

# Fitting Scaling Relations with Low S/N Data



**RISE-CHASC Workshop**  
**CfA, 2-3 August 2022**



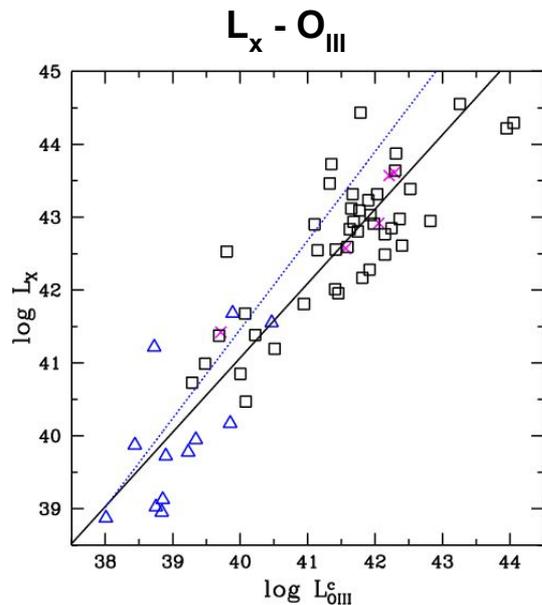
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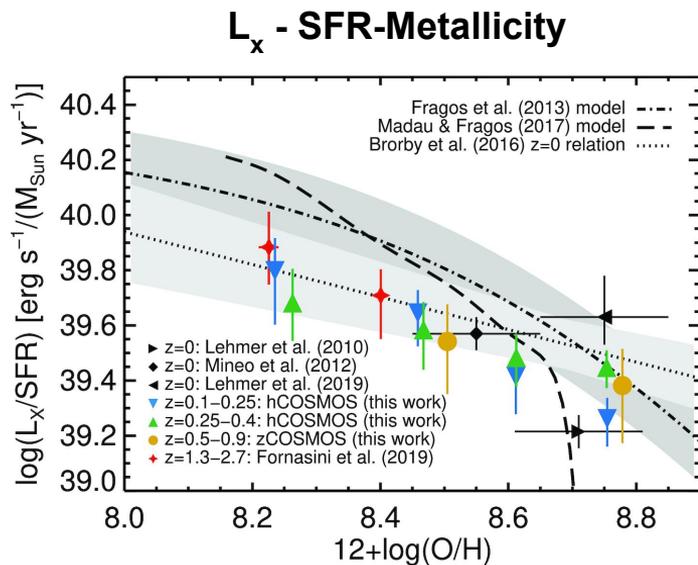
# INTRODUCTION

Scaling relations can shed light on the connection between the observables and the physical parameters of galaxies.

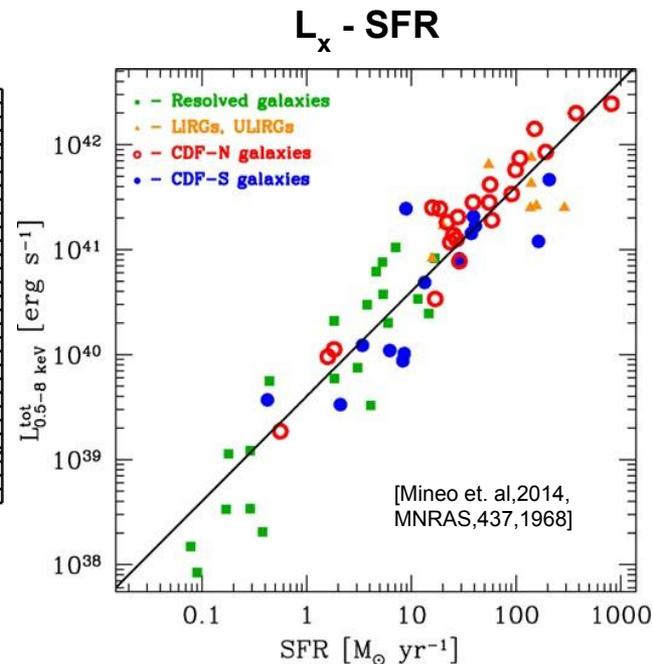
Useful to understand the evolution of the galaxies.



