



A GLIMPSE of Intermediate Mass Black Holes in the Epoch of Reionization: Witnessing the Descendants of Direct Collapse?

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Abstract

JWST has revealed an abundance of supermassive black holes (BHs) in the early Universe, and yet the lowest mass seed BHs that gave rise to these populations remain elusive. Here, we present a systematic search for broad-line active galactic nuclei (AGNs) in some of the faintest high- z galaxies surveyed yet by combining ultra-deep JWST/NIRSpec G395M spectroscopy with the strong lensing aid in AS1063. By employing the profile of the [O III] λ 5007 emission lines as a template for narrow-line components and carefully cross-validating with mock observations, we identify a sample of 10 broad-line AGNs at $4.5 < z < 7.0$ (eight secure, two tentative). The inferred BH masses from the broad H α line explore the intermediate BH mass regime down to $\sim 10^{5.5} M_{\odot}$. The stellar mass (M_*) is estimated with a galaxy+AGN composite model, and we find the BH to stellar mass ratio spans down to $M_{\text{BH}}/M_* \lesssim 0.1\%$, unveiling populations on the empirical $M_{\text{BH}}-M_*$ relation observed in the local Universe. We also derive the BH mass function and investigate its low-mass end at this epoch. While we confirm the agreement of our results with previous studies at $M_{\text{BH}} \gtrsim 10^{6.5} M_{\odot}$, we find the mass range of $\sim 10^{5.5} M_{\odot}$ features an enhanced abundance with respect to the extrapolated best-fit Schechter function. Comparison with theoretical models suggests that a possible origin for this enhanced abundance is the direct-collapse BH formation, supporting the scenario that the direct collapse of massive gas clouds is a significant pathway for the earliest supermassive BHs.

Unified Astronomy Thesaurus concepts: Intermediate-mass black holes (816); AGN host galaxies (2017); High-redshift galaxies (734)

1. Introduction

The discovery of luminous quasars at $z > 6$, powered by supermassive black holes (SMBHs) already exceeding a billion solar masses ($M_{\odot}$), presented a fundamental challenge to our understanding of early galaxy formation

(e.g., X. Fan et al. 2001, 2003; D. J. Mortlock et al. 2011; E. Bañados et al. 2018; F. Wang et al. 2021). Occurring less than a billion years after the Big Bang, the existence of these compact massive objects requires near-continuous, highly efficient accretion onto lower-mass black holes (BHs) throughout the early stages of the Universe (in this paper, we refer to the 10^4 – $10^6 M_{\odot}$ mass range as “lower mass,” in contrast to stellar mass BHs that are approximately $10 M_{\odot}$). Compounding this timing problem, these high-redshift quasars appear to host “overmassive” BHs (M. Yue et al. 2024b; R. Li et al. 2026), relative to the stellar mass of their host galaxies when compared to the well-established local

²² Hubble Fellow.



$M_{\text{BH}}-M_{\text{bulge}}$ scaling relations (J. Kormendy & L. C. Ho 2013). Even compared to the local $M_{\text{BH}}-M_*$ relation for active galactic nucleus (AGN) host galaxies (e.g., A. E. Reines & M. Volonteri 2015), these high- z quasars seem to be systematically offset. This offset raises a key question: how did these SMBHs form so rapidly and seemingly outpaced the growth of their host galaxies in the early Universe (P. Natarajan 2014; A. Smith & V. Bromm 2019; K. Inayoshi et al. 2020)?

If the SMBHs powering these high- z quasars presumably originate through accretion onto lower-mass BHs ($10^4 \lesssim M_{\text{BH}} \lesssim 10^6 M_\odot$ intermediate-mass black holes; IMBHs), this implies that a population of BHs should exist at high- z . Therefore, a detailed study of the properties of IMBHs, including their mass, abundance, and host galaxy characteristics, can provide crucial insights into the initial BH seeding mechanisms and early growth pathways of SMBHs and quasars.

The launch of JWST has opened a new window into this field, unveiling a previously hidden population of fainter AGNs at high redshifts (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; D. D. Kocevski et al. 2023; V. Kokorev et al. 2023; R. L. Larson et al. 2023; X. Lin et al. 2024; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a, 2024b; J. Matthee et al. 2024; M. A. Stone et al. 2024; R. E. Hviding et al. 2025; A. J. Taylor et al. 2025). These newly discovered AGNs are powered by significantly less massive BHs than luminous quasars, offering a glimpse into the more abundant AGN population. Yet these sources appear to be hosted in galactic nuclei where they are “overmassive” compared to the local scaling relation. Many of these lower-luminosity AGNs reside in even lower-mass host galaxies ($\sim 10^8 M_\odot$), revealing black hole-to-stellar mass ratios (M_{BH}/M_*) that deviate even more dramatically from the local relationship, with some objects exhibiting M_{BH}/M_* values 10–100 times higher than the local relationship (e.g., R. Maiolino et al. 2024a). This has deepened the question, suggesting that the “overmassive” nature of early BHs might be a widespread phenomenon.

However, this apparent trend toward overmassive BHs at high redshift may be significantly influenced by selection bias (e.g., J. Li et al. 2025b). Even in the era of JWST, the AGN samples are often biased toward sources with a higher AGN-galaxy luminosity ratio, depending on the NIRSpec observational strategy (e.g., J. E. Greene et al. 2024). This can create a selection effect that preferentially identifies systems with high M_{BH}/M_* ratios (T. R. Lauer et al. 2007; S. Salvander et al. 2007). The search for “undermassive” BHs residing in more massive galaxies, which can lie closer to or even below the local scaling relation, has been conducted to mitigate this offset issue (e.g., T. Izumi et al. 2019; X. Ding et al. 2023; J. Li et al. 2025a; W. Ren et al. 2025; Q. Fei et al. 2026).

While selection effects can alleviate the observed offset from local relations, they cannot fully explain the fundamental challenge of forming massive BHs in such low-mass galaxies within such a short cosmic timescale. Several primary theoretical pathways have been proposed to explain their rapid formation. The first scenario is the “light seed,” in which the BHs originate from the death of Population III (Pop III) stars (e.g., B. D. Smith et al. 2018; L. Haemmerlé et al. 2020; J. Singh et al. 2023; D. Spinoso et al. 2023), the first generation of stars to illuminate the Universe (P. Madau & M. J. Rees 2001; M. Volonteri et al. 2003). Formed in metal-free minihalos at redshifts $z \sim 20\text{--}30$, these stars are predicted

to have been massive, leaving behind BH remnants with typical masses in the range of $\sim 10\text{--}100 M_\odot$ (V. Bromm & A. Loeb 2004). In this framework, the primary challenge lies in the rapid growth required to bridge the gap between stellar mass and the $\sim 10^9 M_\odot$ scale observed in quasars by $z \sim 6\text{--}7$ (E. Bañados et al. 2018; F. Wang et al. 2021; X. Fan et al. 2023). Consequently, light seeds require sustained accretion rates at or exceeding the Eddington limit and grow efficiently within the limited cosmic time available.

The second channel posits the formation of “heavy seeds” with much larger initial masses of $\sim 10^4\text{--}10^6 M_\odot$ (e.g., G. Lodato & P. Natarajan 2006; F. Becerra et al. 2018). These objects are thought to form via the direct collapse of massive, primordial gas clouds,²³ creating what are known as direct collapse black hole (DCBH) seeds (V. Bromm & A. Loeb 2003; M. C. Begelman et al. 2006; G. Lodato & P. Natarajan 2006, 2007; L. Haemmerlé et al. 2018, 2020). This pathway more easily explains the existence of the most luminous high- z quasars, as it alleviates the need for continuous, highly efficient super-Eddington accretion (X. Fan et al. 2023), in effect providing a “head-start” in the SMBH assembly process. Furthermore, a DCBH origin requires environments of (at least initially) high densities and gas inflow rates, providing a natural explanation for the Compton-thick conditions inferred from the X-ray weakness of high- z AGNs (e.g., F. Pacucci et al. 2015; A. Smith et al. 2017; T. T. Ananna et al. 2024; M. Yue et al. 2024a; E. Cenci & M. Habouzit 2025). Alongside the standard DCBH scenario, an alternative heavy seed channel involves massive BHs forming from specialized primordial stars in extreme, feedback-free isolation (N. Banik et al. 2019; V. Cammelli et al. 2025; J. Tan et al. 2025). Notably, this model has been shown to successfully reproduce the SMBH mass function in the local Universe (V. Cammelli et al. 2025).

Beyond these standard astrophysical scenarios, several exotic formation channels have been proposed. These range from primordial black holes (PBHs) formed in the early radiation-dominated era (R. Bean & J. Magueijo 2002; B. Carr & F. Kühnel 2020; P. Dayal 2024; S. Zhang et al. 2025) to the direct collapse of dark matter halos (e.g., J. Pollack et al. 2015; F. Jiang et al. 2026). Disentangling these mechanisms requires probing the BH population during its nascent phases, as the observational signatures of specific formation channels become degenerate following substantial growth (see Figure 1 in J. E. Greene et al. 2020). Consequently, detecting and characterizing these systems in the lower-mass regime is critical to constraining their seeding mechanisms before such information is obscured by BH growth.

The situation mentioned above underscores the significance of exploring IMBHs at high- z . However, even with the sensitivity of JWST, this BH population has largely eluded detection in field surveys due to their intrinsic faintness (for theoretical constraints, see J. Jeon et al. 2023). Based on the local calibrated virial estimators (e.g., J. E. Greene & L. C. Ho 2005; A. E. Reines & M. Volonteri 2015), previous studies, including those using stacking methods, have established a lower mass limit of $\sim 10^6 M_\odot$ (R. Maiolino et al. 2024a; S. Geris et al. 2026), with one notable candidate

²³ There is a second “flavor” of heavy seeds, invoking runaway collisions in dense stellar clusters (e.g., B. Reinoso et al. 2023). However, it is not clear whether such a merger-driven channel could operate at the required extremely high degree of efficiency.

identified with a mass of $10^{5.65} M_{\odot}$ in a dual AGN system (R. Maiolino et al. 2024a). The validity of these BH mass estimators at high- z is being debated, as their physics may be different (e.g., S.-J. Chang et al. 2026; H. Liu et al. 2025). Their real masses can be significantly changed by a factor of 10 using a different mass estimator (e.g., J. E. Greene et al. 2026; V. Rusakov et al. 2026).

A promising path to search for these IMBHs is the combination of deep NIRSpec spectra and the magnification provided by gravitational lensing. This strategy is expected to push the detection threshold down to BH masses of $\sim 10^5$ or even $10^4 M_{\odot}$. Such observations not only enable the detection of some of the lowest mass BHs in the early Universe but also allow for an exploration of the “undermassive” region of the $M_{\text{BH}}-M_*$ parameter space.

In this paper, we present a systematic search for broad-line AGNs using deep JWST/NIRSpec G395M spectroscopic data. Our analysis is based on observations from the JWST Cycle 2 Large Program, GLIMPSE (PID 3293; PIs: H. Atek & J. Chisholm) and Cycle 3 DDT program (PID 9223; PIs: S. Fujimoto & R. Naidu), dubbed the GLIMPSE-D survey. These observations focus on one of the best-studied massive galaxy cluster AS1063 (hereafter AS1063). By leveraging the strong gravitational lensing provided by the foreground cluster, these programs achieve unprecedented sensitivity to faint, high-redshift objects (down to an observed magnitude of 31, with delensed observed magnitudes of 32(34) with magnifications of 2(15), see more in the survey paper, H. Atek et al. 2025). This unique combination of deep NIRSpec exposures and significant lensing magnification provides an ideal opportunity to detect and characterize AGNs powered by lower-mass BHs than those accessible in typical blank-field surveys.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, we describe the data reduction process. In Section 3, we describe our spectral fitting methodology for identifying AGNs and performing the measurement of their properties. We present our main results, including the $M_{\text{BH}}-M_*$ relation and black hole mass function (BHMF), in Section 4. Finally, we summarize our conclusions in Section 5. Throughout this paper, we assume a flat universe with $\Omega_m = 0.3$, $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.7$, $\sigma_8 = 0.8$, and $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. We use magnitudes in the AB system (J. B. Oke & J. E. Gunn 1983).

2. Data

Detailed descriptions of the observations, data reduction, cluster light removal, and source extraction will be presented in the GLIMPSE survey overview paper (H. Atek et al. 2025) and are briefly summarized below.

2.1. GLIMPSE DDT

The deep spectroscopic follow-up of the Pop III galaxy candidate GLIMPSE-16043 (S. Fujimoto et al. 2025b) is obtained with JWST/NIRSpec as part of the DDT program GLIMPSE-D (PID 9223; PIs: S. Fujimoto & R.P. Naidu; S. Fujimoto et al. 2025b), using the multi-object spectroscopy mode with the G395M grating and F290LP filter ($R \sim 1000$). Three separate Micro-Shutter Array (MSA) configurations are employed to deliver the full integration on the primary target while maximizing the number of filler sources observed with the deep G395M setup: *glimpse_02* (42,016 s), *glimpse_01* (33,613 s), and *glimpse_01b* (33,613 s).

The maximum on-source integration time (i.e., the sources included in all configurations) is 109,242 s ($\simeq 30.4$ hr), while most filler targets are observed in only a single configuration. In cases where a source had multiple observations, each dataset is analyzed separately. For the final statistical analysis, we select the observation with the highest data quality for each unique source to prevent its overrepresentation in the sample. The data are reduced with the *msaexp* pipeline (G. Brammer 2023) following standard procedures (e.g., A. de Graaff et al. 2025; K. E. Heintz et al. 2025; R. P. Naidu et al. 2025; F. Valentino et al. 2025). More details of the observational setup, data reduction, and calibration will be presented in S. Fujimoto et al. (2025a) and H. Atek et al. (2025). Figure 1 presents the NIRCам/F444W imaging and the NIRSpec footprint, detailing the observational configuration.

2.2. Filler Target Selection

In designing the NIRSpec MSA configurations, we follow a strategy similar to that adopted in the UNCOVER survey (R. Bezanson et al. 2024; S. H. Price et al. 2025), aiming both to secure the full integration on GLIMPSE-16043 and to maximize the multiplexing return of the deep G395M observations. To this end, we implement a two-tiered prioritization scheme distinguishing between (1) extraordinary or otherwise scientifically unique individual sources, and (2) samples of galaxies of broader interest (e.g., statistical sets of $z > 4$ galaxies). Within this framework, the ranking order is set such that high-priority individual sources are placed first, followed by interesting but less extraordinary individual galaxies, and finally sample-based sources with equal priority within a given catalog. This scheme is used in combination with our custom MSA optimization algorithm to maximize slit allocation efficiency.

As a result, a total of 421 sources are allocated slits, corresponding to 262 unique objects across the three configurations. The largest sample consists of galaxies with $z_{\text{phot}} = 3-9$, targeted to detect strong rest-frame optical emission lines such as $\text{H}\alpha$ and $[\text{O III}]$. Photometric redshifts are estimated using multiple codes: EAZY (G. B. Brammer et al. 2008), BEAGLE (J. Chevallard & S. Charlot 2016), BAGPIPES (A. C. Carnall et al. 2018), and Prospector (B. D. Johnson et al. 2021), and the final selections are determined by carefully cross-checking the outputs from each method.

