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The current state of disk wind observations in BHLMXBs through X-ray absorption lines in the iron band

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ABSTRACT

The presence of blueshifted absorption lines in the X-ray spectra of black hole low-mass X-ray binaries is the telltale mark of massive outflows called winds. These signatures are found almost exclusively in soft states of high-inclined systems, hinting at equatorial ejections originating from the accretion disk and deeply intertwined with the evolution of the outburst patterns displayed by these systems. In the wake of the launch of the new generation of X-ray spectrometers, studies of wind signatures remain mostly restricted to single sources and outbursts, with some of the recent detections departing from the commonly expected behaviors. We thus give an update to the current state of iron band absorption line detections through the analysis of all publicly available *XMM-Newton*-pn and *Chandra*-HETG exposures of known black hole low-mass X-ray binary candidates. Our results agree with previous studies, as our wind detections are exclusively found in dipping, high-inclined sources and almost exclusively in bright ($L_X > 0.01L_{\text{Edd}}$) soft ($\text{HR} < 0.8$) states with blueshift values generally restricted to a few 100 km s^{-1} . The line parameters indicate similar properties between objects and outbursts of single sources, and despite more than 20 yr of data, very few sources have the HID sampling necessary to properly study the evolution of the wind during a single outburst. We provide an online tool with details of the wind signatures and outburst evolution data for all sources in our sample.

Key words. X-rays: binaries – accretion, accretion disks – stars: black holes – stars: winds, outflows

1. Introduction

In X-ray binaries, the accretion of matter from a main sequence star onto a compact object, either a neutron star (NS) or a black hole (BH), produces spectral signatures that peak in the X-ray band. For the subpopulation of low-mass X-ray binaries (LMXBs), this accretion is sustained via Roche Lobe overflow of the K-M spectral type donor star and forms an accretion disk around the compact object. The vast majority of BHLMXBs (the focus of this study) are transients (King et al. 1996; Corral-Santana et al. 2016), alternating between long-term phases of quiescence and brief periods of outburst that last from a few months to a few years. These events are characterized by a rise in luminosity of several orders of magnitude across all wavelengths (Fender et al. 2004; Remillard & Mcclintock 2006), interpreted as the consequence of instabilities due to ionization of hydrogen in the disk (see e.g., Done et al. 2007, for a review). These outbursts show many remarkable spectral and timing properties, especially in the X-ray and radio bands, the most obvious being a common hysteresis pattern between two distinct spectral states (see e.g., Dunn et al. 2010, for a review).

The beginning of an outburst is marked by a rise in the X-ray luminosity of several orders of magnitude. In this phase, the X-ray spectrum is dominated by a hard ($\Gamma \sim 1.5$) power law with an exponential cutoff around 100 keV (Remillard & Mcclintock 2006; Done et al. 2007). This so-called hard spectral state is associated with non-thermal processes in an extremely hot and optically thin plasma close to the BH (the “corona”). At low ener-

gies, the spectral energy distribution (SED) is dominated by a component associated with jets, which extends from the radio to the infrared. These hard states also exhibit strong variability rms, with values of several tens of percent in the X-ray band, often accompanied by type C quasi-periodic oscillations (QPOs; see e.g., Ingram & Motta 2019 for a review). When the source reaches high luminosities (up to several percent of L_{Edd} ¹), a state transition occurs in the span of a few days, coinciding with the appearance of type A and B QPOs. The X-ray power law index raises to $\Gamma \geq 2.5$, and the spectrum transitions to being largely dominated by a bump appearing at around 1–2 keV. This is commonly modeled as a multi-temperature blackbody and interpreted as the thermal emission of an optically thick and geometrically thin accretion disk extending close to the innermost stable circular orbit (ISCO) of the BH. Concurrently, the radio emission becomes strongly suppressed (see e.g., Fender et al. 1999, 2004; Corbel et al. 2001; Gallo et al. 2003; Coriat et al. 2009), pointing toward a partial or complete quenching of the jet component, and the variability rms is greatly reduced to values of a few percent. After a period of time in this so-called soft spectral state, the luminosity of the source decreases by one to two orders of magnitude, after which the inverse transition happens, bringing the source back to the hard state before a final descent into quiescence.

¹ The Eddington luminosity L_{Edd} is defined as the maximum isotropic emission above which the radiation pressure evens out the gravitational force of the source, stopping the accretion.

The physical mechanisms behind this outburst cycle are hardly understood. The transitions can be linked to a shift in the geometry of the disk from a truncated accretion flow, a hot corona, and a jet in the hard state to a disk extending to the ISCO and no jets in the soft state (Gallo et al. 2003). However, the geometry of the hard state is difficult to distinguish with spectral information alone and thus remains heavily debated (although see Krawczynski et al. 2022, for recent X-ray polarization constraints), as the expected accretion configurations (corona, accretion disk) have difficulties reproducing the entire cycle. For instance, the hot plasma required to reproduce the hard state struggles to reach the high luminosities for which the hard-to-soft transition occurs before collapsing (Yuan & Narayan 2014; Dexter et al. 2021). On the other hand, the “cold” accretion disk present in the soft state, such as the standard solution of Shakura & Sunyaev (1973), remains stable well below the accretion rates at which the soft-to-hard transition should occur.

Coincidentally, the description of the jet in itself is far from complete. It is now well admitted that a poloidal magnetic field is needed to produce large-scale jets (e.g., Beckwith et al. 2008) and that they can be powered by two mechanisms. These two processes, namely, that of Blandford & Znajek (1977) and that of Blandford & Payne (1982), extract rotational energy from the BH or its accretion disk, respectively. However, the relative importance of each in the formation of the global accretion-ejection structure remains a very debated question. Numerical simulations of such structures threaded by a large-scale magnetic field around BHs have now become quite standard, with computations on a large number of dynamical timescales (e.g., Narayan et al. 2003; McKinney & Blandford 2009; Ohsuga et al. 2009; Tchekhovskoy et al. 2011; Liska et al. 2018, 2022), but including realistic radiative processes remains a difficult task (see e.g., Liska et al. 2022 for recent results). Direct comparison of these numerical simulations to observational data is thus far from being achieved. On the other hand, stationary, self-similar accretion-ejection solutions threaded by a large-scale magnetic field have been developed for more than 20 yr now (e.g., Ferreira & Pelletier 1993; Ferreira 1997; Zanni et al. 2007). While less general than the previously mentioned GRMHD numerical simulations, they have the advantage of being more easily comparable to observations (see, e.g., Petrucci et al. 2010; Marcel et al. 2018, 2019, 2020). Unfortunately, no matter the numerical approach, even if a few scenarios have been proposed (e.g., Meyer et al. 2000; Petrucci et al. 2008; Begelman & Armitage 2014; Kylafis & Belloni 2015; Cao 2016), none of the current simulations are able to reproduce the hard-to-soft and soft-to-hard transitions observed during the outbursts and/or how it is related to the jet appearance and disappearance.

Nevertheless, jets are hardly the last piece of the puzzle. Starting 25 years ago (Ueda et al. 1998; Kotani et al. 2000), X-ray absorption lines have been detected in a number of LMXBs, mostly with Fe XXV $K\alpha$ and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ transitions. These are the signatures of a new class of outflows that are far from the relativistic speeds of jets but much more massive: winds (see Diaz Trigo & Boirin 2016; Ponti et al. 2016, for reviews). Winds are deeply intertwined with other accretion and ejection processes, their detection being generally mutually exclusive with jet signatures (Nielsen & Lee 2009). They are also generally observed in the soft states of high-inclined BHLMB, the latter pointing to significant detections mainly along equatorial lines of sight (Ponti et al. 2012). This, combined with an ability to eject matter at rates potentially comparable to, if not higher than, the accretion rate (Ponti et al. 2012), makes their under-

standing essential to fully grasp the accretion-ejection processes in LMXBs.

However, the picture depicted by the observations is becoming increasingly complex. In the last ten years, X-ray absorption lines have been reported also in some hard state observations of BHLMBs (Shidatsu et al. 2013; King et al. 2015; Xu et al. 2018a; Reynolds et al. 2018; Wang et al. 2020), sometimes for potentially low-inclined sources (Chiang et al. 2012; Wang et al. 2018; Chakraborty et al. 2021). Meanwhile, a wealth of P-cygni line profiles are being detected, also in the hard state, but this time in the visible band (Rahoui et al. 2014; Muñoz-Darias et al. 2016, 2018, 2019; Jiménez-Ibarra et al. 2019; Cúneo et al. 2020). These findings imply that the wind is also present in the hard state but is preferentially seen at high energies (in the X-rays) in the soft state and at larger wavelengths (in the optical) in the hard state. This new depiction of a state-independent outflow agrees with recent absorption line observations in the optical and infrared wavelengths in the soft state (Panizo-Espinar et al. 2022; see also Sánchez-Sierras & Muñoz-Darias 2020) and with observations of simultaneous X-ray and optical absorption lines in the hard state with compatible origin (Muñoz-Darias & Ponti 2022).

In parallel, theoretical, and modeling efforts are starting to catch up with observations. Recent studies have shown that the thermal stability of the ionized material in the wind is heavily dependent on the spectrum of the source (see e.g., Chakraborty et al. 2013, 2016; Bianchi et al. 2017; Dyda et al. 2017; Higginbottom et al. 2020). This supports the idea that thermal instabilities may play a role in the disappearance of the X-ray absorption lines in the hard state, independently of the physical state of the wind (Petrucci et al. 2021). The picture is much less clear during state transitions, however, and thermal instabilities may not be the only process at work (e.g., Gattuzi et al. 2019). Furthermore, for a thermal stability analysis to be applied, photoionization equilibrium must be achieved throughout the wind, a constraint that must be carefully checked (see e.g., Dyda et al. 2017 and other caveats discussed in Petrucci et al. 2021).

Meanwhile, the physical process powering the wind remains widely debated. Unlike active galactic nuclei (AGNs), whose thermal emission peaks in the UV (Proga & Kallman 2002), the disks of BHLMBs radiate more in X-rays. This rules out line driving as a driving mechanism in XRBs since the wind is expected to be strongly ionized by the illuminating X-ray continuum. The two remaining mechanisms, thermal driving, where the central SED heats up the surface of the disk until the material exceeds its escape velocity (e.g., Begelman et al. 1983; Woods et al. 1996; Done et al. 2018; Tomaru et al. 2023), and magnetic driving, where the material is lifted by large-scale magnetic fields threading the disk (e.g., Konigl & Kartje 1994; Fukumura et al. 2010, 2017; Chakraborty et al. 2016, 2023), are both viable for XRBs and can affect one another (e.g., Proga 2003; Waters & Proga 2018). However, these two driving mechanisms predict very different absorption line properties. Thermal driving is effective much farther away from the BH and thus results in lower outflow velocities, densities, and variability on longer timescales. On the other hand, magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) winds can be produced anywhere on the disk where the magnetization is large enough (e.g., Jacquemin-Ide et al. 2019). Thus, strong wind signatures with high blueshifts, density, and high variability have been traditionally associated with magnetic winds (see e.g., Miller et al. 2006a, 2015a; Trueba et al. 2019).

Nevertheless, numerical simulations of thermal winds (Higginbottom & Proga 2015) and, more recently, of hybrid

thermal-radiative winds (e.g., Done et al. 2018; Higginbottom et al. 2018, 2020) are now able to reproduce the observed absorption features with a high degree of fidelity (e.g., Tomaru et al. 2020, 2023). In parallel, spectrum predictions for XRBs from MHD models, which have only been achieved recently (e.g., Chakravorty et al. 2016, 2023; Fukumura et al. 2017), can successfully recreate absorption line features in standard observations (Fukumura et al. 2021). Although these comparisons are only beginning, it is becoming apparent that the quality of current datasets might not allow for these new solutions of MHD and thermal-radiative winds to be distinguished directly due to their wide range of possible signatures. Notably, even for the highest quality observations, both processes now only differ by very fine degrees (Tomaru et al. 2023). Thankfully, the new generation of X-ray telescopes should soon settle the debate (Chakravorty et al. 2023; Gandhi et al. 2022).

Nevertheless, many answers can still be found in the existing observations, and more constraints can be put through with comparisons to much larger datasets. Indeed, observational studies and modeling efforts often focus on either single observations or select samples with very precise analysis or modeling of the existing features, but they mostly focus on observations with the most prominent lines. Moreover, no detailed study of large samples of sources with exhaustive, multi-instrument data coverage have been performed since the seminal work of (Ponti et al. 2012), despite an extensive increase in the number of observations and sources, and a greater understanding of the winds.

In this work, we analyze all *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra* X-ray observations of current BHLMBX candidates made public as of October 2022 in order to have a global view of the wind signatures in a large sample of objects and observations. After explaining our sample selection and data reduction in Sect. 2, we detail the process of line detection in Sect. 3. Following this, we present our results in Sect. 4, and discuss some physical implications in Sect. 5 before concluding. More information regarding individual sources will be presented in a separate work. Finally, besides listing the main detection and non-detection of lines in Appendix C, we also provide an online tool² for both interactive visualization of our results and easy access to all spectral and line parameters obtained in the study (see Appendix A).

2. Observations and data reduction

2.1. Sample and data selection

In order to maximize the number of BHLMBX candidates, we drew our sample from both the BlackCAT (Corral-Santana et al. 2016) and WATCHDOG (Tetarenko et al. 2016) BH catalogs. The BlackCAT catalog has been continuously updated since its release but is voluntarily restricted to transient sources, which is why some archetypal binaries are missing from it but are present in WATCHDOG. The WATCHDOG catalog also includes high-mass XRBs (HMXBs), and after its publication in 2016, some of its sources have been identified as NSs. Thus, our parent sample is composed of 79 sources: 67 from BlackCAT (in which we only exclude Cen X-2 due to a weak position determination and possible mismatch with GS 1354-64, according to Kitamoto et al. 1990) and 12 from WATCHDOG (as 11 of the 23 sources not overlapping with BlackCAT are either HMXBs or NSs).

In this work, we further restrict the analysis to sources with observations from the two X-ray instruments with the highest

sensitivity and energy resolution in the iron *K* band, namely, *XMM-Newton*'s EPIC pn and *Chandra* HETG. After selecting spectra with sufficiently high statistics to apply the line detection process (see Sect. 3), we were left with a final sample of 42 sources. Details about their physical properties, previous detections of iron K wind signatures in the literature, and number of exposures in our sample are given in Table 1.

We drew the source physical properties (namely, mass, distance, and inclination) primarily from the more up-to-date references of BlackCAT, and we used WATCHDOG otherwise, except when recent updates were found in the literature. In cases where the distance was unknown, we assumed a distance of 8 kpc. As for mass, we used estimates resulting from dynamical measurements; otherwise, we considered a fixed BH mass of $8 M_{\odot}$. We stress that only 11 sources in our final sample have been confirmed as BHs through dynamical measurements (and are noted as such in Table 1). We refer to the two cited catalogs for the arguments in favor or against BHs in the other binaries. Among these, we highlight that IGR J17451-3022, whose origin remains very debated and exhibits absorption lines (Bozzo et al. 2016), is still included in BlackCAT, so we include it in our sample.

2.2. XMM-Newton

Data reduction for *XMM-Newton* observations was performed with the Science Analysis System (SAS³) version 19.1.0, following the standard analysis threads⁴. Observation data files (ODFs) were reduced with the *eproc* task.

To optimize the absorption line detection, we maximized the signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of the final spectra through an automated procedure. We describe the main steps in the following paragraphs.

The automated procedure first extracts an image centered on the sky coordinates of the source from the event files in the 4–10 keV band. It then computes an initial source and background regions. In imaging, the image is fit with a point spread function (PSF) in order to optimize the source localization. The background region is then generated from the largest circular region not intersecting the brightest 2σ of the source PSF in the source and neighboring CCD, with an area between one and two times that of the source region. Whenever the background region rate exceeds 100 times the value of standard blank fields⁵, its contribution is disregarded. In timing and burst mode, the source region is centered on the brightest column, and the background is always disregarded in order to avoid source contamination.

Following this, the procedure computes the size of the source region and the filtering of high background periods in a self-consistent way to reach the highest S/N. For this, it selects increasingly large circular (rectangular in timing) regions, each of which is independently filtered for good time intervals (GTIs) in order to maximize its individual S/Ns against the background computed previously (following the method of Piconcelli et al. 2004).

The procedure then estimates the pile-up value with *epatplot*, and, if necessary, excises an increasingly larger circular portion of the source region until the pile-up value falls below 5%⁶, a

³ <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/XMM-Newton/sas>

⁴ See <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/XMM-Newton/sas-threads>

⁵ Obtained from <https://www.cosmos.esa.int/web/XMM-Newton/bs-countrate>

⁶ Up to 7% was accepted for four exposures, highlighted in Table C.1.

² <https://visual-line.streamlit.app/>

Table 1. Sources included in our final sample.

