The UV spectrum of the narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxy, RE J1034+396

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ABSTRACT

RE J1034+396 has one of the hottest big blue bumps of any Seyfert 1 (\(kT_{BB} \sim 120\) eV) and thus provides a valuable insight into the physics in the nuclei of active galaxies. In this paper, we present UV spectroscopy of RE J1034+396, taken with the Faint Object Spectrograph on the Hubble Space Telescope. With a spectral resolution of \(\sim 1-2\) Å FWHM and a typical signal-to-noise ratio of \(\sim 15\) per diode, this is one of the first detailed UV spectra of an object in the narrow-line Seyfert 1 (NLS1) class. The spectrum probes the physics and kinematics of the high-ionization and coronal line gas, and the strength and form of the big blue bump component in the UV.

We detect many emission lines, including Ly\(\alpha\), C\textsc{iv}\lambda 1549, He\textsc{i}\lambda 1640, C\textsc{ii}\lambda 1909 and Mg\textsc{ii}\lambda 2798. We also identify a feature at 2647 Å (in the rest-frame) with highly-ionized iron ([F\textsc{xi}]\lambda 2649); a line of the same species ([F\textsc{xi}]\lambda 7892) has also been seen in the optical spectrum. The velocity widths of the UV lines are relatively narrow (FWHM\(<\)2000 km s\(^{-1}\)) although C\textsc{iv}\lambda 1549 appears to have a broad underlying component with a FWHM typical of quasars (\(\sim 5500\) km s\(^{-1}\)). The FWHM are similar to those of the optical lines, which suggests that all line emission in RE J1034+396, i.e. including that of high- and low-ionization species and the forbidden lines, may be dominated by an intermediate-velocity (FWHM\(\sim 1000\) km s\(^{-1}\)), intermediate-density (log \(N_e \sim 7.5\) cm\(^{-3}\)) region of gas. The slope of the UV continuum (\(\alpha_{uv} \sim 0.9\)) is soft (i.e. red) relative to quasars and the UV-to-soft X-ray flux ratio is unusually low (the 0.2 keV/1200 Å flux ratio is 1/200), implying that the big blue bump component is very weak in the UV. The present epoch UV to soft X-ray continuum is consistent with earlier data, demonstrating that this extreme big blue bump component is also very stable, unlike many other NLS1s which show extreme patterns of variability.

Key words: Galaxies: Seyfert – Galaxies: Active – X-rays: Galaxies – Accretion disks – Line: formation – Galaxies: individual: RE J1034+396.

1 INTRODUCTION

RE J1034+396 (also known as Zw 212.025) is a narrow-line Seyfert 1 galaxy (NLS1) and a rare EUV-selected AGN (Pounds et al. 1993; Mason et al. 1995). Observations of the 0.1-2.4 keV spectrum with the ROSAT Position Sensitive Proportional Counter (PSPC), showed that it has an unusually high temperature soft X-ray component, with a high-energy turnover at around 0.4 keV (Puchnarewicz et al. 1995; Pounds, Done & Osborne 1995). An attempt was made by Puchnarewicz et al. (1995) to measure the UV spectrum with \textit{IUE}, but the source was found to be very faint in the UV relative to the X-rays, suggesting the lack of any big blue bump (BBB; e.g. Edelson & Malkan 1986; Elvis et al. 1994) emission down to \(\sim 1200\) Å. This was a surprising result, considering the extreme UV nature of the source, and suggested that the ‘big bump’ (i.e. a single component which incorporates the optical/UV BBB and the soft X-ray excess) is so hot that it is shifted out of the UV completely but dominates in the EUV and soft X-rays.

It has now been well-established that there is a strong link between the slope of the soft X-ray spectrum, \(\alpha_x\), and the velocity of the low-ionization line-emitting clouds in Seyfert 1s and quasars (e.g. Puchnarewicz et al. 1992; Boller, Brandt & Fink 1996; Laor et al. 1997). As a NLS1 with an ultrasoft X-ray spectrum, RE J1034+396 is entirely consistent with this behaviour, lying at one extreme of the relationship between H\beta FWHM and \(\alpha_x\).

