

BROAD EMISSION-LINE SHIFTS IN QUASARS: AN ORIENTATION MEASURE FOR RADIO-QUIET QUASARS?

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ABSTRACT

Using a sample of 3814 quasars from the Early Data Release of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, we confirm that high-ionization, broad emission lines, such as C iv, are significantly blueshifted with respect to low-ionization, broad emission lines, such as Mg II, which are thought to be close to the systemic redshift. We examine the velocity shifts of the Mg II and C iv emission lines with respect to [O III] and Mg II, respectively. C iv emission-line peaks have a range of shifts from a redshift of 500 km s⁻¹ to blueshifts well in excess of 2000 km s⁻¹ as compared with Mg II. We confirm previous results that suggest an anticorrelation between the shift of the C iv emission-line peak and the rest equivalent width of the C iv emission line. Furthermore, by creating composite quasar spectra as a function of C iv shift, we are able to study in detail the profiles of the line as a function of velocity shift. We find that the apparent shift of the C iv emission-line peak is not a shift so much as it is a lack of flux in the red wing for the composite with the largest apparent shift. This observation should strongly constrain models for the broad emission-line region in quasars. The emission-line blueshift and equivalent width of C iv are also discussed in light of the well-known anticorrelation between the equivalent width of C iv emission and continuum luminosity, otherwise known as the Baldwin effect. We further discuss the C iv emission-line shift as a function of other quasar properties, such as spectral index, radio and X-ray detection. We find a possible correlation between the C iv emission-line shifts and the radio properties of the quasars, which is suggestive of orientation as the cause of the C iv velocity shifts. Finally, we explore whether the C iv emission-line blueshifts correlate with the presence of broad absorption line absorption troughs or with narrow, “associated” absorption, and how these might be related to orientation.

Key words: line: formation — line: profiles — quasars: emission lines — quasars: general

1. INTRODUCTION

It has long been known that the redshifts derived from different quasar emission lines often do not agree with each other within typical measurement errors. Gaskell (1982) performed the first detailed study of this phenomenon and concluded that high-ionization, broad emission lines, such as C iv, are shifted by a few hundred kilometers per second blueward of the redshifts determined from low-ionization, broad emission lines, such as Mg II. Subsequent studies (Wilkes 1984; Espey et al. 1989; Corbin 1990; Tytler & Fan 1992; McIntosh et al. 1999; Sulentic, Marziani, & Dultzin-Hacyan 2000) have confirmed these shifts beyond any shadow of a doubt. Using a sample of more than 2200 active galactic nuclei (AGNs), Vanden Berk et al. (2001) demonstrated that these effects are also present in the sample of quasars from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS, York et al. 2000).

These shifts affect many of the most important issues in quasar-related science (both directly and indirectly). The

most obvious area of research that is affected is in the modeling of the phenomena of AGNs, particularly the broad emission-line region (BELR; Peterson 1997; Krolik 1999). BELR models based on accretion disk winds (Murray & Chiang 1997; Proga, Stone, & Kallman 2000) will have different dynamics than cloud-based models (Blumenthal & Mathews 1975; Capriotti, Foltz, & Byard 1980). These differences affect the line profiles and their locations in ways that should be testable.

In addition to investigations of the BELR, investigations regarding associated absorption (Foltz et al. 1986), broad absorption lines (Weymann et al. 1991), and the cosmic UV and X-ray background are affected by the apparent blueshift of the C iv emission line. We will comment on each of these issues in turn.

Determining the nature of the so-called “associated absorber” (Foltz et al. 1986) population ($z_{\text{abs}} \approx z_{\text{em}}$) requires understanding the velocity shift of the C iv emission line in quasars. Some associated absorbers are observed to have redshifts greater than the quasar redshift as determined from the C iv emission-line peak. However, as many authors have suggested, these apparent redshifts could simply be the result of the blueshift of the C iv emission line relative to the systemic redshift of the quasar. Given the average observed blueshift of the C iv emission line, it is clear that the population of truly $z_{\text{abs}} \geq z_{\text{em}}$ systems is smaller than it would appear. But it remains unclear whether these systems can be completely explained as outflows, which only appear to be infalling because of the observed shift of the C iv emission-line peak.

In addition to the narrower associated absorbers, emission-line shifts are important for broad absorption line

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(BAL) quasars. Previous investigations of the velocity shifts of quasar emission lines, such as that of Corbin (1990), suggest a correlation between the velocity shift of the emission lines and the broad absorption line troughs observed in at least 10% of all quasars (Weymann 1997). However, Weymann et al. (1991) saw no such effect. Whether or not the velocity shifts are an orientation effect has strong implications for BAL quasars. If we can determine the nature of the emission-line shifts, we can likely settle the issue of how BALs are distributed relative to the plane of the accretion disk that is thought to feed AGNs. Are BAL flows found preferentially in the plane of the accretion disk, or are the flows more spherically symmetric in their distribution?

In addition to the more obvious problems associated with our inability to determine accurate redshifts for quasars, we must also consider the effect that the apparent inconsistency of emission-line redshifts has on indirect quasar science. For example, the blueshift of the C IV emission line causes an overestimation of the ionizing flux in the intergalactic medium, such as is described by McIntosh et al. (1999).

The issue of C IV emission blueshift takes on even more importance if these shifts are correlated with the line of sight orientation of quasars or with an orientation-type parameter, such as the opening angle of a disk wind. The most obvious ramification of such a possibility is the ability to determine orientation angles for radio-quiet quasars: until now only a small percentage of quasars with distinct radio properties could be analyzed in terms of orientation. If a measure of orientation for radio-quiet quasars could be found and is robust (whether it be related to the C IV emission-line shifts or not), it would likely revolutionize the study of quasars.

The format of the paper is as follows. In § 2 we describe the data used in this analysis. Throughout this paper we will follow Schneider et al. (2002) and use a cosmology where $H_0 = 50 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega = 1$, $\Lambda = 0$. We also adopt a quasar-centered coordinate system in which outflows from the quasar along our line of sight (which appear blueshifted) have *positive* velocities. Section 3 presents an analysis of the data in terms of composite quasar spectra, and the radio and X-ray properties of our sample. In § 4 we discuss the implications of our findings for modeling of the BELR, the Baldwin effect, the origin of intrinsic absorption, and orientation measures. We also give suggestions for future work. Finally, § 5 presents a summary of our results.

2. DATA

The quasars were selected for spectroscopic follow-up from the SDSS imaging survey which uses a wide-field multi-CCD camera (Gunn et al. 1998); quasar candidates were identified using a preliminary version of the SDSS quasar target selection algorithm (Richards et al. 2002). Objects were selected based on both their broadband SDSS colors (Fukugita et al. 1996; Stoughton et al. 2002) and as optical matches to radio-detected quasars from the VLA FIRST survey (Becker, White, & Helfand 1995). All of the emission-line properties are taken directly from the automated one-dimensional spectroscopic pipeline (SPECTRO; Friedman et al. 2001, private communication; Stoughton et al. 2002, § 4.10) outputs that are stored in the public database.

We study a sample of 3814 bona fide quasars ($M_i < -23$ with at least one line broader than 1000 km s^{-1}) from the Early Data Release (EDR; Stoughton et al. 2002) quasar

sample (Schneider et al. 2002). Though the sample is not technically homogeneous, it is adequate for the scientific goals of this work. The differences between the EDR versions of quasar target selection (Stoughton et al. 2002) and the final version of quasar target selection (Richards et al. 2002) are largely for $z > 2.2$, whereas our sample is restricted to $z \leq 2.2$. In addition, we cannot think of any reason why the EDR quasar sample would be biased against (or toward) quasars with large (or small) emission-line blueshifts.

Two subsamples of quasars were created, one for the study of the velocity shifts between C IV and Mg II, the other for the study of the velocity shifts between Mg II and [O III]. These samples contain 794 and 417 quasars, respectively.

For the Mg II-[O III] sample we take the redshift determined from [O III] to be the systemic (center of mass) redshift, since previous studies have shown that the redshifts determined from narrow forbidden lines agree well with redshifts determined from stellar absorption features (Vrtilek & Carleton 1985) and H I 21 cm emission (Hutchings, Gower, & Price 1987) in the host galaxies of AGN; see the discussions in Tytler & Fan (1992) and McIntosh et al. (1999). To ensure that both the Mg II and [O III] emission lines are in each of the spectra considered, the redshifts were restricted to $0.415 \leq z \leq 0.827$.

For the C IV-Mg II sample, our spectra do not cover [O III] and we take the redshift determined from Mg II to be the systemic redshift, since low-ionization broad lines such as Mg II have been shown to have a smaller velocity offset from the forbidden narrow lines than do high-ionization broad lines (e.g., Tytler & Fan 1992). In this sample, the redshifts were restricted to $1.54 \leq z \leq 2.2$. These redshift restrictions ensure that both the C IV and Mg II emission lines are observed in each of the spectra considered (which span the range from 3800 to 9200 Å at a resolution of ≈ 1800). The sample was further restricted by removing all broad absorption line quasars, since the BAL troughs hinder accurate measurement of the line peaks. BAL quasars were defined according to the computation of the traditional Weymann et al. (1991) “balnicity index,” using the composite quasar spectrum from Vanden Berk et al. (2001) to define the continuum level. This list of BAL quasars is not yet final; some weaker BALs may move into or out of the sample. However, all strong BALs (balnicity $\gtrsim 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) should be accounted for. Since the classification of weak BALs is subjective anyway, we have proceeded with our analysis using our current list of BALs.

The “systemic” redshifts used in this analysis were determined using only the [O III] or Mg II emission lines, respectively. Since our analysis is dependent on how SPECTRO measures the peaks of these lines, we describe some details of the process. SPECTRO measures two sets of line parameters. The first are detected peaks in the spectrum that best match a list of common emission lines. Once an object’s redshift has been determined, either from the detected emission lines or from cross-correlation with template spectra, a second set of line measurements are made at the expected positions of a more comprehensive set of spectral features. In both cases a single Gaussian is fitted to the line. The first set is identified in the database as *found* and the second as *measured*.

The following concerns the *measured* line parameters, which are used in this paper. The code determines which lines are to be fitted individually and which are to be fitted

as blends. The width, height, and center of the line or blend of lines are then fitted by a modified Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm. To enhance the robustness of the code, only a single shift from the expected positions is used for blended lines. The shift of the line center from the expected position is constrained to be $\pm 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ by multiplying the χ^2 values by a steep ramp function beyond this range. In some cases the expected positions are not the redshifted laboratory wavelengths, but the redshifted *average* line positions as determined by the composite SDSS quasar spectrum (Vanden Berk et al. 2001); the line wavelengths relevant here are C IV $\lambda 1545.86$ and Mg II $\lambda 2800.32$ (which are doublets, but quasar emission-line widths are broad enough that the doublet is not resolved). These wavelengths are used to compute the redshifts as reported in the SDSS database. In this analysis we will determine the redshift for each individual line based on the SPECTRO *measured* line peaks, but we will use the laboratory rest-frame wavelengths (see Vanden Berk et al. 2001) as the expected line positions.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1. Distribution of Velocity Shifts

The velocity distribution of C IV emission-line shifts with respect to Mg II is quite large—as can be seen in Figure 1.⁸

⁸ Recall that, in this paper, positive velocities refer to blueshifts with respect to the quasar rest frame, whereas negative velocities indicate redshifts.

