

X-RAY ANALYSIS OF SEYFERT 1 GALAXIES WITH OPTICAL POLARIZATION: A TEST FOR UNIFICATION MODELS⁵

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Received November 3 2023; accepted March 7 2024

ABSTRACT

In accordance with the AGN Unified Model, observed polarization can be related to the orientation of the line of sight with respect to the torus. AGN X-ray emission arises from the central region and carries the imprints of the obscuring material. We aim to test a unified scheme based on optical polarization using X-ray absorption. Using the XMM-Newton data of 19, optically polarized Seyfert 1 sources, we develop a systematic analysis by fitting a baseline model to test the presence of X-ray neutral or ionized (warm) absorption. We find that 100% of the polar-polarized sources show the presence of absorption, with 70% favoring the presence of a warm absorber. In contrast, the equatorial-polarized sources show a fraction of absorbed spectra of 75%, with only 50% consistent with the presence of a warm absorber.

RESUMEN

De acuerdo con el Modelo Unificado AGN, la polarización observada se puede relacionar con la orientación de la línea de visión con respecto al toro. La emisión de rayos X de un AGN surge de la región central y lleva las huellas del material oscurecedor. Nuestro objetivo es probar un esquema unificado basado en polarización óptica mediante absorción de rayos X. Utilizando los datos XMM-Newton de 19 fuentes Seyfert 1 ópticamente polarizadas, desarrollamos un análisis sistemático para ajustar un modelo de referencia y probar la presencia de absorción neutra o ionizada. Encontramos que el 100% de las fuentes con polarización polar muestran la presencia de absorción, y el 70% favorece la presencia de un absorbedor tibio. Por el contrario, las fuentes con polarización ecuatorial muestran una fracción de espectros absorbidos del 75%, y sólo el 50% es consistente con la presencia de un absorbente tibio.

Key Words: galaxies: active — galaxies: nuclei — galaxies: Seyfert — X-rays: galaxies

1. INTRODUCTION

A galaxy is said to host an active nucleus (AGN) when it exhibits a highly luminous central region, comparable to, or even brighter than, the integrated light of the stars in the galaxy, with a luminosity extending throughout the entire electromagnetic spec-

trum. The AGN emission arises from a central compact region that consists of a supermassive black hole (SMBH) surrounded by an accretion disk. A characteristic feature present in some AGN spectra are optical broad emission lines, (full width half maximum (FWHM) $\approx 1000\text{--}20000\text{ km s}^{-1}$, Netzer 2015), from a high-density gas region that is excited and ionized by the central engine, located at $0.1\text{--}1\text{ pc}$ from it, (Kaspi et al. 2005), the Broad Line Region (BLR). The observation of optical narrow lines (FWHM $\approx 300\text{--}1000\text{ km s}^{-1}$) indicates the presence of another gas region of lower density and ionization known as the Narrow Line Region (NLR); this region

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⁵Based on observations obtained with XMM-Newton, an ESA science mission with instruments and contributions directly funded by ESA Member States and NASA.

extends to a scale of ≈ 100 pc and up to 1000 pc, (Netzer 2015; Beckmann & Shrader 2012).

The absence of broad emission lines in some AGN spectra is explained by postulating that an optically thick toroidal structure made of neutral gas and dust extending up to ≈ 10 pc, surrounds the BLR and central engine, with the ultimate effect of obscuring the direct AGN emission from the observer view. The Unified Model, (Antonucci & Miller 1985; Antonucci 1993), states that different features observed in AGN spectra depend on the orientation of this obscuring torus relative to our line-of-sight. From this orientation effect, we distinguish two main AGN types. Type 1 are sighted directly into the central region, showing both narrow and broad optical emission lines. Type 2 are sighted through the torus, so the central region and BLR get obscured, and only narrow emission lines are detected. A more detailed classification is provided by looking to specific spectral lines, e.g. a Narrow Line Seyfert 1 (NLSy1) source shows a much narrower $H\beta$ line compared to a classical type 1 AGN ($\text{FWHM} < 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) and an unusually strong Fe II line (Osterbrock & Pogge 1985; Komossa 2008), thus providing a wide range of AGN types. For this work, we will adopt the simplest classification with the aim to relate it to optical polarization.

We focus our work on optically polarized type 1 Seyfert galaxies (Sy). The findings of polarized broad emission lines in type 2 Sy, e.g. NGC 1068 (Miller et al. 1991), suggested that the BLR is present but obscured from the line-of sight, lending support to the Unification Model. In general, the polarization position angle (PA) of type 2 Sy is found to be perpendicular to the main axis of the system, i.e. the rotation axis of the accretion disk. In this case, the polar-polarization region, *PL-pol*, corresponds to the well-established AGN ionization cones that trace the kpc-scale NLR (Smith et al. 2002, 2004, hereafter S02, S04). In the framework envisaged by Smith, a second scattering region is postulated to account for the observations on polarized type 1 Sy, (Smith et al. 2005, hereafter S05); in this case the polarization position angle is parallel to the main axis of the system. This so-called equatorial-polarization region, *EQ-pol*, is co-planar to the accretion disk. However, we note that additional contributions from the nuclear components may determine the type of observed polarization, e.g. the accretion disk, as proposed by (Piotrovich et al. 2023), bringing more complexity to the original classification proposed by Smith. As an example, studies report that the optical lines from the *EQ-pol* region

show the effects of the rotating motion of the scattering region emitting the gas, which are visible as a characteristically S-shaped profile detected in the polarization position angle, (Afanasiev & Popović 2015; Afanasiev et al. 2019).

Interestingly, Smith reported a list of type 1 sources with polarization properties similar to those of type 2, i.e. *PL-pol*, (S02,S05). Smith proposed a unified scheme addressed to relate these observations with the orientation of the torus: a Sy 1 with *PL-pol* represents an intermediate type between a Sy 2 with *PL-pol* and a Sy 1 with *EQ-pol*. This, in turn, would imprint different observing properties due to the absence (*EQ-pol* Sy 1) or presence (*PL-pol* Sy 1) of absorbing material co-spatial with the outer layers of the torus on the line of sight. In this framework, the X-ray regime is especially appropriate for assessing the role of the torus absorption effect.

X-ray emission in AGN arises from the up-scattering of UV photons, emitted by the accretion disk, in a surrounding corona of hot electrons, (Haardt & Maraschi 1991). The primary feature of a Seyfert X-ray spectrum is a *power-law continuum*, extending up to 100 – 200 keV and with photon indices varying between 1.4 and 2.3, (Piconcelli, E. et al. 2005; She et al. 2017). At 6.4 keV, we can observe the prominent *K α Fe emission line*, (Ricci et al. 2014b), typically present in all Seyfert galaxies, produced via fluorescence mechanisms by reprocessing of the primary emission in circumnuclear neutral material. At energies < 2 keV, the spectrum may exhibit emission that exceeds the flux of the main continuum, called *soft-excess*, and sometimes interpreted as thermal radiation from the accretion disk, with black body temperatures in the range of 0.1 – 1.0 keV, (Petrucci et al. 2018). Analogously to the optical, in the X-rays we can distinguish between type 1 and 2 through absorption. This distinction is mainly based on the detection of hydrogen column densities that can be as low as $N_H \approx 10^{19} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, for a type 1 and $N_H \approx 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ or higher in the case of type 2, the main dividing value being $N_H = 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, (Beckmann & Shrader 2012). This refers only to absorption by neutral material, the so called *cold absorber*. Absorption by ionized material, the *warm absorber*, can also be present in the line-of-sight, and is generally observed as an outflow (100-2000 km s^{-1}) of gas with column densities of $N_H \approx 10^{21}$ to $10^{22.5} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ and ionization parameter of $\log \xi = -1$ to 3 erg cm s^{-1} , (Laha et al. 2021).

The study of X-ray absorption can provide an independent test of the polarization unification scheme described above by comparing the X-ray absorption

properties, if present, to the known optical polarization characteristics. We remark that although our analysis is specifically addressed to test the presence and nature of X-ray absorption, for the time being, it provides a first approximation point of comparison with the polarization characteristics reported by S02, S04, S05. Further ideas on how to expand it are presented in the Discussion, § 5.

We carried out a systematic analysis of the X-ray spectra of 19 Sy 1 galaxies, classified in two sub-samples according to their optical polarization, as detailed in § 2. This paper is structured as follows: the sample details are described in § 2, followed by a description of our analysis in § 3. In § 4 and § 5 we present our results and discussion, respectively, finalizing with conclusions in § 6. For our analysis we adopted the standard Λ CDM cosmology, with the parameters: $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega\Lambda = 0.73$ and $\Omega M = 0.27$.

2. XMM-NEWTON SAMPLE AND DATA REDUCTION

Our sample consists of 19 sources, listed in Table 1, selected from the sample of 46 galaxies studied and classified by S02, S04, S05: polar polarization was reported for 11 sources (*PL-pol*) whereas 8 sources have equatorial polarization (*EQ-pol*). We obtained the *EPIC-pn* data at CCD resolution from the *XMM-Newton* archive⁶. For sources with more than one observation we selected the one with the longest exposure time regardless of the X-ray spectral state for the few sources in our sample with known prominent spectral changes (e.g. NGC 3227 and ESO 323-G077).

