

Reaching the peak of the quasar spectral energy distribution – II. Exploring the accretion disc, dusty torus and host galaxy

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ABSTRACT

We continue our study of the spectral energy distributions (SEDs) of 11 active galactic nuclei (AGN) at $1.5 < z < 2.2$, with optical–near-infrared (NIR) spectra, X-ray data and mid-IR photometry. In a previous paper, we presented the observations and models; in this paper, we explore the parameter space of these models. We first quantify uncertainties on the black hole (BH) masses (M_{BH}) and degeneracies between SED parameters. The effect of BH spin is tested, and we find that while low-to-moderate spin values ($a_* \leq 0.9$) are compatible with the data in all cases, maximal spin ($a_* = 0.998$) can only describe the data if the accretion disc is face-on. The outer accretion disc radii are well constrained in 8/11 objects and are found to be a factor ~ 5 smaller than the self-gravity radii. We then extend our modelling campaign into the mid-IR regime with *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer* photometry, adding components for the host galaxy and dusty torus. Our estimates of the host galaxy luminosities are consistent with the M_{BH} –bulge relationship, and the measured torus properties (covering factor and temperature) are in agreement with earlier work, suggesting a predominantly silicate-based grain composition. Finally, we deconvolve the optical–NIR spectra using our SED continuum model. We claim that this is a more physically motivated approach than using empirical descriptions of the continuum such as broken power laws. For our small sample, we verify previously noted correlations between emission linewidths and luminosities commonly used for single-epoch M_{BH} estimates, and observe a statistically significant anticorrelation between [O III] equivalent width and AGN luminosity.

Key words: accretion, accretion discs – black hole physics – galaxies: active – galaxies: high-redshift – quasars: emission lines.

1 INTRODUCTION

In an active galactic nucleus (AGN), accretion of gas on to a central galactic supermassive black hole (BH) releases a large amount of energy across a broad wavelength range. The broad-band spectral energy distribution (SED) of this luminous accretion flow is shaped by the BH properties, as well as the structure and orientation of the infalling matter. Interpreting the observed properties of AGN SEDs as the result of known physical phenomena enables us to address key questions about these energetic objects. These include how the BH grows over cosmic time, the poorly understood mechanism by which relativistic jets are formed and driven, and the role AGN play in their host galaxies, in particular with respect to feedback via winds and outflows, which are thought to contribute significantly to

galaxy formation (e.g. King 2010; McCarthy et al. 2010; Nardini et al. 2015). Much effort has therefore been directed at researching AGN through studies of their SEDs, both by acquiring better quality data, and developing increasingly advanced SED models (e.g. Ward et al. 1987; Elvis et al. 1994; Vasudevan & Fabian 2009; Jin et al. 2012a; Netzer & Trakhtenbrot 2014).

In the optical–UV, the SED comprises a ‘big blue bump’, which is broadly consistent with that expected from an optically thick, geometrically thin Shakura & Sunyaev (1973) accretion disc (AD; see also Novikov & Thorne 1973; Czerny & Elvis 1987). At infrared (IR) wavelengths, a significant contribution from a hot, dusty torus is observed (e.g. Barvainis 1987; Pier & Krolik 1993; Mor, Netzer & Elitzur 2009). This structure offers an explanation for the dichotomy between Type 1 and Type 2 AGN in the Antonucci (1993) unified model, as the torus obscures the central engine from view in the latter class. The X-ray energy range is dominated by a power-law tail (PLT), thought to arise from inverse Compton scattering by

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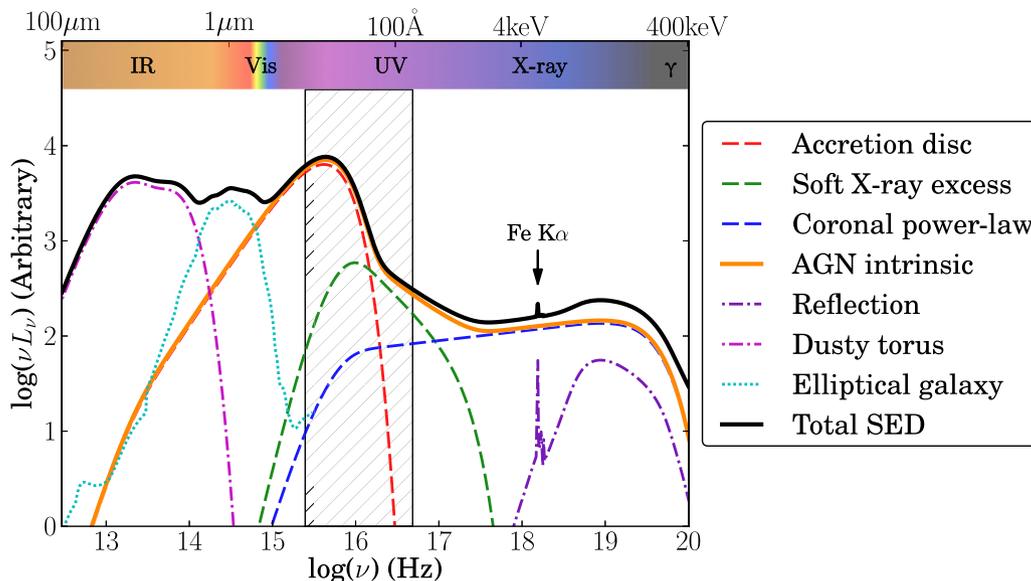


Figure 1. A simplified schematic diagram of an AGN SED, showing the approximate shape and extent of the various components discussed in the text. Dashed lines denote AGN intrinsic emission, dash-dotted lines show emission reprocessed by the surrounding material and the dotted line shows starlight from an elliptical host galaxy. The hatched region highlights the spectral range that is heavily obscured by absorption in the IGM. We only show an elliptical galaxy here; galaxies with active star formation have stronger UV/IR contributions.

a hot, optically thin corona (e.g. Haardt & Maraschi 1991), with additional contributions by a hard X-ray reflection hump (George & Fabian 1991; Done 2010) and the so-called soft X-ray excess (SX). The origin of the SX is uncertain; it may be caused by further X-ray reflection off the AD (Crummy et al. 2006), partially ionized absorption (Gierliński & Done 2004), or warm Compton upscattering within the AD (Done et al. 2012). A schematic of the different components that make up the AGN SED is shown in Fig. 1.

A number of properties of AGN influence the observed SED. The matter that accretes on to the BH is net-neutral, so the BH has just two intrinsic properties—the mass (M_{BH}) and spin (a_*)—which primarily affect the peak temperature and mass-energy conversion efficiency in the AD. The rate of mass accretion through the AD (usually given in terms of the Eddington ratio, $\dot{m} = L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$, where L_{bol} is the AGN bolometric luminosity and L_{Edd} is the Eddington-limited luminosity) and its orientation with respect to the observer (θ) can further modify the SED, and photoelectric absorption and dust extinction along the line of sight attenuate the emission over large wavelength ranges.

M_{BH} can be estimated via a number of methods in AGN. Reverberation mapping (RM) uses the time delay between changes in the ionizing continuum and the broad line region (BLR) to probe the central potential, and estimate M_{BH} (e.g. Blandford & McKee 1982; Peterson 1993; Kaspi et al. 2000; Peterson et al. 2004; Bentz et al. 2013; Shen et al. 2016), but this is an observationally intensive exercise. RM has allowed the calibration of the ‘single-epoch virial mass estimation’ method, where broad line profiles and luminosity measurements from single spectra yield a (less accurate) estimate of M_{BH} (e.g. Wandel, Peterson & Malkan 1999; Vestergaard 2002; Kaspi et al. 2005; Matsuoka et al. 2013). The choice of emission line and continuum measurement has been shown to be important, as some line profiles are shaped by effects such as outflows that make them susceptible to bias (Shen & Liu 2012). It has also been suggested that \dot{m} can be estimated from spectral continuum measurements via the so-called bolometric correction (BC) coefficients (e.g. McLure & Dunlop 2004; Vasudevan & Fabian 2007; Trakhtenbrot & Netzer 2012).

BH spin affects the radius of innermost stable circular orbit (r_{isco}) around the BH. For $a_* = 0$ (non-spinning) BHs, $r_{\text{isco}} = 6R_{\text{g}}$ (where $R_{\text{g}} = GM_{\text{BH}}/c^2$ is the gravitational radius), but this decreases with increasing spin, so at $a_* = 0.998$ (maximal spin), $r_{\text{isco}} \approx 1.24R_{\text{g}}$. Previous work has constrained r_{isco} , and hence a_* , by fitting the profile of the broad, relativistically distorted, Fe $K\alpha$ emission line that is often observed in the X-ray reflection spectrum of AGN (see Fig. 1). This method requires high signal-to-noise (S/N) X-ray data, limiting its application to nearby, bright AGN (Fabian et al. 1989; Fabian et al. 2009; Risaliti et al. 2013; Reynolds 2014). Moreover, this technique is contentious, as it requires an extreme X-ray source geometry to sufficiently illuminate the inner part of the AD (e.g. Zoghbi et al. 2010). Alternative models propose that the profile of the $K\alpha$ line could be influenced by complex, multilayered absorption, possibly from a disc wind (e.g. Miller et al. 2007; Turner & Miller 2009; Miller & Turner 2013; Gardner & Done 2014).

Due to these uncertainties, attempts have been made to constrain the BH spin by fitting theoretical AD models to data. These models are generally based on the description by Shakura & Sunyaev (1973), with general relativistic, colour temperature, and radiative transfer corrections applied (Hubeny et al. 2000; Davis, Done & Blaes 2006). Various modifications can be added, such as winds and outflows (Slone & Netzer 2012). These should be associated especially with high accretion rates, where photon trapping within the disc can also become important (leading to a ‘slim disc’, e.g. Abramowicz et al. 1988; Wang et al. 2014). However these models are not well understood (Castelló-Mor, Netzer & Kaspi 2016) and are beyond the scope of this paper.

Capellupo et al. (2015, 2016) used a thin AD model to constrain spin values in their sample of 39 AGN at $z \sim 1.5$. Using the numerical code of Slone & Netzer (2012), and contemporaneous optical–near-infrared (NIR) spectra from the VLT/X-shooter instrument, they successfully modelled the rest-frame optical–UV SED in all but two objects. The most massive BHs in their sample have the highest measured spin values, supporting a ‘spin-up’ description of AGN BH evolution, where prolonged unidirectional accretion

episodes and BH mergers increase the spin of BHs through cosmic time (e.g. Dotti et al. 2013).

Done et al. (2013) and Done & Jin (2016) explored the spins of two low-mass, local AGN – PG1244+026 and 1H 0707–495, respectively – by applying the Done et al. (2012, 2013) SED model to multiwavelength data. They found that both objects were highly super-Eddington if modelled with high spin values, implying that the underlying AD model assumptions break down. They argue that the disc is unlikely to radiate all the liberated gravitational energy due to winds and/or advection, meaning that its peak temperature and luminosity no longer give robust constraints on spin. Additionally, this means that it is unlikely the disc is flat, which is the geometry assumed in the derivation of BH spin from the Fe K α line (Fabian et al. 2009).

Wu et al. (2013) and Trakhtenbrot (2014) also used SED-based arguments to probe the spins and assembly histories of BHs in AGN. Both works specifically focused on inferring the accretion efficiency, η , which increases with the BH spin. While Wu et al. (2013) found no significant correlation between M_{BH} and radiative efficiency (and hence spin), Trakhtenbrot (2014) did find such a relation, with most of the extremely massive AGN in their sample having efficiencies corresponding to high spins. However, Raimundo et al. (2012) found that it is extremely difficult to accurately determine the efficiency via such means.

The nature of the putative dusty torus is the subject of considerable debate. Studies of the extent, composition, and dynamics of this structure make use of spectrophotometric observations and time-dependent variability. Previous work has found evidence that the torus could be ‘clumpy’ in nature (e.g. Nenkova, Ivezić & Elitzur 2002; Dullemond & van Bemmell 2005; Nenkova et al. 2008), but this is as yet uncertain (e.g. Lawrence & Elvis 2010). Of particular interest are the peak dust temperature in the torus, which can be used to infer its composition (Netzer 2015), and the total luminosity, from which the dust covering factor can be estimated.

In local AGN, a remarkable relationship between the host galaxy and the central BH has been observed. These include strong correlations between M_{BH} and the stellar velocity dispersion of the galaxy ($M_{\text{BH}}-\sigma$; e.g. Ferrarese & Merritt 2000; Gebhardt et al. 2000; Beifiori et al. 2012) and between M_{BH} and the bulge mass/luminosity (e.g. Magorrian et al. 1998; Marconi & Hunt 2003; Sani et al. 2011). Whilst local galaxies can be easily resolved in imaging, enabling structural decomposition of the point-like AGN and extended galaxy bulge and disc (e.g. Marconi & Hunt 2003; McConnell & Ma 2013), disentangling these contributions is challenging at higher redshifts. Peng et al. (2006) partially overcame this limitation by using *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) imaging of gravitationally lensed AGN and found evidence that at $z > 1.7$, the M_{BH} –bulge mass ratio is $\gtrsim 4$ times that observed locally.

In our previous paper (Collinson et al. 2015, hereafter Paper I), we presented a means of systematically modelling the SED of a sample of 11 medium redshift ($1.5 < z < 2.2$) AGN, using multiwavelength spectral data from IR to X-ray wavelengths and a numerical SED code described in Done et al. (2012). In this sample, the redshift effect and selection bias towards more massive AGN (e.g. McLure & Dunlop 2004) that contain cooler ADs allowed us to sample the peak of the SED in five objects. This allowed us to make robust estimates of the AGN bolometric luminosity (L_{bol}), noting that in several objects the SX was unconstrained by the available data. We also found that the host galaxy starlight contribution to the SED peak was small, but may be non-negligible at longer wavelengths, in the rest-frame optical spectrum. It was necessary to model host galaxy attenuation in the form of dust reddening and photoelectric

absorption (Netzer & Davidson 1979; Jin et al. 2012a; Castelló-Mor et al. 2016).

In this paper, we will extend and examine the parameter space of our models. In each object, we consider the contributions of six emissive components to the total SED: three components for the AGN central engine itself, the host galaxy and dusty torus, and the BLR. We also consider attenuation by dust and gas in the Milky Way (MW) and host galaxy. We will

(i) test the model properties, including both extrinsic effects (host galaxy extinction curves) and intrinsic effects, e.g. spin and the uncertainties on M_{BH} (Section 2).

(ii) carry out an analysis of the toroidal dust component, using mid- and far-IR photometry from the *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer* (*WISE*, Section 3).

(iii) consider the effects of variability in the optical spectra (Section 4).

(iv) undertake an optical/IR spectral decomposition, using our refined models of the underlying continua, and compare results from this approach to earlier studies (Section 6.4).

We assume a flat cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_{\text{M}} = 0.27$, and $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.73$ throughout.

2 TESTING THE SED MODEL

2.1 Motivation

We discussed several limitations of our modelling campaign in Paper I and begin this study by addressing these. In that work, we determined that for our data quality and coverage, using an SED model with intrinsic reddening/photoelectric absorption as free parameters was statistically justified. We also found that the data were generally good enough to determine the relative luminosities of the SX and PLT, though could not independently constrain the detailed shape of the SX.

We modelled the intrinsic (i.e. host galaxy) extinction using a redshifted Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989) MW extinction curve with $E(B - V)$ as a free parameter. We concluded that not all of the AGN in our sample were well described by this model, a finding also noted by others. Hopkins et al. (2004) and Glikman et al. (2012) found the Small Magellanic Cloud (SMC) extinction curve to better describe host galaxy reddening in AGN, whilst Capellupo et al. (2015) found the SMC curve to be no better than that of the MW or a simple power law. Castelló-Mor et al. (2016) opted to use an SMC curve, but noted that the limited data coverage in the rest-UV made favouring any one model impossible. We therefore briefly explored using two alternative extinction curves—SMC and Large Magellanic Cloud (LMC)—and found that the intrinsic extinction in some objects was better characterized by these. In this work, we will use this as a means of refining our existing models.

Throughout Paper I, we kept M_{BH} fixed at values calculated from the profile of H α , using the method of Greene & Ho (2005). However, it is known that such single-epoch virial mass estimates can be uncertain, and we have yet to explore the effect of changing M_{BH} on L_{bol} and other SED properties. This will be quantified in this paper. The estimated error on these M_{BH} estimates, arising from the dispersion in the method, is ~ 0.1 dex, with a smaller additional contribution from measurement errors. In practice, the dominant sources of error on single-epoch virial M_{BH} estimates are the uncertainties in the BLR size–luminosity relationship and virial coefficient, estimated to contribute a ~ 0.46 dex total uncertainty (Park et al. 2012).

Similarly, we found that data in all objects could be modelled by keeping a_* fixed at zero (i.e. non-spinning). This does not necessarily preclude higher spin values, so in this paper we will specifically test $a_* \neq 0$ scenarios.

Finally, in many objects, we observed that the outer AD radius (r_{out}) could be estimated from the SED fitting routine. However, we did not compare the values measured with the radius at which self-gravity within the AD becomes significant. Here, we will test two alternative means of handling r_{out} : first by fixing it to the self-gravity radius and secondly by fixing it to an arbitrarily large value.

