

Estimating coronal parameters using MoCA

a MonteCarlo code for accretion in astrophysics

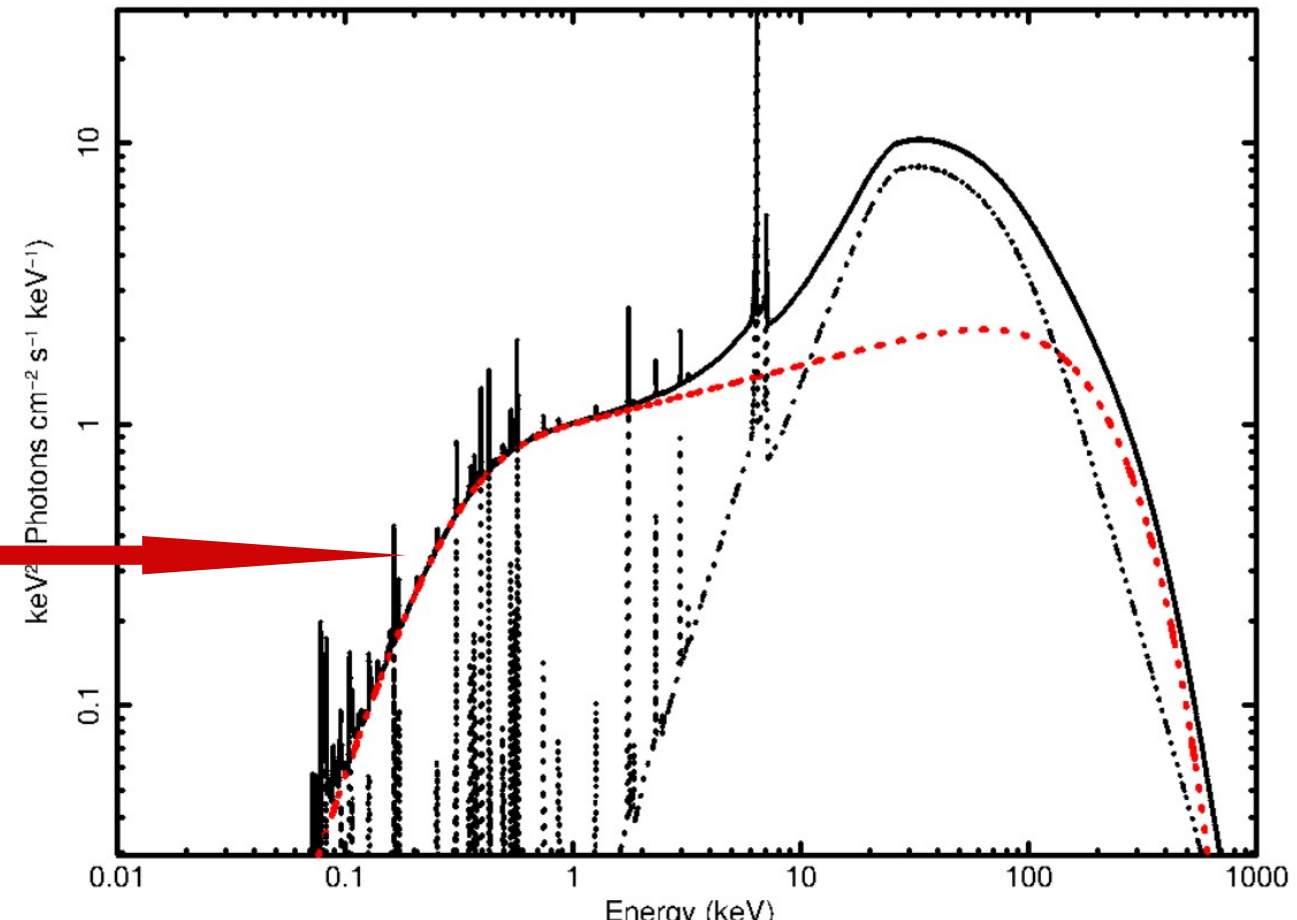


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Stefano Bianchi, Giorgio Matt,
Andrea Marinucci, Francesco Tamborra
Alessia Tortosa

The Complex AGN spectrum:

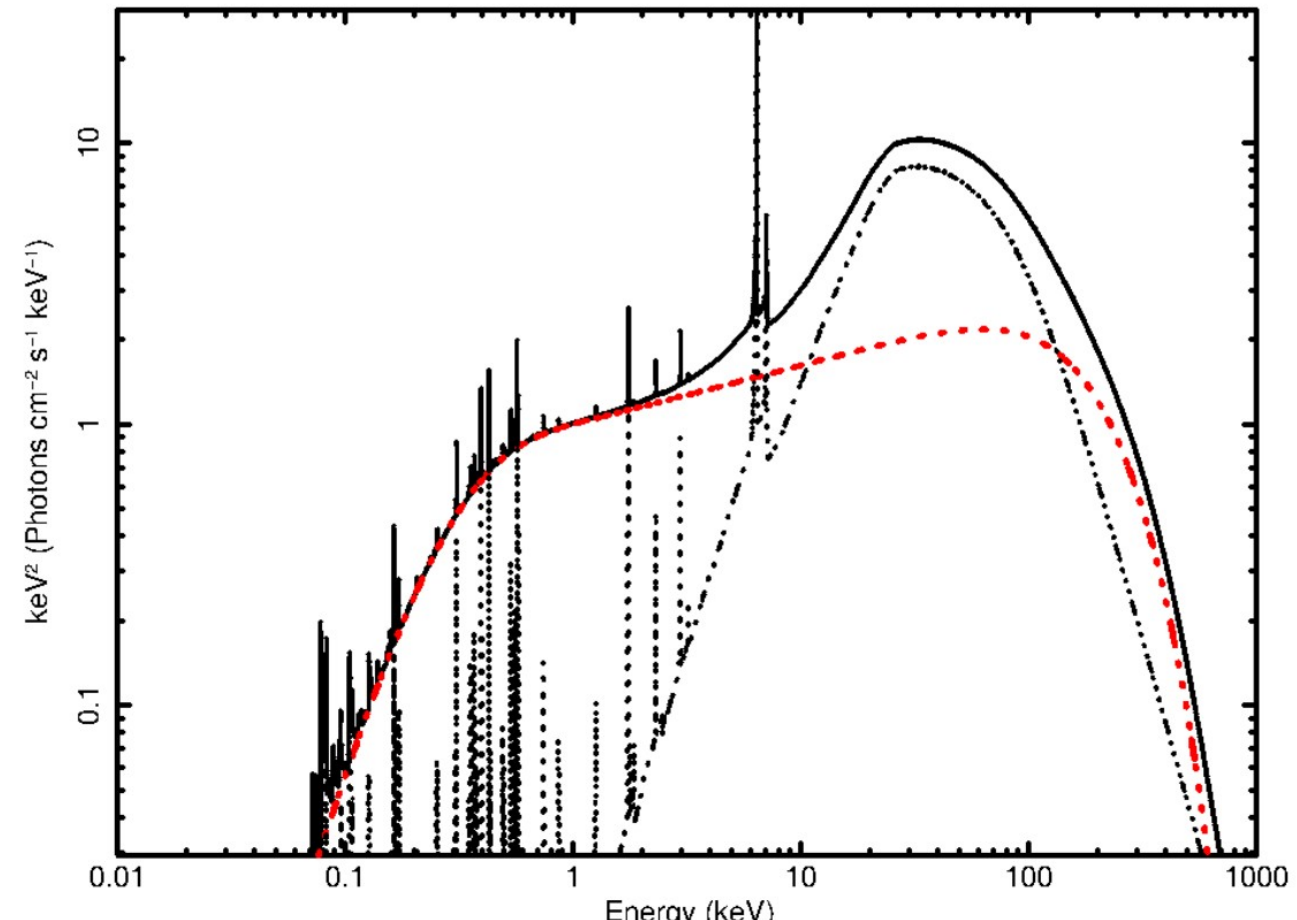
AGN X-ray continuum can be interpreted as the effect of inverse-Compton scattering



The Complex AGN spectrum:

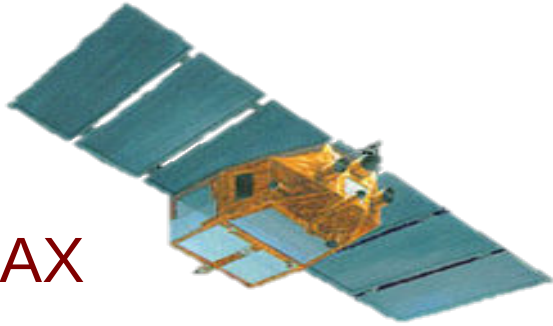
AGN X-ray continuum can be interpreted as the effect of inverse-Compton scattering

Properties of the emitting corona are largely unknown.



Various high energy cut-off estimates

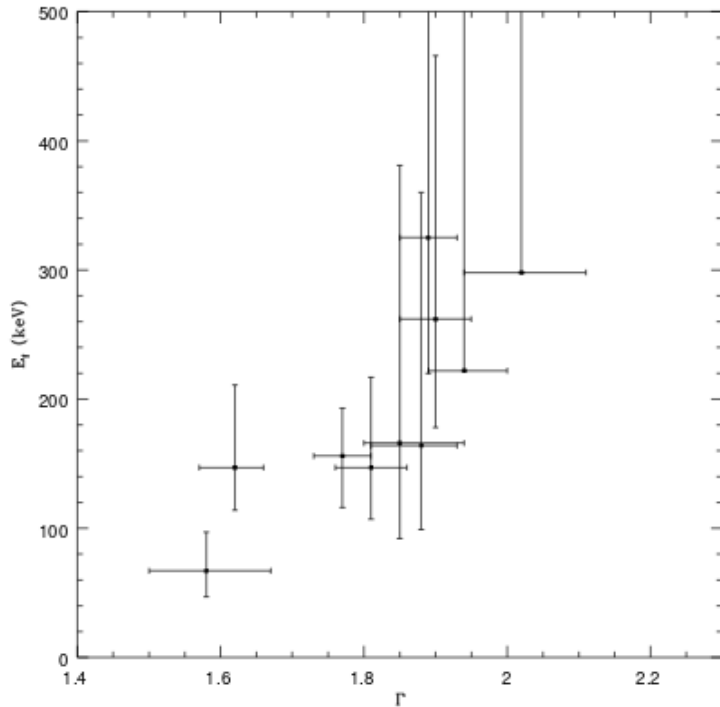
BeppoSAX



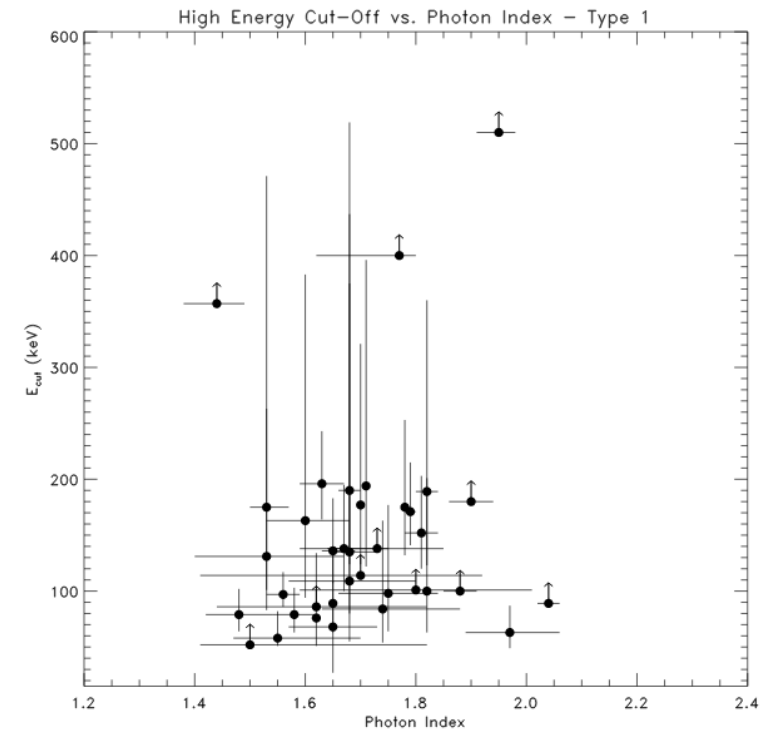
results based on non focusing satellites



