JLVA 1.5GHz CONTINUUM OBSERVATION OF CLASH CLUSTERS I: RADIO PROPERTIES OF THE BCGS

HENG YU1, PAOLO TOZZI2,3, REINOUT VAN WEEREN2, ELISABETTA LIUZZO4, GABRIELE GIOVANNINI5, MEGAN DONAHUE6, ITALO BALESTRA7, PIERO ROSSATI8, MANUEL ARAVENA9.

Abstract

We present high-resolution (~ 1’), 1.5 GHz continuum observations of the brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs) of 13 CLASH (Cluster Lensing And Supernova survey with Hubble) clusters at 0.18 < z < 0.69 with the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA). Radio emission is clearly detected and characterized for 11 BCGs, while for two of them we obtain only upper limits to their radio flux (~ 0.1 mJy at 5σ confidence level). We also consider five additional clusters whose BCG is detected in FIRST or NVSS. We find radio powers in the range from $2 \times 10^{23}$ to $10^{26}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ and radio spectral indices $\alpha_{1.5}$ (defined as the slope between 1.5 and 30 GHz) distributed from $\sim -1$ to $-0.25$ around the central value $\langle \alpha \rangle = -0.68$. The radio emission from the BCGs is resolved in three cases (Abell 383, MACS J1331, and RX J2129), and unresolved or marginally resolved in the remaining eight cases observed with JVLA. In all the cases the BCGs are consistent with being powered by active galactic nuclei (AGN). The radio power shows a positive correlation with the BCG star formation rate, and a negative correlation with the central entropy of the surrounding intracluster medium (ICM) except in two cases (MACS J1206 and CL J1226). Finally, over the restricted range in radio power sampled by the CLASH BCGs, we observe a significant scatter between the radio power and the average mechanical power stored in the ICM cavities.

Subject headings: radio continuum; galaxies; galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium; X-rays: galaxies: clusters

1. INTRODUCTION

Brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs) are among the most massive galaxies in the universe, and their formation and evolution are intimately linked to the evolution of the host cluster (see Lau et al. 2014; Hogan et al. 2015a, for a recent overview of properties of local BCGs). They usually live in the most active central cluster regions, show a small peculiar velocity with respect to other cluster members, and are often surrounded by a cool core. However, in a few cases, significant offset from the X-ray center and relatively large peculiar velocity may be observed (see Lauer et al. 2014). Their star formation history and nuclear activity are reflected in the chemical and thermodynamic properties of the X-ray emitting intracluster medium (ICM). In relaxed clusters, where the BCG is close to the X-ray center, the ICM is heavily affected by the feedback from the central active galactic nucleus (AGN), which prevents runaway cooling of the ICM and provides a direct explanation for the cooling-flow problem (Fabian 1994, 2012). The signature of such feedback can be investigated in the X-ray band in terms of gas entropy structure, radio plasma-filled cavities in the ICM, and distribution of heavy elements in the ICM. Despite the sense that physical mechanisms contributing to the feedback are now well established, the detailed physics of the energy balance between the different baryonic components (stars, hot gas, and cold gas) and the regulation of nuclear activity and its duty cycle in the BCG are still under investigation.

In fact, the largest contribution to the feedback in terms of energy budget is associated with the “mechanical-mode” nuclear activity, which consists in the production of extremely energetic radio jets or AGN outflows and winds created during accretion onto the supermassive black hole hosted by the BCGs. The accretion mechanism and the AGN feeding in massive halos have been modeled recently by several studies (see Gaspari et al. 2012, 2013; Voit et al. 2015). In addition, radiative cooling appears to be efficiently quenched by AGN activity in cool cores (e.g. Mittal et al. 2009). Mechanical-mode feedback from supermassive black holes is invoked to explain the quenching of the potential massive cooling flow and the non-detection of cold gas below $\sim 2$ keV in the cluster cores, despite the inferred cooling time being much shorter than the cluster lifetime in a subset of cluster cores (Peterson & Fabian 2006). Star formation is also observed to be quenched or significantly suppressed, although with a significant time delay (e.g. Molendi et al. 2016). This picture is reinforced by the large fraction of radio-luminous galaxies among BCGs, which has been well established for many years (Burns 1990), and by the fact that virtually every strong cool core cluster hosts a radio-loud BCG (Sun 2009; Hogan et al. 2015a). It is found that BCGs are 10 times more likely to host an AGN than any other cluster galaxy, and about 3 times more likely than other cluster galaxies with comparable K-band luminosity (Lin & Mohr 2007).

In more detail, the relativistic jets and/or outflows inject mechanical energy into the ICM, creating buoyantly rising...
bubbles or cavities filled by radio lobes (e.g. McNamara et al. 2000; Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. 2012). A significant fraction of this mechanical energy is expected to be transformed into internal energy of the ICM in the form of shock heating, turbulent motions, dissipation of sound waves, and turbulent mixing (e.g. Lau et al. 2017). The total mechanical energy associated with the cavities can be roughly estimated as the enthalpy 4PV where P and V are the ICM pressure and the cavity volume, respectively, and it appears to be of the same order as that needed to stop the cooling (see also Blanton et al. 2001; Birzan et al. 2004; Dunn & Fabian 2006; Wise et al. 2007; Sanders & Fabian 2007; Sanders et al. 2009). These studies have been possible thanks to the unambiguous detection of cavities in the ICM observed as round-shaped depressions in the X-ray emission, spatially overlapping with AGN lobes. The energetics of the mechanical feedback have been systematically investigated at low and medium redshifts (Jetha et al. 2007; Birzan et al. 2008; Dunn & Fabian 2008; Blanton et al. 2010; Dunn et al. 2010; O’Sullivan et al. 2011; Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. 2012; Shin et al. 2016) and pushed to the limits of detectability of X-ray cavities up to z ~ 1.2 thanks to the Chandra follow-up of a sample of SZ-selected clusters (Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. 2015). Cool cores are expected to be present from an early epoch (see Santos et al. 2010; McDonald et al. 2017) and a gentle feedback should be in place since then. However, while the average mechanical energy associated with feedback is sufficient to offset cooling, the process is expected to be intermittent. For example, the multiphase condensation and rain toward the central AGN as envisaged in the chaotic cold accretion scenario (see Gaspari et al. 2017) predicts a flicker noise variability with a logarithmetic slope of the power spectrum of ~1, characteristic of fractal and chaotic phenomena. The mechanical mode of AGN feedback is expected to be tightly self-regulated in most - if not all - BCGs, with frequent but not destructive outbursts, which appear to have a duty cycle close to unity (Mittal et al. 2009; Hogan et al. 2015a; Lau et al. 2017). In this picture, feedback can probably always be tracked by radio emission, but the detailed mechanism that is responsible for the transfer of the mechanical energy to the ICM is still not fully understood, and the evolution of the feedback with cosmic time is poorly constrained. Both aspects are of paramount importance in the framework of galaxy formation and evolution of the large scale structures of the universe.

In this respect, in-depth studies of BCGs and their complex environment using vastly different wavelengths are crucial to reach a comprehensive picture of the feedback phenomena. A unique opportunity for studying BCG properties and their evolution is provided by the Cluster Lensing And Supernova survey with Hubble (CLASH Postman et al. 2012). CLASH is a Hubble Space Telescope (HST) 524-orbit Multi-Cycle Treasury program to use the gravitational lensing properties of 25 galaxy clusters to accurately constrain the baryonic mass and dark matter distributions in the cluster core and in the outskirts, to exploit their lensing properties to find highly magnified high-z galaxies, and to search for Type Ia supernovae at z > 1 to improve constraints on the time dependence of the dark energy equation of state and the evolution of supernovae. A total of 16 broadband filters, spanning the near-UV to near-IR, are employed for a 20-orbit campaign on each cluster. In addition, CLASH clusters are observed in the X-ray band with Chandra and XMM-Newton. In particular, all the CLASH clusters have Chandra imaging with medium-deep exposures (from 20 to 130 ks, with an average of 60 ks). We already know that X-ray Chandra data of CLASH clusters often show structures in the inner 30 kpc, which corresponds to 10 arcsec at z ~ 0.2 and to 5 arcsec at z ~ 0.6. The detection of X-ray cavities has already been reported in the literature for some of them individually: RXJ1532 by Dunn & Fabian (2008), MACSJ1931 by Ehler et al. (2011), and MACSJ1423 by Birzan et al. (2008). A recent systematic investigation by Shin et al. (2016) reported cavity detection from beta-model subtracted images for seven CLASH clusters (MACSJ1720, Abell 383, MACSJ0329, MACSJ0744 in addition to those already mentioned). All the clusters are also observed in the mid-infrared (MIR) with Herschel, in the near-infrared (NIR) with Spitzer, and in the optical with Subaru/Suprime-Cam, and are also intensively followed-up in the optical band to obtain detailed spectra and securely confirm member galaxies thanks to a VLT large program (PI P. Rosati) in addition to spectroscopy on 5 northern clusters with the Large Binocular Telescope. CLASH is the first large and representative sample of X-ray-selected clusters consistently observed with HST in 16 optical and NIR bands, and therefore stands out as one of the most ambitious observational projects on galaxy clusters ever attempted, with a strong legacy value. Similar efforts are currently underway with the HST follow-up of 41 massive clusters X-ray-selected from the RELICS survey (PI D. Coe) and of a similar number of X-ray selected clusters from the MACS survey (the SNAPshot survey, Repp & Ebeling 2017).

