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# New strong lensing modelling of SDSS J2222+2745 enhanced with VLT/MUSE spectroscopy

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## ABSTRACT

**Context.** SDSS J2222+2745, at  $z = 0.489$ , is one of the few currently known lens clusters with multiple images (six) of a background ( $z = 2.801$ ) quasar with measured time delays between two image pairs (with a sub-percent relative error for the longer time delay). Systems of this kind can be exploited as alternative cosmological probes through high-precision and accurate strong lensing models.

**Aims.** We present recent observations from the Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer (MUSE) on the Very Large Telescope (VLT) and new total mass models of the core of the galaxy cluster SDSS J2222+2745.

**Methods.** We combine archival multi-band, high-resolution imaging from the *Hubble* Space Telescope (HST) with our VLT/MUSE spectroscopic data to securely identify 34 cluster members and 12 multiple images from 3 background sources. We also measure the stellar velocity dispersions of 13 cluster galaxies, down to HST  $F160W = 21$  mag, enabling an independent estimate of the contribution of the sub-halo mass component to the lens total mass. By leveraging the new spectroscopic dataset, we build improved strong lensing models.

**Results.** The projected total mass distribution of the lens cluster is best modelled with a single large-scale mass component, a galaxy-scale component, anchored by the VLT/MUSE kinematic information, and an external shear component. The best-fit strong lensing model yields a root mean square separation between the model-predicted and observed positions of the multiple images of  $0''.29$ . When analysing the impact of systematic uncertainties, stemming from modelling assumptions and used observables, we find that the resulting projected total mass profile, the relative weight of the sub-halo mass component, and the critical lines are consistent, within the statistical uncertainties. The predicted magnification and time-delay values are, instead, more sensitive to the local details of the lens total mass distribution, and vary significantly among lens models that are similarly good at reproducing the observed multiple image positions. In particular, the model-predicted time delays can differ by a factor of up to  $\sim 1.5$ .

**Conclusions.** SDSS J2222+2745 is a promising lens cluster for cosmological applications. However, due to its complex morphology, the relatively low number of secure ‘point-like’ multiple images, and current model degeneracies, it becomes clear that additional information (from the observed surface brightness distribution of lensed sources and the measured time delays) needs to be included in the modelling for accurate and precise cosmological measurements. The full VLT/MUSE secure spectroscopic catalogue presented in this work is made publicly available.

**Key words.** gravitational lensing: strong – galaxies: clusters: individual: SDSS J2222+2745 – dark matter

## 1. Introduction

Exquisite multi-wavelength observations of galaxy clusters have recently allowed for a new generation of high-precision and accurate strong lensing (SL) models. High-resolution *Hubble* Space Telescope (HST) imaging, combined with Multi Unit Spectroscopic Explorer (MUSE; Bacon et al. 2010, 2014) spectroscopic follow-up, has enabled the identification of a large number of secure multiple images that critically constrain the SL models (see e.g., Richard et al. 2015; Kawamata et al. 2016; Caminha et al. 2019; Jauzac et al. 2019; Lagattuta et al. 2019;

Bergamini et al. 2021). In particular, the inclusion in the models of multiply lensed emission knots within extended sources provides crucial information on the position of the critical lines and therefore on the high-magnification regions (Grillo et al. 2016; Bergamini et al. 2021, 2022). In parallel, MUSE observations allow for the secure identification of large sets of cluster galaxies (Mercurio et al. 2021; Lagattuta et al. 2022). Their stellar kinematics can be used effectively in SL models to independently weight the contribution of the sub-halo mass component, thus reducing inherent model degeneracies (Bergamini et al. 2019, 2021; Pignataro et al. 2021). Granata et al. (2022), exploiting the

MUSE kinematic measurements of cluster members, together with their structural parameters determined from HST photometry, adopted the Fundamental Plane relation (Dressler et al. 1987) to obtain a more realistic description of the total mass distribution of cluster galaxies in the galaxy cluster Abell S1063.

Cluster lenses, such as SDSS J1004+4112 (Inada et al. 2003), SDSS J1029+2623 (Oguri et al. 2013; Acebron et al. 2022, hereafter A22), MACS J1149.5+2223 (Grillo et al. 2016), and SDSS J2222+2745, where a variable background source is multiply imaged, are in addition of particular interest for their cosmological applications (see e.g., Grillo et al. 2018, 2020). They represent emergent, independent probes for measuring the expansion rate (Refsdal 1964) and the geometry of the Universe. In the era of precision cosmology, these cluster systems can offer important insights into unknown systematic effects and help clarify current tensions in cosmology (see Moresco et al. 2022, for a recent review).

SDSS J2222+2745 (SDSS 2222, hereafter), at a redshift of  $z = 0.489$ , was discovered within the Sloan Giant Arcs Survey (Hennawi et al. 2008; Bayliss et al. 2011; Sharon et al. 2020) from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) Data Release 8 (DR8; Aihara et al. 2011). Subsequent photometric and spectroscopic follow-up, with the MOsaic CAmera (MOSCA) and the Andalusia Faint Object Spectrograph and Camera (ALFOSC) at the Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT), revealed that SDSS 2222 is a lens cluster that produces six multiple images of a background quasi-stellar object (quasar or QSO; Dahle et al. 2013). These observations provided a spectroscopic confirmation of the six images of the QSO (labelled A, B, C, D, E, and F) and of the southern arc, which were used to build a first SL model of the galaxy cluster. Following its discovery, SDSS 2222 was photometrically monitored with the NOT to measure the time delays between the QSO multiple images. Observations taken between September 2012 and January 2019 yielded the time-delay values of  $\Delta t_{AB} = -42.44^{+1.44}_{-1.36}$  days and  $\Delta t_{AC} = 696.65^{+2.10}_{-2.00}$  days (Dahle et al. 2015; Dyrland 2019). High-resolution imaging obtained with the HST and spectroscopic follow-up data from the Gemini Multi-Object Spectrograph (GMOS) on the Gemini-North Telescope were then used to create an updated SL model in Sharon et al. (2017, hereafter S17). Additional multiple image candidates were identified in the HST images, while GMOS spectroscopy refined the redshift estimates for the six quasar images and the southern arc and yielded new redshift measurements for one multiple image and 11 cluster galaxies.

In this work we present recent spectroscopic observations of SDSS 2222 obtained with the MUSE integral field spectrograph, mounted on the Very Large Telescope (VLT). We exploit the newly obtained data to build an improved SL model of the cluster. The paper is organised as follows. Section 2 describes the HST imaging and the VLT/MUSE data used to develop the new lens model of SDSS 2222. Section 3 presents the selection of the multiple images and the cluster members, as well as the adopted total mass parametrisation of the cluster. We discuss our results in Sect. 4 and draw the main conclusions of this work in Sect. 5.

Throughout this work we adopt a flat  $\Lambda$  cold dark matter cosmology with  $\Omega_m = 0.3$  and  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ . Within this cosmology, a projected distance of  $1''$  corresponds to a physical scale of 6.03 kpc at the cluster redshift of  $z = 0.489$ . All magnitudes are given in the AB system (Oke 1974). The quoted uncertainties correspond to the 68% confidence interval, unless otherwise stated.

## 2. Data

We present here the data exploited to develop a new SL model of SDSS 2222: the high-resolution imaging in Sect. 2.1 and the newly obtained VLT/MUSE spectroscopic follow-up in Sect. 2.2. In Sect. 2.3 we briefly present a new analysis of the *Chandra* X-ray observations, although they are not used in the subsequent analysis.

### 2.1. HST imaging

We used archival HST multi-colour imaging (GO-13337; P.I.: Sharon), from the Advanced Camera for Surveys (ACS) and the Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3), taken in August and October 2014. SDSS 2222 was imaged over two orbits in each of the ACS filters (*F475W*, *F606W*, and *F814W*), while the WFC3 imaging was allocated one single orbit (in *F110W* and *F160W*). A detailed description of the observations and data reduction process is provided in S17. We extracted our HST/*F160W* photometric catalogue with the public software SourceExtractor (Bertin & Arnouts 1996).

### 2.2. VLT/MUSE spectroscopy

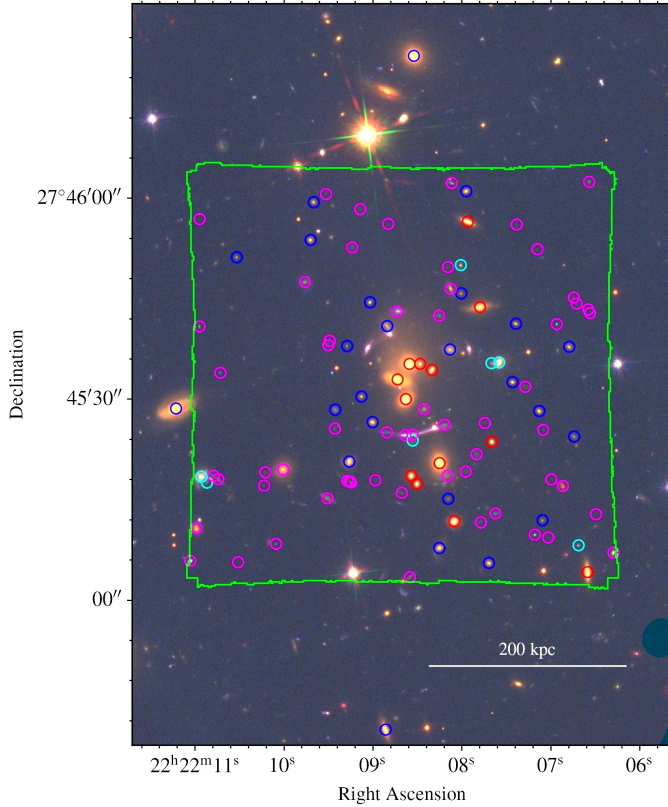
SDSS 2222 was targeted with the integral field spectrograph MUSE at the VLT, under programme 0103.A-0554(A) (P.I.: Grillo) between 2019 June 3 and July 10. The lens galaxy cluster was observed with a single pointing ( $\sim 1 \text{ arcmin}^2$  field of view; see the footprint in Fig. 1), for a total of 11 exposures of 1440 s each, resulting in a cumulative exposure time of 4.4 h on target.

