The X-ray luminous cluster underlying the bright radio-quiet quasar H1821+643

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ABSTRACT

We present a Chandra observation of the only low redshift, $z = 0.299$, galaxy cluster to contain a highly luminous radio-quiet quasar, H1821+643. By simulating the quasar point spread function, we subtract the quasar contribution from the cluster core and determine the physical properties of the cluster gas down to 3 arcsec (15 kpc) from the point source. The temperature of the cluster gas decreases from 9.0 ± 0.5 to 1.3 ± 0.2 keV in the centre, with a short central radiative cooling time of 1.0 ± 0.1 Gyr, typical of a strong cool-core cluster. The X-ray morphology in the central 100 kpc shows extended spurs of emission from the core, a small radio cavity and a weak shock or cold front forming a semicircular edge at ∼15 arcsec radius. The quasar bolometric luminosity was estimated to be ∼$2 \times 10^{47}$ erg s$^{-1}$, requiring a mass accretion rate of ∼$40 \, M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$, which corresponds to half the Eddington accretion rate. We explore possible accretion mechanisms for this object and determine that Bondi accretion, when boosted by Compton cooling of the accretion material, could provide a significant source of the fuel for this outburst. We consider H1821+643 in the context of a unified active galactic nucleus (AGN) accretion model and, by comparing H1821+643 with a sample of galaxy clusters, we show that the quasar has not significantly affected the large-scale cluster gas properties.

Key words: cooling flows – intergalactic medium – quasars: individual: H1821+643 – X-rays: galaxies: clusters.

1 INTRODUCTION

The central radiative cooling time of the intracluster medium (ICM) in nearby galaxy clusters can drop below 1 Gyr and without a compensating source of heat the gas would rapidly cool down to low temperatures (for a review, see Fabian 1994). However, the large reservoir of cool gas implied by this cooling flow model exceeds the amount of molecular gas observed (e.g. Edge & Frayer 2003) and the inferred star formation rates by an order of magnitude (Johnstone, Fabian & Nulsen 1987; Hicks & Mushotzky 2005; Rafferty et al. 2006; O’Dea et al. 2008). In addition, recent high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy has been unable to find the emission signatures of gas cooling below about 1 keV at the extreme rates predicted by the cooling flow model in the absence of heating (Peterson et al. 2003; Kaastra et al. 2004; Peterson & Fabian 2006). A heating mechanism is therefore required to stabilize the cooling in cluster cores (for a review, see McNamara & Nulsen 2007).

High-resolution images of nearby cluster cores taken by the Chandra X-ray Observatory have revealed complex structures, such as cavities, shock fronts and ripples, which have been produced by the central active galactic nuclei (AGN; e.g. Boehringer et al. 1993; Fabian et al. 2000, 2003, 2006; McNamara et al. 2000, 2001; Schindler et al. 2001; Forman et al. 2005; McNamara & Nulsen 2007). X-ray cavities, or bubbles, expanded into the ICM by the AGN provide a direct and relatively reliable means of measuring the mechanical energy injected by the supermassive black hole (SMBH; e.g. Jones & De Young 2005). In this way, AGN heating has been shown to be energetically capable of balancing the cooling losses in cluster cores (Birzan et al. 2004; Dunn & Fabian 2006; McNamara et al. 2006; Rafferty et al. 2006). Repeated cycles of AGN mechanical heating could support the cluster gas in a relatively stable state.

The galaxy cluster surrounding the quasar H1821+643, at redshift $z = 0.299$, was discovered optically by Schneider et al.

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(1992) and later detected in X-rays by Hall, Ellingson & Green (1997) and Saxton et al. (1997). The cluster is optically rich with an Abell richness class >2 (Lacy, Rawlings & Hill 1992). The quasar’s radio luminosity at 5 GHz lies in the classification for ‘radio-quiet’ quasars (at only $10^{21.0}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$) and its 151 MHz radio luminosity, which is $10^{25.3}$ W Hz$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ (Blundell & Rawlings 2001), is at the boundary observed to separate Fanaroff–Riley type I (FR I) and FR II structures. A deep Very Large Array (VLA) radio image of H1821+643 revealed that, although classified as a radio-quiet quasar, H1821+643 hosts a giant 300 kpc FR I radio source (Blundell & Rawlings 2001). H1821+643 has previously been observed several times with the Chandra X-ray Observatory but in all cases with the gratings in place (HETG: Fang et al. 2002; LETG: Mathur, Weinberg & Chen 2003) which have prevented a detailed analysis of the cluster emission. Fang et al. (2002) were able to obtain a spectrum of the cluster from the zeroth-order observation and found a temperature of $\sim$10 keV and a metal abundance of 0.3 Z$_\odot$.

In this work, we present new Chandra observations of H1821+643 without the gratings which have allowed us to analyse the underlying ICM and the interactions with the powerful central quasar. By comparing our results with a sample of nearby cool-core clusters, we have explored the implications of two different modes of AGN feedback for H1821+643 and investigated the impact this would have on the evolution of the ICM.

We assume $H_0 = 70$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$, $\Omega_m = 0.3$ and $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$, translating to a scale of 4.4 kpc per arcsec at the redshift $z = 0.299$ of H1821+643. All errors are 1$\sigma$ unless otherwise noted.

2 DATA PREPARATION

H1821+643 was observed by Chandra for a total of 90 ks split into four separate observations taken over 9 days with the ACIS-S instrument (observation IDs: 9398 34 ks, 9845 25 ks, 9846 18 ks and 9848 11 ks). The data were analysed using CIAO version 4.1.2 with CALDB version 4.1.2 provided by the Chandra X-ray Center (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest instrument (observation IDs: 9398 34 ks, 9845 25 ks, 9846 18 ks and 9848 11 ks). The data were analysed using CIAO version 4.1.2 with CALDB version 4.1.2 provided by the Chandra X-ray Center (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC). The level 1 event files were reprocessed to apply the latest gain and charge transfer inefficiency correction and then filtered (CXC).

2.1 Pileup

Pileup occurs whenever two or more photons, arriving in the same detector region and within a single ACIS frame integration time, are detected as a single event (see e.g. Davis 2001). This effect hardens the source spectrum, because photon energies sum to create a detected event of higher energy, and causes grade migration. All events detected by ACIS are graded based on the shape of their charge cloud distributions in a 3 $\times$ 3 pixel island. This grade is used to distinguish between a real photon or a background event, such as a cosmic ray. However, pileup modifies the distribution of charge and therefore alters the event grade.

Following the CXC analysis of the Chandra point spread function (PSF), the extent of pileup in the observation was estimated using the ratio of ‘good’ grades (grades 0, 2, 3, 4, 6) to ‘bad’ grades (grades 1, 5, 7) defined with observations from the ASCA satellite. The bad/good ratio is shown as a function of radius in Fig. 2 for two energy bands. The ratio was determined in circular annuli which scale logarithmically in width to produce approximately the same number of source counts in each radial bin.

Most of the emission from the quasar comes from the 0.5–2.0 keV energy band which, when piled up, was detected as higher energy photons above 2 keV. The 2.0–5.0 keV energy band was therefore used to estimate the radial extent of pileup for this observation. Fig. 2 shows that pileup rapidly increases inside 3 arcsec and dominates at 1 arcsec. The rise in the bad/good ratio beyond $\sim$50 arcsec is caused by the increasing importance of the point background. To minimize the effects of pileup, the region inside 3 arcsec was excluded from our analysis. This choice was also later confirmed to be appropriate by repeating the MARX simulation of the quasar with pileup (Appendix A2).

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1 See http://cxc.harvard.edu/contrib/maxim/acisbg/

2 See http://cxc.harvard.edu/cal/Hrma/psf/
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3 IMAGING ANALYSIS

In Fig. 3 we show a merged exposure-corrected image of H1821+643 centred on the bright, piled-up quasar, with superimposed 1.4 GHz radio contours from Blundell & Rawlings (2001). The extended cluster emission surrounding the quasar is elongated in a north-west (NW) to south-east (SE) direction. A surface brightness edge is also visible around the cluster core at a radius of approximately 15 arcsec from the quasar. The edge, possibly indicative of a shock in the cluster gas, is most sharply defined around the NW of the cluster core.

The unsharp-masked image (Fig. 4, centre) highlights the edge in the surface brightness which can be seen to run round the cluster core from the NW to SE. This does not appear to be a symmetrical feature about the quasar; the radius of the edge varies from 13 to 17 arcsec. Although the X-ray emission is extended to the north and south, there does not seem to be a close association with the 1.4 GHz radio emission. The fractional difference image (Fig. 4, right) shows a bright extended spur of emission to the SE of the AGN containing a surface brightness depression which could indicate a cavity. This X-ray depression is coincident with the inner part of the radio lobes, but there is no close correlation with the outer region of the radio emission. Projection effects may have prevented a clean interpretation of the relation between X-ray and radio emission.

There are potentially three additional cavities in the X-ray emission (NW, north-east (NE) and south-west (SW) of the quasar, Fig. 4, right). However, these are not coincident with any 1.4 GHz radio emission and it is not clear how they could have reached their current locations.

To more quantitatively investigate the interaction between the quasar and the cluster, we extracted the properties of the cluster gas as close in to the quasar as possible.

4 SPECTRAL ANALYSIS

4.1 Separation of quasar and cluster

Determining the properties of the ICM in the centre of the galaxy cluster requires a reliable separation of the quasar and cluster emissions. Although the cluster emission completely dominates over the quasar emission outside ∼6 arcsec from the centre, we are particularly interested in probing the gas cooling times as close as possible to the quasar. Naively adding an absorbed power-law model, with freely fitting parameters, to account for this quasar emission gave a power-law normalization that was an order of magnitude below the expected value. The contribution of the quasar should be comparable to the cluster emission in the innermost radial bins suggesting that the majority of the quasar spectrum was incorrectly interpreted in the spectral fitting as hot cluster emission. We therefore generated a simulation of the quasar PSF to explicitly account for the emission spill-over from the quasar on to the cluster.