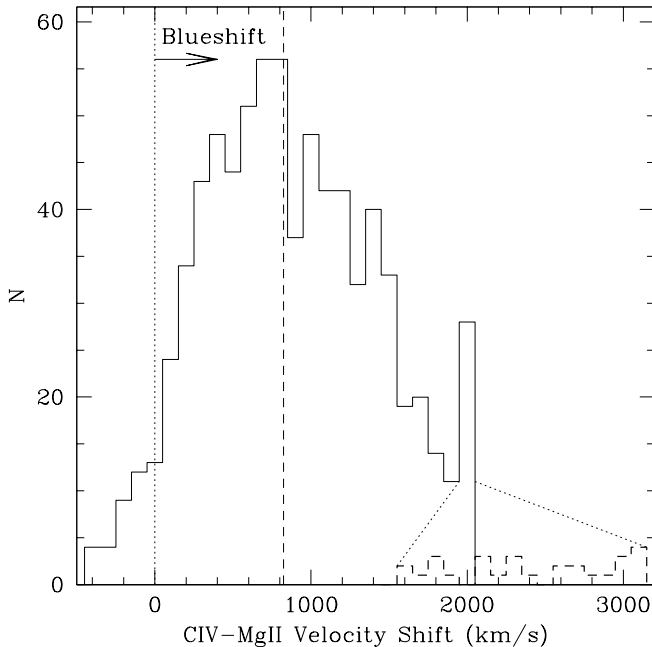


FIG. 1.—Distribution of the 794 C IV emission-line velocity shifts with respect to the Mg II emission-line redshift (*solid line*). The median is 824 km s^{-1} (*vertical dashed line*), and the dispersion is $\pm 511 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Positive velocities indicate a blueshift of C IV with respect to Mg II. The automated code imposes an artificial limit of 2000 km s^{-1} , which causes a pileup at this velocity. The true range may extend as high or higher than 3000 km s^{-1} when the shifts greater than 1950 km s^{-1} are recomputed by hand (28 objects; *dashed histogram*). Errors for individual objects can be $\geq 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, but should be much smaller in the ensemble average. The largest errors will be found in quasars with large C IV shift (because the lines are weaker; see § 3.2) and in quasars with lower than average signal-to-noise spectra.

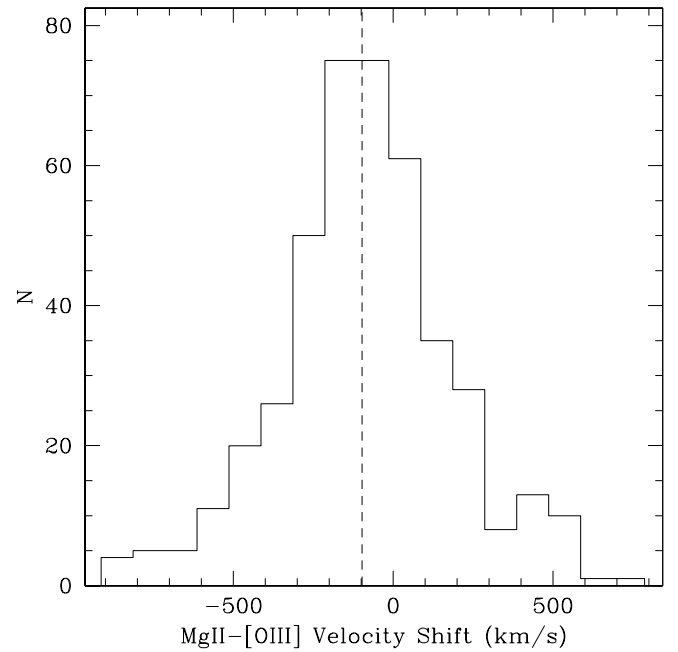


FIG. 2.—Distribution of 417 Mg II emission-line peak velocity shifts with respect to [O III]. The median is -97 km s^{-1} (*vertical dashed line*), and the dispersion is $\pm 269 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. Positive velocities indicate a blueshift of Mg II with respect to [O III].

We find the shifts by taking the *measured* line peaks for C IV and Mg II from the SDSS database and using the laboratory rest-frame wavelengths of the C IV and Mg II doublets (1549.06 and 2798.75 \AA , respectively) to determine the redshift of each line. The median of the distribution is found to be 824 km s^{-1} , with a dispersion of $\pm 511 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. For individual quasars the error in the C IV blueshift with respect to Mg II can be $\sim 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (2σ). Spot checking of good-quality spectra to determine the blueshift by hand supports this conclusion. We do not believe that this error is skewed toward either positive or negative shifts, so the errors in the ensemble average should be much lower. In general, the errors will be biggest for those quasars with the largest C IV blueshifts, since we find that those quasars have the weakest C IV emission lines; see § 3.2.2 for a more detailed discussion regarding errors.

In a similar manner to the C IV-Mg II shift, Figure 2 shows the distribution of velocity differences between the Mg II and [O III] emission-line peaks. Again, we use the *measured* line peaks from the SDSS database and the laboratory wavelengths of Mg II doublet and the reddest of the [O III] triplet (2798.75 and 5008.24 \AA , respectively) in order to determine the redshift of each emission line and the blueshift between the emission lines. The peak of this distribution is near zero, but it has an overall median shift of -97 km s^{-1} with a spread of 269 km s^{-1} . This shift is about half as large as that found by Vanden Berk et al. (2001), who found a velocity offset of -161 km s^{-1} for Mg II;⁹ Tytler & Fan (1992) found ambiguous results for the velocity shift of the Mg II emission line (200 km s^{-1} and -380 km s^{-1} with respect to [O II] for two different samples, respectively). In

⁹ Note the sign difference between this paper and Vanden Berk et al. (2001). The $+161 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ quoted by Vanden Berk et al. (2001) becomes -161 km s^{-1} in the notation used herein.

TABLE 1
C IV SHIFT COMPOSITE SPECTRA VELOCITY SHIFT DATA

Sample	N_{QSOs}^a	\bar{v}_{comp}^b (km s ⁻¹)	\bar{v}_{ind}^c (km s ⁻¹)	v_{min}^d (km s ⁻¹)	v_{max}^e (km s ⁻¹)
A.....	199 (160)	197	193	-407	456
B.....	198 (165)	606	651	461	824
C.....	199 (166)	1003	1039	827	1261
D.....	198 (179)	1526	1596	1268	1993 ^f

^a Number of quasars in sample. Number in parentheses is the number whose positions are within the FIRST survey area (Becker et al. 1995).

^b Average velocity offset of C IV with respect to Mg II in the composite spectrum.

^c Average velocity offset of C IV with respect to Mg II in the individual spectra that constitute the sample.

^d Minimum velocity offset of C IV with respect to Mg II in the individual spectra that constitute the sample.

^e Maximum velocity offset of C IV with respect to Mg II in the individual spectra that constitute the sample.

^f Artificial upper limit imposed by the automated analysis code; the true upper limit is ~ 3000 km s⁻¹.

our sample, the Mg II emission line, while quite close to what is thought to be the systemic redshift in the ensemble average, can have significant deviations in individual quasars (modulo measurement errors).

Other authors (e.g., McIntosh et al. 1999) have also studied the shift of the H β emission line. We are not able to do so using the automated reductions of the SDSS spectra. The SPECTRO pipeline treats H β and the nearby [O III] triplet as a blend with the same redshift (fortunately, redshifts determined from H β are typically similar to redshifts determined from [O III]). An analysis of the shift of the H β emission line with respect to [O III] would thus require a substantial modification to the SPECTRO pipeline and a reanalysis of all of the spectra, a task that is well beyond the scope of this paper.

3.2. Composite Spectra

3.2.1. Subsample Definition

To assess the differences between the spectra of quasars with both large and small C IV-Mg II redshift differences, we created a set of four composite quasar spectra by combining the spectra of quasars with similar velocity shifts. We first sorted the list of quasars according to their C IV-Mg II redshift differences and then divided this list into four roughly equal lists of ~ 200 quasars each. Composite quasar spectra were created by combining the spectra (using the geometric mean, which is appropriate for power-law spectra) in each of these four samples, following the procedure of Vanden Berk et al. (2001). Table 1 gives the velocity offset properties of these samples (denoted A, B, C, and D); it includes the

number of objects (the number within the FIRST survey area is given in parentheses), the average velocity offset of the C IV emission line in the composite spectrum, along with the average, minimum, and maximum velocity offsets of the C IV emission line in the individual spectra. Table 2 gives other properties of the samples, including the average redshift, the average absolute magnitude in the *i*-band, the average spectral index ($f_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$) of the optical continuum, the number and fraction of radio and X-ray detected sources, along with the equivalent width and the full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the C IV emission line (in angstroms).

3.2.2. Velocity Errors

We have binned the data into four different samples, in part to minimize the effect of any errors in the emission-line blueshift determination. Errors can cause objects move from one bin to the next, but it is unlikely that many objects from sample A will move into sample D (and vice versa) as a result of errors. Also, that the offset between the peaks of the Mg II emission lines for the composite spectra in § 3.2.3 is small suggests that the errors in the blueshift measurements are not a problem. Finally, we have measured the blueshift of C IV by hand (using the mode of the upper 50% of the line) in each of the composites. We find that the blueshifts are 197, 606, 1003, and 1526 km s⁻¹ for composites A, B, C, and D, respectively. These values are in excellent agreement with the average blueshifts of the individual quasars that contribute to each composite, as can be seen by comparing columns (3) and (4) in Table 1; thus we are confident that measurement errors do not significantly effect our results.

Note that, as discussed above, the measured emission-line centers have an upper limit of 2000 km s⁻¹ for the velocity difference of the line center from the accepted redshift of the quasar. Some of the C IV peaks are shifted by more than this 2000 km s⁻¹, thus causing a “pileup” at this velocity in the database. Future versions of SPECTRO will allow for shifts as large as 3000 km s⁻¹. For those quasars affected by this limitation in SPECTRO (28 in all), we have measured the velocity shifts by hand; the C IV emission-line peak was determined using the mode of the upper 50% of the line, as was the case in Vanden Berk et al. (2001). The dashed histogram in Figure 1 shows the hand calculated velocity shifts of these quasars. We find that the error on these C IV shifts can be quite large and that the true upper velocity limit may be as high as or higher than 3000 km s⁻¹.

3.2.3. Composite Spectra Analysis

In Figure 3 we plot the spectra of the composites whose inputs had the smallest and largest C IV emission-line shifts,

TABLE 2
C IV SHIFT COMPOSITE SPECTRA PROPERTIES

Sample	\bar{z}	\bar{M}_{i^*}	α_ν	Radio $N/\%$ ^a	X-ray $N/\%$ ^b	C IV EQW	C IV FWHM
A.....	1.80	-26.14	-0.392	21/13.1	4/2.0	30.27	28.17
B.....	1.80	-26.27	-0.332	11/6.7	8/4.0	25.75	28.51
C.....	1.84	-26.31	-0.295	5/3.0	3/1.5	22.43	30.43
D.....	1.82	-26.46	-0.297	4/2.2	2/2.0	17.96	32.40

^a Number and fraction of radio detections from the VLA’s FIRST survey (Becker et al. 1995).

