

The *XMM-Newton* Wide Angle Survey (XWAS)[★]

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ABSTRACT

Aims. This programme is aimed at obtaining one of the largest X-ray selected samples of identified active galactic nuclei to date in order to characterise such a population at intermediate fluxes, where most of the Universe’s accretion power originates. We present the *XMM-Newton* Wide Angle Survey (XWAS), a new catalogue of almost a thousand X-ray sources spectroscopically identified through optical observations.

Methods. A sample of X-ray sources detected in 68 *XMM-Newton* pointed observations was selected for optical multi-fibre spectroscopy. Optical counterparts and corresponding photometry of the X-ray sources were obtained from the SuperCOSMOS Sky Survey. Candidates for spectroscopy were initially selected with magnitudes down to $R \sim 21$, with preference for X-ray sources having a flux $F_{0.5-4.5\text{keV}} \geq 10^{-14} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Optical spectroscopic observations were made using the Two Degree Field of the Anglo Australian Telescope, and the resulting spectra were classified based on optical emission lines.

Results. We have identified through optical spectroscopy 940 X-ray sources over $\Omega \sim 11.8 \text{ deg}^2$ of the sky. Source populations in our sample can be summarised as 65% broad line active galactic nuclei (BLAGN), 16% narrow emission line galaxies (NELGs), 6% absorption line galaxies (ALGs) and 13% stars. An active nucleus is also likely to be present in the large majority of the X-ray sources spectroscopically classified as NELGs or ALGs. Sources lie in high-galactic latitude ($|b| > 20 \text{ deg}$) *XMM-Newton* fields mainly in the southern hemisphere. Owing to the large parameter space in redshift ($0 \leq z \leq 4.25$) and flux ($10^{-15} \leq F_{0.5-4.5\text{keV}} \leq 10^{-12} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$) covered by the XWAS this work provides an excellent resource for the further study of subsamples and particular cases. The overall properties of the extragalactic objects are presented in this paper. These include the redshift and luminosity distributions, optical and X-ray colours and X-ray-to-optical flux ratios.

Key words. X-rays: general – surveys – X-rays: galaxies – galaxies: active

1. Introduction

According to synthesis models, the growth of supermassive black holes (SMBHs) by accretion over cosmic time is recorded in the X-ray source population which produces the cosmic X-ray background (CXB). Hence, X-ray surveys can be used to constrain the epochs and environments in which SMBHs formed and evolved (Alexander et al. 2003; Hasinger et al. 2005; Gilli et al. 2007). X-ray surveys with high sensitivities and good spatial and spectral resolution are essential for studying the properties of the majority of X-ray sources. Deep pencil beam surveys are able to detect sources down to very faint fluxes, thereby allowing the detection of typical sources in the sky and contributing to the

picture of the early Universe. These include the *Chandra* deep field (CDF) surveys (e.g. Alexander et al. 2003; Tozzi et al. 2006; Luo et al. 2008; Xue et al. 2011), and the *XMM-Newton* deep surveys of the CDF–South (Ranalli et al., in prep.) and the Lockman Hole (Hasinger et al. 2001; Mainieri et al. 2002; Mateos et al. 2005). All-sky surveys like the *ROSAT* All-Sky Survey (Voges et al. 1999) with shallow exposures but with large sky coverage can observe rare objects with small surface number density, and are able to unveil the bright end of the luminosity function.

Serendipitous surveys covering X-ray fluxes between 10^{-12} and $10^{-15} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ fall in between especially designed all-sky programs and dedicated pointed observations. Sources at these intermediate fluxes are responsible for a large fraction of the X-ray background as they sample the region around the break in the X-ray source counts (Carrera et al. 2007; Mateos et al. 2008). A number of campaigns have been dedicated to the optical-to-radio characterization of X-ray sources selected at

* Reduced spectra (FITS files) are available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr (130.79.128.5) or via <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/557/A123>

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different X-ray depths like the XBöotes survey (Murray et al. 2005; Brand et al. 2006), the Extended Groth strip Survey (EGS Georgakakis et al. 2006), the HELLAS2XMM survey (Cocchia et al. 2007; Fiore et al. 2003), the *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra* surveys in the COSMOS field (Hasinger et al. 2007; Elvis et al. 2009; Brusa et al. 2010), and the Bright Ultra-Hard *XMM-Newton* Survey (BUXS; Mateos et al. 2012).

Data from *XMM-Newton* observations have been used to create the largest X-ray catalogue ever produced, the 2XMMi-DR3 (Watson et al. 2009). Specific complete subsets of sources have already been used to investigate cosmological properties such as the X-ray $\log N - \log S$ distributions and the angular clustering of X-ray sources (Mateos et al. 2008; Ebrero et al. 2009b). Optical imaging and spectroscopy of well-defined datasets from selected *XMM-Newton* fields have been obtained in order to characterise their X-ray source populations. The *XMM-Newton* Survey Science Centre (SSC) follow-up and identification (XID) programme is outlined in Watson et al. (2001). Their goals include the detailed characterisation of the dominant X-ray source populations and the discovery of new classes of probable rare sources. The outcome of these samples is currently being used to establish statistical identification criteria in order to characterise the complete XID database (Pineau et al. 2011). The *XMM-Newton* Bright Serendipitous Survey (XBS; Della Ceca et al. 2004; Caccianiga et al. 2008) and X-ray luminosity function (Della Ceca et al. 2008; Ebrero et al. 2009a) have been published together with the XID Medium Survey catalogue (XMS; Barcons et al. 2007), the X-ray source counts and the angular clustering (Carrera et al. 2007), and the X-ray spectral analysis of the active galactic nuclei (Mateos et al. 2005).

The *XMM-Newton* Wide Angle Survey (XWAS) presented here is part of the follow-up programme conducted by the *XMM-Newton* collaboration. It complements previous surveys in providing a qualitative picture of the X-ray sky. It yields optical and X-ray characterisation of ~ 1000 objects mainly in the southern hemisphere. Spectroscopic optical observations have been used to estimate the redshift and classify the sources. Published papers based on sources drawn from the XWAS sample include detailed X-ray spectral analysis of the identified broad line active galactic nuclei (BLAGN; Mateos et al. 2010), stacking of all XID BLAGN spectra (Corral et al. 2008) and a study and X-ray stacking of type II QSOs (Krumpe et al. 2008).

This paper is structured as follows: in Sect. 2 we define the XWAS. In Sect. 3 we discuss the multi-band optical imaging and spectroscopic observations conducted on the *XMM-Newton* target fields. Section 4 gives details on the source spectroscopic classification scheme, followed by the counterpart selection procedure in Sect. 5. Section 6 presents the overall source populations. Section 7 describes the catalogue columns and how to obtain the data. Finally, Sect. 8 summarises our main results.

Throughout this paper a Λ CDM cosmology of $(\Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda) = (0.3, 0.7)$ and $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ will be assumed. Optical magnitudes are given in the Vega system.

2. The sample

The *XMM-Newton* satellite features high spectral resolution and excellent sensitivity owing to the large collecting area of its mirrors coupled with the high quantum efficiency of the EPIC detectors (Jansen et al. 2001). It detects a significant number of serendipitous sources in addition to the original target. The purpose of the XWAS project is to create a catalogue of X-ray sources detected by *XMM-Newton* with optical identifications

including redshift and a classification based on our own optical multi-fibre spectroscopy.

The *XMM-Newton* field selection criteria for the XWAS prioritised those observations with adjacent or overlapping coverage to take optimum advantage of the field of view of the spectrograph used for the optical observations. The Galactic latitude was restricted so only those fields with $|b| > 20$ deg were selected in order to avoid high Galactic absorption and source confusion in the Galactic plane. We also required that all *XMM-Newton* observations had total exposure times of > 10 ks and that they were performed in Full Frame mode in the EPIC cameras with thin or medium filters.

With these properties, X-ray objects were originally selected from 68 spatially distinct pointing observations, carried out by *XMM-Newton* between June 2000 and May 2003. After the source selection, optical spectroscopic campaigns were performed. The Galactic absorbing column density along the line of sight for the selected observations is always $< 2 \times 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$, which minimises non-uniformities introduced by large values of the Galactic N_H . The median Galactic absorption is $3 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Of the total 5675 serendipitous X-ray sources found in the 68 exposures, ~ 3000 objects were selected for optical spectroscopy (see Sect. 3 for selection criteria).

