The optical continuum of BL Lac objects

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We consider a sample of 46 BL Lac objects (BLL) for which we have spectra in the 3800-8000 A range obtained with the ESO 8 meter VLT + FORS1. Here we discuss some global properties about

1) Continuum
and
2) Line Spectrum

References:

Sbarufatti et al. 2005, AJ, 129, 559
Sbarufatti et al. 2006, AJ, 132, 1
Sbarufatti et al. 2008, submitted to AJ

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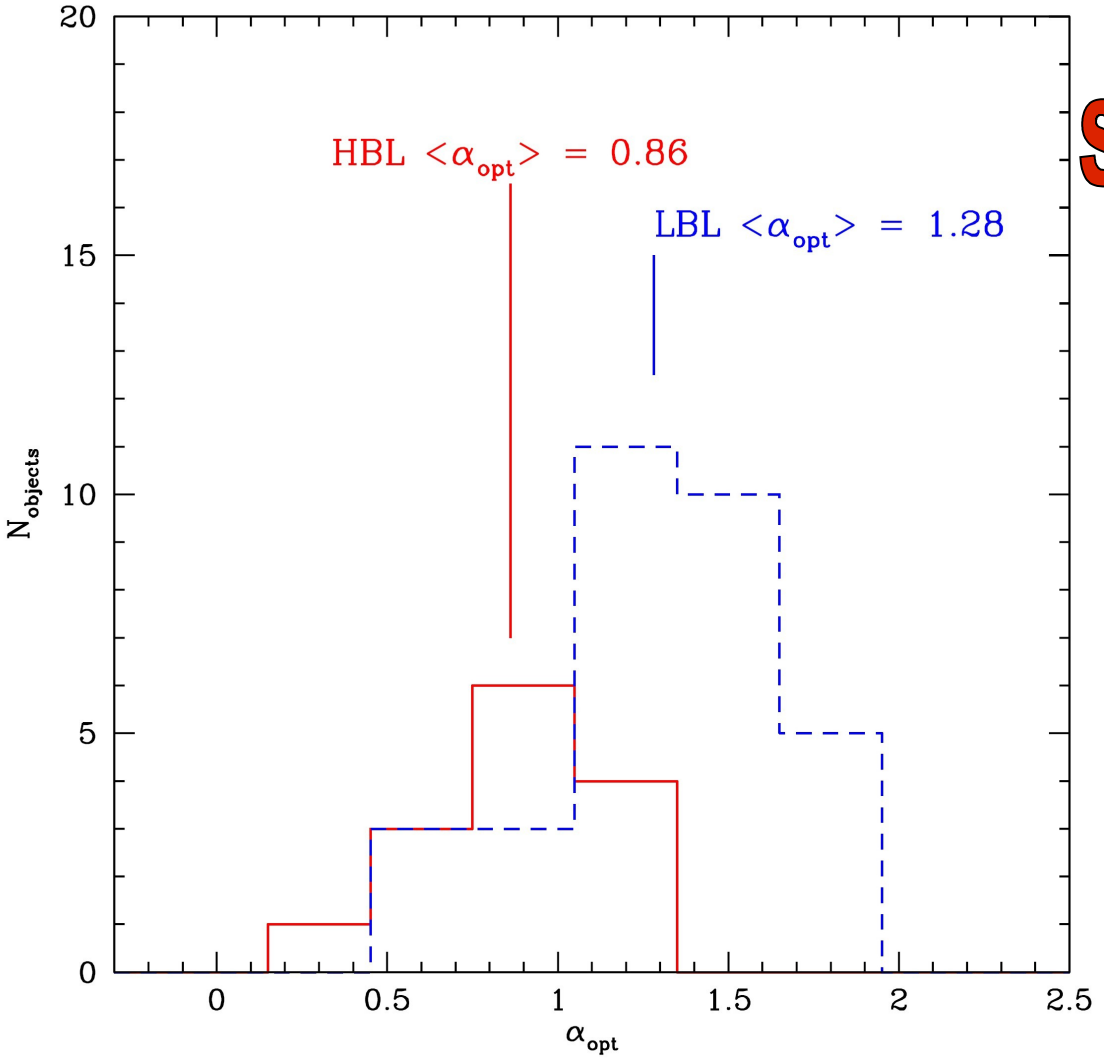
CONTINUUM

