Cosmic rays in clusters of galaxies – Tuning in to the non-thermal Universe

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in collaboration with

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Outline

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Dynamical picture of cluster formation

- structure formation in the ΛCDM universe predicts the hierarchical build-up of dark matter halos from small scales to successively larger scales
- clusters of galaxies currently sit atop this hierarchy as the largest objects that have had time to collapse under the influence of their own gravity
- cluster are dynamically evolving systems that have not finished forming and equilibrating, $\tau_{\text{dyn}} \sim 1$ Gyr

$\rightarrow$ two extreme dynamical states of galaxy clusters: **merging clusters** and **cool core clusters**, which are relaxed systems where the central gas develops a dense cooling core due to the short thermal cooling times

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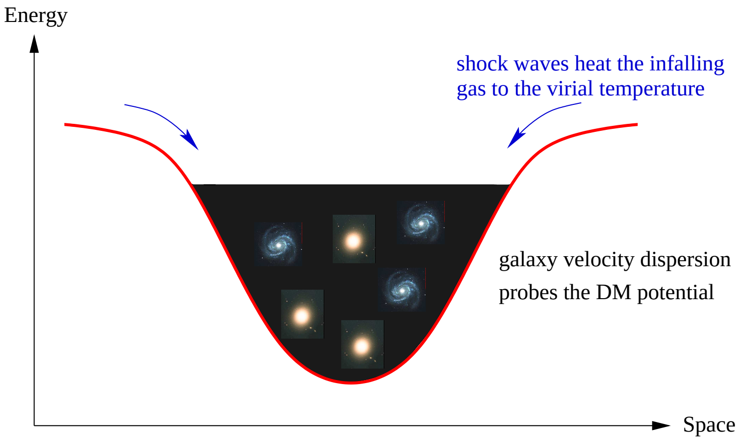
A theorist's perspective of a galaxy cluster . . .

Galaxy clusters are dynamically evolving dark matter potential wells:



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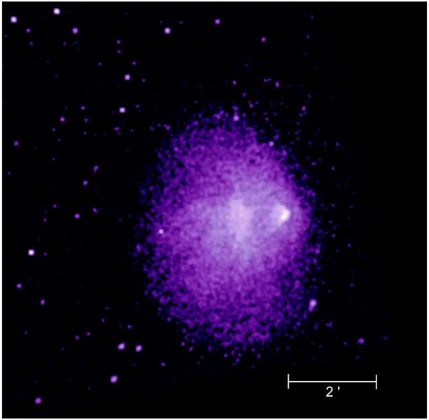
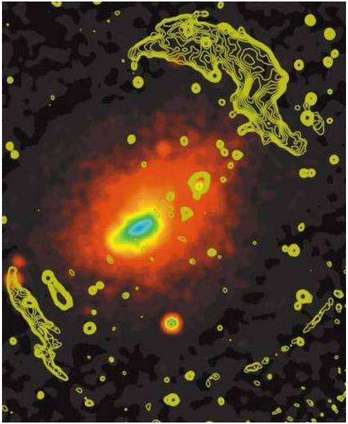
. . . and how the observer's Universe looks like



1E 0657-56 ("Bullet cluster")

(NASA/SAO/CXC/M.Markevitch et al.)



Abell 3667

(radio: Johnston-Hollitt. X-ray: ROSAT/PSPC.)

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Observational properties of galaxy clusters

Each frequency window is sensitive to different processes and cluster properties:

- optical: gravitational lensing of background galaxies, galaxy velocity dispersion measure gravitational mass
- X-ray: thermal plasma emission, $F_X \propto n_{\rm th}^2 \sqrt{T_{\rm th}} \longrightarrow$ thermal gas with abundances, cluster potential, substructure
- Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect: IC up-scattering of CMB photons by thermal electrons, $F_{\rm SZ} \propto p_{\rm th} \longrightarrow$ cluster velocity, turbulence, high-z clusters
- radio synchrotron halos: $F_{\rm synchro} \propto \varepsilon_B \varepsilon_{\rm CRe} \longrightarrow$ magnetic fields, CR electrons, shock waves
- diffuse γ-ray emission: $F_\gamma \propto n_{\rm th} n_{\rm CRp} \longrightarrow$ CR protons

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Why should we care about cosmic rays in clusters?

It allows us to explore complementary windows to cluster cosmology

1. Is high-precision cosmology possible using clusters?
   - Non-equilibrium processes such as cosmic ray pressure and turbulence possibly modify thermal X-ray emission and Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect.
   - Cosmic ray pressure can modify the scaling relations $\rightarrow$ bias of cosmological parameters, or increase of the uncertainties if we marginalize over the 'unknown cluster physics' (cluster self-calibration)
2. What can we learn from non-thermal cluster emission?
   - Estimating the cosmic ray pressure contribution.
   - Constructing a 'gold sample' for cosmology using orthogonal information on the dynamical cluster activity.
   - Fundamental physics: diffusive shock acceleration, large scale magnetic fields, and turbulence.

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Literature for the talk

- Pfrommer, 2007, arXiv:0707.1693, *Simulating cosmic rays in clusters of galaxies – III. Non-thermal scaling relations and comparison to observations*
- Pfrommer, Enßlin, Springel, 2007, arXiv:0707.1707, *Simulating cosmic rays in clusters of galaxies – II. A unified model for radio halos and relics with predictions of the γ-ray emission*
- Pfrommer, Enßlin, Springel, Jubelgas, and Dolag, 2007, MNRAS, 378, 385, *Simulating cosmic rays in clusters of galaxies, I. effects on the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect and the X-ray emission*
- Pfrommer, Springel, Enßlin, Jubelgas 2006, MNRAS, 367, 113, *Detecting shock waves in cosmological smoothed particle hydrodynamics simulations*
- Enßlin, Pfrommer, Springel, and Jubelgas, in press, astro-ph/0603484, *Cosmic ray physics in calculations of cosmological structure formation*
- Jubelgas, Springel, Enßlin, and Pfrommer, astro-ph/0603485, *Cosmic ray feedback in hydrodynamical simulations of galaxy formation*

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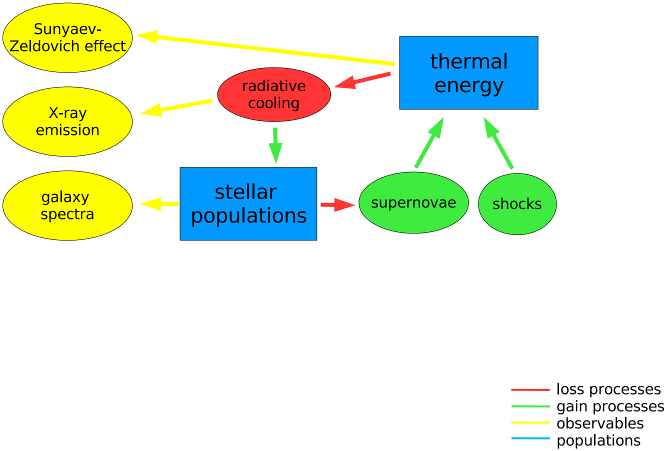
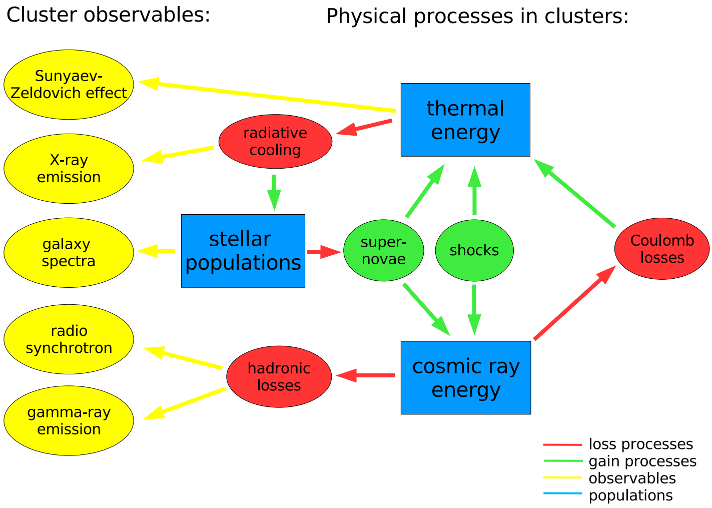
Radiative simulations – flowchart

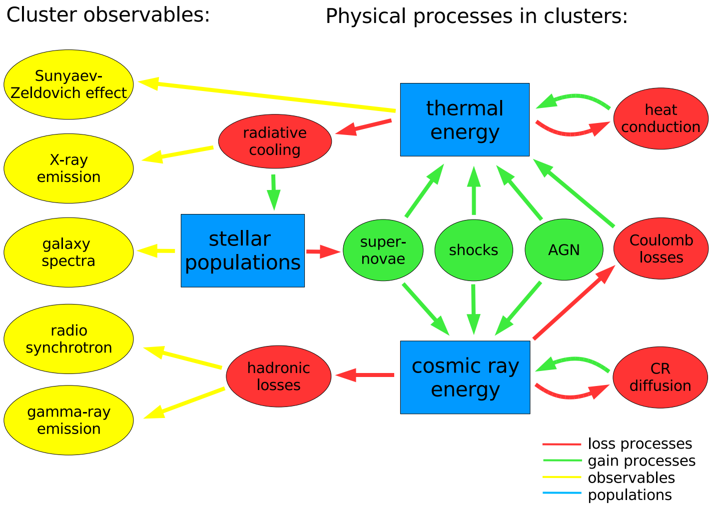
Cluster observables: Physical processes in clusters:



Radiative simulations with cosmic ray (CR) physics



Radiative simulations with extended CR physics



Previous numerical work on cosmic rays in clusters

COSMOCR: A numerical code for cosmic ray studies in computational cosmology (Miniati, 2001):

- advantages: good resolution in momentum space
- drawbacks: CR pressure not accounted for in EoM, insufficient spatial resolution (grid code), non-radiative gas physics

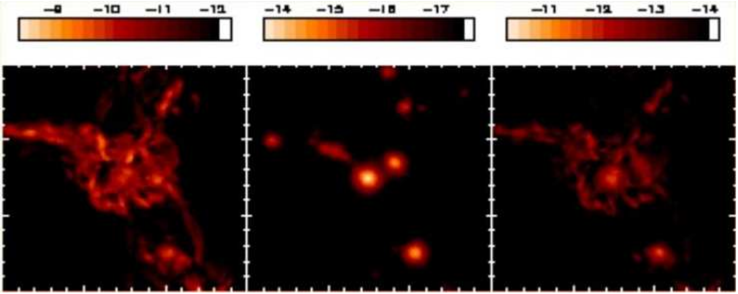


Figure: Hard X-rays, thermal X-rays, γ-rays, adopted from Miniati (2003)

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Our philosophy and description

An accurate description of CRs should follow the evolution of the spectral energy distribution of CRs as a function of time and space, and keep track of their dynamical, non-linear coupling with the hydrodynamics.

