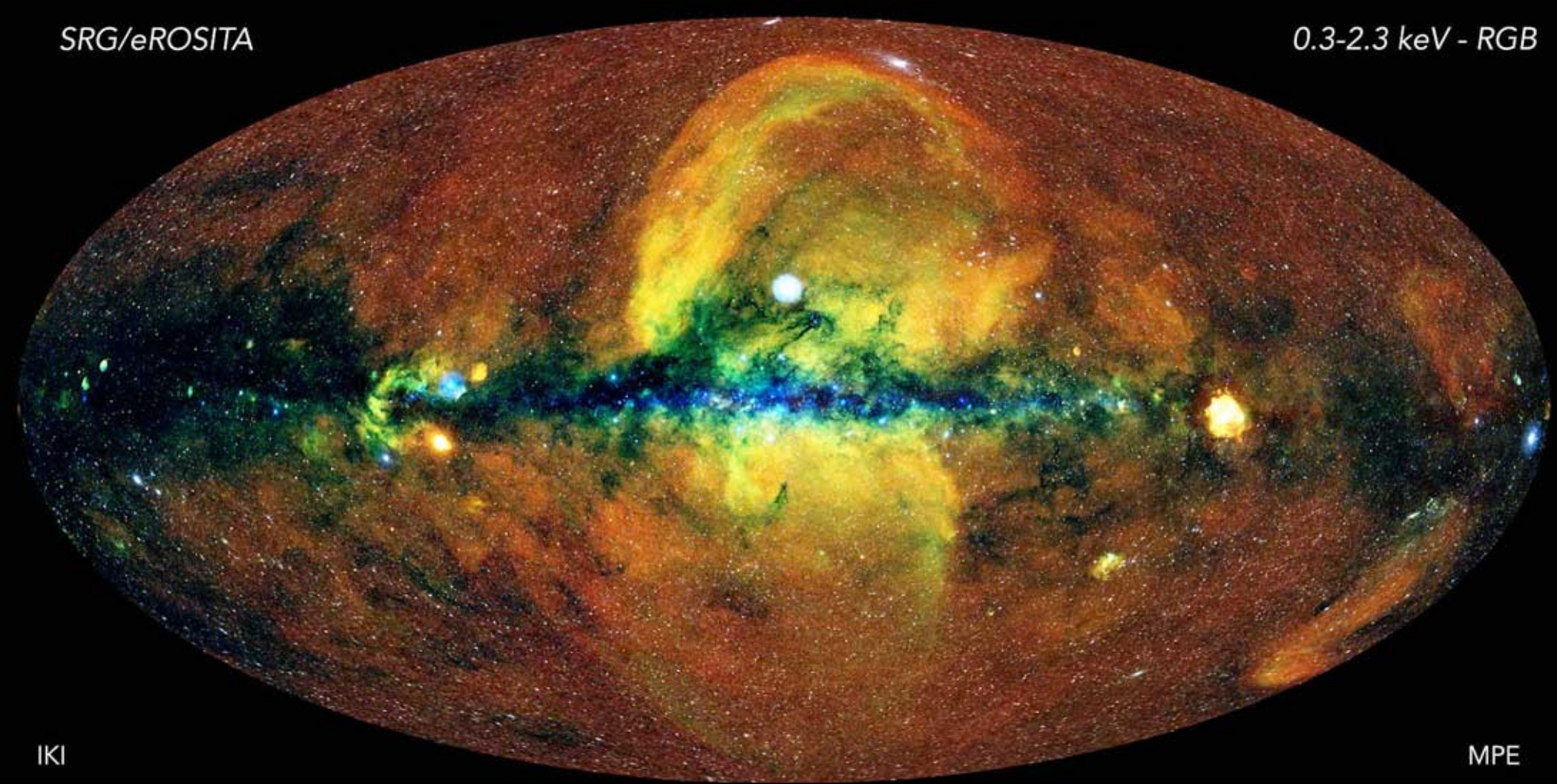


SRG/eROSITA

0.3-2.3 keV - RGB



Probing the ISM in X-rays

Efrain Gatzuz (MPE)

X-RAY VISION 2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- 1) What is the ISM?
- 2) X-ray high-resolution spectroscopy
- 3) Atomic data benchmarking
- 4) X-ray absorption models
- 5) The ISM in the Milky Way
- 6) Dust component
- 7) Warning!

The Interstellar Medium (ISM)

WHAT IS THE ISM?

"Everything that is between stars and around galaxies"

Physics of the interstellar and intergalactic medium – Bruce Draine

Including:

Gas, dust, electromagnetic radiation, cosmic rays and magnetic fields.

WHY IS THE ISM IMPORTANT?

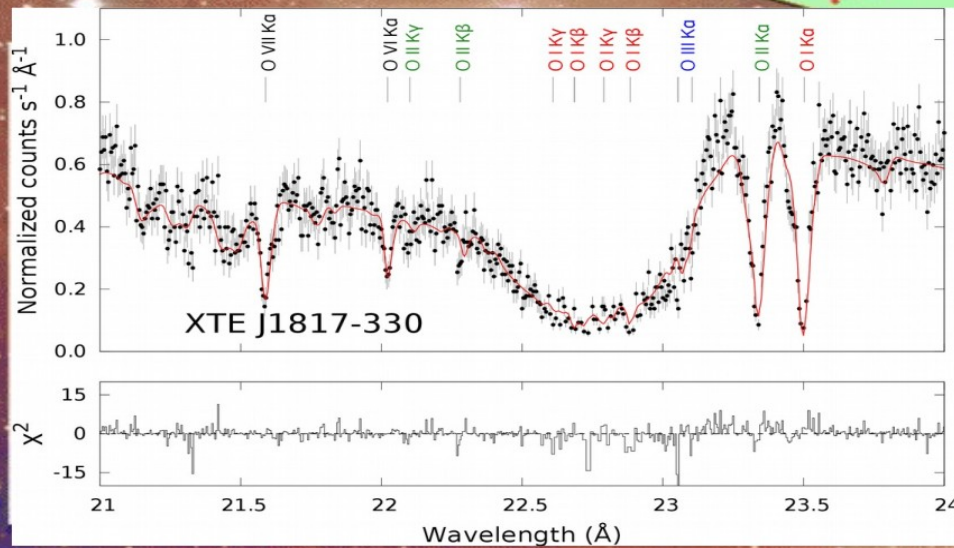
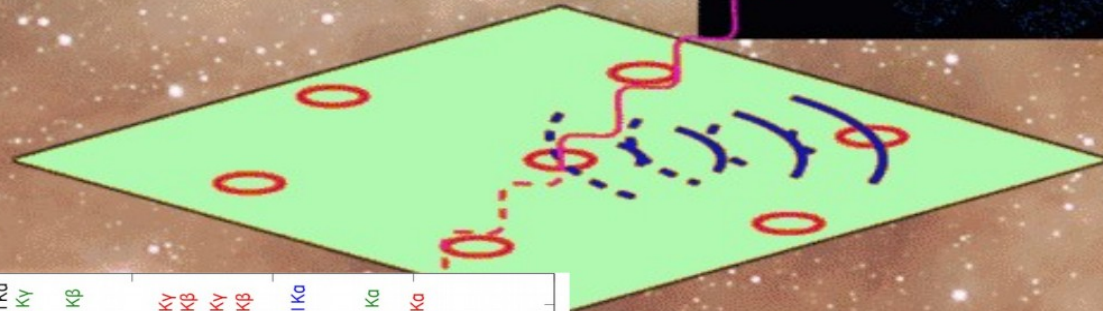
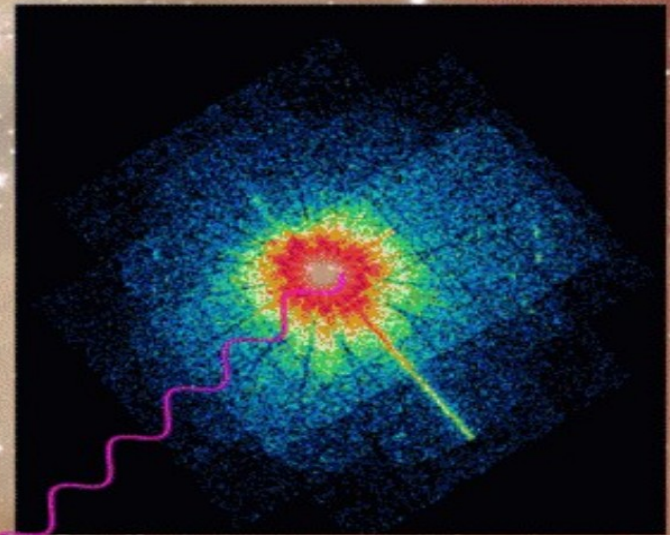
- Stellar formation processes.
- Stellar evolution processes.

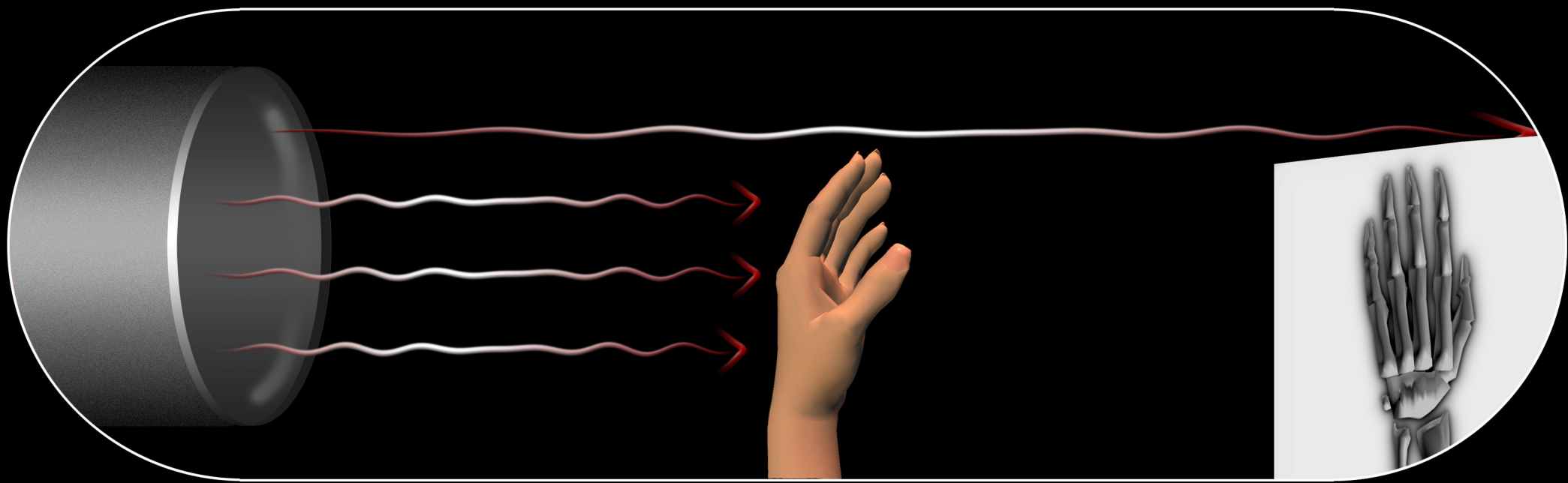
The Interstellar Medium (ISM)

Phase	Component	Temp. (K)	Constituents
Cold	Dust	$\sim 10 - 20$	MgSiO_3, \dots
	Molecules	$\sim 10 - 20$	$\text{H}_2, \text{CO}, \dots$
	Neutral Gas	$\sim 50 - 100$	$\text{H I}, \text{O I}, \dots$
Warm	Neutral Gas	$\leq 10^4$	$\text{H I}, \text{O I}, \dots$
	Ionized Gas	$\sim 10^4$	$\text{H II}, \text{O II-V}, \dots$
Hot	Ionized Gas	$\sim 10^6$	$\text{O VI-VIII}, \text{Ne IX}, \dots$

High-resolution X-ray spectroscopy allows the direct measurement of spectral features such as absorption lines and edges that lead to the identification of multiple atomic ionization species, molecules and solid components (e.g. [Juett+05](#), [Yao+09](#), [Pinto+11](#), [Costantini+12](#), [Pinto+13](#))

X-ray absorption spectroscopy

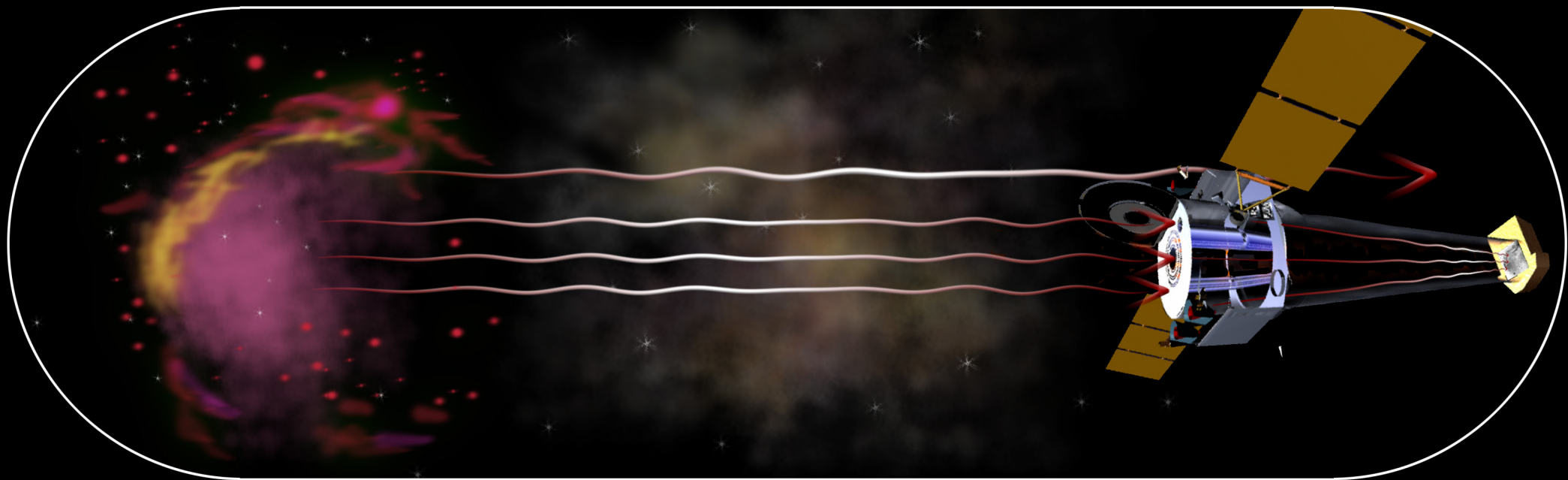




X-Ray Source

Hand

Film in Camera



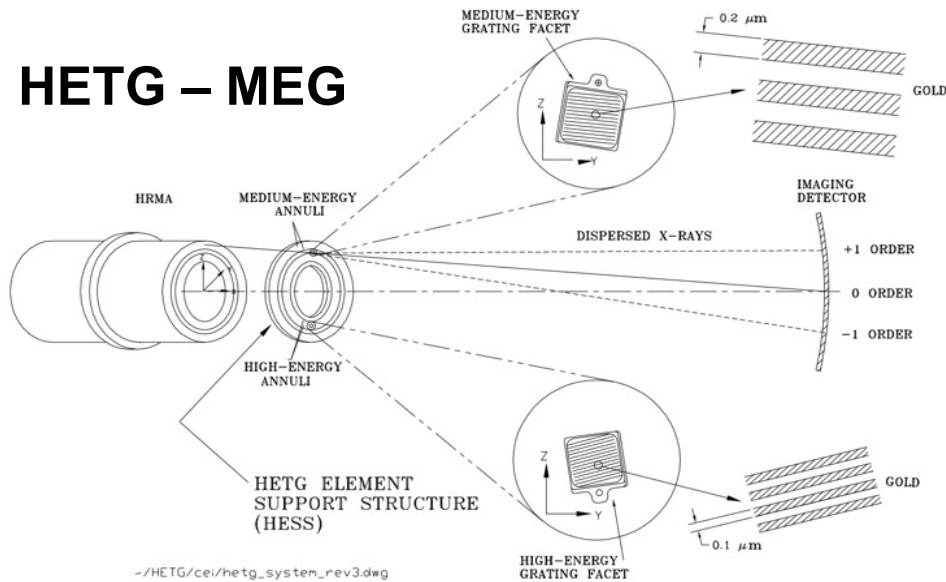
Galaxy

Gas Cloud

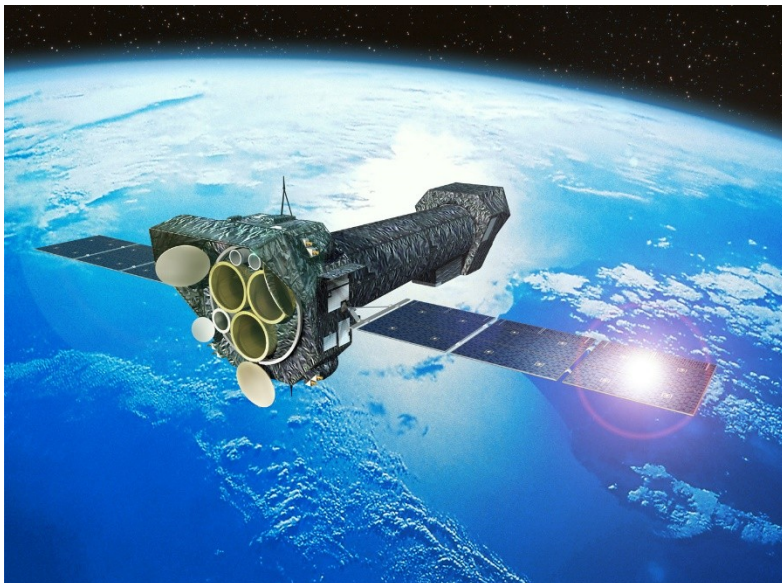
Chandra

Chandra X-ray Observatory

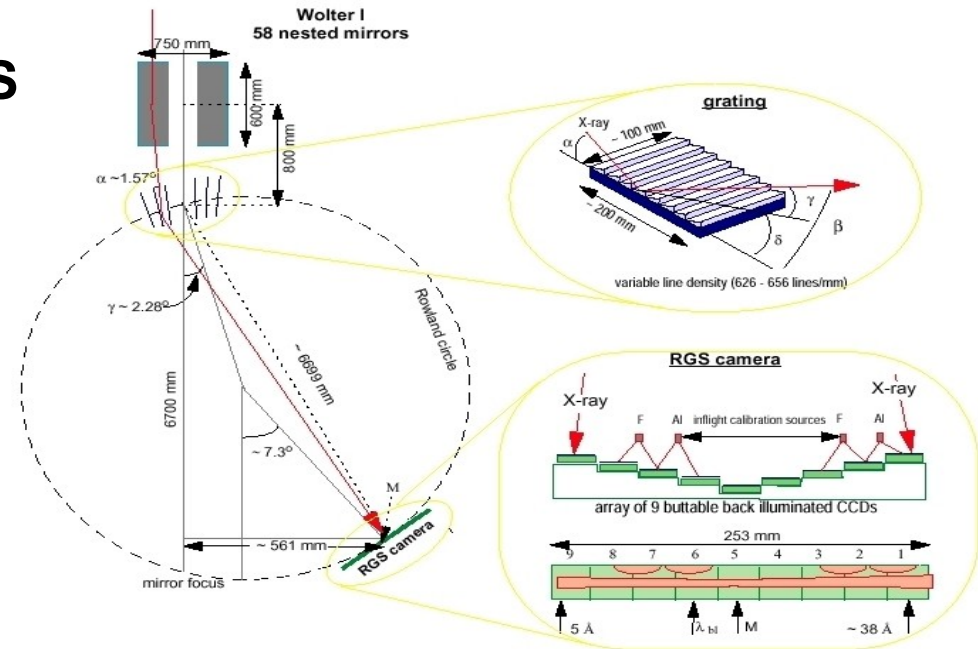
HETG – MEG



X-ray Multi-Mirror Mission (XMM-Newton)



