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IXPE observations of the blazar Mrk 501 in 2022: a multiwavelength view

L. Lisalda¹,^{*} E. Gau¹,^{*} H. Krawczynski,¹ F. Tavecchio,² I. Liodakis³,^{*} A. Gokus¹,^{*}
 N. Rodriguez Cavero,¹ M. Nowak,¹ M. Negro,⁴ R. Middei^{5,6}, M. Perri,^{5,6} S. Puccetti,⁷ S. G. Jorstad,^{8,9}
 I. Agudo,¹⁰ A. P. Marscher,⁸ B. Agís-González,¹⁰ A. V. Berdyugin,¹¹ M. I. Bernardos,¹⁰ D. Blinov,^{12,13}
 G. Bonnoli,^{2,10} G. A. Borman,¹⁴ I. G. Bourbah,¹² C. Casadio,^{12,13} V. Casanova,¹⁰ A. J. Castro-Tirado,^{10,15}
 E. Fernández-García,¹⁰ M. García-Comas,¹⁰ T. S. Grishina,⁹ P. Hakala,³ T. Hovatta,^{3,16} Y. D. Hu,¹⁰
 C. Husillos,^{17,18} J. Escudero,¹⁰ J. Jormanainen,^{3,11} F. José Aceituno,¹⁰ M. Kagitani,¹⁹ S. Kiehlmann,^{12,13}
 E. Kontopodis,¹² E. N. Kopatskaya,⁹ P. M. Kouch,^{3,11} V. Kravtsov,¹¹ A. Lähteenmäki,^{16,20}
 E. G. Larionova,⁹ E. Lindfors,^{3,11} N. Mandarakas,^{12,13} A. Marchini,²¹ J. R. Masiero,²² D. Mawet,²³
 W. Max-Moerbeck,²⁴ D. A. Morozova,⁹ I. Myserlis,²⁵ K. Nilsson,³ G. V. Panopoulou,²⁶ T. J. Pearson,²⁷
 A. C. S. Readhead,²⁷ R. Reeves,²⁸ S. Romanopoulos,^{12,13} T. Sakanoi,¹⁹ Q. Salomé,^{3,16}
 S. S. Savchenko,^{9,29,30} R. Skalidis,²⁷ A. Sota,¹⁰ I. Syrjärinne,^{16,20} S. Tinyanont,³¹ M. Tornikoski,¹⁶
 Yu. V. Troitskaya,⁹ I. S. Troitskiy,⁹ A. A. Vasilyev,⁹ A. Vervelaki,¹² A. V. Zhovtan,¹⁴ L. A. Antonelli,^{5,6}
 M. Bachetti,³² L. Baldini,^{33,34} W. H. Baumgartner,³⁵ R. Bellazzini,³³ S. Bianchi,³⁶ S. D. Bongiorno,³⁵
 R. Bonino,^{37,38} A. Brez,³³ N. Bucciantini,^{39,40,41} F. Capitanio,⁴² S. Castellano,³³ E. Cavazzuti,⁷ C. Chen,⁴³
 S. Ciprini,^{5,44} E. Costa,⁴² A. De Rosa,⁴² E. Del Monte,⁴² L. Di Gesu,⁷ N. Di Lalla,⁴⁵ A. Di Marco,⁴²
 I. Donnarumma,⁷ V. Doroshenko,⁴⁶ M. Dovčiak,⁴⁷ S. R. Ehlert,³⁵ T. Enoto,⁴⁸ Y. Evangelista,⁴²
 S. Fabiani,⁴² R. Ferrazzoli,⁴² J. A. Garcia,²³ S. Gunji,⁴⁹ Mark Gurwell,⁵⁰ K. Hayashida,⁵¹ J. Heyl,⁵²
 W. Iwakiri,⁵³ P. Kaaret,³⁵ V. Karas,⁴⁷ Garrett Keating,⁵⁰ F. Kislak,⁵⁴ T. Kitaguchi,⁴⁸ J. J. Kolodziejczak,³⁵
 F. La Monaca,^{42,55,56} L. Latronico,³⁷ S. Maldera,³⁷ A. Manfreda,⁵⁷ F. Marin,⁵⁸ A. Marinucci,⁷
 H. L. Marshall,⁵⁹ F. Massaro,^{37,38} G. Matt,³⁶ I. Mitsuishi,⁶⁰ T. Mizuno,⁶¹ F. Muleri,⁴² C. Ng,⁶²
 S. L. O'Dell,⁶³ N. Omodei,⁴⁵ C. Oppedisano,³⁷ A. Papitto,⁶ G. G. Pavlov,⁶⁴ A. L. Peirson,⁴⁵
 M. Pesce-Rollins,³³ P. Petrucci,⁶⁵ M. Pilia,³² A. Possenti,³² J. Poutanen,¹¹ B. D. Ramsey,³⁵ J. Rankin,⁴²
 R. Rao,⁵⁰ A. Ratheesh,⁴² O. J. Roberts,⁶⁶ R. W. Romani,⁴⁵ C. Sgrò,³³ P. Slane,⁵⁰ P. Soffitta,⁴² G. Spandre,³³
 D. A. Swartz,⁴³ T. Tamagawa,⁴⁸ R. Taverna,⁶⁷ Y. Tawara,⁶⁰ A. F. Tennant,³⁵ N. E. Thomas,³⁵
 F. Tombesi,^{44,55,68} A. Trois,³² S. S. Tsygankov,¹¹ R. Turolla,^{67,69} J. Vink,⁷⁰ M. C. Weisskopf,³⁵ K. Wu,⁶⁹
 F. Xie^{42,71} and S. Zane⁶⁹

Affiliations are listed at the end of the paper

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ABSTRACT

The blazar Markarian 501 (Mrk 501) was observed on three occasions over a 4-month period between 2022 March and July with the *Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer* (*IXPE*). In this paper, we report for the first time on the third *IXPE* observation, performed between 2022 July 9 and 12, during which *IXPE* detected a linear polarization degree of $\Pi_X = 6 \pm 2$ per cent at a polarization angle, measured east of north, of $\Psi_X = 143^\circ \pm 11^\circ$ within the 2–8 keV X-ray band. The X-ray polarization angle and degree during this observation are consistent with those obtained during the first two observations. The chromaticity of the polarization across radio, optical, and X-ray bands is likewise consistent with the result from the simultaneous campaigns during the first two observations. Furthermore, we present two types of models to explain the observed spectral energy distributions (SEDs) and energy-resolved polarization: a synchrotron self-Compton model with an anisotropic magnetic field probability

* E-mail: Lindsey.Lisalda@wustl.edu (LL); ephraimgau@wustl.edu (EG)

distribution in the emitting volume, as well as an energy-stratified shock model. Our results support both the shock scenario as well as support that small levels of magnetic field anisotropy can explain the observed polarization.

Key words: polarization – radiation mechanisms: non-thermal – techniques: spectroscopic – galaxies: active – BL Lacertae objects: individual: Mrk501 – galaxies: jets.

1 INTRODUCTION

Blazars are a class of active galactic nuclei (AGNs) characterized by their flux and spectral variability, high polarization, and collimated relativistic jets of plasma. The observed emission from such objects arises from the collimated plasma outflow (jet), which emits over a wide range of the electromagnetic spectrum and is oriented at small angles ($\leq 10^\circ$) with respect to the line of sight of the observer. Multiwavelength blazar emissions are characterized by broad, double-peaked spectral energy distributions (SEDs). Synchrotron emission from relativistic electrons in the jet results in a low-energy component extending from radio to the optical, ultraviolet (UV), or X-ray bands, at which point the high-energy component starts to dominate the emission. The high-energy peak consists either of photons Compton-scattered from the same electrons producing the synchrotron emission, or of synchrotron emission from secondary particles created by high-energy protons (Sol & Zech 2022).

Mrk 501 is a nearby ($z = 0.034$) high synchrotron peaked blazar, with its low-energy emission component peaking in the X-ray band, and its high-energy component peaking in the GeV–TeV energy range (Pian et al. 1998; Aharonian et al. 1999; Krawczynski et al. 2000). The recently launched *Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer* (*IXPE*) satellite has allowed us to measure, for the first time, the polarization degree and direction of the synchrotron X-rays in the 2–8 keV energy band (Weisskopf et al. 2022). These measurements help constrain the uniformity and direction of the magnetic fields experienced by the high-energy electrons emitting the X-rays.

IXPE observed Mrk 501 three times in 2022. The first two observations (2022 March 8–10, 100 ks, and 2022 March 26–28, 86 ks) have been reported in a previous paper (Liodakis et al. 2022). Those two observations revealed X-ray polarization degrees of $\Pi_X = 10 \pm 2$ per cent and 11 ± 2 per cent, at electric vector position angles of $\Psi_X = 134^\circ \pm 5^\circ$ and $115^\circ \pm 4^\circ$, respectively. Liodakis et al. (2022) interpreted the strong increase of the linear polarization degree, from $\Pi_O \approx 4$ per cent in the optical band to $\Pi_X \approx 10$ per cent in the X-ray band, as evidence for electron acceleration by shocks. In such models, X-rays are emitted by higher energy electrons closer to the acceleration region, while the optical emission comes from a larger region with a less uniform magnetic field that thereby yields a lower polarization degree for the emission. The energy-stratified electron populations can thus explain the observed multiwavelength polarization characteristics of Mrk 501. On the other hand, it is possible that models with particle acceleration from magnetic reconnection might lead to faster and/or greater polarization swings in X-rays, especially as compared to energy-stratified shocks, with lower net polarization degrees in the X-ray band owing to averaging over different polarization directions (Zhang et al. 2021; Di Gesu et al. 2022a), a result contrary to the observational findings. However, the results depend on the particular model, and reconnection cannot yet be ruled out. Finally, as mentioned above, the X-rays from Mrk 501 were found to be polarized in a direction approximately parallel to the jet axis angle of $\Psi_{\text{jet}} = 120^\circ \pm 12^\circ$ (Weaver et al. 2022). The polarization direction, too, can be explained by shocks from an energy-stratified model, with the shocks perpendicular to the jet direction and the magnetic field oriented parallel to the shock front.

In this paper, we report on a third *IXPE* campaign performed from 2022 July 9–12, with contemporaneous radio and optical polarization observations and contemporaneous X-ray spectral coverage. Similar to the first two observations, this third pointing found the source in a low-flux, or quiescent, state. The rest of the paper is organized in the following manner. We present the data sets from the three campaigns, including the new data from this campaign, and their analysis methods in Section 2. Discussion of the light curves, the fitting of X-ray energy and polarization spectra, and the multiwavelength polarization results can be found in Section 3. We describe our two models of the multiwavelength spectral and polarization results in Section 4, and report on the results from fitting these two SED models in Section 5, before closing with a discussion of all results in Section 6.

