

# Properties of X-ray-selected broad absorption-line quasars<sup>★</sup>

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## ABSTRACT

Broad absorption-line quasars (commonly termed BALQSOs) contain the most dramatic examples of active galactic nucleus (AGN) driven winds. The high absorbing columns in these winds,  $\sim 10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ , ensure that BALQSOs are generally X-ray faint. This high X-ray absorption means that almost all BALQSOs have been discovered through optical surveys, and so what little we know about their X-ray properties is derived from very bright optically selected sources. A small number of X-ray-selected BALQSOs (XBALQSOs) have, however, recently been found in deep X-ray survey fields. In this paper we investigate the X-ray and rest-frame ultraviolet (UV) properties of five XBALQSOs for which we have obtained *XMM-Newton* EPIC X-ray spectra and deep optical imaging and spectroscopy. We find that, although the XBALQSOs have an  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  steeper by  $\sim 0.5$  than normal QSOs, their median  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  is nevertheless flatter by 0.30 than that of a comparable sample of optically selected BALQSOs (OBALQSOs). We rule out the possibility that the higher X-ray to optical flux ratio is due to intrinsic optical extinction. We find that the amount of X-ray and UV absorption due to the wind in XBALQSOs is similar, or perhaps greater than, the corresponding wind absorption in OBALQSOs, so the flatter  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  cannot be a result of weaker wind absorption. We conclude that these XBALQSOs have intrinsically higher X-ray to optical flux ratios than the OBALQSO sample with which we compare them.

**Key words:** quasars: absorption lines – quasars: individual: CXOU J014546.9–043031 – quasars: individual: CXOU J014517.1–042503 – quasars: individual: CXOU J014553.9–043726 – quasars: individual: CXOU J014546.5–042450 – quasars: individual: CXOCDFS J033209.5–274807 – ultraviolet: galaxies

## 1 INTRODUCTION

In seeking to understand any role that active galactic nucleus (AGN) winds might play in the co-evolution of supermassive black holes and their host galaxies, we need to study the physical properties of those winds at  $z \sim 2$  where star formation and black hole growth were at their height. It is probable that the majority of mass and

energy carried in AGN winds is transported by the X-ray absorbing part of the outflow (e.g. Blustin et al. 2007), as the X-ray absorber has the highest column density, at least in nearby AGN, but it is usually difficult to obtain satisfactory X-ray spectra from high-redshift AGN.

The most well-known population of distant AGN showing evidence of ionized winds is the broad absorption-line quasars (BALQSOs;  $z \sim 0.1\text{--}6$ ), whose winds have outflow speeds of up to  $60\,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , with line-of-sight absorbing columns of  $10^{23}\text{--}10^{24} \text{ cm}^{-2}$  (e.g. Krolik 1999) causing the soft X-ray band to be highly absorbed (see e.g. Gallagher et al. 2001, and references therein). The vast majority of X-ray observations of BALQSOs have been follow-ups after their discovery in optical surveys, and most of the *XMM-Newton* and *Chandra* observations of BALQSOs,

<sup>★</sup>Based on data from the following observatories, instruments and archives: *XMM-Newton* (EPIC), Subaru (Suprime-Cam), W. M. Keck Observatory (LRIS), William Herschel Telescope (WYFFOS), Hale Telescope at Palomar (WIRC), 2MASS, NASA/IPAC Infrared Science Archive; acknowledgements in full at the end.

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**Table 1.** Basic properties of the five X-ray-selected BALQSOs: IAU name and abbreviated name for use in this paper; RA; Dec.;  $r$ , offset between the optical and X-ray positions in arcseconds; redshift (see Section 2.2); Galactic extinction using reference pixel in Schlegel et al. (1998); dereddened AB  $B$  and  $K_s$  magnitudes, where the figures for XBQ5 are from the MUSYC survey (Gawiser et al. 2006; Taylor et al., in preparation; see Section 2.2);  $C_X$ , number of background-subtracted X-ray counts in the 0.2–12 keV range.

Name			RA	Dec.	$r$
CXOU J014546.9–043031			01:45:46.88	−04:30:30.50	0.50
CXOU J014517.1–042503			01:45:17.05	−04:25:03.20	0.91
CXOU J014553.9–043726			01:45:53.93	−04:37:26.20	0.74
CXOU J014546.5–042450			01:45:46.54	−04:24:49.50	0.78
CXOCDFS J033209.5–274807			03:32:09.46	−27:48:06.80	0.28 <sup>a</sup>
Name	$z$	$E(B - V)$	$B$	$K_s$	$C_X$
XBQ1	2.63	0.023	$21.8 \pm 0.1$	$21.1 \pm 0.2$	208
XBQ2	1.793	0.023	$21.4 \pm 0.1$	$20.7 \pm 0.2$	154
XBQ3	1.40	0.022	$21.5 \pm 0.1$	$19.6 \pm 0.2$	74
XBQ4	2.64	0.024	$20.1 \pm 0.1$	$19.5 \pm 0.2$	137
XBQ5	2.82	0.009	$21.33 \pm 0.05$	$20.00 \pm 0.06$	1115

<sup>a</sup>Table 2, Giacconi et al. (2002)

with the exception of LBQS 2212–1759 (Clavel, Schartel & Tomas 2006) and APM 08279+5255 (Chartas et al. 2002), have been short snapshots. Our knowledge of the X-ray properties of BALQSOs is therefore based upon a small number of the very brightest optically selected sources; the largest relevant samples to date have been published by Green et al. (2001); Gallagher et al. (2006); Punsly (2006).

Recently a number of X-ray-selected BALQSOs (XBALQSOs) have also come to light (Page et al., in preparation; Barcons et al. 2003). We use the abbreviation XBALQSOs to refer to serendipitously discovered X-ray sources whose BALQSO nature has been revealed by follow-up optical spectroscopic observations. It is unknown whether these represent a distinct section of the BALQSO population. Since the X-ray faintness of BALQSOs is probably due to absorption by the wind, the relative X-ray brightness of XBALQSOs could be due to their winds causing less absorption, through either having lower absorbing columns or higher ionization parameters; XBALQSOs could also conceivably be exceptionally luminous BALQSOs with high dust extinction in the optical. There is also the possibility that their intrinsic continua simply have a higher ratio of X-ray to optical flux.

In this paper, we examine the properties of five XBALQSOs discovered in two deep X-ray survey fields: four objects in the 1<sup>st</sup> survey field and one in the *Chandra Deep Field-South* (CDFS). We begin by comparing the X-ray and optical fluxes, and X-ray to optical spectral indices ( $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ ) of the sources to those of the largest available uniformly analysed sample of OBALQSOs observed to date in the X-ray (Gallagher et al. 2006). We then investigate whether the intrinsic extinction in the XBALQSOs differs from that in the Gallagher et al. (2006) sample and from QSOs from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) (Vanden Berk et al. 2001). In Section 5, we compare the extent of intrinsic ultraviolet (UV) absorption in the XBALQSOs with that in the Trump et al. (2006) sample of OBALQSOs from the SDSS. Next, in Section 6 we obtain estimates of the absorbing columns and ionization parameters of the X-ray absorbing winds of the XBALQSOs, comparing the results with those of similar analyses of OBALQSOs in the literature. We then provide estimates of the mass–energy budgets of the XBALQSOs and their X-ray absorbing winds. Finally, we discuss the nature of these XBALQSOs, and the implications for the population of faint BALQSOs discoverable in deep X-ray surveys.

Names, positions and basic parameters of these sources are given in Table 1. Throughout this paper, the objects are referred to by the abbreviations XBQ1–5 (X-ray-selected BALQSOs 1–5), as identified in Table 1. We use a cosmology with  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ,  $\Omega_M = 0.3$  and  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ , and all uncertainties are  $1\sigma$  unless otherwise stated.