RGS



Chandra X-ray Observatory

HETG – MEG

Bandpass: 1.2 – 30 Å
Effective Area: 35 cm² (10 Å)
10 cm² (20 Å)
Resolution ($\Delta\text{Å}$): 0.012 Å FWHM



X-ray Multi-Mirror Mission (XMM-Newton)

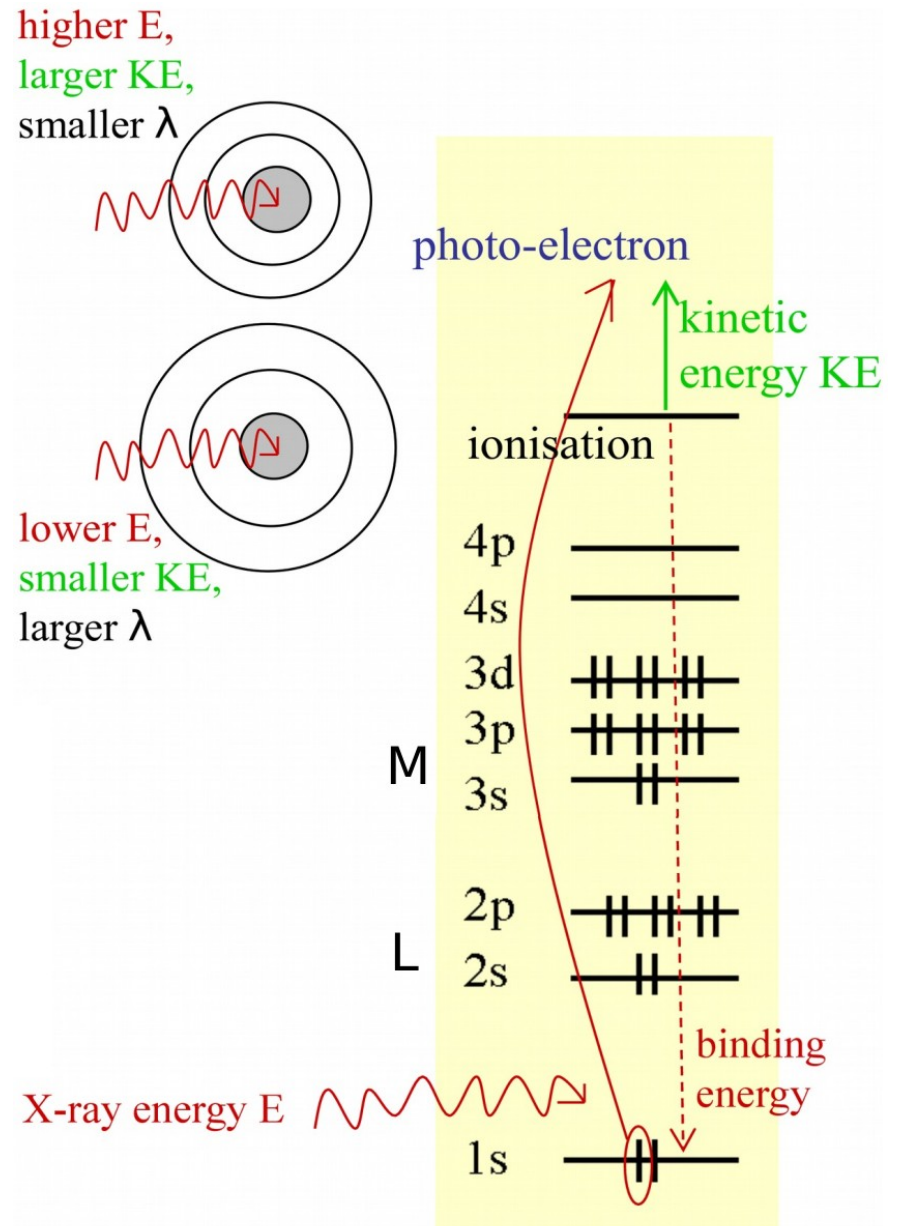


RGS

Bandpass: 10 – 35 Å
Effective Area: 59 cm² (10 Å)
50 cm² (20 Å)
70 cm² (30 Å)
Resolution ($\Delta\text{Å}$): 0.035 Å FWHM

X-ray photoabsorption and photoionization

- The atom is excited by a photon.
- There is one **photoabsorption cross-section** for each ion.
- There are two decay processes:
 - X-ray fluorescence
 - Auger effect



ISM absorption affects all X-ray spectra!

Atomic data

High-energy photoabsorption cross-sections for O ions:

Green lines:

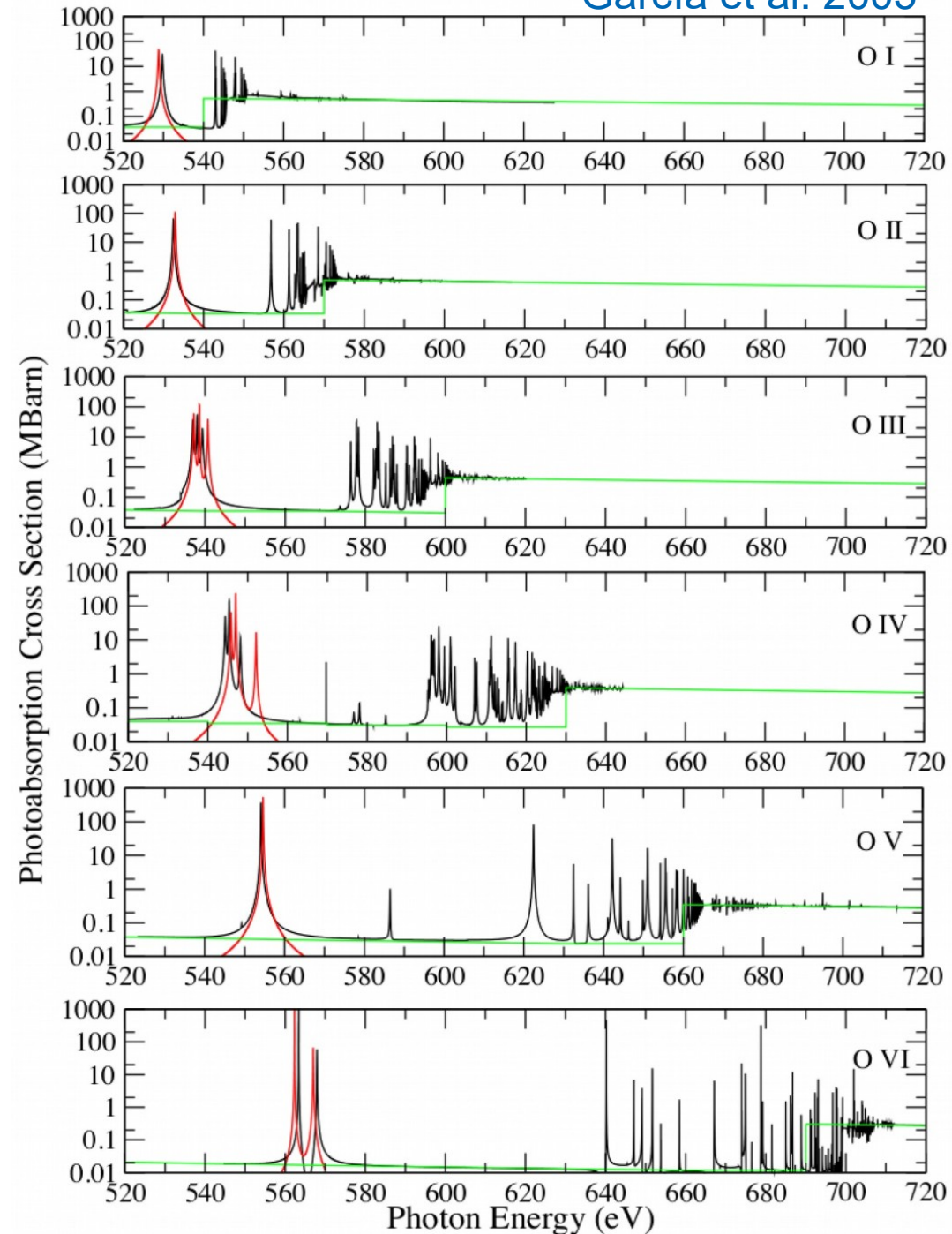
Reilman+Manson+79

Red lines:

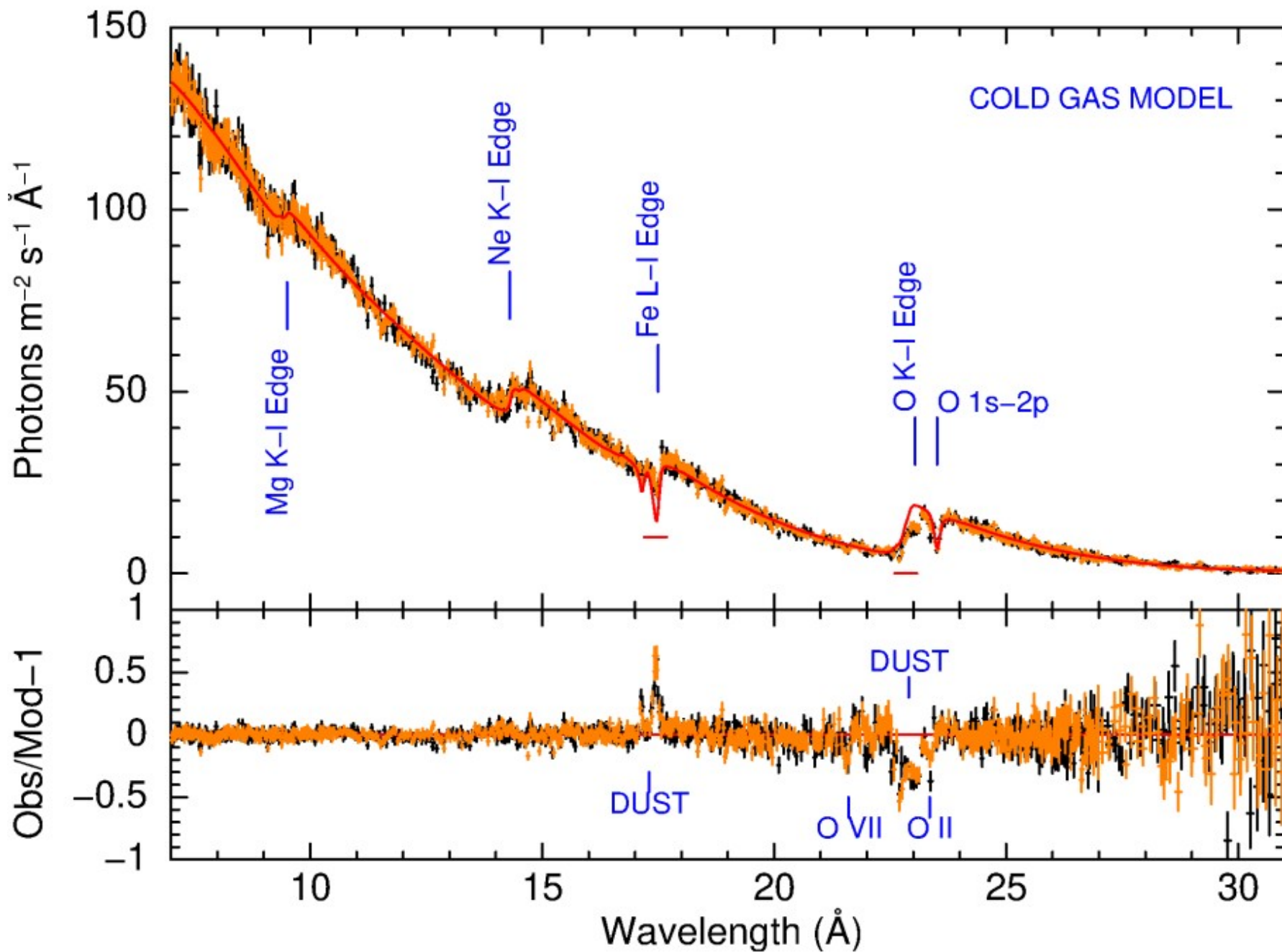
Pradhan+03

Black lines:

García+05

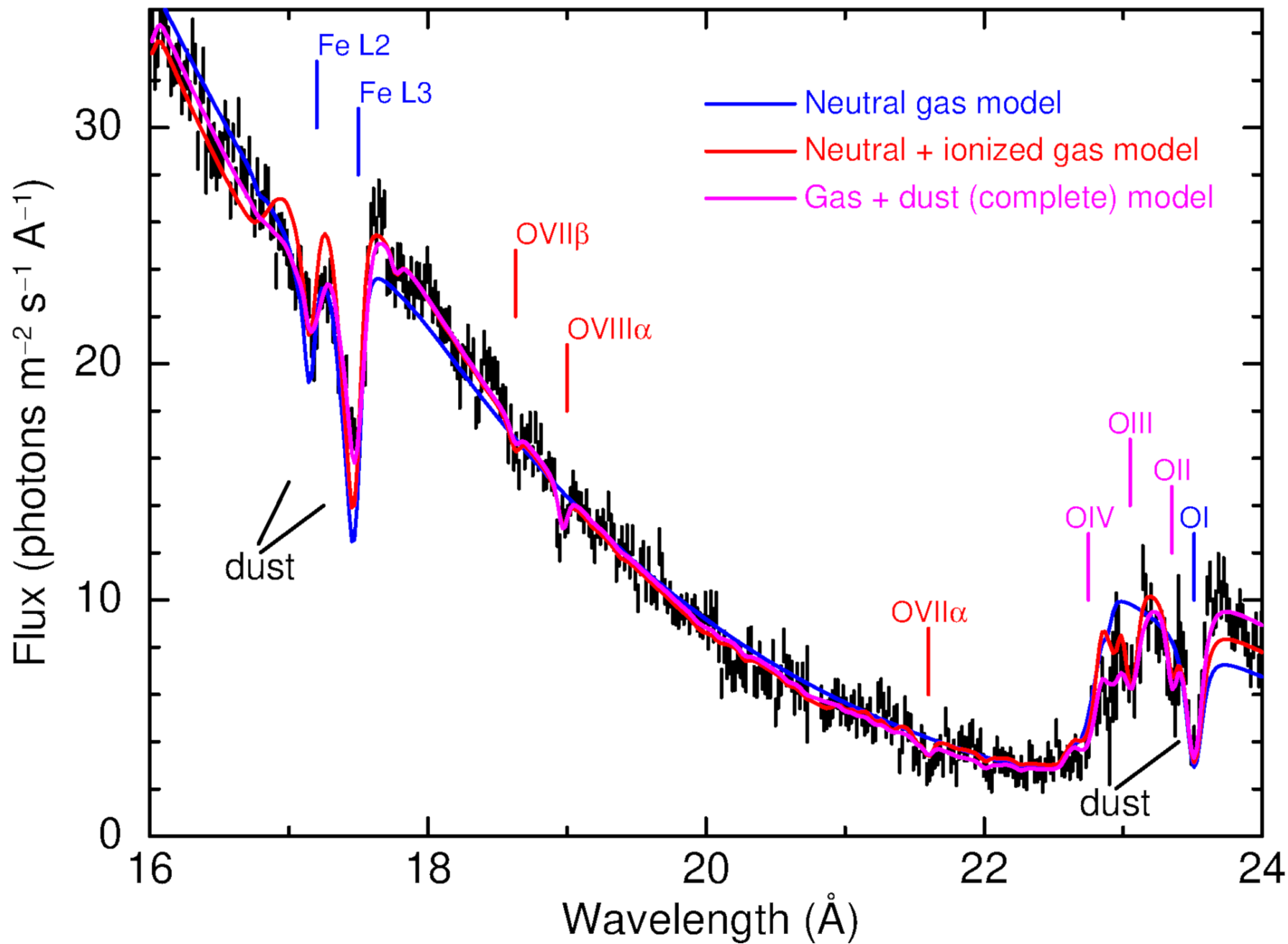


GS 1816-238 spectrum

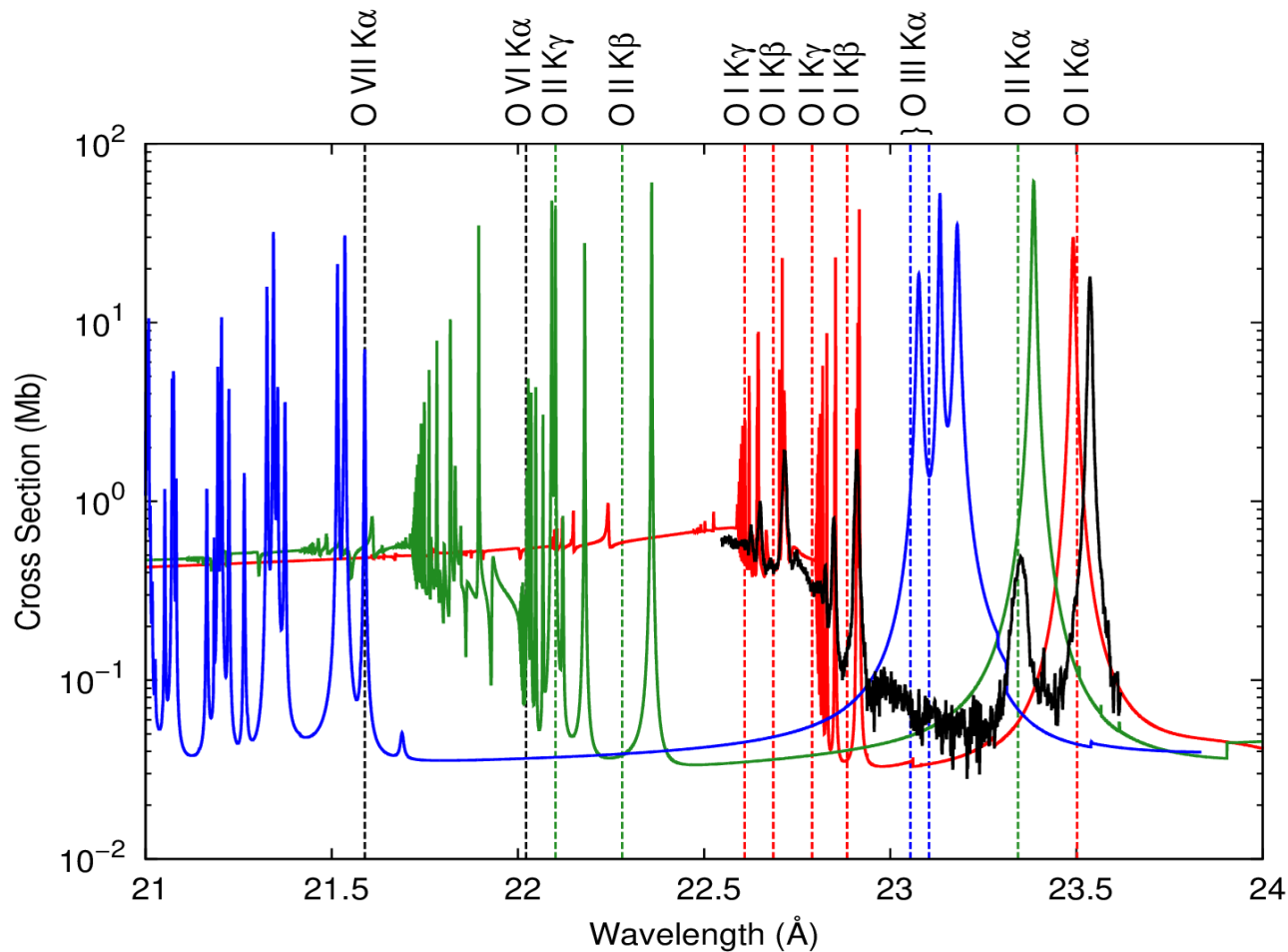


Pinto+10

GS 1816-238 spectrum



Benchmarking of Atomic Data: Oxygen



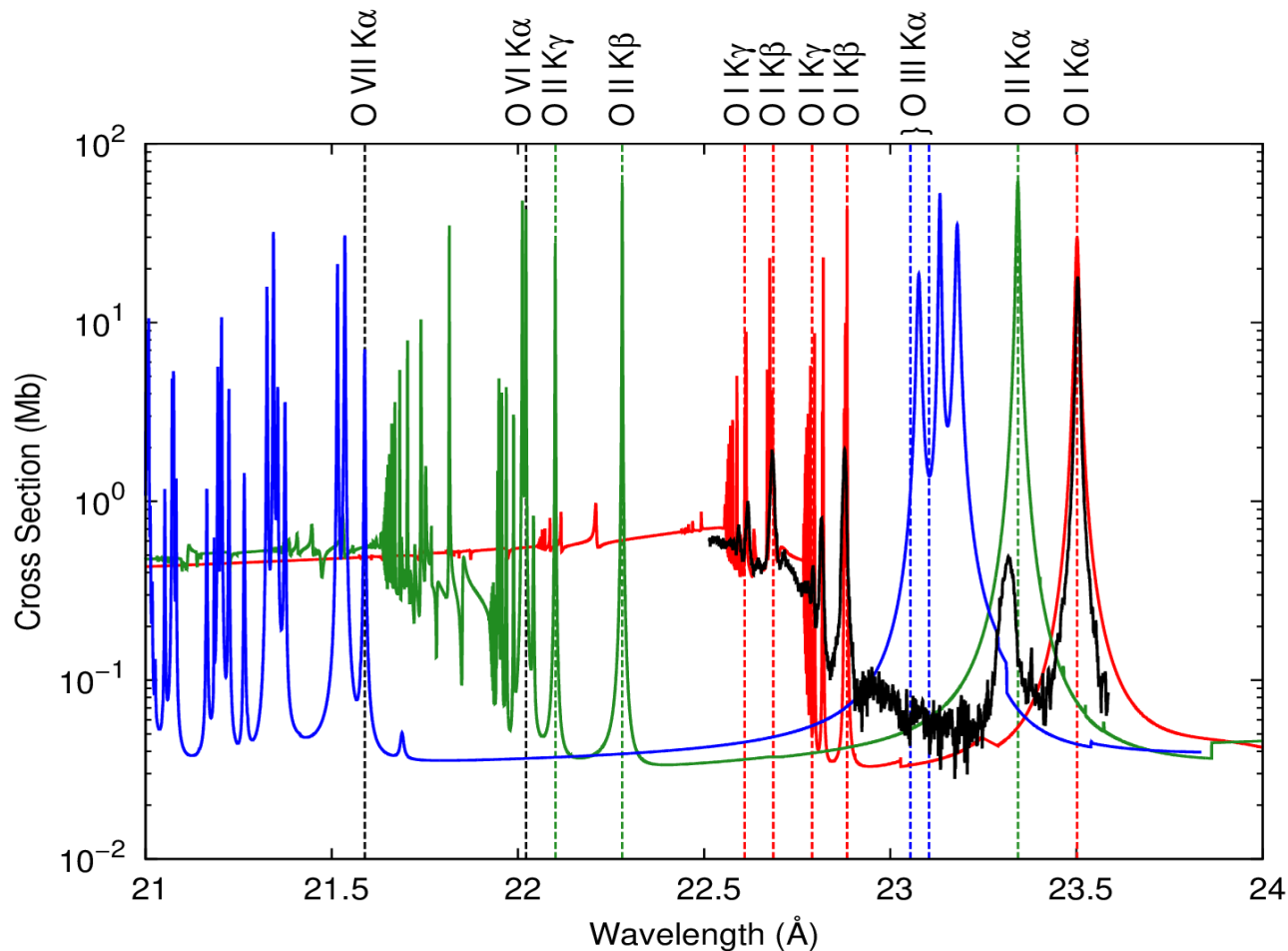
Theoretical photoabsorption cross sections for **O I**, **O II** and **O III** computed by Garcia+05

Experimental photoabsorption cross section for **O I** measured by Stolte+97

O I shift: 29 mÅ
O II shift: 75 mÅ

Gatuzz+13

Benchmarking of Atomic Data: Oxygen



Gatuzz+13

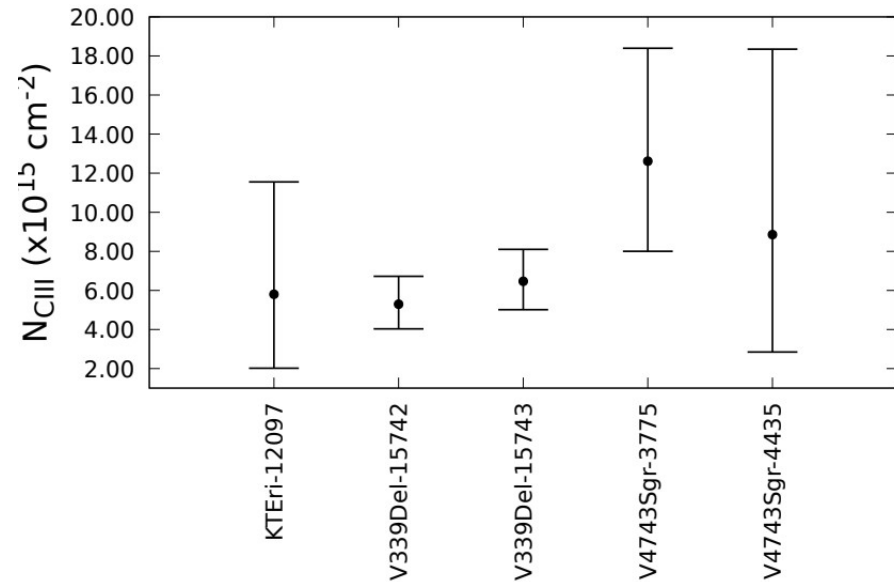
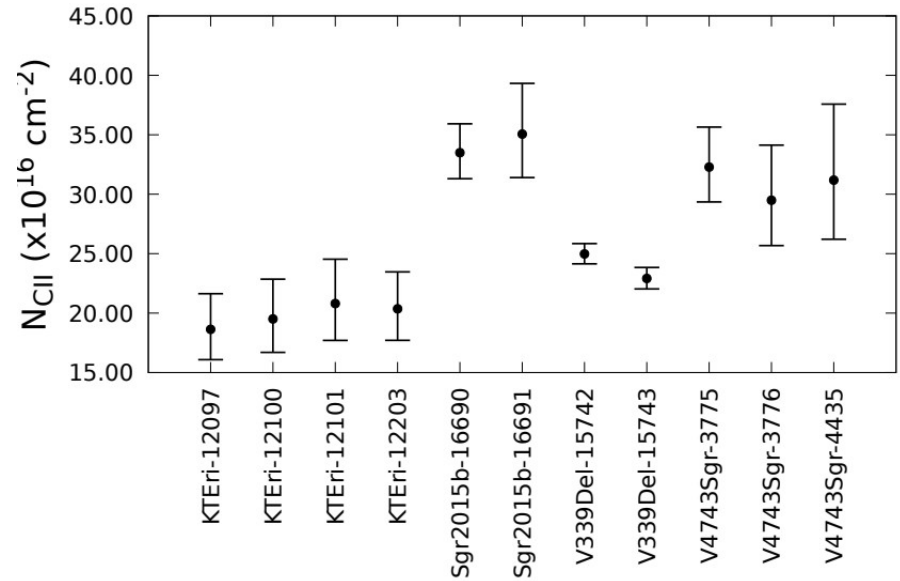
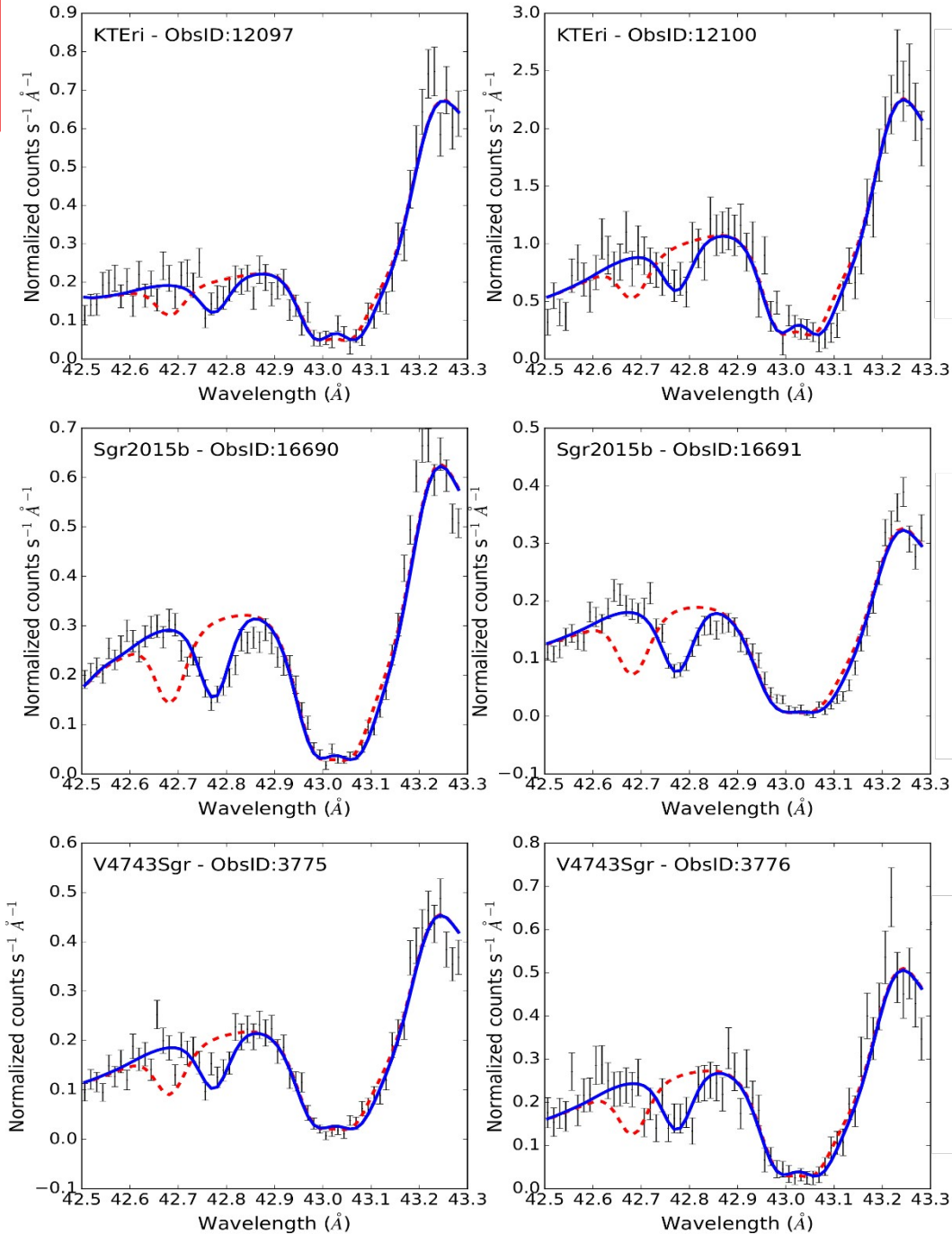
Theoretical photoabsorption cross sections for **O I**, **O II** and **O III** computed by Garcia+05

Experimental photoabsorption cross section for **O I** measured by Stolte+97

O I shift: 29 mÅ
O II shift: 75 mÅ

Lab measurement also needs to be shifted!
(Stolte+13,McLaughlin+13,Bizau+15)