To derive the X-ray selection function, we have estimated the sky coverage as a function of the X-ray flux using empirical sensitivity maps for every observation (Carrera et al. 2007; Mateos et al. 2008). For each observation, we have estimated the minimum detectable count rate at each position of the field of view (FOV) for a threshold in detection significance (we have selected $\mathcal{L} \geq 6$), taking into account the effective exposure and background level across the field of view. For a full description see Carrera et al. (2007); Mateos et al. (2008). For the count rate to flux conversion, which depends on the camera, observing mode, filter and spectral model, we have used the energy conversion factors published in the 2XMMi-DR3 documentation¹.

The relationship between the sky coverage and the flux for the various cameras in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band is shown in Fig. 1. The individual cameras survey $\sim 9 \text{ deg}^2$ and $\sim 8 \text{ deg}^2$ for the MOSs and pn respectively given that not all fields are observed by the three instruments. The fields targeted by the XWAS cover a net sky area of $\Omega \sim 11.3 \text{ deg}^2$, calculated using all three EPIC cameras after correcting for overlaps. In calculating the source counts we have only used flux levels at which sources are detectable over at least 1 deg^2 of sky. This constraint has been imposed to prevent uncertainties in the source count distributions due to low count statistics, and to avoid inaccuracy in the sky coverage calculation at the very faint detection limits.

3. Source identification

3.1. Optical imaging

Optical images are available for all our fields in the SuperCOSMOS Sky Survey (Hambly et al. 2001b). The SuperCOSMOS data primarily originate from scans of the UK Schmidt and Palomar POSS II blue, red and near-IR sky surveys. The ESO Schmidt *R* and Palomar POSS-I *E* surveys have also been scanned to provide an early epoch red measurement. The database hosting the SuperCOSMOS Science Archive (SSA) contains two main tables that hold the object catalogues. The *Detection* table contains a list of detected objects on each scanned plate. Detections on the different plates are merged into

¹ <http://xmmssc-www.star.le.ac.uk/Catalogue/2XMMi-DR3>

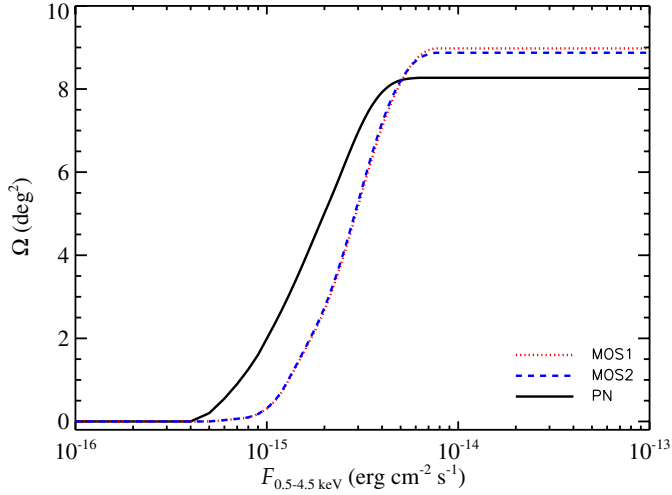


Fig. 1. Distribution of the sky coverage as a function of X-ray flux in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band for the different cameras. The XWAS covers a total sky area of ~ 11.3 deg², calculated using all EPIC cameras after correcting for overlaps.

a single source catalogue, the *Source* table, that contains multi-colour data, given that each field is covered by four plates in passbands *B_J*, *R* and *I* (with *R* being covered twice at different times, namely *R1* and *R2*). Extensive details on the surveys, the scanning process and the raw parameters extracted can be found under the SuperCOSMOS Sky Survey pages² and in [Hambly et al. \(2001b\)](#).

Our sample includes both point-like and extended optical objects. The *classMag* SuperCOSMOS parameters have been used as magnitudes in the different bands all converted to the Vega magnitude scale, hereafter and in the published tables of XWAS data unless otherwise stated. The most accurate photometric measurement from the plates depends on image morphology, and two different calibrations are applied to extended and point-like sources. However, one should note that the image classifier is not perfect and sometimes *classMag* may not be the best photometric estimator for a given object. In the published XWAS catalogue we provide the SuperCOSMOS identifier so the user can return to the original tables and select either point-like or extended magnitudes if preferred. A 0.3 mag uncertainty can be adopted for SuperCOSMOS magnitudes ([Hambly et al. 2001a](#)). These uncertainties account for the photometric accuracy of the plates and the different photographic emulsions used at different epochs. However, *B_J*–*R* colours are expected to have an accuracy of ~ 0.12 mag (for details, see [Hambly et al. 2001b](#)). Note that when using *R* band photometry, *R2* has been preferred due to its higher signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) and better calibration when compared to *R1* as noted in the documentation.

Detections in the SuperCOSMOS *B_J* band have been primarily used for cross-correlation with the X-ray source positions owing to their smaller position errors. Optical candidate counterparts were originally selected to be up to 10 arcsec from the X-ray position, although for the construction of the final catalogue a more stringent limit was imposed (see Sect. 5). If no match was found, *R2*, *R1* or *I* (in that hierarchical order) has been used for the counterpart selection. Further selection criteria imposed for the spectroscopic observations will be detailed in the following section.

Table 1. Optical spectroscopic observations.

RA	Dec	Exposure (s)	Notes
20:43:30.00	–31:53:20.0	4800	ADC problems
01:40:40.00	–67:51:00.0	4800	poor focusing + aurora
00:50:03.18	–52:08:17.4	3600	cloud
21:38:00.00	–43:05:14.0	1200	dusty sky
21:52:00.70	–27:31:50.0	2400	dusty sky
22:52:30.00	–17:45:00.0	4400	
22:16:00.00	–17:15:00.0	3600	
02:25:07.97	–05:02:26.8	4800	
02:23:52.10	–03:49:00.6	3600	poor seeing
05:07:42.30	–37:30:46.0	1800	
00:15:10.00	–39:12:00.0	3440	ADC problems, cloud
21:04:25.00	–11:51:00.0	4800	
23:02:50.00	+08:45:00.0	3600	ADC problems
05:22:58.00	–36:27:31.0	1800	ADC problems, cloud
21:51:55.60	–30:27:53.7	3600	
01:34:00.00	–40:36:31.0	3600	cloud
00:45:00.00	–20:40:25.0	3600	
03:55:30.67	+00:37:30.0	4200	poor focusing + aurora
03:36:36.00	–25:33:25.0	1800	
01:52:53.00	–13:50:00.0	4200	ADC problems, cloud
02:37:15.50	–52:15:20.0	2250	ADC problems, cloud
23:16:14.00	–42:32:50.0	3600	
03:37:38.00	+00:28:40.0	3300	
05:05:20.00	–28:49:05.0	3600	
04:09:11.23	–71:17:41.9	3600	
03:39:03.50	–35:26:30.0	3300	

Notes. RA and Dec refer to the field centre of the 2dF observations.

3.2. Optical spectroscopy

We obtained optical multi-fibre spectroscopy of the X-ray sources with the Anglo Australian Telescope (AAT) Two Degree Field (2dF; [Lewis et al. 2002](#)). Sources with X-ray counterparts having a 0.5–4.5 keV flux $\geq 10^{-14}$ erg s^{–1} cm^{–2} were prioritised (~ 2500 sources). The selected energy range was chosen to maximise the *XMM-Newton* EPIC sensitivity. This band is a good compromise between a broad passband (to favour throughput) and a narrow passband (to minimise non-uniformities in the selection function due to different source spectra). The 0.5 keV threshold was imposed to reject very soft photons and reduce the strong bias against absorbed sources occurring when selecting at softer energies.

Candidates for spectroscopy were initially selected above *R* ~ 21 , excluding the targets of the *XMM-Newton* observations. About 1200 objects ($\sim 21\%$ of all sources in the 68 *XMM-Newton* observations) fulfilled these criteria. The 2dF provides more fibres per field than required for this programme. A significant fraction of the spectroscopic fibres were placed on lower probability counterparts, allowing for lower X-ray fluxes and fainter optical magnitudes (up to *R* = 21.66) to be reached for a number of cases. Those X-ray sources with SuperCOSMOS counterpart offsets > 5 arcsec were entered with a low priority into the 2dF fibre positioning software, to allow for detection in case that they might be related to extended objects – e.g. galaxy clusters.