We seek a compromise between

- capturing as many physical properties as possible
- requiring as little computational resources as necessary

Assumptions:

- protons dominate the CR population
- a momentum power-law is a typical spectrum
- CR energy & particle number conservation

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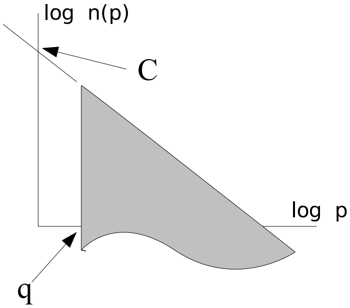
CR spectral description



$$p = P_\mathrm{p}/m_\mathrm{p}\,c$$

$$f(p) = \frac{dN}{dp\,dV} = C\,p^{-\alpha}\theta(p-q)$$

$$q(\rho) = \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} q_0$$

$$C(\rho) = \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0}\right)^{\frac{\alpha+2}{3}} C_0$$

$$n_\mathrm{CR} = \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}p\, f(p) = \frac{C\,q^{1-\alpha}}{\alpha-1}$$

$$P_\mathrm{CR} = \frac{m_\mathrm{p}c^2}{3}\int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}p\, f(p)\,\beta(p)\,p$$

$$= \frac{C\,m_\mathrm{p}c^2}{6}\,\mathcal{B}_{\frac{1}{1+q^2}}\left(\frac{\alpha-2}{2},\frac{3-\alpha}{2}\right)$$

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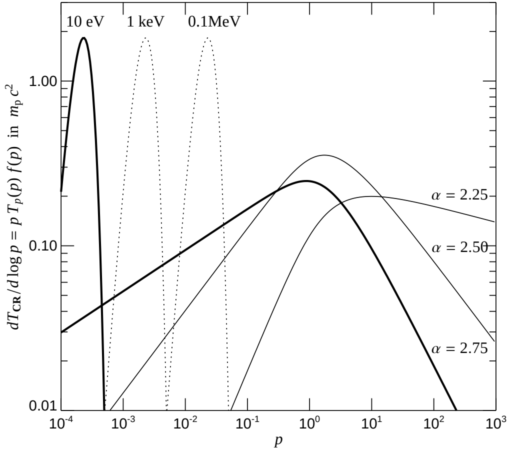
Thermal & CR energy spectra

Kinetic energy per logarithmic momentum interval:



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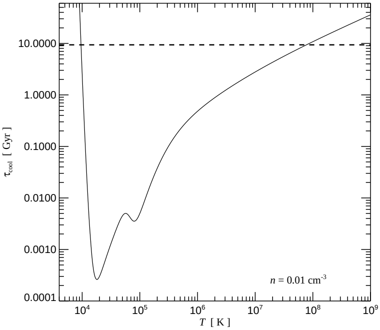
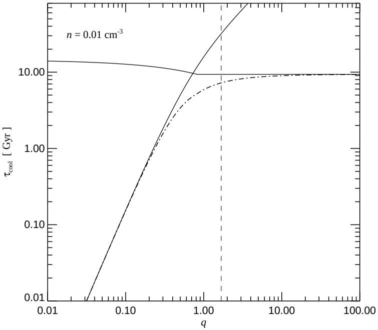
Cooling time scales of CR protons

Cooling of primordial gas:



Cooling of cosmic rays:



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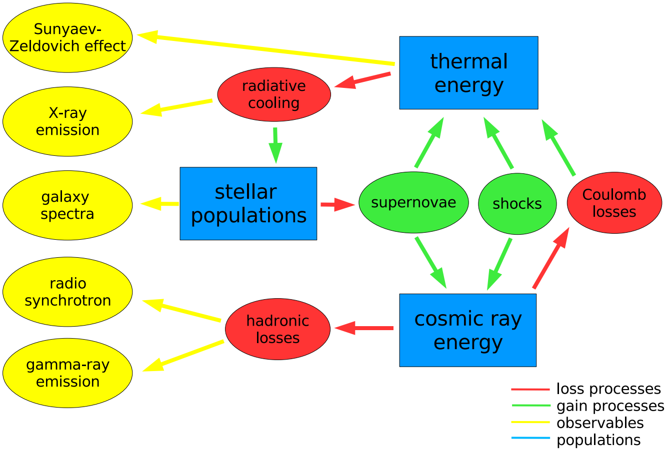
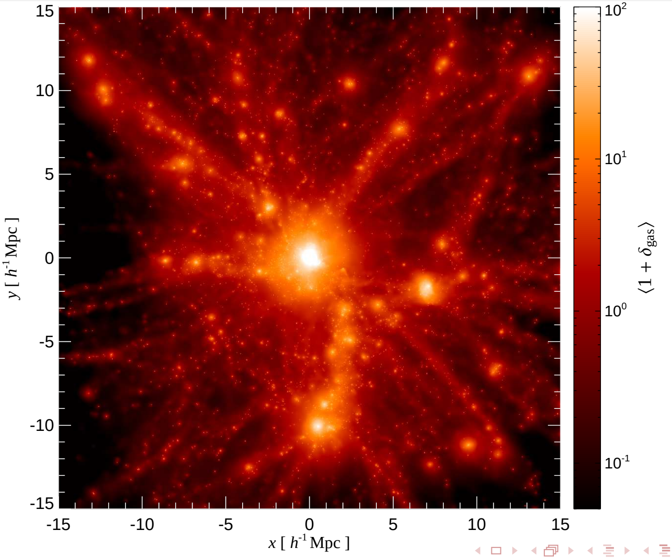
Radiative simulations with CR physics

Cluster observables: Physical processes in clusters:



Radiative cool core cluster simulation: gas density



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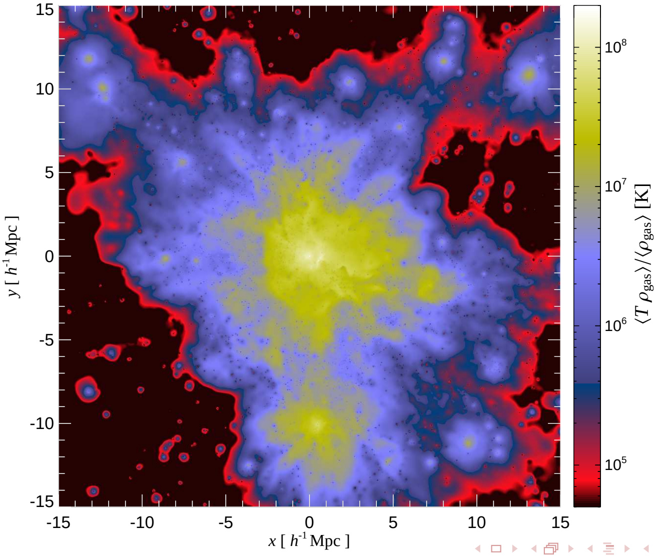
Mass weighted temperature



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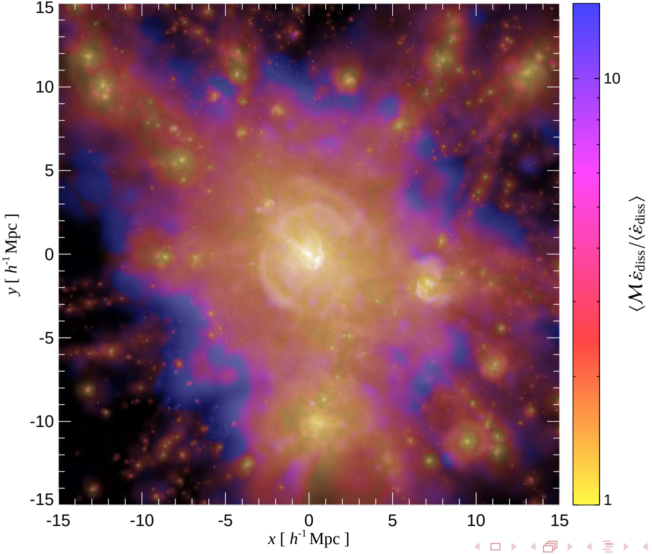
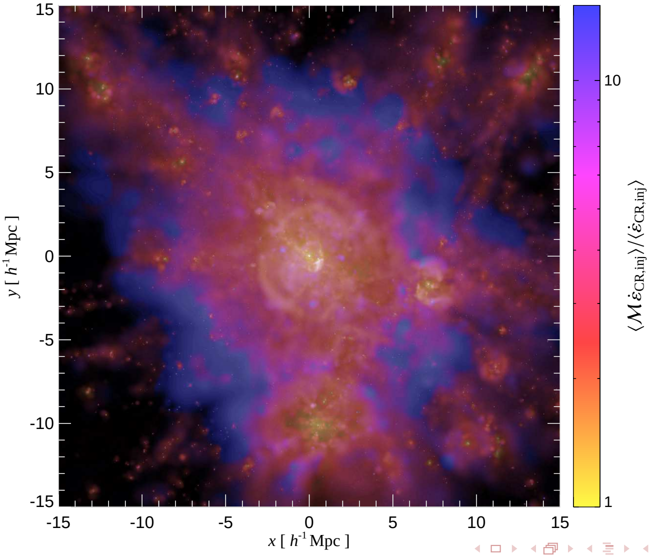
Mach number distribution weighted by $\varepsilon_{\rm diss}$



Mach number distribution weighted by $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CR,inj}}$