Following the procedure described in Caminha et al. (2017a,b, 2019), we used the standard reduction pipeline (version 2.6; Weilbacher et al. 2020) to process the raw MUSE exposures and create the final stacked datacube. In addition, the ‘auto-calibration’ method and the Zurich Atmosphere Purge (ZAP; Soto et al. 2016) were applied to mitigate slice-to-slice flux variations and improve the sky-subtraction. The data have a spatial pixel size of  $0''.2$  and the value of the full width half maximum (FWHM) measured from the white image is  $0''.8$ . Redshifts were then measured by extracting one-dimensional spectra of all sources with HST detections within circular apertures of  $0''.8$  radius. To improve the signal to noise ratio (S/N) of the extracted spectra for faint galaxies, we adopted customised apertures based on their estimated morphology from the HST imaging. Following Balestra et al. (2016) and Caminha et al. (2016), we assigned a quality flag (QF) to each redshift measurement in order to quantify its reliability: ‘insecure’ (QF = 1), ‘likely’ (QF = 2), ‘secure’ (QF = 3), or ‘based on a single emission line’ (QF = 9).

The full MUSE spectroscopic catalogue contains 118 reliable (i.e. QF  $\geq 2$ ) redshift measurements, of which 11 are stars, 7 are foreground galaxies ( $z < 0.474$ ), 34 are cluster members ( $0.474 \leq z \leq 0.504$ ; see Sect. 3.2), 59 are background galaxies ( $z > 0.504$ ), and 7 are multiple images (see Fig. 2). The foreground and background objects are identified in Fig. 1, and their coordinates and redshifts are listed in Table C.1. The multiple image and cluster member catalogues are presented in Sects. 3.1 and 3.2, respectively.

### 2.3. X-ray data

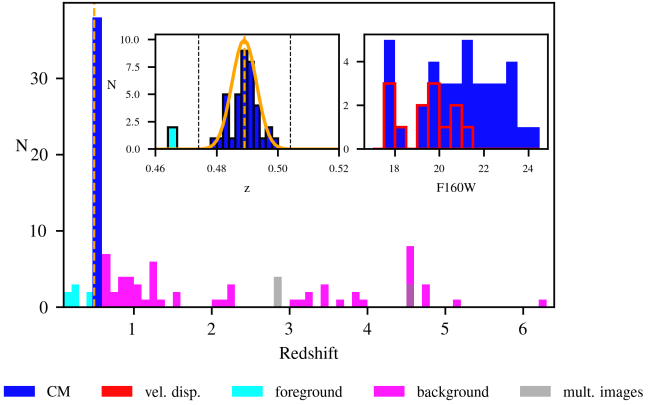
SDSS 2222 was observed by the *Chandra* telescope between 2016 April 24 and 29 with the Advanced CCD Imaging



**Fig. 1.** Colour-composite image of SDSS 2222 obtained by combining the  $F435W$  (blue),  $F814W$  (green), and  $F160W$  (red) HST passbands. The  $\sim 1$  arcmin<sup>2</sup> MUSE footprint is shown in green. The galaxies with a secure MUSE redshift measurement ( $QF \geq 2$ ) are highlighted with colour-coded circles. Cluster galaxies are identified in blue (three cluster members outside the MUSE field of view are included in the SDSS DR9 catalogue); those with a reliable measurement of their stellar velocity dispersion in red; and foreground and background objects in cyan and magenta, respectively. The multiple images are shown in Fig. 4.

Spectrometer (ACIS-S; Observation IDs 17048, 18831, and 18832; P.I.: Pooley), for a total exposure time of 66.06 ks after data reduction. Thanks to the exquisite arcsecond resolution of *Chandra*, the six multiple images of the quasar are clearly detected (unblended) and can therefore be removed. A visual inspection of the image allowed us to identify a diffuse emission with a very low surface brightness, and no significant concentration towards the cluster centre, that is associated with the central position of the brightest cluster galaxy (BCG) identified in the HST images. This is shown in the left panel of Fig. 3, where the soft-band diffuse emission is clearly seen inside a radius of  $33''$  (or 200 kpc at the cluster redshift; red circle). However, some emission may also be present out to a radius of  $70''$  (or 420 kpc at the cluster redshift; blue circle).

Aperture photometry provides  $217 \pm 22$  and  $73 \pm 22$  net counts in the soft and hard band, respectively, within a radius of  $33''$ , which maximises the S/N of the diffuse emission in the total band (0.5–7.0 keV). This corresponds to a flux of  $1.9 \times 10^{-14}$  and  $1.7 \times 10^{-14}$  erg cm<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> in the 0.5–2.0 and 2.0–10.0 keV bands, respectively. The presence of an emission beyond  $33''$  is confirmed by the values of  $359 \pm 38$  and  $135 \pm 42$  net counts in the soft and hard band, respectively, measured within a radius of  $70''$ . These results critically depend on the background subtraction, which was performed by sampling the source-free regions



**Fig. 2.** MUSE spectroscopic redshift distribution of the objects with a  $QF \geq 2$  identified in the SDSS 2222 cluster field. The top-left inset shows a zoomed-in view around the cluster redshift  $z = 0.489$ , as shown by the mean value of the Gaussian distribution (in orange). The vertical dashed black lines locate the redshift interval [0.474–0.504], which includes the 34 spectroscopically confirmed MUSE cluster members. The top-right inset shows the distribution of cluster members as a function of their magnitudes in the  $F160W$  HST band. The same colour code as in Fig. 1 is adopted. The multiple images are marked in grey.

beyond that radius. We verified that the positive photometry obtained in both bands, within  $70''$ , is robust against the uncertainty on the soft and hard background. We also note that masking out the quasar images implies a loss of less than 2% of the solid angle with respect to a full circle with a radius of  $33''$  and therefore does not affect our measurements.

We find that about 65% of the signal within  $33''$  in the soft band is contributed by the six quasar images. A spectral analysis of the diffuse emission shows that a single-temperature *mekal* model provides a best-fit temperature of  $kT = 3.5^{+1.2}_{-0.8}$  keV. The luminosity of this diffuse emission, corrected for Galactic absorption, is  $\sim 2 \times 10^{43}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> within  $30''$  in the 0.5–2.0 band ( $\sim 3 \times 10^{43}$  erg s<sup>-1</sup> within  $70''$ ). We note, however, that, due to the low S/N, the thermal model is statistically equivalent to a power law with slope  $\Gamma = 2.2$ . We conclude that, with the current X-ray data, it is not possible to test the thermal nature of the diffuse emission and apply the hydrostatic equilibrium to derive a robust X-ray mass profile. Therefore, even though a diffuse intracluster medium component is clearly detected, we do not use the X-ray data to further constrain the virial mass of SDSS 2222 in the following analysis.

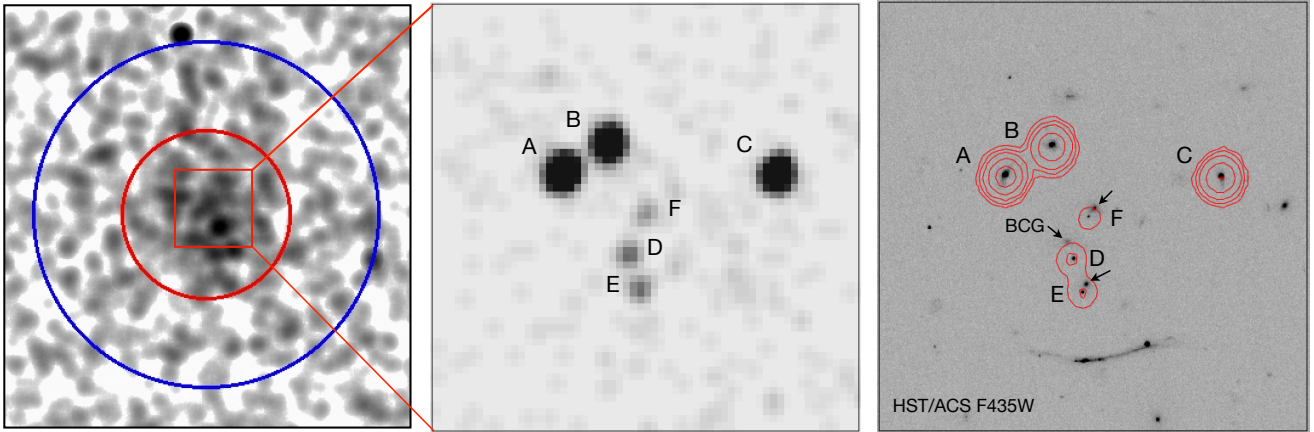
### 3. Strong lensing modelling

We modelled the total mass distribution of SDSS 2222 with the public software *lenstool*<sup>1</sup> (see Kneib et al. 1996; Jullo et al. 2007, for a detailed description). The SL modelling methodology closely follows that presented in A22 for another galaxy cluster with multiple images of a background QSO, SDSS J1029+2623. We thus refer the reader to that publication for an in-depth description of the adopted methodology.

