

Unresolved and diffuse components of X-ray emission and X/K luminosity ratios in nearby early-type and late-type galaxies

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ABSTRACT

We explore the nature of unresolved X-ray emission in a broad sample of galaxies of all morphological types based on archival *Chandra* data. After removing bright compact sources, we study L_X/L_K luminosity ratios of unresolved emission, and compare them with the Solar neighborhood values. We conclude that unresolved emission is determined by four main components, three of which were known before: (i) The population of faint unresolved sources associated with old stellar population. In early-type galaxies, their 2–10 keV band luminosity scales with the stellar mass with $L_X/L_K = (3.1 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{27} \text{ erg s}^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$; (ii) The ISM with $kT \sim 0.2 - 0.8$ keV present in galaxies of all types. Because of the large dispersion in the gas content of galaxies, the size of our sample is insufficient to obtain reliable scaling law for this component; (iii) The population of unresolved young stars and young stellar objects in late-type galaxies. Their 2–10 keV band luminosity scales with the star-formation rate with $L_X/\text{SFR} \approx (1.7 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{38} \text{ (erg/s)/(M}_\odot/\text{yr)}$; (iv) In four old and massive Virgo ellipticals (M49, M60, M84, NGC4636) we find anomalously high X-ray emission in the 2–10 keV band. Its presence has not been recognized before and its nature is unclear. Although it appears to be stronger in galaxies having stronger ISM component, its existence cannot be explained in terms of an extrapolation of the warm ISM spectrum. Association with Virgo cluster of galaxies suggests that the excess emission may be due to intracluster gas accreted in the gravitational well of a massive galaxy. We investigate this and other possibilities.

Key words: Galaxies: elliptical and lenticular, cD – Galaxies: irregular – Galaxies: spiral – X-rays: galaxies – X-rays: stars – X-rays: ISM

1 INTRODUCTION

The X-ray appearance of most nearby ($D \lesssim 30$ Mpc) galaxies is determined by bright X-ray binaries (Fabbiano 2006), such as high-mass X-ray binaries (HMXBs) and low-mass X-ray binaries (LMXBs). Because of their high X-ray luminosity ($L_X \sim 10^{35} - 10^{39} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$) notable fraction of them can be resolved with moderately deep *Chandra* exposures hence they can be studied in full particulars (e.g. Grimm et al. 2003; Gilfanov 2004; Mineo et al. 2011). Underneath bright X-ray binaries diffuse emission is present in all types of galaxies. Similarly to the Galactic Ridge X-ray emission (Revnitsev et al. 2006), a part of this emission originates from the collective emission of faint ($L_X \sim 10^{27} - 10^{35} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$) compact X-ray sources, mostly from active binaries (ABs), cataclysmic variables (CVs), young stars, and young stellar objects (YSOs). Based on the analysis of a few nearby early-type galaxies, it was suggested that luminosity of ABs and CVs is tightly correlated with the stellar mass of the galaxy (e.g. Bogdán & Gilfanov

2008; Revnitsev et al. 2008). Additionally, in all types of galaxies truly diffuse emission from warm ($kT \lesssim 1$ keV) ionized interstellar medium (ISM) is also present, whose measure, among others, strongly depends on the mass of the host galaxy, albeit with large dispersion (O’Sullivan et al. 2001; Mathews & Brighenti 2003). The overall observed unresolved emission is the combination of these, and possibly other, components.

Although during the operation of *Chandra* large number of nearby galaxies were observed, a systematic study of the unresolved X-ray emission were only performed in a few of them (e.g. Bogdán & Gilfanov 2008). The main motivation of the present paper is to study the unresolved emission in a large sample of early-type and late-type galaxies in a uniform manner thereby gaining a better insight into the importance of various unresolved X-ray emitting components.

Our primary goal is to measure X-ray-to-K-band luminosity ratios (L_X/L_K) of the unresolved emission in the 0.5 – 2 keV and in the 2 – 10 keV energy ranges and compare their values across morphological types and stellar masses. In particular, we aim to investigate whether L_X/L_K ratios of unresolved compact sources in the old stellar population are indeed universal as was suggested

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Table 1. The list of early-type and late-type galaxies studied in this paper.

Name	Distance (Mpc)	L_K ($L_{K,\odot}$)	N_H (cm^{-2})	Morphological type	SFR ($M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$)	Age (Gyrs)	T_{obs} (ks)	T_{filt} (ks)	L_{lim} (erg s^{-1})	R ($''$)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
M51	8.0 ^a	$6.4 \cdot 10^{10}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{20}$	SABc	3.9	–	90.9	80.8	$9 \cdot 10^{36}$	175
M74	7.3 ^a	$1.6 \cdot 10^{10}$	$4.8 \cdot 10^{20}$	SA(s)c	1.1	–	104.4	84.7	$7 \cdot 10^{36}$	140
M81	3.6 ^b	$4.8 \cdot 10^{10}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^{20}$	SA(s)ab	0.4	–	239.1	202.1	$8 \cdot 10^{35}$	250
M83	4.5 ^a	$3.9 \cdot 10^{10}$	$3.9 \cdot 10^{20}$	SAB(s)c	2.8	–	61.6	52.1	$4 \cdot 10^{36}$	200
M94	4.7 ^a	$3.3 \cdot 10^{10}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{20}$	(R)SA(r)ab	1.2	–	76.9	69.5	$4 \cdot 10^{36}$	164
M95	10.1 ^a	$3.3 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{20}$	SB(r)b	1.1	–	120.1	99.6	$1 \cdot 10^{37}$	88
M101	7.4 ^a	$3.4 \cdot 10^{10}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{20}$	SAB(rs)cd	1.3	–	1070.6	833.3	$6 \cdot 10^{35}$	167
NGC2403	3.2 ^b	$5.0 \cdot 10^9$	$4.2 \cdot 10^{20}$	SAB(s)cd	0.4	–	224.0	184.2	$7 \cdot 10^{35}$	140
NGC3077	3.8 ^a	$2.6 \cdot 10^9$	$4.0 \cdot 10^{20}$	I0 pec	0.3	–	54.1	42.1	$3 \cdot 10^{36}$	77.5
NGC4214	2.9 ^a	$6.5 \cdot 10^8$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{20}$	IAB(s)m	0.2	–	83.4	53.6	$1 \cdot 10^{35}$	70
NGC4449	4.2 ^a	$3.4 \cdot 10^9$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{20}$	IBm	0.4	–	102.1	97.0	$2 \cdot 10^{35}$	95
M31 bulge	0.78 ^a	$3.7 \cdot 10^{10}$	$6.7 \cdot 10^{20}$	SA(s)b	–	5.1 ^f	180.1	143.7	$2 \cdot 10^{35}$	720
M32	0.805 ^b	$8.5 \cdot 10^8$	$6.3 \cdot 10^{20}$	cE2	–	3.8 ^f	178.8	172.2	$1 \cdot 10^{34}$	90
M49	16.3 ^c	$3.0 \cdot 10^{11}$	$1.7 \cdot 10^{20}$	E2	–	8.5 ^f	60.9	55.7	$5 \cdot 10^{37}$	140
M60	16.8 ^c	$2.2 \cdot 10^{11}$	$2.2 \cdot 10^{20}$	E2	–	11.0 ^f	109.3	90.5	$2 \cdot 10^{37}$	125
M84	18.4 ^c	$1.6 \cdot 10^{11}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{20}$	E1	–	11.8 ^f	117.0	113.8	$3 \cdot 10^{37}$	100
M89	15.3 ^c	$7.0 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{20}$	E0-	–	9.6 ^f	55.1	51.8	$4 \cdot 10^{37}$	80
M105	9.8 ^d	$4.1 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{20}$	E1	–	9.3 ^f	341.4	314.0	$2 \cdot 10^{36}$	90
NGC1291	8.9 ^e	$6.3 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{20}$	(R)SB(s)0/a	–	–	76.7	51.2	$1 \cdot 10^{37}$	130
NGC3377	11.2 ^c	$2.0 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{20}$	E5-6	–	4.1 ^f	40.2	34.0	$3 \cdot 10^{37}$	79
NGC3585	20.0 ^c	$1.5 \cdot 10^{11}$	$5.6 \cdot 10^{20}$	E7/S0	–	3.1 ^f	95.9	89.1	$3 \cdot 10^{37}$	180
NGC4278	16.1 ^c	$5.5 \cdot 10^{10}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{20}$	E1-2	–	10.7 ^f	467.7	443.0	$4 \cdot 10^{36}$	110
NGC4365	20.4 ^c	$1.1 \cdot 10^{11}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{20}$	E3	–	3.6 ^g	198.3	181.4	$2 \cdot 10^{37}$	80
NGC4526	16.9 ^c	$9.6 \cdot 10^{10}$	$1.7 \cdot 10^{20}$	SAB(s)0 ⁰	–	1.7 ^h	44.1	34.5	$5 \cdot 10^{37}$	84
NGC4636	14.7 ^c	$8.1 \cdot 10^{10}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{20}$	E/S0_1	–	10.3 ⁱ	212.5	202.1	$4 \cdot 10^{37}$	102
NGC4697	11.8 ^c	$5.1 \cdot 10^{10}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{20}$	E6	–	8.2 ^f	195.6	162.0	$8 \cdot 10^{36}$	95

