TXS 1206+549: a new $\gamma$-ray detected narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxy at redshift 1.34?

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ABSTRACT

Radio and $\gamma$-ray loud narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxies (NLS1s) are unique objects to study the formation and evolution of relativistic jets, as they are believed to have high accretion rates and powered by low mass black holes contrary to that known for blazars. However, only about a dozen $\gamma$-ray detected NLS1s ($\gamma$-NLS1s) are known to date and all of them are at $z \leq 1$. Here, we report the identification of a new $\gamma$-ray emitting NLS1 TXS 1206+549 at $z = 1.344$. A near-infrared spectrum taken with the Subaru telescope showed H$\beta$ emission line with FWHM of $1194 \pm 77$ km s$^{-1}$ and weak [O III] emission line but no optical Fe II lines, due to the limited wavelength coverage and poor signal-to-noise ratio. However, UV Fe II lines are present in the SDSS optical spectrum. The source is very radio-loud, unresolved, and has a flat radio spectrum. The broadband SED of the source has the typical two hump structure shown by blazars and other $\gamma$-NLS1s. The source exhibits strong variability at all wavelengths such as the optical, infrared, and $\gamma$-ray bands. All these observed characteristics show that TXS 1206+549 is the most distant $\gamma$-NLS1 known to date.

Key words: galaxies: active - galaxies: Seyfert - galaxies: jets - gamma rays: galaxies - techniques: spectroscopy

1 INTRODUCTION

The physical processes required to launch powerful relativistic jets in active galactic nuclei (AGN) are still unclear in spite of observational advances across wavelengths in the recent years. According to Laor (2000), AGN hosted in elliptical galaxies with black hole (BH) masses $> 10^8 M_\odot$ can produce large scale relativistic jets while AGN hosted in late-type galaxies with less massive BHs are mostly unable to produce relativistic jets. This suggests that massive BHs are needed to launch powerful relativistic jets. However, the detection of $\gamma$-ray emission (Abdo et al. 2009; Paliya et al. 2018) from a few radio-loud narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxies (NLS1s) unambiguously argues for the presence of closely aligned relativistic jets in them similar to blazars (Yuan et al. 2008). This therefore, challenges our understanding of how relativistic jets are formed, as NLS1s are usually powered by low mass BHs in late-type galaxies (Olguín-Iglesias et al. 2020), while blazars are believed to be powered by high mass BHs in elliptical galaxies.

NLS1s (Osterbrock & Pogge 1985) constitute a unique class of AGN having a low BH mass accreting close to the Eddington limit ( Mineshige et al. 2000; Rakshit et al. 2017), showing strong optical Fe II emission, soft X-ray excess (Ojha et al. 2020) and lower amplitude of optical variation (Rakshit & Stalin 2017) compared to their broad line counterparts. Although only 5% NLS1s are radio-loud (Komossa et al. 2006), a small number of only 16 are found to be detected in high energy $\gamma$-rays (see Paliya et al. 2018, 2019a, and references therein). It has been argued that the low BH
mass of NLS1s could be due to orientation effects caused by the flat geometry of the broad line region (e.g., Decarli et al. 2008).