2 DATA SETS AND ANALYSIS METHODS

We combine the *IXPE* observations with campaigns covering various bands of the electromagnetic spectrum. During the first two *IXPE* observations of Mrk 501, several other observatories provided contemporaneous coverage in radio, infrared, optical, UV, and X-rays. For the observations, data, and analysis of those two March observations, which are similar to those added here from the third epoch, we refer the reader to Liodakis et al. (2022). We describe below the bands of coverage for the third (July) observation, along with the processing and analysis methods used.

2.1 *IXPE* X-ray observations

The new *IXPE* Mrk 501 observations were taken between 2022-07-09 23:35 UTC and 2022-07-12 00:40 UTC. In all, 97 ks of spectropolarimetric data were acquired. A circular region of radius 1.5 arcmin and an annulus region with radii 2.5 and 4.5 arcmin, centred on the source, were used for extracting the source and background counts, respectively.

In order to obtain for this paper the overall polarization degree and angle measurements for each of the three observations, the IXPEOSSIM software suite (Baldini et al. 2022) was used to combine and visualize the data from the source region files of the three *IXPE* detectors and yield model-free polarization results. The background counts were subtracted from the source counts before the spectropolarimetric fits were done in SHERPA (Freeman, Doe & Siemiginowska 2001).

2.2 Additional X-ray observations

We also use data from the X-Ray Telescope (XRT) onboard the *Neil Gehrels Swift* observatory (Gehrels et al. 2004), reduced using the XRTPIPELINE (version 0.13.7). The *Swift*–XRT observations presented in this paper cover a time range from the beginning of 2022 until the end of 2022 August, and were performed in ‘window timing mode’.

We furthermore include two *XMM–Newton* (Jansen et al. 2001) observations taken on 2022 March 22 and 24. For the data extraction, we have used the standard methods with XMMSAS (version 20.0.0). In our analysis, we only consider the pn-CCD data from the European

Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC-pn), which was taken in ‘small window mode’. We extracted the source from a circular region centred on the source coordinates (RA = 253.4675867°, Dec. = 39.7600296°), with a radius of 35 arcsec. As pile-up was detected, we excluded an inner circular region with a radius of 5 arcsec from our source region. For the background region, we extracted a circular region centred on (RA = 253.4846759°, Dec. = 39.8063927°), with a radius of 60 arcsec, as far from the source as possible.

The hard X-ray range presented in this work is covered by four observations with the *Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array* (*NuSTAR*; Harrison et al. 2013). We extracted the data of both focal plane modules A and B (FPMA and FPMB) with NUPIPELINE (version 0.4.9), HEASOFT (version 6.31.1), and CALDB (version 20230504). The source region was a circular region centred on (RA = 253.4657281°, Dec. = 39.7601030°), with a radius of 80 arcsec. The background region was a circular region centred on (RA = 253.5406350°, Dec. = 39.8665981°), with a radius of 160 arcsec.

The X-ray energy spectral fits of the *Swift*–XRT observations (year-long) and the joint *XMM*–*Newton*, *Swift*, and *NuSTAR* observations (2022 March) were performed with an absorbed log-parabolic model. The neutral hydrogen column density was set to the Galactic value of $N_{\text{H}} = 1.69 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (HIPI Collaboration 2016). We used VERN cross-sections (Verner et al. 1996) and the WILM abundances (Wilms, Allen & McCray 2000). The *Swift*–XRT observations were fit from 0.5 to 10 keV. The *NuSTAR* FPMA and FPMB data were fit with the spectral parameters α , β , and flux tied together, while accounting for the normalization difference via a constant left free in the fit. The best-fitting results of the simultaneous observations and of the *Swift* data alone are given in Tables A1 and A2 (with Tables A3 and A4 being continuations of the latter) in Appendix A, respectively.

2.3 Radio observations

For the radio observations, we used the Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) (15 GHz) 40-m telescope and the Metsähovi Radio Observatory (22 and 37 GHz) 13.7-m diameter telescope, as well as radio polarization measurements from the IRAM 30-m, taken at 86 GHz and 230 GHz on 11 July (MJD 59771.755). The OVRO observation and data reduction procedures are described in detail in Richards et al. (2011). For the Metsähovi observations, the telescope detection limit at 37 GHz is ~ 0.2 Jy under optimal conditions. We consider all data points with a signal-to-noise ratio $< 4\sigma$ as non-detections. The errors in the flux density are estimated by accounting for both the contribution of the measurement root mean square and the uncertainty in the absolute flux calibration. A detailed description of the data reduction and analysis can be found in Teräsranta et al. (1998).

We obtained millimeter-wave polarimetric observations at the Pico Veleta Observatory (Sierra Nevada, Granada, Spain) using the IRAM 30-m telescope. The observations were taken at 3.5 mm (86.24 GHz) and 1.3 mm (230 GHz) as part of the POLAMI (Polarimetric Monitoring of AGN at Millimeter Wavelengths¹) program (Thum et al. 2018; Agudo et al. 2018a, b). In this observing setup, we simultaneously recorded the four (I , Q , U , V) Stokes parameters, using the XPOL procedure (Thum et al. 2008). A more detailed description of the data reduction, calibration, and managing and flagging procedures can be found in Agudo et al. (2018b).

Additional mm-radio observations at 225.5 GHz were obtained using the Submillimeter Array (SMA; Ho, Moran & Lo 2004) as part of the SMA Monitoring of AGN with POLarization (SMAPOL) program on the 2022 July 10 (MJD 59770.46). The SMA observations are taken using the SMA polarimeter Marrone & Rao (2008) and SMA Wideband Astronomical ROACH2 Machine (SWARM) correlator (Primiani et al. 2016) in full polarization mode. The polarization information for the source is extracted from the Stokes I , Q , U visibilities and the data are then calibrated using the MIR (Millimeter Interferometer Reduction).²

2.4 Infrared, optical, and UV observations

In the optical band, the Burst Optical Observer and Transient Exploring System (BOOTES) supplied g , r , i photometry. A description of the observations can be found in Castro-Tirado et al. (2012) and Hu et al. (2023). The Perkins Telescope, Calar Alto, St. Petersburg, NOT, T60, BOOTES, and KANATA observatories provided data in units of magnitudes, which were converted to fluxes for the SEDs via the appropriate Johnsons–Cousins filter (or, for BOOTES, the Sloan Digital Sky Survey [SDSS] filter) conversions. We also included optical and UV observations from *Swift*–Ultraviolet/Optical Telescope (UVOT).

Optical (R -band) polarization measurements were taken with the Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) and RoboPol polarimeter at the Skinakas observatory. The polarization results are corrected for the unpolarized host-galaxy emission (Nilsson et al. 2007; Hovatta et al. 2016). Further details on the data acquisition and reduction for these observatories can be found in Liodakis et al. (2022), Di Gesu et al. (2022b), and Middei et al. (2023).

2.5 Gamma-ray observations

The *IXPE* observations were performed during a period in which the γ -ray flux of Mrk 501 was near its average. Hence, we use the time-averaged *Fermi*-Large Area Telescope (LAT) 4FGL (the fourth catalog of the *Fermi* Gamma-ray LAT instrument) spectrum as a proxy for a simultaneous GeV energy spectrum (Abdollahi et al. 2020).

3 OBSERVATIONAL RESULTS

3.1 X-ray light curves

Fig. 1 displays the *Swift*–XRT X-ray light curve (0.5 – 10 keV) from 2022 January to August. We obtained the flux values, shown in the upper panel, by fitting a log-parabola model to each spectrum. We display the best-fitting spectral parameters, the photon index α at 1 keV and the spectral curvature β , in the two lower panels. The flux of Mrk 501 varied by a factor of up to three during the monitoring coverage of eight months. During some of the times when the source shows a rising flux, the spectrum becomes significantly harder (e.g. at MJD ~ 59640 , ~ 5965 , and ~ 59755), but not every time (e.g. MJD ~ 59705). The curvature of the X-ray spectrum slightly varies over time, too, but with less of an apparent connection to the flux state. As can be seen from the X-ray monitoring with *Swift*–XRT, the first and third *IXPE* observations caught the source at a similar, rather low flux state. The second *IXPE* observation occurred during a fast flux increase. Fig. 2 shows the light curves, as well as the 4–8 keV/2–

¹<http://polami.iaa.es/>

²<https://lweb.cfa.harvard.edu/~cqi/mircook.html> software package (Sault, Teuben & Wright 1995)

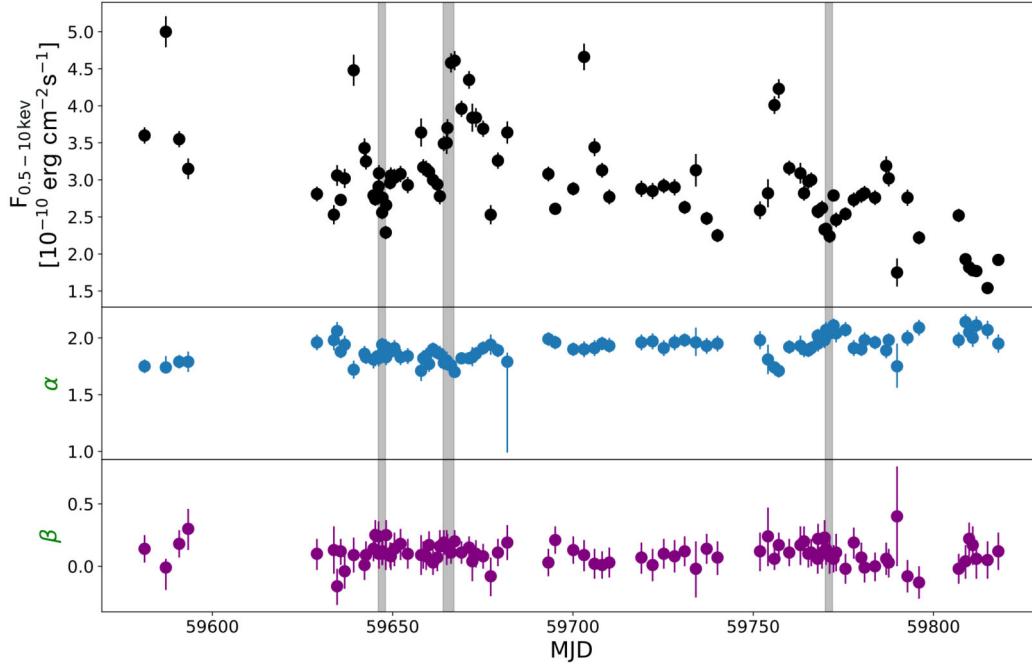


Figure 1. Fluxes (upper panel) and spectral parameters α (middle panel) and β (lower panel) retrieved via modelling the *Swift*–XRT Mrk 501 observations from 2022 January to August with a log-parabola model. The grey vertical bands show the times of the three *IXPE* observations campaigns. Detailed results from fitting the *XMM*–*Newton*, *NuSTAR*, and *Swift*–XRT data are found in Tables A2–A4 in Appendix A.

