

Cosmological constraints from gas mass fractions of massive, relaxed galaxy clusters

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ABSTRACT

We present updated cosmological constraints from measurements of the gas mass fractions (f_{gas}) of massive, dynamically relaxed galaxy clusters. Our new data set has greater leverage on models of dark energy, thanks to the addition of the Perseus cluster at low redshifts, two new clusters at redshifts $z > 1$, and significantly longer observations of four clusters at $0.6 < z < 0.9$. Our low-redshift ($z < 0.16$) f_{gas} data, combined with the cosmic baryon fraction measured from the cosmic microwave background (CMB), imply a Hubble constant of $h = 0.722 \pm 0.067$. Combining the full f_{gas} data set with priors on the cosmic baryon density and the Hubble constant, we constrain the dark energy density to be $\Omega_{\text{DE}} = 0.865 \pm 0.119$ in non-flat Lambda cold dark matter (cosmological constant) models, and its equation of state to be $w = -1.13^{+0.17}_{-0.20}$ in flat, constant- w models, respectively 41 per cent and 29 per cent tighter than our previous work, and comparable to the best constraints available from other probes. Combining f_{gas} , CMB, supernova, and baryon acoustic oscillation data, we also constrain models with global curvature and evolving dark energy. For the massive, relaxed clusters employed here, we find the scaling of f_{gas} with mass to be consistent with a constant, with an intrinsic scatter that corresponds to just ~ 3 per cent in distance.

Key words: cosmological parameters – cosmology: observations – dark matter – distance scale – galaxies: clusters: general – X-rays: galaxies: clusters.

1 INTRODUCTION

For massive clusters of galaxies, whose internal dynamics are dominated by gravity, the mass of the intracluster medium (ICM) correlates tightly with total mass (Borgani & Kravtsov 2011), and

references therein). Furthermore, the relationship between the gas mass fraction of these clusters, $f_{\text{gas}} = M_{\text{gas}}/M_{\text{tot}}$, and the cosmic baryon mass fraction, Ω_b/Ω_m , is both straightforward to predict from simulations of cosmic structure formation and minimally sensitive to cosmological modelling assumptions (Eke, Navarro & Frenk 1998; Kay et al. 2004; Crain et al. 2007; Nagai, Vikhlinin & Kravtsov 2007; Young et al. 2011; Battaglia et al. 2013; Planck et al. 2013; Le Brun et al. 2014, 2017; Barnes et al. 2017; Henden, Puchwein & Sijacki

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2020; Singh et al. 2020). Precise measurements of f_{gas} from X-ray data thus provide a route to constraining cosmological models, and, in combination with external information on Ω_b , have provided some of the earliest and most robust constraints on the cosmic matter density, Ω_m (White et al. 1993; David, Jones & Forman 1995; White & Fabian 1995; Evrard 1997; Ettori & Fabian 1999; Mohr, Mathiesen & Evrard 1999; Allen, Schmidt & Fabian 2002; Ettori, Tozzi & Rosati 2003). In addition, values of f_{gas} inferred from cluster data are sensitive to the luminosity and angular-diameter distances between the observer and target; since the evolution of f_{gas} in massive clusters is theoretically constrained to be minimal, such measurements also provide constraints on cosmological distances as a function of redshift, and thus on models of dark energy (Sasaki 1996; Pen 1997). Over the past two decades, such data have consistently provided cosmological constraints comparable to those of other low-redshift probes, even with small samples of relaxed clusters (Allen et al. 2002, 2004, 2008; Ettori et al. 2003, 2009; Rapetti, Allen & Weller 2005; Mantz et al. 2014, hereafter M14). The f_{gas} approach complements tests based on the number density of clusters, and has independently provided similarly powerful constraints on dark energy (Allen, Evrard & Mantz 2011).

Constraints on Ω_m from the absolute value of f_{gas} have generally been systematically limited by uncertainty in the accuracy of cluster mass determinations (Applegate et al. 2016, hereafter A16). In contrast, dark energy constraints based on the apparent evolution of f_{gas} have been limited by the redshift range of the available data, and the precision of measurements at high redshifts (M14). While Sunyaev–Zel’dovich (SZ) surveys now routinely discover new clusters at redshifts $z > 0.5$ (e.g. Planck Collaboration XXIX 2014, Planck Collaboration XXVII 2016; Bleem et al. 2015, 2020; Hilton et al. 2018, 2021), the restriction of the cosmological sample to the most dynamically relaxed systems (required to limit observational systematics), and the additional X-ray observations needed to identify clusters as relaxed and provide f_{gas} measurements, means that relatively few new, high-redshift clusters have made their way into these studies. In short, new relaxed clusters at high redshifts, or deeper observations of those already in the cosmological sample, can be expected to have an outsized impact on dark energy constraints from f_{gas} . In addition, any extension of the sampled redshift range at the low-redshift end, where precise measurements can be obtained with comparatively short exposures, will disproportionately improve constraints from the method (M14).

In this work, we report the impact of improving and expanding the f_{gas} data set at both low and high redshifts. At $z = 0.6$, we incorporate significantly deeper data for several of the known relaxed clusters, compared with previous work, and add two systems, at $z = 0.972$ and $z = 1.160$, that have not previously been employed in this context. At low redshifts, we incorporate a precise f_{gas} measurement for the Perseus cluster (Abell 426), based on a new *Chandra* mosaic, extending the sample from $z = 0.078$ (Abell 2029) down to $z = 0.018$.

This paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, we describe the analysis of X-ray and weak gravitational lensing data employed in this work, with particular attention to the relatively challenging case of the X-ray observations of Perseus. Section 3 reviews the cosmological model fitted to the data, including allowances for various systematic uncertainties, while Section 4 presents the resulting constraints on cosmological parameters from the f_{gas} data alone, and in combination with other probes. We conclude in Section 5. In general, quoted fitted parameter values refer to the modes of the corresponding marginalized posterior probability distributions, and quoted uncertainties refer to the 68.3 per cent probability

highest posterior density (HPD) intervals. In plots showing joint parameter constraints, dark and light shading, respectively, indicate the marginalized 68.3 per cent and 95.4 per cent probability HPD regions.

2 DATA

2.1 X-ray data

The galaxy clusters used in this study are the most dynamically relaxed, hottest clusters known that have sufficiently deep *Chandra* data to enable the requisite measurements. Specifically, we require the clusters to have relaxed X-ray morphologies (as a proxy for true dynamical relaxation) according to the Symmetry–Peakiness–Alignment (SPA) criterion of Mantz et al. (2015b, hereafter M15). The restriction to the most relaxed systems is intended to minimize systematic uncertainty and scatter associated with departures from hydrostatic equilibrium and spherical symmetry. We additionally require that the ICM temperature in the isothermal part of the temperature profile be ≥ 5 keV, to ensure that the selected clusters have genuinely deep gravitational potentials, such that their internal dynamics are gravitationally rather than astrophysically dominated at the radii of interest ($\sim r_{2500}$).¹ This also reduces systematic uncertainties associated with cluster formation and active galactic nucleus (AGN) feedback compared with less-massive systems.

A sample of 40 clusters meeting these criteria was constructed and employed for cosmological studies (M14, M15). To that sample, we add four clusters that had not been observed or did not have adequate *Chandra* data at the time of the original search: the Perseus cluster, RCS J1447+0828, SPT J0615–5746, and SPT J2215–3537. We also incorporate new observations of the original 40 clusters where available. Compared with that of M14, the new data set extends to both lower and higher redshifts, and has significantly deeper exposures for targets at $0.6 < z < 0.9$, increasing its utility for constraining dark energy models. The *Chandra* data are summarized in Appendix A; after cleaning, the total observing time is 4.9 Ms (compared with 3.1 Ms used by M14).

Our procedures for reducing and analysing the *Chandra* data, and extracting constraints on f_{gas} for each cluster, are unchanged from our previous work, and are described by M14 and M15 (though note the special case of Perseus, addressed in the next section). We do, however, use updated versions of the *Chandra* analysis software and calibration files, namely CIAO 4.9 and CALDB 4.7.5.1.² Among the updates is a retroactive change to the time-dependent model of the contaminant accumulating on the Advanced CCD Imaging Spectrometer (ACIS) detectors. We have not examined the impact of the calibration changes on individual clusters in detail, i.e. using only the old data reduced with the old and new calibrations, but note that in all cases our old and new constraints on gas density agree extremely well, such that systematic differences from M14 in f_{gas} estimates can be attributed to changes in the measured temperatures.

¹ For redshifts < 0.6 , where the data set is best populated, the average impact of the calibration update is a marginal decrease in measured

² This characteristic radius is defined such that the average enclosed density is 2500 times the critical density at the cluster’s redshift.

² Since the SPT J2215–3537 data are more recent than these calibration files, we use CIAO 4.12 and CALDB 4.9.21 in that case.

³ The later entries in our previous series of papers on relaxed clusters (A16; Mantz et al. 2016a; Mantz, Allen & Morris 2016b) employed an intermediate calibration version, which produces temperature profiles indistinguishable from those in this work.

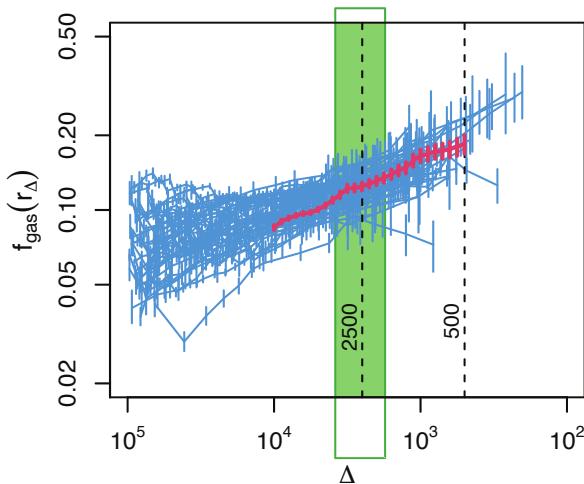


Figure 1. Differential f_{gas} profiles as a function of overdensity, calculated for our reference cosmology. The shaded region shows the typical range in Δ corresponding to the $0.8-1.2r_{2500}$ shell where our cosmological measurements are made; by this point the dispersion is small compared with that seen at small radii (large overdensities). Results for the Perseus cluster are shown with thicker, red lines (see Section 2.2).

ICM temperatures, leading to a ~ 4 per cent increase in f_{gas} estimates. For each of the clusters at $0.6 < z < 1$, our new analysis incorporates a significant amount of new data, and thus these f_{gas} constraints have shrunk, while remaining consistent with the (significantly less precise) previous measurements. For CL J1415.2+3612 and 3C 186, with $1.0 < z < 1.1$, the updates reduce f_{gas} slightly while increasing its uncertainty, with the overall shift being small compared with the error bars. We note that all these effects are within the scope of the systematic allowances employed in previous work and reprised here.

