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Authors	Panda, S.; MARZIANI, Paola; Czerny, B.
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Main trends of the quasar main sequence - effect of viewing angle

S. Panda^{1,2}, P. Marziani³ and B. Czerny¹

¹ *Center for Theoretical Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences Al. Lotników 32/46, Warsaw, Poland, (E-mail: panda@cft.edu.pl)*

² *Nicolaus Copernicus Astronomical Center, Polish Academy of Sciences ul. Bartycka 00-716, Warsaw, Poland*

³ *INAF-Astronomical Observatory of Padova, Vicolo dell'Osservatorio 5, 35122 Padova PD, Italy*

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Abstract. We address the effect of viewing angle of the accretion disk plane and the geometry of the broad line region (BLR) with the goal of interpreting the distribution of quasars along the main sequence (MS). We utilize photoionization code CLOUDY to model the BLR FeII emission, incorporating the grossly underestimated role of the form factor (f). We recover the dependence of the strength of the FeII emission in the optical (R_{FeII}) on $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ ratio and related observational trends - as a function of the spectral energy distribution (SED) shape, cloud density, composition and intra-cloud dynamics, assumed following prior observational constraints. With this approach, we are now able to explain the diversity of quasars and the change of the quasar properties along the Main Sequence (MS). Our approach also explains the rarity of the highest FeII emitters known as the extreme xA sources and can be used as a predictive tool in future reverberation mapping studies of Type-1 AGNs. This approach further justifies the use of quasars as ‘cosmological probes’.

Key words: Physical data and processes – Accretion, accretion disks – Line: formation – Radiative transfer – Turbulence – Galaxies: active – quasars: emission lines

1. Introduction

From a theoretical scenario, a quasar spectrum can be modelled using 4 basic ingredients: (a) black hole mass; (b) mass accretion rate; (c) viewing angle; and (d) black hole spin (see Campitiello et al. (2018) for a recent review). Boroson & Green (1992) incorporated the principal component analysis (PCA) to study the systematic trends between the numerous observed parameters of quasars. A long-standing issue in quasar astronomy has been the connection between observational and physical parameters (D’Onofrio et al., 2012). The eigenvector 1 of the original PCA paved way for the quasar main sequence picture as we know it today (Sulentic et al., 2000; Shen & Ho, 2014). The main sequence (MS) connects the velocity profile of ‘broad’ H β with the strength of the FeII emission

(R_{FeII}), i.e., the intensity of the FeII blend within 4434-4684 Å normalized with the ‘broad’ H β intensity.

FeII is a complex ion that comprises of numerous multiplets and transitions. These transitions are produced via a number of line excitation processes (e.g. photoionisation, continuum fluorescence, collisional excitation, self-fluorescence within FeII fluorescent excitation by Ly α and Ly β lines). The local physical conditions shape the spectrum and to make a deduction of these physical conditions, e.g., density, temperature, and iron abundance of the emitting regions, we require a complete simulation incorporating the various physical mechanisms that affect the FeII spectrum (Verner et al., 1999). In the new version of CLOUDY (Ferland et al., 2013, 2017), the FeII emission is modelled with 371 levels up to 11.6 eV, including 68,535 transitions based on the FeII model of Verner et al. (1999), which is a big improvement from the previous versions. The number of transitions is so large that the blended lines of FeII take the form of a pseudo-continuum, in which only few features can be unambiguously resolved. The modelled FeII pseudo-continuum shows quite good agreement with many observational FeII templates in the optical (Boroson & Green 1992; Véron-Cetty & Véron 2003; Kovačević et al. 2010).

In our previous works (Panda et al., 2017, 2018, 2019a) we were successful in modelling almost the entire MS diagram constructed for over 20,000 SDSS quasars. In the past studies, we had incorporated only two of the aforementioned physical parameters of the super massive black hole i.e., black hole mass and accretion rate. The modelling was affected also by the cloud density, metallicity and microturbulence.

In Panda et al. (2019b), we have shown that taking into account the viewing angle along with systematic trends in $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$, local cloud density, cloud chemical composition and the shape of the ionizing continua which are known from prior observations, we can (a) explain the quasar main sequence starting from the low- R_{FeII} high FWHM sources (Population B, FWHM H β > 4000 km s $^{-1}$) to the high- R_{FeII} low FWHM sources (Population A, FWHM H β \leq 4000 km s $^{-1}$); and (b) explain why the highly accreting sources are also high-FeII emitters. These sources are of special importance in view of their potential use as Eddington standard candles i.e., sources for which the $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ and not the luminosity can be assumed to scatter around a well-defined value (Wang et al., 2013; Marziani & Sulentic, 2014).