^b Number and fraction of X-ray detections includes only the *ROSAT* Faint Source Catalog detections (Voges et al. 2000).

which we hereafter refer to as composites A and D, respectively. We also plot power-law continua with $\alpha = -0.392$ and a slightly bluer $\alpha = -0.297$ for composites A and D, respectively, to guide the eye. The spectral indices were computed using a range of 10 Å at both 1355 and 2200 Å. Neither of these ranges are ideal continuum windows (see Vanden Berk et al. 2001), but these are appropriate values to use in the available wavelength range. The composite spectra do not extend far enough into the red to use a better continuum window. For comparison, we have also created a composite quasar spectrum from all of the quasars in the EDR quasar catalog (Schneider et al. 2002), which differs from the sample used by Vanden Berk et al. (2001). The EDR quasar composite has a spectral index of $\alpha = -0.410$ when measured in the manner described above. Note, however, that BALs, which may tend to be redder than average, are not excluded from the EDR composite quasar spectrum. Since these continua are clearly not optimal over the entire spectrum, we will use local continua for any further analysis.

Figure 4 shows the major emission-line regions for all four of the (normalized) composite spectra (A, B, C, and D), with the red spectrum having the smallest C iv shift (composite A) and the blue spectrum showing the largest C iv shift (composite D). Here we have chosen to normalize the spectra in local continuum regions. The continuum regions $[(\lambda_{\min}-\lambda_{\max})$, in angstroms] are (1285–1355), (1285–1355), (1355–1465), (1465–1695), (1830–1975), (2695–2955) for Ly α , O I, Si iv, C iv, C iii], and Mg ii, respectively.

Of particular interest in Figure 4 is the profile of the C iv emission line as a function of velocity shift. By simple visual inspection we confirm previous results that found an anti-

correlation between the C iv emission-line velocity shift and equivalent width (Corbin 1990). Furthermore, after the spectra have been normalized by the continuum, it is clear that the shift of the C iv emission line is not so much a shift of the centroid to the blue as it appears to be a suppression of flux in the red wing. The blue wing is quite similar in all four composite spectra, whereas the peak and the red wing are less pronounced as the velocity shift increases. We note that this conclusion depends significantly on our continuum placement; however, we feel that our procedure is appropriate (see below for further discussion).

This extinction in the red wing coupled with the similarity of the blue wings is more complex than is generally reported. However, such an effect is not entirely without precedent (see Sulentic et al. 2000); also both Francis & Koratkar (1995) and Corbin & Boroson (1996) found enhanced Baldwin effects (Baldwin 1977; also see § 4.2) in the red wing of C iv. That the blueshift is apparently not a blueshift but rather a deficit of flux in the red wing *significantly* changes the interpretation of the C iv emission-line shifts. The shift is clearly not the result of an actual change in the (apparent) bulk velocity flow (i.e., it is not a blueward shift of the entire line profile); instead, the shift may be caused entirely by obscuration or suppression of the lowest (or most negative) velocity gas (in the quasar rest frame), since the blue wings of both the small and large blueshift composites are collocated.

By dividing rather than subtracting the continuum, we implicitly assume that the flux in the emission lines is correlated with the continuum luminosity of the quasars, as expected since the BELR is powered primarily by photoionization induced by the UV continuum. This correlation is not perfect; higher luminosity quasars have lower equivalent width emission lines (the Baldwin effect, Baldwin 1977). However, the continuum luminosity of quasars has a range of values at least an order of magnitude larger than the range of emission-line equivalent widths; for example, see Baldwin, Wampler, & Gaskell (1989), Figure 5, and Krolik (1999), Figure 10.2. If the continuum were completely decoupled from the lines, the range of values spanned by emission-line EQWs would be the larger of the two, since it would include intrinsic scatter plus uncorrelated variations produced by different continuum levels. As the opposite is true, dividing by the continuum is more appropriate than subtracting.

However, it could be argued that for some cases, such as when trying to understand the line profiles, it would be more appropriate to subtract the continuum. Thus in Figure 5 we show the profiles of C iv and Mg ii after subtracting the continuum and scaling the emission lines to have the same peak strength. Figure 5 demonstrates that the C iv line profile is relatively symmetric in composite A, but quite asymmetric in composite D, which has more blue flux than red flux as compared with composite A (see also Fig. 6). Note, however, that the scaling used distorts the relative fluxes between the composites; although composite D has more blue flux than red as compared with composite A, composite D has less overall blue flux (see Fig. 4). In any case, we emphasize that the interpretation of the C iv profiles does depend significantly on how one handles the continuum.

By visual inspection we find that our composites are similar to those created by Wills et al. (1993), except that here we divide the sample by their C iv–Mg ii redshift differences instead of by the FWHM of the C iv emission line. In addi-

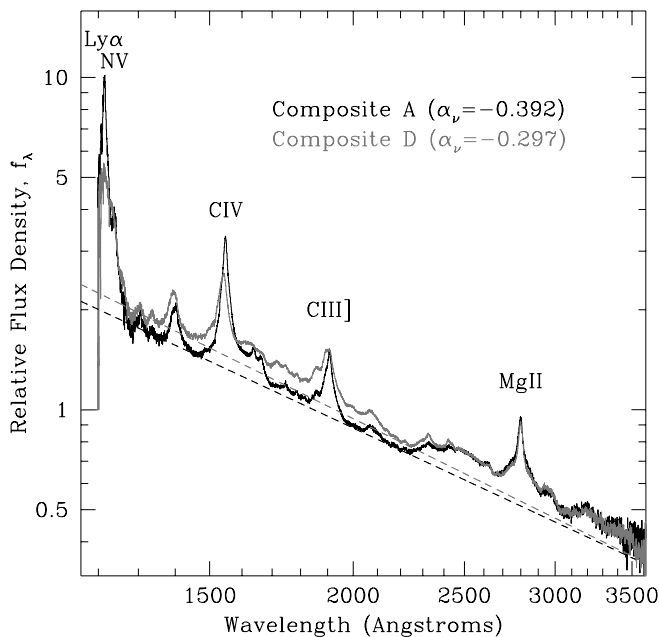


FIG. 3.—Composite spectra of 199 quasars with the smallest C iv–Mg ii redshift differences (composite A, black) and 198 quasars with the largest C iv–Mg ii redshift differences (composite D, gray). The spectra have not been normalized to match each other; see Vanden Berk et al. (2001) for an explanation of how the spectra are normalized internally. The power-law continua have been computed between 1355 and 2200 Å, as described in the text. Major emission lines are indicated; see Vanden Berk et al. (2001) for a complete identification of the emission lines.

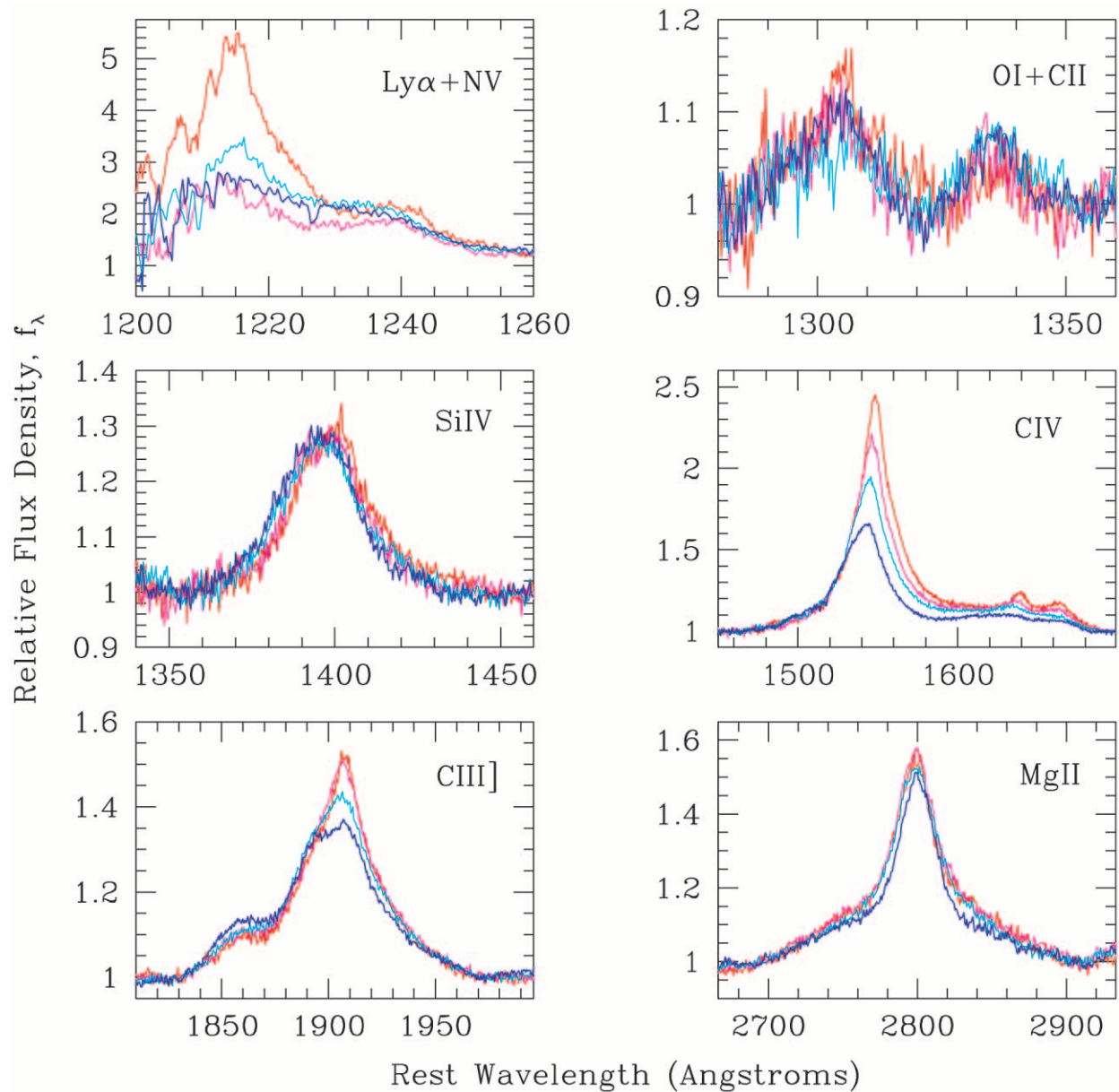


FIG. 4.—Strong emission-line regions of the composite spectra, including the two intermediate C iv shift composite spectra. Local continuum regions (see text) were used instead of the global fits from Fig. 3. The spectra, in the order of increasing C iv shift (composites A, B, C, and D), are plotted as red, magenta, cyan, and blue, respectively. Note the striking difference in the C iv and C iii] profiles. The label in the top right-hand corner of each panel gives the dominant emission line(s) in each respective panel; see Vanden Berk et al. (2001) for a complete identification of the emission lines.

tion, we determine the redshift solely from the Mg II emission line. It is therefore interesting that we see many of the same properties as did Wills et al. (1993), such as the anticorrelation between the rest equivalent width (EQW) and FWHM of the C iv emission lines. Although the rest equivalent widths of the C iv emission lines are anticorrelated with the FWHM of the C iv emission lines in our samples (see Table 2), it is not clear that composite D, in fact, has the broadest lines. If the C iv emission-line profile is indeed absorbed in composite D as compared with composite A, then the FWHM of the emission line is largely unrelated to the velocity distribution of the emission-line gas.

