

# Chemical abundances in Seyfert galaxies – IX. Helium abundance estimates

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## ABSTRACT

For the first time, the helium abundance relative to hydrogen (He/H), which relied on direct measurements of the electron temperature, has been derived in the narrow line regions (NLRs) from a local sample of Seyfert 2 nuclei. In view of this, optical emission line intensities [ $3000 < \lambda(\text{Å}) < 7000$ ] of 65 local Seyfert 2 nuclei ( $z < 0.2$ ), taken from Sloan Digital Sky Survey Data Release 15 and additional compilation from the literature, were considered. We used photoionization model grid to derive an Ionization Correction Factor (ICF) for the neutral helium. The application of this ICF indicates that the NLRs of Seyfert 2 present a neutral helium fraction of  $\sim 50$  per cent in relation to the total helium abundance. We find that Seyfert 2 nuclei present helium abundance ranging from 0.60 to 2.50 times the solar value, while  $\sim 85$  per cent of the sample present oversolar abundance values. The derived (He/H)–(O/H) abundance relation from the Seyfert 2 is steeper than that of star-forming regions (SFs) and this difference could be due to excess of helium injected into the interstellar medium by the winds of Wolf–Rayet stars. From a regression to zero metallicity, by using Seyfert 2 estimates combined with SFs estimates, we obtained a primordial helium mass fraction  $Y_p = 0.2441 \pm 0.0037$ , a value in good agreement with the one inferred from the temperature fluctuations of the cosmic microwave background by the Planck Collaboration, i.e.  $Y_p^{\text{Planck}} = 0.2471 \pm 0.0003$ .

**Key words:** galaxies: abundances – galaxies: active – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: formation – galaxies: ISM – galaxies: nuclei.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The helium abundance determination in the gas phase of Active Galactic Nuclei (AGNs) and gaseous nebulae (H II regions, H II galaxies, Planetary Nebulae) is essential to the characterization of the primordial stellar nucleosynthesis after the big bang as well as in the study of the interstellar medium (ISM) enrichment of galaxies along the Hubble time.

The first helium and heavy element determinations which relied on the direct measurements of the electron temperature ( $T_e$ -method<sup>1</sup>) in AGNs seems to have been carried out by Osterbrock & Miller (1975) for the radio galaxy 3C 405 (Cygnus A). These authors calculated the He abundance using the  $\text{He}^+$  and  $\text{He}^{2+}$  ionic abundances and derived a value of  $y \sim 0.10$ , where

$$y = N(\text{He})/N(\text{H}) \quad (1)$$

the ratio of the total number densities of helium to hydrogen. Numerical simulations by Shields (1974), which were carried out to

reproduce observational data for the Seyfert galaxy 3C 120, inferred a value of  $y = 0.09$  (see also Koski 1978; Cruz-Gonzalez et al. 1991) for this object. Based on the results above it seems that no abnormal helium abundance has been found in the local Seyferts in comparison to the solar value,  $y_\odot = 0.10$  (Grevesse et al. 2010), which is generally used as standard reference and scale factor (see Nicholls et al. 2017). However, helium abundance determination in a sample of AGNs is necessary to confirm this result.

On the other hand, quasars seem to exhibit a different and wider range of  $y$  values. For instance, Bahcall & Oke (1971), by using helium and hydrogen emission-lines observed in the optical and ultraviolet and assuming  $y = y^+ + y^{2+}$ , estimated  $y$  in the range 0.003–0.2 for 14 quasars. Baldwin (1975), assuming a similar approach by Bahcall & Oke (1971), derived the  $y$  for a sample of 14 low-redshift quasars ( $z \approx 0.2$ ) and found values from  $\sim 0.1$  to  $\sim 0.3$  (see also, Williams 1971; Jura 1973). The helium estimates by these authors were based on the  $T_e$ -method, i.e. a conventional and reliable method (Pilyugin 2003; Toribio San Cipriano et al. 2017).

Regarding gaseous nebulae, the first He abundance in this class of object was obtained by Aller & Menzel (1945) for seven Galactic Planetary Nebulae by using optical emission lines measured by Wyse (1942) and, derived the mean abundance value of the helium relative to hydrogen as  $\sim 0.10$ . Thereafter this pioneering work,

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<sup>1</sup>For a review of the  $T_e$ -method see Peimbert, Peimbert & Delgado-Inglada (2017) and Pérez-Montero (2017).

Mathis (1957) obtained the first helium abundance estimation from H II regions, in this case in the Orion Nebula, deriving values in the range  $\sim 0.09$ – $\sim 0.16$ , depending on the electron temperature assumed in the calculations. Subsequent studies have been extended to extragalactic objects and the first helium abundance determination was obtained by Johnson (1959) for 30 Doradus (for other pioneering works see: Aller & Faulkner 1962; Mathis 1962, 1965; Faulkner & Aller 1965; Aller, Czyzak & Walker 1968; Peimbert & Spinrad 1970). Thanks to the (relatively) recent spectroscopic surveys, as the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000), it has become possible to derive the helium abundance for thousands of star-forming regions (SFs; H II regions and star-forming galaxies) with a wide range of metallicity ( $Z$ , e.g. Izotov, Thuan & Stasińska 2007; Izotov, Stasińska & Guseva 2013; Kurichin et al. 2021), i.e.  $7.7 \lesssim 12 + \log[(N(O)/N(H))] \lesssim 8.7$  or  $0.10 \lesssim (Z/Z_{\odot}) \lesssim 1.0$ , assuming the solar oxygen value  $\log[(N(O)/N(H))_{\odot}] = -3.31$  (Allende Prieto, Lambert & Asplund 2001), thus allowing the estimation of the primordial helium abundance.

The usual formalism (Peimbert & Torres-Peimbert 1974, 1976) establishes that the helium mass fraction, defined by

$$Y = \frac{m_{\text{He}}}{m_{\text{gas}}}, \quad (2)$$

has a relation with the metallicity ( $Z$ ), given by

$$Y = \frac{4y(1 - Z)}{1 + 4y}. \quad (3)$$

The  $Z$  can be traced by the  $N(O)/N(H)^2$  abundance in SFs (e.g. Yates, Kauffmann & Guo 2012; Kewley, Nicholls & Sutherland 2019) and in AGNs (e.g. Storchi-Bergmann et al. 1998; Dors 2021) because the oxygen is the most abundant metal in the Universe and emission lines (e.g. [O II] $\lambda 3726$ ,  $\lambda 3729$ , [O III] $\lambda 5007$ ) of its most abundant ions are ubiquitous measured in the rest-frame optical regime (e.g. Berg et al. 2016). Along this work  $Z$  and O/H are assumed interchangeably. Regarding the  $Z - (O/H)$  relation, Peimbert, Luridiana & Peimbert (2007) pointed out that the oxygen by mass is in order of  $(55 \pm 10)$  per cent of the  $Z$  value. It is beyond the scope of this work to discuss the  $Z - (O/H)$  relation. In any case, Peimbert et al. (2007) reported that the error in the O/Z ratio translates into an error slightly smaller than 0.0001 in the determination of the primordial  $Y$  value. We assumed the fixed relation  $Z = 20(O/H)$  proposed by Pagel et al. (1992) and used recently by Kumari et al. (2021). Thus, equation (3) is given by

$$Y = \frac{4y[1 - 20(O/H)]}{1 + 4y}. \quad (4)$$

The primordial helium abundance  $Y_p$  is derived by extrapolating the  $Y - (O/H)$  relation to oxygen abundance (or  $Z$ ) equal to zero (for a review on uncertainties in  $Y$  determinations see Peimbert et al. 2003, 2007; Olive & Skillman 2004). Recently, Kurichin et al. (2021), by using spectroscopic data of 100 SFs taken from the SDSS (York et al. 2000), derived the primordial helium mass  $Y_p = 0.2462 \pm 0.0022$ , which this result is in consonance with the value inferred from the temperature fluctuations of the cosmic microwave background by the Planck Collaboration VI (2020), i.e.  $Y_p^{\text{Planck}} = 0.2471 \pm 0.0003$  (see also Izotov, Thuan & Guseva 2014; Aver, Olive & Skillman 2015; Peimbert, Peimbert & Luridiana 2016; Cooke & Fumagalli 2018; Fernández et al. 2019; Valerdi et al. 2019; Hsyu et al. 2020; Valerdi, Peimbert & Peimbert 2021a).

The extrapolation of the  $Y - (O/H)$  relation to derive  $Y_p$  is very dependent on the extreme oxygen abundance values, i.e. on the lowest and highest values derived for line emitter objects. Along decades, efforts have been made to derive He and O abundances in extremely metal-poor galaxies (XMPs), in order to obtain  $Y$  values close to  $Y_p$  (e.g. Kunth & Sargent 1983; Skillman 1991; Garnett & Kennicutt 1994; Skillman et al. 1994; Olive, Steigman & Skillman 1997; Izotov & Thuan 1998; Izotov et al. 1999; Peimbert, Peimbert & Ruiz 2000; Izotov et al. 2007, 2009; Izotov et al. 2014; Annibali et al. 2019; Aver et al. 2021; Valerdi et al. 2021b). However, despite efforts have been done to achieve direct oxygen estimation in SFs in the high abundance regime [ $12 + \log(O/H) \gtrsim 8.7$  or  $(Z/Z_{\odot}) \gtrsim 1.0$ ] (e.g. see Kinkel & Rosa 1994; Castellanos, Díaz & Terlevich 2002; Bresolin, Garnett & Kennicutt 2004; Garnett, Kennicutt & Bresolin 2004; Liang et al. 2007; Andrews & Martini 2013; Brown, Martini & Andrews 2016; Berg et al. 2020), helium abundance determinations in these objects are barely found in the literature.

The inclusion of objects with high metallicity, for which direct electron temperatures as well as  $\text{He}^+$  and  $\text{He}^{2+}$  abundances estimates are possible, will result in a significant improvement in the determination of the  $Y - O/H$  relation and, consequently, in the estimation of  $Y_p$ . In this context, AGNs are ideal objects because they have higher gas ionization degree (e.g. Richardson et al. 2014; Pérez-Díaz et al. 2021) and higher  $Z$  (e.g. Storchi-Bergmann et al. 1998; Groves, Heckman & Kauffmann 2006; Revalski, Crenshaw & Kraemer 2018a; Dors et al. 2020a; Revalski et al. 2021) in comparison with H II regions. These physical features make it possible to precisely measure the total helium abundance, since He II lines are stronger in AGN spectra than those in SFs and, they allow us to constraint the  $Y$  value in the high metallicity regime.

Large spectroscopic surveys, such as Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000), CALIFA (Sánchez et al. 2012), MaNGA (Bundy et al. 2015), and CHAOS (Berg et al. 2015) have made thousands of emission lines from SFs and AGNs available and these data have revolutionized our understanding of chemical evolution of galaxies (see for instance, Gómez et al. 2003; Glazebrook et al. 2003; Brinchmann et al. 2004; Izotov et al. 2006; Asari et al. 2007; Kewley & Ellison 2008; Pilyugin et al. 2012; Sánchez et al. 2017; Ellison et al. 2018; Berg et al. 2020; Yates et al. 2020; among others). However, majority of the data from these surveys have been used to derive abundances mainly in SFs, with AGNs still being understudied. In fact, most of the AGN studies have relied on large surveys just to address the oxygen abundance and/or physical properties (e.g. ionization degree, electron temperature, electron density) of these objects (e.g. Groves et al. 2006; Zhang et al. 2008; Ludwig et al. 2012; Vaona et al. 2012; Zhang, Liang & Hammer 2013; Richardson et al. 2014; Coil et al. 2015; Feltre, Charlot & Gutkin 2016; Kawasaki et al. 2017; Carvalho et al. 2020; Dors et al. 2020a; Agostino et al. 2021; Dors 2021). The abundances of other elements beyond the oxygen are poorly known in AGNs, in particular, the local Seyfert 2, for which large amount of spectroscopic data are available in the literature.

Dors et al. (2017), who built detailed photoionization models to reproduce optical narrow emission line ratio intensities of a sample of 44 Seyfert 2 nuclei, presented the first quantitative estimations of the nitrogen abundance for this class of object (see also Pérez-Montero et al. 2019; Flury & Moran 2020; Ji et al. 2020; Dors et al. 2021). Recently, Dors et al. (2020b) proposed a new methodology of the  $T_e$ -method for AGNs which produce reliable O/H abundances, slightly lower ( $\approx 0.2$  dex) than those derived from detailed photoionization models. Armah et al. (2021) and Monteiro & Dors (2021), motivated by this new methodology and by the availability of spectroscopic

<sup>2</sup>For simplicity, along the paper, this ratio is defined by O/H.

data in the literature, developed ionization correction factors (ICFs) as well as electron temperature relations based on photoionization model results and, for the first time, derived the neon and argon abundances in a sample of Seyfert 2 nuclei, respectively.

As a further study, in this work, we apply the  $T_e$ -method to a combined spectroscopy data taken from the SDSS and additional data from distinct authors with the goal to derive the  $y$  values in a sample of local Seyfert 2 galaxies. These estimates allow access to the helium abundance in a higher metallicity regime than that in SFs and produce important constraints to primordial helium abundance as well as to the studies of stellar nucleosynthesis. This study is organized as follows. In Sections 2 and 3 the observational data and the methodology used to estimate the helium and oxygen abundances are presented, respectively. The results and discussion are presented in Section 4. Finally, the conclusion of the outcome is given in Section 5.

## 2 OBSERVATIONAL DATA

### 2.1 Seyfert 2 nuclei

In this work we studied a subsample of the sample presented by Dors et al. (2020a). These authors used the measurements of the SDSS-DR7 made available by MPA/JHU<sup>3</sup> group to obtain a sample of Seyfert 2 nuclei. Initially, by using the MPA/JHU data, Dors et al. (2020a) carried out a cross-correlation between the galaxy identification provided by the SDSS-DR7 and by the NED/IPAC<sup>4</sup> and obtained the classification of each object in Seyfert 1 and 2 nuclei. After applying the criteria to separate SF and AGN objects proposed by Kewley et al. (2001), Kewley et al. (2006), and Pérez-Montero et al. (2013), which consider a set of emission line intensity ratios in diagnostic diagrams (Baldwin, Phillips & Terlevich 1981), 463 Seyfert 2 AGNs ( $z \lesssim 0.4$ ) with reliable optical emission lines in the optical range  $3000 \lesssim \lambda(\text{\AA}) \lesssim 7500$  were selected.

The data from the MPA/JHU group do not contain measurements for the He II  $\lambda 4686\text{\AA}$ . Therefore, we downloaded from SDSS-DR15 data base<sup>5</sup> the spectra of the 463 objects selected by Dors et al. (2020a) in order to obtain a subsample of Seyfert 2 nuclei in which it is possible to determine the parameters necessary to calculate the He and O abundances through the  $T_e$ -method. First, in each spectrum, we performed the extinction correction using the Cardelli, Clayton & Mathis (1989) law assuming the parametrized extinction coefficient  $R_V = 3.1$ , a standard value for the diffuse interstellar medium. The Galactic interstellar extinction values provided by Schlegel, Finkbeiner & Davis (1998) and calibrated by Schlafly & Finkbeiner (2011) obtained by using the VOTool for interstellar extinction called GALExtin<sup>6</sup> (Amôres et al. 2021) were also assumed. We shifted the spectra for the rest-frame wavelength using the redshifts available for each object and binned them with bin size equal to  $1\text{\AA}$ .

The stellar population continuum was subtracted from the spectra to obtain the pure nebular spectra using the stellar population synthesis STARLIGHT code (Cid Fernandes et al. 2005; Mateus et al. 2006; Asari et al. 2007). This code fits the observed spectrum of a galaxy using a combination of Simple Stellar Populations (SSPs), in different proportions and excluding the emission lines. We used a basis of 45 synthetic SSP spectra with three metallicities  $Z = 0.004$ ,

0.02 ( $Z_\odot$ ), and 0.05, assuming 15 ages ranging from 1 Myr to 13 Gyr, taken from the evolutionary synthesis models of Bruzual & Charlot (2003). Prior to the fitting the synthetic spectra to the observational ones, we convoluted the SSP stellar spectra adopting a Gaussian function to achieve the same spectral resolution of the observational data. A detailed description of the SSP spectra fitting to spectroscopic observational data is given by Krabbe et al. (2011, 2017).

After the pure nebular spectra for the sample were obtained by subtracting the contribution of the stellar component from the observed spectra, the emission-lines were fitted using the publicly available IFSCUBE package (Ruschel-Dutra & de Oliveira 2020; Ruschel-Dutra et al. 2021). Each emission line was fitted by a single Gaussian function and the kinematics (line width and centroid velocity) of lines from the same parent ion was kept tied. We also included in the fit a third-order polynomial to account for any residual continuum emission. The uncertainties on the fluxes were obtained by performing 100 iterations of Monte Carlo simulations of the emission-line fits as the standard deviation of the fluxes obtained from these simulations. The fluxes were corrected for extinction following the procedure described by Riffel et al. (2021b), using the  $(H\alpha/H\beta)$  line ratio to estimate the visual extinction, assuming the theoretical value for the  $(H\alpha/H\beta) = 2.86$  proposed by Hummer & Storey (1987) at a temperature of 10 000 K and an electron density of  $100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . A detailed analysis justifying the assumption for considering  $(H\alpha/H\beta) = 2.86$  for reddening correction in AGNs was presented by Armah et al. (2021). We found values of the extinction coefficient  $A_V$  ranging from 0.02 to 0.4 mag.

It is clear hitherto that the most widely used method for estimating the dust content is based on the relative strengths of the lower Balmer H I lines i.e.  $H\alpha/H\beta$ . When using the gas emission lines as a dust tracer, the canonical assumption is that the gas emission comes from the same position as the emission from the ionization source, which is usually not the case, because the gas in a spiral galaxy, for instance, is contained in a plane. Generally, little is known about the nature and real distribution of dust in AGNs (e.g. Baron et al. 2016; Heard & Gaskell 2016; Gaskell 2017, and references therein). However, neglecting these uncertainties at first order and considering the fact that  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  are the strongest recombination lines of hydrogen in the optical spectrum, the reddening effect can be written on the reliance of the ratio  $H\alpha/H\beta$ . Assigning a single extinction value is just a rough first approximation, therefore, irrespective of the dereddening method used, it is good practice to verify that the  $H\alpha/H\beta$ ,  $H\gamma/H\beta$ , and  $H\delta/H\beta$  emission line ratios have the expected values in comparison with the theoretical Case B ratios of 2.86 or 3.1, 0.468, and 0.259 (Halpern 1982; Halpern & Steiner 1983; Hummer & Storey 1987; Osterbrock & Ferland 2006), respectively. On the other hand, H7 and H8 cannot be considered in reddening correction because they are usually blended with other emission lines. Additionally, the signal-to-noise ratio for lines such as H9 and H10 is often too low to allow for their detection with high precision in order to constrain the reddening and underlying stellar absorption. Hence, as part of the emission-line flux processing, the underlying continuum and absorption-line spectra were fitted and eliminated, removing the effects of stellar Balmer absorption on the  $H\alpha$  and  $H\beta$  (e.g. Moustakas & Kennicutt 2006). Finally, the amount of interstellar extinction obtained using  $H\alpha/H\beta$  is relatively in agreement with the amount of extinction determined considering other line ratios, i.e.  $[S \text{ II}] \lambda 4071/[S \text{ II}] \lambda 10320$  (Wampler 1971; Shields & Oke 1975; Koski 1978) or  $\text{He II } \lambda 3203/\text{He II } \lambda 4686$  (Shuder & Osterbrock 1981).

