A2626 and Friends: Large- and Small-scale Structure

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Abstract

New MMT/Hectospec spectroscopy centered on the galaxy cluster A2626 and covering a $\sim 1.8$ deg$^2$ area out to $z \sim 0.46$ more than doubles the number of galaxy redshifts in this region. The spectra confirm four clusters previously identified photometrically. A2625, which was previously thought to be a close neighbor of A2626, is in fact much more distant. The new data show six substructures associated with A2626 and five more associated with A2637. There is also a highly collimated collection of galaxies and galaxy groups between A2626 and A2637 having at least three and probably four substructures. At larger scales, the A2626–A2637 complex is not connected to the Pegasus–Perseus filament.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Galaxy clusters (584); Galaxy spectroscopy (2171); Abell clusters (9); Redshift surveys (1378)

Supporting material: machine-readable table

1. Introduction

Large, wide-area spectroscopic surveys such as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; Strauss et al. 2002; Smee et al. 2012), 2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey (2dFGRS; Colless et al. 2001), and VIMOS Public Extragalactic Survey (VIPERS; Guzzo et al. 2013) have revealed the distribution of galaxies in the universe. The emerging picture, now referred to as the “Cosmic Web,” is a complex and interconnected set of structures (de Lapparent et al. 1986; Bond et al. 1996). These include megaparsec-long one-dimensional structures (“filaments”), thin two-dimensional sheets (“walls”), and vast empty spaces (“voids”) surrounded by walls. Galaxy clusters are located where multiple filaments intersect (e.g., Aragón-Calvo et al. 2010; Cautun et al. 2014; Malavasi et al. 2017).

The early catalogs of galaxy clusters (Abell 1958; Zwicky et al. 1961) were constructed by identifying apparent overdensities of galaxies in photographic plates. Lucey (1983) and Struble & Rood (1987) estimated that as many as 25% of such identified clusters may be chance superpositions. The only way to confirm cluster members or even the existence of clusters at all is through extensive spectroscopy or at least multiband imaging. Identifying cluster members can become particularly problematic when foreground and background galaxy overdensities overlap spatially, e.g., when the line of sight is along a cosmic filament. Early spectroscopy of Abell clusters (for a summary, see Struble & Rood 1999 and references therein) was usually limited to the brightest galaxies in the field. Struble & Rood (1999) commented that within their collation, as many as 5% of the cluster redshifts may be incorrect and warned about the reliability of cluster redshifts determined from one to three galaxies. They endorsed the recommendation from Postman et al. (1986) that reliable cluster redshift measurements need to be made from at least five galaxies.

In the hierarchical structure-formation scenario, large structures such as galaxy clusters are built through successive merging and accretion of galaxies and groups of galaxies. The imprint of this accretion is told through the kinematic substructure within the cluster (e.g., Dressler & Shectman 1988; Hou et al. 2012). Identifying and studying substructure is an important step to uncovering how galaxy clusters form.

Analysis of substructures can help to understand the local environments in which galaxies are located. The interaction between the cluster proper and the smaller group or substructure environment affects the evolution of the constituent galaxies. Processes such as galaxy–galaxy interactions are more likely to occur in the more densely populated environments, whereas processes such as ram pressure stripping are more common in cluster environments where the intracluster medium is denser. Understanding these effects may shed light on the causes of observed phenomena such as the morphology–density relation (Dressler 1980) in which dense environments such as clusters show a majority of red, quiescent galaxies whereas low-density environments have a majority of bluer star-forming galaxies.

The galaxy cluster at the center of this work is A2626 (officially ACO 2626 but hereafter A2626; Abell 1958). A2626 is thought to be undergoing a merger between the main cluster and an accreted subcluster (Mohr et al. 1996; Mohr & Wegner 1997). Using $\sim 150$ new redshifts, Mohr et al. (1996) found evidence for a potential subcluster southwest of the A2626 core. Newer spectroscopy from the Wide-field Nearby Galaxy cluster Survey (WINGS; Fasano et al. 2006; Cava et al. 2009) improved the redshift coverage for A2626, but Ramella et al. (2007) found no evidence of substructure in the cluster. These conflicting results are not surprising: different substructure algorithms are sensitive to different types of clustering (spatial or spectral) as well as the number of galaxies in the input catalog.

If A2626 is really undergoing a merger, it can act as a natural laboratory for the effects of mergers on constituent galaxies. At a distance of 250 Mpc and in a part of the sky that is not well surveyed, this cluster has not been extensively studied. Most of the recent interest in this cluster has focused on the intriguing “kite” source, visible at radio wavelengths at the center of the cluster (Iglesias et al. 2018). The cluster has been observed in X-rays, initially by Rizza et al. (2000), and Wong et al. (2008) combined detailed X-ray observations with observations of the...
radio continuum to study the interplay between the physical processes that emit in both wavelength regimes. They found X-ray enhancements to the northeast and southwest of the cluster center and a significant jump in the radial gas temperature profile, which they suggested may be due to a past or ongoing merger event. The cluster is also home to six candidate “jellyfish” galaxies (Poggianti et al. 2016), extreme examples of galaxies undergoing ram pressure stripping. One of the six, JW 100, a confirmed jellyfish galaxy, has been the center of a multiwavelength (X-ray–radio) study to understand the interplay between the stripping processes and the stellar and gas components of the galaxy (e.g., Moretti et al. 2019; Poggianti et al. 2019). These studies have shown how important multiwavelength data are to understand how the environmentally driven processes affect the evolution of galaxies, but equally important is a thorough census of the galaxies in the environment.

This paper presents new and deep spectroscopy of A2626 and its surroundings. The redshifts identify new members of A2626 and the nearby A2637 (Abell 1958) and reveal more of the large-scale structure in which these two clusters are embedded. The redshifts also identify a number of new structures in this region out to z \sim 0.46.