In Sect. 3.1 we present the multiple images that are used as constraints in the SL model. Section 3.2 describes the spectroscopic and photometric selection and the measurement of the stellar velocity dispersion of the cluster members. The general modelling formalism is discussed in Sect. 3.3 and our adopted parametrisation of SDSS 2222 in Sect. 3.4.

<sup>1</sup> <https://projets.lam.fr/projects/lenstool>





**Fig. 3.** *Chandra* observations of SDSS 2222. *Left panel:* *Chandra* image in the soft band (0.5–2.0 keV) of a region of  $2.4 \times 2.4$  arcmin<sup>2</sup> centred on the BCG of SDSS 2222. The image has been heavily smoothed with a kernel of  $6''$  following the removal of the six X-ray images of the lensed quasar, readily detected in the 0.5–7 keV band (*central panel*). The red and blue circles correspond to a radius of  $33''$  (200 kpc at the cluster redshift) and  $70''$ , respectively. *Right panel:* HST/ACS *F435W* image of the cluster core ( $30''$  across) with *Chandra* contours overlaid in red (0.5–7 keV), showing the six QSO images centred on the peak of the X-ray sources. The three central passive galaxies are relatively faint in the *F435W* band (arrows).

### 3.1. Multiple image systems

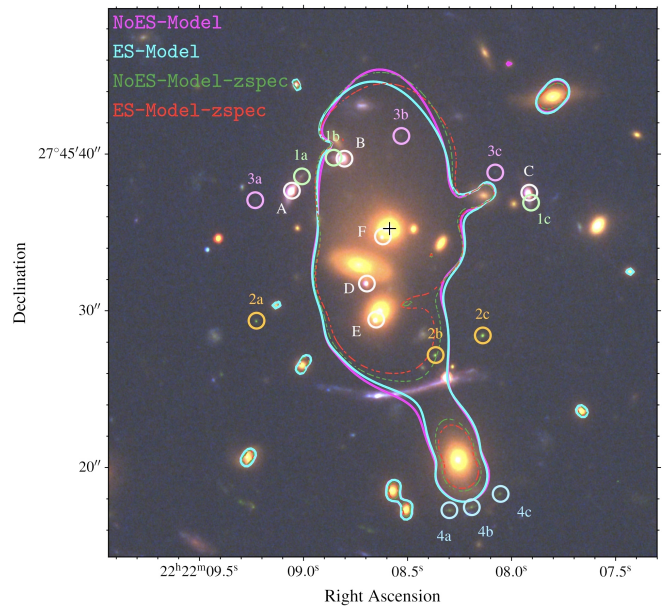
The multiple images identified in SDSS 2222, whose positions and redshifts constitute the constraints for our lensing model, were identified thanks to MOSCA observations at the NOT (Dahle et al. 2013) and high-resolution HST imaging (S17). In this work we adopt the same notation as that introduced in the literature for the QSO system (Dahle et al. 2013, S17) but choose to use the *lenstool* convention for the other systems (i.e. a number and a letter identifying, respectively, the family and the image within the family). All systems were analysed using the new MUSE datacube and are discussed below.

The background QSO is multiply lensed into six images, labelled A, B, C, D, E, and F (see Fig. 4). The multiple images were first identified with NOT/MOSCA observations in Dahle et al. (2013). NOT/ALFOSC follow-up provided a spectroscopic confirmation for images A, B, C, D, and E, while a tentative Ly- $\alpha$  emission line was detected for image F (Dahle et al. 2013). GMOS data spectroscopically confirmed the lensed nature of images A, B, C, and D (S17). Based on our MUSE spectra, we refined the spectroscopic redshift value of this system to  $z = 2.801$  (see Table 1). Due to the strong light contamination from bright cluster members, a redshift measurement for images E and F could not be obtained.

System 1 is associated with a knot identified in the galaxy that hosts the QSO and is detected three times in the HST images (close to the most magnified images of the QSO, images A, B, and C). Its redshift value was chosen to be equal to that of the QSO.

The southern arc, labelled A1 in S17, is securely confirmed to be at a redshift of  $z = 2.295$  (see Table C.1). While the extended image clearly shows several emission regions, it is not possible to robustly identify counter-images (misidentifications would in turn introduce potential biases into the lens model). For that reason, this system is not used here. The extended surface brightness modelling of the arc could provide useful constraints on the total mass distribution of the cluster (see Wang et al. 2022, for instance). We defer that analysis to a future work.

System 2 is composed of three multiple images, only one of which had a spectroscopic confirmation until now (see system B



**Fig. 4.** Red-green-blue image of the central region of SDSS 2222, showing the multiply imaged sources that have been identified (see also Table 1). We overlay the best-fit critical curves at the quasar redshift ( $z = 2.801$ ) from the models presented in this work. The solid and dashed lines display the critical curves for the associated models considering, respectively, the full and spectroscopic-only multiple image samples. The black cross indicates the reference position, corresponding to the luminosity centroid of the BCG (ID 2010), from which the cumulative projected total mass profiles are computed.

in S17). Thanks to the MUSE observations, all three images are now securely identified at a redshift of  $z = 4.560$  (see Table 1).

System 3 (labelled C in S17) is formed by three faint multiple images in the northern region of the cluster. No secure redshift estimate was possible based on the GMOS data (S17), and no emission line was detected in the MUSE data.

For the three images of system 4, the GMOS data provided an uncertain measurement of  $z = 0.86$ , possibly contaminated by a foreground object (see system D in S17). The analysis of the

**Table 1.** Coordinates and spectroscopic redshifts, with the corresponding quality flag, of the multiple image systems.

ID	RA (deg)	Dec (deg)	$z_{\text{spec}}^{(a)}$	QF	MUSE ID
A	335.537698	27.760538	2.801	3	1679
B	335.536677	27.761115	2.801	3	1844
C	335.532955	27.760503	2.801	3	1789
D	335.536191	27.758897	2.801	2	1885
E	335.535998	27.758252	2.801	–	–
F	335.535866	27.759723	2.801	–	–
1a	335.537495	27.760796	2.801	–	–
1b	335.536859	27.761150	2.801	–	–
1c	335.532917	27.760339	2.801	–	–
2a	335.538397	27.758230	4.560	3	392
2b	335.534815	27.757629	4.560	3	435
2c	335.533866	27.757973	4.560	3	398
3a	335.538412	27.760379	–	–	–
3b	335.535499	27.761519	–	–	–
3c	335.533613	27.760871	–	–	–
4a	335.534535	27.754882	4.505	1	438
4b	335.534083	27.754935	4.505	1	2153
4c	335.533520	27.755171	4.505	1	555555

**Notes.** <sup>(a)</sup>Redshift values within a system are averages of the measurements with the highest QFs.

MUSE datacube results in a tentative (QF = 1) redshift estimate of  $z \sim 4.51$ , based on a possible Ly- $\alpha$  emission (at the noise level).

The sample of secure multiple image systems spans the redshift range  $z = 2.801$  to  $z = 4.560$ , with a total of 12 multiple images from three background sources. Systems 3 and 4, which add six additional multiple images, are instead considered photometric, and their redshift values were optimised in the modelling, when included. We measured the coordinates of the luminosity peaks of the multiple images in the HST  $F606W$  band and used them as observables in the lens models. We show the measured positions of the 18 multiple images in Fig. 4, and their properties are summarised in Table 1. Finally, Fig. A.1 presents the extracted spectra for the images with a  $\text{QF} \geq 2$ , together with small cutouts of the HST colour-composite image.

### 3.2. Selection and internal kinematics of cluster members

The cluster member catalogue was built by considering only secure cluster galaxies. Spectroscopic cluster members were selected mainly based on the analysis of the MUSE datacube. From the MUSE data, we identified 34 member galaxies in the cluster inner region with a reliable redshift estimate (i.e. with a  $\text{QF} \geq 2$ ), 26 of which are newly spectroscopically confirmed. We also included three cluster galaxies outside the MUSE field of view that had previous archival redshift measurements from the SDSS DR9 catalogue (see Fig. 1 and Table B.1). The redshift distribution of these galaxies, shown in Fig. 2, can be fit with a Gaussian distribution with mean and standard deviation values of  $\bar{z} = 0.489 \pm 0.004$ . These spectroscopic cluster members are selected as the galaxies with rest-frame relative velocities within  $\Delta V = 3000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  of the cluster mean velocity, corresponding to the redshift range  $z = 0.474$ - $0.504$ . Their properties are summarised in Table B.1. The redshift and  $F160W$  magnitude distributions of the member galaxies are shown in Fig. 2.

