

Constraints on turbulent pressure in the X-ray halos of giant elliptical galaxies from resonant scattering

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ABSTRACT

The dense cores of X-ray emitting gaseous halos of large elliptical galaxies with temperatures $kT \lesssim 0.8$ keV show two prominent Fe xvii emission features, which provide a sensitive diagnostic tool to measure the effects of resonant scattering. We present here high-resolution spectra of five bright nearby elliptical galaxies, obtained with the Reflection Grating Spectrometers (RGS) on the *XMM-Newton* satellite. The spectra for the cores of four of the galaxies show the Fe xvii line at 15.01 Å being suppressed by resonant scattering. The data for NGC 4636 in particular allow the effects of resonant scattering to be studied in detail and to prove that the 15.01 Å line is suppressed only in the dense core and not in the surrounding regions. Using deprojected density and temperature profiles for this galaxy obtained with the *Chandra* satellite, we model the radial intensity profiles of the strongest resonance lines, accounting for the effects of resonant scattering, for different values of the characteristic turbulent velocity. Comparing the model to the data, we find that the isotropic turbulent velocities on spatial scales smaller than ≈ 1 kpc are less than 100 km s⁻¹ and the turbulent pressure support in the galaxy core is smaller than 5% of the thermal pressure at the 90% confidence level, and less than 20% at 95% confidence. Neglecting the effects of resonant scattering in spectral fitting of the inner 2 kpc core of NGC 4636 will lead to underestimates of the chemical abundances of Fe and O by ~ 10 –20%.

Key words: X-rays: galaxies – X-rays: individual: NGC 4636, NGC 4649, NGC 5813, NGC 1404, NGC 4472 – galaxies: abundances – cooling flows – turbulence

1 INTRODUCTION

The hot intra-cluster medium and the hot halos around giant elliptical galaxies are usually assumed to be optically thin. Although this assumption is valid for most of the emitted X-ray photons, at the energies of the strongest resonant transitions, the hot plasma can be optically thick (Gilfanov et al. 1987). The transition probabilities of strong resonance lines are large and, if the column density of the ion along a line of sight is sufficiently high, photons with the energies of these resonance lines will get absorbed and, within a short time interval, reemitted in a different direction. Because of the short time between absorption and emission, this process can be regarded as scattering. Since resonant scattering in clusters and

elliptical galaxies will cause the radial intensity profile of an emission line to become weaker in the centre and stronger outside, it can also lead to an underestimate of metal abundances in the dense cores and a corresponding overestimate in the surrounding region. This effect is, however, not expected to be large. Sanders & Fabian (2006) found that metallicities in cluster cores could be underestimated by at most 10% due to resonant scattering.

Gilfanov et al. (1987) pointed out that since the optical depth τ in the core of a resonance line depends on the characteristic velocity of small-scale motion, measurements of τ give important information about the turbulent velocities in the hot plasma. Measuring the level of resonant scattering in clusters and giant elliptical galaxies is thus a good way to constrain the energy in turbulence and the turbulent pressure support. The first constraints on turbulent velocities using resonant scattering were obtained for the Perseus cluster by

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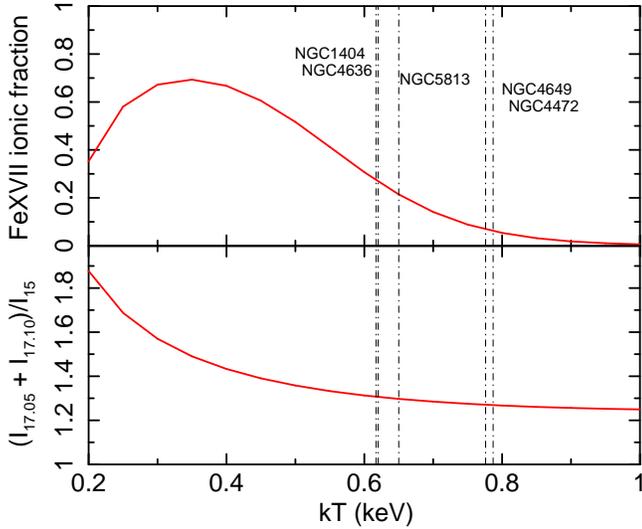


Figure 1. Fraction of Fe in the form of Fe xvii and the theoretical line ratio $(I_{17.05} + I_{17.10})/I_{15.01}$ for an optically thin plasma as a function of the plasma temperature. The vertical lines mark the RGS measured temperatures of the five galaxies in our sample.

Churazov et al. (2004). Using XMM-Newton EPIC data, they compared the relative fluxes of the 1s–2p and 1s–3p He-like Fe lines in the core and in an annulus surrounding the core of the Perseus cluster. The expected optical depth of the 6.7 keV 1s–2p Fe xxv resonance line is much larger than that of the 1s–3p line, therefore the ratio provides information about the level of resonant scattering. Churazov et al. (2004) found no evidence for resonant scattering in Perseus, indicating that differential gas motions on scales smaller than ~ 100 kpc in the core of the cluster must have a range of velocities of at least half of the sound speed. Independently, using the same data, Gastaldello & Molendi (2004) reached similar conclusions.

The most sensitive spectral lines to determine the level of resonant scattering are the Fe xvii lines at 15.01 Å (2p–3d) and the unresolved blend of the same ion at 17.05 and 17.10 Å (2p–3s). The optical depth is directly proportional to the column density of the ion and the oscillator strength of the given transition. While the oscillator strength of the 15.01 Å line is $f = 2.73$, and thus the line is expected to have a relatively large optical depth, the oscillator strength of the 17.05 Å line is $f = 0.12$ and the optical depth of this line blend is negligible (the oscillator strength of the 17.10 Å line is of the order of 10^{-8})¹. Because of this dramatic difference in expected optical depths, and the fact that both lines originate from the same ion of the same element, the Fe xvii lines provide, in principle, an excellent diagnostic tool to measure the magnitude of resonant scattering. At the relatively low temperatures of hot halos around giant elliptical galaxies, ~ 0.6 – 0.8 keV, both lines are very strong and, in this temperature range, their expected intensity ratios have only a very weak dependence on temperature (see Fig. 1, Doron & Behar 2002). Therefore, any observed spatial dependence of the intensity ratios is unlikely to be due to gradients in temperature or Fe abundance in the hot plasma, making these lines especially clean diagnostic tools. The Fe xvii line ratios in extended objects can be measured with the XMM-Newton Reflection Grating Spectrometers (RGS, den Herder et al. 2001).

