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The XMM-Newton survey of the Small Magellanic Cloud: The X-ray point-source catalogue*^{,**}

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ABSTRACT

Context. Local-Group galaxies provide access to samples of X-ray source populations of whole galaxies. The *XMM-Newton* survey of the Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC) completely covers the bar and eastern wing with a 5.6 deg² area in the (0.2−12.0) keV band. Aims. To characterise the X-ray sources in the SMC field, we created a catalogue of point sources and sources with moderate extent. Sources with high extent $(\geq 40'')$ have been presented in a companion paper.

Methods. We searched for point sources in the EPIC images using sliding-box and maximum-likelihood techniques and classified the sources using hardness ratios, X-ray variability, and their multi-wavelength properties.

Results. The catalogue comprises 3053 unique X-ray sources with a median position uncertainty of 1.3" down to a flux limit for point sources of ~10⁻¹⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ in the (0.2–4.5) keV band, corresponding to 5 × 10³³ erg s⁻¹ for sources in the SMC. We discuss statistical properties, like the spatial distribution, X-ray colour diagrams, luminosity functions, and time variability. We identified 49 SMC high-mass X-ray binaries (HMXB), four super-soft X-ray sources (SSS), 34 foreground stars, and 72 active galactic nuclei (AGN) behind the SMC. In addition, we found candidates for SMC HMXBs (45) and faint SSSs (8) as well as AGN (2092) and galaxy clusters (13).

Conclusions. We present the most up-to-date catalogue of the X-ray source population in the SMC field. In particular, the known population of X-ray binaries is greatly increased. We find that the bright-end slope of the luminosity function of Be/X-ray binaries significantly deviates from the expected universal high-mass X-ray binary luminosity function.

Key words. galaxies: individual: Small Magellanic Cloud – galaxies: stellar content – X-rays: general – X-rays: binaries – catalogs

1. Introduction

In contrast to the Milky Way, nearby galaxies are well suited to investigate the X-ray source populations of a galaxy as a whole. This is because most X-ray sources in the Galactic plane are obscured by large amounts of absorbing gas and dust and uncertainties in distances complicate the determination of luminosities.

The Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC) is a gas-rich dwarf irregular galaxy orbiting the Milky Way and is the second nearest star-forming galaxy after the Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC). Gravitational interactions with the LMC and the Galaxy are believed to have tidally triggered recent bursts of star formation

** Catalogue is only available at the CDS via anonymous ftp to cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr ([130.79.128.5](ftp://130.79.128.5)) or via <http://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/qcat?J/A+A/558/A3> (Zaritsky & Harris 2004). In the SMC this has resulted in a remarkably large population of high-mass X-ray binaries (HMXBs) that formed ∼40 Myr ago (Antoniou et al. 2010). The relatively close distance of ∼60 kpc (assumed throughout the paper, e.g. Hilditch et al. 2005; Kapakos et al. 2011) and the moderate Galactic foreground absorption of $N_H \approx 6 \times$ 10²⁰ cm−² (Dickey & Lockman 1990) enable us to study complete X-ray source populations in the SMC, like supernova remnants (SNRs), HMXBs or super-soft X-ray sources (SSSs) in a low metallicity ($Z \approx 0.2 Z_{\odot}$, Russell & Dopita 1992) environment. The *XMM-Newton* large-programme survey of the SMC (Haberl et al. 2012a) allows to continue the exploration of this neighbouring galaxy in the (0.2−12.0) keV band.

In this study we present the *XMM-Newton* SMC-survey point-source catalogue and describe the classification of X-ray sources, with the main purpose of discriminating between sources within the SMC and fore- or background sources. The detailed investigation of individual source classes, such as Be/X-ray binaries (BeXRBs) or SSSs, will be the subject of

⁻ Based on observations obtained with *XMM-Newton* an ESA science mission with instruments and contributions directly funded by ESA Member States and NASA

[Fig. 1.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=1) Colour image of the SMC from MCELS (e.g. Smith et al. 2000; Winkler et al. 2005) with $H\alpha/[\text{S II}]/[\text{O III}]$ in red, green, and blue. The overlaid circles indicate the distribution of *XMM-Newton* observations and have radii of 800". Labels correspond to Col. 1 of Table B.1.

subsequent studies. Extended sources, with angular diameters of ≥40" are not appropriate for the *XMM-Newton* point-source detection software. For example, substructures in SNRs can result in the detection of several spurious point sources. Highly extended sources in and behind the SMC have been identified on a mosaic image and are discussed in Haberl et al. (2012a). These are all SNR in the SMC or clusters of galaxies with large angular diameter. Clusters with smaller angular diameter cannot be easily discriminated from point sources and are therefore included in the present study.

The paper is organised as follows: in Sect. 2, we briefly review the *XMM-Newton* observations of the SMC. Section 3 describes the creation of the point-source catalogue, which is characterised in Sect. 4. After reporting the results of the crosscorrelation with other catalogues in Sect. 5, we present our source classification in Sect. 6. Finally, statistical properties of the dataset are discussed in Sect. 7. A summary is given in Sect. 8.

2. XMM-Newton observations of the SMC

The *XMM-Newton* observatory (Jansen et al. 2001) comprises three X-ray telescopes (Aschenbach 2002) each equipped with a European Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC) at their focal planes, one of pn type (Strüder et al. 2001) and two of MOS type (Turner et al. 2001). This enables observations in the (0.2−12.0) keV band with an angular resolution of $5''-6''$ (FWHM), which corresponds to a spatial resolution of ∼1.5 pc at the distance of the SMC.

In combination with archival observations, our largeprogramme SMC-survey provides complete coverage of the main body of the SMC (see Fig. 1). The survey was executed with EPIC in *full-frame* imaging mode, using the thin and medium filter for EPIC-pn and EPIC-MOS, respectively. Archival observations were partly performed in other modes.

To construct the *XMM-Newton* point-source catalogue for the SMC, we combined the data of the large-programme SMC survey (33 observations of 30 different fields, 1.1 Ms

[Fig. 2.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=2) Combined vignetting-corrected EPIC exposure map of the SMC main field and additional outer fields, as used for the catalogue. The survey observation provide a homogeneous coverage in addition to the deep field around 1E0102.2-7219. EPIC-MOS1 and -MOS2 exposure is weighted by a factor of 0.4 relative to EPIC-pn to account for the lower effective area.

total exposure), with all publicly available archival data up to April 2010 (62 observations, 1.6 Ms exposure). Some 28 archival observations (850 ks in total) are calibration observations of the SNR 1E0102.2-7219. These calibration observations are performed every 6 months and constitute the deepest exposure *XMM-Newton* field in the SMC (see Fig. 2). All the observations form a continuous field, which we will refer to the *main field* (5.58 deg²). In addition, we included two observations of a field to the north and three fields to the south of the SMC main field (98 ks exposure in total). These are somewhat further away from the SMC bar and wing but contain SSSs found by ROSAT. The total area covered by the catalogue is 6.32 deg^2 . A list of all exposures is given in Table B.1. The table columns are described in detail in Sect. 4.1.

3. Creation of the source catalogue

To create a source catalogue for the SMC, we used a similar procedure as for the *XMM-Newton* Serendipitous Source Catalogue (2XMM, Watson et al. 2009). We built on similar studies of *XMM-Newton* observations of the Local-Group galaxies M 31 (Pietsch et al. 2005; Stiele et al. 2011) and M 33

(Pietsch et al. 2004; Misanovic et al. 2006). Compared to the standard *XMM-Newton* source catalogue, these catalogues have an improved positional accuracy by using boresight corrections from identified sources, plus a comprehensive source screening. The creation of our source catalogue is described in the following subsections. Further details are given in Appendix A.

3.1. Maximum-likelihood source detection

We first reprocessed all observations homogeneously with SAS $10.0.0¹$ and created event lists using epchain or emchain, respectively. We used epreject to correct for artefacts in the EPIC-pn offset map. This avoids the detection of spurious apparently very-soft sources later on, but has the disadvantage of enhancing the effect of optical loading due to optically bright stars. Therefore we screened for bright stars as described in Sect. A.1.

To exclude time intervals of high background at the beginning or end of the satellite orbit, or during soft-proton flares, we applied a screening to remove time intervals with background rates in the (7.0−15.0) keV band, above 8 and 2.5 cts ks−¹ arcmin−² for EPIC-pn and EPIC-MOS, respectively. Since soft-proton flares affect all EPIC detectors, EPIC-pn and EPIC-MOS were allowed to veto each other, except for the observations 0503000301 and 0011450201, where the count rate in the high-energy band was significantly increased for EPIC-pn only. Therefore we used the EPIC-MOS data in these cases. For observations 0112780601, 0164560401, 0301170501 and 0135722201, the good time exposure was below 1 ks and we therefore rejected these observations. The resulting net exposures are given in Table B.1. This good time selection procedure removed about 16% of exposures from the survey data, 22% from the calibration observations, 34% from other archival data and 10% of the outer fields. We discarded EPIC-pn events between 7.2 keV and 9.2 keV, since these are affected by background fluorescent emission lines, inhomogeneously distributed over the detector area (Freyberg et al. 2004). In the lowest energy band of EPIC-pn, we used an additional screening of recurrent hot pixels and for a few columns with increased noise where we rejected events below individual energy-offsets between 220 and 300 eV.

We produced images and exposure maps corrected for vignetting with an image pixel binning of $2'' \times 2''$ in the five *XMM-Newton* standard energy bands: 1 → (0.2−0.5) keV, 2 → $(0.5-1.0)$ keV, 3 → $(1.0-2.0)$ keV, 4 → $(2.0-4.5)$ keV, and $5 \rightarrow (4.5-12.0)$ keV. We used single-pixel events for EPIC-pn in the (0.2−0.5) keV band, single- and double-pixel events for the other EPIC-pn bands, and single- to quadruple-pixel events for all EPIC-MOS bands. EPIC-MOS events were required to have FLAG = θ . For EPIC-pn we selected (FLAG & θx fa $\theta \theta$) = θ , which, as opposed to $FLAG = 0$, allows events in pixels, when next to bad pixels or bad columns. This increases the sky coverage, but can also cause additional spurious detections, which need to be taken into consideration (see Sect. A.1).

We accomplished source detection on the images with the SAS task edetect_chain in all energy bands and instruments (up to 3×5 images) simultaneously. We allowed two sources with overlapping point-spread function (PSF) to be fitted simultaneously. Possible source extension was investigated by using a β -model that approximates the brightness profile of galaxy clusters (Cavaliere & Fusco-Femiano 1976). This results in a source extent, with corresponding uncertainty, and a likelihood of source extent *ML*ext. A detailed description of the detection procedure can be found in Watson et al. (2009). As in the case of their catalogue, we accepted detections with $ML_{\text{det}} = -\ln(P) \ge$ 6, where *ML*det is the detection likelihood, normalised to two degrees of freedom, and *P* is the chance detection probability due to Poissonian background fluctuations.

3.2. Compilation of the point-source catalogue

Astrometric corrections of the positions of detections were applied, as described in Sect. A.2. We uniformly assume a systematic positional uncertainty of $\sigma_{sys} = 0.5''$ (Pietsch et al. 2005). The total positional uncertainty was estimated by $\sigma =$ $(\sigma_{sys}^2 + \sigma_{stat}^2)^{1/2}$, where σ_{stat} is the statistical uncertainty, deter-
mined by emidetect. After a screening of the catalogue (see mined by emldetect. After a screening of the catalogue (see Sect. A.1), all 5236 non-spurious detections of point, or moderately extended, sources were auto-correlated to identify detections originating from the same source in a field which was observed several times. For the auto-correlation, we accepted correlations with a maximal angular separation of $d_{\text{sep}} < 7$ ["] and $d_{\text{sep}} < 3(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)$, where $\sigma_{1,2}$ is the total positional uncertainty of the two detections (see Watson et al. 2009). This resulted in 3053 unique X-ray sources. Master source positions and source extent were calculated from the error-weighted average of the individual detection values. Detection likelihoods were combined and renormalised for two degrees of freedom.

To investigate the spectral behaviour of all sources, we used hardness ratios HR_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$), defined by

$$
HR_i = \frac{R_{i+1} - R_i}{R_{i+1} + R_i}
$$

where R_i is the count rate in energy band *i* as defined in Sect. 3.1. To increase statistics, we also calculated average *HR*s, combining all available instruments and observations. *HRi* is not given, if both rates R_i and R_{i+1} are null or if the 1σ uncertainty of ΔHR_i covers the complete *HR* interval from −1 to 1.

To convert an individual count rate *Ri* of each energy band *i* into an observation setup-independent, observed flux F_i , we calculated energy conversion factors (ECFs) $f_i = R_i/F_i$ as described in Sect. A.3. For the calculation, we assumed a universal spectrum for all sources, described by a power-law model with a photon index of $\Gamma = 1.7$ and a photo-electric foreground absorption by the Galaxy of $N_{\text{H,Gal}} = 6 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (average for SMC main field in H_I map of Dickey $&$ Lockman 1990). For sources with several detections, we give the minimum, maximum and error-weighted average values for the flux.

In addition to the fluxes for each detection, we calculated flux upper limits F_{UL} for each observation and source, if the source was observed but not detected in the individual observation. As for the initial source detection, we used emldetect, with the same parameters as above, to fit sources, but kept the source positions fixed (xidfixed = yes) at the master positions and accepted all detection likelihoods in order to get an upper limit for the flux.

