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Deep *Chandra* observations of PLCKG287.0+32.9 : a clear detection of a shock front in a heated former cool core

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ABSTRACT

Context. The massive, hot galaxy cluster PSZ2 G286.98+32.90 (hereafter PLCKG287, $z = 0.383$) hosts a giant radio halo and two prominent radio relics which are signs of a disturbed dynamical state. Gravitational lensing analysis shows a complex cluster core with multiple components. However, despite optical and radio observations indicate a clear multiple merger, the X-ray emission of the cluster, derived from *XMM-Newton* observations, shows only moderate disturbance.

Aims. The aim of this work is to study the X-ray properties and investigate the core heating of such a massive cluster by searching for surface brightness discontinuities and associated temperature jumps that would indicate the presence of shock waves.

Methods. We present new 200 ks *Chandra X-ray Observatory* ACIS-I observations of PLCKG287 and perform a detailed analysis to investigate the morphological and thermodynamical properties of the region inside R_{500} (~ 1.5 Mpc).

Results. The global X-ray morphology of the cluster has a comet-like shape, oriented in the NW-SE direction, with an ~ 80 kpc offset between the X-ray peak and the Brightest Cluster Galaxy (BCG). We detect a shock front to the NW direction at a distance of ~ 390 kpc from the X-ray peak, characterized by a Mach number $\mathcal{M} \sim 1.3$, as well as a cold front at a distance of ~ 300 kpc from the X-ray peak, nested in the same direction of the shock in a typical configuration expected by a merger. We also find evidence for X-ray depressions to the E and W, that could be the signature of feedback from the active galactic nucleus (AGN). The radial profile of the thermodynamic quantities show a temperature and abundance peak in the cluster center, where also the pressure and entropy have a rapid increase.

Conclusions. Based on these properties, we argue that PLCKG287 is what remains of a cool core after a heating event. We estimate that both the shock energy and the AGN feedback energy, implied by the analysis of the X-ray cavities, are sufficient to heat the core to the observed temperature of ~ 17 keV in the central ≈ 160 kpc. We discuss the possible origin of the detected shock by investigating alternative scenarios of merger and AGN outburst, finding that they are both energetically viable. However, no single model seems able to explain all the X-ray features detected in this system. This suggests that the combined action of merger and central AGN feedback is likely necessary to explain the reheated cool core, the large-scale shock and the cold front. The synergy of these two processes may act in shaping the distribution of cool core and non cool core clusters.

Key words. Galaxies: clusters: individual: PSZ2 G286.98+32.90, PLCKG287.0+32.9 – Galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – Galaxies: clusters: general – X-rays: galaxies: clusters – Radiation mechanisms: thermal – Methods: observational

1. Introduction

The hierarchical model of structure formation predicts that clusters of galaxies grow by successive accretion of smaller subunits through mergers (e.g., Kravtsov & Borgani 2012; Vikhlinin et al. 2014, for reviews). A large amount of energy is dissipated in the intra-cluster medium (ICM), and possibly channeled into the amplification of the magnetic fields (e.g., Dolag et al. 2008, for a review) and into the acceleration of high-energy cosmic rays (e.g., Petrosian & Bykov 2008; Brunetti & Jones 2014, for reviews) that in turn may produce observable radio emission. Merger events may also shape the thermodynamical properties of the ICM and thus affect the distribution of cool core and non cool core clusters. However, theory and simulations

studies suggest there is ongoing debate on whether mergers are solely responsible for disrupting cool cores, or other processes, as feedback from active galactic nuclei (AGN), are at play (e.g., McCarthy et al. 2008; Guo & Mathews 2010; Rasia et al. 2015; Barnes et al. 2018). Therefore, detailed observations of disturbed systems are key to investigating this problem (e.g., Molendi et al. 2023).

The cluster PSZ2 G286.98+32.90, also known in the literature as PLCKG287.0+32.9 (hereafter PLCKG287) is a massive cluster, with $M_{500} \sim 13.7 \cdot 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ (Planck Collaboration XXVII et al. 2016) located at redshift $z = 0.383$ (D’Addona et al. 2024). It was the second most significant detection of the Planck Sunyaev-Zel’dovic (S-Z) survey (Planck collaboration, 2010), and a 10 ks validation observation performed with *XMM-*

Newton revealed that it is extremely hot ($kT_{500} \sim 13$ keV) and luminous ($L_{0.1-2.4\text{keV}}^{500} \sim 1.7 \times 10^{45}$ erg s $^{-1}$) within R_{500} (~ 1.5 Mpc). PLCKG287 belongs to the CHEX-MATE cluster sample (Cluster Heritage project with XMM-Newton: Mass Assembly and Thermodynamics at the Endpoint of structure formation, CHEX-MATE Collaboration et al. 2021). Follow-up *XMM-Newton* observations have been carried out by the CHEX-MATE collaboration to achieve a robust determination of the thermal properties up to R_{500} , confirming that it is a very luminous and hot cluster (Riva et al. 2024).

The dynamical and thermodynamical properties of the cluster have been analyzed by several authors (Bagchi et al. 2011; Bonafede et al. 2014; Finner et al. 2017; Campitiello et al. 2022; Golovich et al. 2019; Riva et al. 2024; Finner et al. 2024). Bagchi et al. (2011) first analyzed the cluster, concluding that it is undergoing one or multiple mergers with the main axis oriented in the direction from North-West (NW) to South-East (SE). The merger orientation is confirmed by optical ESO 2.2 m WFI data, which indicate that PLCKG287 is located within a 6-Mpc long intergalactic filament and it has undergone a major merger, slightly misaligned with respect to the main direction of accretion (Bonafede et al. 2014). In addition, two more sub-clumps are detected along the filament.

GMRT and JVLA radio observations from 150 MHz to 3 GHz show that the cluster hosts diffuse radio emission (Bagchi et al. 2011; Bonafede et al. 2014; Stuardi et al. 2022), as expected for massive merging clusters. In particular, the cluster hosts two symmetrically radio relics, which are supposed to be generated by merger driven shock fronts, and a radio halo, which is connected to (re)-acceleration of cosmic ray electrons by turbulence (e.g., Brunetti & Jones 2014; van Weeren et al. 2019, and references therein). The radio halo appears roundish in shape at 325 MHz, with a total extent of $\sim 250''$ (1.3 Mpc), and co-spatial with the cluster X-ray emission. At 150 MHz, the halo is reported to be more elongated toward the SE, reaching a largest angular size of $\sim 450''$, corresponding to ~ 2.4 Mpc (Bonafede et al. 2014). The relics are found along the merger axis, as usually found for this kind of sources. Other peculiar features of filamentary radio emission have also been detected, whose origin is unknown (Bonafede et al. 2014).

More recent Subaru optical observations confirm that the galaxy distribution is elongated in the SE to NW direction along the merger axis and that the mass distribution on large scales also follows the same merger axis (Finner et al. 2017, 2024). The higher-resolution Hubble Space Telescope (*HST*) mass map shows that two mass peaks exist within the central mass clump, and that they also lie along the merger axis. The cluster mass is dominated by the primary cluster of mass $M \sim 1.6 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ centered on the brightest cluster galaxy (BCG), with three substructures being $\sim 10\%$ of the mass of the primary cluster. Based on the spatial distribution of the substructures, Finner et al. (2017) concluded that they are consistent with a merger scenario that may have created the radio relics.

Despite optical and radio analysis indicate a clear massive and strong multiple merger, the X-ray emission of the cluster shows moderate disturbance with only a single peak. Indeed, the X-ray morphological analysis of Campitiello et al. (2022) classifies PLCKG287 as “mixed morphology”, being ranked 87th out of 118 clusters in the CHEX-MATE sample in terms of morphological disturbance. Hence, PLCKG287 could be a case where a merger has not completely disrupted the cluster core, as observed in several systems (e.g., Douglass et al. 2018; Schellenberger et al. 2023; Rossetti & Molendi 2010, and references therein). Yet, the presence of the halo, relics, other thin

Table 1. Summary of the *Chandra* ACIS-I observations analyzed in this work (PI: A. Bonafede).

ObsID	Obs. Date	τ_{exp}	τ_{clean}	chip
17165	2015-11-17	54.4	38.2	I2
17166	2015-11-24	20.8	14.5	I2
17494	2015-08-17	59.3	38.5	I0
17495	2016-03-22	32.2	22.5	I2
18807	2016-03-23	28.7	18.2	I2

Notes. Column 1: ObsID; column 2: Obs. date; column 3: exposure time; column 4: net exposure time after cleaning; column 5: chip containing the aimpoint.

radio filaments, and the mass distribution reconstructed by weak lensing analysis make the cluster an intriguing case that needs to be studied in more detail.

The aim of this work is to present a detailed analysis of deep *Chandra* observations of the cluster PLCKG287, in order to study the X-ray morphological and thermodynamical properties of the ICM. We focus our analysis and discussion on the X-ray properties of the cluster, whereas the connection with the radio features will be studied in detail in forthcoming papers based on new observations with MeerKAT L band (Balboni et al, in preparation), uGMRT (Band3 and Band4), and MeerKAT (UHF and S-band) observations (Rajpurohit et al., in preparation).

The paper is organized as follows: In Section 2, we present the *Chandra* observations and the basic steps of the data reduction. In Section 3, we present the global properties of the cluster derived from the morphological and spectral analyses inside R_{500} . In particular, we discuss the residual images obtained by subtracting the best-fit β -model (Sect. 3.1) and the radial profiles and 2D spectral maps of the thermodynamic properties (Sect. 3.2). In Section 4 we present the detection of a shock and a cold front based on the detailed analysis of the surface brightness and thermodynamic radial profiles. Our interpretation of the observational results is discussed in Section 5, where we first investigate the possibility that PLCKG287 is a former cool core (Sect. 5.1), then compare the energy required to heat the core (Sect. 5.2) to the energy of the shock (Sect. 5.3) and AGN feedback (Sect. 5.4), and finally discuss the possible scenarios for the origin of the shock (Sect. 5.5). We then present our conclusions in Section 6.

With $H_0 = 70$ km s $^{-1}$ Mpc $^{-1}$ and $\Omega_M = 1 - \Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.3$, the luminosity distance to PLCKG287 ($z = 0.383$) is 2063.7 Mpc and $1''$ corresponds to 5.23 kpc in the rest frame of the cluster.

2. Chandra observation and data reduction

We analyzed archival *Chandra* observations of the cluster PLCKG287 consisting of five different exposures (ObsID 17165, 17166, 17494, 17495, 18807, see Table 1). Each observation was obtained with the ACIS-I instrument in VFaint mode. The footprint of the five available ObsIDs of PLCKG287 is shown in Figure 1 (left panel), where $R_{500} = 1541$ kpc (Bagchi et al. 2011) is indicated with a white circle. The cluster emission extends over all four ACIS-I chips of each ObsID, therefore we reprocessed all 20 chips. Data were downloaded from the *Chandra Data Archive*¹ and were reprocessed with the software package CIAO (version 4.10) and CALDB (version 4.7.3) to apply the latest calibration available at the time of the analysis and to remove bad pixels and flares. We also improved the absolute as-

¹ <https://cda.harvard.edu/chaser/>

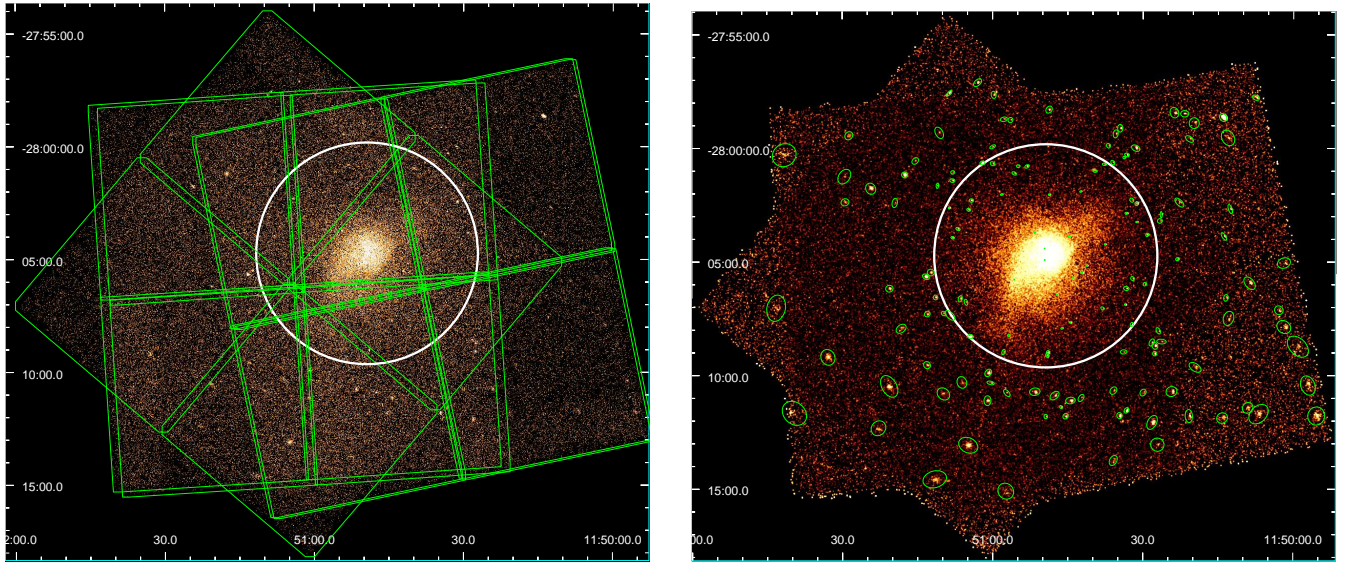


Fig. 1. Field of view of the *Chandra* observations of PLCKG287 ($z=0.383$). *Left panel:* Footprint of the five *Chandra* ObsIDs. *Right panel:* Background-subtracted, exposure-corrected mosaic in the [0.5-7.0] keV band. The detected point sources which were removed from the analysis are shown with green ellipses. In both panels, the white circle indicates $R_{500} = 1541$ kpc, which is the region where we focus our analysis.

trometry identifying the point sources of the longest exposure (ObsID 17494) with the task WAVDETECT and cross-matching them with the optical catalogue USNO-A2.0². The other datasets were then registered to the position of the longest one.

For the background treatment, we adopted the blank-sky background files³ created by the ACIS calibration team. For each obsID dataset separately, we first identified and re-projected the ACIS blank-sky files that match our data. Then we treated each chip individually, normalizing it to the count rate of the same chip of the corresponding obsID event file in the 9-12 keV band. The background event files thus obtained for each chip were then used for the spectral analysis (Sect. 3.2). Since the blanksky files were created for quiescent-background periods, we additionally filtered our ObsID datasets in the same manner to remove periods of background flares⁴. The net exposure times obtained after this phase of data cleaning are summarised in Table 1, resulting in a final, combined exposure for the five ObsID datasets of 131.9 ks.

