

## OUTFLOWS AND HOT DUST EMISSION

---

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Many quasars and AGNs show an excess in their near-infrared continuum emission. This feature is generally attributed to thermal emission from dust heated by optical/ultraviolet radiation from the accretion disc. The wavelength of the feature ( $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$ ) corresponds to the spectral peak for graphite dust at its sublimation temperature ( $T \sim 1500 \text{ K}$ ; Barvainis, 1987). Reverberation measurements of nearby AGNs suggest that the hot dust is very close to the central source (few tens of light days; e.g. Minezaki et al., 2004; Suganuma et al., 2006). This places the dust at the innermost edge of the putative torus-like structure, at a radius set by the sublimation temperature of the dust grains.

Studies have fitted the near-infrared SEDs of AGNs using a blackbody spectrum to represent emission from hot dust (e.g. Edelson and Malkan, 1986; Barvainis, 1987; Kishimoto et al., 2007; Mor, Netzer, and Elitzur, 2009; Riffel, Storchi-Bergmann, and McGregor, 2009; Deo et al., 2011; Landt et al., 2011; Mor and Trakhtenbrot, 2011; Roseboom et al., 2013). A hot dust component is present in the vast majority of AGNs, although populations of ‘dust-free’ objects have also been discovered (Hao et al., 2010; Hao et al., 2011; Jiang et al., 2010; Mor and Trakhtenbrot, 2011). It is not yet clear how the hot dust properties relate to other AGN properties such as BH mass, luminosity and accretion rate.

In recent years the picture of the torus has evolved away from a static ‘doughnut’ towards a more general circum-nuclear, geometrically and optically thick dust distribution. As we have previously discussed (e.g. Section ??), winds and outflows launched from the accretion disc are very common in AGN. In the dusty wind model - first proposed by Konigl and Kartje, (1994) and later developed by, amongst others, Everett, (2005), Elitzur and Shlosman, (2006), Keating et al., (2012) - the torus is the dusty part of an accretion disc wind beyond the dust sublimation radius. The dusty clouds are uplifted above the disc where they are directly exposed to the central engine. The

dust is heated, and radiates in the near-infrared band. At the same time, radiation pressure due to dust can efficiently accelerate the wind. The wind is roughly polar, and so naturally provides circum-nuclear obscuration around the accretion disc and dust-free BLR. This model is supported by recent interferometric observations of nearby Seyfert galaxies which find that the mid-infrared emission is dominated by dust in the polar regions (e.g. Hönig et al., 2012; Hönig et al., 2013).

Studying the relationship between emission from hot dust and outflow diagnostics in the BLR can help place constraints on this dusty wind model (e.g. Wang et al., 2013). This is now possible by combining data from the SDSS spectroscopic and photometric surveys with photometric surveys such as UKIDSS and WISE. At redshifts  $2 \lesssim z \lesssim 3$  this provides full UV to infrared rest-frame coverage of the SED. In particular, the WISE photometry is sensitive to the  $2 \mu\text{m}$  region of the SED which is dominated by hot dust. At the same time, using the machinery developed in Chapter ??, we can for the first time use the SDSS spectra to reliably measure BH masses, accretion rates and BLR outflow diagnostics in this population.

Our approach has two stages. First, we build a simple parametric SED model that is able to reproduce the median optical-infrared colours of tens of thousands of SDSS AGN at redshifts  $1 \lesssim z \lesssim 3$  (Section ). Second, we measure the near-infrared SED properties of individual quasars, to understand the diversity of hot dust properties in the population (Section 1.8).

## 1.2 DATA

### 1.2.1 Spectroscopic data

We use spectroscopic data from the Seventh Data Release (DR7) of the SDSS spectroscopic quasar catalogue (Schneider et al., 2010). The SDSS spectra cover the wavelength range  $XX$ . At  $z \gtrsim 2$  this corresponds to the rest-frame region including C iv.

### 1.2.2 Photometric data

We cross-match this with UKIDSS and WISE photometric catalogues to provide full coverage of the rest-frame SED from ultraviolet to near-infrared wavelengths.

Survey	Band	$\lambda_{\text{eff}}$ [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	AB offset	$A_{\text{filter}}/E(B - V)$
SDSS	u	0.3543	0.913	4.875
	g	0.4770	-0.081	3.793
	r	0.6231	0.169	2.721
	i	0.7625	0.383	2.099
	z	0.9134	0.542	1.537
UKIDSS	Y	1.0305	0.641	1.194
	J	1.2483	0.941	0.880
	H	1.6313	1.378	0.569
	K	2.2010	1.897	0.352
WISE	W1	3.4	2.691	0.182
	W2	4.6	3.331	0.130
	W3	12.0		

Table 1.1: Available photometry, effective wavelength, Vega to AB magnitude offsets, conversion from  $E(B - V)$  to extinction.   
Need W3 offset/ extinction. Ask Paul or just use WISE values/zero.

### SDSS

The SDSS obtained images in five broad optical band-passes: u, g, r, i and z (Table 1.1). We use BEST point-spread function magnitudes from the SDSS DR7 quasar catalogue.

### UKIDSS Large Area Survey

We use the tenth data release (DR10) of the UKIRT Infrared Deep Sky Survey (UKIDSS; Lawrence et al., 2007) Large Area Survey (ULAS) which has observed  $\sim 3,200 \text{ deg}^2$  in four near-infrared band-passes: Y, J, H and K. We use ‘apermag3’ magnitudes, which are aperture corrected magnitudes in a  $2''$  diameter aperture.

### WISE All-WISE Survey

The Wide-field Infrared Explorer (WISE; Wright et al., 2010) mapped the entire sky in four mid-IR bands: W1, W2, W3 and W4. The WISE AllWISE Data Release (‘AllWISE’) combines data from the nine-month cryogenic phase of the mission that led to the ‘AllSky’ data release with data from the NEOWISE program (Mainzer et al., 2011). We use the profile-fitting ‘mpro’ magnitudes. Only information from the first three WISE bands are used in this work.

### 1.2.3 Computing Vega-AB magnitude offsets

Vega magnitudes are used throughout this Chapter. This is the native magnitude system for UKIDSS and WISE. SDSS uses an ‘asinh’ magnitude system which is intended to be on the AB system. However, the photometric zero-points are known to be slightly off the AB standard. The  $z$  band is in error by 0.02 ( $z_{AB} = z_{SDSS} + 0.02$ )<sup>1</sup>. The  $u$  band was in error by 0.04 dex at the time of DR7. However, using an updated  $u$  throughput function, we find that the  $u$  zero-point is now consistent with the AB system.

Using a reference template, we calculate the AB magnitude of Vega in each bandpass (Table 1.1). The mean flux density  $f_\lambda(P)$  in a bandpass defined by a throughput function  $P(\lambda)$  is given by:

$$f_\lambda(P) = \frac{\int P(\lambda) f_\lambda(\lambda) \lambda d\lambda}{\int P(\lambda) \lambda d\lambda} \quad (1.1)$$

where  $f_\lambda(\lambda)$  is the flux density of the object. The predicted broadband magnitude of the model is then given by:

$$m_\lambda(P) = -2.5 \log(f_\lambda(P)) - m_0(P), \quad (1.2)$$

where  $m_0(P)$  is the zero-point magnitude of band  $P$ , given by evaluating Equation 1.1 for a reference object. In the AB system (Oke and Gunn, 1983) this is a constant spectral flux density of 3631 Jy. Although the magnitude of Vega is by design zero in every bandpass, more recent measurements reveal a small magnitude offset. The Vega to AB magnitudes given in Table 1.1 assume Vega to have a magnitude 0.026. Finally, we add 0.08 mag to the UKIDSS  $Y$  band magnitudes to bring the photometry into better agreement with the SDSS  $z$  and UKIDSS  $J$  photometry.

### 1.2.4 Galactic extinction correction

*Ask Paul how this  
is done*

$A(u)$ , the Galactic extinction in the  $u$  band at the position of the object, is given in the SDSS catalogue. It is computed using the maps of Schlegel, Finkbeiner, and Davis, (1998). It is calculated assuming a  $z = 0$  elliptical template. A quasar has very different shape in the optical/near-infrared region, and therefore we rederived the extinction corrections using a  $z = 1.5$

<sup>1</sup> <http://classic.sdss.org/dr7/algorithms/fluxcal.html>.

quasar template. We divide by 5.155 to get  $E(B - V)$ , the relative extinction between the B and V bands. Conversions from the selective extinction  $E(B - V)$  to the total extinction  $A(\lambda)$  in each band-pass were calculated according to equation B2 in Schlegel, Finkbeiner, and Davis, (1998) using a quasar SED template. These are given in the Table 1.1.