[Lamastra et al. 2009, A&A,504,73]

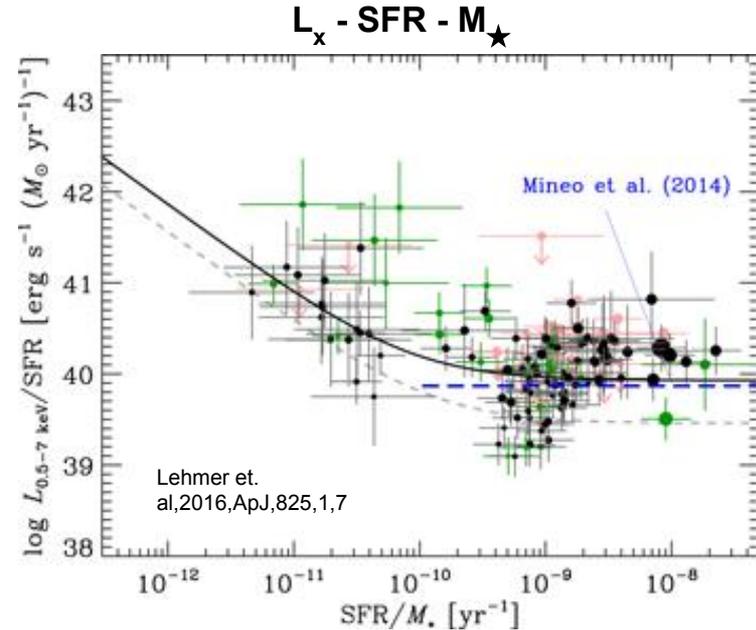
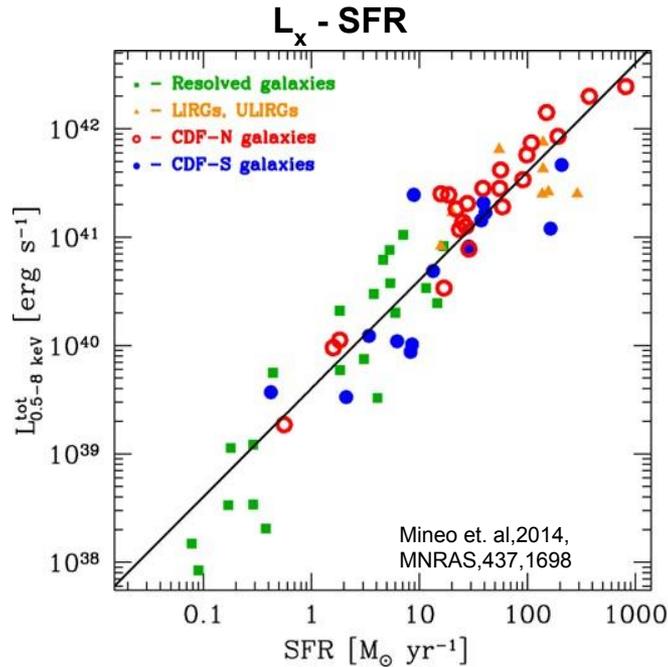


[Fornasini et al. 2020,  
MNRAS,495,771]



# THE PROBLEM

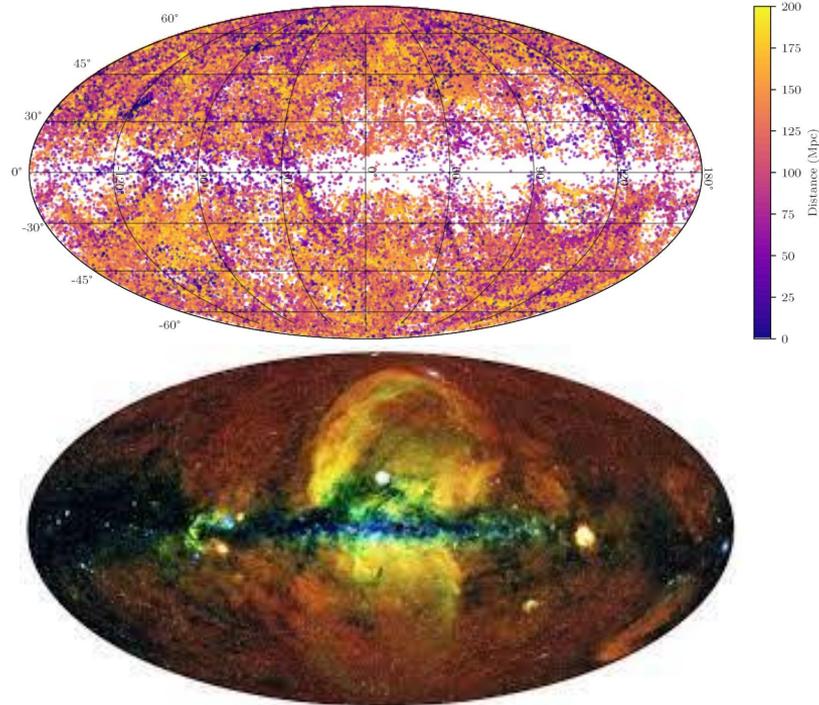
Traditionally the fitting of the models is performed only on the detections (high S/N data).