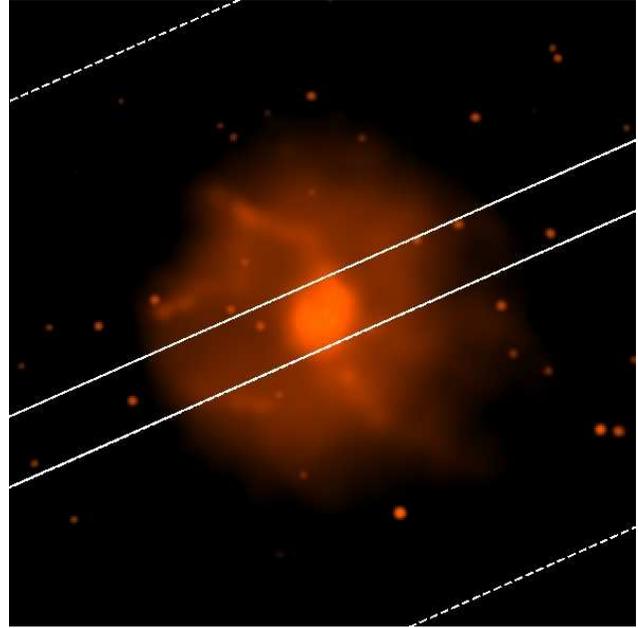


Figure 2. *Chandra* image of NGC 4636 with the RGS extraction regions over-plotted. The central extraction region is $0.5'$ wide (indicated by full lines), the two extraction regions next to the core (between the full and dashed lines) are $2.25'$ wide. The image was extracted in the 0.5–2.0 keV band, cleaned and adaptively smoothed.

Xu et al. (2002) reported the first and so far only radial profile of the $(I_{17.05} + I_{17.10})/I_{15.01}$ ratio for the X-ray luminous elliptical galaxy NGC 4636, which indicates the presence of resonant scattering. Attempts to measure resonant scattering in NGC 5044 and M 87, which are hotter and more massive systems with weaker Fe xvii lines, were not successful (Tamura et al. 2003; Werner et al. 2006).

Here we follow up on the work by Xu et al. (2002), by reporting the Fe xvii $(I_{17.05} + I_{17.10})/I_{15.01}$ line ratios measured in the cores of five nearby bright elliptical galaxies observed with XMM-Newton RGS: NGC 4636, NGC 5813, NGC 1404, NGC 4649, and NGC 4472. In Sect. 2 we describe the sample and observations; in Sect. 3 we discuss the details of the data analysis; and in Sect. 4 we present the results of the observations. We focus our attention on NGC 4636, for which data are of very high quality. Because NGC 4636 is X-ray bright, has a relatively long exposure and a favorable temperature, for this system we can measure and compare the observed line ratios in the core and surrounding regions. In Sect. 5 we present a model for the radial profile of the 15.01 Å line in NGC 4636 for different values of turbulent velocities, derived using deprojected density and temperature profiles from *Chandra* data. Comparing this model to the data, we place constraints on the characteristic velocity of isotropic turbulence in the core of the galaxy. Implications of the results are discussed in Sect. 6.

Throughout the paper, abundances are given with respect to the “proto-solar values” by Lodders (2003). All errors are quoted at the 68% confidence level for one interesting parameter ($\Delta C = 1$; for C statistics).

2 SAMPLE AND XMM-NEWTON OBSERVATIONS

We have analyzed a sample of five nearby, giant elliptical galaxies observed with XMM-Newton RGS. The sample is listed in Table 1.

¹ <http://cxc.harvard.edu/atomdb/WebGUIDE/index.html>

Table 1. List of the galaxies in the sample, with their distance (luminosity distances, obtained from the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database, <http://nedwww.ipac.caltech.edu/>), corresponding linear scale per arcminute, Galactic N_{H} value (Kalberla et al. 2005), average temperature measured by *ROSAT*. The last three columns give the *XMM-Newton* revolution of the observation, and the total and filtered RGS exposure times, respectively.

galaxy	distance Mpc	scale kpc/arcmin	N_{H} 10^{20} cm^{-2}	kT keV	rev.	Exp. time ks	Clean time ks
NGC 4636	17.5	5.1	1.90	0.55*	197	64406	58205
NGC 5813	29.9	8.7	4.37	0.52†	1029	36708	29899
NGC 1404	25.5	7.4	1.51	0.60*	1033	55032	17231
NGC 4649	19.8	5.8	2.1	0.78*	196	54210	46096
NGC 4472	18.4	5.4	1.53	0.88*	744	111033	81850

* O’Sullivan et al. (2003)

† Reiprich & Böhringer (2002)