Name	Mass (M_{\odot})	Distance (kpc)	Inclination ($^{\circ}$)	Absorption lines reported in the iron band	Exposures in the sample	
					EPIC pn	HETG
1E 1740.7-2942	8	8	$>50^R$ (1)	X	6	1
4U 1543-475 ^D (2)	8.4 ± 1 (3)	7.5 ± 0.5 (4)	dips (5), 20.7 ± 1.5^D (3)	X	0	1
4U 1630-47	8	8.1 ± 3.4 (6)	dips (7), $[60-75]^D$ (7)	✓	8	12
4U 1957+115	8	8	$\sim 13^D$ (8)/ $77.6(+1.5-2.2)^R$ (9)	X	2	4
AT 2019wey	8	8	$<30^R$ (10)	X	0	1
EXO 1846-031	8	~ 7 (11)	$\sim 73^R$ (12)/ $\sim 40^R$ (13)	✓	2	6
GRO J1655-40 ^D (14)	5.4 ± 0.3 (15)	3.2 ± 0.2 (16)	dips (17) 69 ± 2^D (15)	✓	6	2
GRS 1716-249	8	2.4 ± 0.4 (18)	$\sim 40-60^R$ (19)	X	0	1
GRS 1739-278	8	7.3 ± 1.3 (20)	$\sim 33^R$ (21)	X	0	1
GRS 1758-258	8	8	/	✓	3	1
GRS 1915+105 ^D (22)	$12.4^{+2}_{-1.8}$ (22)	$8.6^{+2}_{-1.6}$ (22)	dips (23) 60 ± 5^J (22)	✓	17	22
GS 1354-64 ^D (24)	8	~ 25 (24)	$<79^D$ (24)/ $\sim 70^R$ (25)	X	2	0
GX 339-4 ^D (26)	5.9 ± 3.6 (26)	8	$[37-78]^D$ (26)	X	21	4
H 1743-322	8	8.5 ± 0.8 (27)	dips (28), 75 ± 3^J (27)	✓	8	9
IGR J17091-3624	8	8	dips (23) $\sim 70^H$ (29) (30)/ $\sim 30-40^R$ (31,32)	✓	6	9
IGR J17098-3628	8	~ 10.5 (33)	/	X	2	0
IGR J17285-2922	8	8	/	X	1	0
IGR J17451-3022	8	8	dips (34) $>70^D$ (34)	✓	1	0
IGR J17497-2821	8	8	/	X	1	1
MAXI J0637-430	8	8	64 ± 6^R (35)	X	1	0
MAXI J1305-704 ^D (36)	$8.9^{+1.6}_{-1}$ (36)	$7.5^{+1.8}_{-1.4}$ (36)	dips (37), 72^{+5}_{-8} (36)	✓	0	1
MAXI J1348-630	8	$3.4^{+0.4}_{-0.4}$ (38)	28 ± 3^J (39)/ 65 ± 7 (40)/ $[30-45]^R$ (41)	✓	2	3
MAXI J1535-571	8	$4.1^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$ (42)	$\leq 45^J$ (43)/ $70-74^R$ (44)	X	6	5
MAXI J1659-152	8	8.6 ± 3.7 (45)	dips (45), 70 ± 10^D (45)	X	2	0
MAXI J1803-298	8	8	dips (46), $>70^D$ (46)	✓	0	4
MAXI J1820+070 ^D (47)	6.9 ± 1.2 (48)	2.96 ± 0.33 (49)	dips (50), $[67-81]^D$ (48)	X	14	0
SAX J1711.6-3808	8	8	/	X	1	0
Swift J1357.2-0933	8	8	dips (51), $\geq 80^D$ (52)	X	1	0
Swift J1658.2-4242	8	8	dips (53), $64(+2-3)^R$ (54)	✓	8	1
Swift J174510.8-262411	8	8	/	X	1	0
Swift J1753.5-0127	8	6 ± 2 (55)	$55(+2-7)^R$ (56)	X	6	1
Swift J1910.2-0546	8	8	/	X	1	1
V404 Cyg ^D (57)	$9^{+0.2}_{-0.6}$ (57)	2.4 ± 0.2 (58)	$67(+3-1)^D$ (57)	✓	0	2
V4641 Sgr ^D (59)	6.4 ± 0.6 (60)	6.2 ± 0.7 (60)	72 ± 4^D (60)	X	0	2
XTE J1550-564 ^D (61)	11.7 ± 3.9 (61)	$4.4^{+0.6}_{-0.4}$ (61)	75 ± 4^D (61)/ $\sim 40^R$ (62)	X	0	2
XTE J1650-500 ^D (63)	8	2.6 ± 0.7 (64)	$\geq 47^D$ (63)	X	1	2
XTE J1652-453	8	8	$\leq 32^R$ (65)	✓	1	0
XTE J1720-318	8	6.5 ± 3.5 (66)	/	X	1	0
XTE J1752-223	8	6 ± 2 (67)	$<49^J$ (68)/ 35 ± 4^R (69)	X	2	2
XTE J1817-330	8	5.5 ± 4.5 (70)	dips (71)	X	1	4
XTE J1856+053	8	8	/	X	1	0
XTE J1901+014	8	8	/	X	1	0

Notes. The columns report relevant physical parameters and the number of spectra with sufficient quality for our analysis. The letter *D* in the object name column identifies dynamically confirmed BHs. A fiducial mass of $8 M_{\odot}$ and a distance of 8 kpc were used when these values were not reliably known, including when dynamical constraints are only lower limits, according to the properties of the bulk of the Galactic BHLMB population (see e.g., Corral-Santana et al. 2016). For inclination measurements, we highlight dippers in bold, and letters *D*, *J*, *H*, *R* respectively refer to dynamical inclination measurements (dips/eclipses/modulations), jets, heartbeats, and reflection fits. Details and references for line detection reports are provided in Table 2.

References. (1) Stecchini et al. (2020). (2) Orosz et al. (1998). (3) Orosz (2003). (4) Jonker & Nelemans (2004). (5) Park et al. (2004). (6) Kalemci et al. (2018). (7) Tomsick et al. (1998). (8) Gomez et al. (2015). (9) Maitra et al. (2013). (10) Yao et al. (2021). (11) Parmar et al. (1993). (12) Draghis et al. (2020). (13) Wang et al. (2020). (14) Van Der Hooft et al. (1998). (15) Beer & Podsiadlowski (2002). (16) Hjellming & Rupen (1995). (17) Kuulkers et al. (1998). (18) della Valle et al. (1994). (19) Bharali et al. (2019). (20) Greiner et al. (1996). (21) Miller et al. (2015b). (22) Reid et al. (2014). (23) Pahari et al. (2013). (24) Casares et al. (2009). (25) Pahari et al. (2017). (26) Heida et al. (2017). (27) Steiner et al. (2012). (28) Miller et al. (2006b). (29) Capitanio et al. (2012). (30) Rao & Vadawale (2012). (31) Xu et al. (2017). (32) Wang et al. (2018). (33) Grebenev et al. (2006). (34) Jaisawal et al. (2015). (35) Lazar et al. (2021). (36) Sánchez et al. (2021). (37) Shidatsu et al. (2013). (38) Lamer et al. (2021). (39) Carotenuto et al. (2022). (40) Titarchuk & Seifina (2023). (41) Chakraborty et al. (2021). (42) Chauhan et al. (2019). (43) Russell et al. (2019). (44) Dong et al. (2022). (45) Kuulkers et al. (2013). (46) Homan et al. (2021). (47) Torres et al. (2019). (48) Torres et al. (2020). (49) Atri et al. (2020). (50) Homan et al. (2018). (51) Corral-Santana et al. (2013). (52) Sánchez et al. (2015). (53) Xu et al. (2018b). (54) Xu et al. (2018a). (55) Cadolle Bel et al. (2007). (56) Reis et al. (2009). (57) Khargharia et al. (2010). (58) Miller-Jones et al. (2009). (59) Orosz et al. (2001). (60) Macdonald et al. (2014). (61) Orosz et al. (2011). (62) Connors et al. (2019). (63) Orosz et al. (2004). (64) Homan et al. (2006). (65) Chiang et al. (2012). (66) Chaty & Bessolaz (2006). (67) Ratti et al. (2012). (68) Miller-Jones et al. (2011). (69) García et al. (2018). (70) Sala et al. (2007). (71) Sriram et al. (2012).

level at which no significant effect on the line detection process is expected. We note that the majority of the spectra actually remain below 1%. After an excision, the first two steps are repeated, this time starting with the filtered GTIs and the excised image, in order to refine the region and filtering of the events.

The final step is the extraction of the source and background spectra from the final region files and GTIs, and the generation of response matrices and ancillary response files with the standard SAS tasks `arfgen` and `rmfgen`. The source spectra are grouped using the `heasoft` task `ftgrouppha`, following the Kaastra & Bleeker (2016) optimized binning.

We note that although recent work has shown that dust scattering halos can significantly alter the broadband SEDs of XRBs (see e.g., Jin et al. 2017, 2019), this effect is smaller at high energies and is not expected to affect the detection of narrow absorption lines. We thus did not apply such corrections in this work for simplicity.

2.3. Chandra

The reduced, science-ready spectra of the first order of all grating observations are publicly available on the *Chandra* Transmission Grating Data Archive and Catalog (TGCat; Huenemoerder et al. 2011), and observations of BHLMBs have been recently updated according to recent improvements in data reduction. We only considered the first order spectra and regrouped the products according to the Kaastra & Bleeker (2016) optimized binning. Background spectra were not computed, as they are often contaminated by the PSF wings⁷.

3. Spectral analysis

To filter out spectra without sufficient S/N necessary to detect absorption lines in the iron band, we applied a predefined count threshold of 5000 counts in the 4–10 keV band to both XMM and *Chandra* exposures. For XMM, simulations of template spectra from soft state SEDs of GRO J1655-40 in the soft state showed that observations fainter than the chosen threshold cannot detect Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ upper limits below 75 eV, which coincides with the high-end tail of the equivalent width (EW) distribution in our sample and reports in the literature (see Sect. 4.1.1). While such simulations are less straightforward for *Chandra* HETG, manual inspection of the excluded spectra confirmed that their S/N is always insufficient for detecting lines with EWs below 100 eV at 7 keV. After this final cut, 242 exposures remained: 137 EPIC-pn spectra and 105 HETG spectra.

The line detection process can be split into four main steps. First, a fit of the continuum with a broadband model (Sect. 3.1). Then, a blind search for line features in the high-energy (6–10 keV) band (Sect. 3.2), followed by an incremental fit of the line features in this energy range with the strongest absorption and emission lines expected in this band (Sect. 3.3). Once this is done, a second blind search from the best-fit model (including the lines) checks for the absence of the remaining line features, and finally the true significance of the absorption lines is assessed via Monte Carlo (MC) simulations (Sect. 3.4).

In the following, we used Xspec version 12.12.0 (Arnaud & Arnaud 1996) via Pyxspec version 2.0.5 along with `wilm` abundances (Wilms et al. 2000) and the Cash statistic (Cash 1979). Uncertainties for all the reported parameters were estimated drawing an MC chain from the final fit using the internal Xspec

⁷ See https://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/ciao/threads/xspec_phabackground/

Chain commands. Due to the great number of spectra to be analyzed and the use of multiple runs during the line detection process, for a given number of free parameters n_{free} , we only used $2 \cdot n_{\text{free}}$ parameters, for $4000 \cdot n_{\text{free}}$ steps, discarding the first $2000 \cdot n_{\text{free}}$ steps of each chain. Unless specified otherwise, all uncertainties are quoted at a 90% confidence level.

3.1. Broadband modeling

We used a simple fitting procedure in which a list of components is added recursively to converge to the best fit. Adding or choosing a component over its peers is deemed statistically significant through F-tests, with a threshold fixed at a 99% confidence level. For the broadband modelization of the continuum, three components can be combined: a `powerlaw`, a `diskbb`, and an absorption component `phabs`, which is applied to all of the additive components together. As the goal was to obtain a precise (although phenomenological) estimate of the continuum, we initially limited the contamination due to iron band features by ignoring the 6.7–7.1 and 7.8–8.3 keV bands in this step only.

To limit the effect of low energy spurious features, we restricted the broadband fit to 2–10 keV for XMM-pn and 1.5–10 keV for HETG⁸. While the N_{H} value may not be estimated perfectly with this choice of energy band, notably for sources with low absorption, it still allows for a good measure of the intrinsic unabsorbed 3–10 keV luminosity and 6–10/3–6 keV hardness ratio (HR). Following this, we then fixed the neutral absorption column density in order to perform the blind search in the 4–10 keV range as a second step, which is described in the next section.

3.2. Blind search

Once the continuum was fixed, we carried out a standard blind search of narrow emission and absorption features in the 4–10 keV band. We measured the change in ΔC when adding a narrow (width fixed at zero) gaussian line with varying normalization and energy on the fit and mapped out the resulting 2D ΔC surface in the line normalization-line energy plan. Regions of strong and relatively narrow (<1 keV) ΔC excess indicated the possible presence of lines. In contrast, broader regions (>1 keV) of ΔC excess could reflect the limit of our simple continuum fit process.

The Gaussian energy varies between 4 and 10 keV, with linear energy steps of 50 eV for XMM-Newton, which is around a third of the EPIC-pn spectral resolution at those energies⁹, and 20 eV for *Chandra* HETG, which is slightly below HETG's energy resolution at 4 keV and half at 6 keV¹⁰. The line normalization was scaled in an interval of $[10^{-2}, 10^1]$ times the best-fit continuum flux in each energy step, split in 500 logarithmic steps for both positive and negative normalization.

We show in Fig. 1 an example of the result of the procedure for 4U 1630-47, a source well known for its absorption lines. Panels A and B show the spectrum and model after the first

⁸ In HETG exposures in timed mode, there can be issues with event resolution at high energy due to an overlap between the default HEG and MEG spatial masks. Thus, whenever necessary, we restrict the upper limit of all energy bands to 7.5 keV, so as to minimize the effect on the continuum while keeping the ability to at least analyze lines of the $K\alpha$ complex.

⁹ See https://xmm-tools.cosmos.esa.int/external/xmm_user_support/documentation/uhb/basics.html

¹⁰ See <https://cxc.cfa.harvard.edu/proposer/POG/html/chap8.html>

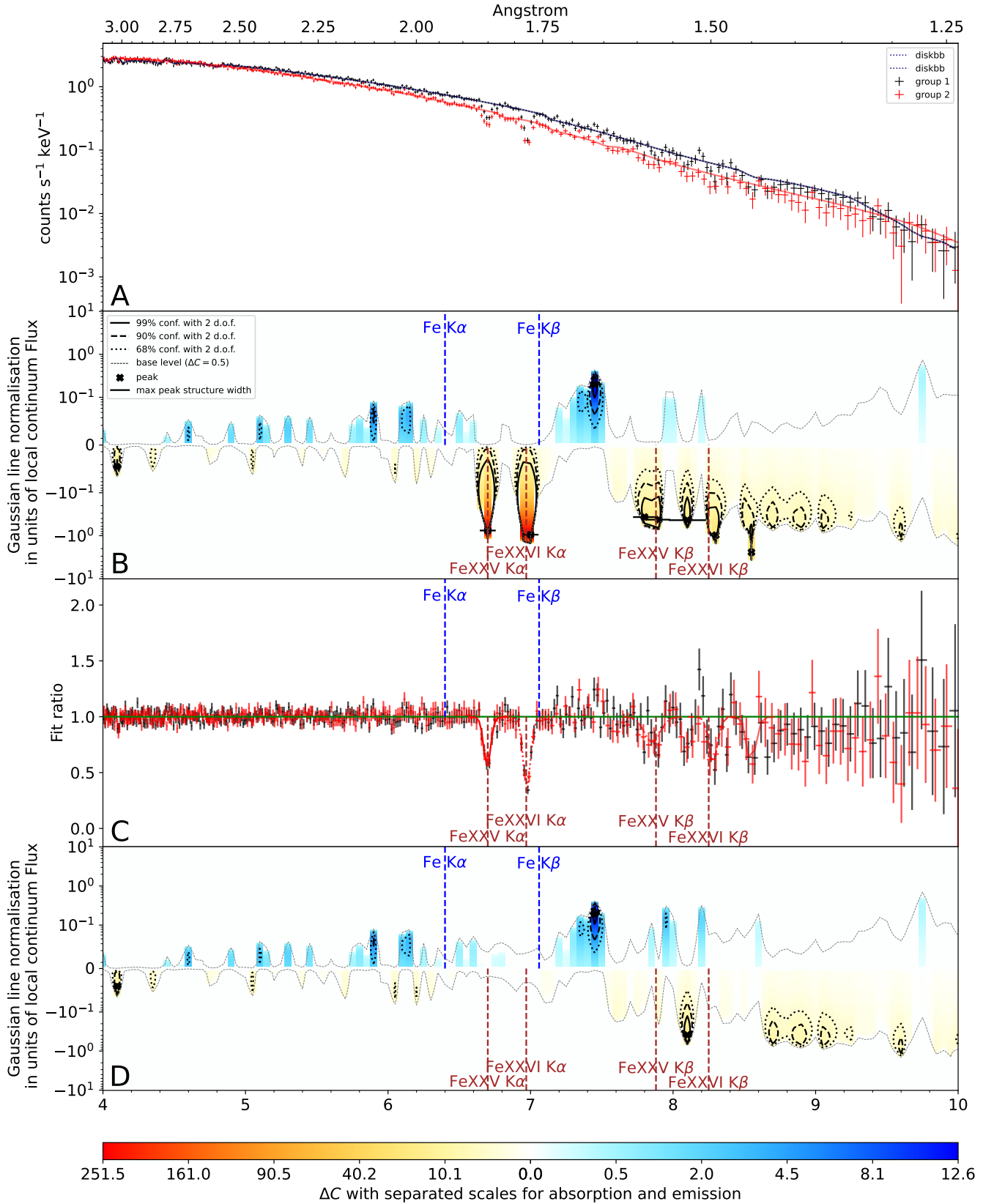


Fig. 1. Steps of the line detection procedure for a standard 4U130-47 *Chandra* spectra. *Panel A:* spectrum in the 4–10 keV band after the first continuum fit in this band. *Panel B:* map of the line blind search restricted to positive regions ΔC (i.e., improvements of the fit). Standard confidence intervals are highlighted with different line styles, and the color map shows the ΔC improvements of emission and absorption lines. *Panel C:* ratio plot of the best fit model once absorption lines are added. *Panel D:* remaining residuals seen through a second blind search.

continuum fit in the 4–10 keV band and the ΔC map obtained with our blind search procedure. The contours over plotted in black highlight ΔC levels of 68%, 90%, and 99% confidence intervals with two parameters. The position of the “maxima” in ΔC improvement are highlighted for visualization. In this example, the blind search clearly identifies two very significant (more than 99%) absorption features at ~ 6.7 and ~ 7 keV, compatible with the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ absorption lines, as well as fainter absorption features at higher energies, compatible with the $K\beta$ complex. The significant emission residual identified at 7.5 keV does not seem to affect the absorption regions.

3.3. Line fitting procedure

While the blind search simply gives a semi-quantitative visualization of the possible presence of line-like features in the spectra, the goal of the next step was to identify the main individual absorption lines and to derive their physical parameters. Thus, we started from the continuum fit and added up to seven potential line features using the same F -test threshold as used for continuum components. Among these line features, five were the strongest absorption lines in the iron complex, namely, Fe XXV $K\alpha$ (6.70 keV)¹¹, Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ (6.97 keV), Fe XXV $K\beta$ (7.88 keV), Fe XXVI $K\beta$ (8.25 keV), and Fe XXV $K\gamma$ (8.70 keV). The two remaining lines are fluorescent emission lines from neutral iron, Fe $K\alpha$ (6.40 keV) and Fe $K\beta$ (7.06 keV). We did not consider the Ni XXVII $K\alpha$ and Fe XXV $K\gamma$ absorption lines, as they can be blended with the stronger Fe XXV $K\beta$ and Fe XXVI $K\beta$, respectively, at our resolutions.