To create a mosaic image, we combined the event files of the five obsID datasets by running `merge_obs`, which generates an image in units of counts (counts/pixel), an exposure map ($\text{cm}^2\text{-s-counts/ photons}$) and an image in units of flux (photons/ $\text{cm}^2\text{-s-pixel}$) resulting from the division between the count image and the exposure map. The `merge_obs` script generates also the PSF map⁵ of the mosaic used to detect the point sources with WAVDETECT. To create the associated mosaic background image we proceeded as follows: for each obsID, we created a background event file by combining with `dmmerge` the reprojected blank-sky files of each chip. This combined blanksky event file was then reprojected to match the corresponding ObsID event file and normalized to the 9-12 keV band count rate of the corresponding ObsID main chip. From the combined blank-sky event file of each ObsID we

then created a background image and scaled it to the exposure time of the corresponding obsID. Finally, we combined the five background images with `reproject_image`. The resulting background-subtracted, exposure-corrected mosaic in the 0.5-7.0 keV band is shown in Figure 1 (right panel), where the detected point sources (then removed from the analysis) are also shown.

Throughout the analysis, error bars are at the 1σ confidence levels on a single parameter of interest, unless otherwise stated.

3. Global cluster properties

3.1. Morphological analysis

In Figure 2 we show the *Chandra* image with the superimposition of the GMRT radio contours at 330 MHz from Bonafede et al. (2014). The global X-ray morphology of the cluster has a comet-like shape oriented in the NE-SW direction. The central cluster region encompassed by the radio halo is very bright, with an X-ray peak (located at RA 10:50:49.4, Dec $-28:04:44.3$) which is offset by $15.2''$ (~ 80 kpc) from the position of the main BCG (BCG-273, RA 10:50:50.2, Dec $-28:04:55.7$, D’Addona et al. 2024). This separation, corresponding to roughly $0.05 R_{500}$, is indicative of a disturbed dynamical state (e.g., Rossetti et al. 2016). We adopt the X-ray peak as the center of the X-ray analyses presented in this paper.

3.1.1. Surface brightness profile

To study the X-ray morphology of the ICM we made use of the package `pyproffit` (Eckert et al. 2020), which is the python implementation of the `proffit` C++ software (Eckert et al. 2011) specifically designed for the analysis of galaxy cluster X-ray surface brightness profiles. By providing as input the mosaic count image, background image and exposure map⁶ (Sect. 2),

⁶ The exposure map was normalized by its value at the aimpoint, resulting in units of s as requested by `pyproffit`.

² <http://tdc-www.harvard.edu/catalogs/ua2.html>

³ <https://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/acisbackground/>

⁴ <https://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/flare/>

⁵ We assumed `psfconf=0.9`

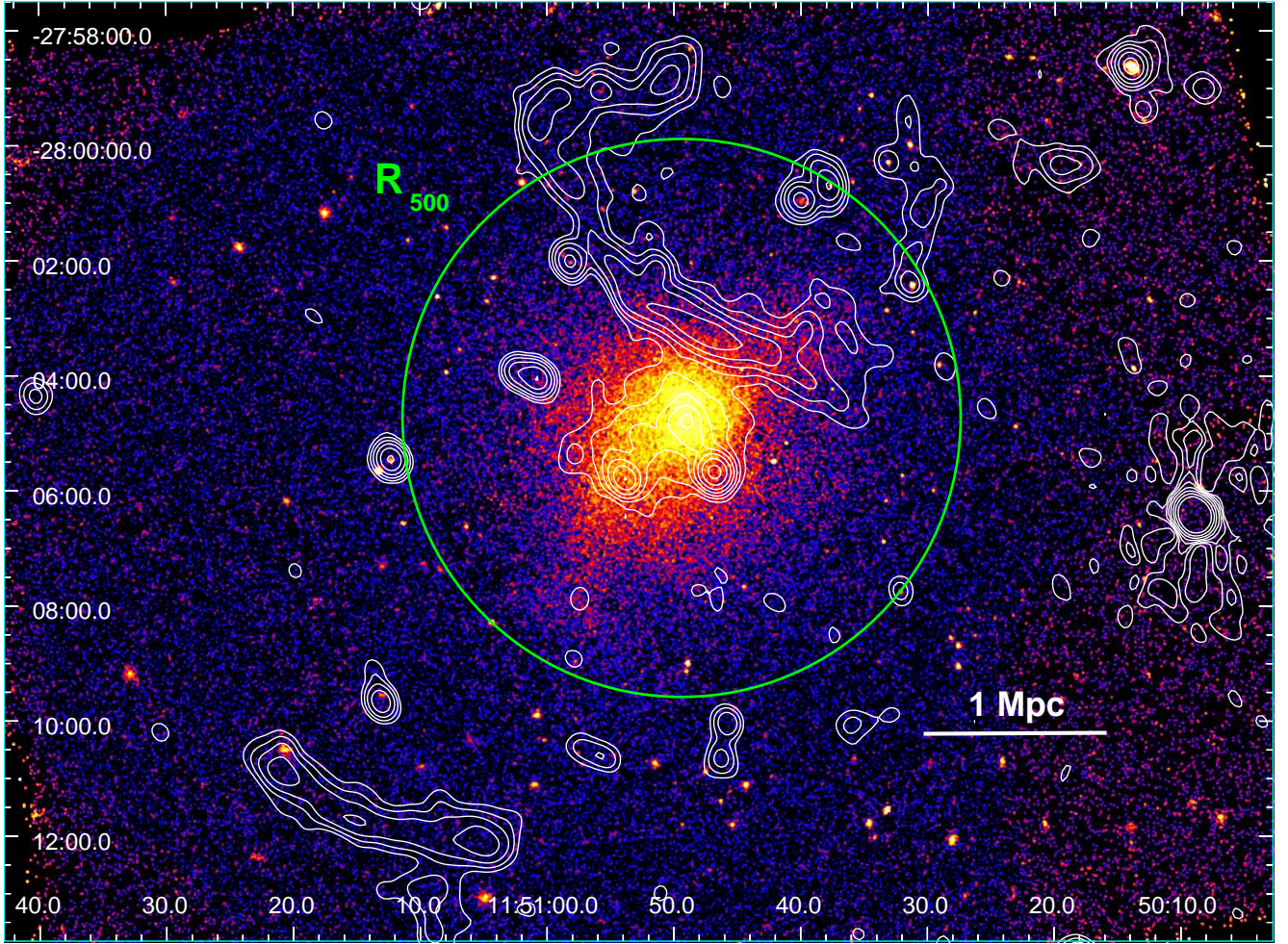


Fig. 2. Background-subtracted, exposure-corrected *Chandra* mosaic of PLCKG287 in the [0.5-7.0] keV band smoothed with a kernel of 4 pixels (1 ACIS pixel = 0.492"). The detected point sources (shown with green ellipses in the right panel of Figure 1) have been subtracted. The green circle indicates $R_{500} = 1541$ kpc. Overlaid in white are the GMRT radio contours at 330 MHz (levels start at $\pm 3\sigma$ and increase by a factor of 2, where $\sigma = 0.1$ mJy/beam, beam= $12.9'' \times 7.9''$). The radio data shows two prominent radio relics to the NW and SE at distances of ~ 500 kpc and ~ 2.8 Mpc kpc from the cluster center. The bright X-ray core region is coincident with a giant radio halo. See Bonafede et al. (2014) for more details on the radio features.

Table 2. Results of the fit to the surface brightness profile extracted up to R_{500} .

β -model	β	r_{c1} (arcmin)	r_{c1} (kpc)	r_{c2} (arcmin)	r_{c2} (kpc)	\log_{10} norm (counts s^{-1} arcmin $^{-2}$)	R	χ^2/dof
single (ellip.)	0.595 ± 0.005	1.045 ± 0.018	328 ± 6	-	-	-1.017 ± 0.006	-	164/143
single	0.583 ± 0.004	0.816 ± 0.013	255 ± 4	-	-	-1.008 ± 0.006	-	217/143
double	0.583 ± 0.004	0.818 ± 0.013	257 ± 4	0.015 ± 0.007	5 ± 2	-1.010 ± 0.006	0.60 ± 0.01	215/141

Notes. Column 1: β -model; column 2: β parameter (assumed to be linked for the double β -model); column 3 (4): core radius of the first component, r_{c1} , in arcmin (kpc); column 5 (6): core radius of the second component, r_{c2} , in arcmin (kpc); column 7: normalization (see Eqs. 1 and 2); column 8: ratio of the two components (see Eq. 2); column 9: χ^2/dof . The elliptical profile was extracted in annuli with P.A. = 33° and axis ratio (major/minor) = 1.5; the best-fit core radius is the value along the major axis.

we extracted the azimuthally-averaged surface brightness (SB) profile in $2''$ -wide annular bins up to R_{500} (1541 kpc $\sim 4.9'$, indicated by the green circle in Figure 2). We fitted the profile with a single β -model, defined by the function:

$$\text{SB}(r) = \text{norm} \left(1 + (r/r_c)^2 \right)^{0.5-3\beta}, \quad (1)$$

where norm is the normalization expressed in units of \log_{10} of the central value, r_c is the core radius and β is the slope parameter. The best-fit ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 217/143 = 1.52$) parameters are $\beta = 0.583 \pm 0.004$ and core radius $r_c = (0.816 \pm 0.013)$ arcmin

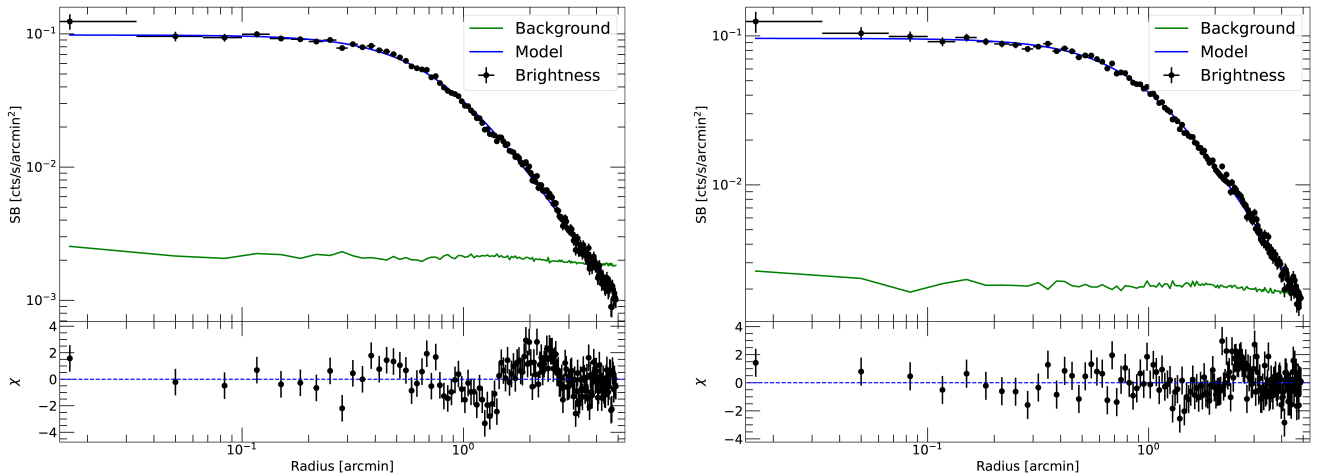


Fig. 3. Background-subtracted, azimuthally-averaged radial surface brightness profile in the [0.5-7.0] keV energy band extracted in circular (*left panel*) and elliptical (*right panel*) annuli. The best-fit to a single β -model is shown with a blue line in both panels. The best-fit parameters are reported in Table 2. The radial distances are in units of arcmin, where 1 arcmin = 313.8 kpc.

$\sim (246 \pm 1)$ kpc. We also considered a double β -model, defined by the function

$$SB(r) = \text{norm} \left[\left(1 + (r/r_{c1})^2 \right)^{0.5-3\beta} + R \left(1 + (r/r_{c2})^2 \right)^{0.5-3\beta} \right]. \quad (2)$$

We found that, although it provides a better fit to the central bin (~ 10.5 kpc), the F-test indicated that the improvement is not significant (F-stat = 0.66, F-prob = 0.52).

We further extracted the SB profile in elliptical annuli (P.A. = 33° , axis ratio = 1.5), finding an improvement in the fit ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 164/143 = 1.15$). The best-fit parameters are $\beta = 0.595 \pm 0.005$ and core radius (measured along the major axis) $r_c = (1.045 \pm 0.018)$ arcmin $\sim (328 \pm 6)$ kpc. On the other hand, we found that restricting the radial range to the central 1.3 arcmin (~ 408 kpc), the fits with a single β -model to the SB profiles extracted in circular annuli and elliptical annuli are indistinguishable ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 31.4/35$ and $33.0/35$, respectively). We verified that the circular and elliptical fits continue to be consistent at 1σ up to ≈ 500 kpc. We finally verified that changing the radial binning of the profile extraction by adopting different values and spacing provides consistent best-fit parameters.

The results of the fits to the radial profile up to R_{500} are summarized in Table 2 and the best-fit of the circular and elliptical profile are shown in the left and right panels of Figure 3, respectively.

3.1.2. Residual and unsharp images: analysis of X-ray depressions

The residual image of the central region obtained by subtracting the best-fit elliptical β -model is shown in Figure 4 (left panel). This image illustrates the deviations of the data from the best-fit β -model. Another method typically used in X-ray imaging to highlight substructures in the ICM is that to produce unsharp masked images. In particular, we smoothed the *Chandra* image with two Gaussian functions of small ($3''$ - $5''$) and large ($10''$ - $40''$) kernel size; then, we derived an unsharp masked image by subtracting the large-scale smoothed image from the small-scale smoothed one. We tried various combinations which image features on different scales, finding generally consistent results. In the right panel of Figure 4, we show the unsharp image obtained

by subtracting the $40''$ smoothed image from the $5''$ smoothed one. Notable structures such as edges and discontinuities identified in the residual and unsharp images are analyzed and discussed in Sect. 4 and 5.3. We further note a remarkable spatial correspondence between the X-ray feature surrounding the cluster central region (best visible in the unsharp mask image, right panel of Fig. 4) and the outer shape of the giant radio halo. This will be discussed in forthcoming papers (Rajpurohit et al. in preparation, Balboni et al. in preparation).

The visual inspection of both the residual and unsharp mask images also reveals the presence of possible X-ray depressions in the E-W direction with respect to the center. The analysis of the azimuthal variation of the background-subtracted, exposure corrected SB around the cluster center, performed in wedges encompassing the X-ray depressions (see Figure 5, middle panel), indicates that they are significant, particularly the E one (see Figure 5, left panel). We also investigated the radial variation by extracting the SB profile in four sectors (see Fig. A.1), finding confirmation for a large (size ≈ 80 kpc) depression in the E direction and hints of a smaller (size ≈ 60 kpc) one in the W direction (see Figure 5, right panel). The interpretation of these features will be discussed in Sect. 5.4 and 5.5.2.

