A Physical Model of FeLoBALs: Implications for Quasar Feedback

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ABSTRACT
Photoionization modeling of the low-ionization broad absorption lines of certain quasars, known as FeLoBALs, has recently revealed the number density of the wind absorbers and their distance from the central supermassive black hole. From these, the feedback efficiency of the quasars can in principle be derived. The implied properties of the FeLoBALs are, however, surprising, with the thickness of the absorbers relative to their distance from the black hole, ∆R/R, as small as ∼10^{-5}. Such absorbers are unlikely to survive the journey from the supermassive black hole to their inferred location. We show that the observed FeLoBAL properties are readily explained if they are formed in situ in radiative shocks produced when a quasar blast wave impacts a moderately dense interstellar clump along the line of sight. This physical picture differs significantly from the thin shell approximation often assumed, and implies outflow rates, kinetic luminosities and momentum fluxes that differ correspondingly, in some cases at the order of magnitude level. Using the radiative shock model, we estimate the ratio of the outflow kinetic luminosity to bolometric luminosity for three bright FeLoBAL quasars in the literature. We find $\dot{E}_k/L_{bol} \approx 2$–$5\%$ (and corresponding momentum fluxes $\dot{P} \approx 2$–$15 L_{bol}/c$), similar to what is adopted in models reproducing the $M-\sigma$ relation. These outflow properties are also comparable to those recently inferred for molecular outflows in local ultra-luminous infrared galaxies, suggesting that active galactic nuclei are capable of driving such outflows.

Key words: cosmology: theory – galaxies: active, evolution – quasars: general, absorption lines

1 INTRODUCTION
The broad absorption lines (BAL) seen in up to 40% of quasars (e.g., Trump et al. 2006; Dai et al. 2008), and blueshifted by up to $\sim 0.1c$ relative to systemic, are clear signatures of outflows driven by active galactic nuclei (AGN). Such outflows are of particular interest in the context of the measured correlations between galactic-scale properties and those of the supermassive black holes (SMBH) they host, such as the $M-\sigma$ relation (e.g., Ferrarese & Merritt 2000; Gebhardt et al. 2000; Tremaine et al. 2002). Indeed, it has been argued that feedback by accreting SMBHs could regulate their growth and produce these relationships (e.g., Silk & Rees 1998; Wyithe & Loeb 2003; Di Matteo et al. 2005). While these arguments are broadly compelling, it remains an open question how the energy and/or momentum released by the SMBH couples to the surrounding galaxy, quenches black hole accretion, and possibly truncates star formation. Observational constraints on the feedback provided by AGN are therefore extremely valuable, but have been scarce so far.

Progress on this front has recently been achieved through the detailed study of a subset of BAL systems, for which photoionization modeling has allowed inference of their column density $N_H$ and radius $R$ from the SMBH, in addition to their velocity $v$ (e.g., Moe et al. 2009; Dunn et al. 2010; Bautista et al. 2010). Because these systems show absorption from low-ionization states of iron, specifically FeII, they are known as FeLoBALs. Assuming a thin shell geometry, these measurements have been interpreted as providing estimates of the mass outflow rates, $\dot{M}_{out}$, and kinetic luminosities, $\dot{E}_k$, of the quasar outflows. These stud-

1 HeI, SiII, and NiII ions also provide powerful diagnostics, when present.
Table 1. Sample of FeLoBALs and their Inferred Properties

| QSO          | $z$  | $L_{bol}^{1}$ $\text{erg s}^{-1}$ | $M_{BH}^{2}$ $M_\odot$ | $\log N_H$ | $\log n_e$ | $\log U_H^{3}$ | $T$ | $R^4$ | $\Delta R^5$ | $v$ | $\text{km s}^{-1}$ |
|---------------|------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|-----|-----|-------------|-----|----------------|
| SDSS J0838+2955$^a$ | 2.043 | $10^{47.5}$ | $3 \times 10^9$ | 20.8 | 3.8 | $-1.9$ | $\approx 10^4$ | 3.3 | 0.04 | 4.900 | 10,000 |
| SDSS J0318-0600$^b$ | 1.967 | $10^{47.7}$ | $4 \times 10^9$ | 20.1 | 3.3 | $-3.0$ | $\approx 10^4$ | 5.5 | 0.02 | 4.200 | 10,000 |
| QSO 2359-1241$^c$ | 0.858 | $10^{46.7}$ | $4 \times 10^8$ | 20.6 | 4.4 | $-2.4$ | $\approx 10^4$ | 1.3 | 0.005 | 1.400 | 10,000 |

1Bolometric luminosity of the quasar.
2SMBH mass, assuming that the bolometric luminosity equals the Eddington luminosity, i.e., $M_{BH} \equiv 10^8 M_\odot (L_{bol}/1.3 \times 10^{46} \text{erg s}^{-1})$.
3Ionization parameter $U_H \equiv \Phi_H / n_H$, where $\Phi_H$ is the hydrogen ionizing photon flux.
4Distance of the absorber from the central source.
5Thickness of the absorber, defined as $\Delta R \equiv 1.2 N_H / n_e$, assuming that the system is of solar composition and fully ionized.