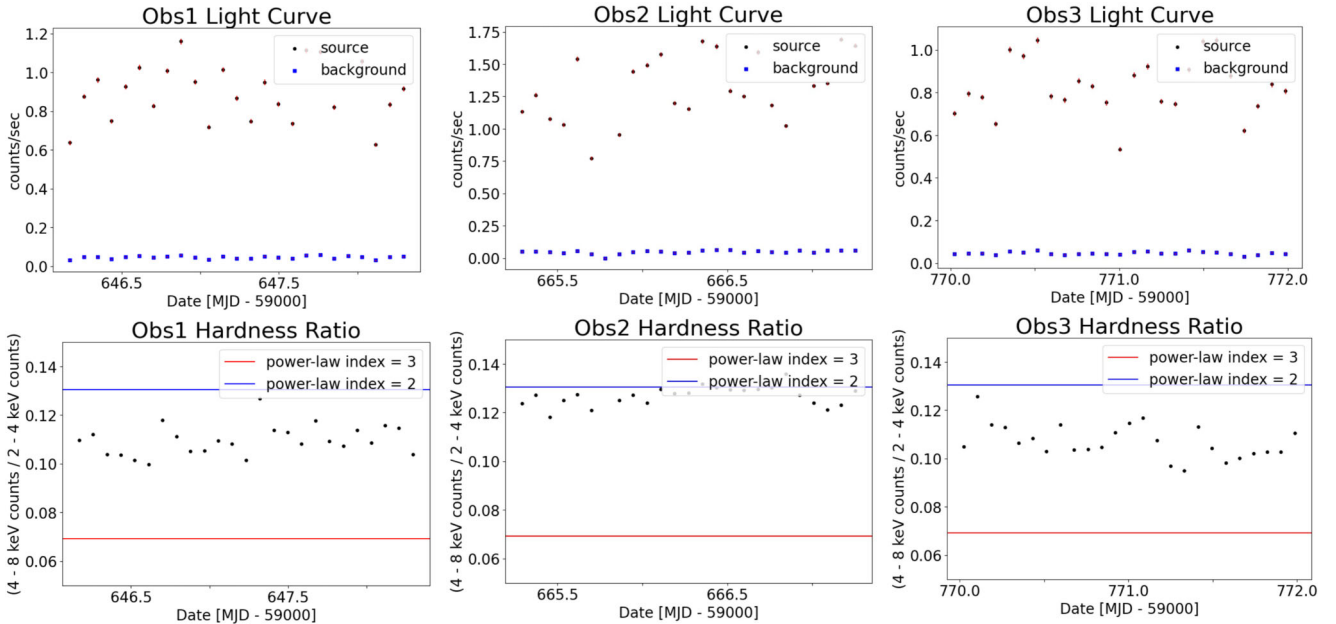


Figure 2. Light curves and 4–8 keV/2–4 keV hardness ratios for each of the three *IXPE* campaigns. The first observation has 7647 s per bin for both the light curve and hardness ratios; the second, 7060 s per bin; and the third, 7069 s per bin. A more coarse-grained time-binning of the counts in the second observation will reveal a similar rise in flux to that shown in the *Swift*–XRT light curve of Fig. 1. The (higher) blue line gives the ratio of 4–8 keV/2–4 keV counts that would be obtained by *IXPE*, as calculated by WEBPIMMS, if the spectrum consisted solely of a power-law component with index 2. Likewise, the (lower) red line gives the ratio, if the spectrum consisted solely of a power-law component with index 3 (i.e. a softer spectrum).

4 keV hardness ratios, for each of the three *IXPE* three observations of Mrk 501. The higher average flux during the second observation accompanies a corresponding average increase in the hardness ratios (and thus harder energy spectra), the same correlation as exhibited in earlier campaigns (e.g. Krawczynski et al. 2000).

3.2 Spectropolarimetric results

Fig. 3 and Table 1 present the polarimetric results from each of the three *IXPE* observations, as well as the combined results from all three observations, produced with the PCUBE algorithm from

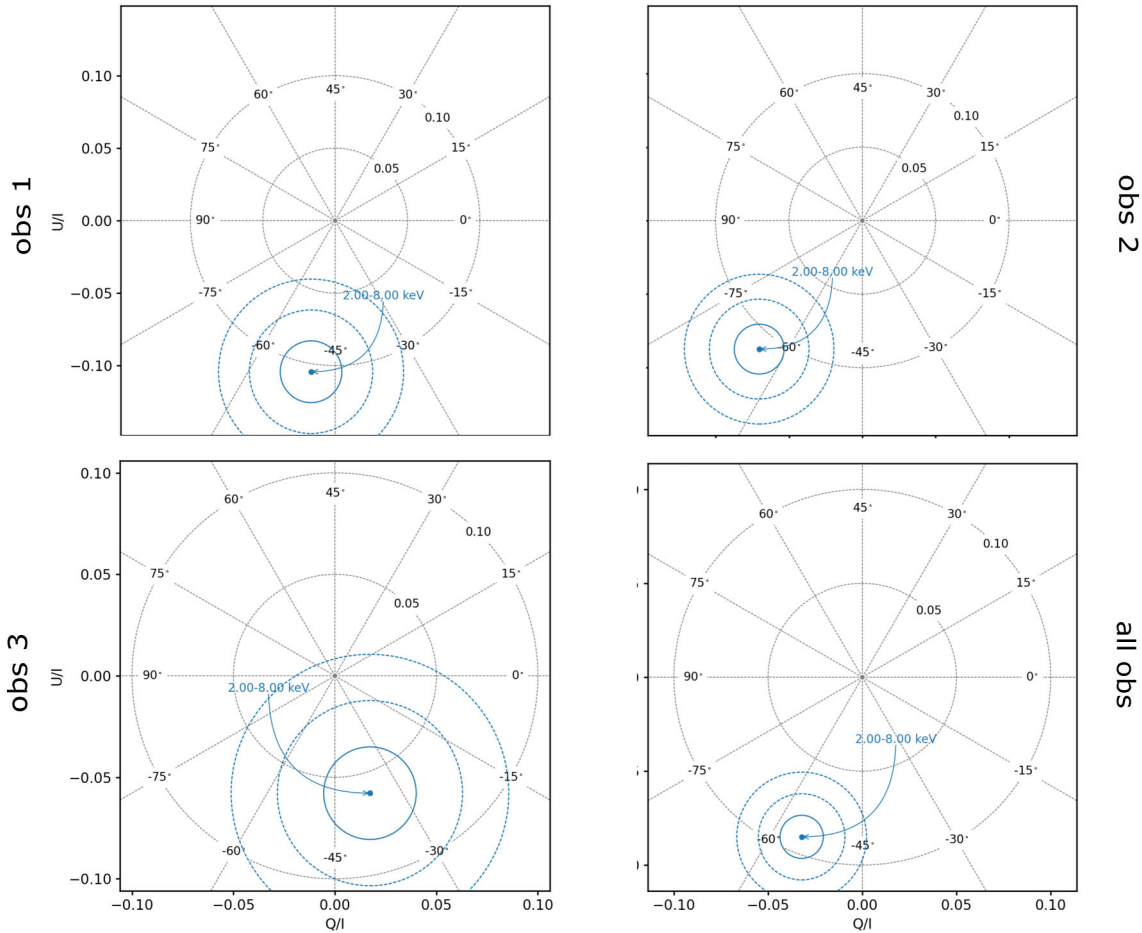


Figure 3. Detected Stokes Q and U for the three *IXPE* observations of Mrk 501, as well as for all three observations taken together. The circles around the result display, from innermost to outermost, the 1σ , 2σ , and 3σ uncertainty regions. Note that a polarization angle of 135° is equivalent to -45° .

Table 1. Summary of the X-ray polarization results from the model-free analysis enabled by the PCUBE algorithm of the IXPEOBSSIM software (Baldini et al. 2022). Results are given for the three *IXPE* observations, as well as for combining the data from all three observations, just as is shown in Fig. 3. Errors are given at the 1σ confidence level. The lower significance of the third observation is mainly a result of the polarization degree being measured to be of a lower magnitude than in the first two observations. Note that a polarization angle of 135° is also equivalent to -45° .

| Parameter | Obs 1 | Obs 2 | Obs 3 | All Obs |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Stokes I | 5133 ± 24 | 7712 ± 30 | 4332 ± 22 | 17177 ± 44 |
| Stokes Q/I | -0.017 ± 0.021 | -0.070 ± 0.017 | 0.017 ± 0.023 | -0.032 ± 0.011 |
| Stokes U/I | -0.104 ± 0.021 | -0.087 ± 0.017 | -0.058 ± 0.023 | -0.085 ± 0.011 |
| PD | 0.106 ± 0.021 | 0.112 ± 0.017 | 0.060 ± 0.023 | 0.091 ± 0.011 |
| PA | -50 ± 6 | -64 ± 4 | -37 ± 11 | -55 ± 4 |
| Significance [σ] | 4.43 | 6.17 | 1.88 | 7.53 |

IXPEOBSSIM (Baldini et al. 2022). Polarization was detected at the $> 4\sigma$ – level in observations 1 and 2 and detected at close to the 2σ – level in the third observation. For the third observation, a linear polarization degree of 6.0 ± 2.3 per cent and a polarization angle of $143^\circ \pm 11^\circ$ were found. Overall, we do not find significant evidence for the X-ray polarization changing between the three observations. Although the third observation, when taken by itself, seems to indicate a polarization angle more discrepant from the jet angle, the result obtained from the combination of all three observations remains quite consistent with the previous finding of alignment between the jet ($\psi_{\text{jet}} = 120^\circ \pm 12^\circ$) and X-ray polarization ($\psi_X = 125^\circ \pm 4^\circ$)

angles,³ with the combined polarization detection being at an even higher significance of 7.5σ .