To process the data and extract the spectra, we utilized the *SAS v19.1*⁷ software. The *EPIC-pn* data were reprocessed with the *epproc* task and were filtered for high background events using the standard procedure developed by the *XMM-Newton* Science Operations Center (SOC). Utilizing the SAO Image DS9 display (Joye & Mandel 2003), we selected a circular region that encloses the source, centered at the peak of X-ray emission, with radius ranging from 30 to 68 arcsec, depending on the target. With the *evselect* task, we selected the source region and extracted the corresponding spectrum. We used the same task to extract the background spectrum, selected from a circular region with no contribution from other sources in the CCD. The radius of the background regions varies from 50 to 96 arcsec, de-

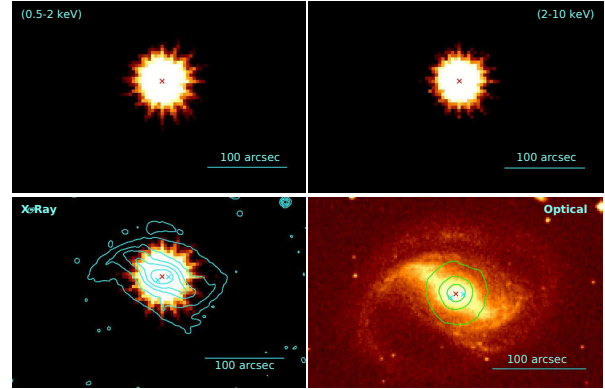


Fig. 1. Spatial analysis for NGC 4593. Top panel shows the X-ray images in two different energy ranges: soft X-ray from 0.5 – 2 keV and hard X-ray from 2 – 10 keV. The bottom panel shows a comparison between the X-ray emission (0.5 – 10 keV) with optical contours (in green) and an optical image from DSS with X-ray contours (in red). A red cross marks the maximum of the X-ray emission, and a cyan cross marks the maximum optical emission. The color figure can be viewed online.

pending on the target. Response matrices were generated with the task *rmfgen* and *arfgen*. The resulting spectra were binned with the task *specgroup* in order to obtain 25 counts per energy bin, allowing us to use the χ^2 statistics. We corrected for out-of-time events that may occur due to the readout of the CCD as well as checked for possible pile-up. A moderate percentage of pile-up was found in the following sources: Fairall 51, Mrk 704, Mrk 766, NGC 3227, NGC 4593; they were corrected following the standard procedure suggested by the *XMM-Newton* Science Operation Centre (SOC)⁸.

3. X-RAY ANALYSIS

3.1. Spatial Analysis

The spatial analysis aims to give a general overview of each source. We used the filtered event files to generate X-ray images of the soft energy band (0.5 – 2.0 keV), and the hard energy band (2.0 – 10 keV). We also produced a full energy range image 0.5 – 10 keV and combined it with the corresponding optical image, taken from the DSS (Digital Sky Survey). We produced combined images by plotting the optical contours in the X-ray image and vice versa. In Figure 1, we show as example the spatial analysis done for NGC 4593. In these images, we can see the point-like X-ray emission of the AGN and a more extended structure in the optical image. With

⁶<http://nxsa.esac.esa.int/nxsa-web/search>.

⁷User's Guide to the XMM-Newton Science Analysis System, Issue 16.0, 2021 (ESA: XMM-Newton SOC).

⁸<https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/xmm-newton/sas-thread-epatplot>.

TABLE 1
SAMPLE OF POLARIZED SEYFERT 1 GALAXIES ORGANIZED ACCORDING TO THEIR
POLARIZATION CHARACTERISTICS: POLAR AND EQUATORIAL.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Object	RA	Dec	z	$N_{\text{H}}^{\text{Gal}} \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$	Type	Obs ID	Exp. ks
Polar Polarization							
Mrk 1218	129.546	+24.8953	0.02862	3.1	Sy 1.8	0302260201	13.9
Mrk 704	139.608	+16.3053	0.02923	2.7	Sy 1.2	0502091601	98.2
Mrk 1239	148.080	-1.6121	0.01993	4.1	NLSy1	0891070101	105.0
NGC 3227	155.877	+19.8651	0.00386	1.9	Sy 1.5	0782520601	107.9
WAS 45	181.181	+31.1772	0.02500	1.4	Sy 1.9	0601780601	39.5
Mrk 766	184.611	+29.8129	0.01293	1.9	NLSy1/Sy 1.5	0109141301	129.9
Mrk 231	194.059	+56.8737	0.04217	0.9	Sy 1	0770580501	26.5
NGC 4593	189.914	-5.3443	0.00831	1.7	Sy 1	0784740101	142.1
ESO 323-G077	196.609	-40.4147	0.01501	7.7	Sy 1.2	0694170101	132.6
IRAS 15091-2107	227.999	-21.3171	0.04461	7.9	NLSy1	0300240201	23.0
Fairall 51	281.225	-62.3648	0.01418	6.3	Sy 1	0300240401	26.9
Equatorial Polarization							
I Zw1	13.396	+12.6934	0.06117	4.6	NLSy1	0743050301	141.2
Akn 120	79.048	-0.1498	0.03271	9.9	Sy 1	0721600401	133.3
NGC 3783	174.757	-37.7387	0.00973	0.1	Sy 1.5	0112210201	137.8
Mrk 841	226.005	+10.4378	0.03642	2.0	Sy 1.5	0882130401	132.0
Mrk 876	243.488	+65.7193	0.12109	2.4	Sy 1	0102040601	12.8
KUV 18217+6419	275.489	+64.3434	0.29705	3.5	Sy 1.2	0506210101	14.3
Mrk 509	311.041	-10.7235	0.03440	3.9	Sy 1.5	0306090201	85.9
Mrk 304	334.301	+14.2391	0.06576	4.9	Sy 1	0103660301	47.3

*Columns 2 and 3 report coordinates (RA, Dec) in J2000, Column 4 indicates the redshift of each source, taken from the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database(NED). Column 5 corresponds to the column density of the Galaxy in the line-of-sight of the source from the HEASARC server. Column 6 indicates AGN classification, where NLSy1 refers to Narrow Line Seyfert 1, from NED. Columns 7 and 8 contain the *XMM-Newton* observation ID and the net exposure time.

this analysis, we can verify the general characteristic of point-like sources in the X-ray regime. The results of the spatial analysis are presented in § 4.1.

3.2. Spectral Analysis

For the fitting process, we used the *Xspec Spectral Fitting Package v 12.10.1n* in a *Python v 3.7.4*. environment: *PyXspec*, (Gordon & Arnaud 2021). We considered the Galactic absorption modelled by the Tuebingen-Boulder ISM absorption model, *TBabs*, with updated abundances, (Wilms et al. 2000). We used Galactic hydrogen column values from “nH Column Density Tool” from the HEASARC server, (HI4PI Collaboration et al. 2016), see Table 1. For all the models that include the redshift parameter, z , the value was fixed at the source redshift. Errors are quoted at 1σ confidence level or 90 percent for one free parameter.

In order to characterize the X-ray emission, we performed a systematic analysis of the spectra by adding components, either additive or multiplicative, to a baseline continuum model. As we build a nested

model, we can calculate the F-test for additive components, where an F-test $> 95\%$ indicates that the new component significantly improves the fit. For multiplicative components, such as the absorption models, we used the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC, Akaike 1974). We first calculated the AIC value, equation 1, where k corresponds to the number of free parameters in each model. The comparison between both models is given by the factor F_{AIC} , resulting from equation 2, where AIC_{NEW} refers to the model with the new component. The inverse, $1/F_{\text{AIC}}$, indicates the improvement of the new and more complex model, (e. g. Krongold et al. 2021).

$$\text{AIC} = 2k + \chi^2, \quad (1)$$

$$F_{\text{AIC}} = \exp((\text{AIC}_{\text{NEW}} - \text{AIC}_0)/2). \quad (2)$$

3.2.1. The Hard Band (2-10 keV) Spectral Range

The hard band corresponds to the energy range of 2 – 10 keV. In this range, we fitted the main continuum component with a power law, using the model *zpowerlaw*, reporting the resulting

photon index, Γ and normalization in units of photons $\text{keV}^{-1} \text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. Subsequently, we tested for the presence of emission lines using the model *zgauss*. We only tested for narrow lines, with width fixed at $\sigma = 0.05 \text{ keV}$. The most prominent X-ray emission line in AGN is the Fe $K\alpha$ at 6.4 keV; if present, we reported the value of the normalization in units of photons $\text{cm}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$. We additionally tested for the presence of narrow emission lines corresponding to ionized Fe: Fe XXV at 6.697 keV and/or Fe XXVI at 6.966 keV (Bianchi et al. 2005). Lastly, we tested for a possible contribution from a cold absorber, fitted using the model *zTBabs*. If significant, we reported the column density in units of 10^{22} cm^{-2} . The results of the hard band fitting are shown in Table 2.

3.2.2. The Full Band (0.5–10 keV) Spectral Range

Extending our analysis to the full energy band, (0.5 – 10 keV), we first applied our hard band baseline model to the EPIC-pn data. This allowed us to verify the presence of additional spectral features such as a soft excess and absorption.

In order to fit the soft excess as thermal emission, we assumed a black body spectrum, modeled by the XSPEC component *zbody*, (Singh et al. 2011; Scott et al. 2011; Petrucci et al. 2018). We report the black body temperature in keV, and the normalization in units of $L_{39}/[D_{10}(1+z)]^2$; where L_{39} is the luminosity of the source in units of $10^{39} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ and D_{10} is the distance of the source in units of 10 pc. The results of the baseline model with the addition of the black body fitted to the full energy band are reported in Table 3.

We now proceed with the absorption test. Absorption is referred to as cold or warm according to the state of the absorbing material, whether it is neutral or ionized. Our aim is to determine if absorption is in fact present in each spectrum and, if so, which component prevails: a cold absorber or a warm absorber. It is worth noting that ionized absorption typically requires a more complex modeling with several layers of gas in different ionization states and column densities, (e.g. Miniutti et al. 2014; Svoboda et al. 2015; Silva et al. 2018). All absorption models are multiplicative, so we calculate the AIC and use it to determine which component provides a better fit to the data.

For a cold absorber, we used the model *zTBabs*. The fit yields the amount of the line of sight equivalent hydrogen column in units of 10^{22} cm^{-2} . For warm absorption, we selected the model *zxipcf*⁹,

⁹<https://heasarc.gsfc.nasa.gov/xanadu/xspec/models/zxipcf.html>.

based on the XSTAR photoionization absorption models, and considered four parameters: the redshift of the source, the column density in units of 10^{22} cm^{-2} , the covering fraction, f , and the ionization parameter, $\log \xi$, where $\xi = L/nr^2$: L is the X-ray luminosity of the source, n is the electronic density of the ionized gas and r^2 is the squared distance of the ionized cloud to the source of ionizing radiation. The covering factor, f , is fixed to 1.0, so $1 - f$ represents the portion of the source that is seen directly. As a final test, we explored the possibility that the fits for the sources with warm absorption could be further improved by adding a second warm absorber component, also with f fixed to 1.0. The absorption test results are reported in Table 4. All the spectral analysis results are detailed in § 4.2.