Integral



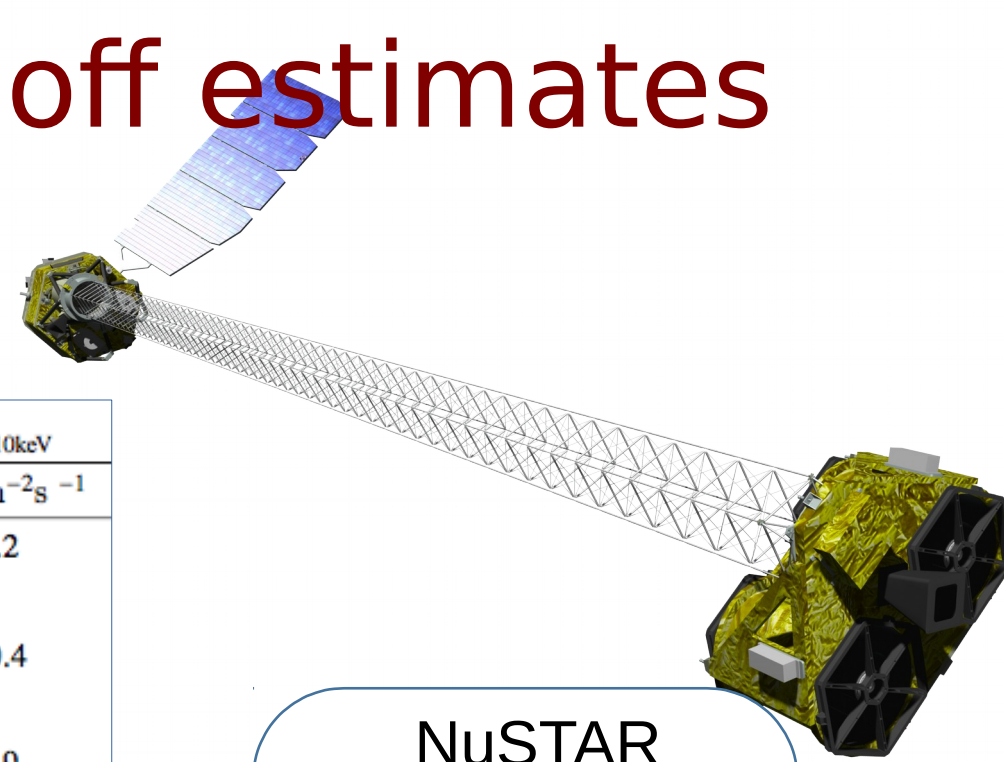
Perola et al., 2002



A. Malizia et al., 2014. see also De Rosa et al., 2012 Molina et al., 2013

Various high energy cut-off estimates

a number of cut-off measurements in AGN



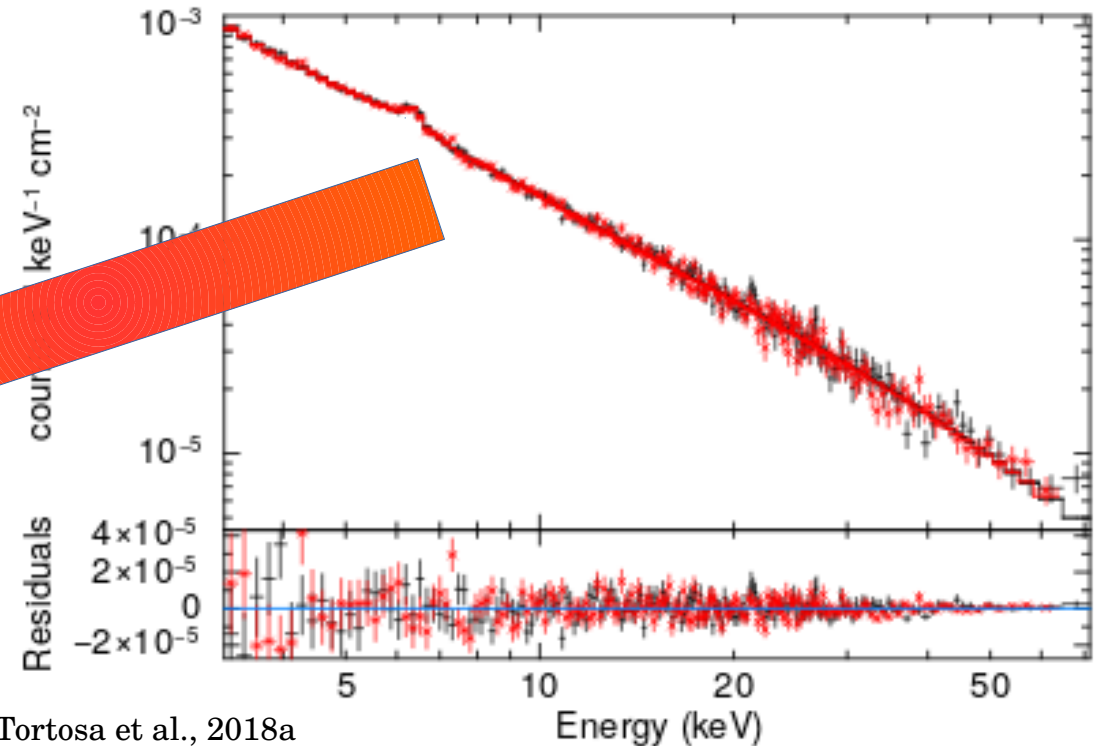
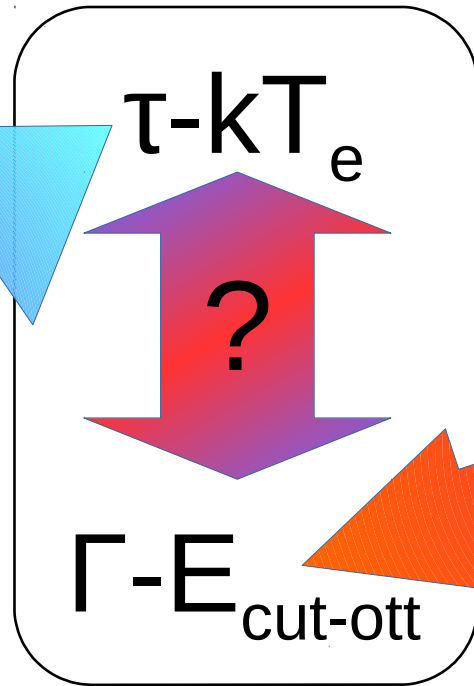
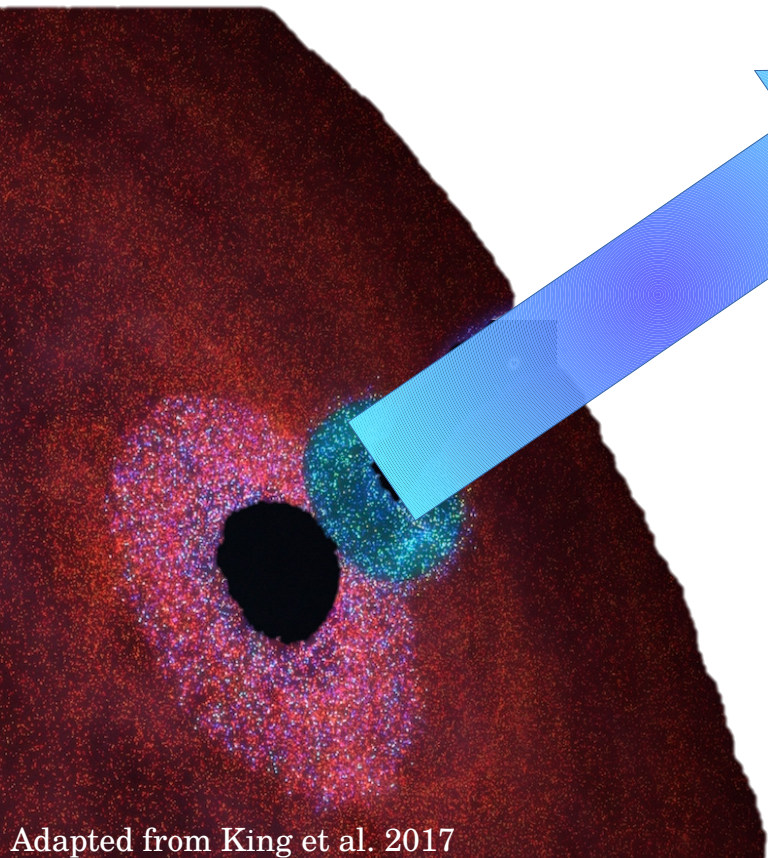
Source	Ref.	Γ	E_c	$\log(M_{bh}/M_\odot)$	Ref.	L_{bol}/L_{Edd}	$L_{2-10keV}$	$F_{2-10keV}$
Adapted from Tortosa et al. 2018			[keV]				ergs s ⁻¹	erg cm ⁻² s ⁻¹
NGC 5506	1	1.91 ± 0.03	720^{+130}_{-190}	8.0 ± 0.2	(A)	0.006	0.053	6.2
MCG -05-23-16	2	1.85 ± 0.01	170 ± 5	7.7 ± 0.2	(B)	0.058	0.18	10.4
SWIFT J2127.4	3-4	2.08 ± 0.01	180^{+75}_{-40}	7.2 ± 0.2	(J)	0.136	0.14	2.9
IC4329A	5-6	1.73 ± 0.01	185 ± 15	8.08 ± 0.3	(N)	0.125	0.56	12.0
3C390.3	7	1.70 ± 0.01	120 ± 20	8.4 ± 0.4	(H)	0.241	1.81	4.03
3C382	8	1.68 ± 0.03	215^{+150}_{-60}	9.2 ± 0.5	(D)	0.072	2.34	2.9
GRS 1734-292	9	1.65 ± 0.05	53 ± 10	8.5 ± 0.1	(L)	0.036	0.056	2.9
NGC 6814	10	1.71 ± 0.04	135^{+70}_{-35}	7.0 ± 0.1	(C)	0.003	0.021	0.2
MCG +8-11-11	10	1.77 ± 0.04	175^{+110}_{-50}	7.2 ± 0.2	(E)	0.754	0.51	5.6
Ark 564	11	2.27 ± 0.08	42 ± 3	6.8 ± 0.5	(H)	1.313	0.39	-
PG 1247+267	12-13	2.35 ± 0.09	90^{+130}_{-35}	8.9 ± 0.2	(M)	0.024	0.79	0.05
Ark 120	14-15	1.87 ± 0.02	180^{+80}_{-40}	8.2 ± 0.1	(H)	0.085	0.92	2.3

NuSTAR
high energy
cut-off

Tortosa et al., 2018

See also
Fabian et al., 2015,2017

Shall we connect
phenomenological parameters such as the photon index
and the high energy cut-off with the physics of the
Comptonising corona?



