Updating quasar bolometric luminosity corrections

Jessie C. Runnoe, Michael S. Brotherton and Zhaohui Shang

1Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY 82071, USA
2Department of Physics, Tianjin Normal University, Tianjin 300074, China

ABSTRACT

Bolometric corrections are used in quasar studies to quantify total energy output based on a measurement of a monochromatic luminosity. First, we enumerate and discuss the practical difficulties of determining such corrections, then we present bolometric luminosities between 1 μm and 8 keV rest frame and corrections derived from the detailed spectral energy distributions of 63 bright quasars of low to moderate redshift (z = 0.03–1.4). Exploring several mathematical fittings, we provide practical bolometric corrections of the forms $L_{\text{iso}} = \zeta \lambda L_\lambda$ and $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = A + B \log(\lambda L_\lambda)$ for $\lambda = 1450, 3000$ and 5100 Å, where $L_{\text{iso}}$ is the bolometric luminosity calculated under the assumption of isotropy. The significant scatter in the 5100 Å bolometric correction can be reduced by adding a first-order correction using the optical slope, $\alpha_{\lambda,\text{opt}}$. We recommend an adjustment to the bolometric correction to account for viewing angle and the anisotropic emission expected from accretion discs. For optical/UV monochromatic luminosities, radio-loud and radio-quiet bolometric corrections are consistent within 95 per cent confidence intervals, so we do not make separate radio-loud and radio-quiet corrections. In addition, we provide several bolometric corrections to the 2–10 keV X-ray luminosity, which are shown to have very large scatter. Separate radio-loud and radio-quiet corrections are warranted by the X-ray data.

Key words: accretion, accretion discs – black hole physics – galaxies: active – quasars: general.

1 INTRODUCTION

Bolometric luminosity is the total energy per second radiated by an object over all wavelengths in all directions. Quasars are notable for emitting their substantial radiation over the entire electromagnetic spectrum. The shape of a quasar spectral energy distributions (SEDs; see Wilkes 2004 for a review) depends on the physical properties and structure of the quasar. Specifically, these are the properties of the central supermassive black hole, the surrounding accretion disc (see Koratkar & Blaes 1999, for a review of emission from this region), the existence of a dusty torus and its geometry, dust heated by starburst regions in the host galaxy (Netzer et al. 2007), and any radio structures that may exist. These physical structures differentiate themselves by radiating in different wavelength bands. In the radio, quasars look like kpc-scale relativistic jets that can extend spatially beyond the host galaxy; in the infrared, dust of various temperatures from a pc-scale torus; and in the optical/ultraviolet, sub-pc scale accretion discs. As a result, bolometric luminosity and black hole accretion rate (expressed as $L_{\text{bol}}/L_{\text{edd}}$), both fundamental quasar properties, are challenging to determine.

In practice, bolometric luminosity is difficult to measure for several reasons. First, quasar SEDs cannot be observed, due to a quasar’s broad wavelength emission, without data from multiple telescopes. This makes constructing a full SED expensive in terms of telescope time; a detailed SED can use observations from 10 or more telescopes, sometimes using more than one instrument on a single telescope.

Despite this issue, quasar SEDs have still been compiled. Using observations from 12 telescopes and 16 instruments, Elvis et al. (1994) constructed an atlas of 47 quasar SEDs and used them to determine bolometric corrections, which have been used extensively since. There have been other recent investigations of quasar SEDs as well (Richards et al. 2006; Shang et al. 2011), those that focus on specific wavelength regimes (e.g. Shang et al. 2005; Netzer et al. 2007; Vasudevan & Fabian 2007; Nemmen & Brotherton 2010; Mullaney et al. 2011), those that focus on specific classes of objects (e.g. Gallagher et al. 2007; Chen et al. 2011), and also those of individual objects (e.g. Zheng et al. 2001). Despite these contributions, the Elvis et al. (1994) mean SED and bolometric corrections are still often used.

Even when data from multiple telescopes are compiled, there are gaps in the electromagnetic spectrum that remain unobserved. Gaps in the extreme ultraviolet (EUV) and the near-infrared (NIR) to a lesser extent are problematic when calculating bolometric...
luminosity. The emission in these gap regions has not been observed and can, at best, be modelled (e.g. Shakura & Sunyaev 1973; Matthews & Ferland 1987; Korista et al. 1997) or inferred from spectral properties at other wavelengths (e.g. Kruczek et al. 2011). Another approach is to breach the gap by simply connecting the data on either side with a straight line in log-space (e.g. Elvis et al. 1994).

Quasars are variable in many wavelength regions. Because emission at different wavelengths originates in different physical structures, different spectral regions vary on different time-scales. Optical emission can vary on a time-scale of months to years, whereas X-ray emission varies on a shorter time-scale (Hook et al. 1994, and references therein). Building a consistent, individual SED requires at least quasi-simultaneous observations on these time-scales in spectral regions that suffer from variability.

Quasar emission can be significantly contaminated by light from the host galaxy, particularly in the NIR and far-infrared (FIR). The NIR is important for bolometric luminosity calculations and, while emission from the quasar usually dominates, the NIR sees a drop in quasar emission and a peak in emission from the host galaxy. In order to study emission intrinsic to the quasar, SEDs must be corrected for host galaxy contamination. This is usually done (e.g. Shang et al. 2011), but does add a source of uncertainty to bolometric luminosity calculations.

Quasar emission is anisotropic (e.g. Nemmen & Brotherton 2010). Anisotropy may vary from object to object and can depend on wavelength. An improved understanding of disc anisotropy can lead to a correction for average viewing angle to the optical/UV continuum. Nemmen & Brotherton (2010) use the theoretical accretion disc models of Hubeny et al. (2000) to derive bolometric corrections and explore their dependencies on accretion rate, black hole mass and viewing angle. Hubeny et al. (2000) model the accretion disc in the range 10^{15}–10^{17} Hz as a thin disc that includes geometric and relativistic effects. Due to the lack of any contribution from an X-ray corona, these models do not provide adequate emission at X-ray energies as compared to observed SEDs. Despite the shortcomings of accretion disc models, they are the best guide for the kinds of corrections that may be necessary as a result of assuming isotropy.

These problems have been overcome to varying extents to allow calculations of bolometric luminosity to be made. In common practice, bolometric luminosity is estimated by scaling from a monochromatic luminosity. Different scaling factors exist, e.g. at 5100 Å: $L_{5100} = 13.2 \times \lambda L_{\lambda}$ (Elvis et al. 1994), $L_{5100} = 9 \lambda L_{\lambda}$ (Kaspi et al. 2000), $L_{5100} = 1.5 \times 9 \lambda L_{\lambda}$ (Shang et al. 2005) and $L_{5100} = 10.33 \lambda L_{\lambda}$ (Richards et al. 2006). Note that we differentiate between the bolometric luminosity calculated under the assumption of isotropy ($L_{iso}$) and true bolometric luminosity ($L_{bol}$), which likely differ.

There is a need for new bolometric corrections based on up-to-date SEDs with a new methodology. Pointed observations (e.g. Elvis et al. 1994) give more detailed individual SEDs than those built from survey data (Richards et al. 2006), though sample sizes are typically smaller. However, the Elvis et al. (1994) SEDs require updating and those built from more recent observations (e.g. Shang et al. 2005; Netzer et al. 2007) lack broad wavelength coverage. In addition, the common assumption of isotropy is not a good one.

The 85 SEDs of Shang et al. (2011), intended as an update to those of Elvis et al. (1994), are based on pointed observations from the current generation of telescopes. These SEDs combined with a new methodology provide an opportunity to handle the above issues in a thoughtful, consistent way to calculate the next generation of bolometric corrections.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the data and the Shang et al. (2011) SEDs. Section 3 contains a description of the bolometric luminosity calculations. We derive bolometric corrections in Section 4 and discuss them in the context of previous work. In Section 5 we calculate X-ray bolometric corrections. Section 6 summarizes this investigation.

We adopt a cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_L = 0.7$ and $\Omega_m = 0.3$.

## 2 DATA AND SAMPLE SELECTION

### 2.1 The full SED sample

We derive empirical bolometric corrections from the NIR-to-X-ray continua of 63/85 of the Shang et al. (2011) SEDs. This atlas has a total of 85 objects from three different subsamples which are described briefly below.

