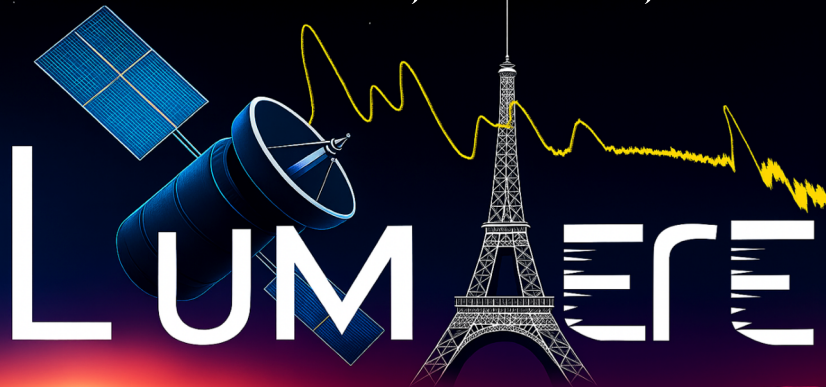


LESSONS LEARNT (XMM BACKGROUND MODELING AND MCMC SPECTRAL FITTING) FROM THE CHEX-MATE PROJECT

M. Rossetti (INAF IASF-Milano)

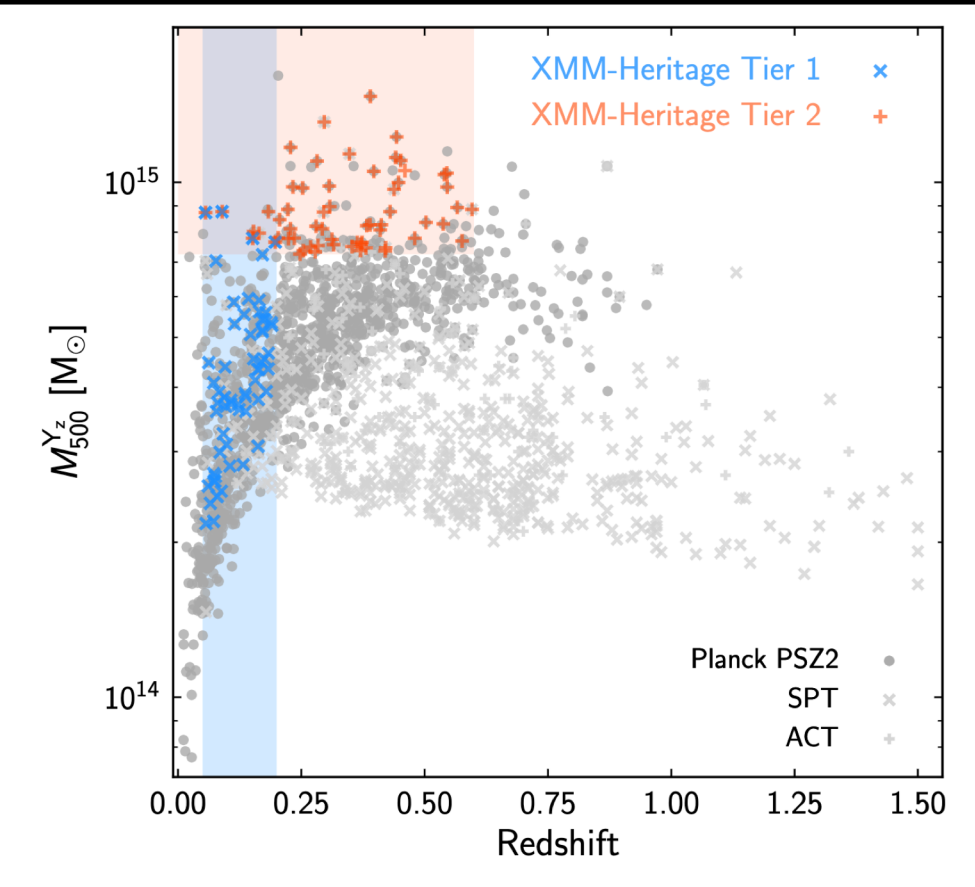
D. Eckert, G. Pratt, I. Bartalucci, S. Molendi and the CHEX-MATE Collaboration



Lumière Workshop Orsay
January 13 2026



The Cluster HERitage project with XMM-Newton: Mass Assembly and Thermodynamics at the Endpoint of structure formation



One of the six XMM Heritage program approved since 2017

PIs: S. Ettori (INAF) / G. Pratt (CEA Saclay)

84 new observations (3 Msec) in 2018-2022 + archival data (Total: > 6 Msec)

118 clusters detected by Planck at high S/N

- **Tier 1** a census of the population of clusters at the most recent times
- **Tier 2** the most massive systems to have formed thus far in the Universe

Born as X-ray project but now multi-wavelength: weak lensing, optical spectroscopy, SZ and radio data for most objects

20 accepted papers <http://xmm-heritage.oas.inaf.it/>

The Cluster HEritage project with XMM-Newton: Mass Assembly and Thermodynamics at the Endpoint of structure formation

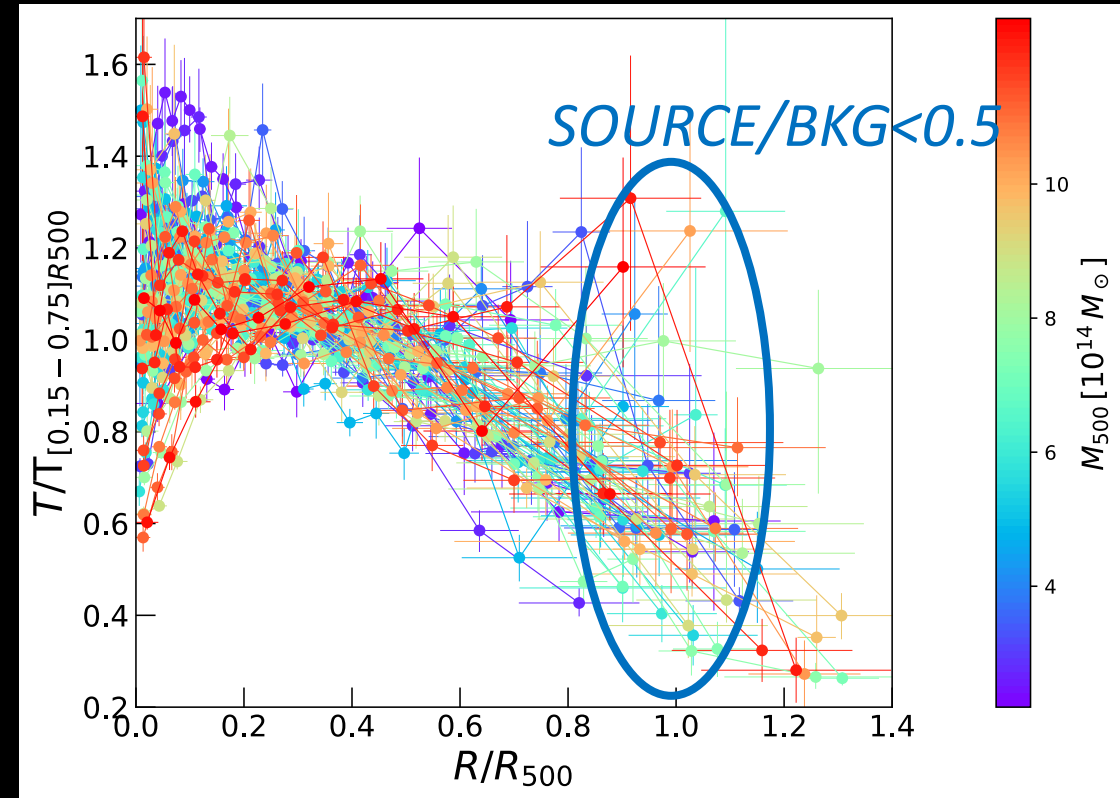
Motivating Questions (Arnaud et al 2021):

- What is the absolute cluster mass scale?
How accurately can we measure total masses basing on baryons?
- What are the properties of the «true» cluster population?
- How do the properties of the cluster population change over time?