Note. Columns are as follows. (1) References are: ^a Karachentsev et al. (2004) – ^b Freedman et al. (2001) – ^c Leonard et al. (2004) – ^d Stanek & Garnavich (1998); Macri (1983) – ^e Mateo (1998) – ^f Tonry et al. (2001) – ^g Jensen et al. (2003) – ^h de Vaucouleurs (1975). (2) Total near-infrared luminosity of the elliptic region described in column (8). (3) Galactic absorption (Dickey & Lockman 1990). (4) Taken from NED (<http://nedwww.ipac.caltech.edu/>). (5) Star-formation rate for late-type galaxies within the same ellipse. (6) Age of the stellar population for early-type galaxies. For NGC1291 no age reference has been found. References are: ^f Terlevich & Forbes (2002) – ^g Denicolo et al. (2005) – ^h Gallagher et al. (2008) – ⁱ Sánchez-Blázquez et al. (2006). (7) and (8) Exposure times before and after flare filtering. (9) Source detection sensitivity in the 0.5 – 8 keV energy range. (10) Major axis of the studied elliptic regions.

The orientation and shape of the regions were taken from K-band measurements (<http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/applications/2MASS/>).

earlier by Revnivtsev et al. (2008). Extending this investigation to late-type galaxies we intend to study L_X/L_K ratios of a stellar population that also includes young stars and YSOs. Thus, the X-ray emission from YSOs and their contribution as a function of the star-formation rate (SFR) can be studied. Furthermore our sample includes low-mass as well as massive galaxies, hence the problem of warm ISM content in galaxies will be addressed.

The paper is structured as follows: in Sect. 2 we introduce the sample and in Sect. 3 we discuss the methods of the data analysis. In Sect. 4 we overview various contaminating factors polluting unresolved emission. The properties of unresolved emission in late- and in early-type galaxies are discussed in Sect. 5. The anomalous emission in the hard band identified in four massive galaxies in Virgo cluster is discussed in Sect. 6. We conclude in Sect. 7.

2 SAMPLE SELECTION

Since we focus on the unresolved emission, we require at least moderately deep observations allowing us to detect and remove majority of bright X-ray binaries. From the *Chandra* archive we selected full-size early-type galaxies having source detection sensitivities better than $5 \cdot 10^{37} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$. However, we excluded bright cD ellipticals from our sample, such as M87 or NGC1399, furthermore we also excluded the peculiar radio galaxy, NGC5128.

To avoid projection effects we only selected face-on spiral galaxies with point source detection sensitivity better than $10^{37} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ and we also included three well observed irregular galaxies. Note, that in late-type galaxies both HMXBs and LMXBs are present, hence the overall contribution of X-ray binaries is higher. Therefore a better source detection sensitivity is required to

avoid substantial pollution of the unresolved emission with X-ray binaries – for detailed discussion see Sect. 4.2.

Our sample consists of 26 galaxies, which includes 11 late-type and 15 early-type systems. Major properties of the selected galaxies are listed in Table 1.

3 DATA REDUCTION

3.1 *Chandra*

We analyzed all available *Chandra* observations for the selected galaxies which had an exposure time longer than 2 ks. In total, this yielded ≈ 4.6 Ms data. Combined exposure times for each galaxy are given in Table 1. The data analysis was performed as described in Bogdán & Gilfanov (2008). After filtering flare contaminated time intervals, the single pointings were merged to the observation with the longest exposure time. We ran CIAO `WAVDETECT` tool on the unfiltered data to detect point sources and used the resulting source cells to mask out bright sources.

To estimate and subtract the instrumental and sky background components we used a combination of several regions away from the galaxies for all galaxies except for M31, M51, M74, M81, M83. The angular size of these galaxies is comparable or much larger than extent of the combined *Chandra* image, hence a direct background subtraction is not possible. Therefore we used the ACIS “blank-sky” files (<http://cxc.harvard.edu/contrib/maxim/acisbg/>) to estimate the background. As the instrumental background components of *Chandra* vary with time, we renormalized the background counts using the 10–12 keV count rates. The computed source detection sensitivities refer to the 0.5–8 keV energy range assuming a power law model with slope of $\Gamma = 1.56$.

Table 2 lists the obtained parameters of unresolved emission. Their meaning and significance are described throughout the rest of the paper.

3.2 Infrared data

We use the 2MASS K-band data (Jarrett et al. 2003) to trace the stellar light in all galaxies but M31. In case of M31 the K-band image, provided by the 2MASS archive, suffers from a background subtraction problem and is not suitable for the analysis. Instead, we rely on the 3.6 μm Infrared Array Camera (IRAC) (Fazio et al. 2004) data of *Spitzer Space Telescope*. To estimate the background level of these images, we use nearby regions off the galaxy. To facilitate the comparison with other galaxies, we converted the *Spitzer* 3.6 μm counts to 2MASS counts. The conversion factor is $C_{3.6\mu\text{m}}/C_{K\text{-band}} \approx 10.4$, that was obtained in the central region of M31 where the role of background is negligible.

To measure star-formation rates (SFRs) in late-type galaxies we used the 70 μm data of Multiband Imaging Photometer (MIPS) (Rieke et al. 2004) onboard of *Spitzer Space Telescope*. The far-infrared data was converted into total infrared luminosity based on Bavouzet et al. (2008), which value was used to compute the corresponding SFR according to Bell (2003).

4 SOURCES OF CONTAMINATION OF UNRESOLVED EMISSION

In both soft and hard X-ray bands a number of contaminating factors pollute unresolved emission, whose contribution needs to

be subtracted. In this section we overview these factors, and their effect on the derived X-ray luminosities.

4.1 Residual counts from resolved compact sources

Although we use relatively large source cells to exclude the resolved sources, a certain fraction of source counts falls outside these regions. Their contribution must be removed when studying unresolved X-ray emission.

To calculate the residual emission from resolved sources we employed the following procedure. For each source we extracted the point spread function using CIAO `MKPSF` tool and computed the fraction of counts falling outside the source cell. For most of the sources this fraction is $\sim 2\%$, if it was larger, the source cell was enlarged accordingly. Few galaxies in our sample, for example NGC4278 or M81, hosts extremely bright central sources ($L_X \gtrsim 10^{40}$ erg s^{-1}), which could significantly influence the observed unresolved X-ray emission. In these cases, the source cells were enlarged to contain $>99\%$ of the source counts. The residual counts from all sources were summed and subtracted from the unresolved emission. Their contribution varied between 1–25%.

4.2 Unresolved X-ray binaries

For the purpose of this study we consider all X-ray binaries, including unresolved ones, as a source of contamination. Resolved point sources account for the bulk of the emission from X-ray binaries and their removal is rather straightforward. They were masked out and excluded from the further analysis as a part of the data preparation procedure. The issue of the “spill-over” counts is addressed in the previous section. Unresolved X-ray binaries, on the contrary, cannot be removed on the source-by-source basis. As they make a notable contribution to unresolved emission in some galaxies, their contribution has to be removed statistically, based on the knowledge of their luminosity distributions and L_X/L_K and L_X/SFR ratios. Therefore, we distinguish high-mass and low-mass X-ray binaries. The task is complicated by the fact that L_X/L_K and L_X/SFR ratios for LMXBs and HMXBs are not exactly constant and may vary from galaxy to galaxy.