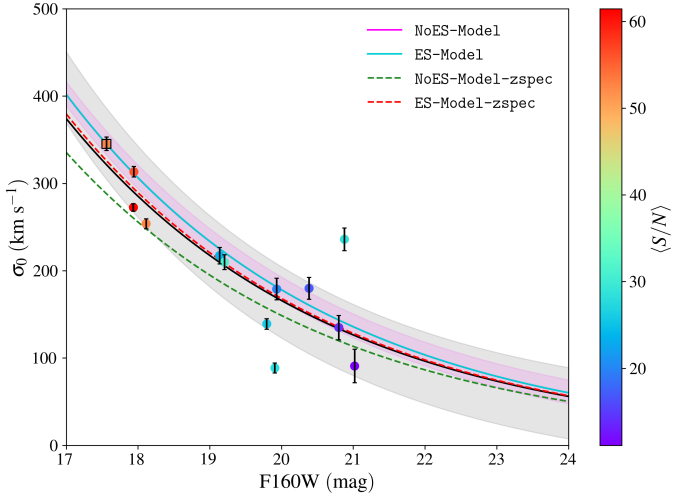
In a second step, we took further advantage of the MUSE data to measure the line-of-sight stellar velocity dispersion for the brightest cluster members. Including additional, independent information, such as stellar kinematics, in SL models can help reduce degeneracies between the different cluster mass components. We followed the methodology presented in Bergamini et al. (2019, 2021), which has already been applied to several other lens clusters (Pignataro et al. 2021; Granata et al. 2022; Acebron et al. 2022; Bergamini et al. 2022). Spectra of the confirmed cluster members were extracted from the MUSE datacube within  $0''.8$  radius apertures and are consistent with the median FWHM value of the MUSE observations (see Sect. 2.2). We performed a visual inspection and verified, using a small sub-set of galaxies with angularly close neighbours, that reducing the extraction apertures to radii with values of  $0''.6$  yields consistent measurements, given the uncertainties. We eventually only decreased the value of the aperture radius to  $0''.4$  for the BCG (ID 2010 in Table B.1) due to the contamination from the light of multiple image F of the QSO and of an angularly close satellite galaxy. We then measured the line-of-sight stellar velocity dispersion values with the public penalised pixel-fitting method software pPXF (Cappellari & Emsellem 2004; Cappellari 2017). The cross-correlation between the observed spectra and an extended set of stellar templates was performed in the rest-frame wavelength range  $[3600, 5000] \text{ \AA}$ . In order to only exploit reliable measurements in the subsequent lensing analysis, we limited the sample to galaxies with  $\langle S/N \rangle > 10$  and  $\sigma_0 > 80 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  (as discussed in Bergamini et al. 2019, 2021). Of the 34 MUSE cluster galaxies, 13 of them, down to  $F160W \sim 21$ , satisfy these criteria. The measured stellar velocity dispersion values of the 13 cluster members were then fitted following the Bayesian approach presented in Bergamini et al. (2019, 2021). In this way, we derived the best-fit values of the logarithmic slope,  $\alpha$ , and of the reference velocity dispersion,  $\sigma_0^*$ , of the  $\sigma_0$ - $F160W$  relation, which were then adopted as prior information for the scaling relations in our SL model of SDSS 2222 (see Sect. 3.4). We show in Fig. 5 the measured stellar velocity dispersion as a function of the  $F160W$  magnitude values for the 13 selected cluster galaxies and the resulting best-fit relation.

### 3.3. Modelling methodology

The pipeline `lenstool` allows for parametric mass reconstructions of a lens, where the total mass of the lens can be separated into several components. In this work we consider cluster-scale and galaxy-scale mass components.

We chose to model all halos with dual pseudo-isothermal elliptical mass density (dPIE) profiles (Eirasdóttir et al. 2007). There are seven free parameters associated with the dPIE profile in `lenstool`: the coordinates of the centre,  $x, y$ ; the ellipticity,  $e = (a^2 - b^2)/(a^2 + b^2)$ , where  $a$  and  $b$  are the values of the major and minor semi-axes, respectively; the orientation,  $\theta$  (counted anti-clockwise from the  $x$ -axis); the core and truncation radii,  $r_{\text{core}}$  and  $r_{\text{cut}}$ ; and a velocity dispersion,  $\sigma_{\text{LT}}$ , which is linked to the central velocity dispersion of the dPIE profile according to the relation  $\sigma_0 = \sqrt{3/2} \sigma_{\text{LT}}$ .

Cluster-scale halos are described by non-truncated, elliptical dPIE profiles. Galaxy-scale halos, which are associated with the cluster galaxies, are instead modelled with singular, circular dPIE profiles. To significantly reduce the number of free parameters, the following two scaling relations (Jullo et al. 2007) between the galaxy total mass and its corresponding luminosity (as measured in the HST  $F160W$  band; see Sect. 3.2) are



**Fig. 5.** Measured stellar velocity dispersions for a sub-sample of 13 cluster members as a function of their magnitudes in the HST  $F160W$  band (filled circles, colour-coded according to their spectral  $\langle S/N \rangle$ ). The black square pinpoints the values of the BCG. The solid black line and shaded area correspond to the best-fit  $\sigma_0$ – $F160W$  relation and the 68% confidence interval, respectively (see Sect. 3.2). We note that all the lens models assume the same value of the slope,  $\alpha$ , and only the value of the scaling-relation normalisation is optimised within a Gaussian prior centred on the best-fit value of  $\sigma_0$ . The solid magenta and cyan lines represent the median  $\sigma_0$ – $F160W$  relations for the NoES-Model and ES-Model, respectively. The resulting relations from the two lens models are consistent and do completely overlap. The dashed lines show the median relations for the corresponding SL models that only include the spectroscopic sample of multiple images. For visual clarity, we only show the  $1\sigma$  statistical uncertainties for the NoES-Model (magenta shaded area).

typically adopted:

$$\sigma_0 = \sigma_0^* \left( \frac{L}{L^*} \right)^\alpha \quad \text{and} \quad r_{\text{cut}} = r_{\text{cut}}^* \left( \frac{L}{L^*} \right)^\beta, \quad (1)$$

where  $L^*$  represents the reference luminosity value of a galaxy at the cluster redshift, which we associated with the BCG (with a magnitude value in the HST  $F160W$  band of 17.56). The two free parameters in the lens model are then  $\sigma_0^*$  and  $r_{\text{cut}}^*$ . The (fixed) parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  correspond to the slopes of the  $\sigma_0$  and  $r_{\text{cut}}$  scaling relations, respectively. We adopted values of  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  so that the galaxy total mass-to-light ratio varies with the luminosity as  $M_i^{\text{tot}} L_i^{-1} \propto L_i^\gamma$ , with  $\gamma = 0.2$  (i.e. a relation that is compatible with the so-called tilt of the Fundamental Plane; Faber et al. 1987; Bender et al. 1992; Ciotti et al. 1996; Bernardi et al. 2003; Grillo & Gobat 2010).

To introduce further flexibility into the lens modelling of galaxy clusters, an external shear component can be considered. The external shear is described by two additional free parameters: its magnitude,  $\gamma_{\text{ext}}$ , and orientation,  $\phi_{\text{ext}}$ .

The best-fitting values of the model parameters that describe the total mass distribution of the lens,  $\mathbf{p}$ , were obtained by minimising on the image plane the distance between the observed,  $\theta^{\text{obs}}$ , and model-predicted,  $\theta^{\text{pred}}$ , positions of the multiple images through a  $\chi^2$  function (see e.g., Eq. (4) in A22). More generally, we quote the root mean square (rms) value of the difference between the observed and model-predicted positions of the multiple images to quantify the goodness of our models:

$$\text{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_{\text{tot}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{tot}}} \left| \theta_i^{\text{obs}} - \theta_i^{\text{pred}}(\mathbf{p}) \right|^2}, \quad (2)$$

where  $N_{\text{tot}}$  is the total number of images.

In addition, other statistical estimators can be used to compare lens models with different numbers of observables or free parameters, especially for models with a low number of observable quantities, as in the case of SDSS 2222. Thus, we also consider in the following the Bayesian information criterion (BIC; Schwarz 1978) and the Akaike information criterion (AIC; Akaike 1974). The BIC is defined as  $\text{BIC} = -2 \ln(\mathcal{L}) + k \times \ln(n)$ , and the value of the AIC is obtained as  $\text{AIC} = 2k - 2 \ln(\mathcal{L})$ , where  $\mathcal{L}$  is the maximum value of the likelihood,  $k$  is the number of free parameters, and  $n$  is the number of observational constraints.

#### 3.4. Mass parametrisation of SDSS 2222

In this work we consider two sets of cluster total mass parametrisations and two sets of observables in order to find which model best fits the data and to investigate the impact of systematic uncertainties on our results.