The definition of NLS1 requires the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the Hβ emission line to be lesser than 2000 km s$^{-1}$ (Osterbrock & Pogge 1985). Most of the NLS1s that we know as of today are from large optical spectroscopic surveys and are therefore at $z < 0.8$ (Williams, Pogge, & Mathur 2002; Zhou et al. 2006; Rakshit et al. 2017; Chen et al. 2018). At high-redshift, it is expected to detect luminous objects and hence identification of NLS1 at $z > 1$ could be crucial to verify the claims that NLS1s are low-luminosity AGN as well as to understand the nature of these sources, and how they differ from the classical Seyfert 1 galaxies. Of the NLS1s, only 16 are detected in the γ-ray and among them only two are at redshift beyond 0.8; SDSS J1222+0413 at $z = 0.966$ (Yao et al. 2015) and SDSS J094635.06+101706.1 at $z = 1.004$ (Yao et al. 2019). Here, we report the identification of a γ-ray detected NLS1 TXS 1206+549 (SDSS J120854.24+544158.1) at $z = 1.344$. This is based on the infrared spectroscopic observations carried out using the 8.2m Subaru telescope which showed the presence of Hβ line with FWHM of $1194 \pm 77$ km s$^{-1}$ and [O III] to Hβ flux ratio $\sim 0.7$. The optical Fe II lines are not seen in the Subaru spectrum, however, UV Fe II lines are present in the optical spectrum from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) (see section 2). The multi-band properties of this source are presented in section 3 with a discussion and conclusion in section 4. Throughout the paper, a cosmology with $H_0 = 70$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$ and $\Omega_M = 0.3$ is assumed.

2 SPECTROSCOPY

2.1 Optical

To find high-$z$ γ-ray emitting NLS1s, we cross-matched the fourth catalog of AGN detected by the Fermi/LAT (4LAC; Ajello et al. 2020) with the spectral catalog of SDSS DR14 quasars (Rakshit et al. 2020), that provides spectral properties of around 500,000 quasars. We looked for potential narrow Mg II line objects with FWHM $< 2500$ km s$^{-1}$ and showing traces of strong Fe II complex and identified a NLS1 candidate, TXS 1206+549, at $z = 1.344$ with FWHM (Mg II) = $2419 \pm 581$ km s$^{-1}$. The redshifted Hβ line falls outside of the SDSS spectral coverage, and thereby preventing a secure NLS1 classification of the source.

Looking into the SDSS archive, we found three optical spectra of TXS 1206+549. Since Mg II doublets are clearly resolved, we carefully modeled all the three spectra. First, we fit the 2200–3500Å AGN continuum using a combination of power-law, a Balmer pseudo-continuum (Grandi 1982) and the Fe II template from Tsuzuki et al. (2006) as described in Shin et al. (2019). After fitting and subtracting the continuum, each of the Mg II λλ2796, 2803 doublet lines were fitted with a broad and narrow components following Wang et al. (2009). The broad components were modeled with either a Gaussian or a Lorentzian. The width and velocity of the doublets were tied and the flux ratio was varied between 2:1 to 1:1. The narrow components were modeled using single Gaussian with same constrains as above. The decomposition of the SDSS spectrum for the epoch MJD=57430 is shown in the left panel of Figure 1. The best-fit spectral properties are summarized in Table 1. The FWHM (Mg II) is found to be between 2000 to 3000 km s$^{-1}$ depending on the model used to represent the broad Mg II doublets and the epoch used. Broad line profile was similarly well fitted with either a Gaussian or a Lorentzian profile, however, in the latter case, a lower FWHM of Mg II lines was found hinting the
NLS1 nature of TXS 1206+549. To confirm this, we carried out Subaru near-infrared (IR) spectroscopy, to detect and characterize the redshifted Hβ line.

### 2.2 NIR

Subaru/MOIRCS long-slit near-IR spectroscopic observations were obtained on July 20, 2020, as part of performance verification observations for the new LightSmyth J-band Grism (Tanaka et al. in prep.). Weather condition was good, with ~0.8′′ seeing. We chose the 0.8′′-width slit, by which we got a spectral resolution of R~2200. The exposure time was 300 sec with 12-times multi-sampling, and a standard A-B dither (4′′ throw length) was applied. In total three sequences were observed with a total integration time of 1800 sec. The data was reduced following standard reduction procedures for long-slit spectroscopy using IRAF\(^1\). The spectrum was smoothed by a 5-pixel box-car to increase the S/N and then brought to the rest-frame. The Subaru spectrum, covering the rest-frame wavelength range of 4778–5247 Å is shown in the right panel of Figure 1. To estimate the emission line parameters, we fit the spectrum using a power-law continuum, a single Gaussian for Hβ line and a double Gaussian for each of the [O III]λ5007 and [O III]λ4959 doublets. Since no narrow component is clearly visible in the Hβ line, we did not attempt to decompose it. Furthermore, due to insufficient wavelength coverage below 4700 Å, the decomposition of optical Fe II was not performed. The decomposed model components are shown in Figure 1 and the best-fit emission line parameters are given in Table 1. The FWHM of Hβ is 1194 ± 77 km s\(^{-1}\) and the flux ratio of [O III]λ5007 to Hβ is ~0.7 satisfying the criteria of a NLS1. We note significant UV Fe II emission in the SDSS spectrum but the insufficient wavelength coverage of the near-IR spectrum prevents us to discuss its optical Fe II strength.