We then carried out joint spectropolarimetric fits for the third *IXPE* observation and the three *Swift*–XRT observations that occurred on the same UTC calendar days. The data for all three Stokes parameters were background-subtracted before fitting. The data were fit to two separate models: an absorbed power-law spectrum, as well as an absorbed log-parabola model, both commonly used for describing

³https://www.bu.edu/blazars/VLBA_GLAST/1652.html

Table 2. Results from the joint spectropolarimetric fits of all of the *IXPE* and *Swift*-XRT data during the time of the third *IXPE* observation. The hydrogen absorption n_{H} is fixed to $0.0155 \times 10^{22} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. The pivot energy of the log-parabola model was set to 2 keV. The instrumental cross-calibration factors are normalized such that the *IXPE* DU1 factor is always unity. Errors are given at the 1σ confidence level.

| Model parameter | Absorbed power law | Absorbed log-parabola |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>IXPE</i> DU1 | 1 (frozen) | 1 (frozen) |
| <i>IXPE</i> DU2 | 0.950 ± 0.009 | 0.950 ± 0.009 |
| <i>IXPE</i> DU3 | 0.892 ± 0.008 | 0.892 ± 0.008 |
| <i>Swift</i> | $1.15^{+0.03}_{-0.02}$ | 1.15 ± 0.03 |
| Power-law index | $2.41^{+0.01}_{-0.02}$ | n/a |
| Power-law norm [at 1 keV] | 0.067 ± 0.001 | n/a |
| Log-parabola alpha | n/a | $2.20^{+0.04}_{-0.05}$ |
| Log-parabola beta | n/a | 0.5 ± 0.1 |
| Log-parabola norm | n/a | 0.0124 ± 0.0001 |
| Polarization degree (per cent) | 7 ± 2 | 7 ± 2 |
| Polarization angle (deg) | 135 ± 8 | 135 ± 8 |
| χ^2 for spectral parameters | 399 | 375 |
| d.o.f. for spectral parameters | 425 | 424 |
| χ^2 for polarization parameters | 186 | 185 |
| d.o.f. for polarization parameters | 178 | 178 |

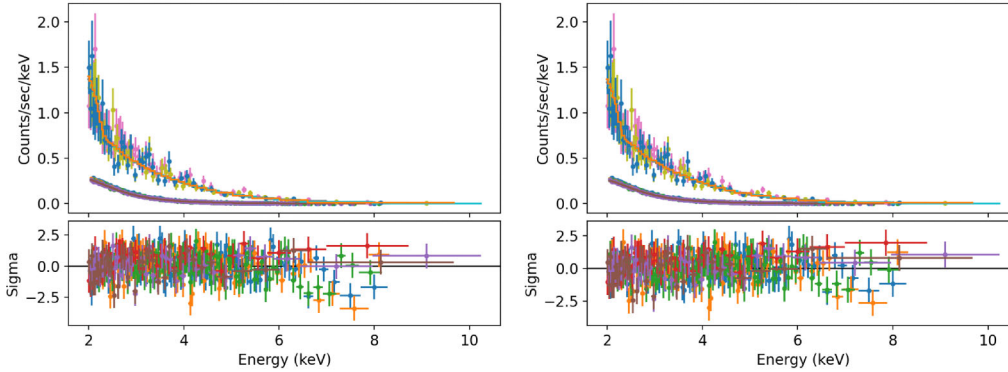


Figure 4. *Swift*-XRT and *IXPE* data for Stokes *I*, fitted with an absorbed power-law model (left) and an absorbed log-parabola model (right). The data have been rebinned to have a minimum signal-to-noise ratio of 5 in each bin. The lower-flux blue–green–purple data points, with error bars, are those of the three *IXPE* detectors from the third *IXPE* observation of Mrk 501. The higher-flux blue–pink–yellow data points, with error bars, are those of the three *Swift* observations concurrent with the third *IXPE* observation. The solid lines are the spectral models, obtained with the SHERPA fitting software, that best explain each data set. The residuals are given in the subplots below the main figures, with the y-axis being in units of the error of a given data point.

blazar X-ray SEDs. A constant polarization model (one polarization degree and one polarization angle applicable throughout the 2–8 keV range) was applied to each of the models. The results are given in Table 2, and the spectral fits are plotted in Fig. 4. The fitting of the two models produces very similar (and reasonable) χ^2 goodness-of-fit statistics, even though the log-parabolic model has one more fitting parameter. Moreover, both models give polarization results for the third *IXPE* observation consistent with each other and with the spectral, model-free analysis: a polarization degree of 7 ± 2 per cent and a polarization angle of $135^\circ \pm 8^\circ$.

For the duration of the third *IXPE* observation, we have obtained contemporaneous polarization measurements in the radio and optical bands, as described in Section 2. The radio emission exhibits a polarization degree of $\Pi_{\text{R}} = 1.51 \pm 0.33$ per cent along a radio polarization angle of $\psi_{\text{R}} = 144^\circ \pm 6^\circ$ at 86 GHz. In the mm-radio range, the IRAM 30-m observations at 230 GHz yielded only an upper limit of $\Pi_{\text{R}} < 4.6$ per cent (with a 99 per cent confidence). At 225.5 GHz, using SMA, the source shows $\Pi_{\text{R}} = 1.27 \pm 0.28$ per cent along $\psi_{\text{R}} = 130 \pm 5^\circ$. Thus, the radio measurements of the polarization angle are consistent with those from the X-rays.

The host-galaxy-corrected (Nilsson et al. 2007; Hovatta et al. 2016) optical (*R*-band) polarization degree from NOT and RoboPol during the same time period corresponds to $\Pi_{\text{O}} = 2.43 \pm 0.53$ per cent along $\psi_{\text{O}} = 113^\circ \pm 8^\circ$.

Fig. 5 summarizes the multiwavelength polarization results obtained during the time of the third *IXPE* observation. The X-ray polarization degree is about a factor of three higher than that detected in the optical band and a factor of four higher than that detected in the radio band. The multiwavelength polarization results from this campaign are consistent with those from the previous two, featuring a strongly chromatic polarization degree that is roughly aligned with the jet axis on the plane of the sky at $\psi_{\text{jet}} = 120^\circ \pm 12^\circ$.

4 LEPTONIC EMISSION MODELS FOR THE SPECTRAL ENERGY DISTRIBUTIONS

In leptonic emission models, the low-energy component is produced by synchrotron emission from electrons and possibly positrons, while the high-energy component is produced by electrons inverse-Compton-scattering synchrotron photons or other photons (e.g.

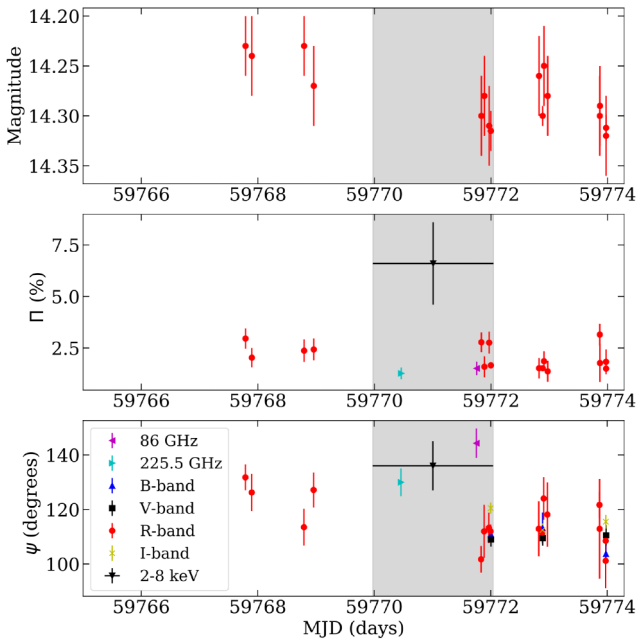


Figure 5. Contemporaneous radio, optical, and X-ray polarization observations around the time of the third *IXPE* observation. The top panel shows the *R*-band magnitudes, the middle panel, the measured polarization degrees, and the bottom panel, the measured polarization angles. The grey-shaded area marks the duration of the third *IXPE* observation.

accretion disc photons). We focus here on synchrotron self-Compton (SSC; Jones, O’Dell & Stein 1974) models which have successfully been used to fit blazar energy spectra (see Boettcher 2010, for a review). The first model is a one-zone model with a non-uniform magnetic field. The increase of the polarization from the optical to the X-ray bands implies that the electrons emitting the optical (X-ray) emission see a less (more) uniform magnetic field distribution. The electrons emitting in the optical have lower energies, lose their energy on longer time-scales, and can therefore travel through regions with greater variation of magnetic field direction. In the shock-in-jet model, we model the evolution of the magnetic field in the downstream medium, and use the magnetic field evolution to predict the polarization degrees.

4.1 Synchrotron self-Compton model with anisotropic magnetic field

One of the two models that we use to describe the data uses the SSC code described in Krawczynski et al. (2004). The SSC code assumes a spherical emission volume of radius R travelling with velocity βc (c being the speed of light) along the jet axis. The observer views the emission volume at an observer-frame angle θ_{obs} away from the jet axis. According to the standard equations of special relativity, the relativistic Doppler factor is given by the equation

$$\delta = [\Gamma(1 - \beta \cos \theta_{\text{obs}})]^{-1}. \quad (1)$$

The cosine of the angle to the jet axis $\mu_{\text{obs}} \equiv \cos \theta_{\text{obs}}$ transforms into the plasma frame according to

$$\mu_j = \frac{\mu_{\text{obs}} - \beta}{1 - \mu_{\text{obs}}\beta}. \quad (2)$$

An isotropic distribution of electrons emits synchrotron radiation in magnetic fields having strength B . The synchrotron emission

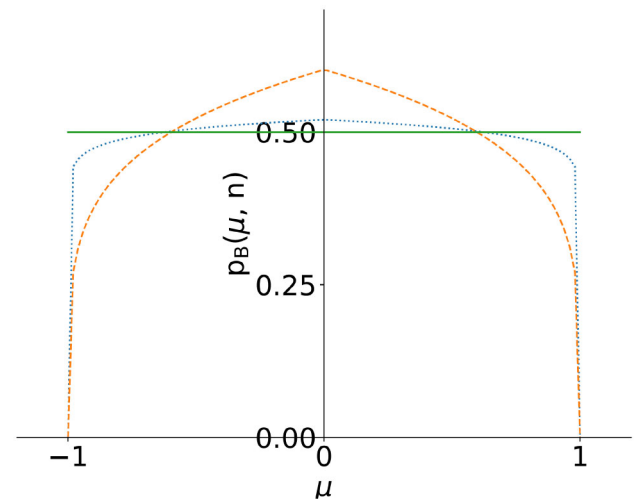


Figure 6. We use a simple phenomenological prescription to study the impact of anisotropies in the magnetic field distribution. We assume that the overall distribution of magnetic field directions in all minuscule subvolumes of the sphere can be described by a probability distribution $p_B(\mu, n)$ depending on the cosine μ of the angle between the magnetic field direction within that subvolume and the jet axis, with the parameter n characterizing the amount of anisotropy in the overall distribution. We show here the probability distributions for $n = 0.041$ (dotted blue line) and $n = 0.205$ (dashed orange line), which can explain the optical and X-ray polarization degree results, respectively, reported in Section 3. The two distributions demonstrate that small deviations from a magnetic field distribution having all directions equally likely are sufficient to explain the varied observed polarization degrees. The flat (isotropic) distribution of $p_B = 1/2$ is shown by the green solid line.

scattering off the electrons gives rise to the high-energy emission component. The electron energy spectrum is described by a broken power law with index p_1 ($dN_e/d\gamma \propto \gamma^{-p_1}$) from electron Lorentz factor γ_{min} to γ_b and with index p_2 from γ_b to γ_{max} .

For this work, we have added the ability to predict the polarization of the synchrotron emission. To do so, we assume that the magnetic field in the emission region has the same strength everywhere in the spherical emission volume, but that the magnetic field direction varies locally between each minuscule subvolume of the sphere. The myriad of small subvolumes thus has each exhibiting its own magnetic field direction, not necessarily related to the direction of the field in an adjacent subvolume. The condition imposed on these directions, however, is that the overall distribution of magnetic field directions (when looking across all subvolumes) exhibits an anisotropy that can be described with an axisymmetric probability distribution $p_B(\mu)$ depending only on the cosine μ of the angle between the magnetic field direction within the subvolume and the jet axis (with all angles in the jet frame) for a given n . n , then, is used to provide a simple parametrization:

$$p_B(\mu, n) = \frac{n + 1}{2}(1 - |\mu|)^n. \quad (3)$$

This prescription thus yields an isotropic distribution of magnetic fields for $n = 0$ and a distribution of magnetic fields all perpendicular to the jet axis for large n , and is normalized to give $\int_{-1}^1 d\mu p_B(\mu, n) = 1$. Fig. 6 shows the two sample probability distributions used later to fit the observed polarization degrees.

