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# *Fermi*/LAT broad emission line blazars

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## ABSTRACT

We study the broad emission line blazars detected in the  $\gamma$ -ray band by the Large Area Telescope onboard the *Fermi* satellite and with the optical spectrum studied by Shaw et al. The observed broad line strength provides a measure of the ionizing luminosity of the accretion disc, while the  $\gamma$ -luminosity is a proxy for the bolometric non-thermal beamed jet emission. The resulting sample, composed by 217 blazars, is the best suited to study the connection between accretion and jet properties. We compare the broad emission line properties of these blazars with those of radio-quiet and radio-loud quasars present in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey, to assess differences and similarities of the disc luminosity and the virial black hole mass. For most sources, we could derive the black hole mass by reproducing the IR–optical–UV data with a standard accretion disc spectrum, and we compared the black hole masses derived with the two methods. The distributions of the masses estimated in the two ways agree satisfactorily. We then apply a simple, one-zone, leptonic model to all the 217 objects of our sample. The knowledge of the black hole mass and disc luminosity helps to constrain the jet parameters. On average, they are similar to what found by previous studies of smaller samples of sources.

**Key words:** radiation mechanisms: non-thermal – BL Lacertae objects: general – quasars: general – gamma-rays: general.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Blazars are extragalactic radio-loud sources whose jet is pointing towards us (for recent reviews, see e.g. Böttcher 2007; Ghisellini 2011; Dermer 2014). To be more precise, we may define blazars as the sources whose jet axis is at an angle  $\sin \theta_v \leq 1/\Gamma$  with respect to the line of sight, where  $\Gamma$  is the bulk Lorentz factor. This implies that for each observed blazar, there are other  $2\Gamma^2$  intrinsically identical sources, but pointing in other directions. Blazars are classically divided in two subclasses: flat spectrum radio quasars (FSRQs) and BL Lacs. The usual divide between the two subclasses is based on the equivalent width (EW) of the optical broad emission lines: BL Lacs have  $EW < 5 \text{ \AA}$  (rest frame; Urry & Padovani 1995; see Ghisellini et al. 2011; Sbarrato et al. 2012, for an alternative definition).

Blazars are strong  $\gamma$ -ray emitters as a class. After the detection of 3C 273 by the *COS B* satellite (Swanenburg et al. 1978), the *Compton Gamma Ray Observatory* discovered nearly 100 blazars (Nandikotkur et al. 2007). Now, in the era of the *Fermi* satellite, nearly 1000 blazars (2LAC; Ackermann et al. 2011) have been detected in the 0.1–100 GeV energy range. This number is sufficiently large to start population studies (e.g. Ajello et al. 2012, 2014), to derive the average properties of these sources, and to compare them

to other radio-loud – but not necessarily so extreme – sources and to the general population of radio-quiet quasars. To this aim, we can benefit from the study of Shaw et al. (2012) concerning FSRQs detected by *Fermi* and systematically observed spectroscopically. To these sources, we added the few BL Lacs in Shaw, Romani & Cotter (2013) that do show broad emission lines. Together, they form a homogeneous sample of blazars detected in  $\gamma$ -rays. Due to the uniform all-sky exposure of the *Fermi*/Large Area Telescope (LAT) instrument, these blazars form a  $\gamma$ -ray flux-limited sample of blazars with broad emission lines. We first compare their optical properties with the radio-loud and the radio-quiet quasars of the compilation made by Shen et al. (2011), comprising about 105 000 quasars of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS).

Then, we collect multiwavelength data for all blazars, and apply a simple one-zone leptonic model to find the physical parameters of the sources. With respect to our earlier studies of blazars, there are four important additions: (i) the knowledge, for all sources, of the luminosity of the broad emission lines; (ii) the knowledge of the black hole mass derived through the virial method (these two information are given in the study of Shaw et al. 2012); (iii) the high-frequency radio data given by the *Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe* (WMAP) and *Planck* satellite observations; (iv) the far-IR data given by the *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer* (WISE) satellite, that detects almost all sources. These data at low frequency allow us to determine the synchrotron peak of powerful blazars much better than previously.

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We make use of the known broad emission line luminosity to derive the luminosity emitted by the accretion disc. By assuming a standard Shakura & Sunyaev (1973) disc, whose emitted spectrum depends only on the black hole mass and accretion rate (or equivalently, on the emitted luminosity), we are able to infer the black hole mass for the majority of FSRQs, and compare this value with the mass derived with the virial method (Peterson & Wandel 2000; McLure & Dunlop 2004, Peterson 2014). Two important parameters of the model (black hole mass and disc luminosity) are therefore determined by the observations of the emission line luminosity and width and by disc fitting. When the spectral energy distribution (SED) is sufficiently sampled (i.e. such that the two spectral peaks of the non-thermal emission are robustly determined), the parameters of the model are well constrained, although some extra assumptions are needed to univocally specify them.

Since blazars are rapidly variable, and often with large amplitude, one should use simultaneous multiwavelength data, which in our case is impossible, given the very large number of sources. Therefore, the results of each individual source can be affected by the non-simultaneity of data. On the other hand, we argue that, in a statistical sense, the derived distributions of the parameters are reliable. Furthermore, consider that the accretion disc should vary with time-scale longer than the non-thermal jet continuum, and with smaller amplitudes. Results on the black hole mass and the accretion luminosity should therefore be valid also for individual sources.

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we present the samples of *Fermi*/LAT detected blazars and the comparison sample of radio-loud and radio-quiet quasars. In Section 3, we discuss the general observational properties of the blazars of our sample in comparison with radio-loud and radio-quiet quasars (namely the redshift and broad emission line strength distributions). We also describe how we derive the black hole masses using the disc-fitting method, and compare our results with the ones derived through the virial method. In Section 4, we describe the blazar model we use to derive the physical parameters of the jet-emitting region, and discuss how these parameters can be univocally determined by knowing the disc luminosity and the black hole mass, and in Section 5 we present the corresponding results. In Section 6, we draw our conclusions. The results concerning the jet power and its relation to the accretion luminosity have been already discussed in Ghisellini et al. (2014).

In this work, we adopt a flat cosmology with  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  and  $\Omega_M = 0.3$ .

## 2 THE SAMPLES

We selected our sources from the FSRQs of Shaw et al. (2012) and the BL Lacs of Shaw et al. (2013). We compare them with the radio-quiet and radio-loud quasars of Shen et al. (2011). Table 1 shows a breakdown of the samples.

### 2.1 FSRQs in Shaw et al. (2012)

All our *Fermi*/LAT FSRQs come from the sample of Shaw et al. (2012, hereafter S12). The sample includes 229 objects, present in the 1LAC sample of Abdo et al. (2010), that have been spectroscopically observed by Shaw et al. (2012; 165 sources) or by the SDSS Data Release 7 (DR7; Shen et al. 2011, 64 objects). Of these, we have studied the 191 objects with enough multiwavelength information necessary to apply our model. The S12 sample of FSRQs does not include several bright and famous blazars with historical spectroscopic classifications in the literature.

**Table 1.** Number of sources in the different samples. Note that the objects studied by S12 and S13 are all detected in  $\gamma$ -rays by *Fermi*/LAT.

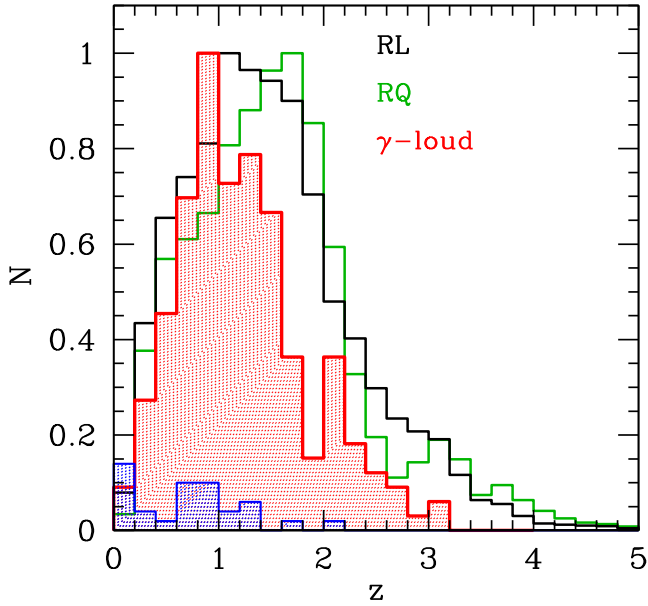
Sample	Number
SDSS RQ+RL (S11)	105 783
SDSS+FIRST RQ (S11)	89 783
SDSS+FIRST radio det. (S11)	9393
SDSS+FIRST RL ( $R_L > 10$ )	8257
FSRQ (S12) total	229
FSRQ (S12) studied in this paper	191
BL Lacs (S13) total	475
BL Lacs (S13) with $z$	209
BL Lacs (S13) studied in this paper	26
Total blazars studied in this paper	217

### 2.2 BL Lacs in Shaw et al. (2013)

Shaw et al. (2013, hereafter S13) studied a very large sample of BL Lac objects present on the second *Fermi* catalogue of AGN (2LAC; Ackermann et al. 2011). In the original 2LAC sample, there are 410 BL Lacs, 357 FSRQs and 28 AGN of other known types, and 326 AGN of unknown type. S13 themselves were able to classify some of the several ‘unknown type’ AGNs present in the 2LAC catalogue, increasing the number of BL Lacs to 475, and decreasing the number of the sources of unknown type to 215. By spectroscopically observing a large number of BL Lacs, and by adding BL Lacs of already known redshift, they assembled a sample of 209 BL Lac with the redshift spectroscopically measured. In addition, they could constrain the redshift of other 241 BL Lacs (finding a lower limit on the redshift, see S13 for details and their table 1 for a break down on the number of known redshift for source type). By visually inspecting all SED of the BL Lacs with redshifts, we selected the 26 objects with a clear presence of broad emission lines. Although they are classified as BL Lacs according to the classical definition (rest-frame EW of the emission line less than  $5 \text{ \AA}$ ), they should be rather considered to belong to the tail, at low accretion luminosities, of FSRQs, and for this reason we include them in our sample.

### 2.3 Quasars in Shen et al. (2011)

Shen et al. (2011, hereafter S11) studied a large number of quasars selected from the SDSS (Schneider et al. 2010) according to the following criteria: (i) the (rest-frame) full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the broad lines greater than  $1000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , and (ii) the absolute magnitude is brighter than  $M_i = -22.0$ . The quasars selected in this way are 105 783. We then selected the region of the sky covered by the Faint Images of the Radio Sky at Twenty-Centimeters (FIRST) survey. In this region, there are 89 783 quasars that have been observed, but not detected by the FIRST (with 1 mJy flux limit at 1.4 GHz). For brevity, we call these sources ‘radio-quiet’. Moreover, there are 9393 radio-detected quasars. Of these, there are 8257 radio-loud sources, i.e. objects with a radio-loudness  $R_L > 10$ . The radio-loudness is defined as in S11, i.e. the ratio of the rest-frame 5 GHz flux and the 2500  $\text{\AA}$  flux, where the 5 GHz flux is extrapolated from the observed 1.4 GHz flux (assuming a power-law slope  $F_\nu \propto \nu^{-0.5}$ ).



**Figure 1.** Redshift distribution of the FSRQs in our sample (red hatched), compared with radio-loud sources ( $R_L > 10$ , black) and radio-quiet (green) quasars of S11. The distributions are ‘normalized’ (i.e. the number of the sources at the peak of the distribution has been set equal to one). The blue hatched distribution is for the 26 BL Lacs in our sample.  $\gamma$ -loud FSRQs have a slightly smaller redshift of both radio-loud and radio-quiet quasars, that share a similar redshift distribution.

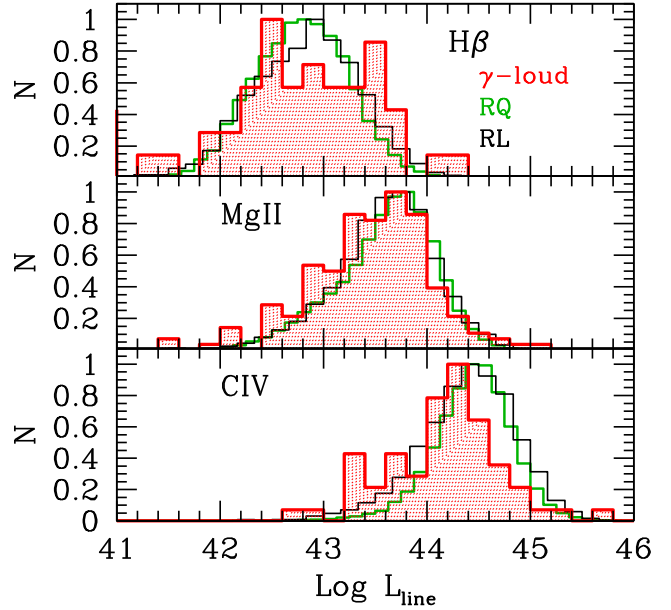
### 3 GENERAL OBSERVED PROPERTIES

#### 3.1 Redshift distribution

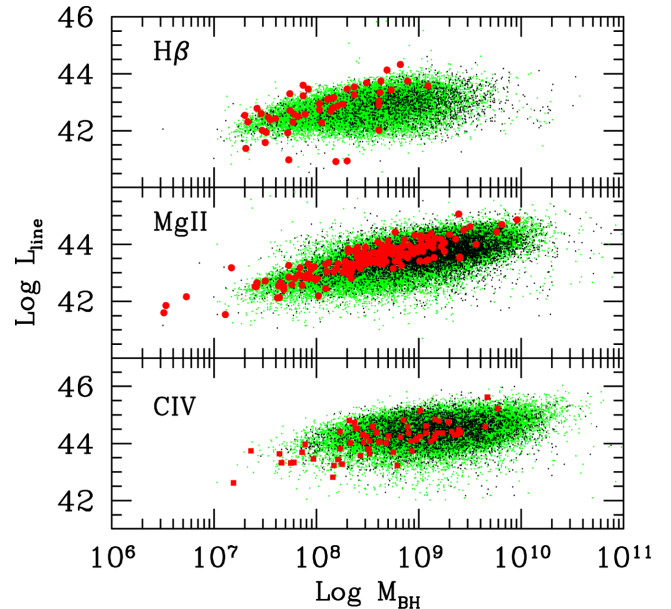
In Fig. 1, the redshift distribution of the FSRQs in our sample is compared to those of radio-loud sources (radio-loudness  $R > 10$ ) and radio-quiet quasars. These distribution are normalized (namely the number of the sources at the peak of the distribution has been set to one). We also show the redshift distribution for the 26 BL Lacs in our sample. It can be seen that the *Fermi*/LAT blazars have, on average, smaller redshifts. This is likely due to the still high sensitivity threshold of the  $\gamma$ -ray flux: to enter the  $\gamma$ -ray catalogue, the typical blazar must be closer than a critical redshift.

