DISCOVERY OF THE FIRST GIANT DOUBLE RADIO RELIC IN A GALAXY CLUSTER FOUND IN THE PLANCK SUNYAEV–ZEL'DOVICH CLUSTER SURVEY: PLCK G287.0+32.9

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ABSTRACT

We report the discovery of large-scale diffuse non-thermal radio emission in PLCK G287.0+32.9, an exceptionally hot (T ~ 13 keV), massive, and luminous galaxy cluster, strongly detected by the Planck satellite in a recent, all-sky blind search for new clusters through Sunyaev–Zel’dovich effect. Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope 150 MHz and Very Large Array 1.4 GHz radio data reveal a pair of giant (>1 Mpc) “arc”-shaped peripheral radio relics (signatures of shock waves) of unprecedented scale (linear separation ~4.4 Mpc at redshift 0.39), located at distances from the cluster center that are about 0.7 and 1.3 of the cluster’s virial radius, respectively. Another possible giant relic and a radio halo is detected closer to the cluster center. These relic sources are unique “signposts” of extremely energetic mergers and shocks (both ongoing and past) that are assembling and heating up this very massive galaxy cluster. They are also a probe of the filamentary cosmic-web structure beyond the cluster virial radius. Optical imaging with the IUCAA 2 m telescope and XMM-Newton X-ray data confirm a very rich galaxy cluster with a morphologically disturbed core region, suggesting a dynamically perturbed merging system.

Key words: cosmology: observations – galaxies: clusters: individual (PLCK G287.0+32.9) – shock waves – X-rays: galaxies: clusters

1. INTRODUCTION

Two main baryonic constituents of the diffuse intracluster medium (ICM) are the diffuse, hot (T ~ 107–108 K), tenuous (n0 ~ 10–3–4 cm–3) ICM and a rarely visible non-thermal population of extremely high energy relativistic particles. The presence of GeV electrons/positrons (of largely unknown origin) is inferred from the diffuse synchrotron radio emission in a fraction of galaxy clusters, which lacks an obvious association with any of the cluster galaxies. These radio sources, which usually possess large size (~0.1–1 Mpc) and steep spectra (α ~ 1–3; Sν ∝ ν–α), are called “radio halos” if they permeate the cluster centers and “radio relics” if they are located at the cluster peripheral regions (e.g., the review by Ferrari et al. 2008).

Since radio halos and relics are exclusively found in the clusters clearly showing X-ray or optical substructure (Govoni et al. 2004), their origin is related to the merging processes of galaxy clusters, although its details are still obscure. Signatures of giant shock waves arising from cluster mergers have been discovered in recent years (Bagchi et al. 2006; van Weeren et al. 2010), and such collisionless shocks are capable of accelerating the particles to relativistic energies, giving rise to the radio relics via in situ diffusive shock acceleration of electrons (primary electrons). The radio halos may arise via turbulent energy injection or in situ acceleration of protons with the secondary production of relativistic electrons and positrons by inelastic p–p collisions (secondary electrons; Dennison 1980; Brunetti & Lazarian 2007).

The free thermal electrons of hot ICM inverse Compton scatter the photons of cosmic microwave background (CMBR). This results in a predictable spectral distortion of CMBR toward the cluster which is the well-known thermal Sunyaev–Zel’dovich (SZ) effect (Sunyaev & Zel’dovich 1972, 1980). The SZ effect is an exceptional tool for the study of clusters as the surface brightness of the SZ signal is independent of redshift and depends only on the integrated thermal pressure of ICM along the line of sight. The total SZ signal, being a measure of thermal energy of the cluster, tightly correlates with the cluster mass, making it a powerful, unbiased tool for making volume limited samples and for finding the high redshift and the most massive clusters (Vanderlinde et al. 2010; Williamson et al. 2011). Of particular interest is the investigation of how the SZ signal correlates with other cluster properties, such as the mass, temperature, and X-ray luminosity (the “scaling relations”), while the departure from scaling relations indicates non-gravitational and non-thermal heating processes in strongly merging systems.