The new spectroscopy presented in this paper complements new radio observations centered on A2626 with MeerKAT (Healy et al. 2021). Because radio-frequency interference at the MeerKAT site is so low, the new observations provide previously unattainable neutral hydrogen (H1) measurements of galaxies in the cluster and its surroundings. In addition, MeerKAT’s wide bandwidth enables H1 observations of galaxies out to z \sim 0.46. While H1 has yet to be directly detected at z \gtrsim 0.376 (Fernández et al. 2016), optical redshifts can be used for H1 stacking—a technique where the H1 line spectra of a sample of galaxies are aligned and coadded to create an average spectrum with a higher sensitivity than the individual spectra (e.g., Healy et al. 2019; Chowdhury et al. 2020).

The paper is organized as follows: Section 2 presents the new spectroscopy. Section 3 uses the new redshifts along with published ones to update the picture of the large-scale structure centered on A2626 at z \lesssim 0.46. Section 4 provides updated measurements of cluster sizes, and Section 5 describes substructures in and around A2626 and A2637. This paper uses throughout a standard, flat ΛCDM cosmology with H₀ = 70 km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹, Ω_M = 0.3, Ω_Λ = 0.7, and h = 0.7. All magnitudes are given in the AB system.

2. Spectroscopy

2.1. Literature Redshifts

WINGS (Fasano et al. 2006) is a multiwavelength imaging and spectroscopic survey of 77 galaxy clusters at Galactic latitude |b| \gtrsim 20° selected from three flux-limited X-ray surveys. The main target of this work, A2626, is one of the clusters in the WINGS sample. WINGS used existing literature redshifts for the clusters in their sample in combination with their own follow-up spectroscopy survey (WINGS-SPE; Cava et al. 2009) to determine cluster membership. The targets for WINGS-SPE were selected from the WINGS imaging survey (Varela et al. 2009), which for A2626 only extended to r = 0.7 R₂₀₀ where R₂₀₀ is the radius inside which the mean density of the cluster is 200 times the critical density of the universe. (For A2626, R₂₀₀ = 1.64 Mpc = 25′27 at z = 0.0557; Cava et al. 2009.) We are interested in the substructure of the cluster as a whole and understanding how the average gas content varies across the cluster based on the local environment. For this, we need to be able to characterize the environment of the cluster beyond R₂₀₀.

We supplemented the WINGS-SPE spectroscopy with redshifts by performing searches through the SDSS spectroscopic survey and the SIMBAD Astronomical database within a radius of 1.5′ from A2626. The radius of 1.5′ was chosen so that we could identify the known galaxies that are located in the area covered by the MeerKAT H1 cube (Healy et al. 2021), which covers 2 × 2 deg² centered on A2626. Despite falling into the SDSS spectroscopic footprint, as well as being part of the WINGS-SPE, the spectroscopic coverage across the entire 2 × 2 deg² field was very sparse and incomplete, especially for R > 0.7 R₂₀₀ from the cluster center. We therefore targeted A2626 for follow-up spectroscopy using the multiobject fiber-fed spectrograph Hectospec on the MMT.

2.2. MMT Spectroscopy

2.2.1. Target Selection

The galaxies targeted for Hectospec follow-up were selected from the SDSS photometric catalog. The first step was to identify all extended sources that did not already have a redshift. We classified sources as extended if they satisfied the criterion

\[ r_{\text{psf}} - r_{\text{petro}} > 0.1 \text{ mag}, \]

where \( r_{\text{psf}} \) is the PSF magnitude and \( r_{\text{petro}} \) is the Petrosian magnitude (an aperture-based magnitude that captures 80%–100% of the flux for most galaxies—Blanton et al. 2001). All sources that matched this criterion were cross-matched to the catalog of literature redshifts. Photometric sources within 5″ of an existing redshift were assumed to be part of the same galaxy and removed from the target catalog. The distribution of literature redshifts (left panel in Figure 1) indicated three spectral overdensities at cz \sim 20,000 km s⁻¹, one of which corresponds to A2626. The highest-redshift overdensity was at cz \sim 125,000 km s⁻¹ and centered around 0.7° east–southeast of A2626. It is within the MeerKAT primary beam at that redshift. Based on the g − r color, total r magnitude (r is the SDSS model magnitude unless otherwise specified), and locations of the noted four overdensities (see right panel of Figure 1), we further restricted the target catalog to

\[ 0 < g - r < 2, \]
\[ r < 20.4 \text{ mag, and} \]
\[ R < 0.75. \]

(2)

The color and magnitude limits are shown in Figure 1. We also imposed a brightness limit on the “fiber magnitude,” the magnitude within a 2″ aperture, only including sources that had rz < 21.5 mag. This criterion enabled us to maximize the success rate of the observations. The color distribution of the prime target catalog of ∼2500 sources is shown in Figure 1.

2.2.2. Observations

Hectospec (Fabricant et al. 2005) is a fiber-fed spectrograph operating at the MMT in Arizona, USA. Its 300
fibers, each subtending a 1′.5 diameter on the sky, patrol a circle of radius 0.5 with the constraint that the distance between fibers must be at least 20′. The 270 lpm grating gave a wavelength coverage 3725–9150 Å with a spectral resolution of 6 Å.

The A2626 field was observed with nine Hectospec configurations designed to maximize the number of bright galaxies, and especially the number of bright galaxies, observed. The plan was to observe five configurations with a 45 minute exposure time and four with 105 minutes, but in some cases longer exposures were obtained. Objects with SDSS $g$ fiber magnitudes $>21$ were preferentially assigned to configurations with longer exposure times. This led to $\sim 280$ galaxies being targeted twice. Each configuration was observed with three individual exposures to allow cosmic-ray removal. Table 1 shows the positions, dates, and total exposure times of the configurations. (Configuration labels are arbitrary.) Each configuration measured about 250 targets and included 20–30 sky fibers. The remaining fibers were unassigned because of position conflicts. For the last three configurations observed, fainter targets were added in order to utilize more fibers. These galaxies were observed only when no brighter source could be targeted.