#### 3.2 Broad line luminosity distributions

The three more prominent broad emission lines considered by S12 in FSRQs are  $H\beta$ ,  $Mg\ II$  and  $C\ IV$ . S12 provide the FWHM and the luminosity of these lines. According to the redshift range, one can find in the optical spectrum only one or two of these lines, but never all three together. The method of line fitting is very similar to the one used by S11 for analysing his sample of quasars (both radio-loud and radio-quiet). The comparison between the line luminosity distributions of the S12  $\gamma$ -ray blazars and the entire S11 population of quasars is shown in S12 (their fig. 2). We show in Fig. 2 how the line luminosity distributions of  $\gamma$ -loud blazars compare with radio-loud and radio-quiet quasars. One can see that the  $H\beta$  luminosity distributions are very similar, while the  $Mg\ II$  and especially the  $C\ IV$  luminosities for  $\gamma$ -loud blazars tend to be slightly underluminous. The line luminosity distribution of radio-loud and radio-quiet are instead always similar. This reflects the different redshift distribution of the blazars in our sample, that extends to lower values than the quasars in the S11 sample (see Fig. 1).



**Figure 2.** Distribution of the luminosities of the three most prominent broad emission lines of the blazars in our sample (red hatched), compared with radio-loud blazars (radio-loudness  $R_L > 10$ , black) and radio-quiet (green) quasars of the S11 sample. The distributions are almost the same. Note that the trend of increasing luminosity (from the  $H\beta$  to the  $C\ IV$  luminosity distribution) is an effect of the increasing average redshift.



**Figure 3.** Luminosities of the three main broad emission lines as a function of the black hole mass estimated by S11 for the radio-quiet (green) and radio-loud (black) AGN, and by S12 for the  $\gamma$ -ray blazars (red circles). Both studies base the black hole mass estimate on virial arguments, using the FWHM of the lines and the radius of the BLR estimated through the radius-ionizing luminosity correlation.

An estimate of the black hole mass based on the virial method exists for all FSRQs in our sample (see Section 3.3). All values are reported in Table A1, together with the black hole mass we have derived by fitting the optical–UV continuum with a disc spectrum (see Section 3.3). Both S11 and S12 use the same virial method. In Fig. 3, we compare the line luminosities as a function of the virial

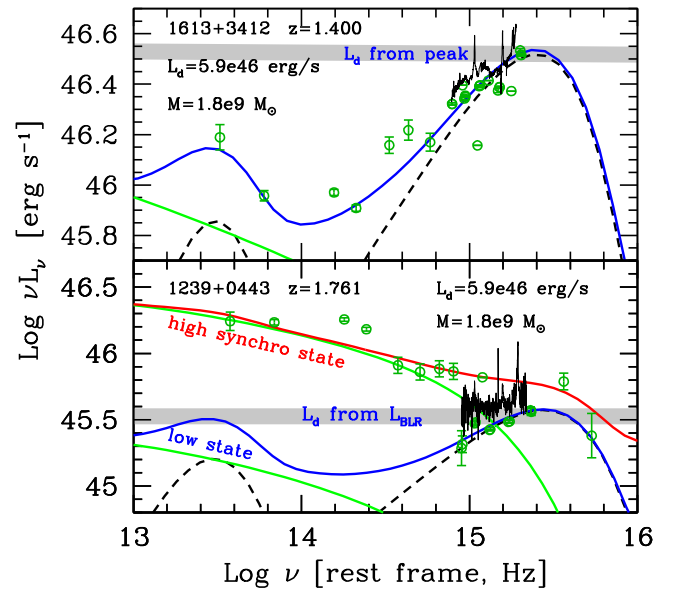
mass. When more than one broad emission line is used to derive more than one value of the black hole mass, we took the logarithmic average of the different values. Green (black) dots are the radio-quiet (radio-loud) quasars, red circles are the  $\gamma$ -loud blazars. The  $\gamma$ -loud blazars tend to have smaller (virial) black hole masses than the rest of the sources. This effect was noted also by S12, that suggested a possible selection effect: blazars are highly aligned sources, and if the broad line region (BLR) is not spherically symmetric, but flattened towards the disc (see e.g. Shen & Ho 2014), we should observe lines systematically narrower than observed in misaligned objects (Decarli, Dotti & Treves 2011), leading to a smaller estimate of the black hole mass (see Section 3.3).

### 3.3 Black hole mass

**Virial mass** – the virial method to estimate the black hole mass is now the most widely used, allowing us to measure the black hole mass of hundred thousand objects in an automatic or semi-automatic way. However, the measurement, besides being based on the virial assumption (the motion of the broad line clouds is governed by gravity) is not direct, but is necessarily based on correlations with their own dispersions that are not simply due to measurement errors. The uncertainty associated with these estimates is large, of the order of 0.5–0.6 dex. Vestergaard & Peterson (2006) and Park et al. (2012) estimated that the black hole mass derived in this way has an uncertainty of a factor  $\sim 3$ –4. Besides this, there are two additional concerns: (i) the geometry of the BLR can influence the observed FWHM of the lines. Decarli et al. (2008) pointed out that a flattened BLR (i.e. not spherical, but with clouds distributed closer to the accretion disc) observed close to the normal of the accretion disc shows lines of narrower FWHM. (ii) Marconi et al. (2008) noted that if the accretion disc is emitting close to the Eddington rates, one should account for the radiation pressure force exerted on the broad line clouds: to be balanced, one needs more gravity, hence a bigger black hole mass. Table A1 (in the appendix) reports the black hole masses derived by S12 through the virial method.

**Disc-fitting mass** – The spectrum of the emission produced by a standard, Shakura & Sunyaev (1973) disc is a superposition of blackbody spectra with temperature distribution  $T(R)$ , where  $R$  is the distance from the black hole, depending only on the black hole mass  $M$  and the accretion rate  $\dot{M}$ . Assuming an efficiency  $\eta$  defined by  $L_d = \eta \dot{M} c^2$ , where  $L_d$  is the bolometric disc luminosity, the observations allow us to directly fix  $\dot{M}$ , in two possible ways (see also Calderone, Sbarrato & Ghisellini 2012; Castignani et al. 2013). We could in fact directly observe the optical–UV hump produced by the disc, corresponding to its maximum. The peak of the  $\nu L_\nu$  disc spectrum is  $\sim L_d/2$ . We can then infer  $\dot{M}$  directly, once a value for the efficiency  $\eta$  is assumed (we here assume  $\eta = 0.08$ ).

If the peak of the disc emission is not well sampled, because it lies outside the observable range or because it is ‘contaminated’ by the jet emission or by the host galaxy, we can infer  $L_d$  through the luminosity of the broad emission lines. According to the template of Francis et al. (1991), setting the relative weight of the Ly $\alpha$  luminosity equal to 100, we have that the weight of the luminosity of all broad lines is 556, with the broad hydrogen H $\alpha$ , H $\beta$ , Mg II and C IV contributing 77, 22, 34 and 63, respectively (see also Celotti, Padovani & Ghisellini 1997; Vanden Berk, Richards & Bauer 2001). If more of one line is present, we take the logarithmic average of the BLR luminosity  $L_{\text{BLR}}$  derived by the single lines. We then assume that  $L_{\text{BLR}}$  is a fixed fraction – 10 per cent – of  $L_d$ . This fixes  $\dot{M}$ . For a given  $\dot{M}$  (i.e. for a given  $L_d$ ), the black hole mass regulates



**Figure 4.** Two examples for deriving the black hole mass. In the top panel, the disc emission is well defined, and  $\dot{M}$  can be derived directly, even without the knowledge of the broad line luminosities (that should in any case give consistent results). Changing the black hole mass implies different peak frequencies, but same peak luminosity (grey stripe). The black hole mass is the one best accounting for the optical–UV data. The bottom panel shows that the jet emission can sometimes dominate the optical–UV band, hiding the disc emission (and the observed optical spectrum, taken at a different time). In this case, the disc luminosity is found through the luminosity of the broad emission lines. The black hole mass is found requiring that the jet plus disc luminosity matches the optical–UV data, especially in the low state.

the peak frequency of the disc emission (heavier black holes have larger Schwarzschild radii, and thus colder discs). In other words, the knowledge of  $L_d$  fixes the peak value of the  $\nu L_\nu$  emission of the disc, but a change of the black hole mass corresponds to a horizontal shift in a  $\nu L_\nu$  plot. Therefore, in principle, even one data point is enough to fix the black hole mass, if we are sure that it belongs to the disc emission. This of course is often questionable. In some (16) cases, there is only one optical point to constrain the black hole mass, with no indications of an upturn of the SED, characteristic of the presence of the accretion disc emission. These blazars are marked with an asterisk in the last column of Table A1. These are the values used for the jet model (see below).

The uncertainty on the resulting black hole mass therefore depends on the quality of the data. If the maximum of the disc spectrum is visible, the uncertainties are less than a factor 2, better than the virial method. Fig. 4 illustrates two examples of how we derive the black hole mass through the disc-fitting method. In the first case (top panel), the disc contribution is well defined, and its luminosity can be inferred directly. Sometimes it can disagree with  $L_d$  derived from the broad line luminosity. In this case, we prefer the value directly observed. On the contrary, when the disc emission is diluted by the jet flux (as in the bottom panel of Fig. 4), we set  $L_d = 10 L_{\text{BLR}}$ . We then find  $M$  by fitting the disc plus jet emission to the data. As long as there is some sign of emission disc flux (typically, an upturn at high optical–UV frequencies), the estimate is reliable. Less so when there is no sign of disc emission. A broad limiting range is set by requiring that  $10^{-2} L_{\text{Edd}} \lesssim L_d \lesssim L_{\text{Edd}}$ : the lower limit is given by requiring that the accretion disc is radiatively efficient, and so it can photoionize the BLR, while the upper limit requires the source to



be sub-Eddington. Within the corresponding range of masses, the accretion disc cannot overproduce any existing data, and often this requirement narrows down the black hole mass range.

We admittedly use a rough simplification for the disc model, by using a Shakura & Sunyaev (1973) disc. In reality, it is likely that the black hole is spinning, perhaps rapidly, and this implies a greater overall efficiency, since the last stable orbit moves inwards by increasing the black hole spin. On the other hand, the spectrum produced by a disc surrounding a Kerr hole is different from the one of a Shakura–Sunyaev disc only at the highest frequencies (innermost orbits), where it emits a greater luminosity. Consider a standard Shakura–Sunyaev disc and a disc around a Kerr hole emitting the same  $L_d$ . The spectrum of the disc around the Kerr hole would peak at higher UV frequencies, and therefore it will be dimmer at IR frequencies. To match those with the data, we will be obliged to increase the black hole mass (i.e. to assume a large surface, hence a smaller temperature). We thus conclude that it is possible that the mass derived here is slightly underestimated, but by an amount which is smaller than the overall uncertainties (which are around a factor 2–3).

Bearing in mind this caveat, we could apply the disc-fitting method to 116 FSRQs, while for the remaining 75 FSRQs the data were too poor, or the synchrotron jet component too dominant. Table A1 reports the value of the derived black hole mass. The values in parenthesis could not be evaluated through the disc-fitting method. In most cases, these values have been set equal to the virial masses (within a factor  $\sim 2$ –3, denoted by ‘–’ in the last column). In a minority of cases, they differ from the virial values for the following reasons, as flagged in the last column: (1) a value larger than the virial one has been adopted to avoid super-Eddington or nearly Eddington disc luminosities; (2) a value smaller than the virial one has been adopted to avoid to overproduce the NIR–optical flux; (3) a value larger than the virial one has been adopted to avoid to overproduce the optical–UV flux.

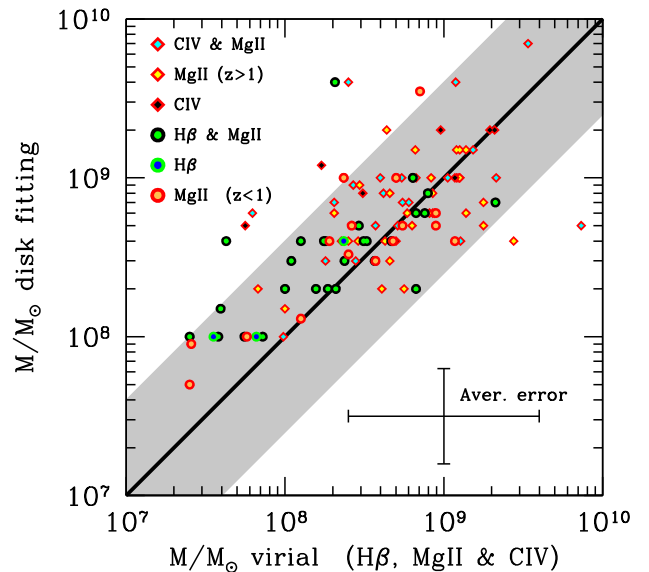
In the following, we will consider, as black hole masses derived through the disc-fitting method, only the 116 values for which we could independently derived the mass with this method. Also, we do not consider the values derived for BL Lacs.

In Fig. 5, we compare the black hole mass derived through the disc-fitting method with the virial masses of the same objects. There is a general agreement, with a large dispersion. The horizontal width of the grey stripe indicates a factor 4 uncertainty for the virial masses. The virial masses are shown with different symbols according to the line used, but there seems to be no systematic trend.

