

REVERBERATION MAPPING MEASUREMENTS OF BLACK HOLE MASSES IN SIX LOCAL SEYFERT GALAXIES

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ABSTRACT

We present the final results from a high sampling rate, multi-month, spectrophotometric reverberation mapping campaign undertaken to obtain either new or improved $H\beta$ reverberation lag measurements for several relatively low-luminosity active galactic nuclei (AGNs). We have reliably measured the time delay between variations in the continuum and $H\beta$ emission line in six local Seyfert 1 galaxies. These measurements are used to calculate the mass of the supermassive black hole at the center of each of these AGNs. We place our results in context to the most current calibration of the broad-line region (BLR) $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship, where our results remove outliers and reduce the scatter at the low-luminosity end of this relationship. We also present velocity-resolved $H\beta$ time-delay measurements for our complete sample, though the clearest velocity-resolved kinematic signatures have already been published.

Key words: galaxies: active – galaxies: nuclei – galaxies: Seyfert

1. INTRODUCTION

The technique of reverberation mapping (Blandford & McKee 1982; Peterson 1993) has been used to directly measure black hole (BH) masses in relatively local broad-line (Type 1) active galactic nuclei (AGNs) for over two decades (see compilation by Peterson et al. 2004). In recent years, these measurements have become particularly desirable with the increasingly strong evidence (both observational and theoretical) that there is a connection between supermassive BH growth and galaxy

evolution (e.g., Silk & Rees 1998; Kormendy & Gebhardt 2001; Häring & Rix 2004; Di Matteo et al. 2005; Bennert et al. 2008; Somerville et al. 2008; Hopkins & Hernquist 2009; Shankar et al. 2009). Empirical relationships have been discovered for both quiescent and active galaxies that show similar correlations between the central BH and properties of the bulge of the host galaxy (well outside the gravitational sphere of influence of the BH). Examples include correlations between the BH mass and total luminosity of stars in the galactic bulge (the $M_{\text{BH}}-L_{\text{bulge}}$ relationship; Kormendy & Richstone 1995; Magorrian et al. 1998; Wandel 2002; Graham 2007; Bentz et al. 2009a) and between the BH mass and bulge stellar velocity dispersion (the $M_{\text{BH}}-\sigma_*$ relationship; Ferrarese & Merritt 2000; Gebhardt et al. 2000a, 2000b; Ferrarese et al. 2001; Tremaine et al. 2002; Onken et al. 2004; Nelson et al. 2004).

The current thrust to better understand this BH–galaxy connection relies on mass measurements of large samples of BHs in both the local and distant universe. The masses of BHs in distant galaxies can only be measured indirectly using the scaling relationships mentioned above, as well as the AGN $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship (Kaspi et al. 2000, 2005; Bentz et al. 2006, 2009b), which provides the capability to estimate BH masses from a single spectrum of an AGN (Wandel et al. 1999). In order to understand the evolution of BH and galaxy growth

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over cosmological times, it is useful to compare the location of distant galaxies on these relationships with local samples. This can only be done by calibrating the local relation with direct BH mass measurements.

Local masses are measured directly in quiescent galaxies using dynamical methods (see Kormendy & Richstone 1995; Kormendy & Gebhardt 2001; Ferrarese & Ford 2005, for reviews) that rely on resolving the motions of gas and stars within the sphere of influence of the central BH and are thus very resolution intensive and only applicable in the nearby universe. Direct measurements can also be made from observations of megamasers sometimes seen in Type 2 AGNs, but making these observations relies on a particular viewing angle into the nuclear region of these galaxies and is thus not applicable to a large number of objects. Direct mass measurements can also be made in Type 1 AGNs using reverberation mapping, which is a method that relies on time resolution to trace the light-travel time delay between continuum and broad emission-line flux variations to measure the characteristic size of the broad-line region (BLR). Using virial arguments, this size is related to the BH mass through the velocity dispersion of the BLR gas, determined from the broad emission-line width. Although reverberation mapping is technically applicable at all redshifts, the reverberation time delay scales with the AGN luminosity (i.e., the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship), and this coupled with time dilation effects make it difficult and particularly time consuming to make such measurements out to high redshift (see Kaspi et al. 2007).

The constraints for making direct BH mass measurements at large distances make the use of the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship particularly attractive for obtaining even indirect mass estimates at all redshifts for which a broad-line AGN spectrum can be obtained. In addition, masses can be estimated for large samples of objects (e.g., McLure & Dunlop 2004; Kollmeier et al. 2006; Salviander et al. 2007; Shen et al. 2008; Vestergaard et al. 2008), facilitating studies of the BH–galaxy connection and its evolution across cosmic time (e.g., Salviander et al. 2007; Vestergaard & Osmer 2009). However, in order to reliably apply these relationships to high-redshift objects and determine any evolution in the relationships themselves, local versions of the relationships need to be well populated with high-quality data, so that calibration of these local relationships is secure (i.e., observational scatter minimized) and any intrinsic scatter is well characterized (see, e.g., Bentz et al. 2006, 2009a, 2009b; Graham 2007; Gültekin et al. 2009; Woo et al. 2010, for recent efforts to improve scaling relation calibration and characterization of intrinsic scatter). Furthermore, systematic uncertainties also need to be understood and minimized so that the local relations, on which all other related studies are based, are as robust as possible. For instance, systematic uncertainties are present in the direct, dynamical mass measurements of the BHs in quiescent galaxies due to model dependences of the mass derivation (e.g., Gebhardt & Thomas (2009) find more than a factor of two difference in the measured BH mass in M87 when they include a dark matter halo in their model; see also Shen & Gebhardt (2010) and van den Bosch & de Zeeuw (2010) for more recent model-dependent changes made to previously measured quiescent BH masses that change the masses by similar amounts, i.e., factors of ~ 2). On the other hand, the reverberation-based masses as we present them (measuring simply the mean BLR radius from the reverberation time delay) do not rely on any physical models; instead, the largest systematic uncertainty comes from the additional zero-point calibration of the mass

scale (Woo et al. 2010). This calibration is needed due to a number of uncertainties, such as the relationship between the line-of-sight (LOS) velocity dispersion measured from the broad-line width and the actual velocity dispersion of the BLR, systematic effects in determining the effective radius, and the role of non-gravitational forces.

In this work, we present new reverberation mapping measurements of the BLR radius and BH mass for several nearby Seyfert galaxies from an intensive spectroscopic and photometric monitoring program. The goals of this program are (1) to improve the calibration of local scaling relationships by populating them with not only additional high-quality measurements, but also replace previous measurements of either poor quality or that were suspect for one reason or another and (2) to take the method of reverberation mapping one step past its currently successful application of measuring BLR radii and BH masses to uncover velocity-resolved structure in the reverberation delays from the $H\beta$ emission line. This velocity-resolved analysis is a first step toward recovering velocity-dependent $H\beta$ transfer functions, or “velocity–delay maps,” which describe the response of the emission line to an outburst from the ionizing continuum as a function of LOS velocity and light-travel time delay (for a tutorial, see Peterson 2001; Horne et al. 2004). Creation of velocity–delay maps provides valuable knowledge of the structure, inclination, and kinematics of the BLR, which in turn will reduce systematic uncertainties in reverberation-based BH mass measurements.

Our monitoring program spanned more than four months, over which primary spectroscopic observations were obtained nightly (weather permitting) for the first three months at MDM Observatory. Supplementary observations were gathered from other observatories around the world. Objects in our sample were targeted because (1) they had short enough expected lags (i.e., low enough luminosity) that we were likely to see sufficient variability over the course of our ~ 3 –4 month campaign to securely measure a reverberation time delay, (2) they appeared as outliers on AGN scaling relationships and/or had large uncertainties associated with previous results due to suspected undersampling or other complications, and (3) previous observations demonstrated the potential for our high sampling-rate observations to uncover a velocity-resolved line response to the continuum variations. We also note that some of the AGNs observed in this program are among the closest AGNs and are therefore the best candidates for measuring the central BH masses by other direct methods such as modeling of stellar or gas dynamics, which will allow a direct comparison of mass measurements from multiple independent techniques. This paper is arranged such that we present our observations and analysis in Section 2, the BH mass measurements are described in Section 3, any velocity-resolved structures that we uncovered are presented in Section 4, and our results are discussed in Section 5.

2. OBSERVATIONS AND DATA ANALYSIS

Except where noted, data acquisition and analysis practices employed here follow closely those laid out by Denney et al. (2009b) for the first results from this campaign on NGC 4051. The reader is also referred to similar previous works, such as Denney et al. (2006) and Peterson et al. (2004), for additional details and discussions on these practices. Throughout this work, we assume the following cosmology: $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.70$, and $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

Table 1
Object List

Objects	z	α_{2000} (h m s)	δ_{2000} ($^{\circ}$ ' ")	Host Classification	A_B (mag)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Mrk 290	0.02958	15 35 52.3	+57 54 09	E1	0.065
Mrk 817	0.03145	14 36 22.1	+58 47 39	SBC	0.029
NGC 3227	0.00386	10 23 30.6	+19 51 54	SAB(s) pec	0.76 ^a
NGC 3516	0.00884	11 06 47.5	+72 34 07	(R)SB(s)	1.70 ^a
NGC 4051	0.00234	12 03 09.6	+44 31 53	SAB(rs)bc	0.056
NGC 5548	0.01717	14 17 59.5	+25 08 12	(R')SA(s)0/a	0.088

Note. ^a Values have been adjusted to account for additional internal reddening as described in Section 5.2.

2.1. Spectroscopy

Spectra of the nuclear region of our complete²⁵ sample (see Table 1) were obtained daily (weather permitting) over 89 consecutive nights in 2007 Spring with the 1.3 m McGraw-Hill telescope at MDM Observatory, and supplemental spectroscopic observations of most targets were obtained with the 2.6 m Shajn telescope of the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory (CrAO) and/or the Plaskett 1.8 m telescope at Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO) to extend the total campaign duration to ~ 120 nights. We used the Boller and Chivens CCD spectrograph at MDM with the 350 grooves mm^{-1} grating (i.e., a dispersion of $1.33 \text{ \AA pixel}^{-1}$) to target the $\text{H}\beta$ $\lambda 4861$ and $[\text{O III}] \lambda\lambda 4959, 5007$ emission-line region of the optical spectrum. The position angle was set to 0° , with a slit width of $5''$ projected on the sky, resulting in a spectral resolution of 7.6 \AA across this spectral region. We acquired the CrAO spectra with the Nasmith spectrograph and SPEC-10 1340×100 pixel CCD. For these observations a $3''$ slit was utilized, with a 90° position angle. Spectral wavelength coverage for this data set was from ~ 3800 to 6000 \AA , with a dispersion of $1.8 \text{ \AA pixel}^{-1}$ and a spectral resolution of 7.5 \AA near 5100 \AA . The actual wavelength coverage is slightly greater than this, but the red and blue edges of the CCD

²⁵ We also monitored MCG 08-23-067, but because this object did not vary sufficiently during our campaign, we did not complete a full reduction and analysis of the data and do not include it as part of our final, complete sample.

frame are unusable due to vignetting. The DAO observations of the $\text{H}\beta$ region were obtained with the Cassegrain spectrograph and SITE-5 CCD, where the 400 grooves mm^{-1} grating results in a dispersion of $1.1 \text{ \AA pixel}^{-1}$. The slit width was set to $3''$ with a fixed 90° position angle. This setup resulted in a resolution of 7.9 \AA around the $\text{H}\beta$ spectral region. Figure 1 shows the mean and rms spectra of our sample based on the MDM observations. Table 2 gives more detailed statistics of the spectroscopic observations obtained for each target, including number of observations, time span of observations, spectral resolution, and spectral extraction window.