3. Method

We search for broad-line AGNs within a sample of 139 spectroscopically confirmed galaxies at redshifts $z \sim 4.5-7$, each of which passes independent quality control cross-checks of the 2D and 1D spectra by multiple team members. In this redshift range, the $[\text{O III}]$, $\text{H}\beta$, and $\text{H}\alpha$ emission lines all fall within the JWST/NIRSpec G395M coverage, making it an ideal window for identifying broad $\text{H}\alpha$ emission. More than 75% of the spectroscopic sample is originally selected from the blind $z_{\text{phot}} = 3-9$ catalogs, providing a robust and largely unbiased basis for a blind search for broad-line features. The remaining sources in this redshift range are preferentially targeted since they belonged to high-priority classes—e.g., high magnification MUSE Lyman- α emitters quiescent galaxy candidates (R. Pan et al. 2026, in preparation), exceptionally blue Beta slope sources (M. C. Jecmen et al. 2026). Our

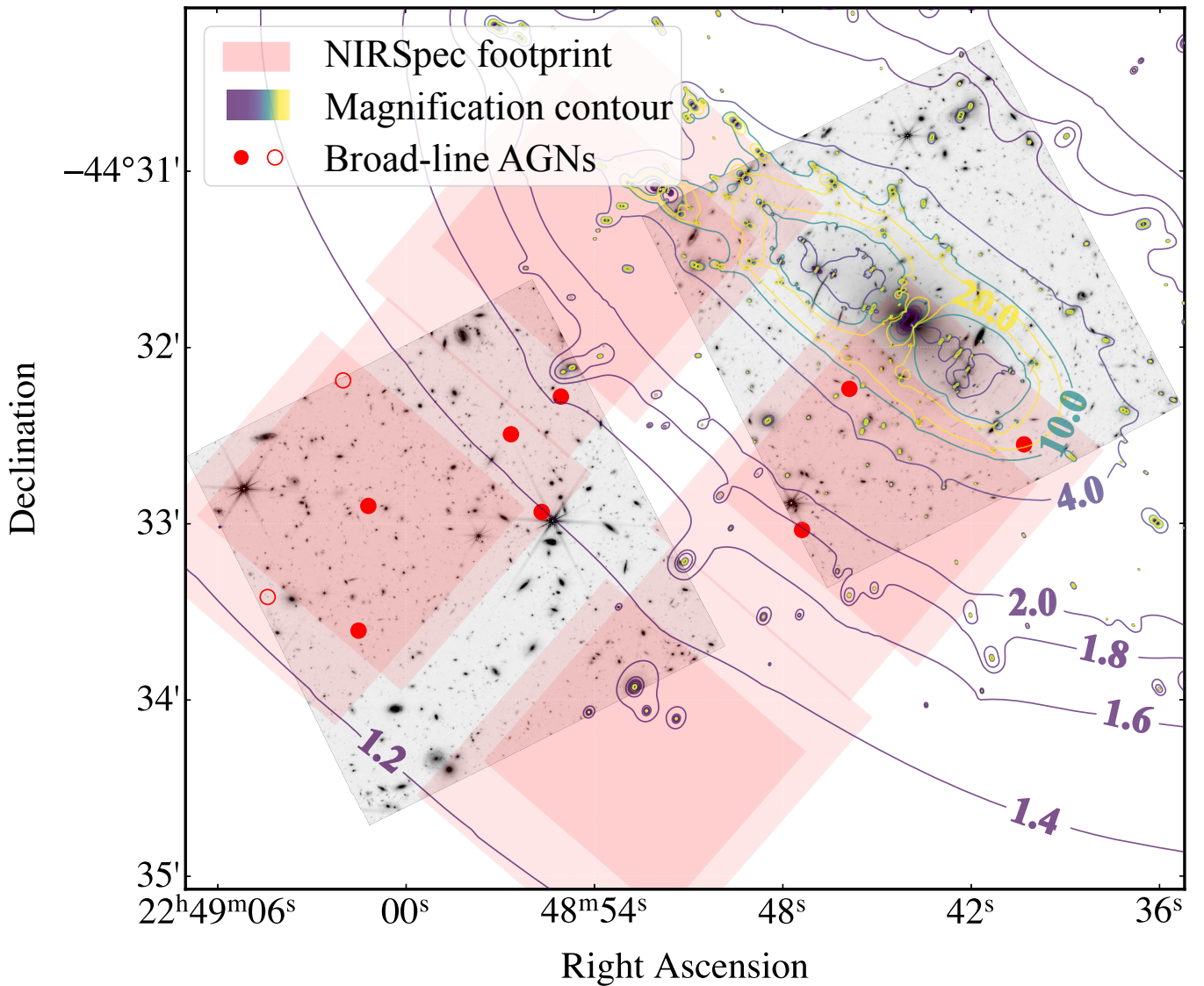


Figure 1. Location of broad-line AGNs in the survey field. The NIRSpec footprint is indicated by the red-shaded regions, which are overlaid on the NIRCcam F444W image. The lensing magnification map for a source at $z_s = 6$ is denoted as the viridis contours. Red circles mark the positions of our identified broad-line AGNs, filled circles for robust objects, and open circles for tentative candidates.

methodology involves fitting the continuum as well as rest-frame optical emission lines $H\beta$, $[O\text{ III}]\lambda\lambda 4959, 5007$, $H\alpha$, and $[N\text{ II}]\lambda\lambda 6548, 6584$. The continuum in each spectrum is modeled with a single power law after masking prominent emission features. This fit is subsequently subtracted to isolate the emission line profiles.

3.1. Emission Line Fitting

We perform the emission line fitting, in particular, for searching the broad-line component following the method widely used in the local Universe (e.g., J. E. Greene & L. C. Ho 2005) and high redshift (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023). The basic algorithm is to construct a model from the narrow forbidden lines, using this model as a template to generate narrow lines for $H\alpha$ and $[N\text{ II}]$, and characterize the broad $H\alpha$ line through separating the narrow component from the observed spectrum. This process allows for the identification of broad-line AGN through breaking the degeneracy between a broad-line component and emission from an outflow

by comparing permitted and forbidden line profiles. Broad emission originating from the broad-line region is seen only in permitted lines, as the critical densities for forbidden transitions are exceeded, suppressing their emission. Conversely, signatures of an outflow will be present in all emission lines arising from the lower-density outflowing medium, including both permitted and forbidden lines. In the local Universe, $[S\text{ II}]$ doublets usually serve as a narrow-line template, while in our cases, $[S\text{ II}]$ doublets have a relatively low signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) and are not appropriate for the generation of the template. Therefore, we use the $[O\text{ III}]$ doublet.

The primary line profile of $[O\text{ III}]$ doublets is modeled using a forward model (A. J. Taylor et al. 2025). The intrinsic line profile of $[O\text{ III}]$ doublets is generated with two Gaussian profiles, whose systemic velocity center and line width are tied to each other, and the flux ratio is set to 2.98 ($f_{\lambda 5007}/f_{\lambda 4959} = 2.98$) based on the theoretical calculation (P. J. Storey & C. J. Zeippen 2000). The model is then convolved with the instrumental line spread function (LSF)

generated from *msafit* (A. de Graaff et al. 2024), which accounts for the instrument’s nonuniform resolving power that varies with wavelength, source morphology, and slit position.

We then evaluate the potential for the galactic outflow by comparing a single-component Gaussian model (“core”) against a two-component model (“core+outflow”). The latter incorporates the narrow core component plus a broader component to represent the outflow. The broader component of the [O III] emission line is initially modeled using one Gaussian function. While in one case (in particular ID 39803), multiple Gaussians are required to characterize the broad wings of the profile. We subsequently adopt a single exponential function for the broad [O III] component, as it minimizes the Bayesian information criterion (BIC) value compared to using three components, thus providing a more parsimonious characterization of the broad wing. To ensure a consistent and uniform fitting across the entire sample, we adopt the exponential profile for modeling the outflow component in all sources. We notice that using an exponential or a Gaussian profile for the [O III] outflow does not change our fitting result of the broad Balmer lines. The velocity and width of broad components are also kinematically tied across the [O III] doublet. Using the BIC ($\text{BIC} \equiv \chi^2 + k \ln n$, where k is the number of free parameters and n is the number of data points), we determine whether an outflow exists in the [O III] spectrum. The two-component model is adopted if it provides a better fit ($\Delta\text{BIC} \equiv \text{BIC}_{\text{core+outflow}} - \text{BIC}_{\text{core}} < -10$; R. E. Kass & A. E. Raftery 1995).

To identify broad-line AGNs, we model the $\text{H}\alpha$ + [N II] emission line complex using a two-step fitting procedure. In the first step, a narrow-line model is constructed by adopting the best-fit profile of the [O III] doublet as a kinematic template, i.e., the velocity and line width of the narrow $\text{H}\alpha$ and [N II] lines are fixed to the values derived from the [O III] best-fit result, while their amplitudes are allowed to vary. The flux ratio of the [N II] λ 6584 and [N II] λ 6548 lines is fixed to its theoretical value of 3.07 (P. J. Storey & C. J. Zeippen 2000). Second, to test for the presence of an AGN, we fit the spectrum with a more complex model incorporating the narrow-line template plus a broad $\text{H}\alpha$ component. We apply the following constraint to this component. First, its full width at half-maximum (FWHM) is required to be at least 2 times larger than that of the narrow component ($\text{FWHM}_{\text{broad}} > 2 \times \text{FWHM}_{\text{narrow}}$), while its central velocity is permitted to be offset from the systemic velocity defined by the [O III] template, which is common for high-redshift AGNs (Y. Harikane et al. 2023; J. Matthee et al. 2024). Similar to the identification of [O III] outflow, the presence of broad-line AGN is confirmed with $\Delta\text{BIC} \equiv \text{BIC}_{\text{broad}} - \text{BIC}_{\text{narrow}} < -10$.

For a subset of sources, we find that this rigid template-fitting approach—where Balmer line widths are fixed to match the [O III] lines—yields a poor fit to the $\text{H}\alpha$ + [N II] complex. This difficulty is likely attributable to the physical conditions of the narrow-line region (NLR). The spatial distributions of [O III], $\text{H}\alpha$, and [N II] can be stratified by density, causing their intrinsic line profiles to differ. In these instances, the fitting strategy is modified. Instead of a fixed template, the [O III] profile is used as a prior, and the line widths of $\text{H}\alpha$ and [N II] lines are allowed to vary. This approach allows for modest flexibility in the kinematic parameters of the narrow $\text{H}\alpha$ component.

3.2. Broad-line AGN Identification

The spectral fitting procedure is conducted using the Python packages *lmfit* (M. Newville et al. 2014). We employ a two-stage process to ensure robust exploration of the parameter space and accurate uncertainty estimation. First, a global optimization is performed using the differential evolution algorithm implemented within *lmfit* to identify the best-fit parameter set. This result is then used to initialize a comprehensive parameter estimation via Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) using the *emcee* (D. Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013). The MCMC analysis involves two rounds of sampling to ensure robust convergence. We initiate a preliminary run with 64 walkers for 1000 steps, from which we identify the maximum a posteriori (MAP) values after a 500 step burn-in phase. These MAP values serve as the starting point for a second MCMC run using the same configuration. For the final analysis, the first 500 steps of this second run are discarded as a burn-in, and the subsequent chains from all walkers are combined to construct the full posterior probability distribution (PDF) from 32,000 samples (64×500). The median (50th percentile) of each marginalized posterior distribution is adopted as the best-fit value, with the 1σ uncertainties defined by the 16th and 84th percentiles.

By applying the above-mentioned fitting algorithm to our parent sample of 139 sources in the redshift range $4.5 < z < 7.0$, we identify 10 broad-line AGN candidates. These sources are further categorized into eight secure detections and two tentative detections. The latter are characterized by a broad $\text{H}\alpha$ component with a modest SNR ($3 < \text{SNR}_{\text{H}\alpha}$, $\text{broad} < 5$). The final sample of these 10 AGNs and their properties are presented in Table 1. Their spectra and the best-fit result are shown in Figure 2. The full spectrum and the best-fit result are shown in Appendix B.

3.3. BH Mass Estimate

For each source with broad $\text{H}\alpha$ line detection, we estimate its BH mass (M_{BH}) using a single-epoch virial mass estimator based on the properties of the broad $\text{H}\alpha$ emission line. We employ the calibration from J. E. Greene & L. C. Ho (2005), which is established for AGNs in the local Universe ($z \sim 0$):

$$M_{\text{BH}} = 2.0 \times 10^6 M_{\odot} \times \left(\frac{L_{\text{H}\alpha, \text{broad}}}{10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{0.55} \left(\frac{\text{FWHM}_{\text{H}\alpha, \text{broad}}}{10^3 \text{ km s}^{-1}} \right)^{2.06}, \quad (1)$$

where $L_{\text{H}\alpha, \text{broad}}$ is the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosity which should contain both broad line and narrow line in principle. However, regarding the origin of the narrow $\text{H}\alpha$ line in our sources is ambiguous, here we adopt the luminosity of the broad $\text{H}\alpha$ emission following previous studies (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; D. D. Kocevski et al. 2023; X. Lin et al. 2024). The lensing effect is also considered when calculating the $\text{H}\alpha$ luminosities. The $\text{H}\alpha$ -based BH mass estimator has an intrinsic scatter of ~ 0.3 dex (Y. Shen et al. 2024), and M_{BH} uncertainties in this work are computed as the quadratic sum of the intrinsic scatter and the statistical uncertainty propagated from the line width and flux measurements in spectral fitting. Lensing uncertainties ($\lesssim 5\%$) are excluded, as they are subdominant compared to the measurement and systematic errors inherent in the BH mass estimator (Y. Shen et al. 2024).

Table 1
Properties of Our Broad-line AGNs

Source ID	Redshift	R.A. (deg)	Decl. (deg)	μ	M_{UV}	SNR _{Hα,broad}	ΔBIC
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
13131	5.538	342.254974	−44.548328	1.3	−19.04	17.22	−40.53
5536	6.222	342.256287	−44.560120	1.2	−17.35	27.41	−169.78
11026	5.972	342.197449	−44.550621	1.8	−18.38	33.97	−165.45
46938	6.852	342.236053	−44.541561	1.5	−18.46	13.33	−50.50
55241	5.500	342.167999	−44.542530	23.6	−16.52	9.27	−150.17
12248	6.108	342.231995	−44.548908	1.4	−18.08	14.38	−71.71
41299	6.865	342.229431	−44.538002	1.6	−18.70	11.06	−46.05
39803	6.103	342.191162	−44.537281	4.0	−17.97	84.93	−231.12
38548 ^a	6.508	342.258301	−44.536457	1.3	−16.05	5.49	−7.37
7404 ^a	4.707	342.268341	−44.556927	1.2	−19.26	4.88	−47.13

Notes. Columns: (1) Source ID (also MSA ID); (2) Redshift from [O III]; (3) Right ascension; (4) decl.; (5) Magnification; (6) Absolute UV magnitude after lensing correction; (7) SNR of the broad H α emission; (8) Difference between BIC of the best-fit model and the pure-narrow-line model.

^a Tentative sources in our sample due to lower SNR of broad H α (SNR < 5) or small ΔBIC .

Since deblending the continuum from the AGN and the host galaxy is challenging, especially for faint AGN systems potentially with low M_{BH}/M_* , the derivation of AGN bolometric luminosity (L_{bol}) from wide-band photometry is not straightforward for our sources. Therefore, we estimate L_{bol} and the monochromatic luminosity at 5100 Å ($L_{\lambda 5100}$) with the magnification-corrected $L_{H\alpha}$ from our fitting result using the empirical relationship in the local Universe (J. E. Greene & L. C. Ho 2005; G. T. Richards et al. 2006):

$$L_{\lambda 5100} = 10^{44} \left(\frac{L_{H\alpha}}{5.25 \times 10^{42} \text{ erg s}^{-1}} \right)^{\frac{1}{1.157}} \text{ erg s}^{-1},$$

$$L_{bol} = 10.33 \times L_{\lambda 5100}. \quad (2)$$

where $L_{H\alpha}$ is the luminosity of the broad H α emission line since whether the narrow H α line originates from the narrow-line region or H II region is unknown. $L_{\lambda 5100}$ and L_{bol} denote the monochromatic luminosity at rest-frame 5100 Å and the bolometric luminosity, respectively. Following the commonly used method in recent JWST studies (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; X. Lin et al. 2024; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a), we estimate the Eddington ratio (λ_{Edd}) using L_{bol}/L_{Edd} , where L_{Edd} is the theoretical maximum luminosity achievable when radiation pressure and gravity are balanced in a spherical geometry, which can be calculated following B. Trakhtenbrot et al. (2011):

$$L_{Edd} = 1.5 \times 10^{38} M_{BH}/M_{\odot}. \quad (3)$$

The derived physical properties of our AGNs are listed in Table 2. The λ_{Edd} of our sources are around the range of 0.10 ~ 0.50, comparable to those of $z \gtrsim 5$ quasars (e.g., Y. Shen et al. 2019; E. P. Farina et al. 2022) and JWST discovered faint AGNs (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; X. Lin et al. 2024; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a), except for two sources with $M_{BH} \lesssim 10^6 M_{\odot}$ (ID 13131 and ID 41299), whose Eddington ratios are 2.82 and 1.77, respectively. However, we need to be cautious that the BH masses and bolometric luminosities of our targets are derived from the best-fit H α parameters using empirical relationships; therefore, the Eddington ratio derived from this approach reflects the relation between the H α luminosity and H α line width and might have systematic errors.

We acknowledge that the BH mass estimates for recently discovered JWST AGN, in particular, little red dots (LRDs), are subject to significant uncertainties. These uncertainties arise because the accretion mode in these high- z sources may differ from the AGN in the local Universe that anchor the virial mass calibrations (e.g., S.-J. Chang et al. 2026; R. P. Naidu et al. 2025; V. Rusakov et al. 2026). Indeed, some studies suggest that applying local relationships to these populations could lead to BH mass overestimations by as much as an order of magnitude (e.g., J. E. Greene et al. 2026). To ensure a fair comparison with other recent JWST AGN studies (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023), which is a primary scope of this work, we adopt BH masses derived from local relationships in this work. The final parameters, including BH mass, are listed in Table 2.

3.4. Galaxy Mass Estimate

To derive the physical properties of the host galaxies, particularly their stellar masses (M_*), we perform spectral energy distribution (SED) fitting on the available photometric data using the Code Investigating GALaxy Emission (CIGALE; e.g., M. Boquien et al. 2019; G. Yang et al. 2022). The photometry is measured within a 0''.3 diameter aperture, which is determined to sufficiently encompass the total emission from each host galaxy. Our sources' redshifts are determined from the best-fit [O III] result.

