

SPECTROSCOPIC OBSERVATIONS OF OBJECTS IDENTIFIED WITH RADIO SOURCES

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ABSTRACT

Results of a spectroscopic survey of radio source identifications are reported. Redshifts have been determined for 20 quasars and seven radio galaxies. A large proportion of identifications with neutral-colored stellar objects appear to have continuous spectra of the BL Lacertae type. Thus while very high-redshift QSOs will turn up in such a sample, their frequency is probably fairly rare.

Subject headings: galaxies — quasi-stellar sources or objects — radio sources — redshifts

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to report spectroscopic observations of a variety of objects identified with radio sources and, where possible, to give redshifts. The identifications, which include both galaxies and stellar objects, have come from a number of radio source lists. Our attention has, however, been concentrated on sources from the Molonglo survey (Hoskins *et al.* 1972; Hoskins *et al.* 1973; Baldwin *et al.* 1973; Hazard and Murdoch 1973), and on sources for which accurate radio and optical positions have been obtained at the Royal Radar Establishment (Browne, Crowther, and Adgie 1973; Adgie *et al.* 1973). In the latter category we have been especially interested in studying objects of neutral color in order to see how much color selection influences the redshifts of QSOs. In particular, we wished to ascertain whether many high-redshift objects such as 0642+44 (OH 471) (Carswell and Strittmatter 1973) have been missed because the optical depth in the Lyman continuum results in a deficiency of violet radiation. For this reason we have also observed many of the QSOs from the Parkes $\pm 4^\circ$ survey for which Bolton and Wall (1970) and Wall, Shimmins, and Merkelijn (1971) found no ultraviolet excess but whose position agrees to within $\pm 2''$ with the optical identification (Browne and McEwan 1972). Much of this work has been done in collaboration with the group at the Lick Observatory, and some overlap has therefore occurred (cf. Baldwin *et al.* 1973).

II. THE OBSERVATIONS

All the observations reported here have been made with the Cassegrain spectrograph and RCA-33063 two-stage image-tube system at the Steward Observatory 2.2-meter telescope. The spectral survey was made at a reciprocal dispersion of 240 \AA mm^{-1} and with a useful spectral range of 3200–5700 \AA . Kodak IIaO emulsion was used throughout. Acquisition of

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faint objects was greatly facilitated through use of an integrating TV system which views an approximately $2' \times 2'$ area at the slit. This system uses an intensified SEC TV camera to integrate the low-light-level slit image. The integrated picture is then recorded on a silicon-target storage tube for continuous monitor display until the next camera integration is complete. Typically, 4 seconds of integration is sufficient to detect the night sky background.

III. RESULTS

Our results for QSOs are listed in table 1, in which column (1) contains the coordinate designation and name (if any), and column (2) the identification reference. Columns (3) and (4) contain wavelengths of measured lines, and a qualitative description of their strength and breadth. In columns (5) and (6) we list, where possible, the suggested line identifications and the corresponding individual redshifts. The adopted redshift $\langle z \rangle$ is given in column (7). In table 2 we list similar data for galaxies, the columns in this case containing the coordinate designation, identification reference, measured features, and adopted redshift, respectively. We have also included redshifts for two bright galaxies close to QSOs listed in table 1. A number of suggested identifications with stellar objects in fact turned out to be normal stars, and these are listed in table 3. Others listed in table 4 appear to have continuous spectra at our dispersion but may possibly have very weak or diffuse lines. These are described as "continuous" (C) or "inconclusive" (I), depending on our subjective degree of confidence that no lines are present. The term "UV deficit" means that relative to normal QSOs the ultraviolet continuum is weak. This is probably due to a continuum slope that is steeper than for the typical QSO. Sometimes, however, the deficit seems to begin rather sharply, in which case the term "UV cutoff" is used. Two objects—namely, 0529+07 (OG 050) and 0808+019—could not be assigned to any of the above categories. Their spectra are described in the following section.

