Properties of the intracluster medium of Abell 3667 observed with Suzaku XIS

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Abstract

We observed the northwest region of the cluster of galaxies A3667 with the Suzaku XIS instrument. The temperature and surface brightness of the intracluster medium were measured up to the virial radius (r200 ∼ 2.3 Mpc). The radial temperature profile is flatter than the average profile for other clusters until the radius reaches the northwest radio relic. The temperature drops sharply from 5 keV to about 2 keV at the northwest radio relic region. The sharp changes of the temperature can be interpreted as a shock with a Mach number of about 2.5. The entropy slope becomes flatter in the outer region and negative around the radio relic region. In this region, the relaxation timescale of electron-ion Coulomb collisions is longer than the time elapsed after the shock heating and the plasma may be out of equilibrium. Using differential emission measure (DEM) models, we also confirm the multi-temperature structure around the radio relic region, characterized by two peaks at 1 keV and 4 keV. These features suggest that the gas is heated by a shock propagating from the center to outer region.

Key words: galaxies: clusters: individual (Abell 3667) — X-rays: ICM, shock wave

1. Introduction

Clusters of galaxies grow through gravitational infall and mergers of smaller groups and clusters. Merger events convert kinetic and turbulent energy of the gas in colliding subclusters into thermal energy by driving shocks in the cluster. A fundamental issue of cluster growth is the nature of heating processes in merger events. Although shocks caused by merger events are very important for gas heating and particle acceleration, there are only a few clusters for which clear evidence of shocks has been obtained (1E0657-56, A520: Clowe et al. 2009; Akahori & Yoshikawa 2010). Recent Suzaku results show that the temperature profile of the merging cluster A2142 is slightly in excess compared to other relaxed clusters and a possible deviation between electron and ion temperatures may be present (Akamatsu et al. 2011). However, there is little information about the ICM properties in the outer regions of merging clusters because of the faintness of the X-ray surface brightness.

In this paper, we present results from observations of the merging cluster A3667 (z = 0.0556) with XIS on board Suzaku (Mitsuda et al. 2007). It is a very bright merging cluster with irregular morphology and an average temperature of 7.0 ± 0.5 keV (Knopp et al. 1996). Briel et al. (2004) studied the ICM characteristics in the cluster central region and showed that the ICM emission is elongated to the northwest direction. The most striking features of A3667 is a discontinuity in the X-ray surface brightness, namely a “cold front”, which was found with Chandra (Vikhlinin et al. 2001). Another feature of A3667 are the two extended, symmetrically located regions of diffuse radio emission revealed with 843 MHz ATCA observatory (Australia Telescope Compact Array: Röttgering et al. 1997). The presence of these structures naturally indicates that A3667 is a merging system and the subcluster infall seems to be occurring along the northwest–southeast direction. Actually, the overall cluster emission is elongated in this direction.

A recent XMM-Newton observation of the northwest radio relic of A3667 has shown significant jumps in temperature and surface brightness across the relic (Finoguenov et al. 2010). The observed ICM properties associated with the jump indicate the existence of a shock front with a Mach number M ∼ 2.4.

From Suzaku XIS/HXD observations of A3667, Nakazawa et al. (2009) measured the cluster emission up to 40’ and set upper limits on the non-thermal X-ray emission in XIS spectra of 7.3 × 10⁻¹³ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ when extrapolated to 10-40 keV. Nakazawa et al. (2009) also observed very high temperature components (kT ∼ 14 keV) in the cluster center. Since their main interest was to look into the non-thermal phenomenon, the global ICM properties in the cluster outskirts remain to be further explored.

The purpose of this study is to clarify the physical state of
the ICM in the outer regions of the merging cluster A3667. We use $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_M = 0.27$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.73$, respectively, which means that 1' correspond to a diameter of 66 kpc. The virial radius is approximated by $r_{200} = 2.77 h_{70}^{-1} (T/10\text{keV})^{1/2} \text{Mpc}/E(z)$, where $E(z) = (\Omega_M (1+z)^3 + 1 - \Omega_M)^{1/2}$ (Henry et al. 2009). For our cosmology and redshift, $r_{200}$ is 2.26 Mpc ($=34'1$) with $kT = 7.0$ keV. In this paper, we employ solar abundances given by Anders & Grevesse (1989) and Galactic hydrogen column density of $N_H = 4.7 \times 10^{20} \text{cm}^{-2}$ (Dickey & Lockman 1990). Unless otherwise stated, the errors correspond to 90% confidence for a single parameter.

2. Observations & Data reduction

As shown in Fig 1, Suzaku carried out three pointing observations of Abell 3667 along the northwest merger axis in May 2006, designated as Center, Offset1, and Offset2. The observation log is summarized in Table 1. All observations were performed with either normal 5 or 3 x 3 clocking mode.

The combined observed field extends to the virial radius of A3667 (34'1 ~ 2.26 Mpc). During the observations, the contamination from the Solar Wind Charge eXchange (SWCX) was not significant, which we base on ACE SWE data and the absence of flare-like features in the XIS light curve (see Appendix 1).