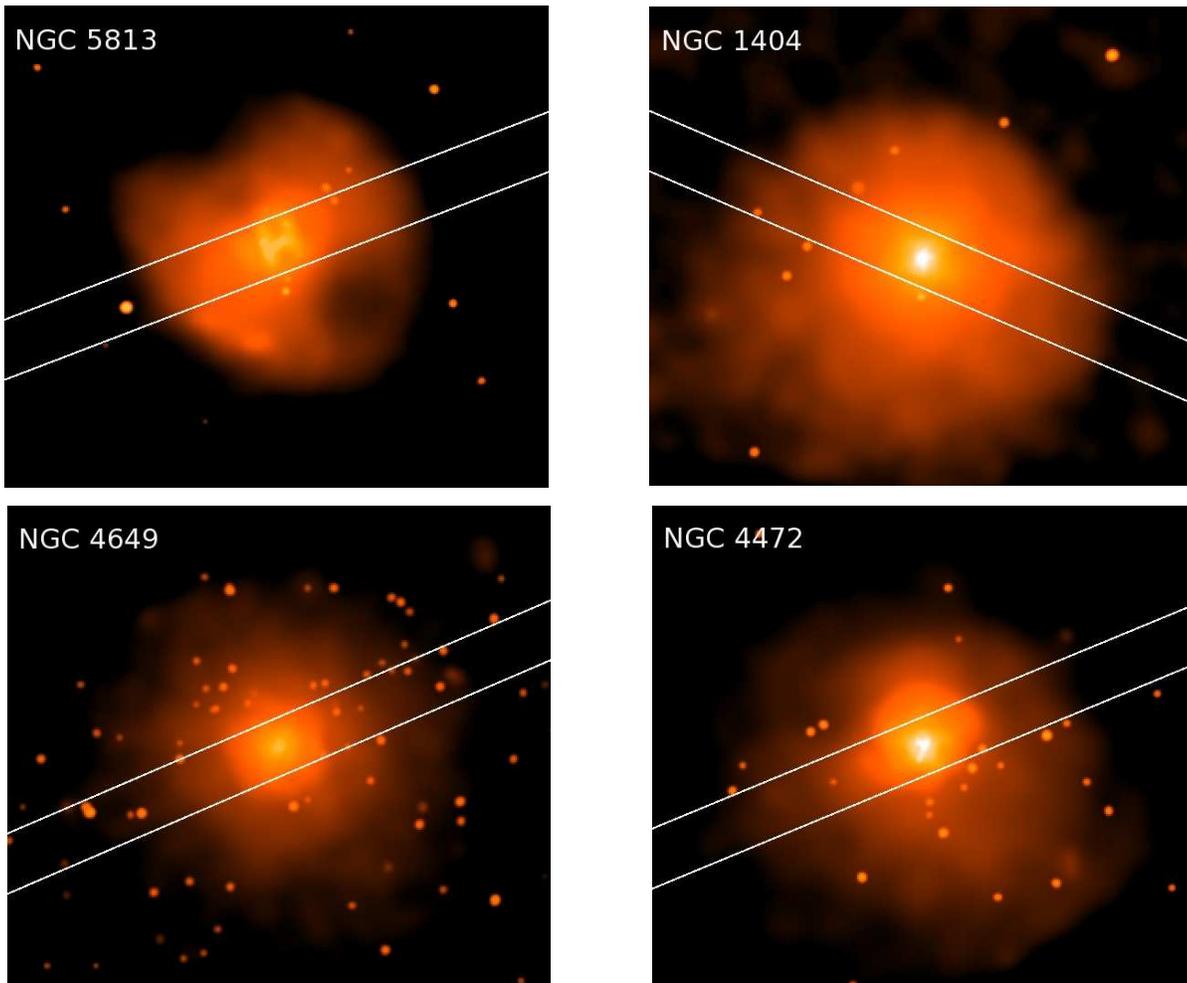


Figure 3. *Chandra* images of the giant elliptical galaxies in our sample with over-plotted RGS extraction regions (see also Fig. 2). The extraction regions are $0.5'$ wide. While the core of NGC 5813 is strongly disturbed, the cores of the other three galaxies are relatively relaxed. The images were extracted in the 0.5–2.0 keV band, cleaned and adaptively smoothed.

The galaxies were selected based on their relatively low core temperatures, at which a significant fraction of Fe is expected to be in the form of Fe xvii (see Fig. 1), their large X-ray fluxes, and strongly peaked surface brightness distributions, which are necessary to obtain RGS spectra with sufficient statistics. The sample contains both relatively relaxed galaxies and systems showing very clear signs of interaction between the hot halo gas and cen-

tral Active Galactic Nucleus (AGN). In Figs. 2 and 3 we show 0.5–2.0 keV *Chandra* images of the galaxies in our sample with the RGS extraction regions overplotted. The images show that the cores of NGC 4649, NGC 4472, and NGC 1404 are *relatively* relaxed (although on larger scales NGC 1404 shows a prominent cold front to the Northwest, and NGC 4649 and NGC 4472 harbor central radio sources, which exhibit interaction with the hot gas,

Shurkin et al. 2008; Biller et al. 2004). NGC 4636 and NGC 5813, on the other hand, look much more disturbed, with obvious signs of recent episodes of interaction between the hot plasma and the AGN. NGC 4636 has a very dense core and X-ray bright arm-like structures which might have been produced by shocks (Jones et al. 2002). The core of NGC 5813 is highly disturbed with most of the hot gas being pushed into dense sheets by the rising bubbles of relativistic plasma.

Currently the best data set for the study of resonant scattering is that for NGC 4636. The X-ray halo of this galaxy has a conveniently low temperature, at which $\sim 26\%$ of Fe is in the form of Fe xvii, a very dense core and a deep *XMM-Newton* observation, which also allows us to extract spectra from outside the core region with reasonably good statistics in the Fe xvii lines. Using a deep *Chandra* observation of this galaxy we derive deprojected density and temperature profiles which we use to model radial intensity profiles for the strongest resonance lines, taking into account the effects of resonant scattering for different assumed values of turbulent velocities.

3 DATA ANALYSIS

3.1 *XMM-Newton* RGS data analysis

We processed the RGS data using version 8.0.0 of the *XMM-Newton* Science Analysis System (SAS), and extracted spectra using the method described by Tamura et al. (2001). To minimize the contamination by soft-protons from Solar flares, we extracted a light curve for each dataset using events on CCD 9 of the RGS, outside the central region, with a distance larger than $30''$ from the dispersion axis, and excluded time intervals with elevated count rates. The original exposure time and the total time after cleaning are listed in Table 1. The flares in the observation of NGC 1404 were weak and we obtain the same best fit spectral parameters for both the filtered and unfiltered data set. Therefore, for this galaxy we used the full observation. Because emission from the galaxies fills the entire field of view of the RGS, the background cannot be estimated from a region on the detector away from the source. Therefore, we modeled the background using the standard RGS background model for extended sources available in SAS (rgsbkg-model, González-Riestra 2004).

The effects of resonant scattering are most significant in the centermost parts of the galaxies, where the density is highest. Therefore, we extract spectra from narrow $30''$ wide bands centred on the cores of the galaxies, probing regions within radii of 1.3–2.2 kpc (depending on distance) in the cross dispersion direction of the RGS. We extract and fit both first and second order spectra. Because the RGS operates without a slit, it collects all photons from within the $0.5' \times \sim 12'$ field of view. Line photons originating at angle $\Delta\theta$ (in arcminutes) along the dispersion direction, will be shifted in wavelength by

$$\Delta\lambda = 0.138 \Delta\theta \text{ \AA}. \quad (1)$$

Therefore, every line will be broadened by the spatial extent of the source. To account for this broadening in our spectral model, for each RGS spectrum, we produce a predicted line spread function (LSF) by convolving the RGS response with the surface brightness profile of the galaxy derived from the EPIC/MOS1 image in the 0.8–1.4 keV band along the dispersion direction. Because the radial profile of a particular spectral line can be different from the overall radial surface brightness profile (e.g. in the presence of metallicity

gradients), the line profile is multiplied by a scale factor s , which is the ratio of the observed LSF width to the expected LSF for a flat abundance distribution. This scale factor is a free parameter in the spectral fit.

For the spectral modeling of the RGS data we use the SPEX package (Kaastra et al. 1996). Spectral fitting of the RGS data is done in the 10 Å to 28 Å band. We model the emission of the observed galaxies as optically thin plasmas in collisional ionization equilibrium, absorbed by neutral Galactic gas with Solar abundances. For each object we fix the Galactic column density to the value determined by the Leiden/Argentine/Bonn (LAB) Survey of Galactic H I (Kalberla et al. 2005). For the emission of the elliptical galaxies we assume a single-temperature plasma. Using more complicated multi-temperature models does not improve the fits and differential emission measure models always converge to a simple single-temperature approximation. The spectral normalization, plasma temperature, and the abundances of N, O, Ne, and Fe are free parameters in the fit. For the spectral fitting we use C-statistics.