TABLE 1

QSOs

Name	Ref.	Lines	Character	ID	Z	<Z>	Comments
0038-019	1	3278 3780: 4154 4413 5133	Sm Ww Sw Ww Ww	L α SiIV 1397 CIV 1549 HeII 1640 CIII] 1909	1.696 1.670: 1.682 1.691 1.689	1.690	L α affected by atmospheric cut-off
0105-008	2	3673 3885 4175 4405 4518	Sw MSmw Mw Ww Mm	CIV 1549 HeII 1640 ? ? CIII] 1909	1.371 1.369 1.367	1.369	Alternative redshift z = 0.316 - see notes Possibly [NIII] 1750? Probably NS
0109+35 (GC)	3	4053 4279?	Sw Ww				
0240-06 (GC)	3	3466 4325 4548	Mw Sw Ww	CIV 1549 CIII] 1909	1.238 1.238	1.238	
0310+01	4	4645 5690:	Mm Wm	MgII 2798 Ne[V] 3426	0.660 0.661	0.660	
0458-02	2	3995 5091	Sw Ww Mw	L α SiIV 1397 CIV 1549	2.285 2.287	2.286	Continuum disappears shortward of L α
0642+44 (OH471)	5,6	4548 5351 5460	Mw Sw Ww	OVI 1033 L α NV 1240	3.403 3.400 3.403	3.402	Continuum vanishes shortward of 4000A, cf., Carswell and Strittmatter (1973)
0723-00 (OI-039)	6	4197 5646	Ms Ms	[OII] 3727 [OIII] 5007	0.126 0.128	0.127	Probably an N system; included here because of stellar image (ref. 4); [OIII] 4959 and HB are present but are confused by night sky 5460 and 5577
0736-06 (OI-061)	3	3553 3594 4042: 4486 4761 5551	Sw Mw Mm Sw Wm Mm	L α NV 1240 SiIV 1397 CIV 1549 HeII 1640 CIII] 1909	1.921 1.898 (1.893) 1.896 1.903 1.907	~1.9	Strong absorption in L α and CIV. 4042 may be confused by night sky.
0827+24	7	3701	Sw				
0844+31 (4C31.32)	8	3453 3957 4383	Sw WMmw Smw	L α SiIV 1397 CIV 1549	1.839 1.832 1.830	1.834	
1126+101	9	3555 3897 4800	Wm Sw Mw	OIV] 1406 CIV 1549 CIII] 1909	1.528 1.516 1.514	1.515	Probably confused with NS Absorption lines present
1253+104	10,11	3477 5111	Mw Mw	CIII] 1909 MgII 2798	0.821 0.827	0.824	
1323+037	9	3822 3907 5628 5692	Mm Wm Wm vWm				Probably night sky
1435+17.2	10	3838 5793	WMms Wm				
1442+117	10,11	3492 4580 5180	Mw vW Mw	CIII] 1909 [OII] 2470: MgII 2798	0.829 0.854: 0.851	0.852:	3492 confused by night sky, cf. Baldwin <u>et al.</u> who noted a feature at 5187A.
GC1633+38 (4C38.41)	12	3424 3493 4356	MSm Wm MSm	L α NV 1240 CIV 1549	1.815 1.816 1.812	1.814	Absorption lines present
1656+05.3 (OS094)	9 6,13	3908: 5270	vWw Mm				Baldwin <u>et al.</u> noted a feature at 5275A.

TABLE 1—Continued

Name	Ref.	Lines	Character	ID	Z	<Z>	Comments
1954+51 (OV591)	6	3466 (3650) 4255	Msm Ww MSw	CIV 1549 (HeII 1640) CIII] 1909	1.237 1.229	1.230:	Strong absorption at 3400Å
2136+14 (OX161)	6	4165 4260 4820: 5302	VSw Mw Ww Mm	L α NV 1240 SiIV 1397 CIV 1549	2.425 2.435 2.428	2.429	Possibly confused with night sky
2141+17 (OX169)	6	3403 4155 5251 5296 5890	Ww vWw Wm Wm Ww	MgII 2798 [NeV] 3426 H γ [OIII] 4363 H β	0.216 0.213 0.210 0.214 0.212:	0.213	HeII 3202, [NeV] 3346, [NeIII] 3869, possibly also present but very weak.
2142+10	11	3828 3892 4054 4337	W Ww Mwm Smw	[OII] 2470 MgVII 2513 MgVII 2632 MgII 2798	0.550 0.549 0.539 0.550	0.550::	Only 4337 is definite. The redshift is therefore very uncertain.
GC2200+31 (4C31.63)	7,8	3630 5324 5632 6313 6483	Sw Ww Ww Mw Mm	MgII 2798 H δ H γ H β [OIII] 5007	0.297 0.298 0.297 0.298 0.295	0.297	
2256+017	2	3780 4459 4540 5134 5673	Mw Sw Ww Ww Sw	OVI 1033 L α NV 1240 SiIV 1397 CIV 1549	2.659 2.667 2.661 ~2.66 2.662	2.663	3780 line may be blend of LB and OVI 1033.
2346+38	3	3150 3880 5680	Sm Mw Mw	CIV 1549 CIII] 1909 MgII 2798	1.034 1.032 1.030	1.032	