...of a handful of FeLoBALs indicate that in some cases the kinetic luminosity of the AGN outflow can exceed $f = 1\%$ of the bolometric luminosity (e.g., Moe et al. 2009). Such values are not far from the value $f = 5\%$ thought to be sufficient to explain the normalization of the $M - \sigma$ relation (e.g., Di Matteo et al. 2005; see also DeBhur et al. 2011).

The physical properties of the FeLoBALs from which the kinetic luminosities and mass outflow rates are estimated (Table 1) are surprising and differ significantly from the interpretation of other BAL observations. In particular, whereas classical CIV BALs are inferred to be located at distances $R \lesssim 1$ pc from the SMBH (e.g., Capellupo et al. 2011), the FeLoBALs in Table 1 have $R \gtrsim 1$ kpc. Furthermore, the small inferred FeLoBAL sizes $\Delta R \sim 0.01$ pc imply large ratios $R/\Delta R \sim 10^5$ and, as we will show, lifetimes $\sim 10^{-2}$ of the time it would take such absorbers to travel from the SMBH to their inferred locations, $t_{flow} \approx R/v$. To determine the reliability of these observational estimates of the efficiency of AGN feedback, it is important to have a more detailed physical picture of the FeLoBAL absorbers. Such a model is in particular necessary to determine how global parameters of the outflow can be derived from the absorption measurements.

In this paper, we argue that the FeLoBALs must be formed in situ at large radii ($\gtrsim 1$ kpc). We show that the interaction of a quasar blast wave with a moderately dense interstellar clump along the line of sight can result in radiative shocks, and that cool material entrained by the hot ambient flow can explain the properties of the observed FeLoBALs (\cite{Klein1994}). This physical picture has important implications for the kinetic luminosities of the quasar outflows probed by low-ionization absorption lines (\cite{FaucherGiguere2011}). We conclude in \cite{FaucherGiguere2011} by discussing our results in the context of models of the co-evolution of black holes and galaxies.

Before proceeding, a clarification of the terminology adopted here is in order. The different classes of broad BAL absorbers are usually defined in terms of their observational spectroscopic properties. While these are indicative of their physical nature, they need not always be a one-to-one correspondence. In particular, only a handful of FeLoBAL absorbers to date have been studied in sufficient detail to extract their physical properties. In this work, we assume that the systems in Table 1 are representative of FeLoBALs in general. Strictly speaking, it is conceivable that some FeLoBALs are physically distinct and formed differently than we propose (e.g., Hall et al. 2011). Furthermore, some members of the broader class of low-ionization broad absorbers (LoBALs), or even some high-ionization BALs (HiBALs), may form as we describe here. More detailed observations and photoionization analyses will be needed to determine exactly how widely applicable the model presented here is.

Our model is based on the crushing of an interstellar cloud by the forward shock driven into the ambient medium by the supersonic quasar outflow. A review of the important cloud crushing physics can be found in \cite{Klein1994}. A key element is that the shocks driven into the over-dense cloud are much weaker than the forward shock in the ambient gas, which allows them to cool and dust to survive (\cite{Klein1994}). A third shock involved is the reverse shock into the quasar wind itself.

2 MODEL

2.1 FeLoBALs are Created In Situ

Quasar wind ejecta with velocity $v$ take a flow time

$$t_{flow} \approx \frac{R}{v} \approx 3 \times 10^5 \frac{\text{yr}}{\left(\frac{R}{3 \text{ kpc}}\right)} \left(\frac{v}{10,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^{-1} \quad (1)$$

to travel out to a radius $R$. As the ejecta impact the interstellar medium (ISM) of the galaxy, the gas behind the shock is heated to a temperature

$$T_{sh} = \frac{3 \mu}{16 k} m_p v_{sh}^2 \approx 1.3 \times 10^8 \frac{K}{\left(\frac{4 v}{3 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^2} \quad (2)$$

where $\mu$ is the mean molecular weight (assuming $\mu = 0.61$ for a fully ionized gas of solar composition) and $k$ is Boltzmann’s constant. In this expression, we have assumed $v = 3 v_{sh}/4$, as appropriate for the post-shock material for a strong shock.