3.2. Spectral analysis

For each region of interest, we used the command `specextract` to extract a spectrum, along with its corresponding background spectrum and event-weighted response matrices, for each ObsID and each chip covered by that region. We then combined the spectra with the command `combine_spectra` in order to have one single spectrum and its associated background spectrum for each region. We then grouped the spectrum to 25 counts per bin and performed a spectral fitting with a single absorbed thermal model (`tbabs*apec`) in the energy range 0.5-7.0 keV with XSPEC version 12.13.0c. The detected point sources (visible in Figure 1, right) were subtracted before the spectral fitting. We adopted the abundance ratios of Asplund et al. (2009) and fixed the redshift $z = 0.383$. We also fixed the absorbing column density to the galactic hydrogen column value, $N_H = 6.93 \times 10^{20}$ cm^{-2} (HI4PI Collaboration et al. 2016), and present in the

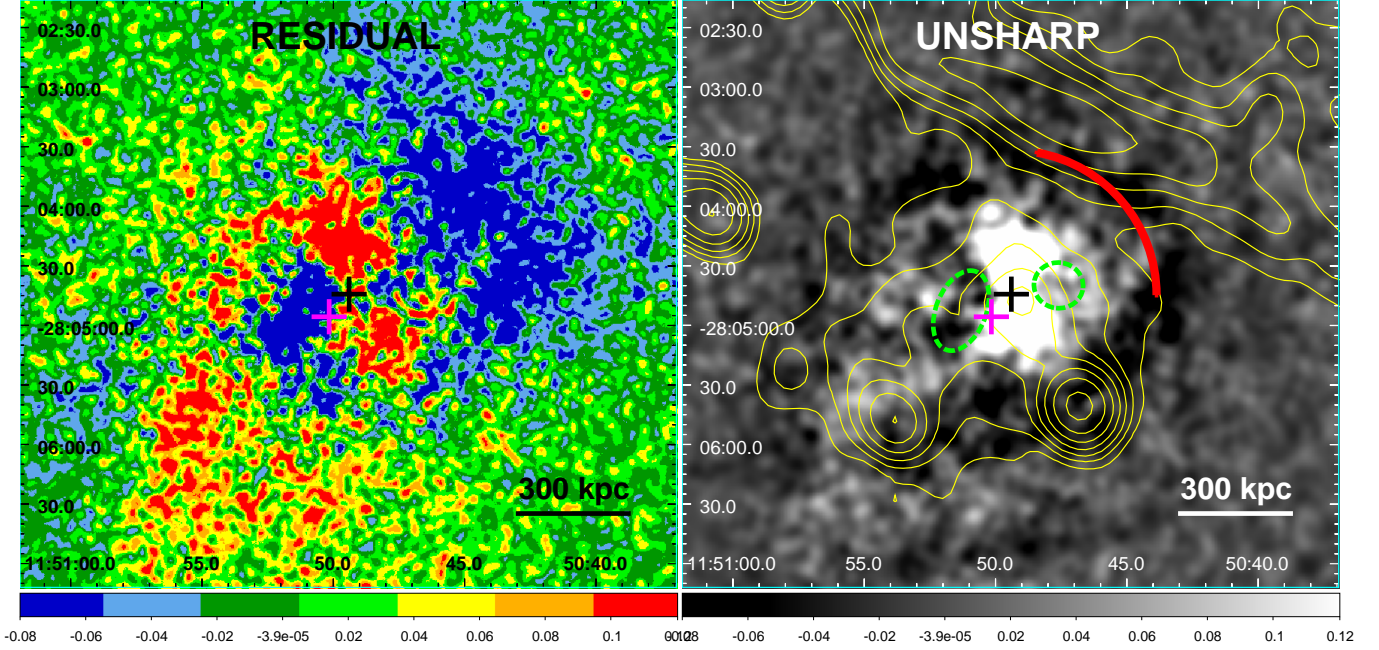


Fig. 4. Morphological substructures in PLCKG287 from filtered *Chandra* images. *Left panel:* Residual *Chandra* image of the central cluster region obtained by subtracting the best-fit elliptical β -model (see Table 2). As indicated by the color bar, the positive and negative residuals are shown in red and blue, respectively. *Right panel:* Unsharp masked image obtained by subtracting a $40''$ -smoothed image from a $5''$ -smoothed one. The green dashed ellipses show the possible X-ray depressions discussed in Section 5.4, whereas the red arc indicates the position of the identified shock front (see Sect. 4). Overlaid are the GMRT radio contours at 330 MHz (same as in Fig. 2). In both panels, the black and magenta crosses indicate the location of the X-ray peak (RA 10:50:49.4, Dec $-28:04:44.3$) and main BCG (RA 10:50:50.2, Dec $-28:04:55.7$), respectively.

Appendix B the analysis performed by leaving N_{H} as a free parameter.

3.2.1. Global ICM properties inside R_{500}

We first measured the global properties inside R_{500} by considering a circular region of radius = $294.7''$ (= 1541 kpc, see the green circle in Figure 3). The best-fit parameters ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 514/441 = 1.17$) are: temperature $kT = 12.73^{+0.38}_{-0.40}$ keV (consistent with *XMM* measurements, Bagchi et al. 2011), and abundance $Z = 0.26 \pm 0.05 Z_{\odot}$. With the model `tbabs*clumin*apec` we estimated the unabsorbed luminosity in the hard and bolometric (0.01-100 keV) bands to be $L_{2-10\text{keV}} = (1.09 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{45}$ erg s^{-1} and $L_{\text{bol}} = (2.55 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{45}$ erg s^{-1} , respectively.

3.2.2. 1D radial profiles of ICM thermodynamic properties

In order to derive the azimuthally-averaged radial properties of the ICM, we produced projected temperature and abundance profiles by extracting spectra in circular annuli⁷ centered on the peak of the X-ray emission (RA 10:50:49.4, Dec $-28:04:44.3$). The annular regions were chosen in order to collect at least 3,000-3,500 net counts (see Table 3). The best-fit parameters obtained from the fits to the annular spectra are summarized in Table 3 and the derived radial profiles of temperature and abundance are shown in Figure 6 (top panels). We note in particular

⁷ As derived in Sect. 3.1, the spherical assumption is a good approximation inside the central ≈ 500 kpc, where our investigation is focused (see Sect. 5).

that both profiles show an increase in the cluster center. This will be discussed in Sect. 5.

The spectral properties thus derived are the emission-weighted superposition of radiation originating at all points along the line of sight through the cluster atmosphere. In order to account for projection effects, we further performed a deprojection analysis by considering the model `projct*tbabs*apec`, where the first component performs a 3D to 2D projection of ellipsoidal shells on to elliptical annuli. The high number of parameters in the `projct` model requires high photon statistics, therefore we binned the annuli two by two (but the last one).

We also estimated various quantities derived from the deprojected spectral fits. The electron density n_e is obtained from the Emission Integral $EI = \int n_e n_p dV$ given by the `apec` normalization, $\text{norm} = 10^{-14} EI / (4\pi [D_A(1+z)]^2)$. We assumed $n_e \sim 1.2n_p$ in the ionized intra-cluster plasma (e.g., Gitti et al. 2012). By starting from the deprojected density and temperature values, we then calculated the gas pressure as $p = nkT$, where we assumed $n = n_e + n_p$, and the gas entropy from the commonly adopted definition $S = kT n_e^{-2/3}$. The results of the deprojection analysis are reported in Table 4 and the corresponding deprojected temperature, density, pressure and entropy profiles are shown in Figure 6. We note in particular an entropy and temperature increase in the very center ($r \lesssim 160$ kpc). This will be discussed in Sect. 5.

We further measured the gas mass profile by integrating in shells the gas density (estimated from the electron density as $\rho = 1.92 \mu n_e m_p$, where $\mu \sim 0.6$ is the mean molecular weight and m_p is the proton mass), finding $M_{\text{gas}}(< R_{500}) \sim 1.6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$. As a simple estimate, we also derived the analytical profile of the hydrostatic total mass obtained from the best-fit β -model

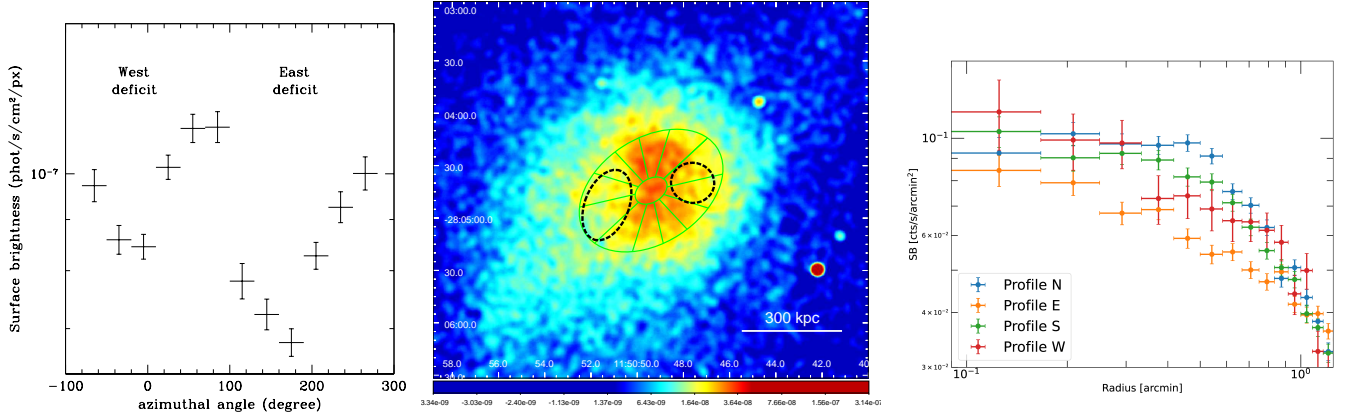


Fig. 5. Detection of E-W depressions in PLCKG287. *Left panel:* Azimuthal SB profile around the cluster center extracted along the wedges shown in the middle panel. The largest deficit is in the direction of the E depression seen in the residual and unsharp images (see Fig. 4). A second dip is visible in the azimuthal profile along the direction of the W depression. Angles are measured counterclockwise, with 0° to the West direction, and are shown starting from -90° to improve the visibility of the West deficit in the plot. *Middle panel:* Background-subtracted, exposure corrected mosaic [0.5–7.0] keV *Chandra* image, smoothed with a kernel of 8 pixels, of the central region of PLCKG287. The elliptical wedges used to evaluate the azimuthal SB profile around the center were chosen so as to mostly encompass the region of each depression (elliptical annulus between $10''$ and $45''$ along the major axis, divided in 12 sectors of 30° each) and are shown in green panda regions. The black dashed ellipses show the identified X-ray depressions (see also Fig. A.1). *Right panel:* SB profiles extracted in $5''$ -wide annular bins (with the same geometry as that used for the elliptical β -model, see Fig. A.1) in four sectors to the N (blue), E (yellow), S (green) and W (red) directions. With respect to the SB profiles in orthogonal directions, a clear depression is visible in the E profile in the radial range $\approx 0.25' - 0.75'$, and a smaller deficit is noticeable in the W profile in the radial range $\approx 0.4' - 0.6'$. The radial distances are indicated along the major axis, in units of arcmin (1 arcmin = 313.8 kpc).

parameters (see e.g., Eq. 20 of Gitti et al. 2012), by assuming an isothermal value of $kT = 12.73^{+0.38}_{-0.40}$ keV estimated inside R_{500} (see Sect. 3.2.1). We consider this a robust approximation of the temperature outside of the cluster core (see Fig. 6, top left panel), therefore we show the profile only for radial distances $\gtrsim 160$ kpc. We estimated $M_{\text{tot}}(< R_{500}) \approx 1.2 \times 10^{15} M_\odot$, in agreement with the nominal integrated mass estimated from Planck SZ data ($\sim 1.4 \times 10^{15} M_\odot$, Planck Collaboration XXVII et al. 2016). The mass profiles are shown in Fig. 6 (bottom right panel).

3.2.3. 2D spectral maps of ICM thermodynamic properties

To enable high-resolution 2D mapping of the ICM thermodynamic properties, we built maps by using the contour binning technique (CONTBIN, Sanders 2006) and setting⁸ a minimum signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of 55. The spectrum extracted from each region was fit with a `tbabs * apec` model, leaving the temperature, abundance and normalization free to vary. Consistently with the previous analysis (Sect. 3.2.1 and 3.2.2), the absorbing column density was fixed at the value $N_{\text{H}} = 6.93 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (HI4PI Collaboration et al. 2016). By combining the temperature and normalization, we further derived maps of pseudo-pressure and pseudo-entropy (in arbitrary units) using the method described in the literature (e.g., Ubertosi et al. 2023).

The resulting maps (Figure 7) show that the higher abundance gas is preferentially found inside the central ~ 300 kpc from the X-ray peak and is bounded by a region of cold gas, which is in turn externally surrounded by a region of hot gas. This hot ICM region is narrower (~ 90 kpc) towards the NW direction and corresponds to a region of higher ICM pressure, possibly indicating shock compression. Across the internal cold ICM region the pressure is instead nearly constant, suggesting

⁸ We show the spectral maps that we consider the best ones after trying different sets of parameters.

the presence of a contact discontinuity (cold front). These features will be further investigated in Section 4 by means of dedicated morphological and spectral analyses of the radial profiles.

4. Study of the surface brightness discontinuities

We investigated the presence and nature of possible surface brightness discontinuities by performing detailed morphological and spectral analyses of the radial profiles along different sectors. The strategy we adopted was to first estimate the exact position and magnitude of density jumps by studying the surface brightness profile across each edge and then measure the thermodynamic properties (in particular temperature and pressure) inside and outside the front to determine its nature.

In particular, we performed a systematic search for edges in the ICM by extracting surface brightness profiles (centered on the X-ray peak)⁹ in circular or elliptical sectors of varying opening angles (between 30° and 180°) and different binning (between $1''$ to $3''$). The resulting profiles were fit in `pyproffit` with a single power-law model and with a broken power-law model: a surface brightness edge at a distance R_j , characterized by a density jump J , was considered a detection if an F-test between the single and the broken power-law indicated a significant statistical improvement (more than 99% confidence).

The best-fit results were obtained in sectors along the NW direction (see Fig. 8). We detected an inner edge in a 180° -wide sector (from -57° to $+123^\circ$ from W and increasing counterclockwise) at $R_{\text{inner}} = 0.94' \pm 0.02' = 56.4'' \pm 1.2'' \sim 295 \pm 6$ kpc from the center, characterized by a density jump $J_{\text{inner}} = 1.44 \pm 0.08$ ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 53.0/51$). We also detected an

⁹ We also considered sectors with offset centers in order to better represent the shape of the features visually identified, finding consistent results.

Table 3. Results of the spectral fit to an absorbed apec model (`tbabs*apec`) performed in the [0.5-7.0] keV energy band in concentric annular regions extracted up to R_{500} .