(i) The ‘PGX’ subsample contains 22 of 23 Palomar–Green (PG) quasars in the complete sample selected by Laor et al. (1994, 1997) to study the soft-X-ray regime. This subsample is UV bright and has $z \leq 0.4$. The optical–UV region is covered by UV spectra from the *Hubble Space Telescope (HST)* and quasi-simultaneous ground-based optical spectra from McDonald Observatory.

(ii) The ‘FUSE–HST’ subsample has 24 objects, 17 of which come from the *FAR Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE)* active galactic nucleus (AGN) programme (Kris 2000). This is a heterogeneous, UV-bright sample with $z < 0.5$. The SEDs for this subsample have quasi-simultaneous FUSE (Moos et al. 2000), *HST* and Kitt Peak National Observatory (KPNO) observations.

(iii) The ‘RLQ’ subsample includes nearly 50 quasars originally assembled to study orientation; all members of the sample have similar extended radio luminosity which is thought to be isotropic. The SEDs have quasi-simultaneous HST and McDonald or KPNO observations. See Wills et al. (1995) and Netzer et al. (1995) for additional details on this subsample. The blazars originally included in this sample are excluded in the SED atlas because of their variability due to synchrotron emission from a beamed jet.

X-ray coverage comes from *Chandra*, *XMM* and *ROSAT* observations that are available in the literature. When data were available from multiple sources, *Chandra* and *XMM* are given preference over *ROSAT* due to their broader energy coverage and higher sensitivity. NIR coverage comes from Two Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS) photometry (Skrutskie et al. 2006). The 2MASS point source catalogue has 79 objects in the sample. The sample also has FIR and radio coverage, though those data are not used in this study.

We used the NIR–through-X-ray (rest-frame 1 μm to 8 keV) region of the SED for calculating bolometric luminosity. The data in this region of the SED were collected between 1991 and 2007. AGN variability, which can be a concern at these wavelengths, does not appear to be a significant issue in these SEDs. Optical–FUV data were taken quasi-simultaneously (within weeks) and NIR-to-mid-infrared (MIR) emission, which arises from a size scale on the order of parsecs (e.g. Raban et al. 2009) or less for the hottest dust, will vary on a longer time-scale of months to years. We do not see any obvious discontinuities in emission that might indicate variability.

### 2.2 Corrections

In order to assure that the calculated bolometric luminosity of the quasar does not include emission from the host galaxy, it is important to remove any contaminating emission from the host. The effects...
of local intervening Galactic gas must also be accounted for. In the process of constructing the SEDs, Shang et al. (2011) applied two corrections to the data.

First, at optical–FUV wavelengths the SEDs suffer from Galactic extinction from dust. This is removed with the empirical mean extinction law of Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989) using the dust maps of Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998).

Secondly, Shang et al. (2011) correct for host galaxy contamination at NIR and optical wavelengths; although according to those authors, host galaxy contamination to the AGN light is not large for their UV/optically bright quasars. The host galaxy contribution is maximized compared to the AGN in the H band for redshifts near ~0.5 (McLeod & Rieke 1995), so H-band photometry is used to determine host fraction. Shang et al. (2011) make observations with Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) or HST or collect them from the literature for 28 objects (McLeod & Rieke 1994a,b; McLeod & McLeod 2001).

For objects with IRTF observations, host fraction is determined for the H band using the procedure of McLeod & Rieke (1994a). In this procedure, a standard star is observed directly before or after the target. The stellar profile, or point spread function (PSF), is then scaled to the innermost pixel of a one-dimensional surface brightness profile for the quasar-plus-host. The fraction of the PSF necessary to make the quasar-minus-PSF profile turn over in the centre is then subtracted to leave a good estimate of host emission. Shang et al. (2011) make a minimum and maximum subtraction of the PSF to estimate an uncertainty in this procedure of a few per cent, although we note that this method seems to oversubtract and is less trustworthy than subtractions using HST data.

For objects with HST observations, two-dimensional fitting is possible. Shang et al. (2011) use GALFIT (Peng et al. 2002) to fit several galaxy models in addition to the PSF. The resulting best fit is then used. Uncertainty in this method is a few per cent or better.

For objects without H-band observations, the 2MASS PSF magnitude is taken to be the magnitude of the AGN only, and the aperture magnitude is considered total magnitude of the AGN plus the host. This method is used for the object shown in Fig. 2.

Once host fraction has been determined in the H band, removing the host contamination is straightforward. An elliptical galaxy template of NGC 0584 from Dale et al. (2007), scaled in the H band, is then used to determine host fraction in the J and K bands and those magnitudes are corrected accordingly. Fig. 2 shows the appropriately scaled elliptical galaxy template that is used to determine host fraction for the J and K bands.

Host galaxy contamination can also affect emission at long wavelengths of the optical spectra, although to a lesser extent. Shang et al. (2011) try to remove host contribution here when extracting the spectra. They use different aperture sizes to ensure that the host contribution is undetectable in the final spectrum.

2.3 The bolometric luminosity sample

We used a subsample of the SEDs for calculating bolometric luminosities. Of the total 85 objects in the SED atlas, only 63 have the wavelength coverage appropriate for this study. The following objects were excluded from the sample due to insufficient X-ray coverage: 3C 175, 3C 288.1, 4C 30.25, 4C 64.15, B2 1351+31, MC2 1146+111, MRK 506, PG 1103–006, PG 1259+593, PG 1534+580, PG 2214+139, PG 2251+113, PKS 2216–03 and TEX 1156+213. After the above objects were removed from the sample, the following lacked sufficient NIR coverage and were also excluded: 3C 110, 3C 186, 3C 207, 4C 12.40, B2 1555+33, B2 1611+34, MC2 0042+101 and PKS 0859–14. This leaves 63 objects with full wavelength coverage for calculating bolometric corrections. Table 1 lists sample members.

The combined sample consists of 23 radio quiet (RQ) and 40 radio loud (RL) quasars. The RQ quasars are all from either the PG or FUSE-HST samples and are lower redshift (z < 0.5), while the RL quasars come primarily from the RLQ sample and more than half have higher redshifts (z > 0.5). The RL quasars have an average luminosity about six times higher than those that are RQ. Both RL and RQ quasars span approximately 2 orders of magnitude in luminosity. While not statistically complete or well-matched, the combined sample is comprised of subsamples with specific selection criteria. The ‘PGX’ subsample may be complete, although it is not representative of the general quasar population, so we advise caution when using corrections derived here on more general samples. The high flux limit of the PG sample means that these bright objects are also uncharacteristically blue, and Jester et al. (2005) specifically point out that the PG sample is biased against redder spectra. The ‘FUSE-HST’ subsample was selected randomly among objects known to have high UV fluxes. The ‘RLQ’ subsample was selected to have similar extended radio luminosity, a quantity thought to be independent of orientation. In order to find large numbers of these objects, it can be necessary to go to higher luminosity and redshift.

We compared our sample in observed parameter space to the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) Data Release 7 (DR7) quasar catalogue (Schneider et al. 2010). Fig. 1 shows the observed SDSS g magnitude versus z. We calculated approximate SDSS g magnitude for our objects by converting the flux at the centre of the g band to a magnitude with the SDSS flux zero-point. The radio loudness parameter, log R* , is estimated for SDSS objects with FIRST (Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty Centimeters) detections at 20 cm using the prescription of Stocke et al. (1992) (note that we substituted g for B). The bolometric corrections derived here will be most accurate for objects that lie in the region of parameter space occupied by this sample and may be less reliable when used on dissimilar objects.

While the majority of this sample was selected to be bright in the UV, there may be intrinsic reddening in some objects. It can be difficult to differentiate between intrinsic reddening and an extreme SED (e.g. Zheng et al. 2001). In light of this, we did not exclude objects at this point.

3 DETERMINING BOLOMETRIC LUMINOSITY

To know the bolometric luminosity exactly, it is necessary to observe a quasar at all wavelengths and from all directions. Since we are restricted to one line of sight and can only observe parts of the electromagnetic spectrum, we must make some assumptions in order to calculate bolometric luminosity. These assumptions, and our method, are outlined below.

