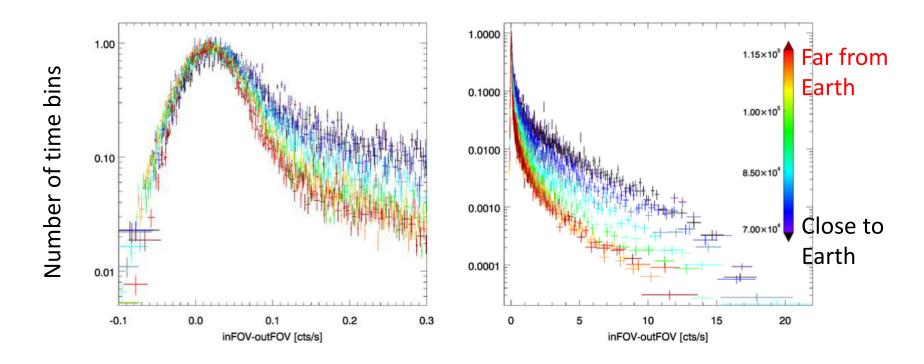
- Started in 2010 at Woods Hole
  - Airing of grievances and discussion
  - Topics too esoteric for larger plenary sessions
- Combined with the backgrounds WG in 2014
- Two full well-attended sessions in 2017!
- Presentations from XMM, Chandra, Hitomi, and Swift

- Molendi, "An in-depth analysis of the EPIC-MOS instrumental background"
  - Part of a much larger effort to better understand the XMM particle background, the particle environment in HEO and L2, and the expected background for Athena
  - (special issue of Experimental Astronomy coming soon!)

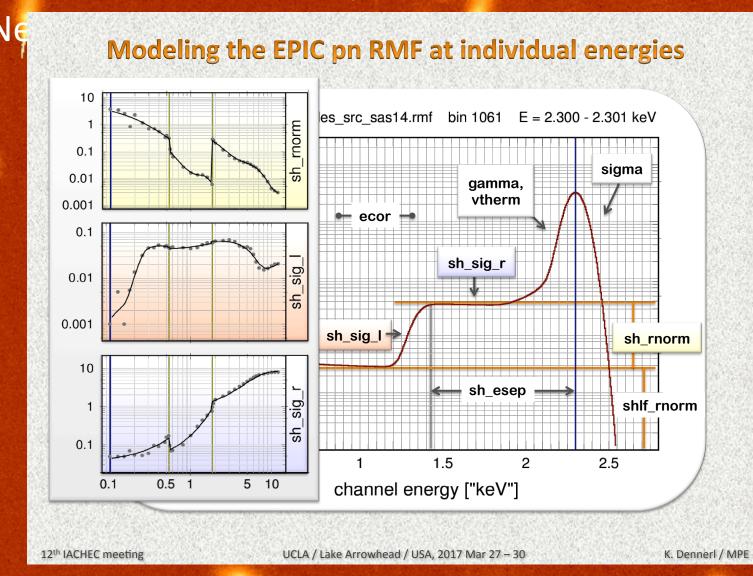
#### IN - OUT vs. distance from Earth



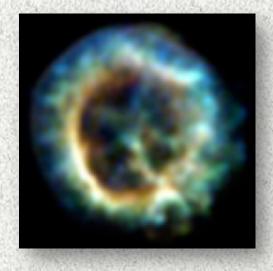
Dependence of the soft proton rate on magnetospheric environment is modest if any. Conversely we find evidence of an anti-correlation of soft proton intensity with distance from the Earth

- Dennerl, "An empirical method for improving the XMM-Newton/EPIC-pn RMF and ARFs"
  - Parameterize and optimize RMF components
  - Proof of concept with a few sources (E0102, etc.)
  - Significant RMF/ARF improvement for 2 soft sources (<2keV)</li>
  - Will extend to higher energies, other readout modes, longer time span, multiple detector positions, ...