3.2 *Chandra* analysis of NGC 4636

We reprocessed the *Chandra* observations of NGC 4636 (OBSID 3926 and 4415) applying the latest CTI and time-dependent gain calibrations using standard methods (see Vikhlinin et al. 2005, for more details). In brief, we performed the usual filtering by grade, excluded bad/hot pixels and columns, removed cosmic ray ‘afterglows’, and applied the VF mode filtering. We excluded data with anomalously high background. The remaining exposure time for NGC 4636 is 150.4 ks. The background files were processed in the same manner as the observations. An additional background component is produced during the 41 ms of the 3.2 s nominal exposure readout of the ACIS CCDs, while the chips are exposed to the sky. This small contribution of the source flux, 1.3%, is uniformly redistributed along the readout direction and is subtracted using the technique described by Markevitch et al. (2000). The blank-field background is also renormalized by reducing its integration time by 1.3% to account for this additional subtraction.

As the final step in data preparation (see Churazov et al. 2008, for more details), we computed, for each X-ray event, the ratio of the effective area (a function of photon energy and position) to that at a predefined energy and position:

$$\eta = A(E, x_d, y_d)/A_0(E), \quad (2)$$

where $A(E, x_d, y_d)$ includes mirror and detector efficiencies (including non-uniformity of the detector quantum efficiency and the time and spatially dependent contamination on the optical blocking filter). Finally, for each event list, we make an exposure map that accounts for all position dependent, but energy independent, efficiency variations across the focal plane (e.g., overall chip geometry, dead pixels or rows, and variation of telescope pointing direction). We use these data in Sect. 5 to derive deprojected gas density and temperature profiles.

4 OBSERVATIONS OF RESONANT SCATTERING

The results from the spectral fitting of the *XMM-Newton* RGS data with an optically thin single-temperature plasma model are shown in Table 2 and Figures 4 and 5. The 13.8–15.5 Å part of the spectrum, where the strongest Fe xvii and Fe xviii resonance lines are present, was initially excluded from this fit. These lines are expected to be suppressed by resonant scattering and this suppres-

Table 2. The best fit parameters for a single-temperature, optically thin plasma model fitted to the *XMM-Newton* RGS spectra extracted from 0.5′ wide regions centred on the cores of the galaxies. For NGC 4636 we also show the results from fits to spectra extracted from two 2.25′ wide regions surrounding the core (see Fig. 2). The 13.8–15.5 Å part of the spectrum, where the strongest Fe XVII and Fe XVIII resonance lines are present was initially excluded from the fits. Fluxes are given in the 0.3–2.0 keV band. The emission measure is defined as $Y = \int n_e n_H dV$. The scale factor s is the ratio of the observed LSF width to the expected LSF for a flat abundance distribution. Abundances are quoted with respect to the proto-solar values of Lodders (2003). The last three rows list the best fit line ratios in the full spectral band (after the Fe XVII ion was set to zero in the model and replaced by gaussian lines), the theoretical line ratios predicted for an optically thin plasma, and the derived level of suppression of the 15.01 Å line, $(I/I_0)_{15.01\text{Å}}$.

galaxy	NGC 4636 core	NGC 4636 outer reg.	NGC 5813	NGC 1404	NGC 4649	NGC 4472
flux (10^{-12} erg cm^{-2})	1.75 ± 0.08	2.57 ± 0.17	1.47 ± 0.12	1.08 ± 0.11	1.63 ± 0.10	1.44 ± 0.08
Y (10^{64} cm^{-3})	0.47 ± 0.02	0.46 ± 0.03	1.01 ± 0.10	0.50 ± 0.05	0.31 ± 0.03	0.34 ± 0.02
kT (keV)	0.606 ± 0.006	0.695 ± 0.004	0.645 ± 0.008	0.608 ± 0.009	0.774 ± 0.007	0.781 ± 0.006
s	0.40 ± 0.04	1.02 ± 0.04	0.87 ± 0.11	0.97 ± 0.22	0.69 ± 0.21	0.79 ± 0.12
N	1.3 ± 0.3	1.5 ± 0.4	2.0 ± 0.8	2.3 ± 0.8	1.3 ± 0.7	1.3 ± 0.5
O	0.44 ± 0.05	0.61 ± 0.06	0.53 ± 0.09	0.58 ± 0.10	0.61 ± 0.15	0.53 ± 0.07
Ne	0.31 ± 0.08	0.39 ± 0.18	0.33 ± 0.19	0.81 ± 0.22	1.31 ± 0.35	1.18 ± 0.22
Fe	0.52 ± 0.03	0.92 ± 0.06	0.75 ± 0.09	0.67 ± 0.08	0.87 ± 0.18	0.83 ± 0.08
$[(I_{117.05} + I_{117.10})/I_{115.01}]_{\text{observed}}$	2.04 ± 0.21	1.28 ± 0.13	1.99 ± 0.34	1.98 ± 0.29	1.25 ± 0.28	2.24 ± 0.34
$[(I_{117.05} + I_{117.10})/I_{115.01}]_{\text{predicted}}$	1.31	1.31	1.30	1.31	1.27	1.27
$I_{15.01}/I_{15.01}$	0.64 ± 0.07	1.02 ± 0.10	0.65 ± 0.11	0.66 ± 0.10	1.02 ± 0.23	0.57 ± 0.09