The result of the X-ray analysis is simultaneous constraints on the gas mass and total mass profiles of each cluster, where the former is constructed non-parametrically and the latter assumes a parametrized Navarro, Frenk & White (1997, hereafter NFW) form, as well as hydrostatic equilibrium. Fig. 1 shows the resulting differential f_{gas} profiles (that is, the ratio of gas to total mass at a given radius, not interior to that radius) for the cluster sample. The ordinate is the ‘overdensity’, Δ , defined as the ratio of the mean enclosed density at a given radius, r , to the critical density of the universe at the cluster’s redshift. For a monotonically decreasing density profile (such as the NFW profile), Δ is thus a monotonically decreasing proxy for radius, for which the self-similar nature of many ICM thermodynamic profiles becomes clear (e.g. Mantz et al. 2016a).

As input to the cosmological likelihood, the X-ray measurements are summarized as constraints on the total mass within r_{2500} , M_{2500}^{ref} , and the gas mass fraction in a shell spanning radii of $0.8-1.2r_{2500}$, $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}}$ (Table 1; see discussion in M14). The superscript ‘ref’ indicates that these quantities are computed assuming a reference Lambda cold dark matter (CDM) model with $h = 0.7$, $\Omega_m = 0.3$, and $\Omega_b = 0.7$, with the likelihood function accounting for this assumption (Section 3). Fig. 2 shows the measured (reference) gas mass fractions as a function of redshift and mass.

2.2 Perseus cluster

Measurements of f_{gas} for the Perseus cluster using *Chandra* have been enabled by a mosaic of observations providing nearly complete coverage of the cluster out to $\sim 1.2r_{2500}$ in radius, and limited azimuthal coverage in eight directions out to $\sim r_{500}$ (proposal ID

168000086). Perseus is unique in our sample in its large angular extent and the short duration of many of the individual pointings at the radii of interest (5 ks), leading to a number of specializations of our standard analysis.

For these short observations, it is not possible to clean the data of point source emission to the level where the blank-sky fields normally used to model the extragalactic X-ray and particle backgrounds apply. Furthermore, Perseus lies behind the Galactic plane, making the Galactic soft X-ray foreground significantly stronger in this field than in the blank-sky data. To handle these issues, we constructed a background plus foreground model as follows. The brightest point sources were identified and masked using preliminary results from the Cluster AGN Topography Survey pipeline (CATS; Canning et al., in preparation). To account for fainter sources, we include in the spectral model a power-law component with index 1.4, whose normalization was computed based on the flux limit for detection by the CATS algorithm and the AGN luminosity function model of Miyaji et al. (2015). This model normalization varies on an observation-by-observation basis, dependent on the exposure time and local cluster surface brightness; for the ~ 5 ks observations that pre-dominate at radii $\sim r_{2500}$, a typical AGN detection flux limit is $\sim 2.8 \times 10^{-14} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ in the 0.5–8 keV band. To model the particle-induced background, we use data obtained while ACIS was in a stowed position, including these in the analysis in an identical manner to what is generally done with the blank-sky data (see M14). The Galactic foreground was modelled as the sum of two thermal emission components with Solar metallicity, one unabsorbed and one absorbed. The respective temperatures of 0.0974 and 0.221 keV were determined by fitting *ROSAT* All-Sky Survey spectra, extracted from an annulus spanning cluster radii of $2-4^\circ$ (i.e. beyond $1.5r_{200}$; Simionescu et al. 2011), excluding regions to the W and NW that are contaminated by nearby structures. Given the role of point-source finding in this procedure, and its reliance on an accurate model of the point spread function, we use data only from ACIS CCDs 0–3 and 7. We note that the models for the soft foreground and the residual AGN emission, given the above treatment, are significantly fainter than both the cluster emission and the particle-induced background at the radii of interest.

Another consequence of Perseus’ position behind the Galaxy and its angular size is that the equivalent absorbing hydrogen column density, N_{H} , is high, and varies across the $\sim 2^\circ$ diameter of the cluster. In particular, H I surveys reveal an overall gradient across the cluster. However, since N_{H} values based on only H I measurements are known to be inaccurate for sufficiently dense lines of sight ($> 10^{21} \text{ cm}^{-2}$), we allow the overall column density to be variable in our analysis, taking only its spatial variation from the LAB H I survey (Kalberla et al. 2005). We checked the adequacy of modelling only this overall shift in N_{H} by also performing independent fits in projection to spectra extracted over individual CCDs for every observation, each time modelling thermal emission from the cluster, the Galactic absorption, and the foreground and background components discussed above. Those fits are consistent with a uniform, overall increase in N_{H} by a factor of ~ 1.3 compared with the LAB values, apart from a statistically significant trend with radius at radii < 100 kpc (conservatively). The latter likely reflects inadequacy of the single-temperature model for the cluster emission rather than the nature of the Galactic absorption, and data at these small radii are excluded from our final analysis based on other considerations, discussed below. Our fitted values of N_{H} are consistent with the correction suggested by Willingale et al. (2013), based on comparing measurements of both H I and molecular hydrogen to survey H I values.

Table 1. Redshifts, gas masses, total masses, and gas mass fractions of clusters in our sample from our X-ray analysis. Apart from redshift, these quantities are computed for our reference CDM cosmology; the applicable radial range is given in the header. Quoted error bars account for statistical uncertainties only. Note that the total mass values listed here do not incorporate the calibration from weak lensing data, which is accounted for later in our analysis; a ‘*’ indicates clusters for which we use lensing data (see M14 and A16).

Cluster	z	$M_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}} (10^{13} M_{\odot})$ 0.8–1.2 r_{2500}	$M_{\text{tot}}^{\text{ref}} (10^{14} M_{\odot})$ 0.8–1.2 r_{2500}	$f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}}$ 0.8–1.2 r_{2500}	$M_{2500}^{\text{ref}} (10^{14} M_{\odot})$ 0.0–1.0 r_{2500}
Perseus	0.018	1.638 ± 0.014	1.30 ± 0.04	0.129 ± 0.004	2.66 ± 0.04
Abell 2029	0.078	2.243 ± 0.021	1.69 ± 0.06	0.134 ± 0.004	4.06 ± 0.09
Abell 478	0.088	2.273 ± 0.043	1.94 ± 0.17	0.117 ± 0.009	4.20 ± 0.24
RX J1524.2–3154	0.103	2.740 ± 0.030	2.07 ± 0.08	0.132 ± 0.004	4.58 ± 0.13
PKS 0745–191	0.103	0.827 ± 0.022	0.67 ± 0.06	0.123 ± 0.009	1.76 ± 0.09
Abell 2204*	0.152	2.719 ± 0.055	1.95 ± 0.15	0.139 ± 0.008	5.09 ± 0.24
RX J0439.0+0520	0.208	0.853 ± 0.037	0.74 ± 0.13	0.115 ± 0.017	1.98 ± 0.19
Zwicky 2701	0.214	0.934 ± 0.019	0.83 ± 0.06	0.112 ± 0.006	1.88 ± 0.08
RX J1504.1–0248	0.215	2.571 ± 0.027	1.93 ± 0.09	0.133 ± 0.005	4.92 ± 0.16
Zwicky 2089*	0.235	1.815 ± 0.060	1.18 ± 0.16	0.154 ± 0.019	2.85 ± 0.20
RX J2129.6+0005	0.235	0.829 ± 0.026	0.72 ± 0.08	0.115 ± 0.011	1.64 ± 0.12
RX J1459.4–1811	0.236	1.833 ± 0.076	1.21 ± 0.13	0.151 ± 0.014	2.73 ± 0.23
Abell 1835*	0.252	3.088 ± 0.040	2.38 ± 0.13	0.130 ± 0.006	4.99 ± 0.15
Abell 3444	0.253	2.165 ± 0.071	1.53 ± 0.17	0.141 ± 0.012	3.11 ± 0.20
MS 2137.3–2353*	0.313	1.093 ± 0.031	0.79 ± 0.07	0.138 ± 0.011	2.09 ± 0.12
MACS J0242.5–21	0.314	1.421 ± 0.123	1.09 ± 0.30	0.130 ± 0.029	2.90 ± 0.53
MACS J1427.6–25	0.318	0.814 ± 0.047	0.65 ± 0.13	0.126 ± 0.022	1.80 ± 0.23
MACS J2229.7–27	0.324	1.170 ± 0.050	0.81 ± 0.13	0.144 ± 0.021	1.98 ± 0.20
MACS J0947.2+7623	0.345	2.042 ± 0.075	1.90 ± 0.23	0.107 ± 0.010	4.43 ± 0.37
MACS J1931.8–26	0.352	1.943 ± 0.043	1.48 ± 0.13	0.131 ± 0.010	3.45 ± 0.18
MACS J1115.8+0129*	0.355	2.170 ± 0.055	1.39 ± 0.15	0.156 ± 0.014	3.38 ± 0.24
MACS J1532.8+3021*	0.363	0.921 ± 0.039	0.58 ± 0.09	0.159 ± 0.021	1.51 ± 0.17
MACS J0150.3–10	0.363	1.912 ± 0.053	1.69 ± 0.15	0.113 ± 0.007	3.62 ± 0.22
RCS J1447+0828	0.376	2.401 ± 0.070	1.83 ± 0.16	0.131 ± 0.008	3.99 ± 0.28
MACS J0011.7–15	0.378	1.617 ± 0.070	1.20 ± 0.21	0.135 ± 0.021	3.02 ± 0.30
MACS J1720.2+3536*	0.391	1.681 ± 0.053	1.24 ± 0.18	0.136 ± 0.016	3.09 ± 0.34
MACS J0429.6–02*	0.399	1.579 ± 0.126	1.52 ± 0.43	0.104 ± 0.023	3.21 ± 0.61
MACS J0159.8–08	0.404	2.584 ± 0.107	2.10 ± 0.34	0.123 ± 0.017	4.91 ± 0.47
MACS J2046.0–34	0.423	1.046 ± 0.052	0.67 ± 0.13	0.156 ± 0.026	1.71 ± 0.20
IRAS 09104+4109	0.442	1.243 ± 0.066	1.16 ± 0.21	0.107 ± 0.015	2.82 ± 0.33
MACS J1359.1–19	0.447	0.925 ± 0.066	0.96 ± 0.23	0.096 ± 0.019	2.22 ± 0.36
RX J1347.5–1145*	0.451	4.883 ± 0.106	4.23 ± 0.37	0.116 ± 0.008	10.93 ± 0.68
3C 295	0.460	1.024 ± 0.063	0.91 ± 0.21	0.112 ± 0.021	2.12 ± 0.31
MACS J1621.3+3810*	0.461	1.390 ± 0.048	1.10 ± 0.16	0.126 ± 0.016	2.76 ± 0.23
MACS J1427.2+4407*	0.487	1.546 ± 0.089	0.97 ± 0.17	0.159 ± 0.022	2.40 ± 0.30
MACS J1423.8+2404*	0.539	1.552 ± 0.054	1.12 ± 0.13	0.138 ± 0.012	2.83 ± 0.21
SPT J2331–5051	0.576	1.120 ± 0.039	0.92 ± 0.07	0.121 ± 0.006	2.07 ± 0.17
SPT J2344–4242	0.596	3.044 ± 0.076	2.48 ± 0.15	0.122 ± 0.004	6.07 ± 0.33
SPT J0000–5748	0.702	0.944 ± 0.036	0.93 ± 0.14	0.102 ± 0.012	2.05 ± 0.23
SPT J2043–5035	0.723	1.210 ± 0.037	1.11 ± 0.11	0.109 ± 0.008	2.19 ± 0.18
SPT J0615–5746	0.972	2.969 ± 0.075	2.54 ± 0.22	0.117 ± 0.007	4.70 ± 0.36
CL J1415.2+3612	1.028	0.846 ± 0.024	0.98 ± 0.18	0.087 ± 0.015	1.92 ± 0.26
3C 186	1.063	0.992 ± 0.067	0.97 ± 0.22	0.102 ± 0.018	1.91 ± 0.30
SPT J2215–3537	1.160	1.569 ± 0.085	1.07 ± 0.20	0.147 ± 0.021	2.40 ± 0.35