#### 1.2.5 Cross-matching SDSS to UKIDSS and WISE

There are 105 783 objects in the SDSS DR7 quasar catalogue. While WISE mapped virtually the entire sky, the UKIDSS footprint covers approximately one third of the SDSS footprint. 36 607 objects are cross-matched to the UKIDSS (with a  $2''$  matching radius) and WISE (with a  $3''$  matching radius) catalogues.

#### 1.2.6 Sample definition

We include only the 20 637 quasars with i band magnitudes brighter than 19.1, i.e. the quasars selected by the main SDSS quasar selection algorithm for quasars with colours consistent with being at redshifts  $z < 3$  (Richards et al., 2002). For a given i magnitude, a quasar with a blue spectrum is more likely to be undetected at longer wavelengths than a quasar with a red spectrum. Therefore, as we allow fainter quasars into our sample we will be biased towards objects with redder spectra. We verified that above the  $i = 19.1$  limit the sample is 95 per cent complete in all band-passes.

BAL quasars are excluded using the Allen et al., (2011) catalogue because the C IV line parameters of these quasars can not be reliably measured. This removes XX objects.

We further limit our sample to the redshift range  $1 < z < 3$ . Galaxy SEDs peak at  $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$ , and fall away towards shorter wavelengths. On the other hand, AGN SEDs continues to increase short-ward of  $1 \mu\text{m}$ . As a result, the contrast between the AGN and galaxy luminosity increases as the redshift increases. Imposing a  $z = 1$  lower redshift limit on the redshift of our sample ensures that contributions to the SED from quasar host galaxies are negligible. The completeness of the SDSS DR7 quasar selection algorithm decreases steeply beyond  $z \sim 3$ , and this sets the upper redshift limit. The redshift and luminosity distribution of the final sample, containing 19,837 quasars, is shown in Figure 1.1.

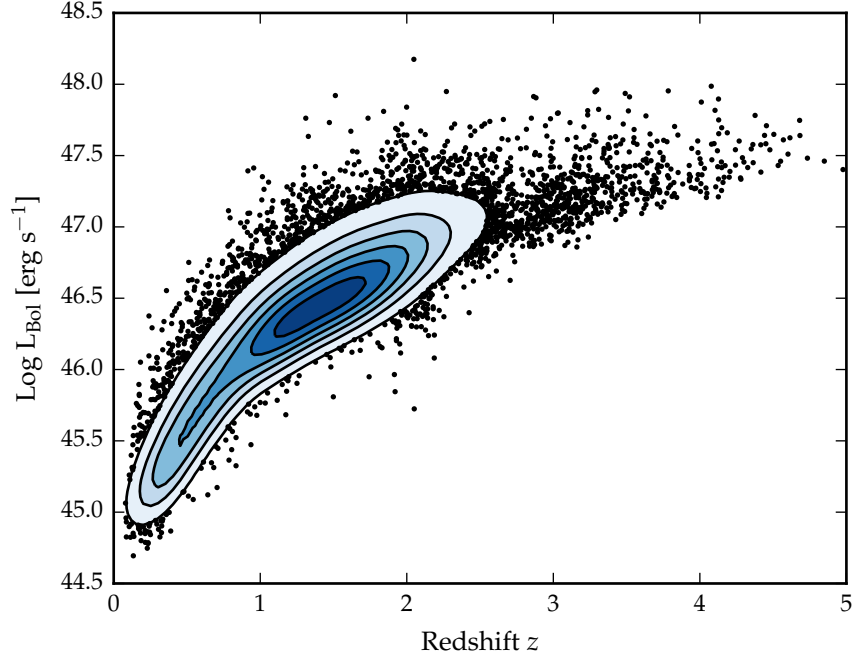


Figure 1.1: Distribution of our sample in the redshift-luminosity plane. **Just to  $z=1-3$ .**

### 1.3 QUASAR SED

Since the physical processes that power AGN are generally understood only qualitatively, almost all AGN SED templates are empirical. The empirical template of Elvis et al., (1994) is still the most commonly cited, despite many additions and updates (e.g. Polletta et al., 2000; Kuraszkiewicz et al., 2003; Risaliti and Elvis, 2004; Richards et al., 2006; Polletta et al., 2007; Lusso et al., 2010; Shang et al., 2011; Marchese et al., 2012; Trichas et al., 2012). However, these composite spectra are often constructed from quasars with a huge range in luminosity as a function of wavelength. In addition, the presence of significant host galaxy at optical wavelengths in low-redshift objects is an additional complication which has not always been taken care of adequately. There is therefore a strong rationale for taking a parametric approach to modelling quasar SEDs.

Our quasars cover the redshift range  $0.2 < z < 4$ , and so this data covers the rest-frame wavelength range from  $800 \text{ \AA}$  to  $3.8 \mu\text{m}$ . In this region the SED is dominated by the accretion disc, emission-lines and thermal emission from the hottest ( $T \sim 1200\text{K}$ ) dust. Host galaxy emission is also significant for quasars at redshifts  $z \lesssim 1$ , and the effect of dust extinction at

the AGN redshift is another factor which must be considered. In this Section, we describe how we have modelled emission from these different physical processes. Our model is valid between  $1216 \text{ \AA}$  and  $3 \mu\text{m}$ . At high redshifts, absorption due to Ly- $\alpha$  forest absorption becomes significant. Because we do not attempt to model this effect, our model is valid only at wavelengths long-ward of  $1216 \text{ \AA}$ . We model dust emission using a single temperature ( $T \sim 1200 \text{ K}$ ) blackbody, which peaks at  $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$ . At longer wavelengths, emission from cooler dust farther from the central engine becomes increasingly important. We do not include this emission in our model, which restricts its validity to  $\lesssim 3 \mu\text{m}$ . The model spectrum is shown in Figure 1.2, with each of the main components indicated.

#### 1.4 SED MODEL

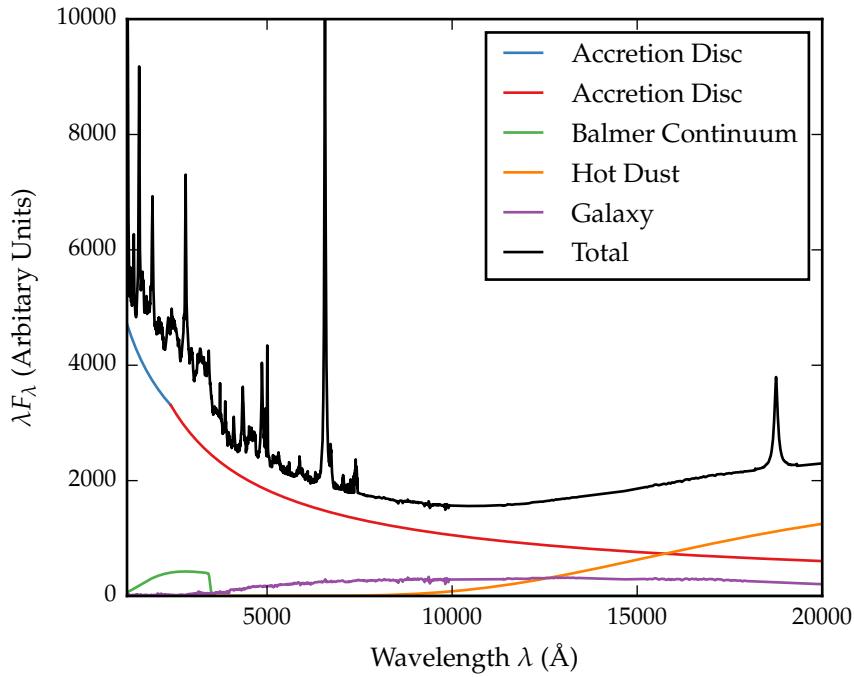


Figure 1.2: Model quasar spectrum at  $z = 1$ , showing the contributions to the total flux from the blue power-law slope, red power-law slope, Balmer continuum, blackbody, emission-line spectrum and host galaxy.

#### 1.4.1 *Accretion Disc*

Thermal accretion disc emission in the  $0.1 - 1 \mu\text{m}$  region is characterised by a broken power-law with three free parameters: a break-wavelength  $\lambda_{\text{break}}$ , a blue power-law index  $\alpha_{\text{blue}}$  for wavelengths shorter than the break wavelength, and a red power-law index  $\alpha_{\text{red}}$  for wavelengths longer than the break wavelength.