A relative flux calibration of each set of spectra was performed using the χ^2 goodness of fit estimator algorithm of van Groningen & Wanders (1992) to scale relative fluxes to the $[\text{O III}] \lambda 5007$ constant narrow-line flux. This algorithm not only makes a multiplicative scaling to account for the night-to-night differences in flux in this line caused primarily by aperture effects, but it also makes slight wavelength shifts to correct for zero-point differences in the wavelength calibration and small resolution corrections to account for small variations in the line width caused by variable seeing. The best-fit calibration is found by minimizing residuals in the difference spectrum formed between each individual spectrum and the reference spectrum, which was taken to be the average of the best spectra of each object (i.e., those obtained under photometric or near-photometric conditions). Because of this multiple-component calibration method, the final, scaled $[\text{O III}] \lambda 5007$ line flux in each spectrum is not exactly the same as the reference spectrum. Instead, there is a small standard deviation in the mean line flux due to differences in data quality that averages $\sim 1.2\%$ across our sample.

2.2. Photometry

In addition to spectral observations, we obtained supplemental V-band photometry from the 2.0 m Multicolor Active Galactic Nuclei Monitoring (MAGNUM) telescope at the Haleakala Observatories in Hawaii, the 70 cm telescope of the CrAO, and the 0.4 m telescope of the University of Nebraska. The number of observations obtained from each telescope and the time span over which observations were made of each target are given in Table 3.

Table 2
Spectroscopic Observations

Objects	Observ.	N_{obs}	Julian Dates (−2,450,000)	Res (\AA)	5100 \AA Cont. Window (\AA)	$\text{H}\beta$ Line Limits (\AA)	Extraction Window ($''$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Mrk 290	MDM	71	4184–4268	7.6	5235–5265	4915–5086 ^{a,b}	5.0×12.75
	CrAO	18	4266–4301	7.5	5235–5265	4915–5086	3.0×11.0
	DAO	11	4262–4290	7.9	5235–5265	4915–5086	3.0×6.28
Mrk 817	MDM	65	4185–4269	7.6	5245–5275	4900–5099	5.0×12.75
	CrAO	23	4265–4301	7.5	5245–5275	4900–5099	3.0×11.0
NGC 3227	MDM	75	4184–4268	7.6	5105–5135	4795–4942 ^{a,b}	5.0×8.25
NGC 3516	MDM	74	4184–4269	7.6	5130–5160	4845–4965 ^b	5.0×12.75
	CrAO	19	4266–4300	7.5	5130–5160	4845–4965 ^b	3.0×11.0
NGC 4051	MDM	86	4184–4269	7.6	5090–5130	4815–4920	5.0×12.75
	CrAO	22	4266–4300	7.5	5090–5130	4815–4920	3.0×11.0
NGC 5548	MDM	77	4184–4267	7.6	5170–5200	4845–5004 ^b	5.0×12.75
	CrAO	20	4265–4301	7.5	5170–5200	4845–5004 ^b	3.0×11.0
	DAO	11	4276–4293	7.9	5170–5200	4845–5000 ^b	3.0×6.28

Notes.

^a $\text{H}\beta$ line limits were narrowed for the measurement of the line width in the rms spectrum. See Section 3 for details.

^b $\text{H}\beta$ line limits were changed for the velocity-resolved lag investigation. See Section 4 for details.

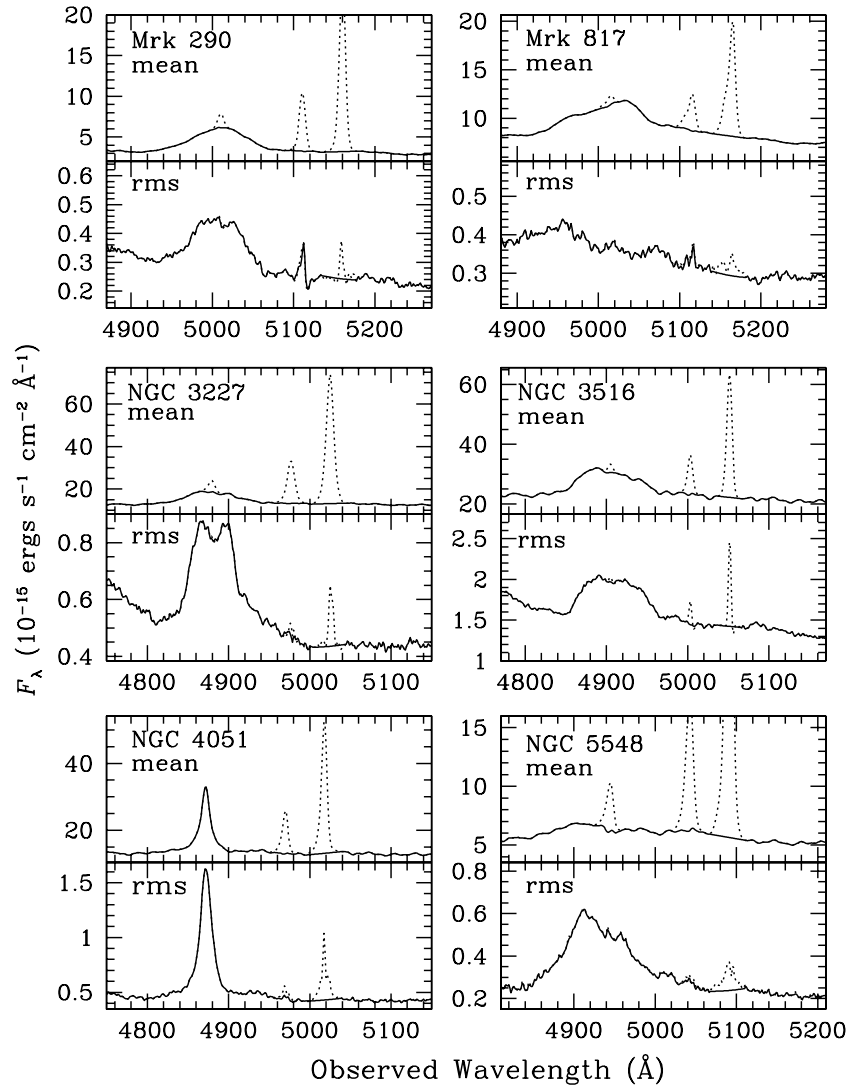


Figure 1. Mean and rms (variable emission) spectra from MDM observations. The solid lines show the narrow-line-subtracted spectra, while the dotted lines show the narrow-line component of H β and the [O III] $\lambda\lambda$ 4959, 5007 narrow emission lines and rms residuals.

Table 3
Photometric Observations

Objects	Observatory	N_{obs}	Julian Dates (-2,450,000)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Mrk 290	MAGNUM	17	4200-4321
	CrAO	61	4180-4298
	UNebr	6	4199-4252
Mrk 817	MAGNUM	24	4185-4330
	CrAO	69	4180-4299
NGC 3227	MAGNUM	19	4181-4282
	CrAO	58	4180-4263
	UNebr	19	4195-4276
NGC 3516	MAGNUM	10	4190-4277
	CrAO	73	4181-4299
	UNebr	22	4195-4258
NGC 4051	MAGNUM	23	4182-4311
	CrAO	76	4180-4299
	UNebr	28	4195-4290
NGC 5548	MAGNUM	48	4182-4332
	CrAO	71	4180-4299
	UNebr	13	4198-4289

The MAGNUM observations were made with the multicolor imaging photometer (MIP) as described by Kobayashi et al. (1998a, 1998b), Yoshii (2002), and Kobayashi et al. (2004). Photometric fluxes were measured within an aperture with radius 8".3. Reduction of these observations was similar to that described for other sources by Minezaki et al. (2004) and Suganuma et al. (2006), except the host-galaxy contribution to the flux within the aperture was not subtracted and the filter color term was not corrected because these photometric data were later scaled to the MDM continuum light curves (as described below). Also, minor corrections (of order 0.01 mag or less) due to the seeing dependence of the host-galaxy flux were ignored.

The CrAO photometric observations were collected with the AP7p CCD mounted at the prime focus of the 70 cm telescope ($f = 282$ cm). In this setup, the 512×512 pixels of the CCD field project to a $15' \times 15'$ field of view. Photometric fluxes were measured within an aperture diameter of $15''.0$. For further details of the CrAO V-band observations and reduction, see the similar analysis described by Sergeev et al. (2005).

The University of Nebraska observations were conducted by taking and separately measuring a large number of one-minute images (~ 20). Details of the observing and reduction

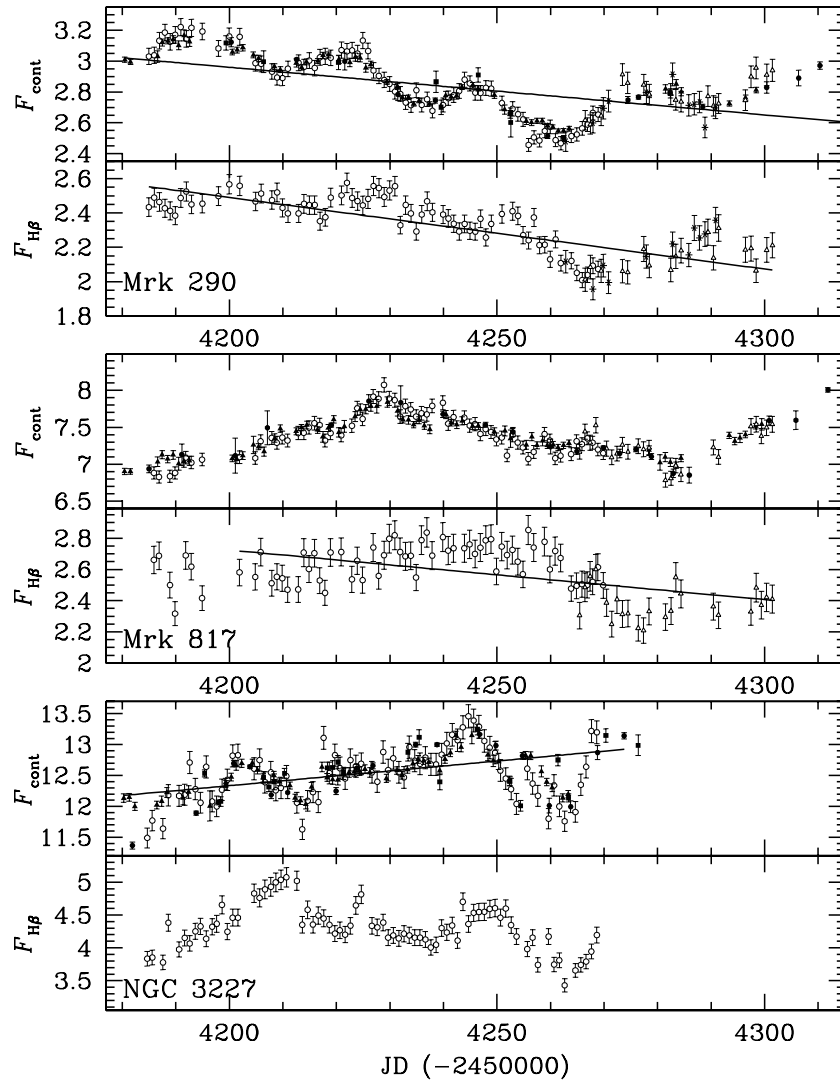


Figure 2. Light curves showing complete set of observations from all sources for all objects. Top: the 5100 Å continuum flux in units of $10^{-15} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$. Bottom: $H\beta$ $\lambda 4861$ line flux in units of $10^{-13} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$. Observations from different sources are as follows: CrAO photometry, solid triangles; MAGNUM photometry, solid circles; UNebr photometry, solid squares; MDM spectroscopy, open circles; CrAO spectroscopy, open triangles; DAO spectroscopy, asterisks. The solid lines show linear, secular-variation detrending fits to the light curves.

procedure are as described by Klimek et al. (2004). Comparison star magnitudes were calibrated following Doroshenko et al. (2005a, 2005b) and Chonis & Gaskell (2008). To minimize the effects of variations in the image quality, fluxes were measured through an aperture of radius $8''.0$. The errors given for each night are the errors in the means.