**Mass models.** The cluster-scale mass component of SDSS 2222 was modelled with a single, non-truncated dPIE profile. The values of the ellipticity, position angle, core radius, and velocity dispersion associated with this halo were optimised within large flat priors, while the truncation radius was fixed to a very large value. The coordinate values of the halo were free to vary within  $2''$  of those of the BCG. For the galaxy-scale mass component, we considered the 37 spectroscopically confirmed cluster members (see Sect. 3.2 and Table B.1), which were all modelled within the adopted scaling relations (see Eq. (1)). As presented in Sect. 3.2, we made use of the stellar velocity dispersion measurements obtained for a sub-set of cluster galaxies. In particular, in the lens model optimisations we used the normalisation and slope values of the best-fit  $\sigma_0$ – $F160W$  relation. We thus chose a Gaussian distribution centred on the measured value of  $321 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and with a standard deviation value of  $41 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  as a prior for the value of the normalisation  $\sigma_0^*$ . Instead, since no independent information is available, a large flat prior for the  $r_{\text{cut}}^*$  value was considered (between 0 and 250 kpc). The value of the slope,  $\alpha$ , was fixed to the fitted one of 0.295 (based on the stellar kinematic measurements; see Sect. 3.2), and the value of  $\beta$  was inferred such that  $M_i^{\text{tot}}/L_i \propto L_i^{0.2}$  following

$$\beta = \gamma - 2\alpha + 1. \quad (3)$$

This cluster total mass parametrisation is referred to as NoES-Model. In the second mass model, labelled ES-Model, we included an additional external shear component, as described in Sect. 3.3. NoES-Model has a total of 8 free parameters related to the mass parametrisation, while ES-Model has 10.

**Observables.** The full catalogue of multiple images is presented in Sect. 3.1 and Table 1. In total, we have five multiply imaged sources, three of which are spectroscopically confirmed. To investigate potential biases coming from the inclusion of less secure information (see e.g., Grillo et al. 2015; Johnson & Sharon 2016), we considered the two lens total mass models presented above, including either the full spectroscopic and photometric multiple image sample or the spectroscopic-only one (labelled NoES-Model-zspec and ES-Model-zspec). In the former case, the redshift values of systems 3 and 4 were optimised in the models, assuming large flat priors. These catalogues thus provide 36 or 24 observational constraints, and the lens models depend on 12 or 6 free parameters for the positions and redshifts of the corresponding sources, respectively.



**Table 2.** Figure-of-merit estimators for the spectroscopic and photometric (top) and the spectroscopic-only (bottom) best-fit models.

Model	rms ["]	$\nu$	$\chi^2$	BIC	AIC
NoES-Model	0.34	16	32.70	71.3	39.7
ES-Model	0.29	14	24.60	69.8	35.0
NoES-Model-zspec	0.21	10	8.27	30.3	13.8
ES-Model-zspec	0.20	8	7.98	36.4	17.5

**Notes.** We note that these values correspond to the models before the re-scaling of the multiple image positional uncertainty (see Sect. 3.4).

Initially, a positional uncertainty of  $0''.25$  was adopted for all images and models. For each final model run, the multiple image positional uncertainty was then re-scaled in order to obtain a minimum  $\chi^2$  value comparable with the number of degrees of freedom ( $\nu$ ) such that  $\chi^2/\nu \sim 1$ . In particular, we re-scaled the positional uncertainty for both NoES-Model and ES-Model from  $0''.25$  to  $0''.35$ , while for NoES-Model-zspec and ES-Model-zspec we used the value of  $\chi^2/\nu \sim 1$  without any re-scaling of the positional uncertainty (see Table 2).

#### 4. Results and discussion

In this section we present the results from the model optimisations and statistical analyses described in Sect. 3.4 and discuss the impact on our results of systematic uncertainties related to the modelling assumptions and choices of observables.

We refer to two cluster total mass parametrisations (with or without an external shear component) and two sets of observational constraints (a full or spectroscopic-only multiple image sample). The values of the statistical estimators introduced in Sect. 3.3 for these four SL models are summarised in Table 2, and the resulting median values of the model free parameters, and the associated  $1\sigma$  statistical uncertainties, are given in Table 3. Considering the values of all figures of merit, ES-Model was favoured when considering the full sample of multiple images, despite having two additional free parameters related to the external shear field. However, when considering only the spectroscopic sample of lensed sources, the inclusion of an external shear component is not supported, given the larger BIC and AIC values with respect to the model without. The resulting rms value for the best-fit model with the full sample of images (i.e. ES-Model) is  $0''.29$ .

Figure 4 shows the resulting critical lines at the redshift of the QSO system ( $z = 2.801$ ) for the four models. The main difference arises between models that consider different sets of observables (see the solid and dashed coloured lines), in the southern region of the cluster core, and they can be attributed to the degeneracy between the cluster-scale and galaxy-scale mass components. As previously mentioned, including as additional information the surface brightness distribution of the southern arc, A1, should help robustly reconstruct the total mass distribution of the lens and distinguish between different total mass parameterisations.

The obtained values of the model mass parameters are generally consistent, within the statistical uncertainties. In addition, Fig. 5 highlights the importance of an independent determination and implementation in our lens models of the  $\sigma_0$ - $F160W$  sub-halo scaling relation in reducing inherent model degeneracies between the cluster- and galaxy-scale mass components. When contrasted with the previous SL analysis of SDSS 2222 by S17, the values of the mass parameters related to the large-scale

dark matter (DM) halo are consistent, within the errors. However, a comparison of the sub-halo contribution to the total mass is not straightforward: in S17, the value of the normalisation of the velocity dispersion–luminosity scaling relation was fixed to a given arbitrary value and the value of the reference luminosity,  $L^*$ , was not provided.

We find that when an external shear component is included, the ES-Model(-zspec) models require a non-negligible amplitude (i.e.  $\gamma_{\text{ext}} = 0.12(0.07)$ ), albeit with a large statistical uncertainty. Similar values have been quoted in the literature (see e.g., Caminha et al. 2016, 2019; Lagattuta et al. 2019). The inclusion of this additional (non-localised) term introduces further flexibility into the lens modelling and can account for several non-modelled lensing effects, such as the cluster environment, line-of-sight mass structures, or asymmetries in the total mass distribution (see e.g., Lagattuta et al. 2019, and A22, for a discussion). We also find consistent model predictions for the redshift value of system 3:  $z_{S3} = 3.3^{+0.4}_{-0.2}$  for NoES-Model and  $z_{S3} = 3.2^{+0.3}_{-0.2}$  for ES-Model. These values are also in agreement with the tentative GMOS spectroscopic measurement and the lens model predictions from S17. On the other hand, the model-predicted redshift value for system 4 is completely unconstrained in both lens models. System 4 being the farthest identified system from the cluster centre, but angularly close to the third brightest cluster member ( $\sim 3''$  from galaxy ID 2064 in Table B.1), this can be explained by model degeneracies between the system redshift and the sub-halo mass component.

We show in Fig. 6 the cumulative projected total mass profile of the cluster as a function of the distance from the BCG centre for the four lens models (top panel) and the ratio of the profiles from the different models with respect to NoES-Model (bottom panel). Within the approximate average distance of the multiple images from the BCG centre, we measure a precise projected total mass value of  $M(<40 \text{ kpc}) = 1.02^{+0.02}_{-0.02} \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$  for ES-Model. Given the errors, this mass estimate is perfectly in agreement for the four models, with a statistical plus systematic relative uncertainty (determined from the different mass parameterisations) of only approximately 3%. The projected total mass of the cluster enclosed within a circle with a radius equal to the average multiple image distance from the lens centre (indicated as vertical lines in Fig. 6) is thus robustly measured. Well beyond the region where the observables are available, model extrapolations and systematic uncertainties become more relevant, but all model projected total mass profiles remain consistent, within  $2\sigma$ .

SDSS 2222 is a relatively low-mass lens cluster, with an X-ray luminosity in the group regime, a complex morphology, and a fairly small number of securely identified ‘point-like’ multiple image constraints. We note that current SL models suffer from important degeneracies between several model parameters. In particular, we verified that the  $y$  coordinate value of the main DM halo is correlated to those of its velocity dispersion and ellipticity, and the mass contribution of the sub-halo component to the lens total mass. We thus further investigated the impact of relaxing or tightening the prior on the  $y$  coordinate value of the main DM halo (from  $1''$  to  $10''$  from the BCG). We find that models for which a larger  $y$  value is favoured (i.e. with a cluster DM halo more distant from the luminous counterpart) require a rounder (i.e. less elliptical) DM halo, with a more massive sub-halo component. Despite these degeneracies (as illustrated in Fig. D.1 for ES-Model and NoES-Model-zspec), the different lens models yield projected total mass profiles, normalisations of the  $\sigma_0$ - $F160W$  sub-halo scaling relation, and critical lines (e.g., at the redshift of the QSO) that are consistent within



**Table 3.** Median values and 68% (statistical) confidence level intervals of the lens mass parameters for the SL models discussed in this work.