The Planck6 space telescope designed for the study of CMBR and its anisotropy has recently also been used for studying the SZ decrement (Planck Collaboration 2011a). The ongoing Planck SZ survey provides sky images at nine frequencies in the range 30–857 GHz and is the first all-sky survey capable of blindly searching for distant and massive clusters, since the ROSAT all-Sky Survey (RASS) in the X-ray domain.

A sample of SZ detected clusters in the Planck Early Release Catalog (ESZ) is described in detail in Planck Collaboration (2011b). The highest signal-to-noise ratio (S/N > 6) sample of 189 clusters is derived from a blind multi-frequency search in the all-sky maps from the first 10 months of observations. Out of these, 20 are new, hitherto unknown clusters which are above the ESZ high signal-to-noise selection criterion. Twenty-five clusters have been observed to date with XMM-Newt

6 Planck (http://www.esa.int/Planck) a project of the European Space Agency (ESA) with instruments provided by two scientific consortia funded by ESA member states (in particular the lead countries France and Italy), with contributions from NASA (USA) and telescope reflectors provided by a collaboration between ESA and a scientific consortium led and funded by Denmark.
its complex dynamical state. X-ray and SZ parameters are (Planck Collaboration 2011b). A 10 ks X-ray validation exposure taken with XMM-Newton reveals an extremely hot ($T_x = 12.86$ keV), luminous ($L_{0.1-2.4\text{ keV}} = 1.72 \times 10^{45}$ erg s$^{-1}$ within $R_{500}$), and massive (estimated $M_{500} = 1.57 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$) galaxy cluster at redshift of $z = 0.39$ (from Fe K line fitting). PLCK G287.0+32.9 is also the most massive and the hottest new SZ cluster detected by Planck. Our observations with the 2 m telescope (see below) provide the first deep optical image, confirming it to be a very rich galaxy cluster. The X-ray and SZ properties are summarized in Table 1, taken from Planck Collaboration (2011c). We have reanalyzed the public domain XMM-Newton data providing clear evidence for significant morphological disturbances in the center, thus characterizing PLCK G287.0+32.9 as a dynamically perturbed, merging system (Figure 1).

3. Observations

3.1. Optical Validation of Galaxy Cluster PLCK G287.0+32.9

We observed PLCK G287.0+32.9 with the 2 m optical telescope of the IUCAA Girawali Observatory (IGO) in India, using the IUCAA Faint Object Spectrograph & Camera (IFOSC). IFOSC employs an EEV 2K × 2K CCD giving a field of view of about $10.5 \times 10.5$ arcmin. Observations were taken on 2011 February 3, 6, 7, and 10, in fair seeing (average $\sim1''$) and dark sky conditions. The analysis was done in a standard way.

Table 1

| Parameter | Value |
|-----------|-------|
| Right ascension | $11^h50^m49^s.20$ |
| Declination | $-28^\circ04'36.5''$ |
| X-ray temperature | $12.86\pm0.42$ keV |
| X-ray luminosity | $17.20\pm0.11\times10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$ |
| Cluster mass | $15.72\pm0.27\times10^{14} M_{\odot}$ |
| $R_{500}$ | $1541$ kpc |
| $SZ$ Compton $Y_{500}$ | $3.30\pm0.16\times10^{-4}$ Mpc$^2$ |
| X-ray $Y_X,500$ | $30.69\pm0.36\times10^{44}$ keV |

Notes. a Planck Collaboration (2011b, 2011c). b From fitting Fe-K lines. c Spherically integrated Compton $Y$ parameter measured interior to $R_{500}$. d X-ray derived $Y$ parameter, $Y_{X,500} = M_{X,500} T_x$, the product of gas mass within $R_{500}$ and X-ray temperature.

