THE EVOLUTION OF THE INTRA(CLUSTER) MEDIUM METALLICITY IN SUNYA’EV ZEL’DOVICH-SELECTED GALAXY CLUSTERS AT 0 < z < 1.5

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ABSTRACT

We present the results of an X-ray spectral analysis of 153 galaxy clusters observed with the Chandra, XMM-Newton, and Suzaku space telescopes. These clusters, which span 0 < z < 1.5, were drawn from a larger, mass-selected sample of galaxy clusters discovered in the 2500 square degree South Pole Telescope Sunyaev Zel’dovich (SPT-SZ) survey. With a total combined exposure time of 9.1 Ms, these data yield the strongest constraints to date on the evolution of the metal content of the intracluster medium (ICM). We find no evidence for strong evolution in the global (r < R500) ICM metallicity (dZ/dz = −0.06 ± 0.04 Z⊙), with a mean value at z = 0.6 of (Z) = 0.23 ± 0.01 Z⊙, and a scatter of σZ = 0.08 ± 0.01 Z⊙. These results imply that the emission-weighted metallicity has not changed by more than 40% since z = 1 (at 95% confidence), consistent with the picture of an early (z > 1) enrichment. We find, in agreement with previous works, a significantly higher mean value for the metallicity in the centers of cool core clusters versus non-cool core clusters. We find weak evidence for evolution in the central metallicity of cool core clusters (dZ/dz = −0.21 ± 0.11 Z⊙), which is sufficient to account for this enhanced central metallicity over the past ∼10 Gyr. We find no evidence for metallicity evolution outside of the core (dZ/dz = −0.03 ± 0.06 Z⊙), and no significant difference in the core-excised metallicity between cool core and non-cool core clusters. This suggests that strong radio-mode active galactic nucleus feedback does not significantly alter the distribution of metals at r > 0.15R500. Given the limitations of current-generation X-ray telescopes in constraining the ICM metallicity at z > 1, significant improvements on this work will likely require next-generation X-ray missions.

Key words: galaxies: clusters: general – galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – X-rays: galaxies: clusters

1. INTRODUCTION

Galaxy clusters, which are the most massive collapsed structures in the universe, are made up of hundreds to thousands of galaxies, a massive reservoir of hot (≳107 K) plasma, and dark matter. The latter dominates the mass budget, contributing ~90% of the total mass for a massive galaxy cluster (e.g., Chiu et al. 2014). Of the remaining ~10% in mass, the hot intracluster medium (ICM) outweighs the stars by a factor of roughly ten (e.g., Lin et al. 2003; Gonzalez et al. 2013). Visible in X-rays as diffuse emission on Mpc scales, the hot ICM retains the imprint of the cluster history in its thermodynamic and chemical abundance profiles and in its X-ray morphology, allowing major events in the history of a given cluster to be inferred billions of years later.

The chemical abundance of the hot ICM contains the cumulative enrichment history from various processes since the Big Bang, including mass loss from evolved stars, heavy element enrichment from supernovae, and dilution of metals due to mixing with low-metallicity gas infalling along cosmic filaments. In practice, with CCD-resolution X-ray spectra from Chandra and XMM-Newton, constraints on the ICM metal abundance come primarily from the equivalent width measure-
& Grevesse (1989). In “cool core” clusters—those with central cooling times significantly shorter than the age of the universe (e.g., Hudson et al. 2010)—the metallicity peaks in the center (e.g., De Grandi & Molendi 2001; De Grandi et al. 2004; Baldi et al. 2007; Leccardi & Molendi 2008; Johnson et al. 2011; Elkholy et al. 2015), sometimes reaching values $Z > Z_\odot$ (e.g., Kirkpatrick & McNamara 2015). This may be owing to the fact that the central, most massive galaxy (which can enrich the ICM via stellar mass loss) tends to be in the cluster center for cool core clusters, leading to centrally peaked stellar-to-gas ratios for these systems which is not present in non-cool core clusters.

The metal enrichment history of the ICM remains a mystery. Recent studies (e.g., Balestra et al. 2007; Maughan et al. 2008; Anderson et al. 2009; Andreon 2012; Baldi et al. 2012; Ettori et al. 2015) have attempted to quantify how the metallicity evolves, both in the core and outer regions, for galaxy clusters at $0 \lesssim z \lesssim 1$. Using data from the Chandra X-ray Observatory, Maughan et al. (2008) reported evolution of the metal abundance for 115 galaxy clusters at $z < 1.3$. The sample, defined as all known clusters with existing data in the Chandra archive at the time, is fairly representative of the true cluster population at low redshift, but is biased toward extreme (well-studied) systems at high redshift. Further, it is known that some of the most relaxed systems (which exhibit enhanced metallicity in their cores) have been missed by X-ray surveys because their cool cores appear point-like at large distances (e.g., the Phoenix cluster; McDonald et al. 2012). The sample used by Maughan et al. (2008) had few (12) clusters at $z > 0.7$, where they observed the strongest evolution. More recent studies, first by Baldi et al. (2012) and then Ettori et al. (2015), reported results from the XMM-Newton telescope, employing a sample of all clusters in the archive at $z > 0.4$. This sample likely suffers from similar selection biases to the study by Maughan et al. (2008). These later works find no measurable evolution in the global metallicity of clusters at $z < 1.39$, although Ettori et al. (2015) find marginal ($>2\sigma$) evidence for evolution in the centers of cool core clusters. None of these studies find a strong dependence between cluster mass (or temperature) and metallicity, with Baldi et al. (2012) reporting $Z \propto kT^{0.06 \pm 0.16}$.

