FAR-ULTRAVIOLET SPECTROSCOPY OF THE INTERGALACTIC AND INTERSTELLAR ABSORPTION TOWARD 3C 273

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ABSTRACT

We present Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer observations of the molecular, neutral atomic, weakly ionized, and highly ionized components of the interstellar and intergalactic material toward the quasar 3C 273. We identify Lyβ absorption in eight of the known intergalactic Lyα absorbers along the sight line with rest-frame equivalent widths $W_r$(Lyα) $\geq 50$ mA. Refined estimates of the H I column densities and Doppler parameters (b) of the clouds are presented. We find a range of $b \approx 16$–46 km s$^{-1}$. We detect multiple H I lines (Lyβ–Lyθ) in the 1590 km s$^{-1}$ Virgo absorber and estimate log $N$(H I) = 15.85 $\pm$ 0.16, which is 10 times more H I than in all of the other absorbers along the sight line combined. The Doppler width of this absorber, $b \approx 16$ km s$^{-1}$, implies $T \lesssim 15,000$ K. We detect O VI absorption at 1015 km s$^{-1}$ at the 2–3 $\sigma$ level that may be associated with hot, X-ray-emitting gas in the Virgo Cluster. We detect weak C III and O VI absorption in the intergalactic medium at $z = 0.12007$; this absorber is predominantly ionized and has $N$(H I)/$N$(H I) $\geq 4000$Z$^{-1}$, where Z is the metallicity. Strong Galactic interstellar O VI is present between $-100$ and 100 km s$^{-1}$, with an additional high-velocity wing containing about 13% of the total O VI between $-100$ and $\sim 240$ km s$^{-1}$. The Galactic O VI, N v, and C IV lines have similar shapes, with roughly constant ratios across the $-100$ to 100 km s$^{-1}$ velocity range. The high-velocity O VI wing is not detected in other species. Much of the interstellar high ion absorption probably occurs within a highly fragmented medium within the Loop IV remnant or in the outer cavity walls of the remnant. Multiple hot gas production mechanisms are required. The broad O VI absorption wing likely traces the expulsion of hot gas out of the Galactic disk into the halo. A flux limit of $5.4 \times 10^{-16}$ ergs cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ on the amount of diffuse O VI emission present is $\lesssim 3.5$ off the 3C 273 sight line combined with the observed O VI column density toward 3C 273, log $N$(O VI) = 14.73 $\pm$ 0.04, implies $n_e \lesssim 0.02$ cm$^{-3}$ and $p/k \lesssim 11,500$ cm$^{-3}$ K for an assumed temperature of $3 \times 10^5$ K. The elemental abundances in the neutral and weakly ionized interstellar clouds are similar to those found for other halo clouds. The warm neutral and warm ionized clouds along the sight line have similar dust-phase abundances, implying that the properties of the dust grains in the two types of clouds are similar. Interstellar H$_2$ absorption is present at $\approx 16$ km s$^{-1}$ at a level of log $N$(H$_2$) $\sim 15.71$ but does not trace the main column density concentration along the sight line observed in H I $21$ cm emission.

Subject headings: cosmology: observations — Galaxy: halo — intergalactic medium — ISM: abundances — ISM: molecules — quasars: absorption lines

1. INTRODUCTION

The 3C 273 sight line ($l = 289.95$, $b = 64.36$, $z_{800} = 0.1583$) is one of the best-studied directions in the sky at ultraviolet wavelengths. It has been the subject of numerous spectroscopic investigations encompassing studies of the ionization, kinematics, and chemical composition of the Milky Way interstellar medium (ISM; York et al. 1984; Burks et al. 1991, 1994; Savage et al. 1993; Sembach, Savage, & Tripp 1997), the content and evolution of the intergalactic medium (IGM; Morris et al. 1991; Bahcall et al. 1991, 1993; Brandt et al. 1993, 1997; Weymann et al. 1995; Hurwitz et al. 1998; Penton, Shull, & Stocke 2000a; Penton, Stocke, & Shull 2000b), and the relationship of the intergalactic Lyα absorption features to galaxies (e.g., Morris et al. 1993; Penton, Stocke, & Shull 2001). The sight line contains 18 intergalactic Lyα gas clouds at redshifts $z = 0.00338$–0.14560. In this paper we present new Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) observations of 3C 273 that expand upon the previous investigations of the ISM and IGM in this direction.

FUSE is the first far-ultraviolet ($\lambda < 1200$ Å) observatory to have both the sensitivity and spectral resolution necessary to perform detailed investigations of the kinematics and composition of the ISM and IGM in the directions of QSOs and active galactic nuclei (AGNs). The FUSE bandpass contains important diagnostics of molecular, atomic, and ionized gases (see Sembach 1999). Of paramount importance is the ability of FUSE to detect the higher Lyman series lines of H I and ionized gas lines of C III $\lambda 977.020$ and O VI $\lambda \lambda 1031.926, 1037.617$ in the Milky Way ISM and low-redshift universe. FUSE investigations of intergalactic absorption and hot gas in the Galaxy include studies of the low-redshift Lyβ forest (Shull et al. 2000b), Milky Way halo gas (Savage et al. 2000; Shull et al. 2000a), high-velocity clouds (HVCs; Sembach et al. 2000a, 2001;...
Richter et al. 2001b), and the individual sight lines toward H1821 + 643 (Oegerle et al. 2000), PG 0804 + 761 (Richter et al. 2001a), and PG 0953 + 415 (Savage et al. 2001).

In this paper we use FUSE data to investigate the IGM and ISM along the 3C 273 sight line. In § 2 we describe the observations and data reduction procedures. Section 3 contains information about absorption features in the FUSE spectra, including equivalent width measurements, column density derivations, and models used to describe the absorption lines. In § 4 we present results for the intergalactic absorption along the sight line, and in § 5 we describe the Milky Way absorption. Section 6 contains a discussion of these results. Section 7 consists of a brief summary of the scientific results of this investigation.

2. OBSERVATIONS

2.1. Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer Observations

FUSE contains four Rowland circle spectrographs that produce spectra over the wavelength range 905–1187 Å. Two of the spectrographs have optics (a holographically ruled diffraction grating illuminated by an off-axis paraboloid mirror) coated with Al + LiF for greatest sensitivity above ~1000 Å, and two have optics coated with SiC for maximum sensitivity below ~1000 Å. The dispersed spectra from the four channels (LiF1, LiF2, SiC1, SiC2) are recorded by two delay line microchannel plate detectors, each individually covering nearly the full FUSE bandpass. Descriptions of the FUSE instrumentation and its on-orbit performance are given by Moos et al. (2000) and Sahnow et al. (2000a, 2000b).

We obtained a 42.2 ks observation of QSO 3C 237 consisting of 30 individual exposures on 2000 April 23, with the light of the quasar centered in the large (30′′ × 30′′) apertures of the four optical channels. During the course of the observation, the light remained centered in the LiF1, LiF2, and SiC2 apertures but moved in and out of the SiC1 aperture because of thermally induced image motions in the optical system. As a result, the net exposure time in the SiC1 channel was only 12.6 ks, and the resulting SiC1 spectral resolution was degraded slightly. Most of the observation (~30 ks) took place during orbital night.

We processed the data using the standard CALFUSE (v1.8.7) pipeline software available at the Johns Hopkins University in 2000 November. The software screened the raw photon address lists for valid events satisfying constraints imposed for Earth limb avoidance, South Atlantic Anomaly passage, and pulse height distribution. It also corrected for large-scale geometric distortions in the detector grid, changes in spectral positions on the detector due to minute grating movements induced by thermal variations, Doppler shifts caused by orbital motion of the satellite, and detector background noise (which is minimal at the flux levels considered in this study). The two-dimensional astigmatic spectra were extracted with a slit width appropriate for the spectral height at each wavelength. There was no explicit correction for the astigmatism available at the time of processing, which resulted in a slightly lower spectral resolution than could be achieved if the spectra were rectified before being summed in the spatial direction. By spreading the spectral information over many detector pixels in the spatial direction, however, the astigmatism reduces the detector fixed pattern noise in the extracted one-dimensional spectra. No explicit flat-field corrections were applied in the standard FUSE processing, so we made use of the overlapping wavelength coverage of the different channels to determine whether fixed pattern noise artifacts affect the lines used in the analysis described in §§ 3 and 4.

We determined the zero point of the wavelength scale by registering the molecular (H2) and neutral and singly ionized atomic lines (Si i λ1020.699; Ar i λ1048.220, 1066.660; Fe ii λ1125.448, 1143.226, 1144.938) in the spectrum to the longer wavelength S ii λ1250.584, 1253.811 lines observed with the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) and the H i 21 cm emission profile observed with the NRAO 140′ telescope (E. M. Murphy, K. R. Sembach, & F. Lockman 2001, unpublished). We found that in some wavelength regions (e.g., ~1040–1070 Å) there is a slight offset of the interstellar lines from similar lines at other wavelengths. This may be due to a slight stretch in the wavelength dispersion solution introduced by alignment differences between the wavelength calibration spectra and the 3C 273 spectrum, detector nonuniformities, or other unknown causes. Whenever possible, we have corrected for these relative wavelength shifts and believe that the residual uncertainties are of the order of ~0.8 km s⁻¹ (1σ). There is no evidence that these uncertainties are present on wavelength scales comparable to the widths of the observed absorption lines (i.e., the line profile shapes are not affected by uncertainties in the wavelengths).

The FUSE data are oversampled at the current instrumental resolution. Therefore, we rebinned the fully sampled (~0.0065 Å pixel⁻¹) data by a factor of 3, which results in ~3–4 bins per ~17–22 km s⁻¹ resolution element. The data have signal-to-noise ratios S/N ~15–35 per resolution element, depending upon wavelength and detector segment.

The fully reduced data are shown in Figure 1, in which we plot the spectra from the detector segments having the highest S/N. The coverage shown is as follows: SiC1A (1079–1089 Å), SiC1B (λ ~992 Å), SiC2A (λ ~1001 Å), SiC2B (1075–1088 Å), LiF1A (994–1081 Å), LiF1B (1095–1186 Å), LiF2A (1088–1182 Å), and LiF2B (999–1073 Å). In general, the SiC2 data are of better quality than the SiC1 data for this observation because of the alignment difficulties encountered for the SiC1 channel. Prominent interstellar and intergalactic absorption lines are indicated by tick marks above the spectra and are identified to the right of each panel. Many H₂ lines in rotational levels J = 0–3 are indicated; some of the weaker lines in these levels overlap other stronger features and are not explicitly marked. The expected locations of weak intergalactic features that are not readily apparent in the spectra are identified with an additional question mark appended to the redshift. At some wavelengths, fixed pattern noise (FPN) features are present (e.g., 997.2, 1060.7, 1070.9, 1140.5, and 1151.9 Å) as evidenced by their appearance in one channel but not the others. The broad shallow flux enhancement between 1155 and 1165 Å in the LiF1B channel is due to the optical anomaly involving the microchannel plate grid wires as noted by Sahnow et al. (2000a).

2.2. Hubble Space Telescope Observations

The archival Goddard High Resolution Spectrograph (GHRS) observations of 3C 273 used in this work include data taken with the G160M first-order grating covering the

5 The National Radio Astronomy Observatory is a facility of the National Science Foundation operated under cooperative agreement by Associated Universities, Inc.
Fig. 1.—*FUSE* spectra of 3C 273 from 912 to 1186 Å. The data from the most sensitive detector segments are shown at each wavelength (detector 1 on top, detector 2 on bottom). The data have a resolution of approximately 17–22 km s\(^{-1}\) (FWHM), depending upon wavelength and detector segment. The spectra shown have been binned into 0.038 Å samples and have S/N \(\sim 20–35\) per resolution element. (This binning is larger than the binning used in the analyses described in the text.) Prominent interstellar and intergalactic lines are identified to the right of each panel. Molecular lines are identified by their band (Werner or Lyman), upper vibrational level (1–16), and rotational transition \((R, P, \text{or } Q \text{ with lower rotational state } J = 1–3)\). Numerous additional weak lines are present but are not indicated for clarity. Several features resulting from fixed pattern noise introduced by the *FUSE* detectors are indicated with “FPN” above the spectra.
wavelength ranges 1214–1425 Å and 1521–1572 Å and data taken with the Ech-A echelle-mode grating covering the wavelength range 1250–1257 Å. The G160M observations include data taken as part of *HST* programs GTO 1140, 3951, and 4883; the Ech-A data were taken under program GO 5719. (R. Weymann was the principal investigator on all of these archival *HST* data sets.) The G160M observations were obtained before the installation of COSTAR and have been described in a number of papers (e.g., Brandt et al. 1993, 1997; Penton et al. 2000b). The post-COSTAR Ech-A observations, which include 10 separate exposures totaling 19.6 ks, are described here for the first time.

The basic calibration and processing of these data sets followed the method described by Howk, Savage, & Fabian (1999), with the exception of refinements to the wavelength scale described below. All observations were taken with the
large (2' × 2') science aperture of the GHRS using focal plane motions to mitigate the effects of fixed pattern noise. For data of relatively low S/N, the fixed pattern noise in the GHRS data is a small contribution to the total error budget. While one can solve explicitly for the fixed pattern noise spectrum and remove it from the data, we applied this correction only in cases in which the fixed pattern noise obviously affected absorption lines of interest to avoid adding extra noise into the data as part of the fixed pattern reconstruction procedure. The processed G160M data have S/N ~ 8–14 per resolution element, with the exception of the observations of Si IV λ1402, which have S/N ~ 23. The GHRS G160M data have a wavelength-dependent resolution of ~ 19 km s⁻¹ (FWHM) at 1214 Å and ~ 14 km s⁻¹ (FWHM) at 1550 Å. The Ech-A observations have a resolution of ~ 3.5 km s⁻¹ (FWHM) and S/N ~ 14.