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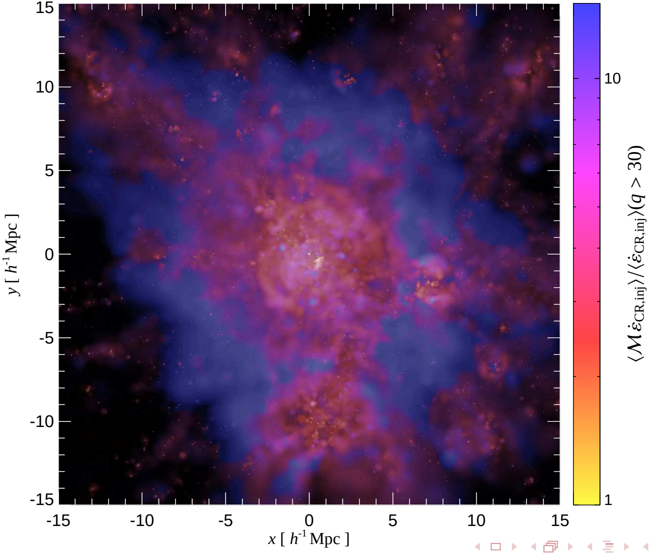
Mach number distribution weighted by $\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CR,inj}}(q > 30)$



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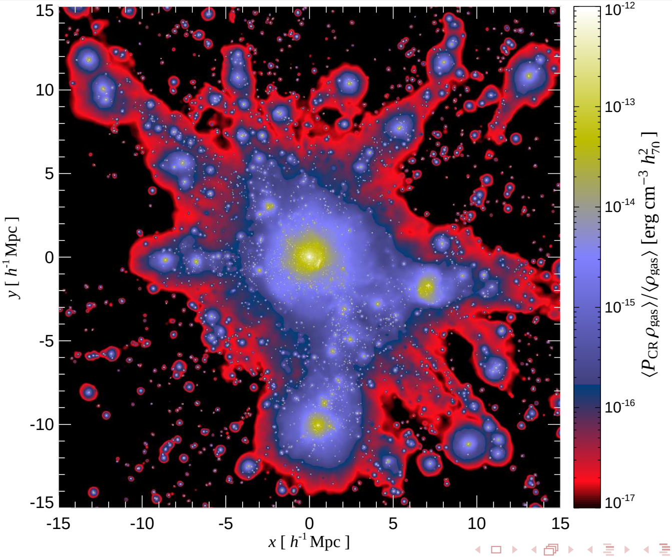
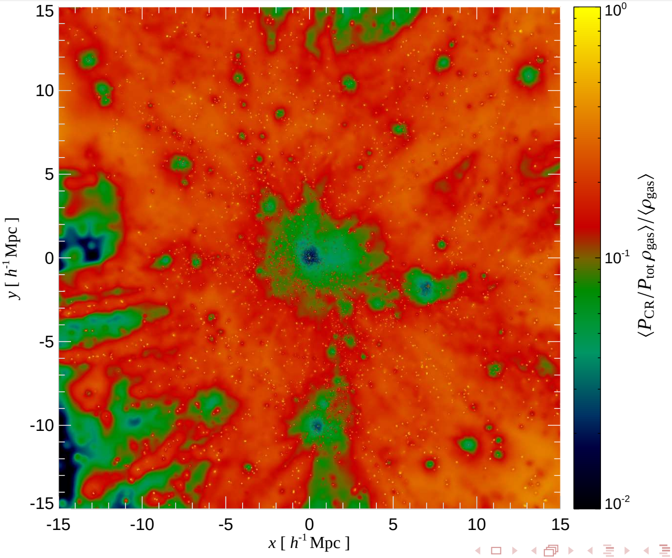
CR pressure P_{CR}



Relative CR pressure $P_{\rm CR}/P_{\rm total}$



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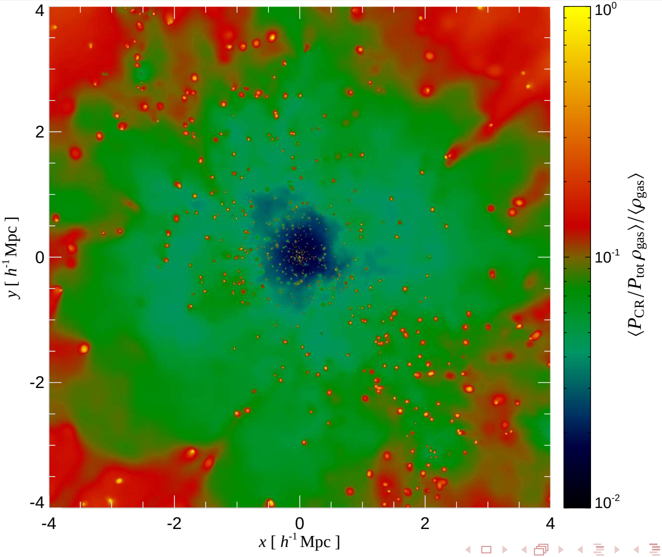

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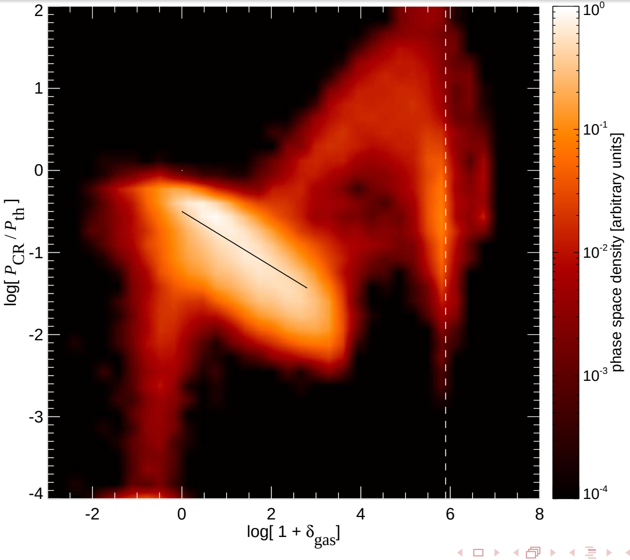
Phase-space diagram of radiative cluster simulation



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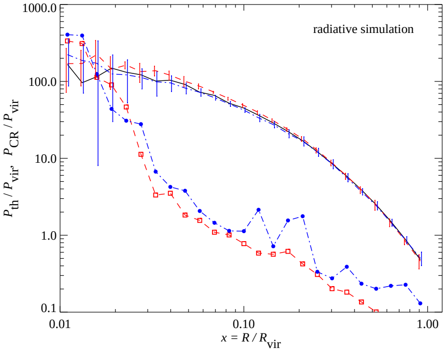
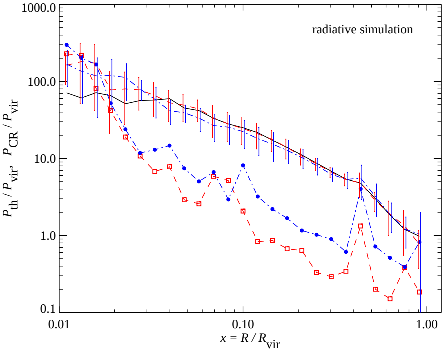
Radiative simulations: pressure profile



Cool core cluster sample.



Merging cluster sample.

red: only structure formation shock CRs,

blue: structure formation & SNe CRs.

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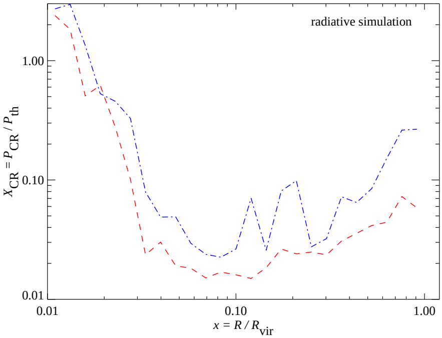
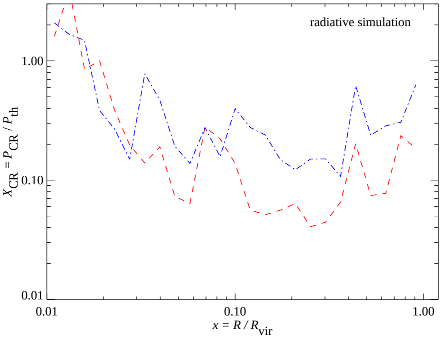
Radiative simulations: relative CR pressure profile





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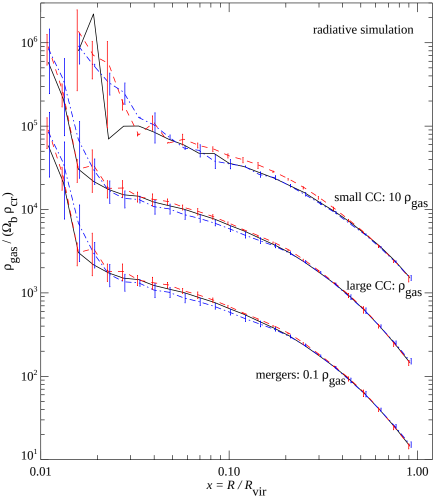
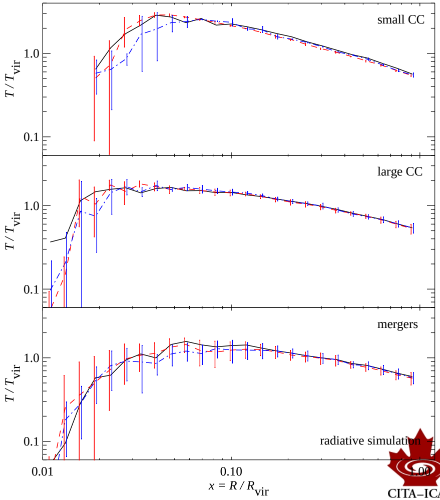
Radiative simulations: density and temperature profile





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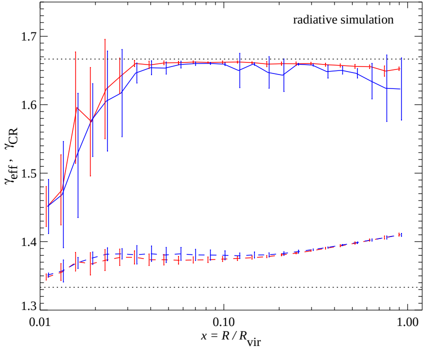
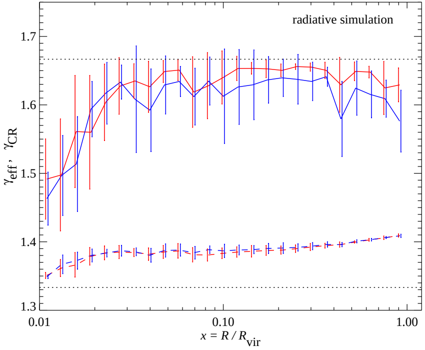
Radiative simulations: adiabatic index profile