### 3 MULTI-BAND PROPERTIES

#### 3.1 Radio-band

TXS 1206+549 is detected in many radio surveys. It appears to be a point source in the radio image of VLBA Imaging and Polarimetry Survey (VIPS; Helmboldt et al. 2007) at 5GHz with a peak ($\theta_{peak}$) and integrated ($\theta_{int}$) flux densities of 231.6 mJy and 264.5 mJy ($L_{\text{int}} = 1.2 \times 10^{34}$ erg s\(^{-1}\) Hz\(^{-1}\)), respectively, displaying powerful Fanaroff-Riley (FR) II type radio jets. The concentration parameter $\theta = \sqrt{\theta_{int}/\theta_{peak}}$ (Ivezic et al. 2002) is 1.07 close to 1.06 for the source to be “resolved” according to Kimball & Ivezic (2008), indicating compact structure. Such compact and powerful radio jets of TXS 1206+549 indicate similarities with blazars.

The spectral index is flat with $\alpha_r = 0.3$ between 1.4 to 4.85 GHz ($\delta_{\nu} \propto \nu^{\alpha_r}$; White & Becker 1992) and $\alpha_r = 0.23$ between 147 MHz (TGSS) and 1.4 GHz (NVSS) (de Gasperin, Interna, & Frail 2018). The source is known to be highly variable in the radio, with the radio flux varying between 160-302 mJy at 1.4 GHz within a time scale of few years. Liodakis et al. (2018) modeled the 15 GHz light curve of this source observed by the Owens Valley Radio Observatory (OVRO) as a combination of multiple flares and estimated brightness temperature $T_{\text{breg}} = 5 \times 10^{12}$ K, Doppler factor $\delta_{\text{var}} = 29.09^{+10.28}_{-10.22}$ indicating high Doppler-boosted emission. We estimated the radio loudness ($L_{\text{r}}$) of this source using $R = f_5(5GHz)/f_{28}(4400)$, where $f_{28}(5GHz) = 252$ mJy at VLA 5GHz (Linford et al. 2012) and $f_{28}(4400)$ is taken from Rakshit et al. (2020). The source is very radio loud with $R \sim 1300$. However, the radio loudness can have a large range due to high amplitude of variation seen in the optical (~2 magnitude; see next section) and radio bands (a factor of 2).

#### 3.2 Infrared and optical variability

We collected infrared photometry of TXS 1206+549 observed by the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE; Wright et al. 2010) from ALLWISE and NEOWISE database (Mainzer et al. 2014). The WISE 3.4μm (W1) and 4.6μm (W2) band light curves are shown in the top panel of Figure 2. We calculated the intrinsic variability amplitude $\sigma_v$ (Rakshit et al. 2019) i.e. the variance of the observed light curve

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1 Image Reduction and Analysis Facility

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Table 1. Spectral properties of TXS 1206+549. Line widths are not corrected for instrumental resolution. The luminosity of UV Fe II in the wavelength range of 2200 – 3090Å is also given. Due to poor S/N, [O II]λ3727 emission line parameters for spectrum at MJD=52672 are not calculated.