The absolute wavelength scale used in the standard GHRS pipeline processing is accurate to roughly ± 1
resolution element. To place all of the GHRS data on a self-consistent scale, which we also used to set the zero point of the FUSE wavelength scale, we used a "bootstrapping" technique. For a velocity reference, we adopted the S II \( \lambda \lambda 1250.584, 1253.811 \) lines observed with the Ech-A grating. These S II lines have a wavelength solution accurate to \( \pm 3.5 \) km s\(^{-1}\) and contain a sharp, narrow component at \( v_{\text{LSR}} = -6 \) km s\(^{-1}\) that coincides with the peak of the H I 21 cm emission along the sight line. We used the Ech-A S II profiles to bring the G160M observations of the same S II lines into the LSR reference frame. The G160M observations of the S II lines also contain the Si II \( \lambda 1260.422 \) transition, which we used to register the Si II lines at 1304.370 and 1526.707 Å. The relative wavelength calibration was carried
out using the ISM and IGM lines in the wavelength regions covered by the G160M observations; the only exceptions to this approach were the observations centered near the interstellar Si iv \( \lambda 1393.755 \), 1402.770 lines, which we tied into this self-consistent scale by assuming that the \( \lambda 1402.770 \) line has a velocity similar to that of the interstellar C iv lines. (We did not use the stronger Si iv \( \lambda 1393.755 \) transition for this purpose since it is strongly blended with an IGM Ly\( \alpha \) absorber.)

3. MEASUREMENTS

We identified all of the absorption lines in each of the \textit{FUSE} channels using the atomic line list compiled by Morton (1991) and the \( \text{H}_2 \) line lists published by Abgrall et al. (1993a, 1993b). We also searched for intergalactic lines of \( \text{H} \text{I} \), \( \text{O} \text{VI} \), \( \text{C} \text{III} \) corresponding to known Ly\( \alpha \) absorption lines having rest-frame equivalent widths\(^6 \)\( W' \geq 50 \text{ mÅ} \) [i.e., \( N(\text{H} \text{I}) \geq 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \)].

3.1. Interstellar Lines

We estimated continuum levels for the interstellar atomic lines, including \( \text{H} \text{II} \), \( \text{O} \text{VI} \), and \( \text{C} \text{III} \) corresponding to known Ly\( \alpha \) absorption lines having rest-frame equivalent widths\(^6 \)\( W' \geq 50 \text{ mÅ} \) [i.e., \( N(\text{H} \text{I}) \geq 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \)].

For the \( \text{O} \text{VI} \lambda 1031.926 \) line, we split the equivalent width integration into two velocity ranges \((-160 \text{ to } 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and \(100 \text{ to } 240 \text{ km s}^{-1} \)) because the \( \text{O} \text{VI} \) profile contains a broad, positive velocity wing that is not seen in any other atomic species. The high-velocity absorption cannot be easily modeled as a lowering of the QSO continuum at these wavelengths; on the contrary, its existence appears quite robust to reasonable continuum placements derived from adjoining spectral regions. The total interstellar \( \text{O} \text{VI} \lambda 1031.926 \) equivalent width is 450 \( \pm 15 \text{ mÅ} \).

Most of the molecular hydrogen lines identified in the atomic interstellar and intergalactic lines. However, there are numerous cases in which weaker \( \text{H}_2 \) lines from rotational levels \( J = 3 \cdash 4 \) may contribute to the observed absorption (see §§ 4 and 5.1). We have therefore listed in Table 2 the observed equivalent widths (or limits) for several transitions in the \( J = 3 \cdash 4 \) rotational levels. The lines listed have \( f \)-values that span those of the \( J = 3 \cdash 4 \) lines discussed later in conjunction with blending issues associated with the IGM measurements. No \( J = 4 \) lines are positively detected in the \textit{FUSE} data down to a 3 \( \sigma \) limit of \( \approx 30 \text{ mÅ} \) \( [N(\text{H}_2) \sim (2 \cdash 3) \times 10^{14} \text{ cm}^{-2}]. \) We list the 3 \( \sigma \) column density limits derived for the \( \text{H}_2 \) lines in the last column of Table 2, assuming a linear curve-of-growth (COG) relation between \( W_j \) and \( N \).

3.2. Intergalactic Lines

Numerous intergalactic absorption lines are present in the \textit{FUSE} spectra of 3C 273. We measured the equivalent widths of these lines in the same manner as for the inter-
Fig. 2.—Continuum normalized interstellar absorption profiles observed by *FUSE* along the 3C 273 sight line (single-channel data). The primary absorption features are indicated by ion and wavelength below each spectrum. Additional features appearing in the velocity range shown are labeled immediately above or below the secondary absorption feature. In a few cases, redshifted Lyβ absorption lines of intervening IGM clouds are present. Note the broad shallow wing on the O vi λ1031.926 line at velocities $100 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq 240$ km s$^{-1}$.
stellar lines (§ 3.1). In Table 3 we list the rest wavelengths, observed wavelengths, and observed equivalent widths on both detectors for each IGM line for which the corresponding Lyα equivalent width is greater than 50 mA. The entries include values for H I Lyβ (and Lyγ when appropriate), O VI $\lambda\lambda$1031.926, 1037.617, and C III $\lambda$977.020 for the absorbers at $z = 0.00338, 0.00530, 0.02497, 0.04898, 0.06655, 0.09012, 0.1207, and 0.14660. For completeness, we also list the equivalent widths of the Lyα lines measured with pre-COSTAR GHRS data in Table 3. These Lyα line strengths and redshifts are in good agreement with those made by previous investigators (e.g., Penton et al. 2000b). Comments appended to each entry provide additional information about possible blending with Galactic lines. We have listed equivalent widths for as many H I lines as are observable down to a limiting equivalent width $W_{\text{obs}} \sim 20–30$ mA (3 $\sigma$).

We plot the continuum normalized IGM absorption lines in Figure 3 as a function of systemic velocity centered on the redshifts listed in Table 3. In all but two cases, the $z = 0.12007$ absorber and possibly the $z = 0.00338$ absorber, there is no significant metal line absorption detected. Confusion with Galactic lines is problematic for some of the IGM lines. We discuss possible blends with Galactic features for each system in the following section.

4. INTERGALACTIC MEDIUM ABSORPTION

A summary of the IGM column densities for all of the absorbers studied is provided in Table 4. Column densities for H I were derived by fitting a single-component Doppler-broadened CO on the H I lines detected in each absorber. Data points from independent channels were included in the error-weighted fits whenever possible. We followed the procedures outlined by Savage, Edgar, & Diplas (1990) for calculating errors on $N$(H I) and $b$(H I). Limits on $N$(O VI) and $N$(C III) are conservative 3 $\sigma$ estimates derived from the data in the channel having the highest sensitivity. If data

### TABLE 1

| Species | $\lambda$ (Å) | $\log (f_i)$ | $W_{\text{det1}}$ (mA) | $W_{\text{det2}}$ (mA) | Velocity Range (km s$^{-1}$) | Notes$^b$ |
|---------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| H I     | 1025.722      | 1.909        | ~1540                   | ~1540                   | ...                         | 1         |
| C II    | 1036.337      | 2.106        | 474±15                  | 479±17                  | -150 to 40                  | 2         |
| C III   | 977.020       | 2.872        | 533±34                  | 562±13                  | -140 to 100                 |           |
| N I     | 964.626       | 1.002        | 157±24                  | 157±10                  | -80 to 30                   |           |
| O I     | 1039.230      | 0.980        | 283±10                  | 314±13                  | -100 to 80                  |           |
| O VI    | 1037.617      | 1.836        | >240                    | >240                    | ...                         | 3         |
| Si II   | 1020.699      | 1.460        | 199±10                  | 203±10                  | -100 to 60                  |           |
| P II    | 1152.818      | 2.435        | 97±10                   | 100 to 40               | ...                         |           |
| S II    | 1250.584      | 0.834        | 140±07                  | 140±07                  | -60 to 40                   | 5         |
| S III   | 1012.502      | 1.556        | 113±10                  | 113±10                  | -65 to 30                   | 6         |
| S VI    | 944.523       | 2.314        | 45±14                   | 13±13                   | -100 to 100                 | 7         |
| Ar I    | 1066.660      | 1.851        | 89±10                   | 76±10                   | -120 to 40                  |           |
| Fe II   | 1127.698      | 0.583        | 21±10                   | 25±10                   | -100 to 40                  |           |
|         | 1133.665      | 0.795        | 56±10                   | 54±10                   | -100 to 40                  |           |
|         | 1055.262      | 0.898        | 75±10                   | 69±10                   | -100 to 40                  |           |
|         | 1112.048      | 1.006        | 73±10                   | 50±10                   | -100 to 40                  | 8         |
|         | 1125.440      | 1.255        | 137±10                  | 148±10                  | -120 to 60                  |           |
|         | 1143.226      | 1.308        | 131±10                  | 144±10                  | -100 to 40                  | 9         |
|         | 1121.975      | 1.329        | 165±10                  | 154±10                  | -100 to 40                  |           |
|         | 1096.877      | 1.545        | ...                     | 201±10                  | -100 to 40                  | 10        |
|         | 1144.938      | 2.084        | 302±10                  | 297±10                  | -100 to 40                  |           |
| Fe III  | 1122.526      | 1.947        | 160±10                  | 172±10                  | -100 to 50                  |           |

* Wavelengths and $f$-values are from Morton 1991, with updates to the Fe II $f$-values from Howk et al. (2000). Errors are 1 $\sigma$ estimates and limits are 3 $\sigma$ estimates unless otherwise indicated.

$^b$ Notes: (1) Equivalent widths derived from a fit to the damping wings of the Lyβ line, for which log $N$(H I) = 20.20. (2) H I Lyman (5–0) R(0) occurs at 60 km s$^{-1}$ with respect to C II. (3) Equivalent width is quoted as a limit for comparison with $\lambda$1031.926 since it was derived over the limited velocity range of -90 to 60 km s$^{-1}$. (4) Total O VI $\lambda$1031.926 equivalent width (-160 to 240 km s$^{-1}$) is 450 ± 15 mA. (5) S II values from HST data. The $\lambda\lambda$1250.584 and 1253.811 are from post-COSTAR GHRS Ech-A data, and the $\lambda$1259.519 value is from pre-COSTAR GHRS G160M data. (6) H II Werner (0–0) P(2) at 1012.17 Å (~99 km s$^{-1}$ with respect to S II), W365 at 1012.68 Å, and L7R0 at 1012.81 Å bracket the S II line. (7) Stronger S II line at 883.345 Å is blended with H$_2$ 1162Å and W432 lines. (8) Line appears as a much broader feature in the LiF1B spectrum. The equivalent widths of this feature are uncertain since the feature should be at least as strong as the $\lambda$1055.262 line. (9) Feature centered at -122 km s$^{-1}$ with $W_L \approx 5$ mA appears in both channels and is of unknown origin. It is not likely to be Fe II because it is not present in the stronger Fe II lines. (10) Line falls near edge of segment LiF1B, leading to an unreliable value of $W_L$ on detector 1.
from both the LiF1 and LiF2 channels are considered, these limits translate into \( \sim 4 \sigma \) estimates. We now discuss each of the absorbers individually.

4.1. Virgo Cluster Absorbers (\( z = 0.00338 \) and \( z = 0.00530 \))

The 3C 273 sight line passes through the Virgo Cluster. The two strongest Lyz absorbers along the sight line occur at velocities representative of those of the cluster \( \langle V \rangle \approx 1141 \pm 60 \text{ km s}^{-1}; \sigma \approx 666 \text{ km s}^{-1}; \) Tamman (1972). We detect redshifted Lyb absorption associated with both clouds at \( z = 0.00338 \) (\( cz \approx 1015 \text{ km s}^{-1} \)) and \( z = 0.00530 \) (\( cz \approx 1590 \text{ km s}^{-1} \)). Previous observations of the Lyb lines with the Orbiting and Retrievable Far and Extreme Ultraviolet Spectrometers II (ORFEUS-II) (Hurwitz et al. 1998) confirmed the intergalactic identification of the longer wavelength Lyz lines observed with the \( HST \) by Morris and coworkers but were of insufficient quality to determine the \( H I \) column densities of the absorbers to a high degree of confidence.

The Lyz lines for the two Virgo absorbers have similar equivalent widths (~370 mA), but the Lyb lines differ in equivalent width by ~90–100 mA and have very different shapes (Fig. 3). Note that the measured depth of the Lyb line of the 1590 km s\(^{-1}\) absorber is greater than the depth of the Lyz line; this is due to the large instrumental smearing of the Lyz line resulting from the spherical aberration of the precorrected \( HST \) optics. There is little or no detectable Lyb absorption in the lower velocity cloud (Table 3), but the 1590 km s\(^{-1}\) cloud can be seen in absorption through the Lyman series up to Lyb without much confusion by Galactic absorption. These higher order \( H I \) lines are identified in Figure 1 and are plotted as a function of systemic velocity in Figure 4.