2.2 Data and SED construction

In this paper, we are primarily concerned with the nature of the underlying AGN SED continuum. In [Paper I](#), we described our sample selection, which focused on the need for optical, NIR, and X-ray spectra. To make a reliable M_{BH} estimate, we required the broad Balmer emission lines, $H\beta$ and $H\alpha$, to lie in the NIR J and H bands. Our primary sample was therefore at $1.49 < z < 1.61$, and we included an additional object at $z \simeq 2.2$ which had the requisite data and $H\beta$ and $H\alpha$ in the NIR H and K bands. The objects' names, positions, and other key properties are presented in [Paper I](#), and we retabulate the names and mass estimates from $H\alpha$ in Section 2.3 of this work.

Our data come from four observatories. The optical spectra were extracted from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000) and Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS) data bases. NIR spectra for seven objects were obtained using the Gemini Near-Infrared Spectrograph (GNIRS; Elias et al. 2006) and an additional four objects from the Shen & Liu (2012) sample had pre-existing spectra from ARC's TripleSpec (TSPEC; Wilson et al. 2004) instrument, kindly provided by Yue Shen. Finally, X-ray spectra were retrieved from the *XMM-Newton* (Jansen et al. 2001) science archive. We describe the data reduction in [Paper I](#). The optical/IR spectra are corrected for MW extinction using the dust maps of Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998) and extinction law of Cardelli et al. (1989).

We construct our SED using spectral data from all of these sources, following the same approach as in [Paper I](#). The optical/IR spectra include a number of emission features with the underlying continuum dominated by the various emission components shown in Fig. 1. For all SED fitting, we thus define continuum regions (free from emission line/Balmer continuum/blended Fe II emission) in the optical/IR spectra using the template of Vanden Berk et al. (2001) as a guide. The optical–NIR continuum regions used are shown in Table 1, with regions showing contamination by noise/emission features adjusted or removed accordingly. There is general consistency with other work that define similar such bandpasses, see Kuhn et al. (2001) and Capellupo et al. (2015). Some of these wavelength ranges have been adjusted by a small amount from those used in [Paper I](#), reflecting improved attempts to mitigate against inclusion of emission-contaminated ranges. In this section, we do not include the continuum redward of $H\alpha$ (regions 10–15 in Table 1) owing to the ‘red excess’ seen in this region. This region is discussed and modelled later, see Section 3.

The X-ray spectrum is also known to show emission features, such as the previously mentioned Fe $K\alpha$ line, but the S/N of our X-ray data is not sufficient to resolve such features. We therefore use all available data from the MOS1, MOS2, and PN detectors (Strüder et al. 2001; Turner et al. 2001) of the European Photon Imaging Camera (EPIC) aboard *XMM-Newton* to maximize the number of X-ray counts.

Table 1. Optical/IR continuum regions used in the SED fitting. Not all regions were used in all objects, as some showed contamination by emission features such as Fe II. We avoided oversampling any part of the spectrum, aiming for a roughly even spread of continuum points across the spectral range (particularly with respect to regions 10–15). Before Section 3, only regions 1–9 are used for fitting, as regions 10–15 begin to show potential contribution by hot dust and host galaxy. Some of regions 10–15 are used in for modelling in Section 3.

Region #	Centre	Start	End
		(Å, rest frame)	
1	1325	1300	1350
2	1463	1450	1475
3	1775	1750	1800
4	2200	2175	2225
5	4025	4000	4050
6	4200	4150	4250
7	5475	5450	5500
8	5650	5600	5700
9	6100	6050	6150
10	7000	6950	7050
11	7250	7200	7300
12	7538	7475	7600
13	7850	7800	7900
14	8150	8100	8200
15	8900	8800	9000

A limitation of our study is that the optical/IR/X-ray data were not collected contemporaneously. AGN are known to vary across all wavelengths differentially, and we therefore cannot rule out variability having occurred between observations. This is a limitation of most such studies due to the difficulty and expense of scheduling simultaneous observations using multiple space- and ground-based observatories. In [Paper I](#), we described our means of checking for evidence of variability between optical/IR observations using photometry and simple power-law continuum fits. We concluded that in one object (J0041–0947) there was evidence for ~ 30 per cent variability between optical/IR observations. In this case, we used the GNIRS spectrum as observed for estimating M_{BH} , but scaled it to the level of SDSS for SED fitting. In two objects with multiple epochs of X-ray data, we found no evidence for X-ray variability, but cannot rule out a variable X-ray component in any of our AGN.

As discussed in [Paper I](#), we do not use photometric data in our SED modelling. In the optical/IR, photometry is usually contaminated by emission features and is inferior to the spectra for defining the continuum. *GALEX* and *XMM* optical monitor (OM) UV photometry is available for some objects (see table E1 of [Paper I](#)), however, due to the redshift range of our AGN, these data lie on or beyond $\text{Ly}\alpha$. Photometry covering $\text{Ly}\alpha$ cannot be corrected because the equivalent width (EW) of this strong feature varies widely between objects (Elvis et al. 2012). Similarly, photometry beyond $\text{Ly}\alpha$ in the rest frame cannot be reliably used, as it is unpredictably attenuated by the multitude of narrow absorption features in the $\text{Ly}\alpha$ forest. Continuum recovery in this region requires high-resolution UV spectra, e.g. from *HST* (Finn et al. 2014; Lusso et al. 2015).

Throughout this work, we use the AGN SED model `OPTX-AGNF`, described in Done et al. (2012). This model comprises three components—AD, SX, and PLT—and applies the constraint of energy conservation to these. We do not include a relativistic reflection component (see Fig. 1), as our *XMM* spectra lack the S/N and coverage necessary to model this component. All SED fitting is performed

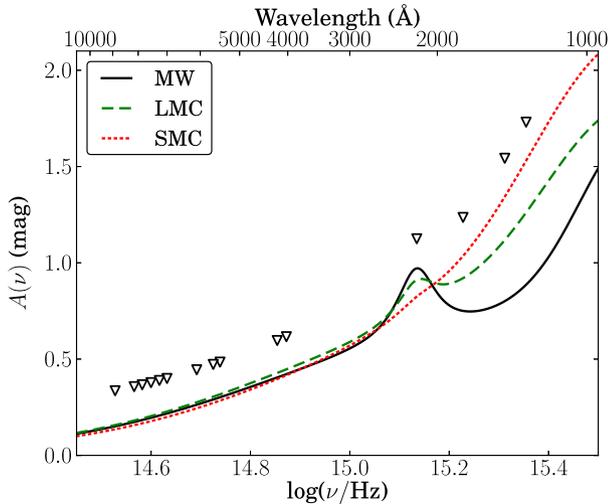


Figure 2. The three extinction curves we test for the intrinsic reddening. All curves are for the same $E(B - V)$. The markers indicate the locations of the continuum regions used for the fit. Clearly, the four bluest regions are the most important for distinguishing between the curves.

in the *xSPEC* spectral analysis package (e.g. Arnaud 1996), using a Levenberg–Marquardt minimization routine.

2.3 Model refinement: intrinsic reddening

In this section, we refine our best models from Paper I by applying alternative intrinsic extinction curves. We will therefore produce a new SED model for each object, using newly determined best-fitting parameters.

There are several processes suppressing the observed flux of our data, so we must combine the *OPTXAGNF* model with attenuation components. We have already corrected the optical–NIR spectra for MW extinction (Section 2.2), but photoelectric absorption by neutral gas in the interstellar medium absorbs the UV to soft X-ray part of the SED (see Fig. 1). In *xSPEC*, we incorporate the multiplicative *WABS* model (Morrison & McCammon 1983) to correct for this absorption, with N_{H} column densities taken from Kalberla et al. (2005).

These same processes occur in the host galaxy; however, the extinction value and N_{H} column density cannot be measured directly. These parameters must therefore be left free in the SED fitting. We use *ZWABS* (a redshifted version of *WABS*) for the host galaxy photoelectric absorption, and *ZDUST* (a redshifted extinction curve) to model the host galaxy extinction. *ZDUST* has a choice of three empirical reddening profiles—MW, LMC, and SMC—which are described in Pei (1992), and shown in Fig. 2. These models are similar at optical wavelengths, but show large differences in the UV range.

The full *xSPEC* model therefore takes the form *WABS* × *ZWABS* × *ZDUST* × *OPTXAGNF*. A full table of the parameters of these models, together with starting values and limits, is presented in Appendix A. To summarize, the fixed properties are as follows.

- (i) Mass, M_{BH} : fixed at value from $H\alpha$.
- (ii) Redshift, z .
- (iii) Comoving distance, r_c .
- (iv) Spin, a_* : fixed at 0.
- (v) SX electron temperature, kT_e : fixed at 0.2 keV.
- (vi) SX optical depth, τ : fixed at 10.

(vii) Ratio of absolute extinction to that defined by $(B - V)$, $R(V) = A(V)/E(B - V)$: fixed at values of 3.08, 3.16, 2.93 for MW, LMC, SMC, respectively (Pei 1992).

The free parameters are as follows.

- (i) Mass accretion rate, $\dot{m} = L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$.
- (ii) Coronal radius, r_{cor} .
- (iii) Outer AD radius, r_{out} .
- (iv) PLT photon index, Γ .
- (v) Fraction of energy released below r_{cor} which powers SX rather than PLT, $f_{\text{SX}} = (1 - f_{\text{PLT}})$.
- (vi) Intrinsic H I column density, $N_{\text{H, int}}$.
- (vii) Intrinsic reddening, $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$.

We fit the model to all 11 objects for each of the MW, LMC, and SMC extinction curves and use the final χ^2_{red} fit statistic to gauge which produces the best fit to the data. We find that six objects are best described by the MW extinction curve, four by the LMC curve, and one by the SMC curve. In objects for which the intrinsic reddening is low ($E(B - V)_{\text{int}} \lesssim 0.03$ mag), the difference in χ^2_{red} is generally small, but these are also the objects in which the reddening makes the smallest difference to the L_{bol} . The uncertainty in L_{bol} due to the uncertainty on $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ varies from object to object. Typical values range from 0.03 (J1350+2652) to 0.16 dex (J2328+1500).

The best-fitting extinction curve in each object will be used henceforth. Our refined models are shown by the orange curves in Fig. 3. We tabulate the key SED parameters and derived properties for these new models in Tables 2 and 3.

2.4 The effect of BH mass on the SED

In Paper I, we commented upon the possible uncertainty in the SED model that may arise from the M_{BH} estimate, in particular with regard to the SED peak position. To test this, we produce four new models for each AGN, with M_{BH} varied by $\pm 1\sigma$, 2σ from its mean value. The modelling procedure is otherwise the same as described in Section 2.3, with the same free and fixed parameters. The best-fitting intrinsic extinction curve is used (Table 2). To avoid local minima in the fitting and impartially test the total effect of altering M_{BH} in each case, we apply the same modelling script in all cases, with the same initial values. Between models there can therefore be different values for all free parameters, including $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$, $N_{\text{H, int}}$, and r_{out} . There may be degeneracy between parameters, and it is important to test for this.

The total error on M_{BH} is calculated by adding in quadrature the errors from the method dispersion and the measurement. These uncertainties are given in Table 3.

The resulting SEDs are presented in Fig. 3 with accretion rates and L_{bol} also given. For simplicity, only the dereddened/deabsorbed data for the mean M_{BH} model are shown, hence models that do not appear to well describe the data are likely to have a different value of $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ or $N_{\text{H, int}}$ (see J0041–0947 in Fig. 3 for a clear example of this variation).

It is clear that in objects with unconstrained SED peaks the difference is greatest. Reducing M_{BH} produces an AD which peaks at higher energies, resulting in a larger L_{bol} . In objects with well-constrained SED peaks, such as J0118–0052, this difference is smaller, and in J0839+5754 the difference is smallest of all, partly because the SED peak is dominated by the SX component and therefore the peak temperature dependence on M_{BH} is smaller. The intrinsic reddening value is consistent in all models, with all but

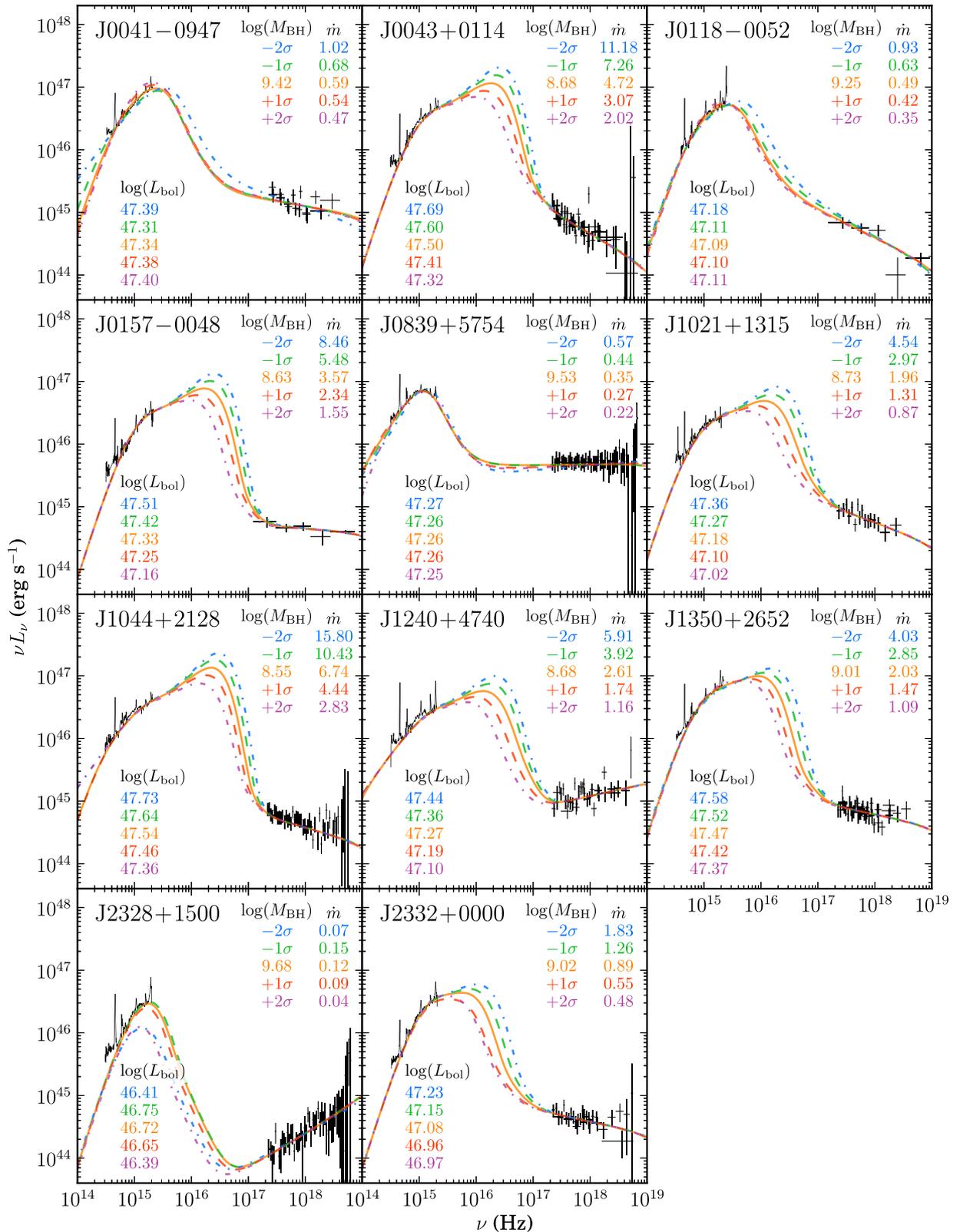


Figure 3. The SEDs for our sample, showing model variance with M_{BH} . All models are at spin value, $a_* = 0$. In black is the data from *XMM-Newton* (rebinned in three cases), SDSS and GNIRS/TSpec to which we fit our broad-band SED model. The model contains corrections for host galaxy extinction and soft X-ray absorption, as in Model 3 in Paper I, but here we use the best-fitting extinction curve (MW, LMC or SMC), rather than the MW curve in all cases. We have corrected the data for these sources of attenuation. The best-fitting model, arising from our mean M_{BH} estimate, is shown by the solid orange curve. Then we altered M_{BH} by 1σ and 2σ (see Table 3 for M_{BH} and errors) and remodelled the SED. The 1σ models are shown by the dashed curves and the 2σ models the dash-dotted curves. The key model properties, with colours corresponding to the curves, are also given.

Table 2. The optimum fitted parameters for the SED model fitted in Section 2.3. The difference between this model and ‘Model 3’ in Paper I is the extinction curve used. Whereas in Model 3 we used the MW curve in all objects, we noted that the reddening correction in J1044+2128 produced only a marginal fit to the data. Here, we use the best-fitting extinction curve out of the MW, LMC, and SMC curves tested. In a few objects, we have adjusted the optical/IR continuum points used in the fit from Paper I, hence the χ_{red}^2 values are not directly comparable with Model 3 in that work. Uncertainties quoted are the 90 per cent confidence limits, as is conventional in X-ray astronomy, and are estimated using the Fisher matrix. As such, they are only indicative of the true measurement error. In objects where f_{SX} could not be constrained, we show the initial value (0.70) in brackets.