X-raying the ISM: X-ray Novae



X-raying the ISM: the Si K-edge

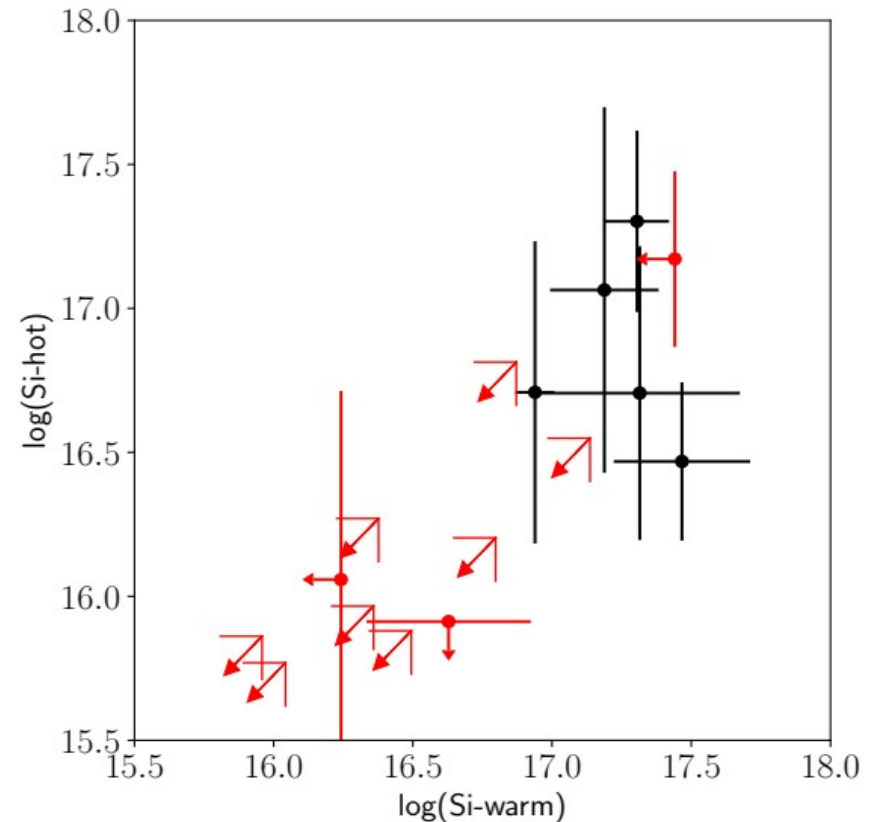
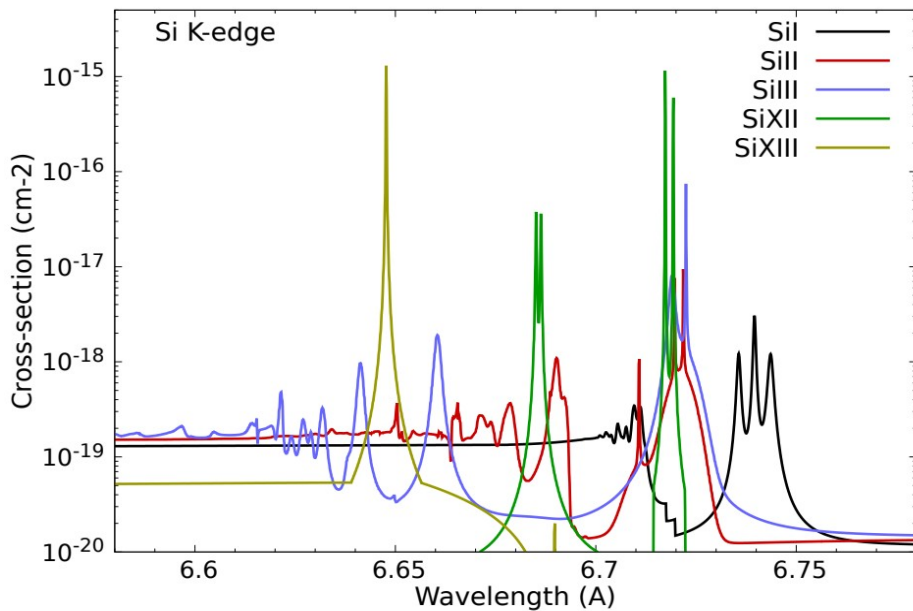
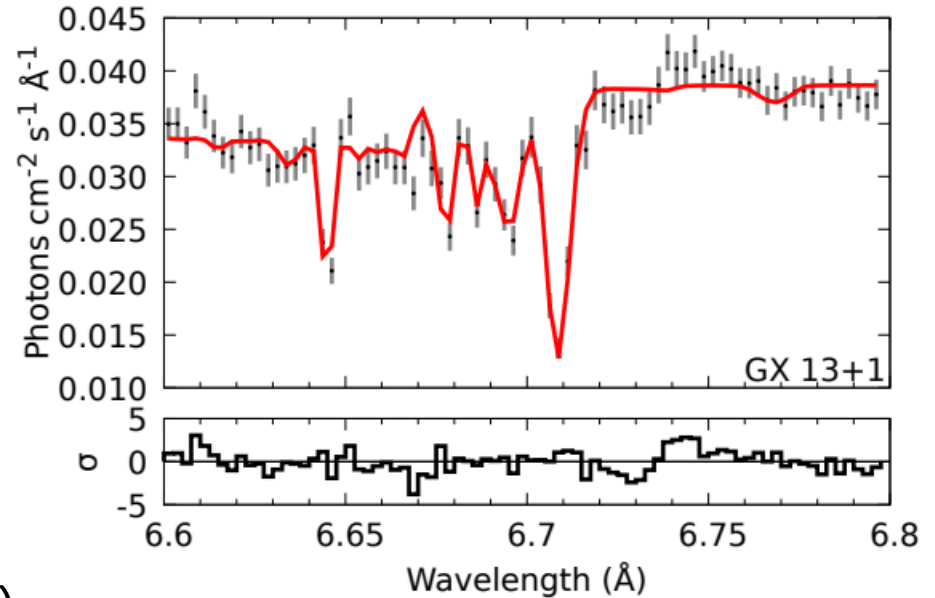
16 Chandra LMXBs analyzed

Si I from [Gorczyca et al \(2020\)](#)

Ionic species from [Witthoeft et al. \(2009\)](#)

Good agreement between theoretical atomic data and X-ray observations.

We estimated ionic column densities corresponding to the cold (Si I), warm (Si II, Si III) and hot (Si XII, Si XIII) phases of the gaseous ISM



[Gatuzz et al. \(2020b\)](#)

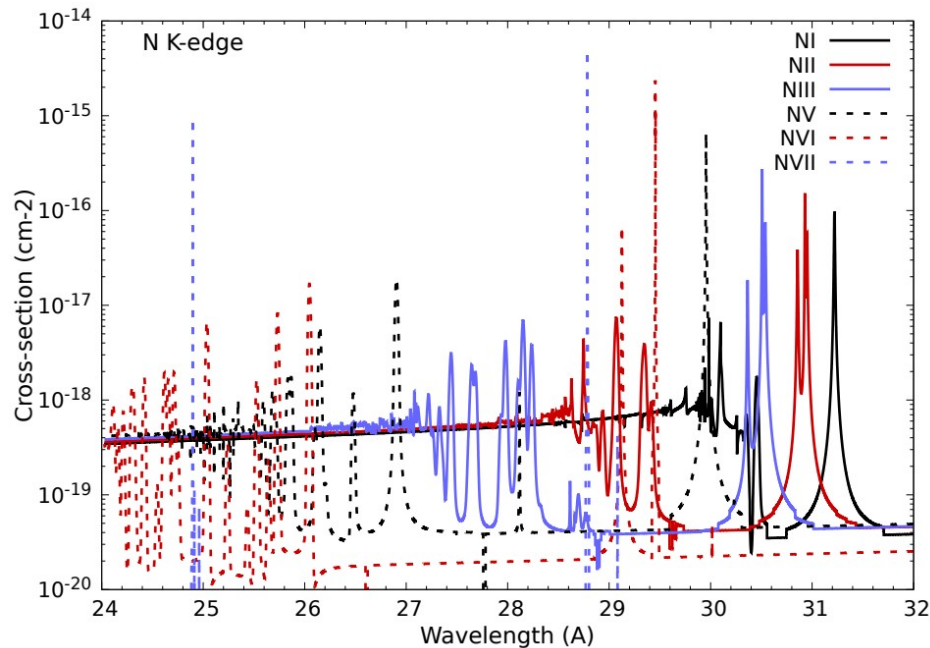
X-raying the ISM: the N K-edge

XMM-Newton data sample:
12 LMXBs
40 extragalactic sources

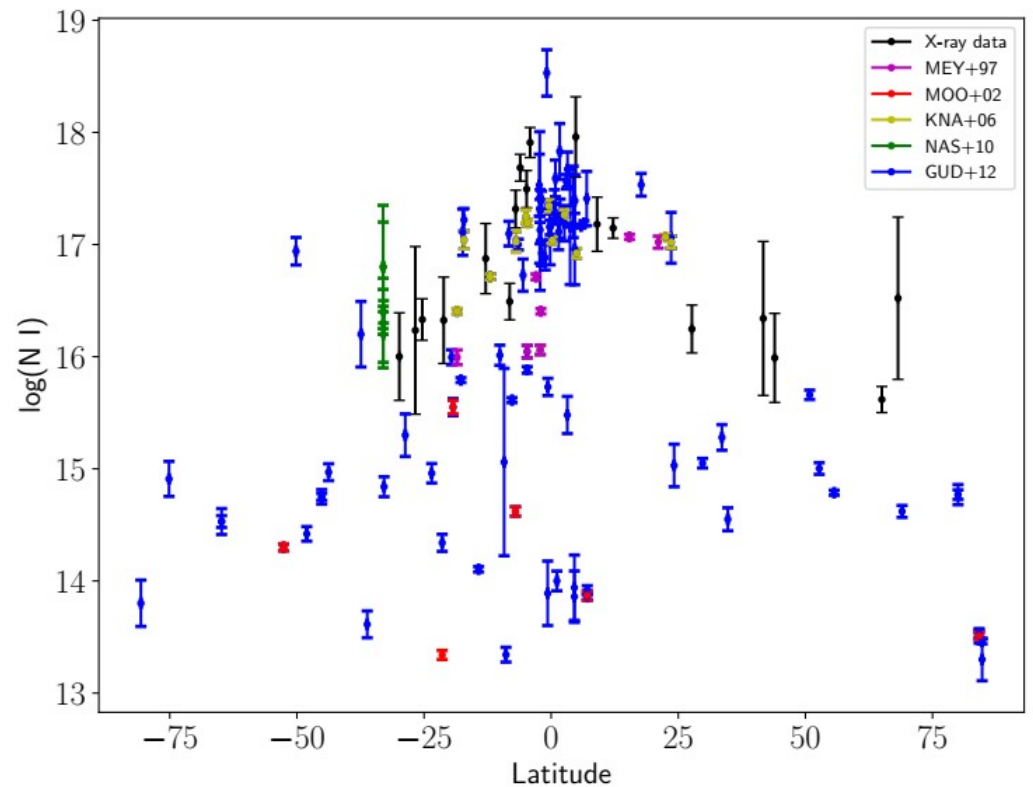
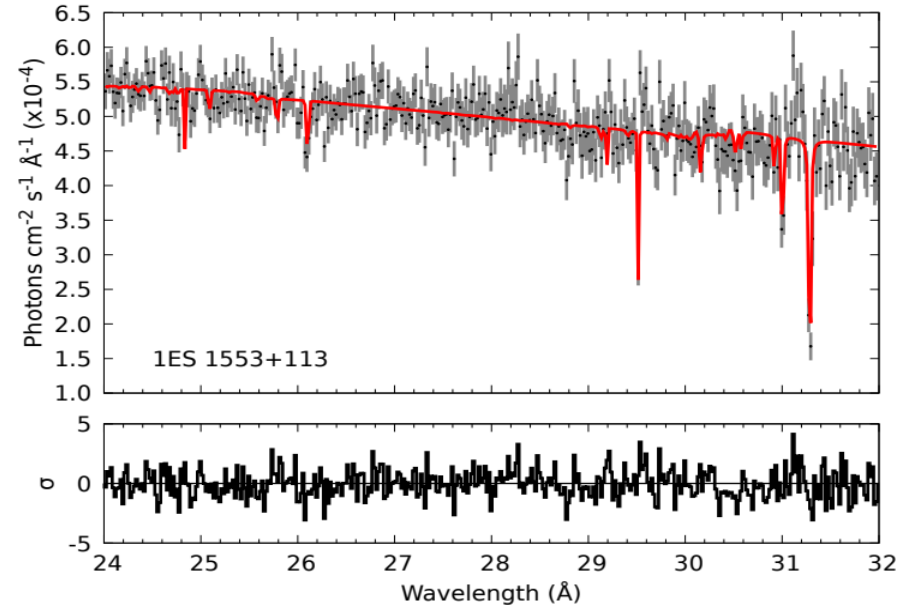
Atomic data from [García et al \(2009\)](#)

Results: column densities for cold (N I),
Warm (N II, N III), hot (N V, NVI, NVII)
phases of the ISM

**Good agreement with UV observations
for the cold component!**



[Gatuzz et al. \(2020c\)](#)



X-ray absorption models

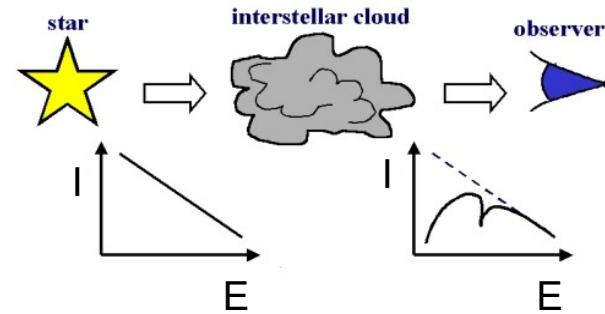
Model name (xspec)	Reference	Parameters
<i>wabs</i>	Morrison & McCammon (1983)	N_h, z
<i>phabs</i>	Arnaud et al. (1996)	N_h, z, Z_i
<i>Tbabs</i> (<i>tbnew, tbgrain, etc.</i>)	Wilms et al. (2000)	N_h, z, Z_i Grain density and size
<i>ISMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2015)	N_h, N_i (for single and double ionized species)
<i>IGMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2018)	N_i (highly ionized species)
<i>IONeq</i>	Gatuzz & Churazov (2018)	N_h, T, Z_i, v, z

X-ray absorption models

Model name (xspec)	Reference	Parameters
<i>wabs</i>	Morrison & McCammon (1983)	N_{H}, z
<i>phabs</i>	Arnaud et al. (1993)	N_{H}, z, Z_i
<i>Tbabs</i> (<i>tbnew, tbgrain, etc.</i>)	Wilms et al. (2000)	N_{H}, z, Z_i Grain density and size
<i>ISMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2015)	N_{H}, N_i (for single and double ionized species)
<i>IGMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2018)	N_i (highly ionized species)
<i>IONeq</i>	Gatuzz & Churazov (2018)	$N_{\text{H}}, T, Z_i, v, z$

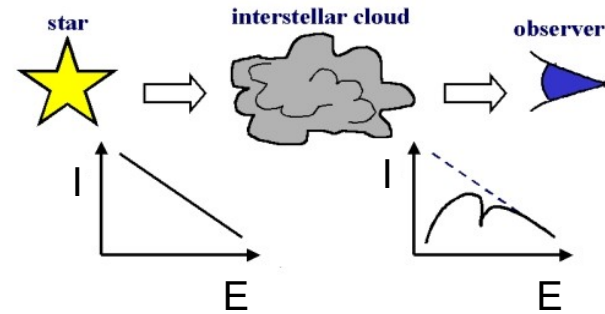
X-ray absorption models

Model name (xspec)	Reference	Parameters
<i>Tbabs</i> (<i>tbnew</i> , <i>tbgrain</i> , etc.)	Wilms et al. (2000)	N_h , z , Z_i Grain density and size (only neutral gas)
<i>ISMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2015)	N_h , N_i (single and double ionized species)
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<i>IONeq</i>	Gatuzz & Churazov (2018)	N_h , T , Z_i , v , z



X-ray absorption models

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<i>Tbabs</i> (<i>tbnew</i> , <i>tbgrain</i> , etc.)	Wilms et al. (2000)	N_h , z , Z_i Grain density and size (only neutral gas)
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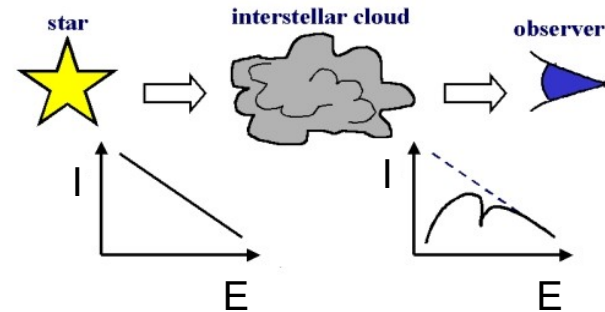


$$I_{obs}(E) = e^{-\sigma_{ISM}(E) N_H} I_{source}(E)$$

$$\sigma_{ISM} = \sigma_{gas} + \sigma_{molecules} + \sigma_{grains}$$

X-ray absorption models

Model name (xspec)	Reference	Parameters
<i>Tbabs</i> (<i>tbnew</i> , <i>tbgrain</i> , etc.)	Wilms et al. (2000)	N_h, z, Z_i Grain density and size (only neutral gas)
<i>ISMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2015)	N_h, N_i (single and double ionized species)
<i>IGMabs</i>	Gatuzz et al. (2018)	N_i (highly ionized species)
<i>IONeq</i>	Gatuzz & Churazov (2018)	N_h, T, Z_i, v, z



$$I_{obs}(E) = e^{-\sigma_{ISM}(E) N_H} I_{source}(E)$$

$$\sigma_{ISM} = \sigma_{gas} + \sigma_{molecules} + \sigma_{grains}$$

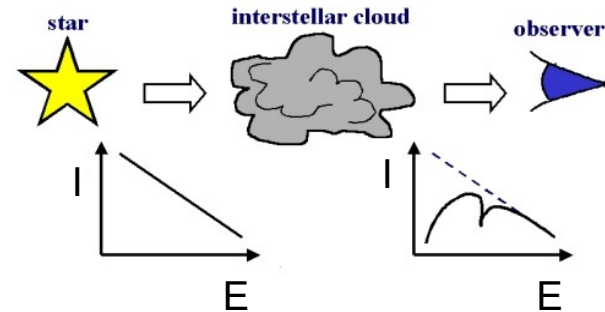
$$\sigma_{gas} = \sum_{Z,i} A_Z \xi_{Z,i} (1 - \beta_{Z,i}) \sigma_{Z,i}(E)$$

$$\sigma_{molecules} = A_{H_2} \sigma_{bf}(H_2)$$

$$\sigma_{grains} = \xi_g \int_0^{\infty} \frac{d\eta_{gr}(a)}{da} \sigma_{geom} \times (1 - \exp(-\langle \sigma \rangle \langle N \rangle)) da$$