Here, we present the first study of ICM metallicity evolution in a sample of galaxy clusters selected via the Sunyaev Zel’dovich (SZ) effect (Sunyaev & Zeldovich 1972). This selection yields a mass-limited, redshift-independent sample of clusters that is relatively unbiased to the presence or lack of a cool core (Lin et al. 2015). We focus here on X-ray follow-up of galaxy clusters at $0 < z < 1.2$, providing the best constraints on the global metallicity evolution and the radius-dependent evolution over this redshift range. The data used in this analysis, from the Chandra, XMM-Newton, and Suzaku telescopes, are described in Section 2. In Section 3 we present the constraints on metallicity evolution, and describe the dependence of this evolution on the presence or lack of a cool core. In Section 4 we speculate on the cause of metal enrichment, both in the cores and outskirts of galaxy clusters, and compare our results to previous works. Finally, in Section 5 we will summarize the results and comment on the ability of future surveys to improve these constraints.

Throughout this work we assume $H_0 = 70$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$, $\Omega_M = 0.3$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$.

![Figure 1. Distribution of cluster masses ($M_{500}$) vs. redshift for 516 clusters discovered in the full SPT-SZ survey (gray points; Bleem et al. 2015). Clusters observed with Chandra, XMM-Newton, and Suzaku are colored red, blue, and green, respectively. This figure demonstrates the clean mass selection of this sample. Masses in this plot are estimated from the SZ significance, following Bleem et al. (2015).](image)

2. DATA AND ANALYSIS

2.1. The South Pole Telescope Cluster Survey

This work is based on a sample of 516 galaxy clusters selected via the SZ effect in the 2500 square degree South Pole Telescope Sunyaev Zel’dovich (SPT-SZ) Survey (Bleem et al. 2015). This survey, completed in 2011, discovered 516 galaxy clusters in the southern sky, at $0 < z < 1.7$ with masses $M_{500} \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{14} M_\odot$. For a more detailed description of the selection and cluster properties, the reader is directed to Bleem et al. (2015). For a subsample of 153 clusters we have X-ray follow-up from the Chandra, XMM-Newton, and/or Suzaku telescopes. The mass-redshift distribution for the clusters with follow-up X-ray data is shown in Figure 1. This figure emphasizes the uniform mass selection and broad redshift coverage of our sample. Below, we describe in detail the follow-up strategy and data analysis for each of these three X-ray observatories.

2.2. SPT–Chandra Sample

From the larger sample of 516 confirmed clusters in the SPT-SZ survey, we have performed a nearly mass-limited X-ray follow-up of 96 clusters at $0.25 < z < 1.5$ and $M_{500} \gtrsim 4 \times 10^{14} M_\odot$ with the Chandra X-ray Observatory. The majority of these clusters were observed as part of either an X-ray Visionary Program to obtain shallow X-ray imaging of the 80 most massive SPT-selected clusters at $z > 0.3$ (PI: Benson) or a Large Program to observe 10 SPT-selected clusters at $z > 1.2$ (PI: McDonald). The remaining systems were observed through various smaller GO (PIs: McDonald, Mohr) and GTO (PIs: Garmire, Murray) programs, or were available in the archive. The details of these observations are summarized in McDonald et al. (2013, 2014).

For each SPT-selected cluster observed with Chandra, the total exposure time was estimated with a goal of obtaining 2000 X-ray counts, assuming relationships between the SZ...
detection significance and cluster mass, and between cluster mass and X-ray luminosity (Andersson et al. 2011). Owing to significant scatter in these relations, coupled with uncertainty in preliminary cluster redshifts, the observed X-ray counts vary by a factor of ~2.5 around this goal (see Figure 2 in McDonald et al. 2014). We have much deeper data (\( \geq 10,000 \) counts) on a subset of 7 well-studied clusters in this sample (e.g., Bullet Cluster [PI: Markevitch], E1 Gordo [PI: Hughes], Phoenix [PI: McDonald]), which yields well-measured metallicities in a subsample of systems. We note that, since we consider both the intrinsic scatter and measurement uncertainty in our fitting procedure, the inclusion of high-signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) systems will not strongly bias our results. We will return to this point in Section 5.2.

For each cluster we estimate \( R_{500} \), the radius within which the average enclosed density is 500 times the critical density \( (\rho_{\text{crit}}) \), based on the SZ-derived mass presented in Bleem et al. (2015). We note that SZ-derived masses may be underestimated for low-\( z \) (\( z < 0.25 \)) clusters and are only approximate for low-significance (\( \xi < 5 \)) clusters (Bleem et al. 2015). However, this already-small bias has a reduced \( (M^{1/3}) \) effect on the inferred radius, which has an even smaller effect on the integrated metallicity, given the flatness of the metallicity profile at \( r \sim R_{500} \) (Leccardi & Molendi 2008).

### 2.2.1. Chandra Data Reduction

X-ray data from Chandra are reduced following procedures outlined in Vikhlinin et al. (2005), Andersson et al. (2011), and McDonald et al. (2013, 2014) using CIAO v4.7 and CALDB v4.6.8, along with the latest blank-sky background and response files. All exposures are initially filtered for background flares, before applying the latest calibration corrections and determining the appropriate (epoch-based) blank-sky background. Given that the typical angular size of a galaxy cluster at \( z = 0.6 \) is only ~2/5, we are also able to extract off-source background files at distances of \( > 3 R_{500} \) from the cluster center for each observation. Blank-sky background spectra are rescaled based on the observed 9.5–12 keV flux, and subtracted from both on- and off-source spectra. Any residual background (e.g., from unresolved point sources or galactic emission) is accounted for by simultaneous modeling of on- and off-source spectra (see below). Point sources are identified using an automated routine following a wavelet decomposition technique (Vikhlinin et al. 1998), and then visually inspected. The center of the cluster is chosen by iteratively measuring the centroid in a 250–500 kpc annulus, following McDonald et al. (2013). This choice of center is insensitive to structure in the core and is a more accurate proxy for the center of the underlying dark matter potential than the X-ray peak.