Given the unprecedented combination of space- and ground-based data of the CLASH project, radio observations are a key ingredient toward a comprehensive investigation of the feedback processes. In this paper, we present the first part of an observational campaign in the 1-2 GHz radio continuum with the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA). Our goal is to characterize the radio properties of member galaxies in CLASH clusters, with a strong emphasis on the radio properties of the BCG and the connection with the surrounding ICM, to pave the way for a detailed investigation of the feedback processes in massive clusters. The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we describe the sample. In Section 3 we describe the observations and the data reduction. We present our results in Section 4, and our conclusions are summarized in Section 5. Throughout this paper we adopt the 7 yr WMAP cosmology, with Ω_m= 0.272, Ω_λ = 0.728 and H_0 = 70.4 km s^{-1} Mpc^{-1} (Komatsu et al. 2011). Quoted error bars always correspond to the 1σ confidence level.

2. SAMPLE SELECTION

The sample of CLASH clusters, originally selected on the basis of their large mass and magnification power of gravitational lensing, populate the intermediate redshift range 0.18 < z < 0.9, corresponding to a look-back time interval of 2.4-5.7 Gyr, a period that has been poorly investigated so far. This is also the epoch when most of the effects of the feedback are visible in terms of evolution of the cluster X-ray luminosity-temperature relation of the cluster (Branchesi et al. 2007).

Among the 25 clusters of the CLASH sample, only 20 clusters appear dynamically relaxed. The other 5 CLASH clusters are, in fact, dynamically disturbed, and were selected because of their higher lensing magnification factor. Therefore, they do not show well defined cluster cores centered on a dominant BCG. A deep JVLA observation of the merging cluster MACSJ0717 is presented in van Weeren et al. (2017). In this work we focus on the 20 relaxed CLASH clusters that have a well-defined dominant BCG coincident with or very close to the peak of the X-ray cluster emission. Since our primary sci-
ence goal is to investigate the relation between the BCG and core properties in massive clusters, we postpone the observation of merging clusters. All the 20 relaxed CLASH clusters are observable from the VLA except one (RXJ2248). Also, the cluster CLJ1226, with the highest redshift \( z = 0.89 \), was not in our accepted VLA sample because of a conflict with another program. Therefore, we proposed to observe 18 clusters in L band (20 cm) and A configuration (JVLA proposal VLA-14A-040, AT441, PI P. Tozzi) with the aim of reaching a noise level of \( \sim 0.01 - 0.02 \) mJy/beam. Therefore, assuming a nominal detection threshold corresponding to a \( S/N = 5 \), we aim at fluxes fainter \( \sim 50 \) and \( \sim 20 \) times deeper than the NRAO VLA Sky Survey (NVSS \(^{10}\), Condon et al. 1998) and than the Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty-cm (FIRST\(^{11}\), Helfand et al. 2015) for point-like sources, respectively. The requirement to achieve this sensitivity corresponds roughly to an observation time of about 80 minutes per field with the JVLA, including overheads. We choose the A configuration to achieve the maximum angular resolution of \( \sim 1.3 \) arcsec in the L band.

In 2014 we obtained data for only 14 out of 18 clusters. One of these targets (Abell 2261) was seriously affected by radio frequency interference (RFI). As a result, no useful image was obtained. Therefore, we will present new data for 13 targets only\(^{12}\). The observed targets are listed in Table 1, together with the other CLASH clusters included in the relaxed sample. We plan to complete the observation of the entire CLASH sample with a future proposal, including the 5 merging CLASH clusters observable from the JVLA site.

In Table 1 we also identify the optical counterparts of each cluster BCG found in optical or IR surveys among 6dFGS (Jones et al. 2004), 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006), SDSS (York et al. 2000), and WISE (Wright et al. 2010). Our clusters have a well-defined BCG with no ambiguous cases (e.g., a cluster with two comparable galaxies). In the fourth column of Table 1 we list the cluster redshift published in the literature. In the sixth and seventh columns of Table 1 we list the radio counterpart candidates from NVSS and FIRST, respectively, that would be associated with the BCG by assuming a simple matching criterion based on the optical and radio position. In detail, we select the NVSS and FIRST source closest to the position of the optical counterpart within a radius of 20 arcsec and 2 arcsec for NVSS and FIRST, respectively. A large matching radius is suggested also for very bright sources in NVSS, where the FWHM is 45 arcsec\(^{13}\). Since FIRST resolution is 5 arcsec on average, a matching radius of 2 arcsec is chosen for consistency with the radius of 20 arcsec used for NVSS sources. With this conservative choice, among the sources observed with the JVLA, 10 out of 13 BCGs in our sample have a radio counterpart either in the NVSS or FIRST survey or both, while five fields do not have FIRST coverage. Among the seven sources not observed in our program, five and three have radio counterparts in NVSS and FIRST, respectively.

3. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

We present here new data on 13 clusters observed with the JVLA in A configuration from February 24th to April 24th, 2014. The A configuration has a maximum baseline of 36.4 km. We used a bandwidth of 1 GHz centered at 1.5 GHz (L band). The largest angular size of a radio source detectable at 1.5 GHz with the A configuration is about 36 arcsec. The full-width half-maximum of the primary beam is \( b_{bb} = 30 \) arcmin. The observing setup is summarized in Table 2. Total exposure time, useful spectral windows, phase and gain calibrators, beam size and noise level for each target are listed in Table 3. Each cluster in our sample was observed for about 1 hour or slightly more. The typical angular resolution (synthesized beam size) is \( \sim 1.3 \) arcsec. We note that the noise level reached in our images at the aimpoint is on average 0.022 mJy, about twice as large as the value of 0.01 mJy that was the goal of the proposal. The main reason for this noise level is the geostationary satellite belt (which is around DEC = 0 ± 10 deg) which introduces a significant amount of extra RFI for five of our targets not accounted for in the proposal. Moreover, for the two fields with the highest noise, RXJ1532 and MACSJ1720, where the noise level at the aimpoint is of the order of 0.07 and 0.05 mJy, respectively, the flux calibrator used for the observations was not optimal, and this causes an uncertain bandpass calibration. In addition, half of the observation of MACSJ1720 was carried out with 6 spectral windows (spws), and most of them had to be omitted from the analysis. Finally, RXJ2129 and again MACSJ1720, have very bright and complex off-axis sources, which are difficult to clean. Overall, the average noise level achieved in the 13 fields is low enough to reach our science goals, despite being a factor of \( \sim 2 \) larger than expected, and two fields having exceptionally high noise (more than five times the goal rms).

Data calibration is performed with the reduction package Common Astronomy Software Applications (CASA, version 4.7.0) following standard JVLA procedures for low frequency wide-band, wide-field imaging data. After applying the standard antenna position correction and the gain curve and opacity correction, the original data are processed with the Hanning smoothing. Then we apply the rflag algorithm to remove strong RFI. The RFI at the spectral window 8 is mostly caused by satellite communication, and is always stronger than the signal from calibrators. Therefore, we mask spectral window 8 in all our observations. After the bandpass correction and the gain correction, the resulting images employ natural weighting of the visibility data. We consider a square field of view (FOV) of 30 arcmin on a side. The size of each pixel is set to 0.3 arcsec. With these choices, the FOV fully covers the X-ray emission in Chandra ACIS-I and the resolution is comparable to that of Chandra at the aimpoint.

After at least 3 self-calibrations, the final images are generated with the wide-field multi-frequency synthesis algorithm and are cleaned by interactive deconvolution. In Figures 1 we show the central \( 1' \times 1' \) fields, centered on the optical position of the BCGs, shown as a cross. The color scale varies logarithmically from 3\( \sigma \) to the maximum flux density of each field. X-ray surface brightness contours from Chandra are also shown with solid blue lines. A direct visual inspection shows that in 11 out of 13 cases the peak of the X-ray emission overlaps with the position of the radio emission within the positional errors, while in 2 cases (Abell 209 and Abell 1423) no radio emission is detected at the optical position of the BCG. In both clusters a strong radio source is found nearby.

---

\(^{10}\) NVSS is complete above \( \sim 2.5 \) mJy at 1.5 GHz for \( DEC > -40^\circ \) (see http://www.cv.nrao.edu/nvss/).

\(^{11}\) The FIRST catalog released in 2014 December covers about 10,575 square degrees of sky both in the northern and southern hemispheres, with a detection threshold of \( \sim 1 \) mJy at 1.4 GHz (see http://sundog.stsci.edu/).

\(^{12}\) MACSJ1720 is partially affected by the same type of interference; however, we were able to obtain useful data, despite this field shows the largest noise.

