Forecasts for cosmological measurements based on the angular power spectra of AGN and clusters of galaxies in the SRG/eROSITA all-sky survey

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ABSTRACT

Context. The eROSITA X-ray telescope aboard the Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma (SRG) orbital observatory, in the course of its all-sky survey, is expected to detect about three million active galactic nuclei (AGNs) and approximately one hundred thousand clusters and groups of galaxies. Such a sample, clean and uniform, complemented with redshift information, will open a new window into the studies of the large-scale structure (LSS) of the Universe and the determination of its cosmological parameters.

Aims. The purpose of this work is to assess the prospects of cosmological measurements with the eROSITA sample of AGNs and clusters of galaxies. We assumed the availability of photometric redshift measurements for eROSITA sources and explored the impact of their quality on our forecasts.

Methods. As the LSS probe, we use the redshift-resolved angular power spectrum of the density fluctuations of objects. We employed a Fisher-matrix formalism and assumed flat ΛCDM cosmology to forecast the constraining power of eROSITA samples of AGNs and clusters of galaxies. We computed the LSS-relevant characteristics of AGNs and clusters in the framework of the halo model and their statistical significance of Baryon acoustic oscillation detection in angular power spectra of AGNs and clusters of galaxies considered individually achieves 5–6σ. Our results demonstrate that the eROSITA sample of AGNs and clusters of galaxies used in combination with currently available photometric redshift estimates will provide cosmological constraints on a par with dedicated optical LSS surveys.

Key words. X-rays: galaxies – X-rays: galaxies: clusters – large-scale structure of Universe

1. Introduction

The distribution of matter in the Universe is not uniform. Galaxies form the so-called cosmic web, comprising filaments, walls, and voids, which make up the large-scale structure (LSS) of the Universe (Dodelson 2003; Eisenstein et al. 2005; Beutler et al. 2011; Alam et al. 2017). Mapping the LSS yields a wealth of important information about cosmological parameters, the evolution of density perturbations, the growth of structures, and the mass-energy content of the Universe (Tegmark et al. 2004; Percival et al. 2010; Blake et al. 2011; Padmanabhan et al. 2012; Abbott et al. 2022a,b). The LSS is traced not only by normal galaxies but also by active galactic nuclei (AGNs) and clusters of galaxies.

The large-scale structure has been probed by several wide-angle optical galaxy surveys such as SDSS (Sloan Digital Sky Survey)1, DES (Dark Energy Survey)2, 2dF (2dF Galaxy Redshift Survey)3. Using spectroscopic or photometric redshifts of the objects, such surveys unveil the 3D distribution of visible matter in the Universe, permitting us to measure its power spectrum and to detect and quantify various cosmologically significant effects such as baryon acoustic oscillations (BAOs, Sunyaev & Zeldovich 1970; Peebles & Yu 1970) and redshift-space distortions (RSD, Kaiser 1987). These data allow one to measure cosmological parameters (Cole et al. 2005; Eisenstein et al. 2005; Abbott et al. 2022a,b; Alam et al. 2021). Planned space missions and ground-based facilities, such as Euclid4, the Vera Rubin observatory5, the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument6, and the Nancy Grace Roman Telescope7 will dramatically increase the number of objects available for cosmological studies, potentially increasing the accuracy of cosmological measurements.

To date, all cosmologically significant large-scale structure surveys have been conducted in visible light. However, the

1 http://sdss.org
2 https://www.darkenergysurvey.org
3 http://www.2dfgrs.net
selection of galaxies and quasars in optical wavelengths is complicated by a number of effects, such as contamination by stars and nearby galaxies, absorption, and several others. On the contrary, X-ray surveys represent an efficient tool for identifying accreting supermassive black holes – indeed, AGNs constitute the majority of sources detected in extragalactic X-ray surveys (e.g., Brandt & Hasinger 2005; Sunyaev et al. 2021). Deep (but relatively narrow, up to ∼25 sq. degrees) X-ray surveys performed by XMM-Newton and Chandra observatories demonstrated the feasibility and usefulness of studying the clustering of X-ray-selected AGNs (Allevato et al. 2011, 2019; Mountrichas et al. 2016; Kolodzig et al. 2017, 2018). Furthermore, hot intracluster medium shines in X-rays by which means one can detect a cluster of galaxies without actually registering individual galaxies. X-ray data allow the determination of cluster mass and temperature, quantities essential for astrophysics and cosmology (e.g., Vikhlinin et al. 2009a,b; Allen et al. 2011). Thus, X-ray-selected samples present a reasonably clean and complete flux-limited census of extragalactic objects – AGNs and clusters of galaxies – for which number density is sufficient to study the LSS.

The SRG orbital X-ray observatory (Sunyaev et al. 2021) was launched into the halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrangian L2 point on July 13, 2019, and on December 12, 2019 an all-sky survey began, which was planned to continue for four years, until December 2023. So far, the eROSITA telescope has completed 4.4 full sky surveys and currently is in safe mode. The SRG observatory continues science observations in the interests of the Mikhail Pavlinsky ART-XC telescope – the second science instrument aboard the SRG observatory.

In the course of the full four-year all-sky survey, the eROSITA telescope (Predehl et al. 2021) aboard SRG is expected to detect, in the 0.5–2 keV energy range, ∼3 million AGNs with a median redshift of z ∼ 1 (Kolodzig et al. 2013b) and ∼10^5 clusters of galaxies with a median redshift of z ∼ 0.4 (Merloni et al. 2012; Pillepich et al. 2012). Cosmological measurements and the nature of dark energy are the main scientific drivers of the mission (Sunyaev et al. 2021). To this end, a significant role will be played by the measurements of the mass function of clusters of galaxies based on their X-ray properties. Cosmological studies can be also conducted using the 3D distribution of quasars and clusters of galaxies. The enormous size of the X-ray-selected AGN sample makes their study especially meaningful in this context; as shown earlier, BAOs will be clearly detectable in the eROSITA AGN sample (Hüttsi et al. 2014; Kolodzig et al. 2013a). Prospects of cosmological studies with clusters of galaxies have been previously investigated by Pillepich et al. (2012); however, the potential role of AGNs remained unexplored.

The purpose of the present paper is to fill this gap and to forecast the accuracy of cosmological measurements based on AGN samples detected in the SRG/eROSITA all-sky survey. To facilitate the comparison with AGNs and previous works and to investigate the power of combined AGN-cluster estimators, we also present results of similar calculations for clusters of galaxies. In our calculations, we used the characteristics of eROSITA performance measured in-flight during the first two years of the survey, and realistic, already achieved parameters of the photometric redshift estimates of AGNs and clusters of galaxies.