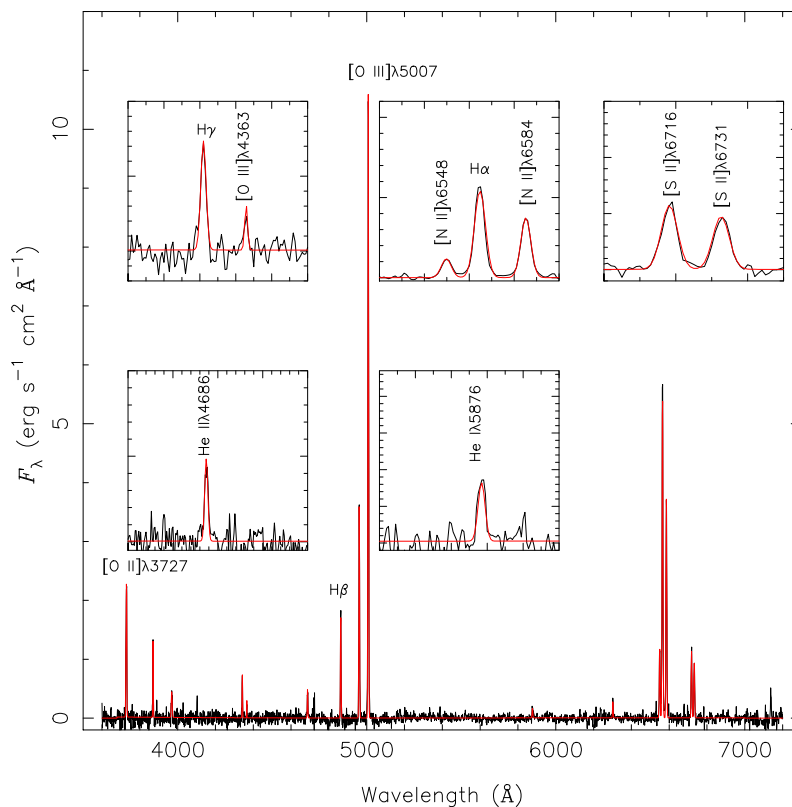
From the resulting sample, we selected only the objects that present the emission-lines  $[\text{O II}]\lambda 3726$ ,  $\lambda 3729$  (hereafter  $[\text{O II}]\lambda 3727$ ),  $[\text{O III}]\lambda 4363$ , He II  $\lambda 4686$ ,  $H\beta$ ,  $[\text{O III}]\lambda 5007$ , He I  $\lambda 5876$ ,  $H\alpha$ , and

<sup>3</sup><https://wwwmpa.mpa-garching.mpg.de/SDSS/DR7/>

<sup>4</sup>[ned.ipac.caltech.edu](http://ned.ipac.caltech.edu)

<sup>5</sup><https://dr15.sdss.org/optical/spectrum/search>

<sup>6</sup><http://www.galexin.org>



**Figure 1.** Optical spectrum of one of the Seyfert 2 nucleus in our sample (see Section 2.1) taken from SDSS DR15 and represented in black colour. The fitting to the emission-line profiles using the IFSCUBE code (Ruschel-Dutra & de Oliveira 2020) is represented in red colour. The measured emission lines and corresponding wavelength are indicated. Boxes show a zoom in regions of some weak lines, as indicated.

[S II] $\lambda$ 6716,  $\lambda$ 6731 with a signal/noise ratio (S/N) higher than 2.0. The final sample resulted in nine objects with redshift  $z \lesssim 0.2$ . In Fig. 1, an example of a pure Seyfert 2 nebular spectrum (in black) and the fitting (in red) produced by the IFSCUBE software (Ruschel-Dutra & de Oliveira 2020) are shown.

In addition to the SDSS data, we compiled from the literature fluxes of emission-lines from Seyfert 2 nuclei obtained by different authors. We applied the same selection criteria used for the SDSS data to these additional selected objects. This sample consists of 94 Seyfert 2 nuclei whose emission-line intensities were reddening corrected by the authors from which the data were taken. However, in the cases where the reddening correction was not performed in the original works, the same procedure applied to the SDSS data was considered. Since several measurements for the emission lines compiled from the literature do not have their uncertainties listed in the original papers where the data were compiled, we adopted a typical error of 10 per cent for strong emission-lines (e.g. [O III] $\lambda$ 5007) and 20 per cent for weak emission-lines (i.e. [O III] $\lambda$ 4363, He II $\lambda$ 4686, and He I $\lambda$ 5876), as derived, for instance, by Kraemer et al. (1994).

Finally, we applied the criterion proposed by Kewley et al. (2001),

$$\log([\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/\text{H}\beta) > \frac{0.61}{\log([\text{N II}]\lambda 6584/\text{H}\alpha) - 0.47} + 1.19 \quad (5)$$

to separate SF and AGN objects. Additionally, the criterion proposed by Cid Fernandes et al. (2010) to separate AGN-like and low-ionization nuclear emission-line region (LINER) objects, given by

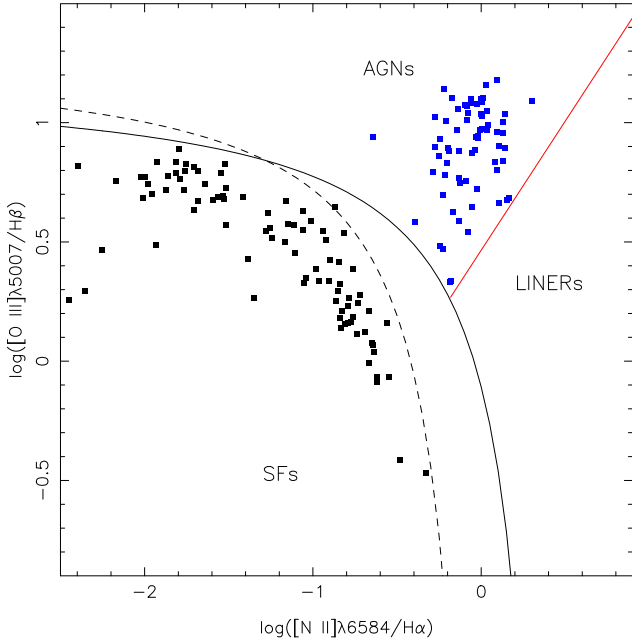
$$\log([\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/\text{H}\beta) > 0.47 + \log([\text{N II}]\lambda 6584/\text{H}\alpha) \times 1.10, \quad (6)$$

was also considered.

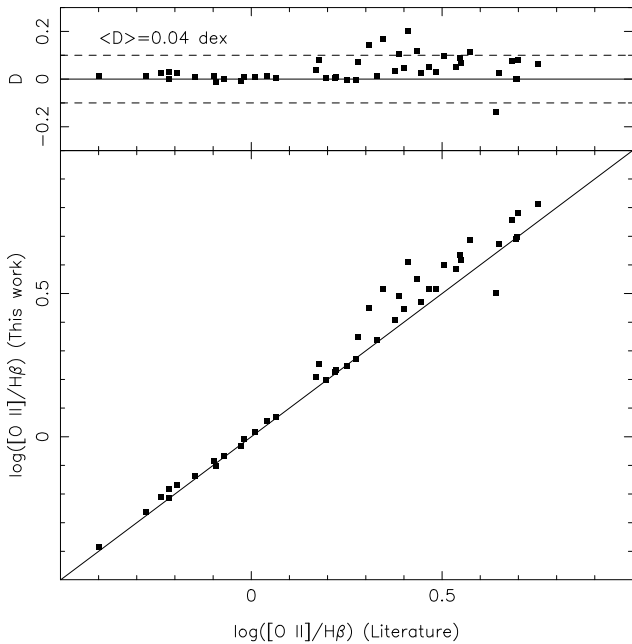
The final sample consists of 65 Seyfert 2 with redshift  $z \lesssim 0.2$  whose reddening-correction line intensities (in relation to  $\text{H}\beta = 1.0$ ) are listed in Table A1 in the Appendix. In Fig. 2, a diagnostic diagram  $\log([\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/\text{H}\beta)$  versus  $\log([\text{N II}]\lambda 6584/\text{H}\beta)$ , the observational data for the objects as well as the curve representing the criteria above are shown. It can be seen that the objects of our sample cover a large range of ionization degree and metallicity, hence a wide range of [O III]/H $\beta$  and [N II]/H $\alpha$  line ratio intensities are noted (e.g. Groves et al. 2006; Feltre et al. 2016; Carvalho et al. 2020).

Dors et al. (2015) and Castro et al. (2017) presented a complete discussion on the use of heterogeneous sample and its possible implications on abundance estimates. Effects of aperture, electron density variation along the AGN radius, X-Ray dominated regions, shock, and electron temperature fluctuations in abundance determinations have also been presented by Dors et al. (2020a, 2021) and these are not repeated here. Basically, the effects of these parameters on abundance estimates produce uncertainties of  $\sim 0.1$  dex, i.e. in order of those derived by applying the  $T_e$ -method (e.g. Izotov & Thuan 2008) and strong-line methods (e.g. Storchi-Bergmann et al. 1998). Since it is not possible to estimate, for each AGN of our sample, the aforementioned uncertainty is not considered in the resulting abundance values.

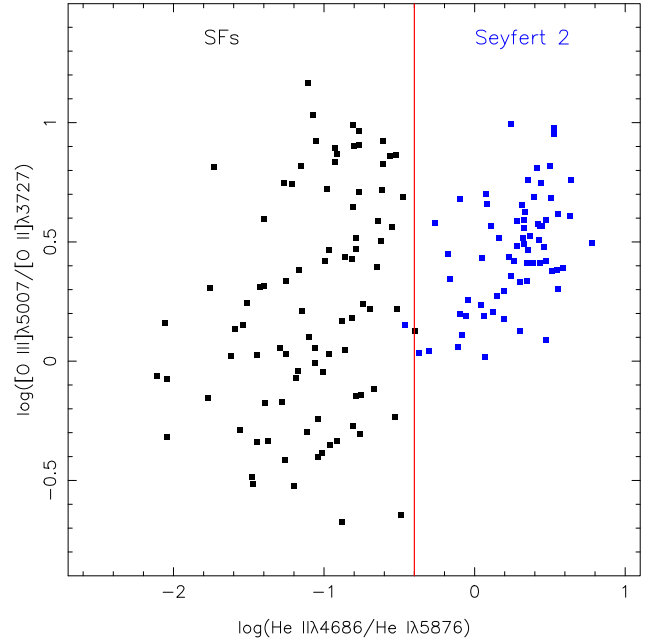
We present a comparison between the logarithm of the [O II] $\lambda$ 3727/H $\beta$  intensity line ratio by adopting our extinction correction procedure with that assumed by the authors from which the data were compiled. This comparison was possible only for 46 objects (19 AGNs and 27 SFs) due to the fact that most of the original works present only the reddening corrected intensity lines. In Fig. 3, bottom panel, this comparison is shown where there exist a good



**Figure 2.** Diagnostic diagram  $\log([\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/\text{H}\beta)$  versus  $\log([\text{N II}]\lambda 6584/\text{H}\alpha)$ . The blue points represent Seyfert 2 nuclei of our sample (see Section 2.1) while black points are for SFs (see Section 2.2). The solid and dashed curves represent the criteria proposed by Kewley et al. (2001) and Kauffmann et al. (2003), given by equations (5) and (7), respectively, to separate SF and AGN objects. The red line represents the criterion proposed by Cid Fernandes et al. (2010) to separate AGN-like and low-ionization nuclear emission-line region (LINER) objects, given by equation (6).



**Figure 3.** Bottom panel: Comparison between the  $[\text{O II}]\lambda 3727/\text{H}\beta$  intensity line ratio, for part of the observational sample (AGNs and SFs), whose reddening correction were carried out following the methodology described in Section 2 and performed by the authors from which the data were compiled. A one-to-one correlation is plotted as a solid line. Top panel: Difference ( $D = y - x$ ) between the intensities. The solid line represent the null difference while dashed lines are the uncertainty of 0.1 dex in the line ratio measurements. The mean difference ( $\langle D \rangle$ ) in the measurements is indicated.



**Figure 4.** Logarithm of  $[\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/[\text{O II}]\lambda 3727$  versus  $\text{He II}\lambda 4686/\text{He I}\lambda 5876$ . The blue and black points represent Seyfert 2 nuclei (see Section 2.1) and SFs (see Section 2.2) of our samples, respectively, as indicated. The red line indicates the separation criterion between Seyfert nuclei and SFs given by equation (8).

agreement between them. In top panel of Fig. 3 the difference ( $D = y - x$ ) is presented, where one can see the uncertainty due the distinct approaches to extinction correction is in order of that produced by the error measurements ( $\sim 0.1$  dex; e.g. Kennicutt, Bresolin & Garnett 2003), with the mean difference ( $\langle D \rangle = 0.04$  dex) being about null. Thus, distinct methodologies employed for the extinction correction of intensity line ratios introduce a minimal uncertainty in our abundance estimates.

## 2.2 Star forming regions

We compiled emission-line intensities of SFs from the literature with the goal of comparing their estimates with our AGN results. We applied the same criteria above in the selection of SFs, i.e. we selected only objects whose emission-lines  $[\text{O II}]\lambda 3727$ ,  $[\text{O III}]\lambda 4363$ ,  $\text{He II}\lambda 4686$ ,  $\text{H}\beta$ ,  $[\text{O III}]\lambda 5007$ ,  $\text{He I}\lambda 5876$ ,  $\text{H}\alpha$ , and  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716$ ,  $\lambda 6731$  were measured. The measurements of these lines make it possible to calculate the He and O abundances by using the  $T_e$ -method following a similar methodology applied to the Seyfert 2 sample. Furthermore, we considered only the objects which satisfy the empirical criterion proposed by Kauffmann et al. (2003)

$$\log([\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/\text{H}\beta) < \frac{0.61}{\log([\text{N II}]\lambda 6584/\text{H}\alpha) - 0.05} + 1.3. \quad (7)$$

In Table A2, the emission line intensities (in relation to  $\text{H}\beta = 1$ ) and the original works from which data were taken are listed. The data consist of reddening-corrected emission lines of 85 H II regions and star-forming galaxies with redshift  $z < 0.2$ . In Fig. 2, the SF sample is represented by black points, where we can see the very known sequence (e.g. Baldwin et al. 1981; Kauffmann et al. 2003) formed by this object class.

In Fig. 4, we plotted the logarithm of  $[\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/[\text{O II}]\lambda 3727$  versus  $\text{He II}\lambda 4686/\text{He I}\lambda 5876$  line ratios for the AGN sample (blue

**Table 1.** Atomic data set used for recombination and collisionally excited lines of selected element ions.

Ion	Transition probabilities and energy levels	Collisional strengths	Recombination coefficients
He <sup>+</sup>	Porter et al. (2012)	–	Porter et al. (2012)
He <sup>2+</sup>	Storey & Hummer (1995)	–	Storey & Hummer (1995)
O <sup>+</sup>	Wiese, Fuhr & Deters (1996)	Kisielius et al. (2009)	–
O <sup>2+</sup>	Froese Fischer & Tachiev (2004), Storey & Zeippen (2000)	Storey, Sochi & Badnell (2014)	–

points) and for the SF sample (black points). Despite the scattering produced mainly for the SF data, it can be seen the expected result that; a clear correlation is derived (see also, for instance, Deharveng et al. 2000) hence both line ratios are dependent on the ionization degree of the gas. Moreover, a distinction between Seyfert and SFs can be observed in Fig. 4 due to the high excitation of Seyfert in comparison with SFs. In Fig. 4, we observe a clear separation criterion, where objects with

$$\log \left( \frac{\text{He II} \lambda 4686}{\text{He I} \lambda 5876} \right) \gtrsim -0.4 \quad (8)$$

are classified as Seyfert in this diagram, otherwise, as SF (see also Nakajima & Maiolino 2022).

### 3 ABUNDANCE DETERMINATION

We calculated helium and oxygen abundances by using the observational data sample of Seyfert 2 nuclei and SFs described in Section 2. Therefore, the  $[\text{O III}](1.33 \times \lambda 5007)/\lambda 4363$  and  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716/\lambda 6731$  line ratios were used to derive electron temperature and density, respectively, thus obtaining the ionic abundances of these elements. Thereafter, we used photoionization models built with the CLOUDY code (Ferland et al. 2013) to produce a correction for the presence of He<sup>0</sup> in the calculation of the total He. In what follows, a description of the methodology employed is presented for both object classes.

#### 3.1 Seyfert

##### 3.1.1 Temperature and density

To determine the abundance of an element, it is necessary to estimate a representative value for the electron temperature and density of the gas phase occupied by the ions of this element.

Since the elements of interest are the He and O, which are in most part once and twice ionized, following Valerdi et al. (2021a), we adopted the two zone models, where the temperature for the high ionization zone, defined as  $T_{\text{high}}$  is derived from the relation between this parameter and the  $[\text{O III}](1.33 \times \lambda 5007)/\lambda 4363$  line ratio, where we assumed, as usual,  $[\text{O III}](\lambda 4959)/(\lambda 5007)$  to be 0.33<sup>7</sup> (Rosa 1985). To calculate  $T_{\text{high}}$ , and the electron density ( $N_e$ ) from the  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716/\lambda 6731$  line ratio, we used the version 1.1.13 of PYNEB code (Luridiana, Morisset & Shaw 2015), which permits an interactive procedure in the derivation of these parameters. We assumed the atomic data of recombination and collisionally excited lines listed in Table 1 for the temperature, density, and ionic abundance calculations.

For almost all the data in our sample, it was not possible to obtain the direct determination of  $T_{\text{low}}$  due to the lack of the  $[\text{N II}]\lambda 5755$  and  $[\text{O II}]\lambda 7319, \lambda 7330$  auroral line measurements. Thus, for consistence,

we used the theoretical relation between  $T_{\text{low}}-T_{\text{high}}$  proposed by Dors et al. (2020b), obtained through a grid of photoionization models simulating narrow line regions (NLRs) of AGNs built with the CLOUDY code (Ferland et al. 2013) by Carvalho et al. (2020), given by

$$t_{\text{low}} = \left( a \times t_{\text{high}}^3 \right) + \left( b \times t_{\text{high}}^2 \right) + \left( c \times t_{\text{high}} \right) + d, \quad (9)$$

where  $a = 0.17$ ,  $b = -1.07$ ,  $c = 2.07$ , and  $d = -0.33$ , while  $t_{\text{low}}$  and  $t_{\text{high}}$  represent  $T_{\text{low}}$  and  $T_{\text{high}}$ , respectively, in units of  $10^4$  K. These temperatures predicted by the models correspond to the mean temperature for O<sup>+</sup> ( $T_{\text{low}}$ ) and O<sup>2+</sup> ( $T_{\text{high}}$ ) over the nebular AGN radius times the electron density.

In Riffel et al. (2021a), the relation represented by the equation (9) was compared with electron temperature values derived from observational auroral emission lines for a sample of 12 local AGNs, and a good agreement was found between them. However, as pointed out by these authors, some cautions must be taken into account in the use of equation (9) for AGNs with strong outflowing gas.

##### 3.1.2 Helium abundance

The total helium abundance in relation to hydrogen  $y = N(\text{He})/N(\text{H})$  was considered to be

$$y = y^0 + y^+ + y^{2+}, \quad (10)$$

where  $y^0 = N(\text{He}^0)/N(\text{H}^+ + \text{H}^0)$ ,  $y^+ = N(\text{He}^+)/N(\text{H}^+)$ , and  $y^{2+} = N(\text{He}^{2+})/N(\text{H}^+)$ . The ionic abundance ratio  $y^+$  and  $y^{2+}$  were derived from the  $\text{He I} \lambda 5876/\text{H} \beta$  and  $\text{He II} \lambda 4696/\text{H} \beta$  intensity line ratios, respectively. We used the two-zone ionization model (e.g. Valerdi et al. 2019), which  $T_{\text{low}}$  (from equation 9) and  $T_{\text{high}}$  (from direct estimation) were assumed in the  $y^+$  and  $y^{2+}$  calculation, respectively. Recently, Berg et al. (2021) proposed a more detailed ionization model for H II regions, i.e. the 4-zones model, where the He<sup>+</sup> is located in the low, intermediate, and high zones, i.e. in the zones occupied for the O<sup>+</sup> and O<sup>2+</sup> ions. Thus, in principle,  $T_{\text{low}}$  can be assumed as a representative temperature value for the region occupied by the He<sup>+</sup>. It is worth noting that this is not a conventional approach, therefore some previous studies assume  $T_{\text{high}}$  in the He<sup>+</sup> abundance calculations. Concerning He<sup>2+</sup>, Berg et al. (2021) showed it is located mainly in the very-high-ionization zone. To derive the temperature of the very-high-ionization zone the measurement of the  $[\text{Ne III}](\lambda 3342/\lambda 3868)$  ratio is required, which is not available in our data sample. Therefore, we assumed  $T_{\text{high}}$  in the abundance calculation of this ion. Both ionic abundances were computed using the PYNEB code (Luridiana et al. 2015). We consider the presence of He<sup>0</sup> in the neutral and ionized gas since this is expected in low ionization objects (Dinerstein & Shields 1986; Peña 1986).