## 2 OBSERVATIONS AND DATA REDUCTION

The 1<sup>st</sup> field is centred at  $01^{\text{h}}45^{\text{m}}27^{\text{s}} - 04^{\circ}34'42''$ ; EPIC data from this field were obtained as part of *XMM–Newton* guaranteed time observations as a ‘blank field’ X-ray survey. A mosaic of four 30-ks *Chandra* data sets was also obtained for the field. These data were primarily used to determine subarcsecond precision positions for the *XMM–Newton* sources, whose astrometry could be tied to that of the *Chandra* sources, and in turn to sources detected in deep optical imaging. Follow-up optical spectroscopic observations of over 100 X-ray sources in the 1<sup>st</sup> field have revealed four BALQSOs; in addition, one BALQSO has been discovered in follow-up spectroscopy of *Chandra* sources in the CDFS (out of 168 objects with spectroscopic identifications; Szokoly et al. 2004). The *XMM–Newton* pointings of the CDFS were centred at  $03^{\text{h}}32^{\text{m}}27^{\text{s}} - 27^{\circ}48'55''$ , and we obtained these data from the XSA.<sup>1</sup>

### 2.1 *XMM–Newton* EPIC spectral extraction

The X-ray data reduction and spectral extraction followed the same process as was used for the 13<sup>th</sup> *XMM–Newton* deep survey field (McHardy et al. 2003; Loaring et al. 2005; Page et al. 2006). The raw event lists were processed using the EMCHAIN and EPCHAIN tasks under SAS V6.0; data affected by high background were removed by filtering out time intervals with count rates above 5 keV of greater than 2.2 and 4 photons  $\text{s}^{-1}$  for MOS and pn, respectively. Although  $\sim 200$  ks of *XMM–Newton* data are available for the 1<sup>st</sup> field, about half of that is affected by high background; for the CDFS, about 75 per cent of the original  $\sim 500$  ks of exposure time is usable. The amount of good time for each observation and EPIC instrument is listed in Table 2. The X-ray source lists were generated using an iterative procedure that models the EPIC background and detects

<sup>1</sup> *XMM–Newton* Science Archive, <http://xmm.esac.esa.int/xsa/>.

**Table 2.** *XMM-Newton* observations of the 1<sup>h</sup> and CDFS fields; the amount of good time is listed for each EPIC instrument.

Field	Observation	Date	MOS1 exposure (ks)	MOS2 exposure (ks)	pn exposure (ks)
1 <sup>h</sup>	0109661101	2002-12-25	47.7	47.8	42.0
1 <sup>h</sup>	0109661201	2002-07-16	47.1	47.5	41.8
1 <sup>h</sup>	0109661401	2002-07-17	3.0	3.3	2.7
1 <sup>h</sup>	Total good time		97.8	98.6	86.6
CDFS	0108060401	2001-07-27	20.2	20.2	13.4
CDFS	0108060501	2001-07-28	39.6	40.7	31.7
CDFS	0108060601	2002-01-13	47.6	47.6	42.0
CDFS	0108060701	2002-01-14	73.5	73.1	67.9
CDFS	0108061801	2002-01-16	54.8	54.8	36.5
CDFS	0108061901	2002-01-17	42.6	42.6	38.9
CDFS	0108062101	2002-01-20	43.2	43.5	40.6
CDFS	0108062301	2002-01-23	74.3	72.8	69.3
CDFS	Total good time		395.8	395.2	340.2

sources; for details, see Loaring et al. (2005). Full details of the *XMM-Newton* data reduction for the CDFS are given by Dwelly & Page (2006).

In extracting MOS spectra, all valid events (PATTERN = 0–12) were selected, whereas for the pn, single and double events (PATTERN = 0–4) were used for channel energies greater than 0.4 keV, and single events only (PATTERN = 0) for energies below this. After the generation of response matrices and effective area files using RMFGEN and ARFGEN, respectively, the spectra from each instrument for each source were combined using the method of Page, Davis & Salvi (2003). The co-added 0.2–12 keV spectra were grouped to have at least 20 counts per bin, except in the case of XBQ3 where we decreased this to 18 counts per bin in order to have sufficient points to fit our absorber model (Section 6).

## 2.2 Optical observations and data reduction

For the four sources in the 1<sup>h</sup> field,  $B$  magnitudes were calculated from Subaru Suprime-Cam (Miyazaki et al. 2002) imaging, and  $K_s$  magnitudes were derived from Palomar 200-arcsec WIRC (Wilson et al. 2003) data. The  $B$ -band data were collected in 2002 October/November, and the  $K_s$  data were taken in 2005 September. We list the optical magnitudes that we obtained for XBQ1–4 in Table 1, alongside magnitudes for XBQ5 obtained from the MUSYC survey (Gawiser et al. 2006; Taylor et al., in preparation).<sup>2</sup> The photometry for XBQ1–4 used 3 arcsec diameter apertures, and the magnitudes were converted from the Vega to the AB systems using the appropriate transformations from Fukugita et al. (1996), with the exception of  $K_s$  where we calculate  $K_s(\text{Vega}) = K_s(\text{AB}) - 1.86$  using the  $K_s$  passband information and detector response given on the Palomar web site.<sup>3</sup> For our (relatively bright) BALQSOs, the errors on the magnitudes are dominated by systematics, primarily uncertainty on zero-points. For XBQ5, to account for calibration uncertainties for this MUSYC field (see e.g. Hildebrandt et al. 2006), the magnitude errors incorporate an additional 0.05 mag error added in quadrature to the nominal photometric uncertainties. The XBALQSO magnitudes were corrected for Galactic reddening using the dust maps of Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998).<sup>4</sup> The magnitudes are not host-subtracted; we assume that the host contribution is negligible,

since the XBALQSOs are all point-like sources, and there is no evidence of host galaxy light in the spectra.

Observations using several different multi-object spectrometers on 4- and 10-m class telescopes have been carried out as part of a programme to classify and obtain redshifts for the counterparts to X-ray and radio sources in the 1<sup>h</sup> field. An optical spectrum of XBQ1 was obtained from WHT-AF2/WYFFOS on 2003 November 25. The observation used the 316R grating, covering the 3600–9000 Å range with a resolution of 8 Å, with a total exposure time of 4900 s. For XBQ2, XBQ3 and XBQ4 the data came from the Keck Low Resolution Imaging Spectrograph (LRIS) operated in Multi-Object Spectroscopy (MOS) mode, with spectra taken on 2003 October 29 and 30, with 7200-s exposure per mask. The ~3500–9500 Å range is covered by the combination of blue and red arms, with a spectral resolution of ~5 Å in the blue arm and ~9 Å in the red arm. Data reduction was performed with IRAF (Tody 1993) using the NOAO TWODSPEC APEXTRACT and the LRIS-specific WMKOLRIS packages. Full details of the Keck–LRIS observations and data reduction are given by Dwelly (2006). We obtained an optical spectrum of XBQ5 from the Szokoly et al. (2004) catalogue of CDFS optical spectra;<sup>5</sup> those data were obtained using VLT–FORS (Appenzeller et al. 1998), with an exposure time of 10 800 s, a spectral coverage of ~3600–9000 Å and a spectral resolution of ~20 Å at 5600 Å. All spectra were normalized according to their measured  $B$  magnitudes (Table 1). We measured the systemic redshifts of XBQ1–5 from their optical spectra, which are shown plotted in the rest frame in Fig. 1, and are listed in Table 1; our redshift for XBQ5 is close to that quoted by Szokoly et al. (2004); the values are 2.82 and 2.81, respectively.

## 3 OBSERVED OPTICAL FLUXES, X-RAY FLUXES AND $\alpha_{\text{OX}}$

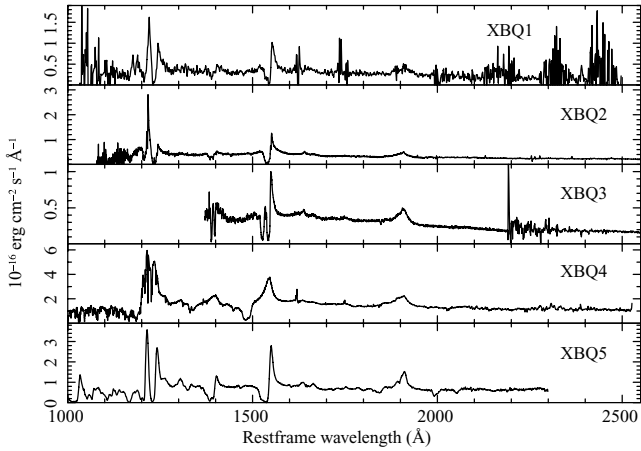
We derived rest-frame 2500-Å flux densities from the optical spectra (from the data where possible, or by extrapolation of a continuum fit where necessary), and corrected them for Galactic reddening as in Section 2.2. In order to generate  $\alpha_{\text{OX}}$  indices which were directly comparable with those listed by Gallagher et al. (2006) for their sample of OBALQSOs, we estimated the rest-frame 2-keV X-ray flux density for our XBALQSOs using a method analogous to theirs. Accordingly, we fitted a Galactic absorbed power law to the

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.astro.yale.edu/MUSYC/>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.astro.caltech.edu/palomar/>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/applications/DUST/>.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.mpe.mpg.de/CDFS/data/62.html>.