In early-type galaxies, which host only LMXBs, we circumvent this difficulty by determining the normalization of the luminosity function from the number of resolved X-ray binaries. In this computation we took into account that certain fraction of detected sources are not X-ray binaries but resolved cosmic X-ray background (CXB) sources. We computed their number based on Moretti et al. (2003), and found that in all galaxies LMXBs comprise the majority, $\approx 80 - 97\%$, of compact sources. We further assumed that the shape of the luminosity distribution of LMXBs is described by their average luminosity function derived in Gilfanov (2004). To transform it to the 0.5–2 keV and 2–10 keV energy bands we used the average LMXB spectrum, namely a power law with slope of $\Gamma = 1.56$ (Irwin et al. 2003). To compute the luminosity of unresolved binaries, the luminosity functions were integrated down to 10^{35} erg s^{-1} . The thus obtained luminosity of unresolved LMXBs was subtracted from the observed luminosity of each galaxy (Table 2).

In most galaxies the contribution of LMXBs in the 0.5–2 keV band does not exceed 20%, except for NGC3377 (67%) and NGC3585 (26%). In the 2–10 keV band unresolved LMXBs play a more significant role, their contribution typically varying between 19–50%. But, in six galaxies with low L_X/L_K ratios – namely

Table 2. Observed X-ray luminosities and L_X/L_K ratios of the sample galaxies in the 0.5 – 2 and in the 2 – 10 keV energy range.

Name	kT (keV)	$L_{0.5-2\text{keV}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	$L_{2-10\text{keV}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	$L_{0.5-2\text{keV,XB,sub}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	$L_{2-10\text{keV,XB,sub}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	$L_{2-10\text{keV,XB,ISM,sub}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	$L_{0.5-2\text{keV,XB,sub}}/L_K$ (erg s ⁻¹ L _{K,⊙} ⁻¹)	$L_{2-10\text{keV,XB,ISM,sub}}/L_K$ (erg s ⁻¹ L _{K,⊙} ⁻¹)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
M51	0.32	$5.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{39}$	$5.0 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{39}$	$7.9 \cdot 10^{28}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{28}$
M74	0.24	$4.7 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{28}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{28}$
M81	0.32	$3.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$7.1 \cdot 10^{27}$	$5.2 \cdot 10^{27}$
M83	0.34	$3.4 \cdot 10^{39}$	$7.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$5.9 \cdot 10^{38}$	$5.8 \cdot 10^{38}$	$8.4 \cdot 10^{28}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{28}$
M94	0.47	$1.2 \cdot 10^{39}$	$3.9 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{39}$	$3.2 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.2 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{28}$	$9.6 \cdot 10^{27}$
M95	0.24	$7.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$4.0 \cdot 10^{38}$	$6.7 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{28}$	$8.5 \cdot 10^{27}$
M101	0.22	$7.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$7.2 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{28}$	$7.4 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC2403	0.24	$7.5 \cdot 10^{37}$	$5.1 \cdot 10^{37}$	$7.1 \cdot 10^{37}$	$4.4 \cdot 10^{37}$	$4.4 \cdot 10^{37}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{28}$	$8.8 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC3077	0.31	$7.8 \cdot 10^{37}$	$6.5 \cdot 10^{37}$	$6.2 \cdot 10^{37}$	$4.9 \cdot 10^{37}$	$4.9 \cdot 10^{37}$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{28}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{28}$
NGC4214	0.18	$7.5 \cdot 10^{37}$	$1.7 \cdot 10^{37}$	$5.1 \cdot 10^{37}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{37}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{37}$	$7.9 \cdot 10^{28}$	$1.7 \cdot 10^{28}$
NGC4449	0.20	$5.5 \cdot 10^{37}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$5.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{29}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^{28}$
M31 bulge	0.32	$2.9 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$7.8 \cdot 10^{27}$	$4.3 \cdot 10^{27}$
M32	0.60	$3.0 \cdot 10^{36}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{36}$	$3.0 \cdot 10^{36}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{36}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{36}$	$3.5 \cdot 10^{27}$	$3.9 \cdot 10^{27}$
M49	0.82	$1.1 \cdot 10^{41}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{40}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{41}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{40}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{40}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{29}$	$3.8 \cdot 10^{28}$
M60	0.73	$6.9 \cdot 10^{40}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{40}$	$6.8 \cdot 10^{40}$	$8.8 \cdot 10^{39}$	$5.9 \cdot 10^{39}$	$3.1 \cdot 10^{29}$	$2.7 \cdot 10^{28}$
M84	0.61	$3.4 \cdot 10^{40}$	$5.5 \cdot 10^{39}$	$3.4 \cdot 10^{40}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{29}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{28}$
M89	0.54	$1.7 \cdot 10^{40}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{40}$	$5.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{29}$	$3.2 \cdot 10^{27}$
M105	0.64	$1.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.1 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$8.6 \cdot 10^{37}$	$8.6 \cdot 10^{37}$	$3.7 \cdot 10^{27}$	$2.1 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC1291	0.31	$1.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$4.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{28}$	$4.1 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC3377	0.4	$1.8 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$6.0 \cdot 10^{37}$	$3.8 \cdot 10^{37}$	$3.8 \cdot 10^{37}$	$3.0 \cdot 10^{27}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC3585	0.4	$3.1 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$5.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{28}$	$3.6 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC4278	0.47	$9.1 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.7 \cdot 10^{38}$	$8.3 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.8 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.7 \cdot 10^{38}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{28}$	$3.1 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC4365	0.49	$3.5 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.0 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{39}$	$3.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.1 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.6 \cdot 10^{28}$	$2.8 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC4526	0.33	$3.0 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.4 \cdot 10^{39}$	$3.4 \cdot 10^{38}$	$3.3 \cdot 10^{38}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{28}$	$3.4 \cdot 10^{27}$
NGC4636	0.59	$1.2 \cdot 10^{41}$	$6.9 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{41}$	$5.1 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.5 \cdot 10^{39}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{30}$	$3.1 \cdot 10^{28}$
NGC4697	0.33	$1.0 \cdot 10^{39}$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{38}$	$9.5 \cdot 10^{38}$	$8.6 \cdot 10^{37}$	$8.3 \cdot 10^{37}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{28}$	$1.6 \cdot 10^{27}$

Note. Columns are as follows. (1) Best-fit temperature of the soft component described by MEKAL model in XSPEC. In case of NGC3377 and NGC3585 the temperature was fixed at the given value. (2) and (3) Total observed unresolved X-ray luminosity in the 0.5 – 2 keV and 2 – 10 keV band, respectively. The CXB contribution and the contribution of source counts falling outside the source cells is subtracted. (4) and (5) X-ray luminosity after the emission from the population of unresolved X-ray binaries are subtracted in the 0.5 – 2 keV and 2 – 10 keV band, respectively. (6) Unresolved X-ray luminosity in the 2 – 10 keV band after the emission from warm ISM is subtracted. (7) and (8) Final, contamination subtracted, L_X/L_K ratios in the 0.5 – 2 keV and 2 – 10 keV band, computed from the X-ray luminosities listed in columns (4) and (6) respectively.

M89, NGC3377, NGC3585, NGC4365, NGC4526, NGC4697 – a large fraction, 70 – 89%, of the total observed emission is due to unresolved LMXBs (Table 2). Therefore the accuracy of L_X/L_K ratios of these galaxies may be somewhat compromised by residual emission from unresolved LMXBs, because of the limited accuracy of the employed procedure.

In late-type galaxies both LMXBs and HMXBs are present, which – by means of X-ray observations – cannot be distinguished. For this reason, their X-ray luminosity function cannot be renormalized. We therefore used the average scaling laws for LMXBs and HMXBs. For the luminosity function of HMXBs we used the average luminosity function from Grimm et al. (2003) with the normalization from Shtykovskiy & Gilfanov (2005) and Mineo et al. (2011). HMXB spectra were represented by a power law model with slope of $\Gamma = 2$ and with $N_H = 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. The total L_X/L_K ratio due to unresolved X-ray binaries is the sum of LMXB and HMXB

contributions. Although somewhat inaccurate, we corrected the obtained L_X/L_K by the ratio of the number of observed X-ray binaries to their predicted total number. As before, we took into account that certain fraction of the detected sources are resolved CXB sources (Moretti et al. 2003).