Figure 1. Left: deep $R$-band image taken with the 2 m telescope of IUCAA. The FOV is 7 arcmin on each side ($\sim2.2$ Mpc). X-ray contours are from XMM-Newton (0.3–10 keV, MOS1/2, and PN detectors, binned and smoothed). Right: the same X-ray image is shown along with iso-contours.
Figure 2. Upper left: GMRT 150 MHz radio map of the cluster (orange–yellow, beam FWHM $36.84' \times 28.58'$ in 47.6$^\circ$ P.A.). Superposed are the XMM-Newton X-ray emission contours (green) in 0.3–10 keV energy range. A pair of giant radio relics at the cluster periphery are marked RN (north relic) and RS (south relic). Upper right: GMRT 150 MHz radio map near the cluster center (beam FWHM $24' \times 15'$ in P.A. 30$^\circ$), superposed on the optical R-band image. Contour levels are 7.5, 13.57, 19.64, 25.7, 31.75, 43.92, and 50 mJy beam$^{-1}$. Lower left and right: contour plots of radio relics RN (left) and RS (right) at 150 MHz, superposed on the R-band image of the region. The beam FWHM is $36.84' \times 28.58'$ in 47.6$^\circ$ P.A. Contour levels are 10, 13, 17, 22, 29, 33, and 50 mJy beam$^{-1}$ with typical rms noise $\sim 3–5$ mJy beam$^{-1}$.

using IRAF. The final, combined deep R-filter image has a total exposure time of 4 hr ($12 \times 1200$ s), which shows a dense concentration of galaxies near the cluster center. Lacking a good magnitude calibration of the CCD images, we used the SuperCOSMOS Sky Survey for photometric information (Hambly et al. 2001). We obtained a plot of galaxy counts by including galaxies with ESO R-magnitude $m_R < 20.5$ and counting in cells of 100$''$ radius. At the center a peak galaxy over density factor of $\sim 10$ was found, relative to the mean field galaxy density far away. Thus, we independently confirm PLCK G287.0+32.9 to be a very rich and massive galaxy concentration (see Figure 1).

3.2. GMRT and VLA Radio Images

A search for diffuse non-thermal radio emission in and around the new Planck ESZ clusters was carried out, using the TIFR–GMRT Sky Survey (TGSS) database at 150 MHz. A central radio-halo/relic source and a peripheral giant double-relic were thus identified toward PLCK G287.0+32.9. These are corroborated by the 1.4 GHz NRAO VLA Sky Survey images (NVSS; Condon et al. 1998), as described below.

The 150 MHz image presented here was derived from the data of the ongoing TGSS$^7$ (S. K. Sirothia et al. 2011, in preparation). We reanalyzed the TGSS snapshots with ROBUST = 5 weights (AIPS++ software) in order to enhance the sensitivity to extended emission. This map with a beam of $36.84' \times 28.58'$ FWHM in 47.6$^\circ$ position angle has an rms noise of $3–6$ mJy beam$^{-1}$ (see Figure 2). The 1.4 GHz map in Figure 3 is reproduced from the NVSS.

4. RESULTS

Our key result is the discovery of a pair of giant ($l > 1$ Mpc), non-thermal peripheral radio relics of an unprecedented scale (projected separation $\sim 4.4$ Mpc at $z = 0.39$) in a merging galaxy cluster of extreme properties (Figure 2 top row). Such Mpc-scale double relics are rare and only nine cases have been reported. Of these, the double radio relic associated with the well-known merging cluster A3667 ($z = 0.0556$) and having an overall size