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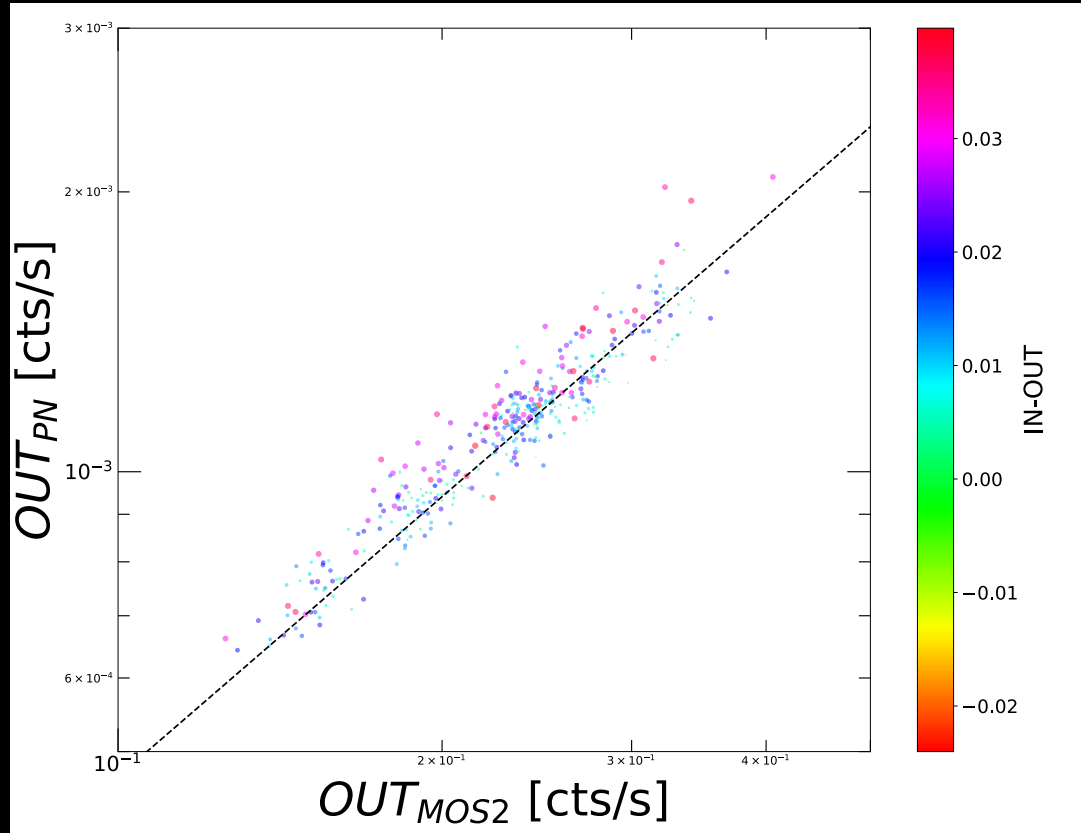
To address them we need to measure temperature profiles from spectral analysis up to external regions, where the source intensity goes much below the background level

The CHEX-MATE improved bkg model

Basing on X-COP (Eckert et al 17) and preparatory work for Athena (e.g. Gastaldello et al 22, Marelli et al 21), we built a predictive XMM background model (*MR, D. Eckert et al. 2024*)

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Background induced by Cosmic Ray Particles

- Detector regions unexposed to the sky allow us to monitor the level of CRPB in real time.
- Mature technique for MOS detectors (Snowden et al. 2008, Leccardi & Molendi 2008)
- The pn detector lacks fully unexposed regions, residual contamination from photons and soft protons (Marelli et al 2022).

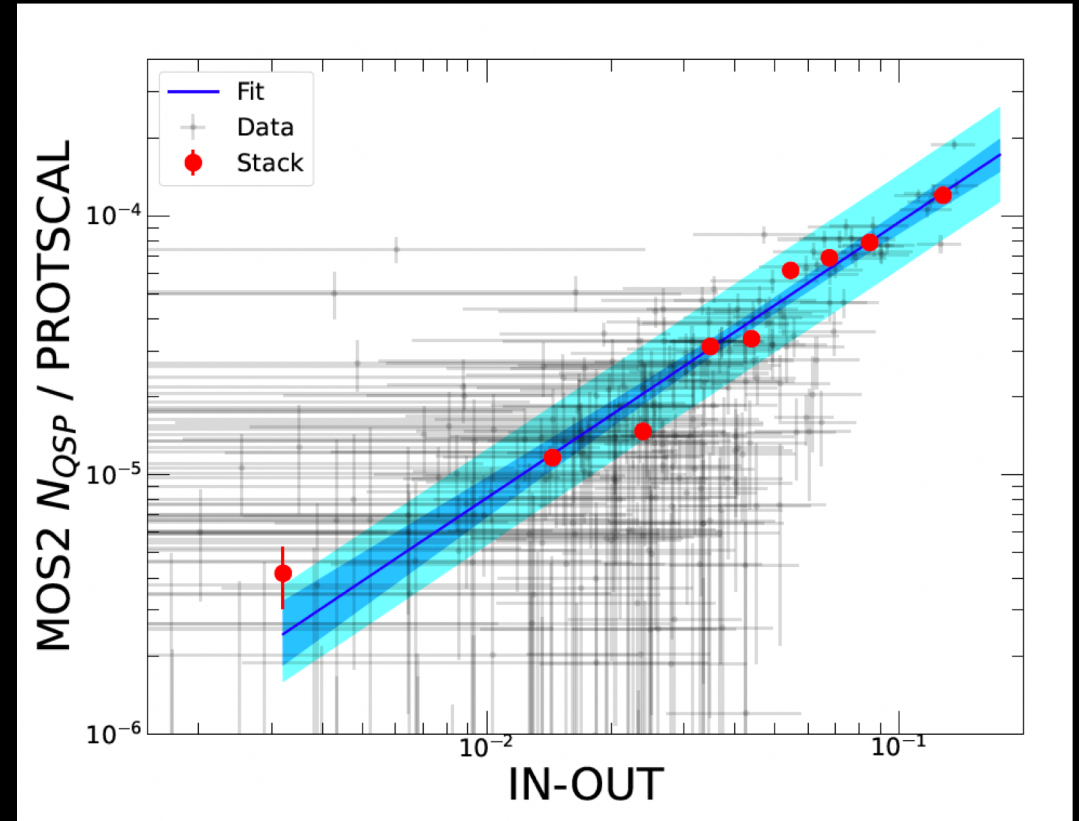
In CHEX-MATE we calibrated a relation to predict the level of CRPB from the MOS2 background level with a few % intrinsic scatter