Following Primini et al. (1993), Misanovic et al. (2006) and Stiele et al. (2008), for the characterisation of the observed variability of sources covered by various *XMM-Newton* observations, we calculated the variability *V* and its significance *S* from

$$
V = \frac{F_{\text{max}}}{F_{\text{min}}} \qquad S = \frac{F_{\text{max}} - F_{\text{min}}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{\text{max}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{min}}^2}}
$$

where F_{max} and σ_{max} are the source flux and 1σ uncertainty in the (0.2−4.5) keV band of the detection, for which $F - \sigma$ is

¹ Science Analysis Software (SAS), [http://xmm.esac.esa.int/](http://xmm.esac.esa.int/sas/) [sas/](http://xmm.esac.esa.int/sas/)

[Fig. 3.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=3) Histograms of the flux distribution of the individual detections of the *XMM-Newton* catalogue in various energy bands.

maximal among all detections with a significance of $F > 2\sigma$. In a similar way, F_{min} and σ_{min} were chosen from the detection, for which $F + \sigma$ is minimal among all detections, with $F > 2\sigma$. In cases of $F < 2\sigma$, we also considered $F_{\text{min}} = 3\sigma$ as a possible lower limit. Analogously, the minimum upper limit flux F_{UL} was selected from the observations, where the source was not detected. If the minimum F_{UL} was smaller than F_{min} defined above, we used it instead.

To investigate the flux variability within the individual observations, we used a Kolmogorow-Smirnow (KS) test to compare the photon arrival time distribution with the expected distribution from a constant source. This method is also applicable to sources with poor statistics, where background subtracted binned light curves cannot be obtained. A detailed description is given in Sect. A.4.

3.3. Estimation of sensitivity

To have an estimate of the completeness of the catalogue, we calculated sensitivity maps with esensmap for the individual energy bands and instruments, as well as for combinations of them, for each observation. Assuming Poisson statistics, detection limits for each position were calculated from the exposure and background maps. In the case of combined energy bands or instruments, the background images were added and the exposure maps were averaged, weighted by the expected count rate for the adopted universal spectrum of Sect. 3.2. The individual observations were combined, by selecting the observation with highest sensitivity at each position. We note that, depending on the individual source spectra, the detection limits deviate from this estimated value, but a detailed simulation of the detection limit goes beyond the scope of this study.

4. Catalogue description and characterisation

The catalogue contains a total of 3053 X-ray sources from a total of 5236 individual detections, either from the large-programme SMC survey between May 2009 and March 2010, or from reanalysed public archival observations between April 2000 and April 2010. For 927 sources, there were detections at multiple epochs, with some SMC fields observed up to 36 times.

4.1. Description

The parameters and instrumental setup of the individual observations are summarised in Table B.1. The columns give the following parameters:

 (1) = ID of the observation, where S,A,C, and O denote observations from the large-programme SMC survey, archival data, calibration observations and outer fields;

(2) = *XMM-Newton* Observation Id;

 (3) = name of the observation target;

 (4) = date of the beginning of the observation;

 $(5-6)$ = pointing direction;

 $(7-8)$ = boresight correction;

 (9) = exposure Id;

 (10) = start time of the exposure;

- (11) = instrument filter;
- (12) = instrument mode;

 (13) = total exposure time;

 (14) = exposure time after GTI screening, not considering the instrumental death time.

The source catalogue is available at the Strasbourg Astronomical Data Center (CDS) and contains the following information:

(1) = unique source id (not continuous or ordered by coordinates);

 $(2) =$ XMM name;

 (3) = number of detections of the source;

 (4) = number of observations of the source:

(5) = combined maximum detection likelihood normalised for two degrees of freedom;

 $(6–7) =$ J2000 coordinates in degrees;

(8) = position uncertainty for 1σ confidence (99.7% of all true sources positions are expected within a radius of 3.439σ ;

(9−22) = averaged fluxes and uncertainties in the five standard bands, in the combined band (0.2−12.0) keV and the XID band $(0.2-4.5)$ keV, all in erg cm⁻² s⁻¹;

(23−24) = maximum of all detected fluxes of this source in the XID band in erg cm^{-2} s⁻¹ and the corresponding uncertainties;

 $(25-26)$ = minimum or upper limit of all detected fluxes (as described in Sect. 3.2) in the XID band in erg cm⁻² s⁻¹;

(27−34) = hardness ratios between the standard bands and corresponding uncertainties;

(35−37) = averaged source extension, corresponding uncertainty and likelihood of extent;

 (38) = KS-test probability, *Cst*, that the source was constant in all observations (the minimum value of all detections is taken, corresponding to the highest observed variability);

(39−40) = source variability *V* between individual observations and corresponding significance *S* ;

 (41) = source classification;

 (42) = name of identified sources.

4.2. Completeness, confusion, and spurious detections

In Fig. 3, the flux distribution of all individual source detections in several energy bands is presented. In the (0.2−4.5) keV and (0.2−12.0) keV band, we see a decreasing number density for fluxes lower than 10^{-14} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ and \sim 2 × 10⁻¹⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. Thus we estimate the average detection threshold of our catalogue for sources in the SMC to be ~5 × 10³³ erg s⁻¹ and 10³⁴ erg s⁻¹, respectively. However, the inhomogeneous exposure time of the individual observations has to be taken into consideration.

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[Fig. 4.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=4) *Left*: *XMM-Newton* mosaic image of the deepest field in the SMC overplotted with the point-source catalogue. The image is background subtracted. Colours (red/green/blue) give logarithmically scaled intensities in the (0.2–1.0)/(1.0–2.0)/(2.0–4.5) keV bands. The brightest source is the oxygen-rich SNR 1E0102.2-7219. *Right*: comparison with a deep *Chandra* image of the same region. The false-colour image gives logarithmically scaled intensities in the (0.2−10.0) keV band. *XMM-Newton* sources with low detection likelihood (*ML*det < 8) are plotted in red, others in white.

[Fig. 5.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=5) *Left*: angular separation of X-ray and reference position of identified sources before (dashed blue line) and after (solid black line) boresight correction. *Middle*: distribution of *^r*/σ, compared with a Rayleigh distribution (blue line). *Right*: cumulative distribution of angular separation between the *XMM-Newton* SMC catalogue and the *Chandra* catalogues of McGowan et al. (2008) in green, Laycock et al. (2010) in red, Nazé et al. (2003) in blue, and Evans et al. (2010) in orange. The cumulative Rayleigh distribution is shown by the black line.

In the field containing the calibration source 1E0102.2-7219, we can compare our catalogue with a deep *XMM-Newton* mosaic image (Fig. 4, left). Sources from our catalogue are overplotted with circles of 3.4σ radii. Detections of 1E0102.2-7219 were screened, due to the high extent of this SNR. It is usually fitted with ∼5 sources. Other examples of identified sources (see Sect. 6) in the field are an active galactic nucleus (AGN) (\mathcal{N}_2 53), a HMXB (№ 227), a Wolf-Rayet star in the SMC (№ 1212), a Galactic star (№ 231), a SSS candidate (№ 235), and a cluster of galaxies (ClG, № 1174). Sources that are not clearly visible in the mosaic image can be due to them being weak and variable. Also, we stress that spurious detections in this field accumulate from 28 observations, because spurious detections are determined from the result of independent source detections performed on all 28 observations comprising the 1E0102.2-7219 calibration field. From the estimated number of spurious detections (see below) we expect ∼7 spurious sources in this image. A few additional sources appear in the deep mosaic image that are not listed in our catalogue, e.g. two sources left of № 251. The flux of these sources is below the detection limit of individual observations.

Since *Chandra* performs similar calibration observations of 1E0102.2-7219, we compare our results with a deep *Chandra* ACIS image (Fig. 4, right). It was created by merging 107 observations with the CIAO (version 4.3) task merge_all and adaptively smoothed. The exposure time is ∼920 ks decreasing with distance from 1E0102.2-7219, as the outer fields are not covered in all calibration observations. Our sources are overplotted with radii of 10" in white and red for detection likelihoods of $ML_{\text{det}} \geq 8$ and $ML_{\text{det}} < 8$, respectively. We see that source

[Fig. 6.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=6) Dependence of various source parameters of the catalogue (maximum likelihood ML_{det} , probability for time constancy *C st* and uncertainty of position *ePos*, flux in the (0.2−4.5) keV band and hardness ratios HR) on source flux, detected counts, and observation exposure. The *lower panels* show histograms of the distribution of these source parameters.

confusion is only relevant near the brightest sources (cf. the surrounding of 1E0102.2-7219) and in some rare cases of close-by sources (e.g. source № 1157 might consist of two weak sources seen by *Chandra*). Source № 1174 is extended in the *Chandra* image, further supporting our ClG classification. We see that most sources with $ML_{\text{det}} \geq 8$ are clearly visible in the *Chandra* image. № 235 is not found, due to the very soft spectrum and time variability. For sources with $ML_{\text{det}} < 8$, a corresponding source in the *Chandra* image is not always obvious.

To quantify spurious detections, we compared our catalogue with two deep *Chandra* SMC fields, where source lists are available (Laycock et al. 2010). All *XMM-Newton* sources, which were detected more than once or have a detection likelihood of $ML \geq 8$, are also listed in the *Chandra* catalogue. Only 3 of 12 *XMM-Newton* sources with *ML*det < 8 and one source with ML_{det} = 8.2 were not detected by *Chandra*. Some nondetections might be due to variability and the lower effective area of *Chandra* at the highest and lowest energies, but in general, as for the 2XMM catalogue, a fraction of detections with $ML_{det} < 8$ is expected to be spurious and should be regarded with care. In total, our catalogue contains 418 sources with $ML_{\text{det}} < 8$. From the former comparison, we roughly estimate around one hundred spurious detections among those, i.e. about one per observation.

4.3. Accuracy of source parameters

In Fig. 5 left, we show the angular separation of identified sources before and after the astrometric correction (Sect. A.2). The median of the total position uncertainty of all source positions is 1.3 ". In Fig. 5 middle, the distribution of angular separation *r* scaled by the total uncertainty $\sigma = (\sigma_{sys}^2 + \sigma_{stat}^2 + \sigma_{ref}^2)^{1/2}$
is shown, where σ_{rest} is the position uncertainty of the referis shown, where σ_{ref} is the position uncertainty of the refer-
ence source. The distribution is similar to a Rayleigh distribution ence source. The distribution is similar to a Rayleigh distribution (blue line), which justifies our estimation of the systematic error of $\sigma_{\rm sys} = 0.5$ ". Since the same sample was used to determine the boresight corrections, some deviations from the Rayleigh distribution are expected. For example, for all observations containing only one identified source, the angular separation will be reduced to 0 due to the boresight shift.

To further test our positional accuracies with a statistically independent sample, we compared the final catalogue with available *Chandra* catalogues. In Sect. 5.3, we show that the correlation with these catalogues is close to a one-to-one, with a negligible number of chance coincidences. The catalogues are listed in Table 1. Sources, that have been used for boresight correction were excluded from this comparison. In Fig. 5 right, the cumulative distribution yields a good agreement with the catalogues of McGowan et al. (2008), Laycock et al. (2010), and Evans et al. (2010) with KS-test statistics of 22%, 47%, and 77%, respectively. Only for sources of Nazé et al. (2003), an unexpected distribution of angular separations is found, with a KS-test statistic of 0.097%. In a further investigation, we found a systematic offset of the *Chandra* positions relative to the *XMM-Newton* positions by ~1.7". The offset is also evident when we compare the *Chandra* coordinates to the Tycho-2 position of HD 5980 and the Magellanic Clouds Photometric Survey catalogue (MCPS, Zaritsky et al. 2002) positions of SXP 152 and SXP 304. Therefore, we conclude that the coordinates of these *Chandra* sources are wrong by a systematic offset.

An overview of the distribution of source parameter uncertainties and probabilities for existence ML_{det} and constancy *Cst*, as well as their dependence on observational parameters, is shown in Fig. 6. The number of counts is the main quantity on which they depend. For 2378 and 2635 sources, the detection maximum likelihood is $ML_{\text{det}} > 10$ and >8 , respectively. The relative uncertainties of fluxes in the (0.2−4.5) keV band have a median of 22%. For the uncertainties of the hardness ratios 1 to 4, we obtain the medians of 0.30, 0.20, 0.20, and 0.31, respectively.

5. Cross-correlation with other catalogues

To classify and identify individual sources, we cross-correlated the boresight-corrected positions of our *XMM-Newton* SMC point-source catalogue with publicly available catalogues. The correlations with X-ray catalogues from previous studies allows us to study the evolution of X-ray sources with time. Other wavelength catalogues add ancillary information, enabling a multiwavelength analysis. The catalogues used are listed in Table 1 together with statistical properties of the correlations.

5.1. Selection of counterparts

The uncertainties of the *XMM-Newton* source coordinates are radially symmetric, as is the case for most of the other catalogues. For some catalogues with higher positional accuracy, elliptical

Table 1. Reference catalogues used for cross-correlation.