2 If the ejecta decelerate by a factor of a few along the way, the required time scale is correspondingly shorter, but this does not significantly affect our arguments.
QSO blast wave encounters moderately dense ISM cloud.

\[ n_{H}^{c,i}, T_{c}^{f} \]

\[ n_{H}^{\text{pre}}, T_{\text{pre}} \]

\[ \left( \frac{\Delta R}{0.01 \text{ pc}} \right)^{0.5} \]

\[ \left( \frac{T}{10^{4} \text{ K}} \right) \]

\[ t_{\text{sh}} \sim v_{sh}^{2} \]

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\[ (\text{saturated heat flux regime; Cowie & McKee} \ 1977) \]

\[ v_{sh} \]

\[ v_{sh,c} \]

\[ \text{Shock wave propagates in cloud on crushing time } t_{\text{cc}}, \text{ cloud is destroyed by K-H in } t_{\text{cc}} \approx 20 t_{\text{cc}}, \text{ and is accelerated to } \sim v_{sh} \text{ in } t_{\text{tag}}. \]

\[ \text{At } t > t_{\text{bi}}, \text{ cloud is shredded into cloudlets traveling at } \sim v_{sh} \text{ and compressed by hot post-shock gas.} \]

\[ \text{Figure 1. Schematic illustration of the formation of FeLoBALs in radiative shocks.} \]

For comparison, the sound crossing time of a cloud of size \( \Delta R \) is

\[ t_{s} \approx \frac{\Delta R}{c_{s}} \approx 640 \text{ yr} \left( \frac{\Delta R}{0.01 \text{ pc}} \right) \left( \frac{T}{10^{4} \text{ K}} \right)^{-0.5}, \]  

so that it would have ample time to adjust its size. If the cloud has temperature \( T_{\text{BAL}} \), number density \( n_{H}^{\text{BAL}} \), and is pressure confined by a medium at temperature \( T_{\text{sh}} \), that medium must have density

\[ n_{H}^{\text{hot}} = \frac{T_{\text{BAL}}}{T_{\text{sh}}} n_{H}^{\text{BAL}} \]

\[ \approx 0.08 \text{ cm}^{-3} \left( \frac{n_{H}^{\text{BAL}}}{10^{3} \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right) \left( \frac{T_{\text{BAL}}}{10^{4} \text{ K}} \right) \left( \frac{T_{\text{sh}}}{1.3 \times 10^{7} \text{ K}} \right)^{-1}. \]

Non-gravitationally bound cool clouds (such as those in Table 1) moving in a hot medium are disrupted by the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability on a time scale

\[ t_{\text{KH}} \approx \kappa \left( \frac{n_{H}^{\text{BAL}}}{n_{H}^{\text{hot}}} \right)^{1/2} \left( \frac{\Delta R}{v} \right), \]  

where the velocity is relative to the hot medium, and the dimensionless factor can have values up to \( \kappa \sim 10 \) when cooling is efficient (e.g., Mellema et al. 2002; Cooper et al. 2009), but not much more. For the fiducial parameters in equations (3) and (4), assuming that \( v = c_{s}(T_{\text{sh}}) \), equation (5) yields \( t_{\text{KH}} \approx 630 \text{ yr} \). Since \( t_{\text{KH}} < t_{\text{flow}} \) for the FeLoBALs in Table 1, these absorption systems would have been completely destroyed along the way if they had been produced in the immediate vicinity of the SMBH, as is inferred to be the case for many classical, high-ionization BAL absorbers. While the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability can in principle be suppressed by magnetic fields, the Rayleigh-Taylor instability generically cannot (Stone & Gardner 2007), and would destroy the clouds on a comparable time scale. Furthermore, thermal conduction from the hot medium would evaporate the cool clouds on a time scale

\[ t_{\text{evap}} \approx 6 \times 10^{3} \text{ yr} \left( \frac{\Delta R}{0.01 \text{ pc}} \right)^{7/6} \left( \frac{n_{H}^{\text{BAL}}}{10^{4} \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right)^{5/6} \times \left( \frac{n_{H}^{\text{pre}} T_{\text{BAL}}}{10^{8} \text{ K cm}^{-3}} \right)^{-5/6}. \]

\[ P = f_{w} \frac{L_{\text{bol}}}{c} t_{\text{flow}} \]  

\[ P = \frac{4\pi R^{3}}{3} \bar{\rho}_{\text{pre}}(<R)v, \]

\[ \bar{\rho}_{\text{pre}}(<R) = X \bar{\rho}_{\text{pre}}(<R)/m_{p} \]  

where \( \bar{\rho}_{\text{pre}}(<R) \) is the mass density enclosed within a radius \( R \), where the velocity of the outflow is \( v \).
hydrogen mass fraction), we obtain

$$\bar{n}_H^{\text{pre}}(R < R) \approx \frac{3X f_{\text{bw}} L_{\text{bol}}}{4\pi R^2 c m_p u^2} \approx 0.02 \text{ cm}^{-3} f_{\text{bw}} \left(\frac{L_{\text{bol}}}{10^{47} \text{ erg s}^{-1}}\right) \left(\frac{R}{3 \text{ kpc}}\right)^{-2} \times \left(\frac{v}{5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right).$$

(10)

At such densities, the post-shock gas would have no chance to cool in a flow time, making it impossible to form FeLoBALs at large distances via interaction with "average" ambient conditions.

