Statistical studies of diffuse radio emission in galaxy clusters with LOFAR

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Outline of the talk

- ★ Galaxy clusters and their diffuse Mpc-scale radio emissions
- ★ Present picture and importance of statistical studies
- ★ A big project: Planck clusters in LoTSS DR2
- \star RH statistics and comparison with model expectations
- ★ Radio-power mass correlation and cluster dynamics
- ★ Summary and future prospects

Clusters of galaxies

 ✓ Largest concentration of matter in the Universe, L~2-3 Mpc, M~10¹⁴-10¹⁵ M⊙
 ✓ Made of : 70-80% of dark-matter, few % galaxies,15-20% intra-cluster medium (ICM)

radio (VLA @1GHz)

Optical (Subaru) galaxies (stars) + DM (indirect)

> X-rays (Chandra) Hot ICM: n_e~10⁻¹-10⁻⁴ cm⁻³, T~10⁸ [°]K

Abell 2744, image credits: van Weeren + 19

Cluster-scale diffuse emission

Radio Relic

van Weeren + 19

 diffuse synchrotron radio emission in the form of Radio Halos and Radio Relics

- steep spectrum sources ($\alpha > 1$, with $F(\nu) \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$)
- proof of the presence of non-thermal components, GeV electrons ($\gamma \sim 10^4$) and μ G magnetic field, mixed with the thermal ICM on Mpc scales.

Syn+IC lifetime of radio e⁻ T_{rad}~100-300 Myr << diffusion time ICM acceleration site !

Radio Halo

Cluster-scale diffuse emission



- Galaxy clusters form via a hierarchical sequence of mergers and accretion of smaller systems driven by DM
- Mergers drive turbulence and shocks in the ICM
- Turbulence and shock can power mechanisms of particle re-acceleration in the ICM (e.g. *Brunetti & Jones 2014*)



- Fundamental questions:
 - \succ ORIGIN ??
 - ➤ IMPACT on thermal ICM ?? (microphysics & dynamics)

RH cluster - merger connection

no-RH "relaxed" RH **USSRH** MACS1115 RXCJ1720 O A3088 A2261 o^{PSZJ139} [in 100 kpc] CL1821+643 A1300 RXJ0142 A773 A2219 0.1 OA781 RXCJ2003 "merging" Cassano + 10 0.001 0.01 w [in 500 kpc]

see also e.g., Rossetti + 11, Wen & Han 14; Parek +15, Eckert 17, Cuciti + sub.

A statistical connection between RH and the clusters dynamical status: RH in the most **dynamically "disturbed"systems**, clusters without diffuse radio emission more "relaxed".



Turbulence generated during cluster mergers reaccelerates relativistic e- in the ICM to the energy necessary to produce the observed radio emission (e.g. Brunetti & Jones 2014)

Basic theoretical expectations (turbulence) Cassano & Brunetti 05; Cassano et al. 2006, 2010, 2012

★ Monte-Carlo approach based on s<u>emi-</u> analytic models (e.g. Lacey & Cole 93) to describe the formation history of GCs



* Turbulence injected during cluster mergers (Et derived from the PdV work of the infalling subclusters)

Turbulent

Particles heating/ energy flux acceleration rate

$$\rho_{ICM} \delta V^3 L^{-1} \eta_{CRe} \sim \int d^3 p E \frac{\partial f_e}{\partial t}$$

* FERMI II like acceleration mechanisms not efficient ! => max synchrotron v_s



Radio Halos predicted to be a mix of different populations including very steep spectrum sources «invisible» at classical frequencies. (Cassano + 06; Brunetti+ 08 Nature)

How much the present view is biased?

pre-LOFAR era: high mass, high frequency (low-z)



Current statistical studies <u>limited to</u> <u>massive $M_{500} \sim 5-6x10^{14} M_{\odot}$ (and ~</u> <u>nearby) systems</u> which are only a small fraction of the clusters in the Universe ! Radio Halos predicted to be a mix of different populations including *very steep spectrum* sources «invisible» at classical frequencies. *(Cassano + 06; Brunetti+ 08 Nature)*

LOFAR Two-Meter Sky Survey second data release (DR2)



LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey (LoTSS) (Shimwell+ 17,19):

Frequency 120-150 MHz resolution ~5 arcsec sensitivity 100 μ Jy/beam FoV 6.4 deg² 3170 pointings 8 hrs observation each 2 π str (all northern sky)

LoTSS-DR2 (Shimwell+ 22)

new pipeline, improving source fidelity, dynamic ranges...