Tortosa et al., 2018a

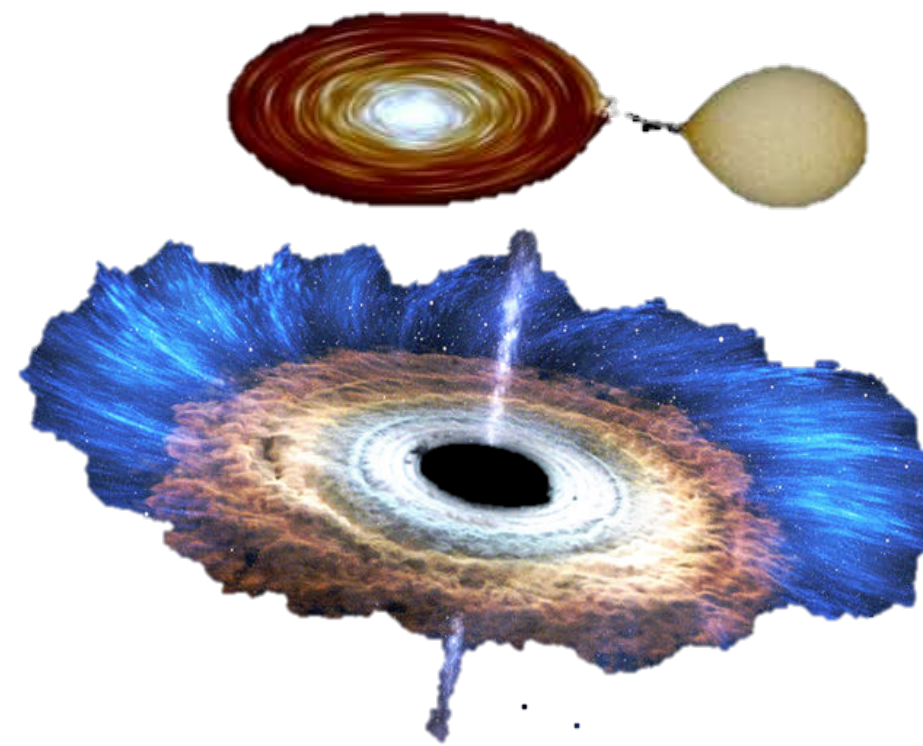
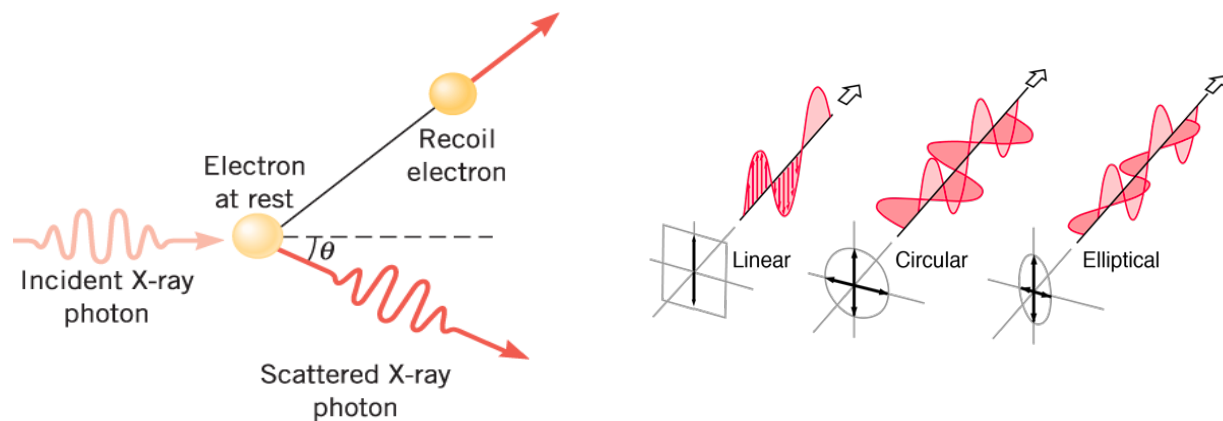
MoCA: a Monte Carlo code for accretion in Astrophysics

Tamborra et al., 2018

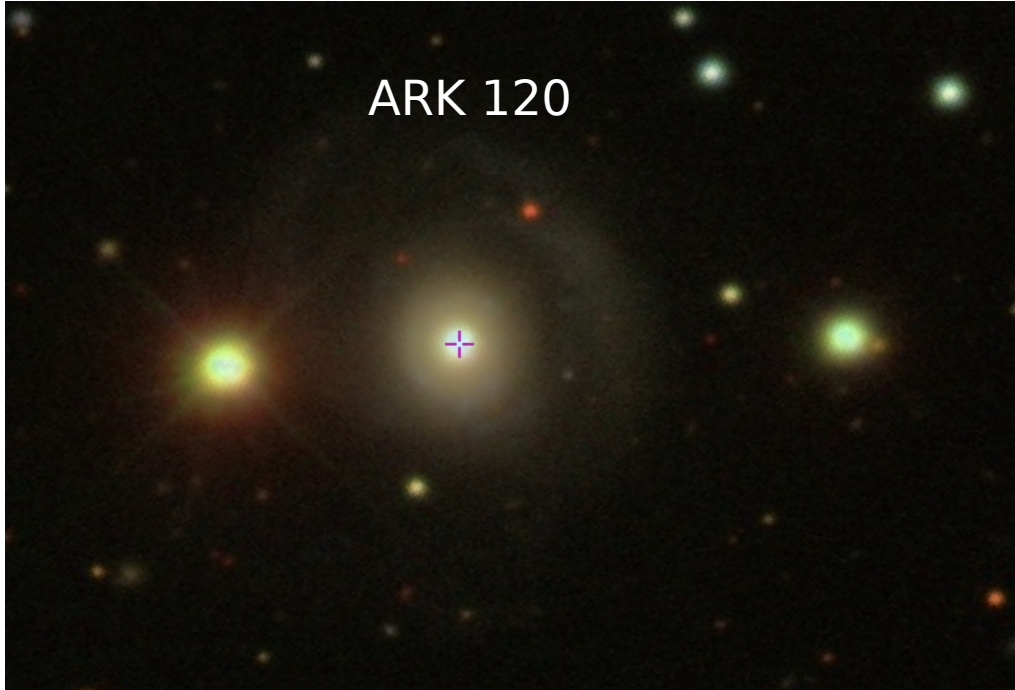
Assumptions:

1. Shakura-Sunyaev neutral accretion disc
2. Extended coronae
3. Single photon approach
4. Full special relativity included
5. Polarization signal

Suitable for studying
various astrophysical
sources



Tuning MoCA:



Step 1: AGN properties

$$M_{\text{BH}} = 1.5 \times 10^8 M_{\odot}$$

$$M = 0.01 \text{ in units of } L/L_{\text{edd}}$$

as for Ark120

e.g. Porquet et al., 2018,

Reeves et al., 2016 Nardini et al., 2016

Lobban, et al., 2017

Step 2: Assuming a geometry

Sphere geometry

$$0.5 < \tau < 7$$

$$10 < kT < 120 \text{ keV}$$

$$R_{\text{in}} = 6 R_{\text{grav}}$$

$$R_{\text{out}} = 500 R_{\text{grav}}$$

Slab geometry

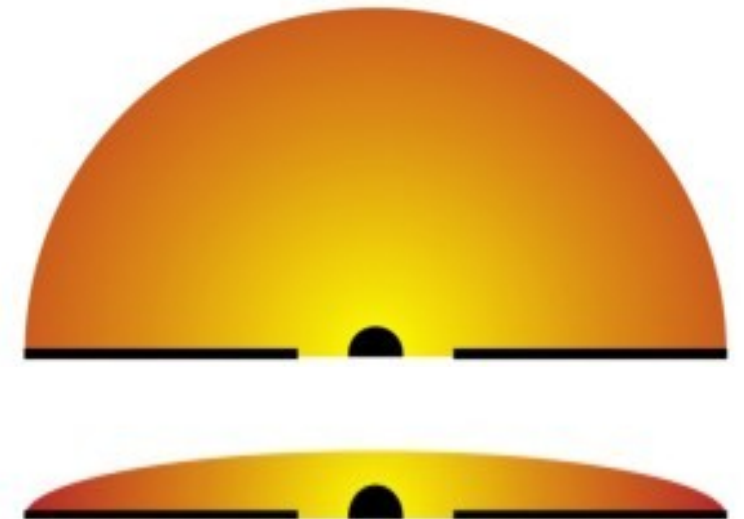
$$0.5 < \tau < 4.5$$

$$10 < kT < 120 \text{ keV}$$

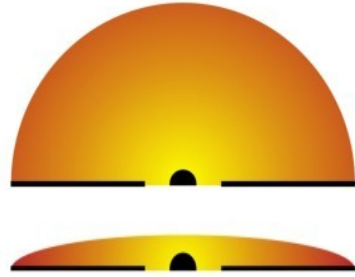
$$H = 10 R_{\text{grav}}$$

$$R_{\text{in}} = 6 R_{\text{grav}}$$

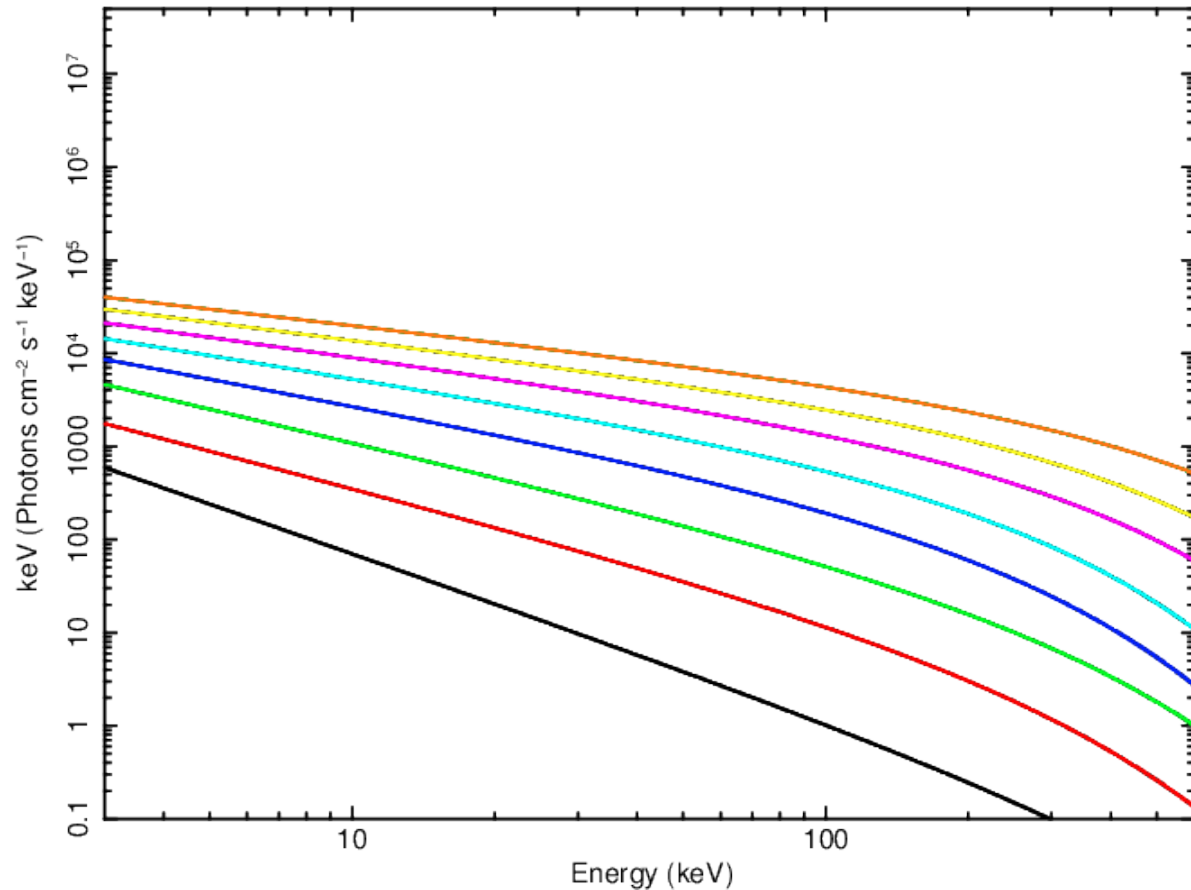
$$R_{\text{out}} = 500 R_{\text{grav}}$$