In the current work, we present the model which incorporates the viewing angle effects in a much more careful way. Instead of discreet values of the density and metallicity, fixed for each AGN spectral type along the main sequence, we now allow for a range of densities and metallicities in each bin. We also analyze the effect of the SED, microturbulence and the black hole mass. The method allows to obtain more generic constraints for a viewing angle for each spectral type class. However, the method is now much more computational time consuming so at present we show the full results only for one representative spectral bin A1. In Section 2, we describe the derivation of the form factor and

how it is incorporated in our modelling. In Section 3, we describe the outcomes from these photoionisation simulations performed with *CLOUDY* in terms of (a) viewing angle, (b) shape of the SEDs, (c) micro-turbulence, and (d) increasing black hole mass. We show the relevance of this model to be used as a predictive tool to estimate the BLR sizes. In Section 4, we summarize the results and provide a road-map for the future work.

2. Method and Analysis

We perform the theoretical modelling of the quasar properties assuming, as in Panda et al. (2017, 2018), that the central black hole is surrounded by an accretion disk which provides the optical/UV continuum, and a hot corona, which is the source of the X-ray radiation. This continuum illuminates the BLR clouds located at a distance given by the BLR size. Photoionization modeling allow us to calculate BLR line intensities, and the BLR radius is reflected in the kinematic line width under the assumption of the Keplerian motion.

However, there are several new elements in the current study. First, we now allow for the dependence of the AGN appearance on the viewing angle, instead of using universal (average) viewing angle for all objects as in Panda et al. (2018, 2019a). Second, we approximate the trends noticed before between the model parameters and the source location in the $R_{\text{FeII}} - \text{FWHM}(\text{H}\beta)$ plane, and we model separately the spectral bins of the quasar MS plane assuming the representative values appropriate for each bin. Below we describe step by step our new approach to quasar MS modelling.

2.1. Effect of viewing angle on the main sequence

The virial relation is used to estimate the inner radius (r_{BLR}) of the broad, ionized cloud (Woltjer, 1959):

$$r_{BLR} \propto \frac{GM_{BH}}{\sigma_{line}^2} \quad (1)$$

where, G is the Gravitational constant, M_{BH} is the mass of the black hole, and, σ_{line}^2 is the square of the velocity dispersion of the emission line that is considered. This velocity dispersion can be replaced with the line's full-width at half maximum (FWHM) which is the radial velocity projection of the the "true" Keplerian velocity (v_k). Replacing the proportionality sign with a constant, we can write

$$r_{BLR} = \left(\frac{1}{f}\right) \frac{GM_{BH}}{FWHM^2} \quad (2)$$

The line FWHM can be expressed as:

$$FWHM^2 = 4(v_{iso}^2 + v_k^2 \sin^2 \theta) \quad (3)$$

where v_{iso} is the isotropic velocity component and θ is the viewing angle (Collin et al., 2006). The viewing angle is defined as the angle between the axis perpendicular to the disc and the line of sight to the observer. The full range of the viewing angles considered for the modelling is 0-60 degrees. This range is chosen to select only those sources that are un-obscured in accordance with unification schemes (Antonucci (1993); Urry & Padovani (1995), see Padovani et al. (2017) for a recent review). The FWHM is related to the v_k by

$$v_k^2 = fFWHM^2 \quad (4)$$

This proportionality constant has been a factor of debate (see Yu et al. 2019 for a recent review and references therein). Known as form factor (or structure factor or virial factor), f depends on the structure, kinematics, and inclination of the BLR (Collin et al., 2006). Combining Equations 3 and 4, we get

$$f = \frac{1}{4} \left[\frac{1}{\kappa^2 + \sin^2 \theta} \right] \quad (5)$$

where, κ is the ratio between v_{iso} and v_K , which decides how isotropic the gas distribution is around the central potential. If the value is close to zero, it represents a flat disk with thickness almost zero. On the other hand, if the value of κ is close to unity, it represents an almost spherical distribution of the gas.