2.3. Light Curves

Except where noted below for individual objects, continuum and $H\beta$ light curves were created as followed. Continuum light curves for each object were made with the V -band photometric observations and the average continuum flux density measured from spectroscopic observations over the spectral ranges listed in Table 2 (i.e., rest frame $\sim 5100 \text{ \AA}$). Continuum light curves from each source were scaled to the same flux scale following the procedure described by Denney et al. (2009b). Figure 2 (top panels) shows these merged light curves, where measurements from each different observatory are shown by the different symbols described in the figure caption.

Light curves of the $H\beta$ flux were made by integrating the line flux above a linearly interpolated continuum, locally defined

by regions just blueward and redward of the $H\beta$ emission line. The $H\beta$ emission line was defined between the observed frame wavelength ranges given for each object in Table 2. The $H\beta$ light curves formed from each separate spectroscopic data set (i.e., MDM, CrAO, and DAO) were placed on the same flux scale (i.e., that of the MDM observations) by again following the scaling procedures described by Denney et al. (2009b). An additional flux calibration step was used for NGC 3516, however, because it has a particularly extended [O III] narrow-line emission region. In an attempt to decrease the uncertainties in our relative flux calibration from slit losses of this extended emission, we made an additional correction to each MDM $H\beta$ flux measurement to account for possible differences in the observed [O III] $\lambda 5007$ flux due to seeing effects. To measure the expected differences in [O III] $\lambda 5007$ flux entering the slit as a result of changes in the nightly seeing, we followed the procedure of Wanders et al. (1992), using their artificially seeing-degraded narrow-band image of the [O III] $\lambda 5007$ emission from the nuclear region of NGC 3516 (details regarding the narrow-band data are described by Wanders et al.). Using the differences in measured flux, we scaled our MDM flux measurements accordingly. We

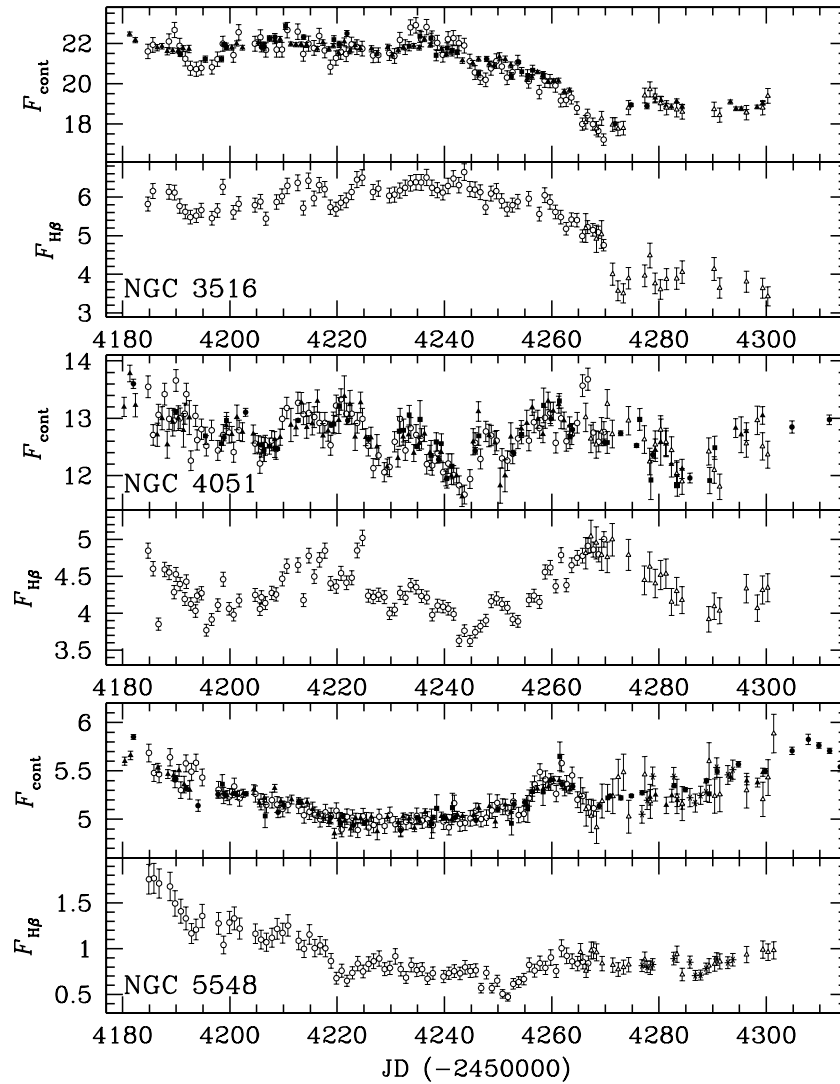


Figure 2. (Continued)

could only do this for the MDM measurements, since we do not have accurate seeing estimates for the CrAO and DAO data sets. Because of our deliberately large aperture (see Table 2, Column 8), the effect was not appreciable for most observations, and there is no indication that our inability to complete the same analysis for the CrAO and DAO data had any measurable effect on the subsequent time-series analysis. The lower panels of Figure 2 show the $H\beta$ light curves for each object after merging the separate data sets into a single $H\beta$ light curve.

Before completing the time-series analysis, the light curves shown in Figure 2 were modified in the following ways.

1. An absolute flux calibration was applied to both continuum and $H\beta$ light curves by scaling to the absolute flux of the $[O\text{III}] \lambda 5007$ emission line given for each object in Column 3 of Table 4. For objects in which there was not a previously reported absolute flux, we calculated one from the average line flux measured from only those observations obtained at MDM under photometric conditions.
2. The host-galaxy starlight contribution to the continuum flux was subtracted. This contribution, listed for each target in Column 5 of Table 4, was determined using the methods of Bentz et al. (2009b) for all objects except Mrk 290, which had not been targeted for reverberation mapping

prior to our observing campaign.²⁶ For Mrk 290, we use an estimate made from the spectral decomposition (following decomposition method “B” described by Denney et al. 2009a) of an independent spectrum taken at MDM with nearly the same setup as our campaign observations but covering optical wavelengths from 3500 to 7150 Å with a 1′.5 slit. This value is only a lower limit, however, since this slit width was smaller than that of our campaign observations (i.e., 5′.0).

3. We “detrended” any light curves in which we detected long-term secular variability over the duration of the campaign that is not associated with reverberation variations (Welsh 1999; see also Sergeev et al. 2007, who show that there is little correlation between long-term continuum variability and $H\beta$ line properties, demonstrating the independence of this variability on reverberation processes). Detrending is important because if the time series contains long-term trends (i.e., compared to reverberation timescales), the flux measurements are not randomly distributed about the mean

²⁶ The 2008 LAMP campaign (Bentz et al. 2009c) subsequently monitored Mrk 290, and it is currently being targeted for *HST* observations (GO 11662; PI: M. C. Bentz) to measure its host starlight contribution, but the observations have not yet been completed.

Table 4
Constant Spectral Properties

Objects	FWHM([O III] λ 5007) ^a Rest Frame (km s ⁻¹)	F ([O III] λ 5007) (10 ⁻¹³ erg s ⁻¹ cm ⁻²)	H β _{nar} Line Strength ^b	F _{Host} (10 ⁻¹⁵ erg s ⁻¹ cm ⁻² Å ⁻¹)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Mrk 290	380	1.91 ± 0.12	0.08	1.79
Mrk 817	330	1.32 ± 0.07	0.08	1.84 ± 0.17
NGC 3227	485	6.81 ± 0.54	0.088 ^c	7.30 ± 0.67
NGC 3516	250	3.35 ± 0.42	0.07	16.1 ± 1.5
NGC 4051	190	3.91 ± 0.12 ^c	...	9.18 ± 0.85
NGC 5548	410	5.58 ± 0.27 ^d	0.11 ^e	4.48 ± 0.41

Notes.

^a From Whittle (1992).

^b Ratio of narrow F (H β _{nar}) to F ([O III] λ 5007).

^c From Peterson et al. (2000).

^d From Peterson et al. (1991).

^e From Peterson et al. (2004).

and are, thus, highly correlated on these long timescales. These long timescale correlations then dominate the results of the cross-correlation analysis that determines the time delay, biasing the desired correlation due to reverberation. Welsh (1999) strongly recommends removing these low-frequency trends with low-order polynomials (a linear fit at the very least) to improve the reliability of cross-correlation lag determinations. We took a conservative approach and only linearly detrended light curves in which there was evidence for secular variability and for which the cross-correlation analysis was improved upon detrending: both light curves from Mrk 290, the H β light curve from Mrk 817, and the continuum light curve from NGC 3227 (see Section 2.4 for further discussion). These fits are shown in Figure 2 for each of these respective light curves. It was unnecessary to detrend all light curves, as no improvement in the cross-correlation analysis would result from detrending light curves that already have a relatively flat mean flux. Also, it is not surprising for associated continuum and line light curves to exhibit different long-term secular trends, since the relationship between the measured continuum and the ionizing continuum responsible for producing the emission lines may not be a linear one (Peterson et al. 2002), and the exact response of the line depends on the detailed structure and dynamics of the BLR.

- We excluded the points from the Mrk 817 light curve with JD < 2,454,200 because (1) there is a large gap in the data between these points and the rest of the light curve and (2) there is little to no coherent variability pattern seen here (i.e., the continuum is relatively flat and noisy, and the H β fluxes are particularly noisy and are of otherwise little use, given there are no continuum points at earlier times).

Tabulated continuum and H β fluxes for all objects, except for NGC 4051 which were previously reported by Denney et al. (2009b), are given in Tables 5 and 6, respectively. Values listed represent the flux of each observation after completing all flux calibrations described above (i.e., absolute flux calibration based on the [O III] λ 5007 emission-line flux and host-galaxy starlight subtraction), but before detrending, since this results in an arbitrary flux scale normalized to 1.0. The final calibrated light curves used for the subsequent time-series analysis are shown for each object in the left panels of Figure 3. Statistical parameters describing these calibrated light curves (again, before detrending) are given in Table 7, where Column 1 lists each object. Columns 2 and 3 are mean and median sampling

intervals, respectively, between data points in the continuum light curves. The mean continuum flux is shown in Column 4, while Column 5 gives the excess variance, calculated as

$$F_{\text{var}} = \frac{\sqrt{\sigma^2 - \delta^2}}{\langle f \rangle}, \quad (1)$$

where σ^2 is the variance of the observed fluxes, δ^2 is their mean square uncertainty, and $\langle f \rangle$ is the mean of the observed fluxes. Column 6 is the ratio of the maximum to minimum flux in the continuum light curves. Columns 7–11 display the same quantities as Columns 2–6 but for the H β light curves.

2.4. Time-series Analysis

We performed a cross-correlation analysis to evaluate the mean light-travel time delay, or lag, between the continuum and H β emission-line flux variations. We primarily employed an interpolation scheme (Gaskell & Sparke 1986; Gaskell & Peterson 1987, with the modifications of White & Peterson 1994). Using this method, we first interpolate (with an interval equal to roughly half the median data spacing, i.e., ~ 0.5 day) between points in the emission-line light curve before cross-correlating it with the original continuum light curve, calculating cross-correlation coefficients, r , for many potential lag values (both positive and negative). We then average these cross-correlation coefficients with those measured by imposing the same set of possible lag values in the case where we cross-correlate an interpolated continuum light curve with the original emission-line light curve. This gives us a distribution of average cross-correlation coefficients as a function of possible lags, known as the cross-correlation function (CCF). We checked the results from this method with the discrete correlation method of Edelson & Krolik (1988), also employing the modifications of White & Peterson (1994), but we do not show these results here, since they are consistent with our primary cross-correlation method and provide no additional information.