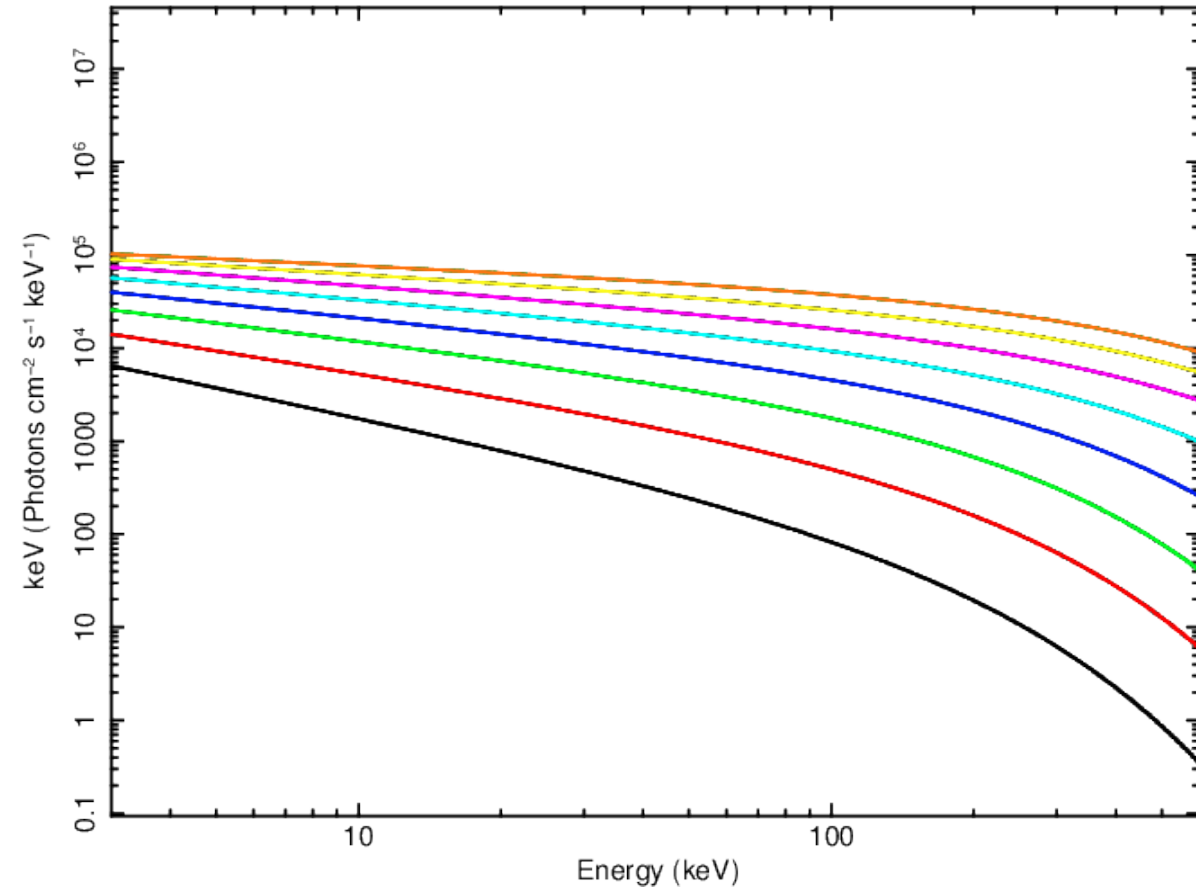
Step 3: Running simulations



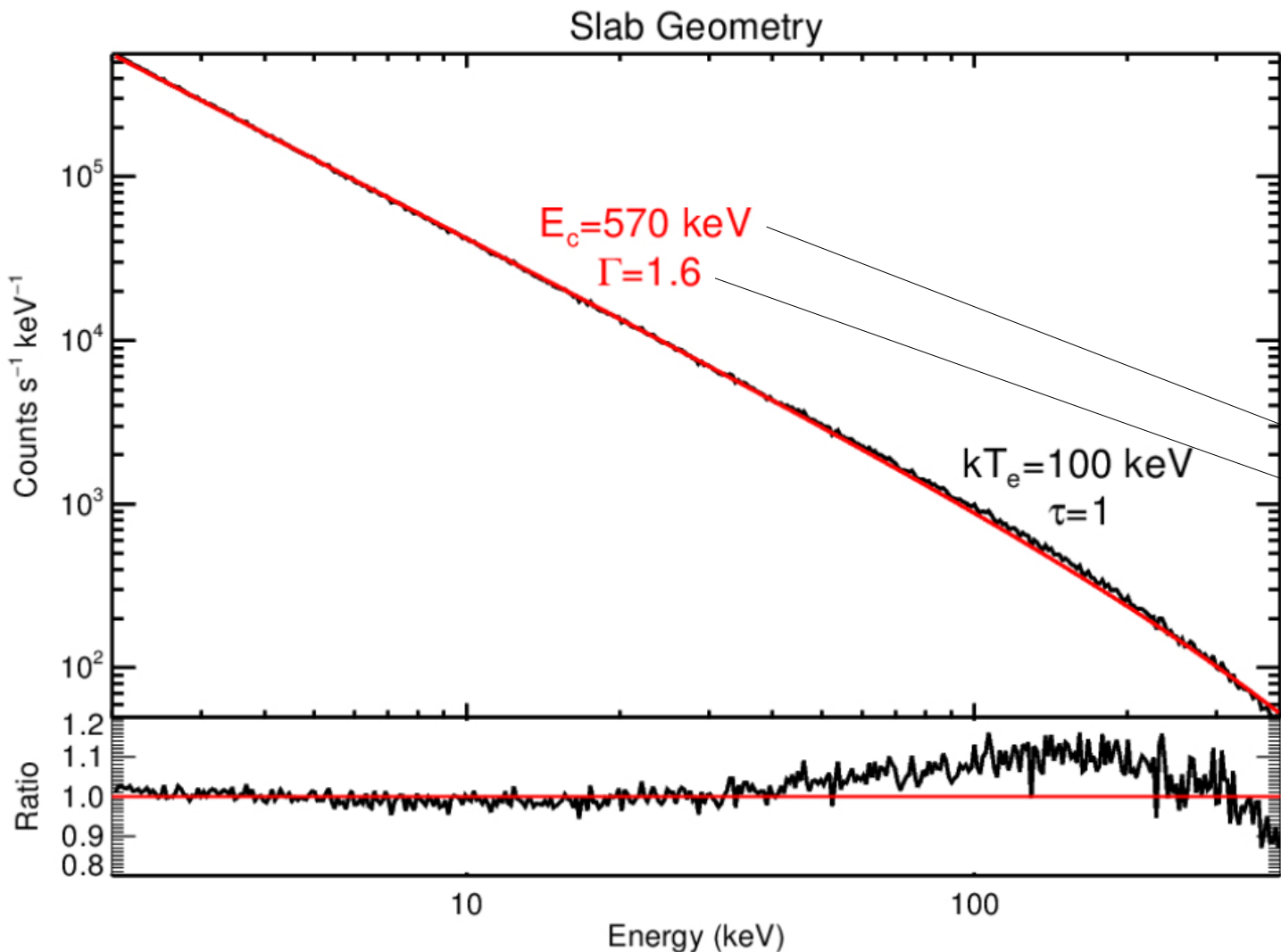
Sphere, tau=1.5



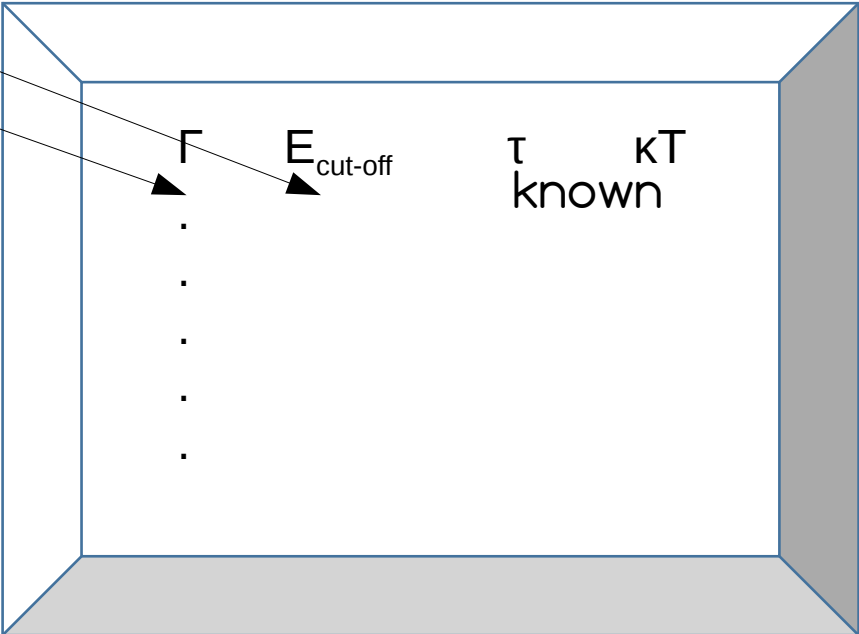
Slab, tau=1.5



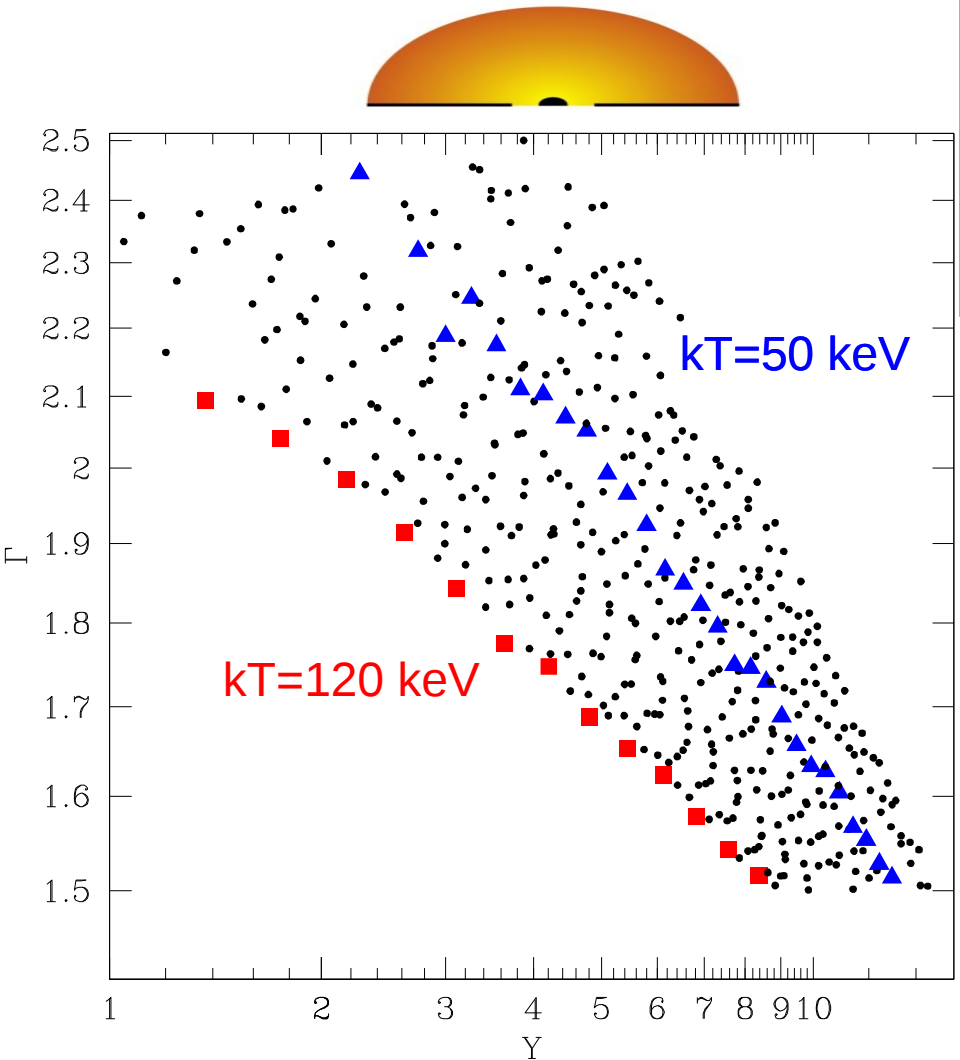
Step 4: fitting synthetic spectra with a cut-off power-law



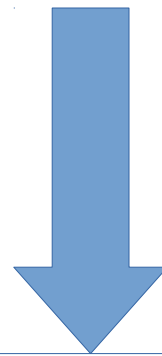
Parameters are
accepted
and stored



Connecting the spectral Γ with τ and y



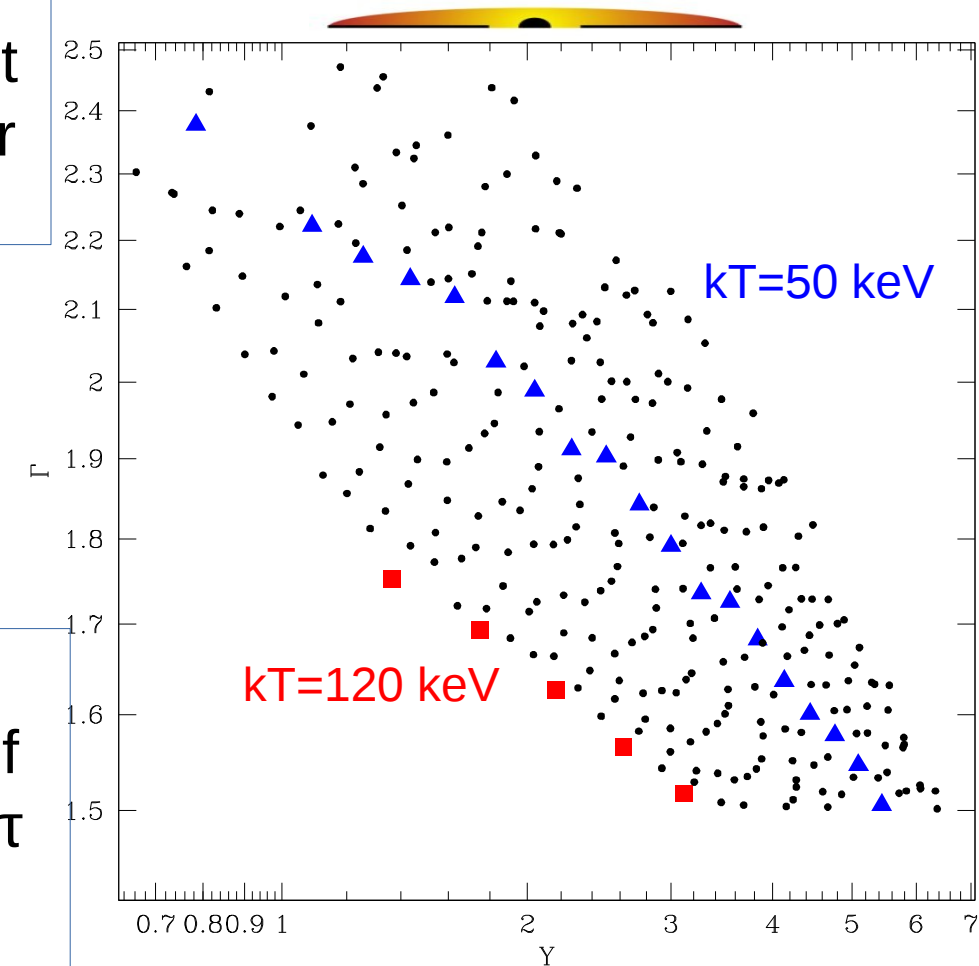
For each $E_{\text{cut-off}} - \Gamma$ couple, we computed y .
Then fixing kT , we plot Γ as a function of y for various τ

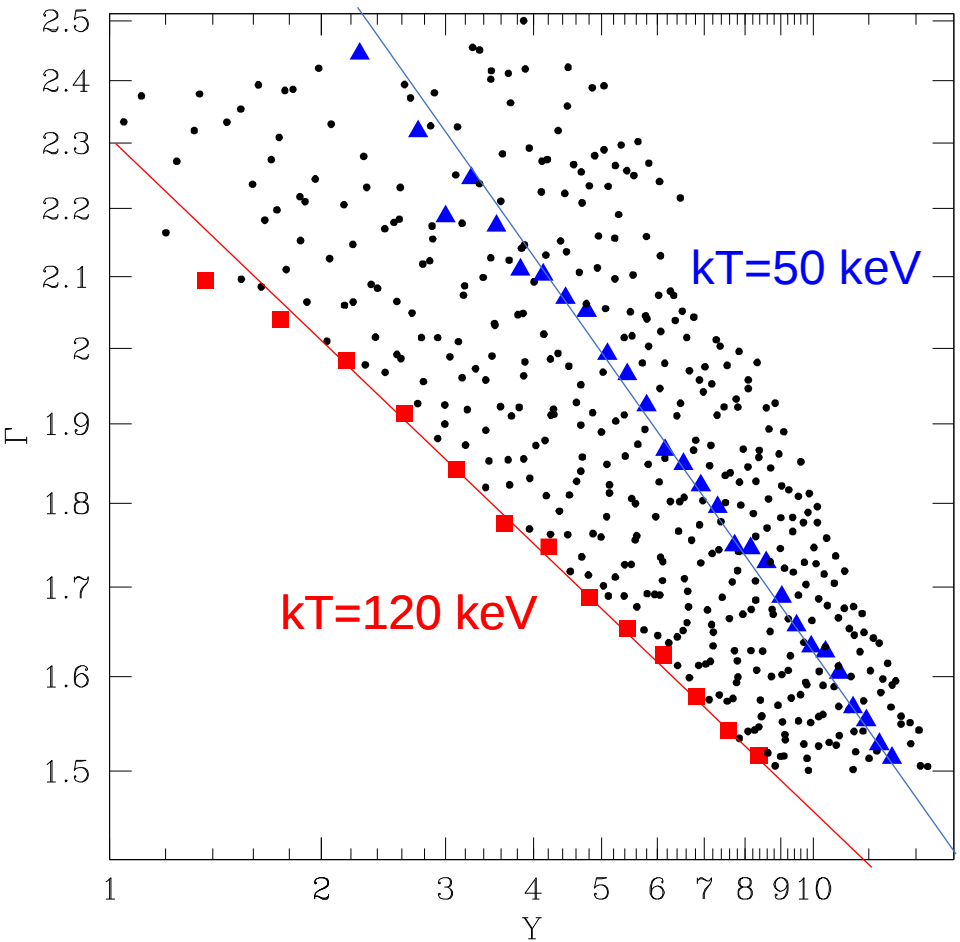


We performed fits of Γ - y as a function of τ for all the kT

$$y = 4(\theta_e + 4\theta_e^2)\tau_T(\tau_T + 1)$$

from Beloborodov, 1999





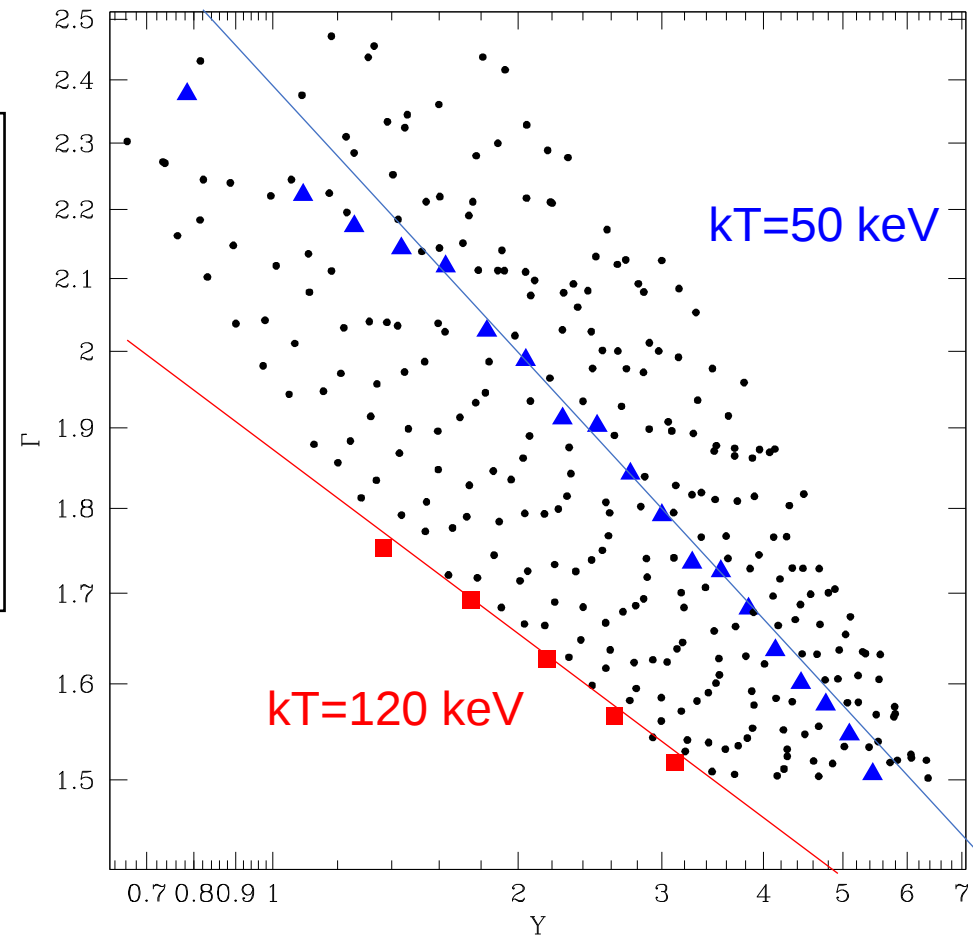
$$\log \Gamma(\tau, kT) = a(kT) \log Y(\tau, kT) + b(kT)$$