Not accounting for Upper-Limits (low S/N data) results to biased scaling relations.

Data sets provided by all-sky blind surveys, most likely will comprise Upper Limits, that must be considered for the calculation of unbiased scaling-relations.

# THE PROJECT



## An unbiased sample

HECATE catalog: ~200.000 galaxies  
Kovlakas et al., 2021, 506, 1896

## An all-sky blind X-ray survey

eROSITA survey  
Predehl et al. 2021, A&A 647, A1

HECATE - eROSITA: ~90.000 galaxies

Photometry for the entire sample  
Luminosity calculation for each galaxy

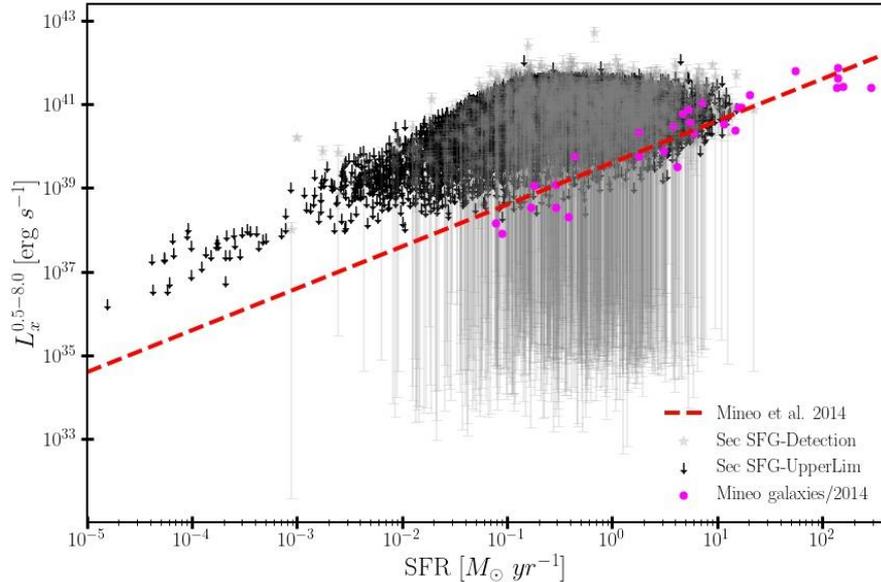
# eROSITA all-sky X-ray survey

eROSITA provides us with the first **blind, unbiased**, X-ray survey of normal galaxies.