X-ray absorption models

Model name (xspec)	Reference	Parameters
<i>Tbabs</i> (<i>tbnew</i> , <i>tbgrain</i> , etc.)	Wilms et al. (2000)	N_h, z, Z_i Grain density and size (only neutral gas)
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<i>IONeq</i>	Gatuzz & Churazov (2018)	N_h, T, Z_i, v, z



$$I_{obs}(E) = e^{-\sigma_{ISM}(E) N_H} I_{source}(E)$$

$$\sigma_{ISM} = \sigma_{gas}$$

Tbabs

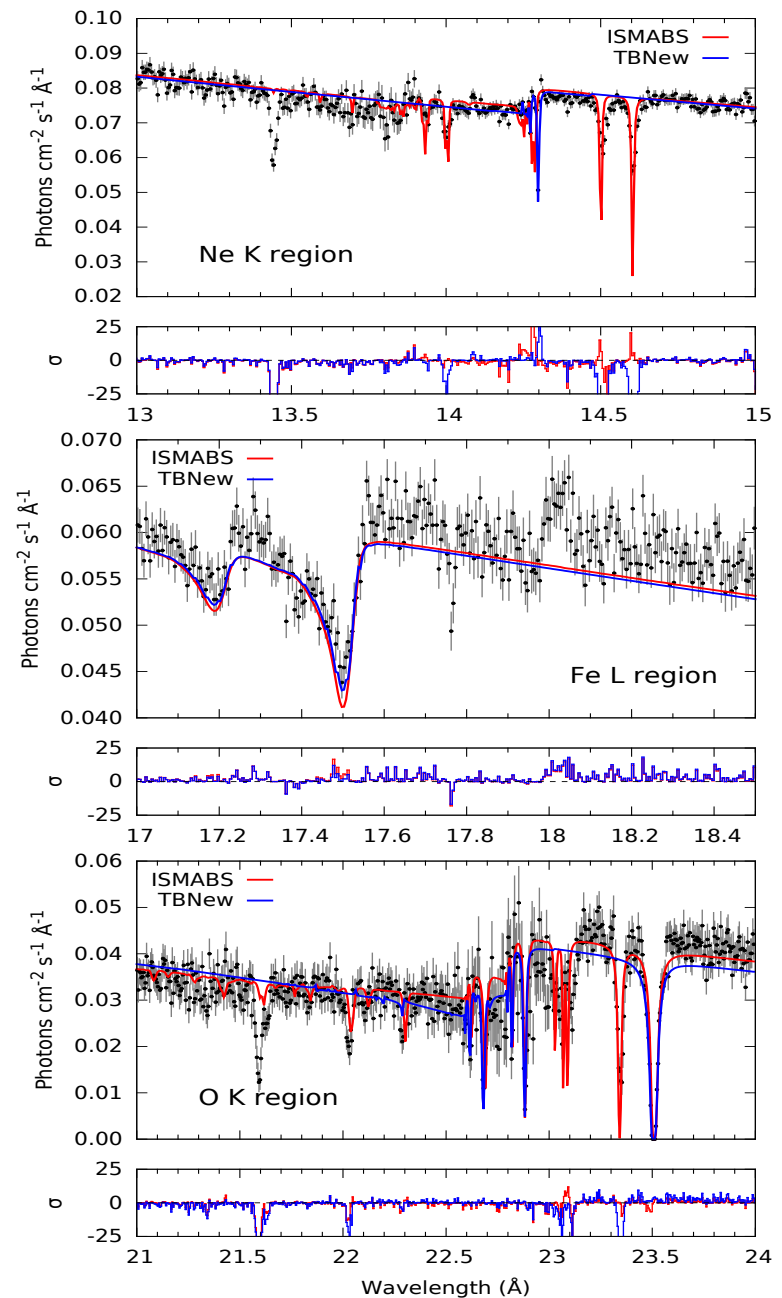
$$\sigma_{gas} = \sum_{Z, i} A_Z \xi_{Z, i} (1 - \beta_{Z, i}) \sigma_{Z, i}(E)$$

ISMabs (IGMabs)

$$\sigma_{gas} N_H = \sum_i \sigma_i(E) N_i$$

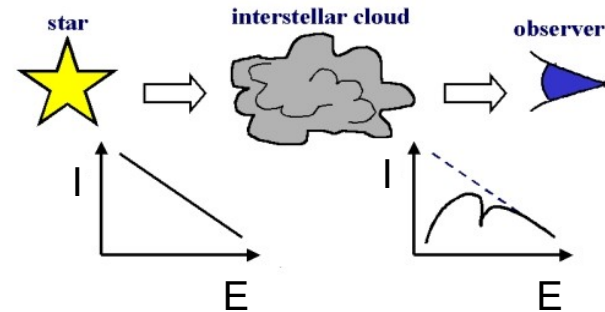
X-ray absorption models

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X-ray absorption models

Model name (xspec)	Reference	Parameters
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<i>IONeq</i>	Gatuzz & Churazov (2018)	N_h , T , Z_i , v , z



$$I_{obs}(E) = e^{-\sigma_{ISM}(E) N_H} I_{source}(E)$$

$$\sigma_{ISM} = \sigma_{gas}$$

IONeq

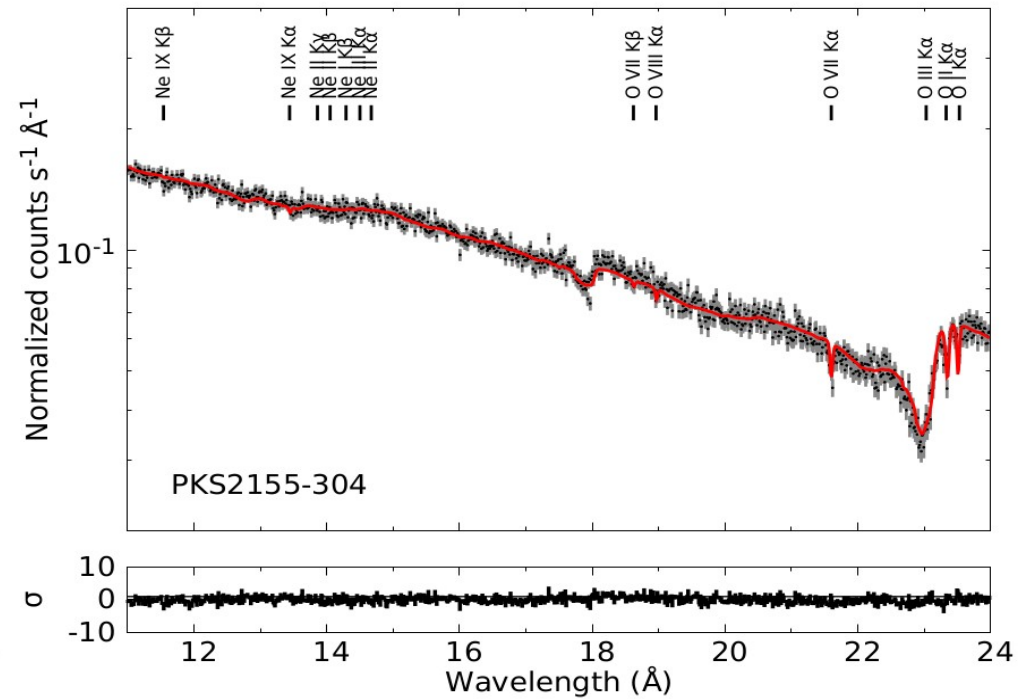
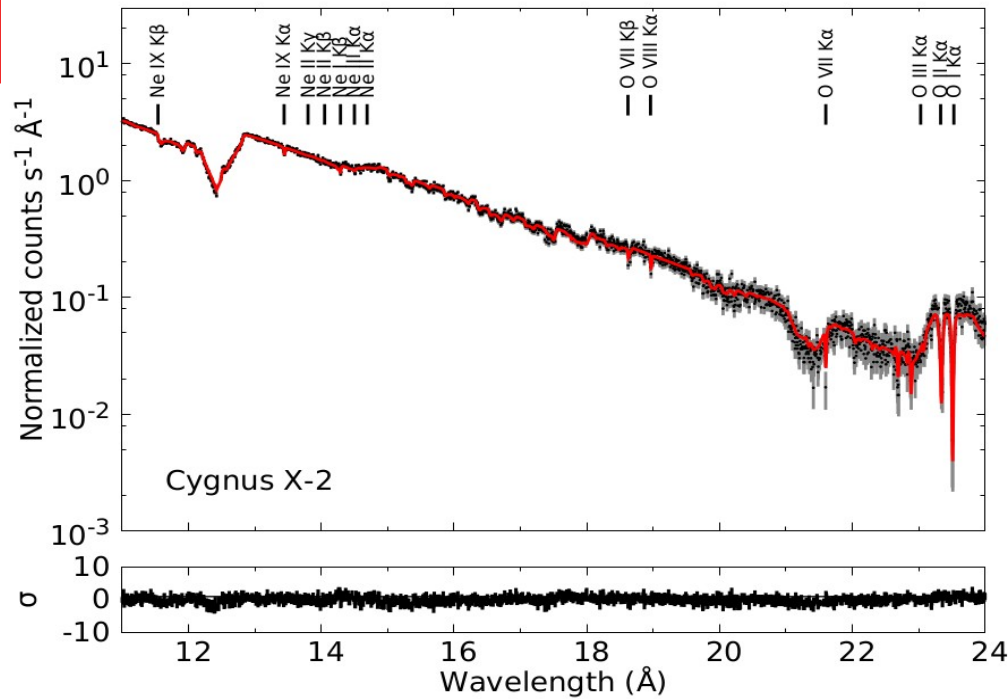
$$\sigma_{gas} = \sum_{Z,i} A_Z \xi_{Z,i} \sigma_{Z,i}(E)$$

$$\xi_{Z,i} = \frac{\eta_{Z,i}}{\sum_{Z,i} \eta_{Z,i}}$$

$$0 = \sum_{i' \neq i} \eta_{Z,i'} R_{Z,i' \rightarrow i} - \eta_{Z,i} \sum_{i' \neq i} R_{Z,i \rightarrow i'}$$

The physical processes included in the creation and destruction rates are:
photoionization, auger ionization, direct collisional ionization, radiative recombination and dielectronic recombination

Ionization Equilibrium model (IONeq)

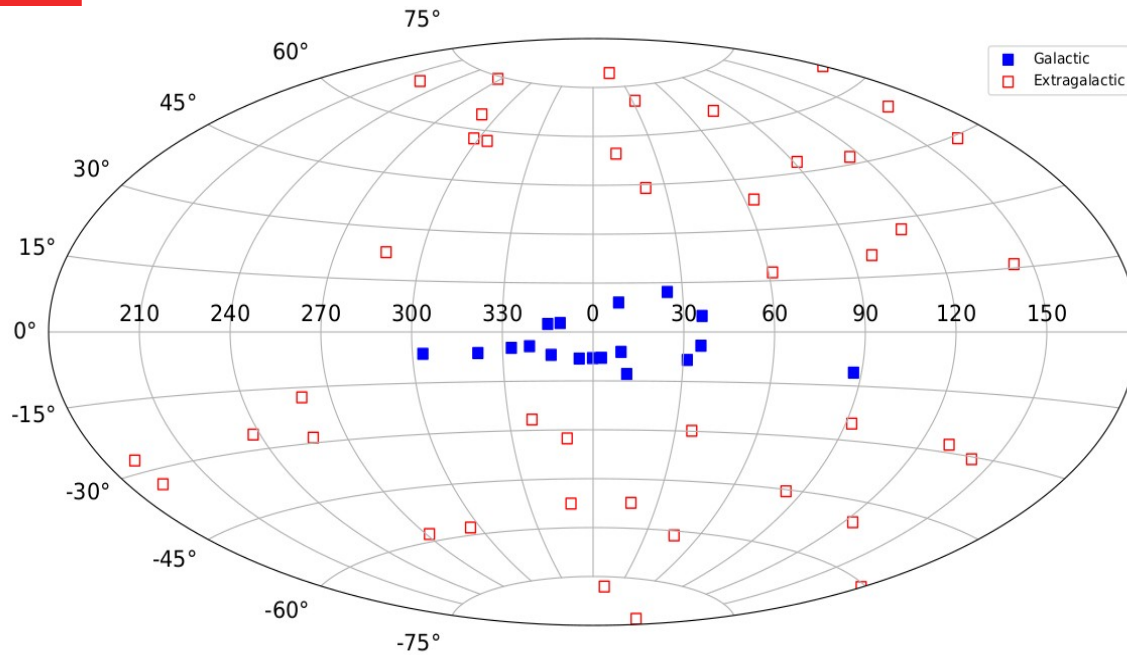


COLD COMPONENT ($T_e \sim 10000 \text{ K}$): O I, Ne I, Fe I, Metallic Fe

WARM COMPONENT ($T_e \sim 51000 \text{ K}$): O II, O III, Ne II, Ne III

HOT COMPONENT ($T_e \sim 1.9 \text{ MK}$): Ne IX, O VII, O VIII

X-raying the ISM: cold, neutral and hot gas

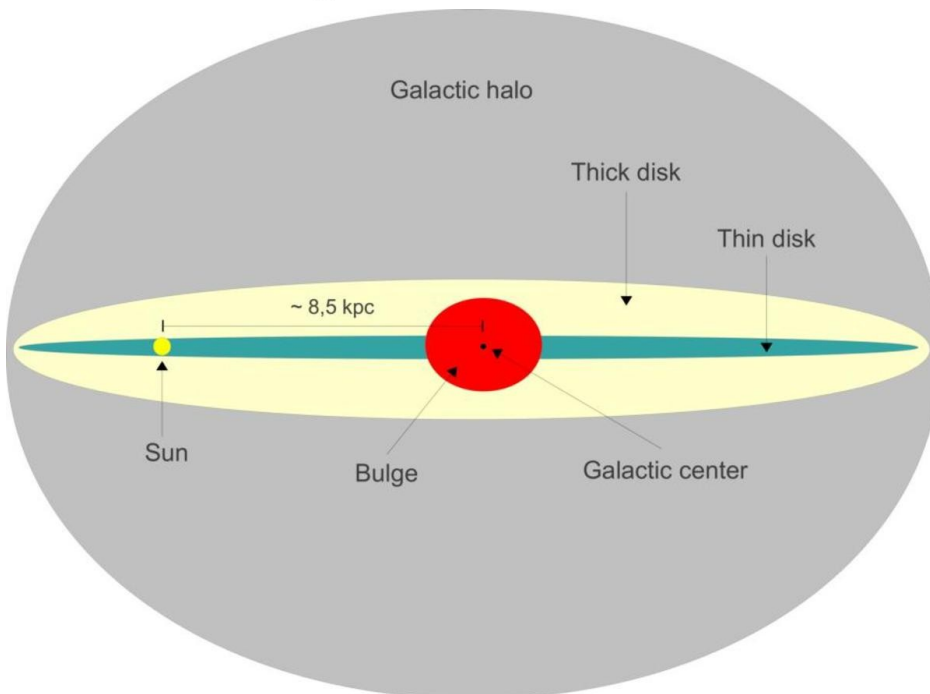


Galactic: 18 Extragalactic: 42
165 observations from Chandra
257 observations from XMM-Newton

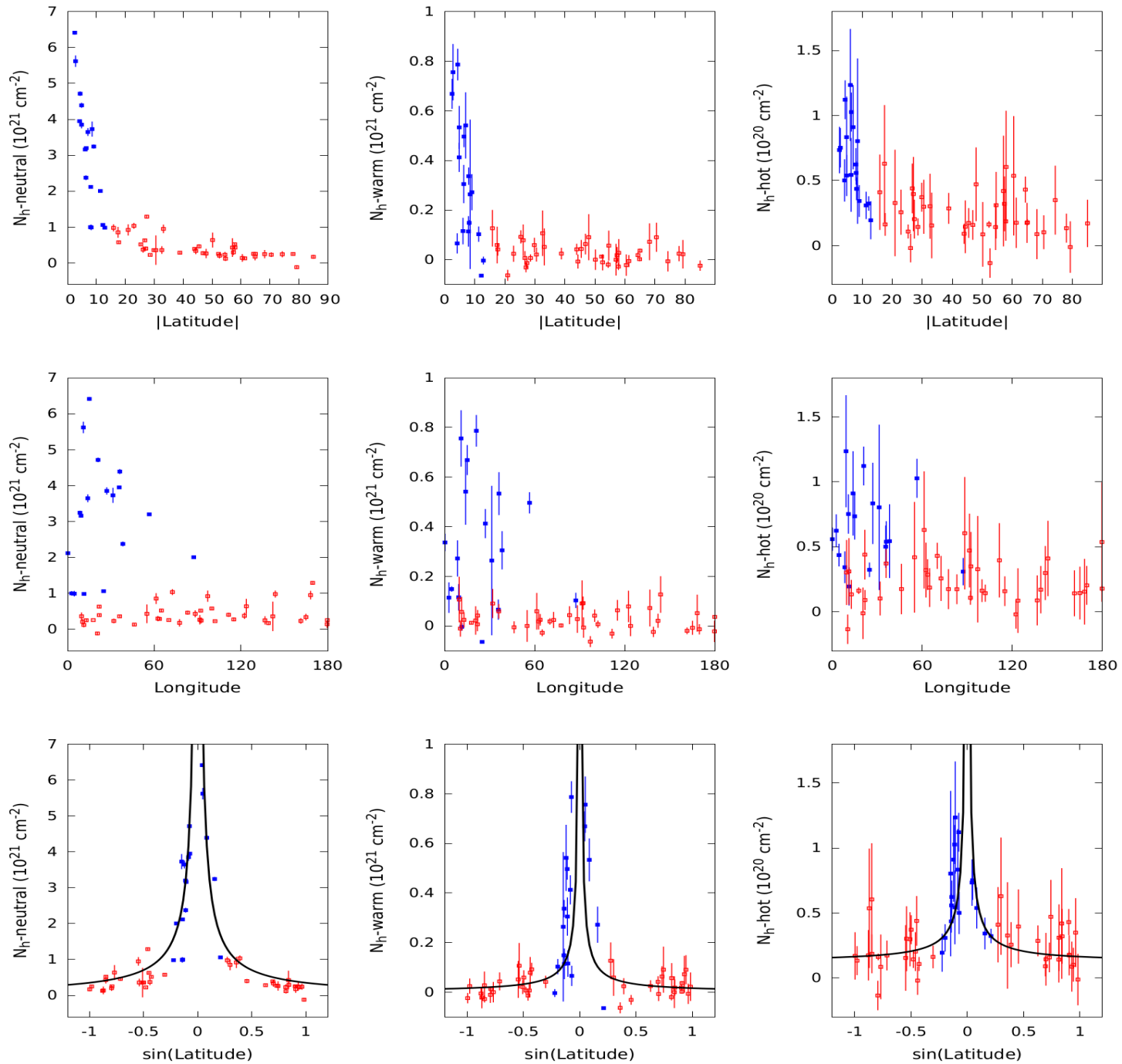
Galactic Sources → LMXB
Extragalactic Sources → Blazars