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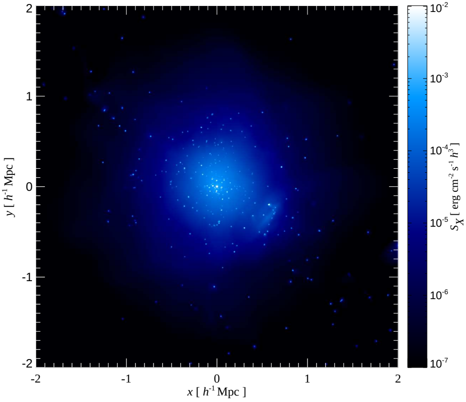
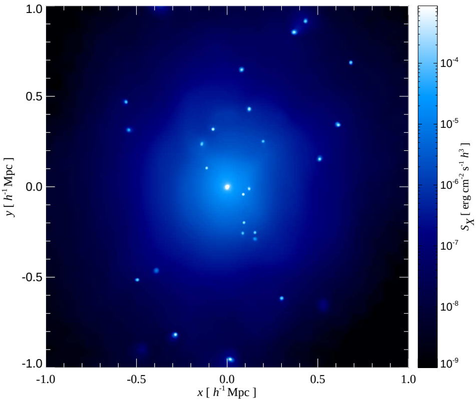
Thermal X-ray emission



large merging cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot/h$



small cool core cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{14} M_\odot/h$

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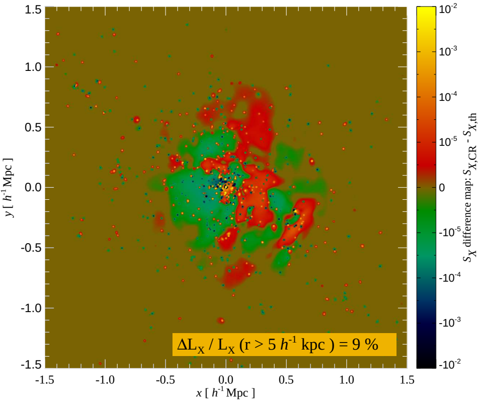
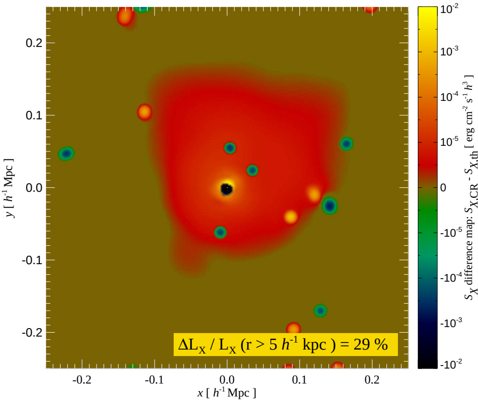
Difference map of S_X: $S_{X,CR} - S_{X,th}$





large merging cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot / h$
→ contributes to the scatter in the $M - L_X$ scaling relation

cool core cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{14} M_\odot / h$
→ systematic increase of L_X for small cool core clusters

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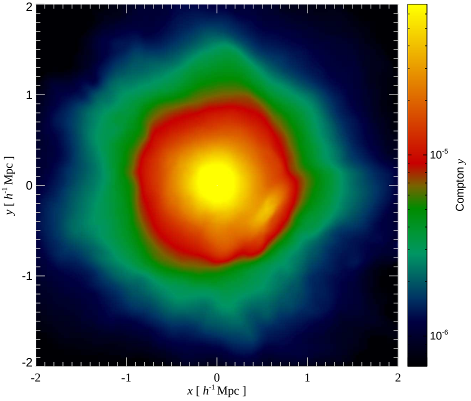
Compton y parameter in radiative cluster simulation



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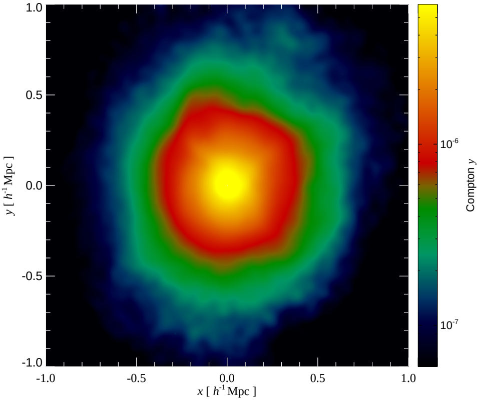

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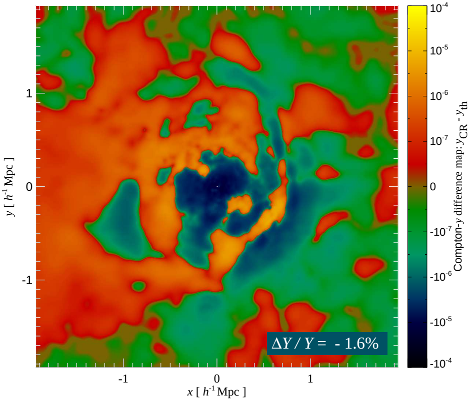
Compton y difference map: $y_{\rm CR} - y_{\rm th}$



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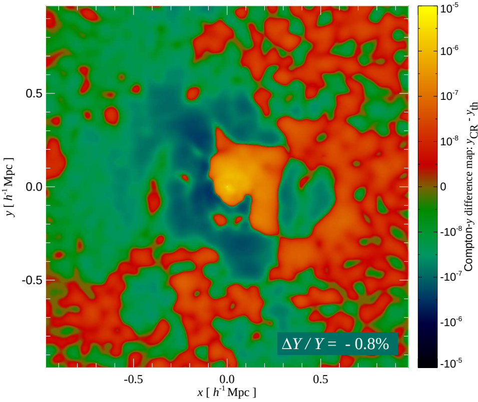

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Outline

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Particle acceleration processes

particles are acclerated via:

- adiabatic compression
- diffusive shock acceleration (Fermi I)
- stochastic acceleration by plasma waves (Fermi II)
- particle reactions (pp $\rightarrow \pi \rightarrow \mu\nu \rightarrow e\nu\nu$)

particles are de-accelerated via:

- adiabatic expension
- radiative cooling (synchrotron, inverse Compton, bremsstrahlung, hadronic interactions)
- non-radiative cooling (Coulomb interactions)

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Diffusive shock acceleration – Fermi 1 mechanism (1)

conditions:

- a collisionless shock wave
- magnetic fields to confine energetic particles
- plasma waves to scatter energetic particles → particle diffusion
- supra-thermal particles

mechanism:

- supra-thermal particles diffuse upstream across shock wave
- each shock crossing energizes particles through momentum transfer from recoil-free scattering off the macroscopic scattering agents
- momentum increases exponential with number of shock crossings
- number of particles decreases exponential with number of crossings

→ power-law CR distribution

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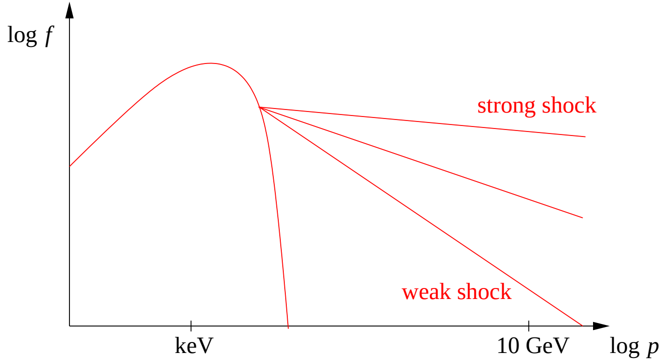
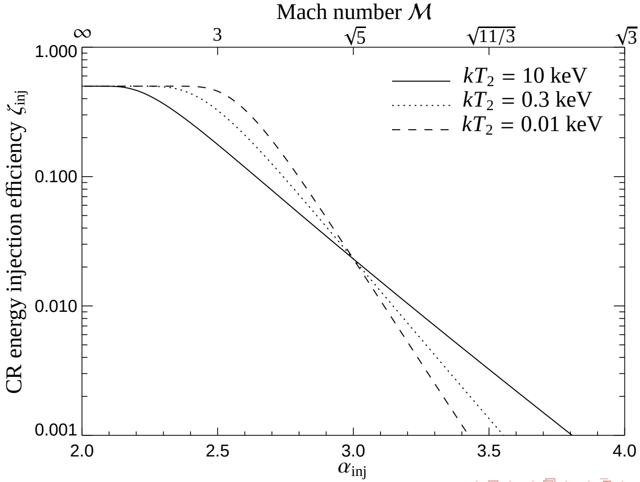
Diffusive shock acceleration – Fermi 1 mechanism (2)

Spectral index depends on the Mach number of the shock, $\mathcal{M} = \upsilon_{\text{shock}}/c_{\text{s}}$:

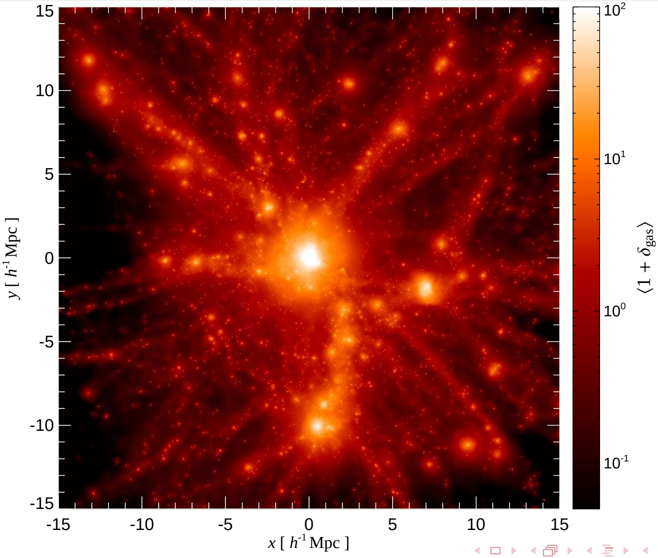


Diffusive shock acceleration – efficiency (3)