The fraction of  $y^0$  in H II regions and planetary nebulae has been estimated to be in order of  $\sim 3$  per cent of the total helium (e.g. Peña 1986; Peimbert, Torres-Peimbert & Ruiz 1992) or even larger values could be predicted (e.g. Deharveng et al. 2000). In fact, Méndez-Delgado et al. (2022) found that only 9/42 Galactic H II regions have

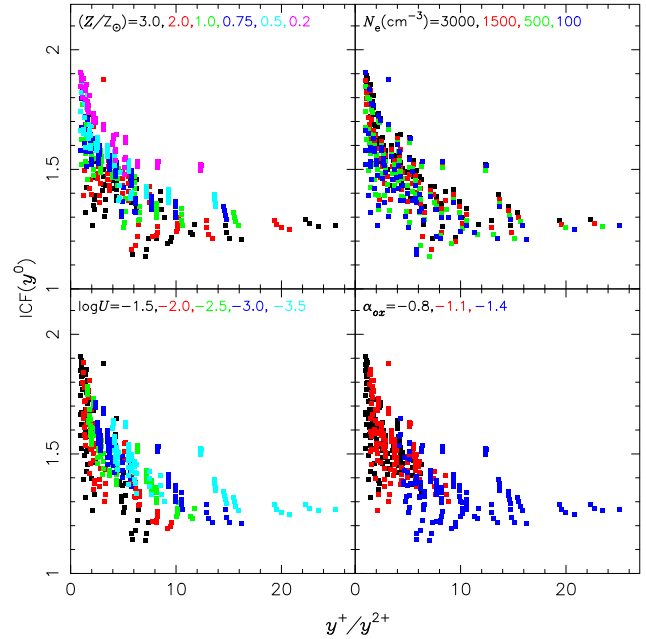
<sup>7</sup>For a detailed discussion on the value of this ratio see Storey & Zeippen (2000).

negligible contributions of  $y^0$  (see also Delgado-Inglada, Morisset & Stasińska 2014). Since AGNs present a large amount of molecular gas (e.g. Rodríguez-Ardila et al. 2004; Davies et al. 2005; Rodríguez-Ardila, Riffel & Pastoriza 2005; Mazzalay et al. 2013; Riffel et al. 2013, 2018, 2021c; Ramakrishnan et al. 2019; Riffel et al. 2019; Alonso-Herrero et al. 2020; Jarvis et al. 2020) and have similar ionization parameter ( $U$ ) other than SFs (Pérez-Montero et al. 2019), a higher abundance of neutral and molecular gas are expected in AGNs as compared to HII regions, which favours the presence of larger contribution of  $y^0$  in the total helium abundance. In fact, radio observations have shown the existence of a gas neutral reservoir in the central parts of galaxies containing AGNs (e.g. Dressel, Bania & Oconnell 1982; Hutchings, Gower & Price 1987; Bertram et al. 2007; Ho, Darling & Greene 2008; Bradford et al. 2018; Combes et al. 2019; Ellison et al. 2019) which can coexist with the ionized gas. García-Burillo et al. (2014), who used the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) to map the emission of dense molecular gas in the Seyfert 2 NGC 1068, showed an overlay of the CO(3-2) (a tracer of  $H_2$ ) intensity contours on the Pa  $\alpha$  emission obtained with the *Hubble Space Telescope*. In addition, recently, do Nascimento et al. (2022) derived the O/H abundance in NLR of 108 Seyfert nuclei and found that these values are lower (by 0.16 to 0.30 dex) than those inferred by the radial gradients along their galaxy discs and those from a matched control sample of no active galaxies. This discrepancy could be due to the accretion of a metal-poor gas to the AGN that feeds the nuclear supermassive black hole (SMBH), coming from the neutral reservoir.

To estimate the abundance of  $y^0$ , we used a grid of photoionization models similar to that of Carvalho et al. (2020), built with the CLOUDY code version 17.00 (Ferland et al. 2013). These models were also used to derive neon and argon ICFs by Armah et al. (2021) and Monteiro & Dors (2021), respectively, considering a wide range of nebular parameters:

- (i) Metallicity:  $(Z/Z_\odot) = 3.0, 2.0, 1.0, 0.75, 0.5, \text{ and } 0.2$ .
- (ii) Electron density:  $N_e \text{ (cm}^{-3}\text{)} = 3000, 1500, 500, 100$ .
- (iii) Ionization parameter ( $U$ ):  $\log U$  ranging from  $-1.5$  to  $-3.5$ , with step of 0.5 dex.
- (iv) Spectra electron distribution (SED): The SED is parametrized by the continuum between 2 keV and 2500 Å (Tananbaum et al. 1979) and it is described by a power law with a spectral index  $\alpha_{\text{ox}} = -0.8, -1.1, \text{ and } -1.4$ .

The outermost nebular radius was considered by Carvalho et al. (2020) to be the one where the electron temperature reaches 4000 K (the default value of the CLOUDY code), which produces a region with hydrogen almost completely ionized. Since we are also interested in the neutral region, we rerun the grid of models by Carvalho et al. (2020) but using the version 17.02 of the CLOUDY code (Ferland et al. 2013) and assuming the outermost radius where the electron temperature reaches 1000 K; as was done by Dors et al. (2012), who analysed the dominant excitation mechanism of [Fe II] and  $H_2$  emission lines in AGNs. These new models allow us to consider a larger part of the neutral gas instead of stopping the calculations at outermost radius of the modelled nebula where the temperature falls below 4000 K. We added cosmic ray background emission as a second ionizing source with a value of  $H_2$  ionization rate of  $10^{-15} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , which is about the same rate found by McCall et al. (2003) for a Galactic line of sight. The cosmic ray background emission has little influence on the formation of emission lines located in the ionized gas and/or in the ionization of elements with ionization potential higher than the hydrogen one. In the models, the abundance of each ion was considered as the average over the nebular radius times the



**Figure 5.** Photoionization model predictions (see Section 3.1.2) for  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  versus  $y^+/y^{2+}$ . In each plot, model results assuming distinct nebular parameters are shown by different colours, as indicated.  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  is defined as in equation (11).

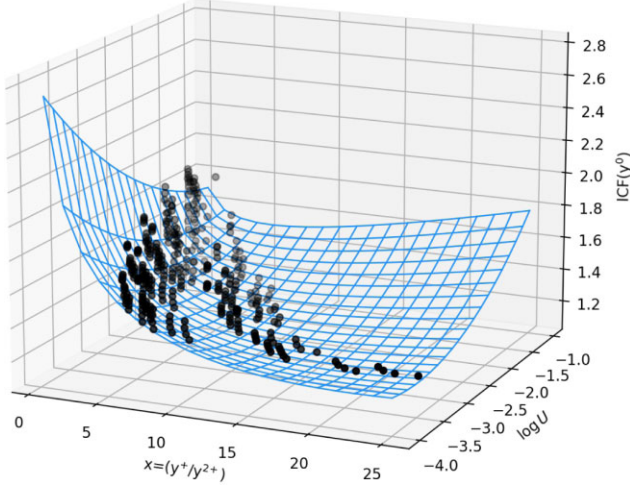
electron density. For a detailed description of the photoionization models see Carvalho et al. (2020).

Based on the model results, we assumed the ICF for the  $y^0$  to be

$$\text{ICF}(y^0) = \frac{y}{y^+ + y^{2+}}. \quad (11)$$

In Fig. 5, the photoionization model predictions for  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  versus  $x = y^+/y^{2+}$  are shown, where the results are discriminated according to distinct nebular parameters, as indicated. Any dependence between the  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$ – $x$  relation and  $N_e$  and  $Z$  can be seen. However, a clear dependence of this relation with the ionization parameter  $U$  and  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  is noted, in the sense that a steeper  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$ – $x$  relation is derived for higher  $U$  and  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  values. The dependence of this relation on these parameters is due to the increase in the gas ionization degree, i.e. driven by  $U$  and the hardness of the SED ( $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ ), produces lower values of  $x$ .

Estimations of  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  require observations of integrated nuclear flux at optical and UV wavelengths (e.g. Worrall et al. 1987; Ho 1999; Miller et al. 2011; Zhu et al. 2019; Zhu, Timlin & Brandt 2021), and values of this parameter are often times unavailable for AGNs. Moreover, detailed photoionization models by Dors et al. (2017) and Bayesian-like approach by Pérez-Montero et al. (2019) have predicted  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  to be higher than  $-1.2$  for Seyfert 2 nuclei. Conversely, observational estimations of  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  by Miller et al. (2011) indicate that most AGNs have  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  in the order of  $-1.4$  and even lower values ( $\sim -2.0$ ) are derived for these objects. This discrepancy is probably due to an extra physical process is missing in the models, probably shocks (e.g. Contini 2019). Therefore, as a result of few AGNs estimations of  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$  in comparison to those with emission-line measurements, and also due to the existence of the discrepancy between model predictions and observational estimations of  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ , this parameter was not directly taken into account in the expression for the helium ICF derived here. In any case, the gas ionization degree, traced by  $U$ , probably has a direct relation with  $\alpha_{\text{ox}}$ .



**Figure 6.** Bi-parametric calibration among the  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$ ,  $x = y^+/y^{2+}$  and logarithm of the ionization parameter ( $\log U$ ). Points represent the photoionization model results (see Section 3.1.2),  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  is defined by equation (11). The surface is given by equation (12).

We derive a bi-parametric calibration  $\text{ICF}(y^0) = f(x, \log U)$  shown in Fig. 6 and given by

$$z = [(0.14 \pm 0.01) \times \ln(x) \times w] + [(0.09 \pm 0.01) \times w^2] + [(0.03 \pm 0.01) \times x] + [(0.18 \pm 0.07) \times w] + [(1.71 \pm 0.08)], \quad (12)$$

where  $z = \text{ICF}(y^0)$ ,  $x = y^+/y^{2+}$ , and  $w = \log U$ . The ionization parameter can be obtained using the semi-empirical calibration proposed by Carvalho et al. (2020)

$$\log U = (0.57 \pm 0.01 r^2) + (1.38 \pm 0.01 r) - (3.14 \pm 0.01), \quad (13)$$

where  $r = \log([\text{O III}]\lambda 5007/[\text{O II}]\lambda 3727)$ . This calibration was obtained through a comparison of observational optical narrow emission line ratios of a sample of local Seyfert 2 nuclei with those predicted by photoionization models. An expression for deriving the helium ICF taking into account the ionization parameter but for H II regions was also derived by Sauer & Jedamzik (2002), by using a grid of photoionization models.

### 3.1.3 Oxygen abundance

The total oxygen abundance in relation to hydrogen was derived assuming

$$\frac{N(\text{O})}{N(\text{H})} = \text{ICF}(\text{O}) \times \left[ \frac{N(\text{O}^{2+})}{N(\text{H}^+)} + \frac{N(\text{O}^+)}{N(\text{H}^+)} \right], \quad (14)$$

where  $\text{ICF}(\text{O})$  is the ionization correction factor for the oxygen which takes into account the contribution of unobserved oxygen ions (e.g.  $\text{O}^{3+}$ ). In fact, several studies have found a strong intensity of the  $[\text{O IV}]\lambda 25.89 \mu\text{m}$  emission line in AGN spectra (e.g. Diamond-Stanic & Rieke 2012; Fernández-Ontiveros et al. 2016), indicating a non-negligible fraction of the  $\text{O}^{3+}$  abundance.

To calculate the  $\text{ICF}(\text{O})$  the empirical expression proposed by Torres-Peimbert & Peimbert (1977):

$$\text{ICF}(\text{O}) = \frac{y^+ + y^{2+}}{y^+}, \quad (15)$$

used in SF (e.g. Izotov et al. 2006; Valerdi et al. 2021a) and AGN (e.g. Dors et al. 2020b; Flury & Moran 2020) abundances studies, was

considered. To calculate the  $\text{ICF}(\text{O})$  for each object of the sample, we consider our helium abundance results derived using the PYNEB code (Luridiana et al. 2015).

In Table A3 presented in the Appendix, we show the oxygen (ionic and total) and helium abundances. To estimate the abundance uncertainties, due to few objects present observational error in the line measurements, for all objects of the AGN sample, we use a Monte Carlo simulations. For each diagnostic line, we generate 1000 random values assuming a Gaussian distribution with a standard deviation equal to the associated uncertainty of the line intensity involved in the diagnostic.

### 3.2 Star-forming regions

To determine the He and O abundances for the SFs, we adopted a similar procedure considered for the Seyfert sample. The ionic helium abundances were also computed using the PYNEB code (Luridiana et al. 2015) which,  $y^{2+}$  and  $\text{O}^{2+}$  were derived assuming the  $T_{\text{high}}$  and  $N_e$ , calculated for each object through the  $[\text{O III}](1.33 \times \lambda 5007)/\lambda 4363$  and  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716/\lambda 6731$  line ratios, respectively.

The  $y^+$  and  $\text{O}^+$  were calculated assuming the  $T_{\text{low}}$  derived from the theoretical relation

$$t_{\text{low}}^{-1} = 0.693 t_{\text{high}}^{-1} + 0.281 \quad (16)$$

proposed by Pérez-Montero & Díaz (2003). We assume  $T_{\text{low}} \equiv T_e(N \text{ II}) \approx T_e(\text{O II})$ .

The total oxygen abundance is obtained as described previously:

$$\frac{\text{O}}{\text{H}} = \text{ICF}(\text{O}) \times \frac{\text{O}^+}{\text{H}^+} + \frac{\text{O}^{2+}}{\text{H}^+}, \quad (17)$$

where  $\text{ICF}(\text{O})$  is same as equation (15).

In the same way, we assume the expression

$$y = \text{ICF}(y^0) \times (y^+ + y^{2+}), \quad (18)$$

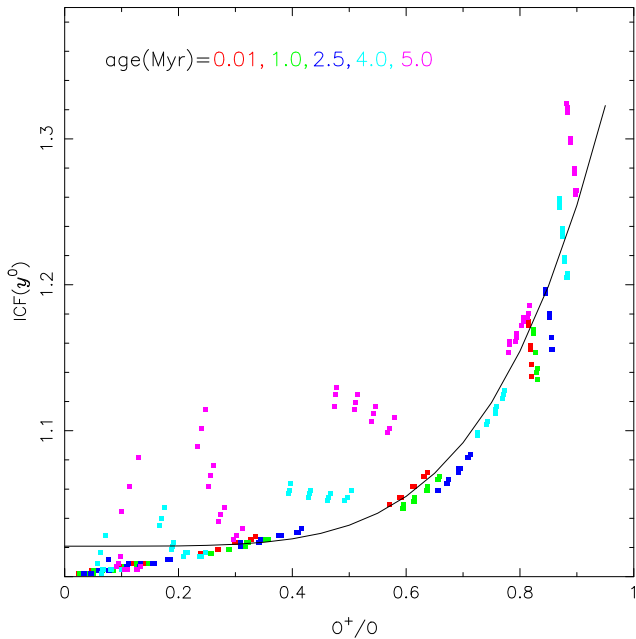
in the total helium abundance calculation. The  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  expression (equation 11) proposed for Seyferts cannot be applied to SFs due to the distinct ionization structure of these objects. Thus, we build a grid of photoionization models simulating SFs by using the CLOUDY code. The nebular parameters are similar to those adopted by Dors et al. (2018) and they are summarized in what follows.

(i) Metallicity:  $(Z/Z_\odot) = 0.03, 0.2, 0.5, \text{ and } 1.0$ . This metallicity range includes values derived from the disc H II regions (e.g. Berg et al. 2020) and in XPMs (e.g. Izotov et al. 1999).

(ii) Electron density:  $N_e (\text{cm}^{-3}) = 100, 500, \text{ and } 1000$ , the same range derived by Zhang et al. (2013) for SFs and calculated from  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716/\lambda 6731$  line ratio.

(iii) Ionization parameter ( $U$ ):  $\log U$  ranging from  $-1.5$  to  $-3.5$ , with step of 0.5 dex. Similar range of  $\log U$  was derived by Dors et al. (2011) for local H II regions (see also Pérez-Montero 2014; Zinchenko et al. 2019; also Ji & Yan 2022).

(iv) SED: synthetic spectra of stellar clusters formed by an instantaneous burst and with ages equal to 0.01, 1.0, 2.5, 4.0, and 5.0 Myr, built with the STARBURST99 (Leitherer et al. 1999) were considered as ionizing source. The value 0.01 Myr corresponds to the lowest age considered in the STARBURST99. In the interval 2.5–4.0 Myr OB stars become Wolf–Rayet stars producing an increase in the number of ionizing photons (e.g. Leitherer & Heckman 1995; Dopita et al. 2006; Vale Asari et al. 2016). Nebulae older than about 5 Myr are difficult to observe because their original massive stars have cooled emitting little ionizing photons (e.g. Garcia-Vargas, Bressan & Diaz 1995; Mayya & Prabhu 1996). We assumed the WM-basic stellar atmosphere models by Pauldrach, Hoffmann & Lennon



**Figure 7.** Calibration between the  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  and  $(\text{O}^+/\text{O})$ . Points represent SF photoionization model results (see Sect 3.2) assuming different ages for the ionizing source, as indicated.  $\text{ICF}(y^0)$  and the curve are defined by equation (19).

(2001), and the GENEVA tracks with stellar rotation (Levesque et al. 2012).

For these models, the calculations stopped at outermost nebular radius where the temperature falls below 4000 K. We note that the photoionization model results predict a very low  $\text{He}^{2+}$  abundance in comparison to those derived from our observational data sample. This indicates that real SEDs of the ionizing source of SFs are harder than the theoretical ones assumed here. The binary population and spectral synthesis code (BPASS; Stanway & Eldridge 2018) produces somewhat harder SEDs than the STARBUR99 (e.g. D’Agostino et al. 2019), however, the former might be more appropriate for moderate/low metallicity SFs and less appropriate for high metallicity systems (Nakajima & Maiolino 2022). Due to the problem pointed out above, we derive a relation between the  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$  and the  $\text{O}^+/\text{O}$  abundance ratio instead of  $y^+/y^{2+}$  as previously. In Fig. 7, the model results for the relation  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$ – $(\text{O}^+/\text{O})$  are shown, where models assuming stellar clusters with distinct ages are indicated. It can be seen that, for  $(\text{O}^+/\text{O}) \lesssim 0.6$ , higher ICFs are obtained for older models (4 and 5 Myr). We did not find any dependence of the  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$ – $(\text{O}^+/\text{O})$  relation with other nebular parameters. Dottori (1981) and Copetti, Pastoriza & Dottori (1986) proposed that the equivalent width of  $\text{H}\beta$ , the relative volume of  $\text{He}^+$  and  $\text{H}^+$  zones and the  $[\text{O III}](\lambda 4959, \lambda 5007)/\text{H}\beta$  line ratio are good age H II region indicators. However, the change of the value of these indicators along the spiral disc galaxies can be due to effects of variation of the hottest effective temperature of ionizing stars (Shields & Tinsley 1976) rather than evolution effects. Since our SF sample is mostly composed of disc H II regions, the age estimation, in principle, is not correct and it was not carried out. Thus, a fit taken into account all the points in Fig. 7 results in

$$\text{ICF}(y^0) = a \times (\text{O}^+/\text{O})^b + c, \quad (19)$$

where  $a = 0.385 \pm 0.017$ ,  $b = 4.742 \pm 0.275$ , and  $c = 1.020 \pm 0.002$ .

The abundance uncertainties for this sample were derived taken into account the error in the observational emission-line intensities published by the authors which the data were compiled.