> 1000 counts in the 21-24 Å wavelength region

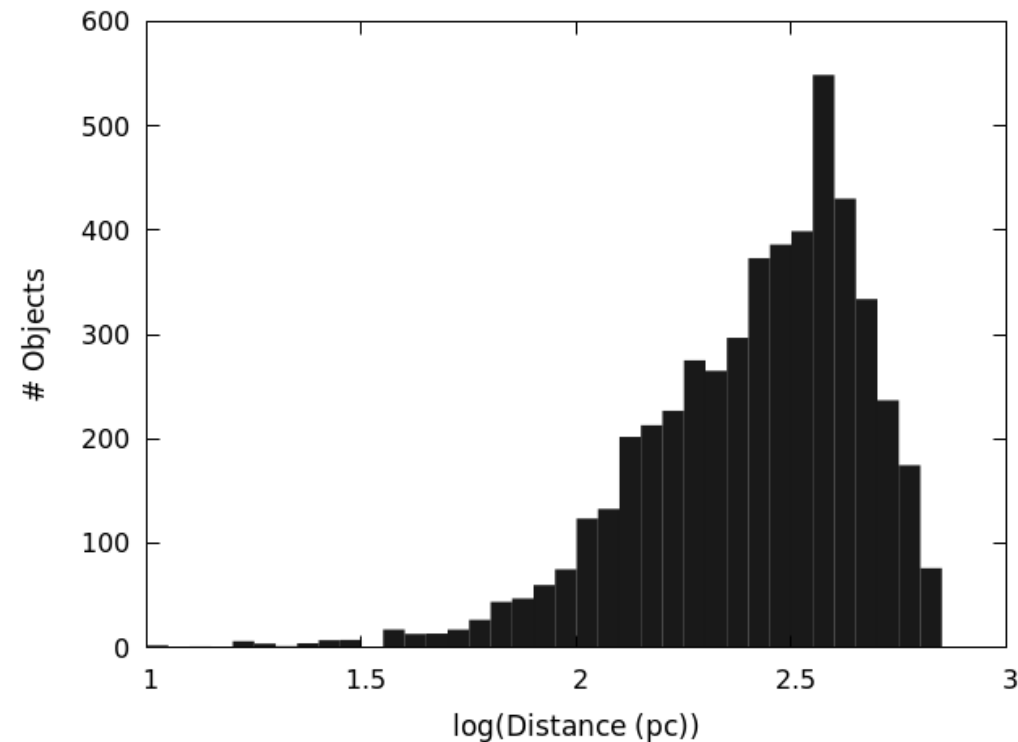
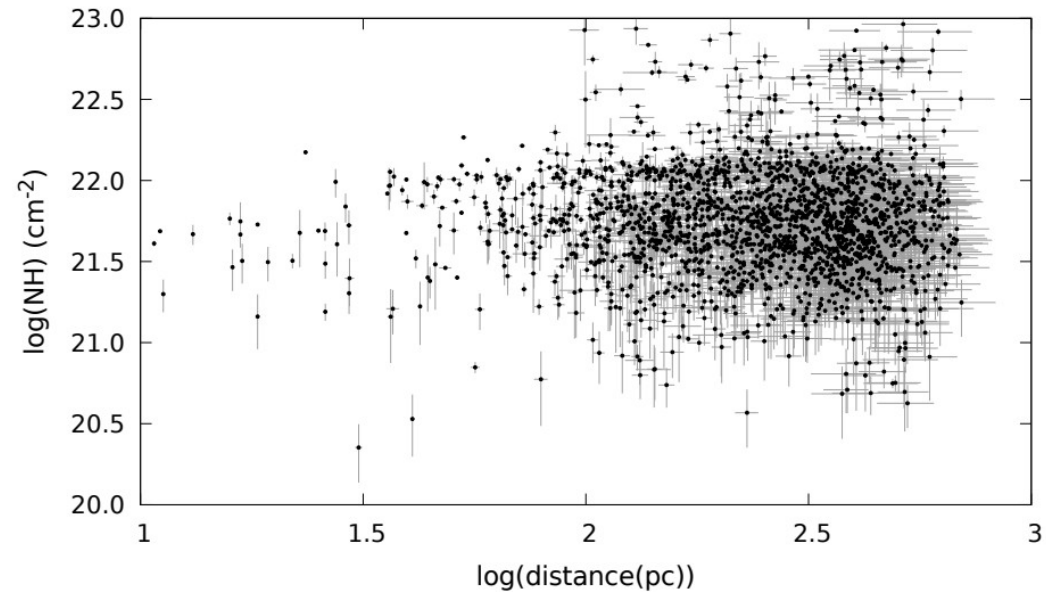
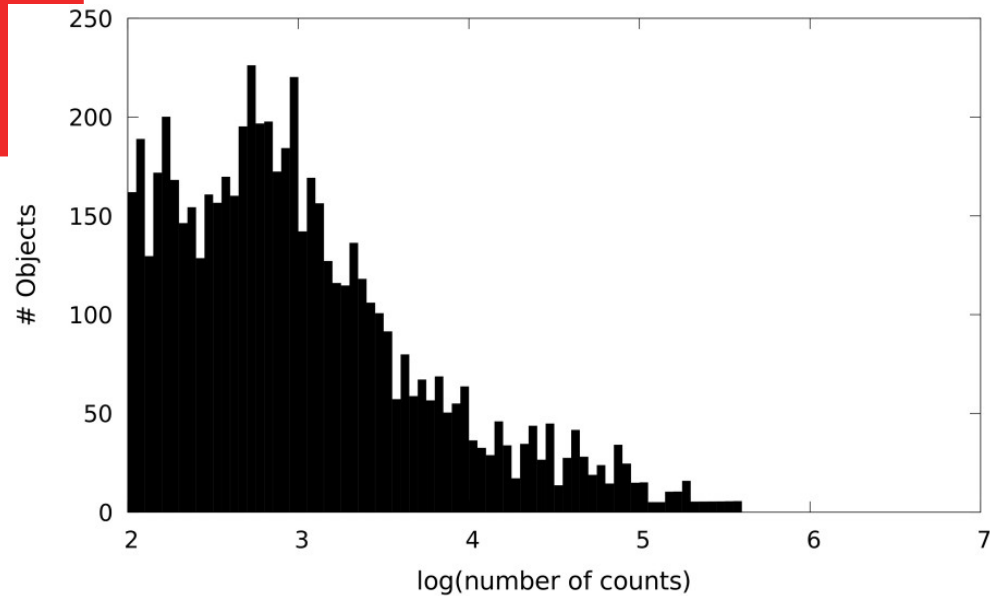
We did not impose additional constraints! (e.g. O VII Ka detection)



X-raying the ISM: cold, neutral and hot gas



X-raying the ISM: synergy with GAIA DR1



Spectral fits and classification obtained from *Exploring the X-ray Transient and Variable Sky (ExTRAS)*

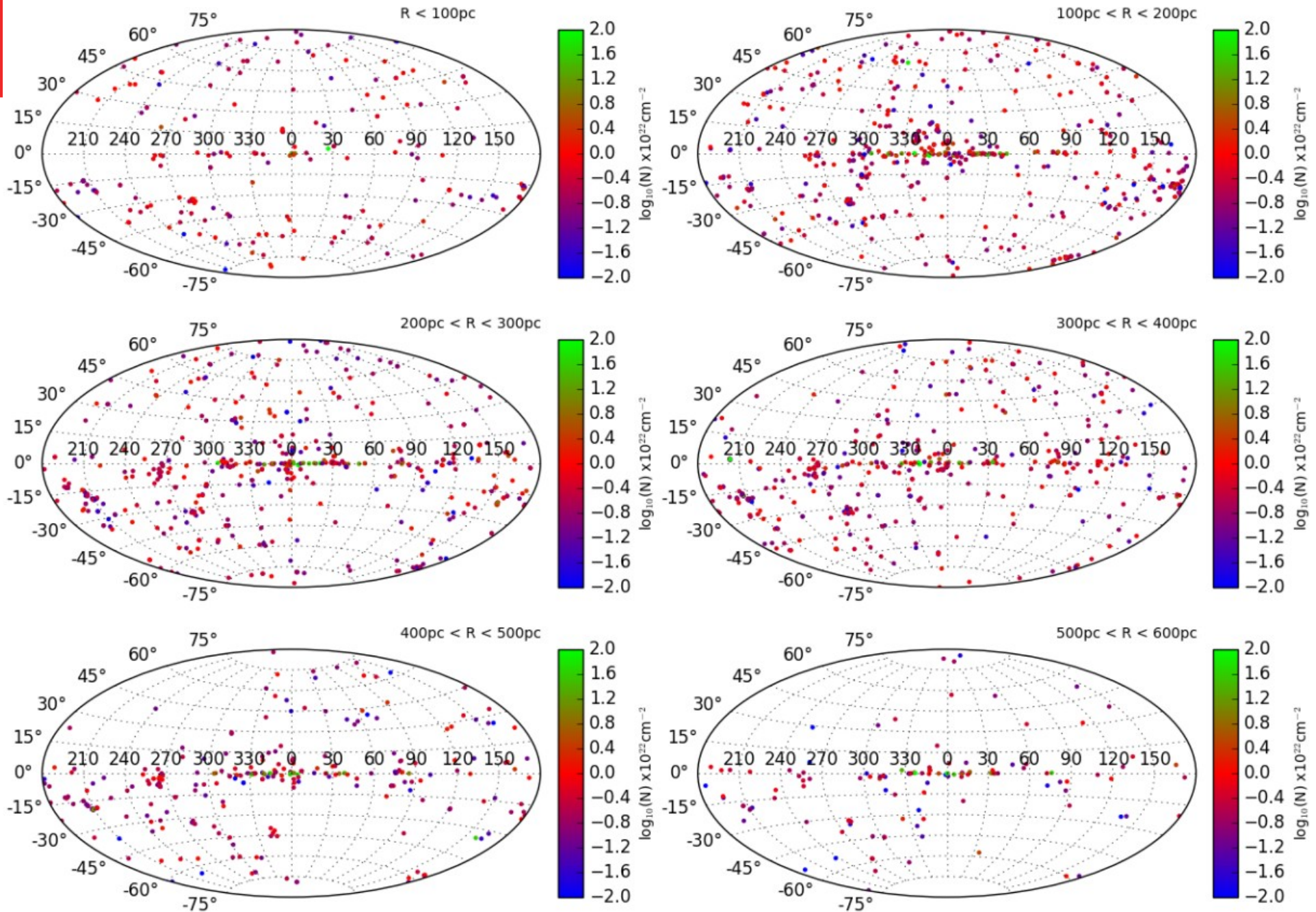
Six phenomenological models:

- $\text{tbabs} * \text{pow}$
- $\text{tbabs} * \text{bbody}$
- $\text{tbabs} * \text{apec}$
- $\text{tbabs} * (\text{apec} + \text{tbabs}^2 * \text{pow})$
- $\text{tbabs} * (\text{pow} + \text{tbabs}^2 * \text{pow})$
- $\text{tbabs} * (\text{bbody} + \text{tbabs}^2 * \text{pow})$

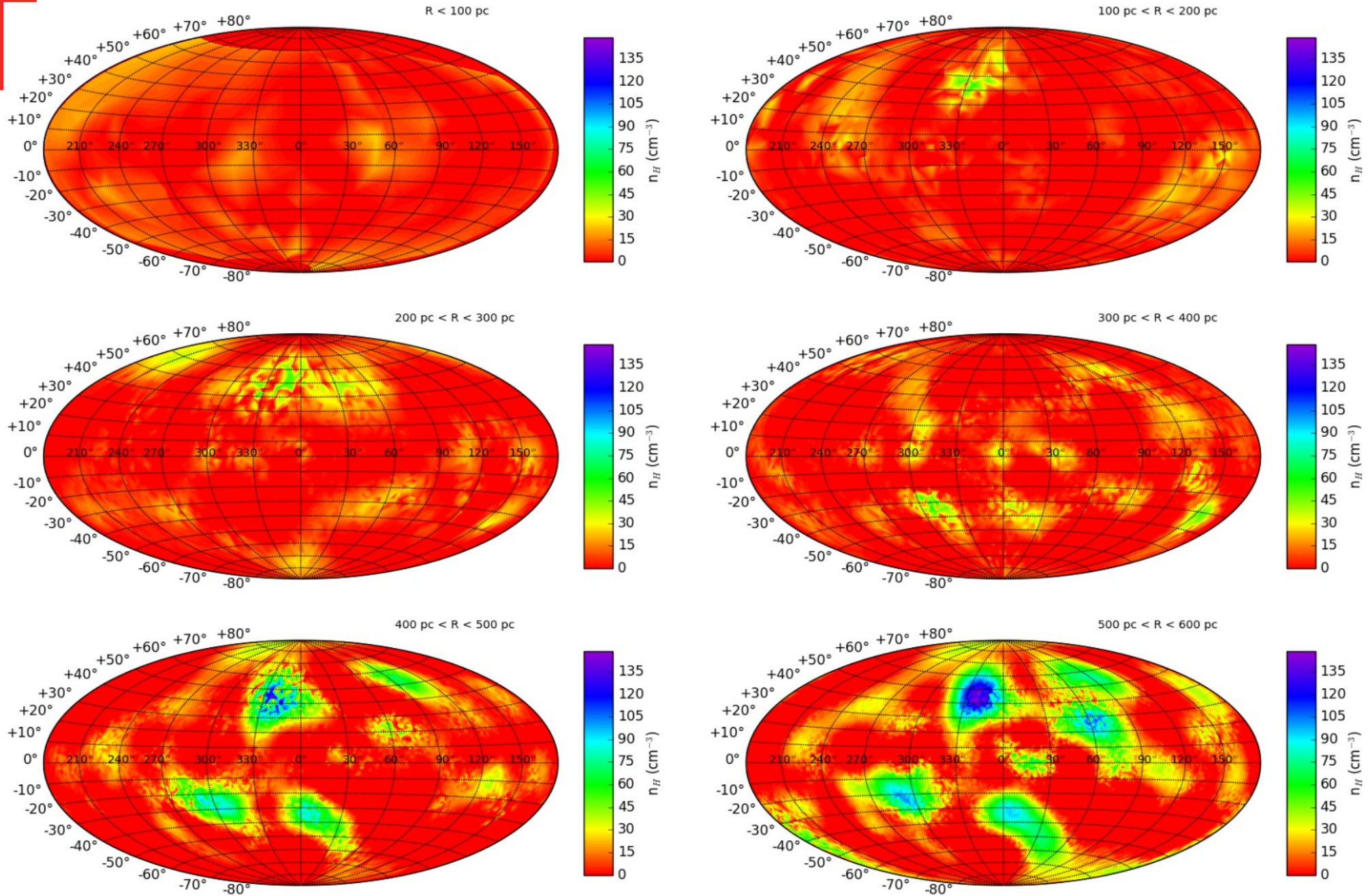
Nh from best fit model

Final sample: 2800 sources

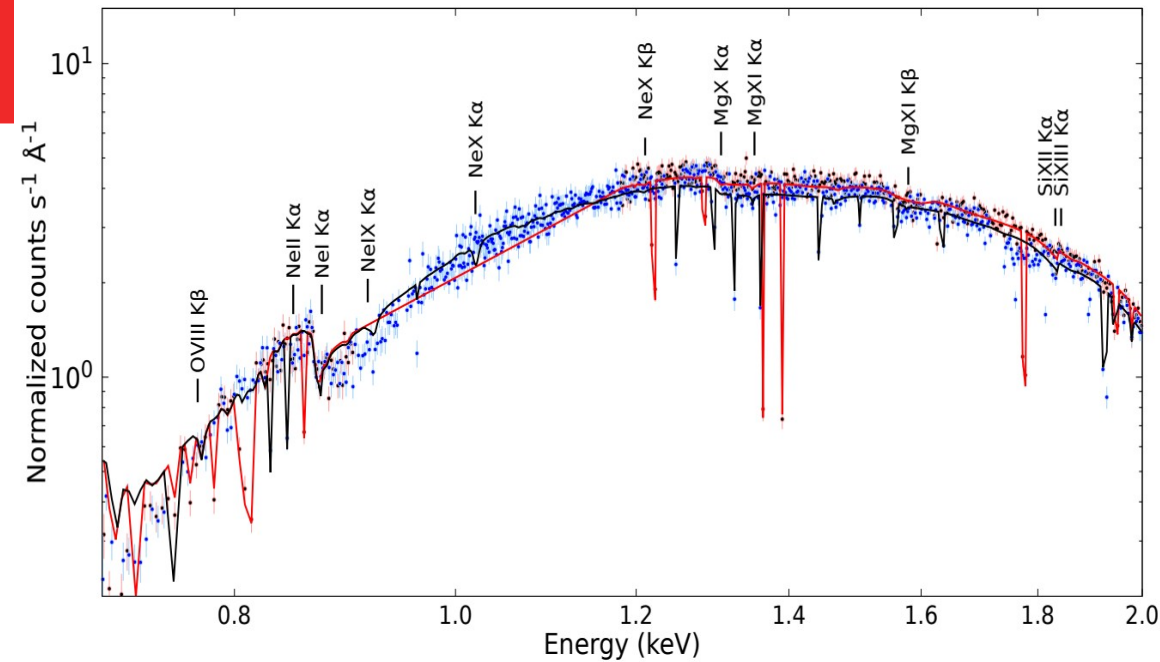
X-raying the ISM: synergy with GAIA DR1



X-raying the ISM: synergy with GAIA DR1



X-ray absorption features: ISM or LMXB origin?