4. RESULTS

In this section, we present the results of the analysis of our sample that consists of 19 sources of which 11 sources with *PL-pol* and 8 with *EQ-pol*. We begin with the spatial analysis, that provides a general view of each source. We then detailed the results from the spectral analysis, organized according to the known polarization characteristics. In § 5, we discuss these results.

4.1. Spatial Analysis

We detailed the spatial analysis performed on the sources in the sample in § 3. The objects in the sample are all type-1 and intermediate type Seyfert galaxies, see Table 1. Consistently with their classification, they all appear as point-like sources in the X-ray energy range images. By tracing the optical contours onto the X-ray image, we verify that the X-ray emission is concentrated in the nuclear region, while the optical structure is extended, showing features such as the spiral arms with stellar formation activity. We can conclude that the sample displays general properties consistent with type 1 Sy galaxies.

While tracing the optical contours onto the X-ray image, we confirm that the optical structure is extended, displaying features such as spiral arms with stellar formation activity.

4.2. Spectral Analysis

In order to draw a first approximation description regarding the X-ray properties of our sample, we tested if the spectra could be satisfactorily fitted with our nested model, avoiding a source-by-source detailed modeling. To achieve a general good description of how these sources respond to a first-order broadband AGN emission model, we use the F-test

and the AIC for additive and multiplicative respectively. In particular, our aim is to determine if the fit is improved by adding an absorption component and, if significant, whether this absorption is cold or warm. The results of our analysis are listed in Tables 2, 3, and 4, corresponding to the hard band fits, the soft excess and the absorption test. In Table 4 we also include the source luminosity corresponding to the preferred model. The standard threshold for estimating parameter errors in our PyXspec script, and in Xspec in general, is $\chi^2_\nu > 2$; therefore, we do not report errors for fits with higher values of the χ^2 statistics.

We have organized the description of the results according to the optical polarization classification of the sources, – *PL-pol* and *EQ-pol* –. These results will be discussed in § 5. The fits of the entire sample in the full energy band are presented in Appendix A.

4.2.1. Polar-Polarized Sources

The photon index of the hard band power law continuum (see Table 2) ranges from the flatter 0.6 to the steeper 4.3. In particular, for 8 sources the photon index is in a range $1.4 < \Gamma < 2.1$ (mean=1.7). Also in the hard band, we tested the presence and significance of emission lines corresponding to Fe $K\alpha$, Fe XXV and Fe XXVI. We found significant emission of Fe $K\alpha$ line in 9 of the sources, with only Mrk 1218 and Mrk 231 not showing any emission line. Additionally, NGC 4593 and ESO 323-G077 show the Fe XXVI line, and Mrk 766 shows both Fe XXV and Fe XXVI lines.

Extending to the full energy range, we find that soft excess is ubiquitous, see Table 3, and highly significant in all sources (F-test > 99%). For the black body component, we find temperatures of $kT < 1$ keV for 9 out of the 11 sources. Fairall 51 and ESO 323-G077 yield higher temperatures. However, these values decrease once we add absorption components.

Concerning the absorption test, according to the AIC, we determine the presence of absorption in all the *PL-pol* sources, see Table 4. Mrk 1218 and Mrk 231 favor the cold absorption scenario, resulting in column densities of the order of 10^{21} cm $^{-2}$. For NGC 4593, IRAS 15091-2107, Mrk 766 and ESO 323-G077, the AIC indicates that warm absorption is the best-fitting scenario. Figure 2 depicts the fits of NGC 4593 as an example of the baseline model, the addition of a soft excess and the absorption test, in which case the favored scenario corresponds to the warm absorption; see Appendix A for the fits of the entire sample. The fit

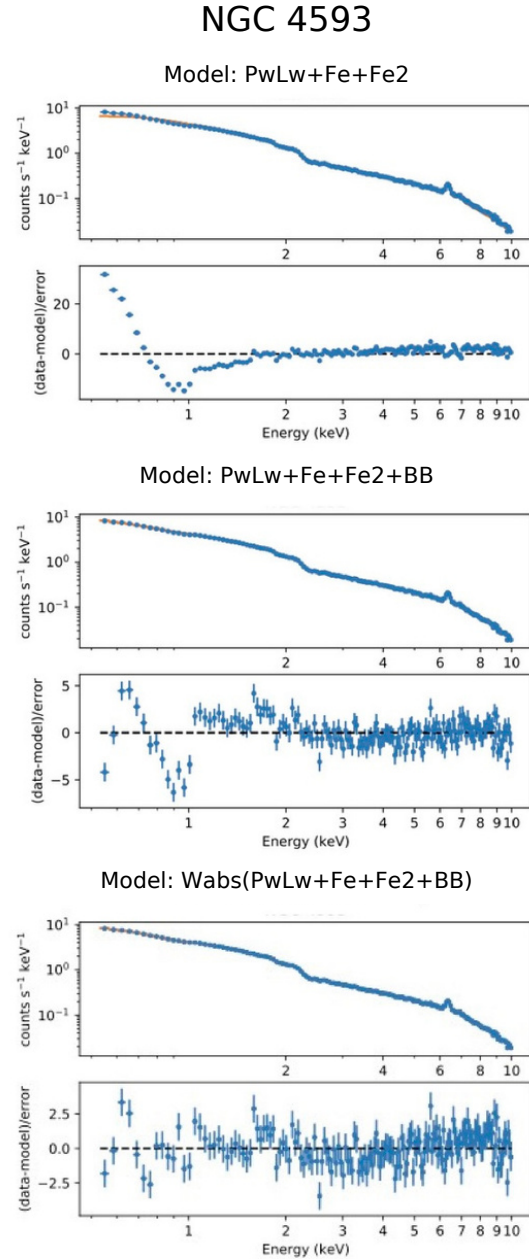


Fig. 2. *XMM-Newton EPIC-pn* spectrum of NGC 4593 fitted in the 0.5 – 10 keV range. Top panel shows the fit of the baseline model reported in Table 2, middle panel depicts the fit with a soft excess added, as shown in Table 3. Last panel corresponds to the model resulting from the absorption test, a model with warm absorption, see Table 4. The color figure can be viewed online.

is further improved by adding a second warm absorption component for the cases of Fairall 51, Mrk 704, Was 45, and NGC 3227. For the warm absorbers, all the column densities are within the range

of $N_H \approx 10^{20} - 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. We obtain a large range of values in the ionization parameters, from $-1.4 < \log \xi < 5.9$. In particular, for Mrk 1239 the results are inconclusive, with the AIC value indicating that the fit improves by adding an absorption component, but none of the two scenarios (cold vs warm) can be statistically favored.

4.2.2. Equatorial-Polarized Sources

In the hard band of the *EQ-pol* sources, one exhibits a flat spectrum with a power law index of ≈ 1.1 , while the remaining 7 sources have a photon index in the range of $1.5 < \Gamma < 2.3$. The Fe $K\alpha$ line is significantly detected in 4 sources: NGC 3783, Mrk 841, Mrk 509 and Akn 120. NGC 3783 also shows the Fe XXVI line, and Akn 120 shows both the Fe XXV and Fe XXVI lines.

In the full energy range, we again obtain a result that supports that the soft excess is ubiquitous, with F-tests $> 99\%$ for all the sources. The black body temperatures are all $kT < 1 \text{ keV}$.

As for the absorption test, unlike the *PL-pol* sample, we do not find absorption in all the sources. In 6 out of 8 sources we can determine the presence of absorption. Mrk 876 and Mrk 509 are better fitted without any absorber, according to the small value of the AIC test. Mrk 304 favors the cold absorber scenario, with column density of the order of $N_H \approx 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. I Zw1, Mrk 841, KUV 18217+6419 and Akn 120 favor the scenario of warm absorption, yielding column densities of the order of $N_H \approx 10^{20} - 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ and a range of ionization parameters of $-0.2 < \log \xi < 3.0$. None of the fits improved by the addition of a second warm absorption component. NGC 3783, similarly to the case of Mrk 1239, results in an AIC that indicates fit improvement by the addition of an absorption component. However, the test cannot conclusively indicate whether the favorable scenario consists of cold or warm absorption.

5. DISCUSSION

Our analysis on 19 Sy sources is intended to test the presence of absorption in the X-ray spectra in the context of the unification scheme based on optical polarization. Figure 3 shows the schematic view where we see both bi-conical and co-planar scattering regions and the line-of-sight orientation corresponding to the different observed scenarios.

We begin discussing the common X-ray properties of our Sy 1 sample, i.e. our baseline model, *PowerLaw + Fe + BB*. The main continuum component is well fitted in the hard band for the majority of the

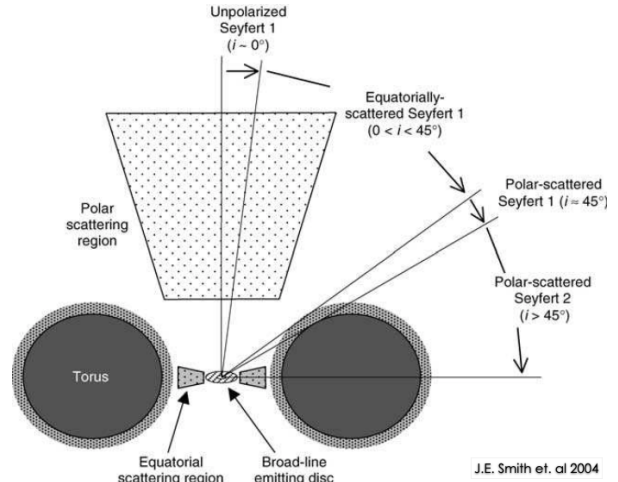


Fig. 3. The unification scheme, where both scattering regions are present in all Seyfert galaxies. According to this scheme, the observed optical polarization is due to the orientation of the AGN towards our line-of-sight, (Smith et al. 2004).

sample. A photon index in the range of $1.4 < \Gamma < 2.3$ is considered to be within the typical range for type Sy galaxies, (e.g. Piconcelli, E. et al. 2005; Cappi et al. 2006; Singh et al. 2011; Corral et al. 2011; She et al. 2017), and so is the case for 15 out of our 19 sources. Also consistently with studies on X-ray properties of Sy 1, we find the Fe $K\alpha$ line in 13 out of the 19 observations, corresponding to the narrow component of the line, associated to the molecular torus, (Ricci et al. 2014a,b). We did not consider any broadening effect on the line, which would place the line emission mechanism closer to the accretion disk. Extending to the full energy band, we find the soft excess to be ubiquitous, resulting in an average temperature of 0.126 keV . While our sample can be fitted by considering these common characteristics of type 1 Sy, it is worth mentioning that a Seyfert Galaxy spectrum can be affected by additional complex processes, whose detailed description is beyond the scope of our analysis. The effects of Compton reflection, for example, might affect the shape of the continuum making it different from a simple power law. In the case of many sources in our sample, the spectra prove to be more complex, possibly requiring additional components. For this reason, we report in § 5.1 results of more detailed spectral analyses from the literature for each individual source. When available, we cite X-ray analysis carried out on the same XMM-Newton observation as the one used in our work.

