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Polytropic state of the intracluster medium in the X-COP cluster sample

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ABSTRACT

Aims. In this work, we have investigated the relation between the radially resolved thermodynamic quantities of the intracluster medium in the X-COP cluster sample, aiming to assess the stratification properties of the ICM.

Methods. We modeled the relations between radius, gas temperature, density, and pressure using a combination of power-laws, also evaluating the intrinsic scatter in these relations.

Results. We show that the gas pressure is remarkably well correlated to the density, with very small scatter. Also the temperature correlates with gas density with similar scatter. The slopes of these relations have values that show a clear transition from the inner cluster regions to the outskirts. This transition occurs at the radius $r_t = 0.19(\pm 0.04)R_{500}$ and electron density $n_t = (1.91 \pm 0.21) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3} E^2(z)$. We find that above $0.2R_{500}$ the radial thermodynamic profiles are accurately reproduced by a well defined and physically motivated framework, where the dark matter follows the NFW potential and the gas is represented by a polytropic equation of state. By modeling the gas temperature dependence upon both the gas density and radius, we propose a new method to reconstruct the hydrostatic mass profile based only on the relatively inexpensive measurement of the gas density profile.

Key words. galaxies: clusters: intracluster medium – galaxies: clusters: general – X-rays: galaxies: clusters – intergalactic medium

1. Introduction

The collapse of pristine gas into the dark matter gravitational potential of galaxy clusters heats up this optically thin, fully ionized plasma at typical density of 10^{-3} – 10^{-5} particles per cm^3 through compression and shock to very high temperature of 10^7 – 10^8 K, making this plasma an efficient source both in X-rays through Bremsstrahlung emission and at mm-wavelengths through the inverse-Compton scattering of the photons of the cosmic microwave background on its energetic electrons.

This hot intracluster medium (ICM) can be considered an almost perfect gas, with a ratio between specific heats, at constant pressure, and at constant volume, of $5/3$ (the adiabatic index). However both observations and simulations find that the ICM is effectively described by a polytropic equation $P_e = Kn_e^\Gamma$. This is just an effective description of the global structure of the ICM, and does not represent how the gas pressure is affected by compression or expansion. In other words, Γ is here considered not as the adiabatic index but as an effective polytropic index.

Simulations find that the polytropic equation generally provides a good description of the outer parts of the ICM, with Γ in the range of 1.1–1.3 (Komatsu & Seljak 2001, 2002; Ascasibar et al. 2003; Ostriker et al. 2005; Capelo et al. 2012). Similarly, observations have measured this effective polytropic index, finding values very close to the predicted one (Markevitch et al. 1998; Sanderson et al. 2003; Eckert et al. 2015, measuring 1.24, 1.24, and 1.21 respectively).

An effective polytropic index is generally measured by fitting the gas pressure versus the density over a large radial range (Eckert et al. 2015, e.g., 0.1 – $2R_{500}^1$), thus providing poor constraints on how Γ varies with radius, and therefore limited information on how the accretion history of clusters is occurring (e.g., Ascasibar et al. 2006; Shi 2016). In this paper, we make use of the unique dataset provided by the *XMM-Newton* Cluster Outskirts Project (X-COP, see Eckert et al. 2017) to study the relations between the radial profiles of the gas density, temperature, and pressure.

X-COP is a large *XMM-Newton* program which aims at advancing significantly our knowledge on the physical conditions in the outskirts of galaxy clusters, by mapping the X-ray emission out to $\sim 2R_{500}$ in 12 objects selected according to the following criteria: $S/N > 12$ in the 1st *Planck* catalog (Planck Collaboration XXVII 2014); apparent size $\theta_{500} > 10$ arcmin; redshift in the range $0.04 < z < 0.1$; Galactic $N_{\text{H}} < 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$.

Although the targets satisfying the selection but with evident ongoing mergers were excluded from the X-COP sample (and will be part of a recently approved AO18 *XMM-Newton* program, PI: Ghirardini), this sample includes mainly non-cool core systems (8 out of 12), accordingly to their central entropy value (see Eckert et al. 2017), with hydrostatic masses M_{500} in the range between $4 \times 10^{14} M_\odot$ and $10^{15} M_\odot$ (Ettori et al. 2019).

¹ R_{500} is defined as the radius within which the mean density is 500 times the critical density of the universe.

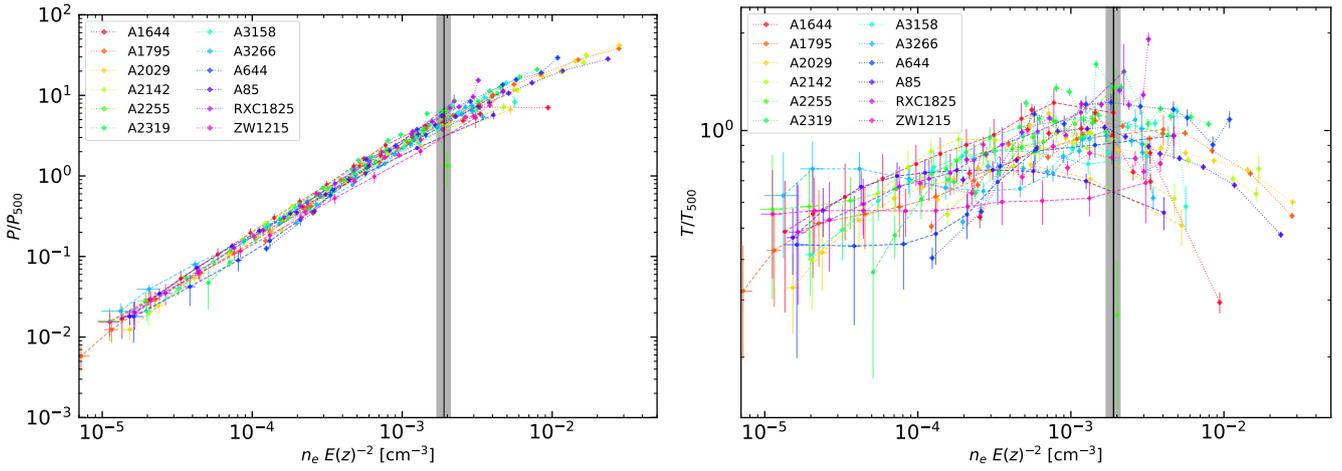


Fig. 1. *Left:* rescaled gas pressure profiles for the X-COP objects compared with the values of the electron density measured at the same radius. *Right:* rescaled gas temperature profiles versus the electron density measured at the same radius. The vertical lines indicate the location (with relative uncertainty) of the transition between core and outskirts discussed in Sect. 2.