3.1 Empirical isotropic luminosity

The measured observed frame flux is converted to an observed luminosity under the assumption, which we will re-examine later (Section 4.4), that emission is isotropic:

\[
L_{\text{obs}, \nu \text{obs}} = \int_0^{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} F_{\text{obs}, \nu \text{obs}} d^2 \Omega \sin \theta \ d\theta \ d\phi,
\]

(1)

\[
L_{\text{obs}, \nu \text{obs}} = 4\pi d_L^2 F_{\text{obs}, \nu \text{obs}},
\]

(2)

© 2012 The Authors, MNRAS 422, 478–493

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society © 2012 RAS
Table 1. Physical data.

| Object | Redshift | $\log(R/T)^a$ | $\alpha_{\lambda, opt}$ | $\log(L_{bol})^b$ | $\log(L_{bol})^c$ | $\xi_{100}$ | $\xi_{300}$ | $\xi_{150}$ |
|--------|----------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 3C 215 | 0.4108   | 3.37           | −0.69                   | 45.77            | 45.64            | 6.77       | 6.66       | 5.54       |
| 3C 232 | 0.5297   | 2.87           | −1.55                   | 46.36            | 46.23            | 4.30       | 2.64       | 3.00       |
| 3C 254  | 0.7363   | 3.71           | −1.41                   | 46.17            | 46.04            | 6.37       | 4.26       | 3.47       |
| 3C 265 | 0.6464   | 3.00           | −1.96                   | 46.61            | 46.68            | 6.33       | 4.00       | 3.00       |
| 3C 277 1 | 0.3199   | 3.52           | −1.51                   | 45.61            | 45.48            | 8.74       | 5.73       | 3.69       |
| 3C 281 | 0.6017   | 3.23           | −1.00                   | 46.23            | 46.10            | 8.04       | 5.05       | 3.54       |
| 3C 334 | 0.5553   | 3.11           | −1.75                   | 46.44            | 46.32            | 7.30       | 3.79       | 2.79       |
| 3C 37  | 0.6661   | 3.74           | −3.65                   | 46.18            | 46.05            | 19.54      | 8.82       | 7.86       |
| 3C 446 | 1.4040   | 4.34           | −                      | 47.01            | 46.89            | 3.81       | 4.92       | 6.58       |
| 3C 47  | 0.4250   | 3.82           | −1.22                   | 45.97            | 45.85            | 12.31      | 8.27       | 5.05       |
| 4C 01.04 | 0.2634   | 3.41           | 0.15                   | 45.44            | 45.31            | 5.60       | 6.39       | 10.1       |
| 4C 06.69 | 1.0002   | 3.32           | −0.97                   | 47.30            | 47.18            | 7.44       | 5.84       | 3.71       |
| 4C 10.06 | 0.4075   | 2.67           | −1.74                   | 46.48            | 46.36            | 10.26      | 6.01       | 4.34       |
| 4C 11.69 | 1.0370   | 3.78           | −                      | 47.04            | 46.91            | 4.53       | 4.18       | 3.37       |
| 4C 19.44 | 0.7192   | 3.42           | −0.53                   | 46.91            | 46.79            | 8.30       | 5.67       | 4.11       |
| 4C 20.24 | 1.1135   | 3.62           | −1.41                   | 46.92            | 46.79            | 9.23       | 6.37       | 5.04       |
| 4C 22.26 | 0.9760   | 3.26           | 0.42                   | 46.59            | 46.47            | 11.94      | 8.68       | 5.86       |
| 4C 31.63 | 0.2952   | 2.93           | −2.18                   | 46.61            | 46.49            | 10.14      | 4.17       | 2.54       |
| 4C 34.47 | 0.2055   | 2.62           | −1.94                   | 46.08            | 45.96            | 12.92      | 5.98       | 4.67       |
| 4C 39.25 | 0.6946   | 3.65           | −1.74                   | 46.91            | 46.79            | 8.76       | 6.14       | 4.54       |
| 4C 40.24 | 1.2520   | 3.94           | −                      | 46.60            | 46.47            | 7.24       | 5.82       | 4.32       |
| 4C 41.21 | 0.6124   | 2.91           | −1.77                   | 46.75            | 46.63            | 13.01      | 6.35       | 3.03       |
| 4C 49.22 | 0.3333   | 3.35           | −1.00                   | 45.99            | 45.86            | 14.12      | 8.07       | 6.04       |
| 4C 55.17 | 0.8990   | 3.74           | −0.45                   | 46.46            | 46.33            | 5.54       | 4.95       | 4.21       |
| 4C 58.29 | 1.3740   | 2.65           | −                      | 47.19            | 47.07            | 5.98       | 4.56       | 2.89       |
| 4C73.18 | 0.3027   | 3.20           | −0.77                   | 46.40            | 46.27            | 7.09       | 3.86       | 3.95       |
| B2 0742 | 0.4616   | 2.77           | −1.73                   | 46.46            | 46.34            | 4.91       | 3.23       | 3.76       |
| IRAS F07546+3928 | 0.0953 | −0.6           | −0.138                 | 45.43            | 45.31            | 3.75       | 2.79       | 4.72       |
| MRK 809 | 0.0345   | −0.2           | −1.64                   | 45.36            | 45.23            | 14.74      | 7.86       | 6.97       |
| OS 562 | 0.7506   | 3.35           | −0.81                   | 46.74            | 46.62            | 8.31       | 5.80       | 3.41       |
| PG 0052-251 | 0.1544 | −0.4           | −1.73                   | 45.94            | 45.81            | 11.36      | 6.35       | 4.60       |
| PG 0844+349 | 0.0643 | −1.1          | −1.10                   | 45.31            | 45.18            | 8.35       | 4.91       | 4.50       |
| PG 0947+396 | 0.2057 | −0.5          | −1.29                   | 45.79            | 45.67            | 10.14      | 5.42       | 4.42       |
| PG 0953+414 | 0.2338 | −0.2          | −2.16                   | 46.42            | 46.29            | 10.80      | 5.23       | 3.50       |
| PKS 0403+017 | 1.02  | −0.6          | −1.84                   | 45.61            | 45.48            | 12.32      | 6.40       | 4.44       |
| PKS 1127−14    | 1.1870   | 3.88           | −1.88                   | 47.15            | 47.02            | 8.70       | 6.29       | 4.50       |
| PKS 1656+053 | 0.8890   | 3.10           | −1.09                   | 47.05            | 46.93            | 6.29       | 5.51       | 4.12       |

---

*a* Radio loudness, $R = \sqrt{5 \text{ GHz}} / \lambda (4215 \text{ Å})$.

*b* Integrated luminosity assuming isotropy.

*c* Integrated luminosity adjusted for viewing angle: $L_{bol} \approx 0.75 L_{bol}$.

© 2012 The Authors, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, 422, 478–493.
Figure 1. The region of observed parameter space occupied by the 63 objects in this sample and the SDSS DR7 quasar catalogue. SDSS quasars are small grey points, SDSS RL quasars are distinguished with small red points, RL quasars from this work are blue squares, and RQ quasars from this work are open black circles. The bolometric corrections derived here may lose accuracy for objects that occupy another region of parameter space.

where $d_*$ is the luminosity distance, $F_\text{obs,rest}$ is the observed flux density, and $\nu_{\text{obs}}$ is the observed frequency. The integration between equations (1) and (2) that results in the $4\pi$ coefficient is possible only under the assumption of isotropy. Then the observed luminosity is converted to rest luminosity via the equation:

$$L_{\text{rest},\nu_{\text{rest}}} = \frac{L_{\text{obs},\nu_{\text{obs}}}}{1+z} = \frac{4\pi d_*^2 F_{\text{obs},\nu_{\text{obs}}}}{1+z},$$

(3)

where $\nu_{\text{rest}}$ is the rest frequency. Bolometric luminosity is then calculated by integrating $L_{\text{rest},\nu_{\text{rest}}}$ over frequency, where specific consideration should be given to the limits of integration.

Emission at IR wavelengths is thought to result from optical–UV photons reprocessed by surrounding hot dust (e.g. Barvainis 1987). Under the assumption of isotropy, it is important not to include reprocessed photons. Assuming isotropy requires that the optical–UV photons that we observe are characteristic of radiation from the accretion disc in all directions. We count these photons for the first time when we integrate the optical–UV over all space. IR photons are likely optical–UV photons originally emitted in another direction that have been reprocessed and re-emitted along our line of sight by an AGN-heated dust. We count these photons a second time if we integrate the IR portion of the SED.