2.2. Photoionisation modelling of the main sequence

We use the latest version of the publicly available photoionisation code *CLOUDY* (Ferland et al., 2017) to solve the radiative transfer under local thermodynamic equilibrium (LTE), satisfying ionization balance under a plane-parallel approximation. We assume a single cloud model where the density (n_{H}) of the ionized gas cloud is varied from 10^9 cm^{-3} to 10^{13} cm^{-3} with a step-size of 0.25 (in log-scale). We utilize the *GASS10* model (Grevesse et al., 2010) to recover the solar-like abundances and vary the metallicity within the gas cloud, going from a sub-solar type ($0.1 Z_{\odot}$) to super-solar ($100 Z_{\odot}$) with a step-size of 0.25 (in log-scale). The size of the BLR is estimated from the virial relation, assuming a black hole mass, a distribution in the viewing angle [0-90 degrees] and FWHM as described in Section 3.2. The total luminosity of the ionizing continuum is derived assuming a value of the $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{Edd}}$ and the respective value for the black hole mass. We utilize different SEDs to highlight the differences in the shape of the ionizing continuum that is found to be relevant for the recovered values of the intensities of the line emissions (see Panda et al. (2019b) for more details).

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Interpretation of the quasar main sequence

As an initial test, we assume a fixed black hole mass ($M_{\text{BH}} = 10^8 M_{\odot}$). Two Populations are identified in Figure 1 – the quasar main sequence diagram: Pop-

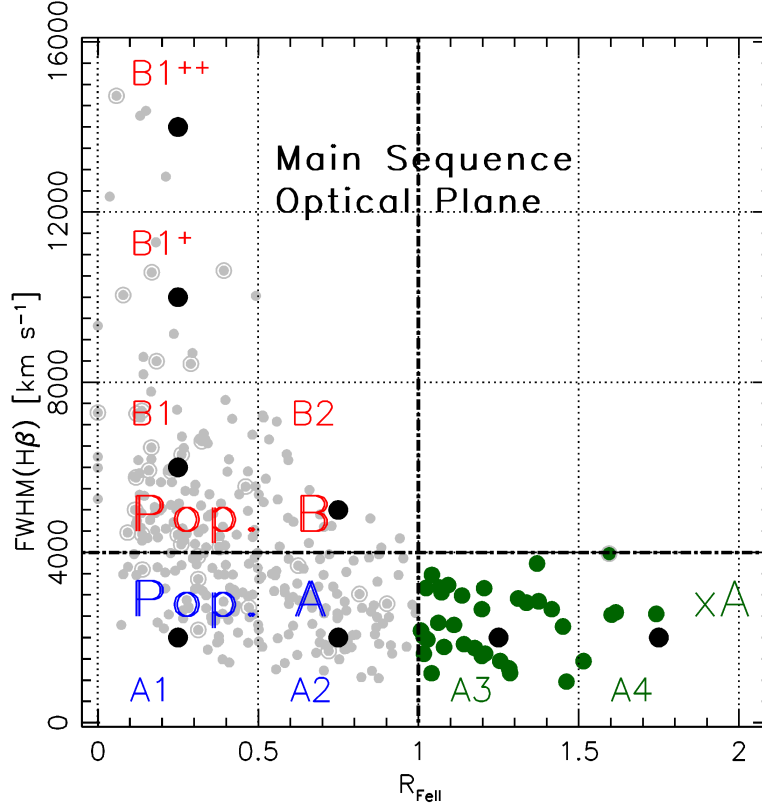


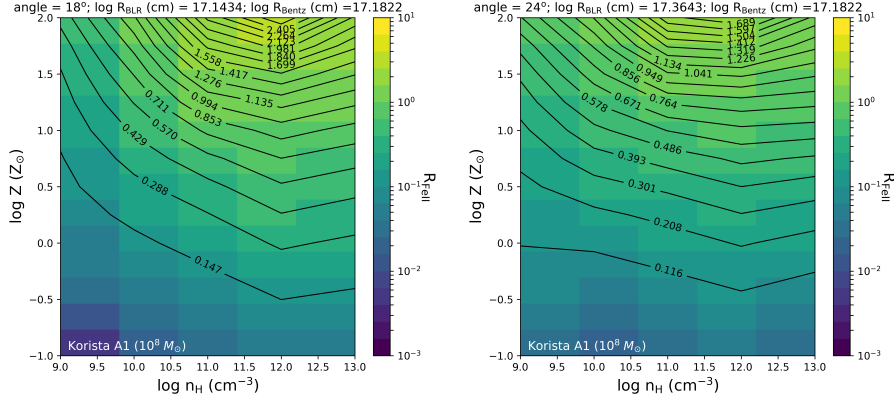
Figure 1. The diagram shows the optical plane of the Eigenvector 1 MS, $\text{FWHM}(\text{H}\beta)$ vs. R_{FeII} . Circled symbols identify radio-loud sources. The thick horizontal dot-dashed line separates populations A and B. The plane has been further subdivided in spectral bins as defined by Sulentic et al. (2002). The vertical dot-dashed line marks the limit for extreme Population A (xA) sources with $R_{\text{FeII}} \gtrsim 1$, whose data-points are in dark-green colors. The large black dots mark the average values in each spectral type which are incorporated in the modelling. The diagram is adapted from Fig. 2 of Marziani et al. (2018).