The Chandra PSF has a complex structure that can be approximately divided into two sections: a core produced by quasi-specular X-rays reflecting from the mirror surface and wings generated by diffracted X-rays scattering from high-frequency surface roughness.

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**Figure 2.** Ratio of ASCA bad grades ($g_{157}$) to ASCA good grades ($g_{02346}$) for H1821+643 in two energy bands.

![Figure 3](image3.png)

**Figure 3.** Left: exposure-corrected image in the 0.5–7.0 keV energy band smoothed with a 2D Gaussian $\sigma = 1.5$ arcsec. The logarithmic scale bar has units photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ pixel$^{-1}$. Right: with superimposed VLA 1.4 GHz radio contours from Blundell & Rawlings (2001).
Figure 4. Images of the central 0.8 × 0.8 arcmin$^2$ with superimposed VLA 1.4 GHz radio contours from Blundell & Rawlings (2001). Left: exposure-corrected image in the 0.5–7.0 keV energy band smoothed with a 2D Gaussian $\sigma = 1.5$ arcsec. Centre: unsharp-masked image, created by subtracting images smoothed by 2D Gaussians with $\sigma = 1$ and 5 arcsec and dividing by the sum of the two images (rms noise of $\sim 0.1$). The central 3 arcsec region containing the majority of the quasar emission was masked out before smoothing. Right: fractional difference of each pixel from the average at that radius (rms noise of $\sim 0.2$). The resulting image has been smoothed with a 2D Gaussian $\sigma = 1.5$ arcsec. The SE X-ray depression is marked by a blue circle.

Figure 5. Exposure-corrected images in the 0.5–7.0 keV energy band smoothed with a 2D Gaussian $\sigma = 1.5$ arcsec. Left: the regions for projected spectra are shown by the magenta dashed lines (referred to as 1–19 from the centre outwards) and those for deprojected spectra are shown by the white solid lines (referred to as a–i from the centre outwards). The readout streak, shown by the green box, and point sources were excluded. Right: zoom in of the central region showing the annuli affected by quasar emission (only half of each annulus is shown for clarity).

The diffractive mirror scattering also makes the PSF wings energy dependent: the high energy PSF is broader than at low energy. A detailed analysis of the Chandra PSF produced by the high-resolution mirror assembly (HRMA) can be found on the CXC website. We used the Chandra ray-tracing program, ChaRT (Carter et al. 2003), and the MARX software$^4$ version 4.4, which projects the rays on to the detector, to generate simulated observations of the quasar. This allowed an analysis of the spatial and energy dependence of the PSF without the complication of cluster emission. ChaRT takes as inputs the position of the point source on the chip, exposure time and the quasar spectrum. However, because the core of the H1821+643 observation is piled up, the quasar spectrum could not be determined simply from a small, quasar-dominated region on the chip. Instead, the quasar spectrum was extracted from the readout streak.

The analysis of the readout streak spectrum, a ChaRT simulation of the quasar and a validation of this method for the test object 3C 273 are detailed in Appendix A. In summary, although ChaRT does not provide an exact prediction of the observed PSF, the steep decline in the quasar contribution with radius compared to the cluster emission mitigated the effect of underestimating the PSF wings beyond 10 arcsec. To test the accuracy of the ChaRT simulations, we repeated our method for a Chandra observation of 3C 273 (Obs. ID: 4879), excluding the region containing the jet. The simulation accurately predicted the observed 3C 273 quasar spectra that were extracted in annuli centred on the nucleus. We therefore proceeded with the ChaRT simulation of H1821+643 and analysed the uncertainties introduced by this method in Section 5.1.

4.2 Projected radial profiles

Radial profiles of gas properties, such as temperature and density, were generated to analyse the gas properties in the core of the galaxy cluster. Spectra were extracted in a series of concentric annuli centred on the emission peak and excluding the readout streak and point sources (Fig. 5). The radial bins were chosen to ensure a minimum of 3000 counts in each extracted spectrum with the minimum radius determined from the pileup analysis to be 3 arcsec. This criterion ensured enough counts in each spectrum to provide a good spectral fit and constraints on the cluster properties. Point sources were identified using the CIAO algorithm WAVDETECT, visually

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$^3$ See http://cxc.harvard.edu/cal/Hrma/psf/.
$^4$ See http://space.mit.edu/CXC/MARX/.
confirmed and excluded from the analysis using elliptical apertures where the radii were conservatively set to five times the measured width of the PSF. All spectra were analysed in the energy range of 0.5–7 keV and grouped with a minimum of 50 counts per spectral bin. The background was subtracted using a spectrum extracted in a sector at large radii, 170–210 arcsec. Response and ancillary response files (RMFs and ARFs) were generated for each cluster spectrum, weighted according to the number of counts between 0.5 and 7 keV.

These projected spectra were then fitted in xspec version 12.5.0 (Arnaud 1996) with an absorbed power-law model, to account for the quasar PSF, and an absorbed thermal plasma emission model $PHABS(POWERLAW) + PHABS(MEkal)$ (Mewe, Gronenschild & van den Oord 1985; Mewe, Lemen & van den Oord 1986; Balucinska-Church & McCammon 1992; Kaastra 1992; Liedahl, Osterheld & Goldstein 1995). Abundances were measured assuming the abundance ratios of Anders & Grevesse (1989). The parameters describing the quasar-absorbed power-law model were fixed to the values given in Table 1. These values were determined by fitting a $PHABS(POWERLAW)$ model to spectra extracted from the appropriate regions in the ChaRT simulation. The variation in the values of these parameters with radius is not caused by an intrinsic variation in the emission from the source. Instead, this variation is produced by the difference in the effective area of the detector for a small fraction of the quasar PSF compared to the cluster emission (see Appendix A).

For the cluster model component, the temperature, abundance and normalization parameters were all left free. The absorbing column density was fixed to $n_H = 4 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ determined from spectral fitting in the outer annuli. This value was consistent within error with the Galactic value of $n_H = 3.44 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (Kalberla et al. 2005). The redshift was fixed to $z = 0.299$ (Schneider et al. 1992).

### 4.3 Deprojected radial profiles

A spectrum extracted from the centre of the cluster on the plane of the sky corresponds to a summed cross-section with a range of spectral components from the core to the cluster outskirts. To determine the properties of the cluster core, these projected contributions from the outer cluster layers can be subtracted off the inner spectra by making an assumption about the line-of-sight extent and deprojecting the emission.

In this work, we used two deprojection routines: a straightforward spectral deprojection (DSDEPROJ; Sanders & Fabian 2007; Russell, Sanders & Fabian 2008) assuming only spherical symmetry and an updated version of the ‘X-ray surface brightness deprojection’ code, which uses the additional assumptions of hydrostatic equilibrium and a suitable mass model and was first described in Fabian et al. (1981) (see also White, Jones & Forman 1997; Allen, Ettori & Fabian 2001; Schmidt, Allen & Fabian 2001).

In more detail, DSDEPROJ starts with the background-subtracted spectrum extracted from the outermost annulus and assumes that it was emitted from part of a spherical shell. This spectrum is scaled by the volume projected on to the next innermost shell (geometric factors from Kriss, Cioffi & Canizares 1983) and subtracted from the spectrum of that annulus. In this way, the deprojection routine moves inwards subtracting the contribution of projected spectra from each successive annulus to produce a set of deprojected spectra. The input projected spectra were analysed in the energy range of 0.5–7 keV and grouped with a minimum of 50 counts per spectral bin as before. The radial bins were chosen to ensure a minimum of 3000 counts in each deprojected spectrum and so are larger than the radial bins for the projected spectra. The resulting deprojected spectra were also fitted with an absorbed power-law model to account for the quasar PSF and an absorbed thermal plasma emission model. The parameters describing the quasar model were fixed to the values determined from the ChaRT simulation, where the ChaRT spectra were also deprojected (Table 1). The cluster spectral model parameters were set as detailed in Section 4.2. The spectra and best-fitting models for the inner deprojected spectra with significant contributions from the quasar emission are shown in Fig. 6.

The X-ray surface brightness deprojection code uses the observed quasar-subtracted surface brightness profile, an NFW mass model (Navarro, Frenk & White 1997) and assumes hydrostatic equilibrium to predict the temperature profile of the gas. The predicted temperature profile is then rebinned to match the DSDEPROJ result, and the $\chi^2$ difference between the observed and predicted deprojected

| Region   | Radius | $n_H \times 10^{20}$ | Photon index | Norm | $\chi^2$/dof |
|----------|--------|----------------------|--------------|------|--------------|
| proj1    | 3.4–4.2| 0.06 ± 0.01          | 1.59 ± 0.03  | 1.63 ± 0.08 × 10^{-3} | 72/78 |
| proj2    | 4.2–4.9| 0.03 ± 0.01          | 1.52 ± 0.03  | 1.14 ± 0.07 × 10^{-5} | 64/59 |
| proj3    | 4.9–5.7| 0.04 ± 0.01          | 1.52 ± 0.04  | 8.8 ± 0.06 × 10^{-6}  | 55/44 |
| proj4    | 5.7–6.4| 0.04 ± 0.01          | 1.50 ± 0.04  | 7.1 ± 0.05 × 10^{-6}  | 33/36 |
| proj5    | 6.4–7.1| 0.09 ± 0.02          | 1.60 ± 0.05  | 6.5 ± 0.05 × 10^{-6}  | 25/29 |
| proj6    | 7.1–7.9| 0.004 ± 0.002        | 1.47 ± 0.06  | 4.5 ± 0.02 × 10^{-6}  | 25/24 |
| proj7    | 7.9–9.3| 0.01 ± 0.01          | 1.45 ± 0.04  | 7.2 ± 0.04 × 10^{-6}  | 31/38 |
| proj8    | 9.3–10.8| 0.01 ± 0.01      | 1.43 ± 0.04  | 5.7 ± 0.05 × 10^{-6}  | 28/32 |
| proj9    | 10.8–12.3| <0.01                 | 1.37 ± 0.04  | 4.1 ± 0.01 × 10^{-6}  | 23/23 |
| proj10   | 12.3–13.8| 0.01 ± 0.02           | 1.33 ± 0.06  | 3.3 ± 0.04 × 10^{-6}  | 8/17  |
| proj11   | 13.8–15.7| 0.03 ± 0.02           | 1.48 ± 0.06  | 4.1 ± 0.04 × 10^{-6}  | 14/21 |

Note. Columns (1) region name, (2) inner and outer radii of annulus (arcsec), (3) Galactic column density (cm$^{-2}$), (4) photon index, (5) XSPEC power-law normalization (photons keV$^{-1}$ cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ at 1 keV) and (6) $\chi^2$/number of degrees of freedom.