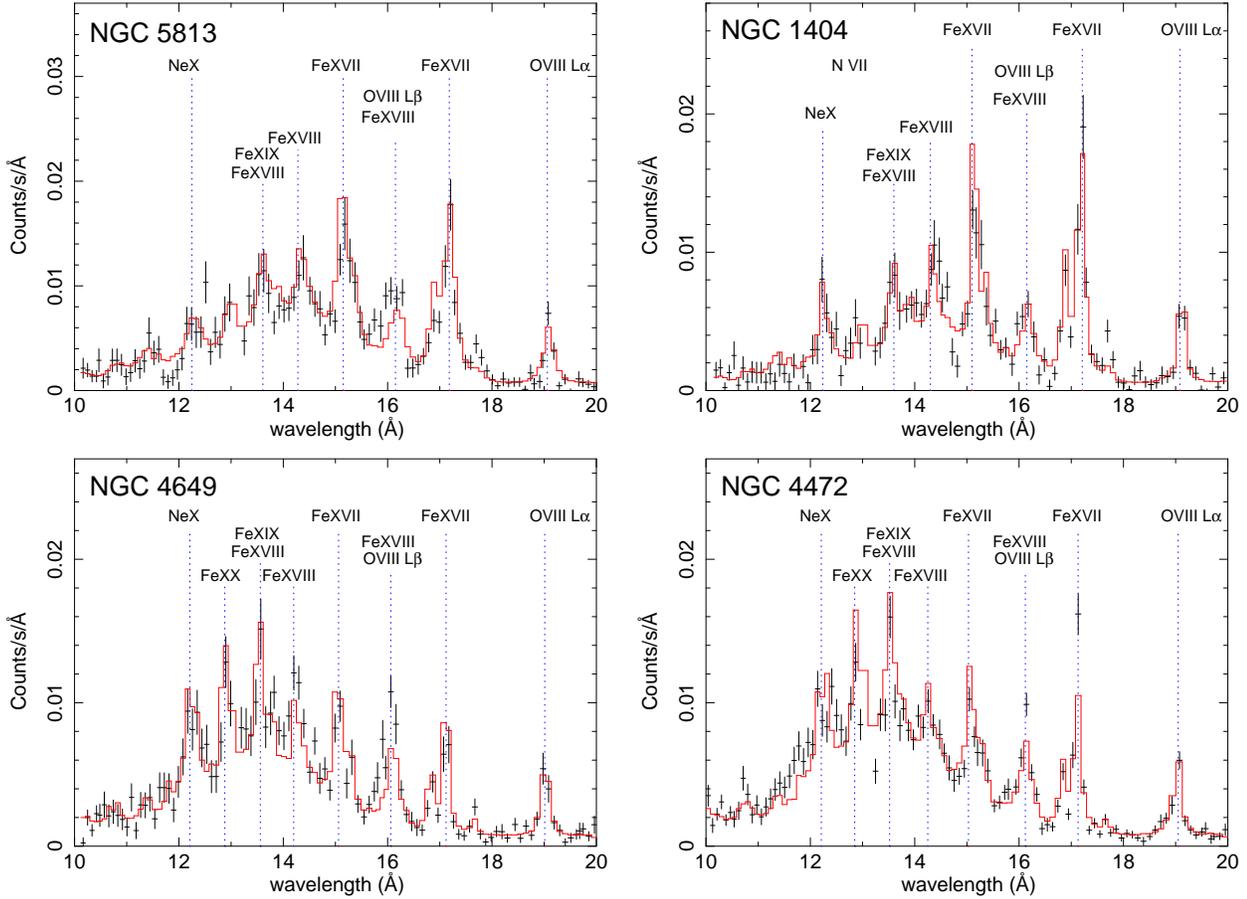


Figure 4. RGS spectra for NGC 5813, NGC 1404, NGC 4649, and NGC 4472. The spectra were extracted from 0.5′ wide extraction regions centred on the cores of the galaxies. The full line indicates the best-fit optically-thin single-temperature plasma model. The 13.8–15.5 Å part of the spectrum, where the strongest Fe XVII and Fe XVIII resonance lines are present, was excluded from these spectral fits.

Table 3. Oscillator strengths and optical depths for the strongest X-ray lines in the spectrum of NGC 4636 for Mach numbers 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75. The expected suppression due to resonant scattering $(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}}$ gives the value integrated within a radius of 2 kpc from the centre of the galaxy. The approximate values $(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$ were obtained by integrating within an “effective extraction region” which is 0.5′ wide and 3′ long. The metallicity is assumed to be constant with the radius.

Ion	λ (Å)	f	$M = 0.0$		$M = 0.25$			$M = 0.5$			$M = 0.75$			
			τ	$(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}}(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$	τ	$(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}}(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$	τ	$(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}}(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$	τ	$(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}}(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$	τ	$(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}}(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$		
Fe xvii	15.01	2.73	8.8	0.47	0.69	3.6	0.59	0.79	1.9	0.68	0.85	1.3	0.76	0.89
Fe xvii	17.05	0.12	0.5	0.89	0.95	0.2	0.95	0.98	0.1	0.97	0.99	0.07	0.98	0.99
Fe xviii	14.20	0.57	1.3	0.72	0.87	0.5	0.86	0.94	0.3	0.91	0.96	0.2	0.95	0.98
Fe xviii	16.08	0.005	0.01	0.99	1.00	0.005	0.99	1.00	0.003	1.00	1.00	0.002	1.00	1.00
O viii L α	18.96	0.28	1.2	0.74	0.87	0.8	0.81	0.91	0.5	0.88	0.94	0.3	0.91	0.96

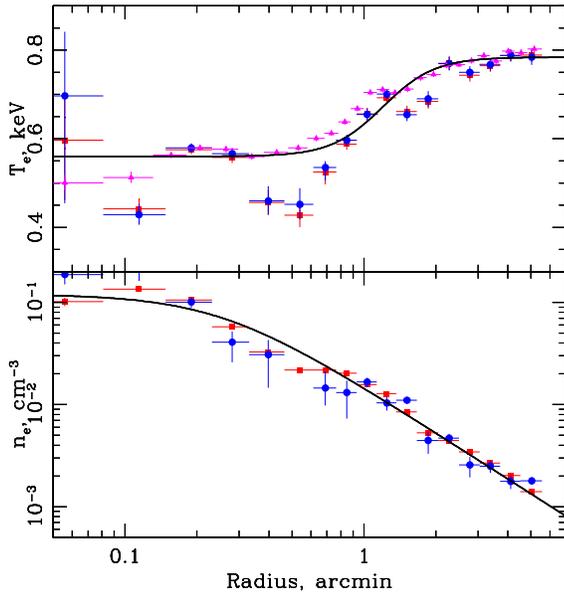


Figure 6. Observed radial profiles of the electron density and temperature used to model resonant scattering in NGC 4636. The blue circles and red squares indicate the deprojected profiles determined from *Chandra* data with metallicity as a free parameter in the fit and with metallicity fixed to 0.68 Solar, respectively. The magenta triangles show the projected temperature profile with the metallicity as a free parameter in the fit. The solid lines show the parametrization of the gas density and gas temperature profiles given in eqs. 3 and 4.

evaluated as an explicit linear combination of the observed quantities. Since the whole procedure is linear, the errors in the observed quantities can be propagated straightforwardly. With our definition of η (see subsection 3.2), the projection matrix does not depend on energy. Therefore, the deprojection in *any energy band* is precisely that used to deproject the surface brightness. Thus, we can accumulate a set of spectra (corrected for background and readout) for each of the n_a annuli, and apply the deprojection to determine the emissivities of each shell in each of the ACIS energy channels.

The *Chandra* data were modeled using XSPEC V12 (Arnaud 1996) and the APEC model (Smith et al. 2001). The gas temperature and normalization were free parameters in the model. The heavy element abundance was either a free parameter in the fit or fixed to 0.68 Solar (as determined from a spectral fit to *Chandra* data extracted within the radius of 1′ from the centre of NGC 4636). The metallicity profile in NGC 4636 has large uncertainties, be-

cause the metal abundance distribution in the deprojected *Chandra* spectra has a large scatter as a result of noise enhancement during deprojection coupled with the limited spectral resolution of the CCDs.