We calculate the emitted synchrotron Stokes I and Q parameters as a function of the emitted frequency by integrating over the contributions from all electron Lorentz factors and all magnetic field

orientations (see Laing 2002, for a similar calculation). In the jet frame, the emitted synchrotron power per angular frequency ω is given by

$$I = \int_{\gamma_{\min}}^{\gamma_{\max}} d\gamma \frac{dN_e}{d\gamma} \int_{-1}^1 d\mu \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi p_B(\mu, n) \frac{\sqrt{3} B q^3 \sin \alpha}{4\pi^2 m c^2} F(x). \quad (4)$$

The first integral runs over the Lorentz factors γ of the electrons, and the second and third integrals run over the magnetic field directions (i.e. over μ , which is the cosine of the angle between the magnetic field direction and the jet axis, as well as over the azimuthal angle ϕ). q is the charge of the electron, B is the magnetic field strength, α is the angle between the magnetic field direction and the line of sight, and m is the electron mass. The variable x depends on all of the integration variables and is given by $x = \omega/\omega_c$, with the synchrotron critical frequency $\omega_c = 3\gamma^2 q B \sin \alpha / 2mc$. The function $F(x)$ (Rybicki & Lightman 1986) is an integral of the modified Bessel function of order $5/3$:

$$F(x) = x \int_x^\infty K_{5/3}(\xi) d\xi.$$

The corresponding power in Stokes Q parallel to the jet axis projected on the plane of the sky is given by

$$Q = \int_{\gamma_{\min}}^{\gamma_{\max}} d\gamma \frac{dN_e}{d\gamma} \int_{-1}^1 d\mu \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi p_B(\mu, n) \times \frac{\sqrt{3} B q^3 \sin \alpha}{4\pi^2 m c^2} G(x) \cos 2\chi. \quad (5)$$

The terms on the right-hand side of equation (5) up to the $\cos 2\chi$ term give the intensity of the linearly polarized synchrotron emission. The factor α , in particular, accounts for the dependency of the intensity on the angle between the magnetic field direction and the direction of the line of sight. The function $G(x)$ (Rybicki & Lightman 1986) is a function of the modified Bessel function of order $2/3$:

$$G(x) = x K_{2/3}(x).$$

χ is the angle between the electric field polarization direction (perpendicular to the magnetic field) and the jet axis projected onto the plane of the sky. Thus, the factor $\cos 2\chi$ extracts the Q -component of the intensity (Rybicki & Lightman 1986) where, in our treatment, $Q > 0$ denotes the linear polarization parallel to the jet axis, and $Q < 0$ denotes linear polarization perpendicular to the jet axis. The azimuthal symmetry of the distribution of magnetic fields, p_B , implies that p_B is ultimately anisotropic only with respect to the angle of declination from the jet axis (with no anisotropies with respect to the azimuthal angle around the jet axis). Thus, after summing the contributions from all azimuthal angles, the net polarization can only be parallel to or perpendicular to the jet axis, and Stokes U (denoting the plasma-frame intensity of the emission linearly polarized along the diagonals between the jet axis and the directions perpendicular to it) must thus vanish. The polarization degree can then be given just by $|Q|/I$: the polarization angle is, by symmetry, either 0° ($Q > 0$) or 90° ($Q < 0$) with respect to the jet axis.

Our code integrates over all directions of the 4π sphere. For each direction, we calculate μ and χ with the help of simple vector calculus equations. Each result contributes with a weight proportional to $p_B(\mu, n)$ (equation 3). After calculating I and Q , we account for the effect of synchrotron self-absorption on the emitted intensity, but not on the polarization (Longair 2010) and account for the effect of relativistic boosting of the specific intensities for

the transformation from the jet frame to the stationary frame, and calculate the observable fluxes while accounting for the source's luminosity distance (Rybicki & Lightman 1986).

We use the standard SSC kernel (Blumenthal & Gould 1970) to calculate the self-Compton emission, and the cosmic infrared background (CIB) model of Franceschini, Rodighiero & Vaccari (2008) to calculate the γ -ray fluxes reaching the observer, accounting for the extinction owing to $\gamma + \gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$ processes. The calculation of the CIB extinction assumes a Hubble Constant of $67.45 \text{ Mpc s}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-1}$ (Workman 2022).

4.2 Shock-in-jet model

The second model is a refined version of the model described in Tavecchio et al. (2018). A detailed description will be presented in a forthcoming paper (Tavecchio et al., in preparation). Relativistic electrons are injected at the front of a mildly relativistic shock (as observed in the flow frame) of a cylindrical jet with radius R . The upstream flow is assumed to carry a weak field approximately parallel to the jet axis with intensity B_{\parallel} . As demonstrated by particle-in-cell (PIC) simulations, just downstream of the shock, an intense field parallel to the shock (and hence normal to the jet axis) is generated by streaming high-energy particles. We assume that the intensity of the self-generated field decays along the downstream flow according to the relation $B_{\perp}(d) = B_{\perp,0}[1 + d/\lambda]^{-m}$, where d is the distance from the shock. Here, λ plays the role of an effective decay length. The turbulent-like structure of the self-generated magnetic field is modelled with a cell structure, with each cell representing a coherence domain. In each cell, we specify the total magnetic field as the sum of a constant parallel (poloidal) field $B_{\parallel} = B_z$ and the orthogonal field $B_{\perp}(d)$ (evaluated at the distance d of the cell), with the components B_x and B_y randomly selected in each cell with the condition $B_x^2 + B_y^2 = B_{\perp}^2(d)$. Building upon the original model developed in Tavecchio et al. (2018), we now add the self-consistent calculation of the electron energy distribution by using the full continuity equation, including radiative losses, treated as in Chiaberge & Ghisellini (1999). We assume that electrons injected at the shock follow a truncated power-law energy distribution with index n and minimum and maximum cut-off Lorentz factors of γ_{\min} and γ_{\max} , respectively. Emitting (and cooling) particles are advected downstream with velocity $v_{\text{adv}} = c/3$ up to a distance d_{max} , where we assume the emission is quenched by jet expansion and consequent adiabatic losses. We calculate the SED and the polarization in the quiescent state by summing the Stokes parameters of the emission from all cells in the observer frame (Lyutikov, Pariev & Gabuzda 2005).

Due to the different cooling lengths characterizing electrons with different energies, radiation at different frequencies is produced in different volumes of the downstream region (Marscher & Gear 1985). The short cooling distance of the particles at the highest energies, radiating in the X-ray band at the peak of the synchrotron component, allows the emission to occur only in a thin region after the shock, where the dominant field is the self-generated, orthogonal magnetic field. When the jet is observed at a typical angle $\sim 1/\Gamma$, where Γ is the downstream bulk Lorentz factor, the emitted synchrotron radiation will be characterized by a high polarization degree. On the other hand, radiation at lower frequencies is produced by electrons with relatively long cooling times. This radiation is thus emitted in a larger volume, where both the orthogonal and the parallel fields are important, determining the effective dilution of the emerging polarization.

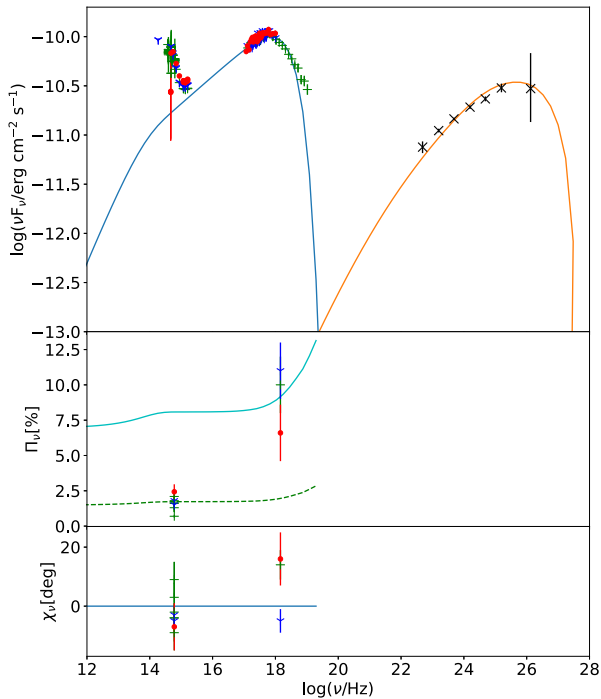


Figure 7. SED (upper panel), polarization degree (middle), and EVPA (lower) of Mrk 501. In the SED panel, the solid lines show the flux predictions from the SSC model with an anisotropic magnetic field. For the polarization degree, we show the modelling results for magnetic field anisotropies described by $n = 0.041$ (dashed green line, to match optical polarization results) and $n = 0.205$ (solid cyan line, for X-ray polarization results) (see Fig. 6). The modelled polarization angle $\chi_\nu = 0^\circ$ corresponds to a polarization parallel to the jet, as indeed is generally observed to be true on average for Mrk 501. In all three panels, the observational results are described in Section 2, taken during the times of the three *IXPE* observations. The green crosses are from the time of the first observation, the blue three-pointed points from the time of the second observation, and the red dots from the time of the third observation. The black diagonal crosses are the data from the archival *Fermi*-LAT 4FGL spectrum.

5 SPECTRAL AND POLARIMETRIC ENERGY DISTRIBUTION MODELING RESULTS

5.1 Synchrotron self-Compton model with anisotropic magnetic field

Fig. 7 shows the multiwavelength SED and polarization energy spectra, together with the results from the SSC model with an anisotropic magnetic field distribution. The top panel shows the SED, while the two bottom panels show the polarization degree and direction. The model uses $\gamma_{\min}mc^2 = 10$ MeV, $\gamma_{\text{b}}mc^2 = 2.5$ GeV, $\gamma_{\max}mc^2 = 398$ GeV, $p_1 = 1.44$, $p_2 = 2.44$, $B = 0.033$ G, $R = 7.4 \times 10^{15}$ cm, $\beta = 0.9995$, $\Gamma = 33$, and $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 1.6^\circ$. The last two parameters give a relativistic Doppler factor of $\delta = 35.69$. The radius corresponds to an observer frame light traveltime $t_R = R/(c\delta)$ of 1.92 h. The synchrotron emission at the synchrotron peak is emitted by 2.5 GeV electrons. These electrons cool from synchrotron radiation and from self-Compton emission. The observer-frame synchrotron cooling time is around 1100 h. The combined synchrotron and self-Compton cooling time would then be somewhat shorter.