While Perseus’ global morphology satisfies the SPA criteria for inclusion in the f_{gas} sample, its emission is not perfectly circularly or elliptically symmetric. Departures from symmetry exist at all radii, associated with large-scale sloshing of the gas, as well as a cold front aligned with the cluster’s major axis (Simionescu et al. 2012). In this, Perseus is not necessarily different from any other cluster, including the most relaxed examples known. However, its large X-ray flux, combined with our high spatial resolution, means that azimuthal variations are detected at extremely high significance, even in our shallow *Chandra* data. Consequently, our usual assumption that the ICM is characterized by a single density at each radius results in a poor fit that can bias the measurement of temperature, when a

single-emission model is used to describe the data at all azimuths. Following Urban et al. (2014), we divide the cluster into eight sectors (divided by position angles 25, 70, and 115°... E of N); when fitting the data in these individual sectors at radii > 8 arcmin, we find that the variations in brightness are small enough to obtain acceptable fits. Note that this exclusion is larger than the 100 kpc scale discussed above (at this redshift, 1 arcmin ≈ 21.8 kpc). Fig. 3 shows the spatial layout of the observations employed below.

For the measurement of f_{gas} , we are only interested in those sectors that lack large-scale cold fronts or signatures of sloshing at the radii of interest. Again following Urban et al. (2014), we henceforth restrict the analysis to the N, NW, and S sectors, as

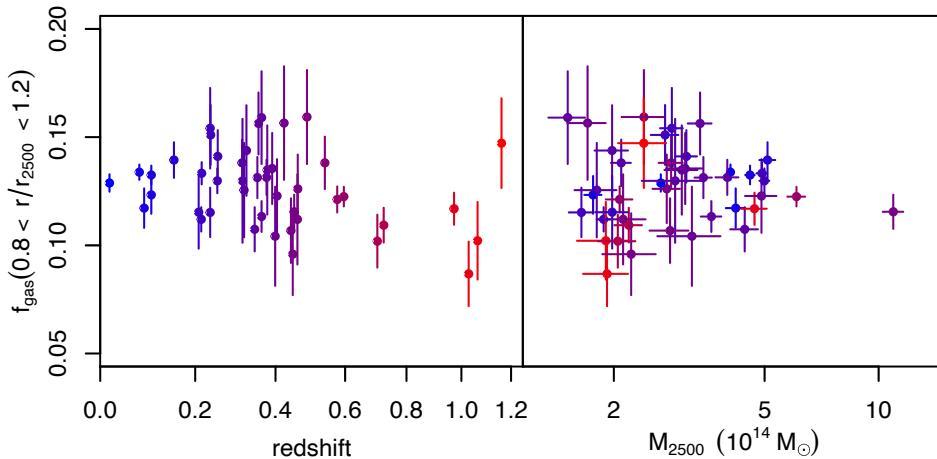


Figure 2. Gas mass fractions for our cluster sample, measured in our reference cosmology, as a function of redshift (left-hand panel) and mass (right-hand panel). Colour coding is blue to red with increasing redshift. Note that the measurement uncertainties on f_{gas} and M_{2500} are typically strongly anti-correlated; this is not reflected in the way the error bars are displayed, but is accounted for in our analysis (Section 3).

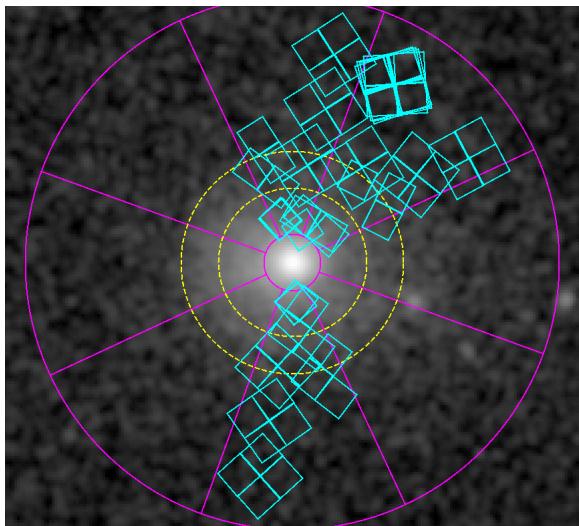


Figure 3. Smoothed ROSAT All-Sky Survey image of the Perseus cluster (Trümper 1993), with per-CCD fields of view of the *Chandra* data used in our analysis outlined in cyan (a subset of the available central pointings and wider mosaic). Magenta lines delimit the eight sectors defined, of which we use three, with inner and outer circles showing radii of 8 and 75 arcmin. The dashed, yellow circles delineate the radial range $0.8\text{--}1.2 r_{2500}$, as estimated in Section 2.2.

the NE, E, and SE sectors intersect the largest cold front along the cluster's major axis (approximately E–W), and the W and SW sectors intersect a bright sloshing feature (effectively a minor cold front). We constrain deprojected density, temperature, and mass profiles for the N, NW, and S sectors independently, using our standard methodology (Section 2.1; note that this entails independent solutions for both the gas density and the gravitational potential in each sector), with the modified treatment of Galactic absorption and background and foreground components described above, and considering only data at radii > 8 arcmin from the cluster centre. In addition, the *Chandra* coverage of the NW arm has a gap at radii of approximately 18.5–21.5 arcmin (405–470 kpc), a range within which our model nominally has three free temperatures. In order to perform the deprojection to the NW, we marginalize each of these temperatures over a uniform prior spanning 7–9 keV, centred on

the best-fitting value of ≈ 8 keV found in the N sector; given the use of a parametrized mass model and the assumption of hydrostatic equilibrium, an additional prior on the density profile is not necessary.

We are then left with the question of how to combine three measurements of the f_{gas} profile along different directions into a single estimate for Perseus. Scatter among estimates made in this way is expected, driven primarily by asphericity and the resulting ellipticity of the cluster emission in the plane of the sky (e.g. Roncarelli et al. 2013; Ansarifard et al. 2020). To gain some insight, we turned to the single other cluster in the sample for which an azimuthally resolved analysis is possible, Abell 2029. In this case, there are no visible substructures outside the cluster core that would discourage the use of particular regions within the cluster. We, therefore, divided the data into eight sectors, oriented sensibly with respect to the cluster's major and minor axes, and measured deprojected f_{gas} profiles independently using the data in each sector, as was done in Perseus. The posterior distributions for f_{gas} in the $0.8\text{--}1.2 r_{2500}$ shell, as determined from each sector, are shown in Fig. 4. The observed variation is primarily due to differences in the derived gas mass profiles, with the total mass profiles (and thus r_{2500}) being more mutually consistent.

We considered two methods of combining the information from each arm: fitting a mean plus Gaussian intrinsic scatter, and computing the unweighted mean while marginalizing over the individual posteriors from each sector. The former method is more interesting in that it can provide a measurement of the scatter that we expect to be present due to asphericity, given sufficient data. The second has the advantage of providing an estimate of the mean even when there is insufficient data to simultaneously constrain the scatter, as is the case for the three sectors of Perseus. For Abell 2029, we find that these methods produce very similar values of the mean f_{gas} , albeit with different uncertainties, as can be seen in Fig. 4. From the mean + scatter fit, the intrinsic scatter is constrained to be 8 ± 4 per cent, consistent with predictions for relaxed clusters (Roncarelli et al. 2013; Ansarifard et al. 2020).

In the case of Perseus, the same mean + scatter model cannot be constrained based on measurements from only three sectors. We can, however, fit a mean f_{gas} value when fixing the intrinsic scatter to the best-fitting value from the Abell 2029 analysis (i.e. assuming the sector-to-sector scatter is similar). This turns out to produce essentially identical results to the unweighted-mean method applied to Perseus, including the uncertainty estimate (unlike in

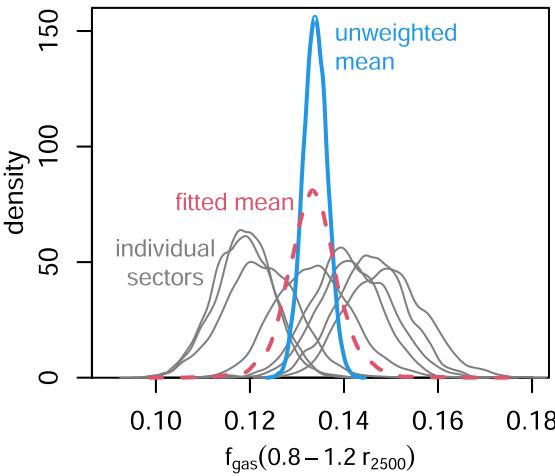


Figure 4. Posterior distributions of f_{gas} measured independently from data in eight sectors about the centre of Abell 2029 (grey, solid curves). The solid, blue curve shows the distribution of the unweighted mean of f_{gas} in the eight sectors, marginalizing over their individual posteriors. The red, dashed curve shows the constraint on the mean f_{gas} in the eight sectors when a Gaussian intrinsic scatter is fitted simultaneously.

Abell 2029). We adopt the simpler unweighted-mean method for our final Perseus results, arriving at the estimate of $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}} = 0.129 \pm 0.004$. The differential f_{gas} profile, computed in the same way as a function of overdensity, is shown in Fig. 1. Applying the same procedure to the estimate of r_{2500} , we find $r_{2500} = 569 \pm 3$ kpc (26.05 ± 0.13 arcmin), or, equivalently, $M_{2500} = (2.66 \pm 0.04) \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}$.