Statistical Distributions of: Optical Spectral Index

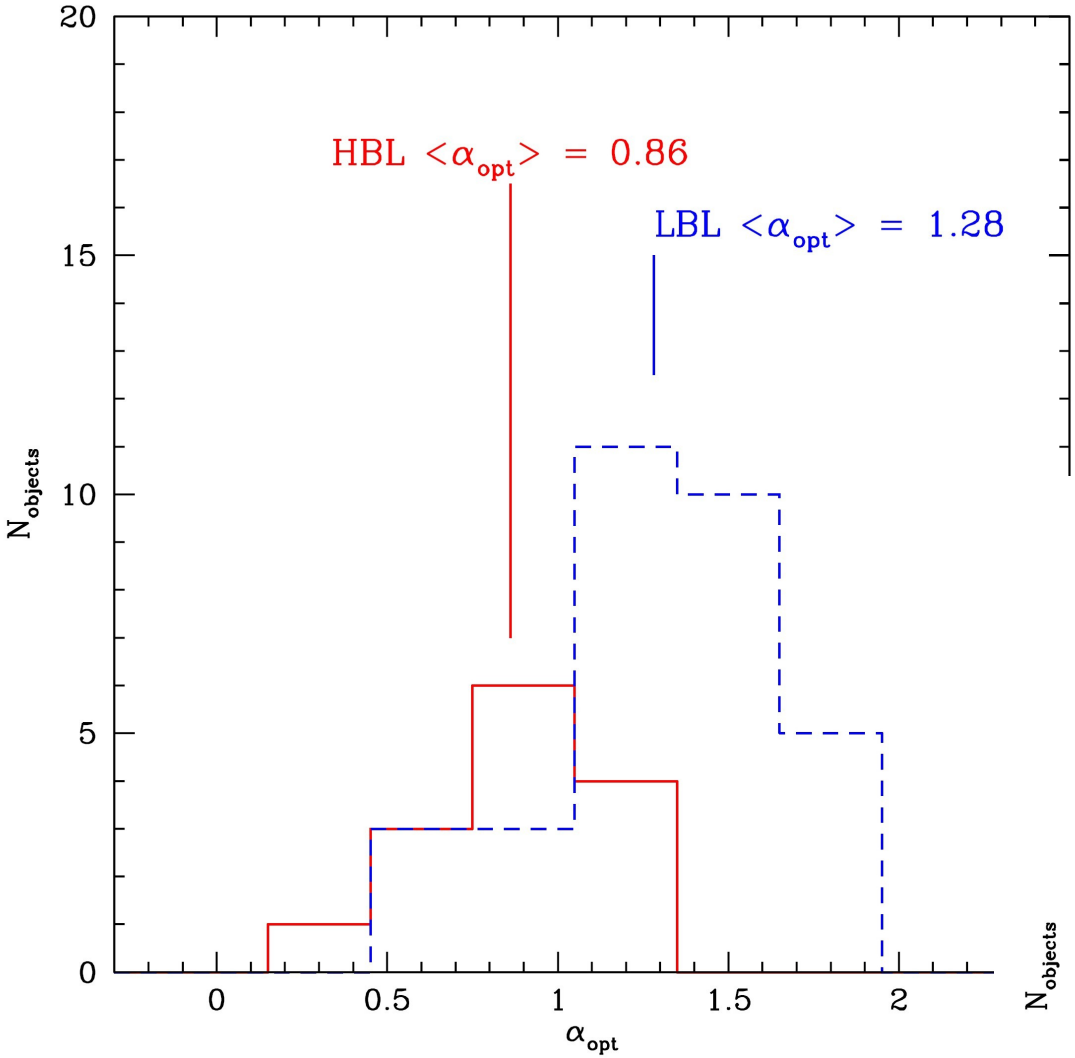


Optical spectral index distributions of 14 HBL (in red) and 32 LBL (in blue)