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$^7$ For survey details, online data, and analysis please refer to http://tgss.ncra.tifr.res.in.
of 3.9 Mpc was the largest known until now (Röttgering et al. 1997). Furthermore, the present case (PLCK G287.0+32.9) is not only the first clear detection of diffuse non-thermal radio emission in a galaxy cluster detected solely through a blind SZ search by Planck, it is also the most distant \((z = 0.39)\) giant double radio relic known, even surpassing the hitherto known case of the \(z = 0.27\) filamentary cluster ZwCl 2341.1+0000 (van Weeren et al. 2009). In PLCK G287.0+32.9 the pair of Mpc-scale, sharp "arc" like relics are seen to the north and south of the cluster, capping the opposite ends of the X-ray emitting hot ICM and the central optical galaxy concentration (Figures 1 and 2 top row). The two extended radio relics are marked RN (north relic) and RS (south relic), also shown with iso-contours, superposed on the optical images (lower left and right panels in Figure 2). Another Mpc-scale Y-shaped filamentary radio feature is visible closer to the north of the cluster center, whose nature is presently unclear (\(\sim R. A. 11^h50^m51.3s, \text{ decl. } -28^d02^m57.4^s\)), but which may well be another radio relic, as it has no obvious association with any galaxy. Both this feature and the peripheral double relic are visible also in the lower resolution NVSS image at 1.4 GHz (Figure 3), lending independent support to their being real. Moreover, NVSS image shows some diffuse radio emission near the cluster center, probably representing a cluster wide radio halo (Figure 3). Unfortunately, the poor resolution and the presence of several discrete radio sources in that region makes it difficult to unambiguously visualize the proposed halo.

Note that the strong point source marked "S" on NVSS image (181 mJy peak) lacks a TGSS counterpart, implying a strongly inverted spectrum below \(\sim 1\) GHz. On the other hand, the nature of the extended Mpc-scale feature marked "F" remains unclear; although seen in the TGSS 150 MHz image (Figure 2), it is absent in the NVSS 1.4 GHz map. This suggests that either it is a very steep spectrum radio relic, possibly a southern counterpart to the inner relic, or merely a noise feature. To clarify this we have applied for much deeper GMRT imaging.

Integrated flux densities of the radio relics are 550 \(\pm 50\) mJy (RN) and 780 \(\pm 50\) mJy (RS) at 150 MHz (GMRT), and 33 \(\pm 5\) mJy (RN) and 25 \(\pm 5\) mJy (RS) at 1400 MHz (Very Large Array, VLA). Thus, the radio spectral index \(\alpha\) between the two frequencies is extremely steep, i.e., 1.26 for the relic RN and 1.54 for the relic RS. The corresponding value for the giant Y-shaped relic candidate north of the cluster center is also very steep at \(\alpha = 1.20\). These very steep spectra support the interpretation of all these giant diffuse sources as being radio relics, an inference corroborated by the lack of obvious association with any prominent galaxy (Figure 2). We also point out that the radio emission from a foreground \((m_B = 15.34)\), emission-line galaxy 2MASX J11504002−2800582 at \(z = 0.0605\) (Mauch & Sadler 2007) is seen superposed on the western end of the relic RN.

Our reanalysis of the 10 ks exposure XMM-Newton archival data for PLCK G287.0+32.9 shows an extremely X-ray luminous cluster having prominent substructure within the central...
1.5 (~500 kpc) core region (Figure 1). The brightest central elliptical galaxy (ESO R magnitude 17.56) at R.A. 11°50′50″, decl. ~28°04′55.5″ is located within a subcluster, which is clearly shifted to the southeast from the main X-ray peak by ~1/3 (400 kpc). The compression of the X-ray contours north-west of the main X-ray peak indicates ongoing gas motions, either due to gas “sloshing” following a merger or motion of a merging subcluster. A detailed analysis of the X-ray data will be presented in J. Bagchi et al. (2011, in preparation).