To accurately estimate the bolometric luminosity under the assumption of isotropy, the IR region should be excluded from the bolometric luminosity calculation (e.g. Edelson & Malkan 1986; Spinoglio & Malkan 1989). This method has several advantages since the IR is less susceptible to reddening and likely much more isotropically emitted than the big blue bump. In particular, such a correction would be valuable forreddened and type 2 objects. It would not be without its own issues, however. Corrections for starlight would be necessary at the shortest wavelengths and also for starburst-heated dust in the host galaxy (Netzer et al. 2007) at the longest wavelengths, depending on the limits of integration. Additionally, depending on redshift and available facilities, the MIR bump may be more difficult to observe than the big blue bump and also has gaps in data coverage, although they may be easier to fill. Finally, while the MIR emission may be more isotropically emitted, the anisotropy of the optical/UV emission that acts as a source for MIR reprocessing must be accounted for.

3.2 Integrating in the NIR

In order to integrate the SED, the NIR region around $\log(\nu) \sim 14.25–14.75$ required special consideration. Data coverage here was patchier than the optical/UV (2MASS photometry versus a spectrum) and in some objects the 2MASS data did not reach the 1 $\mu$m limit of integration in the rest frame.

In the NIR, we used a power-law interpolation between 2MASS data points and then, when necessary, extrapolated out from the longest wavelength 2MASS point to provide data all the way to the 1 $\mu$m limit of integration. Note that, because we chose a hard 1 $\mu$m rest-frame limit of integration but had a range of redshifts, we integrated different data in each SED (e.g. in the object shown in Fig. 2, we did not integrate between the $H$ and $K$ bands or beyond because the 1 $\mu$m limit had already been reached).

In order to quantify interpolating between the 2MASS points and extrapolating beyond, we replaced these interpolation/extrapolation power laws with the $F_\nu \propto \nu^{1/3}$ (Shakura & Sunyaev 1973) accretion disc model extrapolated out from the optical spectrum to 1 $\mu$m and recalculate bolometric luminosity. The $\nu^{1/3}$ model is reached by integrating a multiple blackbody accretion disc over infinite radius and is appropriate for the long-wavelength emission of the disc (i.e. the NIR). Both the $\nu^{1/3}$ and power-law interpolation models are shown in Fig. 2.

Kishimoto, Antonucci & Omer (2005, see also Kishimoto et al. 2008) find good agreement between the $\nu^{1/3}$ model and the observed emission from quasar accretion discs. Their result is primarily based on PG 1425+267, an object in our sample, as well as two other broad-line quasars of similar redshift to our sample (several tenths).

We normalized the $\nu^{1/3}$ model between 5000 and 5300 $\AA$, a region relatively free of emission lines, and which should have little contribution from hot dust emission. Emission at these wavelengths may be contaminated by residual host galaxy emission, even after the correction of Shang et al. (2011). We may have introduced some small uncertainty as a result, but this is not larger than is introduced by implementing the $\nu^{1/3}$ disc model.

We found that the difference in bolometric luminosity between our power-law interpolation and the $\nu^{1/3}$ disc model is small, on average $\sim 2 \pm 2$ per cent. Bolometric luminosity resulting from $\nu^{1/3}$ model is plotted against bolometric luminosity resulting from the power-law interpolation in Fig. 3.
3.3 Integrating in the X-ray

The X-ray region of the SED also required special measures to be taken before it could be integrated. There were two issues in this region: in some objects we did not have data out to our 8-keV limit of integration and there was a large gap in data coverage for all objects between the FUV and X-ray around log(ν) ~15.75–17.25.
In some objects we had to extend the X-ray power law to higher energies to reach the 8-keV limit of integration. Observations in this region were a magnitude or more down from the peak of the SED, so changing this limit did not significantly change the integrated luminosity.

Our region of interest in the SEDs contained a large gap in data coverage: one between the FUV and X-ray. We bridged this gap with a linear interpolation in log $\nu L_\nu$ space. This power law appears to be a good description of this region in some cases (e.g. Laor et al. 1997). Fig. 2 shows the power-law interpolation as well as models from Matthews & Ferland (1987) and Korista et al. (1997), described below, overplotted for one representative object.

While a straightforward power law did seem to connect FUV and X-ray data well in some cases, we recalculated bolometric luminosity using two other models to help quantify the level of uncertainty that can result from selecting different models in the EUV.

Both models were normalized to the data near 1300 Å, a region also relatively free of emission lines. In cases where the model did not intersect the X-ray data, the X-ray data were extended to longer wavelengths until they intersected the model.

The first model is the SED of Matthews & Ferland (1987), which they derive from continuum observations when available and otherwise infer from the emission-line spectrum. Matthews & Ferland (1987) model the region between the FUV and X-ray with several power laws.

The second model is that of Korista et al. (1997). They model the UV region with a modified power law of the form: $F_\nu \propto \nu^{-0.5} e^{-h\nu/kT_{\text{cut}}}$ (a thermal bump). At 912 Å and shorter wavelengths, the power law $F_\nu \propto \nu^{-1}$ is used. We used the SED quoted by those authors as typical for an average quasar: $T_{\text{cut}} = 10^6$ K, $E_{\text{peak}} = 44$ eV.

The per cent difference in bolometric luminosity caused by using the Matthews & Ferland (1987) model instead of a power-law interpolation is 41 ± 21, where the given uncertainty is the standard deviation. Using the Korista et al. (1997) model caused a per cent difference in bolometric luminosity of 33 ± 20. Visual inspection showed that in many cases, the Matthews & Ferland (1987) and Korista et al. (1997) models may not be a good description of the SED; in some objects these models overestimated or underestimated the X-ray data by as much as an order of magnitude for over an order of magnitude in frequency. In a few objects, these models always overestimated the data by approximately 0.1 dex.

Bolometric luminosities resulting from the Matthews & Ferland (1987) and Korista et al. (1997) models are each plotted against bolometric luminosities resulting from the power-law interpolation in Fig. 3. This figure illustrates how significantly our ignorance of emission in this FUV–X-ray gap impacts our bolometric luminosities; Matthews & Ferland (1987) and Korista et al. (1997) X-ray models tend to result in much larger bolometric luminosities than a power-law interpolation with lots of variation between objects.

It has been suggested that the intrinsic SED continuum may be different from what we view (e.g. Korista et al. 1997; Lawrence 2011) and some tentative evidence may exist to support this (e.g. Kruczak et al. 2011; Richards et al. 2011). If this is the case, this approach is still at least energetically viable. Whether the energy holds the same shape as when it was originally emitted from the accretion disc or not, it has still been emitted and should still be counted towards the bolometric luminosity. We note one caveat to this: if there is a large peak in emission that is unobserved in the EUV, it will go unaccounted for and our calculation of bolometric luminosity will underestimate the true value as a result. If emission is reprocessed in the same wavelength regime, double counting will not be an issue. Uncertainty will still come from how isotropically different physical regions emit.

Integrated luminosities assuming isotropy ($L_{\text{iso}}$) are presented in Table 1. Radio loudness, given in that table, is calculated by Shang et al. (2011) from $R^* = f(5\,\text{GHz})/f(4215$ Å).

4 DERIVING BOLOMETRIC CORRECTIONS

Given measurements of a monochromatic luminosity and our estimates of integrated luminosity, it is possible to explore a variety of bolometric corrections. We made measurements of monochromatic luminosity at three commonly used wavelengths, 1450, 3000 and 5100 Å. These wavelengths correspond to the optical window for low-, medium- and high-redshift objects, respectively. When deriving optical/UV corrections, we did not distinguish between RL and RQ objects, which we justify in Section 4.6. For bolometric corrections to the 2–10 keV luminosity, see Section 5.

4.1 Linear bolometric corrections

Historically, bolometric corrections assume a linear relationship between bolometric and a monochromatic luminosity:

$$L_{\text{iso}} = \xi L_\lambda,$$

where $L_\lambda$ is the monochromatic luminosity and the factor $\xi$ is the bolometric correction. Using a bolometric correction of this form assumes a single SED shape scaled to match a monochromatic luminosity. Quasar SEDs vary in shape and there is no reason to assume a direct linear relationship with a zero intercept, although available data have rarely supported more detailed fittings.