Catalogue	Type	Reference	$\sigma_{\rm ref}('')$	$N_{\rm cat}{}^a$	$N_{\rm ref}{}^b$	N_{XMM}^c	$C_{\rm ref}{}^d$	C_{XMM}^e
Einstein	X -ray	1	40 ^f	50	48	154	45.1 ± 1.6	131 ± 13
Einstein ^g	X-ray	$\mathbf{1}$	40 ^f	50	26	27	6.1 ± 2.1	6.5 ± 2.4
ROSAT PSPC	X -ray	\overline{c}	10^i	353	282	353	40.9 ± 4.5	55.5 ± 7.4
ROSAT PSPC h	X-ray	\overline{c}	10^i	353	236	264	15.3 ± 4.0	17.9 ± 4.6
ROSAT HRI	X-ray	3	2.6 ⁱ	109	76	78	2.4 ± 1.8	2.4 ± 1.8
ASCA	X-ray	4	18.6^{f}	83	69	111	33.1 ± 4.2	42.5 ± 6.1
Chandra Wing Survey	X -ray	5	1.02^{i}	393	242	240	2.3 ± 1.6	2.3 ± 1.5
Chandra deep fields	X-ray	6	0.66^{i}	394	85	85	1.8 ± 1.4	1.7 ± 1.3
Chandra NGC 346	X-ray	7	0.30^{i}	75	41	41	0.58 ± 0.64	0.63 ± 0.70
CSC (release 1.1)	X-ray	8	1.30^{i}	496	368	373	8.2 ± 2.4	9.4 ± 3.4
MCPS	opt.	9	0.3	2872224	10484	2604	10082 ± 75	2431 ± 21
Tycho-2	opt.	10	0.078^{i}	321	41	41	1.5 ± 1.1	1.5 ± 1.2
GSC (version 2.3.2)	opt.	11	0.43^{i}	855524	3476	2099	3045 ± 42	1752 ± 20
2MASS	NIR	12	0.15^{i}	159491	923	743	565 ± 27	427 ± 17
2MASX	NIR	12	4.4^{i}	223	26	26	8.5 ± 2.4	9.0 ± 2.7
DENIS MC	NIR	13	0.47^{i}	94 3 5 7	609	540	364 ± 19	303 ± 15
DENIS (3rd release)	NIR	14	0.3	438517	2058	1043	1477 ± 55	737 ± 18
IRSF Sirius	NIR	15	0.1	1855973	8426	2407	6500 ± 110	1914 ± 22
S^3MC	IR	16	$1, 3, 6^j$	400735	3403	1711	2193 ± 40	1108 ± 17
ATCA RCS	radio	17, 18	1.0	301	31	31	1.6 ± 1.2	1.6 ± 1.2
SUMSS (version 2.1)	radio	19, 20	3.0 ⁱ	246	46	47	5.3 ± 2.2	5.5 ± 2.3
MA93	$H\alpha$	21	2.0 ^f	1805	63	62	18.6 ± 3.0	18.2 ± 3.4
Murphy2000	$H\alpha$, [O III]	22	3.5, 4.4	286	12	12	7.4 ± 2.6	7.3 ± 2.7
2dF SMC	stellar classification	23	0.5^{f}	2874	31	31	8.8 ± 3.4	8.7 ± 3.4
6dF GS	galaxy redshifts	24	1.0 ^f	16	6	6	0.04 ± 0.20	0.04 ± 0.20
Kozlowski2009	AGN candidates	25	1.0 ^f	655	146	148	3.9 ± 2.2	3.8 ± 2.1
Bica2008	star cluster	26	26.6^{k}	409	41	45	29.0 ± 6.1	32.1 ± 6.6
Bonatto2010	star cluster	27	33.7^{k}	75	11	14	7.8 ± 2.9	9.4 ± 3.2

Notes. (*a*) Number of reference-catalogue sources in the *XMM-Newton* survey field. (*b*) Number of reference-catalogue sources matching at least one *XMM-Newton* source. (*c*) Number of *XMM-Newton* sources matching at least one reference-catalogue source. (*d*) Expected number of reference sources matched by chance. ^(e) Expected number of *XMM-Newton* sources matched by chance. ^(f) Value estimated. ^(g) Compared with a subset of XMM-Newton sources brighter than 5×10^{-14} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. ^(h) Compared with a subset of XMM-Newton sources brighter than 10^{-14} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. (i) Catalogue contains individual position uncertainties for each detected at 24 μ m or higher, 6" for sources detected at 70 μ m only, 1" otherwise. ^(k) This is the average of the semi-mayor axis extent.

References. (1) Wang & Wu (1992); (2) Haberl et al. (2000); (3) Sasaki et al. (2000); (4) Yokogawa et al. (2003); (5) McGowan et al. (2008); (6) Laycock et al. (2010); (7) Nazé et al. (2003); (8) Evans et al. (2010); (9) Zaritsky et al. (2002); (10) Høg et al. (2000); (11) Lasker et al. (2008); (12) Skrutskie et al. (2006); (13) Cioni et al. (2000); (14) DENIS Consortium (2005); (15) Kato et al. (2007); (16) Bolatto et al. (2007); (17) Filipović et al. (2002); (18) Payne et al. (2004); (19) Bock et al. (1999); (20) Mauch et al. (2003); (21) Meyssonnier & Azzopardi (1993); (22) Murphy & Bessell (2000); (23) Evans et al. (2004); (24) Jones et al. (2009); (25) Kozłowski & Kochanek (2009); (26) Table 3 of Bica et al. (2008); (27) Bonatto & Bica (2010).

errors are given (e.g. 2MASS). Since the *XMM-Newton* positional uncertainty is dominant, for simplicity we assumed radial symmetric uncertainties for all catalogues and used the semimajor axis as the radius if elliptical errors are given. When confidence levels for the positional uncertainty are given, we recalculated the positional uncertainty of the reference catalogue σ_{ref} for 1σ confidence. In some cases, the uncertainties had to be estimated. Following Watson et al. (2009), we consider all correlations having an angular separation of $d \leq 3.439 \times (\sigma_{sys}^2 + \sigma^2)$
 σ^2 + σ^2 $\frac{1}{2}$ as counterpart condidates. This corresponds to $\sigma_{\text{sta}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{ref}}^2$)^{1/2} as counterpart candidates. This corresponds to a 3σ (99.73%) completeness when we assume a Rayleigh disa 3σ (99.73%) completeness when we assume a Rayleigh distribution. The resulting number of matched *XMM-Newton* and tribution. The resulting number of matched *XMM-Newton* and reference sources, N_{XMM} and N_{ref} , is given in Table 1.

5.2. Estimation of chance correlations

Depending on the source density and positional uncertainty, the number of chance coincidences, C_{XMM} and C_{ref} , has to be considered. These were estimated by shifting our catalogue in right ascension and declination by multiples of the maximal possible correlation distance between two sources in both catalogues and using the same correlation criterion as above. We performed several of these correlation runs to investigate variations of chance coincidences.

In Fig. 7 we give examples of the dependence of the number of chance-correlations C_{XMM} on the shifting distance. In the case of the 2MASS catalogue, we see only a small systematic decrease with increasing offset that is negligible, compared to the standard deviations. If the coordinate shift becomes too large, a variable source-density can affect the number of correlations. This is the case for catalogues with inhomogeneously distributed sources, e.g. due to the SMC morphology or a limited SMC-specific field of the catalogue. When investigating the dependence of the number of correlations on shifting distance, we found no significant variations on a scale of a few shifts, with the exception of the correlation with the *Einstein* catalogue. The variations found for the *Einstein* catalogue are caused by

[Fig. 7.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=7) Examples for the chance-correlation dependence on offset. The data points are binned in units of maximal correlation distance (d_{max}) . For each bin, the average of chance-correlation C_{XMM} is given, normalised to the number of correlations N_{XMM} with unshifted coordinates. The error bars give the standard deviation for each bin.

relatively large positional uncertainties that require a large coordinate shift.

In order to estimate the variation of the number of chance coincidences, we used 24 shifted correlations of a 5×5 grid. All these samples result from coordinate shifts between d_{max} and [√] 8*d*max. The comparison with the *Einstein* catalogue was done with a 3×3 grid. The averaged numbers of chance coincidences for our catalogue C_{XMM} and the reference catalogue *C*ref are given in Table 1. Their uncertainties are estimated using their standard deviation. By comparing these values with the number of real correlations, we can estimate the contribution of chance coincidences. In general, we find that correlations with *Chandra* X-ray sources, radio sources and IR-selected AGN candidates are quite robust, whereas correlations with optical to infrared catalogues are dominated by the contribution of chance coincidences. The number of multiple coincidences can be estimated by comparing the number of matched sources in our catalogue N_{XMM} to the number of matched sources of the reference catalogues *N*ref. Correlations with radio and *Chandra* X-ray catalogues are close to a one-to-one correlation, whereas for dense optical catalogues four times more reference sources are found than X-ray sources. In the case of the MCPS, 74% of the matched *XMM-Newton* sources have more than one, and 53% have more than two counterpart candidates.

5.3. Correlation with other X-ray catalogues

We correlated our catalogue with X-ray catalogues from previous studies. From earlier epochs we used X-ray sources detected with the *Einstein* observatory between 1979 and 1980 (Wang & Wu 1992), ROSAT sources from Haberl et al. (2000) and Sasaki et al. (2000) detected between 1990 and 1998, and ASCA sources from observations between 1993 and 2000 (Yokogawa et al. 2003). Due to the aforementioned high positional uncertainties of the *Einstein* catalogue and the higher sensitivity of *XMM-Newton*, the correlation is dominated by chance coincidences, so most *Einstein* sources cannot be assigned uniquely to an *XMM-Newton* source. A more unambiguous correlation can be achieved if a set of the brightest *XMM-Newton* sources, with fluxes $> 5 \times 10^{-14}$ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, is used. Similarly, we find an improvement for the correlation with the ROSAT PSPC catalogue, if we impose a limit of sources with fluxes >10⁻¹⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. These results are also listed in Table 1. By comparing the catalogues and mosaic images, we found about 30 ROSAT sources, without a corresponding *XMM-Newton* source. Eight can be associated with variable sources (HMXB or SSS), while others are faint and might be spurious or affected by confusion of multiple sources or diffuse emission.

Based on *Chandra* observations since 1999, there are several catalogues from the same era as the *XMM-Newton* data but covering only some part of the SMC main field: fields in the SMC wing (McGowan et al. 2008), deep fields in the SMC bar (Laycock et al. 2010), and sources around NGC 346 (Nazé et al. 2003). Additional sources were taken from the *Chandra* Source Catalogue (CSC, Evans et al. 2010). In general for comparable exposures, these catalogues offer more precise positions but have fewer counts per detection compared to *XMM-Newton* detections. The correlation between the *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra* sources is close to a one-to-one correlation with less then 2% of chance coincidences.

5.4. Correlation with catalogues at other wavelength

To identify the optical counterparts we used the Magellanic Clouds Photometric Survey catalogue (MCPS, Zaritsky et al. 2002), providing stellar photometry in *U*, *B*, *V* and *I* down to magnitudes of ∼20−22 mag. Due to the high source density compared to the *XMM-Newton* resolution, the cross correlation is dominated by chance coincidences. To identify bright foreground stars, which are not listed in the MCPS, we used the Tycho-2 catalogue (Høg et al. 2000), which has a completeness of 99% for $V \sim 11.0$ mag and provides proper motions and B_T and V_T magnitudes. Since the MCPS does not cover all parts of the *XMM-Newton* field and some stars around *V* ∼ 12 mag are too faint for the Tycho-2 catalogue but too bright for the MCPS, we used the Guide Star Catalogue (GSC, Lasker et al. 2008) in these cases, which gives B_J and R_F magnitudes down to ∼21 mag. For 129 X-ray sources which do not have a counterpart in either of the MCPS and Tycho-2 catalogues, we found a possible counterpart in the GSC.

Near-infrared sources in J , H , and K_S were taken from the Two Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS, Skrutskie et al. 2006), the Deep Near Infrared Survey (DENIS, Cioni et al. 2000; DENIS Consortium 2005), and the InfraRed Survey Facility (IRSF) Sirius catalogue of Kato et al. (2007). Since these catalogues contain measurements from different epochs, they allow us to estimate the NIR variability of X-ray sources, which is especially interesting for HMXBs.

Infrared fluxes at 3.6, 4.5, 5.8, 8.0, 24, and 70 μ m are taken from the *Spitzer* Survey of the SMC (S³MC, Bolatto et al. 2007). Radio sources were taken from the ATCA radio-continuum study (Payne et al. 2004; Filipović et al. 2002), with ATCA radio point-source flux densities at 1.42, 2.37, 4.80, and 8.64 GHz, and from the Sydney University Molonglo Sky Survey at 843 MHz (SUMSS, Mauch et al. 2003). These correlations enable a classification of background sources.

Furthermore, we compared our sources with some individual catalogues providing emission-line sources (Meyssonnier & Azzopardi 1993; Murphy & Bessell 2000), stellar classification (Evans et al. 2004), galaxies confirmed by redshift measurements (Jones et al. 2009), and IR selected AGN candidates (Kozłowski & Kochanek 2009). For the correlation with the catalogues of star clusters (Bica et al. 2008; Bonatto & Bica 2010),

Table 2. Spectral classification of the X-ray source sample.

Spectrum	Classified	Selection criteria
Super soft	18	$(8HR_1 + 3HR_2 < -3$ or $(HR_1 < -0.75 \& R_1R_2$ not def.) && F_1 > 3 ΔF_1 && F_3 < 3 ΔF_3 && F_4 < 3 ΔF_4 && F_5 < 3 ΔF_5
Soft	298	$8HR_2 + 3HR_3 < -3$ or $(HR_2 < -0.75$ && HR_3 not def.)
Hard	2711	$(8HR_2 + 3HR_3 > -3$ or $(HR_2 > 0 \&\&HR_3$ not def.)) & & not super soft
Ultra hard	945	$8HR_3 + 3HR_4 > -1.4$ or $(HR_3 > 0.2\&\&HH_4$ not def.) & & not soft & & not super soft
Unclass.	8	

Table 3. Source classification criteria.

Notes. 16 additional sources were identified with other source classes. 581 sources are unclassified. (*a*) Not in this catalogue, see Table 3 of Haberl et al. (2012a).

we used the semi-major axis of the cluster extent as a 3σ uncertainty for the reference position.

6. Source identification and classification

Besides X-ray sources within the SMC, the observed field contains Galactic X-ray sources and background objects behind the SMC. To distinguish between these, we identified and classified individual sources. For identification, we searched the literature as described below and selected secure cases only.

