

in columns 5, 6, and 7 of table 12–1 are from the high resolution data, unless indicated with a superscript m (for moderate resolution), or a superscript l (for low resolution).

For the BELs, we calculated REWs for velocities relative to z_e between $-6,000$ and $+6,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$, and used only portions of each BEL that were free of absorption.

Note that for PG 1700+518, the Mg II BAL and BEL REWs are shown in the column labeled for C IV.

Errors are based on random errors in each pixel, and the error in the continuum. For these broad lines, generally the continuum error dominates the REW error. Since we are mainly interested in changes in the REWs between epochs, and because it is difficult to estimate how much our continuum fits differ from the “true” continuum, we have used the error in the continuum *matching* between epochs rather than the error in our adopted continuum. This continuum error was estimated by taking the S/N in adjacent continuum sections and scaling by a factor of $\sqrt{40}$, corresponding to averaging over 40 pixels. In addition, a small arbitrary error of 0.01 was added in quadrature, since continuum matching errors exist even in very high S/N spectra. This error estimate is rather crude, and so the REW errors should not be considered too literally.

In column 3, we show the spectral index calculated using flux points at $\sim 1350\text{\AA}$ and $\sim 1800\text{\AA}$ in the QSO rest frame. Errors in α are difficult to estimate since they depend on how well the flux response was determined during data reductions, but may be as high as 0.1 or larger, especially in the earlier epochs.

12.4 : Spectral Comparisons

Of the 28 BALQSOs observed spectroscopically, 23 have multiple epoch data suitable for spectral comparisons. In order to investigate the time variability of the spectral features, we have over-plotted spectra for a given BALQSO between different epochs. For each object, a single epoch was chosen to define the continuum shape (the same one used for the figure 12–2 plots), and all other epochs were scaled to match this continuum (see §11.3).