The electron density profile was derived from the spectral normalization, fixing the proton to electron ratio to 0.83. Fig. 6 shows the deprojected electron density (lower panel) and the temperature (upper panel) as a function of distance from the centre of the galaxy. The circles and squares show the deprojected profiles for metallicity as a free parameter and for metallicity fixed to 0.68 Solar, respectively. The triangles show the projected temperature profile with the metallicity as a free parameter.

Based on the observed radial distributions of electron density n_e and temperature kT_e in NGC 4636, we adopt the following approximate forms for the deprojected density and temperature profiles:

$$n_e = 1.2 \times 10^{-1} \left[1 + \left(\frac{r}{0.25r} \right)^2 \right]^{-0.75} \text{ cm}^{-3}, \quad (3)$$

and

$$kT = 0.56 \frac{1 + 1.4(r/1.2')^4}{1 + (r/1.2')^4} \text{ keV}. \quad (4)$$

We consider two possible radial behaviors for metallicity: a simple constant abundance of 0.68 Solar; and a centrally peaked abundance distribution, which is more consistent with the best fit *XMM-Newton* RGS line profile ($s = 0.40 \pm 0.04$). In the latter case we approximate the metallicity profile with the following function:

$$Z = 0.95 \frac{2 + (r/0.8')^3}{1 + (r/0.8')^3} - 0.4. \quad (5)$$

We calculate the optical depth of the 15 Å line from the centre of the galaxy to infinity, $\tau = \int n_i \sigma_0 dr$, where n_i is the ion concentration and σ_0 is the cross section at the line centre, which for a given ion is

$$\sigma_0 = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} h r_e c f}{\Delta E_D}, \quad (6)$$

where the Doppler width is given by

$$\Delta E_D = E_0 \left(\frac{2kT_e}{A m_p c^2} + \frac{V_{\text{turb}}^2}{c^2} \right)^{1/2}. \quad (7)$$

In these equations r_e is the classical electron radius, f is the oscillator strength of a given atomic transition, E_0 is the rest energy of a given line, A is the atomic mass of the corresponding element, m_p is the proton mass, c is the speed of light, and V_{turb} is the characteristic velocity of isotropic turbulence. $V_{\text{turb}} \equiv \sqrt{2} V_{1D, \text{turb}}$, where $V_{1D, \text{turb}}$ is

the velocity dispersion in the line of sight due to turbulence. Using the adiabatic sound speed, $c_s = \sqrt{\gamma kT / \mu m_p}$, the expression for the broadening can be rewritten as

$$\Delta E_D = E_0 \left[\frac{2kT_e}{Am_p c^2} \left(1 + \frac{\gamma}{2\mu} AM^2 \right) \right]^{1/2}, \quad (8)$$

where $\mu = 0.6$ is the mean particle mass, γ is the adiabatic index, which for ideal monatomic gas is $5/3$, and $M = V_{\text{turb}}/c_s$ is the corresponding Mach number. The line energies and oscillator strengths were taken from ATOMDB² and the NIST Atomic Spectra Database³.

The resonant scattering effect has been calculated using Monte-Carlo simulations, as described by Churazov et al. (2004). We model the hot halo as a set of spherical shells and obtain line emissivities for each shell using the APEC plasma model (Smith et al. 2001). We account for scattering by assuming a complete energy redistribution and dipole scattering phase matrix. The line of Fe xvii has a pure dipole scattering phase matrix. In Fig. 7 we show the optical depth of the 15.01 Å Fe xvii line as a function of radius, for various turbulent velocities, assuming the peaked Fe abundance distribution. For higher turbulent velocities, the optical depth becomes smaller. In Fig. 8 we show the ratio of the 15.01 Å line intensity calculated including the effect of resonant scattering to the line intensity without accounting for resonant scattering for various turbulent velocities, both for constant and peaked iron abundance distributions. The figure clearly shows the effect of the resonant scattering: in the core of the galaxy the intensity of the line is suppressed, whereas in the surrounding regions the intensity of the line rises. The effect is more prominent in the case of the centrally peaked Fe abundance distribution, where the central suppression is larger and the enhancement in the outer part is stronger.

We compare the models of resonant scattering with the observations and determine the systematic uncertainties involved by simulating spectra corresponding to each of these models, which are then fit in the same way as the observed data. To this end, we multiply the surface brightness profile of NGC 4636 with the theoretical suppression profiles for the 15.01 Å line (Fig. 8) to determine the predicted RGS line profile for the four considered characteristic turbulent velocities, for both assumed abundance distributions. We simulate spectra with photon statistics comparable to that of the actual observation, using the best fit values for the core of NGC 4636 from Table 2 as input parameters, and convolving the 15.01 Å line through these predicted line profiles. By fitting the data simulated with no turbulence, we obtain $(I/I_0)_{15.01\text{\AA}} = 0.69$ and 0.71 for peaked and flat abundance profiles, respectively. The ratios of $(I/I_0)_{15.01\text{\AA}}$ for isotropic turbulent velocity of $M = 0.25$ are 0.76 and 0.78, and for $M = 0.50$ they are 0.80 and 0.82, for peaked and flat abundance profiles, respectively. The systematic uncertainty on these values due to our lack of knowledge about the actual Fe abundance distribution is ± 0.02 . We add this uncertainty in quadrature to the uncertainties associated with our modeling of the line broadening, which is at most 0.03, resulting in a total uncertainty of 0.04. Thus we conclude that the turbulent velocities in NGC 4636 are relatively small and that isotropic turbulence with a characteristic velocity of $M > 0.25$ can be ruled out at the 90% confidence level; turbulent gas motions at $M > 0.5$ can be ruled

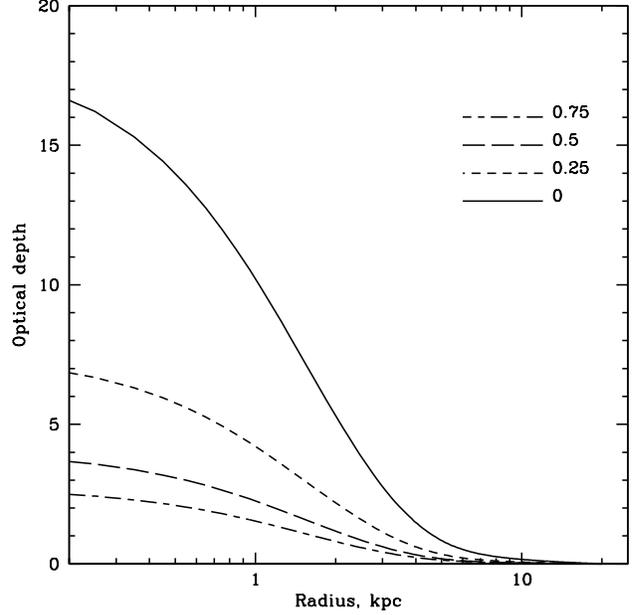


Figure 7. Optical depth of the 15.01 Å line calculated from the given radius to infinity, for isotropic turbulent velocities corresponding to Mach numbers 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75. A centrally peaked Fe abundance distribution is assumed.

out at the 95% confidence level. (The sound speed in NGC 4636 is $c_s \sim 400 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.)