The LMXB *IGRJ17091-3624* analyzed

The model:

Two flavours for the continuum:
powerlaw+diskbb
nthcomp+diskbb

Cold-Warm-Hot ISM:
IONeq

Photoionized absorber:
Warmabs

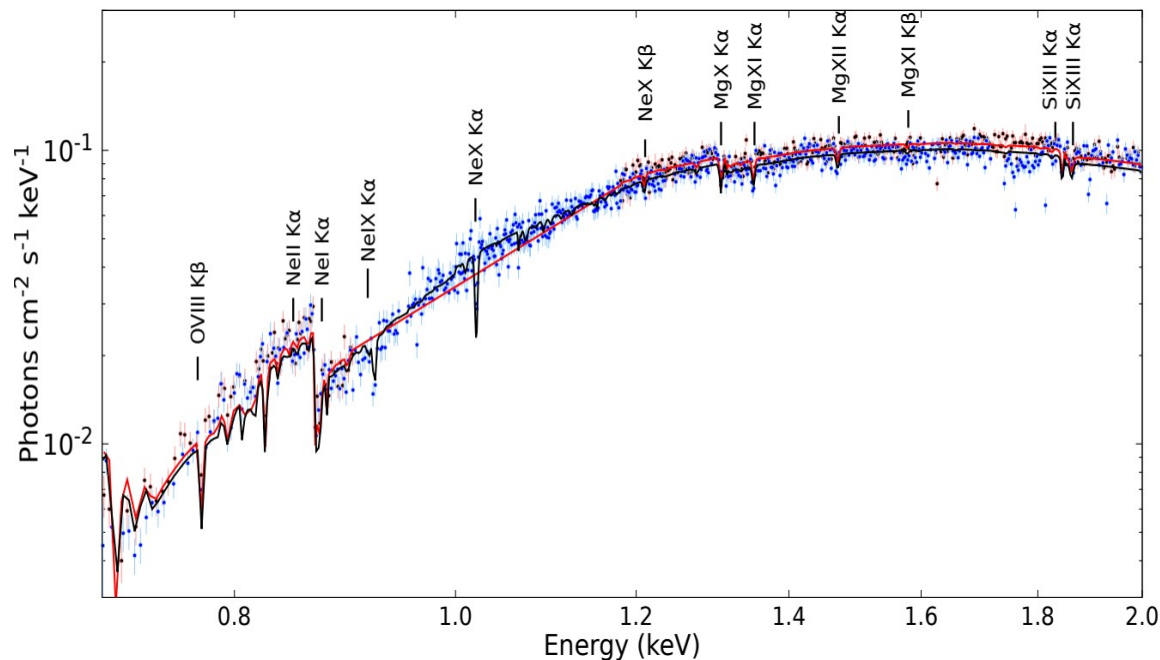
**We were able to distinguish
hot gas from two sources:**

The ISM

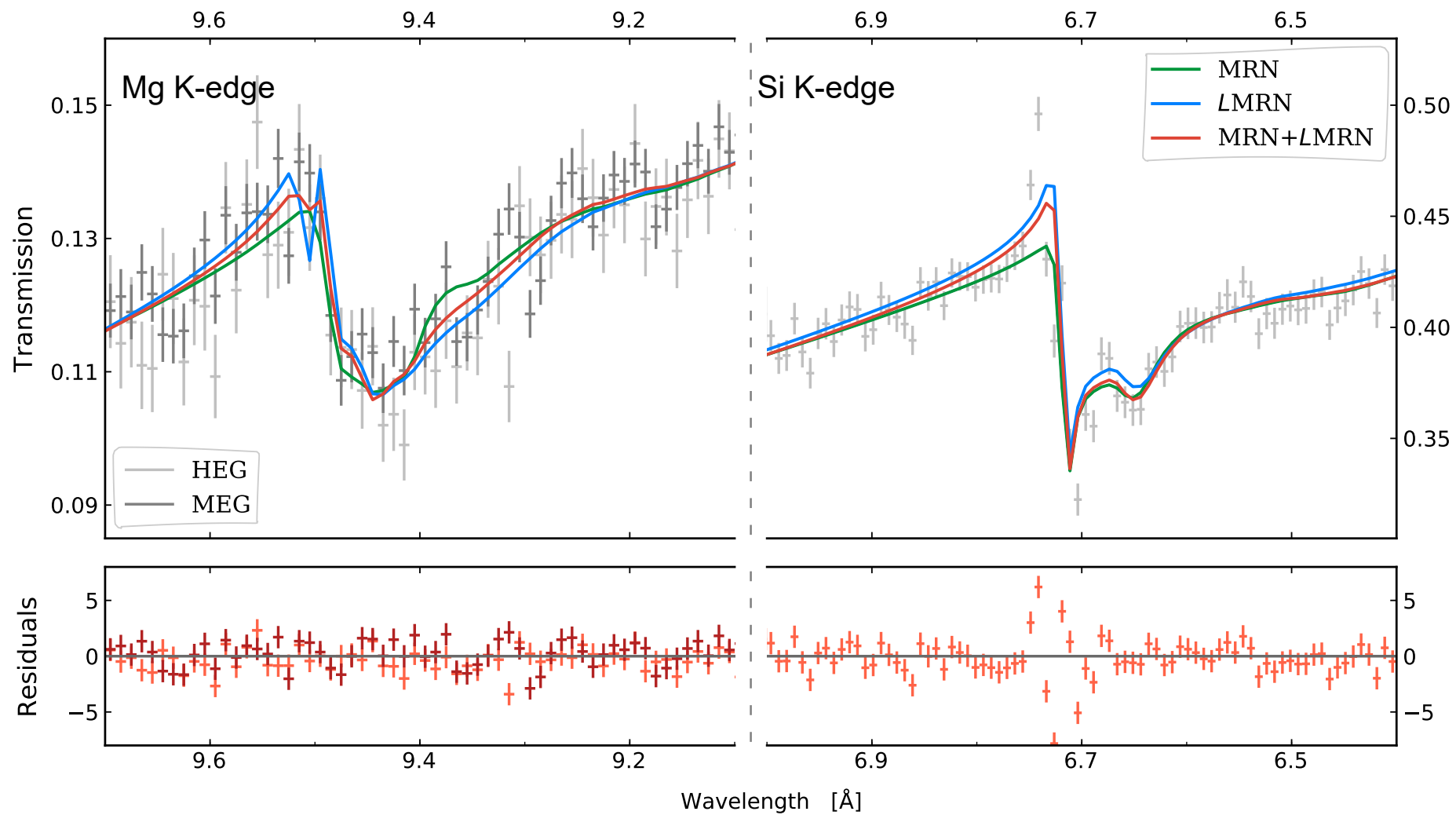
(e.g. Ne VIII, NeIX, Mg X)

The LMXB

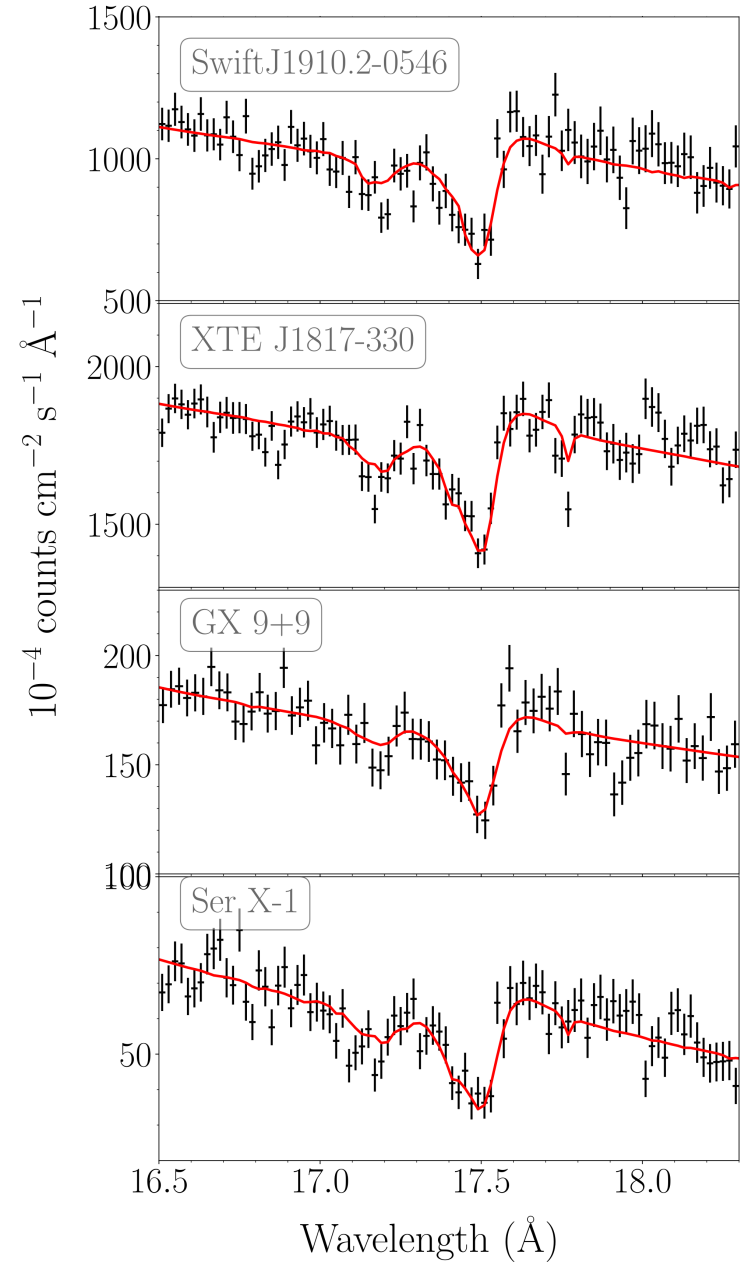
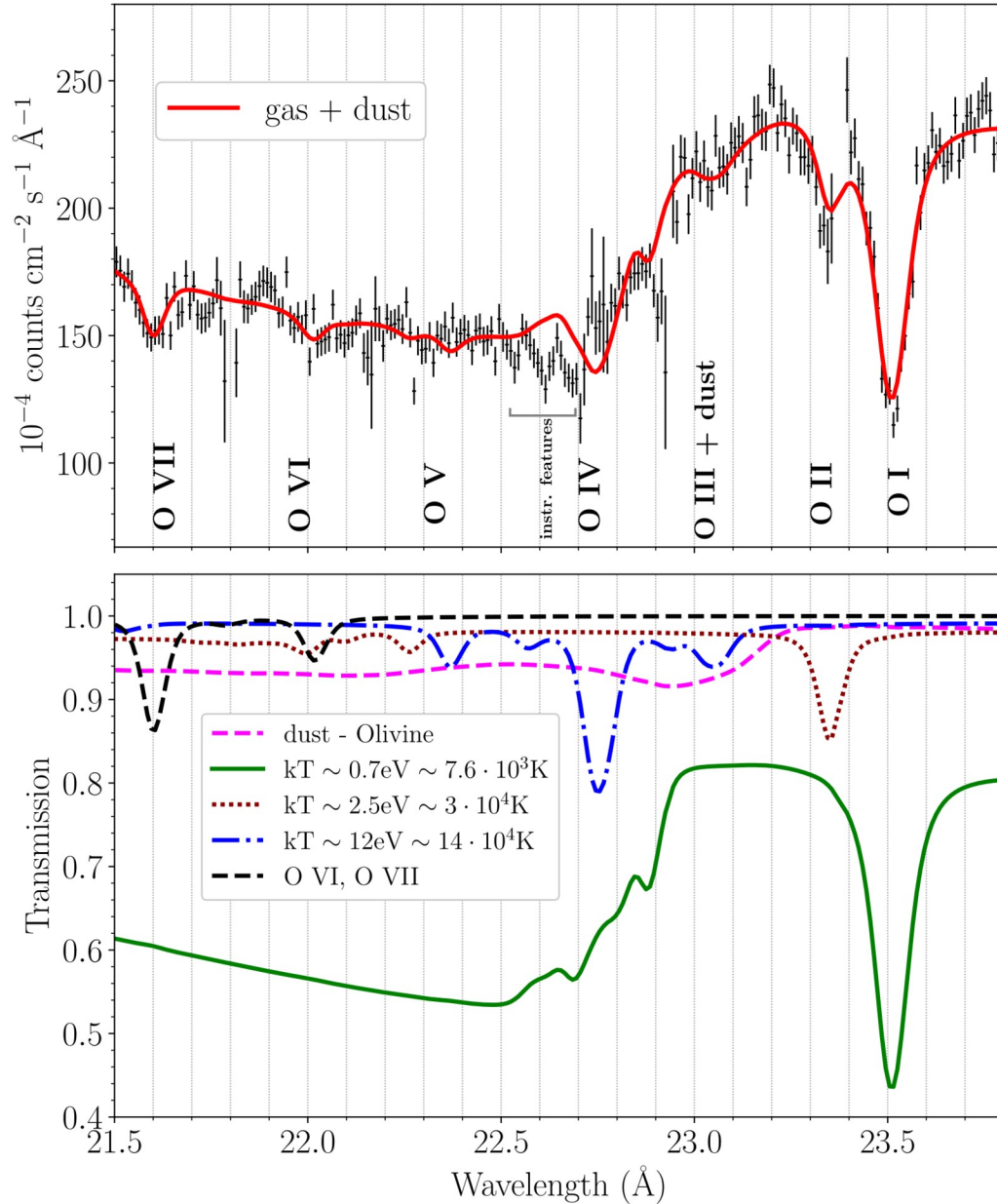
(e.g. NeX, MgXII, Si XIII, Fe XIX)



X-ray ISM absorption: dust component



X-ray ISM absorption: dust component

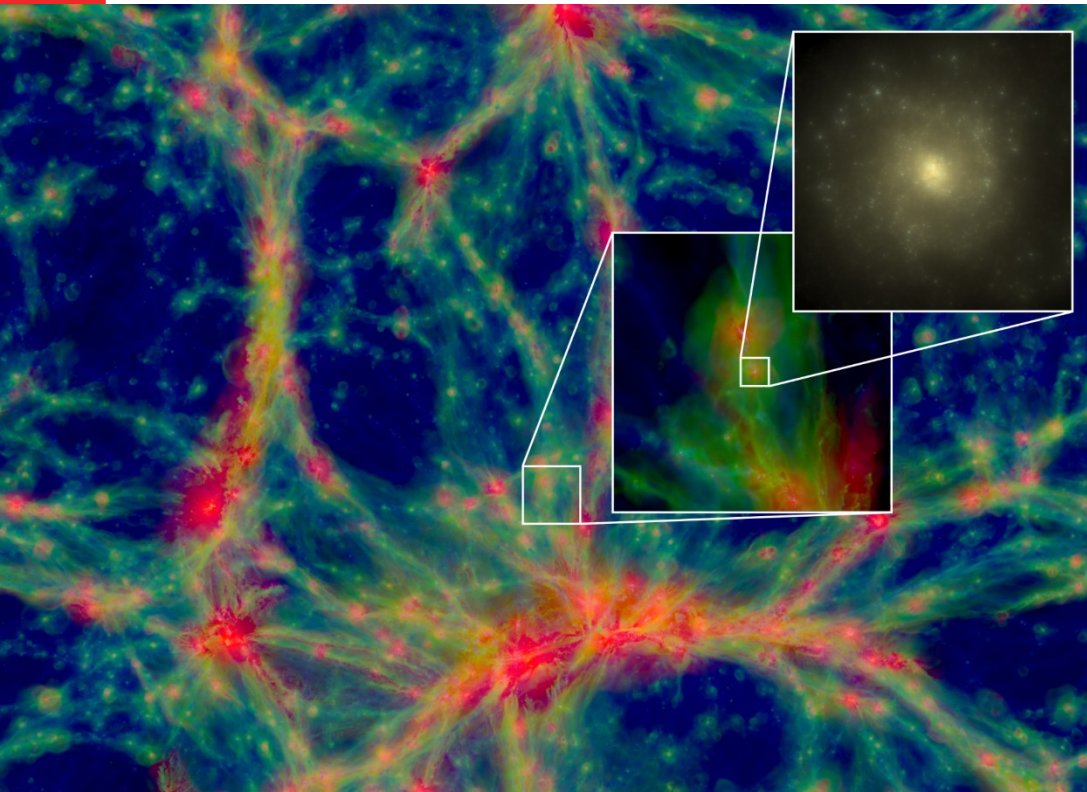




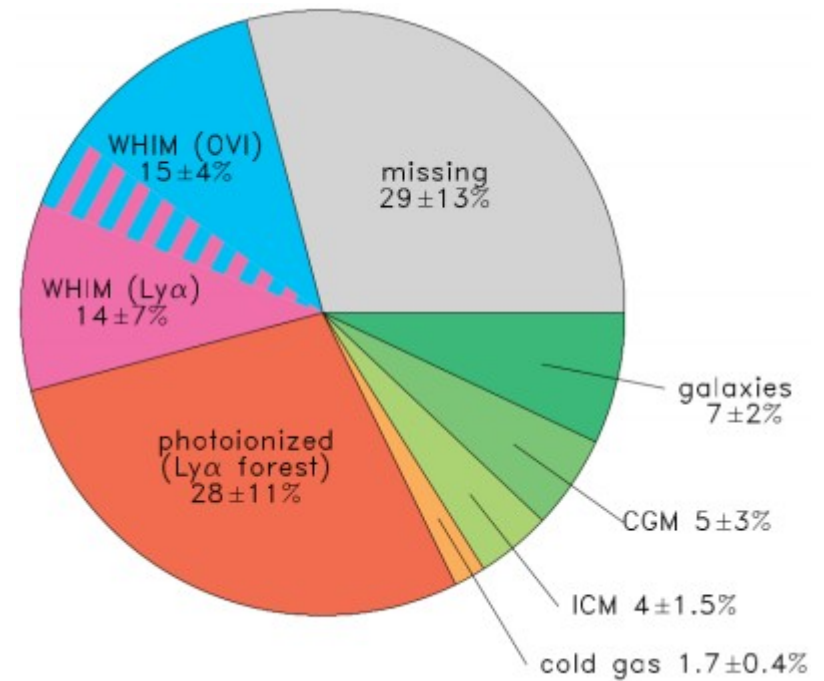
WARNING!