Because FeLoBALs are rare (only $\sim 1/1,000$ of bright optical quasars show transitions suitable for photoionization analysis; e.g., Moe et al. 2009), however, we may appeal to rare circumstances to produce them. Consider the situation illustrated in Figure 1. A moderately dense clump, for example analogous to a cold neutral medium cloud, lies along the line of sight. Let $n_H^i$ be the initial density of the cloud and $a_i$ its radius. The cloud is impacted by a blast wave from the quasar traveling at velocity $v_{\text{sh}} \approx 5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, as above. As the blast wave overtakes the cloud, a shock wave is driven into it at a velocity $v_{\text{sh,c}} \approx v_{\text{sh}} \sqrt{n_H^{\text{pre}}/n_H^i}$, set by the requirement that the post-shock gas in the cloud be in pressure equilibrium with the surrounding medium (e.g., McKee & Cowie 1977b). The corresponding post-shock temperature is then $T_{\text{sh,c}} = T_{\text{sh}}(n_H^{\text{pre}}/n_H^i)$, and we define a cloud crushing time as

$$t_{\text{cc}} = \frac{a_i}{v_{\text{sh,c}}} \approx \frac{a_i}{v_{\text{sh}}} \left(\frac{n_H^i}{n_H^{\text{pre}}}ight).$$

(11)

Identifying the cloud size $\Delta R = 2a_i$, and $v = 3v_{\text{sh}}/4$, equation (11) implies that the cloud is destroyed in $t_{\text{cc}} = 3S t_{\text{cc}}$. At the same time, ram pressure from the hot external medium accelerates the cloud, which becomes co-moving with the hot shocked gas on a drag time

$$t_{\text{drag}} \approx \frac{4a_i}{3v} \frac{n_H^{\text{pre}}}{4n_H^{\text{pre}}},$$

(12)

i.e. the time necessary for the hot flow to sweep the cloud with a mass equal to its own. The requirement that the cloud be accelerated before it is torn apart is

$$t_{\text{drag}}/t_{\text{KH}} \leq 1 \Leftrightarrow \frac{n_H^{\text{pre}}}{4n_H^{\text{pre}}} \leq \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^2.$$

(13)

We further require that the cooling time behind the shock driven into the cloud be less than a cloud crushing time, so that the shock is radiative and leaves cold material behind. Such radiative cooling also prolongs the cloud survival with respect to the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability (e.g., Mellema et al. 2002, Cooper et al. 2009), allowing values $\kappa \approx 10$. For $10^4 \lesssim T \lesssim 4 \times 10^6$ K, the isobaric cooling time for ionized gas is

$$t_{\text{cool}} \approx 1.5 \times 10^7 \text{ yr} \left(\frac{T_{\text{sh,c}}}{10^6 \text{ K}}\right)^{1.6} \left(\frac{4n_H^{\text{pre}}}{10 \text{ cm}^{-3}}\right)^{-1},$$

(14)

where we have adopted the approximation to the cooling function from McKee & Cowie (1977), and the formula accounts for a factor of 4 compression through the strong shock. Combining the expressions above,

$$\frac{t_{\text{cool}}}{t_{\text{cc}}} \approx 1 \left(\frac{v_{\text{sh}}}{5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^{4.2} \left(\frac{n_H^{\text{pre}}}{0.02 \text{ cm}^{-3}}\right)^{2.1} \left(\frac{4n_H^{\text{pre}}}{18 \text{ cm}^{-3}}\right)^{-1} \left(\frac{1.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}}{N_H^{\text{pre}}}\right)^{-1},$$

(15)

where $n_H^{\text{pre}} \equiv 2n_H^{i}$ is the column density of the original cloud. In this formula, the fiducial values for $n_H^{\text{pre}}$ and $n_H^i$ were chosen to satisfy $t_{\text{drag}} \approx t_{\text{KH}}$ with $\kappa = 10$ (c.f., eq. [13]), i.e. to ensure that the cloud is accelerated before being shredded. It follows that column densities $N_H^{c,i} \gtrsim 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ are necessary for the post-shock gas with $v_{\text{sh}} \approx 5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ to cool and produce conditions suitable for FeLoBALs.