In Table 3, we list the strongest lines observed in the spectrum of NGC 4636, their oscillator strengths and optical depths for different Mach numbers. Clearly, Fe xvii at 15.01 Å is the most optically thick line in the spectrum, but O viii $L\alpha$ and Fe xviii at 14.2 Å also have relatively large optical depths. For $M = 0$, the depth of the Fe xvii line at 17.05 Å line is $\tau = 0.5$, meaning that our assumption that the 17.05 Å and 17.10 Å line blend is optically thin is not completely correct, and our *observed* values of $(I/I_0)_{15.01\text{\AA}}$ are biased slightly high, which further increases the significance of our upper limits on the turbulent velocities. In Table 3, we also list the predicted suppression for the strongest emission lines, $(I/I_0)_{\text{circ}} = \int I dA / \int I_0 dA$, integrated within a circular region of radius 2 kpc, and within the RGS extraction region $(I/I_0)_{\text{RGS}}$. The suppression for the RGS is determined in a simplified way, integrating within our 0.5' wide, and for line emission effectively about 3' long, RGS extraction region. These predicted ratios in Table 3 were determined assuming a flat abundance distribution. By adopting an optically thin plasma in the analysis, the best fitting O abundance within the 2 kpc radius can be underestimated by $\sim 10\text{--}25\%$, and the Fe abundance by $\sim 10\text{--}20\%$.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

High-resolution spectra obtained with *XMM-Newton* RGS reveal that the Fe xvii line at 15.01 Å in the cores of the elliptical galaxies NGC 4636, NGC 1404, NGC 5813, and NGC 4472 is suppressed by resonant scattering. The effects of resonant scattering can be investigated in detail for NGC 4636. The comparison of the measured suppression of the 15.01 Å Fe xvii line in the spectrum of NGC 4636 with the simulated effects of resonant scattering reveals

² <http://cxc.harvard.edu/atomdb/WebGUIDE/index.html>

³ www.physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/ASD/index.html

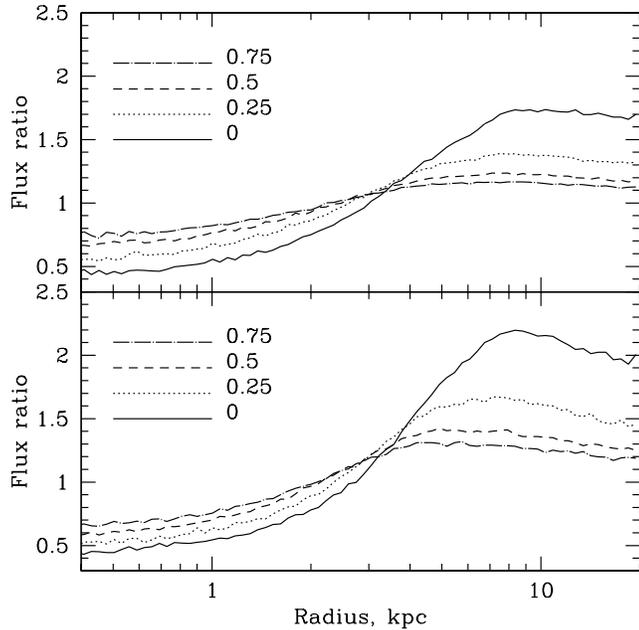


Figure 8. Radial profiles of the ratio of the 15.01 Å line intensity with and without the effect of resonant scattering, for isotropic turbulent velocities corresponding to Mach numbers 0.0, 0.25, 0.5, and 0.75. The upper panel shows the profiles for a constant metallicity, and the lower panel for a centrally peaked Fe abundance distribution.

that the characteristic velocity of isotropic turbulence in the core of the galaxy is smaller than 0.25 and 0.5 of the sound speed at the $\sim 90\%$ and 95% confidence levels, respectively. The energy density in turbulence is:

$$\epsilon_{\text{turb}} = \frac{3}{2} \rho V_{\text{D,turb}}^2 = \frac{3}{4} \rho c_s^2 M^2 \quad (9)$$

where ρ is the density of the plasma. The thermal energy of the plasma is given as:

$$\epsilon_{\text{therm}} = \frac{3}{2} \frac{\rho}{\mu m_p} kT. \quad (10)$$

By combining these equations we obtain the ratio of turbulent to thermal energy:

$$\frac{\epsilon_{\text{turb}}}{\epsilon_{\text{therm}}} = \frac{\gamma}{2} M^2. \quad (11)$$

For the 90% and 95% confidence level upper limits of $M \lesssim 0.25$ and 0.5 on the characteristic velocity of isotropic turbulence in NGC 4636, the upper limit on the fraction of energy in turbulent motions is 5% and 20%, respectively. This is in agreement with the upper limits on the non-thermal pressure component in elliptical galaxies obtained on larger spatial scales by Churazov et al. (2008) and with the properties of AGN induced turbulence in three-dimensional simulations, that use adaptive mesh hydrodynamic code with a subgrid model of turbulence and mixing (Scannapieco & Brügger 2008).