For the stellar population, we adopt the single stellar population models of G. Bruzual & S. Charlot (2003; bc03 module), assuming a G. Chabrier (2003) initial mass function (IMF). The star formation history (SFH) is modeled using a delayed- τ function. We also include a burst component in the model whose SFH can be modeled as an exponential profile. The mass fraction of the late starburst population is allowed to vary between 0 and 0.5 in steps of 0.1. Following the established procedures of M.-Y. Zhuang & L. C. Ho (2023) and T. S. Tanaka et al. (2025), we set an upper limit on the age of the stellar population, requiring it to be less than 95% of the age of the Universe at the galaxy's redshift ($t_{age} \leq 0.95 t_H$). We include contributions from ionized gas using the nebular module. To account for the potentially extreme interstellar medium (ISM) conditions in high-redshift galaxies, we allow the ionization parameter ($\log U$) to vary between

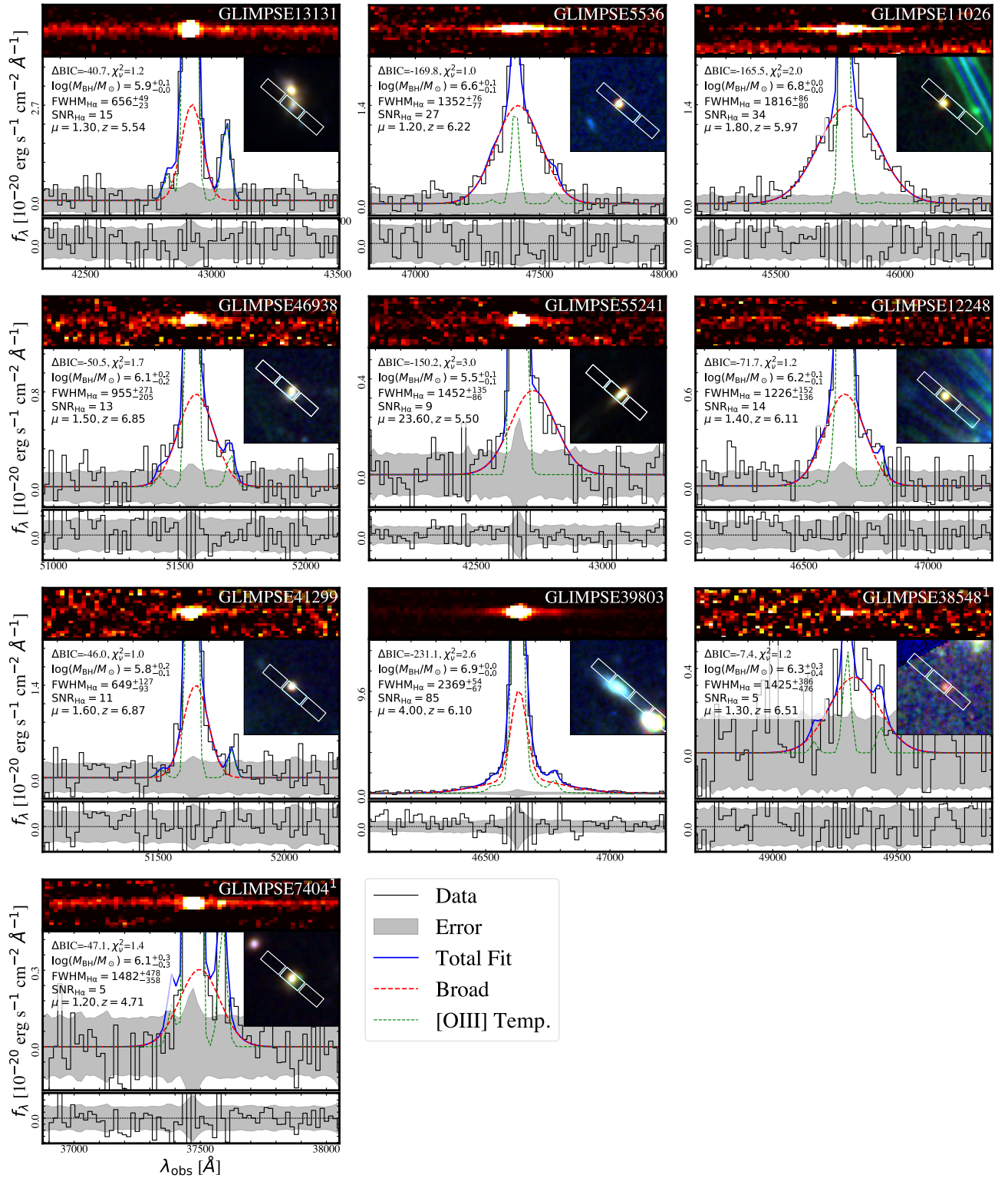


Figure 2. The spectra of our broad-line AGN and the best-fit result. For each source, the top panel displays the two-dimensional spectrum. The middle panel presents the corresponding one-dimensional spectrum, obtained through optimal extraction (black histogram). The uncertainty is represented by the gray-shaded region. Overplotted on the 1D spectrum is the best-fit model (blue solid line), which is decomposed into narrow components from the [O III] line template (green dotted line) and the broad H α emission (red-dashed line). The bottom panel presents the residual. The inset image presented in the middle panel shows the red, green, blue image generated with JWST/NIRCam F150W, F277W, and F444W filters, and the corresponding NIRSpec/G395M shutters. The final two subpanels are dedicated to presenting the spectra and corresponding model fits for two tentative detections, ID 38548 and ID 7404. Basic fitting parameters and properties of sources are listed in the middle panel. ΔBIC shows the difference between the BIC for the best-fit model and the narrow-only model, and χ^2_{ν} is the reduced chi-squared value corresponding to the best-fit model. $\log(M_{\text{BH}}/M_{\odot})$ is the BH mass, estimated from the properties of the broad H α emission. $\text{FWHM}_{\text{H}\alpha}$ and $\text{SNR}_{\text{H}\alpha}$ represent the FWHM and the SNR of the broad H α emission. μ is the gravitational lensing magnification factor for the source, and z is the redshift.

Table 2
Derived Properties of AGNs and Host Galaxies

Source ID	FWHM _{Hα,broad} (km s ⁻¹)	$f_{\text{H}\alpha,\text{broad}}$ (10 ⁻²⁰ erg s ⁻¹ cm ⁻²)	log $L_{\text{H}\alpha,\text{broad}}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	log $L_{\lambda 5100}$ (erg s ⁻¹)	log L_{bol} (erg s ⁻¹)	log M_{BH} ($M_{\odot}$)	λ_{Edd}	log $M_{*,\text{SED}}$ ($M_{\odot}$)	log $M_{*,\text{UV}}$ ($M_{\odot}$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
13131	659.6 ^{+58.3} _{-25.0}	221.3 ^{+26.9} _{-26.0}	41.88 ^{+0.05} _{-0.05}	43.28 ^{+0.05} _{-0.05}	44.29 ^{+0.05} _{-0.05}	5.86 ^{+0.07} _{-0.04}	1.80 ^{+0.22} _{-0.21}	8.77 ^{+0.27} _{-0.27}	8.16 $\pm$ 0.11
5536 ^a	1352.3 ^{+75.9} _{-77.2}	264.3 ^{+11.6} _{-12.8}	42.08 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	43.45 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	44.46 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	6.60 ^{+0.05} _{-0.06}	0.48 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	9.74 ^{+0.03} _{-0.03}	7.20 $\pm$ 0.12
11026 ^a	1815.5 ^{+86.0} _{-79.8}	228.6 ^{+7.4} _{-7.5}	41.97 ^{+0.01} _{-0.01}	43.36 ^{+0.01} _{-0.01}	44.37 ^{+0.01} _{-0.01}	6.81 ^{+0.04} _{-0.04}	0.24 ^{+0.01} _{-0.01}	7.81 ^{+0.15} _{-0.23}	7.79 $\pm$ 0.11
46938	954.7 ^{+271.0} _{-205.4}	93.5 ^{+11.0} _{-9.2}	41.72 ^{+0.05} _{-0.05}	43.14 ^{+0.05} _{-0.05}	44.15 ^{+0.05} _{-0.05}	6.09 ^{+0.25} _{-0.23}	0.77 ^{+0.09} _{-0.08}	7.45 ^{+0.29} _{-1.30}	7.84 $\pm$ 0.11
55241	1452.0 ^{+135.0} _{-86.0}	3.3 ^{+0.3} _{-0.3}	40.05 ^{+0.04} _{-0.05}	41.69 ^{+0.04} _{-0.05}	42.71 ^{+0.04} _{-0.05}	5.55 ^{+0.09} _{-0.06}	0.10 ^{+0.01} _{-0.01}	6.60 ^{+0.08} _{-0.10}	6.73 $\pm$ 0.13
12248 ^a	1226.1 ^{+152.3} _{-135.7}	85.7 ^{+7.8} _{-7.5}	41.57 ^{+0.04} _{-0.04}	43.01 ^{+0.04} _{-0.04}	44.02 ^{+0.04} _{-0.04}	6.24 ^{+0.11} _{-0.11}	0.40 ^{+0.04} _{-0.04}	7.93 ^{+0.19} _{-0.33}	7.62 $\pm$ 0.11
41299	648.9 ^{+127.4} _{-92.8}	109.3 ^{+13.4} _{-13.1}	41.79 ^{+0.05} _{-0.06}	43.20 ^{+0.05} _{-0.06}	44.21 ^{+0.05} _{-0.06}	5.79 ^{+0.17} _{-0.15}	1.77 ^{+0.22} _{-0.21}	7.61 ^{+0.16} _{-0.26}	7.97 $\pm$ 0.11
39803	2369.4 ^{+53.9} _{-56.8}	128.4 ^{+5.3} _{-5.6}	41.75 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	43.16 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	44.17 ^{+0.02} _{-0.02}	6.92 ^{+0.02} _{-0.01}	0.12 ^{+0.00} _{-0.00}	7.71 ^{+0.25} _{-0.66}	7.56 $\pm$ 0.11
38548 ^a	1425.0 ^{+15.9} _{-476.2}	62.8 ^{+15.9} _{-15.9}	41.50 ^{+0.10} _{-0.13}	42.95 ^{+0.10} _{-0.13}	43.96 ^{+0.10} _{-0.13}	6.32 ^{+0.26} _{-0.41}	0.29 ^{+0.07} _{-0.07}	7.66 ^{+0.57} _{-0.57}	8.29 $\pm$ 0.13
7404	1482.1 ^{+478.3} _{-357.6}	51.7 ^{+12.0} _{-11.6}	41.09 ^{+0.09} _{-0.11}	42.59 ^{+0.09} _{-0.11}	43.60 ^{+0.09} _{-0.11}	6.13 ^{+0.27} _{-0.25}	0.20 ^{+0.05} _{-0.04}	8.24 ^{+0.19} _{-0.34}	6.46 $\pm$ 0.10

Notes. Columns: (1) Source ID; (2) FWHM of the broad H α emission line; (3) Flux of the broad H α emission line with lensing effect correction; (4) The H α luminosity calculated from the H α flux; (5) The 5100 Å monochromatic luminosity estimated from H α luminosity; (6) The bolometric luminosity; (7) The BH mass (without considering the systematic uncertainties introduced by the BH mass estimator); (8) The Eddington ratio; (9) The stellar mass derived from SED fitting; (10) The stellar mass derived from the UV magnitude listed in Table 1 with the $M_{*}-M_{\text{UV}}$ relationship (M. Stefanon et al. 2021), where uncertainties are mainly from the empirical relationship.

^a Pointlike sources.

−3 and −1 and the gas-phase metallicity to range from 10% to 100% of the solar value. The dust attenuation is also included in the fitting, following a modified D. Calzetti et al. (2000) attenuation law (dustatt_modified_starburst module). Given the confirmed presence of broad lines in our sources, we include an AGN component using the default skirtor module in CIGALE (M. Stalevski et al. 2016; M. Boquien et al. 2019). We fix the viewing angle to a face-on orientation ($i = 0^\circ$) in the fitting and allow the AGN fraction to vary uniformly from 0.1 to 0.9. We notice that the AGN template utilized in our analysis may possess a redder spectral slope than some observed quasar populations (A. R. Young et al. 2026); however, this uncertainty does not significantly impact the stellar mass estimation. The stellar mass is primarily determined by the rest-frame optical portion of the SED, where the host galaxy’s stellar emission is the dominant component. The redshift for each source is fixed to the value derived from the [O III] lines.

An example of our SED fitting results is shown in Figure 3. The full SED fitting result is shown in Figure C1. The final derived stellar masses for our sample are listed in Table 2.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Broad-line AGNs

Figure 4 shows the UV magnitudes and BH mass of our selected AGNs. The absolute magnitudes of these sources are $-20 \lesssim M_{\text{UV}} \lesssim -16$, which is consistent with the faintest end of those AGNs discovered by JWST (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; D. D. Kocevski et al. 2023; V. Kokorev et al. 2023; L. J. Furtak et al. 2024; J. E. Greene et al. 2024; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a; J. Matthee et al. 2024), while they are at least two orders of magnitude fainter than traditional quasars found through ground-based telescopes ($-28 \lesssim M_{\text{UV}} \lesssim -22$; e.g., Y. Matsuoka et al. 2016, 2018a, 2018b; F. Wang et al. 2016, 2019, 2021; M. Onoue et al. 2017, 2019; J. Yang et al. 2019, 2020).

Among the 10 sources analyzed, we identify three hosting BHs with masses below $10^6 M_{\odot}$, in contrast to the previous

successful detections down to $10^{6.2} M_{\odot}$ in single AGN systems.²⁴ Our work, leveraged by the deep G395M observations and the strong lensing, therefore demonstrates the power of exploring such a low-mass BH regime in the early Universe. The typical magnifications of our sources are $1.2 \sim 1.8$. With a magnification level of 1.8, to achieve the SNR reported here for an unlensed source would require an equivalent integration time of 100 hr. Considering the FWHMs of broad H α lines in these sources are around 1000 km s^{-1} , there are several possible additional scenarios to explain their origin. We further discuss these possibilities in Section 4.5.

Based on the JWST/NIRCam images, we find that four sources present pointlike morphologies even using the shortest wavelength filters (ID 5536, ID 11026, ID 12248, and ID 38548), while the remaining sources present clear extended emission. By applying the “V-shape” color selection criteria for LRDs as defined in J. E. Greene et al. (2024), we identify three sources (ID 5536, ID 12248, and ID 38548) in our sample consistent with the LRD classification (I. Labbé et al. 2023; J. Matthee et al. 2024). An additional source, ID 11026, also meets the criteria if the $F_{277\text{W}}-F_{356\text{W}} > 0.7$ threshold is relaxed. While a detailed study of LRDs is beyond the scope of this work, their unique nature suggests that M_{*} derived from standard SED fitting may have significant uncertainties, particularly under the “BH star” scenario (R. P. Naidu et al. 2025), which suggests that the optical continuum is dominated by BH accretion instead of stellar light. To evaluate the stellar mass estimates, we therefore compared them against the established $M_{\text{UV}}-M_{*}$ relation at this redshift (e.g., K. Duncan et al. 2014; M. Song et al. 2016; M. Stefanon et al. 2021). We find that the vast majority of our sample (8 out of 10 sources) are consistent with this relation (Figure C2). However, the LRD ID 5536 (and a tentative source, ID 7404), deviates significantly from the 1:1 relation. For these objects, the M_{*} inferred from their UV luminosity is approximately

²⁴ One is reported at a similar redshift in a dual AGN system (R. Maiolino et al. 2024a)

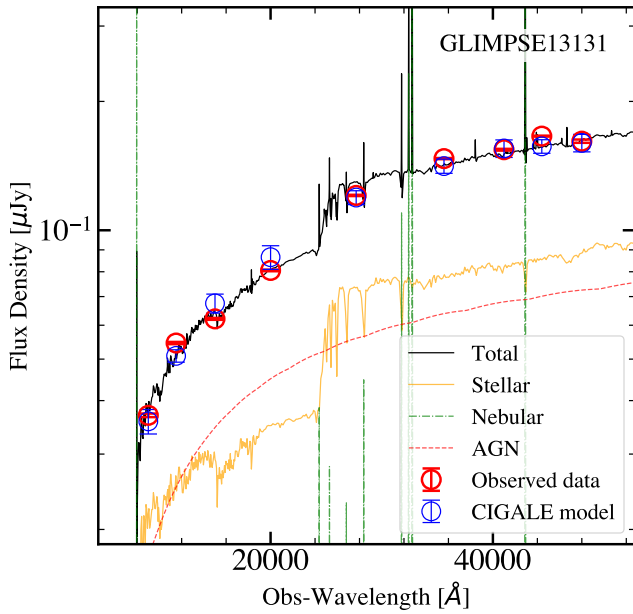


Figure 3. Example of the best-fit galaxy and AGN composite SED of our sample, ID13131. The red data points represent the flux measured from JWST/NIRCam images, and the blue data points represent the model value. The black solid line represents the best-fit spectrum from CIGALE. The yellow solid line, green dashed-dotted line, and red-dashed line represent the stellar emission, the nebular emission, and the AGN contribution, respectively.