Thanks to the good source detection sensitivity demanded in the selection of late-type galaxies, the contribution of unresolved X-ray binaries is rather small, $\lesssim 15\%$ in the 0.5 – 2 keV band. It is somewhat larger in the 2 – 10 keV energy range, but still remains below 35% in all galaxies (Table 2).

4.3 Contribution of warm ISM to the hard band

Although the warm ISM has a temperature in the $kT = 0.2 - 0.8$ keV range and bulk of its emission comes below 2 keV, in some gas rich galaxies it may contribute to the hard band. To be precise,

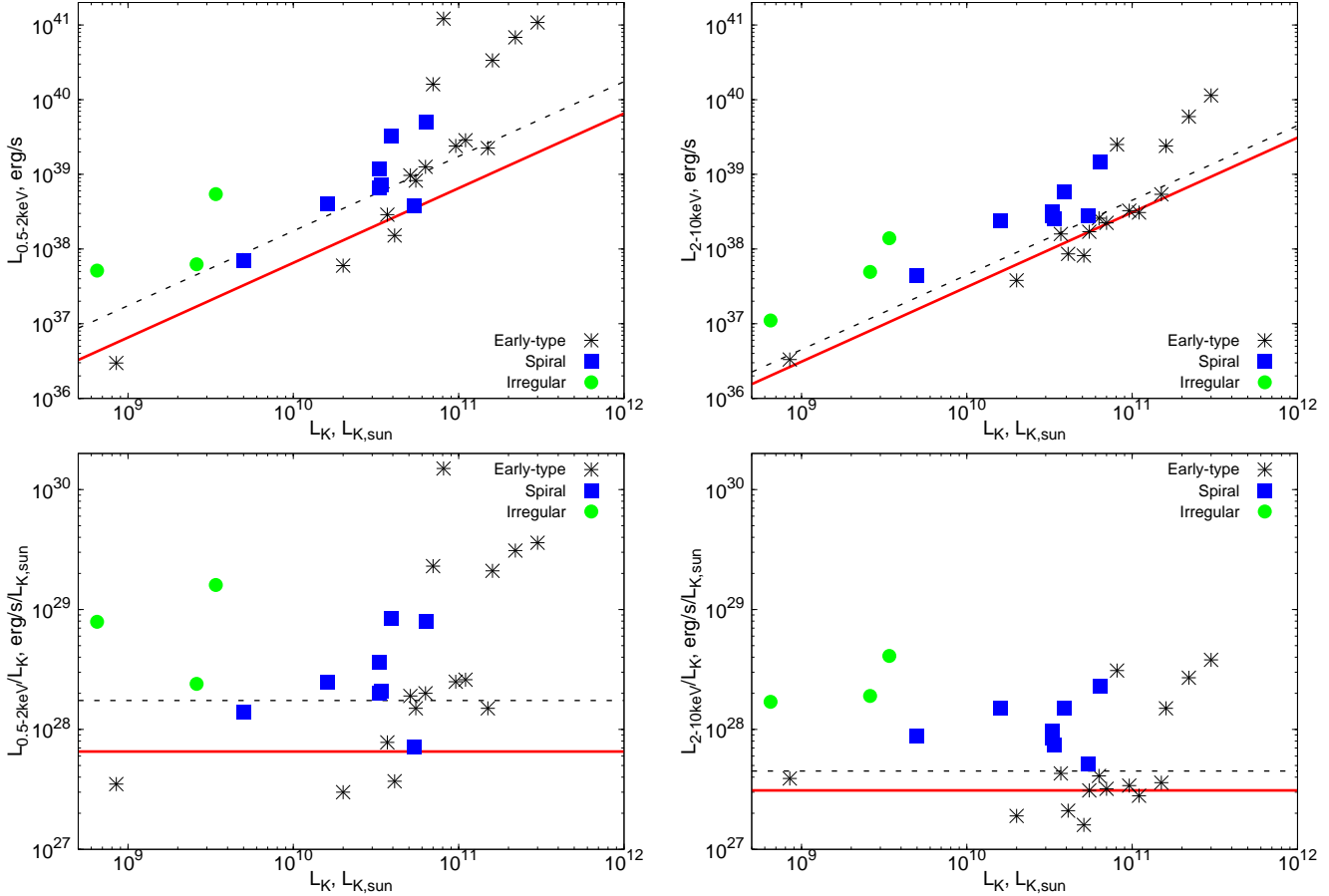


Figure 1. *Top panels:* X-ray versus K-band luminosity for a set of elliptical, spiral, and irregular galaxies in the 0.5 – 2 keV band (left panel) and 2 – 10 keV band (right). The dashed line shows total emissivity of faint sources in the Solar neighborhood from Sazonov et al. (2006). The solid line (red) is the same but excluding contribution of young stars. In the 0.5 – 2 keV band we recalculated the Sazonov et al. (2006) L_X/L_K ratios from the 0.1 – 2.4 keV value (Sect. 5.1). *Bottom panels:* Same data presented in the form of L_X/L_K ratios. The solid and dashed lines represent the same as in the upper panels.

this component should not be considered as a contaminating factor. However, as one of our aims is to study the 2–10 keV emission from faint unresolved sources, it is desired to subtract the contribution of warm ISM from the observed hard band emission.

This calculation is rather straightforward. For the MEKAL model with the temperature fixed at the best-fit value (Table 2) we compute the (0.5 – 2 keV)/(2 – 10 keV) hardness ratio and use it to determine the luminosity of the warm ISM in the 2 – 10 keV band. Its contribution is virtually negligible for the majority of galaxies except for M49, M60, M84, M89, and NGC4636 where it can account for up to ~10 – 30% of the observed hard band emission (Table 2). Note that the employed procedure slightly overestimates the contribution of warm ISM to the hard band, because we used the total 0.5 – 2 keV luminosity in this calculation. However, the five galaxies, characterized by the large ISM contribution to the hard band, have dominating soft component, therefore this inaccuracy does not influence the final result in any significant way.

5 X-RAY TO K-BAND LUMINOSITY RATIOS

5.1 Observed L_X/L_K ratios

The final, contamination subtracted, L_X/L_K ratios are listed in the last two columns of Table 2 for the soft and hard bands, re-

spectively. Additionally, the contamination subtracted X-ray luminosities as a function of K-band luminosities are depicted in Fig. 1, where the Solar neighborhood $L_X - L_K$ relation (Sazonov et al. 2006) is also shown. The dashed line shows the correlation for all types of observed sources, including CVs, ABs, and young stars, whereas in drawing the solid line we excluded contribution of young stars. Note that Sazonov et al. (2006) computed L_X/L_K ratios in the 0.1 – 2.4 keV band, hence we converted their values into the 0.5 – 2 keV energy range assuming a power law model with slope of $\Gamma = 2$.

Ideally, gas-free early-type galaxies are expected to lie along the solid line in Fig. 1. Late-type systems, on the contrary, are not necessarily expected to lie along the dashed line for two reasons. On the one hand, the Sazonov et al. (2006) relation was calibrated for the Solar neighborhood; on the other, the population of young stars is expected to correlate with the star-formation rate rather than the stellar mass (Sect. 5.3).

Although there is an obvious correlation between the X-ray luminosity and stellar mass of the galaxy, there is large scatter in the L_X/L_K ratio in both energy bands and in galaxies of all morphological types. The observed scatter is smaller for low-mass galaxies, but more massive systems ($L_K \gtrsim 5 \cdot 10^{10} L_{K,\odot}$) tend to have 10 – 100 times higher X-ray luminosities than expected based on their K-band luminosities.

