



The Quiescent Intracluster
Medium
in the Core of the
Perseus Cluster

Hitomi Collaboration

What are cluster of galaxies?

The most massive gravitationally-bound objects in the Universe

- Extent $\sim 10^{16}$ parsec
- Mass $\sim 10^{14} - 10^{15} M_{\odot}$

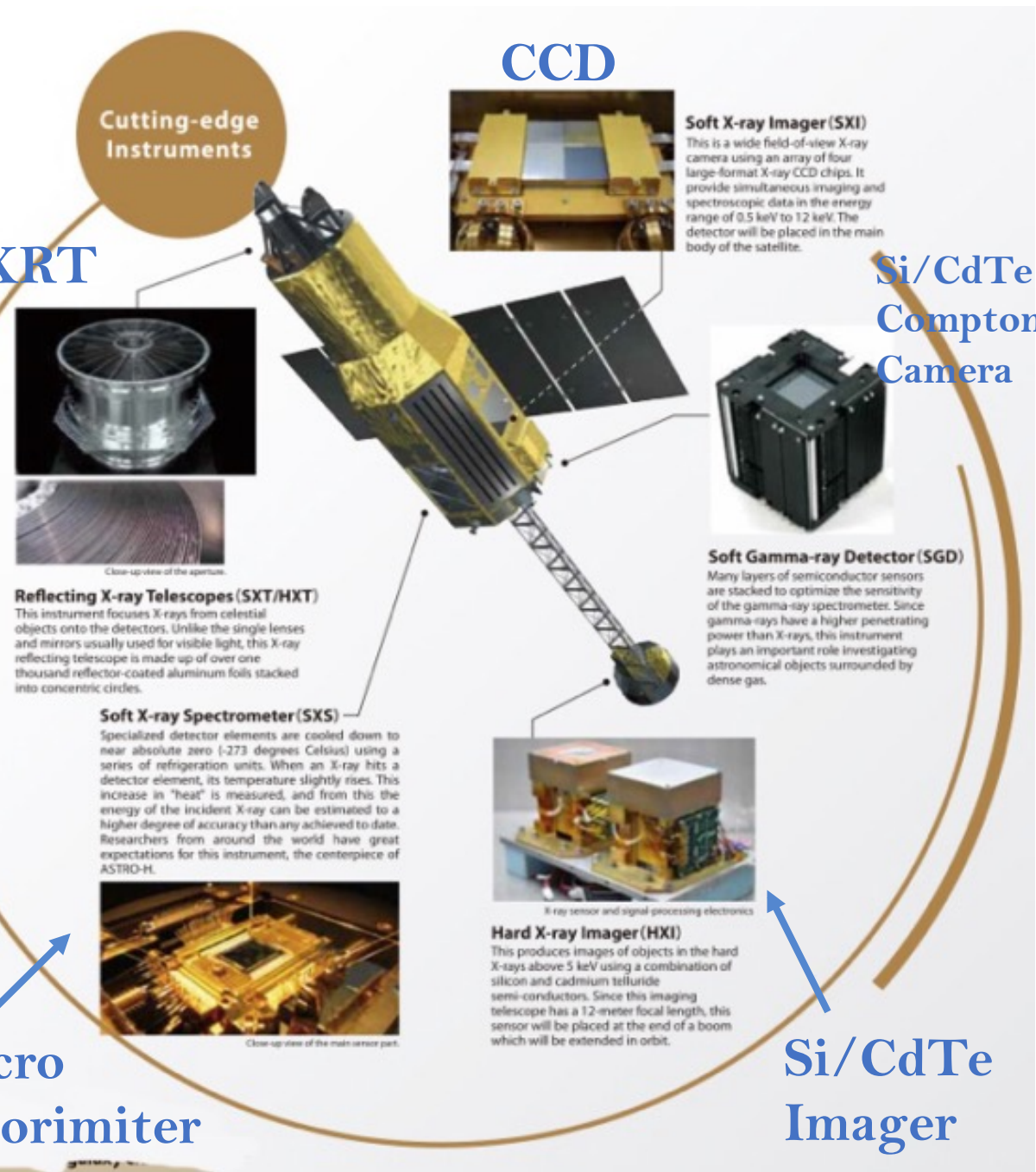
They are thus important probes of cosmological parameters and a host of astrophysical processes.

Knowledge of the dynamics of the pervasive hot gas, which dominates in mass over stars in a cluster, is a crucial missing ingredient. It can enable new insights into mechanical energy injection by the central supermassive black hole and the use of hydrostatic equilibrium for the determination of cluster masses.



<https://www.nasa.gov/chandra>

X-rays from the core of the Perseus cluster are emitted by the 50 million K diffuse hot plasma filling its gravitational potential well. The Active Galactic Nucleus of the central galaxy NGC1275 is pumping jetted energy into the surrounding intracluster medium, creating buoyant bubbles filled with relativistic plasma. These likely induce motions in the intracluster medium and heat the inner gas preventing runaway radiative cooling; a process known as Active Galactic Nucleus Feedback. Here we report on Hitomi X-ray observations of the Perseus cluster core, which reveal a remarkably quiescent atmosphere where the gas has a line-of-sight velocity dispersion of 164 ± 10 km/s in a region 30-60 kpc from the central nucleus and a gradient in the line-of-sight velocity of 150 ± 70 km/s is found across the 60 kpc image of the cluster core. Turbulent pressure support in the gas is 4% or less of the thermodynamic pressure, with large scale shear most doubling that estimate. We infer that total cluster masses determined from hydrostatic equilibrium in the central regions need little correction for turbulent pressure.