ulation A with $\text{FWHM H}\beta \leq 4000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, and Population B of sources with $\text{H}\beta$ broader than 4000 km s^{-1} (for a rational justification about the distinction between the two populations and a description of the main systematic differences, see Marziani et al. 2018, 2019b). We consider the mean FWHM values in each spectral type depicted in Figure 1 to see the effect of changing the FWHM across the main sequence plane i.e., going from the lowest FWHM to the extreme Population B sources that have the highest values of $\text{FWHM} \gtrsim 10000 \text{ km/s}$. Hence, as a first test, we take the mean values in each spectral bin. For the Population A spectral types, we use $\text{FWHM} = 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; for Population B spectral type B1, $\text{FWHM} = 6000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ and for B1⁺ $\text{FWHM} = 10000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$. We also investigate the B2 spectral type and use $\text{FWHM} = 5000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ in this case. This is justified as the source count in this spectral bin (B2) is quite low ($\sim 3\%$) and spans out the lower triangular region. The rationale to separate two quasars populations stems from the spectral differences recognizable by eye: Pop. A sources usually show low [OIII] emission, the strongest FeII emission; Pop. B sources give the impression of a much higher degree of ionization, with weak FeII, prominent [OIII] and CIV λ 1549 emission. By considering trends in metallicity, density, and Eddington ratio derived from earlier work, we were able to account for the R_{FeII} values (even for the highest ones!) in the spectral bins of the MS, and gain constraint on the viewing angle assuming an appropriate value of the BLR radius. These results are presented and discussed in Panda et al. (2019b). For the purpose of this paper, we will only concentrate on a representative case i.e., spectral type A1.

3.2. Constraints on the viewing angle

The use of angle-dependent form factor (see Eq. 2 and 5) is a crucial extension of the quasar MS modelling done by Panda et al. (2017, 2018, 2019a). Viewing angle directly affects the line width, and the object luminosity, and indirectly the estimated distance to the BLR and the location of an object on the quasar MS diagram. Inverting this dependence, we can obtain interesting constraints on the viewing angle of a source if its the location on the quasar MS diagram and the BLR size are known.

In Figure 2, we show two consecutive snapshots from one of the simulation results ($\theta = 18^\circ$ and $\theta = 24^\circ$). The plots show the distribution of R_{FeII} as a function of gas density (n_{H}) and cloud composition (in terms of the metallicity, Z). The colorbar represents the values of R_{FeII} which are also reported in the form of overlaid contours of the 2D distribution of Z and n_{H} as a function of R_{FeII} . The case shown is for a black hole mass, $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^8 M_{\odot}$ and for a bolometric luminosity, $L_{\text{bol}} = 0.2L_{\text{Edd}}$. To obtain the monochromatic luminosity at 5100\AA , we utilize the mass and the Eddington ratio and compute the bolometric luminosity. Using the normalization coefficient as a function of mass and accretion rate, we estimate the monochromatic luminosity at 5100\AA (see Equation 5 in Panda et al. (2018) for details).



and consider the full parameter range with respect to density, metallicity and Eddington ratio.

From Figure 1, we can obtain the range of the R_{FeII} for the spectral type A1 – [0,0.5]. Taking this upper limit and comparing it with the panels in Figure 2, we see that contrary to our previous assumption – the local cloud density is an almost constant entity within each spectral type, the density actually shows a broad distribution. In the considered grid on local densities i.e., from 10^9 cm^{-3} to 10^{13} cm^{-3} , the corresponding value of the R_{FeII} ([0,0.5]) can be recovered. But we find that there exists a coupling between density and metallicity that was not studied in the previous works, that is, relatively higher densities require slightly super-solar metallicities ($\sim 3-5Z_{\odot}$), while for the lower density cases the metallicity can be as high as $\sim 100Z_{\odot}$. This suggests that the BLR cloud can indeed exist at densities higher than those predicted from radiation-pressure confinement estimates, i.e. $\sim 10^{11} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ (Baskin et al., 2014). With an increase in the viewing angle under the same parameterization, we see that there is a requirement of higher metallicities, especially for the higher densities ($> 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) which goes up by a factor ~ 2 .

We have made an extensive set of simulations with a broad range of parameters and we will discuss this in detail in a forthcoming paper (Panda et al. in prep).