| SDSS ID   | model (Mg II, br) | FWHM (Mg II, br) (km s\(^{-1}\)) | EW (Mg II, br) (Å) | SDSS spectra | Flux (Mg II, br) (erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) | $L_{\text{3727}}$ (lim s\(^{-1}\)) | FWHM ([O II]λ3727) (lim s\(^{-1}\)) | Flux ([O II]λ3727) (erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) | Flux ([O II]λ3727) (erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1018-52672-0120 | Gaussian | 2075 ± 261 | 18.7 ± 1.1 | 133.58 ± 4.11 | 604.33 ± 59.25 | 45.200 ± 0.004 | -- | -- | -- |
| 6688-56412-0776 | Gaussian | 2560 ± 270 | 22.1 ± 1.9 | 158.64 ± 14.05 | 501.99 ± 66.40 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 2838 ± 220 | Lorentzian | 12.0 ± 0.9 | 100.99 ± 7.79 | 652.82 ± 45.19 | 45.370 ± 0.002 | 662 ± 158 | 23.29 ± 4.14 | -- | -- |
| 2838 ± 370 | Gaussian | 2838 ± 370 | 5.2 ± 0.6 | 96.62 ± 12.17 | 666.69 ± 56.32 | 45.718 ± 0.001 | 584 ± 71 | 27.18 ± 2.82 | -- | -- |
| 2838 ± 220 | Lorentzian | 14.5 ± 0.8 | 122.31 ± 6.78 | 593.31 ± 40.70 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 2838 ± 220 | Lorentzian | 14.5 ± 0.8 | 122.31 ± 6.78 | 593.31 ± 40.70 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

| log $L_{\text{3727}}$ (erg s\(^{-1}\)) | Model (Hβ) | FWHM(Hβ) (lim s\(^{-1}\)) | flux (Hβ) (erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) | flux ([O III]λ5007) (erg s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\)) |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 45.20 ± 0.05 | Single Gaussian | 1194 ± 77 | 76.65 ± 1.03 | 51.96 ± 0.55 |
Figure 2. Top: WISE light curve of TXS 1206+549 in 3.4µm (W1) and 4.6µm (W2) bands with each box representing a duration of 1.2 days. Bottom: optical photometric light curve from CRTS (V-band).

Figure 3. Rest frame multiwavelength SED of TXS 1206+549 along with the results of the leptonic radiative modeling. Pink thin solid, green dashed, and orange dash-dash-dot lines represent synchrotron, SSC, and EC processes, respectively. Thermal emission from the dusty torus, accretion disk, and corona is shown with the black dotted line. Blue thick solid line refers to the sum of all the radiative components.

3.3 X-ray and γ-ray emission

TXS 1206+549 was observed by SWIFT−XRT (Burrows et al. 2005) six times between March 2011 and February 2018. Among them, only the OBSID 00040572002 has sufficient S/N for spectral analysis. For this OBSID, we generated the spectrum using the online version of the Swift-XRT data products generator\(^2\). Fitting the spectrum with the model TBabs*TBabs*powerlaw we obtained a photon index of 1.7±0.7, which is relatively flat compared to the radio-quiet NLS1s but similar to the γ-ray detected NLS1s (Paliya et al. 2019a). The flux in the 0.3−10 keV band is $7.0^{+2.8}_{-1.0} \times 10^{-13}$ ergs s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\), corresponding to an apparent luminosity of $\sim 1.9 \times 10^{45}$ ergs s\(^{-1}\).