The paper is structured as follows. We assess the usefulness of AGNs and clusters for large-scale structure studies in the presence of photometric redshift errors in Sect. 2. In Sect. 3, we describe the calculations of redshift distributions and linear bias factors of both tracers, as well as the model for photo-z scatter in distance measurements. We explain formalism for computing the two-point correlation function and Fisher matrix forecasts in Sect. 4. Section 5 presents our forecast for BAO detectability and cosmological precision. We discuss our findings and place the results in the context of current cosmological probes in Sect. 6. We conclude in Sect. 7. In Appendix A, we justify the usage of the Fisher matrix method by comparing its predictions with the posterior distribution calculated with the Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithm.

We use decimal logarithms throughout the paper and assume fiducial cosmological parameters, H₀ = 70 km s⁻¹ Mpc⁻¹, Ω_m = 0.3, Ω_Λ = 0.05, σ_8 = 0.8, and n_s = 0.96 for flat ΛCDM cosmology. Mass is in units of M₉₅₀₀. Cosmological calculations of distances, halo model, biases, and so on are done in the Core Cosmology Library (CCL⁹, Chisari et al. 2019). Unless stated otherwise, angular power spectra are calculated with the Code for Anisotropies in the Microwave Background (CAMB⁸, Lewis & Challinor 2011).

2. Initial feasibility study

The 3D distribution of matter is usually analysed with two-point statistics. A common choice is the power spectrum, which shows the amplitude of density fluctuation on a given co-moving scale, and its errors are directly related to the ability of the survey to sample the LSS. Hüttsi et al. (2014) showed that the density of AGNs in the eROSITA survey would provide sufficient signal-to-noise ratio at the median redshift of z = 1.

The capability of a survey to probe the LSS depends on the volume of the Universe observed given the power spectrum of tracer objects and their redshift distribution. This is quantified by the effective volume of a survey, V_eff (Eisenstein et al. 2005):

\[ V_{\text{eff}}(k) = \Omega \int_{\z_{\text{min}}}^{\z_{\text{max}}} \left( \frac{N(z)P_{\text{eff}}(k, z)}{N(z)P_{\text{tr}}(k, z) + 1} \right)^2 dV(z) dz, \]

where \( \Omega \) is a solid angle of a survey, \( N(z) \) is the spatial number density, \( P_{\text{eff}}(k, z) \) is the tracer power spectrum, and \( \frac{dV(z)}{dz} \) is the differential co-moving volume. Differential volume is calculated with the formula \( \frac{dV(z)}{dz} = \pi r^2 H(z) [\text{Mpc}^3 \text{sr}^{-1}] \), where \( r \) is the co-moving radial distance, \( H(z) \) is the Hubble parameter, and \( c \) is the speed of light. The details of the calculation of redshift distribution and power spectrum are in the next section. The error on the power spectrum is proportional to the \( V_{\text{eff}}^{-1/2} \) assuming Gaussian statistics and independent bins in \( k \) space. The effective volume for the spectroscopic eROSITA sample of AGNs was calculated in Kolodzig et al. (2013a) and shown to be larger than those of some of the optical surveys. In the present paper, we go one step further and include clusters of galaxies and the effects of photometric redshift errors.

We utilised the model of Hüttsi (2010) to take into account the power suppression on small scales due to the photo-z errors. The power spectrum of tracers is found as

\[ P(k, z) = b(z)P(k, z)_{\text{CDM}} \times \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2\sigma r^k} \text{erf}(\sigma r), \]

where \( b(z) \) is the linear bias factor, \( P(k, z)_{\text{CDM}} \) is the power spectrum of dark matter, and spatial suppression scale \( \sigma = \frac{\pi r}{2} \), \( c \) is the speed of light, \( H(z) \) is the Hubble constant at given \( z \),

⁸ https://ccl.readthedocs.io/en/latest/
⁹ https://camb.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html
and \( \sigma_z = \sigma_0(1 + z_{\text{eff}}) \) is the photometric redshift error. \( z_{\text{eff}} \) is taken as 1 for AGNs and 0.4 for clusters. \( \sigma_0 \) is a free parameter that depends on the quality of the optical follow-up. We restrict \( 0.5 < z < 2.5 \) and \( 0.1 < z < 0.8 \) for AGNs and clusters, respectively, assuming 65\% of the sky used in the analysis. Photometric scatter, \( \sigma_0 \), is varied between 0 and 0.05.

We show the results in Fig. 1. The effective volume for an AGN sample drops from \( \sim 50 \) to less than \( \sim 2 \times 10^{-3} \) Gpc\(^3\) between \( k = 0.01 \) and \( k = 0.2 \) h Mpc\(^{-1}\). For clusters, the figures are \( \sim 4 \) and \( \sim 0.2 \times 10^{-3} \) Gpc\(^3\). It can be seen that on large scales (small \( k \)) the AGN sample is more efficient than clusters, even when the photo-z errors are large. In the area of moderate scales (\( k = 0.05 \) – 0.2), the relative performance of both tracers depends significantly on the quality of photo-z. For instance, even though AGNs are much more numerous (2 mil), with the \( \sigma_0 = 0.05 \) they would be outperformed by a much smaller number of clusters (90k) with \( \sigma_0 < 0.005 \). Typically one may expect \( \sigma_0 = 0.03 \) for AGNs and 0.01 for clusters. In this configuration, the effective volumes at BAO scales are comparable.

We therefore expect that both tracers suffer significantly from the loss of the photometric redshift precision and that the AGN and cluster samples would provide roughly comparable results and complement each other.

3. Modelling details

In this section, we illustrate our calculations of redshift distributions and number counts (Sect. 3.1), linear bias factors (Sect. 3.2), and the model for photometric redshift (Sect. 3.3).

3.1. X-ray luminosity functions

To the power spectrum shape, we need to know the space number densities of AGNs and clusters. With the knowledge of the X-ray luminosity function (XLF) of AGN \( \phi(L, z) \) and the flux limit of the survey, we calculated the distribution of AGNs with redshift. We used the XLF measured in Hasinger et al. (2005) with an exponential cutoff for \( z > 2.7 \) (Brusa et al. 2009); for details of calculations, see Kolodzig et al. (2013b).

The shape of the AGN XLF is the following:

\[
\phi(L, z) = K_0 \left( \frac{L}{L_0} \right)^{\gamma_0} \left( 1 + \frac{L}{L_0} \right)^{\gamma_z} \propto \epsilon(L, z),
\]

where factor

\[
e(L, z) = \begin{cases} (1 + z)^{\alpha_0}, & z \leq z_c(L) \\ (1 + z_c(L))^{\alpha_0} \left( \frac{1 + z}{1 + z_c(L)} \right)^{\gamma_z}, & z > z_c(L) \end{cases} \tag{1}
\]

and cutoff redshift

\[
z_c(L) = \begin{cases} z_c(0) \left( \frac{L}{L_0} \right)^{\alpha_0}, & L \leq L_0 \\ z_c(0), & L > L_0 \end{cases} \tag{2}
\]

All parameters were taken from Hasinger et al. (2005), Table 5, LDDE model. The cutoff over redshift 2.7 is done as in Kolodzig et al. (2013b), i.e. \( \phi(L, z) \rightarrow \phi(L, 2.7) \times 10^{0.43(2.7-z)} \) for \( z > 2.7 \).