The ratios of $L_{\text{iso}}$ to $L_\lambda$ for individual objects are given in Table 1. Fig. 4 shows the distribution of values for this ratio in each wavelength window. The ‘FUSE-HST’ subsample is known to be UV bright and may introduce a slight bias towards higher UV luminosities. This would have the effect of reducing dispersion around the mean at 1450 Å, although it is not solely responsible for this behaviour.

We found a similar behaviour of bolometric correction distributions with wavelength with Nemmen & Brotherton (2010). Bolometric correction distributions become tighter and shift to a lower mean with decreasing wavelength (see Fig. 4). This is due to variations in SED shape from object to object. The peak of the big blue bump is closer 1450 Å which makes bolometric corrections there less sensitive to variations in the shape of the bump. Nemmen & Brotherton (2010) find mean bolometric corrections (included in Table 2) of 3.5 and 7.6 for 1450, 3000 and 5100 Å, respectively. Note that their limits of integration are IR (3 μm) to X-ray (414 eV). The Hubeny et al. (2000) models drop off in the IR and are orders of magnitude below the peak so a large difference does not result from the Nemmen & Brotherton (2010) lower limit compared to ours.

Finally, we provide best-fitting bolometric corrections for $L_{\text{iso}}$ versus $L_\lambda$. These and other fits in this paper are made by minimizing the $\chi^2$-statistic using MINUIT (Markwardt 2009) which employs the Levenberg–Marquardt least-squares method. The uncertainties in $L_\lambda$ are considered to be negligible compared to those in $L_{\text{iso}}$ because the spectra are high signal-to-noise ratio and the monochromatic fluxes are well known. There are many sources of uncertainty in $L_{\text{iso}}$ including, but not limited to, the interpolation, variation in SED shape, host galaxy corrections and orientation. While there is uncertainty in the integration process associated with our selection of a model in NIR and X-ray as discussed, we avoid more robust fitting methods and choose only to minimize the chi-squared statistic.
The resulting linear bolometric corrections are $4.2 \pm 0.1$, $5.2 \pm 0.2$ and $8.1 \pm 0.4$ at 1450, 3000 and 5100 Å, respectively. The uncertainties given here are the 1σ errors in the fit coefficients. These are listed in Table 2 and compared to other values from the literature.

There are several differences between the bolometric corrections derived here and those derived in previous studies (namely Elvis et al. 1994; Richards et al. 2006). Both integrated the full SED, Richards et al. (2006) specifically from 1 μm to 10 keV, in order to determine the bolometric luminosity. Here we integrate only the NIR-through-X-ray region. As a result, Elvis et al. (1994) and Richards et al. (2006) typically find larger bolometric corrections.

Table 2. Bolometric corrections for $(L_{bol}) = \xi L_{\lambda}$.

| Reference | $\xi_{1450}$ | $\xi_{3000}$ | $\xi_{5100}$ | Number of sources | Range in log$(L_{bol})$ | Standard error in mean for 1450/3000/5100 Å |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Elvis et al. (1994)$^a$ | 5.12 | 6.19 | 12.45 | 47 | 44.86–46.92 | – |
| Recalculated Elvis et al. (1994)$^b$ | 3.15 | 3.82 | 7.68 | – | – | – |
| Richards et al. (2006) | – | 5.62 | 10.33 | 259 | 45.06–47.43 | --/0.07/0.13 |
| Recalculated Richards et al. (2006)$^c$ | 2.33 | 3.11 | 5.53 | – | – | – |
| Nemmen & Brotherton (2010)$^d$ | 3.0 | 5.9 | 7.6 | 280 | 44.60–48.50 | 0.3/0.8/1.9 |
| This work | 4.2 | 5.2 | 8.1 | 63 | 45.13–47.30 | 0.1/0.2/0.4 |

$^a$ Recalculated from the full Elvis et al. (1994) RQ mean SED for 1450, 3000 and 5100 Å.

$^b$ Corrections are for $L_{bol}$ recalculated for the Elvis et al. (1994) RQ mean SED from 1 μm to 8 keV.

$^c$ Corrections are for $L_{bol}$ recalculated for the Richards et al. (2006) mean SED containing all objects from 1 μm to 8 keV.

$^d$ These corrections are based on Hubeny et al. (2000) theoretical accretion disc models which are known to produce insufficient X-rays that drop off steeply before 0.1 keV.

The differences in these bolometric corrections reflect the differences in the SEDs from which they are derived and highlight the importance of sample selection in deriving and applying bolometric corrections. The Elvis et al. (1994) and similarly the Shang et al. (2011) composites are from samples that are known to be UV bright and thus require larger bolometric corrections than the Richards et al. (2006). See figs 6 and 8 of Shang et al. (2011) for a comparison of the composites. Generally, it appears that the difference in bolometric corrections is the result of different samples as well as a different method and integration limits.

4.2 Linear bolometric corrections with non-zero intercepts

We derived a second bolometric correction of the form used by Nemmen & Brotherton (2010):

$$\log(L_{iso}) = A + B \log(\lambda L_{\lambda}).$$

(5)
45.0. At 5100 Å, their correction underestimated the luminosity compared to our bolometric corrections with a zero intercept. Except for the 1450 Å corrections, the Nemmen & Brotherton (2010) bolometric corrections show different behaviours depending on wavelength. At 1450 Å, the Nemmen & Brotherton (2010) correction systematically overestimates bolometric luminosity compared to ours, by a factor of 1.50 at log(\(L_\text{iso}\)) = 45.0. At 3000 Å, their correction underestimates ours at most monochromatic luminosities in our range, by a factor of 0.92 at log(\(L_\text{iso}\)) = 45.0. At 5100 Å, their correction underestimates ours at most monochromatic luminosities in our range, by a factor of 0.93 at log(\(L_\text{iso}\)) = 45.0.

Figs 5, 6 and 7 show the relationship between \(L_\text{iso}\) and \(\lambda L_\lambda\) in log–log space for \(\lambda = 1450\), 3000 and 5100 Å, respectively. Bolometric corrections from the literature are shown for comparison. Corrections from Elvis et al. (1994) and Richards et al. (2006) are those derived from the full SED including the IR, although those of Elvis et al. (1994) have been corrected to our fiducial wavelengths.

We calculated isotropic and bolometric luminosity for the 22 objects with incomplete wavelength coverage using log(\(L_\text{iso}\)) = (4.74 ± 1.00) + (0.91 ± 0.02) log(1450 \(L_{1450}\)) from Table 3. These values are presented along with other quantities of interest in Table 4.

4.3 First-order bolometric corrections

The distributions of bolometric corrections in Fig. 4 and the SEDs themselves motivate an additional term in the bolometric correction. The distribution at 1450 Å is much narrower than the distribution

---

1 www.minitab.com
at 5100 Å. The shape and wavelength of the bump vary less from object to object near the peak of the bump than on the sides so bolometric corrections at 1450 Å, which are closer to the peak, see less variation than bolometric corrections at 5100 Å.

In order to decrease the scatter in the 5100 Å relationship, we included optical slope in a first-order bolometric correction. Optical slope helps to account for differences in SED shape by describing the relationship between the long-wavelength side and peak of the big blue bump. Optical slope is not independent of other parameters (e.g. orientation and Eddington fraction) in accretion disc models (Hubeny et al. 2000) so the dependence of bolometric corrections on optical slope may in fact reflect these other properties to some extent.

We measured optical slope in most cases as a power-law continuum at two points: 3981 and 6310 Å. In all cases, the measurement was taken under the Hβ line and avoided the region contaminated by FeII emission. We defined $\alpha_{\lambda_{\text{opt}}}$ such that $F_{\lambda} \propto \lambda^{\alpha_{\lambda_{\text{opt}}}}$. Because of limited wavelength coverage, optical slope could only be measured in 58 of the 63 objects with bolometric luminosities. Fig. 8 shows the distribution of optical slopes for the full sample and only the RL portion. The distributions of optical slope for the full sample and RL and RQ subsamples are statistically similar. A Kolmogorov–Smirnov (KS) test on the full and RL samples gives $D_{\text{KS}} = 0.12$ and a probability of 0.86 that the two distributions come from the same parent sample. A KS test on the full and RQ distributions give $D_{\text{KS}} = 0.19$ and a probability of 0.54 that the two distributions come from the same parent sample. A KS test on the RL and RQ samples gives $D_{\text{KS}} = 0.31$ and a probability of 0.10 that the two distributions come from the same parent sample.

