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# JVLA 1.5 GHz Continuum Observation of CLASH Clusters. I. Radio Properties of the BCGs

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## Abstract

We present high-resolution ( $\sim 1''$ ), 1.5 GHz continuum observations of the brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs) of 13 CLASH (Cluster Lensing And Supernova survey with *Hubble*) clusters at  $0.18 < z < 0.69$  with the Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA). Radio emission is clearly detected and characterized for 11 BCGs, while for two of them we obtain only upper limits to their radio flux ( $< 0.1$  mJy at  $5\sigma$  confidence level). We also consider five additional clusters whose BCG is detected in FIRST or NVSS. We find radio powers in the range from  $2 \times 10^{23}$  to  $\sim 10^{26}$  W Hz $^{-1}$  and radio spectral indices  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  (defined as the slope between 1.5 and 30 GHz) distributed from  $\sim -1$  to  $-0.25$  around the central value  $\langle \alpha \rangle = -0.68$ . The radio emission from the BCGs is resolved in three cases (Abell 383, MACS J1931, and RX J2129), and unresolved or marginally resolved in the remaining eight cases observed with JVLA. In all the cases the BCGs are consistent with being powered by active galactic nuclei. The radio power shows a positive correlation with the BCG star formation rate, and a negative correlation with the central entropy of the surrounding intracluster medium (ICM) except in two cases (MACS J1206 and CL J1226). Finally, over the restricted range in radio power sampled by the CLASH BCGs, we observe a significant scatter between the radio power and the average mechanical power stored in the ICM cavities.

**Key words:** galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – radio continuum: galaxies – X-rays: galaxies: clusters

## 1. Introduction

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

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

In more detail, the relativistic jets and/or outflows inject mechanical energy into the ICM, creating buoyantly rising

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

In this respect, in-depth studies of BCGs and their complex environment using vastly different wavelengths are crucial to reach a comprehensive picture of the feedback phenomena. A unique opportunity for studying BCG properties and their evolution is provided by the Cluster Lensing And Supernovae survey with *Hubble* (CLASH, Postman et al. 2012). CLASH is a 524-orbit Multi-cycle Treasury program with the *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) to use the gravitational lensing properties of 25 galaxy clusters to accurately constrain the baryonic mass and dark matter distributions in the cluster core and in the outskirts, to exploit their lensing properties to find highly magnified high- $z$  galaxies, and to search for Type Ia supernovae at  $z > 1$  to improve constraints on the time dependence of the equation of state of dark energy and the evolution of supernovae. A total of 16 broadband filters, spanning the near-UV to near-IR, are employed for a 20-orbit campaign on each cluster. In addition, CLASH clusters are

observed in the X-ray band with *Chandra* and *XMM-Newton*. In particular, all the CLASH clusters have *Chandra* imaging with medium-deep exposures (from 20 to 130 ks, with an average of 60 ks). We already know that X-ray *Chandra* data of CLASH clusters often show structures in the inner 30 kpc, which corresponds to 10 arcsec at  $z \sim 0.2$  and to 5 arcsec at  $z \sim 0.6$ . The detection of X-ray cavities has already been reported in the literature for some of them individually: RX J1532 by Dunn & Fabian (2008), MACS J1931 by Ehlert et al. (2011), and MACS J1423 by Bîrzan et al. (2008). A recent systematic investigation by Shin et al. (2016) reported cavity detection from beta-model subtracted images for seven CLASH clusters (MACS J1720, Abell 383, MACS J0329, MACS J0744 in addition to those already mentioned). All the clusters are also observed in the mid-infrared (MIR) with *Herschel*, in the near-infrared (NIR) with *Spitzer*, and in the optical with Subaru/Suprime-Cam, and are also intensively followed-up in the optical band to obtain detailed spectra and securely confirm member galaxies thanks to a VLT large program (PI P. Rosati) in addition to spectroscopy on five northern clusters with the Large Binocular Telescope. CLASH is the first large and representative sample of X-ray-selected clusters consistently observed with *HST* in 16 optical and NIR bands, and therefore stands out as one of the most ambitious observational projects on galaxy clusters ever attempted, with a strong legacy value. Similar efforts are currently underway with the *HST* follow-up of 41 massive clusters X-ray-selected from the RELICS survey (PI D. Coe) and of a similar number of X-ray-selected clusters from the MACS survey (the SNAPshot survey, Repp & Ebeling 2017).

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

## 2. Sample Selection

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

Among the 25 clusters of the CLASH sample, only 20 appear dynamically relaxed. The other five are, in fact, dynamically disturbed, and were selected because of their higher lensing magnification factor. Therefore, they do not show well-defined

**Table 1**  
BCG Counterparts of the Relaxed CLASH Cluster Sample

Name	R.A.	Decl.	$z$	Optical	NVSS 20" Match	FIRST 2" Match
Abell 383	02:48:03.36	−03:31:44.7	0.1887(1)	6dF J0248034−033145	J024803−033143	J024803.3−033144
Abell 209	01:31:52.57	−13:36:38.8	0.2098(2)	2MASX J01315250−1336409	J013152−133659	no coverage
Abell 1423	11:57:17.35	+33:36:39.6	0.2140(3)	2MASX J11571737+3336399	J115716+333644	J115716.8+333629
RX J2129	21:29:39.94	+00:05:18.8	0.2339(3)	WISE J212939.98+000521.9	J212940+000522	J212939.9+000521
Abell 611	08:00:56.83	+36:03:24.1	0.2873(4)	2MASX J08005684+3603234	no detection	no detection
MS 2137	21:40:15.18	−23:39:40.7	0.3130(5)	2MASX J21401517−2339398	J214014−233939	no coverage
RX J1532	15:32:53.78	+30:20:58.7	0.3620(6)	SDSS J153253.78+302059.3	J153253+302059	J153253.7+302059
MACS J1931	19:31:49.66	−26:34:34.0	0.352(10)	WISE J193149.63−263433.0	no detection	no coverage
MACS J1720	17:20:16.95	+35:36:23.6	0.387(7)	WISE J172016.75+353626.1	J172016+353628	J172016.7+353625
MACS J0429	04:29:36.10	−02:53:08.0	0.399(11)	2MASX J04293604−0253073	J042936−025306	no coverage
MACS J0329	03:29:41.68	−02:11:47.7	0.450(11)	WISE J032941.57−021146.6	J032941−021152	no coverage
MACS J1423	14:23:47.76	+24:04:40.5	0.5457(6)	SDSS J142347.87+240442.4	J142347+240439	J142347.9+240442
MACS J0744	07:44:52.80	+39:27:24.4	0.6986(6, 7)	SDSS J074452.81+392726.7	no detection	no detection
Abell 2261	17:22:27.25	+32:07:58.6	0.2229(3)	SDSS J172227.18+320757.2	J172227+320757	J172227.0+320758
RX J2248	22:48:44.29	−44:31:48.4	0.3471(12)	WISE J224844.05−443150.7	no coverage	no coverage
MACS J1115	11:15:52.05	+01:29:56.6	0.3520(6)	SDSS J111551.90+012955.0	J111551+012955	J111551.8+012955
MACS J1206	12:06:12.28	−08:48:02.4	0.4398(9)	WISE J120612.16−084803.1	J120612−084802	no coverage
RX J1347	13:47:30.59	−11:45:10.1	0.4495(12)	WISE J134730.61−114509.5	J134730−114508	no coverage
MACS J1311	13:11:01.67	−03:10:39.5	0.4917(6)	SDSS J131101.79−031039.7	no detection	no detection
CL J1226	12:26:58.37	+33:32:47.4	0.8908(8)	SDSS J122658.24+333248.5	J122658+333244	J122658.1+333248

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

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

cluster cores centered on a dominant BCG. A deep JVLA observation of the merging cluster MACS J0717 is presented in van Weeren et al. (2017). In this work we focus on the 20 relaxed CLASH clusters that have a well-defined dominant BCG coincident with or very close to the peak of the X-ray cluster emission. Since our primary science goal is to investigate the relation between the BCG and core properties in massive clusters, we postpone the observation of merging clusters. All the 20 relaxed CLASH clusters are observable from the VLA except one (RX J2248). Also, the cluster CL J1226, with the highest redshift  $z = 0.89$ , was not in our accepted VLA sample because of a conflict with another program. Therefore, we proposed to observe 18 clusters in the L band (20 cm) and A configuration (JVLA proposal VLA-14A-040, AT441, PI P. Tozzi) with the aim of reaching a noise level of  $\sim 0.01$ – $0.02$  mJy/beam. Therefore, assuming a nominal detection threshold corresponding to a signal-to-noise ratio  $S/N = 5$ , we aim at fluxes  $\sim 50$  times fainter than the NRAO VLA Sky Survey (NVSS,<sup>10</sup> Condon et al. 1998) and  $\sim 20$  times deeper than the Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty cm (FIRST<sup>11</sup> Helfand et al. 2015) for point-like sources. The requirement to achieve this sensitivity corresponds roughly to an observation time of about 80 minutes per field with the JVLA, including overheads. We choose the A configuration to achieve the maximum angular resolution of  $\sim 1.3$  arcsec in the L band.

In 2014 we obtained data for only 14 out of 18 clusters. One of these targets (Abell 2261) was seriously affected by radio-frequency interference (RFI). As a result, no useful image was obtained. Therefore, we will present new data for 13 targets only.<sup>12</sup> The observed targets are listed in Table 1, together with the other CLASH clusters included in the relaxed sample. We plan to complete the observation of the entire CLASH sample with a future proposal, including the five merging CLASH clusters observable from the JVLA site. In Table 1 we also identify the optical counterparts of each cluster BCG found in optical or IR surveys among 6dFGS (Jones et al. 2004), 2MASS (Skrutskie et al. 2006), SDSS (York et al. 2000), and WISE (Wright et al. 2010). All our clusters have a well-defined BCG with no ambiguous cases (e.g., a cluster with two comparable galaxies). In the fourth column of Table 1 we list the cluster redshift published in the literature. In the sixth and seventh columns of Table 1 we list the radio counterpart candidates from NVSS and FIRST, respectively, that would be associated with the BCG by assuming a simple matching criterion based on the optical and radio position. In detail, we select the NVSS and FIRST source closest to the position of the optical counterpart within a radius of 20 arcsec for NVSS and 2 arcsec for FIRST. A large matching radius is suggested also for very bright sources in NVSS, where the FWHM is 45 arcsec.<sup>13</sup> Since FIRST resolution is 5 arcsec on average, a matching

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

<sup>11</sup> The FIRST catalog released in 2014 December covers about 10,575 square degrees of sky both in the northern and southern hemispheres, with a detection threshold of  $\sim 1$  mJy at 1.5 GHz (see <http://sundog.stsci.edu/>).

<sup>12</sup> MACS J1720 is partially affected by the same type of interference; however, we were able to obtain useful data, despite this field showing the largest noise.

<sup>13</sup> See discussion by R. L. White on the NRAO Science Forum <https://science.nrao.edu/forums>.



**Table 2**  
Observation and Calibration Parameters of Program VLA-14A-040

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

radius of 2 arcsec is chosen for consistency with the radius of 20 arcsec used for NVSS sources. With this conservative choice, among the sources observed with the JVLA, 10 out of 13 BCGs in our sample have a radio counterpart in either the NVSS or FIRST survey or both, while five fields do not have FIRST coverage. Among the seven sources not observed in our program, five and three have radio counterparts in NVSS and FIRST, respectively.