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temperature profiles is calculated. The mass model parameters of concentration and scale radius are iterated over using a Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) method to determine the best-fitting values which give the minimum $\chi^2$. The MCMC routine was constructed with a Metropolis–Hastings algorithm comparing four chains of length 190 000 with a burn-in length of 10 000. The metallicity was fixed to 0.4 $Z_\odot$ for this analysis.

This analysis assumes that the detected X-rays from this source were produced either by the quasar nucleus or by bremsstrahlung and line emission from the ICM. However, there could be a contribution from X-ray synchrotron or inverse-Compton emission produced by the radio jets and lobes. The 1.7 GHz Multi-Element Radio-Linked Interferometer Network (MERLIN) observation of H1821+643 showed that the radio jets were sited within a radius of $\sim$2 arcsec; therefore, an analysis of the X-ray emission at radii above 3 arcsec should not contain significant X-ray synchrotron radiation. The contribution of inverse-Compton emission, generated by relativistic plasma in the radio source lobes upscattering the jet-produced photons or the cosmic microwave background, was difficult to estimate. However, the spectra from 3 arcsec were well described by the two component spectral fits incorporating the quasar and cluster emission, and there is unlikely to be a significant extra contribution from inverse-Compton emission.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Cluster surface brightness profile

The total surface brightness profile calculated from the exposure-corrected image for H1821+643 is shown in Fig. 7. The radial bins are 1 arcsec wide in the cluster centre, and this was increased at larger radii where the background becomes more important. The simulated quasar PSF was subtracted from the total surface brightness profile to produce the cluster surface brightness profile. The flattening of the cluster profile from 15 to 20 arcsec corresponds to the surface brightness edge seen in Fig. 3. In addition, a second break in the cluster surface brightness profile can be seen at $\sim$8 arcsec. The cluster surface brightness profile decreases in the innermost radial bin suggesting that the quasar component could have been overestimated.

Therefore, before proceeding with any analysis of these features, it was important to determine the uncertainty in the cluster surface brightness introduced by the quasar subtraction. This was achieved by comparing the observation and ChaRT simulation of 3C 273 as an estimate for the accuracy of the simulation of H1821+643. Fig. 7 shows a comparison of the ChaRT simulation of H1821+643 with the observation and simulation of 3C 273. The surface brightness profiles for 3C 273 were scaled by the ratio of the fluxes of the two quasars, determined from the respective readout streak spectra in the 0.5–7.0 keV energy band. The ChaRT simulation was not expected to provide an exact prediction of the observed PSF, and indeed for 3C 273 the simulation underpredicts the observation, particularly in the PSF wings outside 10 arcsec. The ChaRT model for the PSF wings is known to underestimate the wings$^5$ and therefore this underestimation is likely to also be a problem for H1821+643.

$^5$ See http://cxc.harvard.edu/chart/caveats.html.
However in H1821+643 the underprediction outside 10 arcsec is mitigated by the steep decline in the quasar contribution with radius compared to the cluster emission. For the region inside 10 arcsec where the subtraction is important, the simulation of 3C 273 underpredicts the observation by up to ∼10 per cent. This offset could be due to the ChaRT model or alternatively caused by an underestimation in the modelling of the readout streak. Therefore, we estimated that the simulated quasar profile for H1821+643 could be offset by ±10 per cent inside 10 arcsec radius. This offset did not significantly affect the quasar spectral parameters determined from the simulated spectra extracted in large radial bins, which were used to determine the cluster properties close to the nucleus (Fig. A3). However, for the cluster surface brightness profile, the offset resulted in an uncertainty of 25 per cent in the innermost cluster profile radial bin, dropping to 5 per cent by the third bin and then an insignificant contribution above ∼6 arcsec (Fig. 7). Therefore, the decrease in cluster surface brightness observed in the central radial bin was not significant given the dominating contribution of the quasar.

The cluster surface brightness profile was also deprojected and evaluated in sectors (Fig. 8) to study the core structures. The width of the radial bins was increased from those of the projected radial profile to ensure enough deprojected counts in each bin and produce a reliable deprojection. The quasar contribution was first subtracted from the total surface brightness profile. Then the resulting cluster surface brightness profile was deprojected by assuming spherical symmetry to subtract the contribution from the outer annuli off of the inner annuli. The region from 3 to 5 arcsec was excluded from the deprojection because the shallow gradient of the core surface brightness profile produced large errors in the values, in addition to the uncertainty from the quasar subtraction.

The SW sector (magenta) contains a section of the surface brightness edge at ∼15 arcsec but no extended emission from the core. Fig. 4 (right) suggests that there could be a ‘ghost’ cavity from 5 to 12 arcsec in this sector. By analysing VLA 1.4 GHz and MERLIN 1.7 GHz observations, Blundell & Rawlings (2001) concluded that the jet axis in H1821+643 could be precessing. The ‘tipped over’ appearance of the N plume of radio emission in Fig. 3 is suggestive of this. The X-ray depressions to the NE and SW identified in Fig. 4 could have been inflated by the jet at an earlier time, detached and risen buoyantly as the jet precessed.

However, the deprojected surface brightness profile does not appear to support this interpretation. Although there is less emission from this sector, the surface brightness profile inside 14 arcsec is smooth without the clear decrement expected from a cavity. It is therefore likely that the fractional difference image (Fig. 4, right) highlights the excess emission in the extended arms compared to the remaining emission at the same radius. However, cluster substructure and deviations from spherical symmetry in the cluster core will cause problems for the deprojection routine, particularly at radii inside the surface brightness edge. We cannot rule out the possibility that these features are ‘ghost’ cavities (X-ray cavities without any detected coincident radio emission).

Both the SE (green) and W (blue) sectors contain extended arms of emission from the core and for the W sector this terminates particularly abruptly at the surface brightness edge at 15 arcsec (dashed line, Figs 8 and 9). For these two sectors, there is also evidence for an inner surface brightness edge at 8 arcsec (solid line, Figs 8 and 9). Behind this inner edge, there could be a radio cavity in the SE sector. However, although the surface brightness profile is consistent with a decrease at this radius, there are only two radial bins in this region and they contain additional uncertainty associated with the quasar subtraction. Therefore, it is not clear whether this is a radio cavity.
5.2 Projected spectral analysis

Fig. 10 shows the projected radial temperature and metallicity profiles for H1821+643 (also Table 2). The temperature profile shows a cool core with a broad range in temperature, almost a factor of 10 from the cluster outskirts down to 1.3 ± 0.2 keV in the centre. The temperature starts to decline steeply at ~18 arcsec and then breaks again at ~7 arcsec for a sharp drop into the cluster centre. The metallicity is approximately constant at ~0.3 Z⊙ at large radii but increases in the cluster core to around ~0.5 Z⊙. The sudden drop in metallicity seen inside 6 arcsec is caused by an underestimate of the Fe Kα line blend at ~5 keV (Fig. 6). This is discussed in Section 6.3.

We examined the systematic error in the projected radial profiles that could be introduced if the quasar normalization was varied by ±10 and ±20 per cent and the power-law index varied by ±0.05. Fig. 10 shows that within a radius of 5 arcsec, a variation of ±20 per cent in normalization of the quasar component would add an uncertainty of ±0.5 keV to the cluster temperature value and ±0.1 Z⊙ to the metallicity. However, beyond 5 arcsec the contribution of the quasar PSF declines rapidly. Therefore, this additional error is important only for the two central radial bins. Variation in the quasar power-law index did not produce significant additional error in the cluster parameters.

We applied spatially resolved spectroscopy techniques to produce maps of the projected temperature and pressure in the cluster core (Fig. 11). The central ~4 × 4 arcmin² was divided into bins using the contour binning algorithm (Sanders 2006), which follows surface brightness variations. Regions with a signal-to-noise ratio of 32 (~1000 counts) were chosen, with the restriction that the length of the bins was at most two times their width. Background and quasar spectra from the ChaRT simulation were subtracted from the observed data set and appropriate responses and ancillary responses were generated. Each spectrum was fitted with an absorbed MEKAL model with the absorption fixed to the Galactic value and the metallicity fixed to 0.4 Z⊙. The spectra were grouped to contain a minimum of 20 counts per spectral channel and fitted in the energy range of 0.5–7 keV. The fitting procedure minimized the χ² statistic. The errors were approximately ~10 per cent in temperature and ~5 per cent for the emission measure.