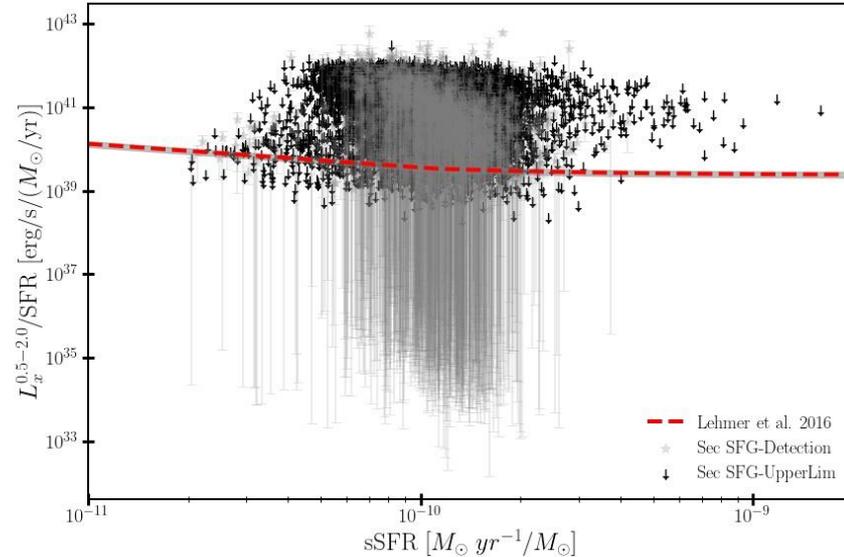
## Our final sample-eRASS1



Detections  
**1403**



Upper Limits  
**15021**



**~ 90 % of the available data → Upper Limits !**

# Maximum Likelihood fitting method

Quantities that we want to fit:  $x, y$

For each galaxy we have:

$$\triangleright x_{gal} = x_{gal}^{intrinsic} + \eta_{gal}, \quad y_{gal} = y_{gal}^{intrinsic} + \zeta_{gal}$$

$$\triangleright \text{Assuming a linear model with intrinsic scatter we have: } y_{gal}^{intrinsic} = ax_{gal}^{intrinsic} + b + \varepsilon(x_{gal}^{intrinsic})$$

Assuming **independent measurements** and following a Bayesian approach we have the posterior probability of the model parameters:

$$P(\vec{p} | x_{gal}, y_{gal}) = \pi(\vec{p}) \prod_{gal} P(x_{gal}, y_{gal} | \vec{p})$$

where:  $\pi(\vec{p}) = \pi(a)\pi(b)\pi(\epsilon)$  is the prior.

Considering that: **i) data depends only on the measurement errors**, **ii) intrinsic values depends only on the intrinsic model**, **iii) the errors on  $x, y$  are independent** we can calculate the Likelihood.

- $\triangleright$  Each point can be described by a different distribution.
- $\triangleright$  The distribution can be of any kind (not only known distributions: Gaussian, Poisson etc. )
- $\triangleright$  The model parameters are estimated by sampling the posterior distribution using MCMC technique.

# Application of the Maximum Likelihood fitting method

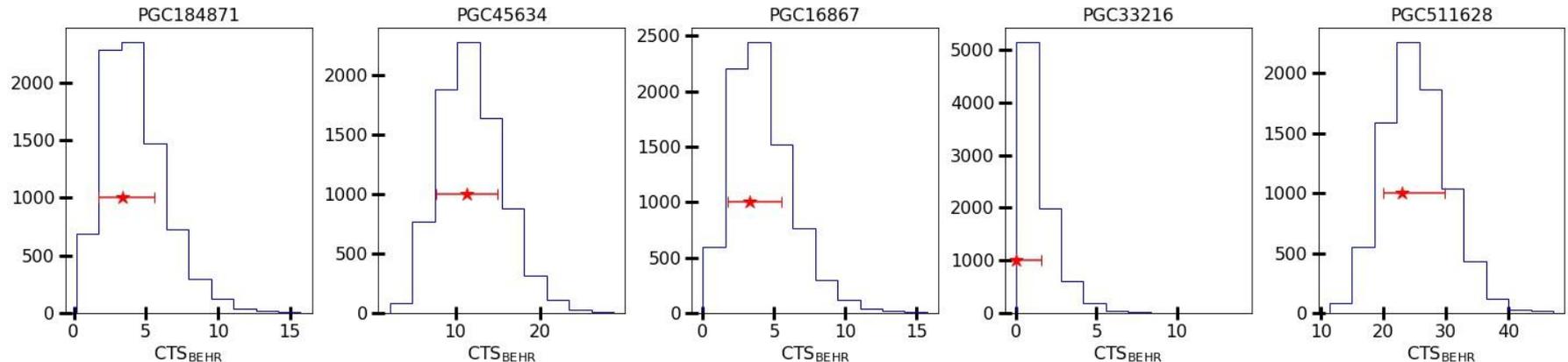
Assumed linear model:

$$\log(L_x) = a \log(SFR) + b + \sigma$$

For the application of the fitting method we need the error distributions of  $L_x$  for each data point within the sample.