### 2.2.3. Redshift Measurements

MMT spectra were reduced with the IDL Hectospec pipeline HSRED 2.1, originally written by R. Cool (http://mmto.org/~rcool/data_tools.html). The pipeline, a reimplementation of the one described by Mink et al. (2007), combined the separate spectra while rejecting cosmic rays, subtracted the sky, and corrected the wavelengths to barycentric values. The pipeline then cross-correlated each target spectrum with eight spectral templates representing a variety of galaxy spectra. The template with the highest correlation coefficient was chosen as the initial redshift guess, and the location and width of the correlation peak gave the redshift and its statistical 1σ uncertainty. There is an additional systematic uncertainty because the chosen template may not best represent the true best fit to the galaxy spectrum. Table 2 lists the galaxy templates, the number of times the pipeline chose each one, and the additional uncertainty due to the template choice. These uncertainties should be added in quadrature to the individual redshift uncertainties in Table 3.

All spectra were examined by eye and the correlations rerun with XCSAO, the original cross-correlation routine. Redshifts from HSRED and XCSAO were consistent within their uncertainties. For about 10% of targets, a template other than the initial guess looked to be a better representation of the
Table 3

| Name    | R.A.   | Decl. | petroMag_g | petroMag_r | fiber2Mag_g | cModel_g - r | Q | z       | \( \Delta z \) | Alt   | Template       | R   | Config | Fiber | Comment |
|---------|--------|-------|------------|------------|-------------|---------------|---|---------|-------------|-------|---------------|-----|--------|--------|---------|
| MMT_1192 | 23:33:03.49 | +21:11:03.6 | 20.15 | 19.26 | 21.50 | 0.91 | 4 | 0.101908 | 0.000136 | m31_f_temp | 6.6 | f_1 | 096 |
| MMT_0441 | 23:33:03.74 | +21:19:11.2 | 17.82 | 16.90 | 19.91 | 0.93 | 4 | 0.057972 | 0.000074 | eltemp | 16.7 | f_1 | 109 |
| MMT_1977 | 23:33:04.98 | +20:58:04.5 | 20.02 | 18.53 | 21.52 | 1.61 | 4 | 0.248916 | 0.000089 | eltemp | 17.3 | d_1 | 169 |
| MMT_1185 | 23:33:06.15 | +21:07:32.3 | 19.01 | 17.92 | 20.85 | 0.99 | 4 | 0.101535 | 0.000041 | hemtemp0 | 13.9 | f_1 | 017 |
| MMT_1979 | 23:33:06.39 | +21:00:30.7 | 18.96 | 18.04 | 21.07 | 0.92 | 4 | 0.099553 | 0.000125 | a eltemp | 9.2 | d_1 | 161 |
| MMT_0443 | 23:33:10.49 | +21:15:37.7 | 19.14 | 17.96 | 20.58 | 1.22 | 4 | 0.162603 | 0.000058 | m31_k_temp | 16.6 | f_1 | 093 |
| MMT_1185 | 23:33:06.15 | +21:07:32.3 | 19.01 | 17.92 | 20.85 | 0.99 | 4 | 0.101535 | 0.000041 | hemtemp0 | 13.9 | f_1 | 017 |
| MMT_0443 | 23:33:10.49 | +21:15:37.7 | 19.14 | 17.96 | 20.58 | 1.22 | 4 | 0.162603 | 0.000058 | m31_k_temp | 16.6 | f_1 | 093 |

Note. Magnitudes are from SDSS and are in AB units. An "a" in the alt column indicates the pipeline template choice was overridden.

(This table is available in its entirety in machine-readable form.)
where $N_z$ is the number of sources of magnitude $m$ for which a redshift could be measured, and $N_{\text{targ}}$ is the number of galaxies that were targeted and a spectrum obtained. Figure 2 shows the success rate as a function of the fiber magnitude.

2.2.4. Data Quality and Success Rate

The success rate is given as a function of the magnitude by

$$S(m) = \frac{N_z}{N_{\text{targ}}}(m),$$

where $N_z$ is the number of galaxies of magnitude $m$ for which a redshift could be measured, and $N_{\text{targ}}$ is the number of galaxies that were targeted and a spectrum obtained. Figure 2 shows the success rate as a function of the fiber magnitude.

2.3. Spectroscopic Completeness

Understanding the completeness of our spectroscopic samples is important for understanding the reliability of substructure and group identifications. Following the color and luminosity cuts outlined in Section 2.2.1, we examined the spectroscopic completeness across the entire $2 \times 2$ deg$^2$ region covered by the MeerKAT H I observations and centered on A2626. The completeness is defined in the same way as spectrum, and the initial guess was replaced with the HSRED redshift for the better template. In most cases, the replacement template was chosen for better agreement with emission-line velocities than the initial one. For ~10 targets, none of the HSRED redshifts matched the spectrum, and an XCSAO fit was used. Most of these were spectra with large noise spikes that confused the pipeline but could be deleted manually.

The visual examination gave each fit a quality ranking $Q$ to code whether the template had correctly identified the spectral features. $Q = 4$ designates an unambiguous redshift based on multiple features of high signal-to-noise ratio (S/N). $Q = 3$ designates a reliable redshift, but the number of features and their S/N is insufficient for $Q = 4$. $Q = 2$ designates a probable redshift but one with a reasonable chance of features being misidentified. $Q = 1$ designates some indication of a redshift, often a single, weak emission line or multiple features that could be absorption or could be noise. $Q = 0$ indicates no spectral information, usually very low S/N. Only $Q \geq 3$ redshifts are used in this work, though others are included in Table 3 for completeness.