Shown in Fig. 11 are the emission measure per unit area, temperature and ‘pressure’ maps. The ‘pressure’ map was produced by multiplying the emission measure per unit area and the temperature maps. The emission measure map shows the strongly peaked core surface brightness, which flattens in the very centre and the overall elongated morphology of the cluster in the NW to SE direction. The temperature in the cluster core drops down to 2 keV and there is a region of cooler gas to the E forming part of a swirl, which could be similar to the spiral patterns seen in Abell 2029 (Clarke, Blanton & Sarazin 2004), in Abell 2204 (Sanders, Fabian & Taylor 2005) and in a temperature map of Perseus (Fabian et al. 2006).

The temperature map also shows an increase to the NW from 15 to 20 arcsec coincident with the strongest section of the surface brightness edge (Fig. 9). This temperature increase is also found in a projected temperature profile extracted in the NW sector (Fig. 8); however, this increase is not statistically significant enough to draw any further conclusions on the nature of the surface brightness edge. In addition, the pressure map does not show a particularly sharp drop from 15 to 20 arcsec which would indicate a shock.

It is not obvious from any of the maps shown in Fig. 11 in which direction the main radio axis is oriented. Apart from a small low pressure region to the SE, which could relate to the small
Figure 11. Left: emission measure per unit area map (units cm$^{-5}$ arcsec$^{-2}$). The emission measure is the xspec normalization of the mekal spectrum $K = EI/(4 \times 10^{14} \pi D^2 (1 + z)^2)$, where $EI$ is the emission integral $EI = \int n_e n_H dV$. Centre: temperature map (keV) with arrows marking the possible swirl of cool gas. Right: “pressure” map (keV cm$^{-5}$ arcsec$^{-2}$) produced by multiplying the emission measure and temperature maps. The maps cover the same spatial scale and the quasar contribution has been subtracted. The readout streak and central 3 arcsec radius region affected by pileup have been masked out.

radio bubble, the pressure map appears symmetric about the central source with no indication that it contains a large FR I source.

5.3 Deprojected radial profiles

Fig. 12 shows the deprojected radial profiles for both the surface brightness and spectral deprojection methods applied to H1821+643. The results for the spectral deprojection are also listed in Table 3. The surface brightness deprojection produced a mass profile with a concentration $c = 1.3^{+0.9}_{-0.7}$ and $r_{200} = 2.5^{+1.3}_{-0.7}$ Mpc. The spatial region from 3 to 5 arcsec was excluded from the deprojection analysis because the shallow gradient of the core surface brightness profile and the core cluster substructure produced large errors in the parameters, in addition to the uncertainty from the quasar subtraction (Fig. 7).

The deprojected temperature profile shows a steep drop inside the central 100 kpc, from $10^{1.1} \pm 0.3$ keV at $\sim 250$ kpc down to $2.5^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$ keV in the cluster centre. The surface brightness deprojection result is similar but shows an increase in temperature within the central 40 kpc. This appears to correlate with a decrease in the electron density, calculated from the emission measure of the deprojected spectrum; however, the errors are consistent with a flat profile. Although there is a break in the density profile at $\sim 15$ arcsec corresponding to the surface brightness edge, there does not appear to be a sharp discontinuity to indicate a shock. A jump in either temperature or density cannot be discerned for the dsdeproj result because large radial bins were required to ensure enough counts for a good deprojection. The assumption of hydrostatic equilibrium in the surface brightness deprojection would also have smeared out any discontinuity associated with a shock. Finally, the surface brightness edge is not radially symmetric about the quasar. Therefore, the circular annuli centred on the quasar that were used for the deprojection will have inevitably smeared the spectrum from this region over neighbouring annuli. Deprojecting the cluster in the NW sector (Fig. 8) where the edge is strongest and narrowest would be more likely to produce a conclusion about its nature; however, there are not enough X-ray counts to deproject in sectors. It was therefore not possible to determine unequivocally the nature of the surface brightness edge with the available data.

The metallicity profile produced by spectral deprojection is consistent with a constant value of $\sim 0.4 Z_\odot$ in the core, decreasing to $0.2 - 0.3 Z_\odot$ at large radii. The assumption of a constant abundance of $0.4 Z_\odot$ for the surface brightness deprojection was therefore deemed to be suitable.

Both deprojections were repeated with a $\pm 10$ per cent variation in the subtracted quasar contribution. This resulted in an uncertainty of 

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radiative gas cooling time and 0.30.5
DSDEPROJ 2010 RAS, MNRAS = 11.7 ± 1561–1579 ± 0.1 71/58

Best-fitting cluster parameters for each deprojected region.

| Region  | Radius  | Temp.  | $n_e$ ($\times 10^{-3}$) | Abund. | $\chi^2$/dof |
|---------|---------|--------|--------------------------|--------|--------------|
| deproj_a | 4.9–8.9 | 2.4 ± 0.2 | 46 ± 2 | 0.4±0.2 0.1 | 72/58 |
| deproj_b | 8.9–14.8 | 4.3±0.4 0.3 | 26.0±0.6 0.5 | 0.2 ± 0.1 | 71/58 |
| deproj_c | 14.8–24.6 | 7.7±1.0 0.8 | 11.7 ± 0.3 | 0.5 ± 0.2 | 64/58 |
| deproj_d | 24.6–34.4 | 7.7±1.0 0.8 | 8.8 ± 0.2 | 0.5 ± 0.2 | 66/58 |
| deproj_e | 34.4–51.7 | 7.6±0.8 0.2 | 5.41 ± 0.09 | 0.4 ± 0.2 | 69/58 |
| deproj_f | 51.7–64.0 | 10±1.3 0.2 | 3.8 ± 0.1 | 0.2±0.3 0.2 | 51/58 |
| deproj_g | 64.0–88.6 | 8.5±1.0 0.8 | 2.50 ± 0.05 | 0.3 ± 0.2 | 46/58 |
| deproj_h | 88.6–157.4 | 12±2.2 3.0 | 1.08±0.02 0.3 | 0.1±0.3 0.1 | 45/58 |

Note. Column (1) region name, (2) inner and outer radii of annulus (arcsec), (3) temperature (keV), (4) electron density (cm$^{-3}$), (5) abundance (Z$_{\odot}$) and (6) $\chi^2$/number of degrees of freedom.

of ±0.1 keV for the innermost annuli in the surface brightness deprojection, smaller than the statistical error of ±0.3 keV. The variation produced a ±0.2 keV uncertainty for the innermost bin of the DSDEPROJ result but was insignificant at larger radii. The increase in the central temperature shown in the surface brightness deprojection is therefore an inconsistency between the two deprojection methods. A finer spatial binning over the inner radii was tried for the spectral deprojection in order to confirm this feature. However, the flat surface brightness profile in the core resulted in a larger fraction of projected emission in each annulus. Therefore, increasing the number of annuli to be deprojected produced much larger uncertainties in the central shell. The increase in core temperature is not seen in the projected temperature profile (Fig. 10) or the temperature map (Fig. 11). Whilst the lack of confirmation in projected profiles or the alternative, low-resolution deprojection method does not preclude an increase in core temperature, the feature could instead be an artefact of the deprojection method.

The additional assumptions of hydrostatic equilibrium and an NFW mass model made by the surface brightness deprojection method might not be appropriate for the cluster core. For a sample of 14 galaxy clusters observed with Chandra, Voigt & Fabian (2006) found that the mass distribution for the majority of the objects was consistent with the NFW model; however, four objects in the sample exhibited a flatter core. Forcing an NFW mass model in the cluster core when the gas mass was in fact much lower could, via hydrostatic equilibrium, artificially boost the calculated ICM temperature. Structural features in the cluster core, such as a shock or dense blob of gas, are also expected to cause spurious deprojection results.

By combining the deprojected temperature $T$ and electron density $n_e$, we calculated derived properties such as the electron pressure $P_e = k_B n_e T$, radiative gas cooling time

$$t_{cool} = \frac{5}{2} n_k k_B T n_e \Lambda(T)$$

where $\Lambda(T)$ is the cooling function, and entropy $S = k_B T n_e^{-2/3}$. We assumed that the temperature and density were independent of each other in order to calculate errors on the derived quantities. The majority of the error was in the temperature values, so this was a reasonable assumption.

Fig. 13 shows that the electron pressure increases steadily towards the cluster core. However, beyond the surface brightness edge the DSDEPROJ result flattens possibly to a constant pressure within 50 kpc. The surface brightness deprojection result assumes hydrostatic equilibrium and an NFW mass model, which constrain the pressure profile. Therefore, this conflicting result may indicate that the radio source provides a significant source of non-thermal pressure in the cluster core. The value of the pressure for the innermost radial bin in the spectral deprojection result should be considered a lower limit on the total pressure. It is therefore difficult to determine whether there is a jump in pressure across the surface brightness edge at 13 to 17 arcsec indicating a shock. If instead the pressure smoothly changes across this region the feature could be a cold front (see Markevitch & Vikhlinin 2007 and references therein).

The gas cooling time falls steadily down to 1.0±0.3 1 Gyr at a radius of 7 arcsec (30 kpc) in the core of the cluster (Fig. 14). With such a short central gas cooling time, we would expect that gas might be cooling down below X-ray temperatures. The cooling radius was defined to be the radius at which the cooling time fell to 7.7 Gyr, the time since $z = 1$. The cooling radius of H1821+643 is at 20 arcsec (90 kpc). The X-ray mass deposition rate inside the cooling radius was calculated by using the XSPEC MKCFLOW model, which models the emission from gas cooling between two temperatures where the normalization is the mass of cooling gas.