5634 deg^2 (27% of the northern sky)

The Planck clusters in the LOFAR SKY



LoTSS-DR2 PSZ2 sample (*Botteon + 22*) - 309 PSZ2 clusters in DR2 (12x PSZ2 DR1) - 280 have M₅₀₀ and z - 70% have X-ray data (Chandra and/or XMM) - classification of diffuse radio sources in GC

This is the largest statistical study of diffuse radio emission in clusters with deep lowfrequency radio observations!



It allows to explore new mass and redshift ranges.

A collaborative effort



Statistical analysis



For the statistical analysis of RHs:

sub-samples of 164 clusters with
 0.07 < z < 0.5

M₅₀₀ > Planck 50% completeness (M_{500}, z) (no significant differences between the completeness functions for regular and disturbed clusters; *Planck coll. 2016*).

164 clusters: 71 NDE (43%) 55 RH (31%) 13 RR (8%) 25 U (15%)

Classification of the diffuse emission made in *Botteon + 22*

This sample allows, <u>for the first time</u>, to make a statistical study of RH in an unprecedented range of cluster masses, including clusters down to $M_{500} \sim 2.5 \cdot 3 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ M}_{\odot}$, breaking down the wall of $M_{500} \sim 6 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ M}_{\odot}$, that limited previous statistical studies (e.g., Cassano+13, Cuciti+ 21).

Statistical analysis



We compare the occurrence of RH in this sample with that derived from a sample of PSZ2 clusters with $M_{500}>6\cdot10^{14}$ M_{\odot} and z \leq 0.35 observed with GMRT at 610 MHz (*Cuciti+21*).



The fraction of clusters with RH increases at low radio frequency.

Statistical analysis



The observed increase of the occurrence of RH at low frequency is in line with model expectations which implies that <u>more RHs</u> <u>should be visible at lower frequency because of their very</u> <u>steep spectra.</u>

Testing merger-turbulent models against statistics

semi-analytic models (statistical version of turbulent re-acceleration scenario; Cassano & Brunetti 05, Cassano+06, Cassano+10)

mass and redshift limit of the observed sample

normalise the number of clusters in the theoretical model to match the observed number of clusters



- we can reproduce the cumulative number of RHs (40-70 expected RH), their flux density and redshift distributions

-predict that 100-200 RH could be detected in PSZ2 clusters by the full LoTSS

The quest of very steep spectrum halos

The **<u>same</u>** models predict a population of radio halos with different spectra, including a large number of very-steep spectrum halos (e.g. Cassano+06, Brunetti+08).

Numerous RH with very steep spectrum discovered at low radio frequencies (Brunetti+08, Macario+10, Wilbert +18 , Savini+ 18, Duchesne+20 ,21, Bruno+21, di Gennaro+21, Rajpuorhit+21, Biava+21,

Caption

We are working on data at other frequencies, with LOFAR LBA (see Pasini's talk) and uGMRT, MeerKAT to measure RH spectrum in *unbiased* samples (from LOFAR surveys + mass selection)

The quest of very steep spectrum halos

The <u>same</u> model (and with the same parameters) explain the <u>RH fraction</u> measured in a sample of massive <u>high-z clusters (z=0.6-0.9)</u> observed with LOFAR and followed-up at higher frequencies with the uGMRT (*di Gennaro* +21).

50% of the LOFAR detected RHs were found to be characterised by very steep radio spectra (α >1.5), in line with model expectations.

RH connection with cluster dynamics

☆The fraction of newly detected RHs by LOFAR increases going from merging to more relaxed GCs.

☆LOFAR starts to observe RHs in less disturbed systems, possibly unveiling RHs with very steep radio spectra. see also *talk by Biava*

We investigate for the first time the RH-cluster merger connection at low radio frequencies.
Observations at low radio

frequency are expected to find RH also in less disturbed systems.

☆ The fraction of clusters with RH increases going towards more dynamically disturbed (*merging*) systems;

RH power mass correlation

We extend the radio-power -cluster mass correlation towards **lower masses** with respect to previous works (*e.g.; Cassano+13; Cuciti+21*)

The **scatter** of the correlation is related to the cluster "*disturbance*": with more dynamically active clusters being scattered up in the correlations (hints in *Cuciti+21*)

Summary

The **largest statistical** study of RH with deep (\sim 83 µJy/beam), low-frequency (150 MHz) observations.