Systematic azimuthal variations in ICM density at a given radius cause an overestimate of the density when the data at all azimuths are straightforwardly combined in a single fit, rather than independent fits in multiple sectors, as above. In the simplest approximation, lognormal variations in the true density of standard deviation σ lead to a multiplicative bias of $1 + \sigma$ in the estimated density. This is compatible with our analysis of Abell 2029, where the best-fitting f_{gas} value from an azimuthally averaged analysis exceeds the mean f_{gas} among eight sectors by 5 per cent, consistent with the 8 ± 4 per cent scatter found above. To the extent that this scatter is driven by the elliptical shape of the gas, one might consider correcting such a bias on a cluster-by-cluster basis based on their projected ellipticities at r_{2500} . However, we note that the f_{gas} variations among the sectors in Fig. 4 do not quite correspond to each sector's placement with respect to the major and minor axes, as one would expect in this simplistic interpretation. Furthermore, the exposure time as a function of azimuth for Abell 2029 is much more heterogeneous than for other clusters in the sample, with significantly deeper observations along the major axis; it is possible that this may introduce additional scatter that does not generalize to other cluster observations. We, therefore, choose not to attempt a general correction for this bias based on the single cluster where we can obtain suitable measurements in several sectors, though further investigation in future work is certainly warranted. Instead, we adopt the improved f_{gas} estimates based on azimuthally resolved measurements for Perseus and Abell 2029 only. We expect any small shift in their f_{gas} values with respect to other clusters in the sample so introduced to be subsumed into the global intrinsic scatter parameter in our cosmological analysis. Moreover, the relatively small values of this intrinsic scatter that we find a posteriori imply that such an effect cannot be large.

2.3 Weak gravitational lensing

To constrain any overall bias of the masses estimated from X-ray data, we incorporate weak gravitational lensing measurements from the Weighing the Giants project (Applegate et al. 2014; Kelly et al. 2014; von der Linden et al. 2014), as in M14. Specifically, we use the subset of lensing measurements for relaxed clusters in our sample. There are 12 of these, of which six have five-band data sufficient to obtain robust photometric redshifts for individual source galaxies, and six for which 'colour-cut' methods have been employed instead; for consistency, we use the colour-cut estimates for all 12 clusters, accounting for the additional systematic uncertainty as required (Applegate et al. 2014). While the data have not changed from previous work, we do incorporate updated systematics modelling from A16, in particular a potential redshift dependence in the absolute accuracy of masses estimated using these methods (see Section 3).

3 MODEL

Our modelling of the data follows previous work (M14; A16), with the exception that here we allow f_{gas} to potentially vary with mass as a power law, constraining its slope, α , simultaneously with other parameters. We describe the model and its parameters below, and refer the reader to the works cited above for complete details.

We model the true gas mass fraction in a spherical shell spanning radii of $0.8-1.2 r_{2500}$ as

$$f_{\text{gas}}(z, M_{2500}) = Y(z, M_{2500}) \frac{b}{m}, \quad (1)$$

where $Y(z, M_{2500})$ is the gas depletion of massive clusters, parametrized as

$$Y(z, M_{2500}) = Y_0(1 + Y_1 z) \frac{M_{2500}}{3 \times 10^{14} M_{\odot}}^{\alpha}. \quad (2)$$

The model includes a lognormal intrinsic scatter about $f_{\text{gas}}(z, M_{2500})$, with standard deviation σ_f .

M14 adopted a uniform prior on Y_0 centred on the average prediction of the hydrodynamic simulations of Battaglia et al. (2013) and Planelles et al. (2013), which include radiative cooling, star formation, and heating from AGN and supernova (SN) feedback. However, a misinterpretation of one of the results of Planelles et al. (2013) led this central value to be somewhat larger than it should have been. We correct this here, centring the prior at $Y_0 = 0.79$, maintaining the full width of 20 per cent (2.3 times the difference between the two simulations) from M14. We maintain the uniform prior on Y_1 between -0.05 and $+0.05$ from M14, which is not impacted by the issue noted above.

Even in the absence of statistical uncertainties, systematic biases and the assumption of a reference cosmology may cause the measured gas mass fractions to differ from $f_{\text{gas}}(z, M_{2500})$:

$$f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}} = K(z) A(z)^{\eta_f} \frac{d^{\text{ref}}(z)}{d(z)}^{3/2} f_{\text{gas}}(z, M_{2500}). \quad (3)$$

Here the ratio $[d^{\text{ref}}(z)/d(z)]^{3/2}$ accounts for the impact of the assumed reference cosmology on f_{gas} measurements within a fixed angular aperture, while the term

$$A(z) = \frac{\theta_{2500}^{\text{ref}}}{\theta_{2500}} = \frac{H(z) d(z)}{[H(z) d(z)]^{\text{ref}}} \quad (4)$$

accounts for the relatively smaller correction that arises from the dependence of the measurement aperture itself on the reference model. We empirically measure a power-law slope of the aperture-measured f_{gas} with radius of $\eta_f = 0.390 \pm 0.024$; note that this is not

the slope of $f_{\text{gas}}(r)$, but of the gas mass fraction integrated in a shell, $f_{\text{gas}}(0.8x < r < 1.2x)$, as x varies in the neighbourhood of r_{2500} . The final term,

$$K(z) = K_0(1 + K_1 z), \quad (5)$$

parametrizes a potentially redshift-dependent bias in the f_{gas} measurements due to bias in the total mass estimates. The K_0 parameter is well constrained by our weak lensing data (see below), while we marginalize K_1 over the range $-0.05 < K_1 < 0.05$.

Biases in the X-ray gas mass estimates may also be present, in particular due to azimuthal variations in gas density at a given circular radius, which leads the root-mean-square density measured from the data to exceed the true mean density. At radii $\sim r_{2500}$ in relaxed clusters, simulations place the bias in density (and thus gas mass) at ~ 5 per cent (Battaglia et al. 2013, 2015; Roncarelli et al. 2013; Planelles et al. 2017; Ansarifard et al. 2020). Observations are in broad agreement with this limit (Eckert et al. 2015; Zhuravleva et al. 2019), but do not yet address the specific cluster selection and radial range of interest here. Lacking such direct, empirical input, and given that any bias is expected to be subdominant to the systematic uncertainty in the mass measurements, we do not explicitly account for potential bias in gas masses in this work. We note, however, that a positive bias of 5 per cent would straightforwardly impact constraints from the absolute value of f_{gas} (Section 4.1) by the same amount. For m , for example, this would result in a shift of 0.01, or one quarter of our posterior uncertainty.

Analogously to f_{gas} , we can write the relationship between true mass and mass as estimated for a reference cosmological model as

$$M_{2500}^{\text{ref}} = A(z)^{\eta_m} \frac{d^{\text{ref}}(z)}{d(z)} M_{2500}, \quad (6)$$

with the slope of the mass profile near r_{2500} , $\eta_m = 1.065 \pm 0.016$, measured empirically from the X-ray fits.

The joint posterior distributions of $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}}$ and M_{2500}^{ref} from the X-ray analysis are well described by bivariate lognormal distributions, and we model them as such, including their (generally substantial) anti-correlation.

Since the measured gravitational lensing shear depends on distances between the observer, lens, and numerous background objects (as opposed to only the observer and cluster, as in the X-ray case), the cosmological dependence of inferred masses cannot be accounted for with simple factors of $d(z)/d^{\text{ref}}(z)$, as above. Instead, following A16, we directly incorporate the measured shear profiles and their Gaussian measurement uncertainties in our cosmological analysis. We assume a lognormal distribution of lensing/X-ray mass ratios at r_{2500}^{ref} , with mean $\ln K(z)$ and scatter σ_K , and marginalize over the mass constraints from the lensing and X-ray data, assuming an NFW form of the mass profile in both cases. Note that, while the same parametrized model is fit to both types of data, the constraints from each method are independent of the other. In particular, the X-ray data are sufficient to constrain both parameters of the NFW model in all cases, while for the lensing analysis we adopt a prior on the distribution of NFW concentration parameters of massive, relaxed clusters motivated by simulations (Neto et al. 2007). The systematic error budget for the lensing mass estimates is discussed by Applegate et al. (2014) and A16, and is described by a redshift-dependent bias of $W(z) = W_0 + W_1(z - 0.4)$, with $W_0 = 0.96 \pm 0.09$ and $W_1 = -0.09 \pm 0.03$.

Table B1 summarizes the model parameters specific to the f_{gas} cosmological analysis, and the corresponding priors (see further discussion in M14).

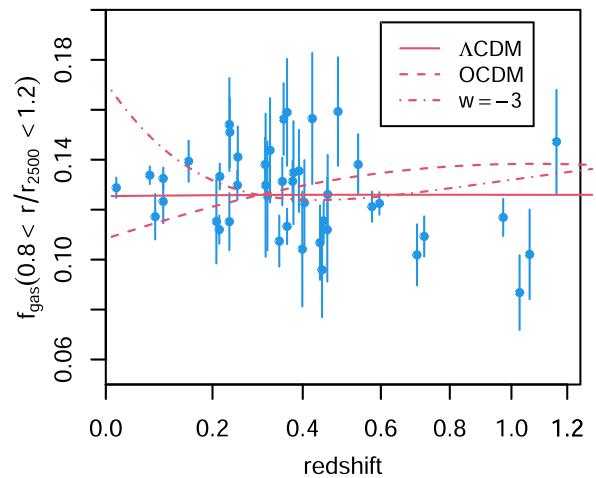


Figure 5. The f_{gas} data as a function of redshift, as in Fig. 2, are compared with predictions of three dark energy models. These predictions incorporate the complete model of Section 3, meaning that they are predictions for what f_{gas} values we would measure given the adopted reference cosmology, for nominal values for the nuisance parameters. The solid line shows predictions for a flat CDM model ($m = 0.3$, $\eta = 0.7$, and $w = -1$; identical to the reference), the dashed line an open model ($m = 0.3$ and $\eta = 0.0$), and the dot-dashed line a flat, constant- w model ($m = 0.3$, $\eta_{\text{DE}} = 0.7$, and $w = -3$). To illustrate the different shapes of the curves as a function of redshift, they are normalized to intersect at $z = 0.3$, which is approximately the weighted-mean redshift of the data (note that this is a different and arguably better motivated choice than in the equivalent figure in M14). The figure, thus, demonstrates the redshift-dependent signal available to the $f_{\text{gas}}(z)$ data once the m constraint from the normalization of f_{gas} is accounted for, in particular emphasizing the role of data at the lowest redshifts in ruling out the more extreme models.

To illustrate the redshift dependence of the model, we show in Fig. 5 predictions in data space for three different cosmologies. The curves are normalized to intersect at the weighted-mean redshift of the data, to better illustrate their different shapes as a function of redshift. In this way, we can see how precise measurements across a wide range in redshifts, especially when extending to $z \approx 0$, can place constraints on dark energy parameters.