The DSDEPROJ deprojection process was therefore repeated using a larger innermost annulus of 5–20 arcsec (22–90 kpc). However, the majority of the mass deposition in clusters occurs in the cluster centre, where the radiative gas cooling times are shortest. The crucial inner 20 kpc was necessarily excluded from our analysis; therefore to get an upper limit on the mass deposition rate, we assumed a single-phase cooling flow and fitted a PHABS(POW)+PHABS(MEKAL+MKCFLOW) model to the cooling region spectrum in XSPEC. The lower temperature of the MKCFLOW component was therefore fixed to 1 keV and the higher temperature was tied to the temperature parameter in the MKEL component. The abundance was fixed to 0.4 Z$_{\odot}$. The quasar spectral properties were calculated as before by fitting to the ChaRT simulation of the cluster spectrum from the cooling region. The spectral fit resulted in an upper limit on the mass deposition rate of 300 ± 100 M$_{\odot}$ yr$^{-1}$ within the cooling radius. Direct detections of the amount of gas cooling out of the X-ray require deep high-resolution spectroscopy (e.g. Peterson et al. 2003).
erg s$^{-1}$PV, is the mean adiabatic index of the fluid $\gamma$, $\sim kpc$ is the thermal pressure of the surrounding ICM, $\sim 10^{45}$ erg s$^{-1}$ is the bubble age. The cavity was assumed to be spherical with a radius of $\sim 9$ kpc, estimated from the image using a circular aperture and located at a distance of $\sim 24$ kpc from the cluster centre. Two estimates of the cavity age are commonly used: the time required for the cavity to rise to its current location at the speed of sound, $t_{\text{sound}}$, and the time required for the cavity to rise buoyantly at its terminal velocity, $t_{\text{buoy}}$. The sound speed time-scale is more applicable to young radio cavities recently inflated by the AGN. Its value was 0.03 Gyr, which gives a cavity heating power of $1-2 \times 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$.

Although there could be extra AGN heating power produced by weak shocks and sound waves (Fabian et al. 2006), cavity heating in H1821+643 is not currently supplying enough heat to replace the majority of the $\sim 10^{45}$ erg s$^{-1}$ radiated by the cluster gas. The possible 'ghost' cavities could potentially produce an additional power of $9 \times 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$, calculated using the buoyancy time-scale. However, it is not clear from the deprojected surface brightness profiles (Fig. 9) that these features are cavities.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Evidence for quasar and cluster interactions

The morphology in the central 100 kpc of H1821+643 suggests a complex interaction between the quasar and the surrounding cluster gas. There are extended arms of emission and an inner radio cavity with a bright rim in the core and a weak shock or cold front surrounding most of the cluster core at $\sim 15$ arcsec. However, the mechanisms by which the quasar output is coupled to the ICM are far from clear.

The extended arms of X-ray emission to the N and SE appear to be correlated with the main axis of the extended FR I radio emission. These X-ray features may have been pushed or dragged out from the cluster core by the expanding FR I structure. Although the inner radio cavity is too close to the quasar to be analysed effectively, this indicates that there could be some mechanical feedback in the cluster core. The ends of the FR I structure appear to terminate at the surface brightness edge seen in the X-ray, so this feature could be a weak shock generated by the radio source expanding into the surrounding cluster gas. However, Blundell & Rawlings (2001) found that the outermost ends of the extended radio emission do not appear to end in shocks. They inferred that the extended emission has not grown any faster than the ambient sound speed of the ICM. In addition, the extended X-ray structure to the W is not associated with any radio emission and the surface brightness edge appears to end in shocks. They inferred that the extended emission has not grown any faster than the ambient sound speed of the ICM.

Based on optical imaging, Hutchings & Neff (1991) suggested that H1821+643 is in the late stages of a mild tidal event or merger, although there is no sign of a disturbing object. Fried (1998) found that the linewidths of the extended emission-line gas in H1821+643 produced velocity dispersions in agreement with this interaction scenario. However, velocity dispersions of a few hundred km s$^{-1}$ are also consistent with the kinematics of emission-line nebulae in the cluster core. The ends of the FR I structure appear to terminate at the surface brightness edge seen in the X-ray, so this feature could be a weak shock generated by the radio source expanding into the surrounding cluster gas. However, Blundell & Rawlings (2001) found that the outermost ends of the extended radio emission do not appear to end in shocks. They inferred that the extended emission has not grown any faster than the ambient sound speed of the ICM. In addition, the extended X-ray structure to the W is not associated with any radio emission and the surface brightness edge appears to end in shocks. They inferred that the extended emission has not grown any faster than the ambient sound speed of the ICM.
core–core clusters (Hatch, Crawford & Fabian 2007). The X-ray features could be interpreted as resulting from a merger interaction which has disturbed the gas in the cluster core. Blundell & Rawlings (2001) estimated that if the radio plumes have emerged no faster than the ambient sound speed, then the radio structure has been stable for a minimum of $3 \times 10^8$ yr. The surface brightness edge could be a weak shock generated by a merger at that time or more likely, given that it can be observed around most of the cluster core, it could be a cold front produced by the cool-core gas sloshing in the cluster potential well (Markevitch et al. 2000; Vikhlinin, Markevitch & Murray 2001). The swirl feature seen in the projected temperature map would also support this interpretation (Fig. 11).

H1821+643 shows no obvious evidence for X-ray absorbing winds from the quasar in the Chandra HETG (Fang et al. 2002), in the LETG (Mathur et al. 2003) or in Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) spectra (Oegerle et al. 2000). However, outflows could be oriented in the plane of the sky and therefore not evident along our line of sight. Oegerle et al. (2000) observed associated absorption at the redshift of H1821+643 in the FUSE and Hubble Space Telescope (HST) spectra (see also Bahcall et al. 1992) and concluded that this was unlikely to be quasar intrinsic absorption. Instead, they proposed that the broad range of ionization present required a multiphase absorber that is likely located in the central cluster galaxy. We found that the X-ray spectra for the central two annuli, which cover the spatial extent of the central galaxy, did not require any additional absorption above the Galactically column density determined by Kalberla et al. (2005). However, these annuli contain a significant fraction of the quasar PSF and any additional absorption contribution to the spectrum was difficult to determine. We compared soft (0.5–1.0 and 1.0–2.0 keV) and hard-band (3.0–7.0 keV) images to see if there were any obvious potential sites for absorption. The X-ray depression at 24 kpc from the nucleus was clearly visible in both soft-band images, surrounded by cool rims of gas; however, it was not visible in the hard-band image. The hard-band image contains far fewer counts and was dominated by the quasar PSF. Therefore, a small cavity would be particularly difficult to distinguish. However, this could also be interpreted as a cool extended arm of emission, similar to those in the N and NW directions, with a superimposed absorption region.

### 6.2 Accretion mechanisms

The total energy output, radiative and mechanical, of the AGN can be used to infer an accretion rate for H1821+643, assuming an accretion efficiency for each mechanism. Using a bolometric correction of 50 from Vasudevan & Fabian (2007) with the quasar luminosity in the energy range of 2–10 keV $L_X = (4.2 \pm 0.1) \times 10^{45}$ erg s$^{-1}$, we calculated the bolometric luminosity $L_{bol} \sim 2 \times 10^{47}$ erg s$^{-1}$. However, this could have been underestimated if a significant number of X-ray photons from the quasar were scattered by the ICM. By extrapolating the electron density profile in to $\sim 0.1$ cm$^{-3}$, we estimated an optical depth for the central 30 kpc region of $\tau \sim 0.002$. Therefore, only $\sim 1$ in 1000 photons from the quasar would be scattered by the ICM and this effect is insignificant.

For a radiative efficiency $\epsilon = 0.1$, the mass accretion rate required to power the quasar is therefore $M_{acc} = L_{bol}/\epsilon c^2 \sim 40 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$. The mechanical power calculated by cavity heating is several orders of magnitude lower than the quasar luminosity and therefore is not included in an estimate of the required accretion rate. The calculated mass accretion rate for H1821+643 can be compared with the theoretical Eddington and Bondi accretion rates.

The Eddington accretion rate can be expressed as

$$\frac{M_{Edd}}{M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}} = \frac{\epsilon}{4} \left( \frac{M_{BH}}{3 \times 10^9 M_\odot} \right)^2$$

(3)

Using the $H$, $H\beta$ and Mg II linewidths and the optical/UV continuum luminosity (Kolman et al. 1993), together with the recipes in McGill et al. (2008) (their section 4.1 and references therein) we estimated a black hole mass $M_{BH} \sim 3 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ for H1821+643. The uncertainties in the bolometric correction and the black hole mass were at least 50 per cent, and therefore subsequent calculations were assumed to be only an estimate. Using the estimate of black hole mass, the Eddington luminosity was calculated to be $L_{Edd} \sim 4 \times 10^{47}$ erg s$^{-1}$, giving an Eddington accretion rate $M_{Edd} \sim 70 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ and a high Eddington ratio $L_{bol}/L_{Edd} \sim 0.5$.