However, very little is known of the effects, if any, of the unusual continuum shape on the high-ionization line region. Reverberation mapping models of ‘normal’ Seyfert 1s, e.g. NGC 5548 (e.g. Clavel et al. 1991; Krolik et al. 1991), suggest a large degree of stratification in the broad line region (BLR), i.e. the high-ionization lines (HILs; FWHM\(\sim 5000-6000\) km s\(^{-1}\)) are produced relatively close to the black hole, while the low-ionization lines (LILs) are formed light-days to light-weeks away from the HILs (FWHM\(\sim 3000\) km s\(^{-1}\)). A key issue in the study of NLS1s is whether the characteristics of the HILs in these objects are related to the soft X-ray spectrum and form at rela-
tively low velocities, or whether the line-of-sight velocities of the more highly ionized line-emitting gases are independent of $\alpha_{*}$.

Another important issue is the nature of the UV continuum itself. The lack of any BBB emission in the UV as suggested by the IUE data, places a very tight constraint on accretion disc (AD) models of the BBB. The softness of the optical/UV continuum and lack of any rise towards the blue, implies a very hot AD around a relatively low-mass black hole ($\sim 10^5 M_\odot$; Puchnarewicz et al. 1995). However the original IUE data were statistically poor, giving an unreliable flux determination and little information to constrain the UV continuum slope.

Thus to continue our investigations of the physics and geometry of RE J1034+396, we have obtained a UV spectrum with the Faint Object Spectrograph (FOS) on the Hubble Space Telescope (HST). This spectrum is a vast improvement over that obtained with IUE, covering a range of $\sim$1200-3000 Å (in the rest-frame) with a resolution of $\lambda$-2 Å FWHM and signal to noise ratio of $\sim$15 per diode. In this Letter, we report the first results from this observation.

## 2 OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

RE J1034+396 was observed by HST on 1997 January 31 using three gratings (G130H, G190H and G270H) covering the range 1100 Å to 3300 Å. All spectra were taken with the blue detector; details of the observations, including exposure times, are given in Table 1. The data were reduced using the standard HST archive pipeline processing. Errors on the observed flux in each diode are typically $\sim$10 per cent in the 1100-1500 Å range and 5-10 per cent between 1500 Å and 3300 Å. The flux and slope of the HST-FOS spectrum are consistent with the earlier IUE data.

Scattered light in the shortest wavelength gratings can be a problem for very red sources observed with HST-FOS (see e.g. the HST-FOS Instrument Science Reports 114 and 115). The pipeline corrects for scattered light by measuring the counts accrued in the unilluminated pixels of the array (pixels 31-130) after subtraction of the dark particle-induced current, then subtracting the mean level in this pixel range from the full G130H spectrum. The wavelength dependence of the scattered light (if any) is poorly understood however, and in some cases this first order correction is not adequate and residual scattered light remains. Examination of the raw counts and flux files for RE J1034+396 shows that the scattered light comprised at most only 20 per cent of the continuum flux at $\sim$1500 Å before correction by the pipeline, and appears to have been effectively removed. Thus no further corrections have been made to these data to account for scattered light.

The G130H/blue configuration has shown an increase in sensitivity of $\sim$5 per cent in the 1250 to 1600 Å range from July 1995 to late December 1996. Therefore the G130H fluxes in this range were reduced by 5 per cent to correct for this change in sensitivity. Fluxes in the 1200 Å to 1250 Å range were reduced by a linear ramp from 0 per cent to 5 per cent respectively.

### 2.1 UV emission lines

Rest-frame line positions and full widths at half maximum (FWHM) were measured from the spectrum for the strongest emission lines and the results are listed in Table 2. Gaussian profile fitting was used to represent the lines while the local continuum was modelled as a second-order polynomial. Positions and FWHM of the lines are the centre and FWHM of the best-fit Gaussian profile respectively. Errors on the FWHM are difficult to determine due to problems such as continuum placement, blending with other lines, the use of multiple components in the fitting procedure and the assumption of a Gaussian profile for all components. Estimates of the errors have been made nevertheless, and were derived by comparing the data with the minima and maxima of ‘reasonable’ models, taking into account the errors on individual data points. A redshift of $z=0.043$, measured from the peak positions of the strongest emission lines, was assumed. Fits to the Lyα, C ivλ1549, Hei, C iii] and Mg ii lines are shown in Fig 1; in this figure we also indicate a line at a rest wavelength of 2647.4 Å which has been identified with [Fe ii]λ2649. This suggests the presence of highly-ionized gas in RE J1034+396 and its implications are discussed further in Section 3.2.

