

# Ram pressure statistics for bent tail radio galaxies

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## ABSTRACT

In this paper, we use the MareNostrum Universe Simulation, a large-scale, hydrodynamic, non-radiative simulation in combination with a simple abundance matching approach to determine the ram pressure statistics for bent radio sources (BRSs). The abundance matching approach allows us to determine the locations of all galaxies with stellar masses  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  in the simulation volume. Assuming that ram pressure exceeding a critical value causes bent morphology, we compute the ratio of all galaxies exceeding the ram pressure limit (RPEX galaxies) relative to all galaxies in our sample. According to our model 50 per cent of the RPEX galaxies at  $z = 0$  are found in clusters with masses larger than  $10^{14.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  the other half resides in lower mass clusters. Therefore, the appearance of bent tail morphology alone does not put tight constraints on the host cluster mass. In low-mass clusters,  $M \leq 10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , RPEX galaxies are confined to the central  $500 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$  whereas in clusters of  $\geq 10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  they can be found at distances up to  $1.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ . Only clusters with masses  $\geq 10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  are likely to host more than one BRS. Both criteria may prove useful in the search for distant, high-mass clusters.

**Key words:** galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – radio continuum: galaxies.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The unprecedented sensitivity and sampling speed of the new generation of radio telescopes, such as Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) and Square Kilometer Array (SKA), will yield an enormous number of new low-luminosity nearby as well as luminous distant radio sources. A significant fraction of the continuum sources are expected to be radio galaxies with double radio lobes formed by active galactic nuclei (AGNs), which can be detected at very large redshifts. Roughly 1 per cent of the known radio galaxies show bent tail morphology, i.e. bending of the two lobes in the same direction (e.g. Blanton et al. 2000; Wing & Blanton 2011). A gallery of bent tail radio sources can be found in fig. 1 of Blanton et al. (2001). The bent morphology is thought to be a result of the ram pressure exerted on the lobes when the ambient gas density is high and the relative velocity – between the ambient gas and the radio galaxy – is large. Both conditions are readily fulfilled within the intraclus-

ter medium (ICM), i.e. the high-density, plasma-filled regions of galaxy clusters. Therefore, bent tailed radio sources may provide an efficient detection mechanism for clusters of galaxies even at high redshifts.

The evolution of the number density of high-mass clusters is an interesting cosmological probe. According to the hierarchical structure formation paradigm the most massive structures of the Universe form late. The exact timing depends on the cosmological model. A single very massive cluster can pose a potential challenge to the currently favoured concordance model if it is found at an incompatibly high redshift (Allen et al. 2004; Planck Collaboration I 2014a). Bent radio sources (BRSs) have been successfully used as tracers of galaxy clusters for redshifts up to  $\sim 1$  (e.g. Hintzen & Scott 1978; Deltorn et al. 1997; Blanton et al. 2001).

In this paper, we assume that the ram pressure due to the motion of galaxies through the ICM,  $p_{\text{ram}} = \rho_{\text{ext}} v_{\text{gal}}^2$ , is the primary cause of bent radio morphology (e.g. Miley et al. 1972; Venkatesan et al. 1994). In other words, all BRSs are radio sources exposed to ram pressure above a critical value. Buoyancy effects and other interactions which potentially also could cause bent morphology

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are left for a later study. The main argument in the paper can be summarized as follows.

(i) The study focuses on radio galaxies with jet linear size greater than 50 kpc which populate the high-mass end of the galaxy mass function ( $M_{\text{stellar}} \gtrsim 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ).

(ii) We assume that all extended radio sources of that size require a minimum critical ram pressure in order to show bent morphology. This is a major simplification of the jet physics that is geared towards allowing for a statistical approach to the study of the BRS environments.

(iii) The critical ram pressure used to match the *relative numbers* of bent sources observed is set based on the bending equation of extragalactic jets.

(iv) The *relative numbers* of bent sources expected in different environments are analysed based on the MareNostrum Universe Simulation.

Point (i) allows us to apply a simple abundance matching scheme to determine the locations of potential radio lobe galaxies in the simulation as discussed in Section 2.2. We focus only on large radio lobes ( $\geq 50 h^{-1}$  kpc): first, because lobes are observed to reach megaparsec scales (e.g. 3C 236, NGC 315, NGC 6251 in Willis, Strom & Wilson 1974; Bridle et al. 1976; Waggett, Warner & Baldwin 1977) which makes them more easily detectable at high redshifts; and secondly, to make sure that the resolution of the simulation is sufficient to accurately determine the ram pressure at this scale. A side benefit is that we circumvent the discussion of small jet sizes at the beginning of the radio-loud phase as well.

Point (ii) relies on a definition of ‘bent morphology’ which, in this work, is based on visual inspection of radio sources with bent morphology such as presented in Blanton et al. (2001). As a consequence of this we do not differentiate between Fanaroff–Riley type I and II (FR I and FR II; Fanaroff & Riley 1974). Observations show that radio galaxies with jet sizes  $\geq 40 h^{-1}$  kpc are evenly distributed between FR I, FR II with FR I/II hybrid types being a small fraction of the sample (Best 2009). However, we note that FR I galaxies may be more easily bent even at small distances from the core since they have broader jets with internal turbulence making them less stiff. In contrast, the strongly collimated, highly relativistic FR II jets are very difficult to bend. In that case bent tail morphology manifests itself in the downstream shift of the radio lobes at the end of the jets.

Points (iii) and (iv) emphasize that we focus on the relative number of BRSs with respect to all radio sources of comparable size. In more detail, we use the MareNostrum Universe Simulation to determine the environment which is most conducive to the formation of BRSs. For that we assume that the ratio of BRSs to all extended radio sources (both  $\geq 50 h^{-1}$  kpc) is equal to the ratio of galaxies which exceed the ram pressure criterion (RPEX galaxies) to all massive galaxies (both  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ). Therefore, we investigate the relative abundances and locations of RPEX galaxies as a proxy for BRSs. In particular, we focus on the relative abundances as a function of host cluster masses down to  $10^{13} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . The investigation of relative numbers also allows us to circumvent the detailed discussion of the radio source duty cycles of these sources, which is an inherently difficult problem.

The paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we discuss the methodology. We introduce the simulation, review halo finding and abundance matching approaches and explain how the ram pressure is determined. The results are presented in Section 3 followed by the conclusion in Section 4.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

We use the MareNostrum Universe simulation, which is a non-radiative hydrodynamical simulation within a cube of  $500 h^{-1}$  Mpc per side to determine the ram pressure at the cores of dark matter haloes where massive elliptical galaxies are anticipated to reside. The ram pressure is computed as the product of the ambient density times the square of the galaxy’s relative velocity,  $p_{\text{ram}} = \rho_{\text{ext}} v_{\text{gal}}^2$ . If the ram pressure exceeds a critical limit, the radio lobes associated with the galaxies are assumed to be bent in a downstream direction. In the following sections, we introduce the simulation, including the halo finding procedure, the abundance matching approach which assigns galaxies to the cores of the dark matter haloes and the determination of the ram pressure which we assume is the cause for the bent tail morphology.

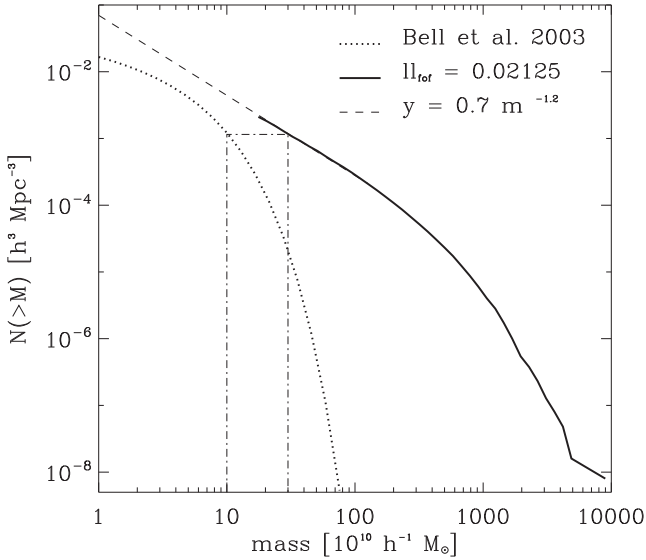
### 2.1 Simulation and halo finding

The present analysis employs the  $z = 0$  snapshot of the MareNostrum Universe simulation (Gottlöber et al. 2006) which is based on the entropy conserving GADGET-2 code (Springel 2005) to model both dark matter and gas components assuming a concordance cosmology with the following parameters:  $\Omega_{\text{m}} = 0.3$ ,  $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$ ,  $\Omega_{\text{b}} = 0.045$ ,  $\sigma_8 = 0.9$  and  $h = 0.7$ . These values are slightly different to the present values from the *Planck* survey (Planck Collaboration XVI 2014b) but this should not affect the basic results. The simulation follows the non-linear evolution of the gas and dark matter density fields from  $z = 40$  to the present within a comoving box of  $500 h^{-1}$  Mpc on each side. Each component is resolved with  $1024^3$  particles resulting in gas and dark matter particle masses of  $1.5 \times 10^9$  and  $8.3 \times 10^9 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , respectively. Only adiabatic gas dynamics are considered, i.e. radiative processes, star formation and feedback processes are not included. The spatial force resolution was set to an equivalent Plummer gravitational softening of  $15 h^{-1}$  comoving kpc. The SPH (smoothed particle hydrodynamics) smoothing length was set to the distance to the 40th nearest neighbour of each SPH particle.

For the halo and subhalo identification, we utilize a hierarchical friends of friends algorithm (Klypin et al. 1999) with progressively shorter linking lengths of  $b_n = b/2^n$  with  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$ . Our choice of the basic linking length of  $b = 0.17$  times the mean particle separation is commonly used to define particle concentrations with virial overdensity. Structures are identified based on their dark matter particle distribution only. We use  $b$ , or equivalently  $n = 0$ , to find the host haloes and  $n = 3$  for subhaloes. These  $b_3$  – subhaloes (in the following simply referred to as *subhaloes*) show overdensity of roughly 512 times the virial overdensity. We identify their centres of mass as possible locations of galaxies. In cases where distances between subhaloes (galaxies) and the centre of the host haloes are required, we compute the distance between the location of a subhaloes and the centre of mass of the nearest parent halo, i.e. the halo extracted with a linking length of 0.17 times the mean particle separation.

### 2.2 Abundance matching

Abundance matching is a technique used to populate theoretically derived dark matter halo distributions with observed galaxy properties based on the simultaneous gauging of their cumulative mass (or luminosity) functions. We employ a simple abundance matching technique similar to the approach described in Conroy, Wechsler & Kravtsov (2006) to assign stellar masses to the subhaloes. For the



**Figure 1.** The cumulative mass functions based on the ( $b_3$ ) subhalo masses (thick solid line) and the stellar masses of SDSS/2MASS galaxies derived by Bell et al. (2003, thick dotted line). The dashed line is an analytical extension of the halo mass function which is included as a guide for the eye. The dash-dotted box illustrates the abundance matching procedure between subhaloes and galaxies. Equal number densities are obtained for the SDSS/2MASS galaxies with stellar masses  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  and subhaloes with masses  $\geq 3 \times 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . Given that the dark matter particles have masses of  $8.3 \times 10^9 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , the subhalo mass limit can be translated into minimum particle-number limit of 36.

present study, we use the galaxy stellar mass function given in Bell et al. (2003) which employs the *ugriz* magnitudes from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey Early Data Release (SDSS-EDR; Stoughton 2002) in conjunction with *K*-band fluxes from the Two Micron All Sky Survey Extended Source Catalog (2MASS; Jarrett et al. 2000) to translate the galaxy luminosities into stellar masses.

An illustration of the abundance matching scheme is given in Fig. 1. This figure shows the cumulative dark matter (bold solid line) and stellar (bold dotted line) mass functions based on the subhalo and the SDSS/2MASS galaxy sample, respectively. The intersections between a horizontal dash-dotted line and the two distributions indicate the dark matter and stellar masses for which the cumulative number densities of the two distributions match. The dash-dotted box in Fig. 1 indicates that equal number densities are obtained for the SDSS/2MASS galaxies with stellar masses  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  and subhaloes with masses  $\geq 3 \times 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . Galaxies with stellar mass  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  predominantly show elliptical appearance (Bell et al. 2003). Given a dark matter particle mass of  $8.3 \times 10^9 h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , the subhalo mass limit can be translated into minimum particle-number limits of 36.