We obtained optical spectroscopic observations for 27 2dF fields for the potential counterparts of a total of ~ 3000 X-ray detections. General information for the observed fields is presented in Table 1. Only one optical candidate per X-ray source could be observed given that 2dF fibres cannot be positioned closer than 20 arcsec from each other. Fibres with a diameter of ~ 2.1 arcsec were placed at the positions of the optical counterparts derived

² <http://surveys.roe.ac.uk/ssa/index.html>

from SuperCOSMOS. Observations of one hour per field were typically performed, normally split into 3 exposures of 1200 s to enable cosmic ray rejection. The XWAS 2dF spectroscopic observations provide an effective resolution of $\lambda/\delta\lambda \sim 600$ over a wavelength range $\sim 3850\text{--}8250 \text{ \AA}$ and reach a S/N of ~ 5 at 5500 \AA for $V = 21$ mag. This is sufficient to provide a reliable object classification and redshift determination, together with a reasonably good characterisation of the optical continuum shape for most of the objects. However, not all objects could be classified using this wavelength coverage and S/N. Calibration lamp and flat-field exposures were taken before or after each science exposure, and observations of standards were performed in order to achieve the flux calibration of the targets. A number of exposures suffered from problems with the atmospheric dispersion corrector (ADC [Lewis et al. 2002](#)) or from non-optimal observing conditions such as cloud, poor seeing or the aurora. Spectra taken when the ADC was malfunctioning have distorted shapes due to wavelength-dependent light loss, particularly in the blue, but in many cases the spectra were still useful for identification.

The initial data reduction was carried out using the 2dF data reduction software³ (2dfdr). This included bias and dark subtraction, flat fielding, tram-line mapping to the fibre locations on the CCD, fibre extraction, arc identification, wavelength calibration, fibre throughput calibration and sky subtraction. Flux calibration, removal of the telluric absorption features, and improvement of the sky subtraction were performed with the IRAF⁴ software package. Wavelength calibration accuracy is always better than 0.5 \AA in the residuals. However, the flux calibration can only be considered as a calibration of the wavelength-dependence of the throughput, rather than as an absolute calibration, and even the relative flux calibration is not correct for spectra affected by the ADC problem.

The fibre coordinates will be considered the reference position of our objects in the rest of this paper.

4. Source classification

Optical spectroscopy is crucial for determining the source type and redshift. Optical spectra have been screened and analysed in order to derive corresponding spectroscopic classification according to the following criteria.

Extragalactic sources are classified as BLAGN when their optical spectra are characterised by the presence of at least one emission line with $FWHM > 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, usually the H Balmer series, Mg II, C III, C IV and/or Ly α . Those sources exhibiting emission lines which all have $FWHM < 1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ are classified as narrow emission line galaxies (NELGs). We did not attempt any intermediate classification, therefore types 1 to 1.5 Seyferts are included within the BLAGN category. NELG comprise type 1.8 to 2, H II galaxies, starburst galaxies, narrow line Seyfert 1 galaxies and low ionisation nuclear emission-line regions (LINERs). Counterparts with pure absorption line spectra and a spectral shape corresponding to a galaxy are classified as absorption line galaxies (ALGs). Optical images were screened to look for possible evidence of a galaxy concentration typical of clusters, although our final sample does not include any of these. This can arise from several factors: (1) the

centroid of the X-ray detection did not fulfil the criteria for counterpart selection probably due to the extended nature of the objects, and (2) the software for X-ray source detection is optimised for point-like sources and misses very extended or low surface brightness objects.

We note that we cannot apply emission line diagrams for source characterisation, as typical emission lines used for that purpose (e.g. H α) are usually shifted out from the observing window owing to the restricted wavelength coverage of the spectroscopic observations. In addition, in some cases the host galaxy H β absorption can mask any emission at that position and prevents us from using it as a useful AGN indicator.

Within the Galactic population, X-ray sources with a stellar optical spectrum are labelled as *stars*. A detailed study of the stellar population of this survey is beyond the scope of this paper. Most of them are expected to be active coronal stars showing X-ray spectra generally peaking at $\sim 1 \text{ keV}$ and dominated by soft X-ray line emission, as found in the *XMM-Newton* Galactic Plane Survey ([Motch et al. 2010](#)).

We obtained identifiable spectra for 1250 fibres. 2dF identified sources previously classified according to NED⁵ agree with our classification with a few exceptions, some of them probably due to a different instrumental resolution or distinct criteria in the class determination (see Appendix A).

5. Counterpart selection

Given that sources were originally selected from an early epoch processing of the X-ray data, we have performed the correlation of our reference fibre positions for the identified objects with the most recent version of the *XMM-Newton* serendipitous source catalogue⁶, the 2XMMi-DR3. This has been done to take advantage of the significant improvements over the previous data processing system, in order to obtain a better parametrisation of the X-ray sources and to remove any possible spurious detections. Three *XMM-Newton* fields were excluded from the 2XMMi-DR3 catalogue because they were seriously affected by high background flares, so the clean net exposure time was lower than the threshold used for the *XMM-Newton* pipeline. We independently processed these following the same recipe as in the pipeline, and included them for cross correlation with sources with identified optical 2dF spectra. Fibre positions were also re-cross matched against SuperCOSMOS to obtain the final source photometry⁷.

Candidate counterparts derived from optical spectroscopy had to be either within 4 times the statistical error (at 90% confidence) or within 4 arcsec from the position of the X-ray source. This last criterion was used to accommodate any residual in the astrometric calibration of the X-ray EPIC images. This coincides with the overall astrometric accuracy found for the 2XMM catalogue ([Watson et al. 2009](#)), ensuring the X-ray/optical coincidence. A total of 963 sources fulfilled those restrictions.

After screening all spectroscopically identified sources, we concluded that for 14 cases the X-ray detection software detects a single source whereas several objects appear on the visual inspection of the X-ray image. These cases have been rejected so that the quality of the sample is not compromised. This is because the characterisation of such X-ray counterparts is

³ <http://www.aao.gov.au/2df/manual/UsersManual.pdf>

⁴ Image Reduction and Analysis Facility (IRAF) software is distributed by the National Optical Astronomy Observatories, which is operated by the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy, Inc., under cooperative agreement with the National Science Foundation.

⁵ The NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database (NED) is operated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, under contract with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

⁶ <http://xmmssc-www.star.le.ac.uk/Catalogue/2XMMi-DR3>

⁷ The last version of the SSA was released on June 2008.

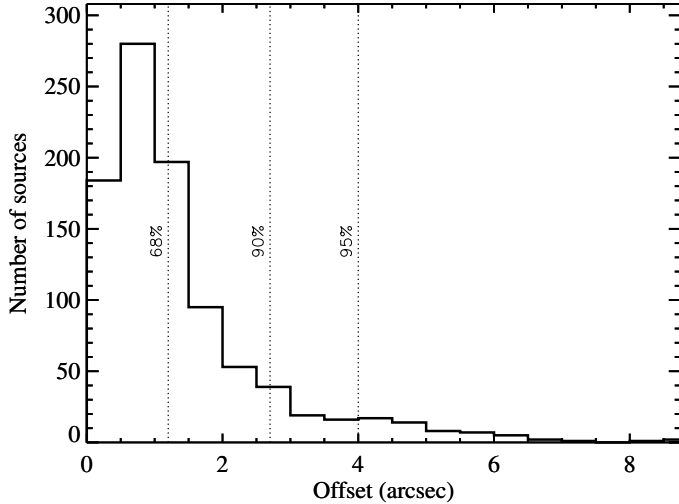


Fig. 2. Histogram of the offsets between the optical source (fibre position) and the X-ray source centroid for spectroscopically identified objects. Vertical lines mark 68%, 90% and 95% of the integration of the distribution.

ambiguous owing to the contribution of emission from an additional object. In all cases the X-ray detection is extended and/or has low detection likelihood (≤ 20 , which is the threshold used for X-ray sources in e.g. Mateos et al. 2010). Other sources have been removed after further screening for one of the following reasons: the recorded X-ray emission is contaminated by source photons from the target of the observation (2 sources), the centre of the X-ray emission is coincident with a different optical source (3), the fibre is located between two optical sources (3), or the optical source is located close to a very bright optical object (1).

The final XWAS catalogue includes 940 objects. We think that this differs from the number of identified fibres (1250) because of (a) more restrictive assumptions in terms of optical-to-X-ray offset than in the original counterpart selection criteria, (b) differences in the *XMM-Newton* software used for source determination as regards the version used for the original selection, and (c) the screening process. All these criteria were needed to guarantee the highest possible quality in the catalogue. Figure 2 shows the histogram of the angular offsets between X-ray and optical positions for spectroscopically identified sources. The integration of this distribution shows that for 68%, 90% and 95% of the sample the optical counterpart lies closer to the X-ray position than 1.2 arcsec, 2.7 arcsec and 4.0 arcsec respectively. Source populations in our sample can be summarised as 65% BLAGN, 16% NELGs, 6% ALGs and 13% stars. Figure 3 shows examples of the different source types. We checked for spurious matches by cross-correlating almost 4000 random positions in the sky with SuperCosmos, the random positions obtained by shifting our source positions by ± 1 arcmin in RA and dec. We found contamination from spurious counterparts of only $\sim 5\%$ within 4 times the statistical error or 4 arcsec.

