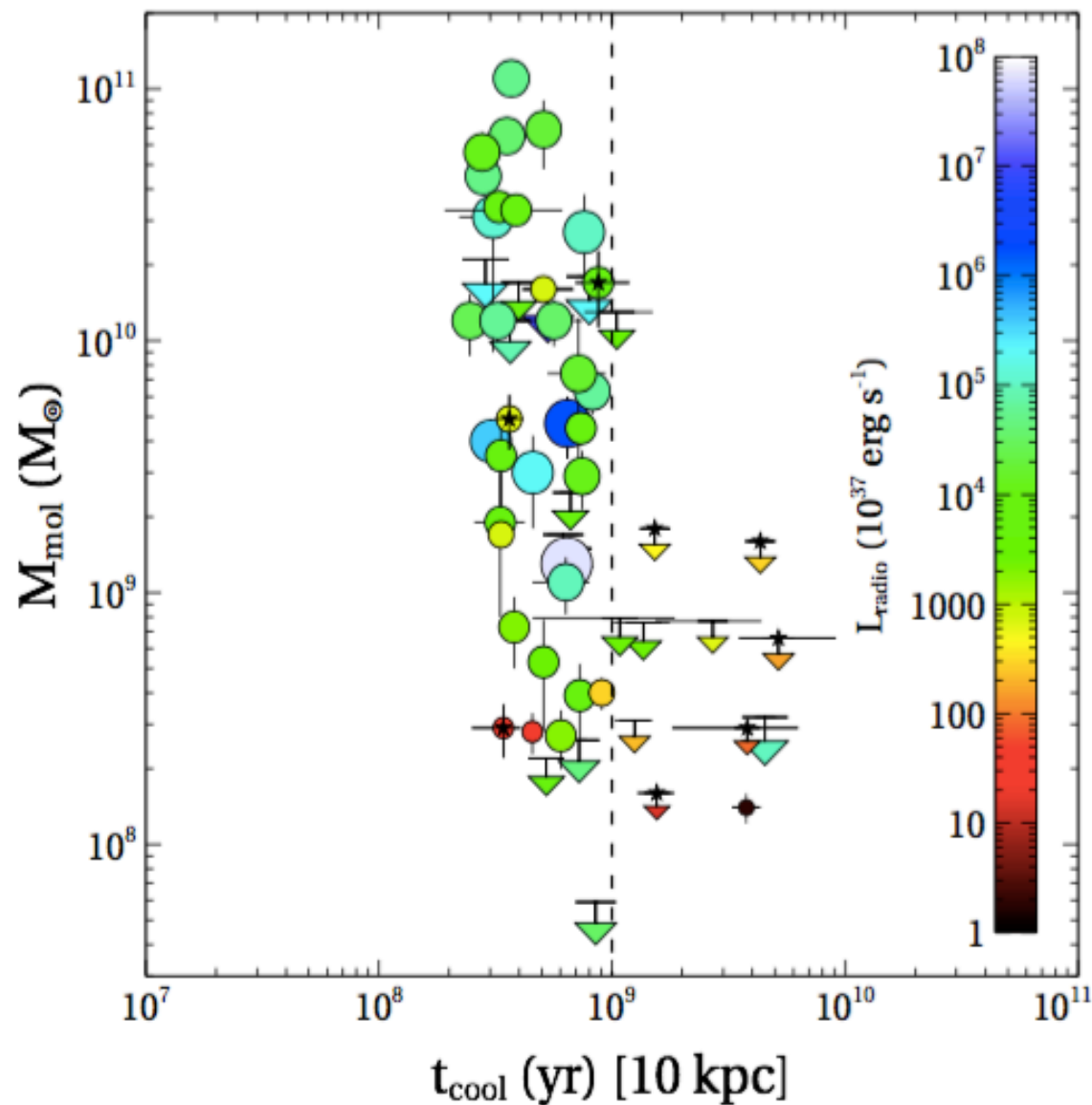
## Phoenix cluster

$\sim 10^{10} M_{\odot}$  of uplifted molecular gas

bubbles

$H_2$

15 kpc



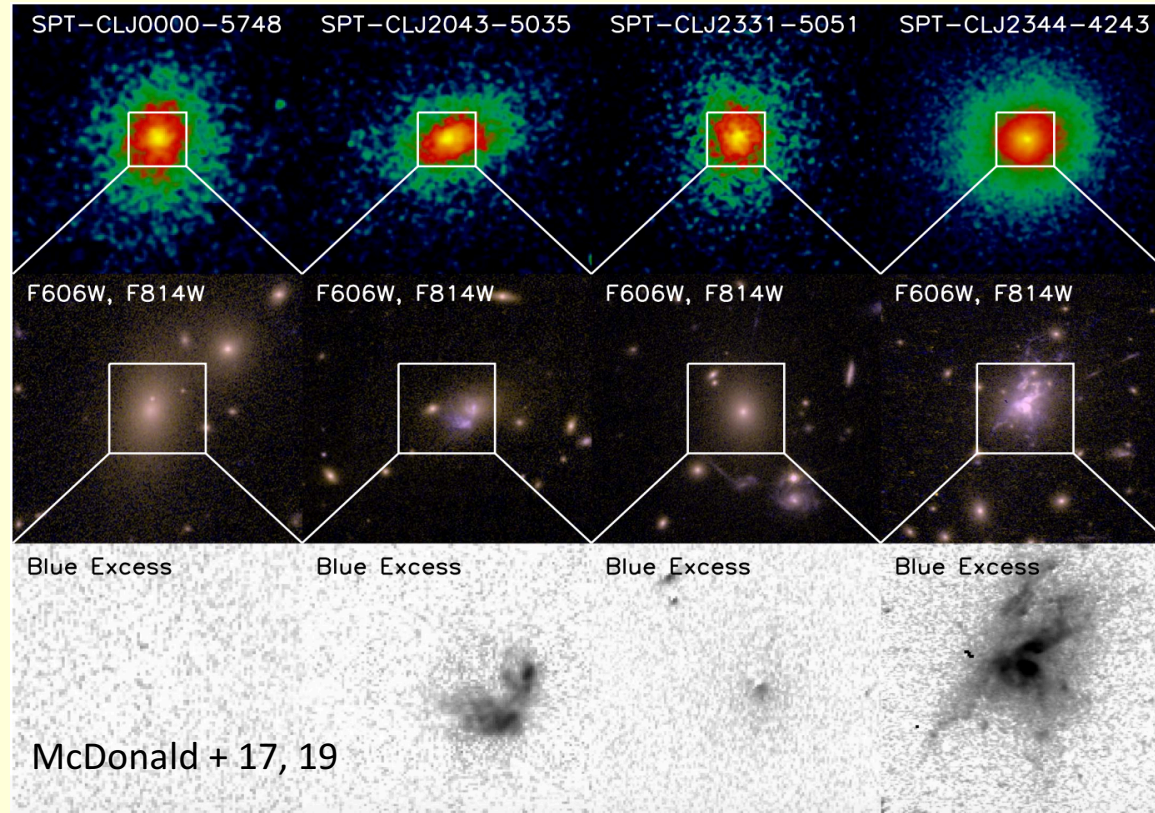
Chandra in blue, Alma in pink

# Takeaway Points

Cavity & Shock Calorimetry reveal:

- Surprise: Cavity rims cool, displaced gas, not shocked gas
- Cavity enthalpy & shock energy consistent to 2-3x
- Surprise: Mechanical power exceeds radio synchrotron power by  $\sim 100-1000X$
- On large scales, radio plasma dominated by heavy particles: protons?
  
- Jet power comparable to cooling power: quenches cooling flows— solved by Chandra
- data reveal directly AGN outburst *history* (e.g. M87), unavailable in other AGN
- Feedback is a gentle process- not captured well in simulation
- Radio mode feedback has been active and effective for billions of years
  
- Radio jets/lobes drive molecular outflows more efficiently than any other AGN type
- Lifting cool, atmospheric gas, feedback stimulates cooling, feeding star formation AGN