The Lyb lines of both Virgo absorbers occur at wavelengths where weak Galactic H\(_2\) absorption may blend with the lines. We show the Lyman series H\(_2\) (6–0) R(3) and P(3) lines in Figure 5 together with an assortment of R(3) and P(3) lines in other vibrational bands having line strengths, \( f_\lambda \), spanning those of the (6–0) lines. The top spectra in the two panels of Figure 5 contain the Virgo Lyb lines with fits to the R(3) and P(3) lines shown as thick solid curves. Nearby R(2) and P(2) lines confirm the velocities of the \( J = 3 \) lines relative to the IGM lines. For the 1015 km s\(^{-1}\) absorber, the overlapping H\(_2\) R(3) line has an (unblended) equivalent width of \( \approx 42 \text{ mA} \) and contributes \( \approx 25 \text{ mA} \) to the observed (blended) absorption. For the 1590 km s\(^{-1}\) absorber, the overlapping H\(_2\) P(3) line has an equivalent width of \( \approx 34 \text{ mA} \) and contributes \( \approx 16 \text{ mA} \) to the observed absorption.

We show the \( H I \) COG for the two Virgo absorbers in Figure 6. The COG results for the 1015 km s\(^{-1}\) absorber differ only slightly from those derived by Weymann et al. (1995) from profile fitting of the Lyz line alone;\(^8\) \( \log N (H I)_{\text{COG}} = 14.40 \pm 0.10 \) versus \( \log N (H I)_{\text{line}} = 14.19 \pm 0.04 \) and \( b_{\text{COG}} = 30.3 \pm 3.8 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) versus \( b_{\text{Lyz}} = 40.7 \pm 3.0 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). However, the COG results for the 1590 km s\(^{-1}\) absorber differ greatly from those derived previously from

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**TABLE 2**

**Selected Interstellar H\(_2\) Absorption Lines toward 3C 273**

| Transition* | \( \lambda \) (Å) | \( \log (f_\lambda) \) | \( W_\lambda(\text{Det1})^a \) (mA) | \( W_\lambda(\text{Det2})^b \) (mA) | \( \log N \) (3 \( \sigma \)) |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| J = 3       |                    |                   |                 |                 |                  |
| L3R3 ……    | 1067.48            | 1.033             | 21 \( \pm \) 5  | 37 \( \pm \) 9  | ...              |
| L4R3 ……    | 1053.98            | 1.146             | 45 \( \pm \) 5  | 42 \( \pm \) 9  | ...              |
| L5R3 ……    | 1041.16            | 1.218             | 57 \( \pm \) 6  | <74\*          | ...              |
| L7R3 ……    | 1017.42            | 1.271             | 56 \( \pm \) 6  | 44 \( \pm \) 8  | ...              |
| L7P3 ……    | 1019.50            | 1.028             | 35 \( \pm \) 7  | 33 \( \pm \) 8  | ...              |
| L8R3 ……    | 1006.41            | 1.202             | 64 \( \pm \) 15 | 55 \( \pm \) 13 | ...              |
| W0R3 ……    | 1010.13            | 1.143             | 36 \( \pm \) 7  | 33 \( \pm \) 8  | ...              |
| L0P3 ……    | 1099.79            | 0.432             | 12 \( \pm \) 6  | 14 \( \pm \) 5  | ...              |
| L3P3 ……    | 1070.14            | 0.903             | 32 \( \pm \) 6  | 36 \( \pm \) 7  | ...              |
| L4P3 ……    | 1056.47            | 1.004             | 30 \( \pm \) 5  | 44 \( \pm \) 10 | ...              |
| W2P3 ……    | 970.56             | 0.978             | ...             | 31 \( \pm \) 9  | ...              |
| W3Q3 ……    | 950.40             | 1.411             | ...             | 50 \( \pm \) 10 | ...              |
| J = 4       |                    |                   |                 |                 |                  |
| L3R4 ……    | 1070.90            | 1.015             | 6 \( \pm \) 10  | 12 \( \pm \) 12 | <14.49           |
| L4R4 ……    | 1057.38            | 1.135             | 16 \( \pm \) 10 | 14 \( \pm \) 10 | <14.37           |
| L5P4 ……    | 1047.55            | 1.062             | 3 \( \pm \) 10  | –5 \( \pm \) 12 | <14.44           |
| L5R4 ……    | 1044.54            | 1.206             | 3 \( \pm \) 10  | –2 \( \pm \) 12 | <14.31           |
| W0R4 ……    | 1011.81            | 1.147             | 8 \( \pm \) 10  | 8 \( \pm \) 12  | <14.38           |
| L9R4 ……    | 999.27             | 1.221             | 8 \( \pm \) 13  | 0 \( \pm \) 16  | <14.42           |
| W1P4 ……    | 994.23             | 1.138             | –8 \( \pm \) 15 | 26 \( \pm \) 17 | <14.57           |

* Notation for the \( H_2 \) lines is as follows: "L" indicates Lyman series transitions; "W" indicates Werner series transitions. The first numerical digit indicates the upper vibrational state of the transition (the lower vibrational state is 0 in all cases). The last two characters indicate the rotational transition selection rule (\( P, Q, R \)) and the upper rotational level (3 or 4).

* Errors are \( \sigma \) estimates.

* Absorption is broader and stronger than expected. Possible fixed pattern noise contamination.

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\(^8\) Unless otherwise indicated, errors quoted in this paper are \( \sigma \) (68\% confidence) estimates.
| Species | $\lambda_{\text{rest}}$ (Å) | $\lambda_{\text{abs}}$ (Å) | $W_{\text{obs}}^{(1)b}$ (mÅ) | $W_{\text{obs}}^{(2)b}$ (mÅ) | Comments|
|---------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1219.743            | 371 ± 17             | 371 ± 17             | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1029.158            | 170 ± 16             | 158 ± 17             | H$_2$ L6P3 contribution to listed $W_{\text{obs}}$ is ≈ 25 mÅ |
| Lyg     | 972.537             | 975.795             | 0 ± 33               | 33 ± 14              |          |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1035.383            | 26 ± 10              | 25 ± 10              | H$_2$ L6P4 nearby expected to be weak |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 980.293             | 18 ± 40              | 9 ± 10               | Blended with H$_2$ L5R3 |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.00338          |                      |         |
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1222.150            | 367 ± 13             | 367 ± 13             | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1031.189            | 257 ± 10             | 251 ± 11             | H$_2$ L6P3 contribution to listed $W_{\text{obs}}$ is ≈ 16 mÅ |
| Lyg     | 972.537             | 977.721             | 195 ± 25             | 197 ± 15             |          |
| Lyδ     | 949.743             | 954.805             | 167 ± 22             | 160 ± 10             |          |
| Lya     | 937.804             | 942.802             | 133 ± 30             | 135 ± 10             | H$_2$ L15R3 nearby but does not interfere |
| Lyγ     | 930.748             | 935.709             | 121 ± 28             | 127 ± 10             | H$_2$ L16R3 contribution to listed $W_{\text{obs}}$ is ≈ 11 mÅ |
| Lyβ     | 926.226             | 931.163             | ...                  | ...                  | In positive velocity wing of Galactic H I Lyγ |
| Lyδ     | 923.150             | 928.070             | 110 ± 26             | 85 ± 13              |          |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1037.426            | ...                  | ...                  | Blended with C n$^*$ λ1037.012 and H$_2$ L5R1 |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 982.227             | ...                  | <74                  | Blended with H$_2$ L10R1 |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.00530          |                      |         |
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1251.496            | 139 ± 07             | 139 ± 07             | GHRS Ech-A post-COSTAR data |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1055.950            | 29 ± 10              | 15 ± 10              | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1062.337            | -5 ± 10              | 5 ± 10               |          |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 1005.813            | 10 ± 10              | 3 ± 10               | H$_2$ L8P2 nearby but does not interfere |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.02947          |                      |         |
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1275.201            | 126 ± 14             | 126 ± 14             | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1075.952            | 23 ± 10              | -2 ± 22              | SiC2B |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1082.459            | 46 ± 43              | -6 ± 26              | SiC1A, SiC2B |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 1024.865            | ...                  | ...                  | Line falls in wing of Galactic Lyβ |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.04898          |                      |         |
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1296.573            | 312 ± 13             | 312 ± 13             | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1093.934            | ...                  | 125 ± 10             | Line falls in detector 1 wavelength gap; H$_2$ L1P1 contribution to listed $W_{\text{obs}}$ is ≈ 25 mÅ; C iii at $z = 0.12007$ is nearby |
| Lyγ     | 972.537             | 1037.259            | ...                  | ...                  | Blended with Galactic C n/C n$^*$/H$_2$ absorption |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1100.601            | 3 ± 10               | 6 ± 10               |          |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 1042.041            | 10 ± 10              | 21 ± 15              |          |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.06655          |                      |         |
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1325.226            | 160 ± 20             | 160 ± 20             | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data, very broad line |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1118.160            | 34 ± 10              | 27 ± 13              | Line very weak, subject to continuum placement |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1124.293            | <45                  | <39                  | Blended with Fe II λ1133.665 |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 1065.069            | <25                  | <30                  | Subject to continuum placement |
|         |                     |                     | No line present after removing H$_2$ L3R2 |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.09012          |                      |         |
| Lya     | 1215.670            | 1361.635            | 138 ± 11             | 138 ± 11             | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data |
| Lyb     | 1025.722            | 1148.880            | 31 ± 10              | 28 ± 10              |          |
| Lyγ     | 972.537             | 1089.309            | 0 ± 42               | -3 ± 13              | SiC1A, not covered by LiF1A |
| O vi... | 1031.926            | 1155.829            | 33 ± 11              | 27 ± 10              |          |
| C iii... | 977.020              | 1094.331            | ...                  | 32 ± 10              | Line falls in detector 1 wavelength gap; H$_2$ L1R2 (ISM) and Lyb ($z = 0.06655$) nearby |
|         |                     |                     | z = 0.12007          |                      |         |
Lyα profile fitting: \( \log N(H) \sim 15.85 \pm 0.10 \) versus \( \log N(H) \sim 14.22 \pm 0.07 \) and \( b_{\text{COG}} = 161.1 \pm 1.1 \) km s\(^{-1} \) versus \( b_{\text{Lyα}} = 34.2 \pm 3.3 \) km s\(^{-1} \). COG column densities and \( b \)-values for the 1590 km s\(^{-1} \) absorber were derived both including and excluding the Lyα line. The slight excess of Lyα equivalent width in the 1590 km s\(^{-1} \) absorber over that predicted by the best-fit COG to the H I lines in the \textit{FUSE} bandpass (Fig. 6) is most likely caused by an additional low column density absorption observable in Lyα that is essentially undetectable in the higher order H I lines. The excess is \( \lesssim 40 \) mA. Including Lyα in the COG analysis increases the derived \( b \)-value by \( \approx 1.5 \) km s\(^{-1} \) and decreases the derived column density by \( \approx 0.08 \) dex (see Table 4), which is consistent with the column derived solely from the higher order H I lines observed by \textit{FUSE} to within the uncertainties of each estimation. Higher resolution Lyα observations are needed to determine whether this absorber has a multicomponent structure as implied by the single-component COG analysis. The extent \textit{GHRS} data are insufficient to determine the detailed velocity structure of the Lyα absorption since the instrumental line-spread function is a complex convolution of both a narrow core and broad wings.

In summary, we find the following relationships between our COG values and previous determinations of \( N \) and \( b \) in the Virgo absorbers:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{cz} \sim 1015 \text{ km s}^{-1} :& \quad \left( \frac{\log N_{\text{COG}}}{\log N_{\text{Lyα}}} \right) \approx 1.6 , \quad \left( \frac{b_{\text{COG}}}{b_{\text{Lyα}}} \right) \approx 0.7 , \\
\text{cz} \sim 1590 \text{ km s}^{-1} :& \quad \left( \log N_{\text{COG}} \right) \approx 43 , \quad \left( \frac{b_{\text{COG}}}{b_{\text{Lyα}}} \right) \approx 0.5 .
\end{align*}
\]

Synthetic line profiles constructed using the best-fit COG results are overplotted on the 1590 km s\(^{-1} \) absorber H I lines in Figure 4. The synthetic profiles have been convolved with a single-component Gaussian instrumental line-spread function having a fixed width of FWHM = 0.075 Å. The general agreement with the observed profiles is excellent; the minor differences observed could be reduced through the application of a wavelength-dependent line-spread function.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to unambiguously associate the observed absorbers with any particular galaxy within the Virgo Cluster since the internal cluster velocity dispersion is sufficiently high that numerous galaxies could be responsible for the absorption. McLin et al. (2001) have

### Table 3—Continued

| Species | \( \lambda_{\text{cen}} \) (Å) | \( \lambda_{\text{obs}} \) (Å) | \( W_{\text{int}}(1)^b \) (mÅ) | \( W_{\text{int}}(2)^b \) (mÅ) | Comments\(^c\) |
|---------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Lyα     | 1215.670       | 1393.887       | 355 \pm 20      | 355 \pm 20     | GHRS G160M pre-COSTAR data (deblended)\(^d\) |
| Lyβ     | 1025.722       | 1176.093       | 67 \pm 13       | 78 \pm 16      |                               |
| Lyγ     | 972.537        | 1115.111       | 15 \pm 10       | 5 \pm 11       |                               |
| O vi    | 1031.926       | 1183.206       | 14 \pm 12       | ...            | Outside \textit{FUSE} detector 2 bandpass |
| C iii   | 1037.617       | 1189.732       | ...            | ...            | Outside \textit{FUSE} bandpass |
|         | 977.020        | 1120.251       | 2 \pm 13        | 5 \pm 11       |                               |

\(^a\) Errors are 1 \( \sigma \) estimates and limits are 3 \( \sigma \) estimates unless otherwise indicated.  
\(^b\) Equivalent widths measured on \textit{FUSE} detectors 1 and 2. Unless otherwise specified in the comments, values refer to LiF1/LiF2 for \( \lambda > 990 \) Å and SiC1/SiC2 for \( \lambda < 990 \) Å.  
\(^c\) Notation for molecular hydrogen lines is the same as specified for Table 2; see footnote a of that table.  
\(^d\) Value for deblended profile shown in Fig. 7.