We have estimated the completeness of our sample by comparing the number of identified matches with the total number of sources in the *XMM-Newton* fields (see Fig. 4). In addition, we show our spectroscopic success rate as a function of the optical magnitude. In Fig. 5 we plot the distribution of B_j magnitudes for the counterparts of all X-ray sources in the XWAS fields in contrast to the distribution for objects successfully identified. There we can see that at magnitudes brighter than $B_j = 20$ mag

our spectroscopic identification rate is $\sim 80\%$, while this is $\sim 30\%$ for $20 < B_j < 24$.

We note that, given the SuperCOSMOS limiting optical magnitude, our sample could be biased towards bright objects. In order to check and quantify this limitation, we analysed additional observations in a few selected XWAS fields performed with the Wide Field Camera (WFC) on the *Isaac Newton* Telescope (INT). Exposure times of typically 600 s were used for observations in the g' and r' Sloan Digital Sky Survey filters. This produced images with limiting magnitude for point-like sources down to $r' \sim 23$ –24 for ~ 1 –1.5 arcsec seeing, typical in our observing runs. Data reduction was performed following the WFC pipeline procedures of the Cambridge Astronomy Survey Unit⁸ (CASU). The WFC images were analysed using standard techniques including de-bias, non-linearity and flat field corrections (see González-Solares et al. 2011, for a full description). Errors in magnitudes are assumed to be of 0.2 mag.

Objects in the XWAS were cross-matched with detections in the WFC images. We used colour equations derived as in González-Solares et al. (2011) to obtain red WFC magnitudes in the Vega system that were compared with the corresponding SuperCosmos counterparts. Magnitudes from both observatories agree quite well, with a mean difference of ~ 0.1 mag. From the comparison, we expect up to 8% of sources to have fainter magnitudes as a result of our limiting optical magnitude, which is the fraction of sources with SuperCosmos counterparts but having an additional viable fainter match in the WFC.

6. Overall characteristics of the source populations

To illustrate the overall population sampled in the XWAS, Fig. 6 shows the flux distribution of the XWAS sources in the 0.5–4.5 keV band. We have used the EPIC fluxes appearing in the 2XMMi-DR3 catalogue. These are derived from the band count rates multiplied by a filter and camera-dependent energy factor (Mateos et al. 2009). This conversion assumes a spectral model consisting of a power-law with a continuum spectral slope $\Gamma = 1.7$ and a photoelectric absorption $N_H = 3 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (for a general description, see the *XMM-Newton* science survey centre memo, SSC-LUX TN-0059⁹). Then the EPIC flux in each band is the mean value of all cameras weighted by the errors. The model assumed in deriving the fluxes will be a fair representation for BLAGN, but less so for the other types of sources. We have included the correction for the Galactic column density using XSPEC simulations of a power-law model ($\Gamma = 1.7$) and the Galactic N_H of each individual source for the count rate to flux conversion. The estimated correction values are always less than a factor of 2. No attempt has been made to correct the fluxes for absorption of material intrinsic to the source.

6.1. Redshift and luminosity distributions

The redshifts were obtained as follows. First, each spectrum was inspected by eye and classified, and an approximate redshift was determined from the wavelengths of the most prominent features, usually either emission or absorption lines. Then, the redshift was refined by cross-correlating the spectrum with a suitable template. The redshift distribution of the XWAS sources for different source types is shown in Fig. 7. From this histogram we can see that the distribution of BLAGN is broader than those of NELGs and ALGs. We derive the mean redshift of

⁸ <http://www.ast.cam.ac.uk/~wfcSUR>

⁹ <http://www.star.le.ac.uk/~cgp/SSC-LUX-TN-0059.pdf>

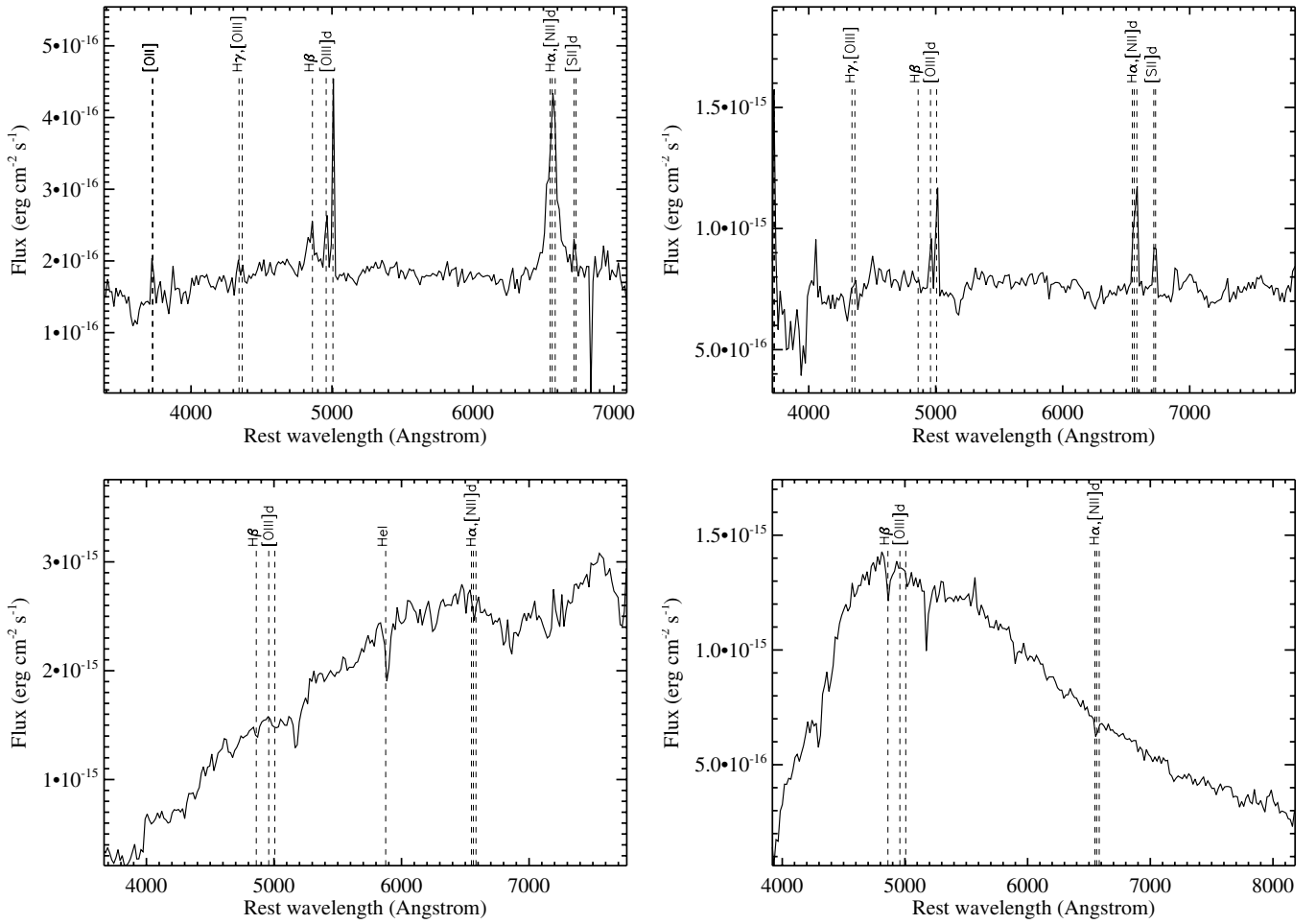


Fig. 3. Optical spectra of the different source types identified in the XWAS. *Top left:* BLAGN at $z = 0.152$ – XWAS J231658.6-423852. *Top right:* NELG at $z = 0.043$ – XWAS J033703.3-251456. *Bottom left:* ALG at $z = 0.056$ – XWAS J231756.3-421333. *Bottom right:* star – XWAS J015319.4-135552. The positions of prominent emission and absorption lines are marked on the spectra.