We modeled all lines with a simple gaussian component, convolved with `vashift` in order to allow for a shift of the lines, limited to $[-10\,000, 5000]$ km s⁻¹. Indeed, we did not expect significantly redshifted absorption lines nor speeds beyond 0.03c, as the vast majority of wind observations up until now have either shown wind speeds compatible with zero or a few thousands of kilometers per second at most (see references in Table 2). Moreover, allowing for higher blueshifts would produce degeneracy between neighboring lines (Fe XXV $K\alpha$ reaches Fe XXVI $K\alpha$'s energy at $v \sim 12\,000$ km s⁻¹, and Fe XXV $K\beta$ reaches Fe XXVI $K\beta$ at $v \sim 14\,000$ km s⁻¹). We assumed that all lines of a single ion are produced in the same region of the wind and consequently have the same velocity shift. All absorption lines were considered narrow, allowing their width to vary only up to $\sigma < 50$ eV. A line is considered resolved only if its width is larger than zero with a 3σ level of confidence.

While we are not interested in characterizing emission lines in detail, a good portion of observations show significant broad emission features in the iron region, which we modeled using up to two simple phenomenological neutral Fe $K\alpha$ and Fe $K\beta$ broad gaussian components, restricting their blueshift to the same interval taken for absorption lines and limiting their widths to $[0.2, 0.7]$ keV. The lower limit prevents overlapping between narrower emission and absorption features, while the upper limit prevents the broad emission features from modeling large parts of the continuum.

In very few XMM observations of GRS 1915+105 and GRO J1655-40, however, such as the exposures analyzed in Trigo et al. (2007), the presence of extreme emission features

¹¹ The energy of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ line was set equal to the resonant transition because the intercombination line is significantly weaker. Neither XMM-epic nor HETG were able to resolve the two lines without extremely high statistics.

requires more complex modeling. For these spectra, we followed the same approach as Trigo et al. (2007), using a `laor` component with energy free in the range of $[6.4\text{--}7.06]$ keV, inclination in the range of $[50\text{--}90]$ degrees (consistent with the highly inclined sources), and R_{in} and R_{out} fixed at their default values.

We show in panel C of Fig. 1 an example of the result of the procedure for a standard observation. In this case, all five Fe absorption components are sufficiently significant to be added in the model and reproduce the absorption features very well. Nevertheless, once the line fit was complete, we performed a second blind search to check the presence of the remaining line features in the residuals, following the procedure described in the previous section. We show in panel D of Fig. 1 the result of this step for our example spectra. While all five main absorption features are indeed perfectly reproduced, a significant narrow feature at ~ 8.1 keV remains, which can be identified with the $K\alpha$ transition from Ni XXVIII. Similar residual features are only found in the highest S/N *Chandra* spectra, suggesting the presence of other weaker transitions not included in our five main components. However, these further absorption features are present only in combination with the much stronger lines considered in our analysis, but their detailed characterization is beyond the scopes of this paper.

For all the observations with no detected absorption lines, we computed the 3σ (99.7%) upper limit of each line's EW using the highest value in the line's range of velocity shift. All EW measurements and upper limits are reported in Table C.1.

3.4. Line significance assessment

The goodness-of-fit and F -test methods have long been known to overestimate the detection significance of lines (Protassov et al. 2002). Reliable estimates can only be obtained through MC simulations (Porquet et al. 2004), which have been adopted as the standard since the last decade (Tombsi et al. 2010; Gofford et al. 2013; Parker et al. 2020; Chartas et al. 2021). We follow a similar procedure, adopting the same methodology as for the real data by putting similar constraints in energy and width as described in Sect. 3.3.

We thus generated 1000 distributions of parameters within the uncertainties of the final model from 1000 runs of the `simpars xspec` command. We then deleted all absorption line components from the models before repeating the following steps for 1000 iterations.

First, we loaded a set of model parameters from the simulated distribution. We then simulated a spectrum from the current model using the `fakeit xspec` command, retaining all of the observational parameters (exposure, response files, background) of the initial spectrum. After that, we fit the continuum plus emission lines model to the simulated spectrum in order to obtain a baseline C-stat. This allowed for the computation of the maximum possible ΔC gained from the addition of an absorption line in each line's allowed blueshift bands (exactly as done for the real data; described in Sect. 3.3).

The ΔC of the line detected in the real data can be compared to the distribution of the 1000 maximal ΔC_{sim} of the simulated spectra, and the statistical significance of the line is defined by $P = 1 - N/1000$, with N being the number of ΔC_{sim} larger than the real value. Only lines with a significance larger than 3σ (99.7%) in their blueshift range, as derived from this procedure, are considered detections and are considered as such in the following sections, as well as reported in Table C.1.

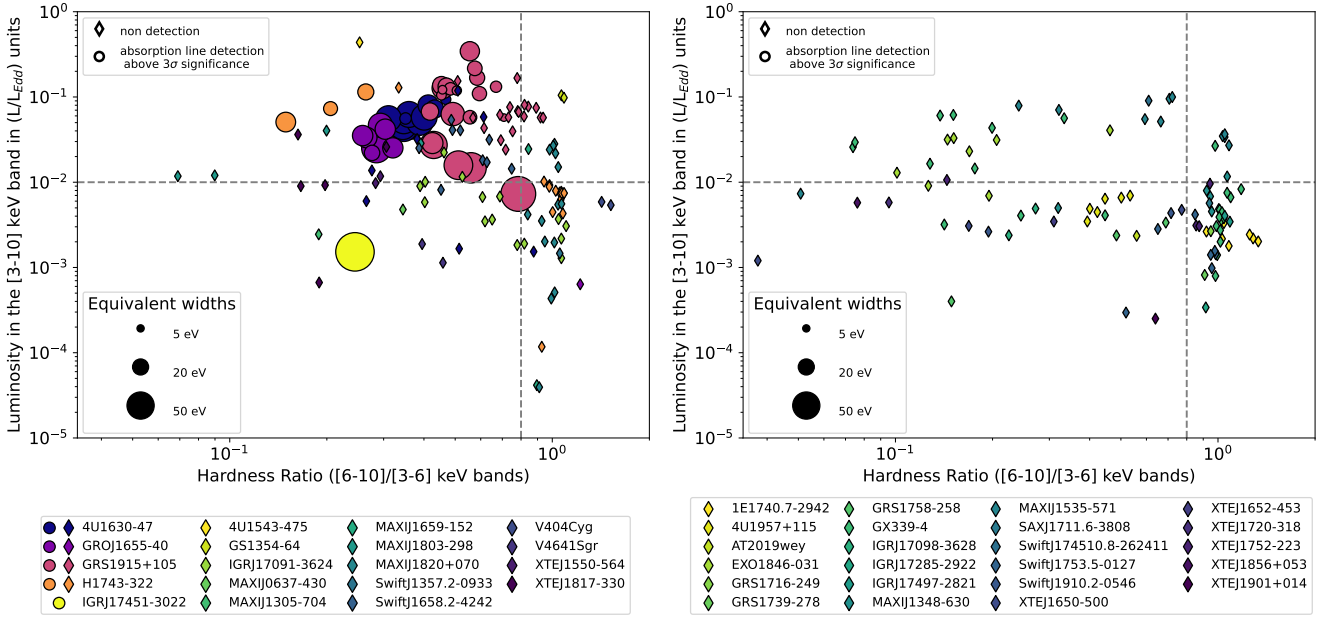


Fig. 2. Hardness intensity diagram with the position of all line detections in the sample. The sample is split according to the viewing angle: the left panel is restricted to dippers, or sources, with $i > 55^\circ$, while the right panel shows all other sources. The vertical and horizontal lines highlight the luminosity and HR thresholds proposed in Sect. 4.2.

4. Global results

The hardness intensity diagram (HID) of the full sample is shown in Fig. 2. Despite a sample of 42 sources, absorption line detections remain restricted to only a very small subset of objects, namely, the highly inclined 4U 1630-472, GRO J1655-40, GRS 1915+105, H 17432-322, and IGR J17451-3022 (IGRJ17451 hereafter). The detections follow the same trend as previously reported in Ponti et al. (2012) without any detection in “pure” hard states (corresponding to HR \sim 1; see Sect. 4.2 for details). In the case of GRS 1915+105, which does not follow the standard outburst evolution, absorption lines are generally detected when the jet is quenched, with one single exception for ObsID 660 (Lee et al. 2002 and see Neilsen & Lee 2009; Neilsen et al. 2012 for details).

4.1. Parameter distribution and correlation

To study the behavior of the absorption lines and their interplay with the continuum SED in more detail, we analyzed the distribution of their main parameters and identified statistically significant correlations. To identify the correlations between individual parameters, we computed the Spearman coefficients, which trace general monotonic relations between two parameters. For that purpose, and in order to take into account the uncertainties of each parameter, we applied MC simulations to estimate the distribution of the correlation coefficients and associated p -values, following the perturbation method of Curran (2014). This was implemented through the python library pymc-correlation (Privon et al. 2020). In the following subsections, we focus on all correlations with $p < 0.001$ found in our sample.

4.1.1. Parameter distribution

We assessed the main properties of the absorption features in our sample with the detection of each line, their EWs, and the velocity shifts for the better constrained $K\alpha$ complex. The

distributions are presented in Fig. 3. The data in the left panels are split by source in order to show the properties of the absorption features in each object, but we stress that except for a few outliers, which are discussed below, the number of detections is too limited for the differences between the distributions to be significant. The data in the right panels, which are instead split by instrument, should exhibit mostly similar distributions, as *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra* observed similar portions of the HID. This is clearly the case for the distribution of line detections: both instruments show the largest number of detections for Fe XXVI $K\alpha$, followed by Fe XXV $K\alpha$, Fe XXV $K\beta$, and Fe XXVI $K\beta$. Moreover, no $K\beta$ or $K\gamma$ lines are detected without the corresponding $K\alpha$. In addition, as can be seen in the list of detections in Table C.1, the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ line is present in nearly all observations where lines are detected, except one where only Fe XXV $K\alpha$ was detected. Meanwhile, the single significant detection of Fe XXV $K\gamma$ is found in a *Chandra* spectrum.

Although less apparent, the distribution of the EWs of both instruments are also broadly compatible, with a KS test p -value of 0.46. The whole sample spans a range of \sim 5–100 eV, with XMM detections expectedly dropping below 15 eV due to more limited energy resolution. The EW ratio between the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ and Fe XXV $K\alpha$ line (hereafter called $K\alpha$ EW ratio) provides a proxy of the ionization parameter ξ in our sample (e.g., Bianchi et al. 2005). As seen in the bottom-right panel in Fig. 3, in our sample, the majority of the $K\alpha$ EW ratios are clustered between 1 and 2.5. This means that most exposures with line detections have sufficiently high ionization parameters for the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ line to be predominant. However, two objects (namely, GRS 1915+105 and GRO J1655-40) show $K\alpha$ EW ratios also spread across the entire observed range, with a number of detections significantly below 1 associated with a lower ξ .

The velocity shift distributions for the strongest $K\alpha$ lines are clearly different between the two instruments, with a KS test p -value of 1.7×10^{-7} (see bottom-right panel of Fig. 3). In particular, *XMM-Newton* showed a somewhat uniform distribution between -6500 and 2000 km s^{-1} , while the *Chandra* velocity

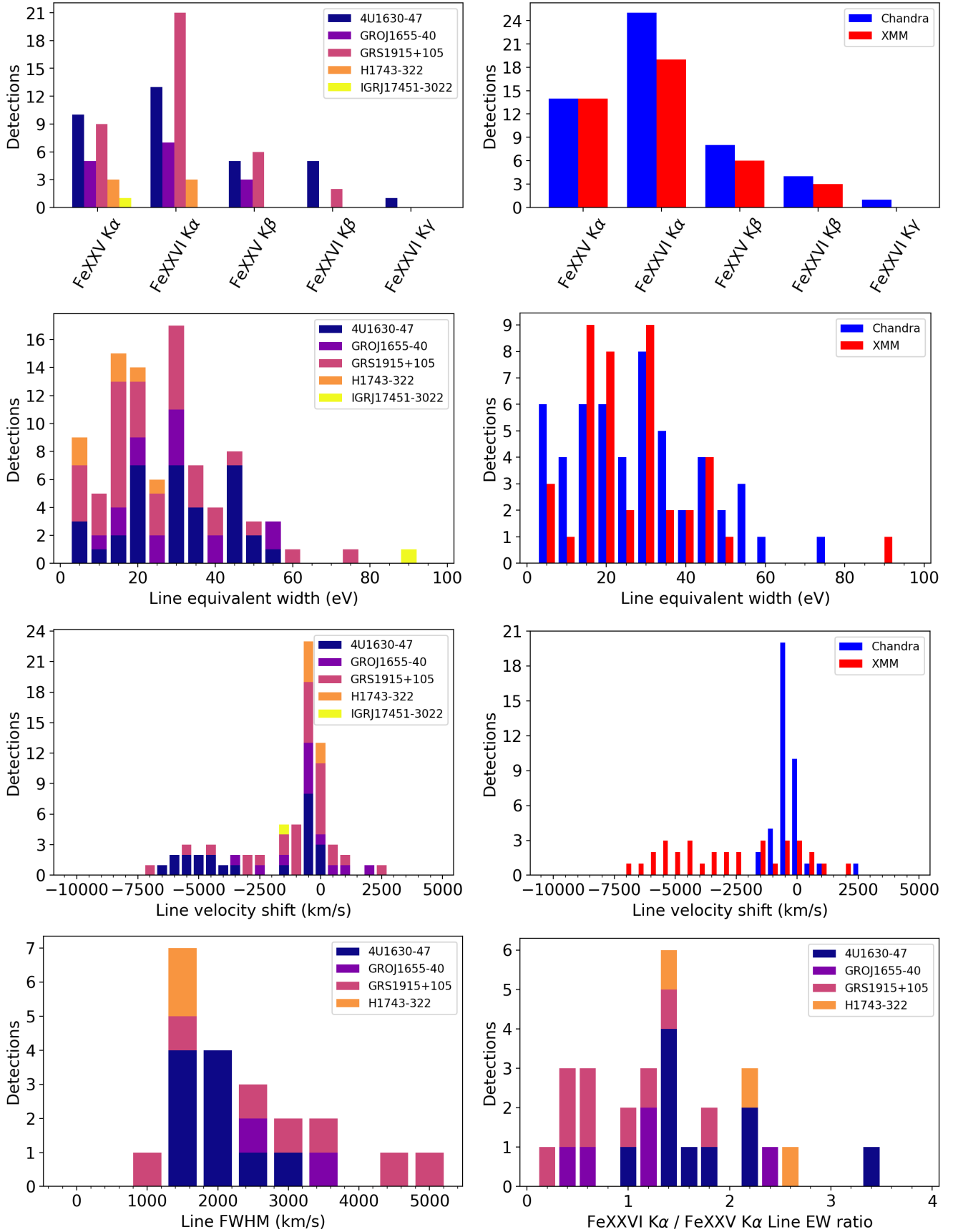


Fig. 3. Distribution of intrinsic line parameters (detections of each line, EW, blueshift, widths, and $K\alpha$ EW ratio) for the entire sample. The parameters are split by source and instrument whenever relevant. The blueshift distributions are restricted to the $K\alpha$ complex.

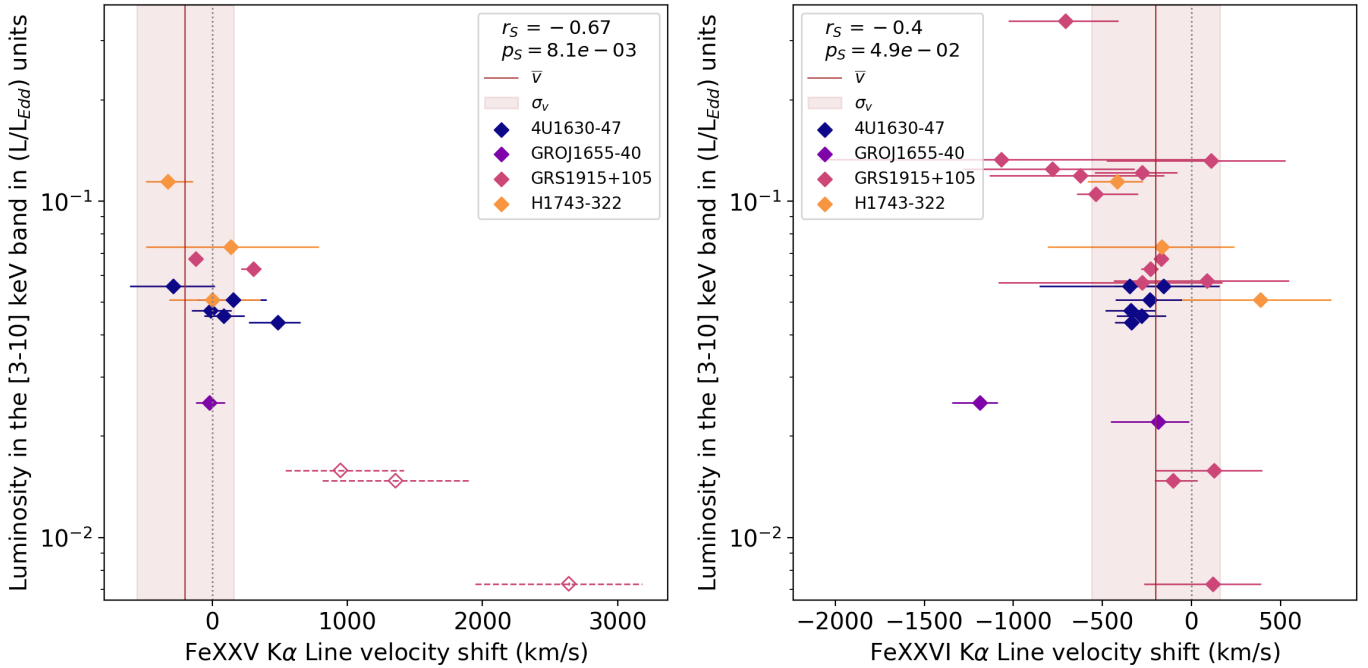


Fig. 4. Scatter plot of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ (left) and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ (right) velocity shifts against luminosity in *Chandra* observations. The scatter plot is color coded according to the sources. The gray dotted line corresponds to zero velocity and the brown line to the mean of the curated $K\alpha$ blueshift distribution, whose standard deviation is visualized by the brown region. The biased Fe XXV $K\alpha$ blueshifts measured in the obscured GRS 1915+105 observations, which are excluded from this distribution, are marked in dashes.

shift distribution is much narrower and more symmetric around zero. The highest blueshift obtained with *Chandra* is around 1200 km s^{-1} , which is in accordance with the highest values previously reported in the literature for this observation (Miller et al. 2008).