\(^{13}\) See discussion by R. L. White on the NRAO Science Forum https://science.nrao.edu/forums.
TABLE 1  
BCG COUNTERPARTS OF THE RELAXED CLASH CLUSTER SAMPLE

| Name       | R.A.     | Decl. | z         | Optical          | NVSS 20" match | FIRST 2" match |
|------------|----------|-------|-----------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Abell 383  | 02:48:03.36 | -03:31:44.7 | 0.1887    | 6DF J024803-033145 | J024803-033145 | J024801-033144 |
| Abell 209  | 01:31:52.7 | -13:36:38.8 | 0.20982   | 2MASX J01315250-1336409 | J013152-133659 | no coverage   |
| Abell 1423 | 11:57:17.35 | +33:36:39.6 | 0.2140    | 2MASX J11571737+3336399 | J115716+333644 | J115716+333629 |
| RXJ2129    | 21:29:39.94 | +00:05:18.8 | 0.23397   | WISE J212939.98+000521.9 | J212940+000522 | J212939.9+000521 |
| Abell 611  | 08:00:56.83 | +36:03:24.1 | 0.2673    | 2MASX J08005684+3603234 | no detection   | no detection   |
| MS2137     | 21:40:15.18 | -23:39:40.7 | 0.3160    | 2MASX J21401517-2339398 | J214014-233939 | no coverage   |
| RXJ1532    | 15:32:53.78 | +30:20:58.7 | 0.3620    | SDSS J153253.78+302059.3 | J153253+302059 | J153253.7+302059 |
| MACSJ1931  | 19:31:49.66 | -26:34:34.0 | 0.3520    | WISE J193149.63-2634330 | no detection   | no coverage   |
| MACSJ1720  | 17:20:16.95 | +35:36:23.6 | 0.3870    | WISE J172016.75+353626.1 | J172016+353628 | J172016+353625 |
| MACSJ0429  | 04:29:36.10 | -02:53:08.0 | 0.3901    | 2MASX J04293604-0253073 | J042936-025306 | no coverage   |
| MACSJ0329  | 03:29:41.68 | -02:11:47.7 | 0.4501    | WISE J032941.67-021146.6 | J032941-021152 | no coverage   |
| MACSJ1423  | 14:25:47.76 | +24:04:40.5 | 0.5457    | SDSS J142547.87+240442.4 | J142547+240439 | J142547.9+240442 |
| MACSJ0744  | 07:44:52.80 | +39:27:44.4 | 0.69803   | SDSS J074452.81+392726.7 | no detection   | no detection   |

Note. — The first 13 clusters are observed in the program VLA-14A-040. The other 7 relaxed clusters are also included for completeness. We list the position each cluster (second and third columns) from Postman et al. (2012). The BCG redshift (fourth columns), the optical counterpart of BCG (fifth columns), and the radio counterpart candidate in the NVSS and FIRST catalogs (sixth and seventh columns). The optical counterpart is unambiguously assigned thanks to a visual comparison with HST images, while the preliminary radio counterpart candidates are obtained with a simple distance criterion with a matching radius of 20 and 2 arcsec for NVSS and FIRST, respectively. “No detection” means the field is observed but no potential counterpart is found within the matching radius. “No coverage” means that the field is not observed.

References. — [1] Geller et al. (2014), [2] VLT-VIMOS, [3] Rines et al. (2013), [4] Lequeux et al. (2013), [5] Bauer et al. (2000) [6] SDSS DR12 [7] Alam et al. (2015), [8] Stern et al. (2010), [9] Jorgensen & Chiboucas (2013), [10] Girardi et al. (2015), [11] Allen et al. (2004), [12] Stott et al. (2008), [13] Guzzo et al. (2009)

TABLE 2  
OBSERVATION AND CALIBRATION PARAMETERS OF PROGRAM VLA-14A-040

| Central frequency (MHz) | 1.5 GHz |
|------------------------|---------|
| Configuration          | A       |
| No. of antennas        | 27      |
| No. of spectral windows| 16      |
| Total bandwidth (GHz)  | 1.0     |
| No. of channels/spw    | 64      |
| Total no. of channels  | 1024    |
| Spectral window bandwidth (MHz) | 64 |
| Channel bandwidth (MHz) | 1.0  |
| Channel separation (MHz) | 0.5 |

Note. — Total exposure time, calibrators, rms noise at the aimpoint, beam size and orientation for the radio data of all the clusters observed in the program VLT-14A-040.

TABLE 3  
DATA QUALITY OF PROGRAM VLA-14A-040

| Cluster     | Tobs (min) | Calibrator | rms (Jy) | Beam size |
|-------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
|             |            | flux       | phase    |           | arcsec x arcsec | degree |
| Abell 383   | 62.4       | 3C48       | 0.97     | 1.1 x 1.01 | -11    |
| Abell 209   | 62.4       | 3C48       | 1.64     | 1.1 x 1.13 | 27     |
| Abell 1423  | 62.4       | 3C48       | 1.58     | 1.0 x 0.87 | 39     |
| RXJ1532     | 62.4       | 3C295*     | 1.2       | 1.1 x 1.07 | -11    |
| MACSJ1931   | 62.4       | 3C295*     | 2.05     | 0.94 x 0.94 | -169   |
| MACSJ1720   | 57.9       | 3C295*     | 1.34     | 1.0 x 0.99 | 28     |
| MACSJ0429   | 57.7       | 3C48       | 1.06     | 1.0 x 1.02 | -14    |
| MACSJ0329   | 61.3       | 3C48       | 1.10     | 1.0 x 1.04 | -28    |
| MACSJ1423   | 62.4       | 3C286      | 1.17     | 1.1 x 1.11 | 72     |
| MACSJ0744   | 61.8       | 3C147      | 1.03     | 0.97 x 0.97 | 25     |

Note. — Total exposure time, calibrators, rms noise at the aimpoint, beam size and orientation for the radio data of all the clusters observed in the program VLA-14A-040.

* Because 3C295 is not a suitable flux calibrator for VLA configuration A, we adopt the phase calibrator for RXJ1532 and MACSJ1720. The flux of the phase calibrator J1602 is set to 2.9 Jy with an index of 0.15, while flux of J1721 is 0.3 Jy with an index of 0.0. Both indexes are fitted with VLA measurements in bands less than 2GHz.
but clearly displaced from the X-ray peak (as also noticed by Hogan et al. 2015a). The full-field images will be presented and discussed in a future paper focused on the member galaxy population (H. Yu et al. 2018, in preparation).

4. RESULTS

In this section we present the results of our data analysis. We start from the identification of the counterparts of the central radio sources, then we measure flux, source extent, spectral slope, and luminosity for each BCG. Finally, the average radio properties of our BCG sample are compared with other quantities derived from the literature, such as star formation rate (SFR) in the BCG, and free enthalpy measured from the cavity size in the X-ray images.

4.1. Identification of the BCG

Our observations are all centered at the position of the peak of the X-ray emission. As previously mentioned, in each of the relaxed CLASH clusters the X-ray emission is centered on the position of the optical BCG. Donahue et al. (2016) also show that offsets are usually within a couple of arcseconds or less. In Section 2 we already identified radio sources in NVSS and FIRST catalogs as potential candidate counterparts of the BCG and listed them in Table 1.

We now reconsider the potential candidate counterparts of Table 1 on the basis of our radio images. First, we cross-correlate the position of the radio sources at the pointing centers with the position of the optical BCG using HST data. Given the subarcsecond positional error of our radio data and of the HST images, we are able to unambiguously associate the central radio source of our images to the nucleus of the BCG. There are 11 clusters containing radio galaxies in their center. The typical offset between the radio and optical positions of the center of the BCG is 0.2 arcsec, consistent with the positional error. For Abell 383, RXJ1219, MS2137, RXJ1532, MACSJ1729, MACSJ0429, MACSJ0329, and MACSJ1423, we confirm the unique counterpart found in the NVSS and/or FIRST catalogs and listed in Table 1.

Only two clusters (Abell 209 and Abell 1423) do not show any radio counterpart for the BCG, and we were able to put only upper limits on the flux and luminosity of these BCGs. In both cases we find two bright radio sources with head-tail morphologies at a distance of few arcsec from the BCG. Each source can be easily identified with satellite galaxies in the HST images. Both of them are cluster members, confirmed by spectroscopic data. In particular, in Abell 1423, the head-tail galaxy is at a projected distance of 12" (corresponding to 41.2 kpc), while in Abell 209, it is found at a projected distance of 17.8" (corresponding to 59.5 kpc). These radio sources would have been mistakenly assumed to be the radio counterpart of the BCG in NVSS data without a careful screening of each single case and a refined analysis, as shown by our preliminary search for radio counterparts (see Table 1). Bright head-tail, or wide-angle tail radio galaxies have been found in relaxed clusters, for example in the case of Abell 194 (Sakelliou et al. 2008), although they are thought to be more frequent in merging clusters (see Abell 562 and Abell 2634, Douglass et al. 2011; Hardcastle et al. 2005). The presence of head-tail radio galaxies may be a tracer of an unrelaxed dynamical state, as already suggested by Bliton et al. (1998).