We further compare with Wills et al. (1993) by plotting, in Figure 6, the C iv profiles of each of our composites on top of reflections about the peaks of each of the C iv profiles. In these plots we have normalized the continua using the same

windows as for C iv above; we find no qualitative difference in the inverted profiles if instead we use (1480–1620) Å as the continuum window. The profiles are inverted around the observed peaks of the lines and not the expected line centers for C iv. If we used the laboratory wavelength as the reflection point, the asymmetries in the more blueshifted composites would be even more dramatic. Whereas Wills et al. (1993) find that their intermediate spectra are the most asymmetric, we find that the asymmetry in our spectra increases with increasing blueshift of the line peak.

It is also possible to create difference spectra in the vicinity of C iv, similar to those made by Brotherton et al. (1994); these are shown in Figure 7. These spectra have been normalized as above; the difference between composite A and D is shown in black, A minus C in dark gray, and A minus B in light gray. Note that the red flux missing in composites B,

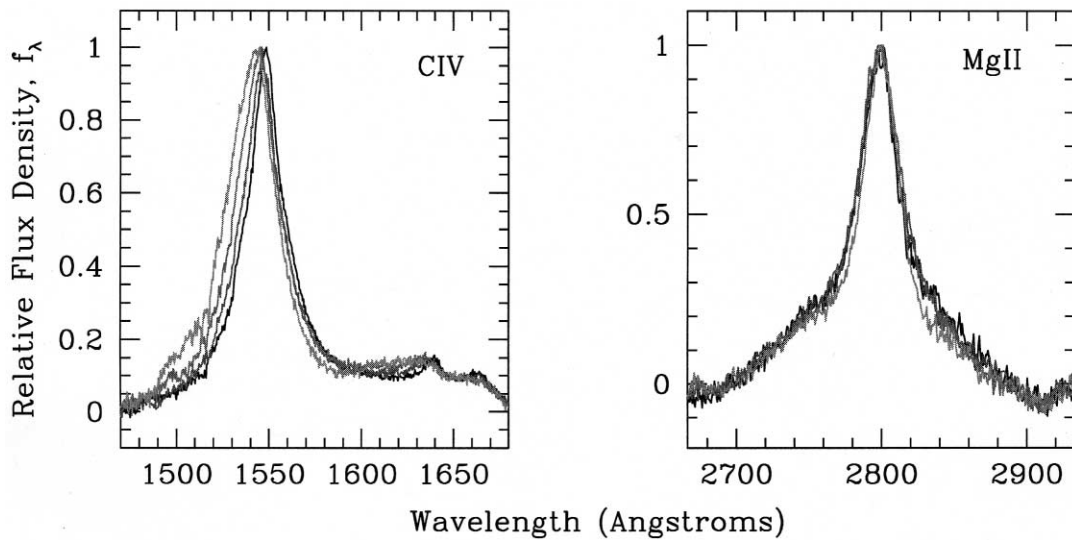


FIG. 5.—C IV and Mg II emission-line regions normalized by subtracting instead of dividing the best-fit, local, power-law continua. The peaks of the lines have also been scaled to unity so that the profiles can be compared on the same scale. Note that this scaling distorts the relative fluxes between the composites (see Fig. 4); composite D has more blue flux than red as compared to composite A, but composite D has less overall blue flux. Composite A is shown in black; composite D is in the lightest gray.

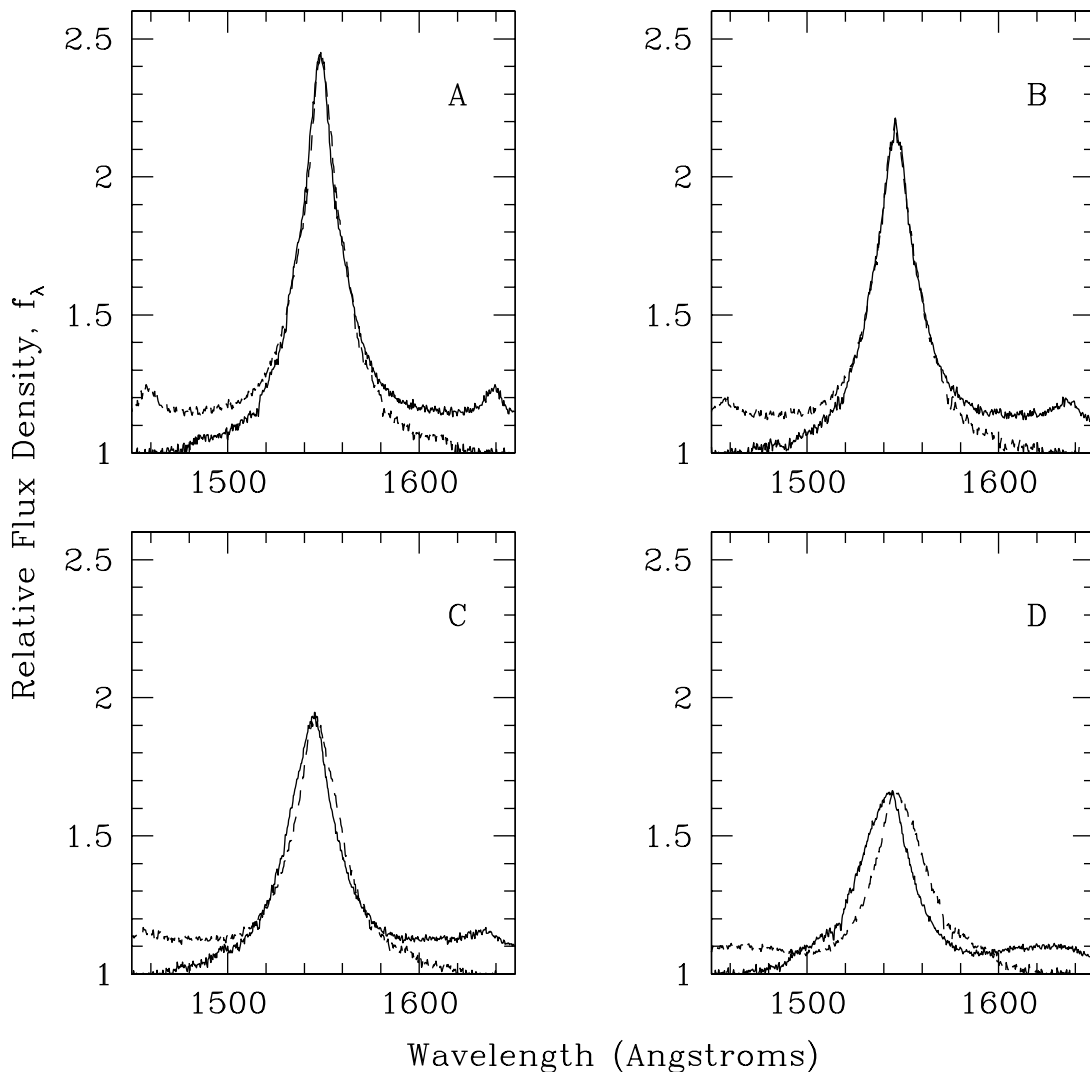


FIG. 6.—Asymmetry of the C IV profiles from composites A, B, C, and D. Each C IV profile is inverted around its peak value and is overplotted as a dashed line. Significant differences between the solid and dashed lines indicates significant asymmetry. Note that we invert around the observed peak of the line and not the expected peak, which would emphasize the asymmetries even more as a result of the apparent blueshifts of the lines.

C, and D extends to at least 1600 \AA —nearly $10,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ from the line center. These C iv difference profiles are considerably more asymmetric than those of Brotherton et al. (1994). This difference is probably the result of our use of the Mg ii redshift to define the systemic redshift. If instead we aligned the peaks of the C iv emission line in the composite spectra before we created the difference spectra, we would get more symmetric difference spectra. If the two component BELR model discussed by Wills et al. (1993) is valid, then these C iv difference spectra and the asymmetries of the line profiles place significant constraints on the model; given the shape of the difference spectra, we would prefer an obscured or suppressed disk wind outflow as the preferred explanation for the BELR (see § 4).

Emission lines other than C iv are equally worthy of consideration. In particular, we note that in Figure 4 the C iii] profile seems to be shifted significantly blueward in composite D. This observation is consistent with the findings of Espey et al. (1989) and Corbin (1990). However, instead of interpreting this as a real shift of C iii], we interpret this as an apparent shift due to an increase in the relative strength of Si iii] $\lambda 1892$ (see Vanden Berk et al. 2001) versus C iii], or simply perhaps as a weakening of C iii]. Alternatively, the changes could be due to Fe iii (UV34); see Vestergaard & Wilkes (2001, § 5.2). If the interpretation that the change in line profile results from a change in the relative strength of the lines is correct, the velocity difference for the C iii] peaks between composites A and D appears to be zero within the measurement errors (however, the errors are quite large given the severity of the blending). In any case, it may still be possible to make use of this emission feature, since, for the purpose of measuring the shifts, it matters less why the line shifts than the fact that it shifts in the first place.

The Ly α + N v blend in the upper left-hand panel of Figure 4 is also of interest. The most obvious result is that the Ly α line is *much stronger* for composite A than for the com-

posite D. However, this observation is mitigated by the fact that the line in composite B is also quite weak. This discrepancy may be the result of the fact that very few quasars (~ 10 per composite) contribute to the composites in this region of the spectrum, thus the composite Ly α profiles (and to a lesser extent N v) are on a much weaker footing than the other profiles discussed here.

Although more data are needed in the Ly α + N v region of the spectra, we note that a shift of the N v emission line is evident between composites A and D (see Fig. 4). In composite A, the N v peak is separated from the red wing of Ly α . However, in composite D the N v emission-line blends in with the red wing of Ly α —consistent with a blueshift of N v. The blending is sufficiently strong that we do not attempt to measure the velocity shift of N v; however, visual inspection of Figure 4 indicates that the N v shift may be significantly larger than found by Vanden Berk et al. (2001)—a finding which would bring N v more into line with the observed correlation between ionization potential and velocity shift (Vanden Berk et al. 2001).

Other lines, in addition to C iv, show significant changes in strength in Figure 4. Composite D has additional flux in the Al iii $\lambda 1857$ line in addition to the apparent increase in Si iii] flux (relative to C iii]), as discussed above. Even more striking is the almost complete lack of He ii $\lambda 1640$ in composite D, meaning that the He ii emission-line region is obscured or suppressed. Alternatively, the He ii flux in composite D may simply be broader, weaker, and more blueshifted than in composite A. However, the “more blueshifted” part of this interpretation for He ii is inconsistent with the C iv results, since we have argued that the C iv blueshift is not a bulk shift of the line profile to the blue, but rather a lack of red flux. Since He ii is a high-ionization line, its absence in the composite with the largest shift has interesting consequences. The blend of O iii, Al ii, and Fe ii just redward of this line also seems to be missing. Finally, the extended Fe ii emission (i.e., the 3000 \AA bump) appears to be similar in both composite A and D.