Assuming spherical symmetry and negligible angular momentum, the Bondi rate is the rate of accretion for a black hole with an accreting atmosphere of temperature, $T$, and density, $n_t$ (Bondi 1952), and can be expressed as

$$\frac{M_{Bondi}}{M_\odot \text{yr}^{-1}} = 0.12 \left( \frac{k_B T}{\text{keV}} \right)^{-3/2} \left( \frac{n_t}{\text{cm}^{-3}} \right) \left( \frac{M_{BH}}{3 \times 10^9 M_\odot} \right)^2$$

(4)

for an adiabatic index $\gamma = 5/3$. This accretion occurs within the Bondi radius, $r_{Bondi}$, within which the gravitational potential of the black hole dominates over the thermal energy of the surrounding gas:

$$\frac{r_{Bondi}}{\text{kpc}} = 0.10 \left( \frac{k_B T}{\text{keV}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{M_{BH}}{3 \times 10^9 M_\odot} \right)$$

(5)

The Bondi accretion rate is therefore an estimate of the rate of accretion from the hot ICM directly on to the black hole. The Bondi radius is not resolved for H1821+643 so the electron density and temperature from the innermost annulus were used as lower and upper limits, respectively, on the accretion atmosphere properties producing an underestimate of the Bondi accretion rate. For an innermost temperature of 2.4 ± 0.2 keV and an electron density of 0.046 ± 0.002 cm$^{-3}$, the Bondi accretion rate is estimated to be $M_{Bondi} \sim 0.001 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ at the Bondi radius $r_{Bondi} \sim 40$ pc. Although this estimate of the Bondi accretion rate is expected to lie below the true value, the implied accretion rate for the quasar exceeds this by a factor of $\sim 10^4$.

Following Allen et al. (2006), we also estimated the Bondi accretion rate by extrapolating the temperature and density of the cluster gas in to the Bondi radius. This was achieved by using power-law fits to the inner annuli of thedsphproj deprojected temperature and density profiles in Fig. 12. The steep temperature ($T(r) \propto r^{-\delta}$) and density gradients ($n_t(r) \propto r^{-\nu}$) in the cool core produced an upper limit on the Bondi accretion rate of $M_{Bondi} \sim 6 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ at $r_{Bondi} \sim 0.5$ kpc. However, an extrapolation over two orders of magnitude in radius is unlikely to provide a good estimate of the Bondi accretion rate. Allen et al. (2006) analysed elliptical galaxies, which had shallow central temperature gradients and X-ray data permitting a measurement of the gas properties within one order of magnitude of the Bondi radius.

Compton cooling of the accretion flow by radiation from the quasar could potentially increase the flow of material from a hot atmosphere on to the black hole (Fabian & Crawford 1990). Since Compton scattering between strong UV photons and hot electrons can dominate the cooling process for the ICM in the cluster core, accretion by Compton cooling can supply gas to the central black hole and, as shown by Fabian & Crawford (1990), the accretion rate by Compton cooling flow can be larger than that of Bondi accretion alone. Using the cluster gas properties in the innermost annulus, we...
determined that Compton cooling will dominate bremsstrahlung cooling within a radius $R_C \sim 5$ kpc and rapidly cool the gas down to the Compton temperature.

The Compton temperature was calculated using the quasar spectral energy distribution (SED) from the optical to the soft X-ray presented in Kolman et al. (1993). We fitted the SED in xspec with their Kerr disc model for the UV bump (fig. 16c in Kolman et al. 1993) and a broken power law to provide an extension up to 100 keV, as described in Vasudevan & Fabian (2009). Therefore, with the bulk of the emitted quasar luminosity in the UV, the Compton temperature is $T_C \sim 0.4$ keV.

If the accreting material is quickly Compton cooled within $\sim 5$ kpc, as it approaches the Bondi radius, then the Bondi radius will grow from $r_{\text{Bondi}} \sim 40$ pc to $\sim 250$ pc and the Bondi accretion rate increases from $\dot{M}_{\text{Bondi}} \sim 0.001 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ to $\sim 6 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$. Therefore, Bondi accretion of rapidly Compton-cooled material could provide a significant source of fuel for the quasar.

Cold accretion mechanisms, such as the cold feedback scenario suggested by Pizzolato & Soker (2005), could provide an alternative route for accreting material. Within the cooling region of H1821+643, up to $300 \pm 100 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ could be cooling down below X-ray temperatures. Pizzolato & Soker (2005) proposed that overdense blobs of cool gas from within the entire cooling region rapidly cool and sink towards the central black hole or condense to form cold molecular clouds and stars. A large influx of material on to the black hole, caused by an accretion disc instability for example, would then trigger an outburst. For cold accretion to provide a source of fuel for the quasar, a significant fraction of the gas cooling out of the X-ray must be funnelled down on to the black hole. Such an efficient, steady accretion of material from within the cooling region seems unlikely; however, the cooling material could have built up in the cluster centre to form a large reservoir of cool gas which feeds the nucleus after a triggering event.

Alternatively, a merger scenario could have initiated the quasar outburst by providing a rapid influx of fuel for the central engine. The precession in the jet axes suggested by the observations of Blundell & Rawlings (2001) could have arisen if the central engine was composed of two orbiting black holes that had not yet merged. A merger scenario could therefore potentially have triggered the quasar outburst and the jet precession. However, the galaxy cluster’s deep gravitational potential will tidally strip a merging subcluster of its gas in the cluster outskirts, making it difficult to channel the merging material effectively down on to the central black hole.

6.3 Impact of the quasar on the galaxy cluster core

Fig. 15 compares the radiative gas cooling time profiles of H1821+643 with a sample of 16 cool-core and non-cool-core clusters with Chandra archival observations. The clusters were roughly selected on redshift ($z = 0.06–0.25$) and the number of X-ray counts in the Chandra observation. The first criterion ensured a similar intrinsic spatial extent on the ACIS chip to H1821+643 and the second provided an equivalent resolution with at least eight deprojected radial bins ($\sim 40$ 000 counts). In addition, three non-cool-core clusters, Abell 1650, Abell 2142 and Abell 2244, were included to serve as a contrast.

H1821+643 has a cooling time profile typical of a strong cool-core cluster with a more passive central engine, such as Abell 1835. Underneath the quasar, the large-scale properties of the galaxy cluster have not been strongly affected and the ICM is continuing to evolve in a similar way to other cool-core clusters.
The cluster projected spectrum from 15 to 30 kpc is shown with the best-fitting Cloudy and XSPEC models superimposed. Upper: the Cloudy models for the cluster gas (black solid line) and the cluster gas irradiated by the quasar (red dashed line). Lower: the Cloudy model irradiated by the quasar (red dashed line) and the two-temperature MEKAL model with a 5.0 keV (blue dot-dashed line) or a 0.5 keV (purple solid line) second temperature component. The contribution of the quasar PSF was included as a PHABS(PowerLaw) component in each model. The three models produce a very similar spectral fit.

We therefore added a second temperature component to our XSPEC model to give a PHABS(PowerLaw)+PHABS(MEKAL+MEKAL) model which was fitted to the projected spectrum (15–30 kpc). The second temperature component was first fixed to 5.0 keV and the metallicity in both temperature components was fixed to $0.5 Z_{\odot}$. Fig. 16 (lower panel) shows that the addition of a second temperature component produced an improved fit to the Fe Kα line blend. However, a cooler second temperature component of 0.5 keV was found to provide a significantly better fit to the projected spectrum than the 5.0 keV component ($\chi^2 = 94$ for 0.5 keV compared to $\chi^2 = 109$ for 5.0 keV with 99 degrees of freedom). Fig. 16 suggests that a second temperature component, hotter or colder, or photoionization of the cluster gas could explain the poor fit to the Fe Kα spectrum.

Assuming pressure equilibrium, the volume filling fraction of the 0.5 keV temperature component $i$ is

$$f_i = \frac{s_i T_i^2}{\sum s_j T_j^2},$$

where $s_i$ is the emission measure (XSPEC normalization) of the component $i$, $T_i$ is the temperature and $f$ sums over all the components.

The 0.5 keV temperature component has a volume filling fraction of 0.2 per cent, which equates to a gas mass of $M_{\text{gas}} \sim 3 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$. With a very short radiative gas cooling time of only 50 Myr, the 0.5 keV temperature component could produce a mass deposition rate of $\sim 50 M_{\odot}$ yr$^{-1}$ in the central 30 kpc in the absence of heating.

Finally, an additional power-law component from inverse-Compton emission could also provide an explanation for the poor fit to Fe Kα. A power-law component would raise the level of the continuum emission in the projected spectrum and reduce the prominence of the emission lines, in a similar way to the extra 5 keV temperature component. However, coincident cluster emission and quasar PSF made it difficult to put any constraints on inverse-Compton emission and therefore we cannot determine whether this would resolve the model fit.

Although from our results it is not possible to determine a preferred explanation for the poor fit to the Fe Kα line blend, we argue that a combination of the above would be most likely. The projected spectrum will contain a contribution of hotter (5.0–8.0 keV) gas from the outer cluster layers. Our Cloudy simulations suggest that the quasar emission should produce a significant amount of photoionization in the central 30 kpc. Observations of strong cool-core clusters with the XMM–Newton Reflection Grating Spectrometer have confirmed that many have a second cooler temperature component in the central region (Peterson et al. 2003; Kaasra et al. 2004; Sanders et al. 2008). Finally, although we are unable to quantify any inverse-Compton emission, this could also be a factor close in to the nucleus.

6.4 AGN unified accretion model

Churazov et al. (2005) (see also Di Matteo, Springel & Hernquist 2005; Croton et al. 2006) argue that a parallel can be drawn between the evolution of Galactic black holes (e.g. Fender et al. 1999; Gallo, Fender & Pooley 2003) and SMBHs (Maccarone, Gallo & Fender 2003; Merloni, Heinz & di Matteo 2003; Fulke, Körding & Markoff 2004; Chiaberge, Capetti & Macchetto 2005). SMBHs and their surrounding medium are therefore expected to evolve through two stages. Early on, the SMBH grows rapidly by accreting cooling gas near the Eddington rate with weak feedback on the surrounding medium but a very high radiation efficiency (e.g. Yu & Tremaine 2002). This is known as the ‘quasar mode’ which terminates when, despite the weak coupling to the gas, the SMBH produces enough heat to suppress cooling. With a lower accretion rate, the system moves to a more passively evolving stage, ‘radio mode’, where efficient mechanical feedback sustains the ICM at X-ray temperatures. Recent observations of nearby low-luminosity SMBHs in clusters and galaxies suggest that mechanical feedback from the AGN, in the form of bubbles, shocks and sound waves, is effective at heating the cluster gas (e.g. Fabian et al. 2003; Birzan et al. 2004; Dunn & Fabian 2006; Fabian et al. 2006; Rafferty et al. 2006).