TABLE 2
HARD BAND FITS. BEST FIT PARAMETER VALUES AND GOODNESS OF FIT FOR THE HARD
BAND ANALYSIS.*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Galaxy	Model	N_H $\times 10^{22}$ cm^{-2}	Photon Index Γ	Norm $\times 10^{-3}$ photons/keV/cm ² /s	Fe Norm $\times 10^{-5}$ photons/cm ² /s	Fe _{XXV} Norm $\times 10^{-5}$ photons/cm ² /s	Fe _{XXVI} Norm $\times 10^{-5}$ photons/cm ² /s	χ^2_ν
Polar Polarization								
Mrk 1218	PwLw	-	1.37 \pm 0.10	0.4 ^{+0.3} _{-0.3}	-	-	-	0.94
IRAS 15091-2107	PwLw+Fe	-	1.72 \pm 0.06	2.3 \pm 0.2	1.3 \pm 0.6	-	-	1.10
NGC 4593	PwLw+Fe+Fe2	-	1.74 ^{+0.04} _{-0.07}	4.64 ^{+0.2} _{-0.14}	2.8 \pm 0.2	-	5.5 ^{+4.7} _{-4.3}	1.12
Mrk 231	N_H(PwLw)	2.4 ^{+1.8} _{-1.7}	1.0 \pm 0.3	0.006 ^{+0.004} _{-0.002}	-	-	-	1.13
Fairall 51	N_H(PwLw+Fe)	2.3 \pm 0.2	1.89 \pm 0.04	8.8 \pm 0.7	2.6 \pm 0.5	-	-	1.33
Mrk 704	PwLw+Fe	-	1.82 \pm 0.02	2.69 \pm 0.06	1.1 \pm 0.2	-	-	1.37
NGC 3227	N_H(PwLw+Fe)	0.29 \pm 0.09	1.58 \pm 0.02	0.0062 \pm 0.0002	3.2 \pm 0.3	-	-	1.49
Was 45	N_H(PwLw+Fe)	7.2 ^{+0.9} _{-1.0}	1.56 \pm 0.13	0.58 ^{+0.16} _{-0.12}	1.0 \pm 0.2	-	-	1.66
Mrk 766	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+Fe3	-	2.11	8.0	1.0	0.9	0.6	2.10
ESO 323-G077	N _H (PwLw+Fe+Fe2)	5.5	0.6	0.11	2.0	-	0.9	5.54
Mrk 1239	N _H (PwLw+Fe)	57.7	4.3	186	1.6	-	-	6.0
Equatorial Polarization								
Mrk 876	PwLw	-	1.62 \pm 0.11	1.7 \pm 0.3	-	-	-	0.86
NGC 3783	N_H(PwLw+Fe+Fe2)	0.6 \pm 0.2	1.50 \pm 0.03	4.9 ^{+0.3} _{-0.2}	4.5 \pm 0.4	-	1.3 \pm 0.4	1.65
Mrk 841	N_H(PwLw+Fe)	0.7 \pm 0.4	1.52 \pm 0.06	1.5 \pm 0.2	1.0 \pm 0.2	-	-	1.75
I Zw1	PwLw	-	2.33 \pm 0.05	2.7 \pm 0.2	-	-	-	1.85
Mrk 509	PwLw+Fe	-	1.86	8.4	1.7	-	-	2.30
Akn 120	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+Fe3	-	1.93	9.9	2.2	0.7	0.8	2.50
KUV 18217+6419	PwLw	-	1.14	5.8	-	-	-	2.53
Mrk 304	N _H *PwLw	5.99	1.74	1.14	-	-	-	3.0

*Column 2 indicates the resulting model. In Columns 3 to 8, we report the value of the model parameters: column density, (if significant), photon index and power law normalization, and normalization for the significant Fe emission lines. The resulting model statistics is shown in Column 9. Values in bold correspond to fits with $\chi^2_\nu < 2.0$ for which we can calculate parameter errors.

Regarding the absorption test, we first point out that the characteristics here reported on the warm absorbers, column density and ionization parameter, are consistent with the description provided by Laha et al. (2021): the column densities range is $N_H \approx 10^{20} - 10^{22} \text{ cm}^2$, and the ionization parameters range is $-1.0 < \log \xi < 3.0$. Only NGC 3227 yields

a more highly ionized warm absorber, $\log \xi \approx 6.0$, a result that could be further improved by a more detailed modeling, (see notes on NGC 3227 in § 5.1). The sources that favor the cold absorption scenario yield column densities $N_H \approx 10^{21} \text{ cm}^2$, consistent with type 1 sources that are not heavily absorbed. In general, the detected column density is always

TABLE 3
FULL ENERGY BAND FOR EACH SOURCE*

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Galaxy	Model	Photon Index Γ	Norm $\times 10^{-3}$ photons/keV/cm ² /s	kT keV	BBnorm $\times 10^{-4}$ $L_{39}/[D_{10}(1+z)]^2$	χ^2_ν	F-test
Polar Polarization							
Mrk 1218	PwLw	0.95	0.2	-	-	2.24	
	PwLw+BB	$0.84^{+0.10}_{-0.11}$	0.13 ± 0.02	$0.84^{+0.11}_{-0.09}$	0.1 ± 0.2	1.18	99.99%
Mrk 231	PwLw	0.91	0.04	-	-	4.30	
	PwLw+BB	0.46 ± 0.08	0.023 ± 0.003	$0.169^{+0.014}_{-0.012}$	0.0116 ± 0.0012	1.68	100%
IRAS 15091-2107	PwLw+Fe	1.44	1.4	-	-	6.47	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	1.31 ± 0.03	0.93 ± 0.04	0.52 ± 0.02	0.24 ± 0.02	1.98	100%
Mrk 704	PwLw+Fe	1.99	3.1	-	-	25.81	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	1.83	3.0	0.07	2.0	2.29	100%
NGC 4593	PwLw+Fe+Fe2	1.78	5.0	-	-	25.32	
	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+BB	1.69	4.0	0.07	1.3	2.60	100%
Was 45	PwLw+Fe	0.23	0.04	-	-	9.24	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	0.14	0.04	0.09	0.03	6.9	99.99%
ESO 323-G077	PwLw+Fe+Fe2	0.3	0.05	-	-	32.5	
	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+BB	0.3	0.07	3.4	0.7	8.10	100%
Mrk 766	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+Fe3	2.25	8.3	-	-	92.02	
	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+Fe3+BB	2.06	7.3	0.08	3.2	13.45	100%
NGC 3227	PwLw+Fe	1.37	5.0	-	-	40.28	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	1.41	4.0	0.87	0.49	27.53	99.99%
Fairall 51	PwLw+Fe	1.06	2.0	-	-	56.97	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	1.24	14.0	1.2	1.5	37.57	99.99%
Mrk 1239	PwLw+Fe	3.38	0.14	-	-	70.38	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	-0.14	0.013	0.06	0.15	31.41	100%
Equatorial Polarization							
Mrk 876	PwLw	1.99	2.5	-	-	2.55	
	PwLw+BB	1.73 ± 0.03	1.64 ± 0.06	0.102 ± 0.006	$0.48^{+0.6}_{-0.05}$	1.09	100%
I Zw1	PwLw	2.6	3.2	-	-	4.50	
	PwLw+BB	2.3	2.7	0.11	0.4	2.25	100%
Mrk 841	PwLw+Fe	1.81	1.8	-	-	24.81	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	1.46	1.3	0.101	0.6	2.36	100%
KUV 18217+6419	PwLw	1.55	10.1	-	-	18.50	
	PwLw+BB	1.15	5.9	0.2	1.7	2.63	100%
Akn 120	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+Fe3	2.11	12.0	-	-	21.43	
	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+Fe3+BB	1.97	10.5	0.14	0.8	4.20	100%
Mrk 509	PwLw+Fe	2.11	11.0	-	-	33.20	
	PwLw+Fe+BB	1.96	9.6	0.102	1.4	4.75	100%
Mrk 304	N_H *PwLw	0.54	0.11	-	-	12.16	
	N_H *PwLw+BB	0.46	0.10	0.07	0.2	8.43	99.99%
NGC 3783	PwLw+Fe+Fe2	1.28	3.4	-	-	40.38	
	PwLw+Fe+Fe2+BB	1.20	3.0	0.07	2.8	14.80	100%

*The first row shows the baseline model, the second row corresponds to the model with black body as soft excess. Columns 3 and 4 report the power law index and normalization. Columns 5 and 6 show the black body temperature and normalization. The following Columns, 7 and 8, correspond to the fit statistics. The last column indicates the F-test resulting from comparing models with and without soft excess. We highlight in bold the fits that yield $\chi^2_\nu < 2$.

consistent with that of type 1 AGN, with the dividing value between type 1 and type 2 sources being $N_H \approx 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, (Beckmann & Shrader 2012).