The sample properties are extensively described in Eckert et al. (2017) and Ghirardini et al. (2019).

In particular, we present in Ghirardini et al. (2019) the universal behavior of the radial profiles of the thermodynamic quantities spatially resolved in the X-COP objects, while in Ettori et al. (2019), we demonstrate that the Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW, Navarro et al. 1997) model provides the best representation of the gravitational potential for the same objects.

In this work, we have studied the relations between the radial profiles of the ICM pressure, density, and temperature out to $2 \times R_{500}$, in order to find how the ICM is stratified and the effective polytropic index varies as function of radius in the X-COP sample. This allows us to provide an effective description of the radial profiles of the ICM thermodynamical quantities both as a benchmark for hydrodynamical simulations and as a tool to make use of these correlations to infer other fundamental quantities, such as the gravitating mass.

The paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we study the relations between the radial profiles of the gas pressure, density and temperature. We introduce the NFW polytropic model in Sect. 3, showing how it provides a very good description of the intracluster medium outside the core. In Sect. 4, we model the temperature profile as function of radius and density profile, and apply this model to implement a very efficient tool to recover the hydrostatic mass profile when only the gas density profile is known. Finally, we draw our conclusions in Sect. 5. Throughout the paper, if not otherwise stated, we have assumed a flat concordance Λ CDM cosmology with $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ and $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, and use the Bayesian nested sampling algorithm MultiNest (Feroz et al. 2009) to constrain the best-fitting parameters. We define as “log” the natural logarithm, while we indicate with “log₁₀” the logarithm to the base ten.

2. Relations between the radial profiles of the thermodynamic quantities in the ICM

In Fig. 1, we show the measurements of the gas density, pressure and temperature spatially resolved in the X-COP clusters out to $2 \times R_{500}$ Ghirardini et al. (2019). A tight power-law-like relation between density and pressure is present, with just a mild change in the slope in the high gas density regime.

To constrain the relation between the thermodynamic quantities, we implement a method similar to the piecewise power-law fitting procedure described in Ghirardini et al. (2019). We define five intervals in density (see Tables 1 and 2) and fit the following functional forms:

$$\frac{Q_c}{Q_{500}} = Q_0 \left[n_e E(z)^{-2} \right]^{\Gamma_Q} \exp(\pm \sigma_{\text{int},Q}) \quad (1)$$

where Q represents either the temperature (T) or the pressure (P), and Q_{500} is their representative value within the overdensity of 500^2 . For each bin in density, Q_0 is simply the normalization of each rescaled quantity, Γ_Q is the logarithmic slope, and $\sigma_{\text{int},Q}$ is the intrinsic scatter in the relation.

We find that the relation between the pressure and the density, or between the temperature and the density, is quite tight, with a scatter that has a mean value of about 0.15, and is always in the range 0.11–0.25, with the latter value measured only in the core, where the cluster population is characterized by a mix of systems with or without a cool core (see e.g., Cavagnolo et al. 2009).

In the plane “pressure versus density”, we notice two density regimes, one where the slope of the fitting power-law is smaller than one, and another where this slope is greater than one and approaches the value of 1.2, close to the predictions from numerical simulations (Capelo et al. 2012). For the sake of completeness, we performed the fit of the rescaled pressure versus density in each X-COP object considering only the radial points above $0.2R_{500}$, and obtain values of Γ between 1.1 and 1.3 (see Fig. 2).

The analysis of “temperature versus density” confirms this trend. In particular, the density value at which this transition in the gradient happens locates the passage between the core region and the outskirts, allowing us to define the core as the region where $\Gamma_P < 1$ and $\Gamma_T < 0$. We were also able to constrain the value of the density where this transition occurs by using a broken power law to fit our data:

$$\frac{Q_c}{Q_{500}} = \begin{cases} Q_0 \left[n_e E(z)^{-2} \right]^{\Gamma_{Q,0}} \exp(\pm \sigma_{\text{int},Q,0}), & \text{if } n_e E(z)^{-2} \leq n_t \\ Q_1 \left[n_e E(z)^{-2} \right]^{\Gamma_{Q,1}} \exp(\pm \sigma_{\text{int},Q,1}), & \text{if } n_e E(z)^{-2} \geq n_t. \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

The continuity at the break location is forced by setting $Q_1 = Q_0 n_t^{\Gamma_0 - \Gamma_1}$. In the pressure versus density plane, we find

² P_{500} and T_{500} are defined in Eqs. (8) and (10), respectively, of Ghirardini et al. (2019).

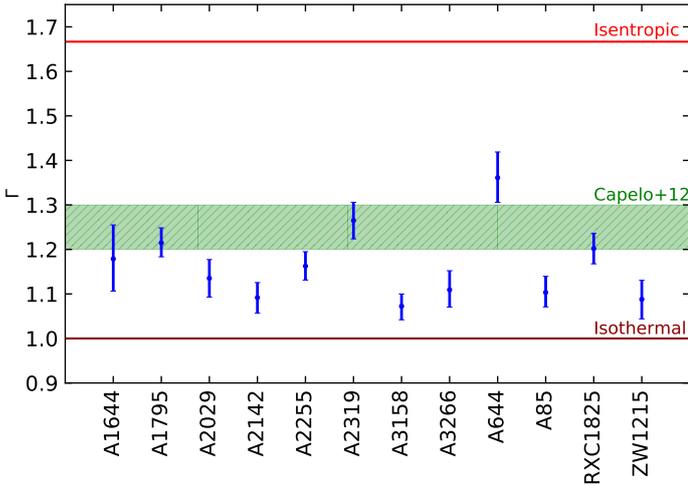


Fig. 2. Results on the effective polytropic index Γ obtained from a single powerlaw fit of the gas pressure versus the gas density on each X-COP cluster individually. The values predicted from numerical simulations in Capelo et al. (2012) are shown by the horizontal green stripe.

Table 1. Results of the piecewise power-law fits on the gas pressure versus density in different (upper table) density and (lower table) radial ranges.