$R_{in} - R_{out}$ (")	$R_{in} - R_{out}$ (kpc)	Exposure (ksec)	Net counts (% total)	kT (keV)	Z (Z_{\odot})	χ^2/dof (χ^2_{red})
0-20	0-105	131.9	4333 (97.7)	$19.58^{+2.81}_{-2.32}$	$0.62^{+0.31}_{-0.29}$	139.00/134 (1.04)
20-30	105-157	131.9	4612 (97.4)	$15.71^{+2.05}_{-1.78}$	$0.64^{+0.23}_{-0.23}$	138.93/140 (0.99)
30-38	157-199	131.9	4039 (96.8)	$11.90^{+1.67}_{-1.23}$	$0.34^{+0.17}_{-0.19}$	145.12/128 (1.13)
38-45	199-235	131.9	3705 (96.2)	$12.94^{+2.51}_{-0.97}$	$0.48^{+0.20}_{-0.21}$	111.63/117 (0.95)
45-52	235-272	131.9	3402 (95.2)	$11.72^{+0.74}_{-1.02}$	$0.32^{+0.18}_{-0.18}$	98.36/108 (0.91)
52-59	272-309	131.9	3276 (94.5)	$14.12^{+1.67}_{-2.05}$	< 0.21	131.24/106 (1.24)
59-67	309-350	131.9	3373 (93.3)	$13.96^{+1.80}_{-2.07}$	< 0.19	118.59/110 (1.08)
67-76	350-398	131.9	3308 (91.4)	$14.33^{+1.85}_{-2.01}$	$0.42^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$	108.91/113 (0.96)
76-87	398-455	131.9	3489 (89.0)	$11.95^{+1.73}_{-1.12}$	$0.45^{+0.21}_{-0.20}$	109.89/122 (0.90)
87-100	455-523	175.1	4122 (87.6)	$14.47^{+2.32}_{-2.22}$	$0.37^{+0.22}_{-0.23}$	144.75/143 (1.01)
100-115	523-602	193.9	4165 (84.5)	$14.97^{+2.94}_{-2.50}$	$0.37^{+0.24}_{-0.27}$	157.42/150 (1.05)
115-135	602-706	244.3	4698 (80.2)	$12.56^{+1.65}_{-1.25}$	$0.31^{+0.19}_{-0.19}$	167.54/170 (0.99)
135-160	706-837	350.7	5067 (73.1)	$12.85^{+1.90}_{-1.26}$	< 0.17	201.42/194 (1.04)
160-191.2	837-1000	350.7	4556 (61.5)	$10.05^{+1.17}_{-1.04}$	$0.15^{+0.17}_{-0.15}$	216.94/206 (1.05)
191.2-294.7	1000-1541	350.7	7289 (39.1)	$9.40^{+1.06}_{-1.02}$	< 0.15	400.60/385 (1.04)

Notes. The temperature (in keV) and metallicity (as a fraction of the solar value, Asplund et al. 2009) were left as free parameters. The absorbing column density was fixed at the Galactic value $N_{\text{H}} = 6.93 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (HI4PI Collaboration et al. 2016) and linked among the different annuli. Column 1: inner and outer radius in arcsec; column 2: inner and outer radius in kpc ; column 3: combined exposure time; column 4: net counts (and percentage of total counts); column 5: temperature (keV); column 6: abundance (solar value); column 7: χ^2/dof . The global fit gives $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 2390.32/2326 = 1.028$.

Table 4. Results of the deprojected spectral fit to an absorbed apec model (`projct*tbabs*apec`) performed in the [0.5-7.0] keV energy band in concentric annular regions extracted up to R_{500} .

$R_{in} - R_{out}$ (")	$R_{in} - R_{out}$ (kpc)	kT (keV)	Z (Z_{\odot})	n_e (10^{-3} cm^{-3})	p ($10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-3}$)	S (keV cm^2)	$M_{\text{gas}}(< R_{\text{out}})$ ($10^{13} M_{\odot}$)
0-30	0-157	$24.07^{+6.72}_{-4.89}$	$1.24^{+0.88}_{-0.59}$	$4.02^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$	$28.38^{+8.01}_{-5.87}$	952^{+267}_{-195}	0.19 ± 0.01
30-45	157-235	$11.76^{+1.49}_{-1.62}$	$0.67^{+0.27}_{-0.37}$	$3.18^{+0.06}_{-0.04}$	$10.97^{+1.40}_{-1.52}$	543^{+69}_{-75}	0.54 ± 0.01
45-59	235-309	$12.27^{+2.37}_{-1.80}$	$0.01^{+0.28}_{-0.01}$	$2.57^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$	$9.26^{+1.80}_{-1.37}$	654^{+127}_{-96}	1.05 ± 0.01
59-76	309-398	$14.85^{+4.00}_{-2.91}$	< 0.19	$2.01^{+0.02}_{-0.04}$	$8.74^{+2.36}_{-1.72}$	933^{+251}_{-183}	1.86 ± 0.01
76-100	398-523	$12.41^{+1.27}_{-1.28}$	$0.47^{+0.21}_{-0.25}$	$1.32^{+0.03}_{-0.01}$	$4.81^{+0.50}_{-0.50}$	1030^{+106}_{-106}	3.13 ± 0.02
100-135	523-706	$15.19^{+3.57}_{-2.89}$	$0.35^{+0.22}_{-0.28}$	$0.83^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$	$3.69^{+0.90}_{-0.70}$	1720^{+404}_{-328}	5.23 ± 0.04
135-191.2	706-1000	$12.85^{+4.27}_{-1.95}$	$0.30^{+0.29}_{-0.30}$	$0.29^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$1.10^{+0.37}_{-0.17}$	2912^{+971}_{-445}	7.52 ± 0.07
191.2-294.7	1000-1541	$9.90^{+0.94}_{-0.44}$	< 0.12	$0.26^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$0.74^{+0.07}_{-0.03}$	2456^{+233}_{-112}	15.73 ± 0.08

Notes. Column 1: inner and outer radius in arcsec; column 2: inner and outer radius in kpc ; column 3: deprojected temperature (keV); column 4: abundance (Z_{\odot}); column 5: electron density (cm^{-3}); column 6: pressure ($10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-3}$); column 7: entropy (keV cm^2); column 8: integrated gas mass ($10^{13} M_{\odot}$). The global fit gives $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 1972.66/1920 = 1.027$.

outer edge in a 80° -wide sector (included in the previous semi-circle, from 0° to 80° from W and increasing counterclockwise) at $R_{\text{outer}} = 1.24' \pm 0.02 = 74.4'' \pm 1.2'' \sim 389 \pm 6$ kpc from the center, characterized by a density jump $J_{\text{outer}} = 1.43 \pm 0.10$ ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 24.2/24$). We verified that slightly varying the radial binning and sector aperture of the profile extraction always provided consistent results.

Given the geometry of the two nested fronts, which are aligned along the same direction, we measured their spectral properties along the common sector having an opening angle of 80° (from 0° to 80° from W and increasing counterclockwise), that is the one in which the outer front is detected. In particular, we extracted the spectra of the ICM inside and outside each

discontinuity, with the addition of a central region and an outermost region extending up to R_{500} to account for deprojection, for a total of 5 spectral wedges. Fitting the 0.5-7.0 keV band spectra with a `projct*tbabs*apec` model returned the deprojected temperature and electron density, which were combined to derive the pressure jump across each edge. A summary of the deprojected thermodynamic properties along the considered sector is reported in Table 5.

Across the inner edge, located at ~ 295 kpc, we measure a temperature jump $kT_{\text{in}}/kT_{\text{out}} = 0.65^{+0.29}_{-0.25}$ and a pressure jump $p_{\text{in}}/p_{\text{out}} = 0.68^{+0.39}_{-0.35}$. These values are consistent with the interpretation of this edge as a cold front, that is, a contact dis-

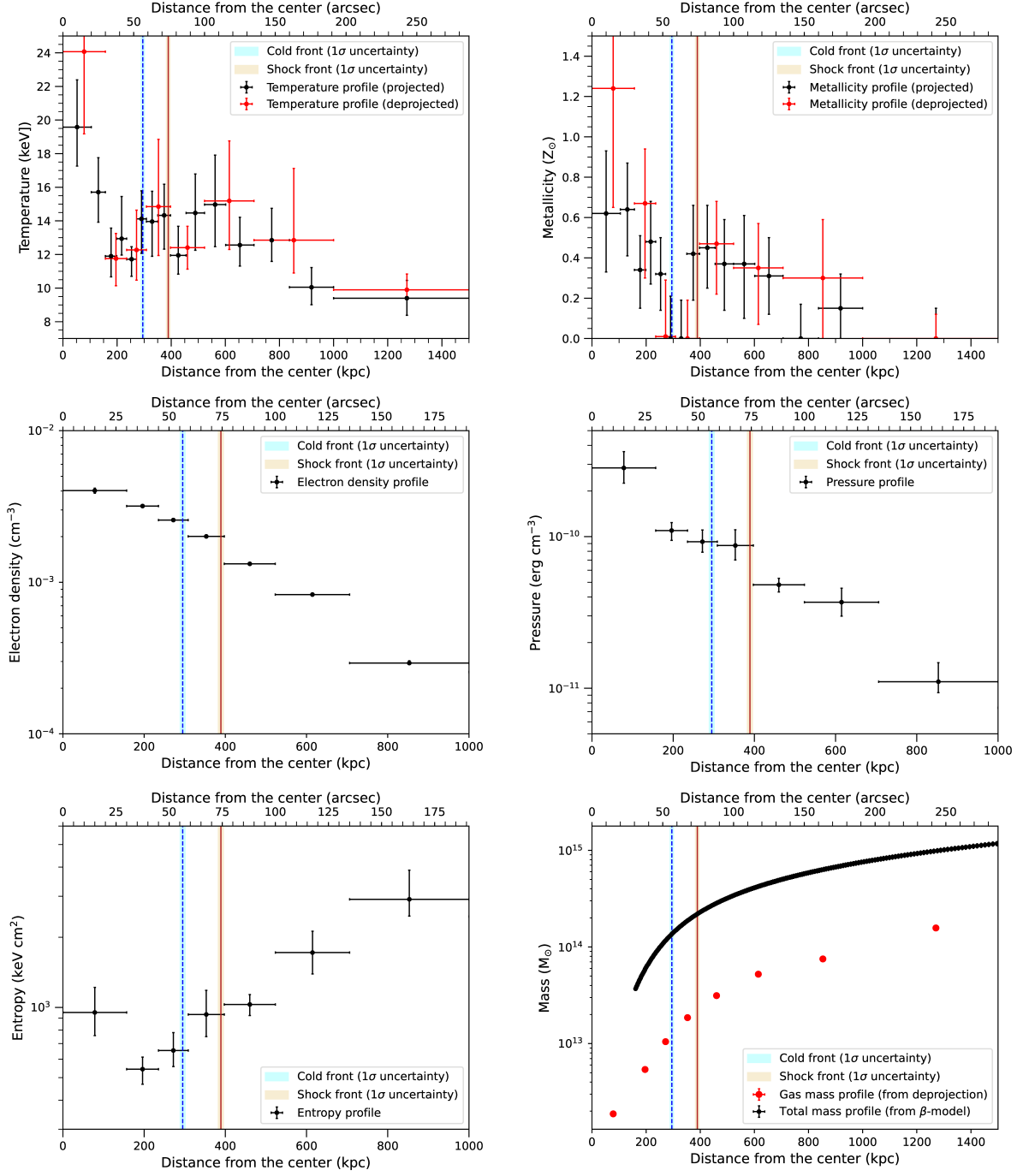


Fig. 6. Radial profiles of PLCKG287 obtained from the *Chandra* spectral analysis. *Top panels:* Temperature (*left*) and metallicity (*right*) from the projected (*black*) and deprojected (*red*) spectral analysis (see Tables 3 and 4). *Middle and Bottom panels:* Density (*middle left*), pressure (*middle right*), entropy (*bottom left*) and integrated gas mass (*bottom right*, red points) from the deprojected spectral analysis (see Table 4). The total mass profile (*bottom right*, black solid line) is estimated from the circular β -model by assuming an isothermal $kT \sim 12.7$ keV. In all panels, the vertical lines show the position of the fronts discussed in Section 4 (the dashed blue line and solid red line indicate the cold front and shock, respectively).

continuity characterized by a continuous pressure and a lower temperature inside the front.

On the other hand, across the outer edge located at ~ 389 kpc we measure a temperature jump $kT_{\text{in}}/kT_{\text{out}} = 1.45^{+0.33}_{-0.35}$ and pressure jump $p_{\text{in}}/p_{\text{out}} = 8.7^{+2.8}_{-2.1}$. These values are consistent with the interpretation of this edge as a shock front which has increased

the temperature¹⁰ and pressure of the ICM after its passage. By using the Rankine - Hugoniot (R-H) conditions (e.g., Landau & Lifshitz 1960), we estimated the Mach number \mathcal{M} of the shock

¹⁰ We verified that the temperature jump is detected also in the projected spectral fit: $kT_{\text{in}} = 13.96^{+3.40}_{-2.51}$ keV vs. $kT_{\text{out}} = 9.47^{+0.82}_{-0.81}$ keV.

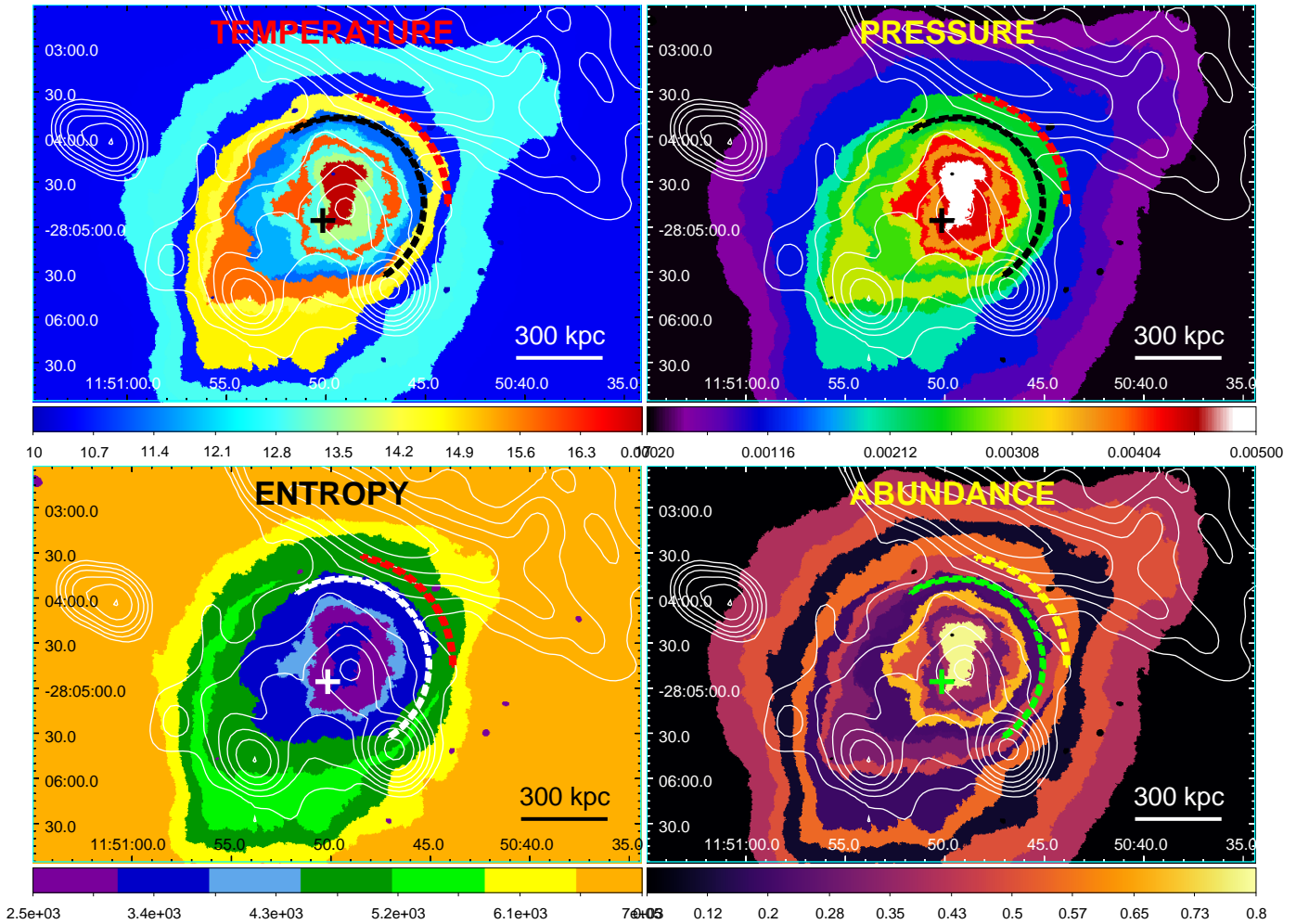


Fig. 7. Spectral maps of the ICM thermodynamical properties in PLCKG287 (see Section 3.2.3 for details) with overlaid the GMRT radio contours at 330 MHz (same as in Figure 2). *Upper panels:* temperature (keV) and pseudo-pressure (arbitrary units) maps. *Bottom panels:* pseudo-entropy (arbitrary units) and abundance (solar units) maps. The dashed arcs (indicated in different colors in the various panels to enhance visibility depending on the color scale adopted) mark the positions of the surface brightness edges detected in Section 4. All maps are centered in the X-ray peak, whereas the cross indicates the location of the main BCG.

front from the best-fit density jump ($J_{\text{outer}} = 1.43 \pm 0.10$) detected in the surface brightness edge as

$$\mathcal{M} = \left(\frac{3J}{4 - J} \right)^{1/2}, \quad (3)$$

finding a value $\mathcal{M} = 1.29 \pm 0.07$ (ignoring systematic errors such as projection and sector choice).