This difference between the instruments can be at least partly attributed to the limits of the EPIC-pn camera. Indeed, in the timing mode used for the vast majority of EPIC-pn observations in our sample, even after recent updates in energy-scale calibration¹², the energy accuracy remains limited, with a residual average shift of 18 eV ($\sim 800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for Fe XXVI $K\alpha$) and a standard deviation of 80 eV ($\sim 3500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for Fe XXVI $K\alpha$) at 12 keV . The standard deviation of our measured distribution is $\sim 2500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and is thus compatible with the theoretical limits of the instrument’s accuracy (which we can expect to be somewhat better at 7 keV). The mean value of our measured distribution is also $\sim 2500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, and it is significantly larger than the mean of post-calibration systematic energy accuracy. However, this may be the consequence of our choice to restrict the allowed blueshift fitting range to $[-10\,000, 5000] \text{ km s}^{-1}$, which would introduce a bias in a distribution with such a significant spread. In addition, this large average blueshift cannot be reconciled with the much smaller measurement of the more accurate *Chandra*-HETG instrument, so we only consider the *Chandra* blueshifts in the rest of the paper.

The observed *Chandra* velocity shift distribution is within the expectations from a sample of intrinsically zero-velocity absorption lines with an average value of $\mu \sim 60 \pm 100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and a standard deviation of $\sigma \sim 630 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. However, few observations have significant velocity beyond 2σ of the mean of this distribution. We report in Fig. 4 the scatter plots of the *Chandra* velocity shifts of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ (left panel) and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$

(right panel) lines against the 3–10 keV luminosity in Eddington units, which highlights that the three faintest GRS 1915+105 exposures are the only ones to show significant Fe XXV $K\alpha$ positive shifts (i.e., redshifts). However, the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ absorption line profiles observed in these three cases exhibit unusually asymmetric and broad absorption features (see the data panels of Fig. B.1), while the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ lines energies are consistent with zero velocity.

According to Neilsen et al. (2020), this apparent redshift might be caused by contributions from lines at lower energies blended with Fe XXV $K\alpha$. We verified this with a simple fit with two photoionized slabs¹³, which we show in the lower panels of Fig. B.1. We found that the highest ionization component ($\log(\xi) \sim 5\text{--}6$) models the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ and part of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ lines that show a blueshift $\sim -250 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, while a lower ionization phase ($\log(\xi) \sim 2.5\text{--}3$) at zero velocity produces some of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ line but is also heavily affected by the absorption lines from Fe XXI to Fe XXIV, which reproduce the observed “redshifted” tail of the line profiles. We thus excluded these three observations from the velocity shift distribution, changing the distribution average to $\mu \sim -200 \pm 60 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and reducing the standard deviation to $\sigma \sim 360 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, as highlighted in Fig. 4.

With this restriction, the only remaining outlier (more than 2σ away from the restricted mean) is found in the blueshifted Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ line of the exceptional absorption signatures of GRO J1655-40’s outburst (Miller et al. 2006a) and is in agreement with the extreme absorption features displayed in this observation (see Miller et al. 2008 for a detailed study). We note that one exposure of 4U 1630-47 (obsid 13716) remains at the tail end of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ velocity shift distribution, with a redshift of 500 km s^{-1} . This blueshift measurement is distinct from zero at more than 3σ as well as from the corresponding Fe XXVI

¹² See bottom-right panel of Fig. 3 in <https://xmmweb.esac.esa.int/docs/documents/CAL-SRN-0369-0-0.pdf>

¹³ We used the same CLOUDY absorption table model described in Raheesh et al. (2023).

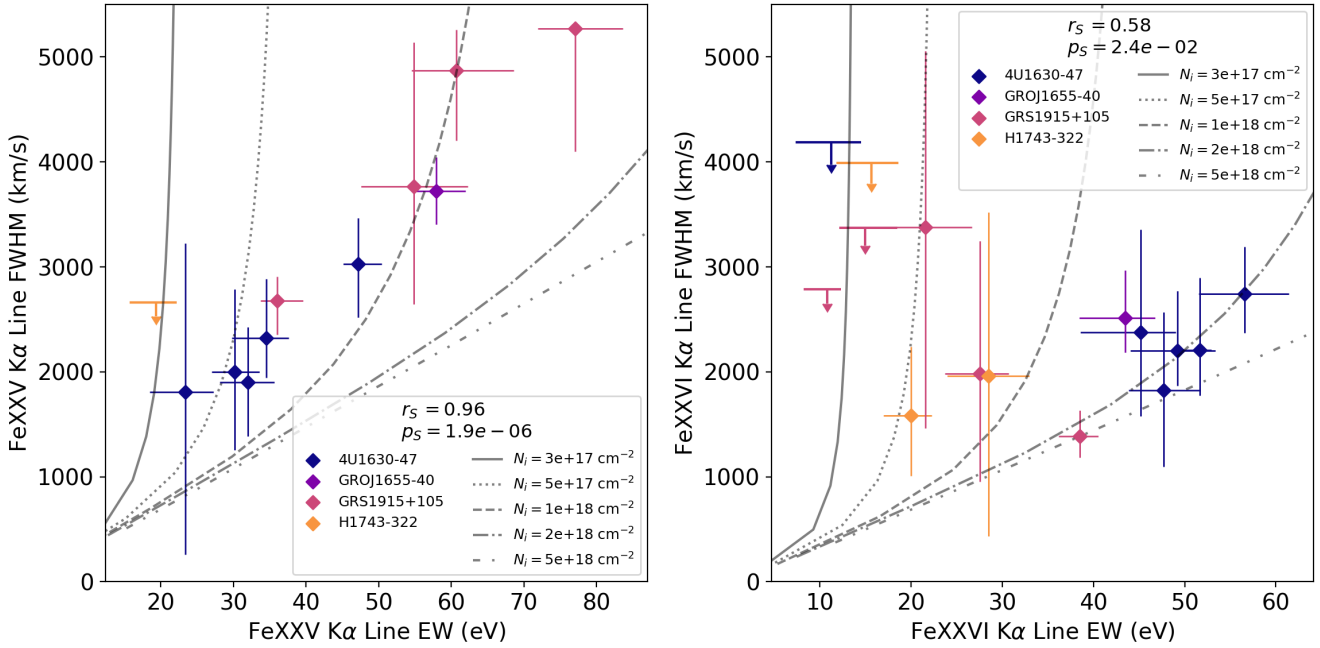


Fig. 5. Scatter plot of the EW and width for the Fe xxv $K\alpha$ (left) and Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ (right) lines in *Chandra* observations. The curves highlight the theoretical evolution of these parameters for a range of ionic column densities of the respective ions.

$K\alpha$ line (itself with a blueshift of $\sim 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). This result can once again be explained by contamination from a lower ionization component, in line with more in depth analysis, such as the work of Trueba et al. (2019), who modeled the outflow with two photoionization components. In this observation, both components show a significant decrease in the ionization parameter compared to rest of the coverage of the outburst while maintaining low, negative velocity shifts, in accordance with our results for the other exposures.

The mean value of $-200 \pm 60 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ is very low compared to the standard *Chandra*-HETG absolute wavelength uncertainty of $\pm 0.006 \text{ \AA}^{14}$, which translates to $\sim \pm 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at the Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ energy ($\sim 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at 2 keV). However, empirical studies have shown that the “effective” absolute wavelength accuracy of HETG is significantly better and reaches $\sim 25 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at energies below $\sim 2 \text{ keV}$ (Ishibashi et al. 2006; Bozzo et al. 2023). This has been corroborated by other works making use of very precise spectral features (Ponti et al. 2018). The few existing BH wind studies that consider the effective HETG accuracy also estimate it to be up to $50\text{--}100 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, depending on the line considered (see Miller et al. 2020; Muñoz-Darias & Ponti 2022). Thus, our sample is likely to exhibit a significant global blueshift, in agreement with the common association of these absorption lines to outflowing winds, although the average velocity is very low.

It is also possible to measure the widths of the Fe xxv $K\alpha$ and Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ lines in the *Chandra* observations with the highest S/N. The distribution of the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the 21 lines with significant width measurements is reported in the lower-left panel of Fig. 3. While all significant line width measurements are in the $1500\text{--}5000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ range, the highest values, found in the three GRS 1915+105 exposures with contamination from other line complexes discussed above, are probably overestimated.

4.1.2. Significant correlations

The first significant correlation we found in our results is between the width and EW of the Fe xxv $K\alpha$ line ($p \leq 0.0002$), which we show in Fig. 5 and contrast with the absence of correlation in the case of Fe xxvi $K\alpha$. Such a correlation may naturally arise because larger turbulence velocities delay the saturation at the line center, allowing the EW to grow to larger values (see e.g., the curve of growths presented in Bianchi et al. 2005). Moreover, the saturation itself at high column densities contributes to broadening the absorption lines. To test these effects, following the methodology detailed in Bianchi et al. (2005), we computed the curve of growths for Fe xxv $K\alpha$ and Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ lines as a function of the corresponding ionic column densities N_i and different turbulence velocities. Moreover, we estimated the FWHM of each computed profile relative to the given N_i (and therefore EW) and velocity. These computations allowed us to derive the theoretical curves superimposed on the data plotted in Fig. 5.

All measurements of the Fe xxv $K\alpha$ and Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ lines are compatible with the expectations because the lines appear in the allowed portion of the parameter space. Indeed, the lower-right corner of the plots in Fig. 5 are expected to be unpopulated since the EW saturates at large N_i and cannot grow further while the line width continues to rapidly increase. On the other hand, we would also expect observations to populate the upper-left corner, but there is likely a strong observational bias against broad lines with low EW. We find it is interesting to note that lower ionic column densities are needed for the majority of observed Fe xxv $K\alpha$ lines with respect to Fe xxvi $K\alpha$, suggesting an average high ionization parameter, in accordance with the typical large Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ /Fe xxv $K\alpha$ EW ratio noted before in our sample. The few detections with the highest Fe xxv $K\alpha$ EWs require higher Fe xxv ionic column densities and thus a lower ξ , in accordance with their lower Fe xxvi $K\alpha$ /Fe xxv $K\alpha$ EW ratios.

We also observed a significant anti-correlation between the Fe xxv $K\alpha$ EW versus the X-ray luminosity, as shown in the

¹⁴ See <https://cxc.harvard.edu/proposer/POG/html/chap8.html>

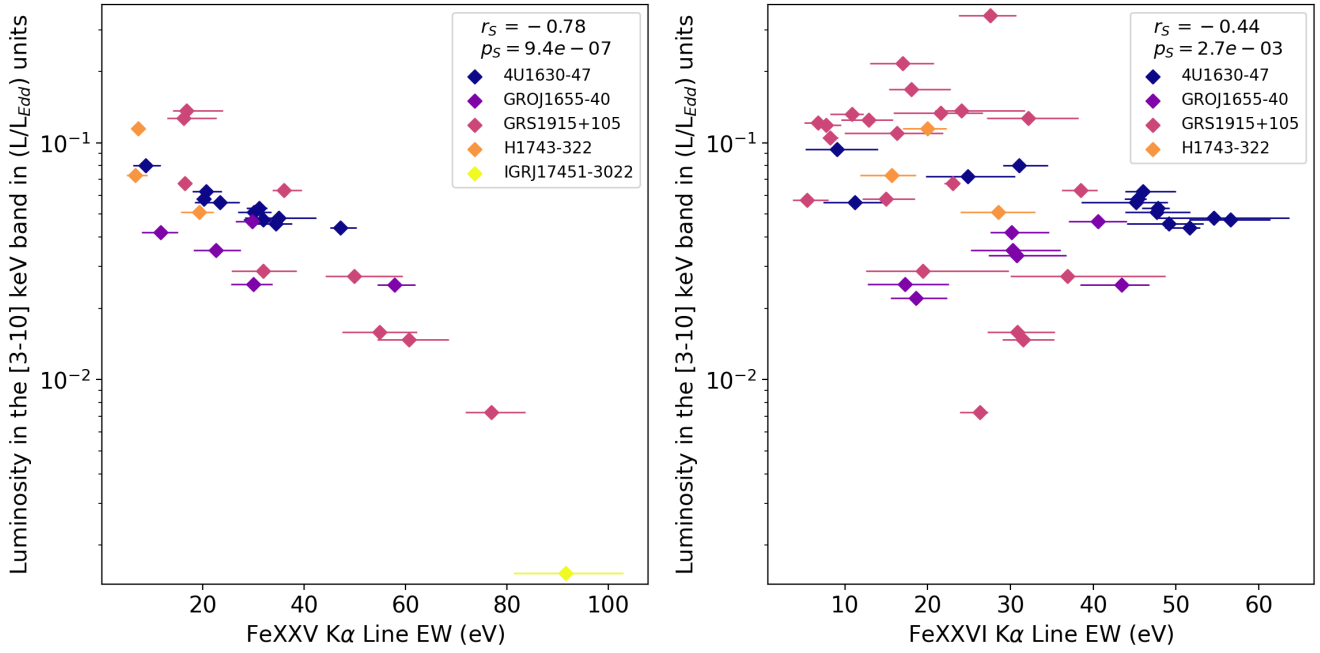


Fig. 6. Scatter plot of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ (*left*) and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ (*right*) EW against luminosity for the entire sample. The scatter plot is color coded according to the sources.

left panel of Fig. 6. We find it is worth noting that the p -value remains below 10^{-5} even without including the uncertain luminosity measurement of IGR J17451-3022. This anti-correlation may naturally arise if we take the luminosity as a proxy for the ionization parameter (i.e., assuming a universal nr^2 factor for the whole sample), and this is indeed what is expected if the average ionization parameter is just above the peak of the ionic fraction for Fe XXV (e.g., Bianchi et al. 2005). In comparison, no such correlation was observed for the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ line (see right panel of Fig. 6), as expected since its ionic fraction would instead be at its peak for the same ionization parameter. An equivalent way to show these different behaviors is via the significant correlation between the X-ray luminosity and the Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ /Fe XXV $K\alpha$ EW ratio for all the observations where both lines are detected (see Fig. 7). This ratio is expected to be a monotonic function of the ionization parameter (e.g., Bianchi et al. 2005) and should thus correlate with luminosity.

4.2. Favorable conditions for absorption line detections of Fe xxv and Fe xxvi in this sample

Our HIDs in Fig. 2 show that absorption lines of He-like and H-like iron are mainly observed in luminous soft states of highly inclined sources. Indeed, we may further propose quantitative thresholds to define a “favorable” region for this type of wind detection based on the Hardness Ratio, inclination, and luminosity.

Our first observation is that all absorption line detections in our sample occur below an HR (computed using unabsorbed flux) of $HR_{[6-10]/[3-10]} = 0.8$. This cut nevertheless remains arbitrary because it depends on the black body temperature, which is affected by the mass and spin of the objects and, as such, is expected to differ for each source. This cut also does not restrict to pure soft states, as this threshold also includes observations in soft-intermediate and hard-intermediate states. The two most notable exceptions are the two hardest detections in our sample, and they are both exposures of the peculiar GRS 1915+105. One

is in a bright, hard jet-emitting state Klein-Wolt et al. (2002), which is referred to as the χ state in Lee et al. (2002), whose wind signatures are normally undetected, although most χ state observations have a much higher HR (see Neilsen & Lee 2009). The other exposure occurred during a recent transition to a new obscured state in which the source has spent the majority of the past few years (Miller et al. 2020). In this second observation, the observed HR is not an intrinsic property of the SED but mostly an effect of absorption. A less conservative limit on the “soft” wind emitting states could be close to $HR_{[6-10]/[3-10]} = 0.7$ when these two observations are excluded. We note that the absorption line detections in sources other than GRS 1915+105 are generally softer ($HR_{[6-10]/[3-10]} < 0.5$), although this might simply be the result of a lack of both softer GRS 1915+105 exposures and harder (but still below the previously defined threshold) observations for other sources, at least with *Chandra* and *XMM*.

Focusing on the inclination, we note that the five objects with detections of absorption lines, 4U 1630-47, GRO J1655-40, GRS 1915+105, H 17432-322, and IGR J17451-3022, are all dippers (see Table 1), among which two, GRO J1655-40 and IGR J17451-3022, are eclipsing binaries (Bailyn et al. 1995; Bozzo et al. 2016). Dipping behavior is traditionally associated with high-inclination systems (Motta et al. 2015), and all independent inclination estimates for these five objects agree with values larger than 55 degrees. While estimates are too uncertain to propose this as a precise threshold, it suggests that the detection of X-ray wind signatures is restricted to the inclination range of dippers.