The XIS instrument consists of 4 CCD chips: one back-illuminated (BI: XIS1) and three front-illuminated (FI: XIS0, XIS2, XIS3) ones. The IR/UV blocking filters had a significant contamination accumulated at the time of the observations, and we included its effect and uncertainty on the soft X-ray effective area in our analysis. We used HEAsoft version 6.9 and CALDB 2010-12-06 for all the Suzaku data analysis presented here. In the XIS data analysis, we limited the Earth rim ELEVATION $>10'$ to avoid contamination of scattered solar X-rays from the day Earth limb. Additionally, we performed event screening with cut-off rigidity (COR) $>8$ GV to increase the signal to noise ratio. We extracted pulse-height spectra in 10 annular regions whose boundary radii were 0', 1', 2', 3', 4', 5', 6', 7', 8', and 9'. The LHB and MWH components are indicated by green and blue curves, respectively.

3. Background modeling

An accurate measurement of the background components is important for the ICM study in the cluster outer region.
We examined four background components, namely non-X-ray background (NXB), cosmic X-ray background (CXB) and the Galactic emission consisting of the Milky Way Halo (MWH) and the Local Hot Bubble (LHB). The NXB component was estimated from the dark Earth database by the xisnxgen FTOOLS (Tawa et al. 2008) and was subtracted from the data before the spectral fit. To adjust for the long-term variation of the XIS background due to radiation damage, we accumulated the NXB data for the period between 150 days before till 150 days after the observation of A3667.

3.1. Cosmic X-ray Background Intensity and Fluctuation

Using seven XMM-Newton data sets reported in Briel et al. (2004) and Finoguenov et al. (2010), we searched for point-like sources within the Suzaku field of view using the wavdetect tool in the CIAO package. As shown by the green circles in figure 1, we detected and subtracted 22 point sources which have 2.0-10 keV fluxes higher than $S_\gamma = 5 \times 10^{-14}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$. The extraction radius was set to 1 $\arcmin$ or 2 $\arcmin$ corresponding to the HPD of the Suzaku XRT. We estimated the CXB surface brightness after the source subtraction to be $5.97 \times 10^{-6}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ based on ASCA GIS measurements (Kushino et al. 2002).

Kushino et al. (2002) set the flux-limit of eliminated point sources to be $S_\gamma = 2 \times 10^{-13}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$, we subtracted sources down to $5 \times 10^{-14}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$. This causes our flux-limit value to be sufficiently lower than the Kushino et al. level.

We need to estimate the amplitude of the CXB fluctuation, caused by the statistical fluctuation of point sources in the FOV. We scaled the measured fluctuations from Ginga (Hayashida 1989) to our flux limit and field of view following Hoshino et al. (2010). The fluctuation width scales as $-0.5$ power of the effective field of view ($\Omega_e$) and 0.25 power of the point-source detection limit. We show the CXB fluctuation level, $\sigma_\gamma$/CXB, for each spatial region in table 2.

3.2. Galactic Components

To estimate the Galactic background components, we use the data in the outermost region which is located outside of the virial radius (37.8 – 42.0). We account for the Local Hot Bubble (LHB: $\sim 0.1$ keV with no absorption), the Milky-Way Halo (MWH: $\sim 0.3$ keV with absorption) and the CXB component mentioned above. The model is described by $\text{apec} + \text{wabs}$($\text{apec} + \text{powerlaw}$). The redshift and abundance in both the apec components were fixed at 0 and unity, respectively. To represent the Galactic and CXB emission, we used the XIS response for a source of uniform brightness. The spectrum was well fitted with the above model ($\chi^2$ = 1.10 for 344 degrees of freedom). The temperatures of the LHB and the MWH are $0.11 \pm 0.01$ keV and $0.37 \pm 0.03$ keV, respectively, consistent with the typical Galactic emission. The resultant parameters and the spectrum are shown in Table 3 and in Figure 2.

3.3. Stray light

Stray light consists of photons entering from the detector outside the FOV. The Suzaku optics often show significant effects of stray light from nearby bright X-ray sources (Serlemitsos et al. 2007). The extended point spread function of the telescope with a half-power diameter of $1.7$ also causes contamination of photons from nearby sky regions.

To examine the effect of stray light from the bright central region of the A3667 cluster, we calculated the photon contributions to our annular regions from different regions of the cluster using the ray tracing code xissim (Ishisaki et al. 2007). We used version 2008-04-05 of the simulator. The surface brightness distribution is one of the input parameters necessary to run xissim. We used a $\beta$-model ($\beta = 0.54$, $r_c = 2.97$) based on the

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**Table 3. Best-fit background parameters**

| Region | LHB | MWH |
|--------|-----|-----|
| $kT$ (keV) | $0.11 \pm 0.01$ | $0.37 \pm 0.03$ |
| norm $^*$ ($\times 10^{-3}$) | $4.85^{+1.70}_{-0.10}$ | $11.6^{+1.3}_{-1.8}$ |
| $\chi^2$/d.o.f | 381/344 | 382/344 |

$^*$ Normalization of the apec component scaled with a factor 1/400r.