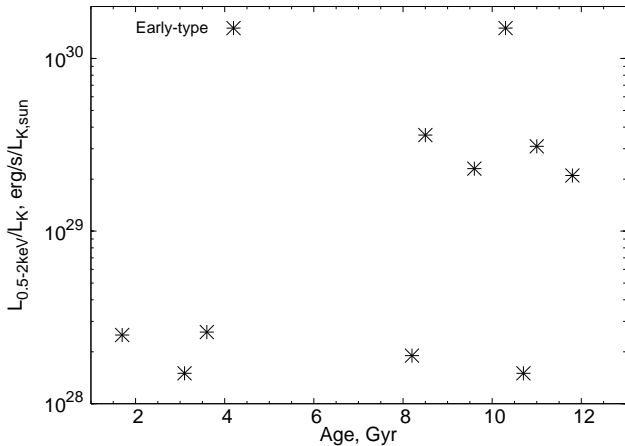


Figure 2. Soft band L_X/L_K ratios as a function of the age for gas-rich early-type galaxies with K-band luminosity exceeding $5 \cdot 10^{10} L_\odot$. Note, that NGC1291 is not included since no reference for its age has been found.

5.2 Early-type galaxies

It is well known that there is a broad correlation between the stellar mass of early-type galaxies and their soft X-ray luminosity, the relation bears a large dispersion and is non-linear, especially at the high-mass end (e.g. O’Sullivan et al. 2001). Our results fit in this picture. The four least massive galaxies with $L_K \lesssim 4 \cdot 10^{10} L_{K,\odot}$ have L_X/L_K ratios consistent or even smaller than the Milky Way value, indicating their almost zero gas content. At higher galaxy mass the L_X/L_K increases, exceeding the Milky Way value by factor of 3 – 250 and reaching values characteristic of massive gas rich ellipticals.

The main reason for the relatively gas-free nature of low-mass ellipticals is their shallow potential well, that permits the formation of SN Ia driven galactic-scale outflows, which are capable of removing major fraction of gas (David et al. 2006; Li & Wang 2007; Bogdán & Gilfanov 2008). Massive systems have a deeper potential well, and the energy supplied by SNe Ia is not sufficient to launch an outflow, hence the gas will be accumulated in the galaxy.

Calculations suggest that an important factor influencing the gas content of a galaxy is its age (e.g. O’Sullivan & Ponman 2004), the younger galaxies having less gas. Our results appear to support this conclusion. Indeed, three rather massive galaxies at $L_K \sim 10^{11} L_\odot$, NGC3585, NGC4365, NGC4526, host fairly small amount of ISM. Their stellar ages are young: 3.1 Gyrs (Terlevich & Forbes 2002), 3.6 Gyrs (Denicolo et al. 2005), and ~ 1.7 Gyrs (Gallagher et al. 2008), respectively. On the other hand, all gas rich massive galaxies in our sample have ages of ~ 10 Gyrs (e.g. Terlevich & Forbes 2002). A possible existence of some correlation between L_X/L_K ratio of massive galaxies with their age is further illustrated by Fig. 2, where we plot all early-type galaxies with K-band luminosity exceeding $5 \cdot 10^{10} L_\odot$ except for NGC1291 for which no age reference has been found. The correlation is however not very tight, which is not surprising as a number of other parameters may play a role, e.g. environment (see Sect. 6) and merger history of the galaxy. As another caveat, we mention that the stellar age of galaxies used for this plot were determined for central part of galaxies, typically inside $r_e/8$ (r_e is the effective radius, containing 50% of the stellar light), which corresponds to a few arcsec for the galaxies in our sample. For this reason, the listed age measurements may be inaccurate for galaxies with strong age gradients.

Three, presumably gas-free low mass galaxies, M32, M105,

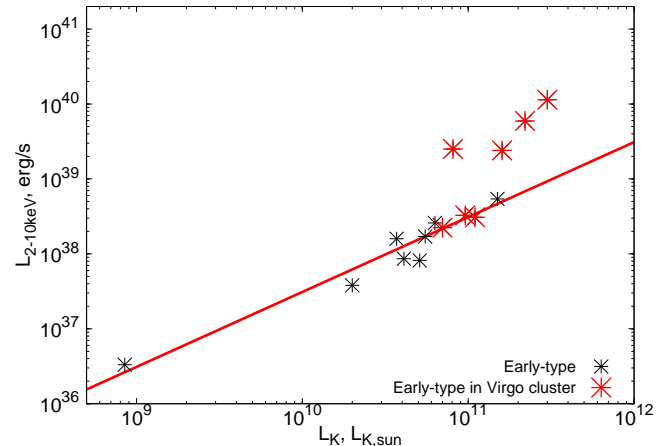


Figure 3. X-ray luminosity in the 2 – 10 keV band as a function of K-band luminosity for early-type galaxies. The contribution of warm ISM and unresolved LMXBs is subtracted. The galaxies located in Virgo cluster are marked with the large (red) symbols.

NGC3377, have L_X/L_K ratios in the soft band at the $\approx (3 - 4) \cdot 10^{27}$ erg/s/ L_\odot level, which is by a factor of ~ 2 lower than the Solar neighborhood value determined by Sazonov et al. (2006). Note, that in case of NGC3377 the relatively poor source detection sensitivity may somewhat influence the obtained L_X/L_K ratio (Sect. 4.2). The observed factor of 2 difference may be a result of some residual contamination by young population in the Solar neighborhood value, or caused by inaccurate spectral band conversion. In principle, it may also be a consequence of the galaxy-to-galaxy variations, but this possibility seems less likely, in the view of the hard band L_X/L_K ratios (Fig.1).

In the 2 – 10 keV energy range, the majority of early-type galaxies (11 out of 15) show fairly uniform L_X/L_K ratios, fluctuating around the Solar neighborhood value. The remaining four galaxies, massive ellipticals in Virgo cluster M49, M60, M84, and NGC4636, are significantly more luminous in the hard band. Excluding them we calculate for the 11 early-type galaxies an average ratio of $L_X/L_K = (3.1 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{27}$ erg s $^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$, where the cited error is the rms of the individual values. This number is in excellent agreement with the $(3.1 \pm 0.8) \cdot 10^{27}$ erg s $^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$ obtained by Sazonov et al. (2006) for the Solar neighborhood. In Bogdán & Gilfanov (2010) we demonstrated that the radial surface brightness profiles of gas-poor ellipticals in the soft X-ray band follow the stellar light distribution, and that spectral characteristics of these galaxies agree well with each other. These facts suggest that the bulk of the hard band X-ray emission is due to faint unresolved stellar X-ray sources associated with old populations – predominantly active binaries and cataclysmic variables.

Interestingly, all four galaxies having enhanced L_X/L_K ratios in the hard band, belong to Virgo cluster of galaxies (Fig. 3). The possible origin of the excess hard X-ray emission in these galaxies is discussed in Sect. 6.

5.3 Late-type galaxies

Late-type galaxies tend to have systematically larger X-ray luminosity in both bands, than ellipticals of the same mass (Fig. 1). For low-mass and medium-mass galaxies this is not too surprising, as late-type galaxies host additional emission components – gas and young compact sources, associated with star formation.

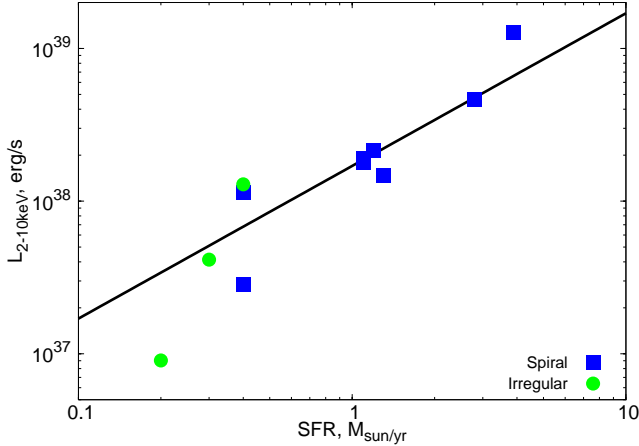


Figure 4. Unresolved X-ray luminosity in the 2 – 10 keV band as a function of the SFR for spiral and irregular galaxies. The solid line shows the relation $L_X/\text{SFR} = 1.7 \cdot 10^{38} \text{ (erg/s)/(M}_{\odot}/\text{yr)}$ which is about 7% of the total value associated with HMXBs.