A <u>simple version of the re-acceleration models</u>, that is based on homogeneous conditions in the ICM and Monte Carlo simulations of merger-turbulent connection, and that uses reference parameters already adopted in the past, provides an excellent description of the LOFAR observations:

- The increase of the occurrence of RH at low frequency
- The occurrence of RH at <u>high-redshift</u> and the fraction of <u>very steep</u> <u>spectrum RH (50% of USSRH)</u>
- The number of RH and their **flux density** and **z distributions**

Radio power of halos increases with the cluster mass; the large scatter of the correlation is related to the cluster dynamical status.

Spectral studies are ongoing and are mandatory to complete the picture.

Cluster-scale diffuse emission in the LOFAR era

Diffuse emission on entire cluster volume and beyond

Cuciti+ 22, Nature

This plot allows determining the minimum power of a RH that could be detected in LoTSS-DR2. We also report an analytic expression that we used in previous papers (Cassano et al. 2010a, 2012) to estimate the minimum flux density of an RH that can be detected in a given survey by assuming that the halo is detectable when the integrated flux within $2 \times \theta_e$ (θ_e is the angular size corresponding to the *e*-folding radius r_e) gives a signal-tonoise ratio ξ , i.e. $f_{min}(<2\theta_e) \simeq 0.75 f_{min}(<3\theta_e) \simeq \xi \sqrt{N_b} \times F_{rms}$, where N_b is the number of independent beams within $2\theta_e$. It follows that

$$f_{\min}(<3\,\theta_{\rm e},z) \simeq 4.44 \times 10^{-3}\,\xi \left(\frac{\rm F_{rms}}{10\,\mu\rm Jy}\right) \left(\frac{10\,\rm arcsec}{\theta_{\rm b}}\right) \left(\frac{\theta_{\rm e}(z)}{\rm arcsec}\right) \,\,[\rm mJy],\tag{2}$$

where $F_{\rm rms}$ is the rms noise in μ Jy, and $\theta_{\rm b}$ is the beam angular size in arcsec. The corresponding minimum radio power $P_{\min}(z)$ is reported in Fig. 2 as the black line assuming $F_{\rm rms} =$ 200 μ Jy beam⁻¹, $\theta_b = \theta_b(z)$ depending on redshift with a fixed linear size of 150 kpc (see the data reduction strategy described in Paper I) and θ_e corresponding to $r_e = 170$ kpc (which is about the median values of $r_{\rm e}$ in our sample). With this parameter choice, Eq. (2) with $\xi = 5$ roughly describes the behaviour of the upper limits as a function of redshift. The blue line in Fig. 2 was obtained by applying the $P_{150 \text{ MHz}} - M_{500}$ best-fit relation to the 50% *Planck* completeness line reported in Fig. 1. It indicates the minimum power of RHs in PSZ2 clusters under the assumption that they follow the radio power-mass correlation. The fact that this line is always above the line traced by the upper limits indicates that LOFAR would be able to detect RHs in clusters with a mass above the 50% completeness line. As a consequence, to compare model expectations with observations, we used the blue line to determine the minimum power of a detectable RH in PSZ2 clusters that lie above the 50% completeness line at each redshift (see Sect. 5, for details).

RH connection with cluster dynamics

Cassano+, in prep.

In the total sample: **31%** have RH **47%** have NDE **4%** have RR **18%** have U

In the "morphological" sample: 44% have RH 30% have NDE 6% have RR 20% have U

Bologna, 20-23 September 2022

CLUSTER 3

How many RH await discovery in LoTSS?

By considering the **fraction** of clusters with RH in PSZ2

f_{RH}~31% (f_U~17%)

and the number of PSZ2 clusters in the LoTSS (835 clusters)

=> **260-400** RH in all LoTSS.

By considering the **number** of clusters with RH in PSZ2/DR2 clusters

 $N_{RH} \sim 83 (N_{U} \sim 43)$

and correcting for the ratio of the sky coverage (5634/21000)=**0.27**

=> **300-450** RH in all LoTSS

These extrapolations are in line with model expectations which give ~350-500 RH in all LoTSS (*Cassano+10, 12, 15*).

Cassano+12 LoTSS

A first uGMRT follow-up of **high-z RH** discovered by LOFAR found that about <u>half</u> <u>of these halos have ultra-steep spectra</u> (α>1.5; Di Gennaro+21) in line with model

About half of RH in PSZ2 clusters are new discovery. Model expectations imply that ~50% of RH in LoTSS is expected to have ultra-steep spectra (*Cassano+12*).