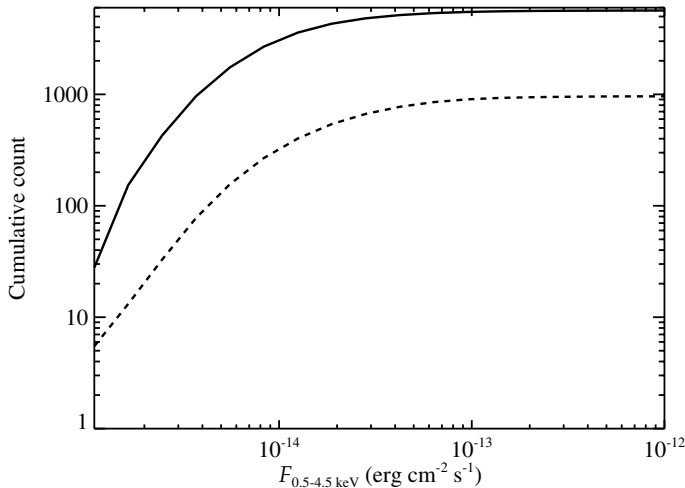


Fig. 4. Cumulative count of X-ray sources as a function of flux in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band. The total number of detections in the original 68 *XMM-Newton* observations (5675 sources) is represented by the solid line. Sources in the XWAS are shown by the dashed line.

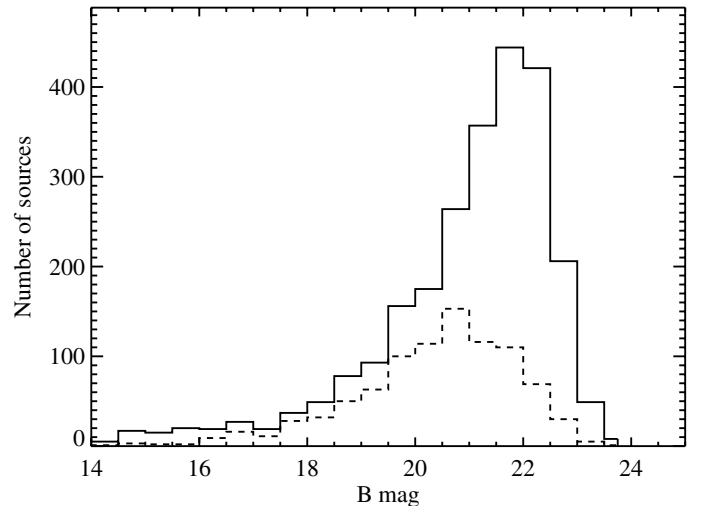


Fig. 5. Distribution of the optical magnitude for all X-ray sources in the XWAS fields (solid line). The corresponding histogram of identified sources in the XWAS sample is shown by the dashed line).

the BLAGN population to be $\langle z \rangle = 1.5$, whereas the objects classified as NELGs and ALGs peak at lower redshift $\langle z \rangle = 0.3$. Both values are comparable to those found in surveys with similar

depths (e.g. Barcons et al. 2007), while deeper surveys tend to find higher peak values for the non-BLAGN population (e.g. Silverman et al. 2005; Mateos et al. 2005; Xue et al. 2011). We

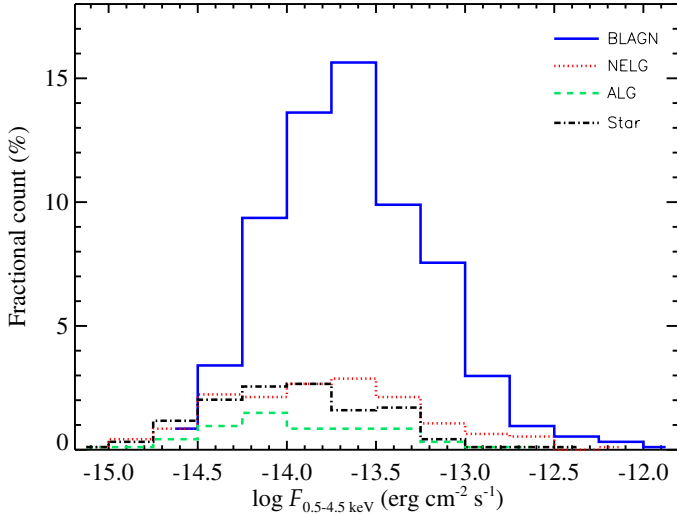


Fig. 6. X-ray 0.5–4.5 keV flux distribution of sources with spectroscopic optical identification in the XWAS.

Table 2. General characteristics of the different spectroscopic types of extragalactic objects.

Class	$\langle z \rangle$	$\langle F_{0.5-4.5 \text{ keV}} \rangle$ ($\text{erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$)	$\langle L_{0.5-4.5 \text{ keV}} \rangle$ (erg s^{-1})
BLAGN	1.5 (0.8)	$4 (8) \times 10^{-14}$	$3 (5) \times 10^{44}$
NELG	0.3 (0.3)	$4 (9) \times 10^{-14}$	$1 (6) \times 10^{43}$
ALG	0.2 (0.1)	$2 (3) \times 10^{-14}$	$3 (5) \times 10^{42}$

Notes. Standard deviations are shown in brackets.

are able to detect BLAGN out to $z \sim 4$ in these medium depth observations. However, the large majority of those sources which are not BLAGN (all except for 4 NELGs) have $z < 0.6$. The steep drop in the number of NELGs and ALGs above this redshift is almost certainly due to an optical selection bias, the combination of the optical faintness of these sources ($R \gtrsim 21$) and the redshifting of the most easily-identifiable features outside the observing window.

X-ray luminosities in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band have been computed for the extragalactic objects of the sample using the redshifts obtained in our spectroscopic observations. In order to shift such values to a common rest-frame passband for all sources, a K -correction $k(z)$ (Hogg et al. 2002) has been taken into account as

$$k(z) = (1+z)^{\Gamma-2} \quad (1)$$

where $\Gamma = 1.7$ is the spectral photon index used for the count rate to flux conversion. X-ray luminosities (not corrected for intrinsic absorption) of the extragalactic sources as a function of redshift are presented in Fig. 8. The sample contains both Seyfert-like AGN and Quasi Stellar Objects (QSO). This is because the overall luminosity distribution is centred around $10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ – which is the quantity commonly used to separate Seyferts and QSOs – where the bulk of the X-ray emission is produced as derived from the AGN X-ray luminosity function. Average properties of the extragalactic types are presented in Table 2. Note that the large standard deviations in the table are indicative of the large parameter space covered by the XWAS.

Given that many of the traditional optical signatures of AGN (e.g. evident emission lines in optical spectra) are not present in obscured sources, in a number of cases high X-ray luminosity becomes our single discriminant for supermassive black hole

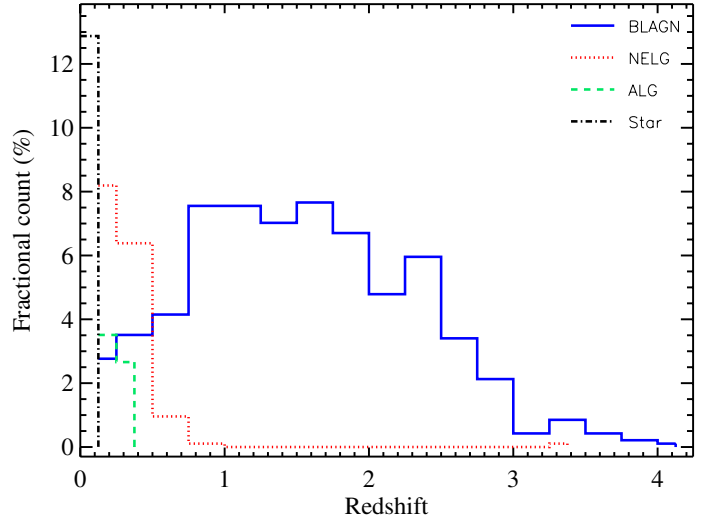


Fig. 7. Redshift distribution of the XWAS objects coded by source type.

accretion. Sources optically classified as NELGs with X-ray luminosities exceeding $10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (73% of the NELGs) are unlikely to be powered by star formation, and so this limit is placed in order to avoid objects dominated by star formation and X-ray binaries. Therefore they should be classified as type 2 AGN. In particular, the luminosity of the 3 NELGs exceeds $10^{44} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, and therefore they qualify as type 2 QSOs by standard X-ray astronomy definitions. Two XWAS sources have been included in the sample of type 2 QSOs of Krumpe et al. (2008) solely based on their optical spectra. It is worth mentioning that at the lower activity end $L_X < 10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$, LINERs have been found to host active nuclei in a large number of cases (80%, e.g. González-Martín et al. 2009). However, given that our classification lacks detail in that respect we cannot place further constraints on that particular class of activity.