### Table 4

| \( z \)          | \( v_{\text{helio}} \) (km s\(^{-1} \)) | \( b(H \ I) \) (km s\(^{-1} \)) | \( \log N(H \ I) \) (cm\(^{-2} \)) | \( \log N(O \ VI) \) (cm\(^{-2} \)) | \( \log N(C \ III) \) (cm\(^{-2} \)) | \( N(H \ I)/N(O \ VI) \) | Note\(^b\) |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 0.00338......   | 1015           | 30.3 \pm 3.3   | 14.41 \pm 0.10 | <13.68         | <13.08         | 12.67           | 12.3 \pm 5.7  | 1, 2, 6 |
| 0.00530......   | 1590           | 16.1 \pm 1.1   | 15.85 \pm 0.10 | <13.68         | <13.08         | 148             | 3              |
| 0.02947......   | 8840           | 23.8 \pm 2.2   | 13.55 \pm 0.12 | <13.38         | <12.67         | 123             | 1              |
| 0.04898......   | 14695          | 20.9 \pm 2.1   | 13.50 \pm 0.25 | <13.79         | ...            | >0.5            | 1, 4           |
| 0.06655......   | 19965          | 25.9 \pm 3.2   | 14.21 \pm 0.14 | <13.38         | <12.71         | >6.8            | 1              |
| 0.09012......   | 27035          | 21.2 \pm 1.8   | 13.64 \pm 0.14 | <13.49         | <12.59         | >1.4            | 1              |
| 0.12007......   | 36020          | 15.5 \pm 4.3   | 13.61 \pm 0.15 | 13.38 \pm 0.12 | 12.45 \pm 0.18 | 1.7 \pm 0.8     | 1, 5           |
| 0.14660......   | 43980          | 46.1 \pm 10.1  | 13.95 \pm 0.08 | <13.46         | <12.71         | >3.1            | 1              |

\(^a\) Errors are 1 \( \sigma \) estimates unless specified otherwise. Limits are 3 \( \sigma \) estimates based upon the measured equivalent widths and the assumption of a linear COG.  
\(^b\) Notes: (1) H I COG results include Lyα. (2) O vi result based on linear COG. Broad weak O vi line31.926 absorption is present in both LiF1A and LiF2B. The 1 \( \sigma \) error on N(O vi) was derived from single-channel values of the equivalent width. Combination of data from both channels implies a significance of \( 3 \sim 4 \). (3) H I COG results exclude Lyα. (4) Upper limit on \( b(H \ I) \) set by observed width of profile. (5) O vi result based on COG; best-fitting \( b \)-value is 7.2 km s\(^{-1} \), but higher values are allowed. Errors span the column density range expected for \( b \)-values of \( 3 \sim 50 \) km s\(^{-1} \). (6) C iii column density limit assuming equivalent width limit of 30 mÅ.
found a galaxy with a redshift of $1512 \pm 40 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ that seems to be a plausible source for the $1590 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ absorber.

The two Virgo absorbers contain metals. We detect very weak O vi $\lambda1031.926$ absorption in the $1015 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ absorber (Fig. 3 and Table 3). The absorption is present in both LiF channels but is weak. The conservative errors of $10 \text{ mA}$ in both channels account for statistical noise, continuum placement, and fixed pattern noise uncertainties. The Lyman series $H_2 (6-0) R(3)$ absorption due to the Milky Way ISM is expected to be weak and offset from this absorption. Based on the FUSE data, we estimate $N(O\text{ vi}) \approx (2.1 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. This is the lowest redshift IGM O vi absorber outside the Local Group.

There is no obvious O vi associated with the $1590 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ absorber in the $\lambda1037.617$ line. We place a $3 \sigma$ limit of $N(O\text{ vi}) < 4.8 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ on the presence of O vi. The O vi $\lambda1031.926$ and C iii $\lambda977.020$ lines are blended with Milky Way ISM absorption (Table 3). Using the $H_2$ param-
etters discussed in § 5.2.3 to deblend the line, we conserva-
tively estimate that \( N(\text{C} \text{ III}) \lesssim 1.2 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \) (3 \( \sigma \)), which 
translates into \( N(\text{H}^+) \lesssim 3.2 \times 10^{18} Z^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \) under 
the assumption that all of the carbon is in the form of \( \text{C} \text{ III} \). Here 
\( Z \) is the metallicity in units of the solar metallicity. Thus, 
\( N(\text{H}^+)/N(\text{H} \text{ I}) \lesssim 4.5 Z^{-1} \). G. Williger et al. (2001, in 
preparation) detect \( \text{Si} \text{ III} \lambda 1206.500 \) absorption, which 
confirms that ionized gas is present. Additional searches for 
other strong ionized gas lines in the \( \text{HST} \) bandpass (e.g., 
\( \text{Si} \text{ IV}, \text{C} \text{ IV} \)) would help to constrain the ionized gas content 
of both Virgo absorbers.

4.2. The \( z = 0.02947 \) Absorber

This absorber exhibits very weak \( \text{Ly} \beta \) absorption present 
at the 2–3 \( \sigma \) level associated with the 139 mÅ \( \text{Ly} \alpha \) absorber. 
The ratio of \( \text{Ly} \alpha \) to \( \text{Ly} \beta \) can be used to determine a reliable 
\( \text{H} \text{ I} \) column density, since an optically thin absorber would 
have an \( \text{Ly} \beta \) equivalent width of \( \mathcal{W}_{\beta}(\text{Ly} \alpha)/7.4 \approx 19 \text{ mÅ} \), 
which is consistent with the observed value of 22 \( \pm \) 9 mÅ 
averaged over the two LiF channels. We find \( N(\text{H} \text{ I}) \approx 13.55 \) (Table 4). Since the \( b \)-value is not constrained by 
the \( \text{Ly} \alpha/\text{Ly} \beta \) equivalent width ratio, we fit a single Voigt 
profile to the GHRS Ech-A \( \text{Ly} \alpha \) profile shown in Figure 3 
to estimate \( b = 38.7 \pm 1.7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). This \( b \)-value is similar to 
the value of 36 km s\(^{-1}\) suggested by Morris et al. (1991) 
using the pre-COSTAR GHRS G160M data but is substan-
tially smaller than the value of 61 \( \pm \) 8 km s\(^{-1}\) found by 
Penton et al. (2000b) with the same G160M data set.
To the best of our knowledge, the Ech-A profile shown in Figure 3 is the highest resolution absorption profile available for any IGM Lyα line at low to moderate redshift ($z \lesssim 1.5$). Unless the gas is cold ($T \lesssim 300$ K), which seems unlikely, the GHRS Ech-A data fully resolve the H I absorption. No more than $\sim 10\%$ of the total column density can be in any single component with $T < 1000$ K. There is noticeable structure within the profile; binning the data by a factor of 2 (to an effective resolution of about $7$ km s$^{-1}$ FWHM) suggests that there may be both a narrow ($b \sim 25$ km s$^{-1}$) core containing about $30\%$ of the column and a broader ($b \sim 50$ km s$^{-1}$) component containing about $70\%$ of the column. This has important implications, since the broad component could have a temperature as high as $\sim 1.5 \times 10^5$ K if the broadening is thermal in nature. (Even if only a single component is fitted, the temperature could be as high as $\sim 10^5$ K.) Alternatively, if the broadening is nonthermal, there must be significant bulk or turbulent motions within the absorber. Higher S/N observations of the Lyα line at comparable resolution with STIS could be used to check the validity of this claim and to search for metal line diagnostics of $10^5$ K gas (e.g., C IV) if the gas is predominantly collisionally ionized. No C III or O VI absorption is detected in the FUSE spectra of this absorber.

4.3. The $z = 0.04898$ Absorber

This absorber has an observed Lyα equivalent width of $\approx 126$ mÅ, and like the $z = 0.02947$ system, the absorption is confirmed to be optically thin by the absence of a strong Lyβ absorption. There is a hint of Lyβ absorption in the LiF1 data (Figs. 1 and 3), but the observed wavelength of 1075.95 Å is not covered by the LiF2 channel. The O VI lines fall in the FUSE LiF wavelength coverage gap, so the only measurements available come from the lower S/N SiC data (Table 3). The C III line in this absorber falls in the wing of Galactic Lyβ absorption and is not observable.

4.4. The $z = 0.06655$ Absorber

This is the fourth strongest Lyα absorber along the sight line, with an observed equivalent width of $\approx 312$ mÅ. The corresponding Lyβ absorption is recorded only in the LiF2 channel because it falls in the SiC1/LiF1 wavelength gap. The line is partially blended with the Galactic Hα (1–0) P(1) line (Fig. 3). Lyγ occurs near 1037.3 Å and is blended with Galactic C II and Hα absorption. There is no detectable C III or O VI in this absorber.

4.5. The $z = 0.09012$ Absorber

This absorber has a very shallow, irregularly shaped Lyα line extending over nearly 200 km s$^{-1}$. There may be very weak Lyβ absorption at the 2–3 $\sigma$ level consistent with an optically thin cloud. There is no detectable O VI absorption. C III is blended with the Galactic Hα (3–0) R(2) line, which we modeled; we find no residual C III down to a level of less than 30 mÅ (3 $\sigma$).

4.6. The $z = 0.12007$ Absorber

This absorber has a modest H I column density, log $N$(H I) = 13.61, and significant detections of O VI and C III. The metal line absorption is weak $[W_{\text{obs}}$(O VI
Fig. 5.—Comparison of the H$_2$ (6–0) R(3) and P(3) lines in the vicinity of the Virgo IGM absorbers with H$_2$, J = 3 lines of similar strength in other regions of the FUSE spectra of 3C 273. The lines are plotted as a function of LSR velocity of the H$_2$ lines. For each line, the wavelength and product log ($f\lambda$) are listed. Additional H$_2$ and atomic lines covered in the plots are also labeled. The strong absorption features at the top of each panel are the $z$ = 0.00338 Virgo absorber (left panel) and the $z$ = 0.00530 Virgo absorber (right panel).

Fig. 6.—Single-component, Doppler-broadened COG fitted to the H I lines observed in the $z$ = 0.00338 (1015 km s$^{-1}$) and $z$ = 0.00530 (1590 km s$^{-1}$) Virgo Cluster absorbers. The data points include GHRS data for Ly$\alpha$ (filled squares) and FUSE data for H I lines on detectors 1 and 2 (filled and open circles, respectively). For the $z$ = 0.00338 absorber, the fit shown includes the Ly$\alpha$ data point in the calculation. For the $z$ = 0.00530 absorber, two fits are shown: one based solely on the FUSE data (solid line) and one including the Ly$\alpha$ data (dashed line). The best-fit column density for the $z$ = 0.00533 absorber based on the FUSE data is a factor of 43 higher than previous estimates based on Ly$\alpha$ profile fitting alone.
\( \lambda 1031.926 \approx 30 \text{ mÅ} \) but is present in both FUSE channels (Table 3) as well as in the weaker \( \lambda 1037.617 \) line. The C \( \text{m} \) line falls near a blend of Galactic H\( \text{a} \) and IGM Ly\( \beta \) absorption at a redshift \( z = 0.06655 \) (see Fig. 3).

We find \( N(\text{O vi}) \approx (2-3) \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \), which is smaller than the columns for other O \( \text{v} \) absorbers detected with FUSE in the spectrum of PG 0953 + 415 (Savage et al. 2001). We find \( N(\text{H i})/N(\text{O vi}) = 1.7 \pm 0.8 \), indicating that the gas is essentially fully ionized if the H \( \text{I} \) and O \( \text{vi} \) are cophasal. For an O \( \text{vi} \) ionization fraction \( O^+5/O \leq 0.2 \), the observed value of \( N(\text{O vi}) = 2.4 \times 10^{13} \text{ cm}^{-2} \) implies \( N(\text{H}^+) \geq 1.6 \times 10^{12} Z^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \), where \( Z \) is the metallicity of the gas.\(^9\) Thus, \( N(\text{H}^+)/N(\text{H i}) \gtrsim 4000 Z^{-1} \). Additional ultraviolet data for other ionized species (e.g., C \( \text{iv} \), N \( \text{v} \)) would be valuable in determining the ionization and metallicity of the gas.