Dennerl, "An empirical method for improving the XMM-



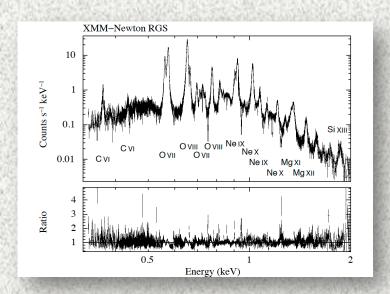
(<2keV) , longer

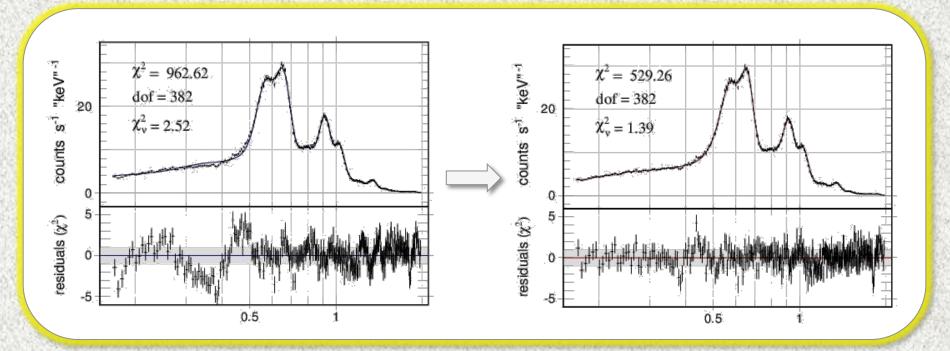


# Improving the EPIC pn RMF

**SNR 1E0102** 

proof of concept

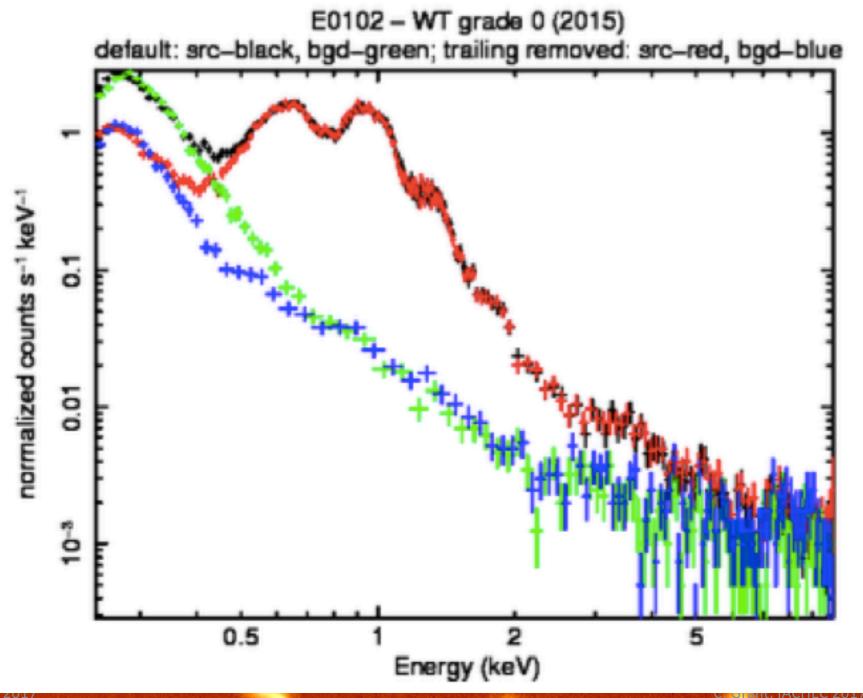


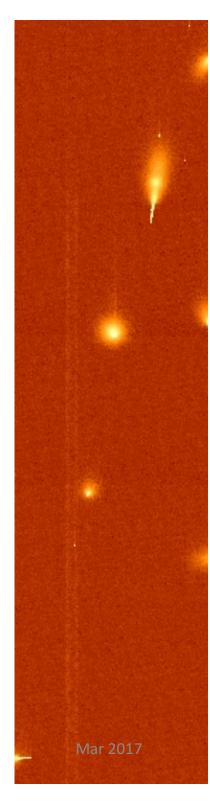


- Gaetz, "Chandra ACIS Background" and "Chandra ACIS-I3/Response Width"
  - Status of new ACIS blank-sky background files covering more recent times
  - Future improvements for ACIS-I3 response products with better time and temperature dependence
- Durham, "ACIS Gain Studies: Temporal, Spatial, and Temperature Dependencies"
  - Future improvements to ACIS gain calibration

- Beardmore, "XRT Windowed Timing Mode Trailing Charge"
  - Low energy background increasing with time
  - Identified with trailing charge released from deep charge traps
  - Developing algorithm to identify and remove trailed events

#### CCD/Rackground M/G









Periwinkle Jones
@peachesanscream



Whoa, we're halfway there... Whoa-oh...

4:35 AM - 22 Aug 2016





Grant, IACHEC 2017