For $t > t_{\text{drag}}$, $t_{\text{KH}}$, the main cloud has been shredded into multiple cloudlets traveling at $v \approx v_{\text{sh}}$. Since $t_{\text{cool}} < t_{\text{cc}}$, these cloudlets cannot maintain pressure balance with the surrounding medium and are therefore compressed. These photoionized cloudlets cool to $T \approx 10^4$ K, where the cooling function is strongly suppressed, and reach densities up to (in pressure equilibrium with the hot gas)

$$n_H^{c,i} \approx 4n_H^{\text{pre}} \left(\frac{T_{\text{sh}}}{10^4 \text{ K}}\right)^{1/2} \approx \frac{3,000 \text{ cm}^{-3}}{0.02 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \left(\frac{n_H^{\text{pre}}}{1.4 \times 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2}}\right) \left(\frac{v_{\text{sh}}}{5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^2.$$

(16)

The predicted densities, column densities $n_H^{c,i}$ and temperatures of these cloudlets are in excellent agreement with the inferred properties of the FeLoBALs summarized in Table I.

Furthermore, this picture naturally explains the observations of multiple absorption components along the line of sight with approximately the same distance from the SMBH (e.g., Bautista et al. 2010), as some cloudlets may only be partially accelerated. The supra-thermal line widths measured (hundreds of km s$^{-1}$) could also result from a combination of blended components and velocity shear during the shredding process.

In our model, the fact that FeLoBALs arise along particular sight lines with over-dense material is also in agreement with their host quasars being redder than average (even among BAL quasars; e.g., Sprayberry & Pottz 1992, Becker et al. 2000, Urrutia et al. 2008). It is also possible that dust is present in other clouds along the line of sight, which in general could be seen in absorption at different velocity offsets. However, since strong absorption at the galaxy systemic redshift is often not seen in FeLoBALs, this suggests that the dust responsible for the reddening is part of the FeLoBAL gas, and therefore that the dust survived the cloud crushing shocks. We note that the intra-cloud shocks have velocities much lower than the quasar blast wave owing to the cloud over-density. Even for a quasar blast wave with velocity $v_{\text{sh}} = 5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, for the maximum density

\[ \text{In the radiative case, the original cloud does not undergo significant lateral expansion (as it would adiabatically; e.g., Klein et al. 1994). At least before they mix significantly with the hot medium, the integrated column density of the cloudlets is therefore similar to that of the original cloud, provided that their collective covering factor is preserved during the shredding. We therefore identify } N_H^{c,i} \approx N_H^{\text{BAL}}. \]
contrast allowed by equation (13) with $\kappa = 10$, the cloud crushing shocks have velocities $v_{sh,c} \sim 170$ km s$^{-1}$. At such velocities, it is reasonable for at least some dust to survive in the FeLoBAL gas (e.g., McKee 1989). Indeed, although the dust is likely to be eventually destroyed with the cloud itself, the short lifetimes of order a few 1,000 yr (2.1) imply that there is little time for dust sputtering processes to operate while the cloud is present.

2.3 Selection Effects and Predicted Trends

In reality, the hot flow likely entrains a wide spectrum of clouds. In the scenario outlined above, selection effects explain the relatively narrow range of observed FeLoBAL properties.

Absorption by low-ionization species such as FeII, HeI, and SiII useful for photoionization modeling selects ionization parameters $U_H \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-3}$, as well as temperatures sufficiently low to avoid collisional ionization of those species. As equations (13) and (15) show, cool gas remains behind the blast wave and is accelerated to a velocity comparable to the hot flow only for clump column densities

$$N_H^c \gtrsim 10^{20} \text{ cm}^{-2} \left(\frac{v_{sh}}{5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}\right)^{4.2}. \quad (17)$$

Interestingly, there is evidence that FeLoBALs located closer to SMBHs ($\sim 1 - 10$ pc vs. $\gtrsim 1$ kpc) have column densities higher by factors $\sim 10 - 100$ (e.g., Dunn et al. 2010), a trend in agreement with our model if the blast wave decelerates with radius $^{4}$.

Our model also naturally explains why the FeLoBAL absorbers for the bright quasars in Table 1 are all located at relatively large radii $R \sim 1 - 3$ kpc. Indeed, the observational selection of a narrow range of ionization parameter $U_H \propto L_{bol}/R^2 n_H$ defines a relationship between the quasar luminosity $L_{bol}$ and the FeLoBAL radius $R$. Since the FeLoBAL gas density $n_H$ is set by pressure equilibrium as in equation (15), this relationship in fact implies that the FeLoBAL absorbers in luminous quasars would be typically found at large radii.

3 INFERRING THE FEEDBACK EFFICIENCY

The physical picture of FeLoBALs developed here allows us to relate their observed properties to those of the underlying quasar outflows.

