

## SPATIALLY RESOLVED SPECTROSCOPY OF SDSS J0952+2552: A CONFIRMED DUAL ACTIVE GALACTIC NUCLEUS

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### ABSTRACT

Most massive galaxies contain supermassive black holes (SMBHs) in their cores. When galaxies merge, gas is driven to nuclear regions and can accrete onto the central black hole. Thus, one expects to see dual active galactic nuclei (AGNs) in a fraction of galaxy mergers. Candidates for galaxies containing dual AGNs have been identified by the presence of double-peaked narrow [O III] emission lines and by high spatial resolution images of close galaxy pairs. Spatially resolved spectroscopy is needed to confirm these galaxy pairs as systems with spatially separated double SMBHs. With the Keck 2 Laser Guide Star Adaptive Optics system and the OH Suppressing InfraRed Imaging Spectrograph near-infrared integral field spectrograph, we obtained spatially resolved spectra for SDSS J09527.62+255257.2, a radio-quiet quasar shown by previous imaging to consist of a galaxy and its close (1''0) companion. We find that the main galaxy is a Type 1 AGN with both broad and narrow AGN emission lines in its spectrum, while the companion galaxy is a Type 2 AGN with narrow emission lines only. The two AGNs are separated by 4.8 kpc, and their redshifts correspond to those of the double peaks of the [O III] emission line seen in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey spectrum. Line diagnostics indicate that both components of the double emission lines are due to AGN photoionization. These results confirm that J0952+2552 contains two spatially separated AGNs. As one of the few confirmed dual AGNs at an intermediate separation of <10 kpc, this system offers a unique opportunity to study galaxy mergers and their effect on black hole growth.

*Key words:* galaxies: active – galaxies: interactions – galaxies: nuclei – quasars: emission lines

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology, galaxies regularly interact and merge; hierarchical galaxy formation and evolution dictates that galaxies undergo multiple mergers as they evolve (e.g., Blumenthal et al. 1984; Spergel et al. 2007). We now know that most massive galaxies harbor supermassive black holes (SMBHs) in their centers (Richstone et al. 1998; Kormendy & Richstone 1995). One picture explaining active galactic nuclei (AGNs) invokes mergers of gas-rich galaxies; the gravitational perturbations due to the merger allow gas to flow into the galactic center and trigger accretion onto the black hole (Hernquist 1989; Kauffmann & Haehnelt 2000; Hopkins et al. 2008). A complication in this picture is the AGN's duty cycle, or how long each AGN remains active during the merger. If AGN activity is triggered by galaxy mergers, AGN pairs should be observable in at least some galaxy mergers. Thus, the existence and statistics of dual AGNs provide an important probe into hierarchical galaxy formation models, accretion-triggering mechanisms, galaxy merger rates, and SMBH growth (Yu et al. 2011 and references therein).

AGN pairs have been found and resolved both spatially and spectrally at a wide range of separations. Hundreds of AGN pairs are known at >10 kpc separations (e.g., Myers et al. 2007, 2008; Hennawi et al. 2010; Green et al. 2010; Piconcelli et al. 2010), while only three candidate binary AGNs are known at <10 pc separations (Rodriguez et al. 2006; Boroson & Lauer 2009; Decarli et al. 2010). Only five spatially and spectrally confirmed dual AGNs are known with intermediate separations of between 0.1 and 10 kpc: LBQS 0103-2753 (Junkkarinen et al. 2001); NGC 6240 (Komossa et al. 2003); Arp 299 (Ballo et al. 2004); J1420+5259 (Gerke et al. 2007); Mrk 463 (Bianchi et al. 2008); Mrk 739 (Koss et al. 2011); and J1027+1749 (Liu et al. 2011).

Eighteen candidate AGN pairs with spatially unresolved double-peaked emission lines and resolved double spatial structure have been observed by Fu et al. (2011) and Rosario et al. (2011).

Potential dual AGNs have been selected using the following two methods.

1. Observing velocity offsets between emission lines, such as [O III], potentially from two AGNs (Smith et al. 2010; Zhou et al. 2004; Wang et al. 2009; Liu et al. 2010a, 2010b; Comerford et al. 2009a, 2009b; Xu & Komossa 2009; Gerke et al. 2007).
2. Imaging multiple potential AGNs in or close to a single host galaxy (Junkkarinen et al. 2001; Komossa et al. 2003; Comerford et al. 2009b; Fu et al. 2011; Rosario et al. 2011; Liu et al. 2011).