Perhaps as interesting as the differences in the composites in Figure 4 is one notable lack of difference: Si iv. Although Si iv is a high-ionization line and is similar in chemical structure to C iv, we see little difference in the Si iv profiles between the composites. There is some evidence for a shift in the line peaks, but no evidence for dearth of flux in the red wing. We have no explanation for this fact, other than to note that this finding is consistent with previous results for the Baldwin effect (see § 4.2) and that the ionization potential for creation of C iv is about equal to the ionization potential for destruction of Si iv. Thus Si iv emission will tend to come from larger radii than C iv emission, which may be a clue to the different behaviors of their profiles.

Since redshifts measured from Mg ii are generally thought to be farther from systemic compared with those measured from [O iii], we have also created composite spectra covering these two emission peaks for the sake of comparison. Figure 2 showed that the velocity shift of Mg ii as compared with [O iii] ranges from less than -500 to 500 km s^{-1} . In Figure 8 we plot two composites of the spectra with the smallest and most negative shifts of Mg ii with respect to [O iii] (*black*) and with the largest shifts (*gray*). The inset of Figure 8 shows the Mg ii emission lines after the spectra have been normalized by a locally fitted power-law continuum. As with the C iv profiles, the Mg ii profiles are in good agreement in the blue wing with an apparent lack of flux in

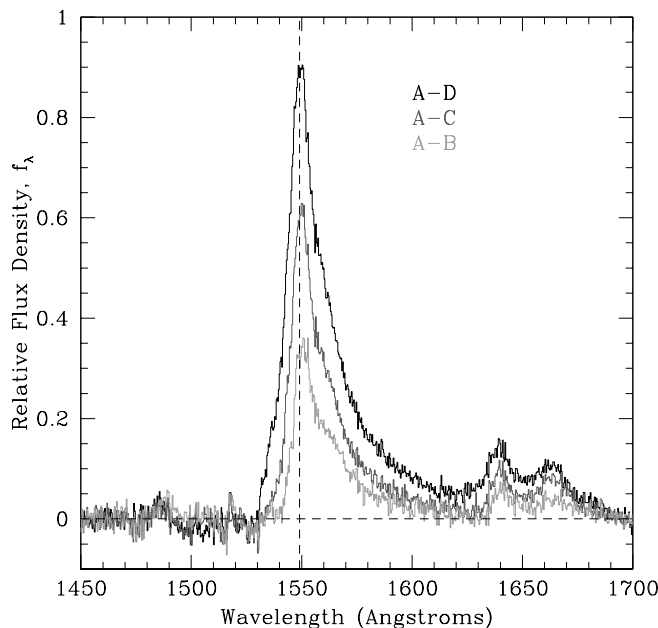


FIG. 7.—Difference spectra in the vicinity of C iv. The difference between composites A and D are shown in black; A minus C, and A minus B are shown in dark and light gray, respectively. The vertical dashed line is drawn at 1549.06 \AA .

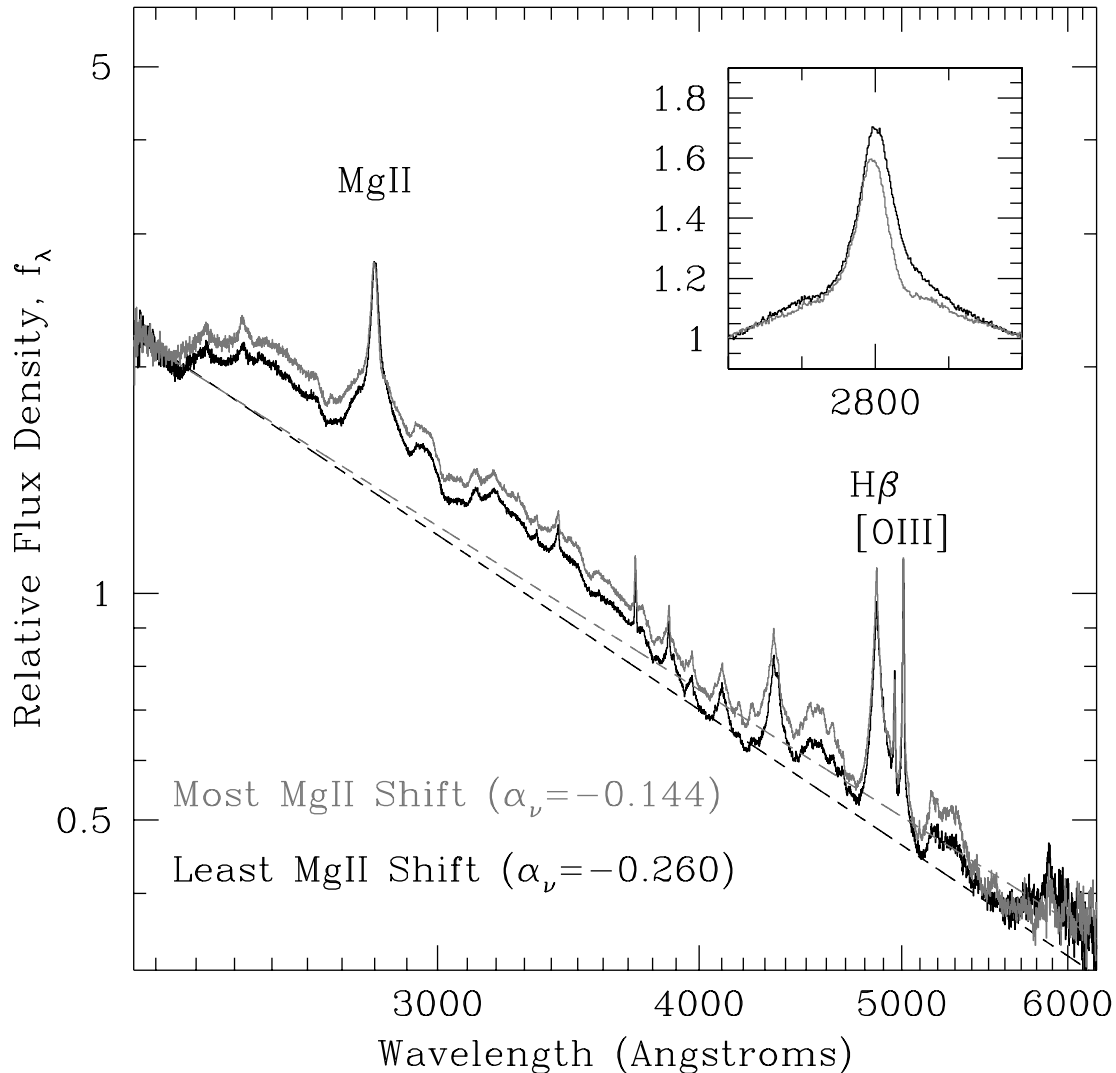


FIG. 8.—Composite spectra of quasars with large (*gray*) and small or negative (*black*) Mg II-[O III] velocity shifts. Inset shows Mg II region on a linear scale after normalizing the spectra using (local) power-law continuum fits.

the red wing of the composite with the largest Mg II shift. Once again, the “shift” does not appear to be a shift of the centroid so much as a suppression of red flux in those emission lines that appear shifted. Note that, without follow-up observations, we have no way of knowing whether the quasars with the largest Mg II blueshifts also have the largest C IV blueshifts (although this would be a reasonable assumption).

A more thorough analysis of the emission-line blueshifts would include gravitational redshifts (e.g., Popovic et al. 1995). However, we believe that they are probably not important for a number of reasons. First, they are relatively small; using values chosen to maximize the gravitational redshift ($M_{\text{BH}} = 10^9 M_{\odot}$ and a distance of 1 light-month between the black hole and the BELR) yields a gravitational redshift of only $\sim 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (Popovic et al. 1995). Second, unless the blueshift is correlated with the mass of the central black hole, then there should not be a correlation between the emission-line blueshifts and the strength of a gravitational redshift. Finally and most importantly, they are in the wrong direction: it is when C IV has the largest *blueshift*

that the C IV redshift is least consistent with the redshift from narrow, forbidden emission features.

3.3. Correlations with Other Properties

We now turn to a comparison of the C IV velocity shift composites as a function of a number of quasar properties. Tables 1 and 2 give the properties of the four C IV shifted composite spectra. Each of the four composite spectra has a similar number of input spectra. We find that the four composites have relatively similar redshift and luminosity distributions, consistent with there being no strong correlation between these properties and the velocity shift of the C IV emission line. We further tested this conclusion by creating luminosity and redshift composite spectra and found no significant emission-line shifts between high- and low-luminosity quasars and between high- and low-redshift quasars. The redshift range covered by these composites is probably not large enough to draw any significant conclusions, however. On the other hand, the range in absolute magnitude, $-24.54 \geq M_i \geq -28.57$, is sufficient to test any significant

trend with quasar luminosity. Although the distributions appear similar, there is a small trend of increasing C iv blueshift with luminosity; see § 4.2 for further discussion.

We *do* find that there is a possible trend in the radio properties as a function of the C iv velocity shift. Greater C iv velocity shifts are correlated with lower radio detection fraction as can be seen in Table 2; this finding is consistent with the results of Marziani et al. (1996). Although the absolute numbers are small, we find that composite A has a 3σ excess (using the statistical definitions of Gehrels 1986) of radio detections as compared with composite D. In addition we find that there is a trend in radio flux density; the radio-detected quasars are less radio bright with increasing C iv blueshift; the four sample D objects have an average flux density of only 1.27 mJy. To test that our results are not biased by the inclusion of more radio sources in sample A as compared with sample D, we have also recreated the composite spectra after removing all of the radio detected quasars. We find that the removal of these spectra produces no qualitative differences between the original and nonradio composite spectra.

Unfortunately, there are not enough radio-detected quasars in our sample (only 41 of the 794 in the C iv/Mg II sample, many of which are only faint radio sources) to test whether there is any correlation between C iv velocity shift and quasar orientation as measured by radio spectral index or radio core dominance. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that the SDSS+FIRST quasars in our sample are strongly biased against lobe-dominated quasars, since the SDSS Quasar Survey (Richards et al. 2002) requires that FIRST-selected quasars have a match to an SDSS optical source within $2''$. This restriction will cause the SDSS to fail to target (as radio-selected quasars) those objects that have strong radio lobes, but no core radio emission (many of these objects will still be targeted as color-selected quasar candidates).

Although we would expect there to be unmatched double-lobe radio sources in our sample, a search of the FIRST database out to $120''$ and an examination of the images do not reveal many cases, and there is no obvious trend with C iv blueshift. However, it may be that the high resolution of the FIRST survey causes faint lobe emission to be missed. Possible evidence in support of a lack of lobe-dominated sources is the fact that, of the 18 radio-detected quasars in our sample that are brighter than 25 mJy at 20 cm, 12 are clearly core dominated, as determined by visual inspection of the FIRST (Becker et al. 1995) images, and only one of the other six has clear radio lobes. Thus we might draw the conclusion that there is a dearth of radio-detected quasars in sample D because there is a selection effect that causes a correlation between large C iv velocity shift and lobe-dominated quasars (which are thought to be seen edge-on to the plane of the disk). See § 4.5 for further discussion.