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Residual Focused Component

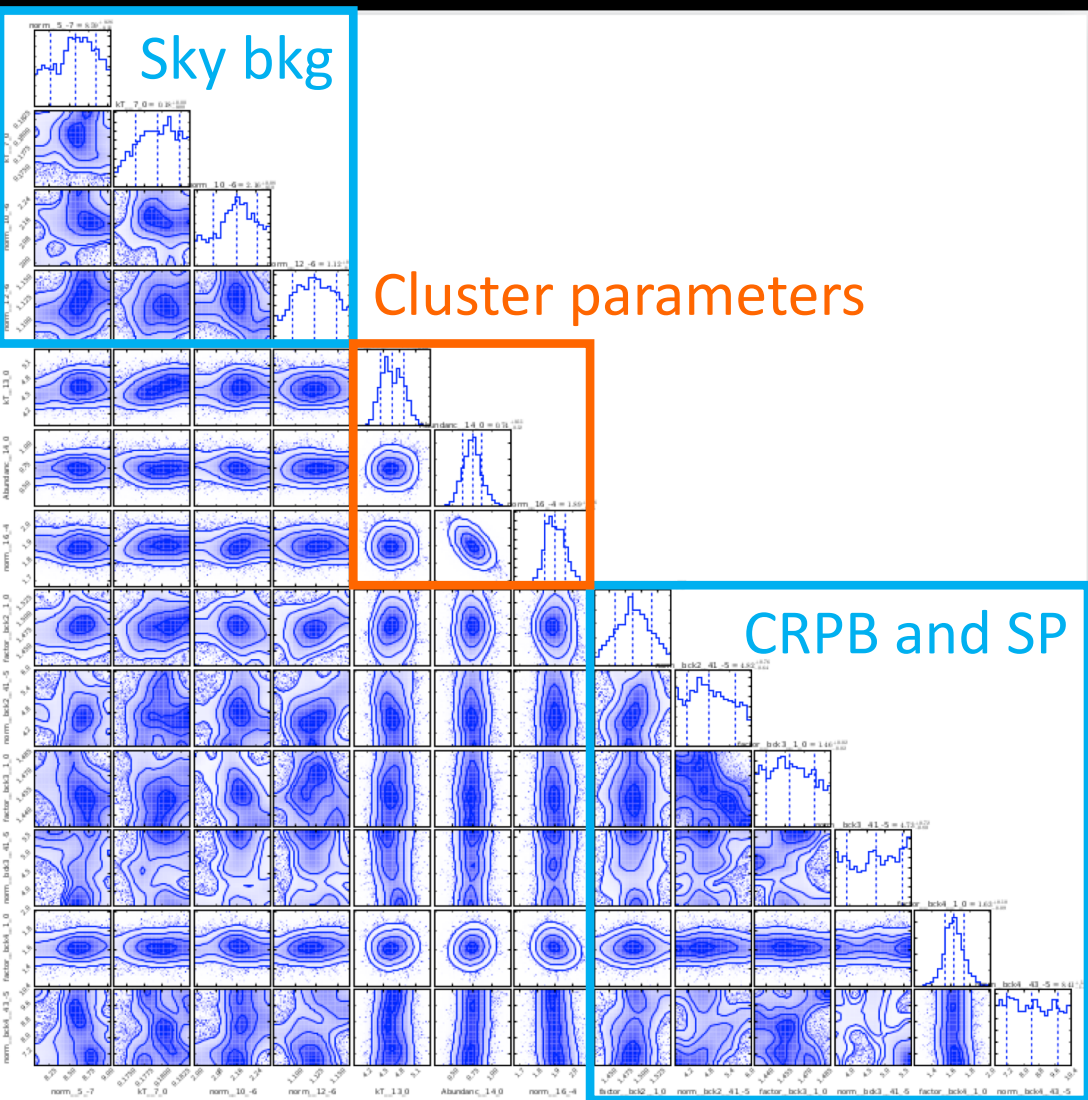
- Even after light curve filtering a residual contamination survives in the FoV (De Luca & Molendi 2004)
- This component has its vignetting curve (Kuntz & Snowden 2008)
- The IN-OUT indicator measure its intensity (Salvetti et al 2017)



We used 500 blank sky fields (XXL Pierre et al 2016) to spectrally model the residual SP component and calibrate a relation between its normalization and IN-OUT indicator

The CHEX-MATE MCMC approach

We can now propagate the uncertainty of the bkg model up to the final results thanks to the MCMC fitting within XSPEC (50k burn-in, 50k chains, 2 hours per spectrum)

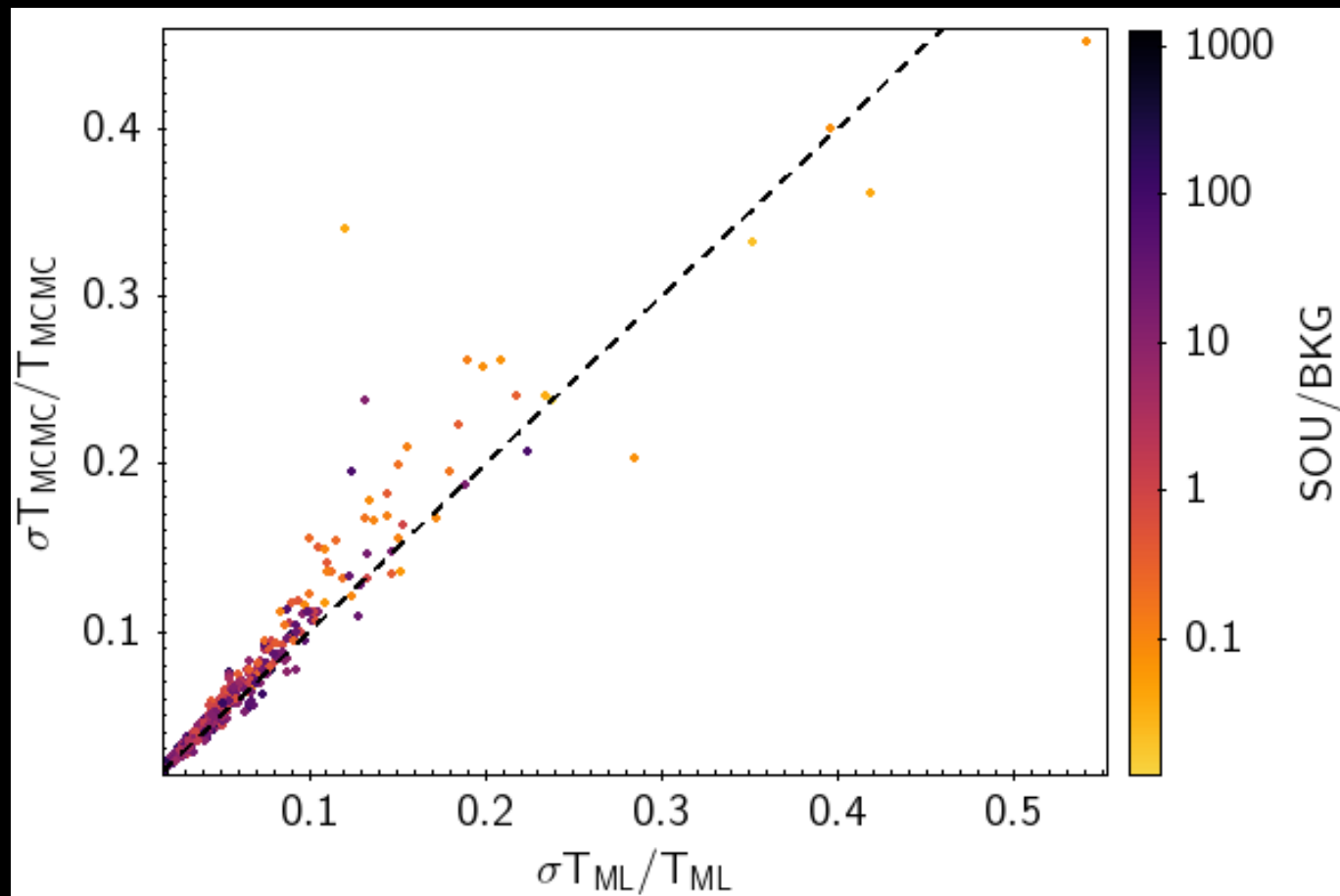
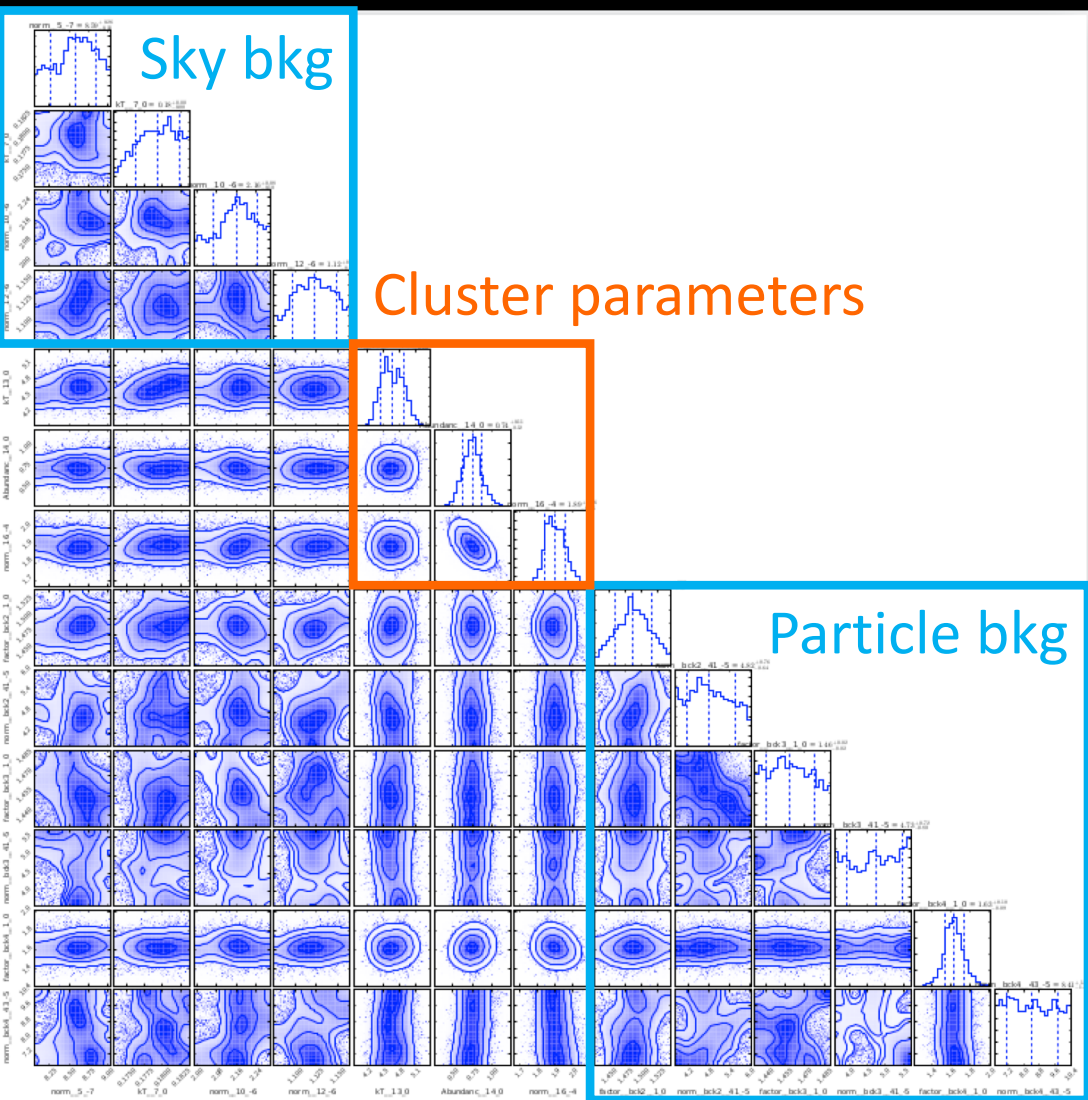