The redshift distribution \( n(z) \), per deg\(^2\), is found as

\[
n(z) = \frac{dV(z)}{dz} \int_{\log L_{\text{min}}(S, z)}^{48} n(\log L, z) d \log L,
\]

where \( \frac{dV(z)}{dz} \) is the differential co-moving volume, \( S \) is the flux limit of the survey (we adopt \( 10^{-14} \) erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)), and the smallest observed luminosity \( L_{\text{min}} \) at given redshift \( z \) is found as

\[
L_{\text{min}} = 4\pi S^2 r_c^2 L \quad (r_c \text{ is the luminosity distance}).
\]

The correction was done assuming a photon index of \( \Gamma = 1.9 \) and no absorption. We multiply the XLF by a factor of 1.3 to match the predicted sky number density of AGNs at a flux limit of \( 10^{-14} \) erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\) with observations (i.e. \( \sim 90 \) AGN/deg\(^2\); see e.g., Georgakakis et al. 2008).

The resulting AGN distribution is shown in Fig. 2 (panel A). The distribution peaks at \( z \approx 1 \) and yields \( \approx 24740000 \) AGN on 65.8\% of the sky. This sky fraction corresponds to the extragalactic sky \( |b| > 15 \text{ deg} \). During the calculations of the effective volume in the previous section, the spatial number density of objects was found as \( N(z) = \frac{\phi(L, z) dV}{d^3 L} \).

To calculate the distribution of clusters of galaxies, we invoke the halo model approach. We start from the halo mass function \( n(M, z) \) of Tinker et al. (2008) and the fixed mass-luminosity relation of X-ray clusters calibrated in Vikhlinin et al. (2009a, Eq. (22))\(^10\). We used \( k \) correction assuming the thermal plasma model apecl with temperature from Vikhlinin et al. (2009a, Table 3, free slope). The minimum mass for integration is taken as \( 5 \times 10^{13} h^{-1} M_\odot \) since the ML relation is not well-known for lower masses. The redshift distribution is then found as

\[
n(z) = \frac{dV(z)}{dz} \int_{M_{\text{min}}(S, z)}^{M_{\text{max}}(S, z)} n(M, z) dM,
\]

\(^{10}\) We ignore the scatter in this relation for simplicity, but uncertainties in this relation have a profound effect on the cosmological analysis, see Pillepich et al. (2012).

\(^{11}\) \( 5 \times 10^{13} h^{-1} M_\odot = 7.14 \times 10^{13} M_\odot \) in our fiducial cosmology.
The bias factors of X-ray-selected AGNs at different redshifts were measured with XMM-Newton data (Allevato et al. 2011) and were found to be consistent with the biasing of dark matter halos with the mass similar to that of the galaxy group, $M_{DMH} \sim 10^{13} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$. We therefore used the model (fitting formulae of Tinker et al. (2010) for the bias $b_{eff}(z)$ of dark matter halos with mass of $2 \times 10^{13} h^{-1} M_{\odot}$. The bias is shown in panel c) of Fig. 2.

For X-ray clusters, we used the halo model with effective bias given by the average bias of halos weighed with their number density:

$$b_{eff}(z) = \frac{\int_{M_{min}}^{M_{max}} b(M, z) n(M, z) dM}{n(z)}.$$  

We show the effective bias of the cluster population in Fig. 2, panel c. At the peak redshift of the sample, the bias factor is $\sim 3$. This is consistent with the bias measurements with the two-point correlation functions of $\sim 200$ X-ray-selected galaxy clusters from the XMM-Newton XXL survey (Marulli et al. 2018). We limited our calculations for clusters of galaxies by a redshift of 0.8, as explained in Sect. 4. Correspondingly, we do need to construct a bias model for clusters beyond this redshift value.

### 3.3. Photometric redshift model

Photometric redshifts have poorer accuracy than redshifts based on spectroscopic data. However, it is compensated by the possibility to estimate redshifts for a much larger number of objects. A common approach to analysing photometric-redshift data sets is to bin objects in the redshift space so that one ‘integrates out’ the effects of photo-z errors. The width of the bins is chosen to be a few times the photo-z scatter at a given $z$. The true underlying distribution of redshifts (spec-z) would be smoothed in those bins by random errors (i.e. scatter $\sigma_{spec}$). We used the model of Hüttsi et al. (2014) for Gaussian photometric redshift errors (see their Eq. (7)) with two parameters: $\sigma_0$, which controls the scatter, and $f_{fail}$ – the catastrophic errors fraction. The smoothed shape of the $i$th redshift bin $n^{(i)}(z)$ is given by

$$n^{(i)}(z) = n(z) \left[ \frac{\text{erf}\left(\frac{z - z^{(i)}_{p2}}{\sigma(z)}\right) - \text{erf}\left(\frac{z - z^{(i)}_{p1}}{\sigma(z)}\right)}{1 + \text{erf}\left(\frac{z^{(i)}_{\max} - z^{(i)}_{p1}}{\sigma(z)}\right)} \right] + f_{fail} \frac{z^{(i)}_{\max} - z^{(i)}_{p1}}{\sigma(z)},$$

where $\sigma(z) = \sigma_0(1 + z)$ is the scatter and $z^{(i)}_{\max}$ is the maximum redshift of the sample.

The dilution bins of the photometric redshift selection of AGNs or clusters for fiducial values of parameters $\sigma_0$ and $f_{fail}$ are shown in Fig. 2 on panels a) and b) with coloured solid lines. The coloured vertical strips correspond to the bin’s borders in photo-z space, and the solid line of the respective colour shows the true underlying distribution in spec-z space. As the redshift bin width, we use $\Delta z = \sigma(z)$ at a given redshift if not stated otherwise. We illustrate the effect of photometric redshift errors in Fig. 3, where we plot the dilution of a redshift bin for various values of $\sigma_0$.

Multi-wavelength data and the availability of rich spectroscopic information for large samples of objects allow efficient training of the models for source classification and photo-z evaluation. The SRGz machine learning system for classification and
photometric redshift estimation is being developed by the Russian eROSITA consortium (Meshcheryakov et al., in prep.; see also Borisov et al. 2022; Belvedersky et al. 2022). SRGz is capable of determining photometric redshift probability density distribution of individual X-ray-selected AGNs with an accuracy better than $\sigma_0 \sim 0.05$ and the outlier fraction better than $\sim 10\%$. The accuracy of photo-z for galaxy clusters is nearly an order of magnitude better. In our analysis, we assumed that the photometric redshift error and fraction of catastrophic failures are known. These quantities and their redshift dependence are usually provided by the photometric redshift estimation code, based on the analysis of verification samples of objects whose redshifts are measured in spectroscopic observations. Our approach is similar, for example, to that used in Sereno et al. (2015). In the calculations below, we assumed the photo-z accuracy that is within the reach of the current version of the SRGz system.