Concerning the presence of absorption, our analysis shows that the absorption is present in 100% of the *PL-pol* sources. In particular $\approx 73\%$ (8/11) of these sources favor the warm absorption scenario and only 18% (2/11) sources are affected by a cold

absorber. The presence of warm absorption in the *PL-pol* sources can be put in the context of the scenario described by Smith et al. (2004) by interpreting it as the presence of the outer layer of the torus in the line-of-sight, which gets ionized by the central engine. Blustin et al. (2005) argue that warm absorbers in Seyfert galaxies are more likely to originate in outflows from a dusty torus, lending support

TABLE 4
ABSORPTION TEST^a

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
Galaxy	Model	nH $\times 10^{22} \text{cm}^{-2}$	$\log \xi$	N_{H2} $\times 10^{22} \text{cm}^{-2}$	$\log \xi_2$	Photon Index Γ	kT keV	$L_{\text{X-Ray}}$ $\times 10^{43} \text{erg s}^{-1}$	χ^2_ν	AIC_{BB}	AIC	$1/F_{\text{AIC}}$
Polar Polarization												
Mrk 1218	ColdAbs	$0.47^{+0.14}_{-0.12}$	-	-	-	1.37 ± 0.09	0.062 ± 0.012	0.604	1.17	151.81	113.66	1.9×10^8
	WarmAbs	0.15 ± 0.10	$1.2^{+0.3}_{-1.6}$	-	-	$1.0^{+1.0}_{-0.3}$	$0.80^{+0.80}_{-0.10}$		1.21		118.18	2.01×10^7
Mrk 231	ColdAbs	0.6 ± 0.2	-	-	-	0.65 ± 0.10	$0.106^{+0.015}_{-0.012}$	0.324	1.29	140.41	110.78	2.7×10^6
	WarmAbs	0.05	0.4	-	-	$0.48^{+0.10}_{-0.07}$	0.168 ± 0.013		1.82		152.41	0.002
NGC 4593	ColdAbs	0.060 ± 0.010	-	-	-	1.735 ± 0.009	$0.0782^{+0.0013}_{-0.0014}$		1.94	449.37	334.59	8.4×10^{24}
	WarmAbs	0.14 ± 0.02	2.36 ± 0.08	-	-	1.727 ± 0.007	0.079 ± 0.003	0.437	1.40		253.78	3.0×10^{42}
Fairall 51	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	1.24	1.15		37.80	6095.58	6097.58	0.37
	WarmAbs	1.31	0.57	-	-	1.81	0.11		3.35		549.52	$> 10^{90}$
	2WarmAbs	$2.50^{+1.03}_{-0.84}$	$2.5^{+0.5}_{-0.2}$	$1.0^{+0.4}_{-0.2}$	$0.46^{+0.05}_{-0.04}$	1.86 ± 0.09	$0.113^{+0.006}_{-0.004}$	1.268	1.60		269.84	$> 10^{90}$
IRAS 15091-2107	ColdAbs	0.08 ± 0.03	-	-	-	$1.51^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$	$0.51^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$		1.83	301.57	278.51	1.02×10^5
	WarmAbs	$0.12^{+0.05}_{-0.12}$	$-0.46^{+0.14}_{-0.23}$	-	-	$1.63^{+0.10}_{-0.07}$	$0.45^{+0.07}_{-0.11}$	4.562	1.63		251.32	8.2×10^{10}
Mrk 704	ColdAbs	0.05	-	-	-	1.88	0.07		2.05	382.46	344.67	1.6×10^8
	WarmAbs	$0.13^{+0.03}_{-0.04}$	$2.15^{+0.14}_{-0.15}$	-	-	$1.882^{+0.012}_{-0.013}$	0.076 ± 0.003		1.84		318.36	8.3×10^{13}
	2WarmAbs	$0.061^{+0.002}_{-0.009}$	$0.28^{+0.46}_{-0.13}$	$0.23^{+0.02}_{-0.14}$	$2.44^{+0.60}_{-0.11}$	1.9 ± 0.9	$0.113^{+0.113}_{-0.003}$	2.919	1.73		293.35	2.2×10^{19}
Was 45	ColdAbs	1.4	-	-	-	0.6	0.05		4.54	858.41	565.55	$> 10^{90}$
	WarmAbs	2.74	0.28	-	-	1.17	0.09		2.98		374.06	2.0×10^{62}
	2WarmAbs	0.013	2.04	2.5	0.3	1.30	0.09	0.325	3.67		454.79	4.4×10^{87}
Mrk 766	ColdAbs	0.09	-	-	-	2.13	0.08		11.72	2220.43	1926.75	5.9×10^{63}
	WarmAbs	0.4	0.9	-	-	2.18	0.12	0.128	2.87		480.05	$> 10^{90}$
NGC 3227	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	1.4	0.9		27.71	4635.78	4640.26	0.11
	WarmAbs	0.4	1.6	-	-	1.51	0.63		6.12		1023.29	$> 10^{90}$
	2WarmAbs	0.6	0.3	0.02	5.9	1.59	0.07	0.144	3.72		627.24	$> 10^{90}$
ESO 323-G077	ColdAbs	0.97	-	-	-	0.58	0.09		15.84	1259.63	2436.98	X
	WarmAbs	0.3	-1.4	-	-	0.14	0.12	0.230	6.64		1027.53	2.5×10^{50}
Mrk 1239 (*)	ColdAbs	0.02	-	-	-	-0.15	0.15		31.06	10495.39	4390.27	$> 10^{90}$
	WarmAbs	0.05	5.96	-	-	-0.16	0.15	0.159	31.45		4415.32	$> 10^{90}$
Equatorial Polarization												
Mrk 876	Unabs	-	-	-	-	1.73 ± 0.03	0.102 ± 0.006	0.341	1.09	106.95	-	-
	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	$1.73^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$	$0.110^{+0.014}_{-0.015}$		1.10		108.96	0.37
	WarmAbs	0.04 ± 0.04	$0.2^{+0.2}_{-1.4}$	-	-	$1.73^{+0.06}_{-0.05}$	$0.13^{+0.02}_{-0.03}$		1.19		117.70	0.005
IZw 1	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	2.80 ± 0.03	$1.0^{+0.004}_{-0.003}$		3.02	307.83	409.14	X
	WarmAbs	$0.09^{+0.04}_{-0.09}$	$-0.2^{+0.6}_{-0.2}$	-	-	$2.3^{+0.3}_{-0.4}$	$0.12^{+0.011}_{-0.005}$	8.648	1.91		261.57	1.11×10^{10}
Mrk 841	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	1.45	0.102		2.38	375.48	378.51	0.22
	WarmAbs	0.09	1.04	-	-	1.46	0.12	3.349	2.15		342.26	1.6×10^7
KUV 18217+6419	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	1.15	0.2		2.65	445.24	447.61	0.3
	WarmAbs	1.0	3.28	-	-	1.15	0.2	1370.2	2.47		417.12	1.3×10^6
Akn 120	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	1.98	0.14		3.66	617.45	619.45	0.4
	WarmAbs	0.30	0.27	-	-	1.98	0.15	11.419	3.49		587.54	3.1×10^6
Mrk 509	Unabs	-	-	-	-	1.96	0.102	12.454	4.75	802.98	-	-
	ColdAbs	0.0	-	-	-	1.95	0.103		4.78		805.77	0.3
	WarmAbs	0.014	4.6	-	-	1.99	0.11		6.29		1052.53	X
Mrk 304	ColdAbs	0.96	-	-	-	0.85	0.05	3.335	6.03	1146.04	817.48	2.2×10^{71}
	WarmAbs	0.05	0.02	-	-	0.51	0.08		7.92		1064.92	4.1×10^{17}
NGC 3783 (*)	ColdAbs	0.38	-	-	-	1.45	0.07		2.82	2453.57	477.19	$> 10^{90}$
	WarmAbs	0.25	-0.43	-	-	1.42	0.09	0.688	7.13		1178.32	$> 10^{90}$

^aThe model in bold corresponds to the preferred model. We indicate (Unabs) for unabsorbed sources and use (*) for cases where $1/F_{\text{AIC}}$ does not favor one particular model. In Columns 3 to 8, we report the corresponding model parameters in the following order: column densities and ionization parameter in the case of warm absorbers, power law index and black body temperature. In Column 9 we report the X-ray luminosity of the resulting model¹⁰. Column 10 indicates the fit statistics, Columns 11 and 12 correspond to the AIC, where AIC_{BB} corresponds to the model with absorption. Column 13 indicates the factor $1/F_{\text{AIC}}$, an indicator of the fit improvement.

to the hypothesis that the warm absorber gas could be located in its outer layers. The two *PL-pol* sources that resulted affected by cold absorption yield low column densities, $N_{\text{H}} \approx 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$; we can interpret this as a result of our line of sight passing through a colder section of the torus atmosphere but remaining in the type 1 regime.

In slight contrast, 75% (6/8) of the *EQ-pol* sources are affected by absorption, with 50% (4/8) favoring the warm absorption scenario. This fraction is consistent with previous studies on the spectra of type 1 Seyferts, (e.g. C. S. Reynolds & Fabian 1995; Laha et al. 2014), where they respectively re-

port that 50% up to 65% of Sy 1 show the presence of warm absorbers. For two *EQ-pol* sources, 25% of the sample, our analysis does not find a significant absorption component, consistent with the expected description of a type 1 AGN, where our line-of-sight is looking directly into the central region.

In order to determine if the percentage of absorbed sources described above is significantly different, we conducted a Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (KS) at 95% confidence. The result of the test yields a p-value of ≈ 0.87 . A p-value much greater than the significance level of 0.05 (95%) indicates that we reject the test's null hypothesis, i.e., that the samples

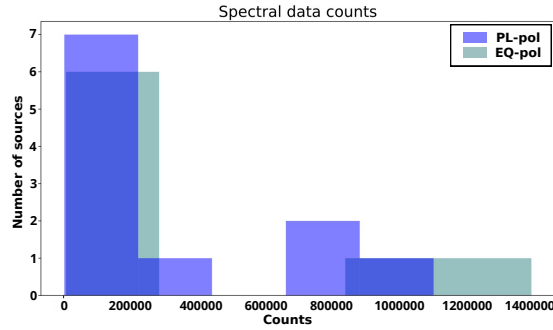


Fig. 4. Spectral data counts of each source. The color figure can be viewed online.

are drawn from the same distribution.. This means that the two sub-samples – *PL-pol* and *EQ-pol* – are statistically different from each other in terms of the incidence of absorption in these X-ray data.