Finally, the connection between galaxy mass and radio-loudness needs to be determined. For that we make use of the following observationally established relations. A tight correlation is found between a galaxy's bulge luminosity and the mass of its supermassive black hole (SMBH; Ferrarese 2002) suggesting that the most massive galaxies, which are ellipticals, host the most massive black holes. SMBHs can trigger AGN activity. Kauffmann et al. (2003) showed that the distributions of sizes, concentrations and stellar surface mass densities of elliptical galaxies with and without AGNs are very similar. Best et al. (2007) found the radio-loud fraction of AGNs to increase from 0.01 per cent for galaxies of stellar mass  $3 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$  to greater than 30 per cent for galaxies of stellar mass

above  $5 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . These findings suggest that, besides the intermittent nature the AGN activity, AGNs are a random subsample of early-type galaxies of which a given fraction (depending on galaxy mass) is radio loud.

Our results are based on the subhalo sample which corresponds to stellar masses  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  where the percentage of extended radio-loud galaxies is expected to be substantial. In the following we will refer to these subhaloes as *galaxies* and compute the ratio of RPEX galaxies (see Section 1) to all galaxies.

### 2.3 Ram pressure limit

For the jets of radio-loud AGN to be visibly bent, the ram pressure caused by the jet on the ambient medium must be of the same order of magnitude as the ram pressure caused by the motion of the galaxy through the ambient medium. This gives rise to the following bending equation (Begelman, Rees & Blandford 1979; Jones & Owen 1979; Burns & Owen 1980):

$$\frac{\rho_{\text{jet}} v_{\text{jet}}^2}{R} = \frac{\rho_{\text{ext}} v_{\text{gal}}^2}{h}, \quad (1)$$

where  $h$  is the cylindrical radius of the jet and  $R$  is the radius of curvature of the jet. The values  $\rho_{\text{jet}}$ ,  $\rho_{\text{ext}}$ ,  $v_{\text{jet}}$  and  $v_{\text{gal}}$  denote the density within the jet, the density of the ambient medium, the jet speed and the velocity of the galaxy relative to the ambient medium.

An alternative approach as outlined in Morsony et al. (2013) is to rewrite equation (1) as follows:

$$P_{\text{ram}} = \frac{h}{R} P_{\text{jet}} = \frac{h}{R} \alpha P_{\text{min}}, \quad (2)$$

where  $P_{\text{jet}}$  is the pressure within the jet and  $P_{\text{ram}} = \rho_{\text{ext}} v_{\text{gal}}^2$ ,  $R$  and  $h$  are the same quantities as used in equation (1). We will use equation (2) to determine the ram pressure limit above which we assume that radio galaxies show bent tail morphology. The internal pressure,  $P_{\text{jet}}$ , can be approximated by the minimum synchrotron pressure,  $P_{\text{min}}$ , as outlined in O'Dea & Owen (1985). It gives a lower limit for the internal pressure due to the presence of entrained material from the surroundings (Bicknell 1984; Laing & Bridle 2002; Croston et al. 2008); therefore, we introduce the parameter  $\alpha > 1$ . Since  $h/R < 1$ , we assume that  $h\alpha/R \approx 1$ . This choice is substantiated by the fact that we obtain roughly the same ratio of BRs to all radio lobe galaxies as observed (Blanton et al. 2000, see also Section 2.4). For  $P_{\text{min}}$  we use the observed values presented in table 1 of Freeland & Wilcots (2011) based on which we determine a mean value of  $2.4 \times 10^9 \rho_b \text{ km}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$  ( $\rho_b$  being the cosmic baryon density). The minimum and maximum values are  $1.0 \times 10^9$  to  $4.1 \times 10^9 \rho_b \text{ km}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$ . This range encompasses the minimum ram pressure required to produce bent tail morphology. We will employ it for the establishment of the ram pressure statistics for bent tail radio galaxies.

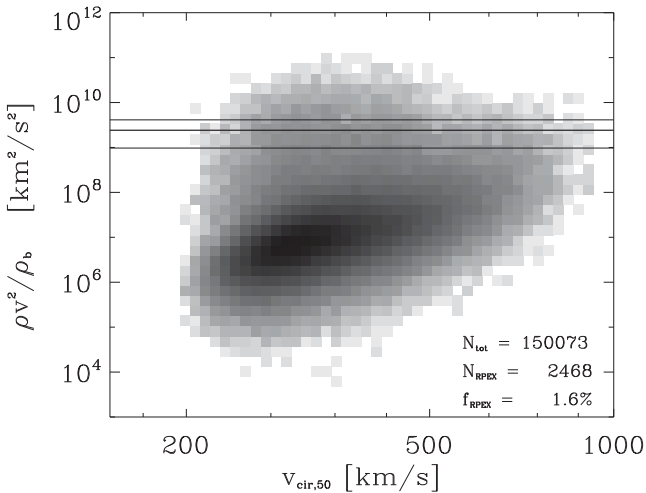
### 2.4 Determination of ram pressure

Equation (2) requires the determination of the density of the ambient ICM and the velocity of the galaxy relative to it from the simulation. We compute these quantities in the following way: first we determine the centre of mass and the bulk velocity of the subhalo based on its dark matter component only; then we compute the average ICM density and relative velocity within a halo-centric shell with lower and upper bounds of 50 and  $100 h^{-1} \text{ kpc}$ , respectively. The lower bound is chosen to be comparable to the smallest radio lobes we consider.

Empirical relations show that galaxies with stellar masses of  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  host black holes with  $M_{\text{BH}} \geq 10^8 M_{\odot}$  (McLure & Dunlop 2002). Black holes of that mass produce jets which propagate out to  $\gtrsim 50$  kpc. Best (2009) shows that 70 per cent of the extended radio-loud sources in the nearby Universe are larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. Provided that the ratio between radio-loud galaxies with linear jet size larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc and galaxies more massive than  $10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  is independent of environment we then set out to determine the fraction of BRSs among all radio-loud galaxies with lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. The upper bound,  $100 h^{-1}$  kpc, is chosen to allow for a sufficiently large volume to determine the ambient ICM density while minimizing non-local contributions.