We plan to investigate the nature of these galaxies on a forthcoming paper on the member galaxy population.

Finally, in the case of MACSJ1931 we find that an NVSS source at a distance of 14.3" (corresponding to 59.5 kpc) is not included as a preliminary candidate counterpart (less than 0.5 arcsec) is consistent with the radio positional error. Donahue et al. (2016) have shown a similar result with the whole CLASH sample. Offsets are known to be the signature of an unrelaxed dynamics, and are often found in clusters with no or weak cool cores and a radio-silent BCG (Sanderson et al. 2009). On the other had, the X-ray centroid and the H$_\alpha$ line emission region are tightly linked, sometimes despite an offset between the X-ray centroid and the BCG (Hamers et al. 2012), showing that the cooling process is not immediately switched off when the dynamics in the core is disturbed.

We note that larger cluster samples (several hundreds) show an average projected spatial offset between the optical position of the BCG and the X-ray center of about 10 kpc, with only 15% of the BCGs lying more than 100 kpc from the X-ray center of their host clusters (see Lauer et al. 2014). In addition, the BCG position relative to the cluster center is correlated with the degree of concentration of X-ray morphology (Hashimoto et al. 2014). However, the offset of the optical position of the BCGs with respect to the X-ray peaks in our sample is consistent with the measurement uncertainties in most cases, so that we do not draw any conclusion on the dynamical state of the cluster from this measurement.

The largest offset is observed in Abell 209, where the distance of the optical-radio position from the X-ray centroid is 4.1", corresponding to 14.3 projected kpc. A deeper X-ray observation of Abell 209, which has so far been observed only for 20 ks with Chandra, is needed to further investigate this as-
Fig. 1.— Radio images overlapped with the Chandra contours (blue lines). Central crosses indicate the position of the BCG obtained from the HST optical image. The FOV is $1' \times 1'$. The small panel in the top right corner shows the enlarged central region with a FOV 10" across. The beam size is shown as a gray ellipse in the bottom left corner. The color scale ranges from 3$\sigma$ to the maximum flux in each field with a logarithmic step. These images are generated with APLpy (Robitaille & Bressert 2012).
Fig. 1 (Cont.)—

RXJ1532

MACSJ1931

MACSJ1720

MACSJ0429

MACSJ1720

MACSJ0429

MACSJ0429

MACSJ1423

MACSJ1720

MACSJ0429

MACSJ1423
pect and possibly identify the origin of the offset\textsuperscript{14}. However, the optical study in Annunziatella et al. (2016) already shows that Abell 209 is not fully relaxed. This interpretation is also supported by the observation of a radio halo in Abell 209, which may be regarded as the signature of a strong ongoing merger (Giovaninni et al. 2009; Kale et al. 2015). Overall, the CLASH clusters discussed in this work are expected to be dynamically relaxed, while we expect to find much larger BCG-X-ray peak displacements in the five CLASH clusters in the high-magnification subsample, not included in this study.

\textbf{4.3. Radio fluxes}

The redshifts, coordinates, peak fluxes, and integrated fluxes for the radio counterparts of the BCGs observed in our program are listed in Table 5. All peak fluxes and integrated fluxes are measured with the software PyBDSF (the Python Blob Detector and Source Finder\textsuperscript{15}, Mohan & Rafferty 2015).

As a first step, we compare the radio fluxes of the BCGs in our data with data from NVSS and FIRST, whenever a clear counterpart is identified in one of these two surveys and confirmed by our data\textsuperscript{16}. By comparing Table 5 with Table 1, we find that three NVSS counterparts are dropped completely or partially (Abell 209, Abell 1423 and MACSJ1931), and in all the cases this is due to contamination by radio galaxies close to the BCG, which are unambiguously identified as cluster members in our data. In Figure 3, we plot the JVLA integrated fluxes of the BCG versus the NVSS and FIRST integrated fluxes. We find overall a good agreement for the 5 sources in FIRST, with some discrepancy that can be ascribed to variability (see Hogan et al. 2015b, for a discussion on the variability at high frequencies). On the other hand, fluxes from NVSS are systematically higher, particularly at low fluxes. This excess may be explained with the presence of extended radio emission that is not detected in our data. At bright fluxes the emission is likely to be dominated by the nucleus, so that measured fluxes do not depend significantly on the angular resolution. In addition, despite the limited statistics, this result is consistent with the comparison of NVSS and FIRST fluxes with previous VLA data (see Wold et al. 2012). Therefore, we conclude that radio fluxes measured in our data show no obvious discrepancy with previous measurements. This also allows us to consider FIRST and NVSS fluxes for the CLASH targets not included in this work. In particular, Abell 2261, CLJ1226 and MACSJ1115 are in FIRST, while MACSJ1206 and RXJ1347 have only NVSS data, but are bright enough (>20 mJy) to be considered dominated by the nuclear emission. Although the angular resolution of NVSS data does not allow a secure identification by itself, we refer to Ebeling et al. (2009) and Hogan et al. (2015a) for a detailed discussion on the likely association of the radio emission with the BCG in both cases. Recently, high resolution JVLA 5GHz observations of MACSJ1206 confirmed the presence of extended radio emission, which is consistent with the results of our study.

\textsuperscript{14} The XMM observation of Abell 209, carried out by the EPIC pn and MOS detector, can also be used to investigate the ICM dynamics, but with a poor angular resolution corresponding to a Half Energy Width $\geq 15''$.

\textsuperscript{15} Also named PyBDSM, see http://www.astron.nl/citt/pybdsm/.

\textsuperscript{16} For the sake of comparison, fluxes computed at $1.4$ GHz are corrected by the factor $(1.5/1.4)^\alpha$, where the spectral index is discussed in Section 4.5. This correction amounts to a maximum of 5%.
In our radio images, we are not able to identify clear extended emission, despite the fact that jets and radio lobes are expected in any cool core, independently of the detection of X-ray cavities. Our peak and integrated fluxes are representative of the nuclear power, with the inclusion, if any, of some extended emission corresponding to the base of the jets, or to compact extended radio emission not directly associated with the nuclear BCG emission such as minihalos.

4.4. Extent of BCG radio emission

In a systematic study based on the VLA archive (Giacintucci et al. 2014), minihalos have been detected in two clusters of our sample: RXJ1532 (see also Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. 2013) and MACSJ1931, with an additional candidate found in MACSJ0329. Despite the A configuration of JVLA being less sensitive to extended sources, we present here a very preliminary investigation of the source sizes based on our high resolution data.

The existence of extended structures can be estimated by comparing the beam size with the deconvolved size of our sources, obtained by PyBDSF. The deconvolved (DC) sizes are listed in Table 6. Roughly we find that the deconvolved size correlates with the ratio \( F_{\text{int}} / F_{\text{peak}} \) as expected. Formally, the measurement errors on the decon-

---

**TABLE 4**

| Cluster | RA\(_{\text{HST}}\) (J2000) | Dec\(_{\text{HST}}\) (J2000) | RA\(_{\text{JVLA}}\) (J2000) | Dec\(_{\text{JVLA}}\) (J2000) | RA\(_{\text{Chandra}}\) | Dec\(_{\text{Chandra}}\) |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Abell 383 | 2:48:03:38 | -3:31:45:27 | 2:48:03:4 | -3:31:45:4 | 2:48:03:4 | -3:31:46:7 |
| Abell 209 | 1:31:52:55 | -13:36:40:49 | - | -13:36:41:7 |
| Abell 1423 | 11:57:17:36 | +33:36:39:57 | - | -13:36:41:7 |
| RXJ1219 | 21:29:39:96 | +0:05:21:19 | 21:29:40:0 | +0:05:21:1 | 21:29:40:0 | +0:05:21:8 |
| Abell 611 | 8:00:56:52 | -36:03:23:63 | 8:00:56:8 | -36:03:23:5 | 8:00:56:8 | +36:03:23:6 |
| MS2137 | 21:40:15:16 | -23:39:40:12 | 21:40:15:2 | -23:39:40:4 | 21:40:15:2 | -23:39:40:2 |
| RXJ1532 | 15:32:53:78 | +30:20:59:45 | 15:32:53:8 | +30:20:59:6 | 15:32:53:7 | +30:20:58:8 |
| MACSJ1931 | 19:31:49:63 | -26:34:33:16 | 19:31:49:6 | -26:34:33:5 | 19:31:49:6 | -26:34:33:8 |
| MACSJ1720 | 17:20:16:75 | +35:36:26:22 | 17:20:16:8 | +35:36:26:4 | 17:20:16:8 | +35:36:26:9 |
| MACSJ0429 | 4:29:36:01 | -2:53:06:72 | 4:29:36:0 | -2:53:06:8 | 4:29:36:0 | -2:53:08:2 |
| MACSJ0329 | 3:29:41:57 | -2:11:46:45 | 3:29:41:6 | -2:11:46:7 | 3:29:41:6 | -2:11:46:7 |
| MACSJ1423 | 14:23:47:88 | +24:04:42:44 | 14:23:47:9 | +24:04:42:6 | 14:23:47:9 | +24:04:42:4 |
| MACSJ0744 | 7:44:52:80 | -39:27:26:65 | 7:44:52:8 | -39:27:26:6 | 7:44:52:8 | +39:27:26:4 |