The right panels of Figure 3 show the adopted cross-correlation results for each object (i.e., after detrending selected light curves; see below for a discussion of the effect of detrending on this analysis). Here, the autocorrelation function (ACF), computed by cross-correlating the continuum with itself, is shown in the top right panel for each object, and the CCF computed by cross-correlating the H β light curve with that of the continuum, is shown in the bottom right. Because the CCF is a convolution of the transfer function with the ACF, it is instructive

Table 5
(Continued)

Mrk 290		Mrk 817		NGC 3227		NGC 3516		NGC 5548	
JD ^a	$F_{\text{cont}}^{\text{b}}$	JD ^a	$F_{\text{cont}}^{\text{b}}$	JD ^a	$F_{\text{cont}}^{\text{b}}$	JD ^a	$F_{\text{cont}}^{\text{b}}$	JD ^a	$F_{\text{cont}}^{\text{b}}$
						4296.29p	2.561 ± 0.102	4284.33p	2.221 ± 0.066
						4296.31c	2.512 ± 0.354	4284.90g	2.419 ± 0.027
						4298.31p	2.797 ± 0.087	4285.77d	2.311 ± 0.122
						4299.33c	2.761 ± 0.358	4286.76d	2.238 ± 0.121
						4299.34p	2.986 ± 0.097	4287.76d	2.341 ± 0.122
						4300.30c	3.347 ± 0.369	4288.76d	2.387 ± 0.123
								4288.85g	2.541 ± 0.021
								4289.39n	2.363 ± 0.117
								4290.75d	2.716 ± 0.130
								4290.85g	2.662 ± 0.035
								4292.84d	2.617 ± 0.127
								4293.36p	2.588 ± 0.056
								4293.77d	2.686 ± 0.129
								4294.82g	2.758 ± 0.036
								4296.38p	2.539 ± 0.056
								4298.38p	2.513 ± 0.058
								4299.38p	2.652 ± 0.053
								4299.83g	2.666 ± 0.035
								4304.81g	2.940 ± 0.051
								4307.84g	3.094 ± 0.068
								4309.80g	3.012 ± 0.036
								4311.81g	2.940 ± 0.036
								4313.81g	2.726 ± 0.070
								4318.81g	2.684 ± 0.042
								4319.81g	2.515 ± 0.048
								4320.80g	2.554 ± 0.042
								4330.75g	2.414 ± 0.034
								4332.77g	2.348 ± 0.060

Notes.

^a Julian Dates are $-2,450,000$ and include the following observatory code to indicate the origin of the observation: MDM, m; MAGNUM, g; CrAO spectroscopy, c; CrAO photometry, p; UNebr, n; DAO, d.

^b Continuum fluxes are in units of $10^{-15} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ and represent the average continuum flux density measured $\sim 5100 \text{ \AA}$, rest frame, from spectroscopic observations or the photometric V-band flux. Spectroscopic and photometric fluxes were scaled to a uniform scale as described in Section 2.3. All fluxes have been corrected for host starlight contamination.

to compare the two distributions, as the lag measured through this type of cross-correlation analysis will depend not only on the delay map, but also on characteristic timescales of the continuum variations (see, e.g., Netzer & Maoz 1990). We characterize the time delay between the continuum and emission-line variations by the parameter τ_{cent} , the centroid of the CCF based on all points with $r \geq 0.8r_{\text{max}}$, as well as the lag corresponding to the peak in the CCF at $r = r_{\text{max}}$, τ_{peak} . Time dilation-corrected values of τ_{cent} and τ_{peak} were determined for each object using the redshifts listed in Table 1, i.e., $\tau_{\text{rest}} = \tau_{\text{obs}}/(1+z)$, and are given in Table 8. Uncertainties in both lag determinations are computed via model-independent Monte Carlo simulations that employ the bootstrap method of Peterson et al. (1998), with the additional modifications of Peterson et al. (2004).

Visual inspection of the CCFs of selected objects before and after detrending was made to determine if detrending these light curves was warranted. Based on the combined properties of the light curves shown in Figure 2 (whether or not an overall slope appeared in the flux across the extent of our campaign) and the CCFs, shown in Figure 4 for Mrk 290, Mrk 817, and NGC 3227 before and after detrending, we ultimately decided to adopt the detrending for the following reasons listed for each object.

Mrk 290. The top panels of Figure 4 show that before detrending (left), the peak of the CCF is broader than the detrended peak (right) and is blended with an aliased peak at

~ 30 days. Since the reverberation lag is clearly seen in the Mrk 290 light curves in Figures 2 and 3 and the peak of highest significance is the same both before and after detrending, the presence of this alias only acts to decrease the precision of our lag measurements. While τ_{cent} is roughly one day smaller after detrending (a difference less than even the measured uncertainty) due to the reduced significance of the aliased peak at ~ 30 days by a factor of almost 10, the detrended CCF is narrower and the measured lags more precise, so we adopt the detrended measurements.

Mrk 817. The middle panels of Figure 4 show the original (left) and detrended (right) CCFs from the analysis of Mrk 817. The choice to detrend was marginal in this case. The process resulted in a larger observed lag ($\tau_{\text{cent}} = 14.48$ days versus $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 11.93$) after detrending, contrary to the typical expectation that lags will be underestimated after detrending (since the process removes low-frequency variability). We adopt the detrended results because the resulting CCF is narrower, particularly with respect to lags $\lesssim 0.0$ days, and the resulting lag measurement is more consistent with past results that we hold to be reliable (see Section 5.1).

NGC 3227. The bottom panels of Figure 4 show the original (left) and detrended (right) CCFs from the analysis of NGC 3227. Here it is obvious that not detrending the light curves results in a non-physical measurement of the lag at ~ -33 days

Table 6
(Continued)

Mrk 290		Mrk 817		NGC 3227		NGC 3516		NGC 5548	
JD ^a	$F_{H\beta}^b$	JD ^a	$F_{H\beta}^b$	JD ^a	$F_{H\beta}^b$	JD ^a	$F_{H\beta}^b$	JD ^a	$F_{H\beta}^b$
4261.93m	1.908 ± 0.042	4267.42c	2.392 ± 0.089	4256.66m	3.857 ± 0.112	4260.71m	5.631 ± 0.178	4255.82m	1.070 ± 0.100
4262.84d	1.915 ± 0.060	4267.86m	2.360 ± 0.078	4257.64m	3.473 ± 0.101	4261.69m	5.493 ± 0.174	4256.82m	0.988 ± 0.092
4263.91m	1.920 ± 0.043	4268.48c	2.435 ± 0.090	4259.65m	3.872 ± 0.112	4262.69m	5.194 ± 0.163	4257.81m	1.093 ± 0.101
4264.92m	1.856 ± 0.041	4268.85m	2.447 ± 0.080	4260.66m	3.476 ± 0.101	4263.68m	5.431 ± 0.171	4258.83m	1.028 ± 0.096
4265.93m	1.818 ± 0.040	4269.85m	2.338 ± 0.077	4261.65m	3.537 ± 0.103	4264.70m	5.417 ± 0.173	4259.84m	1.174 ± 0.109
4266.48c	1.820 ± 0.061	4270.47c	2.234 ± 0.082	4262.65m	3.183 ± 0.092	4265.72m	5.004 ± 0.156	4260.84m	0.984 ± 0.091
4266.91m	1.845 ± 0.041	4271.42c	2.105 ± 0.078	4264.65m	3.394 ± 0.098	4266.36c	5.213 ± 0.369	4261.84m	1.306 ± 0.121
4267.44c	1.887 ± 0.062	4272.45c	2.254 ± 0.083	4265.67m	3.471 ± 0.100	4266.69m	5.238 ± 0.165	4262.80m	1.200 ± 0.112
4267.91d	1.894 ± 0.042	4273.42c	2.166 ± 0.080	4266.65m	3.519 ± 0.102	4267.69m	5.161 ± 0.163	4263.81m	1.121 ± 0.104
4267.91m	1.770 ± 0.055	4274.48c	2.170 ± 0.080	4267.64m	3.661 ± 0.106	4268.34c	4.934 ± 0.349	4264.82m	1.089 ± 0.101
4268.90m	1.876 ± 0.042	4276.40c	2.082 ± 0.077	4268.64m	3.892 ± 0.113	4268.69m	5.101 ± 0.160	4265.38c	1.253 ± 0.120
4269.46c	1.866 ± 0.062	4277.39c	2.067 ± 0.077			4269.29c	5.047 ± 0.357	4265.81m	1.114 ± 0.104
4269.87d	1.894 ± 0.060	4278.42c	2.182 ± 0.080			4269.69m	4.768 ± 0.149	4266.41c	0.987 ± 0.094
4270.85d	1.805 ± 0.057	4281.48c	2.148 ± 0.080			4271.37c	4.018 ± 0.284	4266.82m	1.095 ± 0.101
4273.45c	1.865 ± 0.062	4282.50c	2.185 ± 0.080			4272.38c	3.586 ± 0.254	4267.39c	1.275 ± 0.121
4274.44c	1.859 ± 0.062	4283.39c	2.387 ± 0.088			4273.36c	3.521 ± 0.249	4267.81m	1.277 ± 0.118
4277.43c	1.982 ± 0.066	4284.38c	2.288 ± 0.084			4274.33c	3.911 ± 0.277	4268.36c	1.248 ± 0.118
4277.89d	1.942 ± 0.061	4290.41c	2.211 ± 0.081			4277.34c	3.974 ± 0.281	4269.40c	1.088 ± 0.104
4278.46c	1.893 ± 0.062	4291.38c	2.159 ± 0.080			4278.32c	4.500 ± 0.319	4271.39c	1.067 ± 0.101
4282.46c	1.872 ± 0.062	4297.43c	2.180 ± 0.080			4279.29c	3.776 ± 0.267	4272.41c	1.006 ± 0.096
4282.81d	2.008 ± 0.063	4298.45c	2.324 ± 0.086			4280.29c	3.619 ± 0.256	4273.38c	1.039 ± 0.099
4283.42c	1.943 ± 0.064	4299.38c	2.219 ± 0.082			4281.42c	3.889 ± 0.275	4274.35c	1.072 ± 0.101
4284.41c	1.974 ± 0.065	4300.36c	2.266 ± 0.084			4283.29c	3.902 ± 0.276	4276.84d	1.059 ± 0.082
4285.86d	1.950 ± 0.062	4301.43c	2.256 ± 0.083			4284.33c	4.070 ± 0.288	4277.36c	1.147 ± 0.109
4286.86d	2.093 ± 0.066					4290.28c	4.150 ± 0.294	4277.80d	1.040 ± 0.081
4287.86d	2.041 ± 0.064					4291.32c	3.658 ± 0.259	4278.39c	1.031 ± 0.098
4288.86d	2.061 ± 0.065					4296.31c	3.823 ± 0.271	4278.83d	1.078 ± 0.083
4289.42c	2.071 ± 0.069					4299.33c	3.655 ± 0.259	4282.76d	1.161 ± 0.090
4290.44c	1.935 ± 0.064					4300.30c	3.441 ± 0.244	4283.35c	1.223 ± 0.116
4290.85d	2.134 ± 0.067							4284.35c	0.933 ± 0.088
4291.41c	2.092 ± 0.070							4285.77d	1.109 ± 0.086
4296.42c	1.977 ± 0.066							4286.76d	0.919 ± 0.070
4297.48c	1.985 ± 0.066							4287.76d	0.926 ± 0.071
4298.42c	1.868 ± 0.062							4288.76d	1.017 ± 0.078
4300.40c	1.977 ± 0.065							4289.34c	1.058 ± 0.100
4301.46c	2.001 ± 0.066							4290.38c	1.085 ± 0.103
								4290.75d	1.153 ± 0.088
								4291.35c	1.118 ± 0.107
								4292.84d	1.101 ± 0.084
								4293.77d	1.143 ± 0.088
								4296.33c	1.215 ± 0.116
								4299.35c	1.286 ± 0.122
								4300.32c	1.251 ± 0.118
								4301.38c	1.277 ± 0.121

Notes.

^a Julian Dates are $-2,450,000$ and include the same observatory codes as in Table 5.

^b $H\beta$ flux is in units of $10^{-13} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2}$.

with a broad peak (due to aliasing effects between the features with the highest flux in each of the original continuum and $H\beta$ light curves). While the physical peak (i.e., with positive lag, as seen and measured from the detrended CCF) is present, every lag is of low significance, i.e., $r \lesssim 0.4$. After detrending, the CCF peak at negative lags is still present; however, the “true” reverberation signal at a lag of ~ 4 days is rightfully more significant.