We also considered the possible bias due to the data selected for this analysis. Our selection criterion was to choose the longest exposure time for each source, and this choice may introduce a bias related to the signal-to-noise of the X-ray spectra contained in each of the two sub-samples. Figure 4 is a histogram of the number of counts for each source, color-divided by sub-samples. We can see that there is no significant difference between the two sub-samples concerning the quality of the observation in terms of number of X-ray counts, which, if present, might have hindered the modeling of the spectrum. Regarding the X-ray luminosity of the sources, which may be intuitively associated to a higher frequency of the absorber due to the photoionization process, we show in Figure 5 a histogram of the X-ray luminosity calculated for the model resulting from the absorption test. This plot shows that the *EQ-pol* sources are actually more luminous than the *PL-pol*, therefore discarding the hypothesis that a higher luminosity is directly associated to the ubiquitous presence of an absorber.

A more recent study, Afanasiev et al. (2019), identifies 4 sources as *EQ-pol* that are instead listed as *PL-pol* in the studies by Smith, S04: Mrk 231, Mrk 704, NGC 3227, and NGC 4593. By assuming this new classification, the fraction of polar and equatorial polarized sources would shift to 7 and 12, respectively. For the former group, with all of them affected by absorption, only one favors the model with cold-absorption and 6, $\approx 86\%$, the warm-absorption scenario. For the sub-sample of *EQ-pol* sources, $\approx 83\%$ (10/12) of the sources are affected by absorption, with $\approx 58\%$ (7/12) favoring the presence of at least one warm absorber. This incidence of

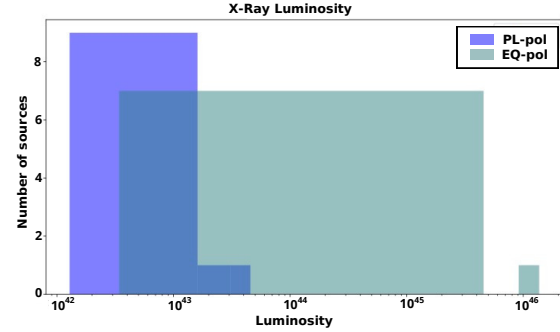


Fig. 5. X-ray Luminosity (0.5 – 10 keV) of each source. The value is shown in Table 4, referring to the luminosity of the preferred model after the absorption test. The color figure can be viewed online.

warm absorption is still within the threshold of the numbers reported by Laha, Sibasish and Guainazzi et al. (2014); therefore, we concluded that assuming an updated classification does not change the first-order conclusion of this analysis. For this reason and for consistency with the original criterion that defined our sample, we prefer to stick to the original classification proposed by Smith as a first test for the polarization unified scheme.

Considering now the sample of polarized sources as a whole, $\approx 90\%$ (17/19) of our sample shows presence of absorption and we can confirm the presence of at least one warm absorber in $\approx 63\%$ of the polarized Seyfert 1. This in itself is an interesting result on the incidence of X-ray absorption in polarized Seyfert galaxies, especially when compared to previous studies (e.g. C. S. Reynolds & Fabian 1995; Laha et al. 2014), where a very similar percentage of X-ray warm absorbers was reported (50% up to 65%, respectively).

From our review on previously published analysis of each source, reported in the following section, we find that the literature modeling is consistent with our analysis as a first approximation. In the majority of the sources, we see that best fit models include more components, e.g. reflection affecting the shape of the continuum, as in the cases of Mrk 1239, Mrk 766, ESO 323-G077. More specifically, we highlight that the modeling of absorption often requires more than one absorbing layer. In the majority of the sources, we see absorption modeled by two or even more components. In some cases, partial covering is the best way to reproduce the shape of the spectrum. We remark that the optical and X-ray data analyzed herein are far from being simultaneous, since the majority of the polarization data were obtained in 1996-1999, i.e. prior to XMM-Newton

launching. Although desirable, obtaining fully simultaneous data of this sample would require a considerable observational effort. We are confident that this analysis may serve to lay the basis for future observations.

These considerations motivate a more in-depth analysis addressed to characterize the absorber. For the time being, our analysis can serve as a first approximation model. Here, we describe the common components of a type 1 Seyfert spectrum and establish a point of reference for the presence of X-ray absorption in a sample of polarized Seyferts. This study would also benefit by the addition of a larger sample of Seyfert galaxies with well known and reported polarization.

5.1. Notes on Individual Sources

In this section, we briefly present properties taken from the available literature on each source of our sample. When possible, we report published results based on the analysis of the same data set used in our work.

5.1.1. Polar-Polarized Sources

Mrk 1218

Hernández-García et al. (2017) conclude that this source is best fitted by a power law with a cold absorber of $N_H \approx 9 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ in the soft energy range. This result is consistent with our analysis, (see Table 4).

Mrk 704

Our best fit for this source includes 2 warm absorbers. This result is consistent with that reported in Laha et al. (2011) & Matt et al. (2011), where the absorption is interpreted as the line of sight passing close to the torus. As an example of the complexity that these sources show, Matt et al. (2011) produced a best fit model including a second soft excess element and partial covering by a cold absorber.

Mrk 1239

Buhariwalla et al. (2020, 2023) report a very detailed analysis on this NLSy1. The hard band requires a relativistic blurred reflection component besides the power law which is partially covered by ionized material. This source has starburst activity, which affects and even dominates the soft band. Since we do not account for this features, our model fails to fit the continuum and the absorption test is inconclusive.

NGC 3227

In our analysis, the results favor the model with 2 warm absorbers. This result is consistent with the work by Markowitz et al. (2009), where the best fit model finds 2 warm absorbers, besides a strong soft excess also absorbed by cold gas. Moreover, by estimating a maximum distance, they place the ionized absorber outside the BLR. Newman et al. (2021) also find 2 warm absorbers, as well as a partially covered power law and a reflection component.

Was 45

Our results favor the presence of at least 2 warm absorbers. However, there are features in the spectra that are not accounted for by our model. A more detailed analysis will be reported in Gudiño et al. (in prep).

Mrk 766

We find a power law continuum on the steeper end of the typical Sy range, $\Gamma \approx 2.2$, as well as three different Fe emission lines and the presence of a warm absorber. This result is consistent with the studies made by Miller et al. (2006) & Turner et al. (2007), in particular, with the reports of a warm absorber with $\log \xi \approx 1$ and $N_H \approx 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, without considering any reflection or partial covering. In a variability study, Risaliti et al. (2011) also find warm absorption and estimate a lower limit for the location of the absorbing clouds, corresponding to the BLR.

Mrk 231

This is a well studied source and, among the many publications, Braito et al. (2004) argue that the resulting flat photon index suggests a heavily absorbed spectrum consisting of a scattered power law component and a reflected component, and even a reflection-dominated scenario. We do not consider any reflection components, but our results are consistent with a continuum well fitted by a power law with a flat slope and a column density of the order of $\approx 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$.

NGC 4593

Our results for this source are consistent with previous analysis, such as Brenneman et al. (2007); Ebrero et al. (2013); Ursini et al. (2016). In particular, Ebrero et al. (2013), worked with grating spectra and found 4 warm absorbers of different ionization states with at least one of high-ionization ($\log \xi \approx 2.5$), and determined its distance from the source of around a few pc. This result is also consistent with the work of Ursini et al. (2016), where

they report two different warm absorbers, with the high-ionization one consistent with the column density and ionization parameter that we found; they determined this component to be at a distance of ≤ 3 pc from the central region.

ESO 323-G077

Our model does not accurately fit the continuum, possibly due to the omission of the reflection component and a soft excess that is modeled by more than one component. Miniutti et al. (2014) and Jiménez-Bailón et al. (2008) present a more detailed analysis. Both analyses find 2 warm absorbers as well as cold absorber that affects the power law in the hard band. Miniutti et al. (2014) present the idea that the variability observed in the warm absorber can be due to a clumpy torus or clouds in the BLR and propose this to be a source of intermediate type between 1 and 2, being observed at an angle of $\approx 45^\circ$.

IRAS 15091-2107

Jimenez-Bailon et al. (2007) report a cold and a warm absorber in this source. We find our best fitted model to be the one with a warm absorption, since we do not consider a combination of both warm and cold absorption.

Fairall 51

This source shows significant improvement by adding a second warm absorber. Svoboda et al. (2015) present an in-depth analysis of this source, where the best fit model includes a cold absorber $N_H \approx 4 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ affecting the hard band and the need of a reflection component. One important point on the absorbers is that they find an improvement on the fit by allowing the covering factor of the *zxipcf* model to vary.

5.1.2. Equatorial-Polarized Sources

IZw 1

Gallo et al. (2007) and Costantini et al. (2007) report on the spectral details and variability between two observations. They find evidence of absorption of two different ionization states. Silva et al. (2018) worked on the same observation as we did and found a variable multi-phase ionized absorber by two gas components of similar column densities. The outflow velocity estimated for the low ionization component is ≈ 1900 km/s and for the high ionization is ≈ 2500 km/s. By assuming that the outflow velocity is greater than, or equal to, the escape velocity, they estimate the absorbers distance to the central source at $\approx 0.07, 0.04$ pc respectively, placing them on the scale of the accretion disk.

Akn 120

This source is referred to as a “bare-nucleus” AGN, and thus there are no reports of this source being affected by absorption. The spectra are characterized by a strong soft excess emission, as studied by Porquet et al. (2018) and Matt et al. (2014).

NGC 3783

According to the AIC, we are unable to determine whether the warm or cold absorber yield a better fit for this source. There are many previous publications on this AGN including reports on obscuring events. Based on RGS data, Blustin et al. (2002), reported the detection of a two-phase warm absorber. This result was confirmed by Mao et al. (2019).

Mrk 841

Our best fit for this source includes 2 warm absorbers of different ionization states, a result that is consistent with the in depth analysis made by Longinotti et al. (2010). In this work, they estimate the density of the absorbing gas to be below 10^3 cm^{-3} , and a distance to the central source of a few tens of pc, placing the absorber on the scale of the BLR.