To confirm a potential dual AGN, spatially resolved spectroscopy is needed to prove that each resolved source has a unique AGN spectrum. Without spatially resolved spectroscopy to match the observed galaxies to their corresponding double-peaked emission lines, the double peaks of spectral lines may be due to a chance superposition of two objects, a recoiling SMBH (Bonning et al. 2007; Civano et al. 2010; Guedes et al. 2011), jets interacting with the surrounding medium (Rosario et al. 2010), outflows from a single AGN (Fischer et al. 2011), or rings of star formation. Similarly, without spatially resolved spectroscopy, the multiple bright cores imaged in or around one galaxy may be a chance superposition, a recoiling SMBH, jets interacting with the surrounding medium, outflows from a single AGN, gravitationally lensed sources (Hennawi et al. 2006, and references therein), or starbursts. High-energy X-ray observations are another unambiguous way to confirm true dual AGNs.

In the next section, we discuss W. M. Keck Observatory adaptive optics imaging of J0952+2552, a potential pair of bright AGNs with double-peaked emission lines in the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) spectrum. In Section 3, we describe our spectroscopic observations of J0952+2552 using adaptive optics spectroscopy from Keck’s OH Suppressing InfraRed Imaging Spectrograph (OSIRIS) and the resulting data reduction. In Section 4, we match resolved spatial components seen by NIRC2 and OSIRIS to the SDSS double-peaked emission lines, and discuss what type of physical mechanisms are generating these emission lines. Section 5 presents our conclusions. We adopt a concordance cosmology with  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$  and  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ . All quoted wavelengths are in vacuum units.

## 2. IMAGING OF J0952+2552

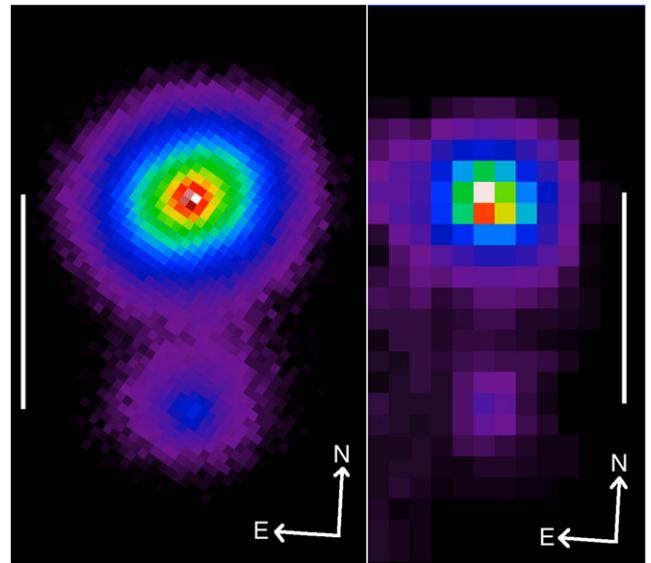
In Rosario et al. (2011), we undertook a program of near-infrared (NIR) imaging of candidate double AGNs using the Keck Laser Guide Star Adaptive Optics (LGS AO) system (Wizinowich et al. 2006). For a well-defined sample of candidate dual AGNs, Rosario et al. (2011) drew on the catalog of Smith et al. (2010), which selected SDSS DR7<sup>5</sup> spectroscopic AGNs that show a double-peaked [O III]  $\lambda 5008$  line. From this catalog, Rosario et al. (2011) selected a sample of radio-undetected, optical Type 1 AGNs observable with AO. Using the NIRC2 camera,<sup>6</sup> Rosario et al. (2011) found that out of the 12 targets imaged, 6 (50%) were dual AGN candidates. Four candidates were in close mergers and two were in more distant pairs with separations ranging from 3 to 12 kpc. The recent study by Fu et al. (2011) imaged a larger sample of both radio-loud and radio-quiet Type 1 and 2 AGNs to a shallower depth, and found that a similar fraction of their AGNs were spatially separated galaxy pairs.