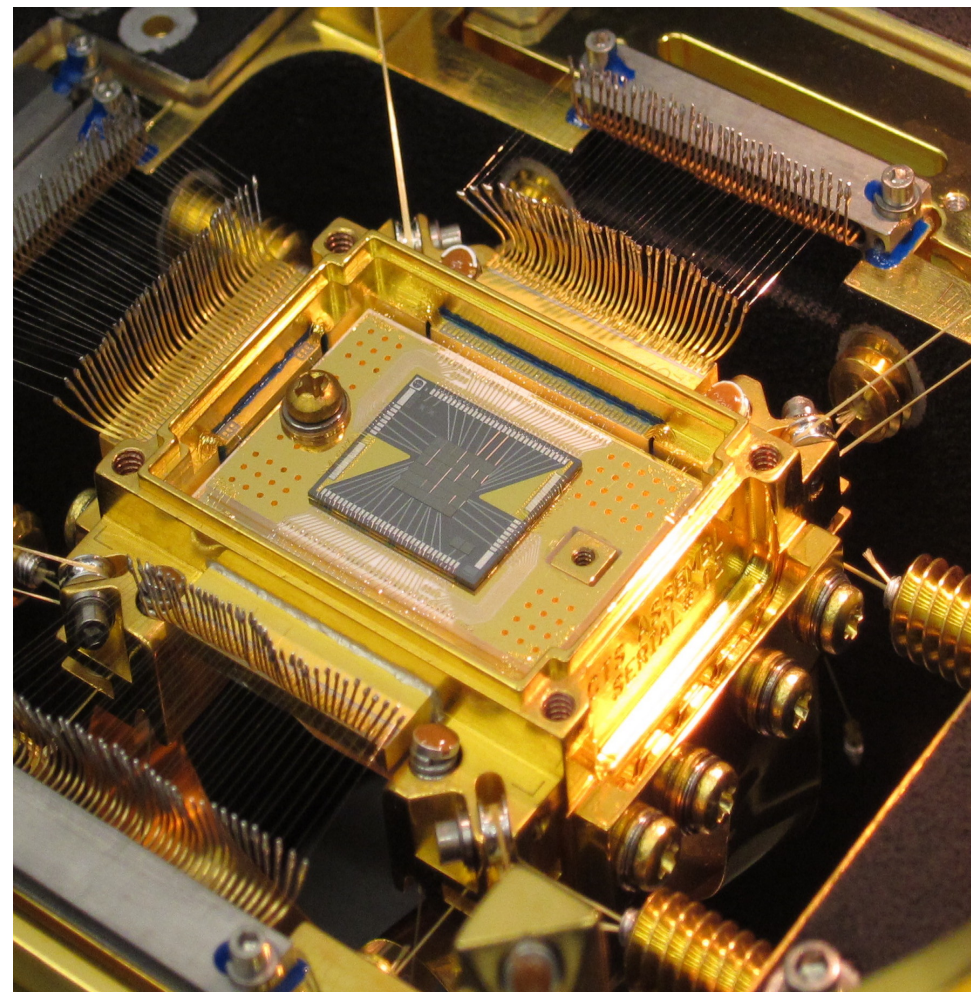


Some about JAXA Hitomi X-Ray Observa

The JAXA Hitomi X-ray Observatory was launched on 2016 February 17 from Tanegashima, Japan. It carries the non-dispersive Soft X-ray Spectrometer (SXS), which is a calorimeter cooled to 0.05K giving 4.9 eV FWHM ($E/dE=1250$ at 6 keV) Gaussian shaped energy response over a 6 x 6 pixel array (total 3 x 3 arcmin). It operates over an energy range of 0.3-12 keV with X-rays focused by a mirror with angular resolution of 1.2 arcmin (HPD). A gate valve was in place for early observations to minimize the risk of contamination from outgassing of the spacecraft. It includes a window that absorbs most X-rays below ~ 3 keV. The SXS can detect bulk and turbulent motions in the intracluster medium (ICM) by measuring Doppler shifts and broadening of the emission lines with unprecedented accuracy. It also allows the detection of weak emission lines or absorption features.

Short introduction to SXS work

SXS imaged a 60 x 60 kpc region in the Perseus cluster centered 10 kpc to the NW of the nucleus for a total exposure time of 230 ks. The offset from the nucleus was due to the attitude control system having then been calibrated. For this early observation, not all calibration procedures were available; in particular, we did not have simultaneous calibration of the energy scale factors (gains) of detector pixels. Gain variation over short time intervals was corrected using a separate calibration pixel illuminated by 5.9 keV α photons from an ^{55}Fe X-ray source. Gain values were pinned to an absolute scale via extrapolation of a subsequent calibration of the whole array 10 days later using illumination by another ^{55}Fe source mounted on the filter wheel. (For more detail, see Methods.) We used a subset of the Perseus data closest to that calibration to create the velocity map. For the line-width determination, we used the full dataset to minimize the statistical uncertainty, and applied a correction factor to force the Fe He- α complex from the cluster to have the same energy in all pixels. This minimizes the gain uncertainty in the determination of the velocity dispersion but also removes any true variations of the ICM line-of-sight velocity across the field.



<https://phonon.gsfc.nasa.gov/>

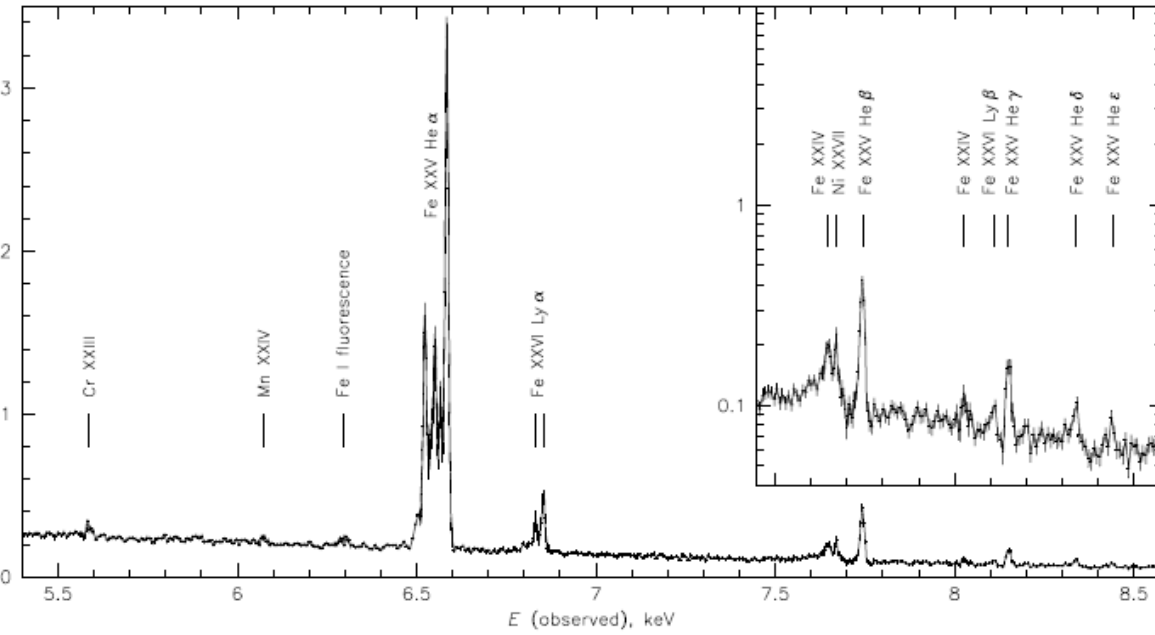


Fig 1 Full array spectrum of the Perseus cluster core obtained by the Chandra X-ray Observatory. The redshift of the Perseus cluster is 0.01756. The inset above 7.5 keV has a log scale which allows the weaker lines to be better seen.

Energy (eV)	λ (Å)	Charge state	Transition	Label	Note
He-α multiplet					
6617.00	1.8737				Blend – identified in (35) as Be- and Li-like iron
6628.93	1.8704	XXIII	$1s2s^22p^1P_1 \rightarrow 1s^22s^2^1S_0$		Be-like
6636.84	1.8681	XXV	$1s2s^3S_1 \rightarrow 1s^2^1S_0$	He α (z)	Forbidden
6645.24	1.8658	XXIV	$1s2p^2D_{5/2} \rightarrow 1s^22p^2P_{3/2}$		Li-like
6654.19	1.8633	XXIV	$1s2s2p^2P_{1/2} \rightarrow 1s^22s^2S_{1/2}$ $1s2p^2D_{3/2} \rightarrow 1s^22p^2P_{1/2}$		Li-like blend
6662.09	1.8610	XXIV	$1s2s2p^2P_{3/2} \rightarrow 1s^22s^2S_{1/2}$		Li-like
6667.90	1.8594	XXV	$1s2p^3P_1 \rightarrow 1s^2^1S_0$	He α (y)	Intercombination
6682.45	1.8554	XXV	$1s2p^3P_2 \rightarrow 1s^2^1S_0$	He α (x)	Intercombination
6700.76	1.8503	XXV	$1s2p^1P_1 \rightarrow 1s^2^1S_0$	He α (w)	Resonance
H-like doublet					
6951.96	1.7834	XXVI	$2p^2P_{1/2} \rightarrow 1s^2S_{1/2}$	Ly α 2	
6973.18	1.7780	XXVI	$2p^2P_{3/2} \rightarrow 1s^2S_{1/2}$	Ly α 1	
He-β doublet					
7871.31	1.5751	XXV	$1s3p^3P_1 \rightarrow 1s^2^1S_0$	He β 2	
7880.67	1.5733	XXV	$1s3p^1P_1 \rightarrow 1s^2^1S_0$	He β 1	

