NEAR-INFRARED REVERBERATION BY DUSTY CLUMPY TORI IN ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEI

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ABSTRACT

According to recent models, the accretion disk and black hole in active galactic nuclei (AGNs) are surrounded by a clumpy torus. We investigate the NIR flux variation of the torus in response to a UV flash for various geometries. Anisotropic illumination by the disk and the torus self-occultation contrast our study with earlier works. Both the waning effect of each clump and the torus self-occultation selectively reduce the emission from the region with a short delay. Therefore, the NIR delay depends on the viewing angle (where a more inclined angle leads to a longer delay), and the time response shows an asymmetric profile with negative skewness, opposing the results for optically thin tori. The range of the computed delay coincides with the observed one, suggesting that the viewing angle is primarily responsible for the scatter of the observed delay. We also propose that the red NIR-to-optical color of type 1.8/1.9 objects is caused not only by the dust extinction but also the intrinsically red color. Compared with the modest torus thickness, both a thick and a thin tori display weaker NIR emission. A selection bias is thus expected such that NIR-selected AGNs tend to possess moderately thick tori. A thicker torus shows a narrower and more heavily skewed time profile, while a thin torus produces a rapid response. A super-Eddington accretion rate leads to much weaker NIR emission due to the disk self-occultation and the disk truncation by self-gravity. A long delay is expected from an optically thin and/or a largely misaligned torus. Very weak NIR emission, such as in hot-dust-poor active nuclei, can arise from a geometrically thin torus, a super-Eddington accretion rate, or a slightly misaligned torus.

Key words: accretion, accretion disks – dust, extinction – galaxies: active – galaxies: structure – infrared: galaxies – infrared: ISM

Online-only material: color figures

1. INTRODUCTION

Active galactic nuclei (AGNs) are powered by gas accretion onto supermassive black holes (BHs) at the center of each galaxy. A variety of observations suggest that the accretion disk and the BH are surrounded by an optically and geometrically thick torus (Telesco et al. 1984; Antonucci & Miller 1985; Miller & Goodrich 1990; Radovich et al. 1999). Since the torus potentially plays the role of a gas reservoir for the accretion disk, its nature, such as the structure, the size, and the mass, has long been investigated (Pier & Krolik 1992, 1993; Fukue & Sanbuichi 1993; Granato & Danese 1994; Efstathiou & Rowan-Robinson 1995 Beckert & Duschl 2004; Mor et al. 2009).

A large geometrical thickness of the torus revealed by various observations (Antonucci 1993; Pogge 1989; Wilson & Tsvetanov 1994; Schmitt & Kinney 1996) indicates that numerous dusty clumps, rather than a smooth mixture of gas and dust, constitute the torus with a large clump-to-clump velocity dispersion $\sim 100 \, \mathrm{km \, s^{-1}}$ (Krolik & Begelman 1988; Wada & Norman 2002; Hönig & Beckert 2007). Temperature of clumps is less than a critical temperature $T_{\mathrm{sub}} \sim 1500 \, \mathrm{K}$ above which dust grains are sublimated (Barvainis 1987). Infrared (IR) emission and absorption features provide unique opportunities to probe the clumpy torus (Nenkova et al. 2002, 2008; Dullemond & van Bemmel 2005; Hönig et al. 2006; Geballe et al. 2006; Shirahata et al. 2007; Ibar & Lira 2007; Schartmann et al. 2008; Deo et al. 2011).

Clumps are heated by illumination from the central accretion disk, and closer clumps have higher temperature. The inner edge of the dusty torus is determined by the sublimation process so that clumps' temperature equals T_{sub} there, and radiates at Near-IR (NIR) as "3 μ m bump" (Rees et al. 1969; Neugebauer

et al. 1979; Edelson & Malkan 1986; Kobayashi et al. 1993). Based on the energy balance of the clump closest to the BH, Barvainis (1987) derived the innermost radius of the torus (dust sublimation radius, denoted as $R_{\rm sub,0}$ in this study):

$$R_{\text{sub},0} = 0.13 \left(\frac{L_{\text{UV}}}{10^{44} \,\text{erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{0.5} \times \left(\frac{T_{\text{sub}}}{1500 \,\text{K}} \right)^{-2.8} \left(\frac{a}{0.05 \,\mu\text{m}} \right)^{-0.5} \,\text{pc}, \quad (1)$$

where $L_{\rm UV}$ and a are UV luminosity and the size of dust grains, respectively.

Indeed, NIR emission from type 1 AGNs lags behind optical variation by an order of a month (Clavel et al. 1989; Glass 1992, 2004; Nelson 1996; Oknyanskij et al. 1999; Minezaki et al. 2004; Suganuma et al. 2004). Moreover, the luminosity dependency of the time lag also coincides with the theoretical prediction as $\propto L_{\rm UV}^{0.5}$ (Suganuma et al. 2006; Gaskell et al. 2007). However, the NIR-to-optical time lag is systematically smaller than the lag predicted from Equation (1) by a factor of $\sim 1/3$ (Oknyanskij & Horne 2001; Kishimoto et al. 2007; Nenkova et al. 2008). To tackle with this conflict, Kawaguchi & Mori (2010, hereafter Paper I) pointed out that the illumination by an optically thick disk is inevitably anisotropic, which is a fact missing in deriving Equation (1). There is a systematic difference between the inclination angle at which we observe the disk in type 1 AGNs and the angle at which an aligned torus observes the disk. The effects of the anisotropic illumination naturally resolve the puzzle of the systematic deviation of a factor of $\sim 1/3$ (Paper I).

In Paper I, we assumed the configuration appropriate for a typical type 1 AGN. In this study, we investigate the expected characteristics of NIR emission for various geometries of the disk, the torus, and the observer. Anisotropic illumination by the disk and the effect of the torus self-occultation contrast our study with earlier works. The next section describes the calculational methods of our model. Then, properties of NIR emission from an aligned (Section 3) and a misaligned (Section 4) torus are presented. Finally, we make a summary of this study in Section 5.

2. MODEL DESCRIPTION

We calculate NIR reverberation/echo from the inner part of the torus in response to a flash of disk illumination. The calculational method is essentially the same as Paper I, except for the incorporation of the torus self-occultation in this study. By considering the anisotropy of the disk illumination, we solved the inner structure of the torus and explained why the observed time delay of NIR emission is systematically shorter than Equation (1). A large grain size and/or extinction between the torus and the disk are possibly alternative concepts to reduce the inner radius of the torus (Maiolino et al. 2001; Gaskell & Benker 2007; Gaskell et al. 2007; Kishimoto et al. 2007).

While the geometry of the torus, the disk, and the observer appropriate for a typical type 1 AGN was assumed in Paper I, we here investigate how the NIR response differs with various possible geometries. A variety of type 1 objects with a common $R_{\text{sub},0}$ are compared. In other words, we compute for objects with the same isotropic-equivalent luminosity ("luminosity presuming isotropic emission") in optical/UV.

Barvainis (1992) examined the NIR response due to the dust reverberation of an AGN torus. Since the inner radius of the torus is an input parameter there, the mean time delay of NIR emission behind the optical/UV flux variations is simply coupled with the assumed inner radius. On the other hand, in Paper I and this study, both the inner radius and the time delay are output of calculations. Moreover, he supposed that the whole torus, an ensemble of cube-shaped, optically thick clumps, is optically thin. Since the inner part of an AGN clumpy torus is likely optically thick (Appendix), we take into account the torus self-occultation as well as the anisotropic emission from spherical, optically thick clumps. Similarities and differences in the results for the time response between our and his calculations are discussed in Sections 2.4 and 3.1.

In radiative transfer calculations of dusty clumpy tori (e.g., Hönig et al. 2006; Nenkova et al. 2008), the isotropic illumination, mainly in optical and UV, is assumed for simplicity. We take into account the fact that the disk emission is inevitably anisotropic. Then, the broadband color between the optical/UV radiation from the disk and the NIR emission from the torus can be computed appropriately. In Sections 3.1 and 3.2, we compare our results with theirs.

Below, our calculational method is summarized.

2.1. Anisotropic Illumination of Disk

Radiation flux (F) from a unit surface area of an optically thick disk toward a unit solid angle at the polar angle of θ decreases with an increasing θ as follows (Netzer 1987):

$$F(\theta) \propto \cos \theta (1 + 2\cos \theta).$$
 (2)

Here, the first term represents the change in the projected surface area, while the latter represents the limb darkening effect for

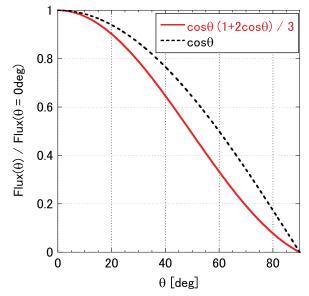


Figure 1. Radiation flux from the disk $F(\theta)$ as a function of the polar angle θ , normalized to its pole-on value. The red solid line represents the net θ dependency (projection plus limb darkening effects; Equation (2)), while the black dashed line shows the former effect alone.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

plasma, whose opacity is dominated by electron scattering over absorption (Sunyaev & Titarchuk 1985; Phillips & Meszaros 1986). Figure 1 shows the θ dependency of $F(\theta)$, where the former effect alone is also drawn for comparison. An accretion disk emits lesser radiation in the direction closer to its equatorial plane (i.e., larger θ ; Laor & Netzer 1989; Sun & Malkan 1989; Hubeny et al. 2000). If the torus and the disk are aligned, the assumption of isotropic emission from accretion disks (e.g., Equation (1)) obviously overestimates the radiation flux toward the torus, leading the overestimation of the inner radius of the torus.