However, only spatially resolved spectroscopy can confirm these six candidates as actual dual AGNs. Here we present spatially resolved spectroscopy of one promising dual AGN candidate, SDSS J09527.62+255257.2, or J0952+2552 for short, imaged by both Rosario et al. (2011) and Fu et al. (2011). Figure 1 (left panel) shows the LGS AO NIRC2  $H$ -band (1.337–1.929  $\mu\text{m}$ ) image of J0952+2552. The average redshift of J0952+2552 is 0.339 (Smith et al. 2010), and the measured separation between the bright main galaxy and the companion is  $1''.0$ , or 4.81 kpc.

We modeled the NIRC2  $H$ -band image of J0952+2552 using the galaxy structure fitting code GALFIT v3.0 (Peng et al. 2002). We modeled both the main and the companion galaxies as a combination of a point source for the AGN, and an extended stellar light distribution for the galaxy with a variable Sérsic index, half-light radius, ellipticity, and orientation. The fit was visually examined, and the initial parameters were varied until a good fit was achieved. Both galaxies are disk-like, with Sérsic indices of  $1.5 \pm 1$ .

## 3. OBSERVATIONS

We used the OSIRIS (Larkin et al. 2006) and the LGS AO system on the Keck 2 telescope to obtain spatially resolved spectroscopy of J0952+2552. The  $0''.1/\text{spatial pixel}$  (spaxel) plate scale was used to maximize throughput. Observing with this plate scale in the  $J$  (1.180–1.416  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and  $H$  (1.473–1.803  $\mu\text{m}$ ) broadband filters results in a spectral resolution of 3000 and



**Figure 1.** Keck LGS AO imaging of J0952+2552, a Type 1 AGN with double-peaked narrow lines. The white line in both images corresponds to  $1''.0$  or 4.80 kpc at the redshift of the system. Left: NIRC2 wide camera ( $0''.04 \text{ pixel}^{-1}$ )  $H$ -band ( $\lambda_{\text{cen}} = 1.633 \mu\text{m}$ ) log-scaled image. Right: OSIRIS  $H$ -band ( $\lambda_{\text{cen}} = 1.638 \mu\text{m}$ ) log-scaled image, created by summing up the flux over all the wavelengths in each of the spatial pixels. Each OSIRIS spatial pixel has a width of  $0''.1$  or 0.48 kpc at the redshift of the system. The bright main galaxy and its companion are clearly visible.

a field of view of  $1''.6 \times 6''.4$ . We observed J0952+2552 using a half-night on 2010 December 29. Integration times totaled 100 minutes in  $J$  band and 80 minutes in  $H$  band. We also imaged the tip-tilt star for point-spread function (PSF) calibration and an A5V star as a telluric standard. Our tip-tilt star had an  $R$  magnitude of 14.6 and a separation from the target of  $40''.9$ . The predicted seeing for the night was  $0''.8$ .

Accurate sky subtraction is very important due to the abundance of sky lines in the NIR. In extent the main galaxy and its companion are about  $3''$  long. Since the detector is  $6''.4$  long, we positioned the galaxy pair on one half of the detector and empty sky on the other half, and then nodded the telescope so that in the next exposure the sky and object positions on the detector were flipped.

We used a modified<sup>7</sup> version of the OSIRIS Data Reduction Pipeline (ODRP) v2.3<sup>8</sup> to process our images. Instead of using the standard mosaicking tools provided in ODRP, we determined relative offsets between the images by fitting two-dimensional Lorentzian profiles to the main galaxy in each frame, and then input the relative offsets directly into the mosaicking module of the ODRP.<sup>9</sup> Finally, we extracted and combined spectra from the five spatial pixels with the highest signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) of both the main galaxy and the companion in both  $J$  and  $H$  bands, as shown in Figure 2. Additionally, an OSIRIS image can be created by summing up the flux over all of the wavelengths (Figure 1, right panel).