CR proton energy injection efficiency, $\zeta_{\text{inj}} = \varepsilon_{\text{CR}}/\varepsilon_{\text{diss}}$:



Radiative cool core cluster simulation: gas density



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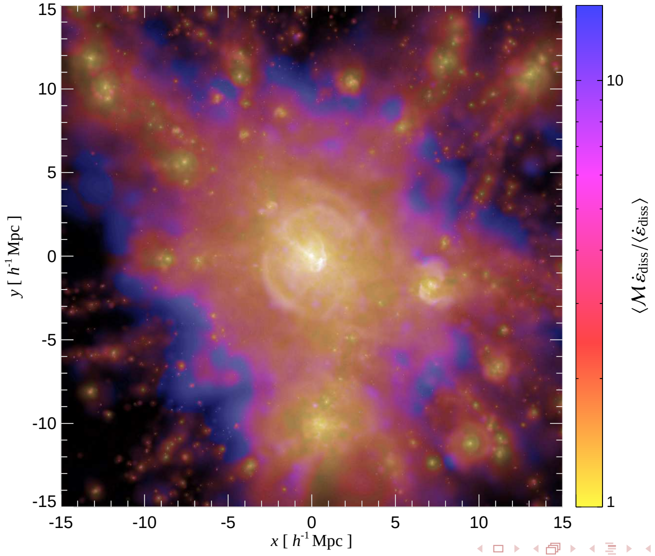
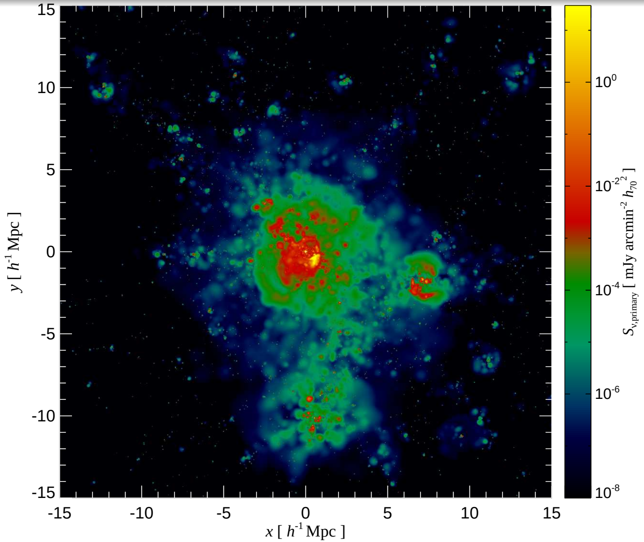
Cosmic web: Mach number



Radio web: primary CRe (1.4 GHz)



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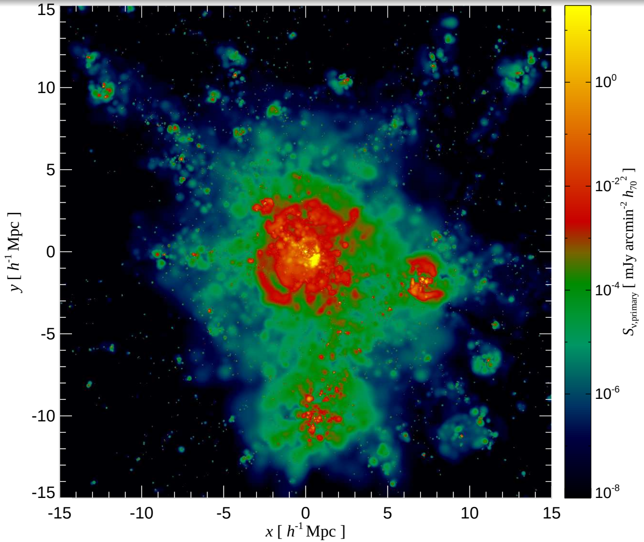
Radio web: primary CRe (150 MHz)



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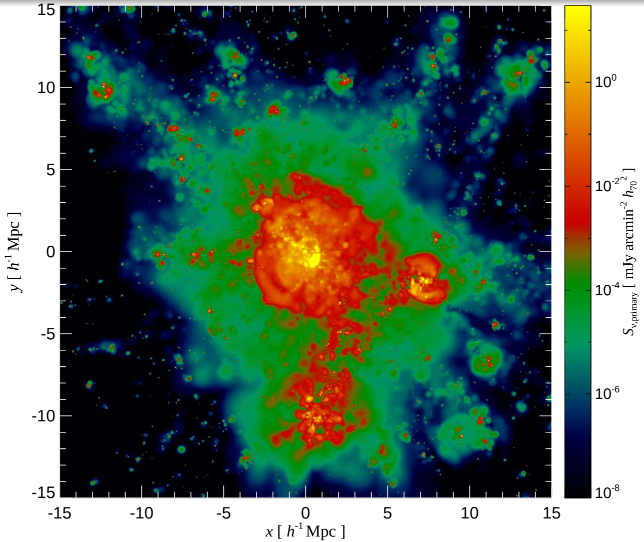
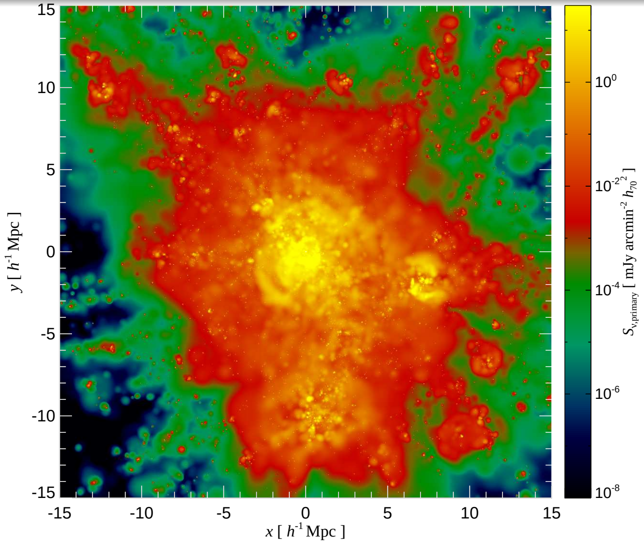
Radio web: primary CRe (15 MHz)



Radio web: primary CRe (15 MHz), slower magnetic decline



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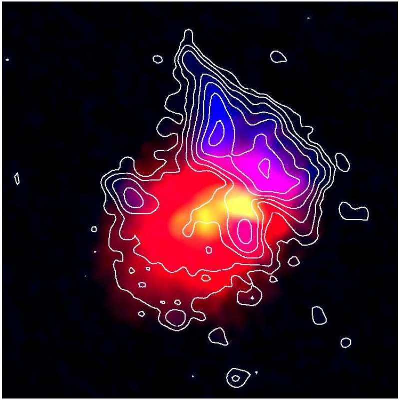
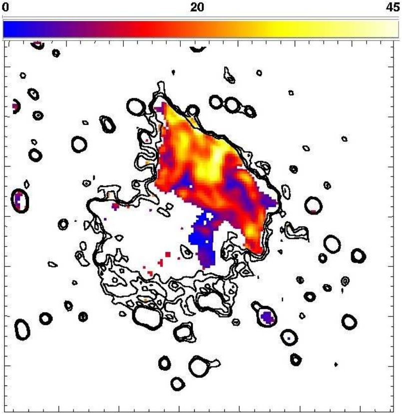
Abell 2256: giant radio relic & small halo



X-ray (red) & radio (blue, contours)



fractional polarization in color

Clarke & Enßlin (2006)

Outline

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Stochastic acceleration: recipe (1)

conditions:

- super-thermal or better relativistic particles
- magnetic fields to confine them
- high level of plasma waves to scatter them via gyro-resonances

mechanism:

- head on wave-particle collision energises particle
- tail on wave-particle collision de-energise particle
- statistically more head-on than tail-on collisions

→ net energy gain due to diffusion in momentum space

advantage: plamsa waves are everywhere!

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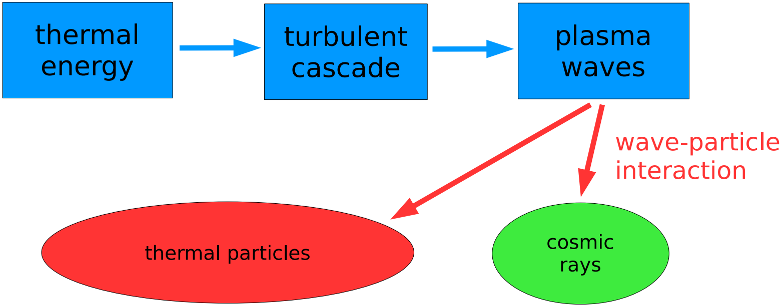
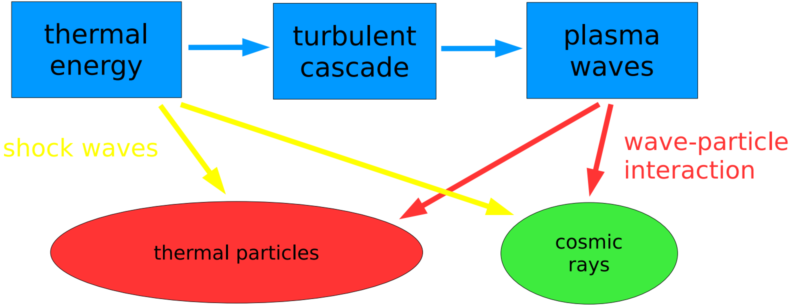
Stochastic acceleration: cartoon (2)



Stochastic acceleration: cartoon (2)



Stochastic acceleration: problems (3)

problems:

- low efficiency (2nd order in ratio of wave to particle velocity)
- waves like to cascade to small scales
- small-scale waves dissipate into the thermal pool
- wave energy budget is usually tight
- at locations with high wave density (e.g. shocks), more efficient acceleration mechanism may be in operation (e.g. DSA)

nevertheless: cluster radio halos may be due to stochastic re-acceleration of 0.2 MeV electrons (e.g. Brunetti et al.)