Moreover, the Mach number can be used to predict the expected temperature jump across the post- and pre-shock region by using again the R-H conditions:

$$\frac{T_{\text{post}}}{T_{\text{pre}}} = \frac{5\mathcal{M}^4 + 14\mathcal{M}^2 - 3}{16\mathcal{M}^2}, \quad (4)$$

finding a value (1.28 ± 0.07) which is consistent with the observed temperature jump ($1.45^{+0.33}_{-0.35}$).

The shock velocity is $v_{\text{shock}} = \mathcal{M}c_s$, where $c_s = \sqrt{\gamma kT / \mu m_p}$ is the sound speed in the upstream (pre-shocked) gas. By considering the upstream temperature ($kT_{\text{in}} = 10.26$ keV), we esti-

mated $v_{sh} \approx 2100$ km s⁻¹. The properties of the detected shock front are summarized in Tab. 6.

5. Discussion

The morphological and spectral analyses presented in the previous sections clearly show the presence of a shock front and hot cluster core with high metallicity. A possible interpretation is that some heating event has increased the temperature of the cluster central region, which we argue was previously a cool core.

5.1. A former cool core?

The interpretation that PLCKG287 hosts a former cool core is mainly supported by the presence of a central peak in the metallicity profile, which is consistent with what is typically observed in samples of relaxed clusters (e.g., De Grandi & Molendi 2001;

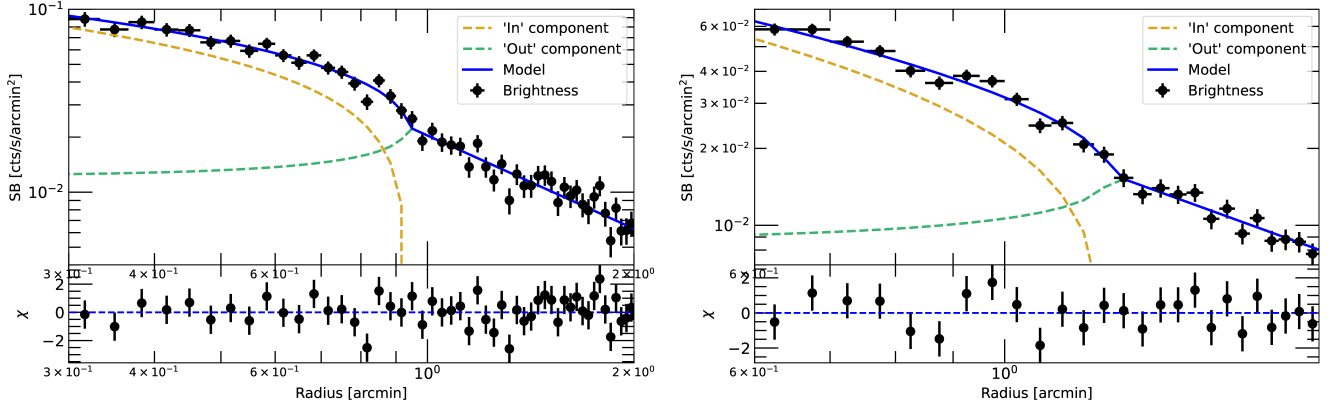


Fig. 8. Surface brightness profiles across the NW direction in a semicircle (from -57° to $+123^\circ$ from W and increasing counterclockwise, left panel) and in a narrower 80° -wide sector (from 0° to 80° from W and increasing counterclockwise, right panel). In each panel, the best-fit broken power-law model is overlaid in blue, while the residuals are shown in the lower boxes and the individual components of the SB associated to the broken power-law inside (“In”) and outside (“Out”) the front are shown with orange and green dashed lines, respectively. As discussed in the text, we interpret the inner edge (left panel, $R_{\text{inner}} = 0.94' \pm 0.02' \sim 295 \pm 6$ kpc) as a cold front and the outer edge (right panel, $R_{\text{outer}} = 1.24' \pm 0.02' \sim 389 \pm 6$ kpc) as a shock front. The radial distances are in units of arcmin, where 1 arcmin = 313.8 kpc.

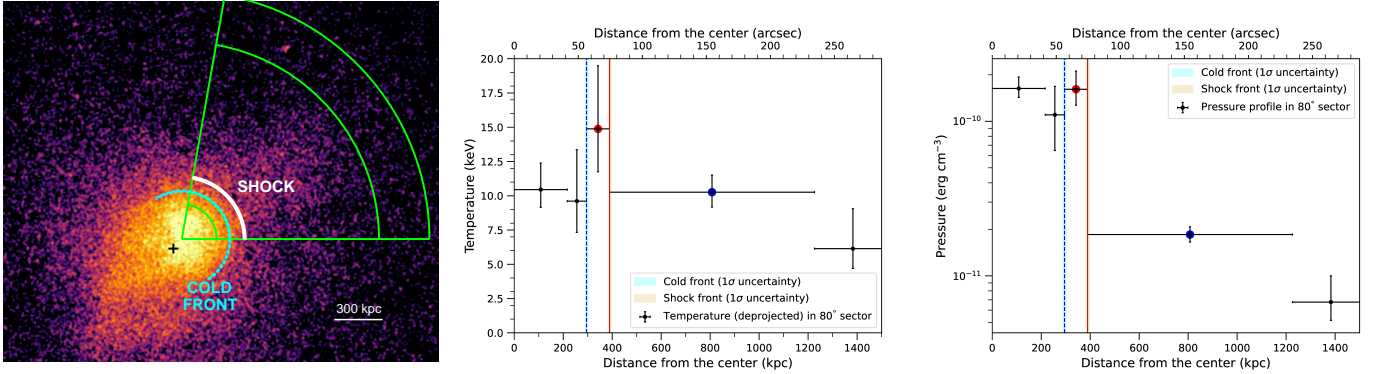


Fig. 9. Spectral analysis of the shock and cold fronts in PLCKG287. *Left panel:* mosaic [0.5-7.0] keV *Chandra* image of the central region of PLCKG287 smoothed with a kernel of 5 pixels showing the wedges used for the spectral analysis of the surface brightness edges. The white arc and the cyan dashed semicircle indicates the position of the identified shock and cold front, respectively. *Middle and right panels:* Deprojected temperature (middle) and pressure (right) profiles measured along the wedges shown in the left panel. The vertical lines show the position of the fronts identified in Section 4, in particular the dashed blue line and solid red line indicate the cold front and shock, respectively.

Lovisari & Reiprich 2019; Ghizzardi et al. 2021). As a comparison, Figure 10 (right panel) shows the projected metallicity profile of a sample of relaxed clusters observed with *BeppoSAX* (De Grandi & Molendi 2001), rescaled to the virial radius, R_{vir} (estimated from Evrard et al. 1996). A strong enhancement in the abundance is found in the central regions. Overlaid is the metallicity profile that we measure for PLCKG287 (red triangles). Despite the large errorbars, we note that it is fully consistent with the strong central enhancement in the abundance exhibited by relaxed clusters, thus supporting the interpretation of PLCKG287 being a former cool core¹¹. In particular, from the spectral fits in the corresponding annular regions we measure $Z = 0.57 \pm 0.17 Z_{\odot}$ inside $0.05 R_{\text{vir}}$ ($r < 30''$) compared

¹¹ It is now well established that dynamically disturbed clusters also show an increase of metallicity in the center, although not at the level of the peak in relaxed clusters (see e.g., Leccardi et al. 2010; Lovisari & Reiprich 2019, for a recent measurement on a large sample of objects). However, Rossetti & Molendi (2010) argue that this is due to the presence of cool core remnants, thus still supporting our interpretation.

to $Z = 0.27 \pm 0.06 Z_{\odot}$ in a region with bounding radii $0.05 R_{\text{vir}}$ and $\sim 0.2 R_{\text{vir}}$ ($30'' < r < 120''$), where $R_{\text{vir}} \sim 3.1$ Mpc for PLCKG287.

We present below some simple order-of-magnitude energetic estimates to test the scenario that the inner region of PLCKG287, where we measure a high density and an abundance peak, was the cluster cool core which has then been heated. In particular, we will first estimate the energy required to heat the core (Sect. 5.2) and compare it with that possibly provided by shock heating (Sect. 5.3) and AGN heating (Sect. 5.4), and then discuss the possible origin of the detected shock (Sect. 5.5). We will not attempt to develop or discuss detailed hydrodynamic models, which is beyond the aim of this work, but we will limit our discussion to energetic considerations only.

5.2. Energy required to heat the core

To obtain a rough estimate of the temperature of the original cool core, which we interpret as the initial temperature before

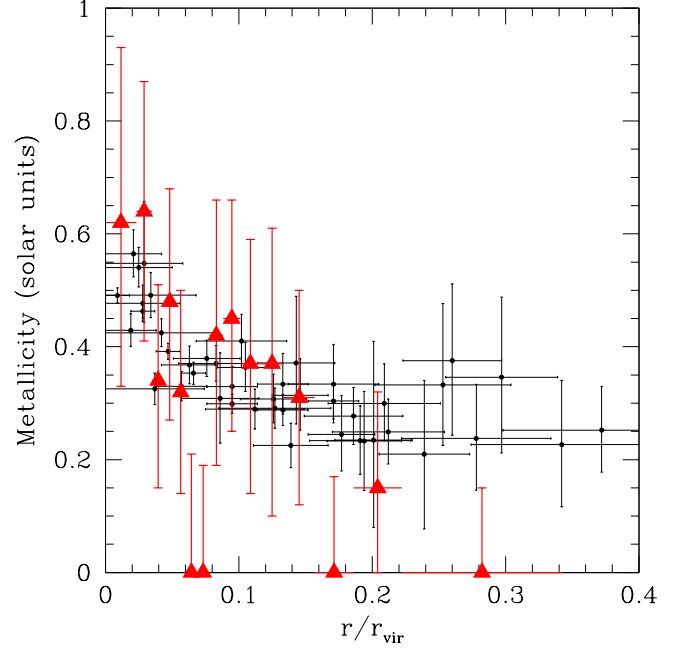
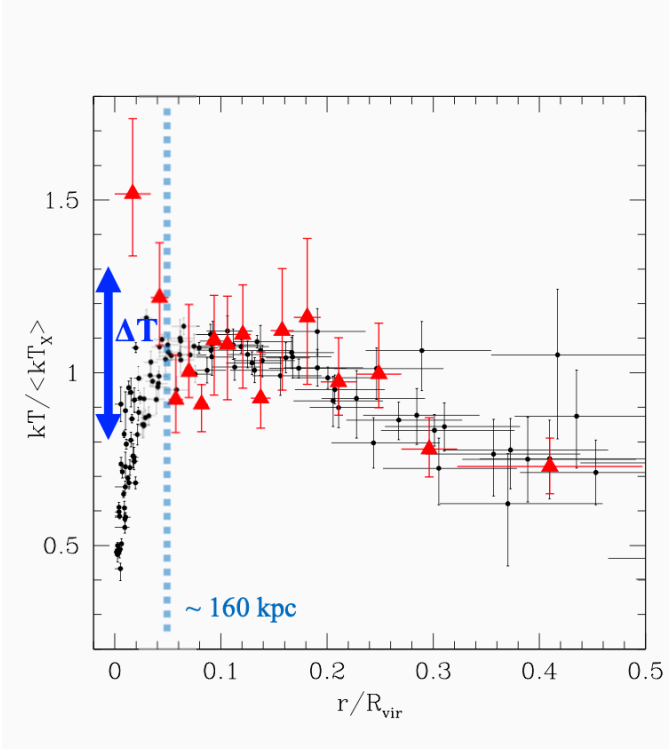


Fig. 10. Temperature and metallicity profile of PLCKG287 compared to those of typical relaxed clusters. *Left panel:* Temperature profiles measured for a sample of relaxed clusters presented by Vikhlinin et al. (2005). The temperatures are scaled to the cluster emission-weighted temperature excluding the central 70 kpc regions, $\langle kT_X \rangle$. The profiles for all clusters are projected and scaled in radial units of the virial radius R_{vir} , as estimated from the relation $R_{\text{vir}} = 2.74 \text{ Mpc} \sqrt{\langle kT_X \rangle / 10 \text{ keV}}$ (Evrard et al. 1996). The values measured for PLCKG287 are $\langle kT_X \rangle \sim 13 \text{ keV}$ and $R_{\text{vir}} \sim 3.1 \text{ Mpc}$. The dotted cyan line indicates the region inside which there is a clear departure from the typical profile, with an opposite radial trend. We interpret this region as the former cool core, see text for details. *Right panel:* Metallicity profile measured for PLCKG287 (red triangles) overlaid onto the metallicity profile observed for a sample of cool core clusters presented by De Grandi & Molendi (2001). The profiles for all clusters are projected and scaled in radial units of R_{vir} . $H_0 = 50 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega = 1$, $\Lambda = 0$ is assumed for this plot and the virial radius is estimated from the relation $R_{\text{vir}} = 3.95 \text{ Mpc} \sqrt{\langle kT_X \rangle / 10 \text{ keV}}$ (Evrard et al. 1996), resulting $\sim 4.5 \text{ Mpc}$ for PLCKG287.