- We use the predictive background model to build priors on CRPB and SP for each detector
- We also define priors for the sky background

Parameter	Shape	Central value	Width
CRPB norm. (MOS)	Gaussian	Best Fit of mos-back spectra	2% intrinsic scatter
CRPB norm. (pn)	Gaussian	Best fit of pn-back spectra renormalized by Eq. (2)	6% intrinsic scatter
RFC norm. (MOS)	Uniform	inFOV-outFOV, with Eq. (A.1)	Intrinsic scatter
RFC norm. (pn)	Uniform	inFOV _{PN} and outFOV _{MOS2} with Eqs. (A.1) and (A.2)	Intrinsic scatter
LHB norm.	Gaussian	Best fit in background region	1 σ errors
GH temp.	Gaussian	Best fit in background region	1 σ errors
GH norm.	Gaussian	Best fit in background region	1 σ errors
CXB norm.	Gaussian	Best fit in background region	1 σ errors

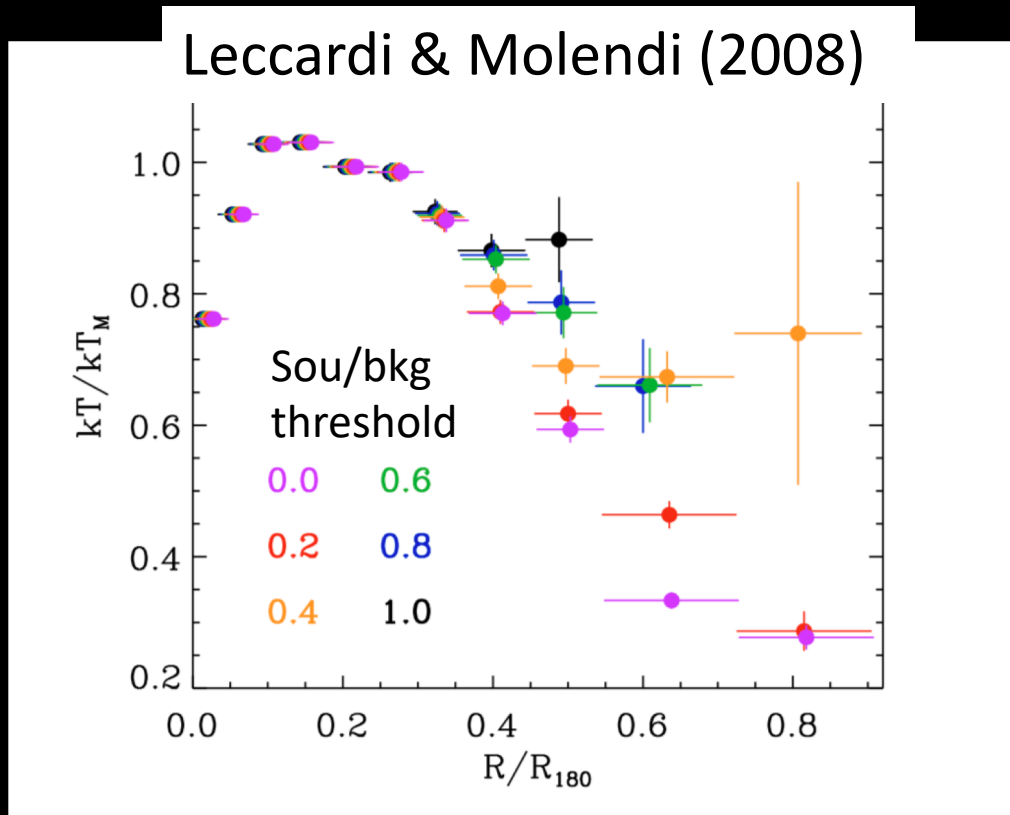
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CHEX-MATE results on T profiles

How does our bkg modeling and methods affect the mean temperature profiles?