This effect works even if the disk is infinitesimally thin. As shown in Section 3.3, a non-zero thickness of the disk brings about another anisotropy of illumination flux, such that the torus is not illuminated below the disk height at θ larger than a critical angle θ_{max} . Except in Section 3.3, we throughout adopt a thin disk with an aspect ratio of \sim 0.01, like the standard accretion disk model (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973).

The effects of anisotropic emission and orientation have been discussed in the context of the Baldwin effect in the line fluxes of photoionized emission (Netzer 1985; Francis 1993; Bottorff et al. 1997). These effects upon the torus were examined for the first time in Paper I.

2.2. Inner Structure of Torus

The inner edge of the torus is determined so that the temperature of a clump (at the irradiated surface) equals $T_{\rm sub}$ there. Since the radiation flux from the disk F varies with the polar angle θ , the sublimation radius of the torus $R_{\rm sub}(\theta)$ is also a function of θ . Namely, $R_{\rm sub}(\theta)$ is the distance between the torus edge and the central BH for various θ . In contrast, we express the sublimation radius estimated under the isotropic emission assumption (Equation (1)) as $R_{\rm sub,0}$. The anisotropic illumination given in Equation (2) results in

$$R_{\text{sub}}(\theta) = R_{\text{sub},0} \left[\frac{\cos \theta (1 + 2\cos \theta)}{\cos \theta_{\text{obs}} (1 + 2\cos \theta_{\text{obs}})} \right]^{0.5}.$$
 (3)

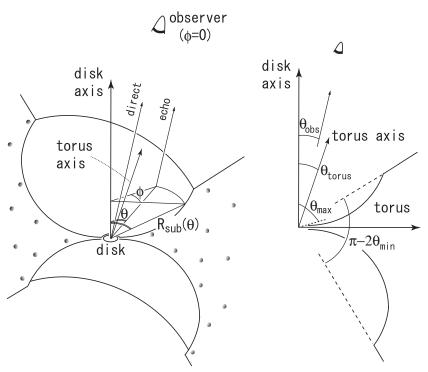


Figure 2. Schematic view of the inner structure of the torus, for a misaligned configuration (Section 4) with $\theta_{torus} \sim 20^{\circ}$ and $\phi_{torus} = 0^{\circ}$. The right cartoon indicates the definitions of θ_{min} (the torus thickness) and θ_{max} (the disk thickness).

Here, $\theta_{\rm obs}$ is the polar angle toward the observer seen from the central accretion disk. Outside this radius, there are numerous clumps with their temperature below $T_{\rm sub}$. In the case of an isotropic emission from the disk, the torus edge is supposed to stand at a distance of $R_{\rm sub,0}$. Although various grain sizes result in the sublimation process occurring over a transition zone rather than a single distance (Nenkova et al. 2008), we employ a sharp boundary for simplicity.

In Paper I, we found that (1) the torus inner edge is located closer to the central BH than suggested by previous estimations (Equation (1)) and that (2) the structure of the edge is concave/hollow. Moreover, (3) our result indicated that the innermost edge of the torus may connect with the outermost edge of the accretion disk continuously (e.g., Emmering et al. 1992; Elitzur & Shlosman 2006). Figure 2 shows a schematic view of the torus inner region. If the torus is indeed a reservoir of gas for the disk, angular momenta of the infalling gas will align these axes. The misalignment between the torus and the disk is investigated in Section 4.

2.3. Calculation of Transfer Function

Current interferometric NIR observations (e.g., Swain et al. 2003; Kishimoto et al. 2009) and future Adaptive Optics imaging with $\sim 30\,$ m telescopes cannot spatially resolve the innermost region (radius and shape) of the torus in nearby Seyfert galaxies. Thus, observations of time variability will continue to be powerful tools to probe the innermost structure of the torus even in the coming decade. We calculate the time variation of NIR emission in response to a δ -function like variation of the optical/UV illumination (transfer function $\Psi(t)$). Transfer functions contain various information of the reemitting region, such as the shape and the emissivity profile, etc. (Blandford & McKee 1982; Netzer 1990; Gaskell et al. 2007). Time variation of the reprocessed radiation (NIR in this study) is a convolution of the illumination flux variation with $\Psi(t)$.

We calculate $\Psi(t)$ and its centroid t_{delay} , which corresponds to the observed time lag. Since the time profile is also one of the characteristics of this study compared to the earlier work (Sections 2.4 and 2.5), we also calculate the width rms and the skewness s to describe the shape of $\Psi(t)$:

rms =
$$\left[\int (t - t_{\text{delay}})^2 \Psi(t) dt / \int \Psi(t) dt \right]^{0.5}$$
(4)
$$s = \int (t - t_{\text{delay}})^3 \Psi(t) dt / \int \Psi(t) dt / \text{rms}^3.$$
(5)

A negative (or positive) s means that the distribution has a left (or right) tail. The computed rms and s would be useful to interpret and predict the cross-correlation functions between NIR and optical/UV light curves. A larger rms will correspond to a larger uncertainty in the measurements of the time delay. As to the detectability of NIR variations, a small rms and a high $\Psi(t)$ indicate the relative (i.e., in mag) and absolute (e.g., in erg s⁻¹) variability, respectively.

When the illumination flux varies, the inner edge of the torus shifts in principle (Laor 2004). Depending on whether dust grains in the clumps are sublimated or not, clumps belong to either the broad emission line region or the dusty torus (Netzer & Laor 1993; Suganuma et al. 2006). However, it takes ~1 year for the inner region of the torus to adjust to the varying illumination flux (Koshida et al. 2009; Pott et al. 2010). Thus, we regard that the inner structure of the dusty torus is steady in the timescale of NIR-to-optical time lag (~months).

To calculate $\Psi(t)$ for the clumpy torus, we consider the following items: (1) the optical path, (2) NIR emissivity of the torus inner region as a function of θ , and (3) anisotropic emission of each clump. In this work, (4) we include the effect of torus self-occultation (i.e., absorption of NIR emission from a clump by other clumps on the line of sight). While the torus self-occultation is a minor effect for a typical type 1 AGN, it

plays a significant role for inclined viewing angles, thick tori, and misaligned tori. Considering the self-occultation, we ignore the response from the aligned torus at $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ (Appendix).

First, (1) the optical path difference is written as

$$R_{\text{sub}}(\theta)[1 - \{\cos\theta_{\text{obs}}\cos\theta + \sin\theta_{\text{obs}}\sin\theta\cos\phi\}],$$
 (6)

where ϕ is the azimuthal angle and defined so that $\phi=0$ for the observer (Figure 2). The concave shape of the inner region of the torus reduces the optical path difference. Clumps at slightly farther and those at slightly closer than $R_{\rm sub}(\theta)$ will also emit NIR radiation, smearing out the resultant NIR response. Since this effect unlikely changes the $\Psi(t)$ drastically, we consider only optical paths that hit the inner edge of the torus.

Next, (2) for the emissivity as a function of θ , we assume that (2-1) the clump size increases and (2-2) the clump number density decreases when the clump-to-BH distance increases (e.g., Hönig et al. 2006; Schartmann et al. 2008). Following Paper I, the emissivity of NIR flux per $d\Omega$ is assumed to be proportional to $R_{\rm sub}(\theta)^2$.

Third, (3) the anisotropy of the NIR emission from each clump is considered, since clumps are optically thick to NIR (and optical/UV) radiation (see the Appendix for details). Namely, the question is how extent the illuminated surface of a clump is seen by the observer (Nenkova et al. 2002). Let us suppose that an observer looks at a clump with an angle ξ , where $\xi=0$ means a face-on view of the illuminated surface. We adopt the following anisotropic coefficient for the waning effect:

$$\min\left[1, \left(\frac{1+\cos\xi}{2} + 0.1\right)\right]. \tag{7}$$

This coefficient is chosen so as to reproduce the Monte Carlo calculations by Hönig et al. (2006) for a single clump observed from three different ξ .

Finally, (4) if the line of sight from a region to the observer passes through the torus, we omit the NIR flux from such a region. Radiation energy absorbed by the clumps on the way will be re-radiated at Mid-IR bands.

The dotted line in Figure 3 presents the resultant transfer function of the aligned torus for $\theta_{\rm obs} = 25^{\circ}$, calculated by summing up the NIR responses from different portions of the torus at (θ, ϕ) . The integration is done from θ_{\min} to θ_{\max} in the θ -direction and 0 to π in the ϕ -direction. Here, the opening angle of the torus θ_{\min} is assumed to be 45°, which is roughly consistent with various observational results (e.g., the ratio between types 1 and 2 AGNs and/or opening angles of light cones in the narrow line region), and the maximum θ of the torus θ_{max} is set to 89° (i.e., thin disk approximation). This parameter set is identical to the one adopted in Paper I and is regarded as fiducial in this study. The mean delay t_{delay} , the width rms, and the skewness s of $\Psi(t)$ are 0.42 $R_{\text{sub},0}/c$, 0.13 $R_{\text{sub},0}/c$, and -0.76, respectively. For typical Seyfert 1 galaxies and quasars (e.g., with UV luminosity of $10^{43.5}$ erg s⁻¹ and $10^{45.5}$ erg s⁻¹), the expected inner radii $R_{\text{sub},0}$ are ~ 0.1 and 1 pc (Equation (1)), while our resultant delays t_{delay} for the fiducial parameter set are about a month and a year, respectively (see Figure 7).