TXS 1206+549 is detected at a significance level of 48σ and associated with the γ-ray source 4FGL J1208.9+5441 in the 4LAC catalog (Ajello et al. 2020). The γ-ray flux is $1.8 \times 10^{-11}$ ergs s\(^{-1}\) cm\(^{-2}\) in the energy range of 100 MeV to 100 GeV and corresponds to an isotropic γ-ray luminosity of $4.8 \times 10^{46}$ ergs s\(^{-1}\). The spectrum is best-fitted by a log Parabola model with index $\alpha = 2.51 \pm 0.03$ and curvature $\beta = 0.07 \pm 0.02$ compared to a power-law model ($\alpha = 2.59 \pm 0.02$). The best-fit photon index is in the range of 2.2 − 2.8 which is similar to that seen in other γ-ray detected NLS1s (e.g., Abdo et al. 2009; Yao et al. 2015, 2019). TXS 1206+549 is also variable in the γ-ray band with a fractional variability amplitude of 0.49 ± 0.12 (see Ajello et al. 2020).

3.4 Broad band Spectral Energy Distribution

We collected non-simultaneous, archival observations of TXS 1206+549 from the Space Science Data Center (SSD\(^3\)) and plotted the multiwavelength spectral energy distribution (SED) in Figure 3. As can be seen, the broadband SED...
of TXS 1206+549 exhibits the typical double hump structure similar to blazars. Indeed, this object is classified as a flat spectrum radio quasar (FSRQ) in the 4LAC catalog (see also Tan et al. 2020).

To investigate the physical properties of the source, we reproduced the SED with the conventional synchrotron inverse Compton radiative model (see details in Dermer et al. 2009; Ghisellini & Tavecchio 2009). The associated results are plotted in Figure 3 and the derived parameters are provided in Table 2. For the modeling, we used the geometric mean of the black hole mass computed from the Hβ and Mg II emission lines (see next section). The broad line region (BLR) luminosity \( L_{\text{BLR}} \), on the other hand, was estimated from the line luminosities derived from the spectral fitting and assuming the line scaling factors reported in Francis et al. (1991) and Celotti et al. (1997). Assuming a 10% BLR covering factor, we calculated the accretion disk luminosity from \( L_{\text{BLR}} \).

The high-frequency radio to optical-UV spectrum is found to be well explained by synchrotron emission with a minor contribution from the accretion disk. The X- and γ-ray spectra are reproduced by a combination of the synchrotron self Compton (SSC) and external Compton (EC) processes. This suggests a similarity of the physical properties of TXS 1206+549 with FSRQ type blazars. Furthermore, the derived SED parameters (Table 2) are consistent with that typically determined for broad line blazars detected with the Fermi-LAT (Paliya et al. 2017).

### Table 2. Summary of the parameters used/derived from the modeling of the SED.

| Parameter                              | Value     |
|----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Slope of the broken power law before break energy | 1.6       |
| Slope of the broken power law after break energy | 4.0       |
| Minimum Lorentz factor                 | 1         |
| Break Lorentz factor                   | 206       |
| Maximum Lorentz factor                 | 4200      |
| Magnetic field, in Gauss               | 3.2       |
| Bulk Lorentz factor                    | 11        |
| Compton dominance                      | 8         |
| Distance of the emission region, in parsec | 0.05     |
| Size of the BLR, in parsec             | 0.05      |
| Log scale black hole mass, in solar mass unit | 8.07     |
| Log scale accretion disk luminosity, in erg s\(^{-1}\) | 45.39     |

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Using near-IR spectroscopy, we observed redshifted Hβ emission line of TXS 1206+549 and obtained Hβ FWHM of \( 1194 \pm 77 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) and the flux ratio of \[ \text{O III}]5007 to Hβ is low (\(~ 0.7\) ), suggesting TXS 1206+549 to be a NLS1. However, our spectrum of low signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) and limited wavelength coverage shows weak/no optical Fe II emission in TXS 1206+549. However, UV Fe II lines are seen in the SDSS optical spectrum. In terms of optical properties, it shows similarities with the γ-NLS1 PKS 2004−447 (Oshlack, Webster, & Whiting 2001) having weak Fe II emission rather than the other γ-NLS1 1H 0324+3410 (Zhou et al. 2007) having strong Fe II emission although both of them have similar Hβ FWHM (\(~ 1600 \text{ km s}^{-1} \) ). However, PKS 2004−447 exhibits a steep radio spectrum compared to the flat radio spectrum seen in TXS 1206+549 and 1H 0324+3410. We note that high S/N spectroscopic observations with a wider wavelength coverage will be helpful to quantify its optical Fe II strength and obtain detailed information about the shape of the Hβ profile as the broad component of NLS1s are usually better represented by a Lorentzian profile rather than a Gaussian (e.g., Véron-Cetty et al. 2001; Rakshit et al. 2017).