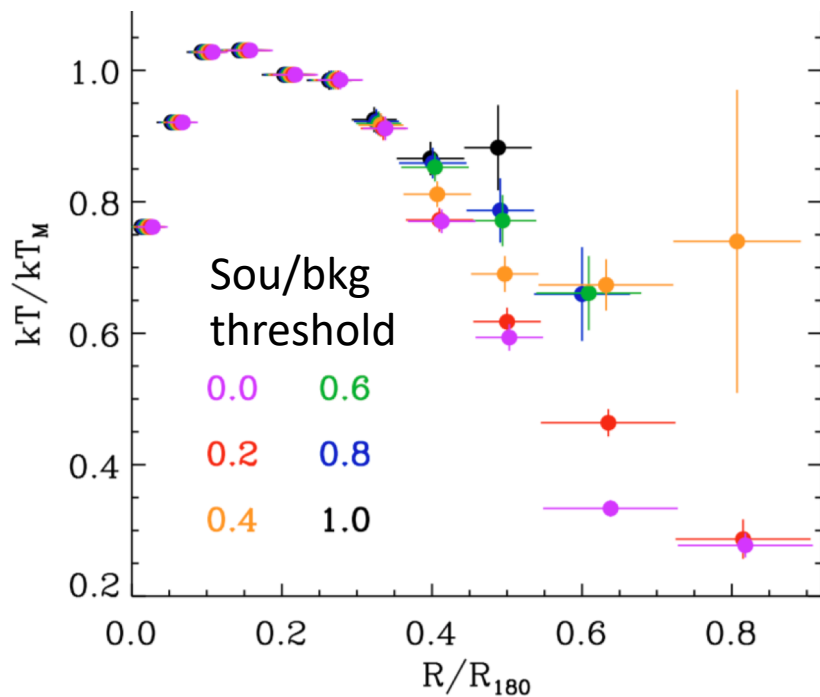


In 2008, we could trust only measurements
with **sou/bkg > 0.6**

CHEX-MATE results on T profiles

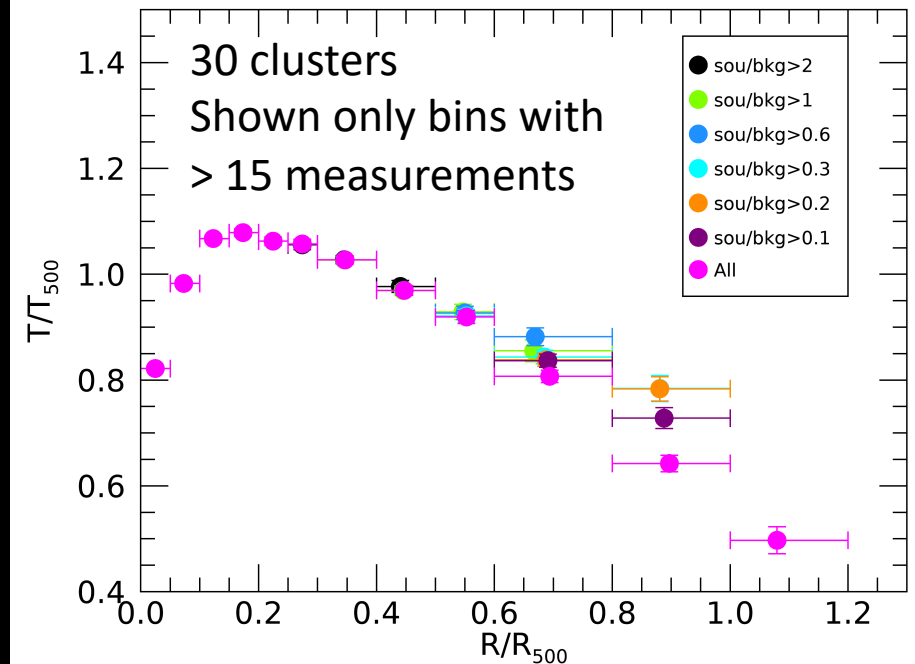
How does our bkg modeling and methods affect the mean temperature profiles?

Leccardi & Molendi (2008)



In 2008, we could trust only measurements with **$\text{Sou/bkg} > 0.6$**

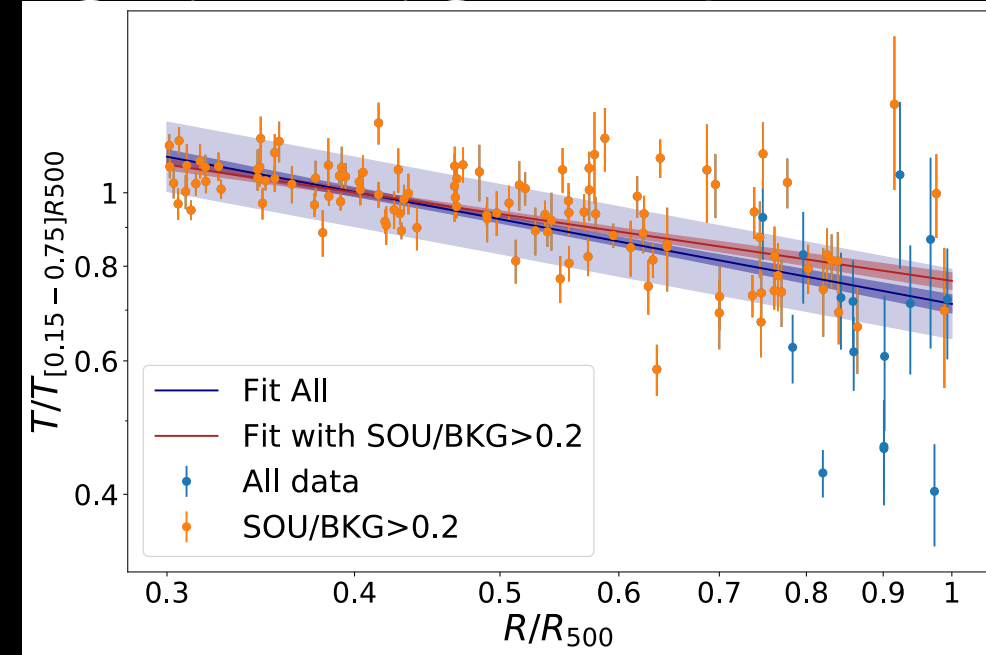
MR et al (2024)



Now, we can go down at least to **$\text{Sou/bkg} > 0.2$**

SYSTEMATICS IN TEMPERATURE PROFILES

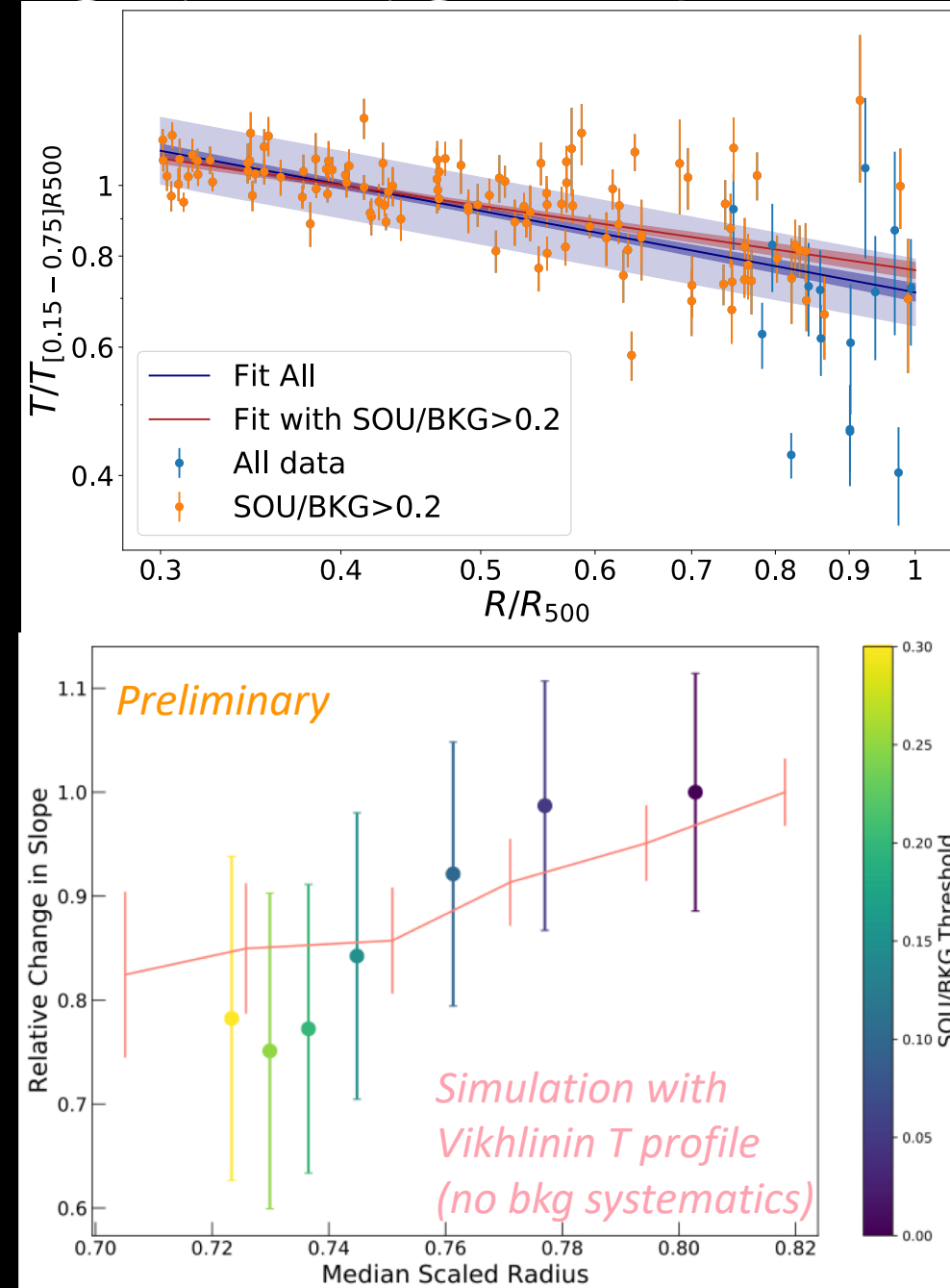
Including measurements in regions with $\text{SOU/BKG} < 0.2$ leads to a **steepening** in the average T profiles, but also **moves the barycentre** towards lower radii