#### 1.4.2 *Balmer Continuum*

High order Balmer lines, optically thin Balmer continuum emission, two-photon emission and Fe II emission blend together to form a distinct feature in quasar spectra at  $\sim 3000\text{\AA}$ . This is referred to as the ‘Balmer’ continuum. We simulate the Balmer continuum we use the empirical model given by Grandi, (1982):

$$F(\lambda) = C_{\text{BC}} \times B_{\lambda}(T_e)(1 - e^{-\tau_{\lambda}}); \quad \lambda \leq \lambda_{\text{BE}} \quad (1.3)$$

where  $C_{\text{BC}}$  is a normalisation factor,  $B_{\lambda}(T_e)$  is the Planck function,  $T_e = 13150\text{K}$  is the effective temperature,  $\lambda_{\text{BE}} = 3460\text{\AA}$  is the wavelength at the Balmer edge, and  $\tau_{\lambda} = \tau_{\text{BE}} (\lambda_{\text{BE}}/\lambda)^{-3}$  is the optical depth with  $\tau_{\text{BE}} = 45$  the optical depth at  $\lambda_{\text{BE}}$ . This function is convolved with a Gaussian with  $\sigma = 5000\text{km s}^{-1}$  to simulate the effect of bulk velocity shifts comparable to those present in broad AGN emission-lines.

#### 1.4.3 *Hot Dust*

Thermal emission from hot dust, which dominates the SED at wavelengths longer than  $1 \mu\text{m}$ , is modeled using a blackbody

$$F_{\lambda} = C_{\text{BB}} \times \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda k_B T_{\text{BB}}}} - 1}, \quad (1.4)$$

with two free parameters: the temperature  $T_{\text{BB}}$  and normalisation  $C_{\text{BB}}$  relative to the power-law continuum.

#### 1.4.4 *Emission Lines*

We use an emission-line template taken from Francis et al., (1991), which has been extended by Maddox and Hewett, (2006)



to include the H $\alpha$  and Pa $\alpha$  emission-lines<sup>2</sup>. All emission-lines, with the exception of H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$ , are scaled using a single free parameter  $C_{\text{EL}}$ , which preserves relative EQWs:

$$F_{\lambda} = C_{\text{EL}} \times \frac{F_{\lambda,\text{el}}}{F_{\lambda,\text{cont}}} \times F_{\lambda} \quad (1.5)$$

where  $F_{\lambda,\text{el}}$  is the emission-line template,  $F_{\lambda,\text{cont}}$  is the continuum flux in the template, and  $F_{\lambda}$  is the continuum flux in the SED model. H $\alpha$  and H $\beta$  are scaled separately:

$$F_{\lambda} = C_{\text{EL}} \times C_{\text{H}\alpha} \times \left( \frac{L(z)}{L(z_{\text{nm}})} \right)^{-\beta} \times \frac{F_{\lambda,\text{el}}}{F_{\lambda,\text{cont}}} \times F_{\lambda} \quad (1.6)$$

The luminosity dependence of the H $\alpha$  EQW (i.e. the Baldwin effect) is parametrised with a power-law with slope  $\beta = 0.04$ . The redshift dependence of the mean AGN luminosity  $L(z)$  for the SDSS quasar catalogue has been determined empirically.

#### 1.4.5 Dust Extinction

The selection criteria of the SDSS DR7 quasar catalogue are sensitive to quasars with moderate amounts of dust reddening at the redshift of the quasar, and so we included the effect of dust extinction in our model. We use an extinction curve appropriate for the quasar population which has been derived by Paul Hewett. To derive the quasar extinction curve, UKIDSS photometry was used to provide an  $E(B - V)$ <sup>3</sup> estimate, via the magnitude displacement of each quasar from the locus of un-reddened objects. At redshifts  $2 < z < 3$  the reddening measure is made at rest-frame wavelengths 3500 – 7000 Å, where Galaxy, LMC and SMC extinction curves are very similar. The SDSS spectra of the same objects are then employed to generate an empirical extinction curve in the ultraviolet, down to 1200 Å. The resulting curve has no 2200 Å feature and rises rapidly with decreasing wavelength but is not as steep as the SMC curve. The extinctions curves give the colour excess  $E(B - \lambda) = A$  relative to the colour excess  $E(B - V)$  as a function of wavelength  $\lambda$ . The colour excess  $E(B - V)$  is related to the extinction in the V band,  $A(V)$ , via the ratio  $R$ :

<sup>2</sup> The spectrum is not significantly different from the Vanden Berk et al., (2001) SDSS composite

<sup>3</sup>  $E(B - V) = A(B) - A(V)$

$$R_V = \frac{A(V)}{E(B - V)} \quad (1.7)$$

where we assume  $R_V = 3$ . Hence the extinction at a wavelength  $\lambda$   $A(\lambda)$  is

$$A(\lambda) = E(B - V) \times \left[ \frac{E(\lambda - V)}{E(B - V)} + R \right] \quad (1.8)$$

where the colour excess  $E(B - V)$  is a free parameter in our model. The attenuation of the flux at a given wavelength is then:

$$F_\lambda = F_\lambda 10^{-A(\lambda)/2.5} \quad (1.9)$$

in the rest frame of the quasar.

### 1.5 THE ‘STANDARD’ SED MODEL

We will begin by fitting a single SED model to all 19 853 quasars, encompassing a range of redshifts, luminosities, accretion rates etc. The free parameters in our model are summarised in Table 1.2. The reddening  $E(B - V)$  is fixed to zero, since a large fraction of SDSS quasars have very small amounts of dust reddening (Richards et al., 2003). We generate a set of model observed spectra at redshifts from  $z = 0.25$  to  $z = 3.75$  in intervals of  $\Delta z = 0.1$ . The SED model is shown at three different redshifts in Figure 1.3.

Magnitudes are calculated in the AB system (Oke and Gunn, 1983), in which case the zero-point flux per unit wavelength is

$$\frac{f_\lambda(\lambda)}{\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ \AA}^{-1}} = 0.1087 \left( \frac{\lambda}{\text{\AA}} \right)^{-2}. \quad (1.10)$$

We divide our quasar sample into the same redshift bins. In each bin we normalise the quasar SEDs in the SDSS *i* band, and then calculate the median SED. The model SED in each redshift bin is similarly normalised. The chi-squared statistic is then minimised using the ‘nelder-mead’ algorithm (reference).

Our SED model is valid only up to  $\lambda \sim 3 \mu\text{m}$  in the quasar rest frame (the approximate wavelength of the peak in hot dust

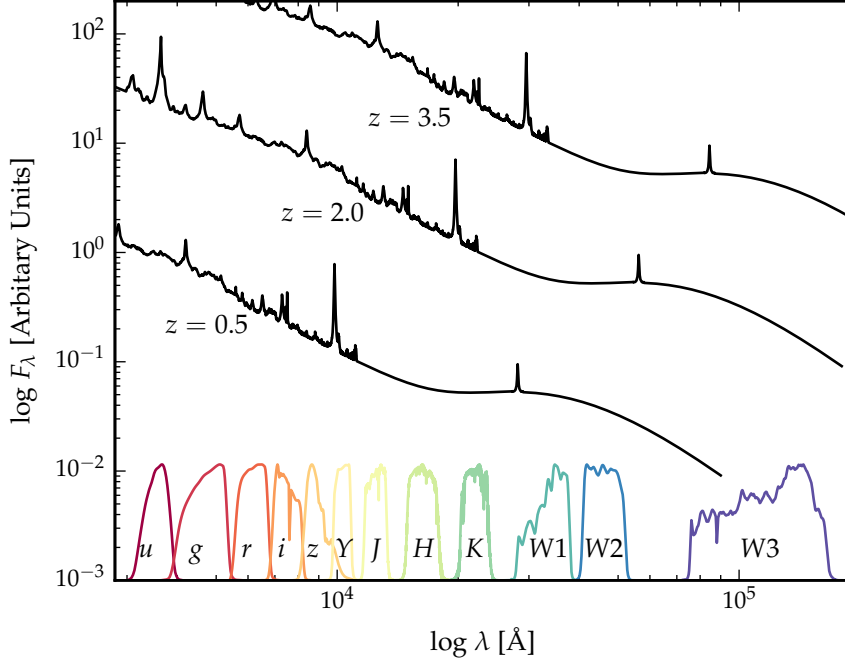


Figure 1.3: Model quasar spectrum at three different redshifts (each arbitrarily scaled), and throughput functions for SDSS, UKIDSS and WISE band-passes.

emission); beyond this additional contributions to the total flux from cooler dust will become significant. This prevents us from using the two longest wavelength WISE bands in the fit. We also exclude the SDSS  $u$  and  $g$  band-passes from the fit at  $z > 2.7$  and  $z > 3.7$  respectively, where these bands start to be affected by  $\text{Ly}\alpha$  forest absorption.