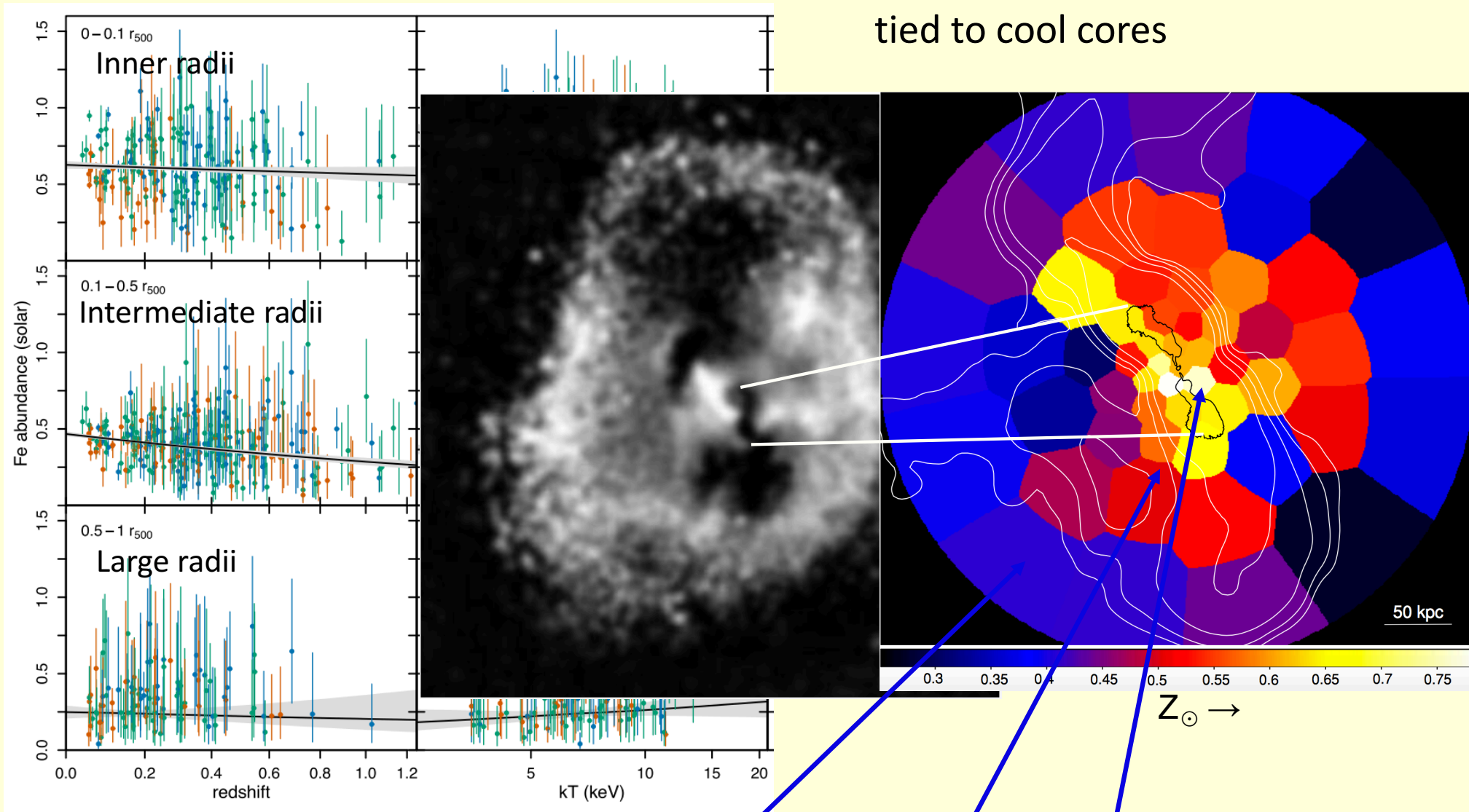
# Evolution of cool cores from $z=1-0$ , or 5 Gyr



## SZ Clusters from the South Pole Telescope

- CC's cooler by 30% at  $z=1$
- Gas entropy profiles constant, despite time to cool
- CCs growing in time; AGN feedback maintains atmosphere
- Beyond  $0.3 R_{500}$  cluster atmospheres evolve self-similarly