$$a(kT) = 0.00169 \pm 0.0002 \times kT - 0.368 \pm 0.012$$

$$b(kT) = -0.0026 \pm 0.0001 \times kT + 0.633 \pm 0.015$$

We find a further dependence of the slopes and normalizations on kT

$\Gamma_{\text{MoCA}}(\tau, kT)$ reproduces the photon index distribution within $\Delta\Gamma \sim 0.05$

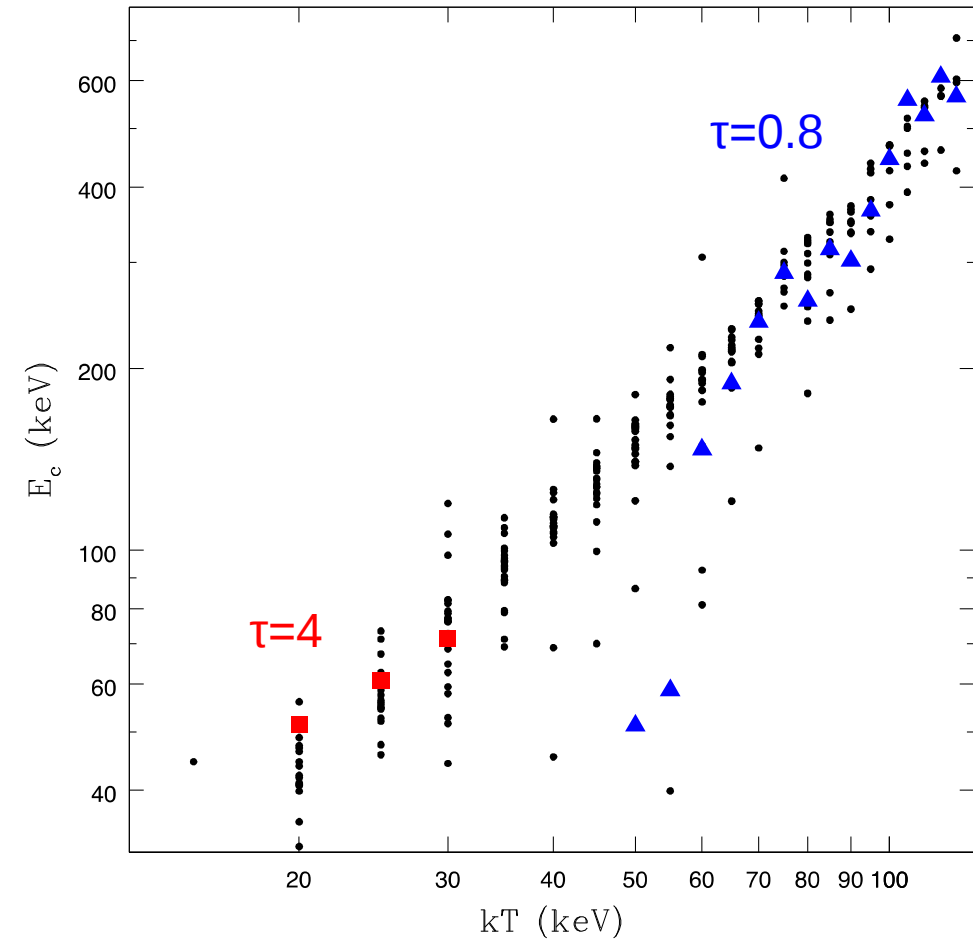


$$\log \Gamma(\tau, kT) = a(kT) \log Y(\tau, kT) + b(kT)$$

$$a(kT) = 0.0010 \pm 0.0001 \times kT - 0.324 \pm 0.008$$

$$b(kT) = -0.0017 \pm 0.0001 \times kT + 0.468 \pm 0.008$$

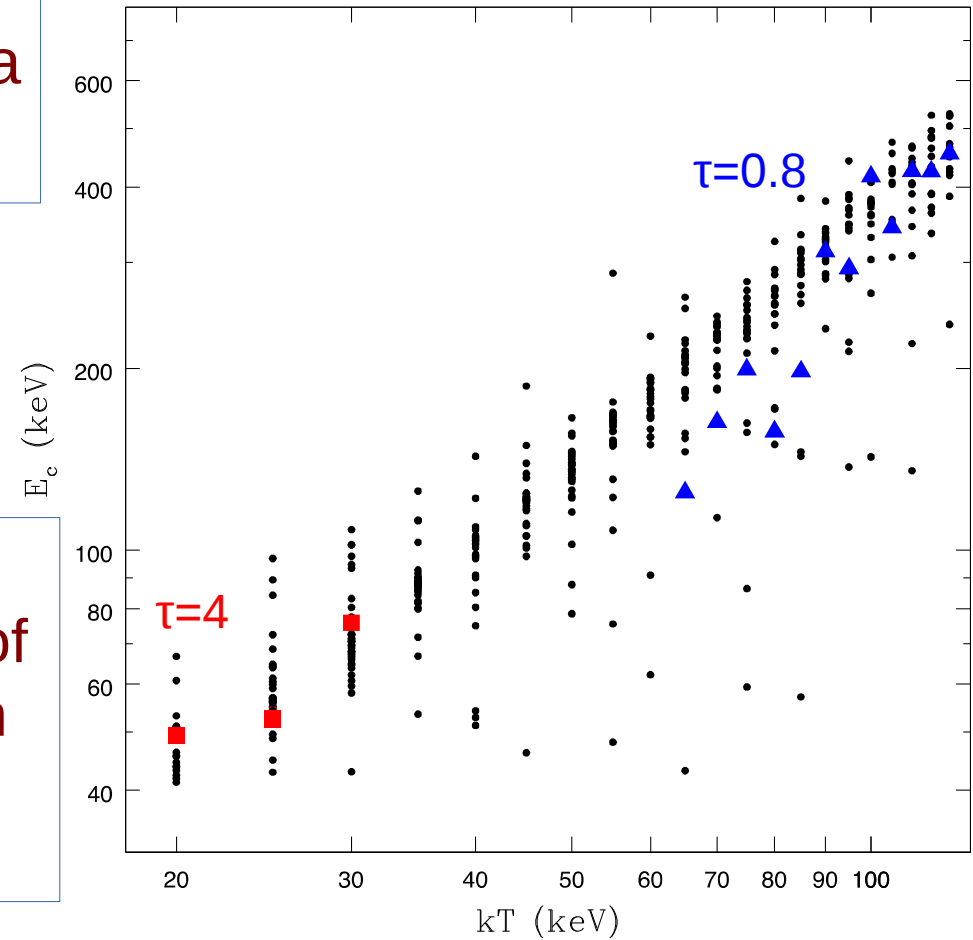
Connecting the spectral $E_{\text{cut-off}}$ with τ and kT

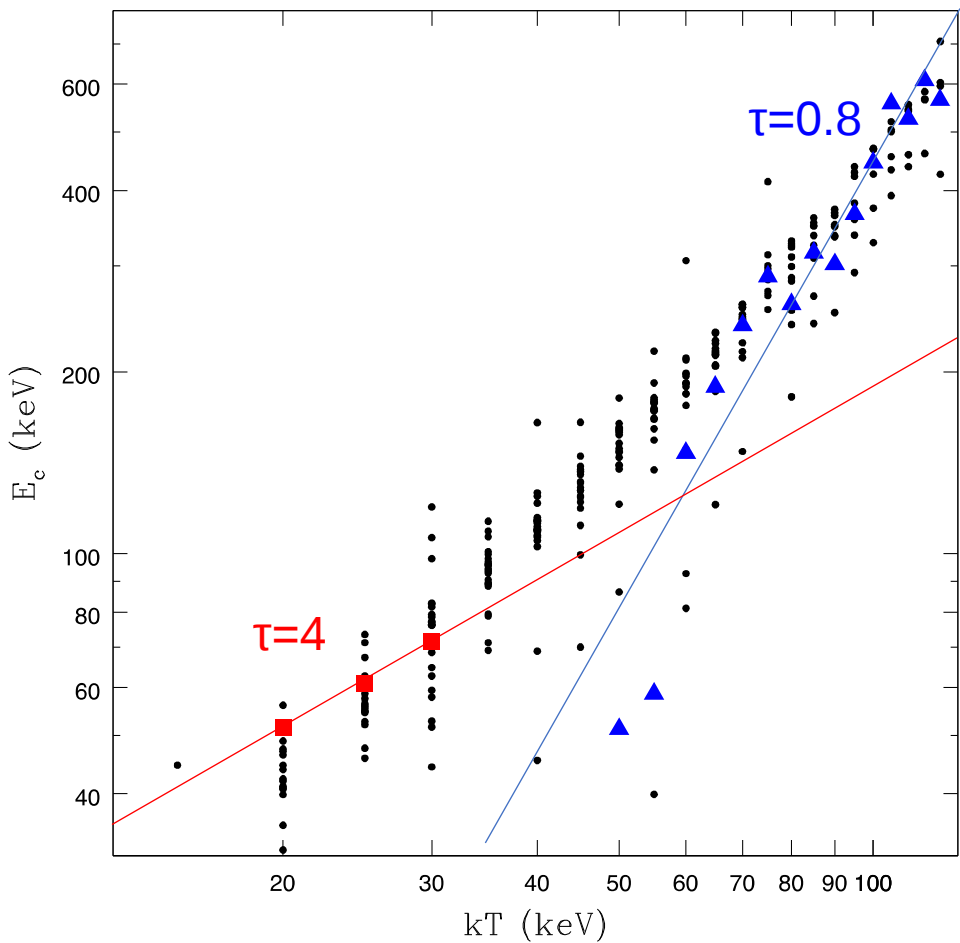


For each $E_{\text{cut-off}}$ - kT couple, we fix τ and plot $E_{\text{cut-off}}$ as a function of kT