2.3. Spectroscopic Completeness

Spectroscopic completeness as a function of SDSS r-band magnitude, which was used to select the targets for the MMT observations (Section 2.2.1). Figure 3 shows the completeness as a function of magnitude as indicated in the legend. The vertical dashed cyan line indicates the radius of the MMT survey region, and the vertical dashed red line indicates the radius at which the completeness for $r < 19.6$ mag galaxies falls below 50%.

Cava et al. (2009):

$$C(m) = \frac{N_z}{N_{\text{ph}}}(m),$$

where $N_{\text{ph}}$ is the number of sources of magnitude $m$ in our target catalog, and $N_z$ is the number of sources of the same $m$ that have a redshift measurement (either from literature or MMT). Figure 3(a) shows the spectroscopic completeness as a function of the SDSS $r$-band magnitude, which was used to select the targets for the MMT observations (Section 2.2.1). Figure 3(b) shows the completeness as a function of distance $d$ from the center of A2626. The MMT spectroscopy improves
the completeness fraction for sources fainter than $r > 15$ mag and at $d < 0.8^\circ$.

While Figure 3(a) provides the global overview at what magnitude the completeness begins to drop off, with a nonuniform spatial spectroscopic coverage it is important to understand how the completeness varies across the field. Figure 3(b) shows the spectroscopic completeness determined in annuli with increasing radii from the center of the cluster. The spatial variation of the spectroscopic completeness in six magnitude bins is shown in Figure 4. The completeness is relatively uniform and above 50% across most of the field.

3. Large-scale Structure

3.1. Large-scale Structure in the MMT Volume

There are at least nine known clusters or overdensities within $0^\circ.8$ of A2626 and at $cz < 138,000$ km s$^{-1}$. These are listed in Table 4. The three Abell clusters (Abell et al. 1989) were found as surface overdensities of galaxies on the sky. The five clusters identified as “RM” were identified using the RedMaPPer algorithm (Rykoff et al. 2014), which searched for surface overdensities of red galaxies. ZwCL 2332+2027 was identified by Zwicky et al. (1961), again as a galaxy surface overdensity, and 1RXS J233354.3+214052 was identified by Bohringer et al. (2000) from its X-ray emission. The MMT observations yielded 1858 new redshifts with $cz < 138,000$ km s$^{-1}$ and 20 with $cz > 138,000$. With the addition of the MMT redshifts (Figure 5), many of these overdensities stand out as shown by the histogram in Figure 1.

The sky distributions of galaxies in eight velocity ranges are shown in Figure 5. The two clusters A2625 and ZwCl 2332+2027, which were identified from photographic plates, had previous cluster redshifts from only a few bright galaxies around the central position. Our new spectroscopy suggests that those galaxies are actually in the foreground, not members of either cluster. Updated cluster redshifts are shown in the figure legend and listed in Table 4.

3.2. Identifying A2625

The ACO catalog (Abell et al. 1989) identified galaxy surface overdensities. These were later spectroscopically confirmed by measuring the redshifts of the brightest galaxies in the field (sometimes as few as three galaxies, see Struble & Rood 1999). A2625 was one of the clusters identified photographically, and the published cluster redshift was based on the redshifts of three galaxies. Figure 6 shows a clear overdensity of galaxies at the A2625 location in both previously published and new redshifts.

The previous redshift assigned to A2625 places it in the velocity space between A2626 at $cz \sim 16,600$ km s$^{-1}$ and the overdensity around 19,100 km s$^{-1}$. Based as it was on only three galaxies, that redshift is uncertain (Struble & Rood 1999), and the three galaxies could be associated with the spectral overdensity at $cz \sim 19,100$ km s$^{-1}$ (Figure 5(b)) rather than...
A2625. This redshift peak was identified as “clump B” by Mohr et al. (1996). The many galaxies now identified in this peak show no significant spatial clustering but rather a more linear distribution stretching up the west side of A2626 (Figure 6). There is also no X-ray emission associated with any of the localized clustering of galaxies in this overdensity. Although the ACO position for A2625 is on the edge of the MMT survey area, there is enough coverage to have seen a cluster if it were there. Evidently, the spectral overdensity around 19,100 km s\(^{-1}\) is not associated with A2625, and we will henceforth refer to this overdensity as “the Swarm.”

Piffaretti et al. (2011) used ROSAT to identify X-ray emission of a galaxy cluster at A2625’s position. There are two bright galaxies near the X-ray position and within an arcminute of each other: LEDA 97482 and LEDA 1630451. Owen et al. (1995) found \(cz = 30,130 \pm 90\) km s\(^{-1}\) for LEDA 97482, and we found \(cz = 17,829 \pm 15\) km s\(^{-1}\) for LEDA 1630451 (Section 2.2). The LEDA 1630451 redshift places it in the Swarm. This galaxy’s spiral morphology and detection in H\(\alpha\) (Healy et al. 2021) suggest that it is probably not close to the center of a cluster. LEDA 97482, on the other hand, is a cD galaxy (Yuan et al. 2016). The X-ray emission and cD galaxy are clear evidence of a cluster. Additional evidence is the overdensity of red galaxies known as RM J233602.7 +203245.1 (Bohringer et al. 2000), now shown to be a cluster in redshift space as well (Figure 5(d)). Taken together, the clustering of galaxies, the X-ray emission at the center of the cluster, and the proximity to the original location of A2625 imply that A2625 and RM J233602.7 +203245.1 are the same cluster at \(cz = 30,519\) km s\(^{-1}\). Table 4 gives cluster properties.