$n_{\text{in}}E(z)^{-2}$	$n_{\text{out}}E(z)^{-2}$	$\log(P_0)$	Γ_P	$\sigma_{\text{int},P}$
7.22e-06	1.23e-04	8.92 ± 0.45	1.16 ± 0.05	0.11 ± 0.02
1.23e-04	3.55e-04	9.42 ± 0.65	1.23 ± 0.08	0.15 ± 0.02
3.56e-04	1.06e-03	8.80 ± 0.63	1.14 ± 0.08	0.15 ± 0.02
1.09e-03	2.64e-03	8.67 ± 0.65	1.13 ± 0.10	0.19 ± 0.02
2.85e-03	2.81e-02	6.47 ± 0.29	0.77 ± 0.06	0.25 ± 0.03
x_{in}	x_{out}	x_{average}	Γ_P	$\sigma_{\text{int},P}$
0.013	0.112	0.058	0.783 ± 0.057	0.26 ± 0.03
0.113	0.251	0.168	0.844 ± 0.071	0.20 ± 0.02
0.263	0.451	0.327	1.036 ± 0.084	0.17 ± 0.02
0.451	0.712	0.565	1.293 ± 0.061	0.14 ± 0.02
0.720	1.148	0.885	1.216 ± 0.076	0.16 ± 0.02
1.162	2.645	1.729	1.203 ± 0.046	0.03 ± 0.03

$n_t = (1.91 \pm 0.21) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $\Gamma_{P,0} = 1.17 \pm 0.01$, $\Gamma_{P,1} = 0.77 \pm 0.04$, $\log P_0 = 8.96 \pm 0.09$, $\sigma_{\text{int},P,0} = 0.15 \pm 0.01$, and $\sigma_{\text{int},P,1} = 0.24 \pm 0.01$. In the plane “temperature versus density”, we obtain $n_t = (1.93 \pm 0.23) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3}$, $\Gamma_{T,0} = 0.17 \pm 0.01$, $\Gamma_{T,1} = -0.23 \pm 0.04$, $\log T_0 = 1.12 \pm 0.09$, $\sigma_{\text{int},T,0} = 0.15 \pm 0.01$, and $\sigma_{\text{int},T,1} = 0.24 \pm 0.01$.

The same analysis can be done using bins in radius, instead of density. The results of the piecewise analysis are displayed in Tables 1 and 2 for pressure and temperature, respectively. They are very consistent with those from the previous analysis.

We can also use Eq. (2) and change the transition condition from $n_e E(z)^{-2} \geq n_t$ to $R/R_{500} \geq r_t$. In the pressure versus density plane, we find $r_t = (0.19 \pm 0.02)$, $\Gamma_{P,0} = 1.17 \pm 0.01$, $\Gamma_{P,1} = 0.78 \pm 0.04$, $\sigma_{\text{int},P,0} = 0.15 \pm 0.01$, and $\sigma_{\text{int},P,1} = 0.23 \pm 0.02$. In the “temperature versus density” plane, we obtain $r_t = (0.19 \pm 0.02)$, $\Gamma_{T,0} = 0.17 \pm 0.01$, $\Gamma_{T,1} = -0.21 \pm 0.04$, $\sigma_{\text{int},T,0} = 0.15 \pm 0.01$, and $\sigma_{\text{int},T,1} = 0.24 \pm 0.02$.

We can thus conclude that a cluster core appear naturally from the analysis of these profiles, and is defined as the region within $r_t = (0.19 \pm 0.02)R_{500}$ where the density is larger than $n_t = (1.9 \pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3} \text{ cm}^{-3} E^2(z)$. At electron densities below this value, and radii larger than r_t , the ICM behaves very regularly

Table 2. As Table 1 but for the analysis with the gas temperature.

$n_{\text{in}}E(z)^{-2}$	$n_{\text{out}}E(z)^{-2}$	$\log(T_0)$	Γ_T	$\sigma_{\text{int},T}$
7.22e-06	1.23e-04	1.12 ± 0.44	0.16 ± 0.05	0.11 ± 0.02
1.23e-04	3.55e-04	1.65 ± 0.64	0.23 ± 0.08	0.15 ± 0.02
3.56e-04	1.06e-03	0.99 ± 0.59	0.14 ± 0.08	0.15 ± 0.02
1.09e-03	2.64e-03	0.76 ± 0.67	0.12 ± 0.10	0.19 ± 0.02
2.85e-03	2.81e-02	-1.35 ± 0.28	-0.23 ± 0.05	0.25 ± 0.03
x_{in}	x_{out}	x_{average}	Γ_T	$\sigma_{\text{int},T}$
0.013	0.112	0.058	-0.211 ± 0.058	0.27 ± 0.03
0.113	0.251	0.168	-0.129 ± 0.068	0.19 ± 0.02
0.263	0.451	0.327	0.066 ± 0.084	0.17 ± 0.02
0.451	0.712	0.565	0.288 ± 0.062	0.14 ± 0.02
0.720	1.148	0.885	0.174 ± 0.073	0.16 ± 0.02
1.162	2.645	1.729	0.187 ± 0.045	0.03 ± 0.03

and smoothly at the level at which a single power-law is able to describe the relations between pressure, density, temperature, and radius.

3. A polytropic NFW model for the gas

The polytropic equation reads the following relation between the gas (electron) pressure and the gas (electron) density

$$P_e = C n_e^\Gamma \quad (3)$$

where C is a constant, and Γ , also a constant, is the effective polytropic index.

Bulbul et al. (2010; see also Komatsu & Seljak 2001, 2002) show that an ICM described by Eq. (3) and in hydrostatic equilibrium with a gravitational potential modeled by NFW profile allows us to write

$$n_e(x)^{\Gamma-1} \propto \frac{\log(1 + c_{500}x)}{x}, \quad (4)$$

where $x = R/R_{500}$, where for the NFW mass model $R_{500} = r_s c_{500}$, with r_s and c_{500} are the NFW scale radius and concentration (estimated within R_{500}), respectively.

In Ettori et al. (2019), we show that the NFW mass model is the best representation for the gravitational potential in the X-COP objects, as evaluated by computing the Bayesian evidence for several possible two-parameters mass models, with or without a core and with different slopes in the external parts. In the few cases for which NFW is not the best fitting mass model, it does not show any statistically significant tension with the best fitting mass model.