Obj	ID	$N_{\text{H,int}}$ (10^{22} cm^{-2})	Extinct curve	$E(B - V)$ (mag)	$\dot{m} =$ $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$	r_{cor} (R_{g})	r_{out} (R_{g})	Γ	f_{SX}	χ_{red}^2
1	J0041–0947	0.0 ± 0.2	MW	0.050 ± 0.006	0.59 ± 0.02	27 ± 6	300 ± 30	2.15 ± 0.19	0.84 ± 0.07	4.16
2	J0043+0114	0.0 ± 0.3	LMC	0.039 ± 0.018	4.72 ± 0.11	9.8 ± 1.0	610 ± 60	2.50 ± 0.35	(0.70)	0.82
3	J0118–0052	0.06 ± 0.12	MW	0.025 ± 0.014	0.49 ± 0.02	25 ± 11	240 ± 40	2.44 ± 0.14	0.77 ± 0.14	1.92
4	J0157–0048	0.19 ± 0.10	MW	0.053 ± 0.014	3.57 ± 0.09	9.3 ± 0.4	460 ± 30	2.07 ± 0.12	(0.70)	2.51
5	J0839+5754	0.46 ± 0.06	MW	0.066 ± 0.003	0.349 ± 0.005	80.9 ± 1.6	>1000	1.99 ± 0.05	0.64 ± 0.03	1.62
6	J1021+1315	0.2 ± 0.2	MW	0.043 ± 0.013	1.96 ± 0.08	12 ± 2	670 ± 80	2.32 ± 0.24	(0.70)	1.45
7	J1044+2128	0.00 ± 0.02	SMC	0.064 ± 0.005	6.74 ± 0.09	8.53 ± 0.09	>1000	2.24 ± 0.05	0.7 ± 0.4	1.63
8	J1240+4740	0.00 ± 0.11	LMC	0.039 ± 0.011	2.61 ± 0.10	14 ± 7	>1000	1.80 ± 0.13	(0.70)	1.39
9	J1350+2652	0.0 ± 0.3	MW	0.034 ± 0.007	2.03 ± 0.05	9.7 ± 0.4	440 ± 20	2.19 ± 0.14	(0.70)	1.98
10	J2328+1500	0.00 ± 0.15	LMC	0.16 ± 0.04	0.122 ± 0.007	14 ± 3	40 ± 3	1.48 ± 0.09	(0.70)	1.63
11	J2332+0000	0.0 ± 0.3	LMC	0.08 ± 0.03	0.890 ± 0.10	10.9 ± 1.5	176 ± 12	2.18 ± 0.14	(0.70)	0.61

Table 3. The key properties of the SED models, including BCs. We also show the M_{BH} estimates calculated in Paper I. The errors on this value that we show here include the contribution from measurement error and therefore are slightly larger than those shown in table 3 of Paper I, where we tabulate the method error only. The error on L_{bol} is estimated from the error on \dot{m} and is indicative of the measurement error. The true error will be larger due to additional contributions from M_{BH} and $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$.

ID	$\log(M_{\text{BH}}/M_{\odot})$	$\log(L_{\text{bol}})$ [log(erg s $^{-1}$)]	$\log(L_{2-10 \text{ keV}})$ [log(erg s $^{-1}$)]	$\kappa_{2-10 \text{ keV}}$	$\log(\lambda L_{2500 \text{ \AA}})$ [log(erg s $^{-1}$)]	$\log(\nu L_{2 \text{ keV}})$ [log(erg s $^{-1}$)]	α_{OX}	$\log(\lambda L_{5100 \text{ \AA}})$ [log(erg s $^{-1}$)]	$\kappa_{5100 \text{ \AA}}$
1	9.42 ± 0.11	47.338 ± 0.018	45.32	104	46.86	45.17	1.65	46.52	6.64
2	8.68 ± 0.10	47.505 ± 0.010	44.88	421	46.51	44.84	1.64	46.06	27.84
3	9.25 ± 0.10	47.09 ± 0.02	44.82	185	46.58	44.76	1.70	46.20	7.74
4	8.63 ± 0.10	47.332 ± 0.011	44.88	286	46.34	44.70	1.63	45.84	30.78
5	9.53 ± 0.11	47.262 ± 0.006	45.90	22.9	46.87	45.69	1.45	46.67	3.92
6	8.73 ± 0.10	47.181 ± 0.017	44.97	163	46.33	44.87	1.56	45.97	16.39
7	8.55 ± 0.10	47.544 ± 0.006	44.80	555	46.47	44.68	1.69	46.17	23.51
8	8.68 ± 0.09	47.272 ± 0.016	45.32	90.4	46.36	45.04	1.51	46.07	15.97
9	9.01 ± 0.10	47.467 ± 0.011	45.01	287	46.70	44.87	1.70	46.30	14.57
10	9.68 ± 0.10	46.72 ± 0.03	44.65	116	46.40	44.24	1.83	45.90	6.57
11	9.02 ± 0.09	47.09 ± 0.05	44.81	189	46.39	44.67	1.66	45.86	16.71

J2328+1500 showing very little variation in optical/IR continuum slope. Degeneracy between the accretion rate and intrinsic reddening is evident in J2328+1500 however, with the $M_{\text{BH}} \pm 2\sigma$ models showing convergence to different optimum values of $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ (evinced by the lower SED for these models). It is encouraging that such an effect is only seen in one object, and only when the M_{BH} estimate is altered by 2σ from the mean. In general, the inherent uncertainty on M_{BH} has only a small or predictable impact on the L_{bol} with a ± 0.1 dex change in M_{BH} propagating through to the L_{bol} in all cases where the SED peak is unsampled.

2.5 Exploring spinning BHs

So far, we have not investigated the effect of BH spin in the modelling and find that all objects can be adequately fit with the a_* spin parameter set to zero (i.e. non-spinning) and the mass accretion rate left as a free parameter. However, this finding does not necessarily rule out high spin solutions, so here we will specifically explore $a_* \neq 0$ scenarios in our sample. With respect to the SED peak position, there is some degeneracy between the mass accretion rate and spin, as both affect the AD energy output and peak temperature. Therefore, setting both parameters free in the fitting will not necessarily enable us to constrain the optimal spin value. Instead, we

repeat the SED fitting procedure for a range of additional a_* values: 0.5, 0.8, 0.9, and 0.99. Other than these changes, the model-fitting procedure is as described in Section 2.3.

In Fig. 4, the SED models incorporating BHs with a_* values of 0.5, 0.8, and 0.9 are shown alongside the $a_* = 0$ model constructed in Section 2.3. In $\sim 2/3$ of the sample, we find that the moderate spin states ($a_* = 0.8, 0.9$) do not provide as good a fit to the data as the low spin states ($a_* = 0, 0.5$), exhibited by the optical–NIR spectra (e.g. J0839+5754) or by the X-ray spectra (e.g. J1044+2128). Interpreting this result is complicated by the free parameters, in particular, the intrinsic attenuation properties of $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ and $N_{\text{H,int}}$, which are not immediately apparent in Fig. 4. Three objects, J0041–0947, J1350+2652, and J2328+1500, show an improvement in the χ_{red}^2 fitting statistic for the $a_* = 0.9$ model compared with $a_* = 0$, however the difference for the latter two is slight. This is discussed in Section 6.2.3.

Using OPTXAGNF, we rule out the very highest spin states in our sample; for $a_* = 0.99$, our SED model breaks down in all but one (J2328+1500) case, producing SEDs that simply do not fit the data, or models where the PLT dominates the AGN energy output, in disagreement with previous work. The cause of this is that the energies resulting from these highest spin states cannot be redistributed in the Comptonized

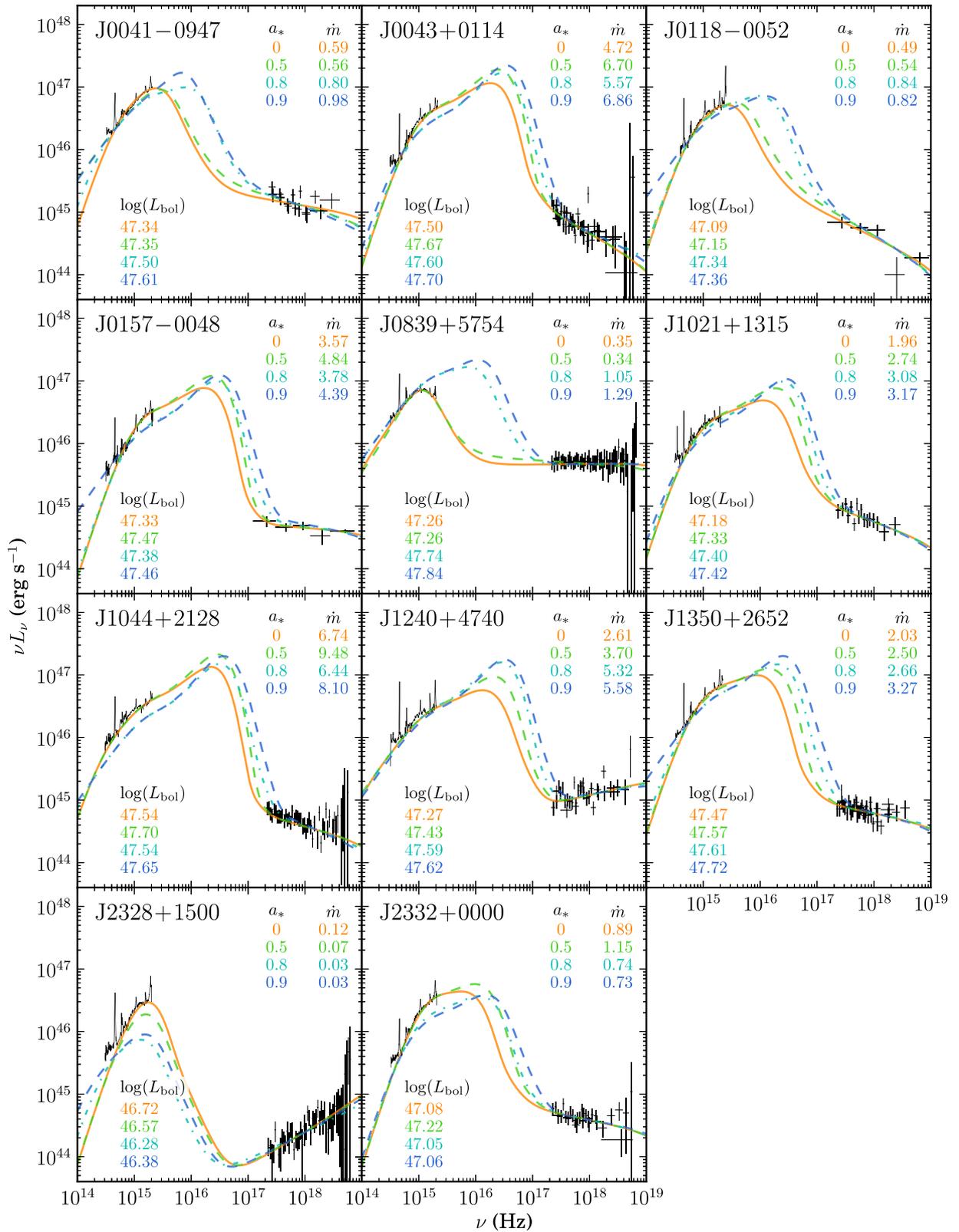


Figure 4. The SEDs for our sample showing variation with the a_* spin parameter. The data and orange curve are for the best-fitting model with $a_* = 0$ and correspond to the identical model as shown by the orange curve in Fig. 3. In each subsequent case, we fix a_* at a higher value (0.5, 0.8, 0.9) and repeat the fitting procedure. We also tested a model with $a_* = 0.99$, but in all but one case, the resulting model either produced only a marginal fit, or a model in which nearly all of the AD energy is reprocessed in the Comptonized components, contrary to what is observed in local AGN. This result is dependent on relativistic corrections and inclination; see Section 6.2.3 for a discussion.

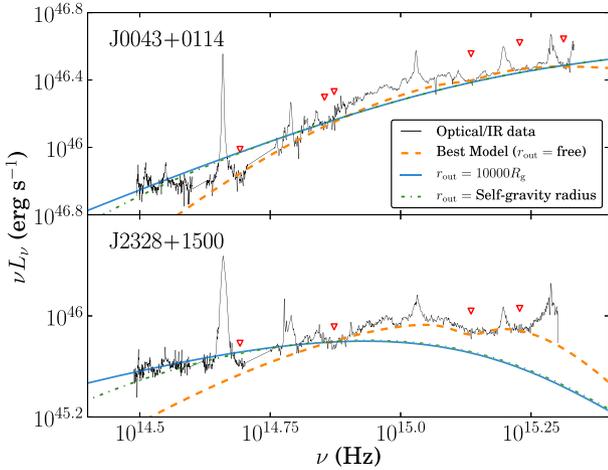


Figure 5. Two example objects in which setting the r_{out} to an arbitrarily large value ($10\,000 R_g$) or r_{sg} produces an inferior fit to the data. We show the intrinsically reddened spectra/SEDs here, whereas other figures show the ‘dereddened’ (intrinsic) SED. The red markers show the continuum regions used for the fit.

components. Given this, we do not plot the $a_* = 0.99$ model in Fig. 4.

However, there are several important limitations of the AD model in OPTXAGNF that become significant here. OPTXAGNF assumes a fixed AD inclination to the observer of 60° and does not include relativistic effects. These corrections are fairly small when spin is low or zero, but become substantial as spin increases. This is discussed in Section 6.2.3.

2.6 Outer AD radius

In all of the SED models we have produced so far, the outer AD radius (r_{out}) has been left as a free parameter. It has been suggested (e.g. Goodman 2003) that the AD extends out to a radius at which self-gravity causes it to break up, with the self-gravity radius, r_{sg} , depending on both M_{BH} and accretion rate according to the following equation, given in Laor & Netzer (1989):

$$\left(\frac{r_{\text{sg}}}{R_g}\right) = 2150 \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^9 M_\odot}\right)^{-2/9} \dot{m}^{4/9} \alpha^{2/9}, \quad (1)$$

where α is the ratio of viscous stress to pressure in the disc, fixed at a value of 0.1.

We explore this further by testing three different means of setting r_{out} :

- (1) r_{out} free: this is the model described in Section 2.3.
- (2) r_{out} fixed at r_{sg} .
- (3) r_{out} fixed at an arbitrary large value, as in Jin et al. (2012a).

Based on both χ^2_{red} and visual inspection of the resulting models, in 8 of the 11 objects, when r_{out} is set to a large value or r_{sg} , the fit is poorer than those with r_{out} free. We show two examples in Fig. 5. In the majority of cases, the model differences are confined mainly to the red part of the spectrum (see J0043+0114 in Fig. 5) as this is where the emission corresponding to the outer AD emerges. Notably, in J2328+1500 however, the difference between these models is also significant at short wavelengths, even though this emission originates from the inner AD regions. Here, the AD peak is predicted to fall short of the observed flux at short wavelengths, but the additional freedom in the model with r_{out} free allows it to converge

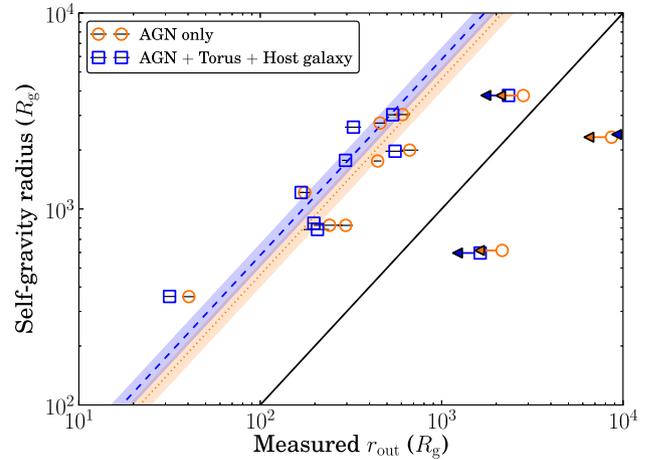


Figure 6. Comparing r_{out} measurements from SED fitting with r_{sg} as given in equation (1). We show the three objects with unconstrained r_{out} as upper limits and exclude these from the derived relations. The solid line represents unity and the dotted and dashed lines represent the unity-gradient lines fitting the AGN only and AGN+Torus+Host galaxy model r_{out} values, respectively. The shaded regions show 1σ error ranges.

to a solution with higher accretion rate and intrinsic extinction, resulting in a steeper intrinsic spectrum that requires a smaller r_{out} . In this test, BH spin was fixed at zero, and as noted in Section 2.5, higher spin values also improve the fit to the short wavelength region of J2328+1500 without invoking intrinsic extinction (see also the discussion in Section 6.2.3).

When we directly compare the r_{out} values we measure with those calculated from equation (1) (Fig. 6), we do see an increasing trend with the r_{sg} , but offset from unity, suggesting that self-gravity may play a role in setting r_{out} , but is not the only contributing factor. Also shown are the r_{out} values derived in the following section, where we include model components for the torus and host galaxy (Section 3). Our derived relations are

$$\log(r_{\text{out}}) = \log(r_{\text{sg}}) - (0.66 \pm 0.06) \quad (2)$$

for the AGN only model, and

$$\log(r_{\text{out}}) = \log(r_{\text{sg}}) - (0.76 \pm 0.06) \quad (3)$$

for the model including torus and host galaxy components.