3.3. Comparison of the spectral energy distributions

Motivated by the fact that there is a broad distribution of quasars in the main sequence and that no singular ionizing continuum shape can effectively explain all the quasars, we have used 4 different spectral energy distributions that are appropriate for explaining the sources based on their spectral types. In Panda et al. (2019b), each spectral type in the MS diagram, namely in Population A (A1, A2, A3, A4 and A1*) and in Population B (B1, B1+ and B2) is modelled with a specific SED shape. In this paper, our approach is different and we incorporate the four SEDs for spectral type A1 to understand the effect of the shape of the ionizing continuum which affects the recovery of the R_{FeII} . These SEDs are adopted from Mathews & Ferland (1987), Korista et al. (1997), Laor et al. (1997) and Marziani & Sulentic (2014). Figure 1 in Panda et al. (2019b) shows the differences in these SED shapes, especially in the 1 - 25 Rydberg energy range which corresponds to the the optical-UV bump feature in a characteristic quasar SED i.e. the Big Blue Bump (Czerny & Elvis, 1987; Richards et al., 2006).

Figure 3 compares the effect on R_{FeII} due to the four different SEDs used in the modelling. It shows four 2D shaded contour plots which map the R_{FeII} values as a function of cloud density and metallicity for a black hole mass $10^8 M_{\odot}$. The colorbar depicts the values of R_{FeII} . This is shown for a representative case at a viewing angle (18 degrees) that corresponds to a radius of the BLR which is in close agreement to the radius estimation from the standard $r_{\text{BLR}}-L_{5100}$

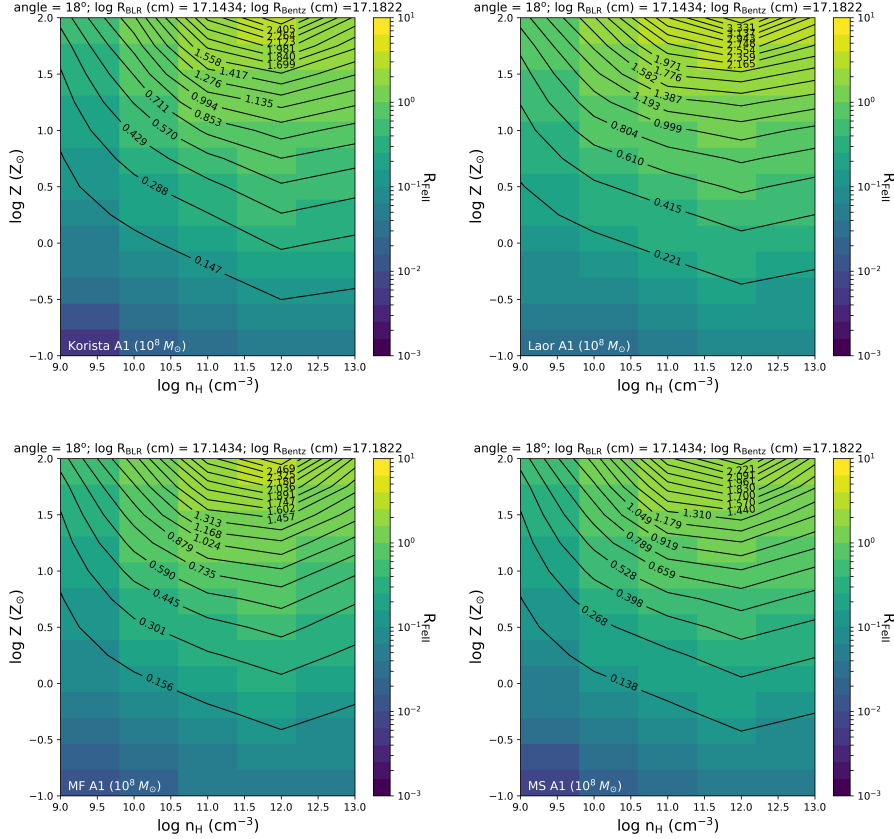


Figure 3. Comparison between the four SEDs (Korista et al., 1997; Laor et al., 1997; Mathews & Ferland, 1987; Marziani & Sulentic, 2014) used in the modelling. The figure shows four 2D density plots which map the distribution of the cloud density as a function of the metallicity for a black hole mass $10^8 M_{\odot}$. The colorbar depicts the value of R_{FeII} . This is shown for a representative case (spectral type A1 with $\text{FWHM} = 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) at a viewing angle (here 18 degrees) that corresponds to a inner radius of the BLR which is close agreement to the radius estimation from the standard $r_{\text{BLR}}-L_{5100}$ relation (Bentz et al., 2013). The bolometric luminosity is assumed at $0.2L_{\text{Edd}}$.

relation (Bentz et al., 2013). The bolometric luminosity is assumed $0.2L_{\text{Edd}}$. The effect of the SEDs we have considered is modest over the full density-metallicity parameter plane. For example, for $n_{\text{H}} = 10.6$, and $\log Z \approx 0.7 [Z_{\odot}]$,

R_{FeII} ranges between 0.4 and 0.6. The largest achievable R_{FeII} values are also similar, in the range 2.2 – 2.5.