## 4. ANALYSIS

Spatially resolved spectroscopy will help us answer two questions: (1) do the redshifts of resolved spatial structures seen

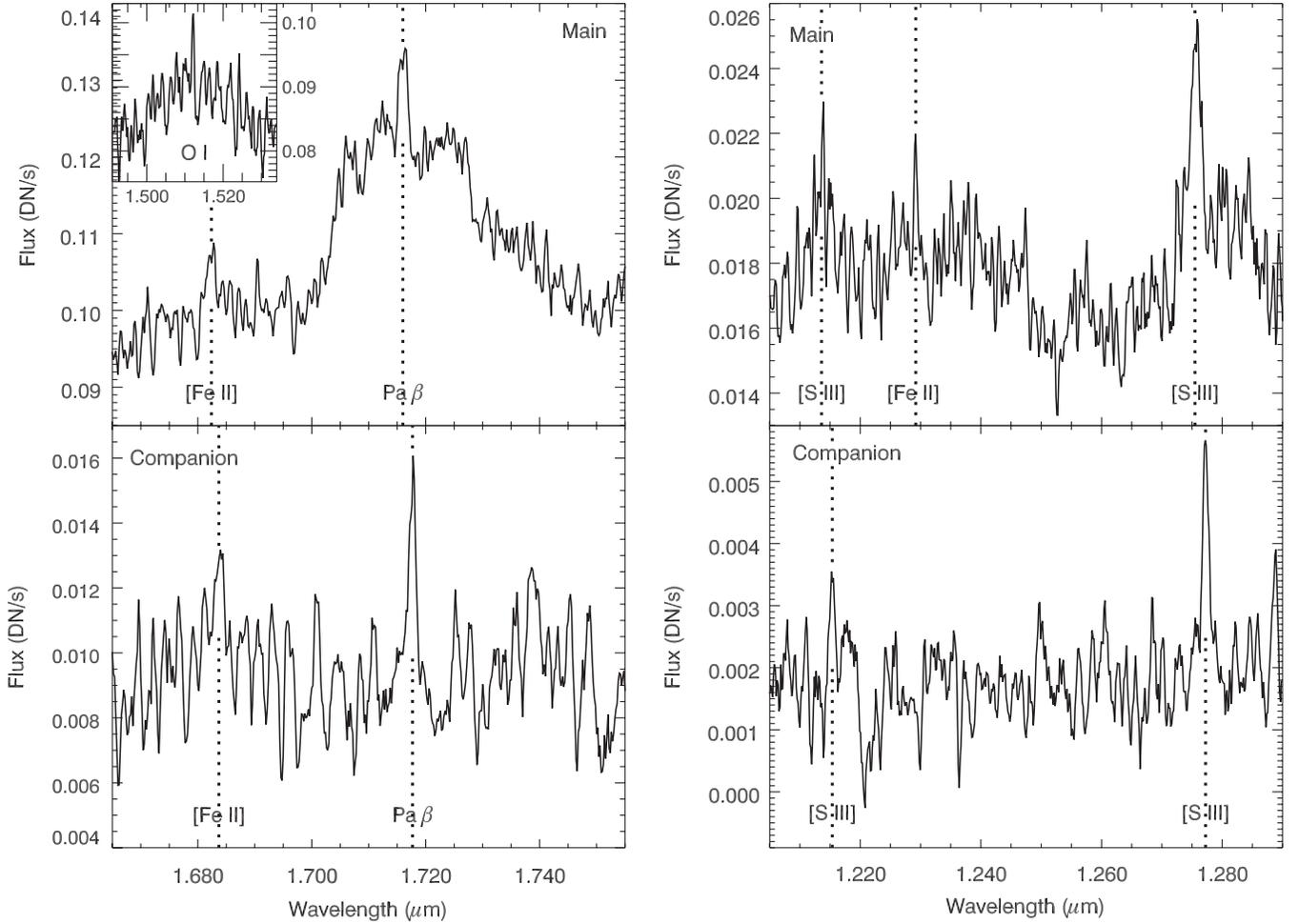
<sup>7</sup> Correcting for a  $\sim 6 \text{ \AA}$  shift of the previous wavelength calibration (S. A. Wright 2011, private communication).