Combining this evidence with the observed tight correlation between the gas density and the gas pressure at large radii (or in low density regime) that we discuss in the previous section, allows us to model the stratification of the ICM with an *NFW-polytropic* profile (see e.g., Bulbul et al. 2010 with $\beta = 2$):

$$E(z)^{-2} n_e(x) = n_0 f(x)^{\frac{1}{\Gamma-1}}, \quad (5)$$

where $x = r/R_{500}$ and $f(x) = \log(1 + c_{500}x)/x$. The correlated relations for pressure, temperature and entropy profile are then $P(x)/P_{500} = P_0 f(x)^{\Gamma/(\Gamma-1)}$, $T(x)/T_{500} = T_0 f(x)$, $K(x)/K_{500} = K_0 f(x)^{(\Gamma-5/3)/(\Gamma-1)}$, respectively, with n_0 , P_0 , T_0 , and K_0 being the normalization factors, c_{500} the NFW concentration, and Γ the effective polytropic index.

In principle, if these were just generic universal functional forms, the parameters would not have any physical meaning, and

Table 3. Best fitting parameters for the functional form described in Sect. 3.

Quantity	$\log(N)$	c_{500}	Γ
Density	-10.3 ± 0.4	2.69 ± 0.43	1.20 ± 0.01
Pressure	-2.94 ± 0.61	2.61 ± 0.55	1.19 ± 0.02
Temperature	-0.60 ± 0.10	2.34 ± 0.35	
Entropy	0.92 ± 0.34	2.92 ± 1.02	1.21 ± 0.02
Joint fit	-10.2 ± 0.2	2.64 ± 0.24	1.19 ± 0.02
	-2.99 ± 0.26		
	-0.68 ± 0.06		
	0.87 ± 0.08		

Notes. We define the following priors: $\mathcal{U}(-13, -9)$ on $\log(n_0)$; $\mathcal{U}(-5, -1)$ on $\log(P_0)$; $\mathcal{U}(-2, 2)$ on $\log(T_0)$; $\mathcal{U}(-4, 4)$ on $\log(K_0)$; $\mathcal{U}(0, 2)$ on $\log(c_{500})$; $\mathcal{U}(1, 1.5)$ on Γ . The column “ $\log(N)$ ” show the best-fit normalization, with $N = n_0, P_0, T_0, K_0$ for density, pressure, temperature and entropy, respectively. The normalizations in the “Joint fit” row refer to (from top to bottom) density, pressure, temperature and entropy, respectively.

therefore their values are not expected to be the same in different thermodynamic properties. However, if the physical assumptions behind this model are valid and robust, then the values of c_{500} and Γ should be the same for all the profiles of the thermodynamic quantities, and should represent the properties of the underlying mass distribution assumed to be in hydrostatic equilibrium.

To evaluate the performance of this functional forms, we consider only the radial range beyond $\sim 0.2R_{500}$, where we have demonstrated that the assumption of constant Γ is strictly valid.

First, we fit each thermodynamic quantities independently. We show the results of the fit in Table 3. We notice that c_{500} and Γ from the fits are compatible at the 1σ level. This indicates that the NFW-polytropic model is robust and consistent enough to characterize the outer regions of galaxy clusters.

Then, we proceed with a joint-fit, that is, forcing c_{500} and Γ to be the same for all thermodynamic quantities, showing the best fitting results in the last row of Table 3. In Fig. 3, we compare the best-fit profiles with the functional forms described in Ghirardini et al. (2019). We observe that the NFW-polytropic is a very good fit to the data, and very well consistent (with differences in Bayesian evidence smaller than five; Jeffreys 1961) with the fit performed with other functional forms adopted in the literature (e.g., Vikhlinin et al. 2006 for density and temperature; Nagai et al. 2007 for pressure; Cavagnolo et al. 2009 for entropy). On the other hand, the improvement is dramatic for what concerns both the physical interpretation of the best-fit parameters, and the simplification of the fitting procedure, considering the limited number of parameters in these new functional forms and the lack of any degeneracy among these parameters.

4. Combined analysis of the gas temperature, density and radius

In general, the study of the profiles of the thermodynamic properties of the ICM is focused on each single quantity, independently (see e.g., Ghirardini et al. 2019). However, connections between relative variations in for example gas density, temperature and pressure profiles are expected due to the nature of perfect gas of the ICM. In this section, we explore the possibility

to analyze the combined variation of the gas density, temperature, and radius. We decided to treat the temperature instead of the pressure because it is not directly correlated with gas density. Moreover we considered only the region above $0.2R_{500}$, both because we are interested mainly in the outskirts where gravity dominates, and because our data are not suited to study the central regions of clusters, because of the large binning scheme adopted which allows us to avoid effects due to the instrumental point-spread-function of both *XMM-Newton* and *Planck*.

4.1. Linear model for T - n - R

For this combined analysis, we used a simple model obtained from two power-laws fit in the logarithmic space:

$$\log\left(\frac{T}{T_{500}}\right) = \log T_0 + \Gamma_0 \log\left[n_e E^{-2}(z)\right] + \Gamma_R \log\left(\frac{R}{R_{500}}\right) \pm \sigma_{\text{int}}, \quad (6)$$

where T_0 , Γ_0 , and Γ_R are the free parameters. The distributions of the best fitting parameters are shown in Fig. A.4 and are centered at $\log T_0 = 1.76 \pm 0.43$, $\Gamma_0 = 0.25 \pm 0.05$, and $\Gamma_R = 0.14 \pm 0.09$. It is worth noticing that the non null value of Γ_R suggests that the model with a single relation between two quantities is not complex enough to fully characterize the thermodynamic quantities when high quality data are available. We also tested whether increasing the complexity of the fit function (i.e., by using a quadratic or a cubic function) allows us to improve the fit significantly by comparing the obtained Bayesian evidences. We find that Eq. (6) is not only the simplest model, but also the one with the highest Bayesian evidence in reproducing the observed profiles in the X-COP sample.

An important implication of this model is that we can then write the effective polytropic index as

$$\Gamma(R) = \frac{d \log P}{d \log n_e} = \frac{d \log(n_e T)}{d \log n_e} = 1 + \Gamma_0 + \Gamma_R \frac{\partial \log R}{\partial \log n_e} \quad (7)$$

where we have used Eq. (6), and $\frac{\partial \log R}{\partial \log n_e}$ has been calculated in Ghirardini et al. (2019) using two different techniques, (i) by measuring the slope in ranges using a piecewise power-law analysis, and (ii) by fitting a functional form to the entire density profile and then computing analytically the slope. We show the resulting profile of the effective polytropic index in Fig. 4. We notice that the small differences between this effective polytropic index, and those shown as data points can be attributed to the fact that the latter are missing a contribution coming from the last term in Eq. (7).