The long-dashed line is computed by switching off both the waning effect and the torus self-occultation, making the left horn higher than the right one similar to the time response of optically thin tori (Barvainis 1992). Then, the short-dashed line takes into account the waning effect, and is identical to the $\Psi(t)$ presented in Paper I, with $t_{\rm delay}$, rms, and s of 0.37 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$, 0.15 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$, and -0.35, respectively. The torus self-occultation results in a

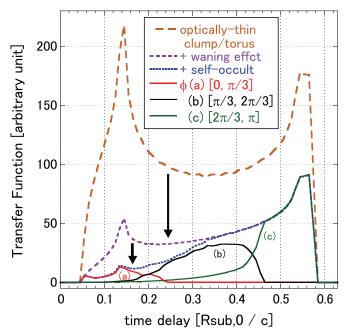


Figure 3. NIR response from $\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ of the aligned torus, viewed from $\theta_{\rm obs} = 25^{\circ}$ with $\theta_{\rm min} = 45^{\circ}$ and $\theta_{\rm max} = 89^{\circ}$. The brown long-dashed line is computed by switching off both the waning effect and the torus self-occultation, making the left horn higher than the right one similar to the $\Psi(t)$ presented by Barvainis (1992). The purple short-dashed line then takes into account that each clump is optically thick, and is identical to the $\Psi(t)$ presented in Paper I. The blue dotted line includes both effects. Three solid lines show the contributions from each ϕ range. The portion at (a) $\phi \sim 0$ produces the red left bump, which is a faster (due to a shorter optical path difference) and weaker (due to self-occultation and a stronger waning effect) response than the opposite area at (c) $\phi \sim \pi$ (green right horn).

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

slight increase of t_{delay} and a more skewed profile. We will see the reason for these changes in the next subsection.

2.4. Response from Various ϕ

In order to clarify contributions from different ϕ , we divide the torus inner edge into three regions equally. The three solid lines in Figure 3 show the $\Psi(t)$ from each ϕ range. Among them, the left one is produced by the low ϕ region ($\phi = 0 - \frac{\pi}{3}$), showing the rapid response at $t_{\rm delay} \sim 0.15 \, R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ (due to a short optical path difference) and a strong reduction of flux by the waning effect (large ξ) and the torus self-occultation. On the contrary, the right one with the longer delay at $t_{\rm delay} \sim 0.5~R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ comes from the large ϕ region ($\phi = \frac{2\pi}{3} - \pi$), where clumps tend to direct their illuminated surface toward the observer, suffering from a less waning effect. We see that the torus self-occultation affects no influence at $\phi \gtrsim \frac{\pi}{2}$ with the fiducial parameter set. In other words, both the waning effect and the self-occultation selectively reduce the emission from the region with a short delay, making the right horn higher than the left one, opposing the results for optically thin tori (Barvainis 1992). The fluences, $\int \Psi(t) dt$, from each ϕ region are 1.3, 6.4, and 10.4 from low to high ϕ , respectively.

2.5. Response from Various θ

Later, we change the torus thickness (Section 3.2) and the disk thickness (Section 3.3). To understand how they will affect the time response of NIR emission, we draw $\Psi(t)$ from different θ ranges (at $\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$) separately in Figure 4(a). It turns out that

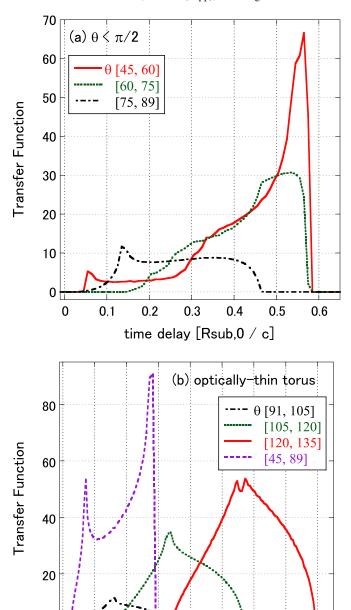


Figure 4. (a) Transfer functions from different *θ* ranges with the geometry same as Figure 3; 45°–60° (red solid line), 60°–75° (green dotted line), and 75°–89° (black dot-dashed line). The NIR responses from 45° $\leq \theta \leq$ 75° appear at a similar time delay. (b) Transfer functions from the far side of the torus; $\theta = 91^{\circ}-105^{\circ}$ (black dot-dashed line), $105^{\circ}-120^{\circ}$ (green dotted line), and $120^{\circ}-135^{\circ}$ (red solid line), computed without the torus self-occultation. For comparison, Ψ(*t*) from 45°–89° (purple short-dashed line, as in Figure 3) is also drawn. If NIR emission from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ penetrates the torus and arrives at the observer, $t_{\rm delay}$ will be longer.

0

0.2

0.4

0.6

8.0

time delay [Rsub,0 / c]

1

1.2

1.4

1.6

most NIR flux arises from small θ regions at $45^{\circ} \leqslant \theta \leqslant 75^{\circ}$ (i.e., the region with a high latitude from the equatorial plane), which show a similar time delay. Because the emissivity is assumed in proportion to $R_{\rm sub}(\theta)^2$, the fluence from the largest θ range $(75^{\circ}-89^{\circ})$ near the equatorial plane, where the torus inner edge is closest to the central BH, is small. The NIR fluences from each θ range, from small to large θ , are 8.4, 6.8, and 2.9, respectively. Therefore, little difference in $t_{\rm delay}$ for various $\theta_{\rm max}$ and a shorter

 $t_{\rm delay}$ for an extremely thin $(\theta_{\rm min} \gtrsim 75^{\circ})$ torus are expected. Consequences of a thick torus are not drawn straightforwardly because of the torus self-occultation.

In cases where the torus is optically thin (cf. Appendix), we briefly mention the contribution from the far side $(\theta > \frac{\pi}{2})$ of the torus. Depending on the origin of optical/UV time variability of AGNs (X-ray reprocessing or change in the accretion rate, etc.; e.g., Kawaguchi et al. 1998; Sakata et al. 2011), the link between the disk fluxes to $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ and to $\theta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ will vary. The NIR time variations from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ are controlled by the variations of the disk flux to $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$, which we cannot observe. Thus, if the disk illumination to the two sides is random, the NIR flux variations from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ influence the measurements of the optical/UV-to-NIR lag as noise. On the other hand, if the time variations of disk illumination toward the two sides are similar, the time delay of NIR emission will become longer, as follows. To calculate the NIR response from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$, we replace $\cos \theta$ in Equation (3) by $|\cos \theta|$ and switched off the self-occultation effect. Figure 4(b) presents NIR responses from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$, which have a long time delay due to their long light path. If no extinction affects the NIR emission from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ (as Barvainis 1992 assumed), we will obtain the net response from $45^{\circ} \leqslant \theta \leqslant 135^{\circ}$ with t_{delay} of 0.78 $R_{\text{sub},0}/c$. In other words, a long t_{delay} may be a signature of an extremely low volume filling factor of clumps in the torus and/or a very thin torus (Appendix).

3. ALIGNED TORUS: VARIOUS DEPENDENCIES

In this section, we present various dependencies of NIR emission from the torus whose rotation axis is aligned to the disk axis. At the end of each subsection, we briefly summarize the obtained dependency by contrasting with the result for the fiducial parameter set.

3.1. Viewing Angle: θ_{obs}

Figure 5 shows the transfer functions for various $\theta_{\rm obs}$, from an exactly pole-on geometry ($\theta_{\rm obs}=0^\circ$) to inclined viewing angles. With a large $\theta_{\rm obs}$ ($\approx 40^\circ - 44^\circ$), the line of sight grazes the upper boundary of the torus, which would correspond to the situation in type 1.8/1.9 AGNs. Here, $\theta_{\rm min}$ and $\theta_{\rm max}$ are fixed at 45° and 89°, respectively. As $\theta_{\rm obs}$ increases, we see that (1) the centroid of the response $t_{\rm delay}$ increases, (2) the NIR fluence $\int \Psi(t) \, dt$ also increases, and (3) the profile becomes broad. In addition, (4) $\Psi(t)$ is quite peaky for a nearly face-on geometry. The first and second results are our new findings. Although the third and forth trends are already reported for optically thin tori by Barvainis (1992), we find here that both trends are also true for optically thick tori.

First, (1) $t_{\rm delay}$ is drawn as a function of $\theta_{\rm obs}$ in Figure 6. For comparison, the result computed without the self-occultation is also shown. The torus veils selectively the region with a short delay (Figure 3), hence enlarges $t_{\rm delay}$. The self-occultation shows larger influences for more inclined angles. On the right-hand side, we also draw a histogram of the observed delay in the unit of $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ (based on Figure 7). The computed $t_{\rm delay}$ ranges from 0.27 to 0.74 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ (0.27 to 0.60 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ without the self-occultation), which covers the range of the observed time delay. In contrast, since Barvainis (1992) assumed an optically thin torus, $t_{\rm delay}$ was expected to have no (or quite weak) $\theta_{\rm obs}$ dependency.

Since such a broad range is not achieved by the changes of θ_{\min} and θ_{\max} as we will see later, we propose that the viewing angle is the key parameter responsible for the observed scatter about the

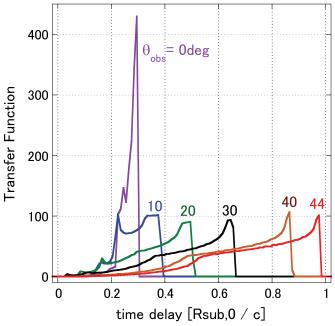


Figure 5. Transfer functions for various viewing angles, with $\theta_{\rm obs}$ labeled near each line, from 0° (exactly pole-on geometry) to 44° (presumably corresponding to type 1.9 AGNs). Here, $\theta_{\rm min}$ and $\theta_{\rm max}$ are fixed at 45° and 89° , respectively. As $\theta_{\rm obs}$ increases, (1) the centroid of the $\Psi(t)$ $t_{\rm delay}$ increases, (2) NIR flux $[\int \Psi(t) \, dt]$ also increases, and (3) $\Psi(t)$ becomes broad. (4) For nearly face-on geometry, $\Psi(t)$ is peaky.