Table 5. Results of the deprojected spectral fit along a 80° -wide sector enclosing the two fronts identified in Section 4 (see Figure 9.)

Wedge no. (width)	Net counts	kT (keV)	n_e (10^{-3} cm^{-3})	p (10^{-11} erg cm^{-3})
#1 (41'')	3551	$10.45^{+1.94}_{-1.29}$	$5.32^{+0.10}_{-0.10}$	$16.30^{+3.04}_{-2.03}$
#2 (15'')	1724	$9.61^{+3.75}_{-2.28}$	$3.91^{+1.38}_{-1.32}$	$11.02^{+5.80}_{-4.54}$
— Cold front ($R_{\text{cf}} = 295 \pm 6 \text{ kpc}$) —				
#3 (18'')	1620	$14.88^{+4.60}_{-3.13}$	$3.69^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	$16.11^{+4.99}_{-3.40}$
— Shock front ($R_{\text{sh}} = 389 \pm 6 \text{ kpc}$) —				
#4 (160'')	6121	$10.26^{+1.26}_{-1.08}$	$0.62^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$1.85^{+0.22}_{-0.20}$
#5 (60'')	686	$6.14^{+2.92}_{-1.44}$	$0.38^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$	$0.68^{+0.32}_{-0.16}$

Notes. Column 1: wedge number (width in arcsec); column 2: net counts in the $[0.5 - 7.0] \text{ keV}$ band; column 3: deprojected temperature; column 4: electron density; column 5: pressure. The derived classification as cold front and shock front is indicated at the boundary of the second and third wedge, respectively. See text for details.

the heating event, we adopted a basic approach based on the comparison with the typical profile of relaxed clusters. In particular, we show in Figure 10 (left panel) the projected temperature profile of PLCKG287 (red triangles) overlaid to the temperature profiles of a sample of relaxed clusters (Vikhlinin et al. 2005). The radial distances are scaled to the virial radius and the temperatures are scaled to the emission-weighted cluster tem-

perature, excluding the central 70 kpc region usually affected by radiative cooling. To be consistent with the widely-adopted scaled profiles presented by Vikhlinin et al. (2005), we thus estimated the emission-weighted temperature used for the scaling of PLCKG287 by excluding the central bin (see Table 3). We note that the overall temperature profile measured for PLCKG287 is generally consistent within the scatter of the profiles observed in a relaxed cluster for radial distances $r \gtrsim 0.05 R_{\text{vir}}$, corresponding to a physical scale $r \gtrsim 160 \text{ kpc}$. On the other hand, in the central region there is a clear departure from the typical profile, with an opposite radial trend¹². In particular, for radial distances $r \lesssim 160 \text{ kpc}$, PLCKG287 shows a negative gradient dT/dr with higher temperatures (scaled $kT > 1$) with respect to the typical central trend, which instead shows a positive gradient dT/dr and lower temperatures (scaled $kT < 1$). In our interpretation, the region inside $\sim 160 \text{ kpc}$ thus corresponds to the heated cool core, where we estimated an average core temperature of $\sim 17 \text{ keV}$ (by fitting the combined spectra of the two innermost bins, see Table 3). On the other hand, by assuming that the original cool core in PLCKG287 featured the typical temperature drop in the central regions observed for relaxed clusters, we estimated that the average pre-heated temperature of PLCKG287 inside $\lesssim 160 \text{ kpc}$ was initially below $\sim 12 \text{ keV}$, reaching local values as low as $\approx 5 \text{ keV}$ in the very center (see Figure 10, left panel). Therefore, the heating event raised the average ICM temperature in the core by

¹² A similar result comes from the comparison with the temperature profiles derived for the clusters of the CHEX-MATE sample (Rossetti et al. 2024).

Table 6. Summary of the shock properties

\mathcal{M}	v_{sh} (km/s)	J	$T_{\text{post}}/T_{\text{pre}}$	E_{sh} (erg)
1.29 ± 0.07	~ 2100	1.43 ± 0.10	$1.45^{+0.33}_{-0.35}$	$8f \times 10^{62}$

Notes. Column 1: Mach number ; column 2: shock velocity; column 3: compression factor; column 4: temperature jump measured from a deprojected spectral analysis (see Tab. 5 and Fig. 9); column 5: shock energy, where f is the fraction of the volume of the shocked gas, ranging from ~ 0.1 to 1 depending on the actual geometry of the shock ($f \sim 0.12$ for a shock which propagated through the cluster only along the ~ 1.5 steradian solid angle corresponding to the limited projected angle of 80 degrees in which we detected it, and $f = 1$ for an isotropic shock)

at least 5 keV, from the initial value $\lesssim 12$ keV to the currently observed value of ~ 17 keV.

We verified that the results are not affected by the spherical assumption: we performed a new spectral analysis by considering elliptical annular bins with the same geometry as that of the elliptical β -model (see Table 2). In particular, we extracted spectra in a central ellipse (with major axis ~ 160 kpc) and in an adjacent elliptical annulus (with major axis ~ 160 -300 kpc), finding that the measured temperature and metallicity values are consistent within 1σ to the ones derived in circular bins. We further note that the high temperature values measured by *Chandra* are consistent with those measured also by XMM-Newton (PLCKG287 is the most massive and hottest cluster in the CHEX-MATE sample: see the red points in Fig. 3, right panel, of Riva et al. 2024)¹³.

The energy required to increase the ICM temperature by $k\Delta T \approx 5$ keV can be measured as:

$$E_{\text{heat}} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{k\Delta T}{\mu m_p} M_{\text{gas}}, \quad (5)$$

where M_{gas} is the gas mass derived by integrating the electron density (see Table 4) in shells. We obtained a gas mass $M_{\text{gas}} \sim 1.9 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ inside the central ≈ 160 kpc (which is the region corresponding to the heated cool core), thus leading to an estimate of $E_{\text{heat}} \approx 4 \times 10^{61}$ erg.

5.3. Energy of the shock

In order to verify whether the detected shock can be responsible for heating the cluster core, we need to compare E_{heat} (just derived in Sect. 5.2) with the energy that has been dumped by the shock. A lower limit for the shock energy, E_{sh} , can be estimated as (e.g., David et al. 2001):

$$E_{\text{sh}} = \frac{3}{2} \Delta p V_{\text{sh}} = \frac{3}{2} (p_{\text{post}} - p_{\text{pre}}) V_{\text{sh}}, \quad (6)$$

where p_{post} and p_{pre} are the pressures in the post-shock and pre-shock regions, respectively, and V_{sh} is the volume of shocked gas. By substituting the expression for the pressure jump expected from the R-H conditions :

$$\frac{p_{\text{post}}}{p_{\text{pre}}} = \frac{5\mathcal{M}^2 - 1}{4} \quad (7)$$

¹³ Even though cross-calibration differences may exist (see for example the level of 10-15% estimated by Wallbank et al. 2022), the comparison with the temperatures measured in various systems by NuSTAR, with a much broader energy range, confirms the ability of *Chandra* to measure high temperature values.

we can express the shock energy as a function of the measured post-shock pressure and Mach number as:

$$E_{\text{sh}} = \frac{3}{2} p_{\text{post}} V_{\text{sh}} \left(\frac{5\mathcal{M}^2 - 5}{5\mathcal{M}^2 - 1} \right). \quad (8)$$

As the volume of shocked gas, we considered the volume of a sphere of radius $R_{\text{sh}} = R_{\text{outer}} \sim 389$ kpc, reduced by a fiducial factor f that depends on the fraction of the volume occupied by the shocked gas. We therefore estimate a volume of shocked gas of the order of $V_{\text{sh}} = 4/3\pi f R_{\text{sh}}^3 \sim 2.5 f \times 10^8$ kpc³, where f can range from ~ 0.1 to 1 depending on the actual geometry of the shock ($f \sim 0.12$ for a shock which propagated through the cluster only along the ~ 1.5 steradian solid angle corresponding to the limited projected angle of 80° in which we detected it, and $f = 1$ for an isotropic shock). Considering the Mach number and post-shock pressure estimated in Section 4 (see Table 5), we finally estimated a shock energy $E_{\text{sh}} \approx 8f \times 10^{62}$ erg, which results of the order of $E_{\text{sh}} \approx 10^{62}$ erg if $f \sim 0.12$. The shock properties are summarized in Tab. 6.

Comparing this with the energy required to heat the core ($E_{\text{heat}} \approx 4 \times 10^{61}$, see Sect. 5.2), we conclude that even considering the lower limit of the geometrical factor $f \sim 0.12$ (that is, considering that the shock propagated through the cluster only along the direction in which we detect it), the amount of energy injected by the shock is a factor $\gtrsim 2$ higher than that required to heat the core. In the case of a semispheric or isotropic shock ($f = 0.5$ or 1), its energy would still be enough to heat the whole region inside the shock radius ($R_{\text{sh}} \sim 390$ kpc), where we estimated a gas mass of $1.9 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$ and an energy required to heat it of $E_{\text{heat}} \approx 2 \times 10^{62}$ erg (considering a $k\Delta T \approx 2$ keV estimated from the comparison with the typical temperature profile, Figure 10). In summary, despite the uncertainties and approximations of our estimates, there are clear indications that the shock injects sufficient energy to overheat the core in PLCKG287.

However, this scenario seems viable only if the shock originated in the cluster center where it was stronger in the past, which could be the case if the central AGN had driven it. On the contrary, it seems implausible that a large-scale merger shock would preferentially heat the former dense cool core. In fact, from Figure 10 (left panel) we see that ΔT is largest at the center, right where the gas density is the highest. In particular, at $r \sim 0$ the observed temperature is a factor of ~ 3 higher than that of the typical cool cores. Such a temperature jump would imply a shock with Mach number $\mathcal{M} \sim 2$, significantly stronger than the shock that is heating gas at larger radii. We will investigate the possible origin of the detected shock in Section 5.5.

5.4. Energy of AGN feedback

As we discussed in Section 5.1, we argue that PLCKG287 is a former cool core. Furthermore, the visual inspection of both the residual and the background-subtracted, exposure corrected mosaic images revealed the presence of X-ray depressions (see Figure 5 and A.1). We also note that the locations of the two depressions are opposite with respect to the central radio source associated with the BCG (white contours overlapping the green cross indicating the BCG in Figure 11). From the GMRT radio data (Bonafede et al. 2014), we estimated that at 610 MHz the BCG has a flux density of ~ 2.4 mJy, with a spectral index¹⁴ $\alpha \sim 0.9$ calculated between 610 MHz and 323 MHz. This cor-

¹⁴ We define the spectral index, α , as $S_{\nu} \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$, where S_{ν} is the flux density at the frequency ν .

responds to a radio power¹⁵ of $\sim 1.2 \times 10^{24}$ W/Hz. By extrapolating, assuming a straight spectral index of ~ 0.9 up to higher frequencies, we estimated a total flux density of 1.2 mJy at 1.3 GHz, corresponding to a radio power of $\sim 6 \times 10^{23}$ W/Hz. These results, which are confirmed by new wideband radio observations obtained in L and S bands with MeerKAT in the frequency range ~ 1 -3 GHz (Balboni et al. in preparation; Rajpurohit in preparation), indicate that the BCG hosts a radio AGN, thus corroborating the interpretation of the X-ray depressions as possible cavities. If confirmed, this would be the signature of AGN feedback and thus possibly point to an AGN-driven origin of the heating event.

Assuming that the X-ray depressions are cavities carved by a past AGN outburst, we calculated the cavity properties (summarized in Table 7) and compared them with the energy estimated in Sect. 5.2. In particular, based on the volume V of the cavities estimated from the ellipsoidal shapes indicated in Fig. 5, and on the pressure p of the surrounding hot gas derived from the de-projected spectral analysis (see Table 4), we estimated that the energy required to inflate them is $E_{\text{cav}} \approx 4 \times 10^{61}$ erg, where we assumed the typically-adopted value of $4pV$ of energy per cavity (e.g., McNamara & Nulsen 2007). This quantity, which is typically considered a proxy (likely a factor of a few lower) of the total AGN outburst mechanical energy, (e.g., Birzan et al. 2004; McNamara & Nulsen 2007; Gitti et al. 2012; Fabian 2012), is comparable to the energy required to heat the former cool core (see Sect. 5.2), thus indicating that AGN feedback may be energetically responsible for overheating the core. This is consistent with simulation results indicating that if a substantial portion of energy from the most energetic AGN outbursts ($10^{61} - 10^{62}$ erg, as in PLCK287) is deposited near the centers of cool core clusters, which is a likely scenario given the dense cores, these AGN outbursts can completely remove the cool cores, thereby transforming them into non cool core clusters (Guo & Mathews 2010).

5.5. Origin of the shock

We discuss below two alternative scenarios for the origin of the detected shock: the origin by merger and the origin by the same AGN outburst which generated the X-ray cavities.

5.5.1. Merger

In the X-ray morphological analysis of the CHEX-MATE sample, PLCKG287 is classified as “mixed” in terms of morphological disturbance (Campitiello et al. 2022). The dynamically active nature of PLCK287 is probed by the presence of two radio relics and a radio halo (Bagchi et al. 2011; Bonafede et al. 2014), but the merger scenario is still not clear (e.g., Golovich et al. 2019). Subaru and *HST* weak-lensing analysis detected multiple peaks in the mass distribution of PLCKG287, revealing the complexity of this system (Finner et al. 2017). In particular, the *HST* mass map shows two mass peaks within the central mass clump, with one primary cluster of mass $M_{\text{NWc}} = 1.59 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$ (labeled NWc in Figure 11) which is likely to be undergoing a merger with one subcluster of mass $M_{\text{SEc}} = 1.16 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ located at a projected distance $d \sim 320$ kpc to the SE (labeled SEc in Fig. 11). The observation of surface brightness discontinuities in the ICM of merging clusters is particular useful to determine whether a significant component of the merger is occurring on the plane of the sky,

¹⁵ The monochromatic radio power at the frequency ν is estimated from $P_{\nu} = 4\pi D_{\perp}^2 S_{\nu} (1+z)^{(\alpha-1)}$ (e.g., Condon & Matthews 2018).