### Table 4

| Cluster | RM\(^{a}\) | R.A. Decl. \(\; (J2000)\) | \(cz_{cl}\) \(\; (\text{km s}^{-1})\) | \(\sigma_{cl}\) \(\; (\text{Mpc})\) | \(R_{200}\) | \(N_{c}\) |
|---------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|--------|
| A2626   | ---    | 23:36:31.00+21:09:36.3\(^{b}\) | 16576           | 660 \pm 26      | 1.59   | 163    |
| The Swarm\(^{c}\) | ---    | 23:35:55.26+20:51:43.2 | 19247           | 397 \pm 22      | 0.95   | 54     |
| A2637   | ---    | 23:38:57.80+21:25:55.2\(^{d}\) | 21288           | 610 \pm 46      | 1.46   | 74     |
| A2625   | J233602.7+203245.1 | 23:36:08.20+20:37:23.0\(^{e}\) | 30702           | 369 \pm 36      | 1.51   | 38     |
| IRXS J23354.3+214052 | ---    | 23:33:53.00+21:40:36.0\(^{e}\) | 30577           | 635 \pm 66      | 1.49   | 39     |
| ZwCl 2332+2027 | J233524.3+204336.1 | 23:35:18.00+20:44:00.0\(^{f}\) | 42615           | 437 \pm 22      | 1.01   | 59     |
| ...    | ...    | 23:37:35.80+21:09:40.0\(^{e}\) | 55323           | 553 \pm 62      | 1.25   | 28     |
| ...    | ...    | 23:39:06.38+21:26:54.0\(^{e}\) | 52972           | 458 \pm 35      | 1.04   | 30     |
| ...    | ...    | 23:39:30.40+20:56:17.0\(^{f}\) | 126789          | ...             | ...    | 7      |

Notes.

\(^{a}\) Rykoff et al. (2014).

\(^{b}\) Cava et al. (2009).

\(^{c}\) Overdensity but not a cluster (Section 3.4) originally identified as “Clump B” by Mohr et al. (1996). Position given is luminosity-weighted mean of galaxy positions.

\(^{d}\) Patel et al. (2006).

\(^{e}\) Piffaretti et al. (2011).

\(^{f}\) Bohringer et al. (2000).

\(^{g}\) Zwicky et al. (1961).

Using a friends-of-friends algorithm, Einasto et al. (2001) identified the superclusters using linking lengths of 37–54 Mpc. A number of these superclusters are located in the Perseus–Pegasus filament (Figure 8). One includes the Perseus cluster, which Einasto et al. (2001) claimed is connected to SCL 211 and SCL 215 by “free-floating” clusters. Another Einasto et al. (2001) supercluster is SCL 213, which is home to A2626, A2637, and four other clusters.

Additional redshifts gathered since 2001 change the picture. From the top panel of Figure 7, the black symbols could represent a coherent filament. However, when one rotates the figure (bottom panel), there is a separation between SCL 211 (the triangles) and SCL 213 (the black circles). It appears that the closer part of the filament (containing Perseus, SCL 211, and SCL 215) is veering away from the direction of SCL 213. This separation becomes more evident from the sky distribution shown in Figure 8. The filament is traced from the top left of the figure by the light blue through to the purple and then pink points coming down the center of the figure and is outlined by the gray “hockey stick.” On the outer edge of the hockey stick, we see a relatively smooth transition in colors, likely indicating that the galaxies and clusters are part of the same structure. Given the available data, there appears to be no connection between the outer and inner parts of the hockey stick, the inner part being dominated by dark green colors corresponding to significantly higher recession velocities. Batuski & Burns (1985) described the filament as following the plane of the sky, twisting to a line-of-sight direction around A2593. That would predict a structure around 15,000 km s\(^{-1}\) that would connect the plane of the sky portion to the line of sight. However, the transition of colors in Figure 8 shows no such structure. Based on the available data, we conclude that the A2626 complex is separate from the Perseus–Pegasus filament.

### 3.3. Large-scale Structure beyond the MMT Volume

Batuski & Burns (1985) identified a filament of galaxies extending over 425 Mpc from the Perseus–Pisces supercluster. Figure 7 shows a recreation of the Batuski & Burns (1985, their Figure 1) plot of the large-scale structure using the most recent position and redshift information for the clusters in this region. Einasto et al. (2001) identified groups of galaxy clusters with \(cz < 39,000\) km s\(^{-1}\) in a compilation of the ACO catalog and a sample of X-ray-detected clusters from Ebeling et al. (1998).

### 3.4. Large-scale Structure around A2626

Within a 2\(^{\circ}\) radius around A2626 and at similar redshifts, there is one other Abell cluster: A2637 (Abell et al. 1989). These two clusters are evident in the redshift histogram for the field (Figure 5), where the two clusters stick out as distinct peaks with another overdensity, the Swarm, between them.
Figure 5. Top: redshift histogram of all redshifts $z < 0.46$ ($cz < 137,900$ km s$^{-1}$) in a $2 \times 2$ deg$^2$ region centered on A2626. The gray and colored histograms represent all known redshifts in this region, while the black open histogram represents our new MMT redshifts. Bottom: sky distribution of eight of the spectral overdensities. Small circles represent galaxies with redshifts in the range indicated in each panel. Open circles represent galaxies with MMT redshifts while filled circles represent galaxies with redshifts from the literature. Colors in panels (a)–(h) are the same as the corresponding overdensity in the histogram above. The light-gray dotted circles indicate the approximate outline of the union of MMT footprints (Table 1). Known clusters in the region are indicated by markers as shown in the legend at bottom right.
Aside from the central region of A2626 (Struble & Rood 1999; Cava et al. 2009), this region has not been extensively surveyed, and many of the existing measurements for the Swarm and A2637 have been based on a handful of redshifts and X-ray detections.

Despite Einasto et al. (2001) identifying A2626, the Swarm, and A2637 as part of SCL 213, the currently available redshift data for galaxies in this supercluster are sparse. Within our data, there are hints of how the three structures connect to the other clusters, but given the complexity of the cosmic web, it is not possible to show the links. Even with our limited field of view, there are still three interesting overdensities.

A2626 itself shows an extended distribution of galaxies (Figure 5(a)). If we exclude the virialized population within 1.5 Mpc of the cluster center, there is a smooth distribution of sources. This implies that the A2626 cluster is embedded within a wall as sketched in Figure 9.