4 RESULTS

The posterior probability encoded by the model of Section 3 is implemented as a stand-alone library.⁴ The results presented below were produced by including it in COSMOMC⁵ (Lewis & Bridle 2002; version May 2020), with cosmological calculations provided by CAMB (Lewis, Challinor & Lasenby 2000). When analysing the f_{gas} data alone, or in combination with simple, external priors, we use COSMOMC’s ‘astro’ cosmological parametrization, with the free parameters and priors given by Table B2.

We also compare and combine our results with those of other cosmological probes whose likelihoods are available in COSMOMC. In particular, these include the final (2018) *Planck* cosmic microwave background (CMB) temperature, polarization, and lensing power spectra (Planck Collaboration V 2020a, Planck Collaboration VIII 2020c), Type Ia SN from the Pantheon project (Scolnic et al. 2018), and baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO). In the case of BAO, we will

⁴<https://github.com/abmantz/fgas-cosmo>

⁵<http://cosmologist.info/cosmomc/>

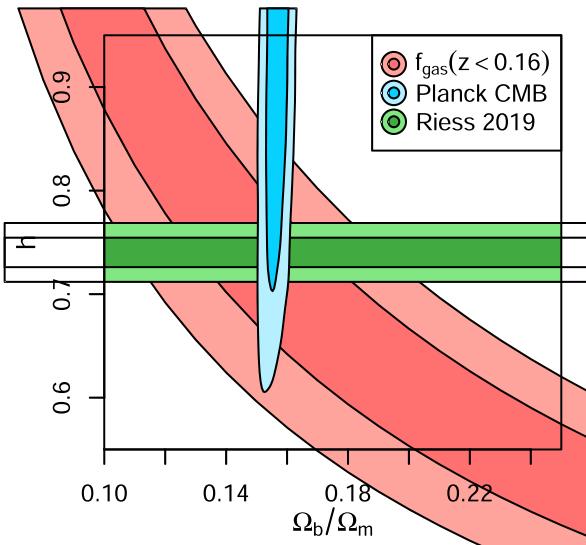


Figure 6. Constraints on the Hubble parameter and the cosmic baryon fraction from our f_{gas} data at $z < 0.16$ only (red), *Planck* CMB data (Planck Collaboration V 2020a, Planck Collaboration VIII 2020c), and the Cepheid distance ladder (Riess et al. 2019). The *Planck* analysis assumes a flat, constant- W model, while the f_{gas} and distance-ladder constraints are essentially independent of the cosmological model.

show the final results from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) IV extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS; Alam et al. 2021); however, as the data underlying those results is not publicly available at the time of our analysis, we use earlier data from the 6-degree Field Galaxy Survey ($z = 0.106$; Beutler et al. 2011), the SDSS DR7 main galaxy sample ($z = 0.15$; Ross et al. 2015), and the SDSS-III BOSS ($z = 0.38, 0.51$, and 0.61 ; Alam et al. 2017) when obtaining joint constraints. When obtaining constraints using CMB data (alone or in combination with others), we use the ‘theta’ cosmological parametrization in COSMOMC, with the free parameters and priors shown in Table B3. Though we do not perform a combined analysis with them, we also reproduce constraints from the Dark Energy Survey Year-3 analysis of galaxy clustering and weak lensing (‘3 \times 2pt’; DES Collaboration 2021) as a point of comparison.

In models with W free, constraints from only the CMB data employed here are effectively unable to place an upper limit on the Hubble parameter, H_0 (equivalently, $h = H_0/100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$). The resulting contours (Figs 6 and 8) may appear surprisingly unconstrained to some readers, due to the degeneracy between h and other parameters, and the fact that we marginalize over a wider uniform prior on h than is typical in the literature (0.2–2 rather than 0.4–1; e.g. Planck Collaboration VI 2020b). While one could argue unconvincingly about which range better reflects our prior knowledge of h , we prefer not to show contours that appear to provide constraints on other parameters (e.g. Ω_m) that are, ultimately, due to the limited prior range of h . The reader should interpret these particular contours as being indicative of which combinations of parameters are well constrained and which are degenerate, and thus how combinations of independent probes might improve constraints, without taking the absolute probability levels too seriously.

4.1 Constraints from low-redshift f_{gas} data

The dependence of the f_{gas} observable on the cosmological parameters, apart from the relatively minor $A(z)$ term, is $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}} \propto d(z)^{-3/2} \Omega_b/\Omega_m$. Thus, constraints can in principle be obtained from both the normalization of $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}}(z)$ and its behaviour with redshift.

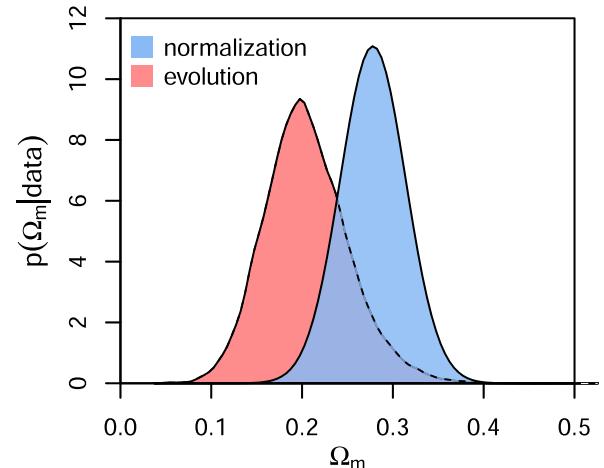


Figure 7. Posterior distributions for Ω_m based on f_{gas} data. The blue-shaded constraints are from the normalization of $f_{\text{gas}}(z)$ measured from only the $z < 0.16$ clusters in our sample, using standard priors on h , $\Omega_b h^2$ and the relevant nuisance parameters (Section 4.1). These results are insensitive to the assumed model of dark energy. The red-shaded results are from the shape of the measured $f_{\text{gas}}(z)$ curve, using our full sample without the priors that would produce a constraint from the normalization, and assuming a flat CDM model (Section 4.2).

The normalization depends the cosmological parameter combination $h^{3/2} \Omega_b/\Omega_m$, and can be measured to high statistical precision using only the low-redshift clusters in our sample. We can, therefore, obtain constraints on this degenerate combination of parameters from a subset of the f_{gas} data. The advantage of doing so is that these constraints are insensitive to the particular model of dark energy used, provided that its equation of state does not evolve strongly over the redshift range of the data employed. Following M14, we obtained such constraints from the six clusters in our sample with $z < 0.16$, marginalizing over a non-flat cosmological model with W free, finding $h^{3/2} \Omega_b/\Omega_m = 0.096 \pm 0.013$. Since we do not use weak lensing data for any of these low- z clusters, we employ a Gaussian prior, $K_0 = 0.93 \pm 0.11$, obtained from our full analysis (Section 4.5). As mentioned in Section 3, this simplified approach neglects any correlations between cosmological parameters and the measured X-ray/lensing mass ratio, but we note that these are small compared with current uncertainties (see A16). At present, the constraint on $h^{3/2} \Omega_b/\Omega_m$ is limited by this uncertainty in K_0 , which is primarily due to the small number of clusters for which we use lensing data to calibrate our X-ray masses.

The above constraint was obtained without external cosmological priors, but, as Fig. 6 illustrates, there are interesting complementarities with independent data. We investigate three forms of such external information, with the results shown in Table 2.

Combining our data with a prior on the cosmic baryon fraction, $\Omega_b/\Omega_m = 0.156 \pm 0.003$, from *Planck*, we constrain the Hubble parameter to be $h = 0.722 \pm 0.067$. Note that, whereas the direct constraints placed on h by the CMB data are precise only when assuming a flat CDM model, the CMB baryon fraction constraints hold much more widely (Fig. 6 shows contours for a constant- W model, displaying essentially no correlation in the h versus Ω_b/Ω_m plane). As the f_{gas} constraints considered here are similarly insensitive to the dark energy model assumed, the combined $f_{\text{gas}} +$ CMB constraint on h is an interesting one to compare to independent probes. In particular, we prefer a value closer to that determined from the Cepheid-based distance ladder (Riess et al. 2019) than to the

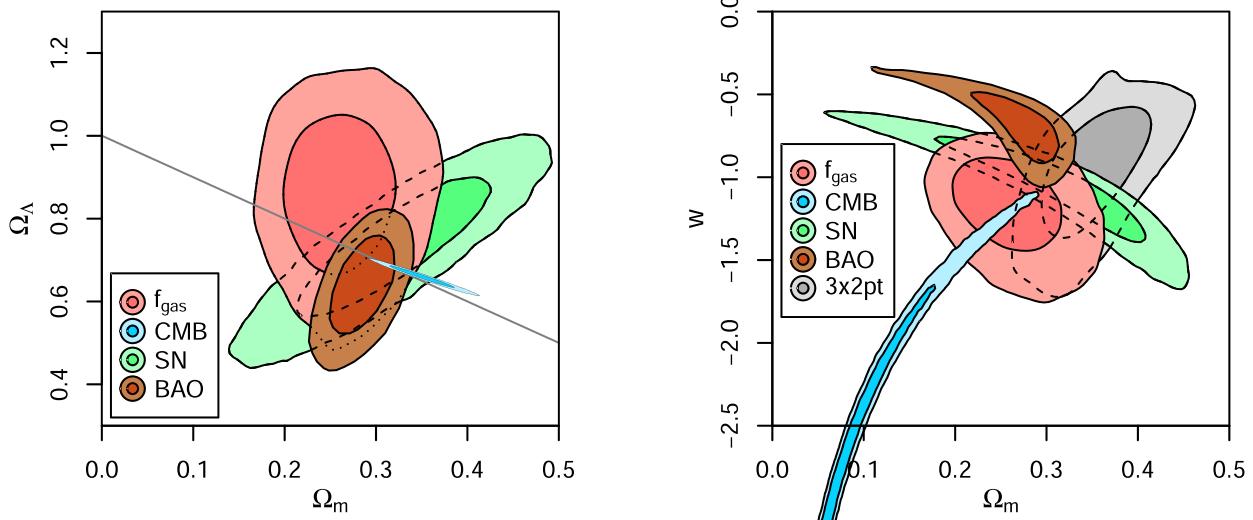


Figure 8. Constraints on parameters of the CDM (left-hand panel) and flat, constant- W (right-hand panel) models from f_{gas} (this work), *Planck* CMB (Planck Collaboration V 2020a, Planck Collaboration VIII 2020c), Pantheon SN (Scolnic et al. 2018), BAO (Alam et al. 2021), and galaxy clustering and lensing ($3 \times 2\text{pt}$; DES Collaboration 2021) data. In the left-hand panel, the solid, grey line indicates spatial flatness ($= 1 - \Omega_m$).