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**Table 2. Estimation of the CXB fluctuation.**

| Region | 0'–4'2 | 4'–8'4 | 8'–12'6 | 11'–16'8 | 16'–21'0 | 20'–25'2 | 25'–29'4 | 29'–43'3 | 33'–36'7 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| $S_{R}^*$ | 22.28 | 20.89 | 3.53 | 0.42 | 0.29 | 0.16 | 0.05 | 0.04 | 0.03 |
| $\Omega_e^a$,Suzaku | 50.3 | 158.9 | 73.2 | 67.7 | 80.3 | 72.1 | 59.9 | 62.5 | 60.0 |
| $\sigma_\gamma$/CXB $^a$ | 14.0 | 7.9 | 11.6 | 12.1 | 11.1 | 12.8 | 12.6 | 12.8 | 12.8 |

* $\Omega_e^a$,Suzaku: The fraction of simulated cluster photons that full in the region compared to the total photons generated in the entire simulation.

* $\sigma_\gamma$/CXB $^a$: In this paper, $S_e := 5 \times 10^{-14}$ erg cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ is assumed for all regions. $S_e$ is the flux limit of the extracted point sources.
Table 4. Relative count contributions (%) due to PSF broadening of the Suzaku XIS mirror. Most of the PSF contaminations in an annular region originate from the inner neighboring annular.

| Detector/Sky | (1) 0′-4′/2 | (2) 4′-8′/4 | (3) 8′/4-12′/6 | (4) 12′/6-16′/8 | (5) 16′/8-21′/0 | (6) 21′/0-25′/2 | (7) 25′/2-29′/4 | (8) 29′/4-33′/6 | (9) 33′/6-37′/8 |
|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|              | 90.9        | 8.9        | 0.1           | 0.0            | 0.0           | 0.0            | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           |
|              | 20.6        | 75.4       | 3.9           | 0.1            | 0.0           | 0.0            | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           |
|              | 3.0         | 21.0       | 71.9          | 3.7            | 0.2           | 0.1            | 0.0           | 0.0           | 0.0           |
|              | 0.9         | 1.4        | 12.7          | 75.1           | 9.3           | 0.4            | 0.1           | 0.0           | 0.0           |
|              | 0.8         | 0.6        | 1.4           | 14.3           | 8.4           | 0.4            | 0.1           | 0.0           | 0.0           |
|              | 1.1         | 1.2        | 0.7           | 1.5            | 14.1          | 8.6            | 0.3           | 0.2           | 0.0           |
|              | 1.9         | 1.4        | 0.9           | 0.8            | 12.7          | 13.3           | 7.7           | 0.5           | 0.0           |
|              | 0.8         | 0.6        | 0.5           | 0.4            | 0.9           | 13.4           | 73.4          | 9.1           |               |
|              | 1.8         | 1.6        | 1.1           | 0.7            | 0.4           | 0.7            | 0.5           | 11.2          | 71.4          |

Fig. 3. NXB subtracted spectra in each annular region. The XIS BI (Black) and FI (Red) spectra are fitted with the ICM model ($\text{wabs + apec}$), along with the sum of the CXB and the Galactic emission ($\text{apec + wabs(apec + powerlaw)}$). The CXB component is shown with a black curve, and the LHB and MWH emissions are indicated by green and blue curves, respectively. The total background components are shown by the orange curve.
were all fixed at the values from table 3. We employed a single ICM and the sky background components. Intensities, photon for the individual annular regions separately.

### 4. Results

#### Table 5. Best-fit parameters of the ICM

| 0′-4′2 | 4′-2′-8′ | 8′-4′-12′6 | 12′6-16′8 | 16′8-21′0 | 21′0-25′2 | 25′2-29′4 | 29′4-33′6 | 33′6-37′8 |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| $kT$ (keV) | 7.14$^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$ | 6.57$^{+0.12}_{-0.08}$ | 6.93$^{+0.10}_{-0.06}$ | 6.94$^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$ | 6.49$^{+0.08}_{-0.06}$ | 5.70$^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$ | 5.36$^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$ | 1.92$^{+0.07}_{-0.05}$ | 1.58$^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$ |
| $\chi^2$/d.o.f | 371/311 | 391/311 | 386/311 | 409/311 | 371/330 | 388/330 | 371/330 | 388/330 | 454/337 |

#### Table 5. Best-fit parameters of the ICM

| No. | Properties of intracluster medium of Abell 3667 Observed with Suzaku XIS 5 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | $kT$ (keV) | 7.11 | 6.51 | 6.76 | 6.91 | 6.22 | 5.40 | 4.10 | 0.99 | 1.05 |
| 2   | $Z$ | 0.29 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.21 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 |
| 3   | norm | 612.3 | 201.8 | 63.6 | 46.1 | 26.0 | 15.4 | 4.4 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 4   | $S_{0.4-10keV}$ | 91.80$^{+0.69}_{-0.67}$ | 29.54$^{+0.19}_{-0.18}$ | 10.13$^{+0.66}_{-0.66}$ | 6.46$^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$ | 3.67$^{+0.07}_{-0.07}$ | 2.10$^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$ | 0.63$^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | 0.14$^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ | 0.04$^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$ |
| 5   | $\chi^2$/d.o.f | 386/311 | 391/311 | 386/311 | 326/311 | 455/372 | 374/330 | 349/330 | 410/347 | 385/347 | 479/347 |