Large relative velocities indicate that the gaseous halo of the galaxy has been stripped at least outside of  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. In this case, it gives the velocity with which the ambient ICM is streaming past the galaxy. In situations where stripping is not efficient, the gas density within  $50\text{--}100 h^{-1}$  kpc may be dominated by the galaxy's own gaseous halo and we do not measure the *ambient* ICM density. Since, in this case, the relative velocity between the dark matter core and gas in the shell is expected to be rather small, the resulting ram pressure is small too and our approach does not predict bent tail morphology.

Fig. 2 displays the ram pressure for the subhaloes as a function of circular velocity based on the total mass within a halo-centric sphere of  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. The ram pressure limits as discussed in the context of equation (2) are indicated by the horizontal lines. The application of the  $2.4 \times 10^9 \rho_b \text{ km}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$  limit indicates that for 2468 out of  $1.5 \times 10^5$  subhaloes (1.6 per cent) the ram pressure is sufficient to bend the tails of radio galaxies if the galaxies undergo a radio-loud phase during this time. In the following, we refer to these objects as RPEX galaxies. For the lower and upper bounds shown in Fig. 2 we obtain 1.0 and 3.2 per cent, respectively.

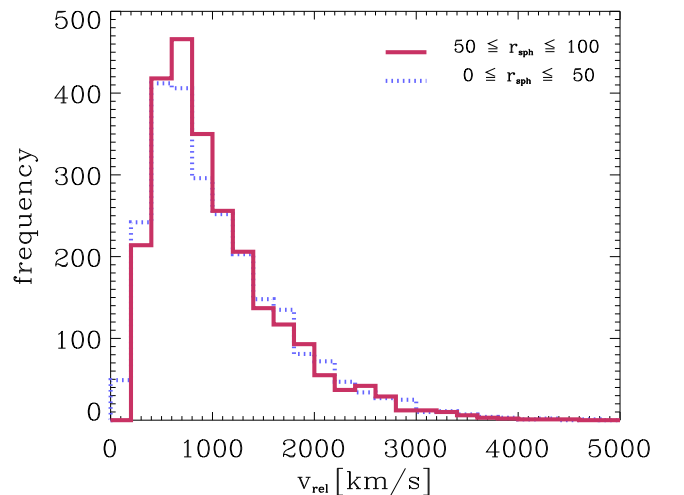


**Figure 2.** Distribution of ram pressure at the location of some 150 000 subhaloes as a function of their circular velocity based on the total matter content within a radius of  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc from the centre of mass. Individual data points are gridded and the cell values are scaled logarithmically. The horizontal lines indicate the range of ram pressure values above which bending of the radio jets is expected to occur (see discussion of equation 2 in the text). For instance, according to the ram pressure limit indicated by the middle (thick) line 1.6 per cent of all galaxies with stellar mass above  $10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  live under conditions where ram pressure is sufficiently large to cause bent tail morphology (if the galaxies happen to form radio jets during this time).

As discussed above, the fraction of RPEX galaxies to the total number of galaxies ( $m_{\text{star}} \geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ) approximates the fraction of bent tail sources among all radio-loud galaxies with lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. Accordingly, 1.6 per cent of all radio-loud galaxies with radio lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc show bent tail morphology due to the ram pressure exerted by their environment. This compares very favourably with observational results of the 3000 deg<sup>2</sup> Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty-cm (FIRST) survey, which found 384 BRSs out of a total sample of 32 000 double and multiple radio sources (Blanton 2000) giving a fraction of 1.2 per cent.

One concern regarding the comparison with observations may be the presence of projection effects. Two different alignment effects may have a bearing on the predictions from the simulations: first, the alignment between jet axis and the line of sight and secondly, the alignment between the galaxy's velocity and the line of sight. The first case does not affect our predictions because we are interested in the relative number of bent tail radio galaxies with respect to all radio lobe galaxies larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc in size. A jet orientation parallel to the line of sight affects bent and non-bent radio galaxies in the same way and consequently does not change the ratio between the two sets. In the second case, the bent tails of a radio-lobe galaxies moving parallel to the line of sight may be observed as straight. If we assume this case for all galaxies moving with an angle of  $\lesssim 30^\circ$  relative to the line of sight then the simulation overpredicts the fraction of bent tail radio sources relative to all radio lobe galaxies by 14 per cent ( $1 - \cos\theta$ ). Given the inherent uncertainties in our approach we do not explicitly include this correction into our results. Morsony et al. (2013) states that orientation effects cause the jet lengths to be underestimated by an average of 30–50 per cent.

The distribution of the relative velocities between the subhaloes and the ambient ICM for all haloes which fulfil the ram pressure criterion ( $P_{\text{ram}} \geq 2.4 \times 10^9 \rho_b \text{ km}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$ ) are shown in Fig. 3. The



**Figure 3.** Distribution of the relative velocities between the bulk velocity of the subhaloes and the ambient ICM for all haloes which fulfil the ram pressure criterion ( $P_{\text{ram}} \geq 2.4 \times 10^9 \rho_b \text{ km}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$ ). The solid, red line is based on the measurement of the velocity within a halo-centric shell between 50 and  $100 h^{-1}$  kpc. The dotted, blue line gives the relative velocities between subhaloes and the ICM within a halo-centric sphere of  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. It is shown here to provide a consistency check rather than presenting a separate result. The similarity between the two graphs indicates that in almost all cases where the ram pressure criterion is fulfilled, the ambient ICM streams freely through the subhalo.



solid, red line is based on the measurement of the subhalo velocity relative to the halo-centric shell between 50 and  $100 h^{-1}$  kpc which we use to determine the ram pressure. The relative velocities span a range from 300 up to over  $3000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  with a marked peak slightly below  $1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The dotted, blue line gives the relative velocities between the subhalo and the ICM within a halo-centric sphere of  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. The similarity of the two velocity distributions suggests that most of the subhaloes which fulfil the ram pressure criterion have been entirely stripped of their own gas. Consequently, the ambient ICM streams freely through them, which should also be valid for the galaxies these subhaloes are predicted to host.