**Figure 1.** Plots of the rest-frame UV spectra of the five XBALQSOs, not corrected for Galactic reddening.

observed frame 0.5–8 keV X-ray spectra of each source, using *SPEX* 2.00.11 (Kaastra, Mewe & Nieuwenhuijzen 1996),<sup>6</sup> and used this power law to calculate the unabsorbed 2-keV X-ray flux densities. We then calculated  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  (Tananbaum et al. 1979); the resulting values are listed in Table 3, along with the observed frame unabsorbed 0.5–8 keV X-ray fluxes.

Fig. 2 shows the XBALQSO  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  values compared with those for the Gallagher et al. (2006) sample of OBALQSOs. The Kolmogorov–Smirnov (KS) test probability that  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  for the XBALQSOs and OBALQSOs are drawn from the same population is 0.053, implying marginal consistency. The average  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  of a typical QSO is  $\sim -1.4$  (see e.g. Marconi et al. 2004); the median  $\alpha_{\text{ox, XBALQSO}}$  is  $-1.90$  (standard deviation 0.13), somewhat flatter than the median  $\alpha_{\text{ox, OBALQSO}}$  which is  $-2.20$  (standard deviation 0.21). This difference of 0.3 in  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  between the two samples of BALQSOs implies that, for a given  $F_{\nu}(2500)$ , one gets  $\sim 6$  times more X-ray flux from an average XBALQSO than from an average OBALQSO.

#### 4 INTRINSIC EXTINCTION PROPERTIES IN THE XBALQSOs

We investigated whether or not the XBALQSOs had excess intrinsic extinction by calculating their (dereddened with respect to Galactic extinction)  $B - K_s$  colours and comparing them with those of the Gallagher et al. (2006) sample of OBALQSOs, and more generally of QSOs in the SDSS (Vanden Berk et al. 2001). The XBALQSO  $B$  and  $K_s$  magnitudes (from Table 1) are both in the AB system.

We adopt the UK Schmidt  $B_j$  magnitudes for the OBALQSOs taken from Gallagher et al. (2006) (in turn taken from Hewett, Foltz & Chaffee 1995). The blue cut-offs of the  $B_j$  and Johnson  $B$  bandpasses are similar (Couch & Newell 1980), but the  $B_j$  system extends  $\sim 500$  Å further into the red. We estimate that  $B - B_j < 0.1$  for QSOs in the redshift range of interest ( $\sim 1.3$ – $3.0$ ).  $K_s$  magnitudes for the OBALQSOs were obtained from the Two Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS) point source catalogue (Skrutskie et al. 2006); values were available for 29 out of 36 sources in the sample. These were converted to AB using  $K_s(\text{AB}) = K_s(\text{Vega}) + 1.85$  (Blanton et al. 2005). The magnitudes were dereddened using reference pixel  $E(B - V)$  values from Schlegel et al. (1998).

The  $B - K_s$  colours for the XBALQSOs and OBALQSOs are plotted in Fig. 3. The KS test probability of the XBALQSO colours and Gallagher et al. (2006) OBALQSO colours being drawn from the same distribution is  $p_{\text{KS}} = 0.9$ , implying consistency.

#### 5 DYNAMICS OF THE UV BAL AND PROPERTIES OF THE UV EMISSION LINES

We obtained the line-of-sight velocities and velocity widths of the principal outflow components in each XBALQSO from the optical (rest-frame UV) spectra. We used the *specfit* (Kriess 1994) routine in *IRAF* to fit the spectral region around the  $\text{C IV } \lambda\lambda 1549$  emission line, in each source, with a model incorporating Galactic  $E(B - V)$ , a power-law continuum, a Lorentzian emission line and Gaussian absorption-line components for the absorber; all sources except for XBQ2 have two principal outflowing components. The resulting fitted absorption properties are listed in Table 4, and the fitted models are overplotted on the rest-frame spectra in Fig. 4.

The width of the  $\text{C IV}$  emission line can be used to estimate the black hole mass, and thus the Eddington luminosity. Since the fitted width of  $\text{C IV}$  is likely to be affected by the presence of the absorption features, we also obtained the width of  $\text{C III] } \lambda\lambda 1909$  in each case, and used these, with the result of Brotherton et al. (1994) that, in intermediate-redshift ( $0.9 < z < 2.2$ ) quasars,  $\text{FWHM}_{\text{C III]}} = 1.2 \times \text{FWHM}_{\text{C IV}}$ , to provide a predicted  $\text{C IV}$  full width at half-maximum (FWHM) in each case. The  $\text{C III]}$  fits used the same basic model as the  $\text{C IV}$  fits, minus the intrinsic absorption components and with a locally fitted power-law continuum. Much of the blue wing of each  $\text{C III]}$  line was omitted from the fit in each case, in order to exclude contamination from the  $\text{Si III] } \lambda\lambda 1892$  and  $\text{Al III } \lambda\lambda 1857$  emission lines.

The fitted and predicted FWHMs, alongside the spectral ranges used for the emission- and absorption-line fits, are listed in Table 5. The differences between them are probably partly due to the uncertainty introduced by the presence of absorption features; although the fits should take account of the extent of absorption in fitting the emission lines, the contribution of each to the spectral shape becomes more ambiguous as the absorption encroaches further towards the emission-line centroid. Intrinsic scatter around the Brotherton et al. (1994) relation is likely to be another reason, and probably also the fact that three of our XBALQSOs are outside the redshift range for which the relation was derived.

##### 5.1 How does the amount of intrinsic UV absorption compare with that in the OBALQSO population?

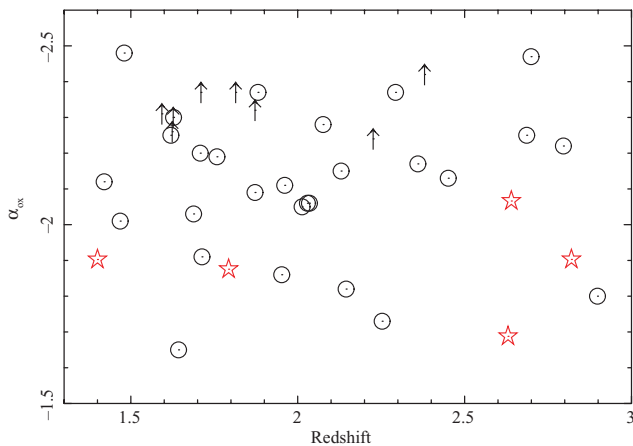
In order to compare the extent of rest-frame UV absorption in the five XBALQSOs with that in the population of OBALQSOs, we calculated the balnicity index (BI; Weymann et al. 1991) and absorption index (AI; Trump et al. 2006) for each object. The BI and AI are measures of the equivalent width of the BAL absorption; the BI is defined to include features at blueshifts between 3000 and 25 000  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ , and only that part of a trough beyond 2000  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  in width; the more recently defined AI measure includes all absorption features wider than 1000  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  and between 0 and 29 000  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  blueshift.