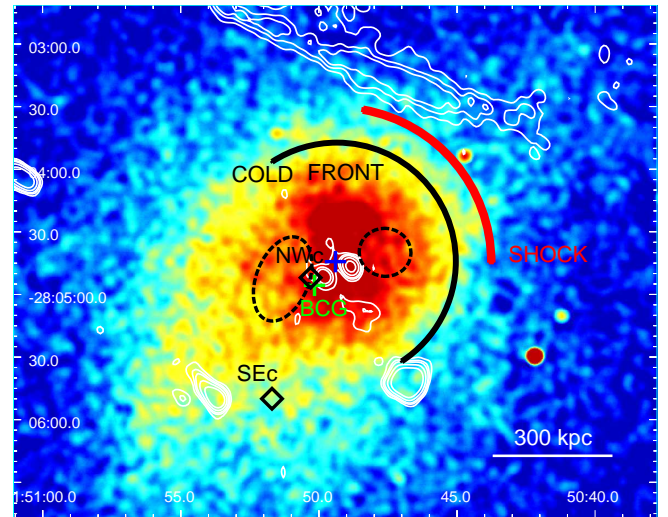


Fig. 11. Background-subtracted, exposure corrected mosaic [0.5-7.0] keV *Chandra* image, smoothed with a kernel of 8 pixels, of the central region of PLCKG287, with superimposed in white the GMRT radio contours at 610 MHz (levels start at $\pm 3\sigma$ and increase by a factor of 2, where $\sigma = 0.07$ mJy/beam, beam= $6.7'' \times 5.3''$, Bonafede et al. 2014). The black dashed ellipses show the possible X-ray cavities whereas the red and black arcs indicates the position of the shock and cold front, respectively. The locations of the X-ray peak and main BCG are indicated by blue and green crosses, respectively, whereas the positions of the dark matter substructures identified by weak lensing analysis are shown by black diamonds and labeled following the same nomenclature as in Finner et al. (2017).

as edges are easily hindered by projection effects (e.g., Botteon et al. 2018). The detection of a cold front nested within a shock front in PLCKG287 (see Sect. 4 and Fig. 11) may thus suggest the presence of a collision component along the SE-NW axis where the shock is driven by the merger and is located ahead of the infalling subcluster core, in a similar fashion as the Bullet Cluster (e.g., Markevitch et al. 2002; Clowe et al. 2004).

To investigate the consistency of the merger origin scenario we estimated the energy available during the merger event for heating, that is the energy that can be dissipated in the ICM, and make a comparison with the shock properties. We estimated the merger velocity predicted by free-fall from the turn-around radius of the two subclusters, $v_{\text{merger,ff}}$, as (e.g., Ricker & Sarazin 2001; Sarazin 2002):

$$v_{\text{merger,ff}} \approx 2930 \text{ km/s} \left(\frac{M_{\text{NWc}} + M_{\text{SEc}}}{10^{15} M_{\odot}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{d}{1 \text{ Mpc}} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad (9)$$

finding an estimate of $v_{\text{merger}} \approx 6800$ km/s, which must be considered as an upper limit as d is a projected distance, hence a lower limit to the true separation of the two subclumps. This leads to an estimate of the maximum kinetic energy that can be dissipated in the ICM inside the volume corresponding to the shock distance (~ 390 kpc) of

$$E_{\text{kin,gas}} = \frac{1}{2} M_{\text{gas}} v_{\text{merger,ff}}^2. \quad (10)$$

With a gas mass of $\sim 1.9 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$ inside ~ 390 kpc (see Table 4 and Fig. 6), we thus estimate $E_{\text{kin,gas}} \approx 9 \times 10^{63}$ erg. This

Table 7. Properties of the cavities indicated in Figure 5.

Quantity	Cavity East	Cavity West	Total
a (kpc)	110	65	-
$b = c$ (kpc)	66	60	-
r_{eff} (kpc)	78	62	-
D (kpc)	142	127	-
V (cm ³)	5.9×10^{70}	2.9×10^{70}	8.8×10^{70}
E_{cav} (erg)	2.6×10^{61}	1.3×10^{61}	3.9×10^{61}
t_s (yr)	8.0×10^7	7.1×10^7	-
$P_{\text{cav},s}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	1.0×10^{46}	5.6×10^{45}	1.6×10^{46}
t_{exp} (yr)	4.4×10^7	3.5×10^7	-
$P_{\text{cav,exp}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	1.9×10^{46}	1.2×10^{46}	3.1×10^{46}

Notes. Cavity volumes, V , are calculated assuming a prolate ellipsoidal shapes with semimajor axis a and semiminor axes $b = c$. Cavity powers, P_{cav} , are calculated as the ratio of the cavity energy, E_{cav} , by the cavity age, assuming $4\rho V$ of energy per cavity. The cavity age was estimated in two ways: i) as the sound crossing timescale $t_s = D/c_s$, where D is the cavity distance from the center and c_s is the sound speed, and ii) as the expansion time $t_{\text{exp}} = r_{\text{eff}}/c_s$, where $r_{\text{eff}} = (ab^2)^{1/3}$ is the effective radius. We considered the spectral values of temperature and pressure obtained in the second radial bin of the deprojected spectral analysis (see Table 4), where we estimated a value of the sound speed of $c_s = 1740$ km s⁻¹. We note that due to projection effects the cavity volume and age estimates should be considered as lower limits.

largely exceeds the energy we derived for an isotropic shock ($E_{\text{sh}} \approx 8 \times 10^{62}$ erg, see Table 6), thus the merger scenario is energetically viable. Although these are only order-of-magnitude estimates, based on many assumptions and affected by projection effects, this comparison may further suggest that the shock energy is not fully thermalized, and that some fraction may go into turbulence, magnetic fields, or cosmic rays (e.g., Sarazin 2002), thus powering the diffuse radio sources observed in this cluster (Bagchi et al. 2011; Bonafede et al. 2014).

On the other hand, the geometry of the shock and cold front system might challenge the merger scenario. The ratio between the stand-off distance $\Delta = R_{\text{sh}} - R_{\text{cf}} \sim 94$ kpc to the cold front radius $R_{\text{cf}} = 295$ kpc is ~ 0.3 , which implies a shock Mach number $\mathcal{M} \sim 3$, according to the standard theory of shocks generated by a blunt body moving in a uniform medium (e.g., Vikhlinin et al. 2001; Sarazin 2002; Zhang et al. 2019). This finding is at odds with the observed $\mathcal{M} \sim 1.3$. More recent merging simulations further exacerbate this disagreement, as they show that the ratio Δ/R_{cf} increases in the post-merger phase reaching typical values $\Delta/R_{\text{cf}} \sim 1 - 2$ for $\mathcal{M} \sim 1.5 - 2$ (Zhang et al. 2019). Lower Δ/R_{cf} values are characteristic only of the pre-merger phase and cannot be applied to PLCKG287 because the observed geometry of the cold front-shock configuration suggests that this is a post-merger system. We therefore investigate the possibility that the shock may have a different origin.

5.5.2. AGN outburst

As discussed in Sect. 5.4, the X-ray depressions can be interpreted as cavities carved by a past AGN outburst and thus possibly point to an AGN-driven origin of the shock, also supported by the fact that the shock is detected along the direction of the cavity pair axis. The AGN outburst origin of the shock would

be energetically viable if E_{cav} is of the same order as E_{sh} or a few times lower, as typically found in systems where both cavity systems and associated shocks were detected (e.g., Randall et al. 2011; Liu et al. 2019; Ubertosi et al. 2023)¹⁶. To test the consistency of this scenario, we thus compared the cavity properties with the shock ones. In particular, we note that assuming that the shock propagated only along a limited direction through the cluster (that is the one where we actually detected it, leading to $f \sim 0.12$), the energy of the shock ($\approx 10^{62}$ erg, see Table 6) would be only a factor of a few higher than that of the cavities ($\approx 4 \times 10^{61}$ erg, see Table 7). Therefore, the scenario of an AGN origin of the shock is energetically plausible.

We further estimated the cavity age from both the sound crossing time (that is the time necessary to reach the current distance from the center assuming that they are moving at the sound speed) and the expansion time (that is the time necessary to expand to the current size, assuming that they are expanding at the sound speed), resulting of the order of 70-80 Myr and ~ 40 Myr, respectively. Due to projection effects, these ages must be considered as lower limits. The cavity properties are summarized in Table 7. For comparison, in the scenario of an AGN-driven shock we can estimate an upper limit for its age by considering the time it took to travel from the center to the observed shock radius, $R_{\text{sh}} \sim 390$ kpc, at the current shock speed ($v_{\text{sh}} \approx 2100$ km s⁻¹, see Sect. 4 and Table 6). This results in an estimate of the shock age of $t_{\text{sh}} = R_{\text{sh}}/v_{\text{sh}} \approx 180$ Myr, which should be considered as an upper limit because the initial Mach number of the shock was probably higher. Although this upper limit for the shock age might be consistent with the lower limit for the cavity age ($\gtrsim 40$ -80 Myr), the large difference is a warning against the interpretation of a common origin of both the cavities and shock as due to the central AGN outburst.

We finally note that in general an AGN-driven shock would be able to produce a central temperature peak (e.g., Brighenti & Mathews 2003; Gaspari et al. 2011b,a), as the one observed in PLCKG287, whereas a merger shock would generate a heated region downstream the front where the gas will eventually cool adiabatically as the shock moves in the outskirts (e.g., Heinz et al. 2003; Mathis et al. 2005). If the AGN heats the gas in the center, it can generate a negative entropy gradient making the ICM convectively unstable. This is consistent with the entropy profile derived from the deprojected spectral analysis, where we observe an increase of entropy in the central bin. Together with the high density and abundance peak (Fig. 6), this suggests that this structure was the cool core before the heating event (Sect. 5.1). The entropy inversion and pressure drop are indications that the ICM is not relaxed at the center, but it is probably expanding after the AGN heating event. Detailed gas dynamical models would be necessary to validate or disprove this scenario.

6. Summary and Conclusions

In this work, we presented the analysis of new ~ 200 ks *Chandra* observations of the galaxy cluster PLCKG287, which is likely undergoing a merger with a small ($\sim 10\%$ of the mass) subcluster located at a projected distance ~ 320 kpc to the SE (Finner et al. 2017), and which is known to host a giant radio halo and two prominent radio relics in the NW and SE directions at distances of ~ 500 kpc and ~ 2.8 Mpc from the cluster center (Bonafede et al. 2014). The main results of our detailed morpho-

¹⁶ Some exceptions have been observed in which the shock is not the dominant heating source (e.g., Forman et al. 2020).

Table 8. Summary of the energy estimates presented in this work

	Energy (erg)	Section
Core heating	$\approx 4 \times 10^{61}$	5.2
Shock	$\approx 8f^{(*)} \times 10^{62}$	5.3
Cavities	$\approx 4 \times 10^{61}$	5.4
Merger heating	$\approx 9 \times 10^{63}$	5.5.1

Notes. (*) f is the fraction of the volume of the shocked gas.

logical and spectral investigations, focused on the region inside R_{500} (~ 1.5 Mpc), are summarized below:

- The cluster shows a comet-like X-ray morphology oriented in the NW-SE direction, with a bright X-ray core region which is co-spatial with the known giant radio halo. The X-ray peak is spatially offset by ~ 80 kpc from the main BCG, which is indicative of a disturbed dynamical state. The β -model produces a good fit (Table 2) to the surface brightness profile centered on the X-ray peak, and the residual and unsharp images (Fig. 4) reveal the presence of X-ray depressions to the E and W (Fig. 5 and A.1).
- From a spectral analysis inside R_{500} we measure a global temperature $kT = 12.73^{+0.38}_{-0.40}$ keV and abundance $Z = 0.26^{+0.05}_{-0.05} Z_{\odot}$, with a luminosity of $L_{2-10\text{keV}} = (1.09 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{45}$ erg/s. The integrated gas mass is $M_{\text{gas}}(< R_{500}) \sim 1.6 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$ and the hydrostatic total mass obtained from the best-fit β -model parameters is $M_{\text{tot}}(< R_{500}) \approx 1.2 \times 10^{15} M_{\odot}$.
- The radial profile of thermodynamic quantities shows a density, temperature and abundance peak in the cluster center, where also the pressure and entropy have a rapid increase (Fig. 6). This is an indication that the ICM is not relaxed at the center, but is dynamically unstable and probably in expansion. The 2D spectral maps (Fig. 7) further show that the higher abundance gas is preferentially found inside the central ~ 300 kpc from the X-ray peak and is bounded by a region of cold gas, which is in turn externally surrounded by a region of hotter gas. This hot ICM region is narrower (~ 90 kpc) towards the NW direction and corresponds to a region of higher ICM pressure, possibly indicating shock compression. Across the internal cold ICM region the pressure is instead nearly constant, suggesting the presence of a contact discontinuity.
- By means of accurate morphological and spectral analyses in the regions identified in the residual and spectral maps, we detect a shock front in a 80° -wide sector to the NW direction at a distance $R_{\text{sh}} = 389 \pm 6$ kpc from the center, characterized by a density jump $= 1.43 \pm 0.10$, Mach number $\mathcal{M} = 1.29 \pm 0.07$ and shock velocity $v_{\text{sh}} \approx 2100$ km s^{-1} . Across the shock, we measure a temperature jump $= 1.45^{+0.33}_{-0.35}$, which is consistent with that expected from the R-H conditions. We estimate a shock energy of $E_{\text{sh}} \approx 8f \times 10^{62}$ erg, where f is a filling factor indicating the fraction of the volume occupied by the shocked gas (see Table 6 for a summary of the shock properties). We also detect a cold front in a semicircle to the NW direction at a distance $R_{\text{cf}} = 295 \pm 6$ kpc from the center, characterized by a density jump $= 1.44 \pm 0.08$ and a temperature jump

$$= 0.65^{+0.29}_{-0.25}$$

- From GMRT radio data we estimate that the BCG has a 610 MHz radio power of $\sim 1.2 \times 10^{24}$ W/Hz and a spectral index $\alpha \sim 0.9$, indicating that it hosts a radio AGN. Therefore, the two large depressions detected in the X-ray surface brightness can be most easily explained as the result of an AGN feedback episode. We estimate that the energy associated to the AGN outburst, which occurred $\gtrsim 40$ Myr ago, is $\gtrsim 4 \times 10^{61}$ erg.
- The observations above point to a scenario in which a heating event has heated a former cool core. The interpretation that PLCKG287 hosted a cool core is mainly supported by the presence of a central peak in the metallicity profile, which is typically observed in samples of cool core clusters (Fig. 10, right panel). By assuming that the original cool core featured the typical temperature drop in the central regions observed for relaxed clusters (Fig. 10, left panel), we estimate that the heating event raised the average ICM temperature in the core ($r \lesssim 160$ kpc) by approximately 5 keV (see Sect. 5.1), corresponding to an energy $E_{\text{heat}} \approx 4 \times 10^{61}$ erg (see Sect. 5.2). Based on simple energetic considerations only, we explore two scenarios to explain the heated core. In the first case, the detected shock crossed the core region, raising the core temperature by ~ 5 keV. Our approximate estimate for the shock energy indicates that this picture is plausible. In the second model, an AGN outburst heats the core from inside out, but no attempt is made to single out the specific heating process (likely still a shock, although not necessarily the one we detect). We estimate that the energy associated with the X-ray cavity formation is again of the same order as the energy required to heat the former cool core. We therefore argue that heating by both the detected shock and by an AGN outburst are energetically viable scenarios (see Table 8 for a summary of the energy estimates). However, we briefly discuss that neither of the two scenarios alone seems able to explain all the observed features of the X-ray emission in PLCKG287.
- We discuss the possible origin of the detected shock by investigating the alternative scenarios of (i) merger, which is supported by the observed configuration of a cold front nested inside a shock along the same direction, as typically expected to be produced during merging processes (Sect. 5.5.1); and (ii) AGN feedback, which is supported by the presence of X-ray cavities in opposite positions with respect to the central radio BCG along the direction of the shock, as expected if both the cavities and shock are produced by a central AGN outburst (Sect. 5.5.2). We find that both scenarios are energetically viable (see Table 8), although time-scale considerations favor a merger origin of the shock.