Model	Component	$x$ [ $''$ ]	$y$ [ $''$ ]	$e$	$\theta$ [deg]	$\sigma_0$ [km s $^{-1}$ ]	$r_{\text{cut}}$ [ $''$ ]	$r_{\text{core}}$ [ $''$ ]	$\gamma_{\text{ext}}$	$\phi$ [deg]
NoES-Model	DM	$0.0^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	$1.8^{+0.1}_{-0.4}$	$0.58^{+0.06}_{-0.06}$	$94.9^{+1.0}_{-1.0}$	$705^{+36}_{-25}$	[2000]	$5.6^{+1.0}_{-0.8}$	–	–
	$L^*$ Galaxy	–	–	–	–	$345^{+15}_{-13}$	$3.4^{+0.7}_{-0.5}$	[0]	–	–
ES-Model	DM	$0.0^{+0.2}_{-0.2}$	$1.7^{+0.1}_{-0.4}$	$0.46^{+0.11}_{-0.13}$	$103.2^{+8.9}_{-3.6}$	$620^{+56}_{-79}$	[2000]	$4.2^{+1.5}_{-1.2}$	–	–
	Ext. Shear	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	$0.12^{+0.05}_{-0.08}$	$169.2^{+2.7}_{-26.4}$
	$L^*$ Galaxy	–	–	–	–	$345^{+16}_{-11}$	$4.1^{+1.5}_{-0.7}$	[0]	–	–
NoES-Model-zspec	DM	$0.0^{+0.1}_{-0.1}$	$1.1^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$	$0.35^{+0.09}_{-0.08}$	$92.9^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$	$805^{+68}_{-39}$	[2000]	$6.3^{+1.6}_{-1.4}$	–	–
	$L^*$ Galaxy	–	–	–	–	$288^{+24}_{-23}$	$2.1^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$	[0]	–	–
ES-Model-zspec	DM	$-0.2^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$	$1.3^{+0.1}_{-0.9}$	$0.47^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$	$98.6^{+3.9}_{-5.2}$	$756^{+67}_{-56}$	[2000]	$5.4^{+1.7}_{-1.4}$	–	–
	Ext. Shear	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	$0.07^{+0.06}_{-0.04}$	$134.1^{+17.1}_{-38.9}$
	$L^*$ Galaxy	–	–	–	–	$326^{+36}_{-31}$	$2.1^{+0.8}_{-0.7}$	[0]	–	–

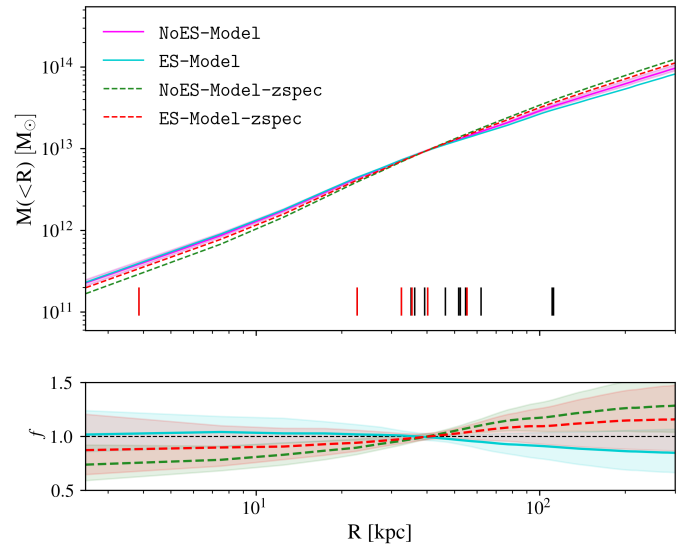
**Notes.** Parameter values in square brackets are kept fixed in the optimisation. We note that the  $L^*$  corresponds to the reference luminosity adopted to be that of the BCG with a magnitude value in the HST  $F160W$  band of 17.56.

the statistical uncertainties, showing that these global quantities and features are robustly reconstructed.

However, we remark that the model-predicted magnification and time-delay values are much more sensitive to the modelling assumptions and considered constraints, and thus to systematic uncertainties. Magnifications and time delays of the multiple images of a source do indeed depend on the local details, close to the multiple-image-observed positions, of a lens total mass density distribution. This is illustrated in Fig. 7, where we compare the magnification and Fermat potential (or the arrival time-delay surface) contours for a source at the position and redshift of the QSO, obtained from the two best-fit ES-Model and NoES-Model-zspec models. Clearly, they provide significantly different predictions. In particular, we find that the model-predicted time delays between the QSO multiple image pairs A and B and A and C, which have measured time delays (Dahle et al. 2015; Dyrlund 2019), can vary by factors of approximately 1.4 and 1.5, respectively. When different priors on the  $y$  coordinate value of the DM cluster-scale halo are adopted, we obtain similar variations for the model-predicted time delays, showing how sensitive these quantities are to the modelling details. Therefore, we stress that if one is interested in magnifications and time delays, it is not possible to distinguish among the different predictions of disparate models that can reproduce the observed positions of a set of point-like multiple images similarly well. We thus report similar findings to those presented in A22, in the sense that cluster SL models with comparable rms and statistical estimator values, referring to only the positions of multiple images, can provide contrasting values of predicted time delays, which would then result in considerably different estimates of the *Hubble* constant. These results further highlight the need to include the measured values and associated uncertainties of the time delays between the multiple images of a variable source as observational constraints for cluster lensing cosmological applications (see e.g., Grillo et al. 2018, 2020).

## 5. Conclusions

SDSS J2222+2745, at  $z = 0.489$ , is one of the few currently known lens clusters that host multiple images (six) of a background quasar ( $z = 2.801$ ) with measured time delays between two image pairs (Dahle et al. 2015; Dyrlund 2019). In order to exploit this particular lens cluster as a robust cosmological probe, a high-precision and accurate lens model is crucial. As a first step towards future cosmological analyses, in this work

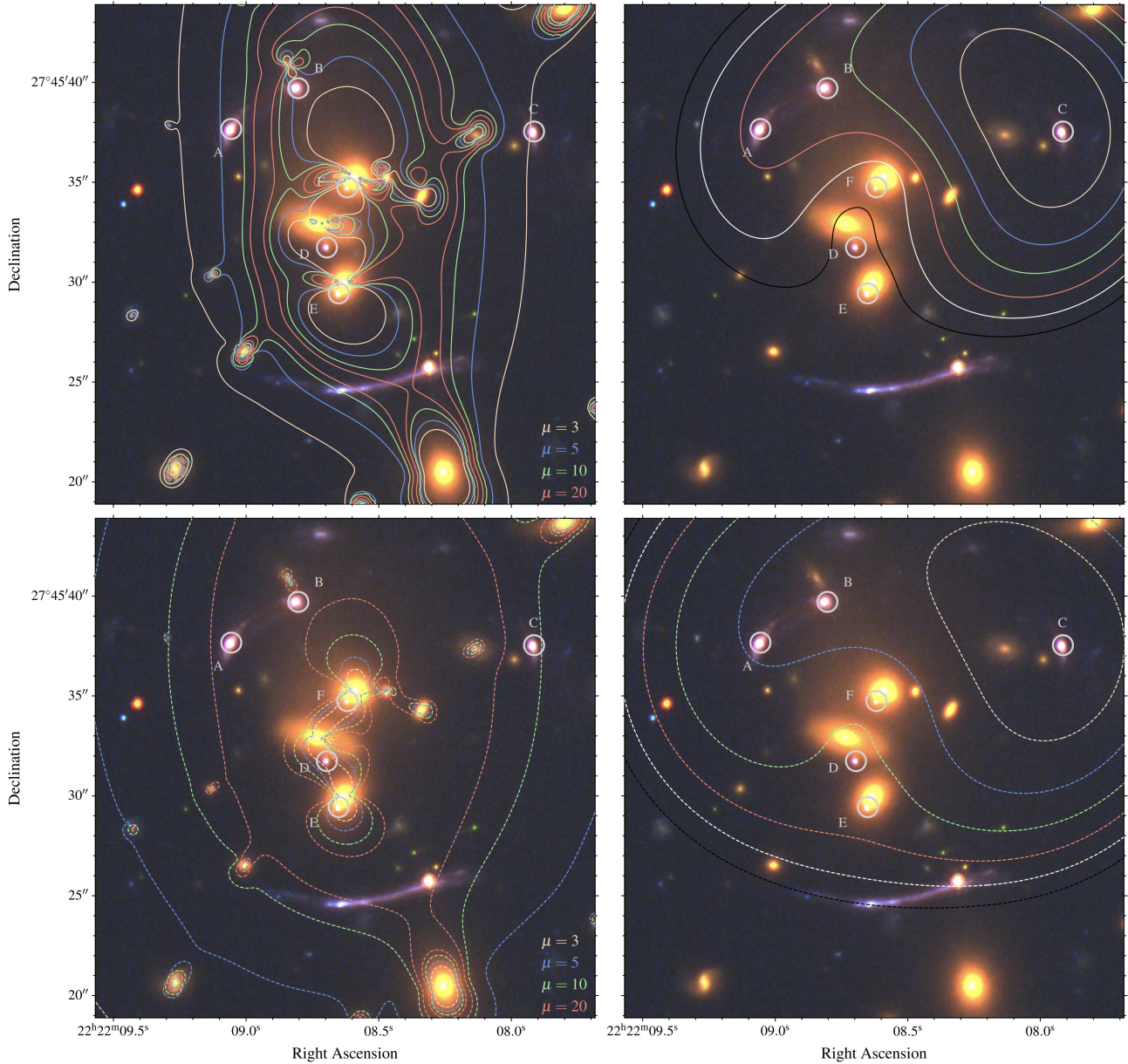


**Fig. 6.** Cumulative projected total mass profile of SDSS 2222 as a function of the distance from the BCG centre (ID 2010, marked as a black cross in Fig. 4). *Top*: the coloured lines show the median values of the total mass profile, and the shaded magenta area encompasses the 16th and the 84th percentiles, estimated from 500 random Bayesian Markov chain Monte Carlo realisations for the NoES-Model. The projected distances of the 18 multiple images from the BCG are indicated as vertical black lines. The distances of the six quasar images are highlighted in red. *Bottom*: ratio between the projected total mass profiles obtained for the different colour-coded models and the NoES-Model.

we have presented and used recent VLT/MUSE spectroscopic observations of the SDSS J2222+2745 core. In combination with archival multi-band HST imaging, we have been able to securely identify more than 30 cluster members and confirm the redshift values of three multiple image families. Based on these new data, we have built a refined SL model of the galaxy cluster SDSS J2222+2745 with the parametric software lenstool (Jullo et al. 2007).