To classify the unidentified sources, we developed an empirical approach following Pietsch et al. (2004). We derived classification criteria obtained from the parameters of individual detections of identified sources as seen with *XMM-Newton* in our processing. Individual source detections were used, instead of averaged source values, to increase the statistics and account for spectral variability, since ∼70% of our sources were only detected once. Classifications are marked by angle brackets (*class*). We note that classes give likely origins for the X-ray emission, but have to be regarded with care.

First, we distinguished between point sources and sources fitted with small, but significant, extent. Most of these sources were classified as clusters of galaxies (\langle ClG \rangle , see Sect. 6.6 and Table 6). Sources with extent too large to be modelled properly by emldetect as one single source (e.g. SNRs with substructure), were flagged beforehand and were not included in the final catalogue. An overview of these sources can be found in Haberl et al. (2012a).

The remaining point sources were classified using X-ray hardness ratios and multi-wavelength properties. Using the selection criteria given in Table 2, we divided our sample into super-soft, soft, hard, and ultra-hard sources. We selected supersoft X-ray sources first, which are classified only if detector noise is an unlikely alternative explanation. Soft X-ray sources are classified as foreground stars if they have an appropriately bright optical counterpart that is unlikely to be within the SMC on the basis of its brightness and colours. Also, depending on the counterpart, hard X-ray sources were classified as either AGN or HMXB. An overview of our classification criteria and results is presented in Table 3. The hardness ratios of identified sources are compared in Fig. 8. By comparing our classification result with the source classification of Haberl et al. (2000) and McGowan et al. (2008), we found a good agreement. Details for each source class are given in the following.

6.1. X-rays from non-degenerate stars

Shocks in the wind of OB stars, coronal activity from F to M stars, accretion processes in T Tau stars and interaction of close-binary stars can cause X-ray emission from nondegenerate stars (for a review see Güdel & Nazé 2009). Because such stars are weak X-ray sources, most of them in the SMC are below the sensitivity limit of our survey. Galactic stars are foreground sources, expected to be homogeneously distributed in the *XMM-Newton* SMC field and due to their high galactic latitude $(b \sim -44.5^{\circ})$, the sample is expected to be dominated by latetype stars. Compared to distant Local-Group galaxies, the identification of Galactic stars as X-ray sources in front of the SMC is challenging, because luminous SMC stars and faint Galactic stars can have a similar brightness, so are hard to differentiate.

6.1.1. Identification of Galactic stars

To identify the brightest $(V < 11$ mag) foreground stars, we used our correlation with the Tycho-2 catalogue, where we expect one or two chance coincidences. 40 individual X-ray sources with a Tycho-2 counterpart resulting in 84 *XMM-Newton* detections with determined HR_2 and HR_3 are plotted in Fig. 8a. For three further detections of these sources and one additional X-ray source HR_3 is undefined and $HR_2 < -0.9$.

There are 33 Tycho-2 sources with significant ($>3\sigma$) proper motions that are all >8 mas yr^{-1} . These are obviously foreground stars. Two more counterparts are stars with a late-type mainsequence classification (Wright et al. 2003). X-ray detections of these 35 confirmed foreground stars are plotted in black in Fig. 8a. Twenty-five detections of three Tycho-2 sources, correlating with SMC-stars (see Sect. 6.1.3), are plotted in green. The remaining three matches (№ 140, 2008, and 2158) were classified as candidates for Galactic stars (fg-star) , plotted in magenta). Source № 929 shows harder X-ray colours than the

[Fig. 8.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=8) Hardness-ratio diagrams for *XMM-Newton* detections of various source classes. Red lines show HR-selection cuts as used for our source classification. **a)** Detections with optical counterparts in the Tycho-2 catalogue. Galactic stars are shown in black and magenta, SMC-stars in green. Details are given in Sect. 6.1. **b)** Detections of known pulsars (black) and identified HMXBs (green). See Sect. 6.3. **c)** Detections of spectroscopically confirmed AGN (black), radio background sources (magenta) and galaxies (green). See Sect. 6.4. **d)** Detections of sources, screened due to their extent. SNRs are shown in black, other sources (likely galaxy clusters) in green. See Sect. 6.6. **e)** Comparison of detected SSSs in the SMC and LMC (black) with identified (blue) and classified (cyan) stars in the *HR*1-*HR*2-plane. See Sect. 6.2. **f)** Comparison of AGN and radio sources from c) (black) with pulsars and HMXBs from b) (green) in the *HR*3-*HR*4-plane. See Sect. 6.3.

remaining foreground stars and is therefore not classified. The optical and X-ray emission might correlate by chance, but also a foreground cataclysmic variable (CV) is possible.

6.1.2. Classification of Galactic stars

To classify an X-ray source as a foreground star candidate (fg-star), we require four criteria:

(i) Using the Tycho-2 set of 35 confirmed foreground stars, we defined a cut (red line in Fig. 8a) for the X-ray colour selection of fg-star candidates (fg-star), which separates them from hard X-ray sources, such as AGN and HMXBs (see below and cf. Fig. 8b and c). For faint soft sources with a low HR_2 value, the count rate R_4 will not be well determined, leading to an unconstrained *HR*3. Our selection allows a less precise determined HR_3 for sources with lower HR_2 . From similar source samples, a correlation between X-ray plasma temperature and spectral type is not found (Wright et al. 2010). Therefore, we do not expect a bias in our selection method, although the selection criteria on X-ray hardness ratios are defined using the Tycho-2 catalogue that contains only the brightest stars in the *B* and *V* bands. We find 258 unidentified soft X-ray sources in our catalogue.

(ii) For stars with fainter optical magnitudes, it becomes more complicated to discriminate between stars in the Galaxy and the SMC. In addition to soft X-ray colours, the source must have a sufficiently bright optical counterpart. Following Maccacaro et al. (1988), we calculated

$$
\log\left(\frac{f_{\rm X}}{f_0}\right) = \log\left(F_{(0.2-4.5) \text{ keV}}\right) + \frac{V}{2.5} + 5.37
$$

for the MCPS correlations and

$$
\log\left(f_{\rm X}/f_0\right) = \log\left(F_{(0.2-4.5) \text{ keV}}\right) + \frac{R+B}{2 \times 2.5} + 5.37
$$

for GSC correlations, where the X-ray flux is in units of erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. We classified sources as foreground-star candidates ($\langle fg\text{-star}\rangle$) only, if they have an optical counterpart with $\log(f_X/f_0)$ < -1. Of the 258 sources, 197 have a sufficiently bright optical counterpart in the MCPS. The dependence of X-ray flux on optical *V* magnitude is plotted in Fig. 9. For foreground stars we expect to find an optical counterpart with the given sensitivity of the MCPS.

(iii) Since optical counterparts are still outnumbered by chance correlations with stars of the SMC, we used a colour selection to exclude most of them. In Fig. 10, we show the colour–magnitude and colour–colour diagram of all optical

[Fig. 9.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=9) Optical *V*-band magnitude vs. the detected X-ray flux in the (0.2−4.5) keV band for various source classes. For foreground stars, the brightest correlated source is plotted. For HMXB we selected the counterparts as in Sect. 6.3.2. For all other sources, the nearest optical counterpart is plotted.

counterpart candidates of X-ray sources with measured *U*, *V*, and *B* magnitudes in the MCPS (black points). To avoid main-sequence and horizontal-branch stars of the SMC, we only selected optical counterparts to the right of the blue dashed line, which have $V < 17$ mag and $B - V > 0.3$ mag or $B - V > 1.2$ mag without any magnitude selection. This reduces the foreground star sample to 107 sources.

For source № 548, we found a Tycho-2 colour of $B - V =$ [−]0.38. However, this source is identified with the Galactic star Dachs SMC 3-2 and other catalogues give $B - V = 0.70$ (e.g. Massey 2002). The Tycho-2 colour is regarded as an outlier and corrected with the magnitudes of Massey (2002) for Fig. 10.

(iv) To avoid possibly erroneous correlations, we did not classify X-ray sources with a positional uncertainty of more than 3 (4 sources).

This allowed us to classify 103 candidates for foreground stars. To estimate the number of chance coincidences, we shifted the coordinates of one catalogue. For 26 ± 5 of the 249 unidentified soft X-ray sources with $ePos < 3''$, we find at least one counterpart candidate compatible with the selection criteria for stars by chance. When we take into account that some true correlations cause chance correlation when their coordinates are shifted, we estimate that [∼](16.1±3.6)% of the classified foreground stars are chance coincidences. In addition, using the GSC in cases where the X-ray source did not have a counterpart in the Tycho-2 or MCPS catalogues, we classified 17 X-ray sources as foreground stars.

However, the X-ray emission of stars can become harder during flares (e.g. Güdel et al. 2004), so that our hardness-ratio selection criteria can be violated. Similarly, as the X-ray flux increases the f_X/f_0 criteria might also be violated. This causes some overlap with AGN in hardness ratios and f_X/f_0 . To investigate this possibility, we searched for sources with short-term variability $Cst < 0.5\%$ and $f_X/f_0 > 0$. To exclude HMXBs and the bulk of AGNs we also required $HR_2 < 0.2$ and $HR_3 < -0.3$. We selected five additional sources (№ 146, 1998, 2041, 2740, and 3059) as candidates (fg-star).

For 61 stars, which have a 2MASS counterpart in the MCPS catalogue, we derived a spectral classification from the *J* − *K* colour (see Bonfini et al. 2009). The resulting distribution of the spectral types is shown in Fig. 11 and follows the expected distribution, peaking around early M stars.

6.1.3. Stars within the SMC

In some extreme cases, X-ray emission from early-type stars within the SMC can be observed with *XMM-Newton*, e.g. from stellar-wind interaction of a Wolf-Rayet star in a binary system with an OB star. Guerrero $& Chu$ (2008) found X-ray emission from SMC-WR5, SMC-WR6, and SMC-WR7 (Massey et al. 2003), which are the sources № 150, 237, and 1212 in our catalogue (cyan stars in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10, left). № 1212 is visible in Fig. 4.

For completeness, we note that source \mathbb{N}° 145 is close to SMC-WR3, but due to a separation of $3.29''$ (2.73 σ), this correlation is doubtful. Also, sources № 294, 1031, and 2963 formally correlate with the SMC stars AzV 369 (4.6", 3.1 σ), AzV 222 $(4.1'', 2.8\sigma)$, and 2dFS 3274 $(1.8'', 1.0\sigma)$.

In the centre of the star cluster NGC 346 we see an unresolved convolution of X-ray bright stars (see Nazé et al. 2002, 2004), which is source № 535 in our catalogue. Source № 2706 has similar X-ray colours and correlates with the star cluster Lindsay 66. Also № 294 can be associated with the star cluster Bruck 125. From our correlation with the star cluster catalogue of Bica et al. (2008), we expect around 13 ± 7 X-ray sources to be correlated with star clusters. About half of these sources can be explained by HMXBs, which might have formed in these clusters (Coe 2005).

6.2. Super-soft X-ray sources

SSSs are a phenomenological class of X-ray sources, defined by a very soft thermal X-ray spectrum and with no emission above 1 keV. Luminous SSSs are associated with CVs, planetary nebulae, symbiotic stars, and post-outburst optical novae. The general scenario is steady thermonuclear burning on the surface of an accreting white dwarf (Nomoto et al. 2007). Less luminous SSSs can be observed in some CVs, cooling neutron stars and PG 1159 stars. For a review, see Kahabka (2006).

6.2.1. Identification of super-soft X-ray sources

Two bright SSSs in the SMC, the planetary nebula SMP SMC 22 (№ 686) and the symbiotic nova SMC3 (№ 616), were observed during our survey (Mereghetti et al. 2010; Sturm et al. 2011b). In addition, Mereghetti et al. (2010) confirmed SMP SMC 25 as a faint SSS in the survey data (\mathcal{N} ⁰ 1858), that was discovered with ROSAT by Kahabka et al. (1999). Other SSSs known from ROSAT (RX J0059.1-7505, RX J0059.4-7118, RX J0050.5-7455), were previously observed with *XMM-Newton* (Kahabka & Haberl 2006). The first source is the symbiotic star LIN 358 (\mathcal{N} ⁰ 1263), the second was suggested to be a close binary or isolated neutron star (№ 324), for the third source Kahabka & Haberl (2006) give an upper limit. In our survey analysis, this latter source is detected (№ 1384), but is very probably associated with the Galactic star TYC 9141-7087-1 and affected by optical loading. Other ROSAT sources from Kahabka & Pietsch (1996) are the transient SSS RX J0058.6-7146 and the candidate SSS RX J0103.8-7254. For neither source can we find a detection in our catalogue. The position of the variable SSS 1E0035.4-7230 is not covered by any *XMM-Newton* observation

Table 4. Faint SSS candidates in the SMC.