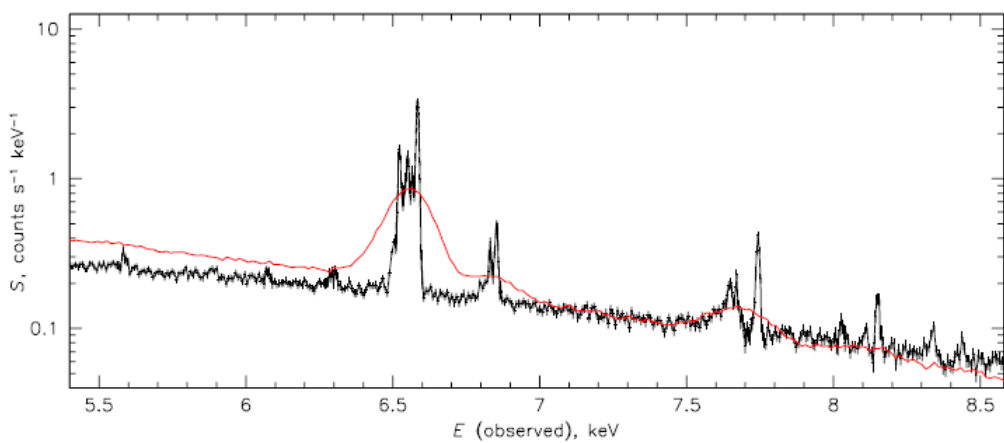
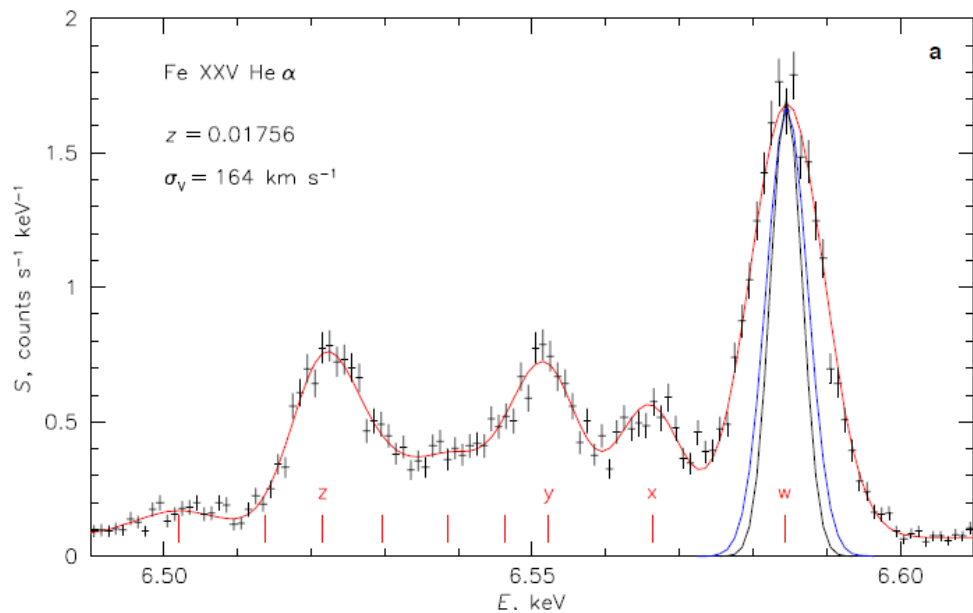


Fig E1. SXS spectrum of the full field overlaid with a CCD spectrum of the same region. The CCD is the Suzaku XIS (red line); the difference in the continuum slope is due to differences in the effective areas of the instruments.