## 1.6 RESULTS

The best-fitting parameters from the fit are shown in Table 1.2. The colours ( $r - i$ ,  $i - z$ , etc.) of the median SED, the individual quasars, and the best-fitting model are plotted as a function of redshift in Figs. 1.4 and 1.5. Most of the large variations that can be seen in the median colours of the quasars as a function of redshift are due to strong emission-lines being redshifted into and out of the band-passes. Take away message is that a single, fairly simple parametric is able to reproduce the median colours of tens of thousands of AGN with a large dynamic range in redshift and luminosity. However, there is a significant scatter about the median model, which we will investigate

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Blue power-law index	$\alpha_{\text{blue}}$	−0.478
Red power-law index	$\alpha_{\text{red}}$	−0.199
Power-law break	$\lambda_{\text{break}}$	2402
Blackbody temperature	$T_{\text{BB}}$	1306 K
Blackbody normalisation	$C_{\text{BB}}$	2.673
Emission-line scaling	$C_{\text{EL}}$	1.240
H $\alpha$ emission-line scaling	$C_{\text{H}\alpha}$	0.713
Galaxy fraction	$\eta$	0.0
Balmer continuum scaling		0.135
$E(B - V)$	$E(B - V)$	0.0

Table 1.2: Model parameters.

in the next Section? Does any part of this scatter have a systematic dependence on properties of the BH (mass, accretion rate) or outflow diagnostics.

## 1.7 DISCUSSION OF FIT

In Figure 1.6 we show the difference between the magnitudes from the best-fitting model and the median magnitudes from the sample. We have transformed the effective wavelengths of the band-passes to the rest frame of the quasars in each redshift bin, to give the residuals as a function of rest-frame wavelength. We represent the residuals measured in each band-pass using a different coloured line. Differences between residuals from different band-passes at the same rest-frame wavelength could indicate redshift evolution of the typical quasar SED.

The residuals indicate that over a large redshift range the model does a fairly good at reproducing the median observed colours of the sample. Most discrepancies are at the  $< 0.1$  mag level. A single model is effective at reproducing the median colours, suggesting that the properties of a typical quasar do not change significantly over a wide range of redshifts and luminosities. One needs to take care in looking at trends with luminosity given the observed-frame band-pass information on the rest-frame SED can produce some strong systematics with redshift, particularly if the SED-model is not a good fit to the actual SED.

*No: be quantitative*

*Make sure this is emphasised as a new result.*

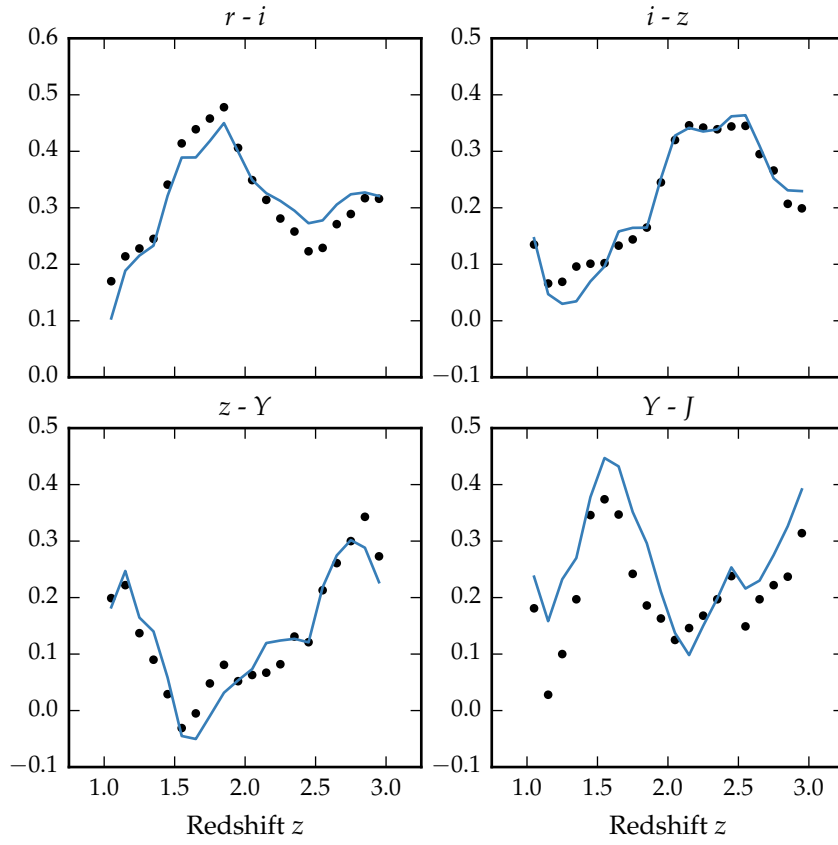


Figure 1.4: Colours of median quasar SED and best-fitting model, with and without correction.

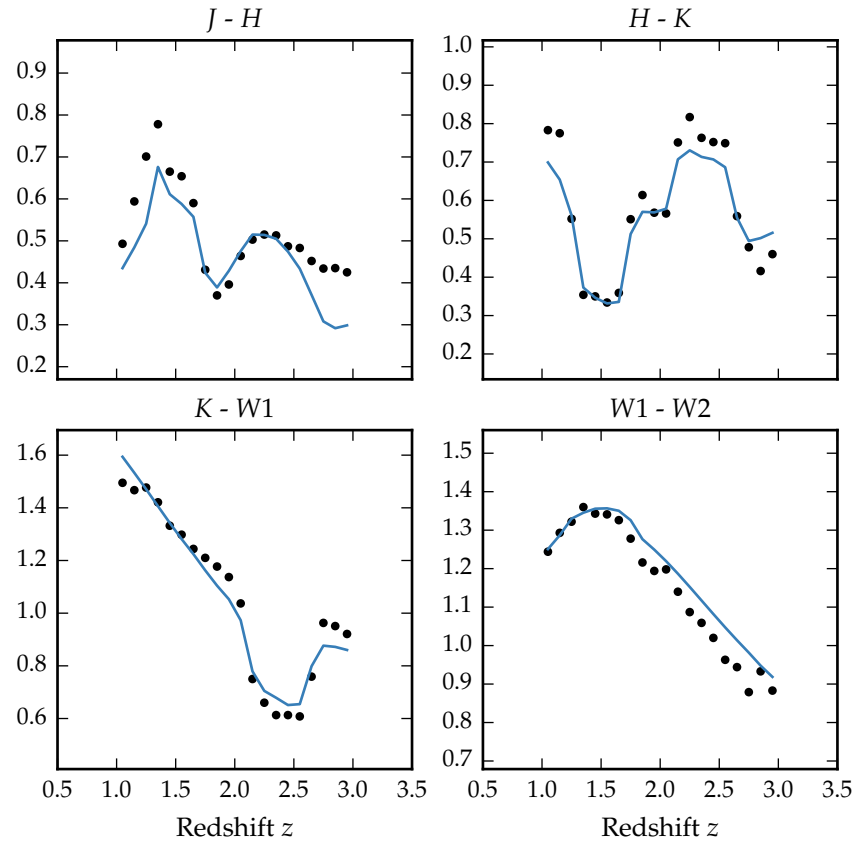


Figure 1.5: Colours of median quasar SED (*black circles*), individual objects (*grey points*), best-fitting model (*black line*) as a function of redshift.

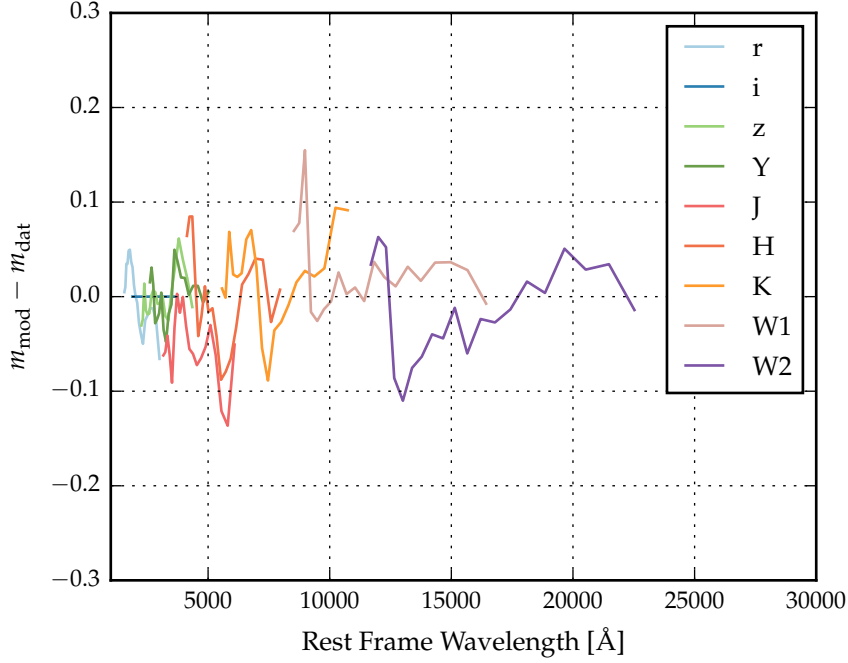


Figure 1.6: Residuals from fit as a function of rest-frame wavelength.  
Need more info in caption.