#### Table 5. Best-fit parameters of the ICM

| No. | Properties of intracluster medium of Abell 3667 Observed with Suzaku XIS 5 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | $kT$ (keV) | 7.16 | 6.61 | 7.07 | 7.09 | 6.62 | 5.95 | 6.17 | 2.53 | 2.25 |
| 2   | $Z$ | 0.29 | 0.33 | 0.25 | 0.19 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 |
| 3   | norm | 650.2 | 216.4 | 69.4 | 47.0 | 28.6 | 17.5 | 5.8 | 3.5 | 1.4 |
| 4   | $S_{0.4-10keV}$ | 94.93 | 30.67 | 10.65 | 6.66 | 3.91 | 2.29 | 0.78 | 0.24 | 0.09 |
| 5   | $\chi^2$/d.o.f | 387/311 | 395/311 | 323/311 | 454/372 | 364/330 | 349/330 | 402/347 | 410/347 | 450/347 |

#### Table 5. Best-fit parameters of the ICM

| No. | Properties of intracluster medium of Abell 3667 Observed with Suzaku XIS 5 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | $kT$ (keV) | 7.75 | 6.98 | 7.17 | 7.58 | 6.94 | 6.13 | 5.41 | 1.93 | 1.72 |
| 2   | $Z$ | 0.30 | 0.33 | 0.26 | 0.20 | 0.23 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 |
| 3   | norm | 606.0 | 201.8 | 64.9 | 44.3 | 25.4 | 14.7 | 5.1 | 2.9 | 1.0 |
| 4   | $S_{0.4-10keV}$ | 91.87 | 29.60 | 10.10 | 6.50 | 3.61 | 2.01 | 0.62 | 0.14 | 0.03 |
| 5   | $\chi^2$/d.o.f | 413/311 | 365/311 | 322/311 | 455/372 | 362/330 | 347/330 | 402/347 | 402/347 | 450/347 |

#### Table 5. Best-fit parameters of the ICM

| No. | Properties of intracluster medium of Abell 3667 Observed with Suzaku XIS 5 |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | $kT$ (keV) | 7.06 | 7.13 | 7.26 | 7.38 | 6.99 | 5.83 | 4.09 | 0.87 | 0.87 |
| 2   | $Z$ | 0.29 | 0.35 | 0.28 | 0.19 | 0.23 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 |
| 3   | norm | 631.2 | 210.9 | 66.8 | 46.8 | 27.5 | 16.7 | 4.5 | 2.3 | 0.9 |
| 4   | $S_{0.4-10keV}$ | 91.13 | 30.75 | 10.27 | 6.58 | 3.77 | 2.08 | 0.44 | 0.03 | 0.01 |
| 5   | $\chi^2$/d.o.f | 383/311 | 526/311 | 325/311 | 403/330 | 367/330 | 344/330 | 406/347 | 399/347 | 494/347 |

We also examined the effect of systematic errors on our spec-
In this section, we look into the residual feature around 0.9 keV which was already reported in the low energy range. As shown in Fig. 3(h), there is a temperature model for the ICM does not give a good fit above. The resultant stray light corrected best fit values are shown in table 5 in “stray light” row. We confirmed that the parameters after correction for the stray light effect stayed within the statistical and systematic errors of our spectral fit.

To examine the influence of stray light on our spectral results, we produced mock stray light spectra using xissim and fitted the annular spectra after this stray light spectrum was subtracted. To simulate the stray light spectrum by xissim, the spectral shape and the surface brightness distribution of the ICM are the input parameters. We assumed the uniform spectrum that was observed in the central region (0.35-2.0 keV) and the spectral shape and the surface brightness distribution of the CXB is shown as CXBMAX and CXBMIN, and the NXB intensity to be 10% CONTAMI and CONTAMI-10% (Koyama et al. 2007) in Table 2, respectively.

Additionally, we adopted differential emission measure (DEM) models using the SPEX spectral fitting package (Kaastra et al. 1996). Several DEM models can account for complex emission measure (EM) distributions, and here we tried 3 models. The first DEM model we employed is a polynomial differential emission measure pDEM model. The second model is a polynomial model as dem (poly), which has been applied to several sources (Lemen et al. 1989; Stern et al. 1995). In this method, the logarithmic emission measure is described as the sum of n Chebyshev polynomials as a function of logarithmic temperature. The last one is a Multi-temperature method as dem (multi T), which is a sum of gaussian temperature distributions:

$$EM_{\text{total}} = \sum_i \frac{EM_i}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_i} \exp\left[-(\log(T) - \log(T_i))^2/2\sigma_i^2\right]$$

where $EM_i$ is the total emission measure of the component $i$, and $T_i$ is the central temperature.