3. BLACK HOLE MASSES

We assume that the motions of the BLR are dominated by the gravity of the central BH so that the mass of the BH can be

defined by

$$M_{\text{BH}} = \frac{f c \tau (\Delta V)^2}{G}. \quad (2)$$

Here, τ is the measured emission-line time delay, so that $c\tau$ represents the BLR radius, and ΔV is the BLR velocity dispersion. The dimensionless factor f depends on the structure, kinematics, and inclination of the BLR, and we adopt the value of Onken et al. (2004), $f = 5.5 \pm 1.4$, determined empirically by adjusting the zero point of the reverberation-based masses to scale the AGN $M_{\text{BH}}-\sigma_*$ relationship to that of quiescent galaxies.

An estimate of the BLR velocity dispersion is made from the width of the Doppler-broadened $H\beta$ emission line. This

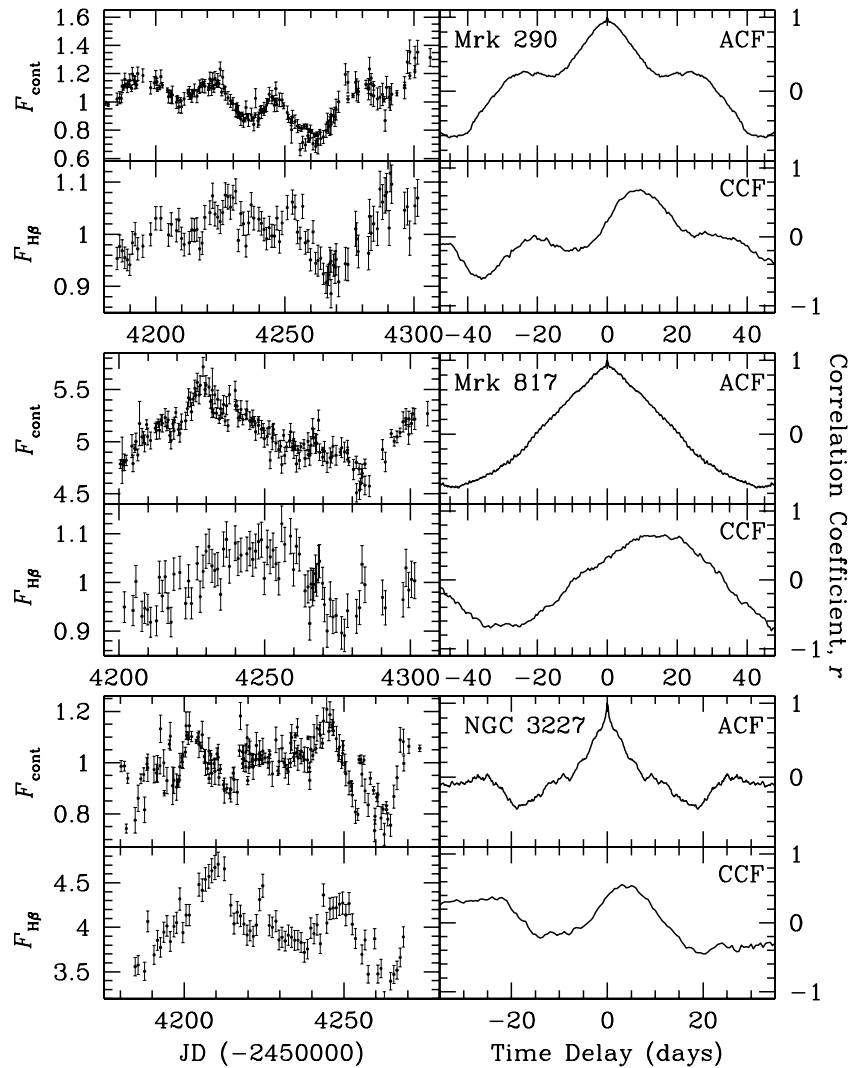


Figure 3. Left panels: merged and detrended (where applicable) continuum (top) and H β (bottom) light curves used for cross-correlation analysis. Units are the same as in Tables 5 and 6, but the flux scale of each detrended light curve is arbitrary. Right panels: CCFs for the light curves. Each top panel shows the ACF of each continuum light curve, and the bottom panels show the CCF of H β with the continuum.

line width is commonly characterized by either the FWHM or the line dispersion, i.e., the second moment of the line profile. Table 8 gives both FWHM and line dispersion, σ_{line} , measurements from the rms spectra of all objects except Mrk 817, in which the rms profile was not well defined (see Figure 1), and thus we measured the width from the mean spectrum. All widths and their uncertainties were measured employing methods described in detail by Peterson et al. (2004). We removed the narrow-line [O III] $\lambda\lambda 4959, 5007$ emission and the narrow-line component of H β from all objects before these line widths were measured (except for NGC 4051, where this component could not be reliably isolated due to the line profile shape and, in any case, does not affect our rms line width measurements; see Denney et al. 2009b). Flux contributions from the narrow-line component will not contaminate the line widths measured in the rms spectrum (i.e., the narrow-line component does not vary in response to the ionizing continuum on reverberation timescales), so the removal of this component was generally unnecessary for most objects in our sample; however, we do so for all objects anyway to check the accuracy of our H β to O III $\lambda 5007$ line ratio determinations (Table 4, Column 4) by looking for any significant residual narrow-line

emission in the rms spectra of Figure 1. The exception to this is for Mrk 817: since we measured the width in the mean spectrum, it was necessary to remove the narrow line before measuring the line widths because the narrow-line component will bias (i.e., underestimate) line widths measured in the mean spectrum or in any single-epoch spectrum (see Denney et al. 2009a). Also, for the width measurements in two cases, Mrk 290 and NGC 3227, we narrowed the line boundaries to 4935–5064 Å and 4810–4942 Å, respectively, compared to what was used for the flux measurements, since the rms line profiles of these objects were clearly narrower than their mean profiles (the rms profile is often narrower than the mean profile, which is not surprising, given that likely not all flux seen in the mean spectrum varies in response to the continuum; see, e.g., Korista & Goad 2004).

BH masses for all objects, calculated from Equation (2), are listed in Table 8 and were calculated using τ_{cent} , for the time delay, τ , and the quoted line dispersion, σ_{line} , for the emission-line width, ΔV . This combination of measurements for the line width and reverberation lag is not only appropriate because it is the combination used by Onken et al. (2004) to determine the value of the scale factor, f , that we adopt here, but also because

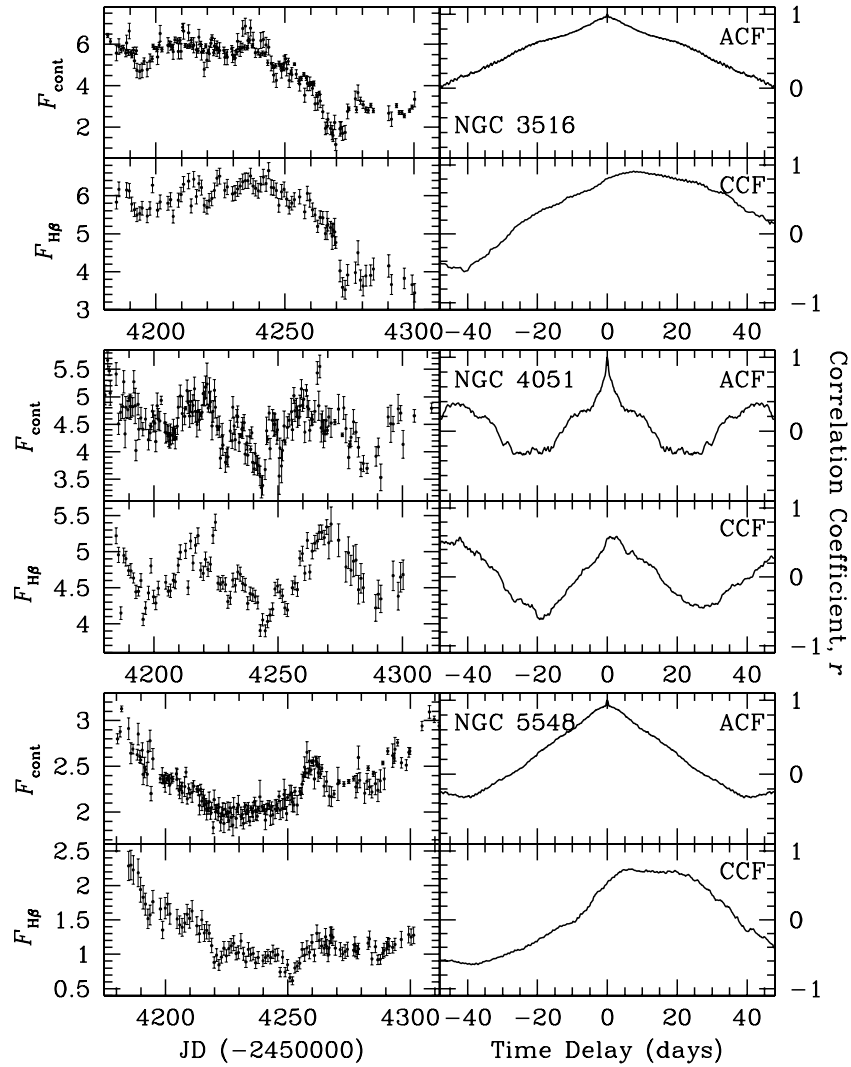


Figure 3. (Continued)

Table 7
Light Curve Statistics

Objects	Continuum Statistics					H β Line Statistics				
	Sampling (days)		Mean	F_{var}	R_{max}	Sampling (days)		Mean	F_{var}	R_{max}
	$\langle T \rangle$	T_{median}	Flux ^a	(5)	(6)	$\langle T \rangle$	T_{median}	Flux ^b	(10)	(11)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Mrk 290	0.77	0.52	0.94	0.18	2.18 ± 0.17	1.18	1.00	2.09	0.07	1.32 ± 0.05
Mrk 817	0.84	0.56	5.06	0.05	1.27 ± 0.03	1.33	1.00	2.41	0.05	1.29 ± 0.06
NGC 3227	0.55	0.45	3.27	0.10	1.88 ± 0.09	1.13	1.00	3.99	0.08	1.48 ± 0.06
NGC 3516	0.60	0.54	4.86	0.28	5.90 ± 1.50	1.26	1.00	5.54	0.15	1.94 ± 0.15
NGC 4051	0.56	0.45	4.49	0.09	1.69 ± 0.11	1.08	1.00	4.67	0.07	1.39 ± 0.07
NGC 5548	0.70	0.48	2.29	0.11	1.71 ± 0.06	1.09	1.00	1.20	0.26	3.74 ± 0.49

Notes.

^a Fluxes are the same units as in Table 5.

^b Fluxes are the same units as in Table 6.