Finally, we note that the intrinsic scatter associated with this combined analysis, $\sigma_{\text{int}} = 0.15 \pm 0.01$, is smaller than all the scatters we have measured by studying the relation between each single thermodynamic quantity and the radius (see Fig. 7 and Table 2 in Ghirardini et al. 2019), indicating that, indeed, our combined analysis reproduces more closely the distribution of the observed quantities.

4.2. Reconstruction of the total mass profile

A direct, and very useful, application of the results of this combined analysis is the reconstruction of the mass profile by using only the gas density profile, which is, typically, a very cheap measurement from X-ray observations. Let us consider the hydrostatic equilibrium equation,

$$\frac{1}{\mu m_p n_e} \frac{dP_e}{dR} = -\frac{GM(<R)}{R^2}, \quad (8)$$

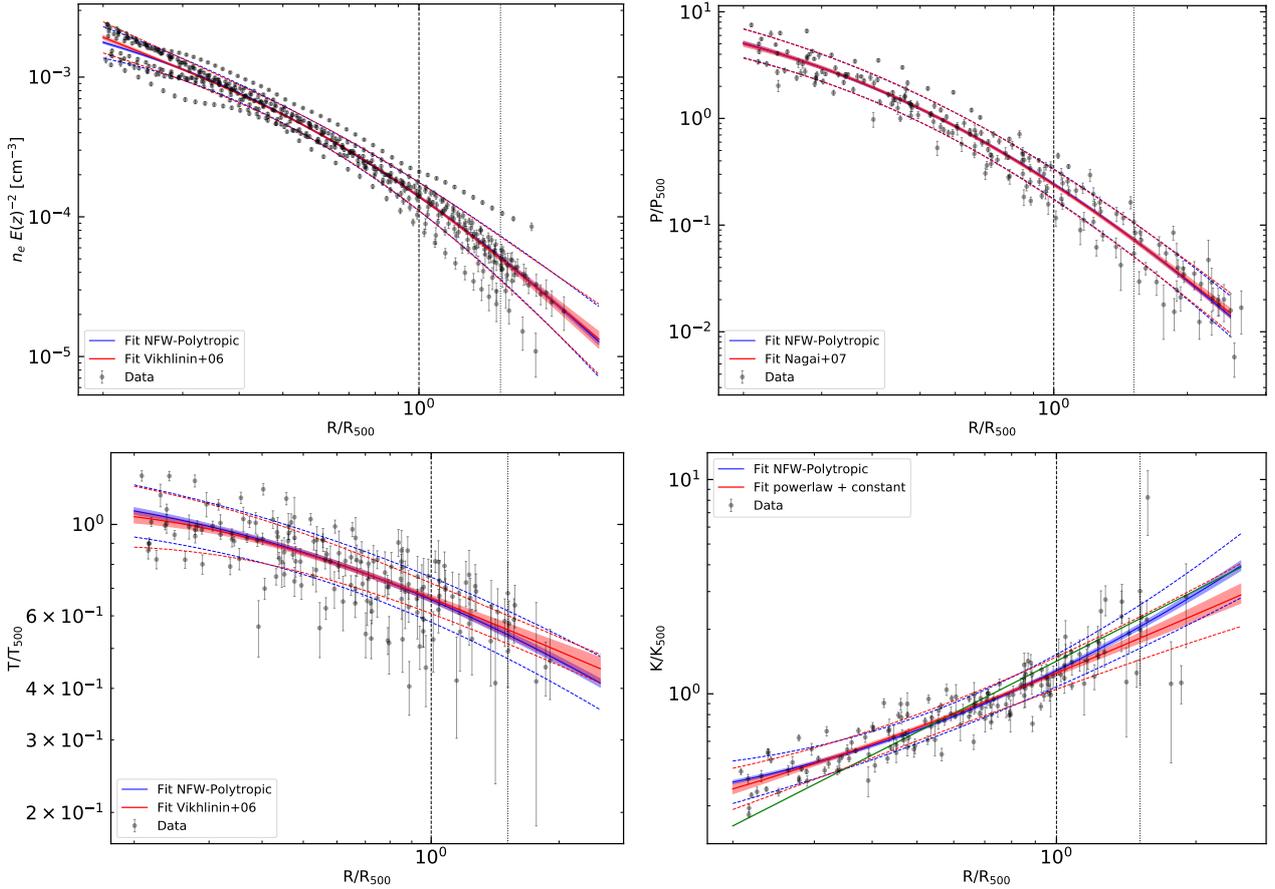


Fig. 3. Profiles of the (*top*) electron density and pressure, (*bottom*) temperature and entropy with, overplotted in blue, the joint fit obtained using the NFW-polytropic functional forms relating together the parameters c_{500} and Γ (see Table 3 and Sect. 3), and, in red, the functional form used in Ghirardini et al. (2019). The shaded area around the functional form represents the 1σ confidence level on the best fit, while the dashed lines represents the scatter around the best fit. The vertical dashed and dotted lines represent the location of R_{500} and R_{200} , respectively.

where μ is the mean molecular mass weight and m_p is the proton mass. The term on the left hand side of Eq. (8) depends only on the density profile, once a polytropic relation is adopted. We can then reconstruct a model of the gas density profile given a mass model, like the NFW, which would depend only on the free parameters of such mass model. Tweaking the parameter of the mass model until the models of the gas density reproduces at the best the observed density profile allows us to measure the parameters of such mass model, and finally the mass profile. The detailed calculations which allow us to build the model of the gas density are presented in Appendix C.

We tested this method using the results of our analysis of the X-COP data. As discussed, we restrict our analysis to the outer cluster regions, over the same radial range where we have found that our combined analysis discussed in Sect. 4 produces the best representation of the thermodynamic quantities. The exclusion of the core ($\leq 0.2R_{500}$) implies that we have a very weak leverage in constraining the concentration parameter of a NFW mass model. Thus, we chose a Gaussian prior on the concentration parameter, centered on the concentration-mass relation provided by Diemer & Joyce (2019)³: $\log c_{500} = 0.885 - 0.049 \log(M_{500}/5 \times 10^{14} M_\odot)$. An intrinsic scatter of $\sigma_{\log_{10}(c_{500})} = 0.1$ (from Neto et al. 2007) is propagated through our analysis. In Fig. 5, we show the comparison between the

best-fit results on the NFW parameters recovered using both the method outlined here, that is based solely on the gas density profile, and the entire set of the observed radial profiles (see Ghirardini et al. 2019; Ettori et al. 2019). We obtain a very good agreement between these best-fit parameters, with a mean ratio of 1.02 (rms 0.13) and 1.04 (0.40) for R_{500} and c_{500} , respectively. This is very similar to what we can reconstruct using a robust mass proxy like the X-ray bolometric luminosity. By adopting the scaling relation in Pratt et al. (2009), we recover a total mass with a corresponding R_{500} that is, on average, 1.02 times the hydrostatic value, with a dispersion of 0.06. The latter value of dispersion confirms that the use of robust mass proxy allows us to recover the integrated quantities more accurately, whereas the technique we propose in this work provides a less accurate, though more complete, description of the entire mass profile.