Notably, none of the few non-dipping sources with inclination measurements below 55° show absorption lines (see right panel of Fig. 2). However, the coverage of the soft state is very limited in these objects, and few sources have stringent upper limits. More importantly, none of the remaining objects has a precise dynamical inclination measurement that does not conflict with reflection estimates. Thus, while dipping sources are definitely more prone to detection, better coverage of low-inclined

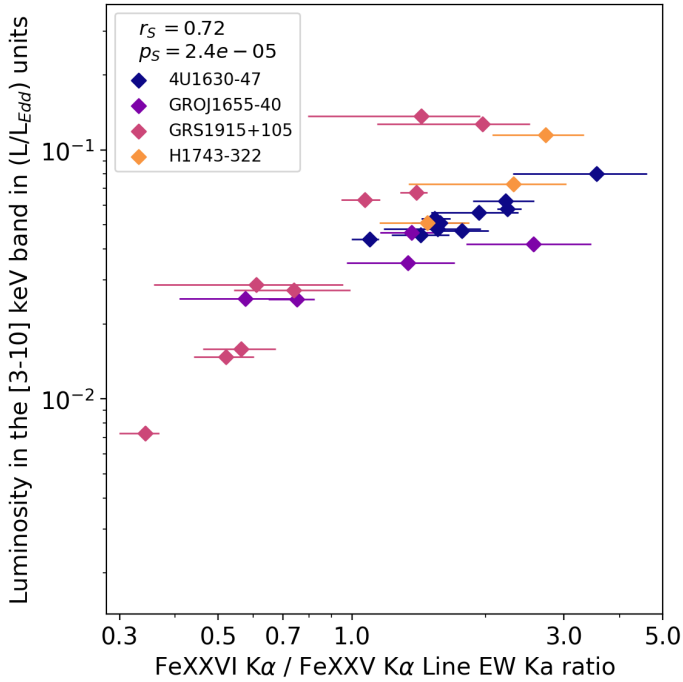


Fig. 7. Scatter plot of the Fe XXVI K α /Fe XXV K α Line EW Ka ratio against luminosity for the entire sample.

sources (and consensus on inclination estimates) would be preferred in order to conclude whether they are truly exempt from detection.

Finally, there are only two detections below $L_X \sim 0.01L_{\text{Edd}}$. One is from IGR J17451, whose true Eddington ratio is highly uncertain, as both its mass and distance are unknown, and the second is found in the faintest exposure of GRS 1915+105, whose luminosity is probably underestimated, as it is in a semi-obscured state (Miller et al. 2020). This lack of detections below a certain luminosity threshold thus points to a certain Eddington ratio as a requirement to produce highly ionized iron absorption lines. However, our coverage of lower luminosity soft states is very limited, both in terms of number of sources and sampling. This, combined with the intrinsically worse S/N (and thus a lack of constraining upper limits), prevents any definitive conclusion.

4.3. Non-detections in favorable conditions

The presence of non-detections and stringent EW upper limits (<5 eV) in the wind-favorable region shown in the left panel of Fig. 8 indicate that luminous soft states of high-inclined sources do not necessarily show absorption lines. Among the sources with detections, 4U 1630-47, GRS 1915+105, and H 17432-322 have luminous soft state exposures without absorption lines, as can be seen in more detail in the left panel of Fig. 9.

The source with the greatest number of observations, GRS 1915+105, does not follow the standard state evolution and instead evolves erratically in a limited part of the HID. Most of the lower EW upper limits obtained for this source concern observations with larger HR and luminosity than observations with detection, but there is at least one observation, with HR ~ 0.5 , with a very stringent absorption line EW upper limit. This limit, being even lower than the absorption line EWs observed in all neighboring detections, suggests different physical conditions for the wind between these observations, despite

a similar SED. This behavior also reflects in the well known rapid variability of the lines themselves in this object (see e.g., Lee et al. 2002; Neilsen et al. 2011, 2020).

In the case of 4U 1630-47, there are at the least three exposures, ObsIDs 14441, 0670673201, and 15511, with stringent upper limits of 14, 7, and 8 eV, respectively (see Table C.1 for details). Only observation 14441 is harder than the cluster of exposures with detections in this source. We note the detection of a single, marginally significant (98.8% significance in the F -test) unidentified absorption feature at 7.8 keV in the third observation. Finally, H 17432-322 shows a single, very significant upper limit of 9 eV in ObsID 3804, which is relatively harder spectrally but remains both very soft and close (both in time and spectral distribution) to the three other detections in its 2004 outburst.

We also note that while GRO J1655-40 shows absorption lines in both of its soft state observations, the number of lines, parameters, and EWs are far more different than what could be explained by evolution in SED alone. This indicates extreme changes in the wind structure and possibly two distinct mechanisms (Neilsen & Homan 2012).

However, it is also important to assess whether non-detection in other dipper and high-inclined sources in the favorable zone are sufficiently significant. To aid readability, we highlight the three sources with no detection despite stringent upper limits in this zone, 4U 1543-47, Swift J1658-4242, and XTE J1817-330, in the right panel of Fig. 9. For 4U 1543-47, it is possible that the lack of lines is due to over-ionization stemming from the extreme luminosity of this source, which is the brightest observed in our sample at $L_X/L_{\text{Edd}} \sim 0.45$. We note that the bolometric luminosity of this source is expected to have surpassed the Eddington limit at the peak of its outburst, as seen by NICER and *NuSTAR* (Prabhakar et al. 2023). Another explanation could be that the peculiar dips detected in the source (Park et al. 2004) are not a consequence of high inclination. This would reconcile the geometry with the very low angle inferred from dynamical measurements (Orosz et al. 1998; Orosz 2003) and the optical features reminiscent of low inclination recently detected in this source (Sánchez-Sierras et al. 2023b). This would explain the lack of absorption lines.

The same could be said for XTE J1817-330, which has a few stringent absorption line EW upper limits but no inclination constraints and lacks an actual mass estimate. We find it is worth noting that this source was even reported as being low inclined in previous works (Ponti et al. 2012), but it lacks proper inclination measurements, and comparisons of its outburst evolution identify it with sources with mid- to high-inclination measurements (Muñoz-Darias et al. 2013), in agreement with reports of erratic dips (Sriram et al. 2012). Finally, Swift J1658-4242, the only source with clear dipping behavior and no contradictory inclination measurement, shows a range of exposures with stringent upper limits at HID positions very close to detections in other sources. However, the lack of constraints on both its mass and distance prevents any definitive conclusion. Moreover, all constraining exposures are XMM observations with strong relativistic emission in the iron band, which are very complex to disentangle from possible absorption features and could completely hide a weak wind signature due to the limited spectral resolution of XMM.

5. Concluding remarks

Our present study of Fe XXV and Fe XXVI absorption lines in all publicly available XMM-pn and *Chandra*-HETG observations of BHLMBX candidates yields results in good agreement with

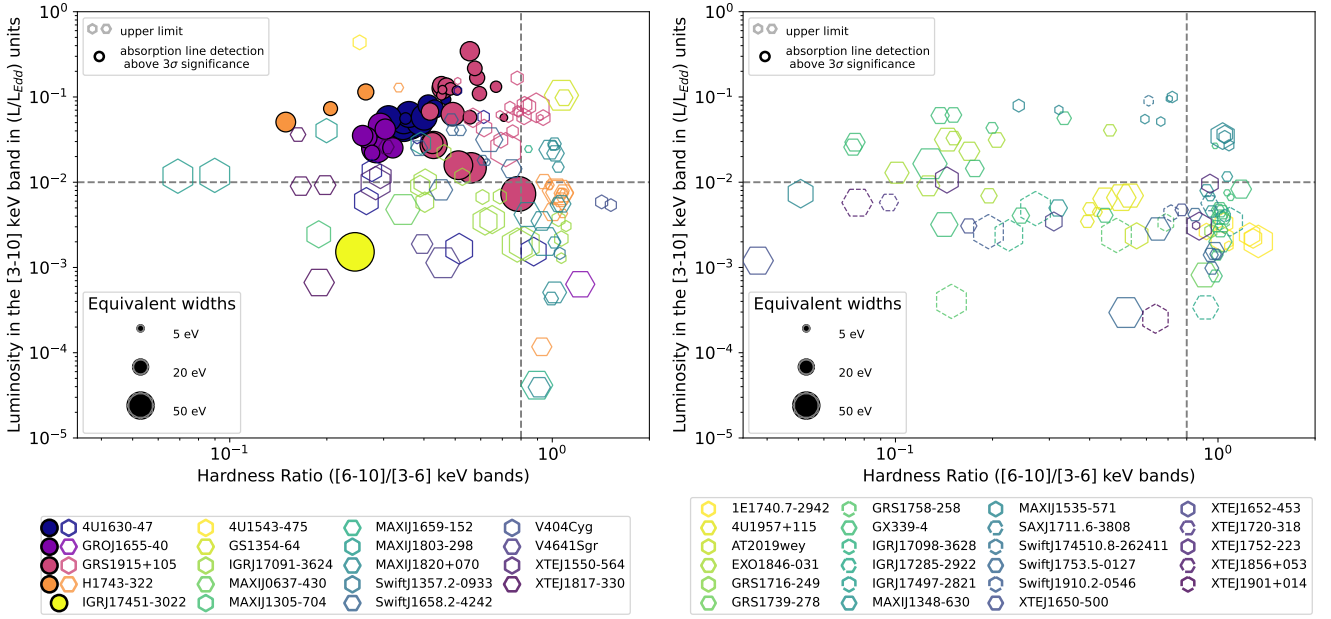


Fig. 8. Hardness intensity diagram with the position of all detections in the sample and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ upper limits when no line was detected. The diagram uses the same inclination split as in Fig. 2. The vertical and horizontal lines highlight the luminosity and HR thresholds proposed in Sect. 4.2. Sources with no inclination measurements in the right panel are shown with dashed markers.

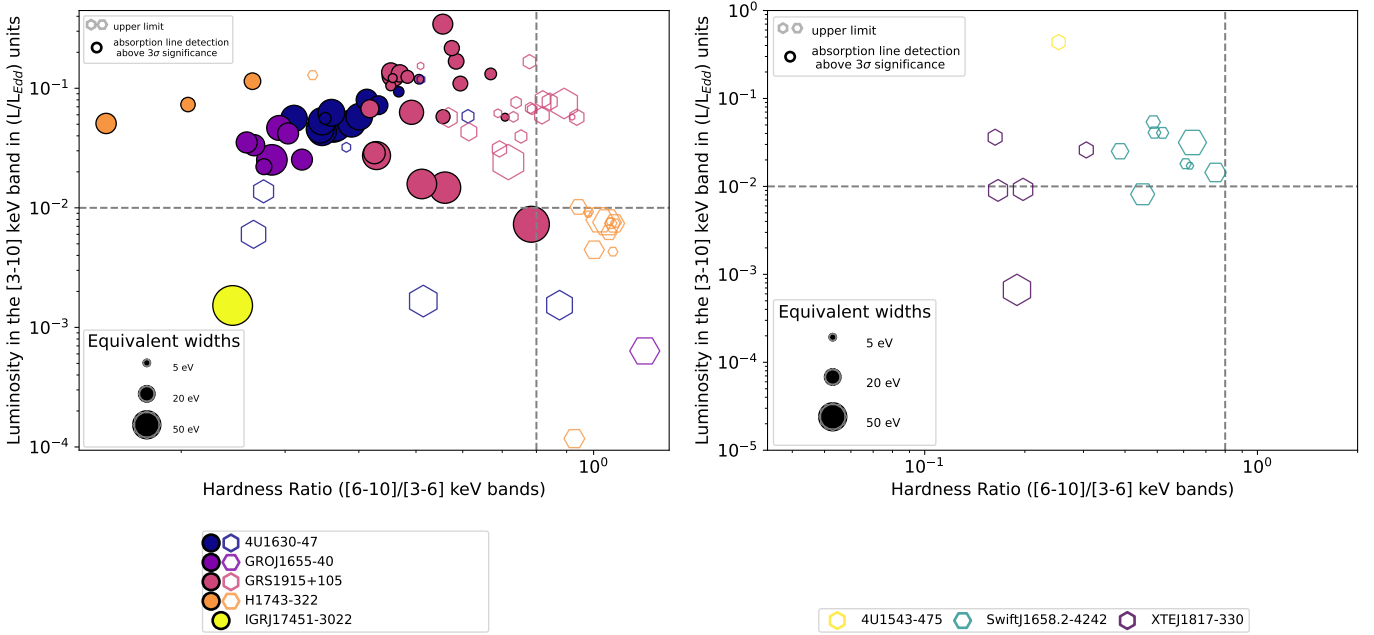


Fig. 9. Hardness intensity diagrams of subsamples with relevant non-detections. *Left panel:* zoom on sources with detection and Fe XXVI $K\alpha$ upper limits when no line was detected. *Right panel:* sources with constraining upper limits in the favorable zone (discussed in Sect. 4.3).

previous findings. All the wind signatures we found occur in luminous ($L_X > 0.01L_{\text{Edd}}$) soft states ($\text{HR}_{[6-10]/[3-10]} < 0.8$) of five dippers: 4U 1630-472, GRO J1655-40, GRS 1915+105, H 1743-322 and IGR J17451-3022. Existing inclination measurements are consistent with this behavior, with $i > 55^\circ$ in these five sources.

With the *Chandra* instrument, which proves to be the only instrument sufficiently precise to reliably measure the outflow velocity, the absorption signatures show a global trend of very small blueshifts. Indeed, the velocity shifts of our sample are on the order of minus a few hundreds of kilometers per second,

with a mean of $-200 \pm 60 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Moreover, only one detection (in GRO J1655-40) is significantly ($>2\sigma$) below -1000 km s^{-1} . These values, although closer to the limits of HETG's absolute wavelength accuracy, remain consistent with past publications and in particular with velocity shift measurements in lower energy lines (compared to Fe XXV and Fe XXVI), where HETG's accuracy is more well studied (see e.g., Ueda et al. 2009; Trueba et al. 2019 and references therein). Other works claiming higher blueshift values employ more complex fits using several photoionization models (see e.g., Miller et al. 2015a), and those works should not be directly compared to our results,

Table 2. Details of accretion states with reports of absorption line detection in both our work and the literature.

Source	Accretion states with absorption lines reported		
	This work	Other works	
	Iron band	Iron band	Other energies
4U 1543-47	X	<i>soft</i> ⁽¹⁾	X
4U 1630-47	soft	<i>soft</i> ⁽²⁾	<i>soft</i> ^{X(3)}
EXO 1846-031	X	<i>hard</i> ⁽⁴⁾	X
GRO J1655-40	soft	<i>soft</i> ⁽⁵⁾	<i>soft</i> ^{X(6)}
GRS 1716-249	X	X	<i>hard</i> ^{V(7)}
GRS 1758-258	X	<i>hard</i> ⁽⁸⁾	X
GRS 1915+105	soft, hard	soft: $\phi, \gamma, \rho, \beta$ ⁽⁹⁾ , θ ⁽¹⁰⁾ , κ ⁽¹¹⁾ , λ ⁽¹²⁾ , hard: χ ⁽¹³⁾ , obscured ^(*,15)	<i>soft</i> ^{X(14)} , obscured ^(*) : <i>hard</i> ^{IR(16)}
GX 339-4	X	X	<i>soft</i> ^{V(17)} , <i>hard</i> ^{V(17)}
H 1743-322	soft	<i>soft</i> ⁽¹⁸⁾	X
IGR J17091-3624	X	<i>soft</i> ⁽¹⁹⁾ , <i>hard</i> ^(†,20)	<i>hard</i> ^{X(21)}
IGR J17451-3022	soft	<i>soft</i> ⁽²²⁾	<i>soft</i> ^{X(22)}
MAXI J1305-704	X	<i>soft</i> ^(23,24) , <i>hard</i> ⁽²⁴⁾	<i>soft</i> ^{X(23,24)} , <i>hard</i> ^{X(24)}
MAXI J1348-630	X	<i>soft</i> ⁽²⁵⁾ , <i>hard</i> ⁽²⁵⁾	<i>hard</i> ^{X(26)} , <i>soft</i> ^{IR(27)} , <i>hard</i> ^{V,IR(27)}
MAXI J1803-298	X	<i>soft</i> ^(28,29)	<i>hard</i> ^{V(30)}
MAXI J1820+070	X	<i>soft</i> ⁽³¹⁾	<i>soft</i> ^{IR(32)} , <i>hard</i> ^{V,IR(32)}
Swift J1357.2-0933	X	X	<i>hard</i> ^{V(33,34)}
Swift J1658.2-4242	X	<i>hard</i> ⁽³⁵⁾	X
V404 Cyg	X	<i>hard</i> ⁽³⁶⁾	obscured ^(*) : <i>hard</i> ^{X(37)} , <i>hard</i> ^{V(38)}
V4641 Sgr	X	X	obscured ^(*) : <i>hard</i> ^{V(39)}
XTE J1652-453	X	<i>hard</i> ^(†,40)	X

Notes. The source names in bold indicate dippers. For “other” energies, *X* superscripts indicate softer X-ray detections, *V* indicates visible detections, and *IR* notes infrared detections. Accretion states are reported in italics for absorption lines embedded in reflection components. For all purposes, ^(†) indicates low-significance detections. ^(*)The observed HR value of the obscured state might not reflect the actual HR of the source. The list of reference papers is not exhaustive for objects with many wind detections.

References. (1) Prabhakar et al. (2023). (2) Kubota et al. (2007). (3) Trueba et al. (2019). (4) Wang et al. (2020). (5) Miller et al. (2006a). (6) Miller et al. (2008). (7) Cúneo et al. (2020). (8) Reynolds et al. (2018). (9) Neilsen & Lee (2009). (10) Ueda et al. (2010). (11) Liu et al. (2022). (12) Neilsen et al. (2018). (13) Lee et al. (2002). (14) Ueda et al. (2009). (15) Neilsen et al. (2020). (16) Sánchez-Sierras et al. (2023a). (17) Rahoui et al. (2014). (18) Miller et al. (2006b). (19) King et al. (2012). (20) Wang et al. (2018). (21) Gattuzi et al. (2020) (22) Jaisawal et al. (2015). (23) Miller et al. (2014). (24) Shidatsu et al. (2013). (25) Chakraborty et al. (2021). (26) Saha et al. (2021). (27) Panizo-Espinar et al. (2022). (28) Miller & Reynolds (2021). (29) Coughenour et al. (2023). (30) Mata Sánchez et al. (2022). (31) Fabian et al. (2021). (32) Muñoz-Darias et al. (2019). (33) Jiménez-Ibarra et al. (2019). (34) Charles et al. (2019). (35) Xu et al. (2018a). (36) Muñoz-Darias & Ponti (2022). (37) King et al. (2015). (38) Muñoz-Darias et al. (2016). (39) Muñoz-Darias et al. (2018). (40) Chiang et al. (2012).

although the main ionization zones generally remain in agreement with our findings.

We also obtained good constraints on a few line widths, with FWHMs on the order of a few thousands of kilometers per second for the broadest ones. The observed correlation between the line widths and Fe XXV $K\alpha$ EW naturally arises in the presence of significant turbulence velocity in the wind, of the order of thousands kilometers per second when assuming a simple slab geometry (see Sect. 4.1.2). Reality is expected to be more complex, possibly with a radial distribution of density and velocity. A more precise modeling is certainly needed to better characterize the amount of turbulence.