Consider first the common assumption that the outflowing material is confined to a partial, cold, thin shell that has a covering factor $\Omega$ and a column density equal to that of the FeLoBAL, $N_H^{\text{FeLoBAL}}$ (e.g., Arav 2010). Since the mass of the shell $M_{\text{shell}} = 4\pi R^2 N_H^{\text{FeLoBAL}} m_p v/\Omega$, the mass outflow rate is given by

$$M_{\text{shell}} = \frac{8\pi R^2 N_H^{\text{FeLoBAL}} m_p v}{\Omega}, \quad (18)$$

$^4$ Since not all cloudlets need be fully accelerated to the hot flow velocity, their velocity may not always reflect the blast wave velocity. Furthermore, the criterion in equation (17) is strengthened for values of $n_H^c/n_H^{\text{pre}}$ smaller than fiducially assumed in equation (15). There is therefore not necessarily a well-defined relationship between $N_H$ and $R$, or $N_H$ and $v$.

where $v = \dot{R}$. The corresponding kinetic luminosity and momentum flux are then

$$\dot{E}_k = \frac{1}{2} M_{\text{shell}} v^2 \quad (19)$$

and

$$\dot{P} = M_{\text{shell}} v. \quad (20)$$

Motivated by the observed incidence of general (mostly high ionization) broad absorption lines in quasars, these expressions have usually been applied with a covering factor $\Omega \approx 0.2$ (e.g., Moe et al. 2009; Dunn et al. 2010). We return to this point below, where we argue that this may generally not be a valid assumption for FeLoBALs.

In our picture, FeLoBALs are rare tracers of an underlying shock-heated medium, fortuitously encountered along the line of sight. A more appropriate estimate of the mechanical properties of the outflow can be obtained by replacing the column density of the FeLoBAL by that of the hot gas in equation (18), and similarly for the velocity and covering factor, i.e.

$$M_{\text{hot}} = \frac{8\pi R^2 n_H^{\text{hot}} m_p v_{\text{hot}}}{X \Omega_{\text{hot}}}. \quad (21)$$

The shell approximation remains reasonable, since at large radii most of the hot gas is swept up, shocked ambient ISM.

The properties of the hot flow required in equation (21) are not directly measured, but can be inferred by making assumptions motivated by our model. One subtlety is that in a realistic outflow, the ambient medium is separated from the direct quasar wind by a forward shock, a contact discontinuity, as well as a reverse shock. We discuss this in detail in the Appendix but it does not change the conclusions drawn here using simpler arguments.

We begin by assuming that the FeLoBAL gas is fully accelerated by the hot gas, $v \approx v_{\text{hot}}$, and in pressure equilibrium with it:

$$n_H^{\text{hot}} \approx n_H^{\text{FeLoBAL}} \left(\frac{10^4 \text{ K}}{T_{\text{hot}}}\right). \quad (22)$$

As before, $T_{\text{hot}} \approx T_{sh}(v_{sh} = 4v/3)$, where $T_{sh}$ is given by equation (2). The column density of the hot gas can be estimated as

$$N_H^{\text{hot}} \approx n_H^{\text{pre}} (< R)/R. \quad (23)$$

If the FeLoBAL is located in the shocked ambient medium and close to the forward shock (see the Appendix), then $n_H^{\text{hot}} \approx 4n_H^{\text{pre}}$. Under these assumptions,

$$N_H^{\text{hot}} \approx \frac{1}{4} N_H^{\text{FeLoBAL}} \left(\frac{R}{\Delta R}\right) \left(\frac{10^4 \text{ K}}{T_{\text{hot}}}\right), \quad (24)$$

where $\Delta R$ is the thickness of the FeLoBAL absorber (as before). Written this way, all the quantities necessary to evaluate equation (21) are provided by photoionization modeling of the FeLoBAL (e.g., Table 1), except $T_{\text{hot}}$ which is derived from $v$, and $\Omega_{\text{hot}}$. The energy and momentum fluxes of the outflow follow straightforwardly given $M_{\text{hot}}$ and $v_{\text{hot}}$.

It is important to stress that $M_{\text{hot}}$ in equation (21) is not the intrinsic mass outflow rate in the quasar wind. Instead, $M_{\text{hot}}$ is the rate at which the ambient ISM material is being swept up by the quasar outflow, i.e., it is the galaxy-scale outflow rate of shocked gas. In the model of FeLoBALs advocated here, the observations cannot directly constrain the...
In Table 2, we give the galaxy-scale mass outflow rates, kinetic luminosities, and momentum fluxes inferred from the FeLoBALs in Table 1. In particular, a useful lower limit on \( \Omega \) on \( v \) implies that \( M_{\text{shell}} \) for QSO 2359-1241 (\( v = 1,400 \) km s\(^{-1}\)) can be much less than \( M_{\text{hot}} \), and in fact it is found to be.