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Partly reproduced with the **shape of the typical T profile** of galaxy clusters (Vikhlinin et al. 2006), without any systematics

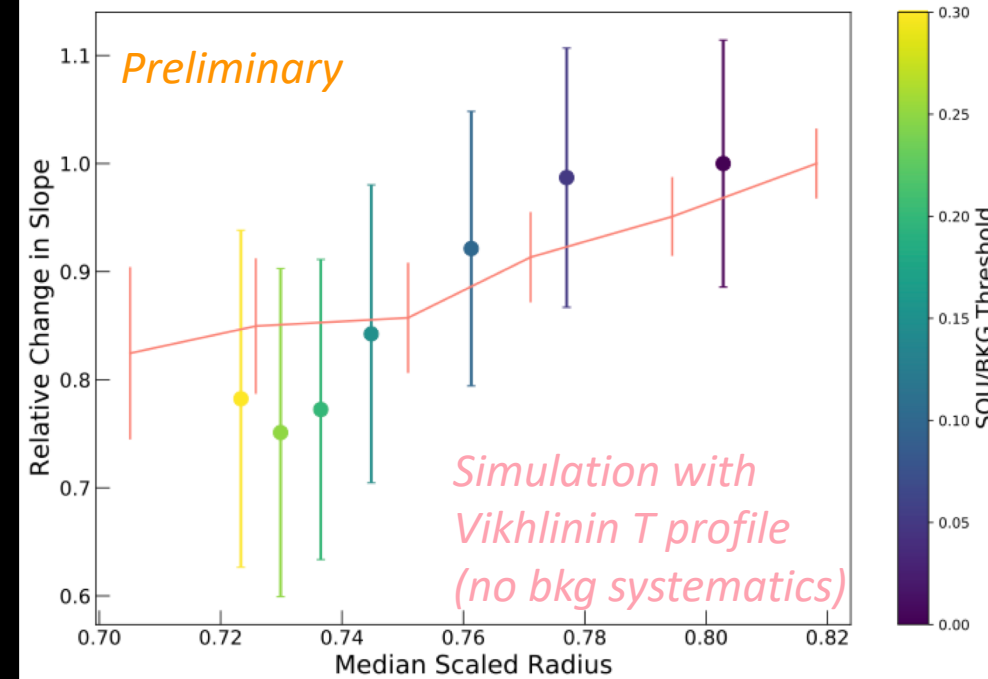
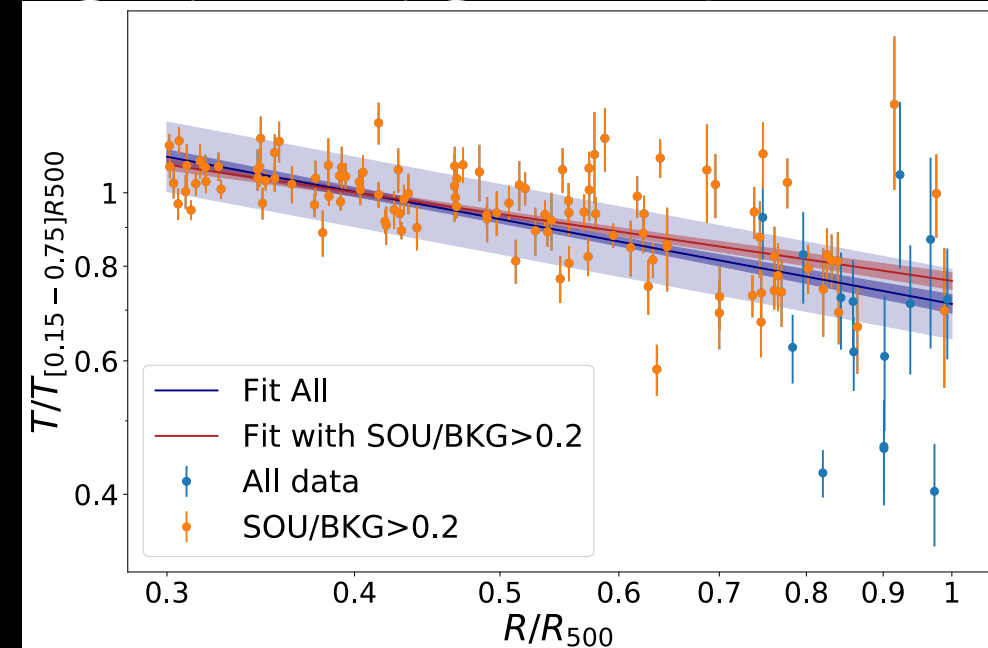


SYSTEMATICS IN TEMPERATURE PROFILES

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Work in progress: understanding the origin of the steepening and the impact on derived quantities
(**SPOILER: $< 5\%$ on hydrostatic M_{500}**)