Optical slope is provided for objects with incomplete SEDs in Table 4. These are not used to find the first-order bolometric correction and are not included in Fig. 8.

Using MINITAB® Statistical Software, we performed a multiple regression analysis with $5100 \lambda_{\text{iso}}$ and $\alpha_{\lambda_{\text{opt}}}$ and found that adding optical slope is significant with a t-ratio of 2.55. The probability that optical slope coefficient is zero is 0.014. The bolometric correction is

$$\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (1.02 \pm 0.001) \log(5100 \lambda_{\text{iso}}) - (0.09 \pm 0.03) \alpha_{\lambda_{\text{opt}}}$$

(6)

The uncertainties given here are standard deviations in the coefficients. This bolometric correction, also listed in Table 3, gives bolometric luminosities larger than those derived from other 5100 Å
corrections given here, smaller than those of Elvis et al. (1994), and similar to those of Richards et al. (2006).

There are two potential concerns with including optical slope in a bolometric correction: a break in optical slope and reddening. Vanden Berk et al. (2001) find that optical slope breaks near 5000 Å in composites of SDSS quasars and conclude that this is partially due to contamination from the host galaxy and partially a real change in the continuum. If this is present in our objects, it might cause us to overestimate \( L_{\text{iso}} \) by including some light from the host galaxy. Vanden Berk et al. (2001) find an optical slope of \( \alpha_o = -1.56 \) for their geometric mean composite spectrum over the wavelength range of 1300–5000 Å (shortwards of the break), and a slope of \( \alpha_o = 0.45 \) after the break. We found a mean value for optical slope of \( \alpha_{\lambda,\text{opt}} = -1.53 \pm 0.65 \), so it seems likely that this issue is minor in our sample.

Bolometric corrections based on optical slope are subject to the effects of intrinsic reddening in the SEDs. If present, reddening would cause more positive optical slopes, which would in turn underestimate true bolometric luminosity. We have visually inspected the SEDs and do not see evidence of intrinsic reddening except perhaps in a few objects. We do not think that reddening is significant in this sample, but it has not been systematically removed from the SEDs which should be noted when using these corrections.

4.4 Isotropy and viewing angles

Based on studies of theoretical accretion disc models, we suggest a correction to bolometric luminosity that results from our assumption of isotropy. An accretion disc viewed face-on (i.e. at 0°) will be UV-brighter than one viewed edge-on. Bolometric corrections based on face-on observations may thus overestimate bolometric luminosity. There are intermediate angles where isotropy is a reasonable assumption (theoretically near 55° according to fig. 11 of Nemmen & Brotherton 2010), but quasars may not be viewed at those angles on average.

There is evidence to suggest that, at a viewing angle of 55°, we would not be able to see into the central region of the AGN to view a quasar and a correction for assuming isotropy is warranted. Nemkena et al. (2008b) compare dusty torus models (Nenkova et al. 2008a) to observations of type 1 and type 2 sources and find general agreement for opening angles in the range 40°–60°. For torus opening angles in this range, a line of sight at 55° would intersect the dusty torus.

If the viewing angle is known, or can at least be estimated, it would be possible to make a correction for the assumption for isotropy based on viewing angle. Barthel (1989) estimates an average viewing angle from his study of a sample of 3CRR (Laing, Riley & Longair 1983; Spinrad et al. 1985) bright radio sources with 0.5 < z < 1.0 selected at 178 MHz. At low radio frequencies, emission is dominated by optically thin synchrotron radiation from radio lobes which emit isotropically, leading Barthel to assume that the sample was not significantly biased with respect to orientation. He used the ratio of broad-lined quasars to narrow-lined radio galaxies, presumably quasars obscured by a torus along our line of sight, to estimate an average viewing angle of quasars to be 31°. This angle is determined by integrating \( f_{\lambda = 1450} \Delta \alpha \sin(\theta) d\theta \), where the limits of integration are a face-on disc and the edge of the dusty torus.

If we assume that the Shang et al. (2011) sample is randomly selected and is preferentially viewed at the angle of 31° suggested by Barthel (1989), bolometric luminosity will be overestimated by about 33 per cent (Nemmen & Brotherton 2010, fig. 11.). We therefore suggest that the bolometric corrections derived here be decreased as follows:

\[
L_{\text{bol}} = f L_{\text{iso}} \approx 0.75 L_{\text{iso}},
\]

where \( f \) is a factor describing the bias of an average viewing angle due to the anisotropic emission from a disc. For objects to which the line of sight is known, a theoretical correction as a function of viewing angle can be found from Nemmen & Brotherton (2010, fig. 11) and applied to equation (6). Their predicted range for this correction to \( L_{\text{iso}} \) is approximately 67–200 per cent for a relativistic disc including projection effects and limb darkening at viewing angles of 0°–90°.

We remind the reader that our sample may not represent a random distribution of viewing angles. The ‘FUSE’ and ‘PGX’ subsamples were selected to be UV-bright. This means those subsamples may be biased to more face-on objects (i.e. smaller viewing angles). The ‘RLQ’ sample may be biased towards more edge-on orientations (i.e. larger viewing angles) because the blazars (which are viewed pole-on) were removed.

Since the relations of Elvis et al. (1994) and Richards et al. (2006) already overestimate bolometric luminosity compared to corrections provided here, applying the correction for viewing angle further widens the gap. Adopting the correction for isotropy in addition to one of our bolometric corrections will give bolometric luminosities as much as a factor of 2 lower, on average, than those resulting from Elvis et al. (1994) and Richards et al. (2006) corrections. As before, the difference in bolometric luminosity at 1450 and 3000 Å is less than at 5100 Å, and bolometric luminosities resulting from the corrections of Richards et al. (2006) are more similar to ours than those resulting from the corrections of Elvis et al. (1994).

4.5 Higher order and emission-line bolometric corrections

We might expect that a higher order bolometric correction may fit the data due to the relationship between optical–X-ray slope, \( \alpha_{\text{ox}} \), and...
and luminosity (e.g. Just et al. 2007). We investigate the data and see no need for a higher order bolometric correction over this range at these wavelengths. It is possible that at higher luminosities the data will depart from a linear model.

It may be possible to provide more accurate bolometric corrections based on correlations between emission-line properties and properties of the SED. For example, Kruczek et al. (2011) measure C IV equivalent width (EW) and velocity shift (relative to the quasar rest frame) for a sample of RQ SDSS quasars and determine that objects that fall on opposite ends of the EW–velocity shift continuum will require different bolometric corrections. Specifically, bolometric corrections will be underestimated for objects with large EW and small blueshift and overestimated for objects with small EW and large blueshift. Emission-line bolometric corrections of this type are beyond the scope of this paper and may be pursued in the future.

4.6 Radio class issues

In the previous sections, we have not differentiated between RL and RQ objects when deriving optical/UV bolometric corrections. This treatment requires specific justification because RL and RQ quasars are known to have differences in their SEDs.

The behaviour of the SED at X-ray wavelengths is well known. Zamorani et al. (1981) find that RL quasars are typically three times more X-ray luminous than RQ quasars with similar optical/UV luminosities. Miller et al. (2011) characterize the X-ray excess of RL quasars with respect to RQ quasars and find that it can be as high as a factor of 3.4–10.7 for extremely RL quasars with $R > 3.5$. These differences might indicate that different bolometric corrections as a function of radio class may be appropriate. We did not assume a priori that RL and RQ quasars can be combined.

We made fits of bolometric luminosity versus monochromatic luminosity to determine whether RL and RQ require separate bolometric corrections. Because the RL objects have higher luminosities on average, we isolated radio loudness by fitting only the objects in the region where RL and RQ overlap in luminosity.

Fig. 9, where panels (a), (b) and (c) are for 1450, 3000 and 5100 Å, respectively, shows the full sample with RL objects in the overlapping region plotted as blue squares and RQ objects in that region plotted as open black circles. The best-fitting lines are solid blue and dot–dashed black, respectively. The dashed lines show the 95 per cent confidence intervals which are shaded blue for RL and cross-hatched in grey for RQ.

Based on Fig. 9, we determined that the bolometric corrections for RL and RQ are consistent within the 95 per cent confidence intervals at optical/UV wavelengths. Relaxing our fits to include all of the objects does not change this result, nor does comparing confidence intervals for fits to the RL and RQ subsamples. This is likely because, while the X-ray behaviour in RL and RQ objects is different, it is not energetically significant compared to the big blue bump (which is similar in RL and RQ quasars, see the SEDs in Shang et al. 2011). Based on this analysis, we combine RL and RQ quasars for optical bolometric corrections.