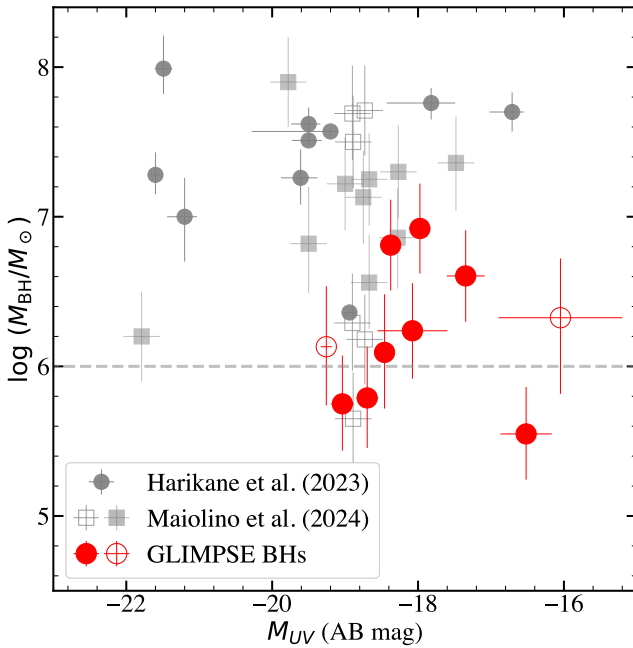


Figure 4. BH mass and UV magnitude of our selected broad-line AGNs (red circles), where filled circles represent a confident sample and open circles represent the sample of tentative sources. The gray circles and orange squares denote other AGNs identified in other studies (Y. Harikane et al. 2023; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a). The open squares represent the dual AGNs classified in R. Maiolino et al. (2024a).

two orders of magnitude (2 dex) lower than the value derived from our SED fitting. For these sources, we use this UV-based M_* in the following comparison. But we acknowledge that the M_*-M_{UV} relation has a significant systematic uncertainty, which can be approximately 1 dex (e.g., M. Stefanon et al. 2021). The systematic uncertainty is not reflected in our estimate.

4.2. Baldwin–Phillips–Terlevich Diagram

The emission line fitting is also performed for the forbidden [S II] and [O I] emission lines for emission line diagnostics. Following the same methodology used for the narrow Balmer lines, the best-fit profile of [O III] is used as a template to model these emission lines. The best-fit results are shown in Table 3. In instances where this template results in significant residuals, the line parameters are fit independently to achieve a more accurate description of these lines.

The resulting emission line flux ratios are used to construct the Baldwin–Phillips–Terlevich (BPT) diagnostic diagram (J. A. Baldwin et al. 1981), which is presented in Figure 5. For a subset of our sample, robust measurements of all lines are not possible. Specifically, the narrow forbidden lines (e.g., [N II], [S II], and [O I]) are often not detected due to their intrinsic faintness (e.g., ID 12248, ID 41299), while for some objects, the H β emission lines are not covered. In such cases, upper limits are placed on the relevant diagnostic ratios. For noncoverage of H β , its flux is estimated from the measured H α narrow-line flux, assuming a theoretical Case B recombination ratio of $f_{H\alpha}/f_{H\beta} = 2.86$.

Based on the classification threshold from the local Universe (L. J. Kewley et al. 2001; G. Kauffmann et al. 2003; L. J. Kewley et al. 2006), we find our sources are located on the boundary between AGN and star-forming galaxies in the [S II] and [N II] based diagram, which is consistent with previous faint AGNs discovered by JWST (Y. Harikane et al. 2023; D. D. Kocevski et al. 2023; H. Übler et al. 2023; J. Chisholm et al. 2024; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a). This result suggests the local classification criterion is not appropriate in discriminating AGNs from star-forming galaxies at high- z . While through the [O I]-based diagram, three of our sources are located within the AGN regime.

Regarding the tentative candidates (ID 7404 and ID 38548), we note that ID 7404 falls within the locus defined by local AGN selection thresholds. However, this consistency does not provide definitive evidence of broad-line AGN activity. The applicability of traditional BPT diagnostics is limited at high redshift, as distinct ISM conditions, specifically differences in metallicity, ionization parameter, and gas density, can shift star-forming galaxies into the classical AGN regime. While for ID 38548, a relatively low [O III]/H β ratio caused by the marginal detection (2σ) of [O III] lines suggests it is consistent with the star-forming locus. To fully identify the nature of these two sources, a deeper spectroscopic observation is needed.

4.3. $M_{BH}-M_*$ Relation

The scaling relations observed in the local Universe between BH masses and bulge properties, such as the $M_{BH}-\sigma$ and $M_{BH}-M_{bulge}$ relations (J. Magorrian et al. 1998; K. Gebhardt et al. 2000; L. Ferrarese & D. Merritt 2000; J. Kormendy & L. C. Ho 2013), strongly suggest a coupled evolutionary history (P. Madau & M. Dickinson 2014). A similar correlation, though characterized by greater scatter, is observed between M_{BH} and the total host galaxy stellar mass, M_* (e.g., A. E. Reines & M. Volonteri 2015). This coevolution is presumed to be particularly critical during the early stages of galaxy and BH growth. In contrast to these well-established local benchmarks, AGNs observed at high redshifts ($4.5 < z < 7$) systematically lie above the

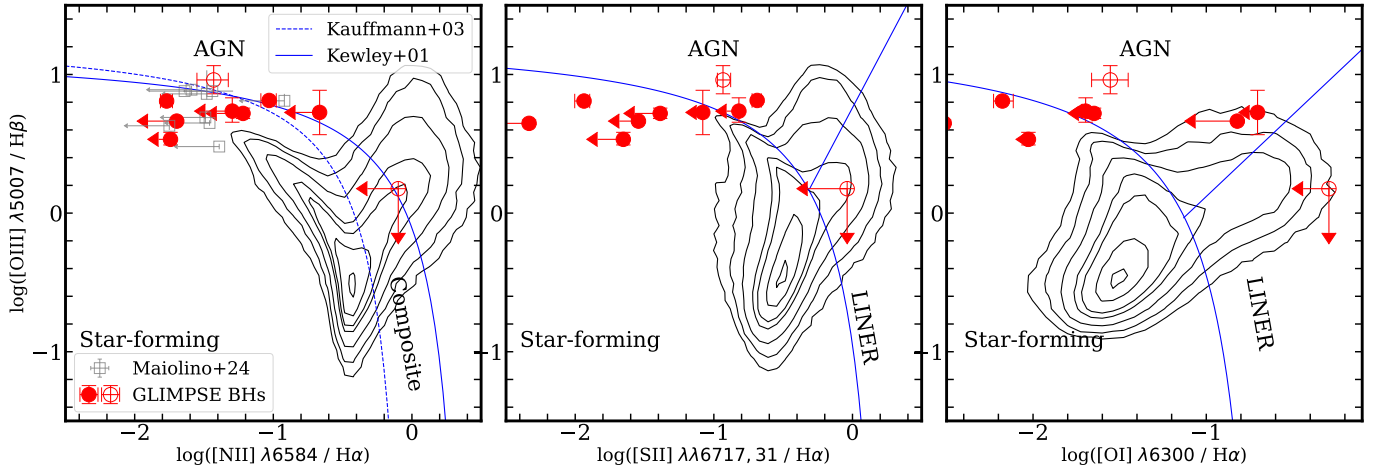


Figure 5. BPT diagrams of our targets. The distribution of local galaxies from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey DR7 is shown as background contours, illustrating the star-forming sequence and AGN branch. Demarcation lines from L. J. Kewley et al. (2001) (solid blue) and G. Kauffmann et al. (2003) (dashed blue) separate star-forming galaxies from AGNs in the left panel. In the right panels, these lines distinguish between star-forming galaxies, AGNs, and LINERs. Our sources are plotted as red circles, plotted with other JWST-discovered faint AGNs from R. Maiolino et al. (2024a) (gray squares).

Table 3
Narrow-line Properties of Our Targets

Source ID	$f_{H\alpha}$ (10^{-20} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$)	$f_{H\beta}$ (10^{-20} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$)	$f_{[OIII] \lambda 5007}$ (10^{-20} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$)	$f_{[NII] \lambda 6584}$ (10^{-20} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$)	$f_{[SII]}$ (10^{-20} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$)	$f_{[OI]}$ (10^{-20} erg s $^{-1}$ cm $^{-2}$)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
13131	1054.86 $^{+27.63}_{-27.05}$	332.20 $^{+9.24}_{-9.97}$	2158.22 $^{+9.56}_{-13.41}$	96.92 $^{+9.92}_{-10.50}$	215.22 $^{+10.12}_{-23.19}$	56.77 $^{+4.94}_{-4.53}$
5536	57.99 $^{+4.92}_{-3.95}$	18.84 $^{+5.02}_{-4.83}$	100.30 $^{+7.46}_{-12.54}$	<12.51	<4.82	<11.46
11026	258.44 $^{+5.62}_{-5.45}$	86.72 $^{+5.62}_{-5.45}$	295.27 $^{+15.69}_{-8.85}$	<4.68	<5.75	<2.43
46938	291.18 $^{+8.72}_{-9.43}$	119.23 $^{+4.39}_{-4.14}$	624.41 $^{+33.76}_{-29.63}$	<17.61	<11.94	<6.55
55241	1750.26 $^{+121.80}_{-164.03}$	374.55 $^{+5.17}_{-5.31}$	1663.40 $^{+68.58}_{-8.48}$	<10.92	<8.13	<5.37
12248	380.41 $^{+60.59}_{-46.86}$	105.23 $^{+2.75}_{-2.86}$	485.06 $^{+0.13}_{-3.48}$	<7.65	<10.87	<57.45
41299	415.90 $^{+17.16}_{-16.57}$	139.57 $^{+17.16}_{-16.57}$	759.39 $^{+75.32}_{-50.44}$	<21.04	<63.04	<8.37
39803	2815.90 $^{+57.39}_{-65.14}$	972.22 $^{+17.06}_{-18.49}$	6255.46 $^{+98.89}_{-133.10}$	47.86 $^{+3.67}_{-3.79}$	32.59 $^{+2.39}_{-4.10}$	18.75 $^{+2.40}_{-1.75}$
38548	18.81 $^{+5.32}_{-4.01}$	9.33 $^{+4.19}_{-5.10}$	<13.99	<14.99	<17.21	<9.60
7404	524.22 $^{+10.33}_{-10.57}$	120.29 $^{+25.38}_{-21.09}$	1098.54 $^{+50.12}_{-41.99}$	19.47 $^{+4.84}_{-4.44}$	61.02 $^{+6.87}_{-4.33}$	14.64 $^{+3.55}_{-3.00}$

Note. Columns: (1) Source ID; (2) Flux of the narrow component of H α emission line; (3) Flux of the H β emission line; (4) Flux of the [O III] λ 5007 emission line; (5) Flux of the [N II] λ 6584 emission line; (6) Flux of the [S II] doublet lines; (7) Flux of the [O I] emission line. Both measurements and uncertainties are given by the lmfit fitting result.

local relations and exhibit significant scatter on the M_{BH} – M_* plane (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a).

A prevailing explanation for this discrepancy has been observational selection bias, where flux-limited surveys are inherently biased toward detecting only the most luminous and massive BHs whose emission dominates that of their host galaxy (e.g., Y. Shen et al. 2015; J. Li et al. 2021, 2025b; H. Zhang et al. 2023; T. S. Tanaka et al. 2025). However, recent deep JWST surveys focusing on low-luminosity AGNs at high redshift have argued that this selection effect is insufficient to fully account for the large observed offset, implying a genuine physical difference in the galaxy-BH connection at high redshift (e.g., F. Pacucci et al. 2023; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a; M. A. Stone et al. 2024).

Figure 6 presents the relationship between M_{BH} and stellar mass (M_*) for our sample. We also present comparison samples of high-redshift luminous quasars and other JWST-identified faint AGNs from recent literature (Y. Harikane et al. 2023; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a; J. Li et al. 2025a; R. Li et al.

2026), as well as empirical relationships from the local Universe (A. E. Reines & M. Volonteri 2015; J. Kormendy & L. C. Ho 2013; J. E. Greene et al. 2020; M.-Y. Zhuang & L. C. Ho 2023).

One source has a modest $M_{BH}/M_* \sim 0.1\%$. This value is considerably lower and aligns more closely with the relation observed in the local Universe ($\sim 0.5\%$; J. Kormendy & L. C. Ho 2013). This result corroborates recent discoveries of low-luminosity AGNs in massive galaxies that also follow the local trend (J. Li et al. 2025a). Four sources (ID 11026, ID 46938, ID 12248, and ID 39803) have a significantly higher BH-to-stellar mass ratio of $M_{BH}/M_* \geq 2\%$, which are consistent with faint AGNs identified in previous studies (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a).

Furthermore, we assess our sample in the context of the M_{BH} – M_* relation that is purely induced by observational bias, as modeled by J. Li et al. (2025b). With the exception of two objects, our sources are consistently located along the selection boundary predicted by their model. This result strongly indicates that our sample probes a population of AGNs that

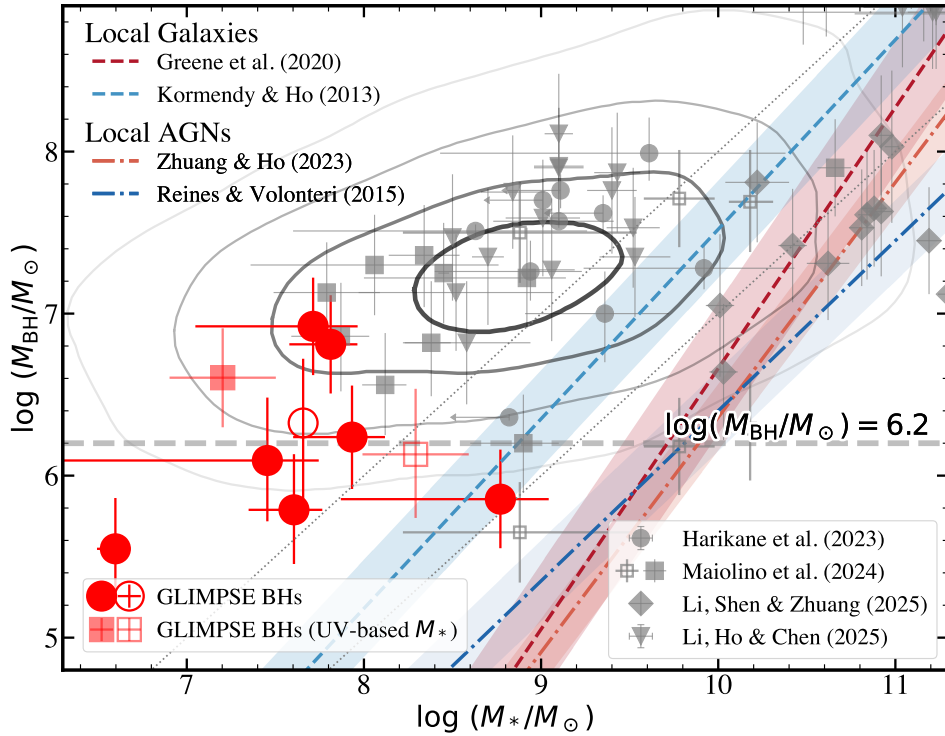


Figure 6. Relation between BH mass and galaxies' stellar mass for our sources. Our sources are shown as red circles and squares, where circles denote sources whose M_* were derived from SED fitting, and squares denote those M_* estimated based on UV magnitude. Filled circles indicate objects with robust broad $H\alpha$ line detections, whereas open circles denote sources with more marginal detections. The gray transparent circles, squares, diamonds, and triangles depict the stellar mass and BH from the literature for high- z AGNs (Y. Harikane et al. 2023; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a; J. Li et al. 2025a; R. Li et al. 2026). The light-blue and dark-red-dashed lines represent the $M_{\text{BH}}-M_*$ relationship in the local Universe for inactive galaxies (J. Kormendy & L. C. Ho 2013; J. E. Greene et al. 2020), the dark-blue and orange dashed-dotted lines represent the relationship for local AGN host galaxies (A. E. Reines & M. Volonteri 2015; M.-Y. Zhuang & L. C. Ho 2023), respectively. The black dotted lines denote constant M_{BH}/M_* of 0.1% and 1%. The gray contour represents the selection bias inherent to the $M_{\text{BH}}-M_*$ relation, adapted from the result from J. Li et al. (2025b).

falls below the detection limits of typical surveys, thereby underscoring the critical role of selection effects in shaping observed scaling relations.

Taken together, these results support the hypothesis that selection bias plays a crucial role in the frequent observation of claimed overmassive BHs in earlier studies. By sampling a fainter population of AGNs, our work suggests that some galaxies at high- z may host BHs that are not unusually massive. The BH-to-stellar mass ratio for these BHs appears to be consistent with local scaling relations.