Mrk 876

We report this source as unabsorbed. This result is consistent with work reported in Bottacini (2022), using *NuSTAR* data, and Bottacini et al. (2015) with *XMM-Newton* and *Swift*. This unabsorbed scenario corresponds to a classical Seyfert 1.

KUV 18217+6419

The best fit from our analysis indicates the presence of a warm absorber. This source shows interesting features in the hard band, Jiménez-Bailón et al. (2007), but we found no studies on absorption in the soft band.

Mrk 509

This source has been much studied, in particular in a campaign lead by Kaastra et al. (2011), where we can find reports on the many components of the spectrum. In particular, Detmers et al. (2011) find multiple absorption systems, with three different velocity components. This is not consistent with our results, where this source appears unabsorbed, according to the AIC. This is an example of how an over-simplified model like ours does not recover the spectral complexity of the source.

Mrk 304

In our work, the AIC favors the cold absorption scenario. Our result differs from previous studies of the same observation. We find a cold absorber of $\approx 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ and our baseline model does not reproduce the convex shape of the continuum. Piconcelli et al. (2004) find that the convex shape of the spectrum corresponds to a heavily obscured source with column density up to $\approx 10^{23} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, and their final fit includes a multi-phase ionized absorber.

6. CONCLUSIONS

We presented the results of a systematic analysis of the X-ray spectra of 19 sources: 11 with *PL-pol* and 8 with *EQ-pol*. Our analysis consisted of fitting the main components of a typical Seyfert spectrum and testing the response when absorption was added to the model. We particularly tested whether cold or warm absorption was a preferred solution, as determined by the AIC statistical criterion.

- Concerning the common components of the spectral modeling, we find that the continuum is well-fitted by a power law, the Fe K α is present in 13 out of the 19 observations, and the soft excess is ubiquitous. These components prove to be a good first approximation to model the typical type 1 Sy spectra. However, comparing our results to previously published work on these sources, we find that producing a more robust best fit model for the absorption components requires a more detailed analysis, to be complemented by high-resolution data. This suggests that our study can be further improved by the selection of a more complex model.
- From the absorption test, we find that 100% of the *PL-pol* and 75% of the *EQ-pol* sources are affected by absorption. This difference, which is corroborated by the statistical KS test, seems to indicate an intrinsic diversity of the scattering medium in the two groups of sources, lending support to the unification model proposed by Smith.
- “While we observe a distinction between subsamples, another interesting result emerges when examining the entire sample of polarized Sy 1. The incidence of absorption in 19 type 1 Sy is of $\approx 90\%$, with $\approx 75\%$ confirmed to be warm absorption. In contrast with results where

warm absorption is found in 65% of type 1 Sy, (Laha et al. 2014), this suggests a relationship between the presence of absorbing material in the line-of-sight and the region responsible for the scattering that yields the measured optical polarization.

- At first approximation, our work provides a promising test for the use of X-ray absorption as a tool for explaining the properties of the observed polarization and their interpretation in the context of the AGN unification model. It is desirable for further work to include more recent polarization measurements and a larger sample of X-ray sources with known polarization. The test of X-ray absorption can also be improved by considering more complex modeling of the absorbers, aiming at constraining the location of the absorbing gas with respect to the AGN torus. It is important to note that, while the model presented by Smith can be regarded as a first approximation to a unification scheme, the availability and quality of X-ray data and therefore our understanding of the X-ray emission of AGN has significantly improved since Smith’s unification scheme was first proposed (2002-2005). This poses the interesting option of taking this systematic analysis further by considering a multi-layered absorber, a less homogeneous torus and a more detailed characterization of the absorbing gas.

This research has been founded by the project PID2019-107408GB-C41 and PID2022-136598NB-C33 by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation/State Agency of Research MCIN/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by “ERDF A way of making Europe”. MGY acknowledges “Programa de Apoyo a los Estudios de Posgrado (PAEP), UNAM”. A.L.L. and MGY acknowledge support from DGAPA-PAPIIT grant IA101623. A.L.L. acknowledges the staff of the European Space Astronomy Centre (ESAC, Madrid) for hosting her visit during which this work was substantially discussed and advanced. Financial support is acknowledged from ESA through the Science Faculty - Funding reference ESA-SCI-SC-LE-123, and from project PID2019-107408GB-C41 by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation/State Agency of Research MCIN/AEI/ 10.13039/501100011033.

APPENDIX

A. X-RAY SPECTRAL ANALYSIS

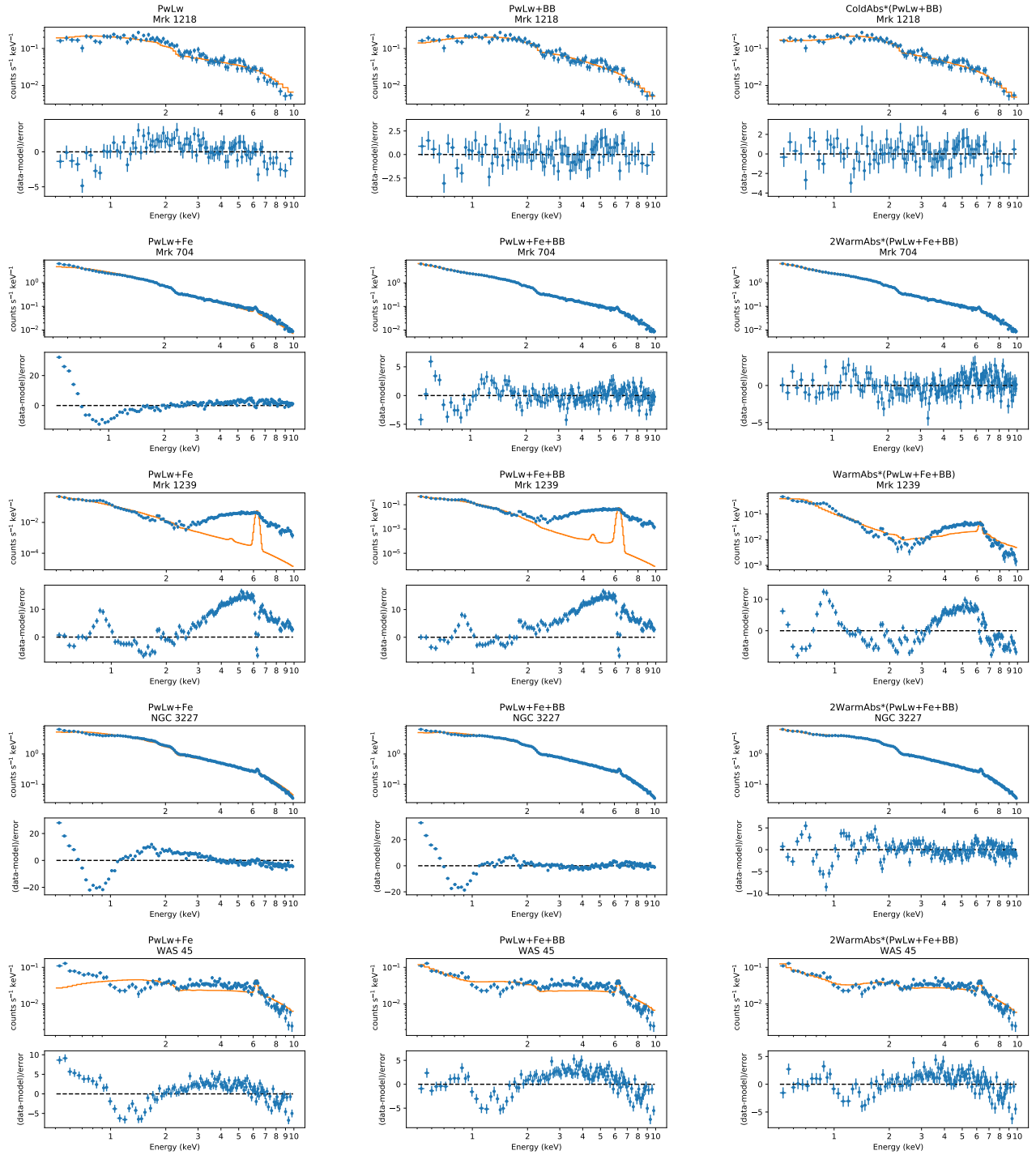


Fig. 6. **Polar polarized sources.** All the spectra are fitted in a range of 0.5-10 keV. The first column corresponds to the baseline model: power law + significant Fe emission lines. The second column contains fits with the addition of a soft excess as a black body. The third column shows the resulting model of the absorption test, either cold or warm.