**TABLE 5**

| Cluster | JVLA (mJy, 1.5 GHz) | NVSS (mJy, 1.4 GHz) | FIRST (mJy, 1.4 GHz) |
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Abell 383 | 27.52 ± 0.02 | 36.75 ± 0.07 | 40.9 ± 1.3 |
| Abell 209 | <0.10 | <0.08 | no detection |
| Abell 1423 | <0.04 | <0.05 | no detection |
| RXJ1219 | 14.94±0.04 | 22.52 ± 0.12 | 25.4 ± 1.2 | 24.27 ± 0.10 |
| Abell 611 | 0.80 ± 0.01 | 0.85 ± 0.02 | no detection |
| MS2137 | 1.24±0.02 | 1.39 ± 0.03 | 3.8 ± 0.5 |
| RXJ1532 | 15.3 ± 0.05 | 16.19 ± 0.11 | 22.8 ± 0.8 |
| MACSJ1931 | 11.57±0.03 | 19.38 ± 0.05 | no detection |
| MACSJ1720 | 21.14±0.07 | 24.08 ± 0.17 | 18.0 ± 1.0 |
| MACSJ0429 | 124.27±0.03 | 126.16 ± 0.07 | 138.8 ± 0.4 |
| MACSJ0329 | 2.92 ± 0.02 | 3.33 ± 0.03 | 6.9 ± 0.6 |
| MACSJ1423 | 3.55±0.03 | 4.28 ± 0.05 | 8.0 ± 0.1 |
| MACSJ0744 | 0.27±0.01 | 0.27 ± 0.03 | no detection |
| Abell 2261 | 5.3±0.05 | 3.40 ± 0.15 | |
| RXJ2248 | no coverage | no coverage | |
| MACSJ1115 | 16.2 ± 0.1 | 8.27 ± 0.15 | |
| MACSJ1206 | 160.9 ± 0.3 | no coverage | |
| RXJ1347 | 45.9 ± 1.5 | no coverage | |
| MACSJ1311 | no detection | no detection | |
| CJ1226 | 4.3 ± 0.5 | 3.61 ± 0.13 | |

Note. — Columns 2 and 3 show peak and integrated flux densities measured with our JVLA data at 1.5 GHz, in units of mJy. In columns 4 and 5 we report the integrated flux densities of the confirmed radio counterparts in the NVSS and FIRST catalogs, respectively. The sources listed in the second part of the table are not observed in the current dataset, and therefore have only NVSS or FIRST candidate counterparts.

*: MACSJ1720 and RXJ1532 may have errors in the flux larger than quoted, due to the use of the phase calibrator also as a flux calibrator. We plan to refine the estimate of the errors when investigating the full source sample in the two fields.
Table 6

| Cluster    | FWHM size | Deconvolved size | $F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$ |
|------------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|
|            | $\times$ |                  |                                  |
|            | $\prime$ |                  |                                  |
| Abell 383  | 1.28 $\pm$ 1.15, 115 | 0.75 $\pm$ 0.51, 94 | 1.34 $\pm$ 0.01                |
| Abell 209  | -        | -                | -                                |
| Abell 1423 | -        | -                | -                                |
| RXJ1219   | 1.64 $\pm$ 1.01, 150 | 1.20 $\pm$ 0.22, 148 | 1.51 $\pm$ 0.01                |
| Abell 611 | 1.08 $\pm$ 0.97, 102 | unresolved          | 1.06 $\pm$ 0.05                |
| MS2137-2353 | 1.88 $\pm$ 0.91, 175 | 0.66$\times$0.24, 165 | 1.12 $\pm$ 0.04                |
| RXJ1532   | 1.72 $\pm$ 1.13, 55 | unresolved          | 1.06 $\pm$ 0.01                |
| MACSJ1931 | 7.38 $\pm$ 5.58, 76 | 7.28 $\pm$ 5.24, 79 | 1.68 $\pm$ 0.04                |
| MACSJ1720 | 1.39 $\pm$ 1.20, 60 | unresolved          | 1.14 $\pm$ 0.01                |
| MACSJ0429 | 1.05 $\pm$ 1.03, 160 | unresolved          | 1.02 $\pm$ 0.01                |
| MACSJ0329 | 1.20 $\pm$ 0.99, 145 | 0.48 $\pm$ 0.32, 139 | 1.14 $\pm$ 0.02                |
| MACSJ1423 | 1.31 $\pm$ 1.20, 90 | 0.61 $\pm$ 0.42, 103 | 1.21 $\pm$ 0.02                |
| MACSJ0744 | 1.03 $\pm$ 0.96, 73 | unresolved          | 1.00 $\pm$ 0.15                |

Note: — the BCG size (major and minor axis, and orientation of the elliptical fit) as measured directly in radio images (second column) compared to the deconvolved size (third column). The ratio $F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$ is also listed in the last column.

†: In the case of MACSJ1931 the deconvolution algorithm includes also the minihalo, while the flux ratio refers only to the nuclear fluxes listed in Table 5. The integral flux including the minihalo would be $F_{\text{int}} = 55.16 \, \text{mJy}$. The deconvolved size are negligible (of the order of ~ 1%) but they do not include possible smearing of the image due to small errors in the phase calibration. Therefore, we should use a conservative criterion to assess the extent of a source.

We notice that the highest $F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$ values (above 1.3) are associated with deconvolved sizes typically larger than half the beam size. Based on this criterion, we classify three sources (Abell 383, RXJ1219 and MACSJ1931) to be clearly resolved. MACSJ1931 has the largest size and flux ratio, mostly because of its minihalo, which lies 2.8 arcsec offset from the BCG and with a peak flux of 2.1 mJy, as shown in Giacintucci et al. (2014). The deconvolved size of MACSJ1931 also includes the minihalo.

There are three other sources with $1 < F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}} < 1.2$, whose deconvolved sizes are half of the beam. We classify these sources (MS2137, MACSJ0329, MACSJ1423) as tentatively resolved. Finally, the remaining 5 sources (Abell 611, RXJ1532, MACSJ1720, MACSJ0429 and MACSJ0744) are unresolved with present data. A discussion on the presence of non core emission for some of the sources not observed in our program (namely MACSJ1115, Abell 2261, MACSJ1347 and MACSJ1206) can be found in the Appendix of Hogan et al. (2015a).

4.5. BCG Spectral properties

The spectral energy distribution (SED) of a BCG in the radio band is usually decomposed into a nuclear component and an extended one. The nuclear component is directly linked to the AGN and shows a rather flat spectral energy distribution with an energy index $\alpha < 0.5$ (see Hogan et al. 2015a). The core component may show synchrotron self-absorption, or, in some cases, free-free absorption, at around few GHz, but usually it remains flat to frequencies up to several GHz. The extended component, on the other hand, is mostly associated with lobe emission, and therefore is generated by an older, relativistic electron population accelerated during past nuclear activity. Other forms of emission surrounding the BCG may be due to processes not related to the nuclear activity, as in the case of minihalos, appearing as spherically symmetric, small scale (a few $10^3$ kpc), with a steep radio spectrum, probably originating from electrons accelerated in-situ by the turbulent motion of the ICM in the core (hence, indirectly due to the nuclear activity, see Giacintucci et al. 2014). In general, this steeper component is less prominent at 1.5 GHz.