For each object, we used the model fits described in Section 5 to represent the local continua for the purposes of measuring the BI and AI. We estimated the uncertainties on BI and AI according to equations (5) and (7) in Trump et al. (2006), respectively. In practice, uncertainties introduced by the continuum

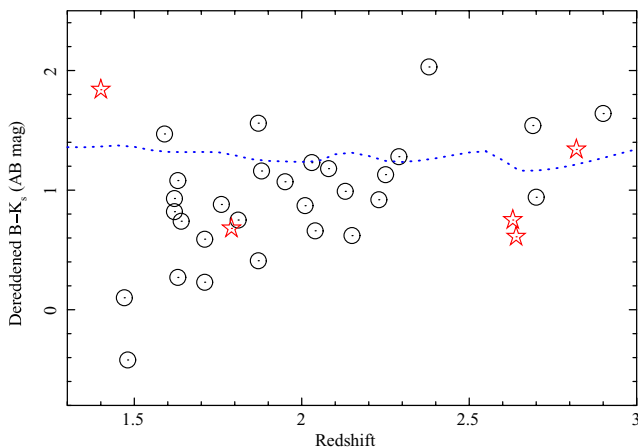
<sup>6</sup> <http://www.sron.nl/divisions/hea/spex/>.

**Table 3.** Observed X-ray fluxes, X-ray and UV flux densities and  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  for the XBALQSOs, derived from the simple X-ray power-law fit and UV spectral measurements described in Section 3: name;  $N_{\text{H,Gal}}$ , Galactic equivalent hydrogen column (using `nh_FTOOL` with the LAB Survey of Galactic H I map; Kalberla et al. 2005) in  $10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ ;  $\Gamma_{0.5-8 \text{ keV}}$ , spectral index of power law fitted to observed frame 0.5–8 keV;  $\log F_{\text{X}}(0.5-8 \text{ keV})$ , 0.5–8 keV flux of Galactic absorbed power-law fit in  $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ ;  $\log F_{\nu}(2500 \text{ \AA})$ , energy flux density at 2500 Å in  $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$ ;  $\log F_{\nu}(2 \text{ keV})$ , energy flux density at 2 keV in  $\text{erg cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1} \text{ Hz}^{-1}$ ;  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ .

Name	$N_{\text{H,Gal}}$	$\Gamma_{0.5-8 \text{ keV}}$	$\log F_{\text{X}}(0.5-8 \text{ keV})$	$\log F_{\nu}(2500 \text{ \AA})$	$\log F_{\nu}(2 \text{ keV})$	$\alpha_{\text{ox}}$
XBQ1	2.28	$1.5 \pm 0.2$	$-14.43^{+0.06}_{-0.08}$	-28.5	$-32.9 \pm 0.1$	-1.69
XBQ2	2.38	$0.8 \pm 0.4$	$-14.3^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	-28.3	$-33.2 \pm 0.2$	-1.88
XBQ3	2.18	$0.5^{+0.4}_{-0.5}$	$-14.4^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	-28.4	$-33.4^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$	-1.90
XBQ4	2.45	$1.4 \pm 0.4$	$-14.5 \pm 0.1$	-27.6	$-33.0 \pm 0.2$	-2.07
XBQ5	0.698	$1.18 \pm 0.06$	$-14.18 \pm 0.03$	-27.9	$-32.9 \pm 0.04$	-1.90



**Figure 2.** A comparison of  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  of the XBALQSOs (red stars) with the Gallagher et al. (2006) sample of OBALQSOs (black circles; black arrows are upper limits), plotted versus redshift.



**Figure 3.** A comparison of the dereddened (with respect to Galactic extinction)  $B - K_s$  colours of our XBALQSOs (red stars) with those of the Gallagher et al. (2006) sample of OBALQSOs (black circles) with available  $K_s$  magnitudes, plotted versus redshift. The median  $B - K_s$  colour of SDSS QSOs is overplotted (blue dotted line; Vanden Berk et al. 2001).

placement are likely to be greater sources of error than the statistical uncertainties.

There are difficulties with both the BI and AI as defining criteria for the BALQSO population (e.g. Knigge et al. 2008), but for our

purposes, the BIs and AIs listed by Trump et al. (2006) provide a useful comparison with a very large consistently defined sample.

The resulting values for BI and AI of each source are listed in Table 4, and in Fig. 5 they are overplotted on the BI–AI distribution of 4843 C IV BALS in the SDSS catalogue (from Trump et al. 2006).<sup>7</sup> Our sources all fall within the BI–AI distribution of the optically selected BALQSO population. Using a 2D Kolmogorov–Smirnov (KS) test (Fasano & Franceschini 1987), the probability that the XBALQSOs and the whole set of 4843 SDSS BALQSOs are drawn from the same population is  $p_{2\text{DKS}} = 0.009$ ; comparing the XBALQSOs with SDSS objects with BI > 0, we obtain  $p_{2\text{DKS}} = 0.3$ . The XBALQSOs are thus statistically consistent, in terms of balnicity at least, with the subset of BALQSOs from Trump et al. (2006) that would be classed as ‘classical’ BALQSOs.

## 6 THE PROPERTIES OF THE X-RAY ABSORBING WIND

Due to the small numbers of X-ray counts in our XBALQSOs, it is of course possible to obtain good  $\chi^2_{\text{red}}$  with simple power-law fits to the data. Our focus, though, is on constraining the properties of the ionized wind, rather than comparing the goodness of fit of different possible models. We believe that this approach is justifiable for the following reasons: from the UV spectra (and indeed by definition as BALQSOs), we know that the XBALQSOs have outflowing, ionized winds with high optical depths; in the case of nearby AGN, the UV-absorbing winds are always accompanied by X-ray absorption (Crenshaw et al. 1999), and this is likely to be the case in BALQSOs as well (e.g. Gallagher et al. 2006); our photoionized absorber models essentially already cover the possibility of neutral absorption, in the limit of very low ionization. Given this information, presenting separate fits of simpler models would seem redundant.

If we are therefore going to fit ionized wind models, we will need to make certain assumptions due to the low signal-to-noise ratio of the data. We cannot use X-ray absorption features to measure the dynamical properties of the wind, or to study the wind’s ionization structure in as much detail as is possible for nearby AGN (see e.g. Netzer et al. 2003). Our procedure for modelling the wind X-ray absorption, and the assumptions that we make, are as follows.

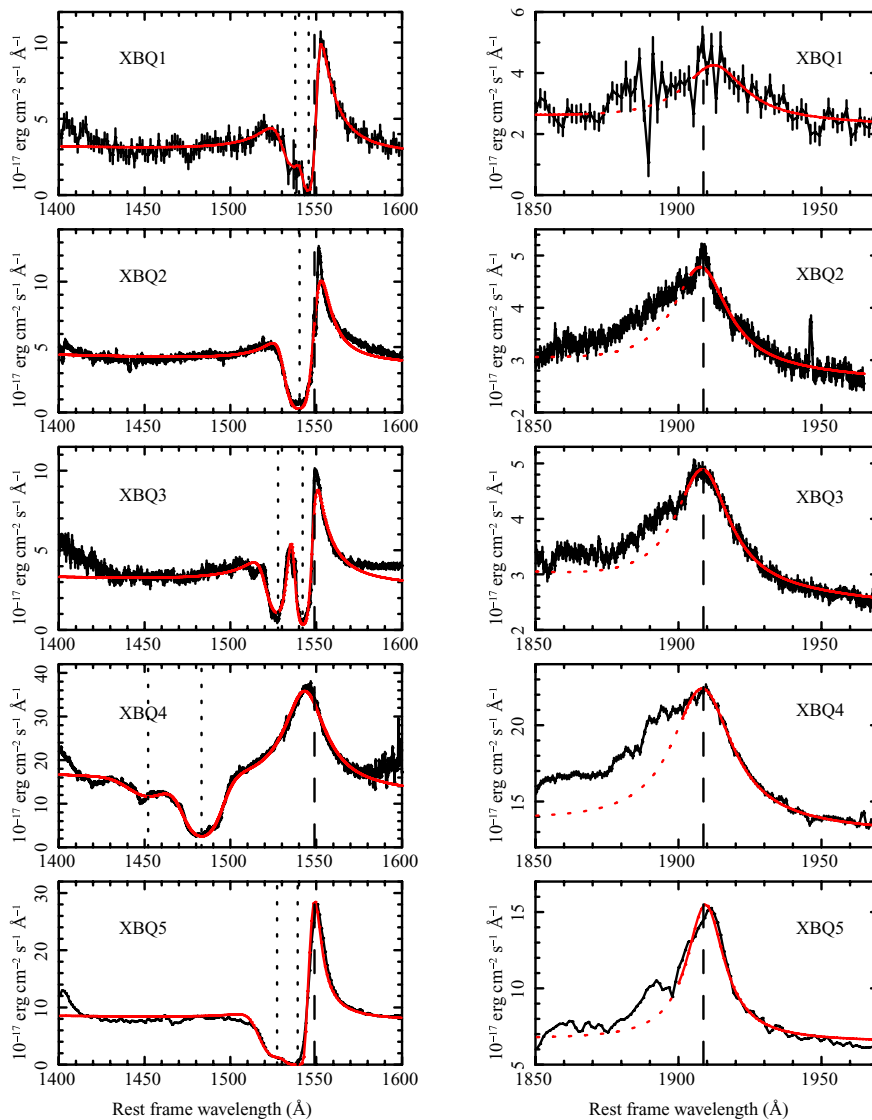
(i) We assume that the X-ray absorber has the same velocity structure as the UV absorber (as measured in Section 5), by analogy with nearby AGN where the dynamics of the UV-absorbing gas are often similar to the situation in the X-ray absorber (see e.g. Kraemer