We find some galaxies which have fairly low relative velocities with respect to the ambient ICM ( $\lesssim 700 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ) and yet fulfil the bending criterion. This is in agreement with observations which, in rare cases, report low-velocity environments of BRSs (O’Dea & Owen 1985; Jetha, Hardcastle & Sakelliou 2006). A more detailed discussion of this observation follows below.

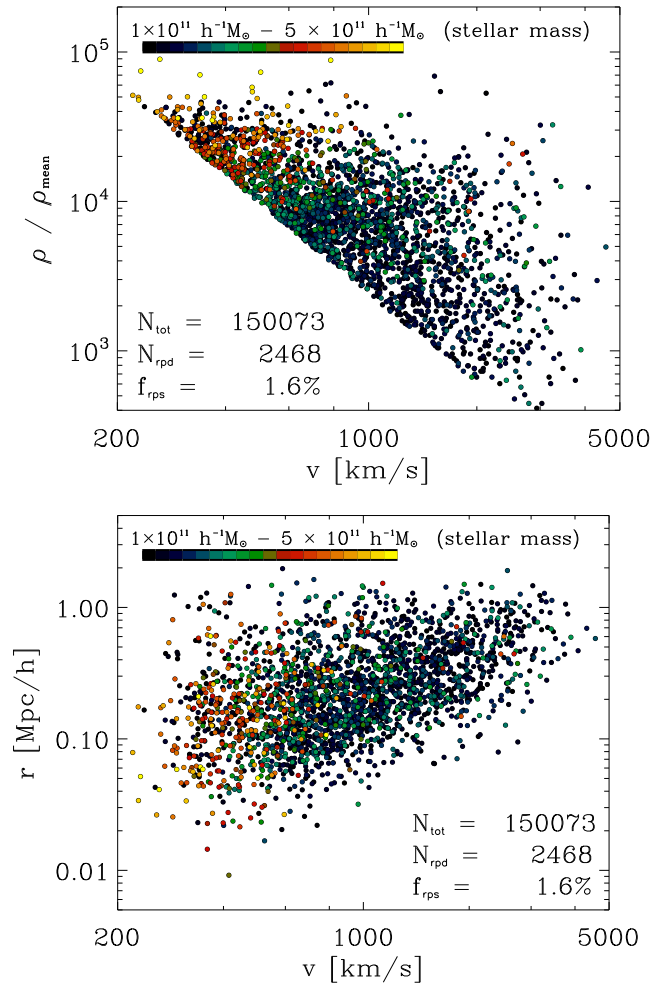
### 3 RESULTS

In order to use BRSs as tracers of clusters, we need to be able to answer the following questions: What is the typical mass of the host clusters? What are the typical distances between BRSs and the host cluster centres? And, how many BRSs are likely to be found within a single host cluster of a given mass? The subsequent analysis aims to extract answers to these questions from the MareNostrum simulation. As emphasized before, we aim to determine the fraction of bent tail radio galaxies relative to all radio-loud galaxies with lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc. This approach avoids detailed modelling of the jet physics and allows predictions based on the fraction of RPEX galaxies relative to all galaxies ( $m_{\text{star}} \geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ).

#### 3.1 Slow and fast moving galaxies

For the following discussion, the differentiation between narrow-angle tail galaxies (NATs) and wide-angle tail galaxies (WATs) is instructive; therefore, a short definition is presented here. NATs, which are U-shaped radio sources where the angle subtended at the core by the jet arms is less than  $45^{\circ}$ , have long been believed to be a product of the ram pressure experienced by the galaxy moving through the ICM at high velocity (Miley et al. 1972; O’Dea & Owen 1985). This mechanism is inadequate to address the morphology of slower moving, C-shaped WATs without invoking much denser environments. WATs have subtended angles that are greater than  $90^{\circ}$  and are usually associated with the brightest cluster galaxies (BCGs) that are located close to the cores of massive galaxy clusters with only moderate velocities relative to the ambient ICM (O’Donoghue, Eilek & Owen 1993).

As a first step to answering the questions raised above we plot the RPEX galaxies in the  $\rho$ - $v$  plane, shown in the upper panel of Fig. 4, where  $\rho$  is the density of the ambient ICM and  $v$  is the relative velocity between the galaxy and the ICM. The colour coding in this figure reflects the stellar mass as indicated by the colour bar in the upper-right corner. Yellow points correspond to the most massive galaxies with stellar masses of  $\sim 5 \times 10^{11}$ . They are found predominantly in high-density environments with low relative velocities which can be readily identified as BCGs at the centres of massive clusters. The black, blue and green dots, which correspond to lower mass galaxies display a wider distribution of velocities and ambient densities. The figure shows that more massive galaxies which predominantly reside in high-density regions require less extreme velocities with respect to the ambient ICM to generate RPEX



**Figure 4.** Upper panel: density versus velocity for subhaloes which fulfil the bending criterion (equation 2). The colour coding reflects the stellar masses as derived from the abundance matching procedure discussed in Section 2.2. The high-mass galaxies with low velocities may correspond to wide angle tail sources, whereas the high-velocity subhaloes are more naturally identified as narrow angle tail radio galaxies. Lower panel: distance to the host halo’s centre of mass versus velocity for the same set of subhaloes as displayed above. There is a trend that high-mass galaxies with low relative velocities are located close to the centre of the clusters. This is where WATs are observed.

galaxies. The apparent line, below which there are no qualifying RPEX galaxies corresponds to  $P_{\text{ram}} = 2.4 \times 10^9 \rho_b \text{ km}^2 \text{ s}^{-2}$ .

The lower panel of Fig. 4 displays the distances with respect to the host cluster’s centre of mass versus the velocity relative to the ambient medium. This figure reveals a clear correlation between cluster centric distance and the relative velocity between the RPEX galaxies and the ambient medium. In particular, the most massive galaxies which generally show low velocities relative to the ambient ICM preferentially inhabit the central regions of the clusters. That is where observations preferentially find the WATs (Burns 1996). Notwithstanding the above correlation, there is also a good distribution of RPEX galaxies throughout the different cluster-centric distances.