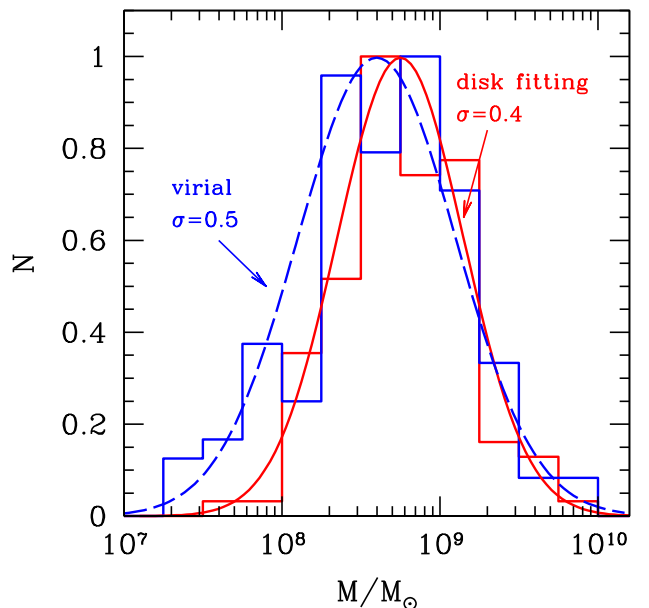
Fig. 6 compares the distributions of the 116 values of the black hole masses derived by the two methods. Fitting the (logarithmic) distributions with a lognormal, we derived  $\sigma = 0.4$  for the blazar masses derived with disc fitting, and  $\sigma = 0.5$  for the virial masses. Also, the average values differ, but slightly (less than  $\sim 0.2$  dex).

### 3.4 Disc luminosity

Fig. 7 shows the distribution of disc luminosities measured in Eddington units for our blazars (normalized at the peak, set equal to one), compared with radio-loud and radio-quiet quasars of S11. The accretion disc luminosity  $L_d$  and the black hole mass  $M$  of all objects, including the  $\gamma$ -ray loud blazars, have been found through the broad line luminosities and the virial method, respectively. The blazar distribution peaks at  $L_d/L_{\text{Edd}} \sim 0.1$ , with a small dispersion. Fitting this distribution with a lognormal function, we derive  $\sigma = 0.3$ , with a tail towards small values made by BL Lac objects. The distributions of the S11 radio-quiet and radio-loud objects peak

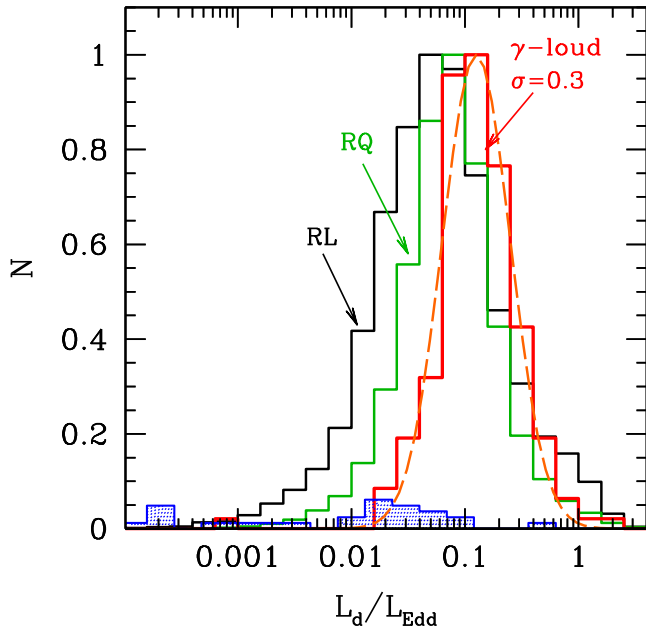


**Figure 5.** Black hole mass estimated through the disc fitting method (in this paper) as a function of the black hole mass estimated with the virial method by S12, for all the FSRQs studied in this paper. Only blazars with independent disc-fitting values are included (i.e. we have excluded all blazars with values of the disc-fitting mass indicated between parentheses in Table A1, and all BL Lacs). Different symbols correspond to the different lines used for the virial mass. The diagonal line is the equality line. The grey stripe indicates a factor 4 uncertainty on the virial mass.



**Figure 6.** Distribution of the black hole masses of  $\gamma$ -ray loud blazars estimated through disc fitting (red hatched) and through the virial method (blue hatched). We have excluded all blazars whose disc-fitting black hole mass is given between parentheses in Table A1, and all BL Lacs. The masses estimated by the two methods, on average, differ only slightly (less than  $\sim 0.2$  dex). Both distributions are fitted with a lognormal function, whose width is indicated.

at a value slightly less than one-tenth Eddington and their dispersions are both broader than the one of blazars. This is likely due to the fact that  $\langle L_d/L_{\text{Edd}} \rangle$  for all distributions is similar, but that radio-loud sources with discs accreting below some value ( $L_d \lesssim 0.1$ – $0.03$



**Figure 7.** Normalized distribution of the disc luminosity on Eddington units for our blazars (red), radio-loud (black line) and radio-quiet (green) AGN in S11. For all sources, the disc luminosity and the black hole mass are estimated through the line luminosity and the mass through the virial method (see Fig. 5 for a comparison of the two estimates for the  $\gamma$ -ray loud blazars). The blue hatched distribution is for the BL Lac objects studied in this paper.

$L_{\text{Edd}}$ ) go undetected in the  $\gamma$ -ray band, even with the sensitivity of *Fermi*/LAT.

Usually, we set  $L_d$  equal to the value derived through the broad emission lines. There are a few cases when this value conflicts with existing data, as made evident by the accretion disc spectrum we construct. In these cases, we have changed  $L_d$ , taking the value derived through disc fitting. Roughly 10 percent of the sources have values of  $L_d$  calculated through the broad lines and through disc fitting that disagree by a factor between 2 and 5. This can be explained, since when we calculate  $L_d$  through the broad lines we use a template that has a factor 2 ( $1\sigma$ ) uncertainty (Calderone et al. 2013). Therefore, statistically,  $\sim 10$  per cent of outliers are expected.

## 4 THE JET MODEL

To interpret the overall SED of our blazars, we use the one-zone leptonic model of Ghisellini & Tavecchio (2009). While we refer the reader to that paper for a full discussion of the features of the model, we here emphasize that the knowledge of the black hole mass and of the luminosity of the accretion disc considerably helps to constrain the free parameters of the model itself. In the following, we summarize the model parameters and the observables that we can use to fix them.

### 4.1 Parameters of the model

- (i)  $R_{\text{diss}}$ : distance of the emitting region from the black hole. Since we assume a conical jet with fixed semi-aperture angle  $\psi = 0.1$ , this fixes the size of the emitting (assumed spherical) region  $R = \psi R_{\text{diss}}$ .
- (ii)  $M$ : black hole mass.
- (iii)  $B$ : magnetic field of the emitting region.

(iv)  $\Gamma$ ,  $\theta_v$ : bulk Lorentz factor and viewing angle. With rare exceptions, we fix  $\theta_v \sim 3^\circ$  (i.e. of the order of  $1/\Gamma$ ). The model assumes that  $\Gamma \sim (R/3R_S)^{1/2}$  up to a final value, and constant thereafter.  $R_S$  is the Schwarzschild radius.

(v)  $P'_e$ : injected power in relativistic electrons as measured in the jet frame. It regulates the jet bolometric luminosity, but not in a linear way, since the observed luminosity depends upon  $\Gamma$ ,  $\theta_v$  and the cooling regime.

(vi)  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{min}}$ ,  $\gamma_b$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{max}}$ : slopes of the injected distribution of electrons (smoothly joining broken power law), and minimum, break and maximum random Lorentz factors of the SED. The injected distribution is assumed to be

$$Q(\gamma) = Q_0 \frac{(\gamma/\gamma_b)^{-s_1}}{1 + (\gamma/\gamma_b)^{-s_1+s_2}} \quad \gamma_{\text{min}} < \gamma < \gamma_{\text{max}}. \quad (1)$$

The normalization  $Q_0$  is set through  $P'_e = (4\pi/3)R^3 \int Q(\gamma)\gamma m_e c^2 d\gamma$ .  $\gamma_{\text{min}}$  is set equal to one, while  $\gamma_{\text{max}}$ , for  $s_2 > 2$ , is unimportant. The slopes  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are associated (by means of the continuity equation) to the observed slopes before and after the two broad peaks of the SED. Note that  $\gamma_b$  not necessarily coincides with  $\gamma_{\text{peak}}$  (the Lorentz factor of the electrons emitting at the peak of the SED), that depends also on the cooling energy  $\gamma_{\text{cool}}$  and the slopes  $s_1$  and  $s_2$ . For FSRQs, we almost always are in the fast cooling regime ( $\gamma_{\text{cool}} < \gamma_b$ ) and so  $\gamma_{\text{peak}} \sim \gamma_b$ . The energy distribution of the density of particles is found through the continuity equation

$$\frac{\partial N(\gamma)}{\partial \gamma} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \gamma} [\dot{\gamma} N(\gamma)] + Q(\gamma) + P(\gamma), \quad (2)$$

where  $P(\gamma)$  corresponds to the electron–positron pair production rate and  $\dot{\gamma}$  is the synchrotron plus inverse Compton cooling rate. The injection rate is assumed constant and homogeneous throughout the source. The particle distribution is calculated at the dynamical time  $R/c$ . This allows us to neglect adiabatic losses, and allows us to use a constant (in time) magnetic field and volume.

(vii)  $L_d$ : bolometric luminosity of the disc. A first estimate is given by the broad emission lines. Whenever possible, we find the final value through disc fitting.

(viii)  $R_{\text{BLR}}$ : size of the BLR. We assume it scales as

$$R_{\text{BLR}} = 10^{17} L_{d,45}^{1/2} \text{ cm}. \quad (3)$$

(ix)  $L_{\text{torus}}$ : luminosity reprocessed (and re-emitted in the infrared) by the molecular torus.  $L_{\text{torus}}/L_d \sim 0.3$ , with a rather narrow distribution (see e.g. Calderone et al. 2012).

(x)  $R_{\text{torus}}$ : size of the torus. It is assumed to scale as

$$R_{\text{torus}} = 2 \times 10^{18} L_{d,45}^{1/2} \text{ cm}. \quad (4)$$

(xi)  $\nu_{\text{ext}}$ : typical frequency of the seed photons for the external Compton (EC) scattering. This is different according if  $R_{\text{diss}}$  is inside the BLR or outside it, but inside the torus distance:

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_{\text{ext}} &= \nu_{L,\gamma\alpha} = 2.46 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}, & \text{BLR} \\ \nu_{\text{ext}} &= 7.7 \times 10^{13} \text{ Hz}, & \text{torus}. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

Both contributions are taken into account.

(xii)  $L_{\text{xc}}$ ,  $\alpha_X$ ,  $h\nu_c$ : luminosity, spectral index and cut-off energy of the spectrum of the accretion disc X-ray corona. We always use  $L_{\text{xc}}(\nu) \propto \nu^{-1} \exp(-h\nu/150 \text{ keV})$ . With rare exception, the total corona luminosity is assumed to be 30 per cent of  $L_d$ .

Of these parameters,  $\psi$ ,  $\theta_v$ ,  $L_{\text{xc}}$ ,  $\alpha_X$ ,  $h\nu_c$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{min}}$  are kept fixed (with rare exceptions). The exact value of  $\gamma_{\text{max}}$  is unimportant (for  $s_2 > 2$ ).  $L_d$  is found through direct fitting or through the broad line

luminosities, and fixes  $R_{\text{BLR}}$ ,  $L_{\text{torus}}$ ,  $R_{\text{torus}}$ ,  $v_{\text{ext}}$ . The black hole mass  $M$  is found through the disc-fitting method (when possible), or from the virial method.

We are left with seven relevant free parameters:  $R_{\text{diss}}$  (or equivalently,  $R$ ),  $B$ ,  $\Gamma$ ,  $P'_e$ ,  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$ ,  $\gamma_b$ . The observables used to constrain these parameters are

- (i)  $L_S$ ,  $L_C$ : the synchrotron and the inverse Compton luminosity.
- (ii)  $\nu_S$ ,  $\nu_C$ : the synchrotron and the inverse Compton frequency peaks.
- (iii)  $\alpha_0$ ,  $\alpha_1$ : the spectral indices pre- and post-peak (they can be different for the synchrotron and IC peak, according to the relative importance of the synchrotron self-Compton (SSC) process and/or the importance of Klein–Nishina effects).
- (iv)  $t_{\text{var}}$ : the minimum variability time-scales.

The radio is never fitted by these compact one-zone models, since at the assumed scales the radio synchrotron emission is self-absorbed. For very powerful FSRQ, the synchrotron absorption peak occurs in the mm band. The radio data can be used as a consistency check when the spectral coverage is poor in the mm–far-IR, by assuming a flat (i.e.  $F_\nu \propto \nu^0$ ) spectrum joining the GHz region of the radio data to the mm band.

## 4.2 Is the interpolating model unique?

Since the model needs several input parameters, we can wonder whether the fitting set of parameters is unique, or else there are multiple solutions. The answer depends on the richness and quality of data. Tavecchio, Maraschi & Ghisellini (1998) discussed the case of the SSC model in one-zone leptonic models, concluding that in this case we have enough observables to determine all the free parameters of the model. In the case of a source for which the scattering with seed photons produced externally to the jet (EC) is important, there are more parameters to deal with. Anyway, for the sources studied in this paper, we know the luminosity of the broad lines. Therefore, we can determine the radius of the BLR and the molecular torus, thus the corresponding radiative energy densities within  $R_{\text{BLR}}$  and  $R_{\text{torus}}$ . If the SED is sufficiently sampled, the variability time-scales limits the source size and the data are of good quality, then we can univocally determine the entire parameter set. In the following, we discuss how the observables are linked to the input parameters of the model.

*Simultaneity of the data* – Blazars are variable, so, in principle, the simultaneity of the data should be a must. But dealing with large samples of sources, it is not possible to have simultaneous data for all sources. We assume that the existing data are a good representation of a typical source state. As mentioned, this is likely not true for any specific source, but it is a reasonable assumption when treating several sources and if the aim is to characterize the source population as a whole, and not the single source.