A small value for the average turbulent velocity dispersion was also inferred in the initial analysis of the RGS spectra for NGC 4636 by Xu et al. (2002). They estimated that the turbulent velocities in the galaxy do not strongly exceed 1/10 of the sound speed. Caon et al. (2000) studied the kinematics of line emission nebulae in NGC 4636 and found an irregular radial velocity curve

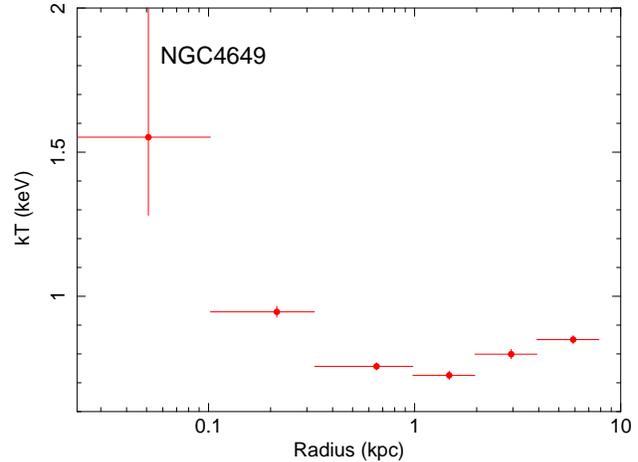


Figure 9. The deprojected temperature profile of NGC 4649 determined using *Chandra* data. It shows an unusual central peak.

which indicates turbulent motions in the core. The measured radial velocities of the emission line nebulae are mostly within about $\sim 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. The kinematics of emission line nebulae in the sample of elliptical galaxies studied by Caon et al. (2000) indicates chaotic gas motions with velocities of about $M = 0.2\text{--}0.4$. In cooling cores, optical emission line nebulae often spatially coincide with soft X-ray emission (e.g. Sparks et al. 2004; Fabian et al. 2006), which indicates a coupling, suggesting that the two gas phases should share the same turbulent velocities.

The dense cores of NGC 4636 and NGC 5813 show strong evidence of recent violent interaction between the hot plasma and the AGN. This interaction is expected to induce turbulence through the mechanical activity of the outflows (Churazov et al. 2001). Our results indicate that the typical velocities of the AGN induced turbulent motions in the hot plasma on sub-kpc spatial scales are less than $100\text{--}200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Gas motions on larger spatial scales likely have larger velocities. Observations of the Perseus cluster suggest both turbulent and laminar gas motions with velocities as high as 700 km s^{-1} (Fabian et al. 2003b,a). The observed lack of resonant scattering in the 6.7 keV Fe-K line within the inner $\sim 100 \text{ kpc}$ (Churazov et al. 2004) of Perseus confirms the presence of such strong gas motions. AGN induced gas motions with large range of velocities along our line of sight, perhaps even on spatial scales smaller than $\approx 1 \text{ kpc}$, could explain the observed lack of resonant scattering in the 15.01 Å Fe xvii line in M 87 (the analysis of a $0.5'$ wide extraction region centred on the core of M 87 gives $(I_{117.05} + I_{117.10})/I_{115.01} = 1.3 \pm 0.3$, Werner et al. 2006). We note that the central AGN in Perseus and in M 87 are more active in X-rays than the AGN in the target galaxies of this study.

The dense cores of galaxies showing smaller disturbance by AGN might be expected to exhibit less turbulence than the heavily disturbed systems. Therefore, we might expect the 15.01 Å line to be more suppressed in the most relaxed galaxies in our sample. While there is a weak indication of the suppression increasing from the least to the most relaxed systems: from NGC 5813 and NGC 4636, to NGC 4472, the large errorbars on the line ratios and the small number of galaxies in the sample do not allow us to draw firm conclusions.

The best fit line ratio in the apparently relaxed galaxy NGC 4649 shows no indication for resonant scattering in its core. The lack of observable optical depth effects in this galaxy can be explained by the unusual temperature profile of its gaseous halo,

which exhibits a sharp temperature peak in its centre (see Fig. 9, Allen et al. in prep.). Within the central 0.1 kpc of the galaxy, the temperature increases by about a factor of 2 to ~ 1.5 keV, at which no Fe xvii is present in the gas, implying that all the observed Fe xvii emission is from lower density regions surrounding the hot core. The high temperature might be due to shock heating by the central AGN (e.g. Shurkin et al. 2008). None of the other galaxies in our sample shows such an unusual temperature profile (Allen et al. 2006, Allen et al. in prep.).

Unfortunately, the high temperatures of cluster cores do not allow us to use Fe xvii lines as a diagnostic tool to measure the effects of resonant scattering and thus place firm constraints on turbulent velocities in the intra-cluster medium. No other lines have a comparable sensitivity to the turbulent velocities. However, the dense cores of elliptical galaxies, are in terms of the dominant physical processes like cooling and AGN feedback, sufficiently similar to cooling cores of clusters of galaxies to argue that the turbulent velocities on small spatial scales, and thus the turbulent pressure support in these systems, are also likely to be low. This is encouraging for cosmological studies based on X-ray observations of galaxy clusters (e.g. Allen et al. 2008; Mantz et al. 2008; Henry et al. 2008; Vikhlinin et al. 2008). Simulations predict that turbulent gas motions in the intra-cluster medium can provide 5%–25% of the total pressure support through the virial region of clusters, potentially biasing low hydrostatic mass estimates, even in relaxed systems (e.g. Nagai et al. 2007). However, these predictions depend sensitively on the gas physics assumed. Our results argue that such turbulence may be suppressed in nature, at least within the inner regions of such systems. For the merging unrelaxed Coma cluster, a $\sim 10\%$ lower limit on turbulent pressure support was obtained by Schuecker et al. (2004) from a Fourier analysis of pressure maps. In the range 40–90 kpc, the turbulent spectrum was found to be well described by a projected Kolmogorov/Oboukhov-type model.

Future, deeper (of the order of ~ 500 ks) observations of large nearby elliptical galaxies with the *XMM-Newton* RGS should provide even tighter constraints on turbulent velocities from resonant scattering. X-ray calorimeters on future missions such as *Astro-H* and *International X-ray Observatory (IXO)* will enable direct measurements of the velocity-broadening of emission lines in the hot gas in galaxies, groups, and clusters of galaxies (Sunyaev et al. 2003; Inogamov & Sunyaev 2003; Rebusco et al. 2008), thereby allowing an independent check on our results as well as a critical extension to higher mass systems. However, we note that even the excellent (2–5 eV) spectral resolution of these instruments will not allow measurements of turbulent motions with velocities significantly smaller than 100–200 km s⁻¹. Even though, the broad point spread function of the *Astro-H* mirrors will prohibit investigations of the effects of resonant scattering on spatial scales smaller than presented in this paper, it will for the first time allow us to directly measure the gas motions and spatially map them out to larger radii. The next planned X-ray observatory able to produce a real breakthrough by mapping the gas motions in groups and clusters of galaxies at high spatial resolution, will be *IXO*.

An important consequence of resonant scattering is the bias it can introduce in measurements of radial profiles of abundances of chemical elements. As we show in Table 3, the integrated emission of several strong resonance lines is significantly suppressed within the inner 2 kpc of NGC 4636. By ignoring the effects of resonant scattering, the Fe and O abundance will be underestimated by 10–20% within this region. This conclusion is in line with the results of Sanders & Fabian (2006). However, while resonant scattering

makes abundances appear to be 10–20% lower than the real value, it cannot explain the much stronger abundance dips seen in the cores of several clusters of galaxies (e.g. Sanders & Fabian 2002).

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