The nearest known galaxy to the sight line with a redshift within a few hundred kilometers per second of the absorber lies at a projected distance of \( \sim 2.5 \text{ Mpc} \) from the 3C 273 sight line assuming \( v_{\text{LSR}} = 65 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) Mpc\(^{-1} \) and has a redshift \( z = 0.12067 \) (Morris et al. 1993). McLaren et al. (2001) have also found a galaxy at \( z = 0.12026 \) that is \( \sim 16' \), or \( \sim 2.6 \text{ Mpc} \), from the sight line.

4.7. The \( z = 0.14660 \) Absorber

The Ly\( \alpha \) line for this absorber occurs at a wavelength of 1393.89 \( \text{Å} \) and is blended with Galactic Si \( \text{iv} \) \( \lambda 1393.755 \) absorption. Our estimate of the observed equivalent width of the line \( (355 \pm 20 \text{ mÅ}) \) is in good agreement with the value of 331 mÅ derived by Morris et al. (1991) but differs substantially from the value of 216 mÅ quoted by Savage et al. (1993).\(^{10}\) We rederived the Ly\( \alpha \) profile by scaling the observed optical depth of the “clean” Galactic Si \( \text{iv} \) \( \lambda 1402.770 \) line by a factor of 2, subtracting this scaled optical depth from the observed optical depth of the Si \( \text{iv} \) + Ly\( \alpha \) blend, and recalculating the absorption profile of the residual (e.g., IGM Ly\( \alpha \)) absorption. We show our decomposition of the absorption profile in Figure 7.

We detect Ly\( \beta \) absorption in this absorber with an equivalent width consistent with an optically thin cloud. This is the third strongest H \( \text{i} \) absorber along the 3C 273 sight line. There are no detectable O \( \text{vi} \) or C \( \text{iii} \) absorptions associated with the intergalactic H \( \text{i} \) at this redshift.

5. MILKY WAY INTERSTELLAR ABSORPTION

The 3C 273 sight line passes through the ISM of the Galactic disk and halo. In this high-latitude direction \( (l = 289.95, b = 64.36) \), Galactic rotation does not strongly affect the radial velocity of the interstellar gas; for \( d < 10 \) kpc, the expected LSR velocities of a smoothly distributed medium corotating with the Galactic disk lie between 0 and \( -8 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). The most notable features along or near the sight line include radio continuum Loops I and IV (Berkhuijsen, Haslam, & Salter 1971) and the North Polar Spur, which is seen in both 21 cm emission (Colomb, Poppell, & Heiles 1980; Heiles et al. 1980) and X-ray emission (McCammon et al. 1983; Snowden et al. 1995). Descriptions of these features and an overview of the ultraviolet and optical absorption along the sight line are given by Savage et al. (1993). Here we summarize some of the new information about the interstellar gas obtained from the FUSE spectra of 3C 273.

5.1. Kinematics

The neutral and low-ionization interstellar gas toward 3C 273 occurs in two main groupings of clouds centered at \( v_{\text{LSR}} \approx -15 \) and 23 \text{ km s}^{-1}, as derived from high-resolution GHRs observations of the S \( \text{ii} \) \( \lambda \lambda 1250.584, 1253.811 \) lines and FUSE observations of P \( \text{ii} \) \( \lambda \lambda 1152.818, \text{Si} \text{ii} \lambda \lambda 1020.699, \) and Fe \( \text{ii} \) \( \lambda \lambda 1121.975, 1125.448, 1143.226, 1144.938 \). These absorption features are shown in Figure 8 along with the H \( \text{i} \) 21 cm emission profile obtained with the NRAO 140 foot telescope. The ultraviolet absorption in the neutral and singly ionized species occurs at velocities for which H \( \text{i} \) 21 cm emission is also detected. The \( -15 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) grouping is the dominant contributor to both the 21 cm emission and the ultraviolet absorption. The maximum H \( \text{i} \) emission occurs at \( v_{\text{LSR}} \approx -6 \text{ km s}^{-1} \), the velocity of the strong, sharp absorption feature visible in the S \( \text{ii} \) \( \lambda 1250.584 \) line shown near the bottom of Figure 8.

The S \( \text{ii} \) profiles observed at high resolution with the GHRs indicate that the velocity component distributions of the low-ionization groups of clouds are complex. The negative velocity grouping contains at least three components, and the positive velocity grouping contains at least two components. Typical \( b \)-values of Gaussian components fitted to the profiles are \( \sim 3-8 \text{ km s}^{-1} \). The profiles are

---

\(^9\) The peak O \( \text{vi} \) ionization fraction of \( \sim 0.2 \) occurs in collisional ionization equilibrium at a temperature of \( \sim 3 \times 10^5 \) K (Sutherland & Dopita 1993). This ionization fraction is also rarely exceeded if the gas is photoionized under conditions that might be found in the low-redshift IGM.

\(^{10}\) The lower equivalent width quoted by Savage et al. (1993) resulted from a minor mathematical error in the scaling of the deblended IGM and Milky Way absorption features. Fig. 7 in that paper can be compared to our revised deblending shown in Fig. 7 of this paper. In both the present paper and in Savage et al. (1993), this error does not affect the conclusions regarding the column density or velocity of Si \( \text{iv} \), since that information is based in both studies on the \( \lambda 1402.770 \) line.
sufficiently complicated that it is difficult to obtain a unique solution to the various component parameters; this is particularly true for the negative velocity (−23 km s⁻¹) group, which has a trailing absorption shoulder that is difficult to describe as a sum of discrete Gaussian components (see Fig. 8). Comparison of the apparent column density profiles (next section) for the S II lines shows, however, that there is unlikely to be any unresolved saturated structure within the lines, except possibly in the narrow core at −6 km s⁻¹.

The overall shape of the absorption lines is consistent from species to species, with the possible exception of the Ar I λ1048.220, 1066.660 lines. The Ar I profiles consist of a two-component structure, but the cloud group centroids are separated by only ∼33 km s⁻¹, compared to ∼38 km s⁻¹ for the “dominant” ion lines of Si II, P II, S II, and Fe II. This appears to be due primarily to a shift of the redward Ar I cloud grouping to slightly less positive velocities compared to the other species. Such an offset could be due to differences in the ionization of the components within the positive velocity clouds. For example, if the higher velocity components in the group contain a significant amount of ionized gas, then Ar I, which is found predominantly in the neutral gas and is particularly susceptible to photoionization compared to other neutral species (Sofia & Jenkins 1998), may have a different profile shape than the singly ionized species.

The H₂ absorption along the sight line occurs at the velocities of the positive velocity cloud group seen in the neutral and singly ionized atomic lines. The H₂ is centered on an LSR velocity of 16 km s⁻¹, the same as the positive velocity grouping in Ar I. There is no detectable H₂ absorption near −15 km s⁻¹. Thus, the molecular absorption along the sight line does not coincide with the peak atomic column density concentration (in velocity) along the sight line. This runs somewhat contrary to expectations and indicates that it is not always possible to use the peak of the H I 21 cm emission to set the zero point of the velocity scale for the H₂ absorption observed with FUSE.

The profiles of the doubly ionized species observed along the sight line (S III, Fe III) span velocities similar to those covered by the singly ionized lines (see Fig. 2). The S III and Fe III lines are smoother than their singly ionized counterparts, indicating that these ions may trace both the structured absorption and a more turbulent medium. Because of its great strength, the C III λ977.020 line is broader than the S III or Fe III lines. It has an extent (FWHM ≈ 180 km s⁻¹) comparable to or slightly larger than that of the strong C II λ1036.337 line. The great extent of these lines implies the existence of a low column density medium that is highly turbulent.

The O VI λ1031.926, 1037.617 lines are broad and span a velocity range from −100 to 100 km s⁻¹. The λ1031.926 line also reveals a broad, shallow wing of absorption between 100 and 240 km s⁻¹ that is not detected in other high- or low-ionization species, including C II, C III, C IV, Si IV, and N V (Sembach et al. 1997). The feature cannot be redshifted H I Lyβ at z = 0.00638−0.00685 because there is no corresponding Lya absorption at this redshift. Broad shallow interstellar O VI absorption features are seen in several other directions through the Milky Way halo (e.g.,
toward Mrk 1383, PKS 2005—489; B. D. Savage et al. 2001, in preparation). Toward 3C 273, the wing contains roughly 13% of the total O I equivalent width. The positive-velocity wing of the O I \( \lambda 1037.617 \) line is blended with absorption by the nearby Lyman H\(_2\) (5—0) R(1) line. The O I lines do not contain any unresolved saturated component structure.

5.2. Column Densities and Elemental Abundances

We computed column densities for the interstellar species observed toward 3C 273 by fitting single-component Doppler-broadened COG to the equivalent widths listed in Table 1 and by calculating the apparent optical depths (AODs) of the lines (Savage & Sembach 1991). We list the column density results in Table 5 for several species. Values are listed for the two groups of components near \(-15\) and \(23\) km s\(^{-1}\) as well as for the entire sight line. The velocity ranges considered were similar to those listed in Table 1 for the individual lines.

The apparent column density obtained by integrating the column density profiles over velocity is given by

\[
N_a = \int N_a(v)dv = \frac{3.768 \times 10^{14}}{f(\lambda)} \int \tau_a(v)dv \text{ (cm}^{-2}\),
\]

where \(\tau_a(v)\) is the AOD of the line (equal to the natural logarithm of the estimated continuum divided by the observed intensity) at velocity \(v\) (in km s\(^{-1}\)), \(f(\lambda)\) is the oscillator strength of the line, and \(\lambda\) is the wavelength of the line (in Å).

5.2.1. Neutral and Low-Ionization Gas

The total amount of neutral (H I) gas along the 3C 273 sight line can be estimated in several ways. Two independent estimates are provided in Table 5. The first of these is an estimate based upon an integration of the 21 cm emission profile shown in Figure 8 over the velocity ranges from \(-50\) to \(10\) km s\(^{-1}\) and from \(10\) to \(60\) km s\(^{-1}\) under the assumption that the emission is optically thin (see eq. [3-38] in Spitzer 1978). The total resulting column density is \(\log N(\text{H I}) = 20.23\). The second estimate is based upon a profile fit to the radiation damping wings of the Ly\(\beta\) line shown in Figure 1. The resulting column density is \(\log N(\text{H I}) = 20.20 \pm 0.05\). Both results are consistent with each other and with the strengths of the higher order Lyman series lines observed in the FUSE bandpass. The higher order lines lie on the flat part of the COG and are often contaminated by metal lines, molecular hydrogen lines, and geocoronal airglow emission.

Comparisons of the apparent column density profiles for each species revealed that many of the low-ionization lines contain unresolved saturated structures at the resolution of the FUSE data. The weak line apparent column density integrals for the Fe II lines indicated that lines having AODs \(\tau_a \leq 1\) yield the same integrated column density as derived from the COG. Thus, the AOD results for species having weak lines of comparable optical depth (like P II \( \lambda 1152\)) should be reliable provided that the velocity structure is similar to that of Fe II. To help constrain the \(b\)-values derived from the COG for Si II and Fe II, we used the equivalent width measurements reported by Savage et al. (1993) for several strong lines of these species observed with the HST/GHRS (see Table 5 notes). The S II results derived here from high-resolution GHRS Ech-A data are much more accurate than previous values derived from the G160M data; we find a sight-line total column density of \(\log N(S\ II) = 15.46 \pm 0.06\), compared to the value of 15.60 \(\pm 0.24\) derived by Savage et al. (1993).

A standard uncertainty in deriving accurate estimates of the relative elemental abundances is determining to what extent ionization affects the column densities of the different ionization stages of each element observed. The relative gas-phase abundance of elements "X" and "Y" is usually written as

\[
[X/Y] = \log N(X) - \log N(Y) - \{A(X) - A(Y)\},
\]

where \(X^+\) and \(Y^+\) are usually the neutral or singly ionized forms of X and Y, and \(A(X)\) and \(A(Y)\) are the cosmic (solar) abundances of X and Y on a logarithmic scale where \(A(H) = 12.00\). In most abundance studies, the total H I column density is unknown, so it is often assumed that singly ionized species trace mostly neutral (H I) gas and little ionized (H II) gas.

Using FUSE observations of both singly and doubly ionized atoms of the same element, we can check the validity of the above assumption and its impact on the elemental abundance estimates. The doubly ionized forms of Fe and S are not present in appreciable quantities in H I regions (\(IP_{Fe^II} = 16.18\) eV and \(IP_{S^III} = 23.33\) eV).\(^\text{11}\) We find \(N(Fe^III)/[N(Fe^II) + N(Fe^III)] \approx 0.18\) and \(N(S^III)/[N(S^II) + N(S^III)] \approx 0.13\). Thus, the numbers of doubly ionized atoms of Fe and S are small compared to their singly ionized counterparts.

For a warm photoionized medium characteristic of the "Reynolds layer" having \(n_e \approx 0.1\) cm\(^{-3}\) and \(T \approx 10^4\) K (Reynolds 1993), the predicted ionization fractions of Fe II and Fe III are \(\approx 0.5\) (Sembach et al. 2000a). Thus, the relative column densities of Fe II and Fe III imply that approximately 36% of the Fe along the sight line is in the warm ionized medium (WIM) if there are no other sources of ionization along the sight line. This percentage is a factor of about 1.5 higher than that derived for the sight line to vZ 1128 (\(l = 42^\circ.5, b = 78^\circ.7\); J. C. Howk, K. R. Sembach, & B. D. Savage 2001, in preparation). However, the predicted ionization fractions of S II and S III are 0.80 and 0.20, respectively, implying that most of the S (\(-65\%) is in the WIM if no other ionization sources are present. This leaves only \(-35\% of the S available for the neutral gas along the sight line, a result clearly at odds with the observed amounts of H I and P II and the implied depletion of S out of the gas phase that would be required in the H I gas. This result strongly suggests that there must be other sources of ionization, such as shocks, that increase the amount of S III along the sight line above that expected from a pure WIM layer.