*Location of the emission region* – In the framework of the model we use, at each location of the emitting region ( $R_{\text{diss}}$ ), the energy densities of radiation and magnetic field are well defined (see figs 2, 9, 13 and 14 in Ghisellini & Tavecchio 2009; see also Sikora et al. 2009). The ratio of the two energy densities varies along the jet, and so does the inverse Compton to synchrotron luminosity ratio (called ‘Compton dominance’). If the data show a well-defined Compton dominance (larger than unity), the possible values of  $R_{\text{diss}}$  are limited, usually, to within  $R_{\text{BLR}}$  or outside it but within  $R_{\text{torus}}$ . The first case corresponds to a more compact region, that can vary more rapidly, so it is preferred when there are indications of fast variabil-

ity. The second case is preferred when  $\nu_C$  is particularly small: even if  $\nu_C$  is rarely observed, it can be estimated by extrapolating the X-ray and the  $\gamma$ -ray spectrum. Consider also that in our scheme the value of  $\Gamma$  fixes a minimum distance  $R_{\text{diss}}$ , because of the dependence  $\Gamma = (R/3R_S)^{1/2}$  (see the discussion in Section 4.3). There are cases in which a small  $\nu_C$  implies a small  $v_{\text{ext}}$ , hence the prevalence of photons from the torus. This is also accompanied by a small  $\nu_S$  (if it is not due to synchrotron self-absorption), due to the smaller magnetic field at larger distances. Marscher et al. (2008, 2010) and Sikora, Moderski & Madejski (2008) proposed that the dissipation region is much farther than what assumed here, at 10–20 pc. As discussed in Ghisellini et al. (2014), this possibility requires a much larger jet power, due to the inefficiency of the radiative process, in turn due to the paucity of seed photons for the inverse Compton scattering.

*Importance of the SSC process* – A very hard soft X-ray spectrum (i.e.  $\alpha_X \lesssim 0.5$ ) indicates a prominent EC process, and that the SSC process is unimportant. The SSC luminosity depends on the square of the particle density and the magnetic energy density, while the EC process depends on the particle density and the external radiation field (in the jet frame). For a distribution of relativistic electrons of density  $n$  and mean square energy  $\langle \gamma^2 \rangle$ , we define the Comptonization  $y$  parameter as

$$y \equiv \frac{4}{3} \sigma_T n \langle \gamma^2 \rangle, \quad (6)$$

where  $\sigma_T$  is the Thomson cross-section. In the comoving frame, we have

$$\frac{L'_{\text{SSC}}}{L'_{\text{EC}}} = \frac{y L_{\text{syn}}}{L_{\text{EC}}} = \frac{y \int N(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}_{\text{syn}} d\gamma}{\int N(\gamma) \dot{\gamma}_{\text{ext}} d\gamma} \sim y \frac{U'_B}{\Gamma^2 U_{\text{ext}}}. \quad (7)$$

Therefore, a small SSC luminosity implies either a small magnetic field or else a small  $y$ , in turn implying a small electron density (i.e. a small injected power enhanced by a large Doppler boost). The opposite of course is required when there are indications that the SSC component contributes to the X-ray emission. A rather clear indication is a relatively soft X-ray spectrum (due to SSC) hardening at high energies (where the EC prevails). This helps to robustly constrain the injected power and the magnetic field, together with the bulk Lorentz factor. This complex spectrum could be produced also by more than one emitting region: the more compact one, perhaps inside the BLR, could be responsible for the hard X-ray spectrum, while a larger region possibly outside the BLR and/or the torus, could produce X-rays mainly through the SSC process. To discriminate, we have to observe if hard and soft X-rays vary together or not, but keeping in mind that some different variability can be introduced by the different cooling time-scales of electrons of different energies, even if they radiate by the same process.

*Peak frequencies* – The synchrotron ( $\nu_S$ ), SSC ( $\nu_{\text{SSC}}$ ) and EC ( $\nu_{\text{EC}}$ ) observed peak frequencies are

$$\begin{aligned} \nu_S &= \frac{4}{3} \gamma_{\text{peak}}^2 \nu_B \frac{\delta}{1+z} \\ \nu_{\text{SSC}} &= \frac{4}{3} \gamma_{\text{peak}}^2 \nu_S \\ \nu_{\text{EC}} &= \frac{4}{3} \gamma_{\text{peak}}^2 \nu_{\text{ext}} \frac{\Gamma \delta}{1+z}, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

where  $\nu_B \equiv eB/(2\pi m_e c) = 2.8$  MHz. In the comoving frame, any monochromatic line is seen as coming from a narrow distribution of angles, all within  $1/\Gamma$ . Photons coming exactly from the forward direction are blueshifted by  $2\Gamma$ , photons coming from an angle



$1/\Gamma$  are blueshifted by  $\Gamma$ . In this narrow range of frequencies, the observed spectrum follows  $F'_\nu \propto (\nu')^2$ , that well approximates a blackbody spectrum (this is what we use, see Tavecchio & Ghisellini 2008). For EC-dominated sources, the ratio  $\nu_S/\nu_{EC}$  gives

$$\frac{B}{\Gamma} = \frac{\nu_S \nu_{ext}}{2.8 \times 10^6 \nu_{EC}}. \quad (9)$$

The peak EC frequency gives (setting  $\Gamma = \delta$ )

$$\Gamma \gamma_{peak} = \left[ \frac{3}{4} \frac{\nu_{EC}}{\nu_{ext}} (1+z) \right]^{1/2}. \quad (10)$$

**Spectral slopes** – The particle distribution resulting from the continuity equation and the assumed  $Q(\gamma)$  injection is a smoothly broken power law, with possible deviations caused by the energy dependence of the Klein–Nishina cross-section (when important) and the production of electron–positron pairs (that are accounted for; see also Dermer et al. 2009 for a detailed treatment of these processes). For our blazars, these effects are marginal. There are in any case several effects that can shape the observed spectrum in addition to the slopes of the particle distribution.

(i) *Synchrotron self-absorption*. The synchrotron spectrum, in high power blazars, self-absorbs in the observed range 100–1000 GHz. Often, the self-absorption frequency  $\nu_a$  can be greater than  $\nu_S$ , making the ‘real’ peak synchrotron frequency unobservable, as well as the ‘real’ peak synchrotron flux. In these cases, the low frequency spectral index cannot be determined by the synchrotron spectrum, nor the ‘real’  $L_S$ .

(ii) *Incomplete cooling*. For illustration, consider  $R_{diss} < R_{BLR}$ . The particle distribution is harder below  $\gamma_{cool}$  (which is a few in many cases), and this implies a hard to soft break at

$$\nu_{break} \sim \gamma_{cool}^2 \frac{\Gamma \delta \nu_{Ly\alpha}}{1+z} \sim 13 \frac{\Gamma \delta \gamma_{cool}^2}{50} \frac{2}{1+z} \text{ keV}. \quad (11)$$

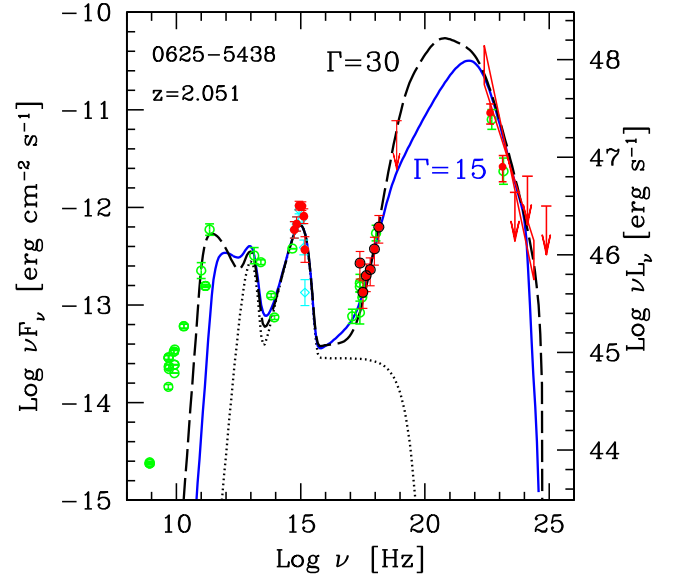
This break can be used to estimate  $\gamma_{cool}$ . This is particularly important if we want to calculate the total number of emitting electrons, when calculating the jet power. The electron distribution, in fact, is  $N(\gamma) \propto \gamma^{-2}$  between  $\gamma_{cool}$  and  $\gamma_b$ , and  $N(\gamma) \propto \gamma^{-5}$  below  $\gamma_{cool}$ . When  $s_1 \leq 1$ , most of the electrons are at  $\gamma_{cool}$ , that we can estimate.

(iii) *External photon starving*. The number of seed photons available for up-scattering, in the rest frame of the source, depends on frequency. Assume again that  $R_{diss} < R_{BLR}$ . The peak of the ‘blackbody’ emission corresponding to the lines observed in the comoving frame is at  $\nu' \sim 2\Gamma \nu_{Ly\alpha} \sim 5 \times 10^{16} (\Gamma/10)$  Hz. Cold electrons (i.e. with  $\gamma \sim 1$ ) scatter these photons leaving their frequency unchanged. These scattered photons are seen Doppler boosted by  $\delta$  by the external observer:

$$\nu_{obs} = \frac{2\delta \Gamma \nu_{Ly\alpha}}{1+z} \sim 2 \frac{(\delta \Gamma/100)}{1+z} \text{ keV}. \quad (12)$$

Below this energy, the seed photons contributing to the X-ray spectrum have smaller frequencies, and are less in number. Therefore, the scattered spectrum cannot use the full distribution of seed photons: as a consequence, the scattered spectrum becomes very hard (i.e. more and more ‘photons starved’ at lower and lower frequencies).

This effect is particularly important when using a single power law as a model for spectral fitting the X-ray data. Inevitably, since the real spectrum is intrinsically curved, this leads to grossly overestimate the column densities  $N_H$ , to account for the curvature as due to absorption (and particularly so for high-redshift sources; see e.g. Tavecchio et al. 2007).



**Figure 8.** The SED of 0625+5438 together with two different fitting models, whose parameters are reported in Table 2. The dotted line indicates the contribution of the accretion disc, the torus and the X-ray corona. Both the  $\Gamma = 15$  (solid line) and the  $\Gamma = 30$  (dashed) models describe the overall SED (except the radio fluxes, produced by a more extended region) satisfactorily well. The main difference between them is the bulk Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$ , the viewing angle  $\theta_v$  and the location of the emitting region  $R_{diss}$ . The zoom in Fig. 9 shows that the  $\Gamma = 30$  model gives a worse representation of the X-ray data, but that it is still acceptable. To discriminate between them, we have to use other information besides the pure SED, such as the minimum variability time-scales and considerations about the number density of the parent population, that must be more numerous for the  $\Gamma = 30$  model.

(iv) *EC+SSC*. As mentioned, the contribution of the SSC process can be relevant in the soft X-ray band. In general, the SSC spectrum is softer than the EC one at these energies. Therefore, the presence of an SSC component has an effect just opposite to what discussed above, making the spectrum softer.

(v) *X-ray corona*. The effect on the total observed spectrum is to soften it at low energies, since the assumed slope is softer than both the EC and the SSC slopes.

The high-energy slope of the particle distribution can be derived from the high-energy tails (i.e. post-peak) both of the synchrotron and the Compton spectrum. In general, being produced by the same electrons, the two slopes must be equal. This is indeed a consistency check that the one-zone model can be applicable. One must bear in mind, however, that in the IR–UV part of the spectrum there can be the contribution of the torus and disc emission.

### 4.3 An illustrative example

Fig. 8 shows the SED of 0625+5438 ( $z = 2.051$ ), together with two different models, whose parameters are listed in Table 2. The  $\Gamma = 15$  model (solid blue line) is our preferred model, using  $\Gamma = 15$  and a dissipation region located inside the BLR.

We then investigate several models, with different values of  $\Gamma$ . First, we consider the case of  $\Gamma = 30$ . This corresponds to one of the largest values of the superluminal speeds of the blazar components studied by Lister et al. (2013). Since  $\beta_{app}$  is maximized for  $\theta_v = 1/\Gamma$ , we adopt this viewing angle, i.e.  $\theta_v = 1^\circ.9$ . This implies  $\delta = \Gamma$ . Since  $\Gamma \propto R^{1/2}$ , we increased  $R_{diss}$  by a factor 4 (with respect to the  $\Gamma = 15$  model). We kept the Poynting flux  $P_B \propto R^2 \Gamma^2 B^2$  constant,

**Table 2.** Parameters used to model the SED of 0625–5438, at  $z = 2.051$ . For both models, we have used a black hole mass  $M = 10^9 M_\odot$  and an accretion luminosity of  $L_d = 3.6 \times 10^{46}$  erg s $^{-1}$  (corresponding to an Eddington ratio of 0.24 and to  $\dot{M}_{\text{in}} = 7.9$  solar masses per year). With this disc luminosity,  $R_{\text{BLR}} = 6 \times 10^{17}$  cm and  $R_{\text{torus}} = 1.5 \times 10^{19}$  cm. For both models, the spectral parameters are unchanged:  $s_1 = 0$ ,  $s_2 = 4$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{max}} = 5 \times 10^3$ ,  $\gamma_b = 240$ . Col. 1: bulk Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$  at  $R_{\text{diss}}$ ; Col. 2: jet semi-aperture angle  $\theta_v$  in degrees; Col. 3: Doppler factor  $\delta$ ; Col. 4: dissipation radius in units of  $R_S$ ; Col. [5]: power injected in the blob calculated in the comoving frame, in units of  $10^{45}$  erg s $^{-1}$ ; Col. [6]: magnetic field in Gauss; Col. [7]: random Lorentz factors of the electrons emitting at the peak of the SED; Col. [8]: random Lorentz factors of the electrons cooling in one dynamical time  $R/c$ ; Col. [9]: total (magnetic plus radiative) energy density in the comoving frame in erg cm $^{-3}$ ; Col. [10]: mass outflowing rate, in solar masses per year; Col. [11]–[14]: logarithm of the jet power in the form of produced radiation ( $P_r$ ), emitting electrons ( $P_e$ ), magnetic field ( $P_B$ ) and cold protons ( $P_p$ ), assuming one proton per emitting electron; Col. [15] the minimum observable variability time-scale, defined as  $t_{\text{var}}^{\text{obs}} \equiv (R/c)(1+z)/\delta$ , in hours.

