Properties and evolution of Active Galactic Nuclei in clusters

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Motivation

- Studying the evolution of AGN provides insights into the coevolution of supermassive black holes and the galaxies they inhabit.
- As a consequence of hierarchical structure formation, the majority of galaxies eventually fall in clusters. Therefore, clusters are the principal environment of galaxies and they can play a very important role in galaxy evolution.
- Inclusion of AGNs in cosmological simulations is crucial for constructing more realistic models of the universe. However, AGNs are modelled in simulations following only field demographics.

AGN & ram pressure in massive galaxy clusters



Ehlert et al. (2013, 2014): the X-ray AGN fraction in the central regions of 42 of the most massive known clusters is about three times lower than the field value.

Several studies have shown that massive clusters can effectively suppress the fraction of AGN in cluster galaxies:

- Kauffmann+2004
- Martini+2007: 40% lower
- Koulouridis & Plionis+2010: ~3x lower
- Haines+2012: 40% lower
- Mishra+2020
- Beyoro+2021

Important note: AGN in cluster galaxies are more numerous than in the field. But the fraction of AGN in cluster galaxies is lower than in the field.

Ram pressure stripping by the hot ICM

- \star In massive clusters we find less AGN in the centre
- ★ In the central region of galaxy clusters the hot ICM causes the stripping of the gas of cluster galaxies. The result is the quenching of star formation and possibly of the BH accretion, leading to a reduced fraction of AGNs in clusters.





Jellyfish galaxies, Fumagalli+14

- ★ Poggianti+2017 suggested that ram pressure stripping may act as a triggering mechanism for AGN activity in cluster members
- ★ Peluso+2022 confirmed that "jellyfish" galaxies host a significantly higher number of AGN than similar galaxies in the field.

jellyfish galaxies probably represent a small fraction of the total population of RPS galaxies

Excess of X-ray point sources in the outskirts of clusters



Ruderman & Ebeling (2005) z=0.3-0.7



Fassbender et al. (2012) z=0.9-1.6



Koulouridis et al. (2014) z=0.14-1.0

The role of cluster mass in AGN activity

The XXL survey XXXV

Koulouridis et al. (2018b)



Evidence for AGN triggering in the cluster outskirts (1-2 r₅₀₀, 95% confidence)
Ram pressure stripping towards the cluster centre but less efficient than in massive clusters

High density of accreting super massive black holes in the outskirts of distant galaxy clusters





Example of an excess of X-ray point-sources in the outskirts of a massive clusters at z~1

Top panel: distribution of X-ray point sources in galaxy clusters as a function of radius. **Bottom panel:** total surface density of X-ray point sources divided by the optical galaxy profile.

E. Koulouridis & I. Bartalucci, A&A, 2019

A significant excess of X-ray point-sources is found in the outskirts of clusters. This can be due to the high density of galaxies that leads to a higher merging rate and thus AGNs, or to the presence of in-falling small groups from fillaments where galaxies have already been pre-processed.

XXL-Hyper Suprime Cam (HSC-Subaru Telescope) joint project



XMM-XXL South

AGN host morphology with HSC in XXL north



Morphology of the host: Merging fraction



Fig. 3: Fraction of merging X-ray AGN in clusters (main sample) in comparison with the fraction of merging cases detected in control samples (iii) and (iv). Error bars indicate the 1σ confidence limits for small numbers of events (Gehrels 1986). A significant excess in the merging fraction is found at the 95% confidence level only in the sample of the X-ray AGN in clusters.





Xray AGN in clusters: Merging examples



the role of infalling groups, ram pressure stripping, cluster mass and dynamical state

E. Koulouridis, A. Gkini, E. Drigga 2024

Name	RA(J2000)	Dec(J2000)	Redshift $\langle z \rangle$	$M_{200,m}$ $10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$	Infalling groups?	Low entropy core?
Abell 68	00:37:06.84	+09:09:24.28	0.251	8.39+2.00	Y	N
ZwC10104.4+0048	01:06:49.50	+01:03:22.10	0.253	$2.98^{+2.21}_{-1.26}$	N	Y
Abell 209	01:31:53.45	-13:36:47.84	0.209	$17.01^{+3.70}_{-2.93}$	Y	Ν
Abell 383	02:48:03.42	-03:31:45.05	0.189	$6.90^{+2.18}_{-1.64}$	Ν	Y
Abell 586	07:32:20.22	+31:37:55.88	0.171	8.32+3.54	Ν	Ν
Abell 611	08:00:56.81	+36:03:23.40	0.286	11.77+2.77	Y	Ν
Abell 697	08:42:57.58	+36:21:59.54	0.282	$14.22^{+6.14}_{-3.73}$	Y	Ν
ZwC10857.9+2107	09:00:36.86	+20:53:39.84	0.234	$3.52^{+1.97}_{-1.39}$	Ν	Y
Abell 963	10:17:03.65	+39:02:49.63	0.204	$9.46^{+2.20}_{-1.79}$	Y	Y
Abell 1689	13:11:29.45	-01:20:28.32	0.185	$13.15^{+2.32}_{-1.97}$	Ν	Ν
Abell 1758	13:32:33.50	+50:30:31.61	0.279	$7.22^{+2.42}_{-1.83}$	Y	Ν
Abell 1763	13:35:18.07	+40:59:57.16	0.232	$22.89^{+5.94}_{-4.32}$	Y	Ν
Abell 1835	14:00:52.50	+02:52:42.64	0.252	12.27+2.75	Y	Y
Abell 1914	14:25:59.70	+37:49:41.63	0.167	$12.51^{+3.55}_{-2.65}$	Y	Ν
ZwCl1454.8+2233	14:57:15.11	+22:20:34.26	0.257	$6.28^{+6.10}_{-2.69}$	Y	Y
Abell 2219	16:40:22.56	+46:42:21.60	0.226	15.17+4.53	Y	Ν
RXJ 1720.1+2638	17:20:10.14	+26:37:30.90	0.160	$7.23^{+3.46}_{-2.26}$	Y	Y
RXJ 2129.6+0005	21:29:39.88	+00:05:20.54	0.234	$7.35^{+4.11}_{-2.48}$	Ν	Y
Abell 2390	21:53:36.85	+17:41:43.66	0.229	$13.75^{+2.91}_{-2.42}$	Y	Y
Abell 2485	22:48:31.13	-16:06:25.60	0.247	7.56+2.27	Ν	Ν

Bianconi et al. 2021

90% complete spectroscopy of cluster galaxies out to 3xR200 with Hectospec Arizona Cluster Redshift Survey (ACReS) X-ray AGNs with Lx>10e42 from 4XMM-DR10 catalogue out to ~R200 with spectroscopic redshifts



Haines et al. 2018

Morphological classification



The role of infalling groups & cluster dynamical state



A significant excess of X-ray AGN is found in the outskirts of relaxed clusters, compared both to non-relaxed clusters and to the field

The X-CLASS survey: A catalogue of 1646 X-ray-selected galaxy clusters up to z~1.5

E. Koulouridis, N. Clerc, T. Sadibekova + the XCLASS collaboration (2021)