## 1.8 HOT DUST

The spread in the W1W2 colours (Figure 1.7), probing the rest-frame  $\sim 1 - 2 \mu\text{m}$  region, is significant and strongly suggests the presence of real variation in the hot dust temperature and luminosity among the quasars.

### 1.8.1 Parametrising the hot dust emission

We characterise the hot dust properties of our sample in terms of the temperature and luminosity of a blackbody. We choose to parametrise the luminosity in terms of the near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity ratio. The ultra-violet and near-infrared luminosity are calculated between 2000 and 9000 Å and 1 and 3  $\mu\text{m}$  respectively. This is roughly proportional to the covering factor of hot dust ( $L_{\text{NIR}}/L_{\text{Bol}}$ ) used in some other studies (e.g. Roseboom et al., 2013). The temperature may be related to the distance of the dust from the central engine. The value of ( $L_{\text{NIR}}/L_{\text{Bol}}$ ) is related to the covering factor of the hot dust.

Some previous studies (e.g. Wang et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2014) have instead parametrised the near-infrared emis-

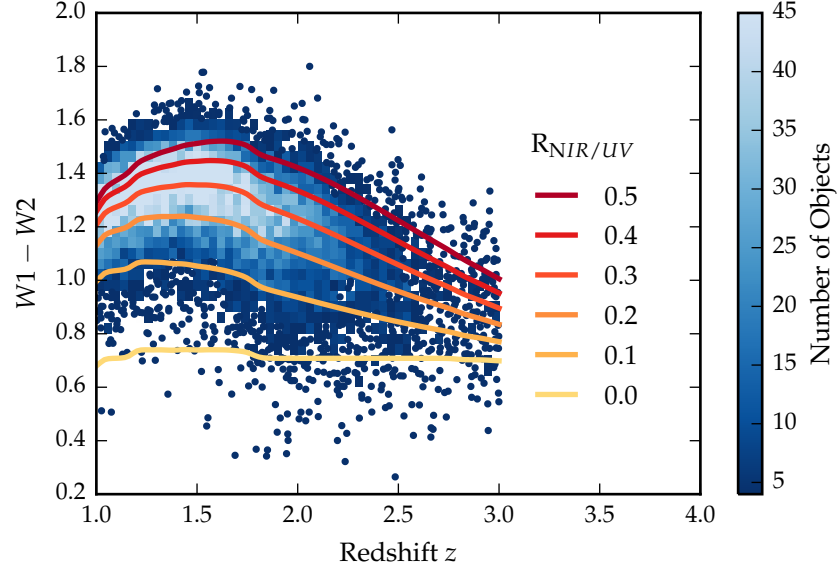


Figure 1.7:  $W1 - W2$  colours of sample as a function of redshift. Above a density threshold of four points per pixel points are represented by a density plot. On top we plot the colours of our standard SED model, with a fixed temperature and a varying near-infrared ( $1 - 3 \mu\text{m}$ ) to ultra-violet ratio.

sion using a power-law ( $\propto \lambda^{\beta_{\text{NIR}}}$ ), with  $\beta \simeq 0.5$ . We tested this parametrisation, and evaluated it's effectiveness relative to using a blackbody. We normalise the power-law at  $9000 \text{ \AA}$ , where its flux is set equal to the flux of the ultra-violet/optical model. The near-infrared power-law slope is fit between  $\sim 1$  and  $2.4 \mu\text{m}$  (with the exact wavelength region being fit depending on the redshift of the quasar). We found large residuals in the best-fitting model which varied systematically as a function of  $\lambda_{\text{eff}}/(1+z)$ . This suggests that the blackbody is a better fit to the shape of the near-infrared emission than the power-law model (e.g. Gallagher et al., 2007).

### 1.8.2 Sample

Our goal is to determine the temperature and abundance of the hot dust component in individual quasars. These properties will be measured by fitting a model to the SDSS-UKIDSS-WISE photometry. Constraining a  $T \sim 1200 \text{ K}$  blackbody component in the SED model requires photometric data covering  $\sim 1 - 3 \mu\text{m}$  in the rest-frame of the quasar.



Sub-sample	Number of AGN	Data	Redshift range
Low-z	5,910	ugrizYJHKW1W2	$1 < z < 1.5$
High-z	1,989	ugrizYJHKW1W2W3	$2 < z < 2.7$

Table 1.3: Summary of sub-samples.

The observed-frame wavelength coverage of the available band-pass limits the redshift range of the quasars which can be used. We consider only quasars at redshifts  $z > 1$  where the relative host galaxy contribution to the SED is negligible. At redshifts  $1 \lesssim z \lesssim 1.5$  the available ugrizYJHKW1W2 photometry provides good coverage of the rest-frame SED up to  $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$ . At  $z \sim 1.5$  the W2 band-pass is shifted to  $\sim 1.8 \mu\text{m}$ ; at higher redshifts W2 is probing much shorter wavelengths than the peak of a  $T \sim 1200 \text{ K}$  blackbody. Because the shape of the blackbody is not well constrained by the available photometry, the uncertainty on the blackbody temperature measurement increases sharply for quasars at redshifts  $z \gtrsim 1.5$ .

For the quasars at  $z \sim 1$ , the WISE W3 band is probing rest-frame wavelengths of  $\sim 5 - 6 \mu\text{m}$ . This region of the SED is dominated by emission from cooler, more distant dust, which is not accounted for in our model. However, at redshifts  $z \gtrsim 2$  the WISE W3 band-pass probes sufficiently short wavelengths to be useful in constraining the shape of the hot blackbody component. Therefore, for quasars at redshifts  $z > 2$  we again have sufficient constraints from the ugrizYJHKW1W2W3 photometry to determine the temperature and normalisation of the blackbody component. There are few objects in our sample with redshifts  $z > 2.7$ , because the SDSS DR7 quasar selection algorithm is highly incomplete at these redshifts. Therefore we set  $z = 2.7$  as the upper limit on the redshift of our sample. Because of these constraints, our sample is divided into two parts: one at low redshifts ( $1 < z < 1.5$ ) and the other at higher redshifts ( $2 < z < 2.7$ ).

We impose a lower-limit signal-to-noise ratio  $S/N > 5$  magnitudes in the K, W1 and W2 band-passes for the low-z sample and  $S/N > 5$  in the W1, W2, and W3 band-passes for the high-z sample to ensure reliable photometry. This gives us 5 910 quasars in our low-z sample and 1 989 quasars in our high-z sample.

We will hold most model parameters fixed, and vary only the blackbody parameters which parametrise the near-infrared emission. Therefore, we need to define a sub-sample of objects

which we know are well fit by our standard SED model in the ultra-violet/optical region. This means excluding objects with extreme emission-line EQWs and/or significant dust extinction. We use the  $i - K$  colours of the quasars as a measure of the overall colour of the quasars as it provides the longest baseline in wavelength without being affected by absorption in the  $\text{Ly}\alpha$  forest at high redshifts. This is shown in Figure 1.8. A significant amount of the scatter in  $i - K$  can be attributed to intrinsic variations in the ultra-violet power-law slopes of the individual quasars, which is why we allow a negative reddening. The SDSS and UKIDSS photometry are separated by 3 – 4 years in the source rest-frame. Therefore, some of the  $i - K$  scatter could be due to temporal variations in the brightness of the targets. However, the red-asymmetry of the  $i - K$  colours about the unreddened SED model suggests that this effect is sub-dominant to intrinsic colour differences. However, there is a clear ‘red tail’ to the colour distribution which can be explained by dust reddening at the redshift of the quasar. We discarded from our sample quasars with  $i - K$  colours redder than our standard model with dust reddening  $E(B - V) = 0.075$  and bluer than  $E(B - V) = -0.075$  (Figure 1.8). Following this cut we are left with 4615 quasars in our low- $z$  sample and 1692 quasars in our high- $z$  sample.