## 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

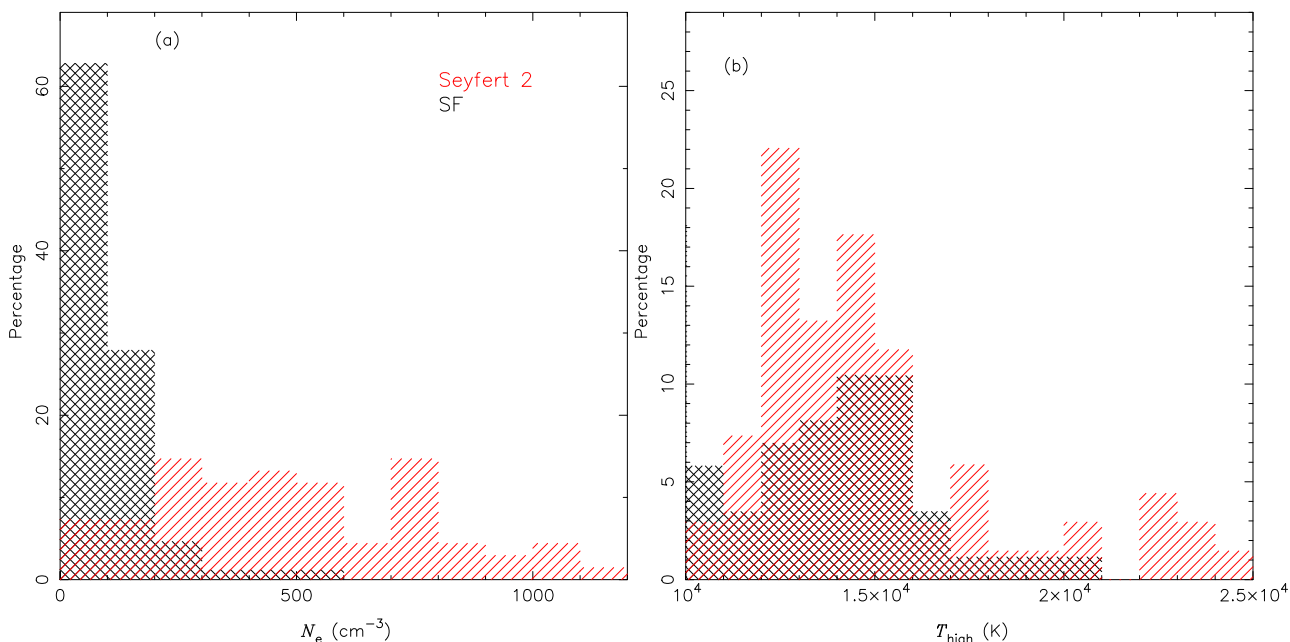
### 4.1 Density and temperature

The electron density values derived from the  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716/\lambda 6731$  line ratio for the Seyfert 2 sample are in the range of  $20 \lesssim N_e(\text{cm}^{-3}) \lesssim 1200$ , with a median value of  $\sim 500 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ , which is in agreement with the estimation obtained by Dors et al. (2014). However, the derived mean value from our AGN sample is a factor of about two lower than the one derived by Vaona et al. (2012), who used optical spectra of  $\sim 2300$  AGNs obtained with the SDSS-DR7 (York et al. 2000). Thus, the discrepancy between our mean electron density result and the one derived by Vaona et al. (2012) is probably due to the distinct sample of objects. In any case, the  $N_e$  values are lower than the critical density for the emission lines involved in this work (see for instance, Vaona et al. 2012), therefore, de-excitation effect has no influence on our abundance calculations (e.g. Osterbrock & Ferland 2006).

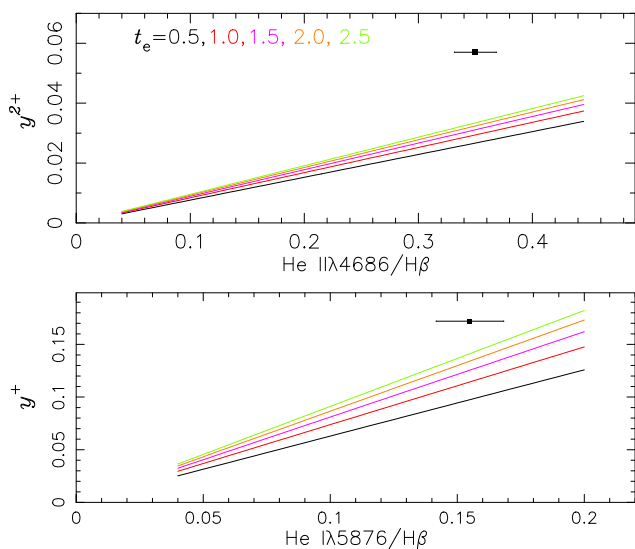
The values derived for the SF sample are in the range of  $20 \lesssim N_e(\text{cm}^{-3}) \lesssim 600$ , with a mean value of  $\sim 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . This reflects the known discrepancy where NLRs of AGNs present higher electron density than SFs (e.g. Zhang et al. 2013). In Fig. 8, panel (a), the distribution of values for the  $N_e$  from both Seyfert and SF samples are shown. From this figure it is clear that AGNs have  $N_e \lesssim 1200 \text{ cm}^{-3}$  while most SF ( $\sim 90$  per cent) have  $N_e < 200 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ .

Regarding the electron temperature results, we derive values for  $T_{\text{high}}$  from the Seyferts ranging from  $\sim 9000 \text{ K}$  to  $\sim 25000 \text{ K}$  while values for SFs are in the range of  $\sim 7300 \text{ K}$ – $20000 \text{ K}$ . In panel (b) of Fig. 8, the distributions of these values for our Seyfert and SF samples are shown. The Seyfert mean value is  $\sim 15000 \text{ K}$ , similar to the ones derived by Revalski et al. (2018a), Revalski et al. (2018b) for the quasar type 2 Mrk 34 and for the Seyfert 2 Mrk 573, i.e. about  $13000 \text{ K}$ , respectively. Heckman & Balick (1979) suggested that AGNs with electron temperature values higher than  $20000 \text{ K}$ , probably, present a secondary source of energy in addition to photoionization, possibly the presence of shocks (see also Dors et al. 2021 and references therein). It can be seen that majority ( $\sim 92$  per cent) of the AGNs present  $T_{\text{high}}$  values lower than  $20000 \text{ K}$ . Therefore, the objects of our sample, possibly, are mainly (photo)ionized by the radiation from the AGN accretion disc (e.g. shocks can be neglected). For SFs, a somewhat lower mean value of  $\sim 11500 \text{ K}$  was obtained.

Peimbert (1967) proposed the presence of temperature fluctuations to explain the considerable differences found between the temperature estimations relied on distinct methods in H II regions. Recently, Riffel et al. (2021d), for the first time, by using Gemini GMOS-IFU observations of three luminous nearby Seyfert galaxies (Mrk 79, Mrk 348, and Mrk 607), quantified temperature variations in this class of object. These authors derived a lower limit for the temperature fluctuation parameter ( $t^2$ ) to be from  $\sim 0.04$  to  $\sim 0.1$ , in order of those derived for H II regions and planetary nebulae. Although temperature fluctuations have little effect on helium abundance estimates (e.g. Peimbert, Peña-Guerrero & Peimbert 2012), the supposition of  $t^2 > 0$  leads to the derivation of higher O/H abundances and, consequently, lower ( $\sim 3$  per cent) values of  $Y_p$  (Peimbert, Peimbert & Luridiana 2002). Since estimations of temperature fluctuation in AGNs are barely found in the literature, we assume the temperature values based on  $[\text{O III}]$  line ratio as fiducial



**Figure 8.** Panel (a): Electron density distributions, calculated from  $[\text{S II}]\lambda 6716/\lambda 6731$  line ratio (see Section 3.1.1) by using the PYNEB (Luridiana et al. 2015), for distinct samples of objects (see Section 2), as indicated. Panel (b): As left-hand panel but for  $T_{\text{high}}$  calculated through the observational values of the  $[\text{O III}](1.33 \times \lambda 5007)/\lambda 4363$  line ratio.



**Figure 9.** Lower panel: Abundances of  $y^+$  versus the  $\text{He I}\lambda 5876/\text{H}\beta$  line ratio for distinct electron temperature values (in units of  $10^4$  K), as indicated, assuming a fixed value of  $N_e = 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . Top panel: Same as lower panel but for  $y^{2+}$  versus  $\text{He II}\lambda 4686/\text{H}\beta$ . In both plots, the range of emission-line ratio values (x-axes) represents the range of observational values of our sample of objects listed in Table A1. The error bars represent the mean error in the emission-line measurements of the sample of objects.

values for the high ionization zone of Seyfert nuclei. However, we emphasize that temperature fluctuation can be present.

In Fig. 9, we assumed the range of observational  $\text{He I}\lambda 5876/\text{H}\beta$  and  $\text{He II}\lambda 4686/\text{H}\beta$  line ratio values for our sample of objects (listed in Table A1) and calculated the  $y^+$  and  $y^{2+}$  abundances considering temperatures from 5 000 K to 25 000 K and a fixed value of  $N_e = 100 \text{ cm}^{-3}$ . It can be seen that the effect of varying the temperature is in order of the uncertainty produced by the observational

error for the line measurements. Therefore, we emphasize that, if temperature fluctuations exist in the objects of our sample, shocks or electron temperature fluctuations affect only the oxygen abundance estimations, while the helium estimations are reliable values.

## 4.2 Ionization correction factor

Delgado-Inglada et al. (2014) computed a large grid of photoionization models that covers a wide range of physical parameters of planetary nebulae (PNe). They reported that the derivation of an ICF for neutral helium based on other ions is not recommended because the relative populations of helium ions depend essentially on the effective temperature ( $T_{\text{eff}}$ ) of the central star ( $T_{\text{eff}}$  drives the flux of the ionizing photons), whereas those from metal ions also depend on the ionization parameter. These authors also pointed out that the correction for neutral helium is important only in models with ionizing sources at  $T_{\text{eff}} \lesssim 50\,000$  K. In the bi-parametric expression for the Seyfert ICF( $\text{He}^0$ ) proposed here (equation 12), both hardness of the ionizing radiation and the gas ionization degree are taken into account by the  $y^+ / y^{2+}$  ratio and by the ionization parameter  $U$ . For SFs, we notice a dependence between  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$  and the age of the ionization source, while  $T_{\text{eff}}$  is similar to the age, since the temperature of the hottest stars of the ionizing stellar cluster of an H II region drives the flux of the ionizing photons (Zastrow et al. 2013) and it decreases with the time. However, the stellar evolution could have a minimal effect on our helium neutral fraction estimation in SFs because we considered the presence of  $\text{He II}\lambda 4876$  line as a selection criterion of the sample, which led to the selection of H II regions with young cluster ages. In fact, Bresolin, Kennicutt & Garnett (1999) showed that only photoionization models with clusters younger than 3 Myr are able to reproduce optical emission line intensities of H II regions.

The application of the  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$ , i.e. equation (12), to our AGN data yields ICFs values ranging from 1.3 to 1.7, with a mean value of  $\sim 1.5$ . This result indicates that in NLRs of Seyfert 2 the helium is  $\sim 50$  per cent in a neutral stage. As reported previously, radio and

near-infrared (e.g. Rodríguez-Ardila et al. 2004; Storchi-Bergmann et al. 2009; Riffel, Storchi-Bergmann & Nagar 2010; Mezcuca et al. 2015; Schönell et al. 2017; Riffel et al. 2021c; Bianchin et al. 2022, among others) observations have shown that AGNs harbour a neutral and warm (1000–3000 K) molecular gas reservoir. Therefore, a substantial proportion of neutral helium is expected in Seyfert nuclei.

On the other hand, the application of equation (19) indicates that SFs have  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$  ranging from 1.0 to 1.2, implying 70 per cent of the objects have  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0) = 1.0$ . The mean  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$  value for SFs is 1.03, i.e. the helium is only  $\sim 3$  per cent in a neutral stage. Pagel et al. (1992), following the methodology from Mathis (1982), proposed the use of the abundance ratio

$$\eta = (\text{O}^+/\text{S}^+)/(\text{S}^{2+}/\text{O}^{2+}), \quad (20)$$

known by radiation softness parameter (Vilchez & Pagel 1988), as a means of estimating the significance of neutral helium in SFs. Pagel et al. (1992) pointed out that, for H II regions with  $\log \eta < 0.9$ , the fraction of neutral helium into Strömgren sphere is negligible. Recently, by using observational data from the MaNGA survey (Bundy et al. 2015), Kumari et al. (2021) determined through the  $T_e$ -method values of the  $\eta$  parameter for 67 star-forming galaxies. These authors found values in the range of  $-0.4 \lesssim \log \eta \lesssim 0.6$ . Bresolin et al. (2009) obtained spectrophotometric data for 28 H II regions in the spiral galaxy NGC 300 and, also by using the  $T_e$ -method, found that the majority of the objects present  $\log \eta$  around 0.7. Otherwise, most part of Galactic H II region observed by Méndez-Delgado et al. (2022) present  $\log \eta > 0.9$ , i.e. a non-negligible neutral helium abundance. Our results are in consonance with those derived by Méndez-Delgado et al. (2022), who posited that, like Seyfert nuclei, SFs can have a significant neutral helium fraction.

One of the major sources of the uncertainty in abundance estimates is the use of ICFs, producing discrepancies by a factor of up to  $\sim 4$  according to the suppositions considered to derived them (e.g. Dors et al. 2013; Méndez-Delgado et al. 2020). Unfortunately, AGN ICFs for the helium are not found in the literature, therefore, it is not possible to estimate the ICF error in our estimates. In any case, detailed models built with the goal of reproducing line intensities of a large sample of AGNs (e.g. Dors et al. 2017) and SFs are needed to validate the neutral ICFs proposed here.

### 4.3 Helium and oxygen abundances

Initially, we compare the  $y$  and O/H range of values derived from our AGN sample with those derived from SFs. This is significant since the helium abundance at any ionization stage has hitherto been unknown for a large sample of AGNs.

In Fig. 10, panel (a), the distribution of  $12 + \log(y)$  for the Seyfert 2 and SF samples are shown. Also in this plot, a line indicating the solar value of the helium abundance, i.e.  $12 + \log(y)_\odot = 11.0$  derived by Grevesse et al. (2010) is indicated. We can see that most Seyfert 2 present higher helium abundance in comparison with those of SFs, with the Seyfert range being  $10.80 \lesssim [12 + \log(y)] \lesssim 11.40$  or  $0.60 \lesssim (y/y_\odot) \lesssim 2.50$ , and a mean value of  $\langle 12 + \log(y) \rangle = 11.11 \pm 0.11$  or  $\langle (y/y_\odot) \rangle \sim 1.30$ . We can also note that the majority ( $\sim 84$  per cent) of AGNs present oversolar helium abundance. Concerning the SFs, we derived the range  $10.70 \lesssim [12 + \log(y)] \lesssim 11.10$  or  $0.50 \lesssim (y/y_\odot) \lesssim 1.20$ , with a mean value  $\langle 12 + \log(y) \rangle = 10.92 \pm 0.05$  or  $\langle (y/y_\odot) \rangle > \sim 0.80$ .

In Fig. 10, panel (b), the distribution of  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$  for the Seyfert 2 and SFs samples are shown. For the Seyfert sam-

ple, we derived the range  $8.20 \lesssim [12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})] \lesssim 9.10$ , or  $0.30 \lesssim (Z/Z_\odot) \lesssim 2.6$ , with most part ( $\sim 63$  per cent) having oversolar abundance. The mean value is  $\langle 12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \rangle = 8.74 \pm 0.16$  or  $\langle (Z/Z_\odot) \rangle \sim 1.10$ . This is a known result, i.e. subsolar metallicities are derived in few AGNs in the local universe (e.g. Groves et al. 2006), independently of the method used to estimate this parameter (Dors et al. 2020a). For SFs, the range of  $7.20 \lesssim [12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})] \lesssim 8.80$  or  $0.03 \lesssim (Z/Z_\odot) \lesssim 1.30$  is derived, being  $\sim 8$  per cent of the objects presenting oversolar oxygen abundance.

The lower helium and oxygen abundances in SFs in comparison with those in AGNs is due to the fact that the latter are located in the central parts of galaxies and, according to the inside–out scenario of galaxy formation (see Mollá & Díaz 2005 and references therein) have experimented a longer time-scale of chemical enrichment of the ISM in comparison with disc H II regions (most part of our SF sample). It is worth to mention that, our direct helium estimates, based on the  $y^+$  and  $y^2$  ionic abundances of AGNs, seem to be the unique for the very high metallicity regime, i.e.  $(Z/Z_\odot) > 1.0$ . This fact is very important in the derivation of the  $y$ –O/H relation and of  $Y_p$  because our estimates, combined those for XMPs, produce a wide range of metallicities likely not previously considered.

In Fig. 11, the total helium abundance [in units of  $12 + \log(y)$ ] versus the oxygen abundance [in units of  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$ ] from our Seyfert (blue points) and SF (black points) samples are shown. Other than in AGNs, we note that the SFs with the highest metallicities present near  $y$  values. Similar results were derived for nitrogen and argon by Carvalho et al. (2020) and Monteiro & Dors (2021), respectively. Moreover, we notice two clear behaviours, a smooth  $y$ –(O/H) relation for the low metallicity regime [ $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \lesssim 8.5$  or  $(Z/Z_\odot) \lesssim 0.6$ ] and a stepper relation for high metallicity regime. This difference could be due to an excess of helium injected into the ISM by winds of Wolf–Rayet stars, which are more common in the high metallicity environment (e.g. Maeder & Meynet 1994; Leitherer et al. 1999; Pindao et al. 2002; Crowther et al. 2004; Bresolin et al. 2005), containing hydrogen burning products (Pagel et al. 1992; Crowther & Dessart 1998). The scattering of the points observed in both kind of objects in Fig. 11 is, probably, due to effects of different star formation rate in them (e.g. Berg et al. 2020; Hayden-Pawson et al. 2022) and/or due to radial migration of stars (Vincenzo et al. 2021; Johnson et al. 2022) rather than evolutionary processes, by virtue of the fact that majority of the AGNs and SFs of our sample are located in the local universe.

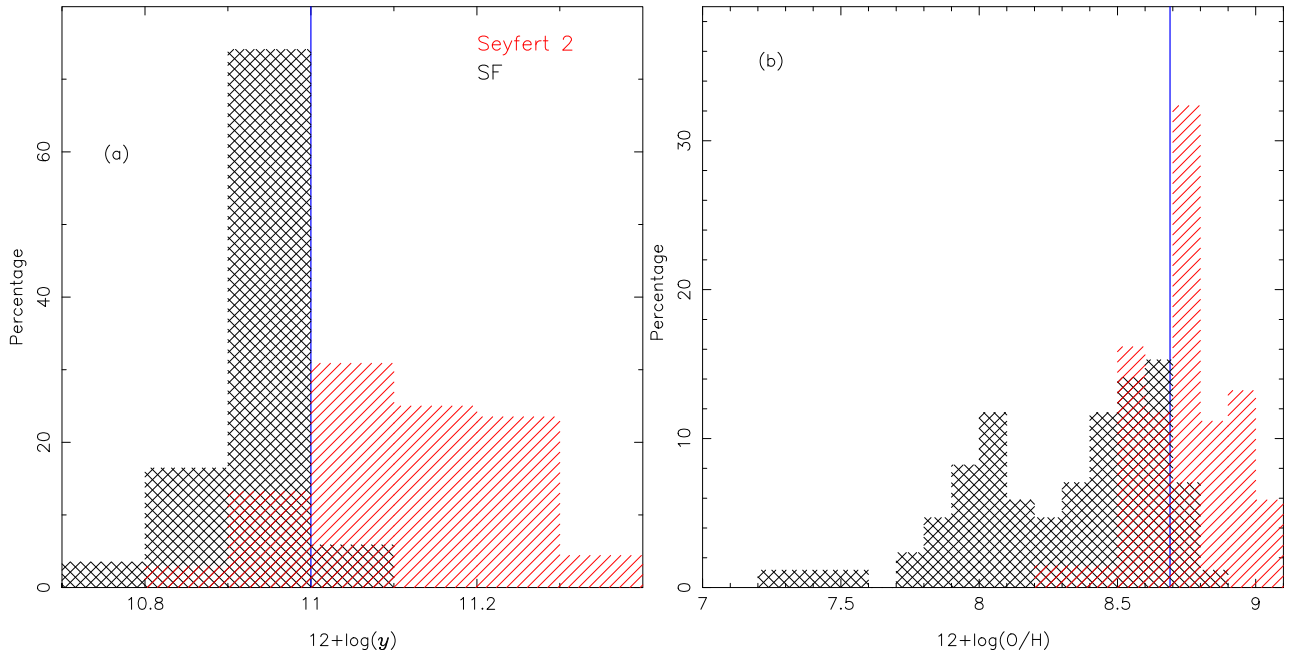
In order to derive an expression for the  $y$ –O/H relation, we performed 1000 bootstrap realizations (Davison & Hinkley 1997) with Huber Regressor model (Owen 2007). The resulting fitting to the points obtained is given by

$$w = (0.1215 \pm 0.0422) \times x^2 - (1.8183 \pm 0.6977) \times x + (17.6732 \pm 2.8798), \quad (21)$$

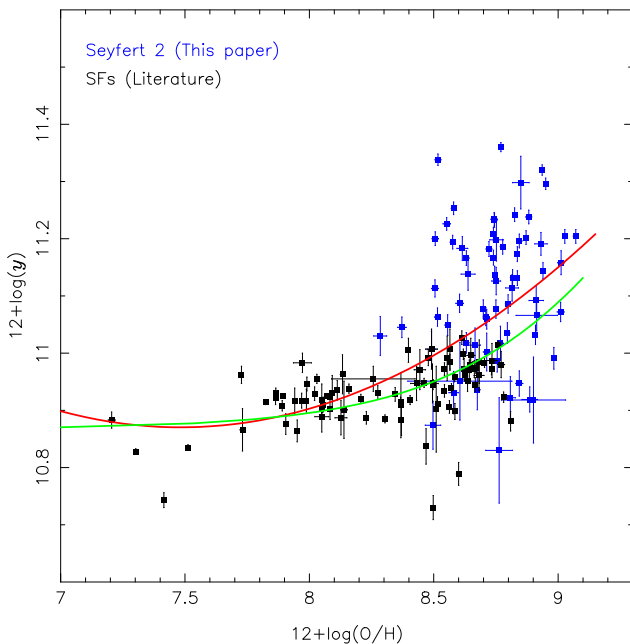
where  $w = 12 + \log(y)$  and  $x = 12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$ . Dopita et al. (2006), by using abundance estimates of SFs obtained by Pagel et al. (1992) and Russell & Dopita (1992), derived the relation

$$y = 0.0737 + 0.024 \times (Z/Z_\odot). \quad (22)$$

We converted the  $y$  and  $Z/Z_\odot$  values of this expression into the same units assumed previously as well as extrapolated it for the high metallicity regime. In Fig. 11, we compare the Dopita et al. (2006) relation with our relation (equation 21), which it can be seen a good agreement between both.