3 TORUS AND HOST GALAXY

In Paper I, we discussed the potential contribution of the host galaxy to the total SED. This may be manifest in the ‘red excess’ we observe in nearly all objects, redward of the $H\alpha$ emission line. The Jin et al. (2012a) sample was at $z < 0.3$ and was therefore of lower average luminosity than our sample. As such, many of their AGN exhibited significant host galaxy contamination in the optical spectral continuum. In general, for AGN at $z \gtrsim 0.5$, the host galaxy flux is assumed to be insignificant (e.g. Shen et al. 2011), and indeed we concluded in Paper I that for our least luminous source (J2328+1500), the maximum possible contribution to the SED peak (at $\sim 2000 \text{ \AA}$) was ~ 1 per cent, which increased to ~ 50 per cent at a wavelength of $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$.

Since this object also hosts the most massive BH of our sample, it is expected to exhibit the largest contamination by the host galaxy, based on the M_{BH} –bulge mass relationship (see Section 1). We therefore concluded that the host galaxy contribution to the total SED continuum is small in all objects. Nonetheless, the red excess

and *WISE* photometry show evidence for a dusty torus component, possibly including flux from the host galaxy. Thus, as the final refinement of our SED modelling, we now include SED components for both the torus and host galaxy in order to fit the spectral data redward of $H\alpha$ (regions 10–15 in Table 1), and the *WISE* photometry.

In practice, the torus is known to have a complex SED, comprising blackbody emission from the (possibly clumpy) hot dust, and emission/absorption from atomic/molecular transitions, including polyaromatic hydrocarbons related to star formation (Schweitzer et al. 2006). However, due to data limitations, we will model the torus with only two blackbody components, hereafter referred to as ‘hot’ and ‘warm’. The temperature of the hot component, T_{hot} , informs us of the composition of the dust grains that form the torus. Silicate grains sublimate at temperatures above ~ 1500 K, whereas graphitic grains can survive up to ~ 1800 – 2000 K (e.g. Barvainis 1987; Mor et al. 2009; Netzer 2015). In this respect, our approach is similar to that employed by Mor & Trakhtenbrot (2011), who modelled a single, hot graphitic dust component in a large sample of AGN and Landt et al. (2011), who used blackbody models of the hot dust in their sample of AGN. Kirkpatrick et al. (2015) also modelled combined blackbody components to represent the warm and cold dust in their sample of luminous IR star-forming galaxies and AGN.

In Paper I we tested two models of the host galaxy, that of a 5 Gyr elliptical galaxy and a starburst galaxy (represented by M82) with a stronger SED contribution at UV wavelengths. We extracted these galaxy templates from Polletta et al. (2007). Practically, the difference between the two templates was small as UV flux is dominated by AD emission. Based on the M_{BH} –bulge relationship, we expect our sample of AGN to be hosted by massive elliptical galaxies and will therefore use the 5 Gyr template of Polletta et al. (2007) only in this work.

We fit the SEDs in *XSPEC* again, fixing the X-ray part of the spectrum to values calculated in Section 2.3. The full mid-IR to X-ray SEDs, including the torus and host galaxy components, are shown in Fig. 7. We tabulate the key parameters in Table 4. Dust covering factors are calculated for both the hot and warm torus components using the formula $C = L_{\text{dust}}/L_{\text{bol}}$, where L_{dust} and L_{bol} are the luminosities of the hot/warm dust and AGN, respectively.

4 OPTICAL VARIABILITY

In Paper I, we briefly discussed the possible causes of variability in our AGN sample. Since our multiwavelength data are collected non-contemporaneously, it is important to look for evidence of variability between optical and NIR observations. We only identified such evidence in J0041–0947. In this case, for the SED fitting, we normalized the NIR spectrum to the level of the optical spectrum. We also presented all available optical spectra from SDSS/BOSS, as five objects in our sample had optical spectra taken on multiple epochs. Comparing these spectra, there appears to be some small (~ 20 per cent) variability in three of the objects observed more than once.

We examined the possible cause of these variations using our SED model. There are few specific AGN properties that can change on time-scales of a few years; M_{BH} and spin are fixed and changes in the mass accretion rate are physically limited by the viscous time-scale—the characteristic time taken for mass to flow through the disc. This time-scale for the BH masses in our sample is likely to be of the order of hundreds of years even in the innermost regions of the AD (Czerny 2004), although AGN variability is frequently noted that occurs faster than the viscous time-scale (e.g. Denney et al. 2014;

LaMassa et al. 2015). This could be due to reprocessing of SX emission in the AD as PLT emission is generally too weak to have a significant effect in most of our objects (Gardner & Done 2015). The intrinsic reddening we model could change if the extinguishing dust is ‘clumpy’ in nature, as is thought to be the case for the torus (Risaliti et al. 2005), thus presenting a constantly changing $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ parameter.

In order to explore the effects of changing the obscuration, we take our best-fitting SEDs and attempt to fit any other epochs of data available by adjusting only the $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ parameter. In Fig. 8, two examples of the variable AGN are shown together with models that result from changing $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$. To first order, we find that the variability we observe between observations could be attributed to changing extinction but the optical spectrum alone covers too short a wavelength range to test this hypothesis effectively—there are often only two to three emission free regions in the optical spectra to which we fit the SED model. A stronger test of the changing properties that are responsible for such variability would require simultaneous optical–NIR data from multiple epochs, as this would provide the data coverage required to model the AD robustly. It may be that changes in the accretion rate must also be considered to fully parametrize the observed spectral variability. All such tests also require accurate flux calibration; uncertainties in the SDSS flux calibration may also contribute to observed apparent variability.

5 OPTICAL–NIR SPECTRAL DECOMPOSITION

Our physical model of the underlying AGN continuum now enables us to perform a complete decomposition of the optical–NIR spectrum, including the contribution from the BLR. The BLR is thought to lie between the AD and torus (e.g. Antonucci 1993; Beckmann & Shrader 2012; Czerny et al. 2015) with electron transitions in partially ionized gas giving rise to many emission features that are Doppler-broadened by the rapid orbit of this gas around the BH. Our sample is too small to improve on the emission line correlations extensively studied by e.g. Shen & Liu (2012), Denney et al. (2013), and Karouzos et al. (2015); however, since such studies generally use power-law continuum models, it is desirable to have a better understanding of the true continuum, especially as this continuum forms the basis of many virial M_{BH} estimators. In particular, the Balmer continuum lies underneath the Mg II feature, but due to additional contamination by Fe II , this can be difficult to deconvolve, particularly when considering only a limited wavelength range on either side of the Mg II lines.

Our spectral model will include models of the isolated emission lines, and a ‘pseudo-continuum’ which includes blended line emission as well as true continuum contributions.

The emission lines are modelled as superpositions of Gaussians. Whilst this is an approximation to the true emission line shape, it provides a versatile and widely adopted means of characterizing the emission lines (see e.g. Greene & Ho 2007; Dong et al. 2008; Wang et al. 2009; Matsuoka et al. 2013, and also Assef et al. 2011 and Park et al. 2012 and references therein for examples of alternative models using Gauss-Hermite polynomials).

We use the following components for the emission lines:

(i) $H\alpha$ $\lambda 6563$ is fitted with two broad components (or one broad and one ‘intermediate’). As in Paper I, for objects that show strong narrow $[\text{O III}]$, we include a third, narrow Gaussian component, locked in velocity width and wavelength to the strong, narrow $[\text{O III}]$ member.

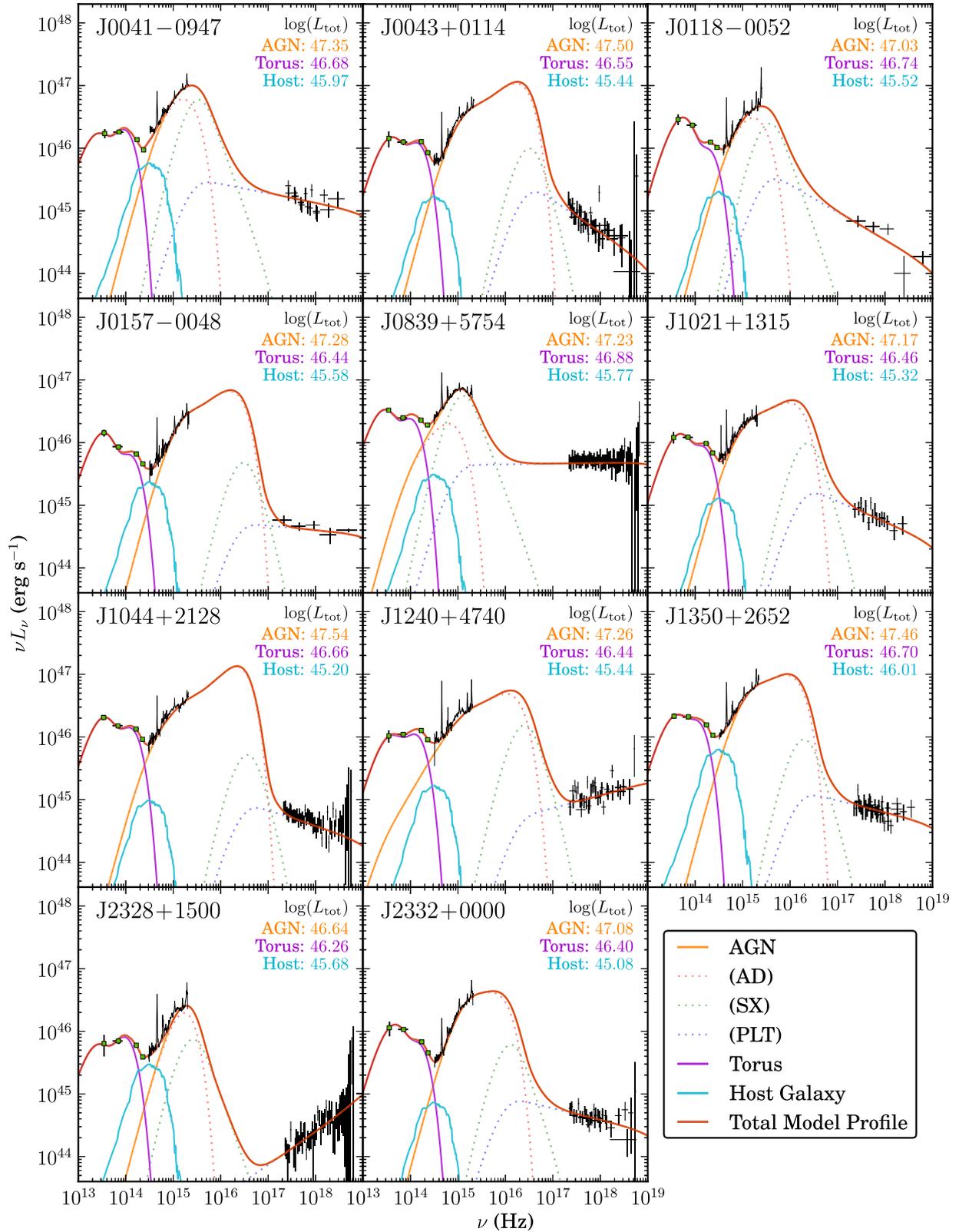


Figure 7. The full mid-IR to X-ray SEDs for our sample. The green squares show the *WISE* photometry data and the optical–NIR and X-ray data are once again shown in black. The orange, light blue, and purple curves show the contributions from the AGN, host galaxy, and dusty torus components, respectively. The torus comprises two blackbody components, and the host galaxy is a 5 Gyr elliptical template.

Table 4. Luminosities and temperatures of the different components in our sample.

Name	$\log(L_{\text{bol}})$ [log(erg s ⁻¹)]	$\log(L_{\text{Torus}})$ [log(erg s ⁻¹)]	$\log(L_{\text{Host}})$ [log(erg s ⁻¹)]	$\frac{L_{1\ \mu\text{m,host}}}{L_{1\ \mu\text{m,total}}}$	T_{hot} (K)	T_{warm} (K)	C_{hot} (per cent)	C_{warm} (per cent)
J0041–0947	47.35 ± 0.02	46.7 ± 0.3	45.97 ± 0.09	0.46	1090 ± 160	300 ± 1400	12.7	8.7
J0043+0114	47.50 ± 0.02	46.55 ± 0.02	45.4 ± 0.1	0.28	1630 ± 60	460 ± 60	5.5	5.7
J0118–0052	47.03 ± 0.03	46.74 ± 0.02	45.5 ± 0.4	0.19	2170 ± 170	650 ± 60	12.8	38.2
J0157–0048	47.28 ± 0.02	46.44 ± 0.02	45.58 ± 0.08	0.62	1410 ± 90	400 ± 30	4.8	9.8
J0839+5754	47.23 ± 0.07	46.9 ± 0.6	45.8 ± 0.3	0.17	1200 ± 1300	300 ± 500	20.5	24.3
J1021+1315	47.17 ± 0.02	46.46 ± 0.02	45.3 ± 0.2	0.24	1710 ± 70	540 ± 50	8.4	11.4
J1044+2128	47.54 ± 0.01	46.66 ± 0.02	45 ± 2	0.13	1450 ± 50	410 ± 30	5.7	7.3
J1240+4740	47.26 ± 0.04	46.4 ± 0.5	45.4 ± 0.1	0.21	1500 ± 70	400 ± 1700	8.6	6.5
J1350+2652	47.46 ± 0.01	46.70 ± 0.03	46.01 ± 0.03	0.61	1270 ± 70	440 ± 50	8.8	8.3
J2328+1500	46.64 ± 0.02	46.3 ± 0.3	45.68 ± 0.03	0.72	1130 ± 90	300 ± 800	26.2	15.7
J2332+0000	47.08 ± 0.02	46.40 ± 0.02	45.1 ± 0.2	0.22	1650 ± 80	540 ± 60	7.7	13.1

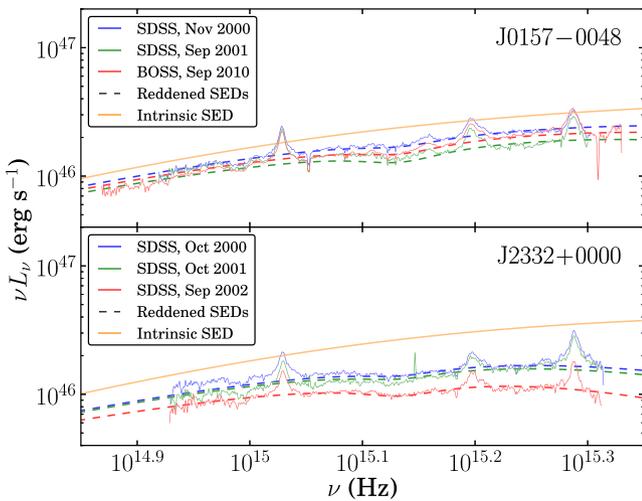


Figure 8. Examples of the ‘variable’ objects in our sample. Five objects were observed on multiple occasions in the optical by SDSS/BOSS, and of these, three showed some evidence for variability. Modelling this as an effect of changing extinction produces a first-order correction for this variability. The intrinsic SED therefore does not change between observations, but the observed SED does change. In these two examples, we show the data from each different epoch in different colours (with the same colour scheme as in Paper I) and the attenuated model as a correspondingly coloured dashed line. The difference in $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ between 2000 Oct and 2002 Sep in J2332+0000 is 0.043 mag. All spectra have been corrected for MW extinction.

(ii) $H\beta$ $\lambda 4861$ is fitted with an equivalent profile to $H\alpha$ with only the normalization as a free parameter.

(iii) $[O\text{ III}]$ $\lambda 4959$, 5007 is a doublet. We fit each member with two Gaussians or one Gaussian for objects showing particularly weak $[O\text{ III}]$ emission (J0043+0114, J0157–0048, J1021+1315, J1044+2128, and J1240+4740).

(iv) $H\gamma$ $\lambda 4340$ is fitted in the same manner as $H\beta$.

(v) $Mg\text{ II}$ $\lambda 2798$, $C\text{ III}]$ $\lambda 1908$, $C\text{ IV}$ $\lambda 1549$, and $Ly\alpha$ $\lambda 1216$ are modelled with two broad Gaussian components each. We do not include narrow components for these lines as in general there is no statistical justification for a third component. $Ly\alpha$ is only covered in J0118–0052. We do not attach a physical significance to the two components in any of these lines. For instance, $Mg\text{ II}$ is a doublet, but we do not model it as such as the line splitting is too small to be significant.

(vi) $He\text{ I}$ $\lambda 5876$, $H\delta$ $\lambda 4102$, $[Ne\text{ III}]$ $\lambda 3869$, $[O\text{ II}]$ $\lambda 3729$, $[Ne\text{ IV}]$ $\lambda 2422$, $C\text{ II}]$ $\lambda 2326$, $Al\text{ III}$ $\lambda 1855$, $He\text{ II}$ $\lambda 1640$, $Si\text{ IV}$ $\lambda 1394$ (may include $O\text{ IV}]$) and $O\text{ I}$ $\lambda 1305$ (may include $Si\text{ II}$) are all modelled for completeness with a single Gaussian component, though most are very faint in our spectra, so we freeze their wavelengths to literature values (Vanden Berk et al. 2001).