No.	RA^a	Dec^a	$ePos^b$	HR_1	HR ₂	F^c	ML_{\det}^d	ML_{pn}^d	ML_{m1}^d	$ML_{\rm m2}^{\rm d}$	Comment
235	01 01 47.58	$-71,55,50.7$	0.85	-0.3 ± 0.1	-0.8 ± 0.1	6.0 ± 0.6	146.5	54.7	33.2	4.2	WD/Be?
1198	01 01 24.19	-720037.9	1.82	-0.4 ± 0.2	-1.0 ± 0.5	2.5 ± 0.7	16.2	9.4	6.2	2.8	
1531	00 39 45.58	$-72,47,01,4$	1.58	-1.0 ± 0.1	0.8 ± 0.4	1.8 ± 0.4	28.6	10.7	7.8	12.2	star?
1549	00 38 58.74	-72.55 10.4	1.68	-1.0 ± 0.2	$\qquad \qquad -$	3.6 ± 0.9	18.3	13.6	4.5	2.9	star?
2132	00 57 45.29	-71 45 59.7	0.93	-0.4 ± 0.1	-0.5 ± 0.2	4.1 ± 0.5	121.1	85.4	20.4	18.8	
2178	00 55 37.71	$-72.0314.0$	0.74	-0.9 ± 0.0	0.2 ± 0.4	6.7 ± 0.5	391.5	282.6	54.5	58.7	
2218	00 55 08.45	-715826.7	1.38	-0.2 ± 0.2	-0.9 ± 0.4	1.3 ± 0.3	14.0	13.0	3.2	0.9	WD/Be?, star?
3235	00 55 03.65	$-73.38.04.1$	0.64	-0.9 ± 0.0	0.2 ± 0.2	13.6 ± 0.8	787.0	649.0	48.1	96.2	

Notes. (a) Sexagesimal coordinates in J2000. (b) Positional uncertainty in arcsec. (c) Detected flux in the (0.2–1.0) keV band in 10^{-15} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹.
(d) Source detection likelihood for combined and the individua

[Fig. 10.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=10) Colour−magnitude (*left*) and colour–colour (*right*) diagram. Black points show all possible optical counterparts of X-ray sources with measured *U*, *V*, and *B* magnitudes in the MCPS found inside the 3σ positional uncertainty. Counterparts for Galactic foreground star candidates were selected redwards of the blue dashed line only. The red boxes mark the selection region of counterparts for BeXRBs in both plots. Identified foreground stars (filled orange stars), classified foreground stars (open orange stars), identified BeXRBs (blue squares) are marked. WR stars in the SMC and SMC X-1 are shown by cyan stars and the magenta square. Red dots in the right diagram mark all sources (black dots) within the red box of the left diagram. The green line gives the colours for the unreddened main sequence according to Fitzgerald (1970).

yet. Source № 235 was found as a new faint SSS candidate (see Sect. $6.2.2$) and is proposed to be a binary system consisting of a white dwarf and a Be star (Sturm et al. 2012). The position of the super-soft transient MAXI J0158-744 (Li et al. 2012) was not covered with *XMM-Newton*. New luminous SSS transients were not found during the *XMM-Newton* SMC survey.

6.2.2. Search for faint SSS candidates

The *XMM-Newton* survey enables a search for faint SSSs. Analogously to our division into soft and hard X-ray sources in Sect. 6.1, we separate super-soft from soft X-ray sources in the *HR*1-*HR*2-plane, as shown in Fig. 8e. Detections of identified SSSs from Sect. 6.2.1, are plotted in black. To increase the reference sample, we also used detections of identified SSSs in the LMC (see Kahabka et al. 2008, and references therein), from an identical data processing method as used for the SMC data. In general, HR_1 is negative for SSSs and depends strongly on photo-electric absorption. HR_2 is expected to be close to -1 , but due to low count rates in the energy bands 2 and 3, $HR₂$ is only poorly determined for weak SSSs. We also demand no significant (<3 σ) emission in the energy bands 3–5, but significant emission in the energy band 1, to designate the spectrum as super soft. The two LMC SSSs outside our selection area are CAL 87 and RX J0507.1-6743, which are both affected by high absorption (Kahabka et al. 2008) causing a HR_1 of 0.087 ± 0.003 and 0.22 ± 0.08 , respectively. Identified Tycho-2 stars (Sect. 6.1), which are not affected by optical loading, are plotted in blue. In cyan, we show all sources, which fulfil our selection criteria for candidate foreground stars, have a detection likelihood of ML_{det} > 10 and are not affected by optical loading. Three of these sources fulfil the selection criteria of both SSS and stars. Here a X-ray spectral analysis is necessary to discriminate between them.

Unfortunately, optical loading and detector noise cause spurious detections with characteristics similar to SSS. EPIC-MOS is less sensitive below 500 eV by a factor of 6 compared to EPIC-pn. Therefore, we demanded a conservative total detection likelihood of $ML_{\text{det}} > 10$ and rejected candidates affected by optical loading in EPIC-pn. Further, we required that the source has at least a slight detection in another instrument or observation. The selection procedure yielded a total of 8 candidate faint SSSs, which are listed in Table 4. Source № 2218 has a optical counterpart candidate with a separation of $4.6''(3.2\sigma)$ and typical colours for B stars in the SMC (see Sect. 6.3.2).

6.3. High-mass X-ray binaries

The SMC hosts a remarkably large population of HMXBs (e.g. Coe et al. 2010), which is probably caused by a high recent

[Fig. 11.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=11) Distribution of spectral classes of X-ray emitting stars.

star-formation rate (Antoniou et al. 2010) and low metallicity (Dray 2006). With the exception of SMC X-1 (super-giant system, source \mathcal{N}_2 1) and SXP 8.02 (anomalous X-ray pulsar, source № 48, Tiengo et al. 2008), all known X-ray pulsars in the SMC are presumably Be/X-ray binaries. Here, matter is ejected in the equatorial plane of a fast rotating Be star, resulting in the build up of a decretion disc. These systems can have a persistent or transient X-ray behaviour. Outbursts occur when the neutron star in the system accretes matter during periastron passage (Type I) or due to decretion-disc instabilities (Type II). For a recent review, see Reig (2011).

From the X-ray sources correlating with bright SMC stars (Sect. $6.1.3$) only № 1031 might also be explainable by a supergiant HMXB from optical and X-ray colours. A search for supergiant systems resulted in no further candidate.

6.3.1. Identification of Be/X-ray binaries

We identified 49 HMXBs listed in literature (e.g. Haberl & Sasaki 2000; Galache et al. 2008). During our survey, two new X-ray pulsars were discovered (Coe et al. 2011; Sturm et al. 2011a), as well as two further bright BeXRB transients (sources № 2732 and 3115, Coe et al. 2012). Although detected with *XMM-Newton*, the catalogue does not contain the source SXP 11.5, since it was not observed in the nominal field of view and therefore was not accessible to our processing (Townsend et al. 2011). The same holds for SXP 1062, which was recently discovered in the outer wing of the SMC (Hénault-Brunet et al. 2012; Haberl et al. 2012b) after our data processing. All other pulsars with known position are within our main field. A detailed analysis of the observed BeXRB population will be discussed in a forthcoming study. Our catalogue contains 200 detections of 42 X-ray pulsars. X-ray pulsations confirm the neutron star nature of the accreting object. Hardness ratios for all X-ray pulsars are shown in Fig. 8b in black. All other 17 detections of 8 HMXBs with unknown pulse period are plotted in green.

6.3.2. Search for Be/X-ray binary candidates

Sources are classified as HMXB candidates ((HMXB)), if they fulfil the following criteria:

(i) Because of the power-law-like X-ray spectrum, with a typical photon index of $\Gamma \sim 1$ (Haberl & Pietsch 2004), HMXBs can easily be discriminated from soft X-ray sources, by using the same dividing line as in Fig. 8a. In general, HMXB show a harder X-ray spectrum than AGN ($\Gamma \sim 1.7$), thus providing a lower limit for HR_3 at −0.3 (see Fig. 8b). There is

a notable exception, SXP 8.02, where all detections of this pulsar lie outside the selection region of Fig 8b. This can be explained on the basis of the anomalous X-ray pulsar (AXP) nature of this object (Tiengo et al. 2008). The colours of SXP 22.1 (№ 935) have large uncertainties. In total 1536 *XMM-Newton* sources that are not identified as HMXB or AGN (see Sect. 6.4) are hard (see Table 2) X-ray sources with $HR_3 > -0.3$.

- (ii) To avoid chance correlations with sources having a high positional uncertainty, we only used X-ray sources with a positional uncertainty $\langle 2.5''$. This excludes 33 X-ray sources.
- (iii) In addition to the selection of X-ray colours, we searched for an early-type star as counterpart. We used the loci of the confirmed BeXRBs (shown with blue squares) on the colour– magnitude and colour–colour diagram of Fig. 10, to define the selection area for candidate BeXRB systems. The loci are indicated with red boxes and correspond to 13.5 mag $\lt V$ \lt 17 mag and colours of [−]0.5 mag < *^B* [−] *^V* < 0.5 mag and -1.5 mag $\lt U - B \lt -0.2$ mag. The MCPS catalogue comprises 16 605 entries, which fulfil these criteria and are in the *XMM-Newton* field.
- (iv) To further improve the discrimination between AGN and HMXB, we use a third dividing line in the *HR*3-*HR*4-plane (Fig. 8f), where the difference in average power-law photon index has most effect. We note, that the separation between BeXRB and AGN population is not clear-cut. Highly obscured AGN are shifted towards larger *HR*3, and there are also some detections of HMXB on the left side of the cut. We find 34 sources fulfilling the criteria i−iv above. By using subsamples of *XMM-Newton* and MCPS sources fulfilling the criteria i−iv and shifting the coordinates of one catalogue as described in Sect. 5.2, we estimate $~\sim 16.6 \pm 3.4$ chance coincidences.
- (v) Two weak candidates (\mathcal{N} ⁰ 154 and 1408) correlate with emission-line objects, confirming the possible HMXB nature of these sources.

Five sources that fulfil the criteria (i)–(iii), but violate criteria iv and v, are considered as weaker candidates, and are marked with "?". In addition, we found one source, № 66, in the young star cluster NGC 330, but due to the high stellar density, no optical counterpart could be identified in the MCPS at this position. However, the source correlates with the Be star NGC 330:KWBBe 224 (Keller et al. 1999). The hardness ratios and short-term variability further support the HMXB nature of this source. Source № 1605 is in the star cluster NGC 376 and was rejected because of a $B - V = 0.71$ in the MCPS. However, this colour might be influenced by confusion with other stars in the cluster. We find $B - V = -0.15$ in the OGLE catalogue (Udalski et al. 1998) and a classification of B2e by Martayan et al. (2010). Source № 823 was rejected because of a $B - V$ colour of 2.4 mag in the MCPS, although this source was classified as B1-5 III e by Evans et al. (2004) and has *B* − *V* = −0.13 in the OGLE catalogue. Source № 3003 is outside the MCPS field. Its X-ray properties and optical colours from Massey (2002) are also consistent with a HMXB (Sturm et al. 2013b). Evans et al. (2004) classified the optical counterpart as B1-3 III. Therefore, we also add these four sources to the catalogue of HMXB candidates.

All 45 candidate HMXBs ((HMXB)) are listed in Table 5. This list includes also the weak candidates as they are useful to set an upper limit to the BeXRB luminosity function.

Table 5. HMXB candidates in the SMC.

Notes. ^(a) Colour questionable. ^(b) Source is outside MCPS area. Values are from Massey (2002). ^(c) Only a formal correlation. [MA93] 522 is associated with the nearby BeXRB SXP 15.3 (see L10).

References. (H00) Haberl & Sasaki (2000); (SPH03) Sasaki et al. (2003); (E04) Evans et al. (2004); (E06) Evans et al. (2006); (W04) Wyrzykowski et al. (2004); (SG05) Shtykovskiy & Gilfanov (2005); (K09) Kozłowski & Kochanek (2009); (A09) Antoniou et al. (2009); (N03) Nazé et al. (2003); (L10) Laycock et al. (2010); (N11) Novara et al. (2011); (W12) Wada et al. (2012); (S13a) Sturm et al. (2013a); (S13b) Sturm et al. (2013b).

6.4. Active galactic nuclei

the SMC offer reference positions for proper motion studies, and might be used to probe the absorption by the interstellar medium of the SMC.

Galaxies with an AGN are bright X-ray sources at cosmological distances, and constitute the majority (71% classified) of point sources in our catalogue. X-rays are caused by accretion onto a super-massive black hole. In the *XMM-Newton* energy band, AGN show power-law-like spectra with a typical photon index of 1.7. Different spectral properties of AGN strongly depend on the inclination of the AGN (Urry & Padovani 1995). In addition to studying the AGN itself, identified AGN in the background of

6.4.1. Identification of AGN

Forty seven spectroscopically confirmed quasars could be identified in our catalogue, mainly from Véron-Cetty & Véron (2006) and Kozłowski et al. (2011). All *XMM-Newton* detections of these sources are plotted in Fig. 8c in black. Point sources,

emitting X-rays and radio, are also dominated by AGN. We identified 25 X-ray sources, which correlate with radio background sources of Payne et al. (2004). Also in this case the number of expected chance correlations is low. These sources are appended with an additional r to their classification. In Fig. 8c, detections of these sources are plotted in magenta.

6.4.2. Classification of AGN

AGN can be separated well from stars in the HR_2-HR_3 -plane (Fig. 8c). We selected AGN candidates (AGN) among hard X-ray sources, where we use the same cut as for stars to discriminate between soft and hard X-ray sources (red line in Fig. 8c). We could classify 16 AGN, which have a SUMSS radio counterpart (noted with r), but no correlation with a radio source of the SMC or foreground in Payne et al. (2004) . For 110 sources, we found a hard X-ray source correlating with an infra-red selected AGN candidate of Kozłowski & Kochanek (2009, noted with i), in addition to the already identified AGN. Using the *Chandra* Wing survey, the optical counterparts can be determined more precisely, and we found 126 hard X-ray sources, correlating with *Chandra* sources and classified as AGN by McGowan et al. $(2008, \text{noted with } x)$.

In general, one expects for the optical and X-ray flux of an AGN a ratio of $-1 < log(f_X/f_0) < 1$ (Maccacaro et al. 1988). Another 1861 X-ray sources were classified with AGN, if the source has an optical counterpart candidate with $\log(f_{\rm X}/f_{\rm O})$ > −1 in the MCPS (noted with o). We stress, that this last classification is very general, because of the high source density in the MCPS. Chance correlations with stars in the SMC can result in fulfiling the same $log(f_X/f_O)$ criterion. Also, for weak X-ray sources, the optical luminosity of the AGN can be below the completeness limit of the MCPS. Since the bulk of hard X-ray sources are expected to be of the AGN class, this classification will be correct in most cases (cf. Sect. 7.2), but some sources may be of a different nature. Therefore we mark AGN classifications, based only on the optical criterion with a "?".