4.4. BHMF

Though the broad $H\alpha$ can have different origins, in particular for those sources with narrower FWHM (e.g., ID 13131), here we assume that these broad lines originate from the AGN, and we use the BH masses derived from broad $H\alpha$ properties to estimate the BH abundance at these redshifts. We begin by comparing the high-mass end of our derived BHMF with existing results from the literature, a regime that corresponds to the lowest mass range in those studies. Furthermore, the detection of three BHs with masses of $M_{\text{BH}} \lesssim 10^6 M_\odot$ enables us to place initial constraints on the abundance of BHs in this low-mass regime, providing critical insights for understanding their formation pathways.

To accurately calculate the BHMF, we must first quantify the selection completeness of our AGN sample. This completeness is primarily affected by two factors: observational completeness and line detection completeness. Line detection incompleteness arises when the broad line is either

too faint to be detected above the noise or is rejected by our specific selection criteria (see Section 3.2). To correct for this incompleteness, we adopt a methodology similar to previous studies (e.g., A. J. Taylor et al. 2025), with slight modifications for our dataset. The core of this method involves generating a large suite of mock spectra that thoroughly samples the relevant AGN parameter space. We then subject these mock spectra to our full fitting and selection threshold to precisely determine the recovery fraction as a function of the AGN properties. A comprehensive description of our completeness simulation and its results is provided in Appendix A.

The observational incompleteness arises from sources that lie within the JWST/NIRSpec field of view but are not allocated a slitlet for spectroscopy due to instrumental limitations in the MSA target configuration. Consequently, a fraction of the total galaxy population within our redshift range is not observed. To account for these untargeted galaxies, we make the standard assumption that the intrinsic AGN fraction is identical for both the observed and unobserved populations. This correction is calculated as follows:

$$n_{\text{AGN,cor}} = \frac{n_{\text{AGN}}}{n_{\text{gal}}} \times n_{\text{gal,tot}}, \quad (4)$$

where n_{AGN} represents the number of spectroscopically confirmed AGNs, while n_{gal} denotes the total number of galaxies within the redshift range of $4.5 < z < 7$ that have been observed with JWST/NIRSpec. The ratio ($f_{\text{AGN}} = n_{\text{AGN}}/n_{\text{gal}}$) provides the observed AGN fraction within our spectroscopic sample. $n_{\text{gal,tot}}$ is the total number of all known galaxies in the

same redshift range that lie within the NIRSpect footprint, including both targeted and untargeted sources. Following this method and the same photometric redshift catalog used in the MSA target selection, we identified 397 sources whose photometric redshift and long-wavelength observed magnitudes are aligned with our AGN sample. Although theoretical models predict a stellar mass dependence for the AGN fraction (e.g., J. E. Greene et al. 2020), robustly constraining this function is precluded by our limited sample size. A coarse binned analysis suggests a tentative trend: we find a fraction of 0.25 ± 0.13 in massive hosts ($M_* \gtrsim 10^{7.5} M_\odot$) compared to < 0.10 in low-mass systems ($M_* < 10^{7.5} M_\odot$). Given the uncertainties, we adopt a global mean AGN fraction of 0.07 ± 0.03 for the BHMF derivation. This value aligns with recent deep spectroscopic studies (e.g., Y. Harikane et al. 2023; X. Lin et al. 2024; R. Maiolino et al. 2024a) but exceeds estimates from grism surveys (J. Matthee et al. 2024), likely reflecting differences in survey depth.

We define bins of $\log_{10} M_{\text{BH}}$ from 5 to 7.5, with the first bin width of 1 dex and the remaining 0.5 dex. To construct the BHMF, we adopt a weighting scheme for each broad-line AGN. The best-fit BH mass from Table 2 is taken as the central value for its probability distribution. We then use the inverse square of its uncertainty as the weight. This method allows each AGN to contribute fractionally to multiple mass bins rather than being assigned exclusively to a single bin. The contribution of a given AGN to any specific mass bin is determined by integrating its probability density function, which is defined by its measured M_{BH} and uncertainty, over the logarithmic range of that bin. The total “effective” number of AGNs in each bin, N_{eff} , is the sum of these fractional contributions from all AGNs in the sample. Finally, the comoving number density, Φ , for each mass bin is calculated by dividing the effective number count by the bin width ($\Delta \log M_{\text{BH}}$) and the total comoving volume (V_c) of the survey, as shown in the equation

$$\Phi = \frac{N_{\text{eff}}}{V_c \cdot \Delta \log M_{\text{BH}}}. \quad (5)$$

We further implement the Poisson uncertainty (N. Gehrels 1986) and the uncertainty of cosmic variance (M. Trenti & M. Stiavelli 2008). To perform a fair comparison with previous studies of high- z AGNs, we do not apply a duty cycle correction to the BHMF estimation. It is important to remember that since the BH accretion is episodic, the BHMF derived from AGNs can be systematically different from the intrinsic BHMF of the total BH population. We will discuss this effect later.

Our final BHMF for the redshift range of $4.5 < z < 7.0$ is presented in Figure 7, and the values are listed in Table 4. The final, fully corrected data points, generated from eight confident sources, are shown as red-filled hexagons. We also plot the results derived without the observational incompleteness correction as open red hexagons. These results are compared with previous JWST-based BHMF determinations from (J. Matthee et al. 2024, yellow squares) and (A. J. Taylor et al. 2025, blue circles), which are based on observations of unlensed fields (D. Kashino et al. 2023; P. A. Oesch et al. 2023; A. de Graaff et al. 2025; S. L. Finkelstein et al. 2025). At our high-mass end (low-mass end for their studies), our

derived BHMF is consistent with these previous studies within the measurement uncertainties. Notably, the BH abundance at $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^6\text{--}10^{6.5} M_\odot$ derived from stacking spectra (S. Geris et al. 2026) exceeds both our results and previous measurements by ~ 1 dex. We attribute this discrepancy to the systematic uncertainties inherent in the stacking methodology.

We fit a Schechter function to the BHMF, using the data points both from our measurement (except the lowest mass bin) and literature down to $10^6 M_\odot$ with high completeness (i.e., three highest-mass bins from our sample and two from A. J. Taylor et al. 2025). Interestingly, we find an enhancement of BHMF in the low-mass end bin ($10^5 < M_{\text{BH}} < 10^6 M_\odot$): the BH number density we measure in this bin is ~ 0.3 dex higher than the fitting result, which corresponds to about twice the measurement uncertainty at this mass bin. We confirm that the fit result is not significantly changed against the choice of data. Including additional complete data from the literature (J. Matthee et al. 2024; A. J. Taylor et al. 2025) did not significantly change the result, consistently showing an excess in our lowest mass bin. It should be noted that data from ground-based luminous quasar surveys (e.g., X. Fan et al. 2003; Y. Matsuoka et al. 2016; F. Wang et al. 2016; Y. Shen et al. 2019; W. He et al. 2024) are excluded from our analysis due to significant differences in sample selection and BH mass estimation methods. But we further confirm that including one high-mass data point ($M_{\text{BH}} > 10^9 M_\odot$) from the Hyper SuprimeCam (HSC) discovered quasar W. He et al. (2024) do not change our best-fit result, and the excess in the lowest-mass bin still remains.

Another consideration of our BHMF calculation is the duty cycle of high- z AGNs. If we simply assume a mass-independent duty cycle, the derived BHMF would experience a vertical shift while preserving its intrinsic shape. However, we need to consider the possibility of mass-dependent duty cycle (T. Tanaka & Z. Haiman 2009; K. Inayoshi et al. 2020). Specifically, the existence of massive quasars at $z > 6$ necessitates a prolonged and efficient accretion history, implying their duty cycles must approach unity, whereas this requirement is relaxed for lower-mass BHs. In such a scenario, the incompleteness correction would be most significant in the low-mass bins. Therefore, the true number density at the low-mass end would be even higher than observed, strengthening the deviation from empirical relations extrapolated from the high-mass regime.

The observed deviation at the low-mass end may be attributable to a population of BHs formed through the direct collapse channel (heavy seed model). As demonstrated by the semi-analytic models (SAMs) of J. Jeon et al. (2025), the collapse of primordial gas might create an enhanced abundance of BHs in the mass range of $10^5\text{--}10^6 M_\odot$ (G. Lodato & P. Natarajan 2007; M. Volonteri & M. C. Begelman 2010; A. Ricarte & P. Natarajan 2018; D. Spinoso et al. 2023). This would naturally lead to a feature in the BHMF that deviates from a standard Schechter form, a result consistent with the “bump” seen in their SAM models that include DCBHs (Figure 1 in J. Jeon et al. 2025), which cannot be produced through a light seed-only model (high- z SMBHs originate through accretion onto BHs with $M_{\text{BH}} \sim 10^2\text{--}10^3 M_\odot$). While previous studies focusing on higher-mass BHs lacked the leverage to distinguish between these formation scenarios, our new data point at the low-mass end provides a first test. Our measurement reveals a 4σ deviation from the predictions of the

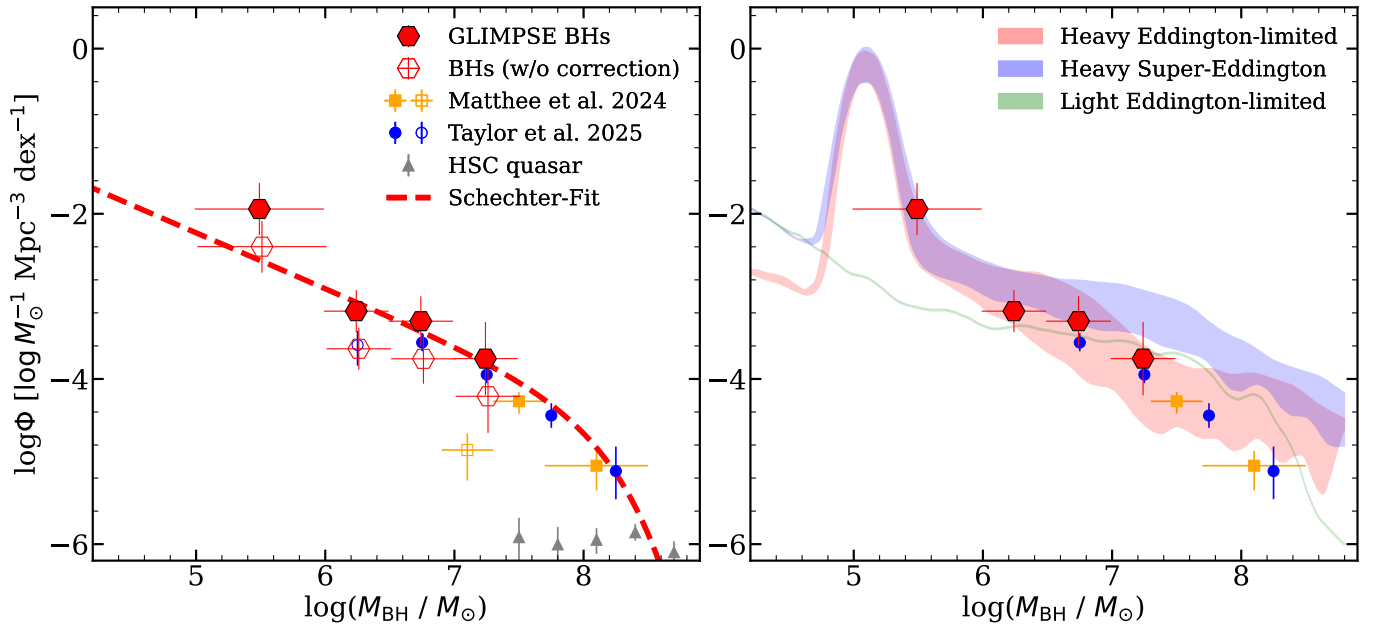


Figure 7. BHMf derived from this study. Left: the measured BHMf and the empirical relation. Our sources are shown as red hexagons, where filled hexagons denote the analysis applying the completeness correction and open hexagons do not. Previous studies are shown as blue circles and yellow squares (J. Matthee et al. 2024; A. J. Taylor et al. 2025), where open symbols denote the data points with high incompleteness in their analysis. The gray triangles represent the BHs' number density calculated from quasars at $z \sim 4$ from HSC observations (W. He et al. 2024). Our fitting using the Schechter function is shown as the red-dashed line. Right: comparison between our measurement and a recent theoretical prediction including heavy seeds. The blue- and red-shaded regions denote the BHMf from SAM predictions for the heavy seeds model, while the green shaded region represents the BHMf from the light seeds model (J. Jeon et al. 2025).

Table 4
BHMf

$\log M_{\text{BH}}$ ($M_\odot$)	Φ ($10^{-3} \text{Mpc}^{-3} \text{dex}^{-1}$)	N_{eff}
(1)	(2)	(3)
5.50	12.70 ± 6.73 (4.45 ± 2.36)	12.86 (4.50)
6.25	0.64 ± 0.29 (0.22 ± 0.10)	7.74 (2.71)
6.75	0.50 ± 0.25 (0.17 ± 0.09)	6.01 (2.10)
7.25	0.18 ± 0.11 (0.06 ± 0.04)	2.13 (0.74)

Note. Columns: (1) The logarithm of the central value of each BH mass bin; (2) The number density of AGNs per BH mass bin. The values in parentheses represent the measurement without considering the observational incompleteness; (3) The effective number of broad-line AGNs within the corresponding BH mass bin (with the original accounting number without considering the observational incompleteness in the parentheses).

light seed-only model (Figure 7), while this abundance is consistent with the heavy seed model presented in J. Jeon et al. (2025). Alternative heavy seed pathways (e.g., N. Banik et al. 2019; J. Singh et al. 2023; V. Cammelli et al. 2025) similarly predict the emergence of a distinct low-mass population, which was proposed to explain the abundance of SMBHs observed in the local Universe. While light seed models invoking sustained super-Eddington accretion can reproduce, or even exceed, the observed BH abundances (J. Jeon et al. 2025), the critical discriminant lies in the shape of the BHMf at the low-mass end. Specifically, it remains to be determined whether a standard theoretical profile (e.g., a power-law profile or a Schechter profile) can fully describe the distribution or if the data necessitate the inclusion of a distinct low-mass peak. Although this single data point cannot resolve the full shape of the characteristic peak, its significant deviation from the light seed-only model provides strong supportive evidence that the

direct collapse channel is a possible formation pathway for high- z AGNs.

It is also important to notice the metallicity of the host galaxies of our lowest-mass BHs with $M_{\text{BH}} < 10^6 M_\odot$. The canonical formation channel for DCBHs requires pristine, extremely low-metallicity gas clouds, considering their similar origin with Pop III stars (V. Bromm & A. Loeb 2003; G. Lodato & P. Natarajan 2006; K. Omukai et al. 2008). However, the initial near-zero metallicity is predicted to rapidly increase during the subsequent build-up of a stellar component in the DCBH host system (e.g., P. Natarajan et al. 2017; J. Jeon et al. 2026). The highly unusual A2744-QSO 1 system, recently captured by JWST (R. Maiolino et al. 2026), exhibits such pristine conditions, but it is also extremely overmassive, even with respect to the host dynamical (virial) mass. At even earlier cosmic epochs, the JWST detection, measurements, and inferred properties of the $z > 10$ accreting sources UHZ1 and GHZ9 support the existence of heavy seeds that form from direct collapse and are hence also overmassive as predicted and expected (P. Natarajan et al. 2017). An alternate origin for such systems has thus been suggested, implicating massive PBH seeds (e.g., P. Dayal 2024; S. Zhang et al. 2025). More generally, PBHs that may not contribute significantly to the dark matter budget but may produce the observed excess in the correlated cosmic X-ray-IR backgrounds have been postulated to provide seeds for SMBHs detected at $z < 8$ (N. Cappelluti et al. 2022; W. Qin et al. 2025). In contrast, our lowest-mass BH systems show $[\text{O III}]/\text{H}\beta > 1$ in the narrow-line components (see Figure 5), indicating a moderately metal-enriched nature of the host galaxies. However, our lowest-mass BH objects are not necessarily captured immediately after their births, and recent theoretical models confirm the presence of evolved DCBHs in moderately metal-enriched host galaxies, but still with $M_{\text{BH}} < 10^6 M_\odot$ (J. Jeon et al. 2026). Therefore, the enhanced

abundance of our lowest-mass BHs is not in contradiction with their DCBH origin.