A similar comparison with massive ellipticals cannot be made because the mass of late-type galaxies in our sample is limited by $L_K \sim 7 \cdot 10^{10} L_{\odot}$. The L_X/L_K ratios of late-type galaxies exhibit a large scatter, not only in the soft band but also in the hard band. This can be caused by three reasons: (i) similarly to ellipticals, the gas content of late-type galaxies may vary from galaxy to galaxy; (ii) the population of young stars and YSOs must be determined by the star-formation rate rather than by the mass of the galaxy, resulting in the SFR-dependent L_X/L_K ratios; (iii) the L_X/L_K ratio of the populations of CVs may depend on the average age of the stellar population, which may be rather young and varying in irregular galaxies and disks of spiral galaxies.

The X-ray energy spectra of all late-type galaxies in our sample shows an enhanced soft component as demonstrated in Bogdán & Gilfanov (2011). This component can be described by an optically-thin thermal plasma emission spectrum with the temperature in the range of $kT \sim 0.2\text{--}0.5 \text{ keV}$ (Table 2), suggesting the gaseous nature of the emission. It is plausible to conclude that all late-type galaxies contain at least moderate amount of ionized gas. Variations in the amount of hot gas may account partly or entirely for the observed scatter in the L_X/L_K ratios in the 0.5 – 2 keV energy range. The contribution of this component is negligible above $\sim 2 \text{ keV}$.

In the 2 – 10 keV band the high L_X/L_K ratios are caused by the contribution of young stars and YSOs which are known to be sources of hard X-ray emission (Koyama et al. 1996). As the population of these sources is determined by the star-formation rate, a correlation of the hard band luminosity with the SFR is expected. In Fig. 4 we depict the 2 – 10 keV band luminosity of the young population as a function of the SFR. In order to remove the contribution of the X-ray sources associated with the old population, we subtracted the luminosity corresponding to $L_X/L_K = 3.1 \cdot 10^{27} \text{ erg s}^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$ from the observed values. Fig. 4 shows that a correlation with SFR exists indeed, albeit with some scatter. For our sample we calculated the average ratio of $L_X/\text{SFR} = (1.7 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{38} \text{ (erg/s)/(M}_{\odot}/\text{yr)}$, where the error refers to the rms of the observed values. This relation is shown in Fig. 4 by the solid line. We also performed a two parameter fit to the data in the form $L_X = a \times L_K + b \times \text{SFR}$ and determined the following best-fit values for the scale factors: $a = (2.1 \pm 2.8) \cdot 10^{27} \text{ erg s}^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$

and $b = (2.5 \pm 0.6) \cdot 10^{38} \text{ (erg/s)/(M}_{\odot}/\text{yr)}$. While the scale factor b is consistent with the L_X/SFR value derived above, the uncertainty of the factor a is too large to make any meaningful conclusions regarding the average L_X/L_K ratio in late-type galaxies. Note that the obtained L_X/SFR ratio for unresolved young stars and YSOs corresponds to $\sim 7\%$ of the total X-ray luminosity associated with HMXBs (Grimm et al. 2003; Shtykovskiy & Gilfanov 2005; Mineo et al. 2011).

6 EXCESS EMISSION IN THE HARD BAND IN MASSIVE VIRGO ELLIPTICALS

A major unexpected result of our study is the detection of significantly enhanced L_X/L_K ratios in the hard band in four massive ellipticals (M49, M60, M84, NGC4636).

Although the soft band L_X/L_K ratio is known to vary significantly, due to varying hot gas content of elliptical galaxies, the typical gas temperatures even for the most massive galaxies in our sample do not exceed $\approx 0.8 \text{ keV}$, therefore the gas contribution to the 2 – 10 keV luminosity is not significant. The 2 – 10 keV emission from elliptical galaxies is believed to be determined by faint unresolved stellar sources, which numbers and total luminosities are expected to scale rather uniformly with the mass or K-band luminosity of the host galaxy. Indeed, the majority of ellipticals in our sample obey this expectation, following the $L_X \propto L_K$ law with a rather small scatter of $\sim 30\%$, in contrast to the soft band luminosity. This behavior breaks down in the case of the four above mentioned galaxies, having $\sim 5\text{--}12$ times larger L_X/L_K ratios in the hard band.

6.1 Common properties

Main parameters of the Virgo galaxies are summarized in Table 3, listing their L_X/L_K ratio, K-band luminosity, age, stellar velocity dispersion, radial velocity with respect to M87, and offset from the center of M87. We use M87 to characterize the position and velocity of the galaxy with respect to the intracluster medium. From the table, one may conclude that galaxies with anomalous L_X/L_K ratios have several common properties: (i) are members of the Virgo cluster of galaxies; (ii) are massive, their total K-band luminosities are in the range of $(1.2\text{--}3.8) \cdot 10^{11} L_{K,\odot}$; (iii) have relatively small velocity with respect to the intracluster gas $\Delta v_r \lesssim 300\text{--}400 \text{ km/s}$; (iv) are old, with the stellar age in the 8.5 – 11.8 Gyrs range (Terlevich & Forbes 2002; Sánchez-Blázquez et al. 2006).

Based on our, admittedly limited, sample, it appears that each of these properties is essential. Indeed, the following galaxies, missing one of the above properties, have perfectly normal L_X/L_K ratios: (i) a similarly massive and old Virgo galaxy M89, but having a large radial velocity with respect to M87, $\Delta v_r \approx 967 \text{ km/s}$; (ii) a massive field galaxy NGC3585 with a total mass of $1.5 \cdot 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ and relatively young age; (iii) two massive, $\sim L_K \sim 2 \cdot 10^{11} L_{\odot}$, but apparently young Virgo galaxies NGC4365 and NGC4526 with the age of 3.6 and 1.7 Gyrs, respectively (Denicolo et al. 2005; Gallagher et al. 2008), one of them having small ($\Delta v_r \approx 64 \text{ km/s}$) and the other large ($\Delta v_r \approx 859 \text{ km/s}$) velocity. Interestingly, there seems to be no dependence on the radial distance from the center of Virgo cluster, which may be explained by the somewhat irregular spatial distribution of its intracluster gas.

However, because of the limited size of our sample, it is unclear, whether these observations reflect true properties or are a result of a chance coincidence. With this in mind, we proceed with

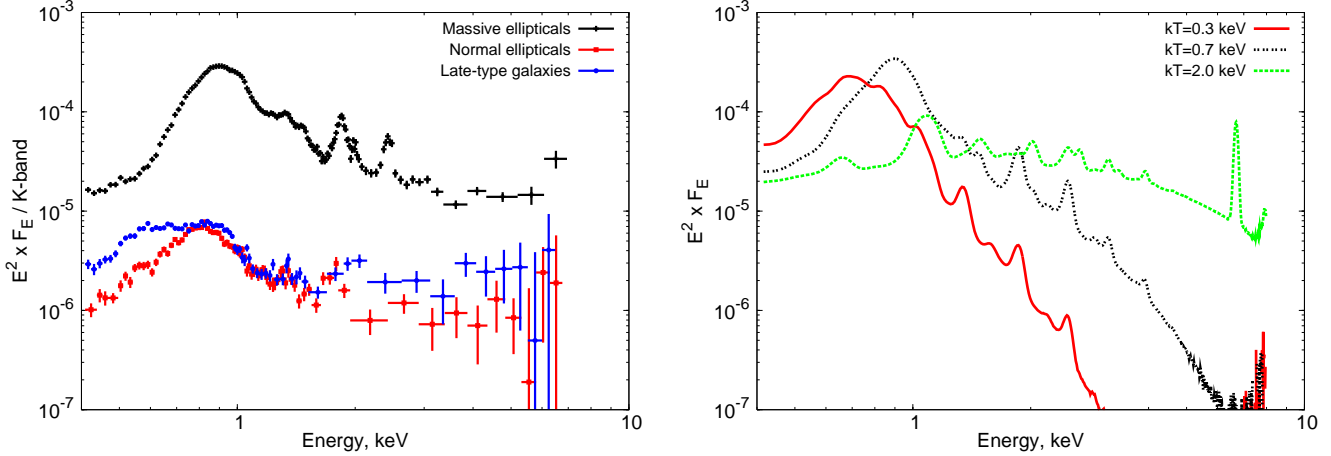


Figure 5. *Left:* Combined energy spectra of galaxies divided into three groups: 1) the galaxies with anomalous hard L_X/L_K ratios – M49, M60, M84, and NGC4636; they are referred to as “Massive ellipticals” in the plot legend; 2) all remaining early-type galaxies, named “Normal ellipticals” and 3) all late-type galaxies. The spectra are normalized to the K-band luminosity of $10^{11} L_{K,\odot}$ and are projected to a distance of 16 Mpc. The spectra are fluxed using the telescope efficiency for a power law spectrum with photon index of 2.09. *Right:* Optically-thin thermal plasma emission (MEKAL) model spectra with three different temperatures: $kT = 0.3$ keV (solid red line), $kT = 0.7$ keV (dotted black), and $kT = 2$ keV (dashed green), solar abundance.