We detected a very significant anti-correlation between the X-ray luminosity (in Eddington units) and the line EW in the case of Fe XXV, while no significant correlation was observed in the case of Fe XXVI. This anti-correlation is present in single objects with multiple line detections but also in the entire set of sources showing absorption lines. Although already found in the

past in more restricted datasets (Miller et al. 2020; Ponti et al. 2012), such a correlation observed in a sample of different sources would suggest a similar wind structure (i.e., a similar nR^2 factor) from source to source at a given L_X/L_{Edd} . This anti-correlation would then be expected if the wind ionization is on average above the peak of the ionic fraction for Fe XXV $K\alpha$. While it predicts quite large Fe XXV $K\alpha$ EWs (~ 100 eV) below our threshold of $0.01L_{\text{Edd}}$, the ionization at these luminosities could also go beyond the peak of the Fe XXV $K\alpha$ ion fraction and shift to producing weaker lines from less-ionized ions. If this is not the case, the lack of detection at low flux may also be due to lower statistics or sparser coverage, but it could also be related to the physical processes producing the wind (e.g., thermal driven wind requiring high illuminating luminosity; Done et al. 2018; Tomaru et al. 2019).

The absence of Fe XXV and Fe XXVI absorption line detection in virtually all hard states in our sample agrees with recent theoretical studies, suggesting that the ionization range

compatible with these ions could be thermally unstable when the gas is illuminated by a hard state SED (e.g., Chakravorty et al. 2013, 2016; Bianchi et al. 2017; Petrucci et al. 2021). Thus, even if the wind itself were present, it would not be detectable through Fe XXV and Fe XXVI absorption lines.

There have been recent reports in the literature of a few absorption line detections in hard states of different sources, as shown in Table 2, where we list the reports of absorption lines in all wavebands and associated accretion states for sources in the sample. However, we must stress that the vast majority of these detections come from *NuSTAR* spectra blended with reflection. The limited spectral resolution of this instrument combined with the model-dependent nature of the residuals of reflection components means that special care should be put into computing the significance of these lines, especially when different reflection models disagree on their existence (see e.g., Chakravorty et al. 2021 and Jia et al. 2022 for MAXI J1348-630). In the meantime, other reports are either not well documented (Reynolds et al. 2018; Saha et al. 2021) or are associated with static or infalling material (Shidatsu et al. 2013), and the only clear iron band hard state detections come from non-standard states of GRS 1915+105 and V404 Cyg (Lee et al. 2002; Muñoz-Darias & Ponti 2022).

The lack of standard X-ray detections in the hard state is still compatible with the increasing number of optical and infrared absorption line detections in hard states seen in Table 2, which suggest that the outflow persists independently of the spectral states (see Panizo-Espinar et al. 2022 and references therein). They arise from the same category of high-inclined (mostly dipping) sources, except in the case of GX339-4, and provide different and complementary views of the outflow, namely, visible lines are restricted to hard states, while infrared detections have been obtained in the whole outburst. However, these detections generally have blueshifts in the range of a few 1000 km s^{-1} , which is significantly higher than in X-rays. More critically, only two sources have clear reports of detection both in the X-rays and in the optical or infrared: V404 Cyg and MAXI J1803-298. As of now, only the first source has been studied in detail, and it shows properties consistent with being produced by the same outflowing material (Muñoz-Darias & Ponti 2022), although in an obscured state with extremely strong emission lines and with short-term variability of absorption features in the iron band, which prevented the detection of absorption lines with our simple procedure.

It is difficult to assess whether the lack of common X-ray and optical or infrared absorption line detections is meaningful. In our study, the vast majority of sources with these features have very poor X-ray coverage in the favorable region. However, several objects have been extensively followed by other X-ray telescopes, such as MAXI J1820+070 with NICER, with only a single tentative report of X-ray absorption detections up to now (Fabian et al. 2021). On the other hand, the sources with X-ray detections in our sample lack either the optical counterpart or the high-quality optical data necessary to search for absorption lines. It is also possible that the physical conditions favoring X-ray and optical wind signatures do not perfectly match (see e.g., Koljonen et al. 2023), but more simultaneous optical and X-ray campaigns are required to draw conclusions.

The results of this paper show that we can only put limited constraints on the evolution of the absorption lines with the current scarce sampling of each outburst. In this regard, the use of the new generation of telescopes with better monitoring capabilities, such as NICER, or of the next evolution of spectrometers, such as XRISM and Athena, will be paramount in separating

the outflow evolution from the influence of the SED. We are currently performing a similar analysis on the NICER archive, which remains, for the most part, unpublished.

Through the analysis of the line parameters and HID positions, we also highlight some of the most critical exposures currently available, whose well constrained and extreme or variable wind signatures should be compared against existing and upcoming wind models. In order to improve the current lack of coupling between disk and wind modeling, our next work will compare joint continuum and magnetic wind solutions arising from the JED-SAD framework (Jacquemin-Ide et al. 2019) to the sample analyzed in this work.

Finally, this work has not delved into the details of the behavior of each source. Although the results are directly available through the visualization tool, we will address the most interesting sources individually in a follow-up paper. We will both compare their behavior with the global sample and highlight notable results in unpublished observations.

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Appendix A: Visualization tool

One of the secondary goals of this work is to complement the current black hole candidate catalogs, which only list the physical parameters of the sources, with an inventory of the absorption feature properties accessible with X-ray telescopes. To enable ease of access and visualization of the data, we built an interactive webpage with the python library streamlit,¹⁵ accessible at <https://visual-line.streamlit.app/>. The dataset is loaded internally and the options chosen in the sidebar allow the user to navigate and display different information of any subsamples of the data and download results. The figures presented in this paper except Fig. 1 can be recreated using the online tool, as well as the two main tables, which will be updated according to new measurements and references. This tool itself is continuously updated to add more options, flexibility, and relevant information on the sources. The current main options of the tool are described below.

Sample selection: The first option in the sidebar allows the user to restrict the data selection to any part of the sample. This can be achieved by manually selecting a subset of sources or via global constraints on inclination properties using the values listed in Tab. 1. For a more precise control, it is also possible to manually exclude observations using their ObsIDs. Other options include restricting which absorption lines to consider, a time interval restriction, and the choice of significance threshold for features to be considered as detections (which uses the assessment of Sect. 3.4).

Hardness intensity diagram: The main visualization tool is the HID in which both detections and non-detections are displayed. Exposures can be colored coded according to several line parameters (in which case only extremal values are displayed for exposures with several lines) and several parameters specific to each observation or source. The fitting errors of both HID parameters can be displayed, and upper limits can be plotted for non-detection using different symbols in order to aid visibility for large subsamples. There are also a range of other visualization options.

Monitoring: Whenever the sample selection is restricted to a single source, long-term light curves and HR evolution can be displayed using RXTE-ASM, MAXI and *Swift*-BAT data with either one-day or single orbit binning. The RXTE data is taken from a copy of the definitive products available at http://xte.mit.edu/ASM_lc.html. The RXTE light curves use the sum of the intensity in all bands ([1.5 – 12] keV) corrected by a factor of 25 to match (visually) MAXI values, and the HR values are built as the ratio of bands C and B+A, that is, [5.5 – 12]/[1.5 – 5] keV. The MAXI data is loaded on the fly from the official website at <http://maxi.riken.jp/top/slist.html> in order to use the latest dataset available. The MAXI light curves use the full [2 – 20] keV band, and the HR is built from the [4 – 10]/[2 – 4] keV bands. For MAXI, a second HR using the [10 – 20]/[2 – 4] keV bands is also available. The *Swift*-BAT data is loaded on the fly from the official website at <https://swift.gsfc.nasa.gov/results/transients/>

A transparency factor proportional to the quality of the data (estimated from the ratio of the HR values to their uncertainties) is applied to both HRs to aid visibility, and the dates of exposures with instruments used in the line detection sample are highlighted. The date restriction selected in the sample selection can be both highlighted and used to zoom in on the light curve display, while EW values and upper limits can be displayed on a secondary axis at the date of each exposure.

Parameter analysis: The distribution and correlation of the line parameters can be computed on the fly from the chosen data selection. Distributions are restricted to the main line parameters and can be stacked or split according to the sources and instruments. Scatter plots between various intrinsic parameters as well as observation-level and source-level parameters can be displayed, with p-values computed according to the perturbation method discussed in Sect. 4.1.1. Similar to the HID, scatter plots can be color coded according to various information, and EW upper limits for currently selected sources can be included in the relevant plots, along with other secondary options.

Data display and download: The main tables of this paper, Tab. 1 and Tab. 2, are displayed and will be updated in order to account for new sources, datasets, instruments, and updates in the literature. The complete data of sources, observations, and line parameters according to the current selection is also displayed in the form of dataframes and can be downloaded through separate csv files that can be loaded as multidimensional dataframes.

About: This final section summarizes the science case developed in this paper and details the behavior and logic of each option of the tool.

¹⁵ <https://streamlit.io/>

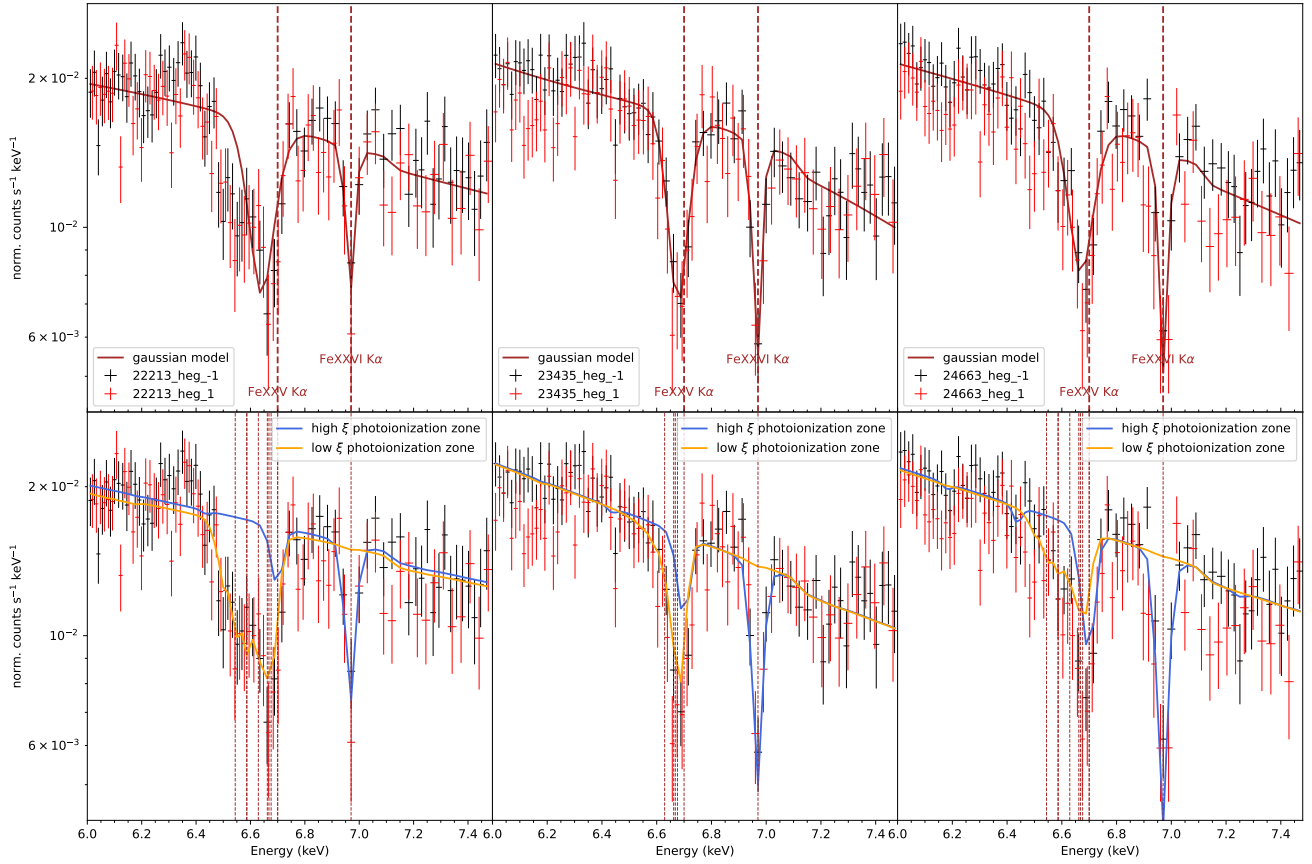
Appendix B: Results of the fitting procedure for the low-luminosity observations of GRS 1915+105


Fig. B.1. Zoom of the fit around the $K\alpha$ lines for the three low-luminosity observations of GRS 195+105+105. The upper panels show the results of the autofit procedure with Gaussians, and the lower panels show the results of a fit with two photoionization zones; the lower ξ was fixed at zero velocity. The dashed lines show the energy of the main lines affecting the photoionization zones of each observation.

Appendix C: Results of the line detection procedure for exposures analyzed in this work
C.1. Detections in all exposures

Table C.1. EW values for each line and each exposure analyzed in the sample. The sources are ordered alphabetically and with observations listed chronologically. The columns also report the exposure time after data reduction and either EW results for detections or EW upper limits for non-detections of the main lines. Line EWs are only provided for detections above 3σ significance (see Sect. 3.4) along with 90% uncertainties. Upper limits above 100 eV are not reported. The ObsIDs marked with a dagger symbol (\dagger) have pile-up values between 5 and 7% after the data reduction process.

Source	Date	Instrument	ObsID + identifier	exp. time (ks)	Fe line Equivalent Width / 3σ upper limit (eV)				
					xxvK α	xxviK α	xxvK β	xxviK β	xxviK γ
1E1740.7-2942	2000-09-15	XMM	0112970901_S003	10.88	≤ 32	≤ 69	≤ 57	≤ 57	≤ 66
	2000-09-21	XMM	0112970801_S003	17.25	≤ 28	≤ 28	≤ 41	≤ 46	≤ 51
	2001-04-01	XMM	0112971801_S003	8.82	≤ 29	≤ 39	≤ 26	≤ 28	≤ 32
	2001-09-14	Chandra	2491	61.16	≤ 37	≤ 45	/	/	/
	2003-09-11	XMM	0144630101_S003	5.93	≤ 30	≤ 30	≤ 40	≤ 41	≤ 44
	2005-10-02	XMM	0303210201_S003	16.46	≤ 20	≤ 21	≤ 28	≤ 29	≤ 32
	2012-04-03	XMM	0673550201_S003	93.51	≤ 8	≤ 5	≤ 9	≤ 9	≤ 9
4U1543-475	2021-06-21	Chandra	25079	4.59	≤ 15	≤ 17	≤ 57	≤ 59	≤ 90

Table C.1. continued.

Source	Date	Instrument	ObsID + identifier	exp. time (ks)	Fe line Equivalent Width / 3σ upper limit (eV)				
					xxvK α	xxviK α	xxvK β	xxviK β	xxviK γ
4U1630-47	2004-08-04	Chandra	4568	49.99	≤ 4	11^{+3}_{-4}	≤ 19	≤ 76	/
	2012-01-17	Chandra	13714	28.92	32 ± 4	57 ± 5	/	/	/
	2012-01-20	Chandra	13715	29.28	34^{+3}_{-5}	49^{+4}_{-5}	23^{+7}_{-5}	/	/
	2012-01-26	Chandra	13716	29.28	47^{+3}_{-2}	52^{+1}_{-3}	32^{+11}_{-2}	38^{+9}_{-6}	/
	2012-01-30	Chandra	13717	29.44	30 ± 3	48 ± 4	32^{+14}_{-7}	35^{+10}_{-11}	36^{+13}_{-8}
	2012-03-04	XMM	0670671501_S003	2.54	35 ± 7	55^{+9}_{-7}	≤ 34	/	/
	2012-03-04	XMM	0670671501_U014	69.86	31 ± 2	48^{+1}_{-2}	21^{+3}_{-1}	22^{+3}_{-0}	/
	2012-03-20	XMM	0670671301_S003	22.26	21 ± 3	46^{+4}_{-2}	≤ 16	18^{+6}_{-5}	/
	2012-03-25	XMM	0670672901_S003	62.81	20 ± 1	45^{+1}_{-2}	9 ± 2	19 ± 2	/
	2012-06-03	Chandra	14441	19.0	≤ 12	≤ 14	≤ 34	≤ 42	≤ 62
	2012-09-09	XMM	0670673001_S003 [†]	22.48	9^{+3}_{-2}	31^{+3}_{-2}	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 10
	2012-09-10	XMM	0670673001_U002	0.8	≤ 19	25^{+6}_{-5}	≤ 17	≤ 22	≤ 23
	2012-09-11	XMM	0670673101_S003	0.93	≤ 14	9^{+5}_{-4}	≤ 19	≤ 16	≤ 19
	2012-09-28	XMM	0670673201_S003	1.56	≤ 5	≤ 7	≤ 9	≤ 11	≤ 19
	2013-04-25	Chandra	15511	49.39	≤ 8	≤ 7	≤ 26	≤ 32	≤ 35
	2013-05-27	Chandra	15524	48.91	≤ 44	≤ 62	/	/	/
	2016-10-21	Chandra	19904	30.93	23^{+4}_{-5}	45^{+4}_{-7}	/	/	/
	2020-05-28	Chandra	22376	24.5	≤ 35	≤ 35	≤ 75	/	/
2020-06-06	Chandra	22377	24.5	≤ 41	≤ 50	/	/	/	
2020-06-13	Chandra	22378	23.54	≤ 39	≤ 55	/	/	/	
4U1957+115	2004-09-07	Chandra	4552	65.6	≤ 14	≤ 16	/	/	/
	2004-10-16	XMM	0206320101_S003	34.15	≤ 5	≤ 9	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 15
	2008-12-07	Chandra	10659	9.87	≤ 41	≤ 58	/	/	/
	2008-12-07	Chandra	10660	13.44	≤ 44	≤ 48	/	/	/
	2008-12-08	Chandra	10661	9.82	≤ 26	≤ 42	/	/	/
	2013-11-17	XMM	0720940101_S003	36.89	≤ 12	≤ 15	≤ 20	≤ 27	≤ 36
AT2019wey	2020-09-20	Chandra	24651	24.51	≤ 26	≤ 47	≤ 85	/	/
EXO1846-031	2019-08-13	Chandra	21235	27.99	≤ 12	≤ 14	≤ 29	≤ 40	≤ 66
	2019-08-28	Chandra	21236	29.95	≤ 22	≤ 32	≤ 59	≤ 83	/
	2019-09-15	XMM	0851181101_S009	0.3	≤ 34	≤ 47	≤ 66	≤ 77	/
	2019-09-15	XMM	0851181101_S003	13.37	≤ 17	≤ 19	≤ 39	≤ 40	≤ 56
	2019-09-19	Chandra	21237	29.4	≤ 15	≤ 22	≤ 48	≤ 65	≤ 86
	2019-10-19	Chandra	21238	28.54	≤ 34	≤ 41	/	/	/
	2019-10-31	Chandra	20899	48.77	≤ 25	≤ 37	≤ 95	/	/
	2019-11-09	Chandra	20900	45.85	≤ 17	≤ 21	≤ 54	≤ 62	≤ 99
GROJ1655-40	2005-02-27	XMM	0112921301_S003	1.23	≤ 56	≤ 43	≤ 67	/	/
	2005-03-12	Chandra	5460	24.53	≤ 8	19^{+4}_{-3}	≤ 65	/	/
	2005-03-14	XMM	0112921401_S003	0.44	≤ 16	31^{+6}_{-3}	≤ 31	≤ 29	≤ 46
	2005-03-15	XMM	0112921501_S003	0.44	23^{+5}_{-4}	30^{+6}_{-5}	≤ 25	≤ 30	≤ 45
	2005-03-16	XMM	0112921601_S003	0.44	12^{+3}_{-4}	30^{+4}_{-3}	/	≤ 20	≤ 38
	2005-03-18	XMM	0155762501_S001	0.69	30^{+4}_{-3}	41^{+3}_{-4}	23 ± 6	≤ 32	≤ 19
	2005-03-27	XMM	0155762601_S001	0.64	30 ± 4	17^{+5}_{-4}	26^{+7}_{-6}	/	/
	2005-04-01	Chandra	5461	44.4	58^{+4}_{-3}	43^{+3}_{-5}	58^{+10}_{-4}	/	/
GRS1716-249	2017-02-06	Chandra	20008	29.95	≤ 12	≤ 15	≤ 28	≤ 51	≤ 50
GRS1739-278	2016-09-24	Chandra	17791	29.39	≤ 47	≤ 51	/	/	/
GRS1758-258	2000-09-19	XMM	0112971301_S003	8.97	≤ 24	≤ 24	≤ 32	≤ 35	≤ 39
	2001-03-22	XMM	0136140201_S001	18.43	≤ 73	≤ 91	/	/	/
	2002-03-18	Chandra	2750	26.47	≤ 51	≤ 82	/	/	/
	2002-09-28	XMM	0144630201_S003	5.94	≤ 25	≤ 26	≤ 32	≤ 37	≤ 41