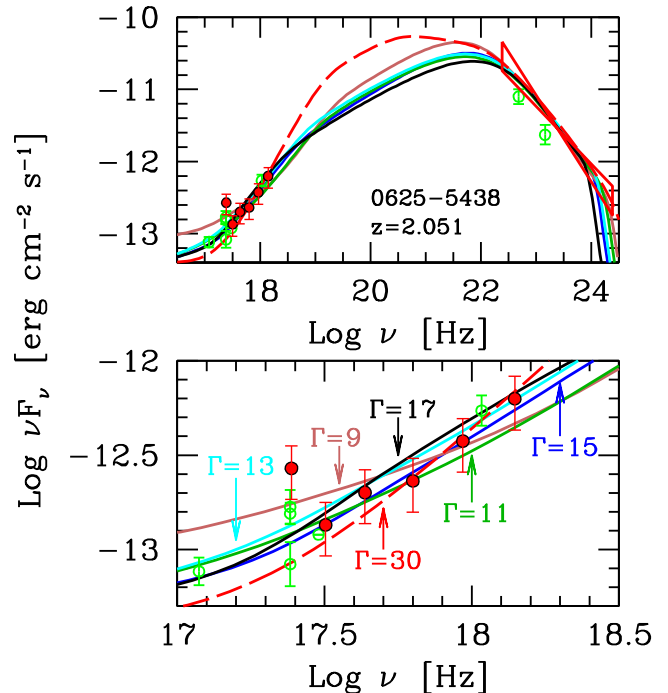
$\Gamma$	$\theta_v$	$\delta$	$R_{\text{diss}}$	$P'_{e,45}$	$B$	$\gamma_{\text{peak}}$	$\gamma_{\text{cool}}$	$U'$	$\dot{M}_{\text{out}}$	$\log P_r$	$\log P_e$	$\log P_B$	$\log P_p$	$t_{\text{var}}^{\text{obs}}$
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15]
9	3	14.7	900	0.060	1.60	144	11	2.5	0.15	46.1	44.9	44.8	46.9	52
11	3	16.5	900	0.030	1.60	156	7.4	3.6	0.11	46.0	44.7	44.9	46.9	46
13	3	17.8	900	0.029	1.60	151	5.4	5.0	0.13	46.2	44.7	45.1	47.0	43
15	3	18.6	900	0.028	1.75	144	4	6.6	0.12	46.3	44.7	45.3	47.0	41
17	3	19.0	900	0.032	1.81	161	3.2	8.5	0.17	46.0	44.8	45.4	47.2	40
30	1.9	30	3600	0.015	0.19	171	40	0.2	0.08	46.5	45.6	45.2	47.2	102

and consequently decrease the magnetic field (by a factor 8). A good fit is obtained decreasing the injected power by a factor 3, to compensate for the increased Doppler boost. Note that we do not change the spectral parameters ( $\gamma_b$ ,  $\gamma_{\text{max}}$ ,  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are kept constant). The larger  $R_{\text{diss}}$  of the  $\Gamma = 30$  model implies that the seed external photons are produced by the torus. The external energy density in the comoving frame is reduced with respect to the  $\Gamma = 15$  model, and this makes  $\gamma_{\text{cool}}$  larger. Furthermore, the Compton peak frequency  $\nu_C$  is now smaller even if it is more blueshifted, because  $\nu_{\text{ext}}$  is smaller. Overall, this model fits the SED as well as the  $\Gamma = 15$  model. The observed data therefore are not enough to discriminate between them. Consider also that the jet powers are similar. Therefore, we cannot choose one of the two models on the basis of the total power budget.

On the other hand, the two models differ for the following properties.

- (i) As shown on Fig. 9, the X-ray spectrum of the  $\Gamma = 30$  model is slightly harder than indicated by the data.
- (ii) The variability time-scale for the  $\Gamma = 30$  model is 2.5 times larger than for the  $\Gamma = 15$  model.
- (iii) The number of blazars with large values of  $\Gamma$  should be rare, according to the distribution of superluminal speeds (see below and Fig. 10).
- (iv) Having large values of  $\Gamma$  and very small values of  $\theta_v$  implies a large number of parent sources (sources pointing away from us).

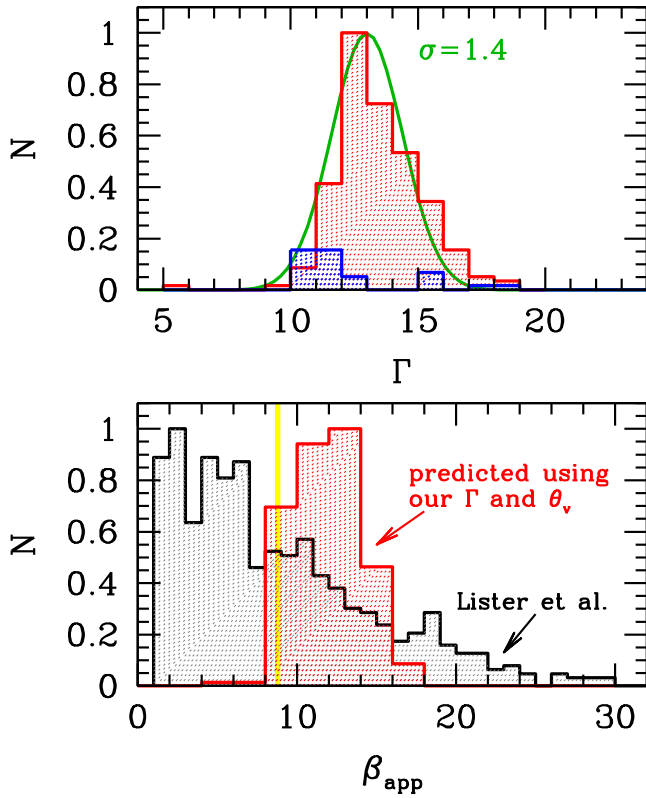
These arguments are strong indications, but admittedly not solid proofs. The knowledge gained so far on the variability time-scales is based on the few sources that are bright enough to allow a meaningful monitoring of their flux variations. Indications are that, indeed, time-scales are short, of the order of hours (see Ulrich, Maraschi & Urry 1997, for a review, and e.g. Bonnoli et al. 2011 for 3C 454.3 as a well-studied specific source, and Nalewajko 2013 for a systematic study, indicating a typical variability time-scale in the *Fermi*/LAT band of  $\approx 1$  d). Studies of the luminosity functions of blazars and their parent populations allow for a distributions of  $\Gamma$ -factors consistent with the distribution of superluminal speeds, but extreme values must be rare (e.g. Padovani & Urry 1992; see also Ajello et al. 2012 finding an average  $\langle \Gamma \rangle \approx 11$ ). We conclude that although our sources, lacking variability time-scale information, can be fitted



**Figure 9.** Zoom on the X-ray and  $\gamma$ -ray band (top panel) and on only the X-ray data and models (bottom panel). The different fitting models, whose parameters are reported in Table 2, correspond to different values of  $\Gamma$ , as labelled. Values above  $\Gamma = 17$  requires that the dissipation region is beyond the BLR. We can see that models with  $\Gamma$  between 11 and 17 are acceptable, but the models with  $\Gamma = 9$  and 30 give a poor representation of the X-ray data.

with a large value of  $\Gamma$  and a relatively large  $R_{\text{diss}}$ , this cannot be the rule, but can be the case in a limited number of sources, not affecting the average values of the distributions of the parameters.

We now consider the predicted SED when changing  $\Gamma$  from  $\Gamma = 9$  to 17. The corresponding SEDs are shown in Fig 9. The used parameters are listed in Table 2. All these models share the same jet dissipation location  $R_{\text{diss}}$  and viewing angle  $\theta_v$ , but the other parameters have been adjusted to obtain the best representation of

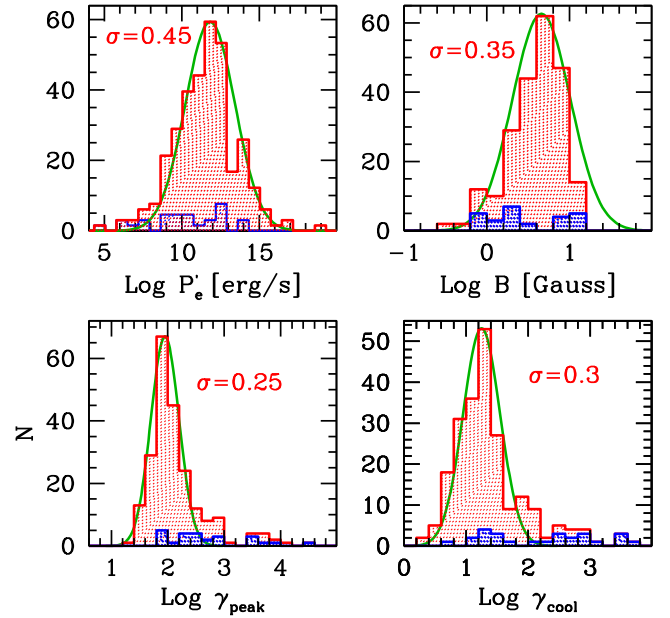


**Figure 10.** Top panel: distribution of the bulk Lorentz factors for the blazar in our sample. The average value is  $\langle \Gamma \rangle \sim 13$ , and the width is  $\sigma = 1.4$ , if fitted with a Gaussian. Consider that the detection in the  $\gamma$ -ray band favours larger beaming Doppler factors  $\delta$  (hence larger  $\Gamma$  and smaller  $\theta_v$ ; see e.g. Savolainen et al. 2010). Blue hatched areas correspond to BL Lacs. Bottom panel: distribution of the apparent superluminal speed  $\beta_{\text{app}}$  of the sample of blazars of Lister et al. (2013), excluding the values  $\beta_{\text{app}} < 1$  (grey hatched histogram). The vertical yellow line indicates the value of  $\langle \beta_{\text{app}} \rangle = 8.79$ , calculated excluding all values of  $\beta_{\text{app}} < 1$ . The  $\beta_{\text{app}}$  distribution of Lister et al. (2013) can be compared with the solid (red) line, corresponding to the  $\beta_{\text{app}}$  distribution obtained by our values of  $\Gamma$  and  $\theta_v$ .

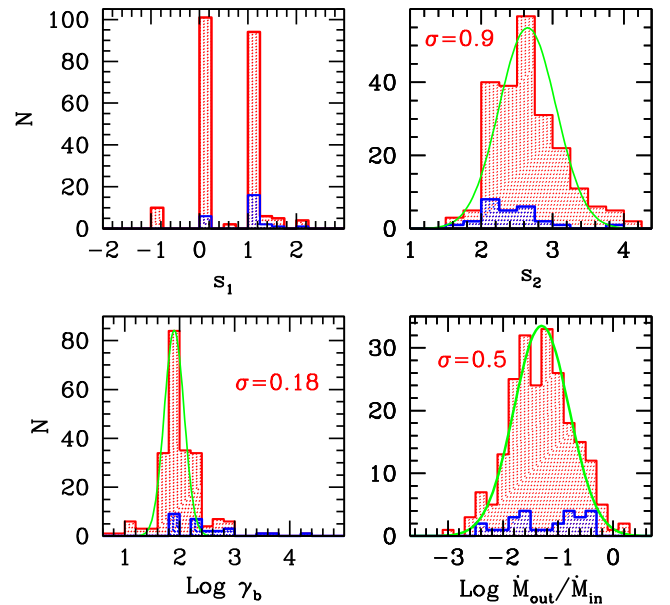
the data. The top panel of Fig. 9 shows the X-ray to  $\gamma$ -ray SED, while the bottom panel focuses on the X-ray band only. Models with  $\Gamma$  between 11 and 17 are all acceptable. The models with  $\Gamma = 9$  and 30 do not represent well the slope of the X-ray data. No model is able to reproduce the upturn given by the first (low energy) X-ray spectrum. Although all models with  $11 \leq \Gamma \leq 17$  are acceptable, the one with  $\Gamma = 15$  seems to give the best representation of the X-ray data. This is what led us to choose the  $\Gamma = 15$  model as the best one. We are aware that the non-simultaneity of the data can lead to a slightly wrong choice of the parameters. Accounting for this would lead to a larger degree of uncertainty. On the other hand, the large number of analysed sources should give an unbiased distribution of parameter values. In other words, the adopted parameters of each specific source could be slightly wrong, but the distribution of the parameters for all sources should be much more reliable.

## 5 PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

The list of parameters resulting from the application of the model to all sources is given in Table A3 and the distributions of several of them are shown in Figs 11–13. All the SEDs of FSRQs, together with the models, are shown in Fig. S16. The SEDs of the 26 BL



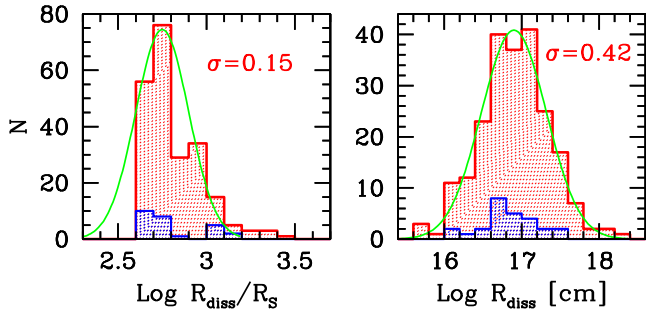
**Figure 11.** Distribution of the total power injected in relativistic electrons, as measured in the comoving frame  $P'_e$  (top left); of the magnetic field (top right); of the random Lorentz factor  $\gamma_{\text{peak}}$  of the electrons emitting at the peaks of the SEDs (bottom left) and of the values of the random Lorentz factor of electrons cooling in one dynamical time  $R/c$ . Blue hatched areas correspond to BL Lacs.