A2637, another of the SCL 213 clusters in our field, is only half covered by the MMT survey footprint. Nevertheless, the data show a central, dense region of galaxies with a radial decrease in the density of sources. A2637 is well separated from A2626 in both position and velocity.

The final member of SCL 213 in our field is what we refer to as the Swarm. Einasto et al. (2001) assigned this overdensity to SCL 213 under the name A2625. As discussed above, the Swarm is not A2625, but more importantly, it does not appear to be a cluster. There is no X-ray emission associated with any part of the Swarm. Moreover, the distribution of the Swarm galaxies has no central, dense region. Instead, the structure seems to be linear, almost like a filament. The Swarm structure starts around the same decl. as A2626 but more to the east (Figure 5(b)) and stretches south to the limit of our field. The highly linear distribution of the Swarm galaxies also stands out.

Figure 9 shows a schematic of the sky and redshift distributions of the three structures. The three overlap in the plane of the sky, but in redshift space, A2626 and A2637 are distinct from each other. While the Swarm overlaps with A2626 in the plane of the sky, and both clusters in redshift space, we do not believe that the Swarm is connected to either cluster. Section 5.3 discusses this further.

### 3.5. Background Clusters

Table 4 lists five clusters well separated from the A2626 complex. One is 1RXS J233354.3+214052 (Rykoff et al. 2014) northwest of the field (Figure 5(d)). While it is at almost the same redshift as A2625, its projected separation is 8.0 Mpc. ZwCl 2332+2027 (=RM J233524.3+204336.1) is shown in Figure 5(e), and RM J233735.8+210940.1 is shown in Figure 5(f). Updated parameters for both clusters are given in Table 4. RM J233906.4+212654.0 is also visible in Figure 5(f), and there is an additional galaxy concentration to its northwest. These three clusters may be part of a larger structure with a size scale of ~5 Mpc.
estimates for \( z_{cl} \) and \( \sigma_{cl} \) for the three overdensities shown. In the rest frame of the overdensity,

\[
v = c \frac{z - z_{cl}}{1 + z_{cl}},
\]

where \( c \) is the speed of light, \( z \) is the redshift of the galaxy, and \( z_{cl} \) is the redshift of the cluster. To determine \( z_{cl} \), we selected all galaxies within a radius of 1.5 Mpc of the cluster center and with \(-3\sigma_{cl} < v < 3\sigma_{cl}\). We discarded all galaxies detected in \( \text{HI} \) (Healy et al. 2021) because they do not typically trace the virialized population of a cluster (Colless & Dunn 1996). We applied the biweight location estimator to the redshifts of the sample of galaxies representing the virialized galaxy population (Beers et al. 1990) to determine \( z_{cl} \). Using the updated \( z_{cl} \), we recalculated the rest-frame velocities, \( v \), for each galaxy using Equation (5). We determined \( \sigma_{cl} \) by fitting a Gaussian to the histogram of rest-frame velocities, fixing the mean of the Gaussian to the cluster redshift. Our \( \sigma_{cl} = 660 \pm 26 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) for A2626 is fully consistent with the \( 679 \pm 60 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) measured by Cava et al. (2009).

The cluster velocity dispersion determines \( R_{200} \), the radius inside which the mean density of the cluster is 200 times the critical density of the universe. From Finn et al. (2005) for \( h = 0.7 \),

\[
R_{200} = 2.47 \left( \frac{\sigma_{cl}}{1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)
\times (\Omega_{\Lambda} + \Omega_{M}(1 + z_{cl})^{3})^{-1/2} \text{ Mpc}.
\]

The calculated \( z_{cl} \), \( \sigma_{cl} \), and \( R_{200} \) for the three overdensities are in Table 4. The Swarm is neither a cluster nor is it a virialized system, but the numbers are useful for determining which galaxies may belong to the overdensity.

The newly calculated \( z_{cl} \), \( \sigma_{cl} \), and \( R_{200} \) for A2626, A2637, and the Swarm show how galaxies in these systems relate to each other in angular distance and velocity. Figure 11 shows the phase-space plots for the three systems. The virial mass \( M_{200} \) was calculated from \( R_{200} \) via

\[
M_{200} = \frac{4}{3} \pi R_{200}^{3} \rho_{c}.
\]

Figure 11 shows that the three overdensities are distinct systems. The large velocity separation coupled with the distance between the three systems’ centers of mass suggests that they are not even interacting with each other. The Swarm panel of Figure 11 reinforces that the Swarm is not a cluster because galaxies do not fill the flare of the trumpet at small radii. The A2637 trumpet also does not fill up at small radii, but this could be due to spectroscopic incompleteness as A2637 is on the northeastern edge of the MMT survey area.

5. Substructure in A2626

Mohr et al. (1996) identified three subcomponents with distinct velocities within 2.1 Mpc of A2626. Their Groups A, B, and C match our definitions of A2626, the Swarm, and A2637, respectively. Applying the Dressler–Shectman (DS; Dressler & Shectman 1988) test to their 159 redshifts, Mohr et al. (1996) found no substructure within any of the three groups. This is perhaps not too surprising as the DS test (like many substructure-finding methods) is sensitive to the number of redshifts used. More recently, using new data from the WINGS survey, Ramella et al. (2007) applied a nonparametric
clustering algorithm to A2626 and also found no significant substructure. This is also unsurprising given that the WINGS spectroscopy is limited to $R < 0.7 \ R_{200}$ and redshifts of 76 galaxies. Early work on clusters such as the Coma cluster found no significant substructure within the cluster (Dressler & Shectman 1988), but later works with more redshifts found the Coma cluster to contain a significant amount of substructure (Adami et al. 2005; Healy et al. 2021).