In most cases (except Mg ii), a single Gaussian gave a poor fit to the data, so additional Gaussians were used. For Lyα and Hei, components from the narrow line region (NLR) were resolved with FWHM of $\sim$500 km s$^{-1}$. NLR components were not seen in C ivλ1549, C iii] or Mg ii however. Although C ivλ1549 is dominated by a feature with a FWHM of $\sim$1300 km s$^{-1}$, it appears to have a much broader (FWHM$\sim$5500 km s$^{-1}$) underlying component which contains about a third of the total line flux. Rodríguez-Pascual, Mas-Hesse & Santos-Lleó (1997) have also reported broad underlying components in the high-ionization lines of several NLS1s from IUE spectra, with FWHM between 5000 km s$^{-1}$ and 10 000 km s$^{-1}$. However, while Rodríguez-Pascual et al. (1997) find these features underlying Lyα, C ivλ1549 and Hei in their sample, for RE J1034+396, only the C ivλ1549 line has a significant broad component. There is some evidence of an additional underlying component in C iii] although formally only an upper limit is obtained (FWHM$<4300$ km s$^{-1}$); the feature may instead be due to contamination by other lines or blends (see Fig 1).

#### 2.1.1 Full widths at half maximum

The UV emission lines are all relatively narrow: the broad components of Lyα and Hei have FWHM of less than 2000 km s$^{-1}$, and Mg ii has a FWHM of only 1500 km s$^{-1}$. These FWHM are very low compared to AGN in general, for example, Brotherton et al. (1994) find mean FWHM for C iii] and Mg ii of 6900 km s$^{-1}$ and 4200 km s$^{-1}$ respectively (for their radio-quiet objects). The mean C ivλ1549 FWHM of the radio-quiet objects from the Wills et al. (1993) sample

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**Table 1. HST-FOS observation log**

| Grating | resolution | exp time | range |
|---------|------------|----------|-------|
|         | FWHM (Å)   | (seconds) | (Å)   |
| G130H   | 0.96       | 4420     | 1090-1600 |
| G190H   | 1.41       | 2460     | 1580-2330 |
| G270H   | 2.01       | 670      | 2330-3300 |

All spectra were taken through the 0.86″ aperture and with the blue detector.
Figure 1. Gaussian fits to emission lines in the spectrum of RE J1034+396. Each portion of the spectrum has been redshifted into the rest-frame of the AGN (z=0.043) and the expected positions of lines commonly found in AGN spectra are indicated. The spectra have been binned by a factor of two for clarity.

is 5400 km s^{-1}, which is similar to the very broad underlying feature seen in RE J1034+396, but much broader than the FWHM of the overall profile (~1400 km s^{-1}).

When measured from optical spectra with a similar velocity resolution, the broad component FWHM of the Balmer lines for RE J1034+396 are also narrow (values of 1500 km s^{-1} and 1800 km s^{-1} for H\beta and H\alpha respectively; Puchnarewicz et al. 1995), and similar to those of the UV lines presented here. Thus low velocities in the line-emitting regions of RE J1034+396 are not confined to the Balmer lines, but are typical of low-ionization lines in the UV (e.g. Mg\textsc{ii}) and high ionization lines (e.g. Ly\alpha and C\textsc{iv} \lambda 1549).

### 2.2 UV continuum slope

The slope of the continuum was measured by fitting a power-law to the data, having first removed all emission line features and regions of poor data. The best-fit was obtained for a slope, \( \alpha_{uv} \), of 0.9 (all indices, \( \alpha \), are defined such that \( F_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha} \)). This is very soft when compared to the typical UV slopes of quasars where the BBB emission is strong (e.g. Neugebauer et al. (1987) and Francis et al. (1991) find median slopes of 0.2-0.3 for their quasar samples).