There are 31 sources in the ALG class (52%) with luminosities beyond $10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$. Sources with such properties are commonly identified as X-ray bright optically normal galaxies (XBONGs; Fiore et al. 2000; Barger et al. 2001; Comastri et al. 2002; Georgantopoulos & Georgakakis 2005). They are usually found to host either heavily obscured or low luminosity AGN. The lack of emission lines in the optical spectra is commonly attributed to factors such as the faintness of the AGN with respect to the host galaxy or a non-appropriate wavelength coverage of the optical spectrum (e.g. Moran et al. 2002; Severgnini et al. 2003; Caccianiga et al. 2007; Krumpe et al. 2007). Another argument that points to the presence of an active nucleus in NELGs and ALGs with luminosities higher than $10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ is that they have X-ray-to-optical flux ratios typical of AGN (see Sect. 6.4).

6.2. Optical colour distributions

BLAGN are normally characterised by bluer optical colours than NELGs. This can also be seen in the average colours of our distributions, presented in Table 3, where the average $\langle B_j - R \rangle$ is 0.96 for the former and 1.44 for the latter. In Fig. 9 (left panel) we have plotted the $B_j - R$ colour distribution for the different extragalactic source types. For the $R - I$ colour histogram, shown in the right panel of Fig. 9, the average value for all populations is very similar, while a broader scatter on the distribution is seen for BLAGN in contrast to NELGs and ALGs. The Kolmogorov-Smirnov two-sample statistic has been estimated for the different colours. The small values of the significance level of the K-S test

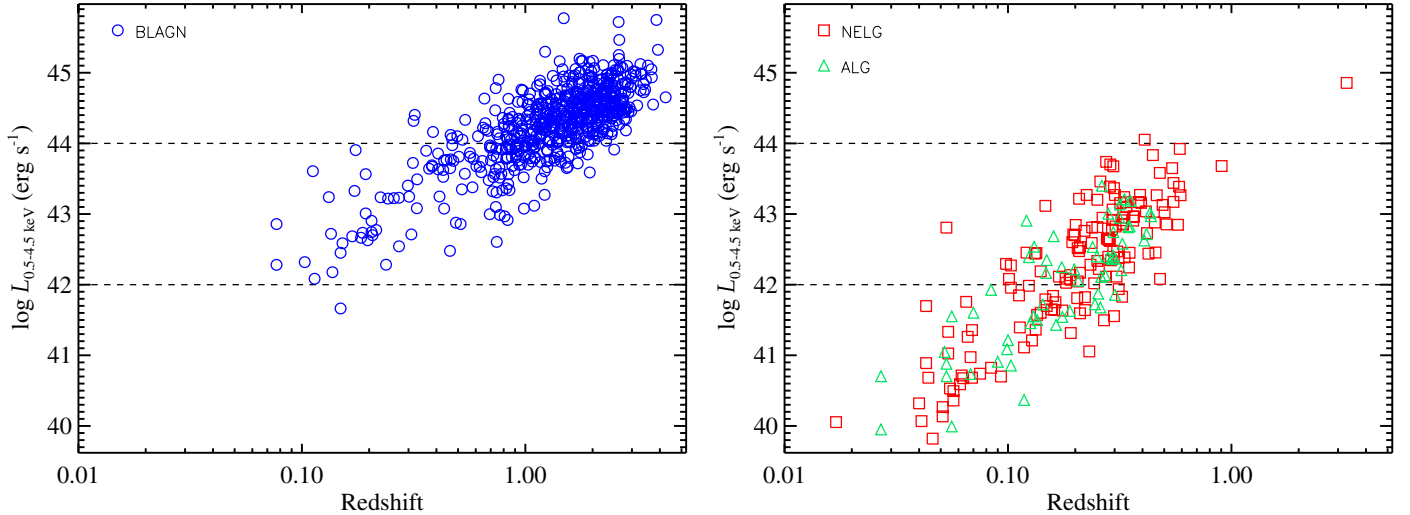


Fig. 8. Observed X-ray luminosities in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band as a function of redshift for extragalactic sources. *Left panel:* BLAGN. *Right panel:* NELG (red squares) and ALG (green triangles).

for the distinct populations (10^{-11} and 0.04 for the $B_j - R$ and $R - I$ respectively) imply that the cumulative distribution of the two samples are significantly different.

6.3. X-ray colour distribution

X-ray spectral analysis of sources in our sample can only be performed in a limited number of cases. A crude spectral determination is available through the source X-ray colour, known as hardness ratio (HR). This is obtained by combining corrected count rates from different energy bands. The HR used here is defined as $HR = (S_h - S_s)/(S_h + S_s)$ where S_h and S_s are the count rates in the hard (2–10 keV) and soft (0.5–2 keV) bands respectively for a given source. By definition, $-1 \leq HR \leq +1$. Values close to -1 indicate that the source has an extremely soft spectrum, while very hard or heavily absorbed sources are characterised by values close to $+1$.

Figure 10 shows the EPIC-pn hardness ratio distribution (90% of the total sample, i.e. sources observed with the EPIC-pn camera with detections in the individual soft and hard X-ray energy bands), where each population has been independently normalised. NELGs are expected to be absorbed sources, therefore we have simulated powerlaw spectra with X-ray slope of 1.7 and a variety of absorption values at the typical redshift of our sources (z) = 0.3. The hardness ratios corresponding to those spectra are shown as vertical lines in the figure. On average, the softest sources are the stars, followed by ALGs, BLAGN and NELGs (see also Table 3).

ALGs and NELGs have very similar redshift distribution, so one can directly compare the luminosity distributions of the two populations. On average, we find that ALGs are less luminous than NELGs for the same redshift range (3×10^{42} vs. 9×10^{42} erg s $^{-1}$). This, in addition to the fact that ALGs are less absorbed than NELGs, is an indication that the non-active optical appearance of the ALGs is most likely due to a host galaxy effect, i.e. the emission lines and AGN continuum are outshone by the stellar continuum as also found in Moran et al. (2002); Severgnini et al. (2003); Mateos et al. (2005); Page et al. (2006).

6.4. X-ray-to-optical flux ratio

A classical approach extensively used in X-ray surveys as a proxy for detecting obscured sources is the *so-called*

Table 3. Mean optical colours and hardness ratios with their corresponding standard deviations (in brackets) for the different spectroscopic types of sources.

Class	$\langle B-R \rangle$	$\langle R-I \rangle$	$\langle HR \rangle$
BLAGN	0.67 (0.53)	0.48 (0.44)	-0.47 (0.26)
NELG	1.17 (0.54)	0.68 (0.28)	-0.23 (0.47)
ALG	1.46 (0.38)	0.80 (0.18)	-0.62 (0.41)

X-ray-to-optical flux ratio ($f_X/f_{\text{opt}} \equiv X/O$) diagnostic diagram (Maccacaro et al. 1988). Previous analyses have shown that X-ray selected unobscured AGN have typical X/O between 0.1 and 10 (Fiore et al. 2003, and references therein). Flux ratios below 0.1 are typical of stars and normal galaxies; and ratios higher than 10 would correspond to heavily obscured AGN (but not Compton-thick), high redshift galaxy clusters and extreme BL Lac objects.

Here, the X-ray flux is defined as the 0.5–4.5 keV flux not corrected for Galactic absorption (the correction is not significant for our sources). For the optical flux we have used that in the red band, computed as

$$\log(f_{\text{opt}}) = -0.4R + \log(f_{R_0}\delta\lambda) \quad (2)$$

where $f_{R_0} = 1.74 \times 10^{-9}$ erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$ as the zero-point for R (Zombeck 1990) and $\delta\lambda = 2200$ Å as the FWHM of the red filter. We prefer to use $R = R2$ for SuperCOSMOS sources (or $R1$ if there is no $R2$ magnitude available). Therefore, we find

$$\log(X/O) = \log(f_X) + 0.4R + 5.42 \quad (3)$$

Figure 11 shows the X-ray-to-optical flux ratio as a function of the 0.5–4.5 keV X-ray luminosity for different extragalactic source types. The majority of sources detected in the 0.5–4.5 keV band have X-ray-to-optical flux ratios typical of AGN. We note that only one source in our sample has $X/O > 10$. A small number was a priori expected given that the initial threshold imposed on the optical flux of our sources was relatively high. The BLAGN distribution does not show any trend. Owing to the absence of broad emission lines in NELGs and ALGs, we expect their optical R band emission to be dominated by the host galaxy given that the nuclear optical/UV emission is completely blocked (or strongly reduced). Therefore,