Usually, the SED of BCGs can be modeled with two components corresponding to the different central activities. However, modeling two components goes beyond our capability given the present data, and therefore that effort is postponed to a future work, which will include also our 2-4 GHz data. To achieve a preliminary characterization, we model the spectra of our BCGs with a single power law defined as $S_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$, where $S_\nu$ is the flux energy density as a function of the frequency $\nu$. Our goal is to derive an effective spectral index that can be used to apply the k-correction when computing the radio power at different redshifts. Therefore, we collect all the radio measurements in the frequency range 150 MHz to 30 GHz from the literature (the data coverage above 30 GHz is too sparse to be useful). The radio SED of our BCGs are shown in Table 7, where the flux densities are sparsely sampled at six different frequencies to complement the 1.5 GHz flux densities measured in this work. We fit the SED with a single power law when at least three points are present, deriving an average spectral slope $\alpha_{fit}$ when the $\chi^2$ is acceptable. Then we compute the index $\alpha_{15}^{30} \equiv \log(F_{30\,\text{GHz}}/F_{1.5\,\text{GHz}})/\log(30\,\text{GHz}/1.5\,\text{GHz})$ as a proxy of the average spectral slope. We note that the values of $\alpha_{15}^{30}$ and $\alpha_{fit}$ are always consistent when $\alpha_{fit}$ is available (see Table 7). In the few cases where we have no means to compute a proxy for the spectral index, we simply assume $\langle \alpha \rangle = -0.7$ to compute the k-correction. In the Appendix we show the SED in the 150 MHz-30 GHz range for 7 BCGs observed in our JVLA program and for 4 with FIRST counterparts for which we are able to measure $\alpha_{20}^{30}$. We also show the lines corresponding to the index $\alpha_{15}^{30}$, the reference slope ($\alpha = -0.7$, and when possible, the best-fit power law with slope $\alpha_{fit}$. Despite the broad agreement among the three spectral indices, we can still identify some sources whose spectra are clearly not well fitted by a single power law. In particular, MACSJ1423 shows a hint of a steep component at low frequencies; MACSJ0429 shows a GHz-peaked SED, possibly due to a self-absorbed core; finally, we are not able to distinguish the core and the minihalo emission in MACSJ1931 in the flux measurement at low frequencies (the TGSS counterpart J193149.6-263432 has a size of 40" $\times$ 33"). For these sources we are not able to derive a meaningful $\alpha_{fit}$. For MACSJ1931, in Table 7 we report the value of the spectral slope measured by Sayers et al. (2013). The histogram of the spectral index $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ for the sources observed with JVLA or with FIRST counterpart is shown in Figure 4. Values of $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ range from -0.25 to ~ -1, with an average ($\langle \alpha \rangle = -0.68$. We find that the distribution of $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ is consistent with results obtained for the spectral shape of BCGs in NVSS (Lin & Mohr 2007) and in the more recent work by Hogan et al. (2015a).

As discussed in the previous section, our high-resolution data are not sensitive to extended, low surface brightness emission and therefore mainly sample the nuclear emission, with no possibility of separately identifying and analyzing an extended component. Therefore our average estimate of the spectral slope may be somehow affected by diffuse emission.
Despite this, the distribution of our measured average spectral slope is consistent with radio emission dominated by nuclear emission. Therefore, for the sake of computing radio power, we assume $\alpha = -0.7$ as the default choice when we are not able to derive a value for the spectral index, or rely on measurements presented in Sayers et al. (2013) in the case of MACSJ1931. We are aware that these results on the spectral shape are merely an approximation of the real spectral shape in the relevant frequency range, given the significant variety in the spectral shape of BCGs. However, we conclude that $\alpha_{1.5}$ is still a useful quantity for estimating the k-correction, also considering the low redshift leverage of our sample. We will improve our measurements of spectral slope when the 2-4 GHz data are fully analyzed.

### 4.6. Radio luminosity and correlation with SFR and ICM entropy

The emitted power density at 1.5 GHz in the rest frame of a source is derived from its flux density and spectral slope. We compute the radio power at 1.5 GHz as

$$L = 4\pi D(z)^2 F_{\nu} \times (1 + z)^{-(1+\alpha)} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$$

where the k-correction is computed as $(1 + z)^{-(1+\alpha)}$ and $D(z)$ is the luminosity distance assuming the cosmological parameters quoted in Section 1. The distribution of radio power of the 11 BCGs whose radio emission is detected in our data is shown in Figure 5, where we also include the five BCGs with FIRST and NVSS fluxes. The range of radio luminosities of our BCGs spans more than two and a half orders of magnitude. We have $23.29 < \log(L_R) < 24.85$ for 11 BCGs, and $\log(L_R) > 25.3$ (therefore above the knee of the BCG radio luminosity function) for 3 BCGs, with MACSJ1226 reaching the highest luminosity of $\log(L_R) = 26.0$. We note that the detection of a few very bright sources in a small sample of cool core clusters is consistent with the radio luminosity function of BCGs in a comparable X-ray sample. In particular, cool-core clusters have a frequency of BCGs with radio power $> 10^{25}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ at least 3–5 times larger than non-cool-core clusters (see Hogan et al. 2015a).

We present a preliminary comparison of radio luminosity with properties of the surrounding ICM and star formation rate (SFR) measured in the BCGs (see Donahue et al. 2015). We also obtain the central X-ray gas entropy of our clusters from the cluster sample in the Archive of Chandra Cluster Entropy Profile Tables (ACCEPT) (Cavagnolo et al. 2009), updated with the revised values in Donahue et al. (2015) when needed. All these quantities are listed in Table 8. We expect to find a clear difference in the radio properties of BCGs depending on the cluster core properties, as already shown in the literature. As Cavagnolo et al. (2008) already pointed out on the basis of a lower redshift sample, and also confirmed by Rafferty et al. (2008), high-power BCG radio sources only

![Figure 4](image-url)

**Fig. 4.—** Spectral index proxy $\alpha_{1.5}$ versus flux density and histogram for seven BCGs observed with JVLA and presented in this work (solid circles). Empty squares and triangles correspond to FIRST and NVSS, respectively. The black horizontal line marks the reference value $\alpha = -0.7$.
inhabit clusters with low central gas entropy, with a threshold at $K_0 = 30$ keV cm$^2$, roughly corresponding to a cooling time of $5 \times 10^8$ yr. Also, star formation activity appears to be ubiquitous in BCG hosted by a cool core with $K_0 < 30$ keV cm$^2$ (Fogarty et al. 2015). More comprehensive studies also showed that all BCGs with a low central entropy (with emission lines linked to ongoing star-formation events) are detected as radio sources (Hogan et al. 2015a) and as star forming galaxies (Fogarty et al. 2017), pointing toward a common fueling source from the hot ICM for both nuclear activity and star formation.

The relation between the central ICM entropy and the radio luminosity of BCGs in our sample is shown in Figure 6. In particular, the threshold $K_0 = 30$ keV cm$^2$ efficiently identifies the radio-luminous BCGs. For values $K_0 < 30$ keV cm$^2$ we find luminosities mostly in the range $10^{22} - 10^{25}$ W Hz$^{-1}$, with three sources equal to or above $10^{25}$ W Hz$^{-1}$.

Five of the seven BCGs above 30 keV cm$^2$ have radio power density of a few $\times 10^{23}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ or lower. However, two of them (MACSJ1206 at $z = 0.44$ and CLJ1226 at $z = 0.89$, with fluxes from NVSS and FIRST, respectively) are in strong contrast with this picture. To better quantify the presence of high radio power sources in high entropy cores, we consider the cumulative luminosity function presented in Hogan et al. (2015a), where line-emitting BCGs can be associated with low entropy ($K_0 < 30$ keV cm$^2$) cores, and non-line-emitters with high entropy cores. The fraction of sources with radio power larger than $10^{25}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ at $K_0 < 30$ keV cm$^2$ (with fluxes from NVSS and FIRST, respectively) are in strong contrast with this picture. To better quantify the presence of high radio power sources in high entropy cores, we consider the cumulative luminosity function presented in Hogan et al. (2015a), where line-emitting BCGs can be associated with low entropy ($K_0 < 30$ keV cm$^2$) cores, and non-line-emitters with high entropy cores. The fraction of sources with radio power larger than $10^{25}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ at $K_0 < 30$ keV cm$^2$ is 20-30%, in line with our value of 3/11. On the other hand, the fraction of luminous sources at $K_0 > 30$ keV cm$^2$ is 5-10%, lower than our value 2/7. Clearly our results, based only on two sources, and on a limited sample (we do not consider the five dynamically disturbed CLASH clusters in this work) do not allow to draw any conclusions. If this is due to some evolution with redshift in the ICM properties in the core or in the radio properties of BCG, is a topic that must be investigated with a refined analysis of the Chandra X-ray data and high resolution JVLA data. In particular, MACSJ1206 is the target of an approved Chandra proposal in AO19 for a deep exposure of 180 ks (PI S. Ettori).

Finally, the radio emission in Abell 2261 has been discussed extensively in Burke-Spolaor et al. (2017), where it has been found to be associated with a compact radio relic, with a steep spectrum, and with a significant offset from the BCG nucleus. Although this relic is most probably associated with nuclear activity recently switched off, this source is definitely different from that expected from a radio active nucleus, and therefore it may not share the same properties of our sample.