4.5. Caveats

The FWHM of the broad $H\alpha$ line of these objects is around 1000 km s^{-1} (in particular, $\text{FWHM}_{H\alpha, \text{broad}} \approx 660 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for ID 13131 and $\text{FWHM}_{H\alpha, \text{broad}} \approx 650 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ for ID 41299). This value is significantly lower than the broad-line widths in previously discovered high- z AGNs, which are often selected based on criteria requiring $\text{FWHM} > 2000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ (e.g., J. E. Greene et al. 2024). This is a natural consequence since we are exploring the lowest mass BH regime, which should have a narrower broad-line width in principle. With the careful completeness modeling, we find that our observational setup has the capability of exploring BHs in this mass regime through identifying “narrow” broad lines ($\text{FWHM}_{H\alpha, \text{broad}} \sim 500\text{--}700 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; see more details in Appendix A). While for BHs with lower masses ($M_{\text{BH}} \lesssim 10^5 M_{\odot}$), the much narrower broad line is hard to separate from the narrow line. Definitely confirming the nature of this narrow broad-line component will require deep, high-resolution follow-up observations. We have tested the robustness of our results against the potential misclassification of this source. Excluding it from our sample induces only a minor change of 0.1 dex to the BHMF in our lowest mass bin. Consequently, the observed deviation at the low-mass end is not dominated by this single object. Here, we discuss several other possibilities that can produce emission lines with this line width.

Intense star formation and galactic mergers are also known to produce broad emission lines. However, these mechanisms are unlikely to explain our observations. Galactic mergers typically broaden both allowed and forbidden lines, and these emission lines are often resolved into multiple narrow kinematic components ($\text{FWHM} \lesssim 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$; e.g., W. R. Freeman et al. 2019; T. Hashimoto et al. 2019; M. Romano et al. 2021; X. Xu et al. 2022). In contrast, our spectra reveal a single broad component solely in the $H\alpha$ line. A highly tuned low-metallicity outflow could theoretically reproduce this signature, but such an event remains observationally unconfirmed even in the low-metallicity galaxies (X. Xu et al. 2022).

A significant caveat, however, is the possibility of collisional de-excitation. If the outflowing gas possesses a density similar to that of an AGN broad-line region, the emission from forbidden lines would be naturally suppressed. Although this scenario has not been observed in the local Universe, we cannot fully rule out its possibility in the high- z Universe, where gas densities can be much higher than local. Supernovae can also provide broad Balmer lines (e.g., V. F. Baldassare et al. 2016), which cannot be fully ruled out in the current stage. The time-domain follow-up for our sources is necessary to solidly distinguish the AGN and supernova scenario, as the brightness of the broad line driven by supernova should monochromatically decrease.

5. Conclusion

In this study, we present the results of a systematic search for broad-line AGNs at high redshift ($z > 4.5$) by leveraging deep JWST/NIRSpec spectroscopy of the gravitationally lensed field AS1063. This strategy, combining the power of JWST with the magnification from a massive foreground

galaxy cluster, allows us to probe an unprecedentedly faint population of AGNs powered by lower-mass BHs than are typically accessible in blank-field surveys. Our main findings are summarized as follows:

1. Our systematic search has identified 10 broad-line AGNs, consisting of eight secure and two tentative candidate detections. Of particular significance is the fact that this sample includes three candidate IMBHs, with masses estimated to be between $10^{5.5}$ and $10^6 M_{\odot}$. These are the first candidate IMBHs identified in single-host systems at these early cosmic epochs.
2. We investigate the location of these sources on the BPT diagram, and find that, consistent with other high- z AGNs found by JWST, these are located on the boundary between the star-forming galaxies and AGN regions as defined by local galaxies. The two tentative sources are located within the AGN region, which further supports their classification of broad-line AGNs.
3. By comparing the determined BH masses to their host galaxy stellar masses, we find that in addition to six sources with large $M_{\text{BH}}/M_{\star}$, two sources lie on or below the local $M_{\text{BH}}\text{--}M_{\star}$ relationship. This finding of the range of loci for these sources provides strong evidence that selection bias has significantly skewed our initial understanding of the high- z AGN population that were reported to be overmassive compared to the local scaling relation.
4. We construct the first empirically determined BHMF at $4.5 < z < 7$ that extends down to the IMBH mass regime of $10^5\text{--}10^6 M_{\odot}$. Interestingly, the measured number density of IMBHs is higher than the predictions of the light seeds model. This estimated abundance is, meanwhile, in good agreement with the predictions of the heavy seed scenario, which posits the formation of a large population of BHs in this specific mass range (G. Lodato & P. Natarajan 2007). Here we interpret these observations as suggesting that direct collapse of massive gas clouds may represent a possible, fairly efficient channel for the formation of massive BHs in the early Universe. And therefore, multiple pathways exist for the formation of BH seeds.

Our observations yield potential evidence for an IMBH population at $4.5 < z < 7.0$, which could help inform theoretical models regarding the origins of early SMBHs.

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Facility: JWST.

Software: LMFIT (M. Newville et al. 2014) msafit (A. de Graaff et al. 2024).

Appendix A Completeness Correction

Resembling the method described in A. J. Taylor et al. (2025), we calculate the line detection incompleteness by generating mock spectra. In contrast to A. J. Taylor et al. (2025), who synthesized mock spectra by sampling the observational parameter space, our analysis constructs mock spectra by directly sampling the primary parameters of interest: BH mass (M_{BH}) and gravitational lensing magnification (μ).

A.1. Mock Spectra

Here, we introduce the procedure for generating mock spectra from our model parameters. First, the bolometric luminosity (L_{bol}) is calculated from the black hole mass,

assuming a characteristic Eddington ratio for the source's redshift. The AGN's continuum luminosity at 5100 Å ($L_{\lambda 5100}$) is then derived from L_{bol} via a standard bolometric correction. Subsequently, the luminosity ($L_{\text{H}\alpha}$) and FWHM of the broad H α emission line are estimated using the empirical scaling relations from the local Universe presented by J. E. Greene & L. C. Ho (2005).

For the narrow-line components, the luminosity of the [O III] $\lambda 5007$ line is drawn from a uniform distribution spanning 10^{41} – 10^{43} erg s $^{-1}$, consistent with typical values observed at these redshifts (e.g., J. Matthee et al. 2023). The luminosities of the narrow H β and H α lines are then derived from the [O III] luminosity. This is achieved by assuming a typical [O III]/H β ratio and a theoretical Balmer decrement for Case B recombination ($f_{\text{H}\alpha}/f_{\text{H}\beta} = 2.86$), neglecting dust extinction. The FWHMs of all narrow lines are coupled and assigned a single value drawn from a range of 50–200 km s $^{-1}$, following the methodology of R. A. Meyer et al. (2024). For simplicity, we do not include a blueshifted outflow component in the narrow-line profiles.

Finally, the underlying stellar continuum from the host galaxy is modeled as a power law with a spectral slope β varying between -1 and -3 , centered on the typical value of -2 found in high redshift (J. S. Dunlop et al. 2012; R. J. Bouwens et al. 2014). The final intrinsic spectrum for each object

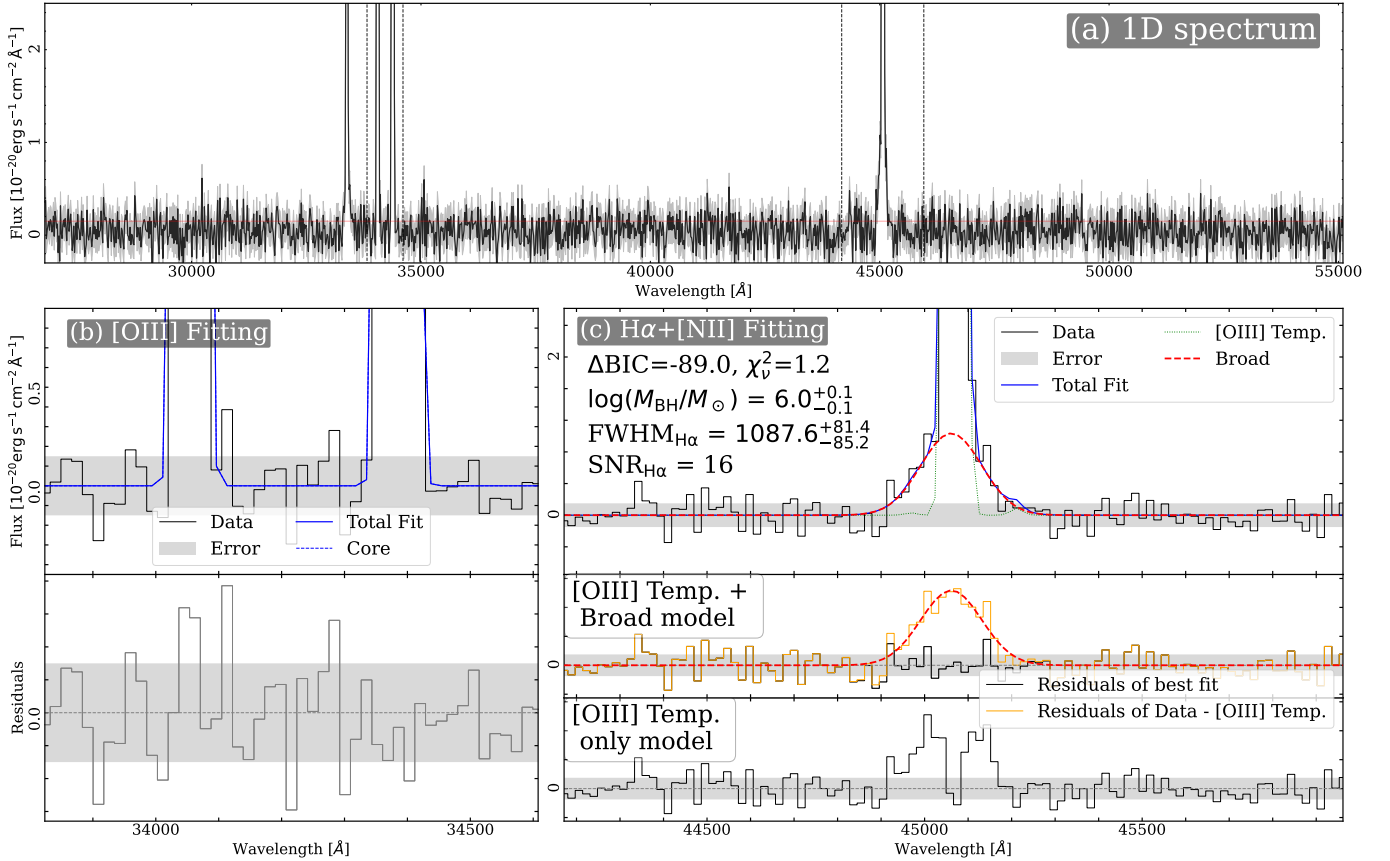


Figure A1. Illustration of our mock spectrum. Panel (a) displays the mock spectrum of the. In this case, the continuum is hard to detect. Panel (b) presents the fit to the [O III] emission line doublet. The mock spectrum and the uncertainty are shown as a black histogram and a gray-shaded region. The best-fit model is shown as a blue line. Panel (c) shows the fit to the H α + [N II] emission complex. Similar to Figure B1, the top subpanel displays the data (black histogram), the total best-fit model (blue line), the broad H α component (red-dashed line), and the narrow-line template derived from the [O III] profile (green dotted line). The lower two subpanels show the fit residuals. The middle subpanel confirms the quality of the total fit, while the bottom subpanel demonstrates that a model lacking the broad H α component provides a significantly poorer fit to the data. This mock observation was generated for a BH with a mass of $\log M_{\text{BH}}/M_{\odot} = 5.99$ and a magnification of $\mu = 3.0$, located at a redshift of $z = 5.8656$.

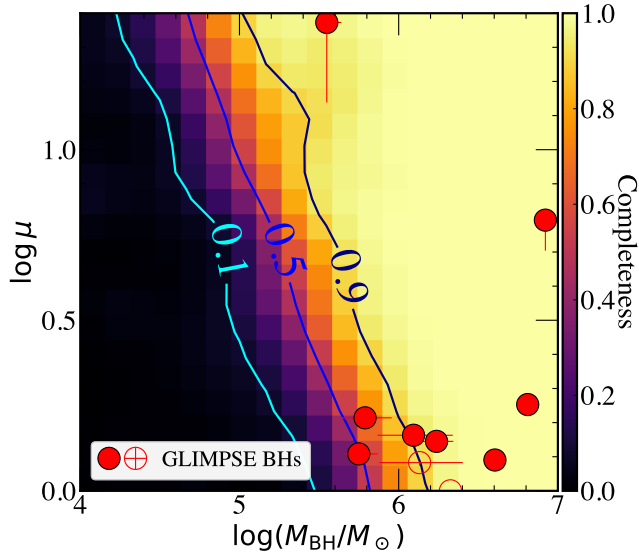


Figure A2. Completeness of broad $H\alpha$ emission line detection. The colored contours denote 0.1, 0.5, and 0.9. It is noticed that at high-mass regime ($M_{\text{BH}} \geq 10^6 M_\odot$), the broad $H\alpha$ emission line can be detected with high completeness (near unity). In the intermediate-mass regime ($10^5 < M_{\text{BH}} < 10^6 M_\odot$), the broad $H\alpha$ emission lines can be detected with the assistance of the gravitational lensing effect. A high magnification (μ) is necessary to detect BHs with lower masses ($M_{\text{BH}} < 10^5 M_\odot$). Our sources (red circles) are settled within a high-completeness regime.

is constructed by the linear combination of these components: the AGN continuum, the broad and narrow emission lines, and the host galaxy continuum.

To model realistic observational conditions, we introduce instrumental broadening and observational noise to the intrinsic spectra. The JWST Exposure Time Calculator engine, *Pandemia*, is not utilized for this purpose due to potential discrepancies between its implemented line spread function (LSF) and the on-orbit performance, as noted by A. de Graaff et al. (2024). Instead, we construct a custom LSF following the methodology outlined in A. de Graaff et al. (2024). For simplicity in this LSF generation, all sources are assumed to be perfectly centered within their respective slitlets. The intrinsic mock spectra are then convolved with this LSF to simulate the effect of instrumental broadening. Finally, Gaussian noise is injected into the broadened spectra. The standard deviation of this noise is empirically determined from the spectral noise in our own observational data, specifically measured in the spectral regions adjacent to the Balmer emission lines ($\sim 0.10\text{--}0.30 \times 10^{-20} \text{ erg s}^{-1}$). This ensures that the simulated noise levels are representative of those in the actual observations.

Following the method introduced above, we generate a sample of 30,000 BHs with masses uniformly distributed over the range of $10^4\text{--}10^7 M_\odot$, and the gravitational lensing effect is uniformly distributed with $0 < \log \mu < 1.7$. Figure A1 presents an example of the mock spectrum, generated with an input black hole mass of $10^6 M_\odot$ and an Eddington ratio of 1. We acknowledge that our simulations do not implement the true BHMF and its associated distribution on the sky. However, these assumptions have no significant impact on our resulting completeness estimates.

A.2. Completeness

By applying the fitting algorithm and selection criteria detailed in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 to our mock spectral catalog,

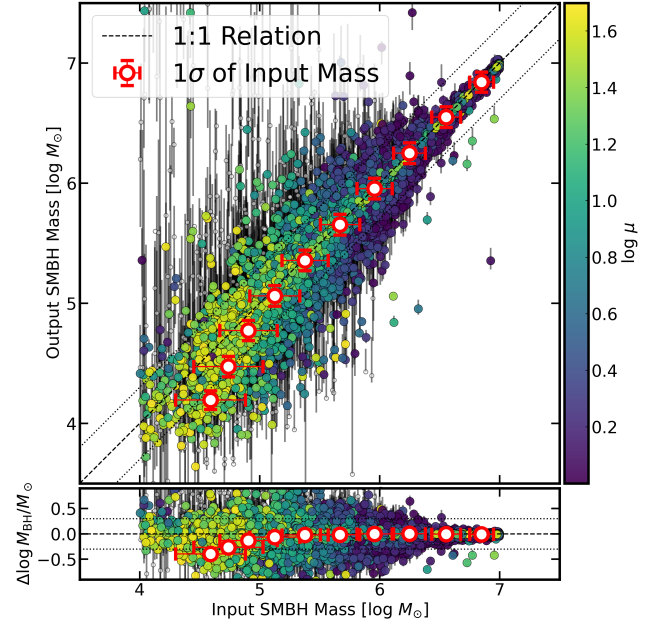


Figure A3. Accuracy of our BH mass measurement. Top: output BH masses compared to the input BH masses. Bottom: the difference between output and input BH masses ($\Delta \log M_{\text{BH}} = \log M_{\text{BH,output}} - \log M_{\text{BH,input}}$) compared to the input BH masses. Colored data points denote sources with $\text{SNR}_{H\alpha, \text{broad}} > 5$ while gray circles represent those with lower SNR. The color of each data point denotes the input magnification for our sources. The circles represent the mean values of data points in each 0.3 dex bin of the output M_{BH} . The black dashed line denotes the 1:1 line, and the black dotted lines represent 0.3 dex.

we evaluate both the detection completeness (f_{comp}) and the accuracy of our BH mass measurements.

We define the detection completeness (f_{comp}) within each parameter bin as the fraction of recovered sources:

$$f_{\text{comp}} \equiv \frac{n_{\text{broad}}}{n_{\text{tot}}}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where n_{broad} is the number of sources successfully identified as broad-line emitters using our selection method, and n_{tot} is the total number of input sources within that same bin.