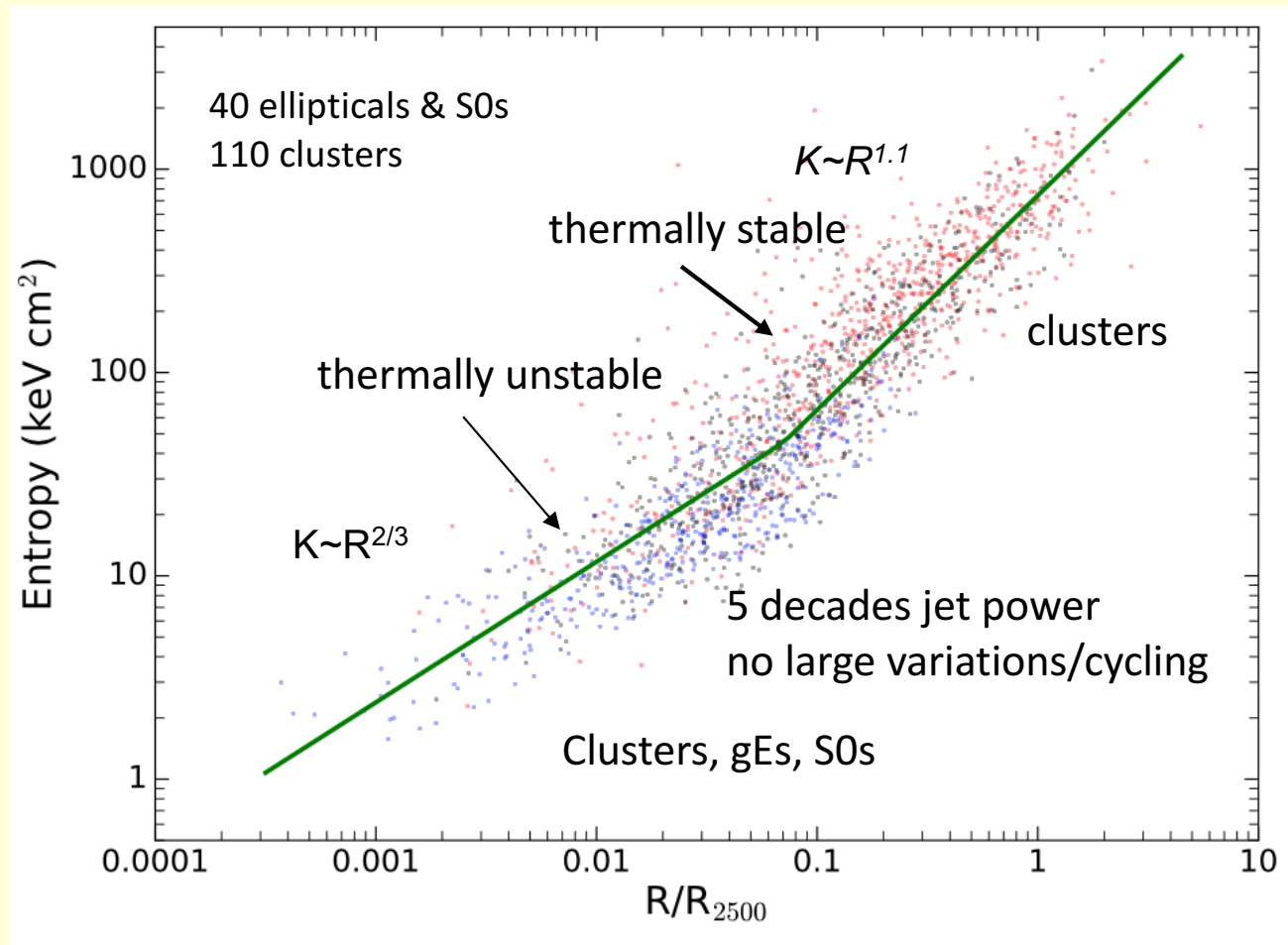
# Chemical Evolution of Hot Atmospheres since $z \sim 1$



tied to cool cores

- Outer radii – constant metallicity  $z/z_{\odot} \sim 0.3$  pre-enriched
- Intermediate radii – late-time enrichment, mixing by sloshing, AGN
- Inner radii – approach solar metallicity – enrichment from central galaxy

Feedback has imprinted nearly universal entropy distribution since  $z \sim 1$



$$K \sim R^{1.1} \quad R > 0.1 R_{2500}$$

$$K \sim R^{2/3} \quad R < 0.1 R_{2500}$$

-- Low scatter in the central region: Gentle feedback, 5 decades jet power!

