An 80-kpc Lyα halo around a high-redshift type-2 quasi-stellar object

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ABSTRACT

We announce the discovery of an extended emission-line region associated with a high-redshift type-2 quasi-stellar object (QSO). The halo, which was discovered in our new wide-field narrow-band survey, resides at \( z = 2.85 \) in the Spitzer First Look Survey region and is extended over \( \sim 80 \) kpc. Deep very long baseline interferometry (VLBI) observations imply that approximately 50 per cent of the radio emission is extended on scales >200 pc. The inferred active galactic nuclei (AGN) luminosity is sufficient to ionize the extended halo, and the optical emission is consistent with being triggered coevally with the radio source. The Ly\( \alpha \) halo is as luminous as those found around high-redshift radio galaxies; however, the active nucleus is several orders of magnitude less luminous at radio wavelengths than those Fanarof–Riley type II (FRIIs) more commonly associated with extended emission-line regions. AMS05 appears to be a high-redshift analogue to the radio-quiet quasar E1821+643 which is core dominated, but which also exhibits extended Fanarof–Riley type I (FRI)-like structure and contains an optically powerful AGN. We also find evidence for more quiescent kinematics in the Ly\( \alpha \) emission line in the outer regions of the halo, reminiscent of the haloes around the more powerful FRIIs. The optical to mid-infrared spectral energy distribution is well described by a combination of an obscured QSO (\( L_{\text{bol}} \sim 3.4 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{13} \) L\(_{\odot} \)) and a 1.4 Gyr old simple stellar population with mass \( \sim 3.9 \pm 0.3 \times 10^{11} \) M\(_{\odot} \).

Key words: galaxies: haloes – galaxies: high-redshift – galaxies: jets – accretion – quasars: emission lines.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Type-2 QSOs

Unified schemes rely on different lines of sight towards the active galactic nuclei (AGN) to explain a variety of different species of apparently distinct astrophysical phenomena (e.g. Antonucci 1993). These unified schemes invoke the putative dusty torus around the central accreting supermassive black hole which obscures the central nuclear source and the high-velocity gas which lies close to the nucleus, i.e. the broad-line region. Although slight modifications to this simple scheme may be needed (e.g. Lawrence 1991; Simpson 2005), the general picture remains the same. The evidence for this orientation-based unified scheme is now compelling, including the properties of the unresolved hard X-ray background, for example, which suggests the existence of a large number of obscured QSOs (e.g. Gilli, Comastri & Hasinger 2007). The dusty torus is thought to obscure the central engine along certain lines of sight, resulting in the nuclear source appearing faint at optical wavelengths with the emission dominated by the host galaxy’s stellar population. Galaxies whose properties and orientation make us observe them in this manner are known as obscured (or type-2) QSOs.

Further evidence of these obscured sources comes from radio surveys, where large-scale radio jets provide a method of finding both obscured and unobscured AGN without the problems associated with dust obscuration. These studies have shown that the fraction of obscured (type-2) radio-loud AGN may be as high as 60 per cent, with the unobscured (type-1) QSOs traditionally found in optical surveys only comprising 40 per cent of the powerful AGN population (e.g. Willott et al. 2000). Therefore, it would be reasonable to assume that a similar fraction of radio-quiet obscured sources should also exist. However, such obscured sources have proven very difficult to find with traditional techniques at optical wavelengths as they just appear as normal galaxies in imaging data.

Although X-ray (Norman et al. 2002; Stern et al. 2002) and pure spectroscopic (Jarvis, van Breukelen & Wilman 2005) observations can find such sources at high redshift, it is with the Spitzer Space Telescope that this field has been revolutionized, with many groups using the fact that the dusty torus, heated by the central
AGN, reradiates at mid-infrared wavelengths. Many methods based on mid-infrared observations have been used to find such AGN; Lacy et al. (2004) and Alonso-Herrero et al. (2006), for example, used mid-infrared selection criteria to identify them. The combination of radio and mid-infrared data can also be used to reduce the fraction of starburst-dominated sources from colour-selected samples (e.g. Donley et al. 2005; Martínez-Sansigre et al. 2005, 2006a; Section 2.2), and deep radio surveys have been shown to harbour a considerable number of these sources (e.g. Simpson et al. 2006). All of these now seem to imply that a large population of obscured AGN exist in the high-redshift Universe and that many may also be missed in the current deep X-ray surveys (e.g. Lacy et al. 2007; Martínez-Sansigre et al. 2007).