The radio lobes of very massive galaxies which resemble BCGs are bent by the fact that the galaxies move through the clusters’ central, high-density regions with relatively low velocities. Therefore, the associated radio lobes may fall into the WAT category.

The RPEX galaxies found at the outskirts of the galaxy clusters show high relative velocities with respect to the ambient ICM and are, therefore, expected to show NAT morphology which, again is confirmed by observations (O’Dea & Owen 1985). The continuous transition from NATs to WATs in Fig. 4 shows that all RPEX galaxies belong to the same family and we will not differentiate between them in the remainder of the analysis. That does not necessarily mean that the NATs and WATs originate from the same physical processes. For instance, it is conceivable that the jet physics are different as a result of the different environments.

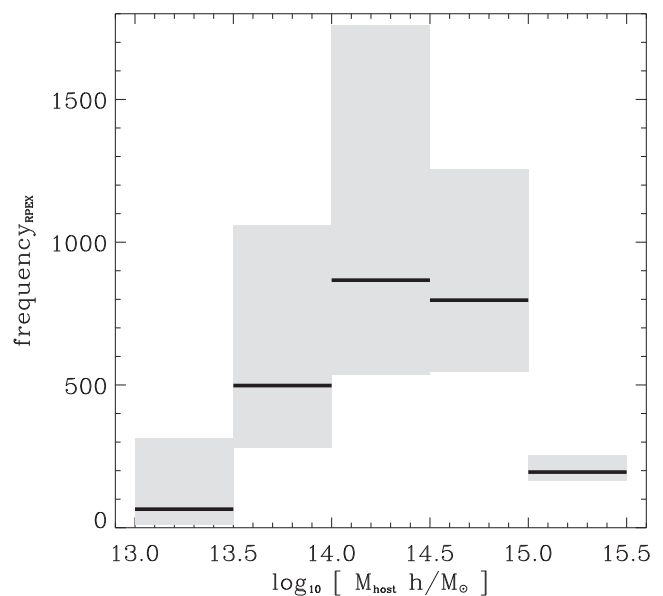
This result illustrates the importance of both the velocity at which the galaxies are travelling through the ICM and the density of the ICM. The cluster centres, where the ICM densities are high, are dominated by BCGs which only move slowly relative to the ICM. Croft, de Vries & Becker (2007) found 19.7 per cent of BCGs’ in the FIRST Survey to be radio loud. This radio-loudness is primarily correlated with the stellar mass of the BCG. At larger cluster-centric distances the density profiles of the ICM are the main determinants of the BRS fraction since the density increases from the outer radii to the cluster centre by a few orders of magnitude whereas the average velocities of the galaxies orbiting in the cluster potential well only rise by a factor of 2 or so (e.g. Faltenbacher et al. 2005).

### 3.2 Dependence on cluster mass

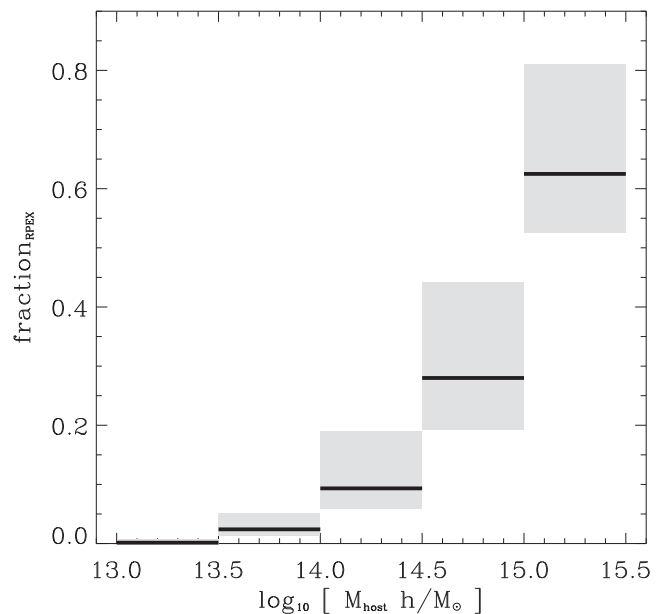
The mass of the parent cluster affects the jet bending probability in two ways. First, the velocity dispersion of galaxies is correlated with the mass of the cluster, i.e. galaxies move faster in high-mass clusters. Secondly, the density of the ICM is correlated with the cluster mass, i.e. galaxies in high-mass clusters experience denser ICM. Therefore, we expect RPEX galaxies to populate predominantly high-mass clusters. We quantify this by measuring the number of RPEX galaxies with respect to the total number of galaxies as a function of cluster mass.

Fig. 5 shows the total numbers of RPEX galaxies as a function of host cluster mass. We find no RPEX galaxies in clusters below  $10^{13} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  (not shown) and only very few in clusters less massive than  $10^{13.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  although the total number of such low-mass clusters in the simulation box exceeds by far those of higher mass. As reported by Gottlöber et al. (2006), the simulation has more than 50 000 clusters in the  $10^{13}$ – $10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  mass range and more than 4000 clusters with masses greater than  $10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . Clusters above  $10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  provide suitable conditions for radio jet bending. The absolute numbers of RPEX galaxies peak for clusters between  $10^{14}$  and  $10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . This can be observed independent of the exact ram pressure limit applied, i.e. the results of the averaged ram pressure criterion as well as its upper and lower limits yield similar results. The preponderance of low-mass clusters and the low number of RPEX galaxies found in them, points to the inability of low-mass clusters to cause the bent morphology at least for host galaxies with stellar masses above  $10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  as investigated here.