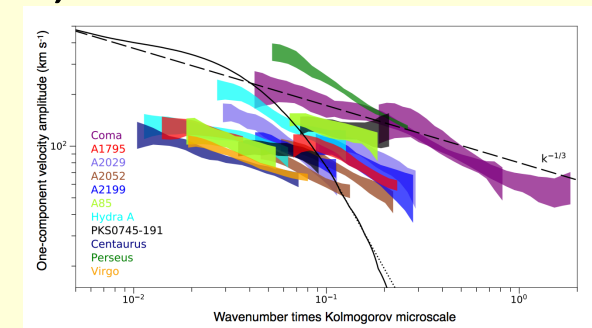
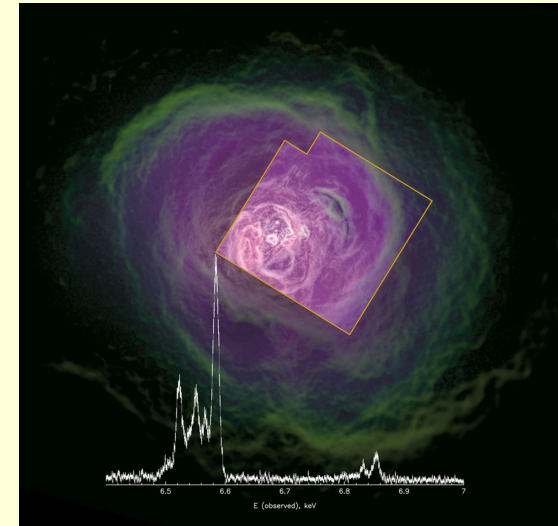
# The Future

High spectral resolution calorimetry spectroscopy  
XRISM Athena

Large cluster surveys – eRosita

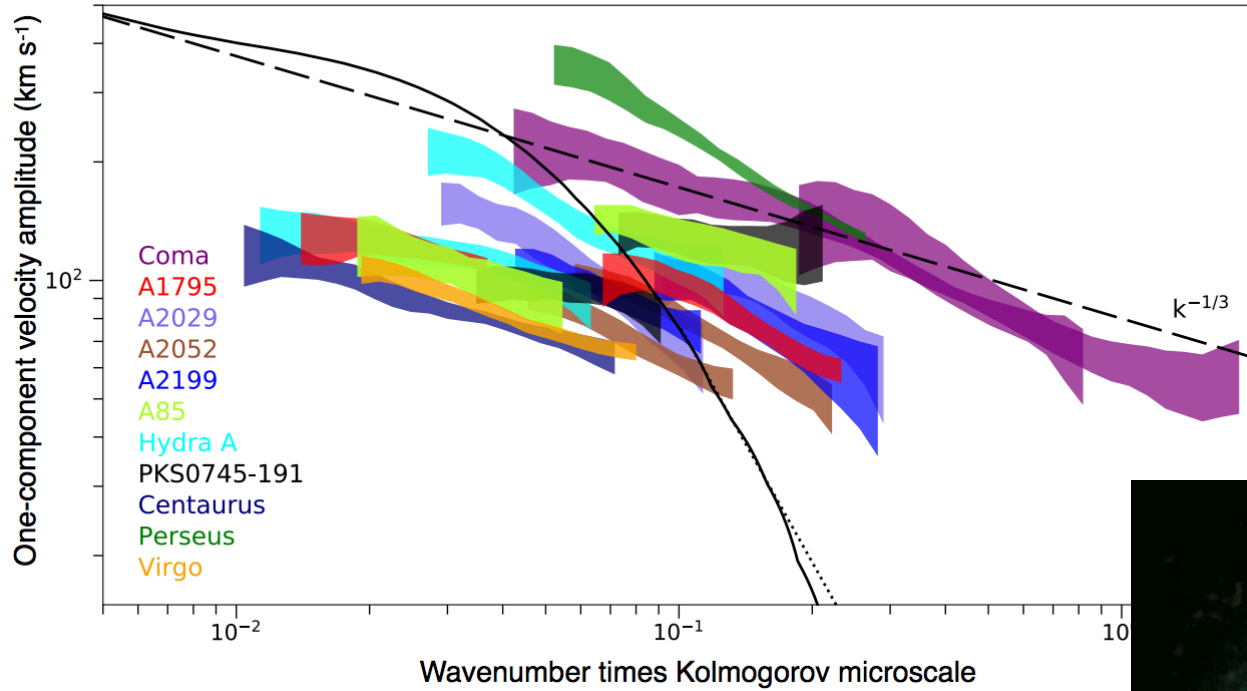
High Spatial & Spectral resolution calorimetry: Lynx

- precision dynamics: feedback, bubble expansion/motion  
thermally unstable cooling lines, plasma physics, turbulence  
black hole winds within the Bondi sphere
- cluster & massive black hole assembly



Thank you to all who dreamed of, conceived, designed,  
built, and operated Chandra overt the past 40 years

# Future: understanding atmospheric turbulence



Particle acceleration

Plasma physics

Heating?

Accelerated cooling?