<sup>7</sup> The J/ApJS/165/1/Table 4 catalogue in Vizier: <http://vizier.u-strasbg.fr/viz-bin/VizieR>.

**Table 4.** Intrinsic UV absorption feature properties, where the fitted features are approximated as single broadened Gaussians: source name; number identifying absorption phase;  $\lambda_{\text{meas}}$ , observed frame wavelength in Å; rest-frame FWHM in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ;  $\tau$ , optical depth of line;  $v_{\text{shift}}$ , velocity shift of line in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ; BI, balnicity index (Weymann et al. 1991) in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ; AI, absorption index (Trump et al. 2006) in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$  (see Section 5.1 for details of the calculation of the BI and AI and their uncertainties).

Name	Absorption phase	$\lambda_{\text{meas}}$	FWHM	$\tau$	$v_{\text{shift}}$	BI	AI
XBQ1	1	$5610.4 \pm 0.9$	$1140 \pm 100$	$3.3 \pm 0.4$	$-670 \pm 50$	$366 \pm 78$	$3305 \pm 132$
	2	$5582 \pm 3$	$2610 \pm 190$	$1.6 \pm 0.2$	$-2170 \pm 150$		
XBQ2	1	$4302.1 \pm 0.2$	$2430 \pm 30$	$3.9 \pm 0.1$	$-1680 \pm 20$	$701 \pm 8$	$3483 \pm 9$
XBQ3	1	$3666.8 \pm 0.4$	$2390 \pm 80$	$1.97 \pm 0.05$	$-4100 \pm 30$	$2143 \pm 18$	$4799 \pm 17$
	2	$3701.1 \pm 0.2$	$1460 \pm 30$	$4.1 \pm 0.1$	$-1330 \pm 20$		
XBQ4	1	$5398.8 \pm 0.5$	$3790 \pm 60$	$1.86 \pm 0.04$	$-12\,740 \pm 30$	$3631 \pm 11$	$5144 \pm 11$
	2	$5286 \pm 2$	$5210 \pm 370$	$0.31 \pm 0.01$	$-18\,750 \pm 100$		
XBQ5	1	$5880 \pm 1$	$1940 \pm 130$	$7.5 \pm 0.6$	$-1900 \pm 70$	$3011^a$	$6223$
	2	$5834 \pm 8$	$3220 \pm 700$	$2.2 \pm 0.2$	$-4220 \pm 390$		

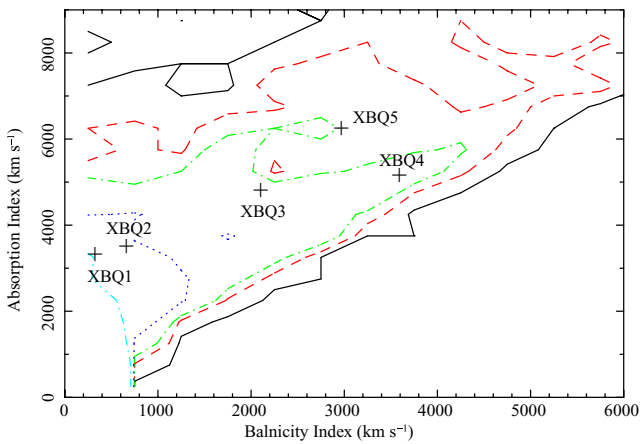
<sup>a</sup>Uncertainties on BI or AI cannot be calculated for this source as the archival optical spectral points (Szokoly et al. 2004) were not supplied with error bars.



**Figure 4.** Plots of the C IV  $\lambda\lambda 1549$  (left-hand panels) and the C III  $\lambda\lambda 1909$  (right-hand panels) line regions of the five XBALQSOs, in the source rest frames, with fitted models superimposed (red). The vertical dashed lines indicate the lab wavelengths for C IV  $\lambda\lambda 1549$  and C III  $\lambda\lambda 1909$ , respectively, and the vertical dotted lines indicate the fitted centroids of the absorption features. The dotted sections of the models in the right-hand panels denote regions excluded from the emission-line fit in order to avoid contamination from the Si III  $\lambda\lambda 1892$  and Al III  $\lambda\lambda 1857$  emission lines.

**Table 5.** Spectral regions for the UV spectral fits, and FWHMs of the UV emission lines, rounded to the nearest  $10 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ : object name; fit ranges for C IV, observed frame spectral ranges for the C IV  $\lambda\lambda 1549$  region fit; fit ranges for C III], observed frame spectral ranges for the C III]  $\lambda\lambda 1909$  region fit;  $\text{FWHM}_{\text{C III]}}$ , fitted FWHM of C III]  $\lambda\lambda 1909$  in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ;  $\text{FWHM}_{\text{C IV, meas}}$ , fitted FWHM of C IV  $\lambda\lambda 1549$  in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ;  $\text{FWHM}_{\text{C IV, pred}}$ , FWHM of C IV  $\lambda\lambda 1549$ , in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ , predicted according to the finding of Brotherton et al. (1994) that  $\text{FWHM}_{\text{C III]} = 1.2 \times \text{FWHM}_{\text{C IV}}$ .

Name	Fit ranges for C IV	Fit ranges for C III]	$\text{FWHM}_{\text{C III]}}$	$\text{FWHM}_{\text{C IV, meas}}$	$\text{FWHM}_{\text{C IV, pred}}$
XBQ1	5185–5783, 7386–7662, 8068–8241	6407–6774, 6910–7172	4060	3870	3380
XBQ2	4024–4157, 4180–4367, 4932–5098	4952–5158, 5319–5466	3640	2600	3040
XBQ3	3438–3775, 5067–5236	4278–4367, 4564–4885	3590	2930	2990
XBQ4	4740–4758, 5132–5698, 5855–5905	6505–6626, 6918–9143	4050	5750	3380
XBQ5	4784–4822, 5456–5529, 5636–5971, 8065–8700	6577–6830, 7256–7563, 7973–8628	2500	730	2090



**Figure 5.** 2D histogram, in  $500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  width bins, of BI versus AI for 4843 C IV BALs in the SDSS catalogue (Trump et al. 2006), with the positions of the five X-ray-selected BALQSOs in our sample marked. The contours are 1 (black; solid line), 5 (red; dashed line), 10 (green; dot-dashed line), 25 (dark blue; dotted line) and 100 (light blue; triple-dot-dashed line) sources per BI–AI bin. The plotted ranges in BI and AI encompass  $\sim 98$  per cent of the Trump et al. (2006) sample.

et al. 2002; Gabel et al. 2003; Kraemer et al. 2003; Blustin et al. 2007).

(ii) We calculate photoionized absorber models using *XSTAR* (Kallman & McCray 1982), assuming canonical spectral energy distributions (SEDs; in this case those of Marconi et al. 2004; Section 6.1).

(iii) We fit the photoionized absorber models to the X-ray spectra using *SPEX* 2.00.11 (Kaastra et al. 1996), assuming that the X-ray outflow phases have the same line-of-sight velocities and velocity widths as the UV BAL components, and using the canonical SEDs as renormalizable continuum models (Section 6.2).