$$F_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$$

CONTINUUM

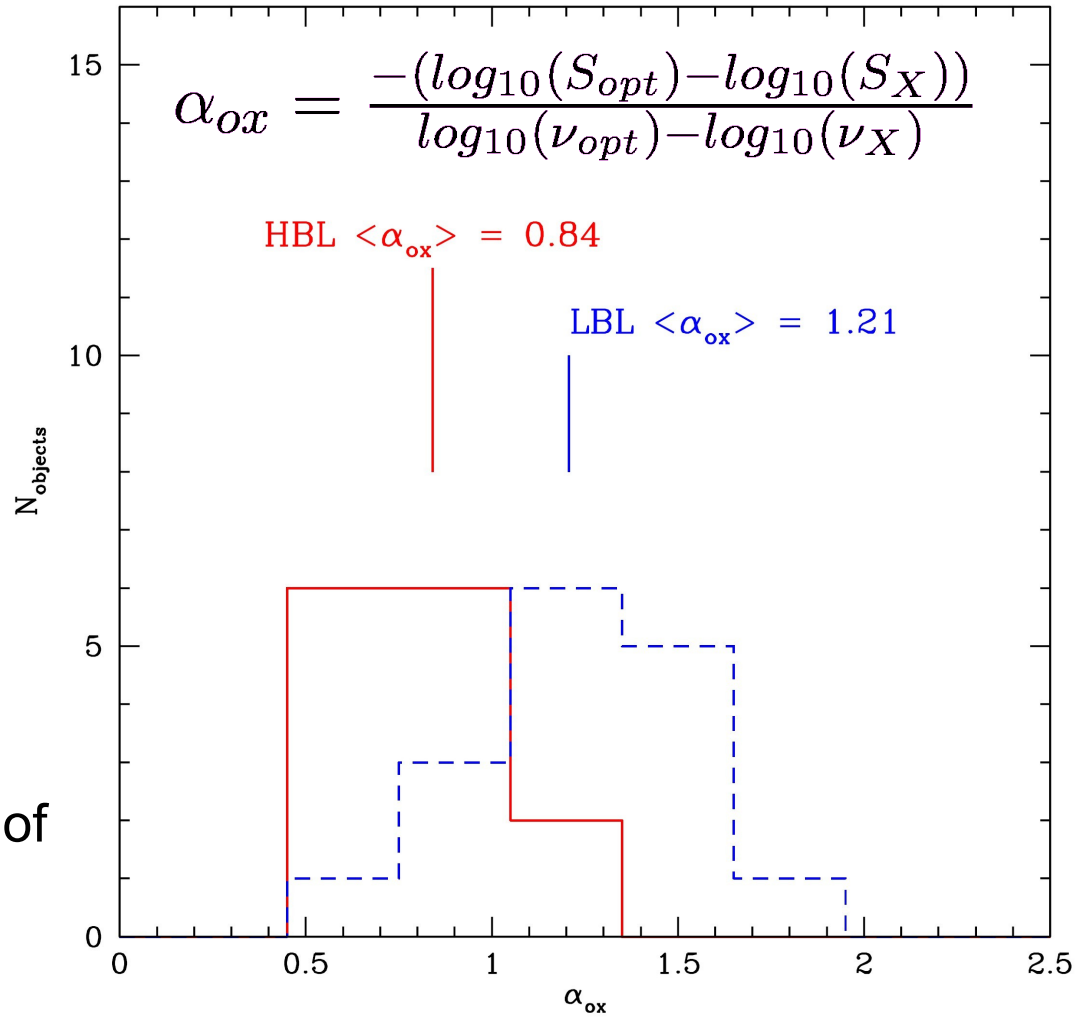
Statistical Distributions of: Optical Spectral Index and Optical-X-ray Spectral Index