We now investigate the average degree of elemental incorporation into dust grains along the sight line for several elements, considering whenever possible the ionization stages that are dominant in both H I and H II regions. First, we compare Fe, a refractory element that is readily incorporated into dust grains, to S, an element found primarily in the gas phase (Savage & Sembach 1996). We find \(N(Fe^II + Fe^III)/N(S^II + S^III) = 0.21(Fe/S)^{\odot}\), which indicates that Fe is depleted from the gas by an amount compa-

\(^{11}\) Ionization potentials in this paper are from Moore (1970).
rable to that inferred for warm clouds in the Galactic halo (Sembach & Savage 1996). Next, we consider (P/S), (Si/S), and (Ar/S); the absence of a measurement for Si III implies N(Si II + Si III) ≥ N(Si II). We find N(Si II + Si III)/N(Si II + Si III) = 0.20(Si/S)III, N(P II + P III)/N(Si II + Si III) = (0.6–1.7)(P/S)II, and N(Ar II)/N(Si II) ≥ 0.45(Ar/S)III. The nearly solar (P/S) and (Ar/S) ratios strongly suggest that these three elements are found predominantly in the gas phase along the 3C 273 sight line. Neither P nor S is usually depleted by more than a factor of ~2 even in cold clouds (Jenkins 1987), and Ar is a noble element. The lower limit on (Si/S) is about a factor of 2 lower than typically found in Milky Way halo clouds but would probably increase by roughly this amount if Si II could be measured.

All of the above abundance ratios are consistent with the abundances found in warm, diffuse halo clouds (Sembach & Savage 1996; Savage & Sembach 1996). The ratios for the two cloud groupings along the sight line are similar, suggesting that in both cases the absorption occurs primarily in regions where the grain mantles have been reduced and the grain cores exposed. Furthermore, there are few differences between the ratios derived under the assumption that all of the singly ionized atoms occur in H I regions and the ratios derived from a combination of singly and doubly ionized species. This implies that dust in the warm, ionized gas along this sight line has properties similar to the dust in the warm neutral gas. Finally, we note that N(S II)/N(H I) = (0.98 ± 0.16)(S/H)I, where N(H I) is derived from the damping wings of the H I Lyβ profile shown in Figure 1 (see also Table 5). Even after accounting for some S II in ionized regions along the sight line, it is unlikely that S is depleted from the gas by more than a factor of ~2. We summarize the ion ratios and elemental abundance results in Table 6.

5.2.2. High-Ionization Gas

A comparison of the O VI apparent column density profiles, N_{<\text{v}}(\ell), derived from the LiF1 data for the λλ1031.926 and 1037.617 lines, is shown in the top left panel of Figure 9. We also plot the λ1031.926 profile for the LiF2 channel. The good agreement of the N_{<\text{v}}(\ell) profiles indicates that there are no unresolved saturated structures within the lines, which implies that the observed profiles are valid, instrumentally smoothed representations of the true column density per unit velocity. Furthermore, the broad positive velocity wing is present in all of the profiles. The width of the main O VI absorption (FWHM ~ 100 km s$^{-1}$) is governed by thermal

### Table 5

| Species | log $N$ (Negative) | log $N$ (Positive) | log $N$ (Total) | Method | Note |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------|------|
| H I     | 20.15             | 19.45             | 20.23          | …      | 1    |
| H$_2$(J = 0) | …     | …     | 20.20 ± 0.05  | PF     | 2    |
| H$_2$(J = 1) | …     | …     | 15.00 ± 0.30  | PF     | 3    |
| H$_2$(J = 2) | …     | …     | 15.48 ± 0.18  | PF     | 3    |
| H$_2$(J = 3) | …     | …     | 14.76 ± 0.12  | COG, PF | 3    |
| H$_2$(J = 4) | …     | …     | 14.73 ± 0.12  | COG, PF | 3    |
| O VI    | ~14.90            | ~14.68            | 15.10 ± 0.10   | AOD, COG | 6    |
| Si II   | ~13.55            | ~12.84            | 13.60 ± 0.04   | AOD    |      |
| P II    | ~13.70            | ~13.40            | <13.88         | AOD    |      |
| S II    | ~15.33            | ~14.88            | 15.46 ± 0.06   | AOD, COG | 7    |
| S III   | …                 | …                 | 14.64 ± 0.06   | AOD    |      |
| Ar I    | ~14.32            | ~13.65            | 14.40 ± 0.19   | AOD, COG | 8    |
| Ar II   | ~14.89            | ~14.40            | 15.01 ± 0.08   | AOD, COG | 9    |
| Ar III  | ~14.23            | ~13.77            | 14.36 ± 0.04   | AOD    |      |

a Errors are 1σ estimates unless specified otherwise. Limits are 3σ estimates based upon either the AOD limits or the measured equivalent widths and the assumption of a linear COG.

b COG: Curve-of-growth fit to the measured equivalent widths of the lines for each species. The derived Doppler parameters listed in the notes below are measures of the overall extent of profiles, not of the individual component widths. PF: Profile fitting for the H$_2$ lines. The synthetic H$_2$ spectrum was constructed as indicated in the text. AOD: Apparent optical depth method. Column densities are direct integrations of the apparent column density profiles constructed for each species.

Notes: (1) H I: Column densities derived from integration of the NRAO 21 cm profile measured by E. M. Murphy et al. 2001, unpublished. The emission was assumed to be optically thin. (2) H I: Column density derived from a profile fit to the radiation damping wings of the Lyβ line at 1025.7 Å. (3) These H$_2$ values are appropriate for a Doppler parameter b = 6 ± 2 km s$^{-1}$. The absorption is centered near ~23 km s$^{-1}$. (4) O VI: Velocity range of integration is ~160 to 100 km s$^{-1}$. (5) O VI: Velocity range of integration is ~160 to 240 km s$^{-1}$. (6) Si II: b$_{\text{COG}} = 32.2 ± 2.5$ km s$^{-1}$. Lines used include λλ1020.699, 1260.433 (HST), 1304.370 (HST), and 1526.707 (HST). (7) S II: b$_{\text{COG}} = 20.1 ± 2.5$ km s$^{-1}$. Lines used include λλ1250.584 (HST), 1253.811 (HST), and 1259.519 (HST). (8) Ar I: b$_{\text{COG}} = 12.1 ± 2.0$ km s$^{-1}$. Lines used include λλ1048.220 and 1066.660. (9) Fe II: b$_{\text{COG}} = 29.0 ± 2.5$ km s$^{-1}$. Lines used include λλ1055.262, 1096.877, 1112.048, 1121.975, 1125.448, 1133.665, 1143.226, 1144.938, 2586.650 (HST), and 2600.173 (HST).
TABLE 6

ION RATIOS AND ELEMENTAL ABUNDANCES*

| Parameter                                      | Value       |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ratios                                         |             |
| N(P m)/N(P II + P m)                           | < 1.90      |
| N(S m)/N(S II + S m)                           | 0.13 ± 0.02 |
| N(Fe m)/N(Fe II + Fe m)                        | 0.18 ± 0.04 |
| Abundances*                                    |             |
| (S/H) = N(S II)/N(H I)                         | (0.91 ± 0.12)(S/H)_⊙ |
| (Ar/S) = N(Ar II)/N(S II)                      | (0.45 ± 0.13)(Ar/S)_⊙ |
| (Si/S) = N(SI II + Si III)/N(S II + S m)       | ≥ 0.20(Si/S)_⊙ |
| (P/S) = N(P II + P III)/N(S II + S m)          | (0.6–1.7)(P/S)_⊙ |
| (Fe/S) = N(Fe II + Fe III)/N(S II + S m)       | (0.22 ± 0.04)(Fe/S)_⊙ |

* Errors are 1σ estimates. Limits are 3σ estimates.

Solar system reference abundances are from Anders & Grevesse 1989 on a logarithmic abundance scale where $A$(H) = 12.00, $A$(Si) = 7.55, $A$(P) = 5.57, $A$(Ar) = 6.56, and $A$(Fe) = 7.51.

For gas at $T = 3 \times 10^5$ K, the temperature at which O VI peaks in abundance in collisional ionization equilibrium (Sutherland & Dopita 1993), a single component has FWHM ≈ 30 km s$^{-1}$. An upper limit to the gas temperature, $T_{\text{max}} < 3.5 \times 10^6$ K, is implied by the width of the O VI line core. However, it is unlikely that the gas is this hot since the fractional abundance of O VI at such high temperatures is very low ($O^+\delta/O < 2 \times 10^{-4}$).

The maximum observed optical depth of the O VI $\lambda 1031.926$ absorption is $\tau_a^{\text{max}} \approx 1.9$, so the true optical depth at line center is likely to be modest given the great breadth of the line compared to the instrumental resolution. We can rule out the presence of strong narrow components ($\tau_0 > 3$; $T < 5 \times 10^4$ K; FWHM $< 12$ km s$^{-1}$) in the $N_a(v)$ profiles based on the good agreement between the $N_a(v)$ profiles for the weak and strong lines (see Fig. 9). This implies that the O VI is indeed tracing primarily hot ($T \sim 10^5–10^6$ K) gas.

![Fig. 9](image-url)
We derive an O \text{VI} column density of \( \log N(\text{O \text{VI}}) = 14.73 \pm 0.04 \) (\(-160\) to 100 km s\(^{-1}\)) using the apparent column density profiles of the \textit{FUSE} spectrum of \( \lambda\lambda 1031.926 \) and 1037.617 lines. If we include the positive velocity wing in the \textit{FUSE} measurement, we find \( \log N(\text{O \text{VI}}) = 14.77 \pm 0.04 \) (\(-160\) to 240 km s\(^{-1}\)). The O \text{VI} column density derived from \textit{FUSE} can be compared to \( \log N(\text{O \text{VI}}) = 14.85 \pm 0.13 \) derived from \textit{ORFEUS-II} observations having \( \sim 100 \) km s\(^{-1}\) resolution and \( \log N(\text{O \text{VI}}) > 14.3 \) derived from Hopkins Ultraviolet Telescope (HUT) spectra having \( \sim 1000 \) km s\(^{-1}\) resolution (Davidsen 1993). Neither of these previous observations could resolve the weaker O \text{VI} \( \lambda 1037.617 \) line from neighboring absorption lines. To date, this is the highest column density of O \text{VI} measured along any sight line through the Milky Way halo.

We show the O \text{VI} apparent column density profile together with scaled profiles for N \text{V}, C \text{IV}, and Si \text{IV} from Sembach et al. (1997) in the other three panels of Figure 9. The integrated high ion column density ratios between \(-100\) and 100 km s\(^{-1}\) are

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{N(\text{O \text{VI}})}{N(\text{N \text{V}})} &= 7.2 \pm 1.1, \\
\frac{N(\text{O \text{VI}})}{N(\text{C \text{IV}})} &= 1.7 \pm 0.2, \\
\frac{N(\text{O \text{VI}})}{N(\text{Si \text{IV}})} &= 8.9 \pm 1.1.
\end{align*}
\]

The O \text{VI}, N \text{V}, and C \text{IV} high ion \( N_j(\nu) \) profiles trace each other remarkably well, indicating that the three species arise in similar regions along the sight line. The velocity extents of the primary absorption are similar, and the profiles have similar shapes. The notable exception to this is the Si \text{IV} excess at \(-7 \leq v_{\text{LSR}} \leq 25 \) km s\(^{-1}\) compared to the other profiles. Si \text{IV} has a lower ionization potential than the other highly ionized species (IP_{\text{Si IV}} = 33.5 eV), so the abundance of Si \text{IV} is therefore much more sensitive to photoionization by starlight than the abundances of C \text{IV}, N \text{V}, and O \text{VI}. The velocities of the Si \text{IV} excess correspond to those of the positive velocity grouping of low-ionization species and the H\text{\textgamma} along the sight line.

At the higher positive velocities of the broad O \text{VI} absorption (100–240 km s\(^{-1}\)), we place the following limits (3 σ) on the high ion column densities: \( \log N(\text{N \text{V}}) < 13.3 \), \( \log N(\text{C \text{IV}}) < 13.0 \), and \( \log N(\text{Si \text{IV}}) < 12.9 \). Combined with \( \log N(\text{O \text{VI}}) = 13.71 \pm 0.05 \), these values yield

\[
\begin{align*}
\frac{N(\text{O \text{VI}})}{N(\text{N \text{V}})} &\geq 2.6, \\
\frac{N(\text{O \text{VI}})}{N(\text{C \text{IV}})} &\geq 5.1, \\
\frac{N(\text{O \text{VI}})}{N(\text{Si \text{IV}})} &\geq 6.5.
\end{align*}
\]

It is not possible to place a limit on C \text{III} \( \lambda 977.020 \) at these velocities because of confusion with a strong IGM Ly\text{\textgamma} line at \( z = 0.00530 \).