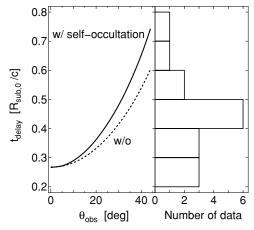


Figure 6. Centroid of $\Psi(t)$ $t_{\rm delay}$ as a function of $\theta_{\rm obs}$ (left). The short-dashed line is computed without the torus self-occultation. While with this effect (solid line), the computed $t_{\rm delay}$ ranges from 0.27 to 0.74 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$. It covers the observed range of $t_{\rm delay}$ shown in the right histogram based on Figure 7, where the typical error of $t_{\rm delay}$ is ~ 0.09 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$. The viewing angle $\theta_{\rm obs}$ can be the primary parameter to cause the observed scatter about the regression line in the $t_{\rm delay}$ – $L_{\rm UV}$ diagram.

regression line in the $t_{\rm delay}$ – $L_{\rm UV}$ diagram (Oknyanskij & Horne 2001; Suganuma et al. 2006). Conversely, the measurements of $t_{\rm delay}$ are potentially useful to estimate the inclination angles.

In order to compare our results with the observed data more directly, the $t_{\rm delay}$ versus $L_{\rm UV}$ diagram is drawn in Figure 7 (Suganuma et al. 2006 and references therein). Following Kishimoto et al. (2007), we estimate $L_{\rm UV}$ by $6 \nu L_{\nu}(V)$. The uncertainty of the $t_{\rm delay}$ is $\sim 0.09 \, R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ on average. Our loci for various $\theta_{\rm obs}$ (with $\theta_{\rm min}$ and $\theta_{\rm max}$ fixed at the fiducial values) well cover the observed scatter. A type 1.5 Seyfert galaxy NGC 3227 (triangle) is located at an area with a small

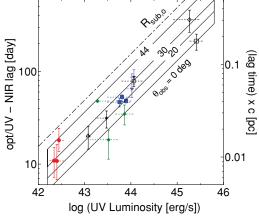


Figure 7. Relation between $t_{\rm delay}$ and UV luminosity. The corresponding scales are shown on the right axis. Observed data are taken from Suganuma et al. (2006) and references therein, as done by Kishimoto et al. (2007). Objects with multiple data are plotted by filled symbols; NGC 5548 (blue squares), NGC 4051 (red circles), NGC 7469 (purple inverted triangles), and NGC 4151 (green diamonds). Three data points for NGC 4151 are collected in 1969–2001, and are indicative of a long-term evolution of the viewing angle. Open symbols represent the objects with a single data point for each: NGC 3227 (triangle), Fairall 9 (diamond), GQ Com (square), NGC 3783 (circle), and Mrk744 (asterisk). Horizontal dashed lines show the ranges of the flux time variations. The dot-dashed line represents $R_{\rm Sub,0}$ (Equation (1)). Loci for various $\theta_{\rm obs}$ (from 0° to 44°) cover the observed scatter.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

 $\theta_{\rm obs}$ (0°-30°), which would require a hysteresis effect (Koshida et al. 2009) or a thin torus for its relatively short $t_{\rm delay}$. Among the three points for NGC 4151 (green diamonds), the lower two data (collected in 1969–1980 and 1990–1998) are consistent with a pole-on view, while the upper one in 2001 indicates an inclined angle. A change of the viewing angle on the timescale of tens of years, due to, e.g., a precession of the disk, is indicated.

Second, (2) the top panel of Figure 8 shows that the NIR fluence toward the observer, $\int \Psi(t) \, dt$, is insensitive to the viewing angle at $\theta_{\rm obs} \lesssim 25^{\circ}$ and increases with $\theta_{\rm obs}$ at more inclined angles (solid line). Comparing $\theta_{\rm obs} = 0^{\circ}$ with 44°, the fluence increases by a factor of 1.5. Due to the self-occultation, the NIR flux decreases by 19% at $\theta_{\rm obs} = 25^{\circ}$ and by 26%–28% at $\theta_{\rm obs} = 40^{\circ}$ –44°.

Regarding a continuous illumination from the disk as a series of flashes, we can draw conclusions other than the time response of NIR emission. Namely, the obtained NIR fluence indicates the NIR flux toward the observer under a given steady optical/UV illumination. We recall that we compute for various objects with a common optical flux toward the observer. Therefore, the y-axis (NIR fluence) directly indicates the NIR-to-optical color. In other words, the NIR-to-optical color becomes red as $\theta_{\rm obs}$ increases. We thus argue that the red IR-optical color observed for type 1.8/1.9 AGNs compared with type 1 objects (Alonso-Herrero et al. 2003) arises not only from dust extinction but also from their intrinsically red color.

The red color for large $\theta_{\rm obs}$ objects can originate in the reduction of optical flux toward large θ (Equation (2)) and/or in the change of NIR flux. Here, we try to distinguish its origin. The dotted line shows the disk flux toward $\theta = 0^{\circ}$, in proportion to $[\cos\theta_{\rm obs}~(1+2\cos\theta_{\rm obs})]^{-1}$, normalized so that it coincides with the NIR fluence at $\theta_{\rm obs}=0^{\circ}$. If the NIR emission is isotropic, the NIR fluence in this diagram should change as the dotted line. Instead, if the computed NIR fluence is smaller (or larger) than

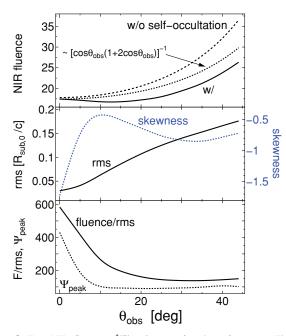


Figure 8. Top: NIR fluence, $\int \Psi(t) dt$, as a function of $\theta_{\rm obs}$. As Figure 6, solid and short-dashed lines mean the results with and without the torus self-occultation. The dashed line indicates the disk flux toward $\theta = 0^{\circ}$, normalized so that it coincides with the NIR fluence at $\theta_{\rm obs} = 0^{\circ}$. Middle: width of the transfer functions rms (solid line) and the skewness s (blue dotted line). Inclined viewing angles lead to broader $\Psi(t)$. Bottom: NIR fluence divided by rms (solid line) and peak value of the transfer functions (dashed line), which describe the peakiness of $\Psi(t)$. At a nearly pole-on view with $\theta_{\rm obs} \lesssim 10^{\circ}$, $\Psi(t)$ is peaky, implying the NIR variability is easily detected.

the dotted line, it means the NIR flux decreases (or increases) with θ . Our result indicates that the NIR flux decreases with θ due to the torus self-occultation, but its θ dependency is weaker than that of the disk flux, thereby presenting the red NIR-optical color for inclined angles. The reduction of the NIR flux toward a larger $\theta_{\rm obs}$ is consistent with the radiative transfer calculations under an isotropic optical/UV illumination (Hönig et al. 2006; Nenkova et al. 2008). Incorporation of the anisotropy of the optical/UV flux from the disk (Equation (2)) enables us to predict the NIR-optical/UV color.

Third, (3) the middle panel of Figure 8 describes the profile of $\Psi(t)$. As $\theta_{\rm obs}$ increases, the width of $\Psi(t)$ rms also increases, meaning that $\Psi(t)$ becomes broader. Both $t_{\rm delay}$ and rms increase with $\theta_{\rm obs}$, and their ratio $t_{\rm delay}$ /rms slightly rises toward a smaller viewing angle: a $t_{\rm delay}$ /rms ratio increases twice between $\theta_{\rm obs} = 40^{\circ}$ – 44° and 0° . With a small $\theta_{\rm obs}$, the echo from various parts of the inner edge arrives at the observer at a similar delay, making the $\Psi(t)$ quite narrow. For larger $\theta_{\rm obs}$, a variety of light pass differences arise between $\phi \sim 0$ and $\sim \pi$, which causes the broader $\Psi(t)$. We expect that the cross-correlation function between NIR and optical/UV flux variations becomes broader for type 1.5–1.9 AGNs compared with a typical type 1 object. The skewness s is always negative (i.e., with a tail toward a shorter time delay), and the degree of asymmetry gets larger for a pole-on view.

Finally, (4) we comment on the NIR variability amplitude (to be precise, the ratio of the NIR amplitude to the optical/UV one). A peaky $\Psi(t)$ will result in a large NIR amplitude, whereas a less peaky $\Psi(t)$ smears out the variability of reprocessed emission, producing a less NIR amplitude. In order to see this quantitatively, we draw the NIR fluence-to-rms ratio and

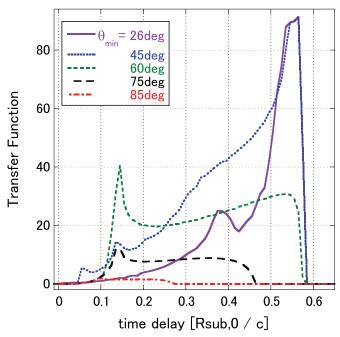


Figure 9. Transfer functions for various torus thickness $\theta_{\rm min}$. A smaller $\theta_{\rm min}$ corresponds to a thicker torus. The torus self-occultation by the $\theta \lesssim 60^\circ$ region at $\phi \sim 0$ hides the left horn, which originates in the large θ ($60^\circ \lesssim \theta \lesssim 80^\circ$) region at $\phi \sim 0$ and is visible in the green short-dashed line.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

the peak value of $\Psi(t)$ as a function of $\theta_{\rm obs}$ in the bottom panel of Figure 8. For a nearly pole-on view with $\theta_{\rm obs} \lesssim 10^\circ$, both quantities rise. For a given optical/UV variability, such pole-on objects will show large NIR variability amplitudes. At $\theta_{\rm obs} \gtrsim 15^\circ$, the peakiness of $\Psi(t)$ is insensitive to the viewing angle.