6.5. Galaxies

Galaxies behind the SMC can be seen in X-rays, comprising an unresolved combination of different X-ray sources, e.g. X-ray binaries, SNRs, diffuse emission, and a contribution of a central AGN. In the 6dFGS (Jones et al. 2009), we found 6 entries, correlating with X-ray sources (№ 365, 376, 645, 1726, 2905, and 3208). These sources were classified as galaxies, with the exception of № 365 (6dFGS gJ005356.2-703804), which was identified as AGN in the previous section. Source № 1711 was fitted as an extended source in X-rays and also has a counterpart in the 2MASS extended source catalogue (2MASX, Skrutskie et al. 2006), similar to the nearby source № 1726. There is an indication of diffuse emission in the mosaic image connecting both sources. Also sources № 708 and № 709 are inside a cluster of galaxies (ClG) and have 2MASX counterparts. Therefore, we also classified these sources as galaxies. Sources classified as galaxies are plotted in green in Fig. 8c. We did not find any redshift-confirmed galaxies in the SMC bar.

6.6. Clusters of galaxies

Clusters of Galaxies and galaxy groups contribute to the background sources. For a review see Rosati et al. (2002). The hot intra-cluster medium with temperatures of $kT \sim (2-10) \text{ keV}$ causes thermal X-ray emission. Just like SNRs in the SMC, ClGs have an extent detectable with *XMM-Newton*. Since the temperature of SNRs is significantly lower, these two source classes can be separated by hardness ratios. The hardness ratios of all detections, which were flagged as significantly extended $(QFLAG = E)$ in the X-ray images, are plotted in Fig. 8d. Only SNRs, super bubbles, and ClGs are expected as X-ray sources with such a large extent in the SMC field. Diffuse emission of the hot interstellar medium in the SMC is modelled by spline maps and treated as background. Identified SNRs and new candidates of Haberl et al. (2012a) are plotted in black. They have similar soft X-ray colours as stars. All other sources are plotted in green and show X-ray colours typical of ClGs in the mosaic image (cf. Haberl et al. 2012a). The red line marks our selection cut for the ClG classification. The only SNRs within this cut are IKT 2, IKT 4 and IKT 25. In addition to X-ray colours, we require a significant extent of the X-ray source of $Ext > \Delta Ext$ and a maximum likelihood for the extent of *ML*ext > 10 for a CIG classification. Using these criteria, we classified 13 of 19 sources with significant extent as ClG candidates $(\langle CIG \rangle)$, in addition to the 11 ClGs not included in the point-source catalogue (because of their very large extent). All sources with significant extent are listed in Table 6.

6.7. Other source classes

The search for additional source classes is more extensive and will be discussed in other studies. This includes fainter lowmass X-ray binaries or cataclysmic variables in the SMC that are at the detection limit of the *XMM-Newton* survey. Extended sources, such as SNRs and ClGs, which are not included in our catalogue, are presented in Haberl et al. (2012a). A search for highly absorbed X-ray binaries in the survey data was presented by Novara et al. (2011). Candidates for highly absorbed white dwarf/Be systems are listed in Sturm et al. (2012). We assigned a specific source class to some individual sources: source № 48 as an anomalous X-ray pulsar (AXP, Tiengo et al. 2008), source № 54 as a pulsar wind nebula or micro quasar (PWN?/MQ?, Owen et al. 2011), source № 324 as an isolated neutron star candidate (INS?, Kahabka & Haberl 2006), source № 551 as PWN candidate (PWN?, Filipović et al. 2008), and source \mathcal{N}_2 535 as a star cluster (Cl^{*}, Sect. 6.1.3).

7. General characteristics of the dataset

With the *XMM-Newton* catalogue of the SMC, the central field is covered completely down to a luminosity of 5×10^{33} erg s⁻¹ in the (0.2−4.5) keV band, deeper than with previous imaging X-ray telescopes. The comparison with previous ROSAT and *Chandra* surveys, as well as with the *XMM-Newton* Serendipitous Source Catalogue, shows that ∼1200 sources have been detected for the first time during the large-programme SMC survey. Some basic properties of the dataset will be discussed in the following sections.

7.1. Spatial distribution

The spatial distribution of individual source classes in the main field is shown in Fig. 12. In the upper left, sources identified as Galactic stars (red) or classified as candidates for Galactic stars (blue) are marked. The distribution is homogeneous over the entire field. SSSs as well as SSS candidates (upper right) are found in the outer regions of the bar, especially in the northern part.

[Fig. 12.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=12) Spatial distribution of identified and classified X-ray sources in the SMC main field. The underlying mosaic image shows logarithmically scaled intensities in the (0.2−4.5) keV band. North is up, east is left.

We did not find any in the SMC wing. As expected, HMXBs and their candidates follow the SMC bar (middle left). Since the bar harbours most of the blue main-sequence stars, we find here also

most of the chance correlations with background AGN that contribute to the HMXB candidates. AGN show a homogeneous distribution over the observed field (middle right). Infrared selected

[Fig. 13.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=13) *Left*: sky coverage as function of flux is shown for the (0.2−12.0) keV and (2.0−12.0) keV band by the solid and dashed line, respectively. *Right*: cumulative luminosity function for sources and their classification in our catalogue (solid lines) and according models (dashed lines) as described in Sect. 7.2.

AGN candidates are restricted to the smaller *Spitzer* S³MC field, AGN candidates from *Chandra* are only in the *Chandra* Wing fields. Clusters of galaxies that could be identified or classified, are shown in the lower left. Unclassified sources are marked in the lower right. Here we see some enhancement at the eastern rim, where the MCPS does not cover the field, and around SMC X-1, which may cause some spurious detections due to its brightness. Also around 1E0102.2-7219, an enhancement of unclassified sources is observed, as expected, due to the high number of observations, which lead to a higher number of spurious detections.

7.2. Luminosity functions

We constructed the luminosity function of the various classes of objects detected in the SMC fields. For sources with high longterm time variability, taking the average or maximal flux would not represent the source luminosity distribution of the galaxy at one time. For each source, we selected the flux from the observation with the highest sensitivity at this position, i.e. with minimal detection-limit flux. If the source was not detected in this observation, the source was not taken into account for the luminosity function. None of the selected detections is from an observation that was triggered by an outburst of the corresponding source. Therefore, this method selects one of several measured fluxes of transient sources in a quasi-random manner and thus represents the flux distribution as measured in one single observation of the whole galaxy. Also, this method minimises the effect of spurious detections at higher fluxes, since the source has to be detected in the most sensitive observation.

Depending on exposure time and observation background, the sensitivity varies between individual observations. Diffuse emission and vignetting also cause a spatial dependence of the sensitivity within each observation. The calculation of sensitivity maps is described in Sect. 3.3. To estimate the sky coverage, we merged all sensitivity maps, by selecting the observation with highest sensitivity at each position. The corresponding completeness function is presented in Fig. 13, left.

Especially for background sources, the completeness for the full energy band is clearly overestimated, since the ECFs adopted from the universal spectrum (Sect. 3.2) only account for galactic absorption, but not for absorption in the SMC, reaching line-of-sight column densities of up to 1.4×10^{22} cm⁻². To minimise this effect, we use the (2.0−12.0) keV band in the following. The flux reduction by Galactic absorption (∼6 × 10²⁰ cm⁻²) is 0.5% for the assumed universal spectrum, so we use the observed fluxes here. The completeness-corrected cumulative distribution of all sources is shown by the solid black line in Fig. 13, right. The correction mainly affects the number of sources with fluxes below \sim 3 × 10⁻¹⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, as can be seen by the uncorrected distribution (dotted line).

For HMXBs, we see a break around 10^{-12} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, similar to that inferred by Shtykovskiy & Gilfanov (2005). As suggested by these authors, this can be caused by the propeller effect, which can inhibit accretion at low accretion rates. Using C statistics, we parameterise the flux distribution of the total (i.e. not normalised by area) HMXB populations by fitting a broken power law to the unbinned source counts:

$$
n(F) = \frac{dN}{dF} = \begin{cases} N_1 F^{-\alpha_1} & \text{if } F \le F_b \\ N_2 F^{-\alpha_2} & \text{if } F > F_b \end{cases}
$$

with the faint and bright end slopes α_1 and α_2 , the normalisation $N_2 = N_1 F_b^{\alpha_2-\alpha_1}$, and the break flux F_b and flux F in 10^{-12} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. For HMXBs, we obtain $\alpha_1 = 0.64_{-0.17}^{+0.13}$
 $\alpha_2 = 3.30_{-0.17}^{+2.17}$ $E_r = 2.00_{-0.17}^{+0.74} \times 10_{-1.2}^{+1.2}$ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ and $\alpha_2 = 3.30^{+2.17}_{-1.38}$, $F_b = 2.09^{+0.74}_{-1.21} \times 10^{-12}$ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, and
N_c = 11.0^{+7.5} Including the HMXB capabidates as well, we $N_1 = 11.9^{+7.5}_{-3.5}$. Including the HMXB candidates as well, we obtain $\alpha_1 = 0.87_{-0.10}^{+0.08}$, $\alpha_2 = 3.52_{-1.64}^{+1.91}$, $F_b = 2.25_{-1.49}^{+0.62} \times 10^{-12}$ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ and $N_c = 13.9_{-1.64}^{+7.6}$ 10^{-12} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, and $N_1 = 13.9^{+7.6}_{-3.4}$.

Uncertainties are for 90% configuration

Uncertainties are for 90% confidence. These models are shown by the blue dashed lines in Fig. 13 and give an upper and lower limit for the luminosity function. The brightend slope is significantly steeper than found for HMXB populations of nearby galaxies above a luminosity of 10^{38} erg s^{−1} $(\alpha = 1.61 \pm 0.12,$ Grimm et al. 2003). The extrapolation of this model to lower luminosities is shown by a dashed green line in Fig. 13, where we used a star-formation rate of SFR_{SMC} = 0.15 M_{\odot} yr⁻¹ (as in Grimm et al. 2003) and a correction factor of 1.24 (as expected for a photon index of $\Gamma = 1$) to obtain fluxes in the $(2.0-12.0)$ keV band. Mineo et al. (2012) suggest that this model is valid down to $L_X \sim 10^{35}$ erg s⁻¹. The deviation is probably caused by different source types. Our sample is dominated by BeXRBs, which show outbursts above luminosities of 10^{36} erg s⁻¹, whereas for more distant galaxies, due to higher flux limits only the brightest HMXBs can be detected. These contain a higher fraction of supergiant HMXBs which are, compared to BeXRBs, rather persistent and can contain a black hole instead of a neutron star.

Indeed, the presence of one supergiant system in the SMC, SMC X-1, is consistent with the Grimm model. In this context, the turn over might be interpreted as the transition from transient to persistent BeXRBs. We do not discuss the luminosity function below \sim 2 × 10⁻¹⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, as we have only 3 sources here and run into incompleteness issues.

For background sources, we compare the SMC field with the *XMM-Newton* COSMOS field (Hasinger et al. 2007). The COSMOS-field source counts and broken power-law model of Cappelluti et al. (2009) is shown in red in Fig. 13. As these values are given in the (2.0−10.0) keV band, we applied a factor of 1.14 to estimate fluxes for the (2.0−12.0) keV band, as expected for a power law with photon index of $\Gamma = 1.7$. For such a power law, we expect a flux decrease in the (2.0−12.0) keV band by 1.2% and 2.4% when crossing a column density of 5 and 10×10^{21} cm⁻² of ISM of the SMC, respectively. Analogously, we would expect a flux decrease by 35% and 51% (0.5−2.0) keV, for an AGN with negligible intrinsic absorption. We find a general agreement with the distribution of unidentified and AGN sources (magenta line in Fig. 13). Small deviations can be explained by the slightly different data processing. The contribution of Galactic stars (orange line in Fig. 13) is negligible above 2 keV.

7.3. Spectral properties

To characterise the spectral properties of our source sample, we calculated hardness ratios as described in Sect. 3.2. Hardnessratio diagrams of sources with well measured hardness ratios $(\Delta HR_i < 0.25)$ are presented in Fig. 14. Of course, the classified sources follow our selection criteria (cf. Fig. 8). In total we find 436 hard unclassified sources which are presumably mainly background AGN, where we expect a faint optical counterpart. If we assume a completeness of the MCPS catalogue of $V \approx 21$ mag, we can miss optical counterparts of AGN with $\log(f_x/f_0) = 1$ if they are fainter than $F_x = 10^{-12.7}$ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹. Nearly all of the unclassified hard sources have such a low X-ray luminosity. A few hard sources might be caused by foreground flare stars, where the X-ray photon statistics is insufficient to detect variability. Also, the comparison with the COSMOS field (Fig. 12) seems to be consistent with most of these sources being background. Sources in the upper left of the *HR*³ − *HR*4-plane

[Fig. 14.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=14) Hardness-ratio diagrams of all catalogue sources with respective uncertainties of $\Delta HR_i < 0.25$, illustrating the spectral distribution of the catalogue sources.

are good candidates for highly absorbed AGN (Brightman & Nandra 2012), where the absorption can exceed $N_{\rm H} > 10^{24}$ cm⁻², which is significantly higher than expected from the interstellar medium of the SMC along the line of sight. From 130 unclassified soft sources, 67 have a detection likelihood of $ML_{\text{det}} < 10$. Here we expect most to be spurious detections. Other soft X-ray sources might originate from distant K or G stars that cannot be distinguished well from bright SMC stars and violate criterion iii of our foreground star selection.