The warm-hot intergalactic medium (WHIM)



Schaye et al. (2015)



Shull et al. (2012)

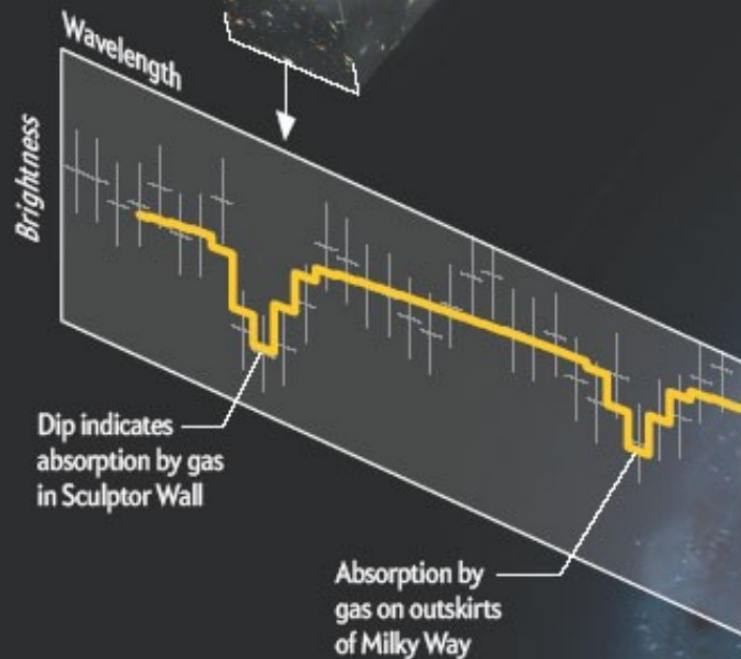
Phase	Temp. (K)	Tracers	Wavelength
Warm	$10^5 - 10^{5.7}$	O VI, C V	Far UV, soft X-rays
Warm-hot	$10^{5.7} - 10^{6.3}$	O VII	Soft X-rays
Hot	$10^{6.3} - 10^7$	H-like metals	Soft/Hard X-rays

Betrayed by Its Shadow

Astronomers think they may have found where the bulk of the normal matter in the universe lurks: not in galaxies but in a form of intergalactic gas (mostly hydrogen) called the warm-hot intergalactic medium, or WHIM. The name connotes that the gas is less than blazingly hot and, consequently, glows too feebly to see directly. Looking in the interstices of a giant filament of galaxies called the Sculptor Wall, astronomers saw, in essence, the WHIM's shadow: the gas absorbed x-rays from a background object at a distinctive wavelength.

H 2356-309
(background
x-ray source)

Sculptor Wall



X-rays

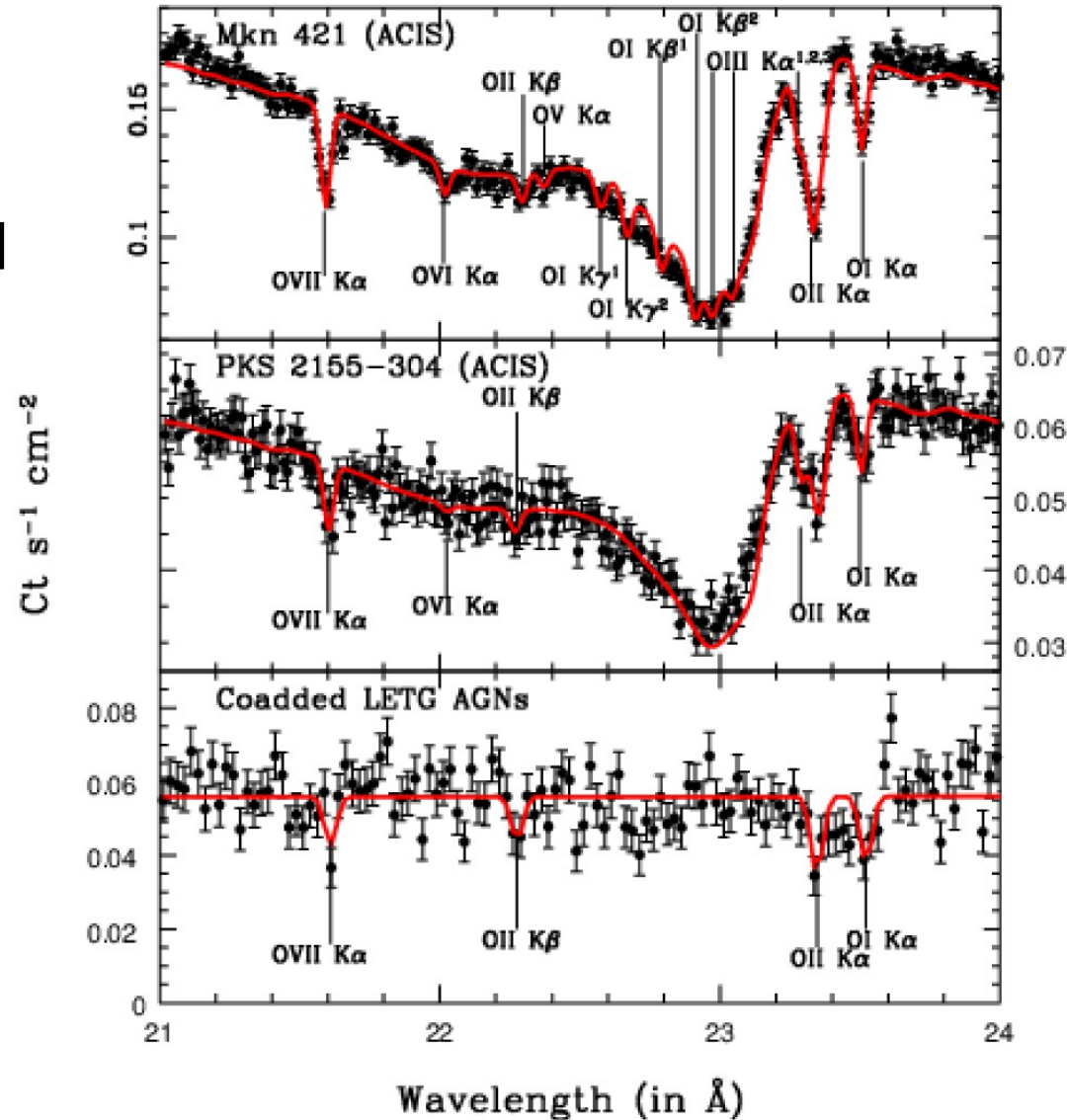
Chandra
X-ray Observatory



The local ISM is important!



O VII Ka at $z \simeq 0.03$ from WHIM
(Buote et al. 2009, Fang et al. 2010, Ren et al. 2014)





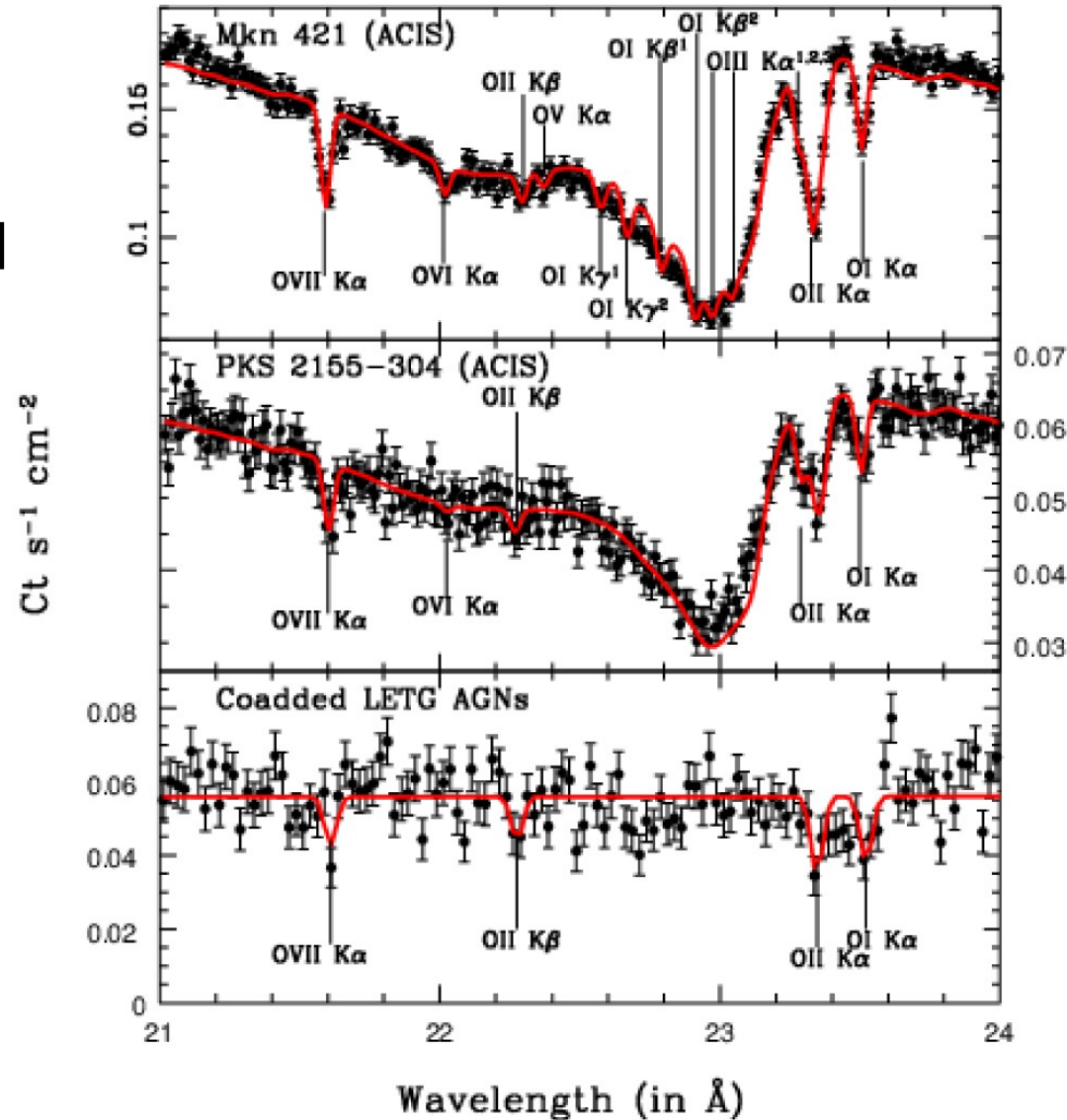
The local ISM is important!

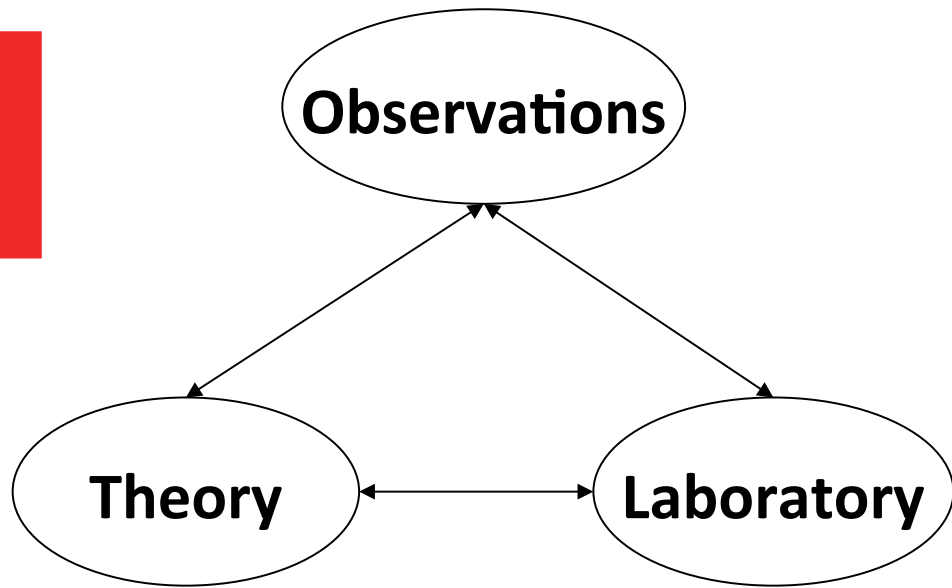


O VII Ka at $z \simeq 0.03$ from WHIM
(Buote et al. 2009, Fang et al. 2010, Ren et al. 2014)

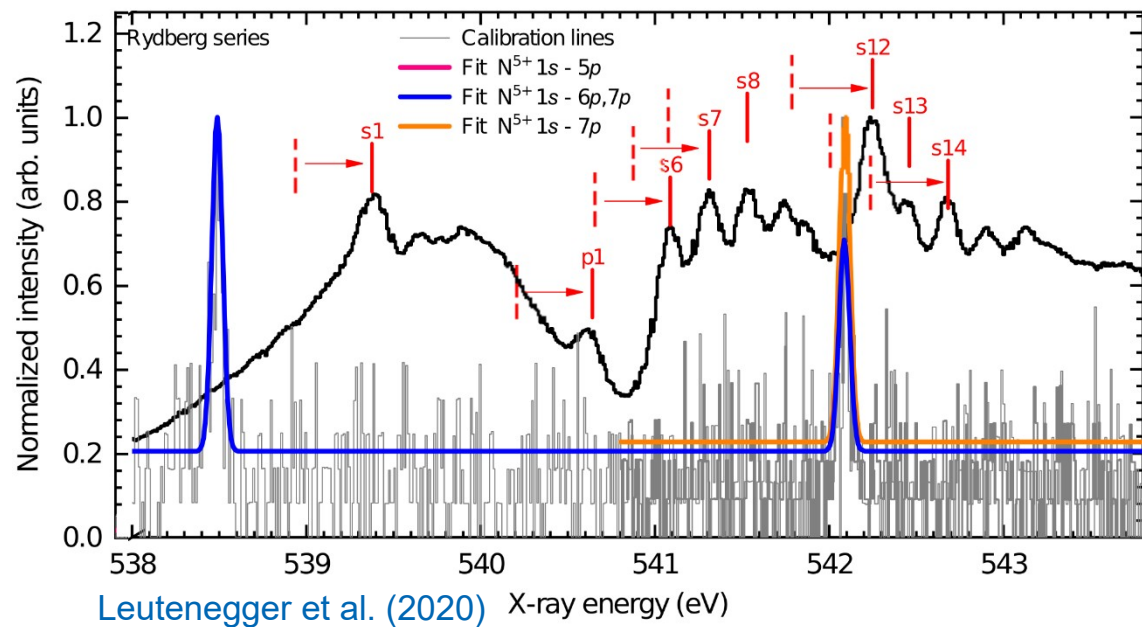
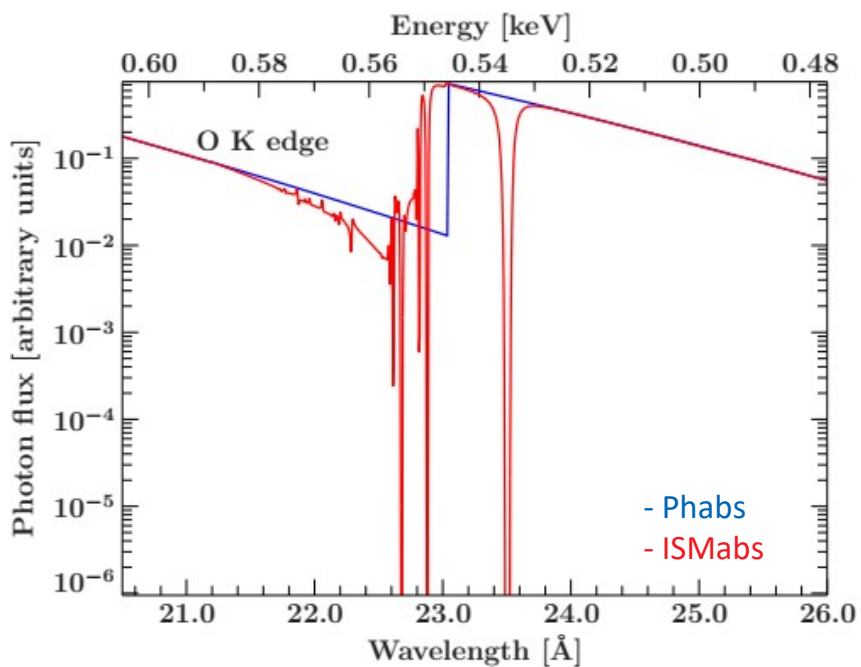
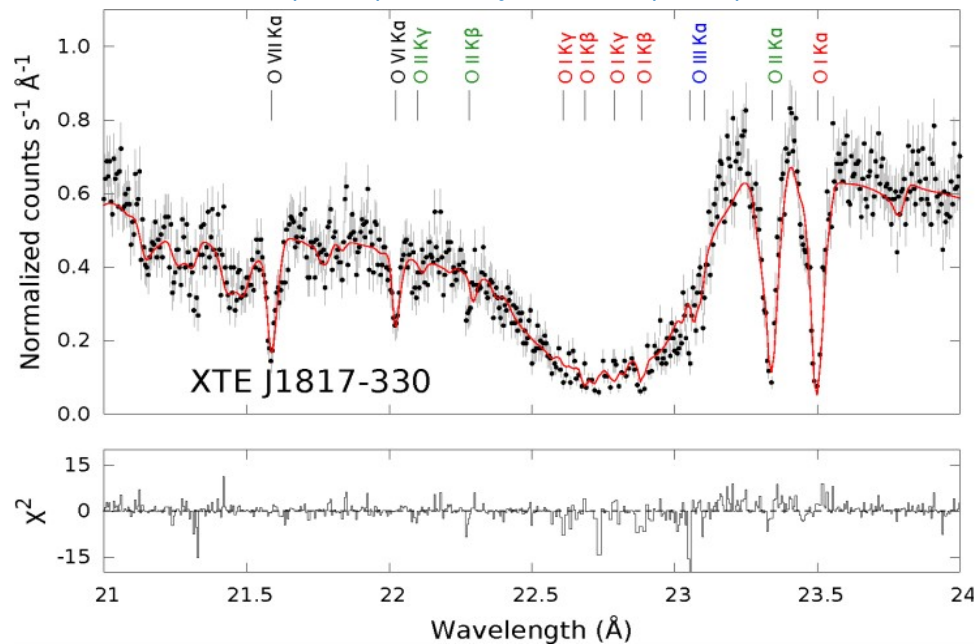
OR

O II K β at $z = 0$ from ISM
(Nicastro et al. 2016)





Gatuzz et al. (2013), Gorczyca et al. (2013)



What atomic data are you using?





Conclusions

- ISM absorption affects all X-ray spectra and needs to be modeled carefully.
- X-ray observations provides constrains for the neutral, warm and hot components of the ISM.
- Accurate atomic data is crucial in order to avoid misidentification of the spectral features observed. **What atomic data are you using?**
- The gas component needs to be accurately modeled (very important for dust analysis!)
- We can distinguish between the ISM and the absorption intrinsic to the sources



Thank you!