(iv) Since we have no independent information about the range of column densities and ionization parameters in the X-ray absorbing wind, we also assume in the fitting that all dynamical phases in a given source have the same column density and ionization parameter. This is probably the weakest assumption that we make, since, at least in nearby AGN, there are usually two or more ionization regimes in the wind (e.g. Blustin et al. 2005; Holczer, Behar & Kaspi 2007). Fitting a single ionization phase model is likely to give an absorber with an intermediate ionization parameter and column;

the accuracy and implications of this assumption are issues that we intend to address in future work. For the purposes of this analysis, the single zone model gives us a convenient comparison with the models fitted to OBALQSOs in the literature.

The stages of the analysis are described in full detail in the following sections.

## 6.1 Modelling the ionizing continuum

The intrinsic SEDs of the five sources were modelled on the canonical AGN SED described by Marconi et al. (2004). The UV/optical range was represented with a series of power-law segments; between  $1 \mu\text{m}$  and  $1250 \text{ \AA}$  the power-law index  $\alpha$  was  $-0.44$  (where  $F_\nu \propto \nu^\alpha$ ), and between  $1250$  and  $500 \text{ \AA}$  the index was  $-1.76$ . Longward of  $1 \mu\text{m}$  the spectrum has an index of 2, to represent the Rayleigh–Jeans tail. The normalization of the UV/optical range was provided by the dereddened (rest-frame)  $2500\text{-\AA}$  flux densities from the optical spectra.

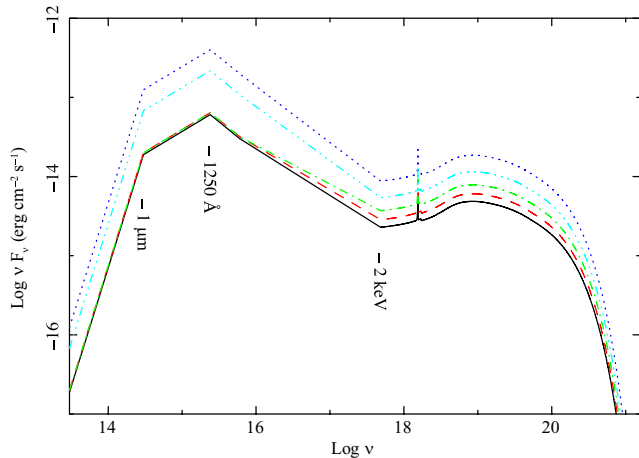
The X-ray SED between  $2 \text{ keV}$  and  $100 \text{ MeV}$  was created from a *SPEX* 2.00.11 continuum model. This consisted of a  $\Gamma = 1.9$  power-law plus a reflection component, generated with the *SPEX* refl model, from neutral material at an inclination of  $\cos i = 0.5$  and a reflection fraction of 1. The continuum is cut off exponentially at  $500 \text{ keV}$ .

The UV/optical and X-ray SEDs were joined by a power law between  $500 \text{ \AA}$  and  $2 \text{ keV}$ . The normalization of the X-ray band relative to the optical was set using an intrinsic  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  index; this was estimated from the dereddened  $2500\text{-\AA}$  (rest-frame) luminosity  $L_\nu(2500 \text{ \AA})$  according to the expression given by Vignali, Brandt & Schneider (2003):

$$\alpha_{\text{ox}} = -0.11 \log L_\nu(2500 \text{ \AA}) + 1.85. \quad (1)$$

Given that the X-ray to optical ratios of these sources are higher than expected, it is worth asking whether we could use our observed  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  indices to determine the relative normalization of the X-ray and optical parts of the SED. This is unfortunately not feasible, since the presence of X-ray absorption in the low signal-to-noise ratio spectra prevents us from unambiguously determining the intrinsic level of the X-ray continuum.

The model SEDs are plotted in Fig. 6. They were used as the incident continuum models in version 2.1 kn 7 *XSTAR* (Kallman & McCray 1982) calculations of the ionization balance in the photoionized absorber, and the results of these model runs were collated into separate *SPEX* xabs model for each source. The SEDs were also



**Figure 6.** The model SEDs of the five sources: XBQ1 (black – solid line), XBQ2 (red – dashed line), XBQ3 (green – dot-dashed line), XBQ4 (dark blue – dotted line) and XBQ5 (light blue – triple-dot-dashed line).

used to create SPEX file table models for the source continua, to be used in fitting the X-ray spectra.

## 6.2 Fitting the wind absorption

The X-ray spectral fitting was performed using SPEX 2.00.11. We fitted the combined EPIC X-ray spectrum of each source with models consisting of a renormalizable SED continuum (Section 6.1) at the appropriate cosmological redshift, Galactic neutral absorption and one ionized absorber phase for each of the BAL dynamical components apparent in the UV spectra. The outflow velocities and turbulent velocities of the absorber phases were fixed to the UV-derived values (Table 4); the ‘turbulent velocity’ required by the SPEX xabs model is the rms velocity width, namely the measured FWHM of an absorption trough divided by 2.35. Where multiple UV absorbing components were present in a given source, they were each assumed to have equal absorbing columns  $N_{\text{H}}$ . The ionization parameters of all velocity components in a given source were also constrained to be the same.

There were thus three free non-tied parameters in each fit: continuum normalization, ionization parameter ( $\xi$ ), and absorbing column ( $N_{\text{H}}$ ). Although the X-ray continuum normalization is in principle determined by the 2500-Å luminosity, the X-ray and optical observations were not contemporaneous, and the sources are likely to be variable. The predicted 2-keV X-ray flux density is therefore only used in the construction of the SED, and the observed X-ray continuum normalization was allowed to vary in the fitting.

The resulting fits are shown in Fig. 7, alongside confidence contour plots for the free  $N_{\text{H}}$  and  $\xi$  parameters. The best-fitting values are listed in Table 6.

Interestingly, the fitted X-ray continuum normalizations are systematically higher than those predicted from the rest-frame UV flux; the ratios of fitted to predicted normalizations are listed in Table 6. This corresponds with the finding in Section 3 that the median  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  of the XBALQSOs is flatter than that of the OBALQSOs. To see whether the use of an X-ray richer SED would affect our results concerning the absorber properties, we generated a new SED for XBQ5 (for which we can obtain the best absorber constraints), multiplying the relative X-ray normalization by the  $N_{\text{ratio}}$  value for this source in Table 6. We used this SED to generate a SPEX continuum model and an XSTAR ionized absorber model, and refitted the spectrum. We

obtained almost identical values for  $N_{\text{H}}$  and  $\xi$  (well within 1 per cent of the original results), and so our assumption of a normal SED for the X-ray fitting should make no difference to our conclusions about the XBALQSO absorber properties.

## 7 THE MASS-ENERGY BUDGETS OF THE XBALQSOs AND THEIR X-RAY ABSORBING WINDS

We used equation (4) from Warner, Hamann & Dietrich (2003) to calculate the black hole mass for each XBALQSO, with the predicted C IV FWHMs (Table 5; see Section 5) and (dereddened) 1450-Å luminosities obtained from our spectra; the errors are calculated according to the estimate of Warner et al. (2003) that there is a  $1\sigma$  uncertainty on these masses of a factor of 3. We then used the black hole masses to calculate the Eddington luminosity (see e.g. Krolik 1999). We estimated the bolometric luminosity from the monochromatic rest-frame 2500-Å luminosity using the appropriate bolometric correction from Richards et al. (2006). These values are listed in Table 7, along with the ratio  $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ , and the mass accretion rate which was estimated from  $L_{\text{bol}}$  with an assumed accretion efficiency of 0.1. In estimating the error on  $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ , we assume that the uncertainty on  $L_{\text{bol}}$  is far less than that on  $L_{\text{Edd}}$ ; the error on  $L_{\text{Edd}}$  is derived from the errors on the black hole masses. If the X-ray-to-optical flux ratio of the XBALQSOs is  $\sim 6$  times higher than expected (see Section 3), then the bolometric correction we are using may underestimate  $L_{\text{bol}}$  for these objects. For the Marconi et al. (2004) SED, at a source luminosity of  $10^{46}$  erg s $^{-1}$ , the 2–10 keV X-ray band contains about 1.6 per cent of the bolometric luminosity; combining this with our figure for the flux ratio implies that  $L_{\text{bol}}$  could be  $\sim 10$  per cent higher than predicted with the standard bolometric correction.