By contrast with the fiducial $\theta_{\rm obs}$ of 25°, objects with a small viewing angle will exhibit a short time delay with a narrow and peaky response. On the other hand, a more inclined viewing angle leads to a longer delay with a broader profile and to an intrinsically redder NIR-to-optical color. The $\theta_{\rm obs}$ -dependent delay contrasts our work with the earlier study for optically thin tori (Barvainis 1992). The computed range of $t_{\rm delay}$ coincides with the observed one. The NIR response always shows an asymmetry with a tail toward a shorter delay.

3.2. Torus Thickness: θ_{\min}

In Paper I, we assumed that the semi-thickness of the torus (from the equatorial plane to the upper surface) is 45°. However, luminous AGNs (quasars) seem to have thinner tori than Seyfert galaxies (Lawrence 1991; Ueda et al. 2003; La Franca et al. 2005; Arshakian 2005; Simpson 2005; Maiolino et al. 2007; Hasinger 2008; Treister et al. 2008). Moreover, recent hard X-ray observations discovered type 2 AGNs with very thick tori (Levenson et al. 2002; Ueda et al. 2007; Eguchi et al. 2009; Noguchi et al. 2010). In this subsection, we show the expected characteristics of NIR emission from type 1 AGNs with thick and thin tori.

Figure 9 shows transfer functions for various $\theta_{\rm min}$, with $\theta_{\rm obs}$ and $\theta_{\rm max}$ fixed at 25° and 89°, respectively. When the torus thickens from $\theta_{\rm min}=45^\circ$ to 26°, the self-occultation selectively veils the region with a short delay at $\phi\sim0$, hence enlarges the delay and reduces the fluence, the width, and s. In other words, the self-occultation by the region with $\phi\sim0$ and $\theta\lesssim60^\circ$

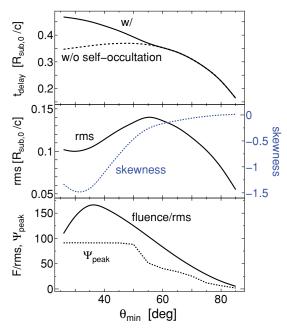


Figure 10. Top: time delay (in the unit of $R_{\text{sub},0}/c$) as a function of torus thickness θ_{\min} . The meanings of different lines are the same as in Figures 6 and 8. A thick torus veils the region with a short light path difference at $\phi \sim 0$, and hence enlarges t_{delay} and reduces rms at $\theta_{\min} \lesssim 55^{\circ}$. As the torus becomes thinner, t_{delay} becomes shorter. Middle and bottom: same as Figure 8, but for the θ_{\min} dependency here. As the torus becomes thicker, $\Psi(t)$ shows a longer delay with a narrower and more heavily skewed profile due to the torus self-occultation. A less peaky $\Psi(t)$ is expected for a thin torus, making the detectability of NIR variability difficult.

hides the rapid response (left horn), which originates in the large θ ($60^{\circ} \lesssim \theta \lesssim 80^{\circ}$) region and becomes visible when the torus gets thin ($\theta_{\rm min} = 60^{\circ}$). On the other hand, the self-occultation unlikely influences the result for a thin torus. As shown in Section 2.5, a rapid response is obtained when the torus is extremely thin ($\theta_{\rm min} \gtrsim 75^{\circ}$), since $R_{\rm sub}(\theta)$ is small at large θ .

To see the $\theta_{\rm min}$ dependency more quantitatively, we draw $t_{\rm delay}$ as a function of $\theta_{\rm min}$ in the top panel of Figure 10. Clearly, $t_{\rm delay}$ becomes short for thin tori. Therefore, we expect that luminous quasars will show a relatively short time delay in the unit of $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$. For instance, if the torus thickness is reduced for luminous objects, the loci in Figure 7 shown by the solid lines become bent (convex). The computed $t_{\rm delay}$ ranges from 0.16 to 0.47 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ for $\theta_{\rm min}$ in 85°–26°. In contrast to the $\theta_{\rm obs}$ dependency, it seems difficult to explain the observed range (shown as the histogram in Figure 6) by a change of $\theta_{\rm min}$ alone.

As the torus becomes thicker, $\Psi(t)$ shows a longer delay with a narrower and more heavily skewed profile at $\theta_{\min} \lesssim 55^{\circ}$ due to the torus self-occultation (middle panel). This trend opposes to the results for various viewing angles, where t_{delay} and rms are positively correlated with each other. Although a low $\Psi(t)$ is expected for a thin torus (bottom panel), the small rms implies a large relative variability in the NIR emission

Next, Figure 9 also shows that the NIR fluence is a strong function of θ_{\min} . Qualitatively, it is trivial, since various θ_{\min} mean various solid angles of the torus subtended at the central

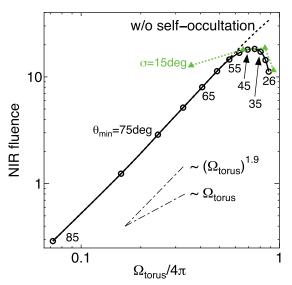


Figure 11. NIR fluence, $\int \Psi(t)\,dt$, to the observer at $\theta_{\rm obs}=25^\circ$ for various torus thickness $\theta_{\rm min}$, as a function of the solid angle of the torus seen from the central BH $\Omega_{\rm torus}$. Solid and short-dashed lines have the same meanings as Figures 6, 8, and 10, top panels. For the former, circles are also plotted in 5° steps of $\theta_{\rm min}$ and labeled in 10° steps. As the torus becomes thicker with $\theta_{\rm min}\lesssim 40^\circ$, the NIR flux starts to decrease owing to the torus self-occultation. For a thin torus with $\theta_{\rm min}\gtrsim 55^\circ$, the NIR fluence is in proportion to $\Omega_{\rm torus}^{1.9}$. The green dotted line with triangles is based on the $2\,\mu{\rm m}$ flux densities calculated by Nenkova et al. (2008), for the torus semi-thickness parameter σ of 15° , 30° , 45° , and 60° (from the left to the right). A modest thickness of the torus leads to the strongest NIR emission.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

BH, Ω_{torus} . Here,

$$\frac{\Omega_{\text{torus}}}{4\pi} = \frac{\int_0^{2\pi} \int_{\theta_{\text{min}}}^{\theta_{\text{max}}} \sin\theta \, d\theta \, d\phi}{2\pi} = \cos\theta_{\text{min}} - \cos\theta_{\text{max}}. \quad (8)$$

However, as shown in numerical results by Nenkova et al. (2008), the NIR flux is not exactly in proportion to Ω_{torus} . (Therefore, we need a caution when relating the observed NIR-to-UV luminosity ratio with Ω_{torus} (e.g., Mor & Trakhtenbrot 2011; see also Section 3.3).) Moreover, we let the inner radius of the torus $R_{sub}(\theta)$ vary with θ . Thus, it is not obvious how the NIR fluence of our torus model varies with Ω_{torus} .

Figure 11 shows that the NIR fluence decreases drastically as θ_{\min} increases. A thin torus locates its inner radius at a short distance from the BH (Equation (3) and Figure 2), where the size of clumps is small and the NIR emissivity is low (Section 2.3). For thin tori with $\theta_{\rm min}\gtrsim 55^{\circ}$, we find that the NIR fluence is roughly in proportion to $\Omega_{\rm torus}^{1.9}$. Thus, luminous quasars are expected to show weak NIR emission (blue NIR-tooptical color), which is consistent with the observed trend of the decreasing NIR-to-optical flux ratio with an increasing optical luminosity (Maiolino et al. 2007; Treister et al. 2008; Jiang et al. 2010; Mor & Trakhtenbrot 2011). AGNs with very weak NIR emission (such as "hot-dust-poor" AGNs named by Hao et al. 2010) may indicate that their tori are very thin. For comparison, we also draw the flux densities at $2 \mu m$ from clumpy tori seen from $\theta_{\rm obs} = 25^{\circ}$, based on a radiative transfer computation (Figure 8 of Nenkova et al. 2008, corrected following its Erratum by Nenkova et al. 2010, and scaled to match with our result at $\theta_{\rm min} \sim 45^{\circ}$). They present the results for four different torus semi-thickness σ , with a Gaussian clump distribution. For the smooth boundaries of the torus in the θ -direction, the solid angle

is computed as (see the Appendix)

$$\frac{\Omega_{\text{torus}}(\sigma)}{4\pi} = \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \left(1 - \exp\left[-5 \exp\left(-\frac{\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta\right)^2}{\sigma^2} \right) \right] \right) \sin\theta \, d\theta, \tag{9}$$

which is larger than $\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \sigma\right)$. The steeper decline of the NIR flux in our result is likely due to the θ dependency of $R_{\text{subl}}(\theta)$, in contrast to the constant sublimation radius (resulted from the presumed isotropic illumination) in their computations.

Next, we move on to the result for a thick torus. The self-occultation reduces the NIR flux by 55%–67% for $\theta_{\rm min}=30^{\circ}-26^{\circ}$, whereas it results in a reduction by 19% for the fiducial $\theta_{\rm min}$ of 45°. Due to the self-occultation, too thick tori with $\theta_{\rm min}<40^{\circ}$ exhibit lesser NIR flux (i.e., intrinsically bluer NIR-optical color) than a torus with a moderate thickness with $\theta_{\rm min}\sim40^{\circ}-45^{\circ}$. The flux reduction of a thick torus compared with a modestly thick torus is again consistent with the result by Nenkova et al. (2008).

Bringing together the two behaviors, both a thick and a thin torus show weak NIR emission. Namely, a modest thickness of the torus leads to the strongest NIR emission. Therefore, a selection bias will arise such that NIR-selected AGNs tend to possess moderately thick tori.