<sup>8</sup> <http://irlab.astro.ucla.edu/osiris/pipeline.html>

<sup>9</sup> See [http://irlab.astro.ucla.edu/osiriswiki/dokuphp?id=mosaic\\_with\\_a\\_list\\_of\\_offsets](http://irlab.astro.ucla.edu/osiriswiki/dokuphp?id=mosaic_with_a_list_of_offsets) for a detailed explanation.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sdss.org/dr7/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www2.keck.hawaii.edu/inst/nirc2/>



**Figure 2.** *H*- and *J*-band (left and right, respectively) spectra of the main galaxy (top) and the companion (bottom). The dotted lines mark the measured centers of the identified narrow lines. The observed wavelengths are in units of vacuum  $\mu\text{m}$ . We observe narrow emission lines ([S III]  $\lambda 9073$ , [Fe II]  $\lambda 9188$ , [S III]  $\lambda 9534$ , O I, [Fe II]  $\lambda 1.2570 \mu\text{m}$ , Pa $\beta$ ) as well as broad Pa $\beta$  and broad O I from the main galaxy, making it a Type 1 AGN. The broad Pa $\beta$  has a measured FWHM of  $6300 \pm 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , and the broad O I has a measured FWHM of  $5000 \pm 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Only narrow emission lines ([S III]  $\lambda 9073$ , [S III]  $\lambda 9534$ , [Fe II]  $\lambda 1.2570 \mu\text{m}$ , Pa $\beta$ ) are evident in the companion, consistent with a Type 2 AGN.

**Table 1**  
Redshifts

Spectral Line <sup>a</sup>	$z_{\text{Main}}$	$\delta z_M^b$	$z_{\text{Comp}}$	$\delta z_C^b$	$v_M^c$	$\delta v_M^{b,c}$	$v_C^c$	$\delta v_C^{b,c}$	$F_M/F_C^d$
[S III] $\lambda 9073$	0.33797	0.0003	0.33982	0.00014	-25	63	413	31	5.7
[Fe II] $\lambda 9188$	0.33786	0.00007	...	...	-27	16	...	...	...
[S III] $\lambda 9534$	0.33792	0.00013	0.33972	0.00008	-14	28	391	18	5.3
[Fe II] $\lambda 1.2570 \mu\text{m}$	0.33842	0.00017	...	...	98	38	...	...	...
Pa $\beta$ $\lambda 1.2822 \mu\text{m}$	0.33840	0.00009	0.33968	0.00011	93	20	382	24	2.3
Averaged redshifts	0.33810	0.00007	0.33974	0.00007	25	14	395	14	...
[O III] blue component	0.33798	0.00004	...	...	0	9	...	...	1.5
[O III] red component	...	...	0.33986	0.00004	...	...	422	9	...

**Notes.**

<sup>a</sup> Vacuum wavelengths.

<sup>b</sup>  $1\sigma$  measurement errors.

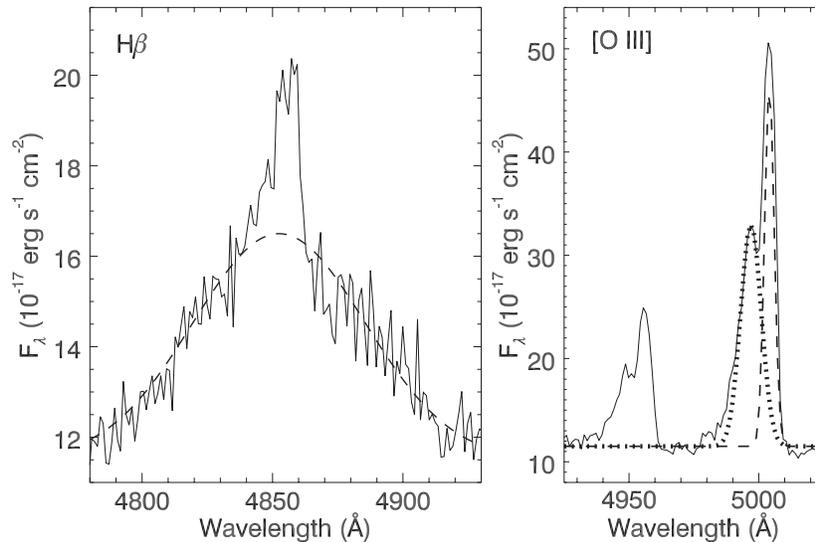
<sup>c</sup> Velocities in  $\text{km s}^{-1}$ , measured with respect to the main galaxy's [O III] blue component.

<sup>d</sup> Line flux ratio: main galaxy to companion galaxy.

by NIRC2 and OSIRIS match the redshifts of the double peaks of the SDSS [O III]  $\lambda 5008$  emission lines? and (2) What types of objects are the main galaxy and the companion: Type 1 AGN, Type 2 AGN, or a starburst?