We finally note that although the merging scenario is more plausible to explain the origin of the detected shock and particularly the large-scale structure observed in PLCKG287, a merger event is not expected to produce an increase of the central temperature and entropy. This can instead be produced on smaller scales by AGN feedback. Therefore, the observed temperature and entropy peaks, that we measure in the core, could indicate the concomitant effect of the central AGN, thus pointing to a combined action of merging and AGN feedback in heating the former cool core of this system. More generally, this indicates that mergers are not solely responsible for disrupting cool cores,

but AGN feedback may contribute to shaping the thermodynamical properties of clusters.

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Facilities: CXO

Software: astropy (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2013, 2018), APLpy (Robitaille & Bressert 2012), Numpy (van der Walt et al. 2011; Harris et al. 2020), CIAO (Fruscione et al. 2006), XSPEC (Arnaud 1996).

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Appendix A: Analysis of X-ray depressions

We show in Figure A.1 the sectors used to investigate the significance of the X-ray depressions discussed in Section 3.1.

Appendix B: Spectral analysis with N_{H} free

We present below the spectral analysis performed with the column density left as a free parameter.

B.1. Global properties inside R_{500}

We first measured the global properties inside R_{500} by considering a circular region of radius = 294.7'' (= 1541 kpc, see green

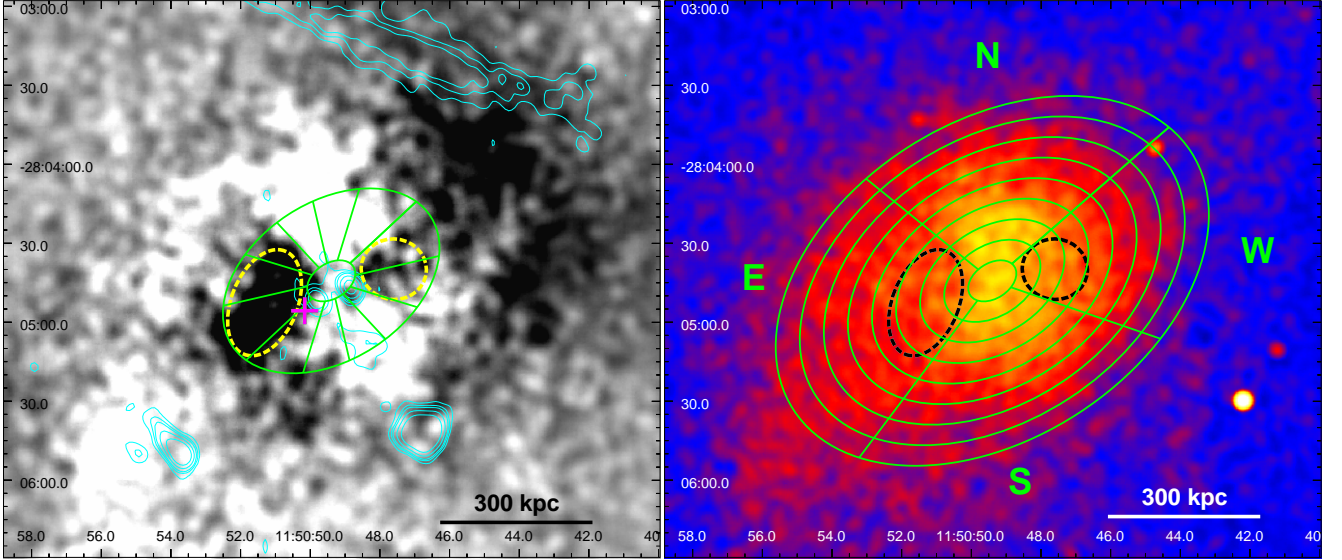


Fig. A.1. Surface brightness regions used for the analysis of the depressions in the ICM of PLCKG287. *Left panel:* Residual *Chandra* image of the central cluster region obtained by subtracting the best-fit β -model (same as in Figure 4, left panel) with superimposed the GMRT radio contours at 610 MHz (same as in Figure 11). The elliptical wedges used to evaluate the azimuthal SB profile around the center were chosen so as to mostly encompass the region of each depression (elliptical annulus between $10''$ and $45''$ along the major axis, divided in 12 sectors of 30° each) and are shown in green panda regions. The magenta cross indicates the location of the main BCG. *Right panel:* Background-subtracted, exposure corrected mosaic [0.5-7.0] keV *Chandra* image, smoothed with a kernel of 8 pixels, of the same central region of PLCKG287 as in the left panel. The elliptical wedges used to extract the radial SB profile in $5''$ -wide annular bin along four azimuthal sectors (N: $8^\circ - 18^\circ$, E: $108^\circ - 200^\circ$, S: $200^\circ - 308^\circ$, W: $308^\circ - 368^\circ$) are shown in green panda regions (to improve clarity, the annular bins shown in Figure are $10''$ -wide instead of $5''$ -wide). The geometry is the same as that of the elliptical β -model (see Table 2). In both panels, the dashed ellipses show the possible X-ray cavities identified in Section 3.1 and discussed in Section 5.5.2.

circle in Figure 3). We found that a free value of the galactic hydrogen column parameter, N_{H} , was preferred by the fit (F-stat=68.85, F-prob= 4.52×10^{-14}) over the parameter fixed to the tabulated value of $N_{\text{H}} = 6.93 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (HI4PI Collaboration et al. 2016). The best-fit parameters are: $N_{\text{H}} = 1.47 \pm 0.10 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, temperature $kT = 10.24^{+0.38}_{-0.32} \text{ keV}$ and abundance $Z = 0.23^{+0.04}_{-0.04} Z_{\odot}$. With the model `tbabs*clumin*apec` we estimated the unabsorbed luminosity in the soft, hard and bolometric bands to be $L_{0.3-2.4 \text{ keV}} = (6.23 \pm 0.03) \times 10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, $L_{2-10 \text{ keV}} = (1.11 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{45} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ and $L_{\text{bol}} = (2.36 \pm 0.01) \times 10^{45} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, respectively. We also verified that the addition of a power-law component (model `tbabs*(apec+po)`), to account for the presence of unresolved X-ray binaries, is not statistically significant (F-stat=2.24, F-prob=0.107). The spectral fitting results are reported in Table B.1.

B.2. 1D radial profiles of ICM thermodynamic properties

In order to derive the azimuthally-averaged radial properties of the ICM, we produced projected temperature and abundance profiles by extracting spectra in circular annuli centered on the peak of the X-ray emission. The annular regions were chosen in order to collect at least 3,000-3,500 net counts (see Table B.2). We verified that freeing the column density parameter, linked among the different annuli, provides a better fit ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 2302/2325 = 0.99$) than that obtained by fixing it at the tabulated value ($\chi^2/\text{dof} = 2390/2326 = 1.03$; F-stat= 89.2, F-prob= 8.4×10^{-21}). We found a best-fit value of $N_{\text{H}} = 1.60 \pm 0.10 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. The best-fit parameter obtained from the fits to the annular spectra are summarized in Table B.2.

B.3. Study of the surface brightness discontinuities

Given the geometry of the two nested fronts, which are aligned along the same direction, we measured their spectral properties along a common sector having an opening angle of 120° (from 0° to 120° from W and increasing counterclockwise). In particular, we extracted the spectra of the ICM inside and outside each discontinuity, with the addition of a central region and an outermost region extending to R_{500} to account for deprojection, for a total of 5 spectral wedges. Fitting the 0.5-7.0 keV band spectra with a `projct*tbabs*apec` model (by keeping N_{H} as a free parameter, linked among the different sectors) returned the deprojected temperature and electron density, which were combined to derive the pressure jump across each edge. A summary of the deprojected thermodynamic properties along the considered sector is reported in Table B.3.

Across the inner edge, located at $\sim 295 \text{ kpc}$, we measure a temperature jump $kT_{\text{in}}/kT_{\text{out}} = 0.60^{+0.37}_{-0.25}$ and a pressure jump $p_{\text{in}}/p_{\text{out}} = 0.66^{+0.42}_{-0.28}$. These are consistent with the interpretation of this edge as a cold front. On the other hand, across the outer edge located at $\sim 389 \text{ kpc}$ we measure a temperature jump $kT_{\text{in}}/kT_{\text{out}} = 1.30^{+0.32}_{-0.23}$ and a pressure jump $p_{\text{in}}/p_{\text{out}} = 5.08^{+1.25}_{-0.91}$. These are consistent with the interpretation of this edge as a shock front¹⁷.

¹⁷ We verified that the temperature jump is detected also in the projected spectral fit: $kT_{\text{in}} = 10.13^{+1.53}_{-1.33} \text{ keV}$ vs. $kT_{\text{out}} = 7.41^{+0.67}_{-0.59} \text{ keV}$.

Table B.1. Results of the spectral fits inside R_{500} .

model	N_{H} (10^{22} cm^{-2})	kT (keV)	Z (Z_{\odot})	$\text{norm}_{\text{apec}}$ (10^{-3})	Γ	norm_{po} (10^{-3})	χ^2/dof
tbabs*apec	0.0693 fixed	$12.73^{+0.38}_{-0.40}$	0.26 ± 0.05	(3.380 ± 0.003)	-	-	513.96/441
tbabs*apec	0.147 ± 0.010	$10.24^{+0.38}_{-0.32}$	0.23 ± 0.04	(3.586 ± 0.004)	-	-	451.52/440
tbabs*(apec+po)	$0.28^{+0.07}_{-0.10}$	$10.86^{+1.12}_{-0.71}$	$0.25^{+0.16}_{-0.05}$	$3.45^{+0.13}_{-1.14}$	$3.52^{+0.71}_{-2.08}$	0.16 ± 0.08	446.94/438

Notes. Column 1: Xspec model; column 2: galactic hydrogen column; column 3: temperature, kT ; column 4: abundance, Z ; column 5: normalization of the apec component; column 6: photon index, Γ ; column 7: normalization of the powerlaw component; column 8: χ^2/dof .

Table B.2. Results of the spectral fit to an absorbed apec model (tbabs*apec) performed in the [0.5-7.0] keV energy band in concentric annular regions extracted up to R_{500} .

$R_{\text{in}} - R_{\text{out}}$ (")	$R_{\text{in}} - R_{\text{out}}$ (kpc)	Exposure (ksec)	Net counts (% total)	kT (keV)	Z (Z_{\odot})	χ^2/dof (χ^2_{red})
0-20	0-105	131.9	4333 (97.7)	$13.69^{+1.40}_{-1.65}$	$0.47^{+0.19}_{-0.19}$	147.14/133 (1.11)
20-30	105-157	131.9	4612 (97.4)	$11.42^{+1.09}_{-0.96}$	$0.48^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$	134.03/140 (0.96)
30-38	157-199	131.9	4039 (96.8)	$8.94^{+1.05}_{-0.80}$	$0.38^{+0.13}_{-0.13}$	144.48/128 (1.13)
38-45	199-235	131.9	3705 (96.2)	$9.94^{+1.19}_{-0.99}$	$0.43^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$	105.30/117 (0.90)
45-52	235-272	131.9	3402 (95.2)	$9.45^{+0.95}_{-0.87}$	$0.25^{+0.13}_{-0.13}$	94.93/108 (0.88)
52-59	272-309	131.9	3276 (94.5)	$10.54^{+1.29}_{-1.11}$	$0.06^{+0.15}_{-0.06}$	129.00/106 (1.22)
59-67	309-350	131.9	3373 (93.3)	$10.55^{+1.13}_{-1.01}$	$0.04^{+0.14}_{-0.04}$	104.71/110 (0.95)
67-76	350-398	131.9	3308 (91.4)	$10.64^{+1.30}_{-1.08}$	$0.30^{+0.16}_{-0.16}$	110.22/113 (0.98)
76-87	398-455	131.9	3489 (89.0)	$9.49^{+1.00}_{-0.84}$	$0.32^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$	101.84/122 (0.84)
87-100	455-523	175.1	4122 (87.6)	$10.71^{+1.13}_{-1.00}$	$0.33^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$	124.89/143 (0.84)
100-115	523-602	193.9	4165 (84.5)	$10.59^{+1.28}_{-1.10}$	$0.38^{+0.16}_{-0.16}$	152.10/150 (1.01)
115-135	602-706	244.3	4698 (80.2)	$9.70^{+0.99}_{-0.91}$	$0.28^{+0.14}_{-0.14}$	152.54/170 (0.90)
135-160	706-837	350.7	5067 (73.1)	$9.83^{+1.07}_{-0.84}$	$0.04^{+0.13}_{-0.04}$	190.42/194 (0.98)
160-192.2	837-1000	350.7	4556 (61.5)	$7.92^{+1.87}_{-0.73}$	$0.14^{+0.13}_{-0.13}$	210.81/206 (1.02)
191.2-294.7	1000-1541	350.7	7289 (39.1)	$7.28^{+0.78}_{-0.60}$	$0.02^{+0.12}_{-0.02}$	399.58/385 (1.04)

Notes. The temperature (in keV) and metallicity (in solar value, Asplund et al. 2009) were left as free parameters. The absorbing column density was left as a free parameter but was linked among the different annuli. The best-fit value is $N_{\text{H}} = 1.60 \pm 0.10 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Column 1: inner and outer radius in arcsec; column 2: inner and outer radius in kpc ; column 3: combined exposure time; column 4: net counts (% of total counts); column 5: temperature (keV); column 6: abundance (solar value); column 7: χ^2/dof . The global fit gives $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 2302/2325 = 0.99$.

Table B.3. Results of the deprojected spectral fit along a 120° -wide sector enclosing the two fronts identified in Section 4.

Wedge no. (width)	Net counts	kT (keV)	n_e (10^{-3} cm^{-3})	p ($10^{-11} \text{ erg cm}^{-3}$)
#1 (50")	6459	$9.92^{+1.75}_{-1.12}$	$5.04^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$	$14.65^{+2.60}_{-1.68}$
#2 (8")	1174	$6.13^{+3.69}_{-2.11}$	$3.70^{+0.47}_{-0.35}$	$6.64^{+4.09}_{-2.37}$
— Cold front ($R_{\text{cf}} = 295 \pm 7 \text{ kpc}$) —				
#3 (17")	2013	$10.25^{+2.28}_{-1.36}$	$3.33^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$	$10.01^{+2.24}_{-1.35}$
— Shock front ($R_{\text{sh}} = 389 \pm 6 \text{ kpc}$) —				
#4 (115")	5649	$7.89^{+0.90}_{-0.80}$	$0.85^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$	$1.97^{+0.23}_{-0.20}$
#5 (100")	1500	$5.28^{+1.14}_{-0.82}$	$0.37^{+0.01}_{-0.01}$	$0.58^{+0.13}_{-0.09}$

Notes. Column 1: wedge number (width in arcsec); column 2: net counts in the [0.5 – 7.0] keV band; column 3: deprojected temperature; column 4: electron density; column 5: pressure. The best-fit absorbing column density, left as a free parameter but linked among the different annuli, is $N_{\text{H}} = 1.83 \pm 0.03 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. The derived classification as cold front and shock front is indicated at the boundary of the second and third wedge, respectively.