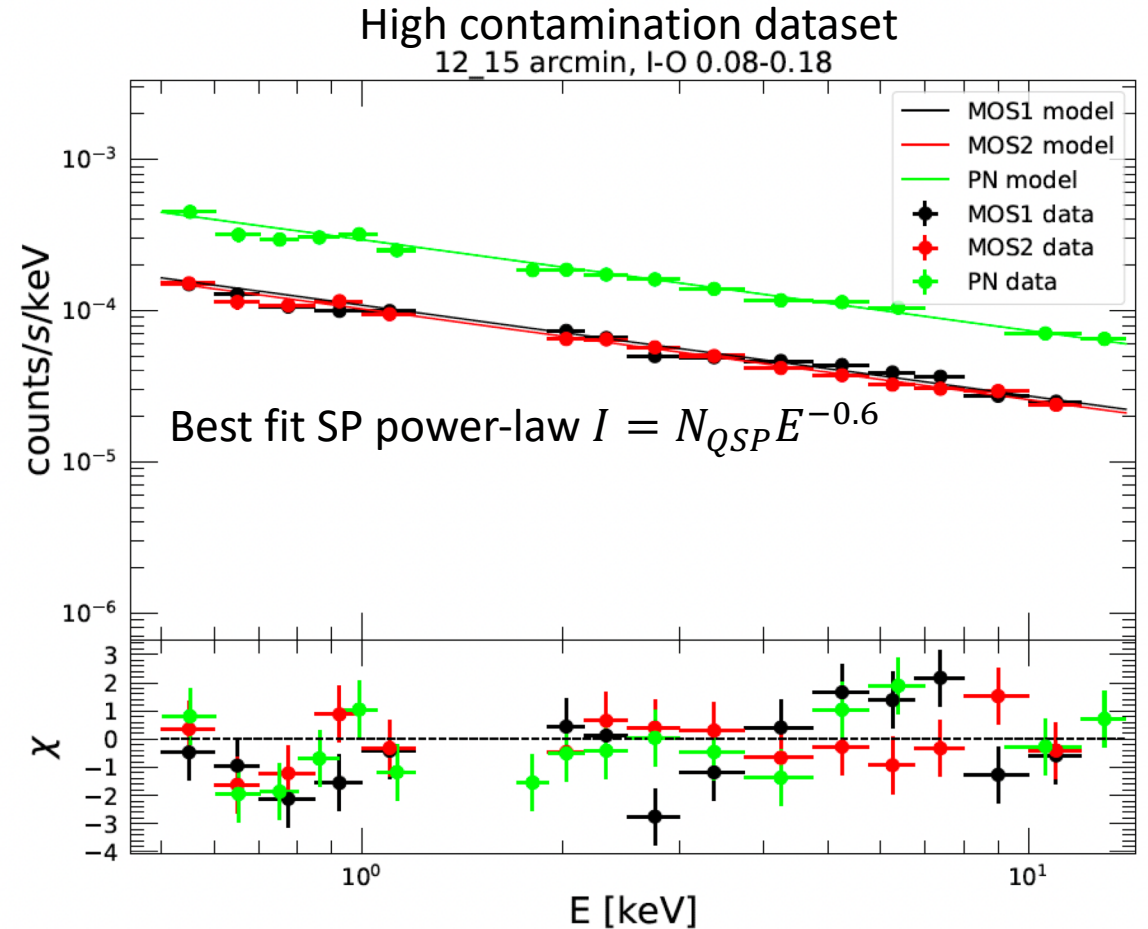
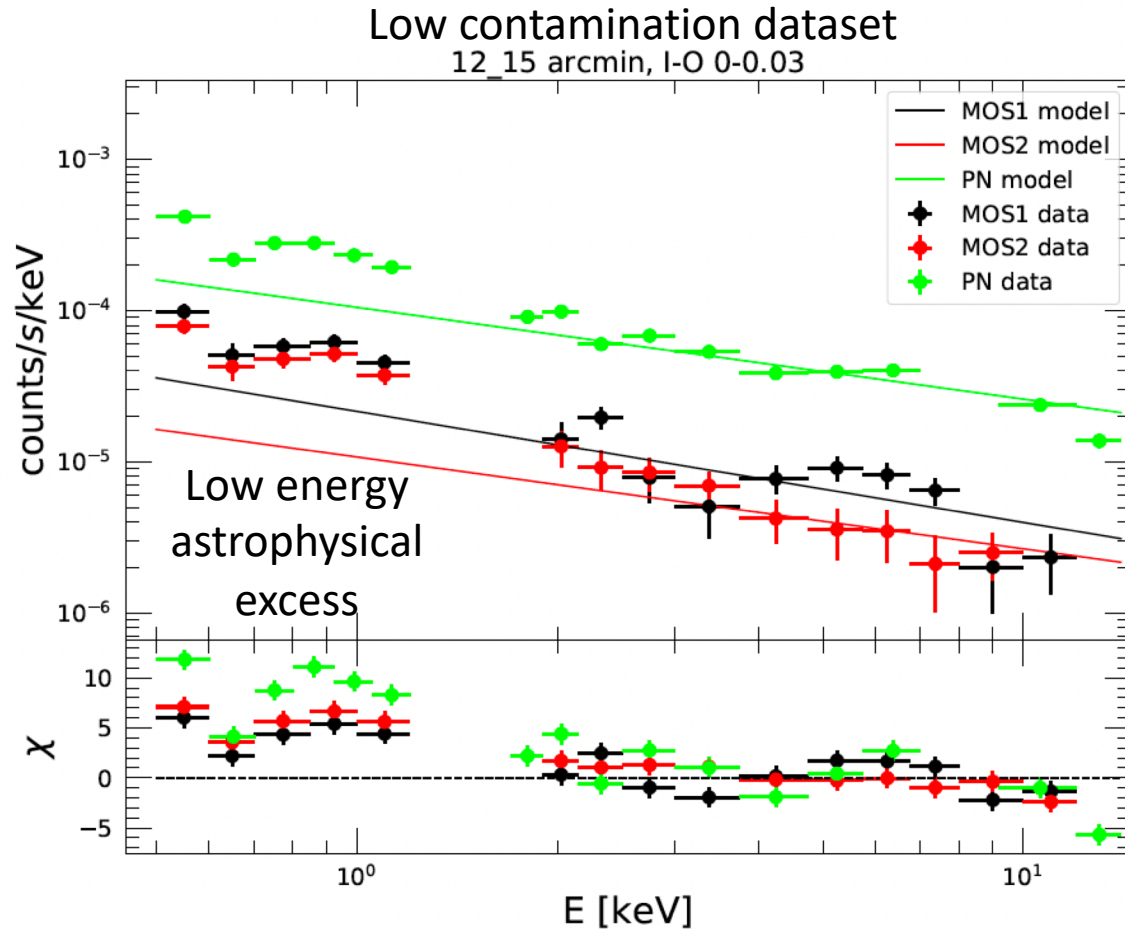
TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- We built a predictive and physically-motivated background model for all XMM EPIC detectors and implemented it into a Bayesian MCMC spectral fitting within XSPEC.
- Calibration within a few % became possible thanks to the systematic analysis of archival and blank sky fields observations (eXTRAS, AREMBES, AHEAD, XXL) and the work of *Background Lovers* at IASF Milano (S.Molendi, F. Gastaldello, I. Bartalucci, M. Marelli, S.Ghizzardi, A. Tiengo, A. De Luca).
- This allowed to push the limits of systematic errors: we can now measure reliable temperatures at least up to regions where source $\gtrsim 20\%$ of the background

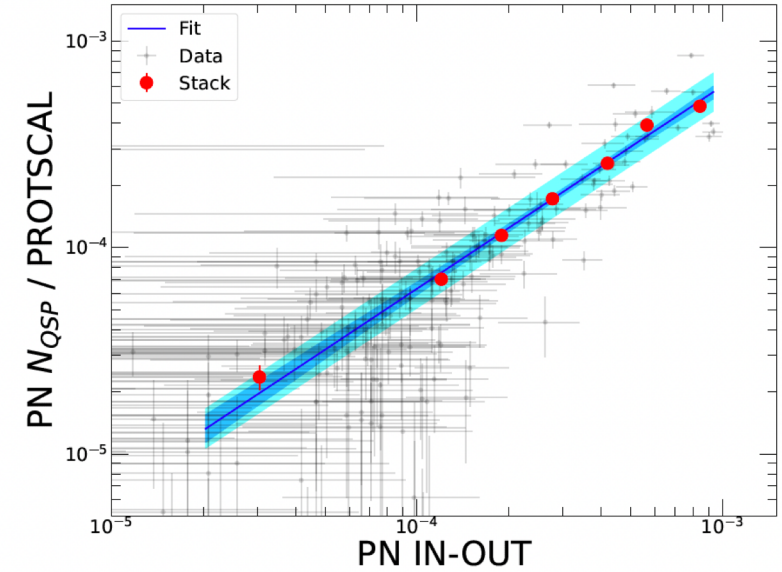
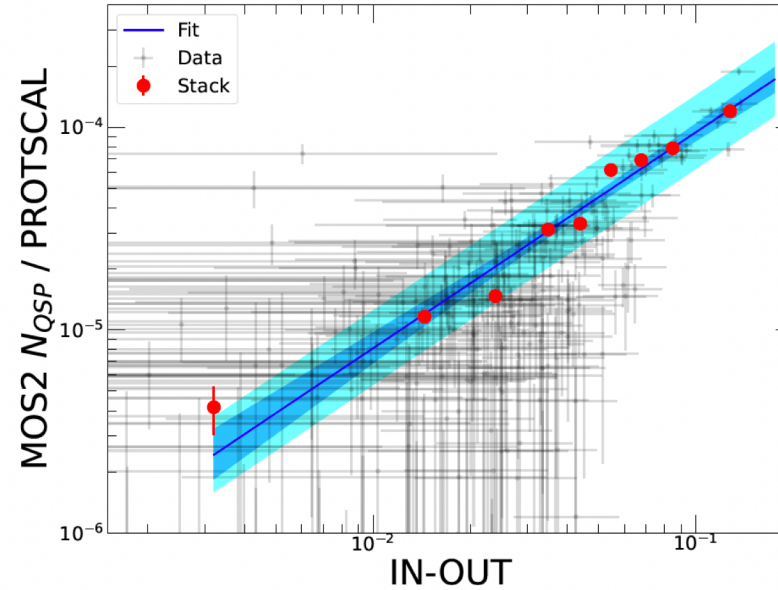
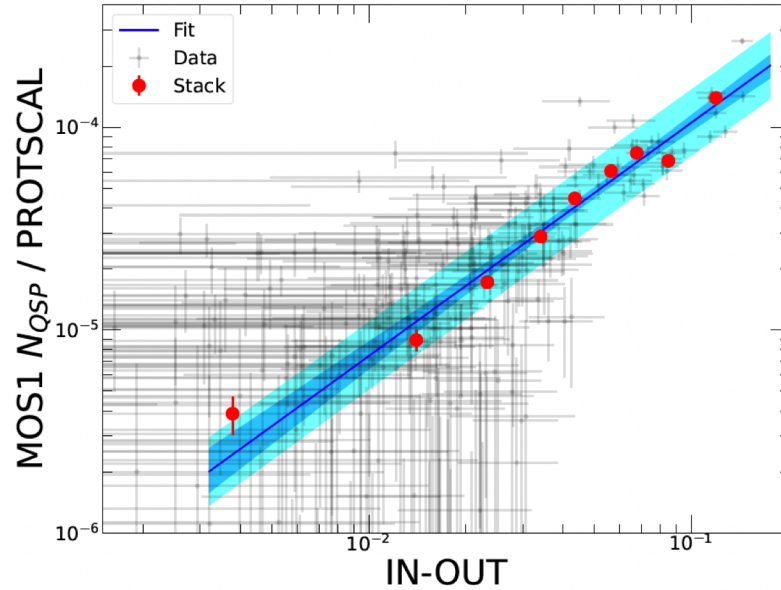
BACKUP SLIDES