### 2.3 UV to X-ray spectrum

We have also obtained a quasi-simultaneous measurement of the strength of the soft X-ray spectrum with the High Reso-
A spectrum of RE J1034+396 from the UV to X-rays (3000 Å to 2 keV) is shown in Figure 2. This spectrum combines the HST-FOS data with the model fitted to the ROSAT-PSPC spectrum (from Puchnarewicz et al. 1995) which has been normalized to the HRI count rate. Assuming isotropic emission from the UV to soft X-rays, we measure a luminosity from 3000 Å to 2 keV of $3 \times 10^{44}$ erg s$^{-1}$ (the Hubble constant, $H_0=75$ km s$^{-1}$ Mpc$^{-1}$ and deceleration parameter, $q_0=0$; the unobserved 1200 Å to 0.1 keV part of the spectrum was interpolated linearly from the observed data). The 0.1 to 2 keV spectrum dominates the luminosity overall in this range, with $L = 2 \times 10^{45}$ erg s$^{-1}$.

The figure shows the unusually high ratio of soft X-ray to UV flux; the ratio of the 0.2 keV to 1200 Å fluxes is $\sim$200, whereas for AGN in general, this ratio is usually less than 1. In addition, there is no sign of any steep rise in the UV continuum towards the EUV which is required to meet the soft X-ray data. It suggests that the relative contribution of the big bump, even at $\sim$1200 Å, is very weak.

Reddening by dust is unlikely to be the cause of the weak UV flux. The UV continuum doesn’t turn down towards the blue as would be expected ($\alpha_{UV}=0.9$; Section 2.2) and there is no sign of the broad 2200 Å dust absorption feature. In the optical, the Balmer decrement is relatively low ($\sim3$; Puchnarewicz et al. 1995) while the strong soft X-ray spectrum, which shows no evidence for warm absorber edges, implies that columns of accompanying cold or warm gas must be low.

### 3 DISCUSSION

RE J1034+396 is one of only a handful of AGN which have been selected by the strength of its EUV emission. It has a very hot BBB (Puchnarewicz et al. 1995) and a very soft 2-10 keV power-law continuum slope ($\alpha=1.6$; Pounds et al. 1995). Both its permitted and forbidden optical emission lines appear to be dominated by a line region which is ‘intermediate’ in terms of its velocity, and perhaps also in its density and position relative to the typical broad and narrow line regions (Mason et al. 1996).

With these HST data, we have probed further into the emission line regions of RE J1034+396, investigating the production of the high-ionization lines which, in some systems, are thought to be produced closer to the central black hole. We have also measured the shape and strength of the UV continuum, and searched for a rise in the slope which would indicate the emerging low energy tail of the big bump and constrain accretion disc models.

#### 3.1 High-temperature big bump

The lack of any significant big bump emission in the UV combined with the high energy turnover in soft X-rays define a high-temperature extreme for current models of this component. The data presented here (HST plus HRI) are consistent with the earlier IUE plus PSPC spectra, demonstrating a remarkable degree of stability for RE J1034+396, especially when considered with other objects in the NLS1 class which have shown extreme changes on long and short timescales. For example, RE J1229+264 changed by a factor of 70 in 18 months; Brandt, Pounds & Fink 1995), while the soft X-ray flux of IRAS 13224–3809 has been observed to double in only 800 sec (Boller et al. 1993).

The apparent lack of variability in the UV to X-ray spectrum of RE J1034+396 can also provide a useful discriminant for models of the big bump. Pounds et al. (1995) have suggested that RE J1034+396 may be a supermassive analogue of a galactic black hole candidate (GBHC) in a high state, where the system is accreting close to its Eddington limit. In this state, the X-ray spectrum has a steep soft component which is relatively stable, and a weak power-law tail extending to higher energies which is highly variable (see e.g. Tanaka & Lewin 1995). RE J1034+396 has a stable ultrafaint component and, although Puchnarewicz et al. (1995) showed that a sub-Eddington accretion rate is consistent with the observed UV to X-ray continuum, these AD models are poorly constrained and even super-Eddington discs cannot be ruled out. RE J1034+396 also has a weak power-law tail like a high-state GBHC, although there was no evidence of significant flux or spectral variability during the ASCA 1-10 keV observation (Pounds et al. 1995), which contradicts the GBHC analogy.