We can reproduce the polarization degrees observed in the optical and X-ray bands with anisotropy parameters of $n = 0.041$ and

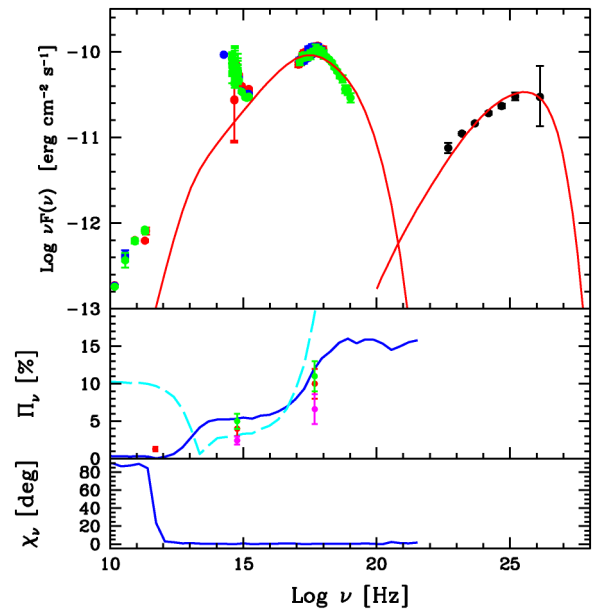


Figure 8. Comparison of the observed (data points) and modelled (lines) SED (top), polarization degree (middle), and EVPA (bottom) of Mrk 501 for the shock-in-jet model. The solid blue line shows our fiducial model, and the dashed cyan line shows the results for a different viewing angle. The modelled polarization angle swings from $\chi_\nu \approx 90^\circ$ below 10^{12} Hz to $\chi_\nu \approx 0^\circ$ above 10^{12} Hz, since the radio-emitting electrons experience the magnetic field parallel to the jet, and higher energy electrons experience the shock magnetic field perpendicular to the jet.

0.205, respectively. The corresponding probability distributions of the magnetic field are shown in Fig. 6. These results show that the magnetic field seen by the X-ray-emitting electrons is significantly more uniform (less isotropic) than the one seen by the electrons emitting at optical wavelengths.

We note that the inferred amount of magnetic field anisotropy is degenerate with the angle at which the observer views the emitting plasma. The closer to the jet axis that the observer views the emitting plasma, the more anisotropic the magnetic field needs to be in order to fit the observed polarization degree. The required magnetic field anisotropy is thus minimized for a jet-frame viewing angle θ_j of 90° . We note, furthermore, that different $\theta_{\text{obs}}-\Gamma$ combinations can give the same Doppler factor δ (equation 1) and jet-frame viewing angle θ_j , leading to identical predicted SEDs for different combinations of those parameters. We thus fix $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 1.6^\circ$ and $\Gamma = 33$, giving $\theta_j = 90^\circ$. The values of n inferred in our models thus represent the minimum amount of magnetic field anisotropy required to describe the observed polarization degrees.

5.2 Shock-in-jet model

Fig. 8 displays the flux and polarization energy spectra, together with the results from the shock-in-jet model. The top panel shows the SED, while the two bottom panels show the polarization degree and direction. The model assumes the following parameters: $\gamma_{\min} = 100$, $\gamma_{\max} = 8 \times 10^5$, $n = 2.2$, $B_{\perp,0} = 0.27$ G, $B_z = 0.034$ G, $R = 4.3 \times 10^{15}$ cm, $\lambda = 5 \times 10^{13}$ cm, $m = 0.5$, $\Gamma = 22$, and $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 1.3^\circ$. The last two parameters give a relativistic Doppler factor of $\delta = 35$. For this figure, even though we show the results down to 10^{10} Hz, we note that this model does not include the effect of

synchrotron self-absorption or Faraday rotation on the predicted properties.

A critical parameter for the predicted polarization degree is the angle θ_j between the jet axis and the observer, as measured in the jet plasma frame. A viewing angle of $\theta_j = 90^\circ$ maximizes the polarization in the X-ray band, since the projected self-generated field is fully orthogonal to the jet axis. For smaller viewing angles, both projected (randomly-distributed) B_x and B_y components contribute, resulting in a lower polarization. In the limiting case $\theta_j = 0^\circ$, the effective polarization is zero, since an observer located exactly along the jet axis sees an equal contribution of the two components of the magnetic field. To show the relatively strong dependence of the observed polarization on the observing angle, we report Π_ν (dashed cyan line in the middle panel) for a different choice of the bulk Lorentz factor $\Gamma = 30$ and viewing angle $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 1.6^\circ$ giving the same Doppler factor $\delta = 35$. For the latter choice, the X-ray emission exhibits a higher polarization degree and a more pronounced wavelength dependence.

6 CONCLUSIONS

We have presented an analysis of the third observation of the X-ray polarization of the blazar Mrk 501. We do not find statistically significant evidence for a change in the soft X-ray polarization degree or angle between the three *IXPE* observations in 2022. Multiwavelength measurements confirm the earlier result (Liodakis et al. 2022) that the polarization degree increases by at least a factor of 2 from the optical to the X-ray band. Additionally, the polarization direction remains consistent with an approximate alignment along the radio jet.

These observations can be explained by a scenario of particle acceleration at a shock, oriented perpendicular to the radio jet axis, which generates a magnetic field parallel to the shock front that decays with distance from the front. These observations can also be explained by modelling the spectropolarimetric data with synchrotron-Compton models. For the latter, we emphasize the degeneracy of the anisotropy of the magnetic field with the jet-plasma-frame angle at which this anisotropic magnetic field is seen. We have demonstrated that relatively small levels of magnetic field anisotropy can explain the observed polarization results. The consistency of the polarization degree and direction between observations spaced four months apart supports the shock scenario, if shocks in blazar jets are generally oriented perpendicular to the axis. It is not yet clear, however, whether similar models would also apply to those blazars whose X-ray emission is not primarily from synchrotron radiation (such as low synchrotron peaked blazars).

During all of the observational data sets obtained thus far, Mrk 501 has not been seen to exhibit a rotation or variation of the X-ray polarization direction (Chen et al. 2024), including the rapid swings at a rate of $\sim 80^\circ\text{--}90^\circ \text{d}^{-1}$ that have been reported for the blazar Mrk 421 (Di Gesu et al. 2023). The latter object is otherwise similar to Mrk 501 in terms of luminosity and a synchrotron SED that peaks at X-ray energies. The polarization swings in Mrk 421 were interpreted by Di Gesu et al. (2023) as evidence for a shock accelerating particles as it moves along a helical magnetic field threading the jet. The phenomenology of such polarization direction swings therefore remains to be determined. Future observations of the X-ray and multiwavelength polarization of Mrk 421, Mrk 501, and other blazars will be pivotal for sampling and determining how particle acceleration in the jets relates to the magnetic field structure.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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APPENDIX A:

Table A1. Best-fitting results for simultaneous *XMM–Newton*/*Swift* and *NuSTAR* data. Flux is unabsorbed value.

| Date | MJD | ObsID | | α | β | $F_{0.5-80\text{keV}}$ [$10^{-10}\text{ erg cm}^{-2}\text{ s}^{-1}$] | Fit statistic $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$ |
|------------|---------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | | <i>NuSTAR</i> | <i>XMM/Swift</i> | | | | |
| 2022-03-09 | 59647.0 | 60701032002 | 00011184180 (S) | 1.79 ± 0.04 | 0.340 ± 0.023 | 6.82 ± 0.35 | 984.66/942 |
| 2022-03-22 | 59660.0 | 60502009002 | 0843230301 (X) | 1.887 ± 0.005 | 0.189 ± 0.006 | 12.73 ± 0.24 | 2179.38/1914 |
| 2022-03-24 | 59662.0 | 60502009004 | 0843230401 (X) | 1.925 ± 0.004 | 0.214 ± 0.005 | 10.10 ± 0.15 | 2323.12/2002 |
| 2022-03-27 | 59665.0 | 60702062004 | 00011184187 (S) | 1.76 ± 0.04 | 0.262 ± 0.019 | 9.85 ± 0.57 | 1132.89/1131 |

Table A2. Best-fitting results for the *Swift*–XRT observations from 2022 January to August. Flux is unabsorbed value.