### 3. Observations and Data Reduction

We present here new data on 13 clusters observed with the JVLA in A configuration from 2014 February 24 to April 24. The A configuration has a maximum baseline of 36.4 km. We used a bandwidth of 1 GHz centered at 1.5 GHz (L band). The largest angular size of a radio source detectable at 1.5 GHz with the A configuration is about 36 arcsec. The FWHM of the primary beam is  $\theta_{\text{PB}} = 30$  arcmin. The observing setup is summarized in Table 2. Total exposure time, useful spectral windows, phase and gain calibrators, beam size, and noise level for each target are listed in Table 3. Each cluster in our sample was observed for about 1 hour or slightly more. The typical angular resolution (synthesized beam size) is  $\sim 1.3$  arcsec. We note that the noise level reached in our images at the aimpoint is on average 0.022 mJy, about twice as large as the value of 0.01 mJy that was the goal of the proposal. The main reason for this noise level is the geostationary satellite belt (which is around  $\text{decl.} = 0^\circ \pm 10^\circ$ ), which introduces a significant amount of extra RFI for five of our targets not accounted for in the proposal. Moreover, for the two fields with the highest noise, RX J1532 and MACS J1720, where the noise level at the aimpoint is of the order of 0.07 and 0.05 mJy, respectively, the flux calibrator used for the observations was not optimal, and this causes an uncertain bandpass calibration. In addition, half of the observation of MACS J1720 was carried out with six spectral windows (spws), and most of them had to be omitted from the analysis. Finally, RX J2129 and again MACS J1720 have very bright and complex off-axis sources, which are difficult to clean. Overall, the average noise level achieved in the 13 fields is low enough to reach our science goals, despite being a factor of  $\sim 2$  larger than expected, and two fields having exceptionally high noise (more than five times the goal rms).

Data calibration is performed with the reduction package Common Astronomy Software Applications (CASA, version 4.7.0) following standard JVLA procedures for low-frequency, wide-band, wide-field imaging data. After applying the standard antenna position correction and the correction for gain curve and opacity, the original data are processed with the Hanning smoothing. Then we apply the `rflag` algorithm to remove strong RFI. The RFI at the spectral window 8 is mostly

caused by satellite communication, and is always stronger than the signal from calibrators. Therefore, we mask spectral window 8 in all our observations. After the bandpass correction and the gain correction, the resulting images employ natural weighting of the visibility data. We consider a square field of view (FOV) of 30 arcmin on a side. The size of each pixel is set to 0.3 arcsec. With these choices, the FOV fully covers the X-ray emission in *Chandra* ACIS-I and the resolution is comparable to that of *Chandra* at the aimpoint.

After at least three self-calibrations, the final images are generated with the wide-field multi-frequency synthesis algorithm and are cleaned by interactive deconvolution. In Figure 1 we show the central  $1' \times 1'$  fields, centered on the optical position of the BCGs, shown as a cross. The color scale varies logarithmically from  $3\sigma$  to the maximum flux density of each field. X-ray surface brightness contours from *Chandra* are also shown with solid blue lines. A direct visual inspection shows that in 11 out of 13 cases the peak of the X-ray emission overlaps with the position of the radio emission within the positional errors, while in two cases (Abell 209 and Abell 1423) no radio emission is detected at the optical position of the BCG. In both clusters a strong radio source is found nearby, but clearly displaced from the X-ray peak (as also noticed by Hogan et al. 2015b). The full-field images will be presented and discussed in a future paper focused on the member galaxy population (H. Yu et al. 2017, in preparation).

### 4. Results

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

#### 4.1. Identification of the BCG

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

We now reconsider the potential candidate counterparts of Table 1 on the basis of our radio images. First, we cross-correlate the position of the radio sources at the pointing centers with the position of the optical BCG using *HST* data. Given the subarcsecond positional error of our radio data and of the *HST* images, we are able to unambiguously associate the central radio source of our images to the nucleus of the BCG. There are 11 clusters containing radio galaxies in their center. The typical offset between the radio and optical positions of the center of the BCG is 0.2 arcsec, consistent with the positional error. For Abell 383, RX J2129, MS 2137, RX J1532, MACS J1729, MACS J0429, MACS J0329, and MACS J1423, we confirm the unique counterpart found in the NVSS and/or FIRST catalogs and listed in Table 1.

**Table 3**  
Data Quality of Program VLA-14A-040

Cluster	$T_{\text{obs}}$ (minutes)	Calibrator		$rms$ ( $\mu\text{Jy}$ )	Beam Size (arcsec $\times$ arcsec)	Orientation (deg)
		Flux	Phase			
Abell 383	62.4	3C48	J0241–0815	19	$1.11 \times 1.01$	–11
Abell 209	62.4	3C48	J0132–1654	22	$1.64 \times 1.13$	27
Abell 1423	63.5	3C286	J1215+3448	18	$1.58 \times 1.07$	39
RX J2129	61.2	3C48	J2136+0041	42	$1.12 \times 1.07$	–11
Abell 611	63.0	3C147	J0751+3313	14	$1.03 \times 0.95$	–68
MS 2137–2353	58.8	3C48	J2138–2439	19	$1.76 \times 0.86$	–3
RX J1532	62.4	3C295 <sup>a</sup>	J1602+3326	47	$1.67 \times 1.11$	52
MACS J1931	61.2	3C48	J1924–2914	29	$2.05 \times 0.94$	–169
MACS J1720	57.9	3C295 <sup>a</sup>	J1721+3542	69	$1.34 \times 1.09$	28
MACS J0429	57.7	3C48	J0423–0120	29	$1.06 \times 1.02$	–14
MACS J0329	61.3	3C48	J0339–0146	17	$1.10 \times 1.04$	–28
MACS J1423	62.4	3C286	J1436+2321	29	$1.17 \times 1.11$	72
MACS J0744	61.8	3C147	J0753+4231	15	$1.03 \times 0.97$	25

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

<sup>a</sup> Because 3C295 is not a suitable flux calibrator for VLA configuration A, we adopt the phase calibrator for RX J1532 and MACS J1720. The flux of the phase calibrator J1602 is set to 2.9 Jy with an index of 0.15, while the flux of J1721 is 0.3 Jy with an index of 0. Both indices are fitted with VLA measurements in bands less than 2 GHz.

Only two clusters (Abell 209 and Abell 1423) do not show any radio counterpart for the BCG, and we were able to put only upper limits on the flux and luminosity of these BCGs. In both cases we find two bright radio sources with head–tail morphologies at a distance of few arcseconds from the BCG. Each source can be easily identified with satellite galaxies in the *HST* images. Both of them are cluster members, confirmed by spectroscopic data. In particular, in Abell 1423, the head–tail galaxy is at a projected distance of  $12''$  (corresponding to 41.2 kpc), while in Abell 209, it is found at a projected distance of  $17''.8$  (corresponding to 59.5 kpc). These radio sources would have been mistakenly assumed to be the radio counterpart of the BCG in NVSS data without a careful screening of each single case and a refined analysis, as shown by our preliminary search for radio counterparts (see Table 1). Bright head–tail or wide-angle tail radio galaxies have been found in relaxed clusters, for example in the case of Abell 194 (Sakelliou et al. 2008), although they are thought to be more frequent in merging clusters (see Abell 562 and Abell 2634, Douglass et al. 2011; Hardcastle et al. 2005). The presence of head–tail radio galaxies may be a tracer of an unrelaxed dynamical state, as already suggested by Bliton et al. (1998). We plan to investigate the nature of these galaxies in a forthcoming paper on the member galaxy population.

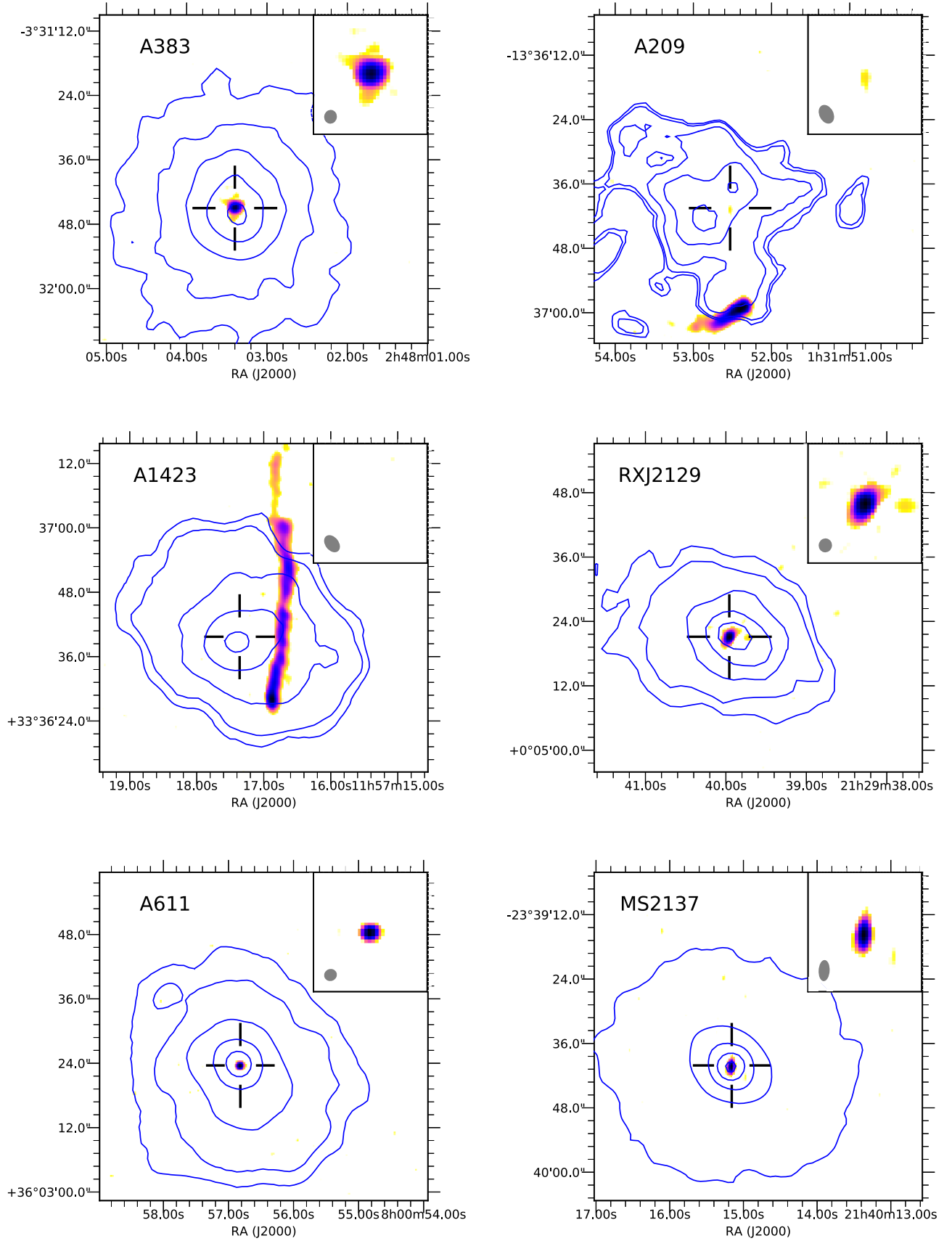
Finally, in the case of MACS J1931 we find that an NVSS source at a distance of  $41''.4$  (corresponding to 205.4 kpc and therefore not included as a preliminary candidate counterpart) is actually the sum of the BCG radio emission and another nearby, bright head–tail galaxy. In this case the use of NVSS data would have assigned an incorrect flux for the BCG. Overall, we find  $3/11 \sim 30\%$  wrong or partially misidentified associations would be made if based on a direct cross-correlation with the NVSS. Studies on radio properties of BCGs at medium and high redshift may be significantly improved by the use of high-resolution data, because of the possible contamination by bright radio sources in the inner regions of the clusters.