Our findings can be summarised as follows:

1. Thanks to the MUSE spectra, we have provided an updated redshift value for the lensed quasar. In addition, we have measured secure redshifts for all images in system 2, for which only one of the three images had previously been spectroscopically confirmed (S17). Our SL models have included



**Fig. 7.** Absolute magnification (*left*) and linearly spaced Fermat potential (*right*) contour levels for a source at the redshift of the QSO system,  $z = 2.801$ . The *top* and *bottom* panels correspond to the best-fit ES-Model and NoES-Model-zspec, respectively. In all panels, the positions of the QSO images are indicated as light grey circles.

five families (three of them spectroscopic), with a total of 18 multiple images (see Table 1 and Figs. 4 and A.1).

2. We have spectroscopically identified 34 cluster galaxies with a  $QF \geq 2$  (see Table B.1 and Fig. 1), a pure sample that was then included in the SL modelling. By further exploiting the new MUSE data, we have reliably measured the stellar velocity dispersion values of a sub-sample of 13 cluster members, down to HST  $F160W \sim 21$ . These values have been used to independently calibrate the scaling relations of the sub-halo population in the lens modelling (see Fig. 5).
3. We have performed a parametric SL modelling of SDSS J2222+2745. The observed positions of the multiple images are reproduced with an rms value of  $0''.29$  for the best-fit ES-Model (see Table 2). Within the average projected distance of the multiple images from the BCG centre, we have measured a precise cluster total mass value of

$M(<40 \text{ kpc}) = 1.02 \times 10^{13} M_{\odot}$ , with a statistical and systematic relative uncertainty of approximately 3%.

4. We have investigated the impact of systematic uncertainties arising from different mass parametrisations, sets of observational constraints, and model degeneracies. We find that the lens projected total mass profile, the normalisation of the  $\sigma_0$ - $F160W$  sub-halo scaling relation, and the critical lines (at the redshift of the quasar) are all robustly measured.
5. We have verified that the model-predicted magnification and time-delay values are very sensitive to the reconstructed local distribution of the lens total mass density, and thus to systematic uncertainties. In particular, we have shown, from similar lens total mass models and sets of observational constraints, that the predicted time delays between the quasar multiple image pairs A and B and A and C (both with measured time delays) can vary by more than 30%. This finding further stresses the fact that time-delay predictions obtained



from different point-like lens models that do not include the measured time delays as constraints should not be used to estimate the value of the *Hubble* constant.

SDSS J2222+2745 is a complex cluster with a relatively small number of secure multiply imaged sources. Going beyond point-like SL models, by including the surface brightness distribution of the multiple images of the quasar host galaxy and of the southern tangential arc, will alleviate current model degeneracies and result in a significant improvement of the modelling robustness. This will in turn provide more accurate and precise lens total mass reconstructions and predictions for the multiple image systems. As already remarked in A22, to fully exploit cluster-scale lensing systems such as SDSS J2222+2745 as cosmological probes, it is key that all available lensing observables, including the measured values and errors of the time delays (Grillo et al. 2018, 2020), be incorporated in the analyses. The full MUSE spectroscopic catalogue of SDSS J2222+2745 presented in this work is made publicly available<sup>2</sup>.

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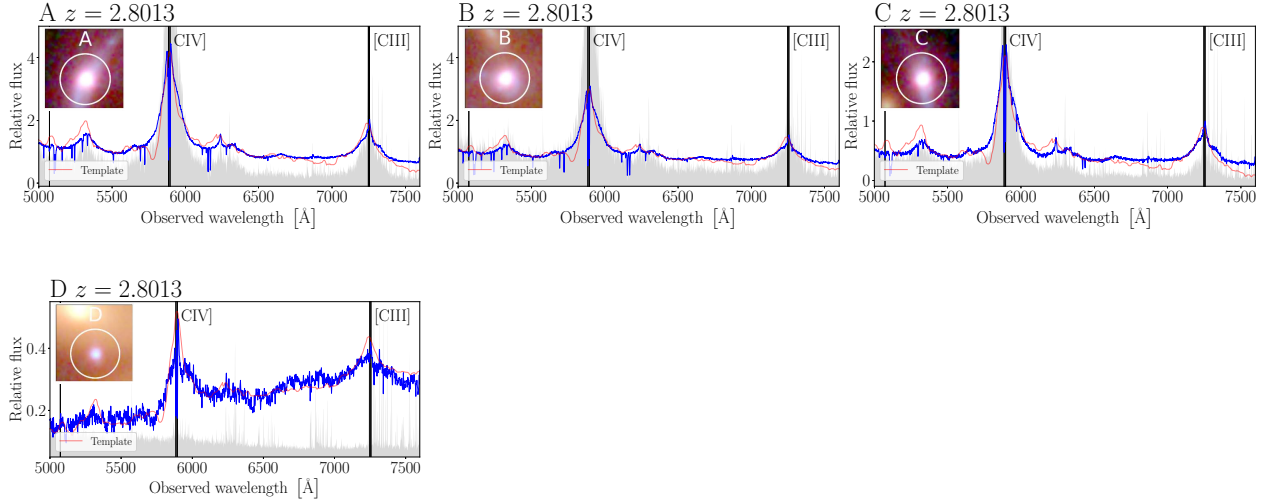
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<sup>2</sup> The catalogue is available at [www.fe.infn.it/astro/lensing](http://www.fe.infn.it/astro/lensing)

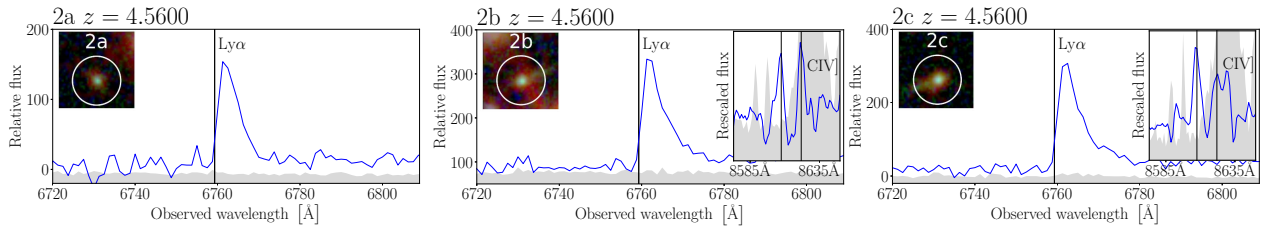
## Appendix A: Multiple images in SDSS 2222

We present in Fig. A.1 the MUSE spectra of the multiply imaged background sources securely identified in SDSS 2222, together with the colour-composite HST counterparts.

### Family QSO



### Family 2



**Fig. A.1.** MUSE data of the multiply imaged background sources identified in SDSS 2222 with  $QF \geq 2$  (see Table 1). The vertical black lines indicate the positions of the emission lines based on the best estimate of the systemic redshift. The grey area shows the re-scaled variance obtained from the data reduction pipeline. The flux is given in units of  $10 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ . The image cutouts in each panel, which are  $2''$  across, are extracted from the colour-composite HST image; the white circles pinpoint the HST counterparts.



## Appendix B: Cluster members included in the SL modelling of SDSS 2222

We present in Table B.1 the coordinates, spectroscopic redshifts, and the associated QF for the cluster galaxies that are considered in the SL model.