It is interesting to estimate the mass outflow rates and kinetic luminosities of the winds, and to compare them with, respectively, the mass accretion rates and bolometric luminosities. For a radiatively driven wind, it is possible to estimate these from the luminosity that is absorbed or scattered. Whether AGN winds are in fact radiatively driven has been the subject of much debate (e.g. Crenshaw et al. 2000; Krolik & Kriss 2001; Chelouche & Netzer 2005), but the winds must certainly be gaining some proportion of their momentum from the radiation which ionizes them.

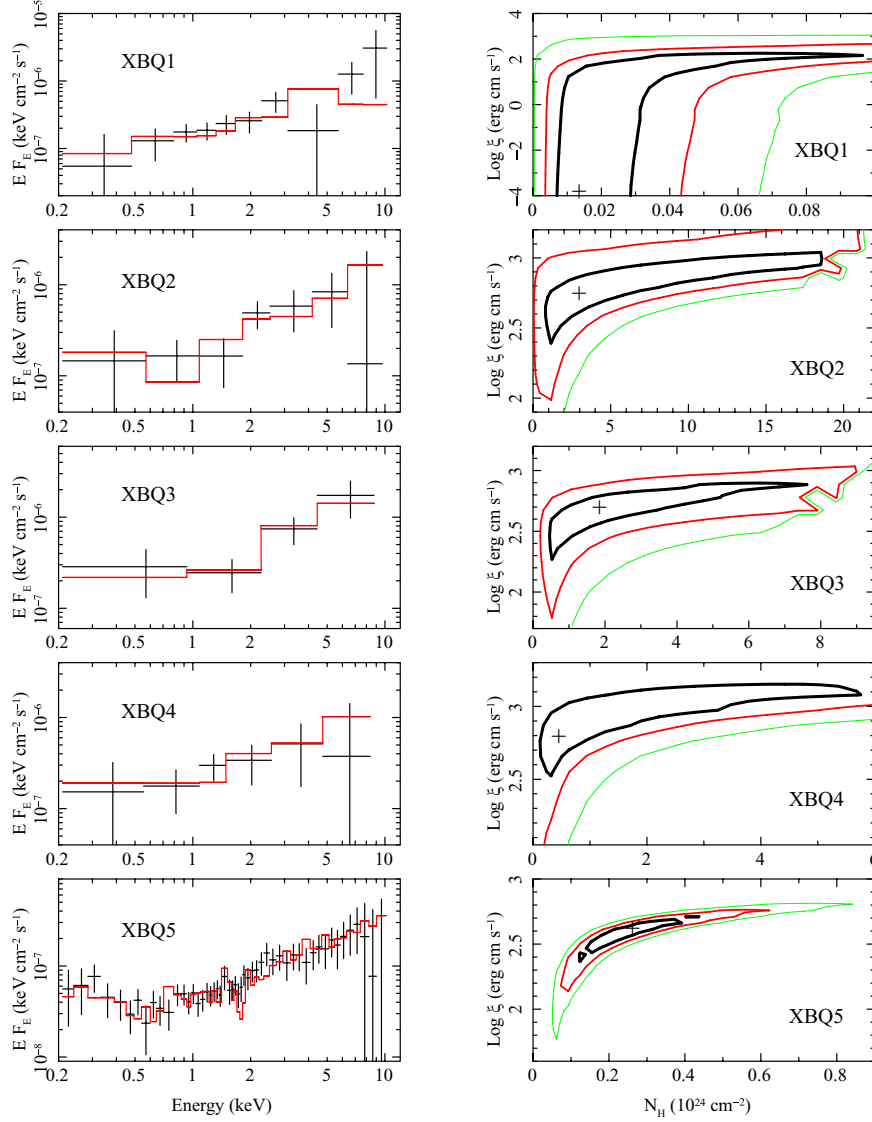
In the optically thin limit, a photon will generally only undergo at most one absorption or scattering event; the momentum of the wind will therefore be of the order of the momentum that it absorbs and scatters:

$$\dot{M}v = \frac{L_{\text{abs}} + L_{\text{scatt}}}{c}, \quad (2)$$

where  $\dot{M}$  is the mass outflow rate of the wind,  $v$  is the outflow speed,  $(L_{\text{abs}} + L_{\text{scatt}})$  is the luminosity absorbed or scattered and  $c$  is the speed of light. The quantity  $(L_{\text{abs}} + L_{\text{scatt}})$  can be obtained straightforwardly from ionized absorber models (absorption modelled by SPEX xabs components includes both photoelectric absorption and scattering with the Thompson and Klein–Nishina cross-sections), and so this allows a convenient estimation of  $\dot{M}$  without the need to make assumptions about, for example, the distance of the wind from the ionizing source. We have used this method in the past to calculate the mass outflow rate in nearby Seyferts, for whose absorbing columns ( $10^{21}$ – $10^{22}$  cm $^{-2}$ ) the optically thin approximation is reasonable (e.g. Blustin et al. 2005).

In BALQSOs, however, the much higher column absorbers are optically thick along our line of sight, and so photons encountering





**Figure 7.** Left-hand column: the EPIC combined X-ray spectra of the five XBALQSOs (observed frame) with the best-fitting absorber models superimposed where appropriate. Right-hand column: confidence contour plots of the free  $N_{\text{H}}$  parameter versus  $\log \xi$ ; contours are 68.3 per cent (black), 95.4 per cent (red) and 99.7 per cent (green) confidence.

**Table 6.** Absorption model fits to the X-ray spectra where the outflow speeds and turbulent velocities are held fixed at UV-derived values in each case: source name;  $v_{\text{shift 1}}$ , velocity shift of dynamical phase 1 in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ;  $v_{\text{turb 1}}$ , rms velocity width of dynamical phase 1 in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ;  $v_{\text{shift 2}}$  and  $v_{\text{turb 2}}$  are the analogous quantities for dynamical phase 2;  $N_{\text{ratio}}$ , ratio of the fitted 1-keV continuum normalization to that predicted from the 2500-Å flux density using the Vignali et al. (2003) relation;  $\log L_{\text{X}}$ , log unabsorbed 2–10 keV (observed frame) X-ray luminosity in  $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ ;  $\log \xi$ , log ionization parameter in  $\text{erg cm s}^{-1}$ ;  $\log N_{\text{H}}$ , log total equivalent hydrogen column density of absorber in  $\text{cm}^{-2}$  (i.e. twice the fitted column to a single velocity phase, where there are two phases);  $\chi_{\text{red}}^2$ , reduced  $\chi^2$  of the fits with degrees of freedom in brackets.

Name	$v_{\text{shift 1}}$	$v_{\text{turb 1}}$	$v_{\text{shift 2}}$	$v_{\text{turb 2}}$	$N_{\text{ratio}}$	$\log L_{\text{X}}$	$\log \xi$	$\log N_{\text{H}}$	$\chi_{\text{red}}^2$ (d.o.f.)
XBQ1	−670	480	−2170	1110	$6 \pm 1$	$44.08 \pm 0.08$	$-4^{+6a}_{-0}$	$22.5 \pm 0.2$	1.53 (7)
XBQ2	−1680	1030	–	–	$185^{+4 \times 10^7}_{-178}$	$45^{+5}_{-1}$	$2.8^{+0.2}_{-0.3}$	$24.5^{+0.3}_{-0.8}$	0.73 (4)
XBQ3	−4100	1020	−1330	620	$360^{+3 \times 10^4}_{-330}$	$45^{+2}_{-1}$	$2.7^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	$24.6^{+0.4}_{-0.5}$	0.47 (1)
XBQ4	−12 740	1610	−18 750	2220	$4^{+210}_{-3}$	$44.5^{+1.7}_{-0.5}$	$2.8^{+0.2}_{-0.6}$	$24.0^{+0.4}_{-1.6}$	0.61 (3)
XBQ5	−1900	830	−4220	1370	$8 \pm 2$	$44.6 \pm 0.1$	$2.62^{+0.06}_{-0.14}$	$23.7^{+0.1}_{-0.2}$	0.87 (48)

<sup>a</sup>This is the low-ionization limit of the photoionized absorber model.