4. Angular power spectrum and Fisher matrices

In this section, we describe the computation of angular power spectra (Sect. 4.1) and the calculation of Fisher matrices (Sect. 4.2).

4.1. Angular power spectrum

The angular power spectrum (APS) is a Fourier counterpart of the two-point angular correlation function. The benefit of using angular correlations is that one does not assume fiducial cosmology to analyse data.

The angular power spectrum of sources in $i$ and $j$th redshift bins is calculated as follows:

$$C^i_j = \frac{2}{\pi} \int P(k, z = 0) W^i(k) W^j(k) k^2 dk,$$

where $P(k, z = 0)$ is the matter 3d power spectrum at present time and $W^i(k)$ is a projection kernel of bin $i$. Secondly, we use

$$W^i(k) = \int j_i(kr) f^{(i)}(r) g(r) b_{\text{eff}}(r) dr,$$

where $r$ is a comoving radial distance, $j_i$ is the spherical Bessel function of order $i$, $f^{(i)}$ is the normalised redshift distribution of $i$th bin, and $g$ and $b_{\text{eff}}$ are linear growth and bias factors, respectively.

Calculations of angular power spectra are done in CAMB and include the effects of redshift space distortions. The matter power spectrum is calculated by CAMB in the linear regime, while bias factors and redshift distributions are found as described in Sect. 3. We applied the Limber approximation (Simon 2007) at $\ell > 110$ for both tracers. We used logarithmic bins in $\ell$. A minimum multipole number, $\ell = 10$, is used in all calculations due to the effects of the sky mask at lower multipoles. To not include non-linear effects in our analysis, we restricted $\ell < 500$ (150) for AGN (cluster) samples (Kolodzig et al. 2013a; Hütsi et al. 2014). For the same reason, we used 0.5 (0.1) as the minimum redshift of a cosmological sample of AGN (clusters), whilst the maximum is 2.5 (0.8) due to the scarcity of objects at higher redshifts.

We used the following analytical formula for the Gaussian covariance matrix of angular power spectra:

$$\text{Cov}_{ij}(\ell) = \frac{1}{(2\ell + 1)f_{\text{sky}}} \left(C^i_i C^j_j + C^i_i C^j_j \right),$$

with $f_{\text{sky}}$ being the fraction of the sky observed and $C^i_i$ including the shot noise $(1/N,$ where $N$ is a surface density in the bin) if $i = j$. We treated partial sky coverage lightly with the factor $f_{\text{sky}}$, whereas in reality the covariance between different modes would be introduced, especially for sky masks of complex shape. In the case of extragalactic sky $|\ell| > 15$ considered here, this effect can be neglected in this calculation.

To accelerate computations, we ignored cross-correlation between the bins that are spaced far apart (more than $3\sigma(z)$). We remind the reader that the width of the redshift bin $\Delta z$ is adjusted so that $\Delta z = \sigma_0(1 + z)$ for given photo-z scatter parameter $\sigma_0$ unless stated otherwise.

4.2. Fisher matrix

We made use of the angular power spectra to derive errors in the determination of cosmological parameters with the Fisher matrix formalism.

Fisher matrices approximate the posterior distribution of the parameters of interest with multidimensional Gaussian distribution (Tegmark 1997; Tegmark et al. 1997; Dodelson 2003). We used the following formula for a Fisher matrix, assuming a Gaussian distribution of data points and constant covariance:

$$F_{ij} = \frac{\partial C^T}{\partial \theta_i} \text{Cov}^{-1} \frac{\partial C}{\partial \theta_j},$$

where $F_{ij}$ is a Fisher matrix, $i, j$ are the indices of cosmological parameters of interest, $C_i$ is a data vector, and $\text{Cov}$ is data covariance. Our model includes all five cosmological parameters of flat $\Lambda$CDM: dark matter density fraction $\Omega_c$, baryon density fraction $\Omega_b$, reduced $Hubble$ constant $h$, slope of primordial power spectrum $n_s$, and the amplitude parameter $\sigma_8$. Derivatives and covariance matrices were calculated in fiducial cosmology. We transformed the Fisher matrices so that instead of dark matter density $\Omega_c$, we used matter density $\Omega_m = \Omega_c + \Omega_b$, and we added priors to the matrix if needed (Coe 2009).

We found derivatives numerically using NUMDIFFTOOLS [12] with the jacobian of data vector calculated with step $5 \times 10^{-4}$ and two-point central finite difference.

We do not include uncertainties of the redshift distribution $n(z)$, bias $b_{\text{eff}}(z)$, or M-L relation for clusters of galaxies in our

[12] https://github.com/pbrod/numdifftools
Fig. 4. Example of angular power spectra of AGNs (left panels) and clusters (right panels). In the top panels, the auto-spectrum of the first redshift bin is shown in blue (bin 0.9 < z < 0.99 for AGNs and 0.40 < z < 0.41 for clusters), and the cross-spectra of the first redshift bin with the second bin (0.99 < z < 1.09 for AGNs and 0.41 < z < 0.43 for clusters) in red. Horizontal lines show the level of Poisson noise for auto-spectra. In the bottom panels, the derivatives of those power spectra (solid and dashed lines, respectively) are shown with respect to parameters in the plot’s legend. Parameters of photometric redshift errors are \( \sigma_0 = 0.05 \) and 0.01, \( f_{\text{fail}} = 0.05 \) and 0.02 for AGNs and clusters, respectively.

5. Forecast results

In the following section, we describe the main results of the paper: the signature of BAO detection in AGN and cluster distributions (Sect. 5.1) and the forecast on the cosmological constraining power of SRG/eROSITA samples of AGN and clusters of galaxies (Sect. 5.2).

To investigate the impact of photo-z errors, we used a grid of parameters, \( \sigma_0 \) and \( f_{\text{fail}} \): \( \sigma_0 = 0.005, 0.01, 0.015, 0.02, 0.03, 0.05, 0.07, 0.1, 0.2, 0.3 \) and \( f_{\text{fail}} = 0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2 \) for clusters, and we did the same for AGNs, except for the AGNs we did not do calculations for: \( \sigma_0 = 0.005 \) and 0.01. Redshift bin sizes are \( \Delta z = \sigma_0 (1 + z) \) except for the case of \( \sigma_0 = 0.005 \), where we used redshift bins \( \Delta z = 1.3 \times \sigma_0 (1 + z) \) to reduce the size of the matrices involved. We assumed the sky survey of \( f_{\text{sky}} = 0.658 \) down to fluxes of \( 10^{-14} \) erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\) (4.4 \times 10\(^{-14}\) erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) and used objects in the redshift range of \( 0.5 < z < 2.5 \) (0.1 < \( z < 0.8 \)) for AGNs (clusters). The total cosmological sample size would be \( \approx 1.97 \) million AGNs and \( \approx 88,000 \) clusters.

5.1. Baryon acoustic oscillations

We start from the question of whether BAOs would be detectable in the distribution of AGNs and clusters depending on the quality of photo-z. A similar task was done in Hütsi et al. (2014) for the AGN population.