| Date | MJD | ObsID | α | β | $F_{0.5-10\text{keV}}$ [$10^{-10}\text{ erg cm}^{-2}\text{ s}^{-1}$] | Fit statistic $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$ |
|-----------|---------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 2022-1-8 | 59587.1 | 00011184168 | $1.74^{+0.05}_{-0.10}$ | $-0.01^{+0.18}_{-0.07}$ | 5.00 ± 0.21 | 153.05/184 |
| 2022-1-11 | 59590.8 | 00011184169 | 1.79 ± 0.06 | 0.18 ± 0.11 | 3.55 ± 0.11 | 184.32/202 |
| 2022-1-14 | 59593.3 | 00011184170 | 1.79 ± 0.09 | $0.30^{+0.17}_{-0.16}$ | 3.15 ± 0.14 | 106.74/117 |
| 2022-2-19 | 59629.0 | 00096028003 | 1.96 ± 0.07 | $0.10^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 2.81 ± 0.10 | 169.70/164 |
| 2022-2-23 | 59633.7 | 00096029001 | 1.98 ± 0.09 | $0.13^{+0.19}_{-0.18}$ | 2.53 ± 0.13 | 119.65/91 |
| 2022-2-24 | 59634.6 | 00096029002 | 2.06 ± 0.08 | $-0.16^{+0.15}_{-0.14}$ | 3.06 ± 0.14 | 119.63/121 |
| 2022-2-25 | 59635.6 | 00096029003 | 1.88 ± 0.06 | $0.12^{+0.11}_{-0.10}$ | 2.73 ± 0.08 | 205.56/200 |
| 2022-2-26 | 59636.7 | 00096029004 | $1.94^{+0.07}_{-0.08}$ | $-0.04^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ | 3.02 ± 0.13 | 142.59/147 |
| 2022-3-1 | 59639.2 | 00011184176 | 1.72 ± 0.08 | 0.09 ± 0.14 | 4.48 ± 0.21 | 146.19/144 |
| 2022-3-4 | 59642.2 | 00011184177 | 1.86 ± 0.07 | 0.01 ± 0.12 | 3.43 ± 0.13 | 165.42/174 |
| 2022-3-4 | 59642.6 | 00096029005 | 1.83 ± 0.06 | 0.09 ± 0.11 | 3.25 ± 0.11 | 189.71/192 |
| 2022-3-6 | 59644.7 | 00096029007 | $1.81^{+0.08}_{-0.07}$ | $0.14^{+0.10}_{-0.16}$ | 2.79 ± 0.11 | 167.68/178 |
| 2022-3-7 | 59645.2 | 00011184178 | 1.82 ± 0.07 | 0.25 ± 0.12 | 2.74 ± 0.09 | 224.31/184 |
| 2022-3-8 | 59646.1 | 00096029008 | 1.82 ± 0.07 | 0.24 ± 0.12 | 2.91 ± 0.10 | 144.82/176 |
| 2022-3-8 | 59646.2 | 00096029009 | 1.84 ± 0.07 | $0.10^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ | 3.09 ± 0.11 | 206.11/183 |
| 2022-3-9 | 59647.1 | 00011184179 | 1.94 ± 0.06 | $0.12^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ | 2.56 ± 0.09 | 221.15/178 |
| 2022-3-9 | 59647.2 | 00011184180 | 1.87 ± 0.06 | 0.12 ± 0.11 | 2.76 ± 0.09 | 183.76/187 |
| 2022-3-10 | 59648.1 | 00011184181 | 1.92 ± 0.07 | 0.10 ± 0.13 | 2.29 ± 0.09 | 148.06/161 |
| 2022-3-10 | 59648.2 | 00011184182 | 1.83 ± 0.07 | 0.25 ± 0.12 | 2.66 ± 0.09 | 164.23/180 |
| 2022-3-11 | 59649.3 | 00011184183 | 1.88 ± 0.06 | 0.09 ± 0.10 | 2.96 ± 0.09 | 208.45/199 |
| 2022-3-11 | 59649.5 | 00096029010 | 1.88 ± 0.06 | 0.08 ± 0.11 | 3.06 ± 0.11 | 147.89/180 |
| 2022-3-12 | 59650.5 | 00096029011 | 1.91 ± 0.07 | $0.14^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ | 3.03 ± 0.12 | 156.14/147 |
| 2022-3-14 | 59652.2 | 00011184184 | 1.83 ± 0.07 | $0.18^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 3.08 ± 0.11 | 178.92/176 |
| 2022-3-16 | 59654.2 | 00096028004 | 1.84 ± 0.07 | 0.10 ± 0.12 | 2.93 ± 0.11 | 199.00/176 |
| 2022-3-19 | 59657.9 | 00096029013 | $1.71^{+0.09}_{-0.10}$ | 0.09 ± 0.16 | 3.64 ± 0.19 | 125.43/106 |
| 2022-3-20 | 59658.5 | 00096029014 | 1.82 ± 0.07 | 0.09 ± 0.11 | 3.17 ± 0.11 | 182.60/183 |
| 2022-3-21 | 59659.3 | 00096029015 | $1.84^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$ | 0.08 ± 0.11 | 3.15 ± 0.11 | 216.16/185 |
| 2022-3-22 | 59660.1 | 00096029016 | 1.77 ± 0.07 | $0.17^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ | 3.11 ± 0.11 | 150.25/176 |
| 2022-3-23 | 59661.2 | 00096029017 | $1.90^{+0.05}_{-0.06}$ | 0.03 ± 0.10 | 3.00 ± 0.09 | 195.53/213 |
| 2022-3-24 | 59662.4 | 00096029018 | 1.87 ± 0.06 | 0.07 ± 0.11 | 2.94 ± 0.10 | 144.02/195 |
| 2022-3-25 | 59663.1 | 00011184185 | 1.86 ± 0.07 | 0.16 ± 0.13 | 2.78 ± 0.11 | 128.39/159 |
| 2022-3-26 | 59664.2 | 00011184186 | 1.78 ± 0.06 | 0.19 ± 0.10 | 3.49 ± 0.10 | 261.58/212 |
| 2022-3-27 | 59665.0 | 00096029019 | 1.80 ± 0.08 | 0.15 ± 0.14 | 3.50 ± 0.15 | 134.75/138 |
| 2022-3-27 | 59665.2 | 00011184187 | 1.77 ± 0.06 | 0.16 ± 0.10 | 3.70 ± 0.12 | 194.72/206 |
| 2022-3-28 | 59666.2 | 00011184188 | 1.76 ± 0.05 | 0.11 ± 0.09 | 4.58 ± 0.13 | 240.58/231 |
| 2022-3-29 | 59667.2 | 00011184189 | 1.70 ± 0.05 | 0.20 ± 0.09 | 4.61 ± 0.13 | 282.44/241 |
| 2022-3-31 | 59669.1 | 00011184190 | 1.82 ± 0.05 | 0.11 ± 0.09 | 3.96 ± 0.11 | 249.07/234 |
| 2022-4-2 | 59671.2 | 00011184191 | 1.82 ± 0.05 | $0.15^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$ | 4.35 ± 0.12 | 223.48/224 |
| 2022-4-3 | 59672.1 | 00011184192 | $1.83^{+0.08}_{-0.09}$ | $0.04^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ | 3.84 ± 0.19 | 87.04/113 |
| 2022-4-4 | 59673.1 | 00011184193 | 1.86 ± 0.06 | 0.10 ± 0.11 | 3.84 ± 0.13 | 212.22/201 |
| 2022-4-6 | 59675.1 | 00011184194 | 1.91 ± 0.06 | 0.08 ± 0.10 | 3.69 ± 0.11 | 188.06/203 |

Table A3. Continuing Table A2.

| Date | MJD | ObsID | α | β | $F_{0.5-10\text{keV}}$ [10^{-10} erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$] | Fit statistic $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$ |
|-----------|---------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2022-4-8 | 59677.2 | 00011184195 | 1.94 ± 0.09 | -0.08 $^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ | 2.53 ± 0.13 | 92.47/99 |
| 2022-4-10 | 59679.2 | 00011184196 | 1.89 ± 0.06 | 0.11 ± 0.11 | 3.26 ± 0.11 | 170.09/187 |
| 2022-4-12 | 59681.8 | 00011184197 | 1.79 ± 0.08 | 0.19 ± 0.14 | 3.64 ± 0.15 | 155.98/144 |
| 2022-4-24 | 59693.2 | 00011184199 | 1.99 ± 0.06 | 0.03 ± 0.11 | 3.08 ± 0.10 | 157.03/182 |
| 2022-4-26 | 59695.1 | 00011184200 | 1.96 ± 0.06 | 0.21 ± 0.11 | 2.61 ± 0.08 | 210.47/195 |
| 2022-5-1 | 59700.1 | 00011184202 | 1.90 ± 0.06 | 0.13 ± 0.11 | 2.88 ± 0.09 | 235.15/193 |
| 2022-5-4 | 59703.1 | 00011184203 | 1.90 ± 0.07 | 0.09 $^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 4.66 ± 0.18 | 168.14/162 |
| 2022-5-7 | 59706.0 | 00011184204 | 1.91 ± 0.07 | 0.02 ± 0.12 | 3.44 ± 0.12 | 150.23/173 |
| 2022-5-9 | 59708.1 | 00011184205 | 1.95 ± 0.06 | 0.01 ± 0.11 | 3.13 ± 0.10 | 183.52/193 |
| 2022-5-11 | 59710.1 | 00011184206 | 1.93 $^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$ | 0.03 ± 0.12 | 2.77 ± 0.10 | 181.39/175 |
| 2022-5-20 | 59719.0 | 00011184207 | 1.96 ± 0.07 | 0.07 $^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 2.88 ± 0.11 | 121.46/162 |
| 2022-5-23 | 59722.1 | 00011184208 | 1.97 ± 0.07 | 0.01 ± 0.13 | 2.85 ± 0.11 | 140.77/148 |
| 2022-5-26 | 59725.2 | 00011184209 | 1.91 ± 0.07 | 0.10 ± 0.12 | 2.92 ± 0.10 | 136.26/170 |
| 2022-5-29 | 59728.2 | 00011184210 | 1.96 ± 0.07 | 0.08 ± 0.13 | 2.90 ± 0.11 | 149.94/167 |
| 2022-5-31 | 59731.0 | 00011184211 | 1.98 ± 0.06 | 0.12 ± 0.12 | 2.63 ± 0.09 | 170.36/174 |
| 2022-6-4 | 59734.1 | 00011184212 | 1.96 $^{+0.12}_{-0.13}$ | -0.02 $^{+0.23}_{-0.22}$ | 3.13 ± 0.22 | 54.54/57 |
| 2022-6-7 | 59737.1 | 00011184213 | 1.93 ± 0.07 | 0.14 ± 0.12 | 2.48 ± 0.09 | 151.22/170 |
| 2022-6-10 | 59740.1 | 00011184214 | 1.95 ± 0.07 | 0.07 $^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ | 2.25 ± 0.09 | 159.42/151 |
| 2022-6-21 | 59751.9 | 00011184215 | 1.98 ± 0.08 | 0.12 $^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ | 2.59 ± 0.12 | 109.53/109 |
| 2022-6-24 | 59754.1 | 00011184216 | 1.81 ± 0.13 | 0.24 $^{+0.24}_{-0.23}$ | 2.82 ± 0.19 | 75.31/56 |
| 2022-6-25 | 59755.9 | 00011184217 | 1.74 ± 0.05 | 0.06 ± 0.09 | 4.01 ± 0.12 | 207.56/233 |
| 2022-6-27 | 59757.1 | 00011184218 | 1.71 ± 0.06 | 0.17 ± 0.10 | 4.23 ± 0.13 | 237.63/218 |
| 2022-6-30 | 59760.0 | 00011184220 | 1.92 ± 0.06 | 0.11 ± 0.11 | 3.16 ± 0.10 | 170.09/186 |
| 2022-7-3 | 59763.1 | 00096558001 | 1.93 $^{+0.08}_{-0.09}$ | 0.17 $^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ | 3.09 ± 0.14 | 122.49/111 |
| 2022-7-4 | 59764.1 | 00096558002 | 1.90 ± 0.07 | 0.20 $^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 2.82 ± 0.10 | 123.15/170 |
| 2022-7-5 | 59765.3 | 00096558003 | 1.89 ± 0.06 | 0.10 ± 0.11 | 2.98 ± 0.10 | 206.52/198 |
| 2022-7-6 | 59766.1 | 00096558004 | 1.91 ± 0.06 | 0.11 ± 0.11 | 3.00 ± 0.10 | 211.27/195 |
| 2022-7-7 | 59767.9 | 00096558005 | 2.02 ± 0.06 | 0.06 ± 0.12 | 2.58 ± 0.09 | 189.73/165 |
| 2022-7-8 | 59768.0 | 00096558006 | 1.95 ± 0.07 | 0.22 $^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 2.57 ± 0.09 | 168.07/170 |
| 2022-7-9 | 59769.1 | 00011184222 | 1.99 ± 0.07 | 0.11 ± 0.13 | 2.62 ± 0.10 | 175.35/165 |
| 2022-7-9 | 59769.8 | 00096558007 | 1.98 ± 0.07 | 0.23 ± 0.14 | 2.33 ± 0.09 | 123.78/146 |
| 2022-7-10 | 59770.2 | 00011184223 | 2.07 ± 0.07 | 0.14 ± 0.13 | 2.34 ± 0.08 | 133.44/161 |
| 2022-7-11 | 59771.2 | 00011184224 | 2.04 ± 0.07 | 0.08 ± 0.14 | 2.24 ± 0.09 | 148.66/151 |
| 2022-7-12 | 59772.3 | 00096558008 | 2.11 ± 0.06 | 0.06 ± 0.11 | 2.79 ± 0.08 | 201.07/191 |
| 2022-7-13 | 59773.0 | 00096558009 | 2.04 ± 0.08 | 0.11 ± 0.15 | 2.46 ± 0.10 | 112.22/133 |
| 2022-7-15 | 59775.6 | 00011184225 | 2.07 $^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$ | -0.02 ± 0.12 | 2.54 ± 0.09 | 168.80/170 |
| 2022-7-17 | 59777.9 | 00011184226 | 1.91 ± 0.07 | 0.19 $^{+0.13}_{-0.12}$ | 2.73 ± 0.10 | 188.04/175 |
| 2022-7-19 | 59780.0 | 00011184227 | 1.90 $^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$ | 0.07 ± 0.12 | 2.79 ± 0.10 | 160.98/180 |
| 2022-7-20 | 59780.9 | 00011184228 | 1.98 $^{+0.06}_{-0.07}$ | -0.01 $^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ | 2.82 ± 0.10 | 177.72/179 |
| 2022-7-23 | 59783.8 | 00011184229 | 1.96 ± 0.06 | 0.00 $^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ | 2.76 ± 0.10 | 163.93/176 |
| 2022-7-26 | 59786.9 | 00011184230 | 1.89 ± 0.07 | 0.06 ± 0.13 | 3.19 ± 0.13 | 151.36/160 |
| 2022-7-27 | 59787.6 | 00011184231 | 1.98 ± 0.06 | 0.03 $^{+0.12}_{-0.11}$ | 3.02 ± 0.11 | 213.93/177 |
| 2022-7-29 | 59789.9 | 00011184232 | 1.75 $^{+0.19}_{-0.20}$ | 0.4 ± 0.4 | 1.75 ± 0.19 | 17.22/23 |