3.4. Effect of microturbulence

The effect of micro-turbulence to model the MS has been shown to be of importance (Panda et al., 2018, 2019a), where the optical plane of quasars is indeed positively affected by inclusion of modest values of micro-turbulence². In Figure 4, we show the 2D shaded contour plots for 4 different values of microturbulence values, starting from zero turbulent velocity up to 100 km s⁻¹. We recover the trends that were first estimated in Panda et al. (2018) where we found that the maximum R_{FeII} is recovered for the case with a modest value of microturbulence (10–20 km s⁻¹). Increasing the microturbulence any higher than these values suppressed the FeII emission and thereby resulting in a decrease in the R_{FeII} . It was also found that for $v_{\text{turb}} = 100$ km s⁻¹, the R_{FeII} reverts to the values that were obtained for the case with zero microturbulence.

The effect of the inclusion of microturbulence can be especially important for retrieving the R_{FeII} values that correspond to the high accretors - the xA quasars. Also, we have found that there is an intrinsic coupling between the metallicity and microturbulence. In Panda et al. (2019b), we have also shown that for theoretical templates that are generated using CLOUDY for the FeII pseudo-continuum, there is quite good agreement with the overall line profiles of FeII when compared with templates derived from observation (we have currently tested with two sources: an A1 spectral type – Mrk 335, and a A3 spectral type – I Zw 1). To retrieve the closest agreement to the spectral line profiles and the corresponding R_{FeII} between the observed and theoretical FeII templates³, there is a requirement to combine a realistic value of metallicity confirmed from the observations with a certain value of microturbulence. The value of microturbulence varies from case to case and we infer that it is linked with the spectral types. In Panda et al. (in prep.), we will also test the effect of conjugating the increase in mass of the black hole on the MS and the effect that the microturbulence has on it.

3.5. Effect of increasing M_{BH}

Another interesting inference that was drawn from the analyses in Panda et al. (2019b) was that the higher FWHM sources ($\gtrsim 6000$ km s⁻¹) couldn't be explained assuming a fixed mass of $10^8 M_{\odot}$. The issue becomes relevant for spectral type B1⁺ and above. These sources are with the broadest line profiles and this can be accounted for with increase in the viewing angle although with

²there is a $\sim 50\%$ increase in the R_{FeII} when the turbulent velocity is increased to 10–20 km s⁻¹.

³for the comparison between the templates, we have applied a Gaussian broadening of ~ 800 km s⁻¹.