Although we have so far assumed that the FeLoBAL gas is fully accelerated, i.e. co-moving with the hot flow, this may not always hold. Provided only that the cool absorbers are pressure confined, \( \dot{M}_{\text{hot}} \propto v_{\text{hot}}^{-1} \), \( \dot{E}_{\text{hot}} \propto v_{\text{hot}} \), and \( \dot{P}_{\text{hot}} \) is independent of \( v_{\text{hot}} \). In particular, a useful lower limit on the kinetic luminosity of the outflow is obtained (for a given \( \Omega_{\text{hot}} \)) if the FeLoBAL velocity \( v \leq v_{\text{hot}} \), while the derived \( \dot{M}_{\text{hot}} \) is then a lower limit. The values in Table 2 should more generally be interpreted this way.

FeLoBALs with properties identical to those in our best wave model can also be produced in a smooth, supersonic wind (with a density profile \( \propto R^{-2} \) and velocity

\footnote{This is violated by a factor \( < 3 \) for SDSS J0838+2955, but this is only marginally significant at the level of our estimates. It is also possible that the absorber is not fully accelerated.}

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{lcccccccc}
\hline
QSO & \( \dot{M}_{\text{shell}}(\Omega = 0.2) \) & \( \dot{E}_{\text{hot}}(\Omega = 0.2) \) & \( \dot{P}_{\text{hot}}(\Omega = 0.2) \) & \( \dot{E}_{\text{hot}}(\Omega = 1) \) & \( \dot{P}_{\text{hot}}(\Omega = 1) \) & \( \dot{E}_{\text{shell}} \) & \( \dot{P}_{\text{shell}} \) & \( \dot{M}_{\text{hot}}(\Omega = 1) \) \\
& \( \text{M}_\odot \) yr\(^{-1}\) & \( \%L_{\text{bol}} \) & \( L_{\text{bol}}/c \) & \( \%L_{\text{bol}} \) & \( L_{\text{bol}}/c \) & \( \%L_{\text{bol}} \) & \( L_{\text{bol}}/c \) & \( \%L_{\text{bol}} \) \\
\hline
SDSS J0838+2955 & 560 & 1.2 & 1.5 & 1,000 & 2.2 & 2.7 & 3.5 \\
SDSS J0331-0600 & 150 & 0.2 & 0.2 & 1,100 & 1.2 & 1.8 & 2.0 \\
QSO 2359-1241 & 36 & 0.05 & 0.2 & 2,400 & 3.1 & 13.4 & 5.0 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\caption{Galaxy-Scale Mass Outflow Rates, Kinetic Luminosities, and Momentum Fluxes Inferred from the FeLoBALs in Table 1.}
\end{table}
through the wind at radius $v$ shock model. In our model, the thin shell approximation and in the context of our radiative models successful in reproducing the $M - \sigma$ relation (e.g., Wyithe & Loeb 2003; Di Matteo et al. 2005). Moreover, for a given covering factor of hot gas $\Omega_{\text{hot}} \approx 1$, our inference of $E_{\text{bol}}^{QSO}$ is a lower limit if the cold BAL gas is not fully accelerated to the velocity of the hot gas. The momentum fluxes we find for FeLoBALs in Table 2 are also comparable to the values $\dot{P} \approx 5 - 10 L_{\text{bol}}/c$ that appear sufficient to drive powerful galaxy-wide outflows in simulations that model black hole feedback by injecting quasar winds into the surrounding ISM (DeBuhr et al. 2011).

The mass outflow rates and energy and momentum fluxes inferred in Table 1 apply on the galactic scales where the absorbers are detected ($R \sim \text{kpc}$). These need not correspond to the small-scale mechanical properties of the quasar wind. In particular, galactic-scale mass outflow rates are in general higher than those of the direct quasar wind because of swept up material: the large values in Table 1 therefore need not imply super-Eddington accretion disc winds.

The FeLoBALs in the three bright quasars studied here may trace a particular stage of feedback. In fact, the observations of cool absorbers moving at $v \approx 5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ at $R \sim 3 \text{kpc}$ from the black hole imply relatively clear sight lines. Otherwise, the quasar wind would have been decelerated more significantly by sweeping up ambient ISM. One possibility is that we are witnessing late accretion events, with the outflows propagating into a tenuous ISM that has already been mostly evacuated in an earlier phase. The powerful molecular outflows recently detected in local ultra-luminous infrared galaxies (ULIRGs) may provide evidence of such gas clearing (e.g., Feruglio et al. 2010; Fischer et al. 2010; Sturm et al. 2011), though star formation may also contribute to driving these winds (Chung et al. 2011). Intriguingly, the kinetic luminosities and momentum fluxes of the ULIRG molecular outflows are similar to those we infer for the FeLoBAL quasar outflows, suggesting that AGN are indeed capable of driving the ULIRG outflows.