For BAO detection, we used the following technique: given the smooth model for the 3D matter power spectrum (template without BAO wiggles, NW superscript) we find the \( \chi^2 \) difference between data vectors \( C_\ell \) for a model with and without BAOs (i.e. confidence in units of \( \sigma \)):

\[
S/N = \sqrt{(C_\ell - C_\ell^{\text{NW}})^T \text{Cov}^{-1} (C_\ell - C_\ell^{\text{NW}})},
\]

As for the calculations of BAO significance, we used angular power spectra calculated by the CCL library (in contrast to the CAMB calculations done in the remainder of the paper) and compare the APS obtained with the matter power spectrum of Eisenstein and Hu, with and without wiggles (Eisenstein & Hu 1998) in Limber approximation.

The results of the exercise are presented in Fig. 5. We show contours of the significance of BAO detection as a function of both \( \sigma_0 \) and \( f_{\text{fail}} \), along with cross-sections of such a surface with planes of constant \( \sigma_0 \) or \( f_{\text{fail}} \).

One can immediately see that in our regime for both tracers the photo-z scatter parameter has a greater impact on the simulations. We assumed that these quantities would be measured from the eROSITA all-sky survey with sufficient accuracy. In particular, as it was demonstrated in Kolodzig et al. (2013b), Comparat et al. (2019), the AGN XLF and bias \( b_\text{AGN} \) will be accurately measured from the all-sky survey data. The M-L relation for clusters of galaxies also plays an important role in cosmological measurements with clusters (e.g., Pillepich et al. 2012). To this end, eROSITA is planned to measure this relation with high precision in the dedicated pointed phase after the all-sky survey ends.

After the Fisher matrix \( F_{\ell \ell} \) is calculated, its inverse can be used as the covariance matrix of the parameters, from which one obtains marginalised errors (Tegmark et al. 1997; Cole 2009). In Appendix A, we compare the marginalised errors and credibility contours returned by the Fisher analysis and by the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) algorithm of posterior sampling and demonstrate that they produce consistent results.

In Fig. 4, we show the angular power spectrum examples for AGNs and clusters. In addition, we show logarithmic derivatives with respect to all cosmological parameters.
Fig. 5. Significance of BAO detection (S/N) in the sample of AGNs (top sub-figure) and clusters (bottom). In the left panel, the contours of significance are shown as a function of photo-z accuracy for parameters $\sigma_0$ and $f_{\text{fail}}$. In the right panels, the cross-sections with constant $f_{\text{fail}}$ (top) and $\sigma_0$ (bottom) are shown.

performance (BAO detectability) than the catastrophic error fraction. Namely, the decrease of $\sigma_0$ from 0.1 to 0.03 leads to the increase in the significance of BAO detection from $\sim 3\sigma$ to $\sim 6\sigma$ (assuming $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.01$ for the AGN sample). Our results are in line with the work of (Hütsi et al. 2014; see their Fig. 7), notwithstanding the difference in implementation. For the AGN sample, the BAO significance achieves $\sim 7$–$8\sigma$ if $\sigma_0 = 0.015$ (1.5%), but for a more realistic $\sigma = 0.03$ (3%) the figure is $\sim 5$–$6\sigma$ with little dependence on $f_{\text{fail}}$. For clusters with $\sigma_0 = 0.005$ (0.5%), which is quite a reasonable
FIG. 6. Expected error ellipses of cosmological parameters from the analysis of AGNs and galaxy clusters in the complete eROSITA all-sky survey. Photometric redshift quality $\sigma_0 = 0.03, 0.005$ and $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.1, 0.01$ for AGNs and clusters, respectively. Prior 0.1 on $h$ is added to the Fisher matrix. The corner plot shows the results derived from the Fisher matrix of clusters (blue), AGNs (orange), and combined (green) samples. The table shows the percentage errors on the parameters and the value for the FoM.

### 5.2. Cosmological parameters

For each configuration of the photo-$z$ quality, we calculated the Fisher matrix $F$ of the cosmological parameters and the information content number called the figure of merit (FoM):

$$\text{FoM} = \log \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{\det(F^{-1})}}.$$  

Hence, for every pair $\sigma_0, f_{\text{fail}}$, one obtains a Fisher matrix and the FoM.

Before we proceed with the effects of photo-$z$ quality on the forecast, we show one example for the case $\sigma_0 = 0.03, 0.005$ and $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.1, 0.01$ for AGNs and clusters, respectively (see Fig. 6). We added a relatively weak Gaussian prior (0.1) to parameter $h$ for this illustration. The value in parentheses is the standard deviation of the prior distribution and is indicated for other priors in the rest of the paper.

We show expected error ellipses from the analysis of both samples separately and combined (i.e. adding two Fisher matrices). The figure also shows the table with the expected marginalised error percentages. Both AGNs and cluster samples give comparable errors on all the cosmological parameters. More importantly, the combination of AGN with clusters increases the FoM of the former by 0.6. This is due to the partial alleviation of the parameter degeneracy.

The parameter $\sigma_8$ is well constrained because the error on the amplitude of the signal directly yields the constraints on the amplitude of fluctuations $\sigma_8$. Parameters $\Omega_c$ and $n_s$ have a level of accuracy better than $\sim 5\sigma$ because they control the overall accuracy level of photo-$z$ for clusters), the significance is $\sim 4-5\sigma$.

Overall, we conclude that the detection of BAOs with photometric-quality $z$ is plausible for both AGNs and clusters. The comparable statistical significance of BAO detection in both samples is also consistent with our expectation from the preliminary analysis based on effective volumes (Sect. 2).
Fig. 7. Quality of cosmological constraints (FoM) in the sample of AGNs (top sub-figure) and clusters (bottom). In the left panel, the contours of quality are shown as a function of photo-z parameters $\sigma_0$ and $f_{\text{fail}}$. In the right panels, the cross-sections with constant $f_{\text{fail}}$ (top) and $\sigma_0$ (bottom) are shown.

We made such a forecast for each combination of photo-z precision parameters and condense the result in Fig. 7 using FoM as the proxy for the quality of the forecast. We assumed no priors for this calculation.

shape of the matter power spectrum and the prior added to $h$, which lifted the degeneracy with $n_s$ and $\Omega_c$. $\Omega_b$ is not well constrained since the significance of baryonic effects on the angular power spectrum is limited.
As with BAOs, photo-z scatter $\sigma_0$ affects the analysis quality dramatically, while $f_{\text{fail}}$ has a less profound influence on the result. For instance, a decrease of $\sigma_0$ from 0.1 to 0.03 increases the FoM from $\sim 8.5$ to $\sim 10$ for AGNs with $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.01$. For clusters FoM $\sim 6.5$ with $\sigma_0 = 0.05$ and FoM $\sim 9$ if $\sigma_0 = 0.005$. We conclude that the quality of cosmological analysis pivots on the $\sigma_0$ parameter.