CLUSTER 3

expectations.

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Images and classification

Botteon+22

The *image quality* was improved compared with that of **LoTSS-DR2** "Extraction+selfcal" method (vanWeeren+21) Each cluster was **reprocessed** to *improve* the calibration towards its direction, and a number of images were produced for *science*: 1) LoTSS-like image

2) High-resolution image

3) 25 kpc res images(with/without sources)

4) 50 kpc res images(with/without sources)

5) 100 kpc res images (with/without sources)

6) Model of compact sources

7) Optical overlay

8) Chandra/XMM overlays

Images and classification

Botteon+, in prep.

Classification was not an easy task!

Classification of sources done by 4 persons (Botteon, Cassano, Cuciti, Shimwell), Using a decision tree to be as objective as possible

- No diffuse emission (NDE)
- Radio halos (RH) → (candidate, if X-ray is missing)
- Radio relics (RR) → (candidate, if X-ray is missing)
- 🔍 Uncertain (U)
- Not applicable (N/A)

CLASSIFICATION TREE

Numbers and fractions

Botteon+, in prep.

About half of the clusters in the sample does not host diffuse emission not associated with AGN

Computation of **UL** (*Bruno+, in prep.*)

About *half* of the (c)RH and (c)RR are new ciscoveries!

RH emissivity

"Science at low frequency - SALF VIII"

6-9 Dicember 2021

RH emissivity

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RH occurrence with redshift

"Science at low frequency - SALF VIII"

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RH occurrence with redshift

PRESENT PICTURE for Giant Radio Halos

Brunetti & Jones 14, van Weeren + 19, reviews

Turbulent Luminosity $\approx 10^5 x$ Radio Luminosity

- Galaxy clusters form via a hierarchical sequence of mergers and accretion of smaller systems driven by DM
- Mergers drive **turbulence** and **shocks** in the ICM
- Turbulence power reacceleration mechanisms based on second-order Fermi

Turbulent energy flux

Particles heating/accelerati on rate

$$_{ICM}\delta V^3L^{-1}\eta_{CRe}\sim\int d^3\mu$$

 $vE\frac{\partial f_e}{\partial f_e}$

Radio Halo

Radiation: Syn + ICS

GRH in merging clusters of galaxies

RH – cluster merger (GHz frequency)

PRESENT PICTURE for Giant Radio Halos

Brunetti & Jones 14, van Weeren + 19, reviews

Hadronic interactions produce secondary electrons (e.g., Dennison 80; Blasi & Colafrancesco 99).

emission

Radio and gamma-rays (FERMI) studies indicate that secondaries have not a dominant role in the generation of giant radio halos (*e.g., Brunetti et al. 08;* Ackermann +13, 15)

More relaxed clusters are expected to produce low power "off state" halos, fainter than classical RHs (*Brunetti & Lazarian 11; Donnert +13*).

Possible detection of "off-state" halos from stacking analysis (*Brown* + 11) and a likely detection in CIZAJ1938.3 (~8 times below the correlations; *Bonafede* + 15).

How much the present view is biased?

from Monte Carlo simulations (see also Cassano et al. 10, 12, 15)

Complex population of GRH: depending on sensitivity of the observations High sensitivity low-frequency obs. : **USSRH** and **off-state hadronic** halos dominate low radio powers

Statistical exploitation of GCs in LoTSS

LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey (LoTSS, Shimwell+17, 19)

Area: all the northern sky (~20,627 deg²) Frequency: 120-168 MHz, resolution~6", rms=100 µJy/beam FoV: 6.4 deg²

RH occurrence with the cluster mass

"Science at low frequency - SALF VIII"

6-9 Dicember 2021

Statistical exploitation of LoTSS DR2 area

RH – merger connection:
✓ RH (especially USSRH) in less
"perturbed" galaxy clusters.

Occurrence of radio halos with mass:
 increase of the occurrence with respect to high-v

Iess pronunced mass drop

USSRH from Wilber et al. 18; Savini et al. 18

RH – merger connection:
✓ RH (especially USSRH) in less
"perturbed" galaxy clusters.

Occurrence of radio halos with mass:
 increase of the occurrence with respect to high-v

/ less pronunced mass drop

RH power – cluster mass correlation: ✓ RH (especially USSRH) in less massive galaxy clusters would make steeper and broader the correlation at low frequency.