**Table B.1.** Catalogue of the spectroscopic cluster members included in the SL modelling of SDSS 2222.

ID	R.A. deg	Decl deg	$z_{\text{spec}}$	QF
2010	335.535746	27.759866	0.4900	3
1974 <sup>a</sup>	335.546683	27.758010	0.4833	-
2064	335.534337	27.755753	0.4917	3
1682	335.536303	27.759224	0.4926	3
1351 <sup>a</sup>	335.535539	27.772641	0.4833	-
1879	335.535913	27.758409	0.4910	3
2514	335.527403	27.751236	0.4899	3
1614	335.532449	27.762223	0.4873	3
254 <sup>a</sup>	335.536865	27.744699	0.4945	-
3675	335.533015	27.765765	0.4899	3
2392	335.533646	27.753336	0.4861	3
1859	335.534695	27.759614	0.4977	3
2277	335.535656	27.755222	0.4895	3
1782	335.533871	27.760461	0.4890	3
2175	335.538561	27.755814	0.4857	3
2285	335.535389	27.754893	0.4871	3
1676	335.535248	27.759868	0.4904	3
2459	335.534338	27.752224	0.4839	3
2129	335.531878	27.756635	0.4834	3
2051	335.537469	27.757450	0.4927	3
1959	335.536778	27.761426	0.4872	3
3603	335.533086	27.767028	0.4882	3
2523	335.532022	27.751610	0.4914	3
3201	335.540378	27.765003	0.4906	3
2021	335.529668	27.757910	0.4928	3
1791	335.528265	27.760577	0.4935	3
1835	335.530911	27.759113	0.4894	3
232	335.540238	27.766579	0.4829	3
328	335.530760	27.761539	0.4889	3
1631	335.537592	27.762424	0.4800	3
1993	335.537994	27.758516	0.4862	3
423	335.528033	27.756864	0.4967	3
294	335.533328	27.762795	0.4906	3
2022	335.539222	27.757964	0.4984	3
2407	335.529515	27.753380	0.4898	2
265	335.543839	27.764291	0.4896	2
1801	335.538663	27.760608	0.4803	3

**Notes.** <sup>a</sup>Redshift values from the SDSS DR9 catalogue.

## Appendix C: Foreground and background galaxies identified in SDSS 2222

We present in Table C.1 the coordinates and spectroscopic redshifts, with the associated QF, of foreground ( $z < 0.474$ ) and background ( $z > 0.504$ ) galaxies with respect to the cluster redshift.

**Table C.1.** Catalogue of the foreground (top) and background (bottom) galaxies with a secure spectroscopic measurement based on the MUSE data.

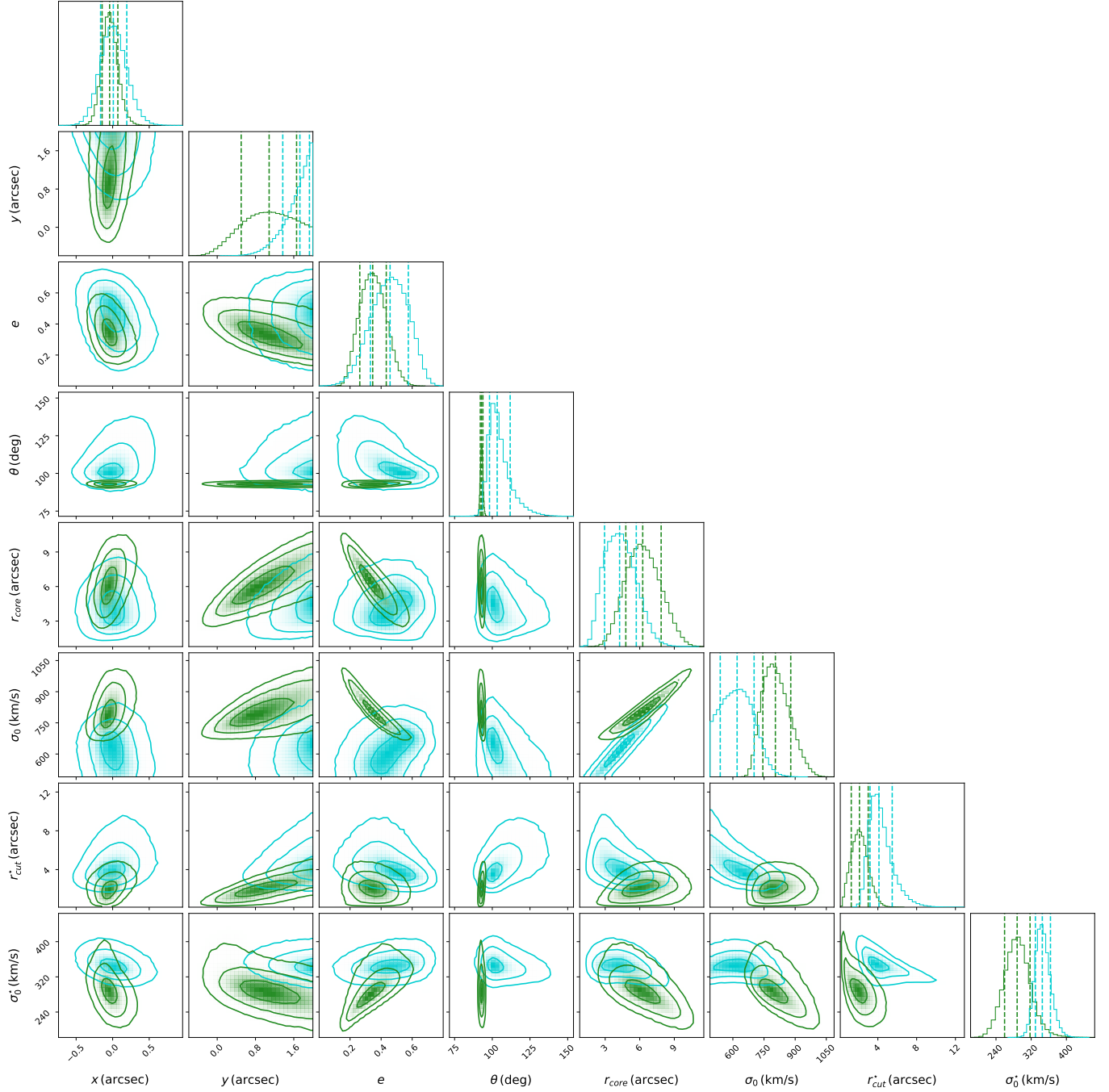
ID	R.A. deg	Decl deg	$z_{\text{spec}}$	QF
2494	335.527883	27.752258	0.1666	3
2060	335.535654	27.756604	0.1731	3
1836	335.531605	27.759843	0.2844	3
1566	335.533400	27.763878	0.2846	3
2161	335.531964	27.759812	0.2852	3
2219	335.545558	27.755106	0.4657	3
2218	335.545291	27.754859	0.4659	3
2520	335.546073	27.751610	0.603	3
1787	335.539611	27.760557	0.624	3
341	335.539542	27.760744	0.624	3
2455	335.529934	27.752699	0.666	3
2167	335.532660	27.756038	0.686	3
555556	335.534018	27.755143	0.686	3
1579	335.533869	27.762893	0.687	3
1565	335.540698	27.763180	0.718	3
482	335.542613	27.754734	0.754	3
2196	335.541723	27.755398	0.832	3
1673	335.535118	27.757902	0.832	3
1733	335.545648	27.761332	0.834	2
3021	335.526249	27.751953	0.853	3
2217	335.544759	27.754999	0.908	3
462	335.544976	27.755142	0.909	3
3464	335.527385	27.767330	0.910	3
297	335.528105	27.762531	0.981	3
2598	335.535789	27.750941	1.024	2
2382	335.531780	27.753580	1.070	3
480	335.528616	27.754721	1.071	3
2401	335.545781	27.752973	1.173	2
1696	335.534418	27.761781	1.200	3
1753	335.536373	27.761947	1.201	3
55555151	335.530780	27.765559	1.269	9
2300	335.539642	27.754210	1.272	3
513	335.532463	27.753210	1.273	3

Table C.1. continued.

ID	R.A. deg	Decl deg	$z_{\text{spec}}$	QF
1461	335.538489	27.764606	1.295	3
387	335.530384	27.758833	1.314	2
1927	335.544663	27.759414	1.510	2
1731	335.528905	27.761430	1.536	2
3557	335.533823	27.767280	2.039	2
2261	335.534169	27.757256	2.176	2
2150	335.536000	27.756825	2.295	3
2061	335.536858	27.756943	2.295	3
2134	335.535668	27.756852	2.296	3
555559	335.529544	27.757045	3.060	3
533	335.542052	27.752321	3.131	3
999991	335.532275	27.757333	3.277	9
55555141	335.536801	27.765589	3.280	9
528	335.529304	27.752584	3.454	9
5555514	335.527340	27.761884	3.495	3
5555513	335.527428	27.762041	3.495	9
999993	335.545637	27.765787	3.680	3
2091	335.539297	27.757099	3.869	9
3642	335.538114	27.766197	3.870	9
55555154	335.529808	27.764538	3.909	3
555557	335.537407	27.754958	4.531	3
555552	335.538607	27.754902	4.538	3
55555115	335.533177	27.755314	4.538	2
479	335.538535	27.754866	4.540	3
478	335.538719	27.754932	4.542	2
488	335.536164	27.754437	4.548	2
308	335.527973	27.762278	4.559	2
472	335.542556	27.755287	4.562	3
55555113	335.529161	27.754992	4.710	3
5555514	335.539716	27.766822	4.711	3
999994	335.543832	27.751557	4.725	9
55555155	335.534001	27.763796	5.185	9
999995	335.527068	27.753547	6.274	9

## Appendix D: Posterior probability distributions

We present in Fig. D.1 the posterior probability distributions of the parameter values of the cluster-scale and sub-halo mass components for ES-Model and NoES-Model-zspec.



**Fig. D.1.** Posterior probability distributions of the parameter values of the cluster-scale and sub-halo mass components for ES-Model (cyan) and NoES-Model-zspec (green). The contours correspond to the 1, 2, and  $3\sigma$  confidence levels, and the vertical dashed lines in the histograms correspond to the 16th, 50th, and 84th percentiles.