Table 3. Major properties of the Virgo galaxies in our sample.

Name	$L_{2-10\text{keV, XB, ISM, sub}}/L_K$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$) (1)	$L_{K,\text{tot}}$ ($L_{K,\odot}$) (2)	Age (Gyrs) (3)	σ (km s^{-1}) (4)	Δv_r (km s^{-1}) (5)	d_{M87} ($'$) (6)
M49	$3.8 \cdot 10^{28}$	$3.8 \cdot 10^{11}$	8.5^a	293.8 ± 2.8	310	264
M60	$2.7 \cdot 10^{28}$	$2.9 \cdot 10^{11}$	11.0^a	335.3 ± 4.4	190	195
M84	$1.5 \cdot 10^{28}$	$2.3 \cdot 10^{11}$	11.8^a	283.3 ± 2.8	247	89
M89	$3.2 \cdot 10^{27}$	$9.8 \cdot 10^{10}$	9.6^a	252.6 ± 3.3	967	72
NGC4365	$2.8 \cdot 10^{27}$	$1.9 \cdot 10^{11}$	3.6^b	256.1 ± 3.3	64	319
NGC4526	$3.4 \cdot 10^{27}$	$1.5 \cdot 10^{11}$	1.7^c	263.7 ± 18.9	859	286
NGC4636	$3.1 \cdot 10^{28}$	$1.2 \cdot 10^{11}$	10.3^d	203.1 ± 3.5	369	609

Note. Columns are as follows. (1) Contamination subtracted L_X/L_K ratios in the 2 – 10 keV energy range. (2) Total K-band luminosity from the 2MASS archive. (3) References are: ^a Terlevich & Forbes (2002) – ^b Denicolo et al. (2005) – ^c Gallagher et al. (2008) – ^d Sánchez-Blázquez et al. (2006). (4) Stellar velocity dispersion from HyperLeda catalog (<http://leda.univ-lyon1.fr/>) (5) Radial velocity relative to M87 (6) Distance from M87.

the discussion of various mechanisms which may be responsible for the excess hard emission.

6.2 Energy spectra

In the left panel of Fig. 5 we show the energy spectra of all studied galaxies combined in three groups: 1) the galaxies showing anomalous L_X/L_K ratios – M49, M60, M84, and NGC4636, 2) all remaining early-type galaxies and 3) all late-type galaxies. To facilitate comparison, the spectra are normalized to $L_K = 10^{11} L_{K,\odot}$ and are projected to the distance of 16 Mpc. Firstly, Fig. 5 shows that at every energy the spectra of the “anomalous” ellipticals is higher by 1 – 2 orders of magnitude. Secondly, it is obvious that the enhanced hard L_X/L_K ratios are not a result of the soft component “leaking” into the 2–10 keV band. Instead, it requires an additional hard component in the spectrum. Such a component, if of thermal origin, should have a temperature of about 2 keV, as illustrated by the right-hand panel in Fig. 5.

We fitted the spectrum with a model consisting of two

MEKAL models and a power law component. The latter accounts for the population of unresolved LMXBs and has the slope fixed at $\Gamma = 1.56$, and the normalization fixed at the value corresponding to the estimated luminosity from unresolved LMXBs. The best-fit temperatures of the thermal components are $kT_1 = 0.74 \pm 0.01$ keV and $kT_2 = 1.75 \pm 0.12$ keV. The hotter component can be replaced by a power law with the photon index of $\Gamma = 2.09 \pm 0.04$, giving similar fit quality. In both models, the fit is statistically unacceptable, mainly because of the poor approximation at low energies, indicating that the spectrum of the soft component is more complex.

6.3 Spatial distribution of hard emission

The surface brightness profiles of unresolved emission are presented in Fig. 6. In the left four panels we show for each galaxy the soft and hard band profiles along with the K-band light distribution. The contribution of the warm ISM emission and unresolved LMXBs are subtracted from the hard band profiles. The emission

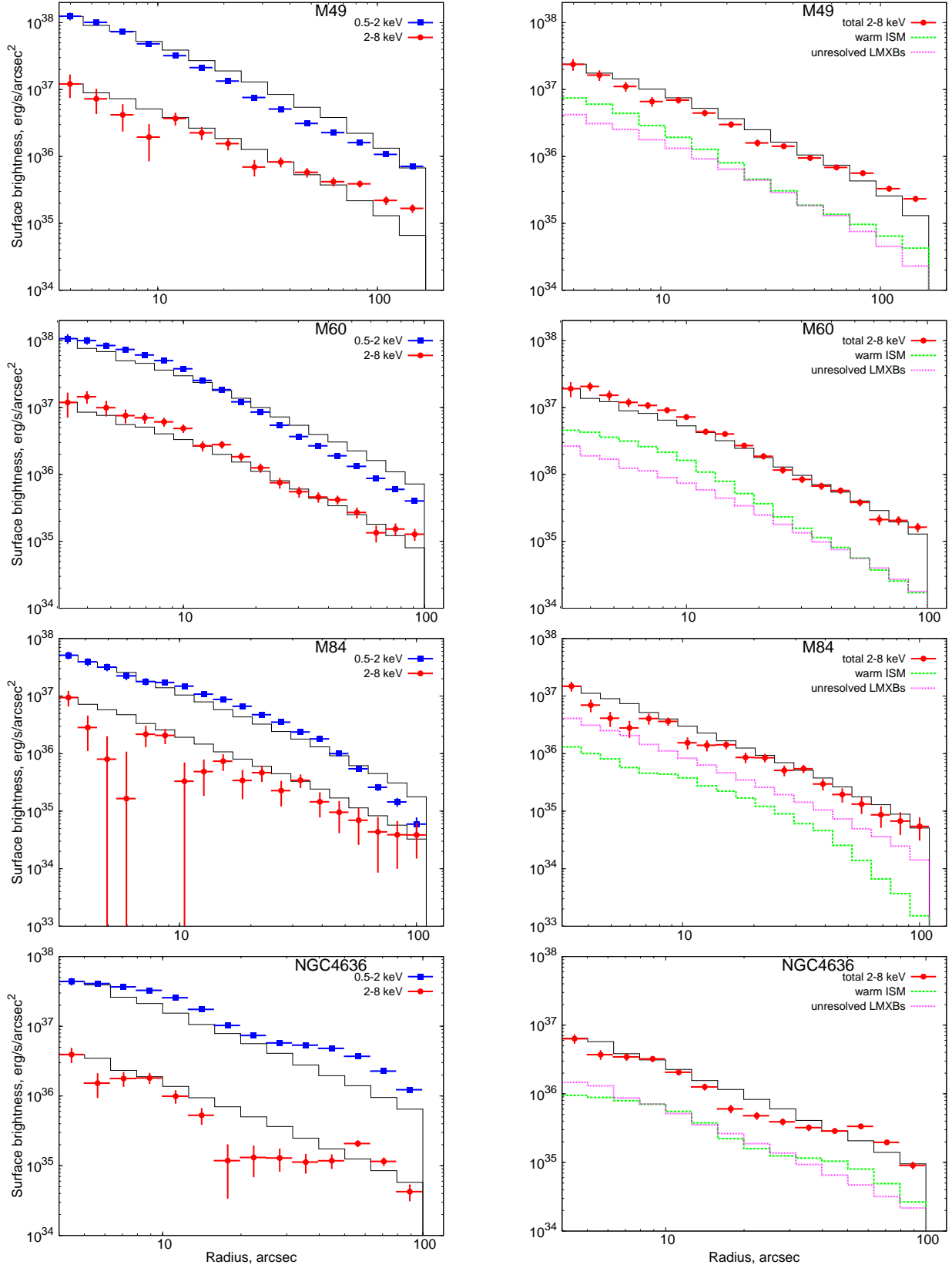


Figure 6. *Left:* Surface brightness profiles in the 0.5 – 2 keV and 2 – 8 keV bands in four elliptical galaxies with anomalous hard L_X/L_K ratios (data points with error bars). For each galaxy we also show the K-band light distribution (solid histogram) with arbitrary normalization. The contaminating contribution of warm ISM and unresolved LMXBs is subtracted from the 2 – 8 keV band profiles. *Right:* Points with error bars show the total 2 – 8 keV band X-ray surface brightness profile, before subtracting the contribution of warm ISM and unresolved LMXBs. The radial distributions of the latter two are shown by dashed and dotted histograms. The solid histogram shows the distribution of the K-band light.