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Outline

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Particle reactions

relativistic proton populations can often be expected, since

- acceleration mechanisms work for protons . . .
  - . . . as efficient as for electrons (adiabatic compression) or
  - . . . more efficient than for electrons (DSA, stochastic acc.)
- galactic CR protons are observed to have 100 times higher energy density than electrons
- CR protons are very inert against radiative losses and therefore long-lived ($\sim$ Hubble time in galaxy clusters, longer outside)

$\longrightarrow$ an energetic CR proton population should exist in clusters

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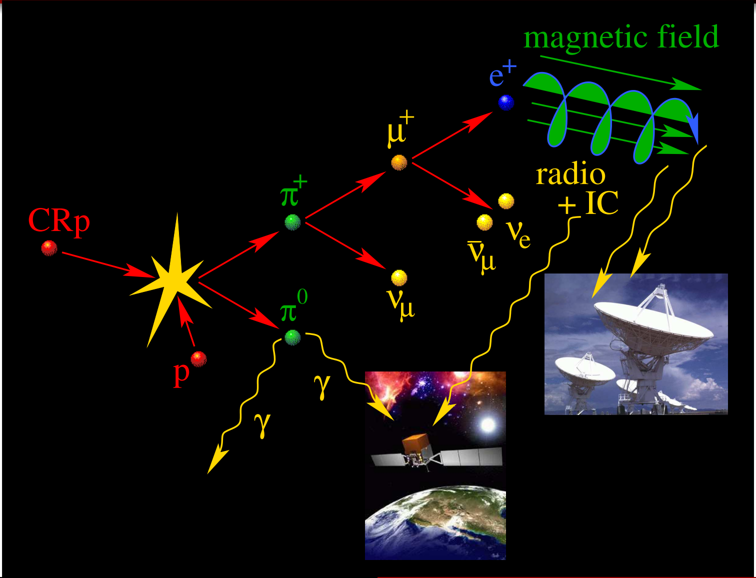
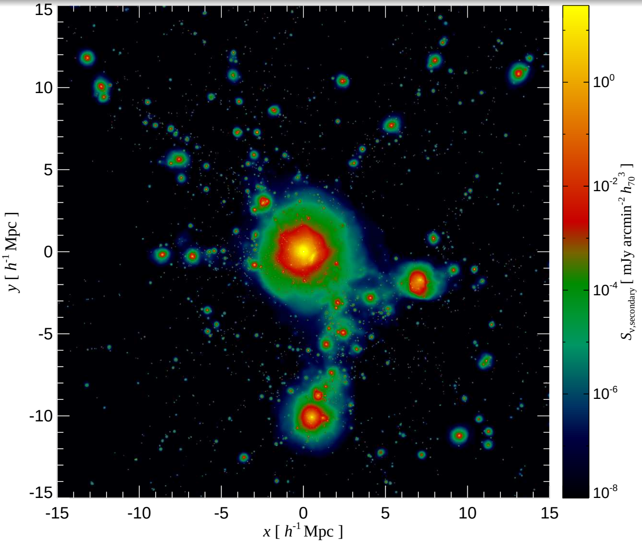
Hadronic cosmic ray proton interaction



Cluster radio emission by hadronically produced CRe



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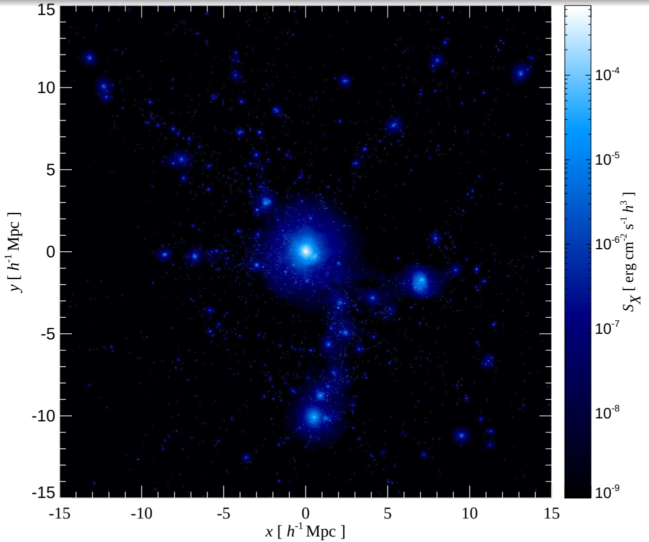
Thermal X-ray emission



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   - Cosmic ray pressure feedback
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   - Radiative processes
   - Unified model of radio halos and relics
   - High-energy gamma-ray emission

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Non-thermal emission from clusters

Exploring the memory of structure formation

The thermal plasma lost most information on how cosmic structure formation proceeded due to the dissipative processes. The thermal observables, X-ray emission and the Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect, tell us only very indirectly (if at all) about the cosmic history. In contrast, non-thermal processes retain their cosmic memory since their particle population is not in equilibrium → cluster archaeology.

How can we read out this information about non-thermal populations? → new era of multi-frequency experiments, e.g.:

- LOFAR, GMRT, MWA: interferometric array of radio telescopes at low frequencies ($\nu \simeq (15 - 240)$ MHz)
- Simbol-X: future hard X-ray satellite ($E \simeq (0.5 - 70)$ keV)
- GLAST: high-energy γ-ray space mission ($E \simeq (0.1 - 300)$ GeV)
- Imaging air Čerenkov telescopes (TeV photon energies)

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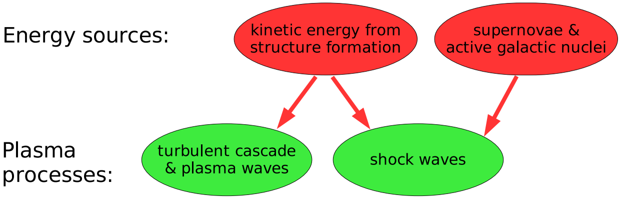
Cosmic rays and radiative processes

Relativistic populations and radiative processes in clusters:



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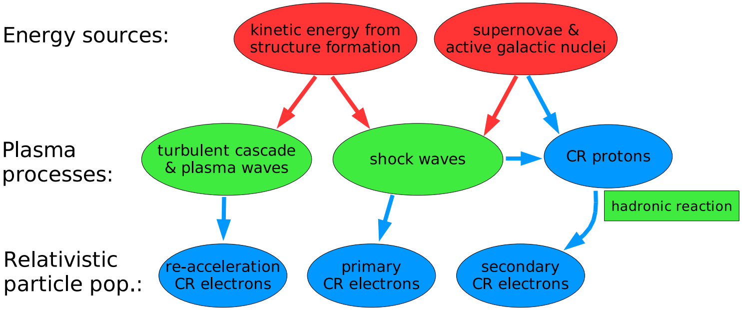

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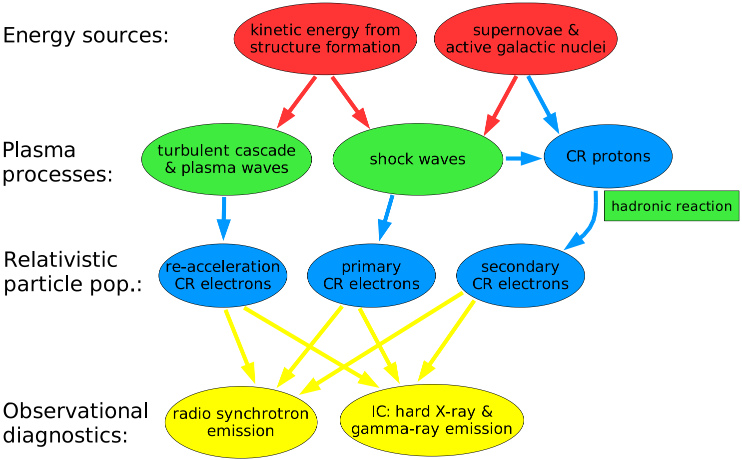

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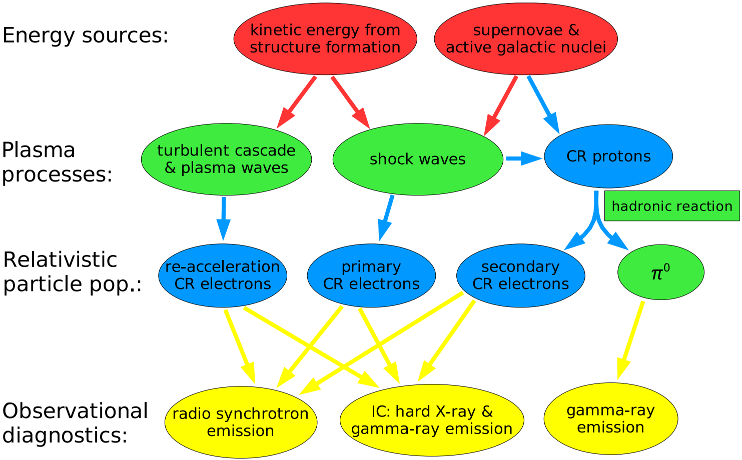

Outline

Previous models for giant radio halos in clusters

Radio halos show a smooth unpolarized radio emission at Mpc-scales. How are they generated?

- Primary accelerated CR electrons: synchrotron/IC cooling times too short to account for extended diffuse emission.
- Continuous in-situ acceleration of pre-existing CR electrons either via interactions with magneto-hydrodynamic waves, or through turbulent spectra (Jaffe 1977, Schlickeiser 1987, Brunetti 2001, Brunetti & Lazarian 2007).
- Hadronically produced CR electrons in inelastic collisions of CR protons with the ambient gas (Dennison 1980, Vestrad 1982, Miniati 2001, Pfrommer 2004).

All of these models face theoretical short-comings when comparing to observations.

Unified model of radio halos and relics

Cluster radio emission varies with dynamical stage of a cluster:

- Cluster relaxes and develops cool core: radio mini-halo develops due to hadronically produced CR electrons, magnetic fields are adiabatically compressed (cooling gas triggers radio mode feedback of AGN that outshines mini-halo → selection effect).
- Cluster experiences major merger: two leading shock waves are produced that become stronger as they break at the shallow peripheral cluster potential → shock-acceleration of primary electrons and development of radio relics.
- Generation of morphologically complex network of virializing shock waves. Lower sound speed in the cluster outskirts lead to strong shocks → irregular distribution of primary electrons, MHD turbulence amplifies magnetic fields.
- Giant radio halo develops due to (1) boost of the hadronically generated radio emission in the center (2) irregular radio 'gischt' emission in the cluster outskirts.