5. Conclusions

We present the relation between the ICM thermodynamic quantities in the outskirts of 12 SZ-selected galaxy clusters observed with *XMM-Newton* and *Planck* for the *XMM-Newton* Cluster Outskirts Project (X-COP, Eckert et al. 2017). Using the radial profiles recovered in Ghirardini et al. (2019), we investigated the polytropic relation in the intracluster medium and the variation of the effective polytropic index Γ as function of the radius.

³ As implemented in the code COLOSSUS (Diemer 2018), with $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$, $\sigma_8 = 0.8$, $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

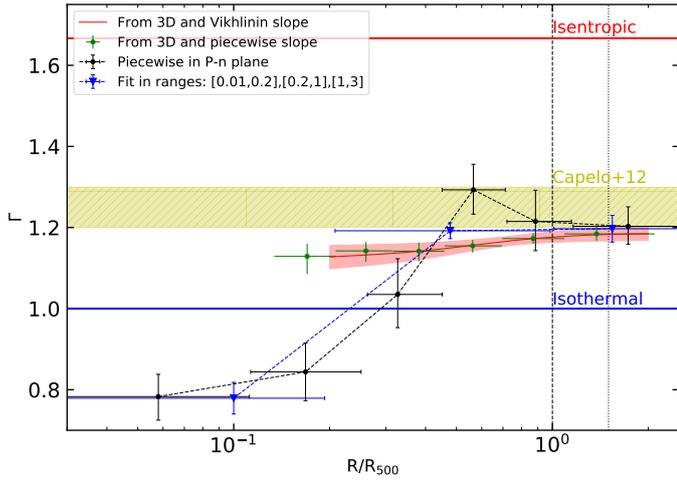


Fig. 4. Effective polytropic index as function of radius. Black data points represent the results of the piecewise fit from Eq. (1). Also the blue data points come from a piecewise analysis, but with radii chosen a posteriori. The red curve and green points indicate the polytropic index estimated from our combined analysis (see Sect. 4), the difference being in the slope of the density considered (see text after Eq. (7)). The horizontal blue and red lines indicate the location of the isothermal and isentropic limits, respectively. The horizontal yellow stripe represents the value predicted by numerical simulations, as the green stripe in Fig. 2. The vertical dashed and dotted lines represent the location of R_{500} and R_{200} , respectively.

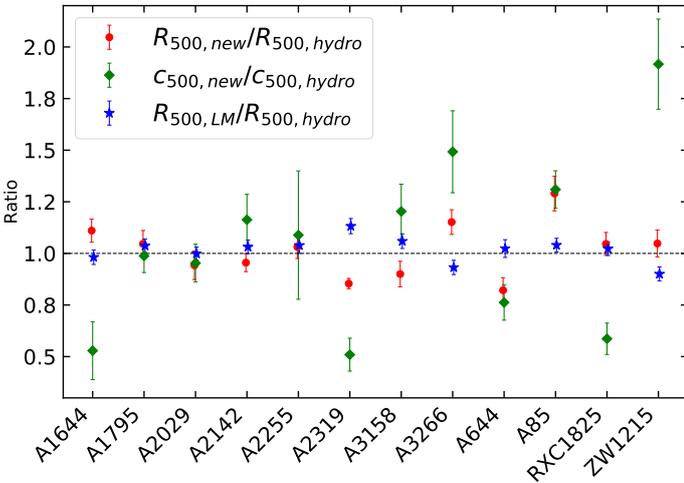


Fig. 5. Ratios between the quantities recovered with the technique outlined in Sect. 4.2 ($R_{500,new}$, $c_{500,new}$) and the hydrostatic values ($R_{500,hydro}$, $c_{500,hydro}$). We also show the comparison with estimates from the $L-M$ relation ($R_{500,L-M}$).

Our main findings are summarized below. The gas pressure and density are tightly correlated, with a scatter of 0.20–0.25 in the inner regions, and of about 0.10–0.15 in the outskirts. This is also valid when the relation between the gas temperature and density is considered.

The logarithmic slope in the relation between the gas pressure and density changes from the value of ~ 0.8 , measured in the clusters' core, to the value of ~ 1.2 observed in the outskirts; similarly, the logarithmic slope of the relation between the gas temperature and density changes from -0.2 in the core to 0.2 in the outskirts. This transition occurs where the electron density is lower than $1.9(\pm 0.2) \times 10^{-3} E(z)^2 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, or the radius is larger than $0.19(\pm 0.02)R_{500}$.

Relying on this tight single power-law relation between the gas pressure and density in the outskirts of the X-COP clusters, and using a NFW mass model, which provides the best description of the observed profiles of the thermodynamic quantities (see Etti et al. 2019), we find that the *polytropic-NFW* model in Eq. (5), originally introduced by Bulbul et al. (2010), fits the observed quantities equally well to what obtained from other models available in the literature, with the great advantages that (i) it is physically motivated, (ii) it makes use of few, well constrained parameters, and (iii) these parameters that can be interpreted as physically interesting quantities.

Beyond the core, the polytropic state of the ICM is well represented by a model (see Eq. (7)), where the gas temperature depends on both the gas density and the radius with a well constrained scatter. As described in Sect. 4.2 (and detailed in Appendix C), the tight relation between temperature, density, and radius allows us to estimate the parameters of a hydrostatic mass profile relying solely on the gas density profile, that is a quiet inexpensive X-ray measurement, with an assumption on the concentration–mass relation needed to break further some degeneracy present in the method.

Larger samples, covering lower mass regimes and at higher redshifts than those investigated in the X-COP sample, are needed to explore the robustness and the universality of our conclusions on the polytropic state of the ICM. Such samples will become available in the near future thanks to a dedicated *XMM-Newton* Heritage program⁴. In the meantime, our results represent the best benchmark available for hydrodynamical simulations on the radial behavior of the effective polytropic index in the ICM.