from the former was computed from the soft band profiles using the best fit temperature of the soft component from Table 2. The emission from unresolved LMXBs was calculated from the K-band light distribution, the normalizations were determined as described in Sect. 4.2. The amplitude of these two main contaminating factors is investigated in the right hand panels, where we show the total hard band emission, before subtracting ISM and LMXB contributions (but instrumental and cosmic background removed) and the distributions of hard band emission from ISM and unresolved LMXBs.

As one can see from the right hand panels, the hard band emission exceeds by a factor of $\sim 5 - 10$ the level of contamination (except for M84 where unresolved LMXBs contribute $\sim 1/3 - 1/2$ of the total emission in the hard band). This is much larger than the possible uncertainty in their determination. This confirms that the observed anomalous hard X-ray emission is not a result of contamination. We remind that the contribution of ISM and unresolved LMXBs is subtracted from the hard band luminosities plotted in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3.

Although there is some difference between the two distributions, emission in the soft and hard band have same spatial extend which is similar to the spatial extend of the K-band emission.

6.4 Possible origin of the anomalous hard emission

6.4.1 Accretion of hot intracluster gas

The best fit temperature of the hard component, $kT \approx 1.7$ keV is close to the temperature of the intracluster gas in Virgo (e.g. Böhringer et al. 1994; Irwin & Sarazin 1996), suggesting that the excess emission may be due to intracluster gas accreted into the gravitational potential of a massive galaxy (e.g. Brighenti et al. 2009). This interpretation is qualitatively consistent with the four abovementioned properties of the galaxies with anomalous hard emission. Indeed, (i) such mechanism can work only for galaxies located in clusters; (ii) galaxies must be sufficiently massive to confine the ~ 2 keV gas; (iii) galaxies should move sufficiently slowly with respect to the gas; (iv) some time is needed in order to accrete sufficiently massive X-ray halo.

One of the major facts, of such interpretation would have to explain, is the short cooling time of the gas. Given the gas density and temperature determined from the spectral fits, its cooling time inside 1 kpc does not exceed ~ 0.3 Gyr for all four galaxies.

Another difficulty of this interpretation is the nearly identical radial profiles in the soft and hard bands. Indeed, in the hydrostatic equilibrium, the hotter gas component is expected to have broader spatial distribution than the cooler one, as the scale heights for gas with $kT \approx 1.7$ keV and ≈ 0.7 keV are by a factor of $\sim 2 - 3$ different. This, however, is not observed – the soft and hard band emission appear to fill the same volume.

On the other hand, the ISM may have a complex multiphase thermal structure, with gas of different temperatures present at all radii. Existence of such multiphase ISM in massive elliptical galaxies has been proposed, for example, by Buote (2002) and Buote et al. (2003). Based on X-ray spectroscopy of NGC1399 and NGC5044 they suggested that these galaxies host multiphase ISM, with the temperature of the cooler component $kT = 0.5 - 0.6$ keV and the hotter component consistent with having the IGM temperature, i.e. similar to our results. It remains to be seen, whether accretion of hot IGM can explain anomalous hard emission from the four massive galaxies. A major advance in testing this hypothesis can be achieved by means of high resolution X-ray spectroscopy.

6.4.2 Faint compact objects

In principle, it is possible that the hard emission is due to an enhanced population of faint stellar sources – ABs and CVs. This would explain the hard spectrum of the excess emission, consistent with the power law with the photon index of ≈ 2 and the fact that hard band profiles approximately follow the distribution of the K-band light. Although this assumption cannot be ruled out entirely, we stress that the numbers of resolved LMXBs in these galaxies are in very good agreement with the prediction based on the average scaling relations for LMXBs (Gilfanov 2004). The ages of the galaxies under consideration are also entirely normal for elliptical galaxies. For these reasons, it seems implausible that in these galaxies the ratio of $N_{\text{AB,CV}}/N_{\text{LMXB}}$ is $5 - 13$ times higher than in other early-type galaxies from our sample.

An even much less likely possibility is that the enhanced X-ray emission is due to population of young stars and YSO. Using the scaling relation $L_X/\text{SFR} \approx 1.7 \cdot 10^{38}$ (erg/s)/(M_\odot /yr) obtained in Sect. 5.3 we conclude that a star-formation rate of $\sim 15 - 60 M_\odot/\text{yr}$ is required in order to maintain 2–10 keV luminosity of $L_X = (2 - 11) \cdot 10^{39}$ erg s $^{-1}$ (Table 2). This values are appropriate for intensely star-forming galaxies and are unrealistic for ellipticals of $\approx 8.5 - 11.8$ Gyrs age (Terlevich & Forbes 2002; Sánchez-Blázquez et al. 2006).

7 CONCLUSION

We investigated the properties of unresolved X-ray emission in a broad sample of nearby early-type and late-type galaxies based on archival *Chandra* data. After removing the contribution of resolved and unresolved X-ray binaries we measured L_X/L_K ratios in the 0.5–2 keV and 2–10 keV bands and compared them with the Solar neighborhood values. Complementing this data with the spectral and spatial information we concluded that the unresolved X-ray emission originates from, at least, four distinct components.

(i) The population of faint unresolved sources associated with old stellar population. Based on the data for elliptical galaxies we obtained a scaling relation for its 2–10 keV luminosity: $L_X/L_K \approx 3.1 \cdot 10^{27}$ erg s $^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$ with the rms $\approx 0.9 \cdot 10^{27}$ erg s $^{-1} L_{K,\odot}^{-1}$. The L_X/L_K for the soft band and for the late-type galaxies cannot be determined unambiguously because of the contribution of ISM and young stellar sources. For three low-mass gas poor ellipticals we obtained in the soft band $\approx (3 - 4) \cdot 10^{27}$ erg/s/ L_\odot , which is by a factor of ~ 2 smaller than the Solar neighborhood value.

(ii) In all galaxies, warm ISM with the temperature in the $kT \sim 0.2 - 0.8$ keV range is present. In our sample, the gas temperatures in late-type galaxies tend to be lower than in early-types galaxies of the same mass. Similar to the results found in previous studies (e.g. O’Sullivan et al. 2001), the amount and luminosity of the gas generally scales with the stellar mass of the host galaxy, albeit with the large scatter. The scale factor and the scatter appear to increase with the mass of the galaxy.

(iii) The population of unresolved young stars and YSOs in late-type galaxies. The X-ray emission of this component approximately scales with the SFR of the host galaxy with the average $L_X/\text{SFR} = (1.7 \pm 0.9) \cdot 10^{38}$ (erg/s)/(M_\odot /yr).

(iv) The most unexpected result of our study is the detection of anomalous emission in the 2–10 keV band from four old and massive Virgo ellipticals (M49, M60, M84, NGC4636). We could not offer an unambiguous explanation of this emission. A plausible interpretation may be that it is a result of accretion of the intraclus-

ter gas in the gravitational potential of the massive galaxy. In this scenario, the two component spectra on one hand and the similarity of surface brightness profiles on the other, would point at the multiphase nature of ISM in these galaxies. High resolution X-ray spectroscopy may shed further light on the origin of the anomalous emission.

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