### 1.8.3 Diversity in hot dust properties

In Figure 1.7 we plot the  $W1 - W2$  colours of the sample as a function of redshift at  $z < 3$ . In this redshift range the  $W1$  and  $W2$  band-passes are probing the  $1.2 - 2.8 \mu\text{m}$  and  $1.6 - 3.8 \mu\text{m}$  region of the rest frame SED respectively. For reference, the peak wavelength is at  $2.4 \mu\text{m}$  for a blackbody radiating at 1200 K. At any given redshift we see a  $\sim 0.5$  mag dispersion in the  $W1 - W2$  colours.

On the same axes in Figure 1.7 we have plotted the  $W1 - W2$  colours derived from our SED model with a fixed blackbody temperature (1216 K) and a ratio of near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity ranging from 0.0 to 0.5, with the other model parameters held constant. We conclude that even with the sample restricted to be uniform in its ultra-violet/optical properties, we still get an significant spread in  $W1 - W2$  colours, which we can use to learn about the diversity of near-infrared properties in our sample. In the rest of this Chapter we will characterise the hot dust properties of our sample, and test its relation to

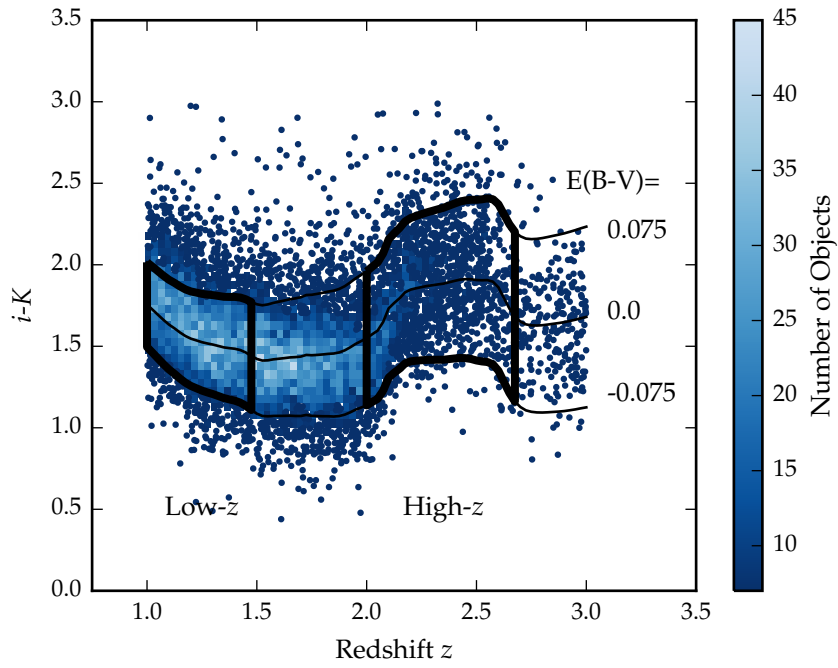


Figure 1.8:  $i - K$  colours of non-BAL DR7Q quasars with  $i > 19.1$  as a function of redshift. The lines show the colours of our model with varying amounts of dust extinction. Quasars with extinction  $|E(B - V)| > 0.075$  are excluded.

quasar properties such as luminosity, black-hole mass and normalised accretion rate, and outflow-properties.

## 1.9 FITTING PROCEDURE

We will fit a model to the individual quasar SEDs, allowing the temperature and normalisation of the black body component to vary. The model spectrum is redshifted to the redshift of the quasar being fit and is then multiplied by the `ugrizYJHMW1W2W3` throughput functions and normalised appropriately to give AB magnitudes. We minimise the chi-squared statistic using the minimisation is done using the 'nelder-mead' algorithm. To avoid significant absorption in the Ly $\alpha$  forest at high- $z$ , we restrict our fitting to wavelengths greater than 2000 Å; when the effective wavelength of a band-pass falls below this limit the band-pass is excluded from the fit. W3 is only used for the quasars at redshifts  $2 < z < 2.7$ .

*2000Å is quite large  
given the Ly-alpha  
forest impacts from  
1216Å.*

## 1.10 RESULTS

*Show some example  
fits? Show  
overlayed  
data/model with  
alpha=0.1? e.g.  
figures/chap-  
teros5/ntt\_proposal\_figure1.pdf*

In Figure 1.9 we see that the two parameters are clearly correlated. For a lower temperature blackbody the near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity ratio is larger. Such a correlation is to be expected: as the blackbody temperature is lowered, the peak shifts to longer-wavelengths (following Wien's displacement law). Because of this degeneracy we need to be very careful to separate out real trends of  $R_{\text{NIR/UV}}$  with other quasar properties from indirect trends resulting from a mutual dependence on  $T_{\text{BB}}$ .

In Figure 1.9 we show that there is significant range of temperature and normalisation present in our sample. However, we need to quantify how much of this is due simply to uncertainties in the fits stemming from uncertainties in the photometry. In order to achieve this we took our standard SED model with a single temperature and normalisation blackbody component, and generated 200 mock SEDs with a brightness distribution similar to that of our real sample. We estimated the mean uncertainty of the magnitudes in the K, W1, and W2 band-passes as a function of apparent brightness. We then sampled the K, W1, and W2 magnitudes from Gaussian distributions, with a mean equal to the magnitude of the model SED, and the width equal to the mean uncertainty at the appropriate brightness. Finally, we fit these mock SEDs using our standard fitting pro-

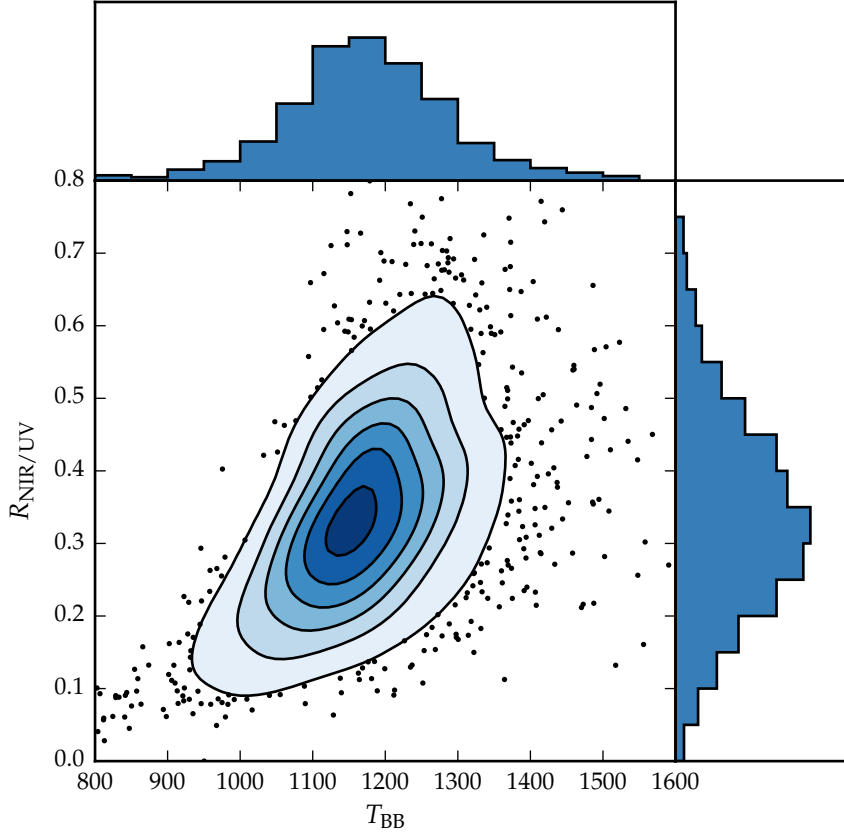


Figure 1.9: Ratio of near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity ( $R_{\text{NIR/UV}}$ ) against temperature ( $T_{\text{BB}}$ ) for low- $z$  sample. The density of points is shown in more dense regions of the space, and individual objects in less dense regions.

cedure. The results are shown by the red points in Figure 1.9. We can see that scatter introduced by the uncertainty in the photometry is significantly less than the intrinsic scatter in the data. This demonstrates that there is a real distribution of hot dust temperatures and luminosities in our sample.

#### 1.10.1 Correlations with quasar properties

We now look for correlations between the properties of the blackbodies we have fitted to the hot dust emission and other properties of the quasar such as redshift, BH mass, normalised accretion rate (Eddington ratio), and outflow diagnostics.