1.2 Lyα haloes

In recent years much effort has been devoted to the study of high-redshift nebulae characterized by large luminosity and great extent in the Lyα emission line – typically \( L \sim 10^{44} \text{erg s}^{-1} \), extending over \( \geq 50 \text{kpc} \). The existence of such extended emission-line regions (EELRs) around high-redshift radio galaxies (HzRGs) had been known for more than 10 years (e.g. McCarthy et al. 1990) before the discovery of two similar haloes at \( z = 3.01 \) by Steidel et al. (2000), which were not associated with detections at radio wavelengths.

Many EELRs are now known to exist around HzRGs following the results of Eales et al. (1993), Maxfield et al. (2002), Reuland et al. (2003) and Villar-Martín et al. (2003), to name but a handful. Lyα haloes have also been shown to reside around QSOs by, e.g., Bunker et al. (2003), Weidinger et al. (2005) and Barrio et al. (2008). Furthermore, it seems that these extensive Lyα haloes also exist around several galaxies similar to those discovered by Steidel et al. (2000), which are not associated with powerful AGN. Currently, tens of these galaxies are known following the results of Francis et al. (2001), Matsuda et al. (2005), Nilsson et al. (2006) and Smith & Jarvis (2007). Results show that the ionizing properties of optically selected extended Lyα haloes are diverse, broadly falling into three categories (ionization by AGN, galaxy wide superwind or a cold accretion process; see e.g. Smith et al. 2008 for a more in-depth discussion). Searches to locate these huge line-emitting structures have generally been serendipitous (e.g. Francis et al. 2001; Dey et al. 2005 – shown to harbour an obscured AGN within the halo – or Nilsson et al. 2006) or targeted on known overdensities (e.g. Steidel et al. 2000; Reuland et al. 2003; Matsuda et al. 2005).

Throughout this paper, the AB magnitude system is used (Oke & Gunn 1983), and a standard cosmology is assumed in which \( H_0 = 71 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1} \), \( \Omega_m = 0.27 \) and \( \Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.73 \) (Dunkley et al. 2008).

2 OBSERVATIONS

2.1 A new narrow-band survey

In order to find the most luminous and extended Lyα haloes and quantify their diverse ionization mechanisms, we conducted a blank-field narrow-band survey with sufficient area to detect a large sample of them at \( z \sim 3 \). We observed a total of 15 deg$^2$ using the Wide Field Camera (WFC) on the Isaac Newton Telescope, and spread our observations over three extragalactic fields (the XMM-LSS, Lockman Hole and Spitzer First Look Survey [FLS]), enabling us to take advantage of the wide range of high-quality public survey data available in these regions of sky. We also split our observations between three different narrow-band filters: [O iii]6386/103, H$\beta$6564/170 and [O ii]3727/100. This improves the efficiency of our survey strategy by reducing our requirements for Sloan-g′-band observations (i.e. each pointing requires observations in three separate narrow-band filters, plus Sloan-g′ band). Our typical 50 per cent completeness limits in the narrow- and broad-bands were \( n_{AB} \sim 24.5 \) and \( g_{AB} \sim 25.5 \), respectively (measured in 4 arcsec apertures). The survey strategy, sensitivity and results will be discussed in more detail in Smith & Jarvis (in preparation).

Candidate Lyα emitters are separated from other objects whose emission lines are redshifted into the narrow-band filter’s transmission function by virtue of their extremely high equivalent widths (EWs). EWs are estimated based on our broad- and narrow-band photometry (see e.g. Venemans et al. 2005; Smith & Jarvis 2007).

Following an extensive set of simulations to quantify the sensitivity of our observations, only those objects that satisfied the following criteria (equations 1–3) are considered candidate Lyα haloes:

\[
\begin{align*}
19.5 & < n_{AB} < 23.5 \\
\text{EW}_{\text{obs}} & > 200\text{Å} \\
\text{FWHM}_{\text{obs}} & > 2.6 \text{arcsec}.
\end{align*}
\]

All objects matching these criteria were inspected by eye to remove contaminants and data artefacts such as high proper motion objects, amplifier cross-talk and so on from the sample [see Smith & Jarvis (in preparation) for more details]. In this paper, we focus on one particular halo which is identified with the source AMS05 (Martínez-Sansigre et al. 2005).