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The giant radio relics reported here in the cluster PLCK G287.0+32.9 are not only the first such detections for an SZ cluster survey, but also this relic pair has the largest separation (4.4 Mpc) and redshift (z = 0.39) compared with any other known giant double relic. In PLCK G287.0+32.9 the projected distances from the X-ray center of the cluster are about 5′ (or 1.58 Mpc) for the northern relic and 9.5 (or 3 Mpc) for the southern relic. The virial radius (Rvir) of cluster can be estimated by taking Rvir ≈ R500 and scaling from R200, i.e., R200 = R500 × (500/200)1/3 × (M200/M500)1/3. This gives R200 ≈ 2.3 Mpc, using R500 = 1541 kpc and the mean value of mass ratio (M200/M500) = 1.40 ± 0.02, obtained from the Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW) profile fit to nearby (z ≤ 0.15) clusters (Pointecouteau et al. 2005). Thus, the separation from the cluster center of the relics is about 1.3 × R200 for RS and about 0.7 × R200 for RN. The mechanism of electron acceleration at such extreme distances from the cluster center is little understood. According to a currently popular interpretation, double-relics are the sites where cosmic-ray particles are accelerated in situ to relativistic energies by diffusive first-order Fermi acceleration, such that the resulting radio emission traces the outward expanding powerful shock fronts originating from a major cluster merger activity at the center (Enßlin et al. 1998; Bagchi et al. 2006; Hoeft et al. 2008; van Weeren et al. 2010).

This scenario is strongly supported by the extremely high temperature and unrelaxed X-ray appearance of PLCK G287.0+32.9. A recent hydro-simulation of major mergers (Paul et al. 2011) shows that the emergent ellipsoidal shock front may expand well beyond the virial radius and the brightest parts of it are roughly tangential to the principal merger axis, thus resembling a pair of concave “arcs,” akin to those found in PLCK G287.0+32.9. As the shock front crosses the virial radius, it begins to interact with the intergalactic matter filaments, resulting in its fragmentation into segments. Such predicted evolution of the peripheral shocks appears to be mirrored in both members of the relic pair, whose overall arc-shaped radio morphology exhibits one or two distinct emission gaps (Figure 2). Thus, such giant radio relics can be a new probe of the large-scale cosmic structures (see also Bagchi et al. 2006; van Weeren et al. 2010; Brown et al. 2011).

XMM-Newton data confirm that the cluster PLCK G287.0+32.9 is exceptional in terms of its mass, temperature, and luminosity (Table 1), detected with high S/N by Planck (Planck Collaboration 2011c). Given the perturbed dynamical state of merging system PLCK G287.0+32.9, it is of interest to investigate its position on the well-known X-ray–SZ scaling planes. As shown in Planck Collaboration (2011c), indeed PLCK G287.0+32.9 is a prominent outlier from both L_X,500–Y_500 and M_500–L_X,500 mean scaling lines, which are obtained from the bias corrected local REXCESS X-ray sample (Arnaud et al. 2010), and a sample of 62 nearby galaxy clusters detected by Planck showing strong SZ decrement (Planck Collaboration 2011d). Although due to the intrinsic scatter in these correlations, the deviation of PLCK G287.0+32.9 from these scaling laws is not greater than 1σ, nevertheless it is noticeably underluminous in X-rays for its large mass, in common with other new extreme low luminosity, high mass, disturbed clusters that are being revealed by Planck.

Synchrotron emission from the giant relic pair shows that magnetic fields of appreciable strength are present not only in the ICM but also in the diffuse intergalactic medium beyond, i.e., in the gas that will be shocked as it accretes onto collapsing structures—the precursors of virialized galaxy clusters. Such magnetic fields are also required for providing the scattering centers for the diffusive shock acceleration mechanism. As it is not obvious how magnetic fields are amplified up to the requisite large values along the filaments, studies similar to the one reported here pose a new challenge to theoretical models. The detection of large-scale diffusive shocks via synchrotron radio emission in the sparsely studied, rarefied intergalactic field around the cluster outskirts, i.e., beyond the virial radius (R > R500), is a very significant result, and it provides a foretaste of science with the upcoming low frequency radio telescopes like LOFAR and LWA (and SKA at higher frequency), as an effective probe of the non-thermal processes in merging clusters and within the filamentary cosmic-web of the near and distant parts of the universe (e.g., Rudnick et al. 2009).

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