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Conclusions

Present scenario: Radio Halos trace turbulent regions in the ICM where particles are trapped and accelerated during mergers

Partial view: present statistical investigation limited to massive clusters and to high-v observations

LoTSS, thanks to the combined low- and high-sensitivity, would allow to overcome present biases :

✓ USSRH and "off-state" (secondary) halos, RH in less perturbed systems

- increase of the occurrence with respect to high-v + less pronunced mass drop
- ✓ steeper and broader RH power cluster mass correlation

First statistical studies are in progress and will be based on the LoTSS DR2 (~27% of LoTSS) + PSZ2 clusters.

Can we increase the statistics and completeness?

ComPRASS confirmed clusters in DR2 => total sample of 363

With respect to Planck catalogues, the ComPRASS catalogue is simultaneously more pure and more complete *(Tarrìo, Melin, Arnaud 2019)*.

Basic statistical expectations (turbulent GRH)

Cassano & Brunetti 05; Cassano et al. 06, 10, 12

At GHz frequency:

- ✓ RH common in massive-merging GCs
- ✓ RH rare in less massive-merging GC
- In the drop of fraction of RHs at lower masses (mass sets the energy available)

Semi-analytic models to describe the formation history of galaxy clusters

Basic statistical expectations (turbulent GRH)

Cassano & Brunetti 05; Cassano et al. 06, 10, 12

At GHz frequency:

- ✓ RH common in massive-merging GCs
- ✓ RH rare in less massive-merging GC
- In the drop of fraction of RHs at lower masses (mass sets the energy available)

Where do GRH live? <u>GRH in massive and merging GC</u> <u>(~nearby)</u>

- How much the present view is biased ?

- Which are the typical masses and redshifts of GRH hosts?

Expectations from a two population scenario

2-Population model:

on-state RHs in turbulent clusters (including ultra-steep...)

Off-state/hadronically induced emission in relaxed systems **«On-state RHs»** in merging (turbulent) systems

«Off-state » in relaxed systems

THEORETICAL MOTIVATION Calculations based on *CRp* + *CRe* + MHD turbulence (Brunetti & Blasi 05, Brunetti & Lazarian

Basic statistical expectations (turbulent GRH)

Cassano & Brunetti 05; Cassano et al. 06, 10, 12

At low (<1 GHz) frequency:

✓ A complex population of RH (different spectra)

✓ RH more common, increase of the fraction of RH

✓ ultra-steep spectrum RH (USSRH, a>1.5)

Brunetti et al. 08; Dallacasa et al. 09

Luminosity functions of GRH+"off-state" at low-v

Cassano et al. 15,16

Complex population of GRH: depending on sensitivity of the observations **USSRH** and off-state halos dominate low

radio powers

LOFAR rms sensitivity $\simeq 200 \ \mu$ Jy/beam at 20 arcsec resolution (*e.g. van Weeren et al. 16*).

How many RHs await discovery in LOFAR surveys?

Cassano et al. 2015

- We presently know ~30-40 GRH !

 A LOFAR Survey on 2π sr with rms~0.4 mJy/beam and res~25" => with 250 GRH on 2π sr

LOFAR plan for surveys and Galaxy Clusters (see talk by Tim

HETDEX region tot. coverage ~350 deg², with 0.5 mJy/beam and 25" res=>
30 massive clusters (Shimwell et al. 16) => ~3-4 GRH

Shimwell)

- End of 2016 (blue and red regions), tot. coverage ~2,300 deg² => ~190 massive clusters => ~60 RH (with 0.2 mJy/beam and ~20")

End of 2017: (black and yellow regions), extension to the WEAVE fields (increase of the sky coverage by 1,000-1,500 deg²), tot. coverage ~ 3,800 deg² => ~300 massive clusters => ~90 RH (with 0.2 mJy/beam and ~20")

LoTSS (LOFAR Two-metre Sky Survey) will cover 2π sr (~20,627 deg²), with 0.1 mJy/beam and 5" => ~1700 massive clusters => ~240 GRH (with 0.5 mJy/beam and 25")
 ~400-500 GRH (with 0.2 mJy/beam and ~20" or with 0.1 mJy/beam and ~10")

LOFAR plan for surveys and Galaxy Clusters (see talk by Tim Shimwell)

HETDEX region
~350 deg², 0.5 mJy/beam and 25" =>
30 massive clusters (*Shimwell et al.*16) => ~3-4 GRH

- End of 2016
~2,300 deg² => ~10% of LoTSS
~190 massive clusters => ~60 RH
(with 0.2 mJy/beam and ~20")