These results are presented as a function of BH mass and magnification in Figure A2. The analysis of the mock observations reveals that the detection completeness is a strong function of both M_{BH} and μ . For high-mass BHs with $M_{\text{BH}} \geq 10^6 M_\odot$, the instrumental sensitivity of our survey is sufficient to achieve a detection completeness approaching unity. This high rate of recovery is largely independent of the magnification factor, indicating that nearly all active BHs in this mass range are successfully identified. The incompleteness becomes significant at lower masses. The f_{comp} first declines to approximately 0.90 at $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^6 M_\odot$ for unmagnified sources ($\mu = 1$). It further decreases to 0.5 at $M_{\text{BH}} = 10^{5.6} M_\odot$, which implies that our observational strategy can identify only half of the AGN population with this BH mass without lensing assistance. For the lowest masses probed ($M_{\text{BH}} \leq 10^{5.3} M_\odot$), the detection of a broad $H\alpha$ line is contingent upon significant gravitational lensing, requiring a magnification of $\mu > 2$ for a source to meet our selection criteria.

This mock observational underscores the significant challenge of detecting BHs with $M_{\text{BH}} \lesssim 10^5 M_\odot$. Due to the inherent faintness of the broad $H\alpha$ line, these sources can be detected only with a strong lensing effect ($\mu > 10$). Moreover,

the FWHM of their broad $H\alpha$ lines is expected to be relatively narrow ($\text{FWHM} \lesssim 500 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). This creates a potential degeneracy with the galaxy's spectra (or potential outflow). This degeneracy makes it difficult to unambiguously distinguish the AGN signature. Consequently, these factors highlight the considerable challenges and risks associated with identifying the lowest-mass BHs, even with the advanced capabilities of the JWST.

By overlaying our detected sources onto the completeness map (red circles, Figure A2), we demonstrate that our sample is situated within the high-completeness regime. This positioning provides strong evidence for the reliability of our identifications and indicates a low probability of misidentification within our final sample.

A.3. Accuracy

In the final step, we evaluate the accuracy of our method by comparing the recovered BH masses ($M_{\text{BH,output}}$) with the true input mass ($M_{\text{BH,input}}$). This comparison is shown in Figure A3. For high-mass BHs ($M_{\text{BH}} \geq 10^6 M_{\odot}$), the recovered masses exhibit excellent agreement with their input values. The data points cluster tightly around the one-to-one relation (the 1:1 line), with a small scatter of less than 0.1 dex, as determined from the binned data (red circles). This indicates a high degree of accuracy and precision for our measurements

in this mass range. In the intermediate-mass range ($10^5 \leq M_{\text{BH}} < 10^6 M_{\odot}$), the results remain robust. While the scatter increases to approximately 0.3 dex, the measurements are still centered on the 1:1 relation. The absence of a significant deviation from this line suggests that our method introduces a negligible systematic offset when measuring these BH masses. This comparison reveals a systematic issue of BH mass measurement for the low-mass regime ($M_{\text{BH}} < 10^5 M_{\odot}$). First, detections in this regime are limited to sources experiencing extreme gravitational lensing ($\mu > 20$; Figure A2). Second, the mass measurements for these objects are subject to considerable uncertainty, characterized by a large scatter of 0.5 dex and a notable systematic offset from the identity line. Furthermore, we identify a population of catastrophic outliers: sources with low input masses ($M_{\text{BH}} < 10^5 M_{\odot}$) that are misclassified as high-mass BHs (visible as data points in the upper-left corner of the figure). This misidentification is attributed to strong noise fluctuations in the mock spectra, which are similar to the condition of real targets like ID 38548.

Appendix B All Fitting Results

We present the fitting results to all sources in this section. All results are shown in Figures B1–B6.

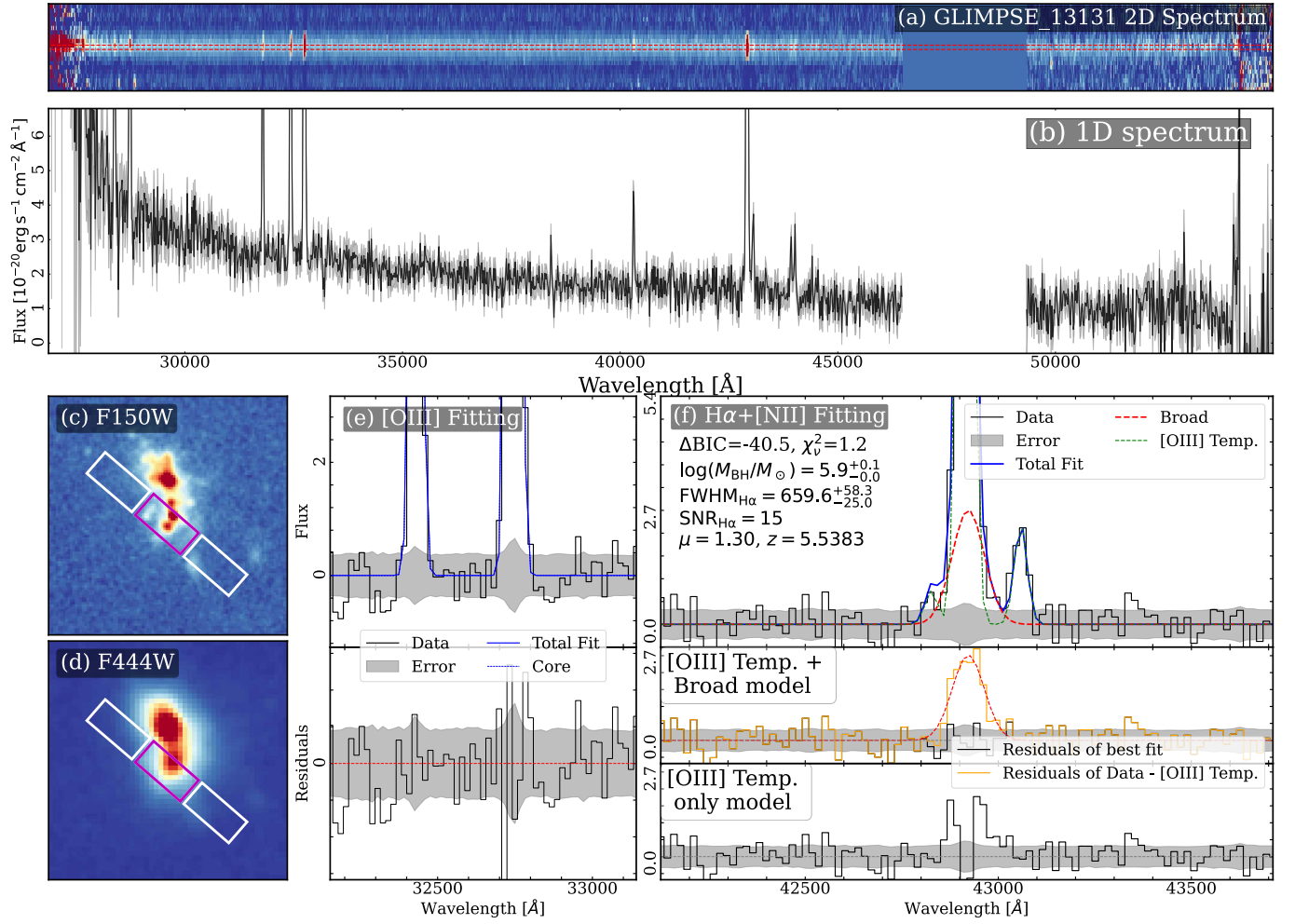


Figure B1. Panel (a) displays the 2D NIRSpec spectrum, while panel (b) shows the corresponding 1D spectrum, extracted from the spatial region indicated by the red lines in the upper panel. Panels (c) and (d) present JWST/NIRCam image cutouts of the source in the F150W and F444W filters, respectively. The spectroscopic observation was conducted using a three-shutter slit with a three-point nodding pattern; the central shutter targeting the source is highlighted in magenta, and the adjacent shutters used for background subtraction are outlined in white. Panel (e) presents a multicomponent fit to the [O III] emission line doublet. The observed data and its associated uncertainty are shown as a black histogram and a gray-shaded region. The best-fit model (blue line) is composed of a narrow 'core' component (blue dotted line) and a broader, outflow component (green dotted line; the outflow component is not necessary for this source). Panel (f) shows the fit to the $H\alpha + [N II]$ emission complex. The top subpanel displays the data (black histogram), the total best-fit model (blue dashed line), the broad $H\alpha$ component, and the narrow-line template based on the [O III] profile. The lower two subpanels show the fit residuals (data minus model). The middle subpanel confirms the quality of the total fit, while the bottom subpanel demonstrates that a model lacking the broad $H\alpha$ component provides a significantly poorer fit to the data, thereby confirming the AGN detection.

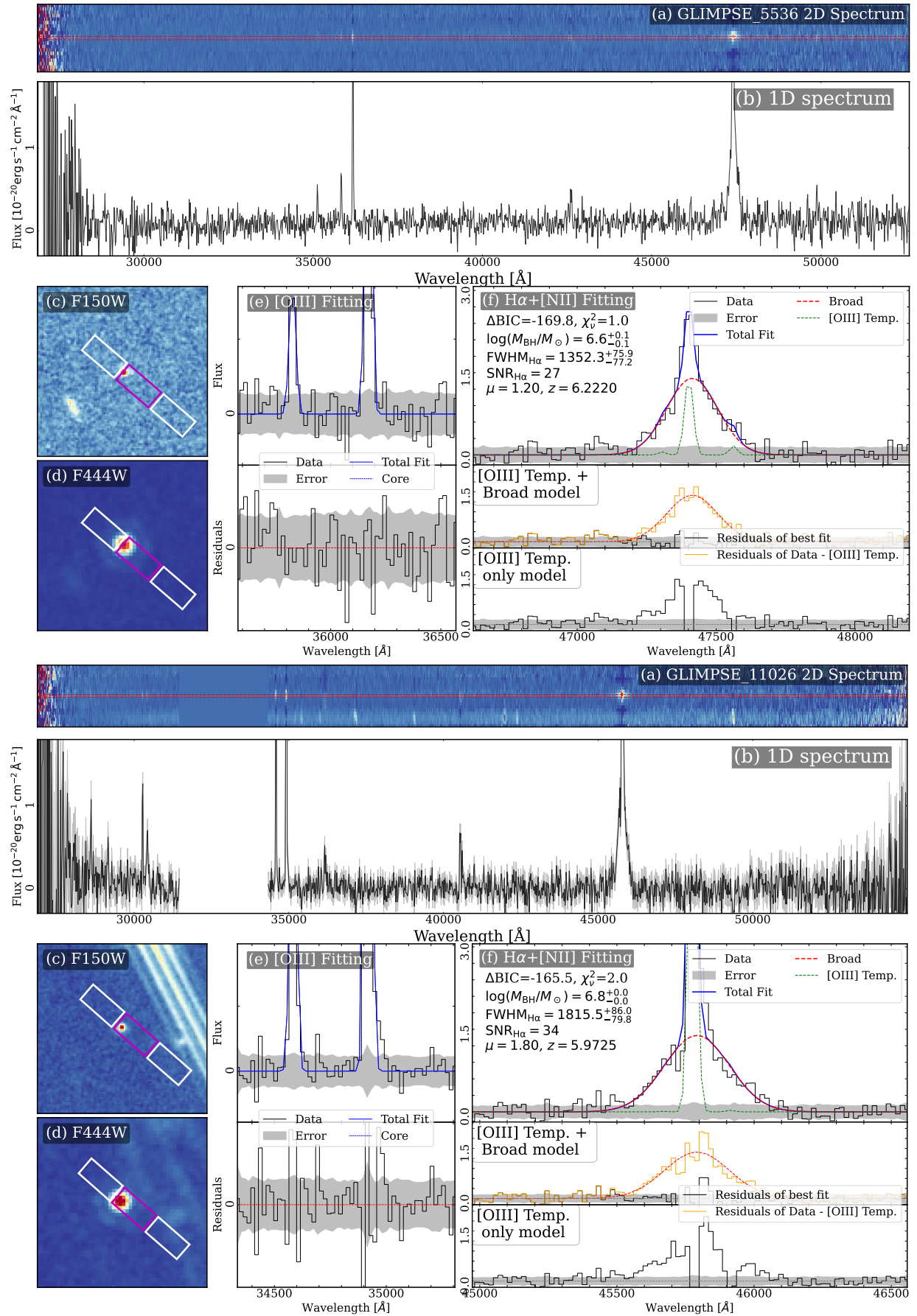


Figure B2. Fitting results. Similar to those shown in Figure B1.

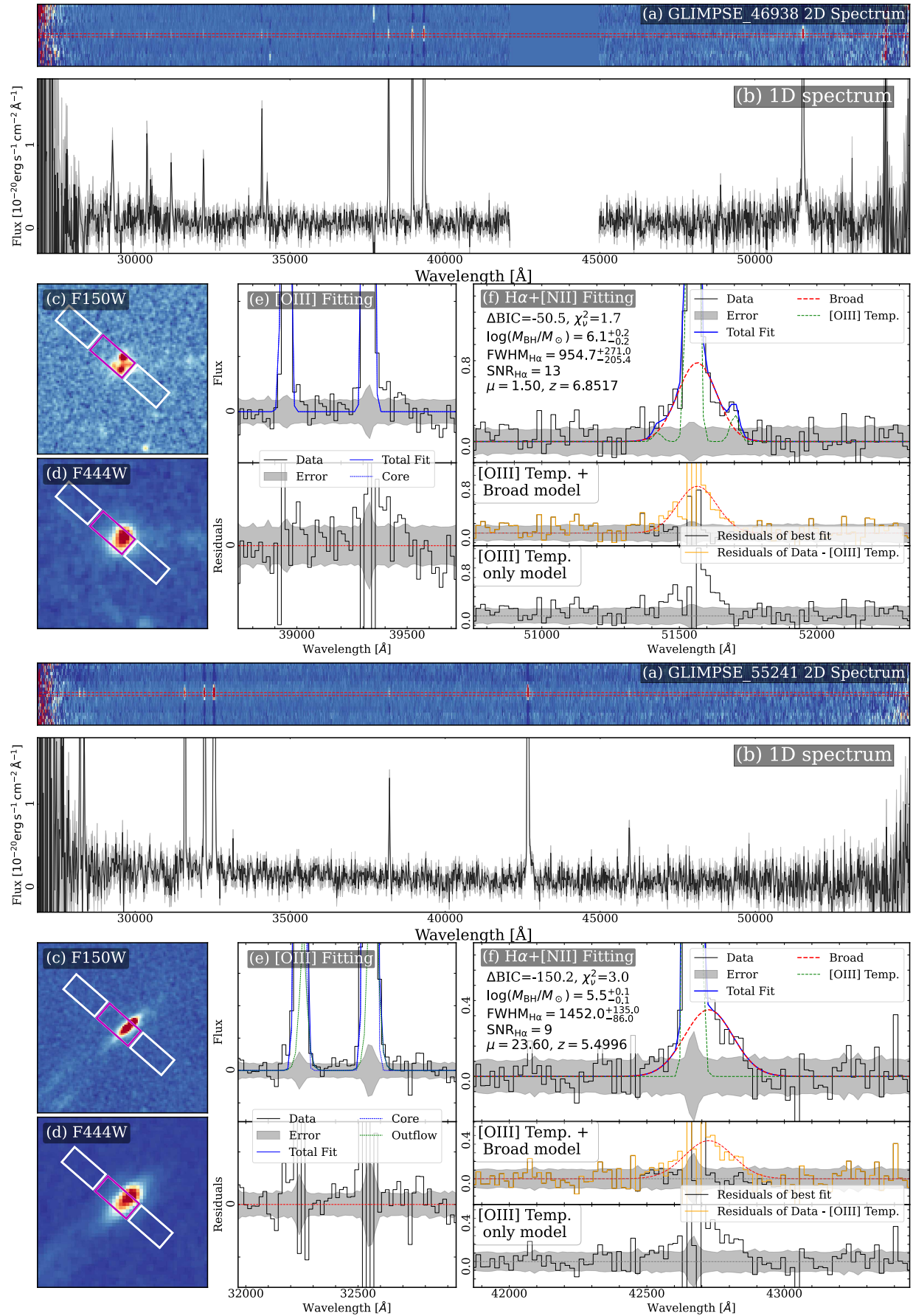


Figure B3. Fitting results. Similar to those shown in Figure B1.