There is a clear anti-correlation between the ultra-violet luminosity and the best-fit blackbody temperature. We calculated a Spearman rank-order correlation coefficient  $-0.33$ . The black-

*Calculate new BH masses and redo this section.*

*Do we believe this trend is real?*

*This is just for low- $z$  sample.*

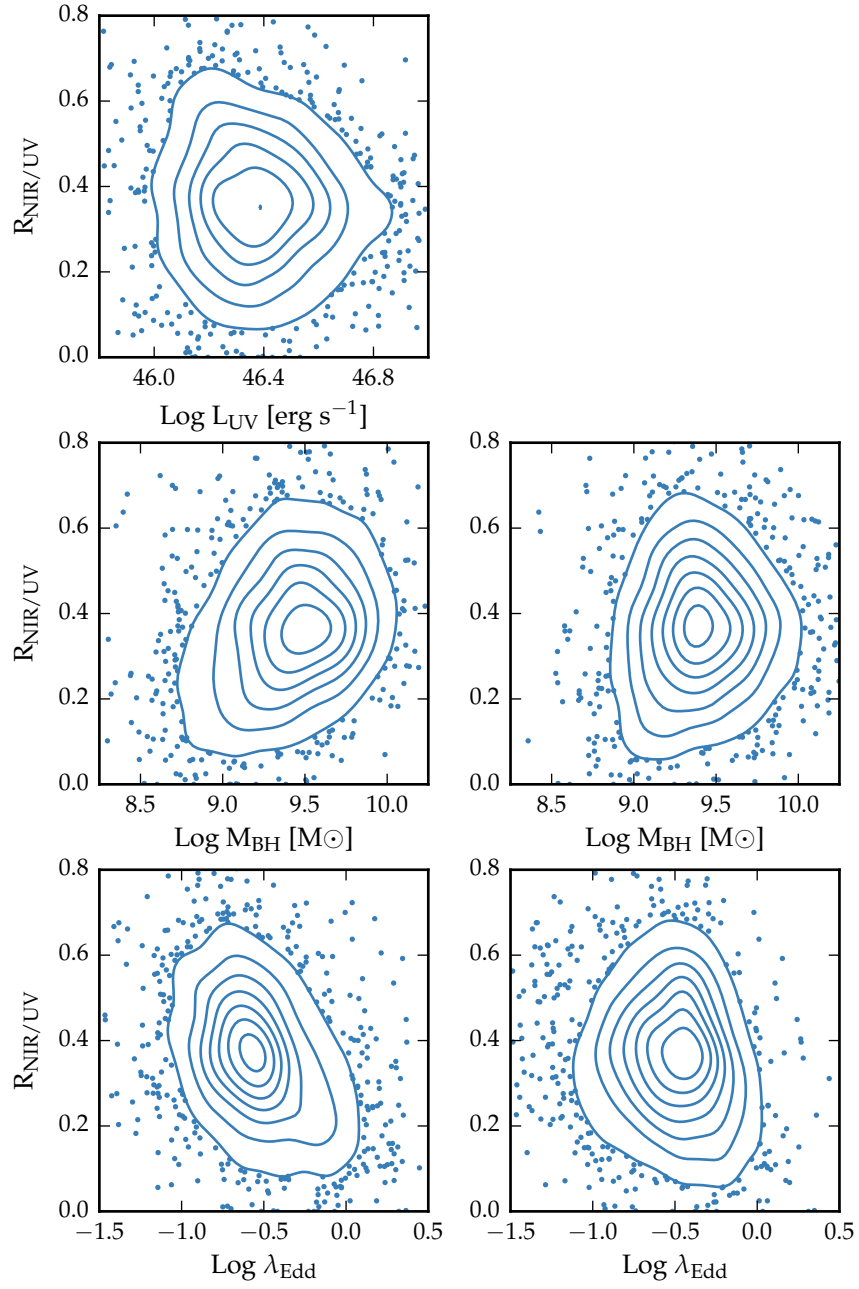


Figure 1.10: Best-fit blackbody temperature against ultra-violet luminosity (left), black-hole mass (centre) and Eddington ratio (right) for  $1 < z < 1.5$  sample (black) and  $2 < z < 2.7$  sample (black).

hole masses are virial estimates calculated by Shen et al. 2011 using the MgII emission-line in the SDSS spectra. The Eddington ratios (bolometric luminosity normalised by Eddington luminosity) are also calculated by Shen et al. 2011 using bolometric corrections in Richards et al. (2006a) using 3000Å monochromatic luminosities. There are no significant correlations between  $T_{\text{BB}}$  and  $R_{\text{NIR/UV}}$  and the ultra-violet luminosity, black-hole mass or Eddington ratio.

The dynamic range in luminosity is very limited. I will combine the low and high  $z$  samples. As first step see if there is a difference in the median  $R_{\text{NIR/UV}}$  for low/high luminosity samples.

At low- $z$  we get a much larger range in blackbody temperatures from our fits. We discussed how the  $W_3 \text{ S/N} > 5$  cut might be biasing the high- $z$  sample if the subset being removed had properties distinct from the remainder of the sample. The  $W_3 \text{ S/N} > 5$  cut removes about 25 per cent of the sample.

We observe a positive correlation between the black-hole mass and the near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity ratio which is quite different from what we observed in our low- $z$  sample. We believe that this is just a manifestation of the fact that at high redshift the black-hole masses are derived from CIV. We will show below how the FWHM of CIV has a positive correlation with the hot dust abundance, and large CIV FWHM leads to larger black hole mass estimates. This explains the apparent correlation between the IR/ultra-violet ratio and the black hole mass. Eddington ratio measures the luminosity relative to the Eddington luminosity. Higher BH mass estimates will lead to lower Eddington ratios, which is why the Eddington ratio appears to decrease with increasing IR/ultra-violet ratio. For the sources in our low- $z$  sample the black-hole mass is measured using the broad MgII emission-line. As we will show below, the properties of the MgII emission-line have no dependence on the hot dust properties.

### *Composite spectra*

Is there a connection between the hot dust properties and EV1? To test this we can divide the quasar sample by hot dust properties, and then generate composite spectra. The EV1 original EV1 correlates - Fe II, H $\beta$ , [O III] - are at around 4000-6000Å. The SDSS spectra are probing shorter wavelengths at redshifts  $z \gtrsim 1$ . Recall that our sample does not include any quasars at

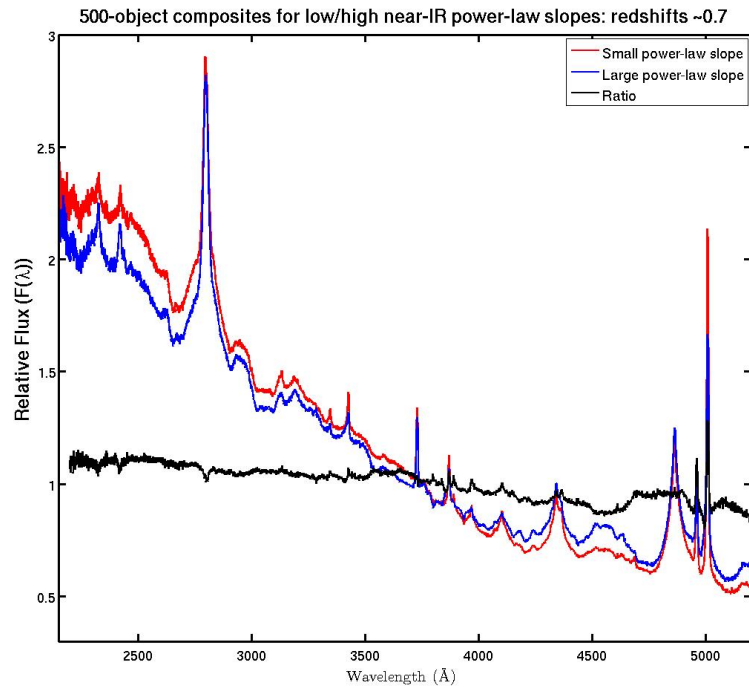


Figure 1.11: Composite SDSS spectra for objects at  $z \sim 0.7$ . We have divided sample into objects with objects best-fit by small (red line) and large (red line) values of  $\beta$ . **Remake if possible.**



redshifts  $z < 1$ , where the host galaxy emission starts to become significant.

The  $z < 0.8$  SDSS spectrum composite comparison for the small and large  $\beta_{\text{NIR}}$  sub-samples (Figure ??) is a very direct illustration of EV1. Hot dust emission increases with Fe II EW. We also note that the amount of hot dust correlates with the Si III/C III] emission ratios. The Si III/C III] ratio is generally considered to be a good indicator of density and is one of the primary EV1 correlates. The relative flux ratio of Si III to C III] increases when C IV is more blue-shifted (Richards et al., 2011). The Mg II emission-line has exactly the same profile/shape for the two samples (apparent changes in Mg II seen in Figure 1.11 are the result of changes in Fe II at wavelengths just short-ward of the line). Finally, we note that objects with more hot dust are slightly redder.