The caveat to combining RL and RQ optical/UV bolometric corrections is the unknown emission in the extreme UV and soft X-ray; RL and RQ quasars may require a different interpolation in this region. While it is not currently possible to observe directly whether RL quasars have more ionizing flux in the EUV–soft X-ray than RQ quasars, it may be possible to infer it from emission-line properties, though this is beyond the scope of this paper.

5 X-RAY BOLOMETRIC CORRECTIONS

We provide several bolometric corrections to the 2–10 keV X-ray luminosity, which is calculated by extrapolating the data to 10 keV with a power law of the same slope as the highest energy X-ray data and integrating the SED between 2 and 10 keV. As with the optical/UV corrections, we first determined whether it is appropriate to treat RL and RQ objects together.

To evaluate the 2–10 keV X-ray bolometric correction for RL and RQ objects, we again fit them separately and compared the fits within the 95 per cent confidence intervals. Fig. 10 panel (a) shows the 2–10 keV bolometric correction where we have fitted the RL and RQ objects separately in the region of overlapping luminosity. While the lines appear to differ, there are so few points in this region that the confidence intervals are very large. Within 95 per cent confidence the lines are consistent. Due to the large uncertainty in these lines, we also fit the RL and RQ data without matching luminosity range. In Fig. 10 panel (b), we see that these lines are not consistent within 95 per cent confidence when luminosity is not matched. The difference in RL an RQ objects at X-ray energies has been well characterized (Miller et al. 2011), so when making X-ray bolometric corrections we provide separate RL and RQ X-ray bolometric corrections.

We made linear bolometric corrections with and without a zero intercept fit to the entire sample, the RL and RQ objects separately, and the RL and RQ objects separately in the region of overlapping luminosity. The fits with the non-zero intercept always had a lower chi-squared than those where the intercept is fixed at zero and so are preferred. More complex fits (e.g. Marconi et al. 2004; Hopkins, Richards & Hernquist 2007) are not necessary to fit these data over this luminosity range. Table 5 lists X-ray bolometric corrections.

X-ray bolometric corrections have been shown to be luminosity-dependent (Marconi et al. 2004; Hopkins et al. 2007; Vasudevan & Fabian 2007). We investigated the dependence of our X-ray bolometric corrections on luminosity via $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$. This dependence has specifically been characterized, most recently by Marchese et al. (2011) for 195 X-ray-selected Type 1 AGN from the XMM–Newton serendipitous survey and also Lusso et al. (2010) for 545 Type 1 AGN from the XMM–COSMOS (Cosmological Evolution Survey) survey. We calculated $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ from the 2500-Å luminosity using the relation from Steffen et al. (2006):

$$\alpha_{\text{ox}} = -0.137 \log(L_{2500}) + 2.638. \quad (8)$$

Our objects have luminosities within the range for which this relation was derived. We found only a weak trend with lots of scatter of X-ray bolometric corrections with $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ if any at all, and so do not include a luminosity-dependent bolometric correction. The lack of a strong relationship in our data where one was found by Marchese et al. (2011) and Lusso et al. (2010) may be due to weak X-ray sources that increase the scatter in our sample.

Vasudevan & Fabian (2007) calculate X-ray bolometric corrections with a zero intercept for 54 AGN with model SEDs fit to optical data from Baskin & Laor (2005) and the NASA/IPAC Extragalactic Database and UVX-ray data from FUSE. There is some overlap between their sample and ours, but because quantities are calculated from different SEDs and limits, we found only general agreement.
Figure 9. Fits to bolometric luminosity versus monochromatic luminosity for RL and RQ quasars. Data are used for fitting only in the region where RL and RQ quasars overlap in luminosity. RL quasars are plotted as blue squares and the best-fitting line is solid blue. RQ quasars are plotted as open black circles. Black crosses are RL and RQ objects that do not overlap in luminosity. The best-fitting line is a dot–dashed black. Dashed lines indicate 95 per cent confidence intervals. RL quasar confidence intervals are shaded light blue, RQ quasar confidence intervals are shaded with grey cross-hatch. Panels (a), (b) and (c) are for 1450, 3000 and 5100 Å, respectively.

with their X-ray bolometric corrections. Fig. 11 shows our data plotted with those of Vasudevan & Fabian (2007). Their data and ours seem to be reverse-correlated but with large scatter. Vasudevan & Fabian (2007) point out that the X-ray bolometric corrections derived by Hopkins et al. (2007) and Marconi et al. (2004) seem to have inadequate dispersion to describe the data. Our data support this conclusion.

We caution the reader that mean X-ray bolometric corrections are very inaccurate for individual objects due to variation in the X-ray emission from object to object. This is in agreement with studies by Marchese et al. (2011) who conclude that X-ray luminosity is not a useful proxy for bolometric luminosity due to the large intrinsic scatter in X-ray bolometric corrections. Fig. 12 shows the distribution of X-ray bolometric corrections. The bolometric corrections are given in log in order to display the wide range of individual corrections.

6 SUMMARY

We provide a new generation of bolometric corrections derived from the SEDs of Shang et al. (2011). We integrated the NIR–X-ray region of each SED to estimate bolometric luminosity and derived a variety of bolometric corrections, although we determined that separate RL and RQ optical/UV corrections were not warranted by the data. We also provided bolometric corrections to the 2–10 keV luminosity, including separate RL and RQ corrections.

We provided optical/UV bolometric corrections with four levels of increasing sophistication and several X-ray bolometric corrections, listed below. These are valid under the accompanying assumptions.

(i) Traditional, linear best-fitting bolometric corrections of the form \( L_{\text{bol}} = \zeta \lambda L_\lambda \) at three wavelengths. This assumes SED shapes
do not vary from object to object and bolometric luminosity and monochromatic luminosity are linearly related.

(ii) Linear, best-fitting bolometric corrections with a non-zero intercept of the form $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = A + B \log(L_\lambda)$.

(iii) A first-order bolometric correction. The bolometric correction at 5100 Å can be improved by adding a correction based on the optical continuum slope.

(iv) Bolometric corrections assuming isotropy should probably be corrected for an average viewing angle bias.

(v) Bolometric corrections to the 2–10 keV luminosity for the full sample, RL and RQ subsamples, and RL and RQ subsamples in the region of overlapping luminosity.

Mean bolometric corrections derived here are smaller on average than those derived previously (e.g. Elvis et al. 1994; Richards et al. 2006) due do a difference in methodology and data. We found good agreement with the theoretical work of Nemmen & Brotherton (2010) as the distribution of bolometric corrections tightens and shifts to a lower mean with decreasing wavelength.

For objects with properties that fall in the region of parameter space covered by this sample $[\log(L_{\text{bol}}) = 45.1\text{–}47.3]$, we recommend the following bolometric corrections.

(i) Recommended correction at 1450 Å:

$$\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (4.74 \pm 1.00) + (0.91 \pm 0.02) \log(1450 L_{1450}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

(ii) Recommended correction at 3000 Å:

$$\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (1.85 \pm 1.27) + (0.98 \pm 0.03) \log(3000 L_{3000}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

(iii) Recommended corrections at 5100 Å:

$$\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (4.89 \pm 1.66) + (0.91 \pm 0.04) \log(5100 L_{5100}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (11)

$$\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (1.02 \pm 0.001) \log(5100 L_{5100}) - (0.09 \pm 0.03) \alpha_{\text{obs}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (12)

(iv) Correction for average viewing angle. This correction should be applied to bolometric luminosities resulting from any of our other optical/UV bolometric corrections:

$$L_{\text{bol}} = f L_{\text{iso}} \approx 0.75 L_{\text{iso}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (13)

(v) X-ray bolometric corrections:

$$\log(L_{\text{iso, RL}}) = (23.04 \pm 0.36) + (0.52 \pm 0.080) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (14)

$$\log(L_{\text{iso, RQ}}) = (33.06 \pm 0.37) + (0.29 \pm 0.072) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}).$$  \hspace{1cm} (15)

Table 5. Bolometric corrections for 2–10 keV luminosity.