5.2.3. Molecular Gas

Molecular hydrogen lines are found throughout the \textit{FUSE} spectrum of 3C 273. Although they are not the primary focus of this investigation, it is nonetheless necessary to accurately characterize the column densities in several of the rotational levels so that the impact of these lines on the absorption observed for other species can be assessed. In our census of the IGM absorbers along the sight line, the \( J = 3 \) rotational level lines are the most frequent Galactic absorption features that pose blending problems.

We modeled the H\text{\textalpha} lines in the \( J = 0–3 \) rotational levels by measuring the equivalent widths of lines free of contamination by other absorption features (see Fig. 1). The lines of each level were placed on a single-component COG to estimate a column density and \( b \)-value for the molecular gas. Using this information, we constructed a synthetic H\text{\textalpha} spectrum and compared it to the data. We then varied the \( b \)-value and column densities of the individual levels to determine the robustness of the fit to the data and to estimate errors on the column densities. Examples of the fits obtained for several \( J = 2–3 \) lines are shown in Figure 5, including a few cases in which the lines overlap IGM absorption lines. Whenever we assessed the blending of the H\text{\textalpha} and IGM lines, we used H\text{\textalpha} lines having line strengths, \( b \), bracketing those of the blended lines (see Table 2).

We estimate a total sight-line H\text{\textalpha} column density of \( \log N(\text{H\text{\textalpha}}) \approx 15.71 \) in rotational levels \( J = 0–4 \). We find \( \log N(\text{H\text{\textalpha}}) = 15.00 \pm 0.30, 15.48 \pm 0.18, 14.76 \pm 0.12, \) and \( \leq 14.40 \) (3 σ) for \( J = 0, 1, 2, 3, \) and 4, respectively (Table 5). The inferred Doppler parameter is \( 6 \pm 2 \) km s\(^{-1}\), and the kinetic temperature derived from the relative populations of the \( J = 0, 1 \) levels is \( 157 \pm 100 \) K. Comparing the H\text{\textalpha} column to the total H \text{I} from 21 cm emission yields \( f(\text{H\text{\textalpha}}) = 2N(\text{H\text{\textalpha}})/[N(\text{H \text{I}}) + 2N(\text{H\text{\textalpha}})] \approx 6 \times 10^{-5} \), typical for low-density sight lines through the Milky Way halo (Shull et al. 2000a). For any reasonable values of \( N(\text{CO})/N(\text{H\text{\textalpha}}) \), the CO \((A-X)\) bands in the \textit{HST} bandpass will not be observable. Thus, the primary source of information about molecular gas along the sight line is the H\text{\textalpha} absorption in the \textit{FUSE} bandpass.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Intergalactic Medium

A long-standing goal of cosmology is to make an accurate assessment of the amount of baryonic material in the universe. Using \textit{HST}, it has been possible to survey H \text{I} Ly\text{\textalpha} absorption along numerous sight lines. The 3C 273 sight line is one of the best-studied directions. Although most of the Ly\text{\textalpha} absorbers are weak [\( \log N(\text{H \text{I}}) < 14 \)], several absorbers have higher H \text{I} column densities, and the detection of O \text{VI} in two systems \( (z = 0.00338, 0.12007) \) implies very large values of \( N(\text{H}^{-})/N(\text{H \text{I}}) \). Standard photoionization models of low-\text{z} clouds also suggest that a significant fraction of the baryonic material may be contained in the form of ionized gas at low redshift (e.g., Shull, Penton, & Stocke 1999). Determining whether the gas is photoionized or collisionally ionized remains an outstanding problem (see, e.g., Savage et al. 2001).

Our \textit{FUSE} observations of Ly\text{\textbeta} absorption in eight of the IGM clouds yield refined column densities and Doppler parameters for these absorbers (Table 4). Previous column density estimates based on Ly\text{\textalpha} profile fitting generally produced reliable results for the weak absorbers along the sight line. However, the column density of the 1590 km s\(^{-1}\) Virgo absorber measured previously was underestimated because the absorption has a considerably smaller Doppler parameter than inferred from the profile fitting. For the eight absorbers, we find \( \langle b \rangle = 25 \pm 10 \) km s\(^{-1}\) with a full spread of \( 16 \lesssim b \lesssim 46 \) km s\(^{-1}\). This range of Doppler parameters is similar to that inferred from the Ly\text{\textbeta}/Ly\text{\textalpha} ratios for stronger Ly\text{\textalpha} forest absorbers along low-redshift sight lines (Shull et al. 2000b) and at redshifts of 2.0–2.5 (Rauch et al. 1993). For
the best-constrained case of the 1590 km s\(^{-1}\) Virgo absorber, the \(b\)-value of 16.1 km s\(^{-1}\) implies \(T \lesssim 15,000\) K. This temperature is likely to be even smaller if multiple absorption components are present in the profile as expected (see § 4.1).

For the intergalactic path to 3C 273, we expect to find \(~1 \pm 1\) O \(\text{VI}\) absorber with \(W_r \gtrsim 30\) mÅ after accounting for line blocking and assuming \(dN/dz \approx 15\) (Tripp, Savage, & Jenkins 2000; Savage et al. 2001). We find at least one, and probably two, O \(\text{VI}\) absorbers along the sight line. The \(z = 0.12007\) absorber has been confirmed by G. Williger et al. (2001, in preparation) with STIS data.

The O \(\text{VI}\) absorption may trace the hot (\(T > 10^5\) K) remnants of hierarchical galaxy formation in the presence of cold dark matter as predicted by \(N\)-body simulations (e.g., Cen & Ostriker 1999; Davé et al. 1999). Although there has yet been no direct confirmation that any of the O \(\text{VI}\) absorbers are collisionally ionized plasmas at high temperatures, there are some excellent cases that favor collisional ionization over photoionization unless the absorbers have very low densities (\(n < 10^{-15}\) cm\(^{-3}\)) and large sizes (\(L > 100\) kpc) (e.g., Tripp et al. 2001; Savage et al. 2001). Alternate hypotheses for the origin of the O \(\text{VI}\) absorption include dynamical heating of gases in groups of galaxies or expulsion of interstellar material by starbursts (e.g., Heckman et al. 2001). There is no prominent group of galaxies at the redshift of the \(z = 0.12007\) absorber, and the closest known galaxy has a sufficiently large impact parameter (\(~2.5\) Mpc assuming \(H_0 = 65\) km s\(^{-1}\) Mpc\(^{-1}\); Morris et al. 1993; McLin et al. 2001) that expelled material is unlikely to be a source for the absorption.

The Virgo Cluster is a potential source for the weak O \(\text{VI}\) absorption associated with the \(z = 0.00338\) absorber. Extreme ultraviolet observations of Virgo suggest that the cluster contains a gaseous component with temperatures of (0.5–1.0) \(\times 10^6\) K (Lieu et al. 1996; Bonamente, Lieu, & Mittaz 2001), but an upper limit on the amount of O \(\text{VI}\) emission observed by FUSE (Dixon et al. 2001a) casts doubt upon the widespread existence of a strongly emitting intracluster medium with \(T < 10^6\) K. Our absorption-line measurements are orders of magnitude more sensitive to \(10^5–10^6\) K gas than these emission measurements, but the 3C 273 sight line lies well off the center of the cluster, where the amount of extreme ultraviolet emission and hot gas observed at X-ray energies above \(~2\) keV is greatest (see Forman & Jones 1982). However, there are lower levels of X-ray emission in other regions of the cluster (Forman et al. 1979), so it is nonetheless possible that the weak O \(\text{VI}\) absorption toward 3C 273 at \(z = 0.00338\) is related to hot gas within the cluster. The preferred Doppler width of the H \(\alpha\) profile for the absorber derived from the COG suggests a temperature of \(\lesssim 55,000\) K; this value rises to \(\lesssim 100,000\) K (3 \(\sigma\)) if the error estimates on \(h(\text{H} \alpha)\) are included in the limit. In either case, it is likely that the absorber has a multiphase structure if it is collisionally ionized.

X-ray absorption-line observations of O \(\text{VII}\) and O \(\text{VIII}\) toward 3C 273 may prove useful for determining whether the O \(\text{VI}\) absorption traces hot (\(10^5–10^6\) K), collisionally ionized gas or warm (\(10^5–10^5\) K) photoionized gas. Unfortunately, the column densities of these species would need to be very large (\(\log N > 16–17\)) to be studied spectroscopically with the Chandra observatory. The most effective method currently available for studying the low-redshift IGM is ultraviolet absorption-line spectroscopy. Further absorption-line observations of other low-redshift quasars with FUSE and STIS will help to quantify the redshift distribution of the O \(\text{VI}\) absorbers and their relationship to the IGM Ly\(\alpha\) clouds and galaxies.

### 6.2. The Hot Interstellar Medium

The interstellar O \(\text{VI}\) absorption toward 3C 273 provides new information about the physical processes governing the production of hot gas along the sight line. Of all the high ions accessible in the ultraviolet spectral region, O \(\text{VI}\) is the best diagnostic of hot (\(T \sim 10^5–10^6\) K), collisionally ionized gas since its abundance in the Milky Way ISM is unaffected by photoionization (\(I(\text{P}_\text{O}_\alpha) = 114\) eV). O \(\text{VI}\) has been observed along numerous sight lines in the Milky Way and Magellanic Clouds (Jenkins 1978; Savage et al. 2000; B. D. Savage et al. 2001, in preparation; Howk et al. 2001), but the relationship of the hot gas absorption to the absorption traced by other species (e.g., C \(\text{IV}\), N \(\text{V}\), and low ions) has not yet been studied in detail.

We list the integrated ratios of O \(\text{VI}\) to N \(\text{V}\), C \(\text{IV}\), and Si \(\text{IV}\) for five sight lines in Table 7. The ratios \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{N}\text{\text{V}})\) and \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{Si}\text{\text{IV}})\) vary by factors of \(~2–3\) in the sample. \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{C}\text{\text{IV}})\) is similar along four of the five sight lines (3C 273, Mrk 509, PKS 2155–304, and H1821+643) but is a factor of \(~3\) lower toward ESO 141-G55. Unlike the other sight lines, the ESO 141-G55 sight line passes through the inner regions of the Galaxy, which may account for some of the difference in \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{C}\text{\text{IV}})\). Spitzer (1996) noted that the \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{C}\text{\text{IV}})\) ratio along six halo and five disk sight lines observed with Copernicus changed from an

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**TABLE 7**

**Galactic Halo Column Density Ratios**

| Sight Line  | \(l\) (deg) | \(b\) (deg) | \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{N}\text{\text{V}})\) | \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{C}\text{\text{IV}})\) | \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})/N(\text{Si}\text{\text{IV}})\) | Notes* |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| 3C 273………. | 289.95 | 64.36 | 7.2 ± 1.1 | 1.7 ± 0.2 | 8.9 ± 1.1 | 1 |
| ESO 141-55… | 338.18 | -26.71 | 4.8 ± 1.1 | 0.6 ± 0.2 | 3.5 ± 0.6 | 2 |
| PKS 2155–304 | 17.73 | -52.25 | 3.9 ± 1.1 | 1.6 ± 0.2 | … | 3 |
| Mrk 509…….. | 35.97 | -29.86 | 6.8 ± 1.2 | 1.8 ± 0.2 | 5.1 ± 1.0 | 3 |
| H1821+643…. | 94.00 | 27.42 | 2.6 ± 0.5 | 1.6 ± 0.3 | … | 4 |

* All errors are 1 \(\sigma\) estimates. Values of \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VII}})\) are from Savage et al. 2000, and values of \(N(\text{C}\text{\text{IV}})\) and \(N(\text{N}\text{\text{V}})\) are from Savage et al. 1997 unless specified otherwise as follows. Notes: (1) Values are from this work and do not include O \(\text{VI}\) associated with the positive velocity wing. Including the positive velocity O \(\text{VI}\) wing increases the ratios by 10%. (2) Sembach, Savage, & Hurwitz 1999a. A substantial saturation correction was required for \(N(\text{C}\text{\text{IV}})\). (3) Values do not include the highly ionized HVCs detected by Sembach et al. 1999b, 2000a. \(N(\text{Si}\text{\text{IV}})\) was measured from data obtained by Sembach et al. 1999b. (4) \(N(\text{O}\text{\text{VI}})\) is from Oegerle et al. 2000.
average value of $\sim 6.8$ in the disk to $\sim 1.1$ in the halo. The ionized gas sampled by the extended sight lines listed in Table 7 probably resides primarily in the low halo rather than in the disk.

The constancy of $N(O\,\text{VI})/N(C\,\text{IV})$ as a function of velocity along the 3C 273 sight line strongly suggests that the two ions are located in similar regions and are produced by similar processes. Models of turbulent mixing layers (TMLs) having postmixed gas temperatures of $(2\pm 5) \times 10^{3}$ K and hot gas entrainment velocities of $25\text{--}100$ km s$^{-1}$ produce more C IV than O VI, typically with $N(O\,\text{VI})/N(C\,\text{IV}) \approx 0.1\text{--}0.8$ (Slavin, Shull, & Begelman 1993). Over the same temperature range, time-averaged values of $N(O\,\text{VI})/N(C\,\text{IV})$ in nonequilibrium radiatively cooling gas are typically $\sim 7\text{--}14$ (Edgar & Chevalier 1986). Similarly, models that follow the evolution of supernova remnants yield time-averaged values of $\sim 5\text{--}10$ (Slavin & Cox 1992). In very late stages of evolution ($t \gtrsim 1.3 \times 10^{7}$ yr), the ratio may fall below 2, but generally it is much higher (Shelton 1998). The $N(O\,\text{VI})/N(N\,\text{v})$ ratio is typically $\gtrsim 5\text{--}10$ in both types of cooling but can drop to lower values in the hotter TMLs. Thus, the interpretation of the observed ratios toward 3C 273 and the other objects listed in Table 7 requires a combination of physical processes to produce the high ions (see, e.g., Shull & Slavin 1994).