**Figure 10.** As Fig. 8 but for  $12 + \log(y)$  [panel (a)] and  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$  [panel (b)]. The blue lines in panels (a) and (b) represent the solar values derived by Allende Prieto et al. (2001) and Grevesse et al. (2010), respectively. These values correspond to  $12 + \log(y)_{\odot} = 11.0$  and  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})_{\odot} = 8.69$ .



**Figure 11.** Abundances of  $12 + \log(y)$  versus  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$ . The blue and black points represent the values for our sample of Seyfert 2 and SFs, respectively, listed in Table A3. The red curve represents the fit to the points given by equation (21). The green curve represents equation (22) derived by Dopita et al. (2006), but with  $y$  and  $Z/Z_{\odot}$  values converted into  $12 + \log(y)$  and  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$ , respectively.

#### 4.4 Primordial helium abundance

Searle & Sargent (1972) presented abundance analysis of the two compact dwarf galaxies IZw18 and II Zw40, and for the first time, suggested that metal-poor objects, such as these, would be used to estimate the primordial helium abundance. After this pioneering

work, several studies have been undertaken in an effort to address the observation of XMPs and objects in a wide range of metallicities in order to derive  $Y_p$  (for a review see Peimbert 2008; Ferland et al. 2010; Skillman, Aver & Olive 2012; Peimbert et al. 2017).

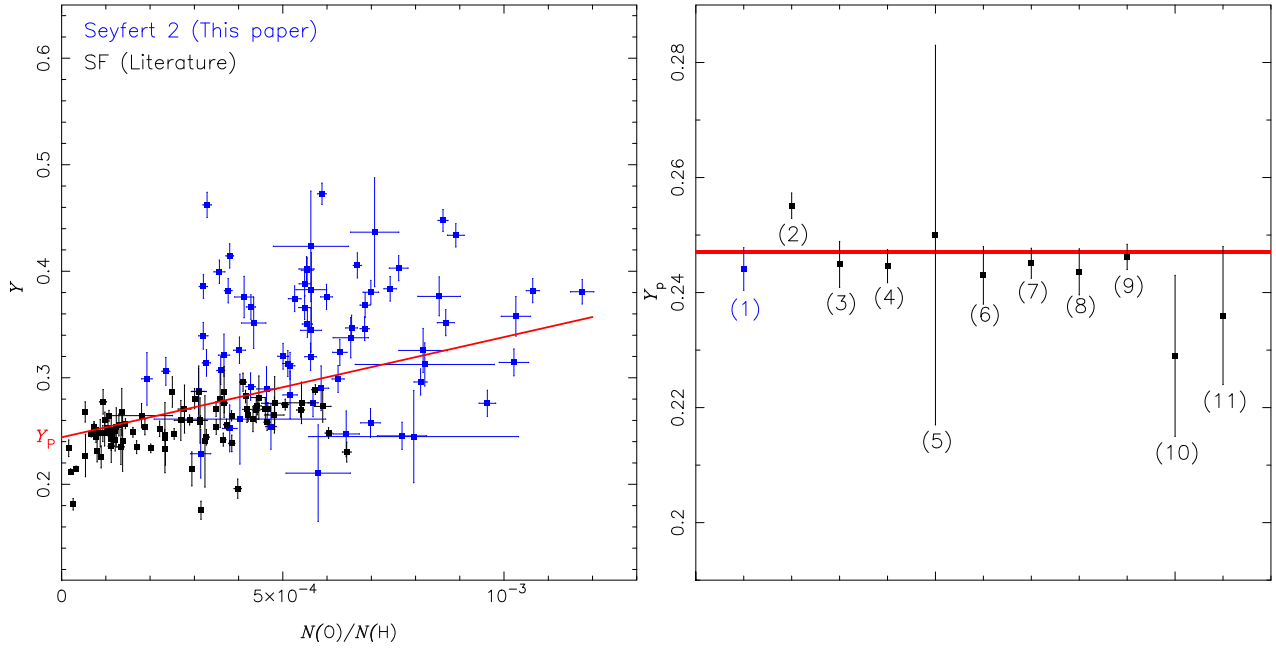
Peimbert et al. (2007) listed the main error sources in the  $Y_p$  determination, which produce uncertainties from  $\pm 0.0005$  to  $\pm 0.0015$  in the final value of  $Y_p$ , where the collisional excitation of the H I lines and temperature structure were considered as the most important physical conditions in the gaseous nebulae. Also, Méndez-Delgado et al. (2020) pointed out that an important source of error in the  $Y_p$  estimates is related to the ionization structure of the nebulae, i.e. the use of ICFs in the estimation of the total helium abundance, since spectra of typical SF only show recombination lines of  $\text{He}^+$ .

In our case, probably, the main source of uncertainty in the  $y$  estimation and, consequently of  $Y_p$ , is the fact that observational data of our AGN sample, in opposite to the SF sample, do not have errors in the line measurements for most of the objects and typical values for these were considered (see Section 2). This procedure, combined with the uncertainty produced by the use of  $\text{ICF}(\text{He}^0)$ , certainly produced larger errors than those discussed by Peimbert et al. (2007) and Méndez-Delgado et al. (2020). Despite this drawback, our AGN estimates combined with estimations from SFs are useful in the derivation of  $Y_p$  taking objects with very high metallicity into account.

We calculated  $Y$  values using our Seyfert 2 and SFs results, listed in Table A3 together with equation (4) for the purpose of estimating  $Y_p$  which rely on a wide range of metallicities. These values are shown in panel (a) of Fig. 12. It can be seen that Seyfert 2s show higher  $Y$  and  $\text{O}/\text{H}$  values in comparison with those in SFs. As previously, we performed 1000 bootstrap realizations to obtain a linear fit that yielded the following relation

$$Y = (94.0946 \pm 9.9534) \times N(\text{O})/N(\text{H}) + (0.2441 \pm 0.0037) \quad (23)$$

with a Pearson correlation coefficient of  $R = 0.57$ . Thus, we derived the value of  $Y_p = 0.2441 \pm 0.0037$ .



**Figure 12.** Left-hand panel:  $Y$  versus the abundance ratio  $N(\text{O})/N(\text{H})$  derived by using the  $T_e$  method.  $Y$  values are calculated as in equation (4). The blue and black points represent estimates for our Seyfert 2 and SF samples, respectively. The red line represents the linear regression to the points given by equation (23). The primordial helium abundance derived from this linear regression,  $Y_p = 0.2441 \pm 0.0037$ , is indicated. Right-hand panel: Estimates of the primordial helium abundance ( $Y_p$ ) derived by different authors. The red line represents the estimation by Planck Collaboration VI (2020), i.e.  $Y_p = 0.2471 \pm 0.0003$ . Other estimates correspond to: (1) This work ( $Y_p = 0.2441 \pm 0.0037$ ), (2) Izotov et al. (2014), (3) Aver et al. (2015), (4) Peimbert et al. (2016), (5) Cooke & Fumagalli (2018), (6) Fernández et al. (2019), (7) Valerdi et al. (2019), (8) Hsyu et al. (2020), (9) Kurichin et al. (2021), (10) and (11) estimates by Méndez-Delgado et al. (2022) for  $t^2 = 0$  and  $t^2 > 0$ , respectively. The  $Y_p$  value obtained by each author is listed by Kurichin et al. (2021), with exception of the one derived by Méndez-Delgado et al. (2022).

In Fig. 12, panel (b), estimates of  $Y_p$  obtained by different authors and methods are compared to our estimate. Also in this figure the line representing the value derived by the Planck Collaboration VI (2020) is shown. It is worthwhile to note that our  $Y_p$  value is in a good agreement than the others, with exception of the estimation by Cooke & Fumagalli (2018) which presents the highest error bars. We performed a linear fit to the points considering only our SF estimates and found the expression:

$$Y = (36.5264 \pm 7.1944) \times N(\text{O})/N(\text{H}) + (0.2459 \pm 0.0024), \quad (24)$$

with  $Y_p = 0.2459 \pm 0.0024$ , i.e. a value somewhat higher than the one obtained by assuming AGN and SF estimates. However, this value is in consonance with the one inferred by the Planck Collaboration VI (2020) and by other authors.

## 5 CONCLUSION

We used optical emission line intensities [ $3000 < \lambda(\text{\AA}) < 7000$ ] taken from SDSS DR15 and additional compilations from the literature to derive, through  $T_e$ -method, the helium and oxygen abundances relative to hydrogen in the NLRs of a local ( $z < 0.2$ ) sample of 65 Seyfert 2 nuclei and 85 star-forming regions (SFs; i.e. H II region, star-forming galaxies). Photoionization model grids, built with the CLOUDY code and simulating NLRs and SFs, were used to obtain expressions for the ICF of the neutral helium. The application of these ICFs indicates that the NLRs of Seyfert 2 present a neutral helium fraction in relation to the total helium abundance ranging from  $\sim 20$  to  $\sim 70$  per cent (mean value 50 per cent) and SFs from  $\sim 0$  to  $\sim 20$  per cent (mean value 3 per cent). The high neutral helium abundance in AGNs it is due to these objects harbour a neutral

and warm (1000–3000 K) molecular gas reservoir. We found that Seyfert 2 nuclei present helium abundance ranging from 0.60 to 2.50 times the solar value, which implies that for  $\sim 85$  per cent of the sample an oversolar helium abundance was derived. Our results indicate that NLR of Seyfert 2 nuclei have a steeper (He/H)–(O/H) relation than SFs. This difference could be due to excess of helium injected into the ISM by winds of Wolf–Rayet stars, which are more common in the high metallicity environment, i.e.  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \gtrsim 8.7$  [ $(Z/Z_\odot) \gtrsim 1.0$ ]. From a regression to zero metallicity, by using Seyfert 2 and SFs estimates, we derived a primordial helium mass fraction  $Y_p = 0.2441 \pm 0.0037$ , a value in good agreement with the one inferred from the temperature fluctuations of the cosmic microwave background by the Planck Collaboration, i.e.  $Y_p^{\text{Planck}} = 0.2471 \pm 0.0003$ .

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## DATA AVAILABILITY

The data underlying this article will be shared on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

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## APPENDIX:

**Table A1.** Reddening corrected emission line intensities (in relation to  $H\beta = 1.0$ ) of the Seyfert 2 sample described in Section 2.1.

ObjID	[O II] $\lambda 3727$	[O III] $\lambda 4363$	He II $\lambda 4686$	[O III] $\lambda 5007$	He I $\lambda 5876$	H $\alpha$ $\lambda 6563$	[N II] $\lambda 6583$	[S II] $\lambda 6716$	[S II] $\lambda 6731$	Ref.
J013957.81-004504.2	2.31 ± 0.22	0.06 ± 0.01	0.16 ± 0.01	7.45 ± 0.11	0.06 ± 0.02	2.86 ± 0.04	2.51 ± 0.04	0.79 ± 0.02	0.67 ± 0.02	1
J033923.14-054841.5	2.63 ± 0.20	0.09 ± 0.01	0.26 ± 0.01	7.90 ± 0.02	0.09 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.01	1.52 ± 0.01	0.53 ± 0.01	0.45 ± 0.01	1
J074257.23+333217.9	1.93 ± 0.09	0.04 ± 0.01	0.08 ± 0.01	3.03 ± 0.01	0.10 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.01	1.63 ± 0.01	0.49 ± 0.01	0.43 ± 0.01	1
J093509.12+002557.4	2.58 ± 0.10	0.07 ± 0.01	0.11 ± 0.01	3.86 ± 0.02	0.07 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.01	2.12 ± 0.01	0.59 ± 0.01	0.54 ± 0.01	1
J095759.45+022810.5	3.17 ± 0.23	0.08 ± 0.01	0.26 ± 0.01	7.59 ± 0.07	0.08 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.03	2.12 ± 0.02	0.84 ± 0.01	0.69 ± 0.01	1
J100602.50+071131.8	6.21 ± 0.04	0.15 ± 0.01	0.27 ± 0.01	7.61 ± 0.01	0.09 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.01	1.85 ± 0.01	0.62 ± 0.01	0.51 ± 0.01	1
J100921.26+013334.5	3.31 ± 0.28	0.14 ± 0.01	0.31 ± 0.01	12.29 ± 0.07	0.11 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.02	2.89 ± 0.02	0.72 ± 0.01	0.74 ± 0.01	1
J101754.72-002811.9	2.34 ± 0.14	0.12 ± 0.01	0.27 ± 0.01	6.05 ± 0.03	0.11 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.01	1.75 ± 0.01	0.53 ± 0.01	0.43 ± 0.01	1
J102039.81+642435.8	4.38 ± 1.00	0.17 ± 0.01	0.25 ± 0.01	8.82 ± 0.06	0.07 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.02	2.72 ± 0.02	0.76 ± 0.01	0.58 ± 0.01	1
J112850.39+021016.2	2.97 ± 0.20	0.28 ± 0.02	0.28 ± 0.02	6.75 ± 0.15	0.16 ± 0.03	2.86 ± 0.07	1.79 ± 0.05	0.64 ± 0.03	0.51 ± 0.03	1
Mrk 176	3.54	0.32	0.43	14.36	0.10	2.81	2.99	0.56	0.54	2
3C 33	4.93	0.32	0.26	12.68	0.096	2.63	1.76	0.87	0.73	2
Mrk 3	3.52	0.24	0.18	12.67	0.084	3.10	3.18	0.73	0.82	2
Mrk 573	2.92	0.18	0.36	12.12	0.10	2.95	2.57	0.75	0.80	2
Mrk 78	4.96	0.14	0.35	11.94	0.10	2.46	2.32	0.68	0.61	2
Mrk 348	4.45	0.26	0.22	11.74	0.12	2.76	2.28	1.09	1.25	2
Mrk 34	3.43	0.15	0.28	11.46	0.12	2.99	2.18	0.82	0.80	2
Mrk 1	2.79	0.21	0.30	10.95	0.10	2.66	2.21	0.49	0.52	2
Mrk 270	5.64	0.28	0.22	8.71	0.19	3.14	2.93	1.21	1.39	2
III Zw 55	3.19	0.25	0.20	6.92	0.090	2.86	3.87	0.66	0.74	2
3C 452	4.81	0.18	0.059	6.85	0.17	2.98	3.58	1.10	0.77	2
Mrk 198	2.51	0.12	0.075	5.56	0.11	3.02	2.26	0.89	0.68	2
Mrk 268	3.75	0.25	0.078	4.82	0.095	3.38	4.94	1.28	1.08	2
NGC 2110	4.38	0.17	0.06	4.76	0.14	2.66	3.76	1.52	1.42	3
ESO 138 G1	2.35 ± 0.08	0.34 ± 0.02	0.30 ± 0.02	8.71 ± 0.36	0.11 ± 0.02	3.00 ± 0.13	0.68 ± 0.03	0.47 ± 0.03	0.48 ± 0.03	4
NGC 3081	2.19	0.24	0.44	12.62	0.10	2.84	2.47	0.60	0.66	5
NGC 4388	2.73	0.16	0.21	10.55	0.11	2.84	1.50	0.72	0.62	5
NGC 5135	2.06	0.11	0.20	4.42	0.10	2.83	2.50	0.40	0.38	5
NGC 5728	3.50	0.47	0.32	10.85	0.15	2.83	3.93	0.44	0.435	5
Akn 347 <sup>a</sup>	2.72	0.42	0.33	15.15	0.12	3.18	3.93	0.93	0.89	6
UM 16 <sup>a</sup>	3.05	0.25	0.37	13.8	0.18	2.77	1.66	0.47	0.48	6
Mrk 612 <sup>a</sup>	1.90	0.20	0.16	9.09	0.20	2.81	3.81	0.78	0.57	6
Mrk 573	2.13 ± 0.05	0.14 ± 0.011	0.29 ± 0.02	10.26 ± 0.05	0.09 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.05	2.34 ± 0.04	0.79 ± 0.01	0.73 ± 0.02	7
NGC 2992	3.38 ± 0.11	0.21 ± 0.027	0.07 ± 0.02	5.25 ± 0.09	0.08 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.02	2.70 ± 0.03	0.52 ± 0.01	0.47 ± 0.01	7
IC 2560	1.65 ± 0.02	0.16 ± 0.017	0.26 ± 0.06	10.69 ± 0.10	0.10 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.08	2.88 ± 0.07	0.74 ± 0.02	0.79 ± 0.01	7
NGC 5664	1.83 ± 0.05	0.02 ± 0.006	0.12 ± 0.01	2.95 ± 0.07	0.09 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.12	1.70 ± 0.11	0.58 ± 0.03	0.43 ± 0.07	7
NGC 5728	2.32 ± 0.03	0.11 ± 0.016	0.17 ± 0.01	9.10 ± 0.11	0.08 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.13	3.53 ± 0.12	0.97 ± 0.06	0.66 ± 0.03	7
ESO 339-G11	2.39 ± 0.12	0.14 ± 0.074	0.13 ± 0.01	7.86 ± 0.05	0.09 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.12	3.97 ± 0.09	0.69 ± 0.02	0.64 ± 0.02	7
NGC 6890	1.66 ± 0.04	0.23 ± 0.037	0.19 ± 0.01	10.90 ± 0.03	0.06 ± 0.02	2.86 ± 0.10	2.85 ± 0.09	0.43 ± 0.01	0.39 ± 0.01	7
IC 5063	2.88 ± 0.06	0.12 ± 0.008	0.09 ± 0.01	7.83 ± 0.07	0.08 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.06	1.81 ± 0.06	0.77 ± 0.06	0.77 ± 0.02	7
NGC 7130	1.75 ± 0.03	0.09 ± 0.005	0.15 ± 0.01	4.62 ± 0.05	0.05 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.01	3.64 ± 0.00	0.50 ± 0.05	0.50 ± 0.01	7
NGC 7582	1.24 ± 0.02	0.03 ± 0.002	0.11 ± 0.05	2.14 ± 0.10	0.10 ± 0.01	2.86 ± 0.02	1.86 ± 0.02	0.40 ± 0.01	0.38 ± 0.01	7
NGC 7590	3.32 ± 0.19	0.05 ± 0.027	0.07 ± 0.03	3.47 ± 0.16	0.06 ± 0.02	2.86 ± 0.11	2.39 ± 0.18	0.98 ± 0.08	0.78 ± 0.04	7
Cygnus A	5.01	0.20	0.27	12.30	0.07	3.09	6.16	1.65	1.51	8
Mrk 1157 <sup>a</sup>	7.32	0.25	0.24	9.81	0.12	2.82	3.07	0.65	0.69	9
ESO 428-G14	2.22	0.24	0.19	11.2	0.16	2.90	3.13	0.83	0.88	10
ESO 137-G34	3.07	0.11	0.21	9.35	0.11	3.10	3.35	0.98	1.20	11
IC 3639	1.24	0.09	0.12	5.68	0.10	3.10	2.52	0.68	0.73	11
IC 4777	2.32	0.07	0.17	6.34	0.10	3.10	3.82	0.92	0.87	11
IC 4995	1.32	0.20	0.27	11.87	0.08	3.10	2.49	0.68	0.76	11
IRAS 11215-2806	2.48	0.14	0.25	7.25	0.11	3.10	1.74	0.84	0.79	11
MCG-01-24-012	3.31	0.16	0.20	8.51	0.09	3.10	1.77	0.97	0.86	11
MCG-02-51-008	2.35	0.05	0.09	4.23	0.10	3.10	2.10	0.84	0.63	11
NGC 1125	3.13	0.08	0.14	5.86	0.10	3.10	2.30	0.79	0.78	11
NGC 1194	1.64	0.08	0.06	6.21	0.11	3.10	1.61	1.01	0.77	11
NGC 1320	0.98	0.13	0.37	9.34	0.11	3.10	2.21	0.65	0.62	11
NGC 3281	2.06	0.09	0.29	7.71	0.11	3.10	2.85	0.88	0.76	11
NGC 3393	2.23	0.10	0.26	9.428	0.12	3.10	3.13	0.92	0.93	11
NGC 4939	2.05	0.12	0.30	10.03	0.12	3.10	4.16	0.91	0.99	11
NGC 4968	1.64	0.22	0.27	9.45	0.12	3.10	3.28	0.62	0.65	11
NGC 5427	2.15	0.13	0.18	7.96	0.14	3.10	3.95	0.80	0.88	11
NGC 5643	2.74	0.12	0.24	8.60	0.04	3.10	2.98	0.97	0.91	11
NGC 5990	1.88	0.01	0.07	2.16	0.09	3.10	2.06	0.48	0.42	11
NGC 7682	2.85	0.16	0.19	9.34	0.09	3.10	3.03	1.09	1.17	11
PKS 1306-241	3.47	0.04	0.05	3.82	0.10	3.10	1.25	0.69	0.61	11

Note. References: (1) SDSS-DR7 (York et al. 2000), (2) Koski (1978), (3) Shuder (1980), (4) Alloin et al. (1992), (5) Phillips, Charles & Baldwin (1983), (6) Shuder & Osterbrock (1981), (7) Dopita et al. (2015), (8) Osterbrock & Miller (1975), (9) Durret (1994), (10) Bergvall, Johansson & Olofsson (1986), (11) Thomas et al. (2017).