2.2 AMS05: imaging from our survey

Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2005) introduced a sample of type-2 obscured QSOs to constrain the QSO fraction (i.e. the fraction of objects which are unobscured – i.e. type-1 – QSOs). This sample of QSOs was chosen to satisfy the following selection criteria, designed to pick out the elusive type-2 QSO population at \( z \sim 2 \):

\[
\begin{align*}
(i) & \quad S_{24\mu m} > 300 \mu\text{Jy} \\
(ii) & \quad S_{6\mu m} \leq 45 \mu\text{Jy} \\
(iii) & \quad 350 \mu\text{Jy} \leq S_{1.4\text{GHz}} \leq 2 \mu\text{Jy}.
\end{align*}
\]

These criteria select galaxies that are intrinsically luminous at 24 \( \mu\text{m} \), a result of bright reprocessed hot-dust emission indicative of the presence of an AGN. They are also chosen to be relatively faint at 3.6 \( \mu\text{m} \) ensuring that the bright QSO nucleus does not dominate the shorter wavelengths, i.e. they must be obscured. The 3.6 \( \mu\text{m} \) criterion is also expected to reject sources with \( z \lesssim 1.4 \). The 1.4 GHz criteria were designed to remove the more luminous radio-loud (e.g. FRII type; Fanaroff & Riley 1974) galaxies from the sample, whilst ensuring that the radio emission was caused by an AGN (i.e. that they are QSOs, rather than starburst galaxies). These criteria proved highly successful at picking out type-2 QSOs at \( z \sim 2 \); the final sample included 21 candidates (the sample selection is discussed in much greater detail in, e.g., Martínez-Sansigre et al. 2006a).

One of the galaxies that satisfied our Lyα halo selection criteria was a previously known type-2 QSO, dubbed AMS05. Our broadband- and continuum-subtracted narrow-band observations of AMS05 are presented in Fig. 1 and show that the halo detected in the narrow-band filter is extended over \( \sim 10 \text{arcsec} \). The original spectroscopy of AMS05 was carried out at a position angle of 98°, meaning that the vast emission-line structure that our narrow-band imaging reveals was not detected. Due to the large equivalent width estimated from our photometry (EW$_{\text{obs}} > 1000$ Å), and the extent of...
Figure 1. AMS05 in $g'$ band, with the continuum-subtracted Ly$\alpha$ halo overlaid as a contour map. In this frame north is up, with east to the left, and the location of the host galaxy's peak radio emission coincides with the peak in the Ly$\alpha$ emission. The halo is extended over at least 10 arcsec; with the original discovery spectrum of Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2006a) being taken with the slit oriented approximately along the east-west direction at a position angle of 98$^\circ$ east of north, the huge extent of the Ly$\alpha$ halo was not detected. The knot of 'Ly$\alpha$ emission' to the northwest of the adjacent continuum source is probably due to imperfect continuum subtraction. The contours correspond to between 23 and 93 per cent of the peak counts per pixel in the continuum subtracted narrow-band image, separated at intervals of 10 per cent.

the emission-line structure, we obtained new spectroscopic observations of AMS05, this time with a position angle of 12$^\circ$, aligned along the major axis of the extended emission.

2.3 Multi-wavelength data used in this study

In addition to the narrow-band and Sloan-$g'$-band imaging data taken as part of our survey (Smith & Jarvis, in preparation), we located publicly available imaging observations of the Spitzer First Look Survey region to constrain the spectral energy distribution (SED) of AMS05. We use $u^*$-band data from Shim et al. (2006), the R band from Fadda et al. (2004), IRAC (Infrared Array Camera) data from Lacy et al. (2005), MIPS (Multiband Imaging Photometer for Spitzer) 24$\mu$m data from Fadda et al. (2006), 610 MHz data from Garn et al. (2007) and 1.4 GHz data from Condon et al. (2003). The data at 4.9 GHz are from Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2006b). Additional publicly available data in the J, H and $K_s$ bands were obtained using NIRI on the Gemini-North telescope as part of another program (GN-2005B-Q-75). Images were co-added from nine different offset exposures on a ($3 \times 3$) square grid pattern (with offsets of 10–20 arcsec), and then median combined to get the resulting total integration times of 300, 280 and 240 seconds in the J, H and $K_s$ bands, respectively. In addition, extremely high resolution European Very Long Baseline Interferometry Network (EVN) data at 1.7 GHz have also been obtained (H-R. Klöckner, private communication).