#### 4.2. Centroid Offset

We compute the projected distance of the optical center of the BCG from the radio source associated with the BCG nucleus, and the distance of the optical center from the X-ray peak in the soft band (0.5–2 keV). Uncertainties in the X-ray peak and radio centroids are almost constant and equal to  $\sim 1$  arcsec and  $\sim 0.35$  arcsec, respectively. Errors on the optical positions are always below 0.1 arcsec and therefore negligible. Due to the relaxed status of our cluster sample, the X-ray peak is coincident within less than 1 arcsec with the 10 kpc X-ray centroid, defined as the center of the highest S/N circle with a fixed radius of 10 kpc. In Table 4 we list the equatorial coordinates (epoch J2000.0) of BCGs (optical and radio bands) and of the cluster X-ray centroids. In Figure 2 we show the distribution of the displacement between the optical position and the radio position (blue circles), and between the optical position and the X-ray centroid (red squares).

The narrow distribution of the optical–radio displacements (less than 0.5 arcsec) is consistent with the radio positional error and confirms the unambiguous identification of the radio source with the BCG nucleus. On the other hand, the distribution of the optical–X-ray displacements is slightly wider than expected from the positional errors. Donahue et al. (2016) have shown a similar result with the whole CLASH sample. Offsets are known to be the signature of an unrelaxed dynamics, and are often found in clusters with no or weak cool cores and a radio-silent BCG (Sanderson et al. 2009). On the other hand, the X-ray centroid and the  $H\alpha$  line emission region are tightly linked, sometimes despite an offset between the X-ray centroid and the BCG (Hamer et al. 2012), showing that the cooling process is not immediately switched off when the dynamics in the core is disturbed.

We note that larger cluster samples (several hundreds) show an average projected spatial offset between the optical position of the BCG and the X-ray center of about 10 kpc, with only 15% of the BCGs lying more than 100 kpc from the X-ray center of their host cluster (see Lauer et al. 2014). In addition, the BCG position relative to the cluster center is correlated with the degree of concentration of X-ray morphology (Hashimoto et al. 2014).



**Figure 1.** Radio images overlapped with the *Chandra* contours (blue lines). Central crosses indicate the position of the BCG obtained from the *HST* optical image. The FOV is  $1' \times 1'$ . The small panel in the top right corner shows the enlarged central region with a FOV  $10''$  across. The beam size is shown as a gray ellipse in the bottom left corner. The color scale ranges from  $3\sigma$  to the maximum flux in each field with a logarithmic step. These images are generated with APLpy (Robitaille & Bressert 2012).

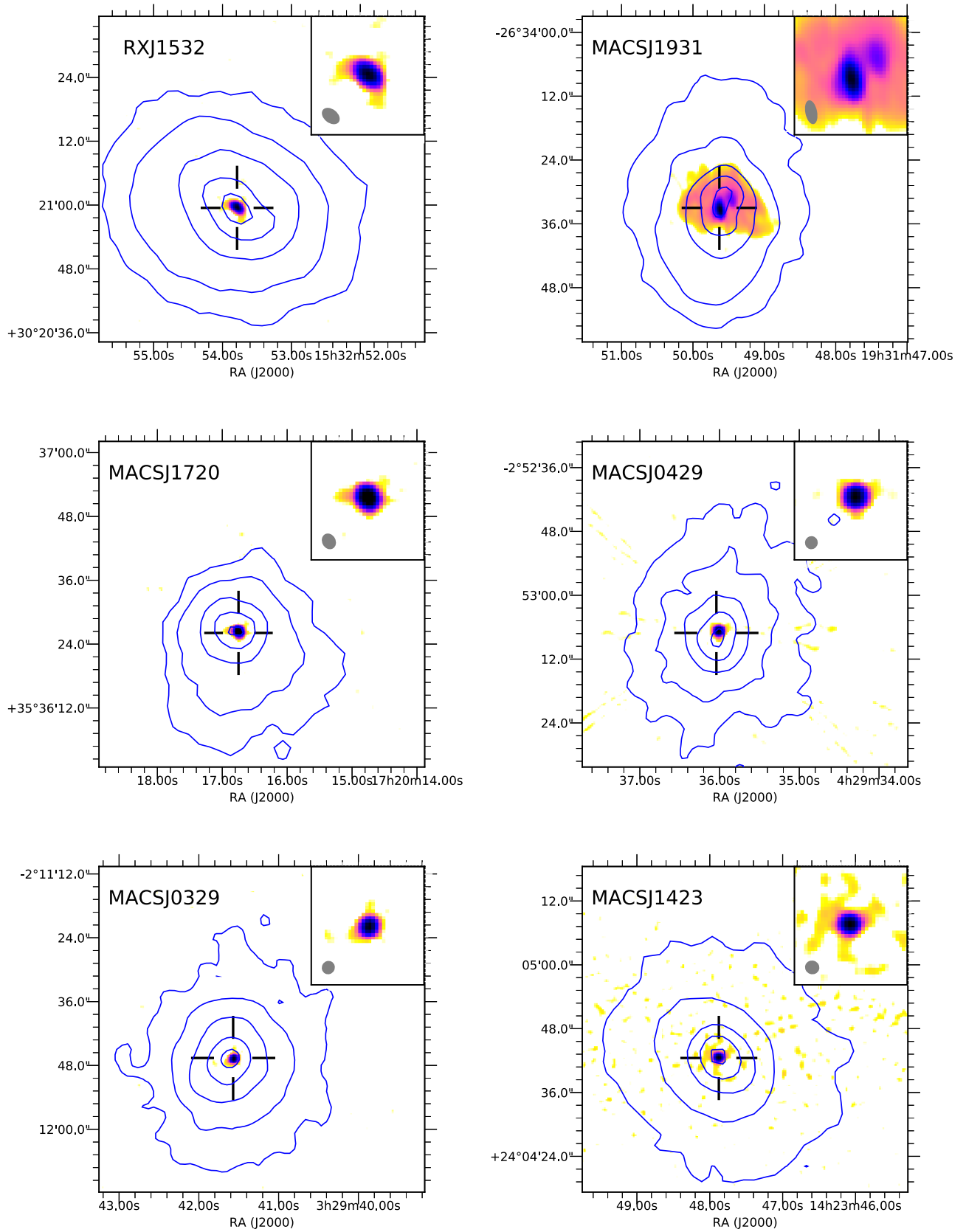


Figure 1. (Continued.)

However, the offset of the optical position of the BCGs with respect to the X-ray peaks in our sample is consistent with the measurement uncertainties in most cases, so we do not draw any

conclusion on the dynamical state of the cluster from this measurement. The largest offset is observed in Abell 209, where the distance of the optical/radio position from the X-ray centroid



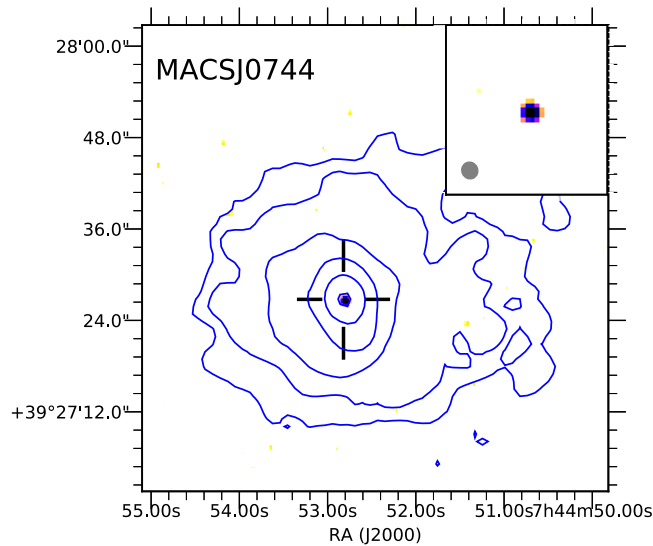


Figure 1. (Continued.)

is  $4''.1$ , corresponding to 14.3 projected kpc. A deeper X-ray observation of Abell 209, which has so far been observed only for 20 ks with *Chandra*, is needed to further investigate this aspect and possibly identify the origin of the offset.<sup>14</sup> However, the optical study in Annunziatella et al. (2016) already shows that Abell 209 is not fully relaxed. This interpretation is also supported by the observation of a radio halo in Abell 209, which may be regarded as the signature of a strong ongoing merger (Giovannini et al. 2009; Kale et al. 2015). Overall, the CLASH clusters discussed in this work are expected to be dynamically relaxed, while we expect to find much larger BCG–X-ray peak displacements in the five CLASH clusters in the high-magnification subsample, not included in this study.

#### 4.3. Radio Fluxes

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

As a first step, we compare the radio fluxes of the BCGs in our data with data from NVSS and FIRST, whenever a clear counterpart is identified in one of these two surveys and confirmed by our data.<sup>16</sup> By comparing Table 5 with Table 1, we find that three NVSS counterparts are dropped completely or partially (Abell 209, Abell 1423, and MACS J1931), and in all cases this is due to contamination by radio galaxies close to the BCG, which are unambiguously identified as cluster members in our data. In Figure 3, we plot the JVLA integrated fluxes of the BCG versus the NVSS and FIRST integrated fluxes. We find overall a good agreement for the five sources in FIRST, with some discrepancy that can be ascribed to variability (see Hogan et al. 2015a, for a discussion on the variability at high frequencies). On the other

hand, fluxes from NVSS are systematically higher, particularly at low fluxes. This excess may be explained with the presence of extended radio emission that is not detected in our data. At bright fluxes the emission is likely to be dominated by the nucleus, so that measured fluxes do not depend significantly on the angular resolution. In addition, despite the limited statistics, this result is consistent with the comparison of NVSS and FIRST fluxes with previous VLA data (see Wold et al. 2012). Therefore, we conclude that radio fluxes measured in our data show no obvious discrepancy with previous measurements. This also allows us to consider FIRST and NVSS fluxes for the CLASH targets not included in this work. In particular, Abell 2261, CL J1226, and MACS J1115 are in FIRST, while MACS J1206 and RX J1347 have only NVSS data, but are bright enough ( $>20$  mJy) to be considered as dominated by the nuclear emission. Although the angular resolution of NVSS data does not allow a secure identification by itself, we refer to Ebeling et al. (2009) and Hogan et al. (2015b) for a detailed discussion on the likely association of the radio emission with the BCG in both cases. Recently, high-resolution JVLA 5 GHz observations of MACS J1206 confirmed the presence of a compact double source associated with the BCG (A. Edge 2017, private communication). Therefore we consider NVSS and FIRST counterparts as reliable for the sources not observed in our JVLA program.

#### 4.4. Extent of BCG Radio Emission

In our radio images, we are not able to identify clear extended emission, despite the fact that jets and radio lobes are expected in any cool core, independently of the detection of X-ray cavities. Our peak and integrated fluxes are representative of the nuclear power, with the inclusion, if any, of some extended emission corresponding to the base of the jets, or to compact extended radio emission not directly associated with the nuclear BCG emission such as minihalos. In a systematic study based on the VLA archive (Giacintucci et al. 2014), minihalos have been detected in two clusters of our sample: RX J1532 (see also Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. 2013) and MACS J1931, with an additional candidate found in MACS J0329. Despite the A configuration of JVLA being less sensitive to extended sources, we present here a very preliminary investigation of the source sizes based on our high-resolution data.

<sup>14</sup> The *XMM* observation of Abell 209, carried out by the EPIC pn and MOS detector, can also be used to investigate the ICM dynamics, but with a poor angular resolution corresponding to a half energy width  $\geq 15''$ .