RESIDUAL FOCUSED COMPONENT

Residual spectra in black-sky fields observations after subtraction of CRPB and sky background



RESIDUAL FOCUSED COMPONENT

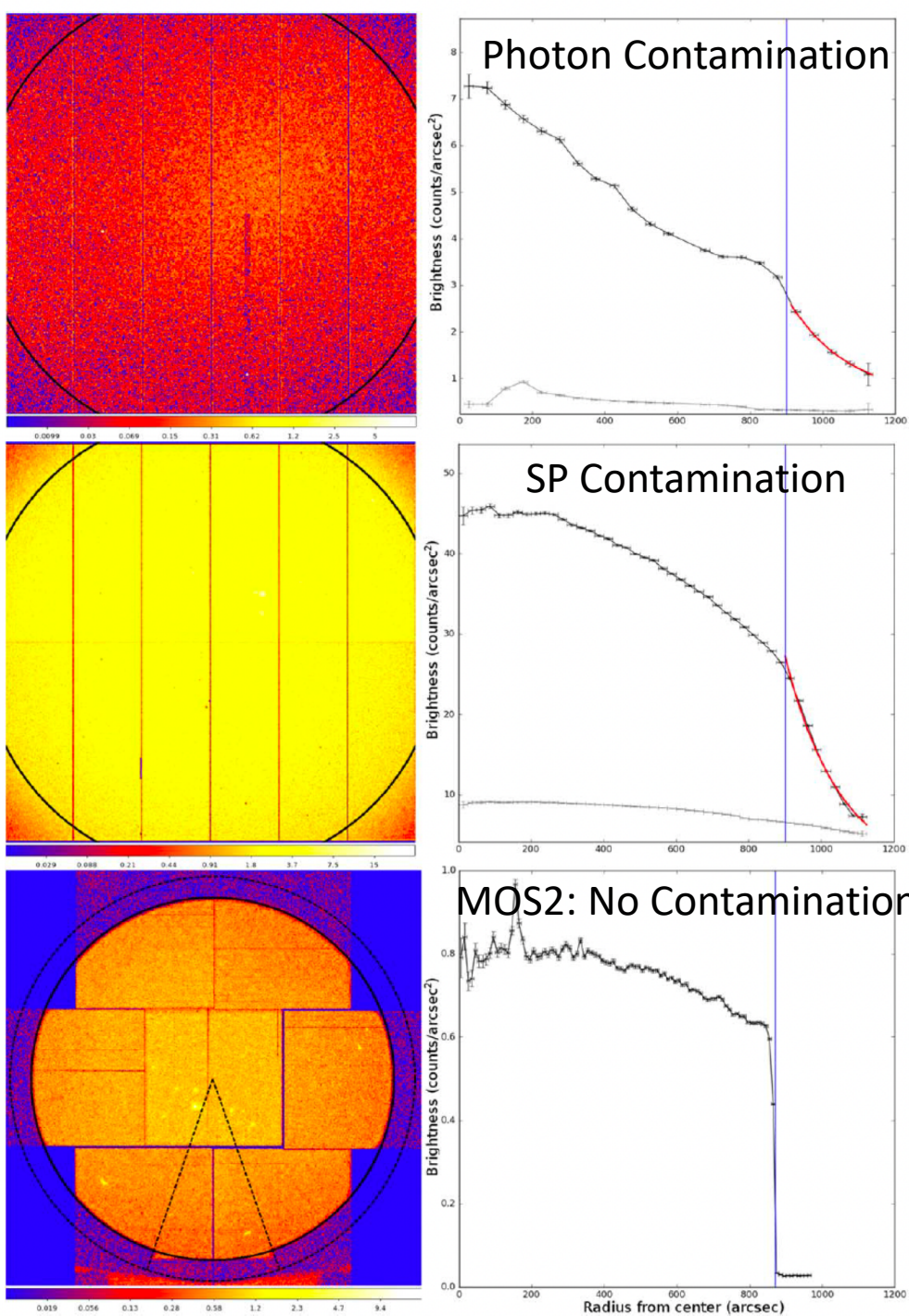


To calibrate the relation for PN we cannot use the MOS IN-OUT but need to define a new indicator because of different GTI selection and contamination of the outFOV region

$$(inFOV - outFOV)_{PN} = CR_{ann} - A_{CRPB} outFOV_{MOS2}$$

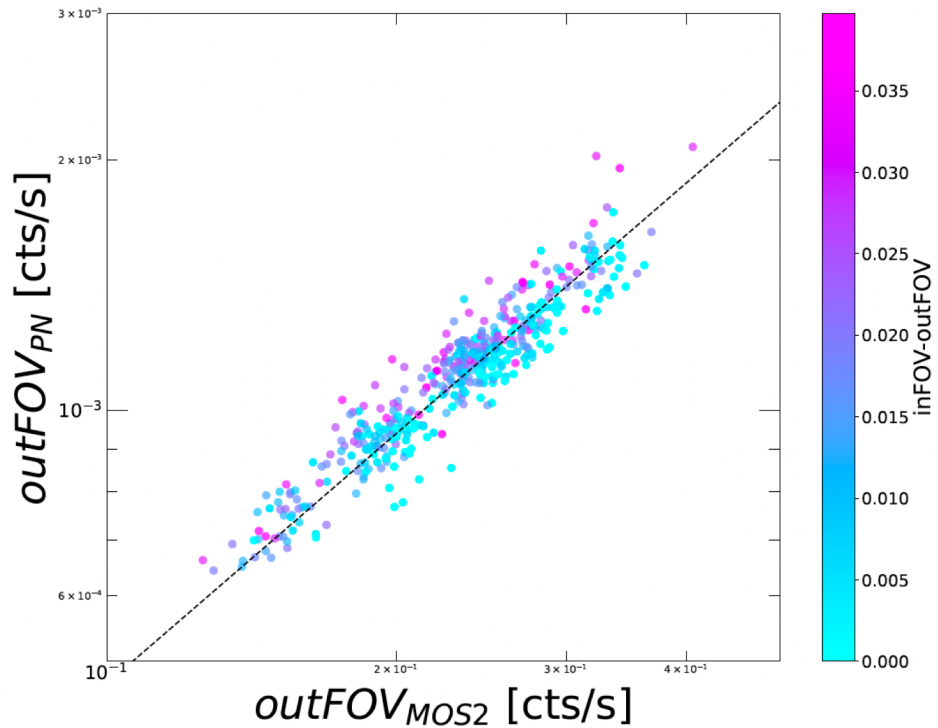
Contamination in pn OUT

- Marelli et al. (2021) suggest a recipe to minimize the contamination in the pn OUTFOV (region definition, hard band)



Contamination in pn OUT

- Marelli et al. (2021) suggest a recipe to minimize the contamination in the pn OUTFOV (region definition, hard band)
- Good correlation with MOS OUTFOV data but scatter depends on residual contamination
- We calibrate a relation, separating the part due to CRPB and to residual contamination



$$outFOV_{PN} = A_{CRPB} outFOV_{MOS2} + A_{SP}(inFOV - outFOV).$$