This object was also observed with the Infrared Spectrograph (IRS) aboard the Spitzer Space Telescope and with the Max-Planck Millimetre Bolometer Array (MAMBO-2) instrument at the IRAM (Institut de Radio Astronomie Millimétrique) 30-m telescope at Pico de Veleta, Spain. The IRS observations are described in some detail in Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2008). MAMBO-2 has an effective wavelength of 1.2 mm, with a beam full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of 10.7 arcsec. During these observations, the target was centred on the most sensitive pixel and standard on–off observations were conducted, varying the wobbler throw between 32, 35 and 40 arcsec in azimuth at 2 Hz. The atmospheric opacity was always $\tau_{230GHz} < 0.3$, and the sky noise was medium to low ($\lesssim 200$ mJy beam$^{-1}$). Gain calibration was carried out regularly using Neptune, Uranus or Mars, and monitored using very bright millimetre sources (typically $\gtrsim 5$ Jy). The data were reduced using MOPSIC (Zylka 1998), and the absolute flux scale of MAMBO-2 is uncertain at the 20 per cent level. Photometry of AMS05 is presented in Table 1.

| Photometric band | Mag$_{AB}$/flux density |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| $u^*$           | > 25.75                 |
| He II           | 22.26 ± 0.06            |
| Sloan $g'$      | 24.98 ± 0.34            |
| $R$             | 24.90 ± 0.48            |
| $J$             | > 21.43                 |
| $H$             | 20.30 ± 0.40            |
| $K_s$           | 20.40 ± 0.39            |
| 3.6$\mu$m       | 37.8 ± 2.5 μJy          |
| 4.5$\mu$m       | 65.6 ± 3.3 μJy          |
| 5.8$\mu$m       | 142.2 ± 13.5 μJy        |
| 8.0$\mu$m       | 294.8 ± 12.2 μJy        |
| 24$\mu$m        | 1.43 ± 0.09 mJy         |
| 1.2 mm          | <1.04 mJy               |
| 4.9 GHz         | 0.44 ± 0.05 mJy         |
| 1.7 GHz (VLBI)  | 485.6 ± 24.2 μJy        |
| 1.4 GHz         | 1.04 ± 0.05 mJy         |
| 610 MHz         | 1.31 ± 0.08 mJy         |

2.4 Spectroscopy of AMS05

Our spectroscopic observations were taken using the ISIS (Intermediate Dispersion Spectrograph and Imaging System) double-beamed spectrograph on the William Herschel Telescope on the nights of 2007 July 12 and 15. The red arm of ISIS uses the new highly red sensitive REDPLUS CCD, a $4 \times 2$ array of 15.0 $\mu$m pixels, while the blue arm uses a thinned EEV 4k $\times$4k highly red sensitive REDPLUS CCD, a 4k $\times$4k array of 15.0 $\mu$m pixels. These observations used the red and blue arms with the R158R and R300B gratings, for exposure times of 4 × 900 and 2 × 1800 s, respectively, using a 1.5 arcsec slit oriented at a position angle of 12$^\circ$ east of north along the long axis of the extended emission. The red-arm data were binned up to (3 $\times$ 2), whilst the blue data were binned (2 $\times$ 2). This resulted in a spectral resolution of 12.0 Å in the red and 8.5 Å for the blue arm.

The data were de-biased, illumination and flat-field corrected. Wavelength solutions were derived from observations of Cu–Ar and Cu–Ne emission-line lamps with the same set-up as for the science frames. Flux calibration was derived from observations of the spectrophotometric standard star BD+28°4211.
Figure 2. One- and two-dimensional spectra of AMS05. The asymmetric line profile, high equivalent width, large spatial extent and the absence of other emission lines lead us to identify this emission line as Lyα. Three components of the Lyα emission can be seen in the two-dimensional spectrum (top), in which they are spread over ~9 Å, which corresponds to approximately 580 km s⁻¹. The spatial extent of the structure is >10 arcsec, which corresponds to ~80 kpc at this redshift. The one-dimensional spectrum displayed here corresponds to the sum of all the individual components (i.e. the extraction aperture was chosen to include all of the flux in the two-dimensional spectrum).