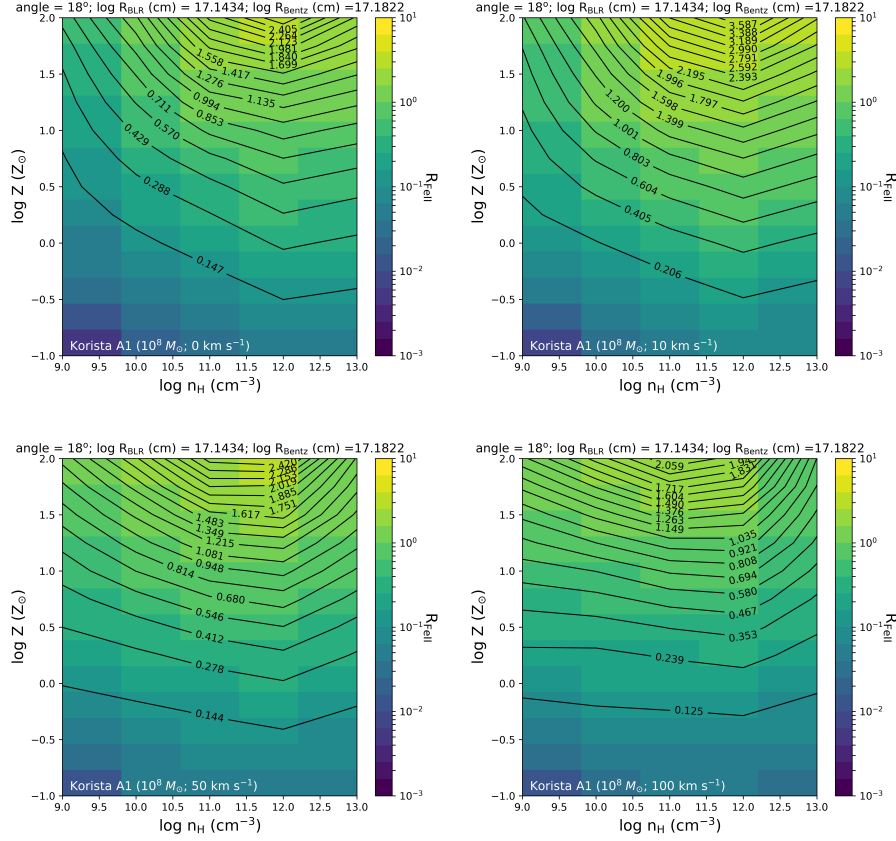


Figure 4. Effect of microturbulence – The figure shows four 2D density plots (for 4 different values of microturbulence: 0, 10, 50 and 100 km s^{-1}) which map the distribution of the cloud density as a function of the metallicity for a black hole mass $10^8 M_{\odot}$. The colorbar depicts the value of R_{FeII} . This is shown for a representative case (spectral type A1 with $\text{FWHM} = 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$) at a viewing angle (here 18 degrees) that corresponds to a inner radius of the BLR which is close agreement to the radius estimation from the standard $r_{\text{BLR}}\text{-}L_{5100}$ relation (Bentz et al., 2013). The bolometric luminosity is assumed at $0.2L_{\text{Edd}}$ and a representative SED from Korista et al. (1997) is used.

implausibly large values, $\gtrsim 60$ degrees. Such large θ values are problematic because the MS is made of the Type-1 sources i.e., sources that offer an unimpeded view of their central core. There is another way high FWHM values can be accounted for – a higher mass of the black hole. We have tested this possibility by considering a case with $M_{BH} = 10^{10} M_{\odot}$ alongside the original case with $M_{BH} = 10^8 M_{\odot}$, and comparing the R_{FeII} distribution as a function of the viewing angle and correspondingly the radius of the BLR in the vertical bins (see Figure 4 in Panda et al. 2019b). We find that increasing the M_{BH} to such masses (consistent for quasars in evolved systems) increases the net FeII emission, and yields viewing angles within the acceptable range for un-obscured sources.

In Figure 5, we show an example of how an increase in the black hole mass (going from $10^8 M_{\odot}$ to $10^{10} M_{\odot}$) affects the parameter space. For this exemplary case, we have assumed a FWHM=2000 km s⁻¹ and Eddington ratio, $L_{bol}/L_{Edd} = 0.2$. Yet, this simple test already reveal quite interesting preliminary conclusions. First, due to this increase in the black hole mass, we obtain a much larger r_{BLR} from the standard Bentz et al. (2013) relation. To be consistent with our

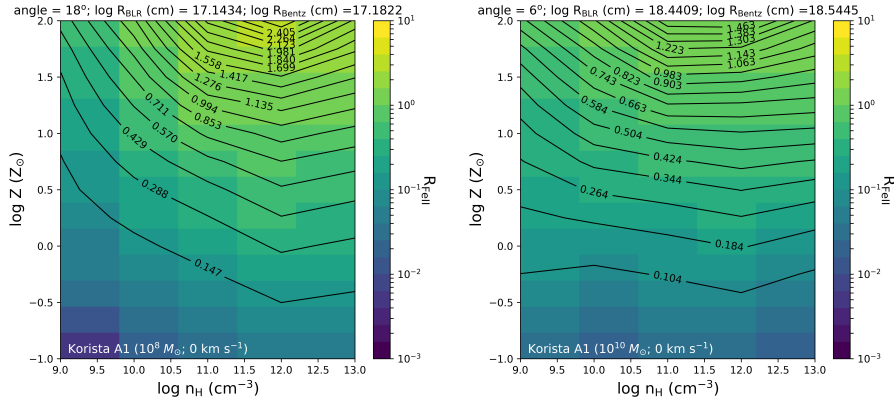


Figure 5. Effect of increasing M_{BH} . The figure shows two 2D density plots which map the distribution of the cloud density as a function of the metallicity. The colorbar depicts the value of R_{FeII} . The plots show the results from a set of CLOUDY simulations for two cases of black hole mass (M_{BH}) (left panel) $10^8 M_{\odot}$, and (right panel) $10^{10} M_{\odot}$. This modelling is performed at zero turbulence, and using an SED shape taken from Korista et al. (1997). The plots shown are for a representative case of the spectral type A1 where the mean of the FWHM is assumed at 2000 km s⁻¹ with an assumed Eddington ratio, $\lambda_{Edd} = 0.2$. The corresponding values of the r_{BLR} computed from Equation 2 and the respective r_{BLR} from the standard $r_{BLR}-L_{5100}$ relation are shown in the title of each plot.