Fig 4(a) shows the result of spectral fits with the pDEM model. The lower panel shows the residuals by fitting with $1kT, 2kT$, and pDEM models. In the $2kT$ and pDEM cases, an additional thermal component ($2kT$ model) to the model. The metal abundances were fixed at 0.2 times solar for both thermal models. We then obtained an almost acceptable fit with $\chi^2/d.o.f = 360/345$. The resultant high and low temperatures are $kT_{\text{high}} = 4.42 \pm 2.7$ keV and $kT_{\text{low}} = 0.89 \pm 0.09$ keV, respectively. The single temperature fit gave $kT = 1.92$ keV, which was in the middle of these two temperatures.
(a) Temperature

(b) Surface brightness

(c) Abundance

(d) Deprojected electron density

Fig. 5. Radial profiles of (a) ICM temperature, (b) Surface brightness, (c) Abundance, (d) Deprojected electron density. The Suzaku best fit values are shown by black diamonds. In temperature profiles, gray diamonds show the results of XMM-Newton (Briel et al. 2004; Finoguenov et al. 2010). Black dashed vertical lines show the approximate radial boundaries of the northwest radio relic. The Green and red dash lines show typical systematic changes of the best fit values due to changes of OBF contaminants and the NXB level. In temperature profiles, the crosses show an average profile given by Pratt et al. (2007) for A3667. In the surface brightness and deprojected electron density profiles, the black solid curve shows the $\beta$-model obtained by ROSAT PSPC (Knopp et al. 1996).

The residuals around 0.9 keV are less significant than for the 1$kT$ case. Fig 4(b) shows the resultant EM distribution based on the DEM analysis. In this analysis, we fixed the metal abundance to 0.2 solar (with the solar abundance table: Anders & Grevesse 1989) and the energy range from 0.5 to 5.0 keV. The result shown in Table 6. The resultant emission measure distribution indicates 2 peaks around 0.9 and 4 keV, which is very similar to the result of a 2$kT$ fit.

The emission measure weighted temperature becomes 2.1 keV, which is consistent with the 1$kT$ results obtained with Suzaku and XMM-Newton (Finoguenov et al. 2010). In Finoguenov et al. (2010), most of the outer regions (No. 1, 14 in Table 1) showed $kT \sim 1$ keV consistent with the results of the present analysis. Nakazawa et al. (2009) also reported a 0.9 keV component at the radio relic region using Suzaku data. Those results suggest either that (1) we observed the foreground Galactic component or that (2) the 29.4 – 33.6 region is a mixture of low and high temperature ICM.

As discussed by Kaasra et al. (2004), a multi-phase gas makes an average temperature spectrum which is difficult to be distinguished by current X-ray satellites. To solve this type of problem by line diagnosis, a future X-ray satellite with a large grasp (FOV×Effective area) and good energy resolution is highly desirable.

4.3. ICM properties

Recent studies from Suzaku have revealed the temperature structure in the outskirts of relaxed clusters, and suggested that ion-electron temperature equilibrium was not reached there (George et al. 2008; Reiprich et al. 2009; Hoshino et al. 2010). In the merging cluster Abell 2142, the temperature profile suggests some excess compared with relaxed clusters (Akamatsu et al. 2011). We have relatively little information about the ICM properties in the outer regions of merging clusters. However, our results on A3667 give us new information. Here, we use the ICM parameters based on our spectral fits shown in
Figure 5(a) shows the radial profile of the ICM temperature in A3667. The temperature within 15′ (960 kpc) from the cluster center shows a fairly constant value of ~7 keV, and it gradually decreases toward the outer region down to ~5 keV around the radio relic (~27'). As mentioned in Section 1, Finoguenov et al. (2010) reported a significant drop of temperature and surface brightness in the radio relic region. Our temperature profile also shows a remarkable drop by a factor of 2–3 in this region even considering the systematic errors.

We compare our temperature profile with the previous XMM-Newton result for A3667 (Briel et al. 2004; Finoguenov et al. 2010) and an average profile given by Pratt et al. (2007). The average profile was made from scaled temperatures for a sample of 15 clusters, and it is described by the following formula

\[ T/T_X = 1.19 - 0.74 R/R_{200} \]  

where \( T_X \) is the average temperature and \( R_{200} \) is the virial radius. We used \( T_X = 7.0 \) keV and \( R_{200} = 347 \) kpc for A3667. The temperature profile of A3667 shows good agreement with the previous XMM result for the radius range within the radio relic, as shown in Fig. 5(a). The observed temperatures of A3667 are somewhat higher than the average levels between 10′ and 26′. Around the radio relic region, the average profile predicts 4.0 keV but the observed temperature is 5.3 keV, which is in excess by about 30%.

The surface brightness profile shows a good agreement with the \( \beta \)-model (\( \beta = 0.54 \), \( r_c = 2.97 \)) up to the radio relic region. As shown in Fig. 5(b), the surface brightness also shows a drop by an order of magnitude across the relic. Figure 5(c) shows the metal abundance profile of A3667, which shows a drop from 0.3 to 0.2 solar. Such a drop is seen in other merging or non-merging clusters based on previous studies by XMM-Newton (Matsushita 2011; Lovisari et al. 2009). The abundance profile shows a significant excess around 0.1\( R_{200} \) possibly due to the effect of the cold front.