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⁴ <http://xmm-heritage.oas.inaf.it/>

Appendix A: Radial profiles of gas pressure, temperature, and density

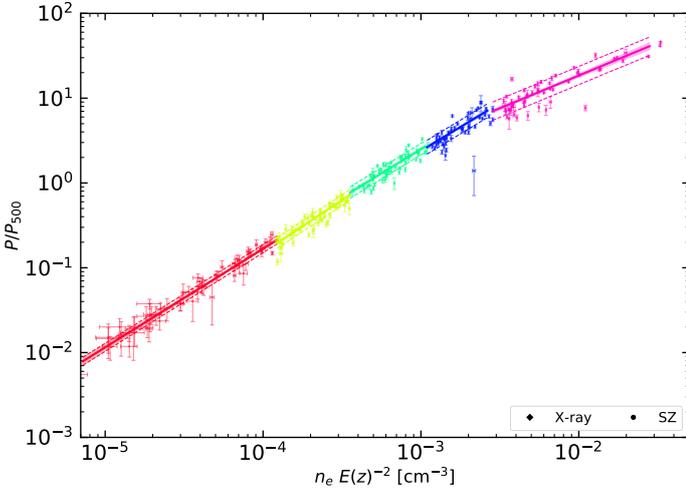


Fig. A.1. Piecewise power-law fit of the gas pressure versus density (best-fit values quoted in Table 1). Solid lines and contour indicate the best fitting result with statistical uncertainties; dashed lines indicate the intrinsic scatter in the distribution around the best fit. The different colors correspond to different density range, where these ranges have been chosen to have the same number of points within them.

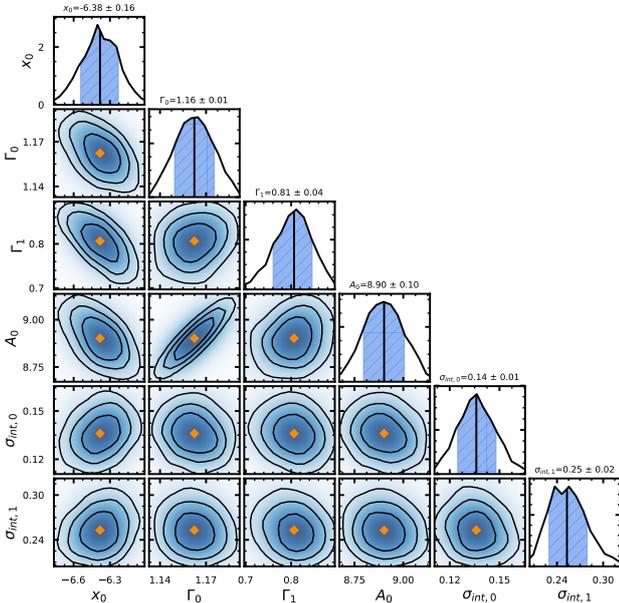


Fig. A.2. Posterior distribution of the fitting parameters of the functional form in Eq. (2).

We present here a collection of plots that are relevant to (i) the analysis in the pressure vs. density plane (Figs. A.1 and A.2), and (ii) the modelization with a *polytropic NFW* functional form of the radial profile of each thermodynamical quantity shown in Fig. 3 and the results of the joint-fit with the same polytropic NFW functional form (Fig. A.3). The posterior distribution of the parameters of the model described in Eq. (6) and that combines the radius with the gas temperature and density profiles is shown in Fig. A.4.

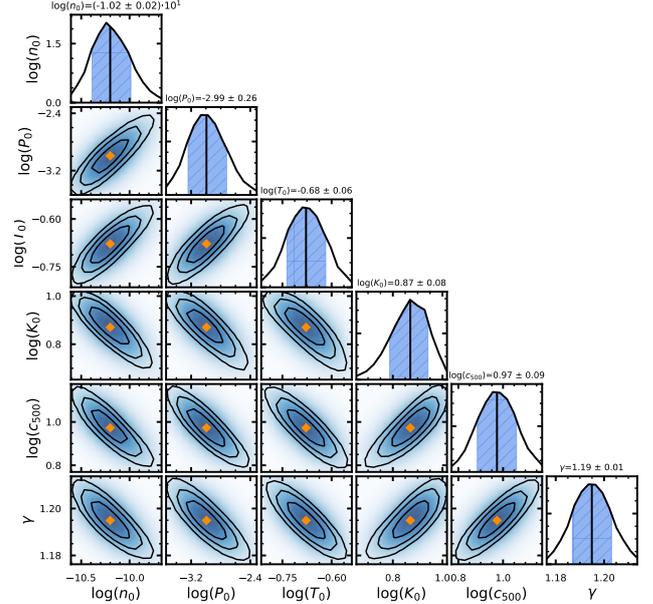


Fig. A.3. Posteriors on the parameters of the functional forms introduced in Sect. 3, Eq. (5), fit jointly to the thermodynamic profiles.

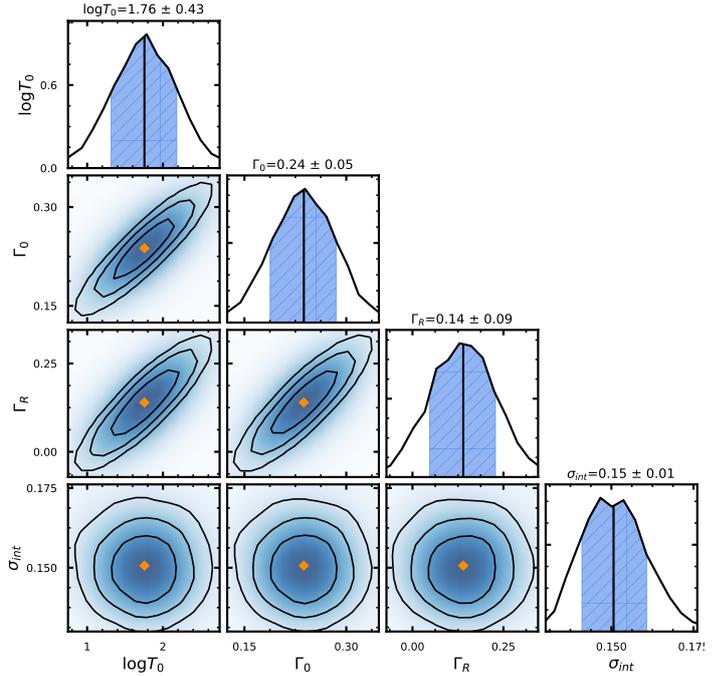


Fig. A.4. Best fitting parameters from the model described by Eq. (6).