3 RESULTS

3.1 The halo

Although AMS05 is detected in the Sloan-g’-band image (Fig. 1, centre), the observed equivalent width is at least EWobs > 1000 Å; however, this value is uncertain due to the bright Lyα emission dominating the continuum emission in the broad-band image. The flux emitted as Lyα falling in the slit is 3.54 ± 0.50 × 10⁻¹⁶ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹, giving a luminosity of 8.41 ± 1.19 × 10⁴³ erg s⁻¹ (2.19 ± 0.31 × 10⁹ L⊙). Our photometric luminosity estimate of 1.50 ± 0.09 × 10⁴⁴ erg cm⁻² s⁻¹ (3.89 ± 0.23 × 10⁹ L⊙) is measured in an 8 arcsec aperture, suggesting that slit losses account for ~44 per cent of the total flux.

The Lyα emission shows a remarkable velocity structure, apparent in the two-dimensional spectra presented in Fig. 2. The Lyα emission is split into at least three different components in the spectrum, with peaks offset from one another by ~580 km s⁻¹. Table 2 and Fig. 3 show details of spectra extracted in three separate apertures as a function of their distance from the host galaxy and radio core of the Lyα emitting structure (which coincide with the peak in the Lyα surface brightness).

Table 2. Properties of the different Lyα emission-line components as a function of their separation from the nucleus, defined as the radio position (which is coincident with the centre of the brightest component of the Lyα emission). The components of the Lyα emission farthest from the nucleus are blueshifted relative to the central component. The apertures used here are 2.4 arcsec in length along the 1.5 arcsec wide slit.

| Core separation (arcsec) | Component flux (erg cm⁻² s⁻¹) | Component centre (Å) | Component FWHM (Å) | Component linewidth (km s⁻¹) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 0.0                      | 2.04 × 10⁻¹⁶                  | 4681                 | 17.3 ± 3.0       | 1110 ± 190      |
| 2.7                      | 7.10 × 10⁻¹⁷                  | 4675                 | 14.2 ± 3.1       | 910 ± 200       |
| 6.0                      | 6.42 × 10⁻¹⁷                  | 4673                 | 12.6 ± 4.0       | 810 ± 260       |

Figure 3. Extracted spectra corresponding to the three components of the Lyα apparent in the two-dimensional spectrum visible in Fig. 2 and detailed in Table 2. Each spectrum has been extracted through a 2.4 arcsec aperture centred on positions 0.0, 2.7 and 6.0 arcsec away from the nucleus, coloured black, red and blue, respectively (solid, dotted and dashed lines). The nucleus is coincident with the radio centroid and the main component of the Lyα emission. The components of the Lyα emission further away from the nucleus are blueshifted relative to the centre; this may be due to either a high-velocity in/outflow or foreground absorption around the nucleus.

Upon inspecting Figs 2 and 3, it is immediately apparent that those components farthest away from the nucleus appear blueshifted relative to the central component; they also show narrower linewidths. These properties bear a striking resemblance to HzRGs; these relationships are presented for a sample of 15 HzRGs in van Ojik et al. (1997), and also for the three HzRGs discussed in Villar-Martín (2007).

The Lyα emission is extended over at least 10 arcsec in both our narrow-band imaging (Fig. 1) and our two-dimensional spectrum (Fig. 2). The spatial extent – which equates to ~80 kpc at z = 2.85 – may be due to inflow or outflow of gas surrounding the AGN; this is very difficult to say for certain. However, for the more powerful radio galaxies, sensitive polarization measurements favour the infall scenario (e.g. Humphrey et al. 2007). To carry out this sort of analysis here would require much higher sensitivity radio observations with full polarization properties.

The two most separate components of the Lyα emission line are offset from one another by approximately 580 km s⁻¹ in velocity. If we naively interpret this as Keplerian motion, then we can estimate the mass of the halo as being ~7.6 × 10¹⁰ M⊙. Of course, due to the resonant nature of the Lyα photons, it is also quite possible that the regions between the knots of Lyα emission are sites of foreground absorption, or scattering of Lyα photons away from the line of sight (see e.g. van Ojik et al. 1997; Jarvis et al. 2003; Wilman et al. 2004, 2005).

As well as the optical-infrared SED discussed in Section 3.2.1, the loosely conical structure of the Lyα emitting region suggests that a central ionizing source is more likely to be the cause of ionization than any of the other commonly suggested methods of ionizing a Lyα halo of similar luminosity (see e.g. Smith & Jarvis 2007), which are more likely to appear approximately spherical.