We find a similar correlation with the X-ray detections, as determined from the EDR quasar catalog (Schneider et al. 2002); however, it is attributable to the fact that quasars from composite A, for whatever reason, have more pointed *ROSAT* observations. There is no trend when considering only the *ROSAT* Faint Source Catalog sources (Voges et al. 2000). It would be interesting to examine the X-ray properties in more detail. Specifically, if the velocity shift effect is caused by orientation and if the correlation between radio core dominance and soft X-ray energy index is real (Shastri et al. 1993), then we might expect that the quasars in sample

A will have flatter soft X-ray spectral indices than the quasars in sample D.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. BELR Models

The results presented herein will help constrain models for the BELR. In particular, it should be clear that there cannot be any doubt as to the reality of the systematic blueshift of C iv emission lines; this shift *must* be accounted for in any AGN models. This could be considered a strike against the model of Elvis (2000), in which the blueshift of high-ionization emission lines relative to low-ionization emission lines has “no obvious interpretation.” However, it is equally important that these models incorporate the new results herein, primarily that the blueshift does not seem to be a net blueshift, but rather a blueshift resulting from a lack of flux in the red wing of the emission line.

For cloud models the similar blue wings of C iv emission in the different composites would appear to favor an intrinsically isotropic velocity field in an isotropically emitting BELR,¹⁰ plus obscuration that preferentially removes flux from the red wing of C iv. However, such preferential obscuration may be difficult to produce. Unfortunately, the parameter space available to BELR models is huge, and it becomes difficult to distinguish between using observations to constrain a model and fine-tuning a model to match the observations *ex post facto*.

Thus a detailed discussion of how our results constrain BELR models is beyond the scope of this paper. However, we briefly comment on the subject. First, we make two general assumptions: (1) that the BELR region is stratified in ionization, specifically, that the low-ionization region is located farther from the continuum source than the high-ionization region (Peterson 1993, but see O’Brien et al. 1998); and (2) that an optically thick accretion disk is interior to both regions. We then hypothesize that the differences between composite A and D are an orientation effect with composite A representing a face-on configuration and composite D representing a more edge-on configuration.

Further assuming a cloud model for the BELR, with a roughly isotropic distribution of *outflowing* clouds, one possible (but perhaps unlikely) scenario could involve an equatorial screen that is optically thin in the face-on direction, but becomes optically thick to clouds on the side of the accretion disk facing away from the observer in the edge-on direction (Fig. 9). The high-ionization clouds are assumed to be outflowing faster than the low-ionization clouds, and the dust layer is assumed to be located mostly interior to the typical Mg II emission radius. Such a “model” could produce emission profiles similar to those that we observe. However, if the clouds were infalling, it is difficult to imagine a way for obscuration to produce the observed results.

We must also consider disklike BELR geometries, such as those discussed by Königl & Kartje (1994), Bottorff et al. (1997), Murray & Chiang (1998), and others. If we invoke a disk wind-type model, instead of a spherically symmetric cloud model, then the situation may be quite different. In

¹⁰ It has been argued that the lack of short time delay response in reverberation mapping studies appears to rule out spherically symmetric models, but this is not the case if the emission from the BEL clouds is anisotropic (Ferland et al. 1992), which is very likely.

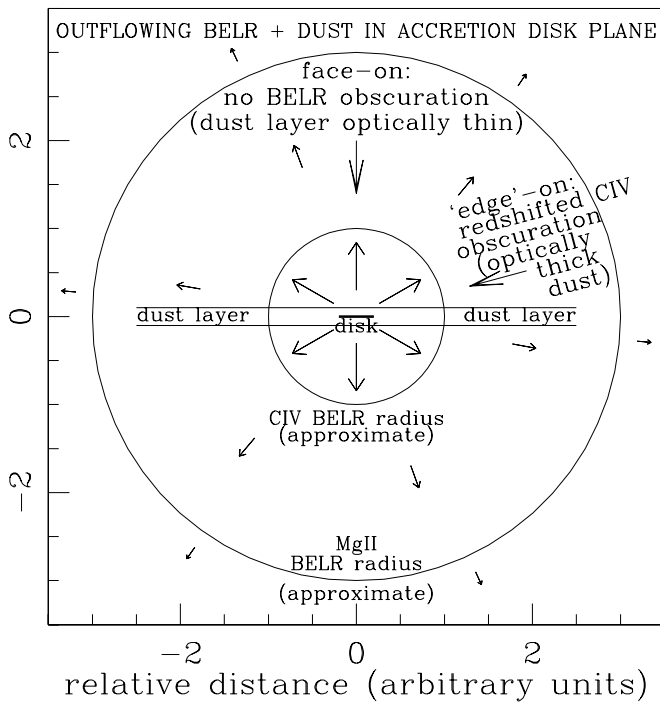


FIG. 9.—Schematic diagram of the BELR in an outflowing cloud scenario. The units are arbitrary, but the size of the C iv BELR relative to the Mg II BELR is scaled by about the same factor as the relative reverberation mapping delay times for each line (Peterson 1993).

this case the flow is not purely radial: the velocity differences can be due purely to orientation, and a screen is not needed. However, since we observe that the emission-line profiles are not simply shifted, but also that they are weaker, a screen may still be necessary. For such a disk wind model the most obvious source of a blueshift would be an outflow in the plane of the disk. In this case a face-on orientation would yield no net shift, whereas an edge-on orientation could produce a net shift if the far side of the disk were obscured. However, we would still have to account for the fact that our observations suggest that there is not a net blueshift, just an apparent blueshift. In addition, although our hypothesis assumes that the proposed orientation effect is a result of the orientation of the disk itself, it could instead result from a change in the opening angle of the disk wind; see § 4.5 for further discussion.

We note that Murray & Chiang (1997) were able to use a varying outer radius for the emission-line gas in a disk wind model to explain the emission profiles in Wills et al. (1993). Murray & Chiang (1997) also found that additionally varying the inclination angle did not produce a better fit. However, the Wills et al. (1993) composites all place the peak of the C iv emission profile at zero velocity. Since the C iv emission-line profiles of our four composites are so similar to theirs, it seems quite likely that their “composite 4” should be blueshifted in a similar manner to our “composite D” (and so on for the other composites). Thus, a varying outer radius cannot be the whole picture, and it would be interesting to readdress this issue.

In any case, it should be obvious that these observations and further study of both cloud and disk wind models, combined with the results of reverberation mapping data and analysis (e.g., Korista et al. 1995; Done & Krolik 1996), will

lead to a significantly better understanding of the broad line region in AGNs.

4.2. The Baldwin Effect

The Baldwin effect was originally defined as an anticorrelation between the equivalent width of C iv emission and the continuum luminosity at 1450 Å in the spectra of quasars (Baldwin 1977). While the original definition is still the dominant one, the Baldwin effect has come to mean any anticorrelation between quasar luminosity or absolute magnitude and the strength of the broad emission lines. Since our sample shows a very clear evolution of C iv equivalent width from large equivalent width in sample A to a much smaller equivalent width in sample D, a discussion of how the Baldwin effect might relate to our results is warranted. Although the mean absolute magnitudes of our sample and a histogram of the individual absolute magnitudes in each sample (not shown) are quite similar, we were surprised to find that there is a significant difference between the samples in terms of their absolute magnitudes. The mean values of M_{i^*} for samples A and D are -26.14 and -26.46 , respectively. This difference has a Student’s t (Press et al. 1992) of 4.46 with a probability of 1.05×10^{-5} , indicating a significant difference between the samples. The differences between the adjacent samples (e.g., A and B) are only marginally significant.

To determine whether our results are influenced by luminosity, we have created control samples by constraining the absolute magnitude distributions for subsamples of each sample. We first bin the absolute magnitudes in bins of 0.5 mag, then count how many quasars are in each bin for each sample. We then create a subsample for each sample with only the minimum number of quasars in each bin. In this way, we create subsamples with the same absolute magnitude distributions. A Student’s t -test confirms the similarity of the subsamples in terms of their mean absolute i -band magnitudes. Using these absolute magnitude-normalized subsamples, we have recreated Figure 4 and find no qualitative differences as compared with the full samples. We thus conclude that changes in M_{i^*} are not driving the differences between the original samples.

Nevertheless, a better analysis in terms of the Baldwin effect is still needed. Our M_{i^*} values sample both the continuum and emission-line flux at $\lambda \sim 2800$ Å, whereas the Baldwin effect is usually in terms of the continuum flux at $\lambda \sim 1450$ Å. More work is clearly needed to understand the exact relationship between our observations and the Baldwin effect.

It is particularly interesting to note that the lines that show the most differences between samples A and D are also the ones that have the strongest reported Baldwin effects, in particular, C iv and He II (Osmer, Porter, & Green 1994). We also see no strong differences in the Si iv profiles or blueshifts; no Baldwin effect is observed for this line (Osmer et al. 1994). These observations are unusual in the sense that both C iv and Si iv are high ionization lines with very similar chemical structure.

Finally, if the Baldwin effect and the blueshifts of quasar emission lines are related, one must take the blueshifts into account when determining the luminosity of the quasars. Large blueshifts will cause the redshift and thus the luminosity of the quasar to be systematically underestimated. Since we have shown that those quasars with large blueshifts

also have weaker C iv emission, large emission-line blueshifts will cause the Baldwin effect to appear weaker than it should.

4.3. Broad Absorption Line Quasars

Since the C iv troughs in BAL quasars remove some of the C iv emission flux, it is nearly impossible to ask whether individual BAL quasars have small or large C iv emission-line blueshifts. However, we can study how the ensemble average of BALs compares with the composites that we have created. First, we divide the BALs into two types: low-ionization (LoBALs) and high-ionization (HiBALs), where, in addition to absorption by C iv, LoBALs show absorption in Mg ii and other low-ionization lines. The HiBAL composite was created by combining all of the non-LoBAL BAL-like objects that were originally rejected from our C iv sample; the redshifts are all taken from Mg ii as they were for our C iv sample. The LoBAL composite includes the LoBALs from the HiBAL sample and includes some LoBALs outside of the redshift range studied in the C iv-Mg ii sample in order to improve the signal to noise of the composite spectrum. These BAL composite spectra were created in exactly the same manner as composites A, B, C, and D.

The composite BAL spectra were then scaled as follows. A composite spectrum (Vanden Berk et al. 2001) was fitted to each of them in the rest wavelength frame by minimizing a weighted χ^2 merit function, normalized in the region 1725 ± 25 Å. The spectral index and reddening $E(B-V)$ were allowed to vary, using a reddening law with

$$f_\lambda \propto \lambda^{\alpha_\lambda} e^{-2E(B-V)/\lambda}, \quad (1)$$

(see Francis, Whiting, & Webster 2000), where λ is in microns and $\alpha_\lambda = -(2 + \alpha)$. The χ^2 function was weighted at certain wavelengths to eliminate or reduce the effects of several emission and absorption features. The weight was 0 for the major emission lines from Ly α to Mg ii, and also for the Ly α forest; 0.5 for the region between C iv and Si iv where BAL troughs are most likely to be found; and 1 for other wavelengths. The χ^2 function was then minimized using a quasi-Newton method, yielding best-fit values of the spectral index and reddening. See Reichard et al. (2002) for a more detailed discussion.