**Table 7.** The mass–energy budgets of the XBALQSOS: object; redshift;  $\log M_{\text{BH}}$ , log black hole mass in solar masses;  $\dot{M}_{\text{acc}}$ , accretion rate in solar masses per year;  $\dot{M}$ , total wind mass outflow rate in solar masses per year; the ratio  $\dot{M}/\dot{M}_{\text{acc}}$ ;  $\log L_{\text{bol}}$ , log bolometric luminosity in  $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ ;  $\log L_{\text{KE}}$ , total kinetic luminosity of wind in  $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ ; the ratio  $\log L_{\text{KE}}/L_{\text{bol}}$ ; the ratio  $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$  where  $L_{\text{Edd}}$  is the Eddington luminosity.

Name	Redshift	$\log M_{\text{BH}}$	$\dot{M}_{\text{acc}}$	$\dot{M}$	$\dot{M}/\dot{M}_{\text{acc}}$	$\log L_{\text{bol}}$	$\log L_{\text{KE}}$	$\log L_{\text{KE}}/L_{\text{bol}}$	$L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$
XBQ1	2.63	$8.2 \pm 0.5$	7.4	0.4–300	0.05–40	46.6	41–44	−5–3	$2_{-1}^{+4}$
XBQ2	1.793	$7.9 \pm 0.5$	3.2	8–3000	3–900	46.3	43–45	−3–0.8	$1_{-1}^{+3}$
XBQ3	1.40	$7.7 \pm 0.5$	1.1	20–7000	20–6000	45.8	44–46	−2–0.05	$0.9_{-0.6}^{+2}$
XBQ4	2.64	$8.7 \pm 0.5$	49	0.2–7	0.004–0.1	47.4	43–45	−4–3	$4_{-2}^{+7}$
XBQ5	2.82	$8.1 \pm 0.5$	33	1–330	0.04–10	47.3	43–45	−5–2	$10_{-7}^{+20}$

gas particles in the wind will scatter multiple times, giving up a far higher fraction of their kinetic energy than would be estimated via our momentum-transfer argument. In the limit of infinite optical depth, the wind’s kinetic energy will be entirely derived from the radiative energy absorbed and scattered in it, i.e.

$$\frac{1}{2} \dot{M} v^2 = (L_{\text{abs}} + L_{\text{scatt}}). \quad (3)$$

We use equations (2) and (3) to estimate, respectively, lower and upper limits to the mass outflow rates for the XBALQSOS. The resulting values for  $\dot{M}$  can then be used to bracket the wind kinetic luminosity  $L_{\text{KE}}$ :

$$L_{\text{KE}} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{M} v^2. \quad (4)$$

We list the derived values in Table 7, along with the ratios  $L_{\text{KE}}/L_{\text{bol}}$  and  $\dot{M}/\dot{M}_{\text{acc}}$ .

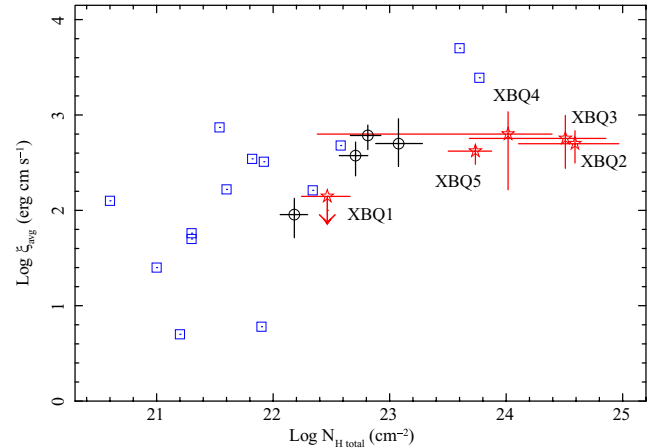
## 8 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Our goal in this paper was to investigate the X-ray and optical properties of a group of X-ray-selected BALQSOS discovered in deep X-ray survey fields, and in particular to see whether they had been discoverable in such surveys due to having unusual spectral properties.

As we showed in Section 3, the XBALQSOS have, on average, slightly higher X-ray to optical flux ratios than the largest available comparable sample of OBALQSOS (Gallagher et al. 2006). This is probably not a result of intrinsic source variability. It is equally possible that all five sources would happen to be especially X-ray faint as X-ray bright when we observed them, and if variability was a major factor, we would expect to see a mixture of high and low  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  values among the XBALQSOS.

We can also immediately discard the possibility that the flatter  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  is due to the XBALQSOS being intrinsically very luminous BALQSOS which happen to have high rest-frame optical extinction; as we showed in Section 4, their  $B - K_s$  colours as a function of redshift are entirely consistent with the OBALQSO population. Given the very low space density of luminous QSOs on the sky, it is also highly unlikely that we should have found four such objects serendipitously in a single 30 arcmin diameter field.

If XBALQSOS are brighter than expected in the X-rays due to having less intrinsic X-ray absorption than optically selected sources, the ionized X-ray absorbing winds should have lower  $N_{\text{H}}$  and/or higher  $\xi$  than those in comparable OBALQSOS. In Fig. 8 we compare total absorbing column and (weighted average, where necessary) ionization parameter with these quantities in OBALQSOS from the literature, as well as from a sample of lower



**Figure 8.** A comparison of total  $\log N_{\text{H}}$  (the sum of  $N_{\text{H}}$  for the individual phases) and column-weighted average  $\log \xi$  for the X-ray-selected BALQSOS in our sample (red stars) with four optically selected BALQSOS from the literature (black circles; see Section 8) and a sample of low-redshift ‘warm absorber’ Seyferts and QSOs (blue squares; Blustin et al. 2005).

redshift Seyfert galaxies and QSOs with ionized soft X-ray absorbers which we have studied previously (Blustin et al. 2005). The OBALQSOS were PG1115+080 (Chartas et al. 2007), Q1246–057, SBS 1542+541 (Grupe, Mathur & Elvis 2003) and PG2112+059 (Gallagher et al. 2004). We find that, on the contrary, these XBALQSOS have similar or even perhaps greater intrinsic absorption than the OBALQSOS. Testing whether that is a general feature of XBALQSOS would require a larger sample of sources.

The amount of absorption from the UV-absorbing part of the wind, as measured by the BI, is consistent with the distribution of BI for OBALQSOS in the SDSS, although there is again some indication that they are towards the more highly absorbed end of the distribution.

The mass–energy transport of the winds, which we estimated in Section 7, ranges quite widely. For XBQ5, which has the best constrained values, mass outflow rate via the X-ray absorbing part of the wind is  $\sim 0.04$ –10 times the mass accretion rate on to its black hole, and the kinetic luminosity of the wind is  $\sim 0.002$ –0.3 per cent of the bolometric luminosity. A complete picture of the mass–energy budget of the wind would require consideration of the mass–energy output via the UV-absorbing part of the wind, which is beyond the scope of this paper, and taking account of the full ionization range of the wind, which would require far better data.

Regarding the nature of XBALQSOS, we are left with the conclusion that, although they are fundamentally similar to the wider

population of OBALQSOs, they may belong to a part of the BALQSO population with an intrinsically higher X-ray to optical flux ratio. This is actually what we would expect for AGN as UV-faint as our XBALQSOs, since, according to the Vignali et al. (2003) relation, for example, AGN with lower rest-frame 2500-Å luminosities should have flatter  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  indices. The implication of this is that, as hard X-ray surveys get deeper, there should be a lot of faint XBALQSO-type AGN waiting to be discovered. It is interesting to ask whether the XBALQSO  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  values do in fact exactly follow the Vignali et al. (2003) relation; our XBALQSOs do not span sufficient luminosity space for us to attempt an answer to that question. Investigating this point will require many more sources over a range of luminosities, with sufficient X-ray counts for a reliable estimation of the unabsorbed X-ray flux to be made.

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