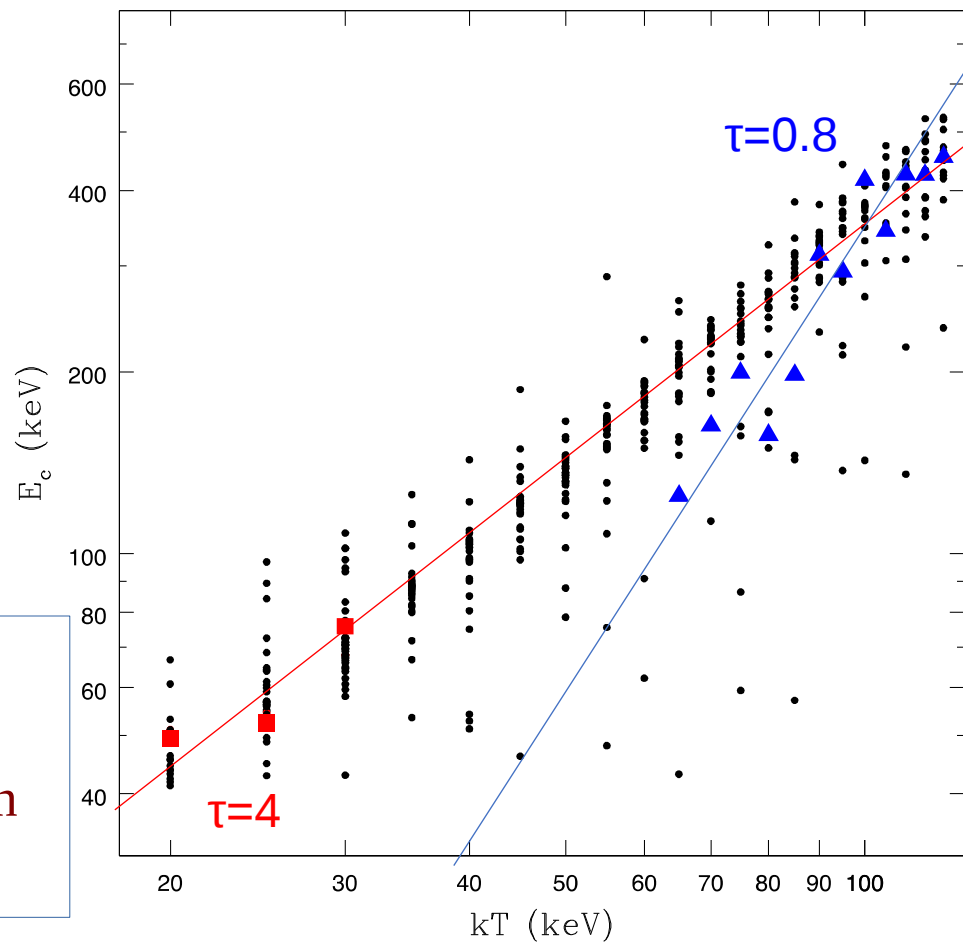
We performed fits of E_c - kT as a function of kT for all the τ





The relation between the observed E_{cut} and kT is a function of both τ and the kT

$E_{\text{cut-MoCA}}(\tau, kT)$ reproduces the $E_{\text{cut-off}}$ distribution within $\Delta E_{\text{cut}} < 50 \text{ keV}$



Most popular models implying $E_{\text{cut}} = 2-3 \times kT_e$ (Petrucci et al., 2000, 2001) not always working

$$\log E_c(\tau, kT) = \alpha(\tau) \log kT + \beta(\tau)$$

$$\alpha(\tau) = -0.285 \pm 0.04 \times \tau + 2.61 \pm 0.2$$

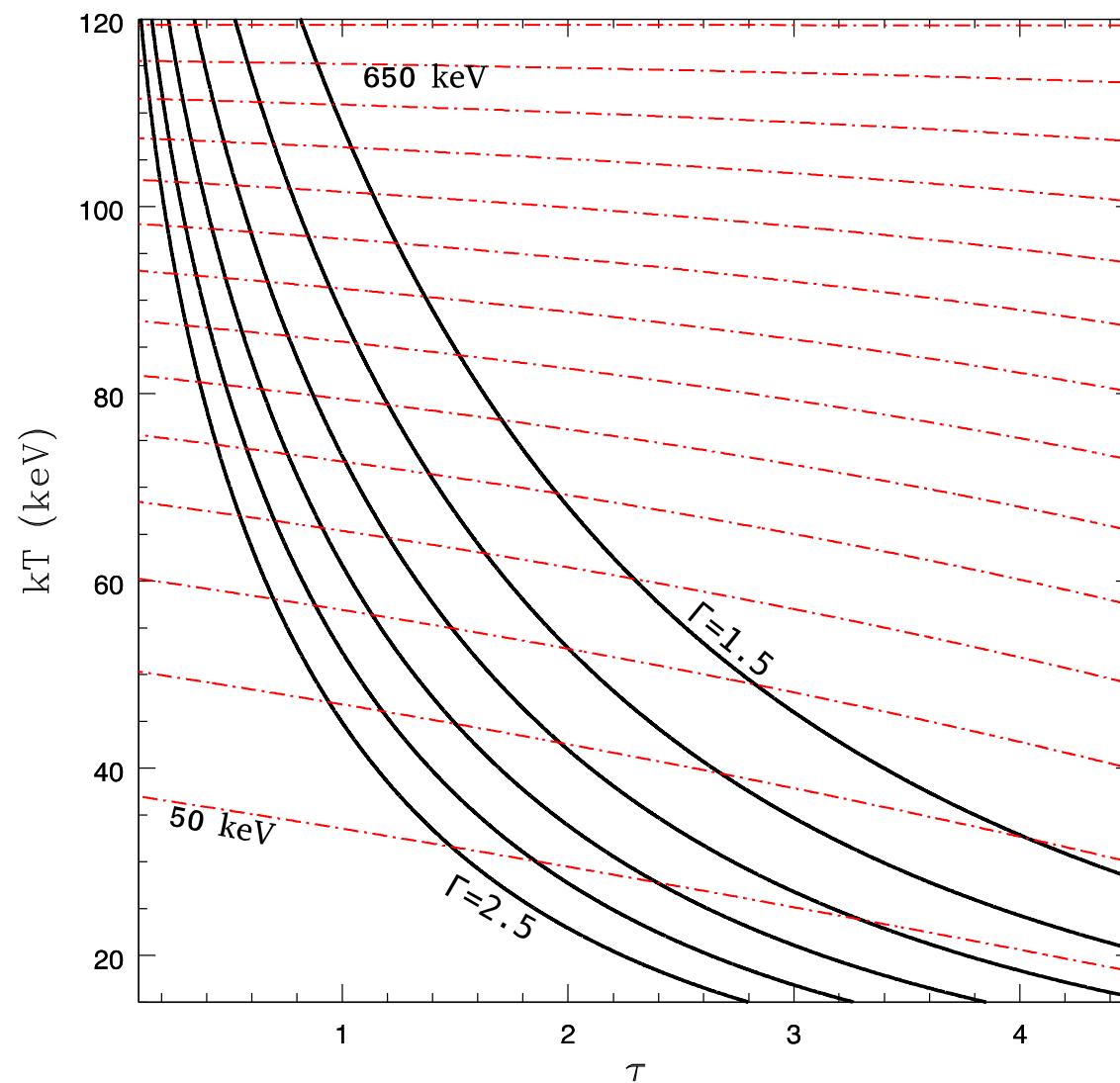
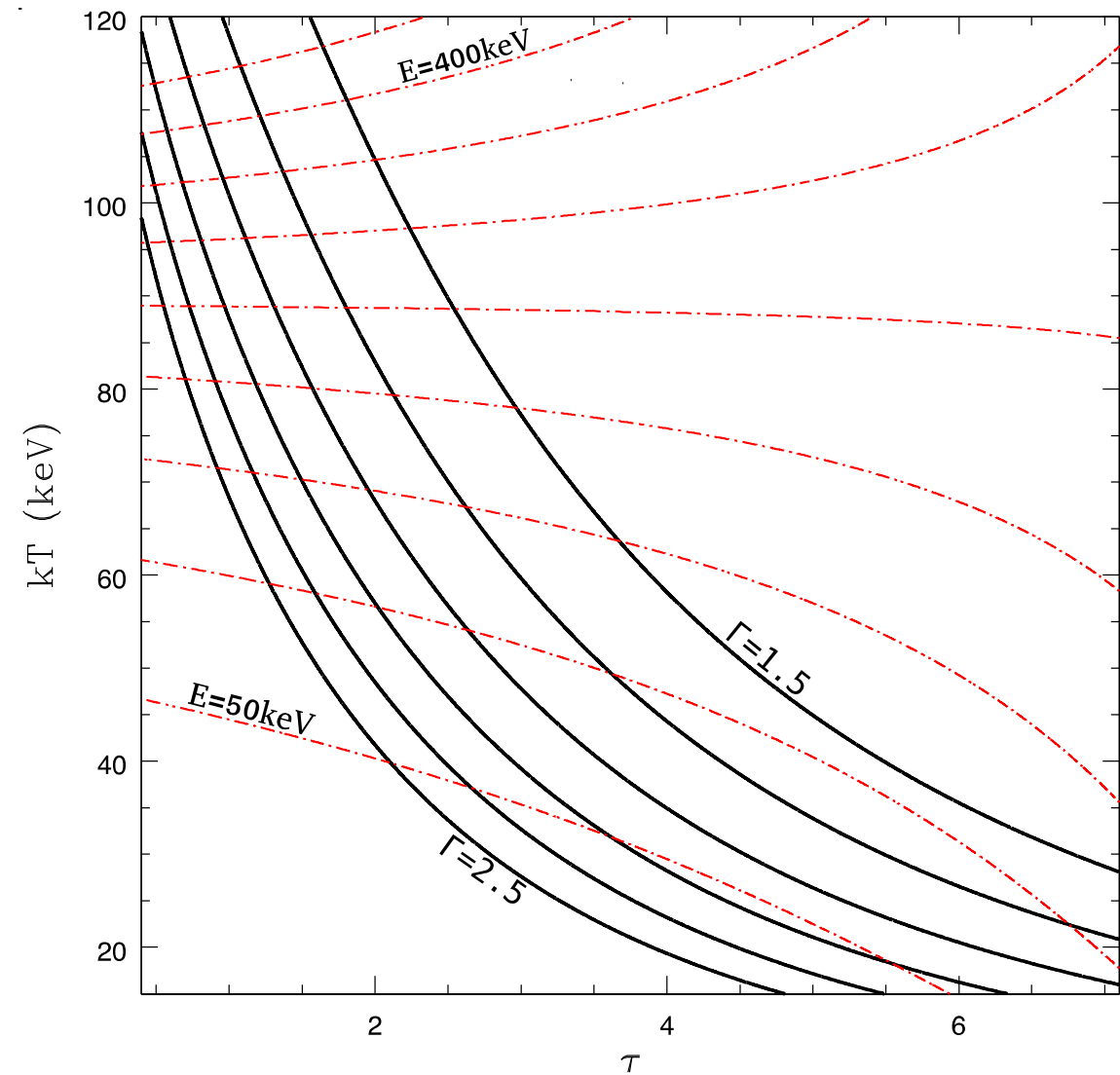
$$\beta(\tau) = 0.558 \pm 0.08 \times \tau - 2.69 \pm 0.34$$