**Figure 12.** Distribution of the injection spectral index at low ( $s_1$ , top left) and at high energies ( $s_2$ , top right), break Lorentz factor  $\gamma_b$  (bottom left) and of the ratio between the outflowing and inflowing mass rate (bottom right).

Lacs studied here have been already shown in Sbarrato, Padovani & Ghisellini (2014), with the purpose of discussing their classification.

**Bulk Lorentz factors** – The top panel of Fig. 10 shows the distribution of the bulk Lorentz factor peaks at  $\Gamma \sim 13$  and is rather narrow. A Gaussian fit returns a dispersion of  $\sigma = 1.4$ . The studied BL Lac objects do not show any difference with FSRQs, but they are too few to draw any conclusion. The bottom panel reports the distribution (black line and grey hatched histogram) of the



**Figure 13.** Distribution of the location of the emitting region (i.e. its distance from the black hole) in units of the Schwarzschild radius (top left) and in cm (top right).

value of the superluminal speeds given by Lister et al. (2013, these values refer to individual components, but excluding subluminal values). The vertical yellow line indicates the average ( $\beta_{\text{app}} = 8.8$  of the Lister et al. (2013) values). Of the 645 components with  $\beta_{\text{app}} > 1$ , only 38 (5.9 per cent) have  $\beta_{\text{app}} > 20$ , 11 (1.7 per cent) have  $\beta_{\text{app}} > 25$ , and 1 (0.3 per cent) have  $\beta_{\text{app}} > 30$ . Fig. 10 shows also (red line) the distribution of  $\beta_{\text{app}}$  corresponding to the values of  $\Gamma$  and  $\theta_v$  adopted to fit the blazars in our sample. While most of the superluminal components have small values of  $\beta_{\text{app}}$ , the distribution  $\Gamma$  found for the blazars in our sample lacks a low- and high- $\Gamma$  tail. This can be readily explained by a selection effect: the sources that are not substantially beamed towards the Earth (either because they are misaligned or have a small  $\Gamma$ ) cannot be detected by *Fermi*/LAT (see e.g. Savolainen et al. 2010), while the number of sources with very large  $\Gamma$  is limited. Furthermore, consider that our study concerns blazars whose *one-year-averaged*  $\gamma$ -ray flux was detectable by *Fermi*/LAT, and that, by construction, S12 and S13 excluded the most known blazars (hence, the brightest and more active, presumably the ones that sometimes have extreme  $\Gamma$  values) from their samples.

The distribution of  $\Gamma$  and  $\beta_{\text{app}}$  for the blazars in our sample can be compared with the distributions found by Savolainen et al. (2010).

They first measured the observed brightness temperature using the shortest radio variability time-scale (see also Hovatta et al. 2009) and compared it with the theoretically expected brightness temperature assuming equipartition (namely an intrinsic brightness temperature  $T_B = 5 \times 10^{10}$  K; Readhead 1994). This gives the Doppler factor  $\delta$ . Together with the knowledge of the superluminal speed  $\beta_{\text{app}}$  (Lister et al. 2009), of the fastest component in the jet, they could derive both  $\Gamma$  and  $\theta_v$ . Given that (i) the sample of Savolainen et al. (2010) was composed of the brightest *Fermi*/LAT blazars (while ours is composed of blazars having a *one-year-averaged*  $\gamma$ -ray flux detectable by *Fermi*/LAT); (ii) that the shortest variability event coupled with the fastest knot in the jet is bound to give the largest  $\Gamma$ ; (iii) that it is very likely that the jet has components moving with different  $\Gamma$ , we can conclude that the range of  $\Gamma$ -values derived by us and by Savolainen et al. (2010) are consistent.

We again stress that the narrowness of the distribution of  $\Gamma$ -values is partly due to a selection effect: to be detected by *Fermi*/LAT, the bulk Lorentz factor  $\Gamma$  should be relatively large, although very large values are not present (i) because they are rare; (ii) because in our sample we study *one-year-averaged*  $\gamma$ -ray fluxes, and (iii) because sources like 3C 454.3 (the brightest and more active in the *Fermi*/LAT band) are excluded by S12 and S13.

**Magnetic field** – The (logarithmic) distribution is centred on  $\langle B \rangle = 4.6$  Gauss (Fig. 11). If fitted with a lognormal, the dispersion

is  $\sigma = 0.35$  dex. There is no difference between FSRQs and BL Lacs.

**Spectral parameters** – The distributions of the low-energy spectral slope  $s_1$ , shown in Fig. 12 is almost bimodal, with most of the sources with  $s_1 = 0$  or 1. As long as  $s_1 \leq 1$ , the exact values is not very important for the spectral fitting, since in these cases the electron distribution is always  $\propto \gamma^{-2}$  down to  $\gamma_{\text{cool}}$ . On the other hand, the slope impacts on the total amount of emitting particles that are present in the source, and therefore on the total amount of protons, that regulate the kinetic power of the jet.

The distribution of  $s_2$  peaks at  $s_2 = 2.65$  and its dispersion (if fitted with a Gaussian) is  $\sigma = 0.9$ . BL Lacs tend to have smaller  $s_2$ . The mean value is rather steep, and the distribution rather broad, in agreement with recent numerical simulations of shock acceleration (Sironi & Spitkovsky 2011). The break energy logarithmic distribution peaks at  $\gamma_b \sim 80$ , with a width  $\sigma \sim 0.18$ . BL Lacs tend to have larger  $\gamma_b$ . The logarithmic distribution of power injected in the form of relativistic electrons (in the comoving frame) peaks at  $P'_e \sim 5 \times 10^{42}$  erg s $^{-1}$ , with a width  $\sigma = 0.45$  dex. BL Lacs tend to have lower  $P'_e$ , but they are too few to firmly assess it. Note that the values of  $P'_e$  refer to one blob. On average, since there are *two* jets, we should require twice as much.

**Mass outflowing rate** – The bottom-right panel of Fig. 12 shows the ratio  $\dot{M}_{\text{out}}/\dot{M}_{\text{in}}$  between the outflowing mass rate and the accretion rate. In this case, we calculate  $\dot{M}_{\text{out}}$  assuming that an equal amount of matter is flowing out in each of the two jet, and we consider the total value. The distribution peaks around a value of 6 per cent, and is rather narrow, with a dispersion of 0.5 dex. This suggests that the matter content of the jet is related to the disc, not to entrainment, that presumably would be dependent on the properties of the ambient medium, that can be different in systems of equal disc and jet power. This should be related to the fact that also the distribution of  $\Gamma$  is very narrow. We can easily understand the average value through (see Ghisellini & Celotti 2002)

$$\frac{\dot{M}_{\text{out}}}{\dot{M}_{\text{in}}} = \frac{P_{\text{jet}}}{L_d} \frac{\eta}{\Gamma} = 10^{-2} \frac{P_{\text{jet}}}{L_d} \frac{\eta}{0.1} \frac{10}{\Gamma}. \quad (13)$$

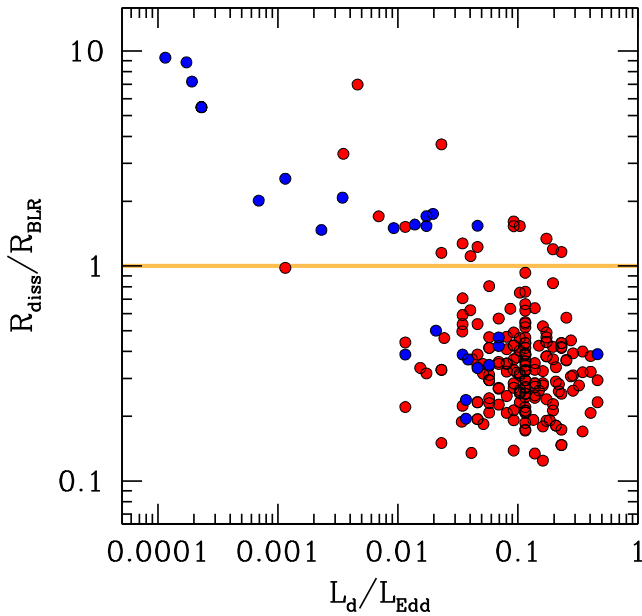
Since  $\langle \Gamma \rangle \sim 13$ , the above equation, together with the average value of  $\dot{M}_{\text{out}}/\dot{M}_{\text{in}} = 0.06$  indicates that, on average,  $P_{\text{jet}} \sim 10L_d$ , as found in Ghisellini et al. (2014).

**Location of the emitting region** – The location of the emitting region (Fig. 13) has a rather sharp cut-off at  $R_{\text{diss}} = 400R_s$ , and a tail extending up to  $3000R_s$ . The low end cut-off is partly due to the requirement of having a sufficiently large  $\Gamma$ : since  $\Gamma \propto R_{\text{diss}}^{1/2}$ ,  $R_{\text{diss}}$  must be sufficiently large.

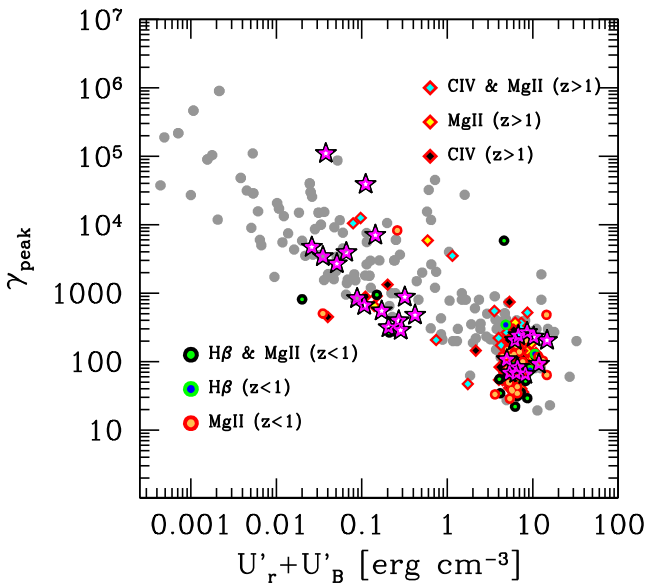
In absolute units (right-hand panel), the logarithmic distribution is more lognormal-like, and peaks at  $R_{\text{diss}} \sim 10^{17}$  cm. Fig. 14 shows  $R_{\text{diss}}$  in units of the BLR radius as a function of the disc luminosity in Eddington units. Above the horizontal line, the emitting region is beyond the BLR region, so that there is an important lack of seed photons, causing a less severe cooling. This region is populated mainly by BL Lacs and a few FSRQs.

**Blazar type and cooling** – Fig. 15 shows  $\gamma_{\text{peak}}$  as a function of the energy density (radiative plus magnetic) as seen in the comoving frame. The grey symbols corresponds to previous works, that studied many more BL Lacs, and are shown for comparison. We confirm the same trend found before:  $\gamma_{\text{peak}}$  is a function of the cooling rate suffered by the injected electrons. This explains the so-called blazar sequence (Fossati et al. 1998; Ghisellini et al. 1998; Donato et al. 2001): electrons in low-power objects can attain high energies and





**Figure 14.** The ratio  $R_{\text{diss}}/R_{\text{BLR}}$  of the location of the emitting region and the radius of the BLR as a function of the disc luminosity measured in Eddington units. Red symbols are for FSRQs, blue circles for BL Lacs.



**Figure 15.** The energy  $\gamma_{\text{peak}}$  of the electrons emitting at the peaks of the SED as a function of the energy density (magnetic plus radiative) as seen in the comoving frame. Grey symbols refer to blazars studied previously (Celotti & Ghisellini 2008; Ghisellini et al. 2010).

give rise to an SED with two peaks in the UV–soft X-rays (synchrotron) and GeV–TeV (SSC), while high-power sources peak in the submm and MeV bands. The clustering of the points in Fig. 15 is due to the fact that the vast majority of the sources analysed here belongs to the same type (relatively high-power FSRQs).

## 6 DISCUSSION

We have studied a large sample of  $\gamma$ -ray loud quasars observed spectroscopically, hence with measured broad emission lines and optical continuum. To the sample of FSRQs of S12, we added a

small number of BL Lacs presented in S13, having broad emission lines, but of small EW. These few ‘BL Lacs’ (26 out of 475) should not be considered as classical lineless BL Lac objects, but transition objects, characterized by small accretion rates just above the threshold for radiatively efficient disc, or even as true FSRQs with strong lines, high accretion rates, but particularly enhanced synchrotron flux. In other words, we alert the reader that we cannot make a robust distinction between the FSRQs and the BL Lacs studied here. The BL Lacs in our sample should be considered as the low-luminosity tail of FSRQs. For a discussion on the classification issue of blazars, we remand the reader to Sbarrato et al. (2014) and reference therein.

We stress the specific characteristics of the studied sample, highlighting the obtained results.

(i) Due to the rather uniform sky coverage of *Fermi*/LAT, it is a flux-limited complete sample. Comparing  $\gamma$ -ray-detected and radio-loud sources, we know that only a minority of flat spectrum radio-loud sources have been detected in the  $\gamma$ -ray band (Ghirlanda et al. 2011). This is due to the still limited sensitivity of *Fermi*/LAT if compared with radio telescopes: only the most luminous sources have a chance to be detected in  $\gamma$ -rays. On the other hand, the 20-fold improvement with respect to *CGRO*/EGRET allows us to do population studies.

(ii) It is the largest sample so far of  $\gamma$ -ray-detected blazars observed spectroscopically in a uniform and complete way in the sky area accessible to the telescopes used by S12 and S13. This allows us to compare the emitting line properties of blazars with radio-quiet and other radio-loud sources. The  $H\beta$  and  $Mg\text{II}$  line luminosities of the blazars in our sample have similar distributions and average values of the ones of the radio-quiet and radio-loud sample selected from the S11 SDSS quasar sample. The  $C\text{IV}$  line luminosities of the blazar on our sample are slightly smaller (Fig. 2), reflecting the different redshift distributions (Fig. 1).