Figure 8. Sky distribution of the Perseus–Pegasus filament based on Batuski & Burns (1985, Figure 3). The filament is outlined by the light-gray dashed line that resembles a hockey stick. The small colored points indicate galaxies in the region with redshifts from a combination of the CfA2, the updated Zwicky catalogs, and targeted searches around the clusters in the SIMBAD database. The open circles represent Abell clusters identified by Batuski & Burns (1985) as part of the filament, while the open squares represent clusters not in the filament. The size of the open markers is inversely proportional to the redshift of the cluster. The colors (as indicated by the color bar on the right) represent the recessional velocity of the object.

Figure 9. Schematic of how A2626, the Swarm, and A2637 fit together. The colored circles/ellipses represent A2626 (green) and A2637 (pink). The orange rectangular shapes represent the Swarm, and the MMT survey area is indicated by the black circle and horizontal dashed lines. The wall in which A2626 is embedded is represented in the right panel by the light-green vertical rectangle.
Figure 10. Top: sky distribution of all galaxies with $z < 0.09$ in a $2 \times 2$ deg$^2$ region centered on A2626. The dashed gray circles indicate $R_{200}$ for the different overdensities as labeled. The different symbols represent the different sources from which the redshifts were obtained, and the colors represent the large-scale structure to which the galaxies belong. Bottom: redshift histogram of all the galaxies in the upper panel. The solid histogram represents the entire catalog, while the open histograms indicate what portion of the total catalog comes from the literature (hatched blue) and from the MMT observations (black).
5.1. Identifying Substructures

To identify groups of galaxies that are kinematically distinct from their parent cluster, we used the DS test, which has been successful in many other clusters (e.g., Hess et al. 2015; Healy et al. 2021). The DS test parameter

\[ \delta_i^2 = \left( \frac{N_{nn} + 1}{\sigma_{cl}} \right) \left[ (\bar{v}_{\text{local}} - \bar{v})^2 + (\sigma_{\text{local}}^2 - \sigma_{\text{cl}}^2) \right], \]

where \( \sigma_{\text{cl}} \) is the cluster velocity dispersion, \( \bar{v}_{\text{cl}} \) is the mean velocity of the cluster (given in Table 4), and \( \sigma_{\text{local}} \) and \( v_{\text{local}} \) are the velocity dispersion and mean velocity of a putative group with \( N_{nn} \) nearest neighbors. We used \( N_{nn} = 5, 10, 15, 20, \) and 25 and identified groups that consistently appear with multiple \( N_{nn} \) values.

We ran the DS test on all three of the overdensities in the field. A simple \( \pm 3\sigma_{\text{cl}} \) cut in velocity results in contamination from the neighboring overdensities, and we therefore assigned galaxies to the different overdensities based on their location in the distance–velocity phase space (Figure 11). To assign galaxies, we widened the trumpet by doubling \( M_{200} \) and selected all galaxies within the wider trumpet and having velocities within \( 3\sigma_{\text{cl}} \) of the cluster velocity.

Figure 12 shows six groups associated with A2626, four groups with the Swarm, and five groups associated with A2637. More detailed sky distribution and velocity histogram plots of the identified groups are shown in Figure 13. Information on whether HI is detected or not in the group with galaxies still containing detectable HI are more likely to be recent additions to the cluster environment.

5.2. Substructure in A2626

The locations and velocity distributions of the six groups identified within A2626 are shown in Figure 12, and the details are given in Table 5. Four of the groups (A1, A2, A3, and A4) are located outside the \( R_{200} \) of the cluster and contain between 10% and 60% HI detections. This suggests these groups are on first infall into the cluster. The two smaller groups, A2 and A3, have mean velocities similar to the cluster velocity (16,576 km s\(^{-1}\)), consistent with being accreted from the wall in which A2626 is embedded and therefore moving in the plane of the sky. Groups A1 and A4 have mean velocities respectively lower and higher than the cluster velocity. This could mean that A1 is falling into the cluster from behind, while A4 is falling in from the front. While there are no known filaments connecting to A2626, A2622 (another member of SCL 213) is nearby to the north of A2626. However, A1 and A4 are coming in from the northeast and southwest, respectively, suggesting, along with the high fraction of H1 detections, that these groups are not being accreted along a filament but rather from the field.

The two groups located inside \( R_{200} \) (A5 and A6) tell us something about the recent accretion onto the cluster. A5 still has 25% of its galaxies detected in HI, suggesting this is a group new to A2626. A5’s velocity relative to the cluster suggests falling in from behind the cluster. Group A6 is near the cluster center (offset 250 kpc northwest) and has no H1 detections. Presumably, it was accreted early.

The overall picture that A2626 has undergone a merger (Mohr et al. 1996; Mohr & Wegner 1997; Wong et al. 2008) is supported by the X-ray observations. Wong et al. (2008) found a significant change in the X-ray temperature at a radius of 260 kpc from the center of the cluster. They suggested an ongoing or previous merger as the likely explanation. The offset position of A6 from the center of the cluster is consistent with the echo of a group merging with the cluster center. The projected distance between A6 and the center of A2626 roughly is consistent with the radius of the change in X-ray temperature. A6 includes the emission-line galaxy IC 5337, which Wong et al. (2008) suggested is infalling from the west of the cluster.

5.3. Substructure in the Swarm

The Swarm, as discussed above, is probably not a cluster but rather a linear collection of galaxies and galaxy groups. The DS test identified four distinct groups in this overdensity, these four groups are listed in Table 6. B3 might be on an infall trajectory toward A2626, its mean velocity being only 3.2\( \sigma_{\text{A2626}} \), higher than the cluster velocity of A2626 and located just beyond A2626’s \( R_{200} \). In this scenario, the higher relative mean velocity of B3 would suggest it is approaching A2626 from the front. While most of B3 was not included in the DS test for A2626 due to the galaxy velocities being greater than 3 \( \sigma_{\text{cl}} \), as described in Figure 12(b) around 23\(^{h}\)36\(^{m}\) + 20°35’.
The three groups B1, B2, and B4 all have mean velocities that differ too much from A2626’s for them to be associated. B1, B2, and B4 are also linearly aligned and have mean velocities that are within 150 km s$^{-1}$. However, it is unclear whether this is a chance alignment or a result of the underlying large-scale structure. B1, B3, and B4 include >40% HI detections, implying that these groups have been little affected by stripping.