Compared with the modest torus thickness ($\theta_{\rm min}=45^{\circ}$), both a thick and a thin torus display weaker NIR emission (i.e., a bluer NIR-optical color). A thick torus shows a slightly delayed, narrow, and largely skewed NIR response. On the other hand, as the torus gets thinner, the NIR response becomes more rapid, narrower, closer to time-symmetric, and low.

3.3. Disk Thickness: θ_{max}

When the accretion rate exceeds the Eddington rate ($\approx 16\,L_{\rm Edd}/c^2$), an optically thick advection-dominated accretion flow (a slim disk) appears (Abramowicz et al. 1988). Since super-Eddington disks are geometrically thick (Abramowicz et al. 1988; Madau 1988), they cannot illuminate the directions near their equatorial plane by the disk self-occultation (Fukue 2000).

As discussed in Paper I, some AGNs with presumably super-Eddington accretion rates show weak NIR emission (Ark564, TonS180, J0005, and J0303; Rodríguez-Ardila & Mazzalay 2006; Kawaguchi et al. 2004; Jiang et al. 2010; see, however, Hao et al. 2010). Small $\theta_{\rm max}$ due to the self-occultation by a geometrically thick disk can be a reason for the weakness. Moreover, the observed data do not support the concept of Eddington-limited accretion (Collin & Kawaguchi 2004). Thus, a strong anisotropy of the disk emission, such as Equation (2) and the disk self-occultation, is required to allow gas infall to super-Eddington accreting sources. In this subsection, we examine in more detail the influences of the disk thickness and the accretion rate upon the NIR emission.

In principle, the disk thickness is a function of the distance from the central BH. Both the illumination spectrum from an AGN disk and the absorption efficiency of dust have their peaks at Far-UV (e.g., Laor & Draine 1993). Therefore, we deduce the disk thickness at the Far-UV emitting region. Based on the work by Kawaguchi (2003, his Figure 5 for a $10^{6.5}\,M_\odot$ BH), the semi-thickness of the disk (= $90^\circ-\theta_{\rm max}$) at the region with the temperature of (4–5) $\times 10^4$ K is $1^\circ, 4^\circ, 17^\circ$, and 39° , for the

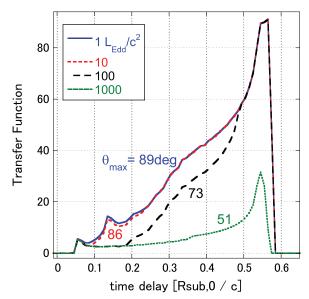


Figure 12. Transfer functions for various accretion rates, with $\theta_{\rm max}$ labeled near each line. Here, $\theta_{\rm obs}$ of 25° and $\theta_{\rm min}$ of 45° are assumed. As mentioned in Section 2.5, $t_{\rm delay}$ seems insensitive to $\theta_{\rm max}$.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

accretion rates of 1, 10, 100, and $1000~L_{\rm Edd}/c^2$, respectively. Comparing the first and the last case, the solid angle of the torus illuminated by the disk (Equation (8)) differs by a factor of ~ 9 (a smaller $\Omega_{\rm torus}$ with a higher accretion rate).

Transfer functions for four accretion rates are presented in Figure 12. As we see in Section 2.5, t_{delay} is insensitive to θ_{max} (top panel of Figure 13). Therefore, the observed broad range of $t_{\rm delay}$ is not reproduced by a change of the accretion rate. Larger accretion rates make the disk thicker and the shade of the disk itself larger (i.e., smaller Ω_{torus} ; Equation (8)). Thus, the NIR fluence becomes small as the accretion rate increases, as shown in the second panel. By changing the accretion rate from 1 to $1000L_{\rm Edd}/c^2$, the fluence becomes $\sim 1/5$. This is consistent with the weakness of the X-ray emission line from neutral iron, which potentially originates in the illuminated torus, in a narrow-line quasar (Takahashi et al. 2010; cf. Page et al. 2004). Similar to $t_{\rm delay}$, rms and s are insensitive to $\theta_{\rm max}$ (third panel). On the contrary, the height of $\Psi(t)$ (bottom panel) is affected by the accretion rates in the sense that super-Eddington sources will show a low absolute variation.

Other than the reduction of θ_{max} and Ω_{torus} , super-Eddington accretion rates cause another influence upon the NIR flux. Sub-Eddington accretion disks suffer little from disk self-gravity, hence extend far away from the central BH, radiating across UV, optical, and NIR bands (Tomita et al. 2006; Kishimoto et al. 2008). When the accretion rate becomes super-Eddington, disk self-gravity starts to govern the disk and truncate the outer part of the disk. Due to the truncation, super-Eddington disks do not radiate at NIR (Kawaguchi et al. 2004). To sum up, both small θ_{max} of the torus and the small outer radius of the disk, caused by the high accretion rate, provide less NIR emission.

In contrast to the result for a thin disk with a sub-Eddington accretion rate of $L_{\rm Edd}/c^2$, a super-Eddington accretion rate leads to much weaker NIR emission (with the help of the disk self-gravity) and to a low time response.

Here, we summarize the three dependencies examined above. Only the variation of the viewing angles reproduces the observed range of the time delay. Therefore, we propose that the viewing

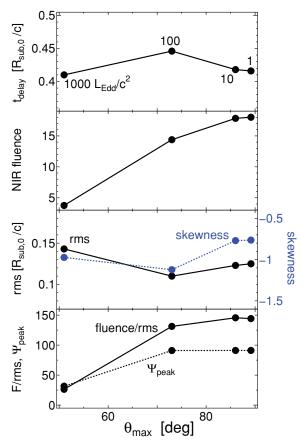


Figure 13. Same as Figures 8 and 10, but for the $\theta_{\rm max}$ dependency. The corresponding gas accretion rates onto the BH in the unit of $L_{\rm Edd}/c^2$ are labeled in the top panel for $t_{\rm delay}$. Second: larger accretion rates make the disk thicker (i.e., smaller $\theta_{\rm max}$) and the shade of the disk itself larger (i.e., smaller $\Omega_{\rm torus}$). Thus, the NIR fluence becomes small as the accretion rate increases. Third: rms and s as well as $t_{\rm delay}$ is insensitive to $\theta_{\rm max}$. Bottom: with high accretion rates, the NIR variability will be relatively small.

angle is the key parameter responsible for the observed scatter in the $t_{\rm delay}$ – $L_{\rm UV}$ diagram. Weak NIR emission (such as in hot-dust-poor AGNs in the weakest cases) indicates either a thin torus, a thick torus, or super-Eddington accretion. On the other hand, stronger NIR flux (a redder NIR-optical color) than the fiducial one is obtained only by a large viewing angle for a modestly thick torus.

4. MISALIGNED TORUS

So far, we have assumed that the rotation axis of the torus is aligned to that of the disk. Since a specific angular momentum is likely larger in the torus than in the disk, the assumption sounds plausible. Indeed, we have examples, where the rotation axes of maser disks are aligned to the jet directions (e.g., Miyoshi et al. 1995; Meisenheimer et al. 2007; Mamyoda et al. 2009). However, there are also a number of examples showing the misalignment between the maser disks and the jets (e.g., Yamauchi et al. 2004; Raban et al. 2009). Random orientation between jets and galactic axes is also reported (Clarke et al. 1998; Nagar & Wilson 1999; Schmitt et al. 2001).

In this section, we investigate the consequences of the misalignment between the torus and the disk axes. Now, we introduce θ_{torus} and ϕ_{torus} to specify the rotation axis of the torus

Table 1Results for Misaligned Tori

	θ_{0}	$_{\rm obs}=25^{\circ}$		
θ_{torus} (deg)	$\phi_{ m torus}$ (deg)			
	0	30	60	90
0	$t_{\rm delay} = 0.42 \left(R_{\rm sub,0}/c \right)^{\rm a}$			
	Fluence $= 36^{b}$			
	rms = 0.13			
	s = -0.76			
30	0.25	0.28	0.35	0.41
	13	13	13	12
	0.06	0.11	0.15	0.15
	-0.40	-0.04	-0.53	-0.75
60	0.43	0.47		
	16	17		
	0.19	0.20		
	0.11	0.03		
	θ_{0}	$_{\rm obs}=65^{\circ}$		
90	0.62	0.98		
	38	44		
	0.28	0.50		
	0.003	1.0		

Notes. Blank fields (and $\phi_{torus} \ge 120^{\circ}$) mean that the direction to the observer (at $\phi = 0$) from the central BH is obscured by the torus with such parameter sets.

relative to that of the disk and the observer ($\phi = 0$). Figure 2 shows the geometry with $\theta_{\text{torus}} \approx 20^{\circ}$ and $\phi_{\text{torus}} = 0^{\circ}$.

Three θ_{torus} are examined; 30°, 60°, and 90°. In the first two cases, we adopt θ_{obs} of 25°. Since the direction to θ_{obs} of 25° is obscured by the torus if $\theta_{\text{torus}} = 90^{\circ}$, θ_{obs} of 65° is chosen in the last case. With $\theta_{\text{torus}} = 60^{\circ}$ and 90°, the inner edge of the torus at $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ becomes visible. Thus, for these two θ_{torus} , we integrate θ not only from 0 to θ_{max} but also from $\pi - \theta_{\text{max}}$ to π . Here, the semi-thickness of the torus and that of the disk are fixed at 45° and 1° (i.e., $\theta_{\text{min}} = 45^{\circ}$ and $\theta_{\text{max}} = 89^{\circ}$), respectively.