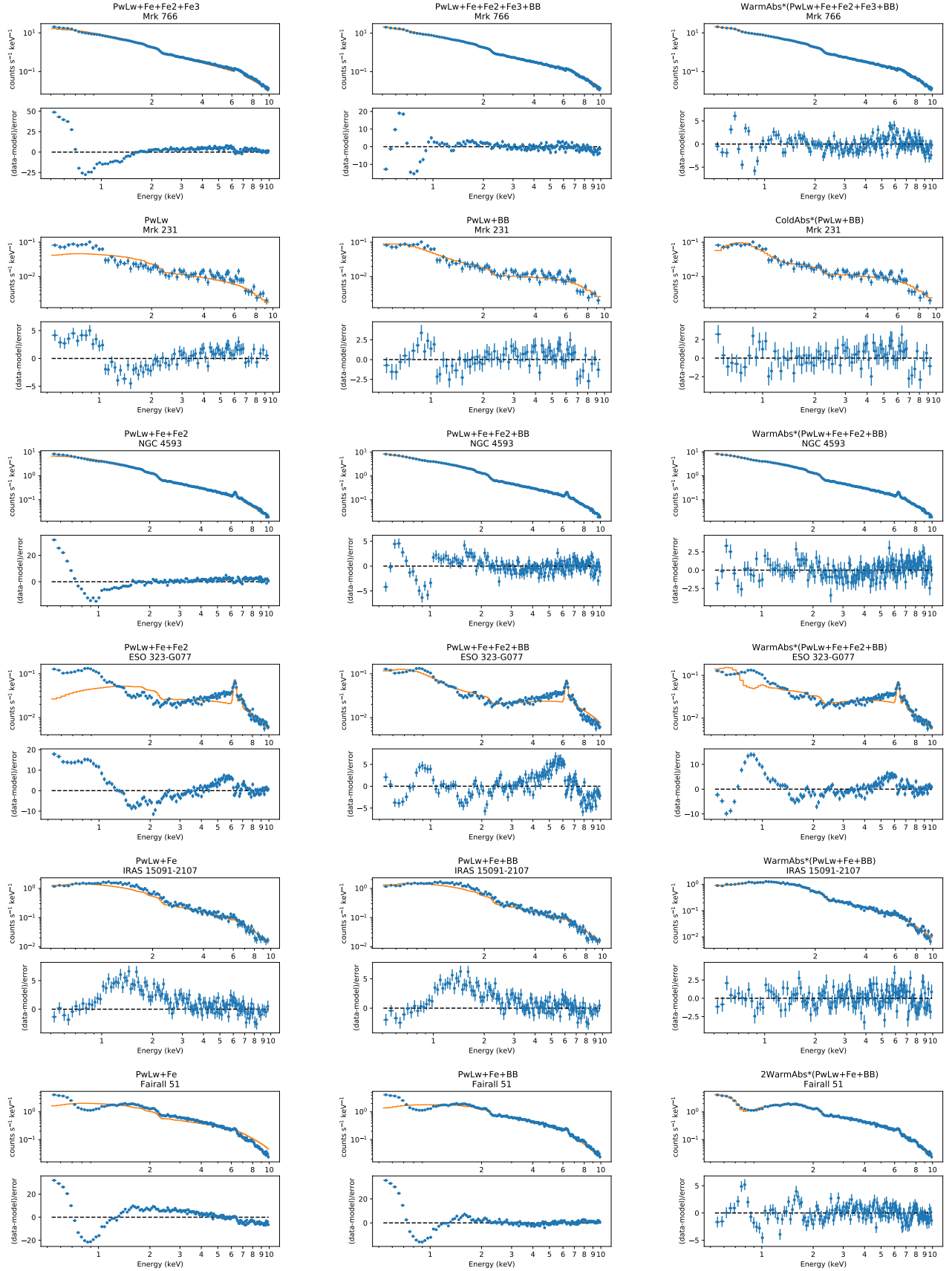


Fig. 6. CONTINUED

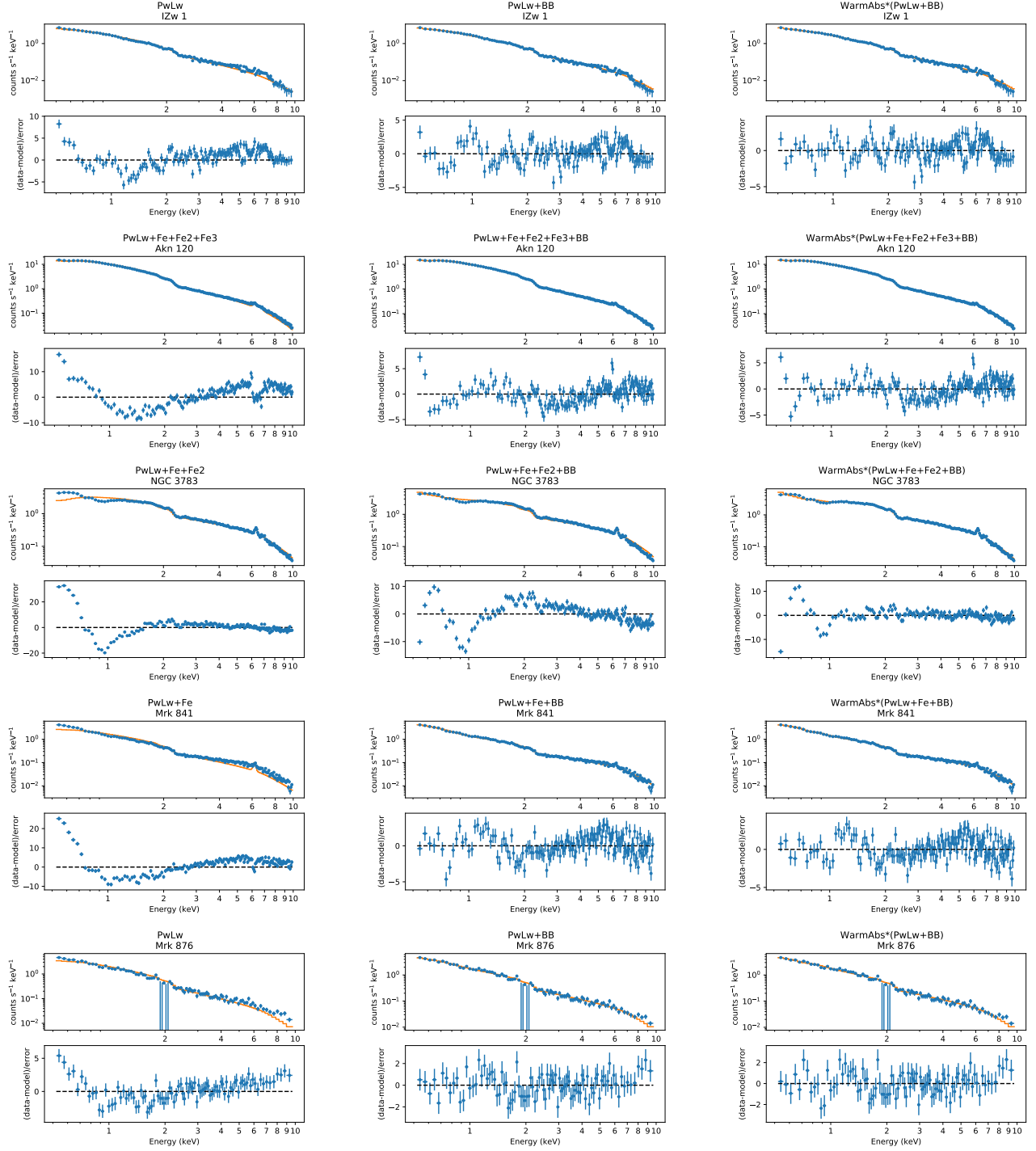


Fig. 7. **Equatorial Polarized sources.** All the spectra are fitted in a range of 0.5-10 keV. The first column corresponds to the baseline model: power law + significant Fe emission lines. The second column shows fits with the addition of soft excess as a black body. The third column shows the resulting model of the absorption test, either cold, warm or not absorbed.

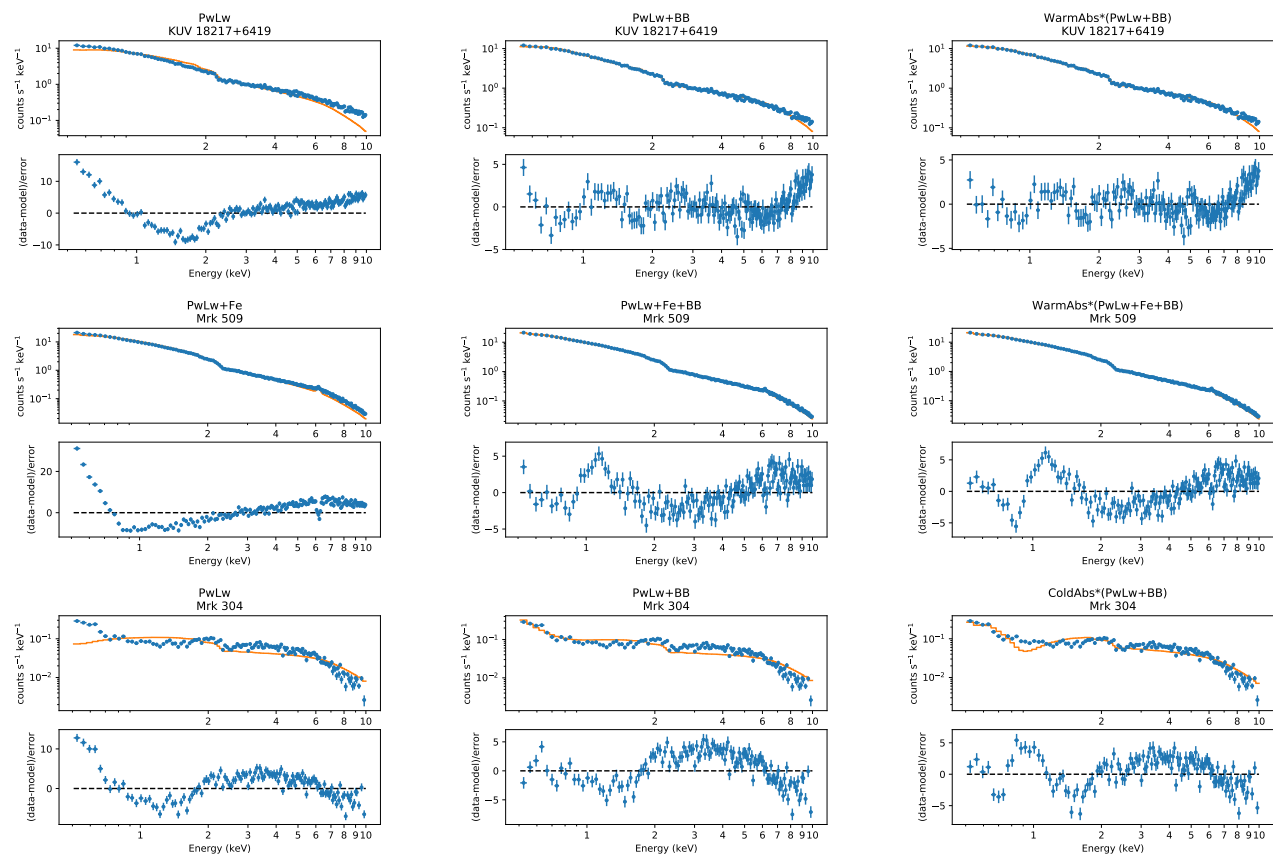


Fig. 7. CONTINUED

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