3.2 The host galaxy

3.2.1 Optical-infrared SED

To constrain the SED of AMS05, we make use of some of the multiwavelength data over the FLS field. To analyse the SED
of AMS05, we used a combination of template AGN and simple stellar population models. For template AGN models, we used the Siebenmorgen template AGN SEDs from http://www.eso.org/r sievebenn/agn_models (see e.g. Siebenmorgen et al. 2004, for a recent review), as well as the mean QSO SED from Elvis et al. (1994) with a variety of Milky Way model dust obscurations between $A_V = 0$ and 10 following Pei (1992). The Siebenmorgen template AGN SEDs are the result of self-consistent radiative transfer simulations with central heating sources.

The Elvis et al. (1994) mean QSO SED is empirical, based on the observations of a large sample of radio-quiet QSOs. The original authors noted that the dispersion in their mean SEDs for the observations of individual objects was around a decade at all wavelengths. For the simple stellar populations, we made use of the Bruzual & Charlot (2003) stellar models. We used simple stellar populations of ages 10, 30, 50, 100, 200, 400, 600, 1000, 1400, 1800 and 2200 Myr.

The value of the $\chi^2$ goodness-of-fit parameter was calculated for each linear combination of stellar population and AGN template, with the model combination corresponding to the lowest value of $\chi^2$ chosen as our best fit in this regime.

To accurately calculate the value of the $\chi^2$ parameter, we removed the $\nu \alpha g$-band flux from the measurement of the Sloan-$g$-band magnitude since $\nu \alpha g$ haloes are not included in the Bruzual & Charlot (2003), Elvis et al. (1994) or Siebenmorgen models. The presence of such profuse $\nu \alpha$ emission would, left unchecked, produce artificially large measurements for the photometry of these objects since $\nu \alpha$ falls near the centre of the Sloan-$g$-band filter’s transmission function at the redshift studied here. This subtraction is reflected in the large error bar in the Sloan-$g$-band data point in Fig. 4, since the $\nu \alpha$ emission dominates the Sloan-$g$-band flux.

The object itself is associated with detections in all bands with the exception of $n^i$, $J$ and 1.2 mm. AMS05 was originally selected by Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2005) to have a mid-IR/radio SED consistent with a type-2 high-redshift QSO; our studies are consistent with the presence of an obscured AGN.

The optical-infrared SED of AMS05 is shown in Fig. 4, as mentioned in Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2005) the combination of a high signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) detection at 24 $\mu$m ($\sim$6.2 $\mu$m in the emitted frame), faint flux at 3.6 $\mu$m (rest frame 9350 Å–$z^\prime$ band), and a moderate radio luminosity of $L_r(1400\text{MHz}) \sim 10^{32.4}$ erg s$^{-1}$ Hz$^{-1}$ sr$^{-1}$ ensures that the host galaxy to this Ly$\alpha$ halo contains a powerful AGN rather than a starburst. The AGN is thought to be obscured by the torus invoked by unified schemes to explain the varying properties of AGN with orientation with respect to the line of sight (see e.g. Urry & Padovani 1995). This is in agreement with our SED fitting; we find that the best fit to the SED of AMS05 is a combination of a 1.4 Gyr old simple stellar population and an obscured Elvis (1994) AGN component with $A_V = 5.5$. The best-fitting composite SED is also shown in Fig. 4.

Whilst the 1.2 mm non-detection would appear to be at odds with our best-fitting SED, the uncertainties associated with the 1.2 mm observations (for which the flux calibration has an uncertainty of $\sim$20 per cent), in tandem with the large inherent scatter in QSO SEDs, mean that this apparent discrepancy can be easily explained. It is quite possible that AMS05 has less cool dust than expected from the median SED from Elvis et al. (1994), which was merely a linear extrapolation between the far-infrared (far-IR) and radio wavelengths in any case.

We can use the normalizations of the SED components to estimate the stellar mass and AGN luminosity. For the stellar SED, we derive a mass of $4.4 \pm 0.3 \times 10^9 M_\odot$, similar in mass to powerful radio galaxies at the same redshift (e.g. Jarvis et al. 2001; Willott et al. 2003) and a bolometric AGN luminosity of $3.4 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{13} L_\odot$, with the latter number being derived assuming that $L_{bol} = 10 \times v L_{\nu}$ at 8 $\mu$m (Elvis et al. 1994; Richards et al. 2006), and assuming the Milky Way dust extinction law of Pei (1992). Note that the uncertainty on the bolometric correction alone could be as high as 50 per cent.