#### 4.1. Redshifts: Matching Spatial Structures to Spectral Double Peaks

By fitting Gaussians, we measured central wavelengths for [S III]  $\lambda 9073$ , [Fe II]  $\lambda 9188$ , [S III]  $\lambda 9534$ , O I, [Fe II]



**Figure 3.** SDSS J0952+2552 spectrum of (left)  $H\beta$  and (right)  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 4959$  and  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 5008$  in rest vacuum wavelengths ( $\text{\AA}$ ). In the left  $H\beta$  plot, the dashed curve is the fit to the broad component of the  $H\beta$  line; in the right  $[O\text{ III}]$  plot, the dotted and dashed lines are, respectively, the fits to the blue and red components of the narrow  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 5008$  line. The measured FWHM of  $H\beta$  is  $5960 \pm 90 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , which agrees well with the  $6300 \pm 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  FWHM measured from  $\text{Pa}\beta$  for the main galaxy.

$\lambda 1.2570 \mu\text{m}$ , and  $\text{Pa}\beta$ , each labeled in Figure 2. Table 1 shows the redshifts calculated from these wavelength centers, as well as the redshifts calculated from the SDSS double  $[O\text{ III}]$  components; Table 1 also includes the velocity offsets of these lines with respect to the main galaxy’s  $[O\text{ III}]$  blue component. Monte Carlo simulations of Gaussian peaks with superimposed random errors, with the same standard deviations as the noise in our spectra, allowed measurement of the fitting error. The companion’s narrow lines are on average 2.5 times more narrow than the main galaxy’s narrow lines; this is consistent with the companion having a fainter host galaxy (Nelson & Whittle 1996).

As shown in Table 1, the main galaxy’s redshift ( $0.33810 \pm 0.00007$ ) matches the SDSS  $[O\text{ III}]$  blue component redshift ( $0.33798 \pm 0.00004$ ), while the companion’s redshift ( $0.33974 \pm 0.00007$ ) matches the SDSS  $[O\text{ III}]$  red component redshift ( $0.33986 \pm 0.00004$ ). This clearly illustrates that the double spatial structure corresponds to the double-peaked emission lines.

However, the relative fluxes of the lines in the visible and in the NIR are not the same (Table 1). For our IR narrow  $[\text{S III}] \lambda 9073$  and  $[\text{S III}] \lambda 9534$  lines, the main galaxy is 5.3 and 5.7 times brighter than the companion, respectively, and in narrow  $\text{Pa}\beta$ , the main galaxy is 2.3 times brighter than the companion. In the visible SDSS  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 5008$  line, the main galaxy’s blue peak is 1.5 times stronger than the companion’s red peak. In Figure 3, we show the SDSS spectrum of the  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 4959$ ,  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 5008$ , and  $H\beta$  lines; the overplotted fits show that although the  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 5008$  red peak is taller, the  $[O\text{ III}] \lambda 5008$  blue peak is wider and thus contains more flux. Since we matched the IR-bright main galaxy to the  $[O\text{ III}]$  blue peak and the IR-faint companion to the  $[O\text{ III}]$  red peak, there is clearly more going on with this system to create such varied flux ratios. We suggest that the difference in visible and NIR flux ratios might be due to dust obscuring the main galaxy and not the companion, which would lead to lower visible flux ratios and higher NIR flux ratios in the main galaxy.

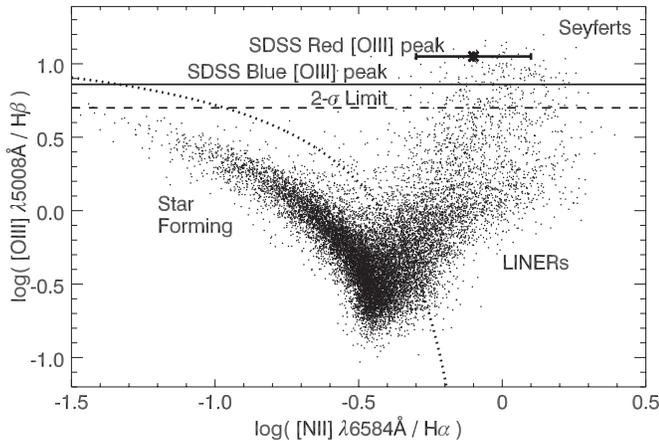
#### 4.2. Identity of the Two Objects

The presence of double peaks in spectral lines or of spatially separated companion galaxies could be explained by a range