Table 1 shows the quality of the forecast for several cases of photometric redshift parameters. For a ‘conservative’ case, we chose the following parameters: $\sigma_0 = 0.01, 0.05$ and $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.02, 0.1$ for clusters and AGNs, respectively. For an ‘optimistic’ case, we choose $\sigma_0 = 0.005, 0.03$ and $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.01, 0.1$. We show options without prior information, with a wide prior on the reduced Hubble constant $h$ (0.1) and, in particular, the prior knowledge of parameters $h$ (0.0054) and $s_8$ (0.0042) derived from the Planck CMB experiment data (CMB+lensing, see Table 1 in Planck Collaboration VI 2020, last column). This demonstrates that the combination of the LSS probed by eROSITA and the independent data from other experiments may significantly enhance the resulting constraints.

### Table 1. SRG/eROSITA forecasts.

| Photo-z ($\sigma_0$, $f_{\text{fail}}$) | Priors | $\Omega_m$ | $\Omega_b$ | $h$ | $n_s$ | $\sigma_8$ | FoM |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|-----|------|---------|-----|
| Clusters(0.01,0.02); AGN(0.05,0.1)     | No prior | Clusters | 15.9% | 81.4% | 75.5% | 36.0% | 1.4% | 8.43 |
|                                       | AGN    | 10.3%    | 45.9%    | 40.4% | 18.6% | 1.2%    | 9.25 |
|                                       | Combination | 7.0%    | 38.0%    | 33.3% | 15.5% | 0.8%    | 9.77 |
|                                       | $h$ prior (0.1) | Clusters | 11.7% | 22.2% | 14.0% | 11.5% | 1.1% | 9.14 |
|                                       | AGN    | 9.8%    | 20.4%    | 13.3% | 8.6%  | 1.0%    | 9.72 |
|                                       | Combination | 6.3%    | 14.5%    | 9.7%  | 6.3%  | 0.7%    | 10.31 |
| h, $n_s$ prior                       | Clusters | 5.4%    | 15.8%    | 0.8%  | 0.4%  | 0.9%    | 11.73 |
|                                       | AGN    | 5.1%    | 14.2%    | 0.8%  | 0.4%  | 0.6%    | 12.13 |
|                                       | Combination | 3.6%    | 10.0%    | 0.5%  | 0.3%  | 0.5%    | 12.74 |
| Clusters(0.005,0.01); AGN(0.03,0.1)  | no prior | Clusters | 13.1% | 61.5% | 54.8% | 28.3% | 1.0% | 9.05 |
|                                       | AGN    | 8.1%    | 35.3%    | 30.6% | 14.5% | 1.0%    | 9.82 |
|                                       | Combination | 5.3%    | 27.6%    | 24.5% | 11.3% | 0.6%    | 10.38 |
| $h$ prior (0.1)                      | Clusters | 8.9%    | 19.1%    | 13.8% | 9.9%  | 0.8%    | 9.65 |
|                                       | AGN    | 7.5%    | 17.7%    | 12.9% | 7.5%  | 0.8%    | 10.19 |
|                                       | Combination | 4.8%    | 12.5%    | 9.3%  | 5.4%  | 0.5%    | 10.80 |
| h, $n_s$, Planck prior               | Clusters | 3.9%    | 11.3%    | 0.8%  | 0.4%  | 0.6%    | 12.11 |
|                                       | AGN    | 3.9%    | 10.5%    | 0.8%  | 0.4%  | 0.5%    | 12.47 |
|                                       | Combination | 2.6%    | 7.3%    | 0.5%  | 0.3%  | 0.4%    | 13.10 |

**Notes.** Fisher marginalised errors for cosmological parameters (in % of the fiducial value) and FoM values for two cases of photometric redshift quality and different priors added to the Fisher information. Results are shown for AGNs and clusters of galaxies separately and combined (see text for details).

There are many detections of BAOs with spectroscopic quality information at different redshifts. SDSS galaxies observed in the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS) provide BAO detection in the redshift range of $0.2 < z < 0.75$ from the sample of 1.2 million galaxies (Alam et al. 2017). The extended BOSS programme (eBOSS) pushed the redshift range further, $0.6 < z < 1.1$, with $\sim 400$ k luminous red galaxies and $\sim 200$ k emission line galaxies (Gil-Marín et al. 2020; Raichoor et al. 2021; Bautista et al. 2021; de Mattia et al. 2021). The SDSS observed the BAOs in the distribution of quasar ($0.8 < z < 2.2$ with $\sim 350$ k objects) and Ly-$\alpha$ systems (210 k quasars at $z > 2.1$), see Neveux et al. (2020), du Mas des Bourboux et al. (2020), Hou et al. (2021).

Photometric data samples include the BAO detection in SDSS photometric catalogues (0.2 < z < 0.6, ~600 k galaxies; Padmanabhan et al. 2007; Crocce et al. 2011; See et al. 2012). Recent results from the Dark Energy Survey provide evidence for baryonic wiggles in the distribution of $\sim 7$ million galaxies with photo-z quality $\sigma_0 = 0.03$ in redshift range $0.6 < z < 1.1$ (Abbott et al. 2022b).

For clusters, BAO were tentatively detected ($\sim 2\sigma$) in SDSS photometric cluster catalogue with some $\sim 10,000$ objects at $z < 0.3$ (Estrada et al. 2009; Hütsi 2010) for the first time. The significance of the detection has increased with the advent of better data, that is, $\sim 3.7\sigma$ detection with $\sim 80$ k SDSS clusters at $z < 0.5$ with spectroscopic redshifts in the work of Hong et al. (2016); see also Moresco et al. (2021).

Considering all of the above, it is clear that the SRG/eROSITA sample of AGNs and clusters would provide sufficiently precise measurements of BAO (and the corresponding sound horizon scales) to expand and complement current experiments, and to provide a cross-check of clustering measurements. It may not be as efficient as SDSS or DES galaxies at a low-redshift regime ($z < 0.6$), but due to the satisfactory density of high-redshift objects, it may compete with BAO findings in eBOSS emission line galaxies and quasar distribution (see also Fig. 9 in Kolodzig et al. 2013a).

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13 https://www.sdss.org/surveys/boss/
14 https://www.sdss.org/surveys/eboss/
For clusters of galaxies, the SRG/eROSITA sample of X-ray-selected clusters would provide clear detection of BAO even with photometric quality redshifts with significance comparable to or exceeding the current statistical power of spectroscopic sample of clusters from SDSS.

### 6.1.2. Cosmological parameters

In Sect. 5.2, we forecast the precision of determination of cosmological parameters from the angular clustering of AGNs and clusters in the all-sky eROSITA survey. We show that under realistic assumptions about the accuracy of the photo-z one can achieve ~1–20% marginalised errors on the cosmological parameters. The errors can be further reduced by a factor of ~2–3 if using prior information from other experiments.