#### 3.2 Emission line regions

As well as measurements of the UV continuum flux and slope, these HST data have revealed a wealth of emission lines, including Lyα, CTVλ1549, HeII, CIII and MgII (see Fig. 1 and Table 2). We also detect [FeIII]λ2649; the [FeIII]λ7892 line, a different transition within the same ionization species, has also been observed in the optical/IR (Puchnarewicz et al. 1995). These lines indicate the presence of highly ionized gas in RE J1034+396 and, based on theoretical ratios given by Penston et al. (1984), the observed [FeIII]λ2649/[FeIII]λ7892 flux ratio of $\sim 0.4$ suggests emission from a photoionized gas at a temperature of $\sim 4 \times 10^4$ K or collisionally-ionized gas with $T\sim 10^6$ K. The observed ratio was calculated using the [FeIII]λ7892 data from Puchnarewicz et al. (1992) and an [FeIII]λ2649 flux of...
The composite UV line profiles are all unusually narrow with FWHM of \( \lesssim 2000 \) km s\(^{-1}\). These are similar to the FWHM of the Balmer lines in RE J1034+396 measured from low-resolution optical spectra. In the case of the Balmer lines, subsequent high-resolution data showed that the profiles were dominated by an ‘intermediate’ velocity component (FWHM \( \sim 1000 \) km s\(^{-1}\); Mason et al. 1996). This intermediate component was also seen in the forbidden lines, suggesting that the region which produced much of the line emission is intermediate in terms of its density and velocity. Thus it is possible that this same intermediate velocity component dominates the HILs as well, implying that one region produces the bulk of the HIL, LIL and the forbidden line emission in RE J1034+396.

This is in contrast to models of more typical Seyfert 1s developed from reverberation mapping analyses (e.g. Krolik et al. 1991), where the HIL region lies close to the black hole and has relatively high velocity, whereas the LIL region lies \( \sim 10-100 \) light-days away and has relatively low velocity.

The high-resolution optical data also revealed the presence of a broad underlying component (i.e. FWHM of \( \sim 2500 \) km s\(^{-1}\)), suggesting that a ‘normal’ Balmer line region does exist in RE J1034+396, albeit weak. In these FOS data, again while a low-velocity component dominates in the HIL profiles, C\(\text{iv} \lambda 1549 \) does have a very broad underlying component (FWHM \( \sim 5500 \) km s\(^{-1}\)), typical of quasars in general. This suggests the presence of a ‘normal’ HIL region as well, although again this is weak relative to the lower-velocity gas.

The apparent difference in BLR geometry between narrow-line and ordinary Seyfert 1s may be due to a fine-tuning of the conditions necessary for efficient line production. Baldwin et al. (1995) suggested that line emission is strongest where the combination of input ionizing continuum and gas density are optimized for that particular line species. In the case of RE J1034+396 (and perhaps all NLS1s), this may be at distances relatively far out from the centre, because either: 1. there is very little line-emitting gas closer to the nucleus; or 2. the extreme softness of the ionizing continuum tends to produce most of the line emission at greater distances where the density is lower.

4 SUMMARY

We have presented the UV spectrum of RE J1034+396 in the 1200-3100 \( \AA \) range, and supporting quasi-simultaneous soft X-ray data from the ROSAT HRI. These data confirm the existence of a very hot big bump component in RE J1034+396, whose emission is not significant in the UV. The big bump appears to have been stable over a period of five years, which is remarkable for a NLS1 since many objects in this class have shown extreme variability in the UV and soft X-rays. The FWHM of the high ionization lines are narrow (\( \lesssim 2000 \) km s\(^{-1}\)) and similar to those of the low ionization lines (including Mg\(\text{ii} \lambda 2800\)). With the apparent dominance of an intermediate velocity component in both the Balmer lines and [O\(\text{iii} \)] \( \lambda 5007 \), this suggests that all types of line emission in RE J1034+396, i.e. HILs, LILs and forbidden lines, may be dominated by the same region of gas. This geometry contrasts sharply with that derived for normal Seyfert 1s, where the BLR is highly stratified and the HIL and LIL regions are separated by \( \sim 10-100 \) light-days. The presence of [Fe\(\text{ii} \)] \( \lambda 2614 \) in the UV spectrum indicates the presence of highly-ionized gas in the system, which may be collisionally-ionized or photoionized.

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