Table C.1. continued.

Source	Date	Instrument	ObsID + identifier	exp. time (ks)	Fe line Equivalent Width / 3σ upper limit (eV)				
					xxvK α	xxviK α	xxvK β	xxviK β	xxviK γ
GRS1915+105	2000-04-24	Chandra	660	29.76	≤ 5	5^{+3}_{-2}	/	/	/
	2001-03-24	Chandra	1944	30.42	≤ 7	≤ 5	≤ 17	≤ 17	≤ 24
	2001-05-23	Chandra	1945	30.04	≤ 3	8^{+2}_{-1}	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 15
	2001-08-05	Chandra	1946	28.44	≤ 8	≤ 9	≤ 22	≤ 32	≤ 33
	2003-03-29	XMM	0112990101_U002	0.23	≤ 13	≤ 22	≤ 17	≤ 28	≤ 34
	2003-04-10	XMM	0112920701_S007	0.18	≤ 14	≤ 22	≤ 26	≤ 31	≤ 36
	2003-04-16	XMM	0112920801_U002	0.04	≤ 55	≤ 58	≤ 88	/	/
	2003-10-17	XMM	0112990501_S008	0.48	≤ 10	18^{+5}_{-3}	≤ 10	≤ 13	≤ 12
	2003-10-22	XMM	0112920901_S003	0.28	≤ 13	16 ± 6	≤ 15	≤ 23	≤ 20
	2004-03-20	Chandra	4587	30.04	≤ 5	≤ 11	≤ 18	≤ 18	≤ 22
	2004-03-30	Chandra	4588	27.17	≤ 8	≤ 10	≤ 18	≤ 36	≤ 39
	2004-04-06	Chandra	4589	30.02	≤ 8	≤ 9	≤ 21	≤ 28	≤ 37
	2004-04-17	XMM	0144090101_U002	14.1	≤ 4	≤ 4	≤ 6	≤ 6	≤ 10
	2004-04-21	XMM	0144090201_S003	0.62	≤ 18	≤ 19	≤ 27	≤ 26	≤ 32
	2004-05-03	XMM	0112921201_U002	0.56	≤ 19	≤ 21	≤ 28	≤ 30	≤ 34
	2005-12-01	Chandra	6579	12.3	≤ 10	13 ± 3	≤ 13	≤ 90	/
	2005-12-01	Chandra	6580	12.14	≤ 14	22^{+5}_{-6}	≤ 22	/	/
	2005-12-03	Chandra	6581	9.73	≤ 10	28^{+3}_{-4}	/	/	/
	2007-08-14	Chandra	7485	47.38	36^{+4}_{-2}	38 ± 2	27^{+8}_{-3}	24^{+5}_{-6}	/
	2007-09-24	XMM	0506160901_U002	0.53	17^{+7}_{-3}	24^{+8}_{-3}	≤ 18	≤ 16	≤ 15
	2007-09-26	XMM	0506161001_U002	0.53	16^{+6}_{-3}	32^{+6}_{-5}	≤ 12	≤ 17	≤ 21
	2007-09-28	XMM	0506161101_S001	0.52	50^{+10}_{-6}	37^{+12}_{-7}	45^{+14}_{-11}	/	/
	2007-09-30	XMM	0506161201_U002	0.59	32^{+7}_{-6}	19^{+10}_{-7}	31 ± 12	/	/
	2011-06-21	Chandra	12462	116.4	≤ 2	8 ± 1	≤ 5	≤ 6	≤ 79
	2015-02-23	Chandra	16709	39.91	≤ 2	7^{+1}_{-2}	≤ 7	≤ 10	≤ 11
	2015-03-19	Chandra	16710	38.04	≤ 4	≤ 5	≤ 7	≤ 10	≤ 19
	2015-06-09	Chandra	16711	118.65	17 ± 1	23 ± 1	17^{+1}_{-3}	16^{+2}_{-1}	/
	2017-02-22	Chandra	19717	24.96	≤ 13	≤ 14	≤ 29	≤ 36	≤ 60
	2017-03-27	Chandra	19718	25.01	≤ 13	≤ 20	≤ 31	≤ 59	≤ 68
	2017-05-02	XMM	0804640201_U002	0.06	/	≤ 100	/	/	/
2017-06-24	Chandra	19719	25.03	≤ 5	15^{+4}_{-3}	≤ 12	/	/	
2017-08-09	Chandra	19720	23.88	≤ 4	11^{+1}_{-3}	≤ 10	≤ 18	≤ 99	
2017-09-22	XMM	0804640501_S003	0.4	≤ 14	≤ 16	≤ 20	≤ 22	≤ 30	
2017-10-12	XMM	0804640601_S003	0.43	≤ 10	17 ± 4	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 16	
2018-04-10	XMM	0804640701_S003	0.45	≤ 27	≤ 28	≤ 39	≤ 43	≤ 47	
2018-04-19	XMM	0804640801_S003	0.51	≤ 13	≤ 23	≤ 20	≤ 30	≤ 38	
2019-04-30	Chandra	22213	29.08	77^{+7}_{-5}	26^{+1}_{-2}	/	/	/	
2021-07-14	Chandra	23435	24.5	55 ± 7	31^{+5}_{-4}	34^{+9}_{-5}	/	/	
2021-07-15	Chandra	24663	23.5	61^{+8}_{-6}	32^{+4}_{-3}	42^{+23}_{-17}	/	/	
GS1354-64	2015-08-06	XMM	0727961501_S003	0.24	≤ 77	≤ 84	/	/	/
	2015-08-06	XMM	0727961501_S004	10.99	≤ 21	≤ 24	≤ 30	≤ 32	≤ 36
	2002-08-24	XMM	0093562701_S005	1.28	≤ 24	≤ 25	≤ 36	≤ 49	≤ 59
	2002-09-29	XMM	0156760101_S001	2.25	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 15	≤ 18	≤ 22
	2003-03-08	XMM	0148220201_S001	12.75	≤ 16	≤ 20	≤ 34	≤ 39	≤ 49
	2003-03-17	Chandra	4420	74.05	≤ 45	≤ 50	/	/	/
	2003-03-20	XMM	0148220301_S001	3.98	≤ 23	≤ 22	≤ 34	≤ 44	≤ 47
	2004-03-16	XMM	0204730201_U002	101.25	≤ 5	≤ 5	≤ 8	≤ 8	≤ 8
	2004-03-18	XMM	0204730301_U002	88.92	≤ 5	≤ 5	≤ 7	≤ 5	≤ 8
	2004-03-20	XMM	0204730301_U003	5.07	≤ 31	≤ 31	≤ 38	≤ 43	≤ 33

Table C.1. continued.

Source	Date	Instrument	ObsID + identifier	exp. time (ks)	Fe line Equivalent Width / 3σ upper limit (eV)				
					xxvK α	xxviK α	xxvK β	xxviK β	xxviK γ
GX3394	2004-08-22	Chandra	4569	49.9	≤ 25	≤ 26	/	/	/
	2004-10-04	Chandra	4570	44.53	≤ 24	≤ 25	/	/	/
	2004-10-28	Chandra	4571	43.36	≤ 13	≤ 30	/	/	/
	2007-02-19	XMM	0410581201_S001	0.45	≤ 18	≤ 21	≤ 48	≤ 50	≤ 62
	2007-03-05	XMM	0410581301_S001	0.48	≤ 17	≤ 17	≤ 28	≤ 29	≤ 45
	2007-03-30	XMM	0410581701_U002	0.26	/	/	/	/	/
	2009-03-26	XMM	0605610201_S003	31.75	≤ 15	≤ 14	≤ 17	≤ 22	≤ 28
	2010-03-28	XMM	0654130401_S001	25.29	≤ 4	≤ 4	≤ 6	≤ 5	≤ 6
	2013-09-29	XMM	0692341201_S003	8.54	≤ 9	≤ 10	≤ 14	≤ 14	≤ 17
	2013-09-30	XMM	0692341301_S003	9.43	≤ 19	≤ 21	≤ 29	≤ 30	≤ 31
	2013-10-01	XMM	0692341401_S003	15.04	≤ 18	≤ 18	≤ 21	≤ 22	≤ 24
	2015-08-28	XMM	0760646201_S003	14.73	≤ 21	≤ 18	≤ 27	≤ 33	≤ 38
	2015-09-02	XMM	0760646301_S003	15.74	≤ 13	≤ 14	≤ 17	≤ 19	≤ 33
	2015-09-07	XMM	0760646401_S003	20.18	≤ 16	≤ 18	≤ 20	≤ 22	≤ 27
	2015-09-12	XMM	0760646501_S003	18.62	≤ 37	≤ 38	≤ 46	≤ 55	≤ 62
	2015-09-17	XMM	0760646601_S003	36.53	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 12	≤ 13	≤ 23
2015-09-30	XMM	0760646701_S003	33.42	≤ 13	≤ 15	≤ 16	≤ 17	≤ 23	
H1743-322	2003-05-01	Chandra	3803	48.26	7 ± 1	20^{+2}_{-3}	/	/	/
	2003-05-28	Chandra	3804	43.89	≤ 6	≤ 9	≤ 19	≤ 24	≤ 34
	2003-06-23	Chandra	3805	49.87	7 ± 2	16^{+3}_{-4}	/	/	/
	2003-07-30	Chandra	3806	50.0	19^{+3}_{-4}	29^{+4}_{-5}	/	/	/
	2008-09-29	XMM	0554110201_S005	20.56	≤ 18	≤ 19	≤ 25	≤ 24	≤ 30
	2010-08-08	Chandra	11048	60.29	≤ 16	≤ 21	≤ 46	≤ 49	≤ 69
	2010-10-09	XMM	0553950201_S003	59.96	≤ 24	≤ 30	≤ 51	≤ 51	≤ 49
	2014-09-21	XMM	0724400501_S001	135.08	≤ 5	≤ 6	≤ 6	≤ 6	≤ 10
	2014-09-23	XMM	0724401901_S001	77.74	≤ 10	≤ 11	≤ 15	≤ 14	≤ 18
	2014-09-24	XMM	0740980201_S003	48.61	≤ 8	≤ 8	≤ 8	≤ 9	≤ 15
	2015-06-11	Chandra	16738	9.22	≤ 27	≤ 28	≤ 63	≤ 91	/
	2015-06-12	Chandra	17679	9.22	≤ 43	≤ 52	/	/	/
	2015-06-13	Chandra	17680	9.22	≤ 47	≤ 50	/	/	/
	2015-07-03	Chandra	16739	26.84	≤ 22	≤ 28	≤ 51	≤ 79	≤ 91
	2016-03-13	XMM	0783540201_S003	137.42	≤ 8	≤ 8	≤ 11	≤ 11	≤ 15
	2016-03-15	XMM	0783540301_U002	134.52	≤ 4	≤ 5	≤ 5	≤ 6	≤ 7
	2018-09-26	XMM	0783540401_S003	128.95	≤ 6	≤ 8	≤ 8	≤ 9	≤ 10
	2011-03-27	XMM	0677980201_S003	1.14	≤ 44	≤ 46	≤ 67	≤ 76	/
	2011-08-01	Chandra	12405	31.21	≤ 34	≤ 32	≤ 57	≤ 93	/
	2011-10-06	Chandra	12406	27.29	≤ 10	≤ 23	≤ 87	/	/
2012-09-29	XMM	0700381301_S003	46.12	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 13	≤ 15	
IGRJ17091-3624	2016-03-07	XMM	0743960201_S003	57.98	≤ 10	≤ 11	≤ 17	≤ 17	≤ 21
	2016-03-09	XMM	0744361501_S003	38.16	≤ 15	≤ 19	≤ 20	≤ 21	≤ 40
	2016-03-11	XMM	0744361801_S003	28.59	≤ 15	≤ 18	≤ 17	≤ 18	≤ 26
	2016-03-23	XMM	0744361701_S003	61.24	≤ 13	≤ 18	≤ 22	≤ 23	≤ 29
	2016-03-30	Chandra	17787	39.48	≤ 16	≤ 18	≤ 40	≤ 58	≤ 95
	2016-04-30	Chandra	17788	38.75	≤ 19	≤ 30	≤ 69	/	/
	2016-05-26	Chandra	17789	20.05	≤ 48	≤ 53	/	/	/
	2016-05-27	Chandra	18855	19.97	≤ 31	≤ 51	/	/	/
	2016-06-24	Chandra	17790	19.97	≤ 66	≤ 77	/	/	/
	2016-06-25	Chandra	18874	19.86	≤ 60	≤ 91	/	/	/
2022-06-16	Chandra	26435	29.09	≤ 16	≤ 20	≤ 51	≤ 55	≤ 76	

Table C.1. continued.