### 2.2.2. Chandra Spectral Fitting

For each cluster observation, we extract spectra in three different annuli: (i) \( 0 < r < R_{500} \) (total); (ii) \( 0 < r < 0.15R_{500} \) (core); and (iii) \( 0.15R_{500} < r < R_{500} \) (core-excised). The first of these annuli will be compared with measurements from XMM-Newton and Suzaku, which, for the high-\( z \) systems (\( z > 1 \)), do not have sufficient angular resolution to excise the core or identify whether the cluster harbors a cool core or not. The combination of full-aperture data from all three telescopes will allow us to tightly constrain the evolution of the total metal content in clusters out to \( z \sim 1 \). The latter two annuli, which we can only measure using the high angular resolution Chandra data, will provide weaker constraints on how this evolution depends on the presence or lack of a cool core, and whether it is stronger in the core than in the outskirts.

Spectra are individually fit in combination with their respective background spectra (see Section 2.2.1) over the energy range 0.5–10.0 keV with xspec (v12.9.0; Arnaud 1996), using a combination of a single-temperature plasma (apec; Smith et al. 2001), a soft X-ray Galactic background (apec; \( kT = 0.18 \) keV, \( Z = Z_{\odot}, \ z = 0 \)), a hard X-ray cosmic background (bremss, \( kT = 40 \) keV), and a Galactic absorption model (phabs). Metallicity measurements are based on the solar abundances of Anders & Grevesse (1989). For each observation, the normalization of the hard X-ray background is tied between the on- and off-source spectra, while the soft X-ray background is tied between all spectra for a given cluster (i.e., multiple OBSIDs). This difference is accounted for the fact that the hard X-ray background should be exposure time dependent (i.e., larger fraction of the cosmic X-ray background (CXB) resolved into point sources for long exposure times), while the soft, diffuse X-ray background is not. An example result of this fitting procedure is shown in Figure 2.

The inferred ICM metallicity is most sensitive to the Fe Kα emission line at 6.7 keV. Since the fit to this line is also strongly dependent on the cluster redshift, we allow the redshift to float in the fitting procedure within the 2\( \sigma \) uncertainties quoted by Bleem et al. (2015). For photometric redshifts, this uncertainty is typically \( \Delta z \sim 0.02 (1 + z) \). For spectroscopic redshifts, we use a fixed uncertainty of 3000 km s\(^{-1}\) (\( \Delta z \sim 0.01 \)). In a similar fashion, we allow the Galactic absorption column to float within ~15% of the measured value from Kalberla et al. (2005), which tends to improve the continuum fit. Goodness-of-fit is determined using a modified version of the \( \chi^2 \) parameter, following Churazov et al. (1996), which has been shown to yield unbiased parameter estimates for spectra containing as few as ~50 total counts.

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For each cluster, we use the Markov-Chain Monte-Carlo (MCMC) solver in \textsc{xspec} as described in Section 2.2.2. We highlight four clusters in color, which demonstrate weak (green, black) and strong (blue, red) constraints for low-metallicity (blue, green) and high-metallicity (black, red) clusters.

![Figure 3. Probability distribution functions for the ICM metallicity (P(Z)) at r < R_{500} for 96 SPT-selected clusters that have been observed with \textit{Chandra}. These curves were derived using the Monte Carlo Markov Chain solver in \textsc{xspec}, as described in Section 2.2.2. We highlight four clusters in color, which demonstrate weak (green, black) and strong (blue, red) constraints for low-metallicity (blue, green) and high-metallicity (black, red) clusters.]

2.3. \textit{XMM-Newton} Data and Spectral Fitting

A significant number of SPT-selected clusters have been observed by \textit{XMM-Newton} as part of several different programs including, but not limited to, those focused on weak lensing mass calibration (PIs: Benson, Suhada) and the study of the highest redshift SPT-selected systems (PIs: Benson, Anderson). In all, as of the end of 2015, 69 SPT-selected clusters have been observed by \textit{XMM-Newton}, with no preference in selection for the dynamical/cooling state of the cluster—the full details of this sample are provided in E. Bulbul et al. (2016, in preparation). Given that the fraction of cool cores in this randomly selected subsample should be representative of the true population, we are justified in combining these data with the larger, more complete sample of 96 clusters observed with \textit{Chandra}.

Event files were calibrated using the \textit{XMM-Newton} Science Analysis System version 14.0.0, and the most recent calibration files as of 2015 October. Calibrated, clean event files were produced after filtering for high intensity particle-background flares. Additional details of data reduction and analysis are described in detail in Bulbul et al. (2012b).

The images are extracted in a 0.4–7.0 keV bandpass from all instruments and pointings. The particle background and soft proton background subtracted images were used to detect the point source in the field of view. Detected point sources were excluded from the further analysis. The source and background spectra were extracted within the overdensity radius R_{500} as derived from Bleem et al. (2015). We model the background with a superposition of four main components: quiescent particle background, CXB emission (including Galactic halo, local hot bubble, and unresolved extragalactic sources), solar wind charge exchange, and residual contamination from soft protons. We use the \textit{ROSAT} All-Sky Survey background spectrum which is extracted from an annulus from 0.5 to 1.5° surrounding the cluster center to model the soft X-ray background. The 0.3–10 keV energy interval is used for MOS spectra, whereas the 0.4–10.0 keV band was used for the PN fits. The remaining cluster model parameters and fitting process was identical to that used in the \textit{Chandra} analysis.

2.4. \textit{Suzaku} Data and Spectral Fitting

Four SPT-selected clusters were observed with \textit{Suzaku} during Cycle 6 (PI: E. Miller). One of the primary goals of this program was to constrain the metallicity of galaxy clusters at high redshift, with the four clusters spanning 0.7 < z < 1.1 (see Figure 1). These systems were found to have slightly higher than average metallicities, with values ranging from 0.26–0.45Z_{\odot} (Miller et al. 2012). However, with only four clusters, we were unable to make any claim on metallicity evolution with certainty. Thus, we have included these four high-S/N measurements into a larger sample, which provide marginal improvements on the overall metallicity evolution of SPT-selected clusters.