5.4. Substructure in A2637

Our substructure analysis of A2637 is not as complete as that for A2626 or the Swarm because A2637 is on the edge of the MMT survey. This cluster is also outside of the MeerKAT FWHM, which means the H1 sensitivity for this cluster is not as good as that for A2626 and the Swarm. Despite this, we identified four groups, C2, C3, C4, and C5, associated with the cluster and one group, C1, at a similar redshift but >1 Mpc from the cluster. C2 and C3 both appear to be infalling or recently accreted (particularly C2). However, the paucity of H1 data leaves the gas-stripped fractions uncertain. Table 7 lists the properties of the four groups.

There are two groups, C4 and C5, near the center of A2637. The two are similar in size but have mean velocities differing by >1100 km s$^{-1}$. At the heart of C5 is 2MASXJ2338533 +212752, identified as a brightest cluster galaxy (BCG; Lauer et al. 2014). Based on this, we hypothesize that C5 is at the center of the cluster, and C4 has been accreted and is merging.

Figure 12. Sky distribution of galaxies in the overdensities. Colors in each panel mark related substructures. Panel (a) shows all three main structures, A2626, the Swarm, and A2637, as marked by the colors of the open symbols. Shapes of the open symbols indicate the substructure group to which each galaxy belongs. The black, gray, and light-gray points represent the galaxies in A2626, the Swarm, and A2637, respectively, not associated with any substructure. Panels (b), (c), and (d) show the results from the DS test for A2626, the Swarm, and A2637, respectively. The size of each symbol is scaled by $e^i$, where $e_i$ is calculated using Equation (8) for $N_{nn} = 10$. The large crosses mark the three main overdensity centers. The histograms in the lower corners of the panels show the velocity distribution of the sources in that panel with colors indicating velocity relative to the mean velocity of the overdensity. The same colors show the velocity of each galaxy. Horizontal units are $\sigma_{cl}$ as given in Table 4.
Figure 13. Sky distribution and velocity histograms of identified groups in A2626, the Swarm, and A2637. The large faint gray dotted lines show the $R_{200}$ of the clusters and overdensity. Contours show the X-ray emission from ROSAT at the center of A2626 and A2637. The groups identified using the DS test are indicated by the colored points. Black outlines indicate galaxies detected in HI (Healy et al. 2021). Gray points show galaxies associated with the overdensity but not part of any identified substructure. The velocity histograms of the identified groups are shown in the panels on the right. In the histogram panels, the background gray histogram shows the velocity distribution of the entire sample, and the open histograms outlined by green (A2626), orange (the Swarm), and pink (A2637) represent the galaxies identified as part of the clusters. The colored histograms correspond to the groups highlighted in the sky distribution plot. The black open histograms in each panel show the velocity distributions of the HI-detected galaxies (Healy et al. 2021) in each group.
with C5. A similar substructure is seen, for example, at the center of the Coma cluster, where there are separate X-ray emission peaks coinciding with the BCGs associated with two substructures (Adami et al. 2005; Healy et al. 2021). It is also widely accepted that the two groups at the center of the Coma cluster are merging (e.g., Colless & Dunn 1996; Adami et al. 2005). In the case of groups C4 and C5 in A2637, no such detailed X-ray analysis has yet been carried out.

The diffuse group C1, which contains nearly 50% H I detections, does not appear to be associated with A2637. Its center is ≈3R200 from A2637, and there are no galaxies between C1 and A2637, which could hint at a connection. This raises the question of how C1 fits into the large-scale structure of the system, but the limited field of view of the MMT survey and the lack of available redshifts outside it make it difficult to speculate on the possible origins of C1.

**6. Summary**

There are now over 2900 redshifts in a 2° × 2° field centered on the cluster A2626. The A2626 complex is made up of A2626 itself (z ≈ 0.055), the cluster A2637 (z ≈ 0.071), and an apparent wall or at least an extended structure designated here as the Swarm (z ≈ 0.064). The structure is linear rather than centrally concentrated, and its origins and connections to the large-scale structure around the clusters remain unclear. On a larger scale, the A2626–the Swarm–A2637 complex appears not connected to the Perseus–Pegasus filament.

At much larger distances than A2637, the cluster A2625, formerly thought to be at roughly the same redshift as A2626 (Struble & Rood 1999), is in fact the same cluster as RM J233602.7+203245.1 at z ≈ 0.102 (cz = 30,519 km s\(^{-1}\)). There are at least three and probably four other clusters in the background, the most distant at z ≈ 0.42.

The greater numbers of confirmed members of A2626, A2637, and the Swarm have revealed substructures within these systems. There are six substructures within A2626, five within A2637, and probably four within the Swarm, although one of these last could instead be a group associated with A2626. The new redshifts have also decreased the uncertainties in the systems’ velocity dispersions and sizes, which are now known to better than 10%.

This work has shown the importance of extensive spectroscopy in identifying large-scale structure and linking components together. Even with the existing data, though, some questions remain: how is the Swarm connected to the structure around it? And how do A2626 and A2637 connect to the other members of the supercluster SCL 213? Answering these questions will require spectra over a still wider area on the sky than observed here, and we look to the future of wide-area spectroscopic surveys such as the WEAVE Wide-field Cluster Survey (S. Jin et al. 2021, in preparation) to be able to answer some of the outstanding questions about the environment in which A2626 is embedded. Wider-field H I observations will also be valuable.

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