Using log \( \log L_{5100} = 45.20 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \) estimated from the power-law continuum and the Hβ scaling relation of Vestergaard & Peterson (2006), we obtained \( M_{\text{BH}} = 4.63 \times 10^7 M_\odot \) for TXS 1206+549. On the other hand, using Mg II line (Table 1) we obtained \( M_{\text{BH}} = 2.97 \times 10^6 M_\odot \) (Rakshit et al. 2020). However, black hole mass estimation based on continuum luminosity is likely to be uncertain, due to the non-thermal emission from the jet that contributes to the observed continuum flux (e.g. Rakshit 2020). The Mg II line equivalent width for TXS 1206+549 decreases by a factor of 3 between MJD = 52672 to 57430 (see Table 1) as the Mg II flux remains almost unchanged while continuum luminosity at 3000Å increases by 0.4 dex suggesting significant non-thermal contribution to the continuum that does not contribute in ionizing the line-emitting gas. Therefore, we also estimated the 5100Å continuum luminosity from the luminosity of the Hβ using the scaling relation given by Rakshit et al. (2020) and obtained log \( \log L_{5100} = 44.77 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \) and a virial black hole mass of \( M_{\text{BH}} = 2.8 \times 10^7 M_\odot \). Overall, the black hole mass of TXS 1206+549 is consistent with the average black hole mass of NLS1s (\(< \log M_{\text{BH}} > = 6.9 \pm 0.4 M_\odot \); Rakshit et al. 2017) and within the range of black hole mass of γ-ray detected NLS1s (\(< \log M_{\text{BH}} > = 7.8 \pm 0.6 M_\odot \)) but lower than that of blazars (\(< \log M_{\text{BH}} > = 8.9 \pm 0.5 M_\odot \); Paliya et al. 2019a). With a bolometric correction factor of 9.26 (Richards et al. 2006), the Eddington ratio is found to be 1.5 (using log \( \log L_{\text{bol}} = 44.77 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \)), suggesting super Eddington accretion.

TXS 1206+549 is a radio-loud source showing a compact radio emission. The high amplitude of infrared variability in time scale of months to days suggests emission region is compact and significant non-thermal contribution from jet in the infrared. The SED shows a double hump structure typical for γ-ray emitting blazars (see Figure 3). From our model fits (see Table 2) we found magnetic field strength and bulk Lorentz factor of 3.2 Gauss and 11 respectively, similar to that found by Tan et al. (2020). The magnetic field found for TXS 1206+549 is similar to that of other γ-ray emitting NLS1s (Paliya et al. 2019a).

NLS1s are usually considered to be low-luminous AGN (log \( \log L_{\text{bol}} < 46 \text{ erg s}^{-1} \) ). However, with the discovery of more number of γ-ray detected NLS1s at high-z and higher luminosity such as TXS 1206+549, they smoothly join the FSRQ branch of blazars. Identification of more such high-z NLS1 and their broadband SED analysis will allow us to have a direct comparison of the physical properties of high-z γ-ray detected NLS1s with that of high-z blazars. Such a study will allow one to probe the formation and evolution of radio-jets in NLS1s (sources with low black hole mass and high accretion rate relative to Eddington) vs-a-vs powerful blazars (sources with high black hole mass and low accretion rate relative to Eddington).
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DATA AVAILABILITY

The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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