We calculated the deprojected electron density profile, based on the surface brightness results. The resultant profile is shown in Fig. 5(d) along with the previous XMM results (Briel et al. 2004; Finoguenov et al. 2010), and the \( \beta \)-model profile from ROSAT PSPC (\( \beta = 0.54, r_c = 2.97 \)). Our electron density profile and the XMM-Newton results are both in good agreement with the \( \beta \)-model profile up to the radius of the radio relic.

Although the surface brightness of A3667 shows no significant excess over the \( \beta \) model, the temperature profile is flatter and higher than the average profile. A similar feature was already reported for another merging cluster, A2142 (Akamatsu et al. 2011). In A2142, the temperature profile along the merger axis shows slightly faster decline compared with the average temperature curve for other relaxed systems studied with Suzaku. In the A3667 case, it is opposite because the temperature shows a slower decline than in other relaxed clusters. The ROSAT and XMM images show an elongated shape along the merger axis direction. The temperature excess and elongated morphology suggest that the ICM is heated by the merger event and the time elapsed since then is not enough for full relaxation. However, the ICM properties are only measured in the direction of the merger axis with this accuracy. Comparison with the ICM properties in the perpendicular direction would be important.

5. Discussion

Suzaku performed 3 pointing observations of Abell 3667 along its merger axis. The temperature, surface brightness, abundance, and deprojected electron density profiles were obtained up to 0.9 times the virial radius (\( r_{200} = 2.26 \) Mpc). The temperature and electron density show a significant “drop” around the radio relic region, whose feature suggest a shock front. We evaluate the cluster properties (shock wave and entropy) and discuss their implications below.

5.1. Possibility of a shock at the radio relic region

Recent X-ray studies with Chandra showed clear evidence of a shock in 1E 0657-56 and A520 (Clowe et al. 2006; Markevitch et al. 2005). However, there is still little information about the nature of shocks in clusters. Recently, Finoguenov et al. (2010) reported a sharp edge in the surface brightness at the outer edge of the NW radio relic in A3667. They interpreted the feature in terms of a shock, and derived the Mach number \( M \sim 2.44 \pm 0.77 \) and \( 1.68 \pm 0.16 \), based on the jumps of temperature and electron density in the radio relic region, respectively.

The present Suzaku data show steep jumps in temperature, surface brightness, and electron number density at the region of the radio relic. To verify the presence and properties of a shock, we estimate the ICM pressure. Fig 6(b) shows the resultant radial profile of the gas pressure in A3667. Black and gray curves show the results from Suzaku and XMM-Newton, respectively. Since the temperature and the surface brightness both show a steep decline, with a somewhat less significant jump in the surface brightness, we see a clear pressure jump of a factor of \( \gtrsim 3 \). The spatial coincidence in the regions of the pressure drop and the radio relic strongly suggests that there is a shock front in this region.

We estimate the Mach number based on the Suzaku data in the same way as Finoguenov et al. (2010). The Mach number can be obtained by applying the Rankine-Hugoniot jump condition, assuming the ratio of specific heats as \( \gamma = 5/3 \), as

\[ \frac{3}{4M^2 + \frac{1}{4}} \frac{T_2}{T_1} = \frac{5M^4 + 14M^2 - 3}{16M^2} \]  

\[ P_2 = 1 + \frac{2\gamma}{\gamma + 1}(M^2 - 1) \]

\( T_1, T_2 \) and \( P_1, P_2 \) are the pre-shock and post-shock temperatures and pressure. \( C = n_2/n_1 \) gives the shock compression. Using the observed jumps in temperature, electron density and pressure, we obtain \( M = 2.48 \pm 0.46, 1.52 \pm 0.10 \) and \( 1.87 \pm 0.27 \), respectively. Table 7 compares our Mach numbers with the XMM-Newton values by Finoguenov et al. (2010). Suzaku results agree well with the previous XMM results of \( M \sim 2.4 \) with slightly smaller errors.

Merger shocks in clusters were reported in the Bullet cluster (\( M \sim 3.0 \)) and in A520 (\( M \sim 2.1 \)). Although these Mach numbers and the one in A3667 are broadly similar, their locations are very different as pointed out by Finoguenov et al. (2010). In A3667, the shock is located very far from the cluster center at \( \sim 30' \) corresponding to 2 Mpc, in contrast to the shocks in the Bullet cluster and A520. Using the gas density in the outer re-
Fig. 6. Radial profiles of pressure, entropy, entropy ratio to theoretical value, and equilibration time after a shock passage. (a) (b) Black and gray diamonds show results of Suzaku and XMM-Newton, respectively. Dashed vertical lines show approximate radial boundaries of the northwest radio relic. In the entropy profile (b), the black solid line shows $K \propto r^{1.1}$ given by Voit et al. 2003. (c) Ratio of the measured entropy with reflect to the theoretical value ($K \propto r^{1.1}$). The horizontal scale is normalized by the virial radius. Black diamonds show Suzaku results for A3667, gray diamonds show A2142 results (Akamatsu et al. 2011), and gray dashed diamonds are A1413 values (Hoshino et al. 2010), respectively. (d) Ion-electron equilibration time scale. Horizontal scale is normalized by the radius of the radio relic. The solid curve shows the time after a shock heating assuming a constant shock speed $v_{\text{shock}} = 1400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Black diamonds show the electron-ion equilibration time calculated by equation (3). Gray solid and dashed diamonds show the ionization time for $n_e t = 3 \times 10^{12}$ and $1 \times 10^{13} \text{ s cm}^{-3}$, respectively.