Table 2. Marginalized best-fitting values and 68.3 per cent probability credible intervals on cosmological parameters from our analysis of low-redshift ($z < 0.16$) cluster f_{gas} data, including systematic uncertainties. At the quoted precision, these constraints are identical for all cosmological models considered in this work. Columns 1–3 indicate whether priors on each cosmological quantity were included (see text; F01 = Freedman et al. 2001, P18 = Planck Collaboration VI 2020b, R19 = Riess et al. 2019, and H20 = Hsyu et al. 2020).

h	Prior	$b h^2$	b/Ω_m	Constraint
–	–	–	$h^{3/2}$	$b/\Omega_m = 0.096 \pm 0.013$
–	–	P18		$h = 0.722 \pm 0.067$
F01	–	–		$b/\Omega_m = 0.156 \pm 0.034$
P18	–	–		$b/\Omega_m = 0.173 \pm 0.024$
R19	–	–		$b/\Omega_m = 0.150 \pm 0.021$
–	H20	–		$m h^{1/2} = 0.221 \pm 0.031$
F01	H20	–		$\Omega_m = 0.260 \pm 0.040$
P18	H20	–		$\Omega_m = 0.270 \pm 0.038$
R19	H20	–		$\Omega_m = 0.257 \pm 0.037$

constraints from *Planck* when assuming flat CDM, although our results are consistent with both within uncertainties. Forthcoming weak lensing data (Baumont et al., in preparation; Wright et al., in preparation) will roughly halve the uncertainty in K_0 , translating directly to tighter constraints on h from the $f_{\text{gas}} + \text{CMB}$ combination. We note that compatible results to those above were obtained from the combination of Wilkinson microwave anisotropy probe (WMAP) CMB data with f_{gas} data from Allen et al. (2008) or M14, and the combination of BAO data with the M14 f_{gas} data (Holanda, Pordeus-da-Silva & Pereira 2020). Our constraints are also compatible with those obtained by enforcing consistency between X-ray and SZ measurements of the same ICM; the latter method has the benefit of not requiring even the limited external priors adopted here, but is significantly less precise at present (see Wan et al. 2021 for a recent discussion).

Conversely, adopting external priors on h allows us to test for consistency with the baryon fraction measured from the CMB. We find good agreement, within uncertainties, using priors from the

Hubble Key project ($h = 0.72 \pm 0.08$; Freedman et al. 2001), *Planck* (assuming flat CDM; $h = 0.674 \pm 0.005$; Planck Collaboration VI 2020b), or Cepheids ($h = 0.7403 \pm 0.0142$; Riess et al. 2019).

Combining the f_{gas} data with a prior on the baryon density, $b h^2 = 0.0215 \pm 0.0005$, based on estimates of the primordial helium and deuterium abundances (Hsyu et al. 2020), provides the constraint $\Omega_m h^{1/2} = 0.221 \pm 0.031$. The weak residual dependence on h means that we obtain nearly identical constraints on Ω_m when additionally combining with any of the priors on h listed above. Using the results of Freedman et al. (2001), which are comfortably consistent with the more recent estimates, the low-redshift f_{gas} data yield $\Omega_m = 0.260 \pm 0.040$.

4.2 Ω_m from the evolution of f_{gas}

While the normalization of $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}}(Z)$ constrains the combination $h^{3/2} b/\Omega_m$, its behaviour with redshift is sensitive to cosmology through the shape of $d(Z)$. Uniquely, Ω_m contributes to the observed signal in both places. For the flat CDM model, we can obtain precise constraints on Ω_m from the evolution of $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{ref}}(Z)$ alone, and compare them to those from its normalization. This can be accomplished in practice by widening any of the informative priors impacting the normalization of $f_{\text{gas}}(Z)$ (i.e. on h , $b h^2$, or $Y_{\text{gas},0}$) until it no longer has an effect on the posterior distribution. Our constraints from this procedure are compared with those of the preceding section in Fig. 7; we find $\Omega_m = 0.200 \pm 0.044$, consistent with but marginally lower than the results from the normalization.

4.3 Constraints from the full f_{gas} data set

We next report the constraints available from the combination of the complete f_{gas} data set with an external prior on $b h^2$ from Hsyu et al. (2020), and a broad prior on h from Freedman et al. (2001). Fig. 8 shows our results as red-shaded contours for the non-flat CDM model (left-hand panel) and flat constant- W model (right-hand panel). The degeneracies of Ω_m and W with Ω_m are modest, due to the direct constraint on Ω_m coming from the normalization of $f_{\text{gas}}(Z)$. For the CDM model, we find $\Omega_m = 0.257 \pm 0.039$ and

Table 3. Marginalized best-fitting values and 68.3 per cent probability credible intervals on cosmological parameters of CDM and flat, constant- W models from our data, in combination with priors on h (Freedman et al. 2001) and bh^2 (Hsyu et al. 2020).

Model	m	DE	k	W_0
CDM	0.257 ± 0.039	0.865 ± 0.119	-0.128 ± 0.128	-1
Constant- W	0.256 ± 0.037	0.744 ± 0.037	0	$-1.13^{+0.17}_{-0.20}$

$= 0.865 \pm 0.119$, while for the flat, constant- W model we find $m = 0.256 \pm 0.037$ and $W = -1.13^{+0.17}_{-0.20}$ (Table 3). Compared with M14, these constraints represent improvements of 41 per cent in the constraints on m and 29 per cent on W in the respective models (Fig. 9).

Our results are consistent with flat CDM, and in good agreement individually with those from CMB, SN, BAO, and 3×2 pt data, as shown in Fig. 8, though we note that the CMB and BAO constraints shown appear to be in tension with one another for the flat, constant- W model (this is not true of the older BAO data set that we employ in the combined-probe analysis below). For the constant- W model in particular, our constraint of $W = -1.13^{+0.17}_{-0.20}$ compares well with those from other low-redshift probes: $W = -1.09 \pm 0.22$ (SN), $W = -0.69 \pm 0.15$ (BAO), and $W = -0.98^{+0.32}_{-0.20}$ (3×2 pt). The f_{gas} results are also comparable to independent constraints from the number counts of massive clusters ($W = -1.01 \pm 0.20$; Mantz et al. 2010; see also Vikhlinin et al. 2009; Mantz et al. 2015a; Bocquet et al. 2019). Moreover, apart from a very weak dependence on h (Section 3), the f_{gas} data provide these constraints without sensitivity to (or requiring assumptions about) additional parameters such as the number or mass of neutrinos, or the shape or amplitude of the matter power spectrum, which do impact some of the probes discussed above.

4.4 Combination with independent probes

Combining the f_{gas} data with CMB, SN, and BAO information, we obtain the constraints listed in Table 4. Note that the priors on h and bh^2 employed in the last section are not used here, as the above combination of data is sufficient to constrain those parameters tightly

in all of the models considered here. We find $k = (0.9 \pm 2.0) \times 10^{-3}$ for the non-flat CDM model, and $W = -1.04 \pm 0.03$ for the flat, constant- W model, with m tightly constrained around values of 0.30–0.31 in both cases. Generalizing to a model with both curvature and the dark energy equation of state free, the combination yields $k = (-0.5 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-3}$ and $W = -1.04 \pm 0.04$ (left-hand panel of Fig. 10).

We also consider models with an evolving equation of state, of the form

$$W(Z) = W_0 + W_a(1 - a) = W_0 + W_a \frac{z}{1 + z}, \quad (7)$$

where $a = (1 + z)^{-1}$ is the scale factor and W_a parametrizes the change in $W(Z)$ between the present day ($a = 1$) and the early universe ($a \rightarrow 0$). The right-hand panel of Fig. 10 shows constraints on W_0 and W_a , with and without free curvature, from the combined data set. In the former case, we find $k = (-3.3 \pm 3.0) \times 10^{-3}$, $W_0 = -0.92 \pm 0.10$, and $W_a = -0.60 \pm 0.47$, consistent with the flat CDM model.

4.5 Constraints on cluster parameters

Beyond the cosmological parameters, there are four parameters of the cluster model that the data constrain. These constraints are essentially independent of cosmological assumptions within the range of models explored above; the specific values quoted below are from a fit of the flat, constant- W model, using the f_{gas} data plus priors on h and bh^2 .

The power-law slope of f_{gas} in the 0.8 – $1.2 r_{2500}$ shell with mass is found to be $\alpha = 0.025 \pm 0.033$, consistent with zero. While the gas mass fraction is expected to be an increasing function of mass going from the group to the cluster regime, our results verify that this trend becomes consistent with a constant for sufficiently massive clusters at these radii (Eke et al. 1998; Kay et al. 2004; Crain et al. 2007; Nagai, Vikhlinin & Kravtsov 2007; Young et al. 2011; Battaglia et al. 2013; Planelles et al. 2013; Le Brun et al. 2014, 2017; Barnes et al. 2017; Henden et al. 2020; Singh et al. 2020). We note that there is visually no indication of steepening towards lower masses in Fig. 2.

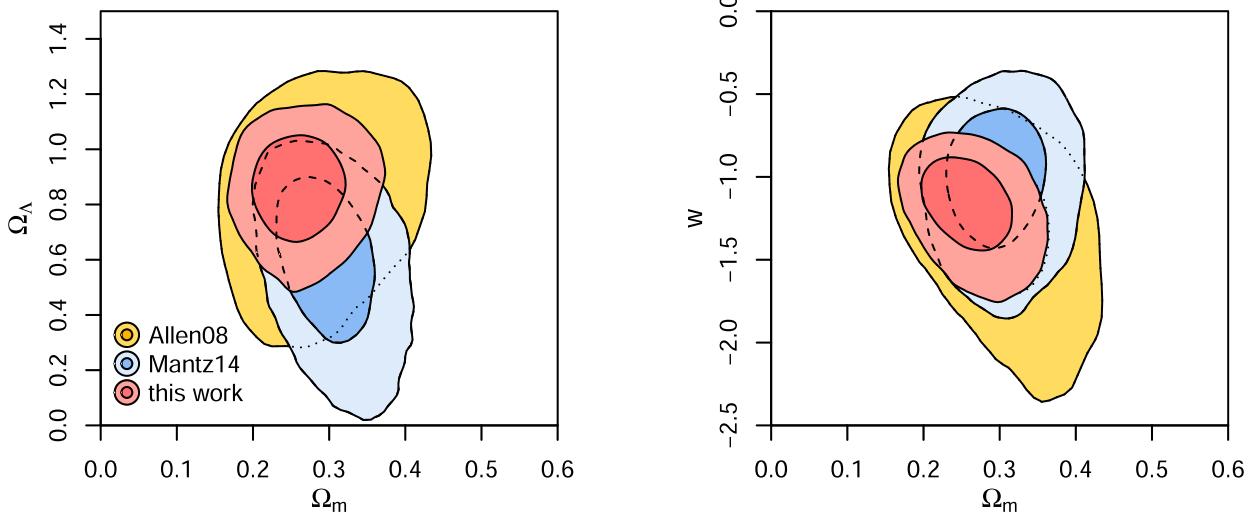


Figure 9. Constraints on parameters of the CDM (left-hand panel) and flat, constant- W (right-hand panel) models from three generations of the f_{gas} analysis presented in this paper: Allen et al. (2008), M14, and this work. Compared with M14, our new constraints on m are 41 per cent tighter, while constraints on W are 29 per cent tighter.