With rapid accretion at half of the Eddington rate, H1821+643 is currently in a ‘quasar mode’, corresponding to the high/soft state of black hole X-ray binaries where a geometrically thin, optically thick accretion disc forms (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973). However, quantifying the quasar feedback into the surrounding ICM in H1821+643 is difficult. H1821+643 has a gas cooling time profile typical of a strong cool-core cluster with a passive central engine indicating that the quasar has not strongly affected the large-scale cluster gas properties. The Cloudy simulations detailed in Section 6.3 also suggest that the radiative output of the luminous quasar has little impact on the bulk of the cluster gas. There is some indication of mechanical heating, although this has a low heating power and would
only currently compensate for ~10 per cent of the ICM cooling losses. As discussed in Section 6.1, there is no obvious evidence for X-ray absorbing winds in H1821+643 in the existing observations. However, outflows might not be evident along our line of sight and therefore cannot be ruled out. Although the cluster gas properties do not indicate any efficient feedback from quasar winds on the scales considered (r > 15 kpc), this does not exclude an efficient coupling to the cold galaxy gas (see Chartas et al. 2002; Chartas, Brandt & Gallagher 2003; Pounds et al. 2003; Chartas et al. 2007; Reeves et al. 2009).

H1821+643 could provide an example of the early stage of evolution for these systems where the SMBH has not evolved beyond the ‘quasar mode’ and cannot produce enough heat to suppress cooling in this rich cluster. The underlying cluster may exhibit the early cool-core environment before ‘radio-mode’ heating switches on to efficiently reheat the gas. It seems implausible that the quasar could remain switched on for longer than ~10^6 yr because in that time the black hole mass will increase to ~10^{10} M\odot, greater than the typical observed upper limit (e.g. Marconi et al. 2004).

However, the FR I radio structure shown by H1821+643 appears to be at odds with the simple picture of ‘quasar-mode’ feedback. Around 10 per cent of quasars are known to have strong radio emission (e.g. Ivezic et al. 2002) indicating that SMBHs with high accretion rates can be associated with powerful outflows. By drawing comparisons with observations of microquasars, Nipoti, Blundell & Binney (2005) suggest a parallel between radio loudness in quasars and the flaring mode in microquasars, where radio loudness is simply defined as extended radio emission (FR I or FR II). Microquasars have been observed to have two distinct modes of energy output: one producing roughly steady radio emission that is coupled with X-ray emission (coupled mode) and the other producing strongly variable, flaring radio emission that appears to be decoupled from the X-ray emission (flaring mode). Nipoti et al. (2005) further associate radio-quiet quasars with non-flaring/coupled states of microquasars, in either low/hard or high/soft states.

In this picture, H1821+643 would be classed as a radio-loud quasar in the flaring mode, where the nucleus is producing the extended FR I radio structure. These flares could be analogous to the short, radio outbursts that have been observed in transient X-ray binaries during the transition from the low/hard to high/soft state when the accretion rate approaches the Eddington limit (Fender, Belloni & Gallo 2004). However, whilst black hole accretion can be scaled from microquasars and X-ray binaries up to quasars, the environments of these objects vary significantly. It is unclear how the rich cluster environments and accretion history of quasars will affect the conclusions drawn from smaller scale systems.

7 CONCLUSIONS

By accurately subtracting the quasar contribution, we were able to determine the properties of the surrounding ICM down to 3 arcsec from the quasar. The temperature of the cluster gas decreases from 9.0 ± 0.5 keV beyond ~200 kpc down to 1.3 ± 0.2 keV inside 20 kpc, with a short central radiative cooling time of 1.0 ± 0.1 Gyr, typical of a strong cool-core cluster. By comparing the cooling time with a sample of cool-core clusters with ‘radio-mode’ AGN, we determined that the quasar does not appear to have had a significant impact on the large-scale cluster gas properties.

The cluster core features several extended arms of emission, which could have been dragged out by the expanding FR I structure. However, we found that the radio emission is not clearly related to the X-ray gas morphology. The nature of the surface brightness edge at ~15 arcsec could not be unequivocally determined from the temperature and density profiles. This could be interpreted as a weak shock generated by the expansion of the radio lobes or a cold front produced by the cool-core sloshing in the cluster’s gravitational potential. There is some evidence for cavity heating in the cluster core which could currently compensate for ~10 per cent of the ICM cooling losses.

The derived accretion rate of 40 M\odot yr^{-1} is approximately half of the quasar’s Eddington limit. We showed that Bondi accretion, boosted by Compton cooling of the accretion material by the quasar radiation, could provide a significant proportion of the required fuel. However, without resolving the cluster gas properties at the Bondi radius, we could not determine whether this mechanism could supply all of the required 40 M\odot yr^{-1} and potentially provide a self-sustaining fuel source for the quasar. We have also discussed the alternative mechanisms of cold accretion or a rapid infall of a large quantity cool gas provided by a subcluster merger.

In the context of AGN unified accretion models, we suggest that H1821+643 could provide an example of the early stage of evolution for these systems where the SMBH has not evolved beyond the ‘quasar mode’ and cannot produce enough heat to suppress cooling. The surrounding rich cluster could therefore exhibit the early cool-core environment before the onset of ‘radio-mode’ heating efficiently reheat the gas. However, the powerful FR I radio structure observed in H1821+643, and in around 10 per cent of quasars (e.g. Ivezic et al. 2002), conflicts with this simple scenario of ‘quasar-mode’ feedback. Following the comparisons with observations of microquasars suggested by Nipoti et al. (2005), we consider that H1821+643 is in a flaring mode where the radio emission is decoupled from the X-ray emission. These flares could be analogous to the short, radio bursts observed in transient X-ray binaries during the transition from the low/hard to high/soft state (Fender et al. 2004). However, it is unclear how the conclusions drawn from the smaller scale systems will be affected by the rich cluster environment and the quasar accretion history.

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APPENDIX A: SIMULATING THE QUASAR PSF

A1 Readout streak spectrum

For heavily piled-up sources, M. Bautz suggested using the ACIS readout streak to extract a source spectrum (Gaetz 2004). In this observation, ACIS accumulates events for a frame exposure time of 3.1 s and then reads out the frame at a parallel transfer rate of 40 μs, taking a total of 0.041 04 s to read out the entire frame. During readout, the CCD still accumulates events, which are distributed along the whole column as it is read out, creating a continuous streak for very bright point sources.

We extracted a spectrum in the energy range of 0.5–7.0 keV from two narrow regions (300 × 8 pixel) of the readout streak positioned either side of the central source and avoiding as much of the cluster emission as possible. Any remaining cluster emission in the spectrum was then subtracted by using background regions adjacent to the readout streak. Using a wider extraction region for the readout streak was found to increase the uncertainty in the spectrum without altering the results.

The accumulated exposure time in the streak during frame transfer was (300 × 2) × 274.63 × 40 μs = 659.11 s, where 274.63 was the total number of frames. Therefore, the readout streak count rate was multiplied by a factor of 129.17, the ratio of the observation exposure time to the readout streak exposure time. Previous analyses of Chandra readout streak data have indicated a gain correction of +2.5 per cent for the ACIS-S3 chip (Gaetz 2004). Frame transfer is effectively a different ACIS mode for which there is likely to be a different response to arriving events compared to the calibrated timed exposure mode. However, for the H1821+643 readout streak on the ACIS-S3 chip, we found that the recommended +2.5 per cent gain correction did not significantly alter the spectral fitting results and have not applied it to our analysis.

The response files for the transfer streak spectrum were generated using the standard CIAO tools mkACISRMF and mkWARP. The response matrix (RMF) was extracted over the readout streak region used in this analysis. However, the effective area (ARF) was determined using a region at the location of the quasar image. The X-rays in the transfer streak actually hit the detector at the direct image and their detected position is an artefact of the chip readout. The scaled readout streak spectrum was grouped with a minimum of 50 counts per spectral bin, corrected for the applied count rate scaling factor.

The scaled readout streak spectrum, shown in Fig. A1, was fitted with an absorbed power-law model in the spectral fitting package XSPEC version 12. The best-fitting photon index was consistent with the Fang et al. (2002) analysis of the Chandra HEG and MEG spectra and the previous ASCA result (Yamashita et al. 1997). Therefore, we fixed the photon index to the more accurate HEG/MEG result, $\Gamma = 1.761^{+0.047}_{-0.052}$ (Fang et al. 2002). The Galactic absorption parameter was left free, giving a value of 0.003 × 10^{22} cm^{-2} with an upper limit of 0.04 × 10^{22} cm^{-2}. Fang et al. (2002) inferred from the low best-fitting column density $n_H$ that H1821+643 has a soft excess. However, the best-fitting absorbed power law is a sufficiently good description of the readout streak spectrum, so we have used this simplistic model in our analysis.

The best-fitting model gave an unabsorbed flux of (1.45^{+0.03}_{-0.03}) × 10^{-11} erg cm^{-2} s^{-1} in the energy range of 2–10 keV and a reduced $\chi^2 = 1.6$. The quasar flux measured from the readout streak spectrum falls between the values determined for this object by Fang et al. (2002) and Yamashita et al. (1997). This gives a 2–10 keV quasar luminosity of (4.2 ± 0.1) × 10^{45} erg s^{-1}.