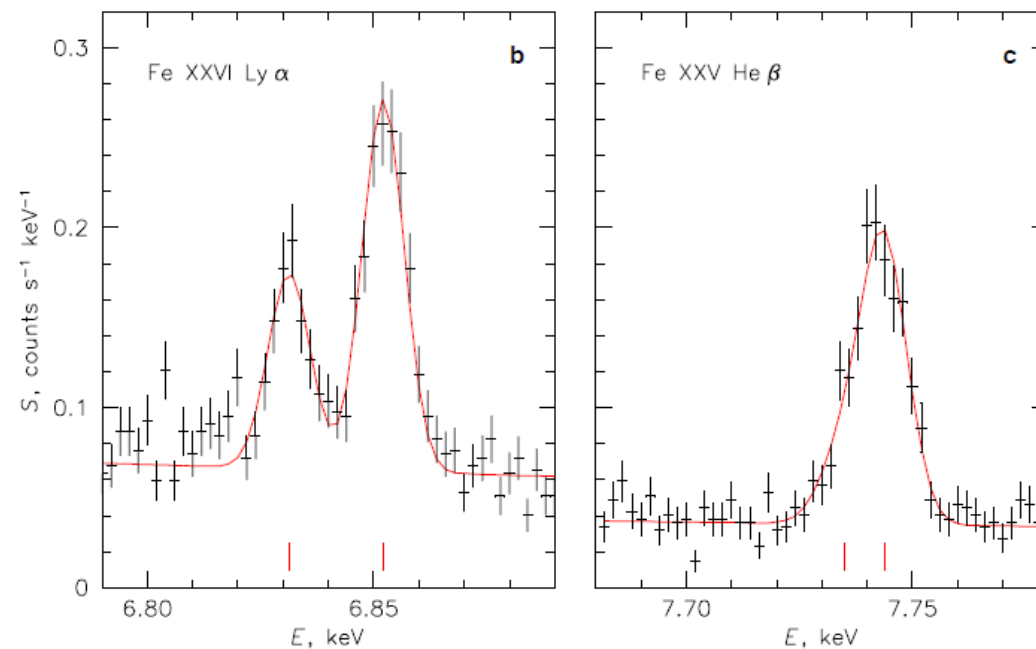
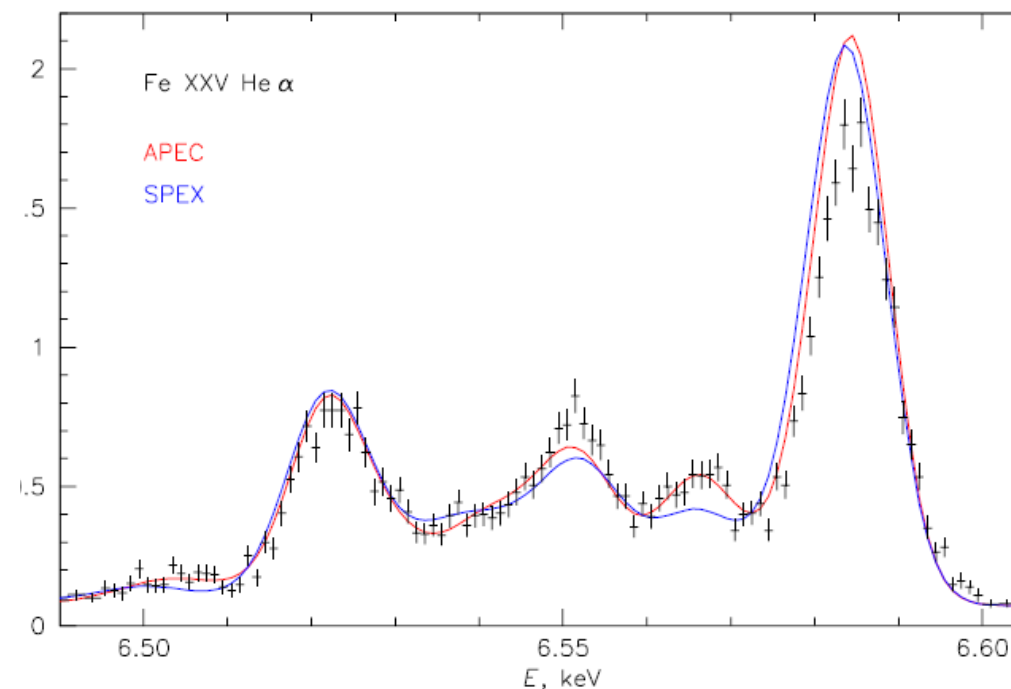
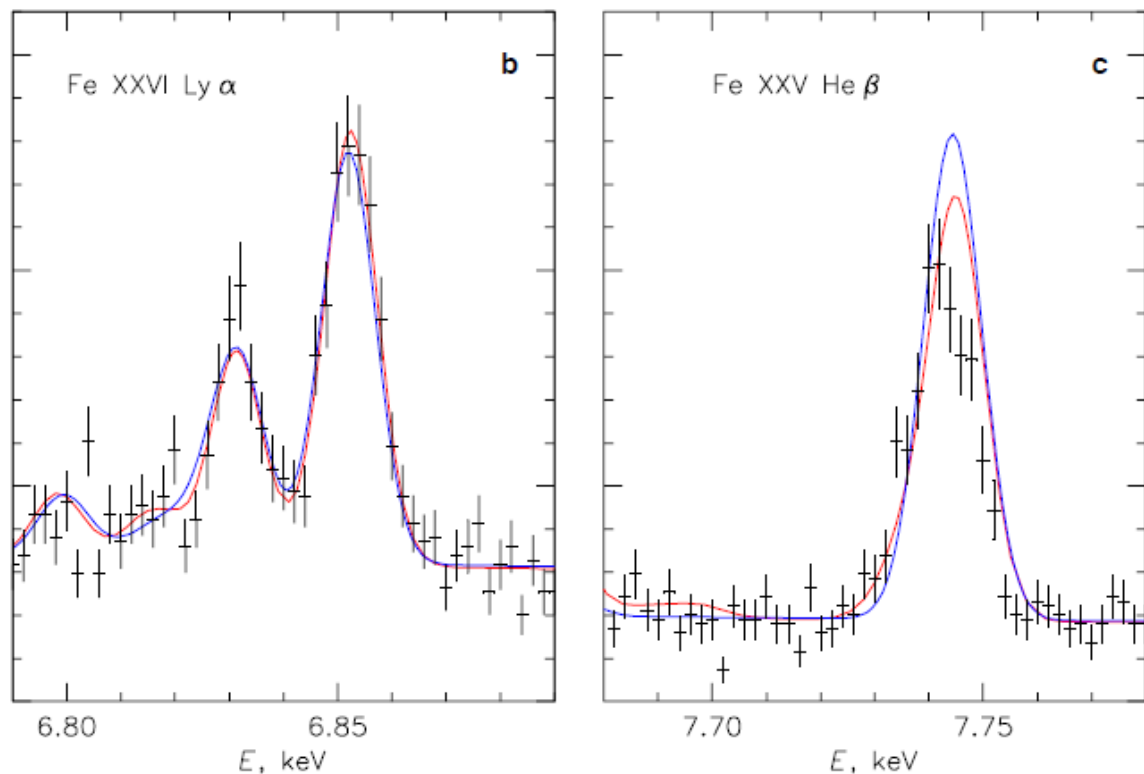


Fig. 2. Spectra of FeXXV He- α , XXVI Lyman α and XXV He- β from the outer region. Gaussian fits have been made to lines with energies (marked in red) from laboratory measurements in the case of He-like XXV, and theory in the case of Fe XXVI (see Extended Data Table 1 for details) with the same velocity dispersion, except for the He- α resonance line which was allowed to have its own width. Instrumental broadening (blue line) and without (black line) thermal broadening are indicated. The redshift is the cluster value to which the data were se

calibrated using the He- α lines. The strongest resonance (w), intercombination (x,y) and forbidden (z) lines are indicated.



2. The iron line complexes from the outer region compared with fit models. These have been obtained from various emission line cases typically used in the literature. The spectra were modelled **single temperature**, optically thin plasma in collisional ionisation equilibrium using either APEC/ATOMDB 3.0.3 (ref 16; red) or SPEX (ref. 17; blue). We determined the best-fit model by fitting the mini spectrum from the outer 23 pixels in the energy range 6.4-8 keV, excluding the Fe He- α resonance line and Ni He- α line complex. We obtain consistent best-fit parameters, with both APEC and SPEX

predicting a temperature of 4.1 ± 0.1 keV. The iron to hydrogen abundances are 0.62 ± 0.02 from APEC and 0.74 ± 0.02 from SPEX, relative to Solar values³¹. The line broadening obtained from APEC, 146 ± 7 km/s, is smaller than the best-fit SPEX value of 171 ± 7 , although both values are consistent with the line broadening obtained by fitting a set of Gaussians (the result presented in the main body of the paper). Apart from the Fe He- α w line affected by resonance scattering, both emission line models presented here currently have **difficulty reproducing the measured Fe He- α intercombination lines as well as the exact position of the Fe He- β line**. This motivates the model-independent approach to determining the line widths adopted in the manuscript.