The pseudo-continuum comprises the following components:

(i) OPTXAGNF continuum: We use the model constructed in Section 3, as it incorporates the host galaxy and dust components. An exception is J0041–0947, for which we adopt the model with a BH spin parameter of $a_* = 0.9$. As noted in Section 2, this is the one object in our sample where we see a significant improvement in the continuum fit when we introduce a spinning BH ($\chi^2_{\text{red}} = 4.16, 0.92$ for $a_* = 0, 0.9$). We allow some freedom in the normalization; if the continuum regions chosen for SED model-fitting are marginally contaminated by an emission component, the true continuum could be below that we calculate.

(ii) Balmer continuum: We employ the following model of the Balmer continuum (e.g. Grandi 1982; Jin et al. 2012a):

$$F_{\nu, \text{BC}} = F_{\nu, \text{BE}} e^{-h(\nu - \nu_{\text{BE}})/(kT_c)} \quad (\nu \geq \nu_{\text{BE}}), \quad (4)$$

where ν_{BE} and $F_{\nu, \text{BE}}$ are the frequency and flux density at the Balmer edge, respectively. We convolve this model with a Gaussian to account for Doppler-broadening associated with intrinsic velocity dispersion in the hydrogen emitting gas. ν_{BE} (initial value of 3646 Å; Jin et al. 2012a), the temperature, T , and the width of the convolving Gaussian are free parameters.

(iii) Blended Fe II emission: to model the ubiquitous, blended permitted Fe II emission seen throughout the optical–NIR AGN spectrum, we use two empirical templates, derived from the Type 1 AGN I Zwicky 1. These templates come from Véron-Cetty, Joly & Véron (2004) for the (rest frame) optical range and Vestergaard & Wilkes (2001) in the UV. We use the theoretical Fe II emission template of Verner et al. (2009) for the 3100–3500 Å gap between these. The templates are convolved with a Gaussian to incorporate velocity broadening and normalized independently in the optical and UV. The normalization and Gaussian width are free parameters.

After fitting the pseudo-continuum, we then fit the emission lines systematically. All fitting is performed by custom PYTHON scripts using the Levenberg–Marquardt algorithm provided in the LMFIT package.¹ To estimate measurement errors, we use a Monte Carlo

¹ <http://lmfit.github.io/lmfit-py/>

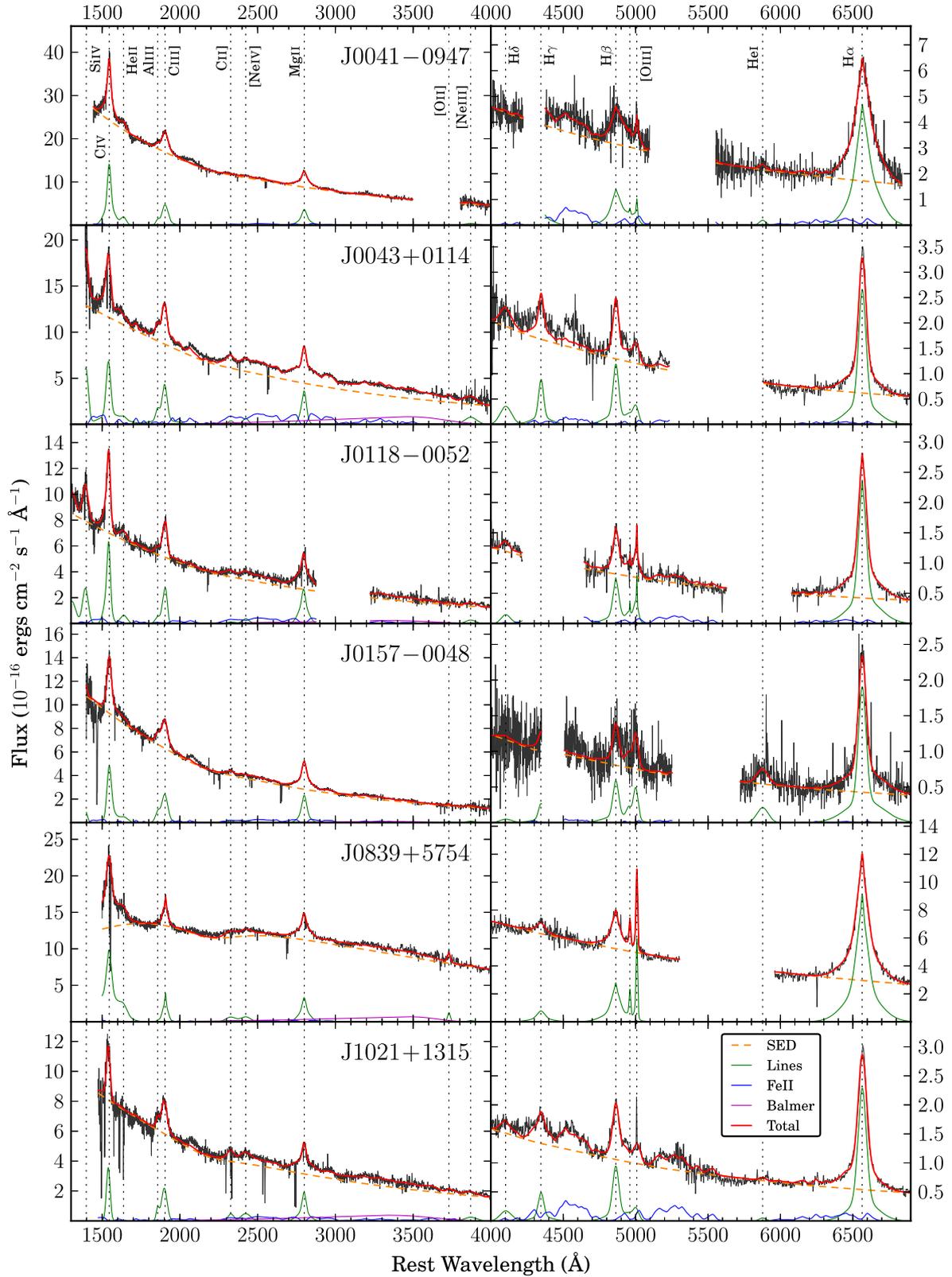


Figure 9. Optical–NIR spectral decomposition using our SED model together with models of the Balmer continuum, blended Fe II emission, and emission lines. Line identifications are shown in the top panels. The right-hand panels are magnified to more clearly show the Balmer region.

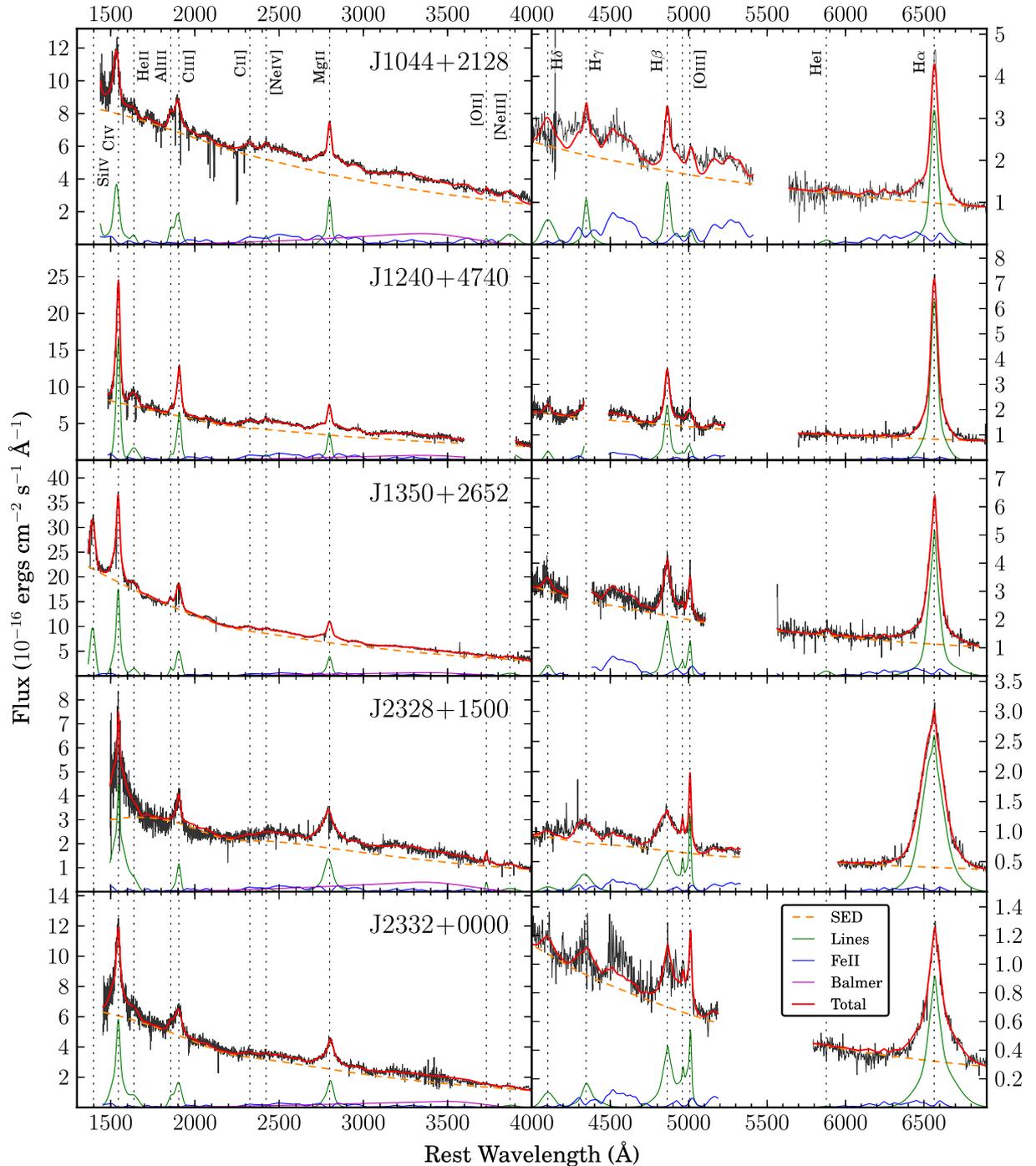


Figure 9 – continued

method, where 100 different realizations of the spectra are created using the mean (measured) flux density and standard error at each pixel, and refitting the model from scratch. The central 68 per cent of the resulting value distribution for any given property then provides an estimation of the measurement error. In these ‘mock’ spectra, the artificial ‘noise’ is added to already noisy spectra, but to an approximation, this method will give a good representation of the true errors.

We show the model fits resulting from our spectral decomposition in Fig. 9.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Refined SED model properties

Our data are well described by the physically motivated SED continuum and emission line models we have built. We refine the SED models of Paper I in Section 2.3 by improving our treatment of intrinsic reddening. We will first discuss the properties of these models and compare them to similar studies. We note that there is an anticorrelation between M_{BH} and \dot{m} (Fig. 10), likely because the objects of our sample are selected from a small redshift range, are of

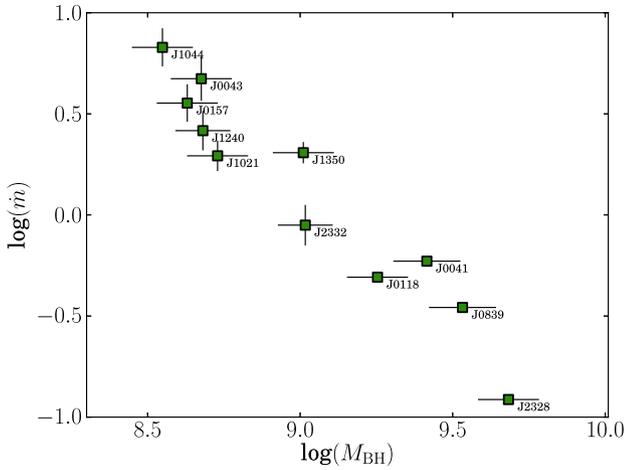


Figure 10. Dependence of \dot{m} on M_{BH} . This highlights selection effects for our sample.

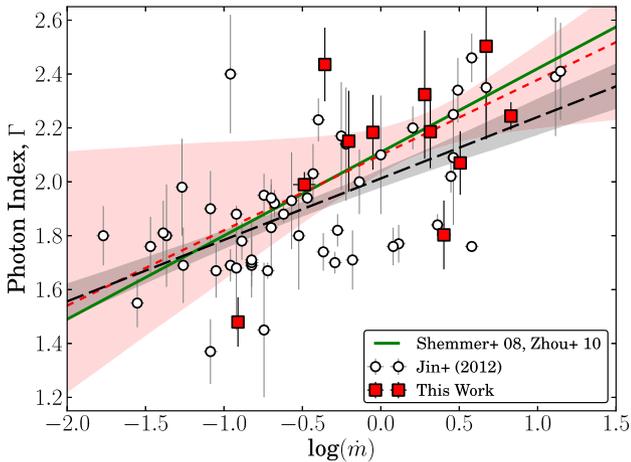


Figure 11. The photon index (Γ) against Eddington ratio in our sample, overplotted on the Jin et al. (2012) sample. The red dashed and black long dashed lines are the best-fitting linear relations for our sample and the Jin et al. (2012) sample, respectively, with the grey and pale red shaded regions being the 1σ error ranges of these relationships. The green solid line shows the relation derived by Shemmer et al. (2008) and Zhou & Zhao (2010).

similar flux, and are therefore of comparable luminosity. Previous work, such as Vasudevan & Fabian (2007), Davis & Laor (2011) and Jin, Ward & Done (2012b) have suggested that it is \dot{m} that more strongly governs the observed SED properties, including the X-ray photon index and BCs.

We show a comparison of our models with those of Jin et al. (2012a) for the \dot{m} – Γ relationship in Fig. 11. Due to the small size of our sample, there is a large uncertainty on the slope of this relationship, but it shows a correlation which is in agreement with that presented in Shemmer et al. (2008), Zhou & Zhao (2010), and Jin et al. (2012a).

We see a large spread in the BCs in our sample (Table 3) as previously mentioned in Paper I. Early work used fixed values for these coefficients (e.g. Elvis et al. 1994; Richards et al. 2006), but cautioned that the large dispersion in these values made their application uncertain. There is mounting evidence that BCs are dependent on AGN luminosity and by extension \dot{m} (Trakhtenbrot & Netzer 2012). Moreover, the Elvis et al. (1994) SED templates included the IR torus bump in L_{bol} , and therefore ‘double-counted’

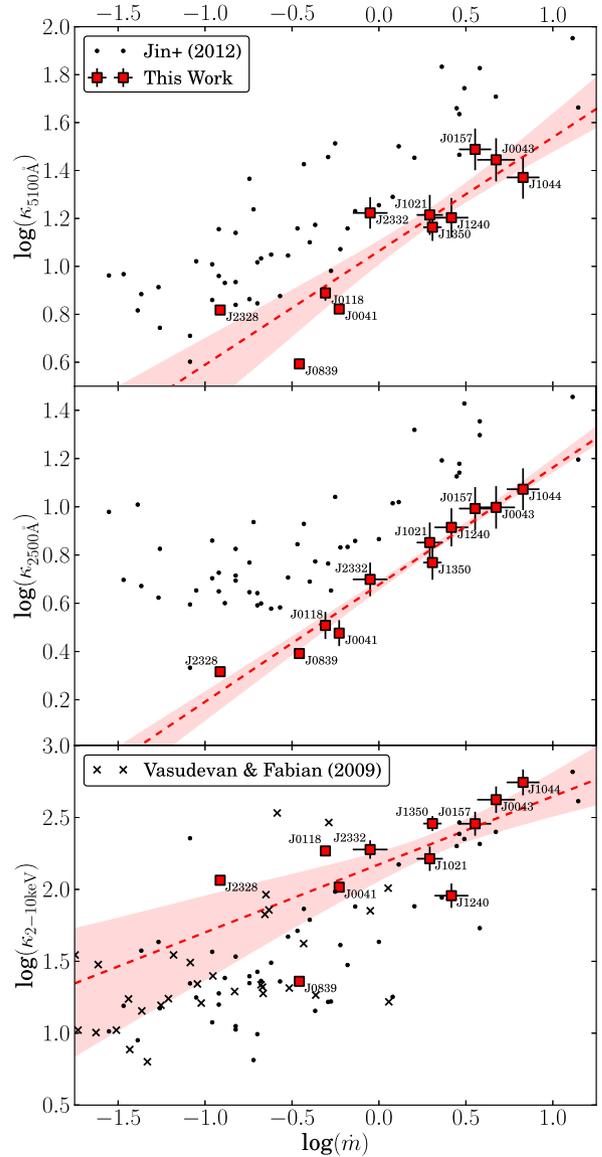


Figure 12. Dependence of various BC factors on \dot{m} . In addition to our sample, we show the literature samples of Jin et al. (2012) and Vasudevan & Fabian (2009). The best-fitting linear trend lines for our sample are shown by the red dashed lines and the shaded regions show the associated 1σ error ranges.

some of the emission from the AGN (Marconi et al. 2004). We present our BCs against \dot{m} in Fig. 12, confirming the correlations observed by e.g. Vasudevan & Fabian (2009), Jin et al. (2012b), and Castelló-Mor et al. (2016). We have overplotted the results of Vasudevan & Fabian (2009) and Jin et al. (2012b) for direct comparison.