Event data for XIS0, XIS1, and XIS3 were reprocessed using the most current \textit{Suzaku} calibration products as of 2015 September. Point sources were identified from shallow \textit{Chandra} data for each cluster using the CIAO tool \textsc{wavdetect}, and masked out in the \textit{Suzaku} data to a radius of 1. Spectra for cluster emission were extracted from a region 2.4° in radius centered on the X-ray peak (about twice the typical R_{500} for these four clusters) to account for the large size (2.4° half-power diameter) of the \textit{Suzaku} point-spread function (PSF). This is sufficient to collect 99% of the counts from an on-axis point source. X-ray background spectra were extracted from the remaining source-free regions of each detector, excluding the central 5′, the calibration source regions, and bad detector areas.

Response files were produced for the source and X-ray background with xissimfgen and xissimarfgen, the latter using a background-subtracted \textit{Chandra} image of the cluster as an input source for ray-tracing to produce the cluster auxiliary response file (ARF). The X-ray background ARF was constructed using a uniform, 20′ radius source. Particle background spectra were produced for each source and X-ray background region with the FTOOL xissimarfgen, with a filter to
exclude parts of the spacecraft orbit with low geomagnetic cut-off rigidity (COR2 > 6 GV) and thus reduce the background. This filter was also applied to the source and X-ray background spectra.

Spectral fitting was performed with XSPEC v12.9, fitting all three XIS simultaneously with all free parameters tied between instruments. The particle background spectra were subtracted from the source and X-ray background spectra during spectral fitting. The X-ray background model consisted of a one solar-abundance APEC component to model the total Galactic foreground, with temperature and normalization free; and one power law component with fixed $\Gamma = 1.4$ and free normalization to model the unresolved CXB. Both components were absorbed by the same N$_{HI}$ column as the cluster model. The X-ray background parameters were tied between the cluster and background regions. The remaining cluster model parameters and fitting process is identical to that used in the Chandra analysis.

3. NON-PARAMETRIC METALLICITY EVOLUTION

The ultimate goal of this work is to quantify how the integrated ICM metallicity has evolved in galaxy clusters over the past $\sim$9 Gyr. As a first step, we show in Figure 4 the evolution in the ICM metallicity for subsamples of 21 clusters from $z \sim 0.2$ to $z \sim 1.2$, based on the full sample of clusters from three X-ray observatories. In each redshift bin, we combine the $P(Z)$ distributions for the 21 nearest clusters in redshift space, showing the median value of this combined probability distribution, as well as the 1$\sigma$ (dark gray) and 2$\sigma$ (light gray) widths. This figure provides three initial insights into the evolution of the ICM metallicity, characterized by a width $c$, the probability that a cluster at redshift $z$ has a metallicity $Z$ is given by:

$$P^c(Z|z, a, b, c) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi c^2}} \exp \left( -\frac{(Z - (a + bz))^2}{2c^2} \right).$$

Combining these probabilities for the full sample yields the posterior probability for the set of model parameters:

$$P(a, b, c|Z) \propto P(a, b, c) \int dZ P^c(Z|z_i, a, b, c) P(Z_i),$$

where $i$ refers to a given cluster, $P(a, b, c)$ is the prior probability (taken to be flat for all parameters), and $P(Z_i)$ is the probability distribution for the metallicity of a given cluster, as obtained from xspec (e.g., Figure 3). We can then write the approximate likelihood as:

$$P(a, b, c|Z) \propto \prod_{i}^{N} P(Z_i|z_i, a, b, c),$$

where $Z_{ij}$ denotes the $j$th sample (from $N = 10^5$ total samples) drawn from the posterior $Z$ distribution of the $i$th cluster, as given by the MCMC solver in xspec. This posterior probability distribution of the model parameters is then explored using a uniformly spaced fine grid in all three parameters. We note that, by including intrinsic scatter in this fit, we reduce the effect that a few high S/N systems can have on the fit outcome. This
approach is similar to considering a modified \( \chi^2 \) of the form \( \Sigma (x_i - \mu)^2 / (\sigma_i^2 + \sigma_{\text{intrinsic}}^2) \).

Applying this formalism to the data described in Section 2 yields posterior distributions for \( a, b, c \), which we now assign the more physically appropriate labels of \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.6] \), \( dZ/dz \), and \( \sigma_Z \), respectively. In Figure 5, we show the constraints on each of these three parameters for the full set of 153 clusters with Chandra, XMM-Newton, and/or Suzaku data. Here we are considering the evolution of the global metallicity \( r < R_{500} \). For this sample, we find \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.6] = 0.23 \pm 0.01 \text{Z}_\odot \), \( dZ/dz = -0.06 \pm 0.04 \text{Z}_\odot \), and \( \sigma_Z = 0.08 \pm 0.01 \text{Z}_\odot \)—this best-fitting model is overplotted on the data in Figure 4. The \( 1\sigma \) contours for all three parameters overlap between subsamples, suggesting that there is no systematic difference in either selection or treatment of the data.

Figure 5 indicates that there is very little (if any) evolution in the global ICM metallicity over the past \( \sim 9 \) Gyr. These data indicate that, in a typical galaxy cluster with \( M_{500} \gtrsim 3 \times 10^{14} \text{M}_\odot \), the emission-weighted metallicity has changed by less than 40% since \( z = 1 \) (>95% confidence). Such a lack of evolution is consistent with previous studies, with this work providing the strongest constraints to date. One can ask whether the evolution is stronger in the cores of clusters, where baryonic processes are important, than in the cluster outskirts, or whether the dynamical state of the cluster (e.g., relaxed or unrelaxed) has any bearing on the observed metallicity. To address both of these questions, we require the high angular resolution provided by Chandra and, thus, will limit the remaining analysis in this section to the 96 clusters with Chandra observations.