(iii) It is the largest blazar sample for which we can have *two independent* estimates of the black hole mass: one through the virial method, and the second through disc fitting. The two estimates agree within the uncertainties, and this gives confidence that both methods are reliable (Figs 5 and 6). However, the uncertainties remain large. They are of different nature, though. The virial methods have uncertainties that are independent of the quality of the data, being related to the dispersion of the correlations required to estimate the mass. The disc-fitting method, instead, does depend on the quality of the data, and if the peak of the disc emission is observed, errors becomes small, of the order of a factor 1.5–2. On the other hand, the assumption of a disc perfectly described by a standard, Shakura & Sunyaev (1973) disc may be questionable (see Calderone et al. 2013 for discussion), especially concerning the effect of a Kerr hole on the disc properties. To improve, we should directly observe the peak of the disc emission in many sources. This implies either to have nearby sources with large black hole masses observed in UV and accreting in a radiatively efficient mode, or high- $z$  and high-mass sources observed in the optical. But above  $z = 2$ , absorption by intervening matter can be important, limiting the redshift range. We think that these constraints have so far limited our knowledge of the disc emission in quasars. Potentially, the disc-fitting method can result on a good technique to estimate the black hole spin, especially if one has a good independent estimate of the black hole mass.

(iv) It is the largest blazar sample for which a theoretical model has been applied to derive the physical properties of jets. With respect to earlier studies (e.g. Ghisellini et al. 2010), we also benefit from a better knowledge of the high-frequency radio, mm and far-IR

continuum, given by the *WMAP*, *Planck* and *WISE* satellites. The new data better show the peak of the synchrotron component, that is slightly more luminous than previously thought (in e.g. Ghisellini et al. 2010). Average parameters, and their distributions, are similar to what found previously, for the blazars detected (at more than  $10\sigma$  in the first three months of *Fermi*; Ghisellini et al. 2010).

The characteristics of the samples here studied make them ideal to study the relation between the disc and the jet, since the knowledge of the broad emission line luminosities and velocity widths tell us about the disc luminosity and the black hole mass, while the knowledge of the non-thermal continuum (peaking on the  $\gamma$ -ray band) tell us about the jet properties, including its power. The issue of the connection between the jet power and the accretion rate of the same objects studied here has been discussed in Ghisellini et al. (2014).

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## APPENDIX A

This appendix contains the list of the objects in our sample (FSRQs in Table A1 and BL Lacs in Table A2) and the list of the parameters used for the fitting models (FSRQs in Table A3 and BL Lacs in Table A4). The latter two tables are reported entirely only online, as well as the SEDs (with models) for all FSRQ (Fig. S16). The SEDs (and models) for BL Lacs are reported in Sbarrato et al. (2014).

**Table A1.** The FSRQs in our sample. The name is the same of S12, the alias helps to find the object in NED. The third column is the redshift, the next three columns report the black hole masses calculated through the virial method by S12 using the  $H\beta$ ,  $Mg\ II$  and the  $C\ IV$  line. The penultimate column reports the black hole mass estimated in this paper through the disc-fitting method. Values in parenthesis could not be evaluated through the disc-fitting method. In most cases, these values are equal to the virial masses (within a factor 2, denoted by ‘-’ in the last column). In a minority of cases, they differ from the virial values for the following reasons, as flagged in the last column: (1) a value larger than the virial one has been adopted to avoid super-Eddington or nearly Eddington disc luminosities; (2) a value smaller than the virial one has been adopted to avoid to overproduce the NIR–optical flux; (3) a value larger than the virial one has been adopted to avoid to overproduce the optical–UV flux. When the disc-fitting method could use only one point to find a value for the black hole mass, the last column reports an asterisk. This is the value used for the jet model.

Name	Alias	$z$	$\log M_{H\beta}$	$\log M_{Mg\ II}$	$\log M_{C\ IV}$	$\log M_{fit}$	Note
0004 – 4736	CRATES J0004–4736	0.880	...	7.85	...	(8)	–
0011 + 0057	PMN J0011+0057	1.493	...	8.80	8.09	8.5	–
0015 + 1700	CRATES J0015+1700	1.709	...	9.36	9.15	(9.18)	–
0017 – 0512	CRATES J0017–0512	0.226	7.55	...	...	8	–
0023 + 4456	TXS 0020+446	2.023	...	...	7.78	8.3	*
0024 + 0349	GB6 J0024+0349	0.545	...	7.76	...	8	*
0042 + 2320	CRATES J0042+2320	1.426	...	9.01	...	8.6	*
0043 + 3426	GB6 J0043+3426	0.966	...	8.01	...	(8.18)	–
0044 – 8422	CRATES J0044–8422	1.032	...	8.68	...	(8.5)	–
0048 + 2235	CLASS J0048+2235	1.161	...	8.43	8.25	(8.5)	–
0050 – 0452	CRATES J0050–0452	0.922	...	8.20	...	(8.3)	–
0058 + 3311	CRATES J0058+3311	1.369	...	8.01	7.97	(8)	–
0102 + 4214	GB6 J0102+4214	0.874	7.92	8.49	...	(8.6)	–
0102 + 5824	TXS 0059+581	0.644	...	8.57	...	8.5	–
0104 – 2416	PKS 0102–245	1.747	...	8.85	8.97	8.8	*
0157 – 4614	PMN J0157–4614	2.287	...	7.98	8.52	8.6	–
0203 + 3041	TXS 0200+304	0.955	...	8.02	...	(8)	–
0217 – 0820	PMN J0217–0820	0.607	...	6.53	...	(7.5)	1
0226 + 0937	TXS 0223+093	2.605	...	...	9.65	9	–
0237 + 2848	CRATES J0237+2848	1.206	...	9.22	...	(8.6)	2
0245 + 2405	B2 0242+23	2.243	...	9.02	9.18	9	*
0246 – 4651	PKS 0244–470	1.385	...	8.48	8.32	9.6	–
0252 – 2219	CRATES J0252–2219	1.419	...	9.40	...	8.85	–
0253 + 5102	TXS 0250+508	1.732	...	9.11	8.37	8.85	*
0257 – 1212	CRATES J0257–1212	1.391	...	9.22	...	9	–
0303 – 6211	CRATES J0303–6211	1.348	...	9.76	...	9.3	–
0309 – 6058	CRATES J0309–6058	1.479	...	8.87	...	(8.7)	–
0315 – 1031	PKS 0313–107	1.565	...	7.17	8.33	(8.6)	–
0325 – 5629	CRATES J0325–5629	0.862	...	8.68	...	8.6	–
0325 + 2224	TXS 0322+222	2.066	...	9.50	9.16	9	–
0407 + 0742	CRATES J0407+0742	1.133	...	8.65	...	(8.6)	–
0413 – 5332	CRATES J0413–5332	1.024	...	7.83	...	8.3	–
0422 – 0643	CRATES J0422–0643	0.242	7.47	...	...	(7.85)	–
0430 – 2507	CRATES J0430–2507	0.516	...	6.51	...	(7.5)	1
0433 + 3237	CRATES J0433+3237	2.011	...	9.17	9.20	8.9	–
0438 – 1251	CRATES J0438–1251	1.285	...	8.66	...	8.5	*
0442 – 0017	CRATES J0438–1251	0.845	7.74	8.46	...	8.6	–
0448 + 1127	CRATES J0448+1127	1.370	...	9.44	...	8.6	–
0449 + 1121	CRATES J0449+1121	2.153	...	...	7.89	(8.8)	1
0456 – 3136	CRATES J0456–3136	0.865	7.78	8.61	...	8.3	*
0507 – 6104	CRATES J0507–6104	1.089	...	8.74	...	(8.7)	–
0509 + 1011	CRATES J0509+1011	0.621	8.03	8.52	...	(8)	2
0516 – 6207	PKS 0516–621	1.30	...	7.93	8.52	(8.3)	–
0526 – 4830	PKS 0524–485	1.30	...	9.15	8.46	(8.3)	2
0532 + 0732	CRATES J0532+0732	1.254	...	8.43	...	(8.6)	–
0533 – 8324	CRATES J0533–8324	0.784	...	7.40	...	7.7	–
0533 + 4822	TXS 0529+483	1.160	...	9.25	...	8.85	–
0541 – 0541	PKS 0539–057	0.838	...	8.74	...	8.7	*
0601 – 7036	CRATES J0601–7036	2.409	...	...	7.36	(8.7)	1
0607 – 0834	PKS 0605–08	0.870	8.63	9.02	...	8.8	–
0608 – 1520	CRATES J0608–1520	1.094	...	8.09	...	(8.3)	–
0609 – 0615	PMN J0609–0615	2.219	...	...	8.89	9	–

**Table A1.** – *continued*

Name	Alias	$z$	$\log M_{\text{H}\beta}$	$\log M_{\text{Mg II}}$	$\log M_{\text{C IV}}$	$\log M_{\text{fit}}$	Note
0625 – 5438	CRATES J0625–5438	2.051	...	8.40	9.07	9	
0645 + 6024	BZU J0645+6024	0.832	9.09	9.56	...	8.85	
0654 + 4514	CRATES J0654+4514	0.928	...	8.17	...	(8.3)	–
0654 + 5042	CRATES J0654+5042	1.253	...	7.86	8.79	(8.5)	–
0713 + 1935	CLASS J0713+1935	0.540	7.33	7.91	...	(8)	–
0721 + 0406	PMN J0721+0406	0.665	8.49	9.12	...	9	
0723 + 2859	GB6 J0723+2859	0.966	...	8.40	...	8.52	
0725 + 1425	PKS 0722+145	1.038	...	8.31	...	8.8	
0746 + 2549	CRATES J0746+2549	2.979	...	...	9.23	9	
0805 + 6144	CRATES J0805+6144	3.033	...	...	9.07	9	
0825 + 5555	TXS 0820+560	1.418	...	9.10	...	9	
0830 + 2410	TXS 0827+243	0.942	...	8.70	...	9	
0840 + 1312	PKS 0838+13	0.680	8.37	8.62	...	8.6	
0847 – 2337	CRATES J0847–2337	0.059	8.30	...	...	(8)	–
0856 + 2111	CRATES J0856+2111	2.098	...	9.96	9.77	8.7	
0909 + 0121	CRATES J0909+0121	1.026	...	9.14	...	9.18	
0910 + 2248	CRATES J0910+2248	2.661	...	...	8.70	8.6	
0912 + 4126	TXS 0908+416	2.563	...	...	9.32	9.3	
0920 + 4441	CRATES J0920+4441	2.189	...	...	9.29	9.3	
0921 + 6215	CRATES J0921+6215	1.453	...	8.93	...	8.9	
0923 + 2815	CRATES J0923+2815	0.744	8.61	9.04	...	8.3	
0923 + 4125	B3 0920+416	1.732	...	7.68	8.16	(8)	–
0926 + 1451	CLASS J0926+1451	0.632	...	7.11	...	(7.6)	–
0937 + 5008	CRATES J0937+5008	0.276	7.50	...	...	(7.6)	–
0941 + 2778	CRATES J0941+2728	1.305	...	8.63	...	8.6	
0946 + 1017	CRATES J0946+1017	1.006	...	8.47	...	8.95	
0948 + 0022	PMN J0948+0022	0.585	7.46	7.73	...	8.18	
0949 + 1752	CRATES J0949+1752	0.693	...	8.10	...	8.1	
0956 + 2515	CRATES J0956+2515	0.708	8.30	8.63	...	8.7	
0957 + 5522	CRATES J0957+5522	0.899	...	8.45	...	(9)	–
1001 + 2911	CRATES J1001+2911	0.558	7.31	7.64	...	(8)	–
1012 + 2439	CRATES J1012+2439	1.800	...	7.73	7.86	8.8	
1016 + 0513	CRATES J1016+0513	1.714	...	8.34	7.64	(8.8)	3
1018 + 3542	CRATES J1018+3542	1.228	...	9.10	...	9.18	
1022 + 3931	B3 1019+397	0.604	...	8.95	...	8.7	*
1032 + 6051	CRATES J1032+6051	1.064	...	8.75	...	8.3	
1033 + 4116	CRATES J1033+6051	1.117	...	8.61	...	8.3	
1033 + 6051	CRATES J1033+6051	1.401	...	9.09	...	(8.3)	2
1037 – 2823	CRATES J1037–2823	1.066	...	8.99	...	(8.8)	–
1043 + 2408	CRATES J1043+2408	0.559	...	8.09	...	(7.6)	3
1058 + 0133	CRATES J1058+0133	0.888	...	8.37	...	(8.3)	–
1106 + 2812	CRATES J1106+2812	0.843	...	8.85	...	9.54	*
1112 + 3446	CRATES J1112+3446	1.956	...	8.74	8.82	8.85	
1120 + 0704	CRATES J1120+0704	1.336	...	8.83	...	(8.8)	–
1124 + 2336	CRATES J1124+2336	1.549	...	8.79	...	(8.5)	–
1133 + 0040	CRATES J1133+0040	1.633	...	8.80	...	8.7	
1146 + 3958	CRATES J1146+3958	1.088	...	8.93	...	8.8	
1152 – 0841	CRATES J1152–0841	2.367	...	...	9.38	(9.3)	–
1154 + 6022	CRATES J1154+6022	1.120	...	8.94	...	(8.8)	–
1155 – 8101	PMN J1155–8101	1.395	...	8.30	...	(8.6)	–
1159 + 2914	CRATES J1159+2914	0.725	8.14	8.61	...	8.5	
1208 + 5441	CRATES J1208+5441	1.344	...	8.40	...	8.6	
1209 + 1810	CRATES J1209+1810	0.845	8.26	8.77	...	8.6	
1222 + 0413	CRATES J1222+0413	0.966	...	8.37	...	9	
1224 + 2122	CRATES J1224+2122	0.434	8.89	8.91	...	8.9	
1224 + 5001	CLASS J1224+5001	1.065	...	8.66	...	8.9	
1226 + 4340	B3 1224+439	2.001	...	8.64	9.01	9	
1228 + 4858	TXS 1226+492	1.722	...	8.28	8.23	8.5	
1228 + 4858	TXS 1226+492	1.722	...	8.28	8.23	8.5	
1239 + 0443	CRATES J1239+0443	1.761	...	8.46	8.68	8.7	
1239 + 0443	CRATES J1239+0443	1.761	...	8.46	8.68	8.7	
1257 + 3229	CRATES J1257+3229	0.806	7.89	8.62	...	8.6	
1303 – 4621	CRATES J1303–4621	1.664	...	7.95	8.21	(8.3)	–