Figure 14 shows the transfer functions (integrating ϕ from 0 to 2π), and Table 1 summarizes the results of a series of calculations. For reference, we also show the response of the aligned torus from $0 \le \phi \le 2\pi$, which is identical to the twice enlarged version of the dotted line in Figure 3 (obtained by the $0 \le \phi \le \pi$ integration). For θ_{torus} of 90° , the disk illumination flux toward the torus is larger than the flux toward the observer, meaning that the inner radius of the torus is large. Blank fields (and $\phi_{torus} \ge 120^{\circ}$) in the table mean that the direction to the observer from the central BH is obscured by the torus with such parameter sets. In other words, a large ϕ_{torus} excludes type 1 AGNs, and is biased to type 2 AGNs.

A variety of $t_{\rm delay}$ is achieved from 0.25 to 0.98 $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$, which is wide enough to match up with the observed range (Figure 6). A short $t_{\rm delay}$ is obtained for $\theta_{\rm torus}$ of 30°, and is associated with a small NIR fluence. The geometry with $\theta_{\rm torus}=30^\circ$ and $\phi_{\rm torus}=0^\circ$ is similar to a pole-on view of aligned tori (Section 3.1), producing a very narrow NIR response at a short time delay. On the other hand, a large $t_{\rm delay}$ is realized for $\theta_{\rm torus}$ of 90°, accompanied with a fluence similar to the one for the fiducial parameter.

^a Hereafter, the time delay is quoted in this unit.

^b NIR fluence for the fiducial parameter set is calculated by integrating θ from 0 to 2π , which has twice the fluence shown in Sections 2 and 3.

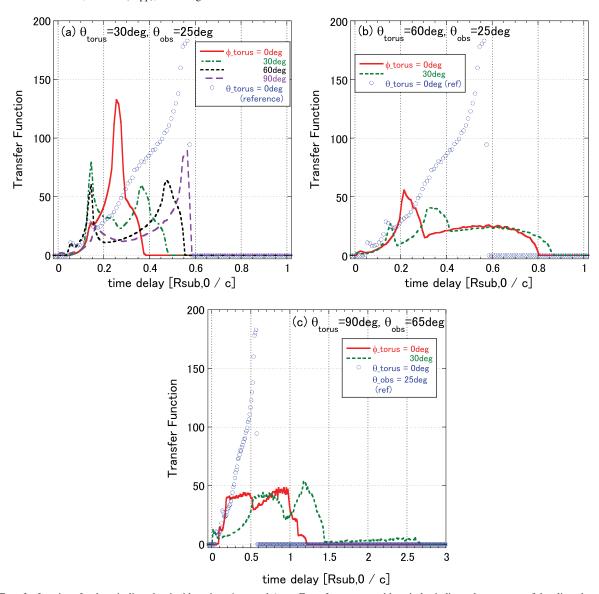


Figure 14. Transfer functions for the misaligned tori with various θ_{torus} and ϕ_{torus} . For reference, open blue circles indicate the response of the aligned torus seen from $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 25^{\circ}$ (identical to the twice enlarged version of the blue dotted line in Figure 3). (a) $\theta_{\text{torus}} = 30^{\circ}$ and (b) $\theta_{\text{torus}} = 60^{\circ}$ with $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 25^{\circ}$. (c) $\theta_{\text{torus}} = 90^{\circ}$ with $\theta_{\text{obs}} = 65^{\circ}$. In panels (b) and (c), the NIR emission from $\theta > \pi/2$, which produces the NIR response at a long time delay, is visible. (A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

As the torus becomes inclined relative to the disk, the torus hides not only the region with a short delay but also various areas of the inner edge of the torus, making the NIR fluence small and the time response complicated. Contributions from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$, which are observable for θ_{torus} of 60° and 90° , appear at a longer time delay. Thus, they tend to increase the time delay, the NIR fluence, and the skewness ($s \gtrsim 0$). With $\theta_{\text{torus}} = 90^\circ$, the NIR emission from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ is large enough to compensate for the flux reduction due to the torus self-occultation, exhibiting a comparable fluence to the reference result. A long t_{delay} ($\sim R_{\text{sub},0}/c$), if observed in the future, may be a signature of a large θ_{torus} ($\sim 90^\circ$; i.e., heavily misaligned).

In cases where the torus self-occultation does not work due to an extremely small volume filling factor of clumps, etc. (Appendix), an aligned torus shows the NIR response as described in Section 2.5 with $t_{\rm delay}=0.78\,R_{\rm sub,0}/c$. Summing up all the four lines in Figure 4(b) and multiplying the fluence by two (to convert the $0 \le \phi \le \pi$ integration to the 0– 2π integration), we obtain the fluence of 140. In contrast, we find

that misaligned tori without the self-occultation effect show a yet longer delay with a huge NIR fluence. For instance, for $\theta_{\rm torus}=60^\circ$ with $\theta_{\rm obs}=25^\circ$ and for $\theta_{\rm torus}=90^\circ$ with $\theta_{\rm obs}=65^\circ$, $t_{\rm delay}=1.2$ and $1.9~R_{\rm sub,0}/c$ with the fluences of 250 and 960, respectively. Therefore, an extremely long (> $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$) delay with a big NIR flux would mean a misaligned optically thin torus.

5. SUMMARY

According to recent models, the accretion disk and the BH in AGNs are surrounded by a clumpy torus, with its inner radius governed by the dust sublimation process. Regarding the inner radius of the torus, there was a systematic deviation between the observational results and the theory. In Paper I, we showed that the anisotropy of the disk emission resolves this conflict for a typical type 1 AGN. We found that the anisotropy makes the torus inner region closer to the central BH and concave. Furthermore, the innermost edge of the torus may connect with the outermost edge of the accretion disk continuously.

In this study, we have calculated the NIR flux variation of the torus in response to a UV flash for various geometries of the disk, the torus, and the observer. Anisotropic illumination by the disk and the effect of the torus self-occultation contrast our study with earlier works. We have found that both the waning effect of each clump and the torus self-occultation selectively reduce the emission from the region with a short delay. Thus, the resultant NIR time response shows a $\theta_{\rm obs}$ -dependent delay and an asymmetric profile with negative skewness, opposing the results for optically thin tori (Barvainis 1992).

By contrast with the fiducial viewing angle of 25° , a small viewing angle results in a short time delay with a narrow and peaky response. On the other hand, a more inclined viewing angle leads to a longer delay with a broader profile and to a redder NIR-to-optical color. We propose that the red NIR-optical color of type 1.8/1.9 objects is caused not only by the dust extinction but also intrinsically red color. The computed range of $t_{\rm delay}$ coincides with the observed one.

Compared with the modest torus thickness of 45° , both a thick and a thin torus display weaker NIR emission, consistent with the work by Nenkova et al. (2008). In other words, a modest thickness of the torus leads to the strongest NIR emission. A selection bias is thus expected such that NIR-selected AGNs tend to possess moderately thick tori. For thin tori, we have found that the NIR fluence is in proportion to $\Omega_{torus}^{1.9}$. As the torus becomes thicker, the NIR response shows a slightly longer delay with a narrower and more heavily skewed profile due to the torus self-occultation. This trend opposes to the viewing angle dependency, where the delay and the width are positively correlated with each other. On the contrary, as the torus gets thinner, the NIR response becomes more rapid, narrower, closer to time-symmetric, and low.

In contrast to a thin disk with a sub-Eddington accretion rate, a super-Eddington accretion rate leads to much weaker (<1/5) NIR emission due to disk self-occultation and disk truncation by self-gravity, and to a low time response.

Among the three dependencies examined for aligned tori, only the variation of the viewing angles reproduces the observed range of the delay. Therefore, we propose that the viewing angle is the key parameter responsible for the observed scatter about the regression line in the $t_{\rm delay}$ versus $L_{\rm UV}$ diagram. Conversely, the measurements of $t_{\rm delay}$ are potentially useful to estimate the inclination angles.

We have also investigated the consequences of the misalignment between the torus and the disk axes. A variety of $t_{\rm delay}$ is achieved, which is wide enough to cover the observed range. A short delay is obtained for a small misalignment and is associated with a small NIR fluence, while a long delay is obtained for a largely misaligned torus with an usual fluence. This trend contrasts with the viewing angle dependency for aligned tori, where a short delay is associated with a normal NIR fluence while a long delay means a large NIR fluence. For highly misaligned cases, contributions from $\theta > \frac{\pi}{2}$ increase the time delay (up to $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$), the NIR fluence, and the skewness ($s \gtrsim 0$).

In cases where the torus is optically thin (with an inefficient self-occultation), the time delay of the NIR emission from an aligned torus becomes longer. Moreover, misaligned optically thin tori show a yet longer delay ($>R_{\rm sub,0}/c$) with a huge NIR flux.

From an observational point of view, these numerical results are summarized as follows. If the observed time delay of the NIR emission is short, it will mean either a small viewing angle, a geometrically thin torus, or a slightly misaligned torus.

If the delay is long, on the other hand, it indicates either an inclined viewing angle, an aligned optically thin torus, or a largely misaligned torus. An extremely long delay (> $R_{\rm sub,0}/c$) would mean a misaligned optically thin torus. As to the NIR flux, a blue NIR-to-optical color (i.e., weak NIR emission such as in hot-dust-poor AGNs in the weakest cases) indicates either a geometrically thin torus, a geometrically thick torus, a super-Eddington accretion, or a slight misalignment between the torus and the disk. On the other hand, a red NIR-optical color (large NIR emission) means a large viewing angle with a modest geometrical thickness of the torus or a largely misaligned optically thin torus.

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APPENDIX

OPTICAL THICKNESS OF CLUMPY TORI

We briefly summarize the basic properties of clumps in the torus. The main aim here is to deduce the optical thickness of the clumpy torus. If it is optically thin at NIR (as Barvainis 1992 assumed), we need to consider the NIR emission from all the clumps including those at the far side of the torus which is illuminated by the back side (relative to the observer) of the accretion disk. In contrast, if it is optically thick, the torus self-occultation should be incorporated appropriately.