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| 1. Browne and McEwan (1973) | 8. Olsen (1970) |
| 2. Browne and McEwan (1972) | 9. Hoskins <i>et al.</i> (1972) |
| 3. Adgie <i>et al.</i> (1973) | 10. Hazard and Murdoch (1973) |
| 4. Browne (1973) | 11. Baldwin <i>et al.</i> (1973) |
| 5. Gearhart <i>et al.</i> (1972) | 12. Pauliny-Toth <i>et al.</i> (1973) |
| 6. Browne <i>et al.</i> (1973) | 13. Gent <i>et al.</i> (1973) |
| 7. Johnson (1973) | |

TABLE 2
GALAXIES

Name	Ref.	Spectrum	z
0038-019 (nearby galaxy).....	1	H, K, G, H β , H γ , H ϵ , H6, H7	0.017
0818+47 (3C 197.1).....	2	3727 em, H, K	0.128
1138+117 (NGC 3810).....	3	3727, H γ , H β , H α , em, H, K	0.003
1253+104 (nearby galaxy).....	4	H, K, H γ , H β	0.055
1303+114.....	4	H, K	0.086
1450+173.....	3	H, K, G	0.040
1453+120.....	4	H, K, G	0.032
1601+173.....	4	H, K, G	0.034
1644+118.....	4	3727 em, H, K, G	0.085

REFERENCES.—(1) Browne and McEwan 1973; (2) Wyndham 1966; (3) Hoskins *et al.* 1972; (4) Hazard and Murdoch 1973.

TABLE 3
STARS

Name	Identification	Spectrum	Name	Identification	Spectrum
0012+13 (4C 13.01)	1	H, K, Balmer	1031+56* (OL 553)	4	H, K, G, Mg <i>l b</i>
0043+40 (5C 3.150)	2	H, K, Balmer	2022+54 (OW 538).....	4, 5, 6	H, K, G, Mg <i>l b</i>
0045+42 (5C 3.181)	2	H, K, Balmer	2218+106.....	7	H, K, Balmer
0118-00*.....	3	H, K, Balmer	2244+119.....	7	H, K, G, Mg <i>l b</i>
0837+03* (OJ 063).....	4	H, K, Balmer	2244-00.....	3, 8	H, K, G, Mg <i>l b</i> , Na D

IDENTIFICATION.—(1) Munro 1972; identification Carswell. (2) Parkes and Penston 1973. (3) Browne 1973. (4) Radivich and Kraus 1971. (5) Browne *et al.* 1973. (6) Gearhart *et al.* 1972. (7) Hazard and Murdoch 1973. (8) Wall *et al.* 1971.

* According to Adgie *et al.* (1973) these identifications are not confirmed by their more accurate position determinations.

Further comments on individual objects follow.

0024+34.—Our attention was first drawn to the existence of the sharp feature at 4962Å by Dr. J. Wampler who has also made observations of this object.

0038-019.—This Parkes 2700 MHz survey radio source was originally identified by Merkelijn and Wall (1970) with a 15th-magnitude spiral galaxy, but more accurate positional work by Browne and McEwan (1973) resulted in the present QSO identification. The redshift of the galaxy is given in table 2.

0105-008.—The spectrum presents some difficulty in interpretation, as two redshifts seem possible. The

preferred value is 1.369 as listed in table 1. The feature at 3673 is, however, strongly distorted by the night sky emission between 3615 and 3662 and could be centered somewhat further to the red. In that event it would be preferable to associate the features at 3673, 3885, 4405, and 4518 Å, respectively with Mg II λ 2798, ([Mg v] λ 2931 and [Ne v] λ 2971), [Ne v] λ 3346, [Ne v] λ 3426. The corresponding redshifts are 0.313, 0.316, 0.316, and 0.318, respectively.