**Table A2.** Reddening corrected emission line intensities (in relation to  $H\beta = 1.0$ ) of the SF sample described in Section 2.2.

ObjID	[O III] $\lambda 3727$	[O III] $\lambda 4363$	He II $\lambda 4686$	[O III] $\lambda 5007$	He I $\lambda 5876$	H $\alpha$ $\lambda 6563$	[N II] $\lambda 6583$	[S II] $\lambda 6716$	[S II] $\lambda 6731$	Ref.
NGC 3184-72.8+91.3	1.82 ± 0.01	0.002 ± 0.0010	0.011 ± 0.0010	0.384 ± 0.002	0.083 ± 0.001	2.801 ± 0.027	0.923 ± 0.008	0.352 ± 0.003	0.253 ± 0.002	1
NGC 3184+14.9-139.6	2.47 ± 0.04	0.008 ± 0.0010	0.024 ± 0.0030	1.445 ± 0.016	0.081 ± 0.006	2.883 ± 0.046	0.789 ± 0.012	0.424 ± 0.006	0.303 ± 0.005	1
NGC 3184+80.0-148.2	2.88 ± 0.03	0.004 ± 0.0010	0.007 ± 0.0010	0.860 ± 0.018	0.110 ± 0.010	2.937 ± 0.056	0.828 ± 0.016	0.439 ± 0.009	0.321 ± 0.007	1
NGC 3184-93.3-142.3	2.20 ± 0.03	0.008 ± 0.0020	0.001 ± 0.0010	1.902 ± 0.031	0.129 ± 0.010	2.840 ± 0.067	0.543 ± 0.013	0.385 ± 0.009	0.263 ± 0.006	1
NGC 3184-172.5-30.2	2.32 ± 0.01	0.014 ± 0.0010	0.003 ± 0.0010	2.434 ± 0.017	0.124 ± 0.004	2.801 ± 0.023	0.485 ± 0.005	0.251 ± 0.002	0.183 ± 0.001	1
+164.6+9.9	1.94 ± 0.04	0.002 ± 0.0002	0.009 ± 0.0010	0.980 ± 0.020	0.116 ± 0.002	3.015 ± 0.060	0.650 ± 0.027	0.161 ± 0.006	0.116 ± 0.005	2
+17.3-235.4	2.43 ± 0.03	0.004 ± 0.0005	0.001 ± 0.0004	1.170 ± 0.023	0.110 ± 0.002	2.865 ± 0.057	0.650 ± 0.020	0.240 ± 0.007	0.170 ± 0.005	2
+189.2-136.3	1.60 ± 0.03	0.006 ± 0.0002	0.010 ± 0.0017	2.603 ± 0.032	0.140 ± 0.002	2.815 ± 0.056	0.400 ± 0.014	0.113 ± 0.004	0.090 ± 0.003	2
-183.9-179.0	1.82 ± 0.03	0.003 ± 0.0007	0.001 ± 0.0004	1.534 ± 0.031	0.110 ± 0.002	2.955 ± 0.059	0.510 ± 0.020	0.223 ± 0.009	0.155 ± 0.007	2
+225.6-124.1	2.49 ± 0.04	0.006 ± 0.0004	0.002 ± 0.0004	1.747 ± 0.035	0.118 ± 0.002	2.874 ± 0.057	0.530 ± 0.011	0.252 ± 0.005	0.179 ± 0.003	2
+117.9-235.0	2.57 ± 0.06	0.006 ± 0.0008	0.018 ± 0.0017	1.381 ± 0.028	0.115 ± 0.003	2.850 ± 0.057	0.420 ± 0.015	0.202 ± 0.007	0.146 ± 0.005	2
-200.3-193.6	2.00 ± 0.04	0.006 ± 0.0006	0.010 ± 0.0017	1.966 ± 0.039	0.114 ± 0.003	2.697 ± 0.054	0.380 ± 0.015	0.230 ± 0.009	0.161 ± 0.007	2
+96.7+266.9	2.44 ± 0.05	0.007 ± 0.0005	0.004 ± 0.0003	1.623 ± 0.032	0.099 ± 0.002	2.794 ± 0.056	0.600 ± 0.023	0.430 ± 0.016	0.300 ± 0.012	2
+252.2-109.8	2.44 ± 0.05	0.013 ± 0.0003	0.008 ± 0.0010	3.455 ± 0.069	0.144 ± 0.004	2.421 ± 0.048	0.370 ± 0.020	0.144 ± 0.008	0.120 ± 0.006	2
+254.6-107.2	1.60 ± 0.05	0.007 ± 0.0005	0.011 ± 0.0013	1.621 ± 0.032	0.120 ± 0.002	2.885 ± 0.058	0.430 ± 0.015	0.191 ± 0.007	0.130 ± 0.005	2
+281.4-71.8	2.84 ± 0.04	0.007 ± 0.0005	0.008 ± 0.0013	1.094 ± 0.022	0.073 ± 0.003	2.798 ± 0.056	0.630 ± 0.029	0.400 ± 0.017	0.280 ± 0.013	2
-243.0+159.6	3.01 ± 0.08	0.005 ± 0.0005	0.010 ± 0.0013	1.197 ± 0.024	0.109 ± 0.004	2.811 ± 0.056	0.600 ± 0.023	0.370 ± 0.014	0.270 ± 0.015	2
-297.7+87.1	2.45 ± 0.06	0.004 ± 0.0005	0.008 ± 0.0013	1.094 ± 0.022	0.073 ± 0.003	2.785 ± 0.056	0.640 ± 0.028	0.400 ± 0.017	0.280 ± 0.013	2
-309.4+56.9	2.43 ± 0.06	0.019 ± 0.0005	0.001 ± 0.0002	3.520 ± 0.070	0.113 ± 0.002	2.887 ± 0.058	0.330 ± 0.014	0.218 ± 0.009	0.159 ± 0.007	2
+354.1+71.2	2.28 ± 0.05	0.008 ± 0.0005	0.007 ± 0.0011	2.441 ± 0.049	0.125 ± 0.002	2.796 ± 0.056	0.290 ± 0.013	0.152 ± 0.006	0.108 ± 0.004	2
-164.9-333.9	1.75 ± 0.04	0.017 ± 0.0002	0.002 ± 0.0002	3.537 ± 0.071	0.114 ± 0.003	2.884 ± 0.056	0.250 ± 0.012	0.168 ± 0.008	0.120 ± 0.005	2
+360.9+75.3	2.87 ± 0.07	0.007 ± 0.0003	0.004 ± 0.0003	1.324 ± 0.026	0.095 ± 0.002	2.797 ± 0.056	0.570 ± 0.026	0.430 ± 0.020	0.300 ± 0.017	2
-377.9-64.9	1.87 ± 0.04	0.020 ± 0.0004	0.005 ± 0.0008	3.882 ± 0.078	0.125 ± 0.003	2.663 ± 0.053	0.260 ± 0.012	0.150 ± 0.007	0.122 ± 0.005	2
-99.6-388.0	2.41 ± 0.05	0.010 ± 0.0016	0.014 ± 0.0031	1.847 ± 0.037	0.065 ± 0.003	2.691 ± 0.054	0.440 ± 0.016	0.310 ± 0.012	0.212 ± 0.008	2
-397.4-71.7	3.94 ± 0.09	0.008 ± 0.0006	0.006 ± 0.0007	1.514 ± 0.030	0.109 ± 0.002	2.752 ± 0.055	0.400 ± 0.016	0.290 ± 0.012	0.204 ± 0.008	2
-226.9-366.4	3.14 ± 0.06	0.010 ± 0.0009	0.011 ± 0.0020	1.299 ± 0.026	0.114 ± 0.005	2.801 ± 0.056	0.510 ± 0.021	0.360 ± 0.015	0.250 ± 0.011	2
-405.5-157.7	3.52 ± 0.07	0.039 ± 0.0014	0.008 ± 0.0016	4.450 ± 0.100	0.100 ± 0.017	2.810 ± 0.056	0.380 ± 0.021	0.550 ± 0.030	0.400 ± 0.022	2
-345.5+273.8	2.52 ± 0.04	0.006 ± 0.0007	0.004 ± 0.0005	1.462 ± 0.029	0.111 ± 0.003	2.736 ± 0.055	0.460 ± 0.021	0.250 ± 0.012	0.173 ± 0.008	2
-371.1-280.0	3.18 ± 0.08	0.016 ± 0.0003	0.004 ± 0.0005	2.665 ± 0.053	0.111 ± 0.002	2.865 ± 0.057	0.360 ± 0.014	0.195 ± 0.008	0.166 ± 0.006	2
-410.3-206.3	2.36 ± 0.04	0.016 ± 0.0003	0.003 ± 0.0004	3.231 ± 0.065	0.118 ± 0.002	2.932 ± 0.059	0.350 ± 0.013	0.222 ± 0.008	0.166 ± 0.006	2
-368.3-285.6	1.55 ± 0.03	0.021 ± 0.0004	0.008 ± 0.0012	3.721 ± 0.074	0.117 ± 0.002	2.879 ± 0.058	0.223 ± 0.009	0.138 ± 0.005	0.105 ± 0.004	2
-392.0-270.1	3.17 ± 0.07	0.039 ± 0.0007	0.009 ± 0.0013	2.843 ± 0.057	0.091 ± 0.002	2.443 ± 0.049	0.190 ± 0.011	0.250 ± 0.015	0.180 ± 0.011	2
-481.4-0.5	2.65 ± 0.06	0.036 ± 0.0009	0.003 ± 0.0004	3.747 ± 0.075	0.103 ± 0.002	2.620 ± 0.052	0.185 ± 0.007	0.204 ± 0.008	0.142 ± 0.005	2
-453.8-191.8	2.05 ± 0.04	0.029 ± 0.0015	0.003 ± 0.0009	3.610 ± 0.072	0.098 ± 0.006	2.812 ± 0.056	0.157 ± 0.007	0.128 ± 0.005	0.089 ± 0.004	2
+331.9+401.0	2.04 ± 0.04	0.033 ± 0.0006	0.004 ± 0.0001	4.173 ± 0.083	0.107 ± 0.002	2.832 ± 0.057	0.153 ± 0.006	0.157 ± 0.005	0.110 ± 0.004	2
+509.5+264.1	2.85 ± 0.07	0.053 ± 0.0024	0.030 ± 0.0054	4.707 ± 0.094	0.099 ± 0.014	2.759 ± 0.055	0.190 ± 0.012	0.230 ± 0.014	0.160 ± 0.010	2
+266.0+534.1	1.21 ± 0.03	0.088 ± 0.0027	0.006 ± 0.0002	6.740 ± 0.100	0.110 ± 0.004	2.714 ± 0.054	0.082 ± 0.004	0.105 ± 0.004	0.086 ± 0.003	2
+667.9+174.1	2.56 ± 0.06	0.027 ± 0.0007	0.017 ± 0.0008	1.839 ± 0.037	0.097 ± 0.007	2.654 ± 0.053	0.118 ± 0.006	0.167 ± 0.007	0.115 ± 0.005	2
+1.0+885.8	2.37 ± 0.05	0.039 ± 0.0010	0.009 ± 0.0008	2.688 ± 0.054	0.103 ± 0.004	2.682 ± 0.054	0.111 ± 0.006	0.163 ± 0.006	0.112 ± 0.004	2
+6.6+886.3	1.51 ± 0.03	0.013 ± 0.00035	0.020 ± 0.0023	0.341 ± 0.006	0.062 ± 0.001	2.960 ± 0.059	1.394 ± 0.028	0.266 ± 0.005	0.246 ± 0.004	3
NGC 5194+30.2+2.2	2.03 ± 0.13	0.006 ± 0.0010	0.018 ± 0.0110	1.446 ± 0.114	0.110 ± 0.008	2.949 ± 0.182	0.478 ± 0.028	0.173 ± 0.013	0.135 ± 0.011	4
NGC 2403-38+51	2.12 ± 0.14	0.007 ± 0.0010	0.006 ± 0.0040	1.429 ± 0.121	0.114 ± 0.008	2.952 ± 0.187	0.455 ± 0.034	0.178 ± 0.013	0.131 ± 0.010	4
NGC 2403+7+37	2.47 ± 0.10	0.006 ± 0.0020	0.008 ± 0.0050	2.098 ± 0.094	0.123 ± 0.006	3.017 ± 0.126	0.437 ± 0.027	0.221 ± 0.014	0.167 ± 0.014	4
NGC 2403+119-28	1.47 ± 0.10	0.005 ± 0.0010	0.020 ± 0.0130	2.230 ± 0.184	0.130 ± 0.009	2.939 ± 0.182	0.266 ± 0.182	0.147 ± 0.012	0.104 ± 0.009	4
NGC 2403-59+118	2.38 ± 0.05	0.008 ± 0.0010	0.008 ± 0.0040	2.159 ± 0.070	0.120 ± 0.005	2.909 ± 0.092	0.361 ± 0.020	0.190 ± 0.011	0.151 ± 0.009	4
NGC 2403+96+30	2.99 ± 0.21	0.005 ± 0.0010	0.014 ± 0.0090	1.383 ± 0.117	0.114 ± 0.007	3.067 ± 0.189	0.453 ± 0.033	0.204 ± 0.014	0.144 ± 0.014	4
NGC 2403+44+82	1.99 ± 0.14	0.010 ± 0.0010	0.014 ± 0.0090	2.132 ± 0.180	0.129 ± 0.010	2.923 ± 0.183	0.260 ± 0.021	0.182 ± 0.015	0.133 ± 0.011	4
NGC 2403+166-140										