of phenomena: chance superposition of two objects, a recoiling SMBH, jets, outflows from a single AGN, gravitationally lensed sources, starbursts, or rings of star formation. Spatially resolved spectroscopy helps rule out many of these options. Matching the individual components of the double-peaked emission lines to the two distinct galaxies shows that the double components do not come from rings. As calculated in Decarli et al. (2010), the probability of a chance superposition for two AGNs with separations  $< 1''$  with  $0.35 < z < 0.45$  is  $\sim 2 \times 10^{-7}$ , which is negligible with respect to the number of SDSS DR7 AGNs in this redshift range ( $\sim 3300$ ). Quasar clustering could give several orders of magnitude higher probability of a superposition, but a cluster is not evident surrounding J0952+2552 in the SDSS image. Even without considering the very close redshifts of the galaxies, the probability is so small that we can dismiss the possibility that the double lines or multiple imaged galaxies are due to a chance superposition. Since J0952+2552 is radio-quiet, these features are unlikely due to jets interacting with the surrounding medium. Since the two galaxies have different spectra, the two galaxies are not two images of one gravitationally lensed object (Hennawi et al. 2006 and references therein).

To distinguish between starbursts and AGNs of Types 1 and 2, we examine the observable broad lines and use several emission line ratio diagnostics. In Figure 2, the spectrum for the main galaxy (top panels) clearly shows both a broad line for  $\text{Pa}\beta$  (left) and narrow emission lines (right). The FWHM of this broad  $\text{Pa}\beta$  is  $6300 \pm 200 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , which roughly agrees with the  $5960 \pm 90 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  FWHM measured for the broad  $H\beta$  line in the SDSS spectrum (shown in Figure 3). We also see the broad  $O\text{ I } \lambda 1.12900 \mu\text{m}$  fluorescent line in our main galaxy’s  $H$ -band spectrum. The observed broad  $O\text{ I}$ , with its FWHM of  $5000 \pm 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ , is observed in 67% of Type 1 AGNs (Riffel et al. 2006). We measure the central wavelength of broad  $O\text{ I}$  to be  $1.5116 \pm 2 \mu\text{m}$ , corresponding to a redshift of  $0.3389 \pm 0.0018$ ; this redshift falls between with the average redshifts of the main galaxy and of the companion. The presence of both broad and narrow lines indicates that the main galaxy is a Type 1 AGN.

The companion shows only narrow lines, so it is not a Type 1 AGN. The traditional way to distinguish between Type 2



**Figure 4.** BPT diagram in which we plot the emission line flux ratios  $[O\text{ III}]\lambda 5008/H\beta$  vs. the ratios  $[N\text{ II}]\lambda 6584/H\alpha$  for a sample of 14,708 low-redshift ( $z < 0.3$ ) SDSS galaxies in which all four lines are detected with  $S/N > 3$ . The dotted curve shows the dividing line between starburst galaxies and AGNs as defined by Kauffmann et al. (2003). The companion red-component line ratios are plotted by the asterisk symbol, with  $1\sigma$  error bars in the  $[N\text{ II}]/H\alpha$  direction. Since we are unable to disentangle an accurate measurement of the SDSS blue-component  $[N\text{ II}]/H\alpha$ , we plot the measured  $[O\text{ III}]/H\beta$  flux ratio for the main galaxy's blue (solid)  $[O\text{ III}]$  component, as well as the  $2\sigma$  lower  $[O\text{ III}]/H\beta$  limit of both the red and blue component ratios (dashed), as lines across the diagram. Both  $[O\text{ III}]$  components fall above the location of star-forming galaxies, meaning that both  $[O\text{ III}]$  components, and thus both the main galaxy and the companion, are due to AGNs.