0458-02.—Both spectra which have so far been obtained of this object show that the continuum vanishes shortward of $L\alpha$ but recovers again at \sim 3500 Å. The deficiency of radiation between these

TABLE 4
CONTINUOUS OR INCONCLUSIVE SPECTRA

Object	ID/mag	No. of Spectra	Comments	Category	Object	ID/mag	No. of Spectra	Comments	Category
0024+34 (OB338)	1 -18.5	3	A fairly sharp emission appears at 4962Å	I	1147+24.5	2 -17	1		C
0035+36 (GC)	1 -18.5	2	Some strengthening near 5577	I	1514+19 (GC)	1 -18	2	UV cut-off 4000Å. Fainter than on sky survey	I
0048-09.7	2 17.3	3	See Carswell <i>et al.</i> (1973) UV deficit	C	1604+15 (OS108.2)	1 -18	1		
0133+47 (OC457)	3 -17.5	2	Possible emission at 5200Å	I	1749+09 (OT081)	1 -18	2		C
0234+09 (OD058)	1 -19	2	Fainter than on sky survey UV cut-off at 3800Å	I	1754+15.9	4 -18.5	1		I
0237+04 (OD062)	3 -17.5	2	Possible emission at 3775 and 4606Å	I	2003-025 (OW-006)	5 -19	3	UV deficit shortward of 3500Å: possible features at 3800-4650Å	I
0256+07 (OD094.7)	1 -19.5	2	Fainter than on sky survey Very weak spectra	I	2121+05 (OX036)	1,6 -19	3	Possible emission at 4420, 5700Å	I
0743-00 (OI-072)	1 -17.5	1	Possible feature 4800	I	2207+02	5 -19	2	UV deficit	C
1057+10	4 -17.5	1		C	2254+07 (OY091)	1 -17.3	3	UV deficit	C
					2335+03	7 -18	2	UV deficit shortward of 3500Å	C

1. Browne *et al.* (1973)
2. Hoskins *et al.* (1973)
3. Adgie *et al.* (1973)
4. Hoskins *et al.* (1973)

5. Browne and McEwan (1972)
6. Johnson (1973)
7. Browne (1973)

wavelengths probably accounts for the lack of ultraviolet excess noted by Bolton and Wall (1970) and Wall *et al.* (1971). It may be due to extended $L\alpha$ absorption similar to that seen in $L\alpha$, N v, Si iv, and C iv in PHL 5200 (Lynds 1967) and often ascribed to mass outflow. In this case, however, the gas would have to be in a lower ionization state since no broad Si iv or C iv absorption is observed.

0529+07.—Our two spectra of this object, taken untrailed with an open sky decker, are remarkable in that they show sharp emission lines of O ii λ 3727, H δ , H γ , H β , and H α at rest wavelength and extending at more or less constant intensity across the whole window (~ 1 arc min). The object identified by Browne *et al.* (1973) appears to have no discrete spectral features. We are led to conjecture that the optical line emission comes from a faint extended H ii region in our own Galaxy and that the radio source is probably of BL Lacertae type and is physically unrelated to the H ii region. In view of the uncertainty, however, we have not included this object in table 4.

0736-06.—Not only does this object have many absorption lines in its spectrum but the continuum intensity declines sharply below $L\alpha$. The $L\alpha$ and C iv emission features in particular seem strongly influenced by absorption, which may account for the poor wavelength agreement. Studies at higher dispersion are clearly required.

0808+019.—Our single spectrogram of this object contains a number of features, many of them unfortunately coinciding approximately with nightsky emission. In an object as bright as 0808+019 their relative strength is rather surprising. Features at ~ 4600 , 4935, and 5400 Å are probably sufficiently broad to be real. The object is probably a QSO. Further spectra of this object are needed to clarify its classification.

0844+31 (4C 31.32).—This source was originally identified with the nearby 13.5-mag galaxy NGC 2402 by Olsen (1970), who also noted the proximity of the 18-mag blue stellar object observed by us. Sargent (1973) gives a redshift of $z = 0.0675$ for NGC 2402.

1126+101.—Absorption features have been measured at 3394, 3420, and 3896 Å, respectively, but further spectra are required at higher dispersion for a proper analysis of the absorption spectrum.