Dispersion velocity calculation

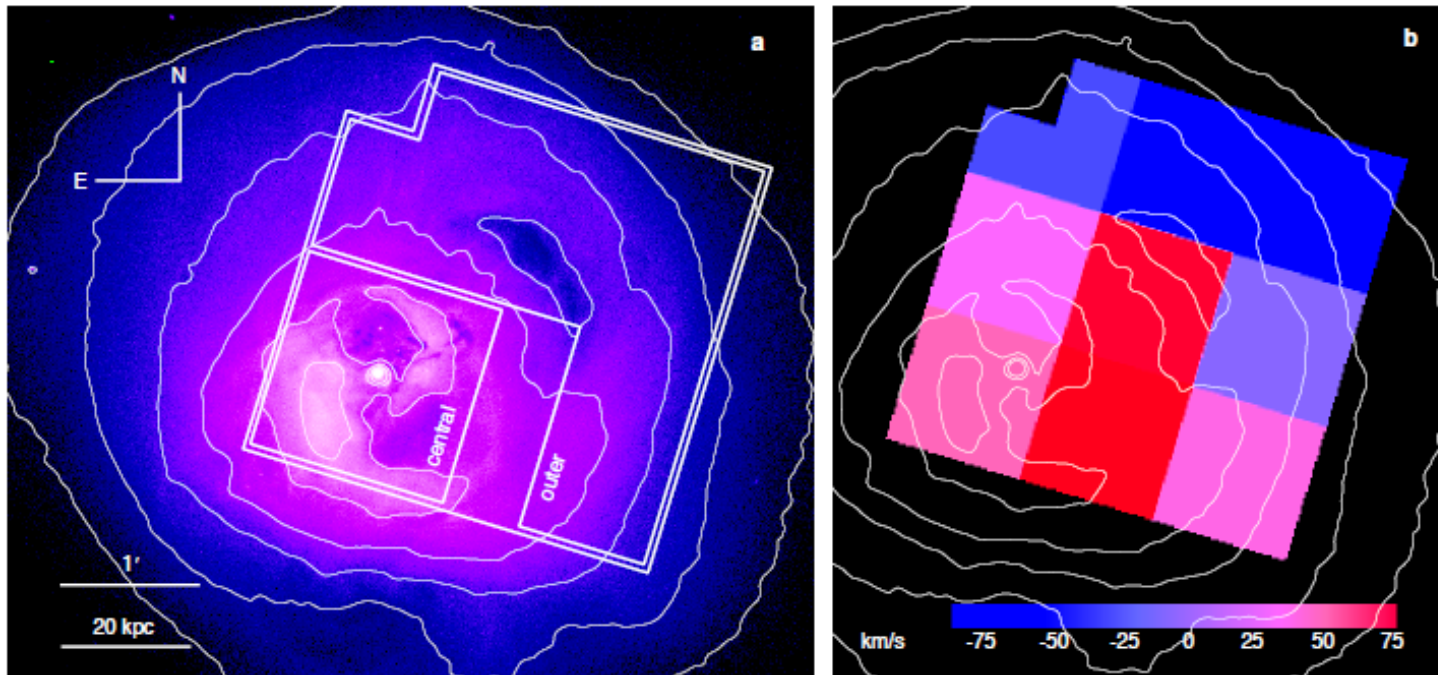


Fig. 3. The region of the Perseus cluster and velocity field viewed by the SXS.

a) The field of view of the SXS overlaid on a Chandra image. The nucleus of NGC1275 is seen as the white dot with inner bubbles N and S. A buoyant outer bubble lies NW of the centre of the field. A swirling cold front coincides with the second contour in from the outside. The central and outer regions are marked.

b) The bulk velocity field across the imaged region. Colors show difference from the velocity of the central galaxy NGC 1275 (whose redshift is $z=0.01756$); positive difference means gas receding faster than the galaxy. The one arcmin pixels of the map correspond approximately to the angular resolution, but are not entirely independent (see Extended Data). The calibration uncertainty on velocities in individual pixels and in the overall baseline is 50 km/s ($\Delta z=0.00017$).

Looking inside: Methods

Gain corrections and calibration

Gain scales for each pixel were measured in ground calibration using a series of fiducial x-ray lines at several detector heat sink temperatures (a single spectral energy reference is sufficient to determine the effective detector temperature and thus the appropriate gain curve to use). As the **heat-sink temperature varies**, the gain of each pixel tracks the gain change in the separate calibration pixel that is continuously illuminated by a dedicated ^{55}Fe source. However, **time-varying differential thermal loading of the pixels changes their gains by different factors**. Thus, use of the gain history of the calibration pixel alone can be insufficient to correct the gain scale of the main array.

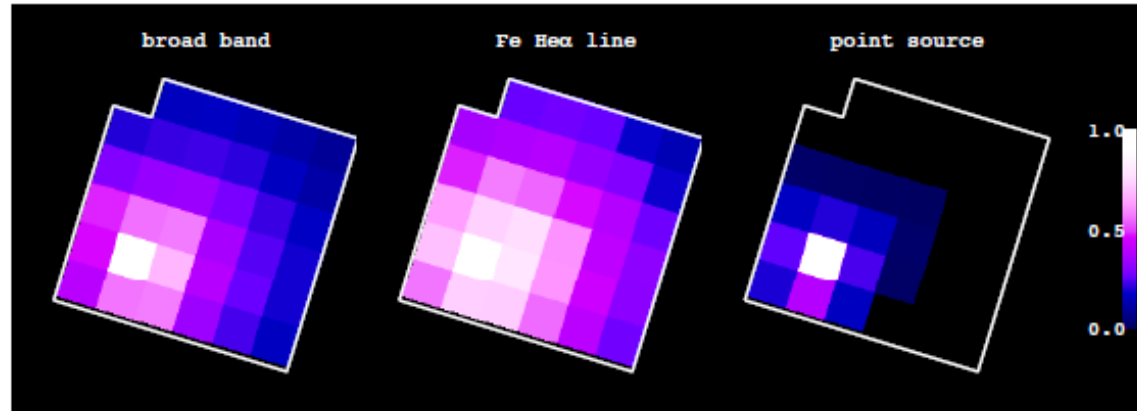


Two-stage approach: gain history + science observation

Dispersion velocity derivation process:

- Heliocentric correction
- Weak background line
- Additional scale factor
- Fixed energy resolution
- 10% uncertainty in instrumental broadening
 - Small statistical error for scale factor
(90% confidence level)
- No velocity variation across field (≥ 20 kpc scales)

Effects of angular resolution:



The telescope point spread function (PSF) has a 1.2' half-power diameter (HPD) as measured during ground calibration. This means that regions used for spectral extraction get photons not only from the corresponding cluster regions in the sky, but also from the surrounding regions. The PSF image is shown in right panel of Fig. E5, centered on the SXS pixel that contains the cluster peak.

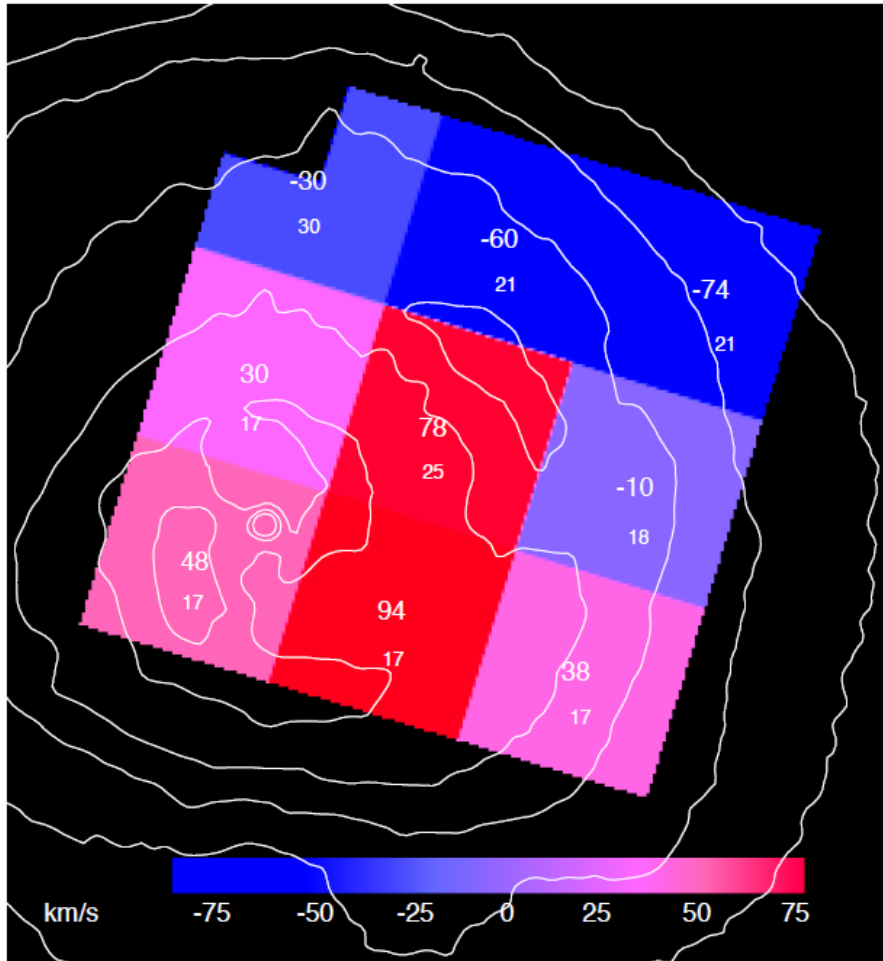


Fig E6. The line-of-sight gas velocities are overlaid on a deep Chandra image³³. The contours increase by a factor of 1.5. The 90% errors in the figure are statistical only; our estimate of the calibration uncertainty in individual pixels is 50 km/s. Heliocentric correction has been applied. Velocities are shown relative to that of NGC1275, whose redshift is $z=0.01756$ ³⁷