Below the 30 keV cm$^2$ threshold, BCGs are observed to have ongoing star formation and multiphase gas, as already pointed out by Donahue et al. (2015). The UV-NIR color is a reliable proxy of the instantaneous star formation activity of a galaxy, by comparing the rest-frame 280 nm UV emission contributed by young hot stars to the 1 µm peak of the stellar-light spectrum from evolved stars. Note that the ex-

### TABLE 8

| Cluster | $P_{1.5GHz}$ ($10^{24}$ W Hz$^{-1}$) | $K_0$ (keV cm$^2$) | UV-IR (mag) | SFR ($M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$) | $P_{cav}$ ($10^{25}$ erg/s) |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Abell1383 | 3.62 ± 0.02 | 13.0 ± 1.6 | 4.36 ± 0.04 | 5.29 ± 0.40 | 19 ± 7 |
| Abell209 | < 0.010 | 105.5 ± 26.9 | 5.5 ± 0.1 | 1.2 ± 1.1 | - |
| Abell1423 | < 0.005 | 68.3 ± 12.9 | 4.96 ± 0.13 | 2.2 ± 0.4 | - |
| RXJ2129 | 3.55 ± 0.04 | 21.1 ± 3.7 | 4.98 ± 0.09 | 2.9 ± 0.4 | - |
| Abell611 | 0.211 ± 0.005 | 124.9 ± 18.6 | 5.69 ± 0.14 | 0.90 ± 1.7 | - |
| MS1237 | 0.418 ± 0.009 | 14.7 ± 1.9 | 4.07 ± 0.03 | 5.6 ± 0.7 | - |
| RXJ1532 | 6.44 ± 0.08 | 16.9 ± 1.8 | 2.83 ± 0.04 | 48.6 ± 2.6 | 54 ± 22 |
| MACSJ1931 | 7.65 ± 0.02 | 14.6 ± 3.6 | 2.04 ± 0.04 | 83.1 ± 2.3 | 5 ± 2 |
| MACSJ1720 | 12.4 ± 0.4 | 24.0 ± 3.4 | 4.54 ± 0.05 | 6.1 ± 0.7 | 16 ± 7 |
| MACSJ0429 | 64.7 ± 0.3 | 17.2 ± 4.3 | 3.75 ± 0.05 | 20.1 ± 2.1 | - |
| MACSJ0329 | 2.37 ± 0.42 | 11.1 ± 2.5 | 3.3 ± 0.03 | 31.0 ± 2.4 | 52 ± 20 |
| MACSJ1423 | 3.77 ± 0.11 | 10.2 ± 5.1 | 3.14 ± 0.02 | 16.7 ± 1.2 | 15 ± 6 |
| MACSJ0744 | 0.51 ± 0.06 | 42.4 ± 10.9 | 4.6 ± 0.13 | 8.5 ± 3.1 | 85 ± 39 |
| Abell 2261 | 0.48 ± 0.07 | 61.1 ± 8.1 | 3.47 ± 0.07 | 3.3 ± 2.8 | - |
| RXJ2128 | 42.0 ± 10.0 | 4.91 ± 0.04 | 2.29 ± 0.05 | - |
| MACSJ1115 | 3.01 ± 0.08 | 14.8 ± 3.1 | 3.38 ± 0.02 | 6.4 ± 0.5 | - |
| MACSJ1206 | 99.9 ± 3.9 | 69.0 ± 10.1 | 4.5 ± 0.05 | 6.8 ± 3.0 | - |
| RXJ1347 | 28.72 ± 1.8 | 12.5 ± 20.7 | 3.81 ± 0.03 | 16.5 ± 1.8 | - |
| MACSJ1311 | - | - | - | - |
| CLJ1226 | 12.43 ± 2.27 | 166.0 ± 45.0 | 5.37 ± 0.17 | 2.7 ± 1.5 | - |

Fig. 5.— Density distribution of the 1.5 GHz rest-frame absolute luminosity density distribution of the BCGs. Error bars are too small to be visible here. The continuous line represents the luminosity corresponding to the observed flux density of 0.1 mJy with an average spectral slope of $\alpha = -0.7$, and it is the average limit of our detection (corresponding to $S/N = 5$ and assuming a noise of 0.02 mJy per beam).
The same conclusion is reached if we use a SFR measurement based on IR luminosity, and therefore not significantly affected by obscuration. For example, in the case of our strongest star forming BCG (in MACSJ1931) the SFR derived from Herschel data is $\sim 150 M_\odot \, yr^{-1}$ (Santos et al. 2016), as opposed to the value of $83 M_\odot \, yr^{-1}$ from Donahue et al. (2015). Even in this case, the expected contribution of the SFR to the radio emission is not larger than 5% of the total flux. We remark that the association of higher star forming rates with the largest radio power, while the weakest radio sources appear in BCGs with no detectable star formation in the UV (Donahue et al. 2015), does not imply that quenching is not happening. In fact, if these radio sources were not dumping energy into the surrounding gas, the star formation rates would be much higher, as seen in simulations that do not include AGN feedback. In addition, mechanical feedback is better traced by the extended emission from jets, while the nuclear radio emission is linked to the feeding of the SMBH, which, together with star formation events, is due to the cooling and condensation of the surrounding gas, as expected in top-down multiphase condensation models (see Gaspari et al. 2017).

The two sources with the faintest radio power density, Abell 611 and MACSJ0744, are both above the entropy threshold $K_0 = 30 \, keV \, cm^2$, but are too faint to qualify as counterparts to the pattern we see at low $z$. Being hosted by a weak cool core, they may not be accreting efficiently enough to be bright radio sources. Still, it would be important to understand whether they are fading AGN or burgeoning AGN. In any case, we can guess that they may be accreting at the Bondi rate from the hot gas, while the more luminous radio sources are fueled by cold gas, ultimately supplied via thermal instabilities in the hot gas (on this issue see Russell et al. 2013; Allen et al. 2006). Abell 611 show a clear unresolved X-ray emission in the hard band, and the BCG of MACSJ0744 is also a candidate X-ray AGN. These are the only two detections of unresolved X-ray emission in our sample together with MACSJ1931, which hosts a bright obscured AGN (see Santos et al. 2016). This may suggest different modes of accretion marked by the presence of nuclear X-ray emission, as discussed in a forthcoming paper by our team (Li-Lan Yang et al. 2018, in preparation).

### 4.7. Radio power and energetics of X-ray cavities

A significant fraction of the feedback energy budget is stored in mechanical energy associated with large cavities carved into the ICM. These cavities can be detected as circular or ellipsoidal-shaped depressions in the projected X-ray surface brightness. The energetics required to inflate the X-ray cavities may be approximated with a standard technique (see Birzan et al. 2004; Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. 2015) which consists in computing the enthalpy of each bubble as $E_{\text{bubble}} = 4pV$, where $p = n_e kT$ is the thermal electron (only) pressure of the ICM at the radius of the bubble, and the electron density $n_e$ and the ICM temperature $kT$ are derived from spatially-resolved spectral analysis. Here, $V$ is the volume of the cavity, computed as $V = 4\pi R^2 l/3$, where $R_e$ and $R_c$ are the semi-major axes projected along directions parallel and perpendicular, respectively, to the jet (i.e., the direction connecting the BCG nucleus with the center of the cavity).

Several CLASH clusters have already been searched for cavities. We consider the measurements of the cavity sizes presented in Shin et al. (2016) for a sample of 133 clusters with sufficient X-ray photons for their analyses. Ten of the

![Fig. 6.— Nuclear radio power of BCG measured in this work versus the central X-ray gas entropy as estimated in ACCEPT (Cavagnolo et al. 2009) and Donahue et al. (2015). The dashed line corresponds to the threshold $K_0 = 30 \, keV \, cm^2$ as indicated by Cavagnolo et al. (2008) as the transition between clusters hosting BCGs with multi-phase gas, radio sources, and star formation, and clusters hosting quiescent BCGs. Solid circles correspond to the sources observed with JVLA in this work, while empty squares and triangles are obtained from FIRST and NVSS, respectively.](image-url)
clusters in our sample are included in the list of Shin et al. (2016). The missing three are Abell 209, Abell 1423, and Abell 611. Interestingly, the first two show no radio emission from the BCG nucleus, and Abell 611 is the second least luminous among our BCGs. Abell 611 has only an upper limit to the cavity power from Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. (2013). Among the ten clusters in Shin et al. (2016), three have no cavities in their analysis (RXJ2129, MS2137, MACSJ0429), while there is at least one cavity for the remaining 7 clusters. We measure $E_{\text{bubble}}$ using the projected values of $n_e$ and $kT$ from the ACCEPT cluster sample (Cavagnolo et al. 2009) and Donahue et al. (2015). Clearly this is an approximation to the actual enthalpy of the bubble; however, the largest source of uncertainty is associated with the size of the bubbles (typically 20% of the linear size). In the case of multiple bubbles, the total value is obtained simply by summing the values of $E_{\text{bubble}}$ for each cavity. A more meaningful quantity is the average mechanical power, which is obtained by dividing the mechanical energy in each cavity by the age of the cavity itself, approximated by the buoyancy time $t_{\text{buoy}} \sim R \sqrt{3C/8gr}$ (see Birzan et al. 2004). Here, $R$ is the distance between the cluster core and the center of the bubble, $C$ is a drag coefficient, usually assumed to be $C \approx 0.75$, $g$ is the acceleration $\sim GM/R^2$, where $M$ is the total mass within $R$ (taken from Donahue et al. 2014), and $r$ is the bubble size with uncertainties of 20%. However, the uncertainty in these diagnostics may be severely underestimated, since the total mechanical power depends on the number of detected cavities, and therefore depends also on the depth of the X-ray data or specific properties of the surface brightness distribution of the clusters.