1253+104.—Baldwin *et al.* (1973) noted a feature at 5111 Å and a possible line at 4482 Å. There are two bright galaxies near the QSO. The redshift of the closer one (separation $\sim 1.5'$) is given in table 2.

1323+03.7.—Although only one spectrum of this object is currently available, the three emission lines listed in table 1 seem well established. No redshift could, however, be assigned.

2022+54.—This object was first identified by Radovich and Kraus (1971), and a different identification was suggested by Gearhart *et al.* (1972). Browne *et al.* (1973) confirm the first identification and note that the second is incorrect. Our results refer to the original identification and suggest that it is likewise incorrect.

2142+110.—Baldwin *et al.* (1973) measured a line at 4358 but expressed some doubt as to its reality since it coincided with a nightsky feature.

2200+31.—The emission-line redshift for this source was first given by Tritton, Henblest, and Penston (1973). Our result agrees very well with theirs. Tritton *et al.* (1973) also suggested, however, that absorption lines appeared at 3587, 5574, and 6223 Å and could be identified with Mg ii λ 2798, H γ , and H β , respectively. We have therefore obtained several further spectra of this object some at higher dispersion but have been unable to confirm these features.

2256+017.—This object has been observed previously by Baldwin *et al.* (1973) who assigned a provisional redshift $z = 2.663$. Our result confirms this value. The spectrum also contains a number of absorption lines and merits examination at higher dispersion.

III. DISCUSSION

Redshifts have been reported for a total of 20 QSOs and seven radio galaxies. Four further objects have been found to be QSOs, but for various reasons no redshift could be assigned. Ten identifications turned out to have normal stellar spectra while 19 others were found to be continuous or to have at best very weak emission lines in their spectra. The proportion of such "continuous" objects is remarkably high, at least in comparison with most previously published lists. (We note, however, that Baldwin *et al.* 1973 also found a similarly high proportion of "lineless" objects.) In addition, a substantial fraction of the continuum sources appear to have deficient ultraviolet flux compared with QSOs of the same visual brightness. These two results may, however, be connected with selection effects in the original source lists.

The identification list published by Browne and McEwan (1972) was restricted to "blue" objects with no ultraviolet excess. Of the eight objects studied by us or by Baldwin *et al.* (1973), four turned out to be definite QSOs, two are inconclusive, one is continuous, and one is a star. The list of neutral objects published by Browne *et al.* (1973) has produced seven QSOs (OI-039 may be an N system), one star, one H ii region, and 11 continuous or inconclusive spectra. We note, however, that the five BL Lacertae objects studied by Strittmatter *et al.* (1972) appear to have continuous optical spectra of rather steeper slope than is common to QSOs; this probably accounts for their neutral color on the Palomar *Sky Survey* plates. In addition, the sample given by Browne *et al.* (1973) consists mainly of sources with peculiar spectra (flat, peaked, or inverted) and in any case of sources with substantial flux at 2700 MHz at which the accurate Royal Radar Establishment positions were obtained. In these circumstances it is perhaps not surprising that a substantial number of objects like BL Lac should be found.

Following the discovery of the high redshifts of 0642+44 ($z = 3.40$, Carswell and Strittmatter 1973) and 1442+101 ($z = 3.53$, Wampler *et al.* 1973), hopes

ran high that the combination of accurate radio positions and neutral to red stellar identifications should lead to many more high- z objects. Although only a few objects in these lists remain to be observed, no further instances of high- z QSOs have so far been found. Some cases, such as GC 1514+19, seemed promising at first in view of a fairly sharp decrease in the continuum intensity shortward of approximately 4000 Å similar to that which occurs in 0642+44, but no unambiguous emission features could be found. Furthermore, some of the objects were so much fainter than on the *Sky Survey* that we either could not observe them or could obtain only very poor spectrograms. Both 0205-010 (Browne and McEwan 1972) and 0256+07 (OD 094.7) fall into this category, and the presumption must surely be that they are also BL Lacertae objects. In short, while color selection has certainly operated against finding high- z QSOs, particularly those of the 0642+44 type where the Lyman

continuum is optically thick, the current evidence suggests that these objects are intrinsically rare and easily confused with BL Lacertae objects.

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