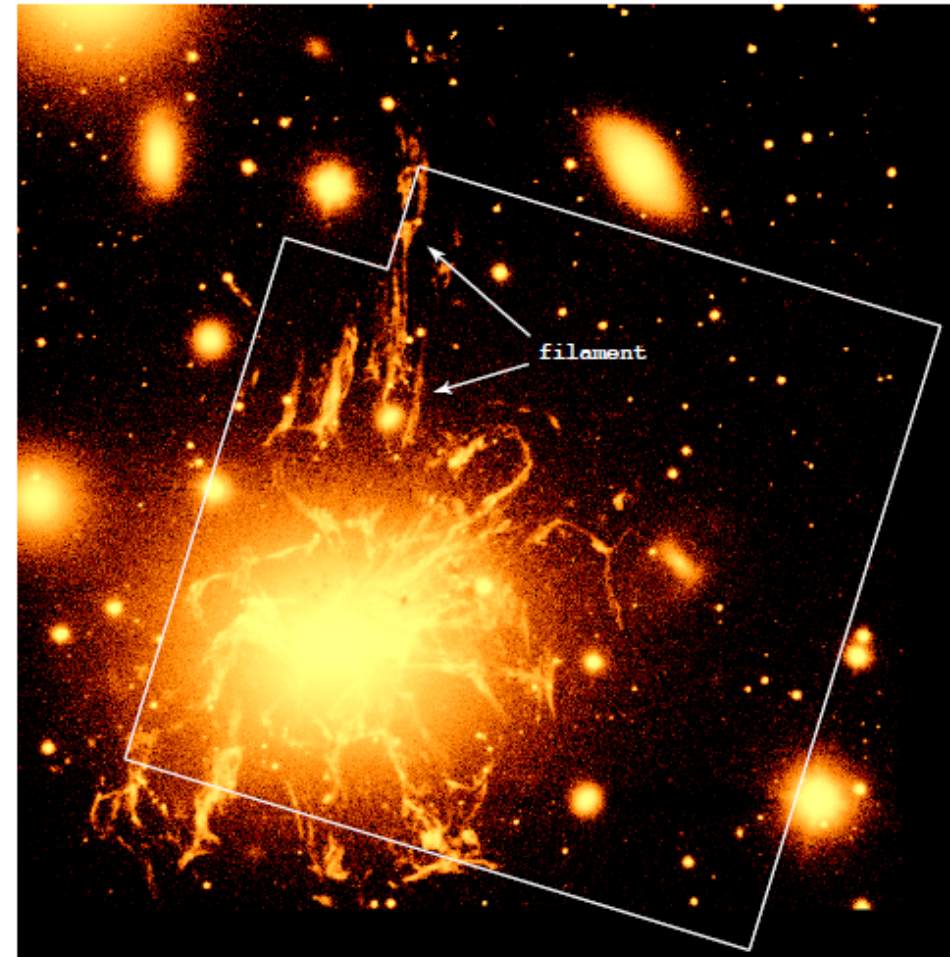
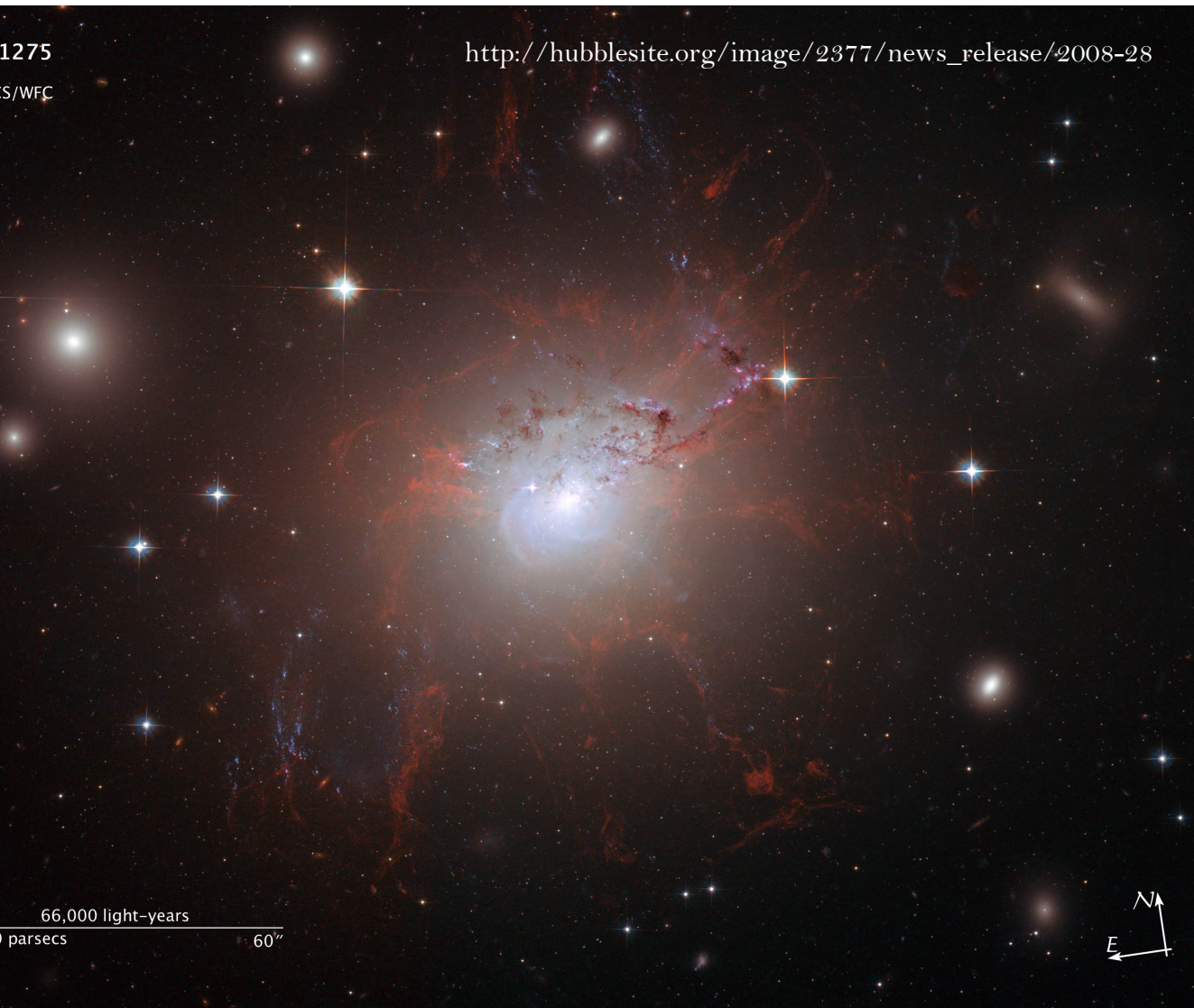