The measured evolution of the spatially resolved ICM metallicity for clusters observed with Chandra is shown in Figure 6 and summarized in Table 1. As described in Section 2, we consider the metallicity in the core volume \( r < R_{500} \), the core-excised volume \( (0.15 R_{500} < r < R_{500}) \), and the full volume \( r < R_{500} \). Figure 6 shows that these data, despite being of relatively low quality on a per-cluster basis (\( \sim 2000 \) X-ray counts per cluster), provide excellent constraints on the metallicity evolution. We exclude XMM-Newton and Suzaku data from this part of the analysis, due to the fact that, at \( z > 0.5 \), >20% of the flux from the core will be scattered outside of 0.15 \( R_{500} \). Given the broad redshift range covered, disentangling this PSF-driven bias in the core-excised metallicity from an actual evolution would be challenging.

We find that the core-excised metallicity has a mean value of \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.6] = 0.17 \pm 0.02 \text{Z}_\odot \) and \( dZ/dz = -0.03 \pm 0.06 \), corresponding to a mean value at redshift zero of \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.0] = 0.19 \pm 0.04 \text{Z}_\odot \). This is remarkably consistent with the measured value from deep observations of the Perseus cluster of \( 0.212 \pm 0.008 \text{Z}_\odot \) (Werner et al. 2013), and other nearby clusters (Leccardi & Molendi 2008), assuming solar abundances from Anders & Grevesse (1989). We find no evidence for evolution in the metallicity outside of the core, independent of whether the cluster is a cool core or non-cool core, suggesting that the bulk of the metals outside of the core were created at \( z > 1 \). Again, this is consistent with earlier work by Werner et al. (2013), who showed that the lack of azimuthal variations in the metallicity of the Perseus cluster implies that metal enrichment happened very early in the cluster lifetime. We note that there is very little intrinsic scatter in the core-excised metallicity \( \sigma_Z = 0.06 \pm 0.01 \text{Z}_\odot \), and that the mean value, redshift slope, and scatter of the metallicity outside of the core is independent of the cooling state (entropy) of the core.

In the cores of galaxy clusters \( r < 0.15 R_{500} \), we find, for the full population, significantly higher metallicity. The mean value of \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.6] = 0.32 \pm 0.03 \text{Z}_\odot \) is offset from the core-excised value by \( 5\sigma \). Further, if we divide the sample roughly in half into CC \( (K_0 < 100 \text{keV cm}^2) \) and NCC \( (K_0 > 100 \text{keV cm}^2) \) subsamples, the mean metallicity for each subsample is \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.6]_{\text{CC}} = 0.39 \pm 0.03 \text{Z}_\odot \) and \( \langle Z \rangle [z = 0.6]_{\text{NCC}} = 0.24 \pm 0.05 \text{Z}_\odot \), respectively. That is, there is a \( 4\sigma \) offset between the core metallicity in CC and NCC clusters. Despite this offset, we measure no difference in the scatter of core metallicity between CC and NCC systems. This dichotomy between the core metallicity in CC and NCC clusters is already well known and consistent with previous works (e.g., De Grandi & Molendi 2001; Leccardi & Molendi 2008).

Figure 5. Constraints on the evolution of the total metallicity within \( R_{500} \). In the upper panel, we show the constraints on the scatter and normalization, while in the lower panel we compare the slope and normalization terms. In both panels, we show constraints from each of the three telescopes individually, along with the combined constraints in gray. Contours represent confidence levels of 68%, 95%, and 99.7%. Overplotted in black dashed lines is a grid of evolutionary scenarios, to help contextualize these results. The tight constraints on the evolutionary term imply that, at most (with >95% confidence), 40% of the intracluster metals (including the core) in present-day clusters were created in the past \( \sim 8 \) Gyr. This suggests that the bulk of the metals in the ICM were most likely created very rapidly early on.
The only significant metallicity evolution is measured in the cores of CC clusters, for which we measure $dZ/dz = -0.21 \pm 0.11 Z_\odot$. While only significant at the 2σ level, it is worth noting that this evolution corresponds to, on average, ~40% of the metals in cool cores arriving between $z = 1$ and $z = 0$. This is significantly shallower than the $77^{+10}_{-16}$% evolution measured by Ettori et al. (2015)—a point we will return to in the discussion.

This analysis has provided a clear picture of the metallicity evolution in galaxy clusters at $0.2 < z < 1.5$. We find no statistically significant evolution in outskirts of clusters, independent of the dynamical state of the core, and only marginal evidence for metallicity evolution in the inner regions of cool core clusters. We confirm substantial differences between CC and NCC cores in terms of the average metallicity, with CC clusters having significantly higher average metallicity. Outside of the core, CC and NCC clusters are indistinguishable based on their metallicity. Most importantly, we find that >60% of the metals in the ICM were already in place at $z = 1$ (with >95% confidence). In the following section, we will place these results in the context of previous works and discuss their implications with regards to various enrichment scenarios.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. Comparison to Previous Works

There are a number of previous studies which have attempted to constrain the metallicity evolution of the ICM, both directly and indirectly (e.g., Balestra et al. 2007; Maughan et al. 2008; Anderson et al. 2009; Baldi et al. 2012; Werner et al. 2013; Ettori et al. 2015). Conveniently, Baldi et al. (2012) have compiled data from several of these earlier works, and expressed the metallicity evolution in a consistent way. To allow a direct comparison to these works, we will adopt the formalism of Baldi et al. (2012) for the remainder of this section. These authors describe the evolution of the ICM metallicity as $Z \propto (1 + z)^{-\gamma}$, with a normalization constant at
Table 1