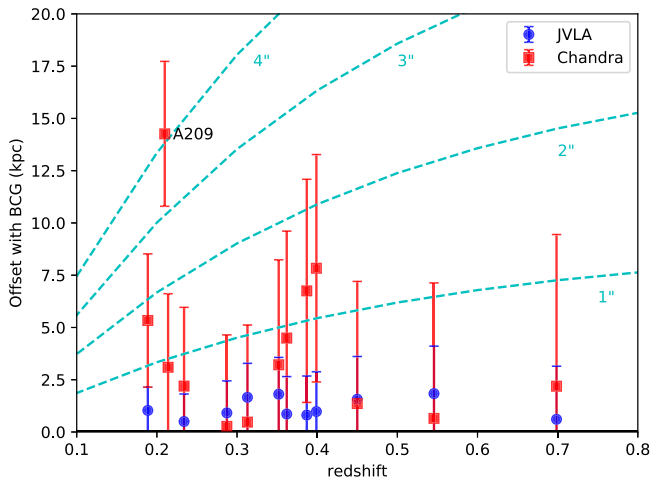
<sup>15</sup> Also named PyBDSM, see <http://www.astron.nl/citt/pybdsml/>.

<sup>16</sup> For the sake of comparison, fluxes computed at 1.4 GHz are corrected by the factor  $(1.5/1.4)^\alpha$ , where the spectral index is discussed in Section 4.5. This correction amounts to a maximum of 5%.

**Table 4**  
BCG Coordinates and Cluster Centroids

Cluster	R.A. <sub>HST</sub>	Decl. <sub>HST</sub>	R.A. <sub>JVLA</sub>	Decl. <sub>JVLA</sub>	R.A. <sub>Chandra</sub>	Decl. <sub>Chandra</sub>
Abell 383	2:48:03.38	−3:31:45.27	2:48:03.4	−3:31:45.1	2:48:03.4	−3:31:46.7
Abell 209	1:31:52.55	−13:36:40.49	...	...	1:31:52.9	−13:36:41.7
Abell 1423	11:57:17.36	+33:36:39.57	...	...	11:57:17.3	+33:36:38.8
RX J2129	21:29:39.96	+0:05:21.19	21:29:40.0	+0:05:21.1	21:29:40.0	+0:05:21.8
Abell 611	8:00:56.82	+36:03:23.63	8:00:56.8	+36:03:23.5	8:00:56.8	+36:03:23.6
MS 2137	21:40:15.16	−23:39:40.12	21:40:15.2	−23:39:40.4	21:40:15.2	−23:39:40.2
RX J1532	15:32:53.78	+30:20:59.45	15:32:53.8	+30:20:59.6	15:32:53.7	+30:20:58.8
MACS J1931	19:31:49.63	−26:34:33.16	19:31:49.6	−26:34:33.5	19:31:49.6	−26:34:33.8
MACS J1720	17:20:16.75	+35:36:26.22	17:20:16.8	+35:36:26.4	17:20:16.8	+35:36:26.9
MACS J0429	4:29:36.01	−2:53:06.72	4:29:36.0	−2:53:06.8	4:29:36.0	−2:53:08.2
MACS J0329	3:29:41.57	−2:11:46.45	3:29:41.6	−2:11:46.7	03:29:41.6	−2:11:46.7
MACS J1423	14:23:47.88	+24:04:42.44	14:23:47.9	+24:04:42.6	14:23:47.9	+24:04:42.4
MACS J0744	7:44:52.80	+39:27:26.65	7:44:52.8	+39:27:26.6	7:44:52.8	+39:27:26.4

**Note.** BCG coordinates in the optical band from *HST*, position of the radio source from JVLA, and centroid of the ICM X-ray emission from *Chandra* for the 13 targets observed with our JVLA program.



**Figure 2.** The redshift distribution of the offsets in kiloparsecs between the optical position of the BCG and the position of either the radio source (blue circles) or the X-ray peak (red squares). Typical uncertainties in the X-ray peak and radio centroids are  $\sim 1$  arcsec and  $\sim 0.35$  arcsec, respectively. The dashed lines show constant offset in the plane of the sky. The small average displacement between radio and optical positions confirms that the radio sources are always consistent with the nucleus of the BCGs.

The existence of extended structures can be estimated by comparing the beam size with the deconvolved size of our sources, obtained by PyBDSF. The deconvolved (DC) sizes and the ratio  $F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$  are listed in Table 6. Roughly we find that the deconvolved size correlates with the ratio  $F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$ , as expected. Formally, the measurement errors on the deconvolved size are negligible (of the order of  $\sim 1\%$ ) but they do not include possible smearing of the image due to small errors in the phase calibration. Therefore, we should use a conservative criterion to assess the extent of a source.

We notice that the highest  $F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$  values (above 1.3) are associated with deconvolved sizes typically larger than half the beam size. Based on this criterion, we classify three sources (Abell 383, RX J2129, and MACS J1931) as clearly resolved.<sup>17</sup> MACS J1931 has the largest size and flux ratio, mostly because of its minihalo, which lies 2.8 arcsec offset from the BCG and with a peak flux of 2.1 mJy, as shown in

<sup>17</sup> For Abell 383 and RX J2129 the presence of a non-core component has already been shown in Hogan et al. (2015b).

Giacintucci et al. (2014). The deconvolved size of MACS J1931 also includes the minihalo.

There are three other sources with  $1.1 < F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}} < 1.2$ , whose deconvolved sizes are about half of the beam. We classify these sources (MS 2137, MACS J0329, MACS J1423) as tentatively resolved. Finally, the remaining five sources (Abell 611, RX J1532, MACS J1720, MACS J0429, and MACS J0744) are unresolved with present data. A discussion on the presence of non-core emission for some of the sources not observed in our program (namely MACS J1115, Abell 2261, MACS J1347, and MACS J1206) can be found in the Appendix of Hogan et al. (2015b).

#### 4.5. BCG Spectral Properties

The spectral energy distribution (SED) of a BCG in the radio band is usually decomposed into a nuclear component and an extended one. The nuclear component is directly linked to the AGN and shows a rather flat SED with an energy index  $\alpha < 0.5$  (see Hogan et al. 2015b). The core component may show synchrotron self-absorption, or, in some cases, free-free absorption, at around a few GHz, but usually it remains flat to frequencies up to several GHz. The extended component, on the other hand, is mostly associated with lobe emission, and therefore is generated by an older, relativistic electron population accelerated during past nuclear activity. Other forms of emission surrounding the BCG may be due to processes not related to the nuclear activity, as in the case of minihalos, appearing as spherically symmetric, small scale (a few  $10^2$  kpc), with a steep radio spectrum, probably originating from electrons accelerated in situ by the turbulent motion of the ICM in the core (hence, indirectly due to the nuclear activity, see Giacintucci et al. 2014). In general, this steeper component is less prominent at 1.5 GHz.

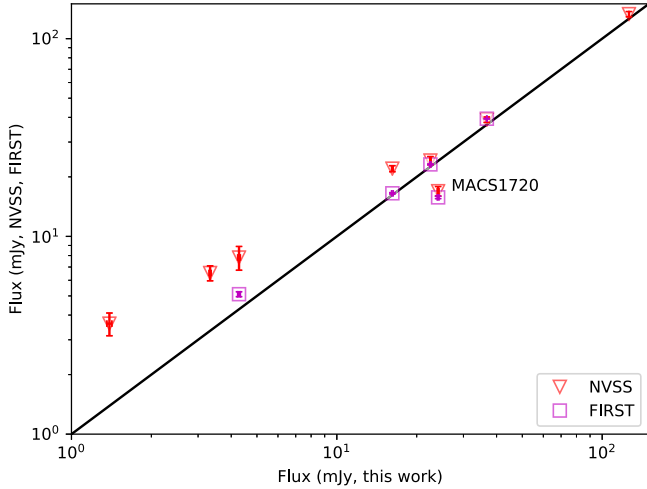
Usually, the SED of BCGs can be modeled with two components corresponding to the different central activities. However, modeling two components goes beyond our capability given the present data, and therefore that effort is postponed to a future work, which will include also our 2–4 GHz data. To achieve a preliminary characterization, we model the spectra of our BCGs with a single power law defined as  $S_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$ , where  $S_\nu$  is the flux energy density as a function of the frequency  $\nu$ . Our goal is to derive an effective spectral index that can be used to apply the  $k$ -correction when computing the radio power at different redshifts. Therefore,

**Table 5**  
Radio Flux of the BCGs

Cluster	JVLA (1.5 GHz)		$F_{\text{int}}$ (mJy, 1.4 GHz)	
	$F_{\text{peak}}$ (mJy)	$F_{\text{int}}$ (mJy)	NVSS	FIRST
Abell 383	$27.52 \pm 0.02$	$36.75 \pm 0.07$	$40.9 \pm 1.3$	$41.37 \pm 0.12$
Abell 209	$<0.10$	$<0.08$	no detection	no coverage
Abell 1423	$<0.04$	$<0.05$	no detection	no detection
RX J2129	$14.94 \pm 0.04$	$22.52 \pm 0.12$	$25.4 \pm 1.2$	$24.27 \pm 0.10$
Abell 611	$0.80 \pm 0.01$	$0.85 \pm 0.02$	no detection	no detection
MS 2137	$1.24 \pm 0.02$	$1.39 \pm 0.03$	$3.8 \pm 0.5$	no coverage
RX J1532 <sup>a</sup>	$15.33 \pm 0.05$	$16.19 \pm 0.11$	$22.8 \pm 0.8$	$17.11 \pm 0.14$
MACS J1931	$11.57 \pm 0.03$	$19.38 \pm 0.05$	no detection	no coverage
MACS J1720 <sup>a</sup>	$21.14 \pm 0.07$	$24.08 \pm 0.17$	$18.0 \pm 1.0$	$16.75 \pm 0.24$
MACS J0429	$124.27 \pm 0.03$	$126.16 \pm 0.07$	$138.8 \pm 4.2$	no coverage
MACS J0329	$2.92 \pm 0.02$	$3.33 \pm 0.03$	$6.9 \pm 0.6$	no coverage
MACS J1423	$3.55 \pm 0.03$	$4.28 \pm 0.05$	$8.0 \pm 1.1$	$5.22 \pm 0.15$
MACS J0744	$0.27 \pm 0.01$	$0.27 \pm 0.03$	no detection	no detection
Abell 2261	...	...	$5.3 \pm 0.5$	$3.40 \pm 0.15$
RX J2248	...	...	no coverage	no coverage
MACS J1115	...	...	$16.2 \pm 1.0$	$8.27 \pm 0.15$
MACS J1206	...	...	$160.9 \pm 6.3$	no coverage
RX J1347	...	...	$45.9 \pm 1.5$	no coverage
MACS J1311	...	...	no detection	no detection
CL J1226	...	...	$4.3 \pm 0.5$	$3.61 \pm 0.13$

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

<sup>a</sup> MACS J1720 and RX J1532 may have errors in the flux larger than quoted, due to the use of the phase calibrator also as a flux calibrator. We plan to refine the estimate of the errors when investigating the full source sample in the two fields.



**Figure 3.** JVLA integrated flux densities of the BCGs compared to the integrated flux densities of the confirmed counterpart in NVSS (red triangles) and FIRST (magenta squares). Error bars correspond to  $1\sigma$  confidence level.

we collect all the radio measurements in the frequency range 150 MHz–30 GHz from the literature (the data coverage above 30 GHz is too sparse to be useful). The radio SEDs of our BCGs are shown in Table 7, where the flux densities are sparsely sampled at six different frequencies to complement the 1.5 GHz flux densities measured in this work.

