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Title: The Hercules cluster in X-rays with XMM-Newton and Chandra.

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Abstract:

We present a detailed X-ray study of the central subcluster of the nearby (z~0.0368) Hercules cluster (Abell 2151) identified as A2151C that shows a bimodal structure. A bright clump of hot gas with X-ray emission extending to radius r~304 kpc and LX=3.03+0.02−0.04×1043 erg s−1 in the 0.4-7.0 keV energy range is seen as a fairly regular subclump towards the west (A2151C(B)). An irregular, fainter and cooler subclump with radius r~364 kpc is seen towards the east (A2151C(F)) and has LX = $1.13 \pm 0.02 \times 1043$ erg s-1 in the 0.4-7.0 keV energy band. The average temperature and elemental abundance of A2151C(B) are 2.01 \pm 0.05 keV and 0.43 \pm 0.05 Z_O, respectively, while these values are 1.17 ± 0.04 keV and 0.13 ± 0.02 Z_O for A2151C(F). Low temperature (1.55 \pm 0.07 keV) and a short cooling time (\sim 0.81 Gyr) within the central 15 arcsec region confirm the presence of a cool core in A2151C(B). We identify several compact groups of galaxies within A2151C(F). We find that A2151C(F) is a distinct galaxy group in the process of formation and likely not a ram-pressure stripped part of the eastern subcluster in Hercules (A2151E). X-ray emission from A2151C shows a region of overlap between A2151C(B) and A2151C(F) but without any enhancement of temperature or entropy in the two-dimensional (2D) projected thermodynamic maps that could have indicated an interaction due to a merger between the two subclumps.

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