### 3.2.2 Results from millimetre-wavelength observations

AMS05 was not detected to a 3σ limit of 1.04 mJy at 1.2 mm. To constrain the star formation rate (SFR) due to cold dust mass within the halo, we consider the 1.2 mm observed flux to be due to any of three different templates; a grey body, and templates based on M82 and Arp220. For the grey body template, we assume typical emissivity index and dust temperature from Omont et al.; (2003 – $\beta = 1.5, T = 45$ K), and for all models we adopt the Kennicutt (1998) calibration of SFR to far-IR luminosity (between 8 and 1000 $\mu$m). Using these assumptions we find that the SFR derived assuming grey body emission in the far-IR is $<650 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ (or $<250 M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$ if we assume a lower dust temperature, $T = 35$ K). The M82 and Arp 220 templates suggest higher limits on the star formation rates of $\lesssim 700$ and 950 $M_\odot$ yr$^{-1}$, respectively; it is clear that there may be a vigorous amount of obscured star formation residing within AMS05 that we do not observe in our optical SED (Fig. 4).

### 3.2.3 Radio SED

The radio SED of AMS05 is displayed in Fig. 5, overlaid with a polynomial of the form $\log_{10} S_\nu = \Sigma_i a_i \log_{10} \nu_i^t$ (following Jarvis et al. 2001). With a second-order polynomial and three data points the best fit is exact; the radio SED of AMS05 peaks at

![Figure 4. Spectral energy distribution of AMS05. The best-fitting model (overlaid in black) consists of a linear combination of a simple stellar population from Bruzual & Charlot (2003) of age 1.4 Gyr, a Salpeter IMF and solar metallicity (shown in blue), with an AGN component from Elvis (1994) with 5.5 mag visual extinction (shown in red). The SED is consistent with the IRS spectroscopic observations of Martínez-Sansigre et al. (2005) to have a mid-IR/radio SED consistent with a type-2 high-redshift QSO; our studies are consistent with the presence of an obscured AGN.](https://academic.oup.com/mnras/article-abstract/393/1/309/1085690)
Radio properties of AMS05; the SED appears to turn over around \( \sim 1.8 \) GHz in the rest frame. Whilst in radio-loud FRI/FRII objects this may be interpreted as a young radio source, this is not the case for AMS05, due to its radio-quiet nature.

\[ 455 \pm 275 \text{ MHz} \text{ in the observed frame} \] (where the errors have been derived analytically, and are consistent with a set of 100,000 Monte Carlo simulations of our observational results). This corresponds to \( \sim 1.7 \pm 1.0 \) GHz in the rest frame.

Gigahertz-peaked spectrum radio sources are usually young, radio-loud objects, whose relativistic jets have not escaped the confines of the host galaxy (e.g. O’Dea 1998). However, despite the high radio luminosity (it lies close to the Fanarof–Riley break of \( L_{178} \text{ MHz} \sim 2 \times 10^{23} \text{ W Hz}^{-1} \text{ sr}^{-1} \)), we will now argue that AMS05 contains a luminous radio-quiet AGN, and therefore we can draw no parallels between typical GPS sources and the source in question here.

Quasars are considered to be radio loud or radio quiet based on the ratio of their radio to optical luminosity, \( R \), with \( R = 10 \) generally considered to be the dividing line (Kellerman et al. 1989). The same calculation can be made for a type-2 AGN-like AMS05 if we consider its unobscured optical luminosity derived from our SED fit. We derive \( R = 8.5 \pm 0.7 \) which places AMS05 in the radio-quiet regime, albeit as a bright example of this class. This is further supported by the EVN observations, which reveal that \( \sim 50 \) per cent of the flux at \( \sim 1.4 \) GHz is emitted on scales \(< 220 \text{ pc} \), indicating the absence of the bulk of the radio emission on kpc scales. It is highly unlikely that the difference between the EVN and VLA fluxes is due to AGN variability, whilst a factor of 2 in variation is typical of blazars, they demonstrate strong beamed continuum- and/or broad-emission lines, neither of which is observed in AMS05.