Table A2 – *continued*

ObjID	[O II] $\lambda 3727$	[O III] $\lambda 4363$	He II $\lambda 4686$	[O III] $\lambda 5007$	He I $\lambda 5876$	H $\alpha$ $\lambda 6563$	[N III] $\lambda 6583$	[S II] $\lambda 6716$	[S II] $\lambda 6731$	Ref.
NGC 2403-99-59	3.31 ± 0.18	0.007 ± 0.0010	0.003 ± 0.0020	1.699 ± 0.108	0.109 ± 0.005	2.992 ± 0.145	0.482 ± 0.034	0.345 ± 0.017	0.247 ± 0.013	4
NGC 2403-196+58	1.90 ± 0.07	0.007 ± 0.0010	0.006 ± 0.0040	2.160 ± 0.084	0.117 ± 0.005	2.902 ± 0.102	0.315 ± 0.023	0.150 ± 0.008	0.110 ± 0.006	4
NGC 2403-22-162	3.63 ± 0.15	0.009 ± 0.0020	0.020 ± 0.0160	1.792 ± 0.083	0.116 ± 0.007	2.881 ± 0.108	0.394 ± 0.024	0.331 ± 0.019	0.241 ± 0.016	4
NGC 2403+160-251	2.83 ± 0.20	0.026 ± 0.0030	0.015 ± 0.0030	3.160 ± 0.261	0.109 ± 0.007	2.976 ± 0.178	0.204 ± 0.017	0.201 ± 0.014	0.143 ± 0.011	4
SDSS J1455	1.11 ± 0.01	0.102 ± 0.0030	0.007 ± 0.0009	6.135 ± 0.033	0.114 ± 0.003	2.775 ± 0.018	0.079 ± 0.002	0.100 ± 0.002	0.008 ± 0.002	5
SDSS J1657	0.84 ± 0.02	0.085 ± 0.2690	0.032 ± 0.0043	6.151 ± 0.037	0.106 ± 0.007	2.789 ± 0.014	0.043 ± 0.002	0.077 ± 0.002	0.005 ± 0.002	5
Reg-1	0.27 ± 0.01	0.057 ± 0.0020	0.023 ± 0.0070	1.810 ± 0.080	0.093 ± 0.003	2.810 ± 0.100	0.010 ± 0.002	0.021 ± 0.001	0.015 ± 0.001	6
J0118+3512	0.84 ± 0.01	0.064 ± 0.0016	0.032 ± 0.0020	3.062 ± 0.005	0.114 ± 0.004	3.349 ± 0.005	0.039 ± 0.002	0.110 ± 0.003	0.085 ± 0.002	7
J1322+5425	0.43 ± 0.01	0.075 ± 0.0013	0.010 ± 0.0008	2.938 ± 0.005	0.084 ± 0.001	2.670 ± 0.008	0.015 ± 0.001	0.044 ± 0.001	0.031 ± 0.001	7
0723+692A	0.61 ± 0.01	0.143 ± 0.0010	0.009 ± 0.0010	6.591 ± 0.007	0.106 ± 0.001	2.788 ± 0.004	0.024 ± 0.001	0.049 ± 0.001	0.037 ± 0.001	8
0723+692B	1.57 ± 0.01	0.082 ± 0.0040	0.014 ± 0.0040	4.303 ± 0.031	0.102 ± 0.003	2.794 ± 0.023	0.055 ± 0.003	0.114 ± 0.003	0.082 ± 0.003	8
0749+568	1.66 ± 0.04	0.098 ± 0.0110	0.018 ± 0.0080	4.880 ± 0.099	0.111 ± 0.009	2.797 ± 0.064	0.076 ± 0.007	0.178 ± 0.011	0.114 ± 0.008	8
0907+543	0.94 ± 0.02	0.121 ± 0.0080	0.029 ± 0.0010	6.838 ± 0.109	0.106 ± 0.007	2.803 ± 0.053	0.033 ± 0.005	0.065 ± 0.006	0.050 ± 0.005	8
0926+606	1.78 ± 0.01	0.083 ± 0.0030	0.023 ± 0.0030	4.680 ± 0.003	0.103 ± 0.003	2.797 ± 0.019	0.058 ± 0.002	0.164 ± 0.003	0.114 ± 0.003	8
0930+554	1.88 ± 0.01	0.092 ± 0.0040	0.016 ± 0.0020	4.772 ± 0.026	0.104 ± 0.003	2.804 ± 0.017	0.083 ± 0.002	0.182 ± 0.003	0.146 ± 0.003	8
1030+583	0.40 ± 0.00	0.060 ± 0.0020	0.024 ± 0.0020	5.028 ± 0.021	0.099 ± 0.002	2.786 ± 0.013	0.031 ± 0.001	0.096 ± 0.002	0.067 ± 0.001	8
1116+583B	0.58 ± 0.02	0.117 ± 0.0120	0.025 ± 0.0100	4.842 ± 0.111	0.101 ± 0.009	2.777 ± 0.072	0.027 ± 0.007	0.068 ± 0.007	0.065 ± 0.008	8
1205+557	2.13 ± 0.02	0.083 ± 0.0070	0.018 ± 0.0070	3.714 ± 0.043	0.099 ± 0.005	2.714 ± 0.035	0.083 ± 0.005	0.183 ± 0.007	0.130 ± 0.007	8
1222+614	1.16 ± 0.00	0.102 ± 0.0020	0.017 ± 0.0020	5.955 ± 0.022	0.100 ± 0.002	2.761 ± 0.012	0.038 ± 0.001	0.090 ± 0.001	0.065 ± 0.001	8
1223+487	0.71 ± 0.00	0.127 ± 0.0010	0.012 ± 0.0010	5.543 ± 0.008	0.102 ± 0.001	2.777 ± 0.005	0.029 ± 0.001	0.061 ± 0.001	0.045 ± 0.001	8
1256+351	1.10 ± 0.00	0.089 ± 0.0010	0.011 ± 0.0010	5.802 ± 0.009	0.106 ± 0.001	2.819 ± 0.005	0.046 ± 0.001	0.095 ± 0.001	0.071 ± 0.001	8
1319+579A	1.02 ± 0.00	0.093 ± 0.0020	0.008 ± 0.0010	6.700 ± 0.028	0.113 ± 0.002	2.827 ± 0.014	0.050 ± 0.001	0.101 ± 0.001	0.079 ± 0.001	8
1319+579B4	2.44 ± 0.06	0.050 ± 0.0150	0.038 ± 0.0230	3.282 ± 0.073	0.094 ± 0.011	2.815 ± 0.069	0.161 ± 0.013	0.374 ± 0.017	0.273 ± 0.015	8
1319+579C	2.38 ± 0.01	0.033 ± 0.0030	0.014 ± 0.0040	3.520 ± 0.025	0.106 ± 0.003	2.852 ± 0.022	0.150 ± 0.003	0.269 ± 0.004	0.192 ± 0.004	8
1358+576	1.67 ± 0.01	0.089 ± 0.0030	0.012 ± 0.0020	4.874 ± 0.026	0.112 ± 0.002	2.803 ± 0.017	0.108 ± 0.003	0.153 ± 0.003	0.111 ± 0.002	8
1441+294	1.50 ± 0.03	0.069 ± 0.0100	0.019 ± 0.0130	4.927 ± 0.099	0.116 ± 0.009	2.824 ± 0.064	0.083 ± 0.002	0.204 ± 0.011	0.138 ± 0.010	8
1533+574B	2.03 ± 0.01	0.065 ± 0.0040	0.011 ± 0.0030	5.329 ± 0.035	0.108 ± 0.003	2.849 ± 0.021	0.087 ± 0.002	0.167 ± 0.003	0.117 ± 0.002	8
Pox 105	1.25 ± 0.00	0.113 ± 0.0000	0.015 ± 0.0000	5.540 ± 0.000	0.096 ± 0.000	2.800 ± 0.000	0.064 ± 0.000	0.084 ± 0.000	0.058 ± 0.000	9
Pox 120	0.79 ± 0.00	0.135 ± 0.0000	0.016 ± 0.0000	6.290 ± 0.000	0.101 ± 0.000	2.780 ± 0.000	0.048 ± 0.000	0.074 ± 0.000	0.047 ± 0.000	9
UM 160 A	1.47 ± 0.00	0.085 ± 0.0068	0.023 ± 0.0000	5.710 ± 0.000	0.101 ± 0.000	2.800 ± 0.000	0.019 ± 0.000	0.117 ± 0.000	0.077 ± 0.000	9
UM 160 B	1.48 ± 0.03	0.066 ± 0.0066	0.023 ± 0.0035	4.740 ± 0.474	0.096 ± 0.007	2.780 ± 0.055	0.071 ± 0.005	0.152 ± 0.009	0.102 ± 0.006	10
UM 420 B	2.57 ± 0.05	0.061 ± 0.0073	0.023 ± 0.0058	4.260 ± 4.260	0.113 ± 0.006	2.810 ± 0.056	0.245 ± 0.009	0.250 ± 0.010	0.196 ± 0.009	10
TOL 0513-393	0.53 ± 0.01	0.155 ± 0.0061	0.010 ± 0.0015	7.760 ± 0.776	0.128 ± 0.002	2.820 ± 0.028	0.045 ± 0.002	0.062 ± 0.003	0.053 ± 0.003	10
TOL 2146-391-C	0.61 ± 0.00	0.127 ± 0.0026	0.017 ± 0.0009	5.941 ± 0.058	0.109 ± 0.002	2.820 ± 0.028	0.027 ± 0.001	0.066 ± 0.001	0.052 ± 0.001	11
TOL 2146-391-E	0.64 ± 0.00	0.127 ± 0.0038	0.018 ± 0.0013	5.897 ± 0.058	0.106 ± 0.003	2.770 ± 0.027	0.028 ± 0.001	0.067 ± 0.002	0.052 ± 0.002	11
TOL 0357-3915-C	0.81 ± 0.01	0.123 ± 0.0043	0.019 ± 0.0016	6.549 ± 0.065	0.111 ± 0.003	2.800 ± 0.028	0.055 ± 0.002	0.065 ± 0.002	0.049 ± 0.002	11
TOL 0357-3915-E	0.85 ± 0.01	0.116 ± 0.0058	0.013 ± 0.0019	6.300 ± 0.063	0.107 ± 0.005	2.810 ± 0.042	0.058 ± 0.004	0.070 ± 0.004	0.054 ± 0.003	11
NGC 346	0.80 ± 0.01	0.070 ± 0.0014	0.002 ± 0.0002	5.220 ± 0.044	0.108 ± 0.001	2.820 ± 0.023	0.038 ± 0.001	0.074 ± 0.001	0.053 ± 0.001	12

Note. References: (1) Berg et al. (2020), (2) Croxall et al. (2016), (3) Croxall et al. (2015), (4) Rogers et al. (2021), (5) Hägele et al. (2019), (6) Annibali et al. (2019), (7) Hsu et al. (2020), (8) Izotov, Thuan & Lipovetsky (1997), (9) Kuntz & Sargent (1983), (10) Valardi et al. (2021a), (11) Peimbert et al. (2012), (12) Valardi et al. (2019).

**Table A3.** Chemical abundances for the Seyfert 2 and Star-forming samples.

ObjID	$^a \text{O}^+/\text{H}^+$	$^a \text{O}^{2+}/\text{H}^+$	ICF(O)	$^b \text{O}/\text{H}$	$^a \text{He}^+/\text{H}^+$	$^a \text{He}^{2+}/\text{H}^+$	ICF(He)	+ He/H
Seyfert 2								
J013957.81-004504.2	8.564 ± 0.041	8.324 ± 0.006	1.3	8.901 ± 0.129	10.626 ± 0.144	10.120 ± 0.027	1.5	10.918 ± 0.075
J033923.14-054841.5	8.522 ± 0.033	8.185 ± 0.001	1.3	8.815 ± 0.026	10.805 ± 0.048	10.339 ± 0.017	1.5	11.114 ± 0.023
J074257.23+333217.9	8.366 ± 0.021	7.700 ± 0.001	1.1	8.491 ± 0.018	10.852 ± 0.044	9.833 ± 0.055	1.3	11.007 ± 0.031
J093509.12+002557.4	8.438 ± 0.017	7.647 ± 0.002	1.2	8.580 ± 0.019	10.700 ± 0.061	9.981 ± 0.039	1.4	10.931 ± 0.037
J095759.45+022810.5	8.631 ± 0.033	8.208 ± 0.004	1.4	8.912 ± 0.029	10.757 ± 0.056	10.338 ± 0.017	1.6	11.092 ± 0.026
J100602.50+071131.8	8.825 ± 0.003	7.904 ± 0.001	1.4	9.012 ± 0.014	10.807 ± 0.046	10.370 ± 0.015	1.6	11.158 ± 0.021
J100921.26+013334.5	8.599 ± 0.036	8.377 ± 0.002	1.3	8.931 ± 0.025	10.888 ± 0.038	10.416 ± 0.014	1.5	11.191 ± 0.020
J101754.72-002811.9	8.404 ± 0.026	7.801 ± 0.002	1.3	8.615 ± 0.022	10.895 ± 0.040	10.370 ± 0.016	1.5	11.183 ± 0.021
J102039.81+642435.8	8.681 ± 0.099	7.979 ± 0.003	1.4	8.914 ± 0.083	10.699 ± 0.061	10.334 ± 0.017	1.6	11.066 ± 0.027
J112850.39+021016.2	8.734 ± 0.029	7.456 ± 0.010	1.2	8.850 ± 0.033	11.049 ± 0.082	10.409 ± 0.031	1.4	11.298 ± 0.046
Mrk176	8.564 ± 0.008	8.115 ± 0.004	1.5	8.882 ± 0.012	10.849 ± 0.028	10.576 ± 0.007	1.6	11.238 ± 0.012
3C 33	8.740 ± 0.006	7.998 ± 0.005	1.3	8.939 ± 0.010	10.835 ± 0.028	10.361 ± 0.011	1.5	11.144 ± 0.014
Mrk3	8.549 ± 0.008	8.144 ± 0.005	1.3	8.796 ± 0.010	10.771 ± 0.032	10.194 ± 0.015	1.5	11.035 ± 0.018
Mrk573	8.492 ± 0.010	8.244 ± 0.005	1.4	8.844 ± 0.011	10.848 ± 0.028	10.488 ± 0.008	1.6	11.196 ± 0.012
Mrk78	8.782 ± 0.006	8.351 ± 0.005	1.4	9.071 ± 0.010	10.851 ± 0.027	10.469 ± 0.008	1.6	11.204 ± 0.012
Mrk348	8.654 ± 0.007	8.032 ± 0.005	1.2	8.836 ± 0.007	10.927 ± 0.023	10.286 ± 0.013	1.4	11.173 ± 0.013
Mrk34	8.590 ± 0.008	8.280 ± 0.005	1.3	8.871 ± 0.008	10.929 ± 0.022	10.376 ± 0.010	1.5	11.202 ± 0.012
Mrk1	8.450 ± 0.010	8.073 ± 0.005	1.4	8.740 ± 0.011	10.849 ± 0.027	10.416 ± 0.009	1.5	11.167 ± 0.013
Mrk270	8.844 ± 0.005	7.707 ± 0.007	1.2	8.936 ± 0.006	11.123 ± 0.014	10.298 ± 0.013	1.4	11.320 ± 0.009
III Zw 55	8.655 ± 0.009	7.543 ± 0.009	1.3	8.799 ± 0.011	10.799 ± 0.031	10.260 ± 0.014	1.5	11.086 ± 0.016
3C 452	8.771 ± 0.006	7.710 ± 0.009	1.0	8.825 ± 0.006	11.088 ± 0.017	9.719 ± 0.048	1.4	11.242 ± 0.012
Mrk198	8.446 ± 0.012	7.722 ± 0.011	1.1	8.556 ± 0.011	10.898 ± 0.025	9.815 ± 0.037	1.3	11.049 ± 0.018
Mrk268	8.930 ± 0.007	7.241 ± 0.012	1.1	8.983 ± 0.008	10.824 ± 0.027	9.861 ± 0.033	1.3	10.991 ± 0.019
NGC 2110	8.796 ± 0.006	7.387 ± 0.012	1.1	8.836 ± 0.007	10.992 ± 0.018	9.736 ± 0.043	1.3	11.131 ± 0.013
ESO138G1	8.572 ± 0.015	7.596 ± 0.018	1.4	8.752 ± 0.027	10.885 ± 0.079	10.439 ± 0.029	1.5	11.198 ± 0.037
NGC 3081	8.344 ± 0.013	8.139 ± 0.005	1.5	8.743 ± 0.013	10.848 ± 0.027	10.582 ± 0.006	1.6	11.234 ± 0.012
NGC 4388	8.481 ± 0.011	8.173 ± 0.006	1.2	8.745 ± 0.009	10.894 ± 0.025	10.254 ± 0.013	1.4	11.137 ± 0.015
NGC 5135	8.344 ± 0.014	7.546 ± 0.014	1.3	8.505 ± 0.014	10.850 ± 0.028	10.247 ± 0.014	1.5	11.113 ± 0.015
NGC 5728	8.813 ± 0.009	7.634 ± 0.006	1.3	8.950 ± 0.009	11.020 ± 0.019	10.471 ± 0.009	1.5	11.296 ± 0.010
Akn347a	8.485 ± 0.011	8.025 ± 0.004	1.3	8.744 ± 0.010	10.927 ± 0.023	10.467 ± 0.008	1.5	11.232 ± 0.012
UM16a	8.493 ± 0.010	8.202 ± 0.004	1.3	8.770 ± 0.007	11.103 ± 0.015	10.505 ± 0.008	1.4	11.360 ± 0.008
Mrk612a	8.334 ± 0.016	7.925 ± 0.007	1.1	8.517 ± 0.012	11.159 ± 0.014	10.145 ± 0.018	1.4	11.338 ± 0.010
Mrk573	8.382 ± 0.011	8.213 ± 0.002	1.4	8.751 ± 0.018	10.802 ± 0.050	10.390 ± 0.031	1.5	11.126 ± 0.024
NGC 2992	8.743 ± 0.014	7.375 ± 0.008	1.1	8.808 ± 0.020	10.752 ± 0.055	9.813 ± 0.125	1.3	10.922 ± 0.037
IC2560	8.245 ± 0.005	8.185 ± 0.004	1.3	8.638 ± 0.028	10.847 ± 0.045	10.344 ± 0.105	1.5	11.138 ± 0.028
NGC 5664	8.538 ± 0.012	8.006 ± 0.010	1.2	8.713 ± 0.014	10.801 ± 0.049	9.991 ± 0.037	1.4	11.002 ± 0.033
NGC 5728	8.482 ± 0.006	8.217 ± 0.005	1.2	8.768 ± 0.013	10.762 ± 0.054	10.157 ± 0.025	1.4	11.017 ± 0.030
ESO339-G11	8.480 ± 0.023	7.957 ± 0.003	1.2	8.666 ± 0.021	10.802 ± 0.050	10.050 ± 0.035	1.4	11.014 ± 0.030
NGC 6890	8.246 ± 0.010	8.025 ± 0.001	1.4	8.605 ± 0.209	10.626 ± 0.146	10.219 ± 0.023	1.5	10.951 ± 0.068
IC5063	8.486 ± 0.009	8.038 ± 0.004	1.1	8.675 ± 0.011	10.751 ± 0.055	9.886 ± 0.049	1.3	10.936 ± 0.035
NGC 7130	8.250 ± 0.008	7.690 ± 0.005	1.4	8.497 ± 0.031	10.546 ± 0.090	10.115 ± 0.030	1.6	10.874 ± 0.042
NGC 7582	8.139 ± 0.007	7.517 ± 0.021	1.1	8.285 ± 0.026	10.848 ± 0.045	9.967 ± 0.206	1.3	11.030 ± 0.034
NGC 7590	8.650 ± 0.024	7.717 ± 0.020	1.1	8.763 ± 0.054	10.633 ± 0.141	9.780 ± 0.180	1.4	10.830 ± 0.092
Cygnus A	8.728 ± 0.006	8.206 ± 0.005	1.5	9.010 ± 0.014	10.696 ± 0.040	10.365 ± 0.011	1.6	11.072 ± 0.017
Mrk1157a	8.889 ± 0.004	7.882 ± 0.006	1.3	9.027 ± 0.006	10.927 ± 0.023	10.327 ± 0.011	1.5	11.204 ± 0.012
ESO428-G14	8.351 ± 0.014	8.028 ± 0.006	1.1	8.580 ± 0.010	11.051 ± 0.018	10.220 ± 0.015	1.4	11.253 ± 0.011
ESO137-G34	8.554 ± 0.010	8.242 ± 0.007	1.2	8.817 ± 0.009	10.886 ± 0.025	10.249 ± 0.013	1.4	11.132 ± 0.014
IC3639	8.111 ± 0.024	7.882 ± 0.011	1.1	8.372 ± 0.017	10.847 ± 0.028	10.011 ± 0.024	1.4	11.045 ± 0.018
IC4777	8.461 ± 0.012	8.103 ± 0.009	1.2	8.699 ± 0.010	10.849 ± 0.026	10.154 ± 0.016	1.4	11.077 ± 0.016
IC4995	8.130 ± 0.022	8.173 ± 0.005	1.4	8.604 ± 0.015	10.750 ± 0.033	10.366 ± 0.010	1.5	11.087 ± 0.016
IRAS11215-2806	8.409 ± 0.011	7.892 ± 0.008	1.3	8.631 ± 0.011	10.891 ± 0.024	10.336 ± 0.011	1.5	11.166 ± 0.013
MCG-01-24-012	8.542 ± 0.009	7.975 ± 0.007	1.3	8.750 ± 0.010	10.804 ± 0.031	10.238 ± 0.014	1.5	11.077 ± 0.016
MCG-02-51-008	8.486 ± 0.012	7.900 ± 0.014	1.1	8.631 ± 0.011	10.856 ± 0.026	9.879 ± 0.029	1.3	11.018 ± 0.018
NGC 1125	8.542 ± 0.009	7.968 ± 0.010	1.2	8.713 ± 0.009	10.850 ± 0.027	10.076 ± 0.020	1.4	11.059 ± 0.017
NGC 1194	8.306 ± 0.018	8.023 ± 0.010	1.1	8.515 ± 0.012	10.896 ± 0.024	9.703 ± 0.045	1.4	11.063 ± 0.016
NGC 1320	8.036 ± 0.029	8.160 ± 0.006	1.4	8.552 ± 0.015	10.890 ± 0.024	10.498 ± 0.007	1.5	11.226 ± 0.011
NGC 3281	8.407 ± 0.014	8.163 ± 0.008	1.3	8.722 ± 0.012	10.892 ± 0.025	10.387 ± 0.009	1.5	11.182 ± 0.013
NGC 3393	8.446 ± 0.013	8.294 ± 0.006	1.3	8.777 ± 0.010	10.926 ± 0.023	10.338 ± 0.011	1.4	11.186 ± 0.013
NGC 4939	8.377 ± 0.014	8.265 ± 0.006	1.3	8.740 ± 0.010	10.926 ± 0.023	10.403 ± 0.009	1.5	11.208 ± 0.012
NGC 4968	8.227 ± 0.017	7.911 ± 0.006	1.3	8.506 ± 0.013	10.927 ± 0.022	10.375 ± 0.010	1.5	11.200 ± 0.012
NGC 5427	8.346 ± 0.014	8.014 ± 0.008	1.2	8.576 ± 0.010	10.993 ± 0.019	10.189 ± 0.015	1.4	11.194 ± 0.012
NGC 5643	8.485 ± 0.011	8.124 ± 0.007	1.7	8.886 ± 0.031	10.449 ± 0.067	10.309 ± 0.011	1.7	10.919 ± 0.022
NGC 5990	8.721 ± 0.015	8.059 ± 0.027	1.1	8.844 ± 0.014	10.794 ± 0.029	9.749 ± 0.038	1.3	10.947 ± 0.022