Peterson et al. (2004) show that this combination also results in the strongest virial relation between line width and BLR radius, i.e., $R \sim \Delta V^{-0.5}$. The exception to this prescription for the BH mass calculation is Mrk 817, which has a poorly defined, triple-peaked rms line profile. Because the rms profile is weak and poorly defined, we measure the line widths from the mean spectrum and use the Collin et al. (2006) calibration of the

scale factor determined for the line dispersion measured from the mean spectrum, $f = 3.85$. Statistical and observational uncertainties have been included in these mass measurements, but intrinsic uncertainties from sources such as unknown BLR inclination cannot be accurately ascertained. We also note here that there has been some debate in the literature as to the importance of radiation pressure on BH masses calculated using

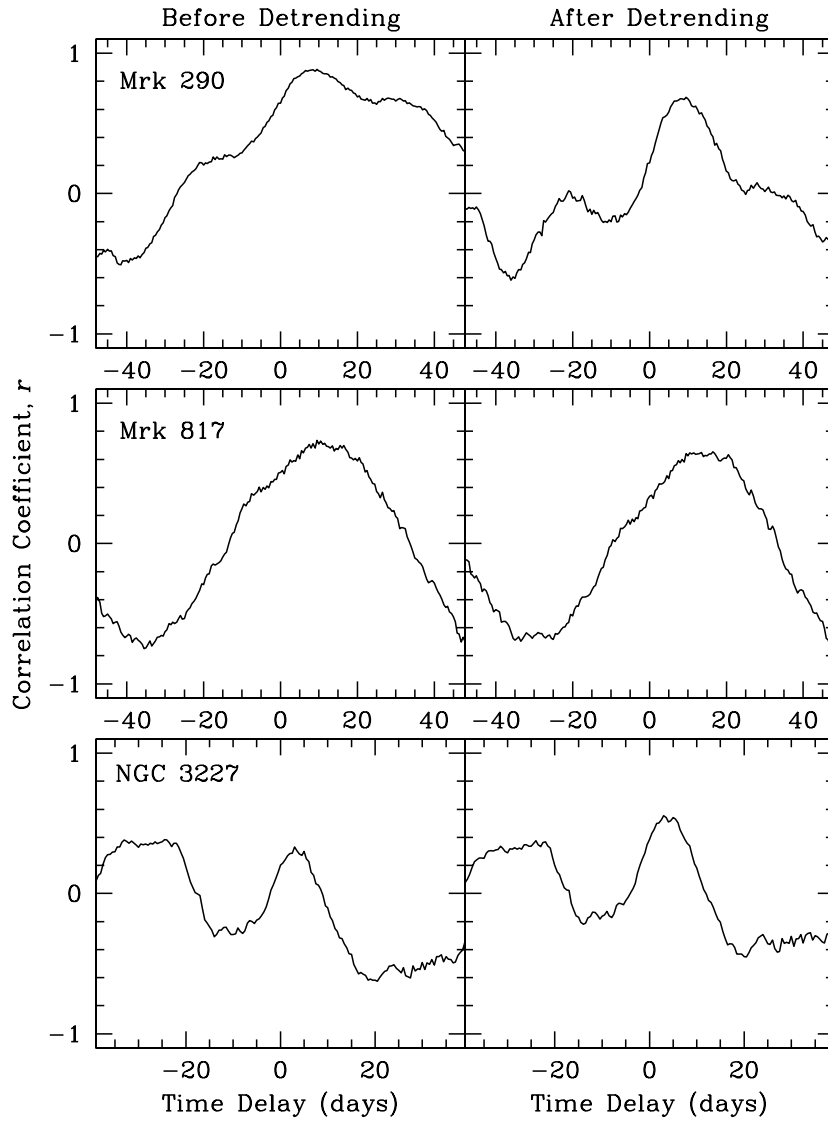


Figure 4. CCFs before (left) and after (right) detrending selected light curves of Mrk 290 (top), Mrk 817 (middle), and NGC 3227 (bottom). See Section 2.4 for details.

Table 8
Rest-frame Lags, Line Widths, BH Masses, and Luminosities

Objects	r_{\max}	τ_{cent} (days)	τ_{peak} (days)	σ_{line} (km s^{-1})	FWHM (km s^{-1})	M_{vir} ($\times 10^6 M_{\odot}$)	M_{BH}^{a} ($\times 10^6 M_{\odot}$)	$\log L_{5100}$ (erg s^{-1})
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Mrk 290	0.632	$8.72^{+1.21}_{-1.02}$	$9.2^{+1.5}_{-1.4}$	1609 ± 47	4270 ± 157	$4.42^{+0.67}_{-0.67}$	$24.3^{+3.7}_{-3.7}$	$43.00^{+0.08}_{-0.08}$
Mrk 817 ^b	0.614	$14.04^{+3.41}_{-3.47}$	$16.0^{+3.9}_{-5.3}$	2025 ± 5	5627 ± 30	$11.3^{+2.7}_{-2.8}$	$43.3^{+10.5}_{-10.7}$	$43.78^{+0.02}_{-0.02}$
NGC 3227	0.547	$3.75^{+0.76}_{-0.82}$	$2.99^{+2.00}_{-1.00}$	1376 ± 44	3578 ± 83	$1.39^{+0.29}_{-0.31}$	$7.63^{+1.62}_{-1.72}$	$42.11^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$
NGC 3516	0.894	$11.68^{+1.02}_{-1.53}$	$7.43^{+1.99}_{-0.99}$	1591 ± 10	5175 ± 96	$5.76^{+0.51}_{-0.76}$	$31.7^{+2.8}_{-4.2}$	$43.17^{+0.15}_{-0.15}$
NGC 4051	0.583	$1.87^{+0.54}_{-0.50}$	$2.60^{+0.79}_{-1.40}$	927 ± 64	1034 ± 41	$0.31^{+0.10}_{-0.09}$	$1.73^{+0.55}_{-0.52}$	$41.82^{+0.10}_{-0.36}$
NGC 5548	0.708	$12.40^{+2.74}_{-3.85}$	$6.1^{+9.4}_{-2.8}$	1822 ± 35	4849 ± 112	$8.04^{+1.80}_{-2.51}$	$44.2^{+9.9}_{-13.8}$	$42.91^{+0.05}_{-0.05}$

Notes.

^a Using Onken et al. (2004) calibration (except Mrk 817, see below).

^b The weak and poorly defined, triple-peaked profile of the $\text{H}\beta$ emission in the rms spectrum necessitated the use of the line width measured from the mean spectrum for Mrk 817 (Columns 5 and 6) and a BH mass (Column 8) calculated with the scale factor determined by Collin et al. (2006) for the use of this line width measurement, $f = 3.85$, instead of the standard Onken et al. (2004) value of $f = 5.5$ that was used for all other objects.

virial assumptions, since the outward radiation force has the same radial dependence as gravity (see Marconi et al. 2008, 2009; Netzer 2009). As there is not yet conclusive evidence suggesting a radiation–pressure correction is important for the

relatively low Eddington ratio objects we present here, we do not make this correction, but a radiation–pressure corrected mass can be computed from the observables given in Table 8 and the formulae provided by Marconi et al. (2008).

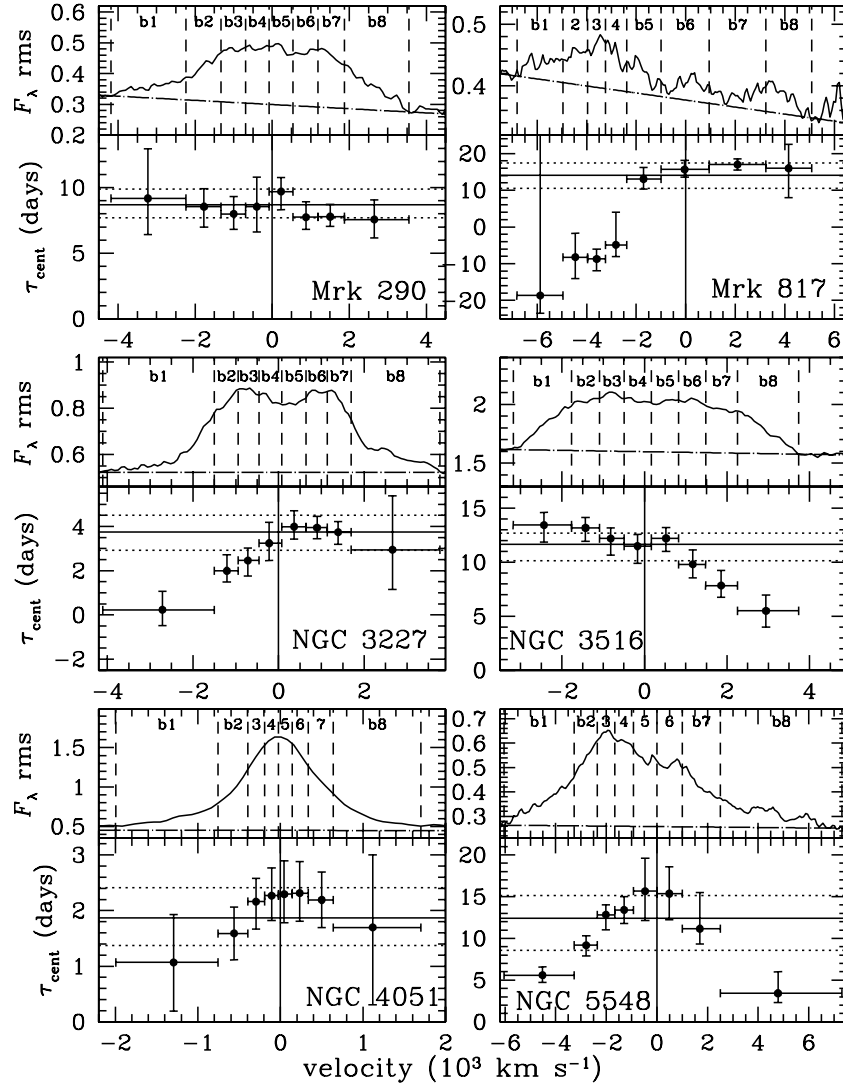


Figure 5. Top panels: $H\beta$ rms spectral profile of each object broken into bins of equal flux (numbered and separated by dashed lines) with the linearly fit continuum level shown (dot-dashed line). Flux units are the same as in Figure 1. Bottom panels: velocity-resolved time-delay measurements. Time-delay measurements and errors are determined similarly to those for the mean BLR lag, and error bars in the velocity direction show the bin size. The horizontal solid and dotted lines show the mean BLR centroid lag and associated errors calculated in Section 2.4.

4. VELOCITY-RESOLVED REVERBERATION LAGS

The primary cross-correlation analysis presented above was intended to measure the average time delay across the full extent of the BLR from which to ascertain the mean, or “characteristic,” radius of the $H\beta$ -emitting region of the BLR to use for calculating BH masses. For this reason, we utilized the full line flux from which to measure the reverberation signal. However, the BLR is an extended region, and therefore, the light-travel time for the ionizing continuum to reach different volume elements within the BLR will vary across the extent of the emitting region. The expectation is then that the responding BLR gas variations will lag the continuum variations on slightly different timescales as a function of the LOS velocity. Measuring and mapping these slight differences in the BLR response time across velocity space recovers the transfer function, which is easily visualized as a velocity–delay map (see Horne et al. 2004). Recovering an unambiguous velocity–delay map is a continuing goal of reverberation mapping analyses, as the construction and analysis of such a map is our best hope, with current technology, of gaining insight into the geometry and kinematics of the BLR.

The construction and analysis of full two-dimensional velocity–delay maps is beyond the scope of this work and remains the focus of future research. However, we do present a more simple reconstruction of the velocity-dependent reverberation signal, observed across the $H\beta$ emission-line region when we divide the line flux into eight velocity-space bins of equal flux. These results for NGC 4051, NGC 3516, NGC 3227, and NGC 5548 have been previously published (Denney et al. 2009b, 2009c) but are included again here for completeness. Line boundaries are the same as those used in the full line analysis, except where noted in Table 2. In these cases the narrowed boundaries given above for Mrk 290 were used, and a discussion of the difference in boundary choices for the other objects is presented by Denney et al. (2009c). Light curves were created from measurements of the integrated $H\beta$ flux in each bin and then cross-correlated with the continuum light curve following the same procedures described above. Figure 5 shows the results of this analysis for all objects, where the top panels show the division of each rms $H\beta$ line profile into the eight velocity bins and the bottom panels show the lag measurements and uncertainties for each of these bins. Error bars in the velocity direction

represent the bin width. We see a variety of velocity-resolved responses that we discuss in further detail below.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1. Comparison with Previous Results

Some of the objects in this campaign were targeted, at least in part, because they have previously appeared as outliers on AGN scaling relationships, in particular, the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship. As such, all objects except Mrk 290 have previous reverberation results, several of which were suspect for one reason or another and warranted re-observation. Based on the outcomes of the current analysis, we will group our results into three categories: (1) new measurements for an object never before targeted, i.e., Mrk 290, (2) replacement measurements for objects that had uncertain results (typically due to undersampling) and for which our results completely replace any previous measurements of the $H\beta$ reverberation lag, i.e., NGC 3227, NGC 3516, and NGC 4051, and (3) additional measurements of objects for which we already trust the previous lag measurements, i.e., NGC 5548 and Mrk 817. In this context, we can compare our new results to previously published results.