To find that we use BEHR code (see D. Van Dyk et al. 2001, T. Park et al. 2006)

- BEHR is a code which calculates the Posterior probability of the intensity for extremely faint sources based on Bayesian approach.
- It accounts for the source and the background counts assuming Poisson distributions for both.

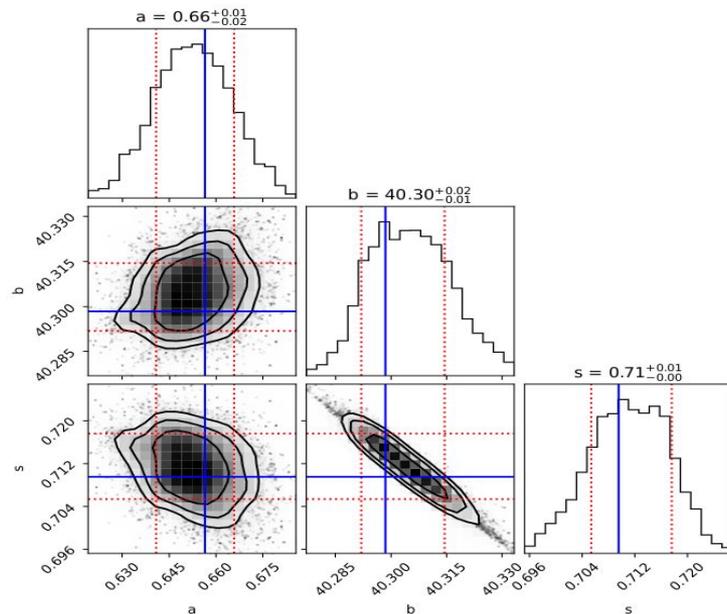
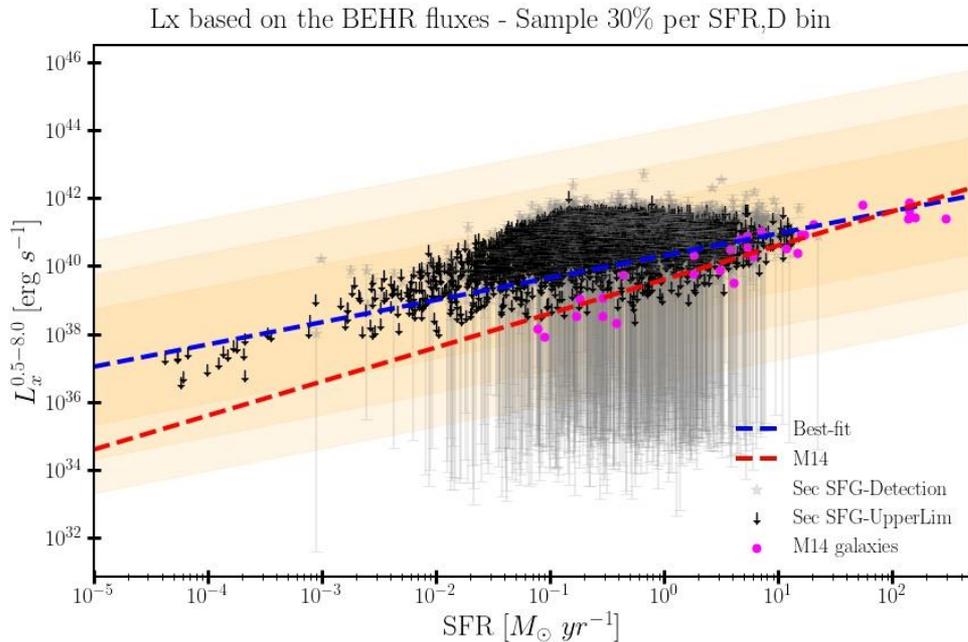


# Application of the Maximum Likelihood fitting method

Application of the method to eRASS1 data fitting the scaling relation  $L_x$  - SFR

Assumed linear model:

$$\log(L_x) = a \log(SFR) + b + \sigma$$





# Take home message

- ★ A Maximum Likelihood fit method that:
  - Produces unbiased scaling relations since it accounts for both, Detections & Upper Limits
  - Very useful on data from all-sky blind surveys (e.g. eROSITA), Chandra Source Catalog
- ★ Can handle data points described from different error distributions.
- ★ Can handle Upper limits in both  $x$  &  $y$
- ★ It accounts for the intrinsic scatter.