In order to compare the BAL composites with our A, B, C, and D composites, we also scale composites A, B, C, and D in the same manner as above. Thus the composites from samples A, B, C, and D will have roughly the same (overall) continuum slope and shape as the BAL composites, which allows comparison of their emission-line features. From Figure 10 it is quite clear that the LoBAL composite is most similar to composite D: the red wing of C iv matches quite well, as does the C iii] blend. In addition, the LoBAL composite also shows a clear weakening of He ii emission. The HiBAL composite is most similar to composite C; the C iv and C iii] emission-line profiles are good matches. Also note that, based on the top left-hand panel, it would appear that the C iv BAL outflows begin right at zero velocity with respect to the systemic redshift (as defined by Mg ii).

Since the viewing angles of BALs are generally thought to be constrained to a relatively small angle from the accretion disk plane, that the LoBAL composite best matches composite D is consistent with the idea that composite D is composed of quasars that are preferentially observed in an edge-

on configuration. The fact that the HiBAL composite is most similar to composite C is also consistent with the orientation hypothesis: HiBALs may differ from LoBALs in that the line of sight passes through somewhat less dense gas clouds that are more highly ionized. These correlations would seem to be inconsistent with, but do not necessarily rule out, the idea that BALs may (also) be an evolutionary stage of all quasars (Becker et al. 2000).

4.4. Associated Absorption

Not only does the blueshift of the C iv emission line affect the study of BAL absorption, it also affects our understanding of narrow, “associated” absorption (Foltz et al. 1986). These are absorption systems that are preferentially within ± 3000 km s⁻¹ of the quasar redshift; they occur at a much higher rate (per unit redshift) than absorbers that are thought to be caused by intervening galaxies at redshifts much smaller than the quasars. Since their discovery two hypotheses have dominated the possible explanations: Foltz et al. (1986) suggested that (1) they are due to outflows, similar to but weaker than BALs, or (2) they are due to a virialized cluster-like velocity dispersion. However, the fact that the C iv emission line can be blueshifted changes the situation significantly (McIntosh et al. 1999).

A full analysis of this issue is beyond the scope of this work; however, we have performed a simple test that helps shed light on this subject. One of us (G. T. R.) examined the C iv emission-line regions of all the spectra that comprise composites A and D, and two samples of quasars (one each from samples A and D) with good signal to noise and strong associated absorption were constructed. These samples were further restricted to those objects showing the largest associated absorption redshifts (i.e., toward or in the red wing of C iv). We present the C iv emission-line regions of some of the quasars from these biased subsamples in Figure 11. The quasars on the left-hand side are from sample A and have small C iv emission-line blueshifts with respect to Mg ii, whereas the quasars on the right-hand side are from sample D and have larger C iv emission-line blueshifts with respect to Mg ii.

What is interesting about Figure 11 is that, in almost every case, the associated absorption is at or shortward of the systemic redshift (*dashed line*, as measured from Mg ii), and it is thus consistent with outflows. Large virial velocities are not necessary to explain the “infalling” absorbers. Furthermore, in only one sample A case does the absorption occur entirely in the red wing of the emission profile. For this one exception we suspect that a C iv blueshift that has a larger error than normal is to blame; when we remeasured the Mg ii redshift by hand, we found that the redshift from the automated code was too small by ~ 900 km s⁻¹. The expected location of C iv using the revised redshift is indicated by the dotted line in the bottom panel on the left-hand side of Figure 11. However, given the expected errors in the individual measurements, it is unlikely that the errors will produce a symmetric distribution around the C iv line center, but quite possible that the errors could explain any of the remaining apparent inflows. That is, if the velocity shifts of associated absorption lines were always referenced to the systemic redshift, we might find that associated absorbers are all outflows.

Since Foltz et al. (1986) and others (e.g., Richards et al. 2001) have found that the strong associated absorbers are

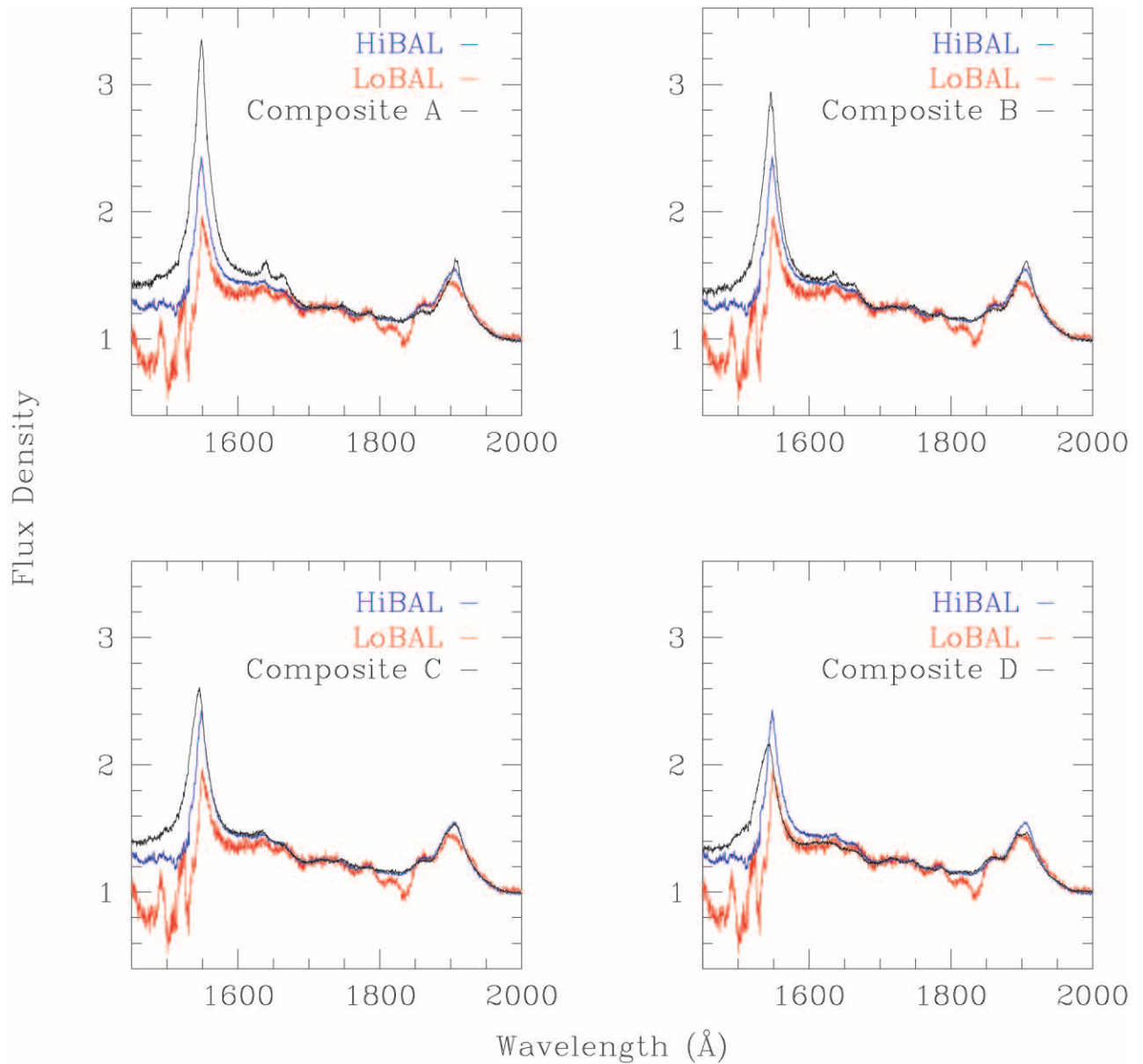


FIG. 10.—High-ionization BAL composite spectrum (HiBAL; blue line) and low-ionization BAL composite spectrum (LoBAL; red line) overlaid on each of our four composites. The C iv and C iii] emission lines in the HiBAL composite most closely resemble composite C, whereas the C iv and C iii] profiles in the LoBAL composite most closely resemble those in composite D.

predominantly found in steep-spectrum radio-loud quasars, it is interesting to think about them in terms of an orientation hypothesis. First, we note that the presence of associated absorption in our sample A quasars may be an argument *against* an orientation interpretation for the C iv emission-line blueshifts. Steep-spectrum quasars are thought to have a more edge-on orientation, whereas flat-spectrum quasars are thought to be more face-on. Thus the observation that associated absorbers are predominantly found in steep-spectrum quasars and that our hypothesized face-on quasars can have strong associated absorption is apparently inconsistent.

However, it may be possible to reconcile this problem in the following manner. If we define “associated absorption” as any absorption that occurs within the profile of C iv (say within $\pm 3000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ of the emission-line peak—regardless

of whether the peak is blueshifted or not), and we assume that the associated absorbers are purely outflows, then we would expect to see a higher density of associated absorption per unit velocity in the objects in sample D (assuming that they are seen edge-on). This is because there is a bigger range of velocities in which the absorbers can be found in sample D quasars, since the C iv emission line is blueshifted. For example, in a quasar with no blueshift of the C iv emission line, the observable range of associated absorption velocities is only 3000 km s^{-1} , but in a quasar where the C iv emission line is blueshifted by 3000 km s^{-1} , the observable range of associated absorption is 6000 km s^{-1} ; in both cases we *assume* that the full range over which associated absorption can be seen is 6000 km s^{-1} , so a sample of quasars with blueshifted emission lines would be expected to have a higher density of associated absorption. If sample D objects