For the lognormal intrinsic scatter in f_{gas} , we find $\sigma_f = 0.043^{+0.020}_{-0.032}$, with a 95.4 per cent probability upper limit of 0.089. This result is consistent with, though smaller than, the previous constraint of 0.074 ± 0.023 from M14 (see also Mahdavi et al. 2013; Herbonnet et al. 2020). Remarkably, this best-fitting scatter of just 4.3 per cent in f_{gas} corresponds to a precision of 2.9 per cent in the distance estimate associated with a given cluster, compared with ~ 4.6 per cent intrinsic scatter in distance estimates from TypeIa SNe (Scolnic et al. 2018).

We constrain the weak lensing to X-ray mass ratio to be $K_0 = 0.93 \pm 0.11$, a small change from A16. Strictly speaking, this parameter describes the ratio at $z = 0$, but the posterior correlation between K_0 and the evolution parameter, K_1 , is small enough that the constraints on the ratio at other relevant redshifts ($z < 1.2$) are identical at this precision. K_1 itself is unconstrained by the data. Note that, unlike the other parameters discussed here, K_0 is degenerate with cosmological parameters, primarily m . We, therefore, obtain tighter and slightly offset constraints from the combination of f_{gas} , CMB, BAO, and SN data, which prefer a larger value of m than f_{gas} alone: $K_0 = 0.99 \pm 0.06$. Finally, the intrinsic scatter in the lensing to X-ray mass ratio is found to be $\sigma_K = 0.14^{+0.09}_{-0.07}$, consistent with expectations for the impact of halo triaxiality on the inferred 3D lensing masses (Becker & Kravtsov 2011).

5 CONCLUSION

We have derived constraints on cosmological models from measurements of the gas mass fraction at intermediate radii in a sample of the most dynamically relaxed, massive galaxy clusters. Compared to previous work, our analysis incorporates additional *Chandra* data, as well as an expanded cluster sample. Notably, the expanded data set include a precise determination of f_{gas} in the Perseus cluster, at $z = 0.018$, as well as new measurements at $z = 0.97$ and $z = 1.16$. The resulting increase in leverage on the apparent evolution of f_{gas} with redshift has a disproportionate impact on dark energy constraints; compared with M14, we find that the constraint on w for the non-flat CDM model shrinks by 41 per cent to $w = 0.865 \pm 0.119$, while the constraint on w in the flat, constant- w model improves by 29 per cent to $w = -1.13^{+0.17}_{-0.20}$. Despite the modest size of the data set overall, comprising observations of just 44 sources, dark energy constraints from f_{gas} data remain competitive with the best constraints from other cosmological probes. Combining the f_{gas} analysis with CMB, SN, and BAO data, we explore non-flat and evolving- w models, continuing to find consistency with the simple flat CDM concordance model. The lowest redshift f_{gas} data, combined only with a measurement of b/m from the CMB, constrain the Hubble constant to be $h = 0.722 \pm 0.067$.

Table 4. Marginalized best-fitting values and 68.3 per cent probability credible intervals on cosmological parameters of constant- and evolving- w models from the combination of f_{gas} (this work), *Planck* CMB (Planck Collaboration V 2020a, Planck Collaboration VIII 2020c), Pantheon SN (Scolnic et al. 2018), and BAO (Beutler et al. 2011; Ross et al. 2015; Alam et al. 2017) data.

Model	h	m	DE	$10^3 k$	w_0	w_a
CDM	0.680 ± 0.007	0.308 ± 0.006	0.691 ± 0.005	0.9 ± 2.0	-1	0
Constant- w	0.686 ± 0.008	0.303 ± 0.007	0.697 ± 0.007	0	-1.04 ± 0.03	0
	0.686 ± 0.009	0.303 ± 0.008	0.698 ± 0.008	-0.5 ± 2.2	-1.04 ± 0.04	0
	0.686 ± 0.008	0.303 ± 0.007	0.697 ± 0.007	0	-0.97 ± 0.08	-0.27 ± 0.30
Evolving- w	0.686 ± 0.008	0.303 ± 0.007	0.697 ± 0.007	-3.3 ± 3.0	-0.92 ± 0.10	-0.60 ± 0.47
	0.683 ± 0.009	0.304 ± 0.008	0.699 ± 0.008			

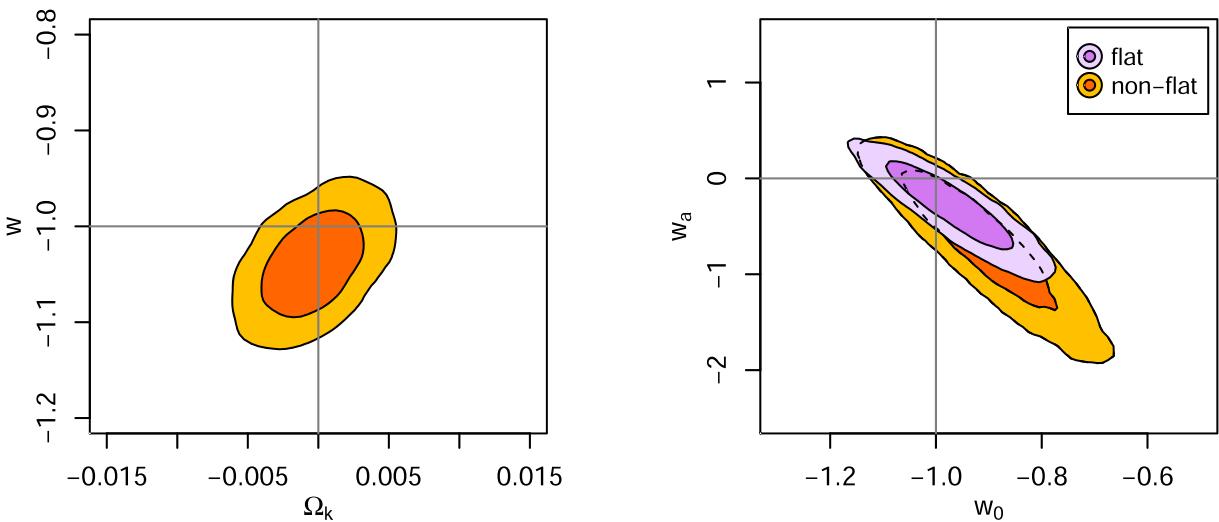


Figure 10. Constraints on parameters of the non-flat, constant- w (left-hand panel) and evolving- w (right-hand panel) models from the combination of f_{gas} (this work), *Planck* CMB (Planck Collaboration V 2020a, Planck Collaboration VIII 2020c), Pantheon SN (Scolnic et al. 2018), and BAO (Beutler et al. 2011; Ross et al. 2015; Alam et al. 2017) data. Grey lines correspond to the values each parameter takes in the flat CDM model.

Our analysis internally constrains a possible trend with mass and the intrinsic scatter of f_{gas} . We obtain tight constraints on the power-law slope of f_{gas} (in a shell including radii of 0.8–1.2 r_{2500}) with mass, $\alpha = 0.025 \pm 0.033$, consistent with no dependence in this intermediate radial range, given the cluster selection. The lognormal intrinsic scatter is found to be $\sigma_f = 0.043^{+0.020}_{-0.032}$, somewhat smaller than in previous work and equivalent to just 3 per cent scatter in the distance estimated to a single cluster.

Even with the additional data introduced in this work, constraints on dark energy from the f_{gas} method remain statistically limited. With the precise anchor at low redshifts provided by Perseus and other bright clusters, long-term improvement will be driven by additions to the cluster sample at $z > 0.5$. The growing number of relaxed clusters in our data set at $0.6 < z < 1.2$ that were discovered via the SZ effect (Bleem et al. 2015, 2020; Planck Collaboration XXVII 2016), now six in total, demonstrates that this is a viable approach to finding such systems, even if a smaller fraction of relaxed clusters is found in SZ surveys at these redshifts compared with X-ray surveys of the low-redshift Universe. In the long term, significant expansions of the sample have the potential to dramatically improve constraints on dark energy, as discussed by M14. In the nearer term, dark energy-independent constraints on σ_m can be straightforwardly tightened by expanding and improving the weak lensing data for relaxed clusters.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

Chandra X-ray data are available from the *Chandra* Data Archive (CDA) at <https://cxc.harvard.edu/cda/>. Appendix A provides the specific observation IDs employed in this work. Our weak lensing analysis uses data from the Subaru and Canada–France–Hawaii

telescopes (see von der Linden et al. 2014 and A16 for details), which can respectively be obtained from the SMOKA Science Archive (<https://smoka.nao.ac.jp/index.jsp>) and the Canadian Astronomy Data Centre (<https://www.cadc-ccda.hia-ihc.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/en/cfht/index.html>). The code and data tables required to perform the f_{gas} cosmological analysis can be obtained from <https://github.com/abmantz/fgas-cosmo>. All data shown in figures and tables can be obtained in digital form from <https://github.com/abmantz/fgas-2021-paper>.

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Table A1. *Chandra* data used in this work: (1) cluster name (ordered by increasing redshift); (2) observation ID; (3) date of observation; (4) detector (ACIS-I or ACIS-S); and (5) clean exposure time in ks.