Jin et al. (2012b) also used OPTXAGNF, applied to a low-redshift ($z < 0.3$) sample, whereas Vasudevan & Fabian (2009) used a simpler AD+PLT model. As our samples were all selected by different means, there may be differing selection effects between the samples. For instance, we required objects that were bright enough to yield an X-ray spectrum, Jin et al. (2012b) imposed X-ray quality cuts (sample selection described in Jin et al. 2012a), and Vasudevan & Fabian (2009) drew their sample from the Peterson et al. (2004) sample—an RM study of optically bright AGN.

In the top two panels of Fig. 12, our BC values for $\kappa_{5100 \text{ \AA}}$ and $\kappa_{2500 \text{ \AA}}$ show strong correlation with \dot{m} . This alone suggests that L_{bol} can be constrained with an estimate of M_{BH} and a measurement of the (dereddened) continuum luminosity. However, our values for both coefficients lie below the majority of the Jin et al. (2012b) sample. As these are calculated from luminosity measurements that are AD dominated, the likely reason for this is the different average M_{BH} of our two samples. The Jin et al. (2012b) sample contains AGN with a lower average M_{BH} ; notably, many of the highest \dot{m} AGN in their sample were the narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxies with masses of 10^6 – $10^8 M_{\odot}$. The highest \dot{m} AGN in our sample are ~ 1 – 2 dex more massive, so a single AD continuum luminosity measurement samples a different part of the AD SED in our AGN compared to theirs. Our BCs sample continuum regions closer to the AD peak and are therefore smaller on average than those calculated by Jin et al. (2012b). This is illustrated in Davis & Laor (2011), their fig. 1.

In the top two panels of Fig. 12, our results for $\kappa_{2-10\text{keV}}$ are more consistent with those of Jin et al. (2012b) and Vasudevan & Fabian (2009), suggesting that this coefficient depends less on effects such as M_{BH} , as might be expected from the argument above— M_{BH} does not influence the X-ray spectrum as much as the AD.

In summary, we suggest that UV BCs in AGN are dependent on both M_{BH} and \dot{m} and applying relations calibrated for $\sim 10^7 M_{\odot}$ AGN to those with $\sim 10^9 M_{\odot}$ BHs could introduce systematic uncertainties. This may be complicated further by model dependences such as a_* , since $L_{\text{bol}} = \eta \dot{M} c^2$, where the mass-energy efficiency, η , varies with a_* . X-ray BCs do not appear susceptible to this systematic effect, but do show a larger spread.

We will further explore the correlations between SED properties and BCs in a future paper, with a much larger AGN sample.

6.2 SED model testing

6.2.1 Intrinsic reddening

Our SED model depends on the adopted models for intrinsic reddening in the AGN, and in Section 2.3 we showed that MW, LMC, and SMC reddening curves are adequate to model the intrinsic extinction in all 11 of our AGN.

An alternative approach is to calculate customized extinction curves. Zafar et al. (2015) carried out a study of the intrinsic reddening of 16 quasars in the redshift range $0.71 < z < 2.13$, selected on the basis of high intrinsic extinction. By comparing their sample of objects to the Vanden Berk et al. (2001) and Glikman, Helfand & White (2006) quasar templates, they were able to derive reddening curves for each object in their sample. However, an assumption in that work is that the intrinsic SED of all AGN in the sample can be described by a simple power law of constant slope. Whilst a power law well describes the optical–NIR continuum emission for many AGN, the true continuum is more accurately described by the AD, which has a predicted turnover in energy corresponding to the temperature of gas orbiting the BH just outside r_{isco} , which is dependent on M_{BH} , mass accretion rate, and spin (e.g. Hubeny et al. 2000; Davis, Woo & Blaes 2007). In Paper I, we found that around half of the objects in our sample had optical spectra at or very near this SED peak. Additionally, we have found evidence for a change in power-law slope in 8 of 11 objects, consistent with the observations sampling the outer edge of the AD. For these reasons, we cannot make assumptions about the intrinsic SED shape a priori. As the intrinsic extinction in each of our objects is small— $E(B -$

$V)_{\text{int}} < 0.1$ mag in all but one case—we are justified in our approach of using MW, LMC, and SMC curves.

By allowing the dust composition to vary, we have made a logical extension to the modelling used in Paper I. Whilst some objects (such as J1350+2652) show evidence for a 2200 Å feature that is better fit by an MW reddening curve (Paper I; a similar finding is shown in Capellupo et al. 2015, their fig. 7), J1044+2128 lacks this feature and shows a much improved extinction correction with the SMC curve.

6.2.2 Uncertainties on the BH mass

We have shown that in models of this kind M_{BH} uncertainties of ~ 0.1 dex lead to a ~ 0.1 dex uncertainty in L_{bol} . In objects with well-sampled SED peaks, the difference is much smaller as other parameters are adjusted to maintain the fit. This is perhaps clearest in J0839+5754, but also J0041–0947 and J0118–0052 show only small changes in L_{bol} despite a ~ 0.4 dex change in M_{BH} from largest to smallest values. However, we should note that in J2328+1500 the optimal solution shows some degeneracy between \dot{m} and the intrinsic reddening as defined by $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$, with the latter property converging to different minima when fitting the $\pm 2\sigma$ M_{BH} models. This may be expected in this object as it shows the highest intrinsic reddening value (see Table 2) of our sample and therefore we suggest that for reddening of $E(B - V)_{\text{int}} \gtrsim 0.1$ mag the uncertainties in estimates of L_{bol} become greater (a combined error due to M_{BH} and $E(B - V)_{\text{int}}$ of ~ 0.3 dex in this case).

Our M_{BH} estimates were specifically derived from the profile of $H\alpha$ as there is excellent S/N, and it shows strong correlation with $H\beta$, and hence reverberation studies (Greene & Ho 2005). Assuming that the two main sources of uncertainty on M_{BH} are the dispersion on the relation with $H\beta$ and our measurement error may be optimistic (Park et al. 2012 estimates that the uncertainty in the BLR size–luminosity relation and virial coefficient contribute to a total uncertainty on such estimates of ~ 0.46 dex), but we wished to test how such uncertainties would affect the calculation of the SED model and corresponding properties. Castelló-Mor et al. (2016) used RM M_{BH} estimates for their samples of super- and sub-Eddington AGN, but estimated the uncertainty on these estimates was still a factor of ~ 3 , comparable to the single-epoch method.

We further explored the potential uncertainties on M_{BH} by calculating new mass estimates using the Mg II emission line and the method of McLure & Dunlop (2004). Mg II properties were determined in Section 6.4, and the results are shown in Fig. 13. The intrinsic dispersion on the Mg II mass estimate was taken to be 0.14 dex (Wang et al. 2009). From this comparison, we suggest that the $\pm 1\sigma, 2\sigma$ uncertainties we considered in Section 2.4 are a reasonable representation of the error on M_{BH} . There is some evidence for a trend, with Mg II masses being systematically larger in the lowest mass objects of our sample. This could be statistical (the error bars plotted in Fig. 13 are likely smaller than the true intrinsic uncertainties) or it could be due to the specific relations we use to determine M_{BH} , which can be sensitive to the manner of the spectral analysis—see Wang et al. (2009). Using the relations of Shen et al. (2011) or Trakhtenbrot & Netzer (2012) may accentuate this effect even further, as those studies present even greater M_{BH} values from Mg II than McLure & Dunlop (2004).

Finally, we note that the profile of $H\alpha$ in J1044+2128 (and to a smaller degree J0043+0114 and J1021+1315, see Fig. 9) suggests that addition of another Gaussian component may result in an improved fit. If such a component is associated with a ‘narrow’

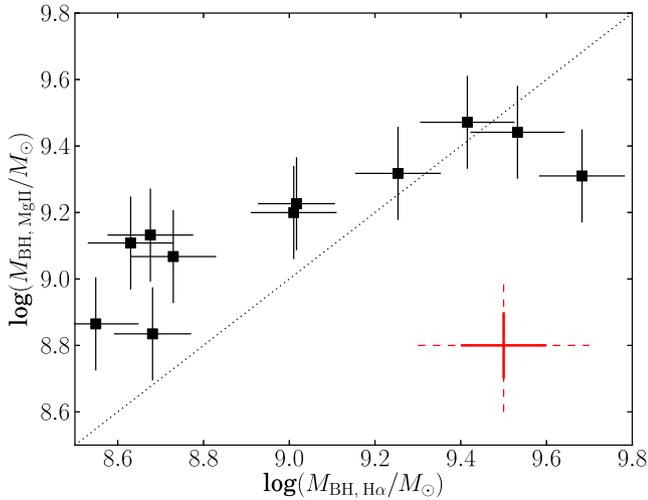


Figure 13. Comparison of mass estimates determined in Paper I from $H\alpha$ emission line with those using $Mg\ II$ measurements from Section 6.4 and the method of McLure & Dunlop (2004). Error bars are representative of the intrinsic errors from the dispersions of the emission line relations, tabulated in Table 3 for $H\alpha$ and taken to be 0.14 dex for $Mg\ II$ (Wang et al. 2009). The total uncertainties, when factoring in the error on RM mass measurements against which such estimates are calibrated, are larger. In red, we show representative 1σ (bold) and 2σ (dashed) errors considered in Section 2.4. There is some evidence for $Mg\ II$ masses being systematically larger at the low end of the scale, which could be statistical, or a feature of the specific relations we have used.

$H\alpha$ region (distinct from the BLR), this results in a broader ‘broad’ component, and hence a (~ 0.1 dex) larger M_{BH} . However, given the extremely weak $[O\ III]$ line, it is not certain whether such a third $H\alpha$ component should indeed be physically attributed to a separate region; our data are insufficient to unambiguously determine its velocity width.

6.2.3 BH spin

Increasing the BH spin has a similar effect to lowering M_{BH} —both increase the peak temperature of the AD gas, extending the SED peak to higher frequencies. However, spin also changes the efficiency, so that the same mass accretion rate through the outer disc (sampled by the rest-frame optical/UV spectra) will produce a higher L_{bol} , as the disc extends closer to the BH. In our model, this affects the SX and PLT as well as the AD, since these are assumed to be powered directly by the same accretion flow observed as a disc in the optical/UV. This is done via the r_{cor} parameter, which sets the radius below which the luminosity is used to power these soft and hard X-ray components, rather than being dissipated in a standard AD. Thus, the OPTXAGNF model has a peak disc temperature which is set by r_{cor} rather than by BH spin directly. Increasing the spin means that there is more energy dissipated below r_{cor} , i.e. there is more energy to power the SX and PLT. Since the level of the PLT is fixed by the X-ray data, this means that the fit generally adjusts r_{cor} to smaller values, leading to an increase in peak disc temperature compared to zero spin. This makes the (rest-frame) UV spectrum bluer, so the intrinsic reddening decreases to maintain the fit.

For low spin values ($a_* \leq 0.5$), these adjustments are minor and the fits are similar to those with zero spin. However, for higher spins ($a_* = 0.8$ and 0.9), this has a large impact on the models with the bluer UV continuum being very different to the observed continuum slope in a way which cannot be easily compensated for by decreased

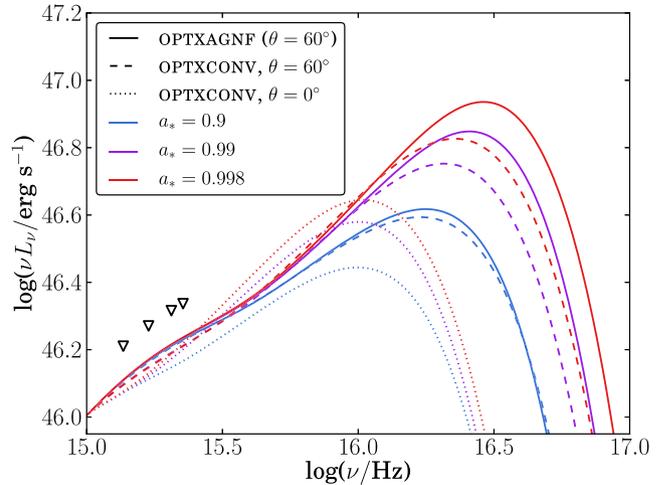


Figure 14. Comparison of OPTXAGNF with OPTXCONV for high to maximal spin BHs ($M_{BH} = 10^9 M_\odot$, $\dot{m} = 1$). OPTXCONV includes relativistic effects that are neglected in OPTXAGNF. The line styles (solid, dashed, dotted) denote the model used, and the colour corresponds to different values of a_* . To more clearly show the difference in the extreme-UV, the models are arbitrarily normalized to the same value at 10^{15} Hz, as this part of the SED is constrained by data. The markers show the wavelengths used for SED fitting, highlighting the difficulty of distinguishing between these scenarios with the available data.

reddening. In half of the sample, this produces a poorer fit to the data, but this is not true for all objects: J0041–0947, J0043+0114, J1240+4740, J1350+2652, J2328+1500, and J2332+0000 all show reasonable fits ($\chi^2_{red} < 3$) for the $a_* = 0.9$ model. The resulting fits are markedly poorer for the highest spin states ($a_* \geq 0.99$), ruling these out from the OPTXAGNF modelling.

A limitation in our study is that we have not considered the effect of AD inclination in our models. The OPTXAGNF model assumes a constant inclination, θ , of 60° to face-on, and geometric consideration of orientation dictates that a factor of 2 greater flux would be observed if the AD was face-on ($\theta = 0^\circ$). Larger inclinations than 60° are thought to be less likely, as at some point the coaxial torus would obscure the AD. The effect of this on the SED peak frequency will be small, making this property extremely difficult to robustly constrain and practically, other sources of uncertainty discussed in this chapter dominate the uncertainty on L_{bol} .

The disc inclination becomes significant in the case of a highly spinning BH. Here, relativistic effects arising from the differential line-of-sight gas motion at different inclinations must be accounted for as the simple trigonometric treatment of inclination is insufficient. It is therefore necessary to convolve a relativistic smearing kernel with the AD spectrum at each radius. This formed the basis of the model presented in Done et al. (2013) that includes such relativistic treatment of the AD inclination—OPTXCONV.

In Fig. 14, we compare models of OPTXAGNF (no relativistic convolution) with OPTXCONV (which includes the relativistic convolution) at high to maximal spin values. We normalize all models at a frequency of 10^{15} Hz (3000 \AA), as data constrains this part of the model, and they must all therefore pass through the same point. We show two different inclinations for OPTXCONV, $\theta = 0^\circ$ and 60° as the difference between the two models is strongest in the case of a face-on disc. Due to this discrepancy in energy, it is possible that more of our objects could be compatible with high spin ($a_* \geq 0.99$) values than we concluded in Section 2.5.

Therefore, we reproduced the high spin models described in Section 2.5 using `OPTXCONV` at inclinations of both 0° and 60° . We tested spin values of $a_* = 0.99$ and 0.998 , as both scenarios were ruled out in most objects when using `OPTXAGNF`. We found that `OPTXCONV` delivers similar models to `OPTXAGNF` when the inclination was fixed at 60° ; either a good fit to the data is not achieved or the SED energy is dominated by the SX and PLT in spite of the high accretion rates. This is counter to what is observed at lower redshifts (Jin et al. 2012a), in which high accretion rate objects are generally AD dominated. In the face-on case, however, good fits to the data are obtained in 10/11 AGN (J1044+2128 is the exception), even for $a_* = 0.998$. Four of these AGN still require a dominant SX and PLT, however. We therefore highlight that models including full relativistic treatment of the disc inclination should be used to model highly spinning BHs as the difference in energy can be significant. However, as we have already noted some sources of potential degeneracy between parameters in our models, it is unlikely that a strong constraint can be put on the AD inclination by SED modelling alone. Using this method to accurately measure the accretion rate, spin, inclination, and intrinsic reddening values would require exceptional data coverage and quality. Despite these uncertainties, our measurements of L_{bol} are more accurate than those in other studies that lack X-ray spectra in addition to optical–NIR spectra (Capellupo et al. 2015; Castelló-Mor et al. 2016).

So, do our results support a ‘spin-up’ picture of BH evolution? If BHs grow via prolonged anisotropic accretion episodes and mergers with other BHs, their spin values would be expected to increase over cosmic time, such that the most massive BHs have the highest spins (e.g. Dotti et al. 2013; Volonteri et al. 2013). The counter argument is that randomly oriented accretion episodes would result in a_* approaching zero for massive AGN (e.g. King, Pringle & Hofmann 2008). An alternative finding by Fanidakis et al. (2011) suggests that prolonged accretion episodes spin-up *all* supermassive BHs, whilst chaotic accretion results in only the most massive ($\gtrsim 10^8 M_\odot$) BHs having high spins, as a result of merger-driven growth.

Using the results from `OPTXAGNF`, we find our AGN to be more consistent with having low-to-moderate spins. However, high spins cannot be ruled out for face-on inclinations when relativistic corrections are included in `OPTXCONV`. We can still conclude that the most massive AGN in our sample are all compatible with hosting highly spinning BHs, whereas the least massive (J1044+2128) is not, but reiterate that there are several sources of degeneracy in the models.