We fit the SED with a single power law when at least three points are present, deriving an average spectral slope  $\alpha_{\text{fit}}$  when  $\chi^2$  is acceptable. Then we compute the index  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30} \equiv \log(F_{30 \text{ GHz}}/F_{1.5 \text{ GHz}})/\log(30 \text{ GHz}/1.5 \text{ GHz})$  as a proxy of the average spectral slope. We note that the values of  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  and  $\alpha_{\text{fit}}$

are always consistent when  $\alpha_{\text{fit}}$  is available (see Table 7). In the few cases where we have no means to compute a proxy for the spectral index, we simply assume  $\langle\alpha\rangle = -0.7$  to compute the  $k$ -correction. In the Appendix we show the SED in the range 150 MHz–30 GHz for seven BCGs observed in our JVLA program and for four with FIRST counterparts for which we are able to measure  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ . We also show the lines corresponding to the index  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ , the reference slope  $\langle\alpha\rangle = -0.7$ , and when possible, the best-fit power law with slope  $\alpha_{\text{fit}}$ .

Despite the broad agreement among the three spectral indices, we can still identify some sources whose spectra are clearly not well fitted by a single power law. In particular, MACS J1423 shows a hint of a steep component at low frequencies; MACS J0429 shows a GHz-peaked SED, possibly due to a self-absorbed core; finally, we are not able to distinguish the core and the minihalo emission in MACS J1931 in the flux measurement at low frequencies (the TGSS counterpart J193149.6-263432 has a size of  $40'' \times 33''$ ). For these sources we are not able to derive a meaningful  $\alpha_{\text{fit}}$ . For MACS J1931, in Table 7 we report the value of the spectral slope measured by Sayers et al. (2013). The histogram of the spectral index  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  for the sources observed with JVLA or FIRST counterpart is shown in Figure 4. Values of  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  range from  $-0.25$  to  $\sim -1$ , with an average  $\langle\alpha\rangle = -0.68$ . We find that the distribution of  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  is consistent with results obtained for the spectral shape of BCGs in NVSS (Lin & Mohr 2007) and in the more recent work by Hogan et al. (2015b).

As discussed in the previous section, our high-resolution data are not sensitive to extended emission of low surface brightness and therefore mainly sample the nuclear emission, with no possibility of separately identifying and analyzing an extended

**Table 6**  
Observed and Deconvolved Size of BCGs

Cluster	FWHM Size (arcsec $\times$ arcsec, deg)	Deconvolved Size (arcsec $\times$ arcsec, deg)	$F_{\text{int}}/F_{\text{peak}}$
Abell 383	$1.28 \times 1.21$ , 115	$0.75 \times 0.51$ , 94	$1.34 \pm 0.01$
Abell 209	...	...	...
Abell 1423	...	...	...
RX J2129	$1.64 \times 1.01$ , 150	$1.20 \times 0.22$ , 148	$1.51 \pm 0.01$
Abell 611	$1.08 \times 0.97$ , 102	unresolved	$1.06 \pm 0.05$
MS 2137–2353	$1.88 \times 0.91$ , 175	$0.66 \times 0.24$ , 165	$1.12 \pm 0.04$
RX J1532	$1.72 \times 1.13$ , 55	unresolved	$1.06 \pm 0.01$
MACS J1931 <sup>a</sup>	$7.38 \times 5.58$ , 76	$7.28 \times 5.24$ , 79	$1.68 \pm 0.04$
MACS J1720	$1.39 \times 1.20$ , 60	unresolved	$1.14 \pm 0.01$
MACS J0429	$1.05 \times 1.03$ , 160	unresolved	$1.02 \pm 0.01$
MACS J0329	$1.20 \times 1.09$ , 145	$0.48 \times 0.32$ , 139	$1.14 \pm 0.02$
MACS J1423	$1.31 \times 1.20$ , 90	$0.61 \times 0.42$ , 103	$1.21 \pm 0.02$
MACS J0744	$1.03 \times 0.96$ , 73	unresolved	$1.00 \pm 0.15$

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

<sup>a</sup> In the case of MACS J1931 the deconvolution algorithm includes also the minihalo, while the flux ratio refers only to the nuclear fluxes listed in Table 5. The integral flux including the minihalo would be  $F_{\text{int}} = 55.16$  mJy.

component. Therefore our average estimate of the spectral slope may be somehow affected by diffuse emission. Despite this, the distribution of our measured average spectral slope is consistent with radio emission dominated by nuclear emission. Therefore, for the sake of computing radio power, we assume  $\alpha = -0.7$  as the default choice when we are not able to derive a value for the spectral index, or rely on measurements presented in Sayers et al. (2013) in the case of MACS J1931. We are aware that these results on the spectral shape are merely an approximation of the real spectral shape in the relevant frequency range, given the significant variety in the spectral shape of BCGs. However, we conclude that  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  is still a useful quantity for estimating the  $k$ -correction, also considering the low redshift leverage of our sample. We will improve our measurements of spectral slope when the 2–4 GHz data are fully analyzed.

#### 4.6. Radio Luminosity and Correlation with SFR and ICM Entropy

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

$$L = 4\pi D_L(z)^2 F_{\text{int}} \times (1+z)^{-(1+\alpha)} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}, \quad (1)$$

where the  $k$ -correction is computed as  $(1+z)^{-(1+\alpha)}$  and  $D_L(z)$  is the luminosity distance assuming the cosmological parameters quoted in Section 1. The distribution of radio power of the 11 BCGs whose radio emission is detected in our data is shown in Figure 5, where we also include the five BCGs with FIRST and NVSS fluxes. The range of radio luminosities of our BCGs spans more than two and a half orders of magnitude. We have  $23.29 < \log(L_R) < 24.85$  for 11 BCGs, and  $\log(L_R) > 25.3$  (therefore above the knee of the BCG radio luminosity function) for three BCGs, with MACS J1226 reaching the highest luminosity of  $\log(L_R) = 26.0$ . We note that the detection of a few very bright sources in a small sample of cool core clusters is consistent with the radio luminosity function of BCGs in a comparable X-ray sample. In particular, cool-core clusters have a

frequency of BCGs with radio power  $> 10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  at least 3–5 times larger than non-cool-core clusters (see Hogan et al. 2015b).

We present a preliminary comparison of radio luminosity with properties of the surrounding ICM and SFR measured in the BCGs (see Donahue et al. 2015). We also obtain the central X-ray gas entropy of our clusters from the cluster sample in the Archive of *Chandra* Cluster Entropy Profile Tables (ACCEPT) (Cavagnolo et al. 2009), updated with the revised values in Donahue et al. (2015) when needed. All these quantities are listed in Table 8. We expect to find a clear difference in the radio properties of BCGs depending on the cluster core properties, as already shown in the literature. As Cavagnolo et al. (2008) already pointed out on the basis of a sample at lower redshift, and also confirmed by Rafferty et al. (2008), high-power BCG radio sources only inhabit clusters with low central gas entropy, with a threshold at  $K_0 = 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$ , roughly corresponding to a cooling time of  $5 \times 10^8 \text{ yr}$ . Also, star formation activity appears to be ubiquitous in a BCG hosted by a cool core with  $K_0 < 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  (Fogarty et al. 2015). More comprehensive studies also showed that all BCGs with a low central entropy (with emission lines linked to ongoing star formation events) are detected as radio sources (Hogan et al. 2015b) and as star-forming galaxies (Fogarty et al. 2017), pointing toward a common fueling source from the hot ICM for both nuclear activity and star formation.

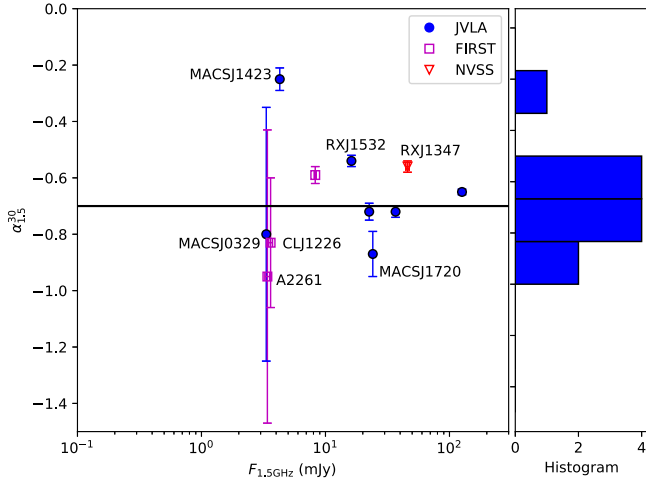
The relation between the central ICM entropy and the radio luminosity of BCGs in our sample is shown in Figure 6. In particular, the threshold  $K_0 = 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  efficiently identifies the radio-luminous BCGs. For values  $K_0 < 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  we find luminosities mostly in the range  $10^{24}$ – $10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ , with three sources equal to or above  $10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ . Five of the seven BCGs above  $30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  have a radio power density of a few  $\times 10^{23} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  or lower. However, two of them (MACS J1206 at  $z = 0.44$  and CL J1226 at  $z = 0.89$ , with fluxes from NVSS and FIRST, respectively) are in strong contrast with this picture. To better quantify the presence of sources of high radio power in high-entropy cores, we consider the cumulative luminosity function presented in Hogan et al. (2015b), where line-emitting BCGs can be associated with low-entropy ( $K_0 < 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$ ) cores, and non-line-emitters with high-entropy cores. The fraction



**Table 7**  
Flux Densities in the Frequency Range 150 MHz–30 GHz and Spectral Indices for the CLASH BCGs

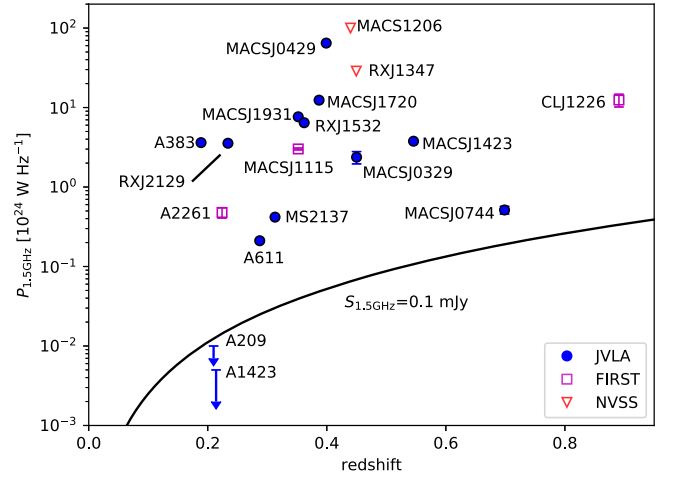
Cluster	$F_{150 \text{ MHz}}(1)$ (mJy)	$F_{330 \text{ MHz}}(2)$ (mJy)	$F_5 \text{ GHz}(3)$ (mJy)	$F_{10 \text{ GHz}}(3)$ (mJy)	$F_{28.5 \text{ GHz}}(4)$ (mJy)	$F_{30 \text{ GHz}}(5)$ (mJy)	$\alpha_{\text{fit}}$	$\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$
Abell 383	$224.8 \pm 23.0$	...	...	...	$4.40 \pm 0.50$	$4.3 \pm 0.2$	$-0.72 \pm 0.01$	$-0.72 \pm 0.02$
Abell 209	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abell 1423	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RX J2129	$114.8 \pm 12.4$	...	$9.05 \pm 0.07$	$4.2 \pm 0.1$	$2.33 \pm 0.14$	$2.6 \pm 0.2$	$-0.79 \pm 0.03$	$-0.72 \pm 0.03$
Abell 611	...	...	$0.45 \pm 0.05$	...	...	...	...	...
MS 2137	...	...	1.0(7)	...	...	...	...	...
RX J1532	$52.2 \pm 7.1$	$71 \pm 3.6$	$8.82 \pm 0.08$	$6.30 \pm 0.1$	$3.25 \pm 0.22(8)$	$3.2 \pm 0.3$	$-0.52 \pm 0.03$	$-0.54 \pm 0.02$
MACS J1931	$6315.0 \pm 631.7$	...	...	...	...	...	$-0.72(5)$	...
MACS J1720	$119.7 \pm 13.9$	$103 \pm 3.0$	...	...	...	$1.8 \pm 0.4$	$-0.89 \pm 0.07$	$-0.87 \pm 0.08$
MACS J0429	$106.2 \pm 12.1$	...	...	...	...	$18.2 \pm 0.2$	$-0.61 \pm 0.11$	$-0.65 \pm 0.01$
MACS J0329	...	...	...	...	...	$0.3 \pm 0.4^4$	...	$-0.80 \pm 0.45$
MACS J1423	$78.5 \pm 12.7$	$27 \pm 2(6)$	...	...	$1.49 \pm 0.13$	$2.0 \pm 0.2$	$-0.37 \pm 0.10$	$-0.25 \pm 0.04$
MACS J0744	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abell 2261	$33.0 \pm 5.9$	$36 \pm 3.4$	$0.59 \pm 0.05$	...	$0.20 \pm 0.30$	...	$-1.24 \pm 0.13$	$-0.95 \pm 0.52$
RX J2248	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
MACS J1115	$138.1 \pm 14.4$	...	...	$<3.8$	...	$1.4 \pm 0.4$	$-1.21 \pm 0.14$	$-0.59 \pm 0.03$
MACS J1206	$2154.3 \pm 215.7$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RX J1347	$215.2 \pm 22.3$	...	...	$17.8 \pm 3.0$	$10.38 \pm 0.47$	$8.7 \pm 0.2$	$-0.56 \pm 0.02$	$-0.56 \pm 0.02$
MACS J1311	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CL J1226	...	...	...	...	...	$0.3 \pm 0.2^4$	...	$-0.83 \pm 0.23$