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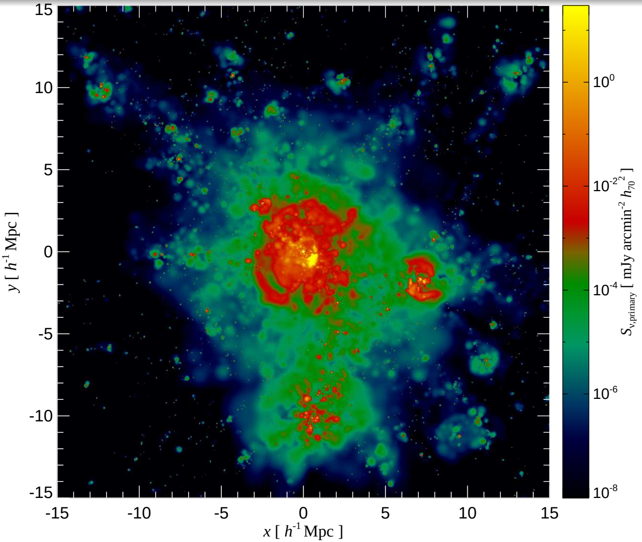
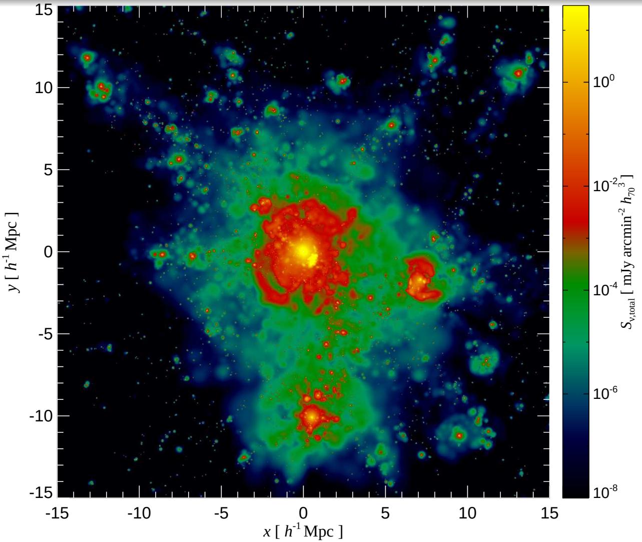
Radio gischt: primary CRe (150 MHz)



Radio gischt + central hadronic halo = giant radio halo



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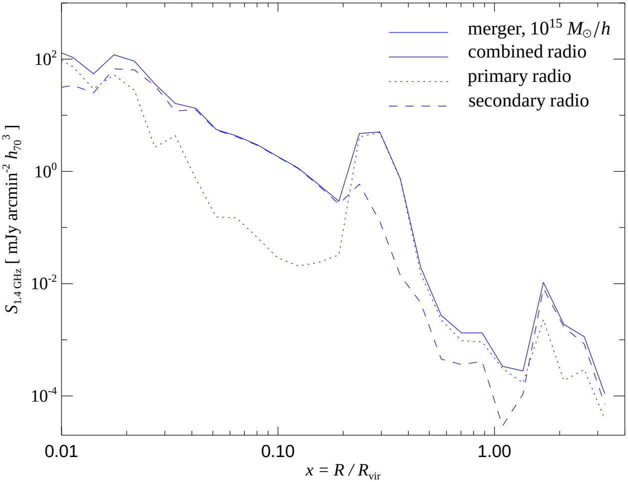
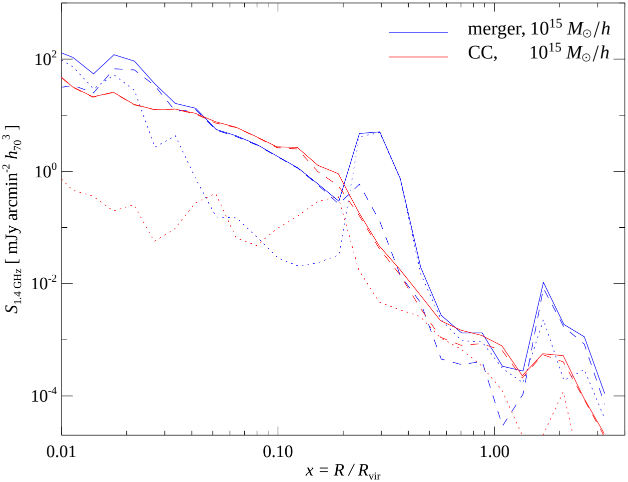
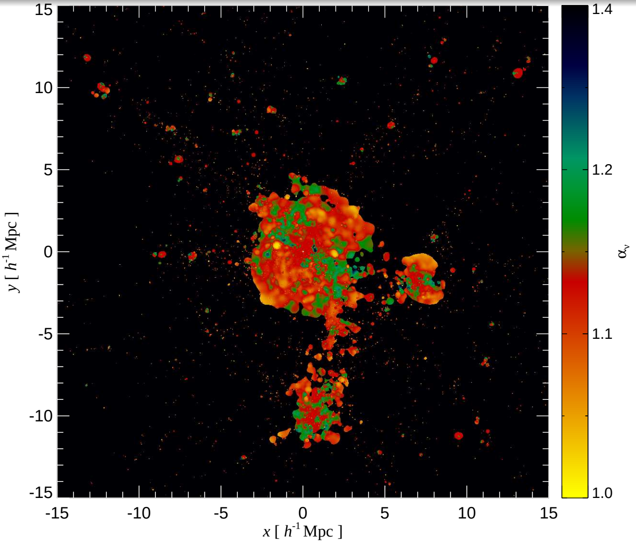
Giant radio halo profile



Giant radio halo vs. mini-halo



Radio relics + halos: spectral index



Low-frequency radio emission from clusters

Window into current and past structure formation

Our unified model accounts for . . .

- correlation between merging clusters and giant halos, occurrence of mini-halos in cool core clusters
- observed luminosities of halos/relics for magnetic fields derived from Faraday rotation measurements
- observed morphologies, variations, spectral and polarization properties in radio halos/relics

How we can make use of this information:

- Radio relics: produced by primary accelerated CR electrons at formation shocks → probes current dynamical, non-equilibrium activity of forming structures (shocks and magnetic fields)
- Central radio halos: produced by secondary CR electrons in hadronic CR proton interactions → tracing time-integrated non-equilibrium activity, modulated by recent dynamical activities

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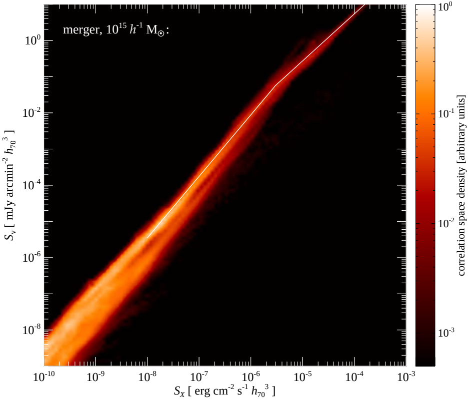
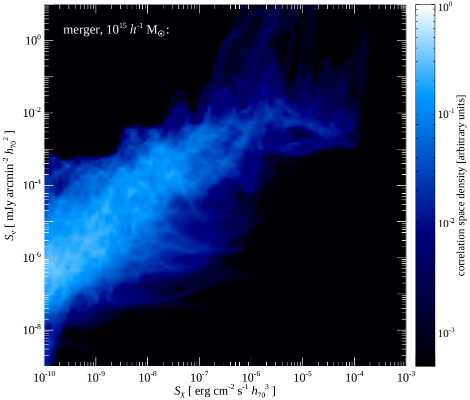
Correlation between X-ray and synchrotron emission



Correlation with secondary ‘halo’ emission, merging cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot / h$



Correlation with primary ‘relic’ emission, merging cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot / h$

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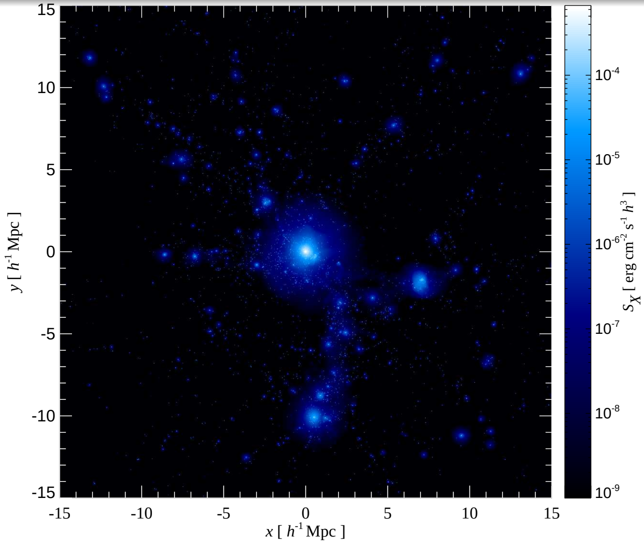
Thermal X-ray emission



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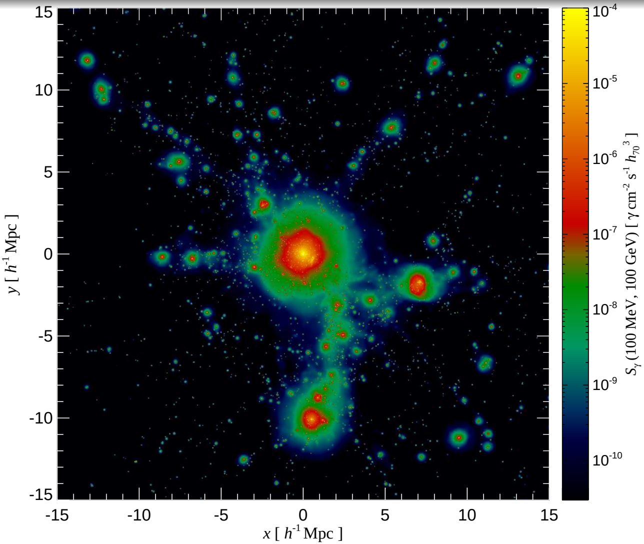
Hadronic γ-ray emission, $E_\gamma > 100$ MeV