Sembach et al. (1997) proposed a hybrid model for the hot gas in the Loop IV region of the sky to explain the observed high ion ratios along several sight lines, including 3C 273; the 3C 273 sight line passes near the edge of the radio continuum emission and X-ray enhancements associated with the North Polar Spur. They suggested that the high ion absorption occurs within a highly fragmented medium within the Loop IV remnant or in the outer cavity walls of the remnant. A similar interpretation was suggested by Heckman et al. (2001) for the outflowing material in the starburst galaxy NGC 1705. Our observations of 3C 273 are consistent with this interpretation and lend additional support for multiple types of gas along the sight line. In particular, the high-velocity absorption wing observed only in O VI (§ 5.2.2) indicates that there is hot gas at substantially different velocities than the bulk of the material along the sight line.

High-velocity O VI is seen along many sight lines through the Milky Way, but in most cases the O VI absorption can be associated with lower ionization stages and appears to be more tightly confined in velocity than the absorption wing toward 3C 273 (e.g., Sembach et al. 2000a; Heckman et al. 2001). Broad wings on O VI profiles are seen along several other sight lines (B. D. Savage et al. 2001, in preparation), but the detection toward 3C 273 is the only one for which additional information for other highly ionized species is presently available. The high-velocity O VI has $N(O\,\text{VI})/N(C\,\text{IV}) > 5.1$, which is consistent with the expectations for radiatively cooling gas in fountain flows or young supernova remnants. Furthermore, the ratios of O VI to N v and C IV are also consistent with the values recently determined by Hoopes et al. (2001) for a young remnant in the Small Magellanic Cloud [$N(O\,\text{VI})/N(N\,\text{v}) = 17.8 \pm 3.1$ and $N(O\,\text{VI})/N(C\,\text{IV}) = 7.9 \pm 0.8$], providing support for the origin of the O VI in a supernova remnant region.

The broad O VI positive velocity absorption wing toward 3C 273 is probably the manifestation of hot gas being vented out of the Galactic disk into the halo. The outflow of hot ($T \sim 10^{6}$ K) gas is expected in regions where there are multiple supernova explosions; the “chimneys” serve as conduits for the hot gas that may eventually return to the Galactic disk as cool HVCs (e.g., Shapiro & Field 1976; Bregman 1980; Norman & Ikeuchi 1989). In the direction of 3C 273, there are clear signatures that multiple energetic events in the disk have produced hot gas. Radio Loop I is filled with X-ray emission (Snowden et al. 1995), Loop IV was probably created by the events that reheated Loop I (Iwan 1980), and the North Polar Spur is prominent in X-ray emission (Snowden et al. 1995). Alternatively, the high-velocity wing may trace the tidal debris wakes of HVCs moving through the Galactic halo or the remnants of infalling or tidally disturbed galaxies (e.g., the Sagittarius dwarf or Magellanic Stream). Until additional information can be obtained that would provide support for the debris hypothesis, we favor the former interpretation as the most likely source of the high-velocity O VI.

6.3. Limits on Interstellar O VI Emission

Dixon et al. (2001b) have recently reported a serendipitous detection of O VI emission from the diffuse ISM of the Milky Way in the direction of the Virgo Cluster. Observing with the LWRS apertures on FUSE for 11 ks, they found an interstellar O VI $\lambda$1031.926 photon surface brightness of $2900 \pm 700$ photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ and an intrinsic line width of less than 80 km s$^{-1}$ (FWHM) toward M87 in the direction $l = 284\degree 1$, $b = 74\degree 5$. Such a result may be fortuitous, since the inferred O VI column density they derived from a low S/N absorption-line spectrum of the nucleus of M87 is only $(1.4 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$, which is a factor of 4 less than the value of $(5.4 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{14}$ cm$^{-2}$ we measure toward 3C 273 (about 10$^3$ away) and a factor of $\sim 2$ less than the high-latitude sight line toward NGC 5548 ($l = 32\degree 0$, $b = 70\degree 5$; B. D. Savage et al. 2001, in preparation). Furthermore, Shelton et al. (2001) required nearly 200 ks of integration time with the same FUSE LWRS apertures to detect diffuse emission at a level of $2900 \pm 700$ photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ in the direction $l = 315\degree 0$, $b = -43\degree 1$. In the latter case, it is possible that a nearby interstellar cloud obscures much of the emission from material beyond a few hundred parsecs.

During our absorption-line observation of 3C 273 through the LWRS apertures, we also observed nearby regions of sky in the MDRS (4$^\prime$$\times$40$^\prime$) apertures. The LWRS and MDRS apertures are separated by an angle of approximately 3.5$\prime$ on the sky and have a size ratio of 11.25. The MDRS aperture provides a filled-slit spectral resolution of $\approx 0.1 \AA$ ($\approx 30$ km s$^{-1}$). In Figure 10 we show a portion of the MDRS data for the LiF1 channel, processed and extracted in the same manner as the LWRS data. The dashed line in the figure shows an emission line having a surface brightness of 15,000 photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ and a width the same as that of the absorption toward 3C 273 (FWHM $\approx 120$ km s$^{-1}$; see § 5.1). The two thick solid curves overplotted on the data are the profiles expected for O VI emission having FWHM = 80 km s$^{-1}$ and photon surface brightnesses of 3000 and 15,000 photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$, comparable to and a factor of 5 greater, respectively, than the emission observed by Dixon et al. (2001b) toward M87. The 3$\sigma$ upper limit of 15,000 photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ set by the 3C 273 data corresponds to an integrated line flux of $5.4 \times 10^{-16}$ ergs cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ through the MDRS aperture.

We cannot rule out O VI emission at the level observed by Dixon et al. (2001b) toward M87, but we find that the factor of 4--5 larger O VI column density for the 3C 273 sight line does not likely have a corresponding factor of 5 larger
remarkably less than the level of diffuse interstellar O~\textsc{ii}~emission (~36,000 ± 17,000 photons cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$). This suggests that the 3C 273 sight line is not compatible with production in a purely photoionized region but is consistent with the available emission-line data.

### 6.4. The Warm Ionized Interstellar Medium

The WIM is a fundamental component of the ISM that has been studied primarily through optical emission-line observations of H$\alpha$, [S~\textsc{ii}], and [N~\textsc{ii}] (see Reynolds 1993). To date, there has been little high-quality absorption-line information available to determine the fundamental properties of the WIM other than a study of the Al~\textsc{iii} scale height ($h_{\text{Al} \text{iii}}$ ~ $h_e$ ~ 1 kpc; Savage et al. 1990) and a study of the WIM dust composition derived from S~\textsc{ii} and Al~\textsc{iii} observations for several sight lines (Howk & Savage 1999). The latter study found that the degree of gain destruction in the WIM is comparable to that in the warm neutral medium (see Sembach & Savage 1996). Our observations of S~\textsc{iii} and Fe~\textsc{ii}−\textsc{iii} toward 3C 273 confirm this result.

The great breadth of the interstellar C~\textsc{iii} absorption toward 3C 273 indicates that the moderately ionized interstellar gas has a velocity extent comparable to or slightly greater than that of the neutral gas. Beyond approximately ~100 km s$^{-1}$, N(C~\textsc{iii})/N(C~\textsc{ii}) > 1 and N(C~\textsc{iii})/N(C~\textsc{iv}) ~ 3, conditions that are not both satisfied for neutral or diffuse photoionized regions but are met for postshock regions (see Shull & McKee 1979).

The amount of S~\textsc{iii} relative to S~\textsc{ii} observed toward 3C 273 is not compatible with production in a purely photoionized WIM of the type described by Sembach et al. (2000b). The requirement for other sources of ionization is not surprising given the large amount of highly ionized gas

12 Note that $\lambda$1031.926 photons have energies of 1.925 × 10$^{-11}$ ergs.
observed along the sight line. Comparison of the 3C 273 WIM results to similar measurements for halo sight lines that do not pass through supernova remnants or other known sources of hot gas would help to characterize the general relationship of the hot and warm ionized components of the ISM. A study of the optical line emission in the immediate vicinity of the 3C 273 sight line may also help to quantify the contributions of the various high ion production mechanisms to the S III absorption.

7. SUMMARY

We have observed the ultraviolet bright quasar 3C 273 to study the intergalactic and interstellar absorption along the sight line. We briefly summarize the primary results of this investigation as follows:

1. We searched for Lyβ and metal line (C III, O VI) absorption in the eight known IGM Lyα absorbers along the sight line having $W_r$(Lyα) > 50 mÅ. The detections of Lyβ confirm the identifications of the Lyα lines and provide refined estimates of the H I column densities and Doppler parameters of the clouds. We find a range of Doppler parameters, $b \approx 16-46$ km s$^{-1}$.

2. We detect O VI absorption in the 1015 km s$^{-1}$ Virgo absorber at the 2–3 σ level. This is the lowest redshift IGM O VI absorber identified outside the Local Group. The O VI absorption may be associated with hot, X-ray-emitting gas in the cluster. However, the Doppler width of the H I absorption suggests that cooler gas ($T \lesssim 10^5$ K) is also present.

3. Multiple Lyman series H I lines (Lyβ–Lyθ) in addition to Lyα are detected in the 1590 km s$^{-1}$ Virgo absorber. We revise the previous H I column density estimate obtained by Lyβ line profile fitting upward by a factor of ~43 to log N(H I) = 15.85 ± 0.10. This absorber is now known to contain 10 times more H I than all of the other absorbers along the sight line combined. The Doppler parameter decreased from a value of ~34 km s$^{-1}$ to a value of ~16 km s$^{-1}$. This line width implies $T \lesssim 15,000$ K. Using a limit on the amount of C III present, we find N(H$^+$)/N(H I) < 4.5Z$^{-1}$. This absorber may contain multiple components.

4. We detect C III and O VI in the absorber at $z = 0.12007$. The O VI absorption is weak [W_r(O VI 1031) ≈ 30 mÅ]. This absorber is predominantly ionized and has N(H I)/N(O VI) ≈ 1.7 ± 0.6 corresponding to N(H$^+$)/N(H I) ≥ 4000Z$^{-1}$. Other absorbers along the sight line have limits on N(H I)/N(O VI) ranging from greater than 0.5 ($z = 0.04898$) to greater than 148 ($z = 0.05350$). Approximately 1 ± 1 O VI absorber with $W_r$ ≥ 50 mÅ is expected for the sight line given current estimates of the number density of O VI absorbers at low redshift.

5. We analyzed high-resolution (Ech-A) GCR observations of the Lyα absorption at $z = 0.02947$. The absorber is optically thin and appears to consist of a combination of broad ($b \sim 50$ km s$^{-1}$) and narrow ($b \sim 25$ km s$^{-1}$) components. If thermal broadening dominates the former, the temperature of the gas may exceed $10^7$ K.

6. We measured strong interstellar O VI in the direction of 3C 273. The main absorption spans a velocity range from $-100$ to $100$ km s$^{-1}$. The O VI, N v, and C IV lines have very similar shapes, with roughly constant ratios across the $-100$ to $100$ km s$^{-1}$ velocity range. There is an enhancement in the ratio of Si IV to the other high ions at positive velocities where low-ionization and molecular gas is observed. Much of the interstellar high ion absorption toward 3C 273 probably occurs within a highly fragmented medium within the Loop IV remnant or in the outer cavity walls of the remnant. Multiple ionization mechanisms are required.

7. We place a flux limit of $5.4 \times 10^{-16}$ ergs cm$^{-2}$ s$^{-1}$ on the amount of O VI emission present in the LiFI MDRS aperture. Assuming that the O VI emission and absorption along the sight line occur within the same gas, we find $n_e \geq 0.02$ cm$^{-3}$ and a thermal pressure $p/k \approx 11,500$ cm$^{-3}$ K for a temperature of $3 \times 10^6$ K.

8. An additional high-velocity wing of O VI absorption containing about 13% of the total O VI is present at velocities between 100 and 240 km s$^{-1}$. This absorption wing is not observed in other species, but similar O VI wings have been observed along other sight lines through the Galactic halo. The broad O VI absorption wing may trace the expulsion of hot gas out of the Galactic disk into the halo.

9. The neutral and low-ionization ISM along the sight line occurs within two groups of clouds centered on LSR velocities of approximately ~15 and 23 km s$^{-1}$. The negative velocity group contains most of the H I gas. Abundance estimates for the interstellar clouds are similar to those for other halo clouds. The warm neutral and warm ionized clouds along the sight line have similar dust-phase abundances, implying that the properties of the dust grains in the two types of clouds are similar.

10. Interstellar H$_2$ absorption is present along the 3C 273 sight line at a level of log N(H$_2$) ~ 15.71. The H$_2$ is associated with the neutral and low-ionization gas near 23 km s$^{-1}$. This H$_2$ does not trace the main column density concentration along the sight line observed in H I 21 cm emission.

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