**References.** (1) TGSS (Intema et al. 2017), (2) WENSS (Rengelink et al. 1997), (3) Hogan et al. (2015b), (4) Sayers et al. (2013), (5) Bonamente et al. (2012), (6) Birzan et al. (2008), (7) Gioia & Luppino (1994) (error for this source is not listed), (8) Coble et al. (2007).



**Figure 4.** Spectral index proxy  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  vs. flux density and histogram for seven BCGs observed with JvLA and presented in this work (solid circles). Empty squares and triangles correspond to FIRST and NVSS, respectively. The black horizontal line marks the reference value  $\alpha = -0.7$ .

of sources with radio power larger than  $10^{25} \text{ W Hz}^{-1}$  at  $K_0 < 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  is 20%–30%, in line with our value of 3/11. On the other hand, the fraction of luminous sources at  $K_0 > 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  is 5%–10%, lower than our value of 2/7. Clearly our results, based on only two sources and a limited sample (we do not consider the five dynamically disturbed CLASH clusters in this work), do not allow us to draw any conclusions. Whether this is due to some evolution with redshift in the ICM properties in the core or in the radio properties of BCGs is a topic that must be investigated with a refined analysis of the *Chandra* X-ray data and high-resolution JvLA data. In particular, MACS J1206 is the target of an approved *Chandra* proposal in AO19 for a deep exposure of 180 ks (PI S. Ettori).



**Figure 5.** Density distribution of the 1.5 GHz rest-frame absolute luminosity of the BCGs. Error bars are too small to be visible here. The continuous line represents the luminosity corresponding to the observed flux density of 0.1 mJy with an average spectral slope of  $\alpha = -0.7$ , and it is the average limit of our detection (corresponding to  $S/N = 5$  and assuming a noise of 0.02 mJy per beam).

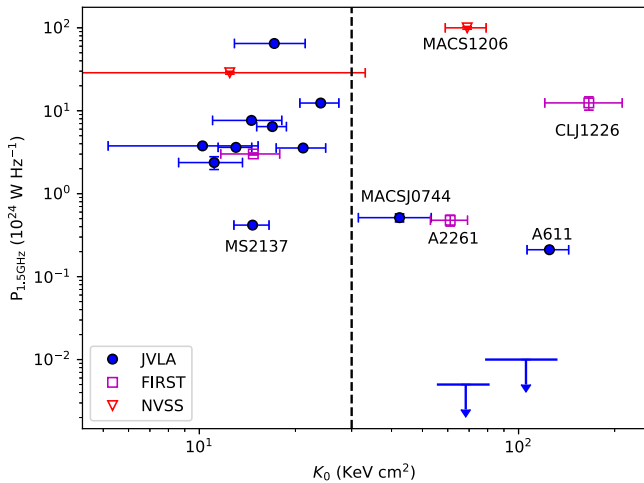
Finally, the radio emission in Abell 2261 has been discussed extensively in Burke-Spolaor et al. (2017), where it has been found to be associated with a compact radio relic, with a steep spectrum, and with a significant offset from the BCG nucleus. Although this relic is most probably associated with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

Below the  $30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  threshold, BCGs are observed to have ongoing star formation and multiphase gas, as already pointed out by Donahue et al. (2015). The UV–NIR color is a reliable proxy of the instantaneous star formation activity of a



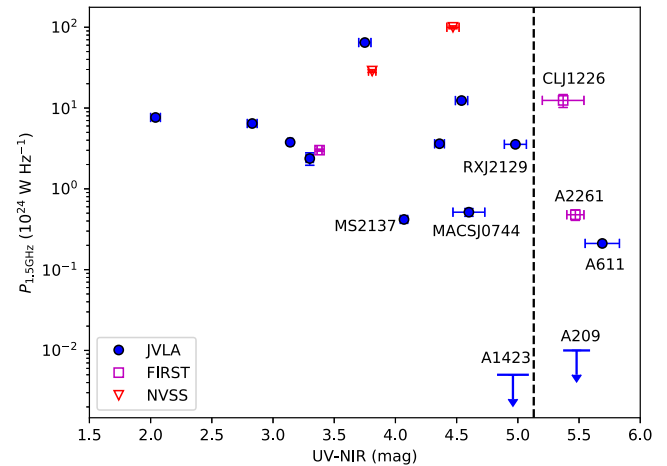
**Table 8**  
Radio Power, Central ICM Entropy, UV–IR Color, Estimated SFR, and Total Cavity Power Associated with the CLASH BCGs

Cluster	$P_{1.5\text{GHz}}$ ( $10^{24}\text{ W Hz}^{-1}$ )	$K_0$ ( $\text{keV cm}^2$ )	UV–IR (mag)	SFR ( $M_\odot\text{ yr}^{-1}$ )	$P_{\text{cav}}$ ( $10^{44}\text{ erg s}^{-1}$ )
Abell 383	$3.62 \pm 0.02$	$13.0 \pm 1.6$	$4.36 \pm 0.04$	$3.29 \pm 0.40$	$19 \pm 7$
Abell 209	$<0.010$	$105.5 \pm 26.9$	$5.5 \pm 0.1$	$1.2 \pm 1.1$	...
Abell 1423	$<0.005$	$68.3 \pm 12.9$	$4.96 \pm 0.13$	$2.2 \pm 0.4$	...
RX J2129	$3.55 \pm 0.04$	$21.1 \pm 3.7$	$4.98 \pm 0.09$	$2.9 \pm 0.4$	...
Abell 611	$0.211 \pm 0.005$	$124.9 \pm 18.6$	$5.69 \pm 0.14$	$0.90 \pm 1.7$	...
MS 2137	$0.418 \pm 0.009$	$14.7 \pm 1.9$	$4.07 \pm 0.03$	$5.6 \pm 0.7$	...
RX J1532	$6.44 \pm 0.08$	$16.9 \pm 1.8$	$2.83 \pm 0.04$	$48.6 \pm 2.6$	$54 \pm 22$
MACS J1931	$7.65 \pm 0.02$	$14.6 \pm 3.6$	$2.04 \pm 0.04$	$83.1 \pm 2.3$	$5 \pm 2$
MACS J1720	$12.4 \pm 0.4$	$24.0 \pm 3.4$	$4.54 \pm 0.05$	$6.1 \pm 0.7$	$16 \pm 7$
MACS J0429	$64.7 \pm 0.3$	$17.2 \pm 4.3$	$3.75 \pm 0.05$	$20.1 \pm 2.1$	...
MACS J0329	$2.37 \pm 0.42$	$11.1 \pm 2.5$	$3.3 \pm 0.03$	$31.0 \pm 2.4$	$52 \pm 20$
MACS J1423	$3.77 \pm 0.11$	$10.2 \pm 5.1$	$3.14 \pm 0.02$	$16.7 \pm 1.2$	$15 \pm 6$
MACS J0744	$0.51 \pm 0.06$	$42.4 \pm 10.9$	$4.6 \pm 0.13$	$8.5 \pm 3.1$	$85 \pm 39$
Abell 2261	$0.48 \pm 0.07$	$61.1 \pm 8.1$	$5.47 \pm 0.07$	$3.3 \pm 2.8$	...
RX J2248	...	$42.0 \pm 10.0$	$4.91 \pm 0.04$	$2.29 \pm 0.05$	...
MACS J1115	$3.01 \pm 0.08$	$14.8 \pm 3.1$	$3.38 \pm 0.02$	$6.4 \pm 0.5$	...
MACS J1206	$99.9 \pm 3.9$	$69.0 \pm 10.1$	$4.5 \pm 0.05$	$6.8 \pm 3.0$	...
RX J1347	$28.72 \pm 1.8$	$12.5 \pm 20.7$	$3.81 \pm 0.03$	$16.5 \pm 1.8$	...
MACS J1311	...	...	...	...	...
CL J1226	$12.43 \pm 2.27$	$166.0 \pm 45.0$	$5.37 \pm 0.17$	$2.7 \pm 1.5$	...



**Figure 6.** Nuclear radio power of BCGs measured in this work vs. the central X-ray gas entropy as estimated in ACCEPT (Cavagnolo et al. 2009) and Donahue et al. (2015). The dashed line corresponds to the threshold  $K_0 = 30\text{ keV cm}^2$  indicated by Cavagnolo et al. (2008) as the transition between clusters hosting BCGs with multiphase gas, radio sources, and star formation, and clusters hosting quiescent BCGs. Solid circles correspond to the sources observed with JVLA in this work, while empty squares and triangles are obtained from FIRST and NVSS, respectively.

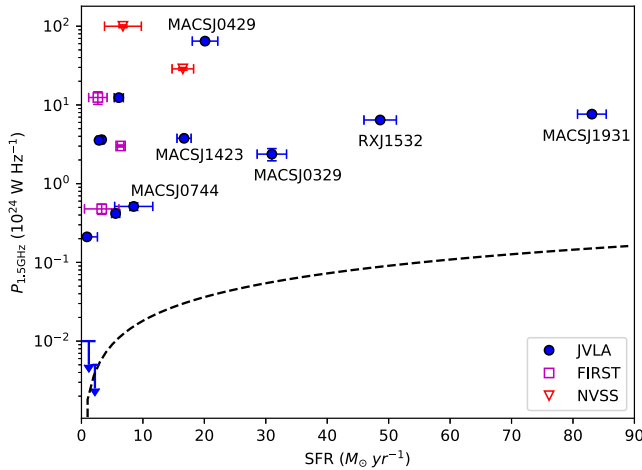
galaxy, by comparing the rest-frame 280 nm UV emission contributed by young hot stars to the  $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  peak of the stellar-light spectrum from evolved stars. Note that the excess UV luminosity does not take into account obscured star formation. So the quoted SFRs should be considered lower limits to the total SFR for these galaxies. The relation between the UV–NIR colors and the SFRs in CLASH cluster BCGs is discussed in Donahue et al. (2015). In Figure 7 we plot the radio luminosities of our BCGs versus the UV–NIR colors. The average color of quiescent BCGs in the CLASH sample is  $5.13 \pm 0.35$  (Donahue et al. 2015) and it is shown as a vertical dashed line. We note a trend of higher radio luminosities associated with bluer UV–NIR colors, showing



**Figure 7.** Radio power of BCGs measured in this work plotted vs. the rest-frame UV (280 nm)–NIR ( $1\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ) color of BCGs (from Donahue et al. 2015). The dashed line marks the threshold  $\text{UV–NIR} = 5.13$ , which is the average color of quiescent BCGs in the CLASH sample. Solid circles correspond to the sources observed with JVLA in this work, while empty squares and triangles are obtained from FIRST and NVSS, respectively.

a significant presence of star formation activity in radio-luminous BCGs. There are two outliers in the radio power–entropy plot: CL J1226 stands out in the upper right corner of the plot, with UV–NIR color larger than 5.2, while MACS J1206 has a UV–NIR color  $\sim 4.5$ .