| Sample               | Linear with zero intercept | Linear with non-zero intercept |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Full sample          | $L_{\text{iso}} = (38.00 \pm 0.68) L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}$ | $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (25.14 \pm 0.193) + (0.47 \pm 0.043) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}})$ |
| Radio loud           | $L_{\text{iso}} = (23.31 \pm 0.91) L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}$ | $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (23.04 \pm 0.360) + (0.52 \pm 0.080) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}})$ |
| Radio quiet          | $L_{\text{iso}} = (88.99 \pm 30.18) L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}$ | $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (33.06 \pm 0.37) + (0.29 \pm 0.072) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}})$ |
| L-matched radio loud | $L_{\text{iso}} = (43.86 \pm 13.30) L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}$ | $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (29.30 \pm 18.16) + (0.38 \pm 0.409) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}})$ |
| L-matched radio quiet| $L_{\text{iso}} = (45.56 \pm 0.88) L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}}$ | $\log(L_{\text{iso}}) = (15.32 \pm 11.69) + (0.69 \pm 0.264) \log(L_{2\text{–}10\text{keV}})$ |

© 2012 The Authors, MNRAS 422, 478–493

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society © 2012 RAS
bias. X-ray bolometric corrections are uncertain and optical/UV corrections are preferred when possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge Beverly Wills, Derek Wills, Sabrina Cales, Daniel Dale, Richard Green, Rodrigo Nemmen, Sarah Gallagher, Rajib Ganguly, Dean Hines, Benjamin Kelly, Gerard Kriss, Jun Li, Baotian Tang and Yanxia Xie for their considerable efforts in compiling the SED sample, and the anonymous referee for helpful suggestions.

ZS acknowledges support by the National Natural Science Foundation of China through Grant No. 10773006 and Chinese 973 Programme 2007CB815405. We are also grateful for support by NASA through grant HST-GO-10717.01-A, Spitzer-GO-20084 and Grant No. NNG05GD03G.

REFERENCES

Barthel P. D., 1989, ApJ, 336, 606
Barvainis R., 1987, ApJ, 320, 537
Baskin A., Laor A., 1987, ApJ, 320, 537
Baskin A., Laor A., 2005, MNRAS, 356, 1029
Cardelli J. A., Clayton G. C., Mathis J. S., 1989, ApJ, 345, 245
Chen Z.-F., Chen Z.-Y., Qin Y., Gu M., Li L., Su C., Li Y., Chen Y., 1989, Res. Astron. Astrophys., 11, 401
Dale D. A. et al., 2007, ApJ, 655, 863
Edelson R. A., Malkan M. A., 1986, ApJ, 308, 59
Elvis M. et al., 1994, ApJS, 95, 1
Gallagher S. C., Hines D. C., Blaylock M., Priddey R. S., Brandt W. N., Egami E. E., 2007, ApJ, 665, 157
Hook I. M., McMahon R. G., Boyle B. J., Irwin M. J., 1994, MNRAS, 268, 305
Hopkins P. F., Richards G. T., Hernquist L., 2007, ApJ, 654, 731
Hubeny I., Agol E., Blaes O., Krolik J. H., 2000, ApJ, 533, 710
Jester S. et al., 2005, AJ, 130, 873
Just D. W., Brandt W. N., Shemmer O., Steffen A. T., Schneider D. P., Chartas G., Garmier G. P., 2007, ApJ, 665, 1004
Kaspi S., Smith P. S., Netzer H., Maoz D., Jannuzi B. T., Giveon U., 2000, ApJ, 533, 631
Kishimoto M., Antonucci R., Omer B., 2005, MNRAS, 346, 640
Kishimoto M., Antonucci R., Blaes O., Lawrence A., Boisson C., Albrecht M., Leipski C., 2008, Nat., 454, 492
Koratkar A., Blaes O., 1999, PASP, 111, 1
Korista K., Baldwin J., Ferland G. J., Verner D., 1997, ApJS, 108, 401
Kris S. G., 2000, in Peterson B. M., Pogge R. W., Polidan R. S., eds, ASP Conf. Ser. Vol. 224, Probing the Physics of Active Galactic Nuclei. Astron. Soc. Pac., San Francisco, p. 45
Kruczek N. E. et al., 2011, AJ, 142, 130
Laing R. A., Riley J. M., Longair M. S., 1983, MNRAS, 204, 151
Laor A., Fiore F., Elvis M., Wilkes B. J., McDowell J. C., 1994, ApJ, 435, 611
Laor A., Fiore F., Elvis M., Wilkes B. J., McDowell J. C., 1997, ApJ, 477, 93
Lawrence A., 2011, preprint (arXiv, 1110.0854L)
Lusso E. et al., 2010, A&A, 512, 34
McLeod K. K., McLeod B. A., 2001, ApJ, 546, 782
McLeod K. K., Rieke G. H., 1994a, ApJ, 420, 58
McLeod K. K., Rieke G. H., 1994b, ApJ, 431, 137
Marchese E., Della Ceca R., Caccianiga A., Severgnini P., Corral A., Fanali R., 2011, preprint (arXiv, 1111.4409v1)
Marconi A., Risaliti G., Gilli R., Hunt L. K., Maiolino R., Savall M., 2004, MNRAS, 351, 169
Markwardt C. B., 2009, in Bohleider D. A., Durand D., Dowler P., eds, ASP Conf. Ser. Vol. 411, Astronomical Data Analysis Software and Systems XVIII. Astron. Soc. Pac., San Francisco, p. 251

© 2012 The Authors, MNRAS 422, 478–493
Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society © 2012 RAS
Matthews W. G., Ferland G. J., 1987, ApJ, 323, 456
Miller B. P., Brandt W. N., Schneider D. P., Gibson R. R., Steffen A. T., Wu J., 2011, ApJ, 726, 20
Moos H. W. et al., 2000, ApJ, 538, 1
Mullaney J. R., Alexander D. M., Goulding A. D., Hickox R. C., 2011, MNRAS, 414, 1082
Nemmen R., Brotherton M. S., 2010, MNRAS, 408, 1598
Nenkova M., Sirocky M. M., Ivezić Ž., Elitzur M., 2008a, ApJ, 685, 147
Nenkova M., Sirocky M. M., Nikutta R., Ivezić Ž., Elitzur M., 2008b, ApJ, 685, 160
Netzer H., Brotherton M. S., Wills B. J., Han M., Wills D., Baldwin J. A., Ferland G. J., Browne I. W. A., 1995, ApJ, 448, 27
Netzer H. et al., 2007, ApJ, 666, 806
Peng C. Y., Ho L. C., Impey C. D., Rix H.-W., 2002, AJ, 124, 266
Rahab D., Jaffe W., Röttinger H., Meisenheimer K., Tristram K. R. W., 2009, MNRAS, 394, 1325
Richards G. T. et al., 2006, ApJS, 166, 470
Richards G. T. et al., 2011, AJ, 141, 167
Schlegel D. J., Finkbeiner D. P., Davis M., 1998, ApJ, 500, 525
Schneider D. P. et al., 2010, AJ, 130, 2360
Shakura N. I., Sunyaev R. A., 1973, A&A, 24, 337
Shang Z. et al., 2005, ApJ, 619, 41
Shang Z. et al., 2011, ApJ, 196, 2
Skrutskie M. F. et al., 2000, ApJ, 538, 1
Spinoglio L., Malkan M., 1989, ApJ, 342, 83
Spinrad H., Marr J., Aguilar L., Djorgovski S., 1985, PASP, 97, 932
Steffen A. T., Strateva I., Brandt W. N., Alexander D. M., Koekemoer A. M., Lehmer B. D., Schneider D. P., Vignali C., 2006, AJ, 131, 2826
Stocke J. T., Morris S. L., Weymann R. J., Foltz C. B., 1992, ApJ, 369, 487
Vanden Berk D. E. et al., 2001, AJ, 122, 549
Vasudevan R. V., Fabian A. C., 2007, MNRAS, 381, 1235
Wilkes B., 2004, in Richards G. T., Hall P. B., eds, ASP Conf. Vol. 311, AGN Physics with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. Astron. Soc. Pac., San Francisco, p. 37
Wills B. J. et al., 1995, ApJ, 447, 139
Zamorani G. et al., 1981, ApJ, 245, 357
Zheng W. et al., 2001, ApJ, 562, 152

This paper has been typeset from a \TeX/L\TEX file prepared by the author.