Source	Date	Instrument	ObsID + identifier	exp. time (ks)	Fe line Equivalent Width / 3σ upper limit (eV)				
					xxvK α	xxviK α	xxvK β	xxviK β	xxviK γ
IGRJ17091-3624IGRJ17098-3628	2006-08-25	XMM	0406140101_U002	3.74	≤ 83	/	/	/	/
	2007-02-19	XMM	0406140401_S003	7.02	≤ 47	≤ 66	/	/	/
IGRJ17285-2922	2010-09-09	XMM	0405182701_S003	18.5	≤ 49	≤ 48	≤ 60	≤ 69	≤ 72
IGRJ17451-3022	2015-03-06	XMM	0748391201_S001 [†]	36.45	92_{-10}^{+11}	≤ 77	/	/	/
IGRJ17091-3624IGRJ17497-2821	2006-09-22	XMM	0410580401_S001	31.18	≤ 13	≤ 14	≤ 14	≤ 17	≤ 23
	2006-10-01	Chandra	6613	19.7	≤ 46	≤ 56	/	/	/
MAXIJ0637-430	2019-11-17	XMM	0853980801_S001	0.6	/	/	/	/	/
MAXIJ1305-704	2012-04-29	Chandra	14425	29.38	≤ 50	≤ 30	/	/	/
IGRJ17091-3624MAXIJ1348-630	2019-02-01	XMM	0831000101_S001	7.85	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 13	≤ 14	≤ 21
	2019-02-26	XMM	0831000301_S001	3.58	≤ 24	≤ 26	≤ 37	≤ 42	≤ 54
	2019-06-21	Chandra	21239	19.04	≤ 12	≤ 15	≤ 43	≤ 36	≤ 55
	2019-06-26	Chandra	21240	20.04	≤ 8	≤ 9	≤ 22	≤ 30	≤ 31
	2019-07-07	Chandra	21241	20.05	≤ 11	≤ 14	≤ 29	≤ 33	≤ 37
IGRJ17091-3624MAXIJ1535-571	2017-09-07	XMM	0795711801_S014	4.6	≤ 6	≤ 11	≤ 9	≤ 11	≤ 14
	2017-09-07	XMM	0795711801_S003	0.57	≤ 14	≤ 14	≤ 20	≤ 24	≤ 29
	2017-09-08	XMM	0795711801_U014	0.05	≤ 48	≤ 49	≤ 68	≤ 75	≤ 82
	2017-09-08	XMM	0795711801_U015	0.25	≤ 23	≤ 24	≤ 31	≤ 34	≤ 39
	2017-09-13	Chandra	20203	22.97	≤ 8	≤ 8	≤ 23	≤ 44	≤ 45
	2017-09-14	XMM	0795712001_S003	0.82	≤ 4	≤ 5	≤ 6	≤ 7	≤ 8
	2017-09-15	XMM	0795712101_S003	0.46	≤ 11	≤ 11	≤ 16	≤ 20	≤ 21
	2017-09-27	Chandra	20204	18.85	≤ 12	≤ 14	≤ 37	≤ 63	/
	2017-10-08	Chandra	20205	20.7	≤ 7	≤ 8	≤ 22	≤ 37	≤ 60
IGRJ17091-3624MAXIJ1659-152	2010-09-27	XMM	0656780601_S003	22.88	≤ 5	≤ 6	≤ 8	≤ 6	≤ 8
	2011-03-22	XMM	0677980101_U002	20.51	≤ 66	≤ 66	/	/	/
	2021-05-17	Chandra	25039	10.02	≤ 30	≤ 41	/	/	/
IGRJ17091-3624MAXIJ1803-298	2021-05-23	Chandra	25040	10.24	≤ 28	≤ 36	/	/	/
	2021-06-17	Chandra	25041	6.31	≤ 85	/	/	/	/
	2021-06-18	Chandra	25063	7.91	≤ 92	/	/	/	/
MAXIJ1820+070	2018-03-17	XMM	0830190201_S001	5.37	≤ 24	≤ 26	≤ 33	≤ 36	≤ 42
	2018-03-17	XMM	0830190201_S002	2.04	≤ 12	≤ 10	≤ 15	≤ 14	≤ 17
	2018-03-19	XMM	0820880201_S003	0.3	≤ 21	≤ 23	≤ 29	≤ 29	≤ 35
IGRJ17091-3624	2018-03-19	XMM	0820880201_S011	3.85	≤ 17	≤ 20	≤ 22	≤ 25	≤ 50
	2018-03-22	XMM	0820880301_S003	0.6	≤ 13	≤ 15	≤ 17	≤ 20	≤ 23
	2018-03-27	XMM	0820880401_S003	0.85	≤ 5	≤ 10	≤ 8	≤ 9	≤ 10
	2018-04-12	XMM	0820880501_S003	0.11	≤ 33	≤ 31	≤ 41	≤ 45	≤ 56
	2018-09-28	XMM	0820880601_S003	0.3	≤ 46	≤ 51	≤ 64	≤ 71	≤ 80
	2018-09-30	XMM	0820881101_S003	0.24	≤ 33	≤ 33	≤ 44	≤ 49	≤ 71
	2018-10-05	XMM	0830191901_S001	0.15	≤ 62	≤ 66	≤ 94	≤ 91	≤ 79
	2018-10-05	XMM	0830191901_S002	5.24	≤ 13	≤ 14	≤ 21	≤ 20	≤ 31
	2019-03-22	XMM	0844230201_S003	8.49	≤ 40	≤ 40	≤ 56	≤ 61	≤ 73
	2019-03-26	XMM	0844230301_S003	11.34	≤ 17	≤ 17	≤ 21	≤ 23	≤ 34
2019-09-20	XMM	0851181301_S003	56.28	≤ 35	≤ 33	≤ 51	≤ 56	≤ 60	

Table C.1. continued.

Source	Date	Instrument	ObsID + identifier	exp. time (ks)	Fe line Equivalent Width / 3σ upper limit (eV)				
					xxvK α	xxviK α	xxvK β	xxviK β	xxviK γ
SAXJ1711.6-3808	2001-03-02	XMM	0135520401_S001	6.03	≤ 17	≤ 23	≤ 23	≤ 26	≤ 26
SwiftJ1357.2-0933	2011-02-05	XMM	0674580101_U014	33.48	≤ 13	≤ 11	≤ 22	≤ 19	≤ 21
SwiftJ1658.24242	2018-02-25	XMM	0802300201_S003	41.06	≤ 13	≤ 10	≤ 17	≤ 18	≤ 26
	2018-02-27	XMM	0811213401_S003	28.58	≤ 15	≤ 15	≤ 25	≤ 26	≤ 30
	2018-03-04	XMM	0805200201_S007 [†]	0.66	≤ 45	≤ 50	≤ 52	≤ 77	≤ 82
	2018-03-04	XMM	0805200201_S003 [†]	30.96	≤ 11	≤ 12	≤ 21	≤ 21	≤ 27
	2018-03-11	XMM	0805200301_S003	29.45	≤ 9	≤ 10	≤ 13	≤ 15	≤ 29
	2018-03-11	XMM	0805200301_S014	0.44	≤ 27	≤ 31	≤ 65	≤ 65	≤ 53
	2018-03-15	XMM	0805200401_S003	32.95	≤ 4	≤ 5	≤ 9	≤ 9	≤ 12
	2018-03-28	XMM	0805201301_S003	33.72	≤ 20	≤ 22	≤ 34	≤ 37	≤ 44
	2018-04-28	Chandra	21083	29.08	≤ 26	≤ 38	≤ 63	/	/
SwiftJ174510.8-262411	2012-09-28	XMM	0693020301_S003	1.11	≤ 9	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 12	≤ 13
IGRJ17091-3624SwiftJ1753.5-0127	2006-03-24	XMM	0311590901_S001	40.11	≤ 13	≤ 15	≤ 20	≤ 23	≤ 26
	2009-09-29	XMM	0605610301_U002	25.19	≤ 15	≤ 16	≤ 18	≤ 19	≤ 24
	2012-05-03	Chandra	14428	19.63	≤ 46	≤ 45	/	/	/
	2012-09-10	XMM	0691740201_S001	37.42	≤ 9	≤ 11	≤ 13	≤ 14	≤ 25
	2012-10-08	XMM	0694930501_S001	28.38	≤ 28	≤ 28	≤ 39	≤ 44	≤ 48
	2014-09-13	XMM	0744320201_S001	46.18	≤ 15	≤ 18	≤ 26	≤ 27	≤ 33
	2015-03-19	XMM	0770580201_S003	31.37	≤ 74	≤ 79	/	/	/
IGRJ17091-3624SwiftJ1910.2-0546	2012-09-22	Chandra	14634	29.96	≤ 77	≤ 89	/	/	/
	2012-10-17	XMM	0691271401_S001	40.49	≤ 19	≤ 21	≤ 27	≤ 32	≤ 37
V404Cyg	2015-06-22	Chandra	17696	20.76	≤ 10	≤ 16	≤ 25	≤ 31	≤ 37
	2015-06-23	Chandra	17697	25.25	≤ 12	≤ 13	≤ 33	≤ 48	≤ 59
IGRJ17091-3624V4641Sgr	2020-02-14	Chandra	22389	44.0	≤ 20	≤ 33	/	/	/
	2020-02-15	Chandra	23158	29.35	≤ 48	≤ 77	/	/	/
IGRJ17091-3624XTEJ1550-564	2000-05-03	Chandra	680	2.14	≤ 33	≤ 43	≤ 99	/	/
	2000-05-06	Chandra	681	2.13	≤ 63	≤ 72	/	/	/
IGRJ17091-3624XTEJ1650-500	2001-09-13	XMM	0136140301_S001	0.69	≤ 10	≤ 14	≤ 16	≤ 17	≤ 18
	2001-10-05	Chandra	2699	22.51	≤ 16	≤ 20	/	/	/
	2001-10-29	Chandra	2700	26.36	≤ 47	≤ 63	/	/	/
XTEJ1652-453	2009-08-22	XMM	0610000701_U002	38.22	≤ 22	≤ 27	≤ 40	≤ 39	≤ 43
XTEJ1720-318	2003-02-20	XMM	0154750501_S001	7.73	≤ 24	≤ 27	≤ 42	≤ 50	≤ 67
IGRJ17091-3624XTEJ1752-223	2009-11-01	Chandra	10069	30.55	≤ 15	≤ 27	≤ 42	≤ 51	≤ 73
	2010-02-08	Chandra	10070	21.31	≤ 40	≤ 47	/	/	/
	2010-04-06	XMM	0653110101_S003	18.17	≤ 6	≤ 6	≤ 11	≤ 11	≤ 12
	2010-04-07	XMM	0653110101_S008	0.57	≤ 36	≤ 53	≤ 58	≤ 59	≤ 73
IGRJ17091-3624XTEJ1817-330	2006-02-13	Chandra	6615	29.07	≤ 15	≤ 19	≤ 38	≤ 66	≤ 97
	2006-02-24	Chandra	6616	38.96	≤ 19	≤ 19	≤ 48	≤ 75	≤ 91
	2006-03-13	XMM	0311590501_S003	0.6	≤ 30	≤ 32	≤ 59	≤ 56	≤ 68
	2006-03-15	Chandra	6617	46.53	≤ 27	≤ 34	≤ 57	≤ 92	/
	2006-05-22	Chandra	6618	50.77	≤ 60	≤ 61	/	/	/
XTEJ1856+053	2007-03-14	XMM	0510010101_U002	1.5	≤ 53	≤ 62	/	/	/
XTEJ1901+014	2006-10-14	XMM	0402470401_S003	8.73	≤ 56	≤ 57	≤ 88	≤ 81	/

C.2. Parameters of $K\alpha$ detections

Table C.2. Main characteristics of significant $K\alpha$ line detections from the sample. Uncertainties regarding luminosity are not quoted, as they were negligible.

Source	Date	ObsID	HR _{[6-10]/[3-10]}	$L_{[3-10]}/L_{Edd}$ $\times 10^{-2}$	Fe XXV $K\alpha$			Fe XXVI $K\alpha$		
					EW	blueshift	width	EW	blueshift	width
4U1630-47	2004-08-04	4568	$0.351^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	5.6	/	/	/	11^{+3}_{-4}	-300^{+500}_{-500}	0^{+4200}_{-400}
	2012-01-17	13714	$0.362^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	4.7	32 ± 4	0^{+200}_{-100}	1900^{+500}_{-500}	57 ± 5	-300^{+100}_{-100}	2700^{+400}_{-400}
	2012-01-20	13715	$0.344^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	4.6	34^{+3}_{-5}	100^{+200}_{-100}	2300^{+600}_{-400}	49^{+4}_{-5}	-300^{+100}_{-100}	2200^{+600}_{-300}
	2012-01-26	13716	$0.347^{+0.002}_{-0.003}$	4.4	47^{+3}_{-2}	500^{+200}_{-200}	3000^{+400}_{-500}	52^{+1}_{-3}	-300^{+0}_{-100}	2200^{+700}_{-400}
	2012-01-30	13717	$0.389^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	5.1	30 ± 3	200^{+200}_{-300}	2000^{+800}_{-700}	48 ± 4	-200^{+200}_{-200}	1800^{+700}_{-700}
	2012-03-04	0670671501_S003	$0.366^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	4.8	35 ± 7	-5000^{+2200}_{-1900}	/	55^{+9}_{-7}	-5800^{+1600}_{-1200}	/
	2012-03-04	0670671501_U014	$0.347^{+0.0}_{-0.0}$	5.3	31 ± 2	-5200^{+200}_{-300}	/	48^{+1}_{-2}	-5200^{+100}_{-200}	/
	2012-03-20	0670671301_S003	$0.36^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	6.2	21 ± 3	-3900^{+900}_{-800}	/	46^{+4}_{-2}	-4300^{+400}_{-400}	/
	2012-03-25	0670672901_S003	$0.401^{+0.0}_{-0.0}$	5.8	20 ± 1	-6000^{+500}_{-500}	/	45^{+1}_{-2}	-5900^{+200}_{-300}	/
	2012-09-09	0670673001_S003	$0.413^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	8.0	9^{+3}_{-2}	-4600^{+2600}_{-3000}	/	31^{+2}_{-3}	-4300^{+1000}_{-800}	/
	2012-09-10	0670673001_U002	$0.432^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	7.2	/	/	/	25^{+6}_{-5}	-3500^{+2700}_{-3000}	/
	2012-09-11	0670673101_S003	$0.467^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	9.4	/	/	/	9^{+5}_{-4}	-1200^{+5800}_{-6400}	/
2016-10-21	19904	$0.311^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	5.6	23^{+4}_{-5}	-300^{+300}_{-300}	1800^{+1400}_{-1500}	45^{+4}_{-7}	-200^{+300}_{-300}	2400^{+1000}_{-800}	
GROJ1655-40	2005-03-12	5460	$0.276^{+0.003}_{-0.004}$	2.2	/	/	/	19^{+4}_{-3}	-200^{+200}_{-300}	/
	2005-03-14	0112921401_S003	$0.266^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	3.3	/	/	/	31^{+6}_{-3}	900^{+700}_{-1200}	/
	2005-03-15	0112921501_S003	$0.258^{+0.002}_{-0.001}$	3.5	23^{+5}_{-4}	-2400^{+1500}_{-1500}	/	30^{+6}_{-5}	-500^{+1200}_{-1100}	/
	2005-03-16	0112921601_S003	$0.304^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	4.2	12^{+3}_{-4}	2300^{+900}_{-2300}	/	30^{+4}_{-3}	1100^{+600}_{-500}	/
	2005-03-18	0155762501_S001	$0.293^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	4.7	30^{+4}_{-3}	-100^{+800}_{-600}	/	41^{+3}_{-3}	300^{+600}_{-500}	/
	2005-03-27	0155762601_S001	$0.32^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	2.5	30 ± 4	-200^{+600}_{-600}	/	17^{+5}_{-4}	-3500^{+1400}_{-1600}	/
	2005-04-01	5461	$0.285^{+0.001}_{-0.001}$	2.5	58^{+4}_{-3}	0^{+100}_{-100}	3700^{+300}_{-300}	43^{+3}_{-5}	-1200^{+100}_{-200}	2500^{+500}_{-300}
GRS1915+105	2000-04-24	660	$0.708^{+0.008}_{-0.005}$	5.7	/	/	/	5^{+3}_{-2}	-300^{+500}_{-800}	/
	2001-05-23	1945	$0.506^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	11.9	/	/	/	8^{+2}_{-1}	-600^{+500}_{-500}	/
	2003-10-17	0112990501_S008	$0.585^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	16.8	/	/	/	18^{+5}_{-3}	-2900^{+1100}_{-1100}	/
	2003-10-22	0112920901_S003	$0.595^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	11.0	/	/	/	16 ± 6	500^{+1700}_{-2400}	/
	2005-12-01	6579	$0.484^{+0.005}_{-0.007}$	$12.5_{-0.1}$	/	/	/	13 ± 3	-800^{+500}_{-500}	/
	2005-12-01	6580	$0.47^{+0.005}_{-0.006}$	$13.3^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	/	/	/	22^{+5}_{-6}	-1100^{+1100}_{-1000}	3400^{+1700}_{-1900}
	2005-12-03	6581	$0.555^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	$34.4^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	/	/	/	28^{+3}_{-4}	-700^{+300}_{-300}	2000^{+1300}_{-1000}
	2007-08-14	7485	$0.491^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	6.3	36^{+4}_{-2}	300^{+100}_{-100}	2700^{+200}_{-300}	38 ± 2	-200^{+0}_{-100}	1400^{+200}_{-200}
	2007-09-24	0506160901_U002	$0.453^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	13.7	17^{+7}_{-3}	-600^{+1700}_{-1300}	/	24^{+8}_{-3}	-1400^{+1500}_{-700}	/
	2007-09-26	0506161001_U002	$0.457^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	12.7	16^{+6}_{-3}	-4100^{+1900}_{-1700}	/	32^{+6}_{-5}	-2900^{+1100}_{-500}	/
	2007-09-28	0506161101_S001	$0.429^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	2.7	50^{+10}_{-6}	300^{+900}_{-900}	/	37^{+12}_{-7}	-2000^{+1700}_{-1400}	/
	2007-09-30	0506161201_U002	$0.425^{+0.004}_{-0.004}$	2.9	32^{+7}_{-6}	700^{+1100}_{-1600}	/	19^{+10}_{-7}	-6600^{+3700}_{-2300}	/
	2011-06-21	12462	$0.453^{+0.001}_{-0.002}$	10.5	/	/	/	8 ± 1	-500^{+200}_{-100}	/
	2015-02-23	16709	$0.457^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	12.2	/	/	/	7^{+1}_{-2}	-300^{+200}_{-300}	/
	2015-06-09	16711	$0.418^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	6.7	17 ± 1	-100^{+0}_{-0}	/	23 ± 1	-200^{+0}_{-0}	/
	2017-06-24	19719	$0.556^{+0.006}_{-0.006}$	5.8	/	/	/	15^{+4}_{-3}	100^{+500}_{-500}	0^{+3400}_{-600}
	2017-08-09	19720	$0.669^{+0.005}_{-0.004}$	13.2	/	/	/	11^{+1}_{-3}	100^{+400}_{-600}	0^{+2800}_{-600}
	2017-10-12	0804640601_S003	$0.575^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	21.7	/	/	/	17 ± 4	-5000^{+1400}_{-1400}	/
	2019-04-30	22213	$0.784^{+0.013}_{-0.013}$	0.7	77^{+7}_{-5}	2600^{+500}_{-700}	5300_{-1200}	26^{+1}_{-2}	100^{+300}_{-400}	/
	2021-07-14	23435	$0.512^{+0.007}_{-0.006}$	1.6	55 ± 7	900^{+500}_{-400}	3800^{+1400}_{-1100}	31^{+5}_{-4}	100^{+300}_{-300}	/
2021-07-15	24663	$0.56^{+0.007}_{-0.007}$	1.5	61^{+8}_{-6}	1400^{+600}_{-500}	4900^{+400}_{-700}	32^{+4}_{-3}	-100^{+100}_{-100}	/	
H1743-322	2003-05-01	3803	$0.264^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	11.5	7 ± 1	-300^{+200}_{-200}	/	20^{+2}_{-3}	-400^{+100}_{-200}	1600^{+700}_{-600}
	2003-06-23	3805	$0.205^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	7.3	7 ± 2	100^{+600}_{-600}	/	16^{+3}_{-4}	-200^{+400}_{-600}	0^{+4000}_{-600}
	2003-07-30	3806	$0.149^{+0.002}_{-0.002}$	5.1	19^{+3}_{-4}	0^{+400}_{-300}	0^{+2700}_{-700}	29^{+4}_{-5}	400^{+400}_{-400}	2000^{+1600}_{-1500}
IGRJ17451-3022	2015-03-06	0748391201_S001	$0.244^{+0.003}_{-0.003}$	0.2	92^{+11}_{-10}	-1200^{+800}_{-1100}	/	/	/	/