An estimate of the SFR based on the UV luminosity is provided by Donahue et al. (2015), where they used the conversion from the excess UV luminosity to an unobscured SFR following Kennicutt (1998). This estimate has several sources of uncertainty: the initial mass function of stars in BCGs may be different from that of the star-forming galaxies used by Kennicutt (1998); in addition, the star formation events in the BCGs may be shorter and thus the BCGs may be younger than expected; finally, they applied no correction for dust-obscured star formation, for which IR-based



**Figure 8.** Radio luminosity vs. star formation rate as measured from the excess UV luminosity, after Donahue et al. (2015). The dashed line shows the radio luminosity associated with star formation derived by Bell (2003).

measurements are required. With these uncertainties in mind, we use these values to compare the radio power with the estimated SFR, finding that the measured radio power is always more than one order of magnitude larger than that expected from star formation alone. This confirms the general assumption that the radio emission in BCGs is dominated by nuclear emission, as also shown by Cooke et al. (2016). Only in two cases (Abell 611 and MACS J0744) can the contribution of the SFR at the 1.5 GHz flux density be as high as 10%. This is clearly shown in Figure 8, where we compare the radio power versus SFR of our BCGs with the average radio luminosity–SFR relation found by Bell (2003):

$$\text{SFR} = 5.52 \times 10^{-22} L_{1.5 \text{ GHz}} M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

The same conclusion is reached if we use a measurement of SFR based on IR luminosity, and therefore not significantly affected by obscuration. For example, in the case of our strongest star-forming BCG (in MACS J1931) the SFR derived from *Herschel* data is  $\sim 150 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  (Santos et al. 2016), as opposed to the value of  $83 M_{\odot} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  from Donahue et al. (2015). Even in this case, the expected contribution of the SFR to the radio emission is not larger than 5% of the total flux. We remark that the association of higher rates of star formation with the largest radio power, while the weakest radio sources appear in BCGs with no detectable star formation in the UV (Donahue et al. 2015), does not imply that quenching is not happening. In fact, if these radio sources were not dumping energy into the surrounding gas, the SFRs would be much higher, as seen in simulations that do not include AGN feedback. In addition, mechanical feedback is better traced by the extended emission from jets, while the nuclear radio emission is linked to the feeding of the supermassive black hole, which, together with star formation events, is due to the cooling and condensation of the surrounding gas, as expected in top-down multiphase condensation models (see Gaspari et al. 2017).

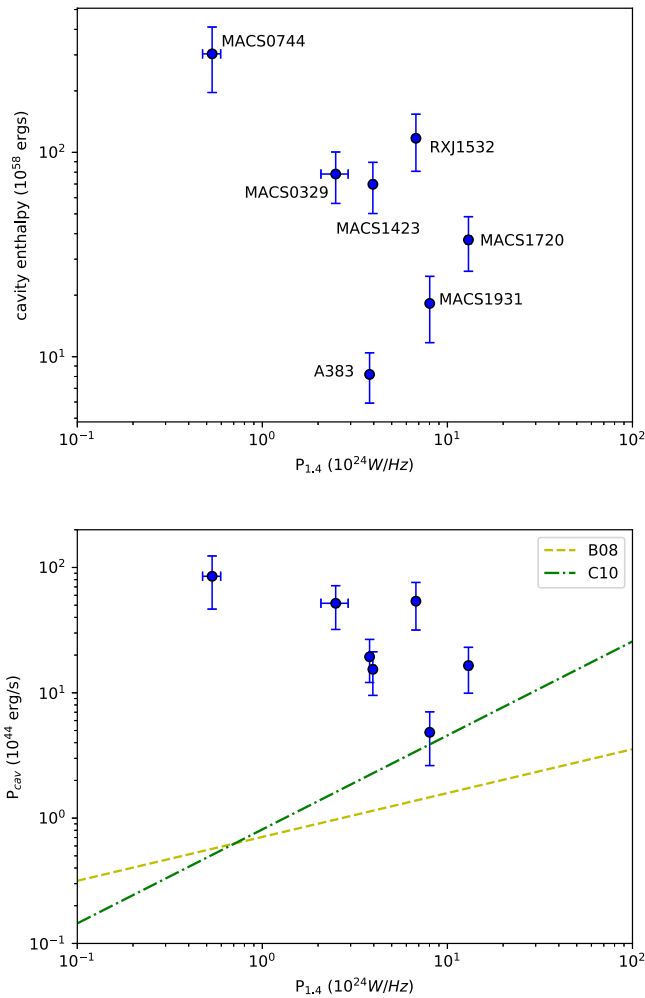
The two sources with the faintest radio power density, Abell 611 and MACS J0744, are both above the entropy threshold  $K_0 = 30 \text{ keV cm}^2$  but are too faint to qualify as counter-examples to the pattern we see at low  $z$ . Being hosted by a weak cool core, they may not be accreting efficiently enough to

be bright radio sources. Still, it would be important to understand whether they are fading AGNs or burgeoning AGNs. In any case, we can guess that they may be accreting at the Bondi rate from the hot gas, while the more luminous radio sources are fueled by cold gas, ultimately supplied via thermal instabilities in the hot gas (on this issue see Allen et al. 2006; Russell et al. 2013). Abell 611 shows clear unresolved X-ray emission in the hard band, and the BCG of MACS J0744 is also a candidate X-ray AGN. These are the only two detections of unresolved X-ray emission in our sample, together with MACS J1931, which hosts a bright obscured AGN (see Santos et al. 2016). This may suggest different modes of accretion marked by the presence of nuclear X-ray emission, as discussed in a forthcoming paper by our team (L.-L. Yang et al. 2018 in preparation).

#### 4.7. Radio Power and Energetics of X-Ray Cavities

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

Several CLASH clusters have already been searched for cavities. We consider the measurements of the cavity sizes presented in Shin et al. (2016) for a sample of 133 clusters with sufficient X-ray photons for their analyses. Ten of the clusters in our sample are included in the list of Shin et al. (2016). The missing three are Abell 209, Abell 1423, and Abell 611. Interestingly, the first two show no radio emission from the BCG nucleus, and Abell 611 is the second least luminous among our BCGs. Abell 611 has only an upper limit to the cavity power from Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. (2013). Among the 10 clusters in Shin et al. (2016), three have no cavities in their analysis (RX J2129, MS 2137, MACS J0429), while there is at least one cavity for the remaining seven clusters. We measure  $E_{\text{bubble}}$  using the projected values of  $n_e$  and  $kT$  from the ACCEPT cluster sample (Cavagnolo et al. 2009) and Donahue et al. (2015). Clearly this is an approximation to the actual enthalpy of the bubble; however, the largest source of uncertainty is associated with the size of the bubbles (typically 20% of the linear size). In the case of multiple bubbles, the total value is obtained simply by summing the values of  $E_{\text{bubble}}$  for each cavity. A more meaningful quantity is the average mechanical power, which is obtained by dividing the mechanical energy in each cavity by the age of the cavity itself, approximated by the buoyancy time  $t_{\text{buoy}} \sim R\sqrt{3C/8gr}$  (see Birzan et al. 2004). Here,  $R$  is the distance between the cluster core and the center of the bubble,  $C$  is a drag coefficient, usually assumed to be  $C \sim 0.75$ ,  $g$  is the acceleration  $\sim GM/R^2$ , where  $M$  is the total mass within  $R$  (taken from Donahue et al. 2014), and  $r$  is the



**Figure 9.** Upper panel: the total enthalpy as measured from the size of the cavities, taken from Shin et al. (2016), vs. the radio power of the BCGs. Lower panel: the average mechanical power, computed by dividing the enthalpy of each cavity by the buoyancy time, according to Bîrzan et al. (2004). The yellow dashed line represents the best-fit power-law relation presented in Bîrzan et al. (2008), while the green dotted–dashed line is the relation from Cavagnolo et al. (2010).

bubble size with uncertainties of 20%. However, the uncertainty in these diagnostics may be severely underestimated, since the total mechanical power depends on the number of detected cavities, and therefore depends also on the depth of the X-ray data or specific properties of the surface brightness distribution of the clusters.

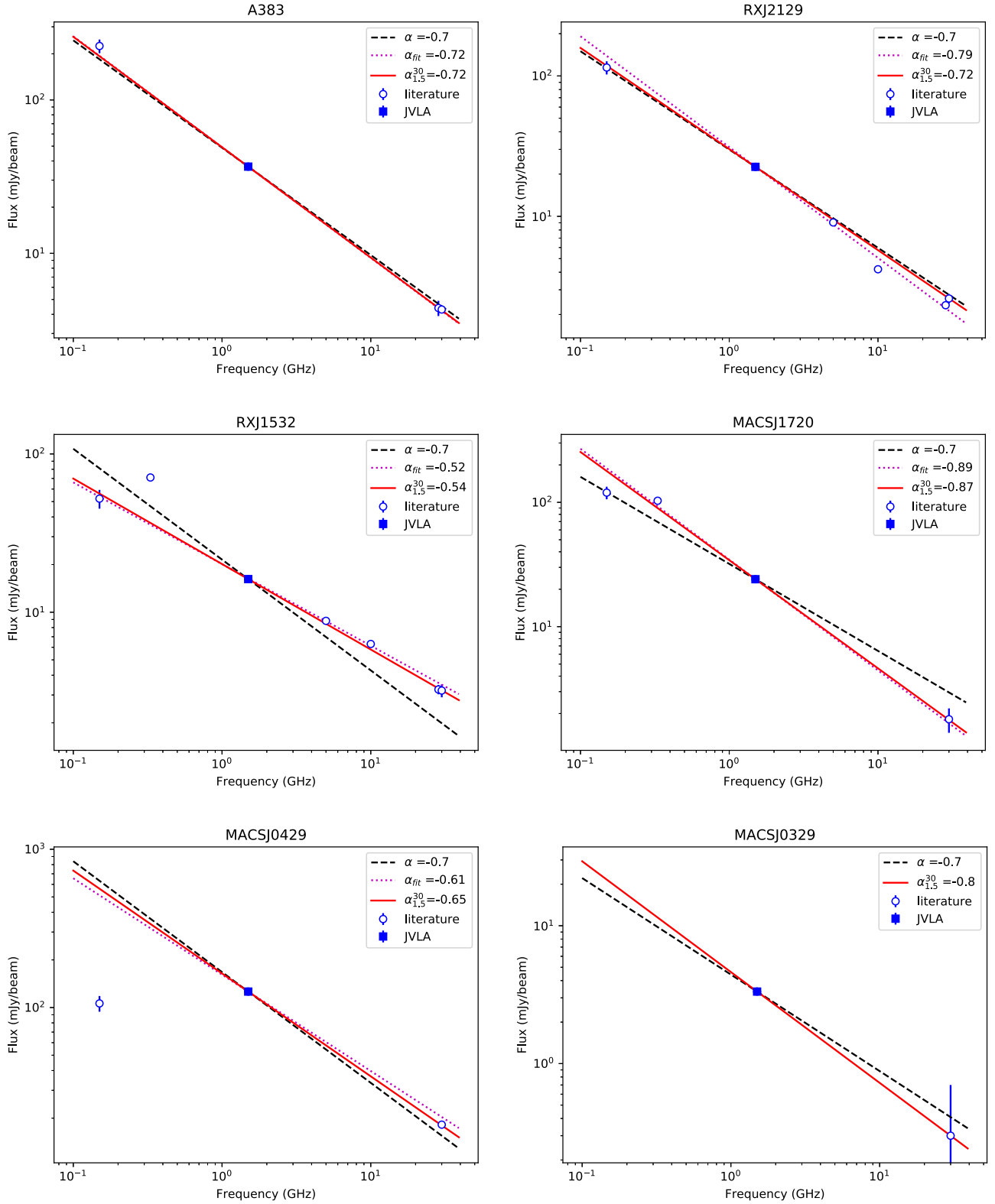
Despite these uncertainties, we compare the radio nuclear emission with the energy and the mechanical power stored in the ICM as observed in current X-ray data. In the upper panel of Figure 9 we plot the mechanical energy of the seven clusters in which cavities have been detected versus the nuclear radio luminosity of their BCG. In the lower panel of Figure 9 we also plot nuclear radio power versus the mechanical power obtained from the cavity size and position, for the same seven clusters. At first glance, our sources are not described by the average relations found in the literature (see, e.g., Bîrzan et al. 2008; Cavagnolo et al. 2010), shown in the second panel. We observe a large intrinsic scatter between the average mechanical energy injected into the ICM and the instantaneous nuclear power of the BCG, and an average mechanical power higher than in local clusters