6.2.4 Radial extent of AD

We find that in the eight AGN where we put constraints on r_{out} with our model, there is a strong correlation with r_{sg} but offset from unity, see Fig. 6. It is not known whether self-gravity is the condition under which the disc breaks up, but our findings suggest that r_{out} could be related to r_{sg} , but smaller by a factor ~ 5 , in most or all cases.

This result differs from that in Hao et al. (2010) who study the optical–IR SEDs of a sample of ‘hot-dust-poor’ AGN. In a quarter of their sample, weak host galaxy contribution enables measurement of the outer AD radii, which are found to be larger than r_{sg} . This could suggest a difference in the AD in these objects that may or may not be related to their weak dust contributions. Alternatively, it could be a result of poorer data coverage, as they use photometry for their SED fits, or degeneracy with dust blackbody components.

We require a greater understanding of AD physics to unify these observables.

For this test, we kept the spin fixed at zero but r_{sg} is determined by the AD total mass, which is not very dependent on BH spin. It does however depend on the assumed Shakura–Sunyaev viscosity parameter, α . We assume $\alpha = 0.1$; a smaller value of α would result in a more massive disc, and hence smaller r_{sg} . However, this dependence is not very strong and requires $\alpha \sim 10^{-4}$ to account for the difference we infer.

6.3 Torus and host

The mean temperatures for the two blackbody components that model the torus for our sample are $\langle T_{\text{hot}} \rangle = 1470 \pm 90$ K and $\langle T_{\text{warm}} \rangle = 430 \pm 30$ K. The warm component is generally poorly constrained by only two *WISE* photometry points and shows large errors on T_{warm} . Our mean covering factors are $\langle C_{\text{hot}} \rangle = 11 \pm 2$ per cent and $\langle C_{\text{warm}} \rangle = 14 \pm 3$ per cent.

Landt et al. (2011) obtain values of $\langle T_{\text{hot}} \rangle = 1365 \pm 18$ and $\langle C_{\text{hot}} \rangle = 7 \pm 2$ per cent. The Landt et al. (2011) sample had NIR spectra from the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility’s SpeX spectrograph, and as such the data were of significantly higher quality than was available for this work, in which the torus components were only constrained by *WISE* photometry. Their sample was also at a lower redshift ($z \leq 0.3$) and lower average luminosity than our sample. Nevertheless, our results are consistent to within 2σ .

As discussed in e.g. Landt et al. (2011), Bartscher et al. (2013), Kishimoto et al. (2013), and Netzer (2015), the T_{hot} values calculated are close to the silicate dust grain sublimation temperature. This may suggest that the grains were formed in an oxygen-rich environment. We do see evidence for a spread in T_{hot} values that is likely to be a feature of the limited quality of our data, although Landt et al. (2011) note that in NGC 5548 there is some evidence for higher dust temperatures than other objects in their sample. Other studies finding similar results for T_{hot} include Kobayashi et al. (1993), who use a similar approach to ours, and Suganuma et al. (2006).

Mor & Trakhtenbrot (2011) found their distribution of hot dust covering factor values peaked at ~ 13 per cent, in a sample of 15 000 SDSS AGN, fitting *WISE* photometry of comparable quality to our sample. This is slightly higher than the Landt et al. (2011) value, but is consistent with our result, which lies between the Landt et al. (2011) and Mor & Trakhtenbrot (2011) values. The Mor & Trakhtenbrot (2011) sample covers a larger range of luminosities than ours but they do not find a dependence of covering factor on M_{BH} or \dot{m} .

Finally, Roseboom et al. (2013) inferred a broad distribution of covering factors generally greater than those measured in this work, Landt et al. (2011) and Mor & Trakhtenbrot (2011). They fit the AGN component using Elvis et al. (1994) SED templates, rather than the physically motivated model we employ for our analysis, and this may lead them to underestimate the AGN luminosity and predict higher covering factors. Studies of the covering factor are important in the context of exploring the receding torus scenario proposed by Lawrence (1991), where the covering factor is dependent on the AGN luminosity. While there is currently little evidence for this (Mor & Trakhtenbrot 2011; Netzer 2015), approaches such as ours provide a means of testing this with pre-existing data.

To assess whether the host galaxy properties we predict are reasonably concurrent with other research of AGN and their hosts, we compare the galaxy luminosities we have calculated with earlier work. From our fitted host galaxy model, we measure the luminosity in the *V*, *R*, and *K* bands, comparing these to the results

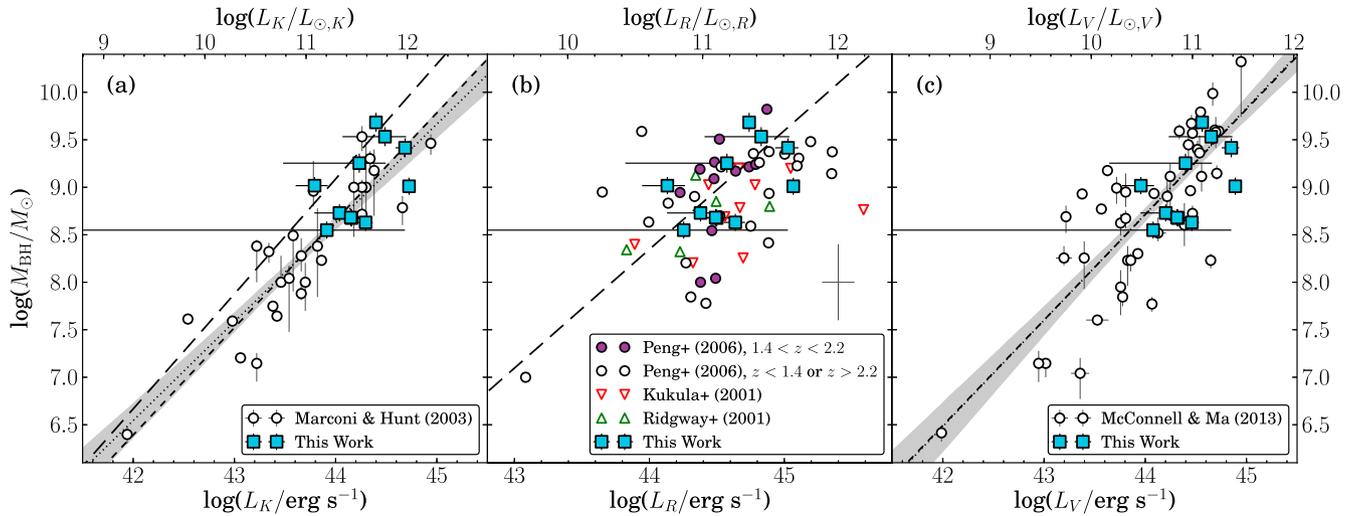


Figure 15. Comparison of modelled host galaxy luminosities with the Marconi & Hunt (2003), Peng et al. (2006) and McConnell & Ma (2013) samples (panels a, b, and c, respectively). In panel (b), we show a representative error bar for the literature data and highlight the objects in the same redshift range as our own in purple. Also shown in panel (b) are the literature samples of Kukula et al. (2001) and Ridgway et al. (2001). In panels (a) and (c), we show the derived relations by each work (short dashed lines) together with a simple least squares regression line (dotted line) with 1σ error, estimated by drawing 1000 bootstraps from the literature sample. In panels (a) and (b), we show for comparison the relations derived, respectively, by Kormendy and Ho (2013) and Peng et al. (2006) for local AGN (long dashed lines). Peng et al. (2006) used literature data from Kormendy & Gebhardt (2001) and Bettoni et al. (2003) for this calculation.

presented in Marconi & Hunt (2003), Peng et al. (2006), and McConnell & Ma (2013). We measure host galaxy luminosities using a ‘synthetic photometry’ technique, by integrating the fitted template over the respective bandpass. Our host galaxy luminosities and M_{BH} estimates are shown together with those of the literature samples in Fig. 15.

Our data are broadly in agreement with the M_{BH} –bulge relationship. The Peng et al. (2006) sample is of particular interest as several objects in their sample are at comparable redshifts to our study. In Fig. 15 (b), the dashed regression line we show is derived by Peng et al. (2006) from a sample of 20 nearby AGN with M_{BH} and L_R values published in Kormendy & Gebhardt (2001) and Bettoni et al. (2003), respectively. The M_{BH} values calculated by Peng et al. (2006) are made using the single-epoch virial linewidth technique, however, due to lack of IR spectra, M_{BH} is estimated from the emission line profiles of C IV and Mg II in several objects. Where both of these lines were available, Peng et al. (2006) used the average M_{BH} estimate from these lines, whereas in Fig. 15 we show the Mg II estimate only, as C IV has been consistently shown not to correlate well with the M_{BH} estimate from the Balmer lines (discussed more in Section 6.4). Additionally, some of the Peng et al. (2006) M_{BH} estimates were made manually by the authors of that study from printed copies of the spectra, and as such these may be less reproducible than the Gaussian fitting method we employ. In spite of these uncertainties, our two samples from this redshift range are both consistent with the low-redshift relationship.

Paltani, Courvoisier & Walter (1998) and Soldi et al. (2008) note that in the AGN 3C 273, variability suggests there are two distinct contributions to the optical–UV continuum. Whilst the consequences of this finding are unclear, it could suggest an additional contribution to the SED between the AD and torus. In our study, it is probable we would end up attributing such a contribution to the host galaxy. Once again, our data are not sufficient to support or contradict such a result, although if the AD does truncate at the relatively small radii measured in Section 2.6, this could provide additional matter to form such an additional component.

In the IR, only the *WISE* photometry and part of the NIR spectrum confine the torus and host galaxy components but this has still proven adequate to set useful constraints on these. This opens up a range of possibilities for examining correlations between the central engine, torus, and wider galaxy in larger AGN samples. Our technique could be applied to many AGN with NIR and optical spectra, and *WISE* photometry, and greatly expand investigations such as Peng et al. (2006) at higher redshifts, as it does not require *HST* imaging of gravitationally lensed galaxies.

We have only adopted the 5 Gyr elliptical galaxy template from Polletta et al. (2007). Our assumption that this is a plausible host galaxy class is based on local scaling relations that may not hold at the redshift range of our sample, and a future study may incorporate alternative templates to probe these relations further. However, in Paper I, we found that the practical differences between starburst and elliptical galaxy templates for our data quality were small, with the additional UV emission related to star formation contributing ~ 1 per cent of the AGN flux at $\sim 2000 \text{ \AA}$ rest frame, and so the analysis presented here ought to be sufficient. There are now refined templates available, such as those presented in Brown et al. (2014). Once again, given our data quality and the dominance of the AGN/torus in this region, the differences between host galaxy templates are not significant for our purposes.

6.4 Spectral decomposition

Using our SED continua, we have undertaken a spectral decomposition of the optical–NIR data for our 11 objects.

First, it is clear that around half of our objects have weak narrow [O III], which appears at first to be anticorrelated with the Eddington ratio. In general, the lowest accretion rate objects show the strongest narrow emission lines (J0839+5754 and J2328+1500 are the clearest examples). Similarly, the highest accretion rate objects (particularly J0043+0114, J1021+1315, J1044+2128, and J1240+4740) show extremely weak narrow [O III]. (The narrow

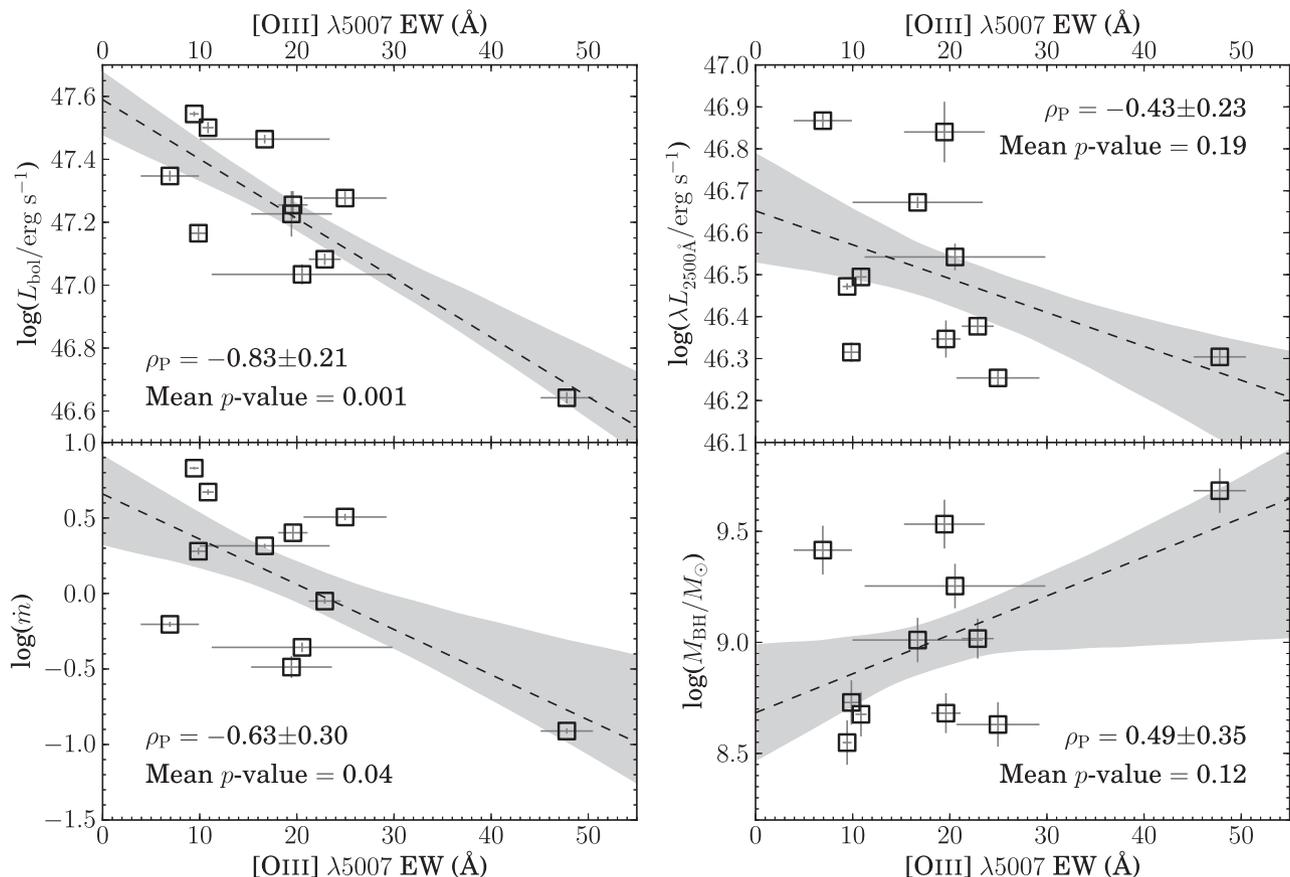


Figure 16. Comparison of [O III] $\lambda 5007$ EW with various AGN and SED properties. Best-fitting regression lines and error ranges determined from our bootstrap method are shown. A statistically significant anticorrelation is seen with the bolometric AGN luminosity, L_{bol} . Based on our data, this is the property most strongly linked to [O III] line strength. The other properties show weaker relations and, to $\sim 2\sigma$, are consistent with being uncorrelated.

feature at $\sim 5000 \text{ \AA}$ in J1021+1315 is attributed to noise, as there is a corresponding feature in the error array.)

We explored this further by searching for (anti)correlations between the [O III] $\lambda 5007$ line EW and \dot{m} , L_{bol} , M_{BH} , and $L_{2500\text{\AA}}$. We show plots of these properties in Fig. 16, and use the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient, ρ_P , and p -value to assess whether correlations are statistically significant. To estimate the uncertainty of the relations, we draw 2000 bootstrap subsamples, repeating the analysis on each of these, and taking the central 68 per cent of the resulting distributions as an indication of the 1σ error on each property. Using the deviance of ρ_P from zero as an indicator of (anti)correlation between properties, we see that the strongest anticorrelation is between [O III] EW and L_{bol} , at almost 4σ significance. (Anti)correlations between [O III] EW and $L_{2500\text{\AA}}$, \dot{m} , and M_{BH} are more uncertain and appear to be largely dependent on a single object (J2328+1500). To within $\sim 2\sigma$, these relations are consistent with no correlation.

This may suggest that a narrow line region (NLR) in the most luminous sources cannot form due to radiation pressure from the AGN. The objects with the weakest narrow [O III] lines are similar to the broad absorption line quasi-stellar objects in the Boroson & Meyers (1992) sample. Netzer et al. (2004) studied the disappearing NLR in a sample of $2 \lesssim z \lesssim 3$ quasars with higher average luminosities than ours. They suggested that some of the most luminous sources lose their dynamically unbound NLRs, although in others star formation at the centre of the galaxy may produce

a NLR with different properties to lower luminosity AGN. Netzer et al. (2004) defines objects in their sample with [O III] $\lambda 5007$ EW of $\sim 10\text{--}80 \text{ \AA}$ as showing ‘strong’ [O III], corresponding to $\sim 2/3$ of their sample. Adopting the same definition yields 8/11 objects in our sample—a comparable fraction.