approach, we find the solution for the r_{BLR} from the virial relation that is closest to the $r_{\text{BLR}}-L_{5100}$ relation, and retrieve back the corresponding value for the viewing angle. We see that the viewing angles in the case of higher black hole mass (here, $10^{10} M_{\odot}$) are relatively smaller. From the point of view of the recovered R_{FeII} values, there is a $\sim 30\text{-}40\%$ drop, when we go from $10^8 M_{\odot}$ to $10^{10} M_{\odot}$. But, these results are driven by our assumption of fixed FWHM value and the Eddington ratio. In principle, we need an extensive study of the evolution of the parameter space as a function of increasing FWHM and Eddington ratio. This will be reported in Panda et al. (in prep.).

Similar to the interpretation in Section 3.2 and Figure 2, we find that with an increase in the black hole mass under the same parameterization, we see that there is a requirement of higher metallicities for the higher densities ($> 10^{9.75} \text{ cm}^{-3}$) which goes up by a factor ~ 2 . But, in the lower density regime ($< 10^{9.75} \text{ cm}^{-3}$), the metallicities required to recover the optimal R_{FeII} are lower by factor ~ 2.5 when going from $10^8 M_{\odot}$ to $10^{10} M_{\odot}$.

4. Conclusions and the Future: a predictive tool to estimate BLR size?

We addressed the effect of viewing angle in the accretion disk plane and the geometry of the BLR in the context of the distribution of quasars in the plane FWHM $\text{H}\beta - R_{\text{FeII}}$. Treating the viewing angle along with a broad range of physically motivated parameters that affect FeII emission in Type-1 AGNs i.e., Eddington ratio, local cloud density, metallicity, microturbulence and the shape of the ionizing SED, we have covered the full extent of the quasar main sequence. The values of these physical parameters were known from prior studies.

In this paper, we summarily described the following results:

1. We are now able to constrain the viewing angle for each spectral type corresponding to these sources.
2. We have incorporated four different SEDs to justify the differences in the ionizing continua observed for a broad distribution of quasars.
3. The inclusion of the turbulent velocity inside the cloud (microturbulence) recovers the trends that were obtained in Panda et al. (2018): the maximum FeII emission and the maximum R_{FeII} values correspond to the case with modest values of microturbulence ($10\text{-}20 \text{ km s}^{-1}$).
4. We briefly described the effect of increasing black hole mass to explain the sources with high FWHM.

In Panda et al. (2019b) and in this paper, we have explored the possibility of constraining the viewing angle for the broad distribution of quasars. Our model can also explain the physical parameters responsible for high accretors which

turn out to be predominantly strong FeII emitters (the xA sources in Fig. 1). With this model, we can test for reliability by comparing the results with real sources⁴. The results we have shown here are a ‘snapshot’ and more detailed analysis will be shown in a forthcoming work (Panda et al. in prep.).

The parameter R_{FeII} which can be estimated from a single epoch spectrum for a given source and the metallicity from the line diagnostics from emission lines mostly in the UV (Hamann et al., 2002; Marziani et al., 2019a). These data make it possible to extend our analysis. Values of R_{FeII} and metallicity can be projected in the parameter space maps (see Figure 2) to ultimately recover the virial radius of the broad-line region. Although this possibility needs robust testing, it might be applicable as a predictor for future reverberation mapping studies. The prediction would be specially valuable for high accretors that show high $R_{\text{FeII}} (\gtrsim 1)$ shorter time delays with respect to the ones derived from the scaling law of Bentz et al. (2013). By the same token, we may become able to constrain the $r_{\text{BLR}}-L_{5100}$ relation that has been shown to offer prospects of application for cosmology by building the Hubble diagram for quasars (Risaliti & Lusso, 2015; Martínez-Aldama et al., 2019).

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⁴We checked this for two sources – for Mrk 335: 0-10 km s⁻¹ ; I Zw 1: 40-50 km s⁻¹ with super-solar metallicities 1-2.5 Z_⊙ and 4.8-5.4 Z_⊙, respectively (see Panda et al. 2019b)

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