hosting BCGs with comparable radio power. However, we are not able to draw any conclusions mainly because of the small size and the limited luminosity range of our sample. In addition, the sensitivity of X-ray observations of the CLASH sample does not guarantee a uniform sampling of cavities, particularly at low power (therefore smaller size) and medium-high redshift. In fact, a large component of the observed scatter may be due to the difficulty in identifying and measuring ICM cavities in current data. For example, the most discrepant cluster in Figure 9 is MACS J0744, which is not listed by Hlavacek-Larrondo et al. (2013) among the MACS clusters with cavities, but turns out to be the one with the largest mechanical power in our sample according to Shin et al. (2016), despite the large errors. The cluster MACS J0744 does not host an extremely strong cool core on the basis of its central entropy value  $K_0 \sim 42$  keV cm<sup>2</sup>, so it can be interpreted as a case in which the cooling in the core has been recently quenched, while the outer halo still retains the imprint of the past mechanical-feedback activity. On the other hand, a positive correlation between the radio power and the average mechanical power is found in a much larger sample across four orders of magnitude in luminosity, despite the large scatter (see Bîrzan et al. 2008; Hogan et al. 2015b). In general, we conclude that the nuclear power should be considered only an approximation of the past history of the central radio source within at least an order of magnitude, which possibly indicates that feedback may occur also as outflows and winds not associated with energetic radio jets.

## 5. Conclusions

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

1. We are able to characterize the radio properties of the nucleus in 11 BCGs, while two do not show radio emission in our data.
2. We find a head–tail galaxy close to the BCG in the two non-detections (Abell 209 and Abell 1423). The fact that at least one of the clusters (Abell 209) appears to be unrelaxed, as discussed in Section 4.2, suggests that the presence of head–tail radio galaxies may be a tracer of an unrelaxed dynamical state.
3. We find nuclear luminosities for the CLASH BCGs in the range from  $10^{23}$  to  $10^{26}$  W Hz<sup>−1</sup>; all our sources are consistent with being powered by an AGN, since their radio power is significantly larger than the value associated with the measured SFR in the BCG.
4. Average radio spectral slopes are estimated with the index  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ , defined as the flux density ratio between 1.5 and 30 GHz, and are found in the range from  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30} \sim -1$  to  $-0.25$ , with an average  $\langle \alpha_{1.5}^{30} \rangle = -0.68$ , therefore making them consistent with synchrotron radiation from relativistic electrons in the nucleus.
5. Most of our sources are consistent with being unresolved in our high-resolution data. Only for three cases (Abell 383, RX J2129, and MACS J1931) is the radio emission from the BCG resolved with a high confidence level, suggesting a contribution from the base of jets. The



**Figure 10.** Radio SED of BCGs observed with our JVLA program, complementing our 1.5 GHz measurement with measurements at other frequencies available in the literature. Only sources with a measured  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  are shown. The dashed black line shows the reference slope normalized to the 1.5 GHz flux density, while the red solid line shows the slope corresponding to  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$ . The magenta dotted line, when present, shows the best-fit power law obtained using all the available flux measurements.

remaining sources are unresolved (five sources) or marginally resolved (three sources).

6. BCGs with high radio power in JVLA data are associated with low-entropy hot gas and higher SFR,

indicating that stronger AGN activity may be correlated with more intense star formation. This correlation is consistent with the standard scenario in which the nuclear activity of the BCG is fueled by cooling of gas

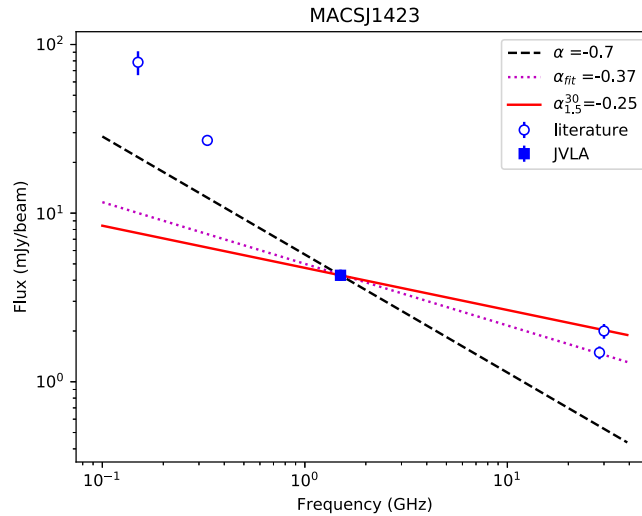


Figure 10. (Continued.)

from the hot ICM, which also provides the reservoir for star formation.

7. We also investigate five sources in the CLASH sample not yet observed with JVLA, but with reliable counterparts in FIRST and NVSS. Two of these sources (MACS J1026 at  $z = 0.44$  and CL J1226 at  $z = 0.89$ ) are unexpectedly found to have high nuclear radio power associated with a high-entropy core. This calls for a more in-depth multiwavelength analysis to investigate the nature of these sources.
8. We confirm a significant scatter between nuclear radio luminosity and average mechanical power derived from the cavity size and ICM pressure. However, we do not have the dynamic range nor the statistics to further investigate this correlation.

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

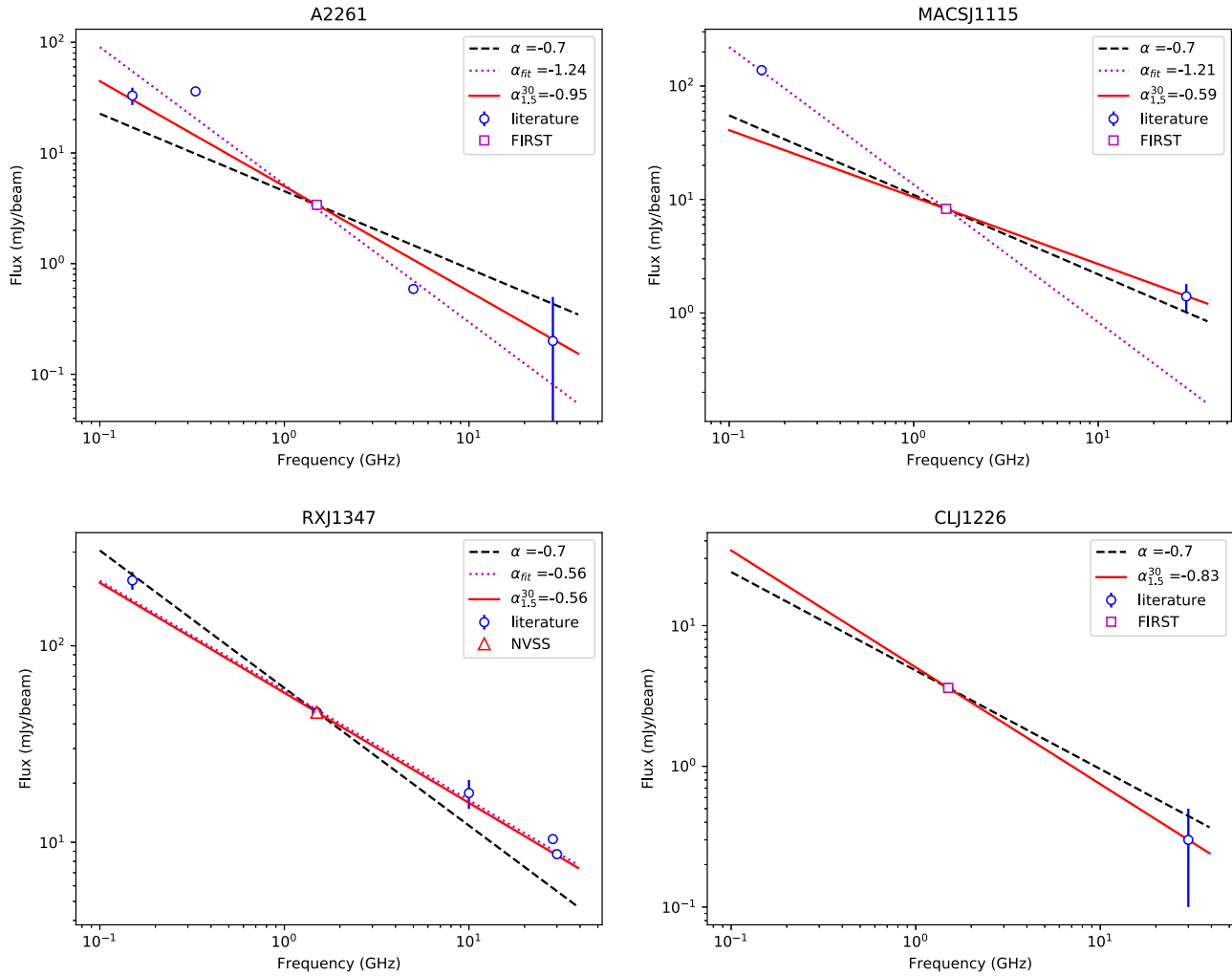
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## Appendix Spectral Energy Distribution

In this Appendix we show the radio SED of our BCGs including all the flux density values published in the literature in the range 150 MHz–30 GHz, complementing the 1.5 GHz JVLA measurements presented in this work. We show the comparison of our 1.5 and 30 GHz ratio to the slope of the best-fit power law including all the flux measurements. We do not aim at a comprehensive description of the radio SEDs, given the uneven frequency sampling of the different sources and the lack of a uniform angular resolution at different frequencies. Our goal here is simply to show the level of accuracy of our spectral index  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  as a proxy of the average spectral slope. In Figure 10 we show the radio SEDs of BCGs observed with our JVLA program, while in Figure 11 we show the radio SEDs of BCGs with FIRST or NVSS detection only. Only BCGs with a measured  $\alpha_{1.5}^{30}$  are shown.





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

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