Average Metallicity and Metallicity Evolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Sel.</th>
<th>$\langle Z \mid z = 0.6 \rangle$</th>
<th>$dZ/dz$</th>
<th>$\sigma_Z$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[Z_e]</td>
<td>[Z_e]</td>
<td>[Z_e]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chandra Only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0–0.15 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.32 ± 0.03</td>
<td>-0.04 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0–0.15 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.39 ± 0.03</td>
<td>-0.21 ± 0.11</td>
<td>0.08 ± 0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0–0.15 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.24 ± 0.05</td>
<td>+0.03 ± 0.18</td>
<td>0.09 ± 0.04</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.15–1.0 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.02</td>
<td>-0.03 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.06 ± 0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.15–1.0 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.16 ± 0.03</td>
<td>+0.02 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.06 ± 0.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.15–1.0 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.18 ± 0.02</td>
<td>-0.05 ± 0.09</td>
<td>0.06 ± 0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0–1.0 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.22 ± 0.02</td>
<td>-0.06 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.09 ± 0.01</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0–1.0 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.25 ± 0.03</td>
<td>-0.06 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.10 ± 0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0–1.0 $R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.19 ± 0.02</td>
<td>-0.09 ± 0.08</td>
<td>0.05 ± 0.02</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Chandra + XMM-Newton + Suzaku     | 0.23 ± 0.01 | -0.06 ± 0.04 | 0.08 ± 0.01 |

Note. Fitting parameters (normalization, slope, and scatter) from our maximum likelihood analysis described in Section 4. The sample is divided up into subsamples by radial range (core, core-excised, and total) and by the cooling state of the core (cool core, non-cool core, combined). All uncertainties quoted are 1σ. The only subsample with non-negligible metallicity evolution is the cores of cool-core clusters, and this evolution is only significant at the ~1σ level.

$z = 0.6$, leading to the expression:

$$Z(z) = \frac{Z_{0.6}}{1.6} (1 + z)^{-\gamma}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (5)

We re-run our analysis using the same model, for consistency. We also consider a new aperture, $0.15R_{500} < r < 0.5R_{500}$, which is similar to those used in previous works (e.g., Baldi et al. 2012; Ettori et al. 2015). In Figure 7 we compare the results of this re-analysis to previous works (Balestra et al. 2007; Maughan et al. 2008; Anderson et al. 2009; Baldi et al. 2012; Ettori et al. 2015). For clarity, we provide in Table 2 two easily interpreted quantities for each fit: the average metallicity predicted at $z = 0$ and the predicted change in metallicity from $z = 1$ to $z = 0$. We derive these two estimates, and their uncertainties, based on the model fits provided in the literature, and compare to this work. In general, the work presented here agrees well with results from the literature, with this work providing the tightest constraints to date on the metallicity evolution. Much of the discrepancy between works can be attributed to different apertures (see e.g., column 2 of Table 2) and different selection methods/criteria.

Considering the integrated metallicity (core included), the constraints on the evolutionary term, $\gamma$, are substantially improved by this work, compared to previous works. We find $\gamma = 0.41 ± 0.25$, consistent with no evolution. For comparison, Baldi et al. (2012) find $\gamma = 0.75 ± 0.47$, which (for a fixed normalization) is consistent with anywhere from a 0%–80% change in the emission-weighted metallicity since $z = 1$ (at 95% confidence), compared to 0%–40% found in this study. There is excellent agreement between our work and those of Anderson et al. (2009) and Baldi et al. (2012), and some tension with the earlier results of Maughan et al. (2008).

The tightest constraints prior to this work came from Ettori et al. (2015), who utilized a sample of 83 galaxy clusters at $0.08 < z < 1.4$, all observed with XMM-Newton. These cluster properties were not used in our analysis, and so the resulting constraints on the metallicity evolution are not directly comparable. The data presented here, however, provide much tighter constraints than those found by Ettori et al. (2015), with the exception of those from Ettori et al. (2015). We separate the comparison into literature measurements where the cluster core was excised, and those where it was not. In general, there is good agreement between this work and those of previous authors.

Figure 7. Constraints on integrated ($r < R_{500}$) ICM metallicity evolution from this work compared to previous works. Colored contours, which enclose 68% and 95% confidence regions, are taken from Baldi et al. (2012). The gray contours show the significantly (factor of 2) improved constraints on the evolutionary parameter $\gamma$ from this work. The lack of significant improvement in the normalization term stems from the fact that we are not actually measuring the metallicity more precisely than previous studies, nor do we have more clusters in our sample—it is the redshift distribution of these clusters that leads to an improvement in the slope.

Table 2

Comparison to Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pub</th>
<th>Extraction Radius</th>
<th>$\langle Z \mid z = 0 \rangle$</th>
<th>$\Delta Z \mid z = 0$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core-included</td>
<td>[Z_{e}]</td>
<td>[Z_{e}]</td>
<td>[Z_{e}]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This work</td>
<td>$0 &lt; r &lt; R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.28 ± 0.04</td>
<td>0.07 ± 0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B12</td>
<td>$0 &lt; r &lt; 0.6R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.41 ± 0.09</td>
<td>0.17 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A09</td>
<td>$0 &lt; r &lt; R_{500/N}$</td>
<td>0.27 ± 0.11</td>
<td>0.03 ± 0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M08</td>
<td>$0 &lt; r &lt; R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.92 ± 0.33</td>
<td>0.72 ± 0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core-excised</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This work</td>
<td>$0.15R_{500} &lt; r &lt; R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.21 ± 0.07</td>
<td>0.05 ± 0.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This work</td>
<td>$0.15R_{500} &lt; r &lt; 0.5R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.23 ± 0.06</td>
<td>0.02 ± 0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E15</td>
<td>$0.15R_{500} &lt; r &lt; 0.4R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.40 ± 0.19</td>
<td>0.16 ± 0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E15*</td>
<td>$0.15R_{500} &lt; r &lt; 0.4R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.30 ± 0.20</td>
<td>0.09 ± 0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B12</td>
<td>$0.15R_{500} &lt; r &lt; 0.6R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.34 ± 0.12</td>
<td>0.12 ± 0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLS07</td>
<td>$0.15R_{500} &lt; r &lt; 0.5R_{500}$</td>
<td>0.40 ± 0.10</td>
<td>0.15 ± 0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes. Comparison of our evolutionary constraints on the ICM metallicity to those from the literature, assuming a fitting function of the form $Z \propto (1 + z)^{-\gamma}$. All literature values here are derived from Table 4 of Baldi et al. (2012), with the exception of those from Ettori et al. (2015). References are abbreviated to BLS07 (Balestra et al. 2007), M08 (Maughan et al. 2008), A09 (Anderson et al. 2009), B12 (Baldi et al. 2012), and E15 (Ettori et al. 2015). The outer radius $R_{500}$ is based on a signal-to-noise criterion described in detail in Anderson et al. (2009). We separate the comparison into literature measurements where the cluster core was excised, and those where it was not. In general, there is good agreement between this work and those of previous authors.