5.1.1. New Measurements

At the time of our campaign (first half of 2007), reverberation mapping had never before targeted Mrk 290. However, in 2008 LAMP also monitored Mrk 290 for a reverberation analysis (see Bentz et al. 2009c), although they were unable to recover an unambiguous reverberation lag measurement from their data because Mrk 290 exhibited little variability during their campaign. Therefore, the results we present here are the only reverberation measurements of this object.

5.1.2. Replacement Measurements

Our current measurements of NGC 3227, NGC 3516, and NGC 4051 should completely supersede previous results measuring a reverberation radius based on $H\beta$ and the BH mass. A thorough comparison between our new measurement of the BLR radius of NGC 4051 and that from past studies is discussed by Denney et al. (2009b), and the reader is referred to this work for details. However, the main conclusion of that comparison is that the light curves from which previous measurements of the lag were made (e.g., Peterson et al. 2000) were undersampled, leading to an overestimate of the lag. Our current study remedied this problem with a much higher sampling rate, routinely obtaining more than one observation per day.

Previous reverberation lag measurements of the $H\beta$ -emitting region in NGC 3227 (Salamanca et al. 1994; Winge et al. 1995; Onken et al. 2003) were reanalyzed by Peterson et al. (2004). The $H\beta$ light curves of Salamanca et al. (1994) from a Lovers of Active Galaxies (LAG) campaign were undersampled and they do not even attempt to measure a time delay from them. Winge et al. (1995) report an $H\beta$ lag of 18 ± 5 days from observations taken during a period in which the optical luminosity was only ~ 0.3 dex larger than our current observations (i.e., a change in radius of $\sim 40\%$ is expected from such a change in luminosity, based on an $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship slope of ~ 0.5). However, their average and median sampling intervals were ~ 6 and 4 days, respectively, which is marginally sampled compared to what is needed for this low-luminosity source. These early reverberation campaigns did not have the benefit of the predictive power that we currently have with the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship to use

for planning campaign observations, i.e., these campaigns were fundamentally exploratory. A reanalysis of the LAG consortium data presented by Salamanca et al. (1994) was conducted by Onken et al. (2003) using the van Groningen & Wanders (1992) algorithm to reduce uncertainties in the relative flux calibration of the spectra. Onken et al. found an $H\beta$ lag of $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 12.0^{+26.7}_{-9.1}$ days, consistent with the results of Winge et al. (1995). Later, Peterson et al. (2004) also reanalyzed the CTIO data presented by Winge et al. (1995) with the van Groningen & Wanders (1992) algorithm and further re-examined the LAG data rescaled by Onken et al. (2003). This reanalysis resulted in some improvement in the $H\beta$ lag determinations and uncertainties, i.e., smaller overall lags, however, the reanalyzed values still had large uncertainties, resulting in a measurement consistent with zero lag: $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 8.2^{+5.1}_{-8.4}$ days and $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 5.4^{+14.1}_{-8.7}$ days for the CTIO and LAG data sets, respectively (Peterson et al. 2004). It is clear that our new measurement of the $H\beta$ lag in NGC 3227 of $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 3.75^{+0.76}_{-0.82}$ days should supersede these past results.

Likewise, the previous reverberation data for NGC 3516 also came from a LAG consortium campaign, also with a sampling interval of ~ 4 days (Wanders et al. 1993). Since the lag for this object was at least larger than the sampling rate, the undersampling was not as severe a handicap as for other objects in our sample, such as NGC 4051 and NGC 3227. Thus, reanalysis of the LAG data first by Onken et al. (2003) and then by Peterson et al. (2004) measure lags of $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 7.3^{+5.4}_{-2.5}$ days and $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 6.7^{+6.8}_{-3.8}$ days, respectively, that are consistent with the original analysis by Wanders et al., who measure the peak $H\beta$ lag to be 7 ± 3 days, with the centroid of the CCF yielding a radius of 11 light days. All of these centroid measurements are consistent with our new measurement of $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 11.68^{+1.02}_{-1.53}$ days. Also, the LAG spectra were obtained through a narrow ($2''$) slit; as the narrow-line region in this object is partially resolved, it was necessary to make seeing-dependent corrections to the continuum and emission-line measurements (Wanders et al. 1992) that are both large and uncertain. For our new measurements, the aperture corrections are small and have a negligible effect on the final results; the seeing-corrected and uncorrected fluxes differ by, on average, $0.09\% \pm 0.05\%$, which is smaller than the standard deviation of our relative flux scaling of 1.6% for NGC 3516. Clearly, our new observations with an approximately daily sampling rate show great improvement over past campaigns, for these objects, and the results presented here should supersede past values of the $H\beta$ lag measured for NGC 3227, NGC 3516, and NGC 4051.

5.1.3. Additional Measurements

The goals of this campaign were not only to re-observe outliers or objects with highly uncertain lag measurements but also to explore the possibility of uncovering velocity-resolved kinematic signatures and eventually reconstruct velocity-delay maps. Therefore, we also monitored two objects, NGC 5548 and Mrk 817, for which previous reverberation mapping results are solid, and lags measured from this campaign are simply to be considered additional measurements of the BLR radius. Reasons for making repeat reverberation measurements of AGNs include (1) exploring the radius-luminosity relationship in a single source, (2) checking the repeatability of the mass measurements for AGNs at different times, in different luminosity states, and with different line profiles, and (3) testing different characterizations of the line width (i.e., determining what line width measure leads to the most repeatable mass value). The mean lag and BH mass results presented here for NGC 5548 are

consistent with past results, taking into account the luminosity state of NGC 5548 during our campaign compared with other campaigns (i.e., NGC 5548 has been in a low-luminosity state for the past several years, but the measured lags have been consistently smaller, as expected for this low state; also see Bentz et al. 2007, 2009c).

We also monitored Mrk 817, which is the highest luminosity object in our present sample. Previous measurements of the $H\beta$ radius were made by Peterson et al. (1998) from an eight-year campaign to monitor nine Seyfert 1 galaxies. From this campaign, they separately measured the lag from three different observing seasons. The reanalysis of these data by Peterson et al. (2004) resulted in rest-frame τ_{cent} measurements of $19.0^{+3.9}_{-3.7}$, $15.3^{+3.7}_{-3.5}$, and $33.6^{+6.5}_{-7.6}$ days. Bentz et al. (2009b) calculate a weighted average of $\log \tau_{\text{cent}}$ from these three measurements of (converted back to linear space) $\langle \tau_{\text{cent}} \rangle_{\text{wt}} = 21.8^{+2.4}_{-3.0}$ days at an average luminosity of $\langle \log L_{5100} \rangle_{\text{wt}} = 43.64 \pm 0.03$ to use in calibrating the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship. The luminosity of Mrk 817 during our campaign was only about 0.1 dex higher than the weighted average luminosity quoted by Bentz et al., and our measured lag of $\tau_{\text{cent}} = 14.04^{+3.41}_{-3.47}$ days is highly consistent with the shortest lag of Peterson et al. and marginally consistent with the 19.0 day lag and the weighted average. Furthermore, the virial mass that we measure (see Column 8 of Table 8) is also consistent with that given by Peterson et al. (2004). Unfortunately, we were not able to improve on the uncertainties associated with these measurements, as our $H\beta$ light curve for this object was rather noisy (see Figures 2 and 3), which decreases the certainty with which we are able to trace the reverberated continuum variations in the line light curve. Since there was neither an improvement over nor a discrepancy with past measurements, this new result is simply added to past results as an additional measurement of the $H\beta$ -based BLR radius and M_{BH} in Mrk 817.

5.2. The BLR Radius–Luminosity Relationship

To investigate the outcome of our goal to improve the calibration of scaling relations by re-examining objects that had large measurement uncertainties and/or that appeared as outliers on these scaling relationships, we place our new measurements in context to the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship most recently calibrated by Bentz et al. (2009b). Luminosities were measured from the average, host-corrected continuum flux density measured within the 5100 Å rest-frame continuum windows listed for each object in Table 2. For most objects, we simply corrected for Galactic reddening along the LOS (Schlegel et al. 1998); however, NGC 3227 and NGC 3516 show evidence of internal reddening that must be taken into account in determining the luminosity. Gaskell et al. (2004) argue that the UV–optical continua of AGNs are all very similar, so that the reddening can be estimated by dividing the spectrum of a reddened AGN by the spectrum of an unreddened AGN. In the case of NGC 3227, we use the value of A_B determined by Crenshaw et al. (2001) by comparing the UV–optical spectrum of NGC 3227 to the unreddened spectrum of NGC 4151. For NGC 3516, we consider two methods for estimating the reddening, which result in consistent estimates of A_B : (1) we follow the Crenshaw et al. method, comparing the spectrum of NGC 3516 again to that of NGC 4151, which results in $A_B = 1.72$, and (2) we use the Balmer decrement measured from the broad components of the $H\alpha$ and $H\beta$ emission lines to estimate a reddening of $A_B = 1.68$. These two values are highly consistent, and we adopt the average between the two methods of $A_B = 1.70$. Our measured luminosities are given in

Column 9 of Table 8, where the uncertainties in the luminosities are the standard deviation in the continuum flux over the course of the campaign, except for NGC 4051, where the uncertainty in the distance is added in quadrature to this (see Denney et al. 2009b).

The top panel of Figure 6 shows the Bentz et al. (2009b) $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship, reproduced from the bottom panel of their Figure 5. Here, we have differentiated the objects targeted for our present campaign with solid squares, while all other objects presented by Bentz et al. are open squares. The bottom panel of Figure 6 shows our current results, where the objects for which our new measurements are either truly new (i.e., Mrk 290) or have become replacements for old values are shown by the solid stars, and we no longer plot the old values. Our additional measurements for NGC 5548 and Mrk 817 are shown with the open stars, and the previous weighted average lags and luminosities for these objects as reported by Bentz et al. are still present in this bottom panel. The reader should immediately notice the increased precision and accuracy of our new and replacement measurements, where it is important to note that we have *not* determined a new fit to the data.²⁷ Clearly, these better measurements emphasize the small intrinsic scatter in this relationship, reinforcing the apparently homologous nature of AGNs, even over many orders of magnitude in luminosity. The results from this campaign also support the conclusion of Peterson (2010) that improving this relationship further will not come from simply obtaining more BLR radii measurements to “beat down” the noise, but rather, from more reliable, higher-precision measurements.

5.3. Velocity-resolved Results

The cleanest cases of a velocity-resolved reverberation response are for NGC 3516, NGC 3227, and NGC 5548, where we see kinematic signatures indicating apparent infall, outflow, and non-radial, or “virialized,” motions, respectively. Denney et al. (2009c) discuss the velocity-resolved results for these three objects and the implications of these different kinematic signatures in the context of our overall understanding of the BLR and the use of BLR radii measurements for determining BH masses. In addition, Denney et al. (2009b) present and discuss the marginally velocity-resolved lags shown here for NGC 4051, and so those results are not discussed further here.

The objects not discussed in previous publications are Mrk 290 and Mrk 817. Figure 5 shows that there is very little variation in the reverberation lag across the full width of the Mrk 290 line profile, indicating that any differences in the reverberation lag across the extent of the $H\beta$ -emitting region in this object were unresolvable with the sampling rate of our campaign. An additional possibility for the uniform response we observed (i.e., small range in lags and no short lags observed) could be that the highest velocity gas seen in the wings of the mean spectrum is optically thin, and therefore does not respond to the continuum variations. This is supported by the narrowness of the $H\beta$ profile in the rms spectrum compared to that observed in the mean spectrum. On the other hand, based on the relative emission-line strengths of the high-velocity wings in several AGNs, Snedden & Gaskell (2007) argue against this interpretation.

