the average BALR covering factor is relatively small ($\sim$10%), but can be much larger in some QSOs. The large covering factor QSOs are preferentially seen as BALQSOs, and thus we see a statistical excess of BALR N V emission.

Work on low-ionization BALQSOs has shown even more significant emission line differences (Boroson and Meyers 1992). However, these "Mg II" BALQSOs may represent a separate class of BALQSOs (Voit *et al.* 1993), and so it may be unwarranted to apply these results to BALQSOs in general.

In any case, it is difficult to have large covering factors where a substantial fraction of the broad emission comes from the BALR. In particular, the existence of broad Mg II λ2800 emission with no Mg II BAL, argues for an emission line region with lower ionization levels than are seen in the BALR. Any BALR emission would have to be in addition to emission from the "normal" BELR.

Lastly, we note that if an asymmetry were applied to the QSO such as an optically thick torus which is opaque (via dust) enough to prevent detection of the QSO along a line of sight through the torus, and which obscured a substantial portion of the sky as seen by the QSO, then there would be a selection effect such that only QSOs seen out of this torus would be selected. If the BALR is only ejected along lines-of-sight which avoid the torus, then the total sky covering of the BALR would be reduced. Thus, it may be possible to have larger *effective* covering factors, without producing excessive emission.

2.2 : The Local Covering Factor

The local covering factor, or the localized extent of the BALR perpendicular to the line-of-sight, is also important in analyzing BALs. This essentially tells us how well the BALR covers the continuum source from the observer's point of view. Since many BAL troughs have residual intensities of $\sim$10%, we know that the BALR covers at least 90% of the continuum source. (But see Kwan 1990.) Statistically, we can argue that the residual light in the bottom of the trough is due to scattered light and/or moderate optical depth, rather than incomplete local covering factors. This is because we would not expect to