* Non-cool cores only.
clusters were drawn from the literature, so the selection effects are challenging to quantify precisely. For their full sample, combining metallicities measured at all radii, Ettori et al. (2015) found a metallicity normalization ($Z_0 = 0.70 \pm 0.12$ $Z_\odot$) that is significantly higher ($>3\sigma$) than our measurement. We do not show a direct comparison to this measurement in Figure 7, since it is not an integrated measurement but rather a two-dimensional fit to both radius and redshift. The high average metallicity found by this work for the full sample suggests that it may have a higher fraction of cool cores than is representative of the true population. The strong evolution ($\gamma = 1.31 \pm 0.57$) measured by Ettori et al. (2015) may represent a redshift-dependent selection, with a higher-than-normal fraction of cool cores at low-$z$ and a lower-than-normal fraction high-$z$, consistent with other X-ray surveys.

If, instead, single apertures are considered (e.g., $0.15R_{500} < r < 0.5R_{500}$), our analysis and that of Ettori et al. (2015) agree well, with measurements of $Z_0 = 0.23 \pm 0.06$ $Z_\odot$ and $Z_0 = 0.40 \pm 0.19$ $Z_\odot$, respectively. Further, if only non-cool cores are considered, this agreement is even better, with Ettori et al. (2015) finding $Z_0 = 0.30 \pm 0.20$ $Z_\odot$. The larger disagreement on the core-excised metallicity when cool core clusters are included may be indicating an inability to fully excise the core for clusters at $z > 1$ using data from XMM-Newton. For a typical cluster in our sample, at $z = 1.2$, $0.15R_{500} \sim 12''$, which is similar in size to the on-axis FWHM of XMM-Newton. Thus, we would expect the core-excised metallicity measurements of high-$z$ cool core clusters based on XMM-Newton data to be biased slightly high.

In general, our results agree well with previous works and, in cases where there is disagreement, it is clear how both selection biases and differences in analyses could conspire to account for any discrepancies. It is worth repeating that the results presented here also agree well with the indirect measurement of non-evolving ICM metallicity from Werner et al. (2008, 2013) and Simionescu et al. (2015). These works found azimuthally uniform metallicities in the outskirts of Perseus and Virgo, with $\langle Z \rangle = 0.21 \pm 0.01Z_\odot$ and $0.16 \pm 0.03Z_\odot$, respectively (assuming the same solar abundances). These azimuthally uniform profiles were taken as evidence for a lack of metallicity evolution, since mixing times are long at large radii. These works compare favorably with ours, both in terms of the average metallicity in the outskirts of clusters at $z = 0$ ($0.21 \pm 0.07Z_\odot$ in this work), and in terms of the implied weak evolution of the ICM metallicity.

5.2. Dependence of Results on Data Quality

The majority of the data used in this program comes from a series of large programs aimed at obtaining $\sim2000$ X-ray counts per cluster. As such, the median number of counts in the 96 Chandra spectra used in this work is $\sim1800$. There are, however, 7 clusters in this sample with deep ($>10^4$ total counts) X-ray observations. These 7 systems account for 82% of the total signal from the Chandra sample of 96 clusters. To test how sensitive our analysis is to the contributions of a few systems, we determine the best-fitting parameters ($\langle Z(z = 0.6) \rangle$, $dZ/dz$, $\sigma_Z$) for the full 96-cluster Chandra sample, as well as a subsample excluding these 7 high-S/N systems.

In Figure 8 we show constraints on the best-fitting metallicity evolution model for the full Chandra sample in an aperture of $r < R_{500}$. Excluding the 7 highest S/N systems, which comprise 82% of the total X-ray signal, from this analysis has only a marginal effect. We find shifts of $1.1\sigma$, $0.04\sigma$, and $1.0\sigma$ in the normalization, slope, and scatter of the metallicity evolution. The highest signal-to-noise systems improve the constraints on the scatter by 27%, while providing relatively little improvement to the normalization and slope. This test confirms that the primary effect of including a small number of precise measurements in this analysis is to improve constraints on the scatter, and that individual systems are not driving the measured evolution.

5.3. The Origin of ICM Metal Enrichment

The results presented here strongly suggest that there has been relatively little change ($<40\%$) in the ICM metallicity since $z = 1$, consistent with observations of the outskirts of galaxy clusters, which show remarkable uniformity with azimuth (Werner et al. 2013; Simionescu et al. 2015). These metals were likely formed in a mix of core-collapse supernovae (CCSN) and SNe Ia—the fact that the relative metal abundances are also uniform with azimuth imply that enrichment from both of these sources happened relatively early.