We next test whether results from our approach are consistent with larger studies, which have extensively studied relations between various linewidths (a probe of velocity dispersion) and luminosities (a probe of BLR size). We specifically consider the Shen & Liu (2012) results; although four of our objects are common to their sample, here we compare the different means by which we deconvolve the spectra.

A comparison of the full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of various emission lines for our sample is shown in Fig. 17. We also show the results of Shen & Liu (2012). In this work, we consider FWHM rather than other proxies for the linewidth, such as the line velocity dispersion (the second moment of the emission line profile; see Peterson et al. 2004). Although the dispersion is found to present a more unbiased proxy of the gas motion (see Collin et al. 2006; Denney et al. 2013 for a comparison of the two approaches), the necessity for high S/N spectra to accurately measure the line dispersion disfavour this against the FWHM (e.g. Shen & Liu 2012).

In Fig. 17, we show least squares regression lines together with 1σ error region from drawing 1000 bootstrap subsamples from each distribution. Our sample regressions agree with the Shen & Liu (2012) relations to within 2σ , demonstrating strong correlation

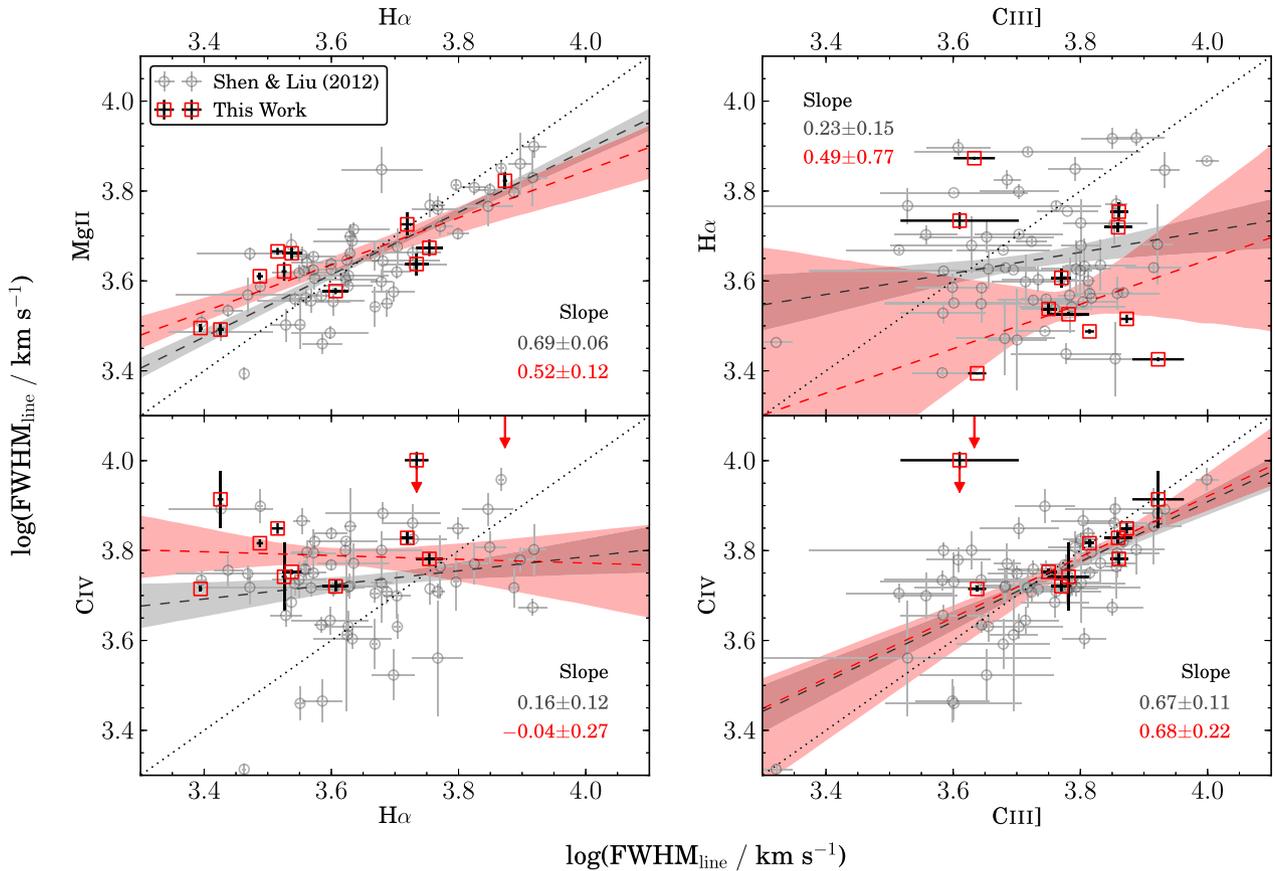


Figure 17. Comparison of calculated FWHM with the Shen & Liu (2012) sample. Although four objects are common to both samples, we wish to test whether the two different means of characterizing the AGN continuum (SED model versus power-law) are consistent.

between the $H\alpha$ and $Mg\ II$ FWHM, but no significant correlations with those for $C\ III]$ or $C\ IV$. There is also a correlation between $C\ III]$ and $C\ IV$ FWHM. It has been previously noted that the $C\ IV$ line profile does not correlate well with $H\beta$ (e.g. Baskin & Laor 2005; Netzer et al. 2007; Sulentic et al. 2007; Fine et al. 2010; Ho et al. 2012, but also see Vestergaard & Peterson 2006; Assef et al. 2011; Denney et al. 2013; Tilton & Shull 2013), and Shen & Liu (2012) also observe a correlation between $C\ III]$ and $C\ IV$. In two objects, J0839+5754 and J2328+1500, the full $C\ IV$ profile is not sampled by our data, and we measure very large $C\ IV$ linewidths. We therefore treat these results as upper limits, as we lack continuum measurements on either side of the emission line.

Our $C\ IV$ linewidths are systematically larger than the $H\alpha$ linewidths. This is expected from considerations of the BLR radius–luminosity relationship, but is not often seen (Trakhtenbrot & Netzer 2012).

The errors on our FWHM values are in general smaller than those determined by Shen & Liu (2012), even though both are calculated from similar Monte Carlo methods. This is likely due to Shen & Liu (2012) using more components to model each line—for $C\ IV$, $Mg\ II$, and $H\alpha$ they use up to three Gaussians for the broad component (where we use only two) and one for the narrow component (which we do not model in $C\ IV$ or $Mg\ II$, and only include in $H\alpha$ for objects with strong narrow $[O\ III]$). This may lead to greater degeneracy between the components in their Monte Carlo fits, thus contributing to larger errors in FWHM.

In Fig. 18, we show a comparison of our emission line and continuum luminosities against $L_{5100\text{\AA}}$, and once again observe general

agreement with the Shen & Liu (2012) sample. We also show the predicted intrinsic luminosities after correcting for intrinsic extinction, connecting these points to the corresponding observed values with black lines. The least squares regressions through the observed points are shown with solid lines of corresponding colours, and the ‘dereddened’ regressions are dashed lines. There appears to be no improvement in the relations for these dereddened values, and they appear in some cases to show poorer agreement with the unity line (dotted black lines). This reflects that the scatter introduced from considering the intrinsic extinction is larger than the scatter from adopting the luminosities as observed. In J0839+5754 and J2328+1500, we treat $L_{1350\text{\AA}}$ and $C\ IV$ luminosity measurements as limits, as they are not fully sampled by the SDSS spectra, and as such are highly model dependent.

Once again, error values on our sample are very small. This is probably partly for the same reasons as discussed above—fewer Gaussian components in the decomposition lead to less degeneracy—but additionally our SED continuum contains only one free parameter (the normalization), versus the Shen & Liu (2012) approach, which uses power-law continua (in some cases with a break included), with both normalization and slope left as free parameters.

Mejía-Restrepo et al. (2016) used the Capellupo et al. (2015) data and models to directly compare results from performing a global decomposition with the AD model to those utilizing local power-law continuum fits, finding the global approach to be more reliable. Although our study is smaller, we have also shown that using our physical model of the underlying AGN continuum facilitates a global spectral decomposition that is at

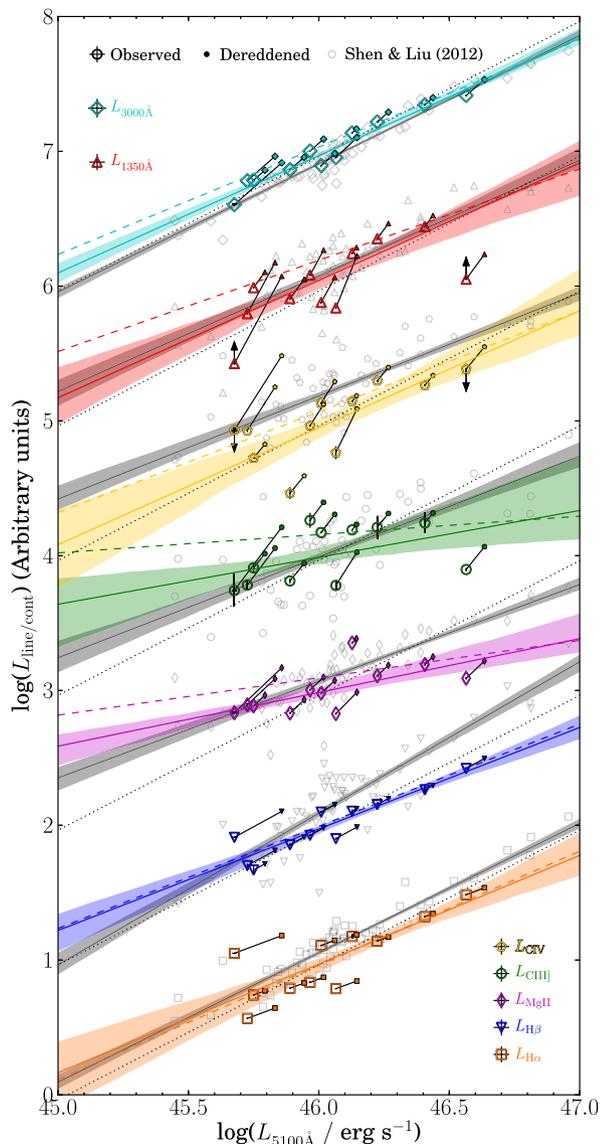


Figure 18. Comparison of luminosities with the Shen & Liu (2012) sample. The observed data points are each linked to a corresponding point that shows the luminosity predicted after correcting for intrinsic extinction. Unity for each property is shown by the dotted lines. The Shen & Liu (2012) sample is shown as grey symbols, with least squares regressions and 1σ errors from 1000 bootstraps shown as the solid grey line and shaded region. Our data are shown in colour, with solid coloured line and shaded regions showing regression and 1σ region. The dashed coloured lines are the dereddened regressions. Error bars are often very small, this is discussed in the text.

least consistent with alternatives. Since we attach a physical significance to this component, compatible with accretion physics and constrained by multiwavelength data from mid-IR to X-rays, this is a better justified approach, compared to the empirical alternatives.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we substantially extend the study presented in Paper I with a systematic analysis of the SED parameter space. A physically motivated AGN SED model is applied to multiwavelength (mid-IR–X-ray) spectral data for 11 AGN in the redshift range $1.5 < z < 2.2$. A summary of our work and key findings is as follows.

(i) We first refine the model described in Paper I to include best-fitting intrinsic extinction curves, out of MW, LMC, and SMC models.

(ii) The Eddington ratio – photon index relation of our refined model agrees with previous work.

(iii) We observe tight correlations between the UV BC coefficients and accretion rates. There is evidence for systematic offsets from the equivalent relation in a lower redshift sample, which we suggest is due to a higher average M_{BH} in our sample. X-ray BCs are less susceptible to this effect, but show a larger spread.

(iv) We next test the effect of uncertainties in the M_{BH} estimate on the AGN bolometric luminosity (L_{bol}). We find that in objects with well-sampled SED peaks, the difference is small, and in other objects, an uncertainty of ~ 0.1 dex in the M_{BH} estimate propagates through to a ~ 0.1 dex uncertainty on L_{bol} .

(v) The effects of varying the BH spin parameter a_* are explored. We find that spin values up to $a_* = 0.9$ provide acceptable SED fits in 6 out of 11 objects (and an improvement over the $a_* = 0$ model in 3), but that very high and maximal spin values of $a_* \geq 0.99$ are ruled out by a combination of the optical–NIR and X-ray data in all objects, with one exception. However, if we include relativistic treatment of the disc inclination, high and maximal spin values can describe the data in most objects, if the AD is face-on to the observer. There is degeneracy between the BH spin, inclination, and mass accretion rate which make measurements of BH spin from continuum fitting uncertain.

(vi) The outer disc radii are well constrained in 8 out of 11 objects. They show good correlation with the self-gravity radius, but are smaller by a factor ~ 5 . This suggests that the disc break-up may occur closer to the BH than the self-gravity radius.

(vii) We model the red end of the NIR to mid-IR ($2\text{--}22\ \mu\text{m}$, observed frame) using host galaxy and torus models. We find good agreement with previous studies for both the torus properties (covering factor and temperature) and the host galaxy (luminosity). This is despite our more limited data set in comparison with some of these investigations. We suggest that our approach to the SED modelling provides a viable alternative to structural decomposition of high-resolution images and those requiring observationally expensive mid-IR spectra.

(viii) Our continuum model provides a firm basis on which to execute a spectral decomposition of the optical–NIR spectra. The results from our approach are in agreement with previous studies that utilize empirical models of the continuum. We see a statistically significant anticorrelation between $[\text{O III}]$ line strength and the AGN bolometric luminosity.

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APPENDIX A: AGN SED AND ATTENUATION MODEL PARAMETERS

Table A1. Full table of parameters for the multicomponent model described in Section 2.3. The means of calculating the fixed values and additional notes are given below the table. For free parameters, we give the starting value, minimum/maximum limits and Δ , the step size used by XSPEC to determine numerical derivatives during the fitting. We also show the parameters of the updated OPTXCONV SED model, which is substituted for OPTXAGNF in the discussion (Section 6.2.3).

Model	#	Parameter	Description	Free?	Start	Min	Max	Δ	Units
WABS	1	N_{H}	Galactic H I column density	N	(A)	–	–	–	10^{22} cm^{-2}
ZWABS	1	N_{H}	Intrinsic H I column density	Y	0.0	0.0	10^5	0.001	10^{22} cm^{-2}
	2	z	Redshift	N	(B)	–	–	–	–
ZDUST	1	Method	Set reddening curve – MW, SMC or LMC	N	(C)	–	–	–	–
	2	$E(B - V)$	Intrinsic $B - V$ band extinction	Y	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.001	mag
	3	$R(V)$	Ratio of absolute to selective extinction, $R(V) = A(V)/E(B - V)$	N	(D)	–	–	–	–
	4	z	Redshift	N	(B)	–	–	–	–
OPTXAGNF	1	M_{BH}	BH mass	N ^a	(E)	–	–	–	M_{\odot}
	2	r_{c}	Comoving distance	N	(F)	–	–	–	Mpc
	3	$\log(\dot{m})$	Logarithm of Eddington fraction	Y	0.0	–10.0	2.0	0.01	–
	4	a_*	BH spin	N ^b	0.0	–	–	–	–
	5	r_{cor}	Coronal radius	Y	15.0	7.0	100.0	0.1	R_{g}
	6	$\log(r_{\text{out}})$	Logarithm of outer AD radius	Y ^c	3.0	1.5	7.0	0.01	$\log(R_{\text{g}})$
	7	kT_{e}	SX electron temperature	N	0.2	–	–	–	keV
	8	τ	SX optical depth	N	10	–	–	–	–
	9	Γ	PLT photon index	Y	2.0	0.5	5.0	0.01	–
	10	f_{PLT}	Fraction of energy below r_{cor} in PLT ^e	Y	0.3	0.0	1.0	10^{-6}	–
	11	z	Redshift	N	(B)	–	–	–	–
	12	Norm	Arbitrary normalization =1	N	1.0	–	–	–	–
OPTXCONV	1–10		Same as OPTXAGNF						
	11	θ	Inclination angle to observer	N ^d	60.0	–	–	–	deg.
	12	z	Redshift	N	(B)	–	–	–	–
	13	Norm	Arbitrary normalization =1	N	1.0	–	–	–	–

(A) Value from Kalberla et al. (2005).

(B) Measured in Paper I.

(C) Best-fitting extinction curve used, as described in Section 2.3.

(D) Fixed at 3.08, 3.16, 2.93 for MW, LMC, SMC, respectively (Pei 1992).

(E) Mass estimated from single-epoch virial technique applied to $\text{H}\alpha$ (Greene & Ho 2005), see Paper I.

(F) Calculated from z , assuming a flat cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_{\text{M}} = 0.27$ and $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.73$.

^aWe test the impact of alterations from the mean M_{BH} value in Section 2.4.

^bAlternative spin values are explored in Section 2.5.

^cThe effect of fixing r_{out} to different values is tested in Section 2.6.

^dAlso tested $\theta = 0$, see Section 6.2.3.

^eNote that although OPTXAGNF requires f_{PLT} , we quote $f_{\text{SX}} = (1 - f_{\text{PLT}})$ throughout this work, for consistency with Paper I.

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