Appendix B: NFW polytropic model with $\Gamma(r)$

The functional forms presented in Sect. 3 can be also generalized by assuming that Γ is a function of radius. From the equation of the hydrostatic equilibrium (Eq. (8)) with a NFW potential, we can write

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{d\rho^\Gamma}{dx} = \rho^{\Gamma-1} \frac{d}{dx} (\Gamma \log \rho) = -\frac{GM(<r)}{r^2} = K_0 \frac{d}{dx} \left(\frac{\log(1+x)}{x} \right). \quad (\text{B.1})$$

Adopting the NFW polytropic modeling of the gas (Eq. (4); $\rho_{\text{gas}}^{\Gamma-1} = K_1 \log(1+x)/x$), we can expand the first term of the

above equation:

$$\rho^{\Gamma-1} \frac{d}{dx} (\Gamma \log \rho) = K_1 \frac{\log(1+x)}{x} \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma-1} \log \left(K_1 \frac{\log(1+x)}{x} \right) \right]. \quad (\text{B.2})$$

By using this expansion in Eq. (B.1), and moving the terms with $y = \log(1+x)/x$ on the same side, we can write:

$$\frac{K_0}{K_1} \frac{dy}{y} = \frac{d}{dx} \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma-1} \log(K_1 y) \right]. \quad (\text{B.3})$$

Finally, converting from $\frac{1}{y} \frac{dy}{dx}$ to $\frac{d \log(y)}{dx}$ and integrating on both side we have:

$$\frac{K_0}{K_1} \log y = \left[\frac{\Gamma}{\Gamma-1} \log(K_1 y) \right]. \quad (\text{B.4})$$

Moving all the terms with Γ to one side and rearranging them, we obtain a functional form for the radial dependence of Γ :

$$\Gamma(r) = \left(1 - \frac{K_1 \log(K_1 y)}{K_0 \log(y)} \right)^{-1}, \quad (\text{B.5})$$

where $K_1 \sim 1.08$, and $K_0 \sim 4.36$ (see Fig. A.3 for the posterior distributions, and relative covariance, of these parameters). This functional form permits to model the radial variation of Γ , as shown in Fig. 4.

Appendix C: From the gas density to the hydrostatic mass profile

The hydrostatic equilibrium equation (Eq. (8)) reads

$$\frac{1}{\mu m_p n_e} \frac{dP_e}{dR} = -\frac{GM(<R)}{R^2}. \quad (\text{C.1})$$

The term on the left side can be rewritten in the following way:

$$\frac{1}{n_e} \frac{dP}{dR} = \frac{T}{R} \frac{d \log P}{d \log R} = \frac{T}{T_{500}} \frac{T_{500}}{R} \frac{d \log P/P_{500}}{d \log R/R_{500}}, \quad (\text{C.2})$$

with $T_{500} = (GM_{500} \mu m_p) / (2R_{500})$ (e.g., Voit et al. 2005).

Using now Eq. (7)

$$\frac{d \log P/P_{500}}{d \log R/R_{500}} = (\Gamma_0 + 1) \frac{d \log [n_e E^{-2}(z)]}{d \log x} + \Gamma_R, \quad (\text{C.3})$$

with $x = R/R_{500}$, and adopting a NFW mass model, $M_{\text{NFW}} = M_{500} \mu_{\text{NFW}}(x)$ with $\mu_{\text{NFW}}(x) = \frac{\log(1+c_{500}x) - c_{500}x/(1+c_{500}x)}{\log(1+x) - x/(1+x)}$, we can

finally write the hydrostatic equilibrium equation as

$$T_0 [n_e E^{-2}(z)]^{\Gamma_0} x^{\Gamma_R} \left((\Gamma_0 + 1) \frac{d \log [n_e E^{-2}(z)]}{d \log x} + \Gamma_R \right) = -\frac{2\mu_{\text{NFW}}(x)}{x}. \quad (\text{C.4})$$

If we redefine

$$f(x) = [n_e E^{-2}(z)]^{\Gamma_0}, \quad (\text{C.5})$$

we can write

$$T_0 f(x) x^{\Gamma_R} \left(\frac{\Gamma_0 + 1}{\Gamma_0} \frac{d \log f(x)}{d \log x} + \Gamma_R \right) = -\frac{2\mu_{\text{NFW}}(x)}{x}. \quad (\text{C.6})$$

Rearranging the terms in the last equation, we obtain

$$\frac{\Gamma_0 + 1}{\Gamma_0} \frac{df(x)}{dx} x^{\Gamma_R} + \Gamma_R x^{\Gamma_R-1} f(x) = -\frac{2\mu_{\text{NFW}}(x)}{T_0 x^2} \quad (\text{C.7})$$

that implies

$$f'(x) + \frac{\Gamma_R}{x} \frac{\Gamma_0}{\Gamma_0 + 1} f(x) = -\frac{2\mu_{\text{NFW}}(x)}{T_0 x^2} \frac{\Gamma_0}{\Gamma_0 + 1}. \quad (\text{C.8})$$

This is a partial differential equation (PDE) which can be easily solved once two functions $p(x)$ and $h(x)$ are defined as

$$p(x) = \frac{\Gamma_R}{x} \frac{\Gamma_0}{\Gamma_0 + 1} \quad h(x) = -\frac{2\mu_{\text{NFW}}(x)}{T_0 x^2} \frac{\Gamma_0}{\Gamma_0 + 1}, \quad (\text{C.9})$$

and the PDE can be simplified to

$$f' + pf = h. \quad (\text{C.10})$$

Then by computing a new function

$$v(x) = \exp \left[\int p(t) dt + K \right], \quad (\text{C.11})$$

we can finally solve for

$$f(x) = \frac{\int v(t) h(t) dt + c}{\mu(x)}. \quad (\text{C.12})$$

In summary: given a set of the two NFW parameters, we can estimate $f(x)$, and, by inverting Eq. (C.5), we obtain a model for the density profile. Then, by applying a maximum likelihood technique to minimize the distance between the model of the gas density and the observed profile $n_e(x)$, we can find the best fitting NFW parameters, and thus measure M_{500} and c_{500} directly, alongside the entire mass profile.