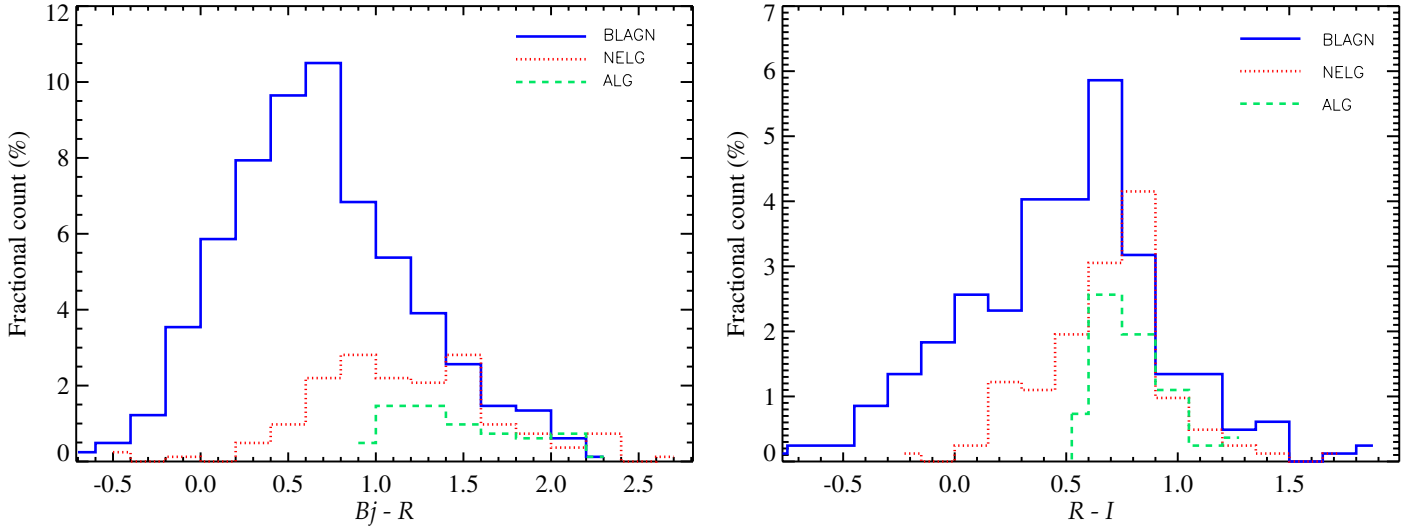


Fig. 9. Histograms of the $B_j - R$ and $R - I$ colour distributions in the left and right panels respectively.

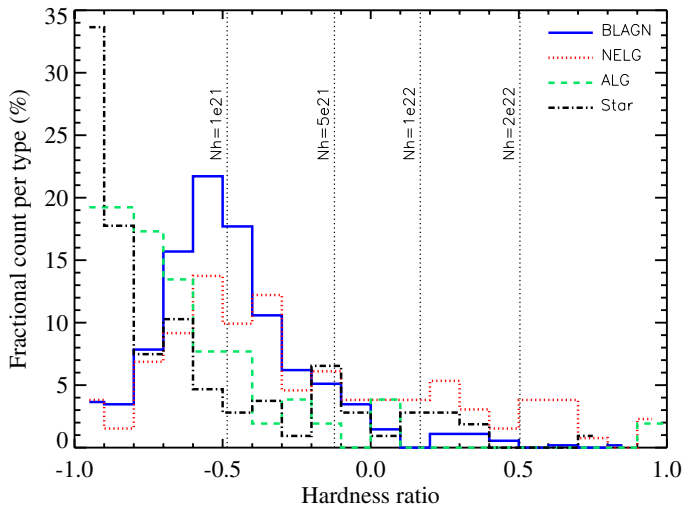


Fig. 10. Hardness ratio distribution of sources in the XWAS. Vertical lines show the hardness ratios corresponding to a source of $z = 0.3$ with a spectral slope of $\Gamma = 1.7$ subject to different absorption values.

X/O is roughly a flux ratio between the nuclear X-ray and the host galaxy light emissions. As can be seen in the plot, there is a correlation between X/O and the hard X-ray luminosity for non-BLAGN in such a way that higher luminosity sources tend to have higher X/O . The dashed diagonal line in Fig. 11 indicates the best linear regression only using detections between $\log(X/O)$ and $\log(L_{0.5-4.5 \text{ keV}})$ for non-BLAGN with $L_{0.5-4.5 \text{ keV}} > 10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (those expected to harbour a hidden AGN) and extrapolated to lower luminosities (similar to that found in Fiore et al. 2003).

7. The catalogue

The catalogue consists of 940 entries, one per object. For each object it contains information about the X-ray detection, optical imaging and optical spectroscopy. Only some representative parameters of the 2XMM-DR3i and SuperCOSMOS archive appear in the XWAS. For additional information, we invite the user to search in the original tables. This can be done by looking for the IAUNAME and OBJID columns in the *XMM-Newton* and SuperCOSMOS archives, respectively.

The XWASNAME column contains the name assigned to the XWAS sources. They start with the prefix, XWAS, and then encode the J2000 sky position of the X-ray object. Note that is identical to the IAUNAME column in the 2XMM-DR3i apart from the prefix, except for the extra 50 sources not included in the *XMM-Newton* catalogue due to the high background flares (Sect. 5). For those extra objects, we provide a separate table with data from the X-ray pipeline processing similar to that in the *XMM-Newton* catalogue. Some basic X-ray parameters directly extracted from the *XMM-Newton* survey are included in the released XWAS catalogue. These are the source name, coordinates, positional error and flux in the total 0.5–4.5 keV band. The X-ray luminosity has also been calculated for the extragalactic objects using the redshift of the optical observations and included in the table.

For the optical information, we have an identifier derived from the 2dF observations, named OPTID. Fibre positioning along with the object class and redshift derived from our analysis of the observations are also included. From SuperCOSMOS we have included the OBJID, so the user can get all data from the original tables, plus the SuperCOSMOS magnitudes in the different bands when possible. Where they exist we use the $R2$ magnitude in the R mag column, otherwise we quote the $R1$ magnitude instead. A subset of columns of the XWAS catalogue is presented in Table 4 and the complete catalogue will only be available in electronic form.

8. Conclusions

In this paper we have presented the aims and production methods of the project, and overall characteristics of the new *XMM-Newton* Wide Angle Survey. With almost a thousand sources selected in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band, this is one of the largest X-ray selected samples of spectroscopically identified AGN to date. The catalogue has great scientific potential given the quality and high number of sources. It complements previous X-ray surveys to yield a qualitative picture of the X-ray sky.

The XWAS catalogue comprises 940 X-ray objects identified through optical observations performed by the 2dF multi-fibre spectrometer. Sources are distributed over $\Omega \sim 11.8 \text{ deg}^2$ in high-galactic latitude *XMM-Newton* fields ($-85 \text{ deg} < b < -30 \text{ deg}$). The large volume covered allows us to sample the