Whilst the \( \text{Ly} \alpha \) emission bears great resemblance to the EELRs around HzRGs, the above arguments indicate that AMS05 is an intrinsically different class of source. This can most clearly be seen in Fig. 6; using the polynomial fit to extrapolate the radio luminosity of the LAB host galaxy to 1400 MHz, we find that even though the luminosity in \( \text{Ly} \alpha \) emission is similar to the median HzRGs drawn from the 3CRR, 7CRS, 6CE and 6C* samples in Jarvis et al. (2001), the luminosity at radio frequencies is several orders of magnitude lower.

This source appears in many ways to be very similar to the low-redshift radio-quiet quasar E1821+643 (Blundell & Rawlings 2001), which exhibits quasar-like optical emission but also has FRI-type radio emission over 100 kpc scales. Blundell & Rawlings explain this as a precessing jet, possibly due to a binary black hole system at the centre of the galaxy. This precession could result in an FRI morphology, with around 50 per cent of the radio luminosity coming from the core, but the detectability of the extended emission becomes very difficult due to the reduced surface brightness on large scales. Future low-frequency telescopes such as LOFAR (Low Frequency Array) would be ideally placed to map out such extended structures around such radio-quiet AGN.
3.2.4 Photon number counts

We demonstrate that the AGN generates enough photons to ionize the observed Ly\(\alpha\) halo, using a photon number counts argument, similar to that described by Neugbauer et al. (1980). By using the median unobscured QSO SED from Elvis (1994), scaled to match our measured flux at 24 \(\mu\)m (where the effects of obscuration by dust are negligible and the QSO dominates the monochromatic luminosity), we can estimate the number of photons emitted by the naked source before the effects of obscuration along our line of sight are taken into account. We find that the nucleus emits around \(1.2 \times 10^{33}\) ionizing photons per second, which is \(> 2\) orders of magnitude more than that which is emitted as Ly\(\alpha\) photons. There is no doubt that the active nucleus is capable of ionizing the Ly\(\alpha\) halo, although a starburst component could easily contribute as is postulated for HzRGs (e.g. Binette et al. 2006; Villar-Martín et al. 2007); however, this contribution is constrained by the MAMBO-2 observations.

4 CONCLUSIONS

We have discovered the first highly extended Ly\(\alpha\)-emitting halo around a radio-intermediate type-2 obscured QSO. The halo, which is extended over \(\sim 80\) kpc, is similar to those haloes observed around high-redshift radio galaxies, and the more quiescent Ly\(\alpha\) blobs, with a luminosity estimated from our photometry of \(1.50 \pm 0.09 \times 10^{44}\) erg \(cm^{-2}\) s\(^{-1}\) (3.89 \(\pm\) 0.23 \(\times\) \(10^{40}\) L\(_{\odot}\)). By analogy with the high-redshift radio galaxies, where polarization data help determine the source orientation on the sky, we interpret the velocity offset and decrease in velocity dispersion towards the edge of the halo as evidence for infall rather than outflow, although again this would need deeper radio observations to determine directly.

The existence of Ly\(\alpha\) ‘fuzz’ around QSOs at \(z \approx 3\) was predicted by Haiman & Rees (2001) and Alam & Miralda–Escudé (2002), with suggested angular sizes \(\gtrsim 2\) arcsec and 0.1–1.0 arcsec, respectively. Whilst one example of extension on small angular scales was presented in Francis & McDonnell (2006), this new discovery is the first detection of a QSO hosting an extensive Ly\(\alpha\) halo of which the authors are aware.

The halo is associated with a gigahertz-peaked radio SED, although since AMS05 is radio quiet, this does not imply that the radio source is young. The most likely cause of ionization of the large extended Ly\(\alpha\) emission for this halo is photoionization from the central radio-quiet AGN. However, we cannot rule out that at least part of the excess in Ly\(\alpha\) emission may arise from other sources, such as an episode of star formation (e.g. Binette et al. 2006) or cooling radiation (e.g. Fardal et al. 2001; Dijkstra, Haiman & Spaans 2006a,b).

AMS05 appears similar to the low-redshift radio-quiet quasar E1821+643 which has large-scale FRI radio structure but an optically powerful AGN at its centre. Blundell & Rawlings (2001) suggest that the lack of bright emission on large scales in this source is due to a precessing jet caused by a binary black hole system, which would result in lower luminosity emission on the kpc scale. Future observations with the next generation of radio telescopes could detect such emission around optically powerful but sub-luminous radio sources.

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