- End of 2017
~ 3800 deg² =>~20% of LoTSS
~300 massive clusters => ~90 RH
(with 0.2 mJy/beam and ~20")

- LoTSS
~20,627 deg² with 0.1 mJy/beam
and 5" =>
~1700 massive cluster=>
~400-500 GRH (with 0.1 mJy/beam
and ~10")

statistical studies: no
study of interesting targets in the field by producing high sensitivity and high resolution (~0.2 mJy/b, 10") images

statistical studies : yes
<u>occurrence</u> of RH with cluster mass
<u>correlations</u> (as synchrotron power vs Mass)
<u>GRH-cluster merger</u> connection (needs X-ray/weak lensing data)

statistical studies : yes
b)+c)+d)
b)+c)+d) at high-redshift (if res. ~ 5-10" and rms~0.1 mJy/beam)

statistical studies : yes
)+c)+d)
)+c)+d) at high-redshift (if res. ~ 5-10" and rms~0.1 mJy/beam)
f) GRH as probe of cluster merging rate with cosmic time (as a function of M and z; see Cassano et al. 16, A&A in press) +g?-h?

Statistical Modeling of cluster RH: (Cassano & Brunetti 2005)

(cosmological "version" of turbulent-acceleration model)

INGREDIENTS

- Semi-analitic model of cluster formation \Rightarrow merger trees (*Press & Schecther 1974; Lacey & Cole 1993*)
- Estimate of the turbulent energy injected in the cluster volume during merger events (*Ram Pressure Stripping*) and the acceleration efficiency (τ_{acc}^{-1}) due to MS waves. The cosmological evolution of the magnetic field is accounted for by scaling the field with the cluster mass (cosmological MHD simulations; e.g. *Dolag et al. 2002*).
- Calculate the acceleration of fossil e[±] due to the interaction with the turbulent waves and the ensuing Synchrotron and ⇒ Inverse Compton emission spectra from the resulting electron spectra

electron spectra

radiation spectra

15 M₀=1.8×10¹⁶ M₀ 15 M₀=1.8×10¹⁶ M₀

Merging clusters without RHs

We note "radio anomalies", i.e., merging clusters that do not host RHs, on the low mass-end of the sample: $6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot} < M_{500} < 7 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$

These can be explained:

-phases of merger where turbulence (and particle acceleration) is still not fully developed;

-less energetic merger =>
less massive systems
mergers with lower mass ratio?

USSRH => need - low v_0 obs. (LOFAR)

Merging clusters without RH are also found in studies of single objects:

Russell et al. 11 M₅₀₀~3.9LD¹⁴M_C z~0.23

Bagchi et al. 06 M₅₀₀~2.3□10¹⁴M_☉ z~0.05

Bonafede et al. 09 M₅₀₀~3.7Ⅲ¹⁴M_☉ z~0.16

Van Weeren et al. 11 M₅₀₀~3.3⊡¹⁴M_☉, z~0.1

...these are even less massive systems, $M_{500} \le 4 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$!

Detecting giant RH in galaxy clusters (Cassano et al. 10,12)

From the brightness profiles of well studied RH, we find that ~50% of the total radio flux of a RH is within half radius (e.g., Brunetti et al. 2007)

We estimated the minimum flux of a RH (over ~1 Mpc) that can be detected detected in a survey:

brightnessibased based method

$$f_{min}(z) \simeq 1.2 \times 10^{-4} \xi_1 \left(\frac{\mathrm{F_{rms}}}{10 \mu \mathrm{Jy}}\right) \left(\frac{100 \,\mathrm{arcsec}^2}{\theta_b^2}\right) \left(\frac{\theta_H^2(z)}{\mathrm{arcsec}^2}\right) \,\mathrm{[mJy]}$$

flux based-based method

$$f_{min}(z) \simeq 1.43 \times 10^{-3} \, \xi_2 \left(\frac{\mathrm{F_{rms}}}{10 \mu \mathrm{Jy}} \right) \left(\frac{10 \, \mathrm{arcsec}}{\theta_b} \right) \left(\frac{\theta_H(z)}{\mathrm{arcsec}} \right) \, [\mathrm{mJy}]$$

configurations	rms µJy/beam	θ_b arcesc
LOFAR (120 MHz)	400	25
SKA1-low (120 MHz)	20	10
EMU (1.4 GHz)	13	15
SKA1-SUR (1.4 GHz)	5	15