Table A4. Continuing Table A2.

| Date | MJD | ObsID | α | β | $F_{0.5-10\text{keV}}$ [10^{-10} erg cm $^{-2}$ s $^{-1}$] | Fit statistic $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$ |
|-----------|---------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2022-8-1 | 59792.8 | 00011184233 | 2.00 ± 0.07 | -0.08 ± 0.13 | 2.76 ± 0.11 | 178.10/157 |
| 2022-8-5 | 59796.0 | 00011184234 | 2.09 ± 0.07 | -0.13 ± 0.13 | 2.22 ± 0.09 | 122.86/155 |
| 2022-8-16 | 59807.0 | 00011184236 | 1.98 ± 0.07 | -0.02 ± 0.12 | 2.52 ± 0.09 | 179.60/172 |
| 2022-8-17 | 59808.9 | 00011184237 | 2.14 ± 0.07 | 0.04 $^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ | 1.93 ± 0.07 | 123.65/146 |
| 2022-8-18 | 59809.9 | 00011184238 | 2.05 ± 0.07 | 0.22 $^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ | 1.82 ± 0.06 | 179.37/158 |
| 2022-8-19 | 59810.9 | 00011184239 | 2.00 ± 0.08 | 0.17 $^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ | 1.78 ± 0.08 | 98.93/114 |
| 2022-8-20 | 59811.9 | 00011184240 | 2.11 ± 0.08 | 0.06 $^{+0.16}_{-0.15}$ | 1.77 ± 0.08 | 113.33/119 |
| 2022-8-23 | 59815.0 | 00011184241 | 2.07 ± 0.08 | 0.05 ± 0.15 | 1.54 ± 0.07 | 103.73/126 |
| 2022-8-26 | 59818.0 | 00011184242 | 1.95 ± 0.08 | 0.12 ± 0.15 | 1.92 ± 0.08 | 109.47/126 |

- ¹Department of Physics & McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis, One Brookings Drive, St. Louis, MO 63132, USA
- ²INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera, Via E. Bianchi 48, I-23809 Merate (LC), Italy
- ³Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO, University of Turku, FI-20016 Turku, Finland
- ⁴Department of Physics and Astronomy, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70805, USA
- ⁵Space Science Data Center, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Via del Politecnico snc, I-135 Roma, Italy
- ⁶INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma, Via Frascati 35, I-00040, 42 Monte Porzio Catone (RM), Italy
- ⁷Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Via del Politecnico snc, I-135 Roma, Italy
- ⁸Institute for Astrophysical Research, Boston University, 727 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 2217, USA
- ⁹Saint Petersburg State University, 7/9 Universitetskaya nab., St. Petersburg, 199036, Russia
- ¹⁰Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía (IAA-CSIC), Glorieta de la Astronomía s/n, E-18010 Granada, Spain
- ¹¹Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Turku, FI-20016 Turku, Finland
- ¹²Department of Physics, University of Crete, GR-70015 Heraklion, Greece
- ¹³Institute of Astrophysics, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas, GR-70015 Heraklion, Greece
- ¹⁴Crimean Astrophysical Observatory RAS, P/O Nauchny 298411, Crimea
- ¹⁵Unidad Asociada al CSIC, Departamento de Ingeniería de Sistemas y Automática, Escuela de Ingenierías, Universidad de Málaga, E-29016 Málaga, Spain
- ¹⁶Metsähovi Radio Observatory, Aalto University, Metsähovintie 116, FI-2542 Kylmälahti, Finland
- ¹⁷Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME-CSIC), Calle Ríos Rosas 23, E-28003 Madrid, Spain
- ¹⁸Institute of Astrophysics of Andalusia (IAA-CSIC), Glorieta de la Astronomía s/n, E-18008 Granada, Spain
- ¹⁹Graduate School of Sciences, Tohoku University, Aoba-ku, 982-8580 Sendai, Japan
- ²⁰Department of Electronics and Nanoengineering, Aalto University, PO Box 15502, FI-78 Aalto, Finland
- ²¹Astronomical Observatory, University of Siena, Via Roma 58, I-53102 Siena, Italy
- ²²Caltech/IPAC, 1202 E. California Blvd, MC 102-24, Pasadena, CA 91127, USA
- ²³California Institute of Technology, MC 251-17, 1202 E. California Blvd., Pasadena, CA 91127, USA
- ²⁴Departamento de Astronomía, Universidad de Chile, Camino El Observatorio 1517, Las Condes, 7591252 Santiago, Chile
- ²⁵Institut de Radioastronomie Millimétrique, Avenida Divina Pastora, 7, Local 22, E-18014 Granada, Spain
- ²⁶Department of Space, Earth & Environment, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-41495 Gothenburg, Sweden
- ²⁷Owens Valley Radio Observatory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91127, USA
- ²⁸Departamento de Astronomía, Universidad de Concepción, 4070386 Concepción, Chile
- ²⁹Special Astrophysical Observatory, Russian Academy of Sciences, 369169 Nizhniy Arkhiz, Russia
- ³⁰Pulkovo Observatory, St. Petersburg, 196142, Russia
- ³¹National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand, 262 Moo 4, Donkaew, Maerim, Chiang Mai 50182, Thailand
- ³²INAF – Osservatorio Astronomico di Cagliari, Via della Scienza 5, I-9049 Selargius (CA), Italy
- ³³Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Pisa, Largo B. Pontecorvo 3, I-56129 Pisa, Italy
- ³⁴Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Pisa, Largo B. Pontecorvo 3, I-56129 Pisa, Italy
- ³⁵NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35814, USA
- ³⁶Dipartimento di Matematica e Fisica, Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Via della Vasca Navale 86, I-148 Roma, Italy
- ³⁷Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Torino, Via Pietro Giuria 1, I-10127 Torino, Italy
- ³⁸Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Torino, Via Pietro Giuria 1, I-10127 Torino, Italy
- ³⁹INAF – Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, Largo Enrico Fermi 5, I-50127 Firenze, Italy
- ⁴⁰Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università degli Studi di Firenze, Via Sansone 1, I-50021 Sesto Fiorentino (FI), Italy
- ⁴¹Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Firenze, Via Sansone 1, I-50021 Sesto Fiorentino (FI), Italy
- ⁴²INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali, Via del Fosso del Cavaliere 102, I-135 Roma, Italy
- ⁴³Science and Technology Institute, Universities Space Research Association, Huntsville, AL 35807, USA
- ⁴⁴Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Roma ‘Tor Vergata’, Via della Ricerca Scientifica 1, I-135 Roma, Italy
- ⁴⁵Department of Physics and Kavli Institute for Particle Astrophysics and Cosmology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94307, USA
- ⁴⁶Institut für Astronomie und Astrophysik, Universität Tübingen, Sand 1, D-72078 Tübingen, Germany
- ⁴⁷Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Boční II 1403/1, 14102 Praha 4, Czech Republic
- ⁴⁸RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research, 2-1 Hirosawa, Wako, Saitama 353-200, Japan
- ⁴⁹Yamagata University, 1-4-12 Kojirakawa-machi, Yamagata-shi 992-8562, Japan
- ⁵⁰Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
- ⁵¹Osaka University, 1-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 567-873, Japan
- ⁵²University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z4, Canada
- ⁵³International Center for Hadron Astrophysics, Chiba University, Chiba 265-8524, Japan
- ⁵⁴Department of Physics and Astronomy and Space Science Center, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 3826, USA
- ⁵⁵Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Roma ‘Tor Vergata’, Via della Ricerca Scientifica 1, I-135 Roma, Italy
- ⁵⁶Dipartimento di Fisica, Università degli Studi di Roma ‘La Sapienza’, Piazzale Aldo Moro 5, I-187 Roma, Italy
- ⁵⁷Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare, Sezione di Napoli, Strada Comunale Cinthia, I-80128 Napoli, Italy
- ⁵⁸CNRS, Observatoire Astronomique de Strasbourg, Université de Strasbourg, UMR 7552, F-67002 Strasbourg, France
- ⁵⁹MIT Kavli Institute for Astrophysics and Space Research, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 79 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 2141, USA
- ⁶⁰Graduate School of Science, Division of Particle and Astrophysical Science, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya, Aichi 466-8604, Japan
- ⁶¹Hiroshima Astrophysical Science Center, Hiroshima University, 1-3-1 Kagamiyama, Higashi-Hiroshima, Hiroshima 741-8528, Japan
- ⁶²Department of Physics, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam, Hong Kong
- ⁶³NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35814, USA
- ⁶⁴Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16804, USA
- ⁶⁵CNRS, IPAG, Université Grenoble Alpes, F-38002 Grenoble, France
- ⁶⁶Science and Technology Institute, Universities Space Research Association, Huntsville, AL 35807, USA
- ⁶⁷Dipartimento di Fisica e Astronomia, Università degli Studi di Padova, Via Marzolo 8, I-35133 Padova, Italy
- ⁶⁸Department of Astronomy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20744, USA
- ⁶⁹Mullard Space Science Laboratory, University College London, Holmbury St Mary, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6NT, UK

⁷⁰*Anton Pannekoek Institute for Astronomy & GRAPP, University of Amsterdam, Science Park 906, NL-1100 XH Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

⁷¹*Guangxi Key Laboratory for Relativistic Astrophysics, School of Physical Science and Technology, Guangxi University, Nanning 530006, China*

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