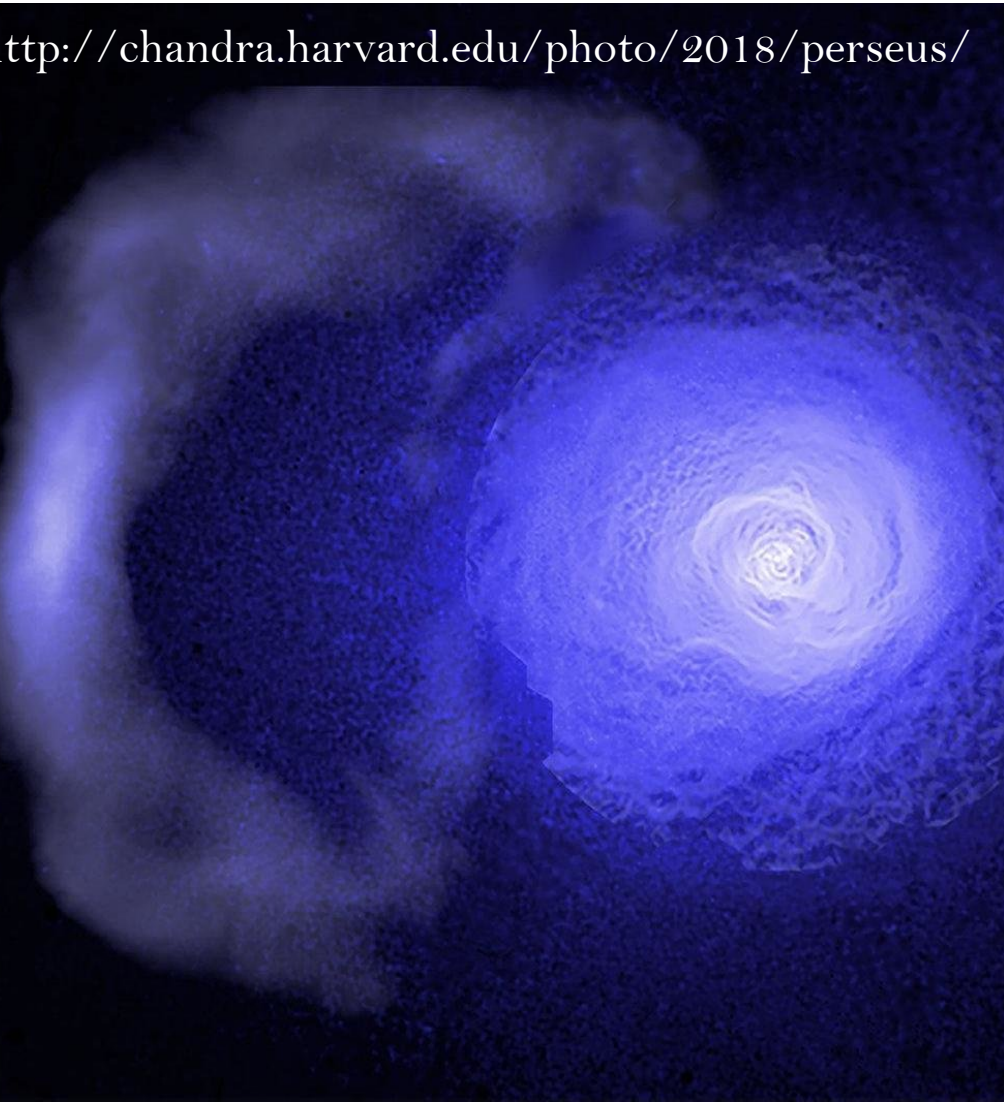
Fig E7. The SXS field is overlaid on the cold gas nebulosity surrounding NGC1275. The image shows $H\alpha$ emission³². The radii velocity along the long Northern filament measured from CO data decreases, South to North (within the SXS field of view), from about +50 to -65 km/s. This is similar to the trend seen in the SXS velocity map (E6).

Pointing



For this early observation, accurate pointing direction of the spacecraft was not available. We therefore assumed that the observed brightness peak in the SXS image is the AGN in NGC1275. The resulting uncertainty of the sky coordinates should be less than 15". The peak of the source determined in short time intervals revealed a small drift of the source in the detector image, within the above coordinate uncertainty. It causes image smearing that is insignificant compared to the PSF scattering effect.

Conclusions from observation: different hypothesis



NGC1275 hosts a giant (80 kpc wide) molecular nebula seen in CO and H α of total cold gas mass several $10^{10} M_{\odot}$, which dominate the total gas mass out to 15 kpc radius. The velocities of that gas are consistent with the trend of the SXS bulk shear, suggesting that the molecular gas moves together with the hot plasma. (More details of the X-ray spectra and imaged region are given in Extended Data Figs 1-8.)

The large-scale bulk shear over the observed 60 kpc field is of comparable amplitude to the small-scale velocity dispersion that we derive for the outer region. The dispersion can be due to gas flows around the rising bubble at the centre of the field, a velocity gradient in the cold front contained in this region, sound waves, turbulence or galaxy motions. The large-scale shear could be due to the buoyant AGN bubbles, or sloshing motions of gas in the cluster core that give rise to the cold front.

the observed dispersion is interpreted as turbulence even on scales comparable with the size of the largest bubbles in the field ($\sim 20\text{-}30$ kpc), it is in agreement with the level inferred from X-ray surface brightness variations. In this case, our measured velocity dispersion suggests that turbulent dissipation of kinetic energy could be sufficient to offset radiative cooling. However, assuming isotropic turbulence, the ratio of turbulent pressure to thermal pressure in the ICM is low at 4%. Such velocity turbulence cannot spread far (< 10 kpc) across the cooling core during the fraction (4%) of the cooling time in which it must be replenished, so the above mechanism requires that turbulence be generated in situ throughout the core. Another process is needed to transport the energy from the bubbling region. The observed level of turbulence is also sufficient to sustain the acceleration of ultrarelativistic electrons giving rise to the radio synchrotron mini-halo observed in the Perseus core.

A low level of turbulent pressure and bulk shear, in a region continuously stirred by a central AGN and gas sloshing, is surprising and may imply that ICM turbulence is difficult to generate and/or easy to damp. If true throughout the cluster this is encouraging for total mass measurements, which depend on knowledge of all forms of pressure support, and for cluster cosmology which depends on accurate masses.