Table 7. Mach number estimates for the A3667 radio relic shock

| Mach number | Finoguenov et al. 2010 | This work |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| $M$ (by $n_e$) | 1.68±0.16 | 1.52±0.10 |
| $M$ (by $kT$) | 2.43±0.77 | 2.48±0.46 |
| $M$ (by Pressure) | 2.09±0.47 | 1.87±0.27 |

* We use the observed value as post shock region: 25′/2 – 29′/4 and pre shock region: 29′/4 – 33′/6.

region ($n_e \sim 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^{-3}$), the pre-shock sound speed is $\sim v_{ss} = 700 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Using the shock compression $C$ and this pre-shock velocity, we estimate a shock speed $v_{\text{shock}} = C \cdot v_{ss} = 1360 \pm 120 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, which is consistent with the previous XMM-Newton result ($v_{\text{shock}} = 1210 \pm 220 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). This shock speed is much lower than in other systems (Bullet: 4500 km s$^{-1}$, A520: 2300 km s$^{-1}$) and close to the speed of the cold front in the cluster central region $v_{cf} = 1430 \pm 290 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Vikhlinin et al. 2001). Recent hydrodynamic simulations of merging clusters predict that cluster merger events generate cold fronts in the central regions and arc-like shock waves toward the outskirts (Mathis et al. 2005; Akahori & Yoshikawa 2010). These predictions are in good agreement with our observational results.

Another possibility for the origin of the shock front is an infall/accretion flow from large-scale structures. Miniati et al. (2001) predict strong accretion shocks with Mach numbers up to 1000. Such shock waves caused by structure formation are also predicted in the Coma cluster (Ensslin et al. 1998). The Coma cluster shows a giant radio halo and a relic located far.
from the cluster center, and it exhibits a temperature jump across the radio edge (Brown & Rudnick 2011). Although many simulations predict accretion shocks, the observational evidence is still very limited and further sensitive X-ray observations will be very important.

Based on these observational and theoretical arguments, the shock at the northwest radio relic of A3667 seems to be more in favor of being caused by a merger event.

5.2. Entropy profile

The entropy of the ICM is used as an indicator of the energy acquired by the gas. The entropy is generated during the hierarchical assembly process. Numerical simulations indicate that self-similar growth of clusters commonly shows entropy profiles approximated by $r^{1.5}$ up to $r_{\text{200}}$ (Voit et al. 2003). Since entropy preserves a record of both the accretion history and the influence of non-gravitational processes on the properties of its ICM, entropy is a good indicator of the cluster growth. Recent XMM (Pratt et al. 2010) and Chandra results on the entropy profile showed the entropy slope within $r_{\text{500}}$, which is approximately $0.5$ $r_{\text{200}}$, to be in agreement with the predictions from numerical simulations. Recently, Suzaku has extended the entropy measurements close to $r_{\text{200}}$ for several clusters, and showed a flattening or even a decrease at $r \geq 0.5$ $r_{\text{200}}$ (Hoshino et al. 2010; Kawaharada et al. 2010; Akamatsu et al. 2011; Simionescu et al. 2011).

Comparing with relaxed clusters, we looked into the entropy profile of A3667. The entropy of the ICM is given by $S = K T n_e^{-2/3}$. The entropy profile is shown, along with the XMM-Newton result (gray), in Fig. 6. The overplotted black line shows $K \propto r^{1.1}$. The observed entropy slope is consistent with the theoretical value between $0' \text{–} 10'$. The slope becomes flatter at $r > 20'$ and suddenly drops around the radio relic region. This drop suggests the existence of non-thermal heating around the relic.

To compare the entropy profiles with the simulated slope of 1.1 and with other clusters, we calculated the ratio of the simulated and observed profiles. The resultant profile is shown in Fig. 6(c) together with the ones for an other merger cluster (A2142:gray) and a relaxed cluster (A1413:dashed). There is a clear deviation from the simulation in the range $r > 0.4r_{\text{200}}$. Such a feature has been also reported in other relaxed clusters such as A1795, PKS0745, A1689 (George et al. 2008; Bautz et al. 2009; Kawaharada et al. 2010). The deviation from the simulated entropy curve in the cluster outskirts is apparently common to many clusters including merging and non-merging systems. Some physical conditions to explain the origin of the deviation were proposed (Simionescu et al. 2011; Hoshino et al. 2010). However, the interpretation of the observed features is not settled yet.