At first glance, Mrk 817 appears to show an outflow signature similar to that of NGC 3227, however, cross-correlation between

²⁷ Re-evaluating the fit and scatter in this relationship is outside the scope of this paper but is planned for future work that will include all new, relevant data (see, e.g., Bentz et al. 2009c).

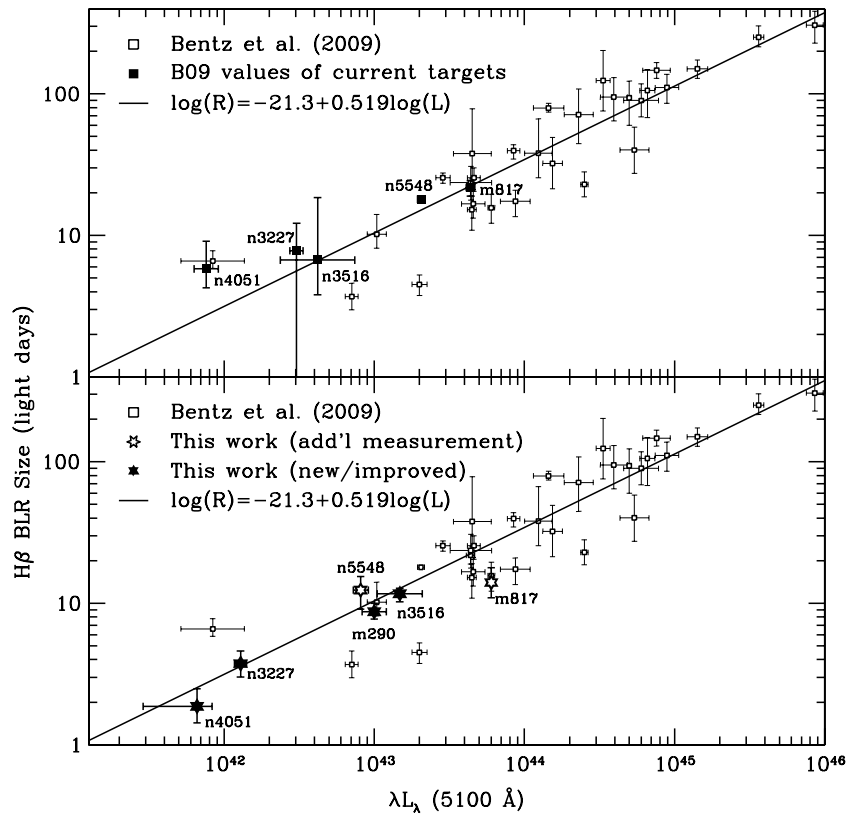


Figure 6. Top: most recently calibrated $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relation (Bentz et al. 2009b, solid line). The closed points show the location of our targets and open points show all other objects used by Bentz et al. Bottom: same as top but with our new results displayed. Solid stars show new objects or improvements upon past results which replace solid points of NGC 4051, NGC 3227, NGC 3516, and Mrk 290 in the top panel, and open points show results for NGC 5548 and Mrk 817, which serve as additional measurements for these objects but do not replace previous measurements. Note that we keep the same calibration of the relationship as determined by Bentz. et al.; no new fit has been calculated with our new results.

the continuum light curve and those derived from the line flux in the first four velocity bins actually results in lag determinations that are, though negative, largely consistent with zero lag. Ignoring these first bins gives results similar to Mrk 290, where no velocity-dependent differences in the lags are resolved. Taken at face value, this result is curious. We present binned light curves of the Mrk 817 line profile in Figure 7, where to increase the clarity of the discrepancy between the red and blue sides of the line for this discussion, we have combined sets of two bins to make a total of four bins instead of eight, i.e., we plot the flux from bin 1 added to that of bin 2, bin 3 added to bin 4, etc. For completeness, we also recompute the CCFs (also shown in Figure 7) and velocity-resolved lag measurements for these four combined bins and find results consistent with simply taking the average of the lags of each set of two bins that we combined, though the uncertainties in the newly measured lags are generally smaller, particularly for the bluest and reddest bins. Upon inspection of the individual light curves for these bins, it becomes apparent that the cross-correlation analysis for these bins essentially failed, not finding a strong correlation between the continuum flux variability and that seen in the light curves of bin 1 and bin 2. The light curves show a lack of variability in the flux in these bins during the first half of the campaign, and then a fairly monotonic rise in flux during the second half, so the peak in the continuum flux seen near JD2,454,230 is not seen in the light curves of bins 1 and 2, and instead, the feature the cross-correlation analysis picks up is the trough near \sim JD2,454,282, apparently seen in the bins 1 and 2 light curves \sim 8–10 days earlier. This combination causes the cross-correlation analysis to give unreliable results. Furthermore, no real indication of the

expected positive lag can be seen by eye, as with the other bins (and other objects, for that matter). The observations could be explained by some gas having an unresolved velocity structure near the mean radius measured for this object and there also being an outflowing component in the BLR of this object, so that the blueshifted gas is primarily along the LOS and a resulting zero-day lag is measured. However, given that (1) the overall variability observed in this object was small during this campaign and (2) the $H\beta$ profile is very broad, leading to a small variability signal spread over a large wavelength range, we cannot make any strong conclusions at this time. Future efforts will be made both to glean further information from the velocity-delay map reconstructed from our current data as well as to reanalyze the previous monitoring data on this object in an attempt to search for any other indications of velocity-resolved signatures.

Despite the differences we see in the velocity-resolved kinematics across our sample of objects, we do not believe that there is cause for concern for the masses derived from the mean BLR radii measured from these reverberation lags. Obviously, observing unresolved, virial, or infalling gas motions certainly does not question the validity of our assumption that the BLR motions are gravitationally dominated, but indications of outflow may be more problematic. However, even given these signatures, the mean lag we measure is still consistent with lags derived from the majority of the emission-line gas. Besides, it is only gas outflowing at velocities larger than the escape velocity that would break the validity of our assumptions, and this does not seem to be the case. There are good observational and theoretical reasons to believe that there are multiple

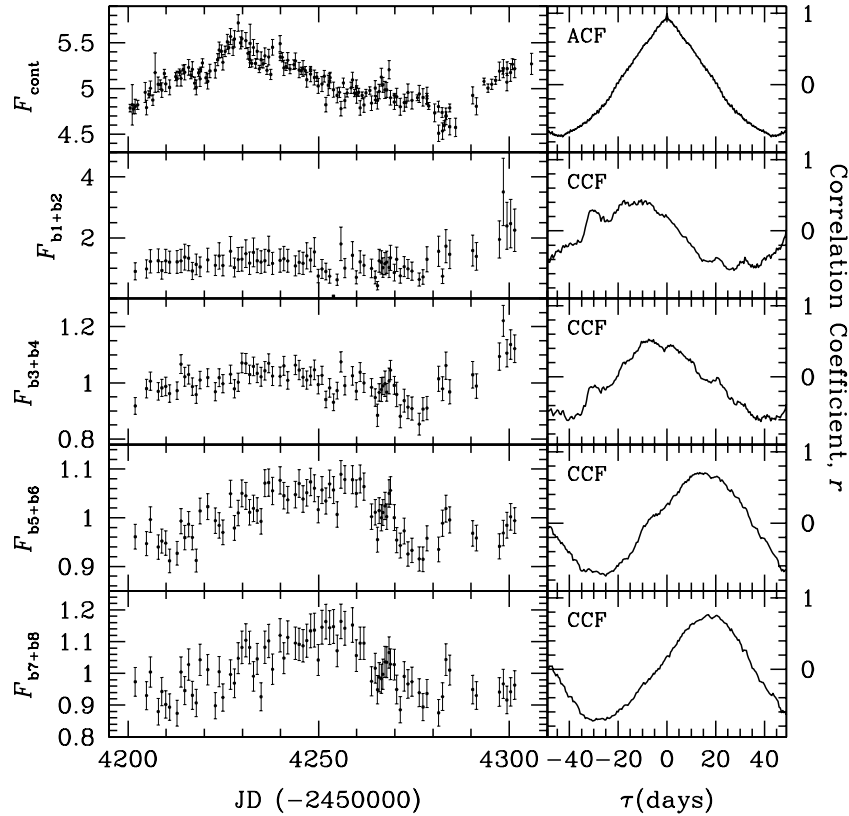


Figure 7. Left panels: continuum (top) and linearly detrended $H\beta$ light curves of Mrk 817 from four equal flux bins. Units are the same as in Tables 5 and 6. Right panels: CCFs for the light curves. The top panel shows the ACF of the continuum light curve and the lower panels show the CCF of each $H\beta$ bin with the continuum.

components within the BLR (e.g., disk and wind components), and the disk–wind model of Murray et al. (1995), for example, is still able to justify the constraint of the BH mass by the reverberation mapping radii measurements, even with the presence of a wind (see Chiang & Murray 1996).

From velocity-resolved studies, such as the one discussed here and in our previous publications on this data set (Denney et al. 2009b, 2009c), it is clear that high-cadence reverberation mapping studies are beginning to push the envelope with respect to the amount of information we are able to glean from data of high quality and homogeneity. The next goal is to attempt a reconstruction of the velocity-resolved transfer function through the production of velocity–delay maps, with priority placed on the objects shown here and discussed by Denney et al. (2009c) that exhibit statistically significant kinematic signatures of infall, outflow, and virialized motions (NGC 3516, NGC 3227, and NGC 5548, respectively). Preliminary results from this analysis show the potential to reveal the types of structured maps that will hopefully provide additional constraints on future models of the BLR and more clearly reveal distinct kinematic structures responsible for the velocity-resolved signatures we presented here.

6. CONCLUSION

We have reported the results for our complete sample of six local Seyfert 1 galaxies that were monitored in a reverberation mapping campaign that aimed to remeasure the BLR radius from $H\beta$ emission in objects that previously had poor measurements (large measurement uncertainties and/or undersampled light curves) or that were targeted with the aim of recovery of velocity-resolved reverberation lag signals and/or transfer

functions. Based on the measured luminosities of our sample over the course of our ~ 4 month campaign, we measure $H\beta$ lags that are in excellent agreement with the expectations of the most recent calibration of the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relationship of Bentz et al. (2009b).

Combining these lag measurements with velocity dispersion measurements estimated from the width of the broad $H\beta$ emission line, we make direct BH mass measurements for our entire sample. Based on a comparison of our results with previous measurements (where available), most of our sample constitutes results that are either entirely new (Mrk 290) or supersede past measurements (NGC 3227, NGC 3516, and NGC 4051). However, for NGC 5548 and Mrk 817, we compared our current mass measurements with past results and find them consistent within the measurement uncertainties, and therefore, place these results under the category of “additional measurements” for these objects.

An additional goal of this campaign was to determine velocity-resolved reverberation lags across the extent of the $H\beta$ -emitting region of the BLR for use in future efforts to recover velocity–delay maps to help constrain the geometry and kinematics of the BLR. Though the velocity structure in some of our targets remained unresolved on sampling-rate-limited timescales, we still found some statistically significant and kinematically diverse velocity-resolved signatures, even within this small sample. We see indications of apparent infall, outflow, and virialized motions, which, if taken at face value, would indicate that the BLR is a complicated region that differs from object to object. However, given the small scatter in the $R_{\text{BLR}}-L$ relation and the consistency with which we are able to measure the BLR radius and BH mass in multiple objects across dynamical timescales (e.g., NGC 5548 and Mrk 817), it is unlikely that the

steady-state dynamics within this region are truly this diverse. The BLR could be made up of multiple kinematic components with possible transient features such as winds and/or warped disks that travel through the LOS to the observer over dynamical timescales. In such a scenario, evidence for different types of kinematic signatures would arise depending on the observer's LOS through this region at a given time. In order to quantify such possibilities and fit models to the velocity-resolved data, it is necessary to collect more velocity-resolved reverberation mapping results for these objects, as well as others. This remains a goal for future observing programs, and efforts are focused on recovering velocity–delay maps for the current sample. Similar efforts are being made by the LAMP consortium (Bentz et al. 2010) with the sample presented by Bentz et al. (2009c), increasing our probability of success for this elusive goal of reverberation mapping.

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