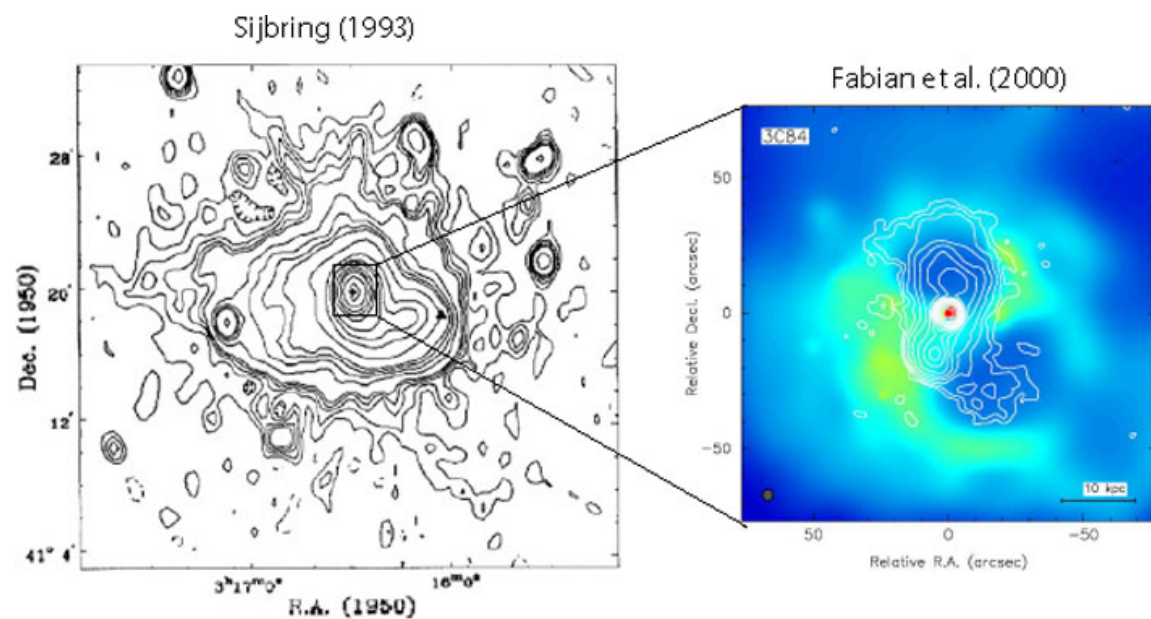
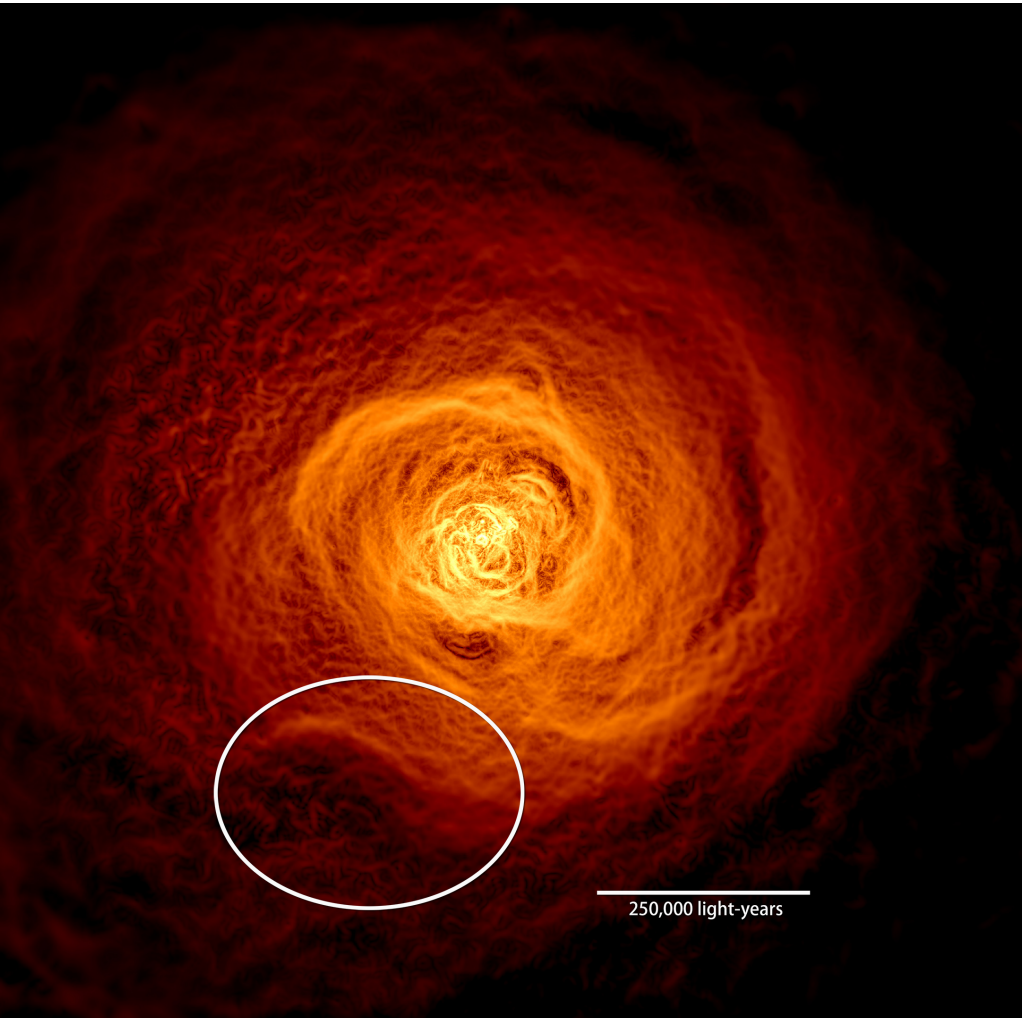


Fig: 327 MHz map of the mini-halo in the [Perseus Cluster](#) ($z = 0.018$). The source is centred on the position of the central galaxy [NGC 1275](#) (indicated with a cross). The inset shows radio contours overlaid on the X-ray image of the central $1'$ region of [Perseus](#). The holes evident in the X-ray emission are due to subsonic expansion of the buoyant radio lobes of the central radio galaxy [3C 84](#) (adapted from [Sijbring 1993](#) and [Fabian et al. 2000](#)).

More about Perseus cluster



Like all galaxy clusters, most of its observable matter takes the form of a pervasive gas averaging tens of millions of degrees, so hot it only glows in X-rays.

Chandra observations have revealed a variety of structures in this gas, from vast bubbles blown by the supermassive black hole in the cluster's central galaxy, NGC 1275, to an enigmatic concave feature known as the "bay."

The bay's concave shape couldn't have formed through bubbles launched by the black hole. Radio observations using the [Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array](#) in central New Mexico show that the bay structure produces no emission, the opposite of what scientists would expect for features associated with black hole activity. In addition, standard models of sloshing gas typically produced structures that arc in the wrong direction.

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2017/scientists-find-wave-rolling-through-the-perseus-galaxy-cluster>



One simulation seemed to explain the formation of the bay. In it, gas in a large cluster similar to Perseus has settled into two components, a "cold" central region with temperatures around 54 million degrees Fahrenheit (30 million Celsius) and a surrounding zone where the gas is three times hotter. Then a smaller galaxy cluster containing about a thousand times the mass of the Milky Way skirts the larger cluster, missing its center by around 650,000 light-years. The flyby creates a gravitational disturbance that churns up the gas like cream stirred into coffee, creating an expanding spiral of cold gas. After about 2.5 billion years, when the gas has risen nearly 500,000 light-years from the center, vast waves form and roll at its periphery for hundreds of millions of years before dissipating.

These waves are giant versions of Kelvin-Helmholtz waves, which show up wherever there's a velocity difference across the interface of two fluids, such as wind blowing over water. They can be found in the ocean, in cloud formations on Earth and other planets, in plasma near Earth, and even on the surface of the sun.