Shen and Ho, (2014) also find that torus emission is enhanced in quasars with larger  $R_{\text{FeII}}$ . They suggest that this may be caused by more efficient disc winds that facilitate the formation of a dusty torus.

### High- $z$

In Figure ?? we show how the ratio of near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity depends on the blueshift and rest-frame EQW of the C IV line. C IV blueshifts are calculated as in Section XX. We see that the near-infrared to ultra-violet luminosity ratio is strongly correlated with the blue-shift of the C IV emission-line. A similar trend was noted by Wang et al., (2013). Interestingly, we note strong similarities to the object subsets selected according to their C IV-emission properties in Richards et al., (2011) (see Figures 11 & 12). We note that the correlation between the hot dust and the C IV emission properties will lead to apparent correlations between the host dust and the BH mass.

## 1.11 DISCUSSION

$R$  isn't necessarily the total mass of hot dust, but more the covering factor of hot dust and the area which is intercepted by our line of sight. Ultra-violet photons from the accretion disc accelerate the wind via radiation line driving. Dust absorption contributes to the outflow acceleration. Wind could be driven by radiation pressure on dust grains. For an AGN radiating at  $0.1L_{\text{edd}}$  radiation pressure is sufficient to unbind dust from

*Need to decide what to do here. If I say host galaxy is significant using the power-law slope won't help. Use blackbody fits instead?*

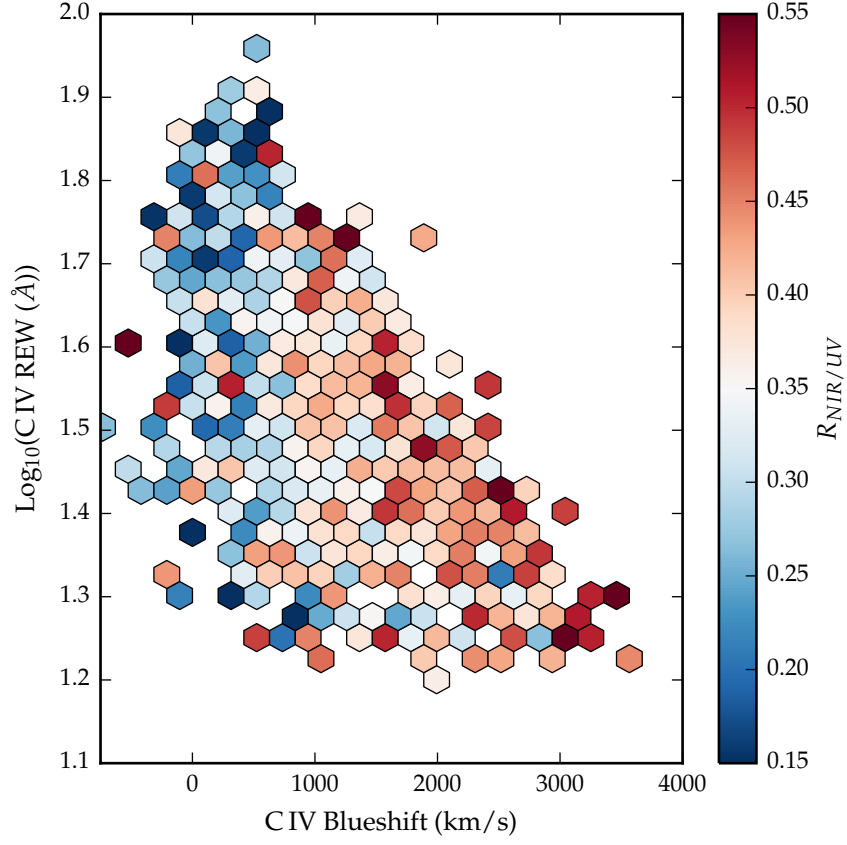


Figure 1.12: Rest-frame EQW and blueshift of the C iv line for XX SDSS DR7 quasars. The colours of the hexagons denote the median hot dust ( $T \simeq 1200$  K) abundance for all quasars at a given EQW and blueshift. Quasars with the most extreme outflow signatures are predominantly hot-dust rich. Only bins containing a minimum of two objects are plotted. Hewett and Wild, (2010) redshifts are adopted to calculate C iv blueshifts.

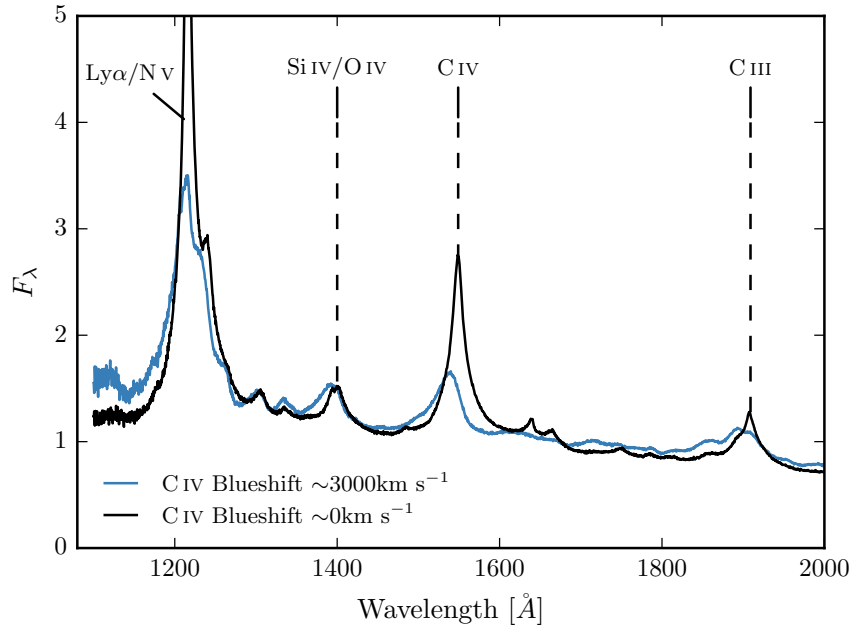


Figure 1.13

the gravitational potential (e.g. Pier & Krolik 1992; Honig & Beckert 2007). It would be efficiently accelerated by the central continuum source because of the high cross-section of dust (e.g. Fabian, 2012). That flattens the geometry of the wind and exposes more surface area that is viewable on a relatively face-on line of sight. The radiation pressure is increased at higher luminosities and/or accretion rates. This can flatten the geometry of the wind, thereby increasing the range of angles for which the inner edge of the dusty wind - where dust is at its sublimation temperature - can be observed. A direct prediction is therefore that in quasars with high accretion rates and strong outflows, the emission from hot dust should be enhanced. (See Kishimoto picture) Also maybe supported by Roseboom - strong anti-correlation between torus covering factor and hot dust. as the covering factor of the torus decreases, the maximum inclination at which a type 1 quasar would be seen increases. An increase in the inclination will mean direct sight lines to more of the inner wall of obscuring material closest to the accretion disc. Roseboom et al., (2013) studied a similar sample of luminous type 1 quasars. They, like us, modelled the near-infrared emission using a blackbody and modelled the emission at longer wavelengths using a clumpy torus

model. They find that while  $L_{1-5\mu\text{m}}/L_{\text{IR}}$  appears relatively insensitive to  $L_{\text{bol}}$  and  $L_{\text{IR}}$ , a strong correlation appears between  $L_{1-5\mu\text{m}}/L_{\text{IR}}$  and  $L_{\text{IR}}/L_{\text{bol}}$  (i.e. the dust covering factor). They explain this correlation by postulating that as the covering factor of the torus decreases, the maximum inclination at which a type 1 quasar would be seen increases. An increase in the inclination will mean direct sight lines to more of the inner wall of obscuring material closest to the accretion disc.

Wang et al., (2013), fitting the near-infrared emission with a single power-law, found that objects with strong outflow signatures (blueshift and asymmetry index (BAI) and full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of CIV) have more hot dust emission relative to the accretion disc emission in a large sample of  $z \sim 2$  non-BAL quasars. Also found by Shen and Ho, (2014). Compared to Wang we have larger sample, better blueshift measurements (try use ICA?) and use blackbody (find power-law poor fit), data from UKIDSS, full sed model

At lower redshifts, Shen and Ho, (2014) have found that the hot dust properties are correlated with EV1. Shen and Ho, (2014) quantify the relative torus emission using the  $r - W1$  colour for a sample of  $0.4 < z < 0.8$  SDSS quasars. At these redshifts W1 is observing between 1.9 and 2.4  $\mu\text{m}$  in the rest-frame of the quasar, which suggests that they are sensitive to the same component of hot dust which we are investigating. Restrict redshift range to limit effect of band shifting due to redshift. Relative high flux in the infrared than in the optical as Eddington ratio increases.