In Table 2 we compare SRG/eROSITA forecasts with other cosmological probes. In addition to the cosmological parameters discussed earlier, to ease comparison with other LSS surveys, we calculate uncertainty on the parameter of clustering amplitude $S_8 = \sigma_8 (\Omega_m / 0.3)^{0.5}$. For comparison, in the two top lines of the table, we repeat the eROSITA combined AGN and clusters of galaxies forecast from the second half of Table 1. We show both forecasts made with and without the Planck priors (0.00054) and $n_s$ (0.0042; Planck Collaboration VI 2020). The accuracy of cosmological parameter determination from the Planck data is shown in the third line of the table. Notably, the combined eROSITA sample in combination with Planck priors leads to improvement in the precision of determination for $h$, $n_s$, and $\sigma_8$ compared to Planck-only data.

Table 2. Comparison of SRG/eROSITA forecasts with other cosmological probes.

| Experiment                  | $\Delta \Omega_m$ | $\Delta \Omega_b$ | $\Delta h$  | $\Delta n_s$ | $\Delta \sigma_8$ | $\Delta S_8$ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| SRG/eRosita (1)             | $\pm 0.016$       | $\pm 0.014$       | $\pm 0.172$ | $\pm 0.108$  | $\pm 0.005$       | $\pm 0.019$  |
| SRG/eRosita (1) $h$, $n_s$, Planck prior | $\pm 0.008$       | $\pm 0.004$       | $\pm 0.004$ | $\pm 0.003$  | $\pm 0.003$       | $\pm 0.012$  |
| Planck (CMB+lensing) (2)    | $\pm 0.0074$      | $\pm 0.0007$      | $\pm 0.0054$| $\pm 0.0042$ | $\pm 0.0061$      | $\pm 0.013$  |
| SDSS BOSS (3)               | $+0.034$          | $-0.010$          | $+0.088$    | $+0.064$     | $-0.045$          | $+0.072$     |
| DES $3 \times 2pt_4$        | $-0.033$          | $-0.009$          | $-0.069$   | $-0.045$     | $-0.049$          | $-0.017$     |
| DES 3$\times 2pt$ + BAO+RSD+SNIa+CMB (4) | $+0.004$          | $-0.0005$         | $+0.004$   | $+0.004$     | $+0.008$          | $+0.008$     |
| SRG/eRosita                 | $\pm 0.0031$      | $\pm 0.0492$      | $\pm 0.364$| $\pm 0.143$ | $\pm 0.003$       | $-0.003$     |
| Euclid (6)                  | $\pm 0.0038$      | $\pm 0.046$       | $\pm 0.020$| $\pm 0.0037$ | $\pm 0.0017$      | $-0.003$     |

Notes. Forecast Fisher marginalised errors for cosmological parameters in the flat ΛCDM model. SRG/eROSITA results are for the combined data of AGNs and clusters of galaxies, with and without Planck priors.

References: (1)This work; (2)Planck Collaboration VI (2020); (3)Loureiro et al. (2019); (4)Abbott et al. (2022a); (5)Pillepich et al. (2012); (6)Euclid Collaboration (2020).

The above comparison demonstrates that samples of AGNs and clusters of galaxies from the SRG/eROSITA all-sky survey combined with the currently available photo-z estimates provide a sufficiently powerful cosmological LSS probe. They compete in statistical power with those derived from the dedicated cosmological large-scale structure surveys in the optical band. The statistical power of the eROSITA X-ray-selected samples will increase further if and when the accuracy of redshift determination achieves spectroscopic quality. This appears to be feasible, in principle, for clusters of galaxies that require the acquisition of ~10^8 optical spectra. For AGNs, where ~10^6 new optical spectra need to be obtained, this may be a more difficult task for the more distant future.

The calculations for cluster mass function were performed in Pillepich et al. (2012). We used the results for the fixed M-L relation for clusters of galaxies. They took the accuracy of photo-z into account by setting the redshift bin width at 0.05(1+z) and the assumed sky coverage of $f_{sky} = 0.658$, and they also used the Fisher matrix formalism. Comparing the last row of Table 2 with the first two rows and with Table 1, one can conclude that the cluster mass function is an equally important cosmological tool. When both are used without any priors, the mass-function-based measurement would be ~5 times more accurate in measuring $\Omega_m$ than the LSS-based one (which is to be expected). However, all other cosmological parameters are determined more accurately, by a factor of ~1.5–3.5 in the LSS-based measurement (Clusters+AGN). Expressed in terms of the FoM, the cluster-mass function is expected to achieve FoM ~10.1, which should be compared with FoM ~9.8–10.4 for an LSS-based measurement (Table 1). The power of the cluster-mass-function method increases significantly when combined with the Planck priors.
Finally, it should be noted that the cluster-mass function is prone to systematic errors in mass determination, whereas the LSS-based measurement does not include systematic uncertainties of comparable amplitude (at least for AGNs) and therefore should be more robust. As discussed in Pillepich et al. (2012), the FoM of cosmological analysis degrades dramatically when the uncertainty in the M-L relation is included.

6.2. Dependence on the parameters of the all-sky survey

The SRG satellite performs a full scan of the sky in six months (Sunyaev et al. 2021), and it is planned to conduct eight all-sky surveys in the course of the mission. After the 4.4 already completed surveys, eROSITA achieved the record all-sky sensitivity of ∼15 times better than that reached in the previous all-sky survey performed by the ROSAT satellite in 1990 (Truemper 1982; Voges et al. 1999). It is therefore interesting to access the quality of cosmological measurements that can be achieved before the completion of the full survey.

To this end, we reran our calculations, changing the limiting flux of the survey to the values corresponding to two years of the survey (named eRASS4) and to three years (eRASS6). For point sources, these values are 1.45×10^{-14} (eRASS4) and 1.25×10^{-14} (eRASS6) erg s^{-1} cm^{-2}, see (Kolodzig et al. 2013b). Changing the limiting flux affects the redshift distribution of tracer objects and, more importantly, their number density within redshifts of interest. For eRASS4, the number of sources is 1051 773, 1346 620, and 1914 915, respectively (0.5 < z < 2.5). In Table 3, the forecast (with a wide prior in h and photo-z parameters σ_{0r} = 0.03 and f_{gal} = 0.1) is shown for these limiting fluxes. FoM values between eRASS4 and eRASS8 differ by 0.8, and the errors on the cosmological parameters increase by a factor of ∼1.5–2.

We also investigated the impact of the survey area on the forecast. We started by considering the case when only data from half of the extragalactic sky is used in calculations. We neglected the effects of the mode coupling in angular power spectra of half-masked data and simply change the sky area surveyed by a factor of two. In addition, we present a forecast for the survey with the area of 9000 deg^2, which approximately corresponds to the footprint of the SDSS survey where the model of photo z would be better calibrated (at least for the AGN sample).

The scaling of Fisher matrices with f_{sky} is trivial, F_{ij} ∝ f_{sky}, hence the marginalised errors scale as the inverse square root of the sky area. We illustrate in Table 3 the results for the fiducial eRASS AGN setup and show errors on cosmological parameters obtained for different sky areas used in the analysis. It can be seen that for the one half of the extragalactic sky f_{sky} = 0.658 the results differ from the all-extragalactic case by a factor of √2, and the FoM differs by 0.75, whereas for the 9k deg^2 case the errors are larger by approximately a factor of two, and the FoM value is smaller by 1.2.