Table A1. – continued

Name	Alias	$z$	$\log M_{\text{H}\beta}$	$\log M_{\text{Mg II}}$	$\log M_{\text{C IV}}$	$\log M_{\text{fit}}$	Note
1310 + 3220	CRATES J1310+3220	0.997	...	8.57	...	(8.7)	–
1317 + 3425	CRATES J1317+3425	1.055	...	9.14	...	8.8	–
1321 + 2216	CRATES J1321+2216	0.943	7.87	8.76	...	9.6	*
1327 + 2210	CRATES J1327+2210	1.403	...	9.25	...	8.7	–
1332 – 1256	CRATES J1332–1256	1.492	...	8.96	8.61	(9)	–
1333 + 5057	CLASS J1333+5057	1.362	...	7.95	...	(8.3)	–
1343 + 5754	CRATES J1343+5754	0.933	...	8.42	...	8.7	–
1344 – 1723	CRATES J1344–1723	2.506	...	...	9.12	(8.9)	–
1345 + 4452	CRATES J1345+4452	2.534	...	...	8.98	9.3	–
1347 – 3750	CRATES J1347–3750	1.300	...	7.95	8.62	(8.3)	–
1350 + 3034	CRATES J1350+3034	0.712	8.21	8.33	...	8.3	*
1357 + 7643	CRATES J1357+7643	1.585	...	8.34	8.17	(8)	–
1359 + 5544	CRATES J1359+5544	1.014	...	8.00	...	8.18	–
1423 – 7829	CRATES J1423–7829	0.788	8.14	8.32	...	(8.3)	–
1436 + 2321	PKS B1434+235	1.548	...	8.12	8.50	8.85	–
1438 + 3710	CRATES J1438+3710	2.399	...	...	8.58	(9.7)	1
1439 + 3712	CRATES J1439+3712	1.027	...	9.08	...	9	–
1441 – 1523	CRATES J1441–1523	2.642	...	...	8.49	8.9	–
1443 + 2501	CRATES J1443+2501	0.939	7.42	7.84	...	8.6	–
1504 + 1029	TXS 1502+106	1.839	...	8.98	8.90	8.8	–
1504 + 1029	TXS 1502+106	1.839	...	8.98	8.90	8.8	–
1505 + 0326	CRATES J1505+0326	0.409	...	7.41	...	7.95	–
1514 + 4450	BZQ J1514+4450	0.570	7.72	7.62	...	(8)	–
1522 + 3144	CRATES J1522+3144	1.484	...	8.92	...	9	*
1539 + 2744	CRATES J1539+2744	2.191	...	8.43	8.51	(8.5)	–
1549 + 0237	CRATES J1549+0237	0.414	8.62	8.72	...	8.6	–
1550 + 0527	CRATES J1550+0527	1.417	...	8.98	...	(8.6)	2
1553 + 1256	PKS 1551+130	1.308	...	8.64	...	9.3	–
1608 + 1029	CRATES J1608+1029	1.232	...	8.77	...	8.8	–
1613 + 3412	CRATES J1613+3412	1.400	...	9.08	...	9.18	–
1616 + 4632	CRATES J1616+4632	0.950	...	8.28	...	8.6	–
1617 – 5848	PMN J1617–5848	1.422	...	9.81	9.01	(9.3)	–
1624 – 0649	PMN J1624-0649	3.037	...	...	8.23	9.08	–
1628 – 6152	PMN J1628-6152	2.578	...	...	8.92	(8.85)	–
1635 + 3808	CRATES J1635+3808	1.813	...	9.30	8.85	9.6	–
1635 + 3808	CRATES J1635+3808	1.813	...	9.30	8.85	9.6	–
1636 + 4715	BZQ J1636+4715	0.823	8.11	8.38	...	8.6	–
1637 + 4717	CRATES J1637+4717	0.735	8.61	8.52	...	8.5	–
1639 + 4705	CRATES J1639+4705	0.860	...	8.95	...	8.8	–
1642 + 3940	CRATES J1642+3948	0.593	8.73	9.03	...	8.8	–
1703 – 6212	CRATES J1703–6212	1.747	...	8.65	8.55	9	–
1709 + 4318	CRATES J1709+4318	1.027	...	7.92	...	(8)	–
1734 + 3857	CRATES J1734+3857	0.975	...	7.97	...	(8.5)	–
1736 + 0631	CRATES J1736+0631	2.387	...	8.82	9.39	8.6	–
1802 – 3940	PMN J1802–3940	1.319	...	8.60	8.59	(9)	–
1803 + 0341	CRATES J1803+0341	1.420	...	7.79	...	(8)	–
1818 + 0903	CRATES J1818+0903	0.354	7.30	7.50	...	8	*
1830 + 0619	TXS 1827+062	0.745	8.69	8.86	...	(9)	–
1848 + 3219	CRATES J1848+3219	0.800	7.87	8.21	...	8.5	–
1903 – 6749	CRATES J1903–6749	0.254	7.51	...	...	(8)	–
1916 – 7946	CRATES J1916–7946	0.204	7.82	...	...	8	*
1928 – 0456	CRATES J1928–0456	0.587	...	9.07	...	8.6	–
1954 – 1123	CRATES J1954–1123	0.683	...	6.73	...	(8)	1
1955 + 1358	NVSS J195511+135816	0.743	8.17	8.39	...	(8.5)	–
1959 – 4246	PMN J1959–4246	2.178	...	8.55	9.41	(8.9)	2
2017 + 0603	1FGL J2017.2+0602	1.743	...	9.39	9.67	9.85	–
2025 – 2845	CRATES J2025–2845	0.884	...	8.34	...	(8.4)	–
2031 + 1219	CRATES J2031+1219	1.213	...	7.99	7.19	(7.9)	–
2035 + 1056	CRATES J2035+1056	0.601	7.74	8.26	...	8.3	*
2110 + 0809	CRATES J2110+0809	1.580	...	8.82	...	9.18	–
2118 + 0013	CRATES J2118+0013	0.463	7.60	7.89	...	8	–
2121 + 1901	CRATES J2121+1901	2.180	...	...	7.75	8.7	–
2135 – 5006	CRATES J2135–5006	2.181	...	8.31	8.40	8.6	–

**Table A1.** – *continued*

Name	Alias	$z$	$\log M_{\text{H}\beta}$	$\log M_{\text{Mg II}}$	$\log M_{\text{C IV}}$	$\log M_{\text{fit}}$	Note
2139 – 6732	CRATES J2139–6732	2.009	...	8.49	8.93	8.7	
2145 – 3357	CRATES J2145–3357	1.361	...	8.31	...	(2.8.7)	–
2157 + 3127	CRATES J2157+3127	1.448	...	8.89	...	(8.6)	2
2202 – 8338	CRATES J2202–8338	1.865	...	9.02	9.16	9	*
2212 + 2355	PKS 2209+236	1.125	...	8.46	...	8.6	
2219 + 1806	CRATES J2219+1806	1.071	...	7.65	7.66	(8.3)	1
2229 – 0832	PKS 2227–08	1.560	...	8.70	8.54	8.9	
2236 + 2828	CRATES J2236+2828	0.790	...	8.35	...	(8.6)	–
2237 – 3921	CRATES J2237–3921	0.297	7.77	7.95	...	8	
2244 + 4057	CRATES J2244+4057	1.171	...	8.28	...	(8.3)	–
2315 – 5018	CRATES J2315–5018	0.808	...	7.68	...	(7.85)	–
2321 + 3204	CRATES J2321+3204	1.489	...	8.66	8.75	(8.6)	–
2327 + 0940	CRATES J2327+0940	1.841	...	8.70	9.35	9	
2331 – 2148	CRATES J2331–2148	0.563	7.53	7.63	...	8	*
2334 + 0736	CRATES J2334+0736	0.401	8.37	...	...	8.6	
2345 – 1555	CRATES J2345–1555	0.621	8.16	8.48	...	8.3	
2357 + 0448	PMN J2357+0448	1.248	...	8.41	8.45	8.95	

**Table A2.** The BL Lac objects considered in this paper, drawn from the sample of S13. The first column is the name on S13, the alias helps to find the source in NED, the third column is the redshift, the fourth column is the mass used in the fitting model.

Name	Alias	$z$	$\log M_{\text{fit}}$
0013 + 1907	CRATES J0013+1910	0.477	8.3
0203 + 3042	NVSS J020344+304238	0.761	8.8
0334 – 4008	PKS 0332–403	1.357	8.6
0434 – 2014	CRATES J0434–2015	0.928	8
0438 – 4521	PKS 0437–454	2.017	8.5
0516 – 6207	PKS 0516–621	1.300	8.6
0629 – 2001	PKS 0627–199	1.724	8.5
0831 + 0429	CRATES J0831+0429	0.174	8.5
1117 + 2013	CRATES J1117+2014	0.138	8.6
1125 – 3559	CRATES J1125–3557	0.284	8.8
1203 + 6030	CRATES J1203+6031	0.065	8.6
1221 + 2814	W Com	0.103	8.6
1221 + 3010	1ES 1218+304	0.184	8.6
1420 + 5422	OQ + 530	0.153	8.3
1534 + 3720	1RXS J153446.6+371610	0.144	8.6
1540 + 1438	PKS 1538+149	0.606	8.5
1755 – 6423	CRATES J1754–6423	1.255	8.5
1824 + 5651	CRATES J1824+5651	0.664	8.5
2015 + 3709	TXS 2013+370	0.859	8.7
2152 + 1735	CRATES J2152+1734	0.874	8.8
2206 – 0029	CRATES J2206–0031	1.053	8.5
2206 + 6500	TXS 2206+650	1.121	8.85
2236 + 2828	B2 2234+28A	0.790	8.85
2247 – 0002	PKS 2244–002	0.949	8.8
2315 – 5018	PKS 2312–505	0.811	8
2353 – 3034	PKS 2351–309	0.737	8

**Table A3.** Parameters used to model the SED. Col. [1]: name (from S12); Col. [2]: redshift; Col. [3]: accretion disc luminosity in units of  $10^{45}$  erg s $^{-1}$ ; Col. [4]: power injected in the blob calculated in the comoving frame, in units of  $10^{45}$  erg s $^{-1}$ ; Col. [5]: magnetic field in Gauss; Col. 6: dissipation radius in units of  $R_S$ ; Col. [7]: bulk Lorentz factor at  $R_{\text{diss}}$ ; Col. [8], 9: maximum and break random Lorentz factors of the injected electrons; Col. [10]: random Lorentz factors of the electrons emitting at the peak of the SED and The viewing angle is always  $3^\circ$  if not otherwise noted. Col. [11]: random Lorentz factors of the electrons cooling in one dynamical time  $R/c$ ; Col. [12]: total (magnetic plus radiative) energy density in the comoving frame in erg cm $^{-3}$ ; Col. [13], [14]: slopes of the injected electron distribution; Col. [15] and [16]: mass accretion rate and mass outflowing rate, in solar masses per year; Col. [17] disc luminosity according to S12. The full table is available online.

Name	$z$	$L_{\text{d},45}$	$P'_{\text{e},45}$	$B$	$R_{\text{diss}}$	$\Gamma$	$\gamma_{\text{max}}$	$\gamma_{\text{b}}$	$\gamma_{\text{peak}}$	$\gamma_{\text{cool}}$	$U'$	$s_1$	$s_2$	$\dot{M}_{\text{in}}$	$\dot{M}_{\text{out}}$	$\log L_{\text{d},\text{S12}}$
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15]	[16]	[17]
0004 – 4736	0.880	2.1	8.e–4	13.3	600	14	4.e3	70	63.7	28.1	14.6	0	2.8	0.46	3.8e–3	45.11
0011 + 0057	1.493	3.6	5.e–3	2.98	900	13	4e3	100	41.5	17.0	5.3	1.5	2.8	0.79	0.13	45.60
0015 + 1700	1.709	22.5	4.5e–3	1.82	800	12	4e3	100	82.9	4.7	4.3	0	2.8	4.93	0.021	46.26
0017 – 0512	0.226	0.45	1.e–3	5.55	500	12	6.e3	10	82.2	82.2	5.96	1	2.9	0.10	0.023	45.30
0023 + 4456	2.023	2.7	7.3e–3	7.02	700	15	3.e3	80	87.5	19.4	9.03	0	2.5	0.59	0.034	45.28

**Table A4.** Parameters for BL Lac objects in S13. Columns as in Table A3. \*:  $\theta_{\text{v}} = 2^\circ.5$ . The full table is available online.

Name	$z$	$L_{\text{d},45}$	$P'_{\text{e},45}$	$B$	$R_{\text{diss}}$	$\Gamma$	$\gamma_{\text{max}}$	$\gamma_{\text{b}}$	$\gamma_{\text{peak}}$	$\gamma_{\text{cool}}$	$U'$	$s_1$	$s_2$	$\dot{M}_{\text{in}}$	$\dot{M}_{\text{out}}$	$\log L_{\text{d},\text{S12}}$
[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]	[15]	[16]	[17]
0013 + 1907	0.477	0.06	3.3e–4	2.67	600	11	5.e4	100.	478	478	0.42	1	2.3	0.013	1.1e–3	43.70
0203 + 3042	0.761	5.4	1.2e–3	8.46	600	11	4.e3	100	67.3	10.6	6.41	1	2.7	1.18	0.012	45.75
0334 – 4008	1.357	0.72	8.e–3	1.51	1100	17*	6.e3	200	396	207	0.27	1	2.3	0.16	0.035	44.83
0434 – 2014	0.928	0.15	1.e–3	10.2	500	11	6.e3	300	267	57	8.59	1	2.5	0.033	3.8e–3	44.15
0438 – 4521	2.017	1.8	1.e–2	7.7	500	11	4.e3	300	240	23.8	6.8	1	2.5	0.39	0.048	45.24

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article:

**Table A3.** Parameters used to model the SED.

**Table A4.** Parameters for BL Lac objects in S13.

**Figure S16.** SED of the FSRQs studied in this paper (<http://mnras.oxfordjournals.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1093/mnras/stv055/-/DC1>).

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