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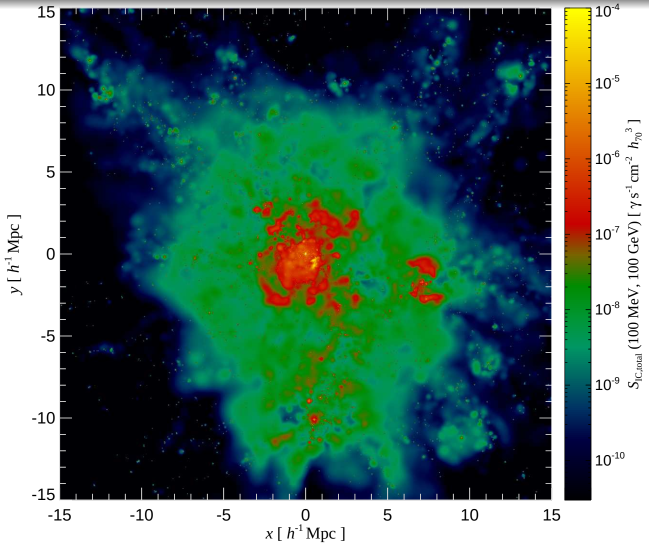
Inverse Compton emission, $E_{\mathrm{IC}} > 100$ MeV



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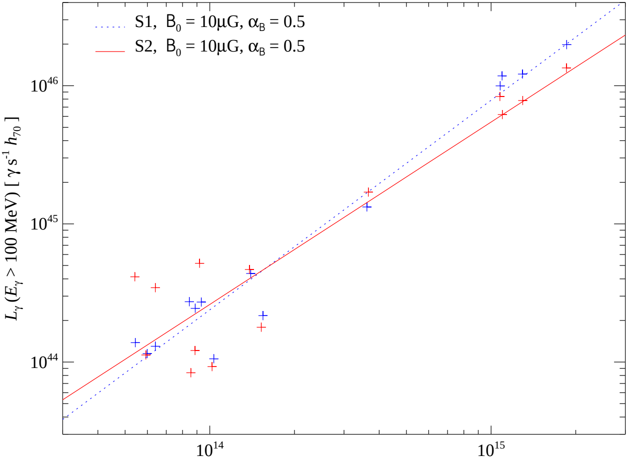
Gamma-ray scaling relations



Scaling relation + complete sample of the brightest X-ray clusters (HIFLUCGS) → predictions for GLAST

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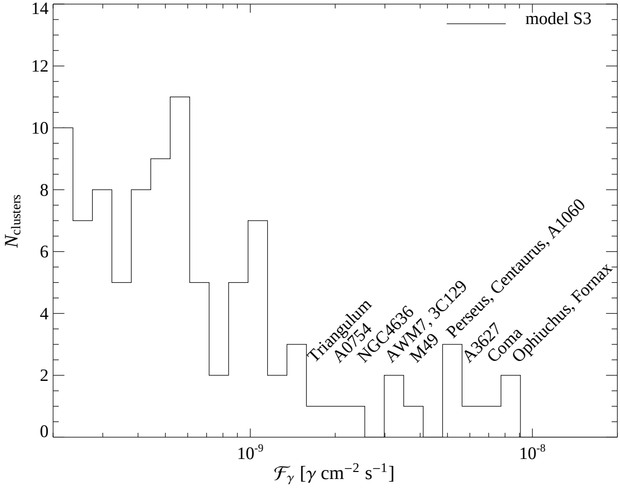
Predicted cluster sample for GLAST



Summary – 1. CR pressure feedback

1. Characteristics of the CRs in clusters:
   - CR proton pressure: time integrated non-equilibrium activities of clusters, modulated by recent mergers.
   - Primary CR electron pressure: resembles current accretion and merging shocks in the virial regions.
2. CR pressure modifies the ICM in merging clusters and cooling core regions:
   - Galaxy cluster X-ray emission is enhanced up to 35%, systematic effect in low-mass cooling core clusters.
   - Integrated Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect remains largely unchanged while the Compton-y profile is more peaked.
   - GLAST should see hadronic γ-ray emission from clusters: measurement of CR protons and origin of radio halos.

Summary – 2. Non-thermal cluster emission

1. Unified model for the generation of giant radio halos, radio mini-halos, and relics:
   - Giant radio halos are dominated in the center by secondary synchrotron emission.
   - Transition to the radio emission from primary electrons in the cluster periphery.
2. LOFAR/GMRT are expected to see the radio web emission: origin of cosmic magnetic fields.
3. We predict GLAST to detect $\sim$ ten γ-ray clusters: test of the presented scenario

$\longrightarrow$ exciting experiments allow a complementary view on structure formation as well as fundamental physics!

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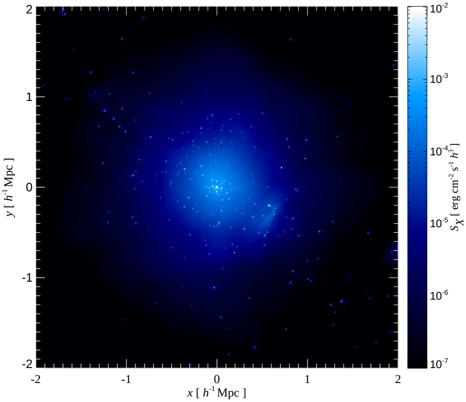
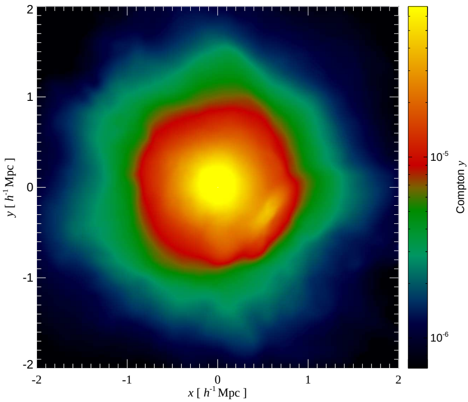
Thermal cluster observables (1)



Thermal bremsstrahlung emission,

merging cluster, $M_{\text{vir}} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot / h$



Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect,

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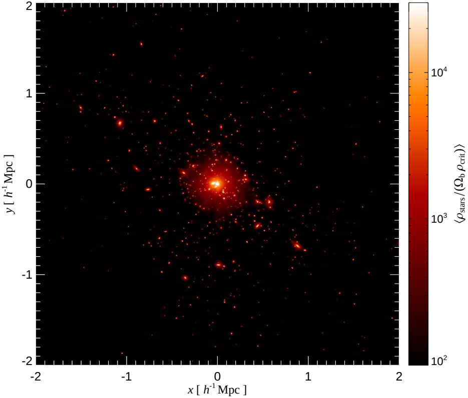
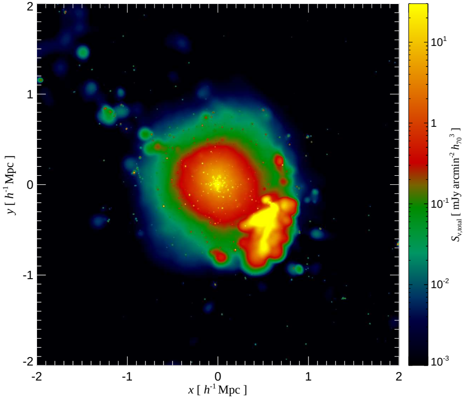
Optical and radio synchrotron cluster observables (1)





Stellar mass density (“cluster galaxies”),

merging cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot / h$

Radio halo and relic emission,

merging cluster, $M_{\rm vir} \simeq 10^{15} M_\odot / h$

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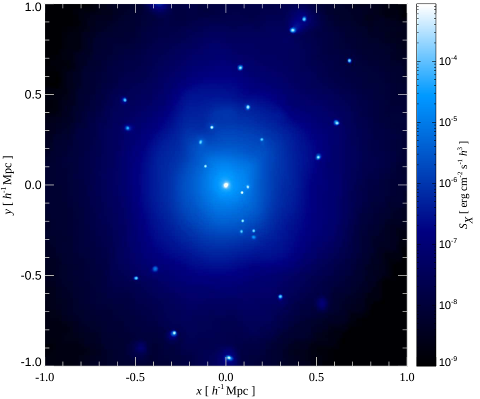
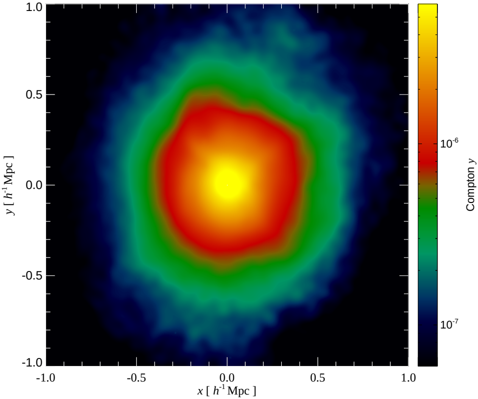
Thermal cluster observables (2)



Thermal bremsstrahlung emission,

cool core cluster, $M_{\mathrm{vir}} \simeq 10^{14} M_\odot / h$



Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect,

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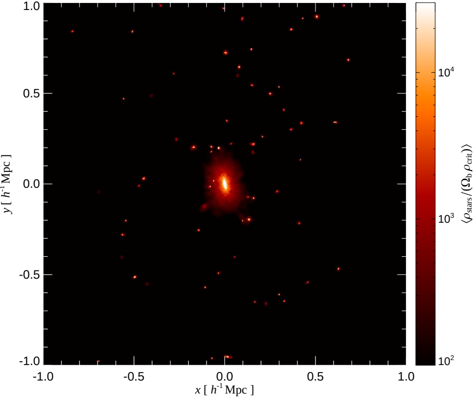
Optical and radio synchrotron cluster observables (2)



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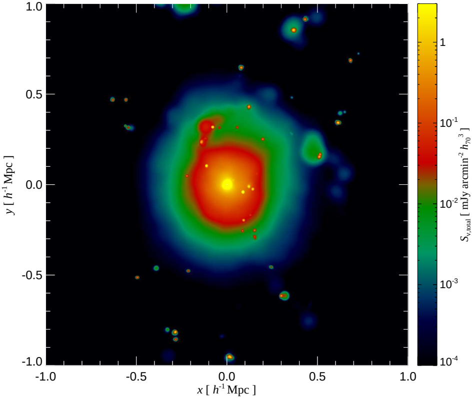

Radio halo and relic emission,

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