Fig. 6 displays the fraction of RPEX galaxies relative to the total number of galaxies as a function of cluster mass. As discussed above, this quantity is equivalent to the fraction of bent tail sources relative to all radio-loud galaxies with lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$ . Consequently, a strong correlation between cluster mass and RPEX galaxy fraction can be derived. A negligible fraction of RPEX galaxies is found for host masses below  $10^{13.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , it rises for clusters with masses between  $10^{13.5}$  and  $10^{14.0} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  to roughly 5 per cent. This is a relatively small fraction. However, it is important to keep in mind that the total number of RPEX galaxies as shown in Fig. 5 is relatively large due to the large number of clusters in this

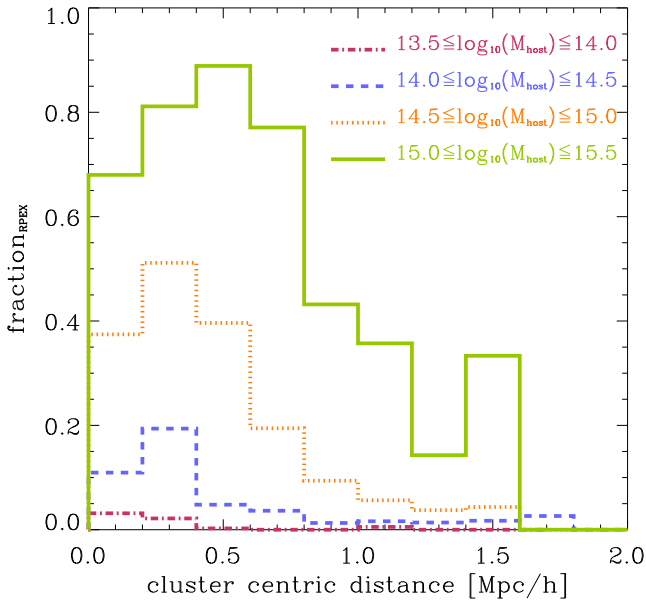


**Figure 5.** The total number of RPEX galaxies as a function of the host cluster’s dark matter halo mass. The black lines indicate the results based on the averaged ram pressure limit (middle line in Fig. 2) and the shaded areas give the results based on the upper and lower limits in Fig. 2. The high-mass end of the histogram is a consequence of the finite maximum cluster mass in the simulation volume. The rapid drop at the low-mass end is given by the fact that the ram pressure is not sufficient to bend radio jets in such low-mass clusters. The solid, red line displays the results for subhaloes with  $\geq 36$  dark matter particles which according to the abundance matching procedure (see Section 2.2) correspond to galaxies with stellar masses  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ .



**Figure 6.** The ratio between RPEX galaxies and the total number of subhaloes as a function of the host cluster mass. Line styles are the same as in Fig. 5.

mass bin. For cluster masses between  $10^{15}$  and  $10^{15.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , the fraction of BRSs rises to  $\sim 60$  per cent. Therefore, if such clusters host more than two radio lobe galaxies half of them are expected to show bent tail morphology.



**Figure 7.** Fractions of RPEX galaxies with respect to total number of galaxies as a function of cluster-centric distance for different host mass bins as indicated by the labels. More massive clusters show a more extended distribution of RPEX galaxies.

### 3.3 Distances of BRSs from cluster centres

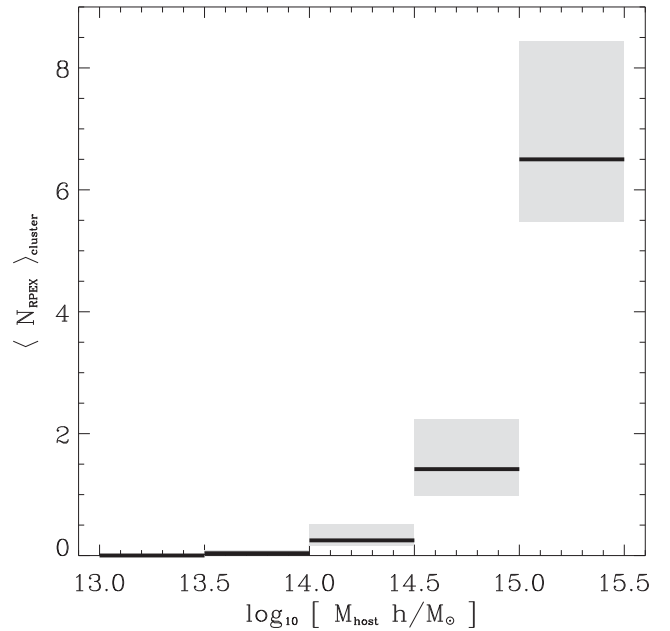
To locate galaxy clusters with the help of BRS it is not only important to predict host cluster masses but also the spatial distribution of the BRSs with respect to the cluster centre. In other words, if a BRS is detected what is the maximum expected distance to the cluster centre?

Fig. 7 shows the fractions of RPEX galaxies with respect to the total number of galaxies as a function of cluster-centric distance and host halo mass. For host haloes above  $10^{14} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , a slight reduction of the central ( $\lesssim 200 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$ ) fraction of RPEX galaxies can be observed. For those clusters the fraction of RPEX galaxies peaks between 200 and  $600 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$  with a slight shift of the peak towards larger cluster-centric distances for higher mass host clusters. For host clusters  $\geq 10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , 80 per cent of all double lobe galaxies at a cluster-centric distance of  $500 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$  are expected to show bent tail morphology. For distances above  $\sim 600 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$  the fraction of RPEX galaxies drops quickly. Our model predicts, that for the most massive clusters 20 per cent of all radio-loud galaxies with lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1} \text{kpc}$  and stellar masses  $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  show bent tail morphology at cluster-centric distances of  $\sim 1.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$ .

The consequence, for observational strategies to detect clusters by locating BRSs, is that the cluster centre may be at a distance of  $1.5 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$  from the actual position of the BRS.