AGNs and star-forming galaxies is to use measurements of  $[N\text{ II}]\lambda 6584/H\alpha$  and  $[O\text{ III}]\lambda 5008/H\beta$  to place the object on the Baldwin–Philips–Terlevich (BPT) diagram (Baldwin et al. 1981; Kauffmann et al. 2003; and references therein). Since the red component of the SDSS lines has a larger peak height, we were able to measure both  $[N\text{ II}]/H\alpha$  and  $[O\text{ III}]/H\beta$  for the companion. Unfortunately, due to the complicated and noisy overlapping structure of the broad  $H\alpha$  and double-peaked narrow  $H\alpha$  and two  $[N\text{ II}]$  lines, we are unable to disentangle an accurate measurement of  $[N\text{ II}]/H\alpha$  for the main galaxy. However, the measurement of  $[O\text{ III}]/H\beta$  can still be used to differentiate between a starburst companion and a Type 2 AGN. As shown in Figure 4,<sup>10</sup> both objects fall in the Seyfert/AGN region of the plot. For the main galaxy, we can combine the presence of broad lines in its spectrum with the fact that few star-forming galaxies exist at such high  $[O\text{ III}]/H\beta$  ratios to conclude that it is a Type 1 AGN. The line ratios of the companion place it clearly among the Seyferts, allowing us to conclude that the companion is a Type 2 AGN.

Using the OSIRIS spectra, we also use NIR emission line ratios for AGNs and star formation diagnostics. One such diagnostic pair is  $[\text{Fe II}]\lambda 1.2570\mu\text{m}/\text{Pa}\beta$ . Rodríguez-Ardila et al. (2008) showed that starbursts have  $\log([\text{Fe II}]/\text{Pa}\beta) < -0.22$ , AGNs have  $-0.22 < \log([\text{Fe II}]/\text{Pa}\beta) < 0.30$ , and LINERs have  $\log([\text{Fe II}]/\text{Pa}\beta) > 0.30$ . The main galaxy and the companion have  $\log([\text{Fe II}]/\text{Pa}\beta)$  ratios, respectively, of  $-0.07$  and  $-0.16$ ; this provides further support that both the main galaxy and the companion are AGNs.

Another, weaker, indication that both galaxies are AGNs is that the spectra of both show narrow  $[\text{S III}]\lambda 9073$  and  $[\text{S III}]\lambda 9534$  lines. According to the AGN spectral atlas compiled by Riffel et al. (2006), all AGNs show  $[\text{S III}]$ . However, because

the  $[\text{S III}]$  lines are also frequently seen in starburst galaxies, the presence of these lines does not clearly distinguish between AGNs and starbursts.

Our GALFIT analysis (Section 2) showed that both galaxies were well fit by disk-like stellar light distributions for the host galaxies. Since both galaxies have disk morphologies, this suggests that both galaxies brought gas to the encounter. This is consistent with the fueling of both AGNs without requiring gas transfer between galaxies.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

To confirm candidate dual AGNs selected via double-peaked  $[O\text{ III}]$  emission lines or multiple bright cores imaged in a single galaxy, spatially resolved spectroscopy is required. For candidate dual AGNs with larger separations between components ( $> 1''.5$ ), long-slit spectrographs such as the Low Resolution Imaging Spectrometer can be used. For candidates with small separations ( $< 1''.5$ ), AO systems are best used to obtain spatially resolved spectra which clearly separated the contributions from the two galaxies. We used the Keck 2 LGS AO system and the OSIRIS near-infrared integral field spectrograph to obtain spatially resolved spectra for J0952+2552, a radio-quiet system with double-peaked  $[O\text{ III}]$  lines and two galaxies observed using Keck 2's LGS AO system and NIRC2. The infrared redshifts of the two AGNs, separated by 4.8 kpc or  $1''.0$ , match well with the redshifts of the SDSS  $[O\text{ III}]$  double peaks. This directly links the double-peaked emission lines to the narrow-line regions of the two observed AGNs. Line diagnostics indicate that both the companion and the main galaxy are bright due to AGN photoionization rather than through star formation or supernovae.

Spatially resolved spectroscopic observations of further dual AGN candidates are needed to construct a statistically significant sample of true dual AGNs. With such a sample, topics such as the merger rate or the AGN duty cycle can be addressed through comparisons with simulations of multiple mergers such as in Yu et al. (2011), Lotz et al. (2010a, 2010b), and Lotz et al. (2011).

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Facility: Keck:II (laser guide star adaptive optics, OSIRIS)

<sup>10</sup> SDSS galaxy line measurements from [http://www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/SDSS/DR7/raw\\_data.html](http://www.mpa-garching.mpg.de/SDSS/DR7/raw_data.html).

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