Cluster	Obs ID	Date	Det	Exp	Cluster	Obs ID	Date	Det	Exp	
Perseus	3237	2003-03-15	S	33.8	RX J1504.1-0248	17 197	2015-06-01	I	24.2	
	4953	2004-10-18	S	30.1		17 669	2015-06-17	I	24.9	
	6145	2004-10-19	S	85.0		17 670	2015-06-10	I	42.2	
	6146	2004-10-20	S	28.7		7897	2006-12-23	I	8.4	
	11 713	2009-11-29	I	108.4		10 463	2009-02-24	S	38.6	
	11 714	2009-12-07	I	89.7		552	2000-10-21	I	9.4	
	11 715	2009-12-02	I	70.0		9370	2009-04-03	I	27.3	
	11 716	2009-10-10	I	38.6		9428	2008-06-16	S	39.6	
	12 025	2009-11-25	I	17.9		496	2000-04-29	S	10.7	
	12 033	2009-11-27	I	18.4		6880	2006-08-25	I	106.7	
	12 036	2009-12-02	I	46.8		6881	2005-12-07	I	29.9	
	12 037	2009-12-05	I	83.1		7370	2006-07-24	I	36.3	
	13 989	2011-11-07	I	34.3		9400	2008-02-11	S	35.7	
	13 990	2011-11-11	I	34.0		MS 2137.3-2353	928	1999-11-18	S	23.3
	13 991	2011-11-05	I	32.7		5250	2003-11-18	S	27.6	
	13 992	2011-11-05	I	32.9		3266	2002-02-07	I	7.7	
	17 260	2015-12-01	I	4.7		3279	2002-06-29	I	14.4	
	17 261	2015-12-01	I	4.2		9373	2008-06-11	I	26.9	
	17 262	2015-12-07	I	4.2		3286	2002-11-13	I	11.5	
	17 263	2015-12-04	I	4.3		9374	2007-12-09	I	14.3	
	17 274	2015-12-09	I	5.0		MACS J0947.2+7623	2202	2000-10-20	I	10.7
	17 275	2015-12-09	I	4.7		7902	2007-07-09	S	38.3	
	17 276	2015-12-09	I	4.8		3282	2002-10-20	I	11.5	
	17 277	2015-12-10	I	4.6		9382	2008-08-21	I	92.5	
	17 278	2015-12-10	I	4.4		3275	2003-01-23	I	9.5	
	17 279	2015-11-30	I	4.6		9375	2008-02-03	I	34.8	
	17 280	2015-12-11	I	4.5		1649	2001-08-26	S	9.2	
	17 283	2015-10-06	I	5.0		1665	2001-09-06	I	8.4	
	17 286	2015-10-06	I	4.5		14 009	2011-11-16	S	84.8	
Abell 2029	891	2000-04-12	S	19.8	MACS J0150.3-10	11 711	2009-09-14	I	26.1	
	4977	2004-01-08	S	72.8		10 481	2008-12-14	S	9.2	
	6101	2004-12-17	I	8.7		17 233	2016-04-05	I	37.9	

Table A1 – *continued*

Cluster	Obs ID	Date	Det	Exp	Cluster	Obs ID	Date	Det	Exp
Abell 478	10 434	2009-04-01	I	4.9	MACS J0011.7- 15	18 825	2016-04-06	I	21.9
	10 435	2009-04-01	I	4.1		3261	2002-11-20	I	17.5
	10 436	2009-04-01	I	4.1		6105	2005-06-28	I	31.7
	10 437	2009-04-01	I	4.5		3280	2002-11-03	I	18.3
	1669	2001-01-27	S	36.2		6107	2005-11-22	I	27.2
	6102	2004-09-13	I	5.9		7718	2007-09-28	I	6.2
	6928	2005-12-02	I	5.7		3271	2002-02-07	I	19.3
	6929	2005-12-02	I	1.9		3265	2002-10-02	I	14.6
	7217	2005-11-15	I	17.0		6106	2004-12-04	I	31.0
	7218	2005-11-17	I	6.6		9376	2008-10-03	I	17.0
RX J1524.2- 3154	7222	2005-11-19	I	5.4	MACS J2046.0- 34	5816	2005-06-28	I	8.2
	7231	2006-07-29	I	15.4		9377	2008-06-27	I	34.6
	7232	2005-12-04	I	13.0		10 445	2009-01-06	I	69.0
	7233	2005-12-03	I	7.7		5811	2005-03-17	I	8.9
	7234	2005-12-01	I	7.8		9378	2008-03-21	I	45.3
	7235	2005-11-29	I	6.8		506	2000-03-05	S	8.2
	9401	2008-01-07	S	40.9		507	2000-04-29	S	10.0
PKS 0745- 191	2427	2001-06-16	S	17.9		3592	2003-09-03	I	48.1
	6103	2004-09-24	I	9.2		13 516	2012-12-11	I	34.4
	7694	2007-01-25	I	4.7		13 999	2012-05-14	I	50.8
	12 881	2011-01-27	S	117.0		14 407	2012-03-16	I	55.0
	499	2000-07-29	S	9.0	3C 295	578	1999-08-30	S	15.4
Abell 2204	6104	2004-09-20	I	8.6		2254	2001-05-18	I	75.5
	7940	2007-06-06	I	72.5		3254	2002-10-18	I	8.3
	527	2000-08-29	I	8.8		6109	2004-12-11	I	32.7
RX J0439.0+ 0520	9369	2007-11-12	I	18.8		6172	2004-12-25	I	26.2
	9761	2007-11-15	I	7.9		7720	2007-11-08	I	5.8
	3195	2001-11-04	S	14.6		9379	2008-10-17	I	28.9
	7706	2007-06-25	I	4.6		10 785	2008-10-18	I	27.4
	12 903	2011-02-03	S	92.1	MACS J1427.2+ 4407	6112	2005-02-12	I	8.4
RX J1504.1- 0248	4935	2004-01-07	I	9.2		9380	2008-01-14	I	23.0
	5793	2005-03-20	I	30.7		9808	2008-01-15	I	13.4
	11 694	2010-10-09	S	6.0		14 437	2012-09-16	I	23.1
MACS J1427.2+ 4407	1657	2001-06-01	I	16.2		15 572	2012-10-29	I	14.1
	4195	2003-08-18	S	107.5		15 574	2012-10-31	I	11.3
SPT J2331- 5051	9333	2009-08-12	I	26.4		15 579	2012-11-11	I	17.3
	11 738	2009-08-30	I	5.4		15 582	2012-11-17	I	17.3
	18 241	2016-08-29	I	79.1		15 588	2012-11-22	I	20.7
	19 697	2016-09-02	I	27.4		15 589	2012-11-24	I	9.9
	13 401	2011-09-19	I	10.7	CL J1415.2+ 3612	4163	2003-09-16	I	74.4
SPT J2344- 4242	16 135	2014-08-18	I	48.6		12 255	2010-08-30	S	60.4
	16 545	2014-08-20	I	51.6		12 256	2010-08-28	S	115.4
	9335	2009-03-16	I	28.4		13 118	2010-09-01	S	44.6
SPT J0000- 5748	18 238	2016-08-26	I	118.2		13 119	2010-09-05	S	54.3
	18 239	2016-08-05	I	16.8	3C 186	3098	2002-05-16	S	16.9
	19 695	2016-08-24	I	23.7		9407	2007-12-03	S	66.3
SPT J2043- 5035	13 478	2011-08-10	I	73.3		9408	2007-12-11	S	39.6
	18 240	2016-08-05	I	96.9		9774	2007-12-06	S	75.1
SPT J0615- 5746	14 017	2012-11-03	I	13.8		9775	2007-12-08	S	15.9
	14 018	2012-09-15	I	31.2	SPT J2215- 3537	22 653	2020-08-17	I	32.3
	14 349	2012-11-09	I	21.8		24 614	2020-08-18	I	26.9
	14 350	2012-11-21	I	9.2		24 615	2020-08-20	I	8.2
	14 351	2012-11-12	I	22.5					

APPENDIX B : MODEL PARAMETERS AND PRIORS

Tables B1–B3 list the astrophysical and cosmological model parameters of our analysis, and the prior distributions adopted for each.

Table B1. Parameters and priors specific to the cluster f_{gas} model (see Section 3). $N(\mu, \sigma)$ represents the normal distribution with mean μ and variance σ^2 , and $U(x_1, x_2)$ the uniform distribution with endpoints x_1 and x_2 . Priors marked with a \dagger are informative in the sense that the posterior distribution for the corresponding parameter essentially reproduces the prior (see Section 3 and M14 for discussion). Note that in Section 4.2 we use a much wider prior on Y_0 than that listed here.

Symbol	Meaning	Prior
Y_0	Gas depletion at $z = 0$	$U(0.71, 0.87)$
Y_1	Gas depletion evolution	$U(-0.05, 0.05)$
α	Power-law slope of f_{gas} with mass	$U(-1, 1)$
σ_f	Intrinsic scatter of $\ln f_{\text{gas}}$	$U(0.0, 0.5)$
η_f	Power-law slope of shell f_{gas} profile	$N(0.390, 0.024)$
K_0	X-ray mass calibration at $z = 0$	$U(0.0, 2.0)$
K_1	X-ray mass calibration evolution	$U(-0.05, 0.05)$
σ_K	Lensing/X-ray mass ratio intrinsic scatter	$U(0.0, 1.0)$
η_m	Power-law slope of mass profile	$N(1.065, 0.016)$
W_0	Lensing mass bias at $z = 0.4$	$N(0.96, 0.09)$
W_1	Lensing mass bias evolution	$N(-0.09, 0.03)$

Table B2. Parameters and priors of the cosmological model used when analysing the f_{gas} , SN, or BAO data alone, presented as in Table B1. ${}_{\text{b}}h^2$ is derived from the other parameters listed, rather than being a free parameter itself. Note that the normal priors on H_0 and ${}_{\text{b}}h^2$ (indicated by the \dagger symbol) are not used for results in Sections 4.1 and 4.2, nor in any joint analysis of f_{gas} and CMB data.

Symbol	Meaning	Prior
m	Total matter density normalized to ρ_{cr}	$U(0.0, 1.0)$
${}_{\text{b}}$	Baryon density normalized to ρ_{cr}	$U(0.0, 1.0)$
H_0	Hubble parameter in $\text{km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$	$U(20, 200) / N(72, 8)^\dagger$
k	Equivalent energy density due to curvature	$U(-0.65, 0.65)$
w	Dark energy equation of state	$U(-5, 5)$
${}_{\text{b}}h^2$	Baryon density (derived)	$N(0.0215, 0.0005)^\dagger$

Table B3. Parameters and priors of the cosmological model used when analysing CMB data, alone or in combination with other probes, presented as in Table B1. Adopted values of the neutrino mass and effective number of relativistic species are shown for reference, but were not varied. H_0 is derived from the other parameters listed, rather than being a free parameter itself.

Symbol	Meaning	Prior
${}_{\text{b}}h^2$	Baryon density	$U(0.005, 0.1)$
${}_{\text{c}}h^2$	Cold dark matter density	$U(0.001, 0.99)$
θ_s	Angular size of the sound horizon at last scattering	$U(0.5, 10)$
k	Effective density from spatial curvature	$U(-0.65, 0.65)$
$W(W_0)$	Dark energy equation of state (at $z = 0$)	$U(-5, 5)$
W_a	Evolution parameter for $W(a)$	$U(-10, 10)$
τ	Optical depth to reionization	$U(0.01, 0.8)$
$\log 10^{10} A_s$	Scalar power spectrum amplitude	$U(1.61, 3.91)$
n_s	Scalar spectral index	$U(0.8, 1.2)$
m_ν	Species-summed (degenerate) neutrino mass in eV	$= 0.056$
N_{eff}	Effective number of neutrino species	$= 3.046$
H_0	Hubble parameter in $\text{km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ (derived)	$U(20, 200)$

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