$$\log E_c(\tau, kT) = \alpha(\tau) \log kT + \beta(\tau)$$

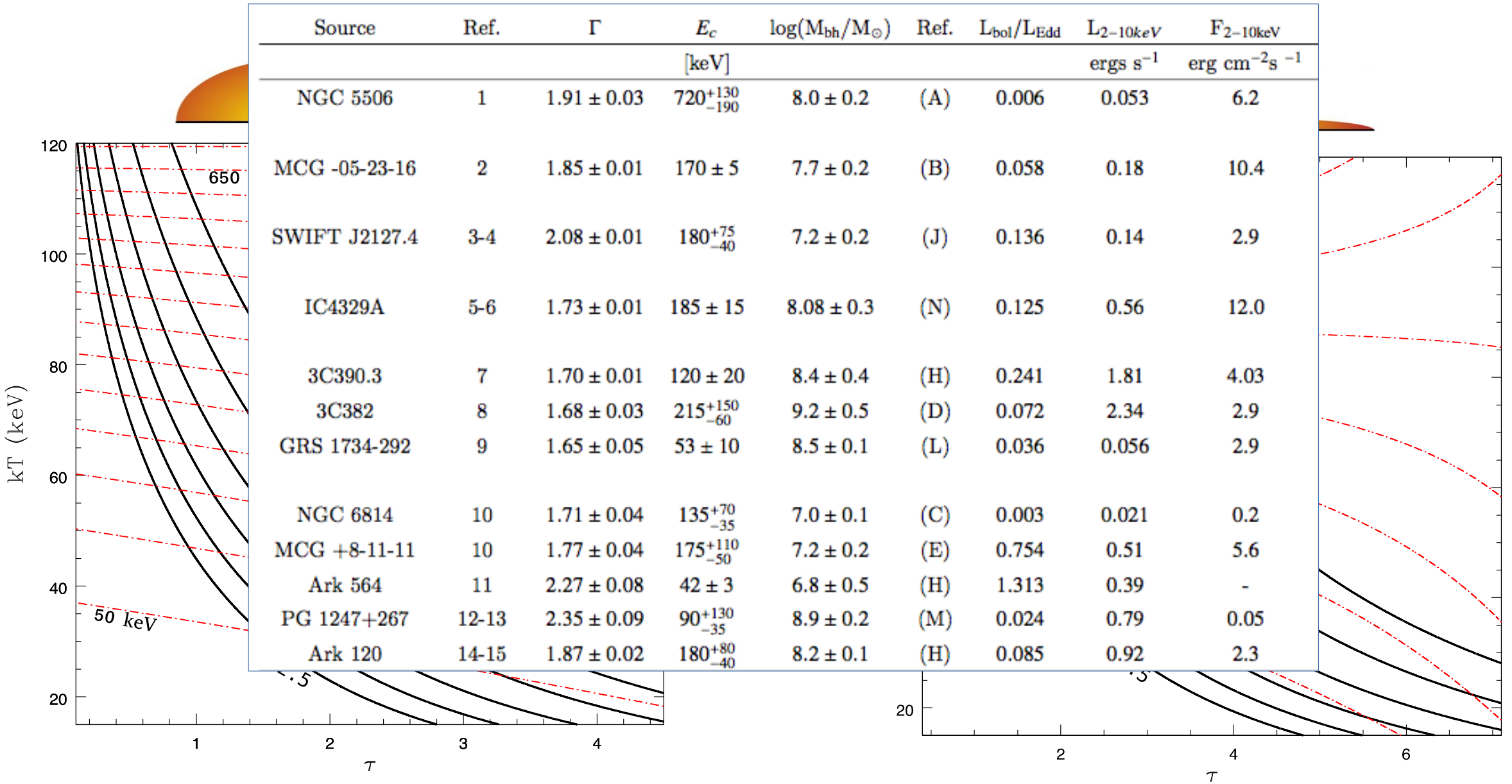
$$\alpha(\tau) = -0.19 \pm 0.04 \times \tau + 2.26 \pm 0.13$$

$$\beta(\tau) = 0.398 \pm 0.08 \times \tau - 1.87 \pm 0.23$$

Connecting the physics of the corona with the phenomenological spectral properties



Hands on, from E_{cut} & Γ into kT & τ



a few examples...

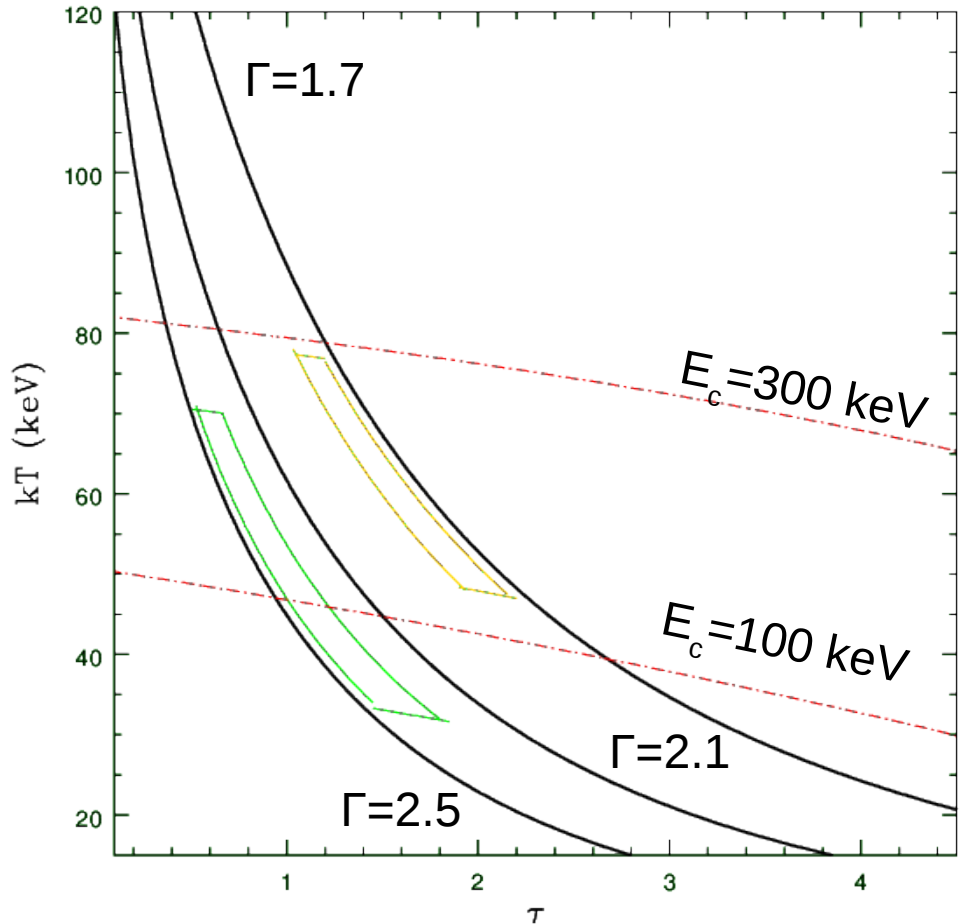
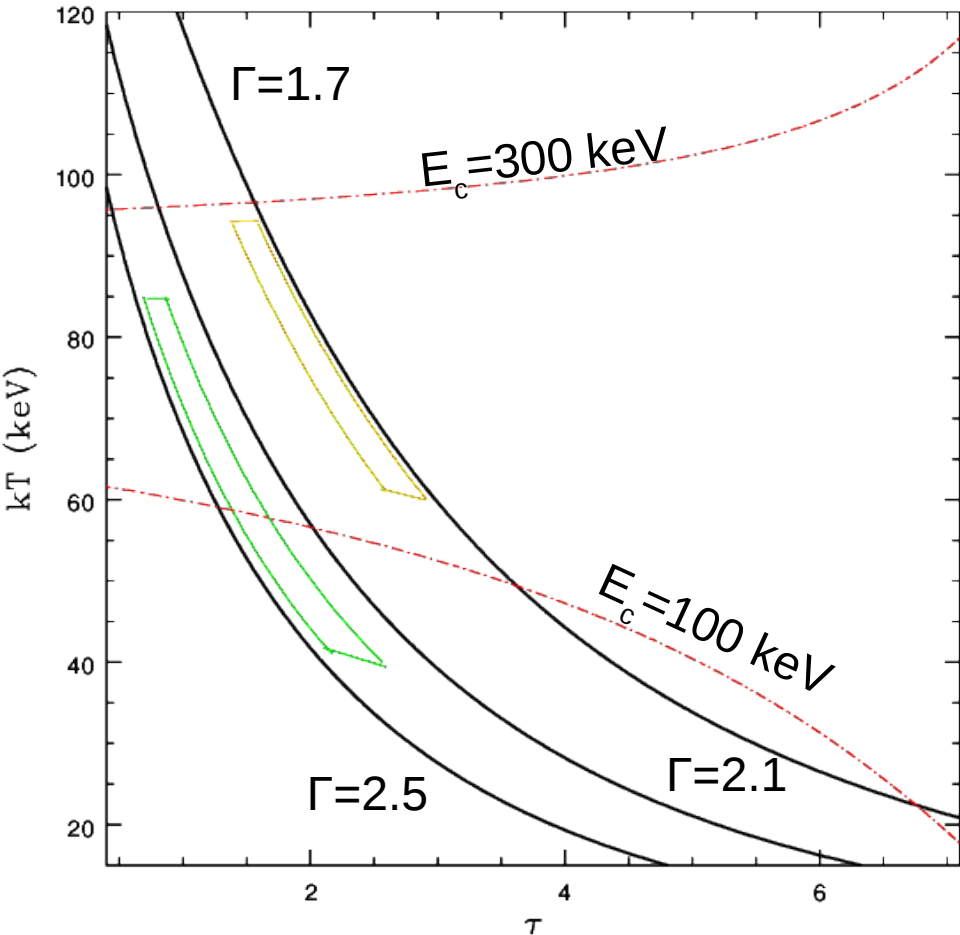


PG 1247+267

$E=90+130-25$ keV
 $\Gamma=2.35\pm 0.09$
 Sphere
 $40 < kT < 85$ keV
 $1 < \tau < 2.5$
 Slab
 $35 < kT < 70$ keV
 $0.9 < \tau < 1.9$

MCG+8-11-11

$E=175+110-50$ keV
 $\Gamma=1.77\pm 0.04$
 Sphere
 $65 < kT < 95$ keV
 $0.8 < \tau < 3$
 Slab
 $50 < kT < 75$ keV
 $1.5 < \tau < 2.5$



take home message

MoCA can be exploited for studying the X-ray AGN emission

It is possible to exclude regions in the τ and kT parameters space

We find that both E_{cut} and Γ are functions of kT and τ

We derive relations connecting the MoCA Γ and E_{cut} with kT and τ for the slab and spherical geometry

more details soon, [Middei et al.](#), is in ongoing :)