Each clump located at a distance of r from the central BH is characterized by the radius of R_{clump} and the mass of M_{clump} . Clumps that survive against its own thermal pressure and tidal shearing by the BH must be heavier than the Jeans mass and/or more compact than the tidal (Hill or Roche) radius (e.g., Vollmer et al. 2004). Marginally stable clumps, at the boundary of these criteria, have the following various quantities (Hönig & Beckert 2007):

$$R_{\text{clump}} = \frac{\sqrt{\pi} c_s r^{1.5}}{3\sqrt{GM_{\text{BH}}}} \approx 0.01 \,\text{pc} \left(\frac{c_s}{3 \,\text{km s}^{-1}}\right)$$
$$\times \left(\frac{r}{\text{pc}}\right)^{1.5} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^7 \,M_{\odot}}\right)^{-0.5}, \tag{A1}$$

$$M_{\text{clump}} = \frac{\pi c_s^2}{3G} R_{\text{clump}} \approx 20 \, M_{\odot} \left(\frac{c_s}{3 \,\text{km s}^{-1}} \right)^3 \times \left(\frac{r}{\text{pc}} \right)^{1.5} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^7 \, M_{\odot}} \right)^{-0.5}, \tag{A2}$$

$$\rho_{\text{clump}} = \frac{M_{\text{clump}}}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R_{\text{clump}}^3} \approx 5 \, 10^{-16} \, \text{g cm}^{-3}$$

$$\times \left(\frac{r}{\text{pc}}\right)^{-3} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^7 \, M_{\odot}}\right), \tag{A3}$$

$$N_{\rm H,clump} \approx \frac{\rho_{\rm clump}}{m_{\rm p}} R_{\rm clump} \approx 8 \, 10^{24} \, \rm cm^{-2} \left(\frac{c_s}{3 \, \rm km \, s^{-1}}\right)$$
$$\times \left(\frac{r}{\rm pc}\right)^{-1.5} \left(\frac{M_{\rm BH}}{10^7 \, M_{\odot}}\right)^{0.5}. \tag{A4}$$

Here, $\rho_{\rm clump}$, $N_{\rm H, clump}$, c_s , and $m_{\rm p}$ are the mean density in the clump, the column density of the clump, the sound speed in the clump, and the proton mass, respectively. The normalization in $\rho_{\rm clump}$ (corresponding to $3\,10^8~{\rm cm}^{-3}$) is consistent with the observed lower limit for the mean number density ($\gtrsim 10^7~{\rm cm}^{-3}$; Geballe et al. 2006; Shirahata et al. 2007). Incidentally, clumps in the broad line region (at $r\sim 10^{16}~{\rm cm}$) have their sizes around $10^{13}~{\rm cm}$ (Risaliti et al. 2009; Maiolino et al. 2010), consistent with the extrapolation of Equation (A1) to smaller r. However, their density ($\sim 10^{11}~{\rm cm}^{-3}$) and $N_{\rm H, clump}$ [$\sim (2-9)\,10^{23}~{\rm cm}^{-2}$] are much less than those expected from Equations (A3) and (A4).

The column density above means Compton-thick ($\sim 5\,\sigma_{\rm Thomson}^{-1}$) and corresponds to optical depths at the V and K bands of 1400 and 160, respectively, using the conventional extinction law (Savage & Mathis 1979; Cardelli et al. 1989). In radiative transfer calculations of AGN tori, clumps with optical depth at the V band of 30–100 are often adopted (Nenkova et al. 2008; Hönig et al. 2006; Deo et al. 2011). Krolik & Begelman (1988) estimate $N_{\rm H, clump}$ to be $\sim 7\,10^{23}\,{\rm cm}^{-2}$ (\sim one tenth of Equation (A4)). Even with such a reduction of the clump opacity by $\frac{1}{10}-\frac{1}{40}$, each clump is still opaque to NIR photons.

Therefore, optical thickness of the torus τ_{torus} is simply related to the probability that the incoming rays hit clumps. We treat the two directions separately: one in the vertical direction (parallel to the rotation axis) with a suffix of \parallel , and another along the equatorial plane with a suffix of \perp . The key parameter here is the volume filling factor of clumps in the torus f, for which we assume 0.03 (Vollmer et al. 2004). By writing the number density of clumps in the torus by n_c ,

$$n_{\rm c} = \frac{f}{\frac{4}{3}\pi R_{\rm clump}^3},\tag{A5}$$

$$\tau_{\text{torus},\parallel} = n_{\text{c}} \pi R_{\text{clump}}^2 H,$$
(A6)

$$\approx 0.02 \left(\frac{r}{R_{\text{clump}}}\right) \left(\frac{f}{0.03}\right),$$
 (A7)

where we assume the thickness of the torus H to be $\sim r$. Now, τ_{torus} means the mean number of clumps along the ray, and a fraction $e^{-\tau_{\text{torus}}}$ of the incoming rays pass through the torus without encountering any clumps (Natta & Panagia 1984; Nenkova et al. 2002).

If we adopt the clump size in Equation (A1), then

$$\tau_{\text{torus},\parallel} = 3 \left(\frac{c_s}{3 \,\text{km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{r}{\text{p}c} \right)^{-0.5} \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^7 \, M_{\odot}} \right)^{0.5} \left(\frac{f}{0.03} \right). \tag{A8}$$

Assuming that clumps are mainly heated by the direct illumination from the central accretion disk (i.e., ignoring the irradiation from nearby clumps), the clump temperature will be proportional to $r^{-0.5}L^{0.25}$, with L being the illumination luminosity (cf. Nenkova et al. 2008). Therefore, the size of torus emission is larger for larger L at longer λ , in the form $\propto \lambda^2 L^{0.5}$ (Tristram et al. 2009). Then, we assume for c_s as follows.

$$c_s = c_0 \left(\frac{r}{p_C}\right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \left(\frac{L}{L_{Edd}}\right)^{\frac{1}{8}} \left(\frac{M_{BH}}{10^7 M_{\odot}}\right)^{\frac{1}{8}},$$
 (A9)

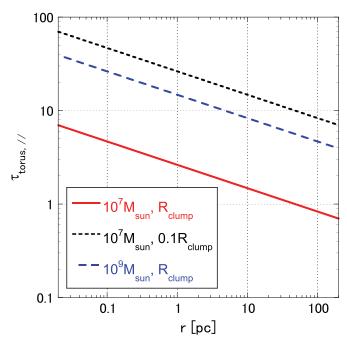


Figure 15. Optical thickness of the clumpy torus in the vertical direction as a function of the distance from the central BH r. Red solid and black dotted lines are for $M_{\rm BH}$ of $10^7\,M_{\odot}$, with the clump radius assumed to be one tenth of that in Equation (A1) in the latter. The blue dashed line represents the case of $10^9\,M_{\odot}$. For all the cases, the inner part of the clumpy torus is optically thick.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

with $L_{\rm Edd}$ being the Eddington luminosity. In summary,

$$\tau_{\text{torus},\parallel} = 3 \left(\frac{c_0}{3 \,\text{km s}^{-1}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{r}{\text{pc}} \right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} \left(\frac{L}{L_{\text{Edd}}} \right)^{-\frac{1}{8}} \times \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^7 \,M_{\odot}} \right)^{\frac{3}{8}} \left(\frac{f}{0.03} \right). \tag{A10}$$

Figure 15 shows the optical thickness of the clumpy torus as a function of r. Throughout, we fix c_0 , $L/L_{\rm Edd}$, and f so that these in parentheses in Equation (A10) equal unity. For instance, $\tau_{\rm torus,\parallel}$ is about five at r of 0.1 pc.

The radius where the torus is opaque r_{opaque} is achieved by setting $\tau_{\text{torus},\parallel} = 1$:

$$r_{\text{opaque}} = 50 \,\text{pc} \left(\frac{c_0}{3 \,\text{km s}^{-1}}\right)^{-4} \left(\frac{L}{L_{\text{Edd}}}\right)^{-0.5} \times \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{10^7 \,M_{\odot}}\right)^{1.5} \left(\frac{f}{0.03}\right)^4. \tag{A11}$$

The inner part within this radius of the torus is likely optically thick. In this study, we therefore consider basically emission from the near side of the torus, as we did in Paper I. This assumption can be tested in principle via the profile of broad emission lines and its time variation (e.g., Peterson 2001). If some indications of the emission from the far side of the torus are observed, the volume filling factor seems extremely low ($\ll 0.03/5$) or the torus is very thin ($H/r \ll 1/5$).

Similarly, we deduce the optical thickness perpendicular to the rotation axis $\tau_{torus,\perp}$, which is equivalent to \mathcal{N}_0 (the average number of clumps along radial equatorial rays) denoted by Nenkova et al. (2008). They showed that \mathcal{N}_0 is likely between 5 and 15, consistent with our estimation below. Adopting the

inner radius of $R_{\text{sub},0}$ and the clump size in Equation (A1),

$$\tau_{\text{torus},\perp} = \int_{R_{\text{sub 0}}} n_{\text{c}} \, \pi \, R_{\text{clump}}^2 \, dr, \tag{A12}$$

$$\approx 8 \left(\frac{c_0}{3 \,\mathrm{km} \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{M_{\mathrm{BH}}}{10^7 \,M_{\odot}}\right)^{0.5} \left(\frac{f}{0.03}\right) \\ \times \left(\frac{T_{\mathrm{sub}}}{1500 \,\mathrm{K}}\right)^{-0.7} \left(\frac{a}{0.05 \,\mu\mathrm{m}}\right)^{-\frac{1}{8}}. \tag{A13}$$

Here, we assume $L=2.5\,L_{\rm UV}$. Since this optical thickness is also larger than unity, we restrict ourselves to non-obscured objects (i.e., the geometry where the line of sight to the central BH is not blocked by the torus).

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