Despite these uncertainties, we compare the radio nuclear emission with the energy and the mechanical power stored in the ICM as observed in current X-ray data. In the upper panel of Figure 9 we plot the mechanical energy of the seven clusters in which cavities have been detected versus the nuclear radio luminosity of their BCG. In the lower panel of Figure 9 we also plot nuclear radio power versus the mechanical power obtained from the cavity size and position, for the same seven clusters. At first glance, our sources are not described by the average relations found in the literature (see, e.g., Birzan et al. 2008; Cavagnolo et al. 2010), shown in the second panel. We observe a large intrinsic scatter between the average mechanical energy injected into the ICM and the instantaneous nuclear power of the BCG, and an average mechanical power higher than in local clusters hosting BCGs with comparable radio power. However, we are not able to draw any conclusions mainly because of the small size and the limited luminosity range of our sample. In addition, the sensitivity of X-ray observations of the CLASH sample does not guarantee a uniform sampling of cavities, particularly at low power (therefore smaller size) and medium-high redshift. In fact, a large component of the observed scatter may be due to the difficulty in identifying and measuring ICM cavities in current data. For example, the most discrepant cluster in Figure 9 is MACSJ0744, which is not listed by Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. (2013) among the MACS clusters with cavities, but turns out to be the one with the largest mechanical power in our sample according to Shin et al. (2016), despite the large errors. The cluster MACSJ0744 does not host an extremely strong cool core on the basis of its central entropy value $K_0 \sim 42$ keV cm$^2$, so it can be interpreted as a case in which the cooling in the core has been recently quenched, while the outer halo still retain the imprint of the past mechanical-feedback activity. On the other hand, a positive correlation between the radio power and the average mechanical power is found in a much larger sample across four orders of magnitude in luminosity, despite the large scatter (see Birzan et al. 2008; Hogan et al. 2015a). In general, we conclude that the nuclear power should be considered only an approximation of the past history of the central radio source within at least an order of magnitude, which possibly indicates that feedback may occur also as outflows and winds not associated with energetic radio jets.

5. CONCLUSIONS

In this work we present new high-resolution, medium-deep 1.5 GHz continuum JVLA observations of the BCGs of 13 CLASH clusters of galaxies at $0.18 < z < 0.69$. Our results can be summarized as follows:

- We are able to characterize the radio properties of the nucleus in 11 BCGs, while 2 BCGs do not show radio...
Fig. 9.— Upper panel: the total enthalpy as measured from the size of the cavities, taken from Shin et al. (2016), vs the radio power of the BCGs. Lower panel: the average mechanical power, computed by dividing the enthalpy of each cavity by the buoyancy time, according to Birzan et al. (2004). The yellow dashed line represents the best-fit power-law relation presented in Birzan et al. (2008), while the green dotted-dashed line is the relation from Cavagnolo et al. (2010).

We find a head-tail galaxy close to the BCG in the two non-detections (Abell 209 and Abell 1423). The fact that at least one of the clusters (Abell209) appears to be unrelaxed, as discussed in Section 4.2, suggests that the presence of head-tail radio galaxies may be a tracer of an unrelaxed dynamical state.

We find nuclear luminosities for the CLASH BCGs in the range from $10^{23}$ to $10^{26} \, W \, Hz^{-1}$; all our sources are consistent with being powered by an AGN, since their radio power is significantly larger than the value associated with the measured star formation rate in the BCG.

Average radio spectral slopes are estimated with the index $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$, defined as the flux density ratio between 1.5 and 30 GHz, and are found in the range from $\alpha_{1.5}^{30} \sim -1$ to $-0.25$, with an average $\langle \alpha_{1.5}^{30} \rangle = -0.68$, therefore consistent with synchrotron radiation from relativistic electrons in the nucleus.

Most of our sources are consistent with being unresolved in our high-resolution data. Only for three cases (Abell 383, RXJ2129, and MACSJ1931), the radio emission from the BCG is resolved with a high confidence level, suggesting a contribution from the base of jets. The remaining sources are unresolved (5 sources) or marginally resolved (3 sources).

BCGs with high radio power in JVLA data are associated with low-entropy hot gas and higher SFR, indicating that stronger AGN activity may be correlated with more intense star formation. This correlation is consistent with the standard scenario in which the nuclear activity of the BCG is fueled by cooling of gas from the hot ICM, which also provides the reservoir for star formation.

We also investigate five sources in the CLASH sample not yet observed with JVLA, but with reliable counterparts in FIRST and NVSS. Two of these sources (MACSJ1026 at $z = 0.44$ and CLJ1226 at $z = 0.89$) are unexpectedly found to have high nuclear radio power associated with a high-entropy core. This calls for a more in-depth multiwavelength analysis to investigate the nature of these sources.

We confirm a significant scatter between nuclear radio luminosity and average mechanical power derived from the cavity size and ICM pressure. However, we do not have the dynamic range nor the statistics to further investigate this correlation.

Further progress in understanding the complex scenario of the baryon cycle in and around BCGs requires a massive and multiwavelength analysis, from the radio to the X-ray band. In our effort to provide a radio coverage of one of the best studied cluster samples such as CLASH, we are planning to extend our observations in the A configuration, L band, to the CLASH clusters not included in this work and to use the 2-4 GHz data already acquired in a previous program by our group (VLA/13B-038, PI M. Aravena). We also plan to propose for JVLA in the B and C configurations to search for extended radio emission like jets and lobes or cavity-filling, relativistic plasma. In the meantime, we are currently mapping the entire field of view for our observations (30 arcmin on a side) to investigate the radio properties of CLASH member galaxies, exploiting the extensive spectroscopic follow-up of CLASH fields.

We sincerely thank the referee Alastair Edge for his constructive suggestions and valuable comments, which greatly improved the manuscript. We thank Heidi Medlin for her help in preparing the JVLA observing runs, and Maite Beltran, Julie Hlavacek-Larrondo, Hui Shi, and Marcella Masedari for help with the radio data reduction. We thank Massimo Gaspari and Luisa Ostorero for useful discussions. We also thank the referee, Alastair Edge, for his comments and suggestions, which significantly improved the quality of the paper. This work was supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China under Grants No. 11403002, the Bureau of International Cooperation of the Chinese Academy.
APPENDIX
SPECTRAL ENERGY DISTRIBUTION

In this Appendix we show the radio SED of our BCGs including all the flux density values published in the literature in the 150 MHz-30 GHz range, complementing the 1.5 GHz JVLA measurements presented in this work. We show the comparison of our 1.5 and 30 GHz ratio to the slope of the best-fit power law including all the flux measurements. We do not aim at a comprehensive description of the radio SEDs, given the uneven frequency sampling of the different sources and the lack of a uniform angular resolution at different frequencies. Our goal here is simply to show the level of accuracy of our spectral index $\alpha_{30}^{1.5}$ as a proxy of the average spectral slope. In Figure 10 we show the radio SEDs of BCGs observed with our JVLA program, while in Figure 11 we show the radio SEDs of BCGs with FIRST or NVSS detection only. Only BCGs with a measured $\alpha_{1.5}$ are shown.
Fig. 10.— Radio SED of BCGs observed with our JVLA program obtained complementing our 1.5 GHz measurement with measurements at other frequencies available in the literature. Only sources with a measured $\alpha_{30}^{1.5}$ are shown. The dashed black line shows the reference slope normalized to the 1.5 GHz flux density, while the red solid line shows the slope corresponding to $\alpha_{30}^{1.5}$. The magenta dotted line, when present, shows the best-fit power law obtained using all the available flux measurements.
Fig. 10 (Cont.).—

MACSJ1423

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Flux (mJy/beam)} &= 10^{(a \cdot \text{Frequency (GHz)} + b)} \\
\text{Frequency (GHz)} &= 10^{-1} \text{ to } 10^{0} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Fig. 11.— Radio SED of BCGs in the CLASH relaxed sample not observed with our JVLA program. The dashed black line shows the reference slope normalized to the 1.5 GHz flux density, while the red solid line shows the slope corresponding to \(a_{1.5}^{30}\). The magenta dotted line, when present, shows the best-fit power law obtained using all the available flux measurements.

A2261

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Flux (mJy/beam)} &= 10^{(a \cdot \text{Frequency (GHz)} + b)} \\
\text{Frequency (GHz)} &= 10^{-1} \text{ to } 10^{0} \\
\end{align*}
\]

MACSJ1115

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Flux (mJy/beam)} &= 10^{(a \cdot \text{Frequency (GHz)} + b)} \\
\text{Frequency (GHz)} &= 10^{-1} \text{ to } 10^{0} \\
\end{align*}
\]

RXJ1347

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Flux (mJy/beam)} &= 10^{(a \cdot \text{Frequency (GHz)} + b)} \\
\text{Frequency (GHz)} &= 10^{-1} \text{ to } 10^{0} \\
\end{align*}
\]

CLJ1226

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Flux (mJy/beam)} &= 10^{(a \cdot \text{Frequency (GHz)} + b)} \\
\text{Frequency (GHz)} &= 10^{-1} \text{ to } 10^{0} \\
\end{align*}
\]