Independent constraints on the evolutionary stage of FeLoBAL quasars, for instance from their broad band spectral energy distributions, would be valuable in distinguishing the late feedback possibility from that of a chance geometrical effect. Subject to the significant limitations of small and heterogeneous samples, recent observations appear to support the hypothesis that at least some FeLoBAL quasars are observed toward the end of their starburst and in the last stages of blowing out their surrounding ISM (Urrutia et al. 2008; Farrah et al. 2007, 2010). Since much of the black hole growth is predicted to occur while the AGN is obscured, appearing in the optical only after it has blown out the obscuring material (e.g., Hopkins et al. 2005), this late stage of feedback picture is consistent with the “youthful” quasar hypothesis for FeLoBALs (Hall et al. 2002).

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APPENDIX A: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHOCKED AMBIENT MEDIUM AND THE QUASAR WIND

In §3, we inferred the mechanical properties of the quasar outflow based on those of the hot, shocked ambient medium at $R$. In realistic outflow solutions (see Fig. A1), the quasar wind is separated from that medium by a reverse shock at $R_{\text{sw}}$ and a contact discontinuity at $R_c$. We denote the radius of the forward shock by $R_s$.

An important question is how $E^\text{hot}_k$ relates to the kinetic luminosity of the wind in the immediate vicinity of the quasar, $E^\text{QSO}_k$. For some purposes, such as comparing with galaxy simulations that inject energy near the BH (e.g., Di Matteo et al. 2005), this quantity is more directly relevant than the hot flow on galactic scales. From FeLoBALs at kiloparsec radii, this can only be done assuming a global outflow solution.

As we showed (eq. [10]), both the reverse and forward shocks are likely to be adiabatic for the FeLoBALs in Table 1. For the case of a quasar wind with constant $E^\text{QSO}_k = \frac{1}{2} M_{\text{in}} v_{\text{in}}^2$ (where the subscript ‘in’ denotes the initial properties of the wind) propagating in an uniform ambient medium of density $\rho_{\text{pre}}$, Koo & McKee (1992) showed that

$$R_s = 0.884 \left( \frac{E^\text{QSO}_k}{\rho_{\text{pre}}} \right)^{1/5} t^{3/5},$$

in this regime. This solution incorporates the shock jump conditions and the pressure balance requirement at the contact discontinuity in the dimensionless pre-factor. It also assumes that the outflow has reached radii sufficiently large that it is self-similar and no longer depends on the details of the energy injection.

Taking the derivative, time can be eliminated from equation (A1) and it is straightforward to show that

$$E^\text{QSO}_k \approx 8.6 \rho_{\text{pre}} R_s^2 R_{\text{sw}}^3. \quad (A2)$$

Since the FeLoBALs are formed upon impact with the forward shock in our model, and $t_{\text{evap}} \ll t_{\text{Bow}}$ for the systems in Table 1, we can usually assume $R \approx R_s$. In general, $v \lesssim 3 R_s / 4$ and if the absorber is fully accelerated, then $v \approx 3 R_s / 4$. To estimate the density of the pre-shock ambient medium, it is necessary to assume that the FeLoBAL gas is in pressure equilibrium with the gas behind the forward shock:

$$\rho_{\text{pre}} \approx \frac{n_{\text{H}} \rho_{\text{pre}}}{4 \pi} \left( \frac{10^4 \text{ K}}{T_{\text{sh}}(v_{\text{sh}} = 4v / 3)} \right). \quad (A3)$$

Under these assumptions, which are essentially the same that were necessary to estimate the properties of the hot flow in §3,

$$E^\text{QSO}_k \lesssim 2 \times 10^{46} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \left( \frac{n_{\text{H}} \rho_{\text{pre}}}{10^4 \text{ cm}^{-3}} \right) \left( \frac{R}{3 \text{ kpc}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{v}{5,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right),$$

with equality holding in the case of full acceleration. This can be compared to the kinetic luminosity of the hot flow estimated using equation (21):

$$\frac{E^\text{hot}_k}{E^\text{QSO}_k} \approx 0.6 \Omega_\text{hot}. \quad (A5)$$

a constant $\sim 1$. This near equality is not surprising since we assume that the outflow is adiabatic, so that the energy in the flow is preserved with radius. It does however formally confirm that the kinetic energy of the quasar wind can be estimated to a good approximation based on the properties of the hot flow probed by FeLoBAL observations. An order unity difference between $E^\text{hot}_k$ and $E^\text{QSO}_k$ is expected, as the derivation of $E^\text{hot}_k$ ignores the fraction of the quasar wind kinetic luminosity that is converted into thermal energy, rather than bulk motion ($\sim 4$).

Since the self-similar solution in equation (A1) depends only on $E^\text{QSO}_k$ and $\rho_{\text{pre}}$, it is however not possible to separately infer $M_{\text{in}}$ or $v_{\text{in}}$ from the large-scale properties of the outflow.

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