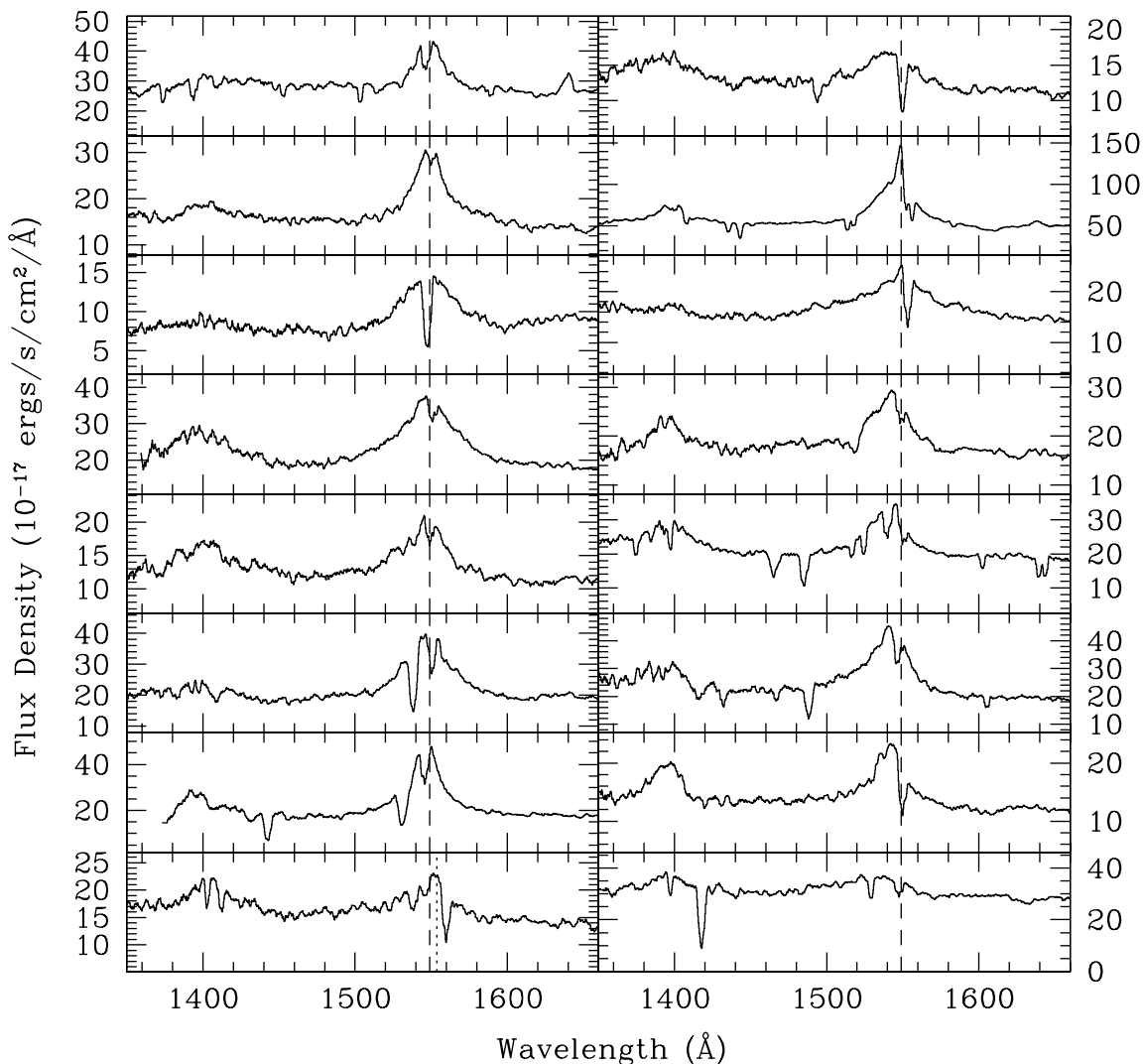


FIG. 11.—C IV emission-line region of quasars with maximally redshifted (“infalling”), very strong associated absorption. Dashed line shows the expected peak of C IV based on the Mg II redshift. *Left*: Quasars from sample A, with small C IV emission-line blueshifts. Dotted line in the bottom left-hand panel shows the expected location of C IV based on the hand-measured Mg II redshift for this quasar. *Right*: Quasars from sample D, with large C IV emission-line blueshifts.

tend to be steep-spectrum, lobe-dominated objects when they are radio sources, this could explain the excess of associated absorbers seen in steep-spectrum, lobe-dominated radio-loud quasars.

If associated absorbers are really outflows, then they may be present at velocities much larger than 3000 km s^{-1} from the emission redshift of the quasar, as was suggested by Richards et al. (2001). Thus there may be a large population of narrow, intrinsic absorption systems in flat-spectrum face-on quasars (see Richards et al. 2001 and references therein).

4.5. An Orientation Effect?

What causes the blueshifted emission lines in quasars and other similar phenomena (e.g., the Baldwin effect)? Orientation, specifically, orientation of the plane of the accretion disk, is certainly one possibility. We have presented some results that are consistent with this hypothesis.

We have shown that BAL quasars are most similar to the quasars from samples C and D. Since most models of BALs

have the BAL clouds confined to a region within a small angle of the disk (or the disk wind), this observation may be consistent with an orientation effect. The case for associated absorption, which is preferentially seen in steep-spectrum (edge-on) quasars, is less clear, but it could also be consistent with an orientation effect.

The radio properties of our sample may also support the hypothesis that orientation plays a key role in the blueshifting of the C IV emission line. We find that there are significantly more radio-detected quasars in sample A than sample D and that the sample A objects are brighter at radio wavelengths. If the SDSS+FIRST matching algorithm is failing to find lobe dominated quasars, or if FIRST is failing to detect some lobe dominated quasars, an orientation effect might explain the lack of radio-detected sources in sample D. Furthermore, that the sample A sources are bright, whereas the sample D sources are faint, could be the result of an orientation-related beaming effect.

An edge-on orientation for the largest C IV shifts may also be consistent with the reduced C IV emission and the lack of He II emission. These are both high-ionization lines that are

likely to be formed closer to the source of ionizing radiation than low-ionization lines and thus would be easier to obscure than the low-ionization lines, which are presumably formed further out. If the obscuration is restricted to the plane of the presumed accretion disk, then we might expect that some of the high-ionization lines would be completely or partially obscured in an edge-on orientation.

Furthermore, if the disk wind model for the BELR is true, then we might expect a broadening of the lines with increasing disk inclination angle as seen in $H\beta$ by Wills & Browne (1986). Vestergaard, Wilkes, & Barthel (2000) find that systems which appear to be inclined according to their radio properties have broader emission line wings, which is consistent with the material being seen in a preferred direction. We do indeed see an increase in the FWHM of C iv with an increase in our proposed viewing angle (see Table 2). However, as we discussed earlier, it is not clear that this broadening of the line is real; it may instead be due to partial obscuration of the line.

A possible argument *against* the orientation hypothesis is the fact that Baker & Hunstead (1995) found significant differences in the strength of the 3000 Å bump between composite spectra that are core- and lobe-dominated (core-dominated having stronger 3000 Å bump emission). In their sample the 3000 Å bump is barely visible for steep-spectrum quasars and virtually disappears for *compact* steep-spectrum quasars. Since core-dominance is thought to be correlated with orientation in radio-loud quasars, this change in 3000 Å bump strength may also be related to orientation. Although we do see some differences in the strength of 3000 Å bump between composites A and D, they do not appear to be anywhere near as apparent as those found by Baker & Hunstead (1995). If both our effects and the Baker & Hunstead (1995) effects are caused by orientation, we might expect to see a bigger difference in the Fe ii fluxes between composites A and D.

Although the unified model (e.g., Urry & Padovani 1995) is well-established, more and more emphasis is being placed on properties other than orientation in terms of explaining differences between quasars. These include luminosity, the Eddington ratio, accretion rate, black hole mass, black hole spin, and age (e.g., Laor 2000). For example, Boroson & Green (1992) argue that the first eigenvector from their principal component analysis (“Eigenvector 1”—which illuminates some correlations between intrinsic quasar properties) is driven by something other than external orientation. Even though the properties of our sample are very similar to the Eigenvector 1 properties (see Brotherton & Francis 1999, Table 2), we prefer orientation as an explanation. However, this orientation effect need not be specific to the orientation of the accretion disk (i.e., external orientation), but rather it could be related to the opening angle of a disk wind (such as in Elvis 2000, Fig. 7), where some other quasar property is causing the opening angle of the disk wind to change, thus producing an orientation type effect (i.e., internal orientation). A strong argument for this type of behavior (or against orientation entirely depending on how you look at it) is the intrinsic Baldwin effect (Pogge & Peterson 1992). Since a Baldwin-type effect is seen in individual quasars as their continuum luminosity varies (but with a different slope than the “external” Baldwin effect), the Baldwin effect cannot be entirely due to the orientation of the accretion disk; the same is true for the emission-line blueshifts if they are related to the Baldwin effect. However, if the orientation

effect is really the wind opening angle or the angle the wind makes with the disk axis and these angles can change on reasonably short timescales, then this might account for the major differences in quasar spectra.

In any case, it is certainly possible that the size of the C iv emission-line blueshift may be a function of the orientation of the quasar. Whether the orientation in question is external or internal remains to be seen. Further study, particularly with regard to radio and X-ray properties, is needed to determine if this is really the case.

4.6. Future Work

Some areas of future work are beyond the scope of this paper, but are clearly appropriate, including the following:

1. Ideally, we would like to know the velocity offset between the C iv and [O iii] emission lines, which requires that we obtain IR spectra of the [O iii] emission-line region for those quasars where we already cover C iv and Mg ii.
2. Similarly, we should attempt to extend our low-redshift sample to cover the C iv emission-line region by obtaining UV spectra of these quasars.
3. UV spectra would also be appropriate for those objects where we cannot see the Ly α emission line, since the profile of Ly α may be helpful in constraining BELR models (Kallman & Krolik 1986).
4. If we could find a way to know how large the C iv blueshift is likely to be without looking at the C iv emission line, it would be possible to study how the C iv blueshifts correlate with broad absorption line properties.
5. A detailed study of associated absorbers among the quasars studied herein is clearly in order. In many cases this will mean getting higher signal-to-noise spectra.
6. Since the C iv blueshifts so strongly correlate with the equivalent width of the emission lines, a more detailed investigation of how this affects the Baldwin effect is in order.
7. It is possible that emission from Fe ii and Fe iii could be influencing some of the changes that we attribute to other species. Removing the iron emission complexes using the Vestergaard & Wilkes (2001) iron template would address this issue. We have not chosen to attempt this procedure here, in part because the Vestergaard & Wilkes (2001) iron template is not complete in the critical regions near C iv and Mg ii emission.
8. Last, but perhaps most important, is that future AGN “models” must not fail to take into account these emission-line blueshifts. Furthermore, they must be able to explain the emission-line profiles. These should be key ingredients to any model.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Using two samples of quasars from the SDSS Early Data Release Quasar Catalog (Schneider et al. 2002), we have studied the differences in redshift of quasars as measured by different emission lines. In one sample (with 794 quasars in the redshift range $1.54 \leq z \leq 2.2$), we compared the redshifts as determined from the peak of the C iv emission line with those as determined from the peak of the Mg ii emission line. In the second sample (with 417 quasars in the redshift range $0.415 \leq z \leq 0.827$), we compared the redshifts from Mg ii with the redshifts from [O iii]. Our conclusions

based on these two samples can be succinctly summarized as follows:

1. The C iv emission line is not typically found at the same redshift as Mg II, a fact that has been reported previously. The shift of C iv is typically $\sim 800 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ but can be as large as 3000 km s^{-1} .
2. This shift is apparently not a bulk shift but rather is due to a lack of flux in the red wing of the C iv emission-line profile. This fact is a new result but is not entirely without historical precedent. Although this conclusion depends on the placement of the continuum, we feel that our handling of the continuum is appropriate and that this conclusion is robust.
3. The equivalent width of the C iv emission line decreases with increasing blueshift.
4. The FWHM of the C iv emission line increases with increasing blueshift of the peak of the emission line; however, this effect may not be real. For example, if it is true that the red wing is simply attenuated for sample D quasars, then the FWHM will not have the same meaning that it does if there is no attenuation.
5. The blueshift of the C iv emission line may correlate with the orientation of the quasar as measured by radio properties (large blueshift having an equatorial viewing angle); further work is clearly needed.
6. The apparent blueshift of the C III] emission line with increasing blueshift of the C iv emission line may instead be the result of varying flux ratios of the blended C III] and Si III] emission lines.
7. The Mg II emission line has a small blueshift with respect to [O III] in the ensemble average, but individual deviations can be as large as $\pm 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$.
8. The spectra of BAL quasars appear to be most similar to the spectra of quasars with large C iv emission-line blueshifts. If the C iv emission-line blueshift is correlated with

orientation, this supports the conclusion that BALs are correlated with orientation (whether external or internal), and vice versa.

9. It is possible that redshifted “associated” absorption population may be explained by the blueshift of C iv emission (as has been suggested before). Even if there are inflows, we find no need for extremely large velocities in the “virialized” cluster material explanation.

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