7.4. Source extent

Table 6 lists all sources, fitted with a significant extent, where we demand Ext > ΔExt and a likelihood for the extent of $ML_{\text{ext}} > 10$. Most of them are consistent with a ClG classification. Three other sources are inside or behind an extended X-ray source. In the case of SMC X-1 (\mathcal{N} -1), the source extent is caused by pile-up. For № 604, the hardness ratios point to a star. In the optical, several bright counterpart candidates are found. The extent might be due to a superposition of two or more stars. № 638 was detected as an extended source only in one of three detections. Therefore the extent might be spurious. We note that 13 additional sources were fitted with extent at lower likelihood or with high uncertainty.

7.5. Source variability

7.5.1. Intra-observational variability

To estimate the variability of sources during the individual observations, we used KS-tests as described in Sect. A.4. This allows us to estimate the source variability for sources with poor statistics. Some examples of cumulative count distributions, as used for the KS-test, are presented in Fig. 15. Here, we give the example of a bright star (№ 2041, upper left) showing a flare and a variable HMXB (\mathbb{N} 335 = RX J0054.9-7245, upper right). A foreground star candidate (№ 255, lower left), detected with only 29 counts, also exhibits a flare. As an example for a constant source, the SNR 1E0102.2-7219 is given in the lower right. In the case of high variability, the photon time distribution of the source (black line) shows a difference to the reference distribution for a constant source (red line), that is unlikely to be caused by statistical fluctuations.

The distribution of probabilities *Cst* for constancy during individual observations is presented in Fig. 16 for various source classes. Here we see a uniform distribution, with the exception of stars and HMXBs. These are expected to show variability, whereas extended sources can be assumed to have a constant X-ray luminosity on short time scales. All 89 sources with $Cst < 0.5\%$ are listed in Table 7. Assuming a uniform distribution we would expect ∼15 catalogue sources to be found with $Cst < 0.5\%$ by chance. Whereas 15.4% of all HMXB detections and 9.3% of all foreground-star detections have *Cst* < ⁰.5%, this occurs only for 0.8% of the remaining detections.

7.5.2. Inter-observational variability

For sources which were observed several times, the long-term variability was calculated as described in Sect. 3.2. The dependence of variability on the maximal detected flux is plotted in Fig. 17. For sources with $F_{\text{max}} < 10^{-14} \text{ erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$, the variability is uncertain. The calculation results in a significant $(S \geq 3)$ variability measurement for most sources with F_{max} above 10^{-13} erg cm⁻² s⁻¹.

[Fig. 15.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=15) Cumulative photon arrival time distributions as used for the KS tests. Source counts are plotted in black, the background light curve is shown in green. The distribution, expected from a constant source is shown in blue and the reference distribution in red. In case of a constant source and background light curve, all lines are blended. The source-count distribution of variable sources is significantly different from the expected distribution. *Upper left*: the bright foreground star № 2041. *Lower left*: the foreground star candidate № 255. *Upper right*: the HMXB RX J0054.9-7245 (№ 335). *Lower right*: the SNR 1E0102.2-7219.

[Fig. 16.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=16) Histogram of probability that the source flux was constant within the observation. The bin size is 0.005. Note the number of stars and HMXB showing short-term variability with *C st* < ⁰.5% caused by the flaring behaviour of these source classes.

Sources with high variability of $V \ge 10$ are listed in Table 8. As expected, most of these sources are HMXBs. For two HMXB candidates, the high variability supports their classification. In addition, we find the symbiotic nova SMC3, which has a known 1600 day variability, one Galactic star, possibly observed during a flare in one observation, and seven more sources, unclassified or with AGN classification. These sources show clear variability,

Table 6. Sources with significant extent.

SRC	RA	Dec	Ext('')	$ML_{\rm ext}$	HR ₂	HR_3	Class	Comment
1	01 17 05.2	-732636	6.34 ± 0.02	69614.5	0.27 ± 0.00	0.16 ± 0.00	HMXB	pile-up
307	01 03 28.6	-714548	8.74 ± 0.95	11.5507	0.34 ± 0.08	-0.23 ± 0.08	\langle ClG \rangle	
362	00 53 08.7	$-72,34,45$	10.90 ± 1.63	12.8268	-0.32 ± 0.12	-0.35 ± 0.20		in $B0050 - 72.8$
566	01 01 25.0	-724634	14.20 ± 1.84	13.1577	0.31 ± 0.15	-0.02 ± 0.14	\langle ClG \rangle	
571	01 04 08.1	-724354	20.24 ± 1.46	24.7586	0.65 ± 0.09	-0.33 ± 0.09	$\langle CIG \rangle$	
604	00 52 53.4	-730009	3.74 ± 0.61	12.7043	-0.28 ± 0.06	-0.68 ± 0.09	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	multiple stars?
638	01 09 53.3	-722147	31.89 ± 2.87	20.3845	-0.26 ± 0.13	-0.38 ± 0.22		extent spurious?
799	00 59 04.1	$-72.56.45$	8.51 ± 1.05	29.0269	0.28 ± 0.07	-0.50 ± 0.08	\langle ClG \rangle	
916	01 16 15.3	-732657	11.94 ± 1.11	45.9855	0.45 ± 0.08	-0.55 ± 0.09	\langle ClG \rangle	
937	01 13 53.2	-732708	8.51 ± 1.00	11.7371	0.31 ± 0.09	-0.44 ± 0.10	\langle ClG \rangle	
1174	01 03 45.9	-715436	14.79 ± 2.04	12.6019	0.69 ± 0.17	-0.17 ± 0.11	\langle ClG \rangle	
1305	01 01 26.3	-750506	9.12 ± 1.40	18.3986	0.08 ± 0.12	-0.48 ± 0.15	$\langle CIG \rangle$	
1436	00 53 03.5	-70 47 34	12.48 ± 2.12	10.241	0.24 ± 0.17	-0.27 ± 0.17	$\langle CIG \rangle$	
1505	00 44 19.4	-733624	13.15 ± 1.90	12.332	0.05 ± 0.14	-0.30 ± 0.17	\langle ClG \rangle	
1562	00 58 22.2	-721759	19.94 ± 2.38	15.5316	0.08 ± 0.15	-0.50 ± 0.17	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	in IKT 16
1711	01 09 00.6	-722903	8.56 ± 1.03	23.5625	-0.25 ± 0.08	-0.74 ± 0.12	galaxy	in ClG?
2695	01 02 18.3	-723703	12.57 ± 1.55	21.9732	0.38 ± 0.11	-0.31 ± 0.11	$\langle CIG \rangle$	
2889	01 13 26.3	-724219	13.25 ± 1.64	26.7555	0.09 ± 0.13	-0.40 ± 0.17	\langle ClG \rangle	
3030	01 23 32.1	-731710	8.35 ± 1.35	17.5979	0.46 ± 0.11	-0.65 ± 0.14	\langle ClG \rangle	

Notes. This table does not contain sources with extent too large for the source detection. See Haberl et al. (2012a).

[Fig. 17.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=17) Variability of SMC sources as observed with *XMM-Newton* in the (0.2−4.5) keV band. Sources with a significance of variability greater (less) than 3 are plotted in red (black).

which is rather high, but possible, for AGN (e.g. \mathcal{N} 229 is identified as AGN). Another explanation of such high variabilities might be given by an X-ray binary nature, although we note that these sources do not have bright optical counterparts, needed for a HMXB classification. In the case of low-mass X-ray binaries (LMXBs), we would not expect to find an optical counterpart. Only very few LMXBs are expected in the SMC, as this population scales with the mass of the galaxy, and so far none are known, although the X-ray variable sources might be considered as candidates.

The spatial distribution of the highly variable sources is presented in Fig. 18. Obviously it is more likely to find variable sources in fields which were observed more frequently. Specifically, long-term variability cannot be measured in fields observed only once. Since most variable sources are HMXBs, the distribution follows the bar of the SMC.

[Fig. 18.](http://dexter.edpsciences.org/applet.php?DOI=10.1051/0004-6361/201219935&pdf_id=18) The number of observations per field is compared with the distribution of significant long-term variable sources (\bar{V} > 10 and *S* > 3), shown by white dots. Labels give the source numbers. Variable sources are only found in the SMC bar in regions that have been observed several times.

8. Summary

For the first time, the central field of the SMC is fully covered to a limiting flux of \sim 2 × 10⁻¹⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ in the (0.2−12.0) keV band with an imaging X-ray telescope. 91 *XMM-Newton* pointings between April 2000 and April 2010 cover the bar and eastern wing of the SMC with an area of 5.6 deg^2 and a total net exposure of ∼2 Ms. We created a catalogue of 3053 unique X-ray point sources based on 5236 detections in the SMC field, including archival observations, providing spectral and temporal characteristics for all sources. The typical positional uncertainty

Table 7. X-ray sources in the SMC field with significant short-term variability.

SRC	RA	Dec	Class	$\log (Cst)^a$	N^b	SRC	RA	Dec	Class	$\log (Cst)^a$	N^b
1	01 17 05.2	-732636	HMXB	<-40	316817	851	01 10 57.6	-730514	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-13.06	290
$\mathfrak{2}$	01 18 38.0	-732527	$fg - star$	-39.36	13873	852	01 16 33.5	-725949	AGN	-5.51	1008
7	01 19 39.4	-732733	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-3.63	171	884	01 00 13.9	-730725	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-17.02	2022
9	01 16 27.9	-731447	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-3.08	153	885	01 00 37.2	-730036	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	<-40	1067
37	01 14 55.6	-731533	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-2.58	280	888	01 00 39.2	-731655		-9.01	211
51	01 01 20.7	-72 11 19	HMXB	-3.73	1081	905	00 55 02.1	-732115	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-15.30	290
61	00 55 35.4	-722907	HMXB	-4.67	505	923	01 17 50.1	-733009		-4.18	55
63	00 54 56.3	-722647	HMXB	-3.37	463	934	01 16 35.0	-733743	$\langle AGN \rangle$ o?	-2.97	10
66	00 56 18.9	-722803	\langle HMXB \rangle	-2.70	214	937	01 13 53.2	-732708	\langle ClG \rangle	-2.38	119
92	00 54 46.3	-722523	HMXB	-8.26	1160	948	01 16 21.7	-732932		-13.49	33
112	00 47 23.3	-731228	HMXB	-31.48	7094	1032	00 59 14.3	-722012	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-4.87	21
113	00 51 52.2	-731034	HMXB	-6.92	10189	1041	00 53 07.8	-743906	fg -star	<-40	241087
137	00 52 15.1	-731916	\langle HMXB \rangle	-4.97	387	1194	01 05 46.8	-720234	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-8.93	63
146	00 48 59.2	-725817	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-13.08	214	1199	01 02 23.2	-72 11 35	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-2.59	11
149	00 57 49.4	-720236	HMXB	<-40	6024	1399	00 55 18.3	-723852	HMXB	-5.35	1551
165	00 59 40.8	-721905		-2.47	$22\,$	1462	00 52 03.0	-720505	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.40	219
183	00 58 58.7	-720112	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-3.36	20	1481	00 42 07.8	-734503	\langle HMXB \rangle	-6.64	315
184	01 01 52.3	-722333	HMXB	-6.16	999	1483	00 41 55.3	-733416	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.35	131
187	01 03 14.0	-720914	HMXB	-2.63	1322	1500	00 42 21.2	-732758	$\langle fg-star \rangle$	-8.80	29
197	01 05 09.9	-72 11 47	$\langle AGN \rangle$ ox	-3.20	189	1525	00 44 18.5	-733700	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.50	28
216	01 02 06.7	-714116	HMXB	-7.85	1948	1560	00 43 02.2	-725234	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-4.48	428
227 228	01 03 37.6 01 05 55.4	-720133 -720349	HMXB HMXB	-9.15 -3.57	7426 235	1617 1700	01 02 08.0 00 50 05.6	-724732 -733201	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.51 -2.31	19 30
231	01 01 37.7	-715415		-8.88	199	1702	00 49 13.5	-732560	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.51	21
239	01 05 50.3	-715760	$\langle fg - star \rangle$ $\langle fg - star \rangle$	-2.74	65	1755	01 03 42.6	-715758	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-17.86	36
255	01 05 00.3	-72 11 48	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-4.26	29	1802	00 52 05.7	-722605	HMXB	-2.32	2592
256	01 05 37.5	-715719		-2.34	22	1998	00 50 12.1	-714654	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-4.35	$28\,$
287	01 01 55.9	-721028	\langle HMXB \rangle	-2.95	28	2002	00 47 17.6	-715520	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.54	42
335	00 54 55.9	-724511	HMXB	-3.58	3038	2041	01 03 16.5	-713142	$\langle fg-star \rangle$	<-40	1014
352	00 53 24.2	-723941	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.32	10	2381	00 42 38.8	-723327	AGN r	-17.31	606
392	00 52 58.5	-705022	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.55	19	2454	00 43 47.7	-730208	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.42	27
402	01 09 30.0	-725249	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.94	580	2601	00 56 45.4	-725932		-5.50	154
407	01 08 25.9	-725431	$fg - star$	-2.44	352	2651	00 54 50.8	-725126	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-4.05	14
487	00 45 24.1	-732907	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-4.39	451	2735	01 09 35.2	-72 11 45	$fg - star$	<-40	708
542	00 59 29.5	-715809	(AGN) oi	-2.66	31	2738	01 10 50.8	-721025	AGN r	-2.66	332
556	01 02 14.7	-724917	$\langle AGN \rangle$ oi	-2.90	23	2740	01 09 18.6	-721238	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-3.49	204
562	01 03 31.7	-730144	\langle HMXB \rangle	-2.49	19	2845	01 13 02.3	-724142	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-9.22	524
615	00 49 30.6	-733109	HMXB	-2.83	223	2846	01 11 54.6	-724557	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-11.28	304
636	00 48 46.6	-733000	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.62	16	3059	01 13 04.2	-731435	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-9.03	103
654	00 53 23.9	-722715	HMXB	-3.16	2149	3115	01 06 33.0	-731543	HMXB	-11.24	811
668	00 54 38.5	-722209	$\langle AGN \rangle$ o?	-2.52	51	3167	01 02 28.0	-731657	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-3.35	27
674	00 59 28.9	-723704	HMXB	-14.16	6464	3186	00 59 37.0	-732541	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-2.31	127
730	00 49 22.8	-721055		-2.64	81	3190	00 58 35.7	-731448	$\langle fg-star \rangle$	-2.64	79
760	00 42 45.8	-731014	$\langle fg - star \rangle$	-2.79	173	3267	00 50 34.6	-733030	$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	-6.26	214
812	01 00 09.6	-725749	$\langle AGN \rangle$ o?	-15.07	1087						

Notes. (*a*) Probability *C st* that the source is constant during the observation. Minimum of all detections of the source is given. (*b*) Number of source counts of the detections with the given value of *C st*.

of the sources in the catalogue is 1.3". Cross correlations with other catalogues give distinct counterparts in X-ray and radio bands. In the optical, the selection of counterparts is challenging, due to the high stellar density in the SMC field. Most Xray sources are background sources behind the SMC, namely AGN. We were able to positively identify 49 HMXB and 4 SSSs in the SMC together with 34 foreground stars and 72 background AGN. In addition we propose classifications for other sources based on their X-ray hardness ratios and positional cross-correlations with other catalogues, which often provided additional optical, infrared or radio characteristics. This resulted in likely identifications with foreground stars (128), HMXBs (45), faint SSSs (8) as well as AGN (2105) and galaxy clusters (13). This has allowed us to further investigate the X-ray source population of the SMC, in particular to derive the luminosity function of Be/X-ray binaries. This shows a significantly different bright end slope than expected from the universal HMXB X-ray luminosity function.