This spectral model from the quasar readout streak was used as the principal component in the ChaRT simulation of the quasar.

A2 ChaRT simulations

The ChaRT, in conjunction with the MARX software, was used to simulate the Chandra PSF produced by the quasar. Following the ChaRT analysis threads, the readout streak spectrum and observation exposure time were used to generate a ray-tracing simulation. The output from ChaRT was then supplied to MARX version 4.4.0 which projected the ray traces on to the detector and applied the detector response.

ChaRT provides a user-friendly interface to the SAOTrace semi-empirical model (Jerius et al. 1995) which is based on the measured characteristics of the mirrors, support structures and baffles. The model is then calibrated by comparison with actual observations. However, while the PSF core and inner wing region match well with observations (Jerius 2002), the PSF wings beyond 10 arcsec, produced by mirror scattering, seem to be underpredicted by the ray trace model. At the moment, the SAOTrace model does not model the dither motion of the telescope or include residual blur from aspect reconstruction errors. MARX includes the effects of these errors using the DitherBlur parameter. We have therefore tested the use of SAOTrace to simulate the H1821+643 quasar spectra by performing an identical analysis on the quasar 3C 273, which has no surrounding cluster emission. Both of these sources are close to on-axis, and only the PSF core and inner wing region are of interest to our analysis. Beyond 10 arcsec, the cluster emission in H1821+643 will dominate and an accurate model of the quasar PSF becomes much less important.

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Figure A1. H1821+643 readout streak spectrum and spectral fit. The spectrum has been scaled by the ratio of the observation exposure time to the effective streak exposure time.

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6 See http://cxc.harvard.edu/chart/.
A2.1 Test object 3C 273

3C 273 is a bright, nearby ($z = 0.158$) radio-loud quasar with a jet showing superluminal motion and has been intensively studied at different wavelengths (e.g. Courvoisier 1998; Soldi et al. 2008). 3C 273 was observed with Chandra ACIS-S for 160ks to study the bright X-ray jet in detail (Jester et al. 2006). Here, we used one of the 40ks Chandra ACIS-S exposures of this object (Obs. ID: 4879) to test whether a ChaRT simulation using the readout streak spectrum would recover the correct result. This observation of 3C 273 was similar to that of H1821+643, featuring a piled-up point source, strong readout streak, bright PSF wings but crucially no detected extended emission (the region containing the jet was excluded). Therefore, this observation of 3C 273 allowed us to test our method of determining the quasar spectrum in a series of annuli and compare the result with the observed spectra without the added complication of superimposed cluster emission.

As in Section A1 for H1821+643, the readout streak spectrum was extracted using two regions of the transfer streak either side of the nucleus. The spectrum was fitted with an absorbed power-law model which provided a reasonable fit for our purposes over the required energy range, reduced $\chi^2 = 1.2$. This simple model gave a best-fitting photon index $\Gamma = 1.64_{-0.07}^{+0.02}$, Galactic absorption upper limit of $N_H < 0.015 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ and unabsorbed flux $(6.5_{-0.2}^{+0.2}) \times 10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ in the 2–10 keV energy range (Fig. A2). These parameters fall within the expected range defined by the long-term variability of this source (Chernyakova et al. 2007; Soldi et al. 2008 and references therein). Although 3C 273 has also been found to have a soft excess extending up to 2 keV (Turner et al. 1985; Staubert et al. 1992), we have ignored this for our simplistic analysis. 3C 273 has a slightly lower photon index than H1821+643 which produces a wider PSF because the PSF is energy-dependent (Fig. 7).

The best-fitting model to the readout streak spectrum was used as the main input for the ChaRT simulations of 3C 273. Spectra were extracted in two annuli, excluding the readout streak, with an innermost radius of 2.5 arcsec outside of which pileup was determined to be negligible. The exposure time of each frame in this observation of 3C 273 was 0.4 s, compared with 3.1 s for H1821+643, which greatly reduced the number of piled-up photons. These annuli were selected to contain the required minimum of 3000 counts for a good deprojection and to cover a similar area of the PSF wings to the regions used in the analysis of H1821+643. The observed and simulated spectra were deprojected and are shown overlaid in Fig. A3. The simulated spectra were generally well matched to the observed spectra. The mismatches can be mostly accounted for by comparison with the model of the readout streak spectrum, particularly at ~3 keV where the model was a significant overestimate. The best-fitting parameters for an absorbed power-law model fitted to the observed and simulated deprojected spectra were also found to be consistent within the errors.

A ChaRT simulation based on the readout streak spectrum was therefore expected to provide an adequate description of the quasar spectrum for the series of radial bins used in this analysis.

A2.2 ChaRT simulation of H1821+643

A ChaRT simulation of the quasar H1821+643 was generated for the same position on the detector using the model of the readout streak spectrum. ChaRT was run for an effective exposure time three times longer than the total observation time to sample the range of possible optical paths in the HRMA and reduce statistical errors. The ray traces were then projected on to the detector with MARX to create an event file. Simulated quasar spectra were extracted from the MARX event file and combined with appropriate response files for the simulation.7

The width of the simulated PSF depends on the MARX DitherBlur parameter, which is a statistical term combining the aspect reconstruction error, ACIS pixelization and pipeline pixel randomization. The default MARX value is 0.35 arcsec; however, the magnitude of the aspect blur is observation-dependent. The MARX simulation of H1821+643 was repeated for DitherBlur values of 0.25, 0.30 and

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7 See http://space.mit.edu/CXC/MARX/examples/ciao.html.
0.40 arcsec, but for all three cases the quasar-subtracted cluster surface brightness profile was consistent within statistical errors. In addition, all spectral parameters were found to be consistent within errors to the 0.35 arcsec simulation. We therefore proceeded with the DitherBlur parameter set to its default.

The simulated quasar spectra were extracted in identical regions to regions 1–11 (projected) and regions a–b (deprojected) shown in Fig. 5. The simulated quasar spectra from regions a and b were deprojected with DSEPROJ, as detailed in Section 4.3, to ensure they that have been processed in an identical way to the observed deprojected spectra. By determining the quasar spectral parameters from the simulation for the same regions, we can fix these values in the combined fit to the observation of the quasar and cluster.

The simulated quasar spectrum from each region was fitted with an absorbed power-law model PHABS(PowerLaw) in XSPEC; the best-fitting parameters are given in Table 1.

The difference between the best-fitting $n_H$ and power-law parameters (Table 1) and their input values from the readout streak spectrum is caused by an incorrect calculation of the effective area. This also causes the variation in these parameters between the radial bins. The effective area correction for each spectrum, provided by the ARFs, assumes that all of the PSF falls within that extraction region. This was true for the cluster spectrum in each annulus but not for the quasar spectrum, where only the PSF wings were included (less than 5 per cent of the total PSF). The effective area correction for the quasar spectrum should therefore be multiplied by the encircled energy fraction (EEF), which varies as a function of energy. When the ARF spectral response was multiplied by the EEF calculated in a series of broad energy bands from the ChaRT simulation, the input quasar parameters are recovered.

We confirmed our earlier analysis that pileup was not important beyond a radius of 3 arcsec from the quasar by analysing a MARX simulation including pileup. The pileup simulation produced essentially identical results to the simulations without pileup, and all spectral parameters were consistent within errors.

**APPENDIX B: CLOUDY SIMULATIONS**

The most obvious way to model the intracluster gas using Cloudy is with the CORONAL EQUILIBRIUM command. However, this sets up a constant temperature model which is not appropriate when we want to consider the effect of the ionizing flux from the quasar on this gas. Also, it is not clear that a pure cooling model is actually physically appropriate since the cores of clusters are known to be deficient in cool gas and this is widely thought to be due to the presence of a heat source (e.g. Peterson & Fabian 2006; McNamara & Nulsen 2007). We therefore chose to model the cluster emission by using an arbitrary heat source and adjusting the heating rate to obtain the observed temperature of the cluster through a balance of heating and cooling. This was achieved using the HEXTRA command.

Therefore, we first simulated cluster emission by creating a single zone model heated using only the HEXTRA pure heating command. Metal abundances were set to match those measured by fitting a single temperature MEKAL model to the X-ray spectra, $0.4 Z_\odot$. The heating rate was adjusted until the temperature of the gas matched that measured in the cluster in these regions (15–30 and 22–39 kpc), $2.78 \times 10^7$ K (2.4 keV). This model spectrum was then renormalized to fit the cluster spectrum and the $\chi$-square statistic evaluated. This Cloudy model for the cluster emission provided a simple comparison for the Cloudy model with the added quasar contribution; any differences could then be attributed to the quasar input and not a discrepancy between the Cloudy and MEKAL models of cluster emission.

To add in the quasar contribution, we first generated the intrinsic continuum shape for the active nucleus using the quasar SED model described in Section 6.2. To approximate the correct spectrum to irradiate the cluster gas at the distance of our extracted X-ray spectra, we set up a Cloudy model with this continuum and allowed it to pass through cluster gas at a temperature of $2.78 \times 10^7$ K (2.4 keV) for an equivalent hydrogen column density of projected $2.3 \times 10^{21}$ cm$^{-2}$ (15 kpc $\times 0.05$ cm$^{-3}$) or deprojected $3.4 \times 10^{21}$ cm$^{-2}$ (22 kpc $\times 0.05$ cm$^{-3}$).

The transmitted spectrum from the output of this model was then added to the pure cluster simulation, allowing the HEXTRA component to vary so that the observed temperature of the cluster was still reproduced, $2.78 \times 10^7$ K (2.4 keV). The emitted spectrum from this Cloudy model together with a model accounting for the quasar PSF (Section 4.1) was fitted to the observed spectra from the projected (15–30 kpc) and deprojected (22–39 kpc) regions.