5.3. The possibility of non-equilibrium ionization.

Theoretical studies about a non-equilibrium state and an electron-ion two-temperature structure of the ICM in merging galaxy clusters have been carried out (Takizawa 2005; Rudd & Nagai 2009; Akahori & Yoshikawa 2010). Recent Suzaku results suggest non-equilibrium features characterized by a different electron and ion temperature in the cluster outskirts (Wong & Sarazin 2009; Hoshino et al. 2010). In merger clusters, shock heating and compression raise the X-ray luminosity in the outer regions, giving us a good opportunity to look into the non-equilibrium features and gas heating processes.

We examine the possibility of a deviation between ion and electron temperatures. In A3667, the existence of a shock is already suggested in the radio relic area (Finoguenov et al. 2010). Assuming that the shock propagates from the cluster center to the outer region, the region just behind the shock may have a higher ion temperature than the electron one, because it had not enough time to equilibrate.

According to Finoguenov et al. 2010, we calculate electron-ion equilibration time and ionization timescales. The electron-ion equilibration time is estimated from the electron density and temperature of ICM. The ionization timescales can be estimated from relative line intensities. Because the lines are very weak in the cluster outer region, we adopt the timescale for equilibrium ionization as $n_e t = 3 \times 10^{12} - 1 \times 10^{13}$ s cm$^{-3}$ given by Fujita et al. 2008 indicating that the outer region attains ionization equilibrium.

In fig 6(d), solid diamonds show the electron-ion equilibration times of A3667 based on the observed temperature and density profiles. The gray and dashed diamonds in fig 6(d) show the resultant values of ionization timescales for $n_e t = 3 \times 10^{12}$ s cm$^{-3}$ and $1 \times 10^{13}$ s cm$^{-3}$, respectively. The horizontal axis of fig 6(d) is normalized by the radio relic radius. The solid curve shows the expected time after the shock heating assuming a constant shock speed $v_{\text{shock}} = 1400$ km s$^{-1}$. The relaxation and ionization timescales, considering electron-ion Coulomb collisions, are both longer than the expected elapsed time after the shock heating around $r > 0.7r_{\text{shock}}$. This suggests that the region near the radio relic would not have reached ion-electron equilibrium. This can be confirmed with future spectroscopic observations which will be able to determine ion temperature through line width measurements.

6. Summary

We observed Abell 3667 with Suzaku XIS and detected the ICM emission near the virial radius $r_{\text{200}}$ (2.3 Mpc ~ 34'). We confirm the jumps in temperature and surface brightness across the northwest radio relic region, which is located far from the cluster center (2 Mpc). Using the Rankine-Hugoniot jump condition and observed ICM pressure value, we evaluated the Mach number as $M = 1.87 \pm 0.27$, consistent with the previous XMM-Newton result (Finoguenov et al. 2010). The main results on A3667 are as follows;

- The ICM temperature gradually decreases toward the outer region from about 7 keV to 5 keV and then shows a jump to 2 keV at the radio relic. The temperature profile inside the relic shows an excess over the mean values for other clusters observed with XMM-Newton.
- There is a distinct structure of the emission measure distribution around the radio relic, characterized by two peaks around 0.9 and 4.0 keV.
- The electron density profile shows a good agreement with the $\beta$-model ($\beta = 0.54$) and also shows a significant jump across the radio relic.
- The significant jump in temperature and density profile across the radio relic support the presence of a shock.
The estimated Mach number of the shock is $M = 1.87 \pm 0.27$ based on the pressure jump.

- The entropy profile within about $0.5r_{200}$ follows $r^{1.1}$, predicted by the accretion shock heating model. The profile shows a significant jump around the radio relic, suggesting the region is not thermally relaxed.
- Based on the relaxation and ionization time needed after a shock heating, we discuss the possibility of $T_e$ being higher than $T_i$ around the radio relic region. Because of the different parameter dependence of electron-ion equilibrium time and non-equilibrium ionization, there is the possibility that not non-equilibrium ionization state but $T_i$ and $T_e$ are different.

These results show that A3667 is a dramatic merging cluster, with the outskirts still in the process of reaching thermal equilibrium and the electrons in the northwest radio relic being strongly heated by their merger shock. Because of the existence of a large cold front and presence of the radio relic, A3667 is a promising target for future X-ray studies such as with ASTRO-H.

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**Appendix 1. Solar Wind Charge eXchange**

To check the contamination effects of Solar Wind Charge eXchange (SWCX), we check the solar-wind proton flux during our Suzaku Observation Fig. 7. These plots are created by multiplying the proton speed and proton density of public WIND-SWE data (http://web.mit.edu/space/www/wind.html). In the observation periods, proton flux has many flares. Because the ICM emission is very strong in the center region of the cluster, we can ignore effects of SWCX. In the cluster outskirts, ICM emission is very weak, effects of SWCX is important. In this analysis, the light curve of the most outer region (OFFSET 2) does not show time variation, therefore we assume effect of SWCX was very small.

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Fig. 7. (a) Proton flux (speed times density) measured by the WIND-SWE when Suzaku observed A3667. (b)-(d) Light curve of the Suzaku XIS1 0.5 - 2.0 keV band during each observations (OFFSET2, OFFSET1 and CENTER).