The relative metal abundances in the outskirts of clusters indicate that the enrichment was dominated by CCSN (see review by Werner et al. 2008), with only a small fraction of the metals coming from SNe Ia (12%–37%; Simionescu et al. 2015). The data presented here are consistent with a picture in which the bulk of the metals present in the ICM today were produced from CCSN during an early stage of rapid star formation, and removed from their host galaxies via starburst-driven winds (see review by Veilleux et al. 2005). In
the centers of cool core clusters, where we observe a peak in the metallicity, it is thought that the metals are produced via SNe Ia in the central BCG (De Grandi et al. 2004).

In the centers of cool core clusters, we estimate that emission-weighted metallicity has increased by $40 \pm 20\%$ in the intervening time since $z = 1$ (see Figure 6). Assuming our best estimate of the metal enrichment rate in the centers of cool core clusters (Table 1), coupled with no evolution in the outer (core excised) metallicity, it would take $\sim 10$ Gyr to build the observed present-day central excess of metals in the centers of cool core clusters. Thus, if our maximal likelihood estimate of the core and outer metallicity evolution is correct, we would expect nearly flat metallicity profiles in galaxy clusters at $z \geq 1.5$.

One possible avenue for the outskirts of galaxy clusters to become metal-enriched is for powerful radio jets from the central cluster galaxy to push metals out from the high-metallicity core to the low-metallicity outskirts. Such metal-enriching outflows have been predicted in simulations (e.g., Gaspari et al. 2011) and observed in multiple systems (e.g., Kirkpatrick et al. 2011). In the systems studied here, we find that the average metallicity outside of the core at $z = 0.6$ is $0.16 \pm 0.03 Z_\odot$, and $0.18 \pm 0.02 Z_\odot$ for cool core and non-cool core clusters respectively (see Table 1). If we assume that radio outflows are restricted to cool core clusters (e.g., Sun 2009), the similarity in the core-excised metallicity suggests that only a small fraction of the total metals can be transported outside of the core, on average. Given the parameters in Table 1, we can say (with 95% confidence) that <10% of the metallicity in an average cool core cluster is transferred outside of the core by active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback—any higher fraction would be observable given our uncertainties. This is consistent with the results presented by Kirkpatrick et al. (2011), who showed that Fe-rich outflows extended to $\sim 0.15 R_{500}$, but not beyond, and with simulations showing that AGN feedback can not break self-similarity outside of cluster cores (Gaspari et al. 2014).

6. SUMMARY

We present an analysis of the ICM metallicity in 153 mass-selected galaxy clusters spanning $0 < z < 1.5$. This sample of clusters, observed with the Chandra, XMM-Newton, and Suzaku X-ray satellites, provides the best constraints to date on the mean, scatter, and evolution of the ICM metallicity. The main results of this work are summarized as follows:

1. We find no evidence for evolution in the global ($r < R_{500}$) ICM metallicity of clusters spanning $0 < z < 1.5$. We report that the emission-weighted metallicity has not changed by more than 40% since $z = 1$ (at 95% confidence).

2. We find a $>3\sigma$ difference between the core ($r < 0.15 R_{500}$) metallicities of cool core and non-cool core clusters, consistent with earlier works.

3. We find only a weak ($\sim 33\%$) radial increase in metallicity toward the centers of non-cool core clusters, compared to a $>140\%$ increase in the centers of cool core clusters.

4. We find no evidence for metallicity evolution in the cores of non-cool core clusters ($dZ/dz = -0.03 \pm 0.06$).

5. Our best estimate ($dZ/dz = -0.21 \pm 0.11$) suggests that the metallicity enhancement observed in the centers of low-$z$ cool cores may have been built slowly over the past $\sim 10$ Gyr.

6. We find no evidence for evolution in the core-excised ($0.15 R_{500} < r < R_{500}$) ICM metallicity, and no difference between the core-excised metallicity between cool core and non-cool core clusters. This implies that radio jets originating in the central cluster galaxy can not move a significant (>$10\%$) fraction of the metals beyond $0.15 R_{500}$ in cool core clusters.

These data imply that the bulk of the metals in the ICM were incorporated at early times ($z \gtrsim 1.2$), most likely during the peak of star formation at $z \sim 2$. This work represents a total commitment of 9.1 Ms from three of the most sensitive X-ray telescopes in orbit. As such, a significant improvement on this work is unlikely to come from deeper observations with current-generation telescopes, with the exception of potentially confirming a lack of highly enriched cool cores at $z > 1$. A more precise accounting of the enrichment history of the ICM awaits next-generation observatories, such as Athena and X-ray Surveyor, combined with samples of clusters at $z \sim 2$ which should be available with the next generation of SZ experiments (e.g., SPT-3G; Benson et al. 2014).

Much of this work was enabled by generous GTO contributions from Steve Murray, and was in progress at the time of his untimely death in 2015. He was a valued member of the Center for Astrophysics and a strong supporter of SPT science—he will be greatly missed by all of us. MM acknowledges support by NASA through contracts GO4-15122A and GO5-16141X (Chandra), and support by NASA through a Hubble Fellowship grant HST-HF51308.01-A awarded by the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., for NASA, under contract NAS 5-26555. EB acknowledges support by NASA through contract NNX123AE77G. The South Pole Telescope program is supported by the National Science Foundation through grants ANT-0638937 and PLR-1248097. This work was partially completed at Fermilab, operated by Fermi Research Alliance, LLC under Contract No. De-AC02-07CH11359 with the United States Department of Energy. Partial support is also provided by the NSF Physics Frontier Center grant PHY-0114422 to the Kavli Institute of Cosmological Physics at the University of Chicago, the Kavli Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Support for X-ray analysis was provided by NASA through Chandra Award Numbers 12800071, 12800088, and 13800883 issued by the Chandra X-ray Observatory Center, which is operated by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory for and on behalf of NASA. Argonne National Laboratory’s work was supported under the U.S. Department of Energy contract DE-AC02-07CH11357 C. R. acknowledges support from the Australian Research Council’s Discovery Projects scheme (DP150103208).

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