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SRC	Name	Class	V^a	S^a	$F_{\rm max}$
					$(10^{-14} \times erg \ cm^{-2} \ s^{-1})$
49	SXP 565	HMXB	216.4	6.5	59.22 ± 9.06
61	XMMU J005535.2-722906	HMXB	18.6	25.0	27.33 ± 0.91
92	CXOU J005446.2-722523	HMXB	33.9	27.8	20.65 ± 0.70
112	SXP 264	HMXB	37.6	66.7	121.59 ± 1.74
114	SXP756	HMXB	22.4	38.5	49.25 ± 1.09
119	SXP 892	HMXB	16.4	10.8	14.76 ± 1.25
121	RX J0048.5-7302	HMXB	16.9	12.0	9.08 ± 0.69
138	SXP 25.5	HMXB	18.2	14.3	10.70 ± 0.69
148	SXP152	HMXB	65.9	37.9	53.32 ± 1.38
149	SXP 280	HMXB	33.3	51.4	167.22 ± 2.68
151	SXP 304	HMXB	25.9	20.2	51.52 ± 2.25
186		$\langle AGN \rangle$ oxr	16.1	14.6	18.90 ± 1.16
187	SXP 348	HMXB	100.8	31.2	38.84 ± 1.22
227	SXP1323	HMXB	68.2	63.1	115.24 ± 1.79
228	RX J0105.9-7203	HMXB	35.3	13.7	9.67 ± 0.68
229	[VV2006] J010522.5-715650	AGN	11.0	9.7	4.95 ± 0.42
230			23.7	9.3	6.46 ± 0.66
244		$\langle AGN \rangle$ o?	12.8	7.5	4.15 ± 0.50
255		$\langle fg\text{-}star\rangle$	10.0	6.7	2.23 ± 0.29
287		\langle HMXB \rangle	12.1	6.6	3.30 ± 0.45
616	SMC ₃	SSS	55.1	198.9	226.43 ± 1.08
674	XMMU J005929.0-723703	HMXB	201.5	67.0	286.67 ± 4.23
816	SXP 7.92	HMXB	11.7	6.9	7.71 ± 1.01
1400		\langle HMXB \rangle	112.4	10.3	25.21 ± 2.43
1582		$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	10.9	3.8	2.79 ± 0.66
1592	SXP 6.85	HMXB	2990.9	167.0	1111.89 ± 6.65
1784			13.2	4.6	3.91 ± 0.78
2228	SXP91.1	HMXB	84.1	51.0	51.72 ± 0.98
2519	SXP11.87	HMXB	815.5	99.5	263.96 ± 2.65
2563	SXP214	HMXB	137.9	32.9	36.31 ± 1.09
2716		$\langle AGN \rangle$ 0?	13.7	3.6	2.23 ± 0.57

Table 8. X-ray sources in the SMC field with high variability between individual observations.

Notes. (*a*) Variability *V* and significance *S* as calculated in Sect. 3.2.

Appendix A: Details of the catalogue creation

A.1. Catalogue screening

Each observation was screened individually and a quality flag QFLAG was set manually to indicate if the detection was most likely not caused by a point source. Spurious detections can be caused by single reflections of SMC $X-1$ (QFLAG = S), or by out-of-time events of bright sources ($QFLAG = 0$). The substructure of extended sources, or residuals of the PSF of the brightest sources, can lead to multiple detections (QFLAG=M). Also, sources with significant extent, like SNRs and the largest clusters of galaxies, were marked (QFLAG = E) and not used for the catalogue.

Using a mosaic colour image of the SMC (Haberl et al. 2012a), we looked, in a second screening-step, for wrongly correlated detections and uncorrelated detections obviously originating from the same source. This occurred, for example, in the case of bright sources with low statistical uncertainty, if the astrometric solution was not yet sufficiently accurate. The EPIC-MOS CCDs show a significantly increased low-energy noise in some observations, if they are in an *anomalous state* (Kuntz & Snowden 2008). Affected CCDs were identified with emtaglenoise and the data were used for source detection, but not for the mosaic image. To ensure that the detections in these noisy CCDs are real, we required that the detection likelihood for the noisy CCD in the (1.0−12.0) keV band is sufficient for an independent detection, or that the source is found by an instrument not in *anomalous state* within the same, or another, observation. If, in addition, no source is visible in the mosaic image, the detection was flagged with QFLAG = N. Detections found in regions with enhanced diffuse emission, where the reliability is doubtful, were flagged (QFLAG = D) if no clear point source was visible in the deep mosaic image. The task epreject abolishes EPIC-pn offset map corrections for optical loading caused by bright optical sources with $V < 12$ mag or $V < 6$ mag for observations with thin or medium filter, respectively². We find 57 detections of 36 sources, which fulfil this criterion. If the source was not detected with a high level of significance by another instrument, in another observation, or in the EPICpn energy bands 2−5, we rejected this source (QFLAG = L). This caused a rejection of only 4 sources. All other 32 potentially affected sources show evidence for real X-ray emission. Sources, detected only in one observation and by only one instrument with detection likelihood $ML_{\text{det}} > 10$ in energy band 1, but not detected above 1 keV, were checked for hot pixels, which might have been missed by badpixfind and flagged (QFLAG=P) if a bright pixel was found in the detector image or if the detection was close to a hot pixel or column and had a peculiar, non-PSF-like, shape. All other detections have QFLAG = G, by default. Only the G-flagged sources were used for the creation of the point-source catalogue. The flags and the number of occurrences are listed in Table A.1.

² Smith (2008), PN optical loading, XMM-SOC-CAL-TN-0051, [http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/docs/documents/](http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/docs/documents/CAL-TN-0051-1-2.ps.gz) [CAL-TN-0051-1-2.ps.gz](http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/docs/documents/CAL-TN-0051-1-2.ps.gz)

Table A.1. Screening of detections.

OFLAG	Description	Number
G	good (default)	5236
М	multiple detection	503
S	single reflection	232
E	extended source	207
P	hot pixel	129
N	MOS CCD in anomalous state	110
	out-of-time events	22
	diffuse emission	20
	optical loading	

A.2. Astrometric corrections

The accuracy of the astrometric frame of *XMM-Newton* can be improved since the positions of bright sources have a higher statistical precision than the initial *XMM-Newton* attitude solution. However, the standard boresight correction, using a simple comparison with a complete optical reference catalogue, cannot be applied, because the number of chance correlations overwhelms the number of real counterparts in the SMC field. A first correction was applied to the event files, before the image creation (Haberl et al. 2012a). Using the autocorrelated detection list, we further improved the positions. We selected optical counterparts, mainly from Zaritsky et al. (2002), of identified HMXB and spectroscopically confirmed AGN, as well as identified foreground stars from the Tycho-2 catalogue (Høg et al. 2000), as described in Sect. 6. In the latter case, the proper motion was taken into account. We used this information to correct the spacecraft attitude for a linear boresight shift in right ascension and declination. The overall applied boresight corrections for all observations are listed in Table B.1. As we only used identified sources instead of a general correlation with a reference catalogue, we also accepted coordinate corrections if only one identified source was available. This allowed a coordinate improvement for all observations.

A.3. Calculation of energy conversion factors

For the calculation of energy conversion factors (ECFs) f_i = R_i/F_i , we assumed a universal spectrum for all sources, described by a power-law model with a photon index of $\Gamma = 1.7$ and a photo-electric foreground absorption by the Galaxy of $N_{\text{H,Gal}} = 6 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (average for SMC main field in H_I map of Dickey & Lockman 1990). This spectrum was simulated with standard EPIC response matrix files $(RMFs)^3$. We note that this universal spectral shape is only a rough assumption. Since the correction is from counts to detected flux, i.e. we do not report unabsorbed fluxes, and since the fluxes are calculated independently for each of the relatively narrow energy bands, deviations from the source spectrum over the total energy band are reduced. Therefore the calculated fluxes give a good approximation of the true detected flux in most cases (see also Pietsch et al. 2004).

For EPIC-MOS, an increased redistribution of measured photon energies is known to occur around the EPIC-pn and RGS prime pointing position, where most targets are placed (Read et al. 2006). This has some effect on the ECFs for the energy bands 1 and 2. We decided to use the *o*ff*-patch* single to quadruple event RMF, since in the case of the SMC survey, the majority of detections lies outside this patch area. The differences between *on-* and *^o*ff*-patch* ECFs is <10% for energy band 1 and lower for the other bands. For EPIC-pn, the dependence of the

Table A.2. Energy conversion factors.

Detector	Filter	f1	Ť2	Ť3	Ť4	Ť5
pn	thin	11.150	8.132	5.839	1.943	0.463
	medium	9.976	7.897	5.758	1.926	0.465
	thick	6.329	6.071	4.964	1.824	0.459
MOS ₁	thin	2.118	1.937	2.064	0.744	0.144
	medium	1.891	1.883	2.029	0.735	0.144
	thick	1.273	1.530	1.807	0.705	0.142
MOS ₂	thin	2.117	1.938	2.070	0.748	0.152
	medium	1.886	1.884	2.034	0.740	0.152
	thick	1.264	1.530	1.812	0.710	0.150

Notes. Energy conversion factors f_i in units of 10¹¹ cts cm² erg⁻¹ for the standard bands 1−5, respectively: (0.2−0.5) keV, (0.5−1.0) keV, (1.0−2.0) keV, (2.0−4.5) keV, and (4.5−12.0) keV. A power law with photon index of Γ = 1.7 and foreground absorption of $N_{\text{H,Gal}}$ = 6×10^{20} cm⁻² was used.

spectral resolution on the detector position has an even smaller influence on the ECFs $\left\langle \frac{2\%}{2} \right\rangle$ and we used the RMF for CCD rows 81−100 as average. The dependence of the ECFs on data mode is <2% (Watson et al. 2009) and we used the *full-frame* RMFs for all instruments. The ancillary response files (ARFs) were calculated with arfgen for each filter and instrument and do not contain corrections, which have already been applied by emldetect. For EPIC-pn, f_5 is corrected for the screened (7.2−9.2) keV sub-band, thus translating to (4.5−12.0) keV fluxes. The derived ECFs are listed in Table A.2. Since energy band 5 does not contribute substantially to the total flux, but rather increases its uncertainty in most cases, it is not used for the so-called XID flux (sum from band 1 to 4).

A.4. Short-term time variability

To investigate the short-term time variability of all sources with KS-tests, we extracted time series of events of the EPIC-pn and both EPIC-MOS in the (0.2−4.5) keV band. Source counts were selected within an ellipse that approximates the PSF of the source at a surface brightness (in cts pix^{-1}) equal to the background surface brightness, as defined by the SAS task region. We merged the event lists in common GTIs of the individual EPIC instruments to obtain higher statistics. To estimate the background variability caused, for example, by residual softproton flares, we assumed a spatial independence of the background time variability. Background time series were extracted in a similar manner, but excluding regions around each point source where the PSF brightness is larger than 10% of the background value.

In most cases, the KS-test works well by using a linear increasing function during GTIs and a constant otherwise. In some cases, the background time series exhibits significant variability. To ensure that this has no influence on the variability estimation of faint sources, we created a reference function, combining the background and constant source distribution. The expected relative background contribution was estimated from the background maps (Sect. 3.1). Since the statistics of the background time series is high compared to that of faint sources, it can be used as a quasi-continuous function. We added this cumulative light curve to the constant-source function and performed a onesample KS-test. The resulting probability, *Cst*, that the temporal photon distribution can be explained by a constant source was calculated for each detection. For sources with several detections, we give the minimum of *Cst* over all detections. Sources that can be considered variable show values of $C_{st} < 0.5%$ (see Sect. 7.5.1).

³ Available at [http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_sw_](http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_sw_cal/calib/epic_files.shtml) [cal/calib/epic_files.shtml](http://xmm2.esac.esa.int/external/xmm_sw_cal/calib/epic_files.shtml)

Appendix B: List of used observations

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