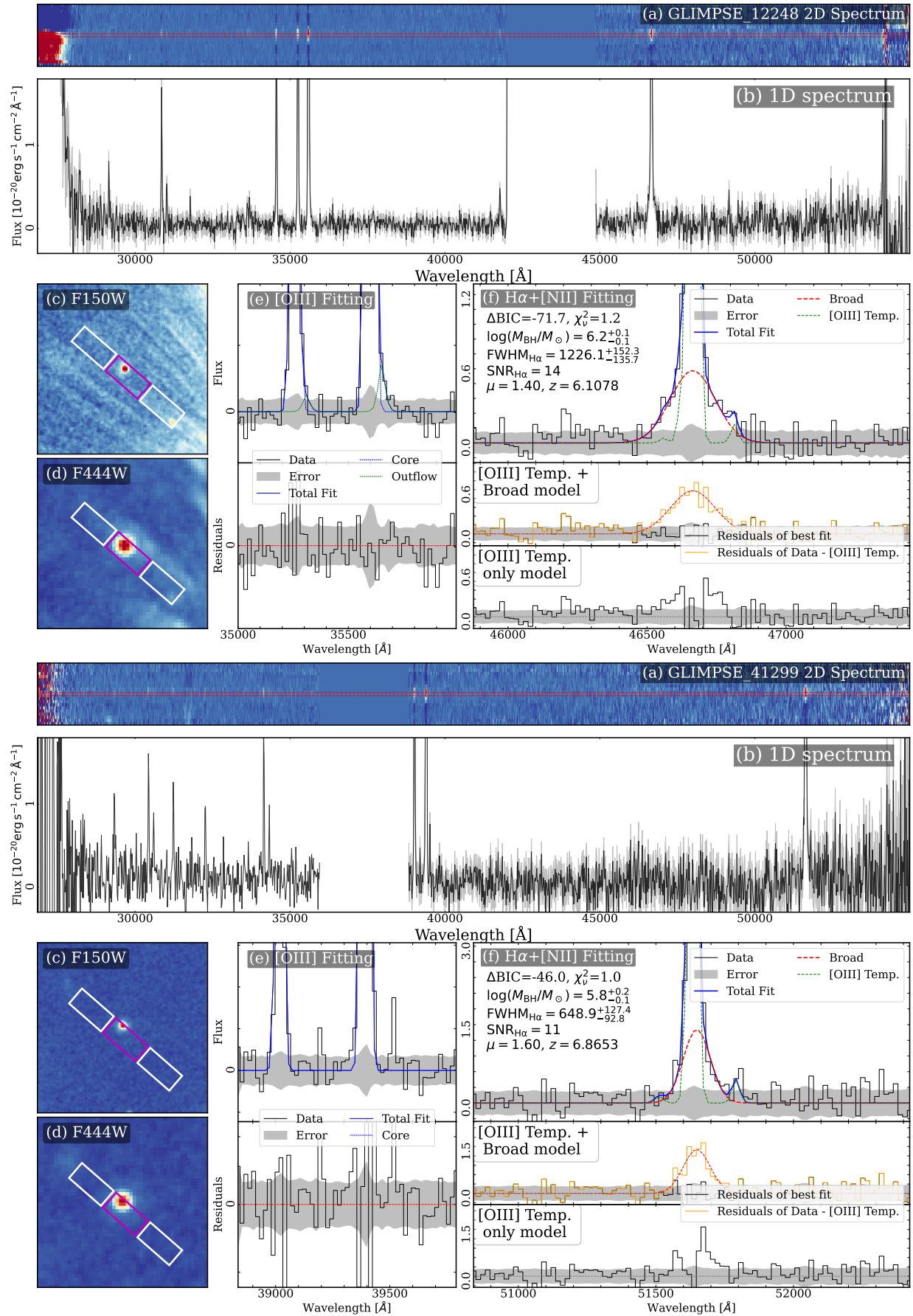


Figure B4. Fitting results. Similar to those shown in Figure B1.

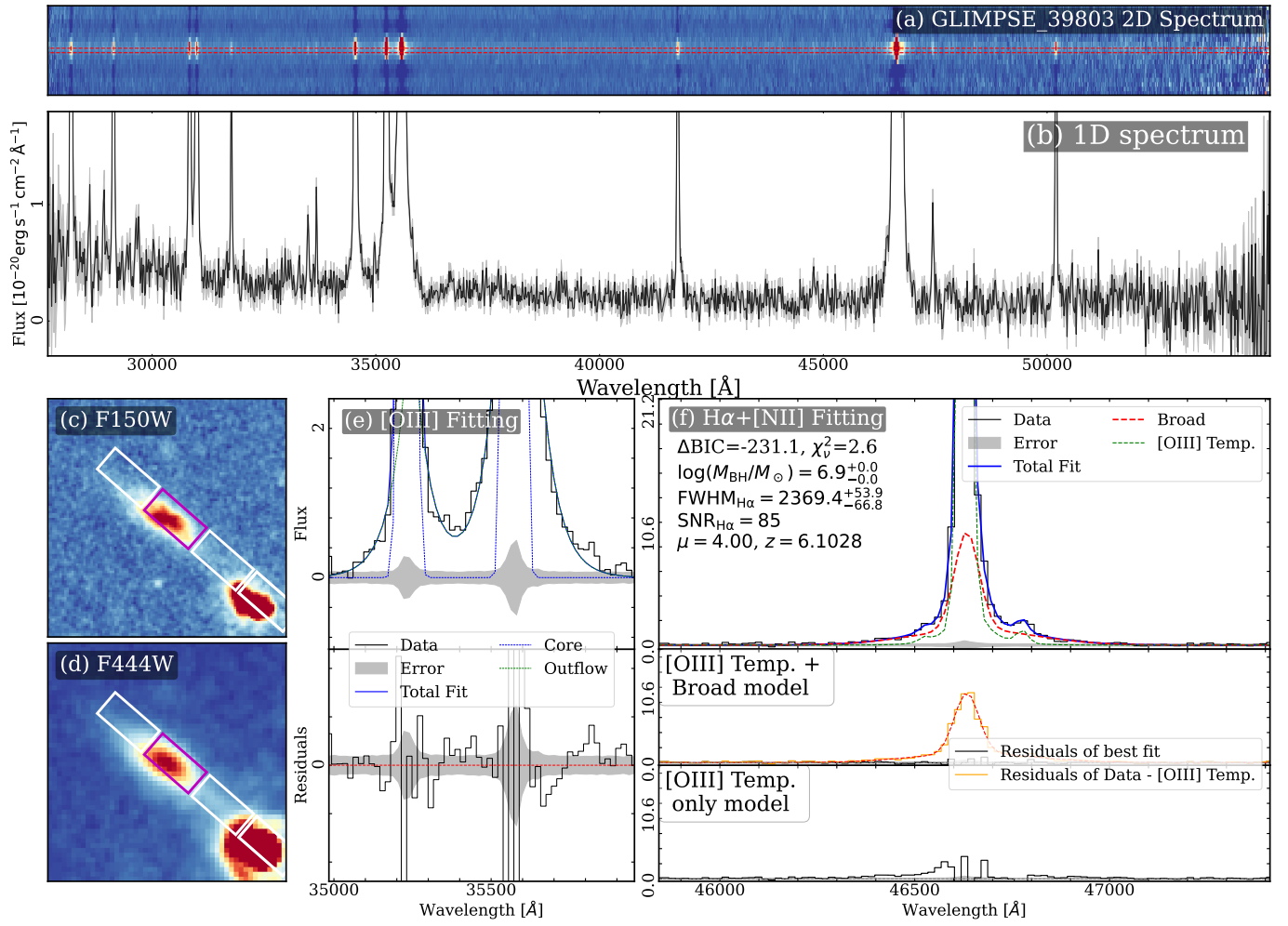


Figure B5. Fitting results. Similar to those shown in Figure B1.

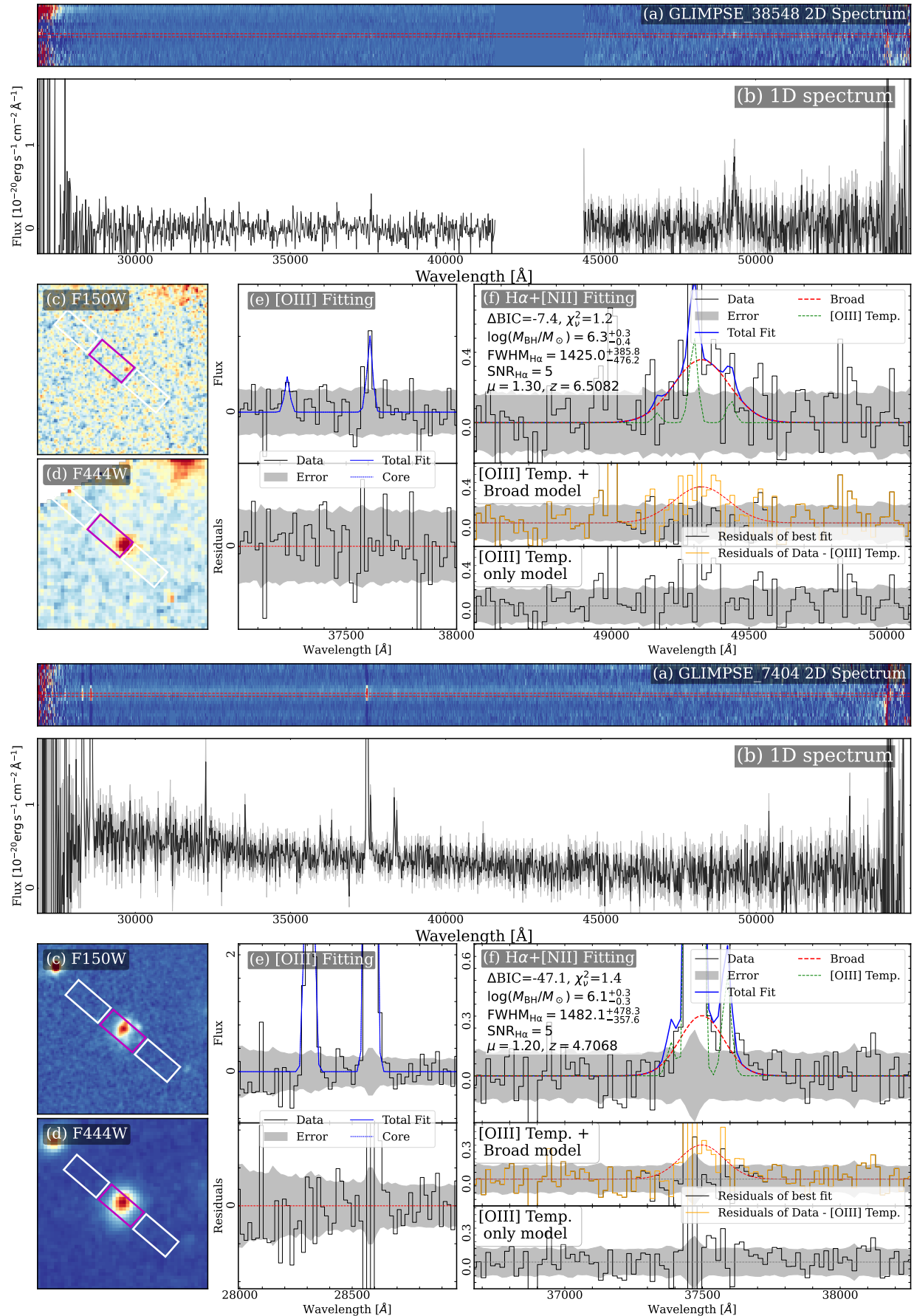


Figure B6. Fitting results, but for two tentative sources. Similar to those shown in Figure B1.

Appendix C All SED Fitting

We present the CIGALE SED fitting for our targets in this section (Figure C1). We also compare the stellar mass derived from the SED fitting and that derived from UV luminosity

(Figure C2). We notice that for our major sample, the stellar masses derived from two methods are consistent with each other, except two sources, ID5536 and ID7404, potentially attributed to their LRD nature, whose SED should be characterized by LRD template.

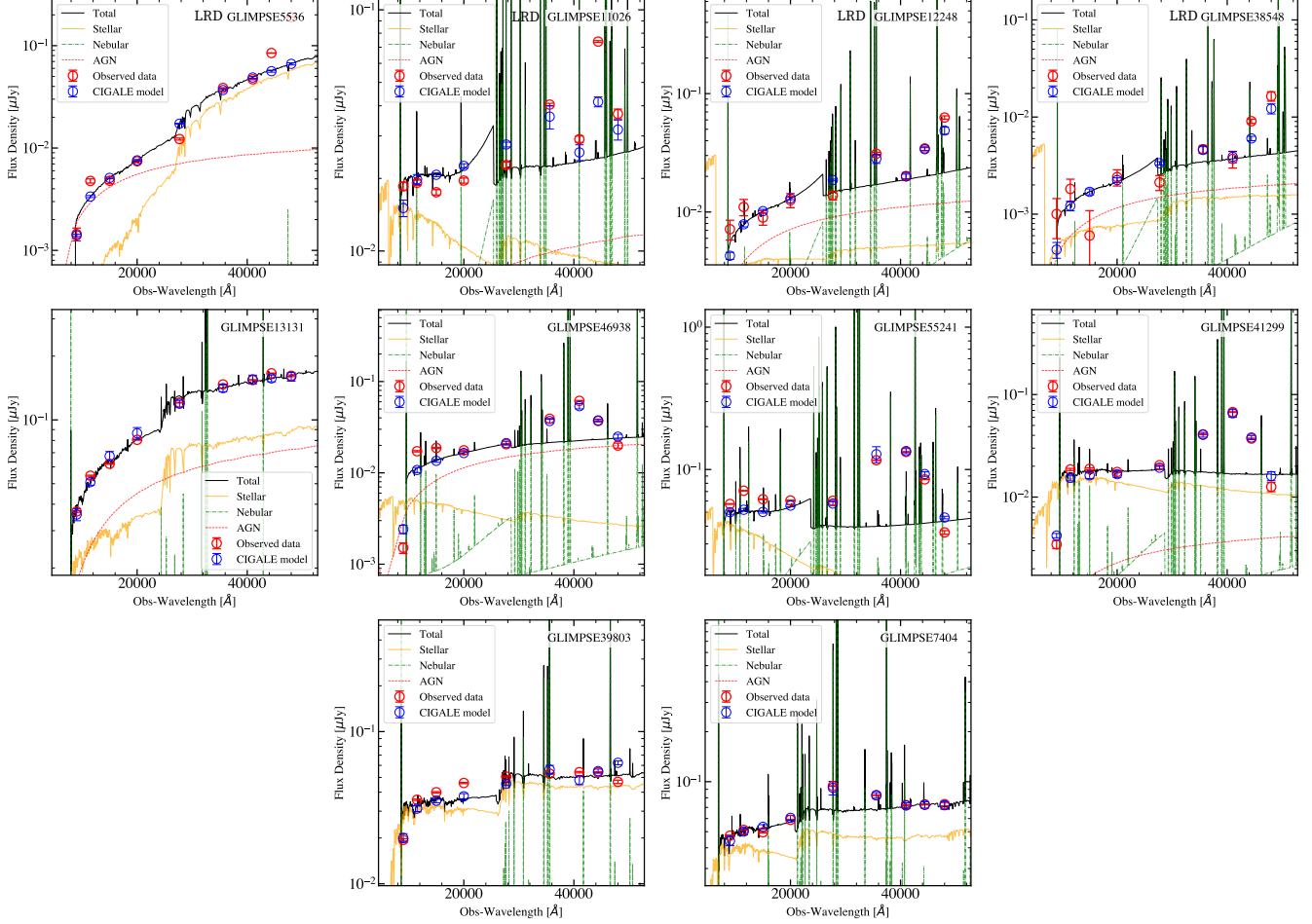


Figure C1. CIGALE fitting result for all our sources. Labels in this plot are the same as those in Figure 3. Four LRDs are explicitly labeled and listed in the first row.

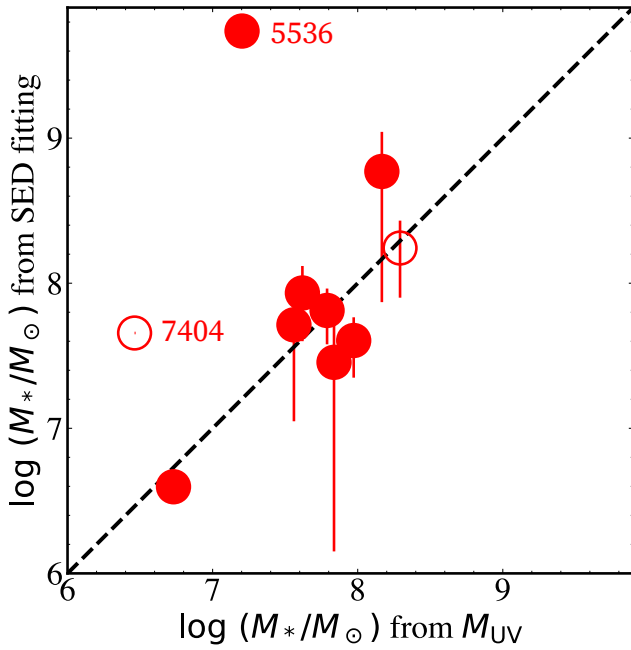


Figure C2. Comparison between M_* derived from two different methods. Two outliers, ID 5536 and ID 7404 are shown as squares. The dashed black line represents the 1:1 relation.

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