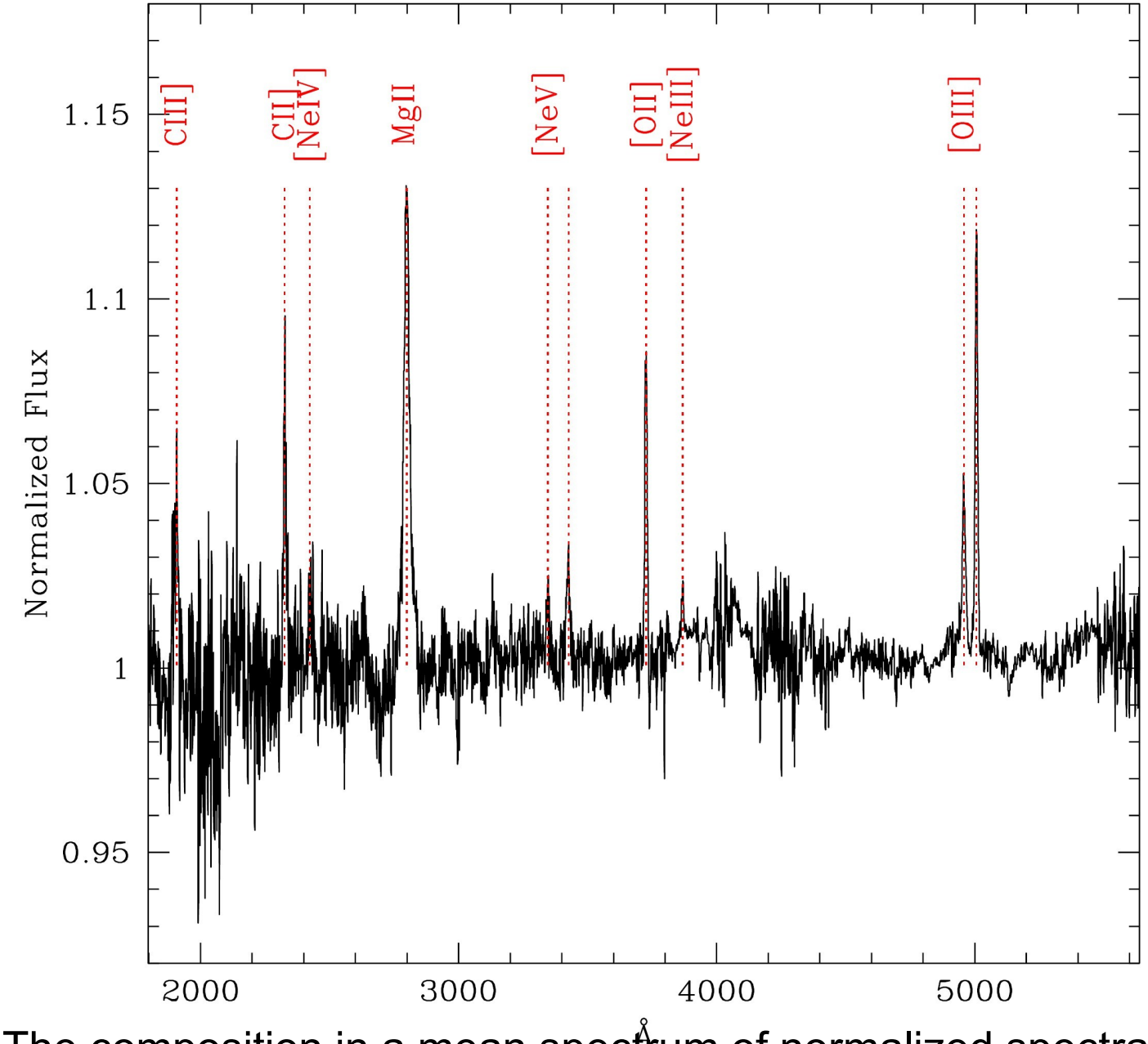
Optical spectral index distributions of 14 HBL (in red) and 32 LBL (in blue)

Optical-X-ray spectral index distributions of 14 HBL (in red) and 16 LBL (in blue).

$$F_\nu \propto \nu^{-\alpha}$$



LINE SPECTRUM



Emission Lines	Lambda Å	EW Å
(1)	(2)	(3)
$[OIII]$	5007	-1.44
$[OIII]$	4959	-0.69
$[NeIII]$	3869	-0.18
$[OII]$	3727	-0.95
$[NeV]$	3346	-0.39
$[NeV]$	3426	-0.19
$MgII$	2798	-4.31
$[NeIV]$	2423	-0.19
$CII]$	2326	-0.97
$CIII]$	1909	-1.08

The composition in a mean spectrum of normalized spectra of the 13 objects (all LBL) for which the emission lines are detected. The most important emission lines marked on in red.

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