### 3.4 Multiple BRS candidates in high-mass clusters

Fig. 8 shows the average number of RPEX galaxies per cluster as a function of cluster mass. We find that, while there is less than one RPEX galaxy in clusters with masses  $\leq 10^{14.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  and about one in clusters with masses between  $10^{14.5}$  and  $10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , there are about seven RPEX galaxies expected to be hosted by clusters  $\geq 10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . It depends on the duty cycle of the AGNs how many BRSs actually can be observed. Best et al. (2007) found the number of radio-loud AGNs to increase to about 30 per cent for



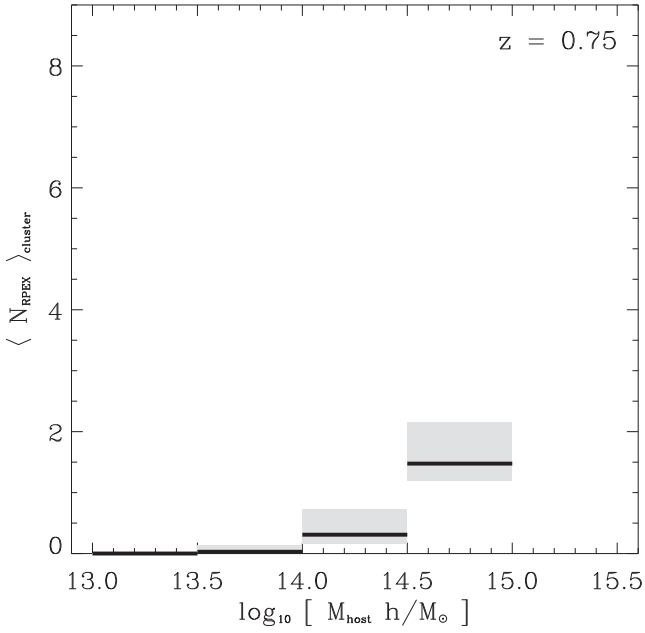
**Figure 8.** Ratio of RPEX galaxies within clusters of given mass and the total number of clusters in that mass bin. One expects to find about seven RPEX galaxies for clusters with masses  $\geq 10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . The actual number of observable BRSs at a given instant of time depends on the duty cycle of the AGN, projection effects and some other biases. Best et al. (2007) found the number of radio-loud AGNs to increase to about 30 per cent for galaxies with stellar masses greater than  $10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . Therefore, clusters with masses above  $10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  are likely to host more than one BRSs.

galaxies with stellar masses greater than  $10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . Therefore, we can expect that clusters with masses above  $10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  are likely to host more than one BRSs. This is confirmed by several observations of multiple BRSs in clusters of galaxies e.g. Abell 2382, Abell 2538, etc. (Owen & Ledlow 1997). The appearance of multiple BRSs in close vicinity may be used as a tracer of high-mass galaxy clusters.

The appearance of multiple BRSs in close proximity may also be useful for the detection of high-redshift clusters. Fig. 9 gives a coarse attempt to extend the analysis towards higher redshift. The figure is identical to Fig. 8 except that it is based on the  $z = 0.75$  snapshot of the simulation. For an accurate analysis, one would need to redo the abundance matching (Section 2.2) with an observed,  $z = 0.75$ , stellar mass function. However, we do not do this in the current paper. Instead, we simply used all subhaloes with more than 36 particles as for the  $z = 0$  analysis. In Fig. 9, multiple RPEX galaxies ( $N_{\text{bent}}/N_{\text{cluster}} > 1$ ) can be observed for host haloes  $\geq 10^{14.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . Above  $10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , we only find one cluster which is not shown on the plot due to lack of statistics. This is a preliminary result and a more detailed study based on a higher resolution simulation will be presented elsewhere.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the MareNostrum Universe Simulation, we modelled the ram pressure strength at the expected locations of massive galaxies. We applied a simple bending criterion (equation 2) which allowed us to determine whether the radio-lobes associated with these galaxies will be bent. If the galaxies exceed the ram pressure limit they are referred to as RPEX galaxies which indicates that they would display bent radio lobes during the radio-loud phase of their duty cycle. We derive ratios of RPEX galaxies relative to all galaxies



**Figure 9.** Same as Fig. 8 but for a redshift of  $z = 0.75$ . Note that a particle number limit  $\geq 36$  for the subhaloes may correspond to different stellar mass limits due to the higher redshift. Nevertheless, qualitatively similar results are observed. About two RPEX galaxies are expected to be hosted by clusters with masses  $\geq 10^{15} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ .

within the same stellar mass range ( $\geq 10^{11} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ ). Assuming that the AGN duty cycle is independent of environment, these ratios are equal to the ratios of observed radio lobes with bent tail morphology to all, straight and bent, radio lobe sources. For technical reasons, the analysis is restricted to radio lobes larger than  $50 h^{-1}$  kpc.

The analysis of the velocities and ambient densities of RPEX galaxies reveals that the most massive galaxies (possibly BCGs), which reside at the cluster centres, require only moderate velocities ( $\sim 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ) relative to the ambient ICM to obey the bending criterion – the ICM densities are high and thus the critical ram pressure is easily reached without very high relative velocities. This type of galaxy is expected to host WATs. RPEX galaxies with lower stellar mass content show a wider distribution of relative velocities and ambient densities. Those RPEX galaxies with high relative velocities are the natural locations of NATs. The simulation data show that there is a continuous transition between WATs and NATs. The underlying physical mechanisms are essentially the same.

Clusters with masses less than  $10^{13} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$  do not host any RPEX galaxies. We find approximately equal numbers of RPEX galaxies in clusters less/more massive than  $10^{14.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ . Individual low-mass clusters only rarely provide suitable conditions for the appearance of bent tail morphology. However, lower mass clusters are much more prevalent. Consequently, their contribution to the total budget of RPEX galaxies is substantial. Therefore, the appearance of BRSs does not uniquely point towards a high-mass host cluster.

The RPEX galaxy distribution of cluster-centric distances shows a marked difference between high- and low-mass clusters. The RPEX galaxies in high-mass clusters are found at much larger distances. This is a consequence of the fact that the ICM of such systems is much more extended and the velocity dispersion of the galaxies is higher. Our model predicts that BRSs in high-mass clusters can be observed as far as  $1.5 h^{-1}$  Mpc from the cluster centre.

For low-mass clusters,  $\leq 10^{14.5} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$ , the BRS will preferentially be found within a cluster-centric sphere of  $400 h^{-1}$  kpc radius.

Finally, the appearance of more than one BRS in close proximity ( $\lesssim 2 h^{-1}$  Mpc) would be a strong indication of high-mass host systems. To what extent this clustered appearance of BRSs may be useful to detect massive clusters at high redshift needs to be investigated with higher resolution simulations which provide a better mass resolution and thus more accurate results at early times.

The purpose of this work is to lay the ground for investigations of the statistics of BRSs. The present analysis is incomplete and surely requires refinements in many respects. However, the incoming large data sets require the development of these statistical tools in the foreseeable future.

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