7. Conclusions

We investigated the potential of X-ray-selected samples of AGNs and clusters of galaxies (to be) detected in the SRG/eROSITA all-sky survey to serve as a cosmological probe. We focused on the ability to detect BAOs and to constrain cosmological parameters under the assumption of the availability of photometric redshifts of realistically achievable quality. Our main results are given in Sects. 5.1 and 5.2.

Using the model of Hütsi et al. (2014) of photometric redshift scatter, we show that for both BAOs and the cosmological forecast, the redshift scatter parameter σ_{0r} has more influence on the quality of cosmological constraints than the fraction of catastrophic errors f_{fail} (Figs. 5 and 7).

We demonstrate that under reasonable assumptions regarding the quality of photo z (σ_{0r} = 0.03 and 0.005 for AGNs and clusters of galaxies, respectively), it is possible to detect BAOs with a significance level of ∼5–6σ and ∼4–5σ in the distribution of AGNs and clusters, respectively. This is comparable with the BAO detections in large-scale structure surveys for galaxies and clusters (Sect. 6.1.1).

A Fisher matrix analysis of angular power spectra under the same assumptions yields the following: (i) a joint analysis of AGNs and cluster data alleviates some of the degeneracies and reduces errors on the cosmological parameters by a factor of ∼1.5 (Fig. 6); (ii) solely X-ray data constrain cosmological parameters with the accuracy in the ∼5–25% range without priors and in the ∼0.5–10% range with Planck priors (Table 1); (iii) X-ray-selected samples of SRG/eROSITA AGNs, and clusters of galaxies used alone or in combination with other data provide a powerful cosmological probe that represents stiff competition for the dedicated cosmological surveys such as SDSS or DES (Sect. 6.1.2 and Table 2).

Comparing with the results of Pillepich et al. (2012), we conclude that cosmological measurements based on the mass function of clusters of galaxies are expected to provide an ∼5 times more accurate measurement of Ω_{m} than the LSS-based one. However, all other cosmological parameters are determined by a factor of ∼1.5–3.5 more accurately in the clustering-based measurement of AGNs and clusters of galaxies. Both methods give comparable values of the FoM (Tables 1 and 2).

We investigated the dependence of our forecasts on the survey parameters – its area and depth (Sect. 6.2, Table 3). We demonstrate that even with incomplete sky coverage or lim-

Table 3. SRG/eROSITA forecasts for different survey parameters.

| Survey | Ω_m | Ω_b | h | n_s | σ_{8} | FoM |
|--------|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| eRASS4 | 11.4% | 22.4% | 13.7% | 9.7% | 1.1% | 9.39 |
| eRASS6 | 9.6% | 20.1% | 13.5% | 8.6% | 1.0% | 9.72 |
| eRASS8 | 7.5% | 17.7% | 12.9% | 7.5% | 0.8% | 10.19 |
| eRASS8, half extragal. | 10.7% | 25.1% | 18.3% | 10.7% | 1.1% | 9.44 |
| eRASS8, 9000 deg^2 | 13.1% | 30.7% | 22.4% | 13.1% | 1.4% | 9.00 |

Notes. Forecast Fisher marginalised errors (in % of fiducial value) on AGN clustering depending on the survey parameters (survey depth and solid angle). eRASS4 and 8 correspond to two, three, and four years of the all-sky survey. Photo-z accuracy parameters are σ_{0r} = 0.03 and f_{gal} = 0.1 (see Sect. 6.2 for further details).

https://samreay.github.io/ChainConsumer/index.html
https://sourceforge.net/projects/healpix/
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Appendix A: Fisher formalism and MCMC method

There are conditions to be met for the Fisher analysis to yield realistic constraints on the parameters of the model. One such condition is that the posterior probability distribution is a multi-dimensional Gaussian distribution. This is clearly not the case for cosmological models since there are non-linear degeneracies in the parameters. However, one might hope that the resulting errors would be small so that the linear approximation holds and the Fisher matrix method indeed produces a sound forecast.

To test the method, we made a Fisher forecast for the case of AGN (eRASS8, $f_{\text{sky}} = 0.658$) with follow-up quality $\sigma_0 = 0.03$ and $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.1$ and priors $0.05$ on $h$ and $0.01$ on $n_s$. Then, we used COBAYA\textsuperscript{18} code for Bayesian analysis in Cosmology (Torrado & Lewis 2019, 2021) and their implementation of the MCMC Metropolis sampler (Lewis & Bridle 2002) to probe the posterior. We assumed a Gaussian likelihood with appropriate priors and made 'data' from our data vector, loaded a covariance matrix, and then ran chains until the convergence. In Fig. A.1, we visualise the probability contours of two methods and in Table A.1, we compare the marginalised 68% credible intervals. One can see that under our assumptions the Fisher forecast produces contours and errors consistent with the result of the full MCMC treatment of the problem. Based on the results of this and other similar tests we chose to use the Fisher matrix formalism, which is significantly computationally faster than MCMC, as our baseline tool.

\textsuperscript{18} https://cobaya.readthedocs.io

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{error_ellipses.png}
\caption{Error ellipses of cosmological parameter estimation from the angular power spectra for the case of AGNs ($\sigma_0 = 0.03$, $f_{\text{fail}} = 0.1$) with priors. Blue dashed ellipses are the result of the Fisher forecast, whilst the shaded regions show the result of MCMC sampling done in COBAYA. Darker areas correspond to the 68\% probability contour, and the lighter areas to 95\%. On the diagonal of the plot grid, the marginalised histograms of the corresponding parameter are shown. The Fisher formalism provides a forecast in good agreement with the MCMC results.}
\end{figure}
Table A.1. Table corresponding to Fig. A.1. The values of the mean of the parameters and corresponding marginalised errors are shown for the MCMC method and the Fisher forecast.

| Method | $\Omega_c$ | $\Omega_b$ | $h$ | $n_s$ | $\sigma_8$ |
|--------|------------|------------|-----|-------|------------|
| MC   | 0.250$^{+0.013}_{-0.014}$ | (49.9$^{+6.3}_{-6.1}$)$\times 10^{-3}$ | 0.696$^{+0.045}_{-0.038}$ | (959.4$^{+10.3}_{-10.0}$)$\times 10^{-3}$ | (800.1$^{+4.0}_{-4.5}$)$\times 10^{-3}$ |
| Fisher | 0.250$^{+0.013}_{-0.013}$ | (50.0$^{+6.1}_{-6.0}$)$\times 10^{-3}$ | 0.700$^{+0.041}_{-0.041}$ | (960.0$^{+9.8}_{-8.8}$)$\times 10^{-3}$ | (800.0$^{+4.0}_{-4.0}$)$\times 10^{-3}$ |