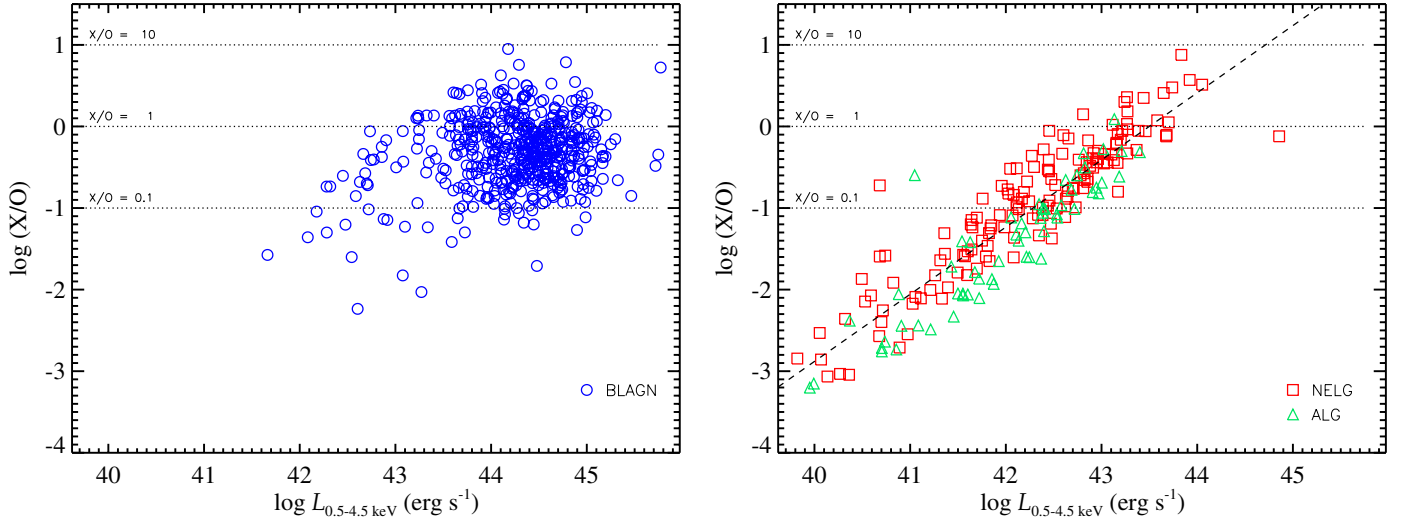


Fig. 11. X-ray-to-optical flux ratio (X/O) as a function of the 0.5–4.5 keV X-ray luminosity for extragalactic sources. The horizontal dotted lines mark the level of $X/O = 10$, 1 and 0.1 from top to bottom. *Left panel:* BLAGNs. *Right panel:* NELGs and ALGs. The dashed diagonal line is the best linear regression between $\log(X/O)$ and $\log(L_{0.5-4.5 \text{ keV}})$ for NELGs and ALGs with $L_{0.5-4.5 \text{ keV}} > 10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ (see text for details).

Table 4. Subset of the XWAS including the first 20 sources of the catalogue, ordered by right ascension.

XWASNAME	F_X^1	$\log L_X^2$	OptID	Type	z	ScosID	$B_j \text{ mag}^{(3)}$	$R \text{ mag}^{(3)}$	$I \text{ mag}^{(3)}$
XWAS J000002.7-251136	3.1	44.50	X21207_032	BLAGN	1.314	283502201403207	21.53	21.33	99.99
XWAS J000021.2-250812	2.2	44.05	X21207_051	BLAGN	0.995	283502201406064	20.41	20.89	99.99
XWAS J000022.8-251222	2.5	44.61	X21207_028	BLAGN	1.600	283502201402588	20.69	19.92	19.45
XWAS J000025.3-251141	0.4	40.90	X21207_031	ALG	0.090	283502201403144	17.18	16.35	15.98
XWAS J000025.4-245421	1.7	43.60	X21207_112	BLAGN	0.720	283502201418119	20.04	19.12	18.60
XWAS J000026.0-250649	2.0	43.13	X21207_058	BLAGN	0.433	283502201407236	21.10	20.58	19.28
XWAS J000029.8-251213	7.1	42.70	X21207_029	ALG	0.160	283502201402660	18.72	17.39	17.11
XWAS J000031.8-245501	10.2	43.42	X21207_110	NELG	0.286	283502201417551	20.12	99.99	99.99
XWAS J000033.1-250917	0.2	41.87	X21207_046	NELG	0.324	283502201405124	20.33	19.01	99.99
XWAS J000034.6-250620	3.0	44.42	X21207_060	BLAGN	1.232	283502201407669	21.51	19.80	99.99
XWAS J000036.6-250104	1.5	43.34	X21207_092	NELG	0.592	564977178154666	99.99	21.09	99.99
XWAS J000100.1-250501	9.5	44.52	X21207_069	BLAGN	0.851	283781374297752	20.77	99.99	99.99
XWAS J000102.4-245849	9.5	43.81	X21207_101	BLAGN	0.433	283781374303399	22.28	20.13	99.99
XWAS J000106.7-250847	3.3	44.57	X21207_048	BLAGN	1.355	283781374294122	22.84	20.50	99.99
XWAS J000108.9-251613	0.6	44.62	X21207_016	BLAGN	2.800	283502201399377	21.98	99.99	99.99
XWAS J000109.2-245618	1.1	99.99	X21207_108	star	0.000	283502201416365	19.04	18.22	18.40
XWAS J000122.6-250020	15.3	44.86	X21207_096	BLAGN	0.960	283502201412632	19.41	18.61	18.94
XWAS J000222.4-255657	2.7	44.03	X00821_159	BLAGN	0.904	283502201366337	21.07	21.28	99.99
XWAS J000241.9-255414	0.6	41.21	X00821_176	ALG	0.100	283502201368671	16.74	15.72	15.35
XWAS J000253.5-260345	82.2	44.44	X00821_088	BLAGN	0.320	283502201360456	17.62	17.47	16.88

Notes. Null values have been substituted by 99.99. ⁽¹⁾ Absorbed X-ray flux in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band, in units of $10^{-14} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. ⁽²⁾ Logarithm of the absorbed X-ray luminosity in the 0.5–4.5 keV energy band in erg s^{-1} .

bright end of the X-ray luminosity function. Source populations in our survey are 65% BLAGNs, 16% NELGs, 6% ALGs and 13% stars.

A large number of NELGs and ALGs are also expected to have an active nucleus given the X-ray luminosity and X-ray-to-optical flux ratios. NELGs are the most absorbed sources in the survey as shown by their X-ray colours. Extragalactic sources with luminosities lower than $10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$ could also have high absorption and host AGN. Indeed, some works suggest that they can include Compton-thick AGN.

The sample presented here spreads over a large parameter space, in a region of the redshift-luminosity diagram poorly covered so far. The BLAGN sample extends out to redshift 4, with an average of $\langle z \rangle = 1.5$. The average value for NELGs is $\langle z \rangle = 0.3$, and $\langle z \rangle = 0.2$ for ALGs. This is in agreement with

previous surveys with similar depth. As expected, the BLAGNs appear bluer than those galaxies with narrow or no spectral emission lines.

A similar survey in terms of sky coverage and X-ray flux limits is the XBöotes survey, with optical spectroscopy from the AGN and Galaxy Evolution Survey (AGES; Hickox et al. 2009). The authors explore its multiwavelength properties, but the radio, X-ray, and IR AGN samples only show a mild overlap. However, although it covers a similar X-ray luminosity range to the XWAS, the redshift sampling is quite limited $0.25 < z < 0.8$.

The large volume covered means that one can also perform stacking analyses of the X-ray data to determine the mean X-ray properties of different populations. In that context, Mateos et al. (2010) derived the mean properties of BLAGNs, and the

Table A.1. Discrepancies with NED.

Opt ID	Type XWAS	Redshift XWAS	Source name	Type NED	Offset (arcsec)	Reference
X20239_073	Gal	0.113	FCSS J033851.5-352650	AGN1	0.6	Della Ceca et al. (2004)
X21207_110	NELG	0.286	HELLAS2XMM J000031.7-245459	AGN1	2.1	Fiore et al. (2003)
X21223_00064	NELG	0.275	XLSS J022202.7-050942	BLAGN	1.3	Garcet et al. (2007)
X21226_00115	BLAGN	0.149	2MASX J02255886-0500542	NELG	1.3	Garcet et al. (2007)
X21227_00028	BLAGN	0.149	APMUKS(BJ) B022438.41-051753.2	NELG	1.7	Garcet et al. (2007)
X21512_00073	BLAGN	0.215	XLSS J022253.5-042927	NELG	0.9	Garcet et al. (2007)
X21565_00080	BLAGN	0.327	XMDS J022649.0-042745	NELG	0.8	Tajer et al. (2007)
X21565_00116	NELG	0.053	2MASX J02270078-0420209	Sy1	0.0	Lacy et al. (2007)

corresponding characteristics of the Fe K α line were presented in Corral et al. (2008).

The catalogue table can be accessed by direct download or via searches in the major astronomical databases. The XID results database contains additional information including direct links to X-ray and optical thumbnails and optical spectra¹⁰ that have been created for the present catalogue.

The results presented here suggest what will be seen in future X-ray surveys. As an example, the XMM-XXL survey (Pierre et al. 2011) will cover two extragalactic regions of 25 deg² (at a depth of 5×10^{-15} erg s⁻¹ cm⁻²), and eROSITA (Predehl et al. 2010) will perform an all-sky survey at a limiting flux of 10^{-14} erg s⁻¹ cm⁻²).

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Appendix A: Discrepancies with NED

A detailed literature search provided a source characterisation (i.e., optical spectral classification and redshift) for 225 XWAS candidate counterparts. We compared 2dF identified sources with those previously classified according to NED. They are considered the same object if both detections are located within 2.5 arcsec and the published redshift is the same (± 0.01) than that derived in our analysis. The majority of the NED classifications agree with ours with a few exceptions which are presented in Table A.1.

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