Table A3 – continued

ObjID	$^a \text{O}^+/\text{H}^+$	$^a \text{O}^{2+}/\text{H}^+$	ICF(O)	$^b \text{O}/\text{H}$	$^a \text{He}^+/\text{H}^+$	$^a \text{He}^{2+}/\text{H}^+$	ICF(He)	+ He/H
NGC 7682	$8.465 \pm 0.010$	$8.059 \pm 0.006$	1.3	$8.709 \pm 0.010$	$10.802 \pm 0.030$	$10.214 \pm 0.014$	1.5	$11.064 \pm 0.016$
PKS1306-241	$8.659 \pm 0.008$	$7.908 \pm 0.016$	1.1	$8.755 \pm 0.009$	$10.849 \pm 0.027$	$9.620 \pm 0.055$	1.3	$10.987 \pm 0.020$
Star-forming regions								
NGC 3184-72.8-91.3	$8.258 \pm 0.002$	$7.241 \pm 0.002$	1.015	$8.304 \pm 0.002$	$10.780 \pm 0.005$	$8.947 \pm 0.039$	1.253	$10.885 \pm 0.007$
NGC 3184-14.9-139.6	$8.350 \pm 0.007$	$7.784 \pm 0.005$	1.033	$8.469 \pm 0.006$	$10.771 \pm 0.033$	$9.286 \pm 0.056$	1.127	$10.837 \pm 0.031$
NGC 3184-80.0-148.2	$8.494 \pm 0.005$	$7.639 \pm 0.009$	1.007	$8.554 \pm 0.004$	$10.901 \pm 0.040$	$8.749 \pm 0.063$	1.221	$10.991 \pm 0.039$
NGC 3184-93.3-142.3	$8.414 \pm 0.006$	$8.032 \pm 0.007$	1.001	$8.565 \pm 0.005$	$10.968 \pm 0.034$	$7.892 \pm 0.452$	1.094	$11.007 \pm 0.035$
NGC 3184-172.5-30.2	$8.304 \pm 0.002$	$7.992 \pm 0.003$	1.003	$8.478 \pm 0.002$	$10.958 \pm 0.014$	$8.387 \pm 0.146$	1.078	$10.992 \pm 0.014$
164.6-9.9	$8.626 \pm 0.009$	$8.052 \pm 0.009$	1.009	$8.732 \pm 0.007$	$10.910 \pm 0.008$	$8.845 \pm 0.049$	1.142	$10.972 \pm 0.010$
17.3-235.4	$8.532 \pm 0.005$	$7.907 \pm 0.009$	1.001	$8.625 \pm 0.005$	$10.896 \pm 0.008$	$7.899 \pm 0.175$	1.161	$10.961 \pm 0.010$
189.2-136.3	$8.483 \pm 0.008$	$8.423 \pm 0.009$	1.008	$8.759 \pm 0.006$	$10.993 \pm 0.006$	$8.894 \pm 0.074$	1.039	$11.014 \pm 0.007$
183.9-179.0	$8.621 \pm 0.007$	$8.268 \pm 0.009$	1.001	$8.781 \pm 0.006$	$10.886 \pm 0.008$	$7.891 \pm 0.173$	1.088	$10.923 \pm 0.009$
225.6-124.1	$8.539 \pm 0.007$	$8.077 \pm 0.009$	1.002	$8.669 \pm 0.006$	$10.926 \pm 0.007$	$8.199 \pm 0.087$	1.115	$10.974 \pm 0.009$
117.9-235.0	$8.457 \pm 0.010$	$7.873 \pm 0.009$	1.017	$8.565 \pm 0.008$	$10.920 \pm 0.011$	$9.158 \pm 0.041$	1.140	$10.984 \pm 0.014$
200.3-193.6	$8.489 \pm 0.009$	$8.182 \pm 0.009$	1.010	$8.667 \pm 0.006$	$10.909 \pm 0.012$	$8.897 \pm 0.074$	1.075	$10.945 \pm 0.012$
96.7-266.9	$8.518 \pm 0.009$	$7.726 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.585 \pm 0.008$	$10.814 \pm 0.010$	$8.374 \pm 0.060$	1.209	$10.898 \pm 0.014$
252.2-109.8	$8.440 \pm 0.009$	$7.946 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.563 \pm 0.007$	$10.854 \pm 0.009$	$8.503 \pm 0.033$	1.122	$10.906 \pm 0.011$
254.6-107.2	$8.288 \pm 0.013$	$8.330 \pm 0.009$	1.006	$8.613 \pm 0.008$	$11.010 \pm 0.012$	$8.804 \pm 0.054$	1.031	$11.027 \pm 0.012$
281.4-71.8	$8.510 \pm 0.006$	$7.946 \pm 0.009$	1.010	$8.619 \pm 0.005$	$10.938 \pm 0.007$	$8.944 \pm 0.051$	1.137	$10.998 \pm 0.009$
243.0-159.6	$8.744 \pm 0.008$	$7.945 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.809 \pm 0.007$	$10.797 \pm 0.015$	$8.370 \pm 0.073$	1.209	$10.881 \pm 0.017$
297.7-87.1	$8.541 \pm 0.012$	$7.827 \pm 0.009$	1.010	$8.622 \pm 0.010$	$10.896 \pm 0.016$	$8.903 \pm 0.057$	1.180	$10.972 \pm 0.019$
309.4-56.9	$8.509 \pm 0.011$	$7.849 \pm 0.009$	1.012	$8.600 \pm 0.009$	$10.718 \pm 0.018$	$8.801 \pm 0.071$	1.163	$10.789 \pm 0.020$
354.1-71.2	$8.345 \pm 0.011$	$8.178 \pm 0.009$	1.001	$8.571 \pm 0.007$	$10.916 \pm 0.008$	$7.905 \pm 0.088$	1.053	$10.939 \pm 0.008$
164.9-333.9	$8.515 \pm 0.009$	$8.243 \pm 0.009$	1.006	$8.704 \pm 0.007$	$10.951 \pm 0.007$	$8.743 \pm 0.068$	1.070	$10.983 \pm 0.008$
360.9-75.3	$8.250 \pm 0.010$	$8.233 \pm 0.009$	1.002	$8.543 \pm 0.007$	$10.918 \pm 0.011$	$8.205 \pm 0.043$	1.036	$10.934 \pm 0.011$
377.9-64.9	$8.428 \pm 0.010$	$7.764 \pm 0.008$	1.005	$8.515 \pm 0.009$	$10.840 \pm 0.009$	$8.508 \pm 0.032$	1.171	$10.911 \pm 0.013$
99.6-388.0	$8.238 \pm 0.009$	$8.242 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.543 \pm 0.006$	$10.955 \pm 0.010$	$8.605 \pm 0.070$	1.034	$10.972 \pm 0.011$
397.4-71.7	$8.356 \pm 0.009$	$7.906 \pm 0.009$	1.024	$8.498 \pm 0.008$	$10.677 \pm 0.021$	$9.056 \pm 0.098$	1.102	$10.730 \pm 0.021$
226.9-366.4	$8.571 \pm 0.010$	$7.826 \pm 0.009$	1.006	$8.646 \pm 0.009$	$10.900 \pm 0.008$	$8.685 \pm 0.051$	1.193	$10.979 \pm 0.013$
405.5-157.7	$8.320 \pm 0.008$	$7.585 \pm 0.009$	1.011	$8.398 \pm 0.007$	$10.926 \pm 0.019$	$8.955 \pm 0.079$	1.186	$11.005 \pm 0.021$
345.5-273.8	$8.314 \pm 0.009$	$8.060 \pm 0.010$	1.009	$8.510 \pm 0.007$	$10.872 \pm 0.075$	$8.821 \pm 0.089$	1.066	$10.902 \pm 0.075$
410.3-206.3	$8.574 \pm 0.011$	$7.921 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.663 \pm 0.009$	$10.903 \pm 0.012$	$8.503 \pm 0.109$	1.167	$10.972 \pm 0.015$
371.1-280.0	$8.322 \pm 0.007$	$8.011 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.497 \pm 0.005$	$10.911 \pm 0.008$	$8.512 \pm 0.054$	1.078	$10.945 \pm 0.009$
368.3-285.6	$8.364 \pm 0.007$	$8.181 \pm 0.009$	1.003	$8.584 \pm 0.006$	$10.933 \pm 0.007$	$8.382 \pm 0.058$	1.055	$10.958 \pm 0.008$
392.0-270.1	$8.129 \pm 0.009$	$8.183 \pm 0.009$	1.008	$8.461 \pm 0.006$	$10.932 \pm 0.008$	$8.811 \pm 0.066$	1.030	$10.948 \pm 0.008$
481.4-0.5	$8.088 \pm 0.009$	$7.654 \pm 0.009$	1.011	$8.229 \pm 0.007$	$10.840 \pm 0.009$	$8.884 \pm 0.061$	1.103	$10.887 \pm 0.011$
453.8-191.8	$8.160 \pm 0.010$	$7.943 \pm 0.008$	1.003	$8.367 \pm 0.007$	$10.887 \pm 0.008$	$8.396 \pm 0.056$	1.061	$10.914 \pm 0.009$
331.9-401.0	$8.119 \pm 0.008$	$8.009 \pm 0.009$	1.003	$8.370 \pm 0.006$	$10.862 \pm 0.026$	$8.393 \pm 0.129$	1.045	$10.883 \pm 0.027$
509.5-264.1	$8.124 \pm 0.009$	$8.080 \pm 0.009$	1.004	$8.405 \pm 0.006$	$10.900 \pm 0.008$	$8.517 \pm 0.011$	1.038	$10.918 \pm 0.008$
266.0-534.1	$8.124 \pm 0.010$	$7.967 \pm 0.008$	1.034	$8.368 \pm 0.008$	$10.873 \pm 0.059$	$9.401 \pm 0.076$	1.047	$10.909 \pm 0.057$
667.9-174.1	$7.677 \pm 0.011$	$8.051 \pm 0.006$	1.006	$8.207 \pm 0.005$	$10.908 \pm 0.008$	$8.705 \pm 0.014$	1.021	$10.920 \pm 0.008$
1.0-885.8	$7.973 \pm 0.010$	$7.432 \pm 0.009$	1.020	$8.092 \pm 0.008$	$10.870 \pm 0.031$	$9.160 \pm 0.020$	1.127	$10.930 \pm 0.031$
6.6-886.3	$7.945 \pm 0.009$	$7.602 \pm 0.009$	1.010	$8.112 \pm 0.007$	$10.897 \pm 0.017$	$8.884 \pm 0.038$	1.083	$10.935 \pm 0.017$
NGC 5194-30.2-2.2	$7.364 \pm 0.009$	$6.264 \pm 0.008$	1.042	$7.415 \pm 0.008$	$10.632 \pm 0.007$	$9.258 \pm 0.050$	1.242	$10.743 \pm 0.013$
NGC 2403-38-51	$8.356 \pm 0.028$	$7.909 \pm 0.034$	1.018	$8.495 \pm 0.023$	$10.895 \pm 0.032$	$9.153 \pm 0.267$	1.110	$10.947 \pm 0.034$
NGC 2403-7-37	$8.319 \pm 0.028$	$7.831 \pm 0.036$	1.006	$8.444 \pm 0.023$	$10.917 \pm 0.030$	$8.683 \pm 0.287$	1.126	$10.971 \pm 0.035$
NGC 2403-119-28	$8.610 \pm 0.018$	$8.252 \pm 0.019$	1.007	$8.771 \pm 0.014$	$10.940 \pm 0.021$	$8.800 \pm 0.270$	1.088	$10.980 \pm 0.023$
NGC 2403-59-118	$8.470 \pm 0.029$	$8.378 \pm 0.035$	1.016	$8.734 \pm 0.023$	$10.961 \pm 0.029$	$9.189 \pm 0.275$	1.044	$10.987 \pm 0.030$
NGC 2403-96-30	$8.476 \pm 0.009$	$8.139 \pm 0.014$	1.007	$8.643 \pm 0.008$	$10.933 \pm 0.018$	$8.806 \pm 0.214$	1.082	$10.970 \pm 0.018$
NGC 2403-44-82	$8.587 \pm 0.031$	$7.948 \pm 0.037$	1.014	$8.683 \pm 0.026$	$10.913 \pm 0.027$	$9.048 \pm 0.279$	1.169	$10.985 \pm 0.038$
NGC 2403-166-140	$8.304 \pm 0.030$	$8.020 \pm 0.036$	1.012	$8.491 \pm 0.024$	$10.970 \pm 0.033$	$9.057 \pm 0.269$	1.075	$11.007 \pm 0.035$
NGC 2403-99-59	$8.583 \pm 0.024$	$7.982 \pm 0.028$	1.003	$8.682 \pm 0.020$	$10.895 \pm 0.020$	$8.376 \pm 0.291$	1.159	$10.961 \pm 0.027$
NGC 2403-196-58	$8.435 \pm 0.016$	$8.197 \pm 0.017$	1.006	$8.636 \pm 0.012$	$10.922 \pm 0.019$	$8.687 \pm 0.284$	1.064	$10.952 \pm 0.019$
NGC 2403-22-162	$8.549 \pm 0.018$	$7.926 \pm 0.020$	1.019	$8.649 \pm 0.016$	$10.926 \pm 0.026$	$9.211 \pm 0.344$	1.154	$10.996 \pm 0.030$
NGC 2403-160-251	$8.248 \pm 0.031$	$7.943 \pm 0.036$	1.015	$8.431 \pm 0.024$	$10.908 \pm 0.028$	$9.093 \pm 0.088$	1.078	$10.947 \pm 0.030$
Reg-1	$6.672 \pm 0.016$	$7.037 \pm 0.019$	1.029	$7.205 \pm 0.014$	$10.861 \pm 0.014$	$9.316 \pm 0.131$	1.021	$10.883 \pm 0.014$
J0118-3512	$7.334 \pm 0.005$	$7.479 \pm 0.001$	1.032	$7.727 \pm 0.002$	$10.937 \pm 0.015$	$9.443 \pm 0.027$	1.025	$10.962 \pm 0.015$
J1322-5425	$6.969 \pm 0.010$	$7.358 \pm 0.001$	1.013	$7.512 \pm 0.003$	$10.820 \pm 0.005$	$8.946 \pm 0.035$	1.021	$10.835 \pm 0.005$
0723-692A	$7.182 \pm 0.007$	$7.792 \pm 0.001$	1.010	$7.892 \pm 0.002$	$10.912 \pm 0.004$	$8.895 \pm 0.048$	1.020	$10.925 \pm 0.004$
0723-692B	$7.650 \pm 0.003$	$7.672 \pm 0.003$	1.015	$7.969 \pm 0.003$	$10.896 \pm 0.013$	$9.084 \pm 0.123$	1.032	$10.917 \pm 0.013$
0907-543	$7.441 \pm 0.009$	$7.909 \pm 0.007$	1.032	$8.050 \pm 0.006$	$10.895 \pm 0.029$	$9.398 \pm 0.015$	1.021	$10.918 \pm 0.028$
0917-527	$7.722 \pm 0.002$	$7.695 \pm 0.001$	1.025	$8.021 \pm 0.002$	$10.903 \pm 0.012$	$9.300 \pm 0.056$	1.035	$10.929 \pm 0.012$
0926-606	$7.730 \pm 0.002$	$7.762 \pm 0.002$	1.018	$8.055 \pm 0.002$	$10.889 \pm 0.013$	$9.139 \pm 0.055$	1.031	$10.910 \pm 0.013$
0930-554	$6.853 \pm 0.001$	$7.086 \pm 0.002$	1.038	$7.302 \pm 0.002$	$10.801 \pm 0.005$	$9.382 \pm 0.032$	1.023	$10.828 \pm 0.005$

Table A3 – continued

ObjID	<sup>a</sup> O <sup>+</sup> /H <sup>+</sup>	<sup>a</sup> O <sup>2+</sup> /H <sup>+</sup>	ICF(O)	<sup>b</sup> O/H	<sup>a</sup> He <sup>+</sup> /H <sup>+</sup>	<sup>a</sup> He <sup>2+</sup> /H <sup>+</sup>	ICF(He)	+ He/H
1030-583	7.409 ± 0.001	7.700 ± 0.002	1.027	7.891 ± 0.001	10.887 ± 0.009	9.320 ± 0.036	1.022	10.908 ± 0.009
1116-583B	7.086 ± 0.015	7.602 ± 0.010	1.032	7.731 ± 0.010	10.845 ± 0.038	9.340 ± 0.172	1.020	10.866 ± 0.037
1205-557	7.716 ± 0.004	7.526 ± 0.005	1.020	7.941 ± 0.005	10.886 ± 0.022	9.194 ± 0.170	1.053	10.917 ± 0.022
1222-614	7.566 ± 0.001	7.867 ± 0.002	1.019	8.051 ± 0.001	10.886 ± 0.009	9.163 ± 0.051	1.022	10.904 ± 0.008
1223-487	7.229 ± 0.001	7.689 ± 0.001	1.013	7.824 ± 0.001	10.900 ± 0.004	9.021 ± 0.036	1.021	10.914 ± 0.004
1256-351	7.583 ± 0.001	7.909 ± 0.001	1.012	8.082 ± 0.001	10.908 ± 0.004	8.972 ± 0.039	1.022	10.923 ± 0.004
1319-579A	7.584 ± 0.001	8.020 ± 0.002	1.008	8.159 ± 0.001	10.926 ± 0.008	8.831 ± 0.055	1.021	10.938 ± 0.008
1319-579B4	7.933 ± 0.011	7.663 ± 0.010	1.047	8.139 ± 0.014	10.856 ± 0.050	9.512 ± 0.259	1.062	10.901 ± 0.050
1319-579C	8.125 ± 0.002	7.929 ± 0.003	1.015	8.345 ± 0.002	10.899 ± 0.012	9.065 ± 0.122	1.055	10.928 ± 0.012
1358-576	7.697 ± 0.003	7.748 ± 0.002	1.012	8.030 ± 0.002	10.936 ± 0.008	9.015 ± 0.074	1.030	10.955 ± 0.008
1441-294	7.758 ± 0.009	7.882 ± 0.009	1.018	8.133 ± 0.009	10.945 ± 0.035	9.194 ± 0.318	1.027	10.963 ± 0.034
1533-574B	7.953 ± 0.002	7.985 ± 0.003	1.011	8.275 ± 0.002	10.913 ± 0.012	8.966 ± 0.120	1.032	10.931 ± 0.012
Pox105	7.502 ± 0.001	7.747 ± 0.010	1.019	7.951 ± 0.006	10.846 ± 0.019	9.120 ± 0.083	1.023	10.864 ± 0.019
Pox120	7.276 ± 0.001	7.777 ± 0.009	1.019	7.905 ± 0.007	10.859 ± 0.018	9.144 ± 0.079	1.020	10.876 ± 0.018
Pox139	7.663 ± 0.001	7.857 ± 0.010	1.026	8.083 ± 0.006	10.880 ± 0.018	9.297 ± 0.054	1.024	10.902 ± 0.018
UM160-A	7.638 ± 0.010	7.833 ± 0.045	1.005	8.050 ± 0.028	10.875 ± 0.027	8.533 ± 0.135	1.025	10.889 ± 0.027
UM160-B	7.753 ± 0.009	7.868 ± 0.042	1.027	8.127 ± 0.024	10.865 ± 0.031	9.291 ± 0.064	1.027	10.887 ± 0.030
UM420-B	8.019 ± 0.008	7.845 ± 0.426	1.023	8.257 ± 0.168	10.926 ± 0.023	9.292 ± 0.109	1.052	10.955 ± 0.022
TOL0513-393	7.134 ± 0.008	7.900 ± 0.043	1.009	7.972 ± 0.036	10.971 ± 0.017	8.941 ± 0.065	1.020	10.983 ± 0.017
TOL2146-391-C	7.182 ± 0.001	7.754 ± 0.004	1.018	7.865 ± 0.003	10.914 ± 0.008	9.171 ± 0.023	1.020	10.931 ± 0.008
TOL2146-391-E	7.202 ± 0.001	7.747 ± 0.004	1.020	7.864 ± 0.003	10.906 ± 0.012	9.196 ± 0.032	1.020	10.922 ± 0.012
TOL0357-3915-C	7.364 ± 0.005	7.861 ± 0.004	1.019	7.990 ± 0.004	10.929 ± 0.012	9.215 ± 0.037	1.020	10.946 ± 0.012
TOL0357-3915-E	7.387 ± 0.005	7.855 ± 0.004	1.014	7.988 ± 0.004	10.902 ± 0.021	9.050 ± 0.065	1.021	10.917 ± 0.020
NGC 346	7.506 ± 0.005	7.930 ± 0.004	1.002	8.069 ± 0.003	10.915 ± 0.004	8.229 ± 0.042	1.021	10.925 ± 0.004

Notes. <sup>a</sup>Ionic abundance in units of  $12 + \log_{10}(X^{n+}/H^+)$

<sup>b</sup>Total abundance in units of  $12 + \log_{10}(X/H)$

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